

NICOLE COLOMBO IS THE WINNER OF THE 2022 EDITION OF MMAT ACQUISITION PRIZE

MMAT Acquisition Prize 2022: the awarded artist

Following the first two editions of **MMAT Acquisition Prize** in 2019, 2020, and Mauro Mattei Art Trust Collection announces the winner of the **fourth edition of its Acquisition Prize**, which this year will consist of a residency offered to the winner in collaboration with Kupfer Project:

NICOLE COLOMBO

Born in 1991, Nicole Colombo is emerging as one of the most interesting sculptors of her generation in the Milanese context. Far from a sort of educated “italian approach”, the artist is imposing an aesthetic that is much closer to that of the two Berlin-based artists Monica Bonvicini and Anne Imhof - both solid starting points of her research and imaginary. From them, Nicole Colombo extrapolates the use of space, the artworks’ staging and the capability to sharply define an original vocabulary through the use of materials.

Nicole Colombo’s domestic and large-scale sculptures and installations create a tension in the space and in the observer as they possess a sort of living energy, while the chosen materials and their combination result to be at the same time libidinal and repulsive. An anthropological approach stands at the core of her research: the artist observes the dichotomies that often characterize the western societies and the difficulty of the human being to accept their co-existence. Leveraging our common imaginary, her attempt gives back to the observer artworks that represent the duality of things, creating abstract characters that portrait each of us.

Leather, aluminum, synthetic hairs, chains, plexiglass and hooks give birth to an impeccable and highly aestheticized vision in order to attract the viewers and introduce them to a wider range of possibilities as a lens to approach reality¹.

Selected exhibitions include: paradise is exactly like where you are right now only much, much better, Palazzo Franzone Spinola di Luccoli, Genova; 2021: Ultravioletto Residency, Treviso; Fluid Shapes, brand collaboration with Espresso make-up, Tube Culture Hall, Milano; Avalanche, Regatta Space, Düsseldorf; Over and Above, Drina Gallery, Belgrade; 2020: Do you think this is the best way to start, MASSIMO, Milano; 2019: The Oranges of the Sunrise, editorial contribution, Media Naranja, Marseille.

¹ Text by Greta Scarpa

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The 2022 Edition: Connected Event and Selection Criteria

Connected Event: *“paradise is exactly like where you are right now only much, much better”*

After two pandemic years, MMAT Acquisition Prize is willing to take back its original role of connection with “in the flesh” international art events, with the aim at offering a valuable support to emerging artists.

The Connected Event for 2022 has been a group exhibition that took place in Genoa (Italy) throughout the months of March and April 2022: *“paradise is exactly like where you are right now only much, much better”* a group show featuring twenty-two Italian and international emerging artists, four galleries, and a number of curators and collectives involved as contributors.

paradise is exactly like where you are right now only much, much better has been an exhibition entirely produced by young art professionals with the intention of giving visibility to the most interesting Italian talents.

Italian artists deserve to grow internationally and what they require is being offered with new tools and solid opportunities to boost their careers: **and this is the purpose of the 2022 MMAT Acquisition Prize**

The Selection Criteria and the Residency Prize

For its 2022 MMAT Acquisition Prize take shape of a Residency Prize thanks to the partnership with a London residency with which the MMAT Founder strongly believes to share the same ethics and philosophy: Kupfer Project.

Kupfer’s mission is to contribute to a more accessible and inclusive art industry, favoring the development of a richer, more diverse, and innovative art ecosystem.

Through the Residency Prize at Kupfer the awarded artist will get:

- *support for artistic development, through monthly mentorship sessions from industry leads, informal crits, and practice-related workshops;*
- *introduction to London’s art market and networking, through studio visits, an open studio branch*
- *an exhibition at Kupfer Gallery, supported by the Promotions and PR team at Kupfer.*

The goal of the Acquisition/Residency price is to create the perfect conditions for the awarded resident to develop an international art career, increasing the quality of the work as well as their influence and value, while promoting cultural exchange.

Participating Artists

Flavia Albu, Sveva Angeletti, Simona Barbera, Thomas Berra, Jonny Briggs, Nicole Colombo, Daniele Costa, Gaia De Megni, Matteo De Nando, Inside Job (Ula Lucińska & Michał Knychaus),

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Rada Koželj, Davide La Montagna, Eleonora Luccarini, Agnieszka Mastalerz, Claudia Petraroli, Fabio Ranzolin, Nuvola Ravera, Jacopo Rinaldi, Davide Sgambaro, Marco Siciliano, Elio Ticca, Jonathan Vivacqua

The 2022 Selection Committee

The 2022 Selection Committee was formed by four art professionals selected among the most actively engaged in supporting emerging artists worldwide and chaired by MMAT's founder Mauro Mattei:

- Liv Cuniberti (Curator, London)
- Penelope Kupfer (Curator, Kupfer London)
- James Maltz (Collector, London)
- Virginia Simonazzi (Advisor, London)

The Prize has been attributed to the artist who has been deemed most capable of making the most of an international residency. The selection criteria considered the artist's potential to grow nationally and internationally, the fact that he or she was an emerging young artist, based in Italy, unrepresented and unprivileged, but whose practice was considered to be able to make its way in the UK scene.

The Committee has evaluated the intrinsic value of the entire practice of the artist, and the artworks presented for the exhibition in Genoa and has also carefully considered it in the specific ecosystem into which it has been conceived and realised.

About MMAT

MMAT is a not for profit organization with an active philanthropic role, consistent with its founder Mauro Mattei constant engagement in supporting contemporary art both as longtime patron of Contemporary Art Society in London and as a Club GAMeC supporter in Italy.

MMAT is focused on young and emerging artists: all the acquisitions are coordinated by the Scientific Committee of the Trust, composed by a curator, an art advisor and an art collector, selected among the most experienced and competent in their respective fields of activity. MMAT wants to foster collaboration and dialogue among all the players actively supporting art and artists (museums, foundations, collections and other art trusts).

About MMAT Acquisition Prize

MMAT Acquisition Prize is conceived as an itinerant award aimed at supporting emerging art in all its forms. The main purpose of the Prize is to allow young artists and their projects to grow with a view to discovering, valorising and highlighting the best of the new trends of international contemporary art.

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MMAT Acquisition Prize doesn't have a fixed focus in terms of medium, nor it has a predetermined **Selection Committee**, as its purpose is to be nomadic and adaptable to

different contexts and countries. The Prize is paired each year with **different art events, festivals, fairs or exhibitions** with an innovative, experimental and international approach.

The Selection Committee is **headed by** MMAT founder **Mauro Mattei**, joined every year by a different jury of members (curators, art critics, art advisors, collectors etc.) connected to the Prize's context. The awarded artist's artwork becomes part of the Mauro Mattei Art Trust Collection with the goal to valorise and support the work of artists born in the 80's and 90's.

The Acquisition Prize so far: the 2019, 2020 and 2021 editions

The **2019 edition** took place in the context of **FEA Lisboa**, an international artists studio festival held during Arco in Lisbon. The Selection Committee was composed by **Mauro Mattei** and **Andrea Baccin** and **Ilaria Marotta**, founders of **CURA. Magazine** who have selected one awarded project from the 28 artists studios and artist run spaces involved in the FEA Festival which counted 144 artists participating.

The winner of the first MMAT Acquisition Prize has been **The Pathfinders**, a collaborative collective project conceived, curated and hosted by **ABCC** (Alexandre Camarao and Bernardo Simões Correia).

The 2020 Edition paired a totally digital initiative: Preview London on Artland where three international galleries showcased a number of their artists: **Bosse & Baum (London)** **Clima Gallery (Milan)** and **Damien & The Love Guru (Brussels)**.

The 2020 Selection Committee has been formed by **four international collectors** selected among the most actively engaged in supporting emerging artists worldwide and chaired by MMAT's founder Mauro Mattei: **Francesco and Sveva Taurisano** (Collezione Taurisano – Naples), **Sarah Bibas Zolotoff** (London), **Tobias Arndt** (Brussels). The awarded artist was **Mary Stephenson** (1989, London) of Bosse&Baum with the painting *Catch of the Day*.

The 2021 edition focused on awarding whom among the artists born from 1985 to 1995 had the greatest potential in terms of artistic career. The Prize has been attributed to the artist who had the most distinguishable relevance not only in terms of quality of artistic practice but also in terms of institutional presence and appreciation during 2020. The committee, composed by the advisor **Valeria Biamonti** (London), the collector **Marco Curina** (Milano) and the curator **Georgie Pope** (Berlin) awarded the Artist **Petrit Halilaj** as the winner of the edition and the steel sculpture *Abetare (Clouds)*, 2019, is now part of MMAT Collection. **The 2020 Edition** paired a totally digital initiative: Preview London on Artland where three international galleries showcased a number of their artists: **Bosse & Baum (London)** **Clima Gallery (Milan)** and **Damien & The Love Guru (Brussels)**.

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