

PHILIPPZOLLINGER

**CASSIDY TONER: ALMOST XEROX**  
Oct 27 - Dec 02, 2023

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Humor is scarce in the arts, but with Cassidy, it almost becomes its own medium as well as a weapon. Through her work, she explores comic tropes and genres as a strategy to reflect on the art world, its absurdities, and her own professional itinerary as an artist. Staging herself or an alter-ego in her works, she turns art into a wannabe comedy show where she's her own character trying to make it as an artist. And like in good sitcoms, failure becomes the essential trigger for cathartic laughter. Cassidy's works are often quite self-explanatory, and this should come as no surprise. Indeed, it is common knowledge that the more you try to make sense of a joke the less funny it becomes. Here, laughter simply appears as the best response to an art world that often takes itself way too seriously, but it is also a powerful tool, as corrosive as it is unifying, to alleviate the numbing anxiety fueled by the success imperative of a highly competitive milieu that made a specialty of disguising its arbitrariness and bias under the pretense of merit. What Cassidy seems to do with her art is to anticipate her own fails and to preventively laugh about it, with us. It is as generous as it is sometimes hermetic, and you're all welcome to join us for a good laugh. Text by Simon Würsten Marin

Cassidy Toner was born 1992, in Baltimore and lives in Basel. In 2018, Toner graduated from FHNW Institute Kunst. Recent solo and duo exhibitions include at All Stars (Lausanne 2023); PHILIPPZOLLINGER (Zurich, 2022); Castiglioni (Milan, 2022); Sgomento Zurigo (2021); KunstRaumRiehen (2021); PHILIPPZOLLINGER (Zurich, 2019) and Saint Luke (Zurich, 2019). In addition, she has participated in numerous group shows, such as at Swiss Institute (New York, 2020); Kunsthalle Basel (2019); KunstRaumRiehen (2019); C.Rockefeller (Dresden, 2019); Yverdon Art Center (2019); Kai Matsumiya (New York, 2019); Kunsthalle Freiburg (2018); Wallriss (Freiburg 2018) and Kunsthaus Baselland (2018). In 2018, Toner was the recipient of the Kunstkredit Award in Basel and in 2021, of the Kiefer Hablitzel Prize.

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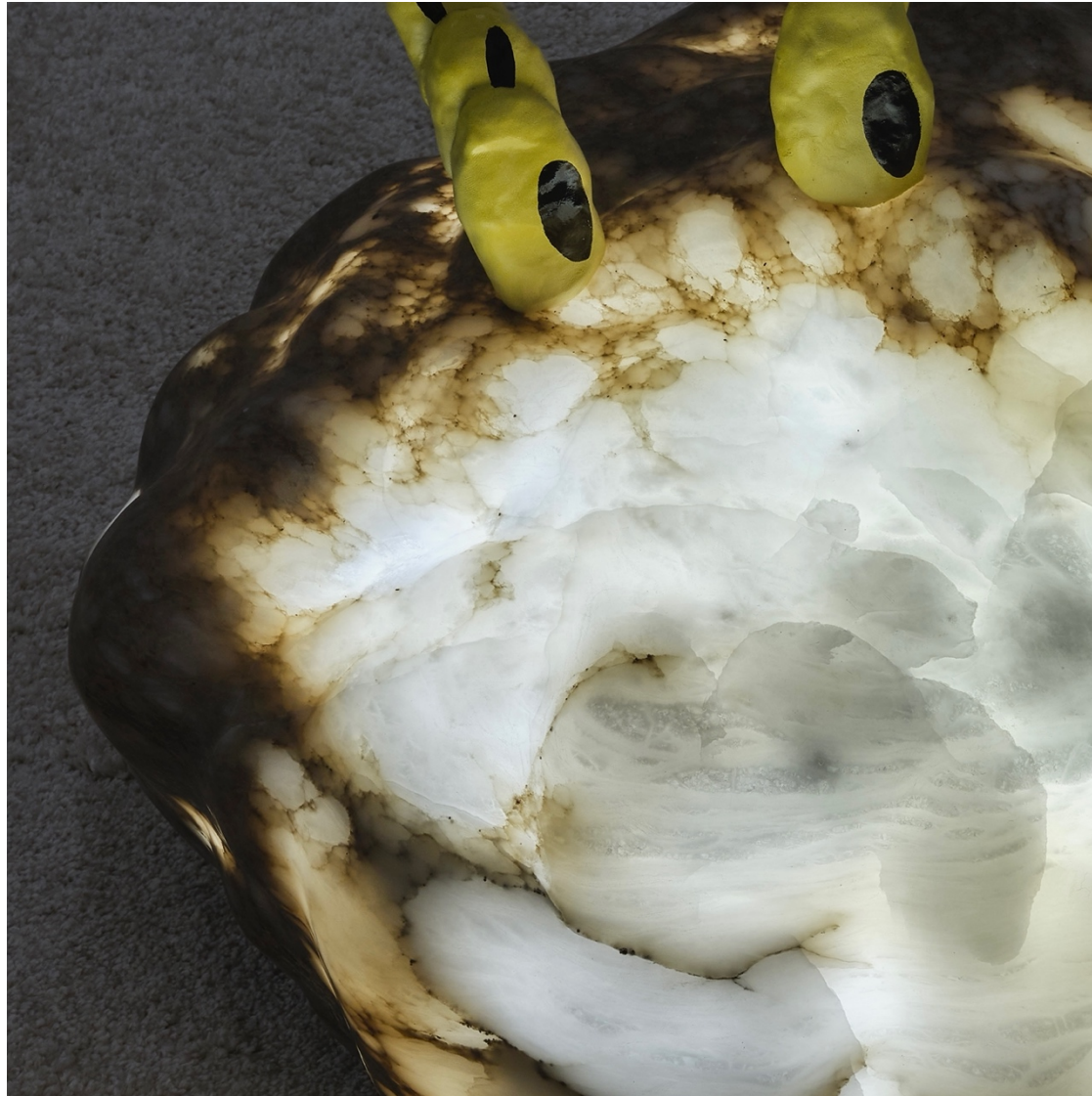
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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED, 35 x 42 x 45 cm

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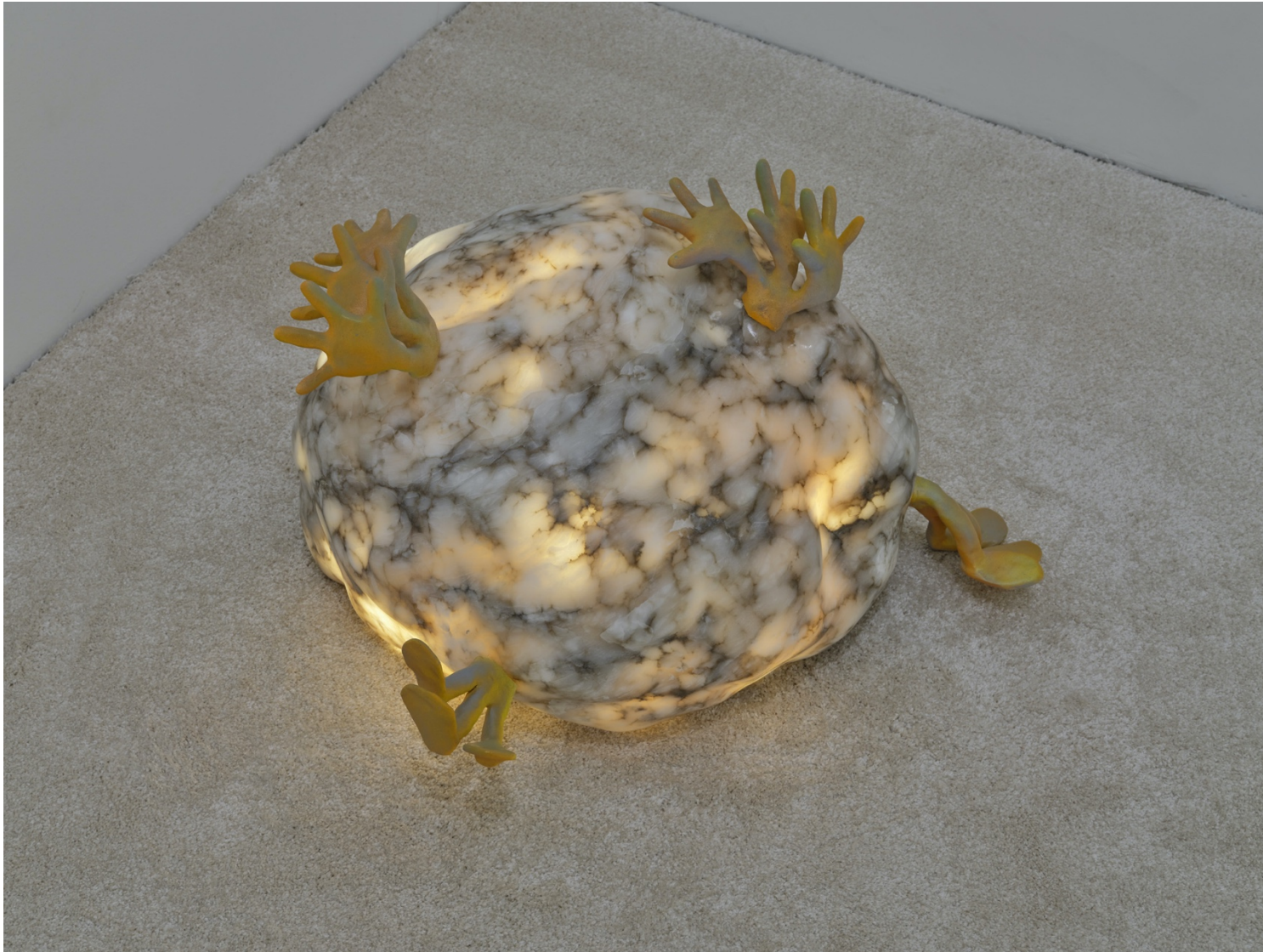
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Detail

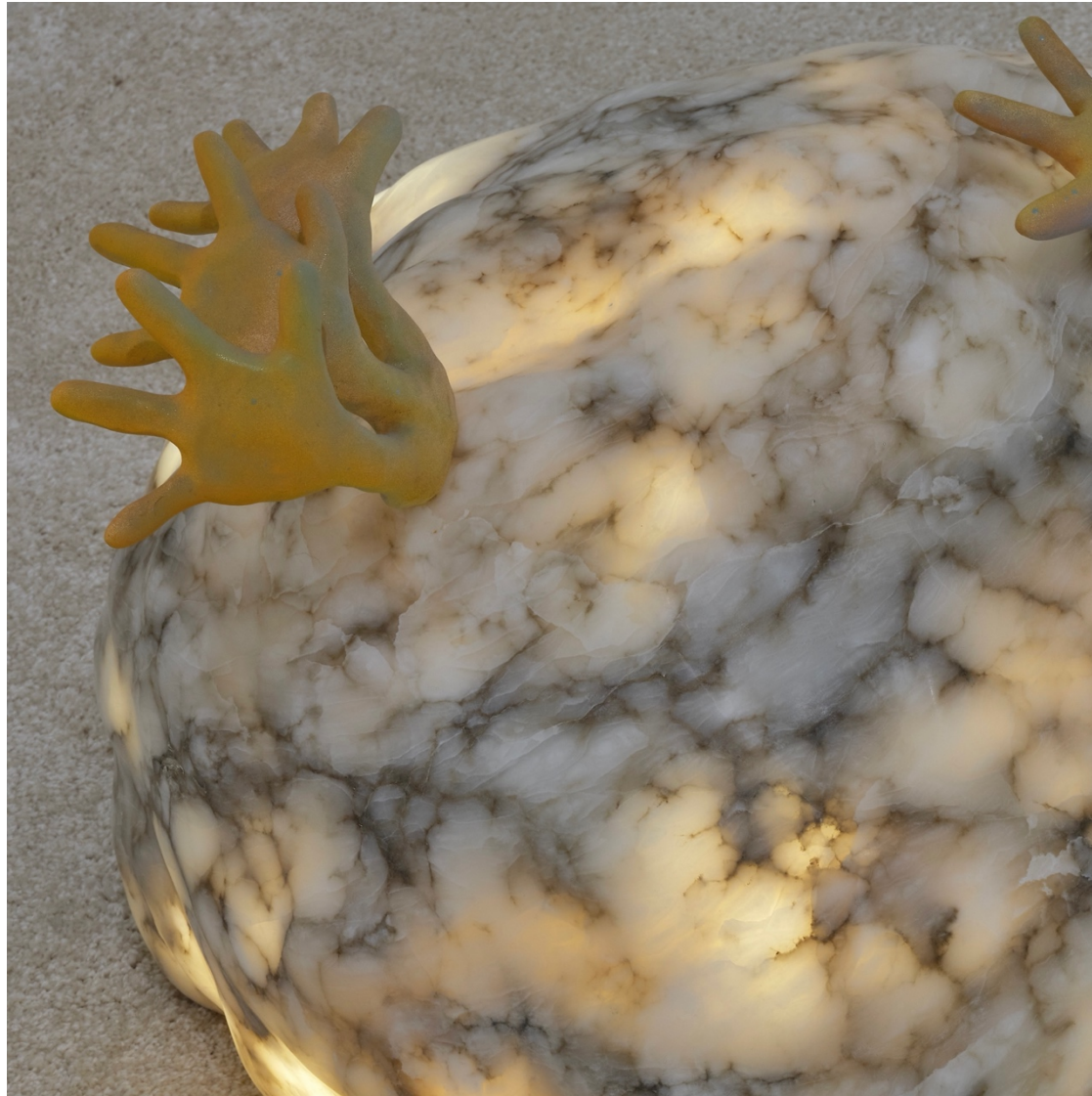
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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED, 36 x 58 x 48 cm

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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED,



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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED, 36 x 40 x 50 cm

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Detail

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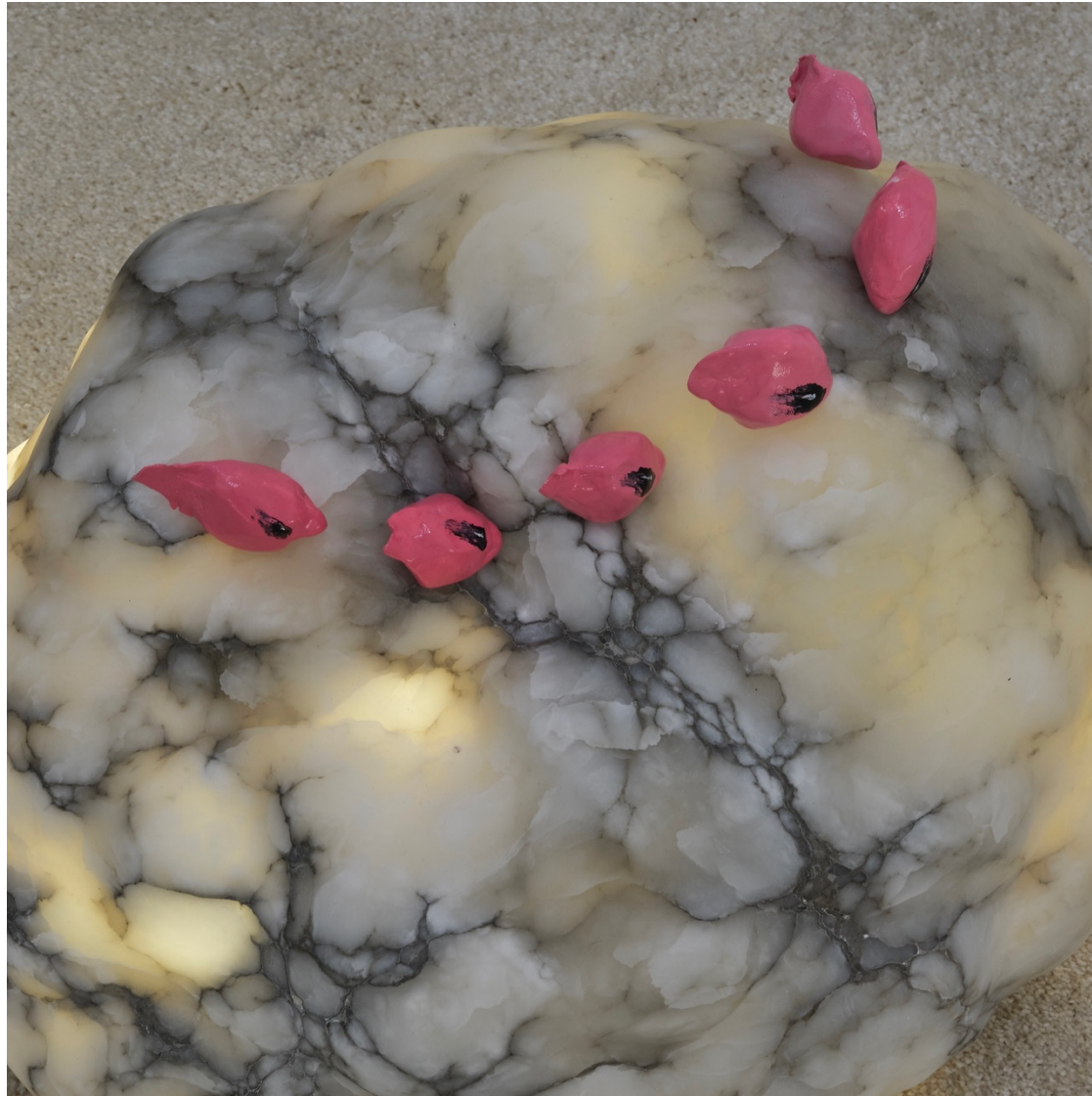


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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED, 28 x 40 x 36 cm

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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED, 30 x 40 x 30 cm

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Detail

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*Backfire*, 2023, alabaster, polymer clay, spray paint, LED, 35 x 40 x 35 cm



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Detail

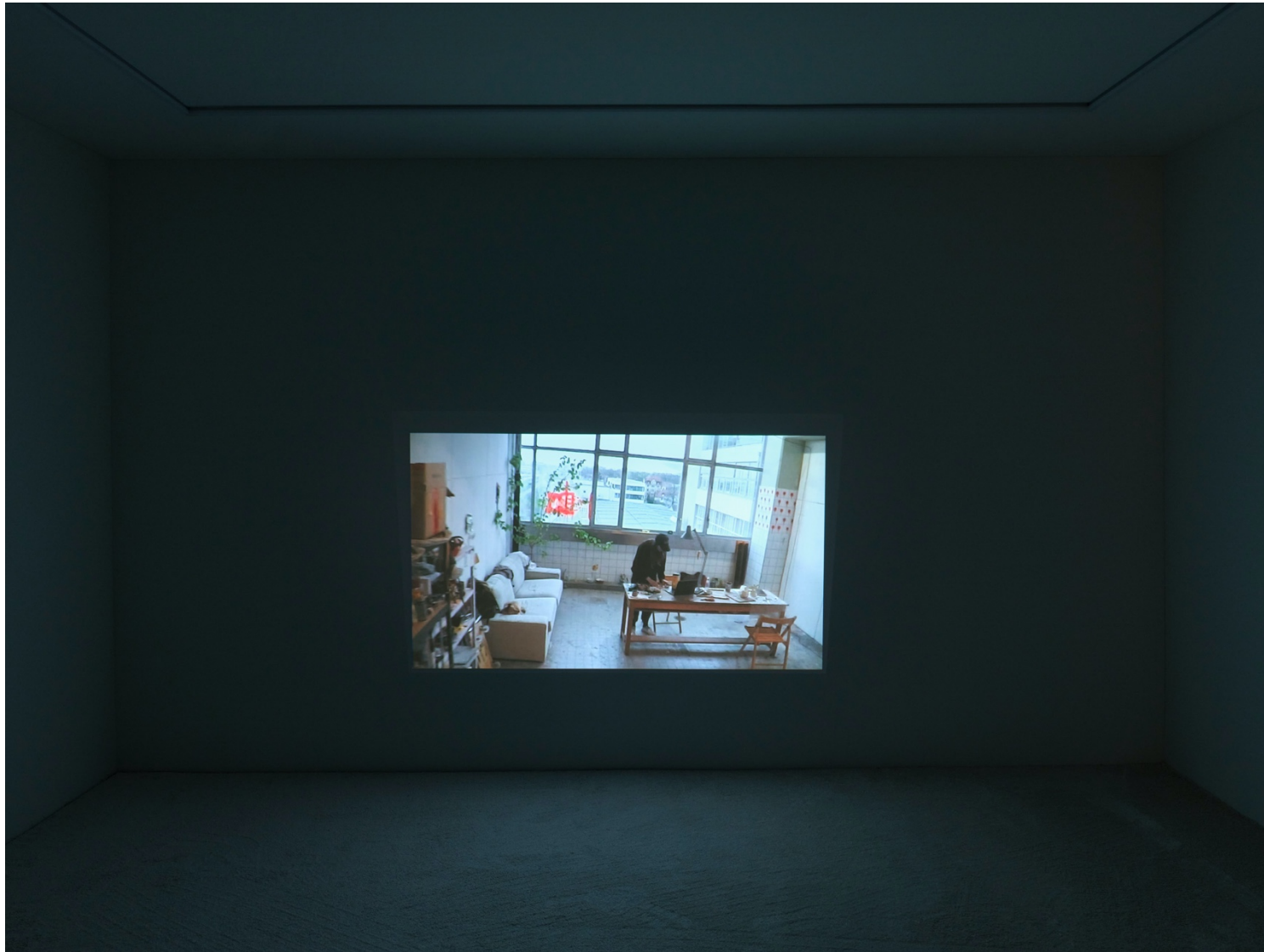
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*Studio Sitcom Pilot*, 2023, video, 16:58 min