

# “Gaep Presents” | 5 Rapid Fire Questions for Adrian Cojocaru

---

 [www.gaepgallery.com/gaep-presents-5-rapid-fire-questions-for-adrian-cojocaru/](http://www.gaepgallery.com/gaep-presents-5-rapid-fire-questions-for-adrian-cojocaru/)

July 16, 2024



[Adrian Cojocaru: Acts of In-Between](#) — a story of food and art, and of the rituals and environments for their creation — will mark the debut of a new multiyear programme of exhibitions, “Gaep Presents”.

The solo show features six large-scale works that blend charcoal drawing on canvas with richly textural painting. Informed by a fine dining experience, this body of work takes us behind the scenes, both in a restaurant and in the artist's studio, to look at what diners and viewers don't usually see.

Ahead of the opening on July 19, we sat down with the [artist](#) for a quick look at the intersection of food and art in his own life.



Adrian Cojocaru, Agency of a liminal space, 2024, charcoal on canvas and oil on linen attached, 140 x 90 cm and 45 x 60 cm

## 5 RAPID FIRE QUESTIONS FOR ADRIAN

---

### **What artist would you be most curious to receive a recipe from?**

Lately I've been lucky to browse through rare cookbooks with recipes by popular artists, but I wonder what the quiet ones, such as Giorgio Morandi, were cooking or what they liked to eat.

### **What film or TV series about food is an absolute personal favorite?**

I just can't pick one. I've recently re-watched *Ratatouille* and I find it a great artistic glimpse into the fine dining world. The YouTube channel *Italia Squisita* changed the way I see food. It's a certified guide on the Italian culinary tradition and integrating reinterpretations that reflect the modern life. I love all of Anthony Bourdain's series because the food is just a pretext to encounter people and present their life stories. *Salt Fat Acid Heat* and *Chef's Table* are also great, and *The Bear* encapsulates the occasional intensity of the professional kitchens.

### **Your “madeleine de Proust”?**

When I close my eyes, I can easily see the ultimate carbohydrate combo I still crave: the yellow plate of polenta, mashed potatoes and French fries. An absolute favorite that reminds me of my mother and how hard it was to convince her to make it, as it was so 'unhealthy'.

### **What snack food we would definitely find in your studio?**

I have water in my studio and a “secret” stash of dark chocolate hidden in different places. I tend to forget the exact places, because I like the adrenaline of a quest combined with hypoglycemia.

### **“Tell me what kind of food you eat, and I will tell you what kind of man you are.” Agree or not?**

*Ni*, as an Italian would say to mean 'yes and no'. I find it very harsh to label humans living such complex lives, especially in the current urban environments. If I were to judge strictly based on appearances, I imagine Giorgio Morandi as a very balanced human being.



Adrian Cojocaru, *Everybody knows about that spot*, 2024, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 cm

“Gaep Presents” is a new programme of exhibitions that focuses on work by emerging artists and by established collaborators of the gallery other than the artists it represents. The programme builds upon the four iterations of [ACCELERATOR](#), the mentoring projects for emerging artists in which Gaep has been a partner since 2022, and on diverse collaborations with artists in the gallery’s 10-year history. Adrian Cojocaru: *Acts of In-Between* (July 19 — August 16, 2024) is the first exhibition in the series.

Adrian Cojocaru (b. 1993) works to celebrate the richness of contemporary human experience through the medium of painting. By integrating walking into his artistic practice and photographing his immediate surroundings, he has accumulated a large number of

images that serve as source material alongside pop culture and art history. A sense of displacement and longing caused by his dual upbringing in Eastern and Western Europe is a silent undercurrent running through his paintings, which often feature activities, jobs, and experiences that tend to be overlooked. Cojocaru has been an Erasmus+ student at PXL-MAD School of Arts in Hasselt, Belgium, and has just completed an MA in Painting at the National University of Arts 'George Enescu' in Iași. In 2023, he was one of the ten participating artists in [ACCELERATOR Brașov](#), a mentoring project organized by Asociația Culturală Eastwards Prospectus in partnership with Gaep and The Art Museum of Brașov.



Adrian Cojocaru, Signature boudoir, 2024, oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm