

Fig.074 Picture of an oil painting I made while enrolled as a student in an American high-school. The painting reproduces an image of an actress I found in a magazine. Despite the realistic subject already at this point I began experimenting with more abstract and curved spaces like the dress of the actress and the grass on which she laid.

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As a child I have been drawing incessantly. Coloring was always only a supplement of my figurative work and I never bothered too much about it. As a student in Italy I felt bored and during classes I drew in my classmates' agendas. At the age of sixteen I was an exchange student in a small town in Wisconsin and decided to take art classes. Only then I was able to let go of my creativity and experiment with colors. Despite all the possibilities I could have pursued, I kept on doing figurative work but abstract patterns emerged in the coloring of backgrounds. On one occasion I pulled the high-school fire alarm on purpose, the handle broke and within a few minutes the school had to be evacuated and the fire brigades had to intervene. I was about to be sent back to Italy but then persuaded the high school dean to keep me. As an apology I offered to spend my summer painting the corridor walls with murals. During the school year we visited museums in Chicago and the works of native Americans inspired me. I then lost no time in recreating them out of memory and filled up the walls with many symbols and figures. Already then I did not want to leave the background of these images empty and I filled them with scribbles of different colors. Later on I became obsessed only in making these scribbles as an art form.