

HISTORY OF CHALK ART

Street painting has been recorded throughout Europe since the 16th century and is considered an important expression of popular art. In Italy, street painters are called “madonnari” after their historical practice of creating chalk paintings of the Madonna. Oftentimes, soldiers returning home from battle would give homage to the Madonna by painting at the steps of village churches and cathedrals.

The history of this art form is closely tied to the long and rich tradition of Italian processional art, which included colored sand and sawdust painting as well as flower-petal art. Many other countries had similar versions. The famous Tournament of Roses in Pasadena extends from this tradition. Small icon and ex-voto painting, those given to the church for an answered prayer or miracle, are also in the genre of the Madonnaro.

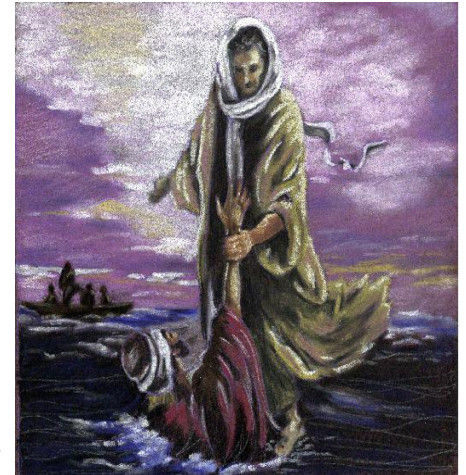


“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works God has prepared in Advance for us to do”

Ephesians 2:10

What’s it about?

We are a group of artist reestablishing an old tradition. These large “Coloring Book” style drawings are a great way to attract attention and to bring people together, allowing the public to be involved and provide a great out-reach opportunity. They



are setup in a way that most anyone can participate and they can be done any size from 6’X6’ to larger, preferably on the ground but occasionally they have been done on vertical surfaces. The chalk is not permanent, which makes it a great media for a temporary event.

