

NICOLA SIMBARI

La Dolce Vita



FINDLAY GALLERIES

THREE CENTURIES IN ART



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Nicola Simbari (1927-2012)

La Dolce Vita

Nicola Simbari's paintings are celebrations of light, color, and the exuberant rhythms of Mediterranean life. *La Dolce Vita* gathers a selection of his most luminous canvases — seaside promenades, café scenes, sun-drenched terraces and quick, vivacious figure studies — all painted with the bravura of his signature palette-knife technique. The works on view transform quotidian moments into theatrical tableaux: sun, shadow, and architecture become chromatic instruments that sing together.

Ragazza in vestito giallo, 1963
oil on canvas
19 3/4 x 9 3/4 in.
FG© 141813

Born in Calabria in 1927 and trained at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome, Simbari brought a hybrid sensibility to his art: an architect's respect for structure combined with an impressionist's devotion to sensation. Over the course of his career, he moved fluidly between approaches — from geometric constructions to near-abstract color fields — yet always returned to figurative subjects and Mediterranean motifs. His training and background shaped the compositional rigor beneath the flamboyant surfaces: blocks of color often read as both built form and atmospheric light.

Simbari's palette-knife handling is central to the works in this exhibition. Thick, slashed strokes create planes of impasto that catch and reflect light, giving each painting an architecture of color. This technique enables Simbari to achieve both immediacy and monumentality: a casual gesture becomes a defining ridge, and a fleeting glance is captured in an enduring arc of paint. The result is imagery that reads at once as memory and performance — as if each canvas were a brightly notated entry in a visual diary.

La Dolce Vita frames Simbari as a chronicler of pleasure without sentimentality. The artist's figures rarely stare out at us; they inhabit the picture with the private assurance of a life lived fully in daylight. Boats, terraces, and flowering hedges recur as props in scenes of ease and sociability, while color provides the emotional commentary. Where a photograph would fix a single instant, Simbari's brush (and knife) accumulates experience: the eye reads multiple temporalities at once — the present shimmer, the echo of past and the promise of more to come.

Findlay Galleries has championed Simbari's work, which has been widely exhibited in the United States and Europe for many years; this presentation continues that tradition, drawing together paintings that illustrate his formal versatility and his enduring passion for Mediterranean subject matter. Whether rendered as a small, jewel-like panel or as a sweeping canvas, each painting in *La Dolce Vita* invites the viewer into a world where color is both language and landscape.



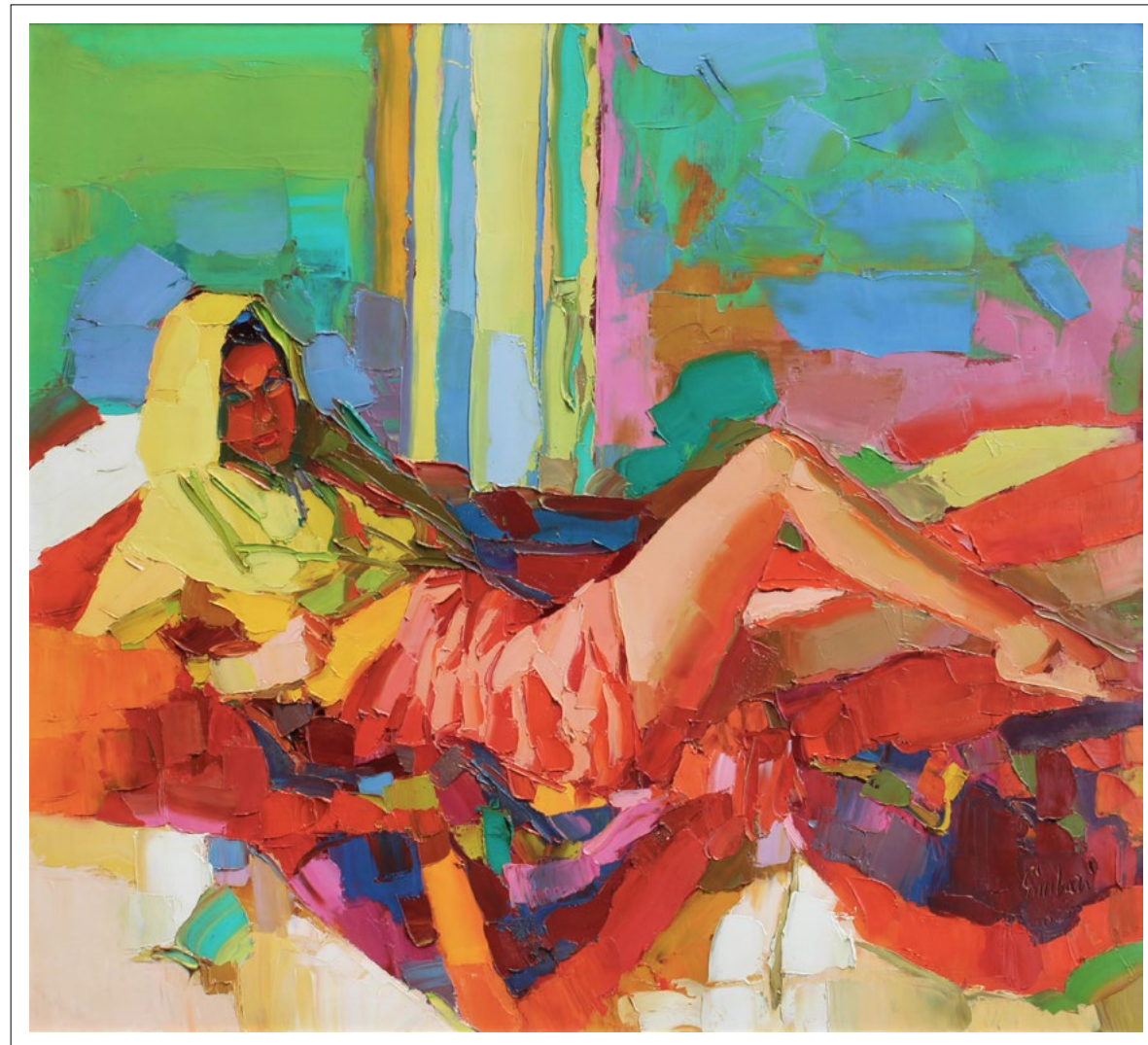
Agropoli, 1970 | oil on canvas | 28 3/4 x 36 1/4 in. | FG© 140244



Una giornata in spiaggia, 1970 | oil on canvas | 18 1/4 x 24 in. | FG© 135770



Zingara, 1968
oil on canvas
35 1/2 x 39 1/2 in.
FG© 137412





Girls on the beach, 1971 | oil on canvas | 31 3/4 x 39 5/8 in. | FG© 140867



Paesaggio Marino, 1981 | oil on canvas | 23 5/8 x 35 1/2 in. | FG© 139630



Ostia Beach, 1975 | oil on canvas | 35 3/8 x 39 5/16 in. | FG© 135795



Capri, 1965 | oil on canvas | 31 5/8 x 35 1/2 in. | FG© 136094



Girl from Forio, 1986 | oil on canvas | 35 1/2 x 39 1/3 in. | FG© 141422



Mattinata, 1965 | oil on canvas | 39 3/8 x 32 in. | FG© 132294



Near Policastro, 1971
oil on canvas
64 x 51 1/2 in.
FG© 140223





Women of Maratea, 1963

oil on canvas

35 1/2 x 65 1/4 in.

FG© 137413



Golden Harbour, 1967 | oil on canvas | 19 3/4 x 23 3/4 in. | FG© 140563



Donna con un cesto, 1967 | oil on canvas | 24 x 19 1/2 in. | FG© 141161

(cover)

Spiaggia azzurra, 1970

oil on canvas

28 3/4 x 39 7/8 in.

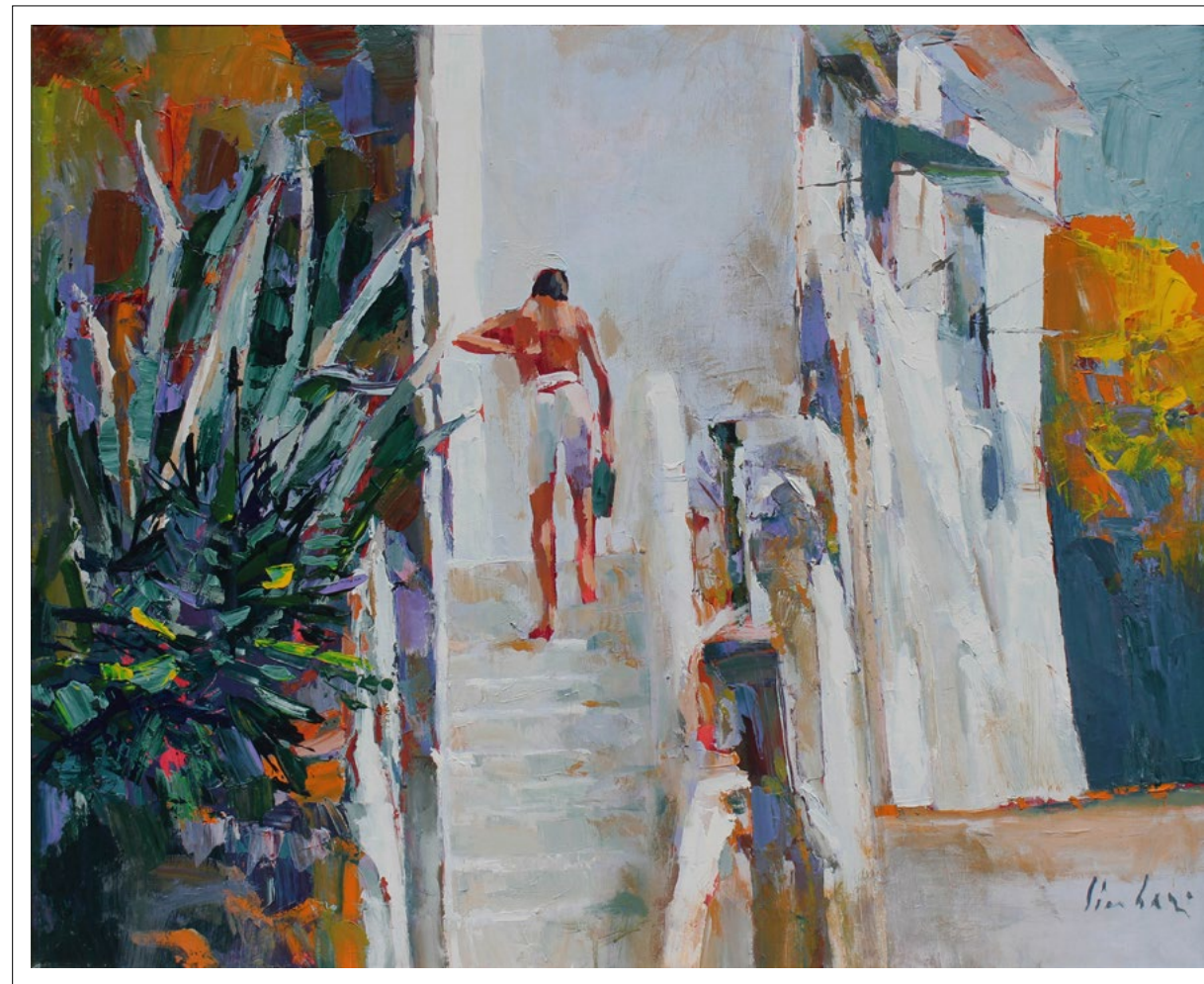
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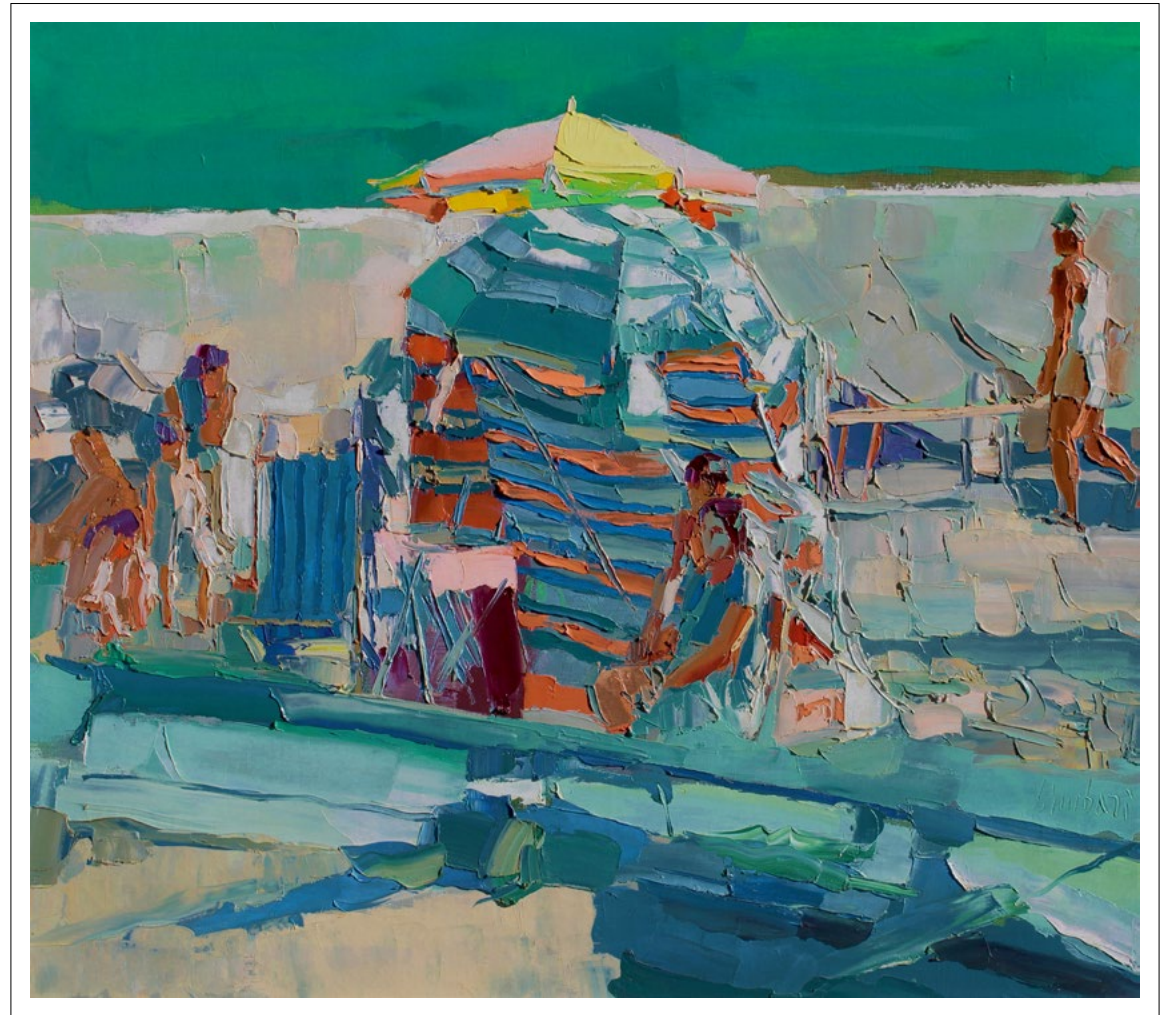




(left)
Balcone con fiori, 1968
oil on canvas
31 3/4 x 23 1/2 in.
FG© 140114

(right)
Staircase in Procida, 1978
oil on canvas
43 x 51 in.
FG© 141628





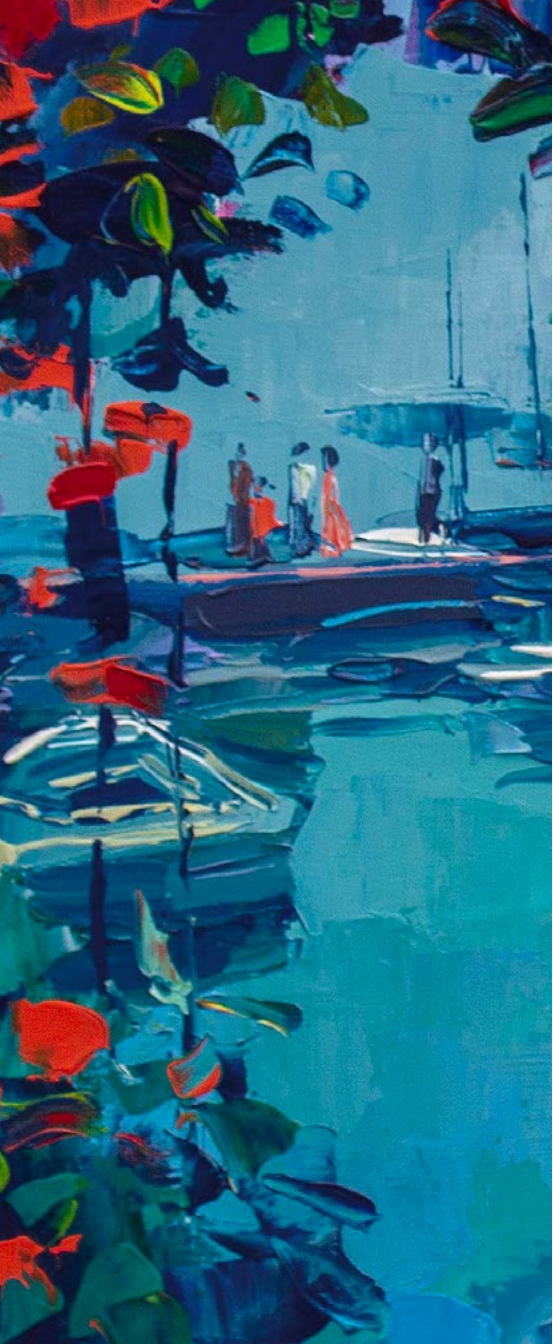
Beach at Mergellina, 1971 | oil on canvas | 39 5/8 x 43 1/2 in. | FG© 141704



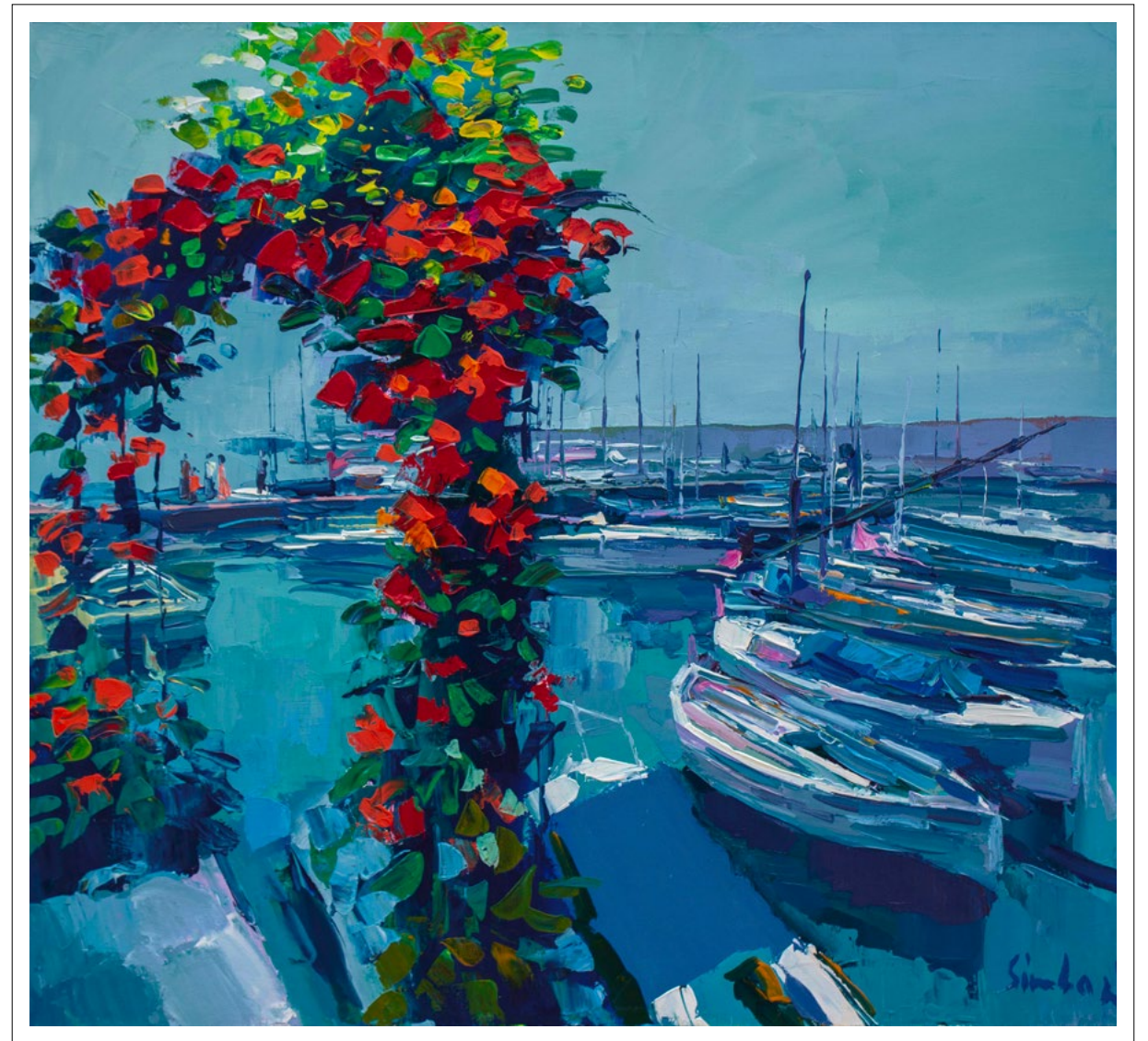
Ciclista in Ischia, 1972 | oil on canvas | 31 7/8 x 39 3/8 in. | FG© 138605



Una giornata al mare, 1986 | oil on canvas | 23 7/8 x 31 5/8 in. | FG© 141313



Port de Menton, 1983
oil on canvas
39 x 42 3/4 in.
FG© 140904



Solo Exhibitions

- 1957 First one-man show in London
- 1958 Exhibition Gallery Obelisco, Rome
- 1959 Exhibitions in London and New York
- 1960 First one-man show in Palm Beach
- 1961 Exhibitions at the Findlay Galleries in Palm Beach, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Chicago
- 1962 Second one-man show at Wally Findlay Galleries in Palm Beach, and second one-man show in Chicago
- 1963 Several one-man shows at Wally Findlay Galleries in New York, Chicago, and Palm Beach
- 1969 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York
- 1971 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris
- 1971 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 1972 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York and Beverly Hills
- 1973 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris and Retrospective, Wally Findlay Galleries, Chicago
- 1976 *Crazy Horse Saloon* Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris
- 1977 *Le Cirque* Wally Findlay Galleries, New York and Palm Beach
- 1978 *Le Cirque* Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris
- 1979 *The Mediterranean* Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris
- 1981 *Paris* Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris
- 1983 *The Grand Prize*, Hotel de Paris, Monte Carlo
- 1984-87 Exhibitions Germany, Japan, and the United States
- 1988 *Soar with Simbari* Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 1988 *Un lointain regard* Wally Findlay Galleries, Paris
- 1989 Exhibition in Two Parts: Manhattan, *Thirteen Cityscapes* and *The Caribbean*, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York
- 1990 *The Caribbean* Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 1990 *Selected Paintings* Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 1990 *Soar with Simbari* Wally Findlay Galleries, New York
- 1991 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York
- 1992 *Simbari and his World*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 1992 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Chicago
- 1993 *Simbari-Favorite Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York and Palm Beach
- 1997 *Simbari* Three simultaneous exhibitions Wally Findlay Galleries, New York, Palm Beach, and Chicago
- 2001 *The Retrospective, Celebrating 50 Years of Achievement* Three simultaneous exhibitions, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York, Palm Beach, and Chicago
- 2005 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, New York
- 2005 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2006 *Selected Paintings*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2008 *Nicola Simbari*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2009 *Nicola Simbari*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2011 *Seven Decades*, Nicola Simbari, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2015 *Retrospective Collection by the Pallet Knife Master*, Wally Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2018 *Simbari*, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2023 *Mediterraneo*, Nicola Simbari, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- 2025 *The Italian Palette Knife Master*, Nicola Simbari, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach
- La Dolce Vita*, Nicola Simbari, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach



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For further information and pricing please contact our galleries

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