

Matèria

10 on Paper

Celebrating 10 years of Matèria

13.02.2025 -
17.04.2025

Fabio Barile, Stefano Canto, Chen Xiaoyi, Mario Cresci, Giuseppe De Mattia, Bekhbaatar Enkhtur, Eduardo Fonseca e Silva, Maïmouna Guerresi, Sunil Gupta, Karen Knorr, Joachim Lenz, Marta Mancini, Francisca Valador.

Matèria is proud to present 10 on Paper, the first in a series of initiatives celebrating the gallery's tenth anniversary. This milestone exhibition pays homage to Matèria's foundational focus on photography while marking its evolution into a platform for diverse forms of contemporary artistic research and production.

Paper serves as the exhibition's unifying thread, bringing together the gallery's artists through a curated selection of unseen and key works, aimed at depicting a multifaceted portrait of the gallery's identity and establishing a foundation for its future direction.

For the first time, all of Matèria's represented artists are exhibited together in the gallery's current location on Via dei Latini 27, in San Lorenzo. Situated just a short distance from its founding space on Via Tiburtina 149, the group show is a rare event in a program historically characterised by solo presentations. 10 on Paper showcases the variety and coherence of the gallery's roster, with works by Fabio Barile, Stefano Canto, Chen Xiaoyi, Mario Cresci, Giuseppe De Mattia, Bekhbaatar Enkhtur, Eduardo Fonseca e Silva, Maïmouna Guerresi, Sunil Gupta, Karen Knorr, Joachim Lenz, Marta Mancini, and Francisca Valador.

10 on Paper presents a thoughtfully curated selection that embodies the gallery's commitment to the dialogue with its artists. The exhibition juxtaposes projects conceived and produced by the Matèria throughout the years—such as Mario Cresci's 100 hand-drawn copies of *Misurazioni*—with seminal works making their debut at the gallery, including Giuseppe De Mattia's performance *Oh Mother, why did you let me be an Artist?* and Karen Knorr's photograph *The Principles of Political Economy* from the series *Capital*. These two works in particular, explore themes of class, economics and the artist's role within these contexts.

New works by Francisca Valador and Bekhbaatar Enkhtur are showcased alongside archival selections that shed light on the creative journeys of Eduardo Fonseca e Silva and Fabio Barile, whose large-format photograph *A certain amount of skeletons. Attempt to create an atlas of the animal forms*, critically examines the intersections of time and materiality.

The exhibition also aims to highlight fresh, in-progress developments through the preview of unseen works on paper by Marta Mancini and Joachim Lenz. Reflecting on the concept of a ten year timeframe, Sunil Gupta revisits his celebrated series *Lovers: 10 years on* with a selection of five portraits that offer a poignant reflection on relationships and intimacy. Meanwhile, Stefano Canto, Maïmouna Guerresi and Chen Xiaoyi contribute significant pieces drawn from their most notable exhibitions at the gallery, emphasising Matèria's long-standing bond with its artists.

"With this special exhibition," say Niccolò Fano and Rossana Esposito, Founder and Director of Matèria, "we take a tangible step towards extending our profound gratitude to the artists whose work has shaped the gallery's vision and whose continued collaboration inspires us for the present and future."

Over the past decade, Matèria has built its identity around a model centred around prioritising long-term artistic collaboration and steadfast independence. This approach places at the forefront the sustained support for its represented artists, fostering their growth both creatively and professionally. Matèria positions itself as a home for artists; a juncture for curators, collectors, and the public to dialogue. In its model, decisions are guided by clear foundational first-principles, within a context that values curiosity, exchange and innovation.

The gallery's primary goal is to foster a pluralistic and cohesive community, rooted in a shared vision of gradual yet tangible development. This is achieved through a collaborative approach that emphasizes reinvestment and collective projects. In resisting market trends, Matèria aims to carve out its own path in the contemporary art landscape, highlighting the specificities of its context and, above all, championing the role of the artist.

Concrete examples of this vision include the opening of its street-facing Vitrine and Luci di Via, a series of light installations commissioned for the gallery's façade. These initiatives expand the traditional boundaries of the exhibition space, engaging in a direct relationship with the surrounding urban fabric and local community. Matèria's approach unites artistic and entrepreneurial vision, demonstrating that it is possible to combine independence, sustainability, and cultural commitment in the complex landscape of contemporary art.

As part of its special programming to mark this anniversary, Matèria is excited to announce two upcoming exhibitions: a solo show by Francisca Valador, underscoring the gallery's dedication to discovering and promoting emerging artistic voices, and a group show that pays tribute to the gallery's historical and personal ties to the photographic medium—particularly British photography—featuring prominent figures such as Karen Knorr and Sunil Gupta. The exhibition is curated in collaboration with Christiane Monarchi, co-director of Hapax Magazine and founder of Photomonitor.

10 on Paper is accompanied by three short texts by selected curators who have worked with the gallery in shaping its program and identity: Giuliana Benassi, Enrico Camprini and Vasco Forconi.

Based in the neighbourhood of San Lorenzo in Rome, Matèria opened its doors to the public in 2015. The gallery proposes an exhibition programme that touches upon all aspects of Contemporary Art. Since its founding, Matèria's purpose has been the furthering and development of the work of its selected group of Artists. The gallery programme features four exhibitions per calendar year, conceived and produced directly with its artists and often in dialogue with the space through a site specific approach. Matèria's gallery shows strive to further the research and experimentation aspects of artistic practice, with the results of this approach often showcased in a growing list of Italian and international art fairs.

Matèria represents the work of Fabio Barile, Karen Knorr, Mario Cresci, Chen Xiaoyi, Giuseppe De Mattia, Sunil Gupta, Marta Mancini, Joachim Lenz, Francisca Valador, Stefano Canto, Bekhbaatar Enkhtur, Eduardo Fonseca e Silva and Maimouna Guerresi.

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13 February 2025 - 17 April 2025

Matèria | Via dei Latini,27 - Roma

materiagallery.com

Matèria

Hours

From Tuesday to Saturday
from 11 am to 7 pm

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