



# IN BLACK & WHITE

OPERA GALLERY

## En Noir et Blanc

Opposition ou complémentarité ? Que nous évoquent le noir et le blanc ? « Il n'y a dans la nature que du noir et du blanc », disait Francisco de Goya. Il est vrai que séparément ou associées, ces deux valeurs ont une très forte symbolique qui a toujours fasciné les artistes.

On dit que ce ne sont pas des couleurs mais des non-couleurs. Le blanc est la somme de toutes les couleurs du prisme et *a contrario*, le noir, une absence de couleur. Le blanc est le « Tout » et le noir, le « Rien ». Il n'existe pas de blanc pâle ou foncé ni de noir clair ou foncé, ce sont deux extrêmes absolus. Mais en revanche, à mi-chemin entre ces deux extrêmes, il y a le gris. Séparé du noir, le blanc, en Occident, est symbole de vie, de pureté, de lumière, d'innocence, de joie et de paix. Le noir seul, lui, est symbole de néant, de deuil, de ténèbres, de tristesse, d'austérité, de mystère et de difficulté. Associés, le noir et le blanc évoquent une complémentarité, une cohésion, un absolu, comme le Yin et le Yang.

Une palette limitée et contrastée permet d'aller directement à l'essentiel, sans retenue. La couleur est teintée d'émotion pour l'artiste et lorsqu'il choisit de ne pas en utiliser, il doit travailler la ligne et la forme de manière autonome. L'art en noir et blanc existe depuis fort longtemps, mais autrefois surtout pour des ébauches ou des études. Au XX<sup>ème</sup> siècle, il fait écho à la photographie puis se développe avec l'avènement de l'art abstrait.

Pour cette exposition, nous avons sélectionné une trentaine d'œuvres d'artistes modernes et contemporains, abstraites et figuratives, peintures, photographies et sculptures, toutes en noir et blanc et cinquante nuances de gris...

Jordan Lahmi  
Directeur  
Opera Gallery Genève

Gilles Dyan  
Fondateur et Président  
Opera Gallery Group

## In Black and White

Are they opposites or complementary? What do black and white allude to? "In nature, there is only black and white", said Francisco de Goya. It is true that separately or together, these two values convey a very strong symbolism, which has always fascinated artists.

One says that they aren't colours but rather non-colours. White is the sum of all the colours of the prism and black is a total absence of colour. White is "All" and black is "Nothing". Light white or dark white don't exist and the same goes for black: they are total opposites. On the other hand, half way between those two opposites, or if you actually mix them together, you get grey. On its own, in the West, white is the symbol of life, purity, light, innocence, happiness and peace. Black represents void, bereavement, darkness, sadness, austerity, mystery and difficulty. Together, black and white are complementary, cohesive, absolute, just like the Yin and the Yang.

With a minimal palette, the artist must get to the essential, unrestrainedly. Colour is tinted with emotions for him and when he chooses not to use any, he must work with lines and shapes independently. Black and white art has existed for a very long time but formerly for sketches and drafts. During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it has echoed photography and then has developed with the advent of abstract art.

For this exhibition, we carefully chose over thirty pieces by modern and contemporary artists, abstract and figurative, paintings, photographs and sculptures, all in black and white and fifty shades of grey....

Jordan Lahmi  
Director  
Opera Gallery Geneva

Gilles Dyan  
Founder and Chairman  
Opera Gallery Group



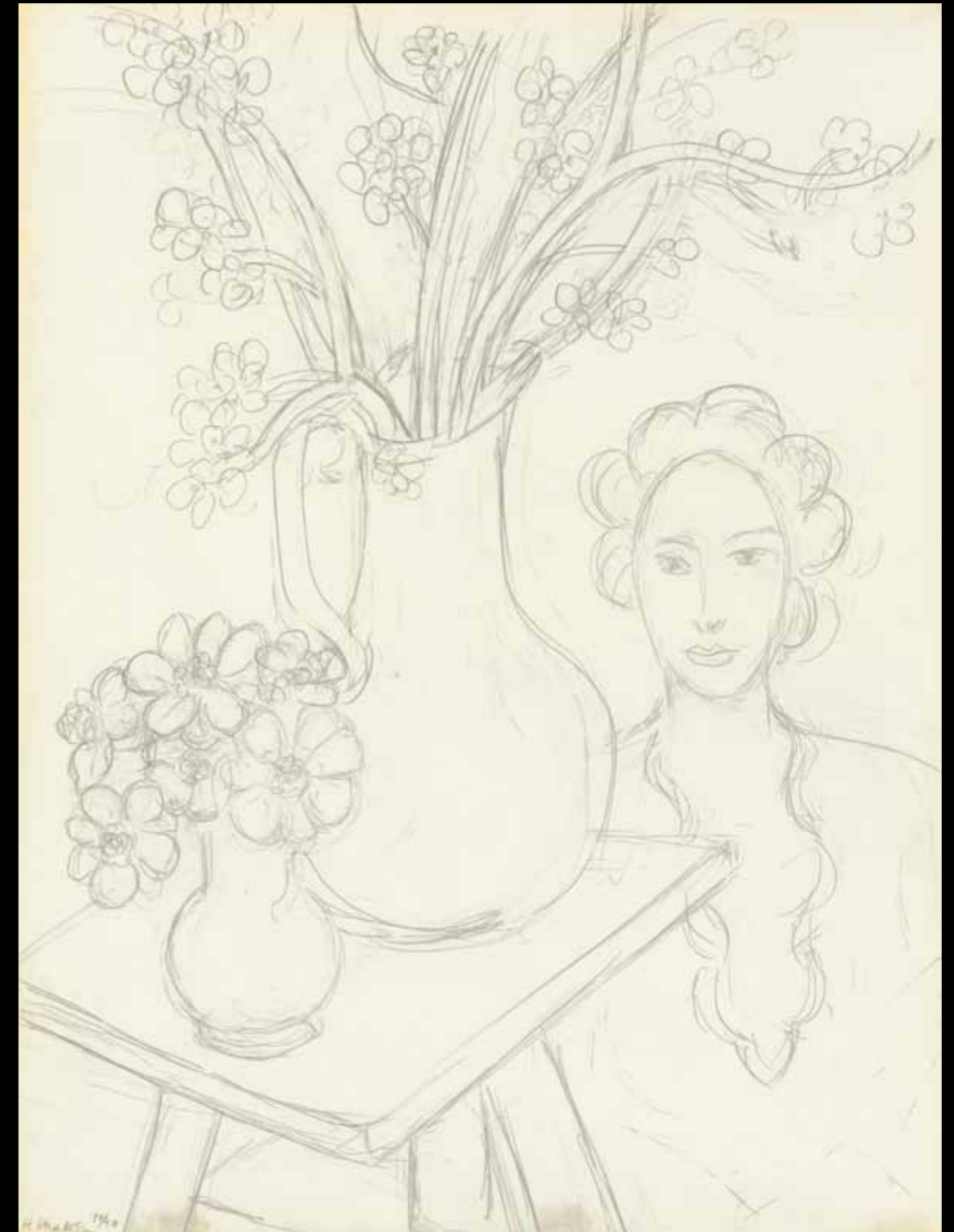
**Henri Matisse (1869 - 1954)**

**Nu assoupi, 1908**

Signed "Henri Matisse" (lower right)

Charcoal on paper

22,5 x 35 cm - 8.9 x 13.8 in.



**Henri Matisse (1869 - 1954)**

**Femme et bouquets, 1940**

Signed and dated "H Matisse 1940" (lower left corner)

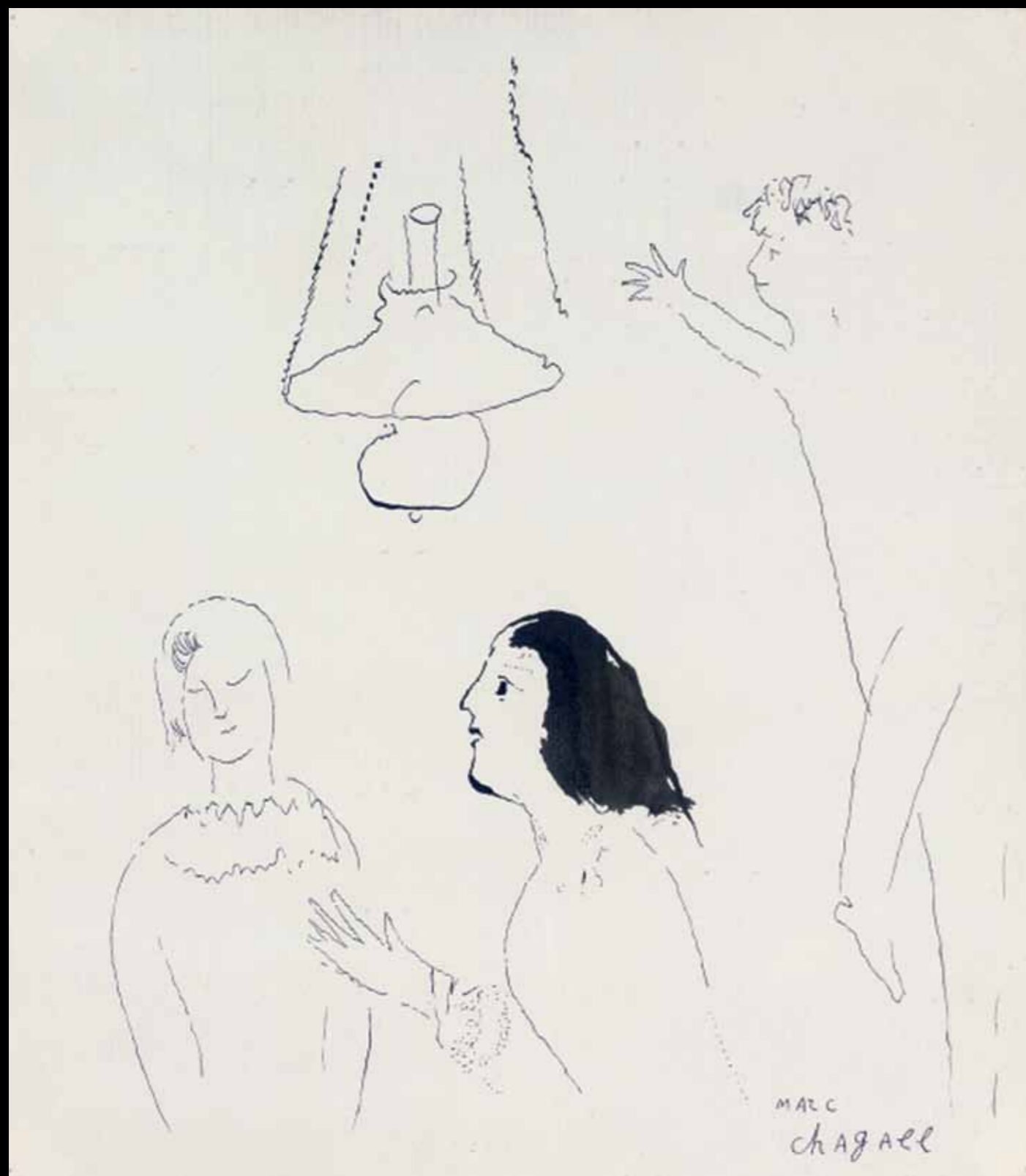
Pencil on paper

52,5 x 40,5 cm - 20.7 x 15.9 in.

**Provenance**

Lynn G. Epstein, New York

Acquired from the above by the family of the present owner (Sept. 1981)



Marc Chagall (1887 - 1985)

La Conversation, circa 1930-1940

Signed "Marc Chagall" (lower right)

Pen and ink on paper

26,8 x 23,2 cm - 10.5 x 9.1 in.



Marc Chagall (1887 - 1985)

La Famille au village, 1978

Signed "Marc Chagall" (lower right corner)

Pencil on paper

68,5 x 58 cm - 27 x 22.8 in.



**Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)**

**Musicienne et nu assis, 1968**

Signed, dated and numbered "Picasso 30.1.68 V" (lower right corner)

Watercolour on paper

29,5 x 48 cm - 11.6 x 18.9 in.

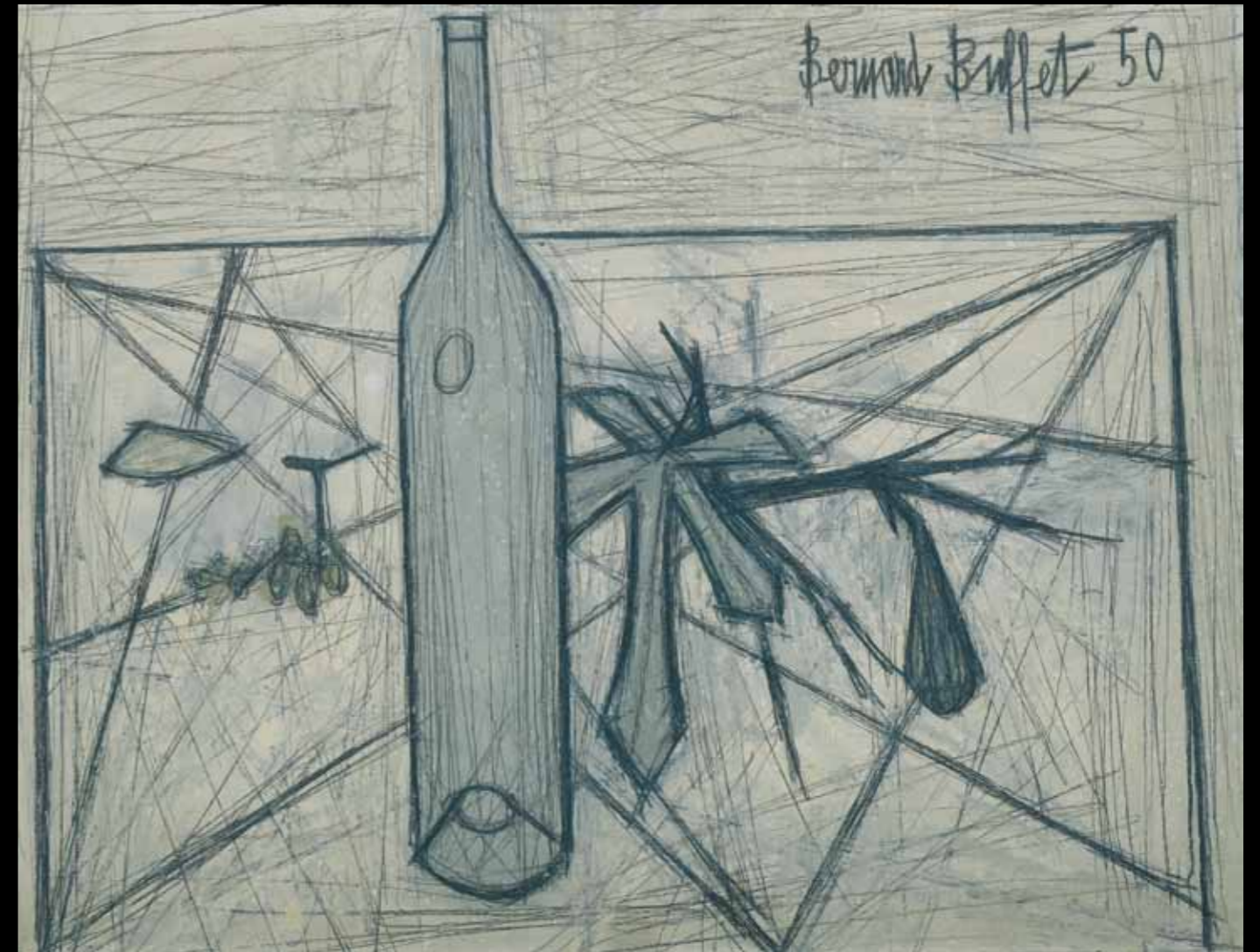
**Provenance**

Sale: Christie's, New York, May 16, 1985, lot 213

Private collection

Sale: Christie's, London, Feb. 7, 2002, lot 413

Purchased at the above sale by the present owner



**Bernard Buffet (1928 - 1999)**

**Bouquet et feuille de figuier, 1950**

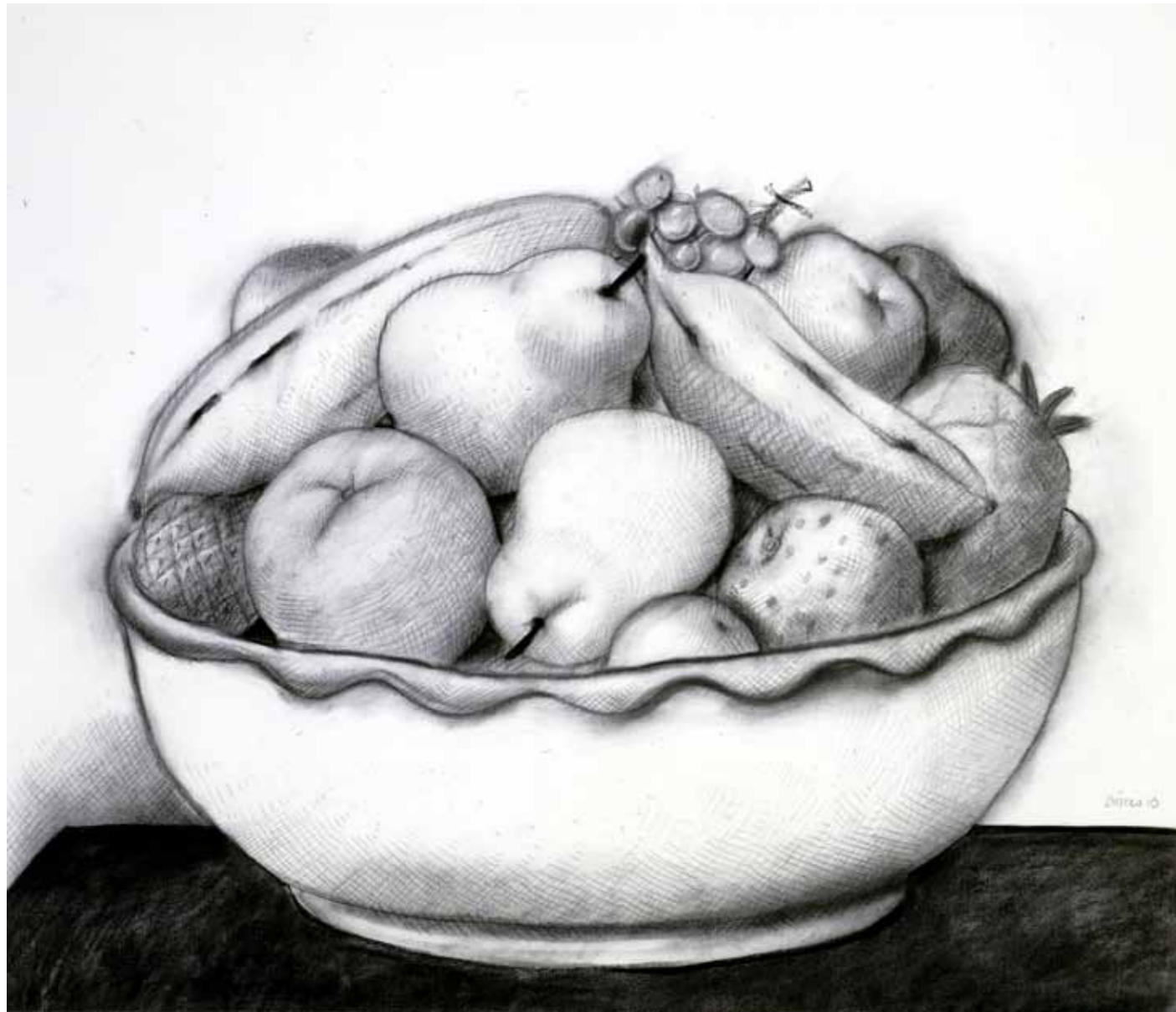
Signed and dated "Bernard Buffet 50" (upper right)

Oil on canvas

50 x 65 cm - 19.7 x 25.6 in.

**Provenance**

Galerie Drouant David, Paris



Fernando Botero (1932 - )

**Corbeille de fruits, 2003**

Signed and dated "Botero 03" (lower right)

Charcoal drawing on paper

91,5 x 107 cm - 36 x 42.1 in.



Fernando Botero (1932 - )

**Nature morte à la pastèque, 2003**

Signed and dated "Botero 03" (lower right)

Charcoal drawing on paper

90 x 74 cm - 35.4 x 29.1 in.



**Alexander Calder (1898 - 1976)**

**Untitled, 1953**

Signed and dated "Calder 53" (lower right corner)

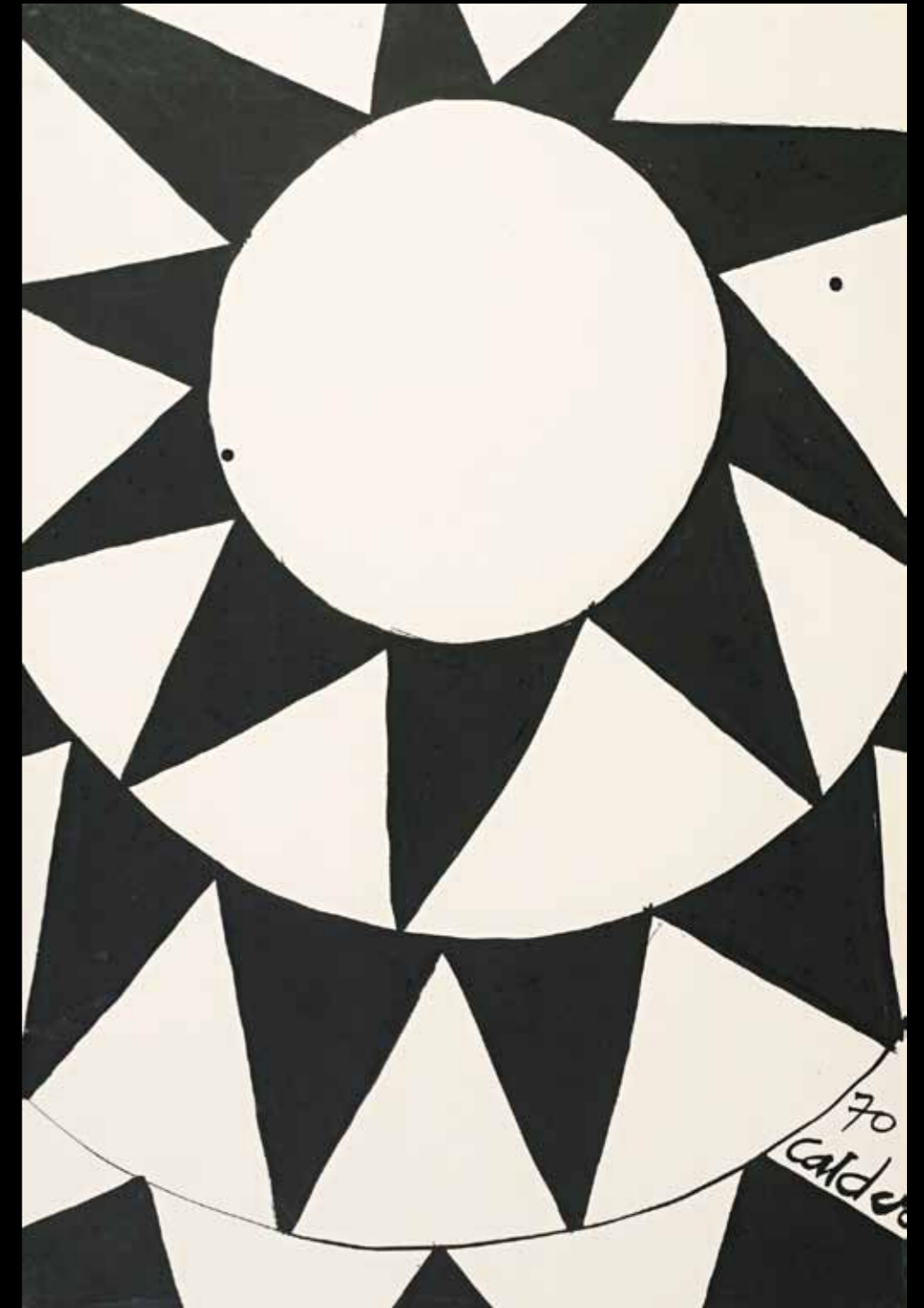
Gouache on paper

48,3 x 63,5 cm - 19 x 25 in.

**Provenance**

Private collection, Rome (gift of the artist in 1968)

By descent to the present owner



**Alexander Calder (1898 - 1976)**

**Untitled, 1970**

Signed and dated "Calder 70" (lower right)

Gouache on paper

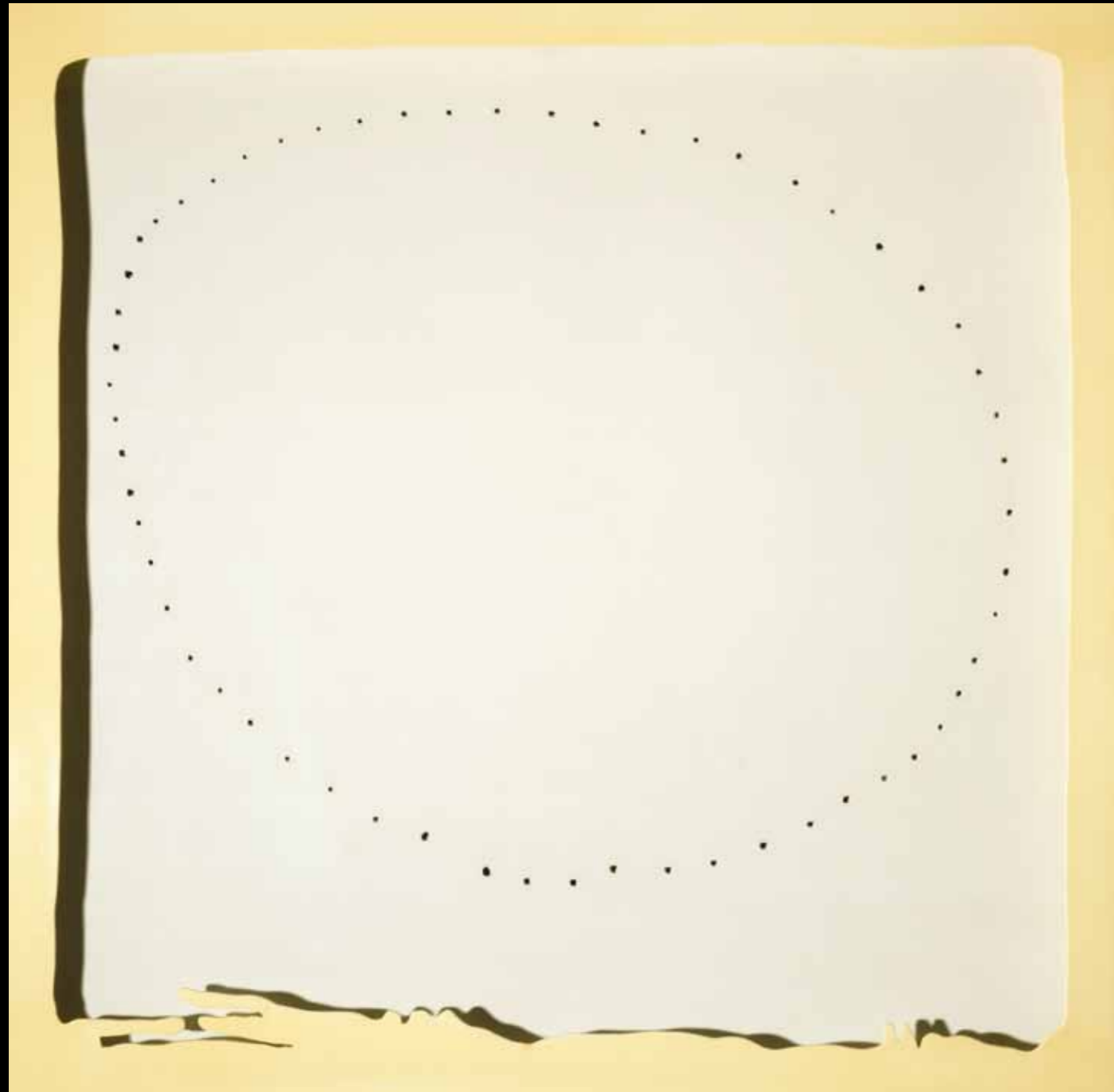
110 x 74,9 cm - 43.3 x 29.5 in.

**Provenance**

Private collection, Rome (gift of the artist *circa* 1970)

Private collection, Rome

By descent to the present owner (acquired in 2009)



**Lucio Fontana (1899 - 1968)**

**Concetto spaziale (teatrino), 1965**

Signed and titled (on the reverse)

Waterpaint on canvas and lacquered wood frame

110,5 x 110,5 cm - 43.5 x 43.5 in.

**Provenance**

Alexander Iolas Gallery, Paris

Acquired directly from the above by the present owner (1974)



**Pierre Soulages (1919 - )**

**Gouache sur papier 65 x 50 cm, 1954**

Dedicated and signed "Pour Denise Colomb Soulages" (lower right corner)

Gouache on paper

65 x 50 cm - 25.6 x 19.7 in.

**Provenance**

Denise Colomb collection

Private collection, Paris





**Umberto Mariani (1936 - )**

**La Forma celata, 2013**

Vinyl and sand on lead sheet  
80,5 x 60 cm - 31.7 x 23.6 in.



**Umberto Mariani (1936 - )**

**La Forma celata, 2013**

Vinyl and sand on lead sheet  
80,5 x 60,5 cm - 31.7 x 23.8 in.



Lee Ufan (1936 - )

**With winds, 1988**

Signed and dated "Lee Ufan 88" (lower right corner)

Stone gouache on canvas

73 x 60 cm - 28.7 x 23.6 in.



Lee Ufan (1936 - )

**From line, 1979**

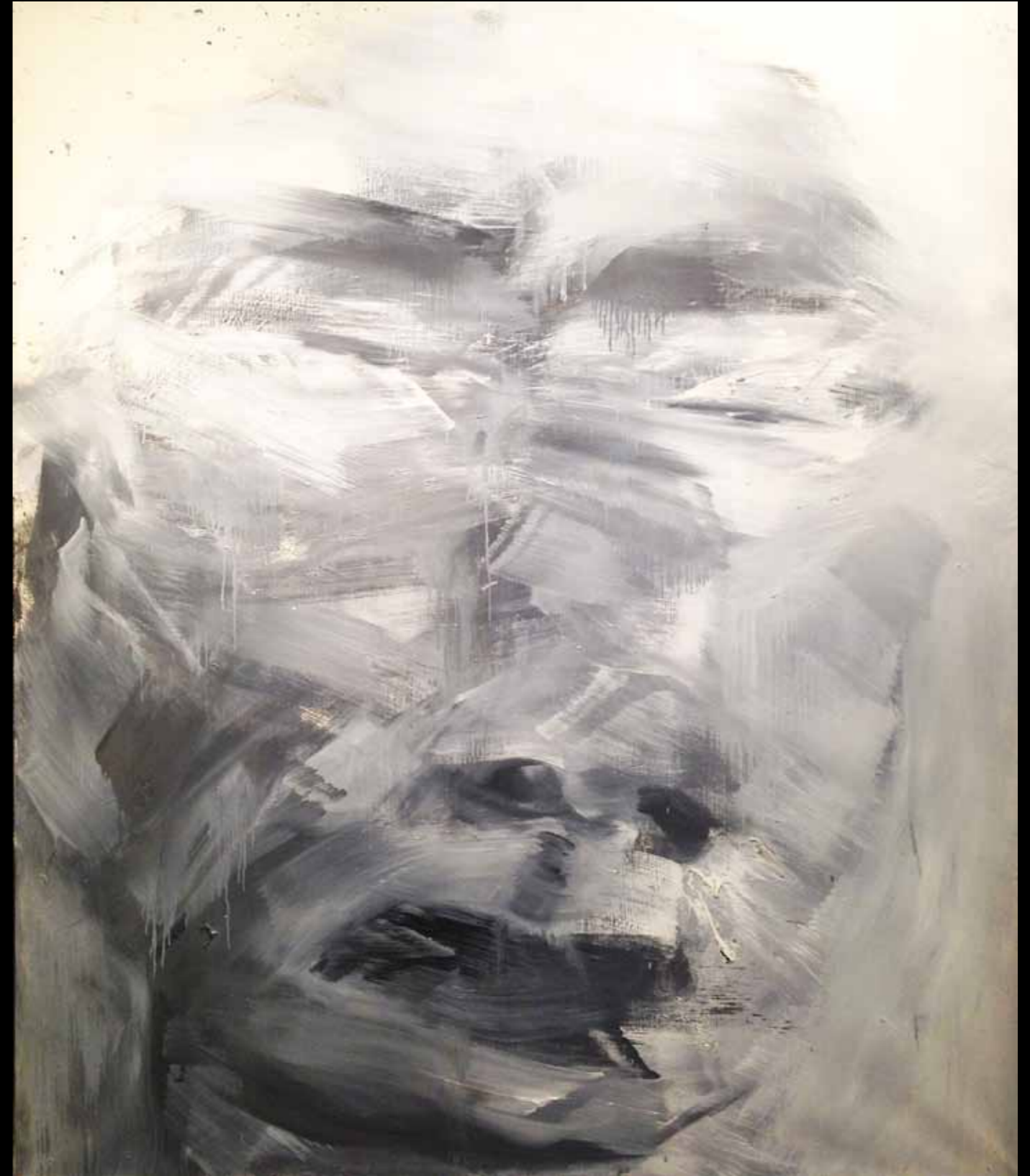
Signed and dated "Lee Ufan 79" (lower right)

Watercolour on canvas

56 x 76 cm - 22 x 29.9 in.



Antonio Saura (1930 - 1998)  
Untitled, 1977  
Signed and dated "77" (lower right)  
Mixed media on board  
44 x 33 cm - 17.3 x 13 in.



Yan Pei Ming (1960 - )  
Portrait, 1991  
Oil on canvas  
178 x 152 cm - 70.1 x 59.8 in.



Zhang Xiaogang (1958 - )

**Amnesia and memory**

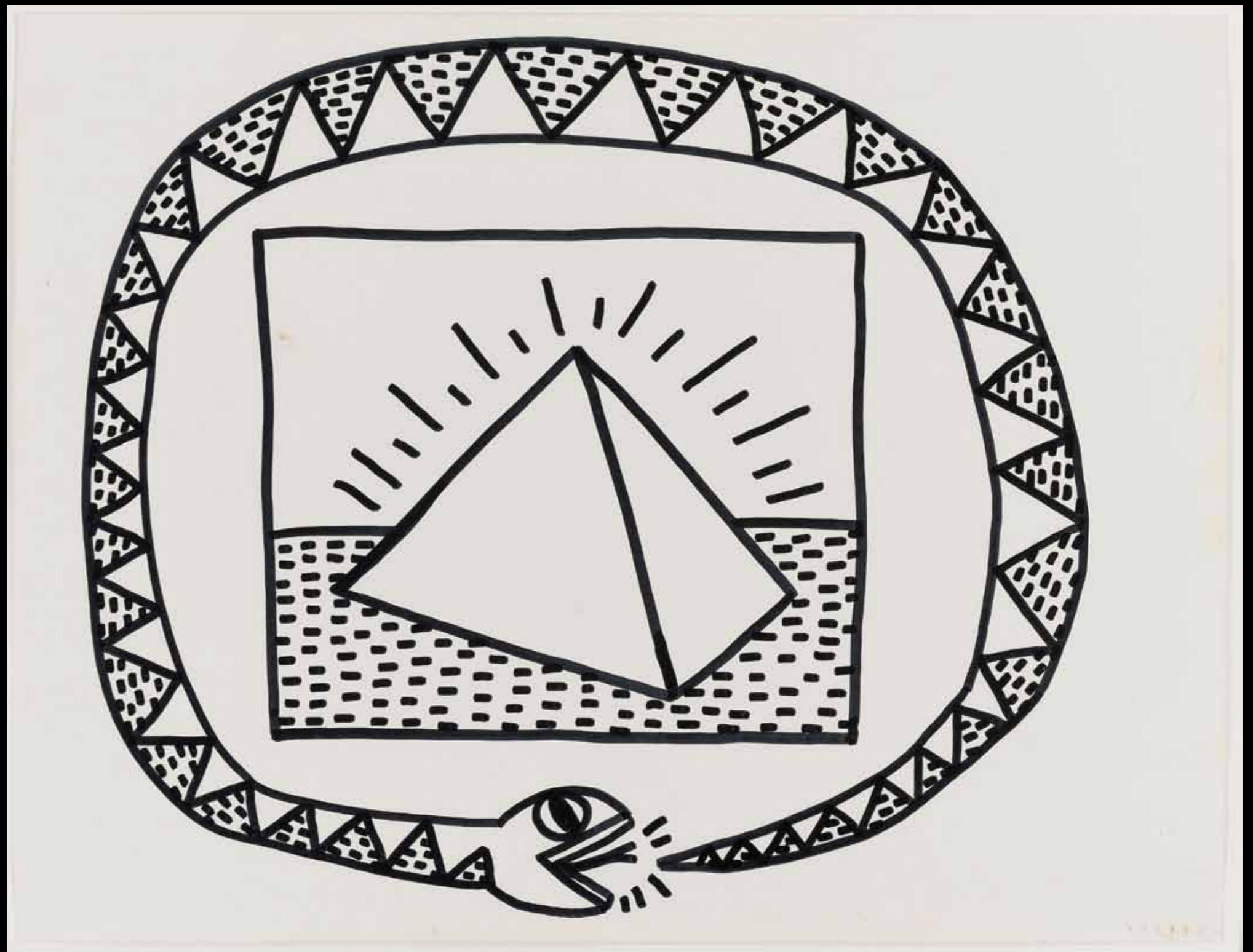
Original lithograph, edition of 130  
80 x 120 cm - 31.5 x 47.2 in.



Stéphane Graff (1965 - )

**Self-portrait**

Oil on canvas  
45,5 x 35,5 cm - 17.9 x 14 in.



**Keith Haring (1958 - 1990)**

**Untitled (snake and pyramid), 1981**

Signed and dated "Haring 8.8.81" (on the reverse)

Marker on poster board

51 x 66 cm - 20.1 x 26 in.

**Provenance**

Tony Shafrazi Gallery, New York

Acquired by the present owner from the above (1992)



**Robert Longo (1953 - )**

**Study of tiger head 16, 2012**

Signed, titled and dated (on the reverse)

Graphite and charcoal on velum

60 x 47,9 cm - 23.6 x 18.8 in.

**Provenance**

Private collection, France



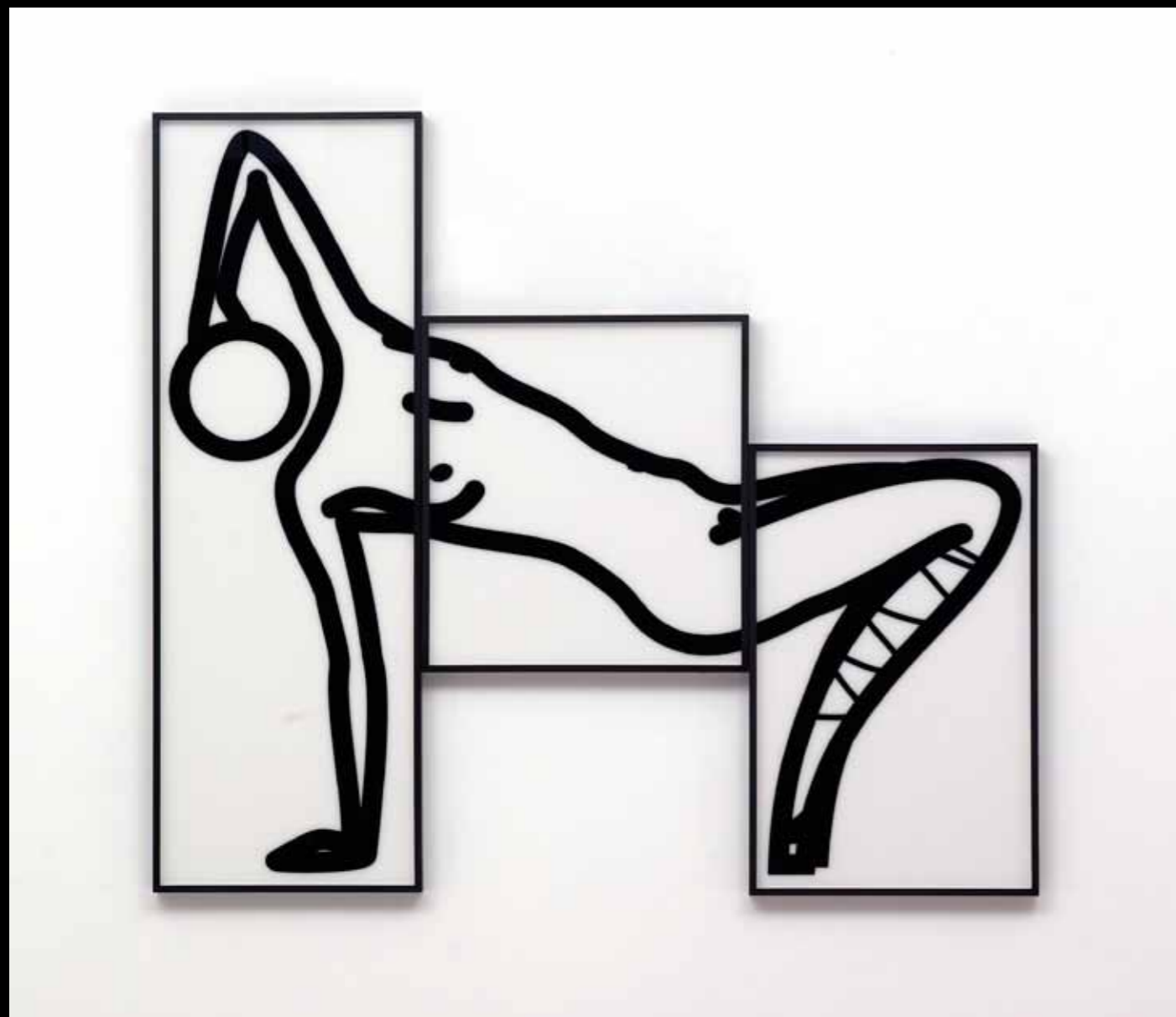
**Robert Longo (1953 - )**

**Shark 7, 2008**

Signed, titled and dated (on the reverse)

Charcoal on mounted paper

234 x 151 cm - 92.1 x 59.4 in.

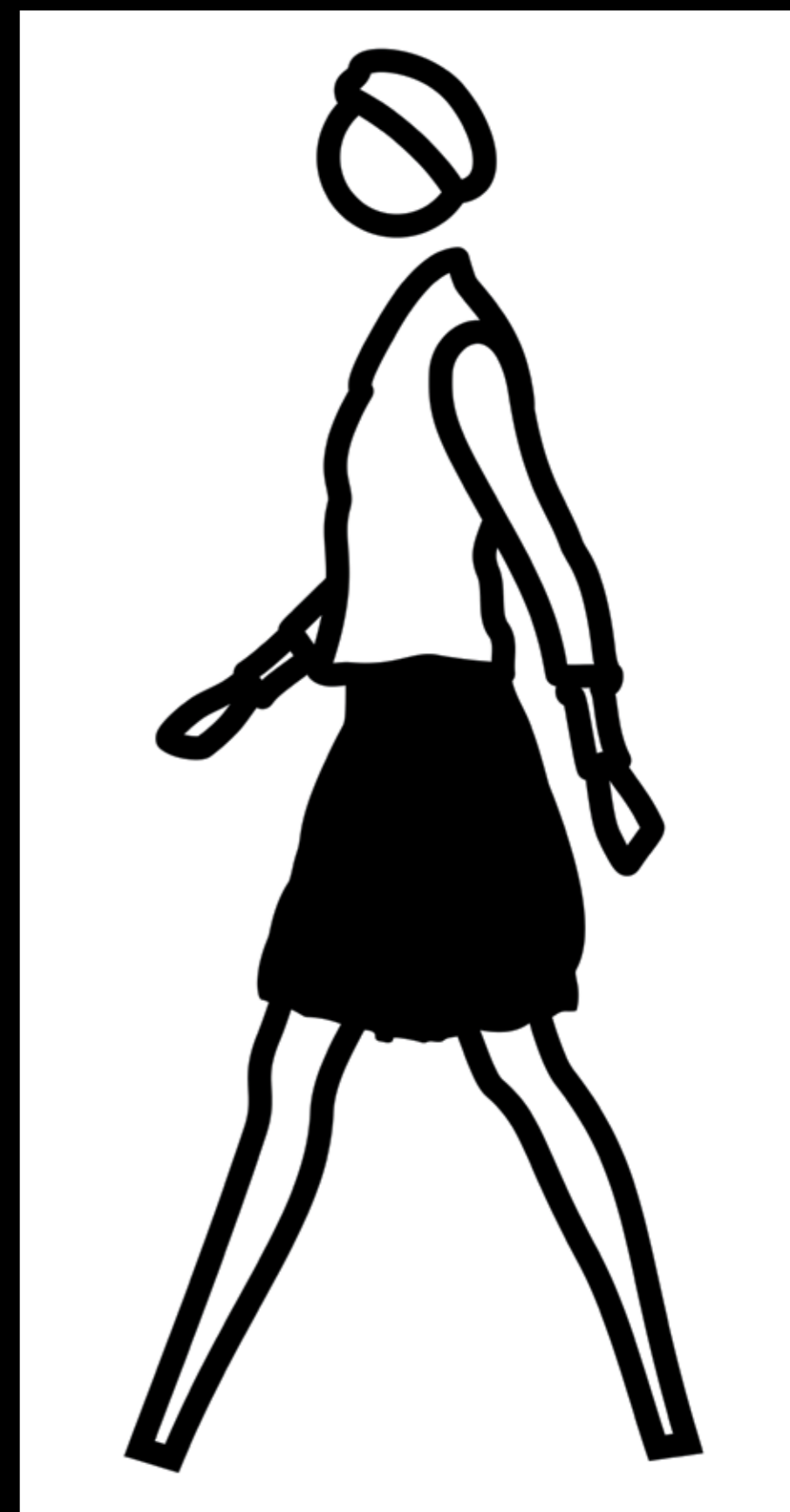


Julian Opie (1958 - )

**This is Shahnoza in 3 parts 08, 2008**

3 parts flocked acrylic panels

130 x 147 x 3,8 cm - 51.2 x 57.9 x 1.5 in.



Julian Opie (1958 - )

**Jen walking 2, 2011**

Continuous computer animation, computer film, pc and 55" LCD screen

128 x 75 x 7,3 cm - 50.4 x 29.5 x 2.9 in.



**Gérard Rancinan (1953 - )**

**Ocean, 2012**

Argentique print mounted on plexiglas, edition of 1  
70 x 150 cm - 27.6 x 59.1 in.





Gérard Rancinan (1953 - )

Press Power, 2013

Argentique print mounted on plexiglas, edition of 8  
125 x 183 cm - 49.2 x 72 in.



Mauro Corda (1960 - )  
Contorsionniste II, 2005  
Bronze, edition of 8  
51 x 50,5 x 20 cm - 20.1 x 19.9 x 7.9 in.



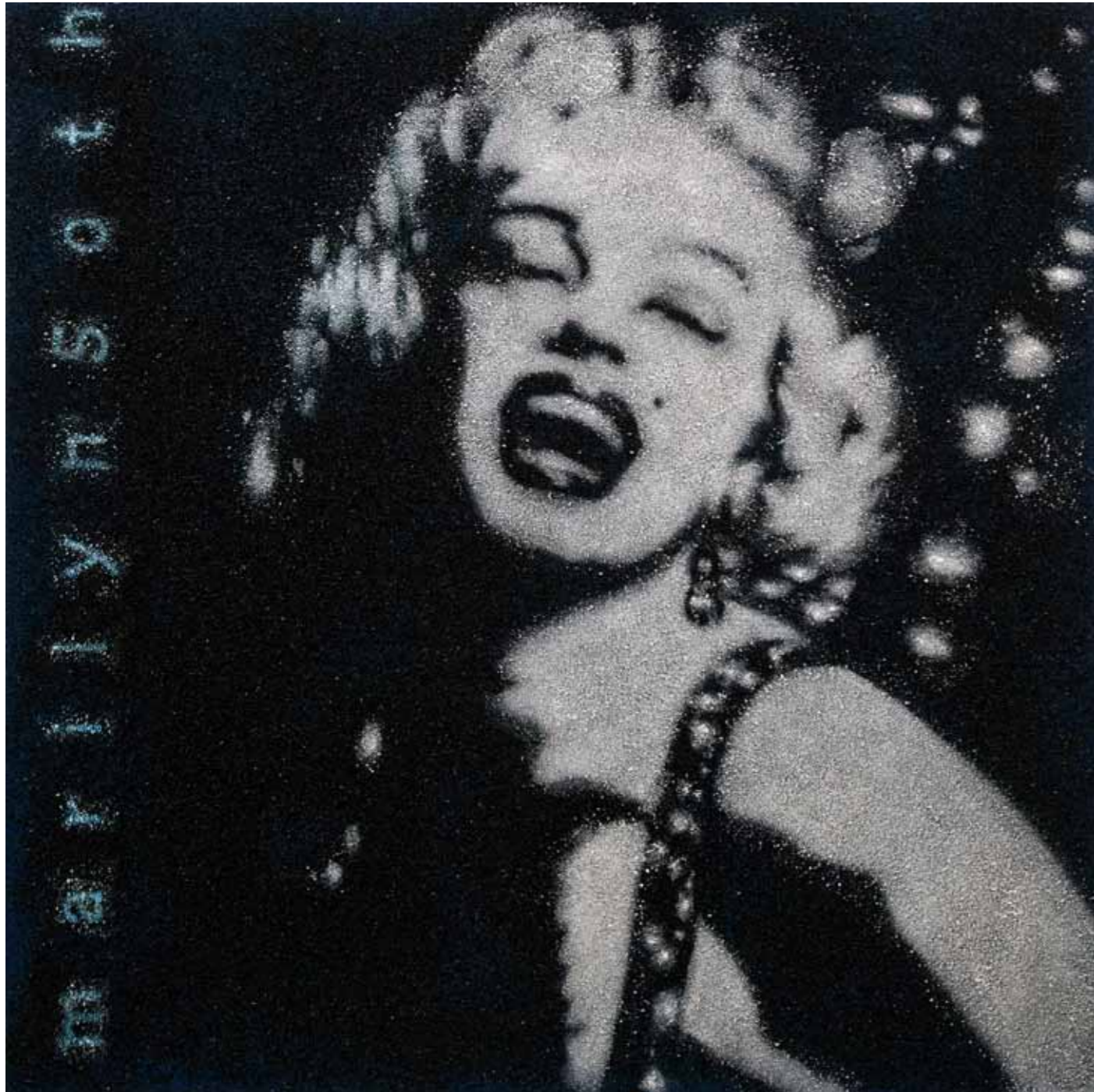
Marc Quinn (1964 - )  
Endless column (micro cosmos)  
Bronze, edition of 7  
69 x 21 x 23 cm - 27.2 x 8.3 x 9.1 in.



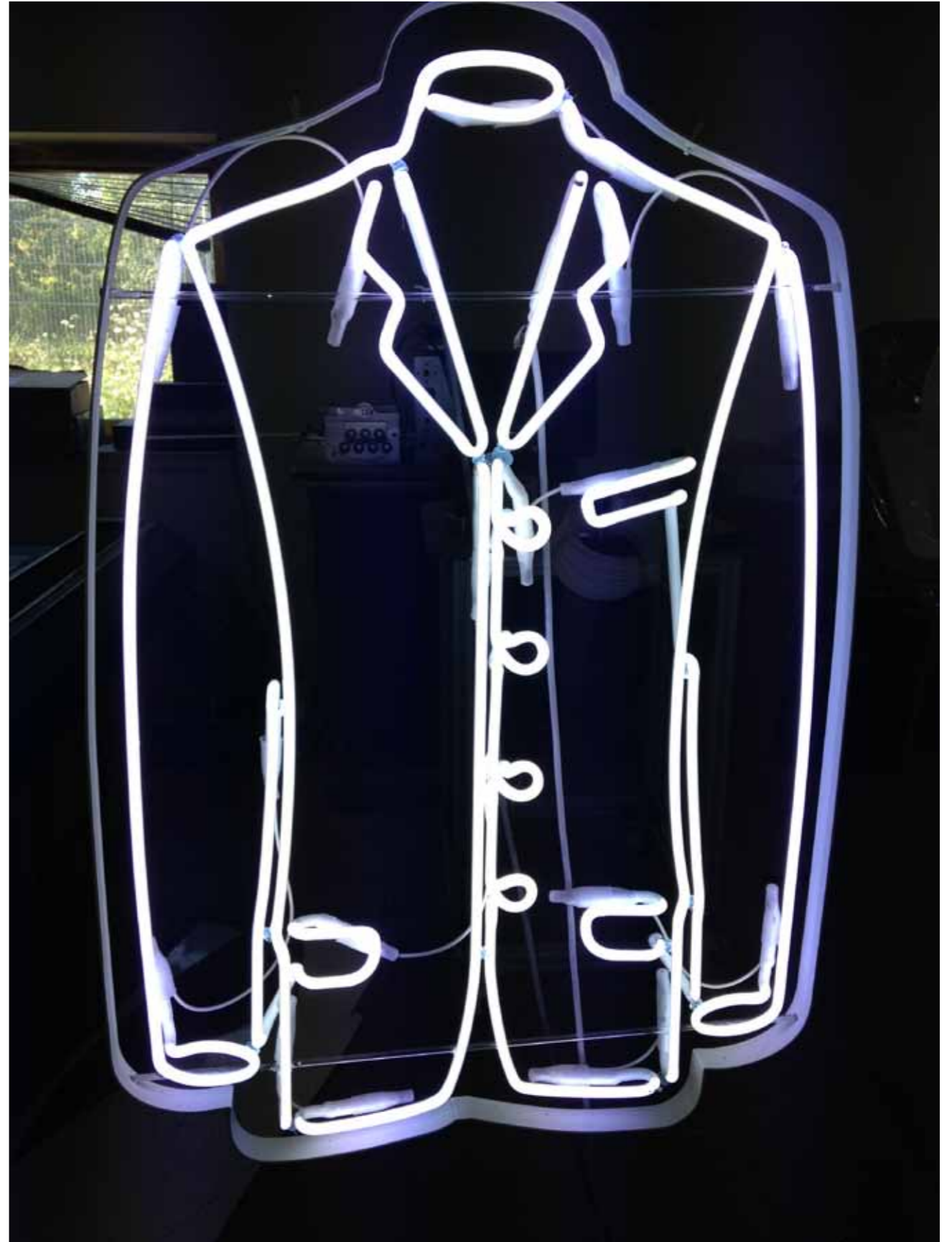
**Murat Pulat (1978 - )**  
**Extreme, 2013**  
Oil on canvas  
160 x 160 cm - 63 x 63 in.



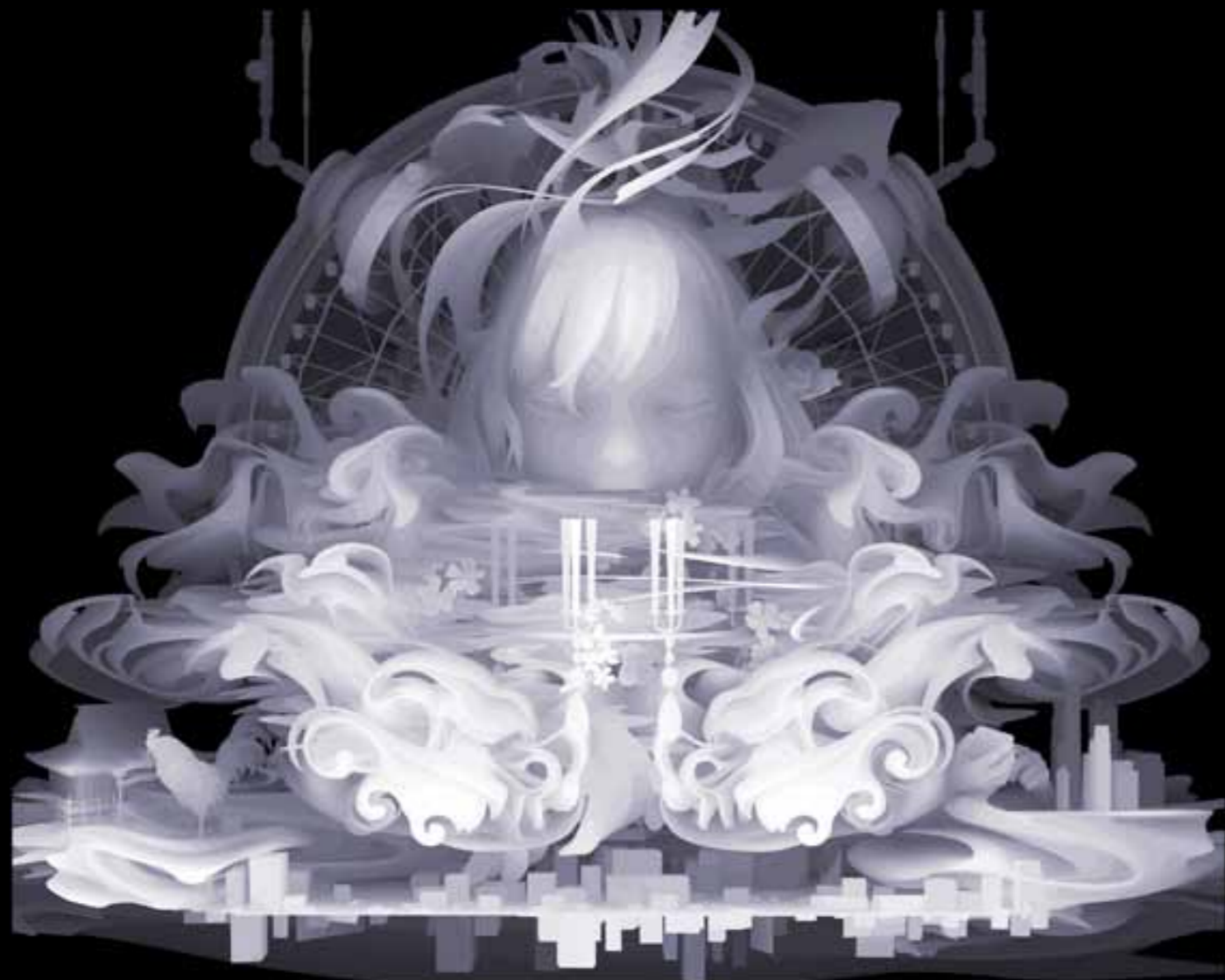
**Murat Pulat (1978 - )**  
**C Note, 2013**  
Oil on canvas  
160 x 160 cm - 63 x 63 in.



Reza Derakshani (1952 - )  
**Marilyn 50<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
Mixed media on canvas  
100 x 100 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 in.



Mohamed El Baz (1967 - )  
**Veste, 2012**  
Neon and metal  
100 x 80 cm - 39.4 x 31.5 in.



Kazuki Takamatsu (1978 - )

**Came here to keep watch! 2012**  
Tarpaulin, giclee, acrylic and gouache  
130 x 162 cm - 51.2 x 63.8 in.



Umberto Ciceri (1961 - )

**Force of the events No. 469, 2013**  
Lenticular, unique piece  
210 x 110 cm - 82.7 x 43.3 in.



**SEEN (1961 - )**  
**Skull (jump), 1990**  
Aerosol on canvas  
81 x 60 cm - 31.9 x 23.6 in.



**Blek le Rat (1951 - )**  
**Brush army, 2008**  
Signed and dated "Blek le Rat 2008" (lower right corner)  
Stencil on canvas  
73 x 100 cm - 28.7 x 39.4 in.



Wang Yehan (1959 - )

WS540, 2009

Acrylic and oil on canvas

Triptych: 91 x 198 cm - 35.8 x 77.9 in.



Eduardo Guelfenbein (1953 - )  
Absence, 2011  
Acrylic on canvas  
146 x 114 cm - 57.5 x 44.9 in.



Diego Masi (1947 - )  
Entre dos luces  
Oil on canvas  
157,5 x 157,5 cm - 62 x 62 in.



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