

Villa Rossa

Number 26 | spring 2012

Voice



Exploring a New World

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Letter from the Director

Embarking on a new adventure. Exploring new horizons. Many of the expressions we use to refer to the experience of studying abroad originate in the sailing lexicon inherent to Europeans' discovery of the New World. In this year that marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Amerigo Vespucci, America's Florentine namesake, we have dedicated this issue of the Villa Rossa Voice to his legacy. In fact, in a wonderful turn of symmetry, Vespucci's hometown of Florence has become one of the most popular destinations in the world for Americans to study abroad. And with good reason. Florence is refreshingly manageable in its size yet positively bursting with historically significant art and architecture. Students walk streets once tread by Renaissance greats and are welcomed by natives with decades of experience hosting American students in their beloved city.

Florence's intimate relationship with its (mostly) transient American population has seen extensive changes over the decades, and Syracuse University has been around to witness them all. Founded in 1959, we are one of the oldest study abroad programs in Italy. In fact, our first students set sail, much like their Florentine ancestor Vespucci, to arrive on our doorstep after nine or ten days of travel. Learn more about what that was like in Alan M. Cass' fascinating firsthand account of his experience studying at SUF in 1968 on page 4.

With the theme Exploring a New World, this issue of the Villa Rossa Voice celebrates and honors the courage of students who decide to break out of their comfort zones and not just travel but actually live for a time in a completely different culture from the one they know. Those of us with this kind of experience several years behind us sometimes forget how scary those first weeks were. What we don't forget, however, is how it changed our lives forever. That's usually how it works. You need to live through the initial hardship—unease, frustration, fear—to fully appreciate and reap the rewards of this unforgettable adventure.

Sasha Perugini



Letter from the Editor

L'Anno Vespucciano (the Year of Vespucci) is a yearlong series of cross-cultural events in Florence dedicated to the memory of Amerigo Vespucci, the Florentine navigator from whom the American continent gets its name. Vespucci was a courageous, sea-faring Florentine who in 1499 set out to explore the land that Columbus had discovered just a few years earlier. His great curiosity and spirit of adventure resulted in yet another discovery—the land upon which Columbus had *stumbled* was not an extension of Asia, but a new continent, a New World.

The articles which follow are, in a sense, the personal journals and personal journeys of some of today's voyagers who landed in Florence in January 2012. They are the voices of bright, young, enthusiastic college students who chose to broaden their horizons, sail into the Unknown and experience the excitement of exploring an entirely New World. They are an important part of this *Anno Vespucciano*.

Sylvia Hetzel

A Personal Renaissance

by **Alan M. Cass**

(Syracuse Semester in Italy Alum, 1968)

It was late January or early February 1968 when I boarded the Italian liner Michelangelo from a pier on the west side of Manhattan. I was 20 years old and this was the beginning of my first great adventure. The crossing was at times rough due to high seas but the excitement that possessed me seemed to level the waves that buffeted the ship.

We took our first introductory classes in Italian, art and history while on board. The voyage lasted 8 or 9 days and we made call on the island of Madeira and Lisbon. We sailed through the straits of Gibraltar stopping at Palma de Majorca and Genoa, finally disembarking at the Bay of Naples.

I don't recall how we traveled from Naples to Florence but soon thereafter I was comfortably lodged with my new family on Via Quintino Sella. The family spoke no English and my Italian was rudimentary at best. In those days we were not paired with an English-speaking roommate so I was forced to learn Italian lest I go hungry. Back then there were no cell phones, emails or Skype so communication

with our parents was limited to the occasional letter every few weeks.

We were shown the Villa Rossa which in 1968 consisted only of the original building as there was not yet a campus. There I met

Alan with sons on Ponte Vecchio

the director Signora Toraldo, a woman whose charm and graciousness I remember to this day. It was said that she was a contessa, a fact that particularly impressed a naïve kid from Farmingdale, Long Island whose only prior exposure to the aristocracy was Duke Synder of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although the music was great, the times were tu-

multuous. The Vietnam War was in full swing. Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated. There was rioting in the streets of America. I recall the front page of one edition of the Corriere Della Sera. It had a picture of the

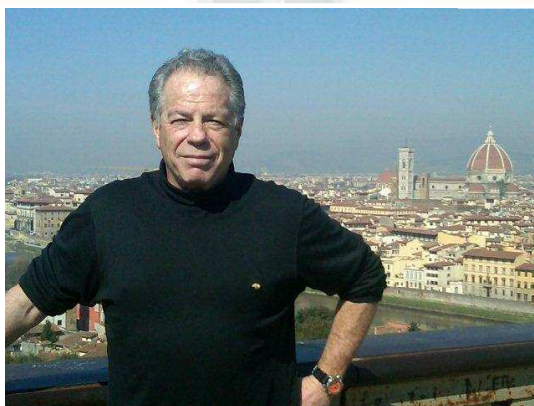
White House and flames in the foreground. I felt fear.

Spring semester 1968 was the first year that the program permitted its students to have motorbikes. Larry Kravitz, Jeff Weiner and yours truly were the only ones to indulge. My accident happened first. On a beautiful spring afternoon I was driving along the Arno with the intention of

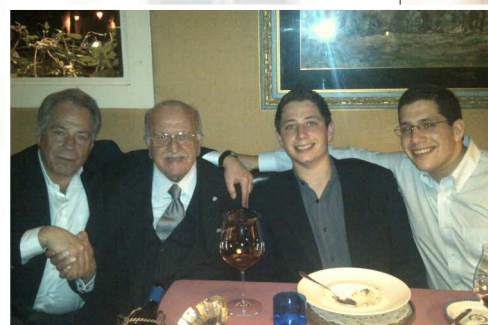
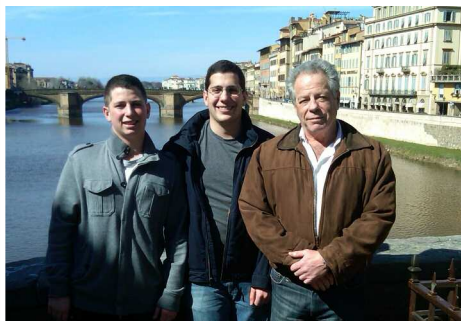
studying at the Boboli Gardens when I was struck by a car driven by a uniformed carabinieri. I spent 2 or 3 days in the hospital and still have the scar to prove it. Larry Kravitz's accident followed soon thereafter.

While descending from Fiesole he wiped out and crashed into the wall of the Villa I Tatti. That was then followed by Jeff Weiner's accident and the experiment with motorbikes quickly ended.

Forty four years ago I left for Italy an unsophisticated, insular child with no real appreciation for the world at large. My time in Florence exposed me to the beauty of a planet beyond the doors of my parent's home. I came to love not just the Italian culture but also the history of many diverse cultures in far flung corners of the globe. For me the Florentine experience was truly transcendent and I emerged a *uomo nuovo*. Surely this was the beginning of my own personal Renaissance and hopefully it will prove to be the same for my son Sam.



Alan Cass



Alan with sons and SU Florence host father



Amerigo Vespucci

by Amy Tatnall
with Loredana Tarini



Mayor of Florence Matteo Renzi with US Consul Sarah Morrison

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012 a group of Syracuse University students participated in the celebrations which marked the 500th anniversary of the death of the Florentine navigator,

Amerigo Vespucci, as a part of their Italian Language class. Piazza Ognissanti was filled with people who came together to celebrate the accomplishments of Vespucci. Matteo Renzi, the mayor of Florence, gave the first of a short series of addresses.

In a fortuitous turn of events, the students were given the opportunity to personally meet the mayor thanks largely to the efforts of their Italian professor Donatella Sommati. Afterwards, the students all spoke highly of the mayor and his personable manner, shaking hands with each one and taking the time to address them individually. When later asked about the event, the students were happy to share their impressions.

"Mayor Renzi reminded the audience of the importance of contemporary challenges. He stressed that people today must learn from Vespucci and be equally as curious, bold and innovative as the spirit of Vespucci when he crossed the ocean and realized that new land was a whole new world."

— Isabelle Ambler.

"After the ceremony, Professor Sommati introduced us to the mayor. He asked what were our complaints about the city of Firenze. We told him that the city was beautiful and that we had no complaints. To that he replied we were much kinder than the Florentines! The mayor was very approachable and friendly and meeting him was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

— Alexandra Fantozzi.

The ceremony encouraged other students to reflect on their own roles as explorers while studying abroad.

"Vespucci era un uomo molto interessante e moderno: voleva scoprire ma anche imparare. Vivo in Italia per un semestre e sono come un navigatore. Non come un navigatore antico, perché l'Italia non è un nuovo paese, ma perché è una realtà diversa. Così da quando sono in Italia vado molto a piedi e cerco di imparare molto sulla cultura italiana e sugli italiani. I navigatori famosi scrivevano lettere alle loro

famiglie e io, oggi come loro, scrivo ogni settimana un email alla mia famiglia. Racconto dei miei viaggi e delle mie esperienze a Firenze. Quando tornerò in America sarò una persona diversa. Certamente anche i navigatori quando sono tornati nei loro paesi erano persone diverse, con idee diverse, nuove prospettive e tante storie."

— Amy Tatnall

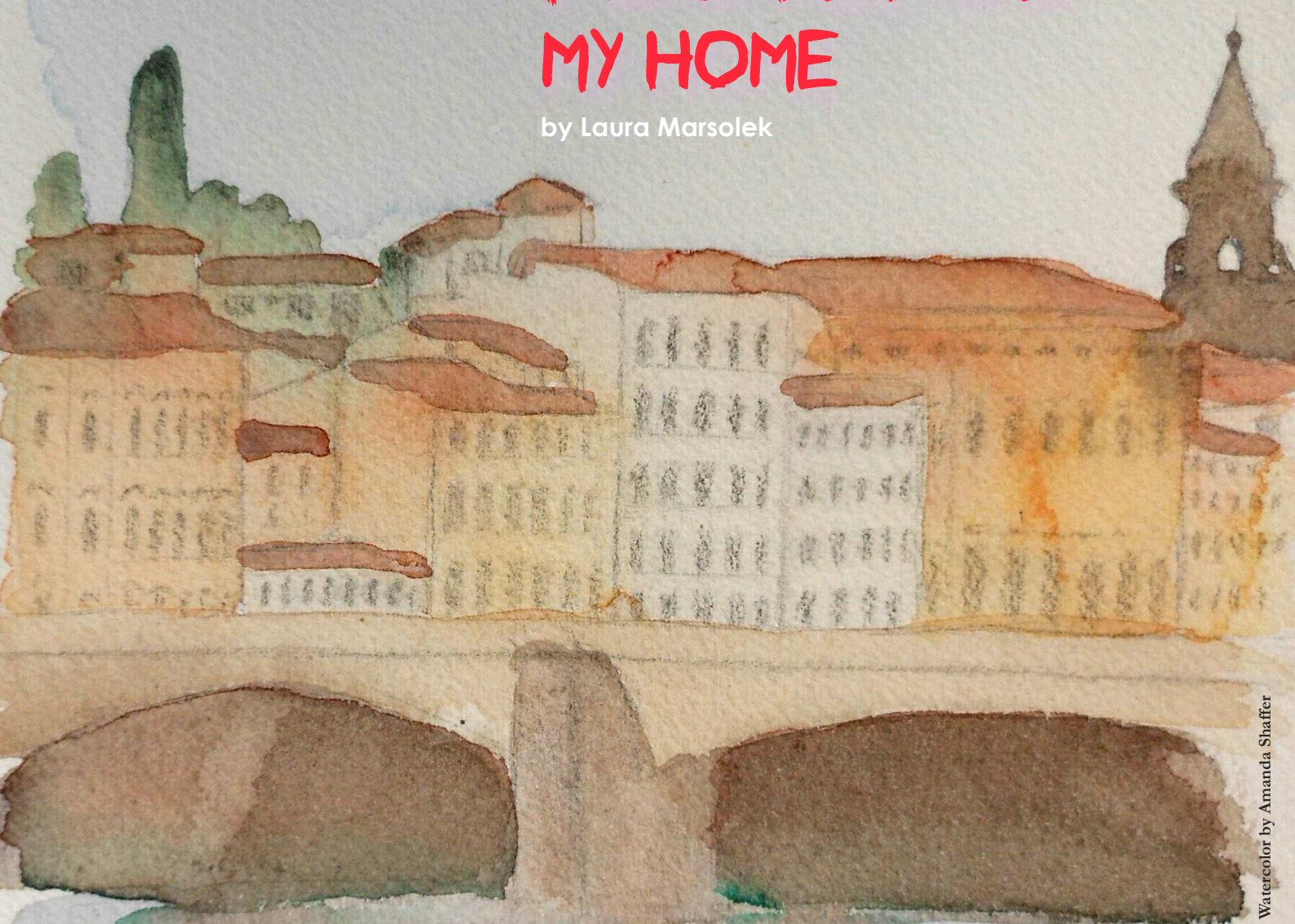


Celebrations of the "Anno Vespucciano" in the presence of the Gonfalon dei Comuni della Toscana



FLORENCE MY HOME

by Laura Marsolek



Watercolor by Amanda Shaffer

In September of the fall 2011 semester I hiked up the hills of Le Cinque Terre. In October I traveled to Leonardo da Vinci's birthplace. In November I checked the Vatican and the Last Supper off of my bucket list. I passed Christmas Day mass in a Venetian church and watched the New Year's fireworks from Ponte Vecchio. In February I ate too many cannoli in Palermo and stood on Romeo and Juliet's balcony in Verona in March. Now I find myself in the month of April in Florence, nearly at the end of my stay. I think to myself, "Out of all the places I've been in Italy, Florence is my favorite." It's not the travel that made the experience for me, but the people who made their impressions on my life. What I will be most sad to leave behind at the end of April will be the relationships I've made and the routine they've carved into my life in Florence.

One day in April I arrive by bike at my *nonna's* apartment. She greets me on the street with the biggest smile saying, "La mia bambina!" and rushes me up to her kitchen table offering me gelato, cookies, and strawberries with whipped cream. Sitting me down she says, "Tell me everything you've done since I saw you last!" Silva is my host nonna from the first semester. I truly felt like a part of her family from

the moment I met her.

I return often to Nonna's apartment for dinner with her son Paolo, his wife Paola, and their daughter Teresa. Paolo asks me how school is going and wants to see my newest artwork. Paola always brings delicious desserts for me to taste, and Teresa gushes to me about her new boyfriend while we exchange popular music on youtube. She promises that she'll come visit me in America.

Then there's my friend Fabio, a student in art history at the University of Florence. We meet in Piazza della Repubblica for a caffè at a nearby bar followed by a walk through the Modern Art Gallery in the Palazzo Pitti. Strolling through the rooms, Fabio points out famous Italian works and explains to me their significance. Every meeting with Fabio is followed by a new museum trip.

Twice a week I bike down Via Guelfa for my jewelry design lesson from Luisa Arrais. She's a spunky Sardinian woman who always arrives to our class in matching colors, walking through the door saying, "Laura, look at what color I am today!" In between learning jewelry techniques, we converse in Italian about her love

for France, Italian politics, beaches in Sardinia, favorite foods, or her newest jewelry project.

At the end of each day, I return to the Andorlini household on Via Masaccio where Monica serves her best Italian recipes for supper. Meanwhile my host brothers, Tommaso and Filippo, teach me Italian slang at the dinner table and tell me about some of the best places to go for Florence nightlife. In the Andorlini household, I always wake-up in the morning to the ring of the doorbell marking the arrival of the two sweet cleaning ladies, greeting me with, "Buongiorno Carissima!" Passing by them I go out the door and on my way to school for a day's worth of art history classes and Italian lessons.

After eight months of living in Florence, I've created a comfortable routine at an easy, Italian pace. I've realized that studying abroad isn't all about traveling, but sometimes it's about staying in one place. It's about getting to know your city really well and finding your rhythm amongst its structure. Above all, studying abroad is about getting to know the culture, the people, and making life-long friendships that ultimately make the experience of a city come full circle. This is when a "place" becomes "home."

Sharing Thursday



Above: Students serve a traditionally Tuscan Pappa al Pomodoro to a global community on the first cold but sunny Sharing Thursday.

Left: Preparing Pappa al Pomodoro and taking it into the piazza.

Next Page: Local residents come together as an integrated community.

Ellen Bobich and host mom Teresa Chindamo chat while cooking riso con carciofi.

by Ellen Bobich

Studying abroad is typically about touring new cities and traveling on the weekends, however, one of the most rewarding aspects of studying abroad is being able to immerse oneself in the culture and connect with the local community. Here in Florence, one of the best ways the students of Syracuse University in Florence are able to connect with the Florentine people is through a new program called “Sharing Thursday.” Through this program, students and teachers alike make an effort to help those in need and interact with the local community of Florence in the way that Italians do it best: through food.

Every Thursday, students join program creator Vittoria Tetamanti and Maibritt Handberg to prepare a typical Italian meal to share with the Florentine community in Piazza Savonarola. Students make and serve dishes such as pasta e fagioli, rigatoni marinara, pasta al forno, and minestrone. All meals are served with fresh fruit, coffee or tea, and a homemade dessert – a full Italian feast! By bringing lunch to the piazza, the Villa Rossa opens its doors to the community, and students and residents come together to break bread and engage in this

cultural exchange.

While eating, students are able to practice their newly-learned Italian while engaging in conversation with locals, while locals, many



of whom do not have a home or a constant source of food, get to enjoy a delicious home cooked meal. The program aims to feed those in need, but does so in a positive way. Volunteers do not simply distribute food, but share a meal and engage in conversation with the homeless. Because of this, students encompass the entire meaning of “sharing.”

During Sharing Thursday, students stop by during their break between classes, teachers come during their lunch hour, and residents of the area join in as they walk through the piazza. With every passing week, the crowd grows bigger, showing the growing popularity of this new program. Some residents now look forward to Thursdays so much, they can be found waiting in the piazza hours before the food arrives. This new program is a wonderful initiative that is beneficial to SUF students and the local community alike. Hopefully, it will continue in future semesters. Sharing Thursday not only helps feed the body, but the mind and soul as well.



Pitti Immagine

Taste

Where does the food end and the eating begin?

by Brittany Leung

One of my most enjoyable experiences in Florence was during the seventh annual Pitti Immagine Taste held at the Stazione Leopolda March 10-12, 2012. An event where gastronomy, wine, and lifestyle meet over the course of three days, it was an unbelievable experience of food explosions in my mouth (good ones, of course!) that lived up to my expectations of having excellent food in Italy. My internship supervisor

Andrea Adams, the founder and creator of The Velvet Circle (a web TV magazine featuring lifestyle coverage of art, fashion, food, etc.), asked me to take pictures of the event for the website. I was incredibly blessed to not only capture the event but to sample the products of 250 companies from all over Italy. Among the many types of chocolate, cheese, meat, beer, wine, and other food available, my favorite tastings included salmerino marinato (marinated char), gelato with oil, and sweet foods with a savory twist (such

as strawberries with balsamic vinegar). All were very unique! Besides the endless tastings, lunch was available, there was a market selling all the companies' products, and leaders in the international gastronomic and catering trades led discussions and/or food demonstrations at the Taste Ring. The event as a whole attracted a total of 13,500 visitors – an incredible success!

Yet the love for food certainly did not stop there. Pitti Immagine's FuoridiTaste hosted various events throughout the city. A particularly successful event was the Panettone Party by Obika Mozzarella Bar, "Mangia Panettone Tutto L'Anno." Panettone is a special kind of cake that most Italians eat during the Christmas holidays; however,



this event surely gave Christmas time a run for its money, as many guests attended the event with eager stomachs and sweet expectations. Participants were able to taste not only panettone, but also the lovely combinations of ice cream (and kiwi sorbet!), wine, and sparkling wine created by the Gastronomaut. "Mangia Panettone Tutto L'Anno" had crowds of people clambering for seconds, thirds, fourths...etc., as the supply fortunately appeared endless.

Not only were there great tastings available to guests, but aspiring young chefs between the ages of 9 and 13 were able to prepare food for themselves at the prestigious Cordon Blue School of Culinary Arts on March 10th. The theme of the day was entitled, "Mamma, Il Baccala' Lo Cucino Io!" (Mom, I'll cook the salt cod!). As founders of the Florence hub of this international school, Cristina Blasi and Gabriella Mari gave three different demonstrations on cooking cod fish. The first dish was fried cod balls with potatoes, garlic, parsley, parmesan cheese, and eggs. The balls were coated with beaten eggs and breadcrumbs. The second was a burger made of shredded cod, eggs, chives, Tabasco and breadcrumbs, which was then baked, put between pieces of bread, and served with mayonnaise and ketchup. Lastly, pieces of cod were coated with breadcrumbs, mixed with fresh herbs, and then baked. The supply of cod fish was provided by the well-known food company Vinci Food Ghezzi, and family members were invited to enjoy their young chefs' creations. With fresh food such as this, no wonder Italian children learn to appreciate food at such a young age and contribute to the food culture for which Italians are so well known! Surely the young chefs' education accumulates to what we expect to be a long continuation of Italian food traditions. It was a sincere pleasure for me to meet these young chefs (something I feel not every study abroad student gets to do) and sample a taste of their future endeavors.





Piazza del Campo, Siena (photo by Vanessa Valdes)



Charles Ewell on site with his students of Etruscan archeology in Tarquinia (photo by Vanessa Valdes)

Field Studies a photo album



The leaning tower, Pisa



A Tuscan view in Montepulciano (photo by Vanessa Valdes)



Pantheon, Rome (photo by Rocky Ruggiero)



Venice, Grand Canal (photo by Gina Bolton)



ME in BETWEEN

A MEETING WITH IGIABA SCEGO

by Amy Tatnall



Igiaba Scego

Can you imagine living your life as if you were an outsider within your own country? Or how about always having a lingering sense of uncertainty within yourself about your own true identity? These are only two of the struggles that author Igiaba Scego speaks about in her most recent book *La mia casa è dove sono* that I read as a component of my Italian Literature class. After reading the text in its entirety my class was given the rare opportunity to meet the author in person during an in-class workshop and speak candidly with her about the issues and sentiments she raises within her book. The book, a collection of stories and testimonies spanning from her childhood to early adult life, sheds light upon

the difficulties of living as a first generation Somali immigrant born in Italy searching to find the delicate balance between

these two vastly different cultures within her own life.

While speaking with our class (in Italian, of course) she was more than willing to answer any and all questions that we posed: What are your reactions to the current issues happening within Somalia and what should the Western world be doing to help? What was the response of your family to the various issues you wrote about in your book? Has your own sense of identity altered now after living your entire life in Italy, or do you still feel as though you are looked upon as a foreigner? And the list goes on... She immediately asserted herself as an eloquent, intelligent and



Scego signs her book for students

engaging speaker who was more than willing to openly share her experiences with us. Simply by looking around the room at the faces of my classmates I could tell that we all felt equally privileged to have her with us and were all inspired by the strength with which she lives her life.

Go to www.flickr.com/SUFlorence to see more pictures of Igiaba meeting with ITA 421 students and signing copies of her book, or delivering her lecture, entitled "In – Between", later that afternoon at SUF.



Group Photo with ITA 421 students

Option II Program Spring 2012



There were ten students in the Spring 2012 Option II Program: Leyla Tarhan (Pomona College), Mimi McCormick (Georgetown University), Marco Lobba (Pomona College), Sophia Scofield-Selby (Wellesley College), Victoria Shum (SU), Julieta Castillo Lopez (SU), Nisha Shah (USC), Hilary Knecht (Skidmore College), Amy Tatnall (SU), and Ji Hyum Kim (USC). Here they are in a group photo with Chiara Degl'Innocenti, a young Florentine harpist who came to SUF to discuss music in Florence with the students.

What do Option II students have to say about the program?

Deciding to Participate in Option II

By Leyla Tarhan

Deciding to participate in the Option II program was an excellent choice. Not only did it open me up to an immersive process of language-learning, but it also gave me the opportunity to meet fellow students from all over the world. As a result of the international character of the program, by the end of the class I had learned almost as much about my peers' cultures as about Italy's. But more importantly, I had realized how universal certain things are, and how little cultural differences matter when it comes to learning something new while forging new friendships.

One Isn't Always the Best

By Amy W. Tatnall

Whenever I'd try to explain the Option II program to other students their first response would usually be, "but you don't get Spring Break right? And you have class on Fridays? That sucks." I would often respond with a noncommittal shrug or some other vague answer, but the truth of the matter is that choosing to be a part of Option II was one of the best decisions I made for my semester in Florence. Sacrificing my Spring Break and the opportunity for three-day weekends soon became insignificant in comparison to the experience that I was having while attending classes at the Centro di Cultura per Stranieri of the Università di Firenze, aka – the University for Foreigners. Each morning I sat in a classroom filled with students from all over the world: Germany, Holland, Australia, China, Japan, Columbia and Canada - all brought together by our common goal to learn Italian. In this vast mix of cultures we were not only learning the Italian language together but also depending upon it as our primary means of communication - a connection between all of the various languages of the room. The friendships that I made within the program quickly spilled outside of the confines of the classroom and with them I was able to experience Florence in a refreshing way.

I like to think that my experience with Option II gave me a more Italian pair of eyes. I was able to see the city in a new light, explore it in a different way and immerse myself within it through my interactions with both natives and foreigners alike. The most valuable lessons that I learned while being a part of the program were far beyond those that can be learned simply by sitting in a classroom learning verb tenses. If nothing else, I knew I'd become a part of something special when I didn't mind waking up promptly every morning at 7:15, including Fridays.

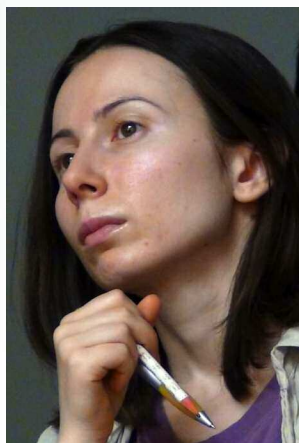
Option III Program

Spring 2012

by **Antonella Francini**

It all began in 1996 when Syracuse University established an Agreement of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation with the School of Humanities (Facoltà di Lettere) and the School of Political Sciences (Facoltà di Scienze Politiche) of the University of Florence. Since then SUF students with the appropriate language skills have attended courses in Italian in a variety of disciplines studying alongside Italian peers. Tutors specialized in the subject guide the undergrads through the program, helping them overcome the difficulties of a different academic system and prepare for the final oral exam.

In spring 2012 students Olivia O'Connell (Syracuse University) and Lelia Byron (Carnegie Mellon University) successfully completed their programs of study at the University of Florence.



Rosangela Lai

Beginning fall 2012 Syracuse University will expand its curriculum at the University of Florence to include the School of Economics. SUF students will have the opportunity to enroll in selected courses offered in English within the department of Development Economics. Students will have access to the most current theoretical and applied research in the field learning about international programs and organizations in developing countries, and will work under the guidance of internationally renowned faculty with extensive experience in international cooperation.

The long-standing cooperation with the University of Florence works in both directions. Currently, two Italian graduate students, from the School of Humanities and the School of Political Science respectively, are conducting research at Syracuse University: Rosangela Lai and Eugenia Corbino.

Rosangela writes from the main campus:



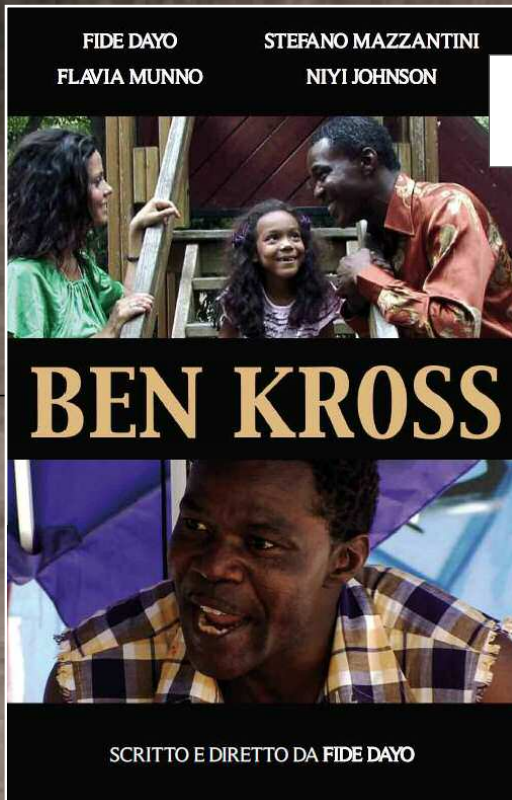
Lelia Byron and Olivia O'Connell at the entrance of the Facoltà di Lettere

"I am really impressed with the level of support and information I've received from Syracuse University, SU Florence and the SU Abroad Staff – all very kind and helpful. I've had the opportunity to interact with the faculty of the Department of Languages, Literature, and Linguistics. Thanks to the Italian faculty members I've had the opportunity to join in their activities and I am learning a lot about teaching a language in an American setting. This exchange has been invaluable to me, because it gives me the opportunity to reconcile my interests in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics and to become acquainted firsthand with the American academic world. It is a formative life experience both personally and professionally."

Eugenia Corbino, a History major in the Ph. D. program at the School of Political Science is studying the relationship between Italian peasants and the almost 80,000 allied soldiers who managed to escape from prison camps during World War II. Among these some 18,000 survived thanks to the solidarity of the Italian population. At SU Eugenia will collect material that witnesses and reconstructs this war-time relationship ranging from memoirs of American prisoners of war to remembrance events.



Lelia and Olivia with their art history tutor in the library of the Facoltà di Lettere



Fide Dayo

by Amy Tatnall
with Loredana Tarini

in answering some questions and I enjoyed watching the few clips that we viewed and thought it helped to hear his explanations for each moment, camera angle, and character selection.”
- Morgan Slade

“I had never before had the opportunity to discuss the intricacies of North African immigration to Italy with someone other than Italians. It was a fascinating, and very necessary perspective.”
- Mariél Frechette

“I thought the director, Fide Dayo, was extremely warm and animated. Hearing the director come and talk to us about his film was a very interesting way to incorporate our Italian studies with current issues about immigration!” - Katie Schultheis

“The film is short and it is categorized as a documentary. I had the opportunity to watch part of the film and Fide Dayo was one of the characters in the film. He is a great actor and an inspiration for those who are interested in filmmaking or directing.” - Melisa Nieves

On Wednesday, February 15, Syracuse University in Florence was proud to welcome Nigerian film director Fide Dayo for a brief visit. Dayo spoke to students about his newest film, Ben Kross, in both Carlotta Kliemann’s film class and Italian Department Coordinator Loredana Tarini’s intermediate and advanced Italian classes.

In his film Dayo interprets the life of Ben Kross, an immigrant to Italy who is trying to receive his pension but is faced with constant problems due to an error in his date of birth, which only increases the obstacles of his situation. Set in 2006, Kross is the victim of a newly forming immigration law that greatly restricts legal meches for foreigners and propels the drama for Kross throughout the film.

The film was scheduled to premiere at the Auditorium di S. Apollonia in Florence on February 18, just days after Dayo’s visit to Syracuse University. Through the coordination of the Italian language and film departments, SU students had the opportunity to attend the event.

Ben Kross was recently nominated for Best Film by an African Living Abroad at the AMAA (Africa Movie Academy Awards).

“I listened to his story twice – once in Italian in my Italian Language class and then in English during the Cinema class. It was very interesting hearing first about his experiences and how they influenced his work and then hearing about his creative process as a director. He was very thorough



Matteo Duni



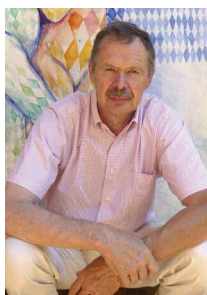
Matteo Duni gave a paper on "Impotence, Witchcraft, and Politics: the Renaissance Debate" at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Washington, DC, last March. The paper analyzes the belief in the possibility that sexual impotence might be provoked by sorcery, and its role in dynastic politics, starting from a famous instance: that of the Duke of Milan, Gian Galeazzo Sforza, unhappily married to Isabella of Aragon in 1489. In those same years, the witch-hunters' "bible", *Malleus maleficarum* (1486), was spreading the fear that human sexuality was under attack from witches.

Carlotta Kliemann



As the vice president of the Associazione Chicca Richelmy, Carlotta Kliemann conducted a very successful evening at the Cinema Massimo in Torino on February 27. The event was organized by the Associazione and kindly hosted by the Museo Nazionale del Cinema. Since its creation in 2008, the Associazione's mission has been to promote audio-visual culture and young filmmakers; every year it awards a major prize to the short-film winner of the Spazio Torino section at the Torino Film Festival. All four winning films were screened in a crowded theater, followed by a Q&A with the directors.

Swietlan (Nick) Kraczyna



"Le Nozze di Arlecchino" (The Marriage of Harlequin) is a series of images spanning four decades of Nick Kraczyna's work using a variety of techniques (drawing, painting, printmaking) and presented in two exhibitions. The first exhibition held last summer in Barga (Lucca, July 24-August 22, 2011) included over 100 works of art throughout three different galleries. The second exhibit was held this past spring (February 9 – March 9, 2012) in the prestigious Florentine gallery Il Bisonte, where such artists as Henry Moore and Picasso have exhibited and where Kraczyna has had a solo exhibit every 10 years since 1982.

Eric Nicholson



In March Eric Nicholson gave a talk on "Feeling Horny and Wearing Horns from Italian novelle to Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor" at the Renaissance Society of America 2012 meeting in Washington D.C., and in May presented another paper, entitled "Northern Lights and Shadows: Representations of Germans et al. in Early Modern Italian Theatre" at the annual Theater Without Borders conference in Wolfenbuettel, Germany. Also in spring 2012 he performed in the professional production of "Il Corridoio Vasariano: A Theatrical Journey," on the Ponte Vecchio, Florence and directed the SUF "Giullari di Syracuse" production of Molière's comedy classic "The Imaginary Cornuto."

Vittoria Tettamanti



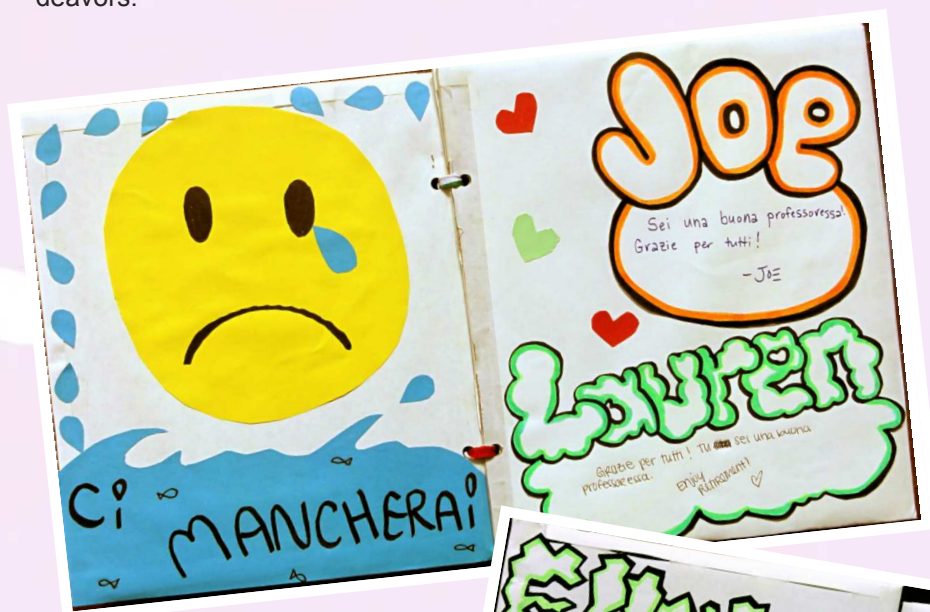
Combining her roles as teacher and volunteer coordinator, Vittoria Tettamanti has published the booklet *Margherita va in pensione e... inizia una nuova missione* ("Margherita is retiring and embarking on a new mission"). She wrote the booklet to explain what the "magic" taxicab Milano 25 and its driver Zia Caterina have done throughout the years. On April 25 the vehicle was put on display in the Florence Botanical Gardens as a monument to solidarity and the mayor of Florence was among the VIPs in attendance. The book was translated into English by the spring semester "Option II" students with the help of SUF professors Antonella Francini and Lily Prigioniero.

Arrivederci Donatella↓



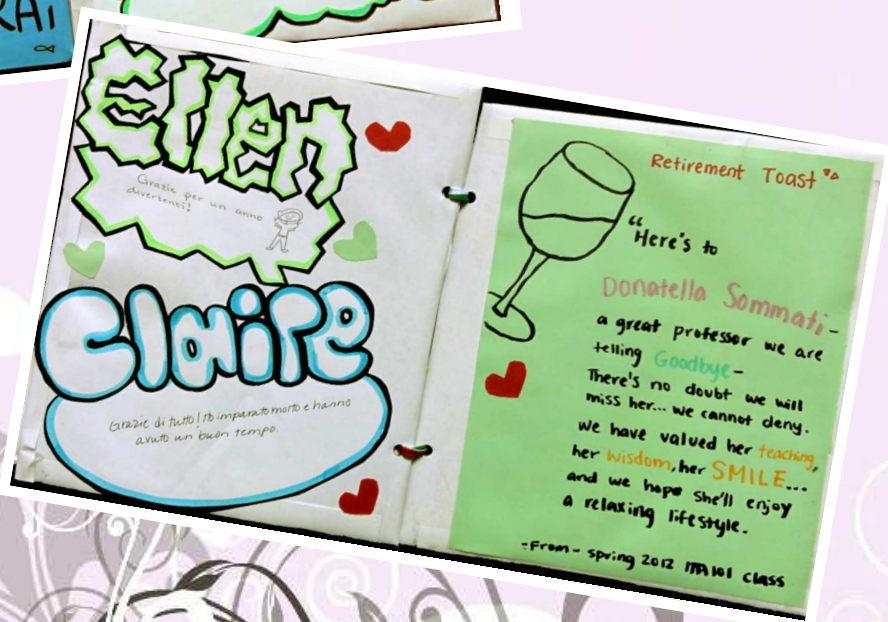
Loredana Tarini
Italian Language Coordinator, SUF

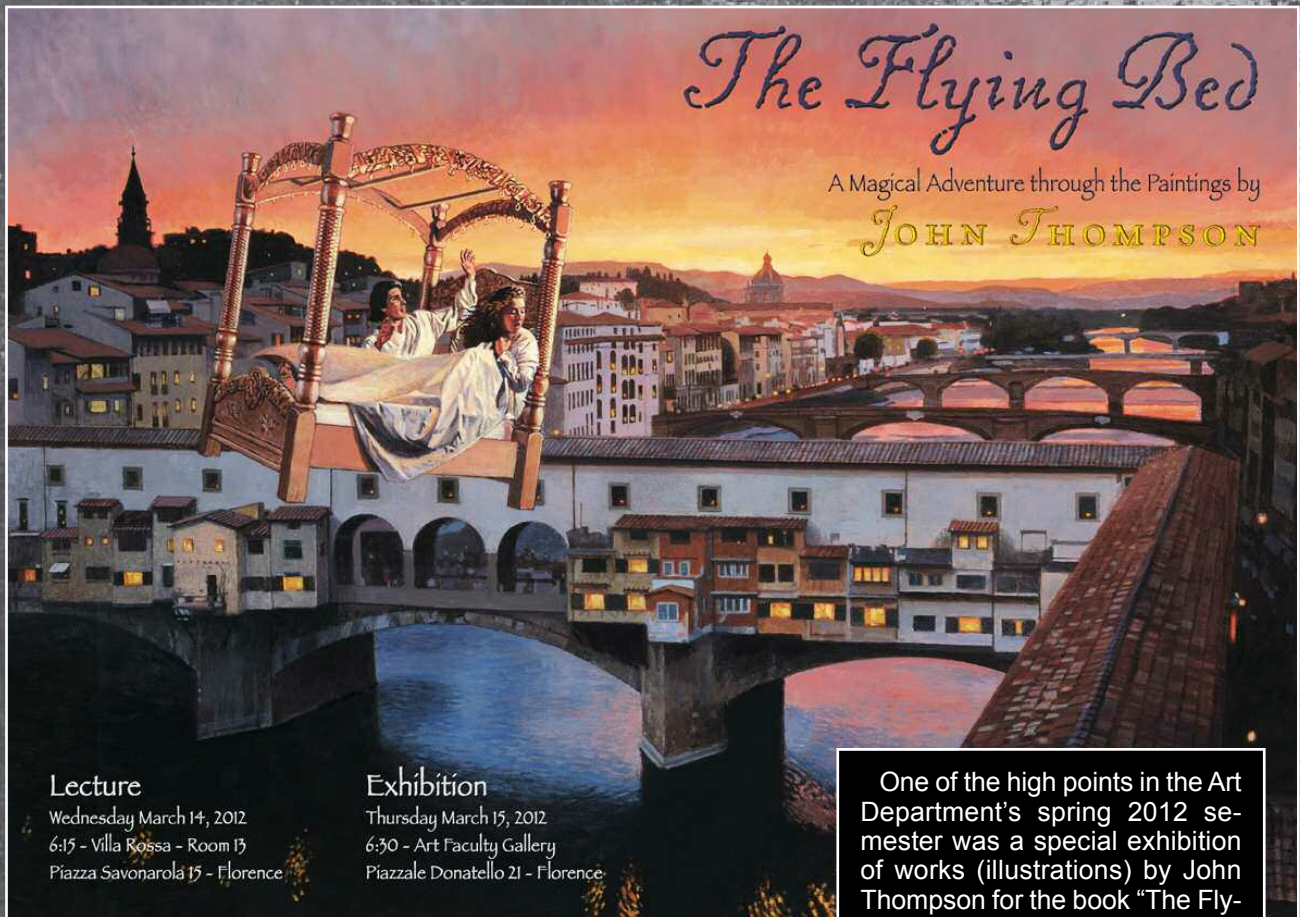
Donatella Sommati is retiring after 20 years of distinguished service as a language professor for the Italian Language and Culture Department at Syracuse University in Florence. Her professionalism, generosity and dedication to both the university and its students will surely be missed. Donatella's invaluable contribution to the department over these two decades has been multifaceted and extensive. Throughout, students have consistently shown their enthusiasm for her teaching style and a deep affection for her as a person. Donatella's spring 2012 students presented her with a scrapbook to thank her for the wonderful semester they've spent together and to wish her the best on her future endeavors.



Students:

Brittany Leung (taking photo)
Ellen Bobich
Elissa Dabusco
Claire Kopp
Lavonia Montoute
Dae Shim
Lauren Silverman
Joe Volpert
Quimeng Zhao





The Flying Bed

A Magical Adventure through the Paintings by

JOHN THOMPSON

Lecture
 Wednesday March 14, 2012
 6:15 - Villa Rossa - Room 13
 Piazza Savonarola 15 - Florence

Exhibition
 Thursday March 15, 2012
 6:30 - Art Faculty Gallery
 Piazzale Donatello 21 - Florence

One of the high points in the Art Department's spring 2012 semester was a special exhibition of works (illustrations) by John Thompson for the book "The Flying Bed." John Thompson, who teaches illustration on Syracuse University's home campus in New York and is currently head of the department, made these illustrations while teaching at SUF in 1999. The exhibition included not only the final paintings as they appeared in print form in the book, but showed Thompson's preparatory drawings, sketches, photographs and even the wooden model that he had made of the flying bed. It was an exhibition and a great lesson.



Student Art Show



Painting Studio

On Wednesday April 18, the SUF Studio Art Department celebrated the end of the semester with the Student Art Show, the latest installment of the bi-annual exhibition and juried competition of student work. This year's show included over one hundred pieces in printmaking, photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, Renaissance painting, batik, silkscreening, and metalsmithing, highlighting the breadth and depth of creative work by SUF students.

The SUF Studio Art Department holds a student exhibition at the end of every semester. It is a unique opportunity for students to not only learn the important process of installing and exhibiting their works, but also a chance for them to share, celebrate and communicate their

thoughts and creative reflections with the greater Italian community. Awards for outstanding projects in each medium as well as a 'Best in Show Cash Prize' are juried during every exhibition by a distinguished group of artists, curators and critics active in the Flo-

rentine and international communities. This year's jury consisted of Marco Cianchi and Paola Bortolotti. Marco Cianchi teaches Art History at the *Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze* and California State University. His research focuses on the parallels between Renaissance and Modern/Contemporary art. Paola Bortolotti is a renowned art critic and journalist-publicist and has collaborated with several art institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art Luigi Pecci in Prato and the *Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze*.



Studio Arts Galleria during exhibition



Painting Studio

Student Art Show

Studio Arts Program

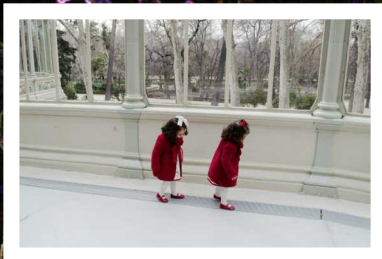


Julia Ferrier, winner of the "Best in Show" cash prize and of the Advanced Photography award



Studio Art coordinator Nick Kraczyna with Magdalen Andreoni, winner of the Intermediate Painting - Special Topics award

Studio Art Awards Spring 2012



Julia Ferrier Winning photo

Best In Show Prize:

Julia Ferrier, Syracuse University

Best per Category:

Introductory Painting: **Michaela Flatley** Fordham University

Interm. Painting - Special Topics: **Magdalen Andreoni** Skidmore College

Sculpture: **Jeffrey Klinger** Syracuse University

Intro to Drawing-Sketchbook: **Amanda Shaffer** Syracuse University

Intermediate and Advanced Drawing: **Rian Downs** U. Southern California

Printmaking: **Micah Benson** Syracuse University

Digital Intro Photography: **Alyx Chapman** U. of Colorado, Boulder

Advanced Digital Photography: **Julia Ferrier** Syracuse University

New Approaches to Renaissance Painting: **Isaac Messina** Syracuse University

Metalsmithing: **Laura Marsolek** Syracuse University

Batik: **Brittany Leung** Johns Hopkins University

Fiber Arts: **Melissa Smith** Dickinson College

Silkscreen: **Jeffrey Klinger** Syracuse University



Isaac Messina, winner of the "New Approaches to Renaissance Painting" award



Sculpture teacher Marco Fallani with SUF director Sasha Perugini



Sculpture studio



SUF LECTURE SERIES AND EVENTS SPRING 2012



ROUND TABLE on "Impotence, Cuckoldry, and Comedy in early modern Europe"

Molly
Bourne
Matteo
Duni
Sara
Matthews Grieco
Eric
Nicholson

Wednesday, April 11
6:20 pm - room 13
Refreshments to follow

SUF Faculty Round Table Discussion

April 13, 2012



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY IN FLORENCE
ORDINE ARCHITETTI PROVINCIA DI PRATO

Architecture as Second Nature L'Architettura come Seconda Natura

Prato March 20, 2012 from 3.30 | Prato 20 marzo, 2012 dalle 15.30
Museo del Tessuto, Via Santa Chiara 24

Welcome | *Saluti*

Roberto Cenni, Sindaco di Prato
Andrea Cavicchi, Presidente del Museo del Tessuto
Luigi Scima, Presidente, Ordine Architetti Provincia di Prato e PPC
Sasha Perugini PhD, Director, Syracuse University in Florence
Luigi Zola, Consigliere, Ordine Architetti Provincia di Prato e PPC
Lawrence Davis, Coordinator, School of Architecture, Syracuse University in Florence

Speakers | *Relatori*

Pippo Ciorra, Senior Curator, MAXXI Fondazione, Roma
Benedetta Tagliabue, Partner, Miralles/Tagliabue-EMBT, Barcelona
John and Patricia Patkau, Principals, Patkau Architects Inc, Vancouver

Round Table | *Tavola rotonda*

Chairs
Richard Ingersoll, Professor, Syracuse University in Florence
Lawrence Davis, Coordinator, School of Architecture, Syracuse University in Florence

Curated by | *A cura di*

Lawrence Davis

Simultaneous Translation | *Traduzione simultanea*

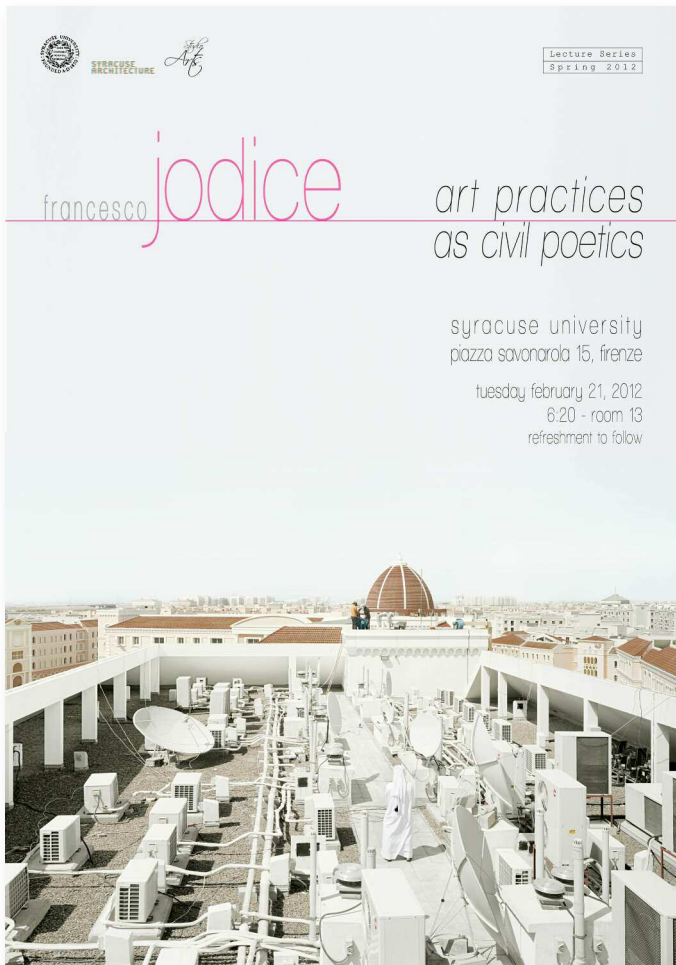
evento in collaborazione con:
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY IN FLORENCE
ORDINE ARCHITETTI PROVINCIA DI PRATO

www.syr.fi.it www.architettiprato.it www.soa.ny.edu



Architecture Symposium

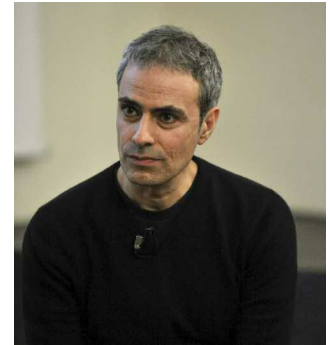
Museo del Tessuto, Prato
April 12, 2012



Francesco Jodice

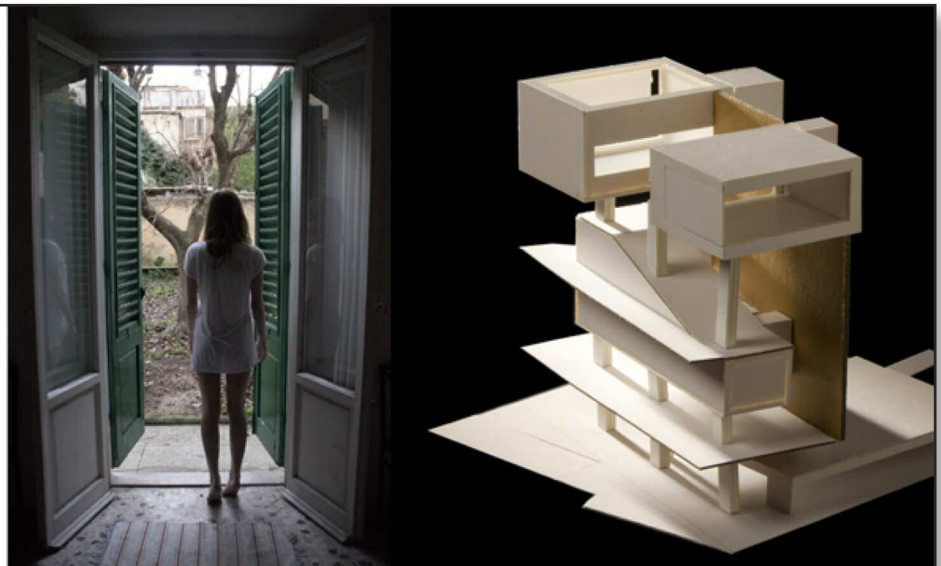
Art Practices as Civil Poetics

February 21, 2012



Photo, Christine Faraji

Building Model, Gregory Bencivengo



Retreat from Reality

CCC Strozzi
April 12, 2012

Outstanding Students Awards Ceremony



photo: Francesco Guazzelli

Spring 2012 Outstanding Students

From left to right: **Leyla Tarhan** (Coluccio Salutati Award and Option II program award), **Farah Douyon** (Lettore per un Giorno award), **Victoria Mullen** (Lettore per un Giorno award), **Rachel Kuenzi** (Coluccio Salutati Award), **Brittany Leung** (internship program award), **Daneka Stryker** (Volunteer program award), **Sam Cass** (Lettore per un Giorno award), **Christopher Cipriano** (Lettore per un Giorno award), **Julieta Castillo** (Option II program award), **Ariel Steinglass** (internship program award), **Amy Tatnall** (Option II program award), **Emily Daubert** (internship program award), **Ellen Bobich** (Volunteer program award).

Coluccio Salutati Essayists

Leyla Tarhan - Syracuse University
Rachel Kuenzi - Syracuse University

Outstanding Option II/III Students

Leyla Tarhan - Syracuse University
Amy Tatnall - Syracuse University
Julieta Castillo - Syracuse University

Outstanding Interns

Brittany Leung - Johns Hopkins University
Ariel Steinglass - Syracuse University
Emily Daubert - Syracuse University

Outstanding Volunteers

Daneka Stryker - Lehigh University
Ellen Bobich - Syracuse University

Outstanding Lettori per un Giorno

Farah Douyon - Syracuse University
Victoria Mullen - Santa Clara University
Sam Cass - George Washington University
Christopher Cipriano - Gettysburg College

The Greek Odyssey Seminar Spring 2012



The VILLA ROSSA VOICE is a Syracuse University in Florence publication.

We welcome your questions and comments.

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