

## Finmeccanica: committed to culture

Finmeccanica and its group companies have sponsored numerous art and cultural projects. These initiatives attest to the group's belief that industrial activities are not incompatible with an equally strong presence in the world of culture.

Besides providing financial support, the Group has been able to apply its technological excellence and scientific expertise to a number of major cultural undertakings. The most high-profile of these was the restoration of the Riace Bronzes, two full-size Greek bronzes that caused a considerable stir at the time of their discovery and exhibition in the 1970s, which was made possible thanks to the technological contribution of a number of group companies.

Finmeccanica's commitment to culture has also found expression in numerous initiatives in the field of figurative arts, including *The Conquest of the Skies*, an exhibition of futurist aeropainting and the exhibition *Renaissance Engineers: from Brunelleschi to Leonardo da Vinci*, which visited Paris, Florence, New York, London and Tokyo, and, more recently, exhibitions of works by Amedeo Modigliani at the Complesso del Vittoriano in Rome and the *Myth and Speed* exhibition, held in Moscow in no less evocative a location than the Tsars' former manège at the Kremlin.

In 2007 Finmeccanica sponsored *Italian Spring 2007*. The initiative, which takes place in Japan, includes more than 300 events promoting Italian culture, and kicked off with the display of Da Vinci's 'The Annunciation', on loan from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, as part of the *Mind of Leonardo* exhibition at the National Museum of Tokyo. Also in 2007, Finmeccanica helped to mount the exhibition, *Chagall's Wonderland*. Over 150 works including paintings, gouaches, sketches, sculptures and engravings were on display at the Complesso del Vittoriano in Rome, tracing out the prodigious artistic output of the Russian master.

In addition to sponsoring the Spoleto Festival for many years, Finmeccanica has been involved in numerous musical events, including concerts at the *Oratorio del Gonfalone* in Rome, La Scala opera house in Milan, the *Teatrino di Corte*, San Carlo Theatre and *Pio Monte della Misericordia* church in Naples, Saint Mark's Cathedral and the *Palazzo Grassi* in Venice, and the Doge's Palace in Genoa, as well as numerous concerts raising funds for the FAI (Italian Environment Fund).

In 2003 Finmeccanica finally completed the redevelopment of the area around its headquarters, a project carried out in conjunction with Rome's local authority. The initiative was part of a wider programme, *Le cento piazze* ("100 piazzas"), under which Finmeccanica also donated a statue in travertine stone by the sculptor Igor Mitoraj, entitled *Dea Roma*, to the city. In 2006, this artist also undertook the complete reconstruction of the doors to the *Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri* in Rome, once again thanks to the support of Finmeccanica.

The group has also sponsored numerous publishing projects, including a reissue of Slavic studies expert Ettore Lo Gatto's work, *Gli artisti Italiani in Russia* ("Italian artists in Russia") and supported high-profile cultural projects including the newly-established permanent collection of Milan's Diocesan Museum. This museum, which is managed by the Sant'Ambrogio Foundation, houses 320 works displayed in the cloisters of the former Sant'Eustorgio convent. The collection celebrated its fifth anniversary on 15 November 2006 with an outstanding concert at Milan's La Scala opera house, organised with Finmeccanica's support.

On the occasion of the 2006 Farnborough International Air Show, Finmeccanica sponsored an exhibition at the National Gallery in London showcasing a previously unknown preliminary sketch by Leonardo da Vinci of his *Adoration of the Magi*. Thanks to Finmeccanica's support and advances in scientific analysis, this can now be admired by all.

A further testimony to the breadth of Finmeccanica's cultural involvement was its decision to sponsor the RomaFilmFest, the international film festival held in Rome in October 2006, which again confirmed the group's commitment to fostering a balanced relationship between art, science, culture and innovation.