
THE FOUNDATION FOR ITALIAN ART & CULTURE

TO HOLD GALA EVENT CELEBRATING THE 2006 FIAC EXCELLENCY AWARDS

AT THE RACQUET & TENNIS CLUB, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 28

NEW YORK, NY, NOVEMBER 2006 – New York-based **FOUNDATION FOR ITALIAN ART & CULTURE** will hold a celebratory dinner for the 2006 FIAC Excellency Awards at The Racquet & Tennis Club in New York City on November 28th, 2006. Guests of Honor will be the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of the Italian Government, H.E. Francesco Rutelli as well as Sen. Mario Baccini, Vice President of the Italian Senate.

The Foundation for Italian Art and Culture (FIAC) is a not-for-profit organization established in New York City in 2003. Its main purpose is to promote the knowledge of the Italian cultural and artistic traditions from the classical period to the contemporary period in the United States. FIAC works closely with the Italian Ministry of Cultural Affairs and major Italian cultural institutions in order to expand the appreciation of Italian art in the United States.

EXCELLENCY AWARDS

In order to acknowledge and reward leading figures both in the USA and Italy who excel in activities relating to all aspects of Italian culture, the Foundation for Italian Art and Culture establishes two annual awards each amounting to \$25,000.00. The awards are given to one leading figure in the United States and to another leading figure in Italy. Nominations and awards are made by the Foundation's United States Advisory Board for the Italian award, and by the Italian Advisory Board for the American award. The 2006 Awards and the dinner event have been made possible by the generosity of The Alexander Bodini Charitable Foundation. The 2006 winners are:

DR. DAVID ALAN BROWN

David Alan Brown is the Curator of Italian Paintings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. As a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Brown's major field of research has been Italian Renaissance Painting and he has published much of this research on artists such as Leonardo, Raphael, Titian, and Correggio. He has curated numerous exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art including "Raphael and America," "Lorenzo Lotto," "Virtue & Beauty: Leonardo's Ginevra de Benci", the Renaissance "Portraits of Women," and his most recent "Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, and the Renaissance of Venetian Painting." In addition to his extensive curatorial background and his many awards, Dr. Brown's strong interest in promoting Italian art in the United States may be also recognized at Georgetown University where he has been a lecturer throughout the 1980s and today. In recognition of his achievement in furthering the knowledge and appreciation of Italian Culture in America, Brown was awarded the *Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana* in February 2003.

PROF. SALVATORE SETTIS

Salvatore Settis, formerly Director of The Getty Research Institute from 1994 to 1999, is currently the Director of the "Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa". His interests range far and wide, from archeology to art history. He has written extensively on Greek and Roman classical sculpture, on the Laocoon and the Trajan Column, among other subjects, as well as on Renaissance masterpieces like Giorgione's Tempest. Settis' books have left a long-lasting mark in every field he has explored. In recent years he has engaged himself in a passionate defense of the Italian cultural and artistic patrimony. Settis has vowed to protect and reform the "Beni Culturali, Ambientali and Paesaggistici" in pamphlets such as "Italia S.p.A. L'assalto al patrimonio culturale" (2002) and "Battaglie senza eroi" (2005). He is the recipient of many awards, among which Premio Viareggio (1978 and 2003) and Premio Federico Zeri (2003). Since 2001 he has been nominated *Cavaliere di Gran Croce* and *Consigliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana*.
