

UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

**PUBLIC LECTURE**

**Italian Concrete and Visual Poetry:  
Remembering Frederick May with the  
University of Sydney Art Collection**

Presented by Nerida Newbigin  
Professor Emerita of Italian Studies  
University of Sydney

Wednesday 17 June 2009

6pm for 6.30pm

In the late sixties, Frederick May, Foundation Professor of Italian at the University of Sydney, became fascinated with the Italian neoavanguardia: the Gruppo '63, the dramatists of Teatro Italiano / A, and the concrete poets who took up ideas that had been floated by the Futurists in the early years of the century.

After May's untimely death in 1976, a Foundation was established in his name, and its Director, Gino Rizzo, invited two experimental writers, Adriano Spatola and Giulia Niccolai, to be part of the first international conference organised by the Foundation. Through Spatola and Niccolai, a generation of concrete and visual poets made a gift to the University of their art works which are on display in the University Art Gallery.

The lecture, in the centenary year of the Founding Manifesto of Futurism (20 February 1909), will discuss May and his interest in the historic, the new avant-garde, concrete and visual poetry, as well as the artworks in the Poesia Visiva Exhibition.

RSVP BY 16 June 2009

T: 02 9351 6883E: [artcollection@usyd.edu.au](mailto:artcollection@usyd.edu.au)

In association with

**Poesia Visiva: Italian Concrete & Visual  
Poetry of the 1960s & 1970s**

17 May – 19 July 2009

UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY  
War Memorial Arch, The Quadrangle

GALLERY HOURS

10am–4.30pm Monday–Friday

12 – 4pm Sundays

Michele Perfetti

*Siamo tutti insieme*

*We are all together 1977*

screenprint

Art Collection, University of Sydney

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