PAGES: MIRELLA BENTIVOGLIO, SELECTED WORKS 1966 – 2012
PRESENTED BY THE
POMONA COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

The exhibition “Pages: Mirella Bentivoglio, Selected Works 1966 – 2012,” will be on view Jan. 20 - May 17, 2015, at the Pomona College Museum of Art (330 N. College Avenue, Claremont, CA). The opening reception will be at the Museum and will take place on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015, from 5 – 7 p.m.

A curator’s talk entitled “Mirella Bentivoglio: Visual Poet, Curator, Art Critic,” by Dr. Frances Pohl, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 4:15 p.m. A lecture by Los Angeles-based artist John D. O’Brien entitled “Reflections on Mirella Bentivoglio” will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 12 p.m. On Thursday, April 2, Dr. Leslie Cozzi will discuss “Visual Poetry International: Image and Text in the Art of the 1960s and 1970s.” All three events will be in Pomona’s Lebus Court, room 113 (145 E. Bonita Avenue, Claremont, CA).

Mirella Bentivoglio, one of the key figures in the Concrete and Visual Poetry movements, began earning recognition in the 1960s first in Italy and then internationally. A visual poet, art critic, art historian and curator, Bentivoglio continues to engage with the relationship between language and image through works in paper, stone, wood and a variety of other media, and through three-dimensional interventions in public spaces and performance. This exhibit includes a wide variety of work, from collages, prints and photographs to artists books and mixed media assemblages, as well as photographic reproductions of three public art projects.

In her work, Bentivoglio undertakes a conceptual recycling, bringing together these objects and letters in new ways, calling attention to the intricate workings of language in creating meaning in our daily lives. Her intent is not to create precious objects, but to discover a poetic dimension in the found object (e.g. a photograph in a magazine, a worn 17th-century carving, a crushed soda can) or in the mundane materials of the commercial art world (e.g. letraset, plexiglas).

Through her poetic sensibility and wry wit, she encourages us to re-think the icons of power that surround us, to become aware of the cultural assumptions embedded in languages and images and of the subversive potential of bringing the two together in new ways. Her work is informed by the emergence of feminism in Italy, and Europe in
general, and she has contributed immensely to the expansion of opportunities for Italian women artists to exhibit their work through her activities as a curator and a critic.

Bentivoglio has been the focus of over 65 solo exhibitions in Europe, the U.S. and Japan and her work has been included in over 1,000 group exhibitions throughout the world. Her publications include: three books of poetry (Giardino, 1943; Calendario, 1968; Jet-P68, 1976), a collection of art criticism (La Collezione Astaldi, 1971), a history (with Franca Zoccoli) of Italian Futurist women artists (Women Artists of Italian Futurism, Midmarch, 1997, with an expanded Italian edition; Futuriste Italiane nelle Arti Visive, De Luca Editore D’Arte, 2008), and a book on the American artist Ben Shahn (Ben Shahn, De Luca Editore D’Arte, 1964).

Bentivoglio has also organized exhibitions of the work of artists from throughout the world who are part of the Concrete and Visual Poetry movements or who are interested in the relationship between language and image. In 2002, she was awarded the Silver Plate of the President of the Italian Republic in recognition of her distinguished career as an artist.

The exhibition “Pages: Mirella Bentivoglio, Selected Works 1966 – 2012” was organized by Dr. Frances K. Pohl, the Pomona College Dr. Mary Ann Vanderzyl Reynolds ’56 Professor of Humanities and a professor of art history. A generously-illustrated catalogue, edited by Pohl and designed by Kimberly Varella of Content Object, accompanies the exhibition and includes contributions by Rosaria Abate, Mirella Bentivoglio, Leslie Cozzi, Kathleen Howe, Benjamin Kersten, John D. O’Brien, Pohl, and Franca Zoccoli.

About Pomona College Museum of Art
The Pomona College Museum of Art is located at 330 N. College Avenue, Claremont. The Museum is open to the public free of charge Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday, from noon to 11 p.m. For more information, call (909) 621-8283 or visit the museum’s Website: www.pomona.edu/museum.

The Pomona College Museum of Art houses a substantial permanent collection as well as serving as a gallery for the display of temporary exhibitions. Important holdings include the Kress Collection of 15th- and 16th-century Italian panel paintings; more than 5,000 examples of Pre-Columbian to 20th-century American Indian art and artifacts; and a large collection of American and European prints, drawings, and photographs.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE
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