

Valentina Bartolini
Selected Works
& Installation Views

Valentina Bartolini's practice investigates memory, identity, and the notion of home, focusing on how personal history and dual heritage shape the experience of inhabiting multiple places—physically, emotionally, and culturally. Drawing from her life between Italy and Greece, she creates delicate, tactile works that oscillate between childhood memory, longing, and the instability of recollection. Her constructions—often made from layered, torn, and reassembled handmade paper—blur the boundaries between the self and the environment, the past and the present, producing liminal spaces where transformation and continuity coexist. Bartolini's work engages the natural world as both a witness and a collaborator, offering metaphors of growth, decay, and renewal that echo human emotional landscapes. Through repetition, touch, and careful layering, her artworks become sensitive records of time and process, revealing how identity can be simultaneously fragile and enduring.

Valentina Bartolini (b. 1992, Rome, Italy) lives and works in Athens. She studied Philosophy and Social Theory at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and at Université Paris-Est Créteil, Paris (2015) and completed a double master in discourse analysis at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2019).

Her work has been presented at the solo show *The Room with the Cuckoo Clock* at Callirrhoë, Athens (2024) and in group exhibitions, including yours truly (working title) at Callirrhoë, Athens (2025); *Housewarming* in Athens (2025); and *Bringing Owls from Athens* at Georg Kargl Fine Arts, Vienna (2024).



Valentina Bartolini
Belly of the Fish
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2026

Installation view
Photo: Frank Holbein



Valentina Bartolini

Orange Tail, 2025

Colour pencils and pastels on Lamali Natural Paper, made in Nepal (Handmade Kozo Bamboo paper, a blend of vegetable fibres on Lokta)

77 × 107.7 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini

Fourteen Eyes, 2025

Colour pencils and pastels on Lamali Natural Paper, made in Nepal (Handmade Kozo Bamboo paper, a blend of vegetable fibres on Lokta)

77 × 107.7 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini
Belly of the Fish
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2026

Installation view
Photo: Frank Holbein



Valentina Bartolini

Relevé, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels on Nepali Lokta paper

61 × 86 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini

Relevé II, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels on Nepali Lokta paper

61 × 86 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini
Art Athina 2025
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2025

Installation view
Photo: Frank Holbein



Valentina Bartolini

Sky Ladder I, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels, handmade paper from Thailand

61 × 86 cm (framed)

In her new series of works, *Sky Ladder*, the artist does not directly address this experience; nevertheless, memory plays a role in shaping her inclination to construct “in-between” worlds that merge the real, the dreamlike and the supernatural. Through constantly moving creatures, islands emerging from wings, fragments of clouds and crystals, eruptions and waterscapes, Bartolini imbues the mind’s explorations, and the complex processes of memory and the unconscious, with symbolic meaning. Her perspective shifts, adopting a top-down viewpoint, as if seen by a transcendent being flying over a multifaceted landscape. She works on handmade Thai paper, characterized by its rough fibers that resist precision. The process, challenging due to the material’s resistance and fragility, reflects the artist’s sensibility and the transformative power of her work.



Valentina Bartolini

Sky Ladder VIII, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels, handmade paper from Thailand

61 × 86 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini

Sky Ladder XI, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels, handmade paper from Thailand

61 × 86 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini

Sky Ladder III, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels, handmade paper from Thailand

61 × 86 cm (framed)



Valentina Bartolini
Sunny Side Up
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2025

Installation view



Valentina Bartolini

Sunday's cities, 2025

Colour pencils and oil pastels, handmade paper from Thailand

50 × 76 cm



Valentina Bartolini
The Room with the Cuckoo Clock
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2024

Installation view

In a complementary narrative, Valentina Bartolini's presentation within the framework of "One Work Show Series" features paper works and sculptures focusing on themes of home, origin, and childhood, reflecting on her memories of Perugia, Italy, her father's hometown.

Inspired by inherited family heirlooms, Bartolini recalls a geographically dichotomized past between Italy and Greece. Deep terracotta shades in her work draw influence from Etruscan culture's emphasis on thermal springs and lakes with healing properties. Handcrafted papers, made from Bhutanese lokta, showcase a distinctive texture, varied sizes, and a muted earth color palette reminiscent of medieval gates. Historically used in calligraphy and woodblock printing in local monasteries, these papers contribute to the rich layers of Bartolini's artistic expression.

The sentient objects in Bartolini's work exude a delicate balance between life and vulnerability. They are animated with a vivid presence that feels almost alive, yet they carry an underlying sense of fragility, reminiscent of a flickering flame—bright and warm but constantly at the mercy of the slightest breeze. This tension reflects the transient nature of domestic spaces, where moments of comfort and stability coexist with the anxiety of impermanence. Although these objects evoke a sense of home, they are not fully at peace; they symbolize the emotional weight of domestic confinement, hinting at unseen boundaries and the struggle to transcend them. Bartolini's art captures this duality, where the familiar comfort of home subtly shifts into a more profound exploration of freedom and constraint, nudging towards a metaphysical escape from the limits imposed by the everyday.



Valentina Bartolini
The Room with the Cuckoo Clock
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2024

Installation view



Valentina Bartolini
Cypress chatting with the house, 2024
Colour pencils and pastels on paper
52 × 38.5 cm



Valentina Bartolini
The portable sunflower (series), 2024
Colour pencils and pastels on paper
45 × 32 cm

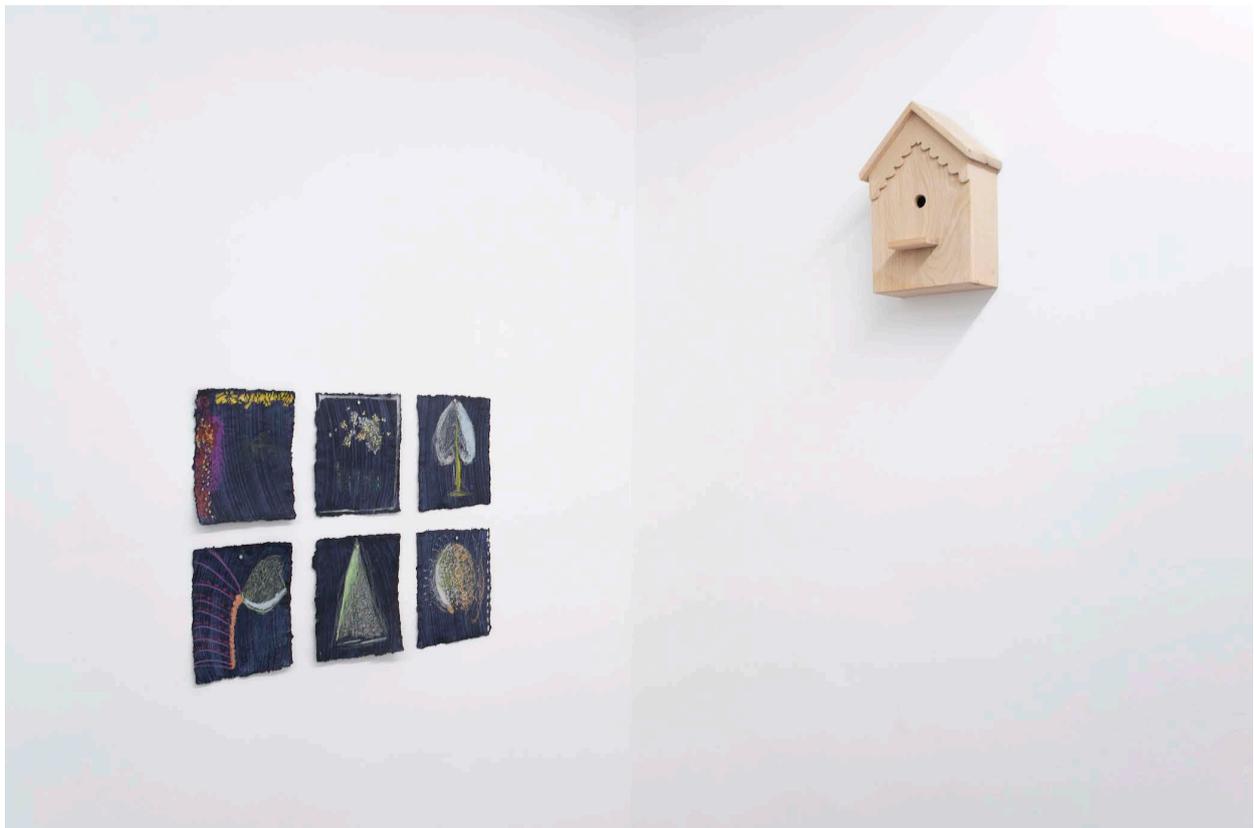


Valentina Bartolini
The Room with the Cuckoo Clock
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2024

Installation view



Valentina Bartolini
Sunflower Peaks, 2024
Colour pencils and pastels on paper
52 × 38.5 cm



Valentina Bartolini
The Room with the Cuckoo Clock
Callirrhoë, Athens, 2024

Installation view



Valentina Bartolini
Pick a card (series), 2024
Colour pencils and pastels on paper
24 × 18 cm each



Valentina Bartolini
The portable sunflower (series), 2024
Colour pencils and pastels on paper
45 × 32 cm



Valentina Bartolini
Terracotta gates, 2024
Colour pencils and pastels on paper
45 × 32 cm



Valentina Bartolini's works in the
framework of the group show *Bringing
Owls from Athens* at Georg Kargl BOX ×
Callirrhoë, Vienna, 2024

Installation view



Valentina Bartolini's works in the
framework of the group show *Bringing
Owls from Athens* at Georg Kargl BOX ×
Callirrhoë, Vienna, 2024

Installation view

Valentina Bartolini
Pleasure of Ruins series, 2021–22

“The title of the series highlights the joy we may feel amidst spaces of ruins but also the concern to preserve the traces of past identities through efforts of organization and focus. It represents a personal archaeology of domesticity, starting from the hearth and unfolding as a meticulous exploration of thresholds.”

– Valentina Bartolini



Valentina Bartolini
Aether's Whisper, 2022
Coloured pencils on paper
30 × 40 cm

Installation view



Valentina Bartolini
Aether's Whisper, 2022
Coloured pencils on paper
30 × 40 cm

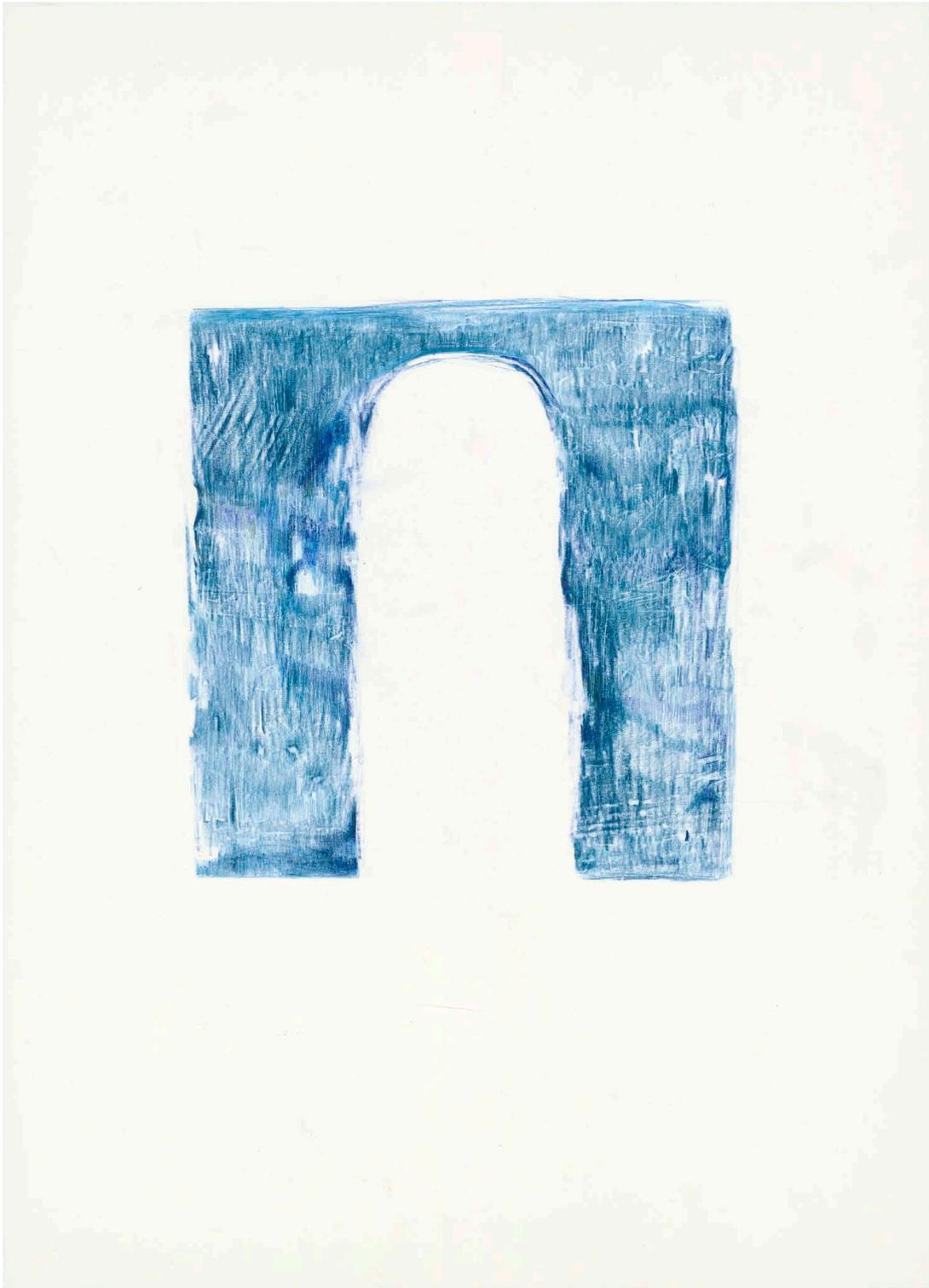


Valentina Bartolini
Forest, 2022
Coloured Pencils on paper
50 × 70 cm

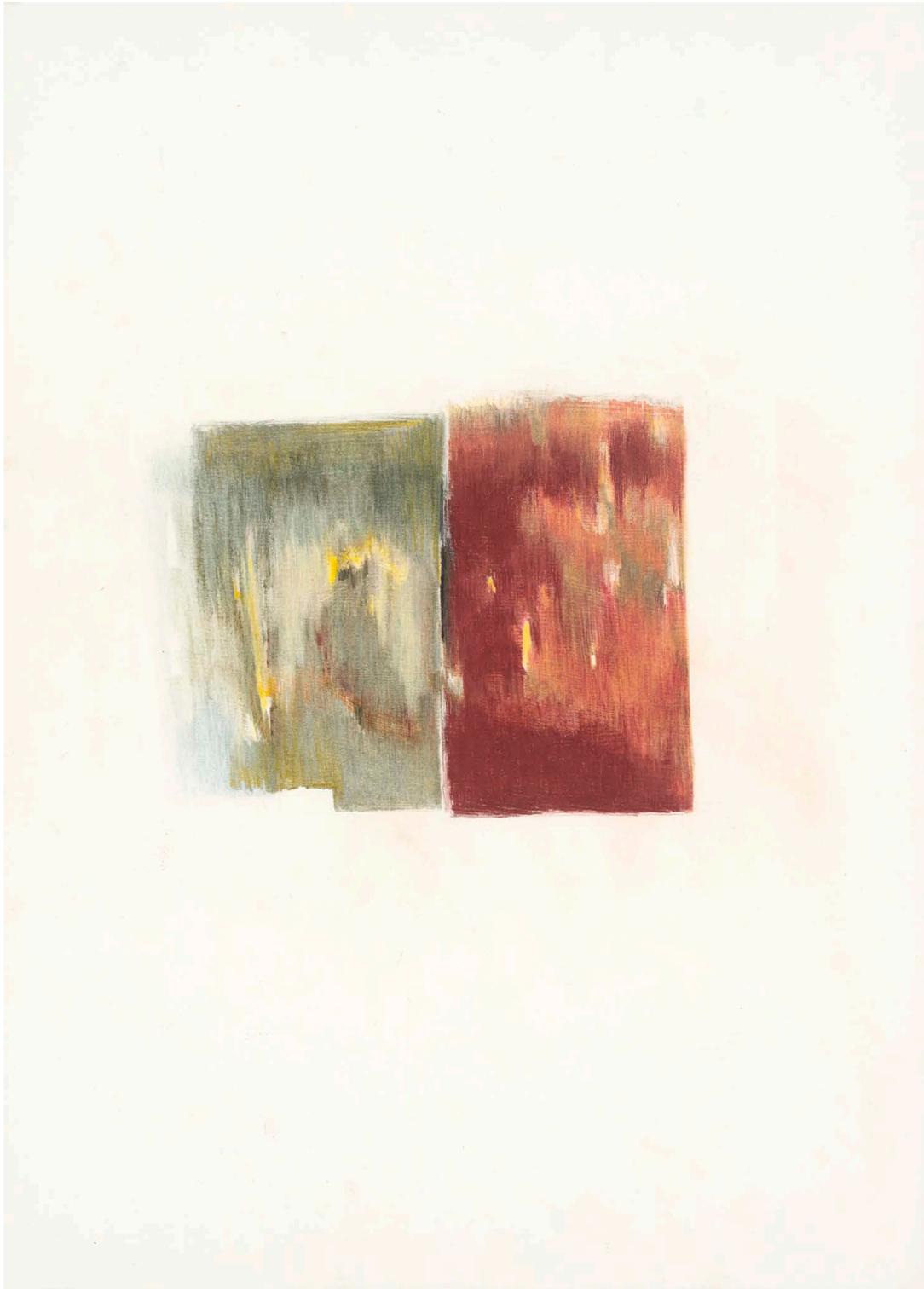
Installation view



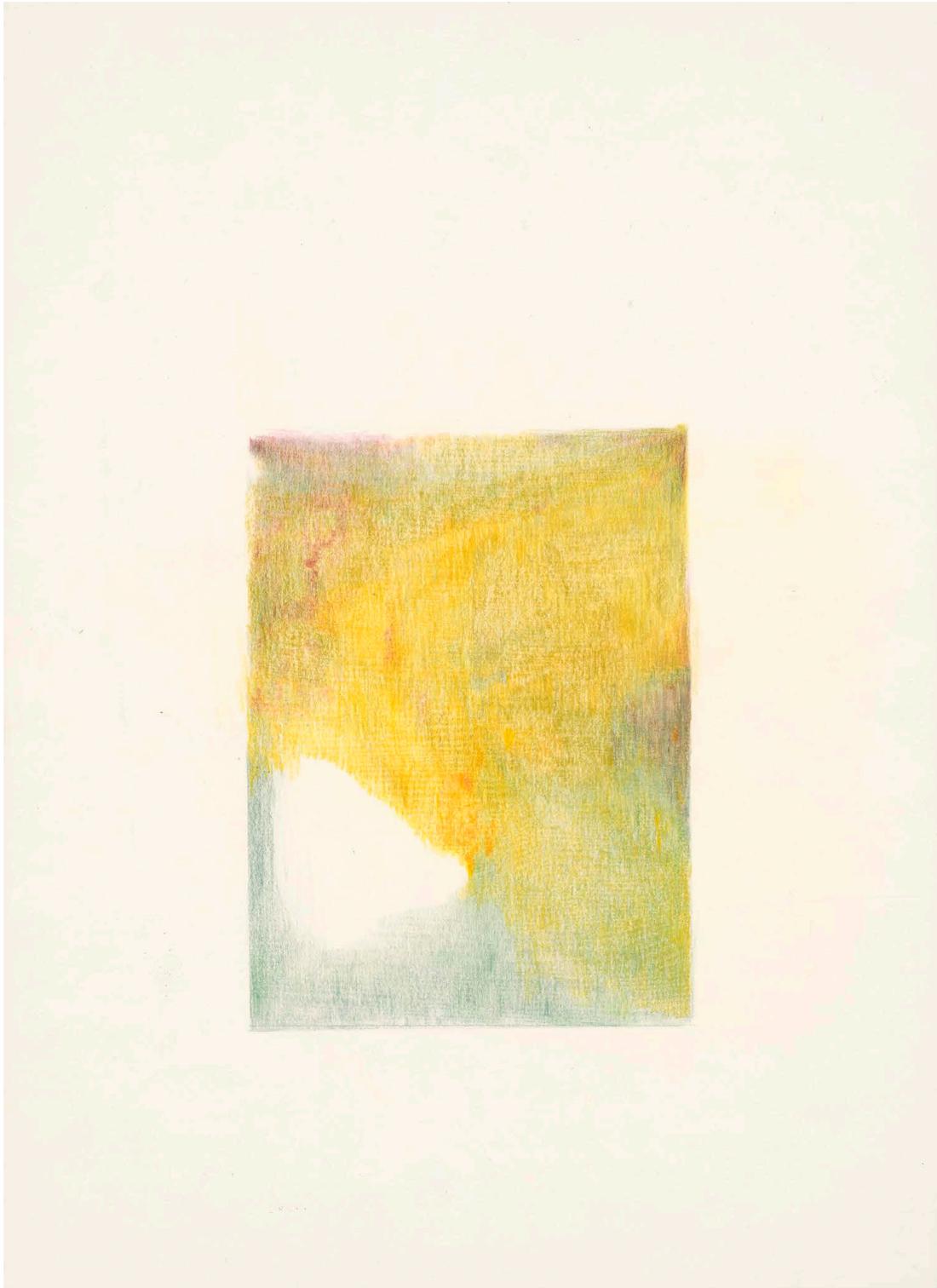
Valentina Bartolini
Forest, 2022
Coloured Pencils on paper
50 × 70 cm



Valentina Bartolini
Dome, 2022
Coloured Pencils on paper
50 × 70 cm



Valentina Bartolini
Couple, 2021
Coloured Pencils on paper
50 × 70 cm



Valentina Bartolini
La Casetta del Sole, 2021
Coloured Pencils on paper
50 × 70 cm

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