

**THE ARTS AGAINST STEREOTYPES**

**STARTING WITH SCIENCE**

**“International Women’s Day in Science”**

The**“International Women’s Day in Science”** is celebrated on February 11th.

It was set up by the UN in 2015 to attract the insterest of the public opinion about gender stereotypes in science.

[](https://magazine.leviedeitesori.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/03/f4a2c8df0015e694e45ab18992457f33edb9b95fjpg.jpg) **Ilaria Margutti’s work**

Between the end of the 19th Century and the first years of the 20th Century, many prejudices occurs to women in science and **the process of “cancellation” of their research** takes place. This was also favoured by the fact that, nearly always, women had to publish their work under their husbands’ names, or under a male pseudonym, to be taken into consideration.

[](https://magazine.leviedeitesori.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/03/Paola-Sinatra-Evita-Andujar.jpg)Some details of Paola Sinatra’s and Evita Andujar’s works

In British countries, this tendency to negate women’s contribution to scientific inventions has been studied by the historian **Margareth Rossiter: she called it “Matilda Effect”**, from the name of the American writer and essayist **Matilda Joslyn Gage**.

The topic of the gap of opportunities to the disadvantage of women regards every scope of our society and everyday life, without restricting itself to the scientific field.

Ten artists – **Evita Andujar, Simona Cavaglieri, Kali Jones, Sarah Ledda, Ilaria Margutti, Nelida Mendoza, Cetty Previtera, Paola Sinatra, Vania Elettra Tam and Samantha Torrisi** – away from any celebratory or rhetoric form, reflected on the role of women, also through the chronicles of a “normal brilliance” derived from experience, memory and the relationship with everyday life and with the private and familiar spheres.

[](https://magazine.leviedeitesori.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/03/5-Sarah-Ledda-PlasticFlowers-2022-cm60x72.jpg)**“Plastic Flower”, Sarah Ledda**

These artists have faced the difficult task to offer an **intimate and personal description of their relationship with a “masculine” world**, instilling the germ of passion and conquer in their works, claiming the fundamental women’s role in a struggle against a system (very similar to the one reported by Gage) which would still try to cancel their enterprise spirit and their individual affirmation.