



## *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*

**Marta Zgierska**

**February 15 - March 23, 2024**

*Tomorrow crumbles in hands* is the second solo show by Polish visual artist and photographer **Marta Zgierska** (b. 1987, Lublin) with GOWEN. The exhibition unites selected pieces from the artist's wider body of work including elements from her different series entitled *Short Circuit*, *Overblooms* and *From All Angles* presented at the Zachęta Project Space in Warsaw. Many works from her most recent series *Flame* are shown here for the first time. Through her practice of performance and photography, Zgierska - whose own body is the only one represented in her work as a whole - composes somewhat unconventional self-portraits. As the artist's practice takes a new direction towards sculptural objects, the show includes photography, sculpture as well as a site-specific installation in wood.

Zgierska investigates the predicament of the world. By abstracting scenes and symbols from their natural context, she creates her own lexicon of oppression and dependency, trauma and survival. Using wood, flesh, or metal, Zgierska combines images of the concurrence and mutual influence of elements of the orders of nature and civilisation, reflecting on the increasingly defenceless individual in a system full of threats. Focusing on weakness and withdrawal, the artist explores reality, inverting key gestures and selecting essential aspects of current crises and applies them to herself. As dominant new issues arise in the media and in society, Zgierska retains past concerns which persistently fester: the continuing erosion of women's rights, election campaigns based on hatred of minorities, the refugee, climate, and economic crises, and war. At the same time, Zgierska's response is positive, even beautiful: her practice is contemplative, sharing empathy with those who experience human vulnerability, struggles and emotion, both physical and spiritual. It is these unique states, efforts, and expressions that the artist pursues as routes to survival.

Through their formally sophisticated compositions, Zgierska's photographic works taken from her *From all angles* series evoke abstract, natural elements – espaliered trees, bare and convoluted stems, woody segments, no longer self-supported but sustained by metal props. In other images, notably in her *Overbloom* series, shades are brown and grey, deep umber and ochre, of plants collected after winter. Or partial bodily elements such as hands or arms which connect with external objects, reliant on these manufactured aids. *Tomorrow crumbles in hands* further explores notions of damage reflected in the body, its fragility, including the illusory compulsion of physical perfection, as well as the sense of insecurity and threat caused by this unsettling contemporary reality.

In the words of Zgierska, "*the recurring theme in my photographs is the status of women - both as subjects and objects of representation - but also the human condition today. In my artistic practice I explore the themes of trauma, extreme experiences and the tensions associated with them. I add a personal dimension to these, often using myself as the object in performative actions. I work with my own body, objects, and space.*"

Around 30 works are included into the presentation.

**Marta Zgierska (b. 1987 Lublin, Poland) is a PhD candidate in the field of Intermedia. She holds a MFA in Photography (Polish National Film School in Lodz), a MA in Theatrology and a MA in Social Communication and Journalism. Marta is the recipient of a number of scholarships and the author of award-winning works and books on art. In 2016 she was awarded the *Prix HSBC pour la Photographie*, in 2018 she was nominated for the *Foam Paul Huf Award* and the *DZ BANK Art Collection Fellowship* in 2019. Marta is also Editor-in-chief of *Postmedium*, a magazine dedicated to the presentation of texts by visual artists. Her works have been exhibited in numerous museums, galleries, and festivals and can be viewed in her current solo show at the Municipal BWA Gallery, Bydgoszcz, Poland. She will be a participating artist in this year's *Fotofestival Lenzburg*, Switzerland. Zgierska lives and works in Warsaw, Poland. She is represented by *GOWEN*, Geneva.**





Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud

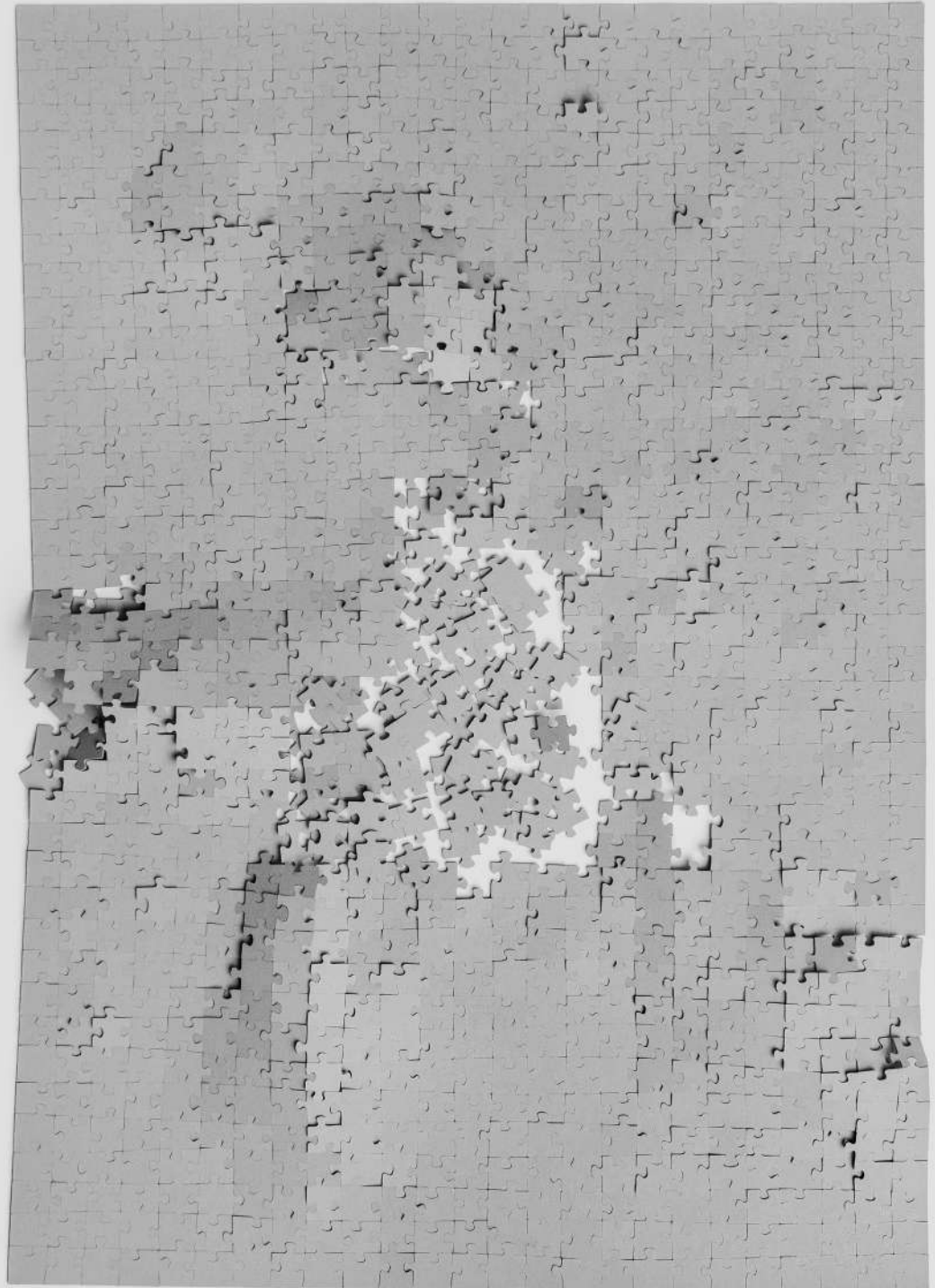


Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Untitled, from Post series*, 2016  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
130 X 92.9 cm  
51.2 X 36.6 in  
Ed. 1 of 3 + 1 AP  
MZ 032

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Untitled, from Post series, 2013*  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
80 x 57.2 cm  
31.5 x 22.5 in  
Ed. 1 of 7 + 1 AP  
MZ 004

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Crust*, 2020  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
70 x 50 cm  
27.6 x 19.7 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 070

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud





Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*From all angles I*, 2023  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
150 x 107.2 cm  
59.1 x 42.2 in  
Ed. 1 of 3 + 2 AP  
MZ 072

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*From all angles II*, 2023  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag  
Pearl  
150 x 107.2 cm  
59.1 x 42.2 in  
Ed. 1 of 3 + 2 AP  
MZ 074

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Overblooms I*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
100 x 75 cm  
39.4 x 29.5 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 075

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud

Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Overblooms IV*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
50 x 40 cm  
19.7 x 15.7 in  
MZ 076

[Inquire](#)





Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Overblooms II*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
50 x 40 cm  
19.7 x 15.7 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 077

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud



Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024





Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Overblooms III*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
50 x 40 cm  
19.7 x 15.7 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 078

[Inquire](#)

Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Overblooms V*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
40 x 50 cm  
15.7 x 19.7 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 3 AP  
MZ 079

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Short Circuit II*, 2023  
Wood, tin  
120 x 25 x 20 cm  
47.2 x 9.8 x 7.9 in  
MZ 073

[Inquire](#)



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*The Vanishing*, 2021  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
70 x 50 cm  
27.6 x 19.7 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 082

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Short Circuit IV*, 2024  
Tin  
30 x 24 cm  
11.8 x 9.4 in  
MZ 104

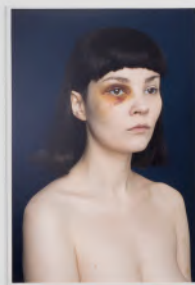
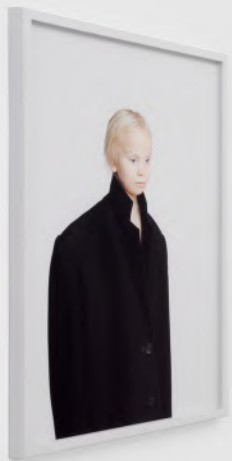
[Inquire](#)



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*The Core*, 2021  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
70 x 50 cm  
27.6 x 19.7 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 085

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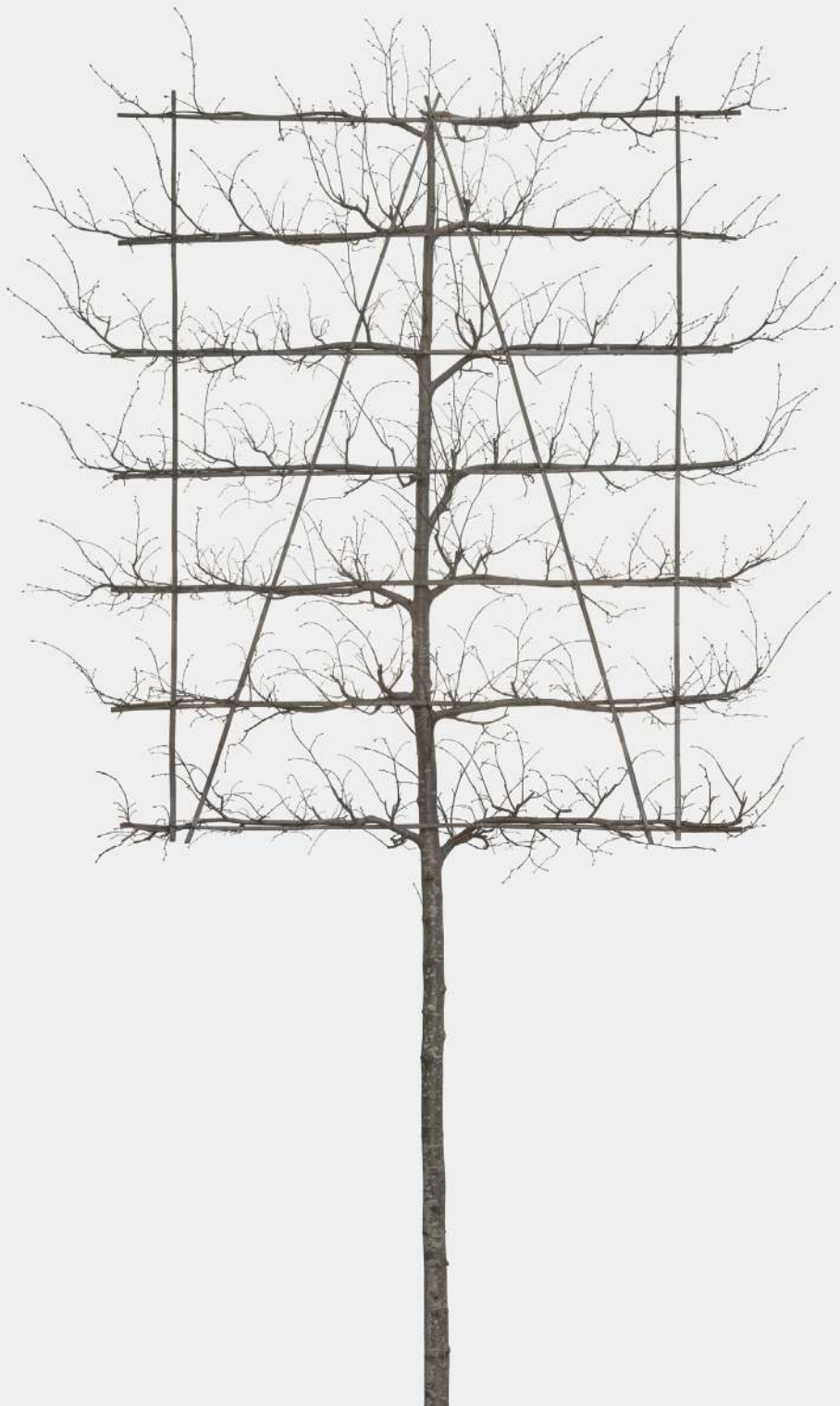


Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud

Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Untitled*, 2021  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
130 x 92.9 cm  
51.2 x 36.6 in  
MZ 086

[Inquire](#)





Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*From all angles IV*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
130 x 92.9 cm  
51.2 x 36.6 in  
Ed. 1 of 3 + 2 AP  
MZ 087

[Inquire](#)



Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska  
GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud

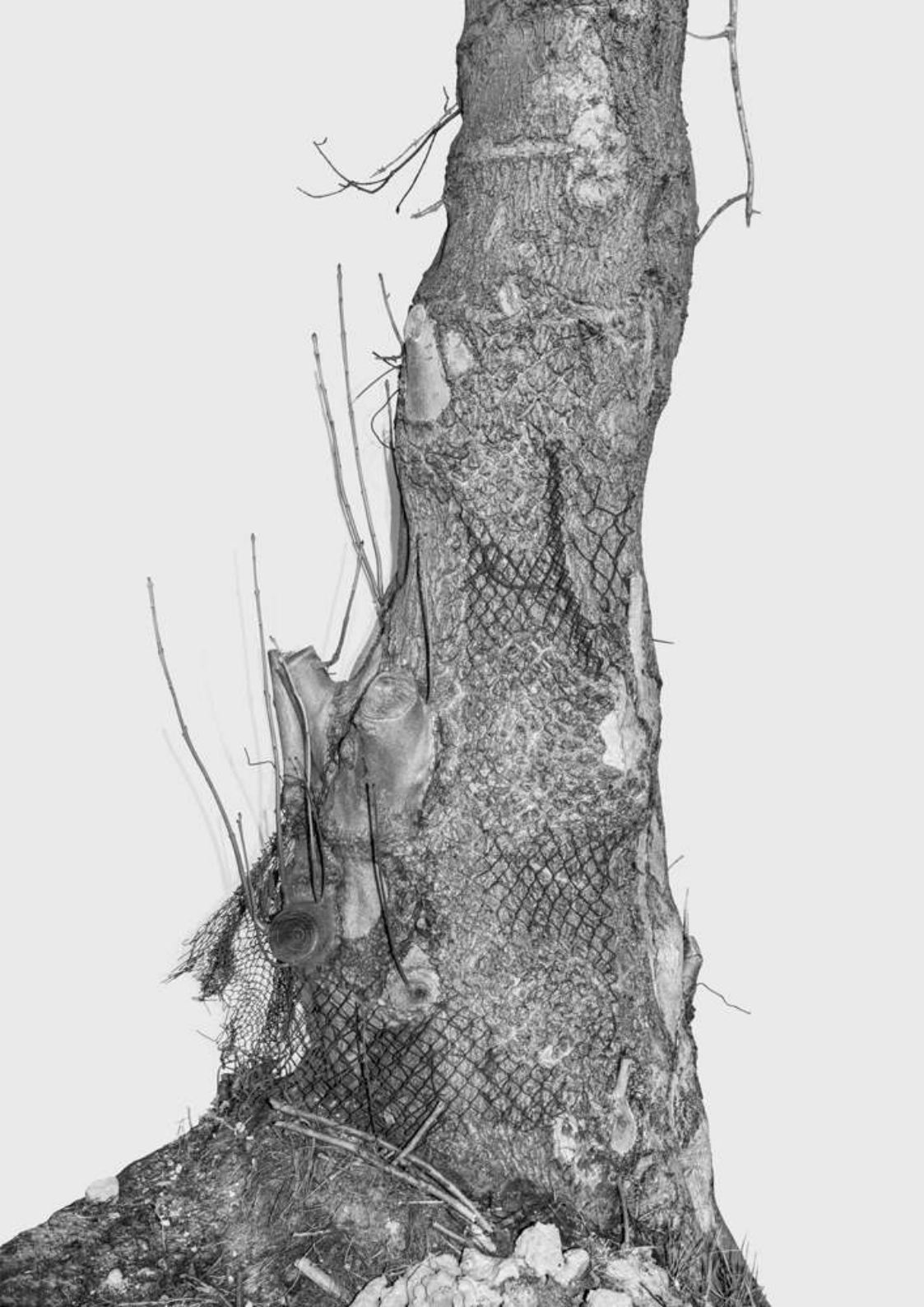
Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*From all angles III*, 2023  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
80 x 57.2 cm  
31.5 x 22.5 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 088

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud



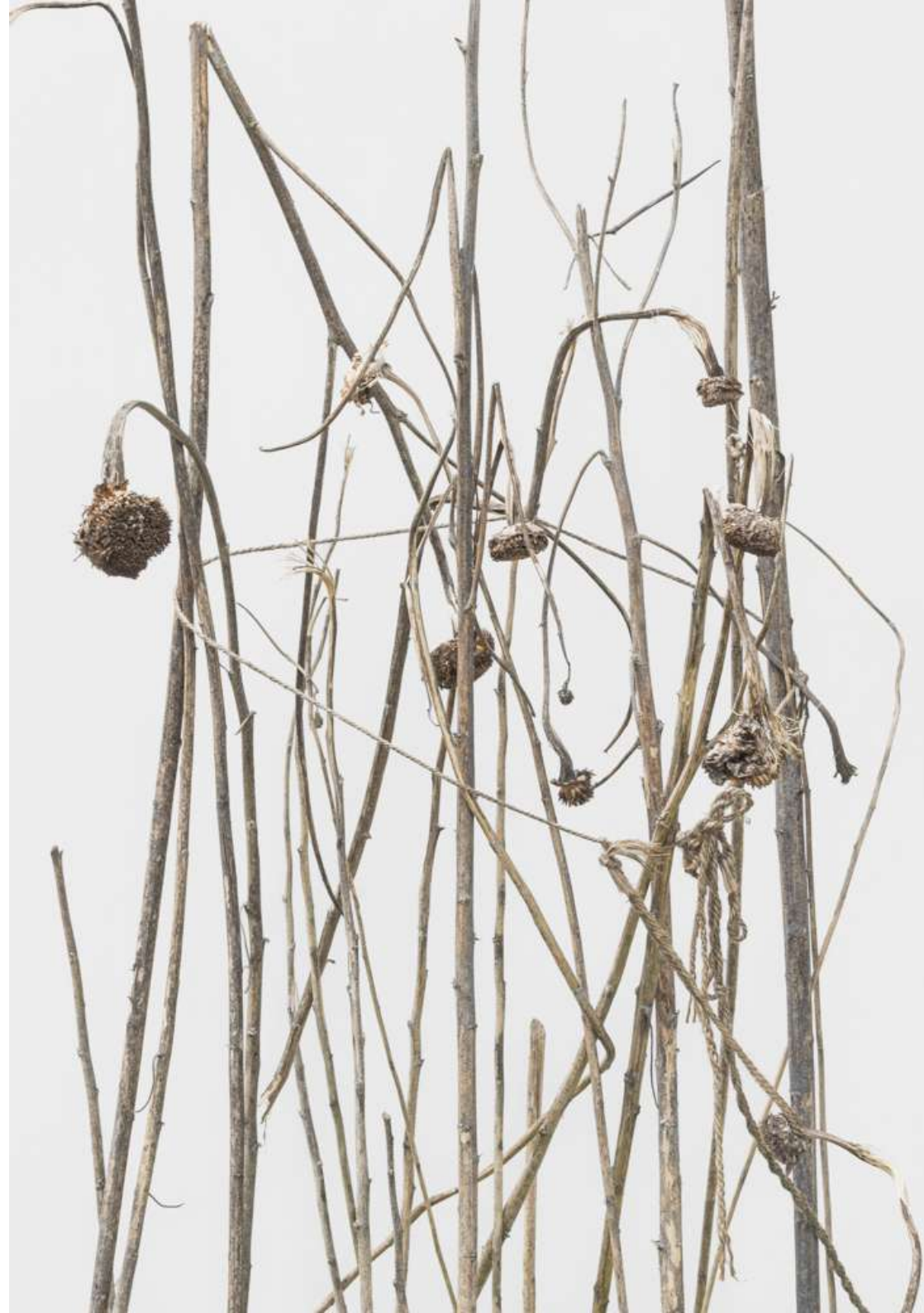


Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*From all angles V*, 2022  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
130 x 92.9 cm  
51.2 x 36.6 in  
Ed. 1 of 3 + 2 AP  
MZ 089

[Inquire](#)

Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*From all angles VI*, 2023  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
80 x 57.2 cm  
31.5 x 22.5 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 090

[Inquire](#)





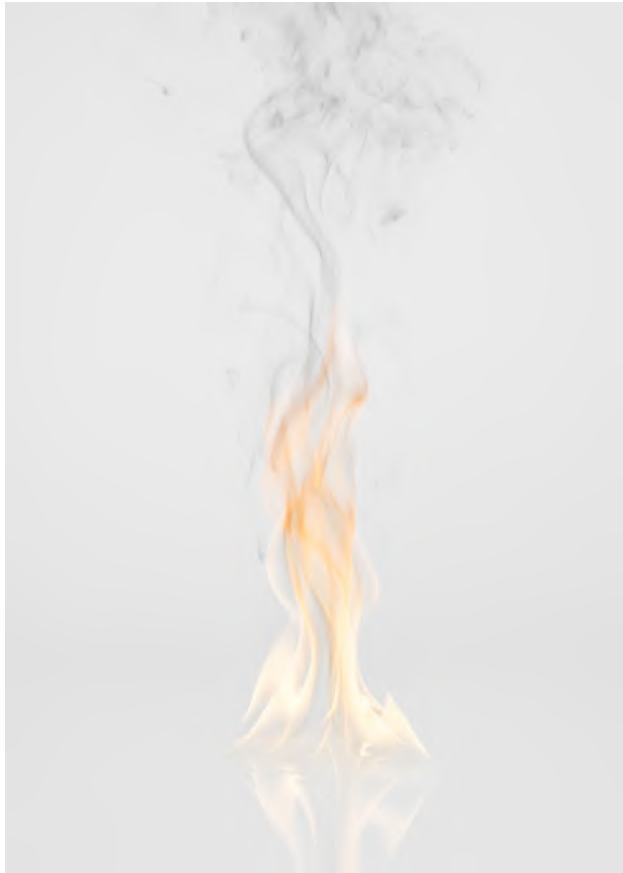
Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Untitled, from Post series, 2016*  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
130 X 92.9 cm  
51.2 X 36.6 in  
Ed. 2 of 3 + 1 AP  
MZ 052

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Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame I*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

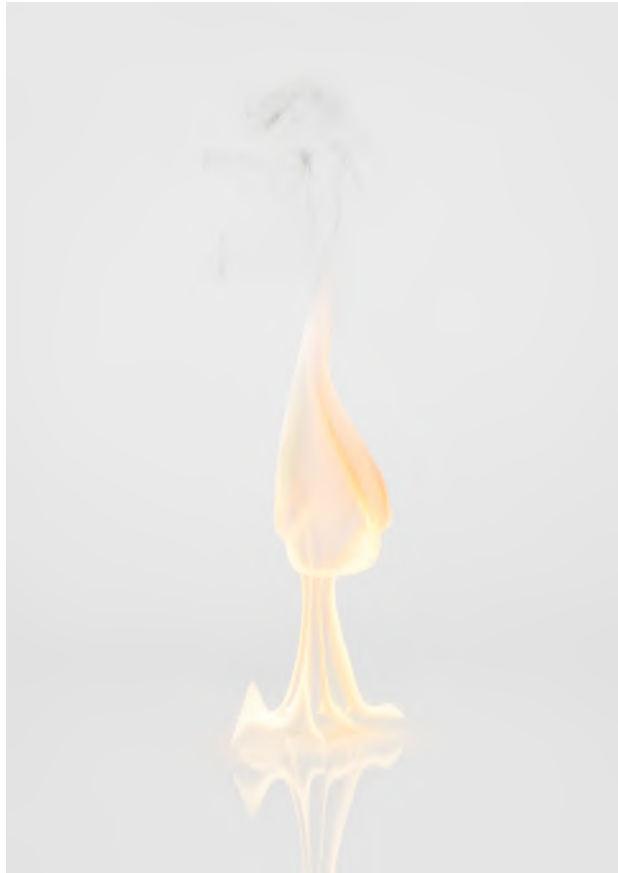
40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 091

[Inquire](#)



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame II*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 092

[Inquire](#)



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame III*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

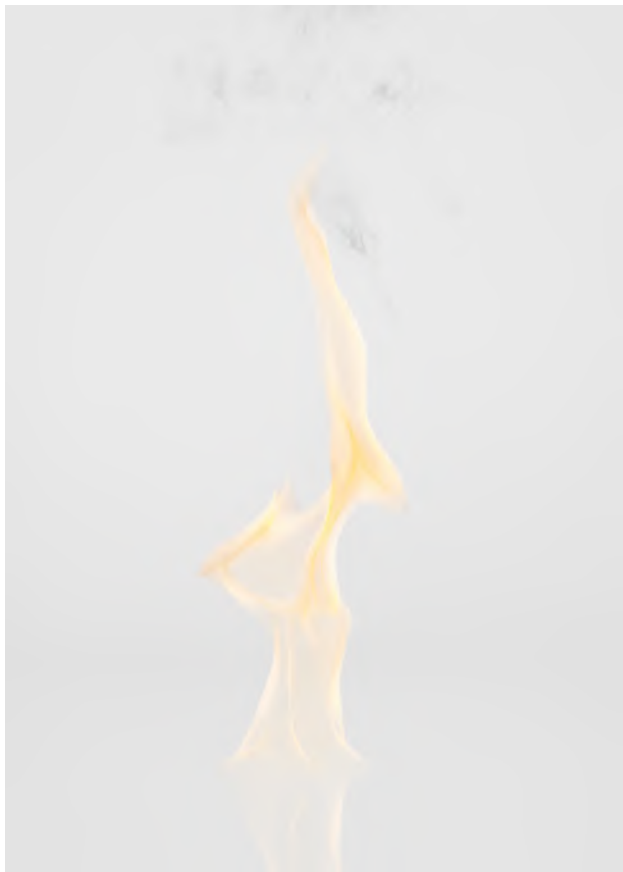
40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 093

[Inquire](#)



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame IV*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 094

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame V*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

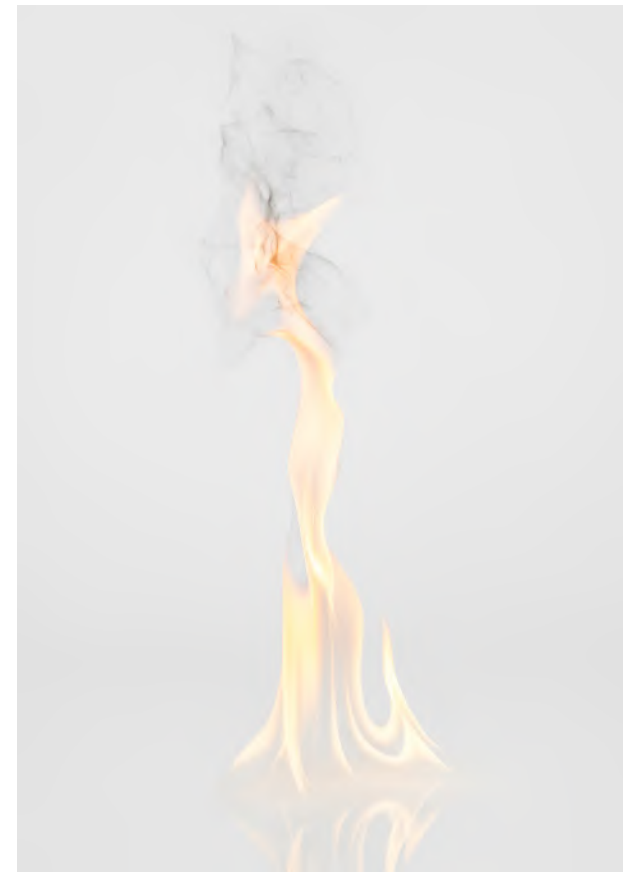
40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 095

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame VI*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

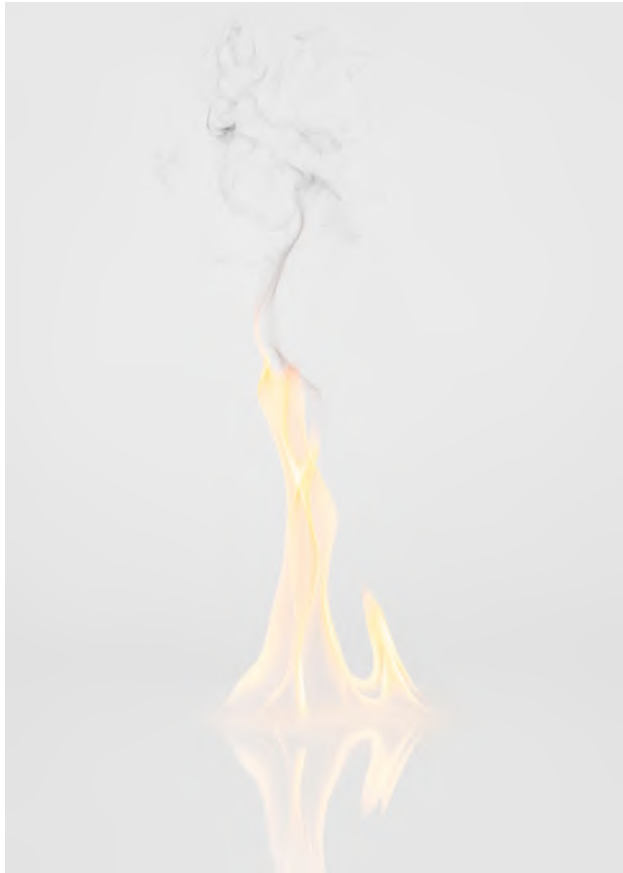
40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 096

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame VII*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 097

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame VIII*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

MZ 098

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)

*Flame IX*, 2024

Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl

40 x 28.6 cm

15.7 x 11.3 in

Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP

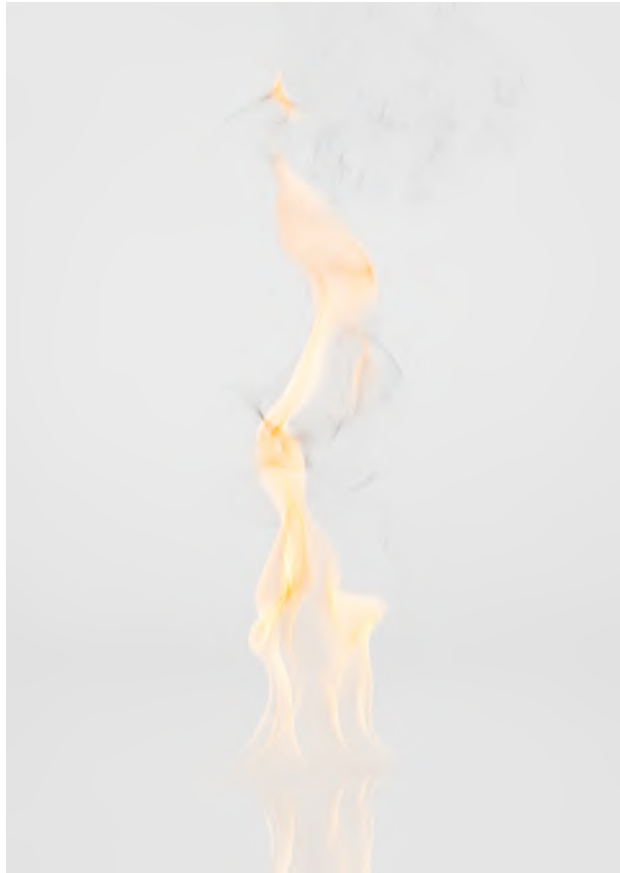
MZ 099

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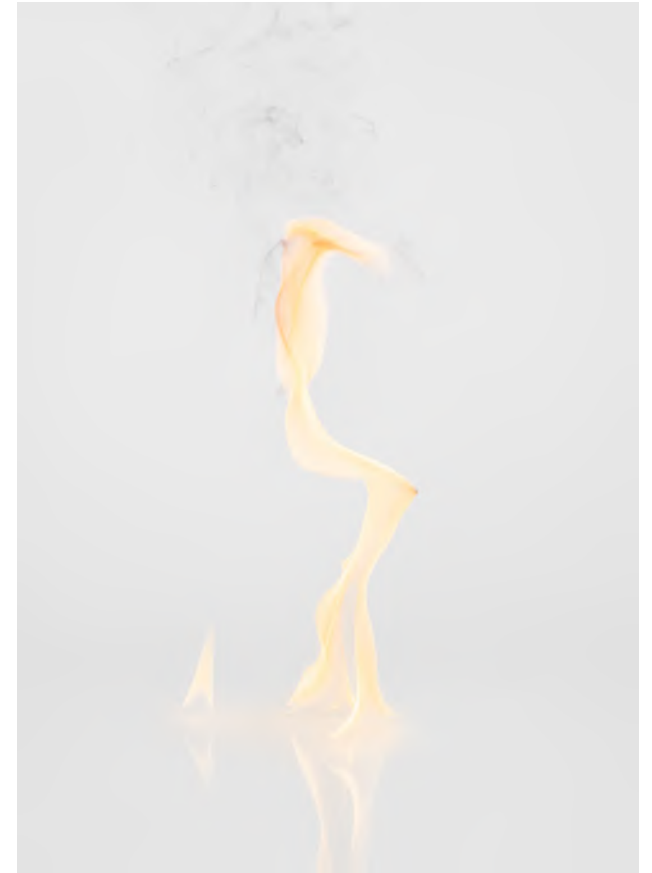
Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Flame X*, 2024  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
40 x 28.6 cm  
15.7 x 11.3 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 100

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Flame XI*, 2024  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
40 x 28.6 cm  
15.7 x 11.3 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 101

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Flame XII*, 2024  
Pigment print, Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl  
40 x 28.6 cm  
15.7 x 11.3 in  
Ed. 1 of 5 + 2 AP  
MZ 102

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Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Untitled, from Post series, 2016*  
Dibond photograph  
80 x 57.2 cm  
31.5 x 22.5 in  
Ed. AP of 7 + 1 AP  
MZ 009

[Inquire](#)

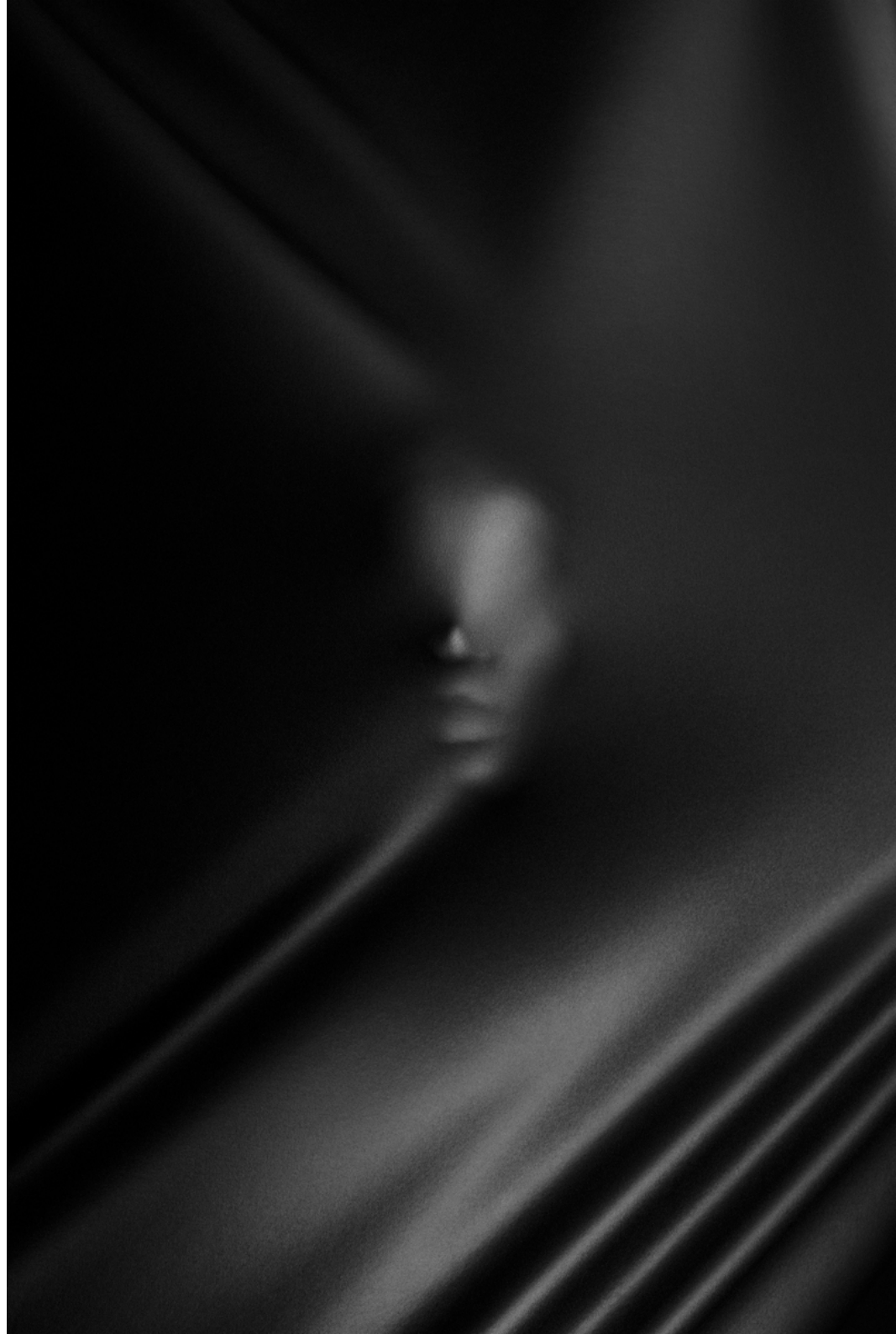


Installation view, *Tomorrow crumbles in hands*, solo show by Marta Zgierska, GOWEN, Geneva, CH, 2024 ©Julien Gremaud



Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Drift VIII*, 2017  
Pigment print on canvas  
150 x 100 cm  
59.1 x 39.4 in  
Ed. 2 of 3 + 1 AP  
MZ 026

[Inquire](#)





Marta Zgierska (Polish, 1987)  
*Pepper Spray*, 2021  
video, 4 minute, looped  
Ed. 1 of 5  
MZ 105

[Inquire](#)



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