

SANTA BARBARA ART FOUNDATION



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MuSaBa Centro Sperimentale
Architecture, Restoration & Sculpture

MuSaBa – Museo Santa Barbara – *Santa Barbara Art Foundation*

The Santa Barbara Art Foundation is a non-profit public organization and the engine behind the Museum of Santa Barbara (MuSaBa). Created by artists Nik Spatari and Hiske Maas, MuSaBa is an open air museum, characterized by the principle of action and a truly scientific and productive park with a strong interactive programme.

It concentrates on art, architecture, archaeology, botany, environment and relevant research on the inheritance of the Mediterranean art and culture. The mission of the Foundation is to develop public interest, knowledge, and appreciation of contemporary art that is multicultural and international in nature.

Since 1970, MuSaBa has attracted people from all walks of life with diverse backgrounds and disciplines such as artists, architects, naturalists, students and curious adventurers. The diverse blend of volunteers and staff fuels creativity, obtaining results and honing practical skills and capacity in problem-solving, contributing to a very unique experiential learning environment for both participants and visitors. The MuSaBa Program, is a set of projects with global vision which promotes the production of art within the unique confines of its historical and natural context. MuSaBa is located on a 70,000 square meter Museum Park that has been developed around the remains of an ancient monastery in the countryside of Southern Italy in the region of Calabria, near to the charming village of Mammola. It's picturesque landscape is comprised of many small farms dotting the neighbouring hills and mountains, along with the two rivers flowing across the surrounding territory.

Archaeological-Environmental Park Santa Barbara

The significant presence of indigenous populations was confirmed in the 1970s by archaeological excavations indicating that the site contains not only necropolis of the XII-VIII century B.C. period but also a settlement that overlaid it in the VII-IV century B.C. period.

The Santa Barbara Art Foundation's property consists of:

- 7 breadth taking hectares of protected land;
- the partly restored remains of a previously, fully functional monastic complex;
- an ancient church;
- a three-dimensional, timeless fresco 260 mq by Nik Spatari;
- the unique, inhabitable structure "Chameleon";
- 25 monumental sculptures-structures by acclaimed international artists;
- an vast collection of modern and contemporary visual art;
- a media-library-video-photo-archive;
- a visual art collection of Nik Spatari's artistic evolution;
- the ever expanding old railway station, bought in 1978, converted to a residence/studio;
- Foresteria/residence (accommodation for 22 persons) and
- the inspiring annex Art laboratory;
- the Mediterranean Art Gardens that merge sculpture with landscape and horticulture;
- large and fertile olive orchard and fruit garden;

Under construction and restoration:

- the monastic complex;
- monumental mosaic external walls of the Foresteria 1000 mq;
- the home-artistic laboratory Spatari Maas;
- Archaeological Environmental Park

The wonders of MuSaBa

Sculpture – structure

Contemporary art merges with the environment, as landscape becomes sculpture and sculptures become elements of the landscape.

Not only artists but also volunteers have connected with the landscape in various ways, sensitively using intuition to relate to the “genius loci” (spirit of place) and to other artists. The majority of the projects have been conceived *in situ*, through the careful analysis of the site’s components: its topography, vegetation, historical remains, and cultural heritage.

Interest in the environment as a work theme

In this landscape, sculptures have gone from being decorative and integrative elements to being autonomous elements that become part of one with their surroundings. Artists are invited to submit ideas, creative suggestions, and projects that are specifically designed for the museum-park. International artists have worked for years to create works that are inseparable from their locations in the scenic landscape.

Visual arts

The Foundation’s large collection is made up of paintings, drawings, graphic designs, and sculptures in wood, bronze, and stone. Artists, volunteers, and those inspired have contributed in many forms and fashions to the visual aesthetics that make MuSaBa an optically spectacular experience. From three centimetre tall gracefully carved wood statues to multicolour newspaper collage wall hangings to explosive architecture the creativity abounds.

Nik Spatari born in Mammola in 1929 is a painter, sculptor, architect, and craftsman: a Renaissance avant-garde artist.

Nik suffered a trauma in his teens, which caused him to lose his speech and hearing. He thus learned to concentrate almost exclusively on visual forms of self-and artistic expression, since then he has devoted his entire life to the arts.

Nik studied the ingenious creators of Pompeian frescos and Etruscan underground structures, old masters such as Giotto, Masaccio, Leonardo, Michelangelo, and El Greco, and modern artists including Klee, Kandinsky, Nolde, Dufy, Gauguin, Modigliani, and Max Ernst.

His passion for great architecture and art took him to Paris in the fifties and sixties, where he associated with Le Corbusier’s studio and met Jean Cocteau. He has worked with and attended the studios of some of the greatest artists (Picasso, Miro), architects (Le Corbusier, Bruno Zevi) and intellectuals (Jean Cocteau) of the 20th century.

Spatari’s interest in architecture became his primary orientation, and this led him in 1969 to begin with Hiske Maas his ambitious project of creating a laboratory-school-museum in the Calabria region of southernmost Italy.

The whole of Nik Spatari effort is always guided by a cultivated talent and a full understanding of the tools used to obtain the resulting pictorial effects out of a science of the visual joined with a technique to render a historical vision that precludes defaillances while allowing only for creative points of view.

Spatari possesses a creative vision of the history of artistic forms, which from his vantage point become the benchmarks of a new edifice in which to house a poetic expression that is timeless and unbound. But exactly because of this apparent freedom of his, it is poised to become the voice of our times, our voice, the view of our time, our view.

His is a symposium between great art and common sense. His is a rebellion against shallow claims and fatuous certainties, always ready to exchange the certainty of where he has already gone for the challenge of discovery that suspends the laws of all that is ordinary and introduces the rules of what is extraordinary. He tends to escape schools and traditions, even if he embodies them all.

Hiske Maas is a rather unconventional manager who through collaboration and coordination harnesses Nik’s exuberant creativity towards concrete goals and develops seminars, workshops, apprenticeships, and cultural tourism. After attending the Art Academy in Amsterdam, she attended schools in London, Lausanne, Paris, and New York before becoming an art dealer in Milan.

Looking for a new experience as they managed their art gallery “Studio Hiske” in Via Solferino in the heart of Brera, Hiske Maas and Nik Spatari were captured by a stupendous site – today’s MuSaBa.

Hiske has navigated the intricacies of Italian bureaucracy not only to incrementally buy the monastery ruins, railway station, and land that now constitute the Mediterranean Art Garden Park but also to currently seek legislation for environmental and archaeological preservation of the site.

MuSaBa CENTRO SPERIMENTALE

«MuSaBa APPRENTICESHIP for ARCHITECTURE, RESTORATION, SCULPTURE & MOSAICS»

Open to international students, college students, recent graduates and graduate students in architecture, restoration, sculpture & mosaics from all over the world (age 20 – 50+). Motivated adults are specially encouraged to apply. Participants play an important role in virtually all facets of the Santa Barbara Art Foundation during the 3-6 week MuSaBa program.

The apprenticeship is an experiential learning process designed around Nik Spatari's unique conceptual framework of art, architecture, and the environment. The rewards are many: the least of which is being able to see the tangible results from your physical efforts.

The project was strongly desired by both Spatari and Maas, drawing its inspiration from the Renaissance workshops where the master sought to create his works with the help of his collaborators who, therefore, learned their art in a practical way.

MuSaBa is traditionally a place where young people are trained and where people who are particularly interested in art (mosaics), architecture, and the environment can acquire current information.

The experience gained during thirty years of activity makes MuSaBa an "international centre par excellence" in its field, capable of offering a practical training through apprenticeship - hands-on courses.

Since the late 1970s Spatari and Maas have created a large cultural project that has linked environmental functions to the restoration of the ruins of the Santa Barbara monastery and to experimental art and architecture laboratories that are known internationally.

MuSaBa cooperates with the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria, the Unical of Cosenza, the Academies of Fine Arts of Milan, Naples and Catania and the Ente Parco Nazionale d'Aspromonte (National Park of Aspromonte). The qualifications of the Santa Barbara Art Foundation initiative include the fact that it is a not-for-profit and that it continues to achieve its purposes.

Over the years, MuSaBa has gained experience in the organisation and promotion of cultural initiatives of international acclaim.

The overall aim is to promote artistic activities, to acknowledge and preserve the artistic, architectonic and environmental heritage, and to improve the field of innovative restoration and applied arts.

Certificate

Participants will receive the **MuSaBa Apprenticeship Certificate** which testimonies your participation at the specialized hands-on activity on site as a cultural resource in this specific field.

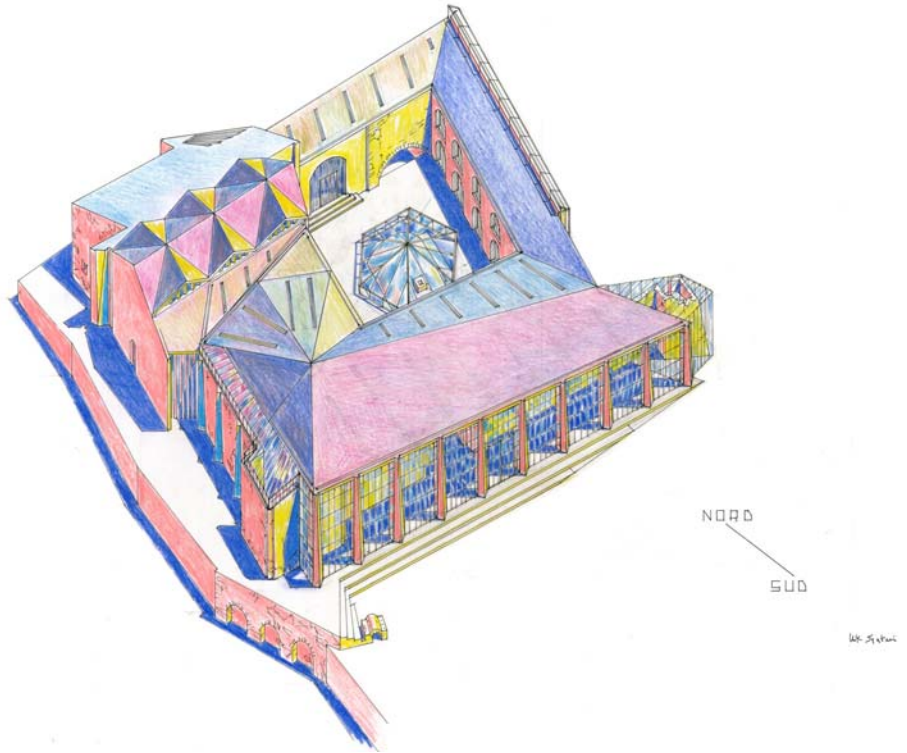


MuSaBa Centro Sperimentale ARCHITECTURE RESTORATION SCUPLTURE

MUSABA OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH ARTIST NIK SPATARI & HIS EQUIPE ON HIS CONTEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTONICAL ARTWORK

Famous Prof. Architect Bruno Zevi, published in his magazine "L'Architettura": "Nik Spatari: an unyielding search for organic forms in the core of Calabria"

"It is the only museum laboratory of its kind in Italy: covered by a glass, copper, and wooden frame, it resembles a moving mountain flying like a bird over the cliffs of the plateau and over the torrent Torbido. Its structure, inspired by the language of local archaeological fragments, plays with the combination of triangles and circles, with total exclusion of squares, which are considered to be artificial, aseptic, and uniform. We are confronted with the dream of an "archaic-future" Calabrian artist. This contemporary art museum, in the heart of Calabria, is the work in progress of one man alone, together with Hiske, of constantly retouching by hand, of never despairing mentally. The well-known artist, Nik, has dedicated himself to this project after architectural experiences at an European level. He returned, with Hiske, to his own country to perform an act of desperate creative will-power. It is a modern exploit also in the use of the remains that form its base; it is grafted into the landscape with anti-mimetic fury but with inner sensitivity. The sense of the future coincides with the ancestral conscience. Mysterious, it seems familiar to the spirit, like every organic creature.



MUSEUM LABORATORY

Splendid figurative freedom, but complete structural control. It is one of the extremely rare occasions where an outsider has poured the salt of an architecture into the earth".

Synthesis of the MuSaBa Project

The purpose of the MuSaBa project is the innovative restoration and experimental new art forms and techniques to produce examples of a high level of workmanship to reinterpret ancient ways on stone work and carving and help in the restoration of stone building. The finality of the MuSaBa School is the experimentation in the architectural new constructive solutions in line with the environmental surroundings. The project consists of the restoration and functional adaptation of the ancient monastery Santa Barbara into a fully equipped museum-school-laboratory of contemporary arts that promotes cultural activities through the development and use of art laboratories, museum spaces, visitors' info centre, editorial services, and the multimedia databases. The project also includes the completion of the Foresteria-residential quarters with annexed art laboratory. The database component will preserve artistic, architectonic, environmental, and archaeological heritage as well as promote data exchange, education, and activities connected to the regional cultural-environmental network and the creation of the environmental-archaeological park Santa Barbara.

Interpretation of the environment

MuSaBa, as an integrated cultural structure, is based on the convergence of interventions, questions, and actions related to environmental interpretation of the area around the architectonic structures suggested by the remains of the monastery. The restoration, consolidation, and adaptation of these architectural remains will continue to be carried out by using experimental technology that has the least possible effect on the environment because of the use of natural material from the area. Stone and wood will be used for the reintegration of the walls as well as for the completion of the floors and roofs, without the use of any inappropriate materials.

While respecting the criteria and purpose of integrated conservation, we want to regain the functionality of the historic structures for museum-laboratory, communication and cultural services, reception, and refreshment purposes.

The entire complex requires the interaction of all these different activities.

The formation of applied techniques and skills

- The techniques of restoring the ancient walls and constructing with natural stone comprise the primary aspect of the artistic and sculptural side of the architectural work. The other part of the construction work (basic iron and cement-work) will be done by professionals.
- Sculptors will be encouraged to reinterpret the ancient Mediterranean style of architecture as they use ancient techniques and methods to reshape stones to fit walls, reconstruct and integrate missing parts of architecture, arches, columns, etc., as is deemed appropriate. Sculptures will be guided by Spatari, an expert in this field of sculpting.

The description of the apprenticeship Architecture, Restoration & Sculpture

The 3-6 weeks Apprenticeship program teaches innovative restoration techniques as well as environmental philosophy connected to this particular style of building. The project seeks to encourage the development and the practice of ancient techniques and methods. To this end, students take a hands-on approach with the construction work and learn to develop and master proper methods for restoration, building and working with stone. The techniques of utilizing natural stone and other local materials for the decoration of the artistic and architectonical MuSaBa project make up the primary aspect of the artistic/sculptural/ architectural side of the work.

Given the very experiential nature of the program's approach, it is essential that participants be especially open and sensitive to cultural differences and nuances, which appear foreign to some.

OUR PROGRAM:

Starting dates and Sessions

The MuSaBa Apprenticeship is 3-6 weeks. Sessions will run from March 2007 through December 2007.

The number of participants for each Apprenticeship is min. 10 max. 20.

The program requires a full time commitment: five days a week plus Saturday mornings.

Apprenticeship Program includes

Practical lessons by Nik Spatari and his equipe (102/204 hours)

- the restoration of the ancient walls
- building with stone
- architecture and sculpture

Theory lessons by well known Artists, Architects, Art Critics, and University Profs. (30/60 hours)

- artistic-architectonical sciences
- architecture and environment
- architecture-sculpture
- colour and form
- In-depth course on the Mediterranean history of arts and architecture 7000 b.C. until today
- archaeological and historical sciences of Torbido Valley

Cultural understanding

- Conversational Italian course (12/24 hours)
- Mediterranean cooking lessons (15/30 hours)

Instruction will be held in Italian with some English explanation. As long as you are willing to learn and have patience, communication has never been a problem in MuSaBa. Italian, English, French and Dutch are spoken here.

Facultative Excursions to interesting historical sites in Calabria and Sicily (extra fee charged)

- 2 excursions/3 week program - 4 excursions/6 week program.

Benefits to you?

The benefits from your active participation are as grand as you envision them to be. The synergy of working together with skilled artist, Nik Spatari and his team, local artisans and international participants, as well as the visitors that will enjoy the amazing project, is a keen learning strategy and will lend itself to a unique educational experience.

MuSaBa takes pride in its work and expects a high level of commitment and professionalism from participants. The rewards are many: the least of which is being able to see the tangible results from your physical efforts. MuSaBa will document the whole session through photos as well as a DVD of the project from start to finish, displaying your participation, which may then be presented in your c.v. All participants will receive a certificate, a CD as well as a DVD on MuSaBa.

Our expectations

Please keep in mind that this is a hands-on educational experience. Be prepared to get your hands dirty! There will be a lot of physical labour outdoors. Participants follow directions given by Nik Spatari and his assistants at all times.

Accommodations

Participants are housed in the new "Foresteria" on the grounds of MuSaBa for the duration of their stay. The spacious "monastic cells" are equipped with annex bathroom. (www.musaba.org / foresteria) Mediterranean meals are cooked for groups, special food diets and allergies cannot be accommodated.

Due to MuSaBa's relatively isolated location, people interested in going out in the evenings should not participate. We aim for life at MuSaBa to be peaceful and communal, much like its original monastic predecessors.

Admission criteria & Fees

- The total fee for a 3-week Architecture-Restoration-Sculpture Apprenticeship Program per person € 1.490,00
- The total fee for a 6-week Architecture-Restoration-Sculpture Apprenticeship Program per person € 2.750,00

Registration forms must be submitted (priority mail/fax/email) together with all necessary documents 4 weeks prior to chosen starting date of the Apprenticeship to the following address:

MuSaBa, Viale Parco Museo Santa Barbara, 89045 Mammola (RC) ITALY UE

With registration form must be submitted these documents:

- *Reference letter from your sending organisation*
- *Copy of educational qualifications*

Upon acceptance, compatible with starting date, you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

- A € 40.00 non-refundable deposit, at least two weeks before starting date made payable to: *Santa Barbara Art Foundation – Banca INTESA, Siderno (RC) Italy, UE*
account n. 083 263 960 100 - CIN C - ABI 03069 - CAB 81590

The deposit is applied to the Apprenticeship total. The balance (which covers lessons, lectures, room & board) is due by the first day of the Apprenticeship.

All candidates must send the following documents to the Foundation:

- *Insurance certificate*
- *Copy of identification document such as a passport or birth certificate.*
- *2 passport size photographs*
- *Declaration of commitment, if admitted, to attend the whole Apprenticeship workshop.*

MuSaBa

Museo Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Art Foundation

Viale Museo Santa Barbara

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FAQ ARCHITECTURE

What is the weather like ?

In general, March, April, May (approx. 18-22 C° / 65 – 70 F°)

June, July, August, September (approx. 30+°C / 85+ F°)

October-November (15 –18 °C / 60-65F°)

Please bring clothes that correspond with the season. It can rain, so also be prepared for mud.

What is the schedule?

Monday through Saturday mornings.

What is a typical working day like?

Morning: Breakfast 7.00am. (times vary by 30min/1hr depending on the season)

Morning Activities: 8.00am – 12:00am

Lunch: 1.00 pm

Afternoon: 4.00 – 6.00pm (times vary by 1hr depending on the season)

Dinner: 8.00pm

“Curfew”: 11.00pm.

I have to do clean up and do chores?

Yes. Everyone is expected to help out. For hygiene reasons we hold high expectations for orderliness/cleanliness of the kitchen/patio, bathrooms and living quarters.

In addition, working tools and brushes must be washed thoroughly and kept tidy.

What should I bring?

Comfortable work clothes (i.e. work boots and gloves), hats, visors, personal hygienic items (soap, shampoo, towels, etc.), flashlight, sleeping bag according to the season, books, good stories or other source of entertainment. Good humor, flexibility, and an open-mind.

What if I have a food allergy or special diet?

Because all meals are cooked for groups, special food diets and allergies cannot be accommodated.

Communication

Bring your own mobile. Internet access hr. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Pocket money.

Bring Euros or International credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Eurocard) (no change or travel checks in local banks).

Laundry?

Sheets will be changed once a week. The participants are not aloud to wash clothing by hand in their rooms. On request (small contribution) laundry will be washed.

Do you have any pets?

Yes. We have 2 dogs (Kali & Bubi), a cat (Zoe), a few chickens. All are friendly and harmless.

Are there shopping centers or markets nearby ?

The closest shopping center is in Mammola, which can be reached walking or by bus.

How far are you from the sea?

10 km from the Ionian Sea.

There are also many hiking trails nearby.

Responsibility

MuSaBa will not be responsible for any incident or harmful event that may occur during the stay on the MuSaBa grounds. All participants are responsible for their own equipment as well as the MuSaBa properties. All participants must be fully insured!

How to get to MuSaBa

A.

- **ARRIVAL:** Train to take: ROMA 11.00pm – MARINA GIOIOSA JONICA 8.20am – AUTOBUS to Mammola 8.50am

We suggest to take the night train from Rome (7-8 hrs.). Take the train that stops at Marina Gioiosa Jonica in the Region of Calabria. Direction from Roma Termini: direct train **Roma-Reggio Calabria** (Naples, Lamezia Terme, Catanzaro, Roccella), Marina Gioiosa Jonica (your stop) make sure that you are in the carriages that go to Roccella.

- **DEPARTURE:** MARINA GIOIOSA JONICA 9.20pm – ROMA 6.45am

B.

- **ARRIVAL:** Train Eurostar (6 hrs.): ROMA – ROSARNO –SHUTTLE to Mammola

Take the shuttle from Rosarno to Mammola (20 minutes) where we will meet you.

ROMA – ROSARNO - MAMMOLA

Departure Eurostar	6.45am	Arrival	12.30am	Departure Shuttle	12.45am
	9.45am		3.10pm		3.30pm
	1.45pm		7.10pm		7.30pm

- **DEPARTURE:** SHUTTLE to Rosarno – ROSARNO Eurostar - ROMA

MAMMOLA – ROSARNO – ROMA

Departure Shuttle	7.20pm	Departure Eurostar	8.44am	Arrival	2.16pm
	9.00pm		10.29am		4.16pm
	1.50am		2.44pm		8.16pm

Arrival obligatory on Monday.

Remember to inform the Foundation of your date at the Marina Gioiosa Jonica railway station.

It is in your best interest to follow these directions, otherwise you will get lost. We will not come to pick you up at any place other than Mammola.

By car:

Autostrada del sole – Salerno - Reggio Calabria, exit ROSARNO Superstrada Jonio-Tirreno to MARINA GIOIOSA JONICA, exit MAMMOLA and follow the signals to MuSaBa.

Statale 106 Jonica: Turn into Superstrada Jonio-Tirreno exit to MAMMOLA and follow the signals to MuSaBa.

Confirmation

Participants must confirm participation directly to MuSaBa (email, phone or fax) 3 days before starting date.

MuSaBa

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