

SUPPORTING THE NEW COMMISSION

The new sculpture by Giovanni de Angelis – Philosophers in Dialogue – will be cast in bronze, which is much more weather-resistant than marble. First a silicone mould will be made from the models already provided, then the template for a wax positive, and finally the bronze casting. The final bronze sculpture is expected to cost €25,000.

ERA would like to invite you to contribute to this important project. Your donation will be essential for the creation of this work of art and its installation at ERA's premises. Even the smallest donation will help, and all donors will be invited to include their names on a plate beside the artwork.

Meanwhile, The Great Leaf, which the Friends of ERA brought to Trier in 2006, will find a new home protected from the elements in ERA's foyer.

More information about the art project and the donation form can be found here:

<https://era-comm.eu/friends-of-era/artproject-2021/>



The Practice of Law in Art: Philosophers in dialogue



Academy of European Law
Metzer Allee 4-6
D-54295 Trier
Tel +49 651 93737 0
Fax +49 651 93737 90
www.era.int

Please contact us:
Joanna Kuzaj
Friends of ERA
Tel: +49 651 93737-802
E-Mail: jkuzaj@era.int

Your opportunity to contribute towards a major new artistic commission at ERA's centre in Trier



FRIENDS OF ERA ASSOCIATION

The “Friends of ERA” Association is a network of individuals and private and public institutions providing moral and material support to the work and mission of the Academy of European Law (ERA). Founded in 1990, the “Association for the promotion of a European Law Academy” brought together outstanding people who, as lawyers, judges or politicians, contributed in various ways to the creation of ERA, which was eventually established in 1992.

The Association’s purpose has since widened to include the provision of a networking forum for persons who support the activities of ERA and to the raising of funds for specific projects and purposes otherwise not funded by the ERA budget, in particular ERA’s scholarship programme. The Association has set up local chapters in a number of Member States which actively organise debates and social outings to promote networking among members and guests.



In 2006, the Association supported the acquisition of a major art work for ERA through a donation of €10,000. The sculpture by Giovanni de Angelis in Carrara marble, “La grande foglia” (The Great Leaf), is currently located in the inner courtyard.

A NEW COMMISSION FOR ERA

Philo-sophia. The love of wisdom.

Which other profession could distil the essence of its work into these words? For every practitioner of law, knowledge, understanding and – above all – justice are essential. They are all intangible qualities and yet every lawyer strives to perfect them.

ERA would like to pay tribute to this timeless characteristic of the legal professions it serves through a new artistic commission in the form of a sculpture to be placed in its inner courtyard.

The idea is to represent a dialogue between philosophers – as today’s lawyers might have been called in ancient times – which transcends geographical and even historical boundaries and thus stands for ERA’s core mission: cross-border, interprofessional and intercultural exchange on the essence of our common rules.

The artist, Giovanni de Angelis, has modelled three rotating heads – one woman, two men – installed on a large bronze plate. The heads represent three outstanding personalities linking us with the fundamentals of our civilisation and our legal order: Ausonius, Hypatia of Alexandria, and Justinian.

Ausonius (310-394), born in Burdigala (Bordeaux), was a rhetor and grammaticus called to the imperial court in Trier by emperor Valentinian in 365, where he worked as quaestor sacri palatii, senior legal authority in charge of drafting legislation. He is the author of the poem Mosella.

Hypatia (355-415) was a Neoplatonist philosopher and the first woman mathematician whose life was recorded in detail. She was regarded as a great teacher and wise counsellor and her works survive to this day. Her murder at the hands of a religious mob made her a “martyr for philosophy”.

Justinian (482-565), who was Eastern Roman emperor from 527, is famous for having ordered the compilation or rewriting of Roman law, the Corpus Iuris Civilis, which is still the basis of civil law in many modern states and hence a common heritage of our European law today.



GIOVANNI DE ANGELIS

The artist, Giovanni de Angelis, born in 1938 on the island of Ischia, started his career as a sculptor very early. At the age of 11, he was awarded the Primo Premio del Fanciullo Artista (First Prize of the Artist Child) in Milan, the first in an impressive series of awards. Following studies at the Accademia d’arte in Florence and the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich, and multiple study trips, he established himself as an artist on his home island and won world-wide reputation with his statues in bronze, Carrara marble, Tuscan travertine and other materials from around the globe.

Voice of art critics on Giovanni de Angelis and his work:

“... Giovanni de Angelis’ sculptures are forms of three-dimensional space, in the narrower sense as well. They live from a sometimes fragile and apparent ambivalence between openness and closure, caused by concave, space-filling and convex space-repelling volume. This results in a dialogue of exciting tension between the sculpture and the space.” Dr Ulrich Bock, 2009

