



Fondazione Piero Manzoni

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS PIERO

a workshop for children



WHO WAS PIERO MANZONI?

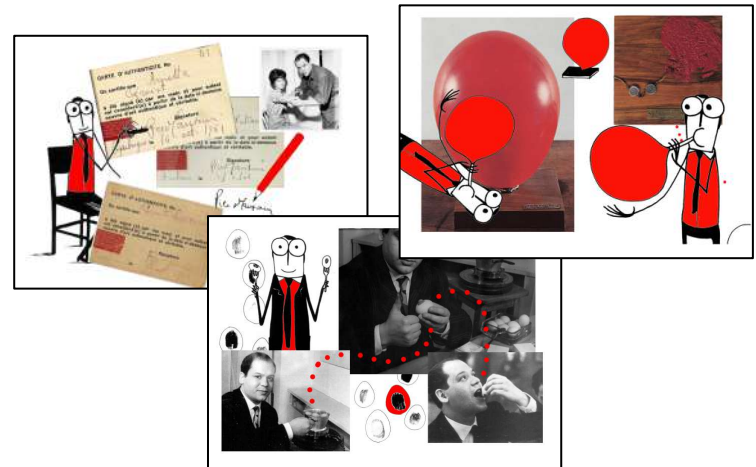
Piero Manzoni (1933-1963) was an Italian contemporary artist who features in all the books on the history of art and the world's leading museums, including MoMA in New York, Tate Modern in London and the Museo del '900 in Milan. His earliest works date from 1956, paintings with alien-like figures, while the following year he moved on to the creation of pictures without paint but rather a variety of materials (plaster, cotton wool, polystyrene balls, hairy fibres, cloth, stones and so on), mostly white, which he called *Achromes* (without colour). In parallel with these pictures, he also presented diverse works associated with the idea of time – such as the *Lines* in canisters – or the body – such as *the Artist's Breath* or the famous *Artist's Shit* – while also signing living people and offering them eggs to eat with his fingerprint impressed on the shells.

Contemporary art, or non-figurative art in general, is frequently held to be difficult or unreasonable by adults, who feel intimidated from the outset by not seeing a recognisable image, something that is similar to reality and therefore comforting. However, despite what certain adults may think, children like the work of Piero Manzoni very much. Perhaps because Piero retained something of the child even as an adult. Unfortunately, there are not many opportunities to present the famous Milanese artist to an audience of children.

WHAT WILL THE CHILDREN BE DOING?



We open the workshop by telling Piero's story with the aid of a Japanese kamishibai street theatre featuring pages from a book by Fausto Gilberti dedicated to the artist.



Then by playing and working together we will recreate some of his most famous works.



EGG SCULPTURE

The children impress their fingerprint on the shell of a hardboiled egg which is then placed in a bag, creating an individual work of art.



ARTIST'S BREATH

Everyone will fill their own balloon which is then sealed, fixed to a base and labelled as Artist's Breath.



THE MAGIC BASE

Transforms anyone who stands on it into a work of art; one at a time, the children stand on a replica of the *Magic Base* and are photographed in a pose.

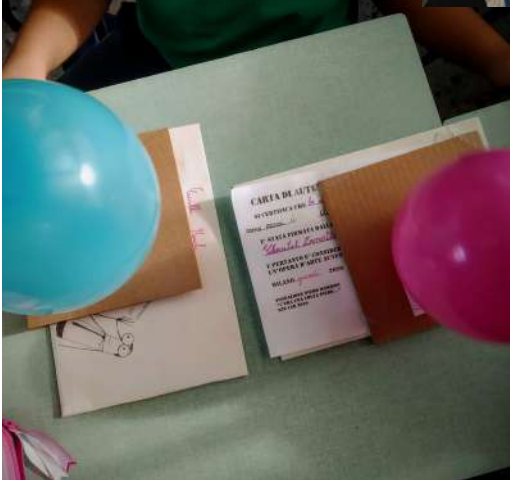


CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICITY

A part of the children's body is declared a work of art by their companions and issued with a certificate.



MOMENTS FROM THE WORKSHOP...



PRATICAL INFORMATION

HOW LONG DOES THE WORKSHOP LAST? Around 90 minutes

WHERE IS IT HELD? We'll come to you; the workshop can be held in a classroom or lab during normal school hours. It works best with relatively small groups of children (the ideal would be a single class or a group of between 15 and 20).

WHAT DO YOU NEED? All you need for the workshop is some space, a few tables or desks... and children!

WHO'S IT FOR? Children of nursery school age and the first three primary school years.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? The workshop is completely free. All materials are provided by the Fondazione Piero Manzoni.

WHO IS IT HELD BY? By three members of our Educational Department as part of the Fondazione Piero Manzoni's Art Education programme.

HOW DO YOU CONTACT US? By writing to ceraunavoltapiero@gmail.com or by calling 02 49 43 7786.



Fondazione Piero Manzoni

Via Angelo Del Bon, 1 20158 Milano

www.pieromanzoni.org