

THIS IS NOT A PRIZE 2023: MATT CONNORS

Mutina for Art is pleased to announce that the **This Is Not a Prize 2023** award has been assigned to the American artist **Matt Connors** (Chicago, 1973).

This Is Not a Prize is an award assigned every year to an international artist selected by a jury composed of prominent figures from different creative fields. The prize originates from Mutina's desire to sustain and promote artists through an innovative format. This recognition offered by the company marks the beginning of a relationship with the awarded artist, in the name of collaboration and flexibility: from the creation of an exhibition to the support of a publication, to the production of an artwork that involves the use of the ceramic medium.

Matt Connors has been selected by a jury composed by: **Massimo Orsini**, Mutina's Founder and CEO, **Sarah Cosulich**, Curator of Mutina for Art, **Simon Castets**, Director of Strategic Initiatives of the LUMA Foundation Arles, **Gherardo Felloni**, Creative Director at Roger Vivier, and **Nina Yashar**, Founder of Nilufar Gallery Milano.

This Is Not a Prize 2023 awards Matt Connors for the scope of his artistic research, which combines an insightful approach to form and colour in painting with an interest in disciplines such as design, poetry, music and book making. In Connors' visual language, the modernist canon is both starting point as well as model to which he incorporates a universe of possibilities. In his questioning of painting, Connors constantly challenges and reinvents familiar images, formal structures and repeated models.

Mutina looks forward to collaborating with Matt Connors, accompanying him in his creative process, in his projects and in the possibility to experiment with ceramics.

OTHER AWARDED ARTISTS AND COLLABORATIONS

From 2016 Mutina for Art has assigned the *This Is Not a Prize* award to artists: Giorgio Andreotta Calò, Jochen Lempert, Liz Lerner, Shimabuku, Silke-Otto Knapp, Shirana Shahbazi and Gary Hume. And it has collaborated with institutions such as Artissima, the Venice Biennale, FIAC Paris, Kunsthalle Zurich and Museion Bolzano.

This Is Not a Prize is an initiative that is part of the wider project **Mutina for Art**, which also includes an exhibition space at the company Headquarters in Fiorano as well as a project space at **Casa Mutina Milano**, and **Dialogue**, a program of international collaborations with artists, galleries and institutions.



MATT CONNORS

Matt Connors (b. 1973, Chicago, Illinois) lives and works in New York City. He received a BFA from Bennington College, Vermont (1995) and an M.F.A. from Yale University, New Haven (2006). He was included in the Whitney Biennial 2022, *Quiet as It's Kept*. Recent solo exhibitions include *Body Forth*, Canada, New York (2022); *Figure*, the Modern Institute, Glasgow (2019); *Impressionism*, MoMA PS1, New York (2012); and *Gas...Telephone...One Hundred Thousand Rubles*, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Germany (2011). Institutional collections include the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Dallas Museum of Art, Texas; San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas; and National Gallery of Art, Canberra, Australia. Connors is the recipient of awards including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2012). He was a 2015 Artist in Residence at the Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas.

ABOUT MUTINA FOR ART

Mutina for Art is the initiative that Mutina dedicates to contemporary art since 2017. In addition to a regular programme of solo and group exhibitions within the Headquarters of Fiorano Modenese and Casa Mutina Milano, the Mutina for Art project features This Is Not a Prize, annual award assigned to an international artist, which can develop in flexible ways according to the artist's needs. The Dialogues are the company's ceramic projects realized in synergy with artists and institutions.

ABOUT MUTINA

A company of excellence, Mutina represents a new way of looking at ceramics, no longer simply as tiles but as an interior design project. Mutina is a signature project that combines technology and craftsmanship with experimentation to overcome the limits of the material and essential research into high quality product. Mutina works with the most significant designers in the world: Michael Anastassiades, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Konstantin Grcic, Hella Jongerius, Laboratorio Avallone, OEO Studio, Raw Edges, Inga Sempé, Patricia Urquiola and Tokujin Yoshioka.

For further information of materials, write to:

Stefano Pitigliani
press@mutina.it
+39 348 1412001

www.mutina.it

#mutinaforart
#mutina
#thisisnotaprize
#mattconnors

Ceramiche Mutina Spa
Via del Crociale 25
41042 Fiorano, MO Italia
T +39 0536 812800
C.F. / P.I. 00336880364
mutina.it