MATERIA

Origin and Transformation

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A curatorship by The Place of Wonders E.T.S. and Dario Garofalo



THE PLACE Firenze
9 december 2025

A collection of images held together by the subtle bond between form and raw matter.

These materials, still in their half-shaped state, reveal the moment in which human thought first begins to guide their becoming.

Matter rises to the surface as both voice and vessel, subject and artwork at once.

This path frees the author from the confines of representation.

Unrefined forms summon abstract visions, brushing against the realms of sculpture, the rhythms of natural geometry, and the breath of abstract painting.

Shaped by the hands of artisans, matter slowly moves toward form, yet erosion will one day return it to its primal state.

It is in this inevitable cycle that each work gathers its own history and the quiet, unrepeatable uniqueness of the singular piece.

Dario Garofalo



CERAMICHE ARTISTICHE GIALLETTI

Ceramics in the Making

Deruta, Perugia, 2025



PAMPALONI 1902
Semi-worked silver
Firenze, 2025



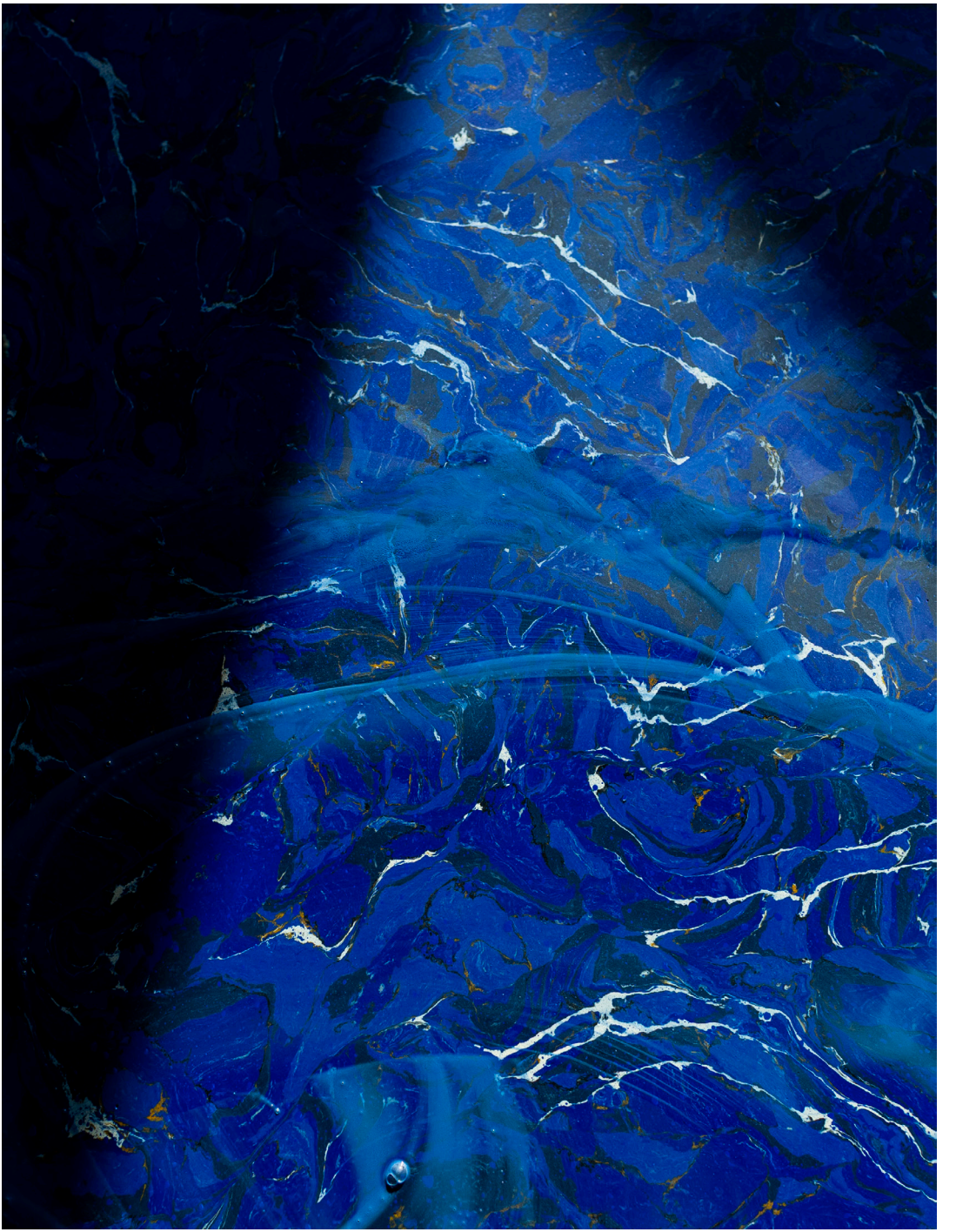
GALLERIA FRILLI
Lotus and Wax
Firenze, 2025



CIGLIA&CARRAI

A Basin of Chalk and Soil

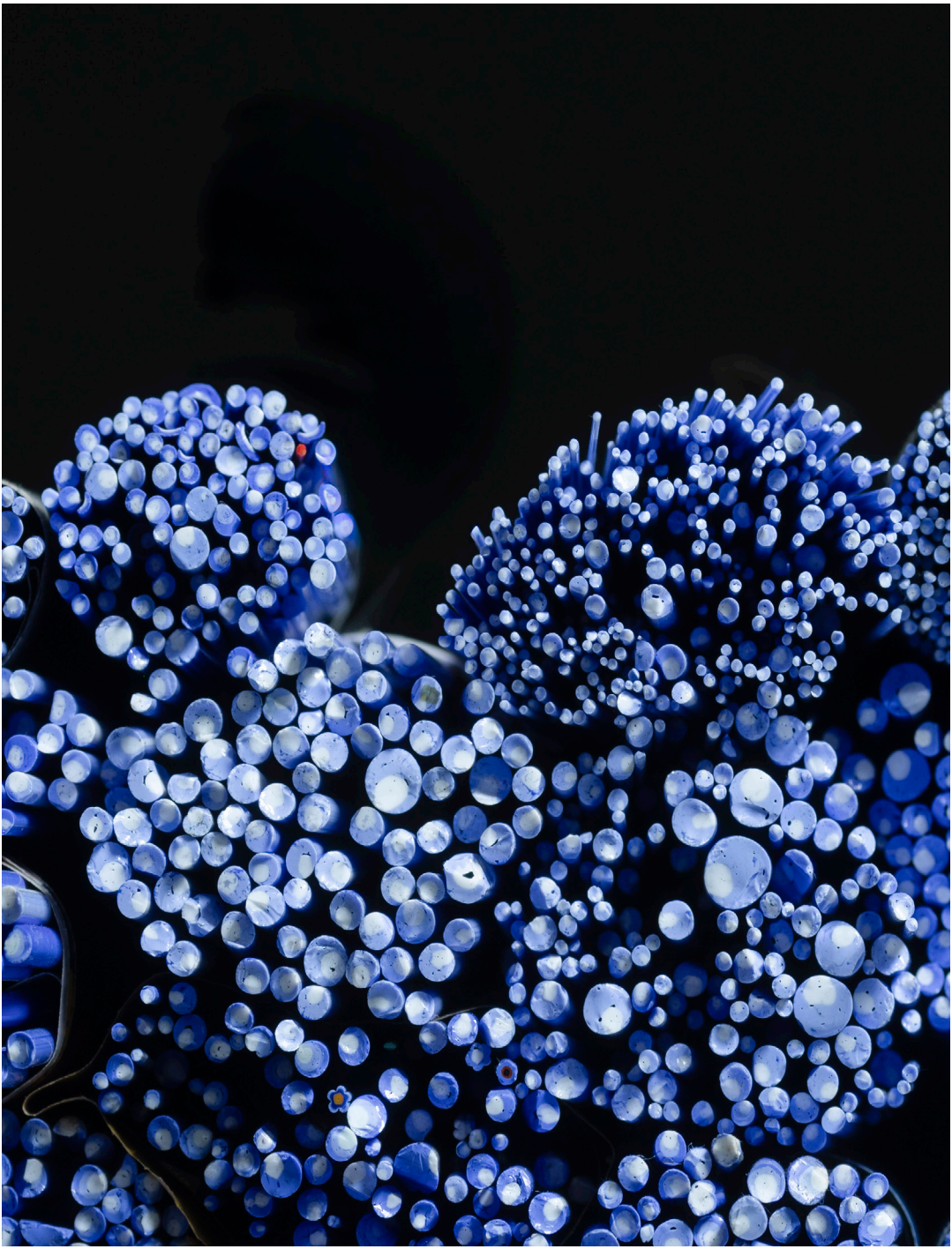
Impruneta, Firenze, 2025



BIANCO BIANCHI

Creating Scagliola

Pontassieve, Firenze, 2023



TRAVERSARI

Glass in Its Process

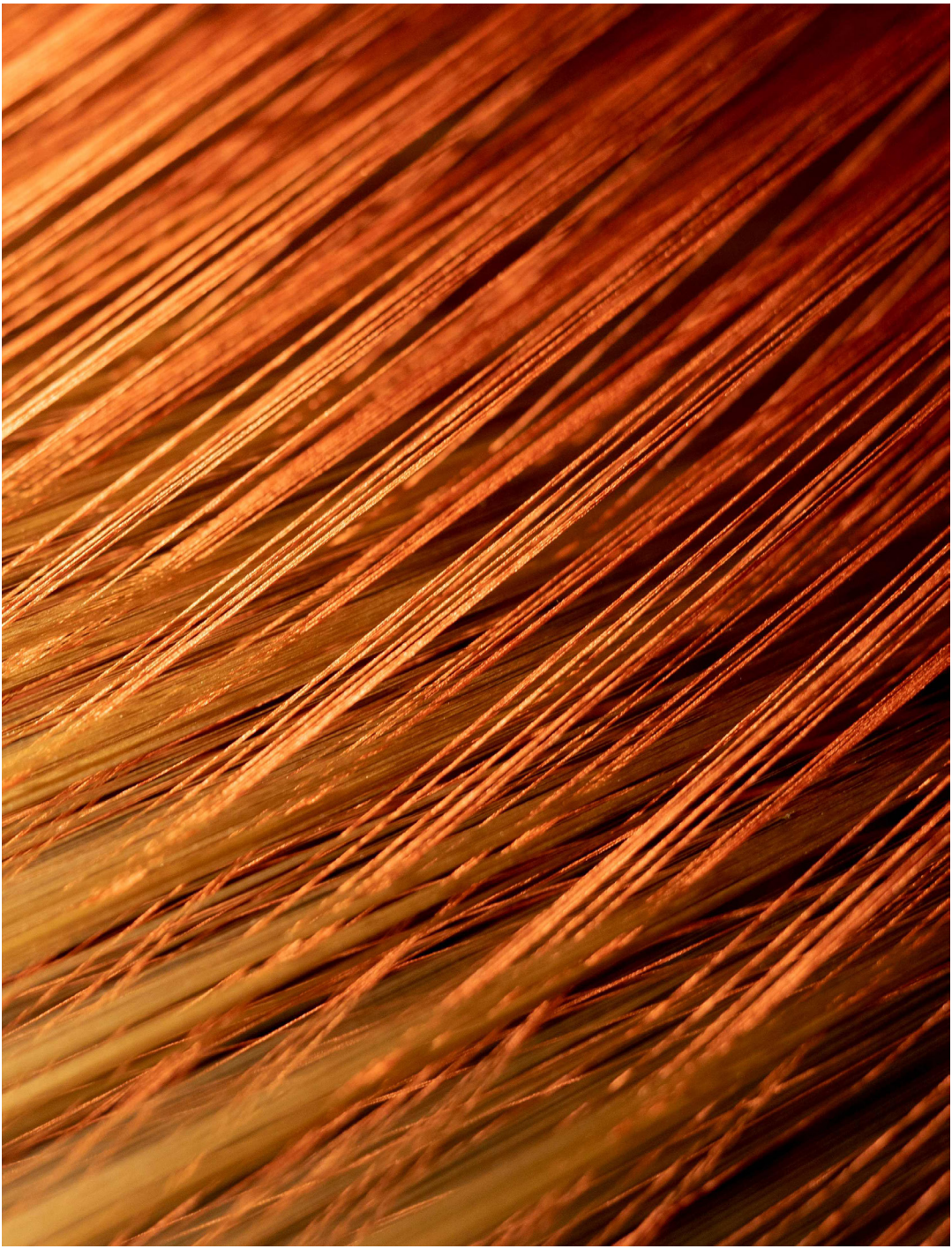
Firenze, 2025



FONDERIA VALESE

Foundry Powder

Venezia, 2023



TESSITURA BEVILACQUA

Textile Taking Shape

Venezia, 2025

Sustain the Foundation Through Art

Each piece in the exhibition is part of a limited edition of only 10, individually numbered and personally signed by the artist. These works are available to supporters with a minimum donation of €1,500.

Acquire your artwork!

DARIO GAROFALO

Active since 2002

He maintains an ongoing collaboration with international publishing and produces volumes dedicated to culture, society, industry, and travel.

Collaborations include:
AD, New York Times, Financial Times, Monocle, Condè Nast Traveller, Times, Sunday Times, Insider, Attersee, Prior, United Airlines.

Books and editorial projects:
The series Italia Su Misura for Fondazione Cologni — a journey through Italy's foremost artisanal ateliers, with a focus on Firenze, Roma, Venezia, Milano, and Napoli.
Genius Loci - Confindustria Toscana Nord with photo exhibition
Il risotto alla Milanese - Viaggio fotografico tra gli chef milanesi. Texts by Aldo Fiordelli
Kalanka - i Colori dell'Anima
In un attimo alla finestra, la stella Michelin più antica della Toscana. Texts by Tommaso Geri
Collezione Vas-Anima , Giochi e Lavoro - Villa a Sesta Polo Club
Book for Ginori 1735
Journals for The Place of Wonders Foundations
Signs 2019

Recent exhibitions:
Consorzio Chianti Classico stazione Leopolda
Genius Loci
LANDSCAPE, NATURE, AND RURAL LABOUR Museo del 900 presso il Parlamento Europeo

Project development for:
Ginori 1735 , Google, Kering, Ornellaia, The Place, Four Seasons, Mandarin Oriental, Castello di Ama, 25h Hotel, Consorzio Chianti Classico, Consorzio, Vini di Maremma, Gruppo Marriott, Costa Smeralda, Jk Place (Capri, Roma), Vas Polo club, BauerHotel, Enoteca Pinchiorri, Fondazione Cologni, Palazzo Tornabuoni, San Pellegrino, Antinori, Lungarno Hotels, Ferragamo, FondazioneThe Place of Wonders, Salviatino, Museo del 900, Parlamento Europeo.

THE PLACE OF WONDERS E.T.S.

The Place of Wonders Foundation is the CSR project of *The Hospitality Experience* hotel collection, dedicated to safeguarding and enhancing Italian craftsmanship and creativity. Through its properties - Londra Palace Venezia, THE PLACE Firenze, and Borgo dei Conti Resort - the foundation supports initiatives focused on preserving artistic and artisanal heritage, while fostering training programs for new generations of talent.
In doing so, it nurtures the continuity and evolution of traditional knowledge, ensuring that these skills can be carried forward over time.

There is a moment when matter pauses,
before revealing what it can become.
The ordinary shifts, and what once was only a hint of
possibility begins to take shape.

With this project, the Foundation turns its attention
to the quiet power of transformation —
to that threshold where material becomes artwork,
guided from its origin toward its finest expression.
In this passage lies the conviction
that the skill of the hand and the freedom of
creative vision are the true foundations of beauty.
It is an invitation to linger with matter as it unfolds,
and to recognize, within every emerging form,
the profound presence of the human.

THE PLACE
OF WONDERS

theplaceofwonders.org