

SANTI VISALLI AT 90: UNA STORIA

Born in 1932 and raised in Messina, Sicily, Santa Barbara resident Santi Visalli traveled with a camera for three years across the globe before settling in New York during the late 1950s. His aim was to become a successful photographer on the international stage. With an acute eye, avid energy and patient skill, Visalli forged an extraordinary career that saw him photographing countless major world figures and important sites and cities for over five decades.

This exhibition focuses on a specific area of Visalli's art: perceptive portraits of well-known figures in the 1960s and 70s worlds of film, literature, art, music and popular culture. Ranging from the delightfully spontaneous and joyous to the more posed, introspective and quiet, all of Visalli's portraits relate a *storia*, an Italian word meaning many things: tale, story and history. Tactful yet honest, Visalli captures his subjects with a respectful distance that nonetheless allows the unique sense of these renowned personalities to emerge on their own terms.

The subject of numerous exhibitions and books, Santi Visalli's photographs have appeared regularly in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *US News & World Report*, *Paris Match*, *Oggi* and *Stern*, among many others. Santi Visalli is a former president of the Foreign Press Association of New York and member of the board of the Association of Italian Correspondents in North America. In 1996, he was named a Knight in the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy and, in 2011, he was awarded a medal for life achievement from the President of the Italian Republic.