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| Artist | Renato Bertelli |
| Title | Continuous Profile – Head of Mussolini |
| Date | 1933 |
| Medium | Terracotta |
| Scale | Support: Depth 280 mm, Height 340 mm, Width 280 mm |
| Scope | War |
| Style | Futurism |
| Patron | Benito Mussolini |
| Location | Imperial War Museum |
| Function | Propaganda |

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| Formal features | |
| Composition | This piece has the dimensions of a head placed centrally on the plinth. |
| Colour or texture | The colour of the piece is black which ties in with Mussolini’s party – the black shirts as well as the idea of power associated with black. The colour also adds to the formality and the imposingness of the piece – as though citizens would not come up against ‘Il Duce’. |
| Light & tone | There is only light through the reflection on the smooth texture of the sculpture which comes across in lines which make it appear as though it is moving, hence the title of ‘continuous’. |
| Space & depth or relief | The only depth is in the grooves that make up the profile. These indents vary in depth to create the effect of a face with eyes, nose etc. |
| Line or brushwork | The lines curve round the whole head making it continuous. |

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:

There are several recreations of the head in different materials which make it versatile and thus adding to the idea that it can be in any material, any position in the room, anywhere; and still be present and all seeing.

Stylistic comment and artistic influence:

Roman Emperors would have statues of themselves placed around the country and Empire. Mussolini – a kind of 20th century Roman Emperor has taken influence from this and relayed this concept to Bertelli.

Futurism- This work is Futurist in style. The Futurists were an Italian movement who advocated war, machinery and celebrated industry. They rejected Italy’s past and instead wanted to portray Italy as modern with references to the machine.

Influence from technological factors:

At this point in Italy, they had access to most materials and thus this piece has been recreated in many different materials. However, Mussolini had a strong vision for a modern Italy (rather like the futurists) and was very pro war – he wanted the most modern form of sculpture.

Influence from political factors:

This piece is highly political as the fascist leader took Italy by storm in the late 1920s and took them into war by siding with Hitler’s Nazis. The colour scheme of black not only shows the monochromatic stylised uniform of the Nazis – but of the Black Shirts that were ruling Italy in the 1930s (Mussolini’s party).

Influence from cultural/social factors:

The sculpture was made to make the people of Italy fear and respect Mussolini and thus this creation has had influence from social factors.

Image:

