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Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Jackson and Charles Pollock - VISIBLE ENERGY in Venice

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Venetian Cat - Venice Blog
Venice, Italy

Award-winning author Cat Bauer (HARLEY, LIKE A PERSON; HARLEY'S NINTH - Alfred A. Knopf) has lived in Venice, Italy since 1998. She was a regular contributor to the International Herald Tribune's Italian supplement, Italy Daily, published with Corriere della Sera. ***Venetian Cat - Venice Blog*** *has been featured in the Financial Times Weekend Magazine, and is read in 190 countries & territories, and 154 languages.*

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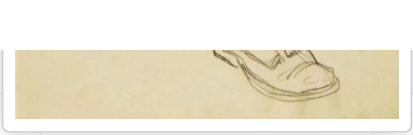


Charles Pollock
Jack [Jackson Pollock], 1935
Smithsonian American Art Museum

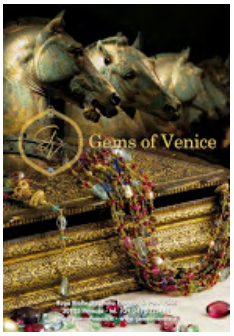
(Venice, Italy) Before Peggy Guggenheim proclaimed that Jackson Pollock was "the greatest artist of the 20th century," his oldest brother, Charles, sketched him strumming a banjo at age 23. For it was Charles who first left the family of five brothers to head East to New York City to study painting, inspiring his siblings to follow in his footsteps.

Pollock family, Chico, California, ca. 1918
Sanford LeRoy, Charles Cecil, LeRoy, Stella, Frank Leslie, Marvin Jay, Paul Jackson.
Private collection

There is a Pollock Party going on over at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection with three exhibitions here in Venice -- **JACKSON POLLOCK'S *MURAL*: ENERGY MADE VISIBLE**, **CHARLES POLLOCK: A RETROSPECTIVE** and **ALCHEMY BY JACKSON POLLOCK: DISCOVERING THE ARTIST AT WORK** -- zapping the walls of Palazzo Venier dei Leoni with the visible energy of a mid-western American family that wrote poignant letters to each other as they struggled through two World Wars and a Depression, and rocked the art world to its core.

Jackson Pollock
Going West, ca. 1934-35
Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The Charles Pollock Retrospective puts his kid brother, Jackson, in an entirely different light. Charles was born on Christmas Day, 1902; he died in 1988. Jackson was born on January 28, 1912; he died in 1956. In between there were three more brothers, Marvin (1904-86), Frank (1907-94) and Sanford (1909-63). Whenever he was asked what he would like to be, Jackson would reply, "I want to be an artist like brother Charles."



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Provides art supplies to hospitalized children. Based in Berkeley, CA

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Scattered throughout Venice are WiFi zones where you can access the internet for a very low cost through Venezia Unica.

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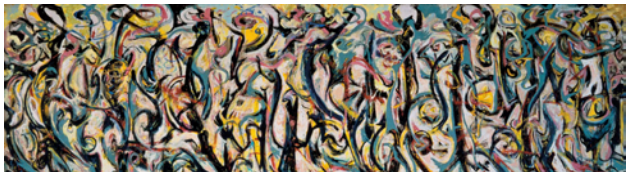
24 hours - 5 euros
72 hours -15 euros
7 days - 20 euros

Charles Pollock
Self-Portrait, 1930s
Private collection

LeRoy Pollock, their father, was born a McCoy whose mother and sister died when he was an infant, and whose father gave him to local farmers named Pollock. LeRoy supported his family with odd jobs: farming, working as a land surveyor and a dishwasher. Stella, their mother, was a talented seamstress and weaver. Both parents were amazingly encouraging and supportive of their sons; Charles described them both as "gentle" people. Touching letters and personal photos are sprinkled throughout the exhibit. Some of Stella's potholders are on display.

Stella Pollock's potholders

I would suggest visiting the Charles Pollock Retrospective first, which winds its way through his life from figurative works to the abstract -- including what he worked on before and after Jackson crashed and died --and concludes with a video installation of how the haunting *Alchemy* by Jackson Pollock was restored, and new revelations about how the artist worked.



BY THE WAY...

Stanze del Vetro - Rooms for Glass

Glass from Finland in the Bischofberger Collection

Glass from Finland at Le Stanze del Vetro

Over 300 works from the Bischofberger collection celebrate the beauty of artistic glass in an exhibition featuring masterpieces by the most important Finnish designers of the 20th century.

April 13 to Aug 2, 2015

Venice, Le Stanze del Vetro
Island of San Giorgio
www.lestanzedelvetro.it
www.cini.it

10am - 7pm
Closed Wednesday
free admission

Palazzo Grassi

Martial Raysses

Martial Raysse at Palazzo Grassi

After being ignored by the art world for decades, 79-year-old Martial Raysse is now the most valued living French artist. "It is a revenge on the idiots who have despised me for so many years."

Martial Raysse

If you wait until you come to Venice, the rates are:

24 hours - 8 euros
72 hours - 20 euros
7 days - 30 euros

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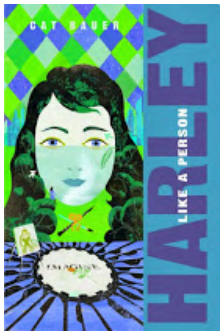
Harley, Like a Person at Kobo



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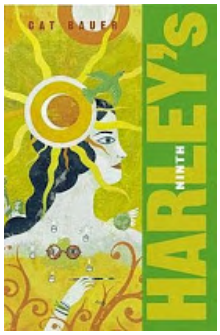
Harley's Ninth at Kobo



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Basilica of San Marco

Jackson Pollock
Murale / Mural, 1943
The University of Iowa Museum of Art, gift of Peggy Guggenheim

Then head over to the main *palazzo* where you will find the famous *Mural* that Peggy Guggenheim commissioned for her townhouse in 1943 -- the largest painting that Jackson Pollock ever created -- which "has exerted a seismic impact on American art down to the present day" in the same room as the real-life *Alchemy* blazing with restored colors.

Jackson and Charles Pollock, New York, 1930
Private collection

After visiting the excellent exhibitions, I think there would have been no Jackson Pollock without brother Charles first hacking down the brambles along the path.

JACKSON POLLOCK'S *MURAL*: ENERGY MADE VISIBLE
April 23 – November 16, 2015
Curated by David Anfam

CHARLES POLLOCK: A RETROSPECTIVE
April 23 – September 14, 2015
Curated by Philip Rylands

***ALCHEMY* BY JACKSON POLLOCK. DISCOVERING THE ARTIST AT WORK**
February 14 – September 14, 2015
Curated by Luciano Pensabene and Roberto Bellucci

Go to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Ciao from Venezia,
Cat
Venetian Cat - The Venice Blog

2

Posted by Venetian Cat - Venice Blog at 8:45 PM

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3 comments:

Venetian Cat - Venice Blog April 28, 2015 at 11:32 PM

Before Peggy Guggenheim proclaimed that Jackson Pollock was "the greatest artist of the 20th century," his oldest brother, Charles, sketched him strumming a banjo at age 23. For it was Charles who first left the family of five brothers to head East to New York City to study painting, inspiring his siblings to follow in his footsteps.

Reply

Charles Pollock April 30, 2015 at 11:51 AM

Thank you! You brought tears to my eyes. Francesca (Charles'

Palazzo Grassi
April 12 to Dec 31, 2015

More info:
Palazzo Grassi

VITRARIA GLASS +A Museum

Man Ray

PRECIOUS - from Picasso to Jeff Koons

There's a new museum in town. Vitraria Glass +A in Palazzo Nani Mocenigo is devoted to all things glass... and more.

The artist, Bernar Venet, created a piece of jewelry for his wife, Diane, inspiring her to start a collection with a little help from their friends -- some of the most important artists in the world.

Precious - from Picasso to Jeff Koons
Feb 8 to August 16

Vitraria Glass +A Museum
Palazzo Nani Mocenigo
Dorsoduro 960
Venezia
Tue-Sun 10-1/2-5
Sat night 7-11pm

Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti