

Didactic Activities

BOOKBINDING AND RESTORATION OF BOOKS - BASIC COURSE

Milan, 11th January - 24th May, 2010
with Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

This specific course will give a basic knowledge of the care and conservation of books. You will not need expensive and cumbersome equipment but will learn to take care of your books using simple materials and instruments that are not difficult to obtain. Those people who work with books or surrounded by them may acquire a correct conservation attitude. Specific knowledge is not required. This course is intended for beginners but participants with a basic knowledge of bookbinding will be welcome. Different kinds of experience and background make very stimulating groups.

ENROLLMENTS BY DECEMBER THE 30TH 2009. Only one place still available.

[\(more info...\)](#)

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Milan, 13th and 27th January, 10th February 2010
with Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

To attend these workshops a basic knowledge in bookbinding and restoration is requested.

Participants may bring their own work and will receive help for solving bookbinding and restoration problems. They will also get individual technical advice for materials, instruments and techniques.

[\(more info...\)](#)

SAMPLE BOOKS

Milan, 23rd-24th January and 13th-14th March, 2010
with Carmencho Arregui and Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

If you think of a sample-book as some kind of dusty album full of boring scraps of paper or uninteresting fabrics, this workshop will be a starting point to change your mind. You might be surprised of the variety of bookbinding structures that can be made to contain small collections of items you already possess or samples of your own pattern and graphic research. You can also pick up ideas for your professional presentations. Two weekend meetings to work at containers and their content. The work will involve graphic and color research related to the display of the different items and the making of suitable containers for each collection. Ideas in progress for a new understanding of sample-books.

ENROLLMENTS BY JANUARY THE 8TH.

[\(more info...\)](#)

BOXES - II (International)

Milan, 20th-24th February, 2010
with Cor Aerssens and Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

This type of box is the continuation on the "Neck-box" treated in Boxes - I, and part of the Basic-Boxes series. Thanks to the special construction of the box-layers, they can be stacked on each other without slipping sideways. A lid closes the top-layer. Later on it is

always possible to add new box-layers. This kind of box is extremely suitable as a tools-box, which can stand on your worktable. In this five-day workshop the box, with two layers and a lid, will be made out of cardboard and covered with strong paper. One layer is divided in three compartments, one of which with a round bottom, to contain smaller tools or objects.

[\(more info...\)](#)

[THE CRISSCROSS BINDING \(formerly THE SECRET BELGIAN BINDING\) \(International\)](#)

Milan, 27th February, 2010

with Cor Aerssens and Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

A pleasant introduction to a non-adhesive binding, which is shrewdly constructed: the sewing connects the book block with the boards and the spine. The result is a simple looking, perfectly working book, opening flat and free. A jewel. Hedi Kyle (USA) rediscovered this binding, which mysterious origin was attributed to the Belgians, and generously taught it. Meanwhile, lately the secret is unraveled: Anne Goy (B) presented her binding for the first time in 1986. She describes it as 'une reliure à couture intercroisée', a binding with an interlaced sewing, which she developed while looking for a solution to keep the Japanese binding sewing pattern but on a structure enabling the full opening of the pages.

She has recently decided to name it Crisscross Binding, because of the movement the thread follows making the sewing. Anne Goy gave permission to give this workshop on her technique.

This class is based on a model and a description Hedi Kyle made, specially for this workshop, for your teacher Cor Aerssens. It is a good opportunity to widen your field of vision on making books.

[\(more info...\)](#)

[PAPER JEWELS: THE QUILLING](#)

Milan, 6th-7th March, 2010

with Angela Simone

When we think of a jewel we usually imagine it to be made in noble metals and precious stones. Paper is surely the last material we would think of, because of its fragility. And yet, even a sheet of paper can be transformed into a strong and lasting jewel. By using an old technique called 'quilling', the art of rolling thin paper strips, it is possible to obtain wonderful necklaces, earrings, rings and brooches. This technique is in itself quite simple, what imports are the imagination and the fun we put into making a unique jewel. This workshop is open to all of you and will last two days.

[\(more info...\)](#)

[FLAG BOOK](#)

Milan, 27th March, 2010

with Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

organized by the Associazione Calligrafica Italiana

The Flag Book is a seemingly complex structure, which is in fact quite easy to make. It is a concertina where different pages can be placed in such a way that they wave when the book is opened at different lengths. All sorts of sizes, proportions, papers and graphic choices (photography, calligraphy, typography etc.) can be used to make this structure, obtaining very different results. During the workshop a variety of solutions will be examined.

[\(more info...\)](#)

[CROSSED STRUCTURE BINDING \(International\)](#)

Stockholm, Sweden 10h-16th April, 2010
with Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo and Cor Aerssens
organized by Bokbindarkompetens

This workshop, based on Carmencho Arregui's Crossed Structure Binding, will develop your capacity to deal with an unusual way of thinking in a perfectly balanced asymmetry and your everyday practice will benefit of this extra understanding of books' motion. The course is organized in two parts. During the first one, we will deal with 8 different variations of the Crossed Structure Binding, making 8 sample books with blank pages and covers in handmade paper. Then one day of pause is planned, to rest and think about the matter. So in the second part each participant will realize some binding on real books with the cover in leather or vellum. The aim of the workshop is to learn the techniques but also to get able to discern which structure can better fit depending on which book has to be bound.

[\(more info...\)](#)

[INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS](#)

Milan, 28th April, 12th and 26th May, 2010
with Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

To attend these workshops a basic knowledge in bookbinding and restoration is requested.

Participants may bring their own work and will receive help for solving bookbinding and restoration problems. They will also get individual technical advice for materials, instruments and techniques.

[\(more info...\)](#)

[PAPER+WATER+PIGMENT](#)

Milan, 5th/6th June, 2010
with Silvia Molinari

Objects: form and substance

Watercolour is a painting technique that uses simple ingredients and simple gestures. It is the choice to represent by "clearing" instead of "summing", with maximum regard to what we see.

Paper, water, colour. Nothing more. We can carry them with us everywhere at all times and we can stop wherever pleases us to observe and to paint.

Watercolour does not need any special ritual; its preparation consists in being ready to capture, to remember: the eye selecting an image, a moment, a subject. An object.

The essence of the objects, their being useful and useless at the same time, the beauty and the alchemy of their surface is very close to our way of feeling and of using our painting technique... and the idea of putting together form and content has sprung naturally from it.

Starting by the introduction of some elementary concepts of pictorial construction - so important to obtain a good picture - we will reproduce, by the use of watercolour techniques, the texture of different objects: wood, glass, metal, rusty traces, the veining of larch...

[\(more info...\)](#)

[BOOKIE POOKIE \(WITH CHOCOLATE\) \(International\)](#)

Vaccaggio di Ameno, 4th/10th July, 2010
with Cor Aerssens and Cristina Balbiano d'Aramengo

When you try to learn an Italian to speak Dutch, it sometimes can be the base of a sparkling workshop... A sweet Dutch tid-bit, called 'bokkenpootje', mangled into 'bookie pookie'. This cookie has the shape of a goat's leg, with Dutch chocolate on both ends: it will be transformed into a double box, with surprising books popping up. It is a residential 7-day workshop divided into two. During the first three days, four 3-dimensional booklets will be made. Structures with joy. A journey of discovering into the playing field of pop-ups and peep books. Then one day leisure is planned, to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and the Lake of Orta, but who likes may keep studying the models in the workshop. In the second three days the box will be built. A standing box, made in two parts, with a specially developed hinge which lets the two parts move freely. Magnets keep the four booklets clinging inside. The box, with a magnetic fastening, will be covered with Japanese papers. The look-alikes boxes will be celebrated with the original 'bokkenpootjes', freshly imported from Holland.

[\(more info...\)](#)

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Fine Bindings, Book Conservation
Via A. Del Bon, 1 - 20158 MILANO - I
tel/fax (+39) 02 3760058
www.professionelibro.it
info@professionelibro.it