



ARMCHAIR TRAVEL WITH KIRKLAND MUSEUM OF FINE & DECORATIVE ART THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

'Buongiorno! Vance Kirkland in Italy' invites virtual visitors to Rome, Pompeii, Naples and more starting Friday, May 22

Denver, May 21, 2020 – Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art presents its fourth virtual exhibition, *Buongiorno! Vance Kirkland in Italy*, and invites guests to vicariously explore Vance Kirkland's various travels in Italy and the resulting works of art. *Buongiorno!* can be accessed online beginning Friday, May 22.

"Since most Memorial Day travel plans won't be happening this year, we're inviting virtual visitors to relive Vance's multiple trips to Italy," explains Kirkland Museum's Associate Museum Director Renée Albiston. "With travel restricted due to COVID-19, museum staff thought a little armchair travel was in order so that those who are safer at home can indulge in a little *dolce vita*."

Buongiorno! explores Kirkland's series of Roman Abstraction paintings completed between 1955 and 1961 and his 1960 solo exhibition at the Galleria Schneider in Roma. This series of paintings reflects the wildly popular abstract expressionist movement happening at the time while staying true to Kirkland's unique painting style.

Beginning with a 1930 trip to Capri, Vance Kirkland made several visits to Italy, including extended stays in 1954, 1958 and 1960. By 1960 he had travelled throughout the country, visiting major cities and historical and cultural sites including Rome, Pompeii, Naples and other coastal regions.

Inspired by the museums, villas and ruins he saw throughout Italy, Kirkland painted his Roman Abstraction series. Some of these works were painted in Italy, others were created after he returned home to Denver, but all reflected his memories and experiences there.

"I asked Vance why he had gone back to Italy over and over again," remembers Kirkland Museum Founding Director & Curator Hugh Grant. "He said that a majority of artists go to France to study and work and he had done that too, but that, for him, there was something particularly energizing and liberating and inspirational in Italy."

Other virtual exhibitions still on view include [*Art in Small Bytes*](#), [*Pull Up a Chair*](#) and [*Process and Print*](#). All of Kirkland Museum's virtual exhibitions can be accessed at kirklandmuseum.org/virtual-exhibitions/.

Kirkland Museum remains temporarily closed for the health and safety of our visitors and staff. For more information, please visit kirklandmuseum.org. A digital press kit is available here kirklandmuseum.org/about-us/press/.

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About Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art:

Kirkland Museum is dedicated to enriching lives by presenting art and design in a unique and approachable way. The Museum is rediscovering, documenting, collecting, preserving and exhibiting works from over 150 years, beginning in the mid-19th century, of Colorado's distinguished art history, international decorative art and the works of Vance Kirkland (1904–1981). The Museum serves the general public and scholars through exhibitions, the loan of works and public programs.