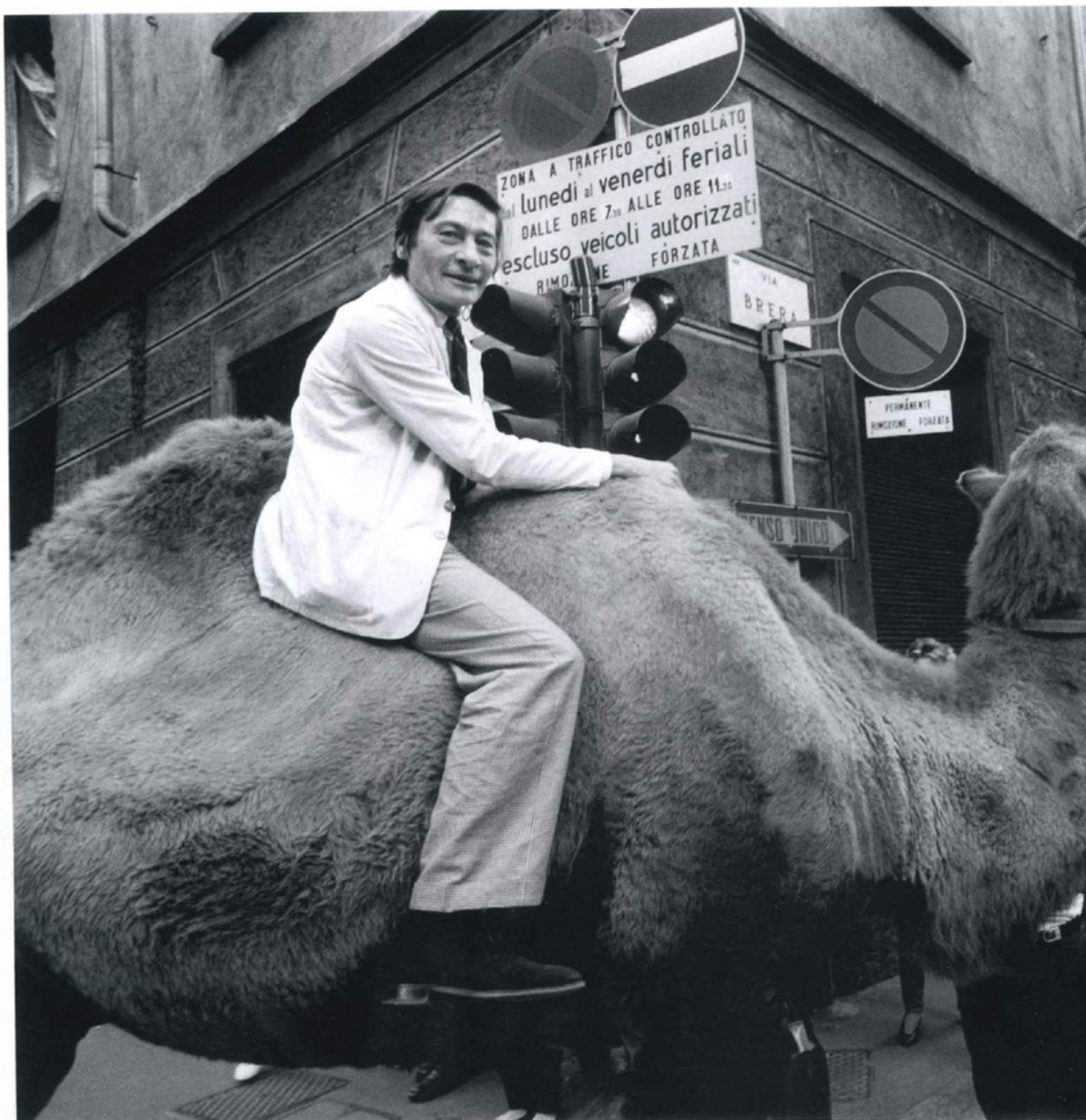


OPINION



Aldo Mondino, Festa araba a Brera,  
cammello di nome Badoglio, 1985-86, Brera, Milano.  
Photo © Archivio Garghetti Milano.

# MONDINO AND THE EPHEMERAL WORKS

**ANTONIO MONDINO, THE SON OF THE FAMED ARTIST AND CURATOR OF THE ALDO MONDINO ARCHIVE, EXPLORES HIS FATHER'S ART CHARACTERIZED BY IRREVERENCE, IRONY, AND PLAYFULNESS. STARTING WITH THE INNOVATIVE "FOOD" WORKS, ALDO MONDINO FEARLESSLY VENTURED INTO UNCONVENTIONAL MATERIALS, PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.**

Words ANTONIO MONDINO

The initial "food" artworks emerged during the 1960s, marking a significant shift in artistic expression. In these early pieces, Mondino explored the use of sugar as a medium, employing it to create writings on canvas. Evocative phrases like "It is sweeter to give than to receive", "Art is sweet" or "Mom, I see a large sugar painting" adorned the surfaces. Additionally, sculptures crafted from candy by Baratti & Milano in Turin and chocolate sculptures by Peyrano, such as "Scultura un corno", "Ortisei" and the chocolate bust of Giandua and his wife Giacometta, were part of Mondino's repertoire.

Moving beyond the realm of confectionery, Mondino's "ephemeral" works encompassed large-scale, site-specific installations designed for modification in various environments, both indoors and outdoors. Notably, "Raccolto in preghiera" featured a carpet composed entirely of grains, including corn, rice, beans, red soybeans, and green soybeans. During a retrospective exhibition in Pietrasanta, the artwork was reproduced in the churchyard of the Cathedral. However, the installation was ephemeral indeed, as seagulls devoured it shortly after its inauguration.

Another remarkable creation, "Mekka Mokka", on display at Palazzo Boncompagni in Bologna, the former residence of Pope Gregorio XIII, showcases a carpet crafted entirely from three types of coffee: raw, roasted, and semi-roasted, each with its distinct color. The fringes consist of ground coffee. At the conclusion of the exhibition, viewers are encouraged to take some coffee, grind it, and savor the artwork in liquid form. Intriguingly, "The Marshmallow Pool" immerses the viewer in a pool

composed entirely of marshmallows. However, as one looks upward, a trap set by Mondino becomes apparent: an unreachable ladder positioned four meters high, leaving the viewer pondering their predicament. Among Mondino's diverse creations is "The Wailing Wall", an interpretation in white and raw sugar that seeks to "sweeten", in a somewhat irreverent manner, a place of profound sanctity.

While studying mosaic under Severini at the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris during the 1960s, Mondino developed a series of works utilizing Peyrano chocolates instead of traditional stone dowels. One notable example is "The Byzantine World", currently exhibited at the Building Gallery in Milan, which pays homage to the artist with an extensive retrospective.

