



**ENZO MARI**  
**CURATED BY HANS ULRICH OBRIST**  
**WITH FRANCESCA GIACOMELLI**

<b>CURATED BY:</b>	Hans Ulrich Obrist with Francesca Giacomelli
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*Real artistic culture consists in producing art.  
If we limit ourselves simply to observing it  
and don't attempt to produce it, we compromise  
the kind of society we live in.*  
Enzo Mari

**This volume, which accompanies the great retrospective exhibition devoted to Enzo Mari and curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist with Francesca Giacomelli (Triennale Milano, 17 October 2020 – 18 April 2021), celebrates the work and thought of Enzo Mari, one of the leading masters and theorists of Italian design. These are chiefly reconstructed through the constant dialogue he engaged in, over the years, with the curator Hans Ulrich Obrist.**

Plans, sketches, unpublished archive material, essays and interviews illustrate over 60 years of work, tracing for the first time a systematic and exhaustive itinerary – articulated into 19 *Research Platforms* – that conveys Mari's sensitivity as a designer, artist, critic and theoretician, along with the striking relevance of his thought.

According to Mari, design can only be regarded as such if it also transmits knowledge. His projects, which have withstood the test of time, have been conceived in such a way as to be sustainable – from a material as much as aesthetic perspective – and accessible to all. As Hans Ulrich Obrist recalls, "For Enzo everything revolves around the object, and good design alone is destined to triumph".

Alongside an in-depth monographic study and a complete list of works, **the catalogue features numerous interviews and evocative contributions from internationally acclaimed designers and artists**, whom the curator has invited to pay tribute to the oeuvre and figure of Enzo Mari through their works.

## SUMMARY

### CONVERSATIONS

**EDITED BY HANS ULRICH OBRIST**

#### HANS ULRICH OBRIST

**ENZO MARI. A REBEL WITH AN OBSESSION  
FOR FORM**

ENZO MARI, HANS ULRICH OBRIST, STEFANO  
BOERI, ANGELA VETTESE, FRANCESCO  
JODICE AND ARMIN LINKE, *UTOPIA IS A PLACE  
THAT DOES NOT EXIST*, VENICE, 2002

ENZO MARI AND HANS ULRICH OBRIST,  
*UTOPIA STATION*, MUNICH, 2004

ENZO MARI, HANS ULRICH OBRIST AND REM  
KOOLHAAS, *SERPENTINE PARK NIGHTS*,  
SERPENTINE GALLERY, LONDON, 2006

ENZO MARI AND HANS ULRICH OBRIST,  
*DISPLAY FEATURES*, CAGLIARI, SARDINIA,  
2007

ENZO MARI AND HANS ULRICH OBRIST,  
*SELF-DESIGN*, ABITARE TALKS, TRIENNALE  
MILANO, 2009

ENZO MARI AND HANS ULRICH OBRIST,  
*MEMORY AND EXPERIENCE*, MILAN, 2014

ENZO MARI, HANS ULRICH OBRIST  
AND STEFANO BOERI, *MY ARCHIVES  
FOR MILAN*, MILAN, 2016

### CARTOGRAPHIES OF A MNEMONIC ATLAS:

**ENZO MARI. THE ART OF DESIGN**

**EDITED BY FRANCESCA GIACOMELLI**

#### FRANCESCA GIACOMELLI

**POETIC MILITANCY OF A MAKER OF  
GRAMMARS AND PLANNED REVOLUTIONS**

#### FRANCESCA GIACOMELLI RESEARCH PLATFORMS (RP)

RP 1, INVESTIGATIONS INTO PERCEPTIVE  
AMBIGUITIES. INSTRUMENTS FOR  
POLYSEMANTIC GRAMMARS: GRID, MODULE,  
STRUCTURE, PROGRAMME, ENVIRONMENT,  
CODE

RP 2, EXPLORING THE LINGUISTIC CODES OF  
MACHINES: EXPERIMENTAL MANUFACTURING

RP 3, INDEPENDENT EXPERIMENTATION:  
THE DISCOVERY OF THE WORLD

RP 4, INDEPENDENT EXPERIMENTATION:  
APPROPRIATION OF THE VIRTUAL SPACE OF  
PLAY

RP 5, MODULAR DESIGN: THE PROLIFERATION  
OF MODULAR STRUCTURES

RP 6, THE ALGORITHM THAT GENERATES  
ICONOGRAPHIC PROGRAMMING

RP 7, MASS PRODUCTION: THE STANDARDS  
AND WAYS TO LIMIT EXPRESSIVE  
OBSOLESCENCE

RP 8, DEVICE TO TEST THE REACTIONS  
OF A CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION  
VIEWER

RP 9, EXERCISES IN "MODIFYING REALITY  
BY INCITING COLLECTIVE DIGNITY" AND  
CRITIQUE

RP 10, ATLAS OF A CONTESTED WORLD

RP 11, DADA PRACTICES FOR  
"PEOPLE TO CULTURALLY ASSIMILATE THE  
PURPOSE OF DESIGN"

RP 12, INVESTIGATIONS ON COLLECTIVE  
PARTICIPATION

RP 13, INVESTIGATION ON  
"NON-SUBJECTIVE" COMMUNICATION  
AMBIGUITY: SILENCE

RP 14, THE ARCHETYPE OF FORMAL  
QUALITY

RP 15, COLLECTIVE PLANNING OF  
PUBLIC SPACE: A MODEL FOR THE  
COMMUNITY

RP 16, CHRONOLOGY OF THE GLOBAL  
PROJECT AND ITS SEMANTIC CELEBRATION:  
THE ART OF DESIGN

RP 17, PUZZLE: A USER'S MANUAL

RP 18, DECANTING TIME: NATURAL SELECTION  
OF AN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT

RP 19, INTELLECTUAL WUNDERKAMMER:  
THE ANALOGUE ARCHIVE

HERVÉ CHANDÈS, GRAZIA QUARONI  
VODUN: AFRICAN VODOO,  
FONDATION CARTIER POUR L'ART  
CONTEMPORAIN

### EXHIBITED WORKS

**EXHIBITED POSTERS**

**EXHIBITED BOOKS AND MAGAZINES**

### ARTISTS ON SHOW

**EDITED BY HANS ULRICH OBRIST**

TACITA DEAN  
DOMINIQUE GONZALEZ-FOERSTER  
ADELITA HUSNI-BEY

MIMMO JODICE  
DOZIE KANU  
ADRIAN PACI  
BARBARA STAUFFACHER SOLOMON  
RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA  
NANDA VIGO  
DANH VÕ  
VIRGIL ABLOH

**HOMAGES TO ENZO MARI**  
**EDITED BY HANS ULRICH OBRIST**

GIOVANNI AGOSTI AND STEFANO BOERI  
PAOLA ANTONELLI  
COMMON ACCOUNTS  
ALEXANDRA CUNNINGHAM CAMERON  
FORMAFANTASMA  
ALESSIO FRANSONI  
JOSEPH GRIMA  
GIORGIO MASTINU  
MASSIMO MININI  
JASPER MORRISON  
GUTA MOURA GUEDES  
ALICE RAWSTHORN

**SELECYED ANTHOLOGY (1957–2008)**  
**EDITED BY FRANCESCA GIACOMELLI**

MAX BILL, 1957  
BRUNO MUNARI, 1957  
FILIBERTO MENNA, 1967  
PIERRE RESTANY, 1967

TOMMASO TRINI, 1968  
GILLO DORFLES, 1973  
ETTORE SOTTASS, 1974  
GIULIO CARLO ARGAN, 1974  
RENATO PEDIO, 1979  
BRUNO ZEVI, 1979  
ACHILLE CASTIGLIONI, 1980  
TOMÁS MALDONADO, 1980  
ALESSANDRO MENDINI, 1980  
GIOVANNI KLAUS KOENIG, 1981  
ALESSANDRO MENDINI, 1981  
LEA VERGINE, 1983  
NANDA VIGO, 1983  
MAURIZIO CALVESI, 1986  
MASSIMO VIGNELLI, 2008  
PIER GIOVANNI CASTAGNOLI, 2008

**APPENDIX**  
**EDITED BY FRANCESCA GIACOMELLI**

BIOGRAPHY  
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY  
EXHIBITIONS  
AWARDS  
TEACHING