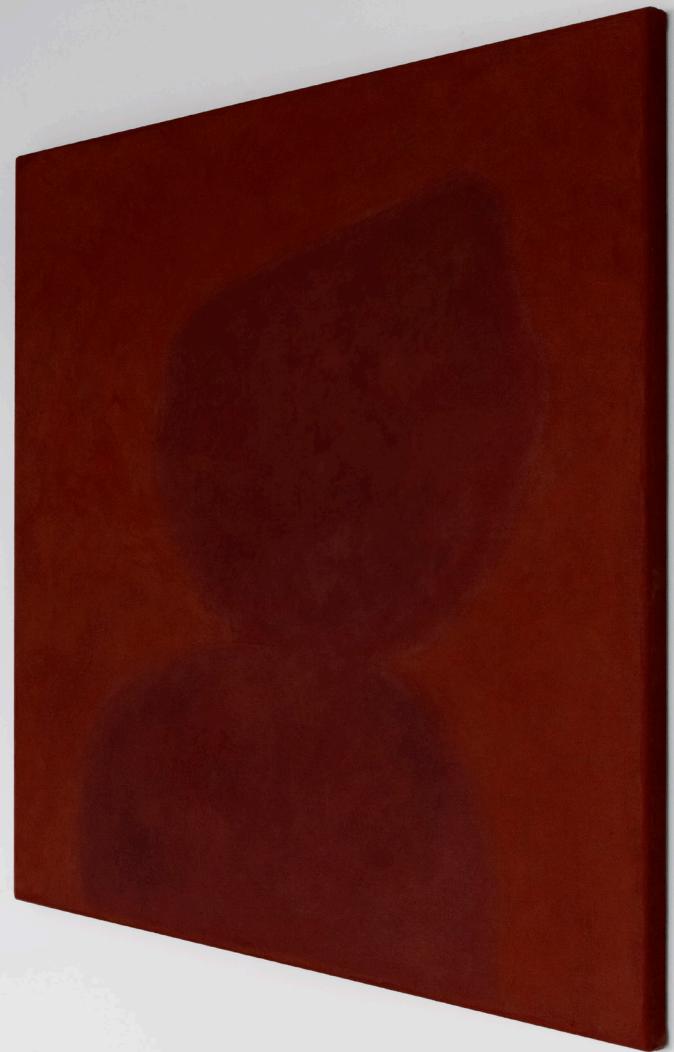


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Judith Trepp & Simone Thiele
How about a Conversation?
20.3.–19.4.2025



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About the exhibition

The work of Simone Thiele (CH) and Judith Trepp (CH/USA) engages with a fundamental question: What constitutes a conversation? A conversation unfolds with no predetermined outcome—it may be harmonious or contentious, engaging or dissonant. The dictionary defines conversation as “intimate and informal,” yet it does not prescribe a specific context. In contrast, the dialogue between Thiele’s and Trepp’s paintings and drawings takes place within the structured space of the gallery—a “white cube” where their works interact in ways both intentional and unexpected.

Here, multiple conversations emerge: the exchange between the artworks and the viewer, but also an interplay between paintings and drawings themselves—an unspoken yet palpable dialogue shaped by bold juxtapositions.

Despite their shared space, the artists’ practices diverge significantly. Thiele works with acrylic on canvas, creating series that maintain a consistent format. Trepp, by contrast, employs the centuries-old techniques of egg tempera and pigment tempera, exploring a dynamic range of formats. Their distinct approaches not only reveal the breadth of painterly expression but also enrich the dialogue that unfolds within the exhibition.

Simone Thiele, a Basel-based artist, and Trepp, who arrived in Switzerland at the age of 28, come from markedly different backgrounds, both culturally and artistically. Their creative practices are shaped by distinct life experiences and artistic lineages. Thiele, deeply rooted in the traditions of Swiss Concrete Art and the Bauhaus, imbues her work with a dynamic yet intuitive sensibility. Trepp, by contrast, weaves together influences from American Abstract Expressionism and the disciplined rigor of Swiss Minimalism.

Despite their generational and cultural differences, their aesthetic and art-historical points of reference converge in striking ways. This exhibition brings their divergent artistic approaches—both emotional and intellectual—into dialogue, offering a compelling exploration of the generative potential of diversity and exchange. Might this, in a broader sense, also serve as a plädoyer for dialogue in other contexts?

Judith Trepp

Judith Trepp was born in 1941 in New York City, USA, within the intellectual and artistic milieu of the city. With her parents, a documentary filmmaker and an artist, she summered in the artist colony of Provincetown, MA. Later, as an adult, she maintained a summer atelier there from 1982 to 2018. Trepp graduated from Bard College, USA, where she was expelled from the art department for artistic insubordination and from the English department for intellectual insubordination; her degree is in history. As an adult, Trepp became a designer and artist and also wrote art criticism for the New York Times, ArtNews, and other publications.

After graduating from college, she worked in documentary films at ABC, CBS, and the United Nations Film Department as an associate producer. Arriving in Zürich in 1970 with no knowledge of German, Trepp first created a business designing and producing leather bags, belts, and sandals for major stores and boutiques. In 1973, she began a new business designing and producing home furnishings in fabric, selling these to interior decorators and decorating shops throughout Switzerland, Germany, France,

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and the USA until 1986. A single mother and the primary financial supporter, she painted at night. Designing with very delicate hues and tones in material, Trepp says, was the best art school she could ever have imagined.

Interested in making art for public and institutional spaces, Trepp participated in Collarch, an interdisciplinary course for architects and house painters at the Painter and Plasters Union in Zürich. From this experience came her first solo show and her first commission: large indoor wall paintings for an apartment complex in Hasliberg. Judith Trepp has continued to create wall paintings for both interior and exterior spaces.

Trepp says that she "thinks walls" when creating her paintings on linen with oil, egg tempera, or tempera and pigment. She also works on handmade Indian paper with acrylic or Japanese ink and in sculpture with brushed stainless steel with auto lacquer.

She has worked over long periods with numerous galleries in Switzerland, the USA, and London. In 2010, she had a solo show at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM). Judith Trepp has participated in international art fairs such as KIAF Seoul, Art Chicago, London Art Fair, Art Miami, and Art Cologne. She has been the recipient of a Visarte residency at La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, as well as an artist residency in Spain. An upcoming project includes a one-month art residency in Kyoto.

Judith Trepp's work is minimalistic but emotional and intuitive. She embraces the idea of active stillness in her paintings and drawings. To further this, Trepp employs a very reduced palette. She has traveled extensively in various parts of Asia, Europe, and the USA, spending significant time in India and Japan. These diverse intellectual and cultural experiences resonate in Trepp's work.

Simone Thiele

Simone Thiele (*1965, Allschwil BL, Switzerland) began her creative career as a 3D polydesigner in the field of three-dimensional design. Since 2010, she has dedicated herself to painting, deepening her artistic practice through a four-year course at the Visual Art School Basel (2013–2017). Her works have been showcased in numerous exhibitions, most recently in a solo exhibition at the Bludin Berisha Gallery in Hamburg. In 2024, she was also represented at the ENTER Art Fair in Copenhagen with Galerie Bludin Berisha. In 2023 and 2024, she participated in the OneHundred exhibition at the Tony Wüthrich Gallery in Basel. Thiele is interested in experimental exhibition formats and is a member of the artist group ensemble5.

Thiele's works explore the interplay of line, surface, and color. She enjoys layering lines and surfaces, constantly renegotiating their positions in relation to one another. A seemingly dominant surface that almost entirely covers what lies beneath may ultimately prove less significant than an underlying layer that asserts a stronger presence through color, texture, or movement. This creates a dynamic dialogue between layers, forming and shifting spatial relationships within the composition.

Her works are developed in series, each beginning with a conceptual foundation. Lines or surfaces with specific qualities—such

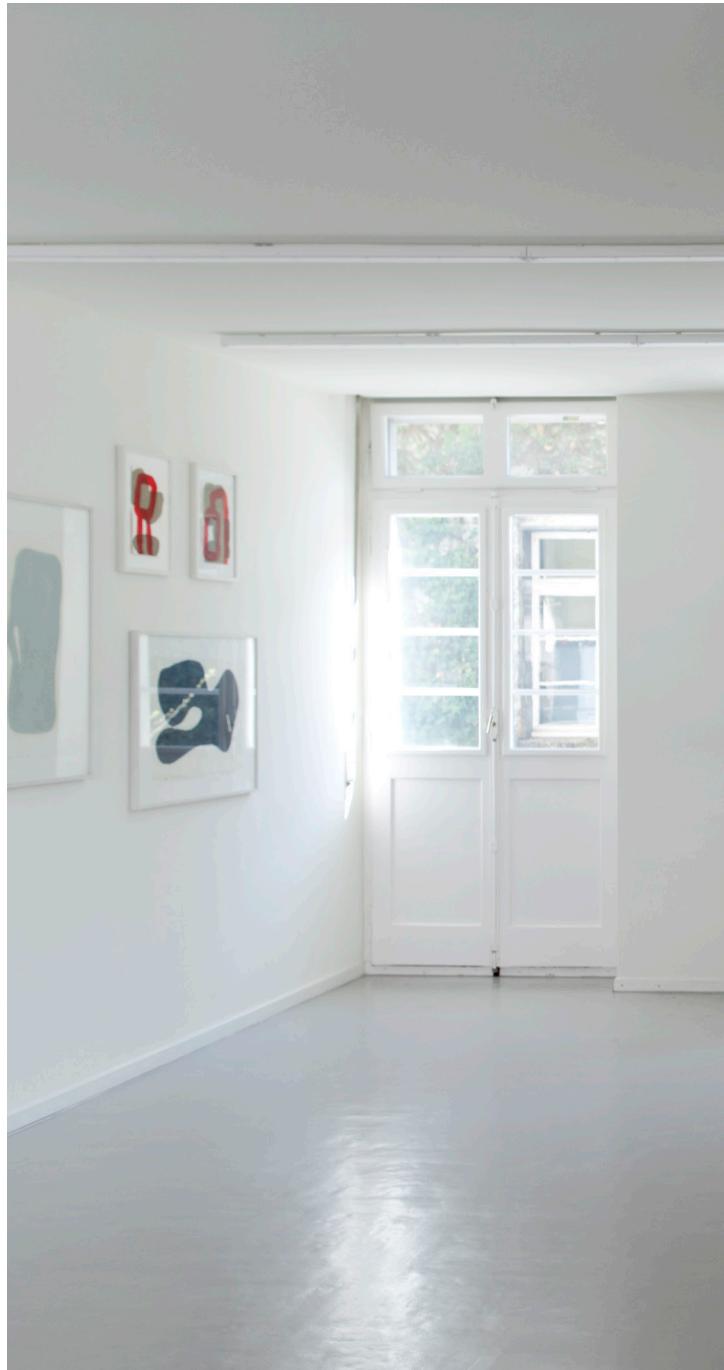
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as fluid, thick, thin, dark, light, round, or angular—serve as the basis. Each subsequent layer is imbued with its own characteristics, generating a conversation about the interaction of these diverse qualities and their placement within the work.

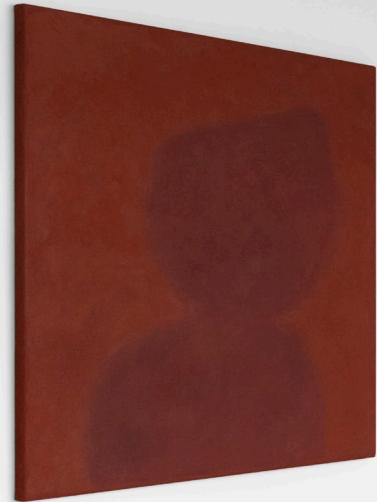
Throughout the creative process, surfaces evolve organically from within or connect across multiple points, always in dialogue with the format and underlying structures. Essential to Thiele's practice is the dynamic within each surface or line: where it directs the gaze, how it enters the scene, and the presence it establishes.

The questions that drive Thiele's artistic practice can also be viewed through a philosophical lens: What does one element trigger in another? What does it demand, condition, or evoke? How can different presences coexist despite hierarchies? Are all elements of equal value, and do all actors have their place? However, Thiele emphasizes that she is not a philosophical artist at heart—her approach to art is intuitive and hands-on.

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Judith Trepp
Nr. 2025-01-012025
2025
90 × 80 cm
Tempera and pigment on linen

CHF 11'500



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2025
50 × 70 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'800



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
70 × 50 cm
Acrylic and graphite on paper, framed

CHF 1'800



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2023
42 × 29.7 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'500

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Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
42 × 29.7 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 2'000



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2016-D-007
2016
74 × 47 cm
94 × 67 cm (framed)
Japanese ink on handmade Indian paper

CHF 3'500



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2014-04-05
2014
46 × 42 cm
Oil and egg tempera on linen

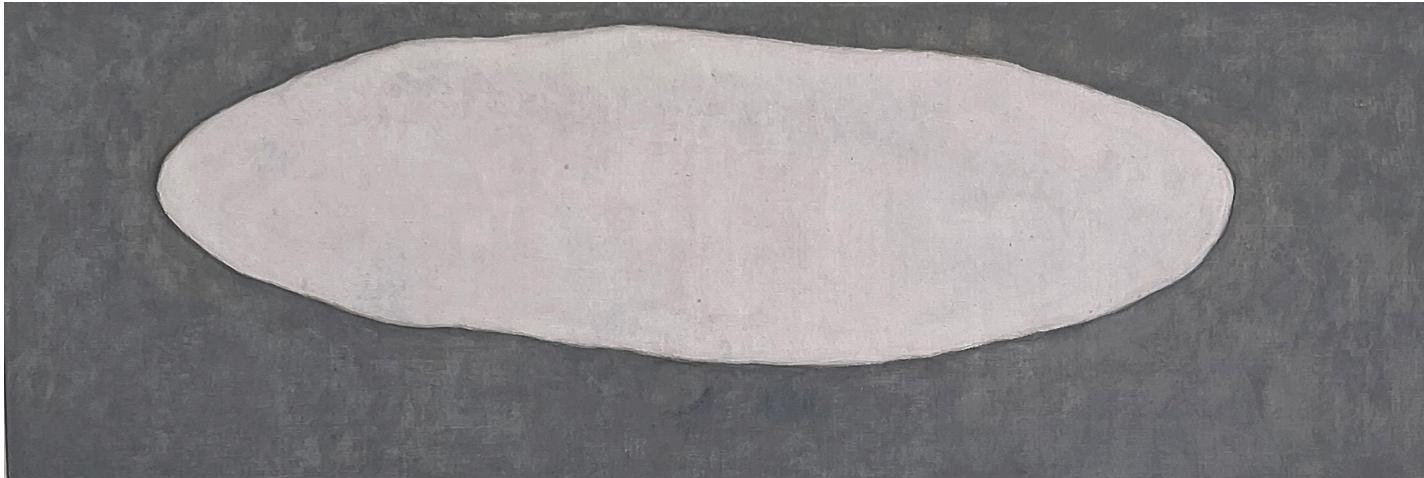
CHF 4'500

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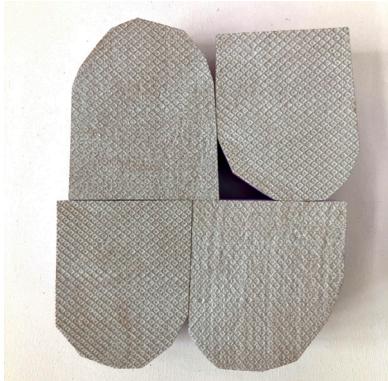
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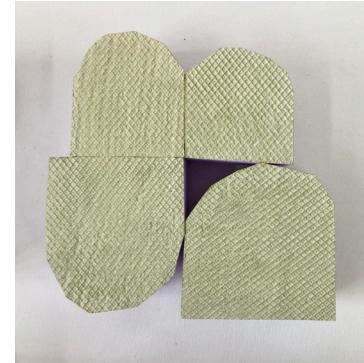
Judith Trepp
Nr. 2023-07-18
2023
34 × 100 cm
Tempera and pigment on linen

CHF 9'500



Simone Thiele
Four Surfaces #1
2025
28.5 × 23.5 × 7 cm
Hard foam board, acrylic, white glue

CHF 800



Simone Thiele
Four Surfaces #4
2025
27.5 × 28 × 7 cm
Hard foam board, acrylic, white glue

CHF 800

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Judith Trepp
Nr. 2014-04-06
2014
130 × 100 cm
Oil and egg tempera on linen

CHF 14'000



Simone Thiele
Two Layers #11
2024
120 × 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas

CHF 4'200

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Judith Trepp
Nr. 2017-D-076P
2017
74 × 47 cm
88 × 61 cm (framed)
Egg tempera on handmade Indian paper

CHF 3'500



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 × 21 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'200



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2022-08-03
2022
44 × 66 cm
61 × 88 cm (framed)
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper

CHF 3'500



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 × 21 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'200

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Simone Thiele
Two Layers #6
2023
120 × 100 cm
Acrylic on canvas

CHF 4'200



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2022-02-02
2022
70 × 40 cm
Tempera, pigment & acrylic on linen

CHF 6'500

Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Judith Trepp

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Judith Trepp
Nr. 2021-D-10-10
2021
49 x 73 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper
CHF 2'800



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2022-D-11-12
2022
73 x 44 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper
CHF 2'800



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2022-D-08-23
2022
73 x 45 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper
CHF 2'800



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2018-08-07
2018
47 x 74 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper
CHF 2'800

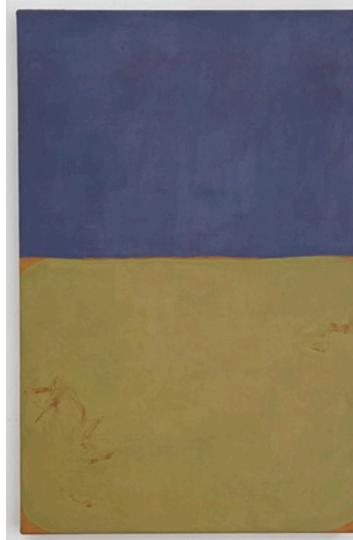
Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Judith Trepp

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Judith Trepp
Nr. 2024-09-08
2024
84 × 51 cm
Egg tempera on linen

CHF 9'500



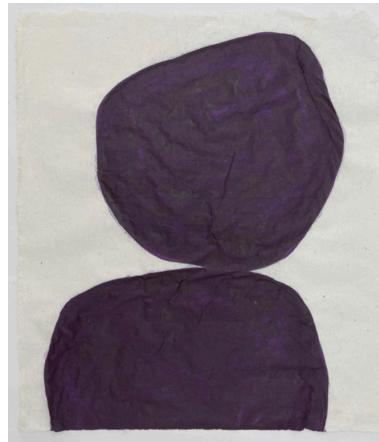
Judith Trepp
Nr. 2022-04-05
2022
69 × 45 cm
Tempera & pigment on linen

CHF 6'000



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2021-10-20
2021
74 × 44 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper

CHF 2'800



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2022-D-07-18
2022
56 × 50 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper

CHF 2'500

Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Judith Trepp

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Judith Trepp
Nr. 2020-D-015
2020
65 × 45 cm
Acrylic on handmade Indian paper

CHF 2'500



Judith Trepp
Nr. 2014-05-01
2014
46 × 42 cm
Egg tempera & oil on linen

CHF 4'500

Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Simone Thiele

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Simone Thiele
Two Layers #14
2024
100 × 120 cm
Acrylic on canvas

CHF 4'200



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
59.4 × 42 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'700



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 × 21 cm
Acrylic and graphite on paper, framed

CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
59.4 × 42 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'700

Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Simone Thiele

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Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 x 21 cm
Acrylic and graphite on paper, framed

CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2021
42 x 29.7 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'500



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2021
42 x 29.7 cm
Acrylic on paper, framed

CHF 1'500



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 x 21 cm
Acrylic and graphite on paper, framed

CHF 1'200

Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Simone Thiele

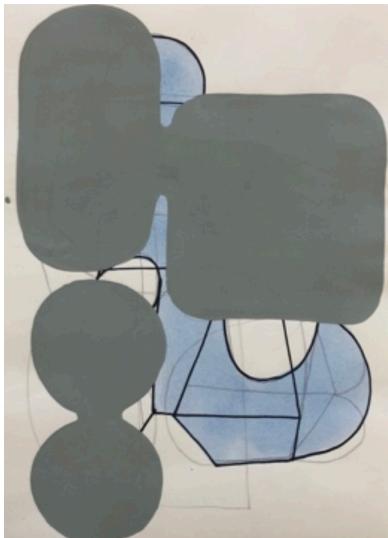
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Simone Thiele
Untitled
2023
29.7 x 21 cm
Acrylic and colored pencil on paper, framed
CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 x 21 cm
Acrylic and felt pen on paper, framed
CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2022
42 x 29.7 cm
Acrylic and felt pen on paper, framed
CHF 1'500



Simone Thiele
Untitled
2024
29.7 x 21 cm
Acrylic and oil pastel on paper, framed
CHF 1'200

Ausserdem verfügbar | Further available works: Simone Thiele

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Simone Thiele

Untitled

2024

29.7 × 21 cm

Acrylic and oil pastel on paper, framed

CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele

Untitled

2024

29.7 × 21 cm

Acrylic and oil pastel on paper, framed

CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele

Untitled

2024

29.7 × 21 cm

Acrylic and oil pastel on paper, framed

CHF 1'200



Simone Thiele

Untitled

2024

29.7 × 21 cm

Acrylic and oil pastel on paper, framed

CHF 1'200

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All images by Leah Studinger and the artists