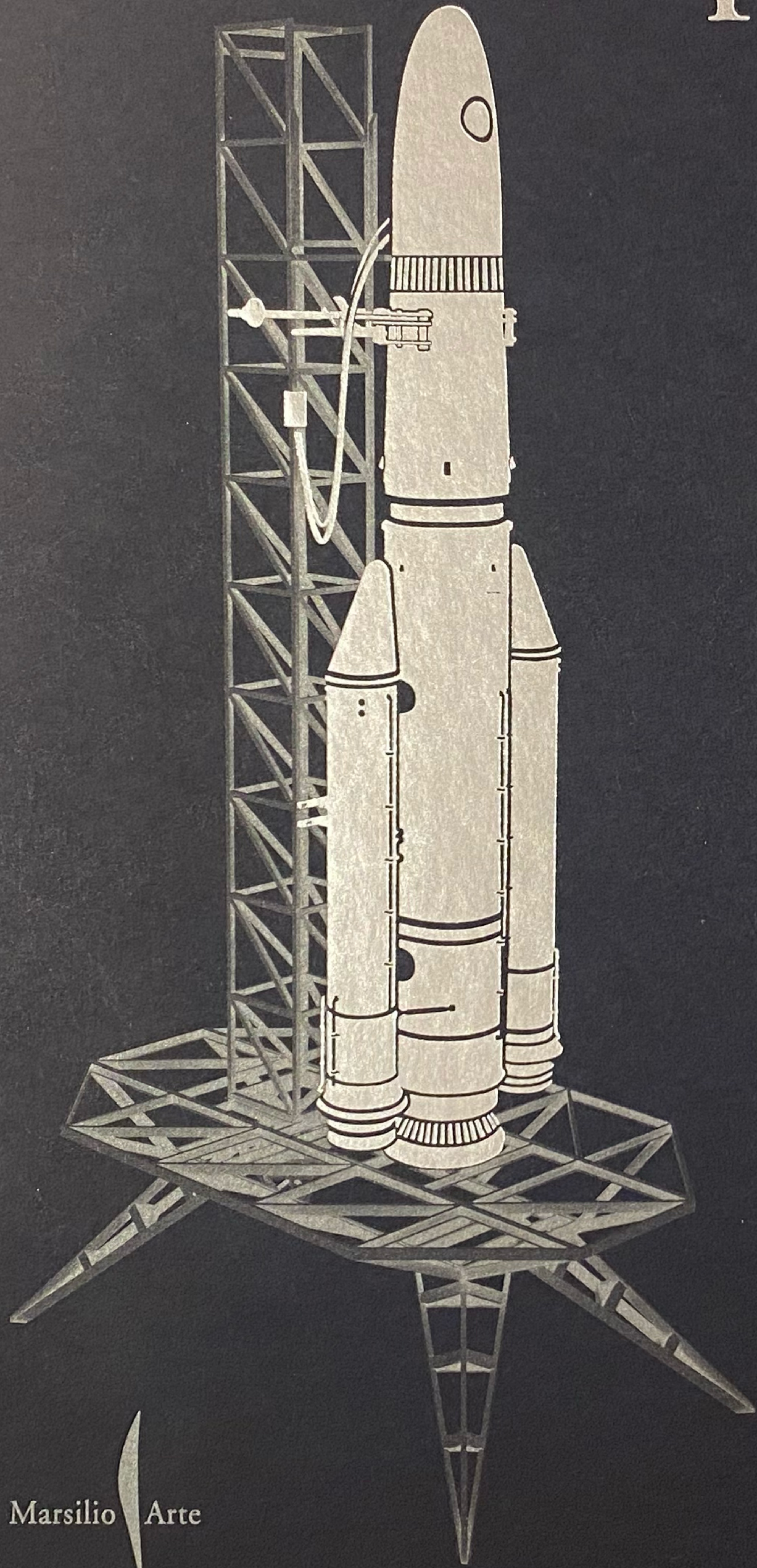


# REACHING FOR THE STARS



Marsilio  Arte



FONDAZIONE  
PALAZZO  
STROZZI



FONDAZIONE  
SANDRETTO  
RE REBAUDENGO

Born in Hexham, Northumberland, in 1966, Glenn Brown is one of the most admired British painters of his generation. Brown, who lives and works in London, draws inspiration from art history and pop culture: artists such as Salvador Dalí, Frank Auerbach, and Rembrandt, but also sci-fi illustrators. Reworking these images, he explores their varied language and how they are interpreted by the viewer. The originals are distorted through alterations in color and scale until they are profoundly transformed. Working from reproductions, or projecting the borrowed image on a white surface, Brown recreates a radically altered version of it, while taking almost obsessive care to mimic the brushstrokes. Although the canvas gives the impression of a highly textured surface, upon closer examination it is as smooth as a photograph. Brown's sophisticated technique and painstaking

execution amplifies the power of the painterly language, while the subject becomes secondary. By manipulating his sources, Brown renders them less recognizable and increases the viewer's sense of estrangement.

*Ariane 5* depicts a child with a bowl haircut, white shirt, and bright red suspenders, holding a slice of bread and butter. Brown drew inspiration here from a 1875 portrait in which Hungarian Romantic painter Bertalan Székely commemorated his son, who died at a very young age. Although he has carefully copied Székely's brushstrokes, especially on the ruffled shirt, Brown has made the melancholy atmosphere of the original more sinister by giving a cooler tint to the background, modifying the child's eyebrows and gaze, and turning the canvas upside down so that the figure is inverted; it thus becomes Ariane, a disquieting and almost supernatural entity. The title refers to the explosion of the European rocket Ariane 5 (flight V88), shortly after its launch on June 4, 1996.

→

[1.4]  
Ariane 5  
1997

## GLENN BROWN

