



Luigi Marzo

www.luigimarzo.it



The River Ocean

La Scala Venue, Ledyard Bldg.

**and Painted River Stones by
Thornapple Elementary School -2nd grade classes**



The River Ocean - Year created: 2010

In The River Ocean, an amazing long pannel, Luigi Marzo echoes some melodic and rhythmic sensations and creates many others very new and exuberant ones, just like a river. The result is both a pictorial and musical work which evokes the Greek River Ocean, such a large and long waterway that it winds around the whole earth and can be reached through the Pillars of Ercules of artistic experience. We are in front of a sign and colour sequence we can consider as a sort of aesthetic symbol of continuous transformation, like the "panta rei", that is "everything flows", of the Heraclitus river which, with unrestrainable cadence, produces new combinations of images and ways of being. Marzo arrives at this result after a long pictorial research, that had a fixed point also in the recent exhibition "Impronte" (Impressions), a celebration of Mediterranean images deriving from a fascinating interiority.

Luigi Marzo - I was born on October 25 1953 in Presicce, a little town in South Italy (the former Magna Greece). I spent my childhood between the Ionian and the Adriatic Seas having strong connection with water and the charm of Mediterranean myths. I live and work in Perugia (Italy) where I alternate my graphic work with painting. My art, expressed in different fields, has been presented in many personal exhibitions and collective events, arousing public and critical interest. Since 1980 up to today I have exhibited my works in many Italian cities as Perugia, Lecce, Milan, Orvieto, Florence, Rome, Trento but also in an international set in South France. In all my works there is the aspiration to create a symphonic richness of shapes, sign and colour, with the aim to decompose the real and find what still was not found, to reveal the unspoken (not yet explained) and make it visible with an almost unconscious procedure which is understood as a vast repository of memory and cognitive possibilities.

Thornapple Elementary second graders are thrilled to be able to collaborate with artist Luigi Marzo for Artprize 2010. They are also very thankful to Grand Rapids Sister Cities International (Perugia Committee) for allowing them this opportunity.

Not very often do elementary students get the opportunity to participate in such an authentic art event. Artprize 2010 gave 80 second grade students that chance to be real artists and participate at an exciting level.

Thornapple Art Teacher, Mr. Tim Donohoe, worked with the second grade staff to coordinate a grade level event to describe the project, "Painted River Stones", that are a part of Luigi Marzo's painting, The River Ocean.

It is a wonderful beginning to another school year and to a continued partnership and friendship with the City of Perugia and our pen pals at the Maria Montessori School in Perugia, Italy.

**Greg Shubel, Thornapple Elementary School Principal
Forest Hills Pubic Schools**

I am happy to see that an artist from Perugia will join Art Prize 2010. A contribution of talent and creativity from your Italian Sister City of Perugia, could not miss such an important event. Although our artistic traditions span many centuries, we are also very interested in the experiences, proposals, inventions of those who try to renew our traditions with a contemporary language.

Art is a wonderful communication vehicle which is at our people's disposal for the mitigation of differences and distances. Art is finally a medium that brings people together who speak different languages and may not initially understand each other.

I hope that the participation of Luigi Marzo in ArtPrize 2010 will become another ingredient in the friendship and solidarity between Perugia and Grand Rapids since first becoming Sister Cities in 1993.

Wladimiro Boccali, Mayor of Perugia

ARTPRIZE 2010



With contributions of



Città di Perugia



GRSCI, Perugia Committee, is a 501-C3, non-profit organization whose mission is to build relationships between Grand Rapids and its sister cities by promoting understanding and mutual respect through exchanges in culture, art, education, and community and economic development.