

Bogliasco: Stay Home Edition



Image courtesy of Molly Shanahan (BF '19)

Our New Weekly Newsletter

Last week we asked our Fellows if they had any poems, stories, artwork, performances, or Bogliasco memories they would be willing to share with our community. The response was overwhelmingly positive – thanks to all of you who responded with great enthusiasm and support for the Bogliasco Foundation! This is the first of our weekly newsletter, *Bogliasco: Stay Home Edition*, which features a wide range of material from Fellows around the globe for everyone to enjoy during this difficult time. #iostoacasa



Laura Peterson
2014 Fellow in Dance, United States

"During my residency, I made this site-specific film about my time there called *Ti Futuro*. The platform was a great place to dance and I know many choreographers created work there. Over the course of maybe a week, I decided to go there at different times of the day to film some dancing. As the light changed the shadows moved across the cement creating new patterns that I found inspiring. I also included a video from walks and kids playing. Some of the movements became phrases I used in my project, 'The Futurist', which I completed the following spring.



I created the sound score from recordings I made of stones and the ocean, to create the sound design often playing the sounds in reverse as I edited. Every time I look at it I remember the important time and beautiful space with gratitude."



Grace Schulman
2018 Fellow in Literature, United States

"How can I describe a dream come true? My Fellowship to the Bogliasco Foundation was intense. It was magical. It drew from me the best work that I've done in quite a while."

All of Grace Schulman's Bogliasco poems will be in her new book, *The Marble Bed*, scheduled for publication in October 2020, including "Moment in Rapallo", below. She is currently working on this book while staying home during the pandemic.

Moment in Rapallo

Your mind went double, like these two brass doorknobs
that lead into your house. I tried one. Locked.
Years past you had unlocked my mind to hear

language charged with meaning, and to feel
that sense of sudden growth, and as for rhythm,
the churn, the loom,

the spinning wheel, the oar.

An old scribe quotes King Solomon:
God created our organs in duplicate,
two hearts, two minds.

For you, two loyalties.

No pure homage, then, these lines go double
for the mind that battened on division
as it winced and stirred:

I pictured you

descending from your attic to the harbor
where triangle sails fishermen call lateens
called back ancient boatmen,

the past made new.

There you were, in your seaside caffè,
listening to wave-sounds while declaiming
in two languages;

arranging concerts

for your double-love, a violinist
playing Bach in praise beyond division.
I'd seen you that way.

But now, suddenly,

my hand on an unyielding yellow doorknob,
fiery through the mist, after a storm
had sunk harbor boats

like your once-buoyant

mind, capsized, split, at once I see:
the fascist salute; the love turned sour;
the right turned wrong.

the language charged

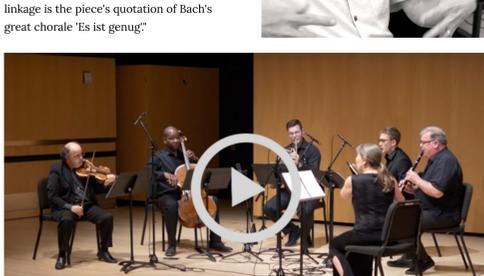
with meaning suddenly meaningless, degraded,
madness denied at first, the mind's locked door.
I pulled my hand back,

fearing the brass might,

as in gilt statues, rub off in my palm.

Lewis Spratlan
2013 Fellow in Music, United States

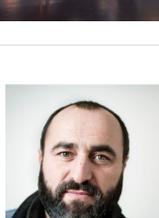
"This a film of a recent performance of my **Charlottesville: Summer of 2017**. It's a bit strange how its quality of rage reflects our current circumstances, for very different root causes, of course. Key to the linkage is the piece's quotation of Bach's great chorale 'Es ist genug'"



Barbara Friedman
2016 Fellow in Visual Arts, United States



Barbara has seven new paintings up in a show called 'Hauntings' at *Five Myles*, a gallery in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. "Hauntings" had a lively, very well-attended opening on Feb 29th, about a week before we were told to practice social distancing."



Costica Bradatan
2013 Fellow in Philosophy, Romania

Costica recently published an essay on Umberto Eco, his fascination with libraries and his life-long interest in conspiracy theories. "It was written before the crisis, but some of it may be relevant today, with the abundance of conspiracies that seem to move faster than the virus." We selected a few excerpts below. Please visit [The Los Angeles Review of Books](#) to read the full essay.



Humility is often thought of as a behavioral virtue – a matter of how we relate to God or to our neighbor. But it should also be an epistemic virtue – about how we relate to what we can – and cannot – know about the world, ourselves, and others. Any self-reflecting scholar sooner or later reaches a point where, for all her knowledge and understanding, she realizes the immensity of that which she can neither know nor understand. Indeed, the more insightful she is as a scholar, the more terrifying the dimensions of all that ignorance and incomprehension. Dwarfism is the natural condition of the scholar honest with herself.

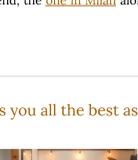
[...]
This revelation is often prompted by a very specific space: the library. Surrounded by shelf after heavy shelf of "giants," we may feel crushed. Gradually, however, we become used to our crushed condition, and even attracted to it. We end up making the library our home, taking leave of the world. And before we know it, we end up in a seriously perverse relationship with the library.

[...]
Umberto Eco knew the situation only too well. He was enthralled with libraries, their sworn devotee and happy slave. Libraries fill his books. The best part of *The Name of the Rose* takes place in one, "the greatest library in Christendom," whose absolute ruler, appropriately enough, is a monster and a deranged mind: Jorge de Burgos (Eco's tender gesture toward Jorge Luis Borges, whom he greatly admired). Eco's personal libraries were the stuff of legend; the [one in Milan](#) alone allegedly had around 30,000 volumes.

Our NY office wishes you all the best as we #workfromhome



Laura Harrison in Nyack, NY



Leah Guadagnoli in Hillsdale, NY



Arielle Moreau in Brooklyn, NY

Calling all Bogliasco Fellows: Do you have something you would like to contribute to our weekly newsletter? Always feel free to [reach out](#), we would love to hear from you!

