

# The artist and the craftsman

In his life, even though he allowed only a few people to occupy his heart. The mere acquaintances who in time graduated to real friends accompanied him constantly and, with them, he faced his entire life.

Fabio Neri was one of those who walked the most steps in Giorgio's company since the early 1970s. Babb had not yet 'unveiled' himself, but his skills as a craftsman and his 'experiments' as an artist already showed talents that were just waiting to be discovered and exploited.

The two got to know each other at a club where people met, played cards, laughed and spent time outside the home, and slowly they grew closer.

Giorgio loved this time spent between jokes and some serious talk, and he was devoted to the billiard cue he wielded at the Excelsior Bar. Giorgio, with Fabio, who creates and sold jewellery, talked a lot and came up with the idea of having the former create a portfolio of works that the latter would give to his customers.

When the idea blossomed, it was 1972 and that was just the beginning.

In the following years, Fabio asked the artist to design models for his business; thus, a whole series of masterpieces took shape from Gio-



gio's sketches, which the jeweller then transformed into a new piece of jewellery, ready to market.

Fabio did not give directives but only hinted, and every time he saw the work done, where needed, he tried to correct it.

Gold and precious stones became works of art and for many years Babb was committed to this job.

The partnership went one step further and tried to create marble sculptures from the drawings, but it was a short-lived experiment, although it bore exceptional fruit. Fabio ('Nenè') and 'Babb' continued their journey together and many jewels were born, although the most beautiful was their friendship.



The first folder made by Dal Canto for Fabio Neri (Michele Quirici)



*Propa antea*

*El Lito Guyano 1972*

One of the first works made for Fabio Neri. Author's proof, 1972  
sheet 50×70 cm, engraving 21×24.5 cm (Michele Quirici)



**Venditore di gioielli** (Jewellery Seller), 2002  
oil on canvas 30×60 cm (Fabio Neri)



**Pesci con gioielli** (Fish with jewellery), 2005  
oil on canvas 25×30 cm (Fabio Neri)



**Suonatine** (Small Plays), 2003  
oil on canvas 70×100 cm (Fabio Neri)



**Donne nel portico con gioielli**  
(Women on the porch with jewellery), 2004  
oil on canvas 30×40 cm (Fabio Neri)



**Donne con Gioielli Cometa**  
 (Women with Comet Jewellery), 2005  
 oil on canvas 25×30 cm (Fabio Neri)



**Donne in primavera**  
 (Women in Spring), 2005  
 oil on canvas 25×30 cm (Fabio Neri)



**Donne Pasqua (Easter Women)**, 2005  
 oil on canvas 25×30 cm  
 (Fabio Neri)



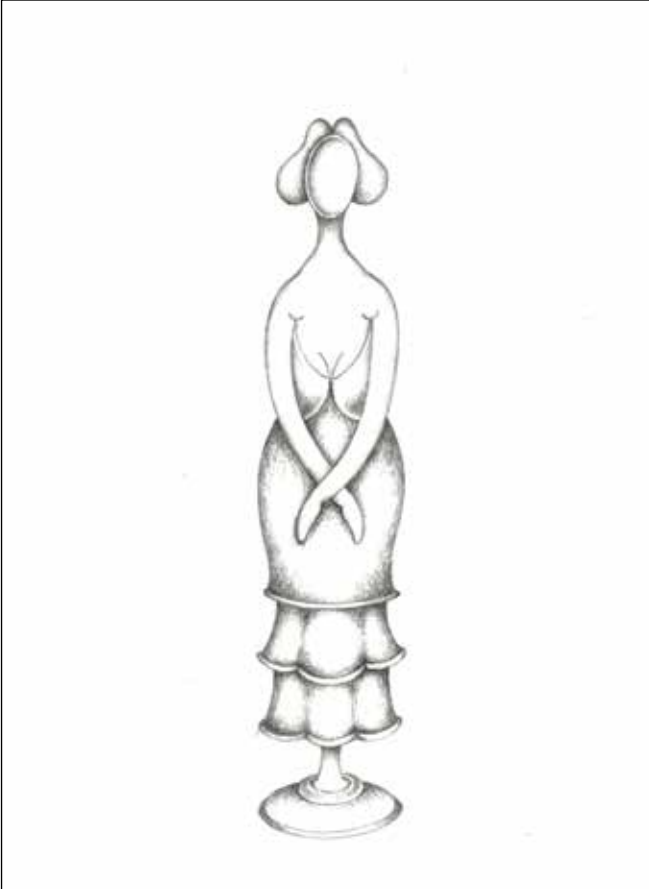
**Pagliaccio con gioielli**  
 (Clown with jewellery), 2010  
 oil on canvas 25×30 cm (Fabio Neri)



Studies for jewellery (Fabio Neri)



Studies for jewellery (Fabio Neri)



Studies for marble sculptures (Fabio Neri)



Marble sculptures (Fabio Neri)



**Sviolinata** (Played with violin), 1980  
oil on canvas 30x40 cm

*The violin music is directed at the Judge who is flipping through the Code. Mournful music scene with the dachshund seeming to interpret the melancholy of the scene.*