



## SVEVA CAETANI: Recapitulation – A Journey

*"From darkness, she painted a path to light"*

A MODERN VISUAL DIVINE COMEDY

From Exile to Transcendence – A Visionary Tale Inspired  
By a Noble Lineage and a Life of Confinement.

Dear Exhibition Curator,

I'm pleased to introduce Sveva Caetani – Recapitulation: A Journey, an independently produced, feature-length immersive film that brings to life the extraordinary, yet little-known story of Italian-Canadian artist Sveva Caetani (1917–1994). This cinematic work is a modern visual Divine Comedy, interpreting Sveva's epic 56-painting masterwork Recapitulation—a powerful allegorical journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise.

The timing of this film is particularly significant: from October 2, 2025 to January 2026, the MAXXI Museum of Modern Art in Rome will present the first-ever international exhibition of Sveva's full Recapitulation series. The film offers a rare opportunity to accompany this historic moment with a poetic and emotional cinematic experience that can reach audiences worldwide.

Sveva Caetani was the last surviving member of the noble Caetani lineage—descendants of Pope Boniface VIII, whose exile of Dante inspired the Divine Comedy. In a tragic echo of that exile, Sveva was withdrawn from society for over two decades following the death of her beloved father, Prince Leone Caetani—an Islamic scholar, liberal parliamentarian, and visionary thinker. Her mother, psychologically fragile and deeply fearful of abandonment, clung to Sveva as her sole companion. Out of this dependency, Sveva was forbidden to leave the house and grounds, except for necessities for twenty-five years.

Denied the chance to pursue education, freedom, and what she loved most—painting—following the death of her mother, Sveva re-emerged in midlife to create her luminous spiritual journey in paint. Recapitulation is both a testament to personal liberation and a universal expression of endurance, vision, and the resilience of the creative spirit.

This film is not a conventional documentary. It features poetic narration drawn from Sveva's own writings, accompanied by a haunting original score, symbolic animations by

Armenian filmmaker Nikita Bagratuni, and immersive sound design. The result evokes something more powerful than a living gallery—an experience that is meditative, revelatory, and emotionally stirring.

Uniquely, the film was designed to be modular and easily adapted into multiple languages and formats. Using advanced AI tools for vocal and musical customization, we can offer localised versions with minimal post-production—opening doors to multilingual distribution and culturally resonant screenings worldwide.

As a Canadian artist, longtime friend of Sveva, and original publisher of *Recapitulation*, I have self-funded this project to honour her legacy and to share her story with global audiences. I'm now seeking collaborators—screening venues, festival partners, and distributors—who recognise the cultural, artistic, and emotional power of this work.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I would be honoured to share the trailer (currently in final production), and explore opportunities for theatrical screening, licensing, or international release.

Warm regards,

*Heidi Thompson*

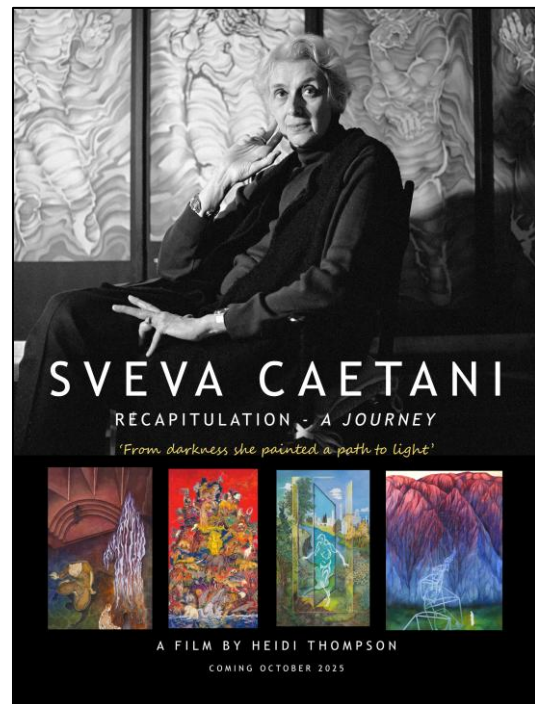
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A feature-length immersive animated art  
film directed and produced by  
Heidi Thompson