

Arts, Culture & Society American artist Megan Euker Project Manager of "San Rocco Therapeutics"

American artist Megan Euker Project manager of Altamura-based "San Rocco Therapeutics."

US artist Megan Euker set to restore statues at San Rocco Therapeutics in summer
- EDITORIAL STAFF ALTAMURA - ALTA MURGIA

By Giovanni Mercadante - Jan. 6, 2025 at 10:07 a.m.



Megan Euker

Megan Euker and Patrick Gironi two international artists with a mission to cure rare diseases.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of "San Rocco Therapeutics", whose headquarters in Altamura is located behind the church of St. Augustine; established in 1995 by the multifaceted Italian-American artist Patrick Gironi, it was the occasion at that date to treat more than 38 people with an innovative therapy in the field of rare diseases without resorting to transfusion.

The same, animated by a strong emotional charge, had the Altamura sculptor Mimmo Laterza make some statues at that time, which were placed in the garden of the Institute; in the commissioner's imagination, one work represents a parent giving advice to his child; another St. Rocco with a long beard assisting a dying patient.

For several years now the prestigious artist Megan Euker, an Italian-American in whose veins flows German-Irish and Italian blood, has set foot in Altamura. Through these columns I published another article about her last year.

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Interviewed during her stay in Altamura before Christmas 2024, Megan was keen to state that she has been collaborating for many years with the well-known Italian-American showman Patrick Gironi, a naturalized Altamuran with an Italian passport.



We know that he is a well-known figure in the Murgia capital for his whimsical casual attire: eccentric glasses, gascona hat in winter; or bizarre narrow-brimmed hat in summer. Much loved by Altamurans as a singer, songwriter and writer, he is best known as the founder of "San Rocco Therapeutics."

For many years he has been fighting against rare diseases such as thalassemia beta and sickle cell anemia, whose diseases are declared orphan due lack of adequate therapies or absence of commercial drugs; pharmaceutical companies unfortunately profit from these hardships, so patients feel like "orphans" in the world of health care.

Patrick, thanks to his close network of acquaintances, philanthropists and political figures from the U.S. and Italy, such as Robert F. Kennedy Jr.; Prof. Franco Locatelli, director of the Consiglio Superiore di Sanità (CSS), has developed a therapy that costs much less than the competition.

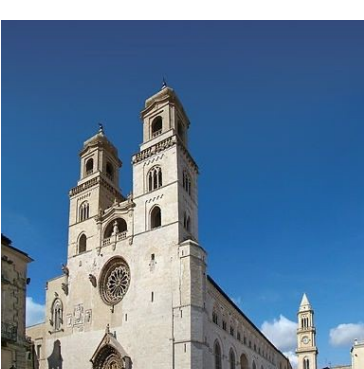
In this landscape, Megan Euker after moving from Chicago to Tampa, Florida years ago, in addition to her work with a rich background as an artist, visual arts teacher, has been promoting the fight against rare diseases alongside Patrick Gironi since 2016 as a project manager. In fact, Megan has held numerous exhibitions featuring her work, presenting a series of sculptures such as "Patrick" and the Orphan Dream Award honoring Robert F. Kennedy Jr.



She honored the world of sports with her art by making shoes and gloves of a well-known American boxer. These are works that commemorate protagonists who have dealt with rare diseases. She has also been active as a boxer, adopting the nickname "Mighty Megan."

All her works have found their way into several catalogs edited by M. Euker herself, in which she presents figurines made of different materials: bronze, cast iron, patinated cast aluminum, and multilayer wood with which she represents Richard, a fellow Australian artist, on a 1:1 scale. In short, works that have been shown in Linda Warren's exhibitions in Chicago to flattering public and critical acclaim.

In addition, with next summer he plans, as a sign of the rebirth of the Foundation, to devote herself to the restoration of the three statues outside the "San Rocco Therapeutics" Center.



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