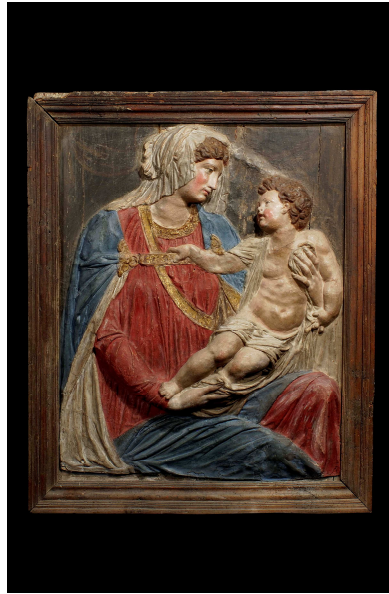




New York University
Villa La Pietra

Sansovino Reliefs on Exhibition at the Bargello Museum



Two papier-mâché reliefs of the Madonna and Child by Jacopo Sansovino from the Acton Collection were part of an exhibition in Florence's most important museum of sculpture, the Bargello from September to January of 2008. Sansovino (1486-1570) was a Florentine sculptor who also became famous as an architect when he moved to Venice. The exhibition is dedicated to five almost identical works which date from around 1560. The other three pieces come from the Bargello, the Louvre, and a museum in the town of Vittorio Veneto in northern Italy. The exhibition provides the opportunity to examine the similarities between the five

reliefs and the probability of their originating from a unique mold. Papier-mâché, known in Italian as *cartapesta*, is a material made from pulped or otherwise prepared paper, glue, chalk, and sometimes sand which hardens after being sculpted and baked. It is an unusual medium for important works of art because of its fragile nature but was widely used in Venetian circles. The *cartapesta* technique was studied using a non-invasive experimental technology provided by the Italian State *Istituto Centrale del Restauro* in Rome. The reliefs were scanned with a 3D digital laser and a precise computer model created. The exhibition provided Villa La Pietra with the unique opportunity to study two of its precious works and make them known to a wider public in a very prestigious venue.

