



ECUMENICAL CENTRE  
FOR ART & SPIRITUALITY



*A Letter from Filippo Rossi, Artistic Director of the Mount Tabor Centre*

Dear Friends,

Early in December, the Lux in Tenebris ("Light in the Darkness") Advent Sacred Art Retreat was held at the Community of Jesus on Cape Cod. One portion of the retreat was a hands-on workshop for 14 artists, creating new works using multi-media under my guidance and with the help of the artist Susan Kanaga.

It was a wonderful experience and exciting for me to do this workshop with different artists. In the past, I have found that several of my colleagues do not like to share their artistic discoveries and secrets in a workshop setting. However, I honestly believe in the importance of sharing the artistic techniques I have learned over the years in my practice!



Supported by the ecumenical and the monastic community climate, I decided to share my findings with other people. As I am among the very few artists today who use polystyrene as a viable artistic material, I was pleased and surprised to see how others reacted in this workshop as they discovered the possibilities of polystyrene.

I strongly believe in solidarity in general and especially in that of artists! And I was right! Artists from the Community of Jesus, and artist friends new and old from different parts of the U.S., all came together working with the theme of Light, while experiencing this new material and its many creative opportunities.



This was also a great personal enrichment for myself! Working in the silence of a fascinating monastic setting made possible an encounter with the divine Beauty. The artists upon opening their hearts, also found inspiration and enrichment from an exchange of ideas and fellowship with the other artists on retreat.



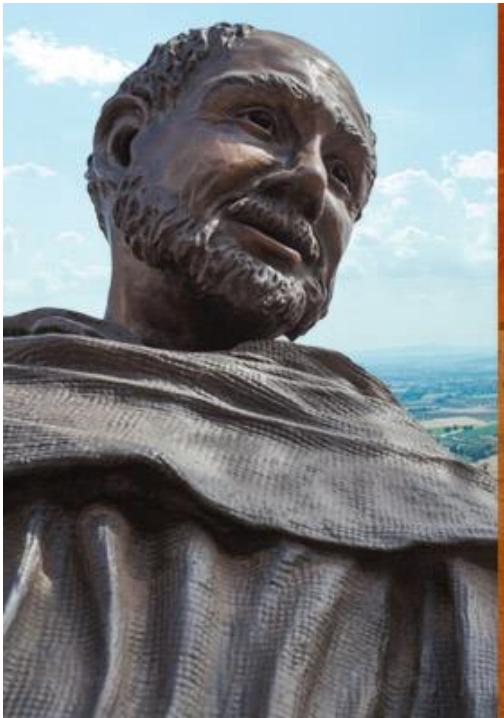
It's always a creative miracle to see how spirits speaking such different languages are all very compatible! I believe the use of the abstract promotes this type of open communication because it comes from a deeper level. It is a communication from the heart rather than the mind. Special thanks to those who made this event possible and to all my dear students! I really hope that something like this can be repeated in the future for the enrichment of all!

-Filippo Rossi



**Dr. Filippo Rossi** has exhibited since 1994, working on themes in Christian sacred art. Since 1997, Rossi has been a visiting professor at the Florentine Study Centre of Stanford University, where he teaches courses in studio art, contemporary painting, and museology. He also collaborates with Timothy Verdon in the Florence Archdiocesan Curia. Rossi was the youngest artist invited by Pope Benedict XVI to take part in a meeting held on November 21 2009 in the Sistine Chapel. His most recent solo exhibitions were at the Museum of Portiuncula in Assisi, as well as 3 exhibits in Florence, in the Misericordia, Basilica of Santa Croce, and Palazzo Medici Riccardi.

COMING EVENTS FOR MOUNT TABOR: There are still a few spots on the St. Francis Study Retreat taking place this June 20-27 in Tuscany and Umbria. Sign up here. <http://mounttabor.it/events/spend-a-week-in-italy-with-st-francis-of-assisi/>



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