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QUINZE *Fifteen artists, fifteen artworks chosen to represent espace_L's trajectory thruoughout its fifteen years of existance*

Niura Bellavinha, Pietrina Checcacci, Fernando De La Rocque, David Elia, Marcela Ferrero, Charles Husser, Nacoca Ko, Marius Margot, Ricardo Meli, Christina Oiticica, Lyz Parayzo, Heberth Sobral, Julien Spiewak, Vivianne van Singer, and Vasilis Zografos.

Geneva

Opening on November 12, 2026
Exhibition from November 13 to December 12, 2026
Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm

For its 15th anniversary, espace_L presents ***QUINZE***, an exhibition unfolding across two cities — Geneva and Rio de Janeiro — and shaped by the gallery's ongoing dialogue between Brazil and Europe.
At the heart of the title is a simple coincidence: ***QUINZE*** is spelled the same way in Portuguese and French. A word shared by two languages becomes a metaphor for the space that espace_L has created: a place of exchange, circulation and encounter between cultures, territories and ways of seeing.
Rather than a traditional retrospective, ***QUINZE*** brings together artists and artworks that trace affinities, encounters, discoveries and turning points along the gallery's trajectory. Each work carries its own history while contributing to a larger landscape: the evolving terrain of espace_L.
Following *Flora Incógnita*, presented in September 2026 as part of the gallery's anniversary celebrations, the exhibition continues to explore the idea of a wild garden - a space where different practices take root, grow alongside one another and give rise to unexpected connections.
QUINZE enters this garden through a selection of artists and works that reveal some of its paths, as well as the multiplicity of directions from which its next chapter may emerge.
The two presentations in Geneva and Rio de Janeiro share a common core, while presenting a distinct selection of artists. This distinction is essential to the project: the bridge between the two cities does not imply sameness. Like a garden, it is a space of coexistence, where different forms can exist together while remaining distinct.
Over the past fifteen years, espace_L has developed its identity through this ongoing exchange between Brazil and Europe. To celebrate this anniversary is therefore both to look back and to make space for what is still to come.
QUINZE is an invitation to walk through the garden that espace_L has cultivated — consciously and unconsciously — over the years, and to imagine what might grow next.

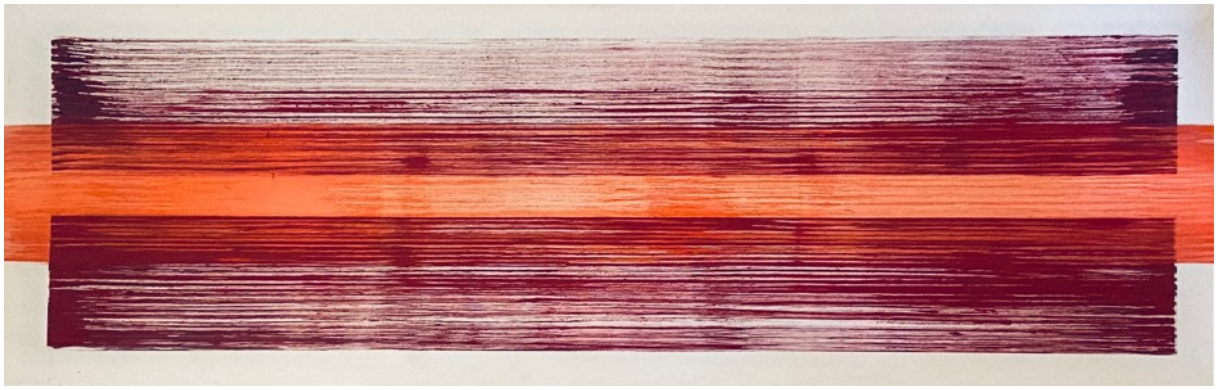
Curated by Ana Leticia et Leticia Antunes Maciel

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Niura Bellavinha
Born in 1960, she lives and works in Belo Horizonte

A multimedia artist trained by the University of Belo Horizonte at Minas Gerais in Brazil, Bellavinha places natural elements at the centre of her research. Whether working in performance, installation or painting, the artist never ceases to explore the characteristics and possibilities intrinsic to water, to earth, meteorites, etc. Her interest in these elements goes hand in hand with a particular reflection on how to give shape to her ideas. Having participated in exhibitions in Brazil and abroad, her works are now included in collections such as the Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection in Rio de Janeiro, the Museum of Modern Art in São Paulo and the Inhotim Centre for Contemporary Art in Brumadinho, Minas Gerais.



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Pietrina Checcacci

Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1941, Pietrina Checcacci is Brazilian and Italian and lives and works in Rio de Janeiro

At a young age, Checcacci encountered the thought of Baruch Spinoza and his ideas on aesthetics. Inspired by this world of freedom, she chose the power of the feminine as the central and enduring theme of her artistic practice. Her body of work, titled “The Feminine Being – Aesthetics and Sensuality,” takes viewers on a journey that begins with “Cords – Quantum Energy” and moves through the universe, the Earth, an awareness of belonging, and the realm of the eternal feminine. The series brings together paintings and sculptures intended to evoke goodness, beauty and happiness.

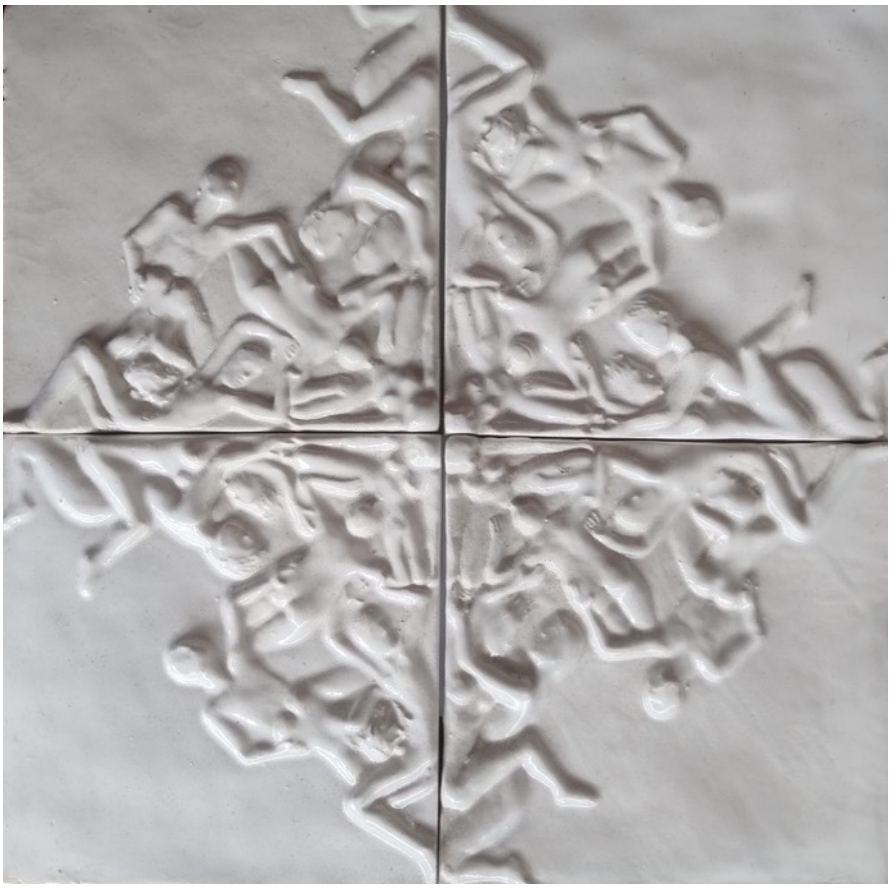


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Fernando de la Rocque

Born in Brazil in 1979, Fernando de la Rocque lives and works in Rio de Janeiro

De la Rocque combines drawing, painting, embroidery and ceramics to create vibrant, sensual worlds. His porcelain tiles depict intertwined human figures in psychedelic, playful scenes that explore pleasure, desire and social norms, inviting viewers to reconsider their own perceptions.



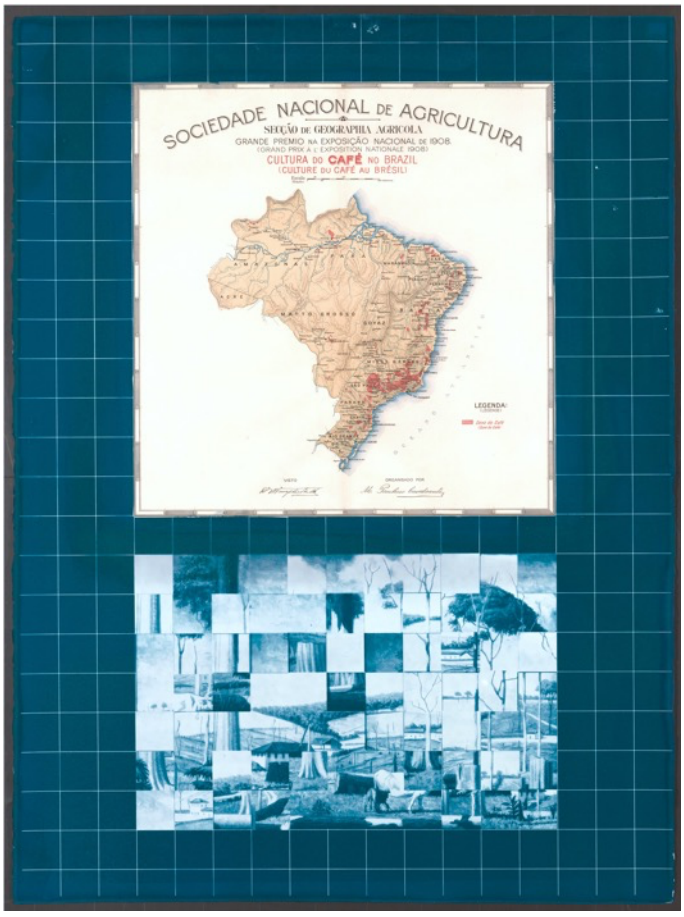
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David Elia

Born in 1982 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Lives and works between Rio de Janeiro and the south of France

David Elia investigates the intersections of art, science, and cultural history through works that explore plants, landscapes, and archival material. A central pillar of Elia's practice is the application of Werner's Nomenclature of Colour (1814), the standard scientific manual used by Charles Darwin. Elia utilizes this historical index as a conceptual tool to bridge early scientific taxonomy with the legacies of historical trade. His practice examines the histories of botanical exchange, industrialization, colonial trade, and cultural hybridization, constructing new narratives that connect ecology with collective memory. Educated at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and the Domus Academy in Milan, Elia recently developed research on Rio de Janeiro's urban forests during the TAL Residency (2026). His work is held in the collections of the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (NMNM), the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, the Museum of Arts & Design in New York, the François Pinault Collection, and the Elton John Art Collection.



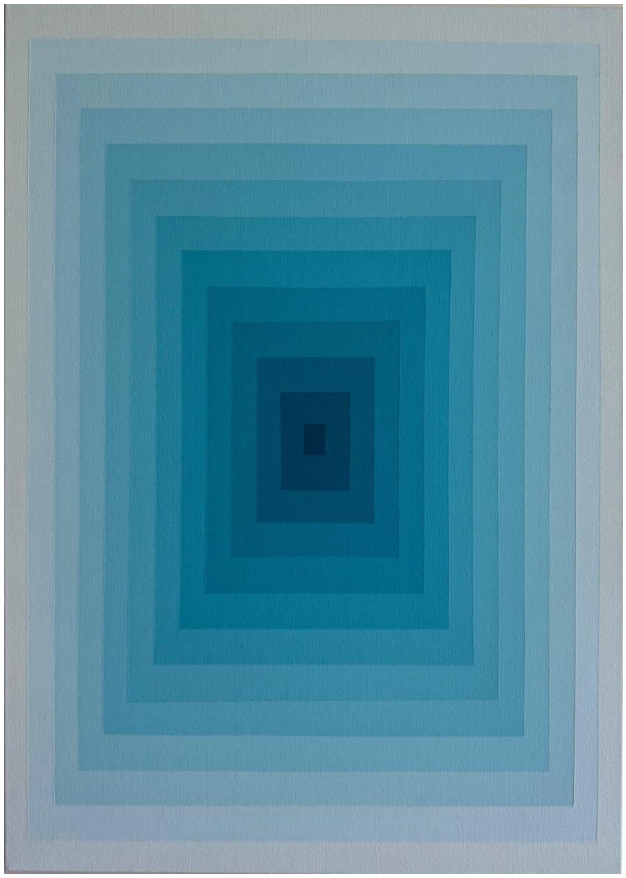
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Marcela Ferrero

Born in Buenos Aires in 1965, lives and works between Argentina and Switzerland

Marcela Ferrero graduated in architecture and worked in Buenos Aires and London. Nineteen years ago, after settling in Geneva, she decided to devote herself entirely to art and painting.
Her sources of inspiration are nature and the four elements, which lead her to connect with her inner self, spirituality and creativity. Her artistic expression often takes the form of abstraction, in which geometry and colour play a fundamental role.
Her exploration of the universe of being and of the connection between humanity and the cosmos is at the heart of her artistic inspiration. This personal journey leads her to create compositions on canvas — a form of coloured poetry — through which she establishes a dialogue. Her work acts as a mirror, allowing her to see her own reflection while contemplating and reflecting upon the world.



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Charles Husser

Born in 1988, Charles Husser lives and works in Thiers, France

Raised in a family of artists, he grew up surrounded by painting. In 2005, he founded a graffiti collective, creating murals in public and private spaces between Nantes and Saint-Nazaire.

After a brief period at the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Montpellier in 2007, he turned to painting, displaying his works in the streets of Montpellier between 2009 and 2010, inviting passers-by to make them their own.

Following a year in Santiago, Chile (2010–2011), where he developed various artistic projects, he returned to France and began exploring new possibilities beyond the canvas. Inspired by an exhibition of sculptures by Georg Baselitz, he took up wood carving, discovering in wood an ideal surface for painting and opening a dialogue between paper, canvas and wood.

Since 2014, his work has been exhibited in galleries in Montauban and Toulouse, and since 2018 in Barcelona and Geneva, among other cities.



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Nacoca Ko

Born in the USA, lives and works in Geneva

Nacoca Ko is an artist and curator based in Geneva, Switzerland, working across sculpture, digital media, performance, and virtual environments, as well as with nonhuman systems such as artificial intelligence.
Her practice explores how technological systems shape perception, attention, and contemporary forms of consciousness. Working with materials such as polymers and concrete—substances that persist beyond human timescales—she creates works that trace the physical and psychological residues of human activity, where synthetic and organic realities become increasingly entangled.
Ko's recent exhibitions include Climaxx at the Futuros – Arte e Tecnologia Museum (Rio de Janeiro, 2025) and New Sounds, New Visions at Casa Museu Eva Klabin / Tal Art (Rio de Janeiro, 2023). In Switzerland, she has presented solo exhibitions including Now is Open (Olizane, Geneva, 2026) and Rise of the Sacred Feminine (Dock-Basel, 2023), alongside ongoing collaborations with Espace L (Geneva), including Photo Basel (2024). Other exhibitions include OXO Tower and Southwark Cathedral (London, 2024), Harddisk Museum / UltraSuperNew Gallery (Tokyo, 2023), and New Currents Festival (Santa Fe, 2023), as well as projects in the metaverse.
She is the creator and co-developer of Spinning in Fluid Dreams, a long-term project bridging physical infrastructure and virtual space, presented across Art Genève and online platforms. She was recently shortlisted for the CERN Resonance Residency.
Her work is held in private collections in Europe and the United States, and has been presented internationally.



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Marius Margot
Born in 1989 in Geneva. Lives and works in Geneva

Marius Margot explores the intersection of nature, fiction, and digital culture through painting. A graduate of the Haute école d'Art et de Design (HEAD) in Geneva, where he completed both his Bachelor and Master of Arts, Margot develops imagined plant forms inspired by the visual language of video games. These fictional organisms populate speculative ecosystems in which the organic and the digital merge, expanding the narrative potential of painting and inviting viewers to envision unfamiliar forms of life. His practice resonates with the concept of Flora Incognita, presenting a vegetal world that remains open, mutable, and continuously reinvented through fiction. Margot has received several research grants from the City of Geneva and the Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain (FCAC). He recently completed a research residency in Japan (2026). His work has also been featured in publications such as Cahier (2025), alongside Christian Gonzenbach and Vincent Kohler.



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Ricardo Meli
Born in Brazil in 1966, lives and works between São Paulo and Geneva

Ricardo Meli is a visual artist working in the field of sculpture and installation. As a former technical draughtsman, he uses the aesthetic-visual language of the industry and explores how industrial elements serve as social and cultural representations.
His work is a reflection on the rapid progression of digitalization and its impact on our society. The objects in his work are immobile, sober and frozen. Through the arrange- ment and design of the sculptures, however, the viewer‘s imagination unfolds the possibility of an individual story about the function and use of the objects.
Meli attempts to develop a contemporary, aesthetic reference system that is based on past parameters, yet makes the present tangible and thus serves as an artifact for the future.

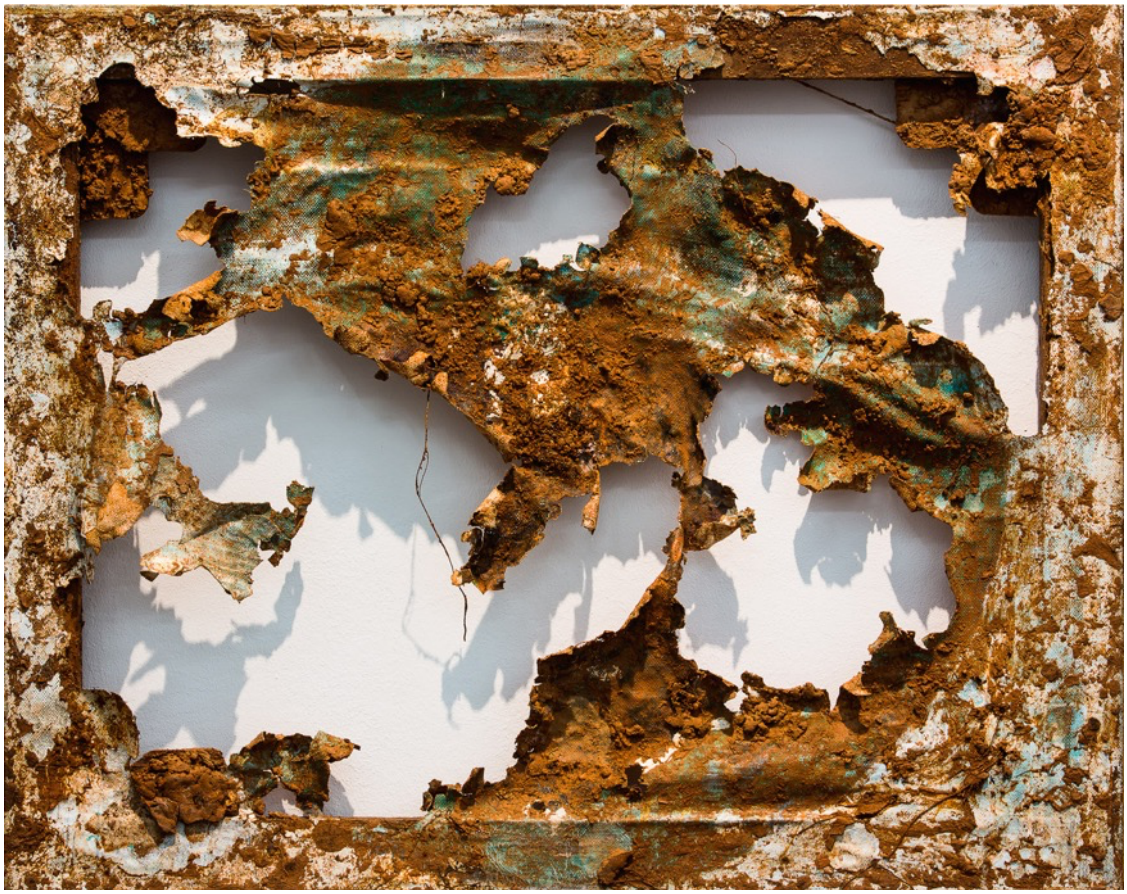


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Christina Oiticica
Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1951, she lives and works in Geneva

Since 2002, Christina Oiticica has developed an artistic practice rooted in direct engagement with nature. Incorporating organic elements, such as leaves, into her canvases, she explores the relationship between artistic and natural matter, drawing on the earth as a symbol of femininity, fertility and renewal.
Working in a manner reminiscent of archaeology, she buries her canvases in the earth before retrieving them, allowing time, climate and the surrounding environment to leave their marks. Each work becomes a unique trace of this process, bearing the imprints of a particular place and moment, and inviting viewers to engage with the artist's poetic relationship with nature and the passage of time.



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Lyz Parayzo

Born in 1994 in Campo Grande, Rio de Janeiro. Lives and works in Paris

Issues related to sexism, racism, LGBTphobia, and colonial heritage are inseparable from Lyz Parayzo's activist artistic practice. "My work began in a place of activism, but as I was studying in an art school, activism took on an artistic dimension."

Lyz Parayzo did not ask for permission to enter the Brazilian art circuit. She began her career by intervening in exhibitions through surprise performative actions centered on her own body at the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage in Rio de Janeiro, where she studied.

This "guerrilla plan," as she described it, consisted of intervening in exhibition openings at Parque Lage—which featured works by students and well-known artists—as a way of positioning herself politically within a physical and symbolic context that excluded identities like hers.

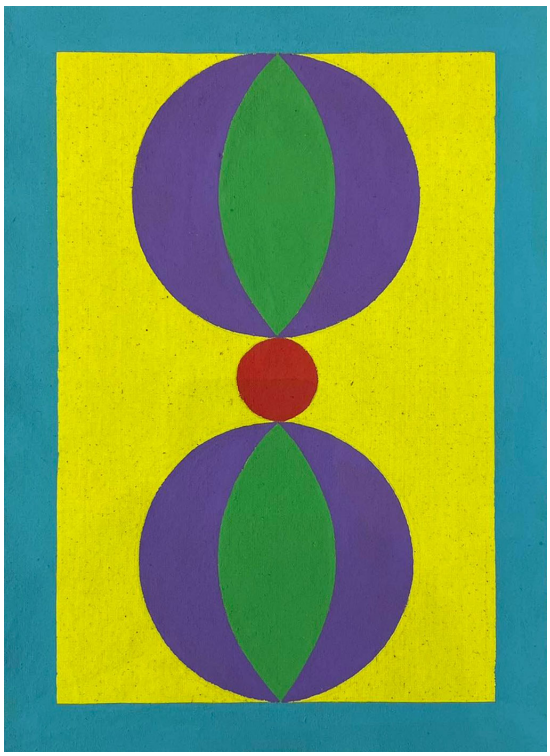
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Heberth Sobral

Born in 1984 in Minas Gerais, Brazil, currently lives and works in Rio de Janeiro

Heberth Sobral has always been drawn to the visual arts. He began his artistic career by studying photography, an experience that led to an invitation from Vik Muniz to work as his studio assistant. Sobral's practice explores everyday behaviours, thoughts, and actions through a culture shaped by the representation of memory. His works reflect on controversial social and cultural issues, using familiar objects and materials to evoke personal and collective recollections, inviting viewers to engage with the work through their own memories. Working across a wide range of media, including ceramics, painting, drawing, banknotes, woodcut prints, and dolls. Sobral has developed a distinctive visual language that transforms ordinary objects into powerful artistic statements.

Seeking to move beyond the simplicity of geometric forms, Sobral's work engages with deeply human and emotional dimensions. His use of diverse materials and his ability to evoke both personal and cultural memories recall the experimental and participatory spirit of the Neo-Concrete movement. By appropriating everyday objects and reimagining them as works of art, Sobral encourages viewers to enter into an active dialogue with his practice, embracing one of the fundamental principles of Neo-Concretism.



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Julien Spiewak

Born in 1984 in Paris. Lives and works in Paris

Julien Spiewak holds a Master's degree in photography and lives and works in Paris. He is an artist, photographer, and researcher who questions the relationship between the photographic image and the human body as an artistic expression. Since 2005, he has been working on an ongoing series entitled Corps de style, initially with private collectors and then in museums. He introduces fragments of naked bodies into these spaces. He has carried out this artistic project in the Prince's Palace of Monaco, the Museum of Hunting and Nature (Paris), the Doria Pamphilj Palace (Rome), the Ariana Museum (Geneva), and the Museum of the Republic (Rio).

Institutional collections:
Paris Musées (France), Arario Museum in Seoul (South Korea), Van Loon Museum (Netherlands), Prince's Palace of Monaco, Maison de Balzac (France), Rio Art Museum - MAR (Brazil), Museum of Hunting and Nature (France), Museum of Romantic Life (France), Doria Castle (Italy), Siri Sala Private Thai Villa (Thailand), etc.



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Vivianne van Singer

Born in 1957 in Como. Lives and works in Geneva

Vivianne van Singer studied in Lausanne, in the United States (Toledo University, Fine Arts Department), and in Geneva, at ESAV (Ecole Supérieure d'Art Visuel). She has divided her time between her artistic practice and teaching contemporary art history in Switzerland (Valais School of Design and Higher Art School, Valais and practice preparatory classes in CFPAA Geneva. Today, the close link between theory and practice, research, creation and transmission are intimately connected in her life.
She regularly presents her work at the Espace L Gallery in Geneva and has participated in noumerous group exchbitions in particular at the CCCB (Barcellona), at the Tavel house (Geneva), at the Mucem (Marseille), and at the Benaki Museum (Athens), Openbox (Milan), OSM Besançon and Nantes.
For Vivianne van Singer, colors occupy diverse territories: real, imaginary, or symbolic. At the heart of the artist's approach, in her research, lies the unsettling, unexpected, and intense aspect that color reveals in the various realms it traverses.
V. van Singer finds these colors in ready-made objects, in the works of past artists, and even in her own environment. She then invents strategies to reveal them as she has perceived them.



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Vasilis Zografos

Born in 1965 in Greece, currently lives and works in Thessaloniki

Vasilis Zografos creates assemblages of porcelain trinkets and coastal ceramic fragments, merging cultural replicas with accidental finds shaped by nature. His works forge a dialogue between two “archives,” forming a visual language in which familiar forms convey transformed meanings to those willing to decipher them.



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