



International Artists Program
Global Centre for Drawing & Langford120

Passage Gallery:

Venice and Rome Scrolls, 2018

Knowing that I would be showing in 'Passage Gallery' at Langford 120 and having an indication of the gallery's shape, I painted 2 scrolls for the space, one for each wall.

I spent the summer of 2018 in Italy, and the idea of making scroll paintings in watercolor of two cities, Venice and Rome, was born.

The Venice scroll is a river shaped journey, travelling cinematically through space & time. The Grand Canal, it's architecture & it's Palazzo's are thrown into your face as you arrive; there's no preamble, and there are no elaborate fountains and few public sculptures in this city of dreams. – a city that called itself Stato del Mare –the kingdom of the sea, a closed, mysterious society. I painted directly onto the scroll as I moved along the sides of the canal, sitting beside the water to make each vignette. What lies beyond this reality can be glimpsed in alleyways, triumphant angels & grotesque gargoyles. Beauty & danger.

But you can't paint Rome from the edges of the river Tiber. The walls along the river are too high and the Icons of Rome, it's architecture, it's fountains, it's huge piazzas, they're all public artefacts spread across the city, with sculpture visible everywhere.

So I made small watercolors on site each day, brought them to the studio and made watercolor transcriptions of them, onto the scroll.

Rome is a magnificent piece of PR, whether it's the Colosseum, a Renaissance Church or Bernini's baroque sculpture broadcasting Rome's power and achievements. Yet it's still possible to travel cinematically through space & time in this city, for the influence of Rome on western civilization was profound in it's contributions to every aspect of western culture, think of the Colosseum and our modern sports stadiums. And what if the Arch of Titus in the Forum inspired Soviet socialist realism.

Carole Robb 2018

New York / London / Rome

Courtesy Denise Bibro Gallery New York

Venice and Rome Scrolls, 2018

Small Watercolours, each

\$35,000USD

\$1750 USD