

## TIMELINE

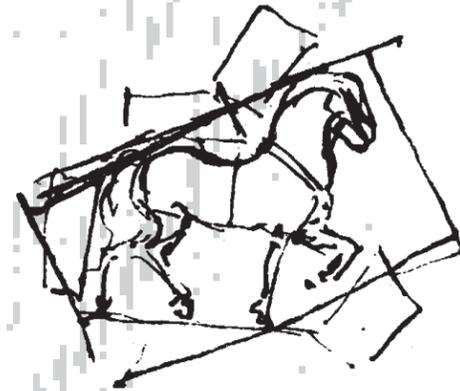
- 1977 to 1979 Charles Dent reads a *National Geographic* article about "The Horse That Never Was." Meetings in U.S. and Italy to explore the feasibility of a new Horse. Dialogue with leading art historians, purchase of a Fogelsville (Lehigh Valley), Pennsylvania, farm for project headquarters.
- 1980 to 1984 Construction begins on the 50-foot diameter Dome, the studio in which the initial eight-foot Horse was sculpted. Non-profit status gained for LdVHI. Research continues.
- 1985 to 1987 Charles Dent begins a series of clay and wax maquettes. Research on armature design for eight-foot master clay model. Feature articles in local newspapers. Champion Morgan horses take up residence at the farm as models for sketches and photography.
- 1988 Dent pursues Renaissance studies in England. Armature is constructed and first 1,000 pounds of clay placed.
- 1989 to 1990 Media interest increases. East Coast foundries are visited, costs finalized. Council of Scholars is formed. Leonardo's birthday becomes the first fund-raiser, with the Italian ambassador to the United Nations as a guest. The volunteer corps grows. National media picks up on the project.
- 1991 Symposium, *Leonardo's Sforza Horse: The Art and Engineering*, is held at Lafayette College, Lehigh University and the Dome Studio. Presentations at the educational conferences. Charlie Dent appears on the *CBS Morning Show*, and is interviewed on *Voice of America*. the Foundry Fund is established. Print media features increase dramatically.
- 1992 Preliminary eight-foot master model completed, rubber molds pulled from the model, plaster model made and delivered to the Dome. Presentations at major events in Pennsylvania.
- 1993 Fiberglass model painted in gold, installed on pedestal outside the Dome. More serious fund-raising begins. Posters printed for sale. Newspaper coverage in U.S. and Italy.
- 1994 Trustees raise \$77,000 for Charlie Dent's 77th birthday. Dent becomes ill, dying on Christmas Day. Board pledges completion of The Horse.
- 1995 Board expanded. Plaster model travels to Tallix Foundry. Media interest holds and increases.
- 1996 National and international exposure in all media, generating spontaneous contributions.
- 1997 First enlargement of The Horse raises design and anatomy questions. Nina Akamu is hired as sculptor to create a new eight-foot model and 24-foot model. Nina supervises a team of six assistant sculptors to implement and transfer the forms to the 24-foot clay model. Frederik Meijer, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, is captivated by the story of The Horse. Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, commits to acquisition of the second and only other casting of the 24-foot bronze Horse—to be referred to as the American Horse. Funds from this purchase help complete the foundry work on The Horse.
- 1998 The Horse appears on the *Today Show*, on the cover of the September *Smithsonian*. The 24-foot clay model is completed and celebrated with a festive pre-casting party at the foundry. The Mayor of Milan and City Council accept the gift in the name of the Italian people.
- June, 1999 The completed Leonardo da Vinci Horse™ is bolted together for a final trial at the Tallix Art Foundry in Beacon, New York and displayed to the general public before being flown to Milan in seven crates as a guest of Alitalia.
- Sept. 10, 1999 Leonardo's dream is fully realized when the completed bronze is presented to the Italian people as a gift from Americans grateful for his influence on their cultural life. The unveiling takes place at *Il Cavallo's* permanent home at San Siro Hippodrome in Milan.
- Oct. 7, 1999 The American version of *Il Cavallo* is unveiled at the Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan. An eight-foot version of The Horse is also placed in the garden's educational center.

## INFORMATION

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## THE HORSE THAT NEVER WAS... IS



 TALLIX  
 Design & Layout: Kerri L. Carubia

1499 - 1999

AFTER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS...A DREAM COMES TRUE • MILAN, ITALY SEPTEMBER 10, 1999



REFINEMENT OF WAX MODEL FOR 10-INCH LIMITED EDITION



SCULPTOR NINA AKAMU APPLYING DETAILS TO THE PLASTER EIGHT-FOOT MODEL



FINAL ASSEMBLY OF THE 24-FOOT BRONZE SCULPTURE. NOTE SUPPORTS FOR STAINLESS STEEL ARMATURE UNDER THE RIGHT HOOF.

## THE HORSE THAT NEVER WAS

Nearly five hundred years after his death, the story of Leonardo da Vinci's Horse™ captivates people of all ages around the world. During the weekend of June 25, 1999 over 50,000 people gathered to admire the 24-foot bronze recreation of Leonardo's *Il Cavallo*—the horse that never was. The three day *buon viaggio* celebration was held in Beacon, New York, at the Tallix Art Foundry, where the 15-ton bronze sculpture, a gift to all Italians from the American people, was created.

*Il Cavallo* is being presented to the Italian people in recognition of Leonardo and the importance of the Italian Renaissance to our own culture. Leonardo's original horse was destroyed in 1499 when a French army invaded and captured Milan. The French archers made their camp in the vineyard where Leonardo had completed his 24-foot high clay model of an idyllic stallion, which he expected to cast in bronze for his patron, Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan.

Leonardo scholar Dr. Carlo Pedretti describes the scene that must have greeted the archers on that autumn day five centuries ago: *That site, which is today a dense and noisy urban district, was then a pleasant expanse of open fields, dotted with trees and shrubs, or neatly kept orchards, vineyards or citrus groves... One can well imagine the skyline of such a peaceful landscape, bathed in the mellow light of a misty morning of a September day in the Lombard plain...and see the skyline suddenly interrupted by the imposing silhouette of Leonardo's colossal clay model, standing there with the foreboding of a Trojan horse. That must have been the way the Gascon bowmen of the French troops saw it when they entered Milan...on 10 September 1499.*

By the next morning, Leonardo's horse was well on its way to destruction, for the archers used it as a target for their arrows. Winter rains and freezing weather finished the job. Meanwhile, Leonardo fled Milan and found refuge with friends. When he died in 1519 he still mourned the two accomplishments that had evaded him—the horse that would have made his mark as a sculptor and fulfillment of his dream of being able to fly.

## THE HORSE THAT NEVER WAS...IS

Centuries later, a man who spent his professional life flying, United Airlines pilot Charles Dent, encountered the intriguing story of the horse in an article in a 1977 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*. Filled with great enthusiasm and inspiration, Dent's instantaneous response was, "Let's give Leonardo his horse." He knew that there was only one Leonardo, only one true Leonardo horse, but he set about creating a sensitive, appropriate monument to Leonardo's genius and his contributions to the world in which we live. As Charlie Dent emphasized, "It is the gesture itself which is most important." The new horse would be an American vision of the fifteenth-century horse, based on the sculptor's drawings, Renaissance scholarship and other equine figures of the same period.

Dent's lifelong talent for enlisting others in his goals led to the creation of Leonardo da Vinci's Horse, Inc. a non-profit organization. He also succeeded in involving a group of unsung sculptors, friends, relatives, horse lovers and hundreds of enthusiasts who, after hearing the story, contributed time, effort and funds to help make Leonardo's dream come true. It is ironic that after Charlie Dent's death in 1994 his will, primarily a bequest to The Horse, provided the substantial sum that took the model to the foundry in Beacon, New York where it was to be enlarged to a colossal scale and cast in bronze.

After a careful assessment of the enlargement made from Charlie Dent's eight-foot model, it was decided that changes were necessary and ultimately the board of LdVHI authorized a fresh start. Leading animal sculptor Nina

# Il Cavallo

Akamu and a team of skilled assistants devoted more than a year to sculpting a new eight-foot clay master model of the horse at Tallix Foundry. After final approval it was then enlarged to its full 24-foot height.

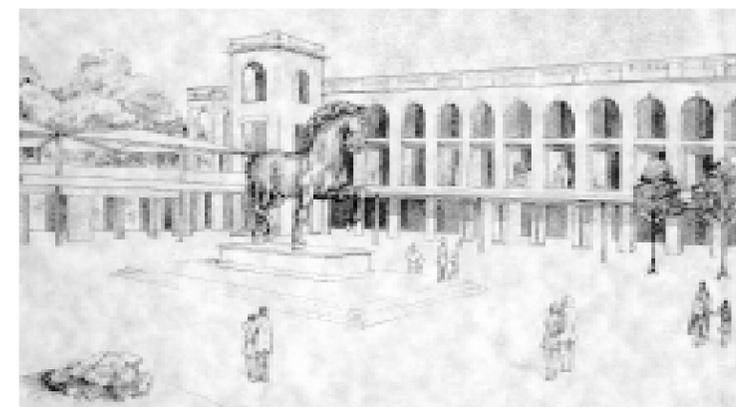
Over the past 20 years a pattern has developed. Once captivated, people have remained involved. The appeal rests not only with the romance of the story, but also with the importance assigned to the universal symbol of the horse. The circulation list for *The Scribe*, the LdVHI newsletter, has grown from several hundred to thousands. Everyone who makes a contribution—up to the moment of unveiling—will be placed on the permanent record of donors to be maintained in this country and in Milan. A scroll of appreciation will be mailed to every donor on the day the sculpture is installed.

In order to help finance the multi-million-dollar project, the sponsoring organization, LdVHI, has authorized the production and sale of smaller-size limited and registered editions of the soon-to-be-famous sculpture. Tallix Marketing LLC, a subsidiary of the American foundry where the great charger was created, is in the process of casting bronze horses in a size range from five inches to 12 feet. The substantial royalties from these sales will go toward the completion of the Milan Horse and related educational programming.

When the day of unveiling arrives, the ceremonies and the broad sense of ownership will re-emphasize the strong historical and cultural ties between the United States and Italy. Many of the contributors intend to travel to Milan to share the excitement of unveiling the symbol of the two dreams—separated by 500 years. On September 10, 1999, The Horse will take its place on a pedestal in Milan.

## AND THIS IS NOT THE END

Creation of The Horse is perhaps only the beginning of renewed American interest in the wonders of the Renaissance. Sculpture collector and visionary Frederik Meijer of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was captivated by the story of Charles Dent's dream for The Horse. As a result, the non-profit Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park has purchased the second and *only* other casting of the 24-foot bronze Horse—referring to it as the American Horse. October 7, 1999 marks the arrival date of the American Horse at the new Michigan sculpture park. An eight-foot casting of The Horse can also be viewed at the park's education center.



IN ITALY A UNIQUE PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE CITY OF MILAN AND THE PARENT COMPANY (SNAI), OWNERS OF THE FAMOUS 19TH CENTURY SPORTING GROUNDS KNOWN AS THE SAN SIRO HIPPODROME. THIS ALLIANCE WILL PROVIDE A VENUE TO PUBLICLY DISPLAY LEONARDO DA VINCI'S HORSE™. RENOVATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO CREATE A CULTURAL PLAZA IN THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND ARCADES THAT SURROUND THE GOODWILL GIFT FROM AMERICA.



FIFTY THOUSAND PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE TALLIX ART FOUNDRY IN BEACON, NY TO BID BUON VIAGGIO TO IL CAVALLO. THE HORSE WAS THEN SHIPPED TO MILAN, WHERE IT WAS INSTALLED AT THE SAN SIRO HIPPODROME IN PREPARATION FOR ITS SEPTEMBER 10, 1999 UNVEILING.



PICTURED HERE IS A TEN-INCH LIMITED EDITION CASTING OF IL CAVALLO. LIMITED EDITIONS UP TO TWELVE-FEET ARE AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS A REGISTERED UNLIMITED FIVE INCH SIZE. ALL ROYALTIES FROM THE SALE OF THESE EDITIONS HELP FINANCE THE MILAN HORSE AND THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF LEONARDO DA VINCI'S HORSE™, INC., THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION.