

BÄST
Beautiful Decay

PRESS RELEASE
18 November 2026

HENI

HENI and the BÄST Estate Announce New Collaboration and Limited-Edition Print Release

HENI and the BÄST Estate are pleased to announce a new collaboration with the release of *Beautiful Decay*, a series of three limited-edition prints based on original paintings by Michael 'BÄST' Polimeni (1970–2021). The release brings renewed attention to the artist's work and legacy, offering audiences a closer view of the breadth of his practice, including his studio work.

When BÄST died in 2021, New York lost one of its most singular creative voices. For the artists, designers and friends who had worked alongside him, the loss was deeply personal; it also marked the passing of a figure who had helped define a particular moment in New York culture, shaped through the street, friendship and collaboration.

Brooklyn-born and fiercely independent, BÄST occupied a world of his own. He moved instinctively between painting, collage, printmaking, installation, fashion and the street, developing a visual language that was immediately recognisable but difficult to categorise. His work is irreverent, funny, abrasive and alive, absorbing the visual noise of New York and reassembling it into something entirely his own.

That independence extended to the way BÄST approached the art world itself. Despite exhibiting internationally, he maintained a deliberately elusive presence and rarely

participated in the machinery surrounding his career. *"I've never been to one of my openings,"* he said in a rare 2012 interview. *"I just want people to see my work."*

Collaboration, however, was central to his practice. BÄST worked extensively with FAILE, as well as with artists including Paul Insect and figures from fashion such as Marc Jacobs and Agnès b. FAILE, who collaborated with BÄST for some fifteen years, has spoken of both the friendship at the centre of their working relationship and the way their very different approaches brought out something new in one another.

It was this ability to move effortlessly between worlds while remaining unmistakably himself that made BÄST such an important figure to those around him. Banksy later wrote: *"I don't think there is a modern artist who has better embodied the spirit of New York City than BÄST. A true legend."*

Five years after his death, the BÄST Estate is opening a new chapter in the stewardship of his work. Its collaboration with HENI brings renewed attention to the breadth of BÄST's practice and creates new opportunities for audiences to encounter his work.

Beautiful Decay is available by application exclusively through HENI Editions from 18 November until 17:00 GMT on 25 November 2026.

The editions, *Vermicious Knids*, *Gemelli Diversi* and *Tutti*

Frutti, are Diasec-mounted Giclée prints on aluminium-composite panel. The edition size of each print is limited to 50 (+ 10 APs). *Vermicious Knids* measures 102 x 120 cm, *Gemelli Diversi* measures 89.8 x 120 cm and *Tutti Frutti* measures 120 x 96 cm. Each work is numbered and stamped with the Estate stamp on the label.

The artworks are on display at HENI Gallery from 18 November until 25 November 2026. Admission to the gallery is free.

HENI Talks has also released a new documentary exploring the life and work of BÄST, offering further insight into the artist's creative practice and legacy. The documentary is available to watch on the HENI Talks YouTube channel.

HENI Gallery
6–10 Lexington Street, London W1F 0LB, United Kingdom
Open Monday to Friday, 10am–6pm

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HENI EDITIONS



BÄST

Brooklyn-born artist BÄST was known for his witty, gritty and irreverent works that celebrate and satirise. BÄST emerged as a major player on the urban art scene in the mid-1990s with his gestural tags and collaged works that melded iconic images of popular culture, reworking images and text to combine the absurd and the serious.

As described by Banksy, his friend and "partner in crime", BÄST's "work isn't so much a 'melting pot' of culture as a food blender, set on max and left until the motor burns out..." The quote is from Banksy's introduction to BÄST's limited-edition book *Revolucion de Papel*, released in conjunction with BÄST's first solo show at Transplant Gallery in New York in 2005, which featured canvas paintings and works on paper.

BÄST exhibited widely in the United States and internationally, with solo shows at Lazarides Rathbone, London (2010); The Outsiders, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (2011); Opera Gallery, New York (2012); Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton (2013); Cellar Contemporary, Trento (2017, 2018); and Allouche Gallery, New York (2017, 2019, 2022, 2023).

Collaboration was central to BÄST's practice. He worked extensively with FAILE, including on *Deluxx Fluxx*, an immersive installation combining arcade games, music and visual art that appeared in London (2010), at Art Basel Miami Beach (2013) and at the Brooklyn Museum (2015).

He also collaborated with Paul Insect, including on the Fly Tip Theatre puppets between 2012 and 2021. The puppets premiered at Banksy's *Dismaland* in 2015 and were later documented in *The Rubbish Puppeteers*, published by Beyond the Streets in 2023.



BÄST

Vermicious Knids, 2026

Diasec-mounted Giclée print on
aluminium-composite panel

102 x 120 cm







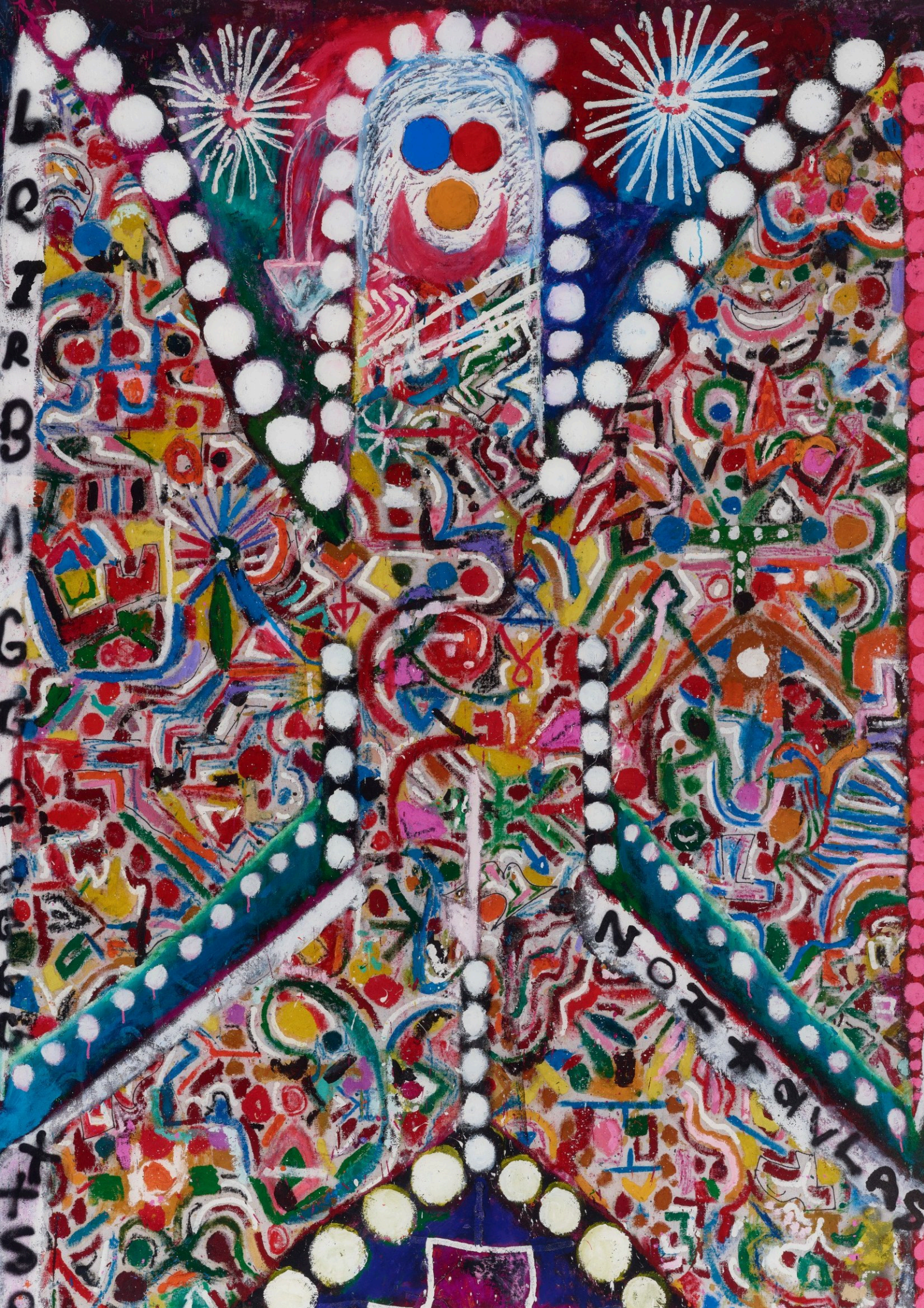


BÄST

Gemelli Diversi, 2026

Diasec-mounted Giclée print on
aluminium-composite panel

89.8 x 120 cm


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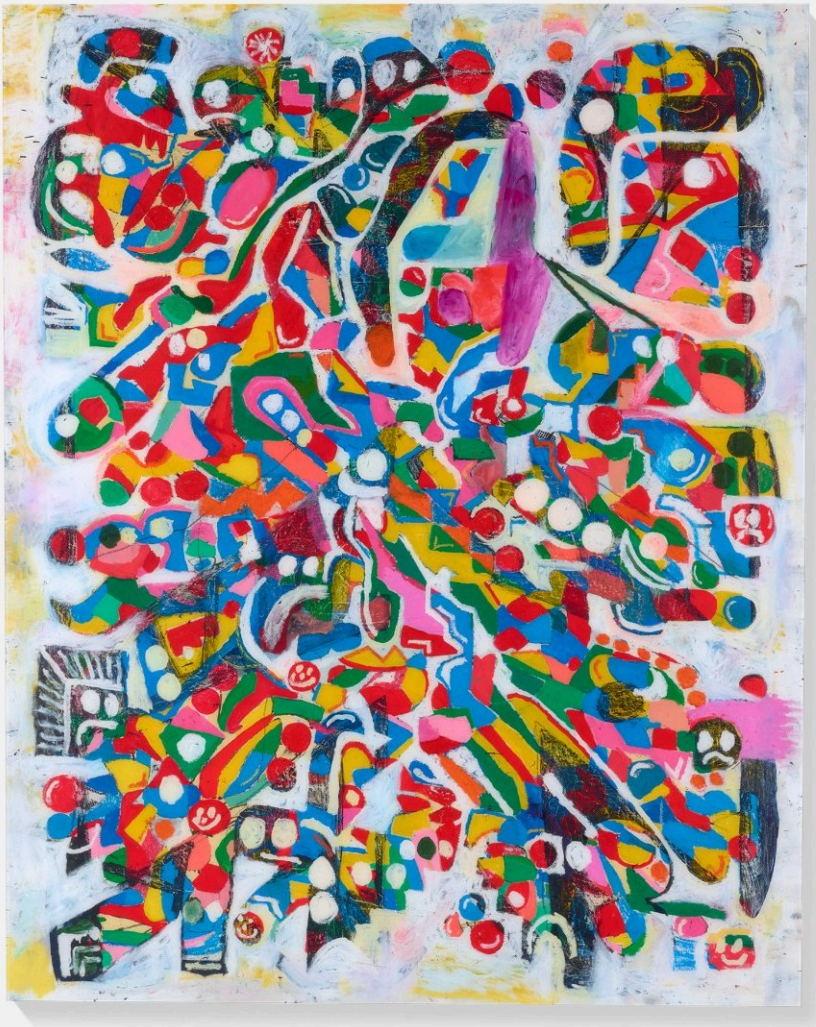
BÄST

Tutti Frutti, 2026

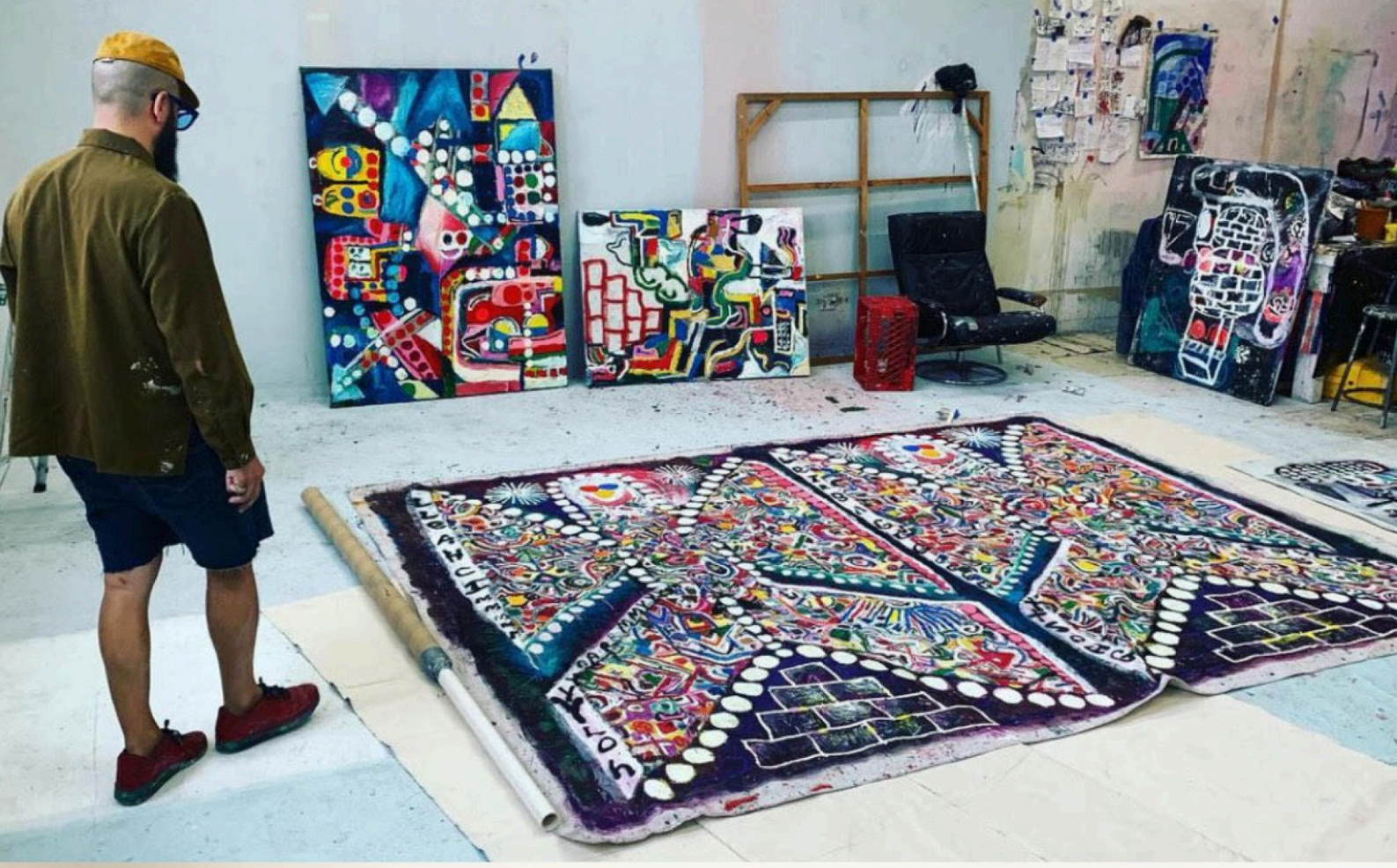
Diasec-mounted Giclée print on
aluminium-composite panel

120 x 96 cm















About HENI

HENI works with world-leading artists and estates across various sectors including printmaking, releases of original artworks, book publishing, films, exhibitions, news and research. Our mission is to make art accessible to everyone by giving people the chance to learn about and collect art.

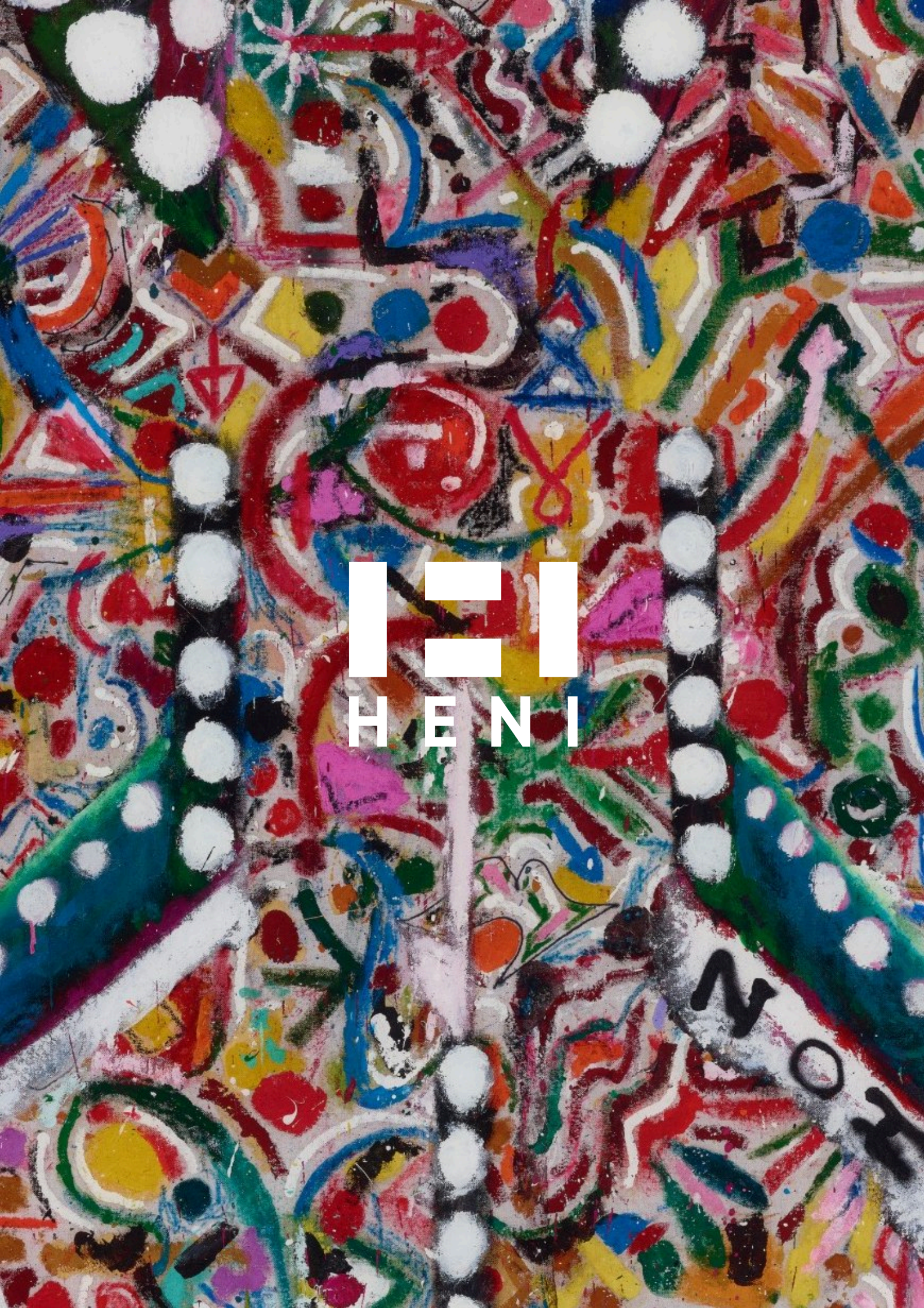
heni.com

HENI Editions

HENI Editions works with artists, institutions and estates to produce high-quality, limited-edition artworks. We work with a range of mediums, including sealed or Diasec-mounted Giclée prints, metallic and non-metallic chromogenic prints, large-format jacquard-woven tapestries and stained glass.

heni.com/editions

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