

**Spazio Leonardo** is pleased to announce **FIORI** (“Flowers”), a solo exhibition by **Paolo Gonzato** (1975, Busto Arsizio). Gonzato's practice, always prone to transformation and marginality, deals with dynamics of recession and suspension. Giving form to his research through the use of various media and based on the notion of extended art, Gonzato engages with design, collaborations, publishing and fashion.

The protagonist of the exhibition at Spazio Leonardo is the “anthology”, a word that etymologically comes from the Greek: a “collection of flowers” which the artist began in 2021.

Such a collection has organically grown into a series of pastel drawings on A5 paper sheets that the artist has gathered from travels, meetings, real life copies and images from the internet. Through his personal language Gonzato has operated a formal selection, making the drawings a reduction to the essential, a waiver of complexity, a search for a primitive sign.

The archetype of the flower permeates the history of art, from the mysterious Minoan frescoes of the Prince of Lilies, to the *memento mori* of 17th century still lifes and Mapplethorpe's calla lilies, moving through the centuries to the present day.

An archaic fascination with flowers, nothing more than the reproductive organs - the *genitalia* - of certain botanic species whose innate sensuality has kept them ever-present, pure or morbid, reminders of firstlings and excesses, but also of their own inescapable putrescence.

The exhibition display is structured around the wall painting *OUT OF STOCK*, covering the long gallery wall of Spazio Leonardo. In addition to the flower drawings are seven ceramic sculptures in the form of vases from the series *CHOPSTICK*.

Also presented for this occasion is **FIORI**, an artist's book published by Fortino Editions containing the 44 drawings that make up the series. The book is available both at the exhibition and in bookstores.

**Exhibition:** 23 November 2022 - 24 February 2023

Monday-Friday: 09.00 - 18.00

Spazio Leonardo

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**Paolo Gonzato** (Busto Arsizio, 1975) lives and works in Milan. He attended the Course in Decoration at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan. His artistic work is represented by APALAZZO GALLERY, Brescia. With the gallery he co-curated the *LOLLIPOP* programme, a travelling project on

research design. Always interested in recessive dynamics, since 2003 he has been making a series of paintings and installations titled *OUT OF STOCK*.

Engaging with the concept of extended art, he has developed special projects and collaborations with companies such as CREED for haute perfumery and RENAULT - for whom he customised an electric vehicle - as well as produced capsule collections for the fashion industry. With Milan-based CAMP DESIGN gallery, he presented a solo exhibition where a series of glass-made light sculptures were on display. The show was titled *BARACCHE* ("Shacks"), referring to architectural signs of precarious structures. Within the art context, his work is part of numerous private and public collections. His work has been exhibited in Italian and international galleries and museums including: Peninsula Art Museum in Weihai, Shandong (China), Monfort in Portorož (Slovenia), Shoot the Lobster gallery (Luxembourg) and Green On Red in Dublin (Ireland). Other exhibitions include the solo show *L'isola delle rose* at APALAZZO GALLERY in Brescia as well as *NO SOUL FOR SALE* at Tate Modern in London, as well as projects at Art Biennale and Architecture Biennale in Venice, and at the Berlin Biennale. He was a finalist of the MOROSO Award for Art and has been selected for a Japanese government program, JAPAN BRAND, taking part in a residency in Tokyo. He has given workshops in museums and institutions and participated in publishing projects. He has independent curatorial experience, participating in several projects within the no-profit field. For FIORUCCI ART TRUST and others, he has developed projects, performances and various site-specific interventions.