

Permanent Exhibition at La Fabbrica del Cotone

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · GARESSIO (CN), ITALY · 19 MAY 2026

From Estonia to Garesio: Keili Major on permanent show at La Fabbrica del Cotone

Nine original paintings — including a finger painting devoted to the Tanaro river — on permanent show in the dining rooms of a 19th-century cotton mill turned restaurant in the Italian Ligurian Alps.

GARESSIO, Italy — A restaurant that is also a permanent art gallery. That's the project of Keili Major, an Estonian visual artist based in Garesio, who has placed nine original works in the rooms of La Fabbrica del Cotone — the restaurant in Garesio known for regional cuisine, housed in the former 1882 cotton mill, now restored. The exhibition has been open since 13 May 2026: the works are part of the dining experience and visible to guests and the press during the restaurant's opening hours.

A technique outside the norm: painting only with fingers

Keili paints in oil on canvas using her fingers directly — no brushes. A technique called finger painting, which allows immediate contact with the material. "It forces you to feel the paint, not just see it," she says. Her training began in Estonia, continued for seven years in Australia under master painter Bill Mackay in Queensland, and resumed in Garesio, where she now lives, paints, and teaches private lessons.

The painting that captures Garesio: Tanaro

Among the nine works, Tanaro (95×95 cm, oil on canvas, finger painting technique, 2026) stands out — born from an image the artist captured near the Cappelletta di Santa Maria Maddalena, in Regione Sparvaira, after a remarkable snowfall. "That winter the water dressed itself in a deep blue and turquoise, an icy tone of incredible beauty," Keili recalls. It's her first painting explicitly devoted to Garesio. It hangs in the Salone (main hall) of La Fabbrica del Cotone, where it greets visitors as they enter.

The other works

The eight works alongside Tanaro span ten years of Keili's practice and several geographies from her biography: landscapes of the Maritime Alps ("Passeggiata nel bosco", "Bagliore d'inverno"), memories of Estonia ("Tardo autunno"), botanical still lifes ("Cotone reale", paying homage to the venue's historic identity; "Carciofi"), narrative compositions inspired by nature documentaries ("Funghi magici"), and other works in realism oil and finger painting.

QR codes for the full story

Each painting is accompanied by a small postcard-sized card showing the code, title, technique, year, dimensions, price, and a QR code. Scanning the QR opens the dedicated online page with the work's full story. Tanaro and Piccolo Sole (Keili's signature sunflower) are not for sale; the other works range in price from €180 to €980.

A note on Tanaro — something is taking root

The Tanaro painting currently on view in the Salone of La Fabbrica del Cotone is the root of an innovative year-long project Keili Major will unveil on 1 June 2026. Dining at the restaurant now means seeing the point where it all begins. Project name and details will be announced on launch day.

Practical information

Where: Ristorante La Fabbrica del Cotone, Via Nazionale 10, Frazione Trappa, 12075 Garesio (CN), Italy

When: since 13 May 2026 · visible to guests and the press during restaurant opening hours (Tue-Sat 7:00-10:00 pm, Sun 12:00-2:00 pm + 7:00-10:00 pm, Closed Mondays)

Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RSgvXjA99pkXNNNo29>

Online catalog: <https://keilimajorartist.com/fabbrica-cotone-on-show/>

For interviews, high-resolution photos, or guided visits

Keili Major is available for interviews (English fluent, Italian growing) or for a guided visit to the exhibition at La Fabbrica del Cotone by prior appointment.

Press contact: Claudio Rossi · press@keilimajorartist.com · +39 339 336 2678 (WhatsApp welcome)

For artist interview: Contact Claudio Rossi to arrange (press@keilimajorartist.com · +39 339 336 2678).

About Keili Major

Born in Estonia, Keili Major trained for seven years in Australia under master painter Bill Mackay in Queensland. She now lives and paints in Garesio (CN), Italy, which she has chosen as her home. She works with finger painting, oil on canvas, alongside more traditional realism painting. She also teaches private painting lessons for adults and children.

Web: <https://keilimajorartist.com> · Instagram: [@keili_major_artist](https://www.instagram.com/keili_major_artist) · Facebook: [facebook.com/keilimajorartist](https://www.facebook.com/keilimajorartist)

— End of release —