

Fundraising Art Exhibition

An Art Exhibition to raise funds for the Red Cross in Ukraine

September 21 - 28, 2022

Opening Reception:

Wednesday September 21, 19:00-21:00

SOTTO al British, Lungarno Guicciardini 15, Florence

Featuring Artists:

Erika Hoenig | Tom J. Byrne | Jennifer Leo | Look-Ah

LOVE

Not War

The Cause

The British Institute of Florence is supporting Florence-based curator and artist Erika Glasova Hoenig in her drive to raise funds for the Red Cross (Florence) Ukraine Emergency fund. She has organised an exhibition of works by four artists, who have donated specially created pieces to be sold and raise funds. Please give generously in support of Erikas campaign

The Artists



Erika Hoenig

Erika is a Slovakian born artists who, at a young age, relocated to England to further her studies. Recently, she has expanded her formation within the art world by studying at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London and is now also a qualified Curator.

Erika is currently residing in Florence, Italy. While discovering the magics of Tuscany she has gradually let herself to fully embraced her artistic calling. Acrylic paintings became her favourite art medium to work with. Her expressive style is all about the colour. She believes that brightening up the grey skies can light up even the most difficult subjects to paint. Erika offers personalised paintings on request. Currently, many of her artworks make a part of private collections. She is now finalising her online gallery project, where she will be exhibiting some of her art. www.erikahoenig.com



Tom J. Byrne

Tom J. Byrne has been an artist 30 years. In Ireland he established art groups, published artist catalogues and established information databases. With this abundant new information Tom realized that to further his artistic pursuits he had to leave Ireland. Tom moved to Paris for 10 years & in that time studied with several impressive artists, ran two art galleries on the Isle Saint Louis and was a frequent participant at Irish Embassy functions.

Furthering his informative exposure & receiving encouragement of artist Shane Wolf, Tom moved to Italy and studied in Florence, with maestro, John Michael Angel of the Angel Art Academy. In Florence, these experiences fused together, with a discipline of the Atelier training. It was pivotal and combined all the knowledge acquired in France and Ireland forming a solid structure from which to create art. Tom now focuses on landscape painting while maintaining his love of figurative drawing. <http://www.tjbyrne.com/>



Jennifer Leo

Jennifer is a Canadian artist and designer from Toronto, Canada. An Alumni of Ontario College of Art and design, Jennifer has studied abroad in Florence, Italy, where she currently resides. The influence of Tuscan life and culture remains an integral part of her art and she works effortlessly to share her experience and passions in the creative community, and internationally. Her bold, colourful, and abstract works have become a staple of her artistic identity, and they take the viewer on an evocative journey of curiosity and awareness. www.jenleostudio.com



Look-Ah

Look-Ah creates mosaics using the colored aluminum of cans. These metal tiles applied on canvas play with the light by varying their shades as well as the relationship with the viewer depending on the environment in which they are located and on the light they reflect. The use of waste materials invites us to reflect upon the creative rebirth of everyday containers. From waste, through a precise transformation, they become colors to create pop works. The creation of the works takes place in two distinct phases, opposite in form, but inseparable: the computer design of the digital image combined with the craftsmanship of the pigments and the composition on canvas. info@look-ah.com



The Red Cross

La Croce Rossa Italia Firenze is been one of the most active charities and foundations when handling domestic and international crisis. It is our honour and pleasure to be involved in their supportive activities during these difficult times, highlighting the unexpected war in Europe. We live in 21st century and are still experiencing completely unnecessary losses of life, destruction of historical and ancient architectures, and diminishing our precious natural resources and wild life.

Croce Rossa Firenze launched the 'emergenza ucraina' project in February at the beginning of the ukraine invasion by Russia. Through generous donations it is able to manage CAS and directly support guests providing necessities for their stay in Florence including transfer and logistics between Italian Cities, collections, management and storage of medicine, support to the Regional Centre of Hospitality@Mercafir and support to Croce Rossa International missions. Humanitarian response to the invasion via Croce Rossa Movement and Medzzaluna Rosa made it possible for millions of volunteers to help those most affected by the invasion. First hand support at the borders has provided food, water, clothing, bedding and transportation as well as psychological support. Some funds are also dedicated to support rebuilding of the cities, towns, villages, schools, hospitals and preservation of artistic and cultural heritage.



Lorenzo Andreoni, Chairman of Red Cross Florence Committee will take us through a closer look at what has actually been accomplished since the end of February.

Lorenzo has started his long collaboration with Red Cross in 2002. Back then, a young entrepreneur, his humanitarian efforts were especially noticeable in Civil Protection and International Humanitarian Law department. Throughout an active participation within the association he quickly turned out to be a preferred member. During the elections in 2016 Lorenzo has become a Chairman of Red Cross Florence Committee and continues to be so to this date. His humanitarian efforts are internationally recognised. www.crifirenze.it/comitato/

The Auction

A classic In-house Auction will take place at 20:30 during the vernissage. There are four artworks for the auction. Each participant need to register, providing their full name and contact details and will be given a numbered bit paddle. (register on the evening or send your details to info@erikahoenig.com) All profits from the sold artworks will go to the **Red Cross Florence**, Ukrainian Emergency cause. An online auction will follow at the end of the exhibition on 29th September proposing remaining artworks. The link to the online exhibition is to be handed out to our guests during the exhibition week. You can also make a direct purchase of the artworks by contacting the artists or sending a request to info@britishinstitute.it

Reception Special Guests

Florentine mezzo-soprano, completed her musical studies at the *School of Music* in Fiesole, graduating with singing specialization in December 2000. From 2000 to 2009 she collaborated with the theaters of Pisa, Lucca and Livorno, and with the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago and the Teatro Comunale di Modena. Since 2009 she has been an artist of the Choir of the *Maggio Musicale fiorentino*, and support of soprano as soloist since June 2011 in recital dedicated to Mariella Devia. In 2014 she obtained a two-year educational diploma in Singing with the full and honors at the *Cherubini Conservatory* in Florence.

KATJA DE SARLO



GIACOMO BENEDETTI



Has studied Piano, Harpsichord, Organ and Band Instrumentation obtaining a degree in organ and harpsichord with honors at the *Cherubini Conservatory* in Florence. He is an organist of S. Miniato al Monte and S. Felicità in Florence. He works for the *Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino*, the *Cherubini Conservatory* and the *School of Music of Fiesole* as Maestro Collaborator.

Gallery Hours:

Thursday September 22 - Wednesday September 28 12:00 - 17:00

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<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/lovenotwar>

