



## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The Cultural Association “Il Tombolo di Anghiari” announces, for the year 2025, the fourth International Competition for the creation of a work with using the bobbin lace technique entitled

**“...as I do with stone or blank paper  
That has nothing within, yet there lies what I desire.**

*the 550th anniversary of the birth of MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI*

The lace artists can take inspiration from all the works of the Master, including from his literary production, to create a work that cites at least one of Michelangelo's works. They will be able to build an interpretation of Michelangelo's thoughts and, by quoting it in a precise manner, tell us a well-known scene from his life, including his birth in Caprese Michelangelo, which the artist jokingly described to his friend Vasari with these words: “

Giorgio, if I have nothing good in my mind, it is due to me being born in subtlety of the air of the Your country of Arezzo” .

Like Michelangelo, who lived art as a guide and inspiration, the lace makers will be able to use thread in the most diverse of its techniques. This time the work will be hidden and traceable not in the marble, but in the yarn or in the skein of thread and the lace makers have the task to act with expert hands to weave the homage to the genius of Michelangelo.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

*Michelangelo Buonarroti was one of the most important artists of the Italian Renaissance,*

*but he was also a complex, multifaceted and obscure figure that fascinated scholars and*

*enthusiasts; his ability to work the marble until it almost becomes a living material makes him an exceptional artist. The David and the Pietà are perhaps the most important sculptures of his production, but to the sculptural art, which he himself defined as the noblest of all arts, his pictorial masterpieces are to be added.*

*The spectacular nature of the Sistine Chapel or the Last Judgement belong to the intellectual heritage of the entire world. His artistic genius clashes with*

*his private life always marked by inner torment; the Tuscan artist had a difficult personality and an irascible character. Vasari himself leaves us a not very flattering description of the character. His bad temper was so well known that Raphael portrayed him in the School of Athens in the guise of the philosopher Heraclitus, with a sullen face and his head resting on a hand and, in some way, associated with the cryptic and obscure Heraclitean philosophy-*

*The fourth edition of bobbin lace Competition organized by the cultural association "Il Tombolo di Anghiari" is dedicated to Michelangelo, on the 550th anniversary of his birth.*

*Buonarroti was born in Caprese, in the province of Arezzo, on March 6, 1475, his father being Ludovico the mayor. The second of five children, he spent his early years in Settignano where, as he said, he was raised on milk and marble, since he grew up in a shop of a stonemason, husband of the woman who acted as his wet nurse. In 1487, in Florence, in the workshop of Ghirlandaio he expresses uncommon qualities; it was not Michelangelo who had to pay for the tuition, it was Ghirlandaio who paid the young artist, surprised by his immense talent. In Florence he develops the concept of beauty of art which is imitation of nature and only by studying the latter can one grasp the Beauty; his imitation of nature is not a faithful one, but a reproduction that captures its best features.*

*In the last period of his life Buonarroti began a deep meditation on death which leads him to return to the theme of the "Pietà". His last unfinished work until the last days before his death in 1564, it is in fact the Pietà Rondanini, which takes its name from the marquises who purchased it in 1774, probably begun around or before 1552. The work has unfinished parts due to various artist's second*

*thoughts; the affection between mother and son is sublimated into a sort of embrace. But we must not forget that Michelangelo, the prototype of the Renaissance man, was also an engineer, architect and poet. Of his literary production we remember the sonnet n.151 of the Rime, from 1538-44:*

*“ Nothing the best of artists can conceive  
but lies, potential, in a block of stone,  
superfluous matter round it. The hand alone  
can free it that has intelligence for guide.*

*The excellent sculptor does not conceive an idea that the marble does not already contain within itself and the hand he reach it only if it obeys the thought.*