

CRAFTSMANSHIP – NATIVITY SCENES FROM CAMPANIA

For the first time the Istituto Italiano di Cultura and the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce West presents an exhibition of Nativity scenes from the Campania region. These follow a tradition dating back to the late Middle Ages and thriving between the Baroque period and the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The artistic miracle of making Nativity scenes is still alive today, thanks to the commitment and hard work of talented craftsmen who are capable of making their creations come to life. The Nativity scenes and their characters, on view at the Spazio Italia Gallery from November 8, are made of cork, wood, chalk, pottery and various other materials. They are stunning in the use they make of colors and shapes, evoking not only the birth of Christ, but also the entire microcosm surrounding the event.

A typical Nativity scene from Campania region features moments of everyday life, characters captured in the act of talking or sharing in any other way this special moment. It is a kind of stage which highlights the crafts of the past in an architectural and geographical composition of great artistic value.

The Nativity scene with human characters dates back to the thirteenth century thanks to San Francesco d'Assisi. From the fifteenth century on, it spread to most of Europe, reaching its climax in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In the Kingdom of Naples, it gradually acquired very special features; the classical Palestinian setting was finally replaced by the lively Neapolitan city life.

Thursday, November 8, 2007

7:00pm

Istituto Italiano di Cultura

1023 Hilgard Ave

Los Angeles