

The Exhibition

THE 'CARABINIERI' FOR ART AND LEGALITY

Stories about recoveries and cultural heritage:
operations of the 'Carabinieri' Department
for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage

14 July – 30 October 2016

Rome, Gallerie Nazionali di Arte Antica di Roma –
Palazzo Barberini

Via delle Quattro Fontane, 13 - Roma

The exhibition is open every day (except Monday)
from 10 a.m. to 18 p.m.

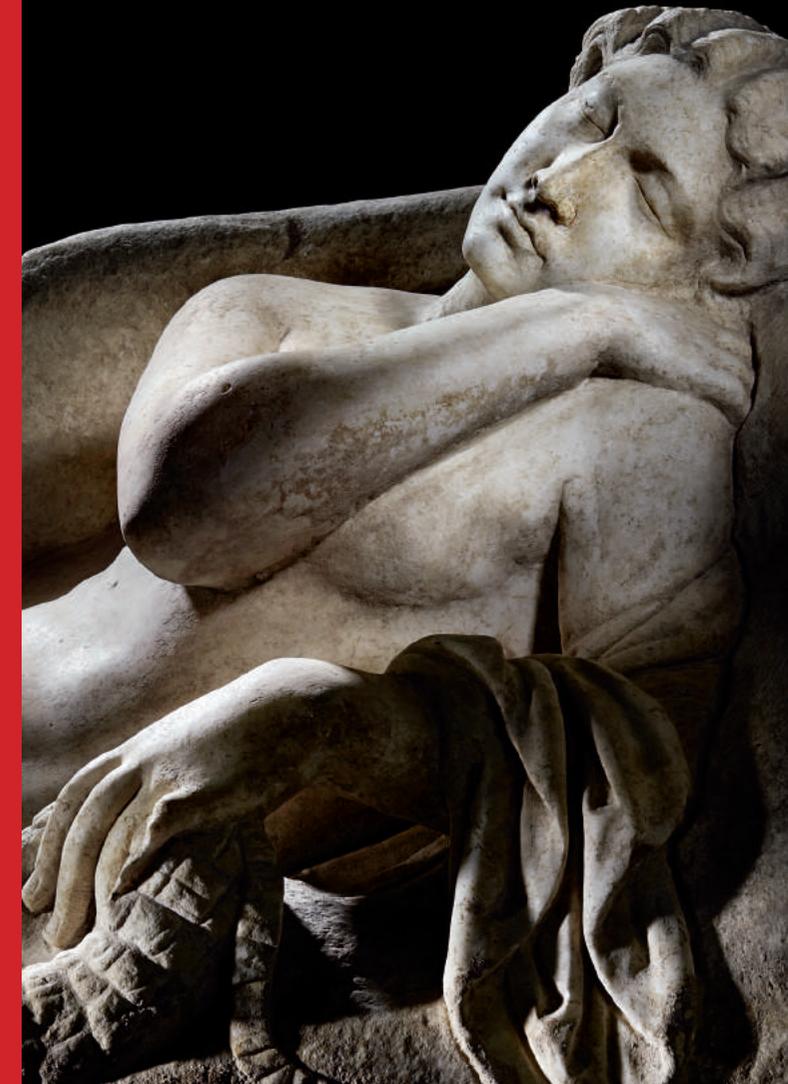
Free entrance

This exhibition presents many works of art and craftsmanship, recovered in Italy and abroad, individually and in the course of complex operations. The recovery action returns objects - that testify our collective or individual history - to their legitimate contexts, but also places them in a new light. The progress of knowledge of cultural heritage is an integral part of many ongoing investigations and development moments, during specialized studies for later recovery operations. The activities of the 'Carabinieri TPC' are the narrative fulcrum and the viewer is involved not only in admiration of the exhibits, but also in the reflection about the enormous collective damage we suffer when the cultural goods are siphoned away through illegal trafficking.

Enforcement action is necessary for various manifestations of crime: theft, receiving stolen goods, counterfeit and forgery, up to the commitment to protect cultural property in war zones.

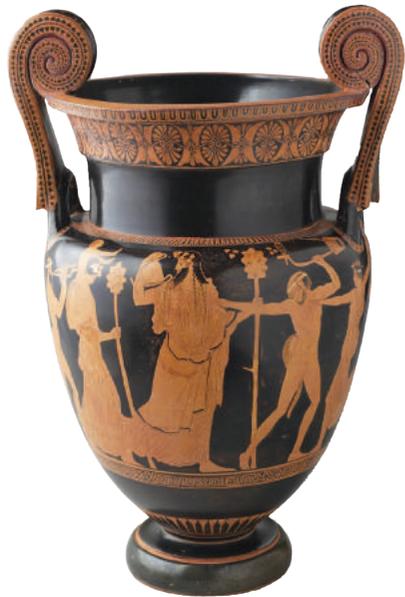
The importance of this initiative is also its contribution to stimulate collective awareness about the importance of protecting the cultural heritage and in order to present the information to the public didactic, enriched by unpublished illustrations, expressly designed for the exhibition. To reach the objective in full, it is important, in fact, that law enforcement is presented next to the diffusion of culture, in its broadest sense, and the culture of legality, in the field of cultural heritage, which ultimately protects the right of all of us to enjoy the knowledge and beauty that we have inherited from many centuries of history and that continues to be produced in our days.

THE 'CARABINIERI' FOR ART AND LEGALITY



The Carabinieri Department for Protection of Artistic Heritage was established in Italy on May 3, 1969; a year before the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 14 November 1970), at which member states were invited to set up specialized national services specifically dedicated to the protection of their own cultural heritage. These were the years in which Italy, affected by a significant economic recovery, was 'attacked' by the intensification of clandestine exports of cultural examples, stolen or unlawfully dug, to converge in collections throughout the world. To prevent the dispersion of cultural heritage, the 'Comando Generale Arma Carabinieri' had the idea of allocating some military personnel to protect the national paleontological, archaeological, artistic and historical assets. The first operations that allowed this specialized department of the Carabinieri to earn their respected reputation, which is preserved and nurtured at national and international levels, date back to the 1970s. Today the 'Comando TPC', which in 2001 changed its name (Carabinieri Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage) becoming an Office of direct collaboration with the Minister of Cultural Assets and Activities and Tourism (MiBACT), can depend on 270 'carabinieri' (police officers) with qualified preparation, also acquired thanks to attendance in specific courses. The 'Comando TPC' responds to the changes in these types of crimes by adapting its counter-actions and refining its operational and organizational devices. The current statute provides, at the central level:

- a Command Office, which supports the Commander in its daily work, especially in the control and coordination action, concerning the activities carried out both in Italy and abroad. One of the main Units, at this level, is the Data Processing Unit, which manages the Italian database of stolen work of art, named 'Banca Dati dei Beni Culturali Illecitamente Sottratti';
- an Operational Unit, consisting of three sections: Antiquities, Archaeology, Counterfeiting and Contemporary Art. The staff belonging to this Unit, not only carry out independent police investigations, but also coordinate, at national level, the investigations, especially those of greater complexity, carried out by the local Units of the 'Carabinieri TPC' located in the entire national territory;
- at a regional and an interregional level, fifteen Units and a Section in Ancona, Bari, Bologna, Cagliari, Cosenza, Florence, Genoa, Monza, Naples, Palermo, Perugia, Rome, Turin, Venice, Udine and a Section in Syracuse.



The 'Arma dei Carabinieri' has a leading role in the protection of cultural heritage: already recognized by the Legislative Decree no. 5 March 1992, concerning the division in specialized compartments, afterwards confirmed by the Decree of the Minister of 28 April 2006, which assign to the 'Carabinieri TPC' the role of centre of information and analysis in the specific field for all Italian law enforcement agencies and International Institutions. The 'Carabinieri TPC', operating in the national territory in agreement with all the components of the 'Arma dei Carabinieri', with other police forces and in synergy with the territorial divisions of MiBACT, protects and safeguards through:

- Specialized investigative activity aimed at identifying the perpetrators of the crimes to the detriment of the cultural heritage (thieves, fences, unauthorized archaeological research, counterfeiting and falsification, etc.) and the recovery of assets illegally stolen;
- Monitoring archaeological sites on land and in the sea as well as the areas of interest of the landscape and of the sites 'World Heritage' by UNESCO; including aircraft overfly and coordinated services with the units on horseback, the patrol boats and the 'Carabinieri' Scuba Diver Unit; as well as:
- checking commercial activities in the sector and of fairs and markets where there is the sale of cultural goods;
- verifying the safety measures of museums, libraries and archives;
- checking the catalogs of the auction houses and sites of e-commerce;
- managing the database of cultural goods unlawfully deducted;
- supporting the Italian Ministry of Culture (MiBACT), both a central and local level;
- attending meetings of the Crisis Unit and the National Coordination and peripherals, providing support for the safety and the recovery of works of art and cultural assets in areas of the national territory affected by natural disasters.

The areas of international projection of 'Carabinieri TPC', instead, are:

- recovery of Italian cultural assets illegally exported abroad;
- recovery of cultural goods in other States illegally exported in Italy or abroad, or identified on the territory of the state of membership;
- specialised training for magistrates, police forces, custom officers and

Ministries of Culture of foreign countries;

- collaboration with international bodies in the fields of cultural heritage protection and police cooperation;
- specialist support to military contingents in the Italian for pursuing peace-keeping operations;
- The possibility of operating by means of the Task Force of Carabinieri 'Nations4Heritage' (the so-called 'Blue Helmets of Culture'), constituted by the personnel of the 'Comando TPC' together with experts from the Ministry of Cultural Assets and Activities and Tourism, in the areas of international crisis where the cultural heritage is at risk of looting and general criminal aggression.

The works in the exhibition 'Carabinieri for Art and Legality' represent the result of recovery activities carried out by the 'Carabinieri TPC' in recent years. Each discovery demonstrates the investigative capacity, dedication and professionalism of officers, 'marescialli', 'brigadiere', 'appuntati' and 'carabinieri' who have made possible the return of many works of art to the community. Through this exhibition we want to thank all this military personnel for their important and silent work.

