

## PRESS RELEASE

### **F.I.L.A. FURTHER STRENGTHENS ITS GROWTH STRATEGY BY SIGNING AN EXCLUSIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTS BY A HISTORIC BRAND OF PREMIUM PAPER FOR ARTISTS: ARCHES®**

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**Milan, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - F.I.L.A.** - Fabbrica Italiana Lapis ed Affini S.p.A. (ISIN IT0004967292) has announced the signature of an exclusive agreement with the Ahlstrom-Munksjö Group today for the worldwide distribution of ARCHES® brand products starting from January 2020.

Since 1492, ARCHES® has represented the most widely used paper for the creative arts, preferred by, among the others, Van Gogh, Matisse, Chagall, Picasso, Braque, Miro, Dali, Warhol, Alechinsky, as well as by major art publishers. Famous throughout the world, ARCHES® products are used by a vast number of artists and publishers on all continents.

The right mixture of carefully selected fibres is the quintessence of ARCHES® papers and has been their guarantee of quality for over 500 years. The Company uses a particular production technique, known as cylinder mould, which gives an excellent quality and a unique natural appearance. Each production cycle is submitted to many technical inspections, which guarantee the paper's undisputed quality that has made the brand's reputation over the centuries.

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*"I am proud to announce the signing of this strategic agreement for F.I.L.A." declares Massimo Candela, CEO of F.I.L.A. "The positive worldwide development and the M&A strategy completed by our Group between 2016 and 2018 have convinced ARCHES® Management that F.I.L.A. was the ideal partner to guarantee an effective development of this prestigious range of products. The strategic position of the Group is undoubtedly much stronger today and guarantees a significant development also in new markets such as China and India for ARCHES® brand. This agreement is a further step towards the aggregation of a sector that is still very fragmented".*

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**F.I.L.A. (Fabbrica Italiana Lapis and Affini)**, founded in Florence in 1920 and managed by the Candela family since 1956, is an Italian company and one of the strongest, most dynamic, innovative and growing companies in the market. Since November 2015, F.I.L.A. has been listed on Milan Stock Exchange, in the STAR segment. With a turnover of over 600 million euros at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, the Company has experienced a significant growth in the last twenty years and has pursued a series of strategic acquisitions,

*including the Italian Adica Pongo, the US Dixon Ticonderoga Company and the Pacon Group, the German LYRA, the Mexican Lapiceria Mexicana, the English Daler-Rowney Lukas and the French Canson founded by the Montgolfier family in 1557.*

*F.I.L.A. is the icon of the Italian creativity in the world with its products for colouring, drawing, modelling, writing and painting thanks to brands like Giotto, Tratto, Das, Didò, Pongo, Lyra, Doms, Maimeri, Daler-Rowney, Canson, Princeton and Strathmore.*

*Since its origins, F.I.L.A. has chosen to base its growth and development on the continue innovation of both technologies and products, thus giving people the chance to express their ideas and talents with excellent quality tools. Additionally, F.I.L.A. and the companies of the Group cooperate with the institutions by supporting educational and cultural projects to enhance people's creativity and expressiveness and make culture accessible to all.*

*F.I.L.A. has 21 production plants (two of them in Italy), 35 commercial subsidiaries in the world and employs about 9,500 people.*

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