



Florence: Renaissance art meets Ai Weiwei

Until January 22, 2017, the Helvetia & Bristol will offer a stay that includes access to the first Italian exhibition by China's most famous contemporary artist

Florence, October 20, 2016. Until January 22, 2017, Florence and Palazzo Strozzi are hosting the first large-scale **Ai Weiwei** retrospective in Italy. Weiwei is currently one of the most famous and controversial artists worldwide, having been persecuted multiple times by the Chinese government for his critical, provocative artwork.

After displaying works by Jeff Koons and Jan Fabre in Palazzo Vecchio, Florence is once again proving to be a destination for art that reflects contemporaneity, hosting **Ai Weiwei's** conceptual installations. For years now, he has fought on the frontlines for freedom of expression and human rights, and has now covered the 15th century palace facade with 22 inflatable rafts, alluding to the urgent drama of our time, the migrant crisis. Within three weeks of opening, the exhibition saw 30,000 visitors, confirming its status as the cultural event of the year.

The **Helvetia & Bristol Hotel – Starhotels Collection**, one of Florence's historic 5 star hotels, is housed in a prestigious 19th century palace facing Palazzo Strozzi and has been part of Starhotels since July 2016. Helvetia & Bristol guests are invited to discover this important Italian debut: two tickets will be given to guests staying in Deluxe, Executive, Junior Suite and Suite rooms, with rates starting at 280€.

This is a priceless opportunity to dive in to this Chinese artist's creative genius while also enjoying the refined hospitality of a hotel that's been a symbol of Florentine history since the 19th century, situated in the heart of the city with an exceptional view of Palazzo Strozzi.

For more information on the exhibition, visit the website www.palazzostrozzi.org.

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