

**BLUE VELVET**

**MARIUS STEIGER  
MONSIEUR HULOT**

**26.4.– 6.6.2025**

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## MARIUS STEIGER MONSIEUR HULOT 26.4. – 6.6.2025

Marius Steiger's solo exhibition *Monsieur Hulot* at Blue Velvet draws from Jacques Tati's iconic film *PlayTime* to stage a surreal corporate interior that reflects on modernism's promises of order and progress. Tati's critique of mechanized routine and the erasure of individuality finds new form in Steiger's shaped paintings and spatial interventions, which merge hyperrealism with theatrical absurdity.

On the ground floor, Steiger constructs an immersive office-like environment. Bookcase-shaped paintings filled with abstract binders, books, and sterile office matter are interrupted by small relics of human activity — fruits, cigarettes, and pieces of memorabilia. These interventions break the monotony of bureaucratic order, suggesting a lingering human presence — traces of life within a system defined by repetition and function.

Paintings resembling wooden planks interrupt the space like corporate partitions, evoking labor, confinement, and control. Their placement filters the viewer's sense of orientation toward the outside, reframing what lies beyond as part of the constructed interior. The architecture becomes a prop — an image of structure that exposes its own rigidity.

Upstairs, the exhibition continues with Steiger's Car series — shaped canvases that reduce the automobile to pure iconography. These paintings reflect how luxury sports cars can transcend their function to become cultural symbols. With their bold design and status as emblems of aspiration, they raise questions about luxury, desire, and the value we assign to objects. They become projections of narrative: markers of personal ambition, cultural ideals, or collective nostalgia. Stripped of function and frozen in place, these car paintings sit between image, artifact, and showroom illusion.

Referencing the rigid systems of modernist efficiency, *Monsieur Hulot* turns corporate decor into a controlled environment where functional design becomes aesthetic language and perception is subtly directed. The exhibition reflects how the systems that structure our surroundings also shape how we see and behave.

Hovering between decoration and critique, these works expose the mechanics behind modern environments. What first appears orderly reveals its artificiality — disrupted by the quiet humour of leftover objects and the tension between surface and meaning. Steiger's works point to the fragility of these systems, where meaning slips at the edges and control gives way to ambiguity.

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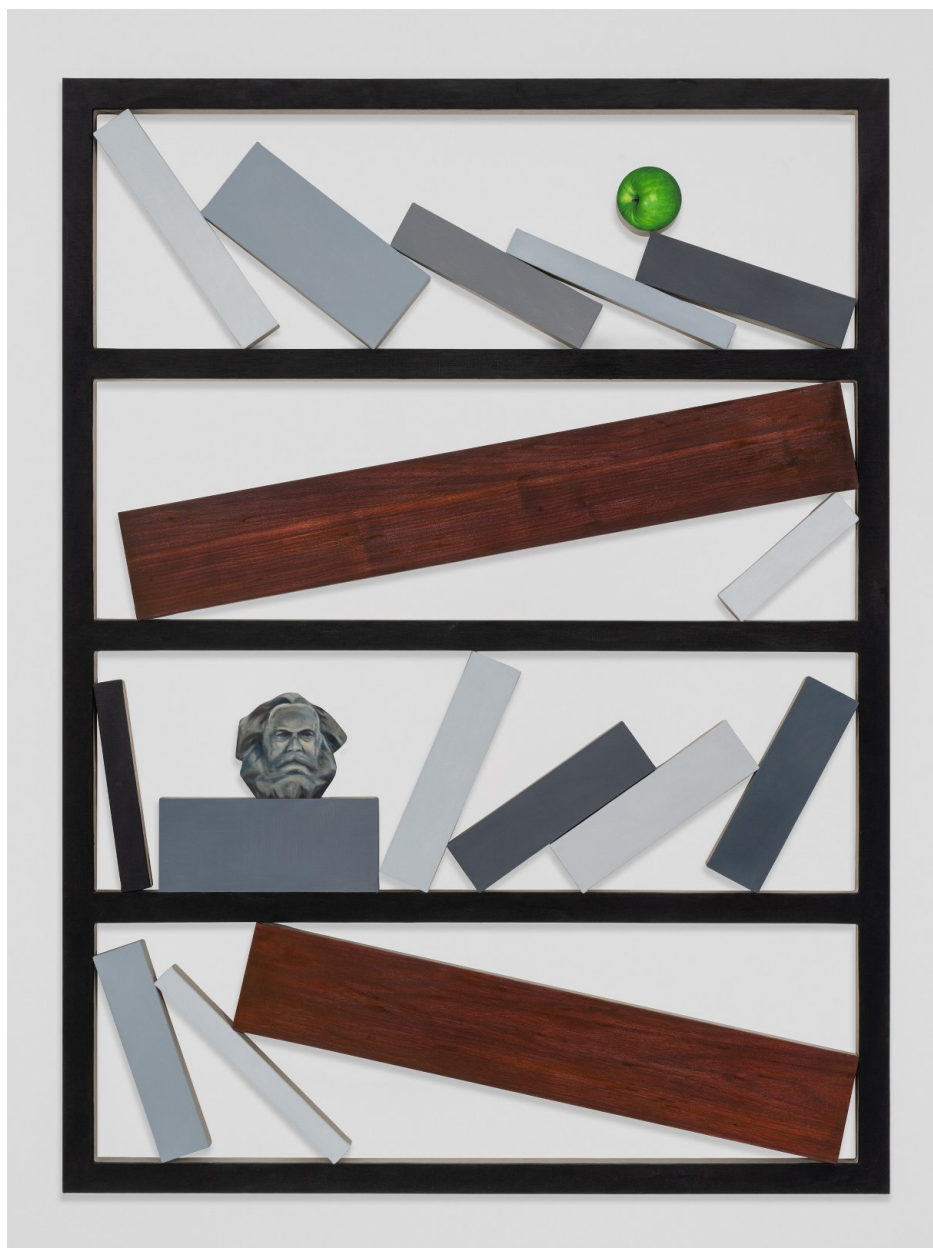
Marius Steiger  
*Case (Monsieur Hulot)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
155 × 115 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-156









Marius Steiger  
*Case (Money, Power and Glory)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
155 × 115 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-159







Marius Steiger  
*Case (Banality, Decadence and Easyfun)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
155 × 115 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-157







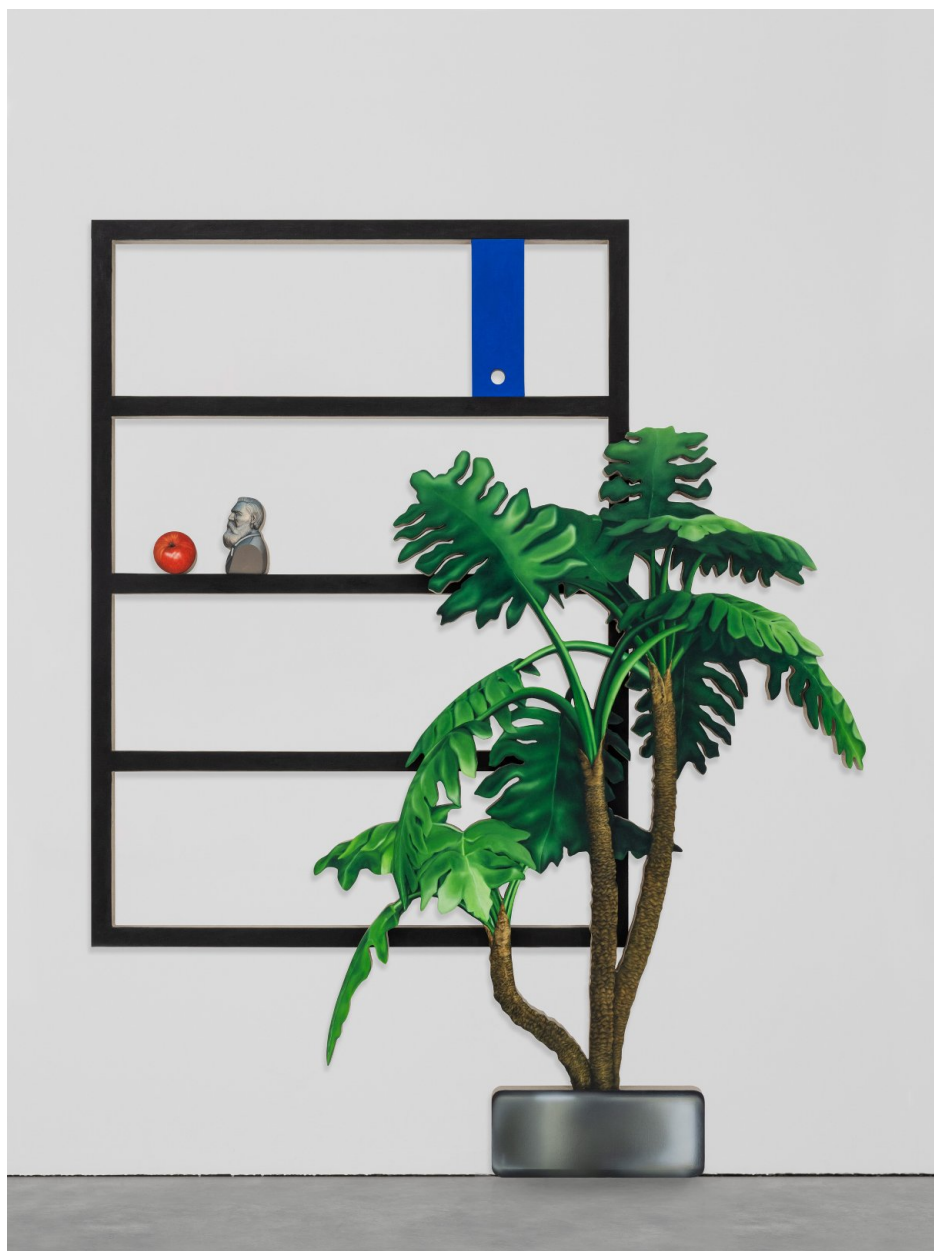


Marius Steiger  
*Case and Desk (Welcome)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
205 × 175 × 9 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-162







Marius Steiger  
*Case and Plant (Red Apple)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
205 x 160 x 9 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-163







# BLUE VELVET



Marius Steiger  
*Wood*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
290 × 25 × 4.5 cm (each)

Inv.-Nr. 230-164









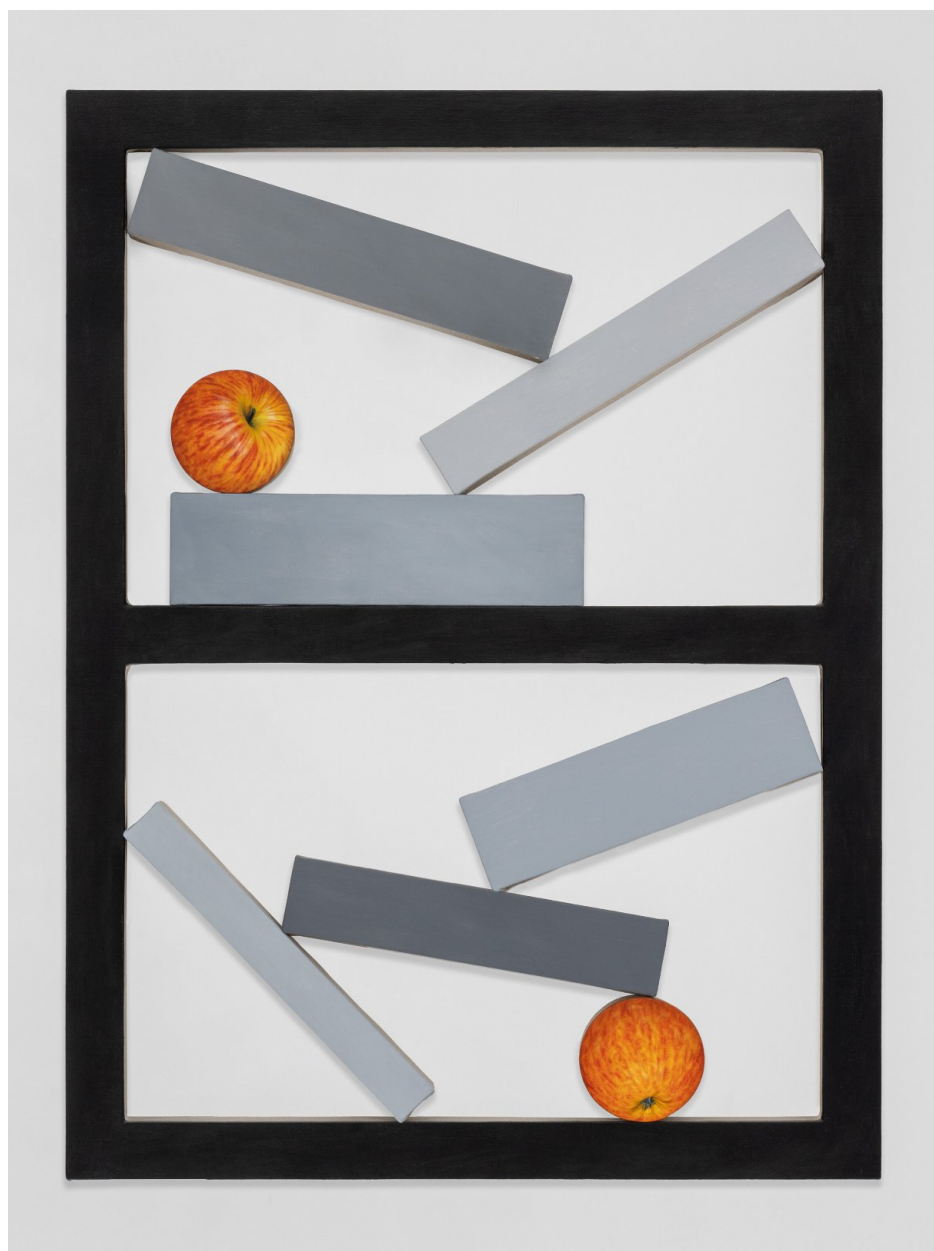
Marius Steiger  
*Case (Playtime)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
80 × 60 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-160









Marius Steiger  
*Case (Two Apples)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
80 × 60 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-161







Marius Steiger  
*Case (Hedonism)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
80 × 60 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-158







# BLUE VELVET



Marius Steiger  
*Car (Wedge)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
255 × 246 × 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-149









Marius Steiger  
*Car (Advancement)*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on linen  
115 x 300 x 4.5 cm

Inv.-Nr. 230-148







# BLUE VELVET

## Marius Steiger

\*1999, lives and works in London and Switzerland

Marius Steiger is Swiss artist who holds a Master's degree in Painting from the Royal College of Art in London. He has been awarded a scholarship from the Patronage Fund for Young Swiss Artists of the Kunsthalle Basel. His work is part of public collections such as the Collection of the New Art Dealers Alliance, New York City, the Art Collection of the City of Zurich, the Art Collection of the Canton of Bern and the Swiss National Library.

His recent exhibitions include *Clear History*, Perrotin, Paris, France (2025); *Day*, Galleri Opdahl, Stavanger, Norway (2024); *1974/2024*, Villa Benkemoun, Arles (2024), France; *Sun shines, Money falls*, Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland (2023); *Lust for Life*, Incubator, London, UK (2022). His work has been shown at international art fairs such as Nada, Miami, USA, with Blue Velvet (2024); ArtOno, Seoul, Korea, with Duarte Sequeira (2025); Enter, Copenhagen, Denmark with Galleri Opdahl (2024); Artissima, Turin, Italy with Blue Velvet (2023).

Marius Steiger's upcoming exhibitions include his first institutional solo show at Kunstraum Riehen in Basel (September 2025); a solo show at Duarte Sequeira in Seoul (September 2025) as well as a group presentation at Lisson Gallery in Shanghai, China, curated by Zian Cao and Ziyi Liu (July 2025).



# BLUE VELVET

## EDUCATION

- 2023 MA Painting, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2015 Visual Communications, Schule für Gestaltung SfGGB, Biel, Switzerland

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Monsieur Hulot*, Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland  
Kunstraum Riehen, Basel, Switzerland [Forthcoming Institutional]  
Duarte Sequeira, Seoul, Korea [Forthcoming]
- 2024 *Day*, Galleri Opdahl, Stavanger, Norway
- 2023 *Sun shines, Money falls*, Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2022 *Lust for Life*, Incubator, London, UK

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Lisson Gallery, Shanghai, China [Forthcoming]  
*Aeschlimann Corti*, Kunsthau Biel, Biel, Switzerland [Forthcoming]  
*Clear History*, Perrotin, Paris, France  
*Bellevue*, Rothschild & Co, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2024 *Cantonale*, Kunsthau Interlaken, Interlaken, Switzerland  
*1974/2024*, Villa Benkemoun, Arles, France
- 2023 *May your dream come*, Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal, Basel, Switzerland
- 2022 *Ohne Titel*, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen, Switzerland  
*Aeschlimann Corti*, Kunsthau Langenthal, Langenthal, Switzerland
- 2021 *Down the hills*, Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland  
*Cantonale*, Musée des Arts, Moutier, Switzerland

## AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

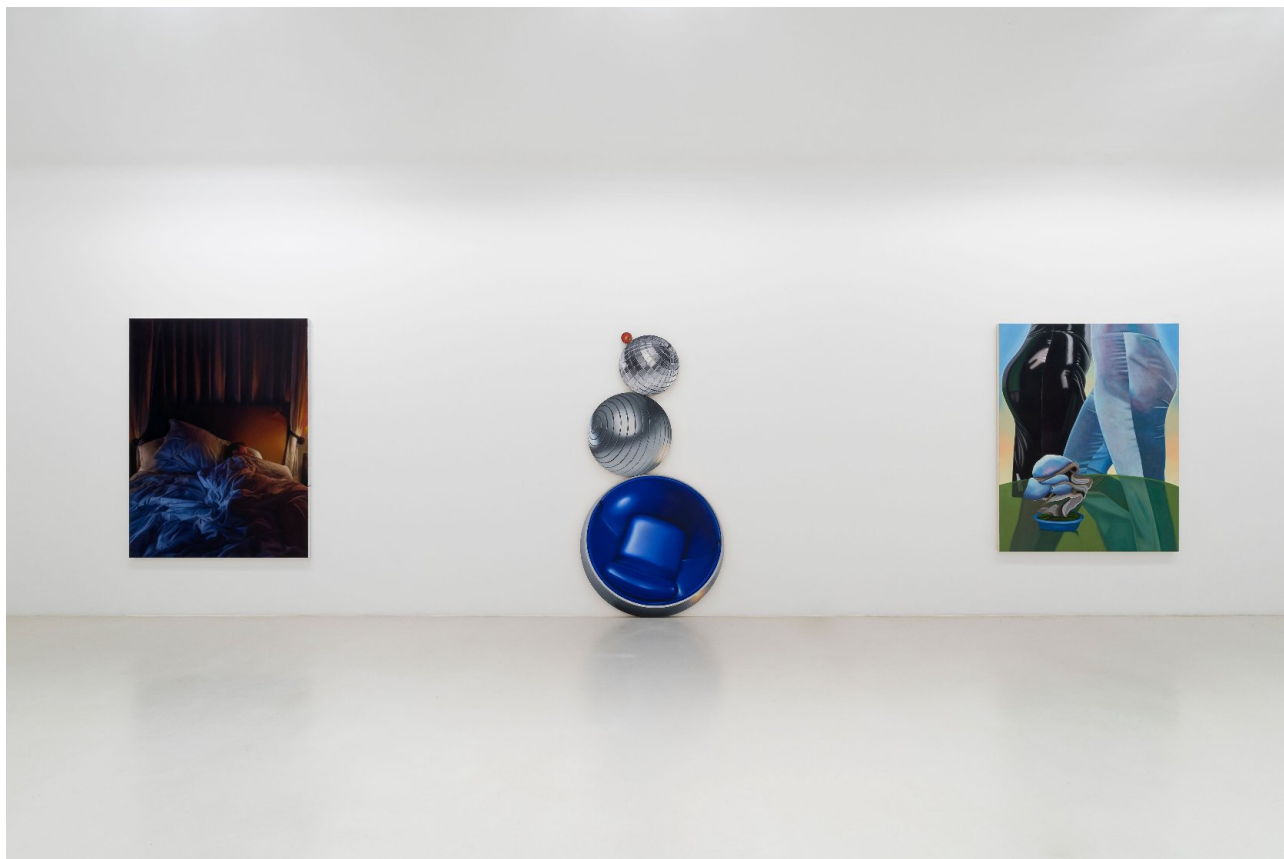
- 2022 Scholarship, Patronagefonds für junge Schweizer Künstler, Basel, Switzerland  
Scholarship, Niarchos Foundation for young artists, St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 2021 Work grant, Canton of Bern, Bern, Switzerland  
Work grant, City of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Collection of the New Art Dealers Alliance, New York City, USA
- Art Collection City of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- Swiss National Library, Bern, Switzerland
- Art Collection Canton of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

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## OTHER EXHIBITION VIEWS



Installation view, *Clear History*, Perrotin, Paris, France, 2025



Installation view, Solo booth, NADA Art Fair with Blue Velvet, Miami, USA, 2024



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Installation view, *Day*, Galleri Opdahl, Stavanger, Norway, 2024



Installation view, *Day*, Galleri Opdahl, Stavanger, Norway, 2024

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Installation view, Marius Steiger, Belvédère Asset Management, Zurich, Switzerland, 2024



Installation view, Solo booth, Artissima with Blue Velvet, Turin, Italy, 2023



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Installation view, Sun shines, Money falls, Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland, 2023



Installation view, Sun shines, Money falls, Blue Velvet, Zurich, Switzerland, 2023