

**Press kit**

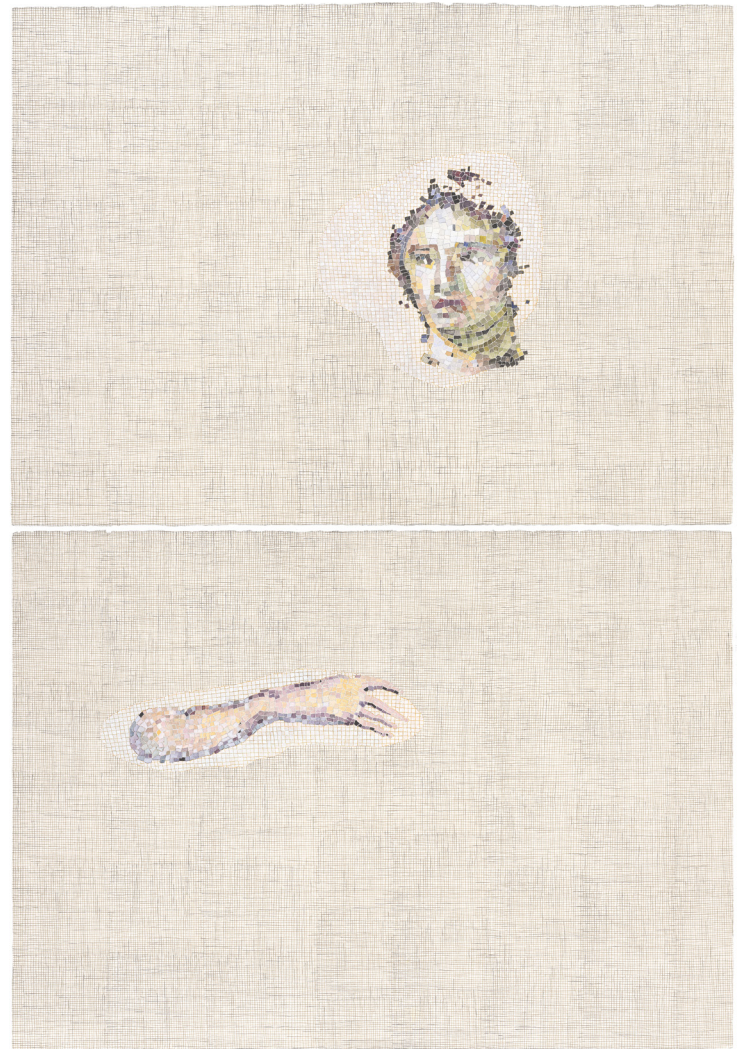
**Paolo Colombo**

***The Second Time***

**October 30, 2024  
– March 2, 2025**

**Opening:  
Tuesday, October 29,  
2024,  
6 pm**

**Curated by  
Andrea Bellini**



**Centre  
d'Art  
Contemporain  
Genève**

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# Press release

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is proud to announce a retrospective of Italian artist, curator, and poet Paolo Colombo, opening October 29, 2024. The exhibition includes forty works created between 1971 and 2024.

Colombo's distinguished international career is closely linked to the history of the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève. As its director between 1990 and 2001, he helped position the Centre as an important player in the European art world. Andrea Bellini, current director and exhibition curator, comments:

“Paolo Colombo had his first solo exhibition at our institution in 1978, when it was under the direction of Adelina von Fürstenberg, who founded the institution. He embarked on his career as a curator in the late 1980s, when he was appointed the Centre's director. It was he who first set up the Centre in the Bâtiment d'Art Contemporain (BAC) and chose the spaces that have housed the Centre since 1990. As director, he organized a series of legendary exhibitions, most notably Kiki Smith's first solo exhibition in Europe and Pipilotti Rist's first large institutional exhibition in French-speaking Switzerland. These shows and so many others left their mark on this institution and on Geneva as a whole.”

As the Centre celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and the BAC is poised to undergo a much needed renovation, it is fitting that Paolo Colombo makes a symbolic return to the institution. The retrospective marks the final exhibition before the building closes for an 3 year period minimum. Entitled *The Second Time*, the show is therefore of particular importance and will allow the public to see the former director in a new and more intimate light.

Colombo works primarily in watercolor, and some of his paintings feature text, more specifically his own poems. The writing strives to be free from all forms of material and conceptual heaviness. With every sign, line, and dot, Colombo approaches his activity as a form of meditation on existence, beauty, art history, and such popularly practiced arts as embroidery and mosaic.

Among other things, the multi-media exhibition features an extraordinary carpet made in India as well as embroideries designed by the artist in collaboration with ITERARTE, a travelling art gallery that brings contemporary artists together with artisans.

The exhibition will also include screenings of recent videos made by the artist, presented in the Centre's Cinema Dynamo. Display cases will present a wealth of documentation, including manuscripts and books of poems published by Paolo Colombo.

**For further information or images, please contact our press office:**

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## About the artist

Paolo Colombo (born in Turin in 1949) studied languages and literature at the University of Rome, graduating in 1975. A self-taught artist, he first showed his paintings and drawings in 1974, at the Galleria Mario Tazzoli in Milan. In 1977, Colombo became the first European artist to be shown at PS1 in New York. In 1986 he interrupted his artistic practice to become a curator, working for some thirty years in museums in the United States, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. He returned to his artistic practice in 2007, moving to Athens. His work has recently been exhibited in Athens, Geneva, London, Los Angeles, and Rossinière (Switzerland). It is included in the collections of the the Benaki Museum (Athens), the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), Istanbul Modern (Turkey), and the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) (Hobart, Tasmania, Australia).