



'Third-Culture Child'

A woman of many talents, Vivian Cavalieri is an internationally exhibited artist who calls herself a “third-culture child” — someone whose vision is formed as much by her familial ties to Venice and its beauty as by her upbringing on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Though she now lives in D.C., Cavalieri crafts her framed mixed-media assemblages at her studio on Chincoteague Island, on Virginia’s remote Eastern Shore, a refuge that evokes the outer islands of her father’s ancestral home in Venice.

Cavalieri’s three-dimensional presentations can prompt conversation on issues including immigration and social justice. Her work has appeared in exhibitions in the U.S. as well as in

Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Athens. A photograph of one of her assemblages was displayed in the Hyde Park station of the London underground starting in March.

Art is, in fact, Cavalieri’s third career. For 17 years, she practiced non-profit law, first with Milbank LLP in New York and then with Caplin & Drysdale in Washington, followed by 10 years designing ornate necklaces.

“While my international upbringing predisposes me to select universal

topics,” she says, “my Venetian heritage influences my palette and sense of design.”

With her emotional bond to Venice, does it surprise that she and her husband also farm Chincoteague oysters?

For more, visit viviancavalieri.com.

— Frank Van Ripper



(Photos © GoodmanVan Ripper Photography)

New York State of Mind

Nick Turturro was born into an eclectic Italian American family in Brooklyn. His mother, Catherine Incerella, an amateur jazz singer, was of Sicilian ancestry. His father, Nicholas Turturro Sr., a construction worker and carpenter, was born in Giovinazzo, Bari, Italy. And his brother, John. Well, you know THAT story.

Graduating from Adelphi University with a degree in theater, Turturro worked as a doorman while pursuing a career in acting until he got his first break in Spike Lee’s film, “Mo Better Blues.”

“The Italian culture is known for having creativity. It was instilled in me when I was born,” Turturro says. “Growing up watching other Italian American entertainers like Al Pacino and Frank Sinatra inspired me.”

Turturro is best known for his roles as Brucie in the film “The Longest Yard” and James Martinez in the television series “NYPD Blue,” which earned him an Emmy nomination.

When he isn’t acting, he’s watching his favorite baseball team, the New York Yankees, while perfecting his beloved “Nicky’s Red Sauce.”

“In California, they don’t make sauce like back home,” he explains. “People go crazy for it, especially out here. I’m considering distributing my sauce online.”

Active in the Italian American community, Turturro is considering venturing into the restaurant industry.

“I would love to make a classic Italian pizzeria restaurant where people could hang out like back home.” ▲

— Anthony Sciarratta

