

Museums, Art & Alzheimer's
Making Art Accessible to People with Alzheimer's
and their Carers and Families
International Conference



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March 22, 2016
Florence, Auditorium di Sant'Apollonia
and Museo Marino Marini

The **Marino Marini Museum** in Florence, an institution that has for years engaged in facilitating access to art for people with dementia and their carers, proposes an international study day on the theme of museums, art and Alzheimer's. Making art accessible means allowing people with dementia a nurturing, deeply transformative and therefore formative experience, fostering the acquisition of new communication and interpersonal skills, a re-definition of their identity and a better chance to participate in social life.

The conference is an integral part of the European project **MA&A**, where the Marino Marini Museum in Florence is the project leader, which aims to facilitate the access of people with dementia to art and museums through training courses. The conference will be an opportunity for stimulating a dialogue both on the methods of relational approach, and on policies of social support to people with dementia, comparing our experiences and those of our European partners. The intention is to lay a foundation for a bridge between the world of museums and art and the social and health sector: as it is with this integrated perspective that the museum activities can help create a dementia-friendly society. In parallel, the day offers a profound reflection on the role of the museum itself as no longer a place only devoted to conservation and research, but rather an inclusive square, where people meet art, and the institution is able to assume significant responsibilities towards the community. The Marino Marini Museum in Florence has always paid special attention to accessibility and inclusion in cultural life and in the encounter with art.

For three years the Museum has offered **Art in Your Hands** which has become the core of a project through which the Museums Sector of Tuscany Region is developing its own policies on issues of social inclusion of people with Alzheimer's and their carers. International partners of MA&A are the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg, Germany (one of the first museums in Europe to develop activities for people with dementia); the Butler Gallery in Kilkenny, Ireland; and two non-profit organizations in Lithuania: SMP from Vilnius and ZISPB from Siauliai. In Italy, together with the Marini Museum, we've partnered with Euridea LTD, educational agency accredited by Tuscany Region.

Programme

Auditorium di Sant'Apollonia

📍 Via San Gallo 25

Chair Elena Pianea, Manager of the Sector Cultural Heritage, UNESCO Sites, Contemporary Art, Memory for Regione Toscana

Morning session

- 09.00** Registration
- 09.30** Institutional Greetings
Patrizia Asproni, President Museo Marino Marini, Firenze
Monica Barni, Council Member for Culture for Regione Toscana
Comune di Firenze
INDIRE (Istituto Nazionale Documentazione Innovazione Ricerca Educativa), Firenze
- 10.00** Elena Pianea, Regione Toscana, Introduction to the Conference
- 10.15** Cristina Bucci, Museo Marini, Firenze,
MA&A: an European Project to Make Art Accessible to People with Dementia
- 10.35** Sybille Kastner, Michael Ganß, Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg (Germany),
From the Pioneer Work to the Research Project
- 10.55** Bairbre-Ann Harkin, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny (Ireland)
Azure: A Collaborative Approach
- 11.15** **Coffee break**
- 11.45** Ieva Petkutė, Simona Karpavičiūtė, NGO "Socialiniai meno projektai", Vilnius (Lithuania)
Participatory Arts as a Catalyst for Transformative Change
- 12.05** Chiara Lachi, Museo Marini, Firenze,
The Value of Networking: the Museums' Experience in Tuscany
- 12.25** Luca Carli Ballola, Michela Mei, Museo Marini, Firenze,
Art in Your Hands, a Project in the Local Services Network

Afternoon Session

- 14.00** Department of Health, Welfare and Social-health services integration, Regione Toscana
Introduction to the Session
- 14.15** Marco Trabucchi, President Associazione Italiana di Psicogeriatría, Brescia,
Art and Clinical in Dementias: an Important Bridge
- 14.30** Manlio Matera, President, AIMA Firenze (Associazione Italiana Malattia di Alzheimer),
The Role of AIMA in the Services Network
- 14.45** Avril Easton, Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Dublino (Ireland),
The Role of Family/Dementia Advocacy Organisations in Ireland
- 15.00** Gintarė Černikienė, ZISPB, Siauliai (Lithuania),
Good Practice Examples Related to Art for People Living with Dementia and their Carers: Lithuania Case

Programme

Workshop Session at the Museo Marini

📍 Piazza San Pancrazio

- 16.00** Sybille Kastner, Michael Ganß, Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg (Germany),
Art Excursion with All Senses
- Bairbre-Ann Harkin, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny (Ireland),
Azure: In Action
- Eglė Nedzinskaitė, National Gallery of Art, Vilnius (Lithuania),
Workshop at the Gallery Space "Susitikime muziejuje"
- Irene Balzani, Michela Mei, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Firenze,
Changing a Work of Art in a Poem
- Cristina Bucci e Luca Carli Ballola, Museo Marini, Firenze,
Contact. Communicating through Touch
- 17.00** Conclusion with music in the museum "Sculpting Sounds":
Franco Baggiani Trumpet, Giacomo Downie Saxophones

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