

MARIANNA KENNEDY  
SUPERSONIC MEDIAEVAL











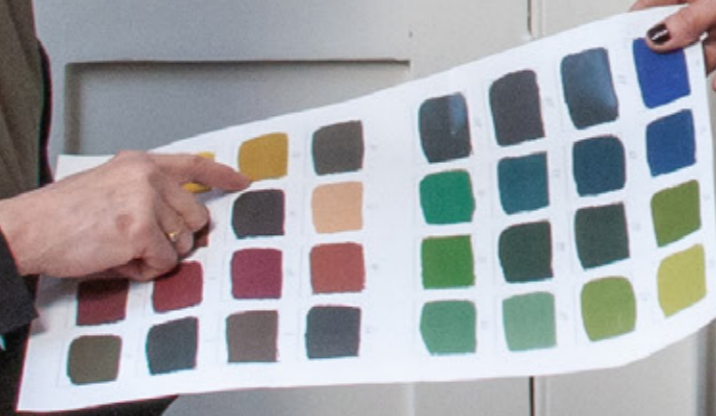
MARIANNA KENNEDY  
SUPERSONIC MEDIAEVAL

AN EXHIBITION CURATED BY  
TILDA SWINTON

CHRISTIE'S



CAIGO





This catalogue accompanies the exhibition

MARIANNA KENNEDY

# SUPERSONIC MEDIAEVAL

CURATED BY TILDA SWINTON

AS PART OF THE CHRISTIE'S  
CARTE BLANCHE EXHIBITION SERIES

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May 5 – 11, 2025

## CHRISTIE'S

9 Avenue Matignon, Paris

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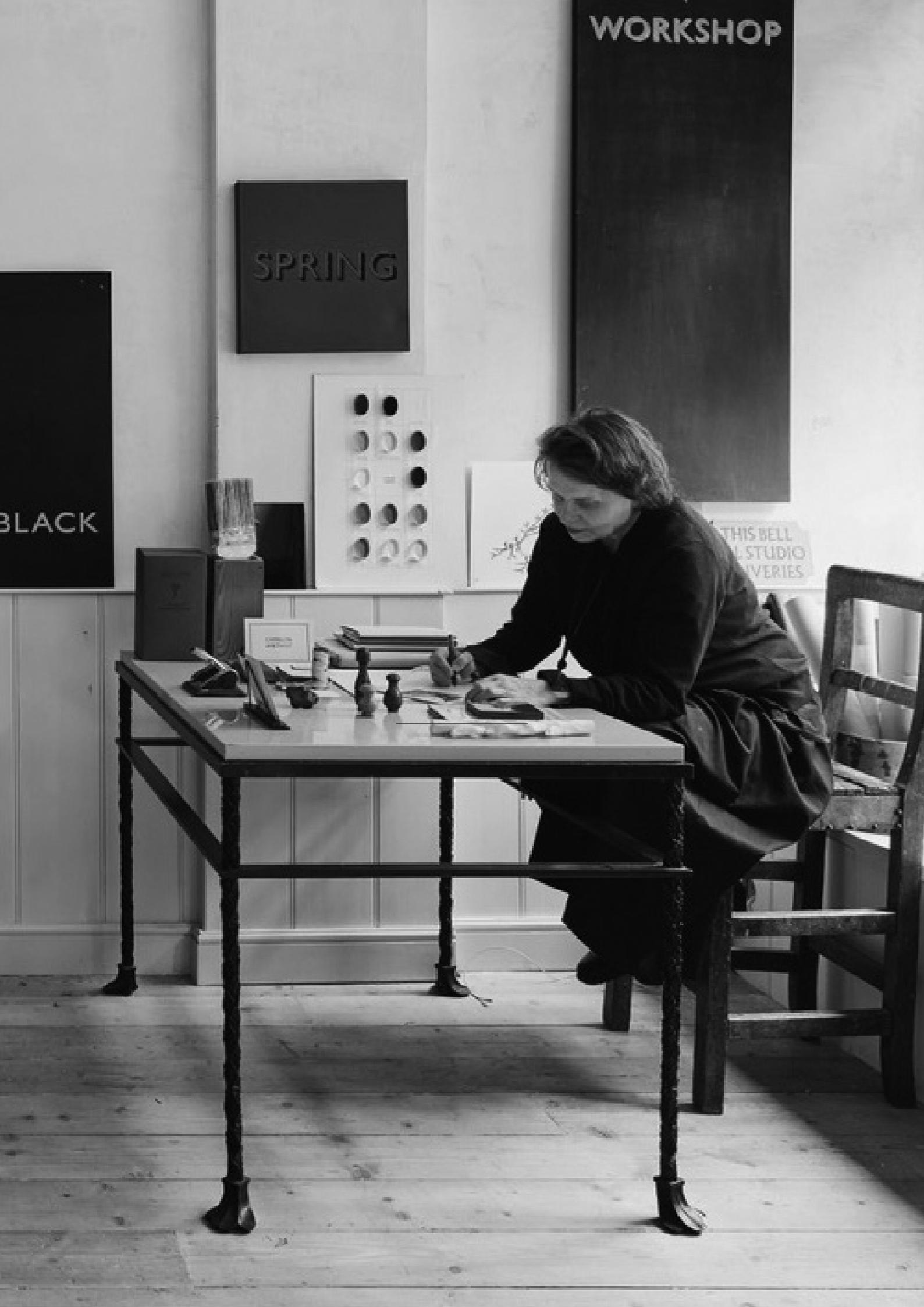
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### 17 SUPERSONIC MEDIAEVAL

TILDA SWINTON



LARS RACHEN

## PREFACE

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PLVR is pleased to present Marianna Kennedy's exhibition *Supersonic Mediaeval* at **Christie's France, 9 Avenue Matignon, Galleries** from **May 5 – 11, 2025**.

The exhibition is curated by the actor Tilda Swinton, a long-term admirer and collector of the work of Marianna Kennedy which she memorably termed 'supersonic mediaeval', a phrase equally descriptive of Marianna's character as of her work - distinctly contemporary yet firmly rooted in the past, the backdrop of 18th century Spitalfields and the reinterpretation of traditional skills and techniques.

The exhibition is both a small retrospective and a personal homage by Tilda who as curator draws on her particular viewpoint and understanding to assemble a selection of artefacts from Marianna's studio and home, ranging from a console dated 2024 to her most recent works. This form of creative curatorship enables a fresh view of an artist's oeuvre, as for instance in Wes Anderson's 'Spitzmaus Mummy in a Coffin and other Treasures' at the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna in 2018 or the artist Vaclav Pozarek's upcoming retrospective of Diego Giacometti at the Bündner Kunstmuseum in Chur, Switzerland.

For the main room at Christie's Avenue Matignon, Tilda has conceived two small stage sets, a choreographed *mise-en-scène* of Marianna's Spitalfields world. Behind this lies another smaller space – a 'fundus' or props room – where a collection of the artist's work awaits use by the *requisiteur* for the next set design.



This is a world in which craft and artistic expression combine to enrich the soul; as in the work of Eileen Gray, Jean Dunand or Armand-Albert Rateau, the singular vision of the artist executed by sophisticated artisans employing traditional techniques. "Tilda and I share a respect for craftsmanship and love of beauty bridging the gap between past and present but always looking forward. For us the past is always new."

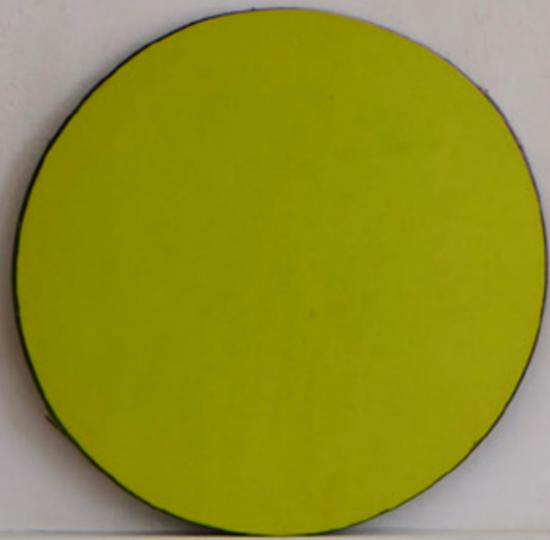
We would like to thank Tilda Swinton for agreeing to curate this special exhibition, an artist we all admire for her unique style, empathy and humanity.

We would also like to thank the Christie's Design Department, especially Sonja Ganne, for the opportunity to be part of the Christie's Carte Blanche exhibition series; Cécile Verdier, President of Christie's France, who encouraged the conception of Supersonic Mediaeval with great insight and support; and Philippe Lemoine, Chief Operating Officer of Christie's France for overseeing all critical details.

Our thanks also go to Chiara Di Leva, Press Officer and head of the project for her enormous commitment and professionalism; Bertille Touchard, Event Coordinator for her creative insight; Fiona Braslaw and Elise Mathieu, respectively Head of Operations and Gallery Operations for assisting in the set up of this exhibition; Pascale Monforte and Eleonore Guettat, respectively Marketing Director and Marketing Manager for their critical involvement in promotion worldwide.

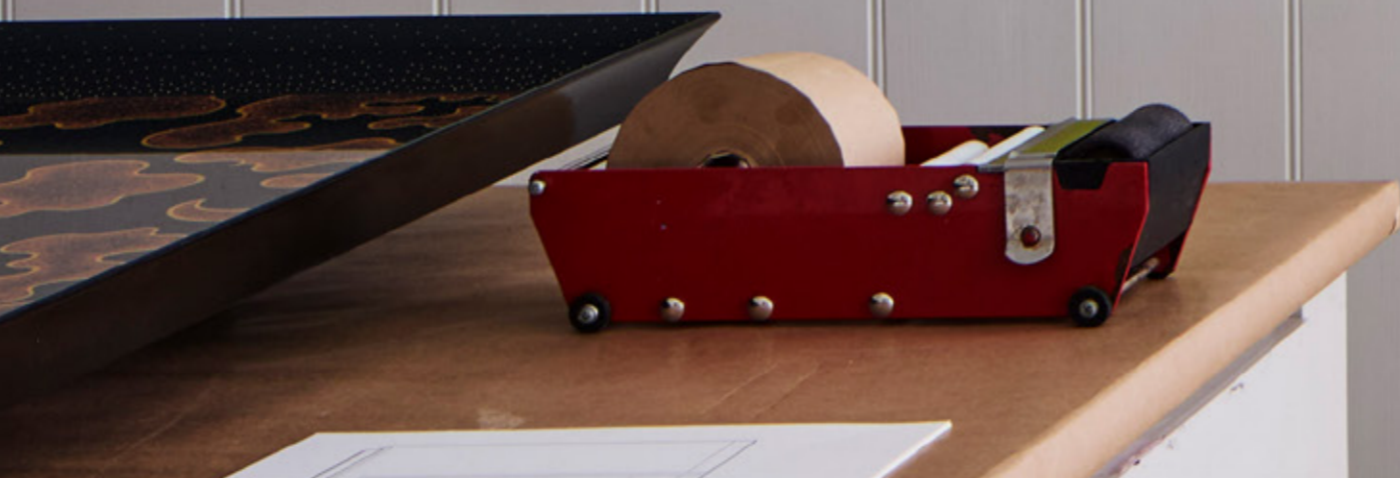






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TILDA SWINTON

## SUPERSONIC MEDIAEVAL

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Marianna's work has always sprung from and lived in, for me, a particularly sweet spot, one where the ancient and resonant meet the unknown and surprising. This is the landscape of the Supersonic Medieval, invested in exquisite craftsmanship and joyful colour and merging the familiar and the fresh: its atmosphere brings with it a breath to the heart of recognition, renewal, and of bright new horizons ahead.

I have loved the experience of playtime with her on this collaboration. It has been a little like planting bulbs for the Spring, handing precious jewels of blazing energy down into the earth with reverence – and sharing, with gratitude, our happy endeavours.



“Tilda and I share a respect for craftsmanship and love of beauty bridging the gap between past and present but always looking forward. For us the past is always new.”

— MARIANNA KENNEDY







“This is the landscape of  
the Supersonic Mediaeval..”

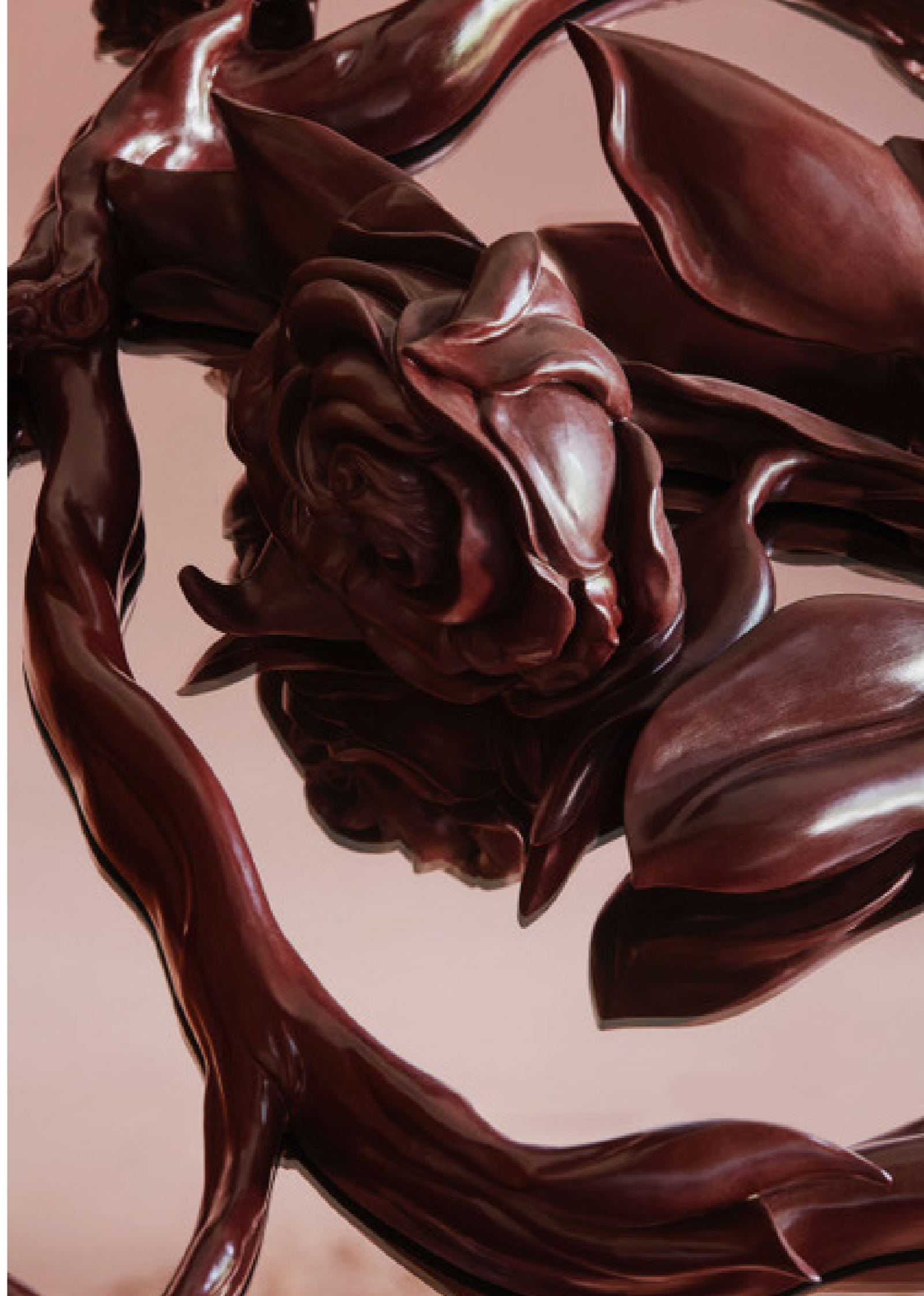
— TILDA SWINTON







GIORGIO ARMANI  
GESSO







DRAWING







# CARVING









BRONZE







# GILDING





MIRRORED  
GLASS





RESIN



LACQUER







“... its atmosphere brings  
with it a breath to the heart  
of recognition, renewal, and  
bright new horizons ahead.”

— TILDA SWINTON



Commis  
no  
Nuisance

CHRISTUS  
SALVATOR





May 5 – 11, 2025

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