

Maria Pina Bentivenga - Biography

“I obsessively chase geological traces that highlight the relationship between man and landscape. For me, Art is understood as knowledge and re-creation.”

Maria Pina Bentivenga was born in 1973 at Stigliano, in the province of Matera. In 1991 she relocated to Rome to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti, where she graduated in 1995 with Duilio Rossoni, going on to work with him for the following few years.

Her love for the graphic sign, finding shape in her work through pure drawing and copperplate engraving, pushed her to work with much determination since the time of her Accademia studies. Her lifelong fascination for landscape surfaces moved her research towards rediscovery of the traces left by man's passage in their coexistence with geological forces. Her artistic production developed from the paper sheet to book form to installation. Her works can be found in a large number of public collections both in Italy and abroad, including the Albertina in Vienna and the Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica in Rome.

A founding member of InSigna, a Rome-based association working to produce and promote artists' books and arts graphics, Bentivenga is member of the Associazione Incisori Contemporanei and board of the Fondazione Renate Herold Czaschka, committed to the study and dissemination of arts graphics and arts publishing.

Side by side with her research as an artist, her activities include working as a lecturer at RUFA (Rome University of Fine Arts) and the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome. She has also taught Engraving Techniques at the Scuola d'Arti Ornamentali of the Comune di Roma San Giacomo, and currently holds specialized workshops on engraving, letterpress and artists' books at the Atelier InSigna, in collaboration with Opificio della Rosa, Central Saint Martins University of the Arts in London and the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Solo Exhibition

2025

- Illune - Biblioteca Salita dei Frati - Lugano

2023

- Immediati dintorni - Istituto Centrale per la Grafica - Roma

2019

- A Wonderful Journey - Fabriano Paper Pavilion, a site specific installation commissioned for XIII UNESCO Creative Conference

2018

- Canto alla Pietra e alla Carne – Tito Balestra Foundation – Longiano (CE)

2016

- Contact of Land Chuan Yixuan - Maria Pina Bentivenga / Fabrizio Dell'Arno, Gallery- Taiyuan - Cina

2013

- Maria Pina Bentivenga – Engravings, Galleria Atelier, Rome
- Maria Pina Bentivenga – Printmaking works, Stamperia del Tevere - Rome

2011

- Attraversamenti, Solo Exhibition, Galleria Lombardi – Rome

2010

- Altri Luoghi, Ercoli Contemporary Art – Rome

2009

- Drawings and Engravings, X Edition Paese delle Donne Prize, Women's House - Rome

2007

- Superfici – TRART Gallery, Trieste
- Maria Pina Bentivenga – Engraving – Music's House, Trieste

2005

- Confini, Engravings and Oil, BluOrg Gallery – Bari
- Maria Pina Bentivenga, Engravings - Galleria La Scaletta – Matera

2001

- Fragmenta, Etching and Painting "L. Di Sarro" Contemporary Art Documentation Center – Rome

Exhibition – selection

2025

- Residenza Artistica presso Villi Filippi - Luino

2024

- Artista invitata al Festival Castelnuovo Fotografia
- Artista invitata alla Summer Exhibition della Royal Academy - Londra
- Residenza d'Artista presso la Fondazione il Bisonte di Firenze

2023

- Torri, installation and presentation of the catalogue, at Fedrigoni Creative Space, London Craft Week, London

- Annual Exhibition , Temple University - Rome

2022

- Artist nominated for the Queen Sonia Print Award 2022 - Oslo
- Artist in residence at Temple University - Rome
- Alfabeti riflessi Monumental Complex Colle del Duomo - Viterbo

2021

- Ignis, Residence project in collaboration with Appartengo and the municipality of Stigliano (MT)
- Comunione col fuoco, Canova Furnace - Rome
- Alfabeti riflessi Museums of Villa Torlonia, Casina delle Civette - Roma

2020

- Teatrini della Narrazione - Project in artist's residence with Appartengo and City hall of Stigliano (MT).
- Punto, Linea, Superficie, Artist's books Exhibition - City Museum - Rimini
- Èntasi - Architectur Home - Roma

2019

- Symbol award for the artist's book Lungamente alla Luna, Libri mai mai visti, Paloazzo Rasponi - Ravenna
- Segni e Parole - Contemporary engravings and artist's books, Stelio Crise Library - Trieste
- Resonance between civilization - Contemporary Italian prints exhibition, Guanlan - China

2018

- Encuentro – Impact 10 – International Conference of Printmaking, Santander – Spain
- Segni Incisi - Stelio Crise Library – Trieste
- Impronte Romane - Temple Gallery - Roma

2017

- Artiste al Lavoro, il Lavoro delle donne, La Cattedrale (ex Breda), Pistoia
- Segno, Sudestasi Contemporary Gallery, Ragusa
- Ruvidezze, Cartavetra Gallery, Firenze

2016

- Artiste al Lavoro, il Lavoro delle Donne, Palazzo della Ragione, Mantova
- Segno, LOC Space, Capo d'Orlando (ME)
- Dalle Pagine alle Pareti, L'Ariete Gallery, Bologna
- Acqua e Fango Acqui International Exhibition of artist's books
- Natura in foglio - Landscapes and visions in contemporary engraving - Benetton Foundation - Treviso
- Estampadura, European Triennial of Printmaking, Toulouse – France

2015

- Artist folder, commissioned of CGIL as a tribute to the high offices of the Italian state
- Artist invited Artist at I Biennial of Engraving "Giuseppe Maestri" - Ravenna
- Mistake – Book Artist's - 7th International Artist's Book Triennial-Vilnius
- VIII International Triennial of Engraving – Bitola - Macedonia
- Liberbook 2 – Parma
- XII Acqui Print, International Biennial of Engraving – Acqui Terme (AL)

2014

- The second International Printmaking Triennial Belgrado, Serbia
- Intagli e Morsure, Baraccano complex, Bologna
- Happy New Art 2014 – Atelier Gallery – Rome
- Riflessi della materia Philobiblon Gallery – Roma
- Una questione di carattere – Mondovì Printing Museum (AL);
- Artist invited at Ostrale 8 International Exhibition Contemporary Arts – Dresda;
- IMC Tokyo 2014 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan 2014 Invitation to participate in the group exhibition Geidai Art University Tokyo
- 47th California International Antiquarian Book Fair;

2013

- Fifth International Artist's Books. Budapest
- Liberbook Parma
- Biennale dell'Incisione Contemporanea – Bassano del Grappa (VI)
- Detto per inciso, 33 Italian artist at, Contemporary Printmaking Research Centre Kiev – Maisternia Gallery

2012

- Il Artist's Books Biennial Castel dell'Ovo, Napoli
- Coincidenze Casa degli Stampatori, Soncino (CR)
- XI Biennial of engraving and arts, Castelleone (CR)

- VII Biennial of contemporary italian engraving Campobasso
- VII International Graphik Tiennial Bitola – Macedonia
- 150 Noise 291 Es Galley, Roma
- Libriste Classense Librery, Ravenna
- Carte 2011, ideas, projects, works TRART Gallery – Trieste

2011

- Limen Arte Internazionale Prize 2011 Enrico Gagliardi's Biding – Vibonati
- Third Engraving Prize Maria Pina Bentivenga XV MASSENZIO ARTE Prize ISA Istituto Superiore Antincendi – Rome
- Artist invited at XXXVIII edition International exhibition of contemporary art – Sulmona Museum complex – Sulmona
- X International Biennial of engraving Acqui Terme (Alessandria) – Italy

2009

- IV National Biennial of engraving G. Polanschi Space Gallery Corte Torcolo, – Cavaion Veronese
- IX International Biennial of engraving Acqui Terme (Alessandria) – Italy

2008

- V International Biennial of Mini Prints Tetovo – Macedonia
- VIII Engraving Agello – Perugia, Italy

2007

- 7e Triennale Mondiale de L'Estampe et de la Gravure Originale AMAC – Chamalières (France)
- Signum V – International Exhibition of Contemporary Engraving Cittadella dell'Oasi, – Troina (Italy)
- L'arte e il Torchio - 5th International small engraving exhibition Museum "Ala Ponzone" – Cremona (Italy)
- Biennial of Contemporary Italian Engravings Villa Giustiniani Morosini – Mirano (Italy)

2006

- International Biennial of Engraving – "Nespereira Prize" Caixanova Banca de Galicia – Ourense (Spain)
- Artisti Emergenti Italiani Opera Theatre Gallery – Cairo (Egypt)

2005

- XII Biennale Internationale de la Gravure et des Nouvelles Images Ville de Sarcelles (France)
- Signum IV International engraving exhibition Troina (Italy)

2004

- International Biennial of Engraving Caixanova Banca de Galicia – Ourense (Spain)
- Repertorio degli Incisori Italiani – 4th Edition Gabinetto Stampe Antiche e Moderne – Bagnacavallo – Ravenna (Italy)

2003

- 2nd Engraving Biennial "Giuseppe Polanschi" Cavaion Veronese (Italy)
- XI Biennale Internationale de la Gravure et des Nuvelles Images Sarcelles (France)
- VI International Biennial of Engraving "Premio Acqui" Acqui Terme (Italy)

2002

- Honorable Mention at "VII Biennial Internacional de Grabado Julio Preito Nespereira" Caixanova – Ourense (Spain)
- 8th Edition of Graphical Biennial "Aspetti dell'incisione oggi in Italia" Gaarine (Italy)
- II Biennial of Contemporary Italian Engravings Campobasso (Italy)

2001

- 1st Engraving Biennial "Giuseppe Polanschi" Cavaion Veronese (Italy)
- Repertorio degli Incisori Italiani Gabinetto delle Stampe Antiche e Moderne – Bagnacavallo (Italy)
- "Segni incisi – Accademie di Roma" (as artist and organizer) RUFA Art Gallery
- Rome Collective Engraving touring Exhibition "Nel Segno dell'Incisione" Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, Mexico City

2000

- Printmaking Exhibition "La cultura dell'Apparire" Galleria Linati, Milano – Galleria Il Quadrato, Torino

1999

- Recommendation in 3rd edition of "Giovani Incisori Italiani" Engraving Triennial Contemporary Art Museum of Villa Croce – Genova (Italy)

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- Michela Becchis - Torri - Opificio della Rosa, Morciano di Romagna 2021
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- Marco Bussagli on Maria Pina Bentivenga Acqueforti Pio IX – Roma, 1999