

Priore's Tree of Life

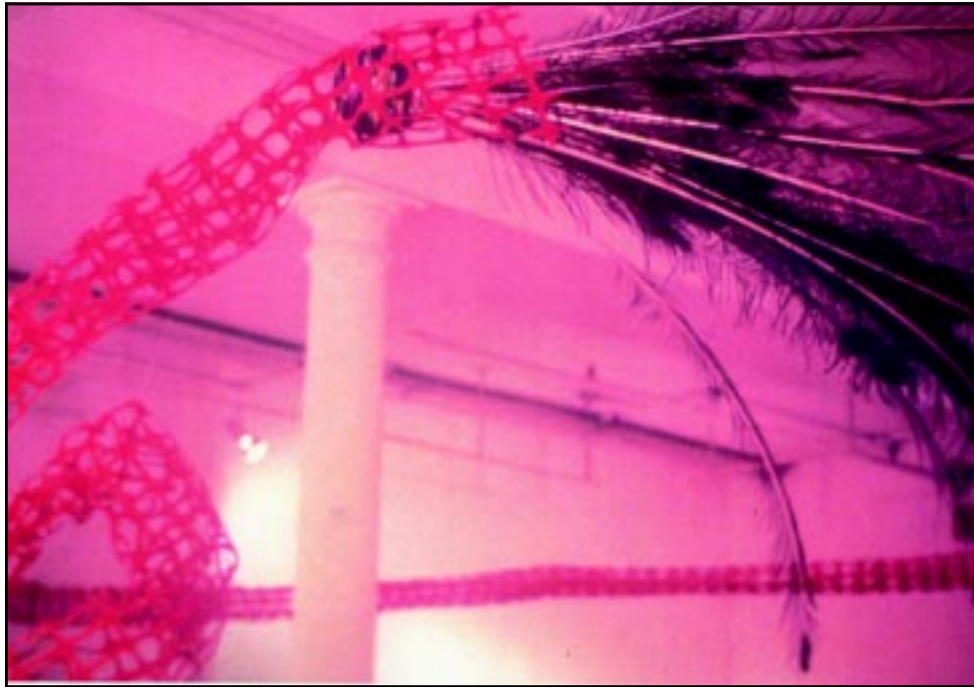
This Fall the Italian American Museum Features its First Contemporary Art Exhibition

by Dwayne Saunders

The Italian American Museum opens its 2004 fall season with a new and exciting event. From August 30th through September 30th, the Museum will present the artwork of Christopher Priore, "Albero de la Vita - The Tree of Life." This exhibit is a bold and new departure for the Museum, because it will be the first time it features a contemporary artist.

Imagine arriving at the Italian American Museum to see "Albero de la Vita - The Tree of Life." Boas and orange construction fencing stretch out to the glass doors to greet the visitors. It is "The Tree of Life" the central piece of the exhibit.

Mr. Priore will create "The Tree of Life" especially for the Museum. He will build his sculpture to embrace the central column in the Museum. The "Tree of



Priore's "Ferment"

Life" conjures visions of beauty and renewal particularly as the new semester and season begin.

Mr. Priore's other work, like his paintings on Plexiglas, revels in the boundlessness of human potential. As an Italian American artist, he reminds his audience of Italy's rich humanistic nature that was always optimistic. Viewers of all ages can not help but feel happiness when seeing the clear paintings on vinyl and Plexiglas. For the art collectors, Mr. Priore's works will be on sale at the Museum.

Whether one seeks to buy or view, the exhibit promises to be a fun experience for all.

The Italian American Museum, temporarily located at 28 W 44th St. 17th fl., has received widespread support from Italian Americans. The Museum is dedicated to exploring the rich cultural heritage of Italy and Italian Americans by presenting the individual and collective struggles and achievements of Italians and their heirs to the American way of life.

Saraceno Collection at IAM

Beginning in October, the Rare Volumes of Italian History Books Will Be Available

With the shipment of 436 boxes of books from Rome, in the summer of 1999, the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/CUNY obtained a collection of works on Italian history that proves to be one of a kind in the United States. The "Pietro and Luisa Saraceno Collection" is currently being installed on shelves in the offices of the Calandra Institute in mid-town Manhattan. Through the efforts of Dr. Philip V. Cannistraro, Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies, and Professor Steven C. Hughes of Loyola College in Maryland, an agreement was reached which found a home for the more than 10,000 volume collection that was compiled and owned by the late Pietro Saraceno, a professor of administrative history at the University of Rome. According to Professor Hughes, Pietro Saraceno "created a research library which, although small by some standards, offered a unique instrument for the study of certain topics in contemporary Italian history."

The collection focuses on Italian history and administration and is a treasure trove of scholarly monographs, journals, historical dictionaries, extracts, and collected articles. There are old and rare volumes from as early as the 18th century, and entire runs of scholarly journals some dating to the 1800s. Among the many unique items in the collection are the hundreds of volumes representing the complete *Legge e Decreti* (laws and decrees) for the Kingdom of Italy as well as for the



Italian states before unification. According to Professor Cannistraro, "there are volumes in the Saraceno Collection that are not likely to be found in any other library in the United States." Upon its official opening in October 2004, the Calandra Institute will make the collection available on a non-lending basis to scholars, students, and researchers. Professor Peter Vellon,

Acting Executive Director of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, looks forward to the Library's opening. "The addition of this unique and outstanding collection dedicated to Italian history complements our growing Italian American collection and fulfills our mission as an academic research institute and scholarly resource."



Select volumes from the Saraceno Collection donated to the Italian American Museum

In conjunction with the opening of the Calandra Institute's expanded library, the Italian American Museum will mount an exhibition featuring some of the Saraceno Collection's rare volumes. With Professor Philip Cannistraro as curator, the exhibit promises to be a fascinating and informative glance at contemporary Italian history through books.