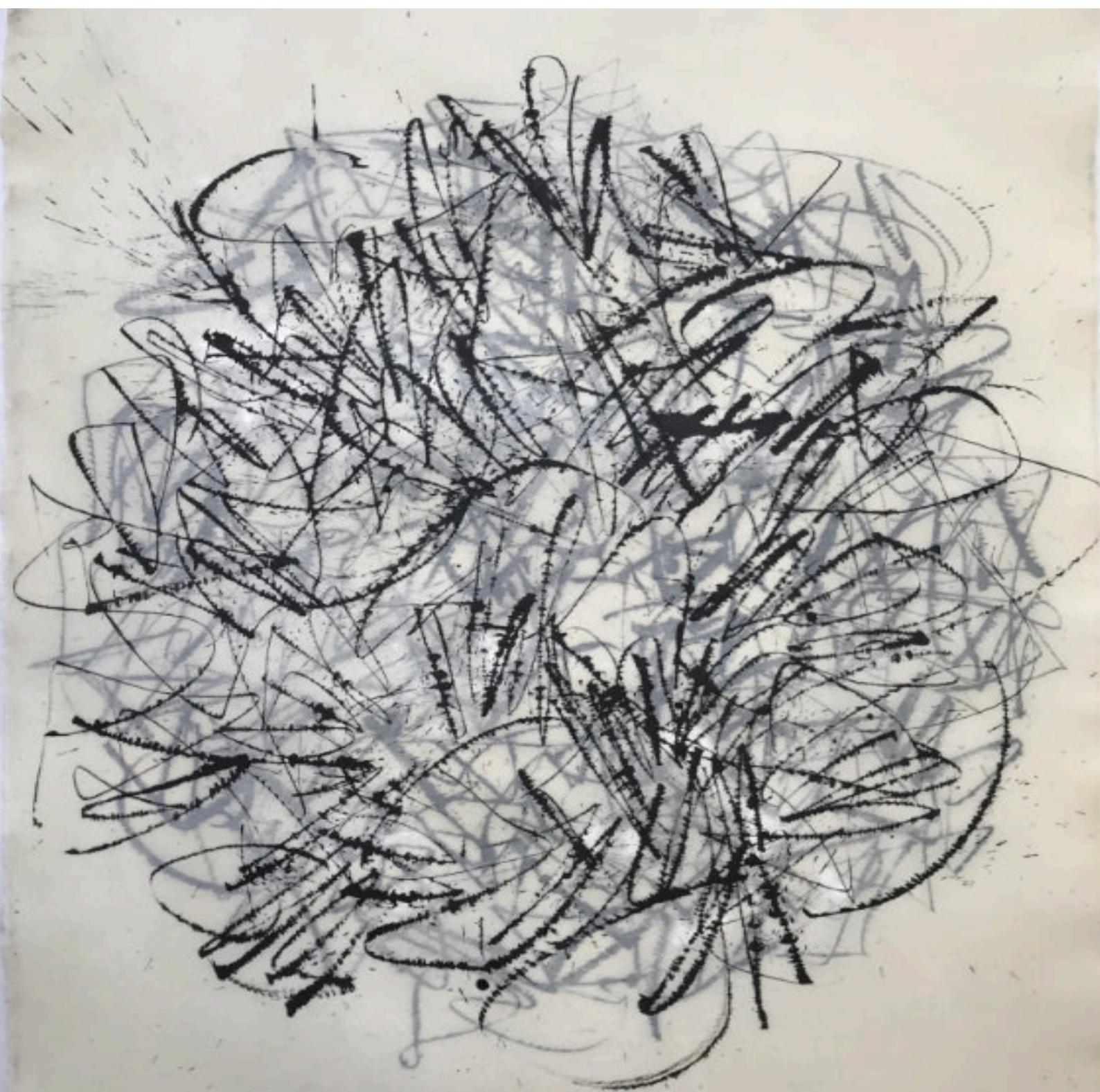


Marking

our relationship with the world

International Workshop in Venice, Italy
October 9-15, 2026

Monica Dengo





Writing is an act of order: letters, symbols, and marks that follow precise rules and linear sequences. It is a shared language that allows us to define the world, to map reality through symbolic and linear structures. To write is to construct meaning, to give form to thought.



But what happens when we let go of control? When the hand moves without a scheme, guided only by intuition, impulse, the unconscious? Marking marks without rules is like walking through an unfamiliar forest: every step, every gesture opens onto unexpected forms, new possibilities.

Through the practice and teaching of abstract marks, scribbles, and illegible writings, I have discovered that the free gesture—experienced as a form of listening—transforms the way we look at the world. Faced with a plant, marks become branches, trunks, roots; a stone suggests the sky; a lichen turns into a forest; a sound becomes a thread in a spider's web, as fine as silk; a heartbeat takes the shape of a gesture.



We begin to perceive unforeseen connections. In this space, the wild and the familiar meet, and the mark becomes a bridge between ourselves and what surrounds us. In this workshop, we will move together through the stages that led me to gradually distance myself from formal calligraphy and to orient my practice toward the art of writing by hand and gestural mark-making in its many forms until intuiting a possible dialogue between gestural marks and plants.





During the workshop, we will observe written pages from different historical periods to understand their visual construction, and we will experiment with handwriting through repetition, invented words, and paradoxes. We will then step outside the linearity of writing to explore automatic gesture, free mark-making, and unstructured dialogue. Every trace, every scribble will be a step toward new forms of perception and expression. We will also explore Venetian gardens, and hidden corners of vegetal life.

All the works will then be gathered into book form: the pages will assume new configurations, and unexpected connections will emerge between word and mark, between letter and gesture, between ourselves and the world.



PROGRAM

DATES:

Friday October 9th to Thursday October 15th, 2026
7 days of workshop, afternoon free on Monday October 12th.

TIME:

Each day the class will begin at 9:30 and end at 4:30 pm.
Students will be allowed to work everyday in the classroom until 7:30pm.

OTHER MATERIALS:

A minimum list of optional materials will be sent after subscription. Most materials will be available in classroom.

PAPER:

Students will be provided with a variety of papers.
Additional special papers can be purchased in the classroom.

FEE:

€ 1350 (onethousandthreehundredfiftyeuros)
Deposit of € 400 is due by March 31st, 2026, **deposit is non-refundable**.
Final payment is due by July 15th, 2026.

LOCATION:

Palazzo Minotto, Fondamenta Minotto, Santa Croce 143, Venice Italy.
Near Rio del Gaffaro and Fondamenta dei Tolentini, a short walk from Piazzale Roma (Venice bus station) and Venezia S. Lucia (train station).

The location is very comfortable, students have access to the classroom and to a room dedicated to rest, have coffee or tea, or have a chat.
There are balconies on both ends.

Google search: the building is before the Hotel al Sole
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4FBwxvfm4bcGwPnb9>

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please contact Monica Dengo at ciao@monicadengo.com



Palazzo Minotto: <https://palazzominotto.com/>