

UNA.CITTÀ cinque sensi



Carla Chiarchiaro

Sight encompasses everything,
a series of images, colors,
situations, emotions.



Gallery owner and founder of ADA Gallery

Who Carla is:

Carla Chiarchiaro is a gallery owner who has chosen Trastevere as home for ADA, her gallery dedicated to emerging art. Winner of the Diana Bracco Prize 2023, Carla has made artistic research her mission, creating a continuous dialogue between international artists and the historic fabric of the neighborhood.



CAMPANILE OF SANTA CECILIA AT TWILIGHT

Carla's vision

The Bell Tower seen from Via Anicia just after twilight, when the sky becomes a surprising blue, almost lapis lazuli, and the stone takes on a warm color from times past.

the history

Santa Cecilia in Trastevere stands on the remains of the house of the Roman martyr saint from the 3rd century. The Romanesque bell tower from the 12th century is one of the most elegant in Rome, with its mullioned and three-light windows standing out against the sky. The basilica houses Pietro Cavallini's masterpiece, the Last Judgment (1293), and Stefano Maderno's extraordinary statue depicting Saint Cecilia at the moment of martyrdom.

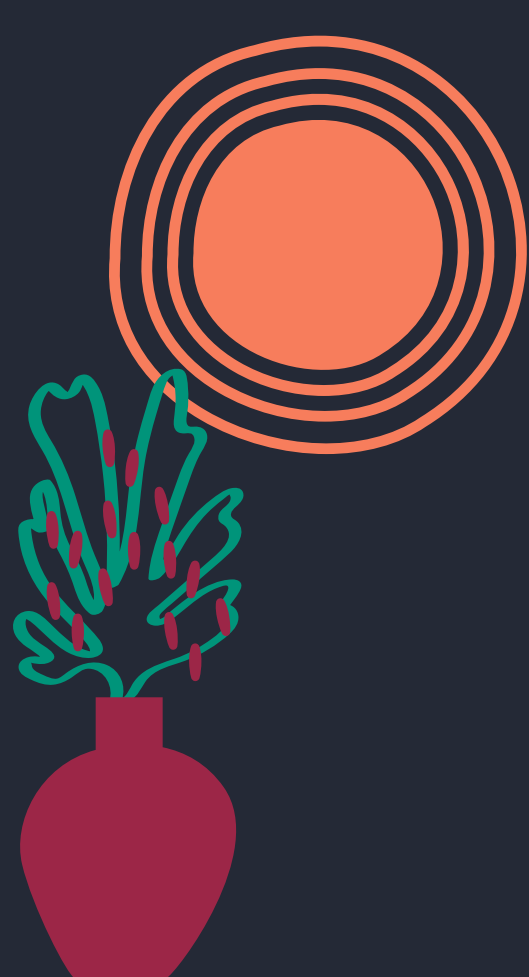
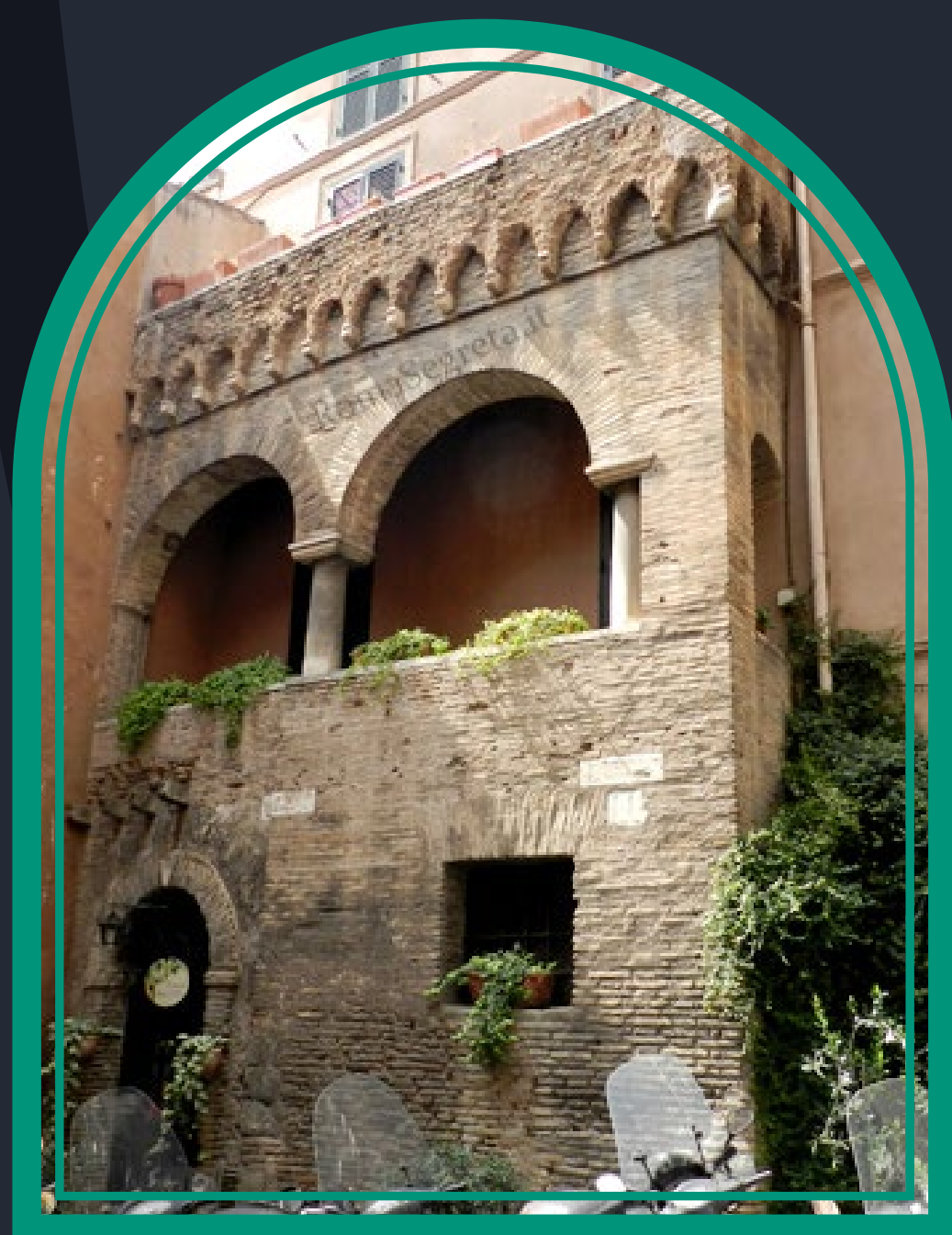


SPECIAL TIP



Enter the basilica in the morning (10am-12pm) to visit the Cavallini - one of the most important pictorial cycles of medieval Rome, hidden in the nuns' choir.

The morning light through the windows creates an almost mystical atmosphere.



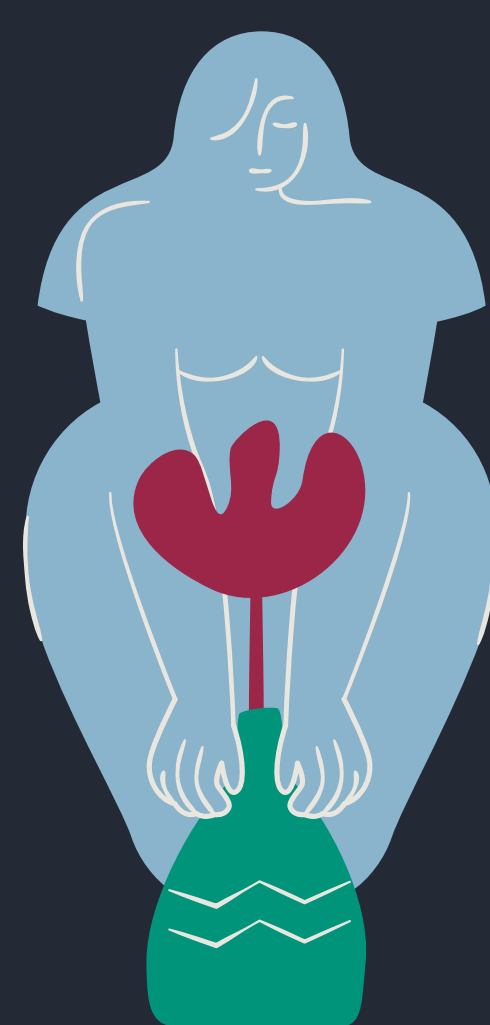
VICOLO DELL'ATLETA

Carla's vision

An important example of the historical stratification that characterizes Rome, from antiquity to the present day.

the history

This narrow medieval alley takes its name from the statue of Apoxyomenos (the athlete cleaning himself), discovered here in 1849 and now in the Vatican Museums. The place holds millennia of history: it was home to the first Roman Jewish community before the Ghetto, hosted the ancient Synagogue (destroyed), and today shows a medieval house, a Renaissance palace, and a nineteenth-century building coexisting within a few meters.



SPECIAL TIP



Stop at the corner between Vicolo dell'Atleta and Via dei Genovesi during the golden hour (one hour before sunset). The grazing light on the medieval facades creates a play of shadows and textures that looks like a De Chirico painting. It's one of the most photographed corners by Roman architectural photographers.



ADA GALLERY



Carla's vision

The context that hosts my gallery plays a fundamental role in my programming and in the exhibitions I create.

the history

ADA is a space where contemporary art dialogues with the history of Trastevere. Each exhibition is conceived site-specifically, designed for that space, that light, that context. The gallery favors solo shows and, since 2019, integrates live performances into its program.



SPECIAL TIP



Ask Carla (if present) to tell you how artists react to the neighborhood when they arrive here to create. Many works are born from the dialogue between the artist and Trastevere itself. If the gallery is closed, look through the window: installations are often designed to be seen from outside as well, like a painting in the frame of the neighborhood.



ISOLA TIBERINA

Carla's vision

All of Rome in one glance: Tiber Island and the riverside, arriving from the alleys in the direction of Piazza in Pisciunula.

the history

This sudden perspective - from the narrow medieval alleys to the opening onto the Tiber and the Island - is quintessentially Roman. Tiber Island, ship-shaped, has been inhabited since the 3rd century BC when the Temple of Aesculapius was built there. The bridges connecting it (Ponte Fabricio from 62 BC and Ponte Cestio) are among the oldest still in use in the world.



SPECIAL TIP



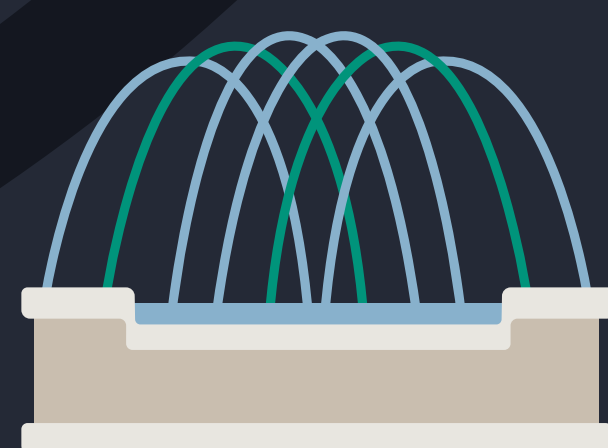
Take this route in the late afternoon. Position yourself at the entrance of Via Titta Scarpetta and observe: you will simultaneously see the Capitoline Hill, the Ghetto, Tiber Island, and in the background the dome of the Synagogue. It's a visual collage of 2000 years of history in a single glance. Romans come here to "see Rome breathe."



TRASTEVERE
ROMA
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SANTA MARIA IN TRASTEVERE



Carla's vision

The beautiful architecture... and the privilege of being able to have lunch outside in the square.

the history

Founded in the 3rd century, it is the first church in Rome dedicated to The Virgin. The 12th-century facade is dominated by the mosaic of the Virgin Enthroned surrounded by ten virgins with lamps. Inside, the apsidal mosaics by Pietro Cavallini (1291) are among the masterpieces of world medieval art: the scene of the Coronation of the Virgin shines with gold tesserae that change color with the daylight.



SPECIAL TIP



Enter when the low sun directly hits the apsidal mosaics. The gold catches fire and the entire apse seems to light up from within. Sit on the side benches for 10 minutes: you will see the colors gradually change as the sun moves. This is “cinema before cinema” - art that moves with natural light. Then go out and sit at Caffè di Marzio for a coffee, watching the Baroque fountain and the square that Pasolini loved to call “the living room of Trastevere.”



PIAZZA SAN COSIMATO



Carla's vision

The market of Piazza San Cosimato...
colors, situations, emotions.

the history

The square takes its name from the Franciscan convent of SS. Cosma and Damiano (now a hospital). The historic market has been here since the 1800s, when Trastevere was still a working-class neighborhood. It has remained one of the few authentically Roman markets, frequented by locals.



SPECIAL TIP



Look for the white marble sign of the old closed delicatessen in Via Agostino Bertani (side street of the square) - it's like an involuntary art installation, a Duchampian ready-made that Carla loves. Then buy fruit from Claudio (stall in the southwest corner): he will let you taste everything before choosing and will explain the difference between Roman artichokes and Jewish-style ones. This is seeing through taste - the market as a living art gallery of the seasons.



TRASTEVERE
ROMA
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Get lost in the alleys, become part
of the community that gathers
in the usual places

The art of seeing Trastevere is not seeking monuments,
but training the eye to grasp the stratification: a Roman
capital embedded in a medieval wall, a Baroque Virgin
above a Renaissance doorway, the afternoon light
transforming stone into painting.



PERFECT TIMING:

Morning (10am-12pm):
Santa Cecilia + Cavallini

Afternoon (3pm-5pm):
ADA Gallery + Santa Maria +
Via Titta Scarpetta (golden hour)

Twilight (6pm-7pm):
Campanile da Via Anicia
(magical moment)

In Trastevere, the context in which you
live plays a fundamental role. It's not
background, it's part of the work.

**CLICK HERE AND SHARE
YOUR EXPERIENCE.**

**BECOME PART OF THE
VOICES OF TRASTEVERE.**