

Model for the Decoration on the new Staircase of the Vatican Museums by Antonio Maraini

Artist: Antonio Maraini
Date: 1930 - 32
Dimensions: 100 x 121 x 18 cm
Material: plaster
Inventory no : 56434.2.1-56434.2.2

STATE OF PRESERVATION

The plaster panels are in bad condition due to a consistent amount of dust on the surface. Fractures are visible over the entire surface and several small fragments have peeled off. The back of the panels are eroding from rust and woodworms. Most of the original wooden frames have been damaged and will need restoration.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- Build two wooden supports for bas-reliefs
- Dust off of the entire surface
- Anoxic treatment against woodworms
- Integration of the fissures of the surface
- Cleaning and consolidation of the surface and of the back of the panels
- Cleaning and consolidation of the metal parts
- Creation of new frame and support structure to hang the panel on a wall for exposition
- Fix the fracture in the center of each panel
- Recreation of a chromatic balance on the entire surface
- Consolidation and fixing of the portions which are flaking off
- Application of protective layer
- Photographic documentation



► Antonio Maraini was born in Rome in 1886. He graduated in Jurisprudence but dedicated his life to sculpture, art and architecture. Maraini was one of the most acclaimed artists in Italy, especially in Rome, between the two world wars. He was an art critic and writer for the brochure "La Tribuna" in Rome and "Domus, Dedalus and La Nazione." He served as General Secretary of the Biennale in Venice from 1927 to 1938. Thanks to him, the famous and world renowned Biennale art exhibition of Venice became autonomous. Maraini also created an Historical Archive of the Biennale, increased opportunities for foreign artists, and organized very important exhibitions dedicated to the School of Paris and Futurism. His artistic inspiration led him to organize events such as the Festival of the Cinema, Music, Theatre and Poetry. He promoted Italian art abroad, organizing exhibitions in Paris (Musée du Jeu-de- Paume, 1935) and Berlin (1937).

Between 1929 and 1932, Maraini worked on two magnificent projects: the bronze door of St. Paul Outside the Walls and the decoration of the staircase to the Vatican Museums. He completed a series of angels which express his technique, pure lines influenced by the liberty style and Italian tradition. The angels hold a coat of arms and decorate the helicoidal staircase created by Giuseppe Momo. The plasters of these angels were stored in Maraini's home in Florence and were used for projecting new works. They were acquired by the Vatican Museums in 2008.

Total Cost € 9.420,00



Antonio Maraini, 1930 – 32, A detail of a decorative angel looking over their shoulder