

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

CONTACT: Dena Crosson
Ellen Stanley
(202) 842-6353

** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLOSE-UP VIEW OF DONATELLO RESTORATION WORK AT NATIONAL GALLERY

Title: Donatello at Close Range: An Initial View of the Restoration in the Old Sacristy of San Lorenzo, Florence

WASHINGTON - A photographic display documenting recent restoration on stucco reliefs by Italian Renaissance sculptor Donatello in the Old Sacristy of the Church of San Lorenzo in Florence will go on view in the National Gallery of Art's West Building on April 3, 1987.

Consisting of three stucco roundels with scenes from the life of Saint John the Evangelist, as well as pairs of standing saints and a frieze of angel's heads, Donatello's work had been badly obscured by grime and old repainting. With restoration, the sculptures can be seen with renewed freshness. To date half the sacristy has been restored.

The exhibit utilizes materials made possible by a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to the World Monuments Fund. Their contribution has enabled the scientific group E.Di.Tech. of Florence to conduct especially sophisticated analyses and an extensive photographic campaign to determine and document the nature of the restoration performed. In particular, the photography by Maurizio Seracini brings the viewer closer to Donatello's sculpture in the Old Sacristy of San Lorenzo than before possible.

#

#

#