

Galeria **Francisco Fino**

# ARCOmadrid 2026

**Adrien Missika**

*Vigiles du vivant*

General Section

Booth **9A10 PA**



*Vigiles du vivant* is a series of rectangular slabs of pure beeswax, functioning as candle paintings in slow motion. Emerging from a ritualistic and mystical lineage, the pieces are not complete until they are lit. During the exhibition, each work is activated through multiple wicks, turning the gallery into a site of transformation.

As the wax liquefies, the surface becomes a shifting skin: it sweats, bleeds, and reconfigures itself. The work “paints itself” through gravity and heat, while the flame occasionally licks the wall, leaving a blackened mark, a fossil of light, a bruise on the architecture.

The project confronts the climate crisis through a fragile economy of matter. Beeswax is produced by honeybees, a species increasingly at risk. Burning the works becomes both a gesture of mourning and a form of testimony: a disappearing world melting before our eyes. Yet within that loss, new forms keep emerging, suggesting that even collapse carries its own unsettling kind of renewal.



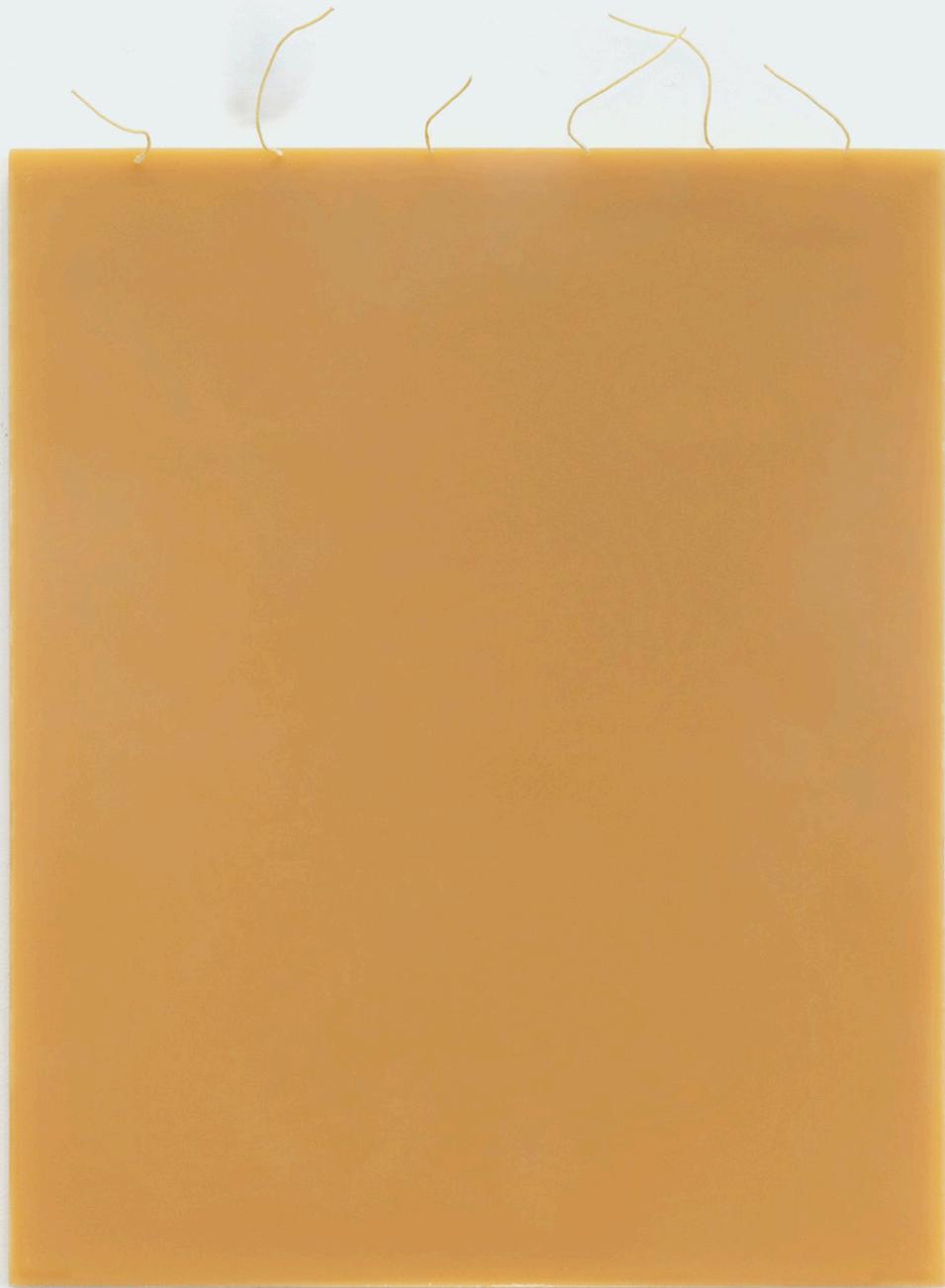
**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (1)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
92 x 65 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (2)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
92 x 65 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (3)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
63 x 52 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (4)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
44 x 36 cm



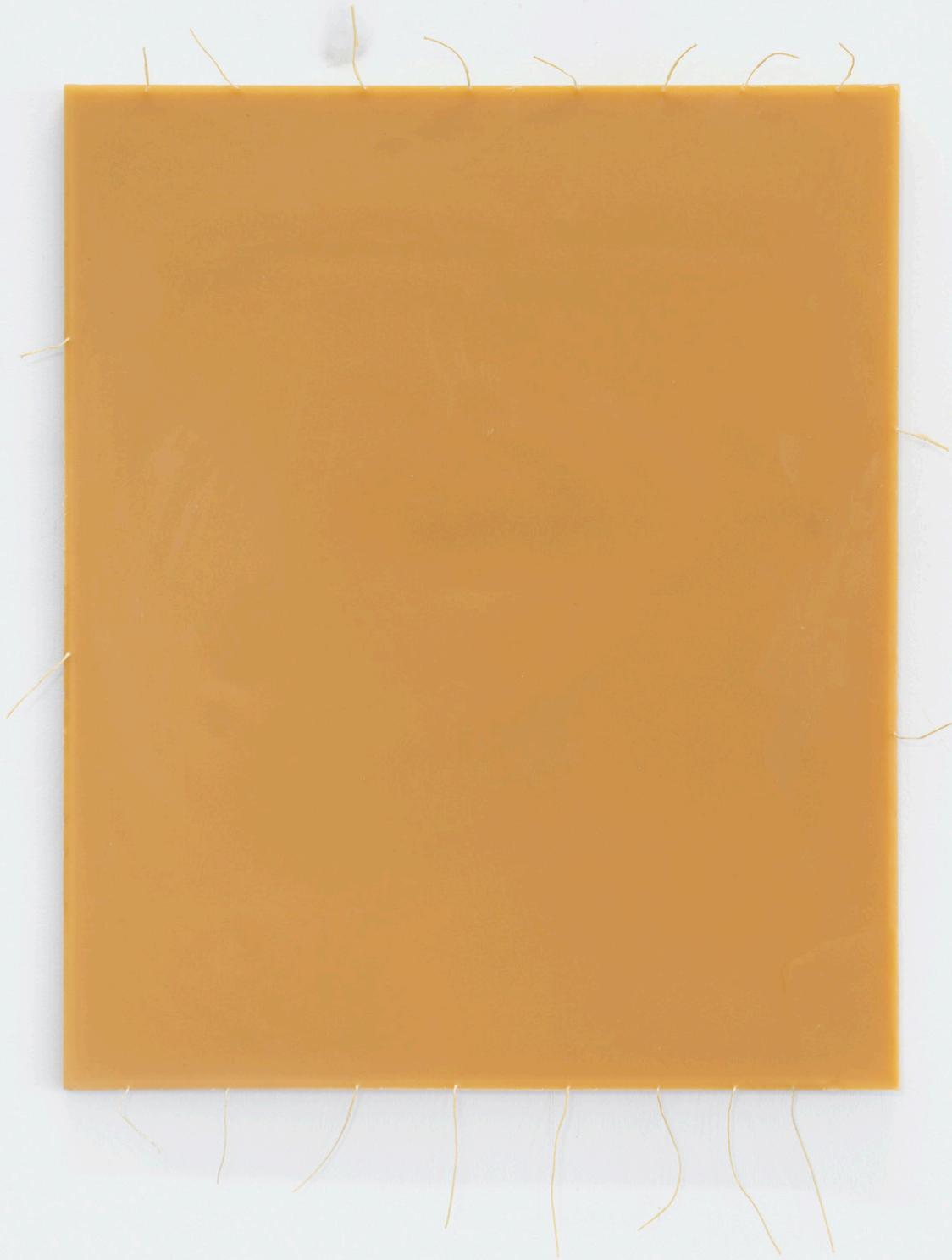
**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (5)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
27,5 x 18 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (6)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
27,5 x 18 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (9)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
92 x 65 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (10)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
63 x 52 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (11)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
44 x 36 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (12)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
27,8 x 17,8 x 2,5 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (13)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
63 x 52 x 2,8 cm



**Adrien Missika**  
*Vigiles du vivant (14)*, 2026  
Beeswax, cotton wicks  
46 x 36 x 3 cm



**Adrien Missika**

*Vigiles du vivant (16 - 17 - 18), 2026*

Beeswax, cotton wicks

134,7 x 10 x 5 cm

# Adrien Missika

Adrien Missika (Paris, 1981) lives and works in Paris. Co-founder of the art space 1m3 in Lausanne in 2006, he graduated from ECAL (École cantonale d'art de Lausanne) in 2007. He has had numerous personal exhibitions including: 21er Haus in Vienna, Kunsthaus Glarus, Switzerland, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris; Centre d'art contemporain Genève, Switzerland and Palais de Tokyo in Paris. His work has also been shown in many group exhibitions, among which at Centre Pompidou, Paris; Metro Pictures, New York; Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau; Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Montecarlo; Le Magasin, Grenoble; Fotomuseum Winterthur and Centre Pompidou Metz. In 2009 he was awarded the Swiss Art Award, in 2011 the Prize of the Fondation Ricard and the Kiefer Hablitzel Prize.

The work of Adrien Missika humorously investigates the natural and the cultural. Using epistemology as a base for research, his conceptual approach drifts into poetic and hypothetical narratives. Through a variety of media, from video, photography, sculpture to installation and action, the work digs into the wide range of natural and environmental sciences, such as biology, landscape architecture and geography to name a few. Overcoming the logic of capitalism, Missika's artistic practice nurtures a space for possible worlds.

## More about the artist

