



**Costanza Candeloro and Licit Illicit Bookshop**  
***No Plot, Just Street***  
**September 30, 2025 – January 4, 2026**

Swiss Institute (SI) is pleased to present *No Plot, Just Street*, a reading room installation by artist Costanza Candeloro in collaboration with Licit Illicit Bookshop, a mobile platform co-founded in 2020 with Francesca Ciccone.

The installation features a selection of over 50 radical, rare, and out-of-print titles sourced primarily from the US and Italy. These books, available for visitors to read on-site, engage with increasingly surveilled and marginalized bodies of knowledge, including feminist theory, queer and postcolonial studies, poetry, and related discourses. Responding to the recent growing wave of state censorship, particularly within the United States, the selection centers on books published by *High Risk*, a provocative anthology series that evolved into an independent publishing house in the 1990s. Founded by Ira Silverberg and Amy Scholder, *High Risk* was renowned for amplifying transgressive voices and fostering critical conversations around sexuality, identity, and dissent.

Alongside this selection, the installation includes works that engage with the historical iconography of women reading. Traditionally portrayed in private, domestic settings, where reading is confined away from the public sphere, Candeloro reimagines these poses by placing female readers in urban, crowded, and highly visible contexts. In doing so, she transforms the act of reading into a declarative gesture of presence. Rendered as three-dimensional installations reminiscent of commercial displays, these images aim to subvert conventional dynamics of exposure: what appears in the window is not a commodity, but a self-aware figure asserting her visibility.

## About Costanza Candeloro

Costanza Candeloro (b. 1990, Bologna, Italy) graduated in 2014 from the Haute école d'art et de design (HEAD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Recent solo exhibitions include *Tout le temps de vie est temps de travail* at Sihl Delta, Zurich (2024); *Possessed is The Style* at Ausstellungsraum Friedensgasse, Zurich (2024); *C&G* at Istituto Svizzero, Milan (2023); *ENVY & GRATITUDE* at Martina Simeti, Milan (2022); *My Skin-care, My Strength* at ICA Milano (2022); and *Sweet Days of Discipline* at La Plage, Paris (2022). In 2025, she will have a solo show at CEC Centre d'édition contemporaine, Geneva. Her work has also been featured in group exhibitions at MUSEION, Bolzano (2024); Galerie Hussenot, Paris (2023); La Rada, Locarno (2023); Sitterwerk Art Library and Material Archive, St. Gallen (2021); and Tunnel Tunnel, Lausanne (2021); among others.

## About Licit Illicit Bookshop

Licit Illicit Bookshop is a project by Costanza Candeloro and Francesca Ciccone that explores the connection between rarity and radicality. The catalogue includes feminist theory, queer and postcolonial studies, anti-psychiatry, literature, poetry, and more.

## About Swiss Institute

Founded in 1986, Swiss Institute (SI) is an independent nonprofit contemporary art institution dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental artmaking through innovative exhibitions, education, and programs. Committed to the highest standards of curatorial and educational excellence, SI serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new perspectives on celebrated work, and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. SI is committed to being an organization that is diverse, equitable, accessible, and environmentally conscious in its work, structure, and programming. Open to the public free of charge, SI seeks to explore how a Swiss context can be the starting point for international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design, and architecture.

SI Programming is made possible in part with public funds from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council; Canton Basel-Stadt; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council with the support of council member Carlina Rivera.

Main supporters include LUMA Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Friends of SI; Every Page Foundation; Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso; A4 Arts Foundation; and Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger. Exhibitions are made possible in part by the SI Artist Vision Fund with leadership support provided by the SI Board of Trustees, Becky and David Gochman, and Nicoletta Fiorucci. SI gratefully acknowledges all TimeForArt Partners, Swiss Re as SI ONSITE Partner, Vitra as Design Partner, and Crozier Fine Arts as Preferred Shipping Art Logistics Partner.

Critical operating support was provided to SI in 2024 and 2025 as part of a collective fundraising effort with CANNY (Collaborate Arts Network New York). We thank the following supporters: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Arison Arts Foundation, and The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. SI is integrating sustainability and environmental consciousness into all facets of the institution. Support for this effort comes in part from the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative and Teiger Foundation.

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