

THE ETERNAL CITY AND LA SERENISSIMA  
A trip for members of the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts  
and  
The Delaware Art Museum  
September 17 – 24, 2011

The Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts and the Delaware Art Museum are pleased to offer a very special tour to Italy for our members. Organized by Arts & Crafts Tours, these visits will introduce our members to the iconic sites of each of these extraordinary cities and taken behind the scenes to some of the new wonders that are taking place.

In Rome, there is an exciting, vibrant and burgeoning contemporary art scene and in Venice, of course, the Art Biennale. Even if you have been before, this trip promises to provide access and opportunities to experience some places you haven't seen before as well as some of the highlights of the past along with those of the new.

You will be accompanied by Maxine Gaiber, Director of the DCCA, Maxine Gaiber, Elaine Hirschl Ellis the President of Arts & Crafts Tours, and Lindsay Harris, our bilingual guide. There will be private receptions, walks and talks, and luscious, leisurely meals in the company of other members and a varied, specialized group of guides and hosts.

Here are just some of the highlights of this special tour:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – ROME**

Arrive in the Eternal City at your convenience and you will be met and taken to our 4-star hotel. In the afternoon we will all meet for a welcome cocktail reception – an opportunity to meet the other members of the tour and our Rome guides. We end the evening with dinner.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – ROME - OVERVIEW**

This morning we will take a coaching tour of some of the highlights of Rome, including a special visit to St. Paul's Within-the-Walls, the exceptional 19<sup>th</sup> Century church designed by George Edmund Street with decorations by Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Other stops will include the Monument to Victor Emmanuel II and an option to take the elevator to the top which offers a marvelous panorama of the city; the Via dei Fori Imperiali; the Market and Forum of Trajan; the Colosseum; the Pantheon; and the Piazza Navona.

Sunday's lunch will be at a restaurant near the Spanish Steps and we will then go to the nearby Villa Borghese and tour their Permanent Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian art. You may return to the Galleria Borghese on your own and then in the evening select from one of Rome's many glorious restaurants for dinner on your own.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – CONTEMPORARY ART IN THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

We will have a late start, departing the hotel at around 10:30 for a drive to Pescia Fiorentina, one of Tuscany's most lovely areas where we will have lunch outdoors (weather permitting) overlooking the countryside. After lunch we spend a fascinating afternoon at the Giardino dei Tarocchi – the Tarot Garden, designed by and filled with giant sculptures by Niki de Saint Phalle. We will depart in the late afternoon in time for you to have dinner in Rome.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – CONTEMPORARY ART IN ROME

This morning we visit a number of contemporary art galleries, such as the Gagosian and the Museo Carlo Bilotti which will have an exhibition of the photography of Milton Gendel and we will be taken around by the Curator, Peter Miller.

Our lunch is in the Testaccio section of Rome, now vibrating with exceptional contemporary architecture – such as Zaha Hadid's MAXXI. Scott Schlimgen, an architect, will join us for lunch and guide us through the MAXXI. We will also visit the MACRO, the Contemporary Art Museum that occupies two converted slaughter house buildings.

The MAXXI has an Auditorium where, depending upon the program, you may wish to stay for an evening concert or you may wish to return to the hotel for an early night before we depart for Venice in the morning.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – ROME TO VENICE

We will leave the hotel early, at 8:15, for our 9:30 train to Venice. On arrival your luggage will be taken to our hotel, near the Piazza San Marco, and we will either walk or take a Vaporetto down the Grand Canal. Along the way, we will see some of Venice's most famous sites – the Scuola Grande de San Rocco, the Campo Santa Margherita, the Galleria dell'Accademia, the Accademia Bridge, and the Piazza San Marco.

After checking into the hotel, there is a Welcome Cocktail Reception during which there will be a presentation of a brief history of the Venice Biennale and the urban development of "I Giardini" and its national pavilions of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This will be followed by dinner in one of Venice's small restaurants.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 – VENICE BIENNALE

This is the day for an in depth visit to the Biennale. We will first visit the National Pavilions, in particular those of Norway, Finland, and Great Britain. We will lunch near the Via Garibaldi and then in the afternoon go on to the Arsenale.

After such a full day, you will be grateful to have the evening off to wander and enjoy a quiet dinner on your own.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 – VENICE

We will tour the Piazza San Marco and the Basilica this morning and then be introduced, or re-introduced to the work of Carlo Scarpa whose Olivetti showroom is on the Piazza. At the Fondazione Querini Stampalia we will tour Scarpa's renovation of the building and then have lunch nearby.

The afternoon is on your own – you may wish to return to the Biennale, or to set off alone, or with one of our guides, on a walking tour of Venice, ending with dinner on your own. We will be happy to organize this with you. You might wish to see the Judaica section of Venice, or visit the Murano glass works, or even do some shopping.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – CONTEMPORARY VENICE

Our final day in Venice will be spent visiting some of the most important sites of contemporary art in Venice. We will go first to the Francois Pinault Collection, which is the largest contemporary art collection and is in two museums – the Palazzo Grassi and the Punta della Dogana.

We will lunch at the Café in the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and then spend the afternoon touring those grounds and collection.

Our Farewell dinner will be in a restaurant in one of the most scenic sites in Venice, across from the Piazza San Marco and offering an excellent view, and just behind the Chiesa della Salute.

Due to the uniquely personalized nature of this program, it may be necessary to alter the itinerary with respect to visits to private homes and collections, and guides, lecturers and hotels scheduled. Should that become necessary any substitutions will be carefully made to maintain the integrity of the tour.

#### GUIDES AND LECTURERS

As always, with Arts & Crafts Tours, the guides and lecturers for this tour have been carefully chosen for their in-depth knowledge in their respective areas of specialization. And, though an increasing number of people in both cities speak English, we will be grateful to have Lindsay Harris along as our interpreter as well as guide.

Lindsay received her Ph.D. in the history of modern art and architecture, with a specialization in twentieth century Italy, from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. As a Postdoctoral Fellow at Amherst College, she teaches courses on contemporary art and exhibition practice that incorporate the collections and activities of Mass MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) and the Mead Art Museum.

In addition, there will be various experts and distinguished scholars who will take us around the museums and other sites and join us for meals. Among them are:

Stella Bottai earned her doctorate in the history of modern art at the Università di Roma 'La Sapienza', where she focused on 19th-century painting and decorative arts traditions in Italy and Finland. She is also a specialist in the art of the Pre-Raphaelites and has contributed to a major exhibition of their work at the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna in Rome planned for 2011.

Peter Miller is an independent scholar and curator based in Rome who holds a Ph.D. in the history of modern art from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. After working for many years at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, he organized a critically acclaimed exhibition on the work of Philip Guston in Rome for the Museo Carlo Bilotti in Rome in 2010. His current exhibition, on the work of photographer, art critic, and longtime Italian correspondent for 'Art in America' Milton Gendel, will open at the Bilotti in September 2011.

Scott Schlimgen received his Master's of Architecture Degree at Harvard's Graduate School of Design and is currently the Director of Academic Initiatives Abroad, a Rome-based university study abroad program that specializes in architecture.

## **TOUR CONDITIONS**

**Reservations & Payments** Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt. A deposit of \$1,500.00 per person must accompany all reservations. Full payment is due upon receipt of invoice, 60 days prior to departure, and must be paid by check or American Express.

### **What is Included**

- Three-star hotels in Rome and Venice based on two people sharing a Standard Double or one person in a Single Room.
- Breakfast daily, 7 lunches, 3 dinners, 2 cocktail receptions.
- Admission to all museums (when part of the tour), and exhibitions.
- A full program of lectures with distinguished scholars, receptions, private viewings and tours.
- The handling of two average size suitcases per person.
- Luxury coach transportation throughout.
- Roundtrip train from Rome to Venice.
- Transfers from the airport in Rome and from the train station in Rome to the airport.
- The services of a full time tour leader and a guide and translator in each city.

What is Not Included Incidental expenses such as wine and liquor when not provided as part of the receptions, laundry, telephone calls, fax communications; a la carte orders or items not on any set menus; and other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Trip Insurance Comprehensive trip cancellation-interruption and baggage insurance are strongly recommended and should be secured through your travel or insurance agent.

Required Travel Documents Valid, signed passport.

Responsibility *Arts & Crafts Tours* is not liable for acts of God, fire, acts of governments or other authorities, wars, civil disturbances, riots, terrorist acts, strikes, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, dangers incident to sea, land and air travel, and other similar acts or incidents beyond its ability to control.

Cancellation/Refunds Full refund, less a handling fee of \$250.00 per person, will be made if written cancellation is received by *Arts & Crafts Tours* six weeks prior to departure. In the event of a later cancellation a refund, less a cancellation fee of \$250.00 per person, will be given depending upon resale of the reservation. *Arts & Crafts Tours* reserves the right to cancel any tour should registration prove insufficient, in which case a full refund will be made.

### TOUR COSTS

Costs have been calculated on the basis of charges and exchange rates as December, 2010. Should these change, *Arts & Crafts Tours* reserves the right to make adjustments in the fee.

The cost, all inclusive of land arrangements based on single or double occupancy for 8 days is \$3,486.00 per person.



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