



MAX PELLEGRINI (b. 1945)

Vita di un'anarchica: la scelta

oil on canvas

51 x 63 in.

1997-2009

9205

From the late 1990's to the early 2000's, Pellegrini returned to his paintings in the Life of an Anarchist series, "reworked them, constructed them in 'layers,' corrected them, initiated series or returned to iconographies of his past works." These paintings, which are dedicated to Pellegrini's wife Roberta, depict a woman who is free and positive, and are part of a long line of works in which there is an absolute female protagonist. (Sara D'Alessandro, "Biography," in Max Pellegrini, ed. Danilo Eccher, 2014). Pellegrini had his wife in mind for these paintings, since "she considers herself an integrated anarchist, a woman with no prejudice but not fanatical or destructive."

- Partial text adapted from Max Pellegrini, July 2015, in conversation with Curator Chip Tom

Max Pellegrini's paintings are a flashback in classic and pop culture — a trip in time with poignant narratives embedded in symbolic references. For the better part of 50 years, the Turin-based artist has used photography and painting — and a visual vocabulary of trippy landscapes, beautiful people, and meaningful symbols — to compose his stories. Pellegrini's work embodies the culture of the 20th century, drawing on the ideas of the Masters and giving them new context and relevance. His psychedelic works often reference music, literature, fashion, and iconography. With his dynamic style of layering and superimposing image fragments over the background, narrative clues surface and then seem to disappear. The artist has said his way of painting springs from an earthly attempt to attain something transcendental.

Born in 1945, Pellegrini attended the Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti and was professor of urban sociology at the Polytechnic University of Turin. He mounted his first solo exhibition in 1966 at Il Punto gallery in Turin, where his paintings depicted urban landscapes, cars, and the city. A year later, beautiful young women populated his canvases, reflecting the experimental counterculture but ever mindful of literature and art history, particularly 18th century painting and the early work of Caravaggio. Pellegrini is an independent, exerting a distinctive style of figuration that is almost surreal performance art in its execution. Ultimately, his paintings assert a conceptual way of thinking—assembling relevant elements as one might in Adobe Photoshop, and composing images that might be personal in conception but almost universal in experience and meaning.

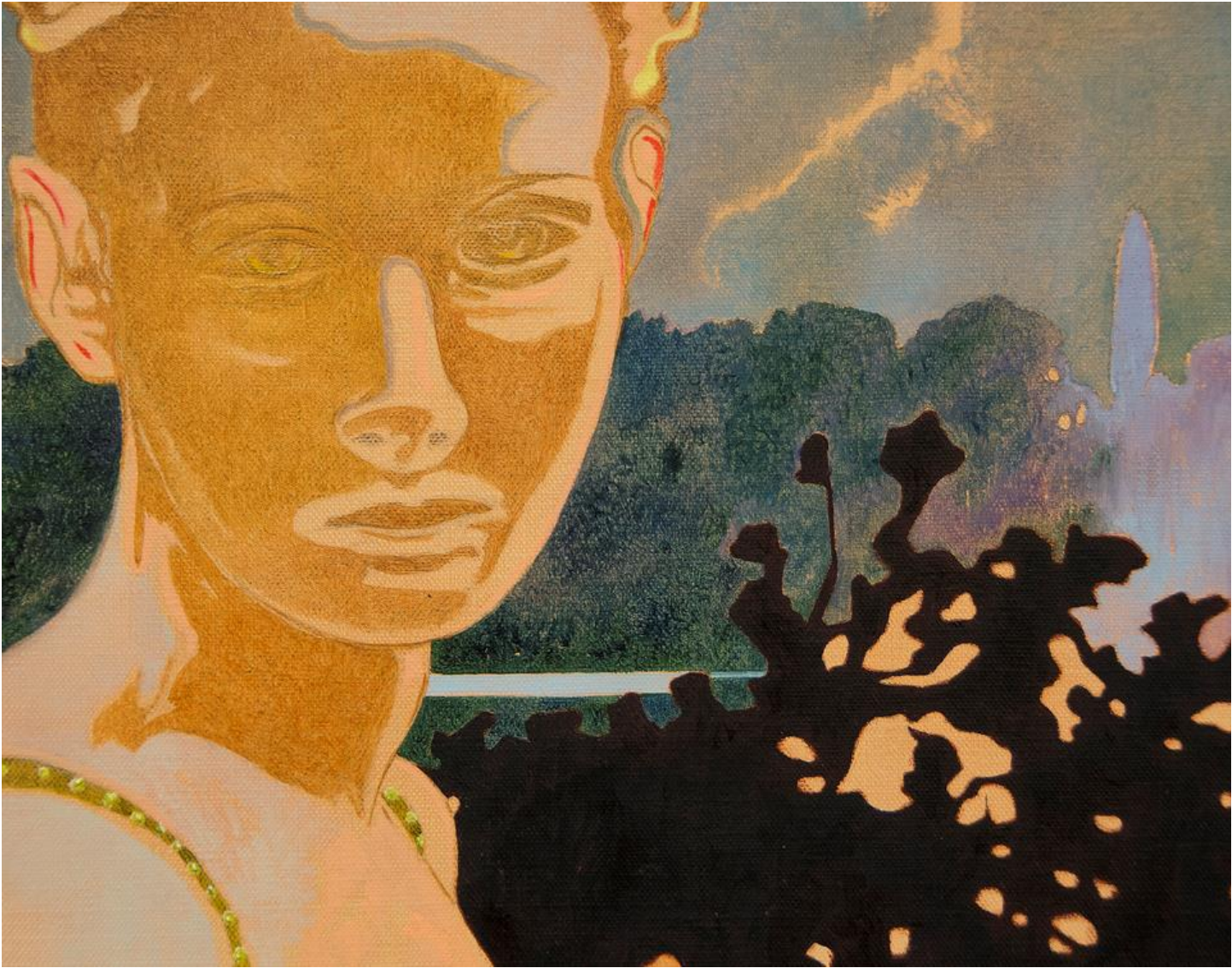
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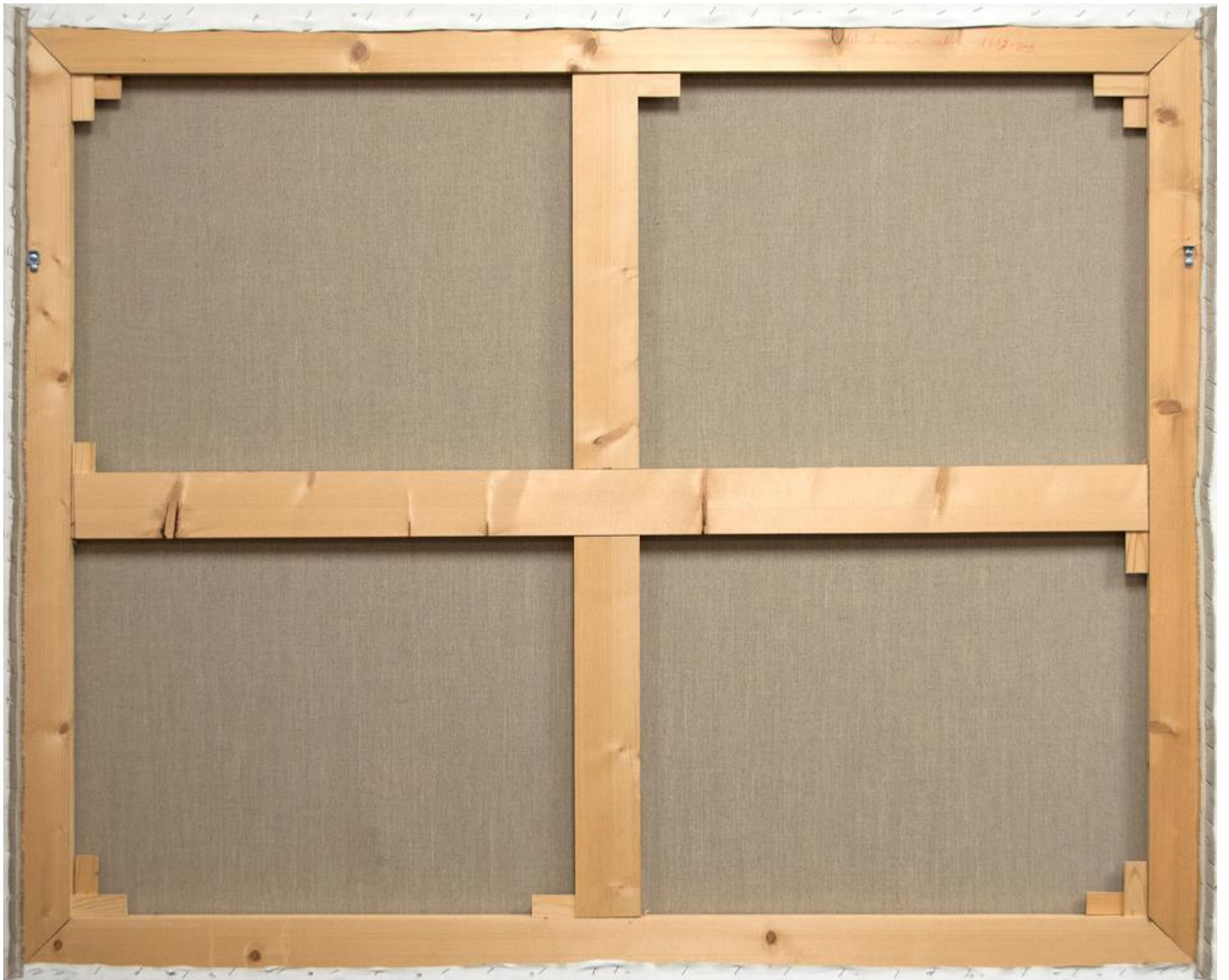












Vite d'un anarchiste 1992-2009