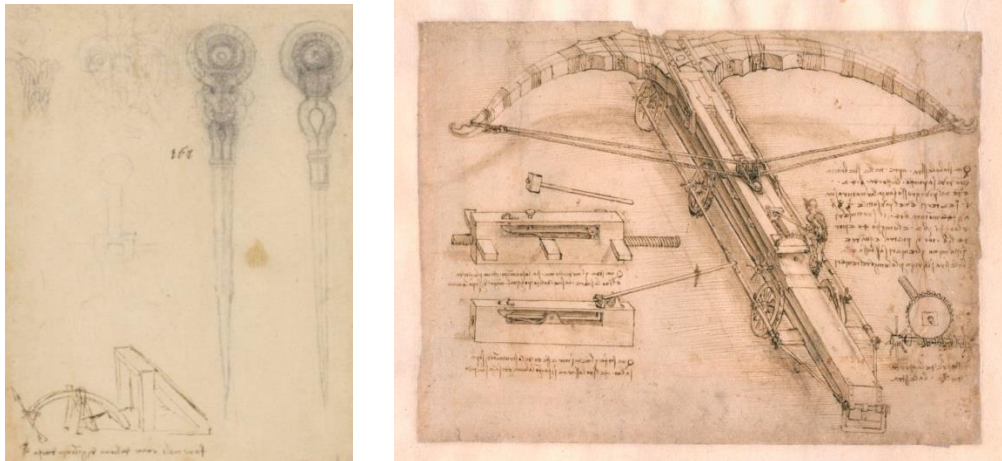


Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Drawing of Two Compasses, Circa 1490-94 (left) and Giant Crossbow, Circa 1485-92 (right)
© Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan

New original masterpieces on display at *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*

Never-before-seen page from the Codex Atlanticus and the visually arresting Portrait of a Lady on exhibit

Singapore (11 February 2015) – ArtScience Museum today unveiled its eagerly-anticipated renewal of the original masterpieces showcased at *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*, as the exhibition approaches the second half of its run. The refreshed displays include a new collection of 13 original pages of the *Codex Atlanticus*, da Vinci's largest notebook, and three new paintings from the School of da Vinci.

As part of the renewed collection, visitors will have the rare opportunity to view a never-before-seen original *Codex Atlanticus* page, *Drawings of Two Compasses*. This folio features two drawings of intricately decorated compasses, which were important tools employed by da Vinci to determine the proportions of his machines and to mark designs on paper before he applied ink to his drawings.

Another beautifully illustrated page in the renewed collection is the *Giant Crossbow*, one of da Vinci's most striking and celebrated folios from the *Codex Atlanticus*. Drawn with elaborate details and technical skill, the folio includes precise measurements of the machine's components and a figure atop the machine to provide an indication of the scale.



The *Giant Crossbow* is a prime example of how da Vinci used his artistic skills to illustrate complex technical concepts.

“More than any other figure in history, Leonardo da Vinci represents the unity of art and science. Therefore, it is a great privilege to be able to bring a new collection of da Vinci's masterpieces to ArtScience Museum, as part of this groundbreaking exhibition. What is particularly exciting for us is that one of the pages from the *Codex Atlanticus*, which arrived from Italy this week, is being shown in public for the very first time. We are grateful to have been able to work so closely with Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana to realise an exhibition that vividly illustrates how da Vinci's genius, creativity, and systems thinking continue to inspire and shape the world we live in now,” said Ms. Honor Harger, executive director of ArtScience Museum.

Dr Irene Lee, co-curator, ArtCORP Pte Ltd, adds, “It has been an honour to be a part of this project and to bring the original works by da Vinci from Milan to Singapore. Singapore, like da Vinci, is very forward-thinking, and it is only fitting to have these masterpieces displayed in this innovative city.”



Portrait of a Lady (Circa 1490) © Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan

One of the new original paintings that will be on display is the visually arresting *Portrait of a Lady*. Donated to the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana in 1618, the painting was attributed to da Vinci until the 19th century. While the references to da Vinci are evident, such as the knotted golden braid on the lady's garment, the mesmeric painting remains elusive as both its subject and author have yet to be confirmed despite generations of study by critics and scholars. While some leading scholars firmly attribute the painting to da Vinci and others favour a more prudent attribution, these controversies have never debased the work's appeal, only increasing its mystery.

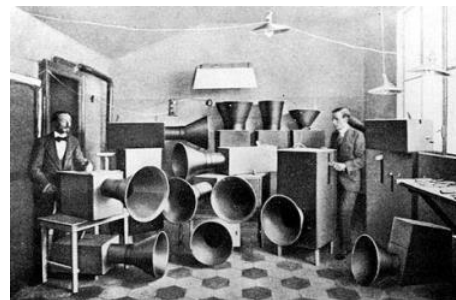
Other new paintings from the School of da Vinci that will be showcased are *Christ Child with the Lamb* by Bernardino Luini, the most famous Milanese painter in the early 16th century, and *Adoration of the Child with Saint Roch* by Giampietrino.

Second season of ArtScience Late

Kicking off the second season of *ArtScience Late* on 12 February is a special da Vinci-themed performance by *The Orchestra of Futurist Noise Intoners*. *ArtScience Late* is a free monthly, cutting-edge performance art series by international and local artists working at the intersection of art, technology, and science.



The Orchestra of Futurist Noise Intoners



Luigi Russolo's original Intonarumori

This particular session of *ArtScience Late* will be the biggest in the series with 16 renowned musicians hailing from local institutions including Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music School, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and LASALLE College. The musicians will be making their one-off debut as *The Orchestra of Futurist Noise Intoners*. They will also be performing on Italian composer and conductor Luciano Chessa's replicas of the earliest *Intonarumori*.

The *Intonarumori* is a collection of hand-cranked instruments developed by Italian futurist painter and composer Luigi Russolo (1885–1947) who drew inspiration from da Vinci's mechanical noisemakers. Regarded as the ancestors to modern day electronic synthesizers, the *Intonarumori* were the first mechanical synthesizers that created and manipulated sounds through an entirely mechanical process, generating sounds of whirrs and buzzes, clangs, scrapes, sirens and mechanically plucked strings.

Both performances will be accompanied by a short talk by conductor Chessa, during which he will share fascinating insights on the reconstruction of the *Intonarumori* and the music compositions being performed by the orchestra.

The orchestra's two performances are jointly presented by the Italian Cultural Institute and Performa and ArtScience Museum.



Two of da Vinci's music automata, model of *Da Vinci's Drum Device with Changeable Music Programme* (left) and model of *da Vinci's Automatic Drum* (right) currently on display at *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* inspired the creation of *Intonarumori* by futurist painter and composer Luigi Russolo (1885–1947).

Refreshed programming for *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*

Complementing the new exhibits is refreshed programming that allows visitors to discover their inner da Vinci. The new themes of the *Da Vinci Challenge* workshops include Projectiles, Vitruvian Man, and Bridges. At the *Exploring Projectiles* workshop, participants experiment with forces using different objects provided through the creation of their own projectile machines, while the *Vitruvian Man* sessions will see participants exploring da Vinci's mathematical principles by taking measurements of different parts of their bodies. Visitors can also try their hands at creating their own bridges and putting them through pressure tests using different weights.

To further engage the public, ArtScience Museum will be hosting a two-day conference, 'Nurturing Leonardos', on 8 and 9 May. This conference explores if and how da Vinci's "systems thinking" and his signature interdisciplinary approach remain resonant in today's context. It will feature presentations by local and international experts who work in the fields of art, education, history and heritage, technology, and architecture.

Family Fridays at *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*

Launched in January, *Family Fridays* at ArtScience Museum offers child-friendly programming content and complimentary access for families with children. This new initiative aims to promote more quality family bonding time as both parents and children will embark on an exploratory learning process together at ArtScience Museum's exhibitions. Families enjoy exhibition tickets offers every Friday, where up to two children (below the age of 12) can visit the exhibition for free with every standard adult ticket purchased.

Specific to *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*, *Family Fridays* ticket-holders will receive a complimentary '20 Fascinating Facts' guide and take-away activity booklet featuring key highlights of the exhibition. Visitors can unravel the secrets of da Vinci as a family with various activities found throughout the exhibition and at the *Inspired by da Vinci* activity space. At the end of their visit, families can pick up an activity booklet to take home, da Vinci-themed merchandise and enjoy a 10% discount at all ArtScience Museum retail outlets.

For more information on *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* and the various programmes, please visit www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum

###

About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About the Biblioteca Ambrosiana

The Biblioteca Ambrosiana is one of the most ancient and prestigious cultural institutions of Milan and of the whole Europe. Founded in 1607 by Cardinal Federico Borromeo, it was the first library to be open to anyone who could read and write and currently counts more than 1,000,000 printed books, 15,000 parchments and 30,000 manuscripts. Among its treasures is the famous Codex Atlanticus, the world's largest collection of drawings and writings by Leonardo da Vinci, consisting of 1119 papers.

In 1618, alongside the Library, Cardinal Borromeo created also an Art Gallery, which was to serve as a support and a model for a future Fine Arts Academy, to train young artists. Among the masterpieces featured in the Ambrosiana's collections are: the Portrait of a Musician by Leonardo da Vinci, the Basket of Fruit by Caravaggio, the Madonna of the Pavilion by Botticelli and the great Cartoon of the School of Athens by Raphael. For more information please visit www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it

About the Fondazione Cardinale Federico Borromeo

Established in 2008, the Foundation's primary objective is to support and promote the Biblioteca Ambrosiana and its rich heritage to a global audience. The Foundation continuously seeks out new partners as part of its promotional and fundraising efforts to support the projects undertaken by the museum, allowing for greater art and cultural exchanges through the exhibition of works at renowned museums across the globe. For more information please visit <http://www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it/en/la-fondazione/cosa-facciamo>

About ArtCORP

ArtCORP is a Singapore company primarily engaged in the business of fine arts and organising art exhibitions. The Harvard trained founder is an award-winning artist and curator who works with the top artists in the world. Dr. Irene S. M. Lee promotes cultural exchanges by bringing to Singapore the works of renowned international artists and museums while promoting Singaporean and regional artists overseas. For more information please visit <http://www.artcorp.com.sg>

For Media Enquiries

Dawn Wang (+65) 6688 0042/dawn.wang@marinabaysands.com
Gladys Sim (+65) 6688 0206/gladys.sim@marinabaysands.com

For Images (Expiring on 10 March 2015):

<https://www.hightail.com/download/UjRRbGtOdENRWUlpR01UQw> (Credits to **Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan and Marina Bay Sands**)