

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEW COMMISSION

The new sculpture by Giovanni de Angelis – Philosophers in Dialogue – will be cast in bronze. First, a silicone mould will be made from the models which have already been created; then, a template in wax; and finally the bronze casting. The final bronze sculpture is expected to cost €20,000.

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 plaque beside the artwork, leaving a lasting record of their generosity and support.



The Practice of Law in Art: Philosophers in Dialogue

To contribute to this new work of art:

www.era.int/artproject-2021



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



FRIENDS OF ERA ASSOCIATION

This project is supported by the “Friends of ERA” Association, 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).

In 2006, the Association supported the acquisition of a major artwork for ERA through a donation of €10,000. This generous gift funded “La grande foglia” (The Great Leaf), a sculpture in Carrara marble by renowned artist Giovanni de Angelis, which has been located in ERA’s inner courtyard for many years. The marble sculpture must now find a new home inside the ERA foyer, where the material can be better protected from the elements and the artwork can be preserved for many years to come.

ERA and its Friends have therefore commissioned a new sculpture, again from Mr de Angelis, which will take the place of La grande foglia in the inner courtyard, right at the heart of our conference space in Trier.

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 which every lawyer strives to perfect.

The idea behind the new installation is to represent a lively discussion 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 shared European legal culture.

The artist behind ‘Philosophers in Dialogue’, Giovanni de Angelis, has modelled three rotating heads – one woman, two men – to be installed on a large bronze plate. The heads represent three outstanding personalities linking modern-day Europeans with the fundamentals of our civilisation and our legal order: Ausonius, Hypatia of Alexandria, and Justinian.

Ausonius (310-394), born in Burdigala (Bordeaux), was an orator and grammarian 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) ruled over the Eastern Roman Empire from 527 and is best known for having ordered the codification of Roman law, the Corpus Iuris Civilis, which is still the basis of civil law in many modern states and hence an early ancestor 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, he established himself as an artist on his home island and won worldwide reputation with his statues in bronze, Carrara marble, Tuscan travertine, and many other materials from around the globe.

“... 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