Art exhibition
heart and soil

"**Heart and Soil**" is an exhibition about the **connection between contemporary art and soils** that will take place at FAO headquarters in Rome from 20 to 22 June 2017. Soil is crucial for food security, ecosystem health and sustainable development. Despite this, we place **our soil at risk** from erosion, soil sealing and contamination in many areas in the world. Art complements scientific research by allowing us to grasp, in visual terms, the consequences that damaging and degrading our soils will have for future generations. It adds urgency to the message that **we need to act now**. In this age of growing environmental responsibility, art provides other narratives that link us, deeply and emotionally, to the soil from which life springs. Embedding soils in art allows artists to provide a deep and transformational examination of the importance of soil in paintings, sculptures and mark making.

The exhibition is part of the **Global Soil Partnership communication campaign** aimed at elevating public attention on how healthy soils are crucial for our existence. The opening ceremony will take place on 20 June 2017 at the conclusion of the first day of the GSP Plenary Assembly.

TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2017 | 17:00

OPENING OF THE ART EXHIBITION

Eduardo Mansur, Director of the Land and Water Division will officially open the exhibition, which sees **eight internationally renowned artists** embed soils into visual art using soil as a source material or a pigment. Eminent harpist Micol Picchioni will play at the launch, inviting the participants to discover the artworks to the melodic sound of the ancient musical instrument, thus forming an ebbing and flowing soil symphony. The harp is for the sound what the prism is for the light. The sound split in its main elements reveals that of the ground.

The artists are collaborating pro bono with FAO for this temporary exhibition:

Quirino Cipolla SCULPTOR
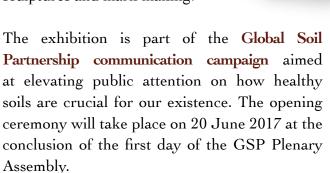
Francesca Lolli VIDEO PERFORMER

Alfredo Macchi PHOTOGRAPHER

Roberto Mannino PAINTER

Rossella Pezzino de Geronimo PHOTOGRAPHER

Micol Picchioni HARPIST

Alessandro Rabboni PHOTOGRAPHER

Angelica Romeo PAINTER

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP