

# MATTEA PERROTTA

## *In A Forgotten Tongue*

20 May — 24 June 2023

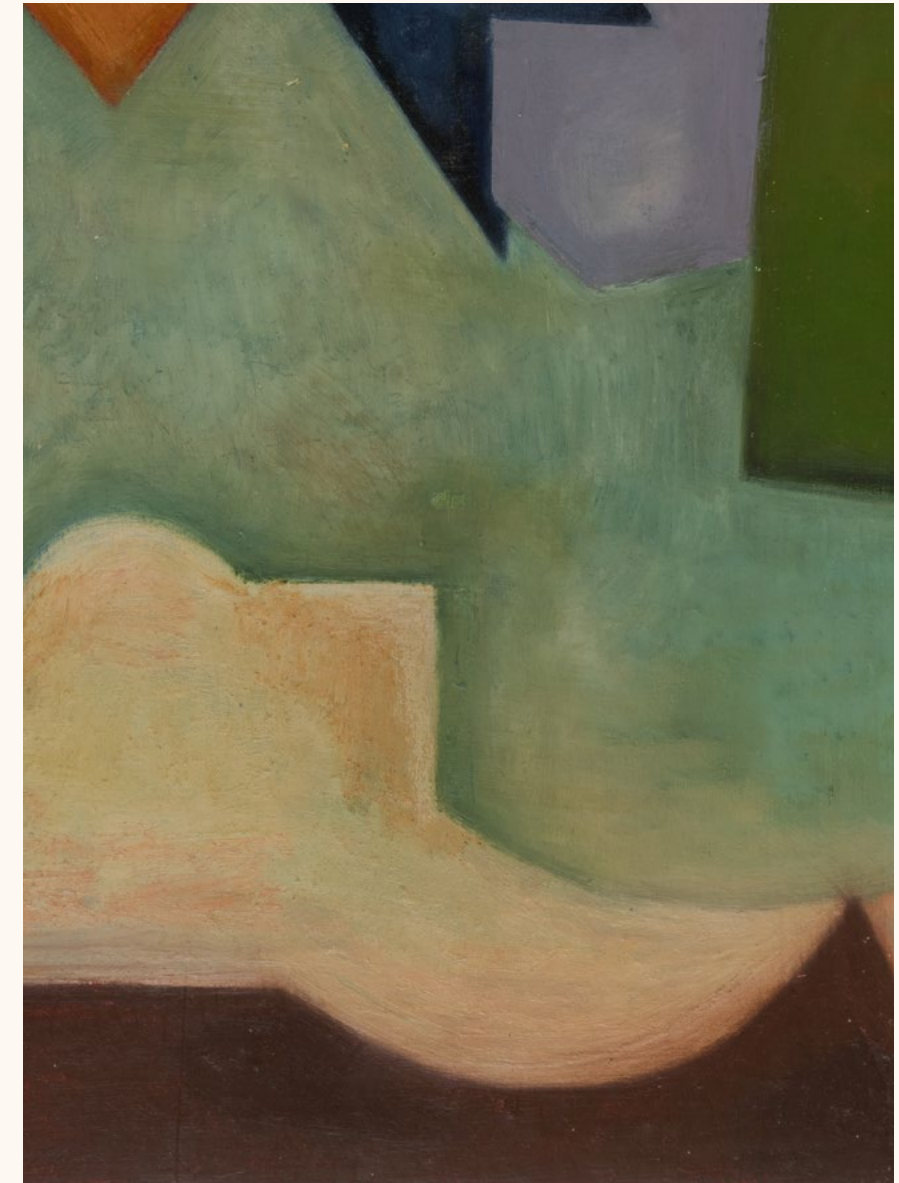


To speak does not mean to be heard or understood or believed. Each time a word leaves our lips, not yet audible but partially formed in the way our tongue moves/pushes it outward, our mouth becomes a threshold into vulnerability. There is risk in speaking as there is risk in not. It is impossible: language. The magic of the mundane that holds the power to both bring humanity together as well as divide it. To express then becomes an attempt of sublimation; an act of transformation from thought into word, akin to line into letter, color into shape, edge into limit, soft into hard, and abstract into figure. It is an ongoing translation in search for meaning or a proximity to it, an invisible work of movement, an attempt, in silence, in screams; to communicate oneself. As philosopher, literary critic, semiotician, psychoanalyst, feminist, and, most recently, novelist, Julia Kristeva writes: “Art, literature, painting, music: the imaginary. Such is the privileged utterance which restores to language as a system of communication the sublimatory dynamic that constitutes it and which continuously works through it, even in cases of the most severe inhibitions and devastating anxieties”



*In A Forgotten Tongue* is equally a presentation of Mattea Perrotta's paintings as it is about hidden languages; as such the exhibition continues a common thread with her previous shows *L'Ultima Cena* (2018) and *L'Ultima Cena II* (2022) in which gestures, surfaces, and food became alternatives for words. Both of these exhibitions dealt with traditional renaissance narratives through an abstract lens and showed how language has been both maintained and lost. And while words were absorbed and carried by tables and tableaux in both cases, they are now taking shape.

Perrotta's work teeters between abstraction and figuration and at times are held in baroque backgrounds of chiaroscuro cloud formations or by deep, endless black bases. Conscious dramatization, not to distract from but to emphasize the urgency—an underrecognized reasoning behind baroque art such as in Artemisia Gentileschi's work—in Perrotta's case of listening in order to make oneself clear amidst a sea of voices. Shapes in a soft palette, with cubist references, characteristic of Perrotta's oeuvre, are pieced together into imagery of geometric fields that now and then take on human characteristics.



Hard lines remain to distinguish each shape, each voice from the other. The contradiction of baroque and cubist perspectives—an ongoing overlap of viewpoints versus all viewpoints visible at once—combined in single works to bring a surprising clarity to the omnipresent multitude that forms the fabric of life.





**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Feeling Sound, Part I, 2023*  
oil on canvas  
20 x 16 in  
50.8 x 40.6 cm  
(MP23P7)

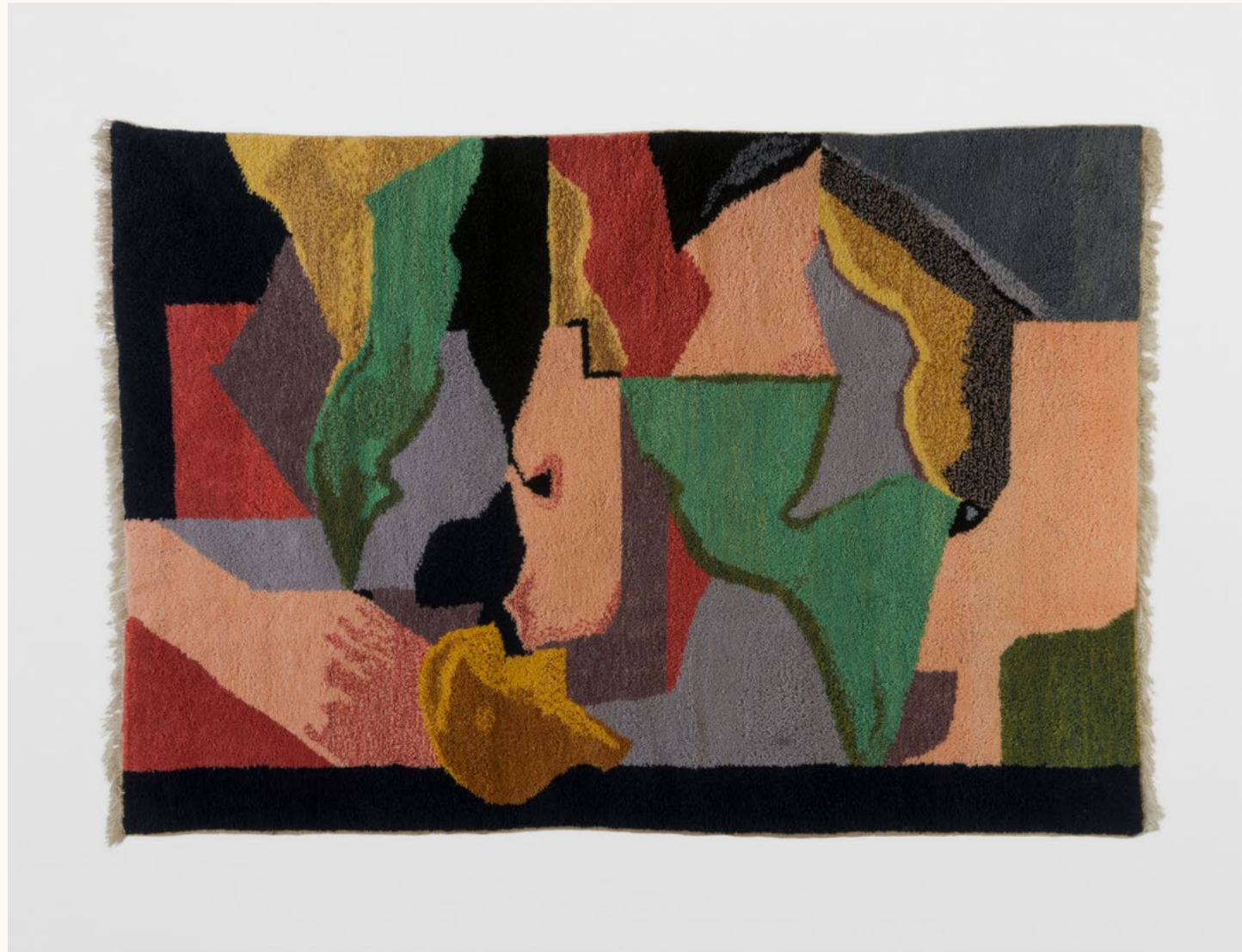
Abysses and clouds carrying color fields, forms always still forming, into portals; muscles running but not escaping, and through lines and context thoughts leak and seep through the oils, the veil behind which the artist speaks, in a language of lines and dialects of color. Perrotta's work engages in art historical discourse and challenges its linearity connecting movements outside of their fixed chronology. Her abstraction opens a window into an unspoken past of secrets and mystery. In *A Forgotten Tongue* a lack of recognition is not a loss of meaning, it urges conversation with the imaginative, which—despite the nostalgic tone of the work—leads us into the future: to that which we can still dream up, beyond the threshold, partially formed.

— Lara Schoorl







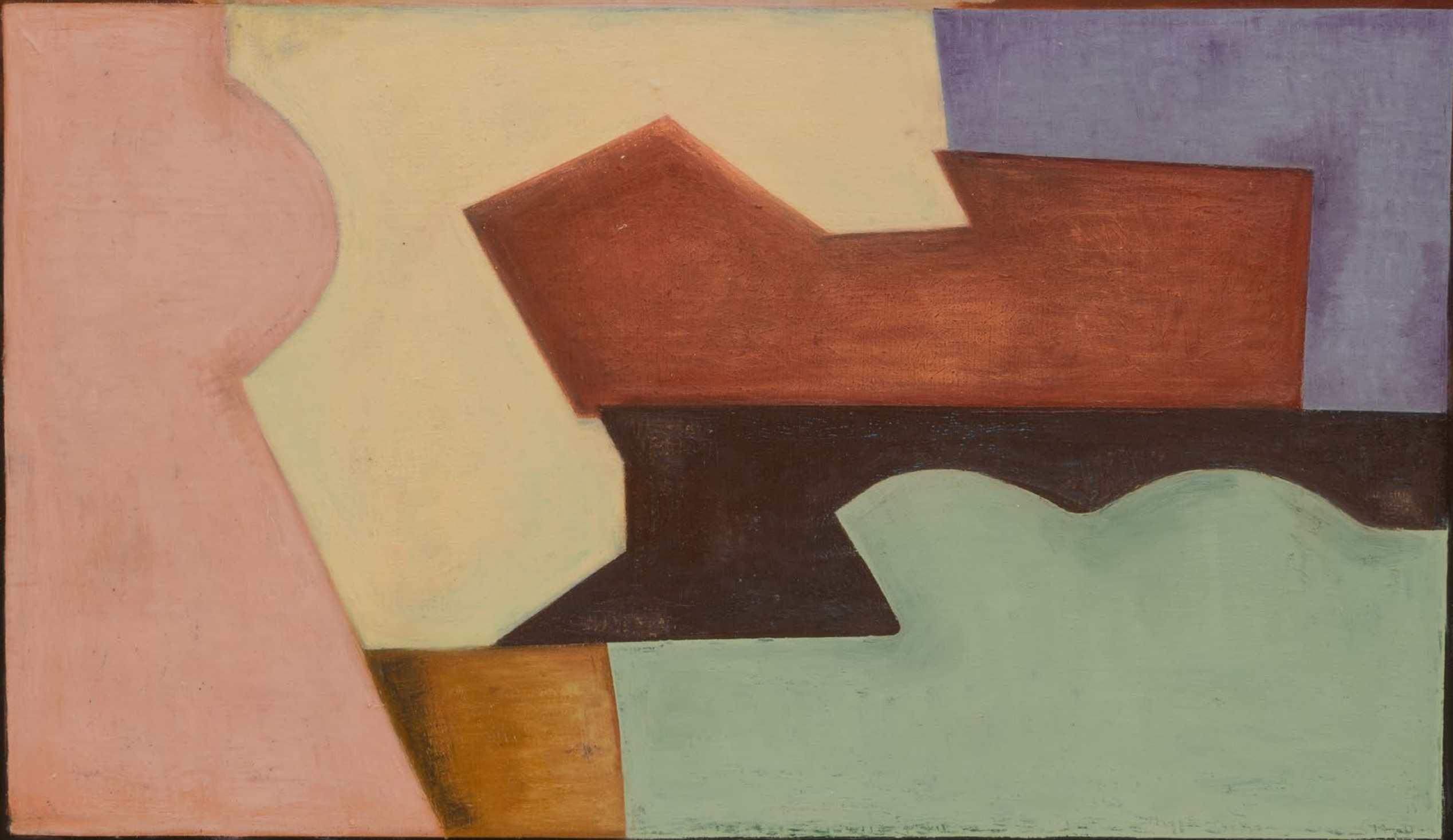


**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Echoing Dialects*, 2023  
hand dyed, hand sewn wool  
77 x 105 in  
195.6 x 266.7 cm  
(MP23T3)



Weaver in Rabbat, Morocco. Image by: Florencia Lucila.





**Matteo Perrotta**  
*La Vita, Altrove*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
41 x 50 in  
(104.1 x 127 cm)  
(MP23P10)





**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Lo Straniero*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
77 x 57 in  
(195.6 x 144.8 cm)  
(MP23P16)







**Mattea Perrotta**  
*No One's Listening*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
8 x 8 in  
(20.3 x 20.3 cm)  
(MP23P18)



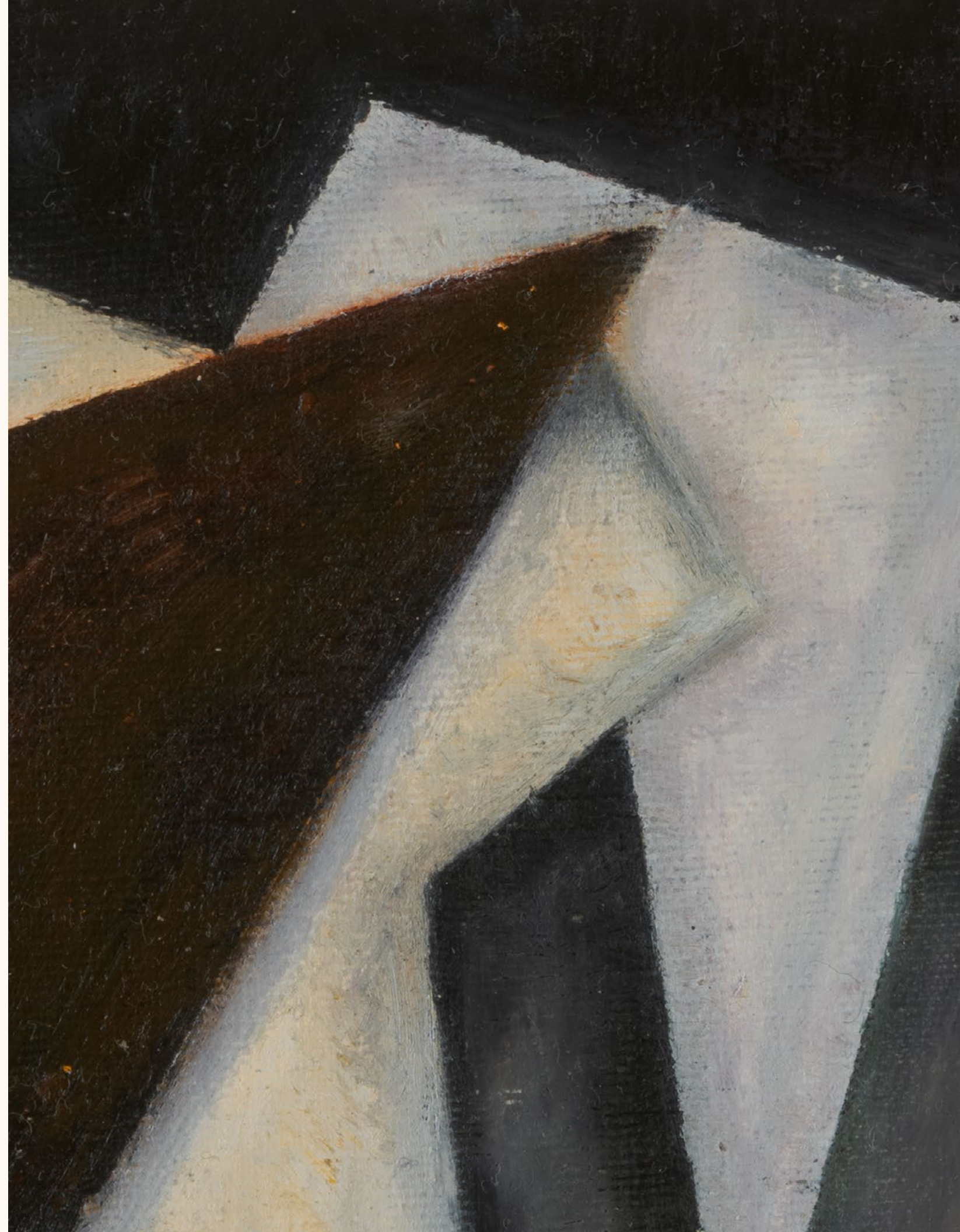


**Matteo Perrotta**  
*Echoing Dialects*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
77 x 105 in  
(195.6 x 266.7 cm)  
(MP23P5)

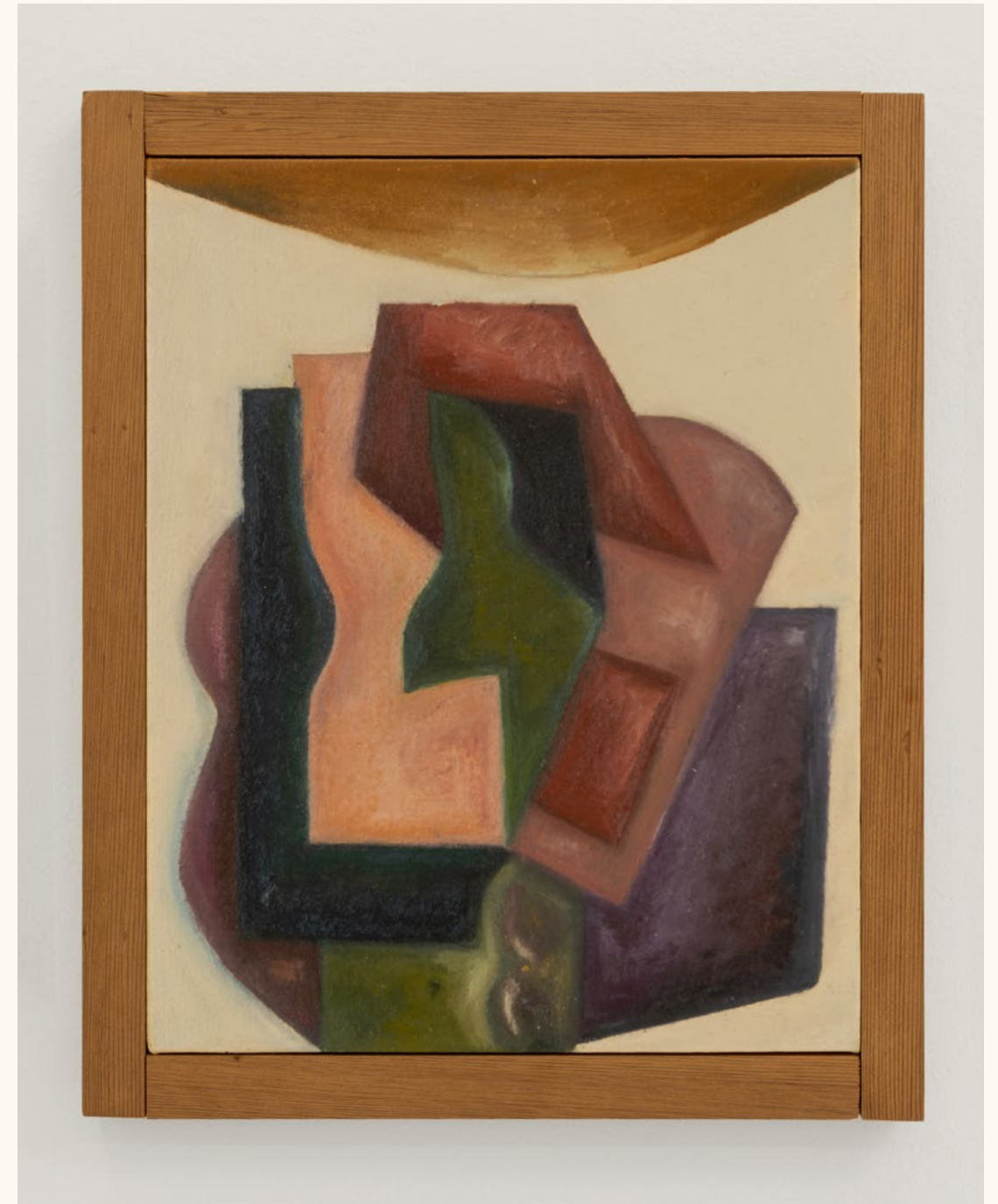




**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Intimate Tongues*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
8 x 8 in  
(20.3 x 20.3 cm)  
(MP23P9)







**Matteo Perrotta**  
*Tradition*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
20 x 16 in  
(50.8 x 40.6 cm)  
(MP23P17)





**Matteo Perrotta**  
*Perdono*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
57 x 77 in  
144.8 x 195.6 cm  
(MP23P15)



**Matteo Perrotta**  
*Perdono*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
57 x 77 in  
144.8 x 195.6 cm  
(MP23P14)







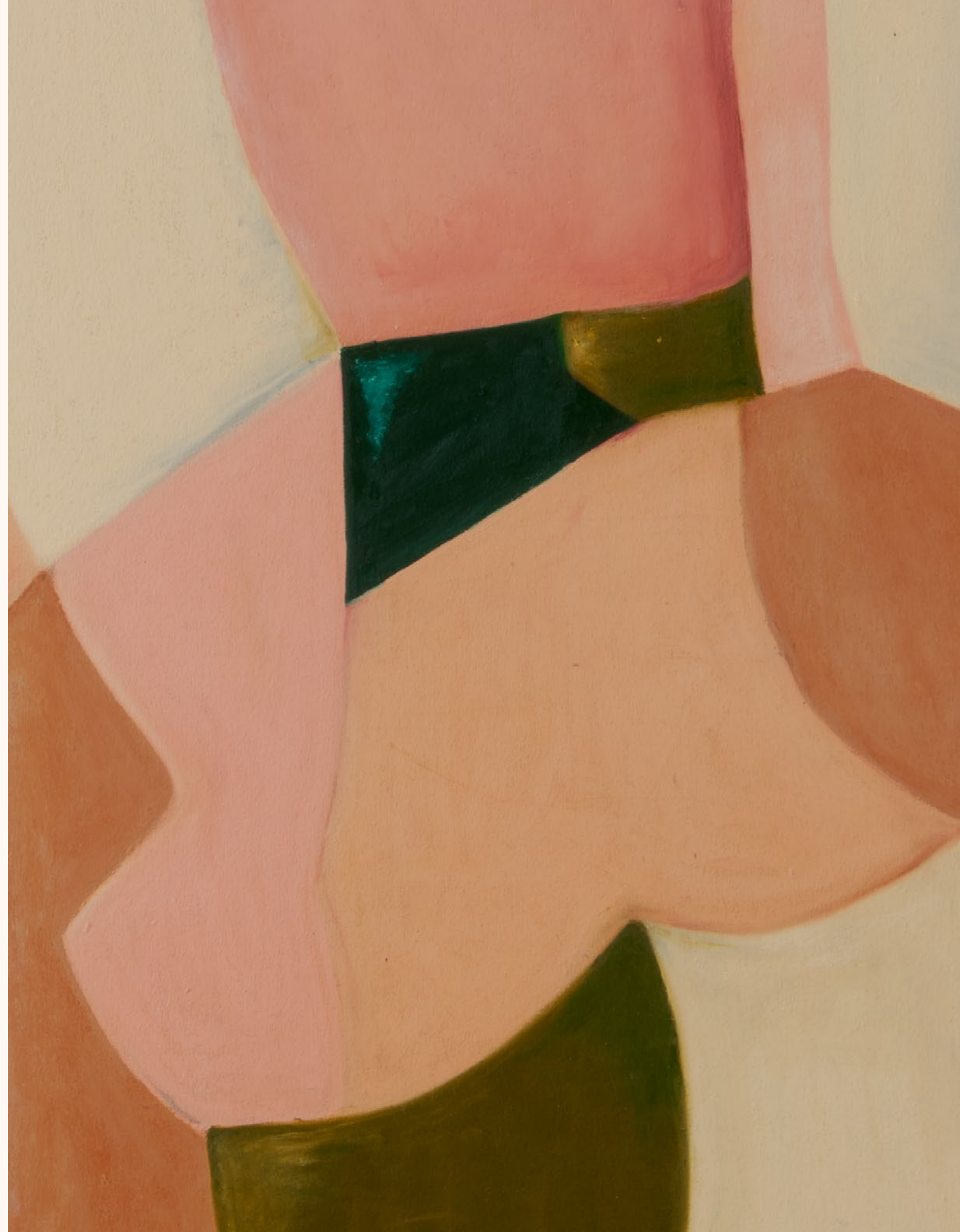


**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Feeling Sound, Part II, 2023*  
oil on canvas  
8 x 16 in  
(20.3 x 40.6 cm)  
(MP23P8)





**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Lingua Madre*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
77 x 57 in  
(195.6 x 144.8 cm)  
(MP23P11)











**Mattea Perrotta**  
*In Bocca Al Lupo*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
8 x 8 in  
(20.3 x 20.3 cm)  
(MP23P19)





**Mattea Perrotta**

*Strangers to Ourselves I*, 2023

oil on canvas

59 x 45 in

149.9 x 114.3 cm

(MP23P12)



**Mattea Perrotta**

*Strangers to Ourselves II*, 2023

oil on canvas

59 x 45 in

149.9 x 114.3 cm

(MP23P13)









**Mattea Perrotta**

*Non Ho Peli Sulla Linga, 2023*

oil on canvas

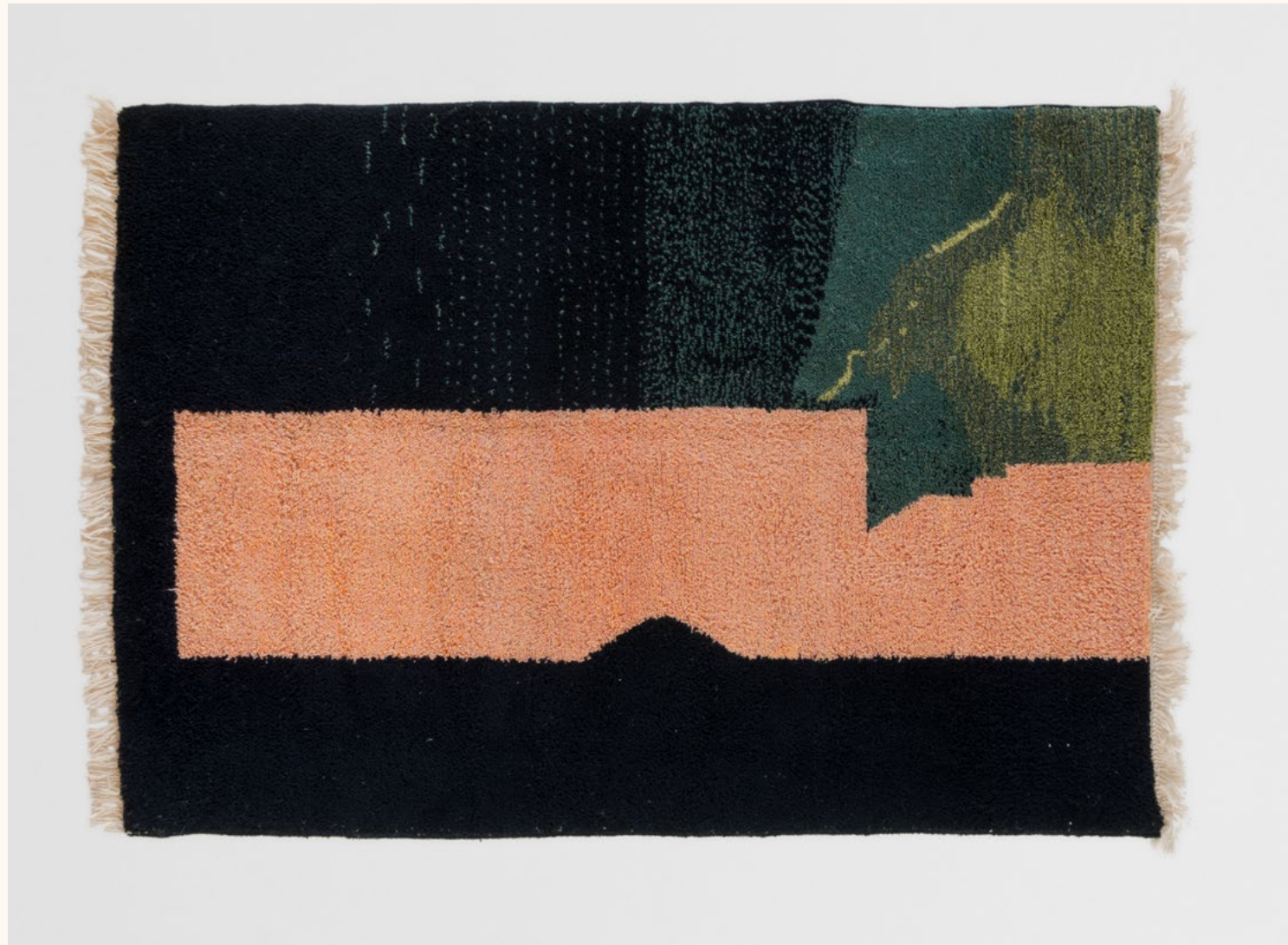
5 x 7 in

12.7 x 17.8 cm

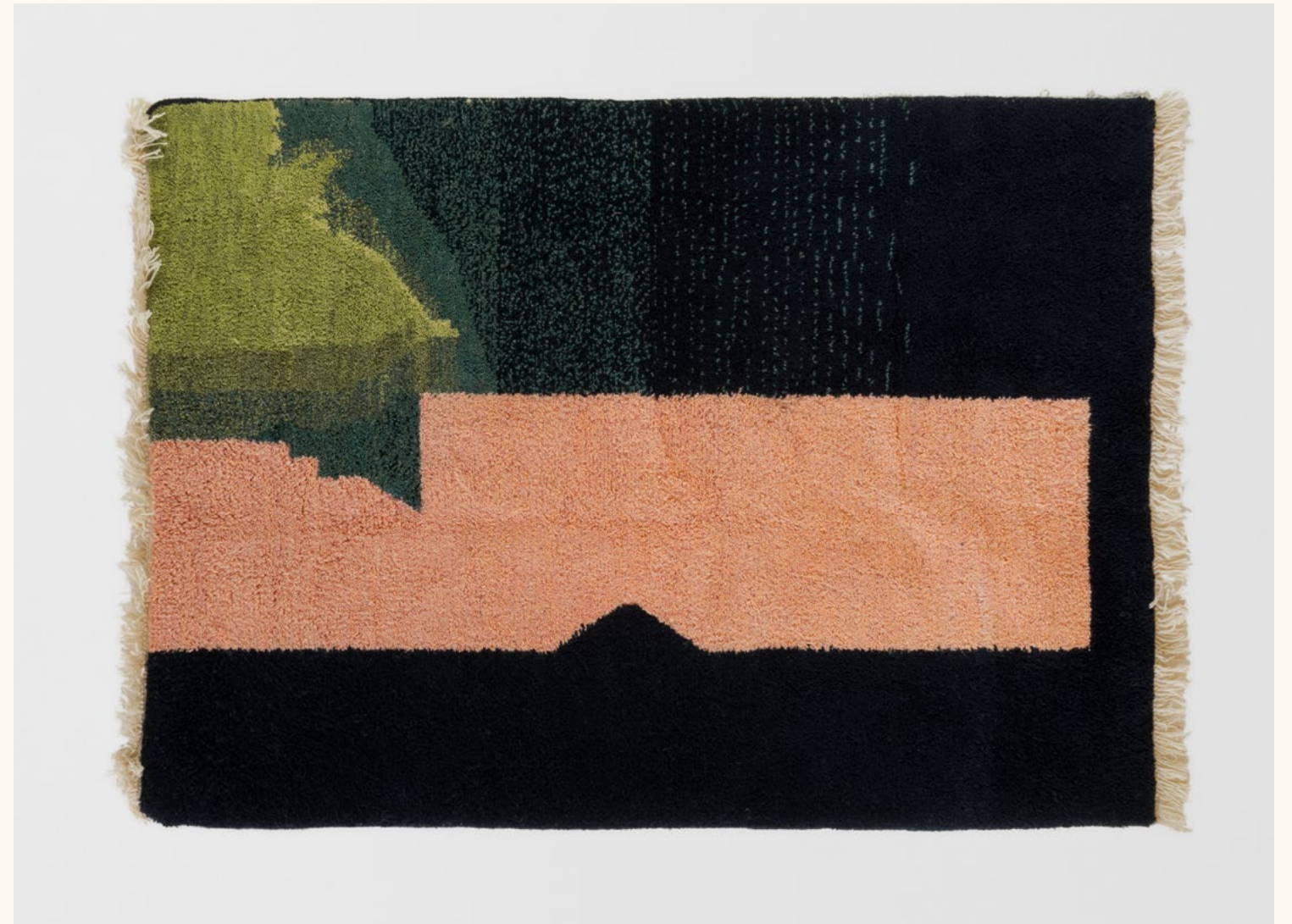
(MP23P20)







**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Perdoni I*, 2023  
hand dyed, hand sewn wool  
57 x 77 in  
144.8 x 195.6 cm  
(MP23T1)



**Mattea Perrotta**  
*Perdoni II*, 2023  
hand dyed, hand sewn wool  
57 x 77 in  
144.8 x 195.6 cm  
(MP23T2)





**Matteo Perrotta**  
*Desiderio*, 2023  
oil on canvas  
36 x 24 in  
(91.4 x 61 cm)  
(MP23P4)



Mattea Perrotta (b. 1990 Los Angeles) lives and works in Naples, Italy. This June she is the artist in residence at the American Academy in Rome. Her work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions at Et.al in San Francisco, Haverkamp Leistenschneider in Berlin, Lamb Arts in London and MAMA Gallery in Madrid and Mexico City, and in group exhibitions in Istanbul, London, Melbourne, Lima, São Paulo, Mexico City, and Bogotá. Perrotta holds a BFA from UC Berkeley.



Mattea Perrotta in studio. Image by: Florencia Lucila.



MATTEA PERROTTA

Born 1990 Los Angeles, CA

Lives and works in Naples

EDUCATION

2011

BFA, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

*In A Forgotten Tongue*, Praz-Delavallade, Los Angeles, CA

2022

*Art Athina*, Et. Al., Athens

*L'Ultima Cena*, Haverkamp Leistenschneider, Berlin

*My Letter to Picasso*, Et. al., San Francisco

2019

*NADA Solo Presentation*, Et al., Miami

*Last Supper*, Et al., San Francisco

2018

*Contemporary Istanbul*, Lamb Arts, Istanbul

*The Body is a Blessed Juicy Fruit*, Lamb Arts, London

2017

*The Psychology of Visual Pleasure*, Lamb Arts, London

*ARCO Opening Section*, MAMA Gallery, Madrid

*Zona Maco Solo Presentation*, MAMA Gallery, Mexico City

2015

*Portrait of a Nude Woman*, MAMA Gallery, Los Angeles

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022

*Don't Bring Me Flowers*, Praz Delvallade

2021

*To Situations New*, Lamb Arts, London

*Traces*, Galerie Haverkampft, Berlin

2020

*ALAC*, Et al., Los Angeles

2019

*Artissima*, Et al., Torino

*Galeria Alegria*, Madrid

*Ofr*, Paris

*Pretty Woman*, Galerie DeRouillon, Paris

*ALAC*, the Landing, Los Angeles

*Material Art Fair*, Et. Al., Mexico City

2018

*NADA*, the Landing, Miami

*Annex LA*, Los Angeles

*CO/LAB III*, Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles

*Orange Is Brought Nearer To Humanity By Yellow*, Lamb Arts, London



*NADA, the Landing, New York*

*Zona Maco, Lamb Arts, Mexico City*

*Mattea Perrotta & Jonathan Ryan, the Landing, Los Angeles, CA*

2017

*ARTBO, Lamb Arts, Bogotá*

2016

*ARTBO, MAMA Gallery, Bogotá*

*The Weeping Line, Alter Space, San Francisco*

2015

*To Hide To Show, MAMA Gallery, Los Angeles*

## CURATORIAL

2023

*Piano, piano, Et. al, San Francisco*

2020

*Public Access: Artist Run TV, HVW8, Los Angeles*

2018

*Return of Polite Society, New York City*

*Soft Bodies, Werkartz, Los Angeles*

## RESIDENCIES

2023

*American Academy in Rome, Rome*

2018

*Porthmeor Studios Artist in Residence, St. Ives*

2017

*Addaya Artist in Residence, Mallorca*

*Lamb Artist in Residence, London*

2016

*INHouse Artist in Residence, Louisville*

2015

*Al Maqam Artist in Residence, Marrakech*

2013

*ARTERRA Artist in Residence, Lisbon*

## PUBLICATIONS

2022

*L'Ultima Cena, part ii, PageMasters*

2019

*L'Ultima Cena, Dilettante Paper*



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