



Ancient Inspirations
Paintings by
Vincent Baldassano

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Catalog for an exhibition at the
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

February 18–May 13, 2016

The paintings on exhibition were made in the summers of 2012, 2014, and 2015, during Vincent Baldassano's tenure as a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome. These works were inspired by ancient sites that he visited, such as Ostia Antica, the Pantheon, and the ruins of Mithraic temples, as well as by the city's historical churches and the visible and tangible evidence of centuries of Italian culture.

Baldassano uses, among other media, acrylic on linen and canvas. His pieces, often rendered in lunette and gable-end shapes, employ bold color and vivid structural shapes in exuberant compositions. The paintings recall abstract expressionist configurations, demonstrating a deeply personal and contemporary sensibility informed by historical technique and echoes of archetypal symbols.

In its totality, my work is a visual statement gleaned from my subconscious. It is an inventory of places I have lived in or traveled to; history, culture, and ancient themes are my inspirations.

— Vincent Baldassano

Selected images



Chapels & Temples #2, acrylic on linen, 2015, 44 x 36.5 inches



Chapels & Temples #8, acrylic on linen, 2015, 22 x 15.5 inches



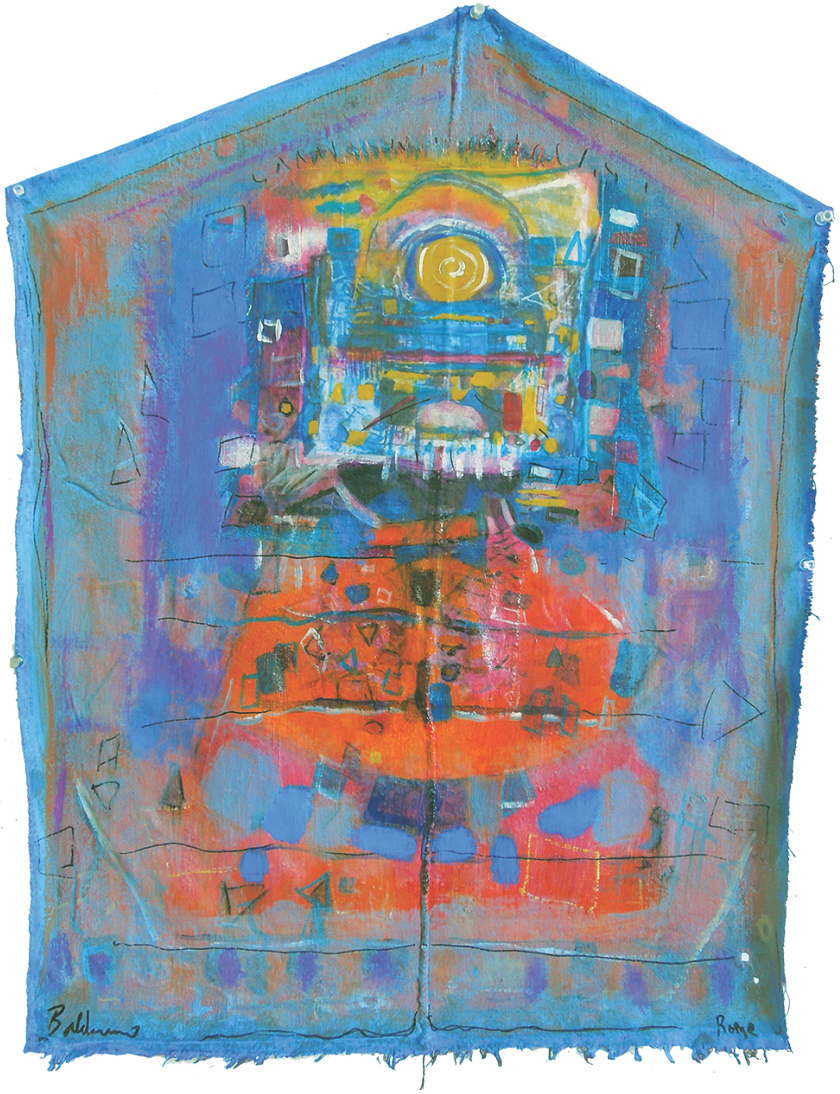
Chapels & Temples #4, acrylic on linen, 2015, 39.5 x 33 inches



Pantheon #1, acrylic on linen, 2015, 43 x 40 inches



Chapels & Temples #6, acrylic on linen, 2015, 21 x 18.5 inches



Monte Verde, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 28 x 21 inches



Via Appia, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 32 x 30 inches



Villa Aurelia, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 34 x 30 inches



Bracciano, mixed media, 2012, 36 x 46 inches



Trastevere, mixed media, 2012, 36 x 46 x 1 inches

Vincent Baldassano, a graduate of Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, with a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing from the University of Oregon, has taught painting and mixed media at universities, colleges, and professional art schools throughout the United States. These include the University of Cincinnati, the National Academy Museum & School of Fine Arts in New York City, and the Silvermine School of Art in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Baldassano is a recipient of numerous painting grants, residencies, and fellowships, including NYSCA, CAPS Grants, and SUNY Painting Fellowships. He has been a Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. His work is in many private and public collections in the United States, Europe, and China, including those of the Pepsi Cola Corporation, the New York Federal Building, and the Savannah College of Art and Design.

He has taken part in more than forty-five national and international solo exhibitions and more than one hundred group exhibitions, including at the American Academy in Rome; the Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; and the Butler Museum of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio.

In addition to teaching and exhibiting, Baldassano was a founding member of the Manhattan Breakfast Club during the early 1970s and '80s in Soho, New York City, where he lived at the time. Later, while living in Westchester and Connecticut, he held a number of positions, including being the owner of ArtPak Transport Ltd, NYC; Executive Director at Contemporary Graphic Arts, Norwalk, Connecticut; and Managing Director at Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, Mount Kisco, New York, to name but three. He is currently Professor of Art at Gateway Community College, New Haven, Connecticut, and on the faculties of Western Connecticut State University and the National Academy of Design.

Exhibited works

Bracciano, mixed media, 2012, 36 x 46 inches

Gianicolo Revisited, mixed media, 2012, 36 x 46 inches

Trastevere, mixed media, 2012, 36 x 46 x 1 inches

Aventino, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 40 x 38 inches

Homage to PN, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 28 x 22 inches

Monte Verde, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 28 x 21 inches

Roman Nights, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 40 x 36 inches

Via Appia, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 32 x 30 inches

Villa Aurelia, acrylic on canvas, 2014, 34 x 30 inches

Chapels & Temples #2, acrylic on linen, 2015, 44 x 36.5 inches

Chapels & Temples #3, acrylic on linen, 2015, 42 x 39.5 inches

Chapels & Temples #4, acrylic on linen, 2015, 39.5 x 33 inches

Chapels & Temples #5, acrylic on linen, 2015, 23 x 18.5

Chapels & Temples #6, acrylic on linen, 2015, 21 x 18.5 inches

Chapels & Temples #7, acrylic on linen, 2015, 23 x 15.5 inches

Chapels & Temples #8, acrylic on linen, 2015, 22 x 15.5 inches

Chapels & Temples #9, acrylic on linen, 2015, 19 x 17.5 inches

Chapels & Temples #10, acrylic on linen, 2015, 21.5 x 17.5 inches

Pantheon #1, acrylic on linen, 2015, 43 x 40 inches



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