



Invitation to the Press Conference

The Baroque in the Vatican Art and Culture in Papal Rome II 25 November 2005 - 19 March 2006

An exhibition organized by the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany in cooperation with the Musei Vaticani, the Fabrica di San Pietro, the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, the Martin-Gropius-Bau and the Berliner Festspielen, Berlin

Since the first successful exhibition 'High Renaissance in the Vatican', staged in 1999, was dedicated to the Vatican palaces, this second exhibition will focus on the Cathedral of St. Peter. Bernini and his most important projects for the Cathedral - such as the Cathedral square grounds, papal tombs and baldachin - will be introduced. Other exceptional artists of the era were commissioned to work on impressive altar paintings for Christianity's mother church. Later mosaic copies, which replaced the originals, were given little notice and may now be 'rediscovered' in Bonn. Around 1600 a new wave of theological and spiritual reflection took place, leading to a revolution in all areas of culture, art and religious life. This exhibition therefore takes a look at the entire cultural diversity existing in Papal Rome during the Baroque. It will present Rome, which at that time was the major city of art, not only by means of its great buildings and pictorial masterpieces, which to a great extent served to glorify the popes and cardinals, but it will also present unique examples from the human sciences, liturgy, music and literature. The incredible developments taking place in the modern sciences will also be focused upon.

The press conference will be held on 24th November 2005 at 11.00 a.m. in the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211) or E-Mail (ferreira@kah-bonn.de). **Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or www.bundeskunsthalle.de.** Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.

We are looking forward to your visit.

Maja Majer-Wallat
Press Officer