



PAVM

PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN
THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

CALIFORNIA &
NORTHWEST CHAPTERS

Passionate about the arts' ability to inspire, elevate, and reveal the human spirit, our mission is to promote, restore, and conserve the artistic patrimony of the collections and buildings of the Vatican Museums.

As an interfaith nonprofit organization, we are dedicated to sustaining one of the oldest museums in the world. Unlike other major collections, the Vatican Museums receive no tax revenue – since 1983, the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums have worked to support ongoing restoration work so that the entire world can enjoy these priceless treasures.

californiapatrons.org

The Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, thanks to your support and generosity since 1983!

Many of you will be among the 300 Patrons worldwide who will make the journey to Rome this November to celebrate the 40th anniversary with our friends and colleagues at the Museums. What a testament to the passion that we all share for supporting the restoration, conservation and promotion of one of humankind's most precious artistic legacies!

In April Monsignor Terence Hogan, long-time Patrons' chaplain, was appointed international Coordinator of the Patrons and relocated from Florida to Rome. Prior to Monsignor's appointment, Sister Raffaella Petrini, the Secretary General of Vatican City State, had managed the Patrons' Office for over a year, while simultaneously managing seven other departments at Vatican City State. Sr. Petrini continues to take a keen interest in us Patrons.

The relationship between the California and Northwest Chapters and the Patrons' office at the Museums is stronger than ever. A steady stream of CA and NW Patrons have been visiting the Museums, and the work of the restorers in the laboratories continues unabated thanks to you. The response to Wishbook 2023 was robust: two thirds of the proposed restoration projects have been adopted, including several by California and Northwest Patrons.

Our 2023 events have been well-attended, informative and FUN: you'll read more about them in the pages that follow. I look forward to seeing you at future Patrons' gatherings, including two which will take place before the end of the year. Thank you very much and may God bless you all!

Debra Colletti, Chair, California & Northwest Chapter

SUMMER 2023 MESSAGGERO

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN. OCTOBER 1ST, 11:00AM
COSTA MESA, CA

*Docent-guided tour & lunch at the
Orange County Museum of Art*

EARLY DECEMBER (DATE TBA)
LOS ANGELES, CA

*Docent-guided tour of the "William
Blake: Visionary" exhibit & lunch
at the Getty Museum*

*Please watch your email for
more details and to RSVP.*



MANUSCRIPTS, MODERN ART, & MORE

California & Northwest Patrons enjoyed a busy start to 2023

In December of 2022, the California chapter visited the Getty Museum in Los Angeles for a tour of the exceptional *Visualizing the Virgin Mary*, an exhibition of sumptuously illuminated manuscripts from the later Middle Ages and Renaissance featuring the Virgin. Dr. Elizabeth Morrison, the Getty's Senior Curator of Manuscripts, offered Patrons a behind-the-scenes look at these rarely-displayed works of art, tracking the development of the Marian image through European and into Latin American representations. A seated lunch with an incomparable view followed, generously hosted by Maria Grant.

In March, it was time for modern art, as the Patrons visited Los Angeles' celebrated Broad Museum for a guided tour of the permanent collection, including private access to Yayoi Kusama's *Infinity Mirror Rooms*, followed by a lunch at nearby Italian restaurant Vespaio. From Jeff Koons to Andy Warhol to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Patrons were able to get a special look at one of the world's leading collections of postwar and contemporary art, assembled by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad.

(continued on next page)

Front Cover: *School of Athens*, fresco by Raphael (c. 1510), Vatican Museums, Rome

Top: California Patrons gather at the Norton Simon museum in Pasadena (May 2023)

L (top): California Patrons enjoy a docent-guided tour of the Broad Museum in Los Angeles (March 2023)

L (bottom): Chris Cooper, Nancy Cooper, and Allison Woram at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles (December 2022)

In April, the Northwest Patrons gathered in Seattle at the Fountainhead Gallery for an art reception hosted by Rob & Beth Crittenden. Patrons perused the April Show, featuring three Seattle artists, and explored other excellent pieces from a wide range of artists.

May brought a lively Sunday brunch at hip Pasadena spot The Luggage Room, followed by special visit to the Norton Simon Museum. Patrons enjoyed a special docent-guided tour of the temporary exhibition, *Saint Sebastian: Anatomy of a Sculpture*, a restorer's-eye view of a fifteenth century wood devotional image of St. Sebastian. The visit also featured highlights from the museum's permanent collection featuring saints and martyrs, including an excellent mid-fourteenth century Italian altarpiece, *Coronation of the Virgin*, as well as Renaissance and Baroque paintings.

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming events: on Sunday, October 1st, the Patrons will visit the recently reopened Orange County Museum of Art in Costa Mesa for a tour and lunch, and in early December, we'll return to the Getty for a lunch and tour of the *William Blake: Visionary* exhibit.

R: A docent-guided tour of collection highlights including Filippino Lippi's *Saints Benedict and Apollonia* (c. 1483) at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena (May 2023)

Bottom: Northwest Patrons at the Fountainhead Gallery (April 2023)





GREEK MARBLE STATUE OF THE GODDESS FLORA

RESTORATION SPONSORED BY ED & MARY HALL

Inventory N° 20298, Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities

In 2023, restoration work was completed on this beautiful Greek marble statue of Flora, sponsored by California chapter members Ed & Mary Hall. Flora, the goddess of nature, had been installed for many years on the terrace of the Pinacoteca (the painting gallery), above a fountain. This spot was one of the most visited places in the Vatican Museums, boasting an exceptional view of St. Peter's Basilica, and Flora was admired by hundreds of visitors daily. Before Flora's arrival at the Vatican Museums in 1804, she was owned by the Strozzi family from Florence, great rivals of the Medici and one-time rulers of Siena. But more than a century of modern open-air exposure had caused advanced degradation to the Flora statue, and urgent intervention was needed. Erosion, cracks, and oxidation presented a complex set of challenges for the Restoration Labs, and the statue's right hand had fully detached from the forearm. Restorers were able to fully clean and repair the statue over several years, and Flora is back on display at her new home indoors at the Museo Gregorio Profano, as part of the Vatican Museums' collection of Greek and Roman classical sculpture.

Top L: A restorer works on the head of the statue. Bottom L: A restored Flora is back on display at the Museo Gregorio Profano. R: Ed and Mary Hall with the statue of Flora mid-restoration in March 2023. All Photos © Governorate of the Vatican City State, Directorate of Museums and Cultural Heritage.