



"The prison," The prisons of Invention (1761 ca.).  
Courtesy of la Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venezia

## Piranesi and the Arts

From 25 April to 9 September 2012

Inauguration: 24 April

**Curator:** Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Adam Lowe  
(Factum Arte)

**Produced and organised by:** "la Caixa" Welfare Projects

**CaixaForum Madrid is mounting an exhibition of one of the most important illustrators of the 18th century. Like no-one else he cultivated the three dimensions and detail in the engraving**

Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778) was one of the most important draftsmen of the 18th century. The technique, intensity and evocative power of his work had a great influence on Romantics, Surrealists and Cubists. His engravings of Venetian gaols still inspire film sets today.

"la Caixa" Welfare Projects is bringing to Spain for the first time this comprehensive major exhibition of Piranesi's work. It does so through new and innovative ways of observing the engraving which enable visitors to broaden and enrich their vision of the works with pieces that come to life.

The exhibition invites the spectators on a journey through Piranesi's career with over 300 original engravings. Combined with a complementary selection of photographs, figures and audiovisuals, they introduce the general public to the work of this Italian master.

The exhibition has reproductions in different materials of Roman pieces of furniture and ornaments from his *Antichità Romane* series, a gripping audiovisual that endows his *Gaols of the imagination* with a disturbing depth and dimension, and contemporary photographs by G. Basilico for his collection of engravings of *Views of Rome*. Comparisons that will enable the spectators to discover the three dimensions, perspective and detail of Piranesi's engravings.