

LA BIBLIOTECA

Artists' Books from Los Angeles/Italia

La Biblioteca is an exhibition of thirty-two handmade, or produced, artist's books by eight artists from various parts of Italy, and eight Los Angeles-based artists. In the title, the presence of the Italian word "Biblioteca", translated in English to mean 'library', alludes not only to the participation of Italian artists but also to contents related to Italian culture, also present in the works of the American artists. Also, alluded to by the title, the 'LA' is an article with double meaning: not only is the article suitable for the term library in Italian meaning 'the' in its feminine form, but it is also the acronym of Los Angeles (LA), the county hosting this exhibition.

The books on display, one or more by each artist, range from a single copy to a graphic book in limited series. The shape of each book varies, from the browsable book to a scroll that is laid out, from the object book to the book composed of several tabular components. Each book is made through the use of various materials. In addition to paper and cardboard media, exhibited books are also fabricated using cloth, wood, assorted materials, and glass. Production techniques range from computerized ones, to embroidery, from painting to photography, from collage to animation.

The exhibition is guest-curated by Raffaella Lupi, John David O'Brien and Stefania Severi who have been dealing with artist books for years. The Italian artists are: Francesca Cataldi, Eleonora Cumer, Vittorio Fava, Koefia High Fashion Academy (sketchbooks by Roberta Elena Buema and Cécile Roingard-Islasse), Luigi Manciocco, Riccardo Pieroni, Lydia Predominato, and Maria Grazia Tata. The local American artists included in the exhibition are: Allison Laytin Dalton, Mary Addison Hackett, Nancy Monk, John David O'Brien, Stas Orlovski, Carolie Parker, Steve Roden, and Susan Sironi.

Michele Cairella Fillmore, Curator
Kellogg and Huntley Art Galleries

Meet the Guest Co-Curators



Photo Credit: Manuela Giusto

Raffaella Lupi is a Gallerist, curator, expert in the history of applied arts and restoration. Her experience as a teacher of decorative arts, history of restoration and marketing and her collaboration with important public institutions and private collections, reveal her passion for different cultures and eras. In 1988 she founded the Sinopia Gallery, in the heart of Rome, an exhibition space created with the aim of promoting dialogue between the ancient, modern and contemporary arts. It was an ambitious and expansive project to protect, disseminate and pass on this artistic heritage. Raffaella Lupi's work pays great attention to the experimentation with materials and to the enhancement of applied arts, giving the Gallery a strong multidisciplinary vocation. In this sense, the meetings with some artists such as Francesca Cataldi, protagonist of fiber arts and its multiple forms, Nino Caruso and all the artists of contemporary ceramic sculpture, Marussia Kalimerova and Lydia Predominato for fiber art leading up to Vito Capone, through whom the in-depth study on artist's books was born that inspired the exhibition 'Contexts-Contexts RM-LA' curated with Stefania Severi and John David O'Brien in the spaces at Galleria Sinopia.

In recent years, her research has focused more on contemporary ceramic sculpture and fiber art, organizing exhibitions in private places (Galleria Sinopia, Sio2; Spazio delle Cinque Lune, *The Lab*; Palazzo delle Pietre, *Pietra Plasmata*) and institutions such as the Museum of the Walls of Rome, *TerraeMota*; National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome, *Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture in Italy*; Scuderie Aldobrandini, Fra-scati, BACC; and the last exhibition set up at the Museums of Villa Torlonia, Casina delle Civette, *Alchemy of Earth and Light; The Thousand Faces of Guerrino Tramonti's Ceramics* (September 2020) dedicated to Master Tramonti, and co-curated with Stefania Severi.

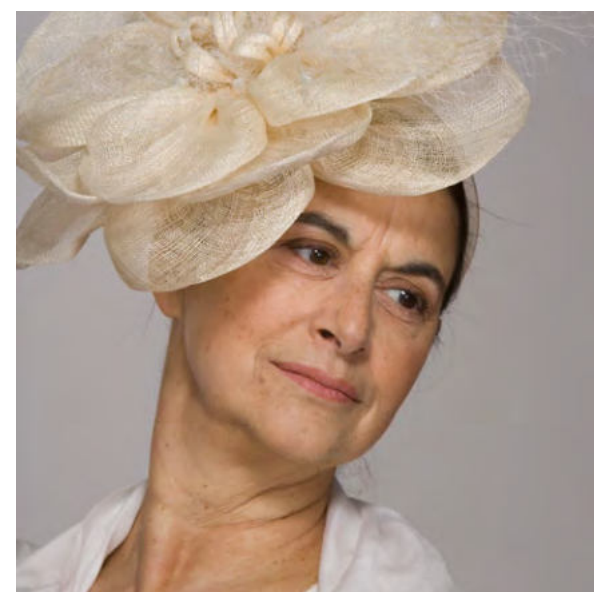


Photo Credit: Fotoficina Roma

Stefania Severi, Roman, art historian, professor of art history in various colleges, she is currently a lecturer at the Alta Moda Koefia Academy in Rome. Art critic, member of the "Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art", she has curated more than 70 exhibitions in public spaces, in Italy and abroad (France, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, Poland, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus), with related catalogs, and has written critical essays on numerous artists. She is responsible for the artistic sector of the Coop. Social Apriti Sesamo ONLUS of Rome. Publicist journalist, she collaborates with various newspapers, including *Voce Romana*, and is editorial secretary of the magazine *Lazio ieri e oggi*. Particularly attentive to the art, history and customs of Rome and Lazio, she published: *I Teatri di Roma* (Rome 1989, *Donna Città di Roma Award*), *A Century of Rome* (Ten itineraries to discover modern Rome, edited by the Department of Communication and Tourism of the Municipality of Rome, 2000), *Wine in Rome and Lazio* (2006), *Santa Maria in Montesanto, the Church of the Artists of Rome* (2010), *The mosaics in Rome from antiquity to the Middle Ages* (2015). Among the other publications: the novel *Vostra Veronica, life and loves of a courtesan* (Rome, 1996), and the essays *L'Essenza della solitudine, life of Dolore Prato* (Rome, 2002), winning the National Prize for the essay *Il country of women and Dolores Prato, voice outside the choir* (Ancona, 2007). Her stories, essays and poems are included in various publications. She wrote the plays: *Noantri, history of Rome in pills*, *I Giulia Domna, The story of Sempronia*. She is a member of the Soroptimist International Club Roma Tiber of the Italian Union.



Photo Credit: Todd Gray

John David O'Brien has degrees in studio art an (MFA) from the USC, with an emphasis in three-dimensional work, an (AA.BB.) degree from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma, Rome, in drawing and decorative arts, a (Magistero) degree from the Istituto Statale D'Arte di Urbino, Urbino, Italy for printmaking and was qualified as a Master Printer by the Calcografia Nazionale (National Etching Institute) in Rome, Italy. He was the recipient of a California Community Foundation Artist Fellowship in 2012, a City of Los Angeles Artist Grant in 1998 and a Fulbright Research Grant in 1994. He has had solo and group exhibitions in Los Angeles, Rome and New York among other locations since 1980, and has participated as an artist in guest curating at Cal Poly Pomona several times.

The Cal Poly Pomona campus community and the Kellogg and Huntley Galleries are grateful for the contributions of these Guest Curators and welcome them and all the participating artists in this international exhibition.

