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May 3, 2011

## **NIAUSI at SAM: A Multi-sensory Experience of Stories, Sights and Sounds, May 20**

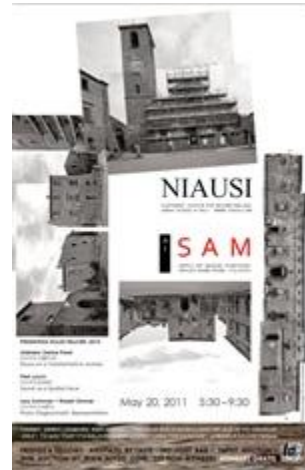
**Please join us at the Seattle Art Museum, and help us spread the word!**

To view, print, and share the Press Release, [Click here](#); to view and print the 11" x 17" Event Poster, [Click here](#).

~ **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** ~

### **NIAUSI at SAM**

Friends & Fellows Event  
Friday, May 20, 5:30-9:30 pm  
Seattle Art Museum - Arnold Board Room



NIAUSI presents its next Fellows Event and fundraiser, featuring presentations by Fellows recently returned from their studies in Italia.

**Gabriella Denise Frank** — *Essays on a Transformative Journey*: featuring observations and images from her stay in Civita, and her new book [Civita Veritas](#) and <http://civitaveritas.com>

**Perri Lynch** — *CIVITAS ONIC Sound as a Spatial Force*: sharing audio and visual samples captured in Rome and Civita, woven into her latest project. <http://www.velocitymadegood.org>

**Lara Swimmer and Robert Zimmer** — *Civita Carta*: photo-diagrammatic representation— their recent "Mapping" project, using photographic and geo-locational techniques to experientially convey Civita's spatial configurations. [www.swimmerphoto.com](http://www.swimmerphoto.com) and [www.zimmerray.com/](http://www.zimmerray.com/)

*Buffet: Italian-inspired antipasti from TASTE, with a full no-host bar*

*Silent Auction: A variety of items, services and experiences donated by supporters.*

**On-line Auction: fantastic and unique art objects from Steven**

**Holl, Tom Kundig, Betty Merken, Perri Lynch, James Corey, and others will be available for bid, exclusively through NIAUSI's web site auction page – available after May 6 - watch your inbox for announcements - closing prior to the event!**

Admission: \$35 to non-members. Memberships will be available at the door, or online at [www.niausi.com](http://www.niausi.com).

Benefits of membership include free admission, opportunities for involvement, and use of NIAUSI facilities in Civita di Bagnoregio, Italy.

For more information contact Tom Miller (206) 310-8162 ([designm@comcast.net](mailto:designm@comcast.net)), Stephen Day ([stephen.day@niausi.com](mailto:stephen.day@niausi.com)), or visit our website at [www.niausi.com/](http://www.niausi.com/)

### **BACKGROUND**

*NIAUSI is a non-profit organization, founded in 1981 to promote education and experiences in Italy for Northwest professionals. Each year, fellowships are awarded for one and two month periods of study. Applicants are generally from, but not limited to the architecture and design community, and selected by jury of design professionals. Upon return to Seattle, the fellows present the results of their work to like-minded audiences at much anticipated events.*

*Recently, NIAUSI has grown in stature and scope, as it prepares to take ownership of a group of buildings in Civita di Bagnoregio, an ancient hilltown about an hour north of Rome. Consisting of several housing units with kitchens, a common courtyard and garden, and a grand room dating from the Renaissance, it has been home to academic programs, primarily the Italian Hilltowns Program thru the University of Washington Department of Architecture.*

*The Civita Institute, under the auspices of NIAUSI, oversees the facility, which is available for use by current members for day visits, or overnight stays, depending on level of contribution. The studio, library and living spaces provide an inspirational, focal point from which to explore the town, and surrounding region.*

*Civita di Bagnoregio is perched on the bluff of a volcanic core, and constructed of local stone, similar to nearby Orvieto. It is accessible only by footbridge, and off limits to motorized vehicles. It has been the subject of art and study thru the ages, recently featured by Rick Steves. In 2008 the World Monuments Fund placed it on their watch site, and sponsored a symposium on preservation that was hosted and orchestrated by NIAUSI.*

*Part of NIAUSI's current drive is to promote stays in the facility, while developing academic programs through the University of Washington, and other Foreign Study Programs. Latest endeavors include a watercolor workshop, and a culinary intensive focusing on local food sources.*

*Proceeds from this event, memberships and other contributions will support maintenance and capital improvements of the facility, development of future programs, and continued fellowships and internships.*

<http://www.niausi.com/>

<http://www.wmf.org/project/civita-di-bagnoregio>

<http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/destinations/italy/civitabd.htm>

~ END OF RELEASE ~

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