



Napa Valley Art Institut & Virtual Gallery **Open Letter to Fine Art Buyers & Brokers**

As executive director of Napa Valley Art Institut, our outreach concerns a recent trip to Prague and Paris. In Prague we met with the owners of Amedeo Modigliani's *Sitting Nude with Crossed Hands*, (c.) 1917}. Along with the owners and several parties connected to the Painting we traveled on to Paris to deliver the Painting to [Institut Restellini](#). See attached pictures and video of the exchange, one video; [Institut Restellini Paris - Unveiling Modigliani's Sitting Nude w/Crossed Hands](#). Two of the parties were Jiri Lauterkranc and Professor Otto Urban Ph.D. [Dr. Urban](#) is the former curator of the National Museum in Prague. Currently he is chief curator for [DOX Centre for Contemporary Art](#) Jiri Lauterkranc is the founder of [InsightART](#) in Prague.

Professor Urban completed a 90-day evaluation of the Painting late last year and presented his findings to the Institut. This Report is included in the zipped Modigliani Folder. His Certificate of Authenticity & Assessment of Essential Documents are contained in the Addendum's to the Brokerage Agreement. As fate would have it, the following day I was invited back to meet with Marc Restellini {one-on-one}. This was a somewhat surreal event. I had gotten to know Marc's assistant {Alba Berti} after several phone calls and sending her a Cover Letter to Mr. Restellini. As the financially responsible party, Alba asked me to return to discuss the engagement and set expectations. Attached is a copy of the invoice and receipt of painting from the Institut.

Jiri Lauterkranc gave a video presentation of InsightART's 2022 Forensic analysis. InsightART uses particle physics {dual robotic} technology developed by CERN. The robots, nicknamed RToo use material sensitive X-ray micro-radiography in high resolution {MRXR}. NASA uses a version of this robotic technology in space. CERN developed the [Large Hadron Collider](#), the world's largest, most powerful particle accelerator. Jiri and Otto were also in attendance to answer questions from Institut staff for the owners, Robert/Saso, whose English is not perfect. Upon a positive outcome from the Institut the Painting will be issued a second Certificate of Authenticity and Letter of Entry into the next Catalogue Raisonne, possibly a seventh volume of the current one, [Restellini's Modigliani Catalogue Raisonne](#).

During the meeting with Mr. Restellini, I was able to professionally spar with him over several files containing new research that I discovered while working on an Exposé and Graphic Novel on the iconic Subject of Modi's Painting, a young Alice Prin who would go on to be known as [KIKI, the Immortal yet Forgotten "Queen of Montparnasse"](#). During my research I stumbled on a Painting by Richard Nevinson with a familiar red pillow and nude figure that could only be Alice Prin. This led to dozens of hours of further investigation, ordering numerous publications and newspapers, including a first edition {English} version of Kiki's Memoirs, 1929. I had found a treasure trove of information and imagery that as far as I know has been lost to history for 110 years. Not widely known, Modigliani and Nevinson shared a studio in Montparnasse from two years which coincidentally is the title of Nevinson's painting.

This research is contained in the attached Addendum B to Napa Valley Art Institut's Authentication & Analysis Report. The Report also contains a Section taken from the Modigliani Initiative titled "[Cracking the Code](#)". NVAI has added to their research in key areas. Also discovered during my research were two cataloged nude paintings by Modigliani, {Ceroni} that are obviously attributed to Alice Prin. A forensic comparison between our Kiki and the Kiki appearing in these work's reveal unmistakable similarities, see pages 1-5 in Addendum B.

The original Cover Letter to Mr. Restellini is an Addendum in the Brokerage Agreement. Included in this file is his original Letter to ownership in 2012. A Notation has been added in the right margin to fill in the evolution of the Painting between the time at Wildenstein Institute and now at Restellini. Included in this file is a Notarized Affidavit tied to the Paintings early Provenance. Kiki had a two month stay at Wildenstein Restellini was the curator. Kiki is now back in his hands 14 years later, another amazing twist of fate. In 2012 the owners of the Kiki only had a few family letters/court papers to document the Painting. After Wildenstein's evaluation, ownership was told that much more documentation would be needed to fully authenticate the work and possible entry into Catalogue Raisonne. Funny enough, the very Catalogue Raisonne that was scheduled for release in 2014 has just now been published. When the owner's specialist returned to pick up the Painting, the head of the evaluation committee told her they thought the Painting was authentic but reinforced the documentation deficit. The Documentation they were referring to is now available. Four years, over a million miles meeting with Modigliani experts 3 Forensic Reports, 1000's of hours of research.

Entry into Catalogue Raisonne was a topic of conversation during the meeting with Mr. Restellini. He told me he does have plans to publish at least one more Catalogue. I suggested to Ms. Berti {privately} that a seventh volume be considered if our Painting is authenticated. Should I say when our Painting is authenticated. This volume could be devoted solely to the Painting and legacy of Alice Prin.

Recent Brokerage Agreements:

During over two decades spent authenticating masterworks by Amedeo Modigliani and Emile Bernard, the principals of Napa Valley Art Institut have met collectors curators and experts in Europe, US and UAE. Although NVAI is focused on the sale of the Modigliani at present we will soon release over thirty additional paintings under representation. On June 10 Napa Valley Art Institut will launch the beta site for our new our [Virtual Gallery](#).

One Agreement is for a late, {1950} heavy-drip Jackson Pollock. The owner will consider a sale but prefers to use it as collateral for an art loan. The second Agreement includes 2 paintings through a Gallery in Prague. We met with the owner and intermediary on our recent trip. The Gallery owner, part of a prominent art family in Czech, represents numerous private collectors in Europe/USA. Spreadsheet provides details of each Painting and viewing location. A follow-on email will include hi-res images of each painting.

Napa Valley Art Institut now manages a portfolio of art worth over a billion dollars. It includes Modigliani's, Picasso's, Chagall's, 2 Kandinsky's, a Matisse, Monet, Frida Kahlo, Da Vinci and RAPHAEL. One of the Chagall's has an under-painting that was discovered when the forensic evaluation was performed at *InsightART*. The tour of their collection was a highlight of our trip to Prague. Link to video: [Radiographic X-ray Scan Reveals Hidden Masterpiece – Uncovering an Under-painting in Marc Chagall's Female Nude with Flowers & Animals](#)

I was told by the Gallery owner that the Paintings listed on the Spreadsheet are priced to sell. All legitimate offers will be considered/countered. Documentation, provenance, literature, and exhibition for all works, in our opinion, is as good as it gets. Which makes sense being that these works are represented by a prominent Gallery.

The Extraordinary Life & Times of the Immortal yet Forgotten KIKI, "Queen of Montparnasse" an Exposé & Graphic Novel

© If the reader is interested in learning more about the Exposé, once a Document Distribution and Nondisclosure Agreement is signed a link to our Google Drive will be sent containing the publication and project folder. Limited distribution will soon begin. Not a thought four years ago, but the Exposé will provide significant material support for the Paintings entry into Catalogue Raisonne if authenticated by Restellini. The Exposé will also serve as a historical document and important resource for marketing presentations during the sales process.

Finally, on a personal note, our recent trip to Paris included four days spent in Montparnasse, bringing color and life to the stories in the Exposé. Walking the same streets, visiting the clubs, restaurants, and cabarets where Kiki sat, performed and hung out with many of the greatest artists of our time is now forever etched in memory. A Photo Gallery is part of the project folder.

[Napa Valley Art Institut](#)

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Author: *The Extraordinary Life & Times of the Immortal yet Forgotten KIKI, "Queen of Montparnasse" - an Exposé & Graphic Novel*

PS: This Letter and all files attached here were designed to be viewed/read on a laptop or desktop monitor, preferably w/a large screen. A print version without the black background is available upon request.