

Press Release



**ITALIAN EDUCATIONAL & CENTER FOR THE ARTS
AT CASA COLOMBO – JERSEY CITY – NJ – USA**

Presents

***Danila Ghigliano – Silvia Beccaria*
THE ARTIST'S BOOK
FROM THE LITERATURE TO THE VISUAL LANGUAGE**

October 7th to 27th 2017

Curators:

Raffaella Giordana, Silvana Nota with the collaboration of Giulio Mosca

Opening Reception October 7th, 4 - to 7pm.

380 Monmouth Street – Jersey City

Exhibition included in

The Jersey City Art & Studio Tour (JCAST)

October 13th to 15th 2017

From October 7th to October 27th 2017, the historical headquarters of the **Italian Educational & Cultural Center for the Arts at CASA COLOMBO** in Jersey City (formerly known as MACC), will host **The Artist's Book. From the Literature to the Visual Language**.

The exhibition is **curated by Raffaella Giordana and Silvana Nota, with the collaboration of Giulio Mosca**, and showcases works by artists **Danila Ghigliano** and **Silvia Beccaria** as outstanding examples of Italian excellence.

The event is part of the **prestigious Jersey City Art & Studio Tour (JCAST)**, scheduled for **October 13th to 15th 2017**, and is held during the Month of Italian Culture in nearby New York City.

Promoted by the Italian Educational & Cultural Center for the Arts at CASA COLOMBO, with the special commitment of executive director Carla Truncellito Mastropiero – who managed the international project in Jersey City's center for the

arts – and setup design by Raffaella Giordana, the exhibition will be held in an evocative 1936 building, built by the Italian community as a school for their children.

The building was preserved and improved by Italian volunteers for its historical value, and over time became the location of the Museum of Italian Immigration under the direction of Carla Truncellito Mastropierro; Truncellito Mastropierro ideated the museum in 2012, based on a project by Italian curators Raffaella Giordana, Giulio Mosca and Silvana Nota, in collaboration with the CASA COLOMBO network.

Later, the building became a center for the development of visual arts: a new journey in step with the institution's mission, which aims to keep Italian culture alive and promote it, in connection with the American territory where it is located.

Evolving by design, the **Italian Educational & Cultural Center for the Arts at CASA COLOMBO** has further developed today with a specific vocation for the arts.

The Artist's Book. From the Literature to the Visual Language is a new step forward in continuity with a project that **began between Italy and the United States in 2012**, and represents a new contribution of research and collaboration between the Italian and the American parties.

The exhibition's central theme is the relationship between literature and artistic gesture: from this starting point the two artists have begun a research process that led, with different interdisciplinary variations and similarities, to ***The Artist's Book***.

The two art professionals both create works that with different, fascinating outcomes create bridges between past and present, explore the widest range of possibilities – in an expressive journey that is deeply experimental and contemporary, with roots in Europe's historical avant-garde movements – and now achieve great strength and unexpected interpretative potential.

Danila Ghigliano is a visual artist and Fine Arts Academy professor in Cuneo.

She carries out research on writing – ranging from poetry to literature, from cinema to theater – which she translates into *installation-sculptures, book-sculptures, non-written writings, artists' books, and travel journals*.

Her body of work also includes a rich and growing collection of imaginary postcards, colored and written like traveling poems that were never sent.

The use of papier-mâché as the specific technique and material on which she overlays paint and pigments allows her to mold light and three-dimensional sculptures. She references authors such as Orson Wells, Kafka, Pessoa, Ungaretti, Paul Valéry... but also Greek culture, rock music and much more. It was by listening to this myriad of voices that she created the **"Breath of the world"** series ("Il sospiro del mondo"), which is also the title of the cycle she is presenting in the exhibition.

www.danilagigliano.blogspot.it

Silvia Beccaria has a degree in philosophy, a master's degree in art therapy and a specialization in textile crafts as an artistic code. Her work is a means to reach the heart of an explicitly cultured art. Her use of the loom to create her installations reflects her conceptual will to capture the multiple expressive opportunities offered by ancient crafts, as a vector of millenary knowledge and history.

The thematic cycle she presents at Casa Colombo is titled *Aracne: la sfida ordita* ("**Arachne: A Warped Challenge**" – translator's note: the original name is a play on word between the Italian "ordito", meaning warp, and "ardito", meaning daring); the cycle is named after a work in which she starts by analyzing the word "testo" ("text"), deriving from the Latin *textus*, and explores its metaphor, the tangle of thought that opens new horizons of evolution and culture. Her installation has a performance quality to it (with an environment in which people can enter and immerse themselves), and features excerpts from works by masters of literature, from Dante to Ovid, from Tasso to Foscolo and all the way to Italo Calvino and Primo Levi.

www.silviabeccaria.it

Within the exhibition, a workshop on Travel Journals will be held on October 20th and 21st 2017 at the headquarters of the Italian Educational & Cultural Center for the Arts at CASA COLOMBO.

Workshop lead: Danila Ghigliano

Assistant: Eleonora Visconti

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