



MUSEO
ITALO AMERICANO

NEWS
LETTER

OCTOBER • DECEMBER 2024

Elio & Stefano
CIOL
INTO THE LIGHT



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

Grazie Members!

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

Clara & Joseph Barbaccia, Lisa Bagnatori and Andy Ross, Ken Borelli, Alessandra Gulli, Ginny Hanger, Cameo Jones, Alida Morzenti, Bernard A. Osher, Nola Pardi Proll, P A Pulvirenti, Debra Rigo, Stefanie and Everett Rosemond, Mark Schiavenza for Rose Filippo, Joseph Silvestri.

Regional Sunday Series

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, the Museo Italo Americano is reviving its popular **Regional Sundays series** that had been put on hold due to the pandemic.

The series consists of a lecture/talk followed by a sampling of regional foods and wines. This series will take place over the course of the next year and a half, with the intention of featuring all the regions of Italy. We will start with the lesser known regions of Italy followed by the better known ones. The first highlighted region is **Calabria** and the event will take place at the Museo on **November 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM**. **Ms. Francesca Gulli Hayes** will be our guest speaker.

It will be followed in the upcoming months by: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sardegna, Le Marche, Puglia, Val d'Aosta, Abruzzo/Molise, Trentino/Alto Adige and Basilicata.

In the future we will highlight the regions of: Sicilia, Campania, Lazio, Umbria, Toscana, Liguria, Lombardia, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna and Piemonte.

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

Mercatino di Natale, 2024 edition



We are very excited to announce that this year the **Mercatino di Natale 2024** (Italian Christmas Market) will take place on December 7th and 8th, at the Museo Italo Americano. The hours of operation are Saturday from 10:00 AM to 6 PM, Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If you are a visitor, save the date. If you are a vendor feel free to contact us at: info@sfmuseum.org or **415.673.2200** with any inquiries.

Elio and Stefano Ciol - Into the Light

The Museo Italo Americano of San Francisco is pleased to present a unique exhibition titled ***Into the Light***, celebrating the talent of two of Italy's most significant photographers: **Elio and Stefano Ciol**.

The father-son duo, hailing from Casarsa della Delizia in the Italian region of **Friuli Venezia Giulia**, will bring to the museum a selection of works that highlight their masterful use of light and perfect balance of geometric lines, angles, and photographic composition—three essential aspects that enable them to create visually captivating and highly structured pieces.

Elio Ciol, renowned as one of the foremost masters of landscape photography, will showcase a collection spanning over sixty years. Included are images of Friulian landscapes, portraits of Italian poet and filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini; a dear childhood friend, and two special tributes: one to Assisi, a city to which the artist feels a deep connection and which is a sister City of San Francisco, and another to the United States. Elio Ciol has compiled an impressive photographic collection of Italian art, architecture, landscapes, and archaeological sites, with a special focus on the Friulian region. Many of his predominantly black and white shots have been featured in over one hundred solo exhibitions.



↑ Elio Ciol, *Siblings* - 1959

Stefano Ciol invites us to explore an intense selection of works where landscapes unfold through veils of light, mist, and snow. These are images not only to be observed but to be experienced—they beckon the viewer to share in the contemplative experience of the artist, a sensory journey that transcends sight and touches the soul. Mastery in the use of light, shadows, and chromatic tones is the key that opens the door to this almost meditative experience.

His sensitivity to light and shadow has driven him towards continual technological advancements. He has adeptly merged traditional techniques with cutting-edge methods to perfect the harmony between his vision and the final image.

Into the Light will open on **Tuesday, September 24**, and will be on display through **February 2, 2025**.

Sponsored by:

- Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Ente Friuli nel Mondo
- Elio and Stefano Ciol

In collaboration with:

- Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco

With the patronage of:

- Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco



↑ Elio Ciol, official announcement of Pier Paolo Pasolini's film "The Gospel According to St. Matthew" at the Pro Civitate Christiana association #C Assisi, Italy - 1963

Interview with Laurence (Lar) Landa

We recently had the pleasure of conducting a Q & A with artist and Museo benefactor **Lar Landa**. Lar will exhibit his art at the Museo in 2025 and 2026. He has generously donated a majority of his paintings to the Museo's permanent collection and has made a significant financial contribution to the Museo's Capital Campaign for the eventual permanent home of the Museo at 940 Battery Street.

When did you become interested in art?

I drew even as a small child. My life is and always has been art.

Was there someone (or more than one individual) whose influence made you interested in art? If so, can you share that person/persons names and how they had an affect on you?

I do not remember being inspired by one artist or one person. There was always art in our home.

Who is your favorite artist or artistic period/movement?

I always very much liked the Italian Renaissance. Also, the German Expressionists - like Max Beckmann.

Where did you study art? Did that have an impact on you?

I went to Stanford as a pre-med student and quickly added art due to interest. I did complete pre-med even though I knew that art would be my life. I graduated as an art major and pre-med. Art major - drawing, painting and art history. At Columbia I studied a one year course with Ralph Mayer (The Artist's Handbook of Materials and Techniques) as well as drawing and painting. I learned how to physically build art for its longevity. This is something I know and follow but I do not let it get in my way. My teachers gave me a very good education without influencing me to paint in a certain way. I studied drawing and painting from the figure a lot. For many years I drew from the figure for 4 three-hour nights a week. Also I drew a lot from nature. Color has always fascinated me. At Stanford and at Columbia I studied drawing and painting from the figure. I know the figure very well and can draw the figure without a model present.

Has your style of art changed over the years? If so, can you please share how that transformation happened and if there were certain influences that caused this to occur?

At first I was interested in non-objective painting. When I returned to Fitch Mountain, Healdsburg, I started painting the landscape. Then I started painting the figure. I knew the figure well through my classical art training. Quickly I started doing what I wanted with the figure. My paintings come out of my mind. I am adept so that I can develop ideas and at a certain point have new ideas. At a certain point I realize that I have finished a series. Then it is time to go onward. My paintings come out of my head and ideas grow. I paint and grow. That is me. Life changes and grows and thus so does my work and ideas. My style-work is me.

What inspires you today?

In recent years I have not had a drawing group with models, though for very many years I drew from the figure extensively. I also taught figure drawing and painting. I know the figure well from many

years of life drawing so that I can proceed. I start from the figure and do with it what I want. I paint slowly and thoughtfully thinking and studying my work a lot. I spend a lot of time looking at what I am working on.

How often do you paint today?

I paint 5 - 6 days a week. It is very important that I was a non-objective painter first. I still compose my work in that manner. I learned that the best way to communicate with other people is through the figure (people). I have lived my life with and through art.



↑ Lar Landa, *Three Horses*, acrylic on linen canvas with Soluvar varnish, 2005

Special Thanks

The Museo Italo Americano is a vibrant community, and we want to acknowledge the special contributions of those who work tirelessly to make the magic happen.

Our first heartfelt thank you goes to our **donors** who participated in the **Blood Donation initiative** in honor of our longtime board member, **Sheila Wishek**, who sadly passed away at the beginning of 2024.

A big grazie also to **Jackie Svevo**, the **Ancona family** in particular **Chef Alfredo**, and the **Alleanza Members** and **Museo Staff** for their outstanding efforts behind the successful **Antipasti d'Estate** event.

Last, but not least, we would like to recognize our incredible curator, **Bianca Friundi**, who was honored with the "**Le medaiute dal president**" ("Presidential Medal") from **Luca Lodolo**, President of Fogolâr Furlan Nord California, a part of the Ente Friulani nel Mondo. This prestigious award is given annually to individuals who play a key role in promoting Friuli culture in the Bay Area.