

MARIO PASQUALOTTO

→ Barcelona, 1953



The artwork is a suitcase that the artist found on the street and then covered with lead, trying to imitate the leather of the suitcase. Once this cover was made, Pasqualotto sewed the lead with leather thread to simulate the joints of the original suitcase inside this lead casing. Lead is a heavy yet flexible material, and it easily breaks apart.

Mario Pasqualotto is an artist who draws from an artistic movement that emerged in Italy around the 1960s: **arte povera** (poor art). The artist finds beauty in those objects or materials that are generally not considered to be artistic, that are everyday items and easy to get hold of. In this case, he has taken an everyday object and manipulated it to transform it into a sculpture, decontextualizing it to give it a new meaning. With this sculpture, the artist has transformed an everyday object, the suitcase, into a work of art from the found object – this kind of art is also called **ready-made**.

The suitcase can remind us of a journey. It is an object that is used to transport something from one place to another. The material used, lead, alludes to time – since it has been used since prehistory – but also to duration and evolution.



In the image you can see the artwork **Untitled**, a sculpture the artist **Mario Pasqualotto** made in 1997.



Title: S/T,
Year: 1997

Technique: Lead and leather thread

Measure: 45 x 73 x 21 cm

Location: Can Mario Museum



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FUNDACIÓ
VILA CASAS



How about transforming an everyday object into a sculpture by changing it in some way?

First, look for an everyday object that you want to transform (a paper cup, a plastic bottle or similar container, etc.). Then take a piece of plasticine in the colour or colours of your choosing, roll it out with a rolling pin to get a thin layer and cut it into small squares. Once the plasticine is ready, press the squares onto the object until the entire surface is covered and wrapped in plasticine. Finally, give the plasticine a textural effect with your fingerprints, or press or scrape the soft surface with some utensils, such as shells, and even stick small items on it, such as pebbles, dried legumes, etc.



Materials: An everyday object that you have at hand and that you do not want to use again, coloured plasticine or any mouldable material that dries in the air, a rolling pin, any textured element that you can use to scrape the plasticine, and small objects to stick onto it.