

OBLONG



CONTEMPORARY
ART GALLERY

SWEET FACES

Vernissage: Season Opening

**SILVIO PORZIONATO
LAURENCE JENKELL**

15th of October, 2025

**AL KHAYAT ART AVENUE
AL QUOZ 1**



OBLONG



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SWEET FACES

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LAURENCE JENKELL**

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An artwork selection on the occasion of
Oblong Contemporary Gallery's exhibition, Dubai

It is with great pleasure that we present Sweet Faces as the opening exhibition of our new season at Oblong Contemporary. Bringing together the monumental portraits of Silvio Porzionato and the iconic candy sculptures of Laurence Jenkell, this exhibition creates a dialogue between two distinct artistic expressions.

The works on view highlight both contrast and complementarity: the intensity of the human gaze and the lightness of sculpted sweetness. Together, they invite reflection on themes of identity, memory, and desire, while offering visitors an engaging and vibrant experience.

We are proud to host this exhibition in Dubai and to share the vision of two internationally recognized artists with our public.

Paola Marucci

Managing Partner Oblong Contemporary Gallery

Preface

The encounter between Silvio Porzionato and Laurence Jenkell in *Sweet Faces* brings together two artistic languages that, at first sight, appear remote yet ultimately converge in their exploration of memory, identity, and desire. On the one hand, Porzionato's monumental portraits expand the human face to a scale that transcends individuality, transforming anonymous sitters into archetypal presences that speak to the universal within the personal. On the other, Jenkell's sculptural candies, executed in resin, metal, or marble, reimagine a childhood object of longing as a contemporary symbol of play, seduction, and cultural consumption.

Porzionato's practice situates the human visage within a space of contemplation. His paintings are at once intimate and monumental: the close-up renders each wrinkle, glance, or fleeting expression with photographic precision, yet the sheer scale abstracts the sitter into a timeless icon.

Jenkell, by contrast, operates in the language of Pop-inflected sculpture. Her Wrapping Candy works recall not only the sweetness of childhood but also the structures of DNA, the elegance of spirals, and the architectural forms of wrapping and twisting. What once represented a private deprivation is elevated into a universal metaphor. In her hands, the candy becomes both delightful object and cultural signifier, evoking questions about temptation, indulgence, and the aestheticization of consumption.

The juxtaposition of portraits and candies creates a dialogue that is more than visual contrast. It is an encounter between introspection and whimsy, solemnity and delight. What endures most in cultural consciousness — the penetrating gaze of another, or the irresistible allure of what is forbidden? In posing this question, Sweet Faces reveals how everyday imagery — a face, a piece of candy — carries layers of meaning that reach far beyond their surfaces, transforming into icons of our time.



SILVIO PORZIONATO

Silvio Porzionato (b. 1971, Moncalieri, Italy) is a contemporary figurative painter known for monumental oil portraits that transform ordinary people into universal icons. After a decade as a designer, he turned to painting and soon earned recognition with the Mondadori Art Prize and inclusion in the 54th Venice Biennale.

In 2013, he created Temporal Code for the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sicily — 112 portraits tracing human life from childhood to old age. His works have since appeared at Art Miami, Kiaf Seoul, London Art Fair, Contemporary Istanbul, and in exhibitions worldwide.

Recent highlights include the 007 Portraits commission for Aston Martin (Milan, 2021) and solo shows in Genoa, Bogotá, and Algarve. Today, Porzionato is celebrated for capturing the timeless essence of human presence.



Silvio Porzionato

Dreamers Redseries A01, 2024

Oil on canvas

180x120 cm



Silvio Porzionato

Dreamers Redseries A02, 2024

Oil on canvas

180x120 cm



Silvio Porzionato

Red Star - Manga series, 2024

Oil on canvas

200x140 cm

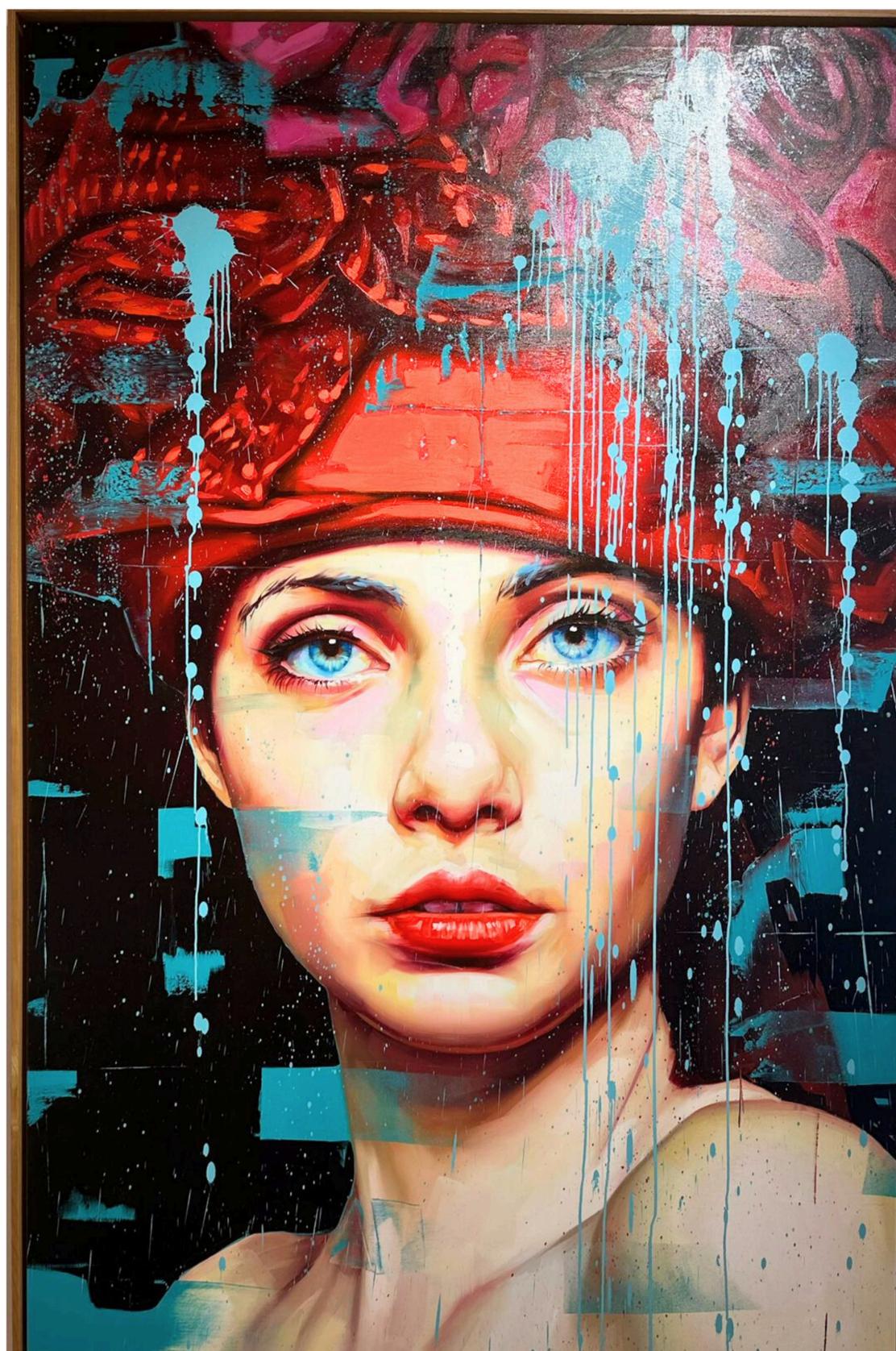


Silvio Porzionato

Regina di cuor, 2023

Oil on canvas

200 × 140 cm



Silvio Porzionato

Flor

Oil on canvas

140×210 cm



LAURENCE JENKELL

Laurence Jenkell is a French painter and sculptor based in Vallauris on the Côte d'Azur. Since the mid-1990s, she has been renowned for her Wrapping Candy sculptures — colorful works in plexiglass, bronze, marble, aluminum, and Murano glass, created through her unique technique of heating and twisting materials.

Inspired by a childhood fascination with sweets, she transformed this memory into a universal symbol, later expanding into series such as DNA helices, robots, and butterflies.

Her works are in collections worldwide and have featured in major exhibitions including Candy Nations at the 2011 G20 Summit in Cannes, Wrapping Candy at the Oculus, World Trade Center New York (2018), and a monumental installation on the A8 motorway in Nice (2023).



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Silver Blanc

2020

Plexiglas

80 cm on black base 28 x 35 x 8 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Blanc Nacré

2020

Plexiglas

80 cm on black base 28 x 35 x 8 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Delta Blue

2022

Plexiglass

42 cm on transparent plexiglas base

15 x 17 x 1.5 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Emeraude

2022

Plexiglass

44 cm on black plexiglas base

15 x 17 x 1 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Emeraude

2022

Plexiglass

44 cm on plexiglas base

15 x 17 x 1 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Irisé Radiant

2022

Plexiglas

45 cm on transparent base 15 x 17 x 1.5 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Transparent Peint Bleu Violet Noir
2023

Mixed media

23 cm on transparent base 7.5 x 8.5 x 1 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Transparent Peint Vert Rouge
Bleu Violet Orange Jaune, 2023

Mixed media

23 cm on transparent base 7.5 x 8.5 x 1 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Drapeau Monaco, 2025

Plexiglas

45 cm on transparent base 45 x 12 x 12 cm



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon drapeau Émirats Arabes Unis, 2025

Mixed Media

45 cm on transparent base

15 X 17 x 1,5 cm

Pièce Unique



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Émeraude

Plexiglas

82 cm, on black plexiglas base 28 x 35 x 8 cm

Pièce Unique



Laurence Jenkell

Wrapping Bonbon Irisé Radiant 2023

Plexiglas

80 cm on black plexiglas base 28 x 35 x 8 cm

Pièce Unique

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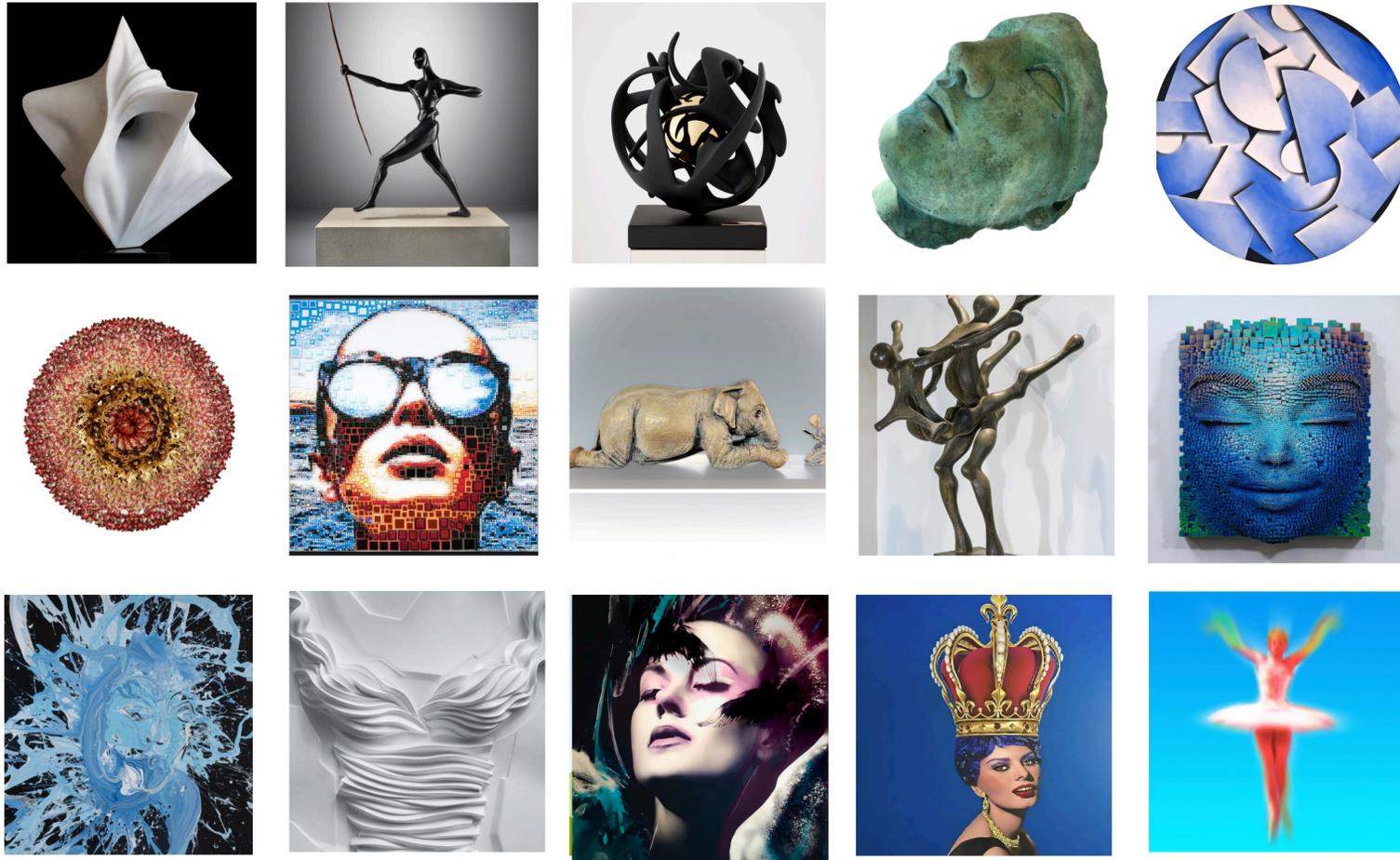
CONTEMPORARY
ART GALLERY

Oblong Contemporary is an Italian gallery established in 2019 in Forte dei Marmi, Tuscany, with a second space in Dubai. Rooted in the Tuscan sculptural tradition, the gallery is dedicated to presenting contemporary art that unites material mastery with conceptual vision.

Its program features celebrated artists such as Gianfranco Meggiato, Stefano Bombardieri, Igor Mitoraj, Sophia Vari, Gustavo Vélez, Laurence Jenkell, and Silvio Porzionato, together with distinctive Italian voices including Giuseppe Maiorana. The gallery curates exhibitions and projects across Forte dei Marmi, Milan, Lucca, and Dubai, underscoring the continuity between Italy's artistic heritage and the evolving language of contemporary practice.

Oblong Contemporary distinguishes itself through a focus on monumental sculpture, painting, and cross-disciplinary projects. Working with artists who explore themes of identity, memory, and transformation, the gallery seeks to create exhibitions that are both visually striking and intellectually engaging.

The gallery's presence in Forte dei Marmi and Dubai allows it to engage audiences across different cultural contexts, reinforcing its commitment to presenting art that is both timeless and contemporary.



Akelo

Annalù

Antonio Signorini

Cveto Marsic

Enrico Ghinato

Flavio Lucchini

Gavin Rain

Georges Ajoury

Gil Bruvel

Gianfranco Meggiato

Giuseppe Maiorana

Gustavo Vélez

Hussain Jamil

Igor Mitoraj

Isabelle Scheltjens

José Yaruro

Laurence Jenkell

Lorenzo Marini

Maicol Borghetti

Manolo Valdés

Manu Alguero

Marco Grassi

Mario Arlati

Mr. Brainwash

Nicoletta Gatti

Omar Ludo

Riccardo Gusmaroli

Roberta Diazzi

Sauro Cavallini

Serero Pop Art

Silvia Della Rocca

Silvio Porzionato

Sophia Vari

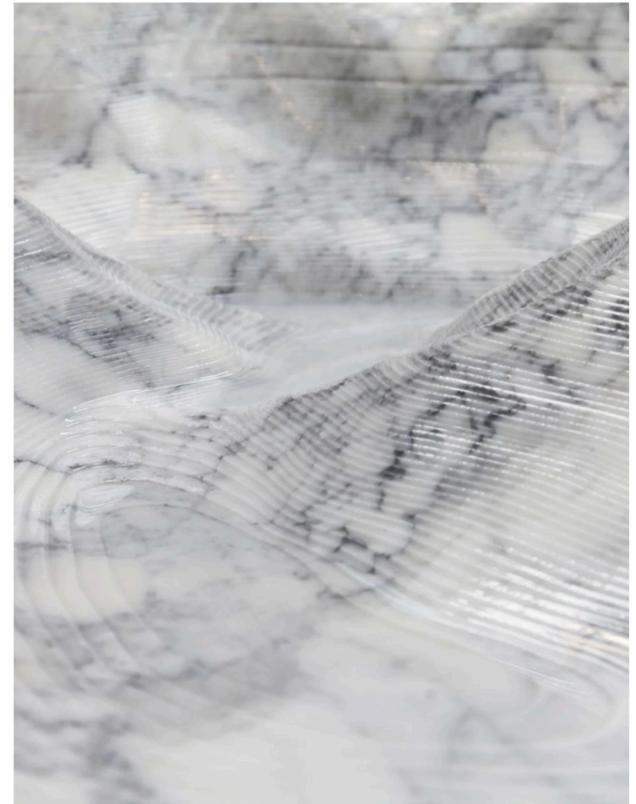
Stefano Bombardieri

Umberto Ciceri

Valerie Breuleux

Valentina Lucarini

Youn Kyoung Cho



PIETRASANTA MARBLE QUARRY

Oblong Contemporary, with its strong ties to the artistic heritage of Pietrasanta, renowned for marble craftsmanship since the 15th century, embodies a fusion of international perspectives and Italian cultural roots. The gallery draws inspiration from the legacy of Pietrasanta, where Michelangelo himself was captivated by the beauty of the region's renowned marble. While operating globally, Oblong Contemporary strives to export the cultured and passionate love for sculpture and visual art from Italy to the UAE, connecting the rich artistic DNA of Pietrasanta with a vision deeply rooted in both Italian tradition and a global artistic context

FORTE DEI MARMI

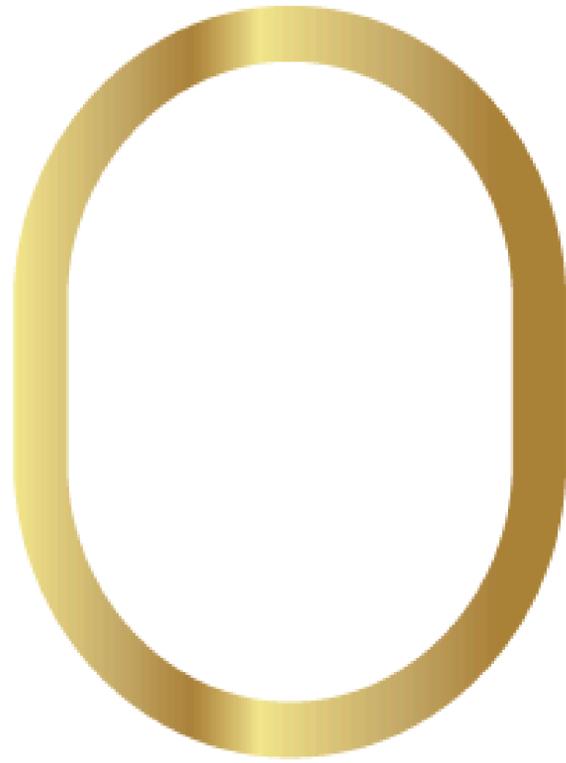
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