

For Immediate Release, Calendar Listings

Poetic-Action  
Art exhibition  
April 4 – July 26, 2020  
Opening reception: Saturday, April 4, 2020, 2-5 p. m.

VENUE  
Garibaldi-Meucci Museum  
420 Tompkins Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10305

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February 24, 2020

Women revolutionary actions and poetry explored in a site-specific installation at the  
Garibaldi Meucci Museum in Staten Island, NY

Free and open to the public

The [Garibaldi Meucci Museum](#) in Staten Island is pleased to present Poetic-Action, a site-specific installation by contemporary artists [Anna Lise Jensen](#) and [Alyssa Casey](#). Poetic-Action is a response to the story of two women, English poet [Elizabeth Barrett Browning](#) (1806-1861), and [Ana Maria de Jesus Ribeiro da Silva](#) (1821-1849)—also known as Anita Garibaldi, the life-companion of General Giuseppe Garibaldi.

While living in Florence, Elizabeth Barrett Browning famously wrote a poem glorifying the Italian liberation movement of the mid-nineteenth century, the Risorgimento. In response to her poem—written over the course of three years—artist Anna Lise Jensen focuses on the poet’s own emotions: enthusiasm, disillusion, and solace through hope. Jensen’s work, titled *Shadow Play*, consists of a series of prints to function as a commentary on aspects of Browning’s life experience, such as living as a foreigner in Florence, her political activism, domestic tyranny, and experiencing motherhood at forty-three.

In a different vein, artist Alyssa Casey is responding to the life of Brazilian revolutionary Ana Maria de Jesus Ribeiro da Silva. From Rio Grande, on the Southern coast of Brazil, Ana Maria de Jesus Ribeiro da Silva went to Italy, where she joined the General Giuseppe Garibaldi to continue their battles to free people from a foreign power. She eventually died in Italy, while bearing a child, where she is remembered and referred to by the diminutive “Anita” and where her political actions and adventurous life are often obliterated by her role alongside Giuseppe Garibaldi.

The exhibition program includes a performative act to be carried out by Alyssa Casey during the opening reception on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Casey's projection of Anita's words are painted on cloth and will be hung next to each doorway of the museum during the opening as a form of ceremonial action.

In addition, on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Anna Lise Jensen will lead a community event in the gardens of the museum, a communal dinner for people on both sides of the Verrazzano Bridge. As a community organizer, Jensen's artistic and social practice addresses politics and power by allowing the potential of communal activism to function as an artistic medium.

An artist talk with both the artists and the curator will be held on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 prior to the community event.

Poetic-Action, curated by Valeria Federici, reflects on the role of women in history and on the role of history in the process of understanding and approaching past and current events in their complexity.

As part of the exhibition it will be possible to explore [The Garibaldi Panorama and the Risorgimento digital project](#) through a touchscreen device generously made available by the Virtual Humanities Lab, Department of Italian Studies at Brown University.

The mission of the Garibaldi Meucci Museum is to collect, hold, own, maintain, preserve, and exhibit historical objects and artifacts relating to the lives of General Giuseppe Garibaldi and Antonio Meucci; to promote an understanding of Italian-American heritage and a positive image of Italian-Americans; to conduct educational, cultural, and artistic programming designed to eliminate ethnic and racial prejudice for a diverse and growing audience.

Museum website:

<https://www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.com/>

Artists' website

Anna Lise Jensen: <https://www.spaceallover.org/>

Alyssa Casey: <http://alyssacasey.com/>

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Poetic-Action

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April 4-July 26, 2020

The Garibaldi Meucci Museum

420 Tompkins Avenue

Staten Island, New York 10305

Additional events

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

2 p. m. Artist talk

4 p. m. Community event led by artist Anna Lise Jensen

## Bios

**Anna Lise Jensen** combines photo-based installations with local research, interpersonal engagement and communal meals. She holds an MFA in Visual Arts from Hunter College in New York, NY, and an MA in International Relations from University of Chicago, IL. At Hunter, she was awarded the Hunter College Foundation Scholarship for exchange studies at the Slade, London. Among the places, she has exhibited her work are: Edward Hopper House, New York Center for Book Arts, A.I.R. Gallery, Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, Bronx Arts Space, Flux Factory and MCLA Gallery 51. She has presented her work at the conferences of National Women's Study Association, Open Engagement and the Alice Austen House Museum, as well as discussed it on NPR's The Brian Lehrer show. To realize her projects, she has received funding from Manhattan Cultural Arts Fund, Queens Arts Council and Norddjurs Kommune (Denmark). Her work is in the collection of Candida Höfer.

**Alyssa Casey** is an artist impassioned by handmade paper, history, site-specific work, travel, languages, and learning. Casey has traveled the world painting murals, making public sculptures, studying with handmade paper masters and teaching workshops. Most recently, she was an artist in residence at the Boneca de Ataúro, Timor-leste. Casey identifies as Italian-American with roots in Lucca and Treviso. She is currently a full time Visual Arts teacher, engaged in creating a thought-provoking, contemporary, relevant, and accessible curriculum for high school students in Richmond, CA.

*Poetic-Action* is curated by **Valeria Federici**, an independent curator and a scholar whose research interests revolve around themes of sovereignty, relational space, social movements, cultural identity, information technology, and art. Federici was a research team associate of *The Garibaldi and the Risorgimento* project at Brown University where she recently received her PhD in Italian Studies, as well as an MA in History of Art and Architecture. She is currently a research associate at CASVA, the Center of Advanced Study in Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.