



UMBERTO GIOVANNINI

ABOUT

Umberto Giovannini was born in 1969 in Morciano di Romagna, Italy.

His practice is driven by his interest in the changing, floating contemporary world, whether in its social or environmental aspects, and by investigation of personal perceptions of contemporary life through images that resonate with a collective memory. Giovannini sees making art as a crucial relationship between thought and constant practice of one's craft, and has worked for the past twenty years with a number of disciplines, among which printmaking has emerged as his primary instrument for investigating reality. His works – prints, installations, artists' books – have been exhibited internationally.

Since the mid-1990s, he has combined his visual art practice with performing arts, cinema and music. Those parallel pathways have deeply influenced his approach to making and exhibiting his works, while at the same time the need to delve into experiences and environments radically removed from his ordinary life has pushed him to design and complete a variety of solo and group projects. These were included in

exhibitions and editorial productions such as *Mediterraneo* (2003), *Palagio degli Incanti* (2007), *Passing Through, London* (2010-2011), *Fish-eye* (2012-2013) and *Ferrocarril* (2013-2014). Since 2015 he has been working on *LINA*, a complex project interweaving themes of migration and memory with an open awareness of the wild.

Umberto was a co-founder of *VACA*, a collective that for more than twenty years gathered a diverse range of artists, filmmakers and writers, and in 2009 he founded the *Opificio della Rosa*, a low environmental impact printmaking centre comprised of two studios, hosting and supporting artists of different nationalities and backgrounds engaged in experimental projects.

Since 2016 he has been president of the *Renate Herold Czaschka Foundation*, dedicated to printmaking and artists' books.

His practice is complemented with teaching on BA courses in Graphic Design and Printmaking, and he is currently Lecturer in Graphic Communication Design at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London.

Umberto lives and works in Italy and London.

fotografia di Ilaria Costanzo

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UMBERTO GIOVANNINI
Born 1969, Morciano di Romagna, Italy
Based in Italy and UK

CURRENT

Director of International Printmaking Centre
Opificio della Rosa, Italy - opificiodellarosa.org

President of Renate Herold Czaschka Foundation
fondazioneczaschka.org

Lecturer in Art & Design at Central Saint Martins
University of the Arts London - arts.ac.uk/csm

Visiting Professor at Rome University of Fine Arts - unirufa.it

Member of Associazione Incisori Contemporanei
incisoricontemporanei.it

Member of VACA - vaca.it

EDUCATION

1992-1998. MA in D.A.M.S. (Arts, Music and Performance Disciplines),
Art, Faculty of Humanities and Philosophy, University of Bologna.
Thesis on woodcut disputed with top marks cum laude.

1988-1991. Albe Steiner, College, Ravenna,
Course in Graphic Communication Design.

1983-1988. Liceo artistico Giovanni da Rimini,
Art School, Rimini.

ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Pietro Gaglianò, *Passaggi*,
from the catalogue of the exhibition *LINA*, 2018.

Hayato Fujioka, *A Pilgrim Armed with Chisels and an iPhone*,
from the catalogue of the exhibition *Passing Through London*, 2011.

Walter Pretolani, *Incantamenti*, exhibition catalogue,
Palagio de gl'incanti, Bagnacavallo 2007.

Alberto Milano, *Tarocchi di Sigismondo*, exhibition catalogue,
Il mestiere dello xilografo, Longiano 2007.

U. Giovannini in *Repertorio degli incisori italiani*
vol. II-II-IV-V, Faenza, Edit, 1997-2008.

Remo Palmirani, *Umberto Giovannini, Ex Libris*,
exhibition catalogue, *Museo dell'Ex Libris Mediterraneo*, Ortona CH, 2005.

Alberto Milano, *I Tarocchi di Sigismondo di Umberto Giovannini*,
«Ex Libris», Milano, Ex Libris Museum, n° 28 (n° I nuova serie), marzo 2004, pp. 44-45.

Rose Sèlavy, *Vedere il mondo alla rovescia*,
in Scacco Matto n°13 «La Voce», Rimini, 30 Marzo 2004.

Giancarlo Torre, *Umberto Giovannini, «the Romagna road» to the ex libris*,
in *Contemporary International Ex-libris Artists*, Faro, Da Mota Miranda., vol. II, 2003, pp. 45-60.

Umberto Giovannini in *dizionario degli illustratori contemporanei vol. I*,
Bronzolo, Centro di documentazione dell'illustrazione contemporanea, 2002, p. 171.

Rödel Klaus, *Umberto Giovannini, Italian woodcut artist*,
in, «Nordisk Exlibris Tidsskrift», n°1/2002, Frederikshavn, Danimarca, 2002, pp. 72-73.

Giuseppe Mirabella, *La tavolozza colorata di Umberto Giovannini*
in, «Ex Libris», Milano, A.I.E., anno 6 n° 3, settembre-dicembre 2000, pp. 56-60.

Jürgen Czaschka, *Wenn die Kuh den Schwanz aufstellt*,
«Wiener Kunsthefte», n. 4/2000, Vienna, dicembre 2000, p. 4.

Gabriella Gentilini, *Umberto Giovannini*,
in *Repertorio della Xilografia Italiana 1946-1999*, Firenze, Pietro Chegai Editore, 1999, p. 97.

Paola Pallottino, *Umberto Giovannini: l'uomo telematico ha un segno antico, xilografico*,
«Telèma», n. 19, anno V, Roma, inverno 1999-2000, p. 72.

Remo Palmirani, *Grande vitalità dell'ex libris italiano contemporaneo*,
in - *III Biennale di ex libris Italia-Turchia*, cat. mostra, Ortona, Menabò, 1996, pp. 11-12.

Paola Pallottino, *Gli dei benigni di Umberto Giovannini*,
«Biblio», n. 1, anno 1, Verona, Mardersteig, maggio 1995, pp. 32-35.

VACA, *Il poema-nonsense 'Orione'*, «Ex Libris», Milano,
A.I.E., n° 24, novembre 1994, p. 173.

AWARDS

PREMIO GUIDARELLO 2009. For the co-curated exhibition 'L'Armonia delle Muse'.

MARIONETTA D'ORO 2007. International theatre prize.
For the show *Pulcinella Baby* realised with Luca Ronga.

EX LIBRIS ISTANBUL 2000. Turkey, 2000.
Winner of the second prize with the "Ex libris Istanbul 2000".

THE BEST EX LIBRIS 1997-1998, Italy 1999.
First prize. International Biennial competition for bookplates
hosted by the Italian Bookplate Association.

PREMIO SOLINAS 1998, for the co-script of the film *Bérbablù*

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

UMBERTO GIOVANNINI. LINA

2019 - *LINA-CAPITOLO TERZO*, Museo della Città, Rimini, Italy

2019 - *LINA-CAPITOLO SECONDO*, Arionte Arte Contemporanea, Catania, Italy

2018 - *LINA-CAPITOLO PRIMO*, Atelier, Roma, Italy

UMBERTO GIOVANNINI. FISH-EYE

2014 - Resort Gallery, Margate, UK

2014 - Ex Chiesa in Albis, Russi, Italy

PASSING THROUGH LONDON 2011

2011 - The Crypt, St. Brides Church, London, UK

2011 - Galleria Ostrakon, Milan, Italy

UMBERTO GIOVANNINI. DAI TAROCCHI DI SIGISMONDO ALLE TAVOLE DEL SERRAGLIO GARZONIANO,

2006 - Antico Chiostro di San Francesco, *Bagnacavallo, Italy*

UMBERTO GIOVANNINI, EX LIBRIS

2005 - Museo dell'Ex Libris mediterraneo, Ortona, Italy

TAROCCHI DI SIGISMONDO

2007 - Fondazione Tito Balestra, Longiano, Italy

2004 - Palazzo Gambalunga, Rimini, Italy

UMBERTO GIOVANNINI, THE LAST WOODCUTS

2001 - Kathrin Markel Fine Arts, Chelsea, New York, USA, December

TEMPORAL SEQUENCE

2000 - Danny Simmons' Corridor Gallery, New York, Usa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

XILOPRINT 2019 BRAZIL

Received the Honorable Mention

2019, Museu Casa da Xilogravura, Campos do Jordão, Brasil

RESONANCE BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS

2019, Guanlan Printmaking Museum, Shenzhen, China

IMPACT 10

2018, CASYC, Santander, Spain

III BIENNALE DEL DISEGNO RIMINI - OSPITI AL MUSEO

2018, Museo della Città, Rimini, Italy

II BIENNALE GIUSEPPE MAESTRI

2018 - Ravenna, Italy

ITALY - JAPAN CONTEMPORARY PRINT EXHIBITION

2016 - Galerie Konoha, Tokyo, Japan

II BIENNALE DEL DISEGNO RIMINI - PROFILI DEL MONDO

2016, Museo della Città, Rimini, Italy

SEGNI AGATHAE

2016 - Le Ciminiere, Catania, Italy

OSTRALE '015

2015 - Dresda, Germany

CIRCUMFERENCE AND RADIUS: $C=2\pi R$ = ECONOMIES OF DISTANCE

2017 - Taller de Gráfica de la Habana, Cuba

2015 - UTK, Knoxville, Usa

2015 - Wroclaw, Poland

9 ITALIANOS

2017 - Museo Victor Roverano, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2016 - Espacio Cero, Quilmes, Argentina

2015 - Complesso del Baraccano di Bologna, Italy

2015 - Villa Benzi Zecchini di Caerano di San Marco, Italy

IMC TOKYO 2014

2014 - 3331 Arts Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan)

HALF CUT

2014 - Stour Space, London, UK

I BIENNALE DEL DISEGNO - CANTIERE

2014 - Museo della Città, Rimini, Italy

UNA QUESTIONE DI CARATTERE

2014 - Museo Civico della Stampa, Mondovì, Italy

PUSH PRINT

2013 - Resort Gallery, Margate, UK

XILOGRAFIA

2013 - Spazio Ventotto, Milano, Italy

INCISORI ITALIANI CONTEMPORANEI

2013 - Gradzka Galerija Uzice, Serbia

BOCCACCIO INCISO

2013 - Istituto italiano di cultura, Budapest, Hungary

2013 - Chostro di San Francesco, Pienza, Italy

2013 - Museo Civico, Montepulciano, Italy

2013 - Casa del Boccaccio, Certaldo, Italy

EAST LONDON PRINTMAKER

2013 - Ostrakon Gallery, Milan, Italy

INFERNO PURGATORIO PARADISO

2013 - Palazzo Garagnani, Bologna, Italy

TERRA TREMUIT

2013 - Museo della sanità, Bologna, Italy

VIZI CAPITALI

2013 - Museo casa Frabboni, Bologna, Italy

2012 - Galleria il Bisonte, Firenze, Italy

I CENTO ANNI DELLA XILOGRAFIA ITALIANA

2014 - Kunstmuseum, Bayreuth, Germany

2012 - Palazzina delle Art, La Spezia, Italy

2013 - Pinacoteca Servolini, Collesalveti, Italy

2012 - Oratorio de' Disciplinanti, Finale Ligure, Italy

SCRITTURE D'ACQUA

2012 - Museo della Rocca, Vignola, Italy

DIARIO D'ARTISTA

2011 - Spazio 28 Gallery, San Bernardino, Switzerland

2011 - Spazio 28 Gallery, Milan, Italy

CARLO BO 1911 – 2011. GLI EX LIBRIS ILLUSTRANO E NARRANO

2011 - Palazzo Petrangolini, Urbino, Italy

2011 - IULM, Milan, Italy

2011 - Sala Riccio, Sestri Levante, Italy

IV INTERNATIONAL PRINTMAKING EXHIBITION

2011 - Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey

ELP ANNUAL EXHIBITION,
2011 - Space Gallery, London, UK

THE FISHWICK PAPERS
2011 - Forman's Smokehouse Gallery, London, UK

ELP BOX 2010
2010 - 242 Gallery, London UK

ELP IN SPACE
2010 - Triangle Gallery, London, UK

PAROLE E IMMAGINI PER RICORDARE ENNIO FLAIANO
2010 - Museo dell'ex libris mediterraneo, Ortona, Italy

LA COLPA, LA PENA, L'ESTASI IN DANTE
2010 - Urban Center, Ravenna, Italy
2009 - Palazzo Sersanti, Imola, Italy

LOOKING HIDALGO
2008 - Art Gallery, Naantali, Finland

BOOKS AND GRAPHICS
2007 - The art shop gallery, Abergavenny, UK

MAJOR EXHIBITIONS CURATED

FABRIANO PAPER PAVILLION - A WONDERFUL JOURNEY
curated by Umberto Giovannini
Complesso Storico delle Cartiere Miliani Fabriano
on occasion of
XIII UNESCO Creative Cities Conference
10-16 June 2019

*MARIA PINA BENTIVENGA E GIANNA BENTIVENGA
CANTO ALLA PIETRA E ALLA CARNE - CAPITOLO 1*
Fondazione Tito Balestra, Longiano (Italy)
curated by Umberto Giovannini - Opificio della Rosa
November 2018-January 2019

*WILLIAM DAVEY - NICK MORLEY - IGNACIA RUIZ
SIRENE LATIN LOVER & ALTRI MOSTRI MARINI*
Site-specific project commissioned by Comune di Riccione for the Biennale del Disegno di Rimini (Italy),
curated by Umberto Giovannini - Opificio della Rosa
April-August 2018

GIUSEPPE MAESTRI. RAVENNA SENZA TEMPO
Manica Lunga della Biblioteca Classense, Ravenna (Italy),
October - January 2012.

JÜRGEN CZASCHKA, BIFFANDO L'ASSOLUTO. I BULINI
Museo delle Cappuccine, Bagnacavallo (Italy), December 2009 - February 2010.
Commissioned by: Gabinetto delle stampe di Bagnacavallo.

ARMONIA DELLE MUSE
Museo Marino Moretti, Cesenatico (Italy), Juny-November 2009,
he has curate the section: *LA BELLA SCUOLA*.
The exhibit won the prize "Premio Guidarello 2009".

*COLORI E ANIMA DI UNA TERRA. L'OPERA GRAFICA DEGLI IMOLESI
BUSCAROLI, DELLA VOLPE, TROMBETTI.*

Palazzo Sersanti, Imola (Italy), November 2007 - January 2008.

Commissioned by: Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Imola.

GIANNETTO MALMERENDI. DALL'AVANGUARDIA ALLA VISIONE EPICA, LE XILOGRAFIE

Palazzo Romagnoli, Cesena (Italy), December 2006 - January 2007.

Commissioned by: Fondazione Carisp Cesena.

*LA TRACCIA E L'IMMAGINE: UN PERCORSO NELLA GRAFICA EUROPEA
TRA OTTOCENTO E NOVECENTO.*

Palazzo dell'Arengo, Rimini (Italy), December 2006 - February 2007.

Commissioned by: CNA.

COLORE E LIBERTA': LA BELLA STAGIONE DELLA XILOGRAFIA IN ROMAGNA

Palazzo Romagnoli, Cesena (Italy), October-November 2005.

Commissioned by: Fondazione Carisp Cesena.

GINO BARBIERI. SOGNI DI PACE, VENTI DI GUERRA, LE XILOGRAFIE

Palazzo Frescobaldi, Ferrara (Italy), June-August 2004 and Palazzo Romagnoli, Cesena (Italy),

October-November 2004. October-November Comune di Ferrara e Fondazione Carisp Cesena.

SOME ISSUES FOR CATALOGUES AND BOOKS

Umberto Giovannini, 'Barbieri Banksy: iconografia militante',
catalogue of the exhibition *Xilografia 1924-26: un'utopia grafica*, FAR, Rimini, 2017.

Segno x segno, catalogue of the exhibition,
Palazzo della Cultura, Catania, Italy, 2016

Maria Pina Bentivenga, *L'opera Incisa*, catalogue of the exhibition,
Rome (Italy), Stamperia del Tevere, 2013.

Wuon-Gean Ho, *Beyond the moon*, catalogue of the exhibition,
Aberystwyth, Wales (UK), November 2012 - February 2013.

La xilografia italiana, 1912-2012, catalogue of the exhibition,
Finale Ligure, Collesalveti, La Spezia (Italy) 2012-2013; Bayreuth (Germany) 2014.

East London Printmakers, catalogue of the exhibition,
Ostrakon Gallery, Milan (Italy), November-December 2012.

Presentation, Stefano Dirani, *Francesco Nonni*, Faenza, Edit, 2009.

SELECTED ARTIST BOOKS

Umberto Giovannini, *LINA, Xiloreportage Roma-Catania, 2016-2018*,
Morciano di Romagna, Opificio della Rosa, 2018. With 17 woodcuts. Edition 51 copies.

Bill Woodrow, *Lost*, 2016.

Sculpture concertina book with 56 colour woodcuts carved and printed
by Umberto Giovannini and bound by Luigi Castiglioni.
Paper size: 45 x 120 x 700 cm approx. Edition 8 copies.

Umberto Giovannini, *Ferrocarril 1. Xilo-reportage, Argentina, Dicembre 2013-Gennaio 2014*,
Montefiore Conca, Opificio della Rosa, 2014. With 24 woodcuts. Edition 83 copies.

Anahita Rezvani-Rad – Umberto Giovannini, *Javani*,
Montefiore Conca, Opificio della Rosa, 2014.
With 28 colour woodcuts. Edition 25 copies.

Giuseppe Bellosi, *Requiem*,
Montefiore Conca, Opificio della Rosa, 2013.
Printed in letterpress with an experimental woodcut in 12 colours, 16x103 cm. Edition of 50.

Tomaso Garzoni, *Il Serraglio degli Stupori del mondo*,
VACA, Russi, 2004. With 10 colour woodcuts. Edition of 21 copies.

Umberto Giovannini, *Tarocchi Di Sigismondo Ispirati Al Signore Dei Malatesta*,
Milano, All'insegna del fiore, 2003. 40 pp. with text by Alberto Milano and Giovanni Rimondini.
With 23 colour woodcuts. Edition of 99 copies.

Dino Campana, *La notte*, 2001.
With 5 colour woodcuts. Edition of 15 copies.

Umberto Giovannini, *Sequenza temporale*, 1999.
Text by Walter Pretolani. With 6 colour woodcuts printed on XVII Century manuscript.
Edition of 15 copies.

Umberto Giovannini, *Cena per sei*, 1996.
With 1 colour woodcuts. Edition of 40 copies.

Umberto Giovannini, *Orione, Poema nonsense*,
Morciano di Romagna, VACA, 1994.
With 11 colour woodcuts. The texts are drawn up on 34 calligraphic plates reproduced in offset.
Edition of 35 copies.

SOME ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

Emma Jane Kirby, *Optician of Lampedusa*, Penguin Book, 2016.

Victor Hugo, *The Wretched*, London, Penguin Book, 2013.

Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*, London, Penguin Book, 2013.

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia*, Russi, Vaca, 2008.

Plutarco, *La curiosità*, Stampa Alternativa, Roma, 1997.

Bret Easton Ellis, *Dal vuoto assoluto*, Stampa Alternativa, Roma, 1996.

AA VV, *Dio c'è, giustizzia non c'è*, Stampa Alternativa, Roma, 1996.

Tripeleff, *Come mi hanno spennato l'uccello*, Stampa Alternativa, Roma, 1996.

Umberto Giovannini, *Menu Celeste*, Russi, VACA, 1995.

Tacito, *La Germania*, Stampa Alternativa, Roma, 1994.

Umberto Giovannini, *Morciano California*, Rimini, Banca Popolare Valconca, 1993.

SOME MAGAZINE ILLUSTRATIONS

"EX LIBRIS", n° 30, November 2004; n° 31, March 2005.

"UTZ", n° 5, October 2003; n° 7, May 2004; n° 9, May 2005.

"LINEA GRAFICA", n° 337, January 2002, n° 307, January 1997; n° 325, January 2000.

"CHARTA", n°50 January-February 2001.

"TELÈMA", n°19 Winter 1999-2000. 16 woodcuts for the entire issue; n°23 Winter 2000-2001.

"AVVENIRE", 24 September 1998.

"BIBLIO", n. 1, Year. 1, May 1995.

"VACA fujeton", March 1992; July 1993; September 1994.

SOME INSTALLATIONS AND THEATRICAL STAGING

PALAGIO DE GL'INCANTI

In 2007, he was commissioned an interactive installation for the Museum of Cappuccine in Bagnacavallo, based on the work by Tomaso Garzoni *Il Palagio de gl'incanti*.

Music score with Vincenzo Vasi.

LADY-M

Theatre piece with and by the Maria Costantini Vagamondi Company.

Premiered in Santarcangelo, March 2003.

Set designing, construction of "machinisms" and props.

L'ECO DELLE MAREE

Sensory theatre, Company Teatro di Sensazioni, Faro di Rimini, 2005 and 2006.

Construction of "machinisms" and props.

Set designing together with Samantha Turci.

R-ARE, ANIME MUTANTI IN ERRANTE ERRAR

Sensory theatre, Company Teatro di Sensazioni.

Premiered at Sorrivoli Castle, February 2008.

Construction of "machinisms" and props.

Set designing together with Samantha Turci.

COLLABORATION WITH THE GROUP VACA

VACA is a multidisciplinary project that gathers around the homonym cultural association VACA. Founded in 1990 (Umberto Giovannini was cofounder), it has since produced works in the fields of publishing, film, music, theatre, exhibitions and education.

Amongst the many collective productions, stand out:

the twenty-years work on the sixteenth century polygraph Tomaso Garzoni

over one hundred exhibitions related to graphics, illustration, photography

the management of a national museum, the MIL in Ferrara

the creation of a film trilogy on the Romagna of the Twentieth century

the international competition for handmade books *Libri mai mai visti*, from 1995 to 2015.

a series of events related to Romagna and its traditions.

From 1999 to 2016, VACA opened the *Fucina delle Arti*, its working and lab headquarters, in Ravenna.

FILMS PRODUCED BY VACA

BÉRBABLÙ

Feature Film - Fiction.

Directed by: Luisa Pretolani & Massimiliano Valli. 2001,

Produced by VACA & Pahn Productions.

Running time 110 minutes, black and white, 35 mm..

Premio Solinas 1998 for the script.

Festivals: 'Quintus Film Festival', Canada, 2004; 'Festival Cinema e Donne'

Florence 2004, 'Bellaria Film Festival', 2005; tour in Argentina, 2005;
'Festival of Bastia', Corsica, 2006; 'Annecy Cinéma', France, 2006.

TIZCA. GLI UCCELLI DIPINTI DEL CAUCASO

Feature Film - Fiction.

Directed by: Luisa Pretolani & Massimiliano Valli. 2001,

Produced by VACA & Pahn Productions.

Running time 90 minutes, color, digital.

TANABÈSS

Feature Film - Fiction.

Directed by: Luisa Pretolani & Massimiliano Valli. 1997,

Produced by Vaca & Pahn Productions. Running time 80 minutes, color, 35 mm.

Festivals: '27th Festival Internacional de Cinema da Figueira da Foz', Portugal, 1998;

'Visioni Italiane', Bologna, 1998; 'Romagna: memoria e nuovi interpreti', New York University, 1999;

'New York Independent Film Festival', 1999, 'Anthology Film Archives', New York, 1999,

'Festival delle Nazioni' di Città di Castello, 1999, 'Long Island International Film Festival', New York, 1999;

selected for 'Chicago Critics Award', 1999, 'Los Angeles Film Festival', 2000.

TEACHING

2011 -, Associated Lecturer in Graphic and Communication Design,
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London.

2014 -, Visiting Professor at Rome University of Fine Arts

2004 - 2010, Visiting Professor, Printmaking Course, Rimini Academy of Fine Arts

1991-1997, Tutor of Illustration and Graphic Design at the Albe Steiner College in Ravenna.

He has held master courses on woodcut history and techniques like:

Opificio della Rosa, Montefiore Conca, Italy

European Institute of Design in Turin, Italy

Museum of Illustration in Ferrara, Italy

Tito Balestra Foundation in Longiano, Italy

Minardi Arts and Crafts School in Faenza, Italy

Hello Print Studio, Margate, UK

East London Printmakers, London, UK

The art Academy, London, UK