



THIS MOMENT

T H I S M O M E N T

Now in this moment
We share this world
And it is precious

JESSICA ZOOB

10 Chancery Lane Gallery Hong Kong June 2021

This painting is about standing in the eye of the storm.

Calm and ready, precarious yet balancing....

There are great changes and great opportunities.
Huge thunder clouds and glorious rain, then the promise of sunshine
and new beginnings.

I believe that the world needs beauty. I believe that beauty
can be healing.

WHEN THE WORLD TURNS acrylic with oil on canvas 150 x 150 cm
THE HEALING POWER OF LIGHT acrylic with oil on canvas 150 x 150 cm
(next page)





Introduction

This is the thing you need to know about Jessica Zoob: she is a portal through the looking-glass. When we look at her paintings - really look at them - we see mirrored there our hopes, fears, dreams and dreads. No wonder people often cry when they encounter her work. The emotions it engenders is related to our most innermost thoughts and feelings. It is not just that we see: it is that we are seen.

Over the past fifteen years I have watched Jessica flower from an artist of talent to one of maturity to the exceptional force she is today. Like all great artists, writers and musicians, she produces work that appears effortless and 'right' with no indication of the struggles it has taken to achieve. Believe me, this is a mirage. I have seen how cruel the muse of painting can be, driving her to work eighteen-hour days, breaking her back with the sheer physicality of the process, exhausting her spirit, wringing out from her every milligram of feeling. Yet I can also vouch for the fact she is blessed with angels, who have breathed into her new energy, strength and optimism at her darkest moments and who add their own magical touches to her canvases. Jessica's paintings inhabit a space that is neither landscape nor abstract: they hint at a realm perfectly placed between earth and heaven.

And so to 'This Moment'. In the last fifteen months, we have globally and individually undergone an extreme re-alignment. As I write, the pandemic is still wreaking destruction and shows no sign of abating yet. Over three million people worldwide have lost their lives to the virus, with many more deaths to come. Economic forecasts lie in tatters. Health services are tottering. Governments are quite simply out of their depth. Not one person on this globe has been unaffected by the last year, be they princes or paupers. This is a leveling-off that is out of all of our experiences.

And yet, there is something else afoot. A feeling that none of this is as chaotic and unpredictable as it might at first appear. It is as though Gaia herself has slammed on the brakes of our crazy, digital, disconnected lives and said 'Enough!' We have been forced to a standstill: to stay at home; to look out our windows; to see the world around us in a very direct way. Is it coincidence that this has happened just as the beautiful world we inhabit is at its most fragile and threatened? Or is it an entreaty to engage with the wonders around us and grasp the chance to do better, to change direction and help heal our desecrated planet?

This is what 'This Moment' is all about. There are paintings here that are darker, both literally and metaphorically, than most people who follow Jessica's journey are used to experiencing within her work. Yet even when there are shadows there is light. Even when there is despair there is hope. The storm clouds have gathered, but they promise to clear again if we all act now and quickly.

Of course there is also colour, joy and exuberance within this collection, suffused as it is with the five years that Jessica has now spent living half of each year in Hong Kong. As an art student, she spent time in China as part of her studies and this region continues to be a rich source of inspiration and energy for her. It is here too that she has learnt to slow down, to meditate and to embrace her spiritual awakening. These paintings are an expression of this point, this moment, this pivotal time. They embody her powerful wish for us all to work together to heal the planet, but they are also an invitation for you to take your own moment to make your own wish. It's time to step through the looking-glass and see a different way of being.

Helen Chislett



THIS MOMENT acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm



This Moment

I have created a body of work called This Moment and it is about the extraordinary pivotal time we find ourselves in.

This collection is about the precarious state of our planet, how passionate I am about it, how desperately I care for it, how fragile I understand it to be and how hopeful I am that with enough support and knowledge and people becoming more considerate about what they are doing, by making good choices, by being willing to change and embrace the wild, we can actually protect and save our world and make it into the wonderful place it should be.

I hope to encourage people to stop and gaze, to be reminded of the beauty of nature and to be inspired to protect it.

It is both a hopeful collection and sad, and much more challenging, probably than in the past, and more complicated. It is not simply about beauty, or places to escape into any more. It is about deeply held, passionate beliefs of what really matters.

My wish for This Moment

This is an extraordinary time to make choices. We have all been given time to be still and as we emerge we are now given the space to make choices.

I do not believe that it was a coincidence, that at the very moment the planet is in huge crisis something unimagined has forced us to stop. I know this has caused enormous distress and upset but at the same time it has presented an opportunity to re evaluate the path we were on.

Now as the world turns we can choose. Do we look toward the light, set our hearts towards the light? Do we make choices to heal? Make choices to protect, nurture and save our beautiful world or do we continue blindly to just destroy, desecrate and through greed, blindness and ignorance to ruin something so magnificent.

I know what my choice is. I am so grateful to have found the clarity and really hope that through my work and my words I can help other people to understand how beautiful fragile and precious this life is. How connected we all are: every human soul, every creature, every plant, every insect, every seed, every living molecule in the earth, every drop of water and every planet in the solar system. Every thing is extraordinarily connected and once you know that, you don't want to harm anything because by doing that you harm yourself, your loved ones, your community and your future.

My wish for this moment is that as we come through it we appreciate it, that we keep re-finding each other moment ahead of us a moment of appreciation, love, gratitude and a re-centering, a re-awakening. So, when we do move and take actions our actions come from love.



Watching them, watching you.....

THE WATCHERS acrylic with oil on board 40.5 x 30.5 cm each panel







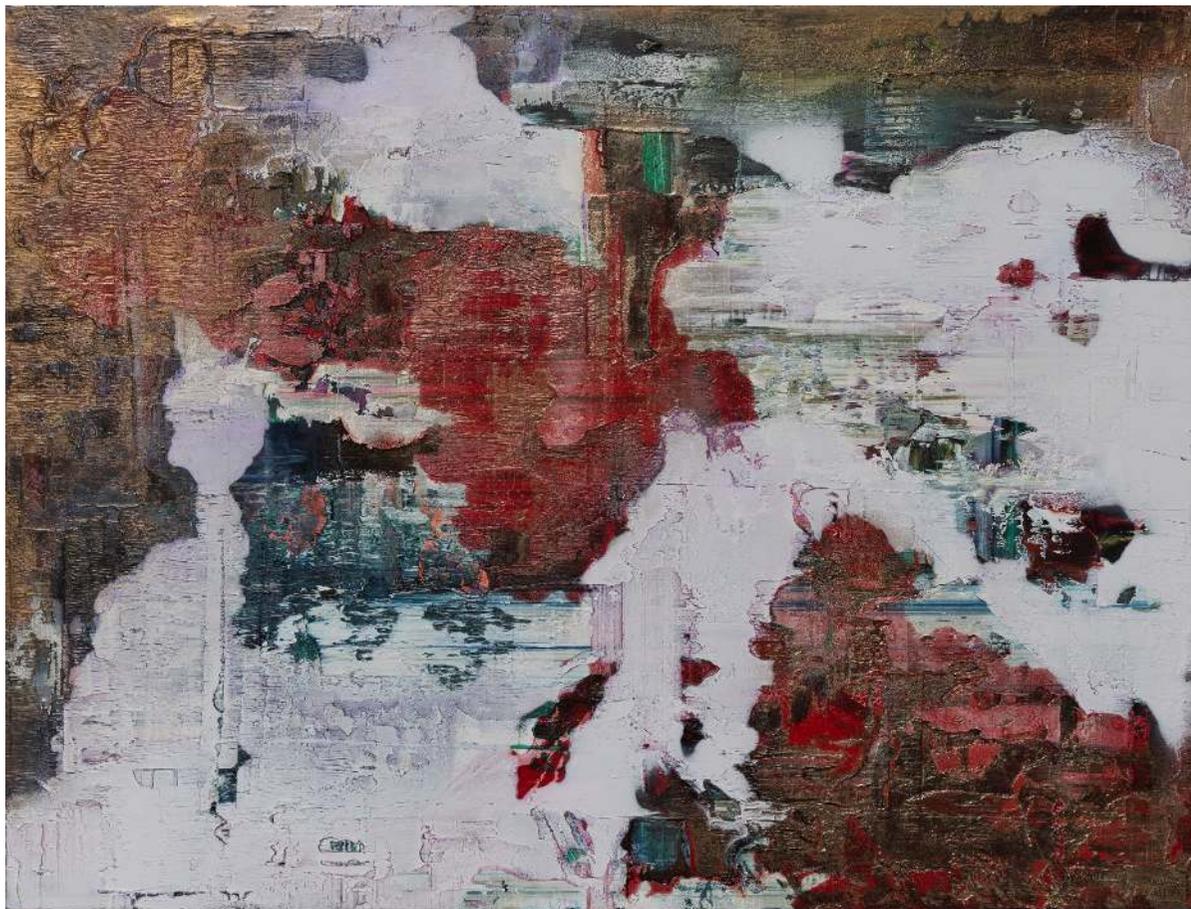
TIPPING POINT acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm



GAZING DOWN acrylic with oil on board 40.5 x 30.5 cm each panel







FIRE GODDESS acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm



W I L D 1 & 2 acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm each panel







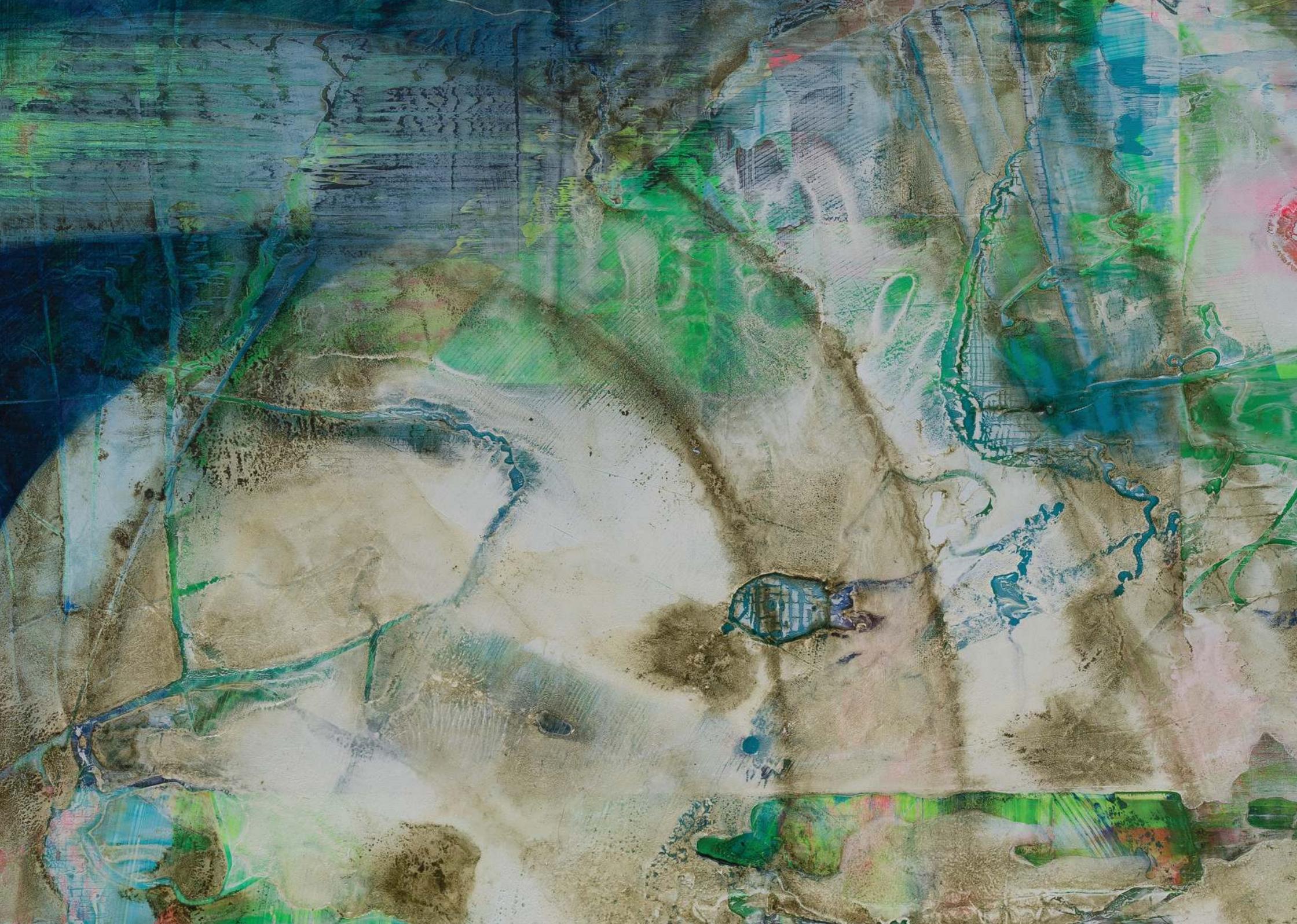
FROM A DISTANCE acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm

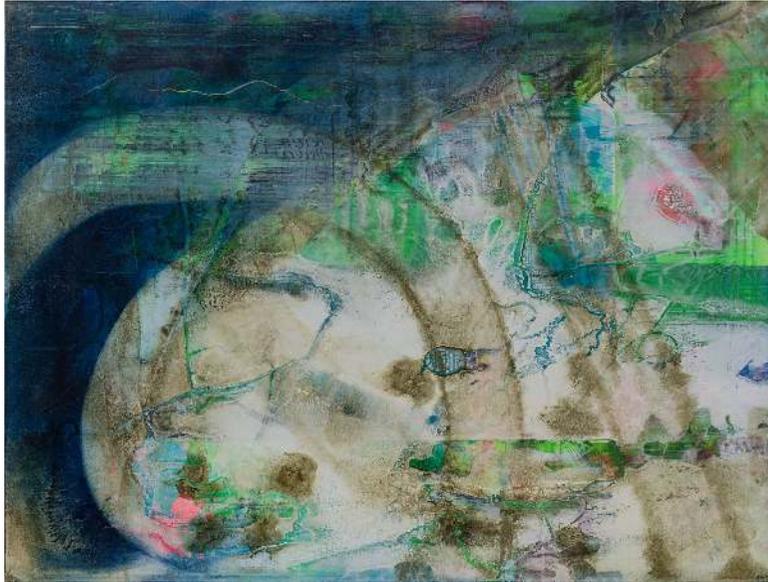


A few years ago I went on a very long journey searching for blue whales.
In a tiny boat with no real hope of success but a dream in my heart...
I wished so hard for them to appear and three of them did.
Emerging from the deep blue like islands of sheer magic.
It was a moment of intense promise. They revealed themselves to me in all their
glory and magnificence and I vowed to spend my life trying to protect their world.

PLASTIC OCEAN acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm







"To see a world in a grain of sand
and a heaven in a wild flower.
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
and eternity in an hour"

William Blake

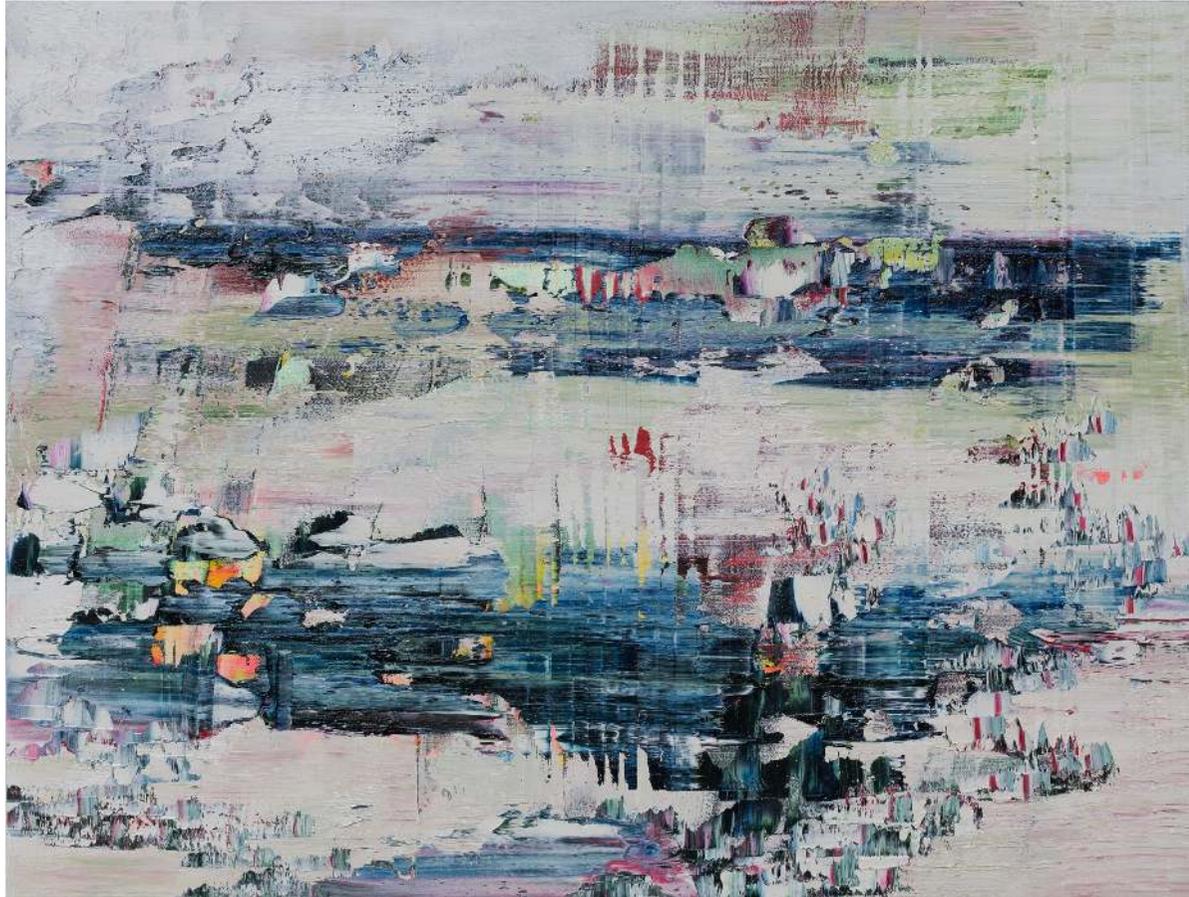
ONE WORLD acrylic with oil on board 30.5 x 40.5 cm



S E R E N I T Y 1 & 2 acrylic with oil on board 20.5 x 25.5 cm each panel







CHOICES acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm

I have been lucky enough to have a studio in Hong Kong for the past 5 years.

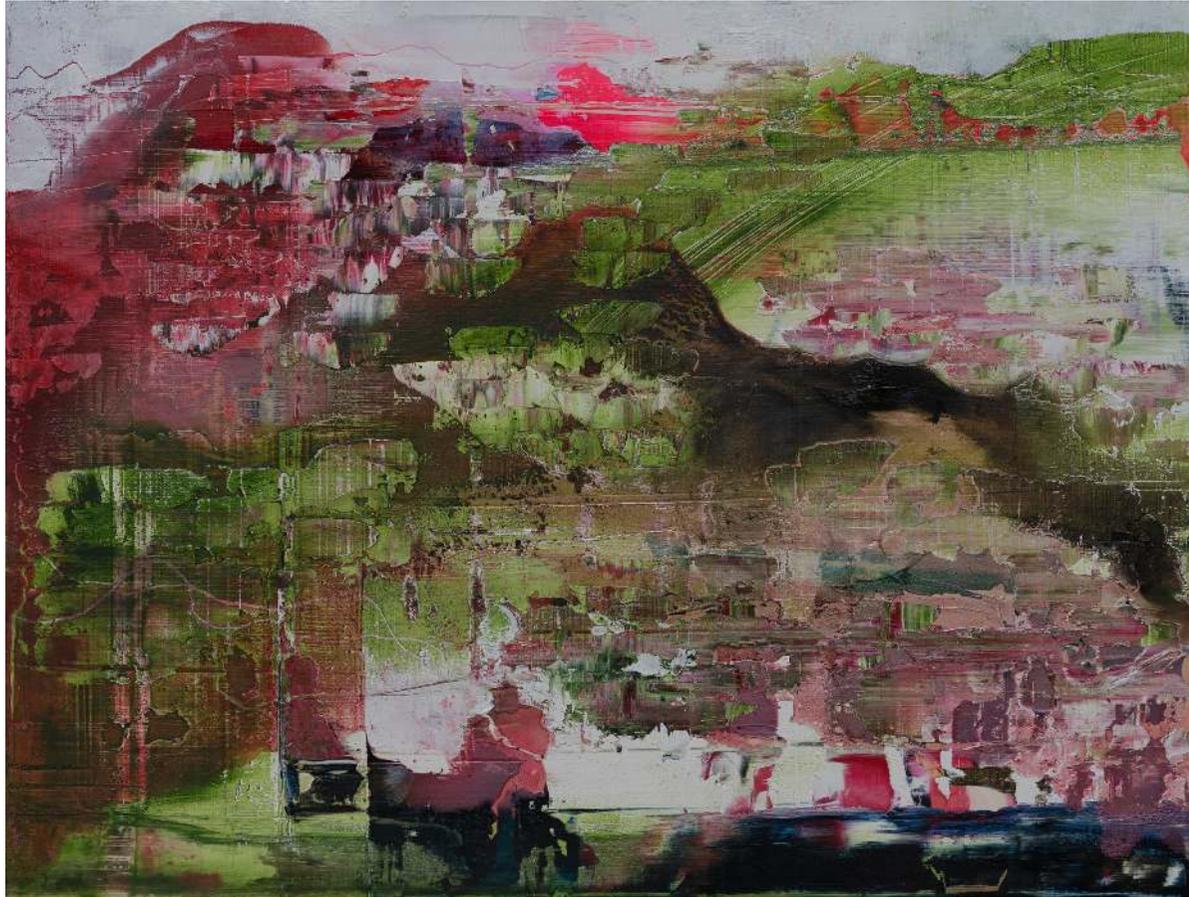
I am surrounded by extraordinary inspiration constantly clamouring for my attention. Gorgeous flower and fruit markets. Incense filled glimmering temples. Decay and layers of ancient textures contrasting with the neon and metals of a 21st century city.

Always reflected in the ever present sea. Vintage fishing boats, swarms of dragonflies and butterflies and miles of wilderness all add to the pictures in my mind. I feel incredibly blessed to be here and these paintings are a way of sharing that excitement.

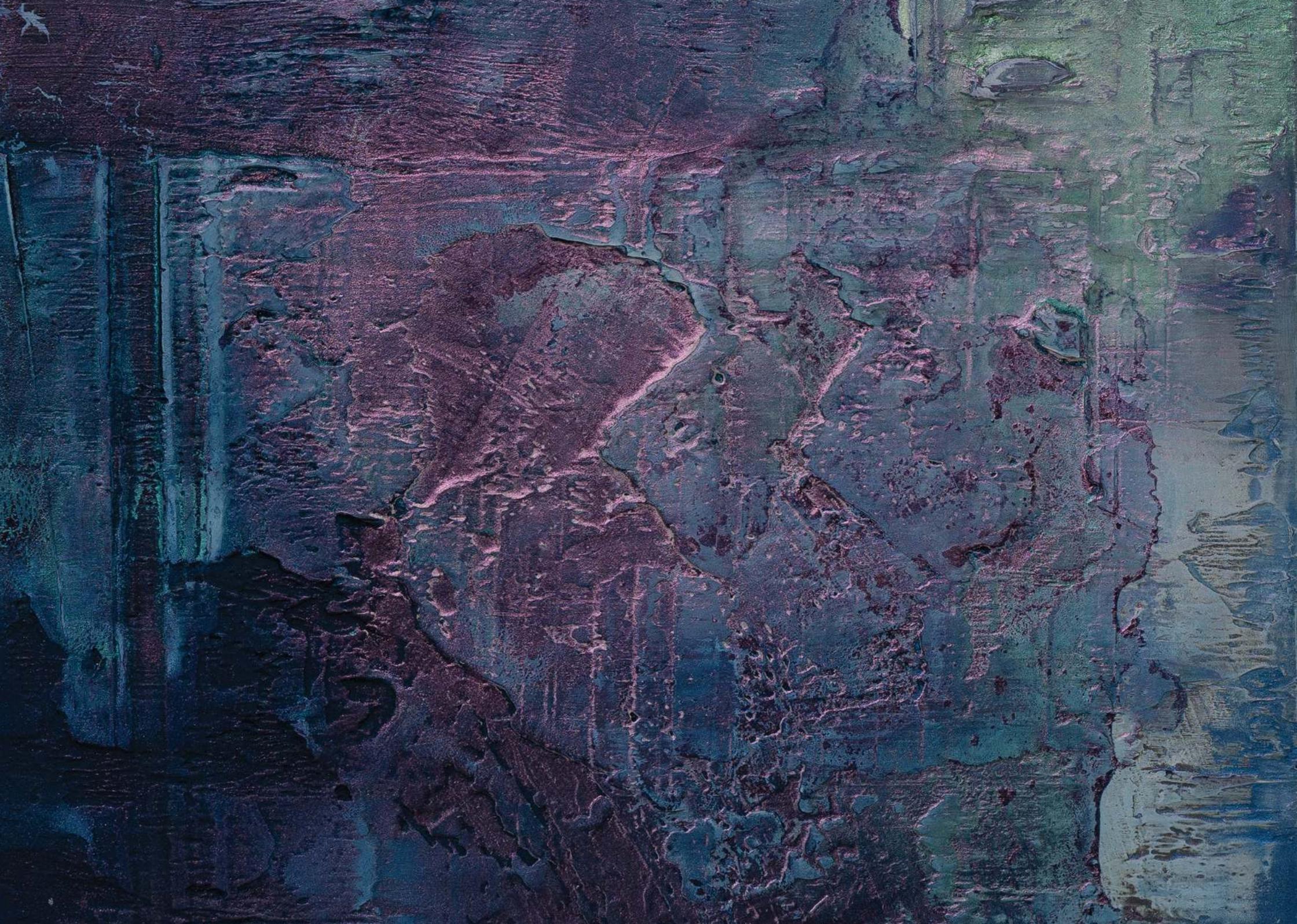
G L O R I O U S C H A O S acrylic with oil on board 45 x 61 cm







BEFORE THE STORM acrylic with oil on board 30.5 x 40.5 cm





HEALING BLUE acrylic with oil on board 20.5 x 20.5 cm



PRECIOUS BLUE 1, 2 & 3 acrylic with oil on board 30.5 x 30.5 cm each panel







P R E C I O U S O C E A N acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm

T H E M O M E N T

This was the sun that shone and shone
Having broken the day in ample proof
Of shepherd's delight in the orange of evening.

This is the leaf that now is falling
Twirling and falling and not believing
In this Indian summer and the clear blue sky.

This will be a memory and not forgotten
This could be a leaf in a life all told
Should I find the words the moment to hold.

That was that moment precise and distinct
That was that leaf and no other
Though others and many there be.

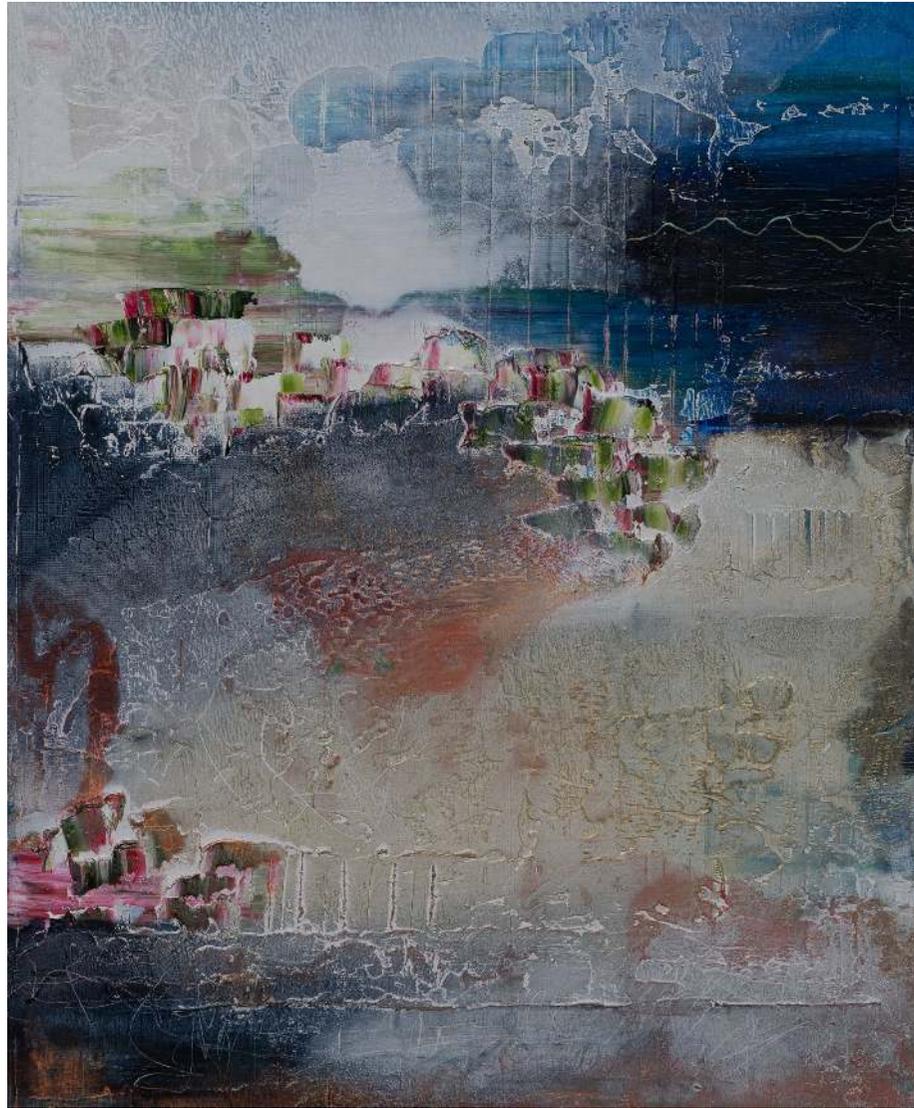
Could it be that in falling
It was not so much dying
As flying and finally free?

And that brief though it be
That freedom was special when
Seen in the sun and by me?

Contained in that moment
Is there message or meaning
Is the truth at its kernel as simple as this?

That the leaf and its falling
Was as it was
Meant to be?

Stephen Lewin Tyrwhitt

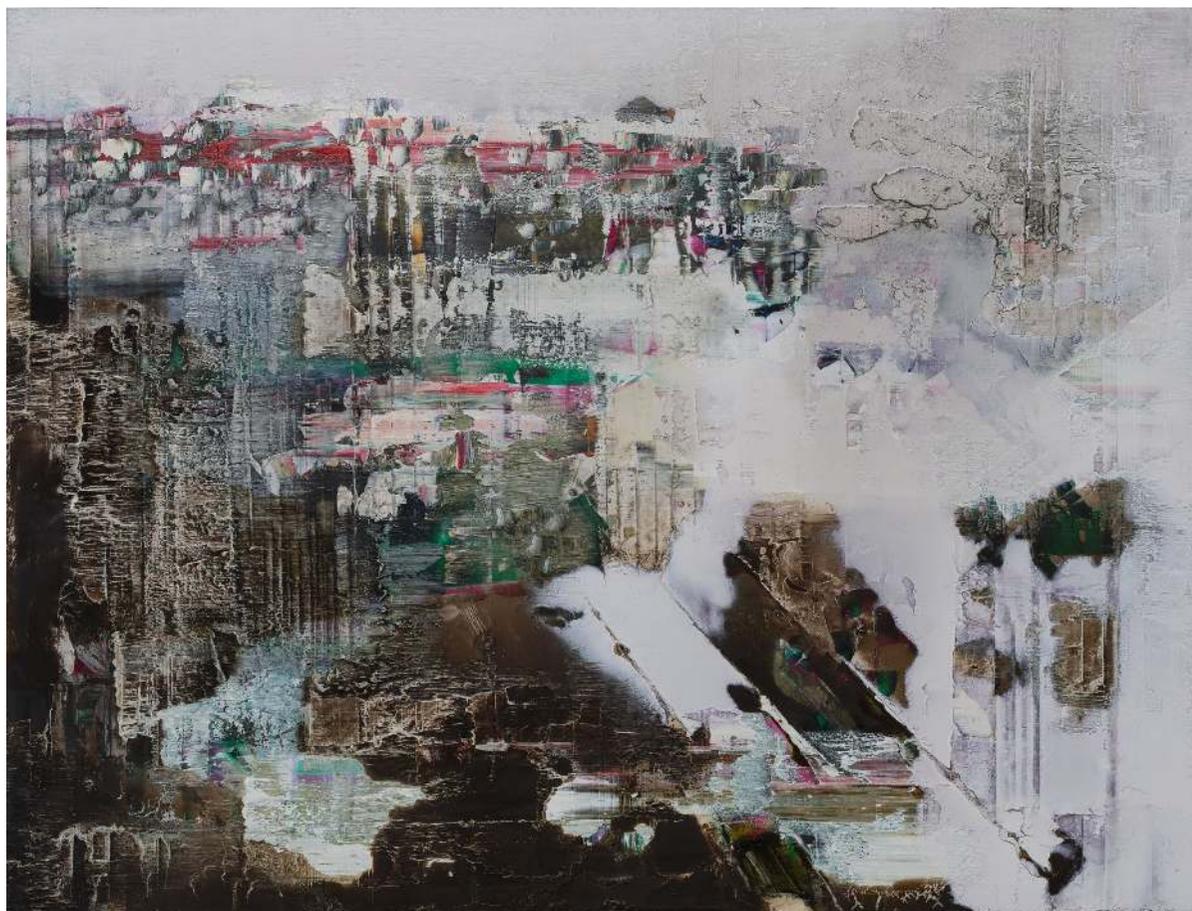


P R E C I O U S M O M E N T acrylic with oil on board 46 x 38 cm





REDEMPTION acrylic with oil on canvas 100 x 150 cm



S H I F T acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm





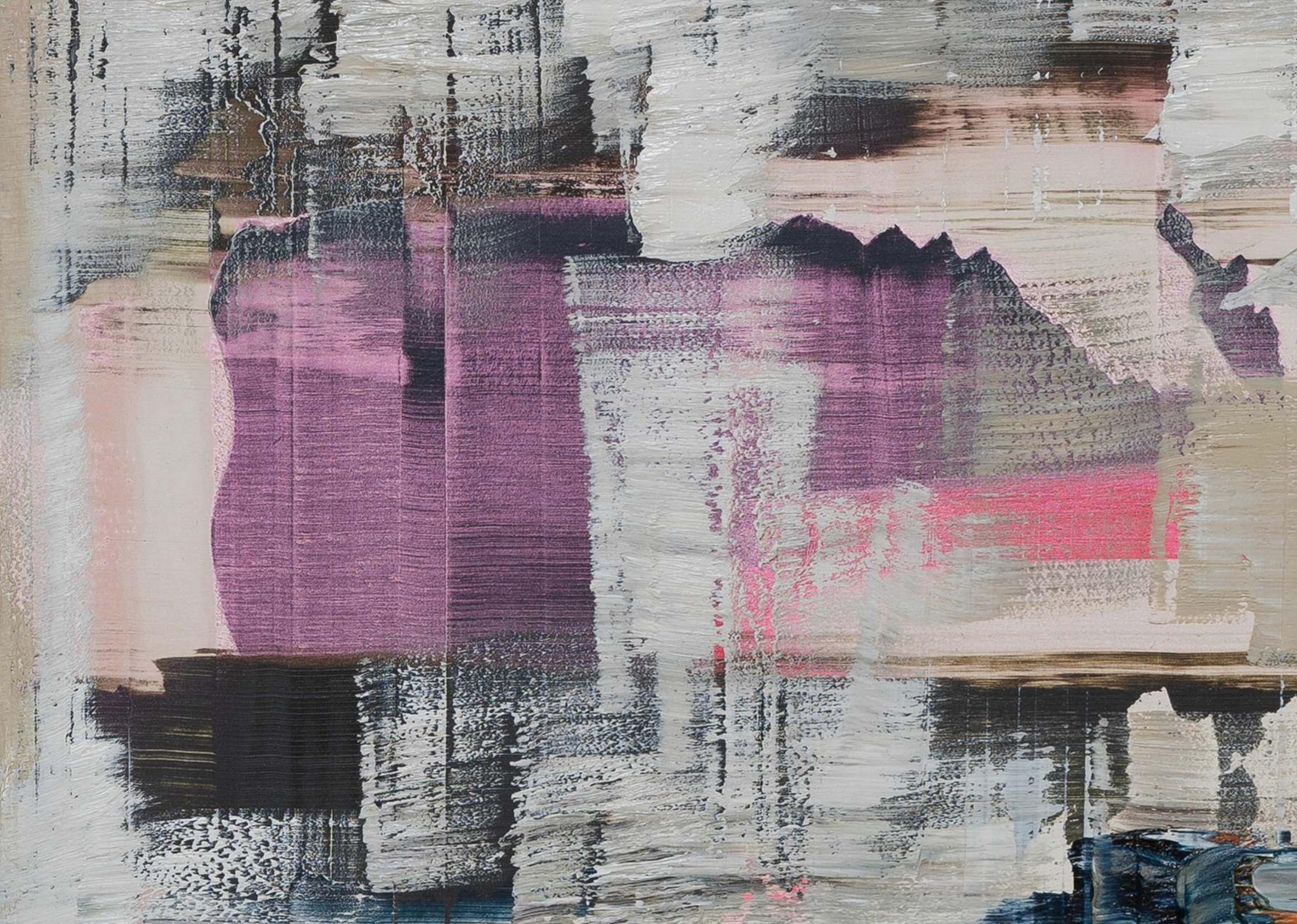


THE LOOK OF LOVE 1, 2 & 3 acrylic with oil on board 51 x 41 cm
each panel



WHERE THE SPIRIT CREATURES LIVE acrylic with oil on board 45
x 61 cm







RED SKY BEYOND 1, 2 & 3 acrylic with oil on board 51 x 46 cm
each panel



THE EDGE OF HEAVEN acrylic with oil on board 28 x 35 cm





DANCING THROUGH THE MIST acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm

DANCE MY HEART

Dance my heart
to the music in my blood,
dance my heart
to your strong rhythm
as my pulse
thrums
and drums
its life-affirming beat.

Dance, dance my heart
and warm the smile that's spreading,
dance, dance my heart
and hear the voice of music
softly humming,
then singing
and ringing fine
its clear, pure notes.

Dance, dance, dance my heart
for we're all Sufis in our fashion,
dance, dance, dance my heart
and in the spirit's spiral
turning
and rising
we'll reach the heights
where music reigns
and all shall dance.

Stephen Lewin Tyrwhitt

When nature is allowed to dance without human intervention
she dances with the most exquisite balance and harmony

Everything is in its place
Everything is precious

We need to remember how to breathe, watch and listen
To allow ourselves to be guided and to learn

We need to gaze at fractals to heal our fractures
To know that everything is intimately connected and to make every
choice based upon that knowledge





"A fractal is a way of seeing infinity" Benoit Mandelbrot

The veins in our bodies
The roots of a tree
The river as it reaches the sea

All these beautiful patterns are echoed and reflected in each other.

I N T I M A T E C O N N E C T I O N S acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm



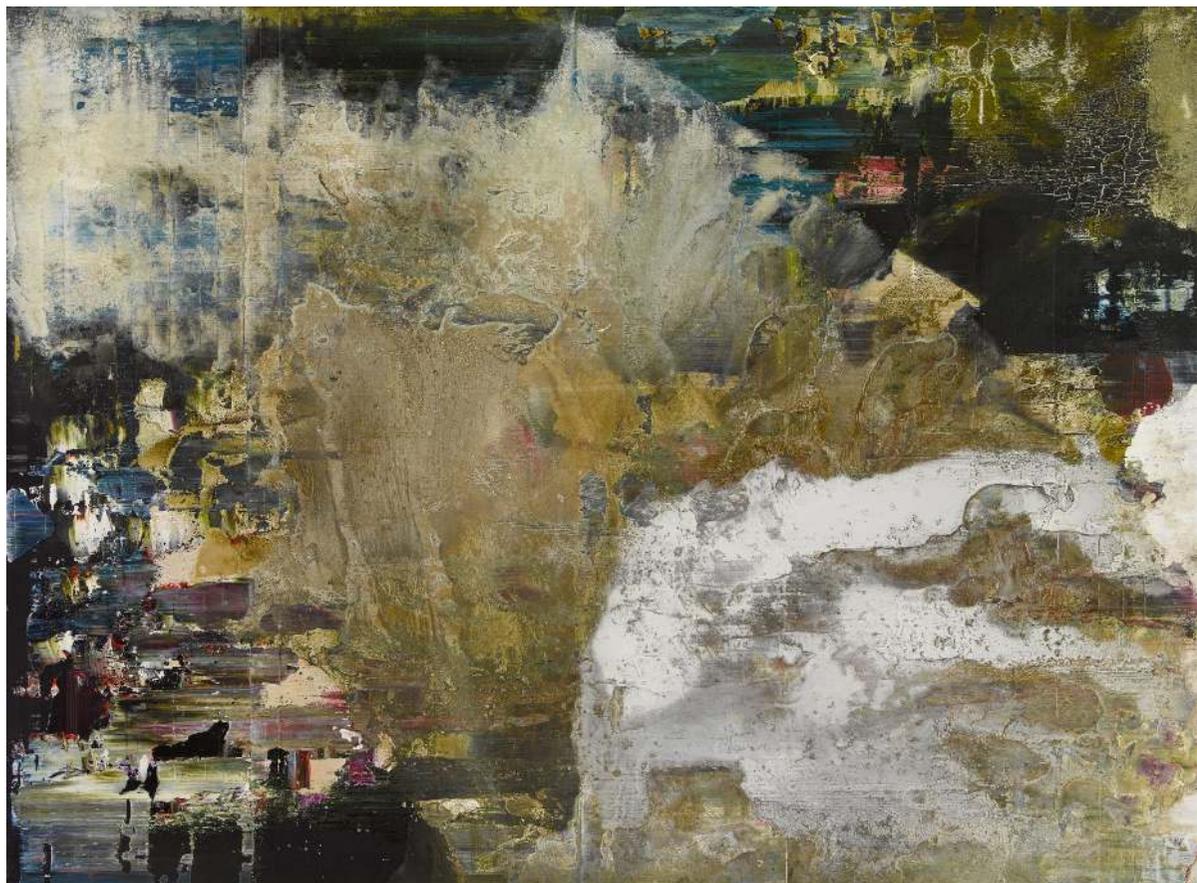


SAFE HAVEN acrylic with oil on board 41 x 51 cm





HEALING LIGHT acrylic with oil on board 45 x 61 cm



DELUGE acrylic with oil on board 30 x 41 cm





W U N J O

Joyousness accompanies new energy, energy blocked before now. Light pierces the clouds and touches the waters just as something lovely emerges from the depths: the soul is illuminated from within, at the meeting place of Heaven and Earth, the meeting of the waters.

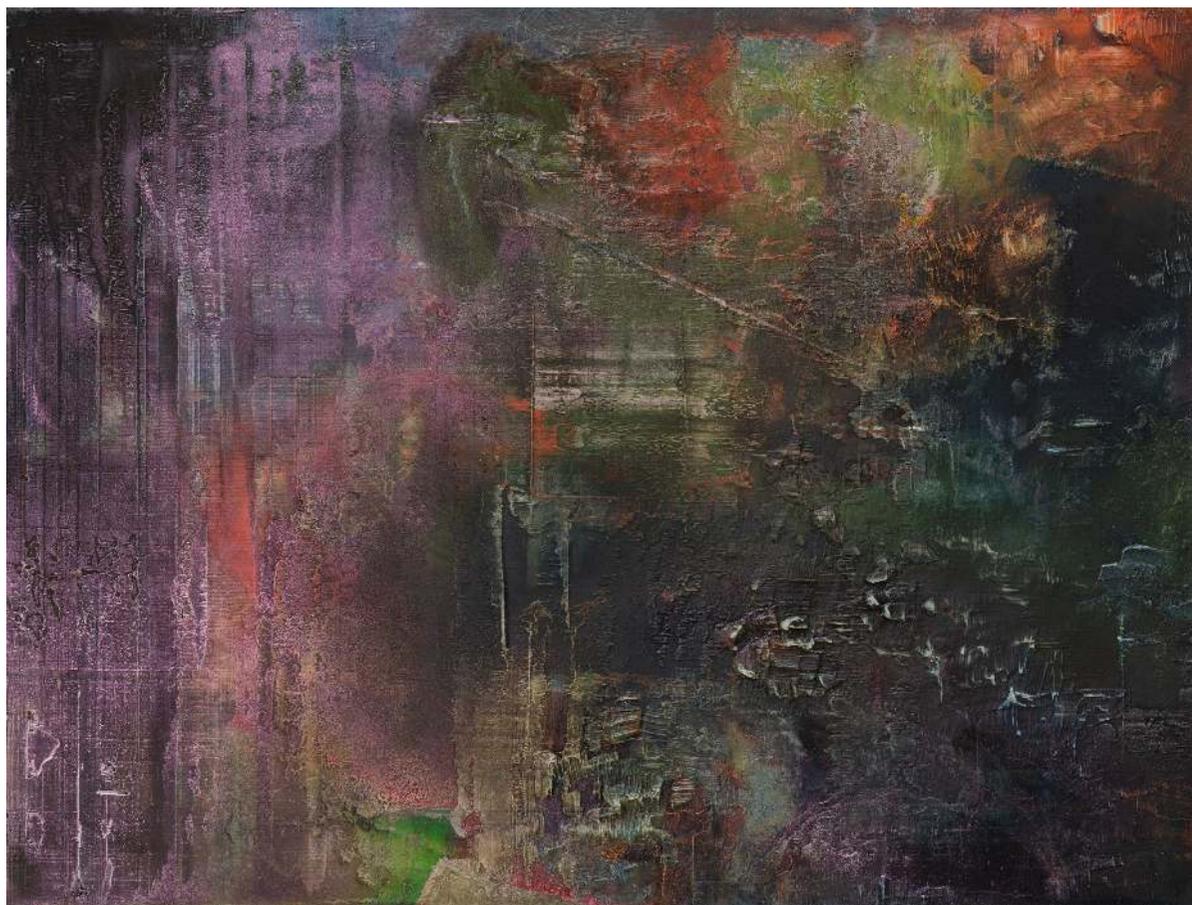
The Book of Runes



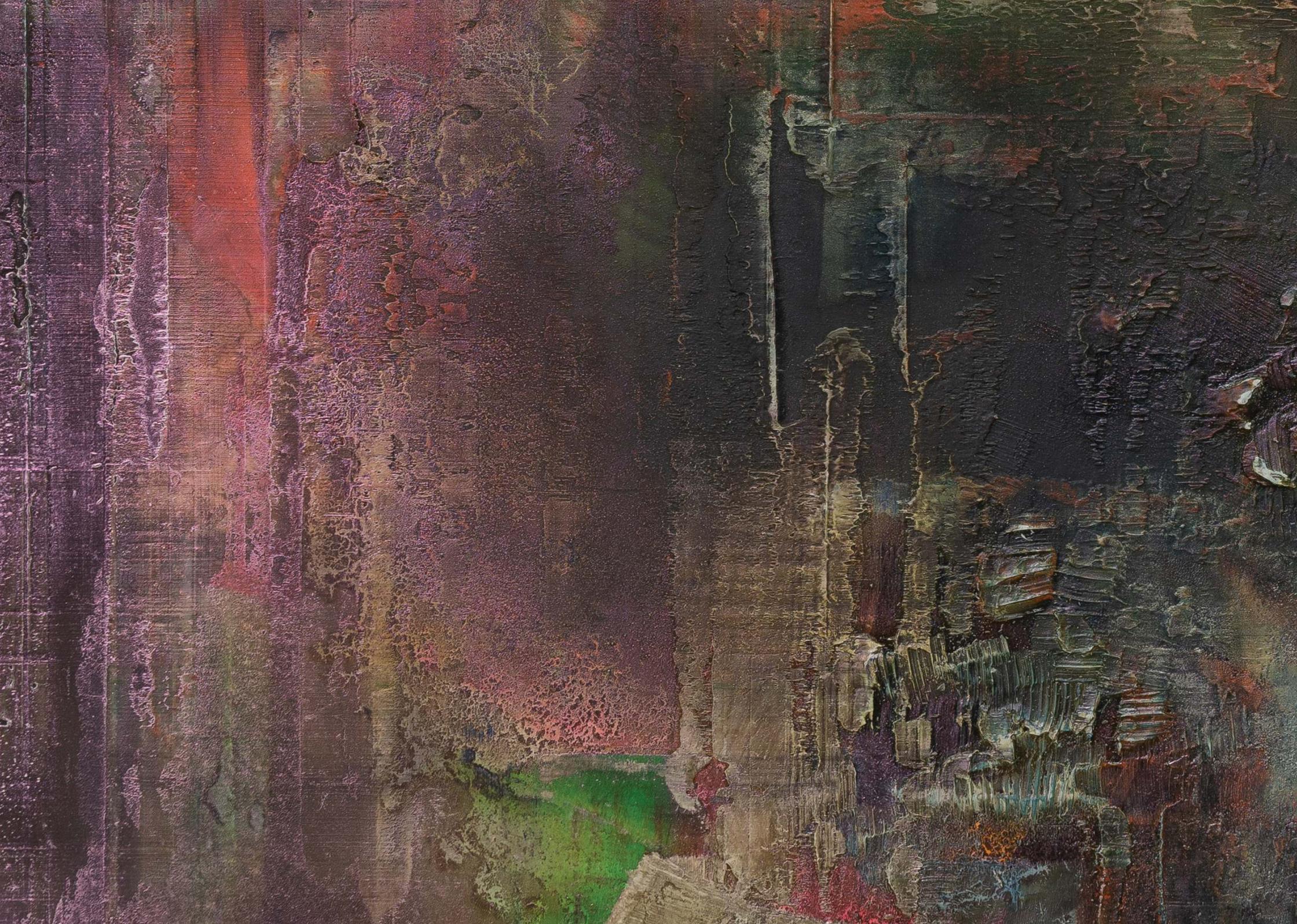
The Day of Wunjo

From this day I am reborn. It is a most profound remembering.
We are not individual spirits inhabiting bodies, we are one consciousness

W U N J O 1, 2 & 3 acrylic with oil on board 30.5 x 30.5 cm each panel



BURNING DEEP acrylic with oil on board 46 x 61 cm







LAYERS AND HIDDEN GLIMPSES

Because life is like that
Memory is like that

Overlaid and ephemeral
suddenly transporting us to another place
Another time

P R E C I O U S L A N D 1 & 2 acrylic with oil on board 30.5 x 40.5 cm
each panel





I believe in the redemptive power of beauty and by that I don't mean pleasing or pretty, I mean the beauty of wilderness or hurricane or passion

It must be deeply felt, it is instinctively known and humanity needs it. People need places of escape, of respite, of healing, places to inspire and where their imaginations can dance and dream and roam. These can be landscapes, wild and fierce or placid gentle streams, woodlands or wild seas but everyone needs moments where they feel the presence of something much more powerful and which connects them to their own souls. I try and try endlessly to capture something of that feeling in my work. A deep emotional connection to otherness, to hope, to the possibility of light after a storm.

I put down layers of paint and scrape them away and add more, sometimes for years at a time until sometimes I get a glimpse or a glimmer of what is trying to be communicated. Of what it is that I feel I need to connect with and make real, tangible and permanent.

HALLOWED GROUND acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm



JOY 1, 2 & 3 acrylic with oil on board 36 x 28 cm each panel







May we turn towards the light
May we find stillness in the heart of the storm
and peace in the knowledge that we are all one
May we find our voices
and the courage to speak our truths
May we move with ease like falling water
May our actions be guided by love

T O W A R D T H E L I G H T acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm

The magic is that a painting is a painting. Only that but so much more.

Multiple layers can obstruct and reveal

It can be coincidentally both abstracted and figurative.

Evocative and emotional.

Containing hidden faces, figures, landscapes, distant vistas within a single worked surface. The human mind wants to make sense of this in the way a child will see monsters in the fold of a curtain or animals form within clouds.

As you take time to gaze you can see all of these things and more. The mind can refocus, the viewing distance can re adjust. As the light changes you may feel close to the ponds edge or far away from a distant bay.

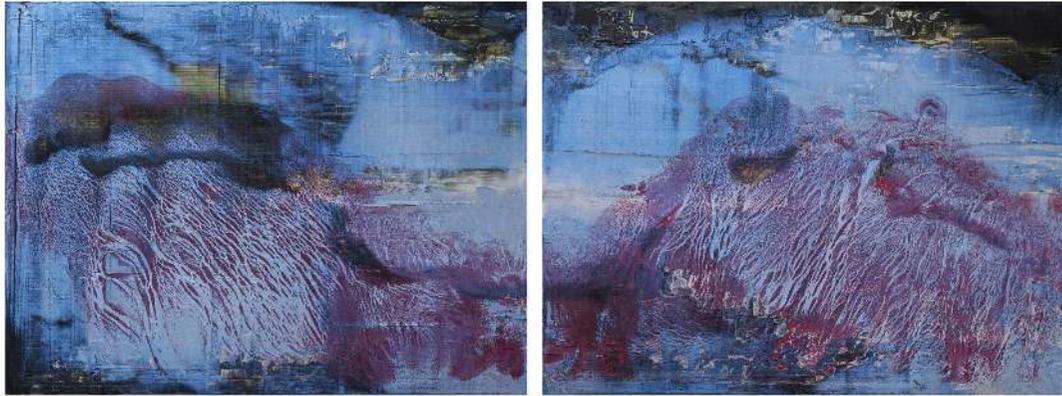
The point is it is a painting.

It can be scribbled on. Have words etched within. Other images laid on top of multiple scraped layers. Gorgeous texture or glimpses of other worlds that you think you may have seen with half an eye, which draws you back again and again....

It calls out to be gazed at, slowly and lovingly and over time. Revisited and properly seen. For it reveals its secrets gently.







DELICATE 1 & 2 acrylic with oil on board 30.5 x 40.5 cm each panel



E V O K E acrylic with oil on board 28 x 35 cm







HOPE acrylic with oil on board 76 x 102 cm



F I S H A R E J U M P I N G (crop) acrylic with oil on board 51 x 41 cm



T H E E N D O F T H E R A I N B O W & 2 acrylic with oil on board 51 x 41 cm
each panel

I first visited Hong Kong in 1989 on my way to China to study. That visit changed my life and I am hugely grateful to Katie de Tilly for giving me this opportunity to show my work here now.



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10 Chancery Lane Gallery

Designed by Sharon Chan

This booklet is published on the occasion of Jessica Zoob's solo exhibition "This Moment",
Hong Kong from 2021.

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Designed in Hong Kong, 2021



10 CHANCERY LANE

