

# Martina Simeti

Paolo Chiasera

*Terra lavica armena*

2 April - 17 May 2025

Opening Tuesday, 1 April, 2.30 - 8 pm

Martina Simeti is pleased to announce Paolo Chiasera's first exhibition at the gallery. The artist presents a new body of work in which the human figure emerges through absences and traces, balancing intimacy and transcendence.

At the entrance, three large canvases made of Armenian lava stone depict a sweatshirt and a pair of loafers, personal garments captured at different times of the day. These everyday objects, seemingly just taken off and abandoned, become silent relics, evoking human presence. The sweatshirt takes on a hidden anatomy, while the positioning of the shoes recalls the archetypal forms of crucifixions.

The space transforms into a spiritual setting where offerings take unexpected forms: a strange egg holder, filled to the brim, is turned into a ritual symbol. The chicken coop overlaps with the glory hole—two recurring images in Chiasera's recent work—prompting a reflection on the boundaries between protection and exposure. An eye, the only visible element beyond the red velvet—painted with the lost cinnabar of Mount Amiata—peers through a hole. The curtain thus becomes a veil of Maya, a threshold between reality and illusion, between revelation and concealment.

In the lower room, *Finestra* (2025) offers a glimpse of nature, a space that both separates and connects. Like in an aquarium, the viewer is simultaneously an observer and the observed, while nature appears to press against the glass surface, as if hands were resting on it to peer beyond the water's edge. The threshold thus becomes an ambiguous filter, a symbol of transparency and distortion, purification and barrier.

Adjacent yet intrinsically connected, *Shakti* (2025) seems to condense the room's energy into an act of concentration.

This interplay of revelation and concealment returns in the canvases that conclude the exhibition, where details and memories from art history refract on reflective polycarbonate surfaces. The image fragments and recomposes itself, forcing the gaze to chase reflections that multiply and distort. These images filter history and personal biography, weaving together traces of individual and collective memory.

In Chiasera's work, the body never fully disappears. It survives in the marks it leaves, in the tension between matter and myth, in the simplicity of an abandoned sweatshirt and a pair of shoes. The visible blends with the invisible, and in this intersection, questions arise about what remains, what defines us, and what, inevitably, dissolves.

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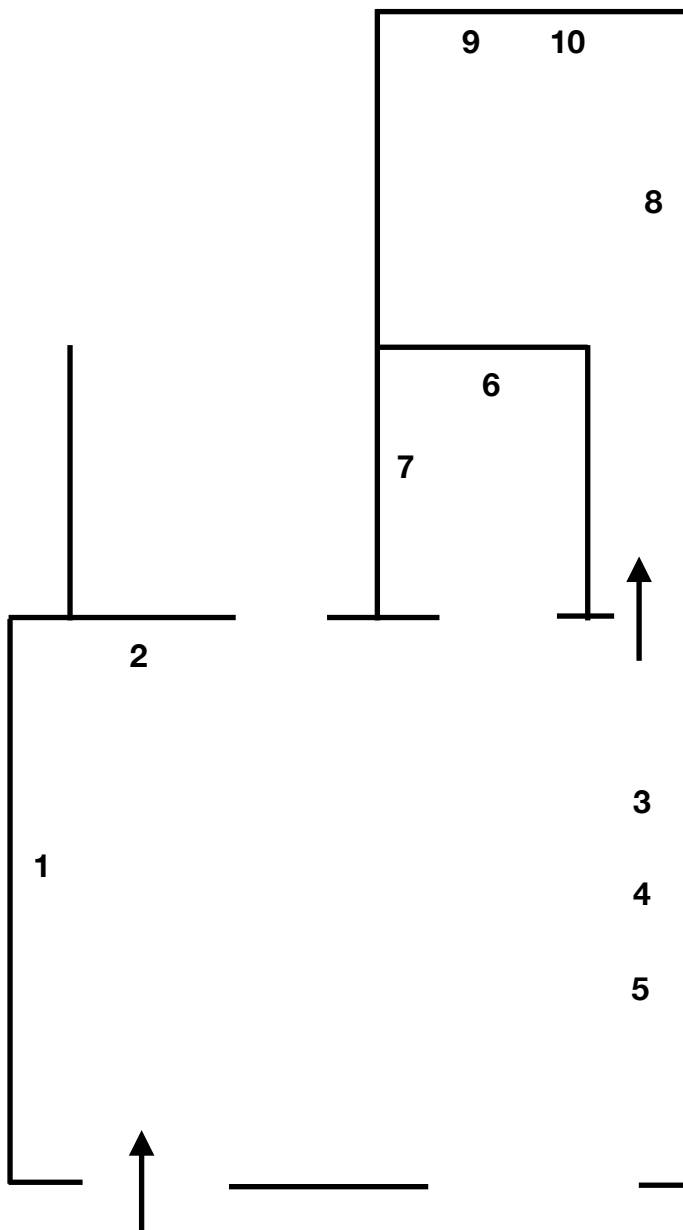
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Floor plan



1. Paolo Chiasera, *Maya*, 2025, oil, egg tempera on canvas, 205 x 134,5 cm
2. Paolo Chiasera, *Cimabue*, 2025, oil on canvas, 62 x 47,5 cm
3. Paolo Chiasera, *Felipa con mocassini 1*, 2025, oil on canvas, 209 x 134,5 cm
4. Paolo Chiasera, *Felipa con mocassini 2*, 2025, oil on canvas, 209 x 134,5 cm
5. Paolo Chiasera, *Felipa con mocassini 3*, 2025, oil on canvas, 209 x 134,5 cm
6. Paolo Chiasera, *Finestra*, 2025, oil on canvas, 120 x 270 cm
7. Paolo Chiasera, *Shakti*, 2025, oil on canvas, 62 x 47,5 cm
8. Paolo Chiasera, *Fuori scala 3*, 2025, oil on canvas, 110 x 70 cm
9. Paolo Chiasera, *Fuori scala 2*, 2025, oil on canvas, 62 x 48 cm
10. Paolo Chiasera, *Fuori scala 1*, 2025, oil on canvas, 62 x 48 cm