

HANDSMATTER DEAFBLINDNESS



Guido Dettoni proposes this Handmatter program for tactile shapes to become the empathetic approach of those who hear and see to the deafblindness condition.

The first experimental workshop of the **Handmatter Deafblindness** program has been also the one inspiring the creation of the [Deafblind Shape](#).

The methodology of reference of these Workshops is: **HANDSMATTER**.

HANDSMATTER is the name of the collective creative process conceived and defined by Guido Dettoni beginning in the early 70's. Handmatter was conceived out of his personal artistic work process.

After experimenting and experiencing the process with various groups, he proposed Handmatter as a working method practicable and open to people of all ages and cultures. This specific project broadens the HANDSMATTER process to people with disabilities and has an additional aim to serve deafblind communication and comprehension.

THE WORKSHOPS [Video of the first experimental workshop](#)

Deafblind people and their interveners share within their four hands malleable matter specifically designed for this purpose. The matter softens via the warmth of their hands and is hardened after shaping in a cool water basin.

Neither has any conscious intention to shape something specific. The four hands intertwine in and with the matter. The intervener is following and enters a passive state of supporting the process without thinking or observing, sensitive to leaving the other free to continue alone if he or she wishes.



The process may last more than one hour and in the end we will hold shapes which are like imprints and testimonies of emotions and sentiments experienced in shaping of the matter.

THE INDIVIDUAL TACTILE APPROACH OF THE INTERVENERS

After shapes have been created, by touching and holding them blindfolded, what will interveners and volunteers sense and feel?

They will feel the emotional charge -almost the memory- contained in the matter and at the same time they will see with the hands the volume of the shape. The tactile approach will lead to interpretations becoming the “verbal testimony” of this experience.

THE COLLECTIVE SIGHT APPROACH OF THE INTERVENERS

By looking at the shapes, what will interveners imagine? And which points of view of the shape will they choose? Their choice will reveal a preference, already a seed of a possible interpretation.

They will come together to jointly achieve a visual composition able to illustrate the fusion of their different interpretations: the “aesthetic testimony” of this visual experience.

For it, **HANDSMATTER** provides the method and the computer application Guido Dettoni has conceived in order to compose the digitalised pictures of the shapes which can later be conceived in three dimensions is chosen to be taken to that end point.



The program’s purpose is to establish the shape, through both testimonies verbal and aesthetic as an aural-tactile-emotional bridging interface between the world of those who see and ear and the deafblindness condition.

At the same time it offers to interveners an innovative channel in their communication and a new avenue of investigation and empathic sharing which is emotional, psychological and aesthetic.

