

MEDIA RELEASE - A NEW SOLO EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF SAN FRANCISCO FEATURING "PENELOPE" CHIARA COCCHI.

We Are All Made of Stardust

January 15 - February 10, 2015

Artist reception: January 30, 6:00 pm

Exclusive Dinner: January 29, 7:00 pm

San Francisco, January 12, 2015 -- As part of a project for the promotion of the best from Bologna and the Emilia Romagna region, the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, in collaboration with the association Bologna Connect, is pleased to present new works by Penelope Chiara Cocchi, a talented young artist from Bologna who is already known to the American public.

From January 15 to February 10, 2015, Penelope will bring the magic of the stars amid the Institute's walls. The artist's reception will be on January 30, at 6:00 pm, to allow the artist to arrive from Italy. Mary Tolaro Noyes, a keen connoisseur of Bologna and Ambassador for Bologna Connect in San Francisco, will introduce the exhibition.

After several important exhibitions in Miami, Florida and Italy, the artist has been commissioned to create an imaginary bridge between San Francisco and Italy. The new paintings, created especially for this occasion, depict our city together with the most spectacular Italian landscapes. The technique -- paintings made on very special canvases: palm leaves, driftwood, advertising signs, old music records, mirrors -- is an invention of the artist. It has been developed for years, and was appreciated by several museums, institutions and galleries.

The materials used as canvases by the artist are outright ancient and at the same time very contemporary. The mixed media technique that Penelope has invented brings together the art world and the natural world. These found objects have also a life of their own -- transformed into artworks they attain the possibility of an extended life thanks to their new condition. The paintings on them *recall their past lives, in a dialogue that reaches out to conceptual art.*



PENELOPE
CHIARA COCCHI

"We Are All Made
of Stardust"

DIRECTLY FROM ITALY



The exhibition's title, *We Are All Made of Stardust*, is in fact just a conceptual pursuit, as there are no pictures of the starry sky, nor paintings of galactic explosions. Especially conceived by the artist, the title recalls the Big Bang, the explosion which every single breath of our planet's life comes from. Focusing on our daily lives, we always neglect to think about our origins -- the very thing that makes us the most special beings of the Universe. Lost in our daily paths and habits, we forget that everything we have and do was first created by Nature.

Ecology and sustainability are the most important issues that Penelope wants to convey through her works. In fact they are the main intent of this young artist, who always recognized the importance of the role of the Artist in society. The artist is an active observer, who lives and takes part in the contemporary world, and then employs media and ideas to re-interpret reality.

On January 29, The Italian Cultural Institute will host an exclusive dinner event in which patrons may preview select works by the artist before they are available to the public at reception the following day. Curated by Gabriel Paul, the event represents a collaboration between the IIC and Bologna Connect in order to celebrate the culture and cuisine of the artist's home: Bologna and the region of Emilia Romagna, considered by many to be the culinary capital of Italy. A special menu will feature celebrated ingredients prepared by the chefs of Italian Homemade Company who also harken from the Emilia Romagna region.



For further information:
www.penelopearts.com



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