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IN CONSERVATION



Dinner at the Soane

04-06-2014

The recent dinner at Sir John Soane's Museum that both Adam and the Foundation hosted was a wonderful experience - the excuse was to celebrate the last day of the Piranesi exhibition but actually we wanted to increase awareness of what the Foundation stands for and what we are planning..... and to ask for help.

The dinner took place in the Pompey red Dining Room/Library - after drinks in the Yellow Drawing Room and tours conducted by John Bridges - a really marvellous setting for any dinner but especially one where conservation and preservation of our heritage was a key topic.

Adam presented the extraordinary list of projects that Factum Arte had delivered over the past 12 years including the exhibition in whose midst we were sitting - but also the work on, among others, Thutmose III, the Caravaggio St Matthew paintings, the Schwittershytta, Princess Wallada's box, Ashurnasirpal II's throne room, Seneca & Nero, the Prado golden lion, Veronese's Wedding at Cana, Seti I, the Vatican Sala Bologna, Canova's Paulina Borghese and ending with the little putto of Prince George created for the British Library.

Guests were then served and allowed to eat a first course of a warm asparagus confection with poached quails eggs.

Revived, they then heard of the more immediate past since 2009, when the Foundation was created and the work on San Baudelio in Spain, the Polittico Griffoni re-unification by facsimile, the Cathedral at Tudela, the tremendous installation and opening of the Tutankhamun Tomb's facsimile in the Valley of the Kings and the Hereford Mappa Mundi and other work that the Foundation has done, as well as the extraordinary techniques and developments that were necessary for these various projects. Running through all this was the theme - the importance in every case is the records that the projects create of these unique and vulnerable elements of our cultural heritage and the advances in our ability to make them.

A second break was taken advantage of to enjoy pan fried sea bass and the company of the guests - all from very different places and backgrounds. The final presentation looked to the future - and was followed, naturally, by Summer Pudding.

The guests heard that the Foundation has been funded largely through the support of Factum Arte - as has the development of the Lucida scanner. The Foundation has grown to a level where its recognition and reputation evince more and more interest from the public - but also from custodians of artefacts that desperately need recording or other work that the Foundation can - and wants - to do.

We would love to do it all, to be the flying doctor of culture but we need funding to do this and that was what the dinner was for. To begin the public process of fund raising supported by the recognition that projects like Tutankhamun and the Mappa Mundi have brought and by the interest and understanding of people such as our guests. We have so many projects planned in so many places - in our home country of Spain, in the UK, in Armenia, in Egypt, in Saudi Arabia, in Scandinavia, in Mexico and in Lebanon - but the list just continues to expand and we need to too. We should accept every project - we should record all we can before it is too late - and so we need your support.