

OCULA

SPOTLIGHT

miart 2022: Artist Highlights

Ocula Magazine was in Milan to present some of the artist highlights at miart 2022.



Exhibition view: Jem Perucchini, Robert Burnier, Sam Bakewell, Corvi-Mora, miart, Milan (1–3 April 2022). Courtesy Corvi-Mora.

By Stephanie Bailey - 6 April 2022, Milan

Jem Perucchini at Corvi-Mora

Placed front and centre in this Herno Prize-winning booth, where abstract ceramic and aluminium works by Sam Bakewell and Robert Burnier lined the walls, was *Tiresia* (2021) a standing wooden frame hosting two paintings by Jem Perucchini back-to-back.

Named after a blind Apollonian prophet who apparently spent years as a woman, each painting expresses the figure's mythical duality. On one side, a Black figure with long hair holds a snake coiling around both shoulders like a serpentine burden—a position mirrored in the painting facing the back wall, this time with the figure's hair cut short.

A graduate of the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan with an interest in common archetypes, this young Ethiopian-Italian painter's portraits invoke the soft textures of a da Vinci capture, with fleshy edges modulated by pointillist marks that illuminate the background as patterned clothing electrifies the foreground.

These effects are best captured in another work, not shown at the fair, *Sbandieratore (notturno)* (2021). With echoes of da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi* (1500), a Black saint holds a staff and a crystal globe that light up the midnight darkness shrouding the scene, as do his eyes.



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