



VENICE HAS the BLUES / Polaroids

ALANA PIERINI

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HEADBONES GALLERY

Artist Catalog: Alana Pierini - Venice Has The Blues / Polaroids
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Alana Pierini, 1943-

Venice has the Blues / Polaroids commentary © 2023 Julie Oakes

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Micro Publishing

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Commentary by Julie Oakes

opinion and endearment in a substance that is controversial as well.



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Venice is a city that entrances, especially when arriving by boat across a luminous lagoon to the vista of elegant, earth-toned, historical buildings at a comfortable level so that it is just a step from the wharf onto the stones of Venice before a deep satisfying plunge into disorientation.

Originally built around a series of grazing fields, the city streets extend outwards in romantically confusing configurations of campos and piazzas. But the Venetian beauty is currently groaning under the weight of age and modernity as the hardwood pylons that hold up the 118 small islands that make up the city seem to be intent on returning to the nether realms of deep dank dirt. Venice is sinking as rubber boots are made higher to cope and the planks in San Marco become necessarily more numerous. In the more manageable months, waves from the passing cruise ships of tourists slosh over the ancient stones. The ships help to sustain the economy but impose on the infrastructure needed to support the floating hotels, dragging Venice down.

This slump in the spine of Venice is saddening, for due to her aforementioned light and beauty, as well as being home to the Venice Biennale, the world's most important exposition of international art, the Venetian experience is desirable. Artists, and culture hounds of all breeds, have loved Venice and still do. Throughout the ages, artists traveled to Venice from Europe and America, painting, drawing, studying, hoping to capture a private take on the noble city. Venice has been a stop on every aristocrat's or bohemian's 'grand tour' and the desire to report on the experience ran alongside. Paintings commemorating visits (high or low) were made available to a less elite audience as the exclusivity of operating a wooden, stand-up, box camera became a prized pecuniary potential for Venetian entrepreneurs. The Brownie camera became a common item, and then the Polaroid. Today, with phone photos distributed across the globe, at the hit of a finger, Venice is processed and fed to millions.



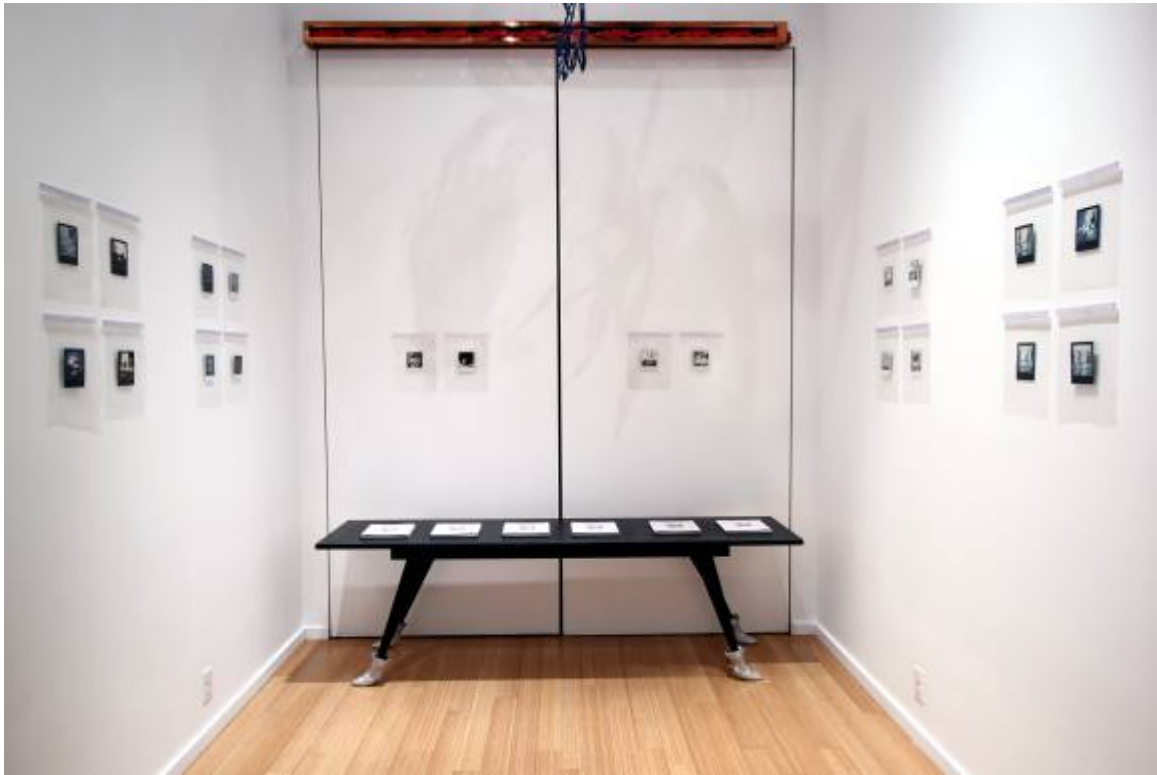
In the screaming milieu of digital exposures and challenging media distractions, Alana Pierini brings the sensibility of a more considered process – the retro imaging of the Polaroid format. Then she becomes even more personal, adding paint to the intimacy of the small watery pictures. The mark-making is not only gestural; it takes a turn, becoming political with the addition of x's or scribbling repetitions obliterating the original takes. The hulking hull of that infamous cruise ship becomes a character in the narrative and Pierini's defiant handling protests. Hers is a dual positioning, living in two countries, Canada and Italy, and from that advanced perspective as concern gains a foothold, the imagery shows a natural defensive reaction against the overturning of beauty.



Alana Pierini has chosen to clothe this presentation of opinion and endearment in a substance that is controversial as well. Plastic, so common as to be banal, encases each photograph like a waterproof specimen bag, drawing attention closer and peering through the polyurethane sheath becomes eerily similar to the intake of breath that would accompany the curious examination that the developing Polaroid, in its original iteration, once held. As the image comes into comprehension a range of emotions, from awe through sadness to an invigorating resolve, forms and Venice gains a voice.







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XX / Ship Protest





Acqua Alta in Campo





Acqua Alta / St. Mark's Square





Banksy Acqua Alta / A Cry for Help





Banksy in Venice





Basta





Feral Cat on a Pedastel





Girls on Benches





Help

He/pHe/pH
e/pHe/pHe/
pHe/pHe/p
He/pHe/pH



Life Goes On





Lone Figure / Acqua Alta





Man Walking / Acqua Alta





i musicisti





No!





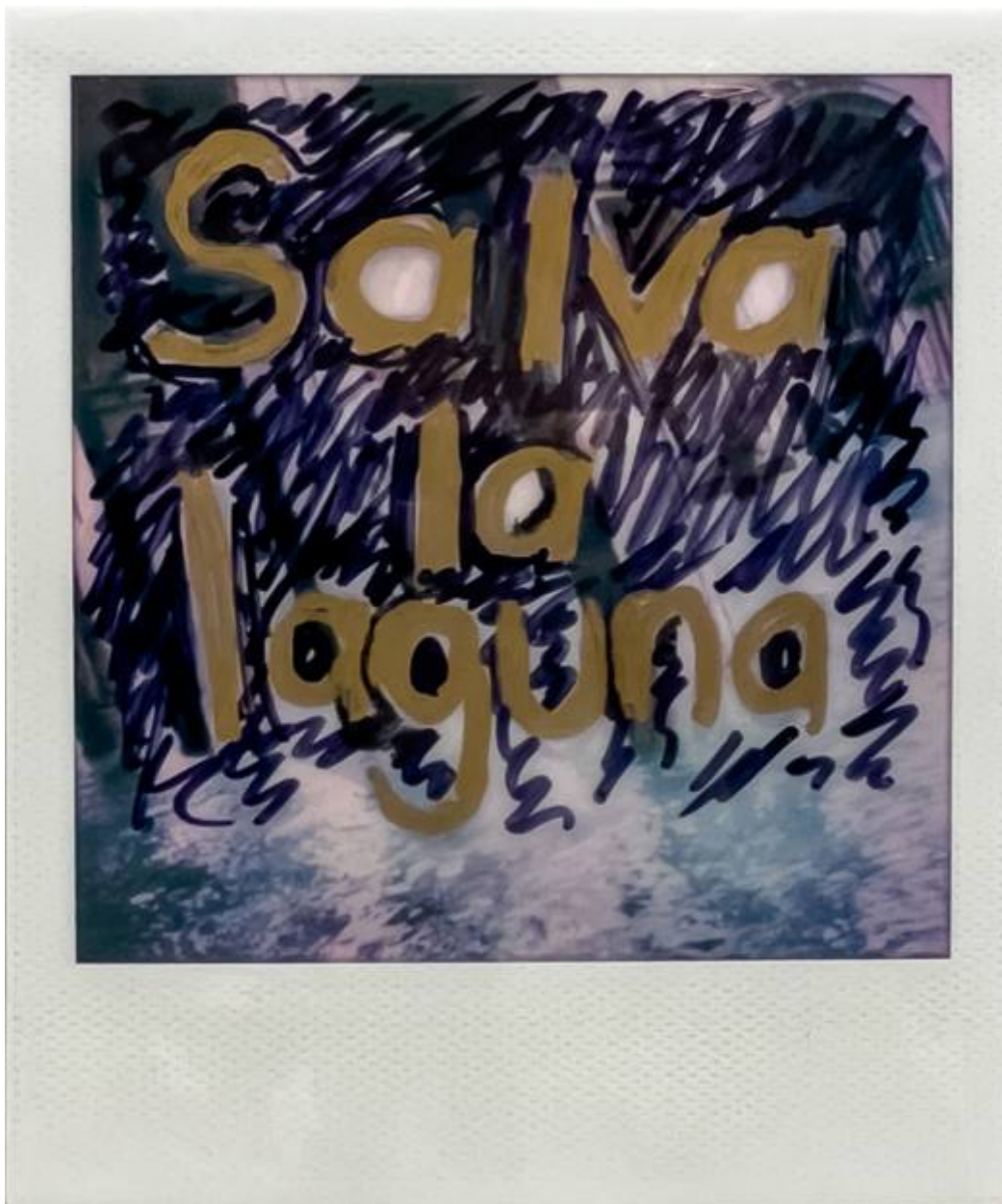
Old Well in Campo





Ratto / Acqua Alta





Salva La Laguna

Salva
la
laguna



Scribble

Winn-Dixie
Kalamazoo
Winn-Dixie
Winn-Dixie
Winn-Dixie



at Via Garibaldi





St. Mark's Basilica





The Wedding / Acqua Alta





Tourists / Acqua Alta





Gatte in Campo





Venetian Rat





X / Ship Protest





Yellow Boots



Alana Pierini, 1943-
Iroquois Falls, Ontario



Upcoming Exhibitions

2024 - New Work, Kokonton Gallery, Venice, Italy. TBA.

2024 - New Work, Timmins Museum & National Exhibition Centre, Timmins, Ontario, Sept.

Solo Exhibitions

2023 - Venice Has the Blues / Polaroids, Headbones Gallery, Vernon, B.C. May-June.

2021 - The Venice Polaroids, Temiskaming Art Gallery, Temiskaming Shores, Ont., Nov.

2021 - Tell Me A Story, sculptures, Open Studio, Temiskaming Shores, Ont., Nov..

2021 - The Venice Polaroids, wkpKennedy Gallery, North Bay, Ont., Sept.

2019 - Venice at Night, B&W Polaroids, Ansonville Gallery, Iroquois Falls, Ont., February.

2018 - Instant Gratification, Polaroids, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, Ont, Sept.

2017 - Venezia di Notte, B&W Polaroids, Kokonton Gallery, Venice, Italy.

2017 - Instant Gratification, Polaroids, Museum of Natural History, Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

2015 - Barche di Venezia, Polaroids, Kokonton Gallery, Venice, Italy.

2013 - Shades of Venice, Polaroids, Timmins Public Library, Timmins, Ontario.

2012 - Shades of Venice, Polaroids, Iroquois Falls Library, I.Falls, Ontario.

1998 - Pas de Gravy, mixed media boxes, Franglais, WhiteWater Gallery, North Bay, Ontario.

1996 - Pas de Gravy, mixed media boxes, Franglais, Emma Ciotti Gallery, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.

1995 - Amorazzo, sculpture, Kennedy Cultural Centre, North Bay, Ontario.

1993 - Amorazzo, sculpture, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, Ontario.

1992 - Amorazzo, sculpture, Galerie 815, Hearst, Ontario.

1991 - Amorazzo, sculpture, Art Gallery of Algoma, Sault St. Marie, Ontario.

1990 - Off The Wall, installations, Emma Ciotti Gallery, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.

1990 - TABOO, paintings, Galerie 815, Hearst, Ontario.

1989 - Off The Wall: installations, Temiskaming Art Gallery, Haileybury, Ontario.

1989 - TABOO, paintings, Emma Ciotti Gallery, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.

1987 - TABOO, paintings, New Toronto Art Gallery, Toronto, Ontario.

1986 - TABOO, paintings, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, Ontario.

1986 - TABOO, paintings, La Galerie du Nouvelle Ontario, Sudbury, Ontario.

1986 - TABOO, paintings, Museum of Northern History, Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

1982 - Mementos, pencil drawings, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, Ontario.

1982 - Mixed Media, La Galeruche, La Ronde, Timmins, Ontario.

1980 - Northern Spirits, fibre sculpture, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, ON.

1975 - Seedlings, fibre, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, Ontario.

Group Exhibitions

1993 - TELLING TALES: three-person show, Alana Pierini, Marlene Creates and Lise Melhorn-Boe, curated by Daniela Snepova. White Water Gallery, North Bay, Ontario.

1976 - Northern Artists: fibre, Timmins Museum & NEC, Timmins, Ontario.

1971 - PULSATION 3: paintings, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

1970 - PULSATION 2: paintings, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

1969 - PULSATION 1: paintings, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Selected Newspaper & Catalogue publications, Radio & T.V.

- 2021 - Kataquapit, Xavier, The Enterprise, Iroquois Falls artist releases Ebook, Iroq. Falls, Ontario.
- 2021 - Kataquapit, Xavier, the Daily Press, Northern Artist releases Ebook, Timmins Ontario.
- 2020 - Arangio, Sergio, CTV News, The Venice Polaroids, A. Pierini, Sudbury, Ontario.
- 2020 - McIntyre Bob, CTV, radio, Northern artist releases Ebook, Timmins, Ontario.
- 2018 - Kataquapit, Xavier, Instant Gratification, The Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 2018 - Kataquapit, Xavier, Iroquois Falls artist back from Venice, Northern News, Kirkland Lake Ontario.
- 2017 - Kataquapit, Xavier, Northern Ontario artist in Venice, The Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 2017 - Kataquapit, Xavier, Artist in Venice, The Enterprise, Iroquois Falls, Ontario
- 1996 - Allan, Tom. CBC National Radio interview, Pas de Gravy, Toronto, Ontario.
- 1996 - Demers, Alain. "watch ben ça cette exposition", La Boîte newspaper, Iroquois Falls, Ontario,
- 1996 - Labreque, Rachele. "Unique Flavour of the North", The Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1995 - McGrath, Mike. "Alana Pierini", catalogue Amorazzo Ultimo, Kennedy Centre, North Bay, Ontario.
- 1995 - Boschulte, Jill. "Alana Pierini", as above.
- 1993 - Tremblay, Bernadette. "Une Artist Tout à Fait Fascinante", La Boîte, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.
- 1993 - Brunet, Carole. "Pierini's Love Affair", Timmins Times, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1993 - Rescorla, Donna. "Artist fills senses with instruments, words" The Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1993 - Bissonette, Ivy. "Alana Pierini expose de nouvelle créations", La Boîte, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.
- 1993 - Hunt, Dave. "Alana Pierini", catalogue for Amorazzo Ultimo, Timmins Museum Centre, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1992 - Belanger, Marlene. "l'artiste Alana Pierini revient nous étonnez", Le Nord, Hearst, Ontario.
- 1991 - Burtch, Michael. "Amorazzo, Seeing is Believing", Art Gallery of Algoma, Sault St. Marie, Ontario.
- 1991 - L'Ontariste, répertoire artistique, Conseil DesArts de l'Ontario.
- 1990 - Rescorla, Donna. "A Mask of Eyes", Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1990 - 88 - Editorial cartoons for The Enterprise, weekly newspaper, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.
- 1989 - Boucher, Claude. "Une Voyage Dans l'Imaginaire", La Boîte, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.
- 1987 - Fontaine, Jean-Lois. "Alana Pierini a perfectionné le secret du masque en Italie", La Boîte, I. Falls, Ontario.
- 1987 - Beardsley, Charmaine. "Iroquois Falls woman creates masks", Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1987 - "Masking Taboos", photograph, The Sun, Toronto, Ontario
- 1986 - Math, Micheline. "Taboo/Tabou", Le Nouvelle Ontario, Sudbury, Ontario.
- 1982 - "Artist's Magic", photograph, The Daily Press, Timmins, Ontario.
- 1974 - Southall, Margaret. "Creative Artist Inspires Students", The Enterprise, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.



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