



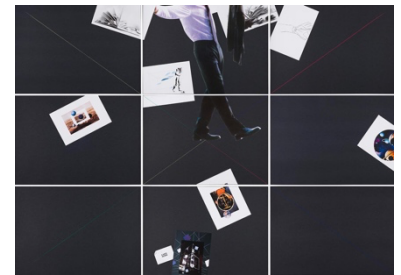
## Carte Noire, 1999-2000

Portfolio with nine silkscreens, coloured pencils, and collage on black paper  
50 x 70 cm each, overall dimensions when displayed 150 x 210 cm  
Edition of 30 in Arabic numerals plus 10 in Roman numerals  
Marco Noire Editore, Turin

The ensemble of nine silkscreens against a dark background, arranged at short intervals from each other reproduces in the upper half a male figure – whose face is unseen – in precarious balance at the point where the diagonals, drawn with coloured pencils, intersect at the centre. Eight reproductions of previous prints by the artist are applied at random, as if they had been dropped there by the protagonist.

The title – borrowed from a well-known Italian espresso coffee brand, whose logo can be seen in the central element in the bottom row – literally refers to the black paper of the nine plates and, at the same time, more implicitly pays tribute to Marco Noire, the main publisher of Paolini's works on paper. Noire himself is also referred to in the images of the prints all of which he printed.

The male figure represents a stand-in for the author, who is always poised between past and present, in search of the ideal balancing point, where everything converges in a fulfilled image.



### **Bibliographical references**

*Impressions graphiques. L'opera grafica 1967-1992 di Giulio Paolini* (Turin: Marco Noire Editore, 1992), 1996-2005 supplement, cat. no. 103.

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