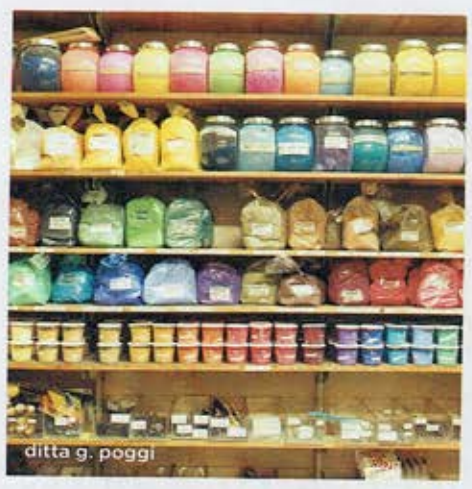




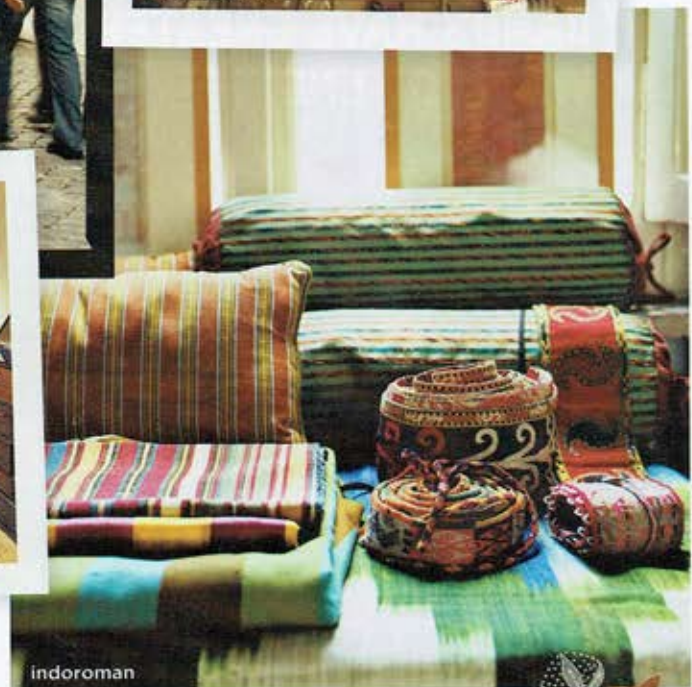
Twombly on the historic Via Giulia, one of the city's oldest streets and epicenter of the antiques district.



ditta g. poggi



said dal 1923



indoroman

# rome

When fashion designer Soledad Twombly landed in Rome—by way of Buenos Aires and New York—she found inspiration in artisanal shops, bohemian neighborhoods and pagan monuments. She gives us an untouristy tour of the Eternal City.

**SHOP**

**Via Giulia 95 di Assieh Meneghini** A novelty for Rome because the antiques come from all over the world, not just Italy; I bought some Belgian chairs for my atelier. There are also funky contemporary designs culled by the owner, Assieh Meneghini, an elegant Persian woman. *Via Giulia, 95; 39-06-6889-2898; viagiulia95.com*

**Federico Polidori** Opened in 1979, this workshop for leather goods carries beautifully crafted handbags and luggage. Polidori's wares have hand-stitching that a machine just can't mimic. You really feel you're getting something unique. *Via Piè di Marmo, 7; 39-06-679-7191*

**Indoroman** The finest *sarti* (tailors) practiced their trade on the street called Via Gregoriana. My aunt, Gaia Franchetti, owns this fabric and linens store here, and the handmade textiles she selects are based on those of ancient Italy, Persia and India—all in rich, colorful materials. *Via Gregoriana, 36; 39-06-6919-0908; indoroman.com*



MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNIA ILLUSTRATION: ROSIE RIVVRE/ZEEDEERUSA.COM



## rome shopping, cont'd

**Galleria Akka** In addition to antique textiles from such places as Turkey, Persia, Turkmenistan and China, this truly global shop has one-of-a-kind objets d'art from Africa. *Via Piè di Marmo, 13/14; 39-06-679-2066*

**Ditta G. Poggi** All the big artists come here for supplies; the special pigments are famous. I go for the small paintbrushes, which I use for makeup! The original store dates to 1825, and I think its history made it appealing to people like Balthus and Giorgio de Chirico. *Via del Gesù, 74/75; 39-06-679-3674; poggi1825.it*

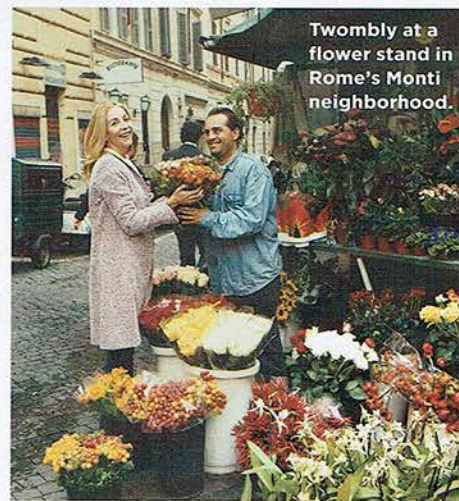
**Said dal 1923** You can't leave Rome without visiting this storied chocolate factory. It's in

the San Lorenzo neighborhood, which is where all my artist friends live and work. Said has been around since 1923, and it produces every kind of chocolate, from milk to whiskey-infused. I stick to very dark—70 to 80 percent cacao. It's good for you! *Via Tiburtina, 135; 39-06-446-9204; said.it*

### EAT/DRINK

**Ristorante Piperno** The best restaurant in the Ghetto, the old Jewish quarter. I always get the *sogliola alla brace* (charred sole) or *dentice al forno* (baked sea bream). Romans often dine at home because cooking is such a tradition, but whenever I want fish, I walk to Ristorante

12½" "Mabef" easel ABOUT \$31 DITTA G. POGGI



Twombly at a flower stand in Rome's Monti neighborhood.

### VISIT

#### The Pantheon

I prefer to visit first thing in the morning, before the tour groups descend on this breathtaking pagan Roman temple turned Christian church. The interior is a perfect half-sphere, and the acoustics are fantastic. Raphael is interred here. *Piazza della Rotonda; 39-06-6830-0230*

#### Museo Nazionale Etrusco

Much in this city is devoted to the study and culture of ancient times, and the Etruscan museum really helps you understand what shaped the Roman Empire. *Piazzale di Villa Giulia, 9; 39-06-322-6571*

### STAY

**Hotel Locarno** Ideal if you want a central location and moderate rates, this old-style hostelry is popular with locals—businessmen and writers enjoy after-work drinks here. There's a hand-operated elevator, a lovely courtyard and bikes to borrow. Rooms from about \$235 to \$314 per night. *Via della Penna, 22; 39-06-361-0841; hotellocarno.com*

Piperno. *Via Monte dè Cenci, 9; 39-06-6880-6629; ristorantepiperno.com*

**Bar Doria** This easy-to-miss café is attached to the Galleria Doria Pamphilj, which has a remarkable collection of Renaissance and 17th-century Italian paintings. When I bring people and they venture upstairs to the restroom, they are stunned—as if they've stumbled upon a forgotten palazzo. *Via del Corso, 305; 39-06-6797-7323; doriapamphilj.it/ukhome.asp*

**Giolitti** Of the many gelaterias in Rome, there's an ongoing battle for number one between Gelato San Crispino, which gets a lot of attention, and Giolitti. I love Giolitti's *nocciola* (hazelnut), but being South American, my absolute favorite is its coconut. *Via Uffici del Vicario, 40; 39-06-699-1243; giolitti.it*

Chocolate bars ABOUT \$5 EACH, SAID DAL 1923



federico polidori

### soledad's style

Twombly started out cutting fabric in New York's Garment District and apprenticed at Nicole Miller. In 2000, she and her husband, Alexander Twombly, son of painter Cy Twombly, moved to Rome, where, in 2002, she evolved her couture label of clothes and accessories. "The core of what I do is fashion, but I also design tablecloths and boxes with the same prints," notes Twombly, whose recent migration into home decor also includes plates, vases and mouth-blown glassware that is "reminiscent of spoils of silk." A native Argentinean, Twombly inflects her collections with a global sensibility—from the flavors of India to those of Central America.



Sole by Soledad Twombly silk \$690 E-MAIL SOLEDAD.TWOMBLY@LIBERO.IT BiS for Soledad Twombly carafe \$265 glasses \$65 AND \$75 EACH, E-MAIL BROOKSIGAL@GMAIL.COM

Twombly and her enviable plants on the covered terrace at her atelier.