

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

***THE SISTINE CHAPEL
TWENTY YEARS LATER
NEW BREATH NEW LIGHT***

30TH-31TH OCTOBER 2014

PRESS RELEASE

In 2014, memorial year of Michelangelo's death, the Vatican Museums intend to honour the occasion focusing on the Sistine Chapel from the conservation point of view.

Since the past 450 years from Michelangelo's death (18 February 1564) and 20 years since the end of the last famous restoration (8 April 1994) which returned Michelangelo's original colours to the *Vault* and to the *Last Judgment*, the Vatican Museums intend to organise an international Congress whose topic will be the conditions of the frescoes and the methods and tools adopted for their better preservation and fruition.

The International Congress *The Sistine Chapel twenty years later. New breath, new light* will be held on Thursday the 30th and Friday the 31st of October 2014 in Rome, at the Auditorium Conciliazione.

The Conference will take place in two days of work divided into five sections, in which – starting from the exceptional results achieved in 1994 – the current state of the frescoes will be examined and the scientific investigations and ordinary/extraordinary maintenance of the complex plan that for a long time the Vatican Museums have put in place for the better protection of the monument will be made public.

In particular, regarding the technical operations studied and then implemented, the new air conditioning and air exchange and the new lighting system will be presented: two results that have led to a scientific and technological work along three years.

The look to the future of the Conference, will close the meeting with the examination of scientific and managerial questions related to the expected increase of mass tourism and its possible effects on the conservation of the Sistine Chapel.

The Press Conference to present the Congress will be held by the Director of the Vatican Museum, Professor Antonio Paolucci, on the 16th of October at 11:00 a.m. in the Aula Giovanni Paolo II of the Holy See Press Office, located in Via della Conciliazione.

The journalists, who previously registered in the Press Room of the Holy See, will receive a badge allowing them to access the Sistine Chapel on the 29th of October at 6:30 p.m. for an exclusive tour reserved for the Press in order to preview the new systems in action.

ACCREDITATION: Holy See Press Office, accreditamenti@press.va – fax +39 066868810

INFORMATION: Ufficio Stampa Musei Vaticani, stampamusei@scv.va – tel. +39 0669883041 – fax +39 0669885236