



Keynote lecture on Leonardo Da Vinci in Doha on May 2 at Qatar National Library on famous smiles in his paintings

26 April, 13:28

ROME - The Società Dante Alighieri and the Qatar National Library, in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Doha, will on May 2 be presenting on May 2 a lecture on Leonardo Da Vinci.

The keynote lecture will be held at the Qatar National Library by Professor Carmelo Occhipinti entitled 'Leonardo da Vinci As Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the Mona Lisa and Other Portraits'.

The conference - part of the official program of the national committee for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Leonardo Da Vinci's death by the Italian culture ministry and the 'Vivere all'Italiana' initiative by the foreign ministry - will look closely at the early history of the paintings, "reinterpreting the reactions of those that found themselves in front of them, when the artist was still working in Milan under Ludovico il Moro, and thus in the Florentine Republic, where Da Vinci died in 1519."

The conference, a statement noted is the first initiative promoted by the Dante Alighieri Committee in Doha, inaugurated a few weeks ago in the presence of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte., and the first of several that Società Dante Alighieri and the Qatar National Library will be holding jointly on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding signed to start collaborations as part of scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation.

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Celebrazioni per i 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci: a Doha la lectio magistralis del Prof. Occhipinti "Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti"

2019-05-02

La Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library, in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha, hanno organizzato giovedì 2 maggio, nello spazio eventi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Doha, la lectio

magistralis del prof. Carmelo Occhipinti* dal titolo “Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili”.

“Sono molto soddisfatto che la Società Dante Alighieri sia già operativa a Doha a poche settimane dalla costituzione di un comitato locale per la promozione della lingua e della cultura italiana, annunciato durante la visita in Qatar del Presidente del Consiglio Conte il 3 aprile scorso. – commenta l’Ambasciatore Pasquale Salzano - Questo primo significativo evento, organizzato in collaborazione con l’Ambasciata nell’ambito delle iniziative promosse dal Governo italiano per la celebrazione della ricorrenza dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci, dimostra l’impegno del Sistema Italia nel promuovere con efficacia in Qatar la cultura e le eccellenze del nostro Paese.”

La lectio magistralis, inserita nella programmazione ufficiale del Comitato Nazionale per la celebrazione dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci del MIBAC e in quella di Vivere all’italiana del MAECI, ha ripercorso la vicenda iniziale di alcuni dei più celebri capolavori del maestro, “rileggendo le reazioni di chi vi si trovò di fronte al tempo in cui l’artista era ancora operoso a Milano sotto Ludovico il Moro, quindi nella Firenze repubblicana, infine presso la corte di Parigi, dove Leonardo morì nel 1519.”.

La conferenza è la prima azione promossa dal Comitato della “Dante Alighieri” a Doha, aperto poche settimane fa alla presenza del Presidente del Consiglio Giuseppe Conte, e inaugura la collaborazione tra Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library che hanno siglato un protocollo di intesa per iniziative congiunte nell’ambito della cooperazione scientifica, tecnica e culturale.

*Il prof. Occhipinti, storico dell’arte e critico, è professore associato di Museologia e critica artistica e del restauro presso l’Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata.

IL DISCORSO DELL'AMBASCIATORE SALZANO

Buonasera a tutti, good evening,

I am very pleased to present today a very important event which marks five hundred years since Leonardo da Vinci died and, at the same time, the beginning of the partnership between the Italian organization “Società Dante Alighieri” and Qatar National Library. It is the first of a series of initiatives by La Dante to present the rich Italian cultural and art heritage to Qatar.

“Società Dante Alighieri” was established in Italy in 1889 with the mission to promote Italian language and culture worldwide. Today it has a large network of 480 committees in 80 countries, including the newly established presence in Qatar.

The launch of La Dante activities in Qatar was recently announced by the Italian Prime Minister, H.E. Giuseppe Conte, during his first visit to the State of Qatar and commended as a further step towards the strengthening the Italian cultural offer in the Country.

Today I have the honour to introduce a lecture on Leonardo Da Vinci by the Italian professor and art historian Carmelo Occhipinti, Associate Professor of Museology, Art Criticism and Restoration at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

This lecture is part of the official celebrations of the 500th (five-hundredth) anniversary of the death of Leonardo. To mark this important milestone, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized, through its network of Embassies, different events to increase the knowledge on one of the most important figures of all time in the fields of art, science, technology and many other disciplines.

Indeed, Leonardo is an all-around and multi-faceted genius, whose fascination for centuries has captivated whole generations until today.

Leonardo's areas of interest included invention, drawing, painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, geology, astronomy, botany, writing, history, and cartography. He has been variously called the father of palaeontology, ichnology, and architecture, and he is widely considered one of the greatest painters of all time. He epitomised the Renaissance humanist ideal.

Many historians and scholars regard Leonardo as the prime exemplar of the "Universal Genius" or, as we said, the "Renaissance Man", an individual of "unquenchable curiosity" and "feverishly inventive imagination", and he is widely considered one of the most diversely talented individuals ever to have lived. According to art historian Helen Gardner, the scope and depth of his interests were without precedent in recorded history and "his mind and personality seem to us superhuman, while the man himself mysterious and remote".

Italy and Qatar share a common vision about the importance and the contribution of culture. Culture in all its forms of expressions means creativity, innovation, development of communication codes, but also traditions and values that need to be maintained and preserved.

With this approach, we are pleased that the very first event of La Dante in Qatar is hosted here, at the Qatar National Library, both a place of cultural preservation and innovation.

Few days ago on the occasion of her meeting with the Italian President of the Senate, Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, H.E. Sheikha Hind bin Hamad Al Thani, highlighted that Qatar National Library is not a traditional library exclusively meant for research and study, but a lively and busy "square", an environment open to cultural exchange and communication, where initiatives and activities are aimed at concretely promoting culture and creating bonds among communities.

This is exactly what Italy and Qatar have in common and perfectly expresses what we want to achieve with this event tonight.

The Genius of Leonardo embodies all these aspects and enshrines an extraordinary wealth of knowledge which belongs to all humankind...beyond borders and barriers.

I really hope you will enjoy this lecture and engage in an open discussion with Professor Occhipinti.

Thank you!



Lecture marks da Vinci's 500th death anniversary

May 05 2019 01:23 AM

Joey Aguilar

A lecture by Italian art historian and critic Carmelo Occhipinti marked the 500th death anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci in Doha on May 2, held at the Qatar National Library. Titled Leonardo da Vinci as Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the Mona Lisa and Other Portraits, the event was organised by Societa Dante Alighieri and the library in collaboration with the embassy of Italy in Doha. "This first remarkable event, organised in collaboration with the embassy in the framework of the programme of initiatives promoted by the Italian government to celebrate the 500th anniversary from the death of Leonardo da Vinci, shows the commitment of Italy to promote Italian culture and the excellences of

our country,” Italian ambassador Pasquale Salzano said. “I am particularly satisfied that Societa Dante Alighieri is already active in Doha after only few weeks from the creation of a local committee to promote the Italian language and culture, announced during the visit to Qatar of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on April 3,” the envoy added. Established in Italy in 1889, Societa Dante Alighieri’s mission was to promote Italian language and culture worldwide. It now has a network of 480 committees in 80 countries, including the one in Qatar.

Salzano said this lecture by Occhipinti, who is also associate professor of Museology, Art Criticism and Restoration at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, forms part of the official programme of the National Committee to commemorate da Vinci’s death. The event, promoted by the Italian ministry of cultural heritage and activities, was also included in the “Vivere all’italiana” programme by the Italian ministry of foreign affairs and international co-operation. Salzano said that the event aims to highlight the early history of some of da Vinci’s renowned paintings by “sharing comments and reactions of those who stood in front when the artist was still active in Milan under Ludovico il Moro, later in the Republic of Florence, and at the court in Paris, where he died in 1519”. The envoy noted that this conference is the first initiative promoted by the Dante Alighieri committee in Doha and marks its collaboration with library. The two institutions earlier signed an agreement to hold joint initiatives in the fields of scientific, technical and cultural co-operation.

“Qatar and Italy share a common vision on the importance and the contribution of culture. Culture in all its forms of expressions means creativity, innovation, development of communication codes, but also traditions and values that need to be maintained and preserved,” Salzano said. About da Vinci, he said that the artist, widely considered one of the greatest painters of all time, “is an all-around and multi-faceted genius, whose fascination for centuries has captivated whole generations until today”. “Many historians and scholars regard da Vinci as the prime exemplar of the ‘Universal Genius’ or, as we said, the ‘Renaissance Man’, an individual of ‘unquenchable curiosity’ and ‘feverishly inventive imagination’, and he is widely considered one of the most diversely talented individuals ever to have lived,” Salzano said.



The perennial legacy of Da Vinci and Italian heritage

May 04 2019 11:30 PM

PHENOMENON: Italy has over the centuries bred some breathtaking artists but about Leonardo and his works there’s a certain pristine quality that has the power of eternity. (Right)**MASTER PIECE:** The delicately painted veil, the finely wrought tresses, and the careful rendering of folded fabric reveal Leonardo’s tireless patience in recreating his studied observations. No wonder the world’s most famous artwork, Mona Lisa, draws thousands of visitors to the Louvre Museum each day.

By Muhammad Asad

Her smile might be engaging or mocking. You decide. The subject’s softly modelled face in the painting, hanging on the wall of Louvre, the most visited museum in the world since the end of the 18th century, depicts the skillful handling of Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519), one of the most successful Italian artist, painter, architect, inventor, and student of all things scientific, in history. The delicately painted veil, the finely wrought tresses, and the careful rendering of folded fabric reveal Leonardo’s tireless patience in recreating his studied observations. No wonder the world’s most famous artwork, Mona Lisa, draws thousands of visitors to the Louvre Museum each day, many of whom are compelled by the sitter’s mysterious gaze and enigmatic smile. The seemingly ordinary portrait of a young

woman dressed modestly in a thin veil, sombre colours, and no jewellery might also confound its viewers, who may wonder what all the fuss is about. The painting's simplicity belies Leonardo's talent for realism. There is something eminent about Leonardo's works that caterwauled Italian, yet there existed a transcendental facet to every piece he created, well only those that have been recovered and are on display for public viewership, that caught attention of the eyes accustomed to Sandro Botticelli. Italy has over the centuries bred some breathtaking artists but about Leonardo and his works there's a certain pristine quality that has the power of eternity.

His natural genius crossed so many disciplines that he reifies the term 'Renaissance man.' Today he remains best known for his art. One of the great Renaissance painters, Leonardo da Vinci continually tested artistic traditions and techniques. He created innovative compositions, investigated anatomy to accurately represent the human body, considered the human psyche to illustrate character, and experimented with methods of representing space and three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface. The result of his inexhaustible curiosity is many unfinished projects but also some of the most lifelike, complex, and tender representations of human nature.

Little is known about Leonardo's childhood. Leonardo da Vinci was born in Anchiano, Tuscany, now Italy, close to the town of Vinci that provided the surname we associate with him today. In his own time he was known just as Leonardo or as 'Il Florentine,' since he lived near Florence—and was famed as an artist, inventor and thinker. From the age of 15, for about a decade, Vinci refined his painting and sculpting techniques and trained in mechanical arts with Andrea del Verrocchio, of Florence and outshined as an independent master in around 1478. Short after that, he relocated to Milan to work for the ruling Sforza clan, serving as an engineer, painter, architect, designer of court festivals and, most notably, a sculptor. It was in Milan, when the maestro painted his ever-famous pieces, including *The Last Supper*. When Milan was invaded by the French in 1499 and the Sforza family fled, da Vinci escaped as well, first to Venice and then to Florence where he painted *Mona Lisa*. In 1506, da Vinci returned to Milan, but merely for a decade. Da Vinci left Italy for good in 1516, when French ruler Francis I offered him the title of 'Premier Painter and Engineer and Architect to the King,' which afforded him the opportunity to paint and draw at his leisure while living in a country manor house, the Château of Cloux, near Amboise in France. How many people die in the arms of the King with the king himself supporting their head? Not many! Well Da Vinci was one of them, who even died royal. Da Vinci died at Cloux, now Clos-Lucé, on May 2, 1519 at the age of 67. Art is sometimes sentimentally termed priceless. And Da Vinci's is for sure. Italy and the world honour the day of May 2, 500 years ago, when Leonardo da Vinci died, with a series of events as a homage to the veteran maestro whose works are even relatable for the modern art. As the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death is commemorated, the artist's notebooks are experiencing a renaissance of their own. Museums are mounting exhibitions of his sketches, and scholars are publishing new analyses, delving ever deeper into the full spectrum of his creations.

Società Dante Alighieri and Qatar National Library (QNL), in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy, recently organised a lecture 'Leonardo da Vinci as Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the *Mona Lisa* and Other Portraits' by Professor Carmelo Occhipinti, art historian, critic and Associate Professor of Museology, Art Criticism and Restoration at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, at QNL as part of his 500th death anniversary.

Società Dante Alighieri (SDA) was established in Italy in 1889 by a group of intellectuals inspired by the Nobel laureate Giosuè Carducci, legally registered in 1893 with the original purpose of preserving the ties between the Italian emigrants and their motherland. Over the years, SDA has broadened its horizons and is now one of the most important institutions in promoting the Italian language and culture worldwide. Today SDA is a non-profit organisation based in Rome, as a centre of a network of 480 independent local committees, spread in 80 countries. SDA is part of the Steering Committee led by the Italian Foreign Ministry and a member of EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture). Critically analysing Vinci's work, Professor Carmelo explained how Vinci's paintings fascinate, partly due to a range of subtle optical effects that blur outlines, soften transitions and blend shadows like a smoke. Minute observations, optical measurements and reconstitutions that define his perfect aura.

To grasp the real wonder of Leonardo you need to look at his drawings. It's in his notebooks that Leonardo truly soars. In page after page he studies nature, designs machinery, invents weapons, plans fortifications and seeks the secret of flight. He even challenges the Greek with his exceptionally perfect take on a knight horse. Drawing provides an insight into how this pioneer, who defied all expectations, saw the world around him.

Speaking to Community, Pasquale Salzano, Ambassador of Italy, said, "Leonardo Da Vinci, universally considered as an 'immortal genius' and one of the greatest polymaths ever, died 500 years ago but he left an enduring legacy of extraordinary innovations which have made their mark in the arts, sciences and many other disciplines. It is really surprising that after 5 centuries he continues to be one of the most known Italian of all times: this gives the idea of the greatness of Leonardo da Vinci, whose visionary intuitions paved the way to human and scientific developments. The 500th anniversary from the death of Leonardo is not only an occasion to celebrate his memory, but also to highlight the importance of knowledge and education in pushing for social advances and empowering young generations to shape a future based on progress and cultural growth".

The uncertainty that surrounds so many aspects of Leonardo's life and work has undoubtedly fueled the world's fascination with the Renaissance master. Five hundred years on, it seems to be stronger than ever. Research on Da Vinci are far from being concluded even after five centuries. An immense task yet awaits the art historians of today and tomorrow. With grandeur and elegance in levels only Italy could provide as a landscape background, Vinci's installations are a reflection of the past meeting the present through design and art. Leonardo Da Vinci is even relatable today. It's no intellectual faux pas to imagine that the clothes, hairstyles, accessories, and jewels are important in his women portraits—or that our modern-day viewpoints can offer us surprisingly accurate parallels. All the subjects in those portraits were teenagers from nowhere. They rose to prominence by virtue of their talents, intelligence, beauty, and fashion expertise to become self-made women and the obsessions of aristocrats, politicians, and royalty – exactly like how it happens today. Vinci's works are holding history together like a warlock and gives us a corroboration of rich Italian heritage and culture.



Società Dante Alighieri e ambasciata in Qatar celebrano Leonardo da Vinci

03-05-2019 18:35 – Ambasciate

GD– Doha, 3 mag. 19 –La Società Dante Alighieri con l'Ambasciata d'Italia in Qatar e la Qatar National Library nello spazio eventi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Doha, hanno organizzato una lectio magistralis del prof. Carmelo Occhipinti su "Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili".

"Sono molto soddisfatto che la Società Dante Alighieri sia già operativa a Doha a poche settimane dalla costituzione di un comitato locale per la promozione della lingua e della cultura italiana, annunciato durante la visita in Qatar del Presidente del Consiglio Conte il 3 aprile scorso", ha commentato l'ambasciatore Pasquale Salzano. "Questo primo significativo evento, organizzato in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata nell'ambito delle iniziative promosse dal Governo italiano per la celebrazione della ricorrenza dei 500 anni

dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci, dimostra l'impegno del Sistema Italia nel promuovere con efficacia in Qatar la cultura e le eccellenze del nostro Paese”.

La conferenza, inserita nella programmazione ufficiale del Comitato Nazionale per la celebrazione dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci e in quella di “Vivere all'italiana” del ministero degli Esteri di Roma, ha inteso ripercorrere la vicenda iniziale di alcuni dei più celebri capolavori del maestro, rileggendo le reazioni di chi vi si trovò di fronte al tempo in cui l'artista era ancora operoso a Milano sotto Ludovico il Moro, quindi nella Firenze repubblicana, infine presso la corte di Parigi, dove Leonardo morì nel 1519.

La conferenza è la prima azione promossa dal Comitato della Società Dante Alighieri a Doha, attivato poche settimane fa alla presenza del Presidente del Consiglio Giuseppe Conte, e inaugura la collaborazione tra Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library. I due organismi infatti hanno siglato un protocollo di intesa per iniziative congiunte nell'ambito della cooperazione scientifica, tecnica e culturale.

Carmelo Occhipinti, storico dell'arte e critico, è professore associato di Museologia e critica artistica e del restauro all'Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata.



L'Ambasciata Italiana a Doha e la Dante celebrano i 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci

L'Ambasciatore Pasquale Salzano inaugura la lectio magistralis del prof. Occhipinti alla Qatar National Library sui celebri sorrisi dipinti dal genio di Vinci

Di ItaliaChiamaItalia - giovedì 02 Maggio 2019

La Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library, in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha, presentano giovedì 2 maggio, nello spazio eventi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Doha, la lectio magistralis del prof. Carmelo Occhipinti* dal titolo “Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili”.

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La conferenza, inserita nella programmazione ufficiale del Comitato Nazionale per la celebrazione dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci del MIBAC e in quella di Vivere all'italiana del MAECI, intende ripercorrere la vicenda iniziale di alcuni dei più celebri capolavori del maestro, “rileggendo le reazioni di chi vi si trovò di fronte al tempo in cui l'artista era ancora operoso a Milano sotto Ludovico il Moro, quindi nella Firenze repubblicana, infine presso la corte di Parigi, dove Leonardo morì nel 1519”.

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*Il prof. Occhipinti, storico dell'arte e critico, è professore associato di Museologia e critica artistica e del restauro presso l'Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata.

Titolo: Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili

Evento: Conferenza a cura di Carmelo Occhipinti (Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata)

Data: Giovedì 2 maggio, ore 17:00

Sede: Doha, Qatar National Library (Special Events Area)



L'Ambasciata Italiana a Doha e la Dante celebrano i 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci

Pubblicato: 24 Aprile 2019

L'Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha e la Dante celebrano i 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci

L'Ambasciatore Pasquale Salzano inaugura la *lectio magistralis* del prof. Occhipinti presso la Qatar National Library sui celebri sorrisi dipinti dal genio di Vinci

La Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library, in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha, presenteranno **giovedì 2 maggio** prossimo, nello spazio eventi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Doha, la *lectio magistralis* del prof. Carmelo Occhipinti* dal titolo "Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili".

*"Sono molto soddisfatto che la Società Dante Alighieri sia già operativa a Doha a poche settimane dalla costituzione di un comitato locale per la promozione della lingua e della cultura italiana, annunciato durante la visita in Qatar del Presidente del Consiglio Conte il 3 aprile scorso. – commenta l'Ambasciatore **Pasquale Salzano** - Questo primo significativo evento, organizzato in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata nell'ambito delle iniziative promosse dal Governo italiano per la celebrazione della ricorrenza dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci, dimostra l'impegno del Sistema Italia nel promuovere con efficacia in Qatar la cultura e le eccellenze del nostro Paese."*

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*Il prof. Occhipinti, storico dell'arte e critico, è professore associato di Museologia e critica artistica e del restauro presso l'Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata.



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY



Leonardo da Vinci as Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the Mona Lisa and Other Portraits

What was the meaning of the smile of Leonardo's Mona Lisa for his contemporaries? What were the reactions to his masterpieces —such as the Lucrezia Crivelli, the Lady with an Ermine, the Saint Anne and, again, the Mona Lisa—when they were seen for the first time in Milan, Florence and Paris at the beginning of the 16th century?

In this lecture, Carmelo Occhipinti, Associate Professor of the History of Art, Museology and History of Art Criticism at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, will discuss the early history of these paintings, starting from the celebratory verses that poets wrote about the smiling faces painted by Leonardo when he was working for Ludovico il Moro in Milan, in the Republic of Florence and then at the Paris court, where Leonardo died in 1519.

We will explore the mysterious and compelling smile of the Mona Lisa, the Lady with an Ermine, the Lucrezia Crivelli and the Saint Anne through the poetic verses that Bernardo Bellincioni, Antonio Tebaldeo and Gianus Lascaris dedicated to Leonardo as they tried to understand his art by making comparisons between his paintings and masterpieces of Greek statuary.

The lecture is held in partnership with the Società Dante Alighieri and is under the patronage of the Italian National Committee for the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death.



L'Ambasciata Italiana a Doha e la Dante celebrano i 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci

di Valerio De Luca

La **Società Dante Alighieri** e la **Qatar National Library**, in collaborazione con l'**Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha**, hanno presentato giovedì 2 maggio, nello spazio eventi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Doha, la lectio magistralis del prof. **Carmelo Occhipinti*** dal titolo *“Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili”*.

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**Il prof. Occhipinti, storico dell'arte e critico, è professore associato di Museologia e critica artistica e del restauro presso l'Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata.*

INFORM

A Doha la lectio magistralis del prof. Occhipinti "Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti"

venerdì, 3 maggio, 2019 in NOTIZIE INFORM

L'iniziativa è stata organizzata dalla Società Dante Alighieri e dalla Qatar National Library in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha

DOHA – La Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library, in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata d'Italia a Doha, hanno organizzato giovedì 2 maggio, nello spazio eventi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Doha, la lectio magistralis del prof. Carmelo Occhipinti, storico dell'arte, critico e professore associato di Museologia e critica artistica e del restauro presso l'Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata, dal titolo "Leonardo da Vinci visto dai suoi contemporanei. Alcune osservazioni sul sorriso di Monna Lisa e di altri suoi ritratti femminili".

"Sono molto soddisfatto che la Società Dante Alighieri sia già operativa a Doha a poche settimane dalla costituzione di un comitato locale per la promozione della lingua e della cultura italiana, annunciato durante la visita in Qatar del Presidente del Consiglio Conte il 3 aprile scorso. – commenta l'Ambasciatore d'Italia Pasquale Salzano – Questo primo significativo evento, organizzato in collaborazione con l'Ambasciata nell'ambito delle iniziative promosse dal Governo italiano per la celebrazione della ricorrenza dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci, dimostra l'impegno del Sistema Italia nel promuovere con efficacia in Qatar la cultura e le eccellenze del nostro Paese."

La lectio magistralis, inserita nella programmazione ufficiale del Comitato Nazionale per la celebrazione dei 500 anni dalla morte di Leonardo da Vinci del Mibac e in quella di Vivere all'italiana del Maeci, ha ripercorso la vicenda iniziale di alcuni dei più celebri capolavori del maestro, "rileggendo le reazioni di chi vi si trovò di fronte al tempo in cui l'artista era ancora operoso a Milano sotto Ludovico il Moro, quindi nella Firenze repubblicana, infine presso la corte di Parigi, dove Leonardo morì nel 1519.".

La conferenza è la prima azione promossa dal Comitato della "Dante Alighieri" a Doha, aperto poche settimane fa alla presenza del Presidente del Consiglio Giuseppe Conte, e inaugura la collaborazione tra Società Dante Alighieri e la Qatar National Library che hanno siglato un protocollo di intesa per iniziative congiunte nell'ambito della cooperazione scientifica, tecnica e culturale. (Inform)

Italian body marks da Vinci's 500th anniversary with lecture at QNL

Doha

Italian Non-profit NGO Societa Dante Alighieri and Qatar National Library (QNL), in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Doha, marked the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci with a lecture by Professor Carmelo Occhipinti titled 'Leonardo da Vinci as Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the Mona Lisa and Other Portraits' on Thursday. Italian ambassador to Qatar HE Pasquale Salzano said, "I am particularly satisfied that Società Dante Alighieri is already active in Doha after only few weeks from the creation of a local committee to promote the Italian language and culture, announced during the visit to Qatar of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on April 3."

He said, "This first remarkable event, organised in collaboration with the Embassy in the framework of the programme of initiatives promoted by the Italian Government to celebrate the 500th anniversary from the death of Leonardo da Vinci, shows the commitment of the Italy system to promote Italian culture and the excellences of our Country." The lecture is included in the official programme of the National Committee for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, as well as in the 'Vivere all'italiana' programme by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. It is aimed at highlighting the early history of some of the artist's most famous paintings by sharing comments and reactions of those who stood in front when Leonardo was still active in Milan under Ludovico il Moro, later in the Republic of Florence and at the court in Paris, where he died in 1519.

The conference is the first initiative promoted by the Dante Alighieri committee in Doha - which was inaugurated few weeks ago in the presence of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte during his official visit to Qatar recently - and starts the collaboration between Società Dante Alighieri and Qatar National Library, that signed a protocol of understanding to run joint initiatives in the fields of scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

Qatar and Italy share common vision on significance of culture

By Raynald C Rivera / The Peninsula

Italian Ambassador to the State of Qatar, Pasquale Salzano, yesterday underlined the common vision Qatar and Italy share on the indispensable role culture in all its forms plays in the society.

"Italy and Qatar share a common vision about the importance and the contribution of culture. Culture in all its forms of expressions means creativity, innovation, development of communication codes, but also traditions and values that need to be maintained and preserved," said Salzano.

He was speaking at a lecture titled “Leonardo da Vinci as Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the Mona Lisa and Other Portraits” delivered by Professor Carmelo Occhipinti, Italian art historian and critic, at Qatar National Library (QNL) and organised by Società Dante Alighieri and QNL in collaboration with the Italian Embassy.

Founded in Italy in 1899, Società Dante Alighieri aims to promote Italian language and culture worldwide and currently has a network of 480 committees in 80 countries including Qatar.

The lecture marked the inaugural event following signing of agreement between the recently established local committee of Società Dante Alighieri and QNL.

“I am very pleased to present today a very important event which marks five hundred years since Leonardo da Vinci died and, at the same time, the beginning of the partnership between the Italian organization “Società Dante Alighieri” and Qatar National Library. It is the first of a series of initiatives by La Dante to present the rich Italian cultural and art heritage to Qatar,” said the Italian Ambassador.

He said “the launch of La Dante activities in Qatar was recently announced by Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, during his first visit to the State of Qatar and commended as a further step towards the strengthening the Italian cultural offer in the country.”

The Ambassador shared what H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation (QF), highlighted during her meeting with Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, Italian President of the Senate “that Qatar National Library is not a traditional library exclusively meant for research and study, but a lively and busy “square”, an environment open to cultural exchange and communication, where initiatives and activities are aimed at concretely promoting culture and creating bonds among communities.”

“This is exactly what Italy and Qatar have in common and perfectly expresses what we want to achieve with this event tonight,” he stressed.

The lecture was one of the events organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its network of embassies as part of the official celebrations of the 500th anniversary of da Vinci’s death. The events are aimed at increasing people’s knowledge on one of the most important figures of all time in the fields of art, science, technology and many other disciplines.



Qatar- Lecture marks da Vinci's 500th death anniversary

(MENAFN - Gulf Times) A lecture by Italian art historian and critic Carmelo Occhipinti marked the 500th death anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci in Doha on May 2, held at the Qatar National Library. Titled Leonardo da Vinci as Seen by His Contemporaries: Remarks About the Mona Lisa and Other Portraits, the event was organised by Società Dante Alighieri and the library in collaboration with the embassy of Italy in Doha.

This first remarkable event, organised in collaboration with the embassy in the framework of the programme of initiatives promoted by the Italian government to celebrate the 500th anniversary from the death of Leonardo da Vinci, shows the commitment of Italy to promote Italian culture and the excellences of our country, Italian ambassador Pasquale Salzano said. I am particularly satisfied that Società Dante Alighieri is already active in Doha after only few weeks from the creation of a local committee to promote

the Italian language and culture, announced during the visit to Qatar of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on April 3, the envoy added. Established in Italy in 1889, Societa Dante Alighieri's mission was to promote Italian language and culture worldwide. It now has a network of 480 committees in 80 countries, including the one in Qatar. Salzano said this lecture by Occhipinti, who is also associate professor of Museology, Art Criticism and Restoration at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, forms part of the official programme of the National Committee to commemorate da Vinci's death.

The event, promoted by the Italian ministry of cultural heritage and activities, was also included in the 'Vivere all'italiana programme by the Italian ministry of foreign affairs and international co-operation. Salzano said that the event aims to highlight the early history of some of da Vinci's renowned paintings by 'sharing comments and reactions of those who stood in front when the artist was still active in Milan under Ludovico il Moro, later in the Republic of Florence, and at the court in Paris, where he died in 1519. The envoy noted that this conference is the first initiative promoted by the Dante Alighieri committee in Doha and marks its collaboration with library. The two institutions earlier signed an agreement to hold joint initiatives in the fields of scientific, technical and cultural co-operation. 'Qatar and Italy share a common vision on the importance and the contribution of culture. Culture in all its forms of expressions means creativity, innovation, development of communication codes, but also traditions and values that need to be maintained and preserved, Salzano said.

About da Vinci, he said that the artist, widely considered one of the greatest painters of all time, 'is an all-around and multi-faceted genius, whose fascination for centuries has captivated whole generations until today. 'Many historians and scholars regard da Vinci as the prime exemplar of the 'Universal Genius' or, as we said, the 'Renaissance Man', an individual of 'unquenchable curiosity' and 'feverishly inventive imagination', and he is widely considered one of the most diversely talented individuals ever to have lived, Salzano said.

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