



Welcome!

These few words are designed to help you understand how to use this exhibition in which you can:

**touch
see
explore
think
make
remake
tell a story
compare**

to get going again...

“Touching Beauty” is like a question mark hanging over the study of two collections testifying to the research of Maria Montessori and Bruno Munari. Both collections demand our attention, they demand that we come and explore them in order to develop our sensibilities, our thought and our ability to reason around the environment we live in.

You'll touch with your own hands, you'll see.

Maria Montessori offers us material that isolates certain physical characteristics from others, focusing the observer's attention on grading stimuli from the largest to the smallest, from rough to smooth, in colour scales. Giving qualities separate from one another is like giving an alphabet and various instruments to explore better, to discover the scale and to identify it also in the environment around us.

In **Bruno Munari** it is constant rewriting of the rules, ceaseless exploration, a change of meaning based on observing and listening to the suggestions that the material offers us, going beyond a repetition of the models to which we're accustomed. That's why attention in his work focuses on the word "workshop" as a venue for exploration and transformation.

Central to our exploration is the **Manipulate and Interact** table where you can practice exploring the objects on display with your hands, You can touch, in fact you have to touch, and you have to do so taking all the time you need and using both hands to explore the material's form and quality. Try doing it with your eyes closed. This allows you to forge a memory of things that then becomes a gesture. Touching things attentively is a way of thinking, not just of looking. It allows us to compare objects' uses, to learn to look with our hands, even for people who can use their eyes.

We don't take the thing itself home. what we do take home is the gesture that we have learnt through tactile exploration. Once we've assimilated it, we can compare it with the memory of the other things we'll be seeing on the tables, through the account and description other people give us of them. That's why we mustn't stop touching and now we have to get going again precisely from touch. Not for long, but we must touch.