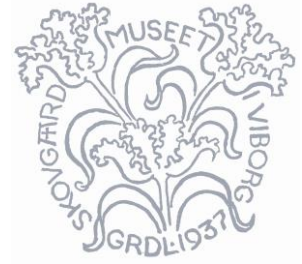


SKOVGAARD MUSEET



To whom it may concern

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Letter of support for the Palazzo Ferrante

The Skovgaard Museum in Viborg, Denmark, is a federally certified art museum, receiving financial support both from the municipality of Viborg (population 100.000) and the state of Denmark. It is a museum that represents that artistic heritage of the Skovgaard family, which included several famous artists, among them Joakim Skovgaard (1856-1933). Joakim Skovgaard decorated the Cathedral of Viborg with a large series of fresco paintings. Skovgaard's decoration is the most important artistic decoration of a cathedral in Denmark and can be considered the "Sistine Chapel" of Denmark.

However, Skovgaard was not only a religious artist, he was also a skilled landscape and figurative painter. He developed these skills in large part during an extended stay in Civita d'Antino and Sora in the 1880's, where he travelled with other Danish artists, among them the painter Kristian Zahrtmann (1843-1917). As a teacher at an important art school in Copenhagen, Zahrtmann took many of his students with him to Civita d'Antino, where they painted during the summer. Zahrtmann and Skovgaard were some of the most important members of a Scandinavian artists' "colony" that found a unique landscape, local culture and heritage in Civita d'Antino. Therefore, many Scandinavian and in particular Danish art museums have paintings from Civita d'Antino in their collections. These works were the object of an important project created by the Skovgaard Museum, the Hirschsprung Collection in Copenhagen and Lillehammer Art Museum in Norway, which resulted in a touring exhibition shown at the three museums in 2016-2017 and documented in a research-based book in English and Danish.

The Palazzo Ferrante was important to the artists in many ways. First, as an important architectural monument that several artists painted. Second, the Palazzo Ferrante was decorated by some of the artists – a decoration that unfortunately was destroyed in the earthquake of 1915. Third, the artists became friends of the Ferrante family, having much social interaction with them during their time in Civita d'Antino and corresponding with them through letters when they were in Denmark.

The Palazzo Ferrante and Civita d'Antino historically played an important role in the history of Scandinavian art history. Therefore, I applaud the project of Manfredo Ferrante and Felice Casucci to revive the Palazzo Ferrante and recreate it as a center for artistic creation, cultural heritage and the promotion of tourism. Their project not only makes plans for the recovery of the building, but also for the recreation of the meaning of the building, which again has the potential to play an important role not only in Civita



d'Antino, but also in the wider Marsica region. The project connects the historic legacy of the Palazzo Ferrante with a relevant contemporary function. I am certain that the Palazzo Ferrante and Civita d'Antino could again become an important destination for Danish artists and scholars, in the likes of l'Accademia di Danimarca in Rome or the former convent of San Cataldo in Scala near Ravello, as well as for tourists eager to discover new and lesser known regions of Italy, and thus create a renaissance for Civita d'Antino.

I therefore encourage any and all to support this project and hope that it will be possible to realize it.

Best regards,

Anne-Mette Villumsen
Director
Skovgaard Museum