



November 28, 2017 / In Interviews, Italophile, Newsletter

# Drappellone: the prized asset

People are often surprised when they find out that the only prize awarded in the Palio di Siena is the Drappellone – a vere extraordinary horse race, one would expect hefty prize money after a race, but in Siena all you get is the Palio (the actual

Made of silk, the Drappellone carries enormous symbolism and is wrapped in tradition and regulation. A new Drappellon one dedicated to the Madonna of Provenzano (2 July) and one dedicated to the Assumption of Mary (16 August). Each D elements that represent the Palio, the contrade running the race, the town and more. We were lucky to be present at the artists Sinta Tantra, who brought modernity and her unique style to this old tradition. She was kind enough to share a fe the Drappellone and more.

You are a British Artist, of Balinese descent and born in New York. Are your strongest influences from your past or your p

I'm inspired by both the past and present... and although I live and work in London and may appear Western in many wa

much of the Hindu religion is based on Buddhism – they believe in the importance of recognising both good and evil, past

We are based in Italy, a country that perpetually looks to its past for reassurance. You were recently commissioned to cre Contrada of the famous horse race in Siena. How was it working on a contemporary commission for such a traditional  $\epsilon$ 

It's a challenge for any contemporary artist responding to this brief. There are so many complex elements to include such the symbol of the Mayor. Many of these rules seem so alien for a contemporary artist – especially for a non-Italian one su

However, I kept in mind something the Mayor told me after my first meeting. He expressed how I should really take owne be recognised as a 'Sinta Tantra', even from far away. So although the framework remains traditional, whilst designing it

## What were the main challenges on working on the drappellone?

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For the Madonna of the Assumption, I represented the figure as a linear drawing based on an early Renaissance painting Giovanni Dupré on the other hand, was based on drawing illustrations by Andy Warhol from the 1950's – I wanted to ad

### On your trips over here in the past year, what have you enjoyed most about Tuscany?

The food, the wine, the Tuscan hospitality. In many of the Tuscan towns, I love how the architecture and buildings not onl theatre to daily life – the city as a stage.

#### Are there any contemporary Italian artists you particularly admire and why?

Although originally French, I admire the work of Nathalie Du Pastier, an artist based in Milan and co-founder of the Italia and bold, it crosses over so many disciplines such as art, architecture, painting and design.

#### If you had to describe Italian people in a few words, what would you say?

Passionate, sexy, a zest for living – family comes first – it's not about what you know, it's about who you know.

#### I'm sure you've had the chance to explore some of Tuscany's best restaurants on your recent visits. Is there a dish that yo

Tuscan white beans with olive oil, garlic and rosemary. I ate this dish in a restaurant called Trattoria la Tellina in Siena. It's delicious and utterly memorable.

## As well travelled as you are, what do you have on your dream destination list for 2018?

On the dream list is 'Raia Amnat' – a series of more than 1500 island chains in Indonesia. It's reaarded as one of the worl

and exceptional marine life.

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Tantra's bold interventions use colour abstractions that wrap themselves around architectural environments, transformin formalism, a bricolage of colour and rhythm, an exploration of identity and aesthetics. Tantra challenges our understandi localization and deconstructing the modern obsession with brand. Themes within the work include the slippage between and how we as bodies become submerged in surface and structure.







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