



Ex-Filanda, former spinning mill in Maniago, venue of the exhibition

2nd VALCELLINA AWARD, YOUNG TEXTILE ARTISTS IN ITALY

Held in Maniago, Italy, from 18 January to 1 March 1998, this important public initiative displayed pieces made by Italian students, aged 30 and under, in the light spaces of an old silk mill.

The works created by those young artists differed in quality, dimension, materials, technique and expression. They included traditional tapestry interwoven with fragments of wood and terracotta; a network of cloth ribbons arranged geometrically; macramé made from thick plant fibres; lace; an abstract sculpture made from wood, metal and nylon netting; a sculpture made from coloured wood shavings, with synthetic threads hanging from an acrylic glass sky; gauzes soaked in coloured inks that were moulded to suggest a female body shape and spread with flower petals; transparent polythene padded with metallic netting in the shape of an empty garment.

The prizes to be won in the Young Italian Textile Artists' Competition (Premio Nazionale Valcellina) were presented to Vania Falcomer (1st prize), Antonino Ranalli (2nd prize), and Eleonora Censorii (3rd prize). The Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region

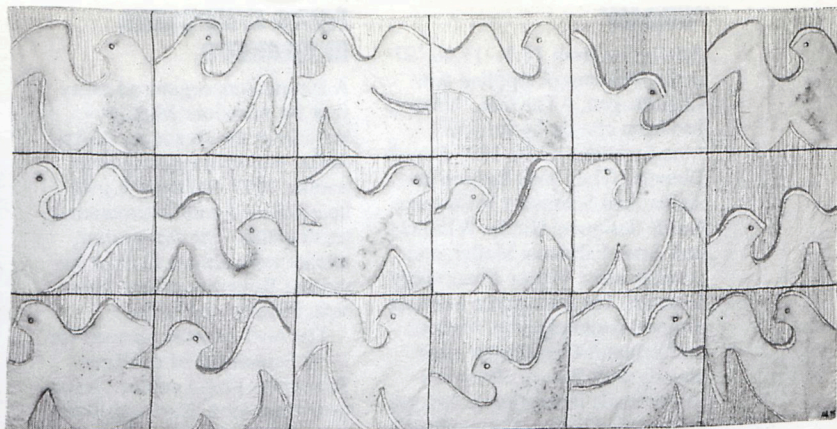
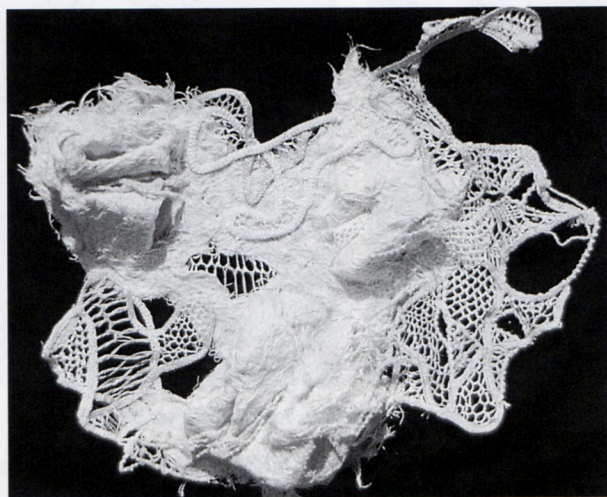
Special Prize was awarded to Anna Fadini, and the Special Mention of the Menocchio Cultural Centre, Montereale Valcellina, went to Mariavittoria Sargentini.

The "Premio Valcellina" is a praiseworthy event which overcomes the Italian silence as regards fibre art, stimulating young people to renew it, be aware of it and to give it currency.

It has to be explained that, although Italy leads the world markets in terms of fabric quality and design, textile teaching only takes place at secondary school level, with the exception of some regions where it is taught at the State Schools of Art and Technology. However, textile departments do not exist at university level. Besides, the fibre art situation is very difficult since specialist art galleries, museums and publications are scarce. Thus all initiatives that involve institutions, artists, critics and young people are very welcome!

The panel of judges consisted a. o. of Lydia Predominato & Gina Morandini (co-founder of "Centro le Arti Tessili"), *Renata Pompas*

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Martha Nieuwenhuijs/Italy: 'Colombe', 1995, 220 x 110 cms

'FILO LUNGO FILO'

Exhibition and symposium on 20/21 Sept. 1997 at the historic Leumann factory workers' village near Turin.

Organised by an association called Friends of the Leumann School, this event was entitled 'Filo Lungo Filo, una noda si farà (Thread, Long Thread, a knot is produced)'. The program included contributions on the history of the textile crafts, lectures on natural fibres and jacquard weaving as well as an introduction of a publication called 'L'Intreccio e Colore (Weaves and Colours)' by Marthe Nieuwenhuijs*).



*) The book was published by Il Castello publishers in Italian language, but it contains many drawings and illustrations that make it accessible to non-Italian speakers. - Mail order address (price: 25,000 lira): Il Castello, via Ravizza 16, I-20149 Milan; tel: +39-2/462010



Valcellina-Prize, above: Clara Luiselli 'Rivelazioni', 60 x 100 cms
Left: Lucia Pagliuca 'Via lattea', 55 x 45 x 8 cms, lace technique