



Arte ITALIA Contact: Marie Hoel, EVP and COO, The Wiegand Group
775-333-0310 x105
mhoel@wiegandgroup.com

NMA Contact: Amy Oppio, Deputy Director, Nevada Museum of Art
775-329-3333 x251
amy.oppio@nevadamuseumart.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2009

E. L. WIEGAND FOUNDATION'S *Arte* ITALIA TO PRESENT RAPHAEL'S: *THE WOMAN WITH A VEIL* AT THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART
Renaissance master's oil on canvas to visit Nevada for first time

RENO-*Arte* ITALIA, through its relationship with New York-based Foundation for Italian Art & Culture, announced today it will present a once-in-a-lifetime viewing of Raphael's masterpiece painting *La Velata* (*The Woman with a Veil*) in the E. L. Wiegand Gallery at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, NV from January 9 through March 21, 2010.

Founded in Reno, NV and operated by the E. L. Wiegand Foundation, *Arte* ITALIA promotes the exploration and conservation of Italian culture, including innovative exhibitions of classic Italian art and culinary programs featuring renowned Italian chefs.

Completed in 1516 – four years before Raphael died at age 37 – the single painting *The Woman with a Veil* (*La Velata* in Italian) depicts a woman wearing a veil and embodies some of the high Renaissance master's distinctive qualities: his control over pigment and color, and a serenity that contrasts with the style of his mentors and fellow icons of the era, notably Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.

“We are humbled and excited that the highly esteemed Foundation for Italian Art & Culture has made it possible for *Arte* ITALIA to present this 500-year-old magnificent masterpiece in Nevada for the first time,” said Raymond C. Avansino, Jr., Chairman of the E. L. Wiegand Foundation and *Arte* ITALIA. “With the help of our friends at FIAC, *Arte* ITALIA is bringing an important Italian Renaissance treasure to Nevada schoolchildren, scholars, aspiring artists and the public. Unless you visit the Pitti Palace in Florence, Italy you would not have the opportunity to view this superb masterwork.”

David Walker, Executive Director and CEO of the Nevada Museum of Art, said, “*Arte* ITALIA and the Nevada Museum of Art have collaborated for months to make this a reality. Our relationship is a marriage

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of missions and we are thrilled to assist *Arte ITALIA* with bringing world class Italian art to Nevada. The opportunity to see Raphael's *The Woman with a Veil* is a gift of a lifetime to our community."

Opening to the public on January 9, 2010, *The Woman with a Veil* depicts a serene woman looking intently at the viewer. It is believed that the model for the painting is the same woman depicted in other Raphael works including *La Fornarina*. Scholars have suggested that the woman, Margherita Luti, was Raphael's lover.

About Raphael

Raphael (1483-1520) also known as Raffaello Sanzio, was born in Urbino, Italy. His father, Giovanni Santi, was a painter and a poet. Raphael trained in his father's workshop and later in the workshop of the artist Pietro Perugino. In 1504 he began spending time and perhaps even resided in Florence, where he was influenced by the work of Leonardo da Vinci. Eventually, he moved to Rome where, under the patronage of Pope Julius II, he entered his most productive phase as an artist. He managed a large workshop of pupils and assistants, many of whom became well-known artists in their own right. Raphael's personal life was complex. He never married but was reputed to have had many relationships. In 1514 he became engaged to Maria Bibbiena, the niece of an influential Cardinal and Raphael's friend. The marriage never took place, and she died in 1520. Raphael lived a grand lifestyle in Rome and attained some status at court. It is believed that he died on his 37th birthday in 1520. He left a significant portion of his estate to his mistress Margherita Luti and he was buried in the Pantheon.

About Foundation for Italian Art & Culture

The Foundation for Italian Art & Culture is a non-profit, U.S. incorporated organization established in New York City in 2003. The Foundation's mission is to promote the knowledge and the appreciation of the Italian cultural and artistic traditions from the classical period to modern times in the United States and it works closely with the Italian Ministry of Culture to accomplish this mission. In addition to sponsoring its own programs and exhibitions, the Foundation acts as an intermediary between Italy and the United States to facilitate exchanges between American and Italian institutions.

About Nevada Museum of Art

The Nevada Museum of Art is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences. Founded in 1931, the Museum is the oldest cultural institution in the state of Nevada. The Museum's feature exhibitions showcase national and international artists, while the permanent collection of nineteenth through twenty-first century art is divided into five focus collections linked by an overall emphasis on art and environment.

Viewing Raphael: *The Woman with a Veil*

Raphael: The Woman with a Veil will be presented at the E. L. Wiegand Gallery of the Nevada Museum of Art from January 9 through March 21, 2010. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm and open on Thursdays until 8pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and \$1 for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission is free for Museum members. Additional information is available at www.nevadaart.org and www.arteitaliausa.com. In addition to its presentation in Reno, the painting will tour to the Portland Art Museum and the Milwaukee Art Museum before returning to Italy.

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