The Sidewalk Artist

By Gina Buonaguro and Janice Kirk

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About this Guide
The following author biography and list of questions about The Sidewalk Artist are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach The Sidewalk Artist.

About the Book
While in Europe researching her next novel, twenty-something American Tulia Rose falls headlong into a romance with a handsome sidewalk artist. As he takes her on a tour of Europe's artistic treasures, she begins writing the story of the painter Raphael and his secret lover.

Yet as her own affair grows deeper, Tulia's sidewalk artist grows more mysterious. Why does he seem so familiar? And what is his connection to the great Renaissance painter?
Set in Paris and Italy, this lyrical first novel interweaves two parallel love stories, offering readers a unique view on the research and inspiration that goes into creating historical novels such as The Girl with the Pearl Earring and The Birth of Venus.

About the Author
Gina Buonaguro was born in New Jersey and now resides in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Janice Kirk was born and lives in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The Sidewalk Artist is their first novel.
Discussion Questions

1) The chapter titles form a poem (see below). What does the poem mean? From whose point of view is it written? When are they speaking?

2) Tulia’s present story influences the past story/ her novel. Give examples of this. Also, how does the past story influence the present? Provide examples of this as well.

3) How does the sidewalk artist influence and steer Tulia’s novel?

4) Find examples of how clues to the ending can be found right from the beginning of the novel.

5) What are the various incarnations of Raphael? Do you think one is more proven and/or truer than any other? Give examples.

6) What is the role of italics in the novel? Look especially at the love scene at the Tuscan villa as well as the epilogue.

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