



## **Senza titolo (Untitled), 1963**

Tempera on unprimed canvas and on reverse side of canvas

40 x 80 cm (two parts 40 x 40 cm each)

Signed and dated on the verso of the first canvas: "Giulio Paolini / 1963"

Collection Giorgio Marconi, Milan

Two canvases placed one beside the other, one seen from the recto and the other from the verso, both present the same square painted with white tempera, which leaves the unprimed edge of the support surface visible.

"The 'canvas' as subject is visible in its double. [...] It's like verifying the surface, appropriating it and repeating the process with the back of the picture, as if the supports on which the two squares rest were the one and the same".<sup>1</sup>

The use of the reversed canvas is an especially important theme in the works conceived from 1962 to 1963: "the point of view shifted to the back of the painting radicalizes the question of the image understood as the subject intrinsic to the front of the painting".<sup>2</sup>

The unprimed edge is a characteristic of most of the artist's works in 1963, most of which are determined by an action that always leaves one detail of the support visible: "the image of the painting consists of the elements themselves that make it up [...]. The image sought out on top of these materials is none other than the correct presentation of the materials themselves".<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The artist in G. Celant, *Giulio Paolini*, New York: Sonnabend Press, 1972, p. 25 (reprinted in G. Celant (ed.), *Giulio Paolini 1960-1972*, Milan: Fondazione Prada, 2003, p. 104).

<sup>2</sup> Conversation between the artist and M. Disch, January 2003. The canvas seen from the back appears for the first time in *Senza titolo* (1962), which consists of three reversed canvases mounted one inside the other so as to generate a progressive framing sequence.

<sup>3</sup> The artist interviewed by A. Bonito Oliva, in *Paolini: opere 1961/73*, exh. cat., Milan: Studio Marconi, 1973, n. pag. (reprinted in M. Disch (ed.), *Giulio Paolini. La voce del pittore - Scritti e interviste 1965-1995*, Lugano: ADV Publishing House, 1995, p. 152).

Exhibition chronology and bibliography cf. M. Disch, *Giulio Paolini. Catalogo ragionato 1960-1999*, Milan: Skira editore, 2008, vol. 2, pp. 877-878, cat. no. 26.

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