

## PAOLO VENTURA

*"War and Flowers"* paintings on paper

From thursday February 11th to saturday March 20th 2021

Via Brera 2, Milano

*This summer I began painting flowers, picking them up from their roots, near my studio in Anghiari, Tuscany.*

*Along with the roots and the earth, the war emerges, too.*

*Where I gather flowers, the English and German fought in the summer of 1944, for months they butchered each other on those hills.*

*They left behind, ammunition, shoes, bombs and the dead.*

*The earth has absorbed them, enrobed them, tarnished them.*

*When I gather flowers, the war emerges, too.*

Paolo Ventura

## BIOGRAPHY

Paolo Ventura was born in Milan in 1968. In the early '90s he attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Brera, but left almost immediately to pursue his interest in photography. Over the next ten years he worked as a photographer of fashion, design and landscapes, though without great personal satisfaction. He decided, therefore, to abandon commercial photography and moved to New York. In a small studio in Brooklyn, hardly bigger than a closet, he began constructing dioramas on the theme of the Second World War in Italy, drawing from the memories and stories told by his maternal grandmother. In 2006 he published 'War Souvenir', a work that proved to be enormously successful and was followed by numerous exhibitions all over the world. In the following years he continued his artistic research, creating many more works including 'Winter Stories', 'Automaton' and 'Short Stories'. His work has also included the creation of sets and costumes for various operas for the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Teatro Regio of Turin.

