Massimo Kaufmann | Gonçalo Mabuda
Curated by Giorgio Verzotti
February 18 th | April 3rd, 2021

Giovanni Bonelli Gallery is pleased to open the 2021 exhibition program with a double show by Massimo Kaufmann and -thank to the collaboration with Lis10 Gallery- Mozambique artist Gonçalo Mabunda.
In his last production Massimo Kaufmann expresses - with the use of oil on canvas- his intention to render chromatic atmospheres pictorially and to make visible the duration of the creative process. The works are the result of a precise and meticulous dropping on the canvas often set horizontally. Kaufmann says that he paints "…without narrative or descriptive support (…) [using] one color and all the colours -to avoid symbolic snares- ". His slow painting with overlaps of transparent colours can be read as a process of growing medidation with gestures that gradually reduce to the minimum. Some large scale works by Italian artist will be displayed with the sculptures by Gonçalo Mabunda (that represented his nation at the last Venice Biennale in 2019).
Mabunda converts dismantled war materials that were in use during the long and bloody civil wars - 16-year - that affected his country (Mozambique). The artist appropriates of all kind of war waste - bullets, bombs, files- and then assembles them with the final shape of masks and thrones. Mabunda's masks have a strong evocative power and maintain the symbolic and ritual values of the ancient African tribal masks that are part of the artist's culture and tradition, while converted in a contemporary way.

Massimo Kaufmann (1963, Milano. Lives and works in Milano)
Kaufmann is one of the main Italian artist of his generation that imposed his activity at the end of the 90s in Milano. He used to use all media from installations to photographs up to sculpture and, of course, painting. His works have been selected by prestigious International collections and Museums in the world: Paris (Cartier Foundation); Berlin (Martin Gropius Bau, Metropolis); Amsterdam (De Appel collection); Wien (Liechtenstein Palace, Ludwig Foundation); New York (Sperone-Westwater; Bronx Museum); Nice (Contemporary Art Museum); Rome (National Gallery of Modern art), Milan (Pac, Royal Palace Collection, Triennale).

Gonçalo Mabunda (1975, Maputo District, Mozambico. He lives and works a Maputo)**.** Although he spent his childhood in a country devastated by the civil war (1975-1991) Mabundahe attended schools in the capital of Mozambique (Maputo). His works were exposed in prestigious International Galleries and Museums including: Center Georges Pompidou, Paris (2005); Mori Museum, Tokyo (2006); Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2016); Palazzo Reale, Milan (2016); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2018). His first presence at the Venice Biennale dates to 2015 while in 2019 he was selected to represent Mozambique in the national pavilion. Internationally he collaborates with the Jack Bell Gallery in London. He received numerous international awards for his commitment as an anti-war activist broadcast through his work.