



Thomas Wachholz and David Renggli

Cha Cha Cha

Gallery exchange with WENTRUP, Berlin

June 30 - July 31, 2021

Matchboxes are a dying relic from a time when smoking in public and especially in cafes, restaurants, and bars was still unrestricted and consequently much more widespread than it is today. The ephemeral matchbox very quickly developed into a form of free souvenir that, charged with individual memory, still connects the owner years later with the personal visit experience coupled to space and time. Over the decades, a discipline related to the collection of matchboxes developed in the form of phillumeny.

This background opens up both a starting point and a frame of reference for the series of works on view at Nino Mier Gallery in which Thomas Wachholz deals with the cultural artifact of the matchbox on both a conceptual and painterly level.

In the early phase of the series, the artist focused primarily on participatory and processual elements. For several years, however, painting itself has become increasingly important. Starting from his matchbox collection, the artist deals with the found pictorial and color worlds as well as their compositions. In doing so, he develops them further to a point where they become independent of the original designs and turn into independent painterly subjects. A new, abstract repertoire of colors and forms emerges in the process, which the artist repeatedly samples and condenses into new compositions.

The artist breaks down the motif of the matchbox into its essential components:

A square or transverse rectangular shape (the box), a motif on it (the label), and a monochromatic – occasionally honeycomb or diamond-patterned – russet bar (the striker). Only through the functional striker does the overall composition become a universal matchbox form that is recognizable to the viewer. Over the years, the striker has detached itself from the block-like design feature located next to the motif in order to mix with the pictorial elements in the new works and take on its own geometric-abstract forms. In doing so, over time, they have become increasingly detached from any mimetic moments and function merely as “echoes of modernist abstraction” (Wachholz). Nevertheless, the artist continues with ‘classical’ matchbox-like paintings as well.

Since 2020, the paintings now feature matches themselves. Similarly, as previously described for the boxes, the artist has reduced them to their essential graphic components: white lines end at one end with an oval colored dot and thus become immediately recognizable as an image of a match. In the motivic repetition in some of the paintings themselves, they recall a box opened upside down, its matches scattered on the floor. The striker breaks away from its original blocky shape and transforms into a square net that seems to float above the canvas.

The appropriation and reinterpretation of everyday and art-historically traditional visual languages can also be found in David Renggli's work.

His series of the Desire Paintings are already a priori inscribed with a poetic and humorous dimension by their location of the word 'desire' in the title. These are medium to large format paintings of silhouette-like silhouettes and geometric forms on wood, framed in an object frame and covered on their upper edge with a coarse-meshed jute net. The fibrous jute fabric is also painted, which results in an overlapping of the motifs on different image planes. The spacing of these and the transparency of the coarse-meshed jute netting create an interesting optical effect as soon as the viewer moves in front of the work.

The artist detaches himself from the usually assumed relatively static way of looking at a painting and a processual moment is inscribed in it with the reception. Depending on the viewing angle, new visual experiences arise for the work. The artist thus dissolves the modernist dictum of the ideal (frontal) viewer location since both levels shift spatially against each other. The overlapping of the motifs creates new images and color effects. Renggli employs the aesthetics of decorative design and craftsmanship, which he fuses with references to geometric abstraction. In doing so, he challenges the tradition and authority of abstract painting, which was adopted very early into the decorative canon of interior design.

The usually two-dimensional layout of a painting is extended by another plane, resulting in an impression reminiscent of a hybrid between painting and relief. In addition, the coarse-meshed jute fabric acts like a kind of burning glass, seeming to dissolve the color that supports it like a grid while at the same time revealing a view of the colored forms beneath.

In a figurative sense, Renggli's works make use of the most diverse clichés of longing. His motifs spring from common stereotypes of (art) fantasies, notions of the idyllic and (tourist) places of longing. He breaks them up into their individual parts, reassembles them to let new, abstract images of aspiration emerge in the spaces thus created.

The hanging of Wachholz and Renggli's double exhibition defies the standards usually found in galleries and museums. Instead of hanging the individual works next to each other on an imaginary line through the center of the picture, thus ensuring the best possible neutrality for the single work and thus optimal conditions for viewing, the works are distributed on the walls at different heights. In this way, the presentation is more reminiscent of a Petersburg hanging. It thus plays with conventions on the level of presentation as well, evoking a playful lightness that is equally inherent to both artists.

-Text courtesy of WENTRUP, Berlin



Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



Thomas Wachholz

Aquarium, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

70 7/8 x 65 3/4 in

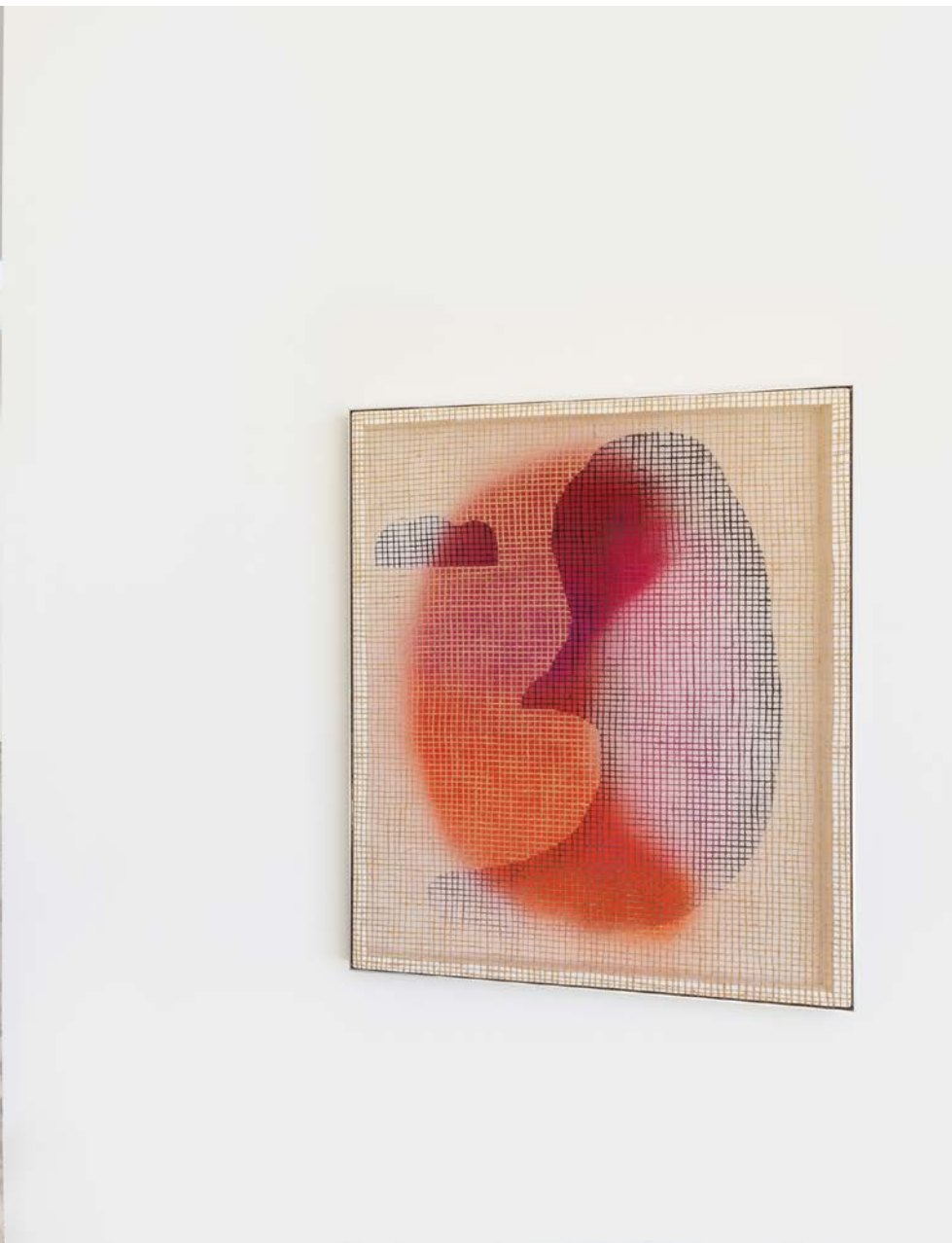
180 x 167 cm

(TW21.026)

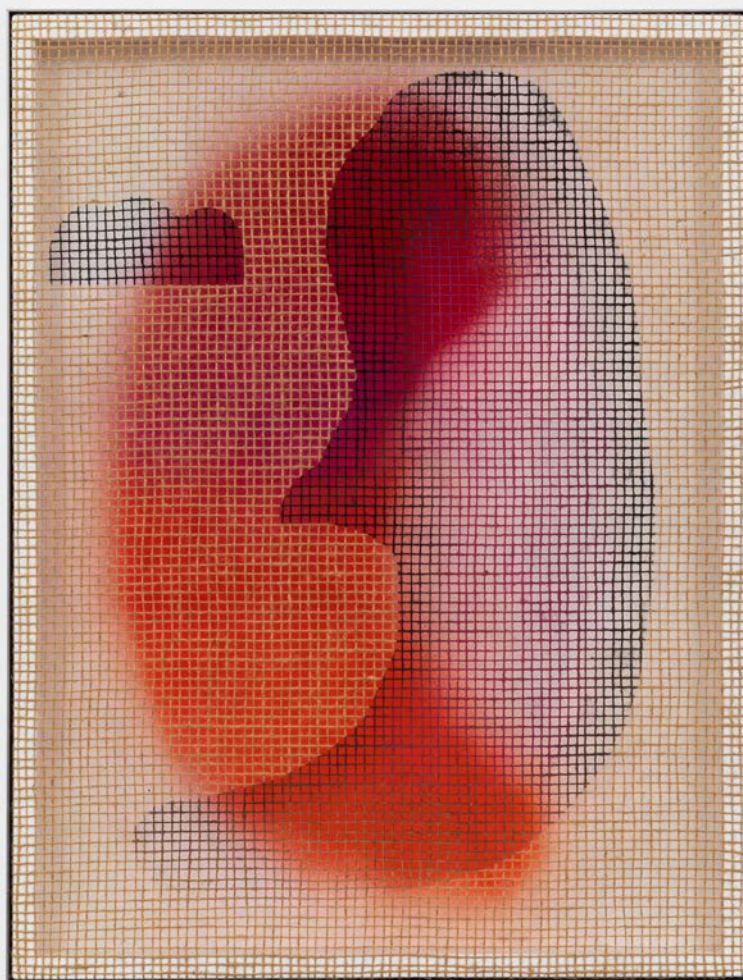




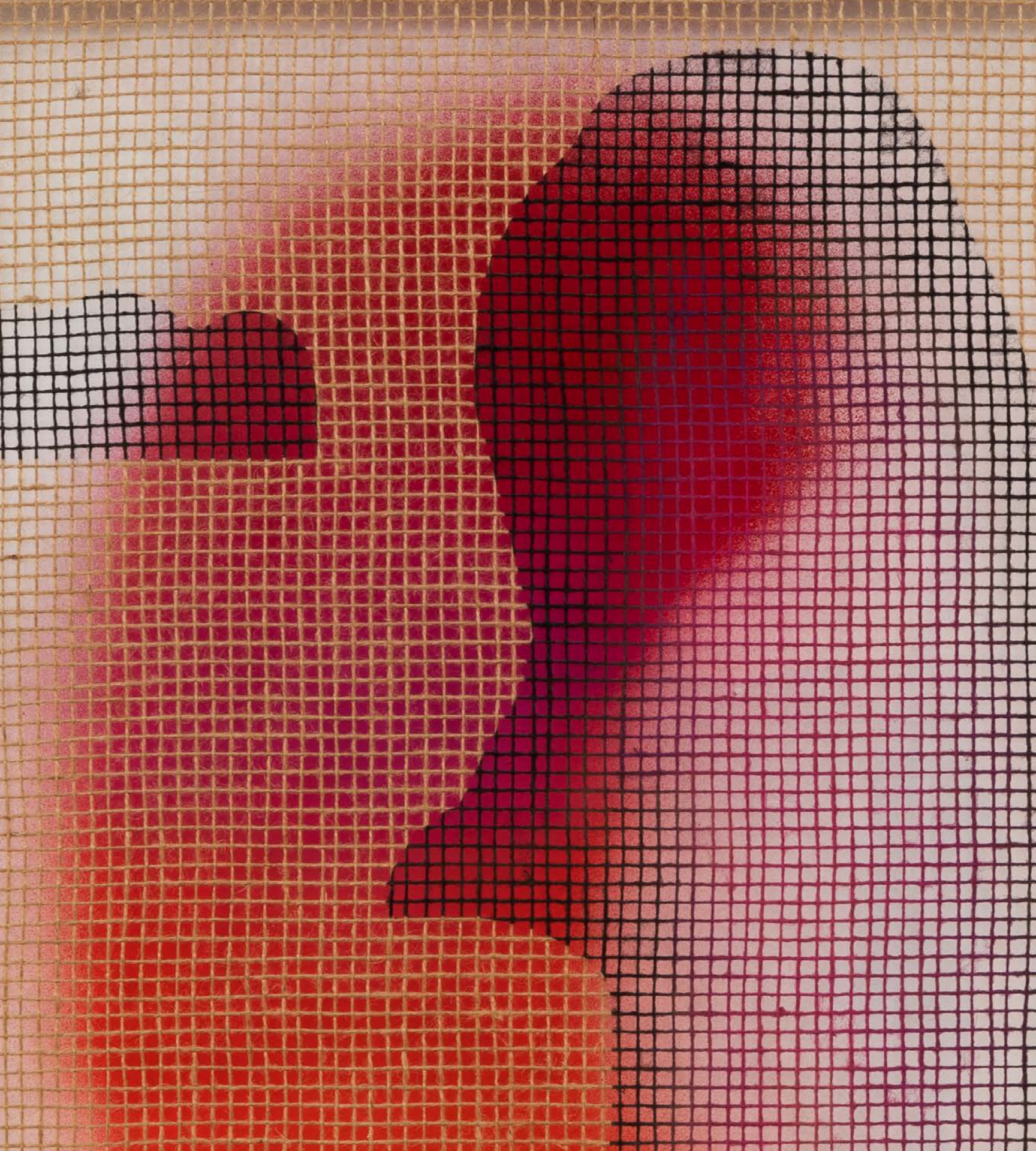
Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



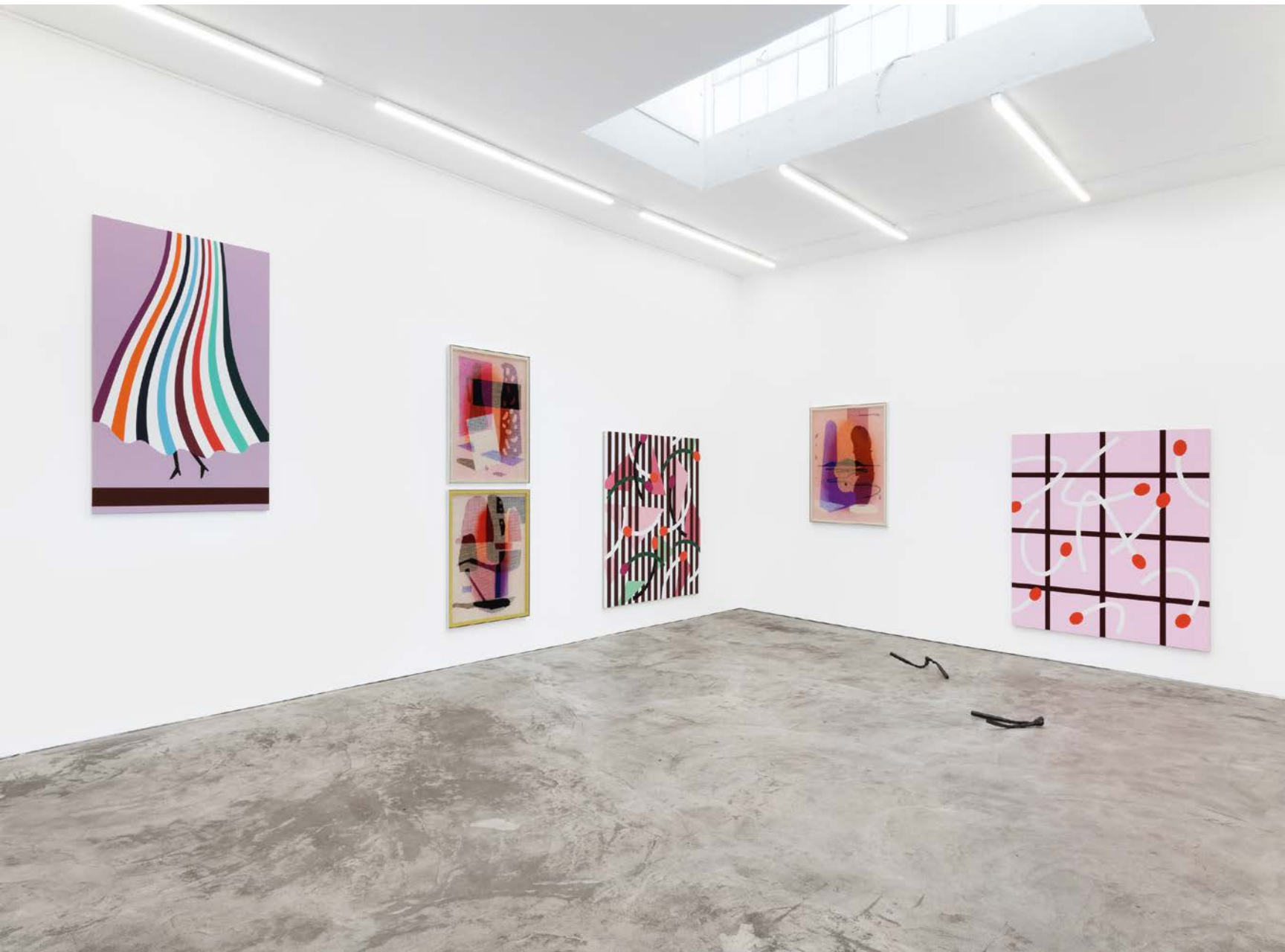
David Renggli
Desire Painting (Pronome), 2021
Acrylic on jute mesh and wood
31 7/8 x 41 3/4 in
81 x 106 cm
(DR21.002)





Thomas Wachholz
Untitled, 2021
Bronze sculpture
19 3/4 x 15 3/4 x 9 7/8 in
50 x 40 x 25 cm
Edition of 3
(TW21.034)





Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



Thomas Wachholz

Colette, 2021

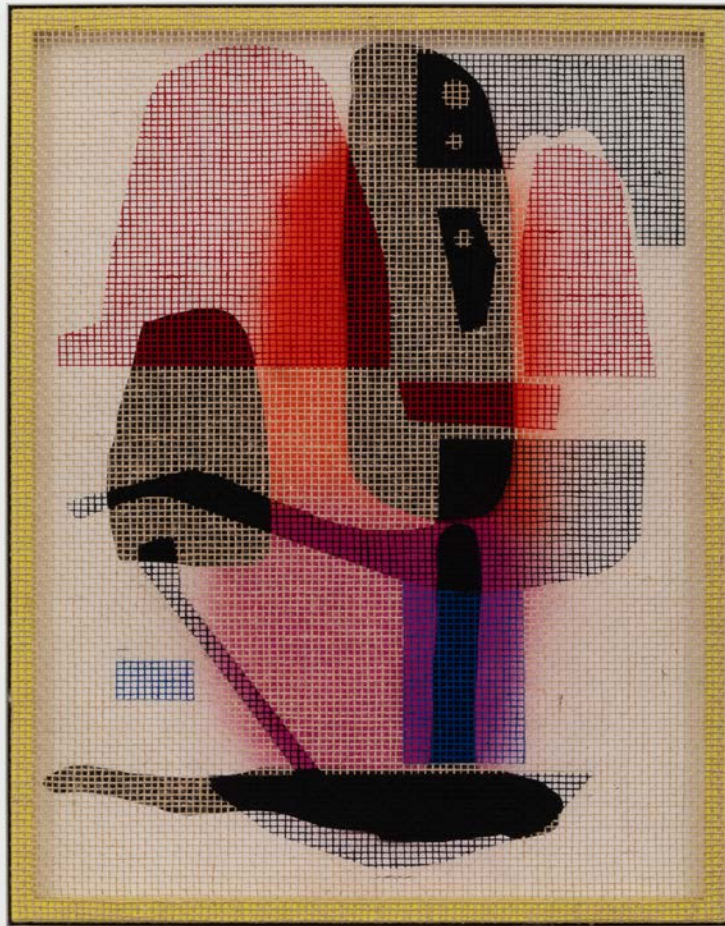
Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

70 7/8 x 43 1/4 in

180 x 110 cm

(TW21.021)





David Renggli

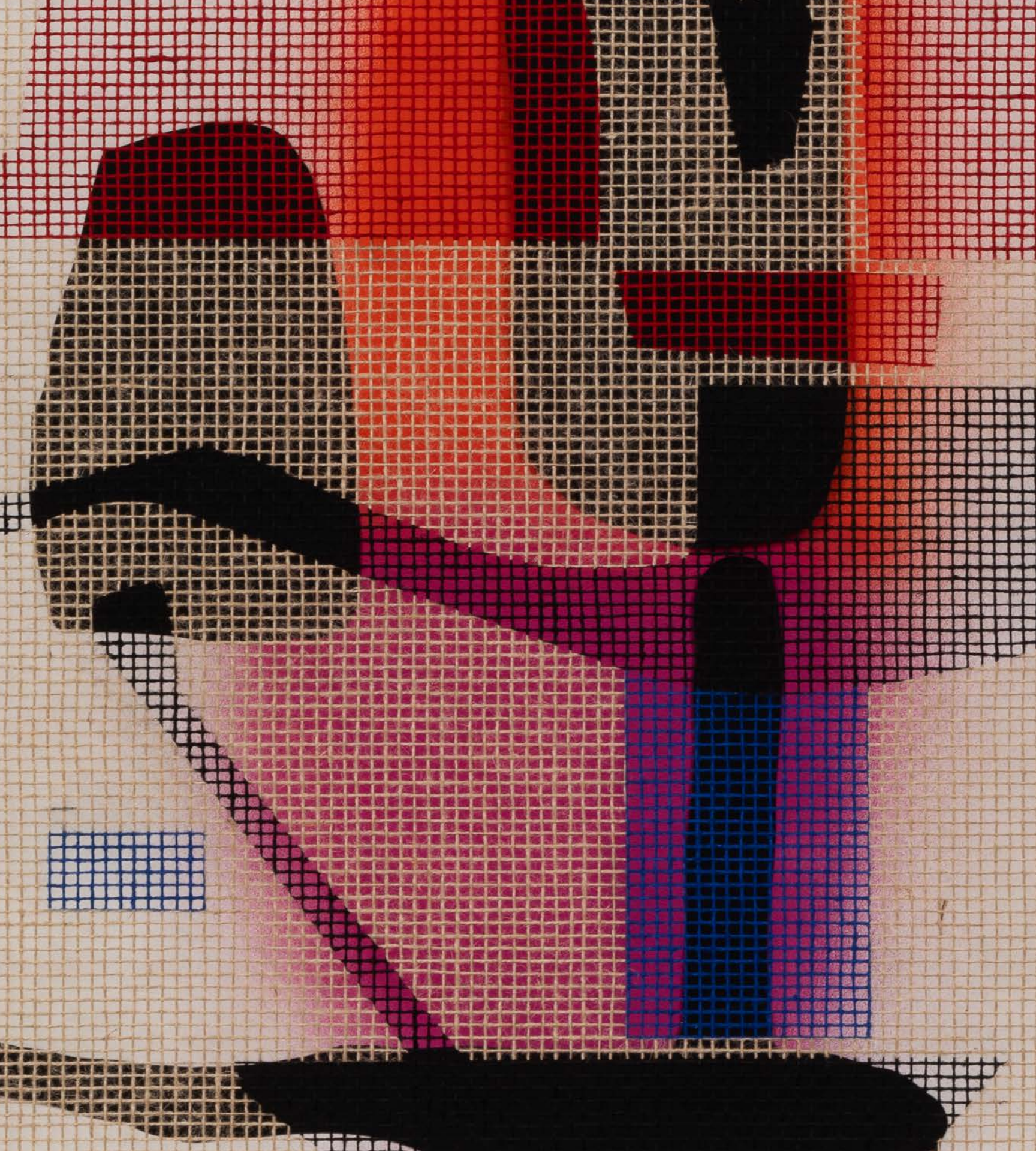
Desire Painting (Tropilliana), 2021

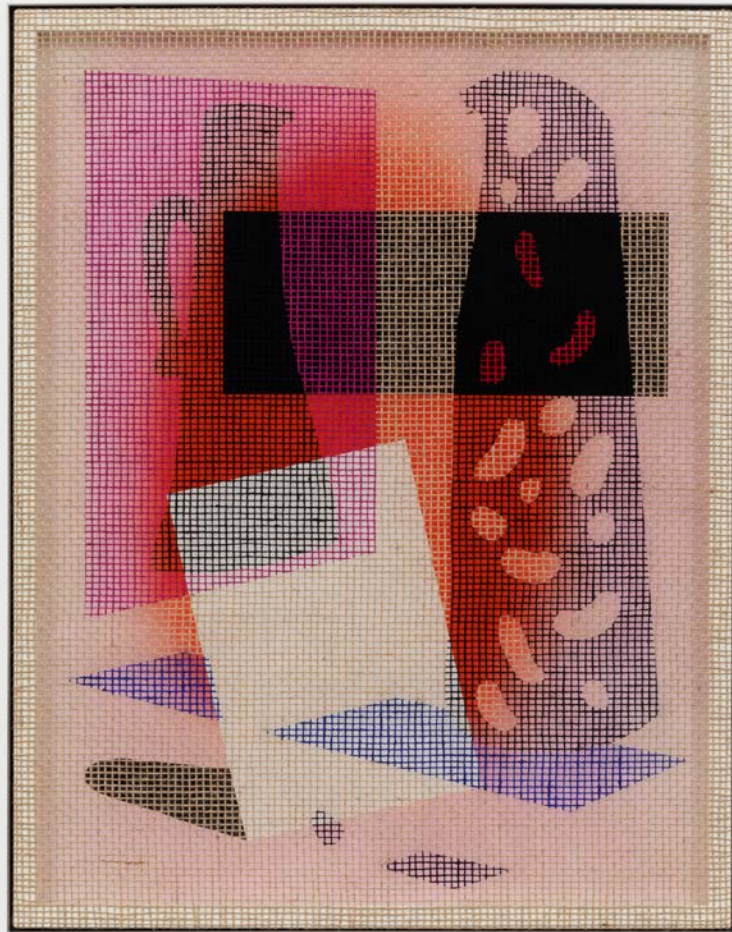
Acrylic on jute mesh and wood

35 7/8 x 45 5/8 in

91 x 116 cm

(DR21.004)





David Renggli

Desire Painting (Vasilliaris), 2021

Acrylic on jute mesh and wood

35 7/8 x 45 5/8 in

91 x 116 cm

(DR21.003)





Thomas Wachholz

Bourbon Street, 2021

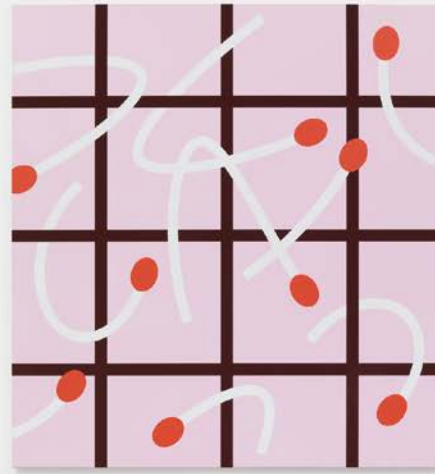
Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

78 3/4 x 70 7/8 in

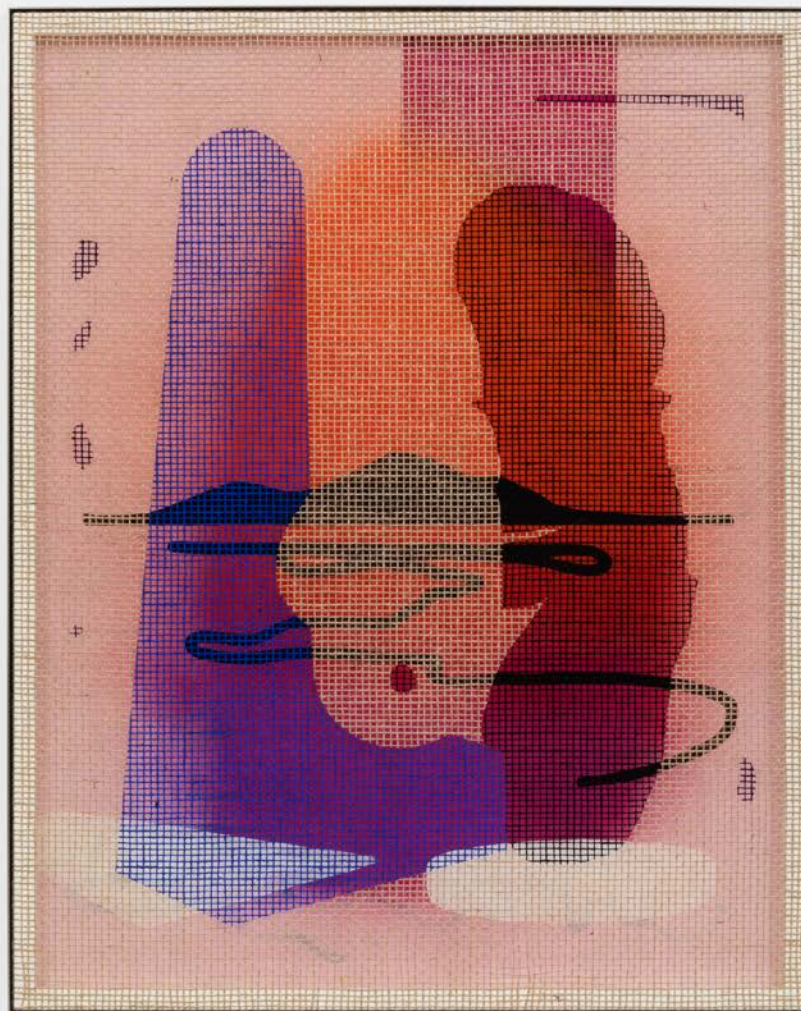
180 x 110 cm

(TW21.025)





Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



David Renggli

Desire Painting (Two Wenira), 2021

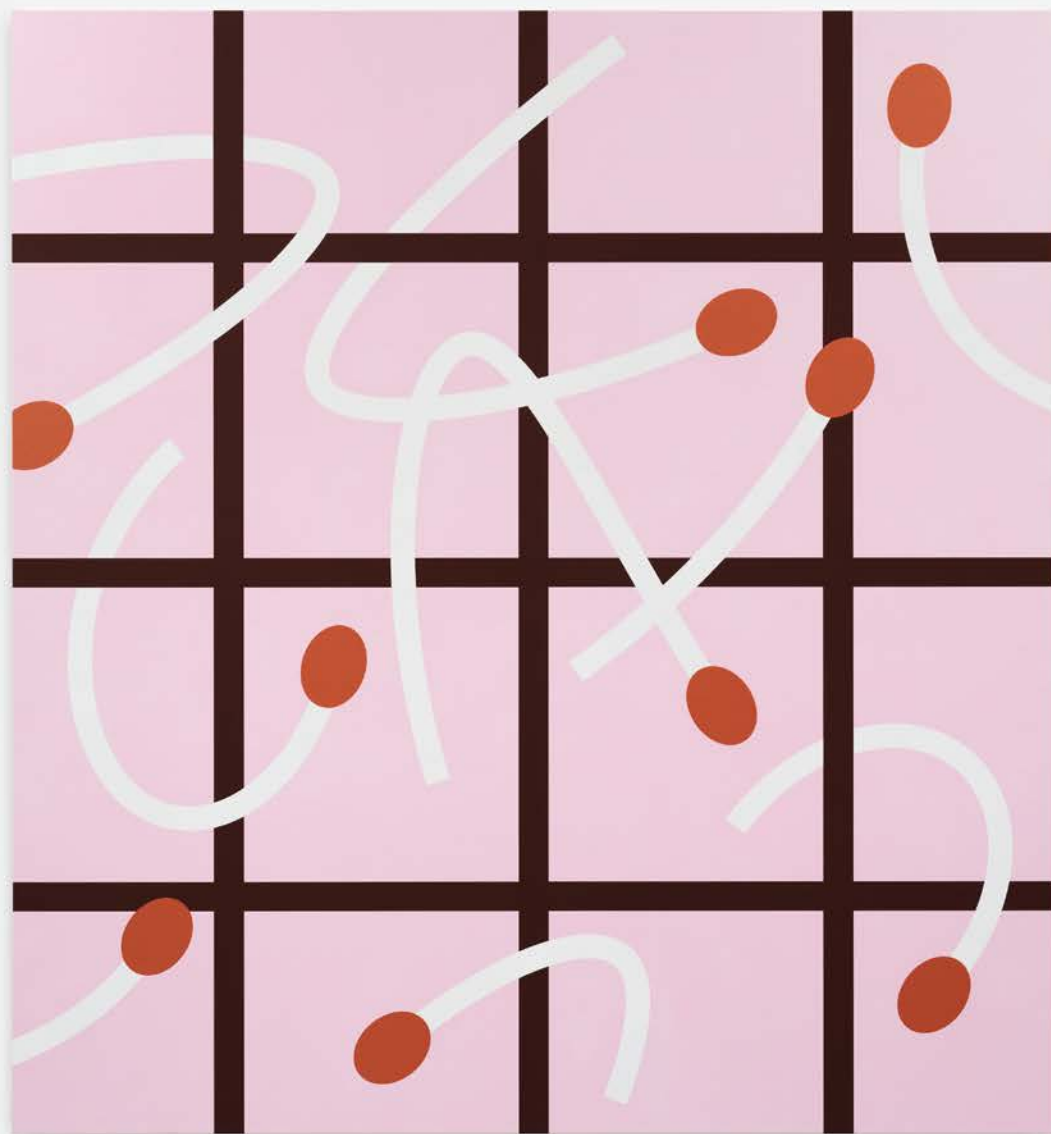
Acrylic on jute mesh and wood

41 x 51 5/8 in

104 x 131 cm

(DR21.005)





Thomas Wachholz

Pink Panther, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

70 7/8 x 65 3/4 in

180 x 167 cm

(TW21.028)





Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



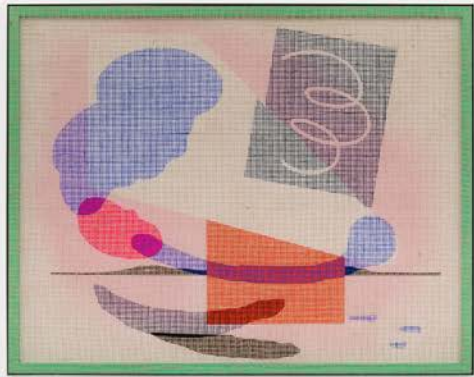
Thomas Wachholz
Untitled, 2021
Bronze sculpture
19 3/4 x 15 3/4 x 9 7/8 in
50 x 40 x 25 cm
Edition of 3
(TW21.030)



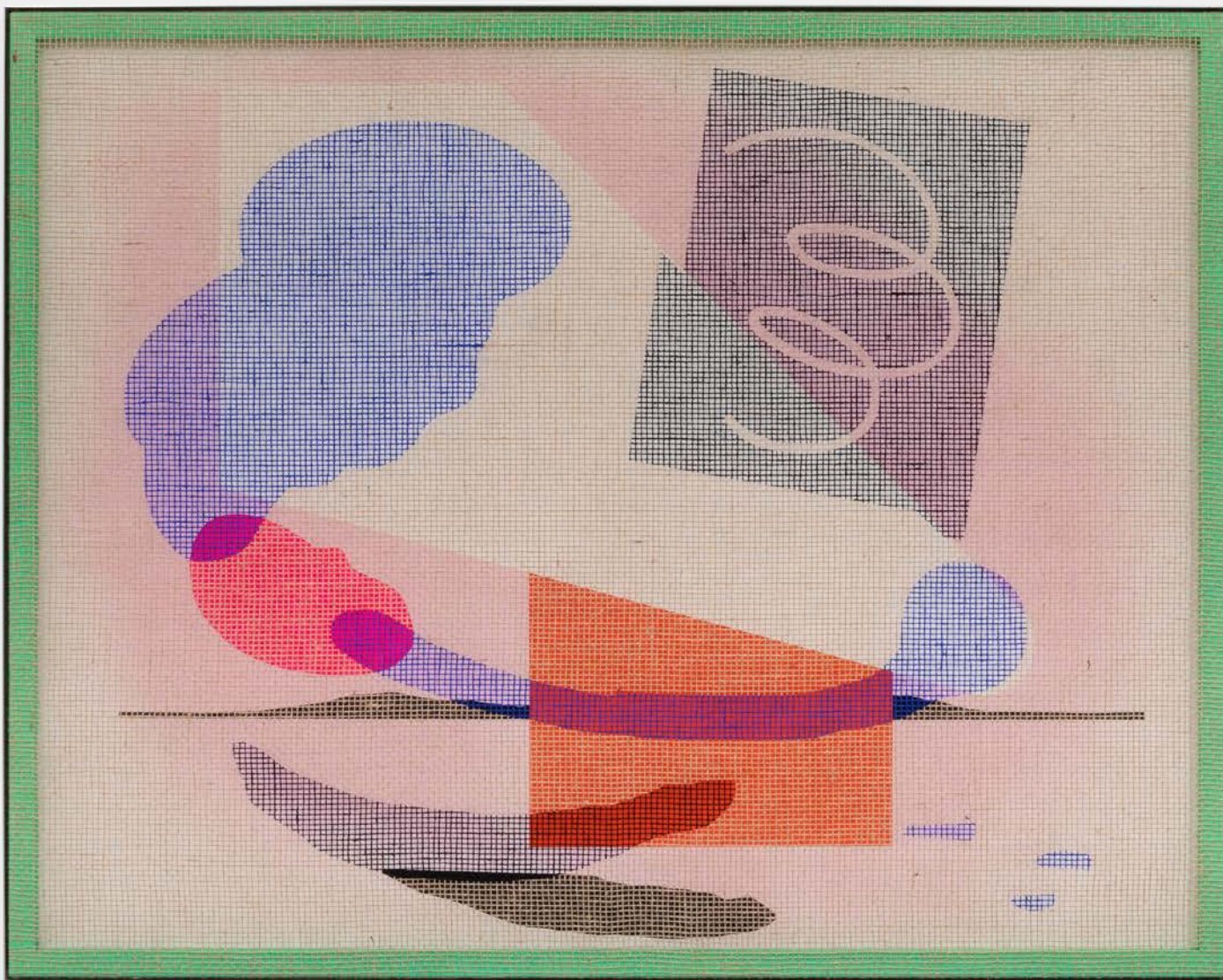


Thomas Wachholz
Untitled, 2021
Bronze sculpture
19 3/4 x 15 3/4 x 9 7/8 in
50 x 40 x 25 cm
Edition of 3
(TW21.031)





Installation view of Thomas Wachholz | David Renggli - *Cha Cha Cha*



David Rengli
Desire Painting (Stralenderio), 2021
Acrylic on jute mesh and wood
59 7/8 x 75 5/8 in
152 x 192 cm
(DR21.001)





Thomas Wachholz

Each way, every day, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

65 3/4 x 70 7/8 in

167 x 180 cm

(TW21.022)





Thomas Wachholz

Snack bar, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

70 7/8 x 65 3/4 in

180 x 167 cm

(TW21.027)





Thomas Wachholz

Blue Note, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

55 1/8 x 43 1/4 in

140 x 110 cm

(TW21.029)





Thomas Wachholz

Can I help, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

55 1/8 x 39 3/8 in

140 x 100 cm

(TW21.033)





Thomas Wachholz

Nefertiti, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

51 1/8 x 27 1/2 in each

130 x 70 cm each

(TW21.023)





Thomas Wachholz

„*Whaaat*“, 2021

Red phosphorus and acrylic on linen

78 3/4 x 35 3/8 in

200 x 90 cm

(TW21.024)





THOMAS WACHHOLZ

Born 1984 in Germany
Lives and works in Cologne, Germany

EDUCATION

2016 Meisterschüler / Master class of Prof. Katharina Grosse
2011 – 2016 Art Academy Düsseldorf with Prof. Marcel Odenbach, Prof. Katharina Grosse
2011 University degree / diploma, communication design
2006 – 2011 Communication design, University of applied Science Düsseldorf

GRANTS & AWARDS

2016 Atelierstipendium Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, DE

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2019 CAPRI, Kunstverein Heppenheim, Heppenheim, DE
Books and Boxes, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US
2018 Soft Painting, Galerie Lange + Pult, Zürich, CH
2017 LIGHT, Natalia Hug, Cologne, DE
Fire Walk with Me, Ung5, Cologne, DE
2016 Strike Gently, Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US
2015 Whiteout, Nymphius Projekte, Berlin, DE
2014 Alcohol Works, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, CA, US
Reibfläche, RaebervonStenglin, Zürich, CH
2013 Alkoholarbeiten, An der Schanz, Cologne, DE

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2021 *Nino Mier Gallery hosting WENTRUP Gallery*, Thomas Waccholz |David Renggli,
Los Angeles, CA,
2019 The Abstract Cabinet, Eduardo Secci Contemporary, Florence
Wer kann, der soll, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
Rämistrasse 27, Galerie Lange + Pult, Zurich, Switzerland
Neighbours 8, Riot, Gent, Belgium

- 2018 NAK Benefiz Auktion, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany
Ansichtssache. Wie Bilder warden, Kunstraum Alexander Bürkle, Freiburg, Germany
Burnt it !, Krefelder Kunstverein, Krefeld, Germany
Ausstellung zur Benefizauktion, Kunsthochschule für Medien, Kunsthaus Lempertz, Cologne
Neighbours 7, Jan Colle Gallery, Gent, Belgium YOUTOO, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, Germany
- 2017 Jahregaben 2017, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, DE
Unpacking: The Marciano Collection, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA, US
OG OPEN, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, DE
Close Up: The ROCCA Foundation Dresden / Berlin, K Galerie Gebr. Lehmann, Dresden, DE
WAHNSINN, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, DE
Marcel Breuer, Paul Czerlitzki, Jana Schröder, Thomas Wachholz, Natalia Hug, Cologne, DE
- 2016 Wertical I, Michael Horbach Foundation, Cologne, DE
Running Time, Marres Currents #4, Maastricht, NL
NAK Benefizauktion, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, DE
The Snoring Princess, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, DE
hues, tints, tones, Soho House West Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA, US
- 2015 Artists against Aids, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE
Rundblick 2015, Kunstverein Kirschenpflücker, Cologne, DE
Against Automatism, fused space, San Francisco, CA, US
First Flush, Bayer Kulturhaus, Leverkusen, DE
20 Jahre Kunstgruppe, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, DE
5 Years ReabervonStenglin, ReabervonStenglin, Zürich, CH
- 2014 TAU, KIT - Kunst im Tunnel, Düsseldorf, DE
Not Abstraction, Yves Klein Archive, Paris, FR
Backward / Forward, New Galerie, Paris, FR
daseinsamegenie..., Baustelle Schaustelle, Essen, DE
On & On & On, kunstgruppe, Cologne, DE
Shortcuts, Videos in Art, Chu Galerie, Cologne, DE
- 2013 abstract on paper, Galerie Chaplini, Cologne, DE
17/13, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, DE
- 2012 Full House, Kunstgruppe, Cologne, DE

COLLECTIONS

Deji Art Museum, Nanjing China



DAVID RENGGLI

Born 1974 in Zurich, Switzerland

Lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland and Texas, USA

GRANTS & AWARDS

2011 Swiss Art Awards, Basel

2007 Art Grant of the town of Zurich

Swiss Art Awards, Basel

2006 UBS Young Art Award

Art Grant of the town of Zurich

2005 Art Grant of the town of Zurich

SOLO SHOWS

2021 Tobias Müller Modern Art, Zurich, Switzerland

2020 SUV Paintings, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany

Bongos at the Lido, Villa Merkel, Esslingen, Germany

2019 Florian Meisenberg & David Renggli, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany

2018 Mid-Century Consensus, Chez Valentin, Paris, France

2017 Mulholland Melody, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany

2016 Sunshine on Fruits, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich, Switzerland

Real Estate Astrology, Chez Valentin, Paris, France

2014 Flamingo Blue Jeans Penis, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich, Switzerland

2013 Two Melons and 1 Banana, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany

Scaramouche, Kunsthalle St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Mia Marfurt & David Renggli, Kunstverein Galerie Münsterland, Emsdetten, Germany

2012 Drums, please!, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany

David Renggli - The Charme of Ignorance, Museum im Bellpark, Kriens, Switzerland

Galerie Chez Valentin, Paris, France

2010 SPAGAHETTI, Chez Valentin, Paris, France

Groundhog Day [with Cristian Andersen], Associazione Barriera, Torino, Italy

2009 Dichte Fichten Dichten Dich, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany

Im Dunkeln sieht man die Licht, Fri-Art, Kunsthalle Freiburg, Switzerland

Hocus Pocus Out Of Focus [with Cristian Andersen], Museum Kunstraum Baden, Baden, Germany

2008 Ivresse au Cognac, Chez Valentin, Paris, France

2007 You're Only Once, Twice my Age, ausstellungsraum25, Zurich, Switzerland

Arm Holds Hand, Alexandre Pollazzon Ltd, London, Great Britain

- Lieber eine umgebaute Haus al seine umgebaute Mann [with Steffen Koohn], Binz 39, Zurich, Switzerland
 You, Can you Recommend Your Psychiatrist?, Via Farini, Milano, Italy
 2006 Leihgabe ans Nichts, Kunsthalle Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
 Van Zoetendaal Collections, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 The Night it Suddenly Became Bright Again, Flaca, London, Great Britain
 Sometimes Sunday is on Tuesday, Chez Valentin, Paris, France
 2005 Homage an die Interpretation der Zeit, La Rada, Locarno, Italy
 2004 The irony of Schicksal, Ausstellungsraum25, Zurich, Switzerland
 2002 Retrospektive David Renggli, Messagesalon, Zurich, Switzerland

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

- 2021 David Renggli & Thomas Wachholz, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany
 David Renggli & Thomas Wachholz, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 ABSTRAKT, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany
 Spirit of the KINDERGARTEN, Kasteel Wijlre, Wijlre, The Netherlands
 2020 Zoom in Zoom out, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany
 Sculpture & nature, Schlossgut Schwante, Oberkrämer, Germany
 2019 Les Enfants de Saturne, Le Musée d'art contemporain de la Haute-Vienne = Château de Rochechouart, Rochechouart, France
 Copines – Copains – Berlin, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany
 Concrete Contemporary, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland
 Wege zur Welt – Sammlung Hildebrand, G2 Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany
 2018 Das Wort, Strauhof, Zurich, Switzerland
 [theoretisch] endlos, Andrew Mealar, Cristian Andersen, David Renggli with Peles Empire (cur. By Peles Empire), KARST, Plymouth, Great Britain
 Cross the breeze, Valentin, Paris, France
 Papier.Salon., WENTRUP, Berlin, Germany
 2017 Un Coup de Coeur, curated by Danielle van Ark and Thomas Raat, Maison van Doesburg, Meudon, France
 Ein Augeschein von 1944-2017, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland
 Europe in China, curated by Christophe Menager, Qingdao Sculpture Gallery, Qingdao, China
 Ever Cult its Castle, Sammlung Philara in der Spinnerei Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
 Von Pablo Picasso bis Robert Rauschenberg. Schenkung Céline, Heiner und Aeneas Bastian. Hommage à Ingrid Mössinger, Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, Chemnitz, Germany
 L'Été plus vaste que l'empire..., WENTRUP und WNTRP, Berlin, Germany
 Valentin @MonCherie, MonCherie, Brussels, Belgium
 2016 Show Divers, Valentin, Paris, France
 Le Parcours Saint-Germain 2016. Sns Limites: De object a l'oeuvre, Parcours Saint-Germain, Paris, France

2015 Fracas, Off, curated by Chantal Berdugo, Art Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
Why we expect more from technology and less from each other, [Verena Dengler, Florian Meisenberg, David Renggli, Gabriele de Santis], Wentrup, Berlin, Germany
Ordne und find emit, Philara, Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst, Düsseldorf, Germany
Art Parcours, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Lokaltermin Schwamendingen, Galerie Tene, Schwamendingen, Switzerland

COLLECTIONS

Bächler Stiftung, Zurich, Switzerland
Collection La Luxembourgeoise SA d'Assurances, Luxembourg Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
FRAC Nord de Palais, Dunkerque, France
Kunsthaus Zurich, Switzerland
Kunstmuseum Berne, Switzerland
Kunstsammlung Chemnitz, Germany
Lumas Collection, Zurich, Switzerland
Migros Museum, Zurich, Switzerland
Museum Bellpark Kriens, Switzerland
Rosenblum Collection Paris, France and Singapore
Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf, Germany
The Pizutti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH

