Event sponsored by the Fondazione CR Firenze and Advancing Women Artists

‘***Women Artists. Florence 1900-1950***

***A show dedicated to women***

***at the Fondazione CR Firenze exhibition venue***

As part of the Heritage of Women Festival, 40 works by female artists

with strong ties to Florence will be on display from September 22 to November 18.

Several of the works on show have never seen the exhibition spotlight.

Admission is free.

Women take center stage at the exhibition 'Women Artists. Florence 1900-1950'. It features painters and sculptors who showed noteworthy determination as they faced the challenges characterizing the art scene during the first half of the twentieth century. The exhibition is sponsored and organized by Fondazione CR Firenze and Advancing Women Artists, in collaboration with the Gabinetto G.P. Vieusseux and Associazione Culturale Il Palmerino, with the patronage of the United States Consulate in Florence. Admission is free. The show will run from September 22 to November 18, at the Spazio Mostre di Fondazione CR Firenze (Via Bufalini 6 – Tel 055 5384997).

The exhibition forms part of the 'Heritage of Women Festival' (September 21-23), promoted by the Fondazione CR Firenze and Elastica and dedicated to the theme of female empowerment and women's contributions to human progress. Serena Dandini is artistic director and the festival enjoys the patronage of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Municipality of Florence and the Estate Fiorentina. Gucci is project partner. The festival's supporters include Poste italiane, Banca CR Firenze of the Intesa San Paolo Group, Pitti Immagine and "Tuscany, la bellezza della carta" a Cartiere Carrara brand, in collaboration with Publiacqua SpA. Unicoop Firenze is a technical sponsor. The festival's sister organization is HF Ile-de-France and the Associazione MèMO. Media partners RAI Radio 2 and Fenysia – Scuola dei linguaggi della cultura.

Artists Leonetta Pieraccini Cecchi and Fillide Giorgi Levasti are the focal point of the exhibition, curated by Lucia Mannini and Chiara Toti. These two artists cultivated a longstanding friendship and both women married esteemed intellectuals, art critic Emilio Cecchi and philosopher Arrigo Levasti, respectively. Both women established a name for themselves as formidable painters, after training with Giovanni Fattori at the start of the century and expressing interest in the international art scene's newest movements. Despite her move to Rome, Leonetta did not sever ties with Florence and several of her portraits depicting members of the city's most significant cultural figures and literati bear witness to this fact. Another portion of her oeuvre is focused on the domestic sphere. The exhibition hosts a collection of Leonetta's works stored at the Vieusseux's Emilio Cecchi Archive. Fillde's career is best represented by her still-life works imbued with international flair and her whimsical views of Florence. The naïf feel of these very personal canvases offer vivid images of the city, particularly the viale Milton neighborhood, home to the artist's atelier.

Other female painters were drawn to Florence during the first half of the 1900s, including creative personalities like Flavia Arlotta, Elisabeth Chaplin, Vittoria Morelli, Marisa Mori, Elena Salvaneschi, Adriana Pincherle and sculptures by Evelyn Scarampi are representative of the many artistic languages these artists made their own, providing a window onto their role in society. Their quest was to overcome the biases of the art market and to reconcile their creative endeavors with family commitments, whilst taking advantage of the opportunities provided them as active members of a vast network of women's associations.

Most of the works on show have never been on public view; they are loans from private collections as well as public museums and institutions, including Rome's National Gallery of Modern Art, the Uffizi Galleries-Pitti's Modern Art Gallery and the Gabinetto Scientifico e Letterario G.P. Vieusseux. The show's organizers supported restoration and maintenance of the works exhibited: this conservation treatment aims to safeguard artworks showcasing the cultural and artistic vitality that has always characterized Florence, its history and its people.

"This show provides a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on the quality of these female painters that are not well-known to the general public and it spurs us to reflect upon the role of women in general and their contribution to the cultural sphere," says Fondazione CR Firenze president Umberto Tombari. "This event perfectly reflects the spirit of the Heritage of Women Festival, organized by our foundation."

"By restoring art by women - says AWA's director Linda Falcone – we seek to reclaim their place in the annals of art history. Their stories must be told and their works revealed."

A series of city-wide side events surround the down-town exhibition including the lecture series entitled "Stories of Women in paint and on page" organized by Associazione Culturale Il Palmerino (see complete calendar here: www.palmerino.it) and the show "Fillide Levasti: An Artist and her Archive", hosted at the Marucelliana Library (visit: www.maru.firenze.sbn.it)

**INFO AND RESERVATIONS**

*WOMEN ARTISTS. FLORENCE 1900-1950*

Spazio Mostre Fondazione CR Firenze, Via Bufalini 6 – Florence

22 September – 18 November 2018

Opening hours: From Thursday to Sunday, all day from 10am/6pm

Free guided visits, while spaces are available:

- Every Saturday at 3pm

- Every day for groups and schools reserving in advance

Tel. +39 055 5384 997/001

[artistefirenze.mostra@fcrf.it](mailto:artistefirenze.mostra@fcrf.it)

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*Riccardo Galli*

*Head of external relations, institutional communications and press office*

*Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze - Via Bufalini, 6*

*50122 Florence tel. 0555384503 cell. 3351597460*

[*riccardo.galli@fcrf.it*](mailto:riccardo.galli@fcrf.it)

*in collaboration with Federica Sanna*

*tel. 3334885476* [*press@fondazionecrfirenze.it*](mailto:press@fondazionecrfirenze.it)

*Linda Falcone*

*Director Advancing Women Artists*

*Tel. 347 4891086*

[*linda@advancingwomenartists.org*](mailto:linda@advancingwomenartists.org)