

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

MY EXHIBITION HERE IN URBINO HAS PROMPTED A LOT OF BUZZ AROUND MY COLLEAGUES FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE POND. IT IS CUSTOMARY TO ALWAYS HAVE A LARGE FLASHY CATALOGUE FILLED WITH GLOWING CRITICISM BY A CRITIC OR TWO OF STATURE IN THE ARTWORLD FILLED WITH REPRODUCTIONS THAT CAN NEVER BE THE REAL THING. BUT I HAVE ALWAYS BROKEN THE MOULD, THE ENVELOPE, SO TO SPEAK IN ALL MY ART WORK ALL MY LIFE DOING OLD THINGS IN A NEW WAY OR NEW THINGS IN AN OLD WAY. AND THAT IS HOW I'M GOING TO PRESENT MYSELF HERE... IN A NEW/OLD WAY AS IF MY SHOW WERE ON THE WALLS OF LASCAUX OR ALTAMIRA 60,000+ YEARS AGO, AS THIS EXHIBITION HALL WERE A LARGE CAVE MADE MODERN, WHOSE WALLS I ADORN.

RILKE REMINDS US: " ART COMES FROM AN INFINITE LONELINESS WITH LITTLE TO BE REACHED AS WITH CRITICISM; ONLY LOVE CAN GRASP AND HOLD AND UNDERSTAND". WHEN PICASSO WAS ASKED WHAT HIS PAINTINGS MEANT BY A JOURNALIST, HE RESPONDED " IF I COULD SAY IT IN WORDS, WHY WOULD I PAINT ? "

THE MOST ASKED QUESTION HERE HAS BEEN " DO YOU HAVE SOME LARGE PAINTINGS FOR THE ENTRANCE GALLERY?" I HAVE MADE THE LARGEST AND DEEPEST EMBOSSED PRINTS ON

EARTH IN AMERICA 6 METERS HIGH BY 2 METERS WIDE AND A METER DEEP. I BUILT THE LARGEST HYDRAULIC PRINTING PRESS IN THE HISTORY OF ART WITH MY OWN HANDS PRINTING 1.8 METERS BY 4 METERS WITH 3000 TONS OF PRESSURE. MY EGO HAS BUILT ITS MONUMENTS ALREADY IN MY LIFE.

WHEN I CAME TO ITALY TO PERMANENTLY LIVE AT CA' BOSO IN A CONVENT IN PIETRARUBBIA THAT I HAD OWNED NOW FOR 26 YEARS AFTER LOSING MY BUILDING IN TRIBECA, NEW YORK CITY, BY THE TWIN TOWERS 11.09., THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, I COULD TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT THE EARLY GRIDS WERE THE WINDOWS OF MY MUSES IN THE CHANGING WEATHERS, BUT WERE THEY ALSO JUST AN EXCUSE TO MAKE SO MANY PAINTINGS IN A PAINTING, OR WAS THE GRID A STRUCTURE UPON WHICH I HUNG MY EMOTIONS, SEPARATELY IN EVERY WINDOW? AND THEN I WATCHED THE SECOND PLANE HIT, HEARD THE SCREAMS OF DYING HUMAN BEINGS OVER THE FALL OF THE RUBBLE, AND THEN BREATHED THEIR BURNT BONES AND FUEL SPENT FOR 8 MONTHS AS THE TRUCKS GROWLED BY MY DOOR ALL NIGHT TAKING THEIR DEBIS AWAY AND THAT THEN THE PAINTINGS GREW DARK AS THE TRUCKS ROLLED BY, BRINGING BACK THE NIGHTMARES OF LAOS, THE SECRET WAR, AND VIETNAM WITH THE PROUST LIKE SMELL.... AND MY LIFE WAS CHANGED, AS OTHERS, FOREVER ! NO ONE WILL KNOW THAT IN 100 YEARS BUT IT'S

THE CULTURE THAT SECRETLY TELLS OUR STORY AND SEEMS NEVER TO BE BURIED: FROM THE MAYAN ART TO THE PYRAMIDS AND ON, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT? ONLY WHEN.....

I CAME HERE LEAVING BIG AMERICA, THE TOWERS, THE BIG CARS, THE BIG MACS WITH THE IDEA OF HENRY MOORE: " MONUMENTALITY IS QUALITATIVE, NOT QUANTITATIVE" . I DESIRED THE LIFE OF A RECLUSE AND ONLY MAKING INTIMATE WORKS. NO MORE WIVES TO ANSWER TO, I BOUGHT MY TRUE LOVE, GOD'S LOVE, IN THE MANIFESTATION OF TWO MINIATURE LONG HAired DACHSHUNDS, MAYA AND MONTU' WHO ARE THE GREATEST COMPANIONS IN THE WORLD ALONG WITH THE SPIRIT THAT LOOKS OVER MY SHOULDER WHILE I PAINT. AND THEN WE BUILT GARDENS AND LIVED WITH THE FLOWERS AROUND US AGAINST THE ROLLING HILLS OF LE MARCHE AND I SAW IT WAS ONLY MAN WHO DRAWS STRAIGHT LINES, SQUARES THINGS OFF, GETS TO THE POINT, AND SO COLOR BURST FORTH IN MY WORK AND THE FORMS OF NATURE ENTERED OPPOSING THE RECTILINEAR GRITTY STREETS OF MANHATTAN.

LOUIS KAHN TAUGHT ME: " FORM COMES FROM WONDER AND EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE YOU HAVE TO ASK IT OVER YOUR SHOULDER, HOW AM I DOING WONDER ??"HE ALSO TAUGHT ME THAT FORM IS BORN OF LIMITS. ROTHKO TOLD

ME THAT IF I EVER GAVE WORK TO A MUSEUM, IT SHOULD FIRST BE TO THE TATE IN LONDON. I WENT TO SEE A SHOW OF MINE THAT REMAINED UP IN THE TATE ON MILBANK 15 MONTHS IN GALLERY NO. 1 WHERE I HAD DONATED MANY PIECES AS AN ARCHIVE. WHAT A PLEASURE IT WAS TO FIND TWO ROOMS OF ROTKO, MY TEACHER, MY FRIEND, AND THEN WE TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA , BERKELEY, SHARING AN OFFICE. I MISSED HIM DEARLY AND THERE HE STILL WAS ON THE WALLS AT THE TATE. WHAT A MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE IT WAS FOR ME. THERE WAS A SMALL SIGN ON THE WALL IN SMALL TEXT QUOTING HIM: " I WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE AN UNTRAINED EYE WITHOUT PREJUDICE VIEW MY WORK THAN..." FOR ME IT SAID IT ALL.

I DO WANT TO THANK ALL THOSE HERE AT PALAZZO DUCALE WHO HAD THE FAITH IN MY WORK TO EXHIBIT IT AND THE LABOR OF PRESENTING IT. I HOPE YOU FIND A PAINTING OR TWO THAT REALLY TALKS PERSONALLY TO YOU.

**ALL MY BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL YOU CAN FIND ON MY WEBSITE:
WWW.GARNERTULLIS.COM IN THIS NEW, ELECTRONIC AGE. THE REAL "ME", THE ARTIST, IS HERE ON THE WALLS FOR YOU TO PERCEIVE.**

GARNER TULLIS, PIETRARUBBIA, MAY 2009.