

Piccolo Sole

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE · GARESSIO (CN), ITALY, 26 AUGUST 2026

In Garessio, the first three paintings of the *Anno Tanaro* cycle were shown together for the first time.

Piccolo Sole, the first solo exhibition by Keili Major, closed on Sunday 23 August: twelve works and around a hundred visitors over four days at the Garessio Tourist Office. The river cycle continues; the fourth canvas arrives in September.

GARESSIO (CN), Italy — 26 August 2026. **Piccolo Sole**, the first solo exhibition by Keili Major, closed on Sunday 23 August. Major is an Estonian painter who has lived and worked in Garessio, in the Tanaro valley, since 2023. Four days at the Garessio Tourist Office, twelve works, ten years of practice and around a hundred visitors. The exhibition was the occasion to see the first three paintings of the **Anno Tanaro** cycle together for the first time. In June, when the cycle was presented, the first canvas had only just been finished and the other eleven existed as a programme. Three months later three paintings are complete: a quarter of the way, hanging on the same wall.

Among the visitors were the children of the Estate Ragazzi summer programme, who had already met the artist at a free finger painting workshop and came back to see her in the room. Many visitors left a line in the book at the entrance. The recurring question was always the same: whether those paintings really are made with the fingers alone.



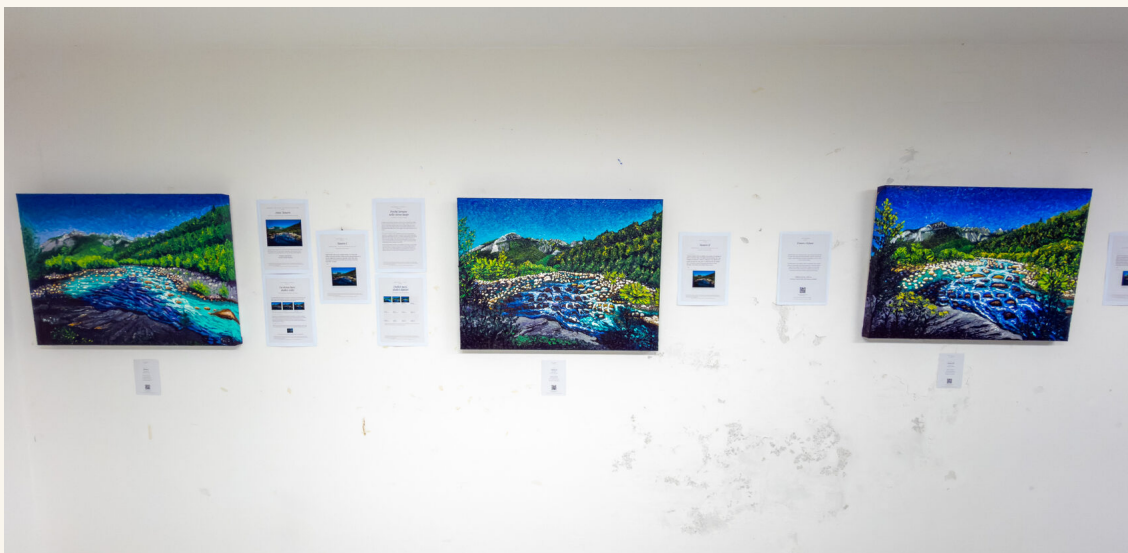
Keili Major in front of Tanaro I, Tanaro II and Tanaro III, shown together for the first time · Garessio Tourist Office, August 2026

— The first three Tanaro paintings

The exhibition opened with **Tanaro I**, **Tanaro II** and **Tanaro III**: oil on cotton canvas, 60×80 cm each, applied with the fingers. They are the first three of the twelve paintings of **Anno Tanaro**, the cycle Major began on 1 June 2026 and which will close in May 2027.

The three canvases come from the same point on the bank of the river Tanaro, photographed in the first week of every month with the same framing and in the same register of light. In June there was haze, and the sky reached the canvas in Verditer blue with a little violet. In July the sky was clear and the mountains behind stood out sharply. In August, after weeks of dry heat, it rained the day before the photograph: «in the morning the water was running between the stones again», says Major.

The point does not change. The year does.



Tanaro I, Tanaro II and Tanaro III · 60×80 cm each · finger painting, oil on cotton canvas · 2026

— The other works on show

Beside the three Tanaro paintings were the four animals painted with the fingers in 2023: *Il leone*, *La volpe*, *Il lupo della luna d'argento* and *Il gorilla*. Then two works from 2026, *Girasoli futuristi*, painted with the fingers, and *Luci e ombre*, painted with a brush. Finally *Ritratto di Claudio*, an oil from 2016, and *Lago*, a portrait of the household dog in pencil and charcoal, from 2025. The exhibition took its title from *Piccolo Sole*, the sunflower painted with the fingers this year.

Major paints using two techniques: the traditional one, with brushes, the result of her training in Australia under the master Bill Mackay, and Finger Painting, carried out with the fingers alone. The latter has been her signature since 2018.

— Where to see the work now

With the exhibition closed, the works return to the artist's studio in Garessio, which can be visited by appointment. Nine paintings by Keili Major are on permanent display in the rooms of La Fabbrica del Cotone, the Garessio restaurant housed in a cotton mill of 1882, together with *Tanaro*, the 95×95 cm finger painting from which the cycle was born.

— What happens next

The cycle continues at the rate of one canvas a month. *Tanaro IV* will be ready in September, and each new work is presented on a dedicated page of the artist's website in the month it is completed.

The first public appointment after the exhibition is Sunday 30 August: Major leads a Finger Painting workshop in the park of La Fabbrica del Cotone, eight places, by reservation. The following dates are 6 and 13 September. Information and bookings at keilimajorartist.com/finger-painting-nel-parco/.

The cycle closes in May 2027 with the twelfth canvas. Major keeps the twelve paintings together and presents them as a single body to institutions and collectors: the aim is to show all of them in one room between the spring and the summer of 2027. Individual canvases become available only after the cycle has closed.

— The exhibition in brief

EXHIBITION	Piccolo Sole, first solo exhibition by Keili Major
WHERE	Garessio Tourist Office, via Vittorio Emanuele II 148, Garessio (CN), Italy
WHEN	Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 August 2026, free entry
WORKS	Twelve, made between 2016 and 2026
VISITORS	Around a hundred over four days
ORGANISATION	Associazione Culturale Ardena, hosted by the Garessio Tourist Office
THE CYCLE	Anno Tanaro, twelve canvases from June 2026 to May 2027

— Acknowledgements

Keili Major thanks everyone who came to see the exhibition and everyone who left a line in the visitors' book, and the children of Estate Ragazzi who came back to see her. She thanks the Associazione Culturale Ardena, which organised the exhibition, the Garessio Tourist Office, which hosted it, the Comune di Garessio and the ATL del Cuneese.

— Press contacts

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Keili Major is available for interviews in English, in Italian and in Estonian, and for a studio visit in Garessio by appointment. On request I can send photographs of the room, of the individual works and of the facade of the Tourist Office in high resolution.

— Links and materials

- Exhibition page: keilimajorartist.com/piccolo-sole-on-show/
- Finger Painting in the Park: keilimajorartist.com/finger-painting-nel-parco/
- The Anno Tanaro cycle: keilimajorartist.com/anno-tanaro/
- Press kit (bio, photographs, previous releases): keilimajorartist.com/press-kit/

— End of press release —

Photographs: MAJORART di Major Keili · free for editorial use accompanying articles about the exhibition