

**Donatello's Marzocco**  
By Greg Balagian

In 2012, Russian Post issued a souvenir sheet commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow.

Many examples of plaster cast works of art from medieval sculpture and the Italian Renaissance are pictured in the margin, recreating the inner courtyard of the Bargello Palace in Florence.

Donatello's *Marzocco* sculpture, known as the Lion of Tuscany, is depicted. The seated lion represents freedom for the Italian state; its right paw is raised to defend the arms of Tuscany.

The Lion of Tuscany is on a series of stamps issued by the Italian city-state of Tuscany from 1851 through 1859 (Scott 1-16). 🐾

The Lion of Tuscany, the *Marzocco*, is on Scott Tuscany 6 (4 crazie green, 1851).



A replica of the Lion of Tuscany is on a Russian souvenir sheet.



**Seeing Double from North Korea**  
By Greg Balagian

Yi Am (1499-1566) was a prominent Korean painter during the mid-Joseon Dynasty and the great-grandson of King Sejong the Great.

His paintings are famous for the 'live' style, which was dramatically different from the static style originated in China.

Unlike the professional court painters who made Chinese landscapes their specialty, Yi Am also painted popular subjects like birds, insects, flowers and animals, including cats and kittens.

Yi Am usually painted by pen, ink, thin brushes and various colors on paper and silk. 🐾

Cat on a Tree, by Korean artist Yi Am, is pictured on two stamps from North Korea: Scott 1763, from 1978 (left) and in 2013. See the color photo on page 17.



**Tanzania: Tingatinga Art**  
By Greg Balagian

Tingatinga (or Tinga Tinga) is the name of a popular African folk painting style which originated in Tanzania with Edward Saidi Tingatinga (1932-1972).

Tingatinga art has its roots in the African tradition of decorating hut walls. The paintings were made by using pigments found in nature and the motifs were animals--including felines--and people.

In 2011, Mozambique issued a large series of art genres. One souvenir sheet pictures a blue lion by Edward (Eduardo) Tingatinga on the single stamp. The lion on the top left margin is by Saidi Omary. Noel Kapanda painted two leopards: one with its back toward the viewer on the left margin [on page 20] and another on a miniature sheet [on the front cover].

The Republic of Guinea also issued a series of art stamps with Tingatinga animals in 2011 [not shown]. Steven Mkumba's cheetah family is on a single stamp miniature sheet. Other wild cats, painted by various artists, are on the six-stamp sheet and in the margin. 🐾

**Spain's Marble Lion Mailbox**  
Courtesy of Greg Balagian

Spain chose a 19th century marble lion mailbox for its 2011 Postal Union of the Americas theme of Mailboxes. The intricately carved lion's head, by an unknown sculptor, appears to be holding the mail slot in its jaws.

The stamp and a postmark [page 22] were issued on October 11, 2011. 🐾



Spain, Sculpted Marble Lion Mailbox, 2011