



Come to
Festa Italiana
and see
The Abduction of Psyche
by
William-Adolphe Bouguereau

chalk drawing by
Axl T. Ernst



Axl T. Ernst

Italian Street Painting at Festa Italiana

Festa Italiana welcomes back Axl T. Ernst. Axl is a Nova Scotian visual artist currently working in London, Ontario. With a love for fantasy illustration and performance-based art, Axl continues the time-honoured Italian Tradition of "I Madonnari" creating temporary street paintings at festivals during the warmer months. This tradition dates back to 16th century Italy, and is now celebrated worldwide at various festivals throughout the world such as the International Street Painting Competition held in Grazie di Curtatone, Italy. These large-scale pastel paintings drawn directly onto pavement offer spectators opportunity to see artwork created in real time. Due to the impermanent nature of pastel, these creations exist only until the next rain storm leaving merely photographs and memories to document the artwork during this special time.

Axl regularly paints at festivals throughout the year in southwestern Ontario, and participates in London's own street painting festival Expressions in Chalk, earning herself several awards. We are grateful to have Axl perform street painting on Saturday and Sunday during Festa Italiana 2012, where she will be recreating a classical masterpiece in pastel.