

I was introduced to Antonia Di Giulio in the late 1990s by our mutual friend Paolo Cotani. Paolo was one of Italy's foremost abstract painters and great admirer of Antonia.

He felt Antonia was making a significant contribution to the language of abstraction and spoke highly of her work.

One afternoon he called me from Rome to say that Antonia was coming to New York and mentioned that he would love it if I would make her portrait.

Of course I was more than happy to do this and the photographs in this catalog are the result of that meeting.

I feel that the real reative effort in this exhibition has been made by Antonia as is evident in the beautiful paintings in this catalog.

When I make a portrait it is always a question of is it the "who" or the "what" is being photographed. I was attempting to see the relationship between her work and her presence as a creative human being.

I have thought many times that a strong portrait is in fact a form of collaboration and to this end we can consider my small contribution to the exhibition and catalog as being a a kind of "collaboration".

Ralph Gibson

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