

Jessica Bergamino  
Artist Bio

I am a queer Italian American poet who moved to Seattle in 2012 to attend graduate school at UW. My first full length collection of poetry, UNMANNED, received Noemi Press' poetry prize. I am also the author of chapbooks published by dancing girl press and Sundress Publications. In my work, I aim to explore ways that the conscious performance of girlhood can be a practice of resisting gender based violence. I hold a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing with a certificate in gender studies from the University of Utah: this is my first venture into visual arts.

JESSICA BERGAMINO



Jessica Rae Bergamino  
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Birch spoon finished with hemp oil and laboradite



Jessica Rae Bergamino  
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Madrona spoon, untreated



Jessica Rae Bergamino  
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Birch spoon, untreated



Jessica Rae Bergamino  
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Cherry spoon, untreated



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Madrona spoon finished with hemp oil and rose quartz



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**LEAVE  
COLUMBUS  
TAKE THE  
CANNOLI**



**MACARONIS**

MOVIMENTO AUTONOMO COLLETTIVO: ANCESTRAL RECLAMATION  
& ORGANIZING NETWORK OF ITALIANS & SICILIANS

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**GOOD ICE.**



**BAD ICE.**



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Graphic design for MACARONIS Collective Contra Columbo outreach

## PROPOSAL:

The cimaruta is an Italian *portofortuna*, or good luck charm, that depicts a combination of Catholic and pagan iconography on a silver ornament that resembles a sprig of rue. The oldest examples of these are found among collections of Etruscan jewelry. While this charm has gone out of fashion in Italy, it has taken on renewed significance for Italian Americans working to reconnect with their ancestors and ancestral roots.

I recently was sitting in a friend's backyard near Rainier and Dearborn. She lives in the heart of what was once Garlic Gulch: Seattle's Italian American diasporic community. We were underneath one of two fig trees planted there by Italian American immigrants. The figs were heavy and full of summer, but there must have been so many summers where the weather never grew warm enough for fruit to ripen. In many ways, the fig trees were a prayer. They must have been planted roughly the same time Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini was working to open the Mount Carmel Mission on Beacon Hill. She and her order worked to open schools and provide free medical care to recent immigrants here in Seattle and across the United States. When Cabrini was canonized, she was named the patron saint of immigrants (and, apparently, finding parking spaces, which is something we increasingly need intercession around).

It's that sense of abundance that I want to tap into for this pillar. I'm imagining a bronze pillar etched and molded as one of the fig trees still growing in my friend's back yard. Like the cimaruta, Italian good luck charms such as a *cornuto* and *mano figa* are woven between the branches. At the base of a tree there is a woman holding a basket filled with tomatoes, bread, wooden spoons, and a jug of wine. She isn't identifiable as a religious figure, but her hand is reached out towards the neighboring pillars, offering to share what she has towards the common good. As the larger Italian American community continues to move further and further to the political right, I want to make a small contribution to remembering our history as settlers in this place.

# Rough Proof of Concept (sketch)

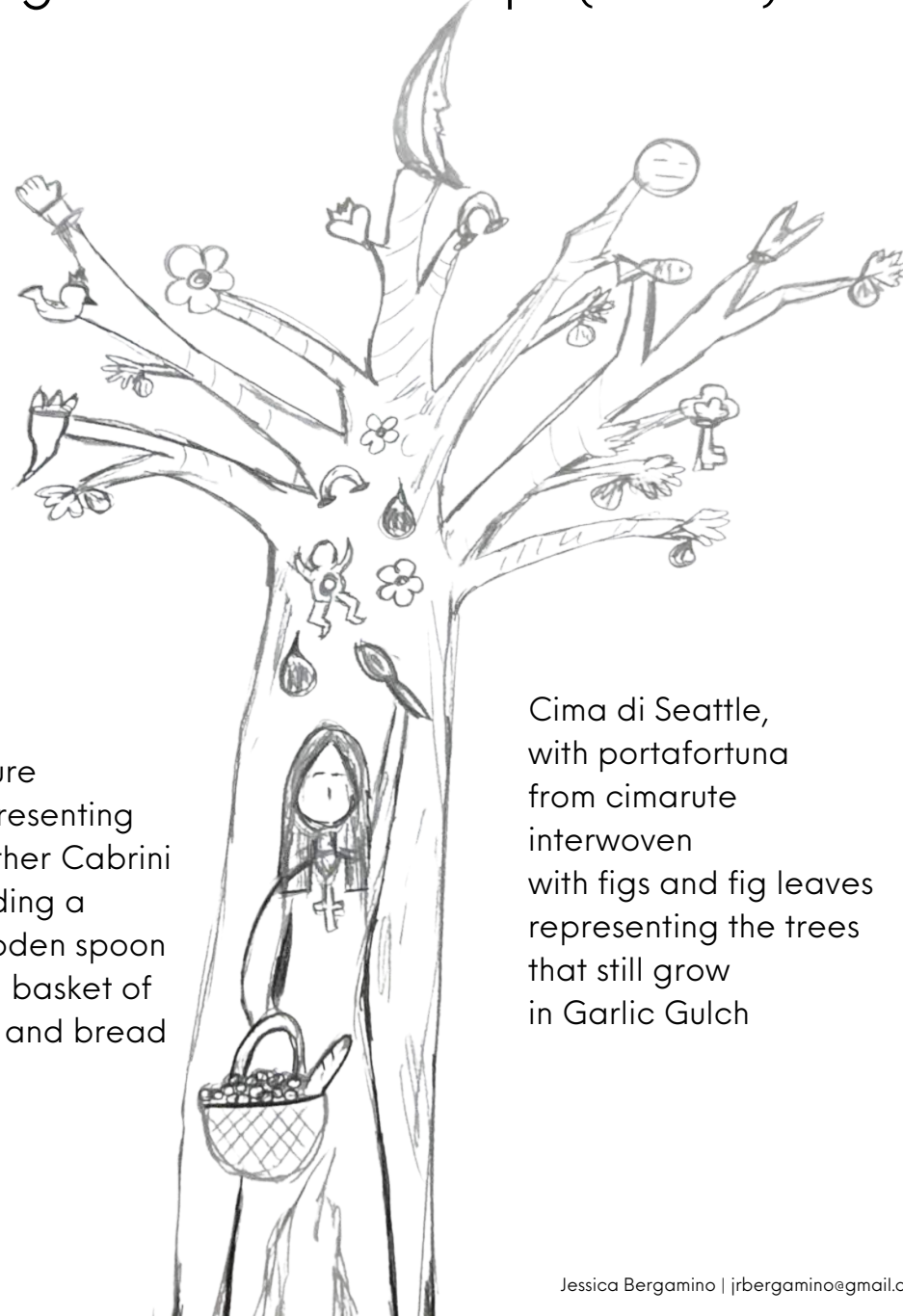


Figure representing Mother Cabrini holding a wooden spoon and basket of figs and bread

Cima di Seattle, with portafortuna from cimarute interwoven with figs and fig leaves representing the trees that still grow in Garlic Gulch

# Close Up Drawings of Icons



Cornicello



Mano Cornuto



Mano Figa



Frog



Fish



Rue flower



Fig leaf



Rooster



Frog

# Close up Drawings of Icons



Key



Moon



Sun



Horse shoe

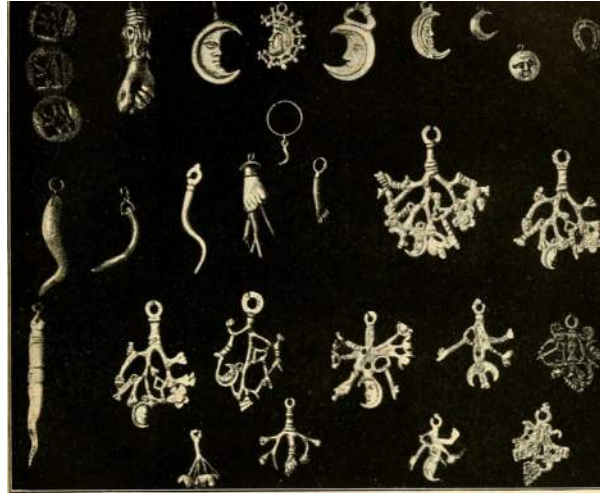


Knife

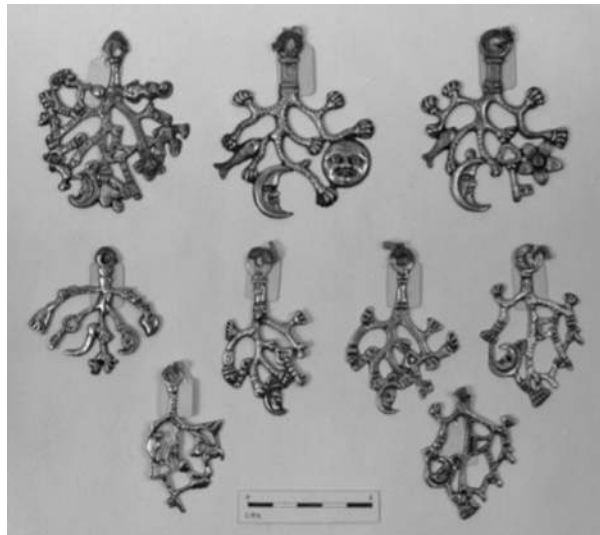


Fig

# Examples of Cimarute



cimarute presented in *The Evil Eye* by Frederick Thomas Elworthy (John Murray, London, 1895) hi



examples of cimarute from Italian cimaruta from the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, UK



c. 1895