



If the Shoe Fits

There is no need to have Cinderella's tiny feet to fit into this elegant slipper. A size 10, it represents Mirella Bentivoglio's own shoe size—of which she is proud.



Mirella Cinderella, 1997

Take a closer look

Book objects like this one challenge conventional definitions of "book" and "sculpture." Here, **Mirella Bentivoglio (b. 1922)** presents us with two books: one with tactile-looking pages that cannot be turned; another with real pages, but no content.

In her own words

"I work like a poet and an alchemist because I mix ingredients that already exist, such as words, and I use objects as 'signs.' I assemble and sometimes modify these ingredients, and give them a poetic meaning."

Who knew?

Bentivoglio created her first book objects after helping save ancient texts damaged by the 1966 flood in Florence, Italy. The fragility of those books influenced her decision to use materials that could not be easily destroyed.

Mirella Bentivoglio, *Mirella Cinderella*, 1997; Marble, china, and paper, 5¼ x 9¾ x 8 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist; © Mirella Bentivoglio

