



Fabrizio Plessi, *Acqua che sale #T116, 2021*

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# Fabrizio Plessi.

# Une Histoire d'Eau

curated by Ilaria Bignotti

June 26 - September 26, 2025

**Opening June 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9pm**

16 avenue Matignon  
75008 Paris

« This water envelops everything with its reflections, spreading across the drawings, blurring their edges, and with its shimmering, it alters the pencil marks like an unstable, undulating elastic. This luminous flicker, entering through the windows, makes the drawing more fluid, unstable, mobile, evanescent, intangible. I could say that the pencil floats on the page without my knowing. »

These are the words of Fabrizio Plessi, a rebel of contemporary art. Internationally recognized, with a long career and hundreds of solo exhibitions in major museums around the world, his work still surprises and challenges viewers today—like a sudden, crashing wave.

# TornabuoniArt

At the entrance, visitors are greeted by *Splash* (2019), a large-scale sculpture made up of four video elements. It seems to wait for our gaze, like a stone dropped into the red waters of a burning sea. It is a powerful work that reflects Plessi's whole approach: consistent in vision, yet always evolving.

The exhibition explores how, starting in the late 1960s, Plessi developed a distinct artistic language, rooted in the principles of Arte Povera, only to quickly move beyond them. He has always avoided being boxed into artistic categories, saying that to do so, an artist must "navigate a path full of both ideological and creative traps, steering clear of the ordinary and the obvious."

In 1982, the Centre Pompidou presented Plessi's complete video works. That year also marked a shift in his practice, as he began to focus on video installations—adding physical structures and building immersive *environments* that make viewers feel lost, as though adrift in water.

This exhibition features a carefully curated selection of works that engulf the viewer's field of vision. Water is present in all its undulating forms: water that engulfs and regenerates, water that flows and reflects, paligenetic water and mythological water, like a cerulean Ouroboros.

After all, as Plessi has declared, "the artist's work" must be able to "deliver magnesium flashes to our retina and our brain, illuminating the dark and grey zones of our perception," reminding us that "once our mind is opened to greater

## TORNABUONI ART

Tornabuoni Art was founded in 1981 on Via Tornabuoni in Florence by Roberto Casamonti, whose passion for art was inherited from his father, a collector of 20th-century Italian art, and has since been passed down to the third generation of the family. In addition to its headquarters on Lungarno Cellini in Florence, the gallery has opened spaces in Milan (1995), Forte dei Marmi (2004), and Rome (2023), as well as international branches in Crans-Montana, Switzerland (1993), Paris (2009), and London (2015). The gallery is also present at major contemporary art fairs, including TEFAF in Maastricht and New York, Art Basel in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, and Paris, Frieze Masters in London, Arte Fiera in Bologna, and MiArt in Milan.

Tornabuoni Art's collection is primarily focused on the masters of the 20th-century Italian avant-garde, including Carla Accardi, Alighiero Boetti, Alberto Burri, Giorgio de Chirico, Lucio Fontana, Claudio Parmiggiani, Arnaldo Pomodoro, and Paolo Scheggi. The gallery also represents international artists from the same period, such as Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Jean Dubuffet, Serge Poliakoff, Wifredo Lam, Hans Hartung, Matta, Andy Warhol, and Christo.

Tornabuoni Art collaborates with numerous museums and institutions, both public and private, in Italy and internationally, through artwork loans and exhibition organization. In this context, the gallery has partnered with the Giorgio Cini Foundation during the Venice Biennale, presenting landmark exhibitions such as *Alighiero Boetti. Minimum-Maximum* in 2017, *Burri. Pittura, un'irriducibile presenza* in 2019, and the group exhibition *On Fire* in 2022. The gallery has also worked with the Estorick Collection, which hosted an exhibition dedicated to Paolo Scheggi in 2019 and is preparing a major retrospective on Claudio Parmiggiani for 2025.

The gallery consistently accompanies its exhibitions with significant editorial productions, collaborating with renowned art historians such as Luca Massimo Barbero, Bernard Blistène, Germano Celant, Bruno Corà, Enrico Crispolti, Philippe Dagen, and Margit Rowell, among others.

Drawing on over four decades of experience, Tornabuoni Art has also developed an advisory service for public and private collections worldwide.

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