

Cultural heritage management and the social value of beauty

Posted on [November 4, 2016](#)



— Director Christopher Smith with the British Ambassador Jill Morris

The BSR has always been interested in Italy's cultural heritage, and [one of our September blogs](#) picked up some recent events exploring this theme. But even more has been happening since!

Dame Fiona Reynolds – former Director-General of the National Trust and our guest in September – has written a wonderful book entitled *The Fight for Beauty: Our Path to a Better Future*, and this was the theme picked up in a recent workshop in which UK think tank ResPublica and Italian think tank Trinità dei Monti, with support from the British Council, debated the idea of beauty as a civic right. Also speaking was the Director of the wonderful new development, V&A Dundee, who gave us a glimpse into future projects.

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The workshop ended with a lively debate between Caroline Julian from ResPublica, and Pippo Ciorra from the MAXXI. How is beauty best defined? What does it mean? Can chaos be beautiful? All questions which provoked a lively debate, which [you can hear on our podcast](#), but Fiona Reynolds' words remain with me:

'Beauty is not a luxury we can only have when we are rich; it is a way of shaping the changes we need and want so that they make a positive contribution to everyone's lives, as well as protecting the things and places we most value. To succeed we need to be clear about our objective; and beauty, sustainability and genuine public engagement must be at their heart.'

Christopher Smith (Director)

The podcast of the event [The Social value of Beauty](#) is available on the [BSR YouTube channel](#).