

## MATTIA PAPP

In my work I explore the topic of archaeological heritage. As a native of southern Europe, specifically Italy, I am fascinated by the rich cultural history and exchanges that have taken place in my land over thousands of years. The narrative that northern Europe is better equipped to take care of and maintain world heritage has led to illegitimate acquisitions throughout the centuries. By creating an accessible archeological work that allows for international exploration, I aim to question the notion of colonialism in acquiring cultural heritage.

I'm Mattia Papp, born in Florence in 1993. My practice focuses on narrative and material research, blending Renaissance and Baroque aesthetics with contemporary themes to create new myths for the modern world. My work spans video installations, sculpture, and painting, with theatricality as a core element. I explore the intersection of religion and society by reinterpreting religious iconography to reflect modern struggles. **FOOD AND SOCIALITY AS ART PRACTICE** Since 2019, I've incorporated food into my practice through performances called Edible Landscapes where set designs reminiscent of Vanitas converge into edible compositions. Food is a powerful tool to foster connections and transcend social differences. I believe that through this medium, we can bridge gaps between diverse societal classes, incomes, religions, and cultural backgrounds. My past performances, particularly those organized around communal tables, unfolded unexpected interactions and connections, surpassing my initial expectations. My vision is to rekindle the vibrancy of ancient feasts, such as those celebrated in the Roman and Ottoman eras, where grandiose attitudes and theatricality ruled the dining experiences. Additionally, I aim to challenge Eurocentric notions of table manners, advocating for a decolonization of dining customs. Across the globe, many cultures enjoy meals using their hands, a practice that exudes a remarkable sense of grace and creates moments of shared aesthetic pleasure that transcend cultural boundaries. **MYTHOLOGY AND MATERIALS** Myth arises from the complexities of human experience, shaped by conflicts, ecological crises, and social changes. Just as past tragedies fueled traditional myths, today's challenges are creating the myths of tomorrow. In my work, I reflect on the state of the world through the lens of myth. These stories, shared by my father as bedtime tales, carry an ancient wisdom that guides my exploration of contemporary issues. For the past five years, my atelier De Besturing in Den Haag has been a crucial space for my creative growth, where dialogue with fellow artists has sparked new ideas. My work combines archaeology, mythology, and magical realism to engage all the senses and offer shared experiences that transcend boundaries.

## WEBSITES

[www.mattiapapp.com](http://www.mattiapapp.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.instagram.com/mattiappp/?hl=tr](https://www.instagram.com/mattiappp/?hl=tr)

## EDUCATION

2013 - painting Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie  
2017 van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Mythopeia FORNACIAI ART GALLERY Florence, Italy Duo  
show based featuring ceramic sculptures dealing with themes of mythology and alchemic reactions.  
[Duo](#)
- 2024 Books as Meermann museum Den Haag, Netherlands 2  
performative events with Tang ha and Celien Hurka, using food as a medium to explore the collection of Meermann museum in Den Haag  
[Group](#)
- 2024 AFTERHOURS NOVEMBER 2024 Museum BAZ Den Haag, Netherlands The Grey Space in the Middle is more than just a venue in The Hague; it is a living experiment where art, music, digital culture, food, science and ideas come together. On November 1st, it moves to the Beelden aan Zee museum for one evening, where future residents from its multidisciplinary artist-in-residence program will perform among the sculptures of Joan Miró, and where artist Mattia Papp will serve an edible artwork among the plaster casts of Jean Arp.  
[stappenindenhaag.nl/2024/08/01/museum-beelden-aan-zee-lanceert-after-hours/](https://stappenindenhaag.nl/2024/08/01/museum-beelden-aan-zee-lanceert-after-hours/)  
[Group](#)
- 2023 ATLANTIS, Mattia Papp NIO House Rotterdam, Netherlands development of the series of works from the ATLANTIS project  
[Solo](#)
- 2023 Prospects VAN NELLE FACTORY, ART ROTTERDAM Rotterdam, Netherlands exhibition of all the 2021 recipients of Mondrian Fonds. I have presented an installation with 35 artworks that retrace the fictional discovery of the lost

## PROJECTS

- 2022 "Santi e Licheni" The Hague, Netherlands  
[mattiapapp.com/SANTI-E-LICHENI](http://mattiapapp.com/SANTI-E-LICHENI) I have always been interested in the iconography of religious figures and the usage of imagery as a moral compass. By painting these figures with a twist in the established iconography, I touch upon the idea that traditional moral values are perceived as corrupt, modern societies substituting them for new non-religious values. The sanctity of the Catholic saints is questioned by the materiality of the paintings themselves – fading away and falling apart, dripping and separating pigments through chromatographic handlings. Moral corruption is insinuated by visual image corruption. The idea of craftsmanship in the art historical context of painting is very important, as it is a value that is no longer as appreciated as it used to be, and is disappearing. At the same time, I am fascinated by the aesthetic of the digital era. I frequently implement techniques that simulate Photoshop collages, bright RGB colors, and low-resolution texture renderings. Therefore, in a society that does celebrate individualism, such as the Western one, which acknowledges itself as Christian valued, the incoherence with this general assumption, is gigantic. Anyhow holy and profane have always been hand in hand when it comes to art and Catholicism, and the beauty of the Catholic art lies in this

empire of Atlantis  
Group

- 2023 Edible Landscape: Dream The Grey Space in the middle The Hague, Netherlands In overeenstemming met het idee om voeding van de aarde te krijgen, bestaat het menu uit lokaal geproduceerde en biologische ingrediënten, met de nadruk op vers fruit, groenten en kruiden. Geïnspireerd door de scène die wordt afgebeeld in "Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe" - het schilderij van Édouard Manet - heb ik een ruimte gecreëerd waar gasten kunnen ontspannen en genieten van hun maaltijd op dekens en kussens te midden van planten, bomen en bloemen.  
Solo
- 2022 "Seven ways to compassion" GROTE KERK The Hague Series realized in ceramic and porcelain for the Lutheran Church of the Netherlands. Each work represents a reinterpretation of the biblical theme of seven acts of mercy.  
Solo
- 2022 "Memories from the future" 98 GALLERY The Hague, Netherlands Exhibition with the body of works "MURI"  
Solo
- 2022 EDIBLE LANDSCAPE 3 Utrecht, Netherlands Edible landscape performance for Creative Coders Utrecht event  
Solo
- 2022 Imergente Festival CASA70 Lisbon, Portugal edible landscape in the context of IMEREGENTE festival  
Group
- 2022 Cornucopia CASTELNUOVO CASTLE Chianti, Italy Edible landscape  
Solo
- 2022 "Tactilis" GALERIE HELDER The Hague, Netherlands group show with works focused on the tactile quality of materials  
Group
- 2021 EDIBLE LANDSCAPE 1 he Grey Space in the Middle The Hague, Netherlands First edible landscape I have ever realized  
Solo
- 2020 SALUS PER AQUAM Numeroventi Florence, Italy a show about Atlantis and its traces [numeroventi.it/daylight-opening/](https://numeroventi.it/daylight-opening/)  
Solo
- 2020 REA ART FAIR Fabbbrica Del Vapore Milano, Italy [www.reafair.com/](https://www.reafair.com/)  
Group
- 2019 Human concrete Boogieland Amsterdam, Netherlands pop expo featuring works of big dimensions.  
Group
- 2018 The living Museum Westgastefabriek Amsterdam, Netherlands 3 days openlocation tour. each room of the exhibition had an artist with site specific installation or performance  
Group
- 2018 Traces of personal presence Twelve Twelve Gallery The Hague Groepsshow  
Group
- 2018 The diptic of faith BUREAU DEGRADE The Hague, Netherlands all night performance, 12 hours non stop painting replicas of details from the walls Of S.Spirito church in Florence , while a dutch artist Teun Wolters was performing in front of the forementioned church [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q2tUzGsUN8&ab\\_channel=LabelID%C3%A9grad%C3%A9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q2tUzGsUN8&ab_channel=LabelID%C3%A9grad%C3%A9)  
Duo
- 2017 Cables and Spears KABK The Hague, Netherlands graduation show project, installation with painting and video work  
Group

contradictory dualism, drunks and rosary beads on the churchyard. Together.

- 2022 FOOD DESIGN AS BLEND BETWEEN GASTRONOMY AND FINE ART Amsterdam, Den Haag, Lisbon, Florence, Netherlands [mattiapapp.com/FOOD-DESIGN-AS-BLEND-BETWEEN-GASTRONOMY-AND-FINE-ART](https://mattiapapp.com/FOOD-DESIGN-AS-BLEND-BETWEEN-GASTRONOMY-AND-FINE-ART) My research also revolves around food, which I use as a medium itself. I create a social gathering, triumphant allegories, and Vanitas in the format of a theatrical performance, at the end of which the guests are fed the edible artwork. With "Garden of Primavera" I merge my research of visual harmony as a painter with my practice as a food researcher, seeking the perfect balance between these disciplines. My food design projects are based on the principles of Neoplatonic philosophy. Art must represent the ideal of a perfect world, and the beauty of forms is an expression of harmony and spiritual perfection. I see food as a medium capable of gathering people together, giving out beauty in a sinesthetic way.
- 2022 ATLANTIS The Hague, Netherlands [mattiapapp.com/ATLANTIS](https://mattiapapp.com/ATLANTIS) Project abstract In addition to my exploration of digital painting, during the pandemic in 2020, I extrapolated myself from a claustrophobic life through impossible narratives. This led to the major project I will continue to work on in the next year, Atlantis. In Atlantis, I combine the process of manipulation of materials and their accelerated decay for painterly purposes with the appropriation of the classical myth of Atlantis. The presentation method aims to resemble an archeological or natural history museum; displaying artifacts with elements of textures that resemble corals and fossilized marine life. This presentation lends the narrative truth, making the existence of magical creatures such as sirens plausible, creating a magical reality. The project envisages an imaginative narrative universe that revolves around the myth of Atlantis. This fictional narrative describes the discovery of Atlantis beneath the coast of Antarctica. The disappearance of this civilization occurred around 2 million years BC, when humanity passed from Australopithecus to Homo Habilis, or rather when the first men learned to handle tools. The inhabitants were not human, but whether they were amphibians or not, and how extended their reign was, is not clear yet. The natural marine flora and geological aspects became part of their architecture, and chemistry played a structural role in the construction of their urbanistic landscape. Eroded surfaces from sea creatures and oxidized metals from the water for instance become an integral part of the visual language of the cityscape.
- 2021 VIDEO TABERNACOLI AND THEATER SCENOGRAPHIES Den Haag, Florence [mattiapapp.com/VIDEO-TABERNACOLI-AND-THEATER-SCENOGRAPHIES](https://mattiapapp.com/VIDEO-TABERNACOLI-AND-THEATER-SCENOGRAPHIES) Theatricality is a binding element in all my projects. Growing up, I regularly visited theater productions. I remember being stunned by the trickery and surprising visuals of these productions. Many years later, theater is very present in my work. A telling example of this theatricality is my work "Triptych van RGB's work". It consists of a jungle on stage, that combines plants

- 2017 Under One Sky Santa Caterina church, Lucca, Italy Lucca, Italy Installation with sound painting and grass, for the manifestation [mattiapapp.com/UNDER-ONE-SKY](http://mattiapapp.com/UNDER-ONE-SKY)  
Solo
- 2017 Dating NOUVELLES IMAGES GALLERY The Hague, Netherlands groupshow  
Group
- 2017 Best of graduates group show Jerusalem Chapel Gouda, Netherlands Best of graduates group show  
Group
- 2017 SANAA Gallery Utrecht, Netherlands group show  
Group
- 2016 CRYSTAL MAZE BINCHORST The Hague, Netherlands Groupshow as exam for the first semester of graduation year, fine arts  
Group

and vines with cables and a triptych of screens, showcasing my video works. These video works are part of a series inspired by the religious street altar typical of Italy, the "tabernacolo". Contemporary deities are substituted ironically to traditional ones, created through the green screen, this work includes elements from Botticelli and Giorgione. Tabernacoli are small stone structures containing religious icons, they are part of a diffuse sense of religiousness that is now lost in my country, and these structures are more of a reminiscence of a lost aspect of the Italian culture, and moreover they became just an architectural element, mostly unnoticed. I always found them very fascinating, as they would contain priceless artworks, and yes, of course, Italy is quite infatuated with antiquity, if these shrines would be in the U.S they would probably have a bigger impact on the urban landscape. I found very fascinating of the tabernacoli, their uniqueness in the panorama of western culture.

2019

MURI The Hague, Florence, Netherlands [mattiapapp.com/MURI](http://mattiapapp.com/MURI) MURI Decay and research on unusual painting materials is another pillar of my body of work. For the series Muri (2018) I recreated details of walls of various churches of Italy on wooden panels. The churchyard is commonly used in Italy as a place of social gathering, people get together to interact, get drunk, party, and piss on the walls. This process accelerates the decay of the structure, it erodes the material of the walls, moss grows on it, molds are born. This is part of the iconic charm of the Italian urban landscape, and I tried to mimic these walls as if they were scenographic backdrops. I used cement, limestone, chalk, and pigments on the panel for the mural. With ammonia, I then eroded the surface to reenact one of the most common activities performed daily on them. I poured water on them for hours, simulating the effect of weeks of rain, worked them with a hammer, tearing them down and rebuilding them. I accelerated the process of centuries of erosion, decadence, and human life experience in the span of a few weeks for each panel. I grew moss on them and eventually covered them in resin to preserve these monuments to decay. The experiment with materials became a strong focus since the beginning of this project, finding a way in it to glorify the decay of my country of origin, which I find to be extremely charming in her contradictory aspects. The positive meets the extremely negative in her relationship with the holy and profane, with historical heritage and political reactionism. "Christian values" clash with harsh xenophobia. It is a reality of decadence; of moral decline and indulgence in pleasure. My walls in the Muri series paint a portrait of this reality, historical religious buildings falling to pieces because they are used as a public bar. The cracks in the walls are like scars on Italian society, showing the flaws of a centuries-old land. The walls are like living beings, preserving the memory of everything they witnessed in their long life.

2023 Tao Hua Tan, China the international artists' retreat and painting residence workshop will take place in Tao Hua Tan, Anhui Province, China, from October 12th through October 31st, 2023. As decided by the organizers, about 40 artists from China, and from different countries of the world, will be invited to participate. The participating artists will be selected by the curators: Gordan Novak owner of Novak Graphics Inc. printmaking studio and publisher from Admiral, Saskatchewan, Canada; Liu Jian, artist, art consultant and curator from Toronto, Canada and Beijing China; [www.taohuatanart.com/](http://www.taohuatanart.com/)

2020 Numeroventi Florence, Italy 3 months exploration of my Atlantis project [numeroventi.it/daylight-opening/](http://numeroventi.it/daylight-opening/)

## SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

-- Italy/Germany/Belgium/France//Netherlands, Nederland Various paintings to different private buyers, between the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Germany and France . starting in 2012

2016 Diligentia theater Den Haag panel

## PUBLICATIONS

2023 Spiritual practices: with artist Mattia Papp in search of beauty and decay in the Haagse Bos [http://mistemotley.nl/Eindexamens\\_2011/2011/07/11/Eindexamen](http://mistemotley.nl/Eindexamens_2011/2011/07/11/Eindexamen) Linda Selena Boos Netherlands [www.mistemotley.nl/spirituele-praktijken-met-kunstenaar-mattia-papp-op-zoek-naar-schoonheid-en-verval-in-het-haagse-bos/](http://www.mistemotley.nl/spirituele-praktijken-met-kunstenaar-mattia-papp-op-zoek-naar-schoonheid-en-verval-in-het-haagse-bos/) Linda Selena Boos spends an afternoon with artist Mattia Papp in the Haagse Bos: the place where he finds inspiration and experiences spiritual connection. Papp talks about his fascination with moss, collective memories stored in ancient city walls and the different forms of life in nature.

2020 The T list, 5 things we recommend this week the newyork time (T magazine) Laura Rysman [www.nytimes.com/2020/07/16/t-magazine/margo-price-album-tlist.html?fbclid=IwAR1wM3bTTdLu31PDzL\\_mfUdyvB-lvvUgVkl21oOmXkDvjCYDjL9NvLiTo](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/16/t-magazine/margo-price-album-tlist.html?fbclid=IwAR1wM3bTTdLu31PDzL_mfUdyvB-lvvUgVkl21oOmXkDvjCYDjL9NvLiTo)

2017 Den haag centraal

2017 vice

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

2021 Kunstenaar Start mondriaan fonds Amsterdam, Netherlands De bijdrage Kunstenaar Start wordt toegekend aan kunstenaars die ten minste 1 tot maximaal 4 jaar als professioneel kunstenaar werkzaam zijn.

2017 painting prize assigned from the jan roede association, given to one graduating student in the KABK winner of Jan Roede painting prize

2017 one of three finalists in the painting section nominated for the piket kunst prize

2015 winning design for the entrance panel for the diligentia theater, the competition was introduced during the second year of the KABK winner of Dlligentia theater competition

## REPRESENTATION

-- Fornaciai Art Gallery Florence, Italy <https://www.fornaciaiartgallery.com/>

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

-- -- -- teacher On-going



Satiricon, 2024



Demon, 2024



cloudless, 2024

Arboreal Archeology, 2023  
1:20



Edible Landscape : Earth, 2023  
performance





Edible Landscape : Earth, 2023  
performance



Edible Landscape: Dream, 2023  
performance

□  
, 2023



Prometheus, 2023  
60 x 60 x 5 cm, 60 x 60 x 5 cm



Sebastian and Lilies, 2023  
60 x 60 x 5 cm, 60 x 60 x 5 cm