

THE FLORENTINE

The Women's Issue

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**GIVE
TO GAIN**

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Artemisia Gold launches internationally



The Plautilla Bricci altarpiece before restoration

Artemisia Gold, Inc. has officially launched as a 501(c)(3) global nonprofit working in the United States, the UK and Europe to expand the mission of Artemisia Gold UK. Founded in 2020 by Jane Adams, who serves as president and CEO, the organization's board includes vice president Susan Glimcher, executive director and advisor Mark Smith, as well as directors Susan Angelastro, Kiki Keating, Josephine Porciatti and Giovanni Porciatti.

Born from years of restoration work in Italy, Artemisia Gold is dedicated to reviving the legacy of long-forgotten artists, with a focus on women artists whose contributions have been obscured or overlooked for centuries. Through research, restoration and educational programs, the organization brings lost masterpieces and the stories behind them back into public view, ensuring that these paintings will be visible and their authors recognized.

"I am delighted to announce this important step for Artemisia Gold, Inc., which allows us to expand our mission across America, Europe and the UK," remarks Jane Adams. "Throughout history, many artists have faced obstacles that led to their work being forgotten, misattributed or overlooked. **Our role is to uncover this vital, forgotten artistic heritage and ensure these artists' true stories are finally told.**"

Over the past five years, Artemisia Gold has made significant strides, including publishing an in-depth analytical study of Artemisia Gentileschi's *Madonna and Child* in collaboration with the Galleria Spada

in Rome, and restoring another Gentileschi masterpiece, *Sinite Parvulos Venire* (Let the Children Come to Me), from the Church of San Carlo al Corso, Rome. This project was directed by Adams and made possible by the generous donation of fellow board member Mark Smith. These milestones reflect Artemisia's Gold's dedication to preserving and illuminating important works of art for a global audience.

In 2024, to celebrate the 500th birthday of Florence's first recognized female artist, Suor Plautilla Nelli, Artemisia Gold co-sponsored and directed the restoration of two of her works: the monumental altarpiece *Madonna of the Rosary* in the Church of San Giuseppe and Santa Lucia in Montatone, and the panel *Mother and Child with Saint Dominique, Saint Catherine, and Saint Agnes* from a private Florentine collection. A Dominican nun and largely self-taught Renaissance painter, Nelli created exceptional art that was admired by her contemporaries. She also ran a thriving workshop at her convent overseeing the production of religious paintings and

sculptures by her sister nuns. Her legacy, long overlooked, has gained increased recognition thanks to the rediscovery and restoration of her paintings.

In 2026, Artemisia Gold is embarking on its most ambitious chapter to date, launching two significant restoration projects that continue its mission to bring historically important works and the women who created them back into the light. The first, to be announced imminently, centres on a remarkable altarpiece by Plautilla Bricci, the pioneering 17th-century painter and Rome's first female architect.

The organization will soon announce a new restoration project and launch an international art council program with distinguished honorary chairs Mary Garrard, Catherine Turrill-Lupi, Cathe-

rine Loewe and Sian Walters. American art collectors Steven Alan Bennett and Dr. Elaine Melotti Schmidt have also agreed to support the program. Bennett and Schmidt, who only collect works by women painters, are the founders of The Bennett Prize for Women Figurative Realist Painters and are the namesakes of the newly opened Bennett Schmidt Pavilion

at the Muskegon Museum of Art in Muskegon, Michigan. Bennett and Schmidt are also committed to the conservation and restoration of works by Renaissance and Baroque painters. Accordingly, their collection contains paintings attributed to Plautilla Nelli, Artemisia Gentileschi and Diana de Rosa as well as works by contemporary women painters.

Join the live online lecture about Artemisia Gentileschi on March 9 at 7pm CET.

Sian Walters, art historian, lecturer for The National Gallery and director of Art History in Focus examines the artist's life and legacy, offering fresh perspectives on her work, context and enduring influence within European art history.

Book your place: arthistoryinfocus.com/register

Wake up, kids!

Casa delle Donne (via delle Vecchie Carceri 8) is a space for dialogue, creativity, and community, grounded in the values of equality and solidarity. The programme titled **Svegliatevi Bambin3** celebrates their second anniversary, with a series of events (in Italian) taking place from March 20-21.

Participants collaborate to shape inclusive and innovative cultural expressions, working together to foster growth, strengthen self-determination, and pursue both shared and personal paths. The first anniversary focused on connecting the Casa delle Donne in Florence to those in other cities, including Milan, Rome, Turin, Bologna, Modena, Lecce, Viareggio and Pisa. As part of this year's programme, **Donne in Movimento – Libreria Vivente** (living bookshop) sees four women tell their stories from 3.30-6.30pm on March 20, intertwining visions, intentions and spaces. The one-to-one narrative formula seeks to underline the importance of making individual stories universal, with readers/listeners invited to choose from the "Women in Movement" catalogue. From 5.30pm, there will be a photoshoot to leave a 'Message in a bottle' for future women.

A transfeminist publishing festival called Libramente takes place from 10am to 8pm on March 21, a day dedicated to books as a space for relationships, political practice and shared expression. 11 publishing houses will present their publications, with four workshops (bookable via Eventbrite) on topics like illustration, creative writing, body and voice performance, and antiracism. There will also be two public meetings on independent transfeminist publishing and gender education. Finally, a cake and toast at 6.30pm completes the celebrations.

www.casadelledonnefirenze.it