

PAOLO COLOMBO

7 NOV - 7 MAR
SELECTED WORKS

FLIR T

OLIVIER VARENNE
ART MODERNE & CONTEMPORAIN

BIOGRAPHY
PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Artist and curator, Colombo, was born in Turin and currently lives and works in Athens. Drawing and painting have held a fascination for him from a young age. After a career as a curator, which included curating the Iraqi Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2017); working as curator of the Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo in Rome (2001-2007), and as the director of the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva (1989 – 2000), in 2007 Colombo returned to life as an artist exclusively using pencil and watercolour, the same two forms of media he used from the age of 18.

For Paolo Colombo “economy of means is of paramount importance.”



PAOLO COLOMBO VISUAL POETRY

The present large word-based pieces, 'visual poetry', consist of Colombo's distinctive finely painted weave, echoing the earlier use of collage in his practice, effectively appliquéd with his own poetry. From literature studies in Rome, and the important influence and friendship with sculptor, theorist and poet Fausto Melotti (1901-1986), to poetry by Modern Greek poets Cavafis and Seferis, the written word, as well as music, have been consistent and increasingly important sources of inspiration in his work. The lyrics of Rebetika, and traditional Nisiotika music both of which consist of simple texts without adjectives, have also been a source of inspiration to Colombo and adhere to his goal 'to do something, with almost nothing'.

Not only folk music, but folk handicrafts he regards as a sounding board, such as embroideries, costumes, walking sticks. Dots, lines and mosaic tesserae (the equivalent of the dot in Byzantine Art), as well as found objects, have thus evolved with time to become his simple working vocabulary.

Through the interplay of his personally evolved and highly meticulous technique with the ethereal world Colombo evokes through his poetry, the viewer is invited on their own meditative journey.

THEN WHEN

I THOUGHT MY SHADOW WAS HANDSOME

HE CAME DANCING.

BUT NOT TO STAY.

I'VE NEVER SAID BEAUTIFUL WORDS,

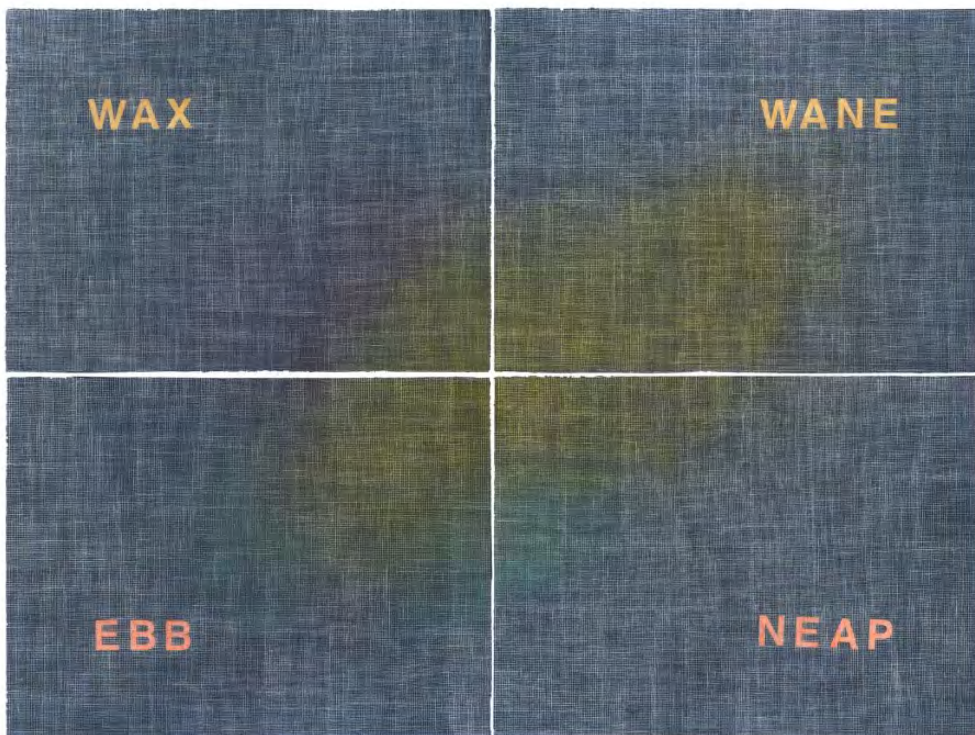
YET WE BOTH KNOW

THE PERFORMANCES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Wax Wane, 2023
watercolour on four sheets of Arches paper

112 x 150 cm.
(Framed 130 x 170 cm.)



A close-up detail of a dark blue or black woven fabric with a fine, grid-like texture. The word "WAX" is embroidered in the center in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a golden-yellow thread, creating a strong contrast with the dark background. The lighting highlights the texture of the fabric and the individual stitches of the embroidery.

WAX

PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Then When, 2021
watercolour on four sheets of Arches paper

112 x 150 cm.
(Framed 130 x 170 cm.)

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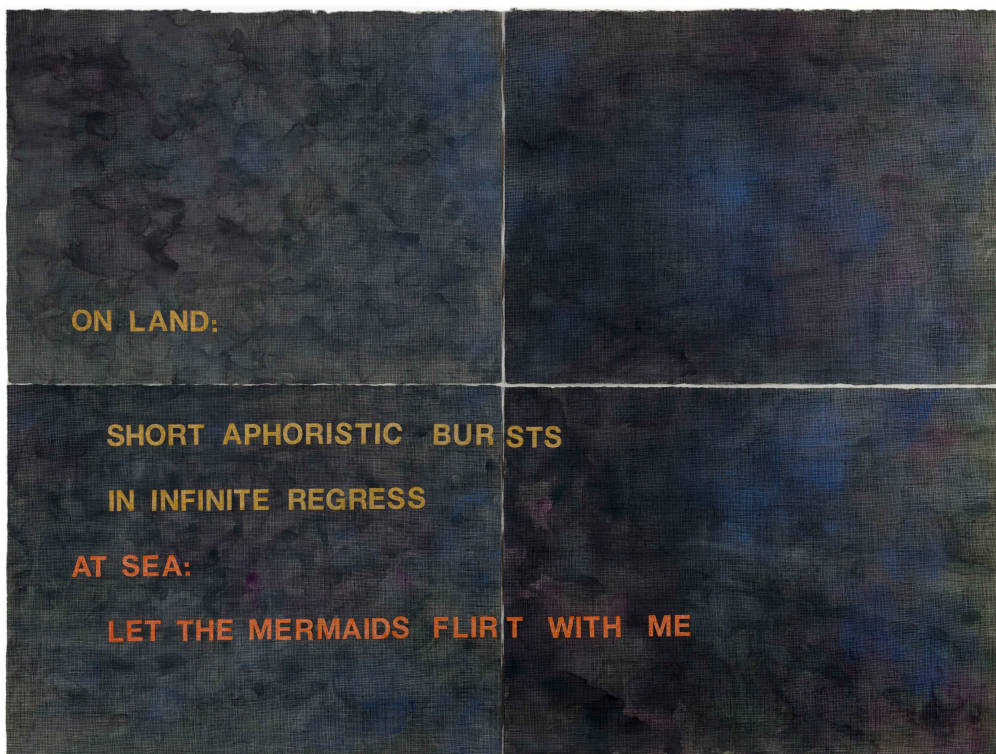
YET WE BOTH KNOW

THE PERFORMANCES OF JOHN

PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

On Land, 2021
watercolour on four sheets of Arches paper

112 x 150 cm.
(Framed 130 x 170 cm.)



ISTIC BURSTS

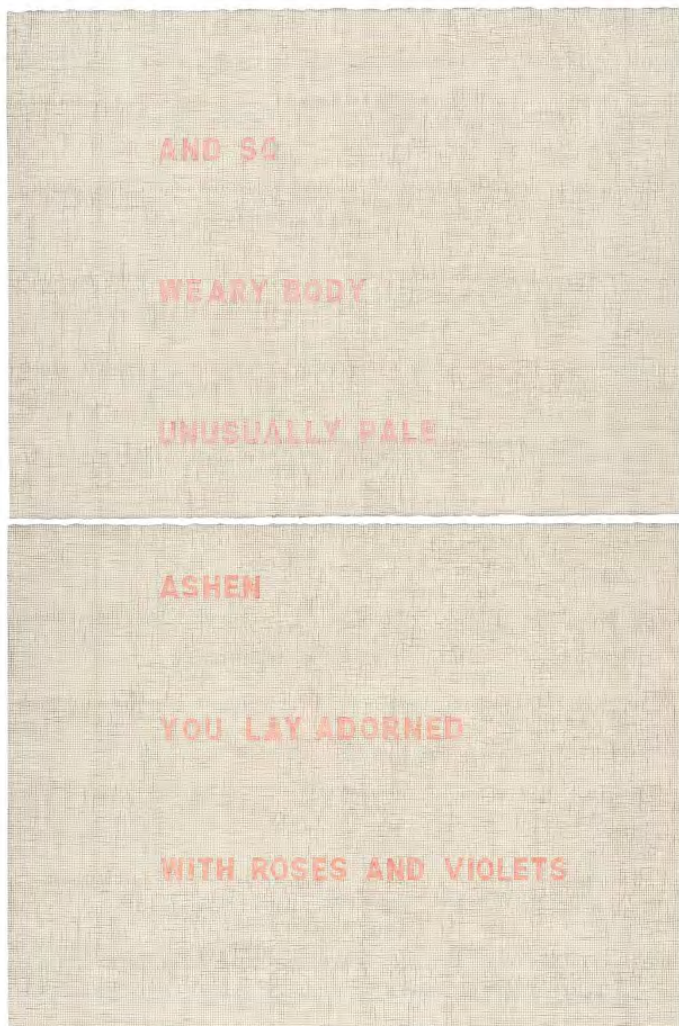
GRESS

MAIDS FLIRT WITH ME

PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

And so/weary body, 2023
watercolour on three sheets of Arches paper

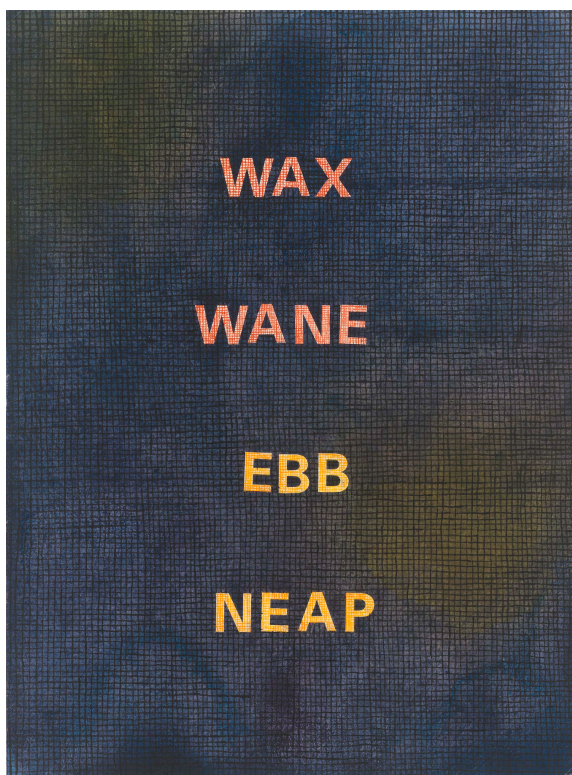
diptych
112 x 75 cm. (Framed 122 x 85 cm.)
32 x 23 cm. (Framed 36 x 29 cm.)



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Study for Wax Wane, 2022
watercolour on paper

31 x 23 cm. (Framed 45 x 37 cm.)

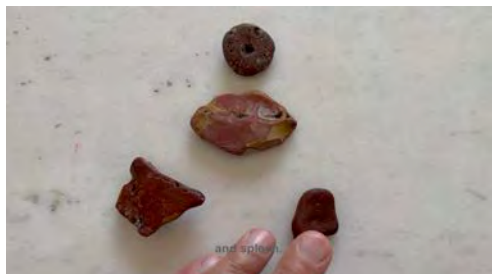
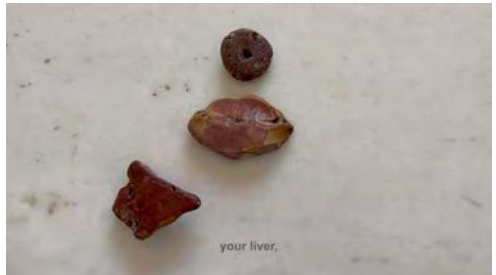
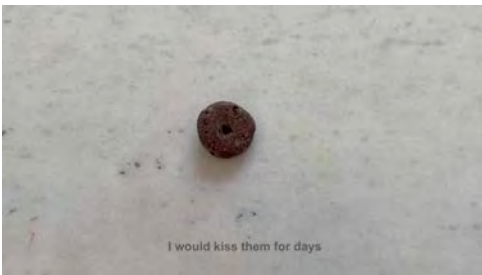
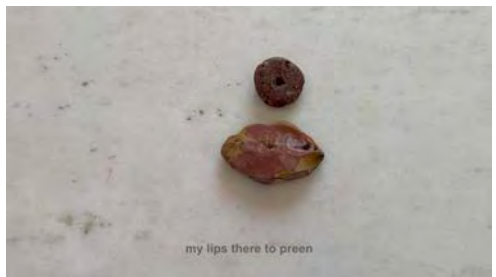
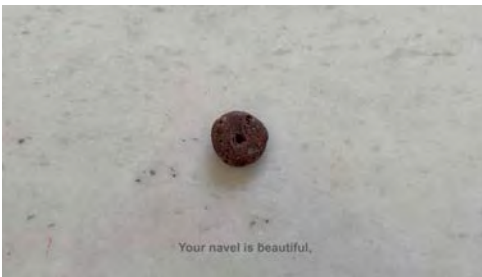


WANE

EBB

PAOLO COLOMBO VIDEOS

Colombo's videos, which have taken shape over the last 4 years, are made of objects found on the beach, a location of important inspiration in Colombo's world. The stone, pebble or piece of rope inspires the characters, and in turn a poem, excerpt of text, lyric, or children's song. The resulting expressive films also tightly follow the artist's goal 'to do something, with almost nothing'.



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Stone Theatre Series

Actors

sculpture

in a 120 x 80 cm. vitrine



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Stone Theatre Series
Hamlet

Video
59 secs
Edition 3 of 3 & 1 AP



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Stone Theatre Series
Long Black Veil

Video
44 secs
Edition 3 of 3 & 1 AP



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Stone Theatre Series
Macbeth

Video
57 secs
Edition 3 of 3 & 1 AP



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Stone Theatre Series
The Vagina is called Iota

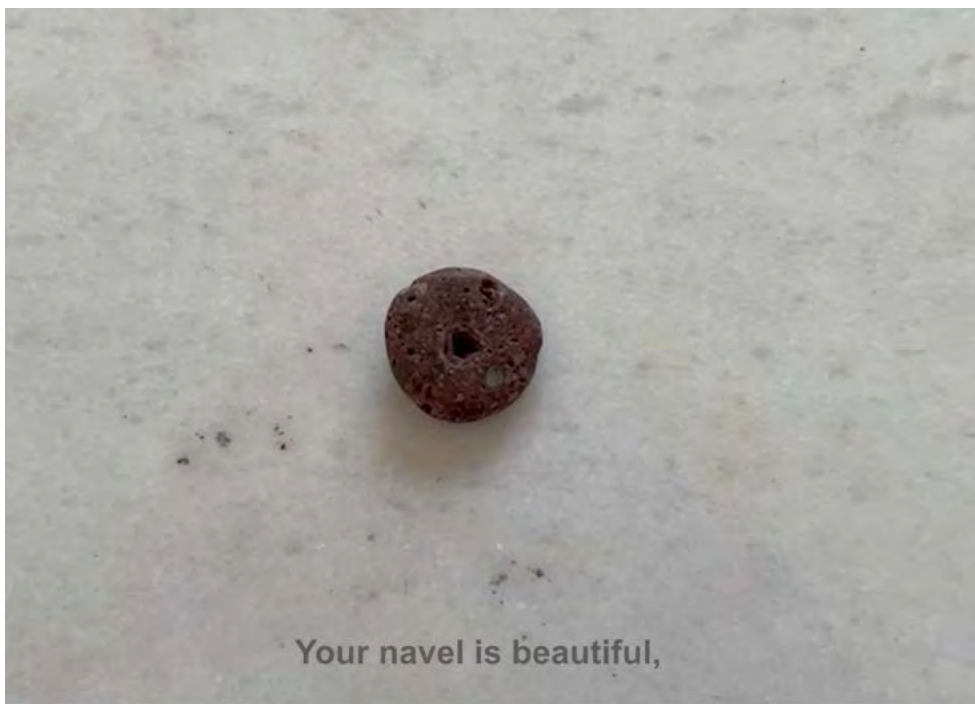
Video
1 minute 12 secs
Edition 3 of 3 & 1 AP



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Stone Theatre Series
Your Navel

Video
49 secs
Edition 3 of 3 & 1 AP



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Yorick, 2023
Ink jet print

29,5 x 21 cm.
Edition 1 and 2 of 5



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Hand, 2023
Ink jet print

29,5 x 21 cm.
Edition 1 and 2 of 5



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

To Mouni, 2023
Ink jet print

29,5 x 21 cm.
Edition 1 and 2 of 5



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Hamlet, 2023
Ink jet print

29,5 x 21 cm.
Edition 1 and 2 of 5



PAOLO COLOMBO
(b.1949)

Floor Mosaic, 2023
Watercolour on paper, glass

31 x 24 x 1 cm.
Unique



*“Simple things
construct a world.”*

WITH ME

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