

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## THE ARTIST AND THE BOOK IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY ITALY

Through February 16, 1993

An exhibition of more than 175 books and periodicals created by Italian artists, the first thorough review of this material to be presented in the United States, is on view at The Museum of Modern Art through February 16, 1993. **THE ARTIST AND THE BOOK IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY ITALY** ranges from Futurist manifestoes and booklets from the early part of the century through works that feature etchings, lithographs, and screenprints by prominent contemporary artists.

The exhibition, which coincides with the quincentennial of Christopher Columbus's discoveries, has been organized by guest curator Ralph Jentsch, specialist in early twentieth-century art and illustrated books, and coordinated for The Museum of Modern Art by Riva Castleman, director, Department of Prints and Illustrated Books.

Installed chronologically, **THE ARTIST AND THE BOOK IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY ITALY** features works by such artists as Enrico Baj, Giorgio de Chirico, Francesco Clemente, Lucio Fontana, Giorgio Morandi, Umberto Mastroianni, and Giuseppe Santomaso (complete list of artists attached).

Italy dominated book production in the five decades following Gutenberg's invention of movable type in the mid-fifteenth century. Again, in the early decades of this century, Italian writers and artists made major contributions to the art of the illustrated book when the Futurists

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broadcasted their aesthetic and political positions in unique formats. The exhibition includes such Futurist examples as Filippo Tomasso Marinetti's *Zang Tumb Tumb* (1914) and several manifestoes (1910-15), Fortunato Depero's *Depero Futurista* (1927), and Tullio D'Albisola's *Parole in Libertá Futurista* (1934).

The majority of the books in the exhibition date from the years after World War II, when Italian books began to take on their own character. Indeed, within twenty years of the war's end, artists, writers, and printers had reanimated Italy's publishing tradition. The early postwar years are amply represented in the exhibition, with works by such artists as Alberto Burri, Renato Guttuso, and Giacomo Manzù.

Among books made in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the exhibition includes examples by members of the group known as Arte Povera, whose work in all mediums defied formal and stylistic convention. In using the book form, these artists -- such as Jannis Kounellis, Mario Merz, and Michelangelo Pistoletto -- worked not to complement or extend the text of an author, but to create books which would serve as the primary vehicle of their own ideas. Merz's 1970 *Fibonacci 1202*, which consists of a series of numbers and plans for one of his constructions, is a typical example.

As artists returned to painting on canvas in the late 1970s and 1980s, many were commissioned to create books by publishers both in Italy and abroad. Among the most recent books represented in the exhibition are a tale from Aesop's *Fables* with a print by Enzo Cucchi (1991) and a book by a Salvatore Licitra with fold-out etchings by Mimmo Paladino (1991).

**THE ARTIST AND THE BOOK IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY ITALY** reveals the ways in which the book as an artwork -- be it an illustrated text, a poem accompanied by prints, a conceptual artist's book, or an object that imitates a book --

both lends itself to a wide variety of creative expression and expands upon the artist's efforts in other mediums.

A brochure by Riva Castleman, made possible by a grant from IFI International (IFINT), is available to the public in the exhibition.

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PUBLICATION *The Artist and The Book in Twentieth-Century Italy* by Ralph Jentsch. Approximately 360 pages. 120 color and 480 black-and-white illustrations. Published by Società Editrice Umberto Allemandi & C., Turin. Paperbound; available at The MoMA Book Store.

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For further information and photographic materials, contact Lucy O'Brien, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9755.

## THE ARTIST AND THE BOOK IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY ITALY

October 14, 1992 - February 16, 1993

### Artists Represented in the Exhibition

Valerio Adami (b. 1935)  
Afro (Afro Basadella; 1912-1976)  
Vincenzo Agnetti (1926-1981)  
Auro d'Alba (1888-1965)  
Alessandro Algardi (b. 1945)  
Giovanni Anselmo (b. 1934)  
Attilio Antibo (b. 1930)  
Rodolfo Aricò (b. 1930)  
Enrico Baj (b. 1924)  
Giacomo Balla (1871-1958)  
Roberto Barni (b. 1939)  
Anna Maria Bartolini (20th century)  
Gianfranco Baruchello (b. 1924)  
Mario Benedetti (b. 1938)  
Mirella Bentivoglio (b. 1922)  
Gianni Bertini (b. 1922)  
Umberto Boccioni (1882-1916)  
Agostino Bonalumi (b. 1935)  
Eros Bonamini (b. 1942)  
Yasmin Brandolini d'Adda (b. 1929)  
Alberto Burri (b. 1915)  
Umberto Buscioni (b. 1931)  
Massimo Campigli (1895-1971)  
Francesco Cangiulo (1884-1977)  
Domenico Cantatore (b. 1942)  
Giuseppe Capogrossi (1902-1972)  
Vito Capone (b. 1935)  
Arturo Carmassi (b. 1925)  
Eugenio Carmi (b. 1920)  
Carlo Carrà (1881-1966)  
Luciano Caruso (b. 1944)  
Leonardo Castellani (1896-1984)  
Bruno Ceccobelli (b. 1952)  
Sandro Chia (b. 1946)  
Giorgio De Chirico (1888-1978)  
Francesco Clemente (b. 1952)  
Pietro Consagra (b. 1920)  
Bruno Conte (b. 1939)  
Primo Conti (b. 1900)  
Roberto Crippa (1921-1972)  
Enzo Cucchi (b. 1949)  
Sergio Dangelo (b. 1931)  
Fortunato Depero (1892-1960)  
Mario Diacono (b. 1930)  
Chiara Diamantini (b. 1949)  
Piero Dorazio (b. 1927)  
Luciano Folgore (1888-1966)  
Lucio Fontana (1899-1968)

Marco Gastini (b. 1938)  
Franco Gentilini (1909-1981)  
Arnaldo Ginna (1890-1982)  
Corrado Govoni (1884-1965)  
Renzo Grazzini (b. 1912)  
Giuseppe Guerreschi (1929-1985)  
Renato Guttuso (1912-1987)  
Emilio Isgrò (b. 1937)  
Adolfo de Karolis (1874-1928)  
Jannis Kounellis (b. 1936)  
Leo Lionni (b. 1910)  
Alberto Magnelli (1888-1971)  
Piero Manzoni (1933-1963)  
Giacomo Manzù (1908-1991)  
Umberto Mariani (b. 1936)  
Filippo Tommaso Marinetti (1876-1944)  
Marino Marini (1901-1980)  
Arturo Martini (1889-1947)  
Sandro Martini (b. 1941)  
Giovanni Martinucci (b. 1947)  
Umberto Mastroianni (b. 1910)  
Fausto Melotti (1901-1986)  
Mario Merz (b. 1925)  
Luciano Minguzzi (b. 1911)  
Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920)  
Gianni Monnet (b. 1912)  
Giorgio Morandi (1890-1964)  
Marcello Morandini (b. 1940)  
Bruno Munari (b. 1907)  
Maurizio Nannucci (b. 1939)  
Gastone Novelli (1925-1968)  
Mimmo Paladino (b. 1948)  
Aldo Palazzeschi (1885-1974)  
Giulio Paolini (b. 1941)  
Claudio Parmiggiani (b. 1943)  
Achille Perilli (b. 1927)  
Cesare Peverelli (b. 1922)  
Ercole Pignatelli (b. 1935)  
Lamberto Pignotti (b. 1926)  
Michelangelo Pistoletto (b. 1933)  
Piero Pizzicannella (b. 1955)  
Arnaldo Pomodoro (b. 1926)  
Giò Pomodoro (b. 1930)  
Giancarlo Pozzi (b. 1938)  
Enrico Prampolini (1894-1956)  
Balilla Pratella (1880-1955)  
Enzo del Prato (b. 1924)  
Franco Ravedone (1941-1992)  
Rosa Rosa (b. 1884-1978)  
Luigi Russolo (1885-1947)  
Giuseppe Santomaso (1907-1990)  
Giulio Aristide Sartorio (1860-1930)

Angelo Savelli (b. 1911)  
Alberto Savinio (b. 1891-1952)  
Emilio Scanavino (1922-1986)  
Gino Severini (1883-1966)  
Ardengo Soffici (1879-1964)  
Mauro Staccioli (b. 1937)  
Marcello Tommasi (b. 1928)  
Anna Torelli (b. 1927)  
Walter Valentini (b. 1928)  
Emilio Vedova (b. 1919)  
Luigi Veronesi (b. 1908)  
Lorenzo Viani (1882-1936)  
Emilio Villa (b. 1914)  
Luciano de Vita (b. 1929)  
Vlt (Vincenzo Fani Ciotti; 1888-1927)  
Anthony de Witt (1876-1967)  
Gilberto Zorio (b. 1944)