
SPAZIOC21 is pleased to present
INVISIBLE IDENTITY by EGS
Curated by SPAZIOC21
Critical Text by **Carlo McCormick**

November 15 2025 - February 14 2026

On November 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM, the **INVISIBLE IDENTITY** exhibition by **EGS** will open in Reggio Emilia at **SPAZIOC21**. EGS is one of the most significant names in the contemporary Finnish art scene.

The spirit of experimentation and research that characterizes SpazioC21 has found fertile ground in **EGS**.

A versatile artist, he began painting at a very young age, driven by the urgency to express his creativity in unauthorized public spaces—a practice he has never abandoned and that gave rise to his artist name, **EGS**. These three letters—meaningless on their own—have over time become, all together as a tag, both a message and the foundation of his art. Whether through ink drawings, glass sculptures, or graffiti, these three letters form a visual language—an individual alphabet that tells stories and incorporates cultural, historical, and popular references—particularly themes such as identity, place, and movement—within abstract forms.

Since 2005, EGS has been painting in studio. His early works are in black and white on paper, with a style that echoes his experience in public space; later, he approaches the canvas, expanding his color palette to include a wide range of colors. The canvas provides him with space to explore abstraction and gestuality with a different rhythm from that of street art.

In 2015, when a collective of young artisans acquired Lasismi, a glassblowing kiln, in Riihimäki—north of Helsinki, Finland—to revive a local tradition of glass design, EGS was among the emerging national artists invited to develop, alongside them, a collection of works.

Since then, EGS has established himself as one of the leading artists in this medium. A material and a production process in which physicality and spontaneity of the work resemble the experience of graffiti, where unpredictability plays a crucial role and unforeseen outcomes often generate the most engaging results.

In February 2024, SpazioC21 proposed to EGS an exhibition of his painting and sculpture work in Reggio Emilia. In addition to the canvases created during the residency, they offered to develop a dialogue between Finnish and Italian glassworks; a new production at Lasismi and a collaboration with the **Murano**(Venice)-based art glass studio **Seguso Vetri d'Arte**, one of the oldest on the island, active since 1397 and vital for 23 generations.

The three projects had been realized between June and September 2025, giving birth a stunning production: a multitude of works on canvas, numerous watercolor pieces on paper, and two capsules of blown glass.

The experience gained by EGS over a decade in creating *fused and blown glass works*

is a distinctive and original element, and the focal point of the exhibition in Reggio Emilia. The series of new sculptures in INVISIBLE IDENTITY is characterized by a dialogue between sinuosity and transparency, raw details and craquelure textures, interwoven colors, spit-inserts, and a new prominence of light.

For this reason, the blown glass pieces—approximately 30 works—crafted in Finland and Italy for the exhibition are showcased within the exclusive setting of Villa Levi Terrachini in Reggio Emilia.

The exhibition will be open for visits—by appointment—twice a day for a month.

At the Via Emilia San Pietro 21 location, SpazioC21 will present painted works on canvas and watercolor works on paper.

Carlo McCormick, one of the leading New York critics and curators, has written about EGS's influence on the world of contemporary art in general, while **Kaisa Koivisto**, curator at the Finnish Glass Museum in Helsinki, PhD, and a leading expert in Finnish glass design, has written about EGS's role in the fields of glassblowing design and art, extending beyond Finland.

EGS's exhibition will be accompanied by a unique 100 copies photographic book, featuring shots by three exceptional photographers backstage during the production of EGS for the SpazioC21 exhibition: **Paolo Pellegrin** – the most prominent Italian photographer of the moment, a Magnum International Agency member, war photographer, and multi-award winner, documenting the glassmaking process in Murano, Venice; **Marko Rantanen**, a Finnish fashion photographer, portraitist, and landscape artist, capturing the glass production at Lasismi in Finland; and **Valerio Polici**, portraitist and artist who uses photography as a medium for personal exploration, documenting EGS's painting production during the Italian residency.

The artist will be present at the opening on november 15, from 6 pm.

BIOGRAPHY

EGS (Helsinki, Finland, 1974) began painting at a very young age. An autodidact, he was driven by the urge to express his creativity in unauthorized public spaces—an approach he has never abandoned. This practice gave rise to his stage name, EGS: three letters—meaningless in themselves—that have evolved into both a message and the foundation of his art. EGS has developed a visual language, a personal alphabet that tells stories and incorporates cultural, historical, and popular references—particularly themes such as identity, place, and movement—through abstract forms.

He completed his higher education in Helsinki and graduated in 2000 with honors in Graphic Design from the University of Arts in London, where he engaged with an international environment and experienced the creative vibrancy of one of the most transgressive cities in the world.

After earning his BA in Arts, he dedicated himself to studio work, developing a semantic system capable of translating the eclecticism of his public space productions onto paper and canvas. Starting in 2006, he began participating in group exhibitions across major European capitals, and from 2009 onward, he has been featured in

numerous solo shows.

Among the various art forms, he also explores sculpture, particularly the creation of three-dimensional glass works. This experience developed almost by chance starting in 2015, when a collective of young artisans acquired the Lasismi glass factory to revive a Finnish tradition of glass design. They invited him among emerging artists to develop a collection together.

Since then, **EGS** has established himself as one of the leading artists in this medium. Glass, as a material and production process, combines physicality and spontaneity in a way that closely resembles graffiti art, where unpredictability plays a crucial role and unforeseen outcomes often lead to the most engaging results.

Five years later, in 2020, he was invited to realize his first retrospective at the Finnish Glass Museum, a show that highlighted his innovative use of molten glass for sculptural forms.

In recent years, **EGS** has exhibited in prestigious venues such as the Helsinki Kunsthalle and participated in major international art events, including his city's Biennale, for which he also curated the visual identity in 2025.

He has also completed numerous public commissions and his works have been acquired by leading foundations and private collections across the Nordic countries. His pieces are part of public collections such as the Finnish National Gallery, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Serlachius Museum.

His work has been featured in significant publications, including *Abstract Vandalism* (Unruly Publishing, 2015), the monograph *EGS. Writing My Diary* (Finnish Art Society, 2018), and the exhibition catalog *Republic of EGS. Travel Guide*, published by the Didrichsen Museum (2024).

From November 15, 2025 to February 14, 2026

at

SPAZIOC21

Via Emilia San Pietro 21

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Opening hours

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