

# One Page

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## EIGHT FILMMAKERS IN CHIANTI

*Selected the young directors*

CAROLINA MANCINI

Among the arts and crafts selected for Slow Movie Contest, there is the Chianti Sculpture Park Pievasciata, in Castelnuovo Berardenga: 7 acres of land where the sculptures by artists from around the world blend with the colors, sounds and noises of the forest.

There are three characteristics that define the park, according to their founders: the integration of nature and art, the diversity of cultures, and the vary of used materials, features that, we believe, make it similar to our competition. We are preparing to make in the coming months Slow Movie Contest become a sort of Pievasciata traveling, going to 'animate' from week to week eight municipalities that are involved in it.

The directors that we have selected, Italian and foreign, are already at work, and are doing research on the Internet about places and activities that have been proposed. We have unearthed for them, thanks to the helpful suggestions we have received from the various countries and the municipalities, we have immediately recognized this mixture of cultures, nature and technology, and a wide variety of materials and ... animals. It is also because the animals are a point of contact with the Sculpture Park, before becoming such, housed, in fact, a herd of wild boars!

Nora Kravis has left Long Island in 1972 to Radda in Chianti: she had a degree in art, but was the passion for quadrupeds that before led her to make the trainer of horses, and then put on a herd of Cashmere goats at her stone cottage in the valleys of Volpaia. The first in Italy, and the first 'brick' for the creation of a company that operates in the field of luxury goods with a line of natural textile for the person and for the house. At Barberino Val d'Elsa, Riccardo Salvetti will compete with *Il Paretaio*, an international equestrian center specializing in classical riding, but also with the production of ceramics by *Andrea Biagini*, that in the lab built close to his house he is dedicated to pottery, to the paper clay (making pots that are a mixture of clay and paper), and especially to the turning of porcelain, because his preference is the Japanese ceramics.

The pottery is also found in Tavarnelle, with the workshop *Il Tafano*, and in Radda, with *Decorati nel Tempo* (specializing in the production of lamps, mirrors, fabrics and miniatures) and with *Rampini ceramics*, whose work will bring us back in Renaissance Florence, when the Medici celebrating the art of good food in their castles and country villas presenting the dishes in beautiful decorated dinner services.

The Japanese art of pottery is highly valued in Chianti: *Lucia Volentieri* in Castellina in Chianti, is an expert of the Raku technique, her lively production also includes some nice modular cubes depicting the rural surrounding her laboratory, with the ubiquitous olive tree. Just olive tree and olive oil will focus Gina Napolitan, which will film in Castellina at the farm of *Marchesi Mazzei*, historically family linked to the political and cultural life of the region, from the beginning of the eleventh century. Ser Lapo Mazzei has even considered the "father" of the Chianti appellation, which appeared for the first time in a commercial contract with his signature, dated 16 December 1398.

*Franco Bozzi*, in Greve, makes sculptures from recycled wood. Also in Greve, *Patrizio Catarzi*, wood turner, produces wonderful Pinocchio, Mr. *Fagioli* is one of the few craftsmen who still dedicate themselves to the art of realization of the baskets. In San Casciano find another turner, Mr. *Lapini*, and then *Carlo Chiti*, which produces the *Terrecotte del Chianti* at the *Fornace di Gabbiano*, making each piece by hand with the land of Galestro.

The craftsmen of metals produce for the activities more traditional (*Giachini* in Tavarnelle works for cellars and oil mills) and for those more advanced (*Stefano Failli*, in San Casciano, works metal for artists). At the *Fonderia Del Giudice* in Greve there is at the same time an ancient Renaissance art workshop, where three generations have handed down the art of the technique of lost wax casting, and a modern workshop where, thanks to the technological



### SLOW MOVIE CONTEST

REGIONE  
TOSCANA



Progetto realizzato  
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innovations adopted, Luca Del Giudice realizes constantly works of architects and contemporary sculptors Italian and international. At the Park in Pievasciata are the works of *Fabio Zacchei*, smith in Castelnuovo Berardenga, a country where for years this activity has been the main source of income of the population. Fabio's father, *Mario*, still works as *bullettaio*, another trade in endangered, or, as we hope, in search of 'new inspiration'. Besides iron and metals there are activities and materials more feminine: in Tavarnelle the *Lucia's embroideries* (in Tavarnelle the embroidery is an ancient art of local tradition to which also the Museum of Sacred Art devotes space) and the creations of *Lea Bilanci*: books, herbals, albums, cards, envelopes, boxes, made with cards of various sizes, density and texture, using spices, herbs, plants, flowers, fibers and tissues.

In the countryside of Gaiole we find "Le Conce", the pottery workshop of Studio Fernandez, where *Margherita* and *Olivier Fernandez* produce porcelain, hard porcelain and bronze and they have created a special 'blend' between the Tuscan tradition and other cultures, especially the English and Japanese. We end the roundup as we had begun: with a woman, a foreign, but now completely Chianti: *Stefanie Dux*, who from Germany has planted a hand-weaving workshop in Gaiole in Chianti, near the Castle of Brolio, where transforms the linen, cotton and hemp in beautiful fabrics, using frames older than 300 years.

We stop here, even though this long list remains open, waiting to be stretched or 'altered' by the cards of various sizes, density and texture, using spices, herbs, plants, flowers, fibers and tissues. And while we wait for them, let's find out something more about each of them in the following pages.

SERGIO TURINI

Why is it called Chianti?

Rummaging among the many publications, ancient or not, the more plausible etymology seems that derived from the verb CLANGO (almost a sound of a hunting horn), which defined the ancient state of the rural district covered with forests, intended to baronial hunting.

From ancient documents it is noted that the present territory was a large wooded forest and the tenth and eleventh centuries were replaced, little by little cultivation of olive trees, mulberry trees and "... an exquisite vines that produce low-quality wine." Celebrated by Francesco Redi, doctor and literary man at the Medici court in his *Bacco in Toscana* (1685). There is also a memory of the year 790, found in the Abbey of San Bartolomeo a Ripoli, where the Benedictine monks tell of a court in CLANTI CUM INTEGRO SALINGO and this could be another possible origin of the name Chianti.

The word Chianti appears after the middle of the thirteenth century, until then the Chianti lands were indicated by the generic name of Castiglione, so much so that the Ghibelline Emperor Arrigo IV (1056-1073) and the Guelph Federico I Barbarossa (1122-1190) "... confirmed to the counts Guidi, Vicars of the Holy See, the lordship of the territory of Castiglione ...", a territory that included the present Castellina and Radda.

A certain date is 1384, when it established the League of Chianti with the promulgation of its Statute. League, which probably already existed from the first century, when the Republic of Florence divided the territory into autonomous jurisdictions, calling Leagues.

The Florentine Statute of 1415 gives us absolute certainty a way to determine exactly, the boundaries of Chianti of that time.

The League was formed by Plover and those of Chianti where: Panzano, S. Maria Novella, S. Giusto in Salcio, S. Maria a Spaltenna, S. Polo in Rosso, S. Marcellino, S. Cristina

In Ligliano, S. Leonino in Conio and S. Agnese. The Plover, places of worship, were formed by the people, the people of the Chianti were 69 and for ease of administration were divided into three groups, and so there were the Terzi or Terzieri, each of which was named from the most important among them: Radda, named capital of the League of Chianti, Castellina and Gaiole.

In 1774, the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo suppressed the administrations of Terzi, replacing them with the Community and leaving unchanged the same boundaries. Subsequently under the French government were annexed to the department of the Ombrone and to the unification of the Kingdom were part of the province of Siena, which still belong.



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Residenza per Artisti

# Gina Marie Napolitan - USA

Filming in Castellina in Chianti



Born: January 16th 1981  
 She comes from: Brockton, Massachusetts-USA  
 She lives in: South Pasadena-California  
 Bio-Filmography: Gina Marie Napolitan is an experimental filmmaker and media artist and she has worked as a puppeteer and video designer on several experimental theater productions. Her animated films have screened at the Boston Underground Film Festival, Anthology Film Archive in New York City, LA FilmForum, Antimatter Film Festival, Black Maria, animateCologne, and numerous other venues in the United States and abroad. In 2011, she was a recipient of the Princess Grace

Foundation Award, and this past year she was awarded an artist residency at Echo Park Film Center in Los Angeles.

Napolitan received her BFA in Film/Video from and her MFA in Experimental Animation from the California Institute of the Arts.

A curiosity...

Collage and assemblage of found objects are Gina's primary means of creative expression and they have roots in her childhood. In the late 1970s, her parents purchased a small 180 year-old farmhouse in Brockton, Massachusetts. They gradually remodeled the house throughout the 1980s, and during this period of renovation, mysterious objects hidden in the walls were discovered: old children's toys, stacks of pulp magazines from the 1870s, corn cob pipes and scraps of clothing. Her mother dutifully saved everything they found, arranging them into strange tableaux on tables in our living room. As a little girl, Gina spent hours staring at these objects, drawing associations between them, constructing narratives around them, engaging in a peculiar kind of suburban archeology. Gina believes that film offers the ideal showcase for this kind of art: discarded objects can be given new life through motion,



new identities created with each re-arrangement and juxtaposition of the images on screen.

**She says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*This is my first time in Tuscany, and in Italy. I love researching the history of specific places, so I've been preparing by doing that, as well as learning to speak basic Italian. I've been very interested in using candles and small, focused flashlights as the primary light sources in my films recently, so I'm hoping that I can apply this technique to the area I've been assigned. My film will likely be a combination of live action footage and animated footage.*



# Riccardo Salvetti - Italy

Filming in Barberino Val D'Elsa

Born: May 19th 1986  
 He comes from: Forli-ITALY  
 He lives in: Forli  
 Bio-Filmography: Riccardo is a freelance filmmaker, he work as a production assistant, operator, director.

His film "Gabani - due volte campione" won eight awards at international festivals enjoying success among critics and audiences. Among the most important productions in which he has worked:

"Gabani - due volte campione" Docu-Fiction on the life of Arnaldo Pambianco (writer and director), "La banda dei Babbi Natale" by Aldo, Giovanni and Giacomo (production), "Bruciare violini per vendere la cenere"

and "The Plague Doctor" (videographer)

He has a degree in film production at the school of "Cinema, Television and New Media" in Milan.

Riccardo's website: [www.riccardosalvetti.com](http://www.riccardosalvetti.com)

**He says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*Telling the value of traditions and grasp the energy that they contain is one of the main reasons that lead me to pick up the camera, so as soon as I reported the call "slowmoviecontest" I could not pull back.*

*I was hoping for this selection because until now I have focused heavily on those who*

*are the stories and traditions of my country: the Romagna, and this possibility to climb over the Apennines and try to tell the arts and crafts of another region with my eyes fills me with enthusiasm.*

*It's the first time I go to Barberino, and I have the pleasure to find out for this occasion, so I can study it and know it from the start with watchful eyes to perform this project.*

*Now the first thing I will begin studying the arts and crafts that I have been assigned, and then develop a narrative that can enclose the all in one short film.*

# Cristian Benaglio - Italy

Filming in Tavarnelle Val di Pesa



Born: July 17th 1982  
 He comes from: Rezzato-Brescia-ITALY  
 He lives in: Brescia

Bio-Filmography: Cristian is a professional filmmaker since September 2002, when he participated in the making of ethnic-social documentaries on RAI 3 in Valle d'Aosta. He then worked for two years to the creation of two sets of "Playground" for Disney on RAI 2 within the program "DisneyClub." In 2006 he became part of "Tamavideo srl" cine television production company based in Milan, with whom he has made television programs and multimedia products for RAI, Mediaset, SKY, Allmusic, FOX, DISCOVERY. He has

collaborated with the Cooperativa Tempo Libero for the realization of short films with and for children of elementary and middle school, he worked for Videoproduzione to production of video clips and animations for companies of the Finmeccanica group, has made photos and videos for Marc Paris for the marine industry and international publications, and has worked on documentaries and video clips including the institutional project of school records achieved for PA incentive and Assoform Rimini. His first short film, "Statistica" is in 2009, followed by "Come di dice" (2010) and "Aquavitae." (2011), which he produced and directed, and which has been selected by Slow

Movie Contest.

In recent months, he is working on various projects including the creation of a documentary about Franco Battiato and a new script Cristian has a diploma in surveying and attended the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the Catholic University which he then left in favor of work commitments.

**He says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*My professional experience ranges from documentaries (with which I began) to TV programs through film projects consist mainly of three short films, but between all projects, the ones that gave me the most satisfaction were those in which in some way, as they say, was history to choose me.*

*In this case I think Tavarnelle is a new excellent opportunity to dedicate myself to Tuscany which is the part I love most about my country!*

*Frequently between a work and another I voluntarily lost in the area, but specifically I have never been in Tavarnelle and do not know anything about his history, now I think I have a good excuse to fill the gap.*

*Among the first work I've done there are many documentaries dedicated to arts and crafts, but I have never had to deal with the paper crafts or pottery workshops, which is why, although I have some ideas, I will not take decisions until I have done at least a small survey in the country.*

*Now, knowing this project, I am happy that I could get an idea of the local crafts during the days of the exhibition "Artigianato e Palazzo" in Florence.*

# Alina Gorlova - Ukraine

Filming in Radda in Chianti

Born: September 16th 1991  
 She comes from: Zaporozhye - UKRAINE  
 She lives in: Kyiv-UKRAINE

Bio-Filmography: Alina graduated from Kyiv National University of Theatre, Cinematography and Television in 2012. In the same year she shot four short movies: "The first step in the clouds" (with which she was selected for Slow Movie Contest), "The Widow", "Babushka" and "Heart transplant" (which won the Prize for the "Best movie, shot by the students" at the Kinokimberia International Film Festival.)

**She says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*It will be my first time in Italy. I know, that this region is one of the most beautiful in Italy. As I understand from books and web, Radda has the unique atmosphere. There are a lot of objects, that give you inspiration: nature, people, arts, crafts, architecture, style of live. I really suppose, that this idea is*

*very actual today. I'm trying to know more about this town, about history of it.*

*I have an idea of what I will shoot in Radda: this will be the short movie-meditation. I want to show, that the crafts can relax. When you doing something by your hands, your mind begin to concentrated on this the feeling,*

*sense. This is very important, 'cause your thoughts go away and your head became fresh. After this, you begin to understand more things about life, because you have "reload". I had the experience of "reload", when I was with the wild nature for a long time.*



## Amanda Rodriguez - Spain

Filming in Greve in Chianti



Born: February 27th 1981  
She comes from: Madrid- SPAIN  
She lives in: Madrid-SPAIN  
Bio-Filmography:

Following her undergraduate Studies in audiovisual Communications in the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, she studies cinematographic direction in ECAM. In 2010 she receives an exchange scholarship with ENERC (Buenos Aires, Argentina) where she completes her training. This experience has provided her with a more complete vision as a film-maker. Currently she juggles her work as producer in the production company Zaprunder Films with the pre-production of her first full length film as director due to start in 2014. The third story, her final year project, and for which she was selected to Slow Movie Contest, after being screened at

the Spanish festival Seminici, and "La semana de Cortometraje de la comunidad de Madrid", will arrive in Italy, MedFilmFestival of Rome (June 24 to 29) and the Festival of Brescello (June 21 to 23), where it will be in competition.

**She says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*I have not had the opportunity to come to Tuscany or Greve in Chianti, although I know a part of this region through film, and the films that were shot emblematic, such as "Il paziente inglese", "Io ballo da sola". I find wonderful... the landscape, the timeless character of the villages, and the quality of life that seems to breathe in your country: for this I really want to know these places. For this experience I'm documenting, trying to find all the*

*information at my disposal, in order to maximize my time and make a good short. I want to get a complete view of the area and its surroundings: in a nutshell, fully understand the lifestyle of Greve in Chianti. Internet allows us to access an enormous amount of information, not only on a technical level, but also of feelings: personal experiences, opinions of travelers and impressions of the people who went from there or living there. My work will focus in trying to reflect the character of the city and the influence of the crafts. With my short will film the spirit of the area, that is, the color and the essence of a city portrayed through its picturesque landscape. The kind oscillate between documentary and fiction story, in search of the tension that allows you to get closer to the Italian popular culture through the construction of a story.*

*I was lucky enough to graduate in art, and for this I came into contact with many disciplines, such as sculpture or painting. In addition, my family has always been very much in touch with the world of craft, so I am very sensitive to the method of work of a sculptor, for example, that the bottom is not so different from that of a filmmaker.*



## Silvio D'Angelo - Italy

Filming in San Casciano Val Di Pesa

Born: August 7th 1987

He comes from: Pescara- ITALY

He lives in: Pescara

Bio-Filmography: Silvio is a freelance filmmaker, makes videos for events, advertising and the Internet under the brand "Oviedo". He worked as an operator of filming and editing for TV Extracampus of Turin, Confindustria Pescara, ZOO ART Festival Olona, Cinemambiente. He is the author of two music videos (Radioshakedown - "Cheaters never lose" and Josagun - "Smo

Kings")

He has a degree in Public and Political Communication

**He says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*If I did not the videomaker I would probably be carpenter or blacksmith. I've always been fascinated by the craft trades, particularly those who do not produce parts in series. My first short film ("without art nor part"), not surprisingly, concerns a boy who creates works of art working pieces of iron abandoned.*

*The SlowMovieContest will be an excellent opportunity to go in search of these hidden talents by the beautiful landscape of Tuscany, in the style of reportage.*

*In my work I always try to capture the most interesting aspects of what I'm filming without building too pictures and dialogues. My week in San Casciano in Val di Pesa will be a real discovery of the territory without filters and without patterns, to try to grasp in the most natural way the value of the area.*

## Romina Contepomi - UK

Filming in Castelnuovo Berardenga



Born: January 16th 1990

She comes from: Valencia- SPAIN  
She lives in: London-UK

Bio-Filmography:

Romina Contepomi is a freelance filmmaker who lives and works in London, where she moved in 2008, in order to complete her higher education. She studied first at Chelsea College of Art and Design to then specialize in filmmaking, completing a Film and Television BA at London College of Communication. Her work deals with issues such as emigration, human displacement and the passing of time, which draw on her own personal experience. Recent projects includes directing her short Film "Soledad", that was selected at the Underwire Film Festival London 2012.

**She says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*I have had the pleasure to have visited Tuscany three times in the past years but I have never visited Castelnuovo Berardenga before. I am very excited to get to explore the area and honored to have been chosen to capture the beauty of its people, art and nature. I also have a more profound connection with Italy as many of my ancestors where Italian themselves. My parents are Argentinian and my great grandparents from both families where Italian. Therefore I have been brought up with many similar traditions and family stories since I was young. I feel a very close relation to Italy and for this reason when I visit I always feel at home. For the moment I'm trying to do as much research as I can as I think this is the only way to produce as good piece of work,*

*however I'm planning to start writing the script shortly. I am trying to get inspiration by reading Italian poetry, at the moment I'm reading Giosuè Carducci work. It is still a very early stage and I want to allow myself space for exploration. As I mentioned before feel that research is crucial as I am a firm believer that inspiration is only able to flourish by exposing yourself to different creative and intellectual stimulus. It is only by doing this that I find I can crystalize my idea into a final work of art. Filmmaking for me is pure space, waiting to be inhabited. Waiting for me to make it my own. A really where I can truly understand what it is important to me, a space where I can reflect. So until a certain extent the images become an extension of myself because I cohabit with them for such a long time. For me the mood of the film is the most important aspect, the cinematic space that I create becomes the emotion. For this reason I like to use nature and landscape as if it was a character of its own. I'll rather leave my audience with a simple feeling than with a satisfying story plot. In this film I want to do precisely this, capture the atmosphere of the landscapes, nature, art and people of Chianti. As the final outcome I hope that the audience will be able to relate and feel a part of this cinematic space that I will be creating.*

## Darim Da Prato - Italy

Filming in Gaiole in Chianti



Born: July 11th 1982

He comes from: Viareggio - Lucca- ITALY

He lives in: Viareggio

Bio-Filmography:

Darim Alessandro Da Prato is a freelance filmmaker. He has worked with various production companies of Tuscany operating

in the documentary, contributing to the realization of projects that were broadcast nationally from the SKY platform. He also works on personal projects, especially in the branch of the art and the social documentary.

Since 2010 is part of the collective TRIPODPHOTO combining photographers and

videographers of Versilia. He has directed the following short films: "Il figlio del pastore - A Videoportrait of Lorenzo Viani" (2013), "La Transumanza delle Api" (2012), "Maestri d'ascia e calafati" (2011), "Il Tarlo polverizza anche la quercia - A Documentary On Galileo Chini" (2010)

He has a degree in "Cinema, Music and Theatre" at the University of Pisa and specialized in "Cinema, Theatre and Multimedia Production"

**He says...** (about Slow Movie Contest):

*Honestly, although I am Tuscan, I've never been in Gaiole in Chianti, but I had already heard, especially in relation to the production of wine. During my experience I have already covered some arts and crafts, some of which are very special and with a rich tradition, as the beekeeper, or shipwright.*

*I wish the video would reflect the work and sweat that it takes in every profession, the passion that joins the tradition, too often supplanted by modern machinery. I intend to speak, for what I can, with the older of the place to learn how to have changed over the years, the techniques employed in production, ensuring the quality of the made in Italy.*