

## *Lunchtime Talk with Margherita Marchioni*

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we were able to embark and launch our first lunchtime talk and had the pleasure of introducing, Artist, Margherita Marchioni to the class of Global Governance. With the relaxed and tranquil setting of the library we were able to sit around in an environment, outside of our normal classroom studies, really trying to understand and get to grips of the ins and outs of what Margherita's art was all about and how we could all start using our brains in different ways.



It was evident to see that Margherita's work stood out from the crowd. Her ability to take something we use every day, whether it be a plastic bottle, pens, pen lids, CD's, things that we would essentially call junk and turn it into art, or a piece of jewelry. Quoting her, she said, "Society pushes us to believe these objects are waste." Margherita had been given 15 tons of Tuna cans, which she then transformed into a beautiful fountain sculpture in her most recent experience and exhibition in Palermo, Sicily in the city garden. Her ideology behind her

most recent works and all her pieces is to use recyclable items that people have given her. It is quite extraordinary how her creativity and personality shines through her collection and conveys her passion and quirkiness. She is also well travelled as she has had exhibitions in New York and in other parts of the world, where she said that every audience that sees her art always perceive her pieces differently, something to do with different tastes in society and different cultures.

Margherita takes some of her inspiration from Roberto Carbucci. He creates artistic, yet stylish dresses from silk, they have no structure inside whatsoever and because of this he is a fantastic innovator. Carbucci manages to work the fabric in ways the fabric wouldn't usually sit and creates these beautiful, yet extravagant pieces of art, which can also be worn as dresses by the human form.

We moved on to the topic of jewelry, as a lot of Margherita's pieces are either, necklaces or bracelets. This topic touched a chord inside her and her reaction to whether jewelry potentially, might not be perceived as art, she said, "Jewelry is art, the ideas it transmits and creates. Art is how people perceive it." When scrolling through her pieces, it was evident to see that this was true, her naturalism towards her jewelry and the simplicity of it was truly incredible, she has melted and molded the pieces in her own style creating beauty that we wouldn't normally expect to come from 'junk'.

To the right you can see a necklace created using cut up pencils, which were carefully threaded one by one and took a long time to do. It was apparent to see that her art took an extensive amount of time to achieve her ideal look and goal. Time is something she likes to give herself, she is not pushed into rushing her pieces, but actually likes it when her work is against the norm and works at a pace that is against the fast paced lives of the people around her.





Benni Mina, one of our fellow classmates, asked the first question, “How did Margherita’s passion arise?” Her face lit up and without hesitation, and answered, “I was between the ages of 7-8 when she first started making jewelry and was always inspired by feminine works. I would recruit my friends and family to collect items and then send them to me.” It was clear to see that her work had also a lot of social meanings behind them. The concept being that outsiders, human beings, who are classed as ‘losers’ can inspire others, whether it’s an artist, a writer, a musician and use their creativity to tell others that things are not always what they seem, like human spares. This was a very powerful idea, that society and what other perceive as the norm had created people who don’t fit into a specific clique and these people should not be any less important than you or me, but we

are pushed in different directions by society and peer pressures. This is what makes Margherita’s creativity and thought process, so out of the box and so extraordinary, that these pieces, which we would normally perceive as junk, make us look at her art from the perspective of an outsider. Whether it is, people, situations, non-normality’s in society, how we, as human beings are so easily influenced. In a subtle way, Margherita’s art is able to give us hints towards her own personal beliefs, communicated through her art. Although allowing us sneakily to make up our own minds, without passing judgment.

Where would we be now though without those creative out of the box thinkers and doers who aren’t politicians, but people who are able to express their beliefs through their arts? Artists are like musicians, who portray a message through a song, or like a writer who makes us cry with whimsical words of wisdom, or how a poet gets us lost in their world of tangled beauty. During this lunchtime talk, we were able to grasp the understanding of what art really is. It’s a way of expressing your own personal opinions, without using any words or suggestive propaganda, a simple yet powerful technique of communicating ones ideas through another’s creativity.

Professor Buratti then jumped in with a, personal yet obvious question that one would like to know, “is art profitable?” Margherita’s answer being no, it’s a hard but a very self-gratifying profession. Artists are survivors, always up for a fight but are always the ones fighting. Fighting to be heard, and fighting to be seen, but it’s a matter of passion that keeps ones art alive.



The final moments of our first Lunch Talk was amusing yet inspiring to all the students that were there to witness it, with Margherita showing us the very meaning and depth of her personality coming through her art work with the help of her music collection. She takes great inspiration from songs and has a great taste in music that she listens to whilst in her creative zone, giving us all some good suggestions about what we should be listening to at the moment, whether they are

golden oldies or new releases, music is definitely something that we all as a generation are able to relate to.

Finishing with a quote that we believe sums up Margherita as a person, which was said by the late, Oscar Wilde, “No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If they did, they would cease to be an artist.” That is definitely something I can vouch for, on behalf of the students, that Margherita has given us something to take away and think about, which is to always think outside of the box and try and see things in a different light, whether it be art or in society in general, to not be judgmental but see things the way you want to see it, not how other want us to perceive it. Remember, art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves all at the same time.

*Lucy Cook and Pier Mario Travagli*