

DADAMAINO
(1930 - 2004)



TornabuoniArt

Dadamaino, born Edoarda Emilia Maino, discovered her interest in art in the mid-1950's, after studying pharmacy. She quickly joined the main figures of the Italian avant-garde associated to Piero Manzoni's Galleria Azimut, as well as its German counterpart, the ZERO group.

Her work on light and shadow started in 1958 with the *Volumi* (Volumes): a series of monochromatic paintings perforated by large holes that revealed the wall behind them. In 1959, for the first time, she managed to present one of her *Volumes* at the Brera gallery as part of the exhibition "La donna nell'arte contemporanea" (Women in contemporary art), but her name did not appear on the catalogue. The same year, she participated in a collective exhibition at the Galleria Azimut under the name Maino and a solo exhibition was dedicated to her at the Galleria del Prisma in Milan.

In the early 1960's, Dadamaino turned to synthetic materials, using increasingly smaller perforations that allowed for an optic vibration effect, such as in *Volume a moduli sfasati*. She continued her experiments on the notion of variation with Optico-Dynamic objects, unambiguously becoming a part of Kinetic Art. In 1962 she joined the New Art Practice movement, and through 1967 she participated in numerous exhibitions in Europe as a member of that group.

From 1970 on her work took on a new direction and she focused her reflections on the notion of signs. Sixteen graphic signs and an imaginary alphabet were the base of a piece entitled *I fatti della vita* (The Facts of Life), where signs were regularly interrupted by "pauses". This creation was presented in 1980 at the Venice Biennial as part of a solo exhibition.

In 1983 the Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea in Milan dedicated a retrospective to her and she participated in another one entitled "Arte programmata e cinetica 1953-1963, l'ultima avanguardia" at the Palazzo Reale in Milan. In 1990 Dadamaino was invited to the Venice Biennial again, and she presented her latest works on signs, united in a series called *Il movimento delle cose* (The Movement of Things).

In 2000 the Museum Bochum in Germany dedicated a large retrospective to her, followed by the Museo Virgiliano. She died in Milan in 2004.