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Mattia Ciaf (1991, IT) investigates the visual codes and behaviors that shape everyday life. Working with found images, ordinary objects, and familiar situations, he isolates and repositions elements of contemporary culture to make their contradictions visible. His works move between observation and intervention, often leaving intact the absurdity already present in the original materials.



Failure is the seasoning that gives flavor to success

The museum wall label, a discreet device for legitimizing the artwork, is enlarged and transferred to the floor, taking the form of a rug. In place of the title, a motivational aphorism appears a phrase that reframes failure as a necessary step toward success. Taken literally, however, the message loses its contemplative distance: the text is walked on, dirtied, and gradually worn away.



Mattia Ciaf

***Failure is the
seasoning that gives
flavor to success***

*200 x 150 cm
rug on floor*

Kind Regards

The project reinterprets the tapestry as a storytelling medium, combining its narrative tradition with the aesthetic of a football supporter's scarf. While tapestries once celebrated battles and heroic deeds, here the protagonist is the contemporary hero: the office worker. Through a sequence of pictograms, the textile ironically celebrates everyday working life, from meetings to endless hours at a desk.

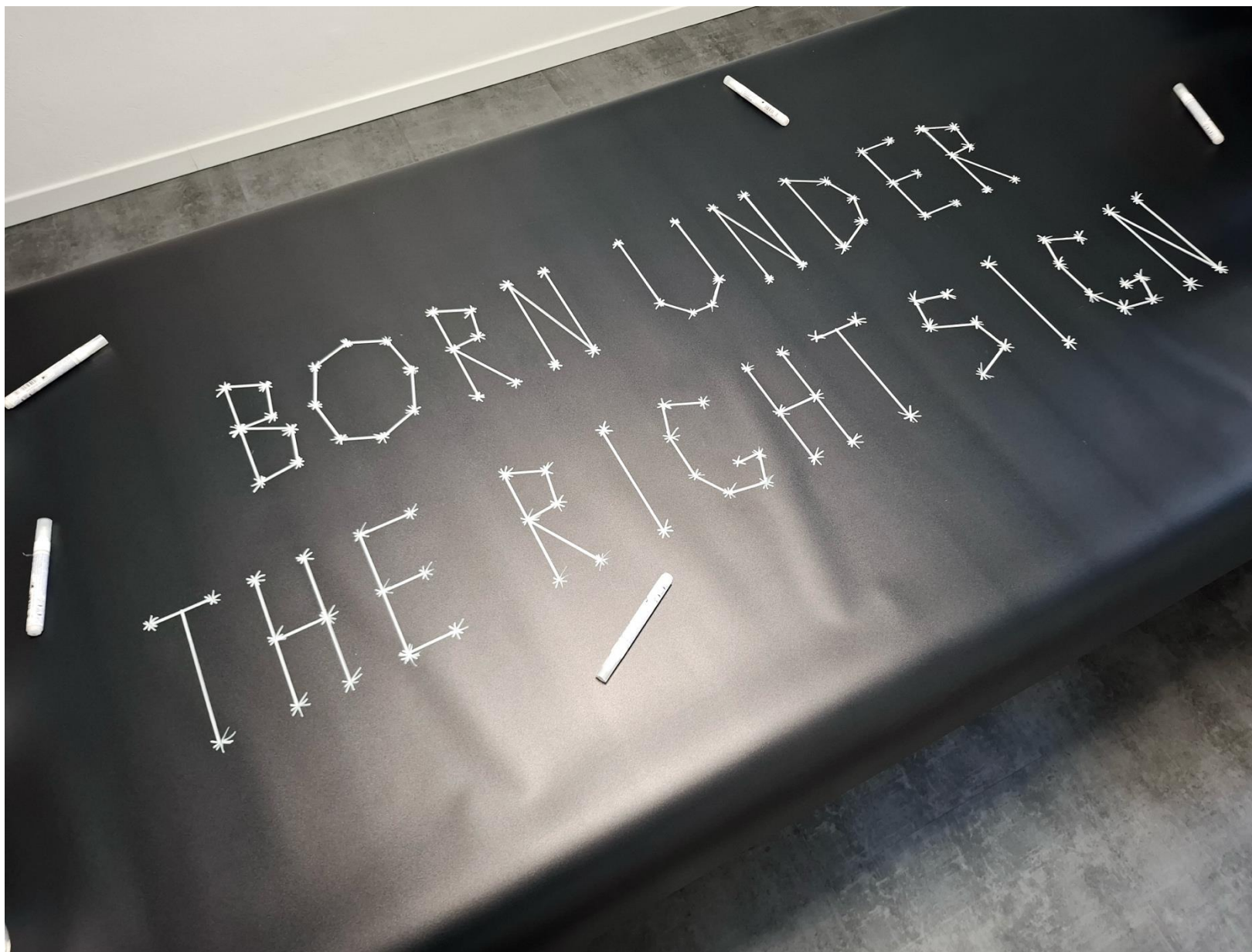
Traditionally a symbol of loyalty and belonging, the scarf becomes the banner of an unlikely team: the supporters of productivity.



Born under the right sign

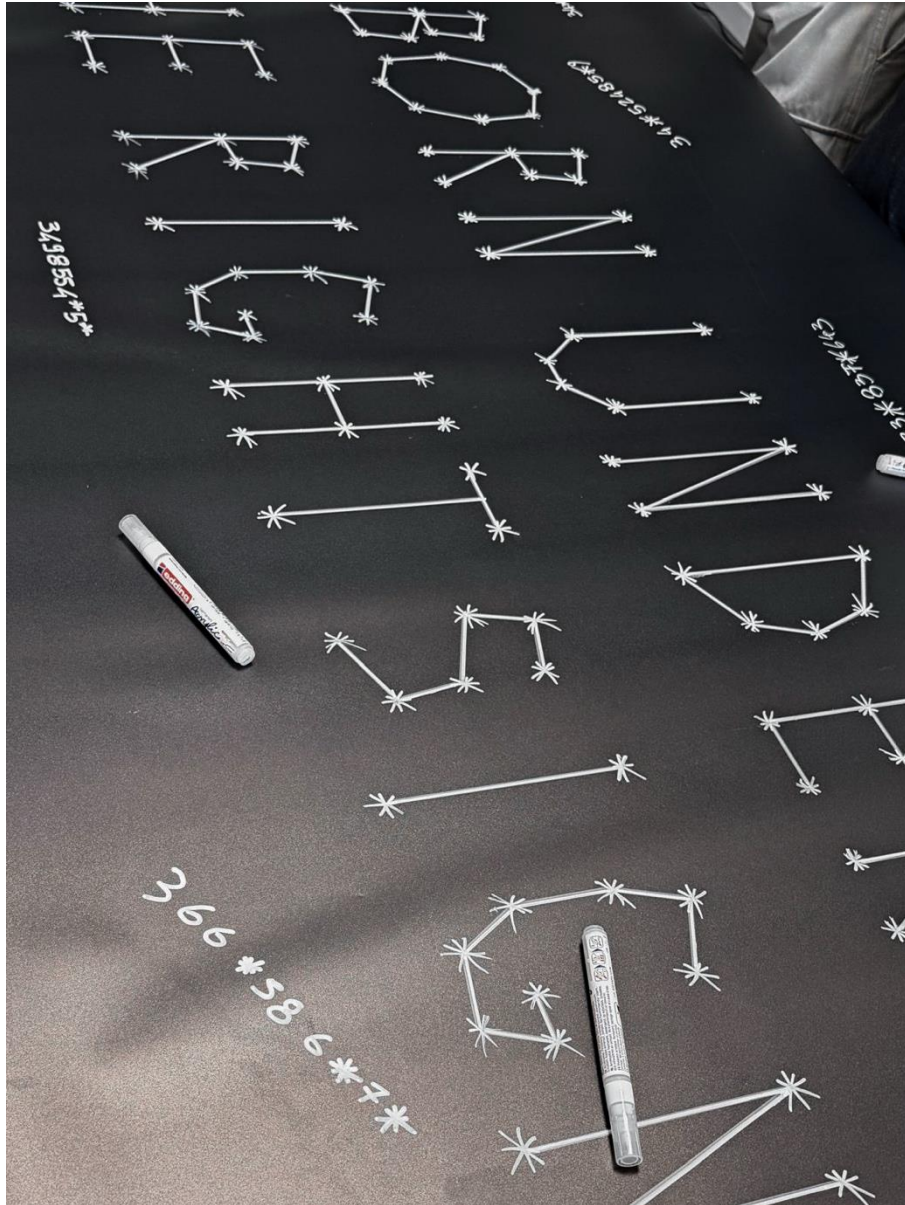
In art it's who you know. None of these numbers work.

Each participant writes on the tablecloth a phone number connected to their own experience of art, replacing one digit with an asterisk. Ten possibilities remain, and no certainty: the tablecloth fills up with names reachable by trial and error. Against the black, the asterisks form a constellation. Like every constellation, it points to nothing and can be made to predict anything.



Born under the right sign

PVC table covering, acrylic markers, 340x140cm. 2026



Born under the right sign



PVC table covering, acrylic markers, 340x140cm. 2026

Stella Stellina

Stella Stellina takes the form of a yellow satellite dish with a big smile on its surface. Designed to receive signals from the sky, it appears surprisingly optimistic. The title recalls an Italian nursery rhyme in which a child speaks to a star, hoping for a reply. Here, the dish receives but cannot respond, while its smile remains permanently fixed.

After all, someone has to keep smiling, even when no one is listening.



Lavorare stanca

A keyboard reduced to its essential functions, or perhaps relieved of them entirely. Only the letters needed to compose *Lavorare stanca* (Working is tiring) remain.

Designed for efficiency and endless productivity, the object now offers a rather limited range of possibilities. Its last remaining function is to question the very idea of work it was built to facilitate.

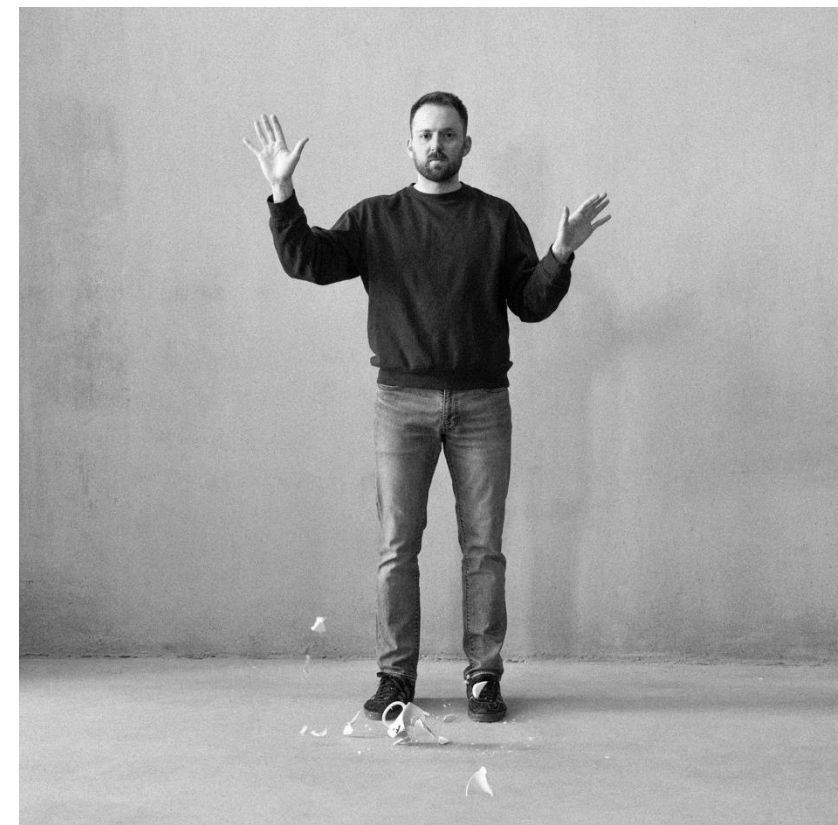
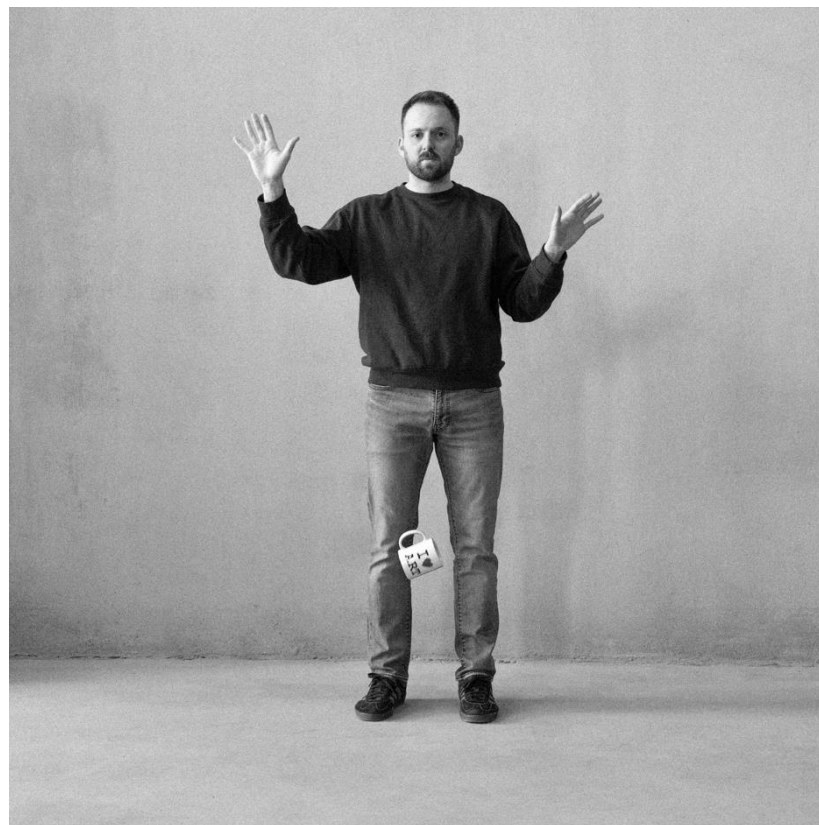


I still love art

A museum shop mug costs eight euros. One is carefully destroyed, reenacting Ai Weiwei's *Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn*(1995): the same frontal pose, the same three frames, the same dramatic gesture.

But while Ai Weiwei dropped a two-thousand-year-old urn, here the object is mass-produced, proudly declaring *I Love Art*. One mug is sacrificed in the name of art. Thirty-five identical ones are still waiting for their turn.

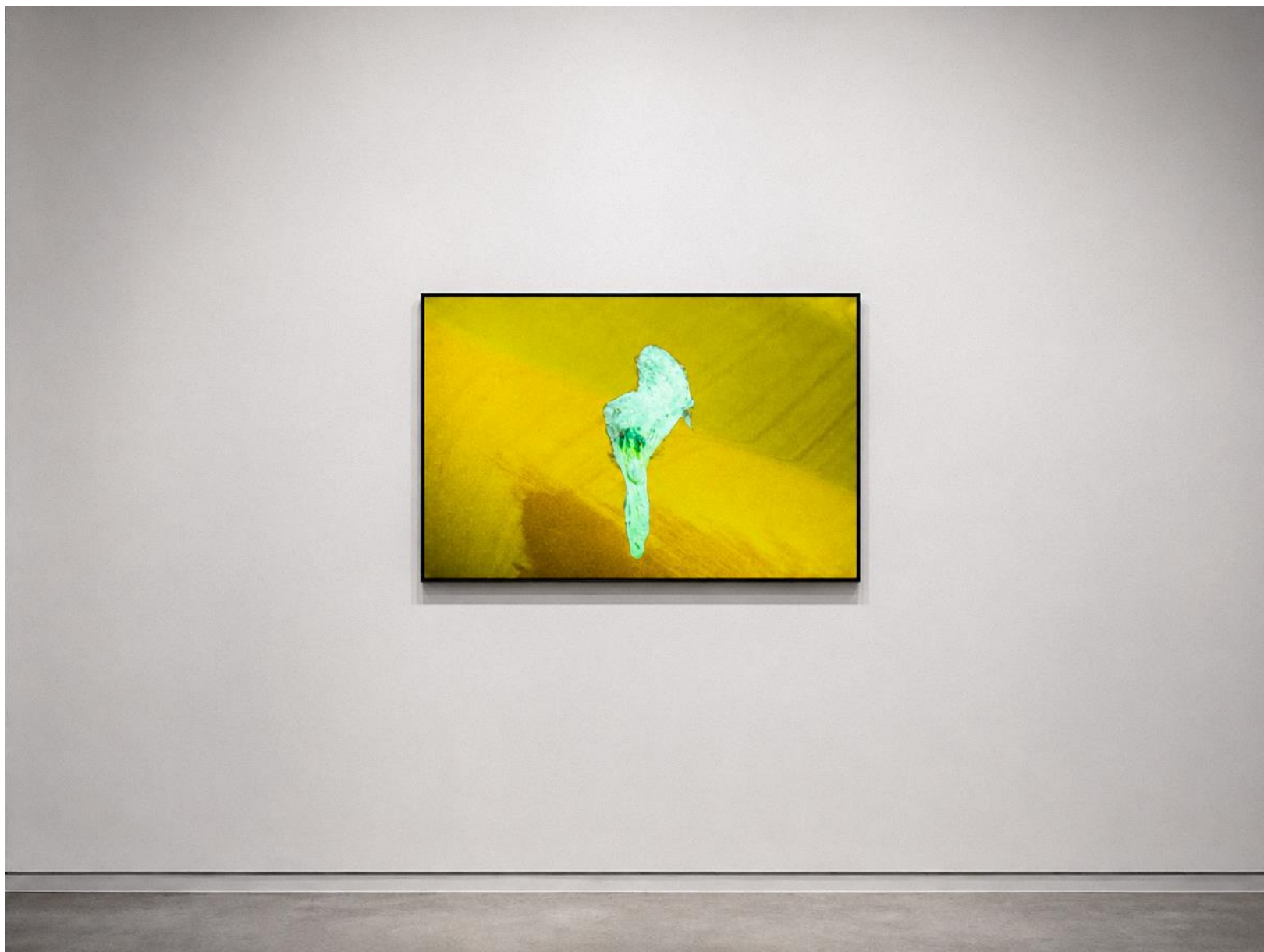




I need to sell something

I didn't paint any of this. A pigeon did.

The images come from photographs of droppings found online: complaints, removal requests, dirty walls and car paint. Recoloured and enlarged, they take on the look of the abstract painting that circulates on social media and sells without trouble. Horizontal format, soft colours, nothing to disturb a wall. The pigeon received no credit.







The cheapest version of myself

An artist sits on a workbench, hands idle, his head replaced by a supermarket-style promotional label: *ARTISTA SCONTATO*. Printed repeatedly on packing tape, his self-portrait becomes a mass-produced commodity, ready to be stuck anywhere. Somewhere between discounted merchandise and a cliché. In Italian, *scontato* means both discounted and predictable. No limited edition: while stocks last.



Artista scontato

No air left

Helium balloons printed with photographs taken from TripAdvisor: queues, crowds, monuments seen behind the heads of the people who were looking at them. The images were chosen for their unintended irony, and together they form an archive in which the dream of travel coincides with the absurdity of an ordinary day. The object is the one from birthday parties, and as at birthday parties the air runs out: over the course of the exhibition the balloons come down and stay on the floor.





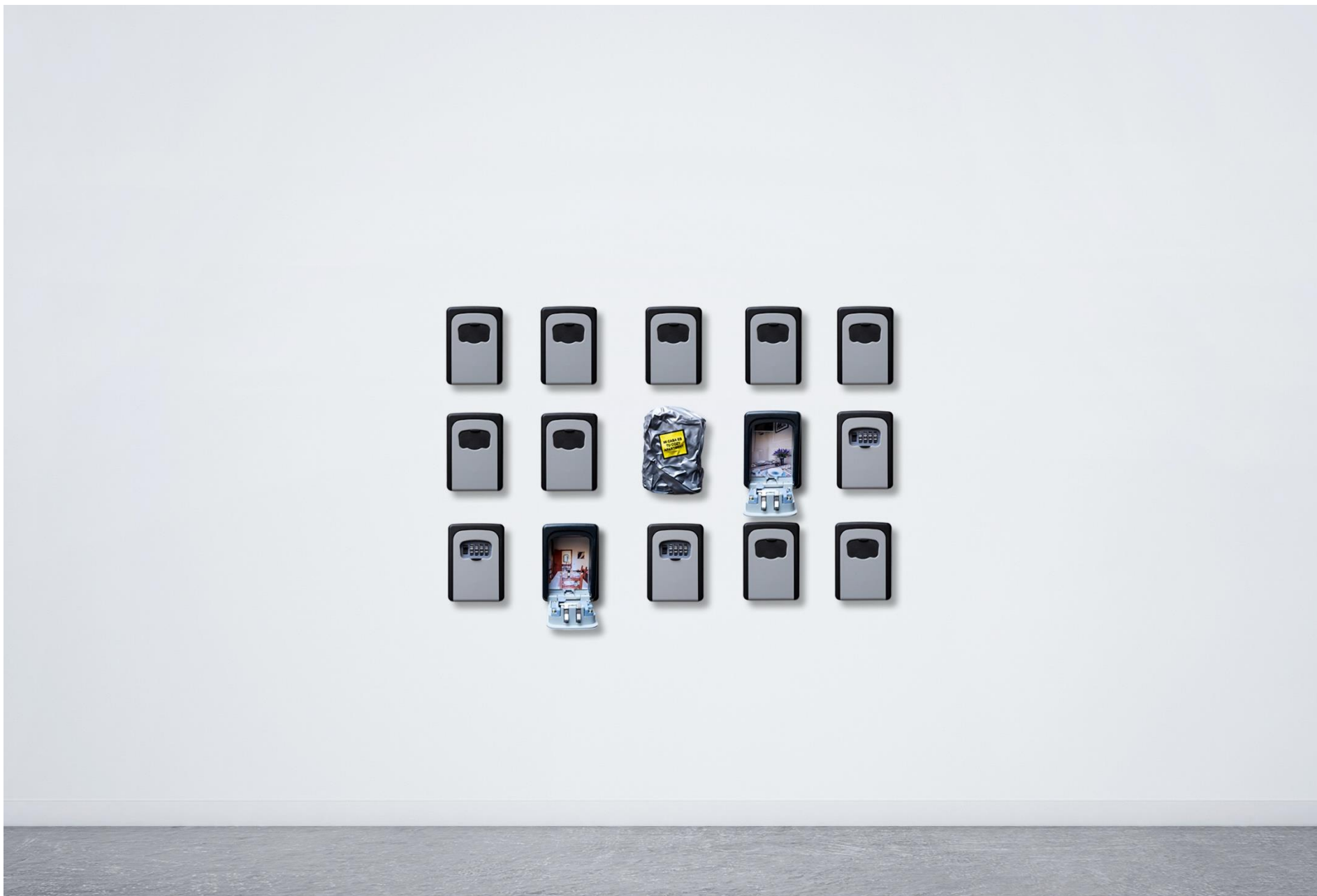




Mi casa es tu cozy apartment

Mi casa es tu cozy apartment explores the transformation of homes into tourist commodities.

The installation consists of key lockboxes commonly found outside short-term rentals. Inside each one is a photograph of a perfectly set but empty dining table, taken from Airbnb listings. Visitors must open the boxes to discover these carefully staged promises of domestic intimacy. The central lockbox, however, is sealed shut, echoing anti-Airbnb protests. Above it, a yellow sticker reads *Mi casa es tu cozy apartment*: hospitality is guaranteed, as long as someone is willing to pay.









Where's Ciaf?

Where's Ciaf? turns a crowded tourist beach into a real-life game of *Where's Waldo?*. Hidden among the tourists is the artist himself, dressed as the famous character. Printed on a beach towel, the image transforms an everyday tourist accessory into a playful reflection on overtourism. Finding the artist is part of the game. Recognizing ourselves as part of the crowd is the other.



Where's Ciaf?

160x80cm – Print on beach towel - 2024





Where's Ciaf?

160x80cm – Print on beach towel - 2024

Someone who knows me better than my mother

Can an algorithm know us better than our mother?

Someone Who Knows Me Better Than My Mother explores our relationship with algorithms through a simple experiment: for one hour, I continuously scrolled through Instagram Reels, recording every video the platform selected for me.

Among the endless stream of personalized content, an ad appeared offering customized birthday cakes. A surprisingly maternal gesture from an algorithm trained to anticipate my desires and keep me scrolling.

After all, who needs a mother when you have Instagram?



Someone who knows me better than my mother

83x63cm - Fine art print under plexiglass - 2023

The last goodbye

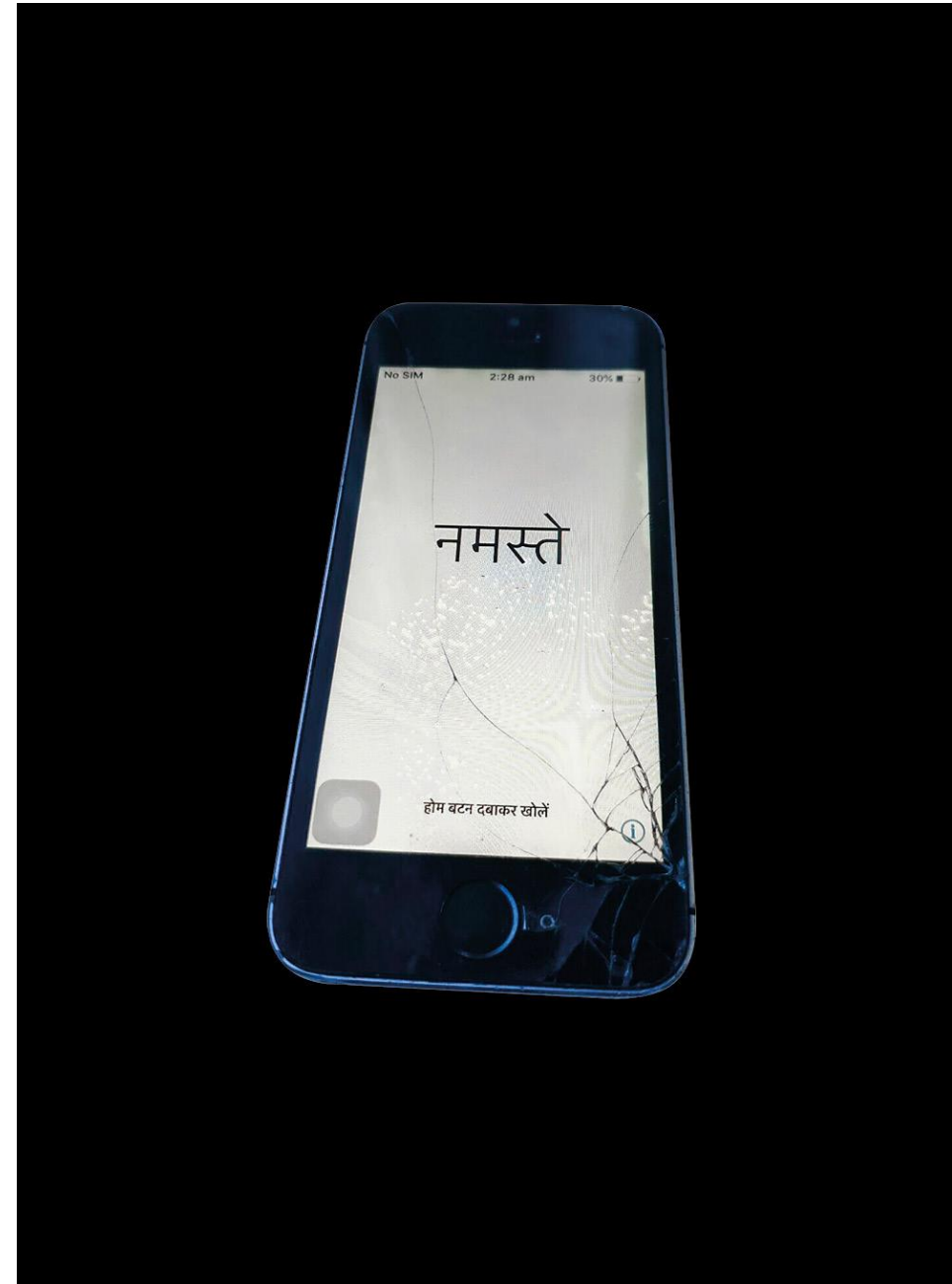
The Last Goodbye brings together photographs of shattered iPhones found for sale on eBay. Despite their broken screens, the devices still display the familiar “hello” in different languages, the same greeting that welcomes users when turning on a new phone.

The project extends beyond the exhibition space through an online gallery on eBay and a series of scratch cards, turning the fragility of technology into a game of chance. Once desirable objects and symbols of status, these devices can lose their value as quickly as a losing lottery ticket.

After all, every goodbye deserves one last hello.



The last goodbye



Digital photos from Ebay







The last goodbye



The last goodbye

10x13cm – photo print



Iphone - The last goodbye. - Art project

Condizione: Usato

Prezzo: **EUR 1,00**

Compralo Subito

Aggiungi al carrello

Aggiungi agli oggetti che
osservi



Goditi i vantaggi. Restituzioni accettate.

Ritiro: Ritiro gratuito dell'oggetto in zona da Genova, Italia. [Vedi i dettagli](#)

Pagamenti:



Restituzioni: Restituzioni entro 14 giorni. L'acquirente paga le spese di spedizione per la restituzione dell'oggetto. [Vedi i dettagli](#)

Ne hai uno da vendere? [Vendine uno simile](#)

Fai shopping in tutta sicurezza



Garanzia cliente eBay

Se non ricevi l'oggetto che hai ordinato, riceverai il rimborso.

[Ulteriori informazioni](#)

Informazioni sul venditore

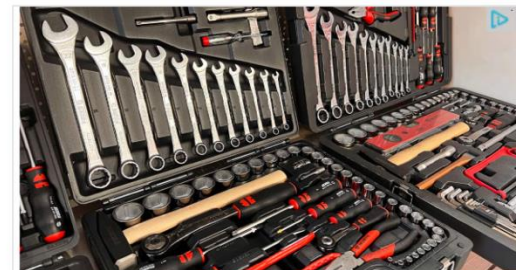
[mattiaciaf](#) (47 ★)

100% Feedback positivi

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Registrato come venditore privato, pertanto non si applicano i diritti dei consumatori derivanti dalla normativa europea. La Garanzia cliente eBay è comunque applicabile alla maggior parte degli acquisti. [Ulteriori informazioni](#)



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Würth Italia



Curriculum

2022

- Art School Chippendale studio, Milano

2023

- Photographic Book "The last goodbye", Chippendale studio, Milano
- Collective exhibition "The last goodbye", CRAG, Torino
- Collective exhibition "The last goodbye.", The Phair
- Collective exhibition Chippendale Studio, Milano
- "Hyperthermia", Charta Festival 2023
- Collective exhibition "The last goodbye", Centrale Festival, Milano
- Finalist Francesco Fabbri prize, "Someone who knows me better than my mother", Pieve di Soligo

2024

- Insight fotofestival, "Someone who knows me better than my mother", Varese
- Collective exhibition, "The last goodbye.", Condominio, Milano,
- Solo exhibition, "The last goodbye.", Centrale Festival, Fano
- Finalist Combat Prize, "Hyperthermia", Livorno
- Finalist Francesco Fabri prize, "Where's Ciaf?", Pieve di Soligo

2025

- Insight fotofestival, "Where's Ciaf?", Varese
- Two-person exhibition, "Oltre il paesaggio", Forte di Santa Tecla, Sanremo
- "No air left", Centrale Festival, Milano
- Finalist Combat Prize, Livorno

2026

- Viafarini residency, Milan
- Artefiera verona, Verona
- REA fair, Milano