

Maurizio Pellegrin

The Lost Portraits

1990 - 2025

May 22 – November 21, 2026

Opening: Friday, May 22, 2026, 6 p.m.

Marignana Arte

Dorsoduro 141, Rio Terà dei Catecumeni, Venice

Marignana Arte is pleased to present the solo exhibition *The Lost Portraits 1990 - 2025* by Maurizio Pellegrin, opening to the public on **Friday, May 22, 2026**, at the gallery's main venue. The exhibition is part of an ongoing collaboration with the artist, initiated in 2015 and developed over time through a series of exhibition projects.

Within Pellegrin's work—spanning more than four decades of research—the portrait emerges as a constant yet unstable presence: at times evident, at others fragmentary, often embedded within more complex structures. It never appears as an autonomous or definitive image, but rather as a trace surfacing through paintings, photographs, objects, and surfaces, shaping a layered reflection on the human condition.

In these works, the face resists full apprehension: it appears and withdraws, is altered or removed to the point of near anonymity. While in traditional portraiture the image served to assert identity, here the process is reversed: identity is not affirmed but destabilized and dispersed. Largely created prior to the widespread emergence of contemporary image culture tied to the “selfie,” these works retain an intimate and silent quality, distant from the imperative to appear.

Pellegrin's practice is grounded in a process of collecting and recomposing heterogeneous images, objects, and materials, removed from their original function and reorganized into new relationships. Within this space, past and present overlap, and the portrait becomes a site of passage where individual and collective memory intertwine without ever settling into fixed form.

The Lost Portraits 1990–2025 thus unfolds as a reflection on the very possibility of representing the human being today: not through the definition of the face, but through its gradual subtraction; not in the certainty of the image, but in its fragility.

The exhibition, organized in collaboration with Galleria Michela Rizzo, will be accompanied by a text by Jonathan Molinari.

BIOGRAPHY

Maurizio Pellegrin was born in Venice in 1956 and lives in New York. He holds a degree in Art History from Ca' Foscari University of Venice and concurrently studied art at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia. He later studied Sociology at The New School and Eastern Philosophy at New York University. In the 1990s he began his academic career. He served as Director of the Venice Program Master of Arts at New York University, where he also taught for nearly two decades. During this time, he joined Teachers College, Columbia University, where, in addition to teaching, he held the position of Senior Curator of the gallery. He also taught in the Department of Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. In 2011, he was appointed Director of the School at the National Academy Museum and School in New York, later becoming its Rector and serving as Creative Director in 2014–2015. In 2017, he founded the New York School of the Arts, where he currently serves as Executive Director. Pellegrin's work has been the subject of over 160 solo exhibitions and hundreds of group shows in international galleries and museums, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the Corcoran Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, the Akron Art Museum, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Ca' Pesaro International Gallery of Modern Art in Venice. His works are held in major private and public collections worldwide, and an extensive body of literature has been dedicated to his practice, including more than 40 monographs. His work has also been featured in over 500 articles and essays.

Opening hours:

- from Wednesday to Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- on other days by appointment only

Waterbus stops: Salute - Line 1, Spirito Santo - Lines 5.1 / 5.2 / 6