

Giovanni Fontana

A multifarious artist, performer and architect, the author of several published works both in traditional and in multimedial form, Giovanni Fontana was born at Frosinone in 1946 and lives and works at Alatri. He is one of the founding fathers of visual and sound poetry. In the nineteen-seventies he began to work with Adriano Spatola, who published his *Radio/Dramma* (Geiger, 1977) a text lying between verbovisual poetry, paramusical writing, phonetism, action score, artist's book. In 1978 he joins the editors of "Tam Tam" and begins to step into the territories of international poetic experimentation, entering into working relationship with its most prominent members, from Dick Higgins to John Giorno, Henri Chopin, Bernard Heidsieck, Julien Blaine, Jean-Jacques Lebel. In 1979 he founds with Arrigo Lora Totino, Adriano Spatola, Giulia Nicolai, Milli Graffi and other Italian sound poets, the "Dolce Still Suono" group. He worked for a long time with the magazine "Anterem" and has been coeditor of "Baobab" (Phonetic poetry information) and "Altri Termini". He has founded the magazine of multimedial poetry "La Taverna di Auerbach" and "Momo". He is at present working with the editors of "Doc(k)s" (Francia), "Inter-Art actuel" (Canada), "Bérénice" e "Le Arti del Suono". He is managing editor of "Territori", a magazine of architecture and other languages.

He is the author of "sound novels", among others *Tarocco Meccanico* (Altri Termini, 1990) and *Chorus* (Manni, 2000). With "Questione di scarti" (Polimata, 2012) he has won the Feronia Prize. In Ireland he has published the verbo-visual text *Wasted time* (Redfoxpress, 2011) and in France the intermedial work *Déchets* (Dernier Télégramme, 2014). As a theorizer of *pre-textual poetry* and of *epigenetic poetry*, he has written several essays, among others *La voce in movimento* (Harta performing, 2003) and *Poesia della voce e del gesto* (Sometti, 2004).

To performance with Nicola Frangione and Roberto Rossini he has dedicated the book *Italian Performance Art* (Sagep, 2015). He has edited for the magazine "il verri" the CD *Verbovocovisual, Anthology of sound poetry 1964- 2004*. A collection of texts intended for performance has been published in the book *Frammenti di ombre e penombre* (Fermenti, 2005). His production of sound poetry is represented in an ample range of records, including, among others, an LP published in 2016 for the "Recital" publishers of Los Angeles.

He has created flash operas with Antonio Poce and videopoems, both on his own and within the scope of the "Hermes Intermedia" group. He has recently produced the video *Poema Bonotto* carried out for the Foundation of that name. He has written poetry texts for several musicians, including Roman Vlad and Ennio Morricone, for whom he has written, among other things, the text for his *Elegia per l'Italia* for the celebration the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Italian unity.

He has submitted intermedial performances of visual poetry in Belgium, Canada, China, France, UK, Germany, Japan, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Hungary, USA and so on.

He has been present in about seven hundred exhibitions of visual poetry in Europe, in America, in Japan and in Australia, including the XVI Biennial de Sao Paulo (1981); XI Quadriennale of Rome (1986); Vitalità della Poesia

Visiva Italiana (Mercato del Sale, Milan 1987); Libri e pagine d'artista in Italia, (Forte Belvedere, Florence 1989); Scrittura e visualità (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence 1993); Musica e no (Santa Maria della Scala, Siena and Palazzo Ducale, Mantua 1998); Poesia Totale (Palazzo della Ragione, Mantua 1998); Leonardo in action & poetry (Museo Ideale, Vinci 2001); Brain Academy Apartment (50a Biennale of Venice, 2003), Poeti XXL; Maestri europei della Poesia visiva, (Chiari, Brescia, 2006); Biennale di Malindi, (Malindi, Kenya, 2006); Padiglione Italia (con Hermes Intermedia, 54^a Biennale of Venice, 2011); Palabras Imágenes y otros textos (Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, 2012); Visual Poetry. L'avanguardia delle neoavanguardie. Mezzo secolo di Poesia visiva, Poesia Concreta, Scrittura Visuale, (Castello Visconteo, Pavia, 2014); Progetto XXI. La scrittura visuale. La parola totale (Museo Nitsch, Naples, 2014); Viva l'Italia, Arte italiana del XX e XXI secolo, Galleria Civica di Bratislava (Palazzo Palfy, Bratislava, 2016), Venice International Performance Art Week (Palazzo Mora, Venice, 2016).

His creative work is expounded in the monographic book *Testi e pre-testi* (Texts and pre-texts) (Berardelli, Brescia, 2009).