



## **Art for Tomorrow 2023 – Florence and Solomeo, Italy**

*In an era when society, and democracy, are buffeted by war, disinformation, gaping inequalities and the climate catastrophe, the world needs creative ideas.*

*Can the arts be a way out?*

*Culture feeds us in a way that facts can't. It moves, challenges and inspires us, and can force us to rethink our assumptions. Art for Tomorrow looks at this interplay between the arts and society, examining culture's social and economic impact. The 2023 edition will use the stunning backdrop of Florence and Solomeo to explore the link between beauty and creativity, questions about cultural heritage, and art's unique capacity to elicit change.*

### **Draft Agenda**

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**

- 18:00 - 18:45** Welcome Remarks  
**Opening Panel Discussion : Arts as a Way Out**
- 18:50 - 19:30** **Opening Keynote Conversation**
- 20:00** Welcome Dinner at the Palazzo Strozzi  
Private Tour of "Reaching for the Stars" Exhibition

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

- 9:00 - 9:30** Welcome Remarks  
**Opening Provocation**
- 9:30 - 11:00** **Panel Discussions:**  
**Heritage for Tomorrow**  
*Florence's historic city center has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982. But like many sites around the world, it faces challenges that are only accelerating in the current era, especially from climate change and mass tourism. What should Florence and other cities do to protect and promote their cultural heritage while still preserving their economic lifeblood? What are some ways that cities are creating new definitions of what heritage means?*

### **Role of the Museum: Mirror or Megaphone?**

*As artists and the public at large become ever more engaged in tackling world problems, and social media pushes everything to new levels of amplification, what should the role of the museum be in 2023? Is it an institution that simply reflects what's happening in society, or does it have a responsibility to amplify or even join in calls for change? Now that exhibitions can be viewed virtually worldwide, should their target audiences be local or global, virtual or IRL? And should the answers to these questions depend on who is providing the funding?*

**11:00 - 11:30** COFFEE BREAK

**11:30 - 13:00** **Keynote Conversation**

### **Performance Short**

#### **Panel Discussion: Protest Art and the Art of Protest**

*By now millions of people have viewed videos or posts of protesters throwing soup on Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" or gluing themselves to Vermeer's "Girl With a Pearl Earring." What do the activists aim to accomplish? In fact protest art has a long history, from Picasso's "Guernica" to Keith Haring's murals to Kara Walker's monumental "Fon Americanus." How should we reconcile protesters' need to garner attention to their cause, with their chosen mechanism? And just how effective are various forms of protest in resolving issues?*

**13:00- 14:30** Lunch Hosted by St. Regis Hotel

**14:30 - 15:00** **Performance Short**

**15:00 - 16:15** **Panel Discussions:**

#### **NFTs Are Here to Stay. Why?**

*The cryptocurrency market may have tumbled, with NFTs worth only a fraction of their former value. But the appetite for these works of digital art is still going strong. Artists and collectors are swayed by the guarantee of authenticity the blockchain provides, allowing virtual "editions" of artworks, which in turn is luring more traditional artists and museums to test out the platforms and experiment with new mediums. Meanwhile the debate over environmental concerns continues. What's next for the world of NFTs?*

#### **Public Art, Digital Art and the Climate Crisis**

*More and more artists are strategically creating and presenting works in very public places accessible to all -- including the digital space -- to raise awareness about the climate crisis. Some of these projects have garnered international attention, but to what extent have they led to action?*

### **Performance Short**

**16:30 - 18:30** City Arts & Culture Tours

**19:30** Dinner

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

**10:00 - 11:30** Panel Discussions:

**Gender and the Arts: Crises, Quotas and Correctives**

*Major festivals, exhibitions and performances have been giving women center stage in recent years, while museums have been auditing gender diversity in both their collections and their staffs in a purported effort to right past wrongs. Meanwhile art is playing an important role in amplifying the plight of women worldwide. Is this the trend of the moment, or a long-term development that will change the art world from the inside out?*

**When Arts Education Becomes a Luxury**

*Studies have repeatedly shown that the arts can impact young students' cognitive development, and help them both academically and socially. There are signs that the public is starting to recognize this, as the proposition passed in California can attest. But the reality is that when times are lean, funding for classes in the arts is often the first to be siphoned off. Meanwhile, fewer university students are turning to arts-related programs because of the perception that it won't lead to a lucrative career. What do these developments mean for the world of the arts, and the world at large?*

**12:00 - 14:00** Garden brunch

**14:30 - 16:30** Tour of Collectors' Homes

**16:30** Solomeo guests depart for weekend

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 29 - SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

Solomeo weekend featuring exclusive conversations; tours of the vineyard, factory and hamlet; dinner at Solomeo Castle and private tours of Perugia and Assisi