

## Monica Dengo

Artist and designer Monica Dengo was born in Italy in 1966. She lived in San Francisco (USA) from 1993 to 2003 and now lives in Arezzo.

She teaches in Italy and the USA (Academy of Art, University of San Francisco), organises international workshops, and exhibits in Italy, Belgium, Finland and the USA. She studied design in Venice, ligature and calligraphy at Roehampton Institute in London, and miniature and gilding with Thomas Ingmire.

Publishing is an important part of Monica Dengo's multifaceted creation. The book BAB (*Book As Body*) was the result of an ambitious project to write the human body.

*Nudity is our medium. Writing shapes nudity, turns it into a body-text, then dresses it in a skin-like mesh of indecipherable signs.*

The idea of the suspended gesture and the body fully engaged in writing led Monica Dengo into a quasi scientific exploration of the physical process of writing and to this magnificent metaphor of the written body. To gain a better understanding of the act of calligraphy, she focused on the *face of words*, the *sounds of language* in the work of eastern calligraphers, Yu-Ichi Inowe in particular, and immersed herself in them before returning to her Western origins, invigorated by her journey into unknown scripts.

Christine Mache

Artist-Designer

[www.monicaDengo.com](http://www.monicaDengo.com)

[www.freehandwriting.net](http://www.freehandwriting.net)

Born in Italy in 1966, she has lived in San Francisco, California, from 1993 to 2003.

Currently she teaches in Italy, organizes international workshops and is invited to teach in many parts of the world (Italy, Germany, France, Japan, Usa).

Monica studied design in Venice (1991-1992) at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica; calligraphy and bookbinding in London (1992-1993) at the Roehampton Institute; Figure drawing with Eleanor Dickinson in San Francisco (1993-1996); design and miniature techniques with Thomas Ingmire in San Francisco (1993-1996).

Recently she has created the site [www.freehandwriting.net](http://www.freehandwriting.net) as point of reference for her students and is the co-founder and president of the Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche, a cultural non-profit organization based in Rome and Arezzo, Italy.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2008 : Espace Terres d'écritures - Grignan, France  
Calligraphic Metamorphosis. July 2 - August 31

2005 - Oakland, California Usa - Gallery Café 817.  
Has she fallen into silence? July 14 - September 13.

2004 - Carpi Modena, Italy, Palazzo Comunale.  
May, July.

2002 - San Francisco, California Usa.  
Installation at the Academy of Art University.

2001 - Ostmalle Belgium, Installation at the Calligraphy Conference.

2000 - San Francisco, California, International Calligraphy Conference - Performance.

1998 - Cittadella, Padova, Italy - Exhibition at the Palazzo Pretorio.  
Dal Segno alla Scrittura - May 1 - June 15.

1996 - Mountain View, California - Public Art permanent installation at the periodicals reading room. Silent Shapes in Space and Time, a collaborative work of Monica Dengo and Thomas Ingmire.

1995 - Oakland, California Usa- Galerie Café 817.  
The Arabian Nights. December 14 - February 13.

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2009 - Life & Dream, China PingYao International Photography Festival.  
Body as Book, represented by Charlet-photographies, Paris.

2009 - Chateau de Vogüé - Vogüé, France.  
Le Geste Suspendu, curated by Christine Macé, art historian and art dealer.  
June 28, September 20, 2009

2008 - Louisville, KY, Usa - University of Louisville - Hite Gallery  
Five from Four, curated by Steven Skaggs, University of Louisville.  
September 25, October 31.

2007 - Chicago, ILL, Usa - Newberry Library, Chicago Calligraphy Collective.  
Exploration 2007, Annual Juried Exhibition.

2007 - Milano, Italy - Bel Art Gallery.  
Body as Dream, collaboration project with Marco Ambrosi.

2006- Lahore, Pakistan  
Pakistan Calligraph-artists Guild

2006 - Guilford CT, Usa. Guilford Art Center.  
Responding to our World. Juried exhibition.

2005 - Helsinki, Finland. Calligraphy Society of Finland.  
Kirjainten voi ma (Power of Letters) Collective Juried Exhibition.

1999 - Iowa City, Usa. Iowa University. Iowa calligraphy association.  
Collective Exhibition.

1997 - Cittadella, Padova, Italy - Belle Lettere  
Collective Juried Exhibition. [www.bellelettere.it](http://www.bellelettere.it)

#### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

San Francisco Public Library, Special Collections.  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco CA 94102-4733

Mountain View Public Library. Public Art in the city of Mountain View.  
The Visual Arts Committee  
585 Franklin St  
Mountain View, CA 94041

The Ian and Susan Wilson Collection of Chinese Stones, Paintings, and Related Scholars' Objects. The Rock Book, by Monica Dengo

#### AWARDS:

2007 - Kaunas Lithuania, Kaunas photo festival.  
Body as Dream, collaborative work with photographer M.Ambrosi and poet T.Dhomp. Honorable mention.

2006 - Guilford Art Center, Guilford CT, USA  
Responding to our World. Juried exhibition. First prize.  
Letter Arts Review magazine, Vol.22 nr.1, fully dedicated to the show.

#### ARTICLES ON THE WEB:

[www.http://www.giornalesentire.it/](http://www.giornalesentire.it/)  
<http://www.giornalesentire.it/2009/agosto/1197/dengo--scrivodunque-sono-.html>

[www.lensculture.com](http://www.lensculture.com) web magazine.  
Body as Dream, collaborative work. Monica Dengo designer and calligrapher, M.Ambrosi photographer, Tsering W. Dhomp, poet.

[www.calligrafiar.com.ar](http://www.calligrafiar.com.ar). Entrevistas a Monica Dengo.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.dissezioni.wordpress.com/biografie>" [www.dissezioni.wordpress.com/biografie](http://www.dissezioni.wordpress.com/biografie)

#### PUBLICATIONS:

La Repubblica, Italian daily newspaper - July 28, 2009.  
Addio alla Scrittura. Intervento sull'articolo di  
Maria Novella de Luca.

ELLE magazine, april 2009.

Alphabet Journal, The Friends of Calligraphy Publication.  
Volume 24, nr.1, Fall 1998.  
Marking the Moment, an interview by Brooke Holve.

Alphabet Journal, The Friends of Calligraphy Publication.  
Volume 21, nr.3, Spring 1996.  
Monica Dengo: The Arabian Nights, reviewed by Arne Wolf.

Letter Arts Review Vol.13, nr.1.  
The Arabian Nights, story of an exhibition.  
by Monica Dengo.

Vivi il Grande Mondo della Penna Number 15, Year 4.  
Persian Models.

#### BOOKS:

Crayons en Main, editions Milan, 2008.  
<http://www.editionsmilan.com/>

Scrivere a Mano Libera, [www.freehandwriting.net](http://www.freehandwriting.net)

Monica also collaborates with:

#### Agencies

Landor, McCann Ercsson Italiana, ONDesign, CFNAPA, Deutch Design, Primo Angeli inc., Public Media Center, Tarcher/Putnam

#### Art Directors

Laura Beers, Chris Besett, Lisa Brussell, Carlo Buffa, Kathryne Ettinger, Marilyn Green, Kate Greene, Lorena Jones, Maria Keehan, Gary McDonald, Gina Orlando, Jonathan Padfield, Kevin Plottner, Mary Ellen Podgorski, Jim Warner, Michele Wetherbee, Lindsay Whiting.

#### Clients

Algida, Blimpie, Time Magazine, Findus, Harcourt Trade, Harper Collins Publishers, Heineken Italia, Klutz Press, Marchel Schurman, Mountain View Public Library, Pepsi Cola, Giannino Stoppani.

#### TEACHING CURRICULUM

2010:

TOKYO, Japan.  
Alfa Club Cultural Center.  
The Calligraphic Artist Book - May 29 to June 6, 2010.

FUKUOKA, Japan.  
Studio Ponte Cultural Center.  
The Calligraphic Artist Book - May 7th to May 23, 2010.

2009:

VENICE, Italy  
Correr Museum - Fondazione Musei Civici Veneziani  
The Art of Handwriting, International workshop  
August 21 to 28.  
Monica Dengo, calligrapher and main teacher.

Piero Lucchi, director of the Library.  
Monica Viero, curator of the Library.

HAMBURG, Germany.  
Private Study Group.  
The Calligraphic Artist Book - November 6,7,8, 2009.

AREZZO, Italy.  
BOOKS by HAND, International workshop.  
October 10-17, 2009  
organized and directed by Monica Dengo in collaboration with  
the Arezzo Public Library.  
Teachers: Monica Dengo and Cristina Balbiano.

VENICE, Italy.  
Biblioteca Museo Correr - Weekend workshops on historical hands  
and page design with direct study from historical manuscripts.  
Uncial Hand - Rotunda Gothic Hand - Merchant Hand - Contemporary Experimental Calligraphy.  
One weekend per month January through June and October through December.

Mirano, VENICE, Italy.  
ARCAM cultural association.  
Weekend workshops on Contemporary Experimental Calligraphy.  
November 2008 - December, 2009.

BOLZANO, UNIBZ, Free University - Faculty of Design and Art.  
Visiting professor: three days workshops, in collaboration with prof, Antonino Benincasa.  
April 2009.

MODENA, AREZZO, TERRANUOVA BRACCIOLINI, Public Elementary schools, Italy  
Courses for elementary teachers on teaching handwriting to children.  
Courses for middle school kids on calligraphy.  
Winter 2008-2009.

ROME, CIAC Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche e del Libro.  
Weekend workshops on historical hands, contemporary calligraphy, bookbinding.  
Winter 2008-2009

2008:

BOLZANO, UNIBZ, Free University - Faculty of Design and Art.  
Visiting professor: three days workshops, in collaboration with prof, Antonino Benincasa.  
December 2008.

AREZZO, Italy.  
BOOKS by HAND, International workshop.  
October 18-25, 2008 (9 days workshop)  
organized and directed by Monica Dengo in collaboration with  
the Arezzo Public Library.  
Teachers: Monica Dengo and Cristina Balbiano.

GERMANY,  
Schreibwerkstatt Klingspor, Offenbach.  
September 2008, three days workshop on:  
An Art of Space.

GRIGNAN, France.  
Terres d'Ecritures, Cultural Association and art gallery.

Un Livre d'Artiste  
July 3-5, 2008

ROME, CIAC Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche e del Libro.  
Weekend workshops on historical hands, contemporary calligraphy, bookbinding.  
Winter 2007-2008

VENICE, Italy.  
Biblioteca Museo Correr - Weekend workshops on historical hands  
and page design with direct study from historical manuscripts.  
Italic Handwriting - Rotunda Gothic Hand - Italic and contemporary handwriting.  
One weekend per month, January through June.

2007:

AREZZO, Italy.  
BOOKS by HAND, International workshop.  
October 20-29, 2007 (10 days workshop)  
organized and directed by Monica Dengo in collaboration with  
the Arezzo Public Library.  
Teachers: Monica Dengo and Cristina Balbiano.

SAN FRANCISCO, California  
Academy of Art University, Faculty of Design.  
Summer semester classes on calligraphy and experimental typography  
- Undergraduate program: Calligraphy  
- Graduate Program: Type Synthesis 1  
- Graduate Program: Type Synthesis 2

SAN DIEGO, California  
Private Study Group.  
Replace Legibility with Creativity

ROME, CIAC Centro Internazionale Arti Calligrafiche e del Libro.  
Weekend workshops on historical hands, contemporary calligraphy, bookbinding.  
Winter 2007-2008

VENICE, Italy.  
Biblioteca Museo Correr - Weekend workshops on historical hands  
and page design with direct study from historical manuscripts.  
Italic handwriting - Rotunda Gothic Hand - Roman Capitals.  
One weekend per month October through December.

2006:

UMBRIA, Italy.  
CALLIGRAPHY and GEOMETRY, International workshop.  
May 28 - June 16, 2006 (20 days workshop)  
Teachers: Monica Dengo and Mark Reynolds.

2005:

SAN FRANCISCO, California  
Academy of Art University, Faculty of Design.  
Summer semester classes on calligraphy and typography.  
- Undergraduate program: Calligraphy  
- Undergraduate program: Type

Launch of new Calligraphy Correspondence Program:  
[www.freehandwriting.net](http://www.freehandwriting.net)

2004:

UMBRIA, Italy

June 25 to August 10.

Researching new expressive lettering:  
a 5 weeks workshop in the heart of Umbria.

2000 to 2003:

SAN FRANCISCO, California.

Academy of Art University, Faculty of Design.

Fall, Spring and Summer Semesters

- Undergraduate program: Calligraphy
- Undergraduate program: typography 1
- Graduate program: Experimental Lettering.