



## **Under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy in London**



500 years ago Michelangelo Buonarroti was ordered by Pope Leo X to excavated marble in Alta Versilia for the facade of San Lorenzo in Florence.

The 4 historical Communities of Versilia celebrate this year his presence on their territory and The Association Fiorentini nel Mondo takes the opportunity to echo this event at the Italian Institute of Culture in London.

Although this time was a dramatic one in his life, it boosted the marble industry in this area and added a new “tessera” to the complex character of Michelangelo, beside highlighting his multifaceted capacities. He had to improvise himself as road worker and quarryman, dealing with the asperity of places and the rusticity of the locals. He spent 3 years among technical problems, personal worries and even complains from Leo X and Cardinal Giulio de Medici. He got sick and fed up, but he kept working and snatched marble from the mighty “Altissimo”, as requested, only to be told in 1520 that he was discharged from this commitment: Leo X had second thoughts

about the San Lorenzo Façade and more pressing concerns with war and schism at his doorstep.

Margherita Calderoni, Proconsul in UK for the Fiorentini nel Mondo Association, journalist and historian, will talk on Sept 27 at the Italian Institute of London about this difficult time which Michelangelo considered a failure but was the origin of the marble industry in Alta Versilia.

The event will have the contribution of Prof Arch Massimo Ruffilli from Florence, expert of the San Lorenzo façade complex story and promoter of a project involving the Michelangelo design for it

Sculptor Nicolas Bertoux from Seravezza, owner of a historical marble laboratory and founder of ARKAD, cultural foundation in Seravezza, will talk about quarries, contemporary sculptors and new technologies.

The event, with The Florentine newspaper as media sponsor, is under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy in London, under the patronage of the Comuni Pietrasanta, Seravezza, Forte dei Marmi, Stazzema and is sponsored by Fiorentini nel Mondo cultural Association, Mital, artistic terracotta factory, Florencetown, cultural tours operator. Cheese and wine reception will follow, to toast to Michelangelo with the renown Diadema IGT wines from Tuscany.

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