



MUSEO
ITALO AMERICANO

**NEWS
LETTER**

APRIL • JUNE 2022

• SERENA BOCCHINO • KARA MARIA • NOLA PARDI PROLL

Rhapsody

03.17.2022 | 08.28.2022

Preserving Our Italian Heritage & Culture

MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO

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MUSEO ANNEX

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By appointment only

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Learn more at www.sfmuseo.org.
 If you need more info please contact our Capital Campaign counsel: **Mecca Billings** at mecca@sfmuseo.org or **Sandra Bagnatori** at sandrabagnatori@gmail.com

Artworks on cover: **Serena Bocchino: Tower Purple Squeeze (detail)**, 2021

Grazie Members!

The list on this page includes donations received before March 1, 2022 and are exclusive of donations made to the Capital Campaign. Our sincere apologies if any names were inadvertently omitted.

Alberti Family, Basic American Foods, Linda Cozzarelli, Ruth & Dan De Nardi, Paula Deili, Dolci Italia Foods, Elvia & Federico Faggin, Isabella Falbo, Grants for the Arts, Amanda & Vince Hoenigman, Patricia Johnson, Nancy Lange, Jean & Harry Laughlin, Steve Lavezzoli, Fred Levinson, Margaret & Luigi Lucaccini, Downey Manoukian, Gerald Martin, Johnnie Norway, Nyla Puccinelli Moore, Maria Gloria Rando, Lita & William Tognotti, The Bernard Osher Foundation, The Rosaria Haugland Family Foundation.

Grazie James Sangiacomo!

The Museo Italo Americano is pleased to announce that at its meeting held on January 19, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Museo unanimously elected long time board member **Victoria LoBue** to serve as Museo President. Victoria has been an active member of the Museo board continuously since 2004 and most recently has served as its First Vice President and as chairperson of the Museo Investment Committee.

Victoria replaces **Jim (James) Sangiacomo** who was first elected as President of the Museo in 2016 and has served in that role continuously since his election. The Museo is extremely grateful to Jim for his service in fulfilling that role so effectively. We are very pleased that Jim will continue to play an active role on the Museo's Capital Campaign Committee to fund the 940 Battery Street project for a new Museo home.

Grazie Giancarlo e Giovanni Cerri!



One of the walls of The Art of Two Generations exhibit dedicated to the special relationship between Giancarlo and Giovanni Cerri.

A heartfelt GRAZIE to Giancarlo Cerri and Giovanni Cerri for sending their art exhibition "The Art of Two Generations" to the Museo! It has been a pleasure to share their art with our numerous visitors, who got to know these two remarkable Milanese artists.

Under the patronage of
 Istituto Italiano di Cultura San Francisco
 Museo della Permanente, Milano

Special Thanks: LTA Studio • Valla & Associates, Inc., P.C.
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New Exhibit: Rhapsody

The Museo is pleased to present Rhapsody, a group exhibition featuring three Italian-American women artists: Serena Bocchino, Kara Maria, and Nola Pardi Proll. This eclectic show includes sculptures and mixed media paintings. This exhibit is open until the end of August, don't miss it!

“The artistic essence of the expressive line in a composition sustains the key to the entire work.”

SERENA BOCCHINO

Serena Bocchino's studio practice has been focused for the past 30 years on a painterly interpretation of music and movement (dance). This exhibition presents paintings which incorporate many aspects of both music and dance. The works explore music's lyricism, melody and rhythm through soft and loud abstract imagery, while simultaneously integrating representational movements analogous to dance. Exhibiting selected artworks which span twenty years allows an audience to accompany the artist on a creative journey through her eyes and over a specific period of time. The addition of collaged elements—such as gold leaf, porcelain, mirrors and cheese cloth—enable the “pause” necessary to produce an overall compositional and color effect, rendering a particular emotive quality to each work.



Kara Maria: Afternoon Delight, 2015, acrylic on canvas



Kara Maria: Who Watches the Watchers?, 2011, acrylic on canvas

NOLA PARDI PROLL

Nola Pardi Proll's imaginative multi-faceted sculpture reveals her love of stone, nature's found objects, shells, driftwood, and the sea. A sense of the primitive pervades her work. Her dance background and interest in African, Etruscan, and Near Eastern art have influenced her approach to stone. She studied dance with Walton Biggerstaff and then launched a solo dance career performing throughout the United States, Europe, and the Far East. Her interest in African culture was reflected in her dance choreography and in her self-taught wood carving. Creating her own papier-mâché puppets, she was also a professional puppeteer in the Bay Area for many years. In 1999, she enrolled in the Marble Arts Workshop in Pietrasanta, Italy. Until recently, she returned there every Summer to carve and relish the immersion in the ambiance of marble art. This exhibition includes works from 2000 to 2021.

“I feel that each sculpture is a metamorphic expression that is developed even further in the eye of the beholder.”

“Although many issues are referenced, my works remain non-linear, seeking to raise questions rather than to give answers.”

KARA MARIA

Kara Maria is a visual artist working in painting and mixed media. Her recent work reflects on Earth's biodiversity crisis and the place of animals in our increasingly unstable environment. She borrows from the broad vocabulary of contemporary painting, blending geometric shapes, vivid hues, and abstract marks, with representational elements. She has included images such as cellphone towers, surveillance cameras, fragments of women's bodies, the wreckage left behind after disasters, military aircraft, and birds in flight. Other reference materials for her work include comic books, Japanese woodblock prints, and camouflage patterns. She is aesthetically influenced by the popular culture of the 1970s – especially the toys she grew up playing with like Lite Brite, Colorforms, and Spirograph. This exhibition includes works made between 1999 and 2019.

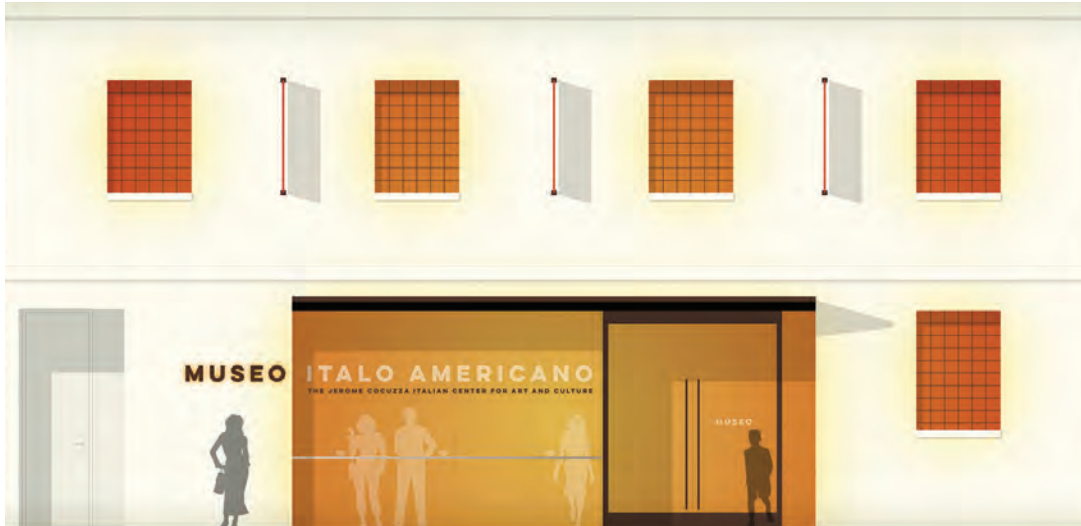
Nola Pardi Proll: Pierrot, 2008, bianco statuario marble



Update on the Museo's Capital Campaign for the Future Home at 940 Battery Street

The Museo has now raised \$8,028,635 for its capital campaign! Despite the pandemic, the Museo has continued to pursue its capital campaign, and the total raised to date includes two new multimillion dollar commitments made in 2021 by two donors. We will announce these donors in future editions of the newsletter.

Our fundraising goal has increased due to the delays caused by the pandemic and the global supply chain issues that have significantly increased the cost of building materials. Our previous fundraising goal was \$25 million, and our new goal is \$31 million to renovate 940 Battery Street, including the new permanent history exhibit on the second floor. We want to make our best effort to raise as much of the goal as possible, as this will allow the Museo to allocate most or all the rental income from the floors we lease to commercial tenants to our operations and endowment. It is still our plan to lease the top three floors of the 940 Battery Street building to commercial tenants, and we believe our space will be attractive due to the small scale of the floors, the large numbers of functioning windows and the new information regarding ventilation that we may integrate into our renovation plans, all of which should appeal to the needs for office space in a post-pandemic world.



Rendering of the exterior of the Museo's future home at 940 Battery Street. Note the visitors inside sipping espresso while looking out onto Battery Street (sí, an espresso bar is in the plans).

Regarding the 940 Battery Street building, following is a timeline with milestones that our generous donors to the capital campaign have made possible:

- **2013:** The Museo hires acclaimed architectural firm Mark Cavagnero & Associates to draw up the plans for renovating 940 Battery Street.
- **2014:** The Museo connects with real estate developer and philanthropist Steve Oliver (former Chairman of SFMOMA), who will develop the Museo's project.
- **2018:** The Museo receives entitlements from the City and County of San Francisco for its plans for 940 Battery Street; entitlements are required before securing building permits.
- **2019:** The Museo receives a full schematic design package for its future, permanent exhibit focused on the history and accomplishments of Italian Americans from San Francisco exhibit design firm Macchiatto.
- **2020:** The Museo co-hosts a private event with former Consul General Lorenzo Ortona at Tosca featuring special guest, butcher/chef Dario Cecchini from Tuscany, and attended by San Francisco Bay Area luminaries including Maria Manetti Shrem and Jan Shrem, Alice Waters, Steve Oliver, Romana Bracco, Fedele Bauccio, Nancy Oakes, Anna Weinberg, Bruce Aidell, and San Francisco Supervisor Catherine Stefani.
- **2021:** The Museo receives an extension on its 2018 entitlements and begins the process to secure building permits.

We have more information about the capital campaign on our website, and you are also more than welcome to make an appointment to tour

the 940 Battery Street building! We have "staged" some of the areas to highlight our exhibit plans, and there are works of art from our permanent collection and our historical archives on display there.

If you would like a tour of 940 Battery Street, please email mecca@sfmuseo.org to arrange a tour.



"Sunday Dinner," a dynamic touch surface table is the starting point of the future permanent history exhibit that will honor the achievements and journeys of Italian Americans. As a visitor arrives at their "setting," they see a series of virtual "dishes," each representing a grouping of stories from the exhibit themes. The visitor may drag a dish to their setting, or to another visitor across the table, to populate their plate with a story from this theme. The plate contains a photo or video, and adjacent text appears explaining the selection.