

EMOIZIERN PERDIZIONE

João Vilhena

20 September 2025

22 November 2025



Opening days and hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:30am - 6:30pm

Opening: Saturday, 20 September, from 5pm to 9pm

Memories and fragments, anonymous and timeless, inspire the works in *Predizione Perdizione*, a solo show by Portuguese artist **João Vilhena**, on view at our Venetian gallery from 20 September to 22 November 2025.

Playing with words, images and techniques, Vilhena explores historical memory and contemporary concerns in a dialogue between past and present, in which the *hybris* of the human being is revealed as reiterating.

Through newly created works, the artist invites us to look beyond the surface, to discover hidden layers and to reflect on the human condition: among ruins and life impulses, it's the return of the darkest times in history.

Gifted with exceptional technique and sharp wit, João Vilhena creates visual universes in which the observer's gaze plays a central role in giving meaning to the artwork itself: his drawings work as perceptual spaces where interpretation is nuanced, misread, and deferred. Between the known and the unknown, Vilhena's pieces challenge the viewer with a constant shift in meanings and forms. By combining real and imaginary elements, his large-format drawings - executed in black chalk powder on grey cardboard - invite us to question our understanding of the visible world.

The exhibition is accompanied by a text by art critic and curator **Tristan Trémeau**.

JOÃO VILHENA

Beja, Portugal, 1973. Lives and works in Paris.

Graduated from Villa Arson, in Nice, João Vilhena practices drawing and painting from a neo-conceptual position. His work is and has always been led by the interest he takes in the role of the beholder. For the artist, a work is made by the look upon it, which activates it and creates its meaning. A virtuoso of the pencil and the word, João Vilhena feints, hides, substitutes, and disguises without ever unveiling what lies beyond. To this purpose, he uses different means like optical illusions, trompe-l'œil or anamorphoses, as well as works' titles spoonerisms, anagrams, and other word games.

João Vilhena has exhibited in numerous venues, including the OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum in Eskisehir, Turkey; the 13th Lyon Biennale; Fondation Vuitton in Paris; Alberta Pane Gallery (Paris, Venice); Centre culturel et sportif Tour à Plomb in Brussels; Spazio Berlendis in Venice; La Traverse Contemporary Art Center in Alfortville, France; URDLA in Villeurbanne, France; Galeria Starter in Warsaw, and Centre Colombier in Rennes. His works have also been shown at art fairs such as Drawing Now Art Fair in Paris, Artissima in Turin, and Miart in Milan.

Moreover, his work is part of the collection of CNAP (Centre National des Arts Plastiques, France), the Rothschild Bank collection in Lisbon (Portugal) and the OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum in Eskisehir (Turkey), as well as numerous private collections.

In 2018, João Vilhena's work was included in the *Hazan Guide to Contemporary Art*, curated by Roxana Azimi. In 2015 his monograph *Frictions et cri de soie* was published.



*João Vilhena in his studio in Paris,
2025. Ph. Marta Mancuso*