

Tour the Beauty of Sicily Without Ever Leaving the Borough

The Brooklyn College Art Gallery invites you to leave your passport at home and take a visual journey through Sicily: *A Day in the Life*, a collection of spellbinding images of the landscape and people of Sicily as seen through the eyes of four renowned photographers -- two Americans and two Sicilians.

Through their evocative photographs, Paul Blanchard, Bernardo Tortorici di Raffadali, Thomas Roma, and Enzo Sellerio illuminate the social realities of Sicilian existence and capture the mysterious atmosphere of this ancient kingdom.

The lives of farmers, merchants, housewives, and schoolchildren are captured, often framed by the medieval doorways and windows of the island's small cities, or against the dramatic panorama of the vast untamed terrain, from the mountains in the north to the majestic snow-covered volcano Etna, still active, on the island's east coast.

The exhibit of photographs, curated by Maria Rand, will be on view at the Brooklyn College Art Gallery at the Brooklyn War Memorial Building, located near the entrance of the Brooklyn Bridge in downtown Brooklyn, 195 Cadman Plaza West. The exhibit is free to the public and is open weekdays until December 12, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Paul Blanchard is an American conceptual artist and photographer who has made Florence his home for the last thirty years. Also a travel guide writer and a noted art historian of the area, Blanchard derives his inspiration from the geography and history of Sicily, and his photographs of mountains, jagged landscapes and the crater of Mount Etna capture the island's ancient soul.

Bernardo Tortorici di Raffadali, a member

of the vestigial Sicilian nobility and a patron of the arts in his native Palermo, creates remarkable and starkly beautiful photos that are intimate slices of life, finely attuned to political and social realities. Visually arresting, his images also maintain a dreamlike distance.

Brooklynite Thomas Roma is best known for his photos of the borough and its citizens. Inspired by stories from his mother's family--and funded by a Guggenheim Fellowship--Roma ventured to Sicily to connect with a culture and a lifestyle completely foreign to his experience as a New York City street photographer. The best of these are featured in his most recent book, *Sicilian Passage* (2003). His other works include *Higher Ground* (1998), *Sunset Park* (1998), *Found in Brooklyn* (1996), and the much acclaimed *Come Sunday* (1994). Roma is currently the director of photography and an associate professor at Columbia University School of the Arts.

Enzo Sellerio, a renowned post-war Italian photographer and filmmaker, creates photographs that are painterly masterpieces, with a composition and feeling that owes much to artists like Carravaggio and Rembrandt, and appear to be illustrations for a continuous, grand Sicilian opera. The best images from this photographer's fifty-year body of work are included in *Enzo Sellerio: A Photographer in Sicily* (1996).

The exhibition is presented by the Brooklyn College Art Gallery, which mounts several important works of national and international art each year as well as exhibitions of folk art, history, and local lore.

Visit the College Web site at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu for more information.



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