

# Earth AND *Soul*

Paintings by  
Elena Civoli Brittain  
Sculptures by  
Tricia Grame



**MUSEO**  
ITALO AMERICANO

**NEWS  
LETTER**

JULY • SEPTEMBER 2024



Preserving Our Italian Heritage & Culture

**MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO**  
2 Marina Blvd.  
Fort Mason Center, Building C  
San Francisco, CA 94123

**MUSEO FUTURE HOME**  
940 Battery St.  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
By appointment: 11AM - 2PM Wed. - Fri.

**HOURS:** Tue. - Sat. 12 - 4 | Sun. 10 - 2  
info@sfmuseo.org | 415.673.2200  
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# MUSEO

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Join our Capital Campaign!  
For more info, please contact **Sandra Bagnatori** at [sandrabagnatori@gmail.com](mailto:sandrabagnatori@gmail.com)  
**Let's make a difference together!**

# Grazie Members!

The list on this page includes donations received from **January 1 to May 31, 2024** and are exclusive of donations made to the Capital Campaign. Our sincere apologies if any names were inadvertently omitted.

Basic American Foods, Ken Borelli, Beverley Siri Borelli, Romana Bracco, Elena Brittain, Richard Cardello & Johnnie Norway, Robert Cattolica, Gabriella Judd Cirelli, Mark Delucia, Ruth & Dan De Nardi, Elvia & Federico Faggin, Nancy Fleming Lange, David Giannini, Donna Gothelf, Francesca & John Hayes, Hoenigman Family Foundation, Steve Lavezzoli, Marietta Leis, Fred Levinson, Victoria LoBue, Margaret & Luigi Lucaccini, Anita Malnig, Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation, Monica Mazzei, Jeanne Milligan, Elisabetta & Michael Nelsen, Susan D. Peterson, Leslie Proll, Gloria & Tony Rando, Diana Rogers, Rosaria Haugland Foundation, Virginia & Steven Rosen, James Sangiacomo, Judith & David Traverso, Evelyn Wegienka, Barbara & Steve Witt, Jamila Zanette.

## Join Us for a Special Blood Drive!

**Wednesday, July 31 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM** - bloodmobile parked near Building C.

Join Us at the Museo Blood Drive honoring Museo board member **Sheila Wishek**. The Museo is teaming up with **Vitalant** for an blood drive, and we want YOU to be a part of it!

### Why Donate Blood?

Your blood donation can save lives and make a tremendous difference in our community. By donating, you're spreading hope and supporting those in need.

For more information and to sign up, please visit: [www.sfmuseo.org/event/blood-drive](http://www.sfmuseo.org/event/blood-drive)

## Let's Celebrate Art!

Be ready to celebrate the biggest Museo fundraiser of the year: **Let's Celebrate Art!**

Save the date for **Friday, November 1, 2024.**



Channel your inner artist or step into a masterpiece! Come dressed as your favorite artist - be it Dalí, Frida Kahlo, or Da Vinci - or transform yourself into a living piece of art.

**Reception at 6:00 PM** - Museo Italo Americano, Fort Mason

**Dinner & Dancing at 7:30 PM** - Gallery 308, Fort Mason

There are **sponsorship opportunities** available. For more information or questions, call **(415) 673-2200** or email [info@sfmuseo.org](mailto:info@sfmuseo.org).

## Earth and Soul: Elena Civoli Brittain and Tricia Game



↑ Sculptor Tricia Game (left) and painter Elena Civoli Brittain (right) during the opening night of their exhibit Earth and Soul

↓ Featured works within the exhibition Earth and Soul



The opening night of the exhibition **Earth and Soul**, featuring the artworks of two distinguished Bay Area artists, painter **Elena Civoli Brittain** and sculptor **Tricia Game**, was a great success. Many attendees celebrated the artists and enjoyed the seamless blend of their distinct artistic mediums. The unique creations of Elena and Tricia, driven by a soulful passion for their craft, truly captivated the audience.

**Elena Civoli Brittain** is a whimsical and prolific contemporary artist whose abstract series range from brightly colored surfaces to bold textured collages and unstructured images layered in muted tones. Born in Italy, she grew up in various cities but considers herself a Fiorentina. After immigrating to San Francisco as a teenager, she studied at San Francisco City College and spent over 20 years transforming homes in the Marina and Pacific Heights into livable works of art. Elena has participated in numerous group shows and juried competitions, including the Marin County Art Fair, and had been affiliated with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Artists Gallery until its closure. She currently paints in her San Francisco studio.

**Tricia Game** creates two- and three-dimensional art inspired by prehistoric female symbols. Growing up in New York City, she later moved to California, studying at the California College of the Arts and earning a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Tricia has organized exhibitions and lectures in Italy and Malta, with her passion for sculpted forms taking her to various historical sites. She teaches, lectures, and curates exhibitions, focusing on the position of women in art history. Tricia's studio is in Danville, overlooking the Gramegna vineyard.

**On view through September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

← Tricia Game, *Woman In Stone series, Ancient Female*, 2021. Terracotta, cement, crushed stone, pigment, rope

## Alleanza Group



The **Alleanza group** promotes and supports the Museo through volunteer service, public relations, and fundraising. Every year Alleanza puts on fabulous events such as the Spring Raffle Cocktail Party, Antipasti Dinner, Bocce Ball Tournament and SF Giants Italian Heritage night.

We participate in the various Festas throughout the Bay Area. Special events include: the Pasta Contest, La Festa della Befana and Art Inspired Gala. Alleanza members meet every other month to plan their events.

We are looking for new members to join this lively, fun group. **All members are welcome!**

If you are interested in joining the Museo Alleanza, please email at [info@sfmuseo.org](mailto:info@sfmuseo.org) or call the Museo at **(415) 673.2200**.

## Buon Compleanno Paola!

On the occasion of her **95<sup>th</sup> birthday**, it seems fitting to acknowledge **Paola Bagnatori**'s many contributions to the Museo's success.

Paola emigrated to San Francisco from Italy as a teenager in 1946. While embracing the postwar opportunities in the United States, Paola passionately continued to identify as "Italian" and sought to promote Italian language and culture. Following her undergraduate and graduate studies at U.C. Berkeley in comparative literature-Italian and English, Paola taught Italian language for 10 years at San Francisco State University.

In 1978, Paola began volunteering at the Museo soon after Giuliana Nardelli Haight started it in a storeroom above North Beach's Caffè Malvina. Paola's passion, "energizer bunny" energy and enthusiasm for all things Italian were a good match to help launch the Museo's offerings of Italian and Italian-American art shows, lectures and Italian language classes.



↑ Paola, AKA, the Energizer Bunny, with Museo staff, AKA "Paola's Angels", at the Museo's 2019 Festa di Carnevale



↑ Paola Bagnatori with Italian Consul General Sergio Strozzi and Fabio Massimo Ballerini (left)



↑ Pictured in this 1984 photo are three of the Museo's early pioneers with then mayor of San Francisco, Dianne Feinstein. From left to right: *former Museo Managing Director*, Paola Bagnatori; *Museo Founder*, Giuliana Nardelli Haight; Dianne Feinstein; *former Museo Board President*, Modesto Lanzone

In 1985, Paola became Managing Director of the Museo. Over the next 37 years in her uber volunteer capacity, Paola wore many hats at the Museo to promote her beloved Italian culture which she unabashedly states is "the best".

She managed fundraising, collaborated closely with Italian institutions such as the Consul General's office and the Italian Cultural Institute and forged partnerships with performing arts organizations like the San Francisco Opera. Paola created and oversaw educational programs including CIAO (Children Italian Art Outreach program for San Francisco middle school students), Italian language classes and ran a lively weekly Italian conversation group. Highlights of programs and exhibits that she organized include: a well received tribute and symposium to film Director Frank Capra who made a special appearance and the exhibit, "In Cerca di Una Nuova Vita", about the waves of Italian immigration to California.

In 2003 in recognition of her efforts, Paola was awarded the Italian Republic honorary title of "Commendatore".

Possibly Paola's most enduring legacy is doggedly convincing the late Museo donor Jerome Cocuzza to bequeath one of his properties - a warehouse at 940 Battery - to house the permanent home of the Museo. A capital campaign is under way for the building "The Jerome Cocuzza Italian Center for Art and Culture".

In 2020, she switched to Emerita status, turning over her volunteer role as Managing Director to her daughter Sandra. Paola still serves as an adviser - ever hopeful to see the Museo's new home break ground.