

A new exhibition connecting art, artists, and donors through selected works from our permanent collection



MUSEO
ITALO AMERICANO

NEWS
LETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

Legàmi

Indica una connessione, un vincolo o una relazione tra due o più entità, che siano persone, cose o idee.



Bonds

Indicates a connection, a bond, or a relationship between two or more entities, whether they are people, things, or ideas.

Preserving Our Italian Heritage & Culture

MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO
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Fort Mason Center, Building C
San Francisco, CA 94123

HOURS Tue. - Sat. 12 - 4 | Sun. 10 - 2
info@sfmuseo.org | 415.673.2200
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MUSEO FUTURE HOME
940 Battery St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
By appointment: 11 - 2 Wed. - Fri.

MUSEO

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For more info, please contact
Danielle Glynn at
danielle@sfmuseo.org

Grazie Donors!

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

Kay Auciello, Lisa Bagnatori & Andy Ross, Sandra Bagnatori, Franca Bannerman, Clara & Joseph Barbaccia, Christine & Tom Csubak, California Migration Museum, Jeanine Catalano, Sandra Gulli, Carolyn Lopez, Mazel Immigration Law, Alida Morzenti, Eileen Mougeot, Keiko & Richard Perri, Anthony Rando, Stephen Revetria, Diana Rich, Cindy & Daniel Rosenheim, Patricia Serventi Whitney.

Mercatino di Natale 2025



We are thrilled to announce that our cherished holiday tradition, the **Mercatino di Natale (Italian Christmas Market)**, will return to the Museo on **Saturday, December 6** (10:00 AM – 6:00 PM), and **Sunday, December 7** (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Each year, this festive marketplace brings our community together to celebrate the season with Italian food, gifts, art, and holiday cheer. As with previous years, we'll also host a special art program for children in the library on both days. This event has become one of our most beloved traditions, and we can't wait to welcome you back!

If you're a visitor, mark your calendar now! If you're a vendor, you can find details on how to register at sfmuseo.org/event/mercatino25. For questions, contact us at info@sfmuseo.org or call **(415) 673-2200**.

Join us for a weekend of Italian holiday spirit you won't want to miss!

Taste of Italy

At the Museo, we are always striving to create new and educational experiences for our members and our community. We are excited to introduce a new lecture series, **Taste of Italy**, dedicated to exploring the many facets of Italian culture.

Our first event in the series celebrated one of Italy's sweetest and most beloved desserts: **gelato**. This special afternoon was made possible by our Board Member, **Donna Gothelf**, together with **Patrizia Pasqualetti** of *Gelato by Patrizia*, who brought authentic Italian flavors to life.

Looking ahead, we're excited to feature more events celebrating Italian staples such as fashion, wine, and cuisine. Our next program will be *Un caffè con Luciano*, presented by **Graffeo Coffee**, on **Sunday, October 5**, from **11 AM to 1 PM**.



↑ Speaker Giovanna Baldassarre presented our lecture on Gelato, made possible with the support of Patrizia of *Gelato by Patrizia*.

New Exhibition: *Legàmi / Bonds*

Celebrating the Generosity that Shapes the Museo Italo Americano's Permanent Collection.

Since its founding in 1978, the Museo Italo Americano has steadily built a remarkable permanent collection through the generosity of private donors and artists. Over more than four decades, these gifts have transformed the Museo into a vital home for Italian and Italian American creativity.

Today, our collection includes works by some of the most respected names in modern and contemporary art: **Elio Benvenuto**, **Beniamino Bufano**, **Sandro Chia**, **Francesco Clemente**, **Giorgio De Chirico**, **Nino Longobardi**, **Gottardo Piazzoni**, **Arnaldo Pomodoro**, **Gino Severini**, and **Emilio Tadini**, to name but a few. Each artist adds a distinctive voice to a collection that reflects both tradition and innovation.

Our permanent collection is enriched by an impressive body of work from Italian American artist **Lar Landa**. His generosity has also played a vital role in supporting our ongoing Capital Campaign, which will fund the renovation of our Annex at 940 Battery Street, soon to become the future home of the Museo.

The Museo's upcoming exhibition, ***Legàmi/Bonds***, highlights new acquisitions and honors the lasting connection between the institution and its supporters. Bringing together works never before displayed in our galleries, the exhibition is a tribute to the generosity that continues to shape and enhance the collection.



Among the highlights are two striking sculptural works: *Sfera*, a spherical bronze sculpture by the late **Arnaldo Pomodoro**, whose *Tavola della Memoria* inspired the Museo's logo; and *The Crucifixion of Youth*, an impressive piece by **Beniamino Bufano**. *Sfera* was donated by **Mildred and Paul Berg**, while *The Crucifixion of Youth* was an unexpected and extraordinary gift from **Shelba and Lloyd Crenna**, who have also contributed three mosaics by Bufano over the years.

Bufano's *The Crucifixion of Youth*, along with a new exhibition *Unfolding Female*, featuring photographs by **Larry 'Lorenzo' Brucia** and sculptures by **Tricia Grame**, can be seen at 940 Battery Street, by appointment.

Legàmi/Bonds is, in many ways, a "love letter" to all **our donors** who have made our collection ever more special. The Museo will continue to preserve these works for future generations, staying true to our mission and honoring the generosity that sustains us.



↑ Beniamino Bufano, *The Crucifixion of Youth* (also known as *The First and Last of the Christians Died on the Cross; Crucifixion, a Self-Portrait of the Artist*), bronze, 1924. Museo Italo Americano Permanent Collection. Gift of Shelba and Lloyd Crenna.

← Marietta Patricia Leis, *Tondo*, oil on canvas in gold foil frame, 1994-96. Museo Italo Americano Permanent Collection. Gift of the artist.

↓ Plinio Tammaro, *La famiglia*, bronze, 1969. Museo Italo Americano Permanent Collection. Gift of Mildred and Paul Berg.



Capital Campaign Update

We're thrilled to share **exciting progress** on **ETERNA**, our Capital Campaign to establish the Museo Italo Americano's new home at 940 Battery Street in San Francisco.

Thanks to the early generosity of our community, we are well on our way toward creating a vibrant cultural space that will honor Italian and Italian American heritage, support contemporary artists, expand our language and education programs, and ensure the Museo remains a lasting presence for future generations.

Over the past few months, we've begun working closely with architects and designers to **reimagine the new space**.

We will be starting a **new lecture series/events** in the future to introduce **new friends** to the campaign.

Keep an eye on our website for incoming updates about the Capital Campaign's next steps!

But we're just getting started. As we prepare for this phase, we invite you to be part of this historic moment. Whether through a gift, attending an event, or helping us connect with others who love Italian culture—**your involvement matters**.

Together, let's build a future worthy of the community that built it.



Have questions or want to learn more?
Reach out to **Danielle Glynn** at danielle@sfmuseo.org
or check here: sfmuseo.org/eterna

Grazie di cuore,
The Museo Capital Campaign Committee

Apericena di Ferragosto

In August, the Museo bid farewell to an eventful summer with our **Apericena di Ferragosto**. Guests enjoyed a festive evening filled with delicious spuntini and spritz, fantastic raffle prizes, and lively music by **Tony Thomas**.

It truly takes a village, and what a wonderful village we have! The Apericena was made possible through the hard work of the **Allianza** group, with special thanks to **Jackie Svevo** for her dedication.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, and to all the incredible supporters of the Museo! Events like these not only bring our community together, but also allow the Museo to continue to offer the rich variety of cultural programming we are known for!

Grazie!



↑ On the left, musician Tony Thomas entertaining the audience; on the right, guests enjoying the evening and the *Echoes* exhibition.

Viva Verdi! Symposium



↑ From left to right: **Daniela Mazza** - Italian Education Attaché, **Massimo Carnelos** - Italian Consul General, **Kip Cranna** - Dramaturg Emeritus SF Opera, **Jeffery McMillan** - Public Relations Director SF Opera, **Marina Romani** - Lecturer UC Berkeley, **Ron Borelli** - pianist, **Eileen Meredith** - soprano, **Chester Pidduck** - tenor, **Barbara Rominski** - Director of Archives SF Opera, **Manuel Gutierrez** - Costume Production Coordinator SF Opera, **Sandra Bagnatori**, **Bianca Friundi**, **Ezio Valdevit** - Leonardo Da Vinci SF President, **Mark Schiavenza** and **Alice Amigassi**.

Our annual **Opera Symposium** has become one of the signature highlights of the Museo's calendar, an event not to be missed by opera lovers and cultural enthusiasts alike.

This year, we honored the genius of **Giuseppe Verdi** with insightful lectures by **Kip Cranna**, *Dramaturg Emeritus at San Francisco Opera*; **Marina Romani**, *Lecturer at UC Berkeley*; **Jeffery McMillan**, *Public Relations Director at San Francisco Opera*; **Manuel Gutierrez**, *Costume Production Coordinator*; and **Barbara Rominski**, *Director of Archives at San Francisco Opera*. We were also delighted to welcome **Massimo Carnelos**, *Italian Consul General*, and **Daniela Mazza**, *Italian Education Attaché*, for a brief visit.

The program was enriched by performances of Verdi's arias, brought to life by soprano **Eileen Meredith**, tenor **Chester Pidduck**, and pianist **Ron Borelli**. Additionally, for the first time ever, it was also livestreamed.

This remarkable event was made possible through the generous underwriting of **Barbro and Bernard Osher**, with additional support from **The Leonardo da Vinci Society**.