

UNA.CITTÀ
cinque sensi



TOUCH

Anne de Bellefroid

“Touch is everything - vibrations and energies are transmitted. Everything vibrates, everything is alive and real.”



Ceramicist and Artisan

Who is Anne:

Anne lives and works in Trastevere, where she has chosen to establish her ceramics studio. In this neighbourhood that has always been home to artists, Anne has found the perfect setting for her daily dialogue with the five elements — and above all with earth, fire, and matter. Her hands shape clay following a millennia-old tradition that, right here in Trastevere, finds its deepest roots.



SANTA CECILIA AND THE ANCIENT KILNS

Anne's Vision

My favourite place, where silence wraps around you and you can still feel the warmth of the ancient kilns that for centuries gave life to ceramics. Inside, Stefano Maderno's statue depicts Saint Cecilia lying down: the cold marble looks like flesh - a tactile miracle of Baroque sculpture.

the history

Santa Cecilia in Trastevere is not only an artistic masterpiece, but also a testament to a millennia-old ceramic tradition. The remains of the ancient kilns where terracotta objects were fired can still be seen here. Potters worked and fired their wares, and broken shards were discarded at Monte dei Cocci (Testaccio). Ceramics is in the very DNA of this neighbourhood.



SPECIAL TIP



If possible, visit Cavallini's Last Judgement fresco in the nuns' choir. Above all, approach the statue of Saint Cecilia in front of the altar: observe how the marble seems soft, like fabric. Then touch the outer walls of the basilica and look for traces of the ancient kilns. You will feel the irregular surface, worn by centuries of heat. This is the tactile memory of Trastevere.



THE SAMPIETRINI

Anne's Vision

The stone that tells the soul of the neighbourhood — beneath your feet and beneath your hands.

the history

The sampietrini — the distinctive blocks of leucitite or flint that pave the streets of Trastevere — were laid by hand, one by one, over the course of centuries. Every stone has been cut, smoothed, and worn down by millions of footsteps. Walking on the sampietrini is feeling Rome vibrate beneath your feet, touching history with every step.



SPECIAL TIP



Walk barefoot (if you can) or kneel and touch the sampietrini in Vicolo del Piede or Via della Scala early in the morning. You will feel the cold of the stone, the irregularities, the centuries of wear. Every sampietrino is different from the next: look for the most worn one, the smoothest one. This is seeing with your hands.

Then head down Via Garibaldi towards San Pietro in Montorio: the descent beneath your feet lets you feel the slope of the Gianicolo, the weight of the climb that Trastevere locals carry in their legs.



PAF STUDIO



Anne's Vision

Here we travel through the five elements, floating through their various stages. The contact with fire, with earth, with what is born soft and then transforms, hardens, and changes its nature under your hands.

the history

In Anne's studio, ceramics returns to its Trastevere origins. Every piece is born from the dialogue between the hands and the material: the clay, damp and cold, gradually taking shape. Then the fire that transforms, that hardens, that grants definitive life. It is a process that has not changed for millennia — the same one that took place in the kilns of Santa Cecilia.



SPECIAL TIP



Ask Anne (if present) to let you touch the clay in its various stages: raw, biscuit-fired, glazed, fully fired. You will feel the transformation under your fingers - from soft and cold to hard and warm. Then run your hand over the potter's wheel: its smooth surface, polished by years of work, carries the vibrations of all the forms that have been born here.



TRIPLEF – Exhibition Space

Anne's Vision

A space entirely made of iron where touch meets art and history. Unique and thoroughly enjoyable.

the history

Via delle Mantellate 15: this was the Triplef studio, founded by Federica Formili Fendi, a passionate collector of 1950s art and decoration - today an auction house and exhibition space that changes its décor every two months.

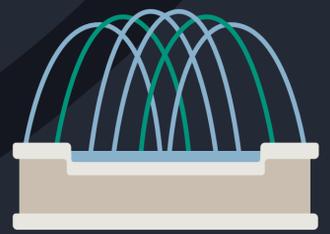
Everything second-hand, yet everything carefully restored. In the garden grows an avocado tree sprouted from a pit discarded by the artist Mario Schifano himself - a tree that carries the tactile memory of the artist.



SPECIAL TIP



Graze the cold, industrial iron of the space, in contrast with the domestic warmth of the vintage furnishings. Run your hand over the 1950s furniture: the smooth lacquered wood, the cold Formica, the velvet marked by time. Every material tells an era. In the garden, a large avocado tree grows from a pit thrown by Mario Schifano: touching its trunk is feeling life that continues, art becoming nature.



THE MOSAICS OF SANTA MARIA IN TRASTEVERE

Anne's Vision

To reach this marvel, you walk through a neighbourhood full of small restaurants and open-air tables, with scents and voices that fill the air and make the atmosphere lively and welcoming. Then, all of a sudden, there it is: the golden tesserae catch the light and seem to move, as if shining just for you.

the history

Pietro Cavallini's mosaics (1291) are among the masterpieces of medieval art worldwide. Thousands of tiny tesserae - gold, lapis lazuli blue, crimson red - create an extraordinary tactile effect even just by looking at them. Each tessera was cut, laid, and pressed by hand into the mortar.



SPECIAL TIP



Sit in the side pews and observe the mosaics up close. Even if you cannot touch them, your eyes become fingers: you see the irregularities of the tesserae, the jagged edges, the varying thickness of the gold. It is entirely handmade work, and it shows. Then go outside and touch the ancient columns of the portico: they are smooth, worn by two thousand years of hands and shoulders that have leaned against them.



FORME: ARTE DA USARE - WROUGHT GLASS



Anne's Vision

Rita Rivelli has a small workshop where glass is still worked the traditional way. A craft you feel in your hands.

the history

In one of the few remaining restoration workshops in Trastevere, Rita Rivelli continues the tradition of hand-worked glass. Every piece is cut, ground, and assembled using techniques dating back to the Middle Ages. Glass is an ambiguous material: fragile yet sharp, transparent yet present, cold yet transformable by fire.



SPECIAL TIP



If the workshop is open, ask to see the working process. Touch (carefully) the ground edges of the glass: you will feel the contrast between the worked edge, perfectly smooth, and the flat surface, cold as ice. Then run your hand over the antique glass of the workshop's windows: wavy, irregular, full of bubbles - completely different from modern glass. This is touching the difference between craftsmanship and industry.



VIA FRANCESCO DI SALES - THE ARTISTS' STREET

Anne's Vision

The street that has influenced me, always home to great many artists. Here, creativity can be touched with your hands.

the history

Via Francesco di Sales has been the artistic heart of Trastevere for decades. Studios, ateliers, and workshops follow one another in buildings that appear ordinary from the outside but conceal creative worlds behind every doorway. Ancient worn doors, brass handles smoothed by thousands of hands, doorbells with handwritten name plates.

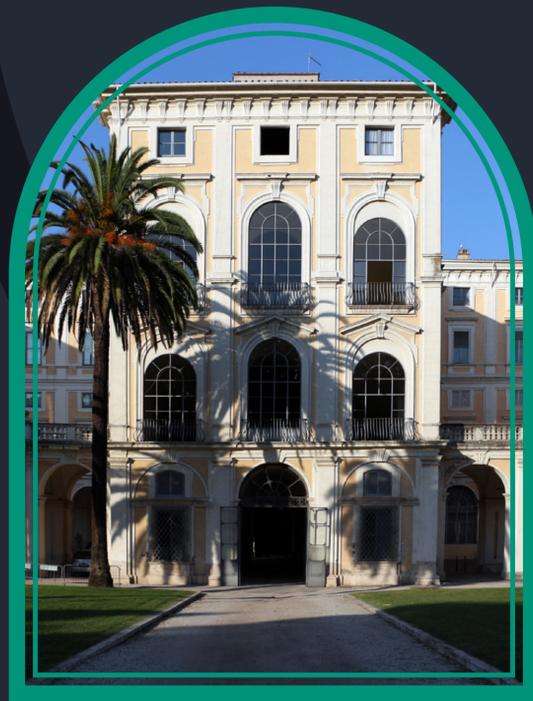


SPECIAL TIP



Walk slowly and observe the doorways: look for those with ancient wooden doors.

Run your hand over the surfaces: you will feel the grooves left by centuries of hands that have opened and closed them, the natural cracks in the wood, the peeling paint. Then touch the brass or iron handles and knockers: polished by daily use, they carry the invisible imprint of all the artists who have passed through here. Near Santa Cecilia, step into L'Altro Sud by Ornella: touch the textiles, the natural fabrics. Every fibre tells of artisanal work.



PALAZZO CORSINI



Anne's Vision

A place where I feel connected to the neighbourhood in a physical, almost bodily way. For me, coming here is an all-encompassing experience. Everything here ties me to Trastevere.

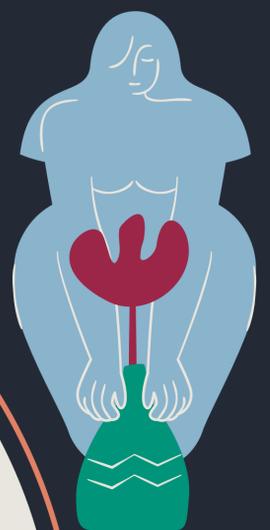
the history

Palazzo Corsini, with its majestic eighteenth-century façade on Via della Lungara, houses the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the oldest scientific academy in the world (founded in 1603). Still active today, it hosts conferences by scientists. The palazzo is a masterpiece of symmetry and proportion: every architectural element - columns, cornices, balustrades - has been hand-carved in travertine.

SPECIAL TIP

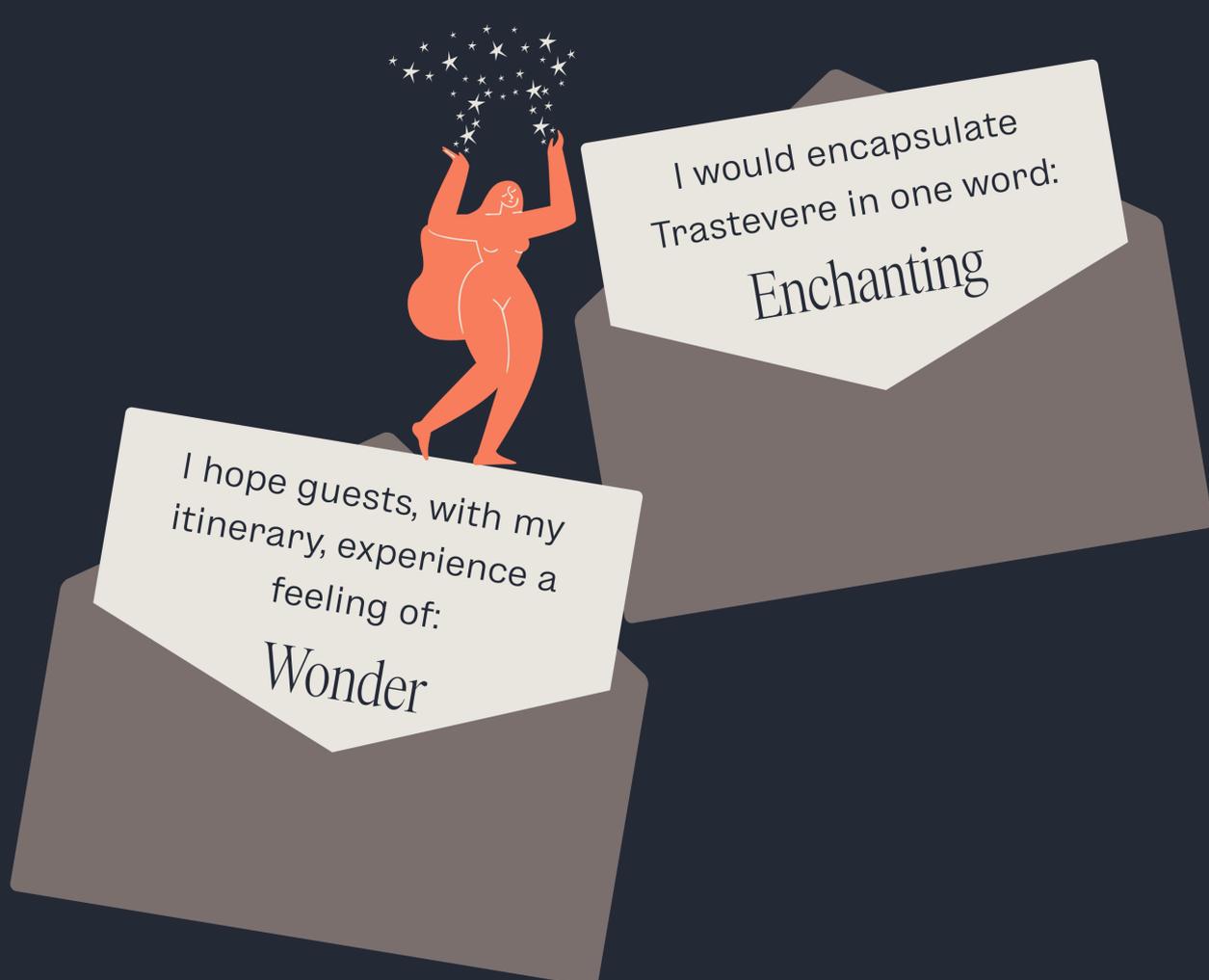


Although admission is charged, enter the main courtyard and brush the travertine columns, smooth and cold, tracing with your fingers the perfect fluting born of rigorous eighteenth-century precision. Touch the hand-carved cornices, then climb the staircase and rest your hand on the marble banister, polished by centuries of passing. This is stone shaped not only by the chisel, but by time and people: history that continues to live beneath your fingertips.



Get lost in the alleyways,
touch the surfaces,
feel the vibrations of matter

The art of experiencing Trastevere is not looking, but touching: run your hands over worn walls, irregular sampietrini, ancient wooden doors, wrought glass, ceramics born from fire. Every surface vibrates, every material is alive. Touch reveals the secret soul of the neighbourhood — the one that eyes alone cannot see.



PERFECT TIMING:

Morning (9am–11am):

Sampietrini + Santa Cecilia + Bottega Rivelli (*the stone still cold from the night, the glass catching the morning light*)

Afternoon (4pm–5pm):

Anne's Studio + TripleF + Via Francesco di Sales (*the material warmed by the sun, the iron heating up, the wood turning tepid*)

Evening (6pm–7pm):

Palazzo Corsini + Santa Maria in Trastevere + L'Altro Sud (*the marble in shadow, the golden mosaics at sunset, the fabrics that recount the day*)

In Trastevere, matter is not background,
it is language.
Everything vibrates,
everything is alive.

**CLICK HERE AND SHARE
YOUR EXPERIENCE.**

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