

VATICAN ETHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM *ANIMA MUNDI*

The Vatican Museums are pleased to present to you a preview of the section dedicated to the cultures and peoples of Australia and Oceania. This part is the result of the first phase of the on-going renovation work of the *Anima Mundi* Museum. The scientific study of the collection and the consultations and reconnections with the various communities of the Pacific are by Katherine Aigner and Father Nicola Mapelli.

We are currently collaborating with the communities where the objects came from and experts, to create information panels that can best express the spirit of each object on exhibit here.

The *Anima Mundi* Museum contains over 80,000 works of art from all over the world. Only a fraction of these works are on permanent display.

The rest are kept in climate controlled storage rooms, using the newest technology, and are visible above the showcases. For many years the specialised Ethnological Materials Restoration Laboratory has been dedicated to the conservation of the works kept in the *Anima Mundi* Museum.

We hope our visitors can thus have an idea of the respect and care the Vatican Museums have for the many different cultures of the world. We believe that every form of art, every expression of beauty, is an instrument of dialogue and an impetus for unity among peoples.