



**Matteo Fato**  
GENTILE COME UN RITRATTO

Ritratto n° 60 - 2020

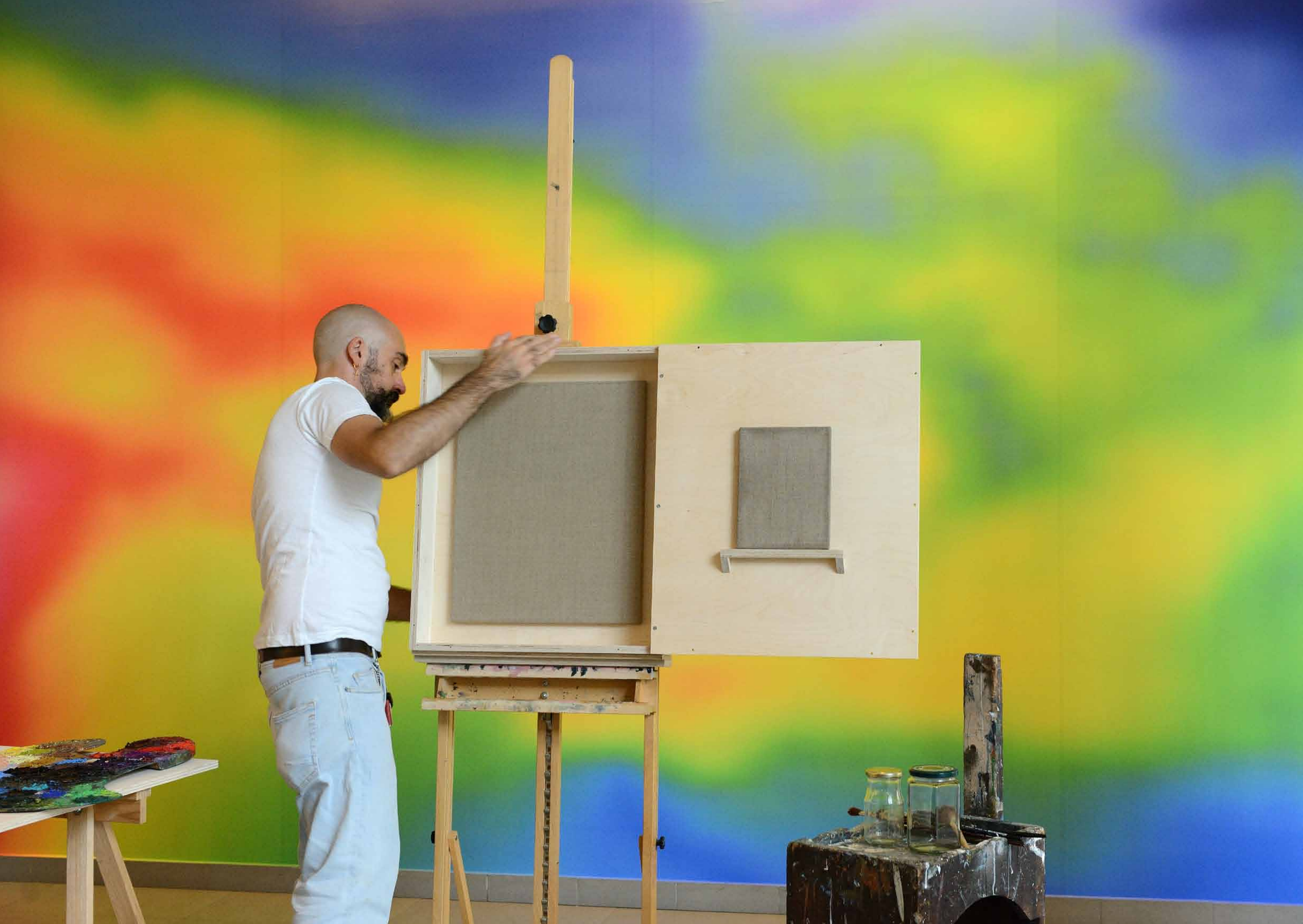




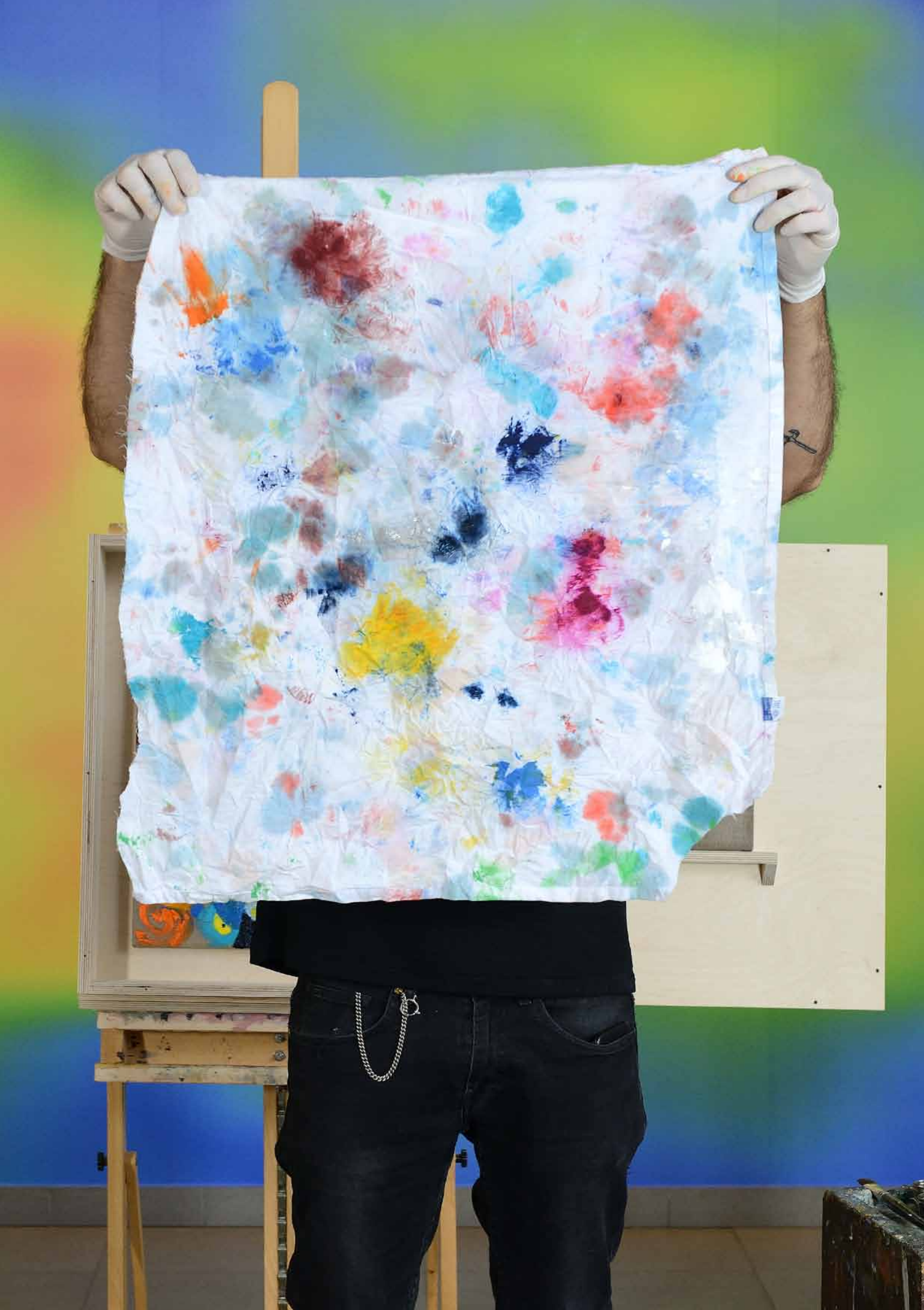




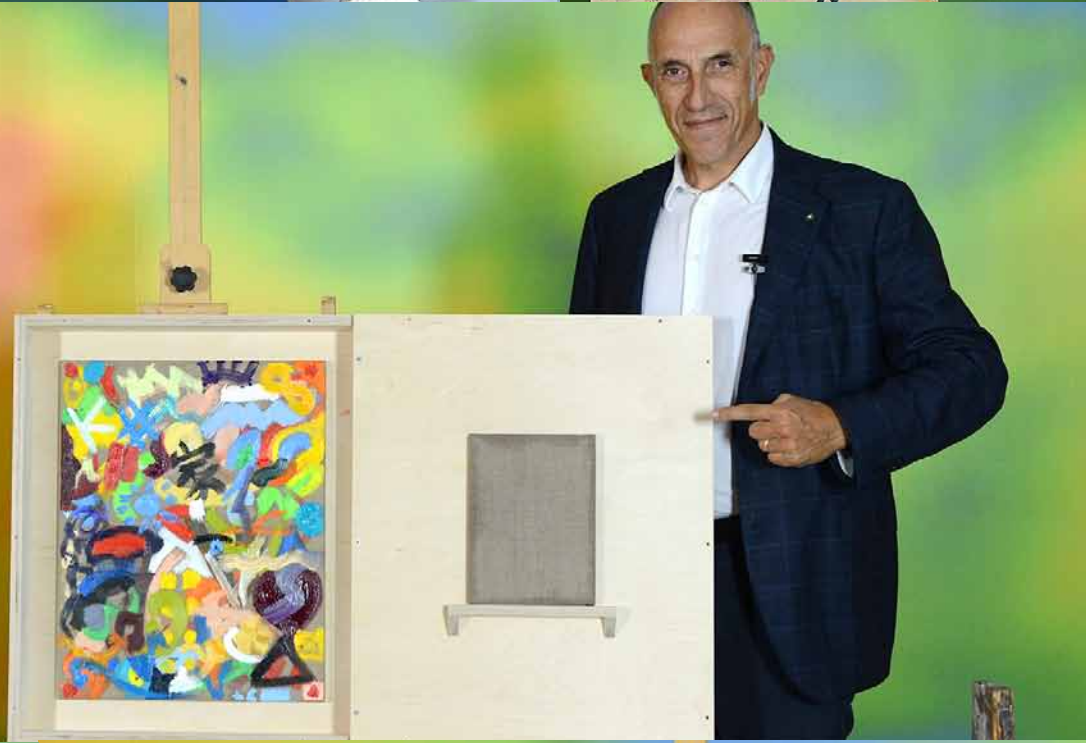




































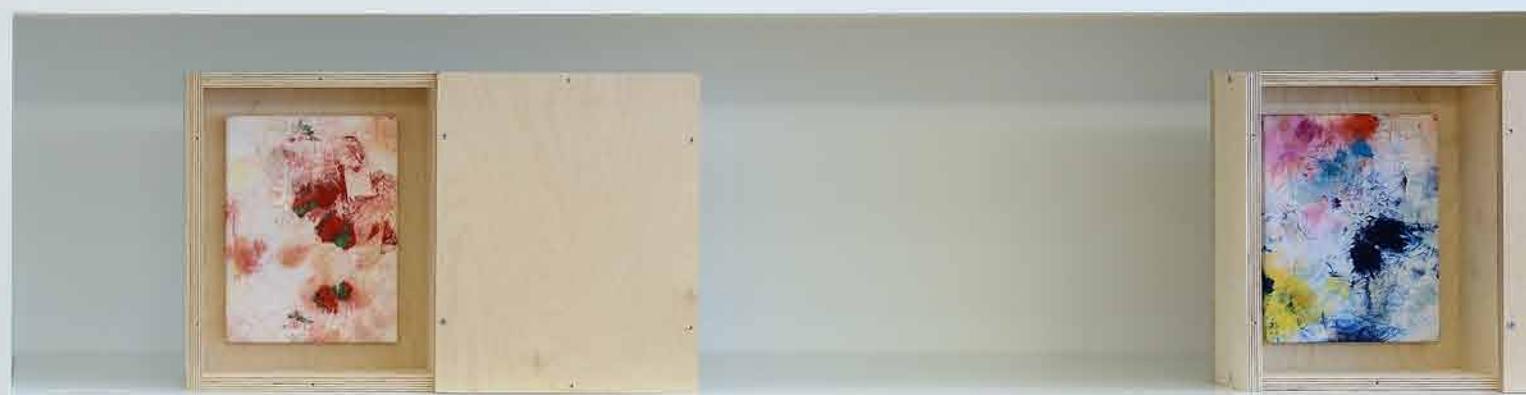
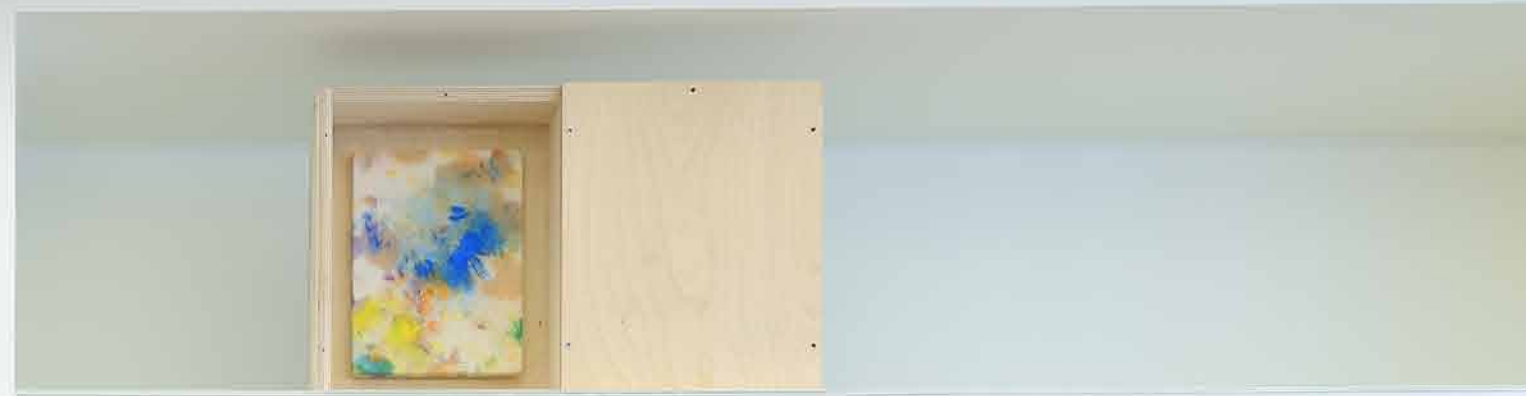
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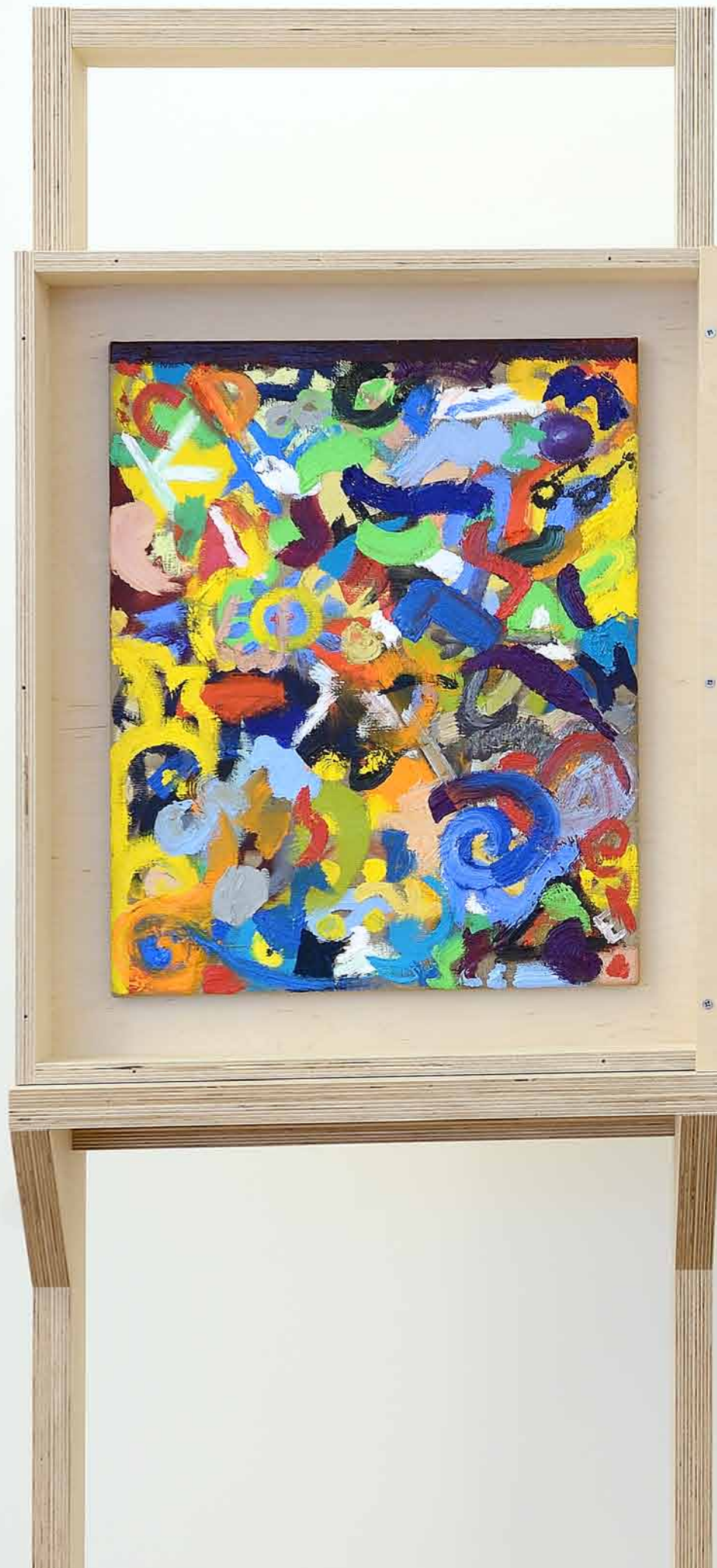


















INGRESSO DIPENDENTI





# Fondazione Ermanno Casoli

## Ritratto

collana di racconti intorno agli artisti ed eventi

## Matteo Fato

### GENTILE COME UN RITRATTO

Ermanno Casoli Award, 18th Edition

Curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Matteo Fato vince la XVIII edizione del Premio Er Matteo Fato is the winner of the 18th edition of the Ermanno Casoli Award, which was born out of the trust in the mutual influence between art and business and involves the commissioning to an artist of an art work for a company, created with the active participation of the people who work in it.

The project *Gentile come un ritratto* is part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Elica company within the framework of E-STRAORDINARIO – the training programme featuring contemporary art that has distinguished the activities of Fondazione Ermanno Casoli for over a decade. The title deliberately recalls the alleged self-portrait of painter Gentile da Fabriano (Fabriano 1370 approx., Rome 1427), which appears in the *Adoration of the Magi* polyptych (1423), now preserved in the Uffizi. Matteo Fato's challenge was multifaceted: building upon a masterpiece of the past closely linked to the talent and beauty of the Marche region to collectively conceive a collective work able to talk about the present by moving from Gentile's self-portrait to a relevant portrait of Elica. This creates an ideal connection that links, with a short time circuit, the Renaissance workshop of the historic painter with a company that, thanks to the passion of its founder Ermanno Casoli, has distinguished itself worldwide in industry and design.

In a particularly difficult time in which even the relational dimension of work is being put to the test, the project presented by the artist has been chosen for the sensitivity and effectiveness with which it has been able to deal with this aspect. Fato has decided to open his authorship to a collective operation, translating the pictorial gesture, namely a distinctive feature of his work that "happens" in the silence and solitude of his studio, in a "joint effort", recreating an intimate and deep sense of closeness with others. The work, which in its plurality and abstraction is capable of representing all those who have contributed to its realisation, is the result of a temporary painting workshop, lasting a week and set up in the Elica company spaces of the Fabriano and Castelfidardo, conducted by Matteo Fato, in which 159 employees were invited to leave their mark on a single canvas. The portrait, as is customary in the artist's *modus operandi*, becomes part of a more articulated installation, composed of other devices linked to his work process. From this collective action, other canvases have been produced, taken from the cloths used to clean the brushes at each change of hand and colour, which in turn are framed and placed inside their respective transport crates.

The installation becomes part of the Elica Corporate Collection, a special collection of all the works created by artists and employees of the company during the activities promoted by Fondazione Ermanno Casoli.

project and photography by Michele Alberto Sereni and Natascia Giulivi

21-25 September 2020, work in progress

20 October 2020, opening

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