

GALLERY OF THE CANDELABRA

Total Cost € 685.500,00

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

For the last few years the Gallery has suffered two types of conservation problems: water leaking in through the roof and descending down the walls; and problems with the humidity that has induced flaking of the pictorial surface and formed cavities on the painting. As determined by technical analysis by the Painting Restoration Laboratory, the work will be divided into 4 phases for a total of 30 months which comprises the time to disassemble and reassemble the scaffolding with a 4 person team comprised of 2 restorers and 2 decorators. It will occur with two simultaneous spans starting with the most damaged work. During the restoration, the fixtures and glass windows will be replaced with anti UV and heat coverings. The intervention will also include installation of new curtains to reduce the direct sunlight and complete the substitution of the fixtures and windows. Following the single entry of space for the total cost of the intervention:

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES:

- Diagnostic laboratory studies
- Replacement window coverings/curtains
- Photographic documentation
- Water damage clean up
- Complete restoration & materials
- Replacement of fixtures and windows
- Wiring and replacement lighting
- Publication and presentation of work

The work will be divided into four phases over a three year period.

- Phase A: 2 rooms with paintings by Domenico Torti and Ludovico Seitz € 140.500,00
- Phase B: The largest room with paintings by Ludovico Seitz € 211.500,00
- Phase C: 2 rooms with paintings by Annibale Angelini € 180.900,00
- Phase D: 1 rooms with paintings by Annibale Angelini € 102.600,00
- Final Publication € 50.000,00

One of the most famous, well transited and breathtaking areas in the Vatican Museums is the Gallery of the Candelabras. Originally an open air loggia built in 1761, the long hallway was walled at the end of the 18th century. The Gallery was redecorated by artists Ludovico Seitz, Domenico Torti, Annibale Angelini and students under Leo XIII between 1883 and 1887. The occasion that prompted the work was the commemoration of Leo XIII's 50th anniversary of priestly ordination.

Subdivided in six monumental rooms separated by arches, the figurative panes in the center of the sides of the vault house works by Ludovico Seitz and Domenico Torti. The Gallery has a score decorated in chiaroscuro and grisaille that garnish the walls and vaults. Chiaroscuro uses strong contrasts of light and dark and bold contrasts, while grisaille is a painting technique using gray tones as a base, and may be used as an under-painting for an oil painting with other colors. These techniques help make the images in the Gallery appear three dimensional and extremely particular.

The decorative ensemble is one of great fascination because of the interest in the "new arts," represented by the painting *The Allegory of Photography*.

The paintings of the central room by Ludovico Seitz are particularly beautiful with the background compositions featuring faux gold mosaic, elegant angelic figures and characteristically idealized views of the city of Rome. The internal decoration is a tempera painting on the wall.

