



**Micha Cattai**  
***STREETONOMICS***

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**mirko mayer galerie/ m-projects**

erftstrasse 29  
50672 Cologne  
germany  
info@mirkomayer.com  
www.mirkomayer.com  
@mirko\_mayer\_galerie



# Micha Cattai

Using street names to measure a city's cultural values.

Streets have been used as a form of social engineering, mirroring a town's cultural, political and religious values. They also suggest what people deeply care about, who they are, and who they like to be seen to be. In Micha's new works, European city streets become his subject as the artist captures a sort of "time capsule" by creating molds in-situ that he later casts in his studio capturing all the elements at the time of mold making. Streetonomics will leave you looking at streets in a whole new way...

"During the first covid-19 lockdown, I had to travel quite extensively to some European cities and what bewildered me the most, was the silence, the eerie quietness from otherwise busting streets with life. As public transport was also to a standstill, walking was my means of transport from one city location to an other. Some streets, known for their active spirited and energetic temper, were stripped of what was once their signature dish, sort of speak. Some others, like in Geneva, were just as empty as they were during pre-covid times.

What they all had in common, was that the streets lost their people, their character, their way of life.

Slowly after life started getting back to normalcy, I wanted to capture the emotions that I had felt, whether gained or lost, from those city streets during covid. From the fresh chewing gum left by newly visiting tourists on the marble pavement at the entrance of the Ancient Agora in Athens to the fatigued cracking asphalt of a once busy street of the Swiss alps.

My journey continued to Milan on via Corridoni, adjacent to the entrance of the famous Leonardo da Vinci university language school, who's walls drew my interest as a witness to decades of graffiti, peeling off from their glorious past of being a student's artistic sociopolitical "message board" and desperately waiting for the remote learning to end.

My last stop was in Cologne, who's stone paved streets had a story to tell, literally!..."







***Blah, blah, blah***, 2021

Triptych (37cm x 65cm x 15cm) each flag  
Mixed media on Polyester Fiberglass, white Gelcoat

Tatoï Ave , Athens - Greece.  
Following Greece's 2021 historic heatwave, catastrophic  
fires ravaged the main artery connecting the city of  
Athens to the leafy green forest of Mt. Parnitha.

*Gum-trance*, 2022  
(153cm x 116cm)  
Mixed Media on Polyester Fiberglass, white Gelcoat

Ermou Street, Athens - Greece. Athens' best known and busiest shopping street that extends over 1 & 1/2 Km that ends at the Ancient Agora of Athens (marketplace in Ancient Greece).











*Forum A*, 2022  
(162cm x 81cm)

Mixed Media on Polyester Fiberglass, white Gelcoat

*Forum B*, 2022  
(167cm x 93cm)

Mixed Media on Polyester Fiberglass, black Gelcoat  
Via Filippo Corridoni, Milan - Italy. Named after an  
Italian trade unionist, socialist and friend of future  
fascist dictator, Benito Mussolini. Via Corridoni is  
also the home to the

*Ever which way*, 2022  
(127cm x 73cm)  
Mixed media on Polyester Fiberglass, black Gelcoat

Rue de la Corraterie, Geneva - Switzerland. Known as the "Quartier des banques", Geneva's banking district famous for its boutique private banks.







left page:

***Block cracking***, 2022  
(60cm x 105cm x 17cm)  
Mixed Media on Polyester Fiberglass, black  
Gelcoat

Rue de Medran, Verbier - Switzerland  
Named after the ski lift company, The Medran  
cable Car SA, founded on 23 December  
1950 by a group of visionary developers.



***Unpluckable Faith***, 2022  
(68cm x 64cm x 8cm) / (17cm x 28cm x 6cm)  
Mixed Media on Polyester Fiberglass, black  
Gelcoat Herwarthstrasse,

Köln - Germany Named after Karl Herwarth von  
Bittenfeld, Prussian Field Marshal General,  
responsible for defense measures of a possible  
French invasion during the Franco-German  
war. The neighboring streets Goebenstrasse,  
Spichernstrasse, Werderstrasse and  
Bismarckstrasse also got their name with regard  
to the war.



flipside:

***Tributaries***, 2022  
(102cm x 56cm)

Mixed Media on Polyester Fiberglass, white  
Gelcoat

Erfstrasse, Köln - Germany. Named after the  
North Rhine-Westphalia river that flows through  
the foothills of the Eifel and joins the Lower  
Rhine.

