

# UNG-PIL BYEN

(b. 1970, KOREAN)

# UNG-PIL BYEN

Born in 1970, Jangheung, Korea  
Lives and works in Ganghwa, Korea



Courtesy of CHOI&CHOI Gallery and the artist

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ung-Pil Byen lives and works in Korea after spending 11 years in Germany. He continues to paint portraits using materials and techniques commonly found in Western painting, whilst maintaining a distinctively Eastern approach of removing and emptying elements of the work. Byen's series of self-portraits, which began in Germany, undoubtedly depicts the artist himself. Against his emotionless face, however, certain identifiers such as hair, eyebrows, and skin colour are erased and distorted, leading to a near abstraction. "The highly subjective differences between beauty and ugliness, open discrimination based on skin color, hasty judgment of the experience of another's gender without experiencing it, and class prejudice based on occupation and social status. How free can I really be from these prejudices and biases," asks the artist himself. Even in his later series of (non-self) portraits, the artist intentionally removes such specific details. By doing so, Byen's work also allows the viewer to project their own narratives onto the canvas, and serves as an opportunity to face their inner thoughts and emotions.

Ung Pil Byen(1970-) received BFA in Western painting from Dongguk University, Korea, and received MFA in Fine Art as Meister student of Guillaume Bijl from Academy of Arts in Muenster, Germany. He has held 10 solo exhibitions including 'SOMEONE'(HORI Artspace, Seoul, 2021), 'SOMEONE'(Arirang Gallery, Busan, 2018), 'Ung Pil Byen Solo Exhibition'(Gallery Joeun, Seoul, 2014), 'Ongnim-ri 23-1'(UNC Gallery, Seoul, 2014), 'SOMEONE'(Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, 2013), 'SOMEONE'(Arirang Gallery, Busan, 2012), 'Self-portrait as a Man 1 & 1/4'(Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, 2009), and participated in over 100 group and special exhibitions. He was awarded Support Award of the Academy of Arts Muenster, Emerging Artist Fellowship for foreign student-DAAD, 2004-Kunstaspekte-Art Award, and ADO Art Award 2005. Byen's work can be found in public and private collections including MMCA Government Art Bank(Seoul), SeMA(Seoul), Jeonnam Museum of Art(Gwangyang), OCI Museum of Art(Seoul), Incheon Foundation for Arts and Culture (Incheon), Museum MARTA Herfod(Herfod), Supreme court of NRW(Germany). Byen's paintings are included in Middle School Art Textbook published by Jihaksa Co. Ltd, and High School Art Textbook published by Chunjae Education, Ltd and Mijinsa Co. Ltd. His work has also been introduced in other publications such as 'Art Meditation'(2021) and 'The Museum of a Feeling'(2018). The artist currently lives and works in his studio located in the Ganghwa province of Korea.

UNG-PIL BYEN



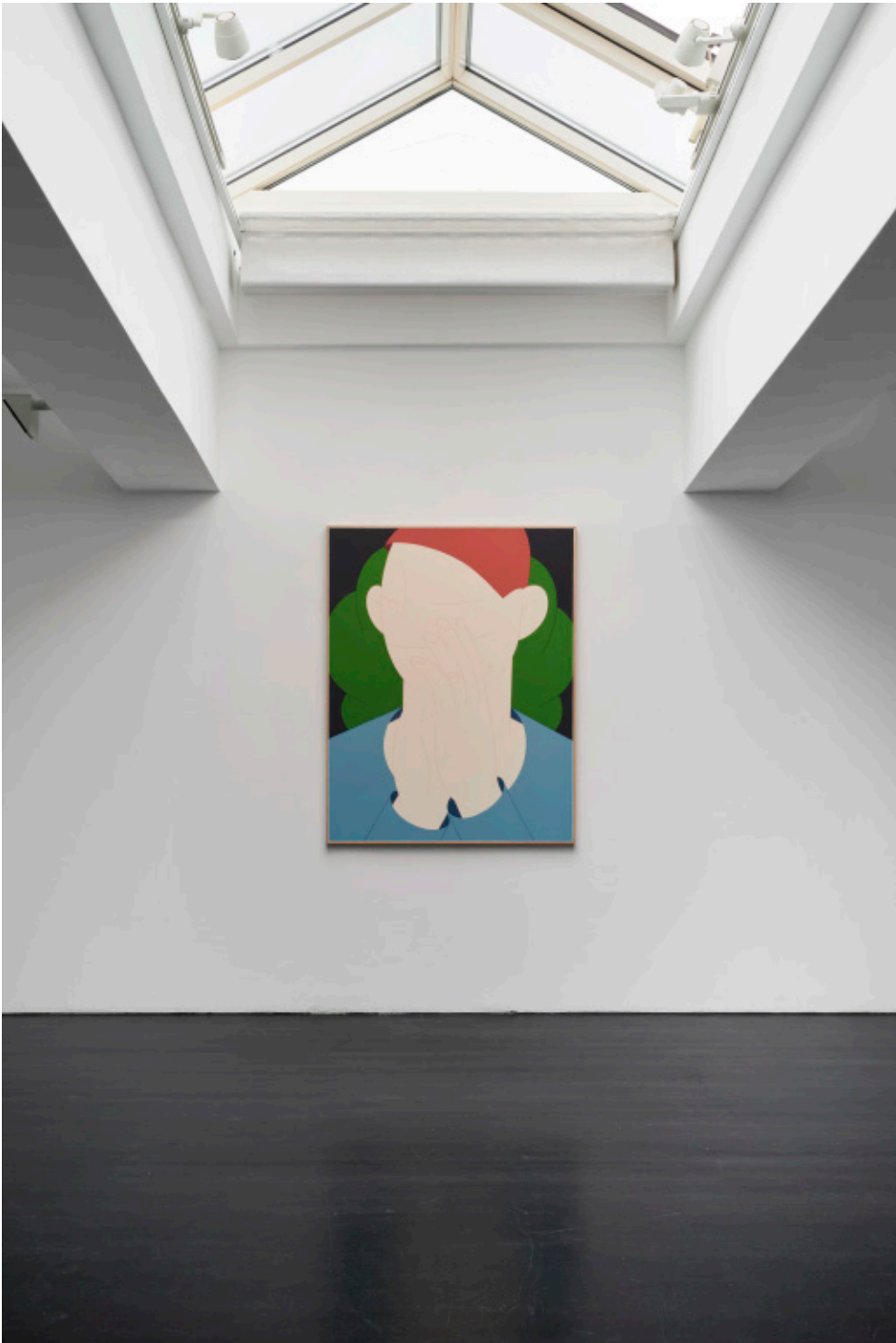
**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

117 x 91 cm

# Exhibition View



# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



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2024

Oil on canvas

117 x 91 cm



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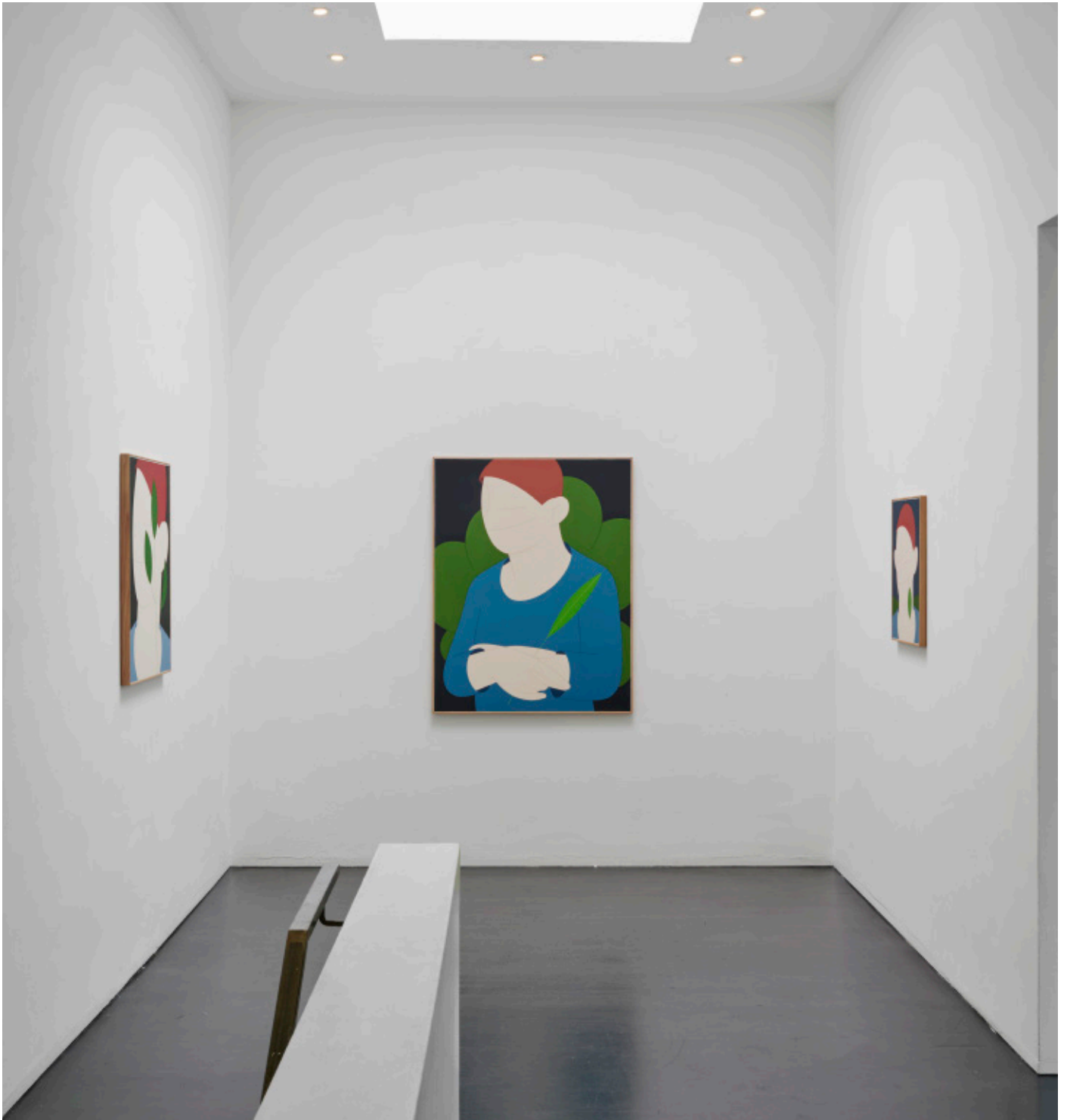
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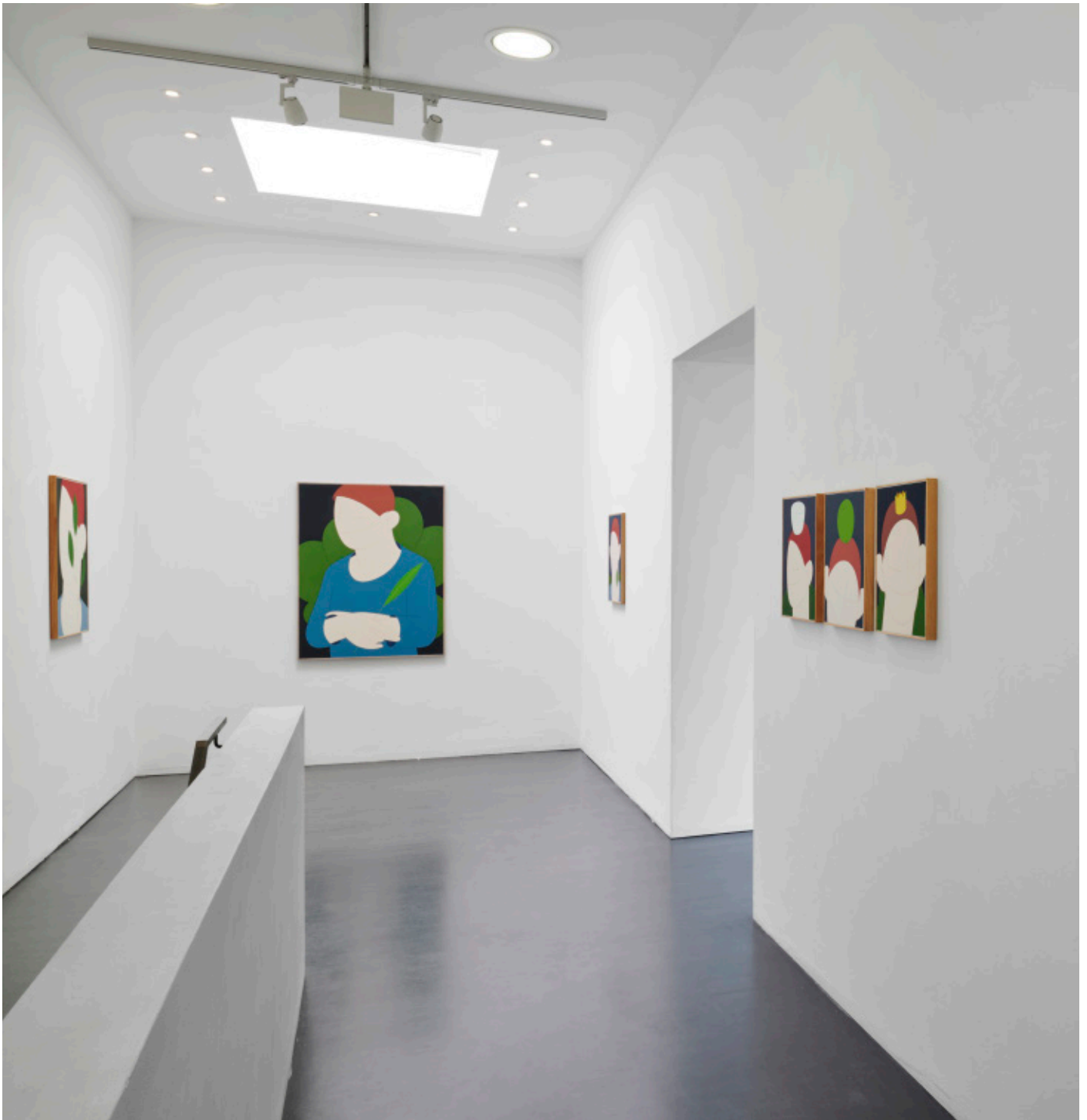




# Exhibition View



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UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

117 x 91 cm

# Exhibition View



# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

90 x 75 cm



# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

90 x 75 cm

# Exhibition View



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**Someone**

2024

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90 x 75 cm

# Exhibition View





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Oil on canvas

90 x 75 cm



# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

77 x 60 cm

# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

77 x 60 cm

# Exhibition View





UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

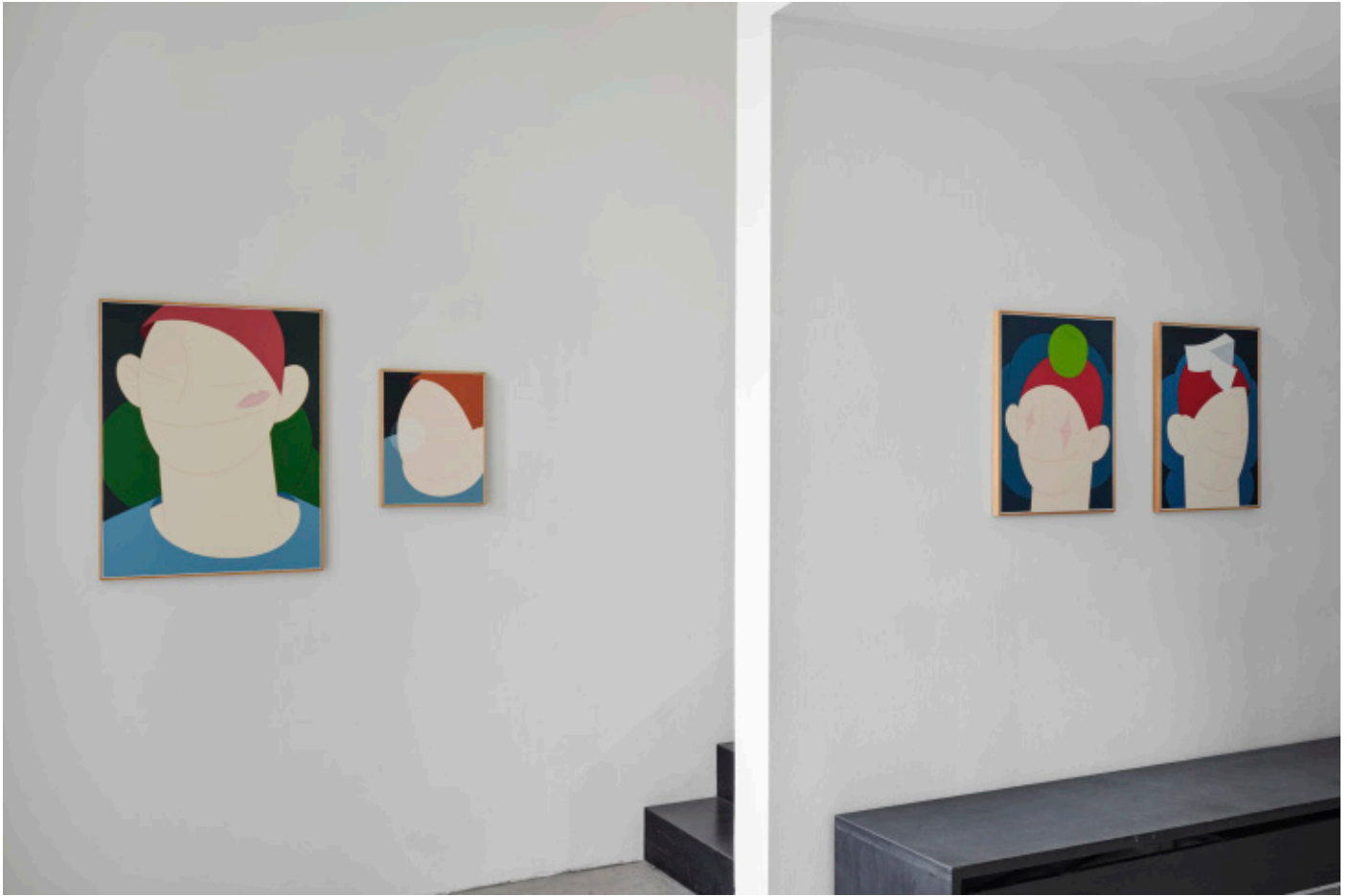
77 x 60 cm



# Exhibition View



# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



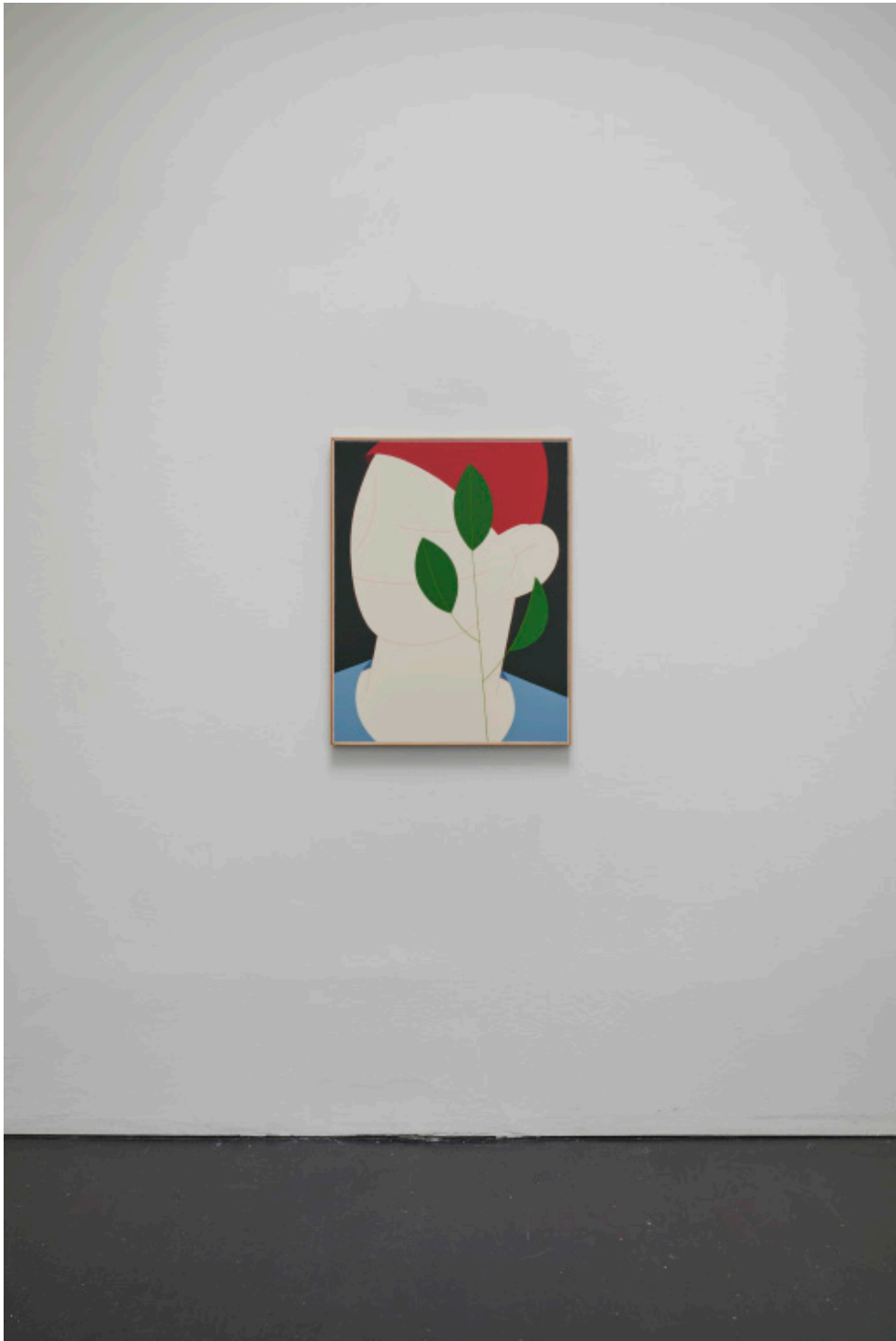
**Someone**

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77 x 60 cm

# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



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UNG-PIL BYEN



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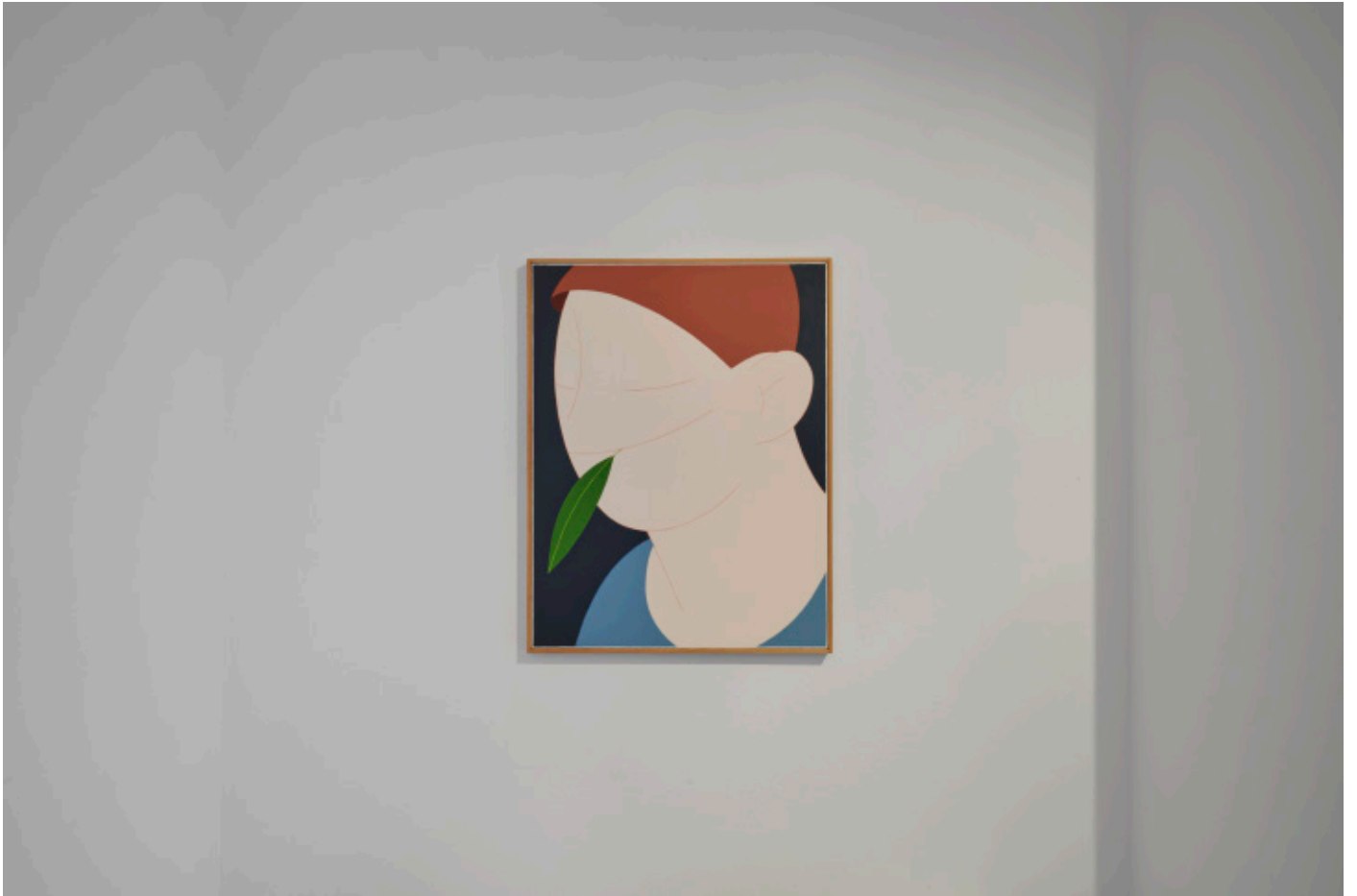
2024

Oil on canvas

53 x 41 cm



# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

53 x 41 cm

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Oil on canvas

53 x 41 cm



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**Someone**

2024

Oil on canvas

53 x 41 cm

# Exhibition View



UNG-PIL BYEN



**Someone**

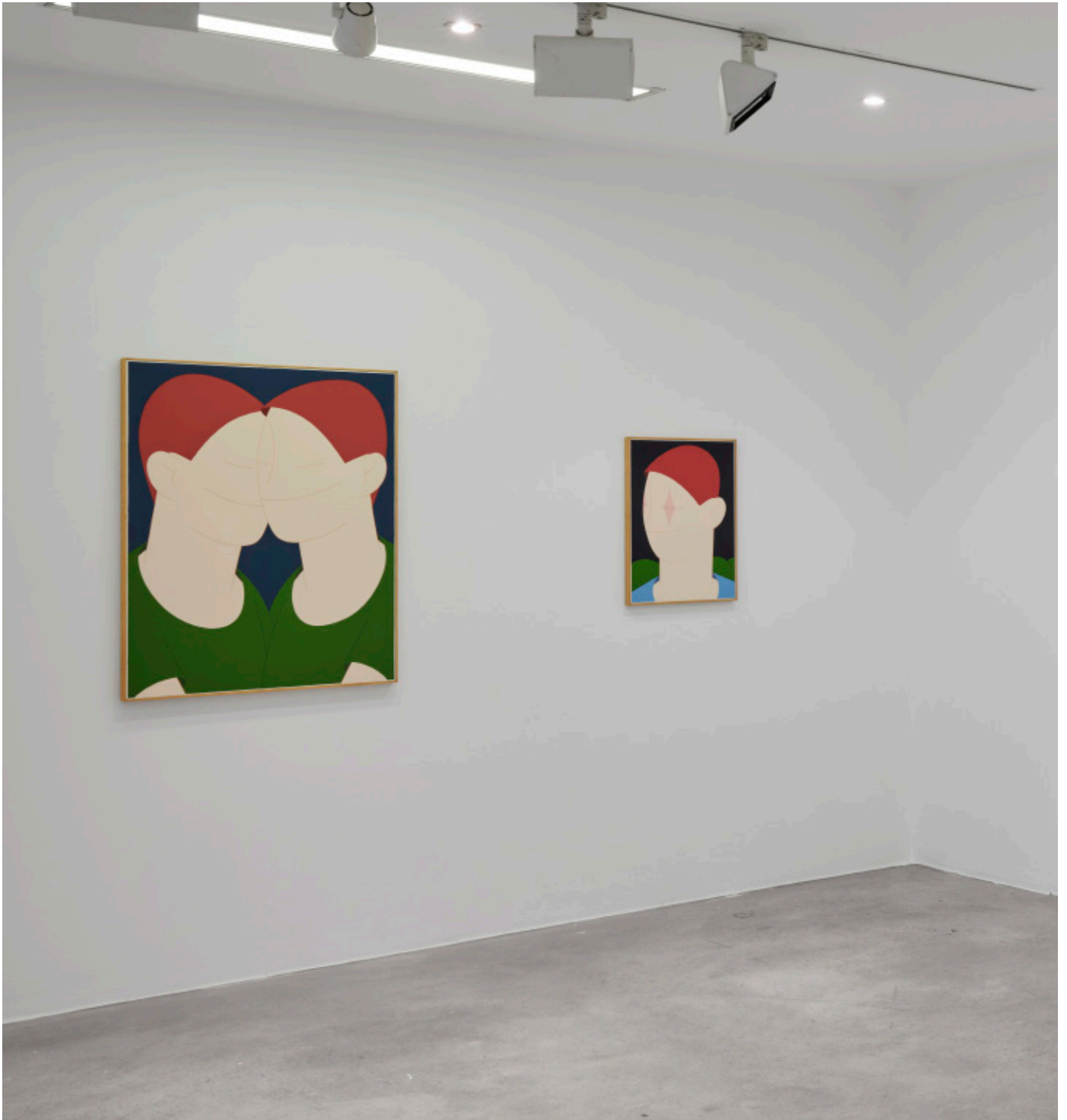
2024

Oil on canvas

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# Exhibition View



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**Someone**

2024

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53 x 41 cm

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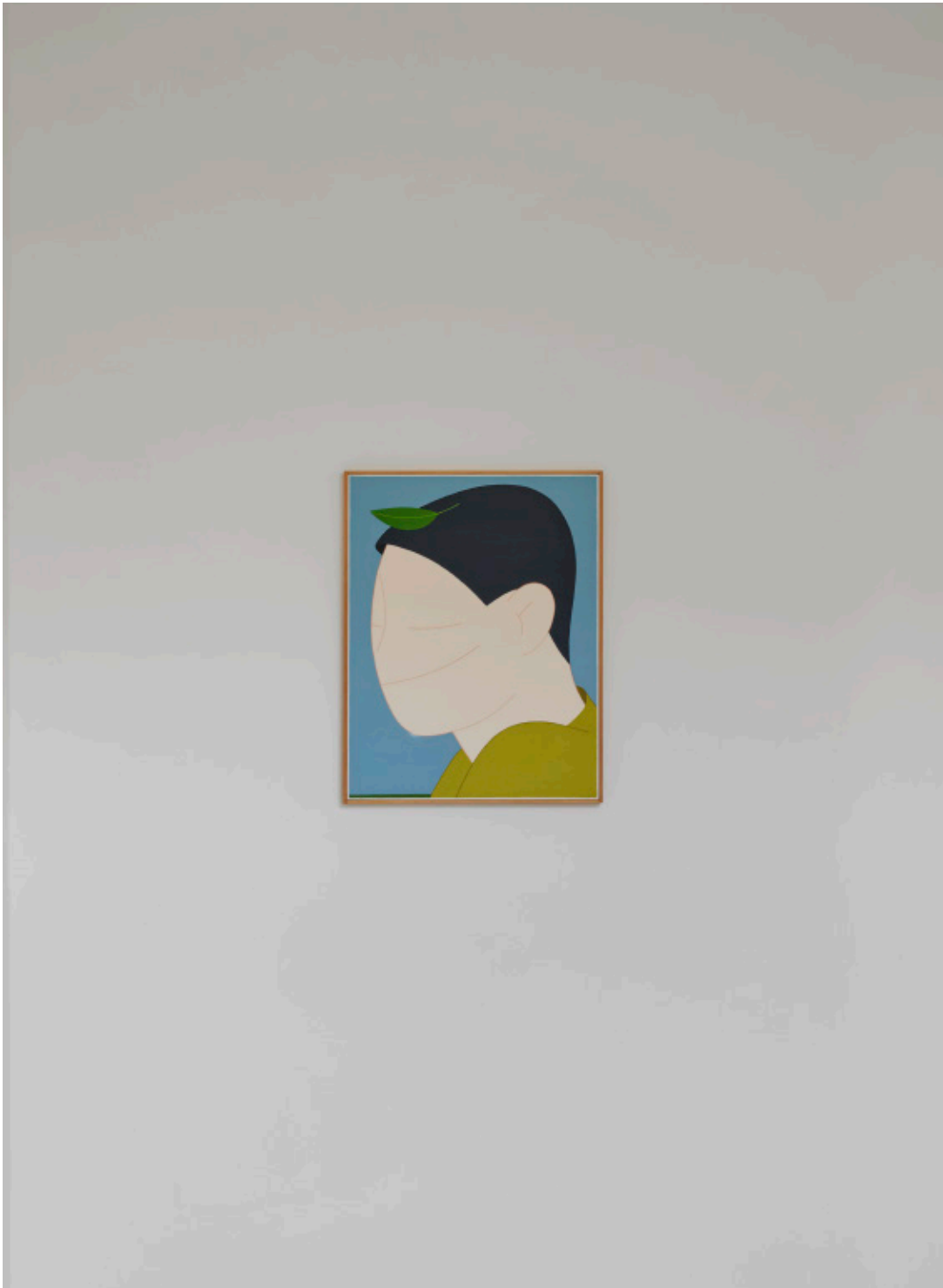
**Someone**

2024

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# Exhibition View



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**Someone**

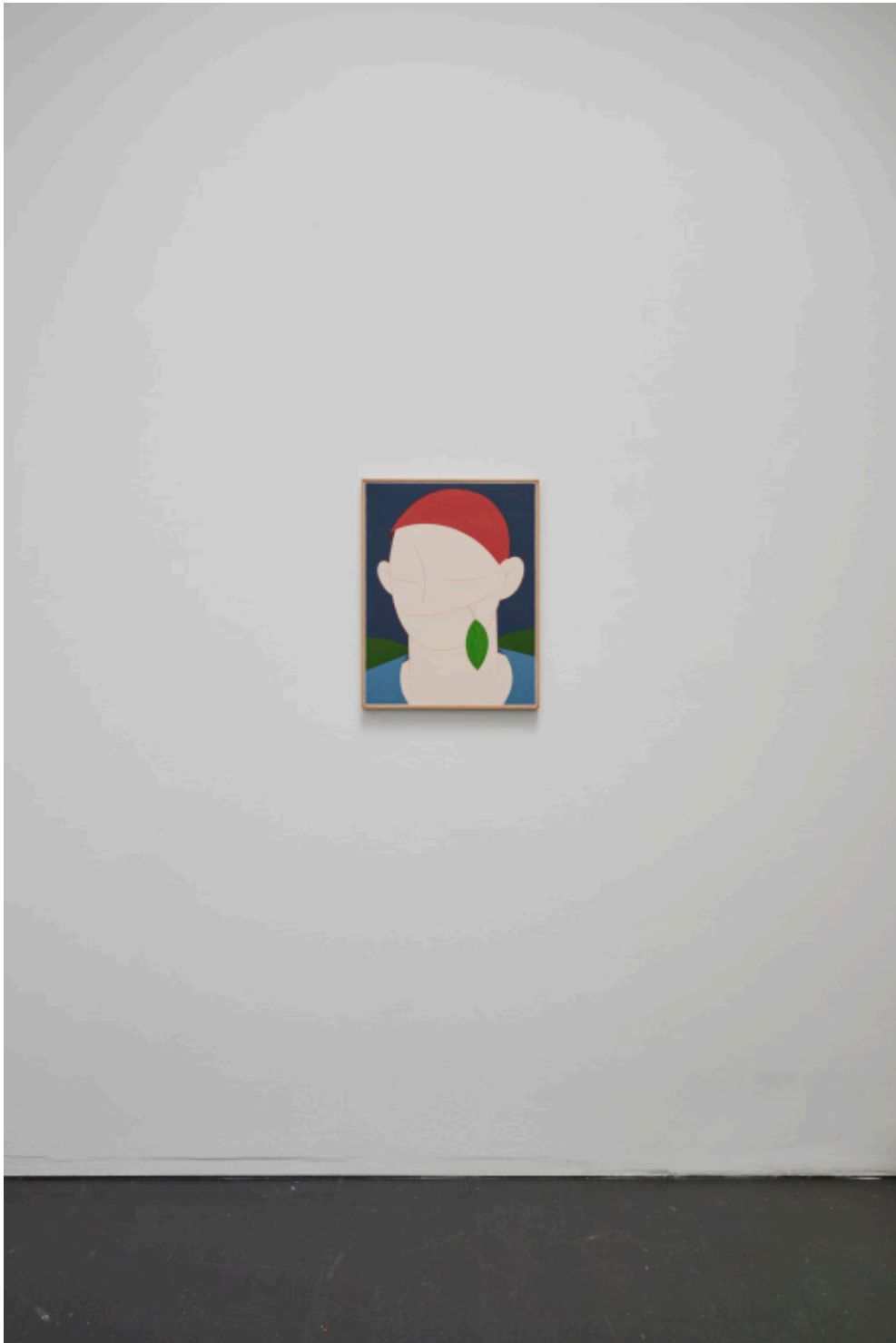
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# Exhibition View



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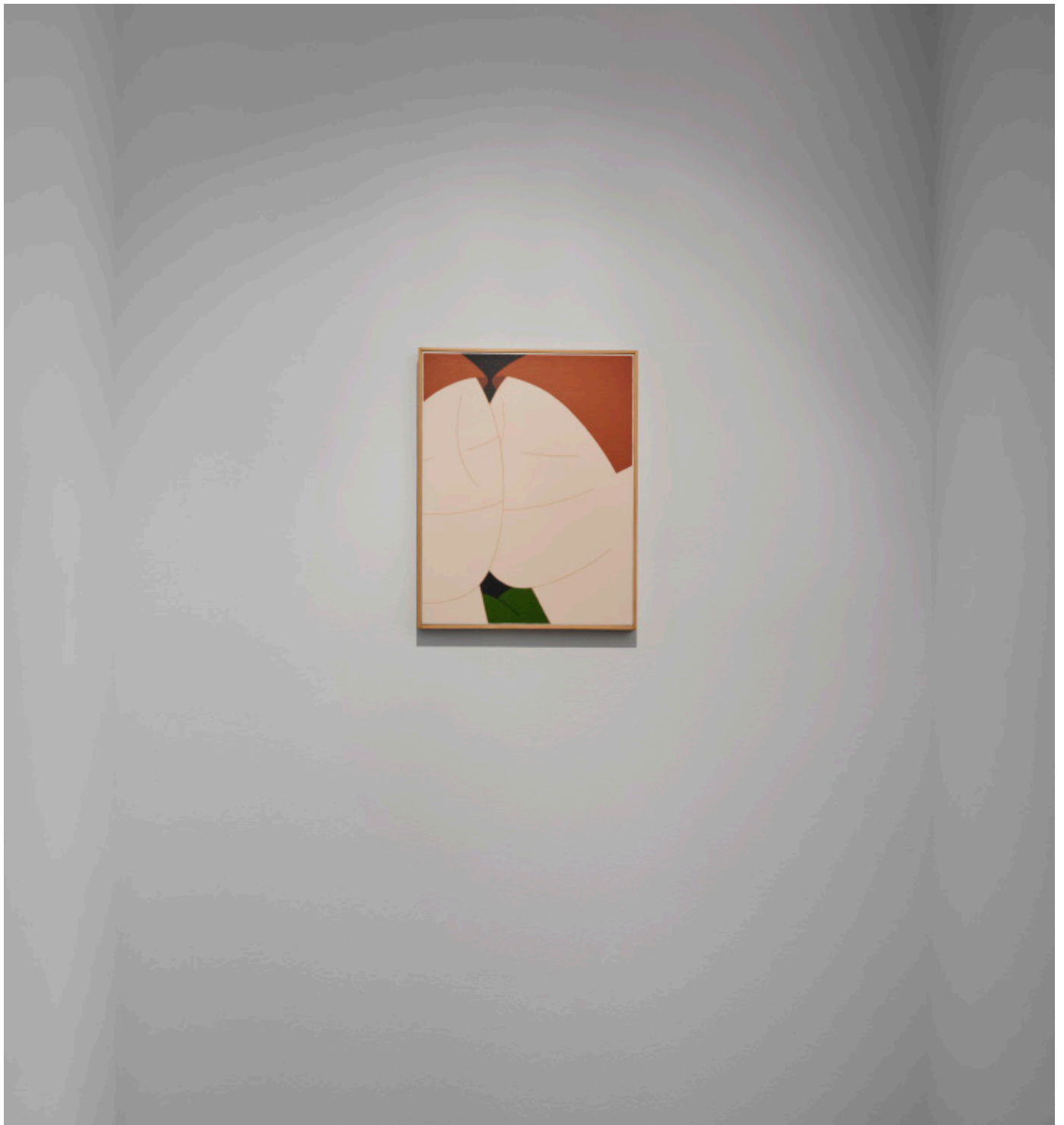
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2024

Oil on canvas

41 x 32 cm

# Exhibition View



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**Someone**

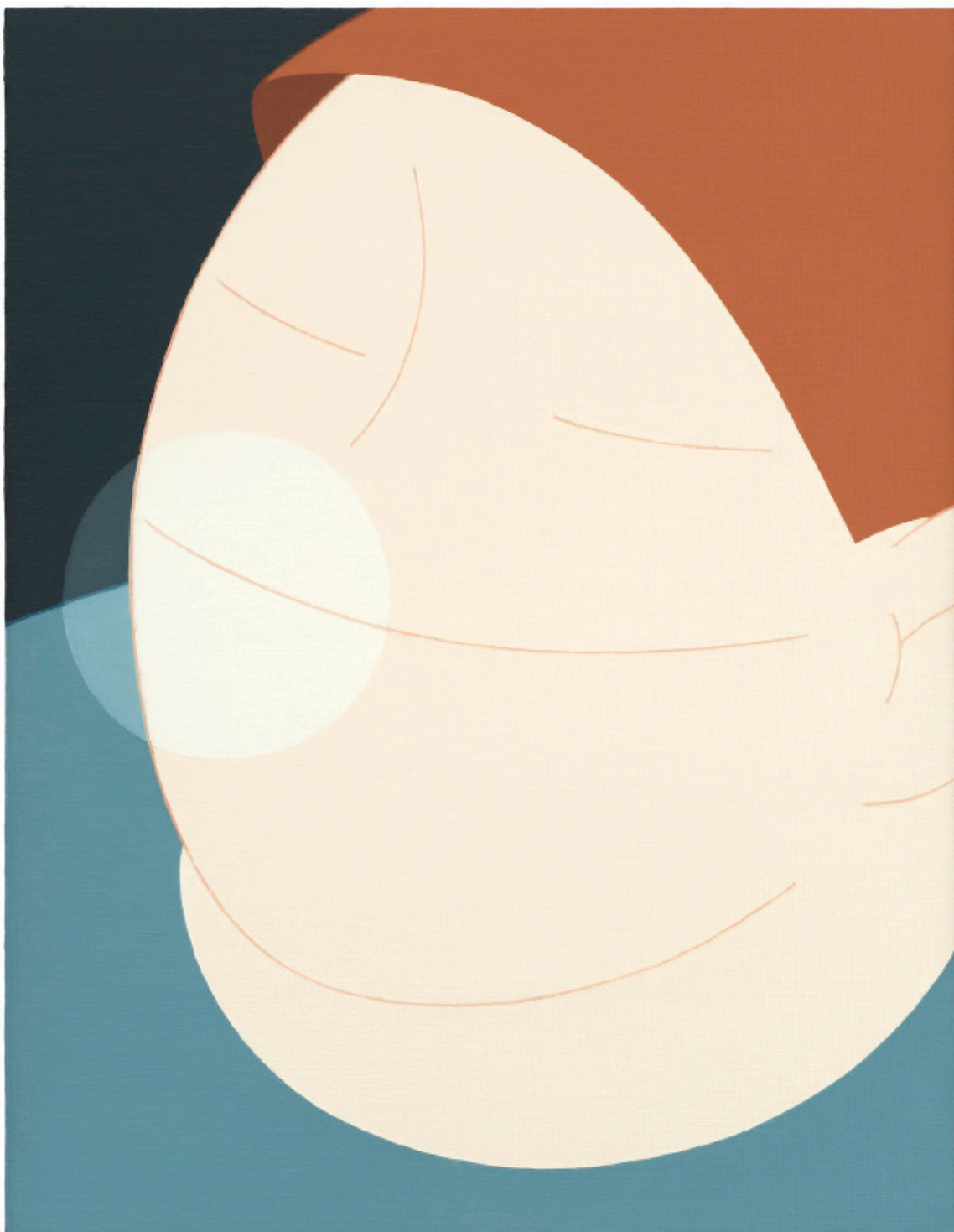
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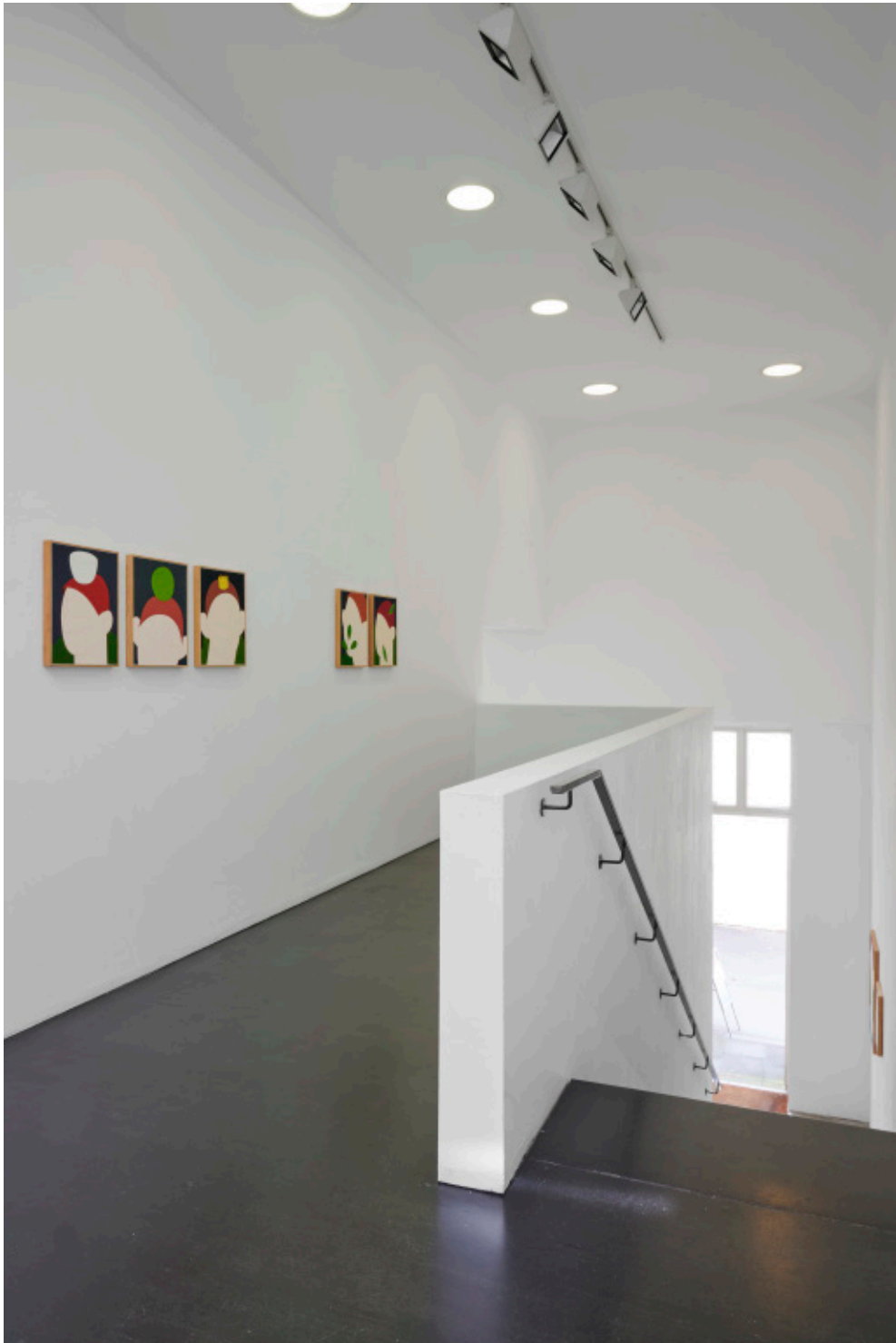
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# Exhibition View



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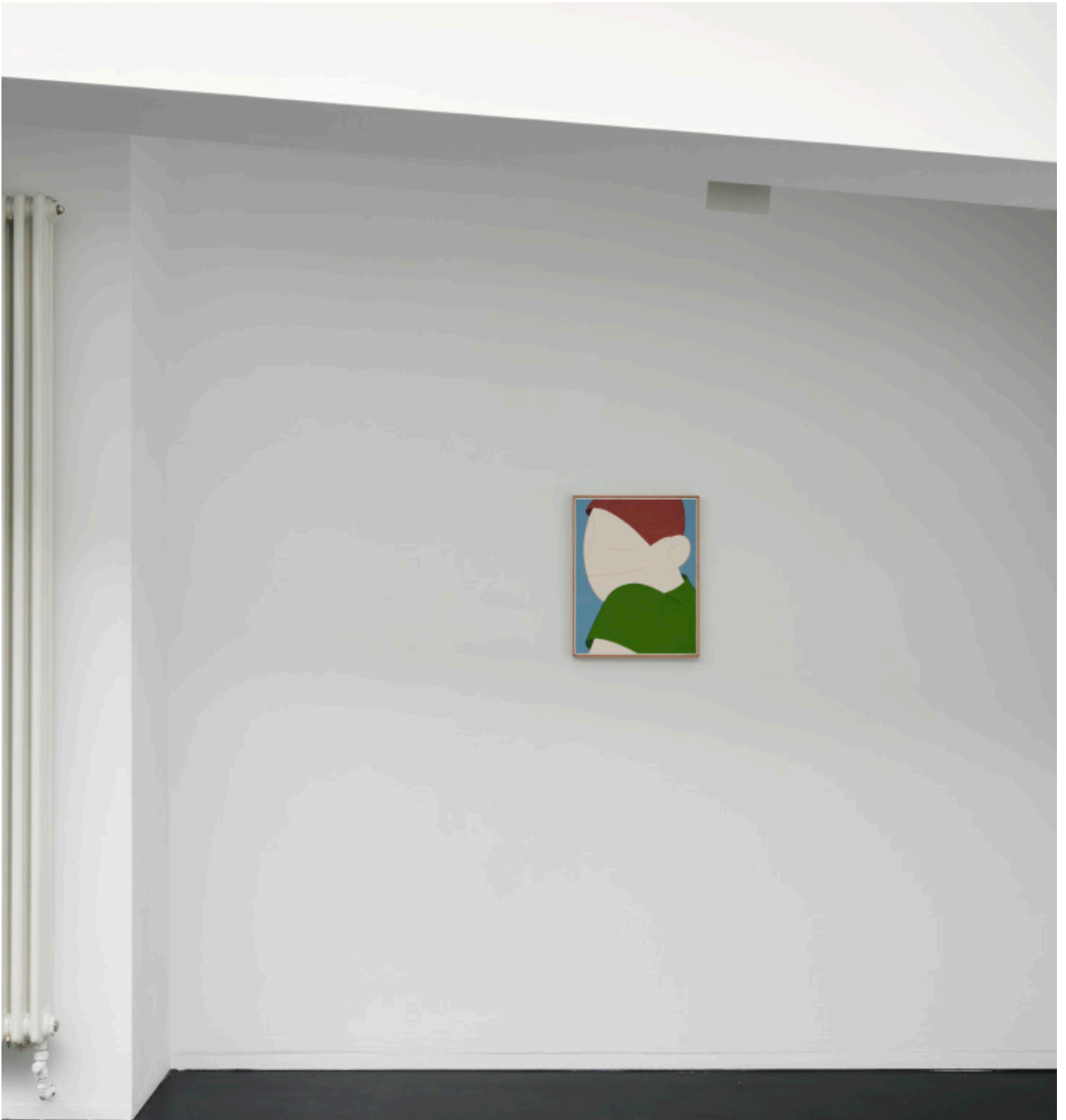
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41 x 32 cm

# Exhibition View



# UNG-PIL BYEN

Born in 1970 Jangheung, Korea  
Lives and works in Ganghwa, Korea

## EDUCATION

- 1989 – 1996 B.F.A. Dongguk University  
1997 – 2005 M.F.A. Academy of Arts, Münster, Germany  
2005 – 2006 Master student by Prof. Guillaume Bijl, Münster, Germany  
2007 – 2009 Adjunct Professor Fine Art Department at Dongguk University

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Someone, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, Cologne  
2021 SOMEONE, HORI artspace, Seoul  
2018 SOMEONE, ARIRANG Gallery, Busan  
2017 FictionByen Ung-Pil, Gallery Joeun, Seoul  
2014 Ongnim-ri 23-1, UNC Gallery, Seoul  
2013 Someone, Gallery HYUNDAIwindow, Seoul  
2012 SOMEONE, ARIRANG Gallery, Busan  
Byen, Ung-Pil, Project Cafe Wumin, Cheongju  
2009 Selfportrait as a man 1 & 1/4, Gallery HYUNDAI, Seoul  
2007 Byen Ung-pil: Seolleim, doART Gallery, Seoul  
2006 Face-Landscape, Gallery Zandari, Seoul  
2005 Face to face, Galerie ART-isotope, Dortmund  
Self portrait as a men,, Galerie Plas-ma, Muehlheim a.d. Ruhr  
2004 Solo Exhibition, Galerie Zap-art, Warendorf  
Two Persons, OVG NRW, Münster  
Painting of BYEN, UNG-PIL, Kunsthalle Hangelar Sankt Augustin Hangelar  
2003 I, you and we, Practice of Dr.Edith, Dr.Wolfgang Mikansky, Dr.Werne Korte. Reken  
Two Persons-the shop window, Wewerka-Pavillon Münster

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS & ARTFAIRS

- 2024 Happy Hori Day, HORI artspace, Seoul  
The Friendliest' Incheon art platform. Incheon  
2023 HUMAN, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, Seoul  
From Berlin to Seoul: Crossing Horizons, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, HORI Artispac, AIF Lounge, Seoul and  
Bermel von Luxburg Gallery, Berlin  
My Memory-erase and pile up: Byen,ungpil & Seo yu ra, CL art Gallery, Seoul  
2022 FLOWER, CHOI&CHOI Gallery, Seoul  
2021 Dream and enjoy Namhae, Space MIZO, Namhae  
Thank you 2019, Gallery Joeun, Seoul  
Ilpleasures, Chung Art Gallery, Seoul  
HA HA HA, SPACE1326, Seoul  
2020 Ensemble at Hannam 2nd, Gallery Joeun, Seoul  
K-Dementia 2020, COEX D Hall, Seoul  
Memory, Record, Jeondeungsa, Ganghwado  
Pangyo Art Museum, Hyundai Department Store, Pangyo  
Artist research Byen, Ungpil + Yoon, Jongsuk, AIF, Seoul  
Bulhock – Mihockhada, Gallery Joeun, Seoul

- Thank you 2020, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
- 2019 The Forest, Gallery Joeun, Seoul  
Who am I? – good, Indipress Gallery, Seoul  
15C CHULWHA NOW, Arts Center KUH, Daejeon  
11pleasures, Chung Art Gallery, Seoul  
Thank you 2019, Gallery Joeun, Seoul
- 2018 11pleasures, Chung Art Gallery, Seoul  
ART Élysées, Gallery JOEUN, Paris  
START art fair, Saatchi Gallery, London  
The Wind Blows-The 5th ART Vornado, Insa art senter, Seoul  
National Museum of Contemporary Art Art Bank Collection Exhibition, Gangneung Art Center, Gangneung  
100 ALBUMS 100 ARTISTS 2, Avenuel Arthall, Seoul  
Anseong Arthall Grand Open Show with 17Artists, Anseong Arthall, Anseong
- 2017 This is Diptych, Small-museum, Jeongseon  
Revisiting painting arts: Modern Figurative paintings by Korean artists, Cian art museum, Yeong Cheon  
I DREAM, delight square Gallery, Seoul  
Cafe Society, Seoul Museum, Seoul  
100 Albums 100 Artists, AVENUEL ARTHALL, Seoul
- 2016 Thank you 2016, Gallery Joeun, Seoul  
Two Man's Story, ART CENTER KUH, Daejeon  
Korean Contemporary Art: Predict, Propose, Proses, DDP, Seoul  
Selfportrait, Gallery Toast, Seoul
- 2015 2015 <SeMA Artist Guild Art Fair>, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul  
Art Busan 2015, Gallery ARIRANG, Busan  
2015 OCEANUS K-ART, Oceanus Arthall, Busan
- 2014 Korean Portraiture, Beyond Memories, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Wanju  
Family LOVE, Yangpyeong Art Museum, Yangpyeong  
Mince drawing, Creative Space\_P, Busan
- 2013 shoot for Hope, Hankyoung Gallery, Seoul  
Korea Contemporary Art 33, Gangdong Art Center, Seoul  
AMMA UMMA, Korean Cultural Centre India, India  
Art Load 77' Art Fair 2013, Heyri, Paju  
KOREAN ART TODAY, Korean Cultural Centre India, India  
Artwing seoul, seoul metropolitan government, Seoul  
Human, for a While, Culture Factory Osan, Osan  
The Face, Superior Galley, Seoul
- 2012 15th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2012, Bangladesh  
Thoughts on Body, Seoul Olympic Museum of Art, Seoul  
SeMA Youth 2012: 12 Events for 12 Rooms, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul  
Face Unlock, Jang Heung Art Park, Jang Heung  
Korea Gallery Art Fair, Coex (Gallery Hyundai), Seoul  
K ARTSTAR, INSA art senter, Seoul  
JUN DAE MI MUN, Artstar, Gallery JUN, Daegu

- Korea Gallery Art Fair, Coex (Gallery Hyundai), Seoul
- 2011 Korea Contemporary Art, Hottest Young Artist, Hyundai Artscenter, Ulsan  
 Selective Expression of Figures on our Times, Gallery SOHEON, Daegu  
 KIAF, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul  
 I AM A PAINTER, UNC Gallery, Seoul
- 2010 INSA ART FESTIVAL, Gallery Urim, Seoul  
 theirs are beautiful, Gallery D, Gwangju  
 Drawing-The Room of Artists, Topohaus, Seoul  
 Korean Contemporary Art DEFRNSE MECHANISM, Gallery TN, Beijing  
 Korea Contemporary Artists 110, SEJONG CENTER, Seoul  
 IN SPITE OF ART, interalia art company, Seoul
- 2009 Lemon tree, UNC Gallery, Seoul  
 FUSION 304 with 11 Artists, Grimson Gallery, Seoul  
 Nanji-Residency Project, Nanji Gallery, Seoul
- 2008 The Soul of Korean Contemporary Art, INSA Art-center, Seoul  
 9th Cutting Edge, Seoul Auction, Seoul  
 Sweet November, Gallery UNC, Seoul  
 Da Saek Da Gam, Gallery Zandari, Seoul  
 Mirror Image : About a Self Portrait, Seoul Museum of Art  
 Seoul art-fair 2008, Bexco, Busan  
 Star wars episode 1, Gallery UNC, Seoul  
 the boa constrictor that swallowed an elephant, Gallery LEE C, Seoul
- 2007 The Edge of Sensation, Gallery SIMON, Seoul  
 The Best of The Best 20, Insa Art Center, Seoul  
 I & Another me. Daegu MBC-Gallery M, Daegu  
 VOLTA SHOW03, Basel  
 KIAF, doART GALLERY, Seoul
- 2006 HYBRID, Seoul arts Center, Seoul  
 Trend-Spotting 2006, Gallery HYUNDAI, Seoul  
 P & P, Gallery Zandari, Seoul/ Gallery Space ium, Beijing
- 2005 Between reality and fiction, I:een PICTURA, Dordrecht  
 Bauzaun-project, Sparkasse Münster, Münster  
 Fiesta!, Gallery Annie Gentils, Antwerpen  
 Exhibitionist-stefanie klingemann, Münster  
 Kunstbombe 2005, Flottmann-Halle, Herne  
 ADO Kunstpreis 2005, auf Gut Altenkamp Aschenberg  
 Foto Antwerpen 2005, ""between reality and fiction"" Gallery Lokaal 01, Antwerpen  
 Grosse Kunst Ausstellung NRW 2005' Messe 8, Düsseldorf
- 2004 Rein aeusserlich, Gallery Open Art, Borken  
 Malerei 04' Kunsthalle Recklinghausen  
 Grosse Kunstausstellung' Kunsthalle Villa Kobe, Halle(Saale)  
 Kunstbombe 2004' Flottmann-Halle, Herne  
 Art-fair Koeln 2004, Palladium Köln, Cologne  
 Leere und Vision, Das Quatier Radewig Herford



- Freundschaftspiel' Dolmabahce-Serail Museum, Istanbul
- 2003 Welde art award 2003' Weldebrau Plankstadt, Schwetzingen  
Kunstakademie MSx4' Gallery F6-Kuenstlerdorf Schoeppingen  
Kunstbombe 2003' the artfair in Revier Flottmann-Hallen Herne
- 2002 Aus bei mit nach von zu seitExhibition of young artist' Künstlerhaus, Dortmund  
Inter cult 2002' Benno-Haus Münster
- 2001 Slide-Project' Hawerkamp, Münster  
Action "a sky, a earth, a mankind'" Duesseldorf(Shadowplatz)  
Korean art group 0082, Kunstverein Ochtrup, Germany  
Class-Exhibition (Prof. Paul Isenrath)' Herford-Stadtmuseum  
Film-Festival 2002' Münster  
Exhibition-Support award of the Academy of Arts' Münster, Haverkamp Münster
- 2000 Gif-Animation' Hawerkamp, Münster, Münster

#### **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES**

- 2008/09 Nanji Art Studio(Seoul museum of art), Seoul, Korea
- 2006 Emerging Artist Fellowship, Arts Council Korea
- 2005 ADO Art Award 2005, Germany
- 2004 Kunstaspekte-Art Award, Germany
- 2003 Second Award, Kunstbombe 2003, Germany  
Emerging Artist Fellowship for foreign student, DAAD, Germany
- 2002 Support Award of the Academy of Arts Muenster, Germany

#### **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

- National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea  
Jeollanam-do Museum of Art  
Seoul Museum of Art  
Seoul Museum  
OCI Museum of Art  
Incheon Foundation for Arts and Culture  
Museum MARTA Herfod, Germany  
Supreme court of NRW, Germany