

A RITROSO

Maria Morganti, 2014

A ritroso (Nel travertino), travertine stone and plasticine, 50 x 40 cm, Venice 2014

A ritroso (Polittico per Zegna), Venice 2014

From right:

“Sedimentazione 2014 #1”, oil on canvas, 110 x 90cm, Venice, 2014

“Sedimentazione 2013 #3”, oil on canvas, 110 x 90cm, Venice, 2013

“Sedimentazione 2012 #5”, oil on canvas, 110 x 90cm, Venice, 2012

“Sedimentazione 2011 #24”, oil on canvas, 110 x 90cm, Venice, 2011

“Sedimentazione 2010 #15”, oil on canvas, 110 x 90cm, Venice, 2010

“A ritroso” is part of the ZegnArt / Art in Global Stores program, a cycle of permanent creations for major Zegna stores commissioned to Italian artists.

Maria Morganti responded to ZegnArt commission drawing on her series of paintings on canvas called “Sedimentazioni” [Sedimentations]. The creation of each “Sedimentazione” starts with a layer of red, followed by a succession of colours, one on top of the other. The gesture is always the same: spreading the painting over the canvas until almost completely covering it. A border is left at the top of the canvas that recounts the passage of all the colours that have led to that point, to that latest layer.

Morganti chose four “Sedimentazioni” in chronological order, one per year, to represent a consequentiality of time, and painted a fifth using the first four as a source for the choice of colours of last one. The artist plays with the flow of time: linear time, that in the display proceeds inexorably from left to right, according to the dates of the paintings, meets circular time – the act of the artist going back and recovering a trace.

Parallel to the process of layering oil paint on the fifth “Sedimentation”, the artist layered coloured plasticine on a wood panel. Once this different “sedimentation” was finished, the artist cut and extracted small parts of it and placed them into the interstices of a small slab of travertine stone. In the work [“A ritroso (Nel travertino)”, 2014], the human gesture that shaped the plasticine is coupled with the geological process that shaped the stone, and the time of human life is set inside the time of Earth.