

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 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 CondeDuque (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 Art Scholarship in 2020, 2021 and 2023. In 2025, Kohli received a fellowship from the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris for the Casa de Velázquez residency in Madrid.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

I do not consider myself an artist, but a painter - for me, practice is the highest form. My work is inspired by painters and their admiration for the craft, as well as a fascination with forms and their evolution. In my practice, I experiment and work with fixed compositions, such as still lifes, and test their boundaries by subverting them with humor and unfamiliar contexts. My works are simultaneously strange and familiar. In my paintings, I draw inspiration from many areas, such as psychoanalysis, art history, dreams and the unconscious, but also from my daily surroundings. I sketch nature, cities and interpersonal relationships that I observe with graphite and pencil on paper and take them back to my studio. They serve as a basis for translating the everyday into paintings. I am interested in what happens beyond the physical space and how I, as a painter, can create a picture that goes beyond these boundaries. I create scenes in which fragmented body parts find themselves in an almost theatrical stage set. The stillness of the bodies and forms in these scenes reflects a surreal, dream-like quality - which solidifies over time.



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



Time is flying, 2024, oil on canvas, 70 x 50 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



Bodegón, 2025, oil on canvas, 130 x 100 cm



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



Wild Love II, 2025, oil on canvas, 75 x 100 cm



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



Fiasko, 2024, charcoal on canvas, 90 x 120 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



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



Exhibition views: Diego Kohli, Projektstand FHNW, Art Salon Zürich, 2025. Courtesy the artist. Photos: Diego Kohli



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



Untitled, 2024, oil on canvas, 40 x 32 cm



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



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



Fiasko I, 2025, oil on canvas, 75 x 100 cm



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



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



Homestory II, 2024, oil on canvas, 50 x 65 cm



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



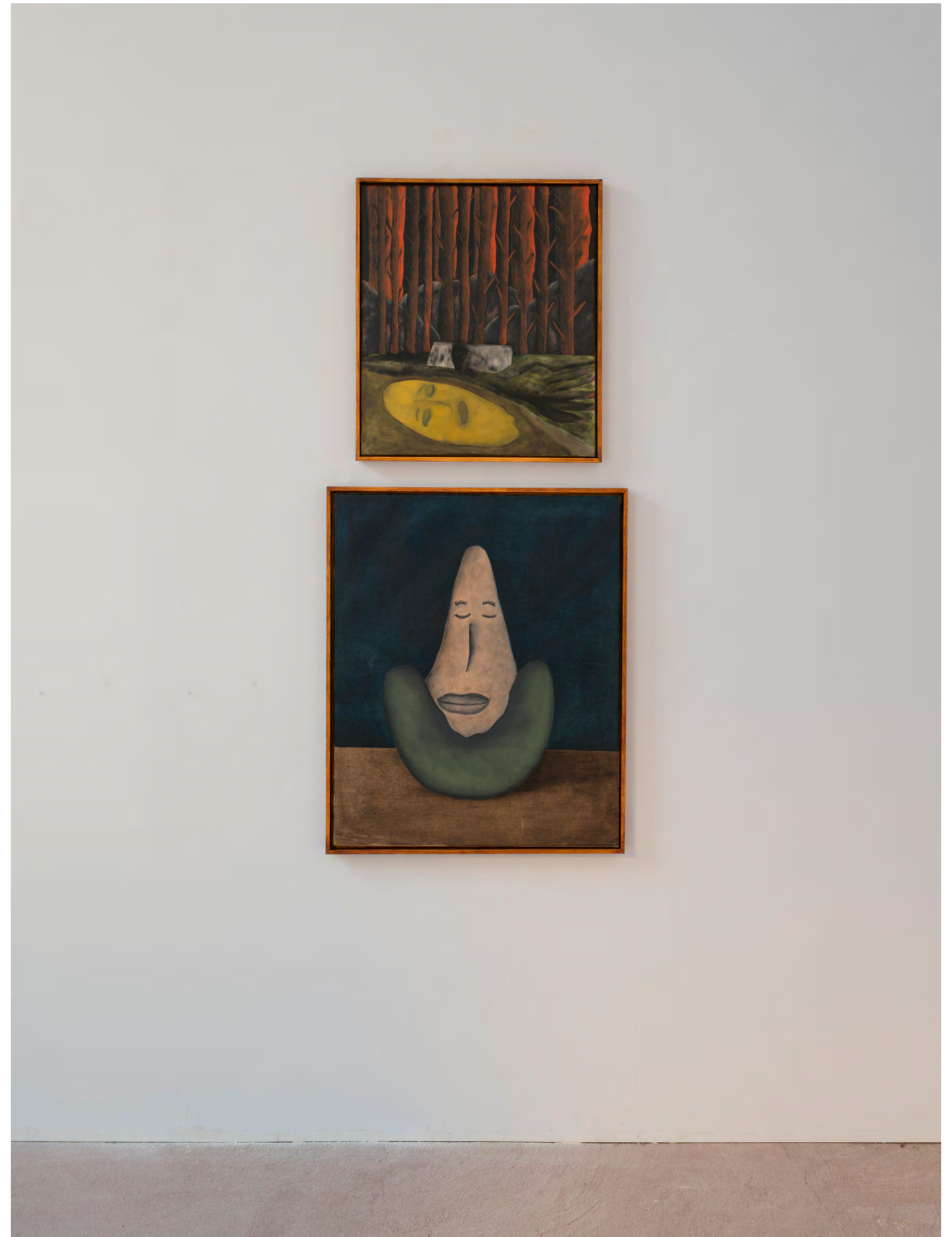
Exhibition view of the Groupshow "The Arcadian Dream," SPURS Gallery, Beijing, 2024. Image courtesy von SPURS Gallery. Credits / Yang Hao.



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

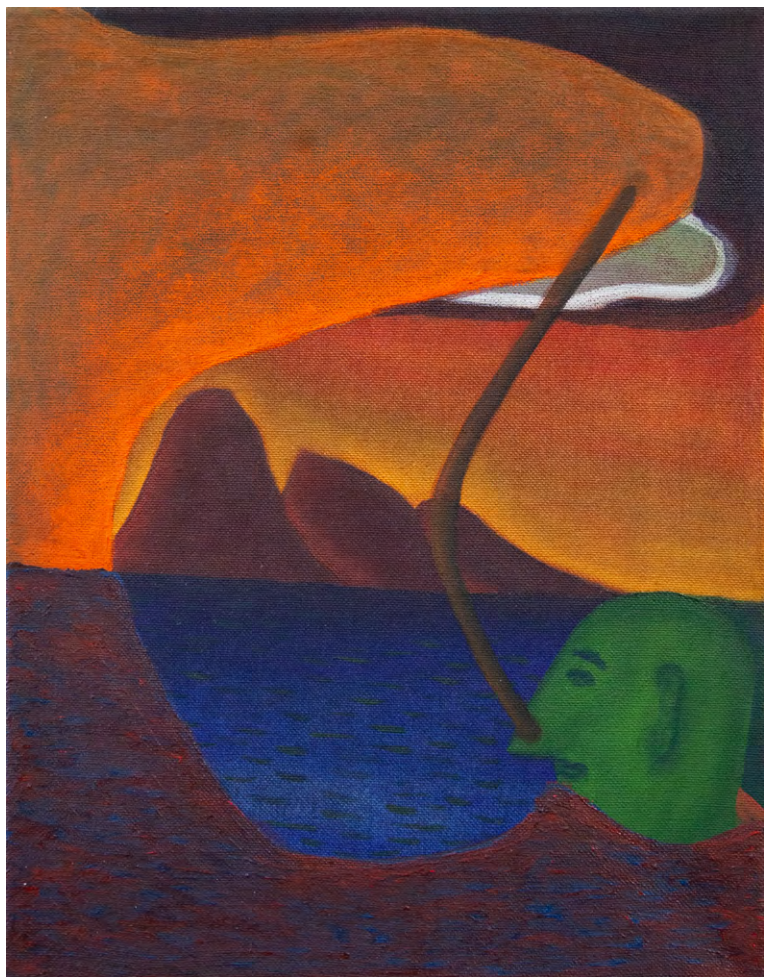


Exhibition view: Querida tierra que oscurece, Gallery Belmonte, Madrid (ES), 2023
 Work above: *Soñar contigo (Dream with you)*, 2023, oil on canvas, 60 x 50 cm
 Work below: *Too boring to be single*, 2023, oil on canvas, 80 x 65 cm



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

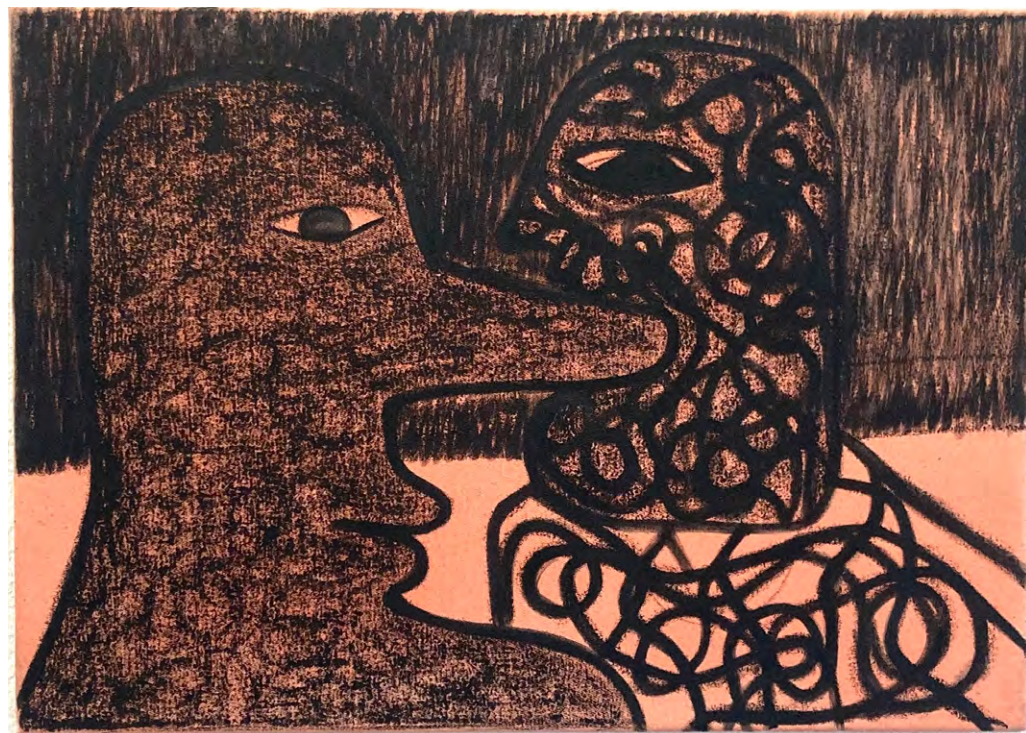




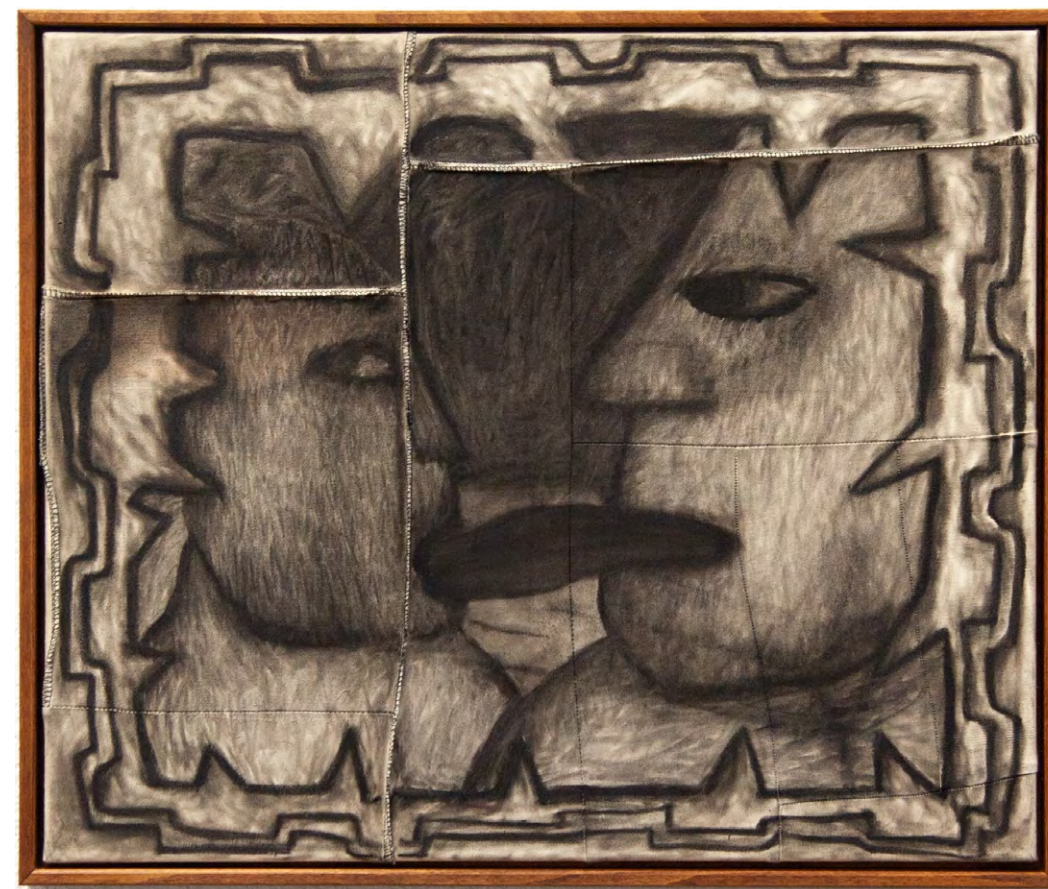
Summer in Beni, 2024, oil on canvas, 35 x 27 cm



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



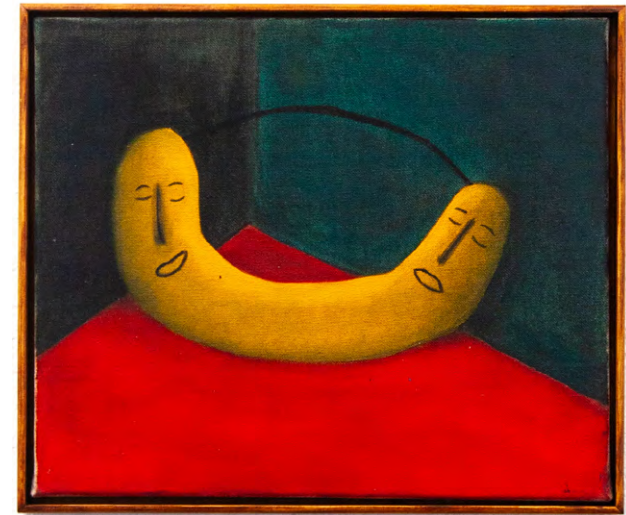
Be quiet IV, 2025, oil on canvas, 30 x 42 cm



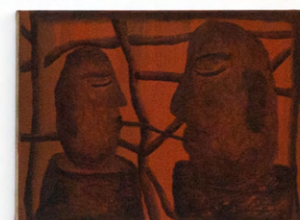
Wild Love, 2025, oil on canvas, 50 x 60 cm



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



Too boring to be single II, 2024, oil on canvas, 30 x 36 cm



CV

Diego Kohli

June 22, 1991, Madrid

works in Madrid (ES)

www.diegokohli.com

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 (Upcoming) Personal Showcase IIII, Gallery Rolando Anselmi, Rome (IT)
- 2025 (Upcoming) Cantonale 25, Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf (CH)
- 2025 (Upcoming) Cantonale 25, Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasqueart, Biel / Bienne (CH)
- 2025 Art Salon Zürich, 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 Martinez, Galeria Belmonte, Madrid (ES)
- 2023 Cantonale 2023, La Nef, Saint-Ursanne (CH)
- 2023 Cantonale 2023, Kunstmuseum Thun (CH)
- 2023 Sensing Painting, curated by Carolyn Cristov Bakergiev, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Torino (IT)
- 2023 PamPam 23, Museo Reales de Atarzan, 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)
- 2021 Cantonale 2021, Musée Jurassien d'Art, Moutier (CH)
- 2021 Cantonale 2021, Kunsthau Steffisburg, Bern (CH)
- 2021 Salon Brand New, Museo de arte Contemporaneo CondeDuque, Madrid (ES)
- 2021 MAPA - Sala Josep Renau, UPV, Valencia (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)
- 2020 Aschlimann Corti Stipendium 2020, Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasqueart, Biel / Bienne (CH)
- 2020 Organica - Nauart, Barcelona (ES)
- 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

Art Collection of the canton of Bern (CH)