

## **XXXXV Leonardo da Vinci International Award**

The XXXIX Leonardo da Vinci Award is held in Florence again: back, for the seventh time in this city, where it was born. Forty five years, a long period, during which the value of the idea of Pier Francesco Scarselli to recognize young talents in the name of Leonardo da Vinci, symbol of the most elevated expression of human spirit, no longer matched by anyone, has been validated and strengthened.

In the name of Leonardo, eleven Clubs from as many nations, a true European community, have joined the initiative over the years, each carrying its contribution of European traditions and Rotarian faith. Leonardo was an *ante litteram* European spirit, not only for its vast culture, although he was a self-taught man, but also for his travelling all around Europe. After a childhood spent in Vinci, a small rural town founded by the Etruscans and occupied by the Romans, he spent long periods in Florence, Milan, Rome and finally in France. He was born and died near Florence and Tours, two cities founders of the Prize.

A personal memory is dedicated to our friend Piero Scarselli, no longer with us, but together with the Presidents of Tours, Vienna-Ring and Athinai Rotary Clubs, founded the award. This initiative does not end with the annual celebration of a talented young person, it is also and above all, a joyful opportunity to meet Rotarian friends from Europe, an opportunity to strengthen old friendships and create new ones between people linked by the common Rotarian ideal of "serving" the neighbours, the society and the world.

I would like to thank the rotarian friends that before me, promoted this important venture as General Secretaries, Aldo Bompani, Jan Leon Steinhauslin, Siegfried Bene and Curzio Cipriani and finally who, after me will act as Secretary General. You are welcome to this city full of many cultural glories, cradle of the Renaissance, from Dante to Leonardo, this year the five hundredth anniversary of his death, from Michelangelo to Galileo, to name only the greatest, has been the lighthouse for culture in humanistic field, in arts and sciences. A city that does not live only in the past, but is nourished from it, open to new stimuli, with its universities, research centers, academies, art and professional studies.

Emanuela Masini

Secretary General of the Prize

## **XXXXV Premio Internazionale Leonardo da Vinci**

Il XXXXV Premio Leonardo da Vinci si tiene nuovamente a Firenze: torna, per la settima volta nella città dove è nato. Quarantacinque anni, un periodo abbastanza lungo durante il quale, l'idea originale di Pier Francesco Scarselli, di premiare giovani talenti nel nome di Leonardo da Vinci, mente universale, non eguagliato da alcuno, è stata validata e rafforzata. Una vera comunità europea si riconosce in questo premio, undici Clubs di altrettante nazioni hanno negli anni aderito all'iniziativa, portando ciascuno il suo contributo di tradizioni europee e di fede rotariana. Spirito europeo è stato definito Leonardo, non solo per la sua vasta cultura, sebbene fosse un autodidatta, ma anche per i vari soggiorni che, dopo l'infanzia trascorsa a Vinci, una piccola cittadina rurale fondata dagli Etruschi ed occupata dai Romani, lo portarono per lunghi periodi a Firenze, Milano, Roma ed infine in Francia. Nascita e morte in località vicine a due città fondatrici del Premio, Firenze e Tours.

Un personale ricordo lo dedico al nostro amico Piero Scarselli, che da alcuni anni non è più tra noi, ma che insieme ai Presidenti dei Rotary Clubs di Tours, Vienna-Ring ed Atene volle fondare il Premio. Un'iniziativa importante, che non si esaurisce nella celebrazione annuale di un giovane di talento, la manifestazione è anche e sopra tutto, un'occasione annuale di ritrovo di amici rotariani dei Clubs europei, una occasione per consolidare vecchie amicizie e crearne di nuove tra persone legate dal comune ideale rotariano del "servire" il prossimo, la società ed il mondo.

Colgo l'occasione per ringraziare gli amici rotariani che prima di me hanno promosso questa iniziativa come Segretari Generali del Premio, Aldo Bompani, Jan Leon Steinhauslin, Siegfried Bene e Curzio Cipriani ed infine chi, dopo di me, porterà avanti l'iniziativa. Siate i benvenuti in questa città, culla del Rinascimento, piena di tante glorie culturali, da Dante a Leonardo, di cui quest'anno si celebra il cinquecentesimo anniversario della sua morte, da Michelangelo a Galileo, solo per nominare i più grandi, e faro della cultura, nelle lettere, nelle arti e nelle scienze. Una città che non vive solo del passato, ma da questo è nutrita ed è pronta a nuovi stimoli, con le sue università, i centri di ricerca, le accademie, gli studi artistici e professionali.

Emanuela Masini

Segretario Generale del Premio

## History of "Leonardo da Vinci International Prize"

It was the year **1973**, when the Rotary Club Firenze, approaching the 50th anniversary of its foundation, decided to found a prize to award young scholars who intended, also with the aid of the prize, to continue their studies and work in their particular field, even though they had already acquired special merit. To confirm the precise intention of making the prize open to every artistic, scientific and literary discipline, it was decided to name it after Leonardo da Vinci, who symbolizes the most elevated expression of the human spirit and whose genius has left profound marks in many fields of knowledge and culture. Inspired by the universally renowned figure of Leonardo, it was thought to make the prize appropriate to one of the main Rotarian vocations, the internationality. It obtained the prompt, enthusiastic adherence of other European Rotary Clubs. The Rotary Club of Tours, Athinai and Wien-Ring immediately confirmed their participation.

At the end of **1974** the "International Leonardo da Vinci prize" was founded. A special commission of the President of Florence Rotary Club, promoter of the prize and composed of the Presidents of Athinai, Tours and Wien-Ring Rotary Clubs had provided, among other things, precise statutory characteristics: the amount to be awarded to the winner at that time was two million lire or its equivalent in foreign currency, today the value of the Prize is 12.000 Euros. The awarding of the prize took place annually in the cities of the participating Rotary Clubs: Florence, Tours, Athens and Wien.

The nomination of the prize winner is made by an eminent personality of unquestioned international reputation, selected, like the discipline, by a panel of judges formed by the Rotary Club organizing the ceremony. It is an absolute guarantee of the merits of the prize-winner and, at the same time, the distinguished figure of the prize giver.

The first ceremony took place in **Florence** on the **13<sup>th</sup> April 1975**: the prize-winner was the American painter Ben Long, nominated by the Maestro Pietro Annigoni. In the Salone de' Duecento in Palazzo Vecchio, the prize was solemnly awarded by the past international President Giampaolo Lang.

In **1976**, in **Tours**, the Count of Paris conferred the prize on the young Renaissance art historian Jean Guillaume, pupil of Andre Chastel, with a ceremony in the Castle of Amboise, residence of the king Francis I, patron of Leonardo.

In **1977**, the Mayor of **Athens** awarded the prize to two young sculptors, Stravos Valasakis and Constantinos Palaiologos, nominated by Professor George Rallis, Minister of Education.

In **1978**, Dr. Otto Prohaska, inventor of a multiple integrated probe for cortico-cerebral research, received the prize in **Vienna** from the President of the Republic Rudolf Kirchschräger. The ceremony was held in Palais Schwarzenberg, where the Minister for Scientific Research, Mrs Hertha Firnberg, was also present.

The first cycle came to the end and the perfect success of the four encounters, the consequent widespread enthusiasm, as well as the fraternal friendship which united the four Rotary Clubs, meant that other frontiers had to be crossed. The cultural importance of the prize, the possibility of achieving a common, useful, effective and significant initiative, the symbolic value of a pleasant and exaggeratedly-awaited annual meeting among Rotarians from various European countries, induced other European Rotary Clubs to request their adherence to the Leonardo da Vinci Prize.

Thus, other Rotary Clubs joined the four founding members in the following order: Madrid in 1979, Brussels in 1983, London and Würzburg in 1984, Amsterdam in 1987.

The second cycle began with the prize's return to **Florence**: the music critic Leonardo Pinzauti proposed the fifteen-year-old violinist Alberto Bogni, pupil of Maestro Sandro Materassi, a well-known name among violinists worldwide. The ceremony took place, once more, in the Salone de' Duecento in Palazzo Vecchio, on the 21st of April **1979**.

The choice made in **1980** by **Tours** Rotary Club was of particular scientific importance: in the Château d'Artigny the prize was awarded, by Michel Debré, ex Prime Minister, to the young virologist Claude Naudion for setting-up a diagnostic test and vaccine against infectious hepatitis.

In **1981 Madrid** Rotary Club awarded the prize to the geologist and hydrologist Ferdinando López Vera, author, among other things, of an interesting "*Atlas of the hydric resources of Latin America*". The prize was given by the Dean of the University of Madrid.

In **1982**, in **Athens**, in the Chamber of the Senate, the ex-President of the Republic, Konstantinos Tsatsos, conferred the prize on the twelve-year-old pianist Dimitris Sgouros, whose reputation had already crossed the borders of Greece as he had performed in New York with the National Symphony Orchestra.

In **1983**, in **Vienna**, the President of the Republic awarded the prize in the ceremony hall of Palais Schwarzenberg, to Dr. Ingeborg Hochmair for important studies and discoveries in the development and testing of cochlear prostheses.

In **1984**, in Palazzo Vecchio, the Mayor of Florence awarded the prize to the nuclear physicist Giovanni Bonvicini, nominated by Professor Antonino Zichichi, who tutored him at the European Centre for Nuclear Research in Geneva, first as a student and then as a prized member of a team engaged in experiments in "wide-spectrum neutrino beams".

The ex-Prime Minister of France, Michel Debré, in **1985**, in the Jean de Ockeghem Centre in **Tours**, conferred the prize on the architect Patrick Blettery, author of a revolutionary project for an underwater city: a fantastic project in Leonardo da Vinci's style.

In **1986**, in the Auditorium of the Palais des Académies of **Brussels**, the Nobel Prize winner Professor Ylia Prigogine, awarded two physicists: Dr. Baidyanath Misra, a graduate of the University of Delhi who run a Department of the International Institutes of Physics and Chemistry, founded by Ernest Solvay, together with Dr. Yves Elskens, professor at the Catholic University of Louvain. The research of the two prize winners contributed to the study of "irreversible processes in statistical mechanics".

In **1987 London** celebrated the 13<sup>th</sup> Leonardo Prize in an atmosphere and a setting which enhanced the traditions of the Rotarians on the other side of the Channel. The highest point of the award ceremony was when the famous violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin presented the young Scottish percussionist Evelyn Glennie and the Lord Mayor, Sir David Rowe-Ham, conferred the Prize.

Particularly interesting was the awarding of the prize in **Würzburg**, where in **1988** Professor T.H. Schiebler introduced Dr. Dietrich Lorke from Hamburg, a pathologist, who devoted his research to disturbances of growth and development of the brain. In the stupendous "Kaisersaal der Würzburger Residenz", frescoed by Tiepolo, the prize was awarded by Professor W. Wild, Minister of Culture and Science of Bavaria.

In **1989** the prize returned to **Madrid** where Professor Severo Ochoa, Nobel Laureate for medicine, awarded, in the Aula Magna of the Real Monasterio de El Escorial, the biochemist Dr. Julián Agut Sánchez, author of important researches on the connection between neurotransmitters and membrane phospholipids, a determining factor in senile pathologies.

**Amsterdam** held the prize ceremony, for the first time, in **1990**: in the historic Nieuwe Kerk, Professor Ronald de Leeuw, Director of the "Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh", presented the young sculptor Joost van der Toorn, who received the prize from the Mayor of Amsterdam, E. van Thijn.

In the suggestive surroundings of the theatre of Attic Herod, at the foot of the Acropolis, in **Athens** in **1991**, the vice Prime Minister Konstantinos Konepoulos awarded the violinist Leonidas Kavakos a prized student of illustrious maestros such as Dmitri Shostakovich, Esa Pekka Salonen, Raymond Leppard and Mstislav Rostropovich.

In **1992** the prize returned to **Vienna**: the subject chosen was ecology and more precisely "to build ecologically in harmony with nature". Dr. Scholten, Federal Minister of Culture, awarded the architect Helmut Deubner who projected and constructed in Vienna the "Gaertnerhof" housing complex which, unique in the world, is a pioneering work in the field of ecological building.

Once more in **Tours** in **1993** where the President of the Senate, Mr. René Monory, conferred the prize on the engineer Frédéric Patat for his studies on space physiology and the acoustics of high frequencies, validating instruments installed for the first time in 1982 in the "Saliout7" spaceship. He put aside the prize money for the perfecting a project for a "piezoelectric immunodetector".

In the year **1994** the prize was hosted again in **Florence**, in the Salone de' Cinquecento in Palazzo Vecchio, the Dean of Florence University, Professor Paolo Blasi, conferred the prize to the young architect Fabrizio Rossi Prodi, who was nominated by Professor Pierluigi Spadolini.

The next year, in **1995** in **Brussels** Charles Picqué, Ministre Président de la Région de Bruxelles-Capital, awarded the Prize to the pianist Johan Schmidt.

In **1996** in **London**, following the presentation made by Jeremy Isaacs, Superintendent of Covent Garden, H.E. Prince Philip of Edinburgh awarded at Buckingham Palace, Joan Quinn, a young draftsman who was author of a satirical cartoon on the long history of Great Britain.

In **Würzburg**, in the "Hofstuben der Festung" of Marienberg Fortress, which towers over the hills of Franconia, S. K. H. Franz Herzog, descendant of the ancient Family of Wittelsbach, Duchies of Bavaria, in the year **1997** conferred the prize to a musical quartet conducted by Klaus Ospald. The Staatsminister, Dr. Thomas Goppel, attended the ceremony.

In **Madrid** in **1998**, inside the splendid Retiro Park-Jardines de Cecilio Rodríguez, the Lord Mayor Don María José Álvarez del Manzano, awarded the prize to Eig Omada, creator of highly appreciated drawings.

In **1999** in **Amsterdam**, inside the Oude Kerk, the most ancient church of the town, the Lord Mayor awarded the prize to the young sculptor Benoît Hermans, who was nominated by Prof. Leeuw, Director of the Rijksmuseum.

In the **2000** year the prize was held in **Athens** inside the evocative ancient Parliament, where the President of Greece conferred the prize to the well-known painter Nikolaos Frantzolas.

The mathematician Renate Motschnig was the winner of the **2001** prize held in **Vienna**, which was awarded at the "Festsaal der Universitat" by Professor Skalicky, Dean of Polytechnic University of Engineering.

In **2002** in **Tours**, Mr. Hervé Novelli, a Member of the European Parliament for Turenna Region, presented the prize to the engineer M. Frédéric Brochet, who made interesting studies in the new field of wine making engineering.

In **2003**, for the fifth time, the Prize returned to **Florence** and the fascinating adventures of man in air and in space was chosen to celebrate the centennial of the first human flight to which Leonardo dedicated many of his observations. *"The big bird will make its first flight over the hillock of the great Cècero, filling up the Universe of astonishment, filling up with its fame all the writings and of eternal glory the nest in which it was born"* (Fiesole 1505 - Manuscript on birds' flight - Turin Royal Library). In honor of so many space explorers, Professor Mario Calamia, General Director of Italian Space Agency, introduced the astronaut Roberto Vittori, who participated in a space flight. The prize was conferred by the Italian Defense Secretary.

In **2004**, the prize celebrated its thirtieth birthday. The ceremony was held in **Brussels**, where Baron Philippe Roberts-Jones, Secretary Permanent of the Real Academy of Belgium, awarded Françoise Rosier for her excellent and distinguished work in the conservation and restoration of paintings.

Another woman won the prize in **London** in **2005**. Sir Nicholas Goodison, in the suggestive and gorgeous surrounding of the Goldsmiths' Company, awarded Sidsel Dorph-Jensen for silver creations. She was introduced by Martin Dru Drury, President of the Goldsmiths' Company.

In **2006**, the prize was held again in the charming atmosphere of **Würzburg**, inside the magnificent "Hall of the Emperor" in the Castle Residence, Roman Herzog, past-President of Federal Germany, awarded the young Italian biologist, Rebecca Basile, for her interesting research on the social behavior of the bees.

In Würzburg, during the meeting of the Clubs' Presidents and General Secretary, it was decided to accept as a new member of Leonardo da Vinci Prize the friends of Dublin Rotary Club.

In **2007**, in the warm atmosphere of **Madrid**, in the Real Casa de Correos, Don Santiago Grisolia, Nobel Laureate for his biochemical studies, introduced don Emilio Benito García for his effort on the future of hospital nursing. The Health Minister of Madrid conferred the prize.

In **2008**, in **Amsterdam**, the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of Leonardo da Vinci Prize was organized. During a magnificent ceremony in the Muziekgebouw aan't IJ, the new and impressive Concert Hall, Professor Ronald Plastrek, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, awarded the young architect Ties Rijcken for his project on "floating houses".

In **2009**, in the splendid meeting hall of the old Parliament of **Athens**, the Mayor of the city, Mr. Nikitas Kaklamanis, awarded the young artist Dionisios Grammenos, an excellent clarinet player, presented by the Maestro George Katsaros.

The edition of **2010** took place in **Vienna**, the glorious Habsburg town, in the suggestive location of the University. The winner was Julius Brennecke, an outstanding researcher in the field of genetic regulatory mechanism. He was awarded by the President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer.

In **2011**, the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize was held in **Dublin**, the town that hosted the Leonardo Leicester Codex. The Prime Minister of Ireland Enda Kenny awarded the young animator and movie creator David O'Reilly.

In **2012** the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the Prize took place in **Tours**, one of the founding Clubs of the Prize. This year Nicolas Monmarché, a pioneering engineer in the research of informatics, was awarded by the Nobel Laureate Yves Chauvin.

In **2013**, the prize celebrated its 39<sup>th</sup> birthday and **Florence** hosted the prize for the 6<sup>th</sup> time. In the magnificent Salone de' Cinquecento, Dr. Maria Cristina Acidini, Sovrintender of Florentine Museum Site, awarded Nicola Salvioli for his excellent and distinguished work in the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage in metal.

The edition of **2014** took place in **Brussels** where Prof. Hervé Hasquin, President of the Jury and Dean of Brussel University, in the prestigious Palais des Académies, awarded the historian Monique Weis, a young lady, specialized on the sixteen Century.

In **2015**, **London** Rotary Club, the oldest Club in Europe, organized the ceremony for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. In the splendid venue, the Goldsmiths' Hall, one of London's hidden treasures, Professor Robin Williamson, Past President of the Royal Society of Medicine, awarded John Saunders, a young surgeon, for his pioneering research into esophageal cancer.

In the charming atmosphere of **Würzburg**, in **2016**, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Award was celebrated for the fourth time. In the Festival Hall of Ludwig Maximilian University, Prof Bernhard Fischenich, the Rotary District Governor awarded the prize to Stephan Bush, a space science and technology scientist for his innovative discoveries on satellites.

In **2017**, **Madrid** welcomed the Rotarians in the Real Academia Espanola de Lengua for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Leonardo da Vinci Award. Guillermo Garcia-Calvo, an acclaimed young director of opera, received the recognition from Antonio Mosquera, President of the Organizing Committee, for his expertise on Wagner's Tetralogy and Italian Opera. In Madrid, during the meeting of the Club Presidents and General Secretary, it was decided to accept as new member of Leonardo da Vinci Prize, Copenhagen Rotary Club, who presented its application during the meeting in Würzburg.

In **2018** the Prize came back in **Amsterdam** for the fourth time. The Dutch friends organized the event in a magnificent venue, the Rijksmuseum, where the best art of the Dutch Golden Age can be admired. All the Presidents of the Rotary Clubs participating to the event awarded Boyan Slat, who invented a passive clean up system, making use of the oceanic currents, to solve the problem of plastic pollution.

This year, Florence celebrates Leonardo da Vinci 500<sup>th</sup> death anniversary and the Rotary Club of Florence will host the price of the 7<sup>th</sup> time in June, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Beside the Rotary event, the city organizes a whole year of manifestations to honor the genius, 500 years after his death.

The legitimacy of Rotary for the young people has been largely demonstrated, as well as the dialogue and friendship among European, in perfect faithfulness with the prophecy of Leonardo in the “Atlantic manuscript”

*"Men will speak to each other from very distant countries and they will answer each other".*

## Winners of the “Leonardo da Vinci international Prize” since 1975

Year	Place	Jury	Winner	Awarded by
1975	Firenze - Palazzo Vecchio	Maestro Annigoni	B. Long - Painting	G. Lang President of Rotary International
1976	Tours - Château Amboise	Prof. Stegman	J. Guillaume - Art History	Monseigneur Le Comte de Paris
1977	Athens - Aula Magna	G.Rallis - Minister of Culture	S. Valasakis V. Palaiogolos - Sculpture	Mayor of Athens
1978	Vienna - Schwarzenberg Palace	Dr. Firnberg Minister of Science Investigation	O. Prohaska - Medicine	President of Austria
1979	Firenze - Palazzo Vecchio	Maestro S. Materassi	A. Bologni - Music	G.Testi. District Governor
1980	Tours - Chateau Artigny	Prof. Maupas UER President	C. Naudion - Medicine	M.Debré- Ex Prime Minister
1981	Madrid - Aula Magna	Prof. A. Gallego	F. López Vera - Geology	Dean of University
1982	Athens - Senate	Maestro Rostropovitich	D. Sgouros - Music	C.Tsatos - Ex President of Republic

<b>1983</b>	Vienna - Schwarzenberg Palace	Prof. Neumann	I. Hochmair Desoyer - Medicine	President of Austria
<b>1984</b>	Firenze - Palazzo Vecchio	Prof. Zichichi - CERN	G. Buonvicini - Physics	Mayor of Florence
<b>1985</b>	Tours -Ockeghem Center	Prof. M. Marot	P. Blettery - Architecture	M. Debré - Ex Prime Minister
<b>1986</b>	Bruxelles - Palais	Prof. Prigogine- Nobel Laureate	B. Misra Y. Elskens - Physics	Dean of Louvain University
<b>1987</b>	London -Barbican	Sir Y. Menuhin	E. Glennie-Music	Sir Rowe-Ham Lord Mayor
<b>1988</b>	Würzburg - Kaisersaalder Residenz	Prof. T.H. Schiebler	D. Lorke - Medicine	Prof. W. Wild Minister of Culture and Science
<b>1989</b>	Madrid - Escorial	Prof. Ochoa - Nobel Laureate	J. Sánchez - Medicine	Dean of Salamanca University
<b>1990</b>	Amsterdam -Nieuwe Kerk	Prof. R. De Leeuw Director van Gogh Museum	J. van der Toorn- Sculpture	E. van Thijn Mayor of Amsterdam
<b>1991</b>	Athens Herodus Theater	Maestro Ferrara	L. Kavakos-Music	S. Kanelopoulos Minister of Culture
<b>1992</b>	Vienna -Prunksaal	Prof. R. Rainer Senate President	H. Deubner - Architecture, Ecology	Dr. Scholten Minister of Culture
<b>1993</b>	Tours -Commerce School	Prof. Pourcelot	F. Patat - Astrophysics	M. R. Monory- Senate President
<b>1994</b>	Firenze - Palazzo Vecchio	Arch. P.L. Spadolini	F. Rossi- Prodi Architecture	P. Blasi - Dean of University of Florence
<b>1995</b>	Brussels - Royal Belge	Dr. K.H. Kammerling	J. Schmidt - Music	C. Piqué- President Capital Region
<b>1996</b>	London-Buckingham Palace	Dr. J. Isaac-Covent Garden Director	J. Quinn - Animate Drawer	H.M Prince Philippe Duke of Edimburgh
<b>1997</b>	Würzburg - Marienberg Fort	Prof. P. Hollfelder	K. Ospald - Music	Franz Herzog, Duke of Bayern
<b>1998</b>	Madrid - Jardines Rodriguez	Prof. P. Western	E. Omada - Design	Don J.M. Alvarez- Mayor of Madrid
<b>1999</b>	Amsterdam-The Old Church	Prof. R. De Leeuw, director van Gogh Museum	B. Hermann - Sculpture	Mayor of Amsterdam
<b>2000</b>	Athens-Old Parliament	Prof. Tornartis	N. Frantzolas - Painting	HE President of Hellenic Republic

<b>2001</b>	Vienna University	Prof. Winkler Dean of Vienna University	R. Motsching - Mathematics	P. Skalicky - Dean of Vienna Polytecnic
<b>2002</b>	Tours - Palais des Congress	Dr. M.E. Duthoo	F. Brochet -Enology	M.H. Novelli- Member of European Parliament
<b>2003</b>	Firenze - Palazzo Vecchio	Prof. M. Calamia Project Scientist	R. Vettori - Astronaut	F. Bosi-Italian Defence secretary
<b>2004</b>	Brussels-Palais des Académies	Dr. P. R. Jones – Director Museums of Belgium	F. Rosier - Restoration	Mayor of Brussels
<b>2005</b>	London-Goldsmiths Company	Martin Dru Drury CEO	S. Dorph-Jensen- Silver Designer	Sir Nicholas Goodison
<b>2006</b>	Würzburg-Kaisersaal der Residenz	Dean of University	R. Basile-Biology	R. Herzog- Germany Federal President
<b>2007</b>	Madrid-Casa de Correos	Prof. S. Grisolia Nobel Laureate	E.B. Garcia- Emergency System Organization	Minister of Health of Madrid
<b>2008</b>	Amsterdam-Concert Hall	Prof. R. Fokkens	T. Rijcken-Architect	R. Plasterk- Minister of Culture
<b>2009</b>	Athens-Parliament	Maestro G. Katsaros	D. Grammenos-Music	N. Kaklamanis Mayor of Athens
<b>2010</b>	Vienna-University	Prof. G.Winkler- Dean of University	J. Brennecke-Medicine	H. Fischer- President of Austrian Republic
<b>2011</b>	Dublin-Trinity College	Prof. L. Santoro	D. O'Reilly-Animation	E. Kenny-Prime Minister
<b>2012</b>	Tours-Grand Theatre	Prof. Loic Vaillant Dean of University Fracois Rebelais	Nicholas Monmarché- Informatic	Y. Chauvin-Nobel Prize
<b>2013</b>	Firenze- Palazzo Vecchio	Dr. M. Ciatti Opificio delle Pietre Dure Curator	Nicola Salvioli- Restoration	M.C. Acidini – Sovrintender of Florentine Museal Site
<b>2014</b>	Brussels - Palais des Académies	Dr. H Hasquin Honorary Dean of Brussel University	Monique Weis - History	Hervé Hasquin and Robert de Muelenaere, President of RC Brussels
<b>2015</b>	London - Goldsmiths' Hall	Prof. Robin Williamson- Past President of the Royal Society of Medicine	John Saunders - Medicine	Peter King, Deputy High Court of London

<b>2016</b>	Würzburg - Ludwig Maximilian University	Prof. O. Issing – Director of EZB Institute	Stephan Bush - Engineering	Bernhard Fischenich – District Governor
<b>2017</b>	Madrid - Real Academia Espanola de Lengua	Director of Madrid Opera House	Guillermo García-Calvo - Music	A. Mosquera President RC Madrid
<b>2018</b>	Amsterdam - Rijksmuseum	Wytzia de Savornin Lohman, President RC Amsterdam	Boyan Slat - Technology	Presidents of European Rotary Clubs

## **Biographies of the winners of the "Leonardo da Vinci International Award"**

**FIRENZE, 1975**

**BEN LONG**

Ben Long, reared in a family of artists and writers, was as precocious in his artistic ability as he was eager to apply it. He majored in Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon completing his University coursework, Long moved to New York to immerse himself in the study of fine art. In New York he became a member of the Art Students League of New York. In 1969 he served in Vietnam as a Marine Corps Combat Officer and Commander. Upon leaving Vietnam, Long traveled to Florence, Italy, to apprentice himself to internationally-renowned Maestro Pietro Annigoni. Long committed himself to Annigoni for almost eight years. His apprenticeship culminated in 1975, when he was awarded the prestigious Leonardo da Vinci International Art Award. In 1984, Long moved to France, where he split time between Paris and the region of Provence. By the time of the move, Long completed several frescoes in Italy – including a joint fresco with Annigoni and the only work by a non-Italian at the Abbey of Montecassino. These works set the stage for several major fresco projects in the U.S., including a dome and the largest secular fresco in the United States. Moreover, Long worked in the Royal Academy as well as the Royal Portrait Society (London, UK). He exhibited in Florence, London, Paris, Atlanta, San Francisco, New York, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and he is represented in major collections throughout Europe and the Americas. In 2001, Long was awarded the prestigious Arthur Ross Award for Excellence in the Classical Tradition by Philippe de Montebello, longest-serving Curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This same year he founded the Fine Arts League of the Carolinas in Asheville, NC, a school devoted to teaching the fundamentals of classical realism in the way of the old masters.

**TOURS, 1976**

**JEAN GUILLAUME**

Jean Guillaume, a historian of Renaissance art and a student of André Chastel, set up at the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance (Centre for Higher Renaissance Studies) in Tours, an internationally-known Department of European Renaissance Architecture History. He was introduced by Professor Stegmann, and received the Prize from the Count of Paris at Amboise Castle, close to Leonardo da Vinci's last home. Jean Guillaume is professor at the "Centre d'études supérieures de la Renaissance de Tours" and Paris-Sorbonne University. He is a member of Scientific Council of Palladio Center in Vicenza. He organized in Tours several meeting on the history of Architecture, published in the collection "De Architectura, Picard Ed." created by André Chastel, in 1983. He is specialized on French and Italian Renaissance architecture, in particular on the French castles of XV et XVI century.

## **ATHENS, 1977**

### **CONSTANTINOS PALAIOLOGOS and STAVROS VALASAKIS**

#### **CONSTANTINOS PALAIOLOGOS**

Constantinos Palaiologos was born in Athens. He attended the Athens Business School and the Panteion University, Athens (Political & Social Sciences). He studied at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Athens, graduated in Managerial Law and Philosophy, concluding his studies with a PhD in Philosophy of Art at the University of Athens. He commenced his professional career in 1963, by demonstrating part of his work at the International Exhibition of Tessaloniki, Greece. He organized exhibitions and took part in group exhibitions in Greece and abroad. In 1965 he represented Greece in the International Exhibition Biennale in Rome, Italy. He was Professor of Anatomy Drawing and Plastic in the School of Fine Arts in the University of Athens. His works is present in private collections and in many Galleries in Greece and in other countries. He received several National and International Awards.

#### **STAVROS VALASAKIS**

Stavros Valasakis was born in Heraklion, Creta. He studied in the School of Fine Arts (Sculptur field) at University of Athens with Scholarship from the "State Scholarships Foundation" (1960-1965). He continued his studies for one year in Paris and returning back home we worked as sculptor in National Museum for three years. He has participated in three National Exhibitions and in many

group ones in Greece. Sculptures from his work are placed in public areas in Greece and in other countries.

## **VIENNA, 1978**

### **OTTO J. PROHASKA**

Otto J. Prohaska is President and CEO of TransCytos, a life sciences instrumentation company in Massachusetts, USA. Otto Prohaska obtained his Ph.D. in Applied Physics from the University of Technology in Vienna, Austria, where he headed a micro-sensor research group at the Department of General Electronics. As Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Biomedical Sensors, Vienna, Austria, he invented and developed a multiple probe for brain research, which earned him several guest professor positions in Europe. An invitation of the U.S. Neuroscience Society to present his invention at Rockefeller University, New York, USA, led to his guest professor position at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA and a Distinguished Associate Professorship at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, to further develop medical microsensors. Dr. Prohaska received his Executive MBA from the University of Connecticut, USA. He is founder and managing member of Otto Consulting, LLC., in Southbridge, MA, a business and management consulting firm, specializing in high-tech new product development. Under Dr. Prohaska's leadership TransCytos has developed a novel instrument for transfection, a fundamental and essential genetic engineering process in biomedical research, to study diseases such as cancer, obesity, heart diseases, diabetes, arthritis, substance abuse, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's, as well as anxiety, aging, in drug development and production and in gene therapy.

## **FIRENZE, 1979**

### **ALBERTO BOLOGNI**

Alberto Bologni was born in Prato and completed his studies with Sandro Materassi. He obtained the diploma of the Florence Conservatoire with full marks and special mention. He later studied with Stefan Gheorghiu and Ilja Grubert, obtaining the soloist's diploma of Rotterdam Conservatoire. He was awarded prizes in the Viotti Competition of Vercelli and the Spohr Competition of Freiburg. He

has appeared in the major concert halls and theatres of Italy, Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and South America. He participated in the Festival of Spoleto and Tateshina. He has been collaborating regularly for more than twenty-five years with the pianist Giuseppe Bruno, in duo, in the Quintetto Sandro Materassi and the Trio Petrarca. He has also played with some of the foremost International musicians and made recording for discs, television and radio for Concerto, Cristophorus, Diapason, Sam, Sheva Collection, Tactus, Rai 1, Radio tre, Hessischer Rundfunk, West Deutscher Rundfunk, Radio Suisse Romande, RTSI and Radio Vaticana. He has been frequently invited to the United States to give concerts as soloist and master classes and as a teacher to the Accademia dell' Orchestra Mozart di Bologna. He is professor of violin at Istituzione d'alta formazione musicale Luigi Boccherini di Lucca.

## **TOURS, 1980**

### **CLAUDE NAUDION**

Claude Naudion, after his studies in Chemistry, Technology and Pharmacy, obtained a specialization in Immunology, Bacteriology and Virology. In his early career, he was teacher of Hydrology at the University of Tours, focusing his research on the natural radioactivity of mineral waters and radioactive metabolites. As a virologist, he joined the group of Professor Philippe Maupas at the Laboratories of Microbiology at the University of Tours, and he took part in the investigations in order to develop a vaccine against hepatitis B, to validate tests for the diagnosis of hepatitis A and B, and to study tumor cells. Today he is a biologist and pharmacist and professor at the University of Tours.

## **MADRID, 1981**

### **FERNANDO LOPEZ VERA**

Fernando López Vera, Doctor in Economic Geology and Hydrogeology, is Professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Faculty of Science, Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Geology and Geochemistry. He is the president of the Spanish Foundation Groundwater. From 2004 to 2008 he has been the coordinator of the Working Group for the reform of the Consolidated Water Act for the Ministry of Environment. He is also a member of the Water Policy Group in the National

Advisory Council on the Environment. In 1988 he created a Stable Isotope Laboratory, in the Interdepartmental Research Service of Madrid University. He is member of the Spanish Association of Hydrogeologists, of the International Association of Hydrogeology, of the Groundwater Club, and of the Latin American Association of Development Hydrogeology. From 1977 to 1981 he has cooperated with Latin American countries, within the Latin America ALFA Program, funded by the EU, and network vulnerability aquifers CYTED (Ibero-American Science and Technology for Development).

## **ATHENS, 1982**

### **DIMITRIS SGOUROS**

Dimitris Sgouros was born in 1969 in Athens, Greece. He began playing the piano at a young age and gave his first public performance at the age of seven. At the age of eight, he entered the Athens Conservatoire, studying under Maria Herogiorgiou-Sigara. Sgouros won several competitions between 1978 and 1983 and in 1982, at the age of 12, Sgouros made his Carnegie Hall debut. He performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich. In mid-1983, before he had turned 13, Sgouros graduated from the Conservatory with a Professor's Diploma, a Teacher's Diploma, a First Prize, and a Gold Medal. Sgouros continued his studies at the Royal Academy of Arts of London and the University of Maryland, College Park, in the United States of America. Besides his musical talents, Sgouros has undertaken 4 postgraduate studies in mathematics at the University of Oxford. He held many performances around the world, and also for the royal families of Britain, Monaco, and Sweden. Since March 1988, three Sgouros Festivals have been instituted, in Hamburg, Ljubljana, and Singapore. Dimitris Sgouros is widely acclaimed for his superlative artistry and virtuosity.

Arthur Rubinstein exclaimed: *“I thank God for keeping me alive so that I would be able to hear with my own ears Sgouros play. He is the best pianist I have ever heard, including myself”*.

## **VIENNA, 1983**

### **INGEBORG J. HOCHMAIR-DESOYER**

Ingeborg J. Hochmair-Desoyer, PhD, is CEO, CTO and co-founder of MED-EL Medical Electronics Corporation with its global Headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria. He holds a PhD in electrical engineering from the Technical University of Vienna, where she started her career in 1976 as a research assistant. Together with Erwin Hochmair, she developed the very first microelectronic multichannel cochlear implant, implanted in December 1977 in Vienna. After a research stay at the Institute for Electronics in Medicine, Stanford University, USA, and numerous publications and patents, he worked as a Consultant for the 3M company on neuroprostheses systems in St. Paul, USA. From 1982 to 1989 she worked as a postdoctoral research scientist at the Institute for of Applied Physics at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and earned a professorship for medical technology at the faculty of Electrical Engineering, Technical University, Vienna, Austria. Since 1990, Dr. Hochmair-Desoyer built up the company MED-EL as CEO and CTO which she founded together with Dr. Erwin Hochmair. In 2004 and 2012 she received two honorary degrees in medicine from the Technical University of Munich and the Medical University of Innsbruck for her pioneering scientific work and her continuing contribution in the development of implantable devices for people with hearing loss. Today MED-EL is a leading hearing implant company with 28 subsidiaries worldwide and more than 1200 employees.

## **FIRENZE, 1984**

### **GIOVANNI BUONVICINI**

Soon after winning the Prize in 1984, he took a position as a Postdoctoral Associate at the University of Michigan, to work on the Stanford Linear Collider and associated experiments. He spent over five years there, in the process getting interested in accelerator physics topics. In particular, he co-designed and built the first of a new type of beam monitors which use the radiation emitted in the beam-beam interaction.

In 1989 he became a Staff Scientist at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland, working in the ALEPH experiment, to study the millions of  $Z^0$  decays which were produced at the LEP accelerator.

A chance to start a particle physics group at Wayne State opened up in 1995, and he has been at Wayne since. Here, he worked for 13 years in the CLEO experiment at Cornell University, and since 2008, at the KEK accelerator in Tsukuba, Japan, where he leads the effort to produce an improved beam monitor. He has authored or co-authored over 600 papers.

## **TOURS, 1985**

### **PATRICK BLETTERY**

Patrick Blettery is an architect, who was selected for his visionary plan for a floating city that perfectly mirrored the spirit of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize. He was introduced by Professor Michel Marot, and he received the Prize from Michel Debré, former Prime Minister. The ceremony was held at the Jean de Ockeghem Music Centre. He is today architect and professor in Paris.

## **BRUXELLES, 1986**

### **BAIDYANATH MISRA and YVES ELSKENS**

#### **BAIDYANATH MISRA**

Baidyanath Misra was born in India and graduated at the University of Delhi, where he also run the Department of the International Institutes of Physics and Chemistry founded by Ernest Solvay in Brussels. He coined the quantum Zeno effect at the University of Texas in 1977. He analyzed the situation in which an unstable particle, if observed continuously, will never decay. The meaning of the term has since expanded, leading to a more technical definition in which time evolution can be suppressed not only by measurement: the quantum Zeno effect is the suppression of unitary time evolution caused by quantum decoherence in quantum systems provided by a variety of sources: measurement, interactions with the environment, stochastic fields, and so on.

#### **YVES ELSKENS**

Yves Elskens was born in Belgium, he is a teacher at the Catholic University of Louvain. The research of the two prize winners, completed and specialized also at various universities in the United States, has contributed to the study of «irreversible processes in statistical mechanics». He is today professor of Physic at the University of Marseille (France).

## **LONDRA, 1987**

### **EVELYN GLENNIE**

Since graduating with a honors degree from the Royal Academy of Music, London in 1985 at the age of 19, Evelyn gives more than 100 performances a year worldwide, performing with the greatest conductors, orchestras, and artists. Glennie has been profoundly deaf since the age of 12, having started to lose her hearing from the age of 8. This does not inhibit her ability to perform at an international level. She regularly plays barefoot during both live performances and studio recordings in order to feel the music better. Glennie contends that deafness is largely misunderstood by the public. She claims to have taught herself to hear with parts of her body other than her ears. In response to criticism from the media, Glennie published "Hearing Essay" in which she discusses her condition. Her diversity of collaborations include visual mixing of live music with the likes of DJ Yoda and the 'Beat Boxer' Shlomo, the Dance Choreographer Marc Brew as part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad. As a double Grammy award winner and BAFTA nominee Evelyn is in demand as a composer in her own right and records high quality music for film, television and music library companies. Her most recent film score was *Golf in the Kingdom* released in the USA in 2011. Solo recordings now exceed 28 CD's including the Grammy award winning *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion by Bartok* and her collaboration with Bela Fleck. With over 86 international awards to date Evelyn continues to feed the next generation through advice and guidance. Awarded Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2007 Evelyn Glennie is the first person in musical history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist.

## **WÜRZBURG, 1988**

### **DIETRICH LORKE**

Dietrich Lorke studied Medicine at the Universities of Bonn (Germany), Montpellier (France) and Heidelberg (Germany), where he received his medical degree, followed by a Dr. med. from the University of Tübingen (Germany) and a PhD in Anatomy from the University of Hamburg (Germany). He worked as Junior Lecturer at the Institute of Pathology, University of Heidelberg, and later as Junior and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Neuroanatomy, University of Hamburg. In 1999, he was appointed Professor at the University of Hamburg and in 2006 Professor of Anatomy at the University of the United Arab Emirates, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, in Al Ain. In 2009, he was appointed Professor at FIU. Dietrich Lorke's research focuses on Developmental Neuroanatomy: he has analyzed neurogenesis in trisomic and mutant mice and has characterized

developmental changes of neurotransmitters and their receptors. Recently, he has worked on the blood-brain-barrier, analyzing the passage of oxime-type cholinesterase reactivators into the central nervous system. He was awarded a scholarship from the "Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes" to pursue his studies and the "Dr. Martini-Award" for his research on neurogenesis. In 2005, he was named "Teacher of the year" at Hamburg University. Dietrich Lorke has authored of many peer-reviewed research papers and he is a member of the Anatomical and Neuroscience Societies.

## **MADRID, 1989**

### **JULIÁN AGUT SÁNCHEZ**

Julián Agut is the CEO of Farmadiet Group Holding, a Barcelona based company engaged in the development, manufacturing, marketing and sale of pharmaceutical, nutritional and veterinary products. He started to work when he was 17 years old as a laboratory technician in the Microbiology Laboratory in Ferrer Group, combining work with his degree studies. At the age of 21, he received an Award, with a scholarship of one year in the Institute of Fundamental Biology, directed by Dr. Juan Oró, working under Dr. Gelpi's supervision in the field of Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry and Liquid Chromatography applied to define metabolism of drugs. One year later, he created a Biochemistry Department in the Research Centre of Ferrer Group and he began to collaborate with the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences at M.I.T, where he worked together with Professor Richard Wurtman for over 10 years in the pharmacological action of Phospholipids Precursors in preserving Brain Phospholipids Metabolism and its impact on memory. At the age of 49, he left the Ferrer Group, where he was Deputy Director company to found Farmadiet Holding Group, where he was a member of the board of directors and CEO until its integration in Opko Health, Inc. in 2012.

## **AMSTERDAM, 1990**

### **JOOST VAN DEN TOORN**

Joost van den Toorn studied at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy. Between 1979 and 1985 he travelled in Mexico, Egypt and Japan. He exhibits in solo and group exhibitions in the Netherlands and abroad.

His work is characterized by irony, gravity, melancholy and human inadequacies (outsiders). Van den Toorn exhibited solo and group work at Gallery 05”T en Gallery Swart in Amsterdam; Gallery de Gryse, Tielt (België); Gallery OZ, Parijs; Gallery Tanya Rumpff, Haarlem; Gallery Torch, Amsterdam; Groninger Museum, Groningen; Mücsarnok, Budapest; La Chapelle de la Tour d’Auvergne, Quimper; Stedelijk Museum het Prinsenhof, Delft; Richard Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh; Rijksmuseum Kröller Müller, Otterlo; Vishal, Haarlem; Museum Beeldenaan Zee, Scheveningen; Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam and Garage Rotterdam. He follows his own artistic dreams and is not hesitating to use work of other artists openly. Nowadays Joost is not only still active as a sculptor, he is also very active in promoting artists “on the edge of our society”. He says about his collection of art of those artists: *”Good art is so rare, that it is good also to look for it at places where art is not obviously present, such as for instance in psychiatric institutions.”*

## **ATHENS, 1991**

### **LEONIDAS KAVAKOS**

Leonidas Kavakos began studying violin at five years old and continued his studies at the Hellenic Conservatory with Stelios Kafantaris. An Onassis Foundation scholarship enabled him to attend master classes with Josef Gingold at Indiana University. He made his concert debut at the Athens Festival in 1984. In 1985, at age 18, he won the International Sibelius Competition in Helsinki and in 1986 won silver medal in the Indianapolis International Violin Competition. He also took first prizes at the Naumburg Competition in New York (1988) and the Paganini Violin Competition (1988) at the age of 21. His United States debut was in 1986, and, the following year, he gave recitals at venues across the country. Kavakos now tours North America annually and works with numerous major orchestras, including the Chicago, and Montreal Symphony Orchestras. He now works extensively in major concert halls across the continent, working with world class orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic and the Vienna Philharmonic. He was called “The Violinist of Violinists” by the Strad Magazine. Having won the Sibelius contest, Kavakos went on to win another coveted distinction, once again working on Sibelius. He won the 1991 Gramophone Concerto of the Year Award for the world premiere release on the BIS label of the Sibelius Violin Concerto in both its final version and in the original 1903/04, version. He has made various other recordings for Delos and Finland Records and he is also a keen chamber music performer and a conductor. He is designated as artistic

director of the Camerata Salzburg and followed Sir Roger Norrington 2007 in this position. Leonidas Kavakos plays the 'Abergavenny' Stradivarius of 1724.

## **VIENNA, 1992**

### **HELMUT DEUBNER**

Born in Vienna, father of 4 children. He graduated as a student of Professor Roland Rainer from the Austrian Academy of Fine Arts and from THE Eindhoven, Netherlands. Since 1980 he has been working as independent architect in Austria. Between 1989 and 2003 he was President of the Austrian Institute for Building Biology and Building Ecology, IBO. In 1991 he founded the "Global Network of Organisations for Environmentally Conscious and Healthy Buildings". Between 1995 and 1998 he was academical lector at the University of Economics in Vienna, at the Institute of Technology. From 1996 until 2005 he was visiting professor at the Donau-Universität Krems, at the Center of Architecture, Construction and Environment. In 2005 he was nominated member of the advisory council for construction and architecture of the Government of Lower Austria.

In his role as architect, Helmut Deubner focuses on eco-architecture, landscaping and community and participation projects. During the last 30 years, numerous private and community buildings in Lower Austria have been planned and executed by his office. Helmut Deubner participated in various architectural competitions and achieved many times first place. He received several awards, e.g. Special Award „Großer Österreichischer Wohnbaupreis“ (Austrian National Housing Design Award) in 1990, first price of the BDO-Auxilia Umweltpreis (Environmental Award) in 1997, the special award „NÖ Holzbau-Preis“ (Timber Construction Award) in 2005 and the Urban Design Award for the housing development in Lasse, Lower Austria, in 2007.

## **TOURS, 1993**

### **FRÉDÉRIC PATAT**

Frédéric Patat is an engineer from Ecole Polytechnique. In 1981 he graduated in Acoustic Physics from the University of Paris, obtaining a Ph.D. in Engineering in 1984. He is one of a group of seven selected CNES astronauts to be trained for flights on the Space Shuttle and the USSR Salyut Space Station. His research was aimed to develop the ultrasound techniques used aboard the space shuttle

to study cardio-vascular changes during an orbital flight. He is now Professor of Biophysics at the Medical Faculty in F. Rabelais University, Tours - France.

## **FIRENZE, 1994**

### **FABRIZIO ROSSI PRODI**

Fabrizio Rossi Prodi was born and received his formal training in Florence, Italy. He is full professor of Architectural and Urban Design at the University of Florence. He is member of the Teaching Board of the Doctorate in Architectural and Urban Design.

He has promoted seminars, conventions, and lectures on the issues of contemporary architecture and the city; he has published over eighty essays, and eight books on several aspects of architecture. He is interested in sustainability, new materials and the synthesis of different disciplines in the project. In general, he seeks for a humanization of the project, probably the main heritage of his Florentine origin, that he pursues in the connections between architectural organisms and urban places, between construction and nature.

His activity has mainly regarded the re-development of abandoned areas, the design of urban spaces and facilities. Amongst his works of architecture there are accommodation and health facilities, university pavilions, a swimming pool and two sports halls, offices, industrial pavilions. He has developed urban projects of public spaces and residential districts, in historical contexts as well.

He is winner of several international and national architectural contests.

## **BRUXELLES, 1995**

### **JOHAN SCHMIDT**

Johan Schmidt acquired a remarkable reputation both by his virtuosity and by his sensibility. Pupil of Eduardo del Pueyo, he then perfected with the pianist Karl-Heinz Kammerling. He distinguished himself in numerous international competitions: 4th prize and the prize of the public in Reine Elisabeth competition, in 1987, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in Tchaikovsky competition, in Moscow in 1990, first prize in the Maria Callas competition, in Athens and first prize in a competition, in Tokyo in 1989.

Johan Schmidt plays regularly with the main Belgian and foreign orchestras and his soloist's qualities led him to be the guest of prestigious concert halls such as Schauspielhaus of Berlin, Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, Suntory and Casals Halls of Tokyo, the Room Rachmaninov in Moscow, etc.

His interest for the chamber music brings him to play in particular with the violinists Yuzuko Horigome and Augustin Dumay, the American G-string Quartet and Mahler Piano Quartet.

He recorded several CD for the firm EMI-Fontec (Japan) and signed at the Belgian publisher's Cypress a luxurious performance of 24 Preludes op. 34 and of the Second Sonata of Chostakovitch.

## **LONDRA, 1996**

### **JOANNA QUINN**

She was born in Birmingham and grew up in North London. She completed a foundation course in art at Goldsmiths College, University of London before studying for a BA in Graphic Design at Middlesex University. Quinn's first film "Girls Night Out" was completed in 1987 and won three awards at the Annecy Film Festival. This film introduced the anti-heroine character of Beryl and follows her antics when she goes to see a male stripper. Beryl appeared in Quinn's next film Body Beautiful (1990) in this film she is the factory union rep and she had to deal with a macho workmate Vince, voiced by Rob Brydon. In Quinn's multi award winning film Dreams and Desires- Family Ties (2006), Beryl becomes obsessed with film making and is asked to video a friend's wedding - with disastrous consequences. In 1987 Quinn founded Beryl Productions International Ltd with producer/writer Les Mills. Quinn has been honored with retrospectives of her work in all over the world and 2008 saw the culmination of her work in an exhibition called 'Drawings that Move', curated by Michael Harvey at the National Media Museum in Bradford, England. This much celebrated exhibition has since travelled to Valencia, Spain and the Czech Republic. Quinn has won over 90 international awards, including 2 Emmy awards, 4 Bafta awards and Jury prizes at all the major animation festivals.

## **WÜRZBURG, 1997**

### **KLAUS OSPALD**

Klaus Ospald was born in Muenster, Germany. He studied composition under prof. Juergen Ulrich at the Academy of Music in Detmold and after he studied piano under prof. Marta Sosinka, music theory under prof. Zolt Gardonyi and composition under Bertold Hummel at the Music Academy in Wuerzburg. He graduated with a master class diploma in 1986 and has since then held the position of

junior lecturer in music theory and aural training. He received a scholarship for composition at the Citee des Artes in Paris and the talent award and the state prize from the Federal Capital Stuttgart and from the Free State of Bavaria. Starting from 1991, he has published chamber music pieces of great success. Today he is a composer in Wüerzburg.

## **MADRID, 1998**

### **EIG OMADA,**

Eig Omada is an artist and a creator of highly appreciated drawings in Spain and abroad. He lives and works in Madrid

## **AMSTERDAM, 1999**

### **BENOÎT HERMANS**

Benoît Hermans was born in Whalviller, a village in the south of Holland (Limburg). He attended the Academy in Maastricht and he studied Philosophy, considering this subject fundamental for his development and inspiration as a visual artist. He lives in Maastricht, where he is still very active as a painter. In 2007 also a monography about his work was written by the former director of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Rudi Fuchs. This first monograph on Hermans gives an extensive survey of his oeuvre with 95 works in color and two texts in which the process of creation and the force of the images are handled in more depth. With Ovid's theme 'disguise, shifting, metamorphosis' as guide, Rudi Fuchs looks for the artistic element of his strange, inimitable gamboling poetry. In 'Mind the Gap' Hermans himself writes of the fascinations which form the basis of his unique language of imagery by evocating the genesis of one of his earliest works. When leafing through this monograph you will literally be swept along by the continual novelty and infectious directness of these images."

## **ATHENS, 2000**

### **NIKOS FRANTZOLAS**

Nikos Frantzolas was born in Athens in 1962. His love of art, and particularly of painting, manifested itself at an early age. He studied Painting at the School of Arts in the University of Athens and Stage Design in the same University with a scholarship of “Foundation Public Scholarships” of Greece. He has organized solo exhibitions in Athens (1990), Thessaloniki (1994), London (1994), Athens (2009) and participated in many group exhibitions in Greece. His works are in private and public collections in Greek and in abroad. He has sets and costumes, so for many TV and for film productions. He is also involved in book illustration. He lives and works in Athens.

## **VIENNA, 2001**

### **RENATE MOTSCHNIG**

Renate Motschnig is Professor at the Faculty of Computer Science at the University of Vienna and head of the Computer Science Didactics and Learning Research Center and she teaches courses on Communication in other Institutes around Europe. Since 2005 she has been teaching interdisciplinary courses in the field of communication, research methods, human-computer interactions & psychology, and technology. Renate is author of many publications in refereed journals and conference proceedings in the fields of computer science, psychology, and education. She is the e-learning coordinator of the Faculty of Computer Science. She is in the process of building and intensifying interdisciplinary co-operations with psychologists, educational scientists, and translational scientists in the areas of knowledge development, communication, and learning.

Her research goals center around the discovery of principles and the development of techniques and tools to improve the quality of socio-technical systems. Her current research interests include requirements engineering, web engineering, methods for systems development, technology-enhanced learning, person-centered communication and new media, organizational development, cognitive psychology, and humanistic psychology in the context of ICT. Renate is in the process of investigating the potentials of introducing the Person-Centered Approach to project management, requirements engineering, as well as teaching and learning with new media.

## **TOURS, 2002**

### **FRÉDÉRIC BROCHET**

Frédéric Brochet is a chemist and œnologist, psychologist and a winegrower. He did his PhD at Bordeaux University II, as well as doing some studies in Paris, looking at the subject of the perception of wine. Set for a career as an academic, he grew disenchanted with both Bordeaux and the French University system. He decided to get involved with Ampelidae, his own wine project, and then to teach on the side. Ampelidae is born in 1995, in the family domain where he started a few years before to produce his first wine at the age of 11. He currently spends four weeks a year teaching at the Slow Food University in Pollenza, Italy. He makes a range of different wines. The top ones, labelled with a single letter indicating the variety, are from organically managed vineyards, and they are beautifully packaged, with simple labels and a short metal capsule reminiscent of that of Ridge and Ravenswood (two Californian producers).

## **FIRENZE, 2003**

### **ROBERTO VITTORI**

He graduated in Aeronautical Science and he completed basic training with the U.S. Air Force at Reese Air Force Base in Texas. He also graduated from the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School and completed the Italian Air Force's Accident Prevention course and Accident Investigation course (New Mexico). Graduated from the NATO Defense College Senior Course 108 in 2006. He received several prestigious awards, among them a special recognition as 'Commendatore della Repubblica' awarded in 2005 by the President of the Italian Republic. He flew Tornado GR1 aircraft with the 155th Squadron, 50th Wing from 1991 to 1994 and then served at the Italian Test Centre as project pilot for the development of the new European aircraft, the Euro Fighter EF2000, until 1998. From 1996 to 1998, he was the national representative in the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) research and development program. Flight Safety Officer at the Italian Test Centre and teacher of aerodynamics for the Italian Air Force's Accident Investigation Course. In 1998, he was selected as an astronaut by the Italian Space Agency (ASI), in cooperation with ESA and, one month later, he joined the European Astronaut Corps, whose home-base is ESA's European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, Germany.

He has taken part at several space missions and training programs that qualifies astronauts for future assignment on the Space Shuttle and International Space Station and he participated to his third mission in 2011. One of Vittori's main tasks was to grapple AMS-02 with the Shuttle robotic arm

from its payload bay and berth it to the ISS for installation. This was the final flight of the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Roberto Vittori is a colonel in the Italian Air Force. He has logged nearly 2000 hours in over 40 different aircraft, including F-104, Tornado GR1, F-18, AMX, M-2000, G-222 and P-180.

## **BRUXELLES, 2004**

### **FRANÇOISE ROSIER**

Françoise Rosier studied «Histoire de l'Art et Archéologie» at the Free University of Brussels. She then went on to study preservation-restoration of art at the National School for Visual Arts in Brussels. She specialized on «peinture mate», an original process invented by Antoine Wiertz (1805-1865). She then completed her course by one-year stage at the Royal Institute for Artistic Patrimonial in Brussels (IRPA). She has collaborated in several restoration works for, i.e. the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels, for the Music Instrument Museum in Brussels and for the Gaiffier d'hestroy Museum in Namur (Belgium). Françoise Rosier created her own restoration workshop in 1996, now well recognised by the «connaisseurs». In this context, she worked on paintings by Permeke, Paulus, Van Risselberghe, Delville, Frédéric, Bonnet, Van Alsloot,... She also participated in the restoration of a polychromic work of false marble at the “Chapelle St Marcou” in the Sablon Church (Brussels) under the supervision of Mrs Erika Rabelo.

## **LONDRA, 2005**

### **SIDSEL DORPH-JENSEN**

She was born in Denmark in 1973, and has since 2010 had her own Studio & Workshop in Aarhus City. She has lived 10 years abroad, first in Stockholm, where she began her training, then London where she finished her Master degree at the Royal College of Art and started her business. She attended the Royal College of Art, London - Master of Art, Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork & Jewellery, and the Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts & Design, Stockholm - Bachelor of Art, Metallformgivning, 2001. She is member of both Danske Sølvmede, Kjøbenhavns Guldsmedelaug and Contemporary British Silversmiths. In 2006 she presented The Goldsmiths' Company's Modern Collection at Prince Charles visit to Goldsmiths' Hall in London. She has been an Associate member

of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in London since 2010. While at the Royal College, Sidsel received her first major recognition by winning the Goldsmiths' Company's Young Designer-Silversmith Award in 2002. The piece she had created ended up in the Victoria and Albert Museum and it led to some significant commissions.

## **WÜRZBURG, 2006,**

### **REBECCA BASILE**

Rebecca Basile is a young Italian biologist who studied at Würzburg University. She has focused her research on the social behavior of the bees, especially on the Socio-physiology in honey bees and its role for bee health. She has studied the “honey bee health”, to understand how the “socio-physiology” influences the health status of individual bees and whole colonies (social immunity). Her experimental approach includes classical physiology of individuals (behavioral and immunological biology, neurobiology) and monitoring of whole colonies. Behavioral performances of individuals are cognitive abilities, communication performance and orientation. We follow large numbers of individually identified bees' life-long using high-technologies. She is still working as a talented scientist in the field of the behavioral biology at the University of Würzburg.

## **MADRID, 2007**

### **EMILIO BENITO GARCÍA**

Emilio Benito García is a lawyer, also graduated at the University of Infirmity and the University of Urgencies and Emergencies. He has been awarded with the Cross to the Police Merit in the 2003 and Silver Cross of the Order of Isabel the Catholic, granted by King D. Juan Carlos I in 2003. In 1992, under the direction of the Dr. Simón Viñals, he created the Service of Municipal Attendance of Urgency and Rescue, SAMUR. At the beginning, he was in charge of the personnel management and at the moment he is responsible for the external training course. SAMUR is a specialized and highly qualified emergency system of Madrid. The name stands for Servicio de Asistencia Municipal de Urgencia y Rescate. The main objective is to solve efficiently the medical emergencies that could arise in the streets, inside the Madrid metropolitan area. SAMUR also assumes the leading role in the management of terrorist attacks or catastrophe. Their effort was remarkable in the terrorist events

developed in Madrid on 11 March 2004, during the 2004 Madrid train bombings. They were also deployed to the accident involving Spanair Flight 5022.

## **AMSTERDAM, 2008**

### **TIES RIJCKEN**

Ties Rijcken's research integrates hydraulic engineering with related disciplines, such as urbanism, architecture and innovation management. Graduated an industrial design engineer at Delft University of Technology (2003), he entered the professional water world through his work on floating technology and living with water concepts. This architectural work continued after receiving the Leonardo da Vinci Award. He kept on specializing in floating houses and floating neighborhoods. He designed a balancing system for floating houses which is still on the market, and registered a patent for a floating platform construction system. He gradually moved from how to build floating neighborhoods, to why would we want to do so. This interest brought him to the faculty of civil engineering, after four years of various design, research and education projects at the faculties of Architecture and Industrial Design Engineering and, on a freelance basis, a number of non-academic organizations. Ties Rijcken's research integrates hydraulic engineering with related disciplines, such as urbanism, architecture and innovation management. For half the week, Ties Rijcken has recently been appointed scientific secretary at the Delft Infrastructures & Mobility Initiative (DIMI) and Delft Environment Initiative (DEnvI).

## **ATHENS, 2009**

### **DIONYSIS GRAMMENOS**

Dionysis Grammenos was born in Corfu Island and his musical intelligence and virtuosity have been recognized by conductors and instrumentalists worldwide. His international career was launched when he won the first prize at the Eurovision Musicians International Competition 2008, the first wind player to win this competition, performing in front of a huge audience and live broadcasted on television in more than 20 countries. Despite his young age, the 22-year-old Dionysis Grammenos had already performed with many international Orchestras. Dionysis Grammenos' recent and

upcoming engagements include performances as solist in prestigious halls. Dionysis Grammenos has a strong passion for chamber music and performs regularly with Berlin Philharmonia and Salzburg Mozart Quartet. Already at the age of 21 he made his conducting debut with Vienna Chamber Orchestra. He is a Gold Medallist of the City of Athens for his services to music and equally holds a prize for mathematics. Grammenos was appointed Artistic Director of the Corfu Festival of Arts in 2010. He received his Diploma with 1st Prize from the Athens Conservatory and continued his further musical development in style and interpretation under Prof. Martin Spangenberg with a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation. Dionysis Grammenos was invited to record the clarinet concertos by Nielsen and Spohr for his first CD with Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ari Rasilainen.

## **VIENNA, 2010**

### **JULIUS BRENNECKE**

Julius was born in Munich, and he studied Biology in Heidelberg. The choice whether to specialize in the biomedical area or in the field of conservation biology and the study of natural animal populations was a steady companion. Two 5-months trips to the Galapagos Islands and one to the Serengeti in Tanzania fueled his passion in the field research area. Yet he also experienced an immensely stimulating research internship at the EMBL in Heidelberg in the area of molecular genetics. Since his Diploma thesis in 2000 he studies selected aspects of *Drosophila* (fruit fly) development. During his PhD time at EMBL Heidelberg Julius stumbled coincidentally into the novel area of RNA interference, one of the most exciting areas of biological research today. In 2005 Julius moved to the United States where he worked at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories (New York) and at Harvard Medical School (Boston). During those three years, his work focused on understanding how organisms defend themselves against selfish genes, which populate every genome. Since January 2009 Julius is heading a research group at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology in Vienna. Research in Julius' laboratory is focused towards understanding how a specialized RNAi pathway called the piRNA pathway is controlling and selectively silencing selfish genetic elements such as jumping genes (transposons) in the animal germline. His team is investigating this in the genetic model organism *Drosophila melanogaster* and combines classical genetics with modern high throughput sequencing and computational biology.

## **DUBLINO, 2011**

### **DAVID O'REILLY**

David O'Reilly is an Irish film maker and writer based in Los Angeles, California. At 15-years-of-age a love of drawing led him to an internship at a local animation studio where he learned the ropes and excelled, teaching himself 3D software in his spare time. He is known for creating animated films using a distinctive 3d style. His first film was entitled Ident from which he draws his logo. This film sets the tone for his entire oeuvre, though the direct inclusion of outside memoirs disappear in his later work. He created the first video for Irish rock band U2's single "I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight." His short film, Please Say Something, was awarded the Golden Bear at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival, Best Narrative Short at the 2009 Ottawa International Animation Festival and several other awards. His latest short film, The External World, premiered at the 67<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival and the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, and he won over forty awards on its festival circuit including the IFTA for Best Animation. O'Reilly's work has been characterized by the use of intentionally stripped down 3d animation. He was an early adopter of glitch effects and uses elements of the software used inside his work.

## **TOURS, 2012**

### **NICOLAS MONMARCHÉ**

Nicolas Monmarché is an Informatics researcher. Since his earlier contact with research in computer science, during his engineering curriculum, Nicolas Monmarché has been interested in ants and specifically in their collective behavior, and how these behaviors can be transposed to computer science techniques. He has studied the behavior of ants with the aim of incorporating their collective-intelligence mechanisms to create tools adapted for disabled people. The purpose of this studies has spread to many areas, such as searching information on the web, optimizing the layout of visual keyboards or building simplified web sites for disable people. Today he is Assistant Professor in Computer Science, Polytech Tours, University of Tours.

## **FLORENCE, 2013**

### **NICOLA SALVIOLI**

Hailing from the province of Modena, he attended the Art Institute of Mantua. Thanks to his passion for art, he moved to Florence to approach the world of restoration. He accessed through a public competition to the conservation school of Opificio delle Pietre Dure, in the Department of Bronzes and Ancient Weapons, graduating with highest level of distinction. During his studies, he collaborated with professional conservators in the Florentine territory. He has worked with the Opificio delle Pietre Dure at the restoration of the Beheading of John the Baptist by Vincenzo Danti and the final stages of the restoration of the “Gate of Paradise” by Lorenzo Ghiberti. He restored the St. John the Baptist preaching to a Levite and a Pharisee by Giovanfrancesco Rustici in the Baptistery of Florence, Christ and the bronze relief (in progress) by Gianbologna for the funeral chapel of the artist at the Basilica of Saint Annunziata in Florence. He works with several museums, institutions and organizations, in Italy and abroad, collaborating on diagnostic campaigns to improve the knowledge of the work of art. He is an active tutor in several training centers.

## **BRUXELLES, 2014**

### **MONIQUE WEIS**

Monique Weis, PhD in History in 2001, teaches at the University of Brussels, mainly on subjects linked to the history of religions. She specialized in the political and religious history of Early Modern Europe, including the history of ideas. She has a particular interest in polemic literature produced in the context of confessional strife (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century), as well as in the writings of Enlightenment thinkers. She also works on the reception of the past, and particularly of the Renaissance and in the arts and literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. She is the director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Religions and Secularism at the Free University of Brussels. She is a member of International networks such as the Renaissance Society of America, the Société française d'Etude du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle and the Society of Reformation Research.

## **LONDON, 2015**

### **JOHN SAUNDERS**

Born and bred in the city of Cambridge, John went to the Netherhall School and Hills Road Sixth Form College before joining the British Army and serving as an Officer in the Royal engineers. John left the Army to train as a doctor and attended the Nottingham University Medical School. After his graduation, he followed a career in surgery and he spent the next eight years training within the East Midlands where he met his wife. He is now a Surgical Registrar and he is currently taking time away

from training to perform medical research within his specialist area of gastro-esophageal surgery at the University of Nottingham. Dr. Saunders John has published a number of academic papers within the field of surgery and he is currently completing a PhD. He has recently awarded a Royal College of Surgeons Research Fellowship for his pioneering research into Esophageal Cancer.

## **WURZBURG, 2016**

### **STEPHAN BUSCH**

Stephan Busch was born on 12.7.1978 in Koblenz. After the completion of the high school, he studied computer science (in addition to medicine) at the University of Würzburg. He completed his degree in 2005 and began the space master program. Stephan Busch received a joint master in space science and technology of the University of Technology, Lulea Sweden and the Technical University of Helsinki, Finland 2007. He began his doctorate in 2007 and currently he works as a research associate at the “Zentrum für Telematik” in Würzburg, with the emphasis on innovative, cost-effective and robust satellite system.

## **MADRID, 2017**

### **GUILLERMO GARCIA-CALVO**

Born in Madrid in 1978 Guillermo García Calvo began his musical education at the age of seven. He concluded his musical studies at the University of Music in Vienna with a thesis on Parsifal and a performance of the Overture from Tannhäuser in the Großer Saal at the Musikverein. Between 2001 and 2002 he worked as assistant for Iván Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra and in the summer of 2007 for Christian Thielemann and Der Ring des Nibelungen at the Bayreuther Festspiele. In March 2003 he celebrated his debut as opera conductor with a performance of Hansel and Gretel at the Schlosstheater Schoenbrunn.

In January 2011 Guillermo García Calvo made his opera debut in Spain with the premiere of Tristan and Isolde at the Teatro Campoamor of Oviedo, where he initiated the first release of the Ring des Nibelungen in the city of Oviedo in September 2013. The first opera of Wagner's tetralogy, Das Rheingold, enjoyed an overwhelming success among critics and the public. In December 2009 Guillermo García Calvo conducted the new production of Macbeth at the Vienna State Opera

standing in for Daniele Gatti, shortly after having celebrated his debut at the Deutsche Oper Berlin with another new production in May 2009, *La Cenerentola*.

As from the 2017-18 season he starts his tenure as musical director (Generalmusikdirektor) of the Theater Chemnitz and the Robert-Schumann-Philharmonie.

## **AMSTERDAM, 2018**

### **BOYAN SLAT**

Boyan Slat was born on 27 July 1994 in Delft. Boyan has been doing engineering projects and building things since he was two years old. He set a Guinness World Record by launching 213 water rockets simultaneously when he was 14. In 2011, at age 16, Boyan came across more plastic than fish while diving in Greece. He decided to devote a high school project for deeper investigation into ocean plastic pollution and why it was considered impossible to clean up. He later came up with the idea to build a passive system, using the circulating ocean currents to his advantage, which he presented at a TEDx talk in Delft in 2012. Slat discontinued his aerospace engineering studies at Delft University of Technology, to devote all his time to developing his idea. He founded The Ocean Cleanup in 2013, and shortly after, his TEDx talk went viral after being shared on several news sites; now he is CEO of the Ocean Cleanup. The Ocean Cleanup's mission is to develop advanced technologies to rid the world's oceans of plastic. After foundation, The Ocean Cleanup managed to raise \$2.2 million through a crowdfunding campaign with the help of 38,000 donors from 160 countries. In June 2014, the Ocean Cleanup published a 528-page feasibility study about the project's potential. In November 2014, Boyan Slat was awarded the Champions of the Earth Award of the United Nations Environment Programme. HM King Harald of Norway awarded him in 2015 of the Young Entrepreneur Award. Forbes included Slat in their 2016 "30 under 30" list, and in February 2017, Reader's Digest appointed him European of the Year.

## **Storia del "Premio Internazionale Leonardo da Vinci"**

Era l'anno **1973** quando il Rotary Firenze, approssimandosi il cinquantenario della propria fondazione, decise di istituire un premio da conferire a giovani studiosi che si erano distinti in ogni

disciplina artistica, scientifica e letteraria e di intitolarlo a Leonardo da Vinci, simbolo delle più elevate espressioni dello spirito. Sin da subito, si pensò di renderlo più confacente ad una delle principali vocazioni rotariane, quella dell'internazionalità, cercando ed ottenendo la pronta ed entusiastica adesione di altri Rotary europei. I Rotary Clubs di Tours, Athinai e Vienna-Ring aderirono immediatamente all'iniziativa. Fu così fondato, il "Premio Internazionale Leonardo da Vinci", con precise caratteristiche statutarie: l'importo da corrispondere al vincitore sarebbe stato di due milioni di Lire o il controvalore in moneta estera, oggi l'ammontare è di dodicimila Euro; la consegna del premio sarebbe avvenuta annualmente nelle città sedi dei Rotary aderenti; la designazione del premiato sarebbe stata fatta da un'eminente personalità di notorietà internazionale, scelta, così come la disciplina, da una giuria costituita dal Rotary organizzatore. Si aveva, così, l'assoluta garanzia dei meriti del premiato e, allo stesso tempo, la gradita occasione di rendere testimonianza all'esimia figura del presentatore.

La prima cerimonia avvenne a **Firenze il 13 Aprile 1975**, il pittore Ben Long, presentato dal Maestro Pietro Annigoni fu premiato nel Salone de' Dugento, in Palazzo Vecchio, dal Presidente Internazionale Giampaolo Lang.

Nel **1976 a Tours** il Conte di Parigi insignì del premio un giovane storico dell'arte rinascimentale Jean Guillaume, allievo di Andre Chastel. La cerimonia si svolse nel castello di Amboise, dimora di Francesco I, protettore di Leonardo.

Nel **1977** il Sindaco di **Atene** consegnò il premio a due giovani scultori, Stravos Valasakis e Constantinos Palaogolos, designati dal Professor George Rallis, Ministro della Pubblica Istruzione.

Nel **1978** il Dottor Otto Prohaska, inventore di una sonda per ricerche sulla corteccia cerebrale, ricevette il premio a **Vienna** dal Presidente della Repubblica Rudolf Kirchschräger. La cerimonia si svolse nel Palais Schwarzenberg, alla presenza del Ministro per la Ricerca Scientifica Hertha Firnberg.

Si concluse così il primo ciclo e la perfetta riuscita dei quattro incontri, la rilevanza culturale del premio e il valore simbolico di un gradito ed atteso incontro annuale fra rotariani provenienti da diversi Paesi dell'Europa, indussero altri Rotary Europei a chiedere l'adesione al Premio Leonardo. Così ai quattro Rotary Clubs fondatori, si aggiunsero nell'ordine: Madrid nel 1979, Bruxelles nel 1983, Londra e Würzburg nel 1984, Amsterdam nel 1987, sino a quando, all'unanimità, e sia pure

con molto rammarico, fu deciso di non accettare ulteriori adesioni, anche per limitare il già impegnativo onere organizzativo.

Il secondo ciclo iniziò nel **1979** con il ritorno del premio a **Firenze**: il critico musicale Leonardo Pinzauti propose il violinista quindicenne Alberto Bogni, allievo del Maestro Sandro Materassi, nome illustre fra i violinisti di tutto il mondo. La cerimonia si svolse, ancora una volta, nel Salone de' Dugento in Palazzo Vecchio.

Fu di particolare rilievo scientifico la scelta operata nel **1980** dal Rotary di **Tours**: nello Château d'Artigny venne assegnato il premio al giovane virologo Claude Naudion, cui andava il merito della messa a punto di un test diagnostico e di un vaccino contro l'epatite virale.

Nell'anno **1981** il Rotary di **Madrid** riservò il premio al geologo ed idrologo Ferdinando López Vera, autore fra l'altro, di un interessante "Atlante delle risorse idriche dell'America Latina".

Nel **1982** ad **Atene**, nell'Aula del Senato, l'ex Presidente della Repubblica Konstantinos Tsatsos consegnò il premio al pianista dodicenne Dimitris Sgouros, la cui reputazione aveva già varcato i confini della Grecia.

A **Vienna**, nel **1983**, il Presidente della Repubblica Austriaca premiò, nel salone delle feste del Palais Schwarzenberg, la dottoressa Ingeborg Hochmair, per i suoi studi nella realizzazione di protesi cocleari.

Nel **1984** in Palazzo Vecchio il Sindaco di **Firenze** premiò il fisico nucleare Giovanni Buonvicini, primo allievo del Professor Antonino Zichichi, successivamente apprezzato componente di una equipe impegnata in esperimenti nel "fascio ad ampio spettro di neutrini".

L'ex Primo Ministro di Francia, Michel Debré, nel **1985** nel Centro Jean de Ockeghem di **Tours** consegnò il premio all'architetto Patrick Blettery, autore di un fantastico progetto, nello stile di Leonardo da Vinci, di una città sotto il mare.

A **Bruxelles** nel **1986**, nell'Auditorium del Palais des Académies, il Premio Nobel Professor Ylia Prigogine presentò due fisici: uno di nazionalità indiana, il Dottor Baidyanath Misra e l'altro, di nazionalità belga, il Dottor Yves Elskens, le cui ricerche hanno contribuito allo studio dei "processi irreversibili nella meccanica statistica".

Nel **1987** a **Londra**, il celebre violinista Sir Yehudi Menuhin presentò la giovane percussionista scozzese Evelyn Glennie. Sir David Rowe-Ham consegnò il premio alla giovane artista, la quale, dopo pochi giorni, si sarebbe esibita con Sir Georg Solti e Murray Pershin, nella sonata di Bartok per pianoforte e percussioni.

A **Würzburg**, nel **1988**, nella stupenda "Kaisersaal der Würzburger Residenz", affrescata dal Tiepolo, il Professor Wilfrid Wild, Ministro della Cultura e Scienza della Baviera premiò il Dottor Dietrich Lorke, anatomopatologo di Amburgo, che aveva dedicato le sue ricerche ai disturbi della crescita.

Nel **1989** il premio ritornò a **Madrid**, nell'Aula Magna del Real Monasterio de El Escorial, il Prof Severo Ochoa, Premio Nobel per la medicina, designò il neurochimico Dottor Julian August Sánchez, artefice di importanti ricerche sulla relazione fra neurotrasmettitori e fosfolipidi della membrana, fattore determinante nelle patologie senili.

**Amsterdam** accolse per la prima volta il premio nel **1990**: nella storica Nieuwe Kerk, il Professor Ronald de Leeuw, Direttore del "Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh " presentò il giovane scultore Joost van den Toorn, al quale consegnò il premio il Sindaco di Amsterdam.

Nel suggestivo scenario del teatro di Erode Attico, ai piedi dell'Acropoli ad **Atene**, l'8 giugno **1991** il vice Primo Ministro Konstantinos Kanelopoulos consegnò il premio al violinista Leonidas Kavakos.

Nel **1992** il premio ritornò a **Vienna**: la materia prescelta fu l'ecologia e più precisamente il "costruire ecologicamente in armonia con la natura". Il premiato fu l'architetto Helmut Deubner che, seguendo mete ecologiche, biologiche e sociali, aveva progettato a Vienna il complesso di abitazioni "Gaertnerhof", un'opera pionieristica nel campo della edilizia ecologica.

Ancora a **Tours** nel **1993**: il Presidente del Senato, Monsieur René Monory, premiò l'Ingegnere Frédéric Patat per le sue ricerche sulle modificazioni fisiologiche nello spazio e sull'acustica delle alte frequenze, che hanno portato alla validazione di apparecchi per studiare le modificazioni cardiovascolari nei voli orbitali, installati per la prima volta nel 1982, sulla navetta spaziale "Saliout 7". Il vincitore dedicò l'ammontare del premio al perfezionamento di un progetto di ricerca di un "immunodetettore piezoelettrico".

Nel **1994** il Premio tornò a **Firenze**: nel Salone de' Cinquecento in Palazzo Vecchio, il Rettore dell'Università di Firenze, Professor Paolo Blasi, consegnò il Premio al giovane architetto Fabrizio Rossi Prodi, presentato dal Professor Pier Luigi Spadolini.

A **Bruxelles** nel **1995** Charles Picqué, Ministre President du Gouvernement de la Region de Bruxelles-Capital, consegnò il Premio al pianista Johan Schmidt.

Nel **1996** a **Londra**, dopo la presentazione di Jeremy Isaacs, Sovrintendente del Covent Garden, il Principe Filippo di Edimburgo premiò a Buckingham Palace la disegnatrice Joan Quinn, autrice di un satirico documentario animato sulla secolare storia della Gran Bretagna.

A **Würzburg** nel **1997** nella Hofstuben der Festung della Fortezza di Marienberg, Roman Herzog von Bayern, dell'antica famiglia Wittelsbach, alla presenza dello Staatminister dottor Thomas Goppel, premiò un quartetto musicale diretto da Klaus Ospald,

Nel **1998** a **Madrid** nel padiglione dei Jardines de Cecilio Rodríguez, nel magnifico parco del Retiro, il Sindaco Don José María Álvarez del Manzano, premiò Eig Omada, autore di apprezzati lavori di disegno composito.

Nel **1999** ad **Amsterdam** nella Oude Kerk, la più antica chiesa di Amsterdam, il Sindaco consegnò il Premio al giovane scultore Benoît Hermans, presentato dal Direttore del Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh, Professor Leeuw.

Nel **2000** ad **Atene**, nella suggestiva sede dell'antico Parlamento, il Presidente della Repubblica Konstantinos Stephanopoulos, premiò il già affermato pittore Nikolaos Frantzolas.

Nella Festsaal der Universität di **Vienna**, il Professor Skalicky, Rettore del Politecnico di Vienna, conferì il Premio per l'anno **2001**, alla promettente matematica Renate Mutschnig.

A **Tours** nel **2002**, il Deputato Europeo per la Regione della Turenna, Hervé Novelli, premiò Frédéric Brochet per i suoi innovativi studi nel campo della Ingegneria Enologica.

Nel **2003** il Premio tornò per la quinta volta a **Firenze**: la materia scelta fu l'affascinante avventura dell'uomo nello spazio, alla quale Leonardo dedicò molti dei suoi studi: *"Piglierà il primo volo il grande uccello, sopra del dosso del suo magno Cézero, empiendo l'universo di stupore, di sua fama tutte le scritture e gloria eterna al nido dove nacque"* (Fiesole, 1505, Codice sul volo degli uccelli - Biblioteca Reale di Torino). In omaggio a tanti esploratori del cosmo, il Sottosegretario della Difesa

premiò il tenente colonnello pilota Roberto Vittori, presentato dal Professor Mario Calamia, direttore generale dell'Agenzia Spaziale Europea.

Nel **2004**, il Premio raggiunse il traguardo del trentesimo anno di vita. La cerimonia si svolse a **Bruxelles** e la giuria, presieduta dal Barone Philippe Roberts-Jones, Segretario Permanente dell'Accademia Reale del Belgio, assegnò il premio a Françoise Rosier, per i suoi studi nel settore della conservazione e del restauro di quadri.

Nel **2005** a **Londra**, nella splendida cornice della Goldsmiths' Company, Sidsel Dorph-Jensen, una progettista di argenterie, ricevette il Premio da Sir Nicholas Goodison.

Nel **2006**, nell'incantevole atmosfera della cittadina di **Würzburg**, nella splendida Sala dell'Imperatore della Würzburger Residenz, l'ex Presidente Federale della Germania, Roman Herzog, premiò Rebecca Basile, una giovane biologa italo-tedesca, per le sue interessanti ricerche sul comportamento sociale delle api.

A Würzburg durante la riunione dei Presidenti fu accettata la candidatura di partecipazione al Premio Leonardo, del Rotary Club di Dublino, il più antico d'Europa.

Nel **2007** il Premio si tenne nuovamente a **Madrid**, dove nella calda atmosfera della Real Casa de Correos, Don Santiago Grisolia, premio Nobel per i suoi studi biochimici, premiò Don Emilio Benito García per le sue innovative idee nell'organizzazione dell'assistenza infermieristica ospedaliera.

Nel **2008**, per la terza volta gli amici olandesi organizzarono l'evento nella Muziekgebouw an't IJ, la nuova e suggestiva Concert Hall, situata nella parte Nord di **Amsterdam**. il Prof. Ronald Plasterk, Ministro dell'Educazione, della Cultura e delle Scienze dell'Olanda, premiò il giovane architetto Ties Rijcken.

Nello splendido salone dell'antico Parlamento di **Atene**, nel **2009**, il Sindaco della città Nikitas Kaklamanis conferì il Premio al giovane clarinettista, Dionisios Grammenos, presentato dal Maestro George Katsaros, insignito già di numerosi premi, tra cui il primo premio come solista con l'Orchestra Filarmonica di Vienna.

Durante la riunione dei Presidenti e del Segretario Generale, fu deciso che ogni Club avrebbe cercato di avere informazioni dei premiati, per conoscere meglio la loro storia umana e professionale.

Nel **2010** nella prestigiosa sede dell'Università di **Vienna**, alla presenza del Dott. Heinz Fischer, Presidente della Repubblica Austriaca e del Prof. George Winkler, Rettore dell'Università di Vienna, fu premiato Julius Brennecke, per le sue ricerche su i meccanismi che regolano l'espressione genica.

Nel **2011** il Premio Leonardo si tenne per la prima volta a **Dublino** nella prestigiosa sede del Trinity College, dove il Primo Ministro Irlandese Enda Kenny premiò il giovane animatore e disegnatore David O'Reilly per l'innovativo lavoro di animazione digitale

Nel **2012** gli amici di **Tours**, organizzarono per la sesta volta il Premio. Il vincitore di questa edizione fu l'ingegnere Nicolas Monmarché, pioniere nella ricerca informatica, premiato dal Premio Nobel Yves Chauvin.

Nel **2013** il Rotary Club **Firenze** ha ospitato il Premio per la sesta volta. Nella splendida atmosfera del Salone de' Cinquecento, in Palazzo Vecchio, alla presenza di autorità del Rotary e della città, la Dottoressa Maria Cristina Acidini, Sovrintendente del Polo Museale Fiorentino premiò Nicola Salvioli, giovane restauratore di manufatti bronzei tra cui la Porta del Paradiso di Lorenzo Ghiberti.

Nel **2014**, a **Bruxelles** il Professor Hervé Hasquin, Rettore dell'Università di Bruxelles, premiò nel prestigioso palazzo dell'Académie Monique Weis, una giovane studiosa della storia del sedicesimo secolo.

Nel **2015**, il Rotary Club di **Londra**, il più vecchio in Europa, organizzò la cerimonia per la quarta volta. Il Professor Robin Williamson, Past President della Royal Society of Medicine, premiò nella splendida Goldsmiths' Hall, John Saunders, un giovane chirurgo per le sue pionieristiche ricerche sul cancro.

A **Würzburg**, nel **2016**, nella Festival Hall della Julius-Maximilian University, il Professor Bernhard Fischenich, Governatore del Distretto, premiò Stephan Bush, un giovane ingegnere aerospaziale, per la realizzazione di satelliti di piccole dimensioni.

Nel **2017**, il Rotary Club di **Madrid** organizzò la cerimonia nella Real Academia Española de Lengua e Antonio Mosquera premiò il maestro Guillermo García-Calvo, un giovane ma già acclamato direttore d'orchestra.

A Madrid durante la riunione dei Presidenti fu accettata la partecipazione al Premio Leonardo del Rotary Club di Copenaghen, che aveva presentato la candidatura a Würzburg.

Nel **2018**, il Premio è tornato ad **Amsterdam** per la quarta volta. Gli amici olandesi hanno organizzato la cerimonia nel Rijksmuseum e i Presidenti dei Clubs del Premio Leonardo hanno premiato Boyan Slat, un giovane che ha ideato e sviluppato un sistema per pulire i mari dalla plastica.

Quest'anno **Firenze**, celebra il cinquecentesimo anniversario della morte di Leonardo Da Vinci e il Rotary Club Firenze organizzerà, dal 7 al 9 giugno, la Cerimonia per la settima volta.

Oltre all'evento Rotariano, la città organizza un intero anno di manifestazioni in onore del genio.

In tutti questi anni, il Premio Leonardo ha legittimato la validità dell'azione rotariana in favore dei giovani, nonché il dialogo e la fraterna amicizia fra Popoli Europei, in perfetta osservanza con la profezia leonardesca, contenuta nel Codice Atlantico:

*"Parleransi li omini l'uno all'altro di remotissimi paesi e risponderansi".*