

St Stephen's Cultural Center Foundation and the Artist Salon present

meanwhile  
nel mentre

light and presence

Diane Epstein

Andrea Annessi Mecci

Claudia Palmira

Patricia Glee Smith

Mara Van Wees

photography

painting

sculpture

This exhibit explores five artists' perceptions of moments in time, and the sense that something is happening simultaneously, but somewhere else. We wonder what has just taken place, or what is to come, and are captured by the luminosity of the moment. Each artist, in varying mediums, has approached the theme uniquely.



Special thanks to Carmen Moauro Carbonell, Agnès Martin and St. Stephen's Cultural Center Foundation.

design by Claudia Palmira

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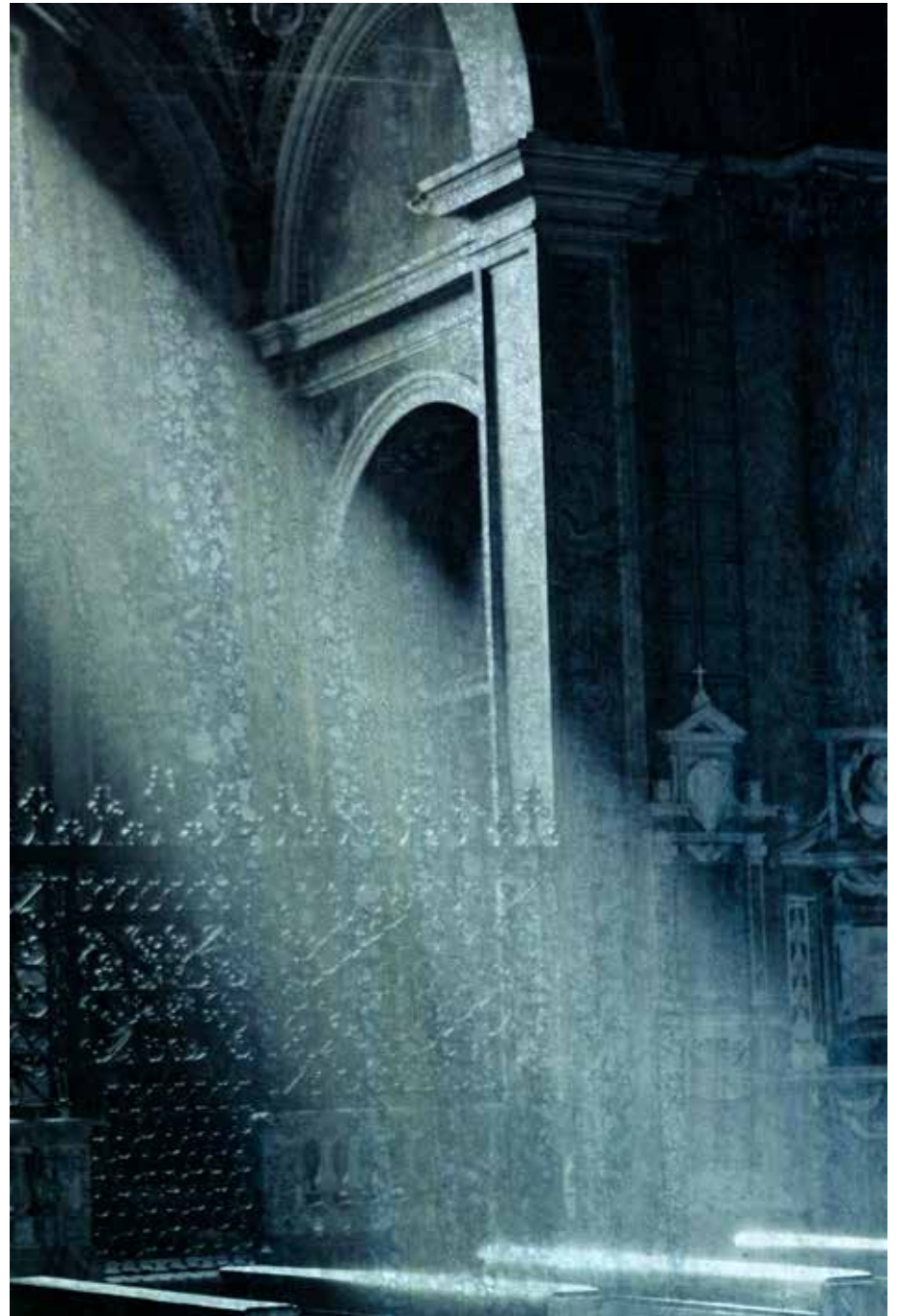
May 6 - May 20, 2014

St.Stephen's Cultural Center Foundation, corner Viale Aventino-Via Aventina, Rome

curated by Carina Courtright

Diane Epstein

*Light Beam (Santa Maria Sopra Minerva)*, 2011.  
Photograph printed on Hahnemühle fine art paper.  
61 cm x 91 cm



## statement<sub>bio</sub>

"In *Meanwhile*, through my *Fresco Photography*, I seek to capture that mysterious interval, the ephemeral moment, to suspend time and space -- to bring a sense of wonder, of renewal, and create a connection between what has come before and what I see now. *Meanwhile* -- presence and light -- is an empowering feeling, a place of refuge, of knowledge, of balance and allure. With my *Fresco Photography*, which involves superimposing images of fragments of faded walls and textural remnants onto scenes of ancient arches, cityscapes, hidden gardens, still life, and fruits and vegetables, I aim to expose the enchanting beauty and splendor of illumination and the imperfections that come from the evolution and unfolding of time."

Diane Epstein is a fine art photographer, and pioneer of *Fresco Photography*. With her fresco-like images of monuments, statues, cityscapes and natural scenes, she captures the splendor of architecture and nature, the beauty of decay and the richness of the world around us. She often collaborates with, and is commissioned by, designers, architects and art collectors to create ambiance and moods through her work that help build the vision of the interior space they desire.

*Fresco Photography* takes us on a quest towards a new way of seeing and experiencing our environment. It transcends the boundaries of time, simultaneously illuminating the wonder of the present and visceral remnants of the past. A wide spectrum of moods - be it tranquil, romantic or whimsical - can be created that guide us to a place where we want to be - somewhere between what is real and what is imagined.

Epstein's work is shown in many fine art galleries, museums, luxury properties and public spaces. In Italy her work has been exhibited at the American Academy in Rome, the American Embassy in Italy, the Belgian Ambassador's Residence, Galleria Paolo Antonacci, Caffé Braschi in the Museum of Rome, and Rome Luxury Suites. In the U.S her works are exhibited at Gerald Bland in New York, Susan Calloway Gallery in Washington, DC. and Panopticon Gallery in Boston, and at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

In addition to her photography, Epstein leads creative photo journeys in Rome, the Italian Countryside, New York and California.

Born in New York, Epstein moved from San Francisco to Rome in 1995. She holds a Masters of Arts Degree in Psychology/Counseling from John F. Kennedy University, after which she became a creative coach, practicing in the US and Italy.

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



Andrea Annessi Mecci

*Hotel Series #2.*, 2014. Photograph printed with ink on paper. 90 x 120 centimeters.

# Andrea Annessi Mecci

## statement<sub>bio</sub>

“These images evoke the human figure in movement, without ever knowing the look on the face or more than the curve of the body, left on the sheets. Traces of existence are in these spaces – the human body is no longer present, but its essence captures our attention and our imagination.

“Meanwhile, what happens? The flowing moments are in constant relationship with the stories and places of our adventurous desires.

“Through these images I envision human limitations, exposing the unexposable, portraying the unexplainable. I chose to photograph the rooms and corridors of a hotel, following the flow of events presented to me as a stream of everyday life between the moments.”

Andrea Annessi Mecci is a journalist and professional photographer. He graduated in Literature and Philosophy, and has a Masters Degree in Journalism. He has experience in investigative journalism in film, and as a TV anchor on shows related to wine making. As a photographer, he has covered Italian breaking news and has done reportage around the world. He published IRAN, a photography book on the Islamic Republic of Iran, to restore an image of humanity to this war-torn ancient civilization. He regularly shoots hotel and residential interiors, as well as tours and vineyards.

Andrea also specializes in private events, weddings and honeymoons using an observational reportage approach so that his portraits are natural, full of character and style. Andrea's fine art photography involves creating artisanal images. This technique is not conceived of as the classical concept to reproduce reality, but rather as an artistic vision – an approximation of reality with loosely defined edges.

Recently, his work has been shown at the Galleria Civica di Modena, in a group show next to Salgado and Adams, names that pioneered and established international photojournalism.

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



Claudia Palmira

*neural countenance* (2014).  
Acrylic, mixed media on  
poplar.  
88 centimeters diameter.



# Claudia Palmira

## statement bio

"Meanwhile connotes simultaneous existences expressed in parallel spheres, both related and unmatched, harmonious yet highly individual.

"Awareness of the neural wiring, the limbic system, and the relationship to emotional and spiritual experiences intrigue me. Aspirations to an ideal (higher consciousness) can shift reality and affect the corporeal, the temporal – each stimulating the other in a neverending communication. This exchange of influence permeates my inquiry.

"The circle fascinates for its perfection and its possibility. In any particular moment, the inner world has intricacy, beauty, and complexity – reflecting and simultaneously forming external realities. Within the simple geometric – female – form exist entire universes of feeling and visions."

New York native Claudia Palmira founded her eponymous design studio in 1997, whose clients include Bulgari Hotels, Nokia and the late Susanna Agnelli. In 1999, she was called "the designer's designer" by House Beautiful magazine for her stylish web site design.

Designer of several books and bestsellers for Simon & Schuster and other publishers, she created the catalog for the January 2014 exhibit *Italian Futurists: Concepts and Imaginings*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida. Her abstract paintings were most recently shown at the Exed Gallery, Rome (2013). She is Editor of the 65-year-old Italian Journal quarterly magazine and vice president of the Italian Academy Foundation, Inc.

Graduate of fine art from Mount Holyoke College, Claudia lives and works in Rome and New York. [www.claudiapalmira.com](http://www.claudiapalmira.com)



Patricia Glee Smith  
*PANDORA*, 2011.  
Oil on linen. 100 x 100 cm.

# Patricia Glee Smith

## statement**bio**

"I paint objects and the human figure in situations taken from everyday life. My focus is on imperfect objects observed in moments of rest. I am interested in the timelessness of these bits and pieces and in beauty found in unexpected places, intrigued by the interconnectedness of all things. I take objects out of context and make them monumental. Structure, surface and content are my primary concerns, my tools being color, light and form. I paint in oils, acrylic and egg tempera, on linen or wood panel. I work slowly, often using glazes: transparent layers of paint thinned with a medium, which build color and depth layer by layer. I work on one piece at a time. As I work, the forms and colors develop slowly, almost independently. Sometimes what emerges is unexpected. My paintings are mementoes of the journey I have made. They are testimonies to myself: my images find me, and I recognize myself in my painting. In this body of work, Meanwhile, I explore the imagined inner life of familiar objects, the secret dialogue that takes place between them."

Patricia Glee Smith was born at Savanna, Illinois. She studied fine arts (painting) at the University of Illinois at Urbana, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. In Italy, she studied etching at the Scuola del Libro in Urbino. She has participated in exhibitions with etchings and paintings in institutions and galleries in Europe and the USA. She is a fellow at the MacDowell Foundation for writers and artists, and at the Ragdale Foundation in the USA. She has painted many trompe l'oeil murals in Europe and the USA, contributed drawings to the New Yorker Magazine for many years, worked with the National Museum of Oriental Art of Rome since 1976 (as art director: art work for exhibitions and publications), and has worked as expedition artist in Turkey, the Yemen and Tibet. She lives and works in Umbria, Italy.

[www.patriciagleesmith.org](http://www.patriciagleesmith.org)



Mara Von Wees

*in the balance, stairway,*  
2013. Ceramic.

## statement**bio**

"In *Meanwhile* two actions are happening within the same time span but in relation to each other, sensing each other, even if only one can actually be seen. My artworks, whether they are vases, plates or sculptures seem to be suspended in a precarious equilibrium, unstable, as if the position they find themselves in were just one fleeting instance of a larger movement, a MEANWHILE.

"*In the balance* (stairway 1): This stairway was designed to oblige one to proceed cautiously in order to remain in equilibrium. It is precarious, swaying so as not to fall over. To move a foot one must find support for one's hand. If there are two or more people on the stairway they must reach an agreement or they will all topple over together. While one person goes up, the other might remain motionless or act as a counter-weight so as not to upset the precarious equilibrium.

"*In the balance* (blossom 1 and 2): The plant blooms, continually creating leaves, petals and flowers which have a precarious equilibrium: falling to the ground when the wind blows or for lack of water. While one petal wilts and falls to the ground another grows and blossoms. While one flower seems to be at its maximum splendour, the flower that will take its place is already budding."

Mara van Wees was born in Holland. She studied at the Academy of Arts in Rotterdam, where she first approached ceramics. After completing her studies she worked in scenic design, fashion and design in both Holland and Italy. Over the past few years she has been working almost exclusively in ceramics, spending and working most of the year in Maremma. Currently she is working on the theme "stairway", which was created for the art exhibition "in crypta", in the Basilica dei Santi Bonifacio e Alessio, Rome, December 2013; in Todi, May 2014; and in Siena, June 2014.

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

## Carina Courtright

curator

Born in Los Angeles, Carina Courtright had the opportunity of being multicultural from an early age. She was educated in the US, Europe and in Mexico. Through her family heritage, Carina continues to maintain a strong cultural and personal bond with California and Mexico. Carina serves on the advisory council for the Mexican Cultural Institute in New York City, the Design Innovation Institute in San Diego, and the Interfaith Center NY, as well as the Board of the Waka Foundation, NY. She recently completed her term as Board Chair at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido and currently serves on its Executive Cabinet. Carina is a Hospitality Management executive as well as a not for profit Arts Management executive. She is the president of Crescentera Productions, and is currently living in Rome, Italy with her teenage daughter. Carina is in development with an independent feature film project related to the Last Supper. She is an avid traveler, a designer, a singer, and a cultural enthusiast. She is delighted to have curated the show *Meanwhile Nel Mentre* with the Artist Salon, and to have worked with the five talented artists who also reside in Rome, exhibited at the St. Stephens Cultural Center Foundation in May, 2014.

[www.crescentera.org](http://www.crescentera.org)

## St Stephen's Cultural Center Foundation

Since its foundation in the early 1960's, St.Stephen's School has always fostered the cultural and artistic talents of the student body. The extraordinarily high percentage of actors, film makers, photographers dancers, musicians, writers and artists among our alumni body confirm this fact. For many years, the Board of Trustees worked on the idea of creating a cultural center at the school which might become a fulcrum for cultural events for the St. Stephen's School community as well as for the Rome community at large.

<http://culturalcenter.ststephens-rome.com/>

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## Artist Salon

The mission of the Artist Salon is to encourage a genuine connection between artists, designers, and curators – a connection that opens opportunities, stimulates ideas, brings people together in creativity, and broadens access to the collaborative process. The Artist Salon encourages artists to develop stronger portfolios, take part in group exhibitions in galleries, museums, and other venues, and have greater publishing and artistic opportunities. These collaborations are multi disciplinary, including painters, photographers, sculptors, as well as musicians/singers/poets, authors, art critics, curators, art collectors, and institutions that support the arts, to encourage openness, experimentation and inventiveness. The Artist Salon was founded by the photographer, Diane Epstein and is based in Rome, Italy.

[www.artistsalon.org](http://www.artistsalon.org)

## Further Information

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