

JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2023–2024

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Dear Friends.

This year, 2024, marks forty-five years since the founding of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. Through its several articulations and restructuring, the Calandra Institute has been committed to documenting, preserving, and promoting the Italian American experience.

To fulfill this mission, the Calandra Institute has built a comprehensive, multifaceted approach involving scholarly research, public programs, visual arts, literature, film, and counseling services. Since 2015 we have expanded our reach beyond the US and Italy. On the international level, we founded the Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar in Italy; since 2018, we have co-organized the Diaspore Italiane conferences in Australia, New York, Genova, and Argentina. This report highlights the Calandra Institute's work during the academic year 2023–2024.

The Calandra Institute was established to represent the largest European ancestral group in New York City and State and to foster higher education among and about Italian Americans, advising students, generating awareness of issues affecting the community, and conducting demographic, humanistic, and social science research in order to deepen the understanding of Italian American and Italian diasporic history and culture.

Queens College President Frank Wu has consistently provided support to the Calandra Institute. Likewise, Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez continues to offer us invaluable encouragement. It is impossible for us to adequately express our deep gratitude both to them and to all those beyond the walls of The City University of New York for helping us to sustain our mission.

Please join us in moving toward a brighter future together.

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Sincerely,

Cav. Anthony Julian Tamburri, PhD

Dean and Distinguished Professor

Introduction

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of The City University of New York (CUNY) began as the Italian American Institute to Foster Higher Education. In 1978, New York State Senator John D. Calandra, then chairperson of the Italian Legislative Caucus, called for the creation of an Italian American institute to address historical, sociological, political, and cultural issues specific to the demographic group.

The New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators funded the institution in 1979 to respond to the educational needs and concerns expressed by Italian American students, faculty, and staff at CUNY. Eight years later, the Institute was renamed the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute in honor of the late senator. In 1995, the CUNY Board of Trustees officially placed the Institute under the aegis of Queens College and designated it as a university-wide research institute devoted to the Italian American experience.

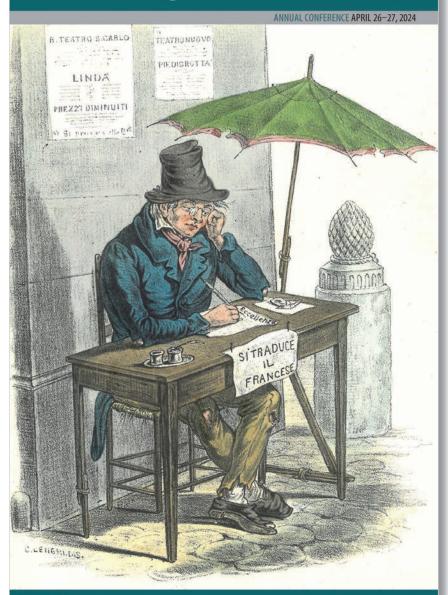
The Institute's mission is in keeping with that of The City University of New York: to foster higher education among future generations. The Institute seeks to heighten awareness of the immigrant experience and broaden the understanding of the history of Italian Americans in the United States. The Institute fulfills its mission through its commitment to:

• Conduct, sponsor, and publish empirical, theoretical, and analytical research that will expand critical understanding of the Italian American experience.

- Operate specialized counseling programs in areas of outreach, articulation, student retention at CUNY, and career aspirations.
- Publish a peer-reviewed biannual journal, *Italian American Review*.
- Serve as a central hub for the dissemination of research to academia, government, industry, and the civic community.
- Organize conferences, lectures, seminars, and symposia on Italian America and the Italian diaspora.
- Administer a CUNY/Italy Exchange Program between CUNY and Italian universities.
- Maintain a resource library of printed and video material pertaining to Italian America.
- Maintain databases regarding Italian American students and faculty at CUNY as well as faculty, scholars, and professionals at other universities.
- Produce and distribute a television program, *Italics*, to disseminate news about Italian America and feature influential figures in related fields.

RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS

Translating Italian Mobilities





Annual Conference

Since 2008 the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute has hosted an annual interdisciplinary conference attended by scholars and participants from around the globe.

The 2024 conference theme was "Translating Italian Mobilities." Scholars from Canada, Italy, and the United States gathered together to present their research findings to an audience of academics, students, and the general public.

Counseling

The Institute has provided counseling services to Italian American students and the community since 1979, employing licensed clinicians trained in and sensitive to the history, culture, and experience of Italians in America. The critical goal of student retention and development is accomplished primarily through academic advising, career development, personal counseling, and workshops to foster psychosocial wellness. The Institute delivers an array of services to help students develop and refine their educational plans, from associate degrees to doctoral and professional levels. Counseling services are administered to CUNY students at Queens College.

International Study

The Institute's international study initiatives involve the participation of undergraduate and graduate students, research fellows, and visiting scholars. Advisers attend student fairs and information sessions to promote these study programs.

CUNY/ITALY EXCHANGE

The CUNY/Italy Exchange Program is designed for undergraduate and graduate students interested in coursework and research in many areas of intellectual pursuit. The program provides participants with an individualized focus in their academic discipline and opportunities to gain international perspectives and skills to support their career goals. Participating universities include Roma Tre University, University for Foreigners of Perugia, and University of Siena. In academic year 2023–2024, two students from the US attended Roma Tre University and two Italian students attended CUNY. The exchange program also placed two researchers at the Institute and various CUNY campuses.

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN ITALY

The Italian Language and Culture program provides American students the opportunity to study Italian language and culture in the medieval city of Perugia. In 2024, eleven CUNY students attended the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

The inaugural Study Abroad in Sorrento program offers students a variety of courses including Italian language, archaeology, cinema, history, literature, and more. One CUNY student attended the 2024 program at Sant'Anna Institute, located on the Amalfi Coast.

Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar

The Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar was established in 2015 as a three-week professional development seminar conducted primarily for college professors and advanced graduate students. It is held in Rome in collaboration with Roma Tre University.

Fellows have come from as far away as Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America to participate in the program. IDSSS provides participants with a foundation of knowledge of the Italian diaspora so that they may return to their home institutions and offer a course on various aspects of Italian migration and its impact on host countries. Scholars have gone on to develop coursework and lead courses based on research conducted during the Seminar.

The Seminar is the recipient of a recurring gift from Alexandra de Luise and Normand Tourangeau and a five-year grant from the Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation. Additional supporting institutions include the American Association of Teachers of Italian, Italian American Studies Association, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, National Italian American Foundation, Order Sons of Italy Grand Lodge of New York, Unico Brookhaven, Unico National, and CUNY's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Italics

Italics: Television for the Italian American Experience is a monthly half-hour magazine-format presentation in the CUNY Presents timeslot featuring prominent Italian Americans in academia, the arts, business, government, sports, and more. Each episode explores the Italian diaspora, Italian American history and traditions, and contemporary Italian American life. Italics has been in production since 1988, serving the Italian American community and those interested in Italian American culture.



2023-2024 SEASON ON CUNY TV

AUGUST

Open Roads: New Italian Cinema

SEPTEMBER

The Angel of Central Park

OCTOBER

A Call from the Black Hills

NOVEMBER

The Battle Hard Fought

DECEMBER

21 Contemporary Italian American Artists; NIAF

JANUARY

Pietro's Gelato Shop; ILICA Conference

FEBRUARY

A Conversation with Michael Dante

MARCH

Exploring Italian American Literature with Mary Jo Bona

APRIL

Italian Filmmaker Matteo Garrone; NOIAW's Three Wise Women

MAY

Giovanni da Verrazzano 500th Anniversary

JUNE

Interwoven Exhibition; NOIAW; NIAF

JULY

Open Roads: New Italian Cinema



Public Programs

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Potentially Dangerous: When It Was a Crime to Be Italian (2021), 50 minutes, Zach Baliva, director. Post-screening discussion with the director via Zoom.

DECEMBER 7, 2023

Oltre i bordi/Beyond the Frame (2023), 41 minutes, Simone Brioni and Matteo Sandrini, directors. Post-screening discussion led by Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, CUNY.

APRIL 3, 2024

Disco Sauce: The True Story of Penne alla Vodka (2021), 21 minutes, and Italy in Bocca, (2023), 30 minutes, Roberto Serrini, director. Post-screening discussion led by Rocco Marinaccio, Manhattan College.

APRIL 16, 2024

Stonebreakers, (2022), 70 minutes, Valerio Ciriaci, director. Post-screening discussion led by Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, CUNY.

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Sicilian Puppet Theater of Agrippino Manteo (1884–1947): The Paladins of France in America, Jo Ann Cavallo, Columbia University

OCTOBER 12, 2023

Spaghetti Sissies: Queering Italian American Media, Julia Heim, University of Pennsylvania and Sole Anatrone, Vassar College

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

The Italian Squad: The True Story of the Immigrant Cops Who Fought the Rise of the Mafia, Paul Moses, Brooklyn College, CUNY

APRIL 11, 2024

In Search of Abundance: Mountains of Cheese, Rivers of Wine, and Other Gastronomic Utopias, Luisa Del Giudice, Independent Scholar

MAY 9, 2024

Partners in Gatekeeping: How Italy Shaped U.S. Immigration Policy over Ten Pivotal Years, 1891–1901, Lauren Braun-Strumfels, Cedar Crest College

WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

Angelo Zeolla reads from *The Bronx Unbound, ovvero i versi Bronxesi* (Bordighera Press, 2023)

MARCH 25, 2024

Richard Vetere reads from She's Not There (Bordighera Press, 2023)

MAY 15, 2024

Lorenzo Carcaterra reads from *Nonna Maria and the Case of the Lost Treasure: A Novel* (Bantam, 2024)

FUORI COLLANA

Additional events organized by the Institute

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Book launch: *Soundtrack of a Life: New and Selected Poems* by Gil Fagiani. Cosponsored by Italian American Writers Association.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Ceremony: Tombstone Dedication for Pietro "Pete" Panto (1910–1939), St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY

OCTOBER 21, 2023

Presentation: Living Biculturalism, Writing Transculturalism: Celebrating Luigi Fontanella

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Master Classes: Cinema, Puglia, Italian Language. In collaboration with Levante International Film Festival Cultural Association and Turesinel Mondo.

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Conference: ILICA, Italian Americans: Past, Present, Future

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Exhibition: Basilicate, A Celebration of Lucanian Culture in the World. Sponsored by the Federation of Lucanians.

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Workshop: Boundaries and Burnout, led by Olivia Tursi. Sponsored by the Department of Experiential Learning, Queens College, CUNY.

DECEMBER 4, 2023

Presentation: James J. Periconi Collection of Italian-Language American Imprints, with inaugural fellows Lindsey Kingston and Carmen Petruzzi.

JANUARY 23, 2024

Film Screening and Discussion: *Lucus a Lucendo. A Place of Light* (2019), with directors Alessandra Lancellotti and Enrico Masi. Cosponsored and hosted by Consulate General of Italy.

MARCH 14, 2024

Film Screening and Discussion: *American Women Saints:* Frances Xavier Cabrini (2024), with directors Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno.

MARCH 21, 2024

Presentation: Intergenerational Memories of World War II: Italian and Italian American Captivities. Cosponsored by Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò of New York University, University of Sydney, and Centre for Italian Modern Art.

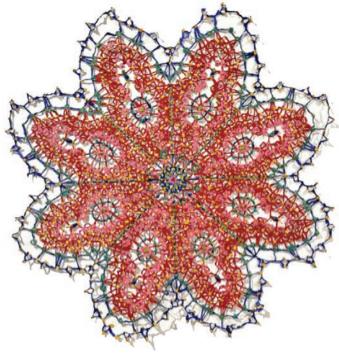
GALLERIA

A showcase for the visual arts and history

SEPTEMBER 2023-APRIL 2024

A Legacy of Making: 21 Contemporary Italian American Artists Curated by Joanne Mattera and Joseph Sciorra

Artist talks in conjunction with this exhibit took place on October 18, November 8, and December 13, 2023; and March 12 and April 8, 2024.



OFFSITE EXHIBITION

Queens College Arts Center

MAY 2-JUNE 4, 2024

Interwoven: Artistic Expressions of the Italian American Experience Curated by Gina Minielli and Olivia Tursi. Cosponsored by the Association to Reunite Italian Americans at Queens College.

Publications

BY THE INSTITUTE

Il Bollettino highlights semester activities and serves as a biannual report to the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators.

Volume 16, Number 2 / Volume 17, Number 1

Italian American Review, a biannual, peer-reviewed social science and cultural studies journal, publishes leading scholarship on topics of interest in Italian American studies. It is designated a category I journal by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, Italy.

Volume 13, Number 2 / Volume 14, Number 1



FROM THE STAFF

STEPHEN J. CERULLI

"A Sort of Accumulation Effect: Readings in the Rivers of the Italian Diaspora." VIA: Voices in Italian Americana, Volume 35 Number 1, 2024.

with Raymond Guarini, "Italian Enclaves: The Hill–St. Louis, Little Italy–Omaha, The West Side–Stamford." *Italian America*, Spring 2024.

with Louis Mendola, "Why the Multi-culturalism of Italy and Its Diaspora Remains a Secret." *La Voce di New York*, February 16, 2004.

with Raymond Guarini, "Italian Enclaves: East Harlem, Columbus Park, Sonoratown, Los Angeles." *Italian America*, Winter 2024.

"Italian Enclaves: Ridgewood, Richmond, Frontenac." *Italian America*, Fall 2023.

Exhibition Review: "The Andrea Doria Rescue at Sea." *Italian American Review*, Volume 15 Number 2, 2024.

"Cerulli on De Michele, 'Anti-Southern Racism and Education in Post-War Italy." H-Italy https://networks.h-net.org/group/reviews/20025582/cerulli-de-michele-anti-southern-racism-and-education-post-war-italy. February 2024.

DONNA CHIRICO

Editor, with Antonella Cagnolati, Anthony Julian Tamburri, and Carmen Petruzzi. *Educazione migrante tra passato, presente e futuro: Saggi in onore di Leonard Covello*. Clueb, 2024.

"No Girls Allowed: Homosociality and the Man Caves of Identity." In *Re-Thinking* The Godfather *50 Years Later*, edited by Anthony Tamburri. Casa Lago Press, 2024.

Principal Investigator, Department of Education, STEM Connect Grant: Building a Guided Pathway to STEM Success, Fall 2023.

FRED GARDAPHÉ

"What *The Godfather* Did to You, Me, and the U.S." In *Re-Thinking* The Godfather *50 Years Later*, edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri. Casa Lago Press, 2024.

"Una generazione rimossa." In *Turisti per caso. Migrazioni e viaggi delle radici*, edited by Maddalena Tirabassi. Accademia University Press, 2024.

NICHOLAS GROSSO

Editor, VIA: Voices in Italian Americana 34.2 and 35.1.

JOSEPH SCIORRA

"My Year in Italy during the 'Years of Lead'." In *Turisti per Caso: Migrazioni e viaggi delle radici*, edited by Maddalena Tirabassi. Accademia University Press, 2024.

"The Strange Artistic Genius of This People': The Ephemeral Art and Impermanent Architecture of Italian Immigrant Catholic Feste," *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*, Volume 30, Number 1/2, Spring/Fall 2023.

Winner of Vernacular Architecture Forum's 2024 Catherine W. Bishir Prize

Foreword, "Amir x 3, *This Is What I Live For.*" In Amir Issaa's This Is What I Live For: An Afro-Italian Hip Hop Memoir, edited by Clarissa Clò. San Diego State University Press, 2023.

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI

Editor, with Sabrina Vellucci. "Rethinking Italian American Literary Criticism: New Ideas for a Reconsideration." Special Issue. *Italian American Review* 13.1 (2023)

Editor, with Antonella Cagnolati, Donna Chirico, and Carmen Petruzzi. *Educazione migrante tra passato, presente e futuro: Saggi in onore di Leonard Covello*. Clueb, 2024.

Editor, with Antonio Vitti. *Mediterraneano e dialoghi di intercultura tra pandemie e guerra*. Bordighera Press, 2023.

"Italian Americans and African Americans 50 Years Later: What Might We Do?" *TILCA. Teaching Italian Language and Culture Annual* (2023): 55-64.

Research

Institute initiatives employ a range of disciplines and methods—from interpretive analysis to quantitative research—to study individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions of the past and present.

In addition to research conducted by staff, the Institute supports international scholars by providing access to facilities and opportunities to present ongoing and published work.

CULTURAL STUDIES

Research in the arts and humanities examines the ways in which Italian American culture is articulated in historical, social, economic, cultural, and political contexts. Areas of exploration include literature, music, cinema, theater, the interdisciplinary fields of migration and diasporic studies, literary and film criticism, media, popular culture, folklife, and vernacular culture.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE LABORATORY

In 2015 the Institute established the Italian Language Resource Laboratory to provide educators with a forum through which participants can conduct and publish research, disseminate information, and organize symposia focused on teaching. The laboratory publishes a refereed online publication, *Teaching Italian Language and Culture Annual*, to discuss the empirical and theoretical concerns of teaching language and learning and to facilitate scholarly exchange among teachers and researchers.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

Quantitative analyses in sociodemographic fields interpret the lives of Italian Americans in the United States. Research in the disciplines of demographics, linguisites, political science, psychology, and sociology highlights the cultural presence, economics, educational achievements, family structures, life cycles, and occupational participation of Italian Americans.

Periodic reports provide the basis for Italian American affirmative action accountability at The City University of New York.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES JAMES J. PERICONI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Since 2022 the Institute has administered the Special Collections and Archives James J. Periconi Research Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to scholars working to archive the James J. Periconi Collection of Italian Language American Imprints, a unique 500-item collection of printed matter that offers insight into what Italian immigrants to the United States were reading, writing, and thinking about at the end of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. The collection is held in the Rosenthal Library, Queens College, CUNY.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advisory Councils

The Institute has convened and maintains meeting schedules for several prominent advisory groups. Participating members represent a range of academics and professionals in the Italian American community.

ITALIAN AMERICAN FACULTY AND STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL is comprised of representatives from each CUNY campus who advise college presidents on matters affecting the university's Italian American community. Delegates report on the concerns of students, faculty, and staff at individual campuses and recommend methods of resolution.

ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES ADVISORY COUNCIL consists of members of the CUNY community and advises on research, service projects, and other academic programs that focus on Italian American studies curricula and development.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL advises on the status of Italian language instruction at CUNY. The council addresses the involvement of the university's Italian departments and advocates for the expansion of Italian American studies curricula.

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL includes members from major Italian American organizations. The council facilitates the development and growth of various Italian American associations.

Outreach

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Institute collates and disseminates monthly events information submitted by community organizations. The calendar is distributed via email to more than 6,000 subscribers.

FRIENDS OF THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

This foundation was established to support and advance the education and research mission of the Institute, in particular the sponsorship of recommended projects and programs.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Institute engages with a wide range of organizations and individuals through its presence across social media platforms.



Facebook facebook.com/CalandraInstituteCUNY



Instagram instagram.com/calandra_institute/



x.com/CalandraItal

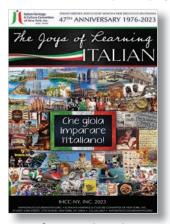
Youtube



youtube.com/c/ItalicsTV/about

Partnerships

ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH



Since 1976, leading institutions in New York's Italian American community have organized a series of events each year to coincide with Columbus Day celebrations in October. The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is a major sponsor of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York, Inc., and its work upholding this

significant cultural responsibility. Additionally, the Institute coordinates and produces the annual directory of Italian Heritage and Culture Month special events, concerts, lectures, and proclamations in and around New York City. The 2023 theme was "The Joys of Learning Italian."

ITALIAN LANGUAGE INTER-CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Since 2009, the Institute has cosponsored the Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance's annual conference and provided critical support to further the cause of the Advanced Placement exam in Italian language at high schools in the United States.

SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI OF NEW YORK

In October 2017 a collaborative protocol was established between the Società Dante Alighieri and the Institute, leading to the relaunch of the New York chapter.

RESOURCES

Facilities

In academic year 2023–2024, the Institute sponsored use of its office space and facilities to:

Bordighera Press
Italian American Studies Association
Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, Inc.
Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance
La Commedia di Dante in Italiano in Midtown
National Organization of Italian American Women
Roma Tre University
Società Dante Alighieri of New York

Library

The Institute's research library contains books, journals, magazines, and newspapers pertaining to Italian American and Italian history and culture, including unique holdings on economics, literature, and politics. In addition to its general holdings, the library has four significant collections:

IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO

A nearly complete collection of the most widely circulated, longest-running Italian-language daily newspaper (1880–1988) in the United States, archived on microfilm.

THE SARACENO COLLECTION

This 13,500-volume collection, a gift from the estate of Pietro Saraceno (University of Rome), contains books and periodicals from the eighteenth-century Kingdom of Italy—including rare volumes of the Leggi e Decreti—to the Italian Republic up to 1959.

THE CAMMETT COLLECTION

This 5,500-volume collection, a gift from the estate of John M. Cammett (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY), includes the complete works of Antonio Gramsci and books on Italian Communism and anti-Fascism.

THE CANNISTRARO COLLECTION

This 2,000-volume collection, a gift from the estate of Philip V. Cannistraro (Queens College, CUNY), contains books on Italian Fascism.

Funding

Funding for the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is provided by:

The State of New York
The City University of New York
Queens College

Additional funding is provided by:
Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation
Italian American Studies Association
Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance
Alexandra de Luise

For a complete list of sponsors, go to the Institute's online donors page: https://calandrainstitute.org/the-institute/donors/.

Staff

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Catalina Santamaria Producer, *Italics*

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PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Page 14: View of exhibition Interwoven: Artisite Expressions of the Italian American Experience at Queens College, CUNY.

Page 20: Jennifer Cecere, Red Star, 2011, acrylic on ripstop nylon, 36 inches diameter.

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