

CONTEMPORARTE

SELECTED WORKS BY ITALIAN
ARTISTS FROM OUR PERMANENT
COLLECTION

September 30, 2022
February 19, 2023



MUSEO
ITALO AMERICANO

NEWS
LETTER

OCTOBER • DECEMBER 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

The list on this page includes donations received from **June 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022** and are exclusive of donations made to the Capital Campaign. Our sincere apologies if any names were inadvertently omitted.

Marilyn Aspesi, Joseph & Clara Barbaccia, Marsha Boyette, Warren & Judy Branzburg, Ernestine Campagnoli, Andrew & Miriam Canepa, Richard Cuneo, Dan & Susan Dan, Vito & Marika Fabbrizio, Sandra Gulli, Lar Landa, Alida Morzenti, Eileen Mougeot, Nola Pardi Proll, Tito & Bobby Patri, Michael & Trish Prior, Frank & Aurora Roselli.

Mercatino di Natale, 2022 edition

We are very excited to announce that this year the **Mercatino di Natale 2022** (Italian Christmas Market) will take place on December 3rd and 4th, at the Museo Italo Americano. The hours of operation are Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you are a visitor save the date, if you are a vendor feel free to contact us at info@sfmuseo.org or **415.673.2200** with any inquiry. Sign-up starts Tuesday, October 11th.



Italian Classes

Fall Session #2 - October 17 – December 16

For the new Italian class session we are offering online classes, from **Beginning** to **Advanced**. Our courses are **5, 7, or 8 weeks** long (depending on the class) - No classes on Thanksgiving week. Classes meet once a week on Zoom.

Go to: <https://sfmuseo.org/classes/class-schedule> to browse the courses and choose the right one for you.

Impara l'italiano con noi!

Our New Exhibition: ContemporArte

We are proud to present **ContemporArte**, an exhibition featuring a selection of seldom seen works by Italian born artists from our Permanent Collection, from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Among these works are paintings by members of the Italian art movement *Transavanguardia*: Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Nino Longobardi, and Mimmo Paladino, as well as a prominent group of artists who operated in the Milanese art scene, from Enrico Baj to Lucio Del Pezzo, Valerio Adami, Bruno Di Bello, and Emilio Tadini. Included in the selection are also several new acquisitions, works by Giovanni Ragusa and Giuseppe Gattuso Lo Monte. The show will be on view from September 30th, 2022 to February 19th, 2023.

We are very grateful to all the artists, donors, and supporters of the Museo who, over the years, have enriched our Collection with impressive and relevant artwork.



↑ **Chia Sandro**, *Self-Portrait with Blue Background Color* lithograph on wove paper, 1989



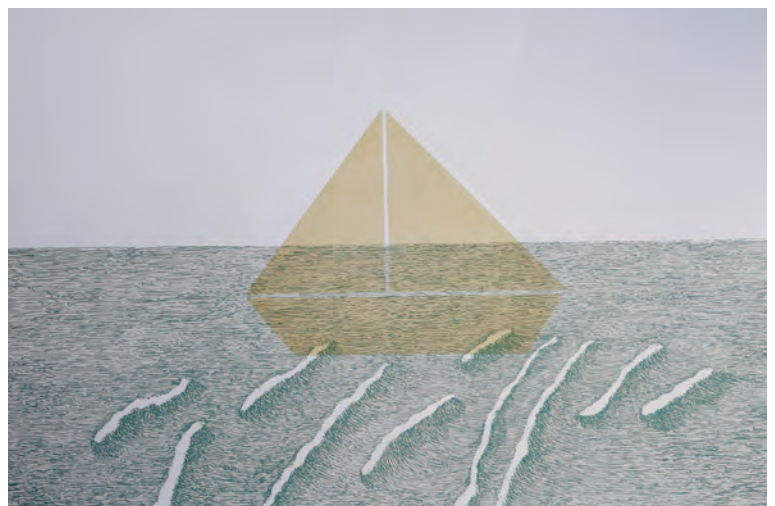
↑ **Baj Enrico**, *Dame (Ermengarda)*, Original silkscreen and collage of fibers and fabrics on wove paper, 1978

ARTISTS

- Valerio Adami
- Vasco Ascolini
- Enrico Baj
- Piero Brolis
- Paolo Buggiani
- Sandro Chia
- Francesco Clemente
- Lucio Del Pezzo
- Bruno Di Bello
- Piero Dorazio
- Omar Galliani
- Giuseppe Gattuso Lo Monte
- Renato Guttuso
- Nino Longobardi
- Alberto Magnelli
- Luciano Monti
- Mimmo Paladino
- Gianfranco Pardi
- Giovanni Ragusa
- Italo Scanga
- Carlo Sismonda
- Emilio Tadini
- Giuseppe Uncini
- Sergio Vacchi
- Giuseppe Zigaina



↑ **Tadini Emilio**, *Lo sguardo del bambino (detail)*, Acrylic on canvas, 1982



↑ **Giuseppe Gattuso Lo Monte**, *Untitled*, Print, 1973

Salute to Heroic Museo Capital Campaign Donors Sheila Wishek and the Lar Landa Family

The Museo has received two major gift commitments for its capital campaign from **Sheila Wishek** and **Lar Landa** and his family, and these gifts have increased the capital campaign fundraising total raised to more than \$8 million!

Sheila Wishek, a board member of the Museo, has been quietly and generously supporting the Museo for decades through donations of money and art. In fact, her multimillion-dollar commitment is her second large gift to the capital campaign as she was the first lead donor to the campaign. After the Estate of Jerome L. Cocuzza donated the building at 940 Battery Street, the Museo decided to pursue a plan to use part of that building for its future home. But first, it needed to embark on a series of activities including securing building entitlements, and an architect, all of which required significant funds. Wishek stepped forward with a \$1 million gift to the Museo to support this work, even though there was no guaranty that the Museo's dream would ever become a reality. In this way, Wishek's lead gift reminds us of the following line from the film *Under the Tuscan Sun*:

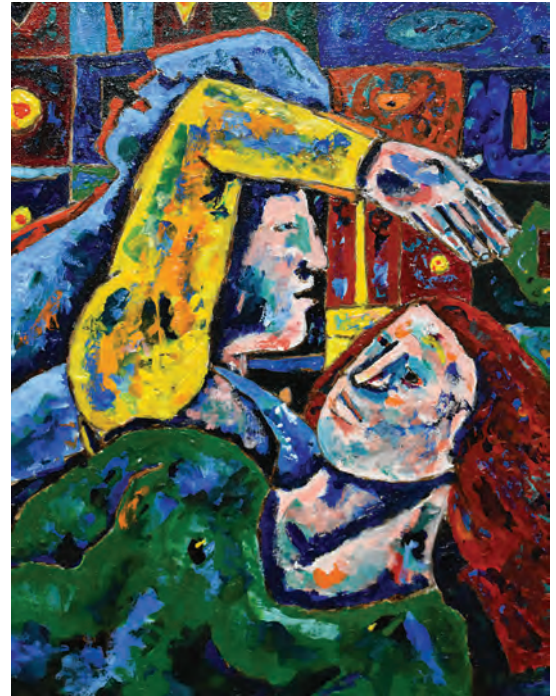
"Signora, between Austria and Italy there is a section of the Alps called Semmering. It is an impossibly steep, very high part of the mountains. They built a train track over these Alps to connect Vienna and Venice. They built these tracks before there was a train in existence that could make the trip. They built it because they knew someday the train would come."

In addition to her current and former work on the Museo's Board and Art Committee, Wishek is an active member of its Capital Campaign Committee. As the Museo's plans and vision for its future home have materialized, and as other donors have stepped forward to make additional major gifts, Wishek decided to make a second commitment of \$3 million to keep moving the project forward. In recognition of her support, the Museo will name its new Permanent Collection Gallery in her honor.

Prolific artist Lar Landa has been a member of the Museo for decades and has exhibited his work at the Museo. In fact, it was when the Museo presented a retrospective of 65 of his paintings and sculptures in 2006 that Landa and his family first had the idea of planning a major gift to the Museo. Later that year Landa, his husband J. Scott Wright, and his art representative William Torphy had an initial meeting with Museo board members Mark Delucia, Vince Fausone and Mark Schiavenza to begin an exploratory conversation. After that initial meeting, Landa, Wright, Torphy and the Museo continued to meet over the years as all were waiting to come to fruition the Museo's plans to secure a new, permanent home. At last, this year, in addition to confirming a bequest gift from his family's estate, 150 paintings and 100 drawings of Landa's work were acquired by the Museo from Landa for exhibition, conservation and stewardship. In recognition of his family's commitment, the entire main visual art gallery at 940 Battery Street will be named in honor of Landa and his late husband J. Scott Wright. In addition, another gallery within the main gallery will be named the Lar Landa Gallery and will display his works on a rotating basis. Landa is thrilled that the Museo will become even more prominent in its future home, and the Museo is honored to have been entrusted with the duty to steward his artistic legacy in perpetuity.

Landa attended Columbia University, Università degli Studi di Firenze and Stanford University, where he received a B.A. in art in 1955. He has served with the Board of Directors for the California Museum of Art, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa, and the Sonoma Arts Council. The vivid images he creates are drawn from his extensive travels, childhood memories, Italian heritage, and classical studies. His works reflect his interest in theatre, psychology, personal and folk symbolism. His paintings and sculpture have been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere, and his work is in private collections worldwide.

Thanks to Sheila Wishek and Lar Landa, the Museo is well on its way toward creating the preeminent cultural experience dedicated to the significant, and often untold, contributions of Italian immigrants in San Francisco! The Museo will honor



↑ **Lar Landa**, *At The Theater*, Acrylic on linen canvas with Soluvar varnish - Gift of the artist



← **Beniamino Bufano**, *Hand of Peace*, Bronze sculpture and enamel on wood base - Gift of Ms. Sheila Wishek

Wishek and Landa in September at a private reception hosted by the Consul General for Italy at the Italian Consulate in San Francisco.

P.S. The extraordinary commitments from Wishek and Landa resulted from their estate plans. If you would like to learn more about supporting the Museo's capital campaign through a bequest or another estate planning method, please contact **Mecca Billings** at mecca@sfmuseo.org or (415) 578-0224.