



JUNE CRESPO

**AAAAHHH!!
• PARIS
INTERNATIONALE**

P420



SHAFEI XIA

JUNE CRESPO

(1982, Pamplona, ES)
- lives and works in Bilbao, ES)

June Crespo's practice is a sensual analysis of contemporary models of representation, commenting on the actual and symbolical dynamics enveloping the female body (visible for example in the incorporation of magazines catering to a female audience in her sculptural sets). Crespo's interest in the concrete and corporeal conditions of the object/body, as well as in the immaterial contexts where it circulates and shifts, questions contemporary life's composite configuration made out of material and discursive dynamics.

June Crespo obtained her BFA from the Universidad del País Vasco and she recently completed a residency at De Ateliers (Amsterdam).

Upcoming shows

June Crespo, CA2M, Madrid, ES (solo, 2023);
June Crespo, Guggenheim Bilbao, ES (solo, 2023);
June Crespo, P420, Bologna (solo, 2022).

Ongoing shows

Eclettica!, Museo Ettore Fico, Torino, IT (2022);
Afterimage, MAXXI, L'Aquila, IT (2022); *The milk of dreams*, 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Venezia, IT (2022).

Recent solo shows

entre alguien y algo, CarrerasMugica Gallery, Bilbao, ES (2022); *Am I an Object, part III, P/////* AKT, Amsterdam, NL (2021); Heinrich Ehrhardt, Madrid, ES (2020); *Helmets*, Artium, Vitoria, ES (2020); *No Osso*, A Certain Lack of Coherence, Porto, PT (2019); *Foreign Bodies*, P420, Bologna, IT (2018); *To be two*, CarrerasMugica, Bilbao, ES (2017); *Chance Album No1*, etHALL, Barcelona, ES (2016); *Kanala*, MARCO, Vigo, ES (2016); *Cosa y tú*, CarrerasMugica, Bilbao, ES (2015).

Recent group shows

Fata Morgana, Festival Jeu de Paume, Paris, FR (2022); *Itinerarios XXVI*, Fundación Botín, Santander, ES (2021); *El Sentido de la Escultura*, Fundación Miró, Barcelona, ES (2021); DucatoPrize, Volumnia, Piacenza, IT (2021); *Panorama Madrid 01*, Centro Centro, Madrid, ES (group, 2021); *Grounded*, Berthold Pott, Cologne, DE (2021); *Aliento*, NoguerasBlanchard, Barcelona, ES (2021); *E subito riprende il viaggio*, P420, Bologna, IT (2020); *Lifting Belly*, CentroCentro, Madrid, ES (2020); *Across the sand*, CentroCentro, Madrid, ES (2020); *En caída libre*, CaixaForum, Barcelona, ES (2019); *9Kg de Oxigénio*, Galeria Municipal do Porto, Porto, PT (2019); *In free fall*, CaixaForum, Barcelona, ES (2019); *Assistants of the void*, Galerie Nächst St. Stephan-Rosemarie Schwarzwälder, Vienna, AT (2019); *Una dimensión ulterior, Aproximaciones a la escultura contemporánea en España*, Museo Patio Herreriano, Valladolid, ES (2019); *Un amor salvaje que arruina nuestra paz*, Inéditos 2019, Casa Encendida, Madrid, ES (2019); *Les escenas: 25 anys després. Escena 5: Estrats*, La Capella, Barcelona, ES (2019); *Parentescos: John Coplans, June Crespo, Florian Slotawa*, Galerie Nordenhake, Mexico City, MX (2019); *Drowning In a Sea of Data*, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, ES (2019); *Después del 68. Arte y prácticas artísticas en el país Vasco 1968-2018*, Fine Arts Museum Bilbao, ES (2018); *Querer Parecer Noche*, CA2M, Madrid, ES (2018); *Internal view*, Galeria Stereo, Warsaw, PL (duo show with Piort Jonas, 2018); Final Exhibition of Paulo Cunha & Silva Art Prize, Galeria Municipal Do Porto, Porto, PT (2018); y es-



cucho tus pasos venir, Heinrich Ehrhardt Gallery, Madrid, ES (2018); *Deep State*, De Ateliers, Amsterdam, NL (2017); *Generación 2017*, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, ES (2017); *Hyperconnected*, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, RU (2016); *fluxesfeverfuturesfiction*, Azkuna zentroa, Bilbao, ES (2016); *Wild Things*, The Green Parrot,

Barcelona, ES (2014); *Hitting it off*, P-exclamation, New York, NY (2014); *Pop Politics*, CA2M, Madrid, ES (2012).

Recently Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid purchased a work by her from the series *Helmets*.



June Crespo, *Il latte dei sogni / The milk of dreams*, installation view, 2022, La Biennale di Venezia, Venezia, IT



June Crespo, **Untitled 1**, 2022
bronze, ceramic coat, 115 × 125 × 55 cm



detail



detail



detail



June Crespo, **Untitled 2**, 2022
bronze, ceramic coat, 130 x 122 x 60 cm



detail





detail



different view



June Crespo, **Back of the tongue**, 2022
fabric, steel, 90 × 100 × 83 cm



side view





different view



different view

SHAFEI XIA

(1989, ShaoXing, CN

- lives and works in Bologna, IT)

Irreverent, amusing, impertinent, erotic, but extremely refined. The painting of Shafei Xia is elegant and refined, like that of the Japanese *shunga* or the Chinese erotic paintings of the 1800s, though it also reminds us of the cultured narcissism of Luigi Ontani, with its citations and oriental overtones.

The main theme of this series of recent works, made with a very particular technique – all watercolors on sandalwood paper stretched on canvas – is love, experienced as desire, jealousy and violence, represented explicitly or symbolically, depending on the case, as an omnipresent feature of the work of Shafei. The artist often represents herself as a tiger, a symbol of power and instinctive force, which in Chinese alchemy indicates the active principle, energy as opposed to the passive principle. In the work *Welcome to my show*, while all the musicians gravely play their instruments, a tiger hugs the bass violin (an instrument usually played by men) while a naked woman conducts the orchestra, showing the audience her ample backside. An ironic swapping of roles between men and women and between human beings and animals, inside a setting – that of the concert hall – that has great importance in the history of western art. There is nothing boring or ordinary in Shafei Xia's painting: the artist inserts something unexpected in her colorful depictions, forcing us the peer behind the curtains or to look carefully into porcelain plates, where beside tomatoes and grapes (which symbolize sexuality, fertility and abundance) we find fish bones, a sign of danger, while a couple joins in a tender embrace. It is told that Picasso, in 1945, said to Brassai, showing him the erotic prints of Utamaro: "Art is never chaste. Where it is chaste, it is not art," remarking on how the sexual organs were clearly visible, yet stripped of any vulgarity. The same can be said for the works of Shafei Xia, which though speaking of sexual desire and appetites, never lose their delicacy in the treatment of faces, in the description of nude bodies, in the movements and poses of animals and the representation of settings. Because, as Shafei told me regarding the concert: "when everyone plays seriously, I am the tiger, but I am also the orchestra conductor who creates problems. To break the boredom."

text by Maura Pozzati

Shafei Xia was born in ShaoXing, China, in 1989. After graduating in set design from ChongQing University, in 2013 she turned down a steady job in her native city to move to Shanghai, where after various experiences her first sale of a work enabled her to "catch the scent of freedom in the air," as she writes. She moved to Bologna and earned a degree at the Fine Arts Academy in 2020. In 2019 she won the Talent Prize of Fondazione Zucchelli per l'Arte.

Ongoing shows

Mutaforma. Mutazioni ceramiche del codice CZ, Alchemilla, Bologna, IT (2022).

Recent shows

Per una nuova scultura. Sperimentazioni e traiettorie lungo la via Emilia, Festa de l'Unità provinciale di Modena, Ponte Alto, Modena, IT (2022); *It is Better to be Cats than be Loved*, Tabula Rasa Gallery, London, UK (2022); *Passando davanti alla mia finestra*, P420, Bologna, IT (solo, 2022); *quel jour sommes-nous?*, Tokonoma, Kassel, DE (2022); *Il giardino dell'arte. Opere, collezioni*, Centro Pecci per l'Arte Contemporanea, Prato, IT (2022); *Fiaba d'autunno*, Museo Carlo Zauli, Faenza, IT (solo, 2021); *Shafei Xia – Assolo #1*, Francesca Antonini arte contemporanea, Roma, IT (solo, 2021); *Principessa Shafei*, Palazzo Borromeo, Milano, IT (solo, 2021); *DANAE REVISITED*, Fondazione Francesco Fabbri, Pieve di Soligo (TV), IT (2021); *Welcome to my show*, P420² – Project room (solo, 2020); *Abitiamo il mondo*, Lunetta11, Mombarcaro (CN), IT (2020); *Decadent gaming*, Linseed, Shanghai, CH (2020); *Rifugio*, Nelumbo Open Project, Bologna, IT (2020); *Sedimenti #2*, Sala del



torrione, Castelnuovo Rangone (MO), IT (2020); *L'oro d'Oriente. Fusioni, migrazioni, contaminazioni*, Crete piece unique, Bologna, IT (2020); *Arte fiera*, Fondazione Zucchelli stand, Bologna, IT

(2020); *Habitat. Dialoghi tra arte e natura a Palazzo Magnani*, Palazzo Magnani, Bologna, IT (2019); *La natura delle cose*, Mtn\Museo Temporaneo Navile, Bologna, IT (2019).



Shafei Xia, *Passando davanti alla mia finestra*, installation view, 2022, P420, Bologna, IT

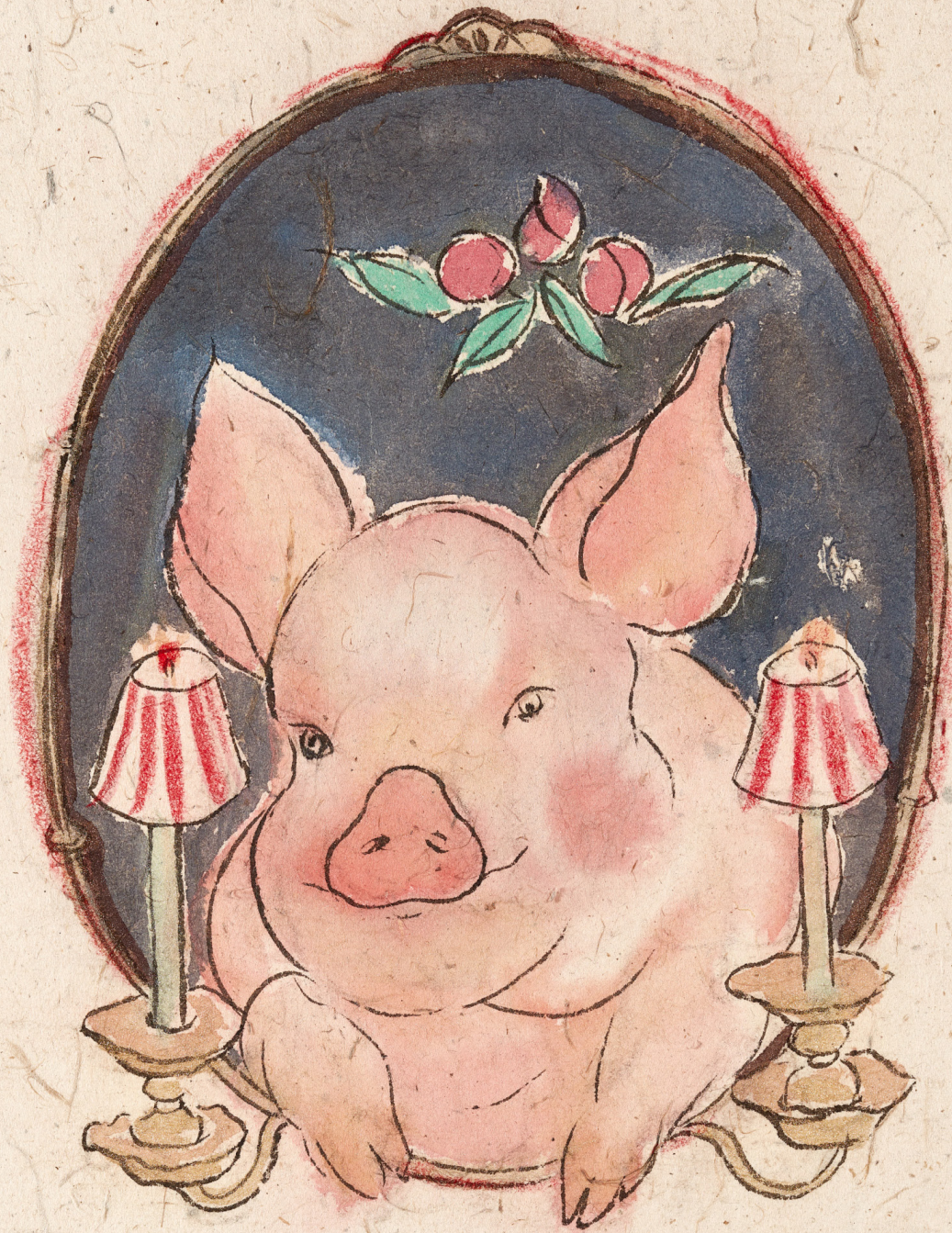


Shafei Xia, *Like a song, like a dream*, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 120 × 245,5 cm





side view





different view



Shafei Xia, **Il mondo dentro**, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 117,5 × 120,5 cm





side view



detail



different view



Shafei Xia, **The silence afternoon**, 2021
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 108 × 119,5 cm



detail



side view





different view



Shafei Xia, **Dolce far niente**, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 118 × 92 cm



detail

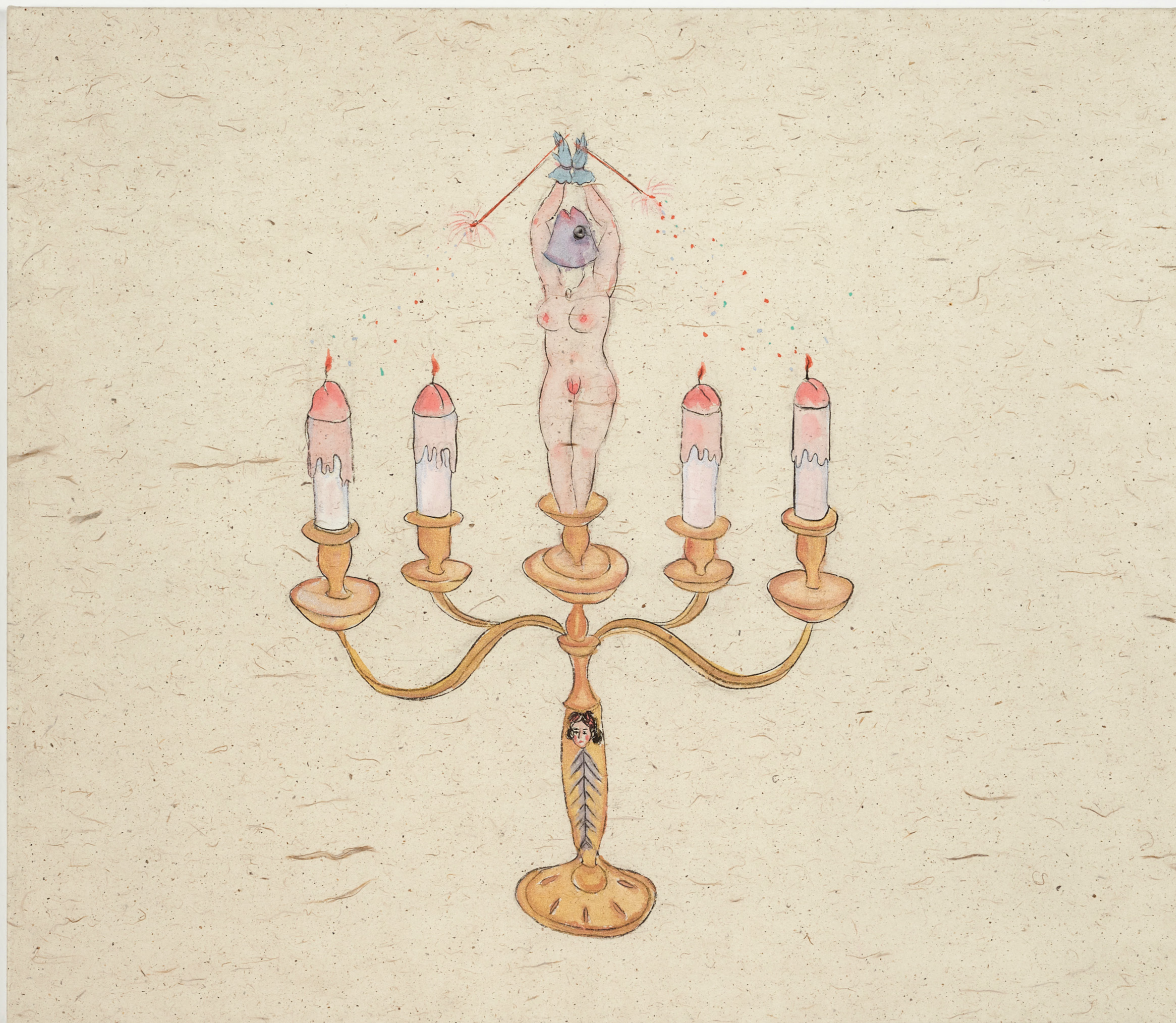


side view

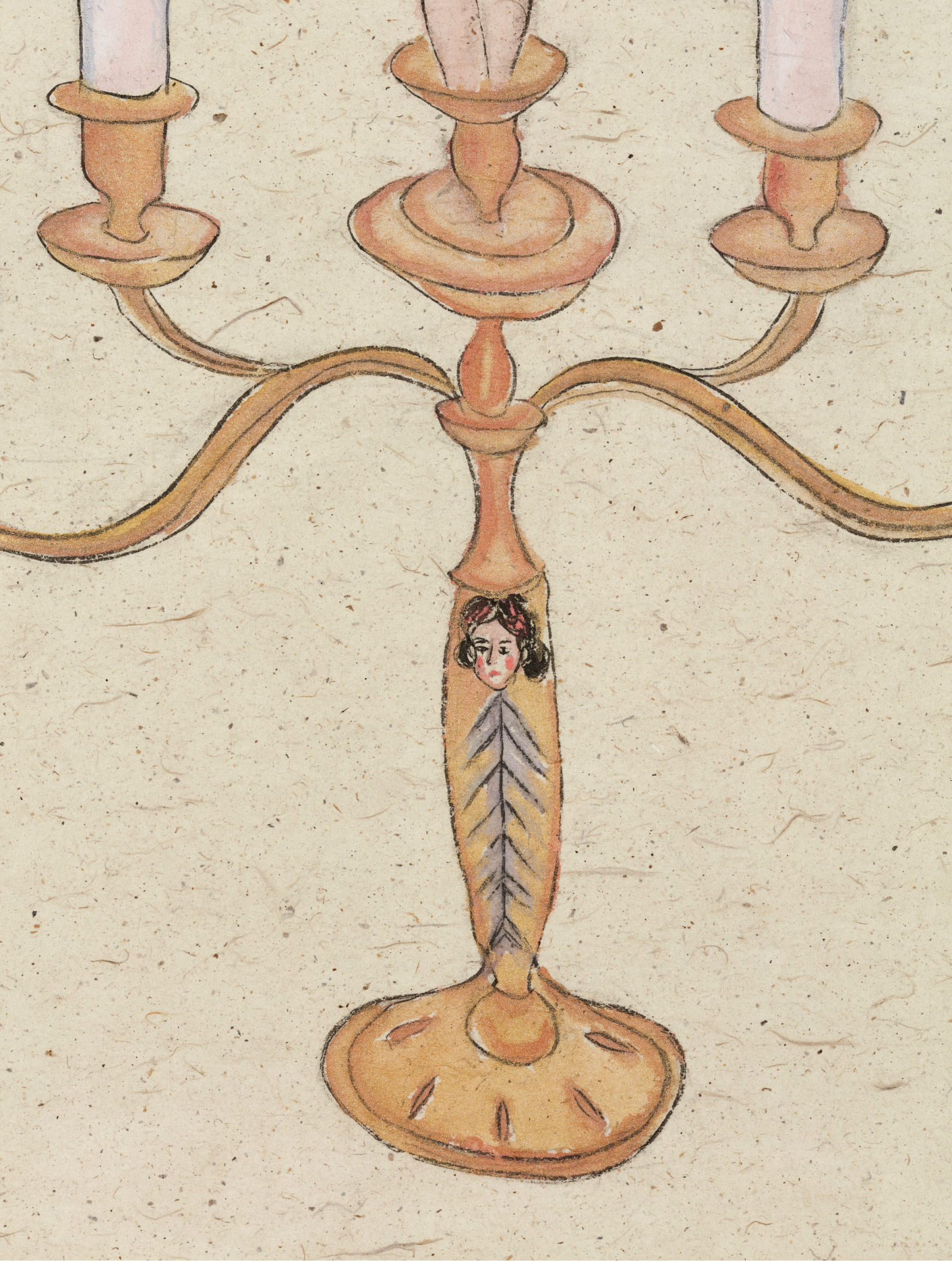




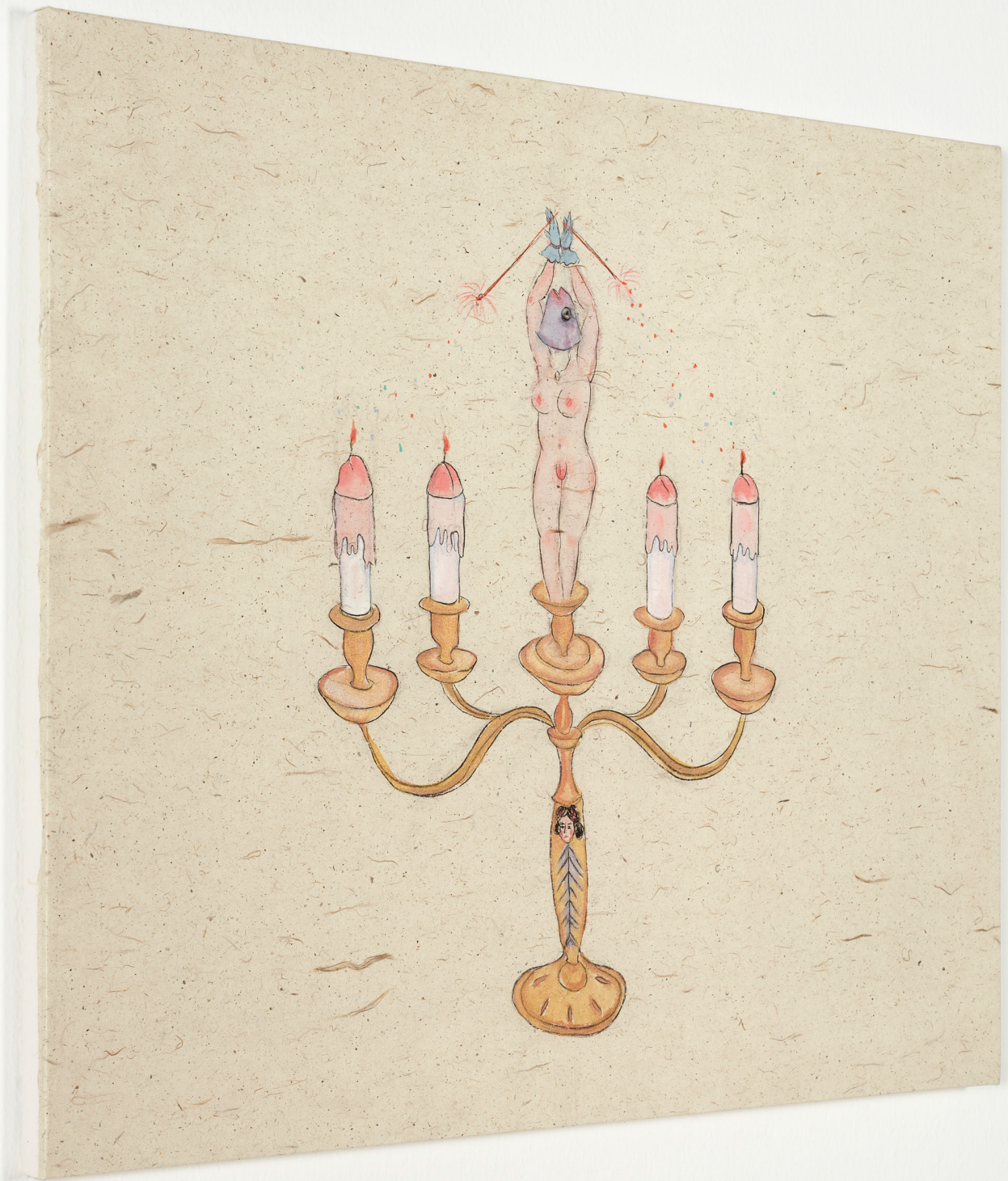
different view



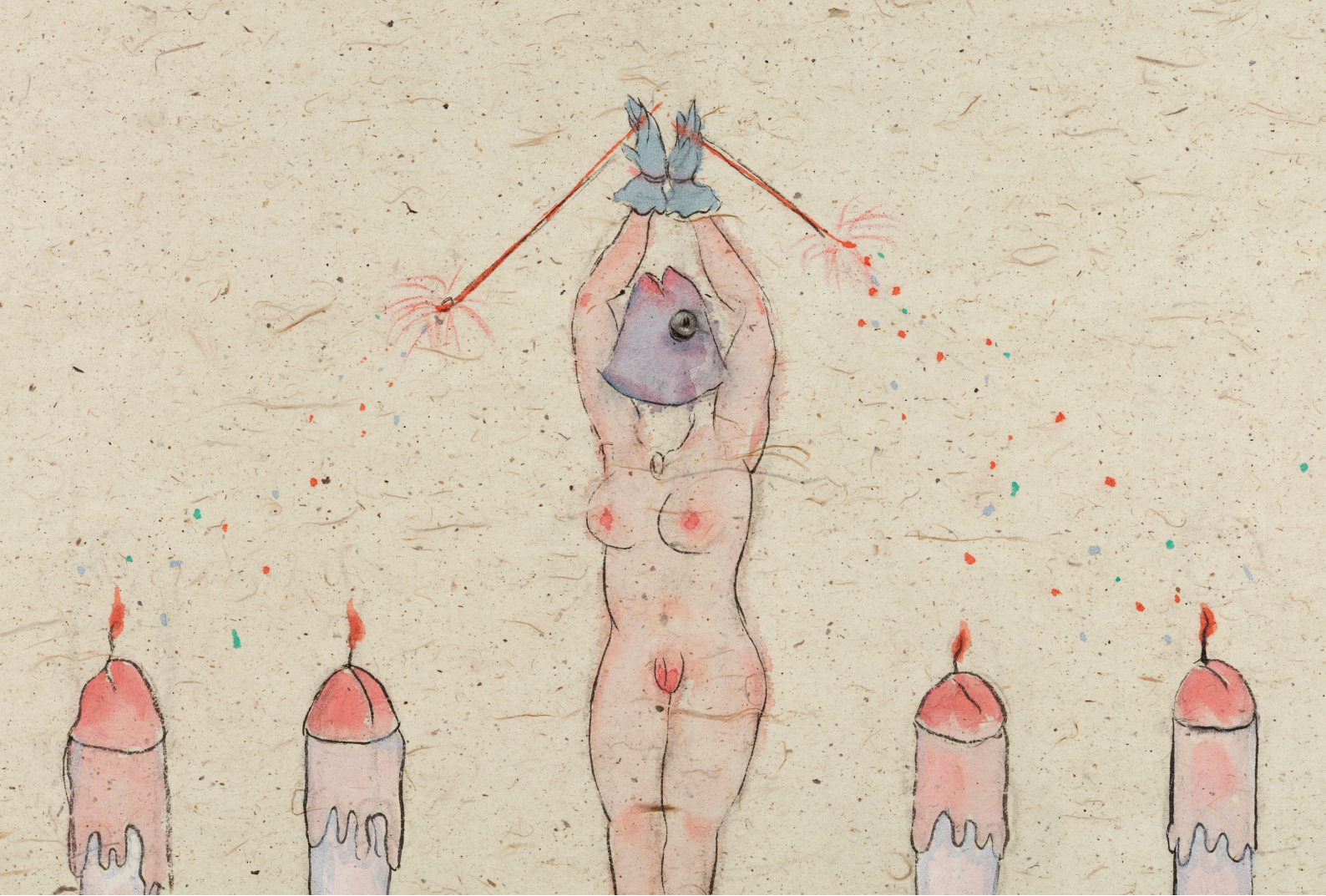
Shafei Xia, **Candele**, 2021
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 65 x 75 cm

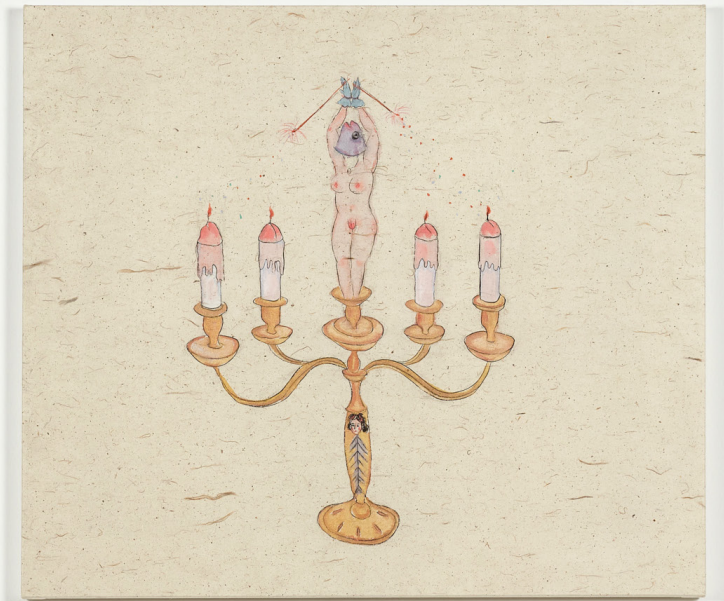


detail



side view





different view



Shafei Xia, **Nice moment**, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 36 × 50,5 cm





side view



Shafei Xia, **Comfortable**, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 33 × 49 cm





side view



Shafei Xia, *Dance on your heart*, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 41 x 30 cm





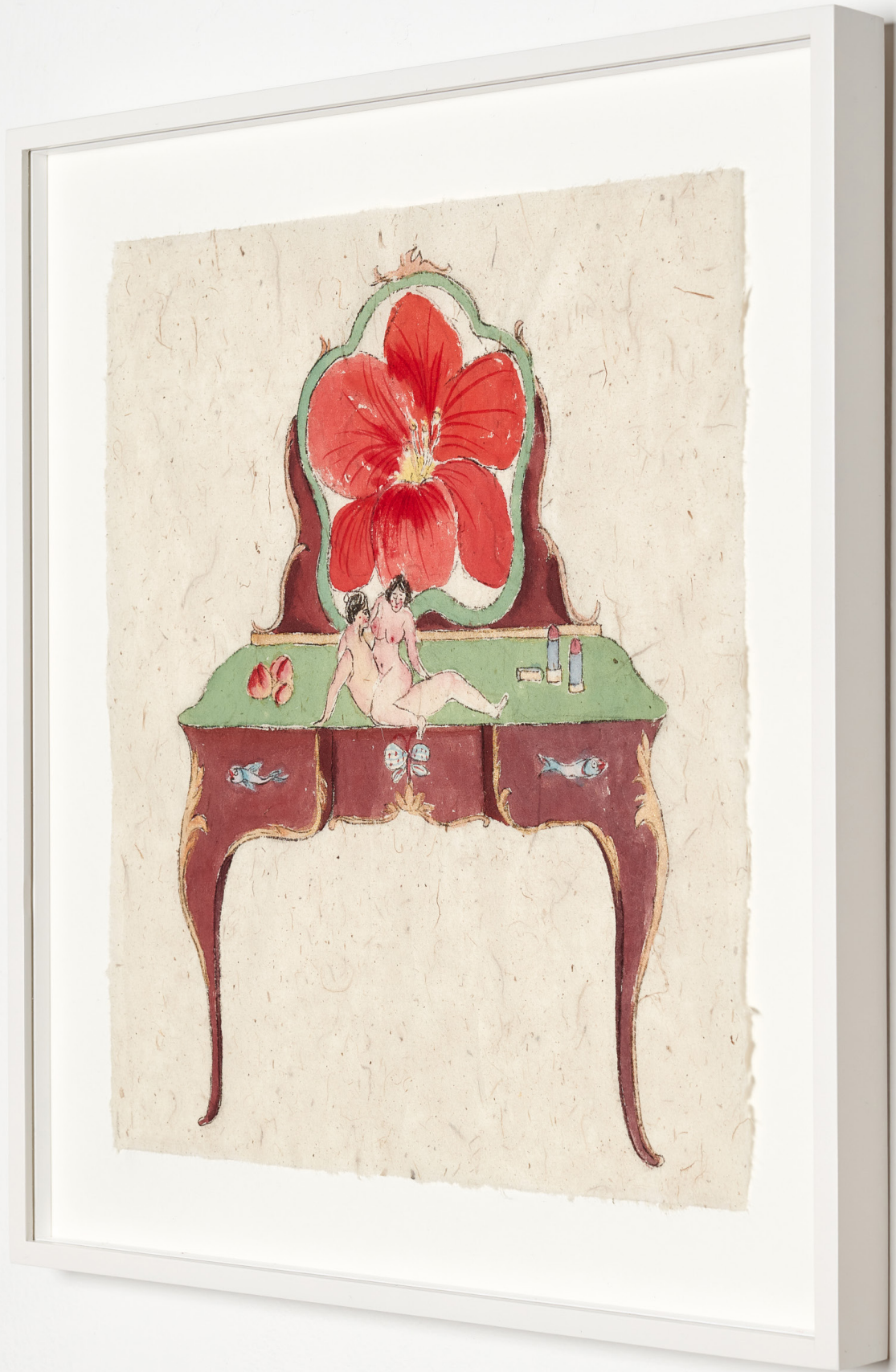
side view



Shafei Xia, **Dresser**, 2022
watercolor on sandal paper mounted on canvas, 30 × 25 cm



detail



side view



Shafei Xia, **You and me**, 2022
painted and glazed ceramic, 125 × 55 × 4 cm



detail



side view



Shafei Xia, **Ho fame**, 2022
painted and glazed ceramic, 94 × 55 × 3 cm



detail



Shafei Xia, **The second Montagna**, 2022
painted and glazed ceramic, 13,5 × 44 × 22 cm



detail



Shafei Xia, **Leave us alone**, 2022
painted and glazed ceramic, 22 × 20 × 32 cm



different view



detail



different view



Shafei Xia, **Crema**, 2022
painted and glazed ceramic, 4 × 20,5 × 32,7 cm



detail



different view



Shafei Xia, **Paul**, 2022
painted and glazed ceramic, 5 × 7 × 12,5 cm



detail



different view

P420 was founded in Bologna in 2010 by Alessandro Pasotti and Fabrizio Padovani, and is located at Via Azzo Gardino since January 2016. Working with artists from even widely separate generations, P420 examines the relations between languages belonging to different periods, with the aim of bringing out their continuously timely pertinence. P420 collaborates directly with the artists, or with their heirs and the foundations that represent them.

In 2020 P420 opens P420², a new project space devoted to a great extent to the discovery of young and emerging artists. P420² intends to break down the barriers between virtual and real. The carefully selected artists will have the possibility to make a debut on a hybrid exhibition platform, simultaneously live and online, which we might call “onlife”, to borrow an apt definition from the philosopher Luciano Floridi.