

ITALIA REAL & IMAGINED

Pastels by Mallory Lake



PUCKER GALLERY | BOSTON

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Mallory Lake's pastel paintings of lush Italian villas and sweeping landscapes captivate like magic: her pastels flourish with breathtaking details of the real and the imagined, and we believe in the awe-inspiring world she presents. In her idyllic paintings, Mallory not only evokes the true beauty of the scenery before us, but she also enchants us with light and composition to suggest wonders beyond what is visible.

A frequent feature within Mallory's pastels are objects partially hidden by trees, shadows, long distances, or close perspectives, and these objects are rendered in such a way as to suggest their own longing to be revealed. For instance, **Moresco** (LK748) and **Summer Afternoon, Lake Como** (LK732) each contain an elegant building surrounded almost entirely on the left and below by dark trees and bushes. So much thick vegetation allows for only a glimpse of the exposed facade, but this exposure draws the viewer's eye from the dense brush into the open air. Here the building seems to extend itself ardently toward the sunlit sky (**Moresco**) and the delicate waters (**Summer Afternoon, Lake Como**). Following Mallory's cues, we are initially intrigued by the dark branches and the mysterious buildings before she draws us to the bright space.

Even expansive landscapes such as **S. Ambrogio, Tuscany** (LK443), **Storm Clouds, Colombare** (LK646), **Aliano** (LK734), and **Sunrise, San Ambrogio** (LK740) show buildings obstructed by foliage or shrouded in shadow, yet again the eye is lifted outward and upward toward the soft, hazy lines of the sun-lit horizon. Furthermore, in **Villa Cipressi** (LK673) and **Twilight, Villa Cipressi** (LK527), Mallory proves that a single location has the potential to express vastly different moods when perspective is modified. In the blue-green **Twilight, Villa Cipressi**, the extremely narrow canvas mimics the tall, dense trees that climb high toward the skies, blocking the lake and distant hills almost entirely from view. A feeling of melancholy emanates from the structure in the distance, which remains a mysterious unknown. Conversely, **Villa Cipressi** bursts in golden light as the front exterior of the hotel fills the whole surface, eliciting awe toward the structure's grandeur and curiosity on its whereabouts.

The alluring qualities of Mallory Lake's pastel paintings emerge vis-à-vis her perspective on real locations. As renderings from photographs of her travels: actual villas, communes, cafes, and streets, Mallory's paintings are true to life but even more so in that they enhance the interactions between architecture, light, and vegetation imbuing a sense of quiet, hopeful yearning. This longing is often captured through a subdued tension within a beautiful scene in which Mallory shows as much care in restraint as she does in amplifying details. She withholds information within a scene to reveal something much more—a deeper sense of connection to the world as Mallory sees it. Each work of art then deepens our understanding of a given place as it exists through her lens, and in doing so provokes in us an ache for the world as it appears in her work.

— JACQUELINE BELFIELD GERTNER

All works are pastel on paper.



Moresco | 12 x 12" | LK748



Summer Afternoon, Lake Como | 20 x 20" | LK732



Villa Cipressi | 20 x 30" | LK673



Moonlight, Villa Freia | 20,5 x 8,5" | LK619



Aliano | 8,5 x 20" | LK734



Sunrise, San Ambrogio | 16 x 23" | LK740 (JS)



Storm Clouds, Colombare | 15 x 24" | LK646



Strove, Tuscany | 18 x 18" | LK627



Twilight, Villa Cipressi | 28 x 12.5" | LK527



San Giovanni alla Vena | 10 x 26" | LK764



S. Ambrogio, Tuscany | 10 x 26" | LK443



Caffè Meletti | 16 x 16" | LK756



Villa Estense | 16 x 24" | LK566



Villandry | 18 x 18" | LK665



Il Duomo di Firenze | 24 x 17" | LK768



Menaggio | 14 x 14" | LK695



Appignano | 14 x 20" | LK766



Maranello | 14 x 8" | LK776



Syracuse Sunset | 12 x 12" | LK774



San Michele, Tuscany | 12 x 12" | LK773



Canale delle Navi | 15 x 26" | LK769



San Lazaro, Tuscany | 16 x 16" | LK698



Argine | 16.5 x 16" | LK765



Appignano | 12 x 12" | LK745



La Fuente | 18,5 x 14,75" | LK77



Saline di Volterra | 12 x 12" | LK743



Montefano Vecchio | 12 x 12" | LK744



Dawn, Pietrafitta | 24 x 15" | LK680

Although Mallory Lake lived in Vermont, the rolling hills, tall cypress trees, stuccoed buildings and incomparable light of Tuscany were her inspiration. The artist took frequent sojourns to Europe and then returned to her studio, with photographs in hand, to bring her handsome and luxuriously textured pastels to life. Each piece captures the dimension and shadow, the spirit and mood of its place. Her work has been the subject of various articles and exhibitions and is included in several New England and Canadian collections. Mallory Lake passed away in the summer of 2017.

PUCKER

ESTABLISHED 1967 BOSTON

GALLERY

PUCKER GALLERY
240 Newbury Street, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 02116
617.267.9473
contactus@puckergallery.com

GALLERY HOURS:
Monday through Saturday
10:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Sunday 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM

We are open to all and taking the necessary precautions for visitor and staff safety. We welcome appointments to maximize visitor experience.

Pucker Gallery is a member of the Boston Art Dealers Association and the New England Appraisers Association.

CREDITS:

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DATES:

15 January through 27 February 2022

PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION:

Saturday 15 January 2022

3:00 to 6:00PM

ONLINE EVENTS:

Please visit www.puckergallery.com for a list of virtual gatherings and events accompanying *Italia Real & Imagined*.



Early Morning, Cetinale | 12 x 16.5" | LK753

ON THE COVER:

Lake Como in the Mist | 16 x 24.5" | LK762

Please visit www.puckergallery.com to view current and past exhibition catalogues and subscribe to the Artwork of the Week email list.