



## **Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project to Help Restore Tintoretto's *El Paraiso*, at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid**

**MADRID, 2 February 2012-** Bank of America Merrill Lynch has today announced that the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza will receive funding for the conservation of Tintoretto's *El Paraiso* through the company's global Art Conservation Project. Introduced in 2010 in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the programme has this year expanded to Asia, Australia, Latin America and the United States. The project will fund the restoration of 20 art works and artifacts from 19 countries with important cultural and historical value.

Painted by Tintoretto (born Jacopo Comin in Venice, 1518), who is widely regarded as the last great painter of the Italian Renaissance, *El Paraiso* is reputed to be the largest painting ever done on canvas and marks the pinnacle of the artist's career. The painting has been part of the museum's collection for 20 years, and the restoration will take place in situ in the museum's Central Hall, marking the first time that an artwork has been restored in full public view at a Spanish museum. This will enable visitors to engage with the process as it happens and to gain a better understanding of the intricacies of art conservation.

The Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project is a unique programme that provides grants to nonprofit museums throughout the world to conserve historically or culturally significant works of art that are in need of restoration. The 2012 award selections for Europe, the Middle East and Africa also include one of Leonardo Da Vinci's earliest manuscripts at the Castello Sforzesco in Milan; five Marc Chagall Paintings at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and a collection of 1st century BC Urartian jewellery at the Rezan Has Museum in Istanbul. The programme aims to contribute to the global arts community by restoring important works that will strengthen public awareness of the arts throughout the world.

"As a company with employees and clients in more than 40 countries and 100 markets around the world, we learn every day that cultural understanding and respect are essential for economies and societies to thrive," said Rena DeSisto, Global Arts and Culture executive at Bank of America. "We believe that understanding cultures through the arts is an important foundation for promoting innovation and tolerance in an increasingly integrated world. This programme makes real investments in the cultural treasures of many nations while at the same time helping museums with the growing cost of art conservation.

"In these economically challenged times, and as art conservation consumes ever greater portions of tightened museum budgets, the need for private arts funding has become even more critical," said Ricardo Paz, consejero delegado de Bank of America Merrill Lynch para España y Portugal. "We have been doing business in Spain for over 50 years and so it is an

honour for us to be able to help the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, one of this country's most renowned museums, to preserve such an impressive and awe-inspiring painting."

The Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project is an extension of the company's global commitment to supporting the arts. Partnering with more than 5,000 arts organisations worldwide, Bank of America Merrill Lynch's multi-faceted Arts and Culture Programme provides assistance for a wide spectrum of the arts, with an emphasis on programmes that foster greater cultural understanding.

"We are extremely grateful to be able to benefit from Bank of America Merrill Lynch's innovative global art conservation initiative," said Ubaldo Sedano, Chief of the Restoration Department at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. "The restoration work made possible through this exceptional preservation programme will conserve unique art for future generations around the world to learn from, and enjoy for years to come."

For a full description of each project and images, please visit <http://museums.bankofamerica.com/arts/ArtConservation.aspx>

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### **About Bank of America Merrill Lynch and the Arts**

As part of Bank of America Merrill Lynch's corporate social responsibility, the company believes that greater cultural understanding fosters increased opportunity for all. Its Arts and Culture Programme – which supports 5,000 arts organisations around the world – has been developed with this ethos as its focal point.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch helps a broad spectrum of arts programmes thrive, encompassing sponsorships, community grants and loans to museums from the company's own art collection. The Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project enables local cultures to preserve their heritage and serves to locally embed the company's brand, particularly in areas where the company conducts business.

2011 sponsorships included the V&A's *The Cult of Beauty: the Aesthetic Movement 1860 – 1900*, The British Museum's *Afghanistan: Crossroads of the Ancient World*, and *Manet, The Man who invented Modern Art* at the Musée d'Orsay, Paris. The company is also Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Presenting Sponsor of the Bridge Project which sees Kevin Spacey star in the title role of Sam Mendes' acclaimed *Richard III* production in cities around the world. Upcoming sponsorships include *Lucian Freud Portraits* at the National Portrait Gallery, London (February - May) and *Americans in Florence* at the Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (March - July).

Through the company's Art in Our Communities<sup>®</sup> programme, the Bank of America Collection has been converted into a unique community resource from which museums and non-profit galleries may borrow complete or customised exhibitions at no cost. Since its launch in late

2008, more than 50 exhibitions have been loaned to museums around the world. These include *The Art Books of Henri Matisse*; *The Wyeth Family: Three Generations of American Art*; and *Conversations*, an exhibition of more than 100 photographs by some of the genre's most recognised names.

### **About the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza**

Paseo del Prado 8

E-28014 Madrid

[www.museothyssen.org](http://www.museothyssen.org)

The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum offers visitors an overview of art from the 13th century to the late 20th century. In the nearly one thousand works on display, visitors can contemplate the major periods and pictorial schools of western art such as the Renaissance, Mannerism, the Baroque, Rococo, Romanticism and the art of the 19th and 20th centuries up to Pop Art. The museum also features works from some movements not represented in state-owned collections, such as Impressionism, Fauvism, German Expressionism and the experimental avant-garde movements of the early 20th century. In addition, it boasts an important collection of 19th-century American painting not found in any other European museum institutions. In 2012, the Museum is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its inauguration.

### **Download images:**

[http://www.museothyssen.org/img/prensa/Tintoretto\\_El\\_Paraiso.jpg](http://www.museothyssen.org/img/prensa/Tintoretto_El_Paraiso.jpg)

(crédit:

Tintoretto. *The Paradise*, c. 1588.

Oil on canvas, 169,5 x 494 cm.)

Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid)

[http://www.museothyssen.org/img/prensa/Tintoretto\\_hall.jpg](http://www.museothyssen.org/img/prensa/Tintoretto_hall.jpg)

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