**Press Release**

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**EXHIBITION OF TREASURES FROM THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA COLLECTION IN SPECTACULAR SETTING IN LOPUD, CROATIA**

An exhibition of treasures from one of Europe’s most celebrated private art collections, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, will open on **15 June 2019** at the recently restored Franciscan monastery of Our Lady of the Cave on the island of Lopud, Croatia.

The exhibition pays homage to the collecting of three generations of the Thyssen family. Curated by Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, the great granddaughter of August Thyssen, and Maria de Peverelli, a longtime advisor and curator of the collection, the exhibition includes paintings, sculpture, furniture and decorative arts from the Renaissance to the present day. It aims to recreate the particular taste of the two main homes of the Thyssen family: Schloss Landsberg in Germany and the Villa Favorita in Switzerland and their owners’ passion for art.

Highlights include two 18th century wooden angels which used to stand guard at the entrance of the Villa Favorita in Lugano, a magnificent Renaissance tapestry from France, a study for Giambologna’s celebrated *Rape of the Sabines* sculpture in the Loggia dei Lanzi in Florence, a 16th century carpet from the Ottoman city of Uşak, and outstanding Renaissance gold and silver. Also on show will be paintings including the Florentine masterpiece, *St Sebastian Holding an Arrow* (late 1620s) by Mattia Preti and *The Liberation of Saint Peter* (ca. 1645) by Francesco Furini which was previously owned by Prince Eugene-Rose de Beauharnais (1781–1824) who probably acquired it in Italy while accompanying his step-father Napoleon, whose army also reached the Republic of Dubrovnik and the island of Lopud. Portraits are well represented in the collection and among those selected for the exhibition is an impressive anonymous portrait of Anna Dürer (1527).

The origins of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection started with August Thyssen (1842–1926), founder of the industrial empire and the first member of the family who showed an interest in the arts. Admiring Auguste Rodin’s works at the World Expo in Paris in 1900, he commissioned the artist to create seven marble sculptures. The collection took shape, during the following generation with August’s son, Heinrich, the first Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza (1875–1947), who acquired not only most of the paintings today in the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid but also a large number of medieval and Renaissance furniture and sculptures, ivories, silver, carpets, tapestries and Limoges enamels. Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza (1921–2002) initially expanded the collection following his father’s taste but soon started acquiring modern art. In 1993 around 750 paintings from the collection were sold to the Spanish government. His daughter Francesca, has created one of the most important collections of contemporary art (TBA21), which is the result of an ongoing commitment to commissioning multidisciplinary art projects. She has selected two contemporary photographs for the exhibition, one by Thomas Struth and one by Rineke Dijkstra, which stand as a fascinating counterpart to the Old Masters in the exhibition.

Located on the Northern tip of the island, Franciscan monastery of Our Lady of the Cave has been overlooking Lopud for centuries. Thomas of Celano, Saint Francis’s biographer, wrote about the saint’s visit to Dalmatia while travelling to Syria in 1212. The origins of the friary date to the year 1483, which is also engraved on its façade next to the entrance door. Franciscan friars lived in the monastery until the early 1820s when the building was no longer habitable. The church, however, kept on serving the parish and is still consecrated today. At present, the monastery is one of the few restored Renaissance heritage sites on the island of Lopud, a former strategic place of the Dubrovnik Republic’s ship building industry.

Lopud is well-known as one of the most beautiful islands in the Dubrovnik archipelago, and is an hour’s ferry ride from the city. It attractions include remarkable natural features and many architectural sights including monasteries, smaller hermitages, grand villas, two fortresses, and thirty-two churches and chapels.

**Treasures from the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection: From the Renaissance to the Contemporary**

Dates: 15 June - 13 October 2019

Location: Monastery of Our Lady of the Cave, Lopud, Croatia

A ferry service to Lopud operates from Dubrovnik daily.

**Press Enquiries:**

In Croatia:

Daijela Cavlović  
Starija Savjetnica, Senior Consultant

Manjgura d.o.o., Ede Murtića 6, 10020 Zagreb

Tel: 01 4554 222; Mob: +38591 46 40 690; Email: danijela@manigura.hr  
[www.manjgura.hr](http://www.manjgura.hr/)

International:

Erica Bolton, Bolton & Quinn

Tel: +44 (0)7711 698 186; Email: [erica@boltonquinn.com](mailto:erica@boltonquinn.com)