

**VNR “SAVE ART”**

**COMMENTS VOICE OVER**

**VALENTIN 1**

00.27

*The Save Art project concerns the elimination of insects which are destroying our cultural heritage. It aims at getting rid of them with a very simple, economical and fast system.*

00.40

Insect pest on works of art, being books, paintings, textiles, stuffed animals are a catastrophe in museums, libraries and private collection.

The Biblioteca Marciana of Venice owes a lot to the Save Art project.

**PLEBANI 1**

00.58

*This library contains a million modern books, more than 14,000 manuscripts and a very high quantity of incunabula, important books printed in the 16th century.*

01.12

*In 1996, we became aware of the fact that insects were damaging some books.*

01.23

*Here, we can see the resulting damage: holes, disintegration of the binding, and in the book itself, this deterioration, typical of the larvae of the furniture beetle (*Anobium punctatum*).*

01.38

The anobium is the most common parasite of all infestation agents. Its voracious larva attacks books, furniture and paintings.

01.48

There are also many tiny insects which cause irreversible damage to the cultural heritage by eating away organic matter such as paper, parchment, leather, fabric, and of course wood.

01.55

Fighting this plague is a constant concern for curators.

## **GIALDI 1**

02.00

*As part of the Save Art project, we developed this device, named VELOXY, standing for "Very Low Oxygen". With it, we can obtain an extremely low oxygen level inside custom-made wrappings used to treat the works of arts.*

02.51

The device is simple to use and anybody can do it. It is easy to carry around and can be taken to the place where the works of art are.

Its main asset is that it is non-toxic and non-polluting.

Until recently, the infested books had to be put into 'gas chambers' to be treated with dangerous pesticides, which are hazardous for the operators and the works of art alike.

Veloxy is totally safe for man and for the works of art, as it uses only the ambient air and no other gas.

Roughly speaking, air we breathe is made up of 20% oxygen and 80% nitrogen.

03.08

A compressor propels this ambient air through a bundle of very fine semi-permeable tubes. Being a slower gas, oxygen is expelled from the tubes by the faster nitrogen.

03.24

The device simply extracts the air from the wrapping and gradually replaces it with the filtered nitrogen, which is brought to optimal levels of temperature and humidity.

It takes from a few minutes to a few hours - depending on the size of the object to be treated - to bring the oxygen level inside the wrapping from 20% to less than 2 tenths of a percent.

When this result is reached, the valves are shut and the treated object is kept in its wrapping for three weeks.

This procedure is totally effective.

## **VALENTIN 2**

03.57

*Excluding oxygen eliminates all the insects - be they eggs, larvae, pupae or adults, since they all need oxygen to survive.*

## **PLEBANI 2**

04.11

*All the books you can see here have been treated, as well as many others. We have treated half a million books. They were not all infested, but to eliminate the risk of contamination, we decided to act in nearly all the library premises.*

04.32

*Veloxy is a very flexible system: we can treat a single book, twenty or a hundred.*

04.44

*Usually, for these books, we take a whole shelf, sometimes two, and wrap the books in large bags, which can contain up to 300 books at a time.*

## **GIALDI 2**

04.58

*This device processed 196 manuscripts in the Biblioteca Capitolare of Vercelli, the oldest of which dated from the 4th century AD... That's right: the 4th century! This means in the years 300!*

*Injecting insecticides into such an old manuscript is unthinkable...*

05.26

With an operating cost 80% lower than toxic treatments, Veloxy can also treat paintings, wooden objets d'art, furniture, fabric, and of course the stuffed animals from the museums of Natural History which should avoid parasites like the plague.

05.40

Financed by the European Commission, the Save Art project gathered expertise from Italy, England, Spain and Sweden.

Yet, its findings concern the whole world.

## **VALENTIN 3**

05.50

*The European Museums and Libraries are not the only ones concerned; it is also a very important issue for Latin America, as there are objects with a very high level of infestation over there.*

06.11

*Many museums also use the plastic wrappings to preserve and store very delicate objects which are exhibited in a very humid atmosphere.*

06.20

Simple, economical and fast, Veloxly is a revolution not only for museum curators, librarians and archivists but also for private collectors of ancient precious objects.