

Cleaning of the Braccio Nuovo Vatican Museums Galleries

Artist: unknown
Date: II century B.C.
Dimensions: 10,2 x 26,4 x 7,6 cm
Material: bronze
Inventory no: 65704

STATE OF PRESERVATION

The statues of the Braccio Nuovo are characterized by a large quantity of restorations and integrations with stucco and mortar that need to be removed and redone. Several statues were restored by mixing elements together. Layers of dust and old varnish cover the surface and need to be removed. Naturally, the cleaning will enable a better preservation for the future and increase the public's appreciation of these pieces.

RESTORATION PROJECT FOR EACH STATUE

- Diagnosis of state and conditions
- Photographic documentation before restoration
- Placement of scaffolding
- Testing different cleaning systems
- 3D documentation before restoration
- Cleaning and consolidation of the surface
- Removal of previous restorations, integrations and consolidations
- Cleaning of the dark stains resulting from water and pollution
- Removal of iron nails and replacement with fiberglass or stainless steel where needed
- Recreation of a chromatic balance on the entire surface
- Application of protective layer
- Photographic documentation after restoration
- 3D historical documentation of marble integrations
- Data processing for complete documentation for each single statue

Total Cost € 280.000,00



► This amazing project began last year, thanks to the generosity of the Patrons of the Arts, and with its addition this project can become the first Gallery entirely restored by Patrons! Some of the most important dinners for both the Cardinals and the Patrons of the Arts are held in this marvelous place.

Located between the Chiaramonti Gallery and the Profane Museum, the Braccio Nuovo is one of the most frequented and admired galleries inside the Vatican. Built under the supervision of Raffaele Stern during the Pontificate of Pope Pius VII and opened to the public in 1822, the Braccio Nuovo is one of the most beautiful examples of Neoclassical Art. The architecture and colored marble (often taken from old Roman buildings) recall the ancient and glorious past where classic sculptures are displayed in ideal niches similar to their original ambience. There are niches that showcase the statues perfectly. Several busts are located on small columns and shelves. The caisson ceiling has skylights

that allow natural light to break through and illuminate the whole architectural space. The walls are decorated with stucco-friezes in bas-reliefs by Francesco Massimiliano Laboureur and inspired by famous Roman monuments (e.g. the Trajan Column and the Arch of Titus in the Roman Forum).

This project will focus on the restoration of the sculptures and friezes located on the right wall until the end of the gallery, including the vestibule of the two bronze peacocks. The remaining part on the left hand side up to the Nile Statue will be a new proposal for Wishbook 2011.

The task is to complete the cleaning of 18 busts on shelves, 17 busts on columns, 18 statues, 4 statuettes, 2 masks of Medusa, 6 inscriptions, 1 altar and vase made of alabaster, and 32 linear meters of friezes.