

Dignity through Art - Terms of Reference

The adult (18+) artists and/or art students are invited to produce a portrait of a consenting needy person living in Tuscany. (See categories below) The size, medium, and method of portrayal is the artist's choice, although the finished artwork should provide evidence of discussion with the subject in order to learn something of their past history, present survival – and, where possible, future hopes and aspirations. If the person is not Italian; how did s/he end up here?

For the under 18 art students, where safeguarding is obviously an issue, the Terms of Reference are slightly different and details can be provided by Jessica Russo Scherr and Sue Yiannakis at the ISF. Further details will be added later, or can be requested via e-mail.

Artists in the Siena area are asked to contact Maria Makepeace (makepeaceemma@gmail.com).

The finished artworks would be displayed in an art exhibition at a central Florence location. (Date and venue, tbc). Last year the exhibition took place at the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, in Florence- and later in St Mark's Church Salone in Via Maggio.

If any of the English-speaking students have difficulties with the Italian language, it is suggested that they think of questions to ask in Italian, and learn the pronunciation; but then record the answers; which can be passed to Italian speakers to transcribe. We also hope to offer language support this year.

The project will be of mutual benefit to the subject people, those working with them, the artists and the wider community of Florence through exhibition.

The needy will receive more understanding and publicity for their plight, as people will be encouraged to see them as fellow human beings and allow them to be heard and listened to. It will be interesting to discover what skills, talents and interests they have themselves (including art and music).

Those charities working with them will receive visibility and hopefully, more support – both financial and through new voluntary service.

The artists/students will be using their talents as a means of expressing what is needed and by so doing will be able to give practical help.

For all of us – different age-groups and diversely gifted people will be able to work together for the good of others.

For those Christians involved: we are meeting God through the people we meet.

Categories involved may include

- Homeless people
- Refugees
- Asylum seekers
- Migrants from many nations
- Beggars (lacking a work permit)
- The elderly
- Drug addicts and/or alcoholics, and those recovering
- Women suffering domestic abuse
- Those suffering mental or physical problems
- Children in need
- Needy members of specific groups wherein University or secondary school-age students are helping as volunteers.