



DOCUMENTED LEGACY LLC

FINDING FIDARDO LANDI

A RESEARCH BRIEF

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Documented Legacy
Recording memories for future generations

INTRODUCTION - A RESEARCH BRIEF

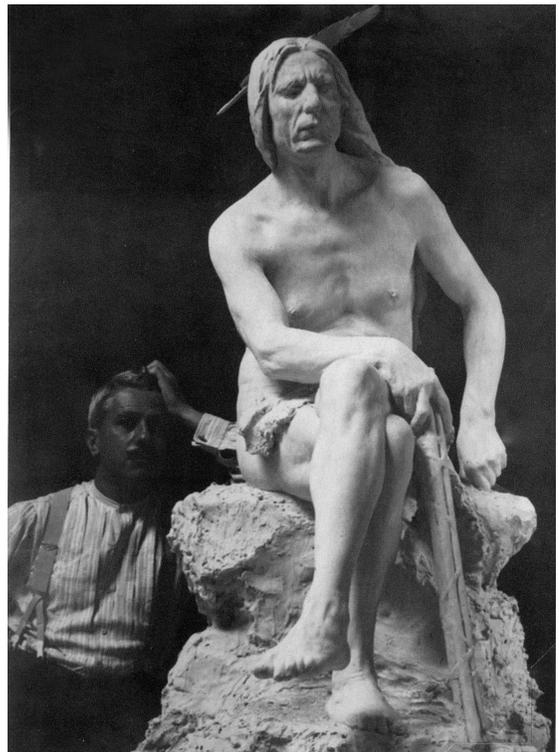
THE FAMILY STORY OF AN ARTIST, A SUDDEN DEATH, AND THE DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM THROUGH HIS ARTWORK

Legacy writing often begins with a little information, some research, and the desire to tell a story before it can't be told.

Everyone has a story. I am on a quest to find out as much information as possible on the public and private artwork created by my great grandfather Fidardo Landi, an Italian American sculptor who immigrated to the United States from Carrara, Italy in 1900.

I know there are statues in private homes and collections across the United States and Europe. I yearn for the stories about his artwork in the lives of others. I'd like to know how they enjoy ownership of his work. Perhaps a photo. If a piece of his artwork is on public display, in a park or cemetery for instance, I'd like to see it. For years, I've been open to owners and organizations contacting me through my website or personal blog about the work of Fidardo Landi. My goal has always been to understand more about the life of my great grandfather through this work and associations with other professionals. With knowledge, I hope to help owners of his artwork add value to their pieces. The research has taken me on some grand adventures. Meeting others is the best part.

This is the kind of personal history project that takes years to complete.

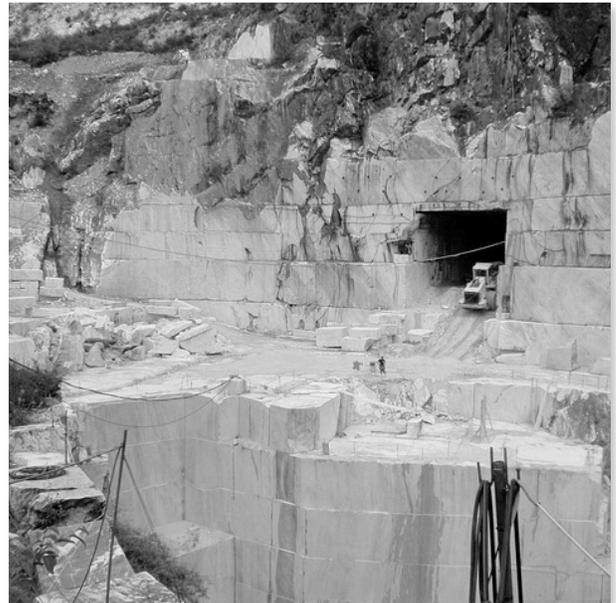


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Advancements in technology and organizations' desire to document their works of art, have made gathering new information possible. Each new find is like reconnecting to a long lost relative. Every curator, researcher, sculptor, or director I meet instantly becomes a good friend. We share a love of art and a desire to see its preservation funded properly.

In the last few years I made headway in learning more about my great grandfather. It is my desire to compile my research into a professionally published book. This is the type of project that is also a genealogy project, researching a person's professional work history.

Nearly 30 years ago my mother and I began this research project together after she was finally able to track down the sculptures created for an estate in Massachusetts. The groundskeeper told us to race up there immediately. We scrambled up the Northeast in time to see the pieces dismantled and being carted away for auction. The property was owned by a faith-



based organization and served as a summer camp for several decades. It was time to redesign the landscape for this formerly gracious summer estate. As the groundkeeper toured us around the property, we emotionally said both hello and goodbye to pieces of work carved by Fidardo Landi that now lay on wooden pallets across a grand lawn. All the statuary we could see - many steles that once lined an Italian garden path -, the three-tiered fountain topped with a cherub, an expansive butterfly staircase, and the fountain on the boat ramp were sold. All that remains for us are a dozen blurry photographs.

My mother had been searching for answers most of her life. If she didn't have amazing recall and the curiosity of a 100 cats, she might never have compiled as much information as she had. Coupling her quest for information with my research skills, we gathered a wealth of information about my great grandfather's work, cultural changes in the areas he worked at the time, and what others have learned from his work, particularly restorationists.

Landi's work was exhibited in the D'apres Canova, the masters of the Academy of Fine Art in Carrara in 2011.

Statues by Fidardo Landi (1866-1918)

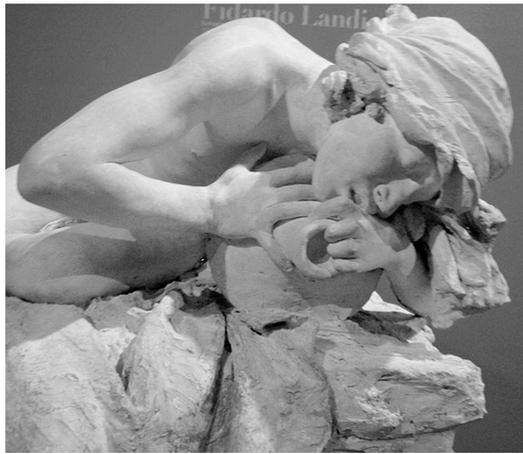
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75. Schiava

FIDARDO LANDI
1888

90

Inviato assieme ad altre opere come saggio durante il pensionato in Roma, il modello è menzionato in una nota stilata dall'autore il 29 agosto 1888 ed inviata all'Accademia. Il soggetto viene descritto a braccia conserte, mentre "sente tutta la brusca realtà della sua posizione" e viene inoltre rilevato il commento positivo dello scultore Giulio Monteverde, al quale piacque "la modellazione squadrata del nudo". Per esigenze editoriali si mantiene la collocazione della precedente edizione quando l'opera non era stata ancora identificata. (R.C.)



THE RESEARCH - A PASSION BECOMES A BOOK

THE FAMILY HISTORY

Landi, was born on June 18, 1866 in Carrara. His father Antonio Landi owned a lumber business in Carrara and his mother Violante DelNero was from the area.

He married Louisa Biggi of Carrara, the daughter of sculptor Alessandro Biggi, and had two children, Achille (1894-1969) and Alessandra (1895-1987).

By way of background, Mr. Biggi was dean of the School of Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Art in Carrara, mayor of Carrara and brother of Giuseppe Biggi, an ornamental sculptor. He also owned marble quarries in Querceta, Italy. This must have given him opportunities for commissions.

It was well known in family folklore that Landi did subcontracting work for other well-known sculptors. In family papers he noted doing carving work for Daniel Chester French on pieces that grace the White House. Years ago my mother checked with the historians there to confirm that subcontractors were used, but they were not always listed by name.

Landi was skilled at portraying young children and adolescent boy and girls, especially in garden fountains and cemeteries.

THIS IS MY STORY: A ROAD-TRIPPING JOURNEY THROUGH ART AND FAMILY HISTORY.

My project includes the following milestones:

- Interviewed my mother on several occasions when discoveries were made.
- Accompanied my mother in several road trips to see statues in person.
- Conducted genealogy research to determine when Landi traveled back and forth to Italy to either work on a sculpture or consult on marble selections.
- Bought old magazine ads and coffee table books of old estates on eBay that show samples of Landi's work.
- Bought antique postcards that show samples of Landi's work.
- Thousands of photographs of statues shot from every possible angle.
- Lost my fear of walking through cemeteries while hunting for statues.

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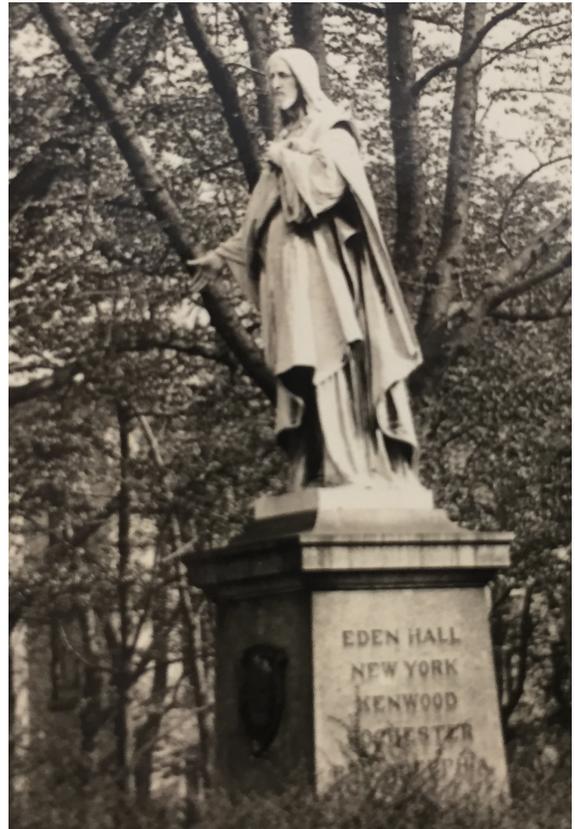
- Connected with wonderful people who own his artwork. (I have a privacy policy so this is all I'm going to say about them.)
- Connected to the great grandson of a former president, while trying find a bust of the president that was completed in the 1890s. No luck, yet.
- Researched old newspapers for stories about competitions and works in progress.
- Favorite statue: Mermaids, design sculpted Landi, and completed after his death by Chester Beach in 1929. Located in Wade Park in Cleveland.
- Started writing a story outline about my great grandfather by tracing his artwork. The joy of life, movement and the spirituality of connecting with others is a theme that evolves through all these individual life stories.

ABOUT

Documented Legacy is a mobile personal historian company based in southern New Jersey that helps families and organizations preserve their history through storytelling and the archival preservation of photos, documents and heirlooms.

We help you capture the stories from the past that are important to pass along to future generations. We look at the stages and transitions in life, not just the end of life. The preservation is done through

- Audio interviews
- Memoir Writing
- Life Stories
- Family Love Letters/Ethical Wills
- Photo Organizations
- Archiving & Digitization



Got ideas for your own story? Need more information?

Call us at 609-468-2367.