

Marco Giordano

Gridlocks

The Modern Institute, Aird's Lane

30th January – 4th March 2026

Preview: Thursday 29th January 2026, 6-8pm

This new body of work by Marco Giordano considers the intersecting tensions between energy, economics, land, language, and technology, as seen through the prism of the transition towards renewable energy. While this transition is producing an upheaval of both energy infrastructure and production, Giordano considers the affect these changes are having on social relations. Energy infrastructure can be understood as an extension of the body and the exhibition draws attention to its physical, economic, and political effects. Aluminium, copper, fibre glass, and plastic – which compose the often-invisible electronic infrastructure of the underground and undersea cabling that services our everyday lives – are the starting point for the sculptures. Across the installation, he has reconfigured these materials, which were gleaned from deconstructing cabling sourced in Glasgow, and blended them with organic matter, personal artefacts, videos and text to form various enigmatic pieces. The exhibition title alludes to the geometric character of this infrastructure but also to the way we are trapped into certain routines and extractive practices by it.

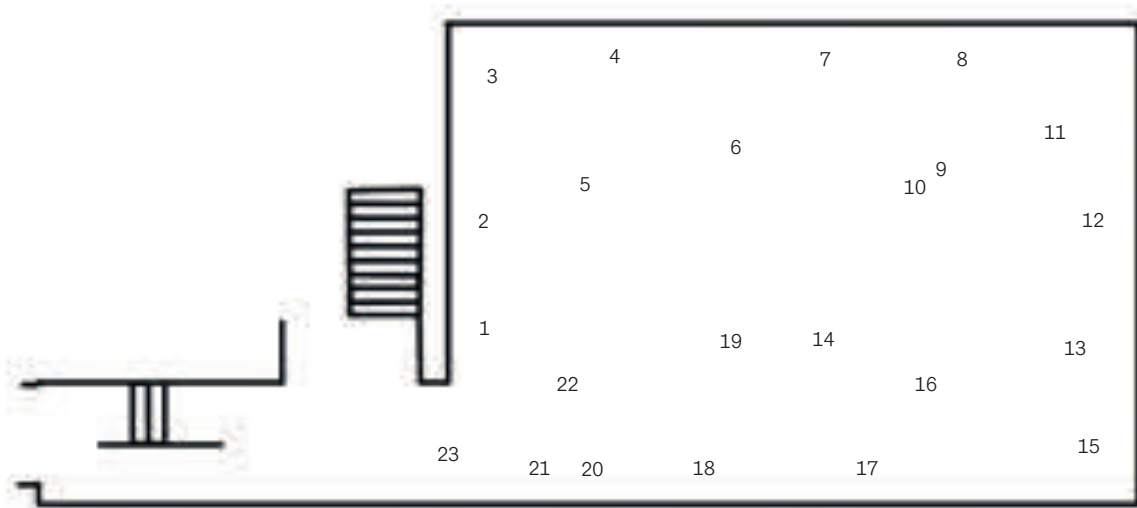
The impetus for the exhibition came from Giordano's research into the energy transition, informed by trips to two distinct areas – the windfarms off the North-East coast of Scotland and the Lithium Triangle, an area of the Andes encompassing sections of Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile. In South America, he travelled from Calama's Chuquibambilla copper mines to the ports of Antofagasta (where copper and lithium are shipped), from the windfarms of Chilecito to the Puna de Atacama's lithium mines. These vast complexes, often run by foreign conglomerates, are where the aforementioned materials along with lithium (a key component of energy storage batteries) are found and processed for industrial uses. This follows a pattern of extractivism from South America established in the colonial era which continues into the energy transition of today – away from *petroculturalism*. In the context of this transition, mineral deposits have become a key zone of tension and conflict across the world.

Giordano renders natural forms – trees, flowers, nests, figures – in these infrastructural materials, underscoring the connection between what we understand as natural and manmade. There are moments of near connection or pairings, zones of friction which are simultaneously inviting and threatening. Certain works are inflected with floating language, pointing to the artist's interest in notions of fluency and flow – be that informational, material, electronic or linguistic. He sees his task as an artist as to restructure and reassess the productive, capitalist logic of these distributive structures through poetic and associative means. To create a kind of *disfluency*. Language is a key tool in the dissemination of ideology, and it determines what possibilities feel available to us in the world – what agency we have and how we want to live. Belgian philosopher Isabelle Stengers reminds us that a culture of 'hesitation' can be vital to artistic practice, allowing for the questioning of established norms and the dominance of forms of political authority. Giordano's artworks often have an active or performative element which produces a liminal space and can help reformulate our understanding of a process or object. These pieces continue this concern, drawing attention to the zone between energy production and personal consumption, and the materials that facilitate that conduction.

Giordano would like to thank Creative Scotland and Glasgow Print Studio.

Marco Giordano (b. 1988 in Turin) lives and works in Glasgow. Selected solo exhibitions include: 'On the Tip Of The Question', Walls of Wonder Terminal 1 di Malpensa, Milan (2024); 'Un—Shaped Breath', Galleria Umberto di Marino, Naples (2023); 'Loop Pool', Pinacoteca Agnelli, Turin (2022) 'Note Rotte Senza Filo', Spazio De Dominicis, Turin, (2022); 'To Disturb Somnolent Birds', The Modern Institute, Aird's Lane Bricks Space (2020); 'My Mouth in your Mind', Frutta, Rome (2019); 'Lo sono nessuno! Tu come stai?', Art Verona, Verona (2018); 'Conjunctive Tissue', KaOZ (Manifesta 12 Collateral Event), Palermo (2018); 'I'm Nobody! How Are You?', Glasgow International Festival (2018); 'Conjunctive Tissue', Lily Brooke, London (2018); 'Conjunctive Tissue', Civic Room, Glasgow (2017); 'Pathetic Fallacy, Il Colorificio, Milan (2017); 'Self-fulfilling Ego, Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh (2017); 'CUTIS', Glasgow Project Room (2017); 'Asnatureintended', Frutta, Rome (2016) and 'Marco Giordano/Gabriella Boyd, Glasgow International (2016). Selected Group exhibitions include: 'Che sarà sarà', Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Guarene (2023); 'THE NAKED WORD', Centrale Fies, Dro (2023); 'The Tending of the Otherwise', Biennale des Jeunes Créateurs de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée for Procida Italian Capital of Culture 2022 (2022); 'The Tending of the Otherwise', Procida, Italy, (2022); 'Wonderfull', Museo Del Novecento, Firenze, Palazzo Vecchio - Sala d'Arme (2021) 'Ecophilia', Museo Nazionale della Montagna, Torino 'Fake News', Fondation group EDF, Paris (2021); 'School of Waters', Mediterranean 19 Young Artists Biennale, San Marino (2021); 'Savage', Otto Zoo Gallery, Milan (2019); 'Teatrum Botanicum', Parco Arte Vivente, Turin (2019); 'Living in imagination', Galeria Wozownia, Torun (2019); 'Flashing and flashing', Maxxi, Rome (2019); 'Group Show', Frutta, Rome (2018); 'That's IT!', Sull'Ultima Generazione di Artisti in Italia e a un Metro e Ottanta dal Confine, Bologna (2018); 'I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Ice Cream', Fondazione Baruchello, Rome (2017) and 'The Gap Between the Fridge and the Cooker', The Modern Institute, Glasgow (2017).

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| 1 <i>To the bone</i> , 2026
Digital print, organic matter, resin, copper,
copper wire
64 x 48 x 7.5 cm | 2 <i>Reaching and gesture</i> , 2026
copper, aluminium, white cement,
fibreglass, rubber
222 x 40 x 40 cm | 3 <i>Brushing the tips of the land</i> , 2026
perspex, natural wool, steel, steel wool
57 x 120 x 140 cm |
| 4 <i>Go to lit-re</i> , 2026
Digital print, organic matter, resin, fibreglass
137 x 72 x 18 cm | 5 <i>For each other, we</i> , 2026
rocks, aluminium, resin
89.5 x 31 x 20 cm | 6 <i>Why 'n ef? If ef have and if why is</i> , 2026
cement, plastic bucket, aluminium, cement,
iron, copper
215 x 33 x 33 cm |
| 7 <i>Lingue senza lingua</i> , 2026
fibreglass, aluminium
105 x 65 x 50 cm | 8 <i>Up, stumbled the</i> , 2026
round screen, steel, rice paper, pendulum
mechanism, pendulum components
130 x 30 x 25 cm | 9 <i>If feeling is first</i> , 2026
mild steel, stainless steel, high voltage
ceramic, resin, aluminium, glass
180 x 30 x 17 cm |
| 10 <i>Where the heads rest with</i> , 2026
rocks, resin, aluminium
Part 1: 62 x 35 x 26 cm
Part 2: 42 x 26 x 18 cm | 11 <i>El Rio es el deseo</i> , 2026
styrofoam, copper, organic matter, resin 73
x 240 x 32 cm | 12 <i>Petals instead of eyes</i> , 2026
Digital print, organic matter, resin
109 x 71.5 x 5 cm |
| 13 <i>I've lost my name</i> , 2026
bread, resin, aluminium, cement
136 x 100 x 76 cm | 14 <i>On lap of poems</i> , 2026
cement, copper, silicone
50 x 31 x 22 cm | 15 <i>Voices and boots</i> , 2026
ceramic, fibreglass, screen, organic matter,
aluminium, cement, copper
236 x 80 x 32 cm |
| 16 <i>Suene y sueñe</i> , 2026
cement, copper, round screens
115 x 80 x 67 cm | 17 <i>Deep like a-rows</i> , 2026
Digital print, organic matter, resin, fibreglass
120 x 90 x 15 cm | 18 <i>Lip to lip</i> , 2026
fibreglass, underground cables, rice paper,
traffic block, screens
114 x 213 x 43 cm |
| 19 <i>Dame una señal</i> , 2026
cement, gravel, resin, organic matter,
aluminium
146 x 30 x 30 cm | 20 <i>Where the heads rest with</i> , 2026
rocks, resin, aluminium
Part 1: 62 x 35 x 26 cm
Part 2: 42 x 26 x 18 cm | 21 <i>Mareo</i> , 2026
Digital print, organic matter, resin, copper,
copper wire
64 x 48 x 10 cm |
| 22 <i>Land of knots</i> , 2026
steel frame, resin, plastic
74 x 65 x 58 cm | 23 <i>Crave and carve</i> , 2026
cement, fibreglass, aluminium wire
cables, lamp
245 x 245 x 100 cm | |