

LAR
LANDA



MUSEO
ITALO AMERICANO

NEWS
LETTER

JULY • SEPTEMBER 2025



NINA
TEMPLE

ECHOES

SHARON F.
D'AMICO



Preserving Our Italian Heritage & Culture

MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO
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San Francisco, CA 94123

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San Francisco, CA 94111
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HOURS Tue. - Sat. 12 - 4 | Sun. 10 - 2
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Join our Capital Campaign!
For more info, please contact

Danielle Glynn at

danielle@sfmuseo.org

The list on this page includes donations received from **March 1 to May 31, 2025** and exclude donations made to the Capital Campaign. Our sincere apologies if any names were inadvertently omitted.

Anthony Antonelli, Donna Ancona, Carla Anisman, Sandra Bagnatori, Paola Bagnatori, Rose Cannizzaro, Gabriella Judd Cirelli, Erin & Rick Darwin, Amanda & Santino De Rose, Michael Feno, Paul Gamba, Deanna Gumina, Hoenigman Family Foundation, Nancy Lange, Tracy Lewis, Victoria LoBue, Valerie Makarovsky, Anita Malnig, Barbara Meagher, Leslie Miller, Nyla Puccinelli Moore, Eileen Mougeot, Mark Nicco, Annie Nunan, Barbro & Bernard Osher, Susan D. Peterson, Juliana Pisani, Angela Rando, Laura Mazel & Dr. William Reed, LaVerne Reiterman, Diana Rogers, Cindy & Daniel Rosenheim, Cara Sander, Gerry & Jim Sangiacomo Family, Joseph Siino, Jackie Svevo, Lisa & Paul Tonelli, Ezio Valdevit, Jenn & Paul Vandermarck, Celso Viviani, Paul Weaver, Evelyn Wegienka, Jordie Welles, Richard Lautze & Laurie Williams.

In Memoriam: Maria Gloria Rando



↑ Maria Gloria at the Museo with her husband Tony (left) and friends.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of the Museo Italo Americano's earliest members and most generous supporters, **Maria Gloria Rando**.

Born in New York in 1932, Maria Gloria was an only child. At age five, she moved with her parents to San Francisco's Richmond District, where she would reside for the rest of her life. She attended public schools in the city and graduated from Galileo High School, which at the time had a strong Italian American presence. Maria Gloria went on to earn her teaching degree from San Francisco State University and dedicated over three decades to shaping young minds. For 35 years, she taught first grade at George Peabody School in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Maria Gloria's life was filled with vibrant pursuits and deep community engagement. In 1958, she founded *Benefit Blast*, a singles group that raised thousands of dollars for Boys Town of Italy. She was a prolific writer for *L'Italo Americano* newspaper for four decades, and in 2008 was honored as its most-read columnist, both in print and online. A pioneer in every sense, Maria Gloria broke gender barriers as the first female member of UNICO, then an all-male service organization. She was later named Woman of the Year by the group.

Her leadership extended to national and local Italian American initiatives. She was a founding force behind the National Italian American Foundation, and opened the Italian American General Store—later known as Angelina's Deli—in her neighborhood. Though not a lawyer, she was instrumental in establishing the Italian American Lawyers Association and was made an honorary member in recognition of her contributions.

Maria Gloria held a deep love for her family's hometown of Pomarico in Italy's Basilicata region. Her philanthropic spirit shone brightly there, funding a wide range of community projects: an ambulance, a children's library, a botanical garden, and the restoration of the town church.

Maria Gloria's ties to the Museo Italo Americano ran deep. She was one of its founding members, joining shortly after it was established by Giuliana Nardelli Haight in 1978. She served for many years on the Museo's Board of Directors and was instrumental in launching one of its early and highly successful exhibitions, *Motorcycles as Art*. Her involvement never waned—she remained an active volunteer, dedicating countless hours and providing financial support to ensure the Museo's continued success.

Maria Gloria leaves behind Tony Rando her devoted husband of 65 years and her loving daughters Caterina and Angela.

Maria Gloria Rando's legacy is one of service, culture, and unwavering generosity. Her passion and dedication to Italian American heritage enriched our community in immeasurable ways. She will be dearly missed.

ECHOES: A Group Exhibition

We are delighted to present *Echoes*, a new group exhibition featuring the work of three distinctive artists: **Sharon F. D'Amico**, **Lar Landa**, and **Nina Temple**, whose practices explore the resonance of memory, place, and emotion through color, movement, and layered perception.

Each artist brings a unique voice to the conversation. Together, their works form a visual symphony, echoes of experience and imagination, that invites the viewer to slow down, reflect, and feel.

Deeply inspired by the natural world and its ever-changing beauty, **Sharon F. D'Amico** creates photographs that capture those brief, luminous moments when light transforms a landscape—when colors ignite across land, sea, and sky, or when texture and form emerge with striking clarity. With both precision and a painterly eye, she reveals scenes we often overlook, inviting us to experience the quiet peace that nature so effortlessly provides.

www.damicophotography.com

Working primarily in acrylic, **Lar Landa** paints directly onto the canvas, continually revising, developing, and refining his ideas as they evolve. He often uses his drawings as starting points for his paintings. A balance of boldness and sensitivity, an artistic quality he deeply admires, lies at the heart of his practice. This intent is expressed through his use of line, color, value, and pattern.

www.larlanda.com



↑ Sharon D'Amico, *Last Light 84*, Point Lobos - California, 2018



↑ Nina Temple, *The Devil's Whim*, 2024

Nina Temple is drawn to the unpredictable nature of ink and the delicate interaction it creates with water, a process she describes as “moving water.” Working on paper, she balances control with patience, guiding the flow of ink while allowing it to settle in its own time. She gathers inspiration from art, music, nature, her heritage, and her many travels around the world. She brings these experiences into her work, letting them shape what she creates.

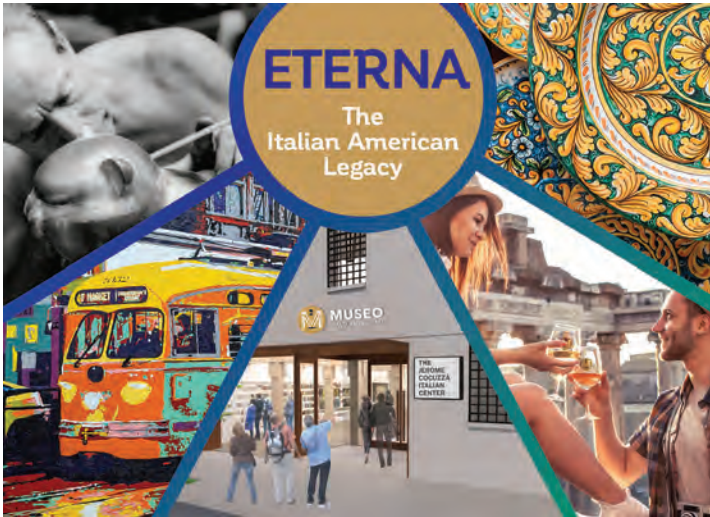
www.ninatempleart.com

We invite you to visit the Museo this Summer and immerse yourself in *Echoes*, on view from **June 24 through October 12**.



↑ Lar Landa, *Royal Family with Fan*, 2017. Museo Italo Americano Permanent Collection. Gift of the artist

ETERNA: Preserving Italian Heritage. Inspiring Generations



↑ From left to right:

- Bufo working on *Press Club Cat*, 1954.
Courtesy of SF History Center, San Francisco Public Library.
- Richard Louis Perri, *Streetcar Named F Market* (detail), 2024.
- Rendering of the front of the Future Home of the Museo.
Courtesy of V Mark Cavagnero Associates.
- Sharing smiles and Museo pride in the heart of Rome.
- The timeless craft of hand-painted Italian ceramics.

Have questions or want to learn more? Reach out to **Danielle Glynn** at danielle@sfmuseo.org

We are thrilled to announce the next phase of the Museo Italo Americano's capital campaign: **ETERNA**.

Rooted in the word for "everlasting," ETERNA reflects our vision: to honor Italian culture, preserve artistic legacy, and ensure the Museo remains a vibrant, enduring presence in San Francisco for generations to come.

This next chapter builds on our strong foundation and invites our community, **including you**, to help bring it to life. From reimagined galleries to expanded programming and education, ETERNA represents our boldest investment in the future on Battery Street. We will be hosting events in the Fall to support the campaign, and we look forward to you joining us!

We invite you to be part of this legacy. **Your support makes a lasting impact.**

Join us in shaping the future: sfmuseo.org/eterna

Together, we can ensure Italian culture and art continue to inspire eternally.

Let's Celebrate Art: A Night to Remember!

On March 22, 2025, we held our annual Gala, **Let's Celebrate Art**, and it was a wonderful success! This memorable evening was made possible thanks to our **dedicated staff, tireless volunteers**, and the **generous supporters** who joined us.

From heartfelt Fund-a-Need donations to spirited raffle ticket purchases, your contributions play a vital role in sustaining the Museo's mission. A grazie to **C'era una Volta** for hosting the pre-dinner gathering and to **Da Vittorio** for the evening's meal. Special thanks go to **Celia Barbaccia, Jackie Svevo**, and **Sandra Bagnatori** for their invaluable behind-the-scenes work.

We were honored to welcome Italian Consul General **Sergio Strozzi**, Deputy Consul General **Davide Corriero**, and

Alberta Lai, Director of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura SF, along with other guests from the Consulate and Istituto.

We are also deeply grateful to our **generous sponsors**, whose support helped make the evening so special. Thank you to our **Mona Lisa sponsors** Sandra Bagnatori and Thomas Quinn LLP; **The Birth of Venus sponsor** Paola Bagnatori; **The Starry Night sponsors** Beverley and Ron Borelli, Oliver & Company, San Francisco Italian Athletic Club Foundation, and Mary and Mark Steiner; and our **Medusa sponsors** Ken Borelli, David Cincotta, Victoria LoBue, Angela Rando, and Mark Schiavenza.

As always, vi aspettiamo at our next fundraising event, stay tuned and continue to support the Museo!

