

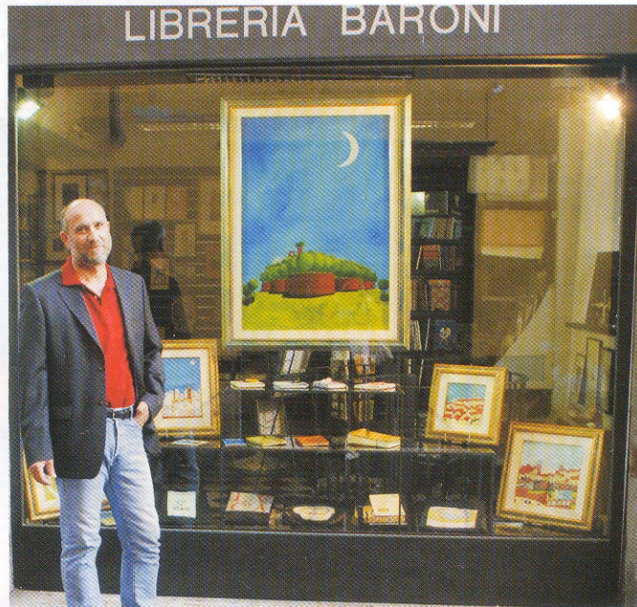
Paolo Galletti: Reframing Lucca by Jane Cotter

You've probably seen Paolo Galletti's work before. It's distinct, fun and very Lucchese. His paintings hang in the window of the Baroni bookshop in Via San Paolino, in regular exhibitions around town, and of course on the internet.

Paolo's Lucca paintings are his trademark. Although he has other styles of painting and also dabbles in photography, his Lucca works are unique. His style has been described as 'futuristic fantasy'. His paintings are colourful and amusing. Inspiration comes from the city of Lucca itself. Characteristically, there are no people in his paintings, but there are Lucca's famous walls and some very surreal roofscapes.

One critic described his work as 'a stage without actors or directors'.

Born in Lucca, Galletti started painting in the '70s. He focused on social topics of the moment – urbanization, industrialization, consumerism and the environment. As a young painter, he tried to put on canvas all the social themes of the times. After a break of several years with family and work commitments, he picked up his



brushes again and decided to use Lucca as his subject.

He's older now. His style has evolved over the years and there is much happiness in Paolo's work. His recent exhibition on the city walls above Porta Santa Maria, was full of his trademark primary coloured work, the oversized walls, roofs and classic Lucca landmarks. His style appears simple, but upon closer inspection, it is de-

tailed, clever and full of quirky things.

More of Paolo's work can be seen at a forthcoming exhibition in September and in November at the Comics and Games Festival. Paolo is working on a series of special paintings that combine the city of Lucca with characters from well-known comic strips.

Paolo is usually to be found wandering amongst his exhibitions. He's friendly and happy to talk about Lucca and his passion for painting. He says his paintings are bought by tourists, but over the past couple of years there has also been a trend for *lucchese* to invest in his work.

According to Paolo, they like his images because they represent a different city, not the traditional Lucca.

"I've had the passion to paint since I was a boy. When I paint I relax. It's very satisfying to know that people from all around the world enjoy my work," says Galletti.

For more information about Paolo Galletti and his paintings, visit www.paologalletti.com or call the studio on 328 6693666.