



BURNING  
LAND

ALESSIO BARCHITTA  
MARIUS STEIGER

CURATED BY  
DOMENICO DE CHIRICO

LABS  
CONTEMPORARY ART

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The intent of "Burning Land" is to investigate matter, in both realistic and metaphorical terms, in all its expressive and inspirational potential. Starting from the concept of substance, through a careful and complete investigation of the essence of organic nature, both artists focus their attention, albeit in a diversified way, on everything that is destined to change over time. As in the Holbacchian System of Nature, "Burning Land" supports the break with the so-called deism and consequently with the postulate of cause and effect, referring to the principle of *iuxta propria principia* according to which nature must be observed in reference to itself, as it is and works in itself. Nothing is found outside of being, everything pushes the other to be what it is, in a series of spontaneous, indefinite and cyclical events. Its burning, parched and parched soil decomposes and is reborn, kicking the sap to recreate it. This constitutive approach thus becomes the spokesperson for an updated meaning of what is known as materialism, or that philosophical conception for which the only reality that can truly be said to exist is matter and everything that derives from its continuous transformation into a process that alternates between life and death and vice versa. Being always remains vital, even in passing, even in the moment of its regeneration. A flow in which everything actively participates, in which the

roles of subject and object decline and in which even what is artificial is produced by the organic, as in the case of the human being, becomes part of that whirlwind game dictated unequivocally from the laws of nature which are none other than those that move the elements on a terrestrial, interplanetary, intergalactic and universal level.

It is therefore in a composite and fertile ground, which acts at the same time as fertilizer and soil, that the works of the two artists on display dialogue and reproduce: the very young Swiss artist **Marius Steiger** (Bern, Switzerland, 1999) works mainly with painting and the objects creating oxymoronic works that combine real narratives and fiction in an austere but romantic visual language. He explores the opposing questions of authenticity and artificiality and the relationship between human beings and modern technology, as well as considering scientific advances and laboratory experiments in the field of nutrition or genetics. Brilliant light and exceptionally sparkling colors portray, in a detailed way, mostly floral compositions which, in turn, float neatly on backgrounds made of fields of color with sharp edges so as to create pleasant and solemn landscapes, in a simulation of reality in the balance between malaise and luxuriance; for the young Italian artist **Alessio Barchitta** (Barcelona Pozzo di Gotto, Italy, 1991) the choice of materials is indissolubly a fundamental part of his research which is always heterogeneous and complex. From his point of view, where the material lacks peculiarities, aesthetics quickly take over to connote the subject. Starting from an ideal and dogmatic stage of neutrality, Barchitta investigates the binomials, among others, of ob-

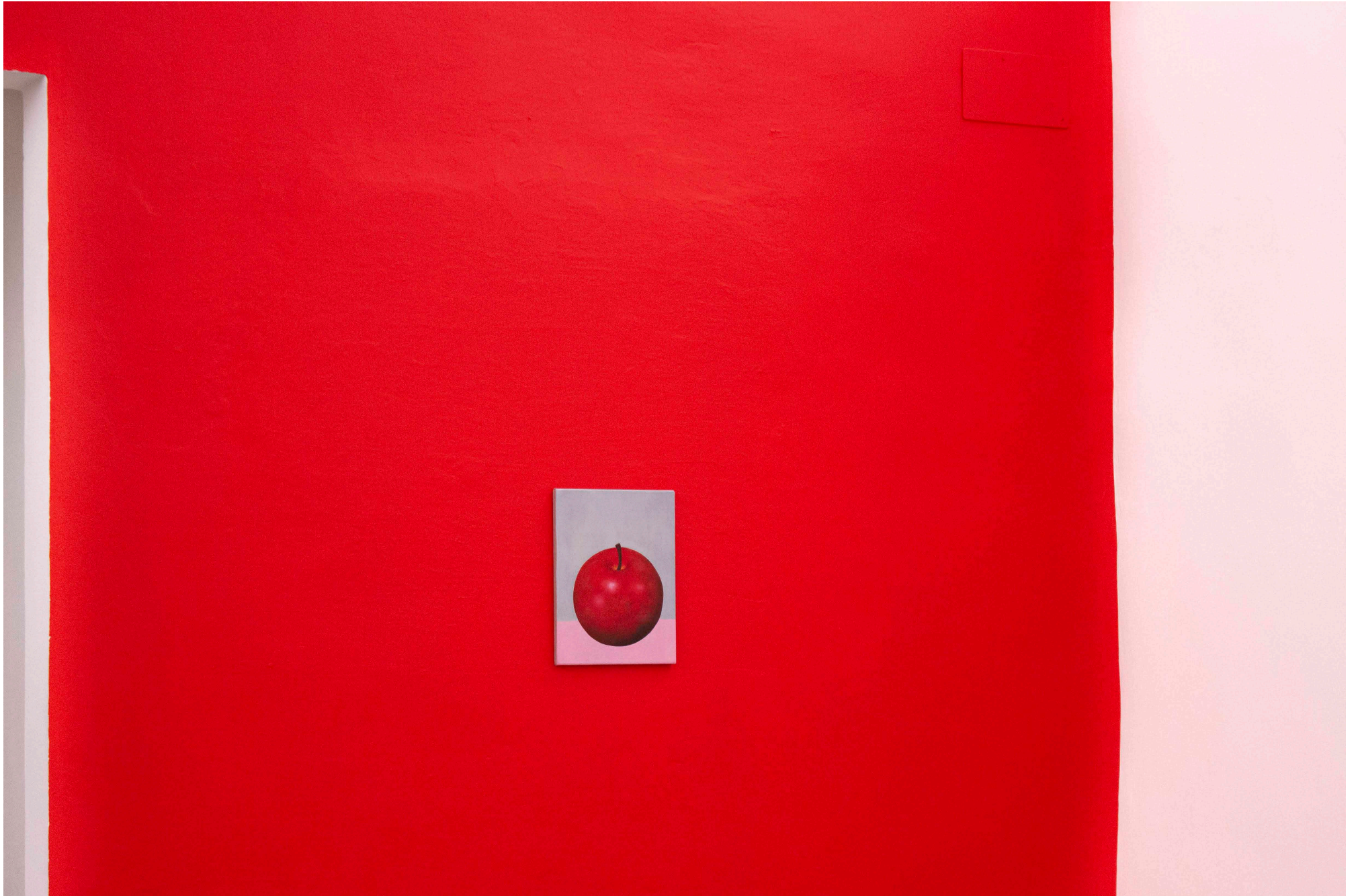




iectum and subiectum, meaning and signifier, public and private, comfortable and desolating, indocile and enslaved, ironic and tragic, persistent and transitory. Barchitta presents a series of ceramic sculptures, a cycle of works from 2022 entitled "Fixed nail", adorned with pours of colored glazes, which visibly recall the features of Colodi's Pinocchio, an emblem of abulia and submission towards an arrogant and insincere world and symbol of the rejection of moral conscience, since as Benedetto Croce wrote in "The literature of the new Italy": "the wood in which Pinocchio is cut is humanity".

**Domenico de Chirico**





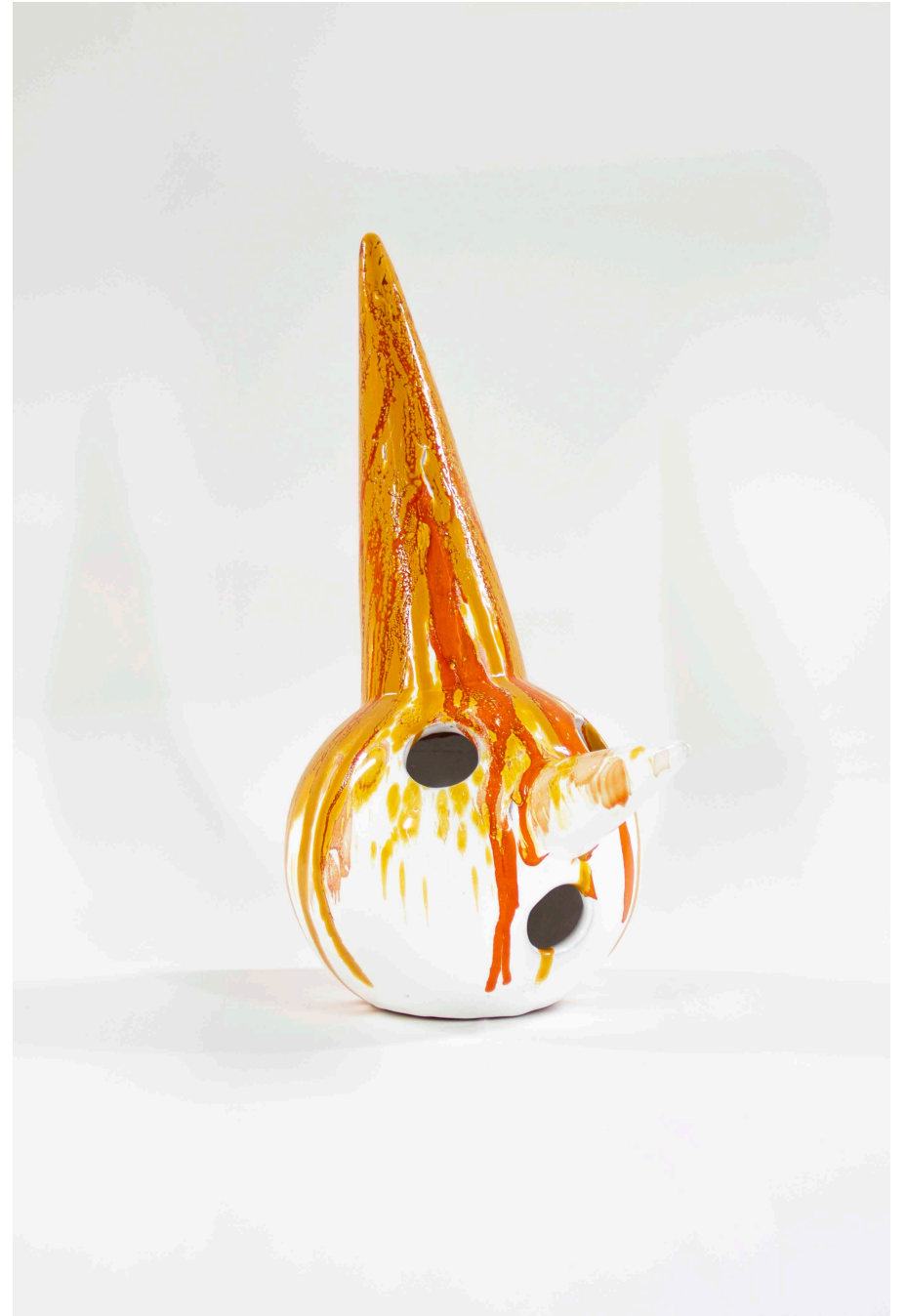
ALESSIO BARCHITTA

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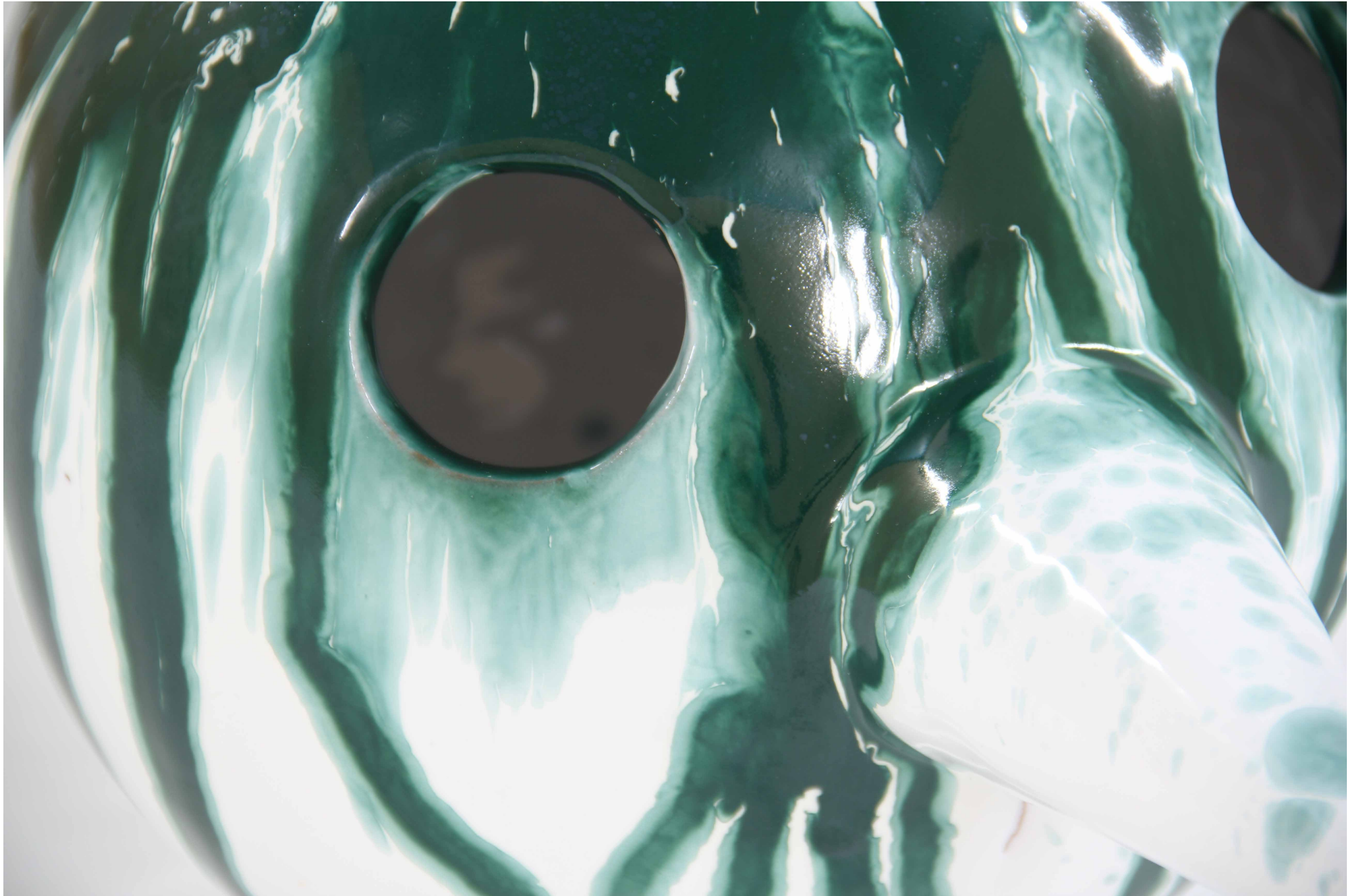




Alessio Barchitta, Chiodo fisso, 2021  
Red clay, enamels  
52 x 35 x 25 cm















Alessio Barchitta, Kick me, 2019  
Recovered tiles, mortar  
20 x 20 cm



Alessio Barchitta, Kick me, 2019  
Recovered tiles, mortar  
20 x 20 cm



MARIUS STEIGER

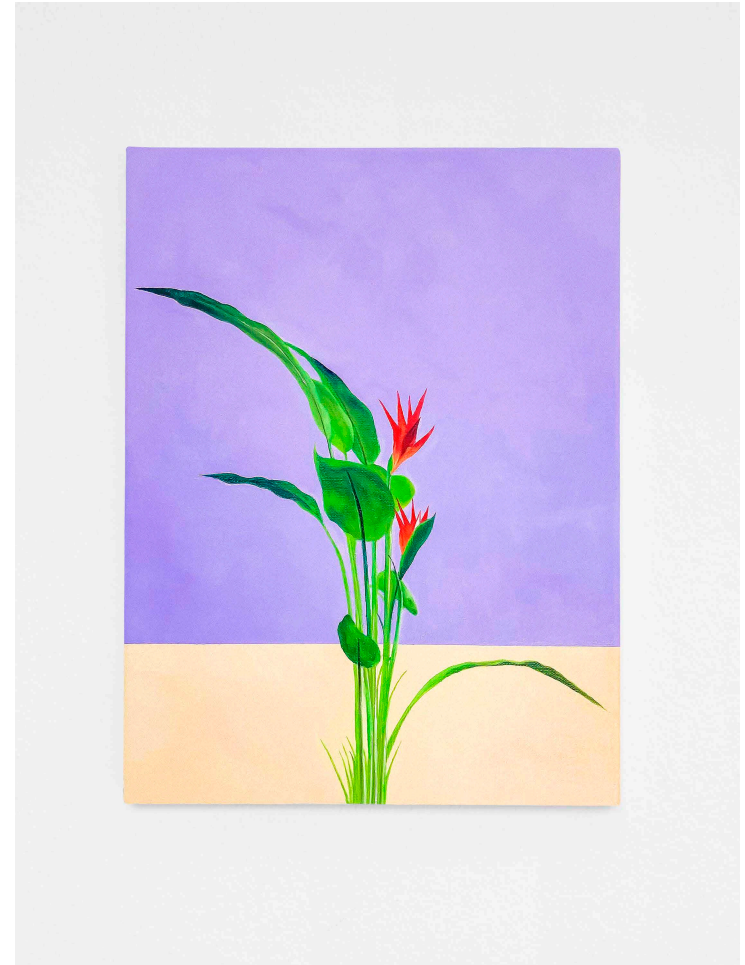
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Marius Steiger, Red Grey Mushroom Spot  
with Mountain Avens (Lust For Life), 2021  
Oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm





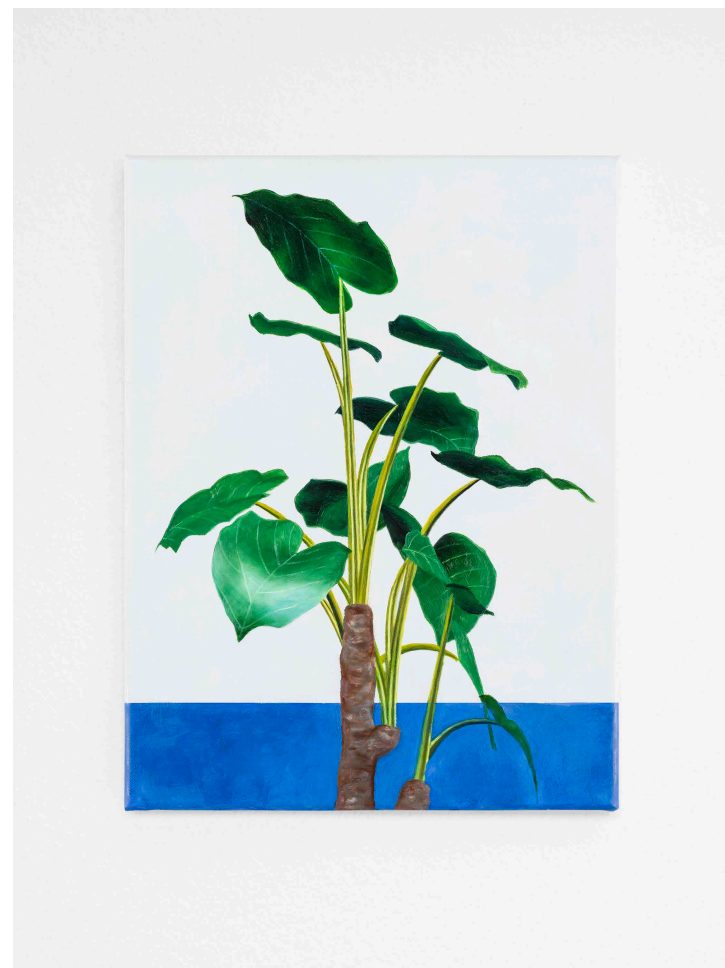
Marius Steiger  
Beige Blue Wood Lily, 2022  
Oil on linen, 40 × 30 cm



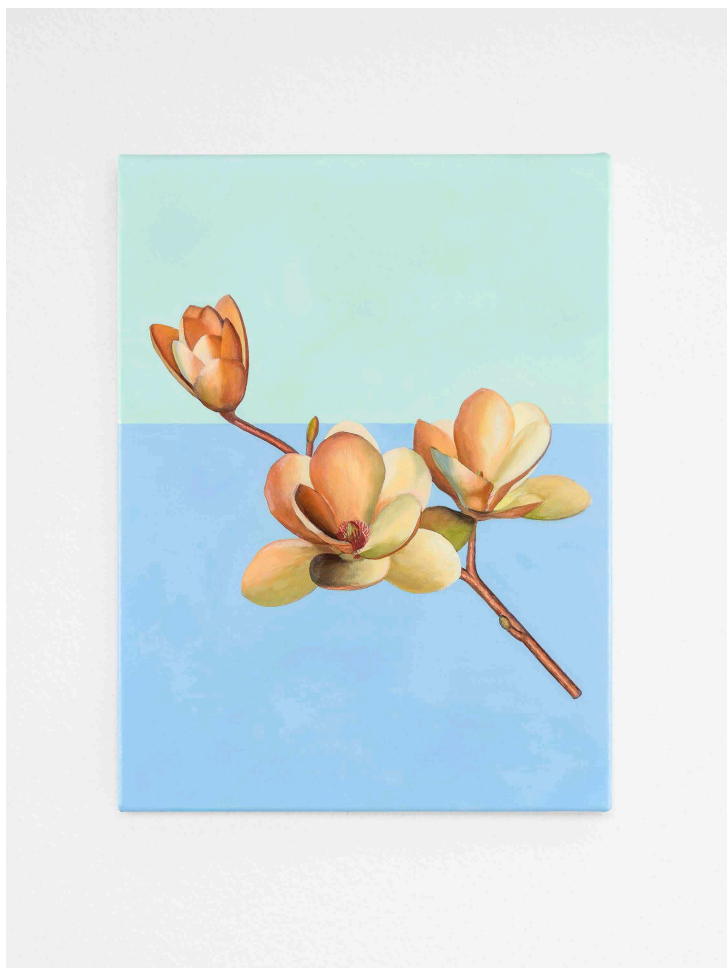
Marius Steiger  
Beige Purple Crane Flower, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 x 30 cm



Marius Steiger  
Blue Coral Flame Lily Blossom, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 × 30 cm



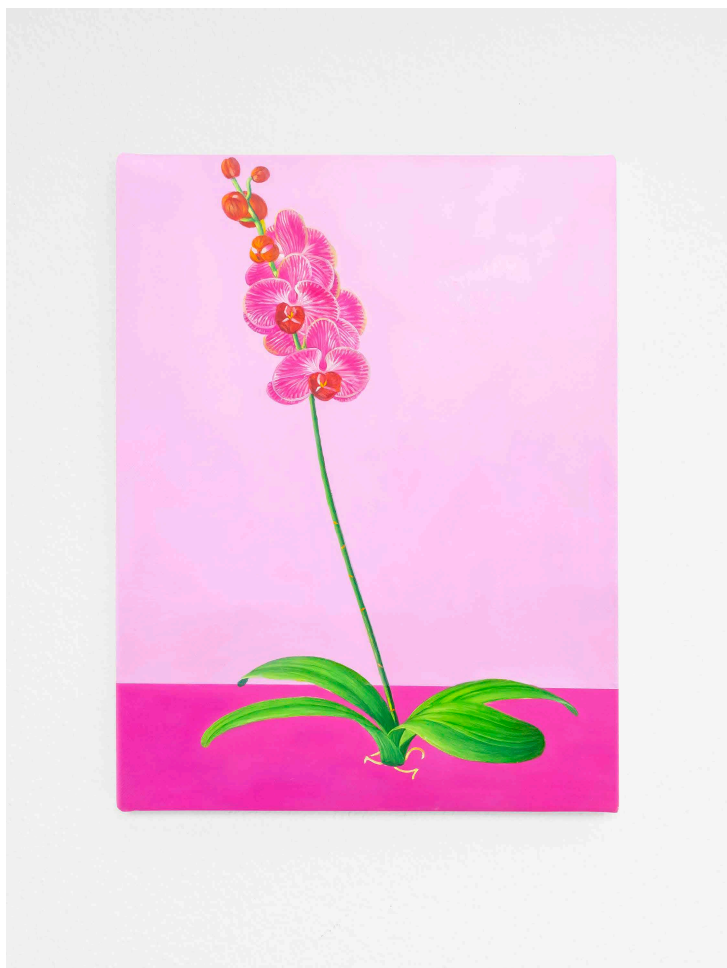
Marius Steiger  
Blue Grey Elephant Ear, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 x 30 cm



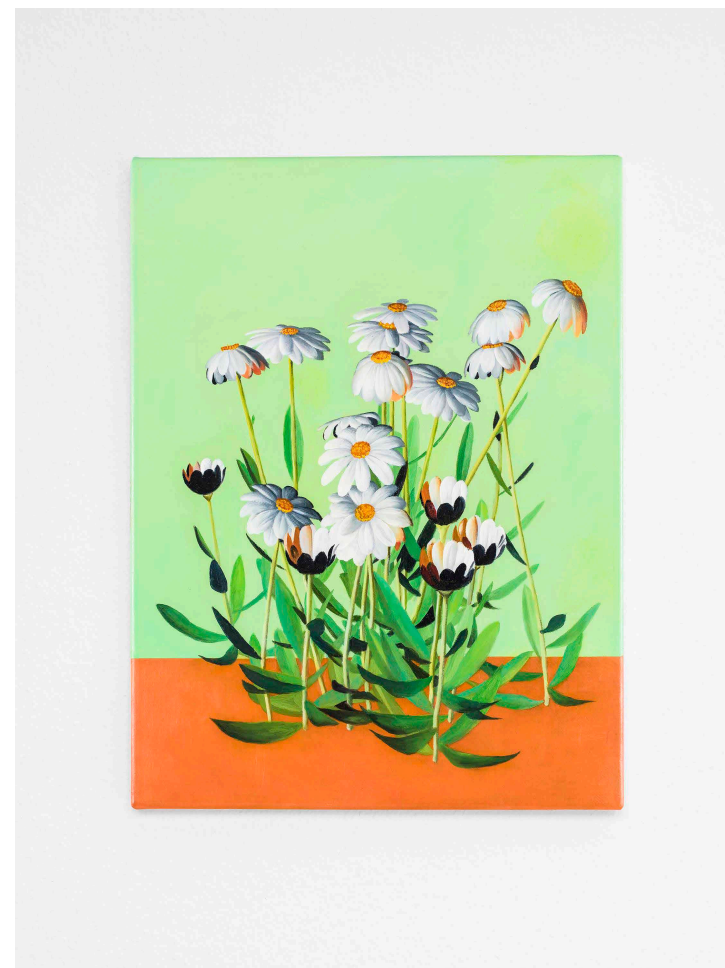
Marius Steiger  
Blue Mint Magnolia, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 × 30 cm



Marius Steiger  
Green Grey Inkcap, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 x 30 cm



Marius Steiger  
Magenta Rose Moth Orchid, 2022  
Oil on linen, 40 × 30 cm



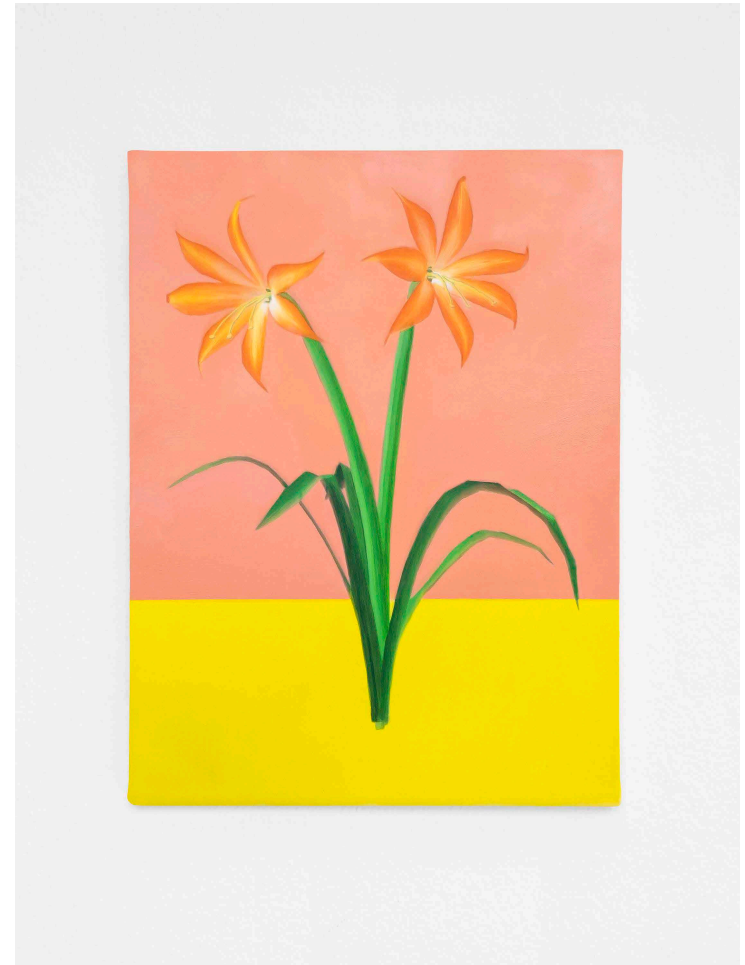
Marius Steiger  
Orange Green Marguerite, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 x 30 cm



Marius Steiger  
Rose Grey Apple, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 × 30 cm



Marius Steiger  
Yellow Orange Butter Waxcap, 2021  
Oil on linen, 40 x 30 cm



Marius Steiger  
Yellow Salmon Wood Lily, 2022  
Oil on linen, 40 x 30 cm



BIOGRAPHY

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**Alessio Barchitta** (Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, ME, IT, 1991)

Lives and works between Milan and Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto (ME).

The choice of materials is indissolubly a fundamental part of his research which is always heterogeneous and complex. From his point of view, where the material lacks peculiarities, aesthetics quickly take over to connote the subject. Starting from an ideal and dogmatic stage of neutrality, Barchitta investigates the binomials, among others, of ob-iectum and sub-iectum, meaning and signifier, public and private, comfortable and desolating, indocile and enslaved, ironic and tragic, persistent and transient.

#### Solo show

- 2021 "Dive in to the ZEITGEIST", Alessio Barchitta - Jingge Dong, Amy.D Arte Spazio, MI  
"Simulacri concreti", Review Scintille d'arte, Fondazione Vittorio Leonasio, Puegnano del Garda (BS), curated by Mariacristina Maccarinelli and Kevin McManus  
"OSANNA (!)", Spazio SERRA, Milano, critical text by Balloon Project
- 2020 "I CAN'T SEE BEYOND THESE FUCKING CLOUDS, Bunkervik, Brescia, curated by Daniele Astrologo
- 2019 "Fluid like concrete, tough like sand", Amy-D Arte Spazio, Milan, curated by Arianna Baldoni
- 2018 "INNER~OUTER" Bastione Santa Maria Castello di Milazzo (ME)

#### Group Exhibitions. With catalog \*

- 2021 "Osservatorio X", Superstudio, Milan\*  
"BIENNULO, Nunc est bidendum, nuncio pede libero pulsando tellus", Nolo91, Milano, a cura di Matteo Bergamini, Rossana Ciocca, Carlo Vanoni - Gianni Romano\*  
"DISCONTINUO an open studio #4", spazio DISCONTINUO, Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto (ME) curated by Collettivo Flock  
"Re\_st\_Art", PAN Palazzo delle Arti di Napoli, curated by Dino Morra  
"Sasso carta forbice sasso", Spazio A21, Lodi, curated by Maria Chiara Cardini
- 2020 "Supersacca", galleria Sacca, Pozzallo (RG), curated by Giovanni Scucces  
"Disabitare/Disabitare", Museo Civico di Palazzo Santi, Cascia, curated by Davide Silvioli  
"DISCONTINUO an open studio °3" spazio DISCONTINUO, Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto (ME) curated by Collettivo Flock, IT  
Iveste Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town
- 2019 "Co-existence", Centro Luigi di Sarro, Rome  
"Identità nomadi", Studio BBS-pro, Prato, curated by Anna D'Ambrosio  
"Le stanze del contemporaneo", Palazzo Martinengo, Brescia, curated by Daniele Astrologo Abadal\*  
"MeetUp ARP 7ED", Suburbia Contemporary Art, Granada, ES  
"MeetUp ARP 7ED", Satellite, Cape Town  
"DISCONTINUO an open studio #2", spazio DISCONTINUO, Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto (ME) curated by Collettivo Flock, IT  
"Passion for the path of art", Cardi Gallery, Milano, curated by Ilaria Bonaccossa

#### Prizes. With catalog\*

- 2022 Winner of the prize San Fedele, galleria San Fedele Arte, Milan\*
- 2021 Prize Arteam Cup 6a edition, foundation Dino Zorli, Forlì\*  
Sculpture section winner

- 2019 Prize "Nocivelli XI edition", Chiesa della Disciplina, Verolanuova (BS)  
Sculpture section winner \* IT
- 2017 Prize "Generazione Contemporanea", Villa Blanc, Rome, curated by Curatorial Collective LUISS Master of Art  
Prize "Francesco Fabbri for Contemporary Arts", Villa Brandolini, (TV), curated by Carlo Sala\*  
Prize "Cramum" for Contemporary Art, Museo del Duomo, Milan, curated by Sabino Maria Frassà\*  
Prize "Arte Acqua dell'Elba", Sala Telemaco Signorini, Portoferraio (LI)

**Marius Steiger** (Bern, Swiss, , 1999)

Lives and works between Basilea e Bern.

Steiger works primarily with painting and objects creating works that combine real narratives and fiction in an austere yet romantic visual language. Steiger explores the issues of authenticity, artificiality and the relationship of human beings to modern technology.

#### Solo Show

- 2022 Lost in Translation, Rue des Fontaines 1, Biel with Floyd Grimm, CH  
Free as a bird, LaPlacette, Lausanne, CH
- 2021 Cast Away, LaVoirie, Biel, with Floyd Grimm, CH  
Four Seasons, Mattenstrasse 81, Biel, CH
- 2020 Piles and Spells, 4Rooms, Bern, CH  
Dog Walk, Chalet à Gobet, Lausanne, CH
- 2017 Full Auto Fill In, Lokal-Int, Biel, with Manutcher Milani, CH

#### Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Iceberg, Mudac, Lausanne, CH  
Le paradis, Centre d'art contemporain, La Chaux-de-Fonds, CH  
Aeschlimann Corti, Kunsthau Langenthal, Langenthal, CH  
Impression, Kunsthau Grenchen, Grenchen, CH
- 2021 Cantonale, Kunsthau Pasquart, Biel, CH  
Cantonale, Musée des Arts, Moutier, CH  
Down the hills, Blue Velvet Projects, Zurich, CH  
Hotel Simplon, Giulietta, Basel, CH  
Paper View, Public Space, Biel, St. Gallen, Vevey, CH  
Ctrl N, Alte Schreinerei, Bern, CH
- 2020 Die grosse Gartenshow, Ackerstrasse 35, Zurich, CH
- 2019 X-Masters, Ballostar Mobile, Biel, CH  
Cantonale, Kunsthau Pasquart, Biel, CH
- 2018 St. Petersburg, AllezAllez, Bern, CH  
Festival of Photography, SfGGB, Biel, CH

#### Publications

- 2021 Imitation of Life, Edition Haus am Gern, Biel, CH

#### Public Collections

- 2022 Art Collection City of Zurigo, Zurich, CH
- 2022 Grand Hotel National, Lucerne, CH
- 2021 Swiss National Library, Bern, CH
- 2021 Art Collection Canton of Bern, Bern, CH

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