

# SOLUNA

FINE ART

*Soglia*

**Raffaele Cioffi (b. 1971 in Desio, Italy)**

Date: 15 September - 21 October 2023

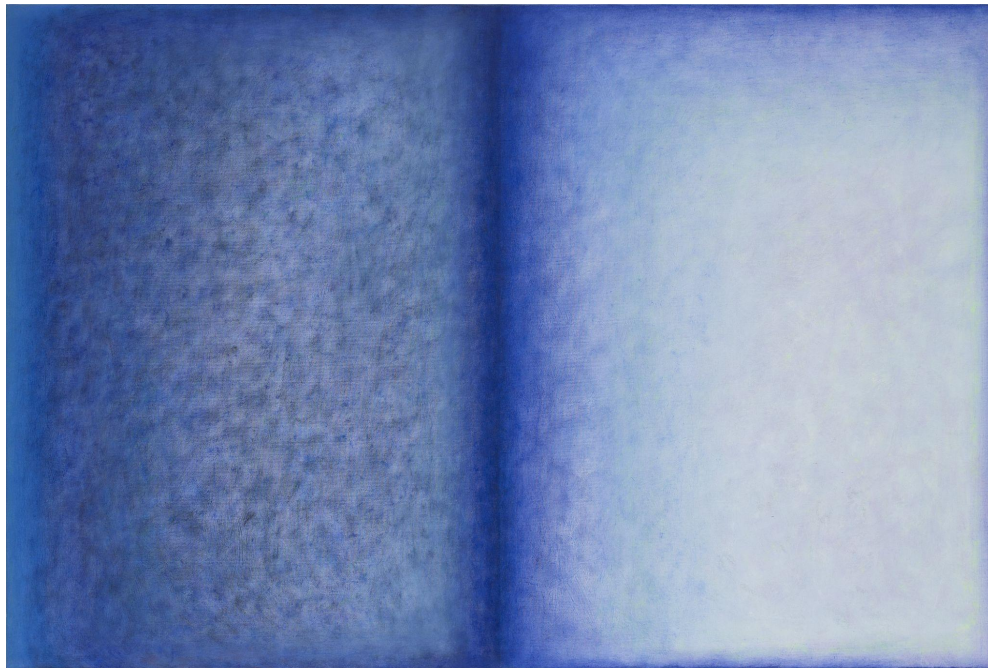
Opening Reception: 15 September (Fri) 5 - 8 pm

Venue: Soluna Fine Art, GF, 52 Sai St, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

## Supporter Partners



Consolato Generale d'Italia  
Hong Kong



Raffaele Cioffi, *Soglia blu oltremare*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 100 x 150 cm

Soluna Fine Art is proud to present *Soglia*, the first solo exhibition of Italian contemporary painter Raffaele Cioffi with the gallery. The exhibition will feature new oil painting works completed in 2023 from the artist's signature oeuvre, 'Soglia', which he has been developing for over half a decade. *Soglia*, meaning threshold, represents the visual spaces that Cioffi has been exploring on his canvas by softening and scattering the colors that generate depths and paths, inviting viewers to inwardly step forward into the entrances. His technique may be seen as a symbolic act of liberating the colors from lines to light (returning them to what they are: atoms in the air, flowing and free) that moves and expands through his series like activated monitor screens. This way, Cioffi's works collectively recreate reality in a surrealistic way, allowing the viewers to reinterpret the world.



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Furthermore, we would like to thank the Italian Cultural Institute in Hong Kong and the Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong for being our supporter partners of this exhibition. *Soglia* will be on view from 15 September to 21 October 2023, with an opening reception on 15 September (Fri) at 5 - 8pm.

Please confirm your attendance [here](#) by clicking on the RSVP button.

## **ARS GRATIA ARTIS; ART FOR ART'S SAKE**

*Marco Meneguzzo*

In an era characterized by hyper-efficiency and productivity, even art is aimed at capturing viewers' immediate attention with visually striking images. It may seem strange for artists to invite their audience to slow down and engage in intellectual contemplation. Yet, unusual as it may seem, such artists do exist, and almost all of them practice forms of abstraction, ranging from hermetic conceptualism to the more traditional style of pictorial abstractionism that emerged during the first seventy years of the twentieth century. Above all, Raffaele Cioffi belongs to the latter.

To dispel any confusion, it is paramount to clarify that abstraction is fundamentally a state of mind. This existential condition has historically found its visual expression in abstractionism rather than the other way around. This human condition is not tied to any specific historical moment, just as its visual manifestation, composed of formless shapes and colors devoid of subject or object, is not solely the language through which it communicates. Today, in the current artistic landscape, where almost all linguistic boundaries have dissolved and "everything can work" in its world, abstraction as a visual language transcends any specific period or any divisive meanings associated with avant-garde movements. It operates as a pure linguistic code, uncontaminated by the influence of other languages or narratives, just like mathematics. "Ars gratia artis" – "art for art's sake" – as said by the ancient Romans (and the iconic round frame from which the lion of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer roars), encapsulates the essence of abstractionism.

That said, while the fundamental elements of abstraction have been identified and used, those who use this code, like Cioffi, must work on the concept of "variation" concerning the great innovations and discoveries of the last century. Despite the seemingly limited scope that the term may suggest, the idea of abstraction remains a vast terrain for exploration, in which what is missing are the extreme highs or lows—the "peaks" or the "abyss". To approach this "abstract" concept concretely, one shall envision a gently undulating landscape comprised solely of hills, resembling the rolling hills of



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Tuscany, or (since Cioffi is being presented in Asia for the first time), consider the typical landscape depicted in traditional Chinese paintings and porcelain—replete with mountains, waterfalls flowing into tranquil lakes, boats, and often a solitary scholar on the shore. While the subject matter remains constant, it is the very detail—an added proportion or a skillful nuance—that differentiates each corner, resulting in a unique visual language. Indeed, such landscapes, be it real or painted, never fail to captivate. Thus, abstraction in painting never loses its appeal for two primary reasons. First, those who possess the sensibility to "hear" the language are not deterred by the idea that previous explorers have already left their marks in the territory. Second, the possible variations on the same theme, or rather, the same language, constitute a practically inexhaustible well of creative possibilities.

Thus Cioffi fits into the flow of that noble river of abstraction. Despite sharing a known historical allusion with other works, constructing his own unique combination of shapes and colors ultimately results in something truly distinct and original in his work. Over the past decade, and even longer, the focus in Cioffi's paintings has shifted, minimizing the geometric elements while emphasizing the power of color. A single color is explored in various shades and intensities, encircling geometric signs that divide the space, establishing angles or loosely rectangular forms referred to by the artist as "thresholds" or "doors", suggesting an opening, a visual passage from one state to another. This visual threshold forms a gap in our perception, a chromatic void that appears as an outlet as we attempt to reconcile the unfamiliar—Cioffi's abstract visual system—with the familiar—a "door" known in our physical reality. However, the essence of Cioffi's work extends beyond this mere representation of a doorway. It embodies a purer form of artistic expression where language itself serves as both the means and the end. It is a language that contemplates its own codes, a metalanguage of vision reflecting upon itself.

In Cioffi's atelier, the strength of color and the ability of geometry to influence its power are discussed, as well as how the chromatic aspect, down to the tiniest brushstroke, possesses the remarkable capacity to soften the rigidity of form. This new pictorial world is free from the mundane aspects of everyday life but enters our daily reality through its pure language, which is both the means and end of the artist's work.

## About Raffaele Cioffi

**Raffaele Cioffi** (b. 1971 in Desio, Italy) graduated from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan following the courses of Luciano Fabro, a renowned conceptual sculpture artist. He continued to re-orient his visual research and language after becoming acquainted with painters like Claudio Olivieri and Marcio Raciti, both belonging to the 'Pittura Pittura' movement. By purifying the colors into the autonomous entity, Cioffi creates luminescent and ethereal chromatic bodies of light that give



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fluidity to shapes across the canvas. As a result of this painterly life-like force, the viewers may have tactile and metaphysical experiences when looking at his paintings. Since the nineties, Cioffi has exhibited in private galleries and public institutions in Italy and overseas, including the Museum of Modern Art of Gavirate, Venice Biennale, Villa Clerici-Museo d'Arte Sacra in Milan, Civic Museum of Alessandria, Sala dei Convegni of the museum, Museo d' Arte Contemporanea, Palazzo Ducale in Mantua, and more.

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## About Soluna Fine Art

**Soluna Fine Art** is a gallery specializing in contemporary fine art and craft. Our mission is to revitalize multicultural aesthetics and philosophy by showcasing exquisite works by established and emerging artists with traditional values in contemporary dialogue. Works by artists represented by Soluna Fine Art can be found in private collections and institutions worldwide. Our annual program includes exhibitions, fairs, educational initiatives, and multi-disciplinary collaborations on an international level.



Soluna Fine Art

GF, 52 Sai Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am – 6pm

For press inquiries, please contact:

Bess Yung: [bess@solunafineart.com](mailto:bess@solunafineart.com) or +852 9554 5272

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**Raffaele Cioffi** (生於1971年, 意大利代西奧)

日期: 2023年9月15日至10月21日

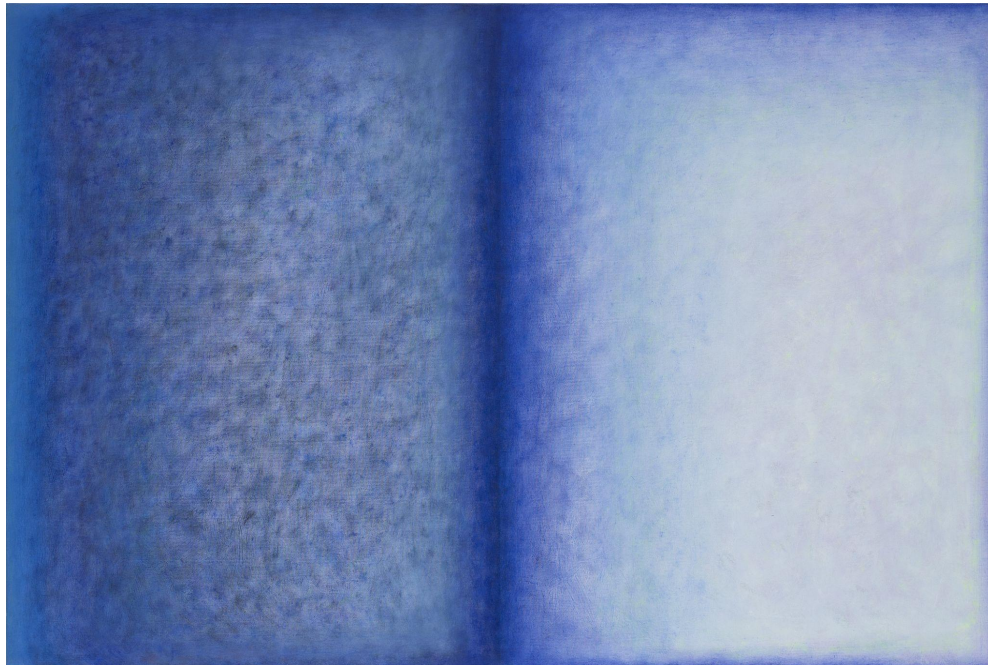
開幕: 2023年9月15日(星期五)下午5時至8時

地點: Soluna Fine Art, 上環西街52號

支持夥伴



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Raffaele Cioffi, *Soglia blu oltremare*, 2023, 油彩畫布, 100 x 150 厘米

Soluna Fine Art 很榮幸地推出意大利當代畫家 Raffaele Cioffi 與畫廊的首次個人展 *Soglia*。此次展覽將展出藝術家於 2023 年完成的新油畫作品, 作品來自藝術家已經開發了五年多的標誌性作品集 *Soglia*。*Soglia* 意指門檻, 代表了藝術家在畫布上探索的視覺, 通過軟化和分散顏色來產生不同深度和路徑, 邀請觀眾向內邁進進入藝術家的抽象世界。他的技術可以被視為一種象徵性的行為, 將顏色從線條中解放出來(將它們恢復到原來的樣子: 空氣中流動和自由的原子), 在他的系列中移動和擴展, 就像激活的屏幕畫面一樣。如此, Raffaele Cioffi 的作品以超現實主義的方式把現實再現, 讓觀眾重新解讀世界。



G/F, 52 Sai Street, Sheung Wan | [www.solunafineart.com](http://www.solunafineart.com) | [contact@solunafineart.com](mailto:contact@solunafineart.com)

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此外，我們還要感謝香港意大利文化協會作為我們這次展覽的支持夥伴。Soglia將於2023年9月15日至10月21日期間展出，並於9月15日(星期五)下午5時至8時舉行開幕儀式。

請點擊[這裡](#)的"RSVP"按鈕以確認您的出席。

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*Marco Meneguzzo*

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## 關於 Raffaele Cioffi

**Raffaele Cioffi** 在1971年出生於意大利代西奧，他從意大利米蘭的布雷拉美術學院畢業，修讀了著名觀念雕塑藝術家Luciano Fabro 開設的課程。他認識了 Claudio Olivieri 和 Mario Raciti 等同屬「Pittura Pittura」運動的藝術家後，便繼續尋找他在視覺研究及語言中的定位。他藉著將顏色淨化成自主的個體，創造出滲透著光芒、具超凡色彩的光線，賦予畫布上的形狀流動性。因此，這種繪畫般的生命力或會令觀眾看他的畫作時，產生一種能夠感觸、形而上的體驗。九十年代以來，Cioffi 於意大利及海外私人畫廊、公共機構均有展出，包括加維拉泰現代藝術博物館、威尼斯雙年展、米蘭的 Villa Clerici-Museo d'Arte Sacra、亞歷山德里亞市立博物館、Sala dei Convegni of the museum、當代藝術博物館及曼托瓦公爵宮等。



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## 關於 Soluna Fine Art

**Soluna Fine Art** 是一家精於當代亞洲藝術及工藝品的畫廊，致力於展示成熟和新興藝術家兼備現代詮釋意義和傳統價值的作品，激發人們對東方美學和哲學的興趣。Soluna Fine Art所代理的藝術家的作品均被納入世界各地的私人和機構收藏。除畫廊內部的展覽之外，我們歷年也被邀請參與各大國際博覽會、教育計劃和其他多元合作項目。



Soluna Fine Art

地址：香港上環西街52號

營業時間：星期二至星期六 | 上午十時至晚上六時

### 任何媒體查詢，請聯絡：

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