Italian and Hungarian Erasmus+ Work

Léna Marján
and
Martina Stanizzi

Italian artist: Massimo Sirelli

Massimo Sirelli is a Calabrian artist and designer known for his creative use of recycled materials and for blending art, design, and social engagement. Among his most important works are:

- **Trischene**, a large colorful mosaic made with discarded tiles in Catanzaro.
- **Catanzaro ColorFul**, where he transformed the harbor's wave breakers into giant colored "bricks."
- **AdottaunRobot**, a project that gives new life to scrap materials by creating small robots, each with its own story.
- **Onde**, traveling murals inspired by migrants' journeys.
- **Atlanti di Babele**, unique tactile books made from found materials.
- **La variabile del tempo**, a retrospective exhibition marking his 30-year career.

His work combines creativity, emotion, and environmental awareness.

Hungarian Artist: Csontváry Kosztka Tivadar

Csontváry Kosztka Tivadar (1853–1919) was a Hungarian painter known for his visionary, symbolic style that set him apart from his contemporaries. Although he began painting relatively late in life–having first trained as a pharmacist–Csontváry's artistic career was marked by a deeply personal and spiritual vision, which he believed was divinely inspired.

His works are characterized by vivid colors, expressive forms, and an otherworldly quality that reflects both post-impressionist influences and his own unique, almost mystical worldview. He often depicted grand natural landscapes and historic or sacred sites from his extensive travels, aiming to convey a sense of universal harmony and spiritual transcendence.

Csontváry's most famous painting is "The Lonely Cedar" (Magányos cédrus), completed in 1907. This work encapsulates his artistic philosophy–blending solitude, nature, and symbolism into a powerful visual statement. The cedar tree stands alone yet resilient, a reflection of Csontváry himself and his quest for spiritual and artistic truth. Though underappreciated during his lifetime, Csontváry is now considered one of Hungary's greatest painters and a precursor of modernist and expressionist art.

Léna's experience

I think the best thing you can do as a teenager is to apply for Erasmus! You can take part in experiences, meet people you might never have met! The best part is that you can make lifelong friends and the distance may be big, but the distance is worth it if you have someone or people to miss! At least I managed to! If you can't find your place in your own world, with the help of Erasmus you can get to know new cultures, art and a completely different way of life!

Martina's experience

My intercultural exchange experience in Hungary was extremely positive and enriching. I had the opportunity to learn about a culture different from my own, to explore new customs, habits, and ways of thinking, which helped broaden my horizons. The welcome from the Hungarian families and students was warm, making the stay even more enjoyable.

Through school activities and cultural visits, I was able to improve my English, make new international friendships, and develop a strong sense of adaptability and independence. It was a valuable opportunity to grow not only from a linguistic perspective, but also on a human and social level. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone.

I ♥
BUDAPEST

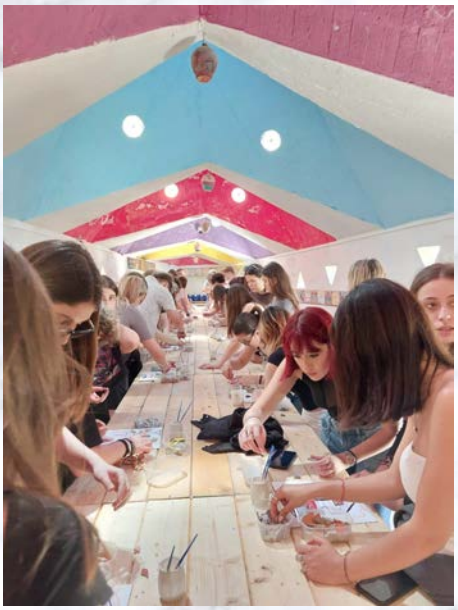
MUSABA

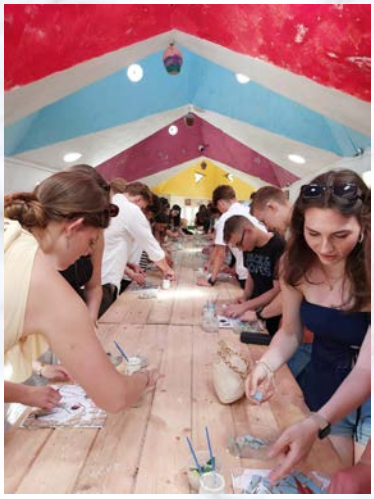
MUSABA (Museo Santa Barbara) is a unique open-air art park and laboratory located in Mammola, in the province of Reggio Calabria, Italy. Founded in 1969 by artists Nik Spatari and Hiske Maas, it stands as a vibrant fusion of contemporary art, architecture, and nature, set within the ruins of a former monastic complex.

Martina
Il Sogno di Giacobbe
Often referred to as the “Calabrian Sistine Chapel,” this monumental 14-meter-long, three-dimensional artwork adorns the vault and apse of the restored Santa Barbara church. Created between 1990 and 1994 by Nik Spatari, the piece utilizes a unique technique involving painted wooden silhouettes suspended in space, bringing the biblical story of Jacob’s dream to life in a vivid and immersive manner.

Léna
La Rosa dei Venti
Completed in 2013, this architectural addition to the museum draws inspiration from ancient Mediterranean navigation symbols. Constructed using reclaimed materials, its geometric design reflects influences from Egyptian and Eastern cultures, serving both as an exhibition space and a testament to sustainable building practices.

Educational and Artistic Programs
MUSABA functions as an active laboratory, hosting various programs that blend art with education:
Mosaic Workshops for Schools: Tailored for students, these workshops provide hands-on experience in mosaic art, encouraging creative expression and appreciation for artistic techniques.





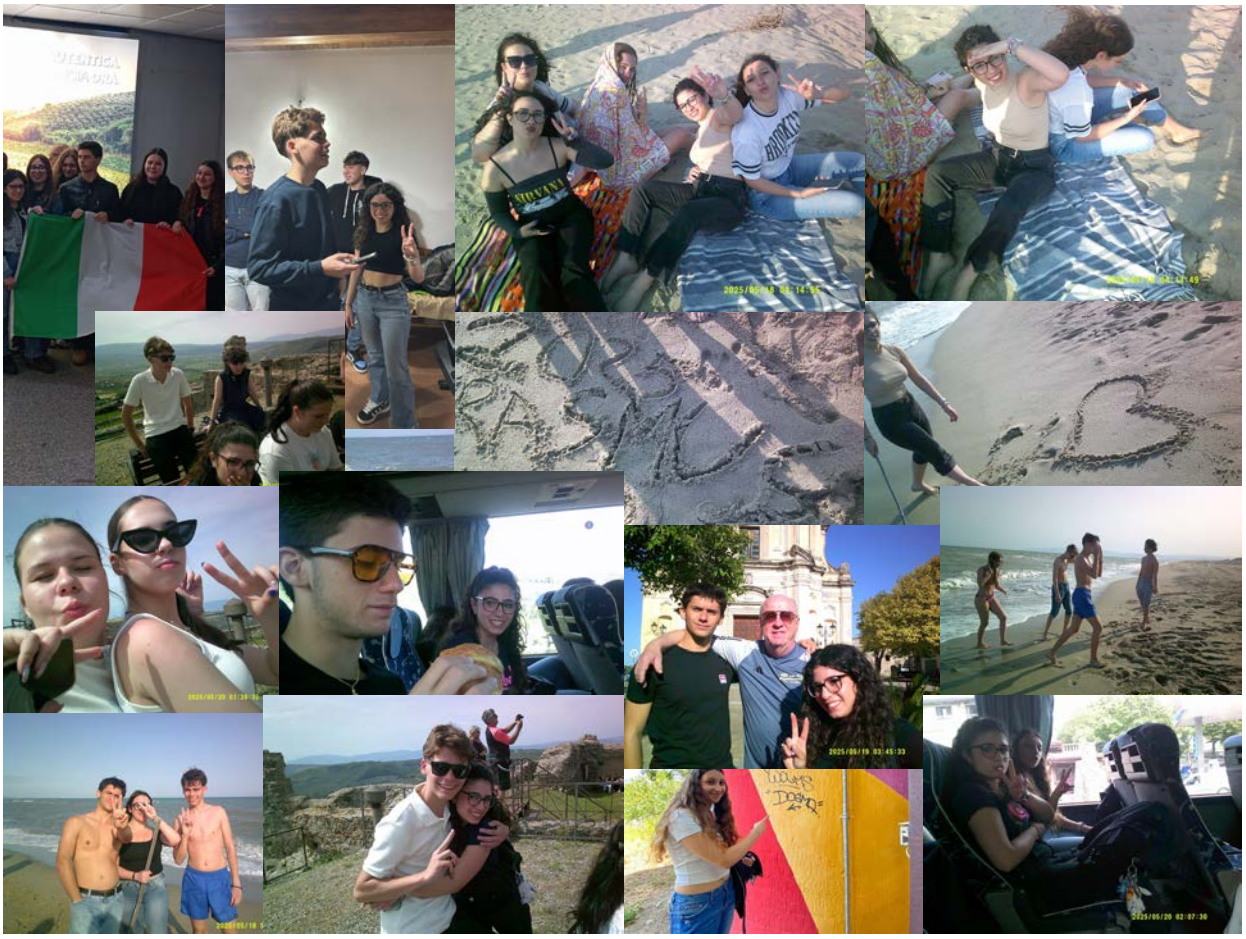
STILO'S CATHOLIC

-Historical Context:
The Cattolica di Stilo dates back to the 10th century, during the time when the Byzantine Empire had influence over parts of southern Italy. It represents the strong Byzantine cultural and religious presence in the region.
-Architecture:
It's a small, compact church built in the Byzantine style, characterized by its Greek cross plan. The building features a dome and a distinctive brick and stone construction with decorative elements.
-Religious Significance:
The church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and served as a place of worship for the local Byzantine Christian community.
-Design and Decoration:
Inside, the church originally had frescoes that reflected Byzantine religious art. The structure's simplicity and compactness are typical of Byzantine chapels, emphasizing spiritual contemplation.
-Current Status:
The Cattolica di Stilo is considered a cultural and historical treasure and is one of the best-preserved Byzantine monuments in Italy. It attracts visitors interested in medieval history, Byzantine art, and architecture.
-Location:
Stilo is a small medieval town in Calabria, known for its picturesque setting and historical significance, with the Cattolica di Stilo as one of its main landmarks.

SQUILLACE

Squillace is a historic town in Calabria, southern Italy, situated in the Province of Catanzaro. Perched 344 metres above sea level, it offers panoramic views of the Ionian Sea and the Gulf of Squillace. The town is renowned for its rich history, medieval architecture, and vibrant ceramic tradition.

Norman Castle: Built around 1044, this fortress offers panoramic views of the Gulf of Squillace. The castle houses a small museum displaying artifacts, including 13th–14th-century skeletons discovered during excavations.

LABORATORY IN SQUILLACE

Squillace is famed for its traditional ceramics, particularly the “pignatari” style, characterized by hand-shaped terracotta vessels. The “sgraffito” technique, involving scratching designs into the clay, dates back to Byzantine times. Ceramics from Squillace are protected under a DOC (Denominazione di Origine Controllata) certification, ensuring quality and authenticity.