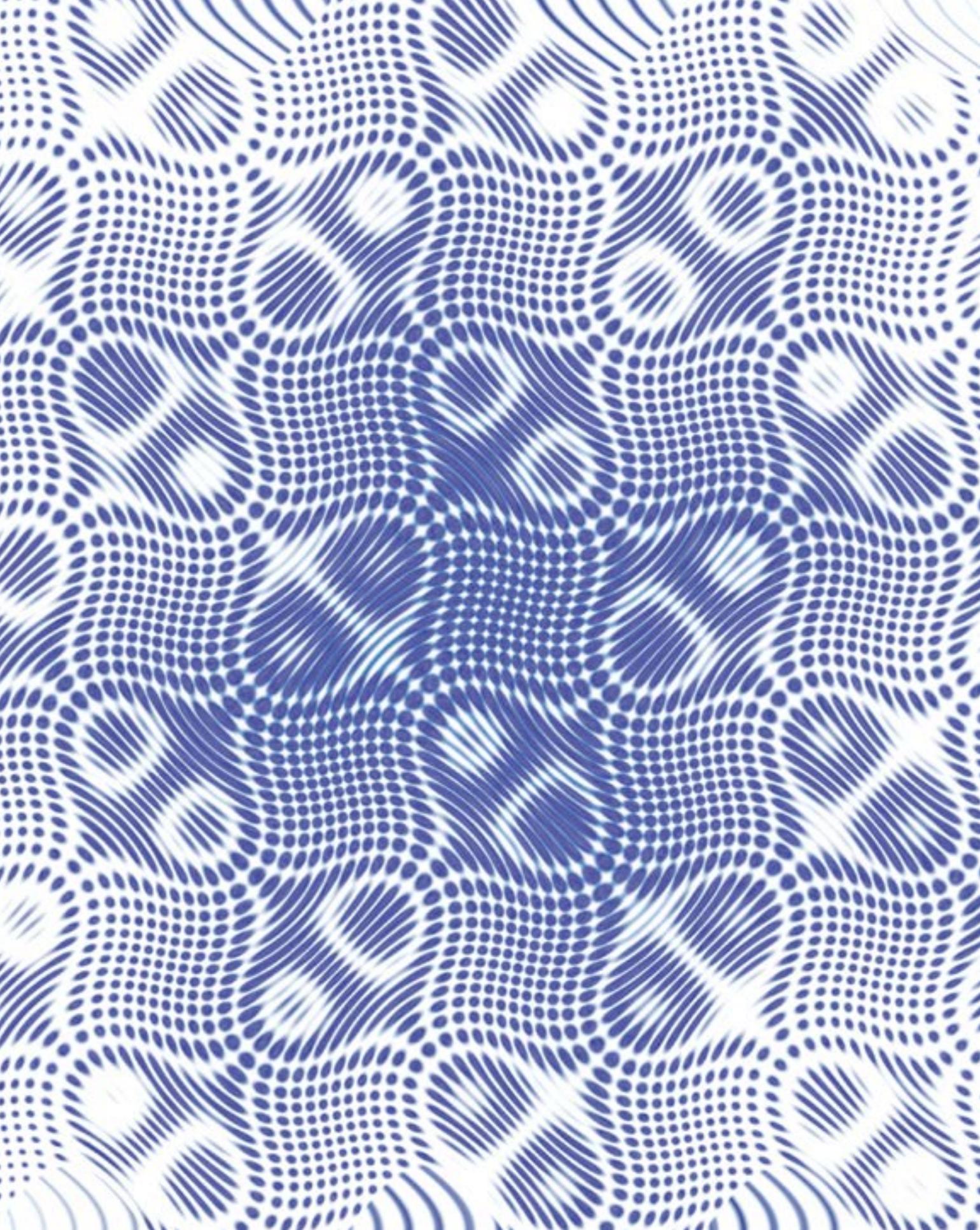




# ABSTRACTS

CURATED / JURIED BY Lyla Rye

DESIGNED BY Eliza Trent-Rennick



# CREDITS

JUROR/CURATOR:

Lyla Rye

EDIT & DESIGN:

Eliza Trent-Rennick

Artist Featured on Cover:

Sandra Altwerger

## Artists Featured in this Catalogue:

Doug Adams, Maria-Bida Albulet, Sandra Altwerger, Hadeel Alzoubi, Jarrod Barker, Peter Barron, Peggy Bell, Leslie Bertin, Ioana Bertrand, Ilija Blanusa, Monica Burnside, Mike Callaghan, Jeannie Catchpole, Emily Conlon, Anne-Marie Cosgrove, Damon Couto-Hill, Edward Donald, Holy Dunlop, Agata Dworzak-Subocz, Azar Ebrahimi, Jill Finney, Saremifar Firouzeh, Julie Florio, Elissa Gallander, Monica Gewurz, Kathy Granger Tucker, Arnie Guha, Diana Hamer, Katherine Hartel, Katharine Harvey, Janet Hendershot, Leighton Hern, Ted Karkut, Hyunryoung Kim, Rupen Kungus, Em LeightonHern, Maureen Lowry, Dimitrije Martinovic, Lisa Mason, Claudia McKnight, Carole Milon, Leah Oates, Ovidiu Petca, Ann Piche, Fraser Radford, Leena Raudvee, Dale M Reid, Heather Rigby, Liz Ruest, Colleen Schindler, Pearl Sequeira, Sara Shields, Nancy Simmons Smith, Shawn Skeir, Alayne Spafford, Marisa Swangha, Karen Taylor, Sarah Thompson, Lorraine Thorarinson Bretts, Terry Torra, Margaret Wasiuta, Holly Winters, Anna Yuschuk

# ABSTRACTS

John B. Aird Gallery

Abstraction is not an absence. It is a decision.

To abstract is to strip away the familiar scaffolding of representation and ask a more difficult question: what remains when narrative recedes? What persists when image is released from obligation to describe?

The works gathered in **ABSTRACTS**, curated and juried by Lyla Rye, demonstrate that abstraction is not a single language but a constellation of methods. Across painting, digital media, photography, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media, the artists in this exhibition approach abstraction not as retreat, but as inquiry. Form becomes structure. Colour becomes an event. Gesture becomes argument.

Some works carve space. Some map pattern. Some lean into material process; others into digital construction. Some are quiet. Others declare themselves boldly. What binds them is not style, but intention, a commitment to exploring what visual language can do when it is freed from depiction.

In a moment saturated with image and immediacy, abstraction asks us to slow down. It resists instant readability. It rewards attention. It invites the viewer into a more active role: not decoding a message but participating in meaning.

Lyla Rye's curatorial vision has brought together an expansive and diverse group of artists, each working from a distinct vantage point. The result is not a unified aesthetic, but a dynamic field of approaches; evidence that abstraction remains a vital and evolving force within contemporary practice.

This catalogue, designed with clarity and care by **Eliza Trent-Rennick**, extends the life of the exhibition beyond the gallery walls. It documents not only the works themselves, but the range of conversations that abstraction continues to generate.

The Aird Gallery exists to provide a platform for artists across Ontario to present rigorous, thoughtful work. **ABSTRACTS** reflect that mandate fully. It demonstrates that abstraction is not a historical chapter closed in the twentieth century, but an ongoing experiment — one that continues to expand, fracture, and renew itself.

On behalf of the Aird Board and our partner societies, I extend sincere thanks to Lyla Rye for her discernment and generosity in shaping this exhibition, and to all participating artists for the strength and depth of their contributions.

Abstraction endures because it asks us not simply to look, but to engage. Thank you for engaging with the Aird, and with our shared commitment to the arts in Ontario.

**Arnie Guha**

**Executive Chair**

**John B. Aird Gallery**

C a r v i n g

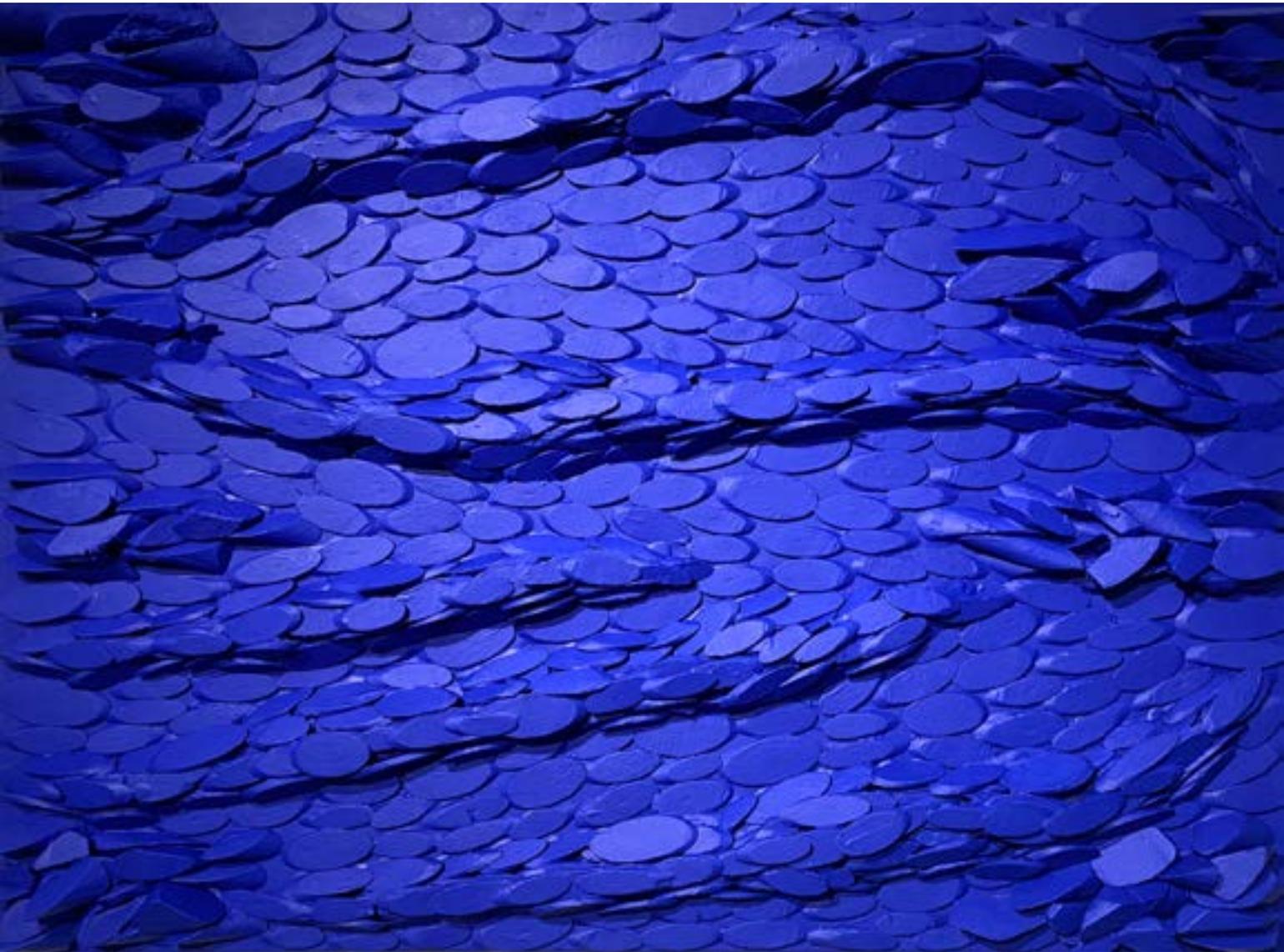
S

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A

C

E



Saremifar Firouzeh

Dancing Under The Leaves

Mixed media on canvas  
30" x 40" \$1800



**Julie Florio**

**Immemorial**

Digital photograph on archival paper

17" x 22"     \$250



Katharine Harvey

**Art Deco III**

Acrylic paint on ACM

40" x 50" \$8000



Lisa Mason

Hold On

Acrylic on canvas

\$600 18" x 18"



Heather Rigby

On Top Of The World

Pine-oak and enamel paint

9" x 12" x 20"

\$1200



Alayne Spafford

**Fiftyfive-12**

Collage, acrylic, oil on canvas

48" x 36"     \$5000



Alayne Spafford

**Fiftyfive-13**

Collage, acrylic, oil on canvas  
48" x 36" \$5000

GUIDE

BY

PROCESS



Leslie Bertin

Portal Paths

Ink on yupo paper mounted on wood  
12"      \$350



Ilija Blanusa

Continuous 10

Pencil crayon

18" x 24" \$250



Carole Milon

**Cross Currents**

Graphite, ink, collage on cotton rag paper

18 x 24" \$600



Fraser Radford

**From Above**

Acrylic on canvas

13" x 23.5"

\$600



Fraser Radford

Storming The Citadel

Acrylic on canvas

30" x 60"    \$3600



Liz Ruest

**Unexcavated Strata**

Digital collage

24" x 24"     \$1300



## Lorraine Thorarinson Betts

### Five November

Painting, acrylic on panel, black frame  
12" x 12"    \$600.00



Margaret Wasiuta

Land Of Desire 2, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 36" x 1.5"     \$4000

NATURAL

ABSTRACTION



Maria-Bida Albulet

**Awaken**

Oil on canvas

36" x 48" NFS



Ioana Bertrand

**Divergence**  
Acrylic on canvas  
24" x 18" \$600



Monica Burnside

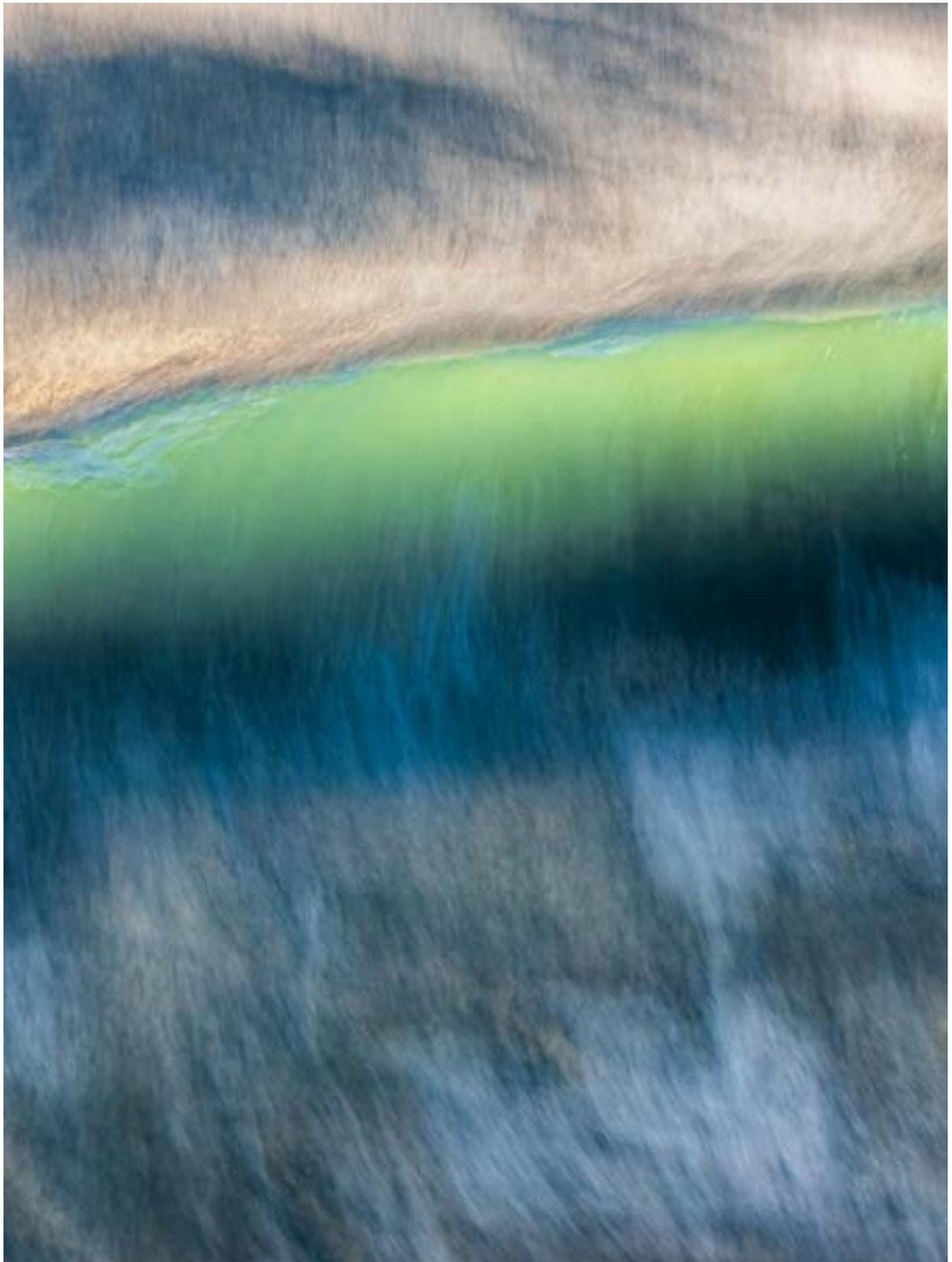
**Unexplored Land**  
Oil on gallery style canvas  
24" x 36"      \$1700



Emily Conlon

**Unearthed I**

Etching, aquatint, and chine colle on Arches  
13" x 15" \$100

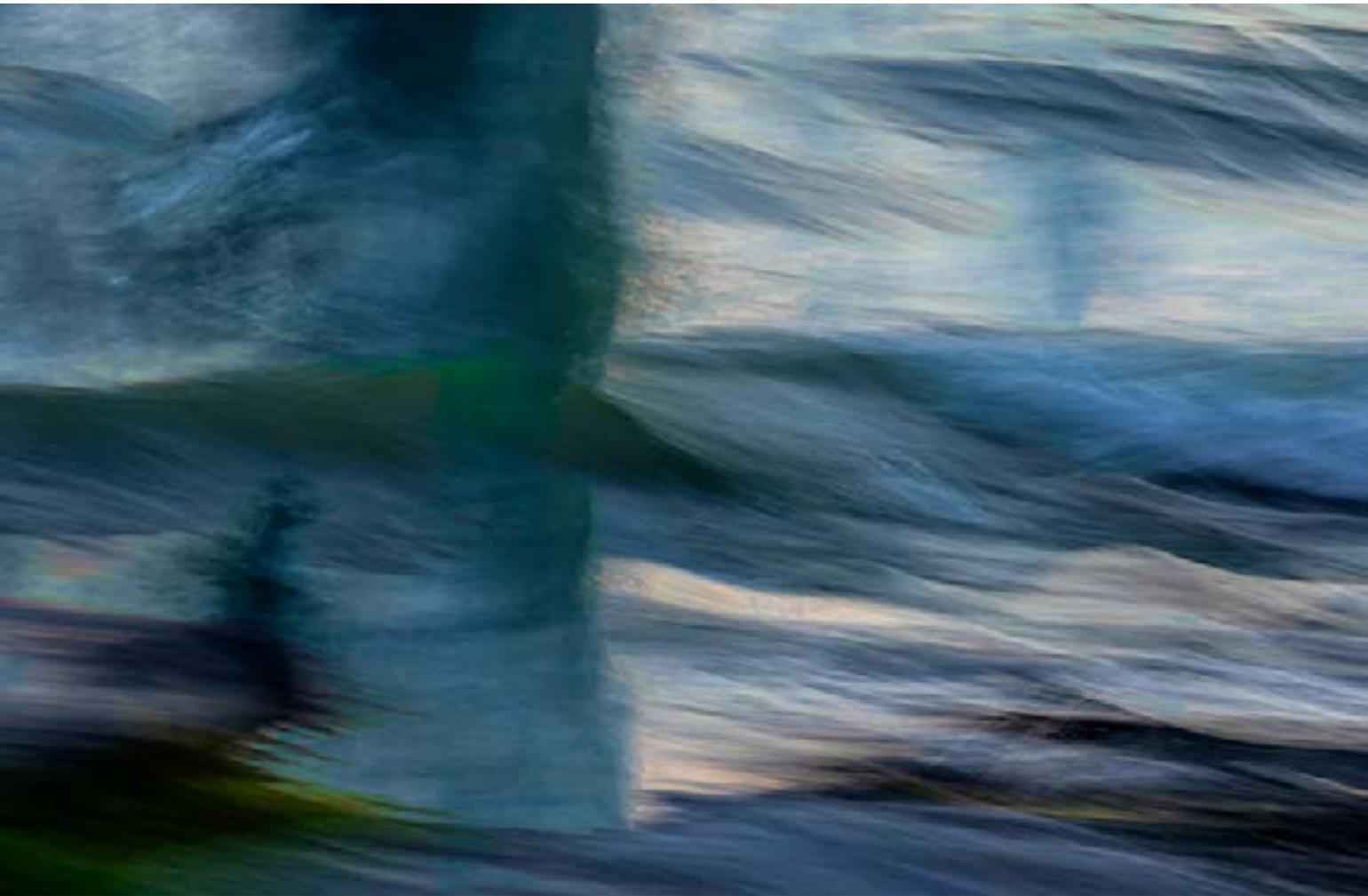


Jill Finney

**Breaking**

Photography

24" x 32"    \$500

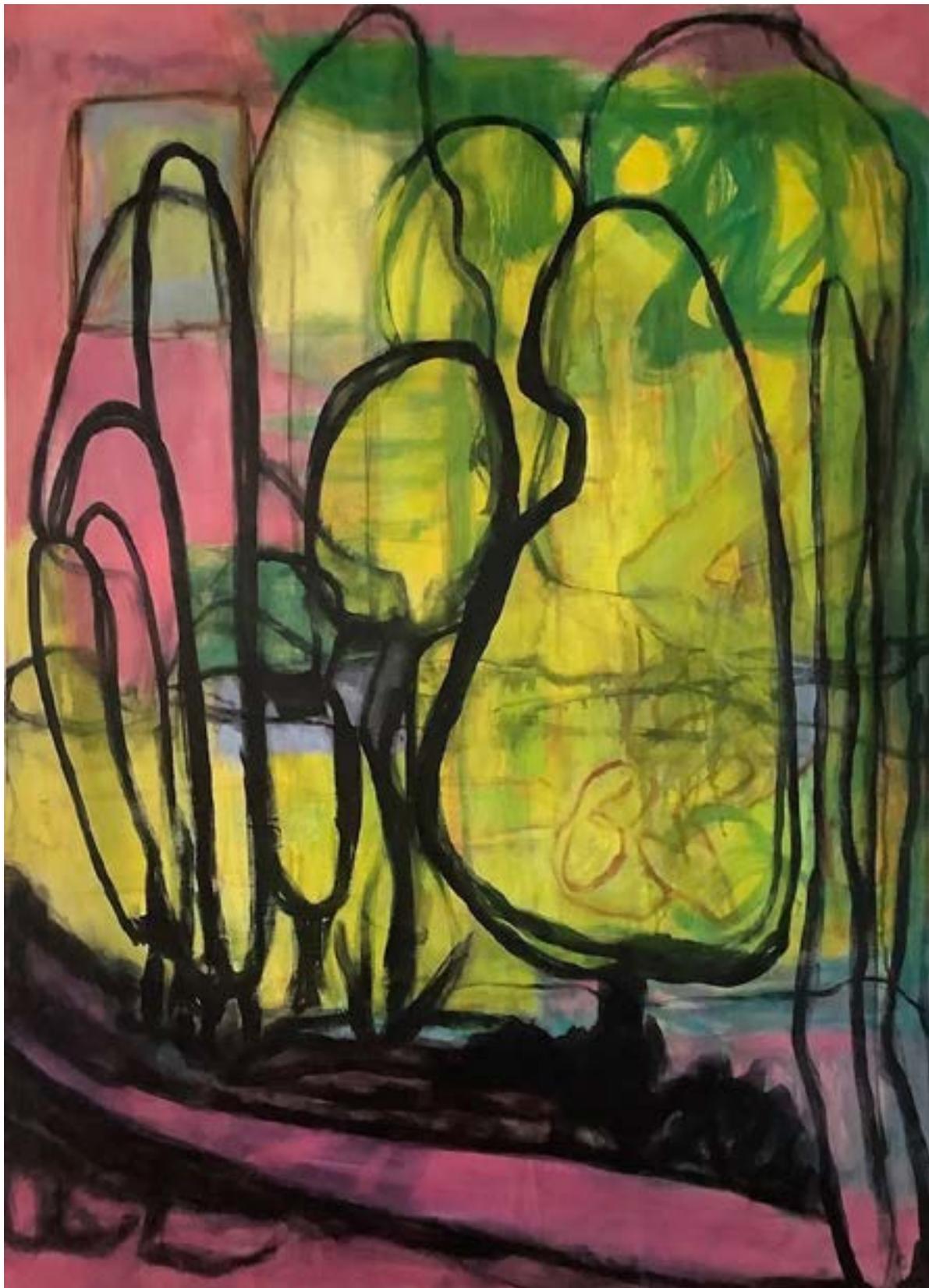


Jill Finney

**Crosshairs**

Photography

24" x 36"      \$500



Maureen Lowry

Feelings Of Spring

Acrylic paint on canvas

36" x 48"    \$2500



Colleen Schindler

The Piece That's Closest To You

Oil Pastel on paper

29" x 21" NFS



Marisa Swangha

**Land Loss**

Acrylic on canvas

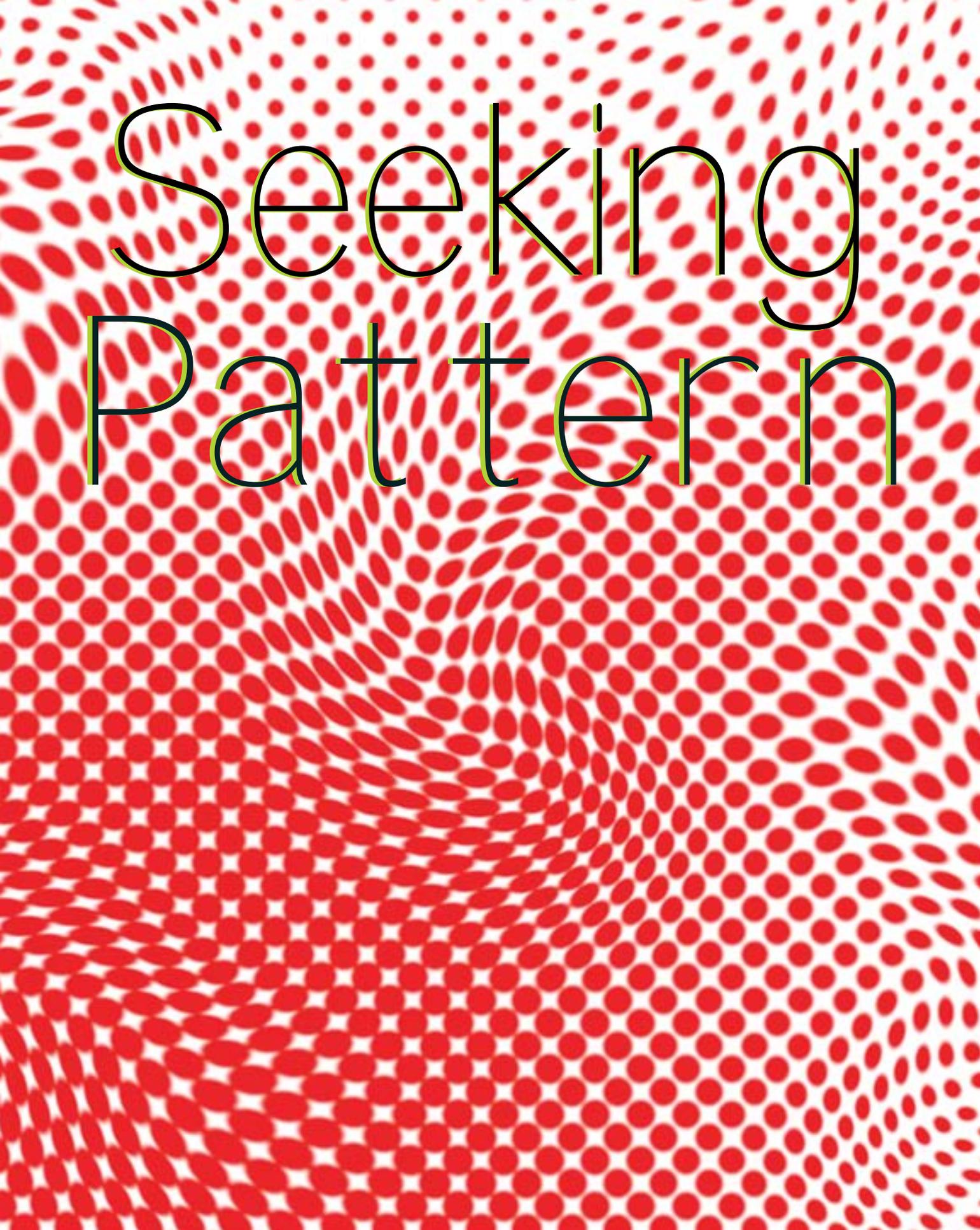
11" x 14"    \$900



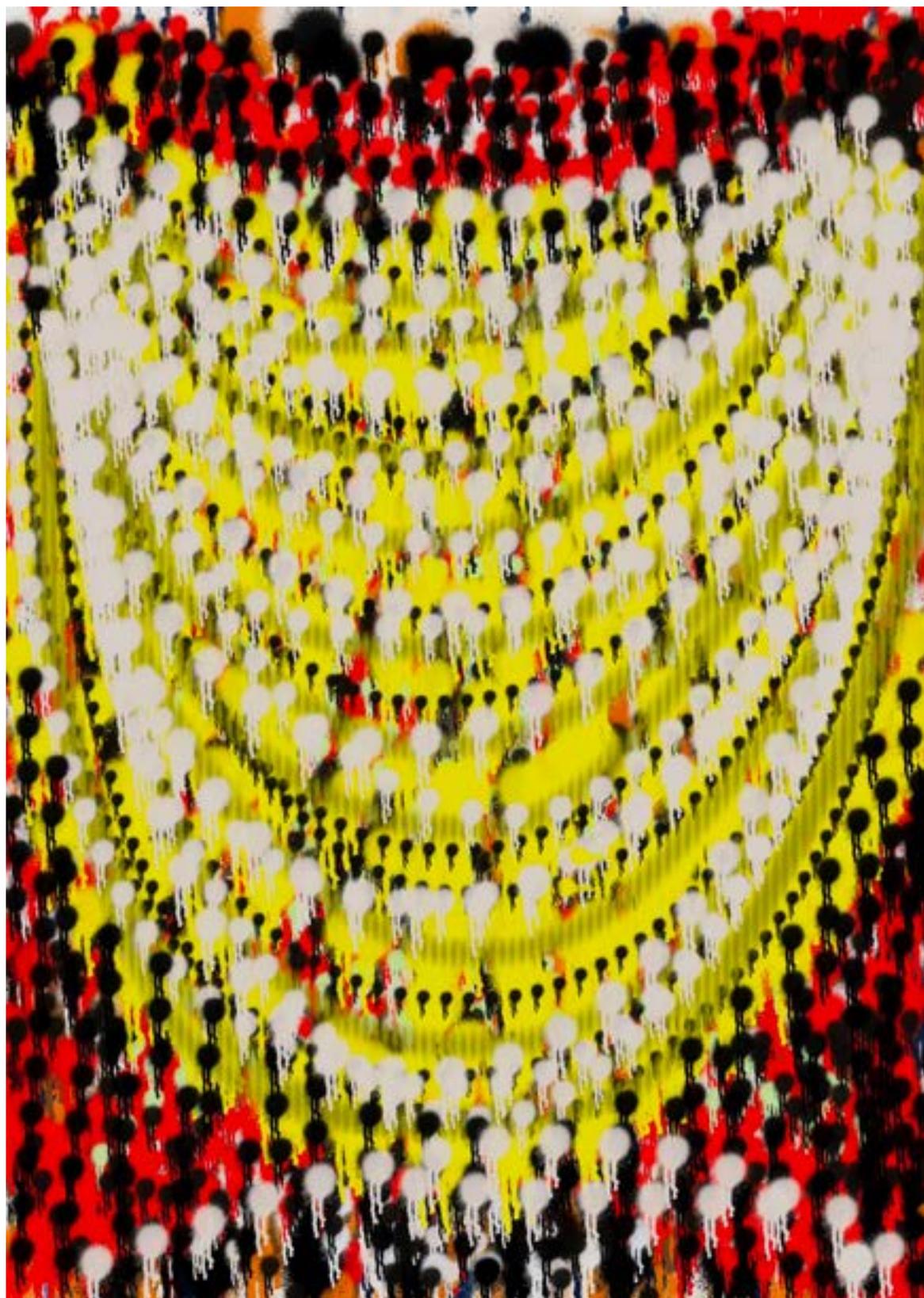
Sarah Thompson

**Winter Study 5**

Charcoal and soft pastel on paper  
8.5" x 12" \$275



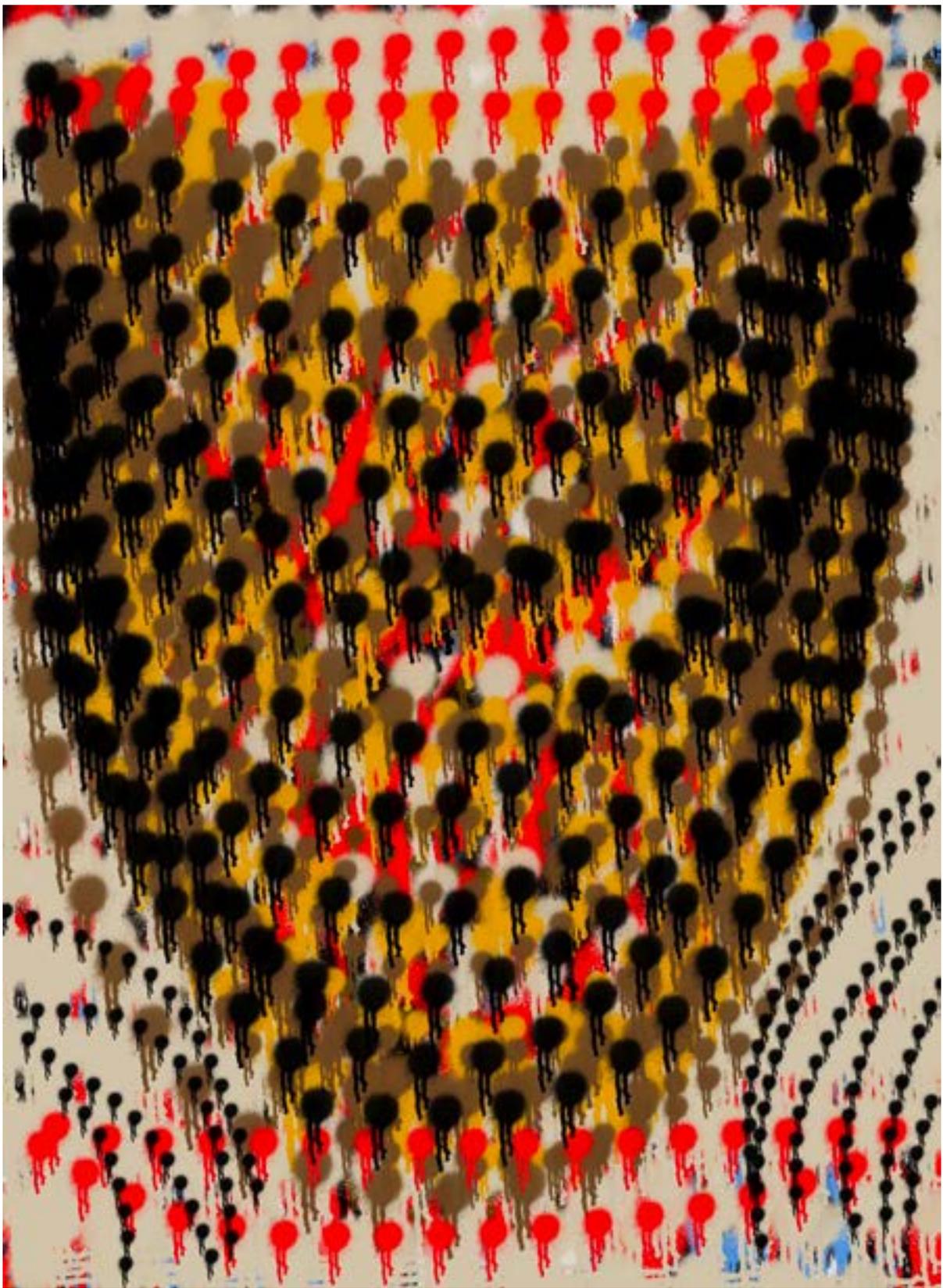
# Seeking Pattern



Anne-Marie Cosgrove

Fissures (All Smiles)

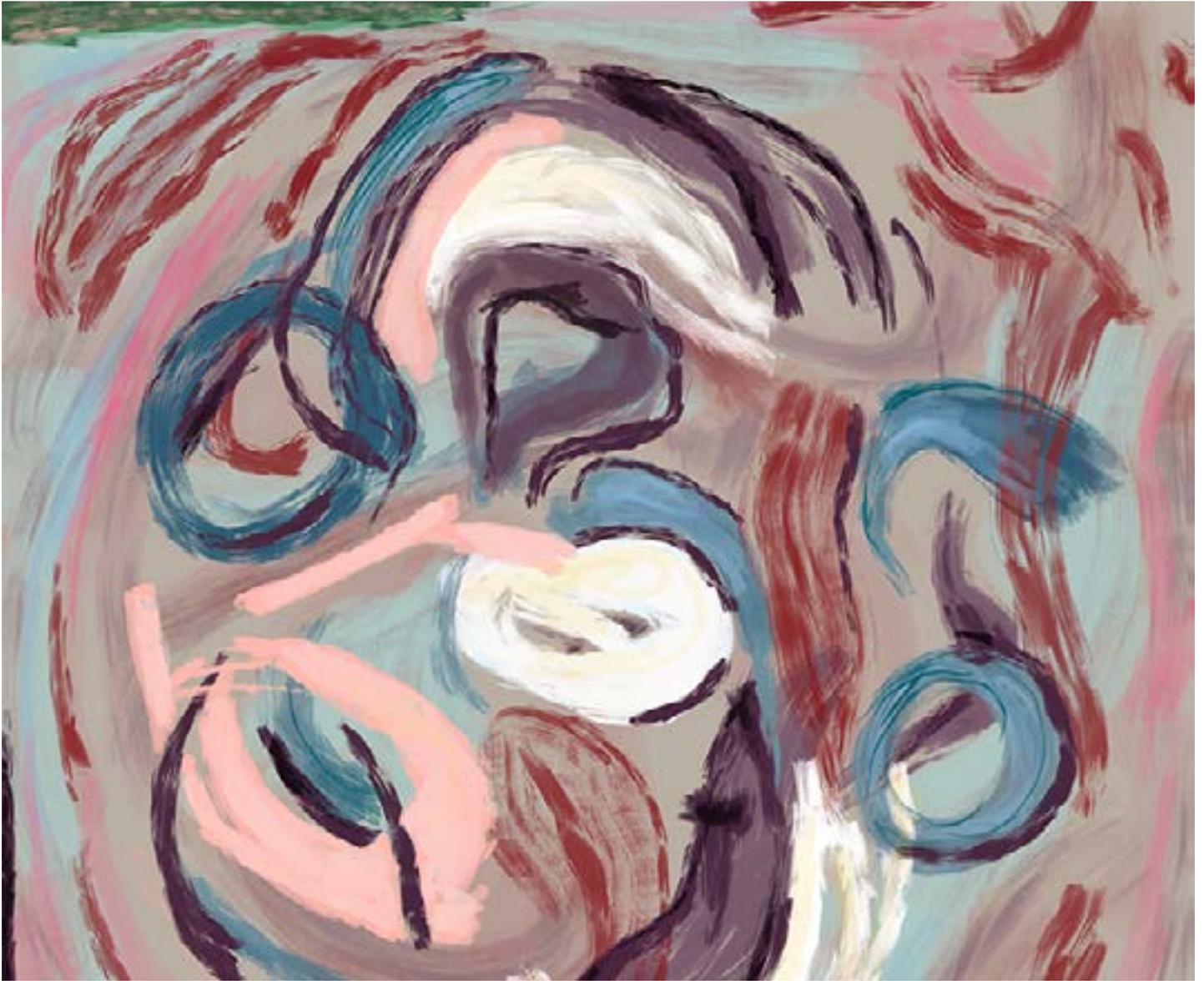
Digital drawing printed on Hahnemüele  
German Etching, Artists proof 1/3  
19" x 13" \$500



Anne-Marie Cosgrove

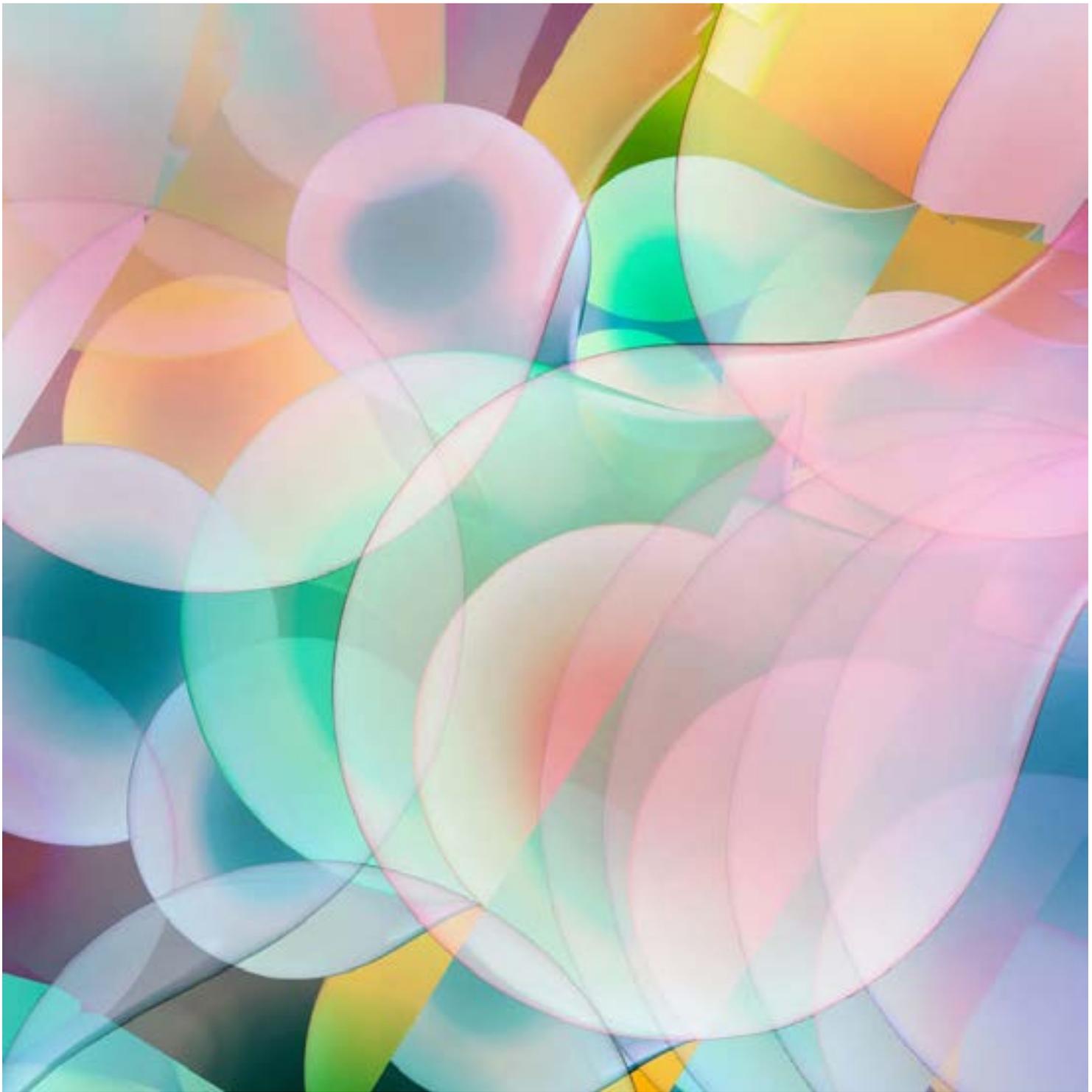
Lips And Pearls (All Smiles)

Digital drawing printed on Hahnemüele  
German Etching, Artists proof 1/3  
19" x 13" \$500



Kathy Granger Tucker

Transatlantic Message  
Photography



Arnie Guha

**Pink Lemonade**

Digital painting and collage

24" x 24"    \$500



Karen Taylor

**Under The Microscope - Fennel Cells**

Acrylic and graphite on paper

9" x 12"     \$120 Unframed



Holly Winters

Three Ancestors With Ovum And Embryos

Acrylic on watercolour paper

18" x 24" \$300



Anna Yuschuk

Primary Drift Green

Acrylic on canvas

48" x 36"    \$5000



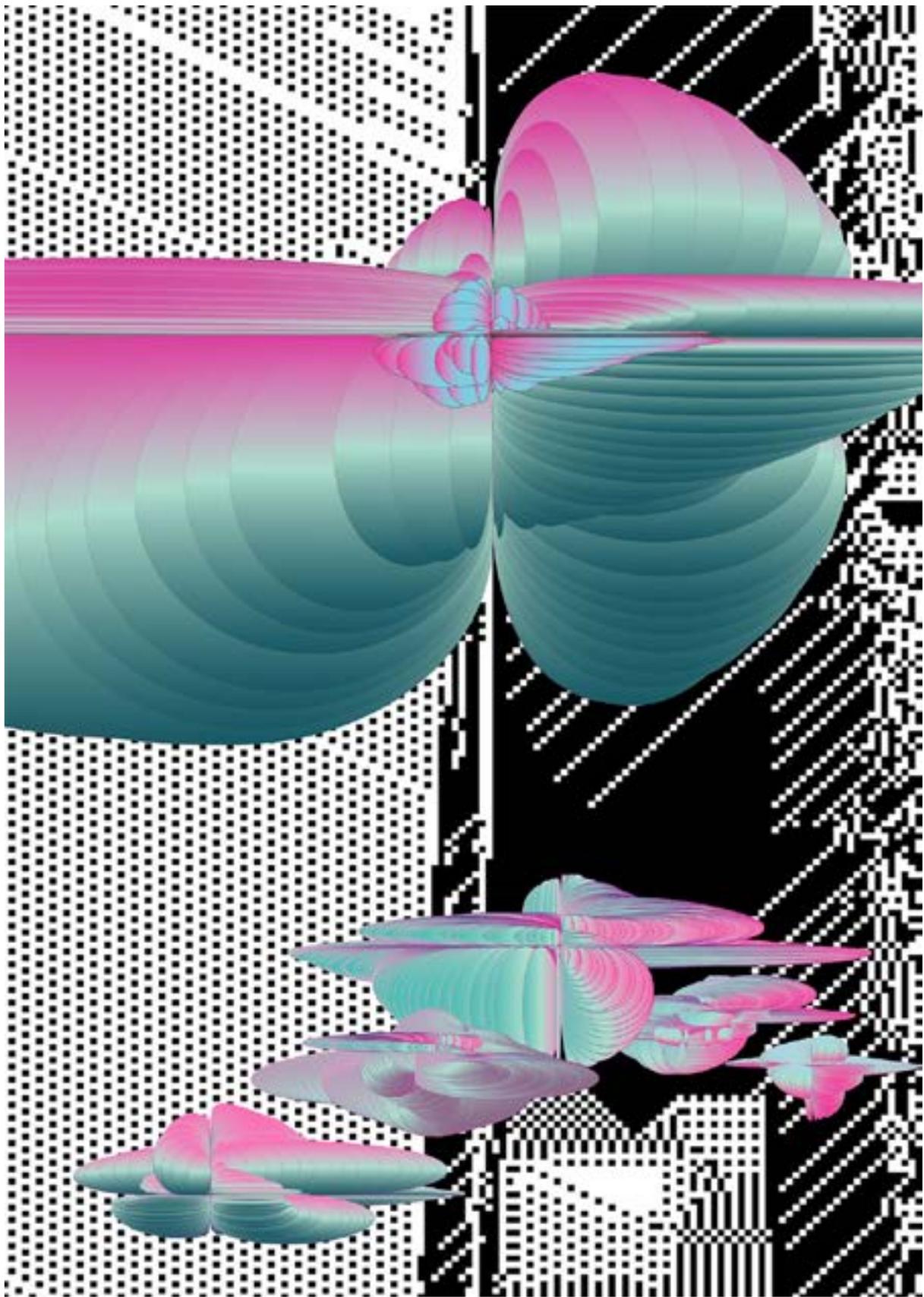


Doug Adams

Joys Of Diversity

Mixed media

22" x 30" \$2500



Agata Dworzak-Subocz

Synergy\_31

Digital art

50 x 70 cm \$500



Jarrood Barker

**Liminal Space #4**

Acrylic on canvas

16" x 20"    \$700



Peter Barron

Disintegration And Destruction #21

Collaged mixed media on paper

15" x 11" \$250



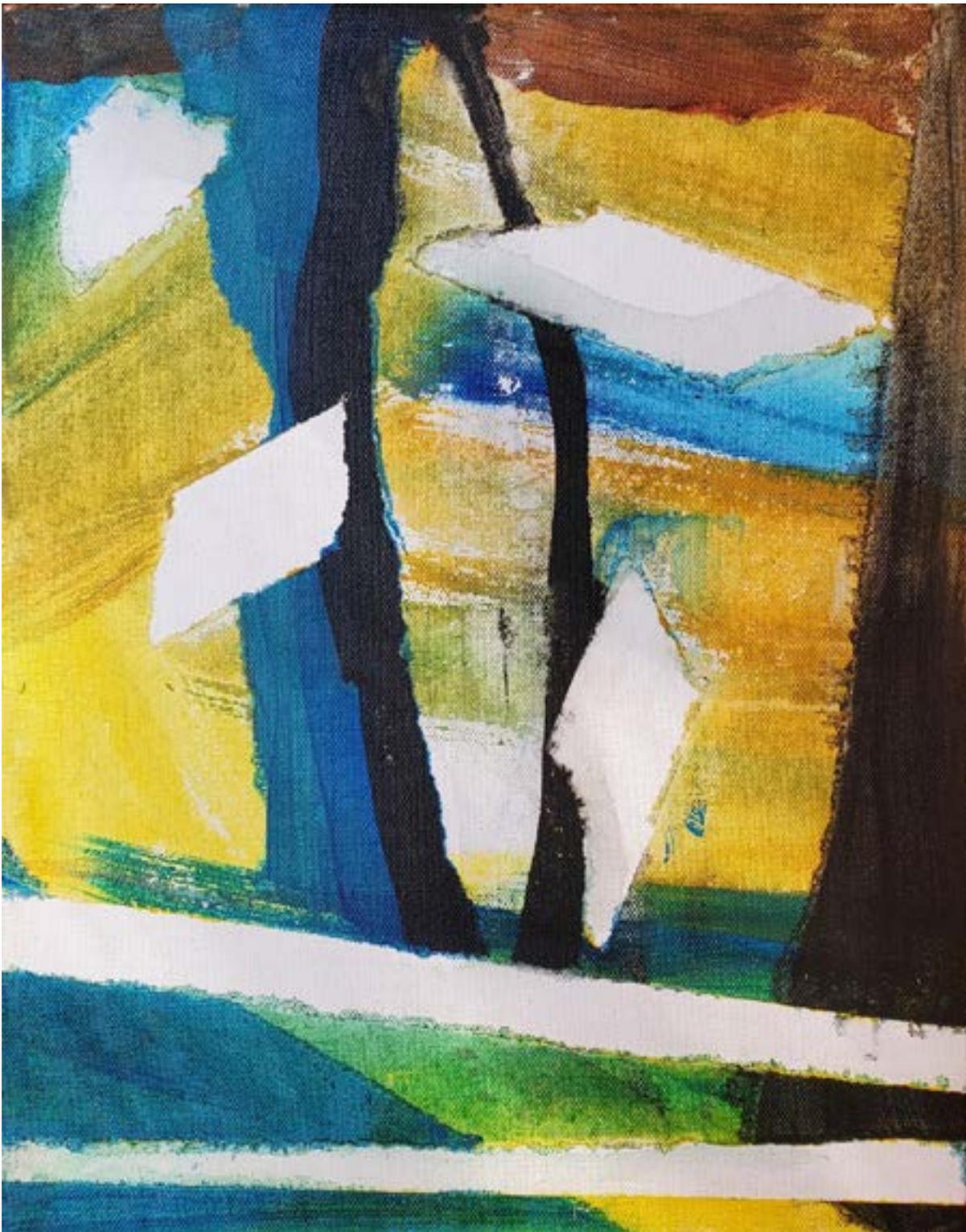
Damon Couto-Hill

**Sour Patches**

Acrylic on collaged canvas

25 5/8" x 20"

\$900



Katherine Hartel

**Ukraine War Zone**

Acrylic on canvas

12" x 9" x 0.5"

\$250



Em LeightonHern

Pink

Acrylic, mixed media

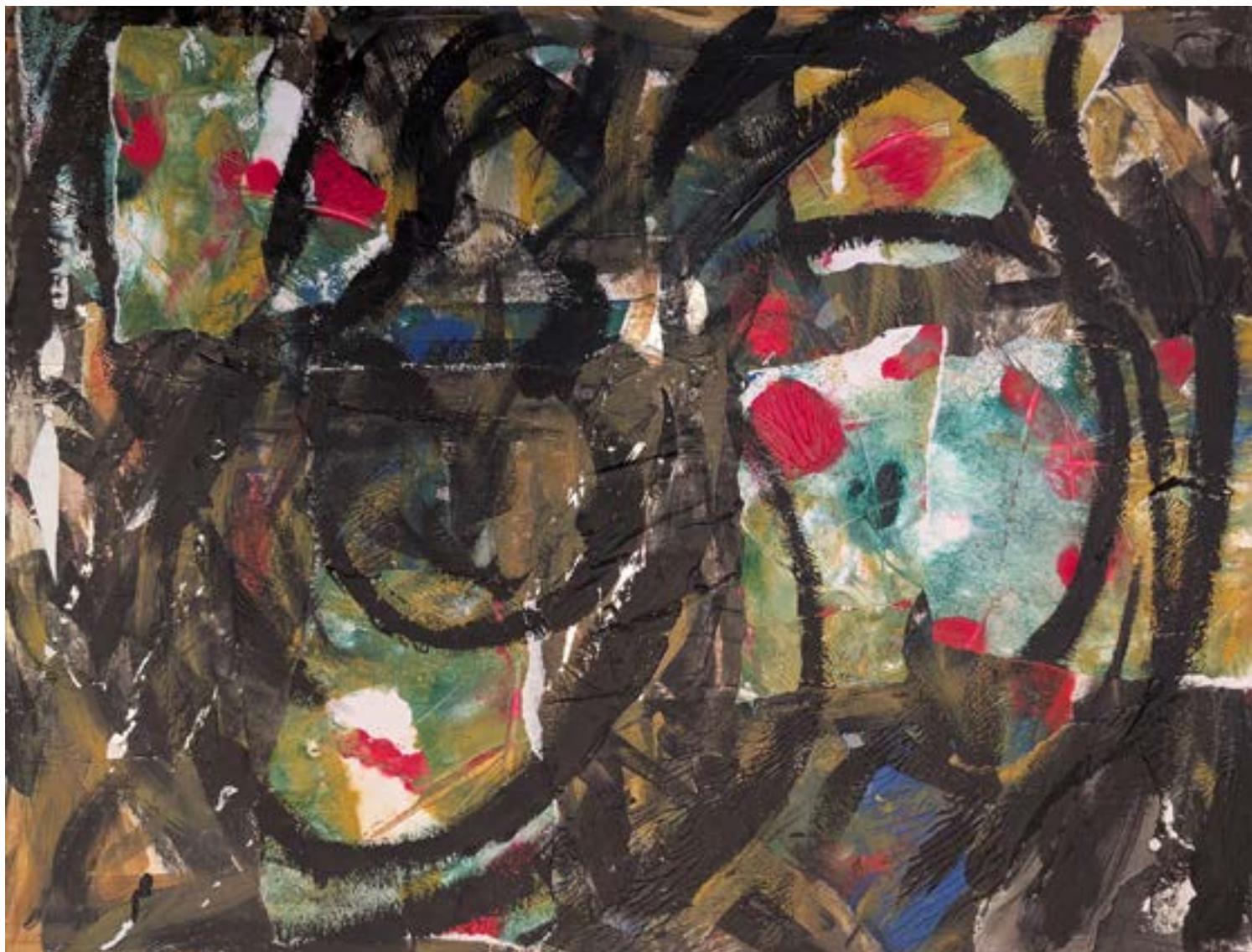
20" x 20" \$750



Em LeightonHern

**Black**

Acrylic and mixed media  
20" x 20"    \$750



Leena Raudvee

**Undergrowth**

Acrylic paint, collage on corrugated plastic board  
12" x 16"                      \$475



Shawn Skeir

**Abstract (Red And Blue)**

Acrylic and liquid glass on wood panel

30" x 30"     \$2700



Searching

FOR

ORDER

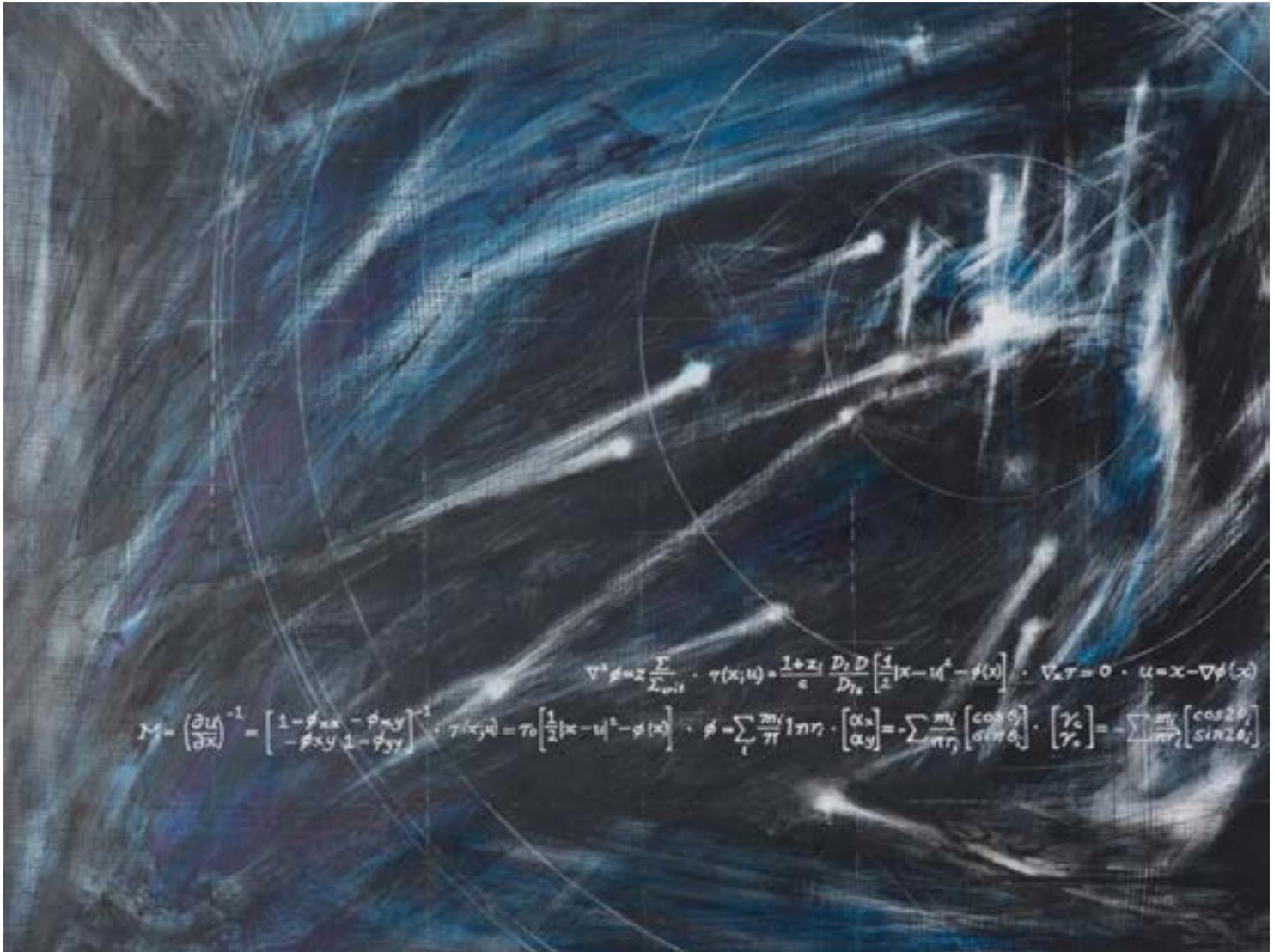


Peggy Bell

**There's Enough**

Acrylic on linen on birch panel

24" x 24"    \$1000



$$\nabla^2 \phi = 2 \frac{\sum m_i}{\sum r_i^3} \cdot \tau(x, u) = \frac{1+z_i}{c} \frac{D_x D_x}{D_x} \left[ \frac{1}{2} |x-u|^2 - \phi(x) \right] \cdot \nabla_x \tau = 0 \cdot u = x - \nabla \phi(x)$$

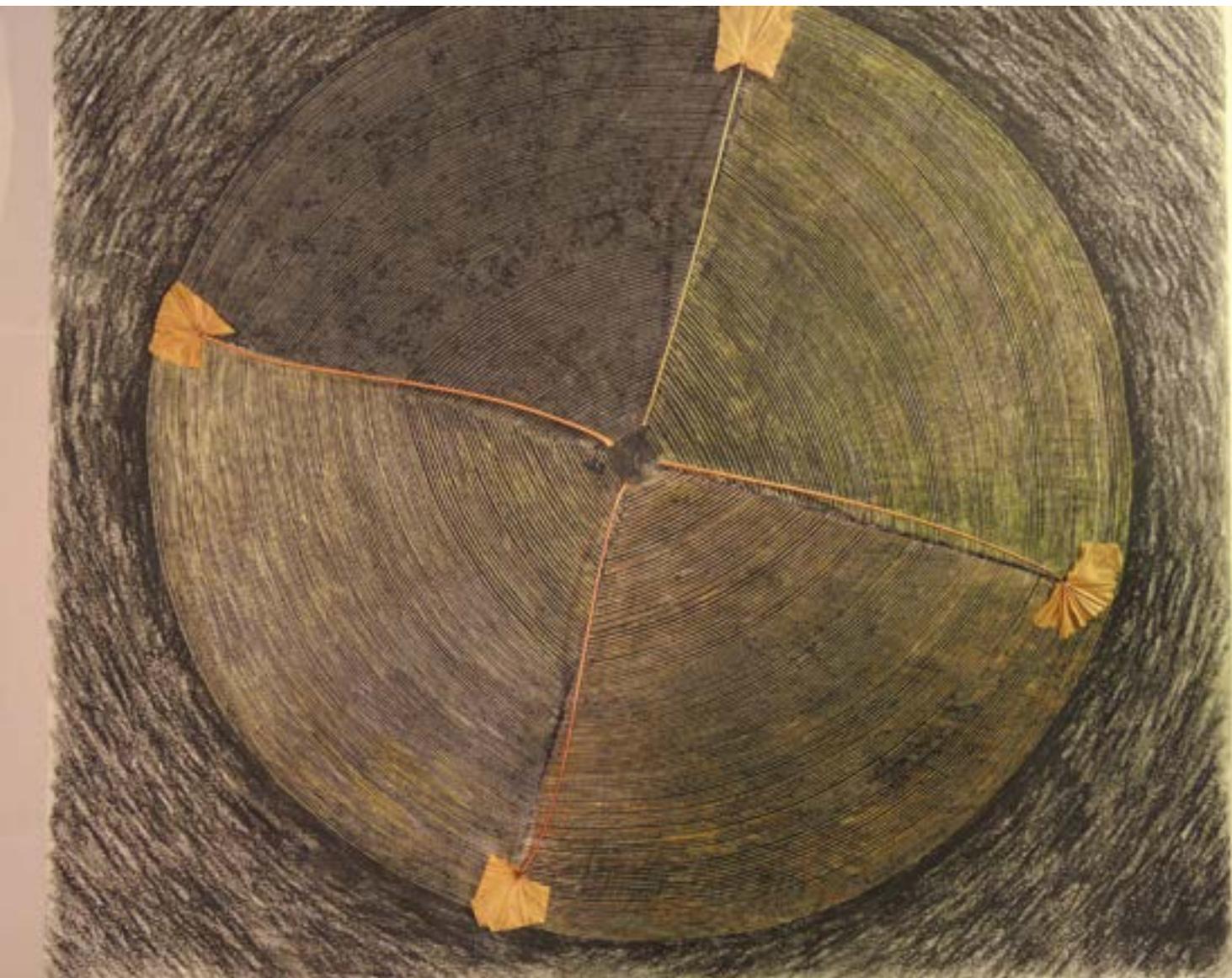
$$M = \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \phi_{xx} & -\phi_{xy} \\ -\phi_{xy} & 1 - \phi_{yy} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \cdot \tau(x, u) = \tau_0 \left[ \frac{1}{2} |x-u|^2 - \phi(x) \right] \cdot \phi = \sum_i \frac{m_i}{r_i} \frac{1}{r_i} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_x \\ \alpha_y \end{bmatrix} = - \sum_i \frac{m_i}{r_i} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_i \\ \sin \theta_i \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_c \\ \gamma_s \end{bmatrix} = - \sum_i \frac{m_i}{r_i} \begin{bmatrix} \cos 2\theta_i \\ \sin 2\theta_i \end{bmatrix}$$

Diana Hamer

## Chaos And Order 2

Acrylic

22" x 28" NFS



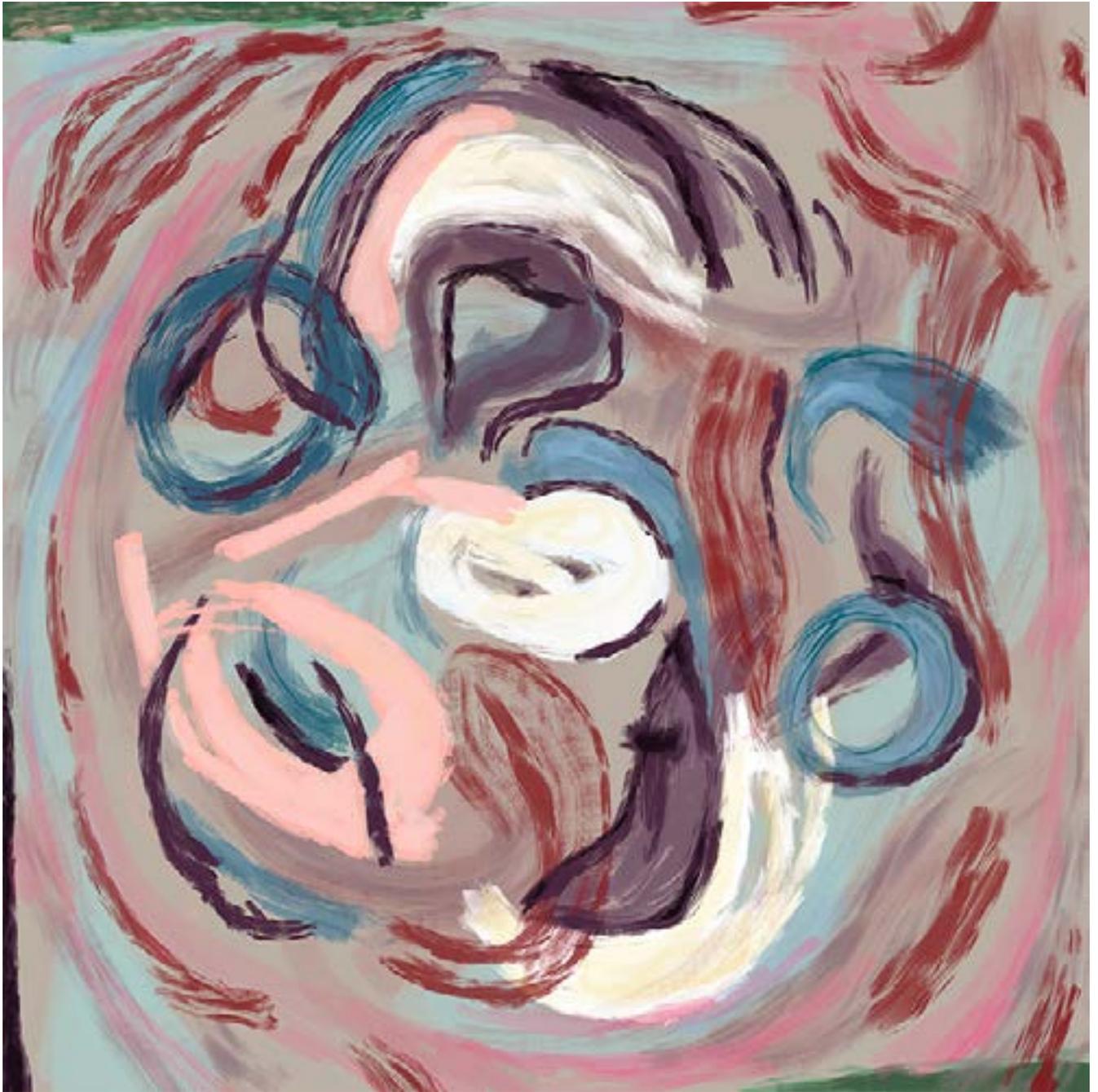
Ted Karkut

**India 2**

Charcoal, colour pencil, maple leaves,  
turmeric on paper

32.5" x 28.5"

\$800



Dimitrije Martinovic

On The Verge Of Ruin

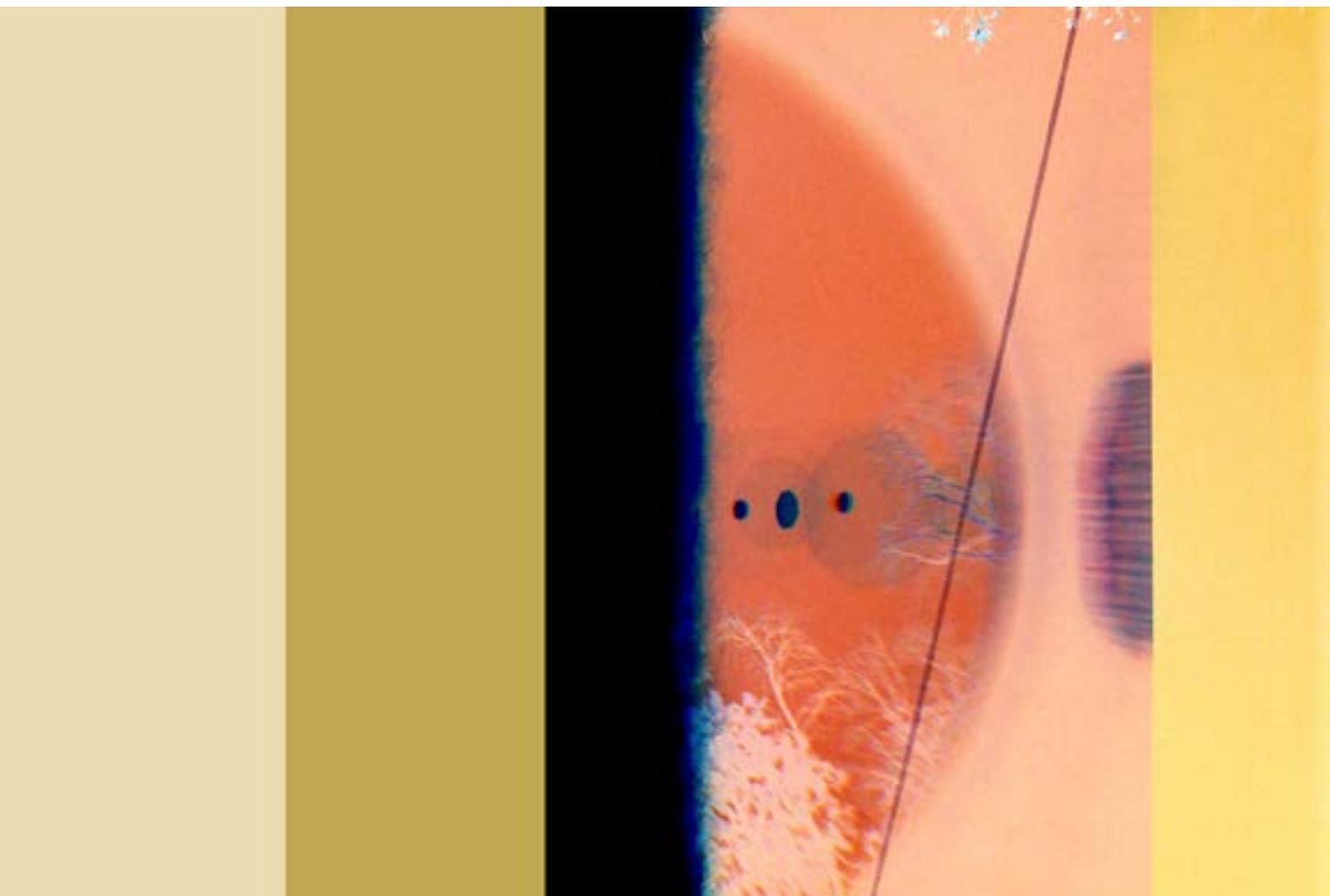
Digital painting  
36" x 36"



Dimitrije Martinovic

Voidpetal Field

Digital painting  
36" x 36" \$850



Leah Oates

Transitory Space, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NYC

Color photography shot in camera on 35 mm film

16" x 20" \$1200



Dale M Reid

Oyster Mushroom 2

Silver gelatin print  
16" x 16" \$3400



Nancy Simmons Smith

**Fractured**

Acrylic

36" x 36"

\$2200

# Sensory Perception



Sandra Altwerger

**Sky West**

Acrylic on canvas  
48" x 48"     \$4500



Hadeel Alzoubi

Perplex No. 14

Concrete, acrylic mediums and glitter on canvas board

16" x 16"    \$2650



Mike Callaghan

**Calmerait**

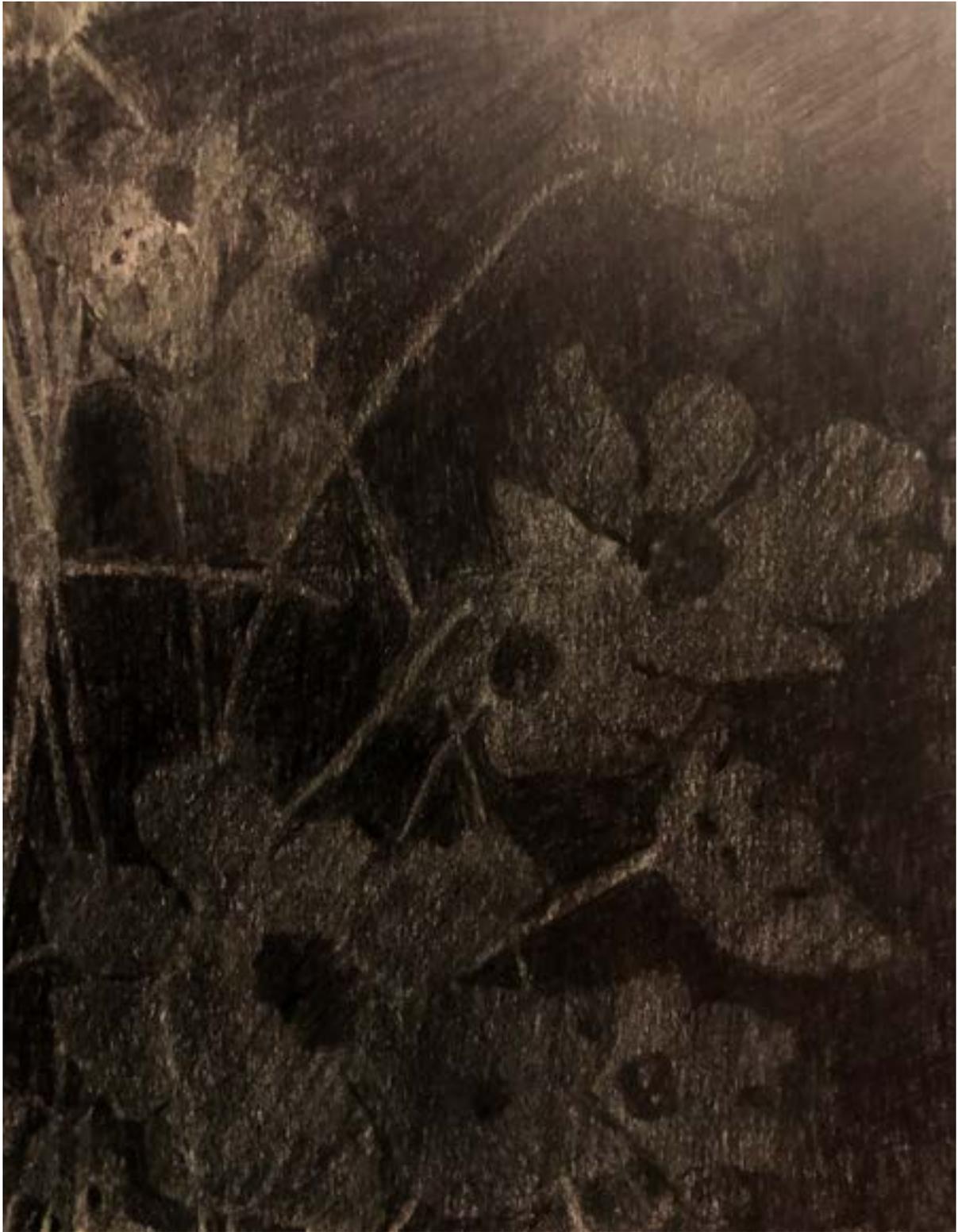
Digital painting

24" x 16"    \$750



Jeannie Catchpole

**Pink**  
Acrylic on Canvas  
60" x 48"    \$4200



Edward Donald

**This Evening Place**

Pencil on paper

4 3/4" x 6" \$500



Azar Ebrahimi

Like A Flower li

Oil on canvas

16" x 12" \$450



Monica Gewurz

Urban Mirage

Mixed media, natural pigments, metallic  
foil & acrylics

24" x 18" \$800



Janet Hendershot

**Silent Reversal (The Hanged Man)**

Acrylic and polymers on canvas  
46" x 42" \$4400



Hyunryoung Kim

Untitled 12-1

Acrylic on canvas

24" x 36" \$6000



Claudia McKnight

### The Texture Of Silence

Desiccated oil, cheddar, and liquid soap  
on aluminum

8.5" x 12" NFS



Pearl Sequeira

Reclaiming Light

Acrylic on canvas

18" x 24" \$400



Sara Shields

Soma Garden

Acrylic on canvas  
16" x 12"    \$2000

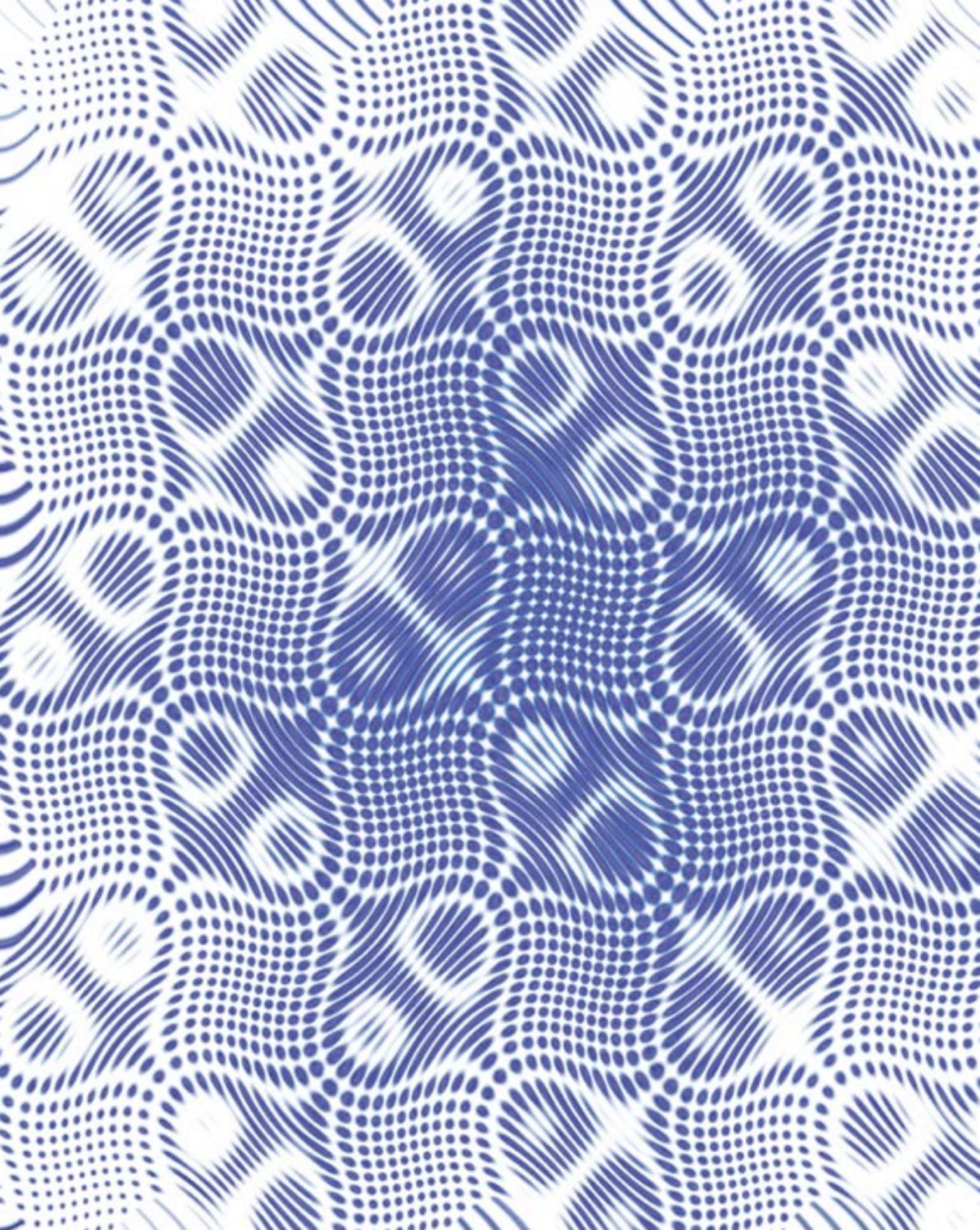


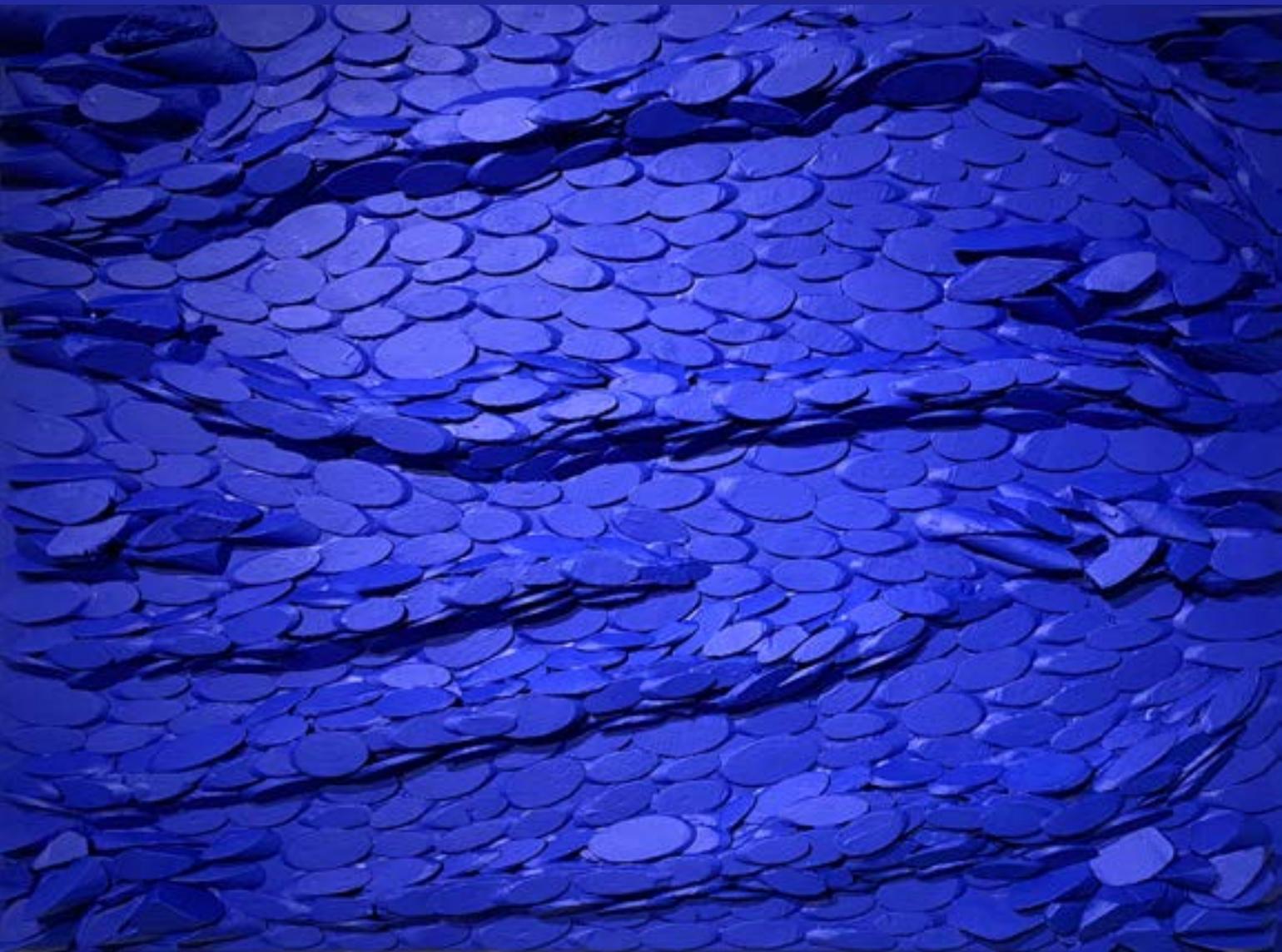
Terry Torra

**Wayfare**

Oil on canvas

36" x 48" \$10,000.00





Art by Saremifar Firouzeh

John B. **Aird** Gallery  
Galerie John B. **Aird**