

PORTFOLIO

DIEGO KOHLI

BIO

Diego Kohli is a painter living in Basel (CH) and Valencia (ES). He holds a BA in Fine Arts from the Ecole de Design et Haute Ecole d'Art du Canton Valais (CH) and two MAs in Fine Arts from the Universitat Politècnica de València (ES) and the Institute Art Gender and Nature (IAGN) in Basel (CH). Kohli is interested in the technical aspects and traditions of painting and often experiments with new techniques. By transforming sketches into paintings, he arranges fragmented bodies and forms into almost theatrical stage sets and treats them like still lifes.

Kohli has exhibited in various international institutions and galleries, for example at Rolando Anselmi Gallery (Rom, 2026), ICA Miami (Miami, 2025), Museum Franz Gertsch (Burgdorf, 2025), Spurs Gallery (Beijing, 2024), Castello di Rivoli (Turin, 2023), Galeria Belmonte (Madrid, 2023), Museo Reales de Atarazanas (Valencia, 2023), Kunsthaus Baselland (Basel, 2022), Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Conde Duque (Madrid, 2021) or Kunstmuseum Thun (2021, 2023), Center d'art Pasquart (Biel/Bienne, 2019, 2020, 2021) among others. Kohli has been nominated for the Aschlimann-Corti Grant (2020, 2021, 2023). In 2025, he obtained the prestigious Casa de Velázquez residency from the French government.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

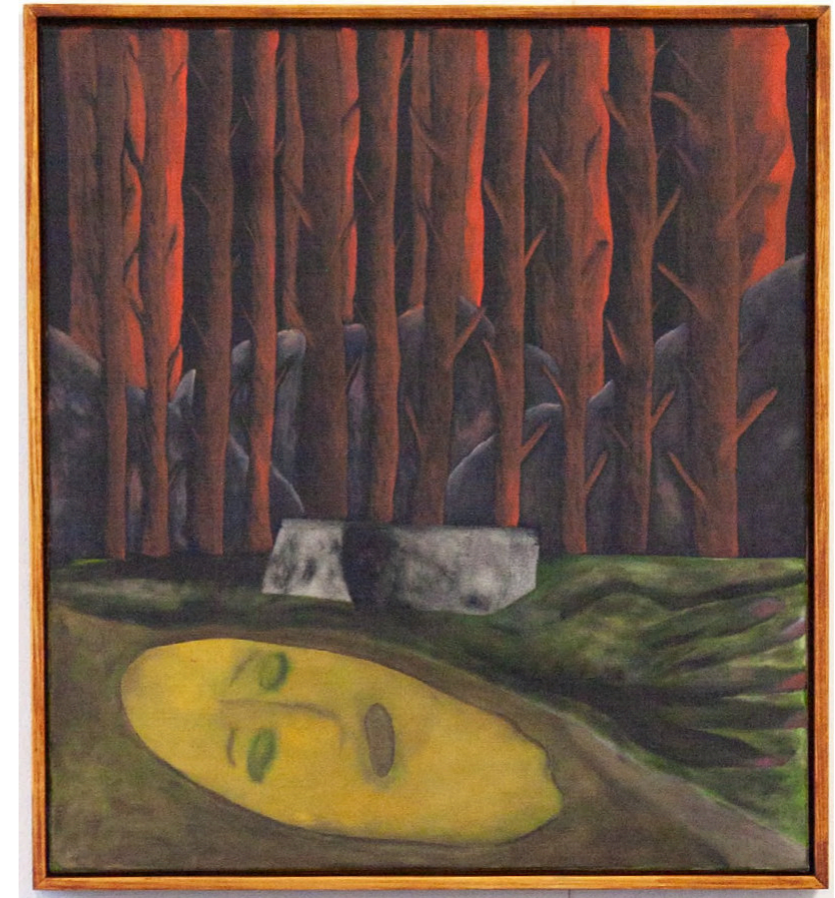
Diego Kohli's practice is the highest form: a kind of delirium, understood not as an excess of madness, but as a moment that overflows the mental and the physical, pushing the image toward a territory where spirit and matter intermingle. His densely composed scenes draw from art history, psychoanalysis, dream theory and his immediate surroundings. His surrealist imagery is built out of tragicomic situations charged with humor and irony. By decontextualizing recognizable elements, he probes the boundaries between what is, and what may cease to be familiar. Nature, interiors, furniture, food, faces, hands and feet: all these elements become symbolic extensions of the psyche or archetypal signs of strength and movement which, propelled by an immanent desire to escape, travel through tunnels of intense color toward a suprasensible, unrestricted state. As a painter, he is interested in creating an image that exceeds the limits of the physical. The fragmented body parts he paints possess an almost sculptural quality which, once framed, become protagonists of theatrical settings conceived as contemporary subversions of the classical still life. His work invites us to suspend reason for the duration of a canvas and, instead, carries us along dreamlike, intuitive and even metaphysical paths of knowledge. The area his paintings solidify resembles, essentially, what Philip Guston defined as that which the soul does not allow the hand to create.



Wish you were here, 2024, oil on canvas, 30 x 24 cm



Bodegón, 2025, oil on canvas, 50 x 36 cm



Soñar contigo (Dream with you), 2023, oil on canvas, 61 x 55 cm



I wish could fly, 2025, oil on canvas, 30 x 24 cm



Untitled, 2025, oil on canvas, 36 x 50 cm



Hermanos, 2025, oil on canvas, 36 x 30 cm



Dream by the sea, 2025, oil on canvas, 48 x 36 cm



Homestory I, 2024, oil on canvas, 95 x 125 cm



Moonshine got me II, 2025, oil on canvas, 60 x 80 cm



Studio view: Homestory X, 2024, oil on canvas, 160 x 200 cm, / Credits: Diego Kohli



Lets dream about II, 2025, oil on canvas, 32 x 41 cm



Untitled, 2024, oil on canvas, 18 x 25 cm



Lifebalance, 2024, oil on canvas, 160 x 120 cm



The last bite, 2024, oil on canvas, 42 x 30 cm



Studioview: Wake me up when its over, 2023, oil on canvas, 100 x 130 cm / Credits: Diego Kohli



Studioview: Casa de Velázquez, 2026, Credits: Diego Kohli



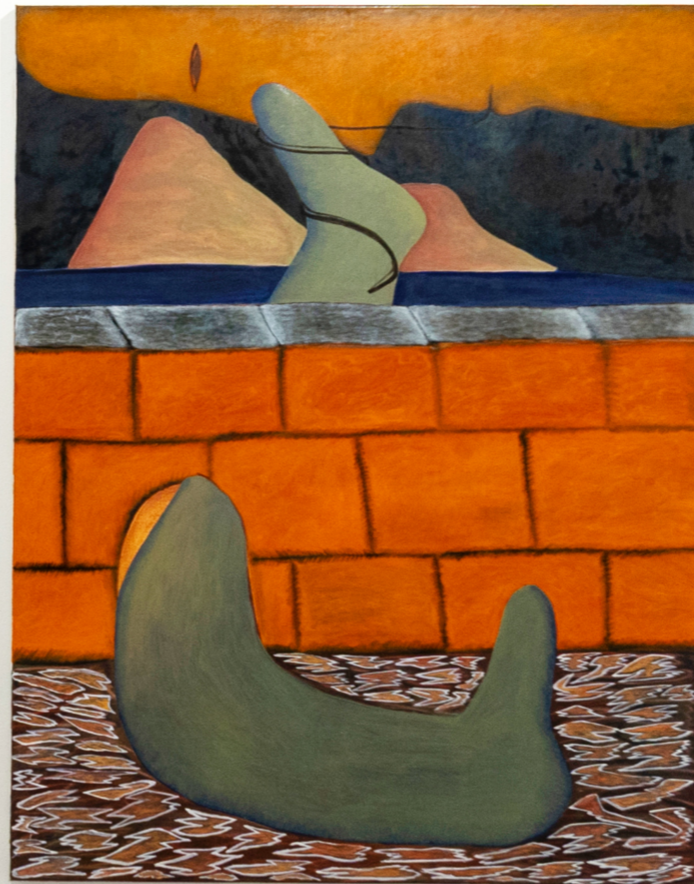
Diego Kohli: Conceiving & Seeing
Sculpture Art London, 2018

The artist's work is characterized by a strong sense of color and form. His paintings often feature bold, abstract shapes and a rich palette of colors. The artist's work is a blend of traditional painting techniques and contemporary digital art. He uses a variety of materials, including oil, acrylic, and digital media, to create his works. The artist's work is a reflection of his deep understanding of color and form, and his ability to create a sense of depth and texture in his paintings. The artist's work is a testament to his skill and creativity, and it is a pleasure to see his work displayed in a gallery setting.

Exhibition views: Diego Kohli, Projektstand FHNW, curated by Chus Martínez, Art Salon Zürich, 2025. Courtesy of the artist. Photos: Diego Kohli



Exhibition view: Salutations, Gowen Contemporary, Genf (CH), 2024 / Credits: Diego Kohli



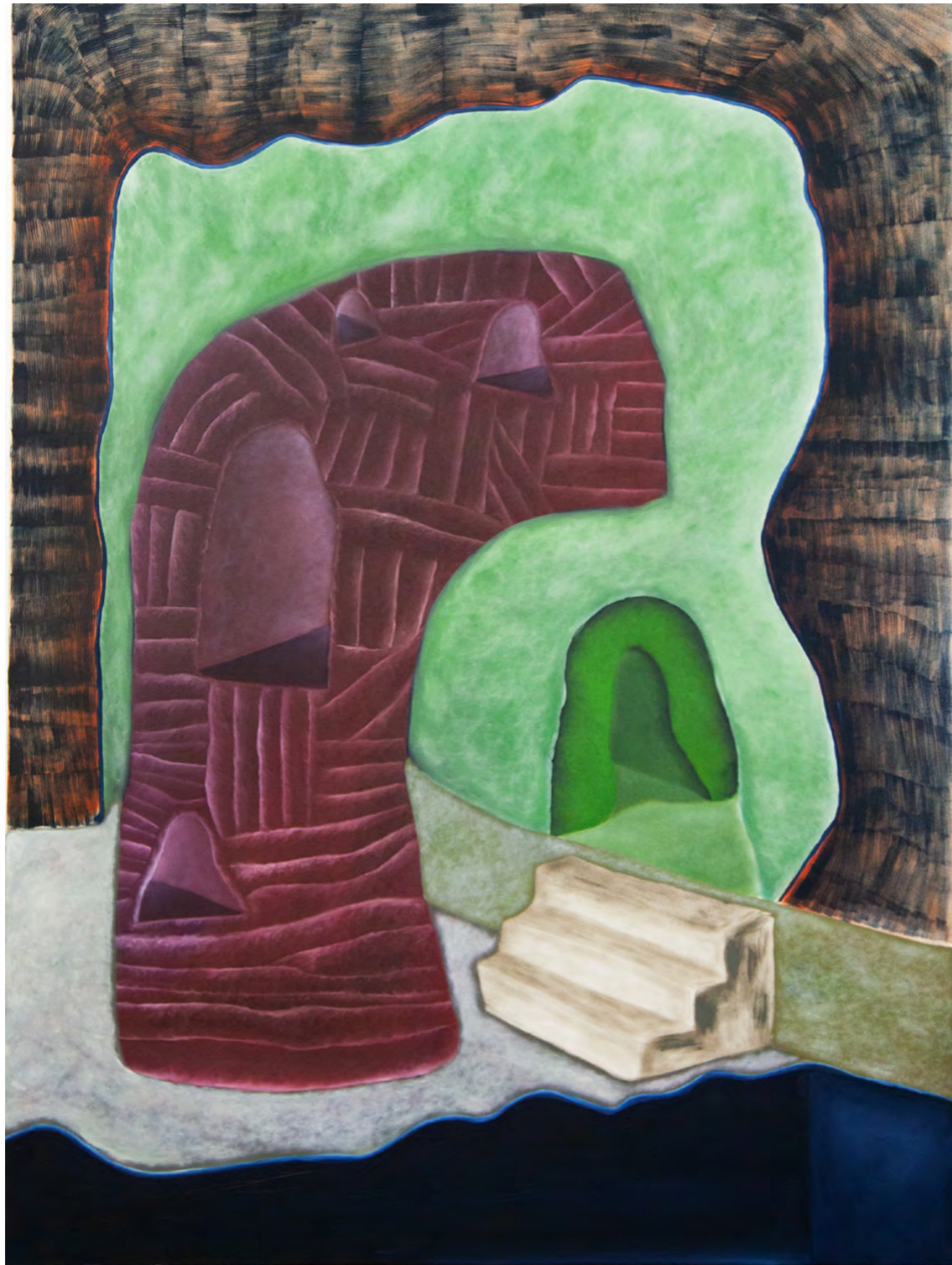
Exhibition view: Secreto Maravilla, curated by Ricardo Forriols, Set Espai d'art, Valencia (ES), 2026 / Credits: Nacho Lopez



Birdsong, 2025, oil on canvas, 41 x 32 cm



Soñar sin meta (Träume ohne Ziel), 2024, oil on canvas, 36 x 50 cm



Homestory VI, 2024, oil on canvas, 160 x 120 cm



Homestory XIII, 2025, oil on canvas, 190 x 140 cm



Blickfang (Eye-catchers), 2025, oil on canvas, 32 x 41 cm



Homestory IX, 2025, oil on canvas, 36 x 50 cm



Will i see you again, 2025, oil on canvas, 33 x 41 cm



Homestory XI, 2025, oil on canvas, 36 x 50 cm



Exhibition view of the Groupshow "The Arcadian Dream," SPURS Gallery, Beijing, 2024. Image courtesy von SPURS Gallery. Credits / Yang Hao.



Exhibition view: Querida tierra que oscurece, Gallery Belmonte, Madrid (ES), 2023 / Credits: Pablo Gómez-ogando



Exhibition view: Querida tierra que oscurece, Gallery Belmonte, Madrid (ES), 2023
Work: *Hermanos (Brothers)*, 2023, oil on canvas, 180 x 120 cm



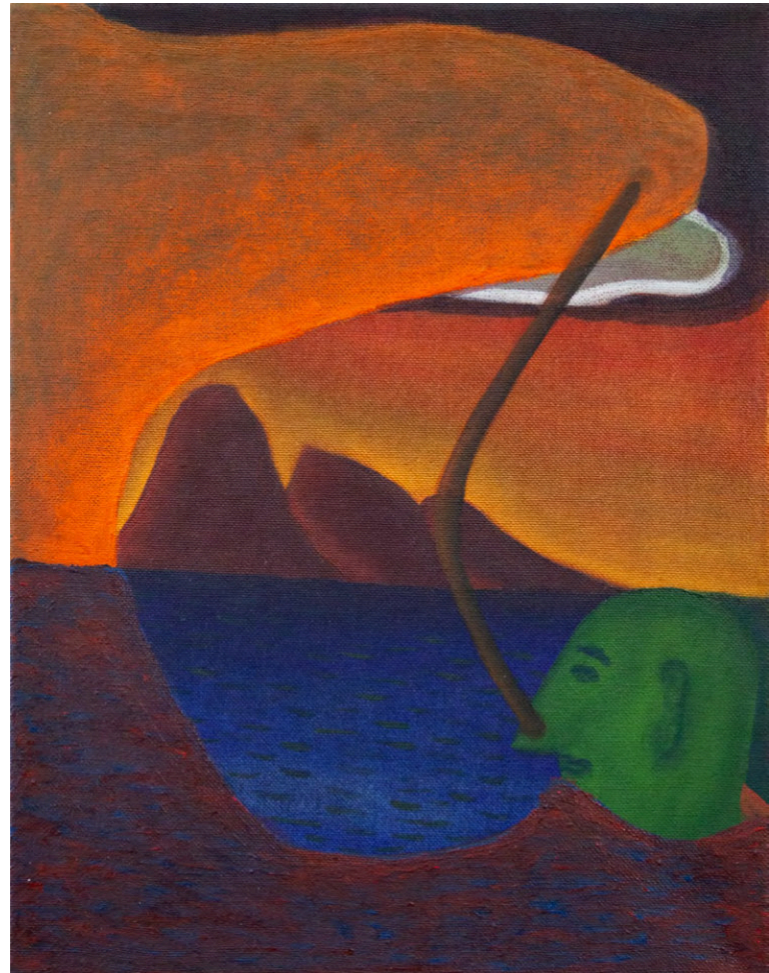
Exhibition view: Querida tierra que oscurece, Gallery Belmonte, Madrid (ES), 2023
Work above: *Soñar contigo (Dream with you)*, 2023, oil on canvas, 60 x 50 cm
Work below: *Too boring to be single*, 2023, oil on canvas, 80 x 65 cm



Exhibition views, Diego Kohli, My Protagonists, Kunst Raum Riehen, 2025. Courtesy the artist. Photos: Gina Folly



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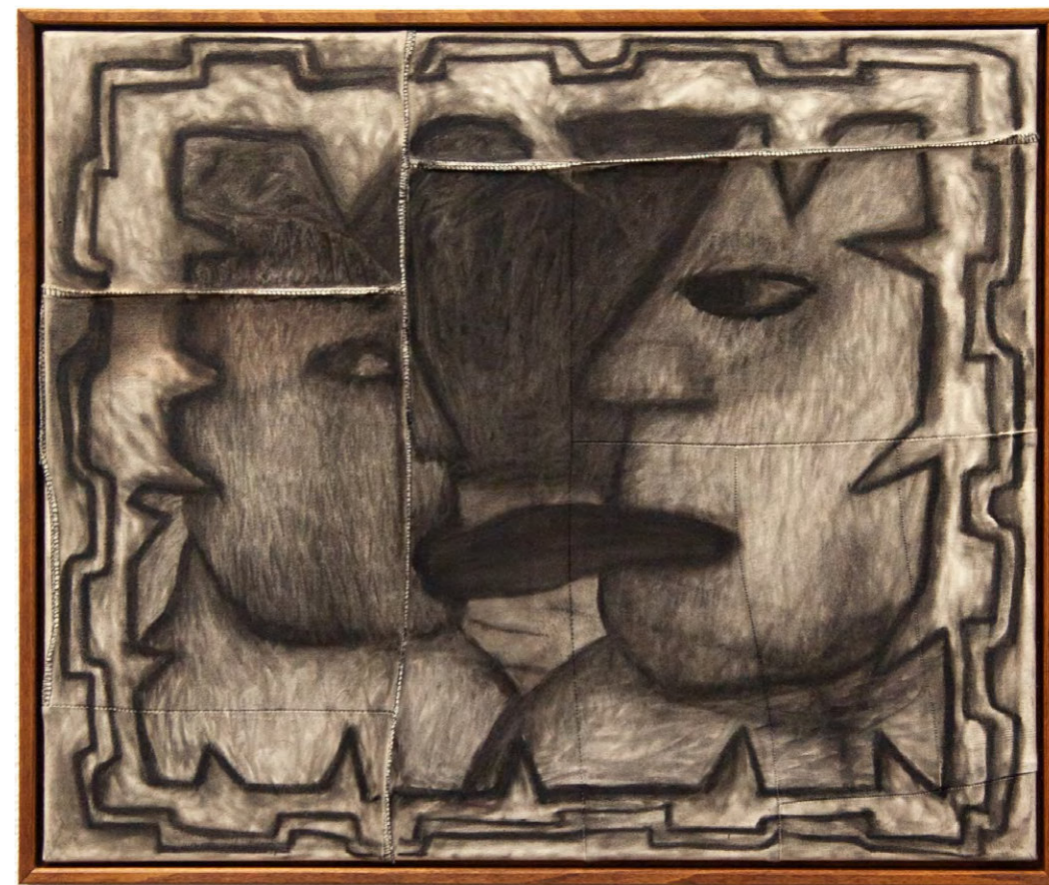
Summer in Beni, 2024, oil on canvas, 35 x 27 cm



Untitled, 2025, oil on canvas, 50 x 36 cm



Summer in Beni II, 2025, oil on canvas, 120 x 160 cm



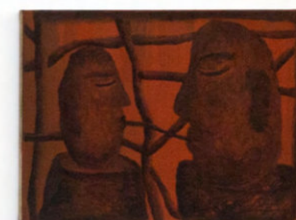
Wild Love, 2025, oil on canvas, 50 x 60 cm



Everything comes to an end II, 2025, oil on canvas, 85 x 65 cm



Moonshine got me, 2025, oil on canvas, 41 x 33 cm



CV

Diego Kohli
June 22, 1991, Madrid
works in Madrid (ES)

Education

2022 Institute of ArtGender & Nature (IAGN), Master of Fine Arts
2020 Universitat Politècnica de València (ES), Master of Artistic Production
2017 BFA studies at Luca school of arts (BE), Brüssel
2018 Ecole de design et Haute école d'art du Valais, Bachelor of Fine Arts

Selected Groupshows

2026 Dang Dai Art Fair, Spurs Gallery, Beijing (CHE)
2026 Secreto Maravilla, curated by Ricardo Forriols, Galeria set espai d'art, València (ES)
2026 Actual Notes, Gallery Rolando Anselmi, Rome (IT)
2025 Cantonale 25, Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf (CH)
2025 Cantonale 25, Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasqueart, Biel / Bienne (CH)
2025 Art Salon, curated by Chus Martínez, Zürich (CH)
2025 My Protagonist, curated by Simone Neunschwander, Kunstraum Riehen, Basel (CH)
2025 Benefit Auction, curated by Alex Gartenfeld, Institut of contemporary Art Miami, Miami (USA)
2024 Regionale 25. Expanded drawings, curated by Simone Neunschwander, Kunstraum Riehen, Riehen (CH)
2024 Salutations, Gowen Gallery, Genf (CH)
2024 Le Décathlon de Apollon, Château de Montsoreau - Musée d'art contemporain, Montsoreau (FR)
2024 The Arcadian Dream, curated by Thomas Stauffer, Spurs Gallery, Beijing (CHE)
2023 Querida tierra que se oscurece, curated by Chus Martínez, Galeria Belmonte, Madrid (ES)
2023 Sensing Painting, curated by Carolyn Cristov Bakergiev, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Torino (IT)
2023 Cantonale 2023, La Nef, Saint-Ursanne (CH)
2023 Cantonale 2023, Kunstmuseum Thun (CH)
2023 PamPam 23, Museo Reales de Ataranzas, Valencia (ES)
2023 Aschlimann Corti Stipendium
2023 Kunstmuseum Thun (CH)
2022 Cantonale 22, Kunsthau Langenthal (CH)
2022 Im Schrank, Kunstraum Fedora, Basel (CH)
2022 PEACE OR NEVER, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel (CH)
2022 Impression 21, Exposition de gravure et d'art imprimé, Kunsthau Grenchen (CH)
2022 Cantonale 2021, Musée Jurassien d'Art, Moutier (CH)
2022 Cantonale 2021, Kunsthau Steffisburg, Bern (CH)
2022 Salon Brand New, Museo de arte Contemporaneo CondeDuque, Madrid (ES)
2021 Aschlimann Corti Stipendium 2021 - Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasqueart, Biel / Bienne (CH)
2020 Cantonale 2020, Kunsthau Langenthal (CH)
2020 Cantonale 2020, Kunstmuseum Thun (CH)
2019 Cantonale 2019, Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasqueart, Biel / Bienne (CH)
2019 Bizarre Art, Nauart, Barcelona (ES)
2018 Matchpoint, Bischoff Galerie, Bern (CH)

Residencies

2021 Fundazion Nairs (CH)
2025/26 Casa de Velázquez, French Academy in Madrid (ES)

Prizes

2022 Fellowship - Claire Sturzenegger-Jeanfavre Stiftug
2021 Förderakzent 2021 «Continuer – Beiträge für Kulturschaffende an Entwicklung und Vertiefung»
2023 AC-Stipendium (Nomination: 2020, 2021, 2023)

Collection:

Represented in international collections
Miettenien Collection
Mimi Dusselier & Bernard Soens Collection
Art Collection of the Canton Bern (CH)
Fondazione CRC