



GOVERNATORATO

DIREZIONE DEI MUSEI
E DEI BENI CULTURALI

Il Direttore

6837/2026.13

11 maggio 2026

Victor,

first and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your generous gesture toward the Vatican Museums and, in particular, the Anima Mundi Ethnological Museum, through your offer to donate the rowing boat *Spirit of Malabo*, a work of profound symbolic, cultural, and spiritual significance.

The vessel stands not only as an object of exquisite craftsmanship and refined workmanship, but also as a significant testimony capable of evoking themes of great contemporary relevance and universal scope: dialogue among peoples, the eco-spiritual dimension, relations between continents, and the human reality of migration. In this sense, *Spirit of Malabo* appears as a true "narrative in motion," a symbolic bridge between cultures and an eloquent sign of hope and hospitality.

Precisely for these reasons, the proposal was carefully evaluated together with the Curator of the Department of Ethnological Collections. With sincere regret, however, I must inform you that, at the present time, it will not be possible to proceed with the acquisition of the work into the permanent collections of the Anima Mundi Ethnological Museum. This decision is in no way related to the value of the work itself, but derives exclusively from the current lack of an adequate and museologically suitable space capable of ensuring its proper and dignified placement within the Museum's exhibition itinerary.

Nevertheless, in consideration of the evocative power and prestige of the vessel, it may eventually be possible to explore, in the future, an alternative placement in a context such as Castel Gandolfo, where the work might find a form of presentation more consistent with its symbolic and dimensional characteristics.

Thanking you once again for the sensitivity you have shown toward the Vatican Museums and for the trust you have placed in us, I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my highest and most distinguished consideration.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of my highest regards.

Barbara Jatta

Victor Mooney
South African Arts International
70-29 Park Drive East, A
Flushing, New York 11367

victor_mooney@hotmail.com

BJ/nf/cm