

JAMES FIORENTINO

James Fiorentino is a professional watercolor artist who began depicting celebrities at an early age hoping only for an autograph and a brush with greatness. His art left such an impression, that in addition to autographs he also received commissions to work with Yogi Berra, Cal Ripken Jr., Mickey Mantle, and many more contemporary athletes. James' work has graced the walls of the National Basketball and Cycling Hall of Fames, the Ted Williams and Roberto Clemente Museums, the National Art Museum of Sport, and the Sports Museum of America. A resident of Hunterdon County, James is also proud of his Italian heritage and the contributions of Italian Americans in sports and the arts. In addition to celebrity illustrations, James also enjoys creating nature art and has had his work displayed at the Society of Animal Artists' "Art And The Animal" Show. Learn more at JamesFiorentino.com



MARIA G. PISANO

Maria G. Pisano is a book artist, curator and educator whose works have been displayed in national and international museums. Her book "Hecatombe 9-11" was selected for permanent exhibition in the National September 11 Memorial Museum. In April 2016, she was invited to the Library of Congress' Rosenwald room, where she delivered the illustrated lecture "Hidden Voice of Making Books" on her book "Viva Voce." Maria currently resides in Plainsboro, New Jersey and publishes her works under the Memory Press imprint. Learn more at Mariagpisano.com



MARYLOU & JEROME BONGIORNO

Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno are Emmy-nominated, award-winning, husband and wife filmmakers who create cutting-edge fiction, documentary, museum installation, and art films that are exhibited widely in theaters, on national PBS, and at educational and cultural venues. In Italy, their films were featured at the international conference "Remapping Italian America. Places, Cultures, Identities" at the Università degli Studi Roma Tre, and at festivals including the Venice Film Festival, the Pesaro Film Festival, and "Cinema & Politica" in Rome. They formed their production company, Bongiorno Productions, in their home city of Newark, NJ, and screen their films and lecture extensively, often focusing on their Italian American experience. In 2013, Marylou & Jerome were honored by the State of NJ for exemplary contributions to film. Learn more at BongiornoProductions.com





NJ Italian Heritage Commission

13TH ANNUAL CONGRESS



November 12, 2016
Zimmerli Art Museum

71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ

COMMISSION GREETINGS

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor of New Jersey

Kimberley Harrington
Commissioner of Education

Richard Levaio
Chair, NJ Presidents' Council

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Robert DiBiase
Chair

Nicholas Schaefer
Manager

Salvatore A Davino
Chairman Emeritus

Barbara T Lazzaro
Vice Chair

Vincent Maione, P.E.
Vice Chair

Robert C Rafano, Esq.
Vice Chair, Treasurer

COMMISSIONERS

Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D.

Angelo Bianchi, Sr.

Cav. Pietro Frassica, Ph.D.

Barbara Lazzaro

Dr. Eileen Poiani

Robert C Rafano Esq

Ciro Scalera

Catherine Giambanco Vignale

Cav. Uff Laura S. White, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC ADVISERS

Cav. Pietro Frassica, Ph.D.
Chair

Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D

Dr. Andrea Baldi

Frank Campione

Dr. Eileen Poiani

Cav. Mary Ann Re, Ph.D.

Catherine Giambanco Vignale

Cav. Uff Laura S. White, Ph.D.

Welcome to the New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission's 13th Annual Congress!

Each year, NJIHC's Congress celebrates the outstanding work of Italians, Italian Americans, and Italophiles who also share a strong connection with New Jersey. For this edition, the Commission has chosen to highlight the work of several incredibly talented visual artists.

Thank you for supporting the Commission and the local Italian American Community. For more information about our other programs, sign up for our NJ Italian Newsletter at **NJItalianHeritage.org**



Robert DiBiase

Chairman - NJ Italian Heritage Commission

PROGRAM

2:30 pm *Registration Begins*

3:00 pm *Welcoming and Opening Statements*

Robert DiBiase

Chair, New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission

Hon. Andrea Canepari

Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia

Professor Carlo Davoli

Director of the Education Office of the Italian Consulate General in New York

3:20 pm *Student Art Contest Awards*

Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari

Chair, NJIHC Curriculum Development Committee

3:30 pm *Persistence of Vision: Filming our Italian American Experience*

Marylou Bongiorno

Filmmakers

Jerome Bongiorno

4:00 pm *Break*

4:15 pm *The Art of the Book*

Maria Pisano

Book Artist

4:45 pm *Painting Icons in Watercolor for over Twenty Years*

James Fiorentino

Watercolor Artist

5:15 pm *Italian Folk Life*

Andrea Cassar

Painter

5:20 pm *Closing Remarks*

Robert DiBiase

RECEPTION

5:30 pm *Reception Begins*

All guests are invited to join us in Zimmerli's Lower Dodge Gallery for a reception featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres from D'Angelo's Italian Market and live musical entertainment. The Commission has reserved the entire museum for your enjoyment. Guests are encouraged to explore the museum's collections and visit our artists' tables for a closer look at their incredible work.

6:45 pm *Dessert & Coffee*

Italian desserts have been graciously donated by Bindi USA, based in Kearny, New Jersey.

7:30 pm *Reception Concludes*

EVENT SPONSORS

FERRERO U.S.A., INC 

