



**Ryan Thomas Doan** is with Raphael Sassi.



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There are few artists I have met where you can literally feel on encountering them that they are not of this world. Such is Raphael Sassi.

I remember you well. I remember our classes together. I recall the visit to your home town where you were so hospitable. I recall the peace of the country there and admiring its contrast to the passion that was inside you. I still have the mug your father made me during that trip. You almost frightened me at times mostly because you walked in such truth. You called out the bullshit of the art world. While I marveled at your talent, as it was not of this world, I also loved seeing your posts on your travels and adventures that were not art related. I never mentioned it to you, and I regret that now, but you made me feel that it was ok when I could not yet find a way to live exclusively off my art. You left an echo in so many people both with your craft and with your existence. I can not believe that someone took you from this planet. But you never were of this world and whatever world you are in now, Raphael Sassi, I hope it has an endless supply of ballpoint pens. You were an unspoken hero to me and my heart goes out to your family.