

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Graffi spirituali**

**Danielle Villicana D'Annibale exhibits a fresco painting of the Madonna delle Vertighe in Arezzo**

At **Via Cavour 85** in Arezzo, on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 6PM, inaugurates the solo exhibition of painting of **Danielle Villicana D'Annibale** by the title of *graffi spirituali*.

The exposition will host a recent work of art displayed for the first time by the American artist.

Internationally known, as well as founder and artistic director of the new exhibition space **Via Cavour 85** of Arezzo, Danielle for over twenty years has worked on projects for prestigious clients from Pasadena and Laguna Beach in California, to Las Vegas, Nevada in the United States, to Florence, Rome & Arezzo in Italy. Projects of world importance include work created as a sculptor and painter for The Venetian Hotel & Casino for the renowned international company Treadway Industries.

**The solo exhibition presents a simple but profound interpretation of the Madonna delle Vertighe in fresco, created with the graffito technique, for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Madonna of the Vertighe, named Patron of the Highway of the Sun, in 1964, by Papa Paolo VI.** The exhibit will remain visible, at free entrance, until Wednesday, September 3, 2014, and is visible by appointment.

The work of art in exposition is part of a new series of five frescoes created by Villicana for the group exhibition "Femininity of the Sacred" curated by Lucrezia Lombardo, at the Cassero Museum in Monte San Savino which will be visible until September 26.

**Words written about the artist:**

*"...the artistic activity of Danielle Villicana cannot be delimited, really because the artist expresses an omnivorous wish to embrace styles, movements, languages, techniques and media, but that converges in a solo great project, never to stand still, to overcome continuously the limits to conduct new cognitive experiences which is the deepest sense of the art. Probably we could perhaps suggest a path that, keeping in mind of the developed solicitations and seductions, sees Danielle Villicana depart from the solid construction and concreteness of the "profession" of the artist, travelling through the history of the art to also lay claim to the fresco, and to gradually arrive to undress some classical and figurative baggage, to access abstract art and to the informal one, to land to the object art, to the combine painting of Rauschenberg, to finally find again an expressive liberty that conjugates life and art."*

**Michele Loffredo**, art critic and historian

(Danielle Villicana D'Annibale "American Spirit," Blurb, 2012)

*"...Scenographer, painter, gallerist, sculptress, ceramicist and thespian, Danielle incarnates the*

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*American spirit, intending this, as writes Loffredo, her cultural formation launched at Laguna Beach, carried on in Los Angeles and completed in Florence. The entire artistic experience of Danielle is documented in the Aretine exhibit entitled <<American Spirit>> and in which is proposed academic interest in American pop art and the denunciations with regards to the commercialization of cigarettes, thus the last series entitled <<Cigarettes box paintings>> chromatically strong images, unlimited and expression of doing abstract which has no limits...”*

**Liletta Fornasari**, art historian

(La Nazione, Agenda Arezzo, Sunday, December 9, 2012, p 21)

**Brief biography:**

**Danielle Villicana D’Annibale** was born in San Francisco, in California, in 1972. In 1994 she graduated with a B.A. in Art History and the Visual Arts from Occidental College of Los Angeles. The love for the Renaissance took her to Italy in the same year, where she attended important masters and Florentine atelier, from Charles Cecil Studios to the Florence Academy, to the studio of Silvestro Pistoiesi in 1996. Afterwards she learned the technique of fresco at the school of Leonetto Tintori of Prato. In 2001 she enrolled in the Accademia di Belle Arti of Rome. She continued on the meantime her plastic and pictorial research, veering towards abstraction: the series Cigarette Box Paintings took life.

With the academic diploma obtained in 2006, receiving highest honors 110 and lode, the American transferred to Arezzo, where she may live in close contact with the art of Piero della Francesca. Collaborating with her husband Maurizio D’Annibale, light designer, Danielle Villicana began working on the project Villa Margherita a Paradise for Artists in Tuscany and opened, in 2010, a contemporary art gallery in the heart of the city, immediately becoming a favored meeting place for Italian and foreign artists.

Since 1994 she has participated in solo and group exhibits in Italy and the United States. She is a member of the California Art Club, Toscana Cultura, Montevarchi Arte and co-founder with her husband, Maurizio D’Annibale, of the "Villa Margherita International Art Club."

Danielle currently divides her time between her studio in Arezzo, Italy and organizing exhibits, catalogues and events for artists.

**Principle professional activities:**

In 1993, Danielle Villicana D’Annibale conducted the role of assistant to Eugenia Butler for the project The Kitchen Table Project presented at ART/LA’93, where artists of the caliber of Marina Abramovic, Carolee Schneemann, Felipe Ehrenberg and other thirty figures of international level were present. From 1998 to 2000 she was sculptress for Treadway Industries in the environment of projects including the Venetian Hotel & Casino, Aladdin Gaming, Universal Studios Japan, Disney California Adventure and others. In 1999, she conducted the task of painter and decorator for Saltman Art in Burbank Los Angeles and the Venetian Hotel & Casino. In 2003, she was assistant scenografer to Francesco Frigeri, at

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Cinecittà, for the film The Passion of the Christ of Mel Gibson. From 2010 to today she has curated and organized, together with her husband, over sixty exhibits, concerts and literary encounters inside the Villicana D'Annibale Galleria D'Arte and new exhibition space Via Cavour 85 of Arezzo.

**For further information**, please contact Danielle Villicana D'Annibale at +39 338 6005593 or at the following email: [danielle@villicanadannibale.com](mailto:danielle@villicanadannibale.com).

**Please follow and share** with Danielle Villicana D'Annibale and Via Cavour 85 on Facebook (@viacavour85Arezzo), Twitter (@ViaCavour85AR), Pinterest (pinterest.com/daniellevillica), Google+ (@Danielle Villicana D'Annibale) or via the hashtags #DanielleVillicanaDAnnibale e #ViaCavour85.

[www.villicanadannibale.com](http://www.villicanadannibale.com)

VIA CAVOUR 85 - AREZZO



danielle villicana d'annibale  
graffi spirituali

26 luglio - 3 settembre 2014

vernissage con la presenza dell'artista  
sabato 26 luglio dalle ore 18.00 alle ore 20.00

light designer e installazione Maurizio D'Annibale

orario di apertura dietro appuntamento

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