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Marie-José d'Aprile is an artist who practices ceramics as her main medium of expression. Born in Switzerland from an Italian father and a Spanish mother, she feels the pull and influences of her three-fold origins. After spending more than 15 years of her professional career in Geneva and with overseas assignments as a lawyer and humanitarian worker, in 2019 she took a leap of faith when moving to Como. Trained at the studio of Daniela Vacca, a ceramist based in Rome, she opened her atelier in 2020.

Since then, her work has been a continuous exploration of her own being as an artist, shedding away layers of identity, searching for her own language, with the mere intent to spark emotions with her artwork. More recently, she is exploring and researching the traces of memory, as well as those of History.

WORKS

Since 2021, I started to create a series of ceramic sculptures that spoke of my concerns for the state of the world.

Primordial Whale is one of those.

Primordial Whale, 2022

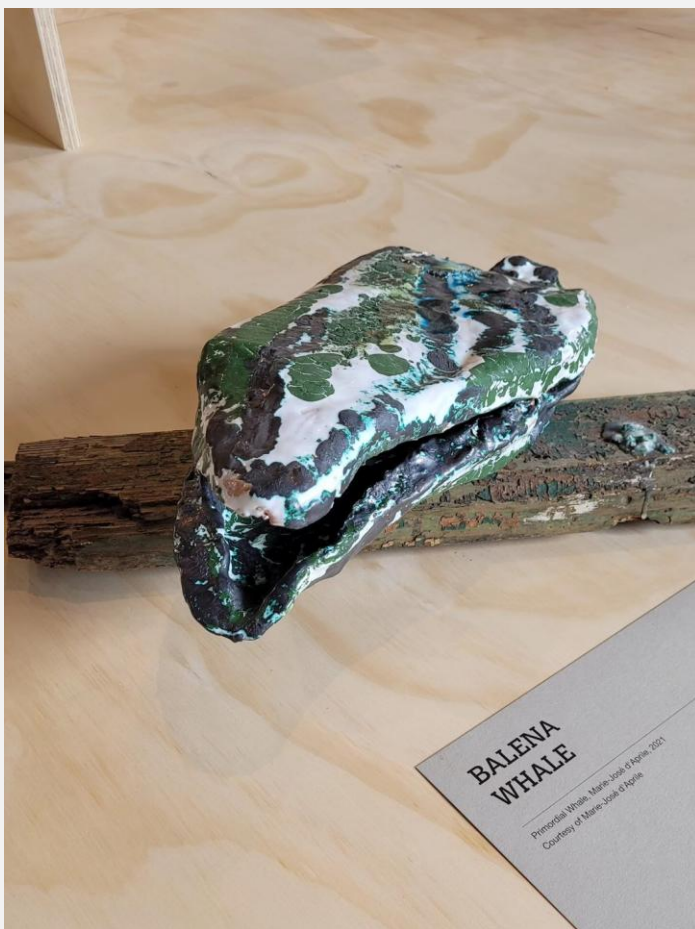
Ceramic sculpture,
Red clay, glazes, shells, wooden stick, low-
fire
30cmx10cmx7cm.



Primordial Whale, 2022

Ceramic sculpture,
Red clay, glazes, shells, wooden stick,
low-fire
30cmx10cmx7cm

Detail-exhibition at Lake Como Design
Festival, Italy. 2023.



Primordial Whale, 2022

Detail of the work in the atelier,
2022.

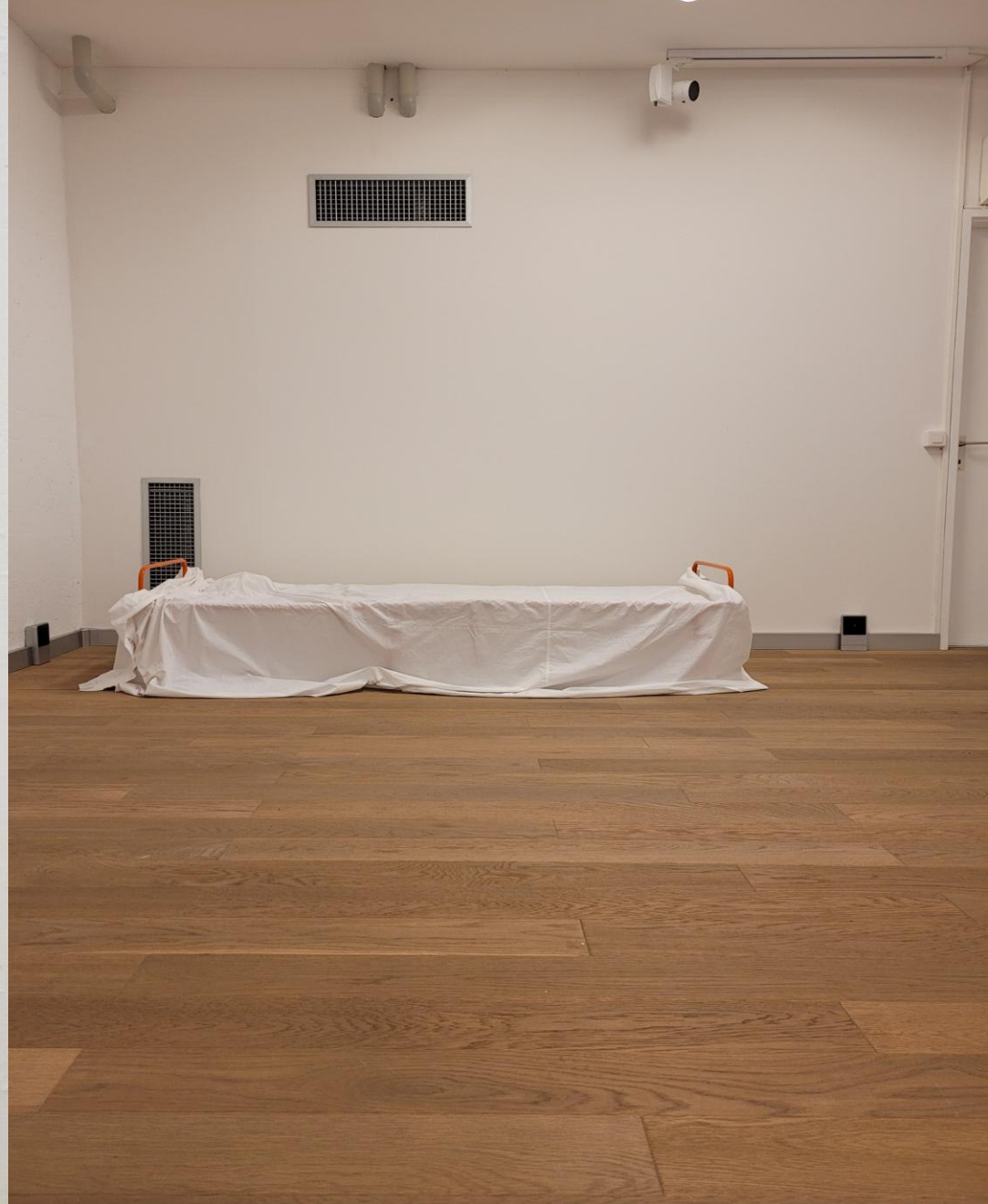
In November 2022, I attended a workshop with Mustafa Sabbagh, an Italian-Palestinian photograph artist. It prompted a research on the notion of self-portrait as an artist and more deeply on my own identity, the persona.

There is more to me than what you see is the title of the installation I created -that also includes *The Jeweled Net of Indra* and the *Nightmare bed* artworks, as well as a series of Polaroid photos.

There is more to me than what you see, 2023

Mixed media installation artwork

Plaster & silicone masks, mirrors, bed, bedsheet,
polaroid photos.



Detail view *The Jeweled Net of Indra* and *The Nightmare bed*, 2023. Artphilein Foundation Lugano, Switzerland.



*There is more to me
than what you see, 2023*

Plaster and ceramic moulds.



Series of Polaroid photos on the wall, 2023.

Detail of the *Jeweled Net of Indra*, 2023.
Silicone mask hidden in infinity mirror.



Detail View of the exhibition

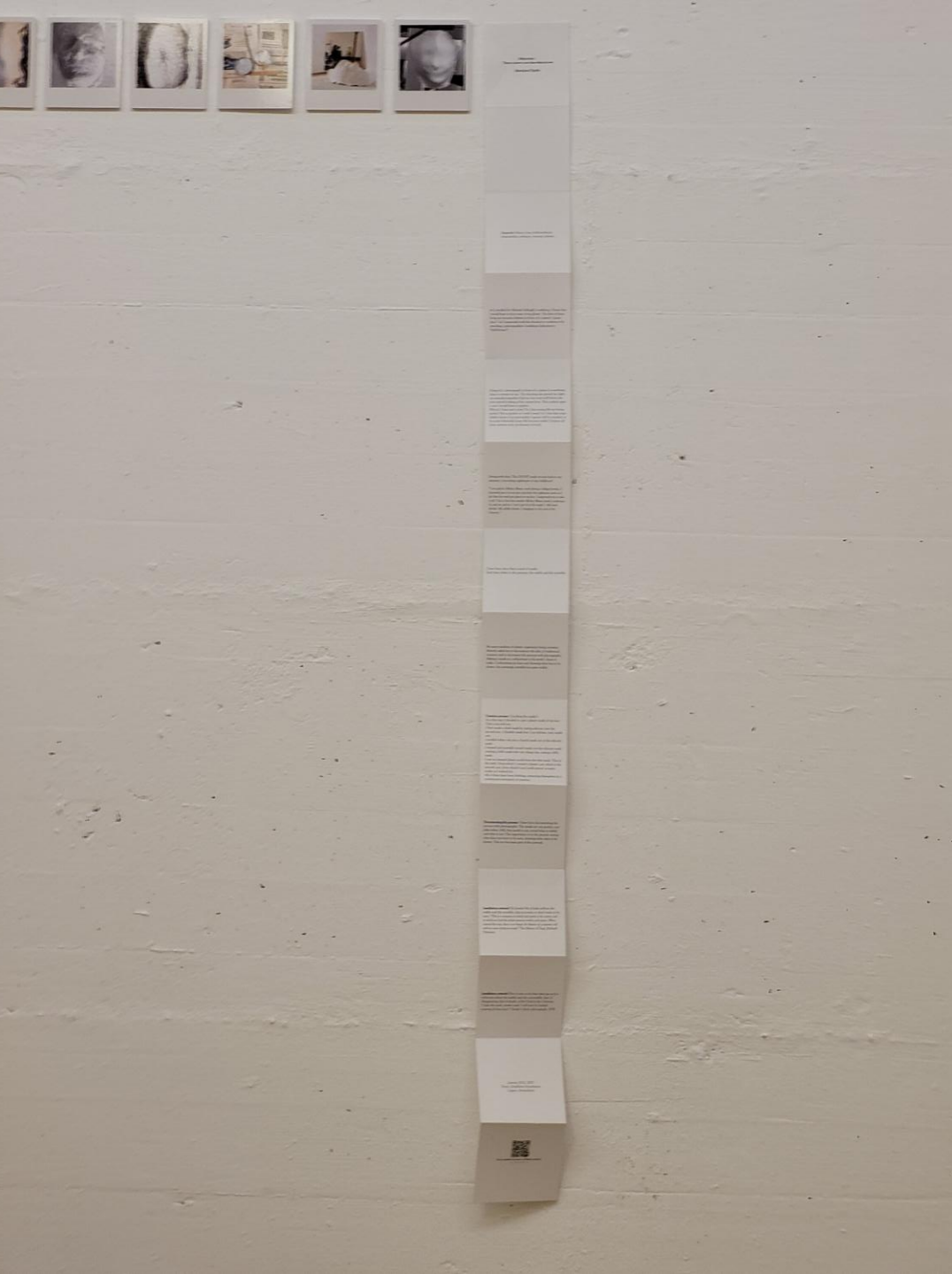
There is more to me than what you see , 2023

The Jeweled Net of Indra,

Series of Polaroid photos

Artphilein Foundation, Lugano,
Switzerland.





Detail view of Polaroid photos on the wall, 2023.

Narration of the working process printed on a
Leporello, 2023.



There is more to me than what you see, 2023.

Detail view of the exhibition at Biennale
Internazionale Donne, Trieste, Italy. 2023-2024.



The Jeweled Net of Indra, 2023.

Detail view of the exhibition at Biennale Internazionale Donne, Trieste, Italy. 2023-2024.



*There is more to me than what you
see, 2023.*

Detail view of the exhibition at
Biennale Internazionale Donne,
Trieste, Italy. 2023-2024.



In the last months of the year 2022, I was closely following the events unfolding in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini.

I created a ceramic sculpture of an hijab, that I purposely scattered on the floor. The photographs and videos that I took are part of a project bearing testimony of the decisive crossroad between what was, what is, and what is to become.

Scattered Hijab, 2023

Photography of a ceramic sculpture,

Limited edition

Baryta cotton paper

80cmx65cm (framed).



Scattered Hijab, 2023

Detail View of the exhibition at Biennale
Internazionale Donne, Trieste, Italy., 2023-2024.



Scattered Hijab, 2023

Detail of a visitor in front of *Scattered Hijab*
at Biennale Internazionale Donne, Trieste, Italy.,
2023-2024.



Scattered Hijab, 2023 in dialogue with
The Jeweled of Indra, 2023

Personal photo taken in my atelier in Como,
Italy, 2023.



Scattered Hijab, 2023

Detail Exhibition view at Galleria Ramo, Como,
Italy, 2024.

Photo credit courtesy Galleria Ramo.

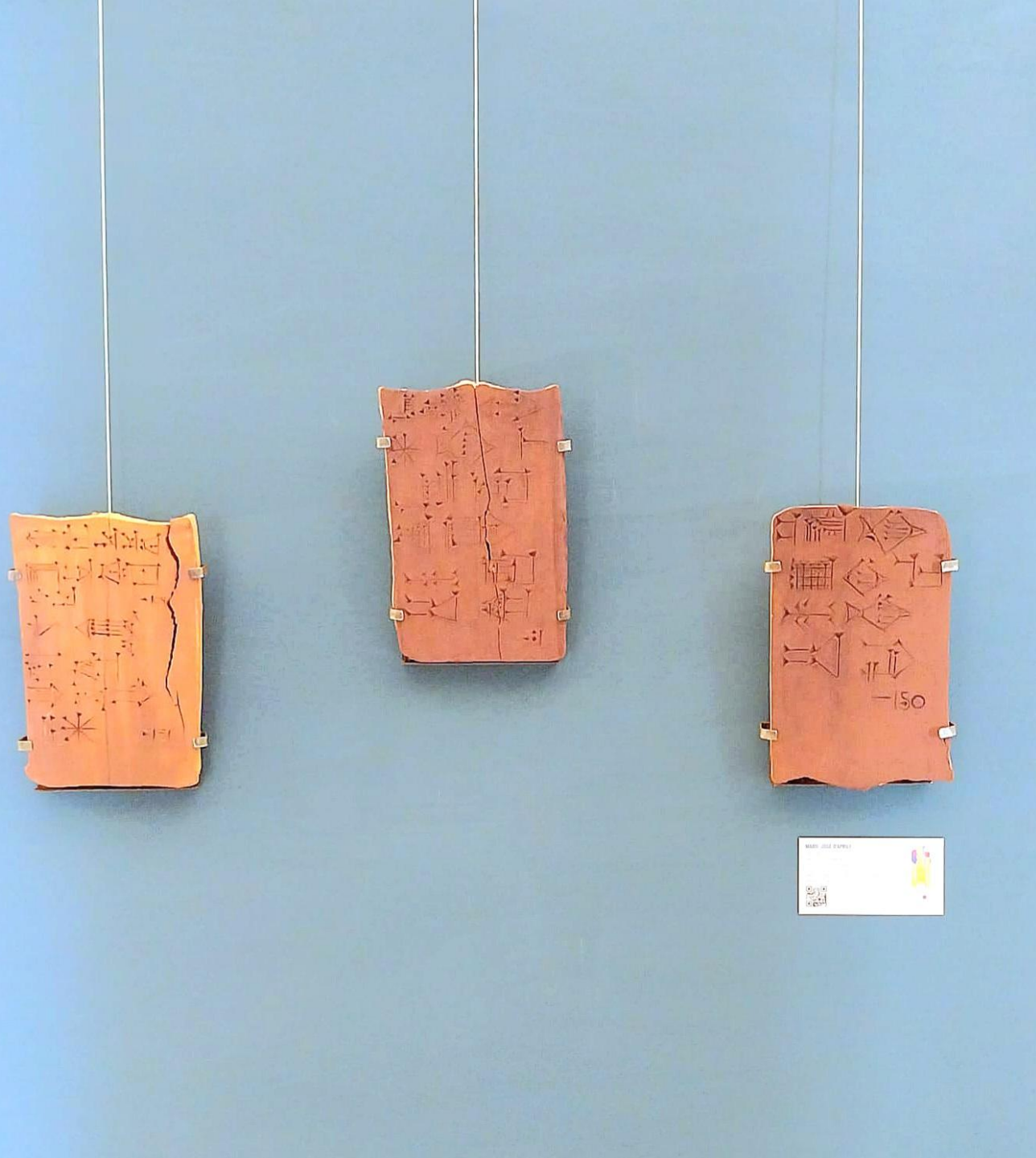
Since 2023, I have been researching the history of prominent women, notably authors, forgotten by mainstream historical narrative as well as ways of bringing them to light with my art. *Tryptique: Le Sacre d'Enneheduanna* started the series.

Tryptique: Le Sacre d'Enheduanna, 2024

Ceramic tablets sculpture

Terracotta, iron oxide wash, low-fire.

26cmx18cmx3cm.



Tryptique: Le Sacre d'Enheduanna, 2024

Ceramic sculpture

Terracotta, iron oxide wash, low-fire

Detail-View of the exhibition at *Matres*,
Festival Internazionale di Ceramica
al Femminile, Cava dei Tirreni, Italy, 2024.

In 2024, I was invited to participate in the September 2024 Lake Como Design Festival edition. The edition theme was «Lightness». I decided to create a site-specific installation made of a mobile ceramic sculpture along with newly designed plates that echoed both the sculpture design and the Lightness festival theme.

Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel,
engobe, glaze.

Sculptures: 53cmx30cm circa each

Dishes 26cm .



Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel, engobe,
Glaze.

Sculptures: 53cmx30cm circa each

Dishes 26cm

Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.



Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel, engobe,
glaze

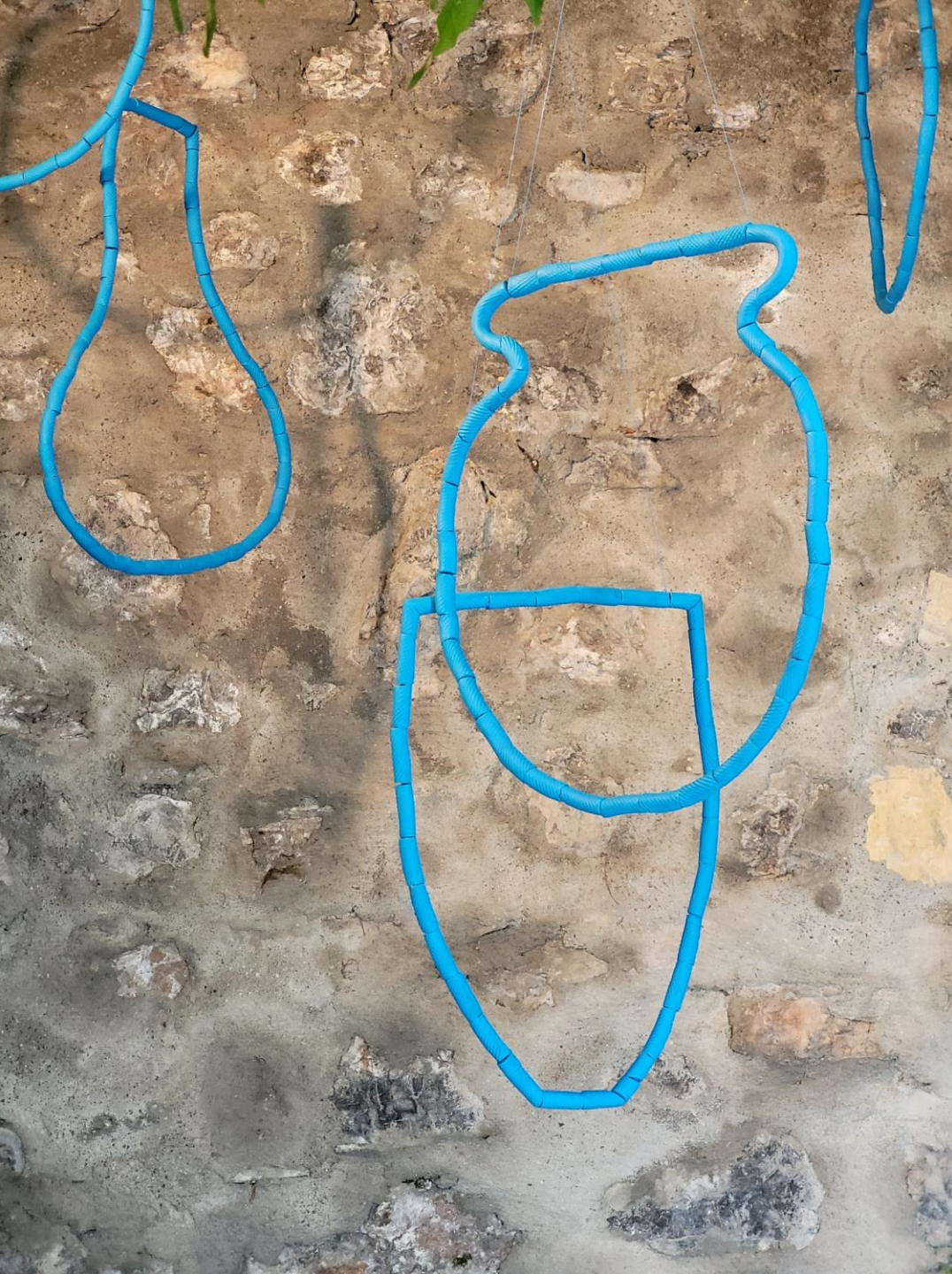
Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.



Càntaros, 2024

Designed, hand-built dishes
White clay, low-fire, engobe, glaze

Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.



Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel, engobe,
glaze

Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.



Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel, engobe,
glaze

Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.



Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel, engobe,
glaze

Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.



Càntaros, 2024

Mixed-media installation artwork & design
White clay, low-fire, acrylic, copper, steel, engobe,
glaze

Villa Grumello, Lake Como Design Festival, 2024.