

American Friends of Italian Monumental Sculpture

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We sponsored the restoration of the Benjamin Whitehead and Julia Bentley sculpted by Lorenzo Orengo in 1885-1887



Staglieno, the monumental cemetery in Genoa, Italy, is the largest outdoor sculpture museum in Europe. It is an incredible but overlooked cultural treasure.

We formed American Friends of Italian Monumental Sculpture (AFIMS) out of love and respect for this work and concern for its future.

www.afims.org

American Friends of Italian Monumental Sculpture (AFIMS) is a 501(c)3 non profit organization dedicated to assisting the City of Genoa, Italy, in its efforts to preserve the art and artistic legacy of the Camposanto di Staglieno for the education and appreciation of current and future generations.

Leonardo Bistolfi 1859-1933

Famiglia Bocciardo Memorial, 1902-1904

Restoration completed in 2014

Before:



Leonardo Bistolfi was a sculptor, painter and writer, and the leading Symbolist and Liberty Style (Italian Art Nouveau) sculptor in Italy. His work had a great influence on a generation of Italian sculptors. He is represented in the collections of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the The National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, and at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Turin.

The Gipsoteca "Leonardo Bistolfi" in Casale Monferrato, Italy has more than 170 of his works on display.

This masterpiece suffered from biological mold, black crust, and the effects of pollution and droppings from the surrounding plant material. The plant material was cut back and the sculpture carefully cleaned, and the sculpture was treated with a protective breathable sealer.

After:



The restoration was sponsored by the American Friends of Italian Monumental Sculpture and carried out by Eleonora Gioventù - Restauratrice di Beni Culturali, Sestri Levante, Italy. The work was supervised by the restoration and art history specialists of the Soprintendenza per i Beni Storici and the Soprintendenza per i Beni Architettonici, who oversee the artistic heritage of the City of Genoa.

Eugenio Baroni 1880-1935

Berthe Grosso Bonnin, 1921

Restoration underway, completion spring 2015

This major work by a nearly forgotten pioneer Art Deco artist is suffering from years of neglect, but with a simple restoration it will continue to speak to future generations.

This is an extremely early, yet fully mature example of Art Deco, presaging the work that would not gain international popularity until a decade later.

The restoration will be carried out by Lucia Reati, Conservazione e restauro opere d'arte, Genoa, Italy.



Luigi Brizzolara 1868-1937

Fletcher Memorial, 1896

Restoration will begin spring 2015



Luigi Brizzolara was one of the leading proponents of the late 19th C. Italian sculptural realism

James Fletcher was the U.S. Consul in Genoa from 1883 to 1901. His wife and one daughter both died early in his stay in Genoa, and he commissioned this marble memorial for them.

This work is threatened by encrustations of dirt, mildew, and biological growth that is breaking down the surface of the white marble. It has also sustained some damage over the years, including loss of part of the angels wings, some fingers, and a few other elements. It can still be saved and preserved so as to continue to speak eloquently to future generations