



NANDO'S CREATIVE EXCHANGE 2022

/'wɔ:tə(r)'/

/'wɔ:tə(r)/ (phonetic script for water)

In recent history, water has moved to the forefront of our consciousness; we have become hyper-aware of how life-essential it is. Water has become a hotly contested political issue that sees differing ideologies at war; while one country finds itself underwater another is experiencing extreme drought.

Water has power in our daily lives; it has life-giving and destructive qualities at the same time. It sits supreme in ancient historical narratives and current affairs. It can hold spiritual significance and can create social boundaries. It can nurture or destroy; it can cleanse and submerge; it can dampen and heighten the senses. Water's nature of fluidity is complex and its movement suggests constant change. Without it, we would not exist.

In this exhibition, which is the culmination of the 2022 Nando's Creative Exchange programme, four artists – Velile Soha, Sifiso Temba, Tanja Truscott and Simon Venter – investigate their personal relationship with water.

“My practice is grounded in reality,” says Soha. “It is the reality of life in urban townships and poor rural communities that can be harsh but poignant and jubilant at the same time. My artwork is colourful and vibrant, filled with real people and real situations, including our relationship with water daily – either with no or little access to water or, in Cape Town winters, flooding from an excess of water. Anyone who has lived in a township will recognise the landscapes and characters that dominate my work, perhaps because I truly depict what I know. My paintings and prints have a comfortable, natural feel to them.”

Temba believes that water has an essential role in healing the mind, body and soul. “It has provided different models to humans: the source of life, the subject of purification rituals and restoration. In this body of work, I use character, emotions and colours to depict spiritual growth and enlightenment,” he says.

“I am motivated by the energy of water – the way it moves and sounds: falling, running, trickling... The energy that water has, both stored and released, informs my mark-making,” says Truscott. “Using different tools and media I work quickly and intuitively, layering lines, colours and shapes. At a certain stage, the painting takes on a life of its own. It suggests a direction and I try to follow it. I never know where the painting will end up and it is this aspect that I love. The process intrigues me. It keeps me on my toes. I am naturally curious and the way I work suits me – I don't know or want to know what will happen next.”

Venter says his work draws on the duality found in water: “I try to explore that theme. Most notably, in the last supper inspired piece, I use two images of one person in a way which asks the viewer to consider what it means to be true to oneself; a question of renewal and change,” he says. “Each work is a departure from water and questions what it takes to make decisions in one's life, which alters our course, hopefully for the good.”



SIFISO TEMBA (1989 -)

Sifiso is a multidisciplinary artist who works in printmaking, painting, drawing and sculpture. He explores the condition of hopelessness, using animal figures to place emphasis on the faceless nature of despair, drawing on personal experience, spirituality and local reference to narrate the complexity of this issue.

Sifiso was born in 1989. Living in Vosloorus, a township in Gauteng, Temba completed a three-year printmaking course at Artist Proof Studio in 2015. He has worked there as a facilitator and a print technician.

In 2020, he was part of the *Lockdown Collection* for The Vulnerable Artist Fund. His artwork has been represented in numerous art fairs and exhibitions, including the 2020 Investec Cape Town Art Fair.

"I'm interested in the struggles and consequential victories of people," says Sifiso. "I observe the community and world beyond with a lens that tells a unique story. I create coherent works that offer multiple entry points into the lives of ordinary people and their daily struggles - a view that can be both challenging and rewarding. Allowing the subject to lead allows for an ecosystem where I am a viewer and participant as much as I am the creator, and this infuses my engagement with the work in an intuitive, spiritual and honest way."

Facebook: @sifi.tem

Instagram: @sifiso_temba



AMANZI ENDLINI

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

50 x 75 cm

R7 000.00



EMSAMO

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

50 x 74 cm

R7 000.00



GOGO MOLOI

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

130 x 80 cm

R13 000.00



INHLANZI YASE KUJULENI KOLWANDLE

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

75 x 65 cm

R9 000.00



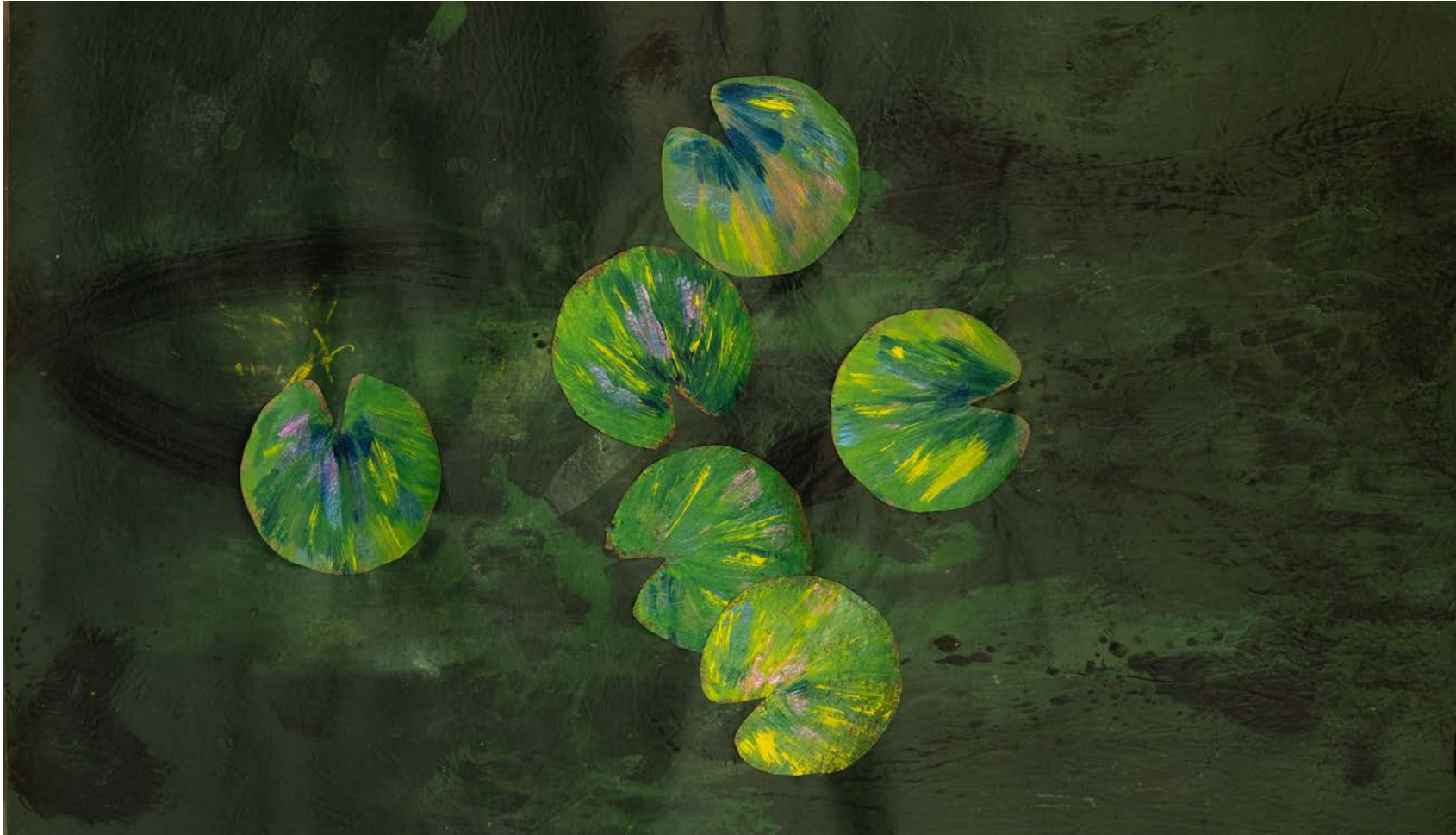
ISIHLEBELO SOMOYA

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

80 x 130 cm

R13 000.00



KOI POND 1

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

70 x 110 cm

R10 000.00



KOI POND 2

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

70 x 110 cm

R10 000.00



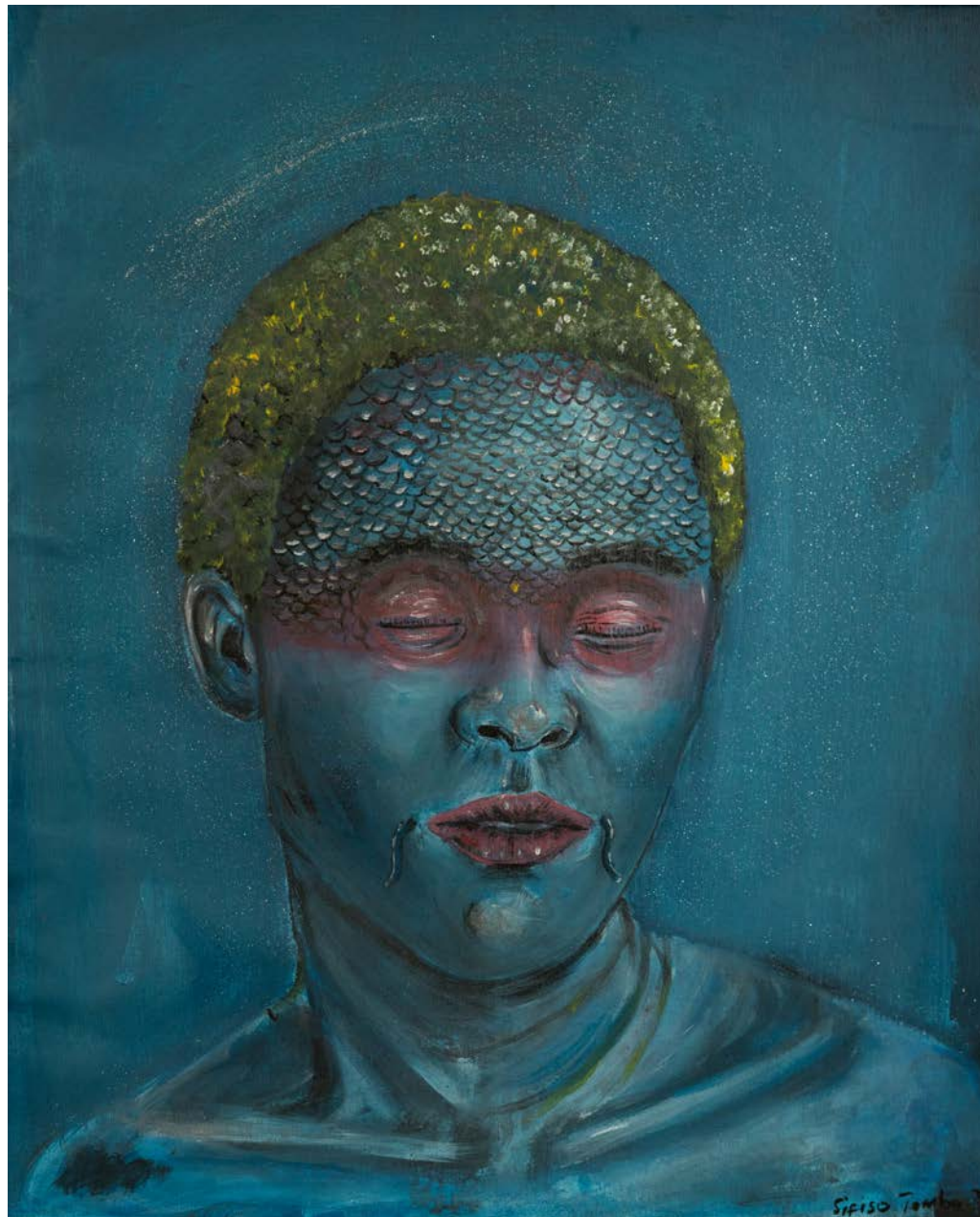
LOSING MY WAY

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

50 x 40 cm

R12 000.00



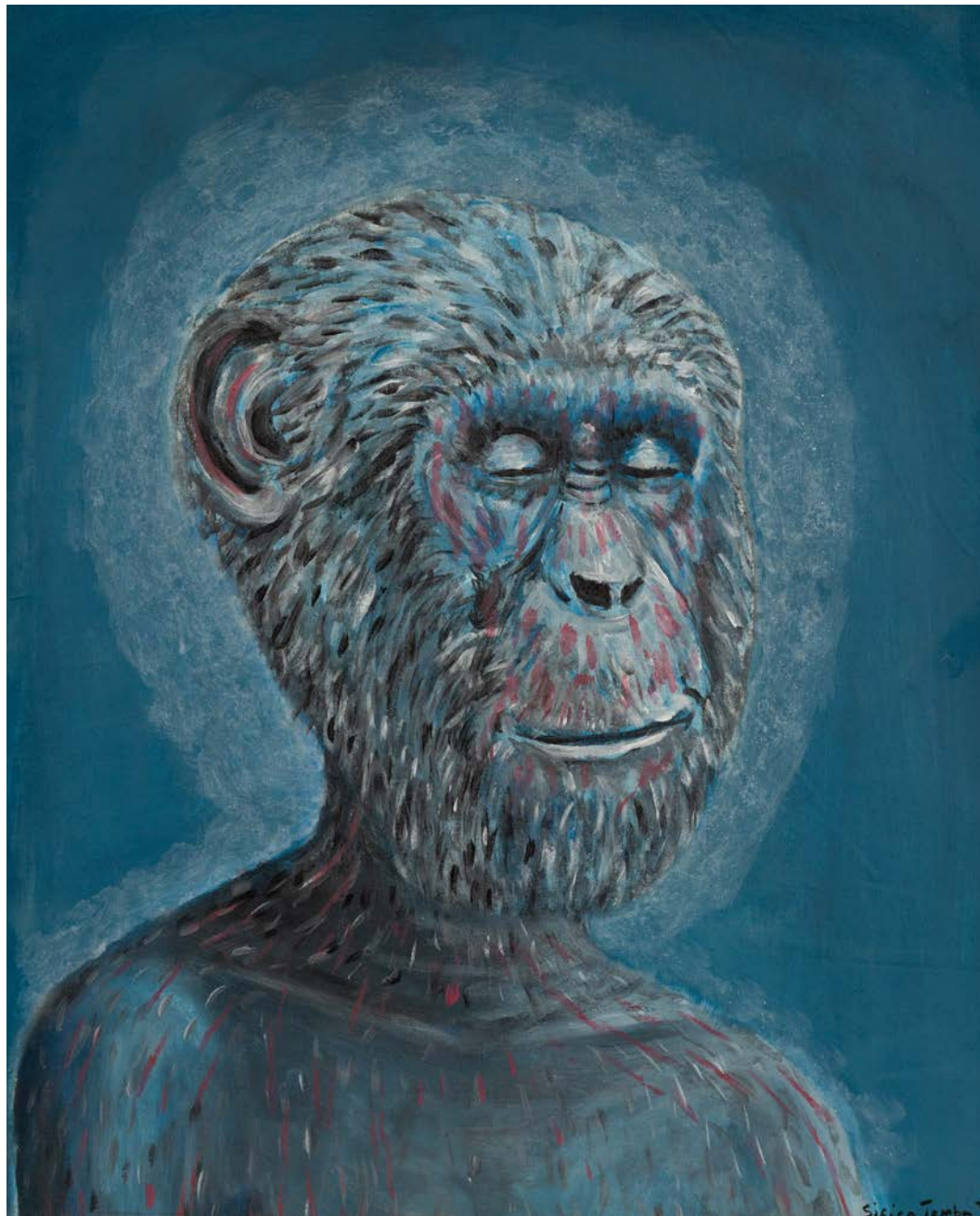
MAMLAMBO

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

50 x 40 cm

R7 000.00



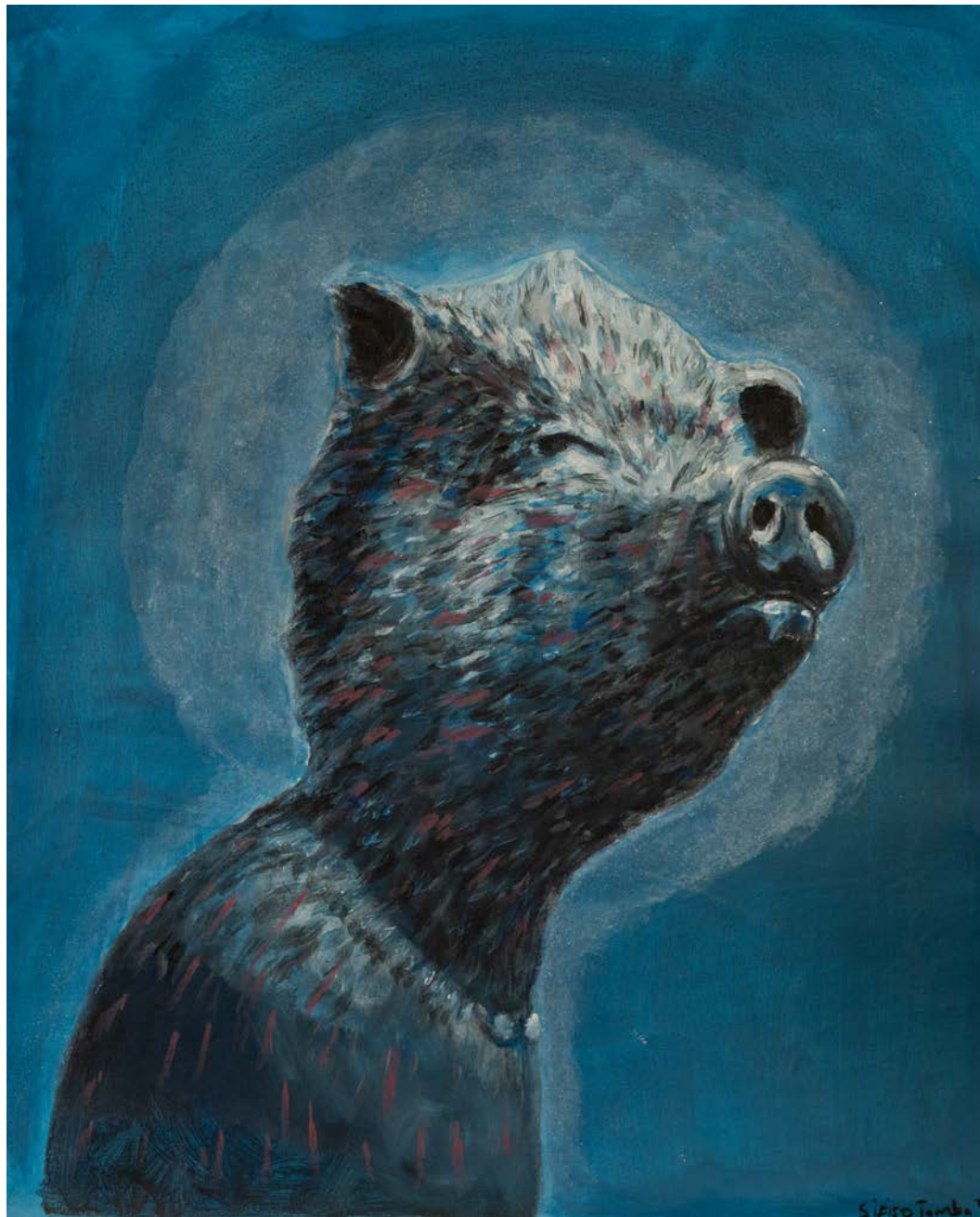
MKHULU

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

50 x 40 cm

R7 000.00



SGUBHU

Sifiso Temba

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

50 x 40 cm

R7 000.00



SIMON VENTER (1997 -)

Simon is a self-taught artist who leans towards portraiture in his practice, but also enjoys land, seascapes and abstracts. He finds that capturing a person's story is invigorating and refreshing. His ambition is to always create artworks that are true to his personal experience.

He considers his artwork as ever evolving and is looking forward to the journey his art career is taking him on. His preferred medium is oil, but he also works in graphite, soft pastels, and charcoal. Inspired by people and the cultural landscape of South Africa, he wants the viewer to engage with his work to derive their own insights.

Although he was born in East London in the Eastern Cape in 1997, Simon grew up in Hilton (KwaZulu-Natal), moving to Gqeberha when he finished school. He has participated in several group exhibitions, recently including *Captcha Colour* with Artyli in 2021 and *Process* at ArtEC in 2019. Simon was also shortlisted as a finalist in the StateoftheART Gallery Award (2019).

Recently, two of his portraits placed in the Top 100 of the 2021 Sanlam Portrait Award at the Rupert Museum, Stellenbosch. He also placed in the Top 45 of the annual Vuleka Art Competition in 2021.

"In my work I endeavour to use the traditional approaches and medium of oil painting to create, which reflect both contemporary and historical approaches to art," he says. "I want to use this approach to tell the stories of individuals and, by extension, the broader society in which they live. I see the individual as being reflected in the more formalised traditional approach, while the abstract and experimental elements for me represent society, as the abstract yet present elements in our lives."

Facebook: @Simon Venter Art

Instagram: @simon_paints



CAR GUARD TAN

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

105 x 54 cm

R9 250.00



FISH OUT OF WATER

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

105 x 54 cm

R9 250.00



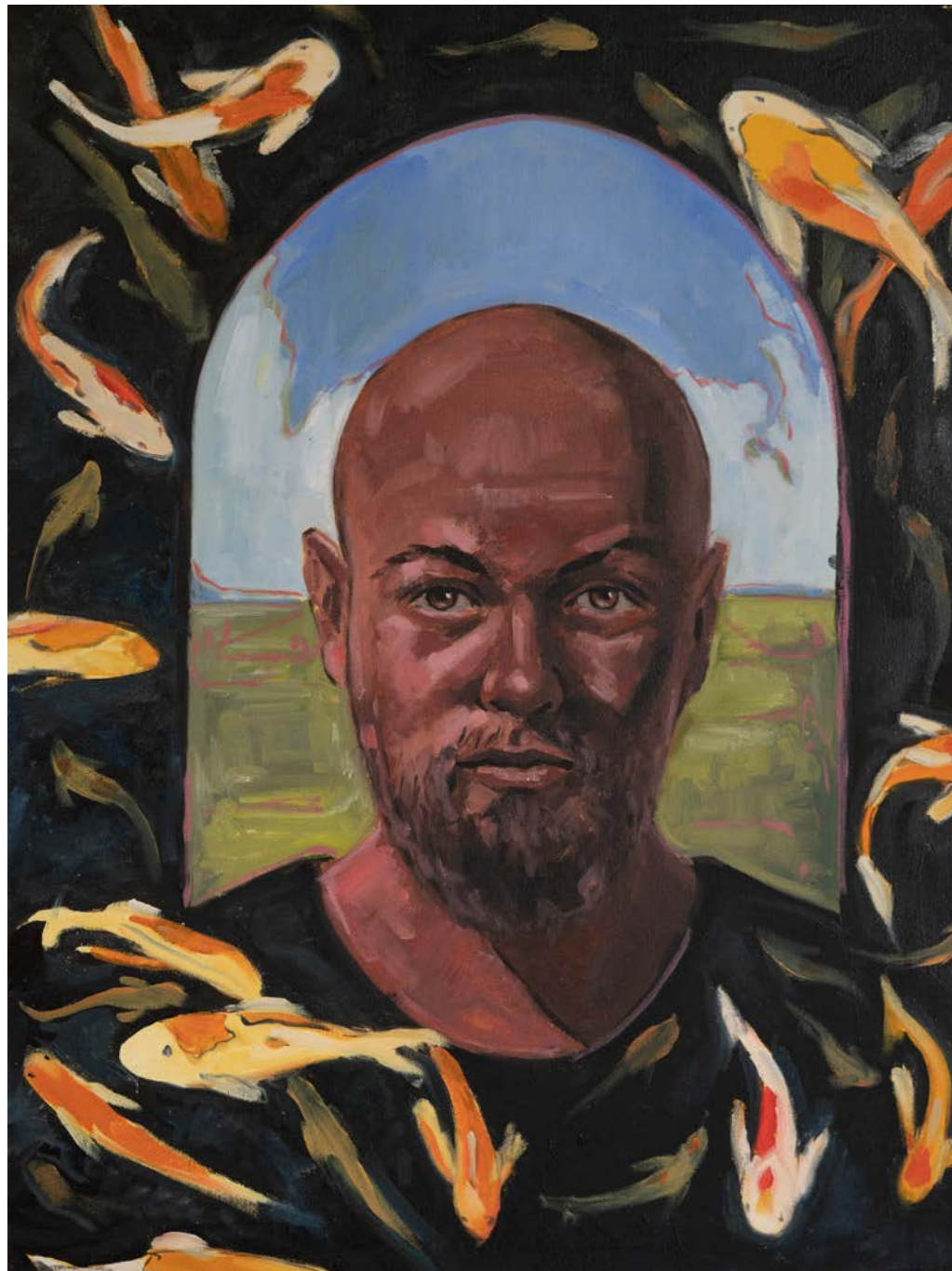
HIERVANDAAN, THE RETURN

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

89 x 71 cm

R7 550.00



HOW SHALL YOU REMEMBER ME

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

70 x 51 cm

R5 700.00



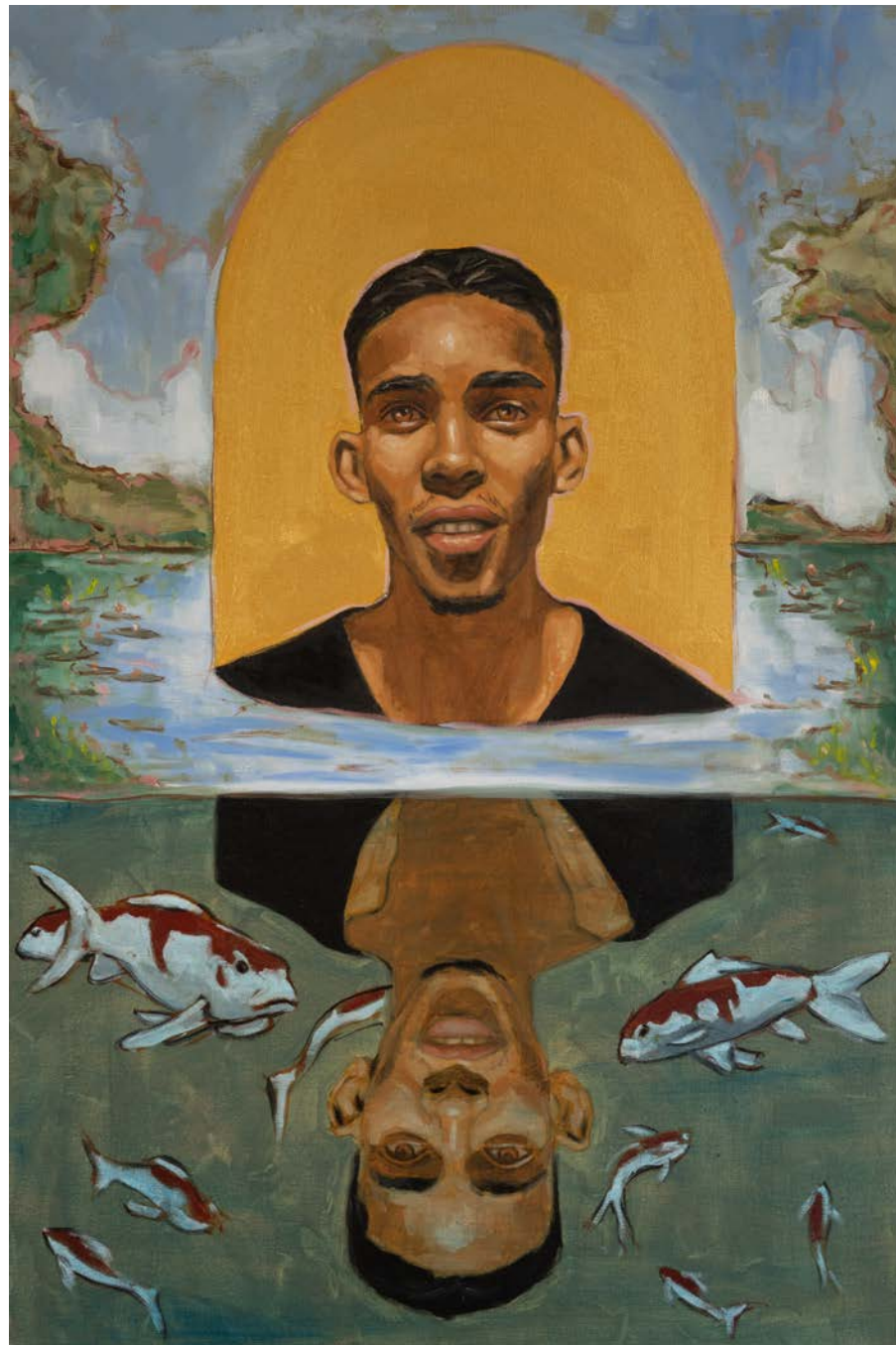
I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

70 x 51 cm

R5 700.00



JOURNEY TO THE UNDERWORLD

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

90 x 60 cm

R7 000.00



PERSEPHONE

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

90 x 70 cm

R7 550.00



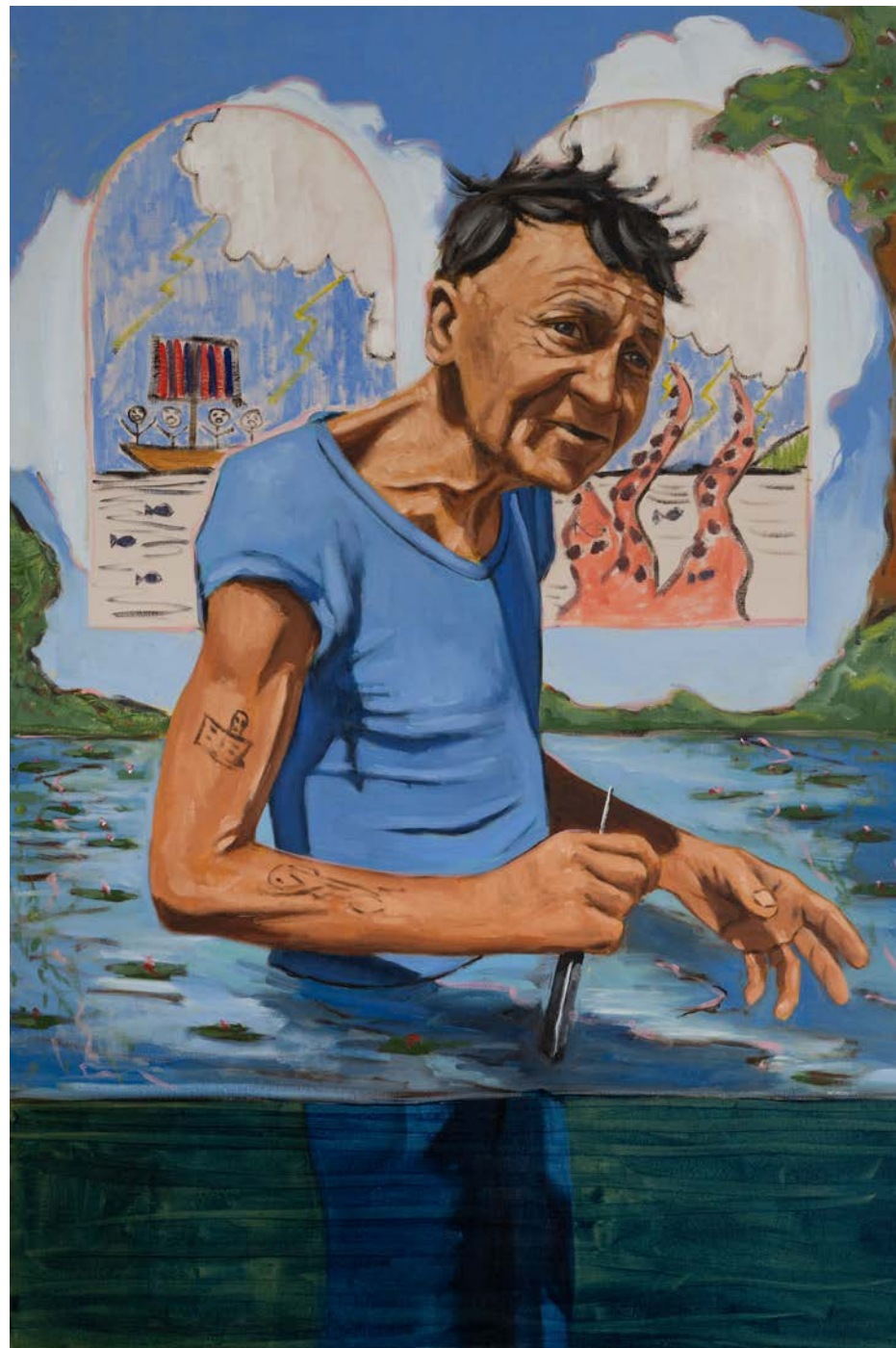
PINK MOON

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

70 x 60 cm

R5 700.00



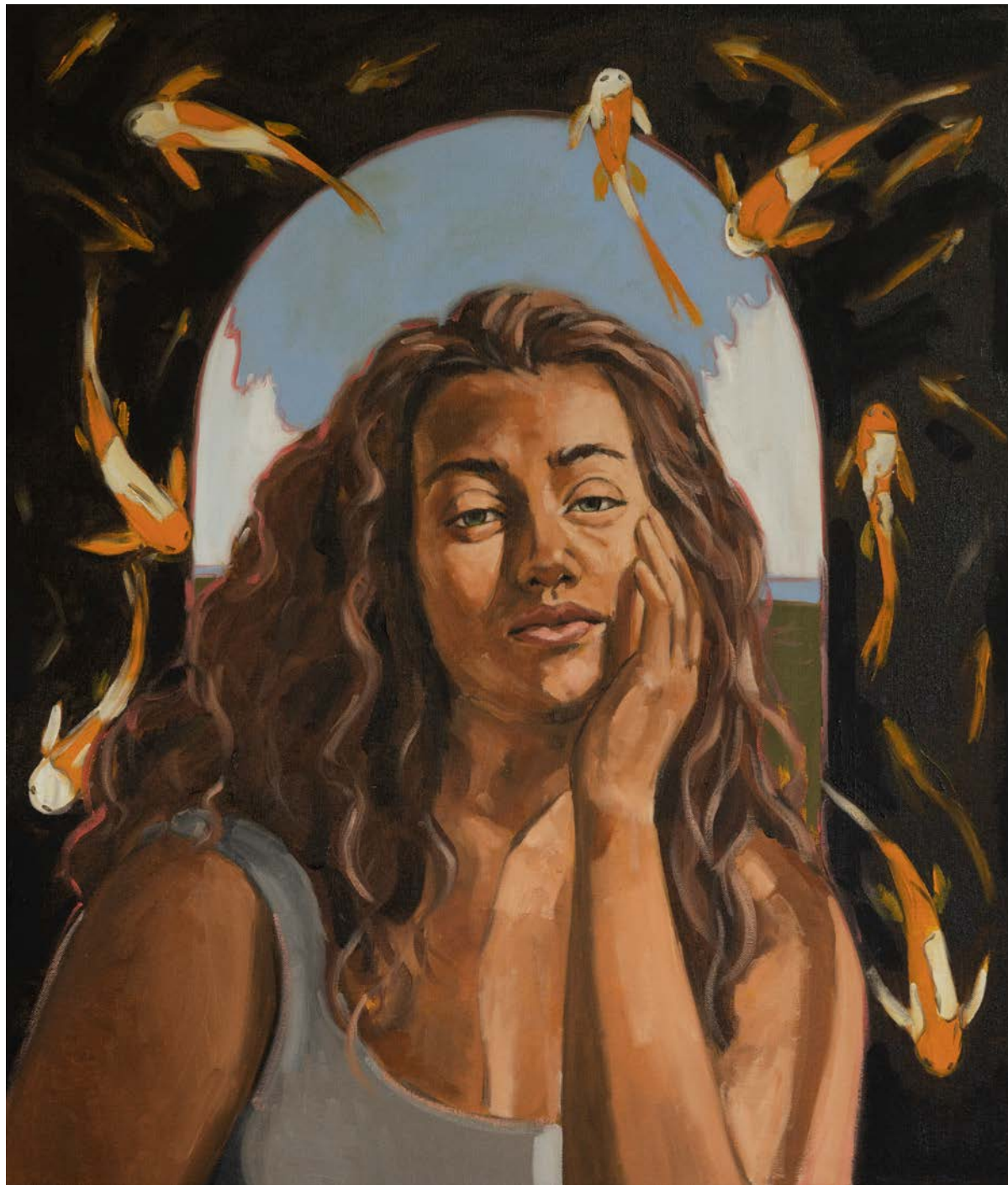
REFRACTIONS

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

90 x 60 cm

R7 000.00



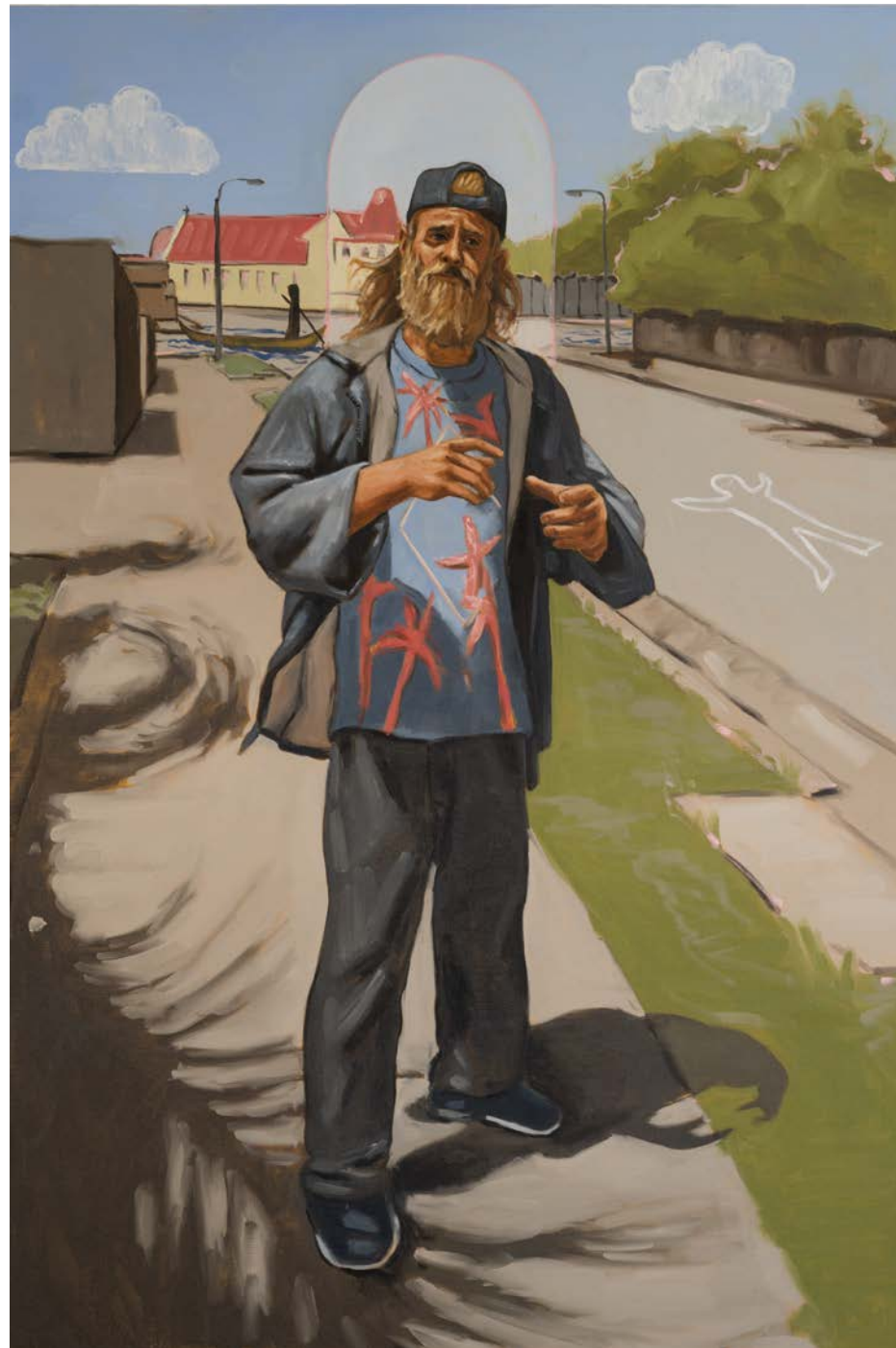
THE DISINTERESTED SELF

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

70 x 60 cm

R5 700.00



THE FERRYMAN

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

150 x 100 cm

R14 500.00



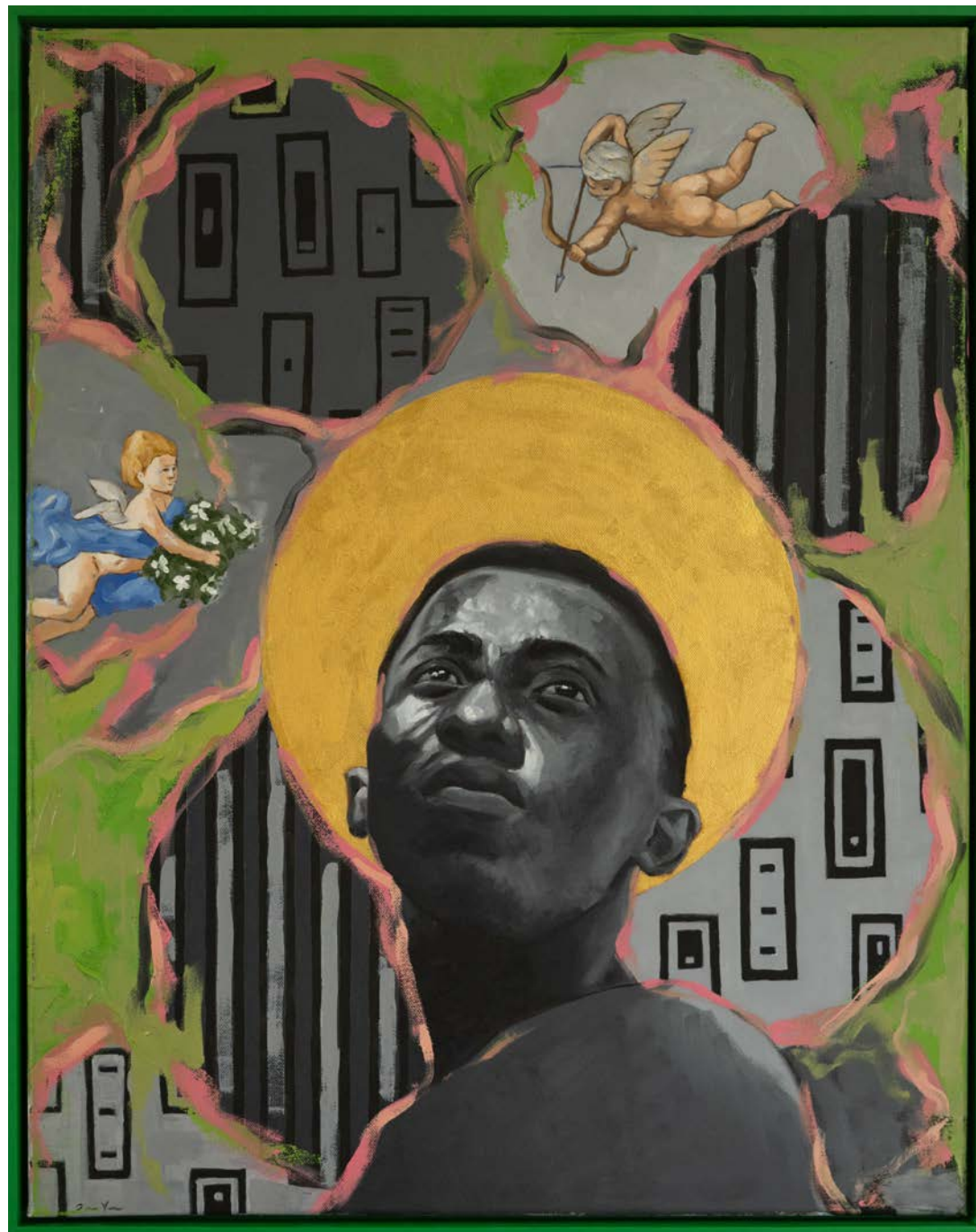
THE LAST SUPPER

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

61 x 180 cm (Diptych)

R15 000.00



VISIONS IN GOLD

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

71 x 56 cm

R6 000.00



VISIONS IN SILVER

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

71 x 56 cm

R6 000.00



WHAT IS A SAINT, CONTINUED

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

76 x 101 cm

R10 250.00



WORDS, WHAT OFT IS UNSPOKEN

Simon Venter

Oil on canvas, 2022

70 x 60 cm

R5 700.00



TANJA TRUSCOTT (1961 -)

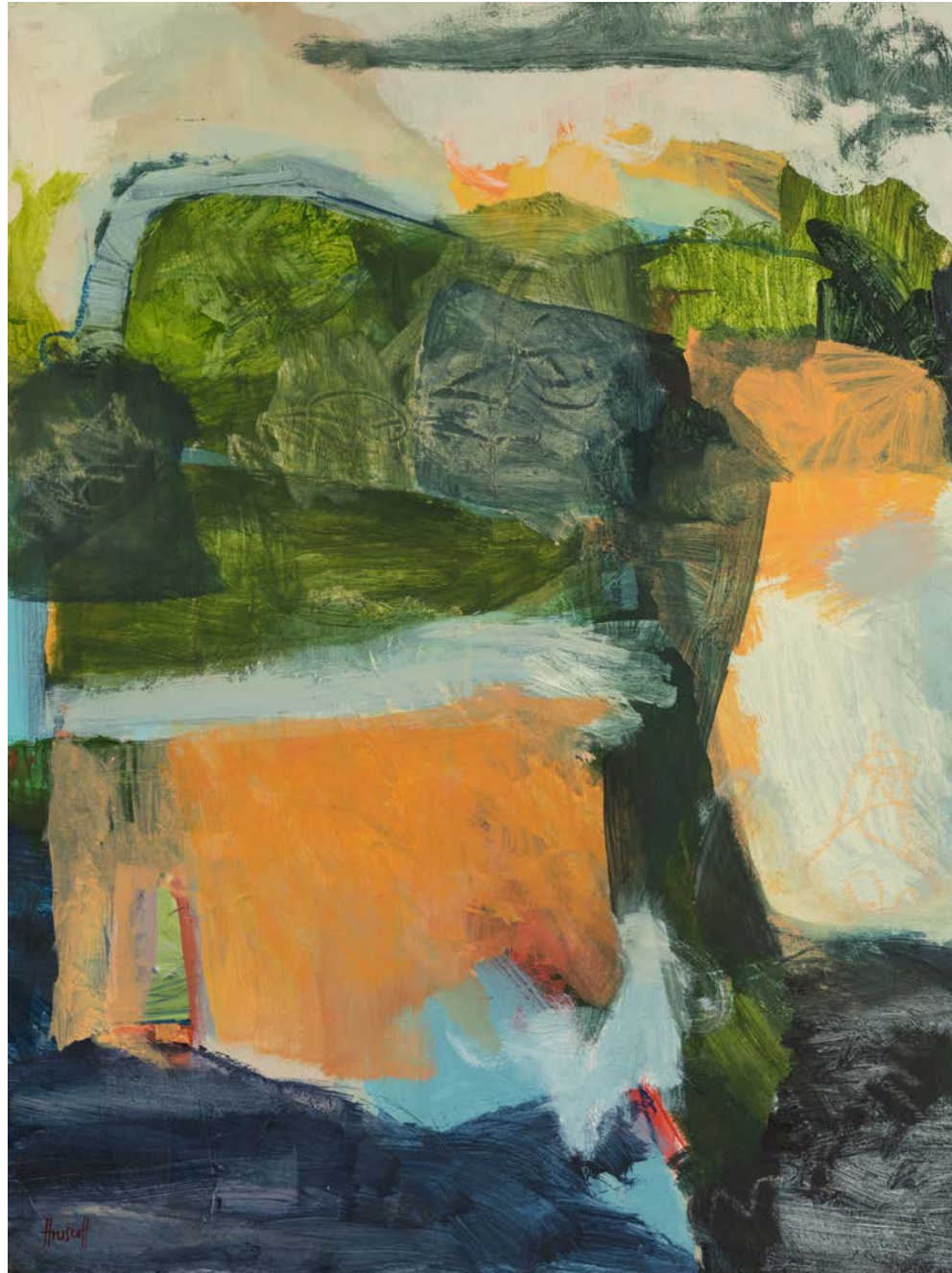
Tanja's practice is born from a fascination with painterly abstraction and its power to engage the viewer visually and emotionally. She works quickly and intuitively and is inspired by literature, poetry and music... and just as readily by sounds and sensations from her personal environment. She enjoys layering and as the paint builds up, it simultaneously reveals and hides what is underneath – covered up, yet visible.

Tanja was born in the Netherlands in 1961 and is now living and working in Cape Town. She completed a BA in Graphic Design from the University of Stellenbosch in 1984 and a Diploma in Secondary Teaching in 1990 from the University of Cape Town. She taught art and after many years spent in educational publishing as an illustrator, graphic designer and art director, she turned to painting full time in 2009. Her recent group exhibitions in Cape Town include *New Light* at No 5 on Hudson and *Nano 1.3* at the Barnard Gallery (2019). Her work is represented in private collections both locally and abroad, including 12 of her artworks in the Nando's collection.

"In a fast-paced society saturated with minute-by-minute documentation, abstract art gives us an opportunity to reflect, to delve below the surface and to enrich our lives," she says. "I am inspired by literature, poetry and music, by rain pelting the studio or a landscape remembered. Any of these can be the impetus for the colours and tools I choose, the marks I make and the shapes that emerge, thus obliquely informing the content."

Facebook: @tanjatruscottart

Instagram: @tanjatruscott



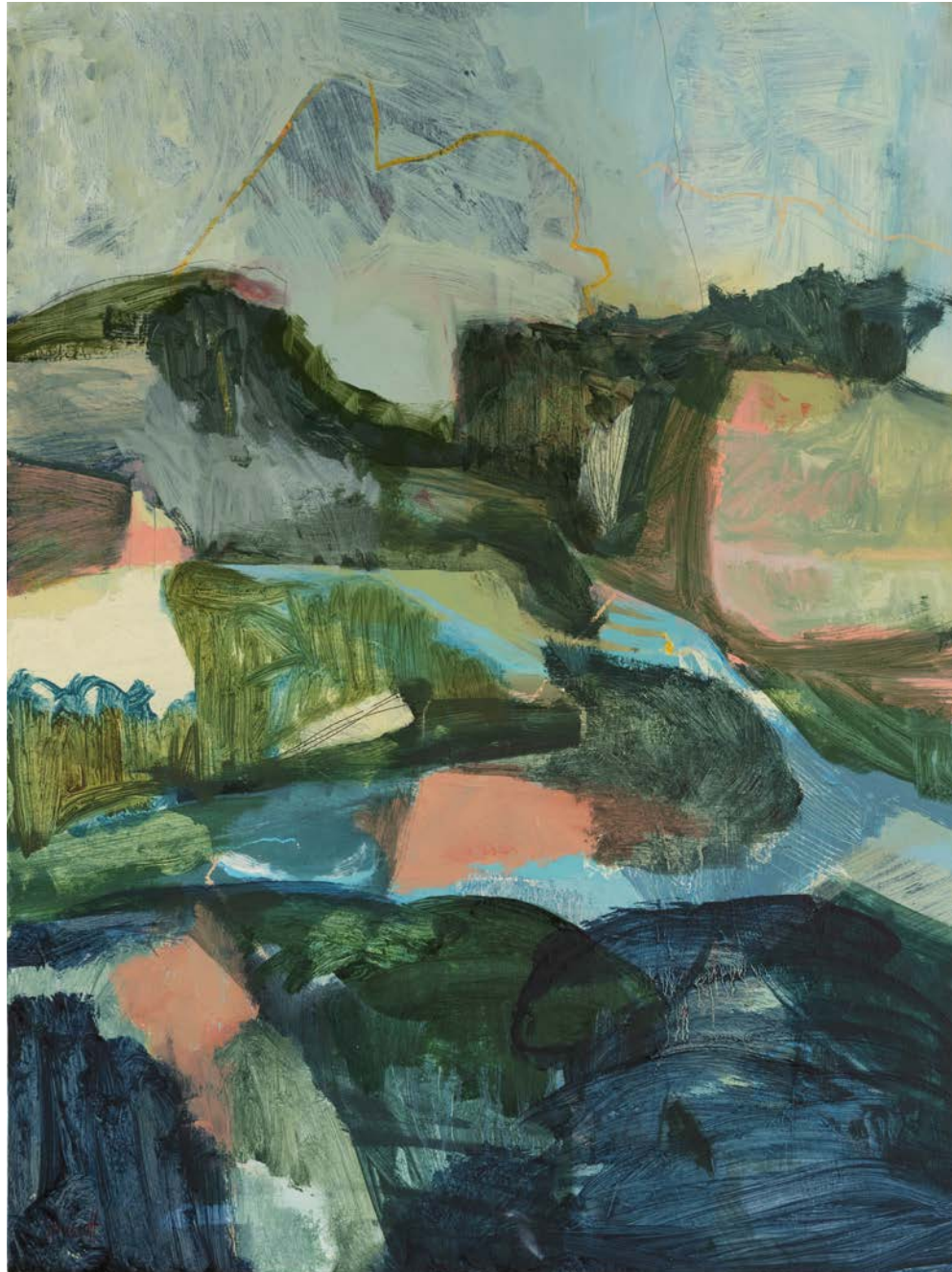
AQUIFER

Tanja Truscott

Oil on board, 2022

80 x 60 cm

R9 500.00



FLOW

Tanja Truscott

Oil on board, 2022

80 x 60 cm

R9 500.00



STORAGE

Tanja Truscott

Oil on canvas, 2022

88 x 88 cm

R19 000.00



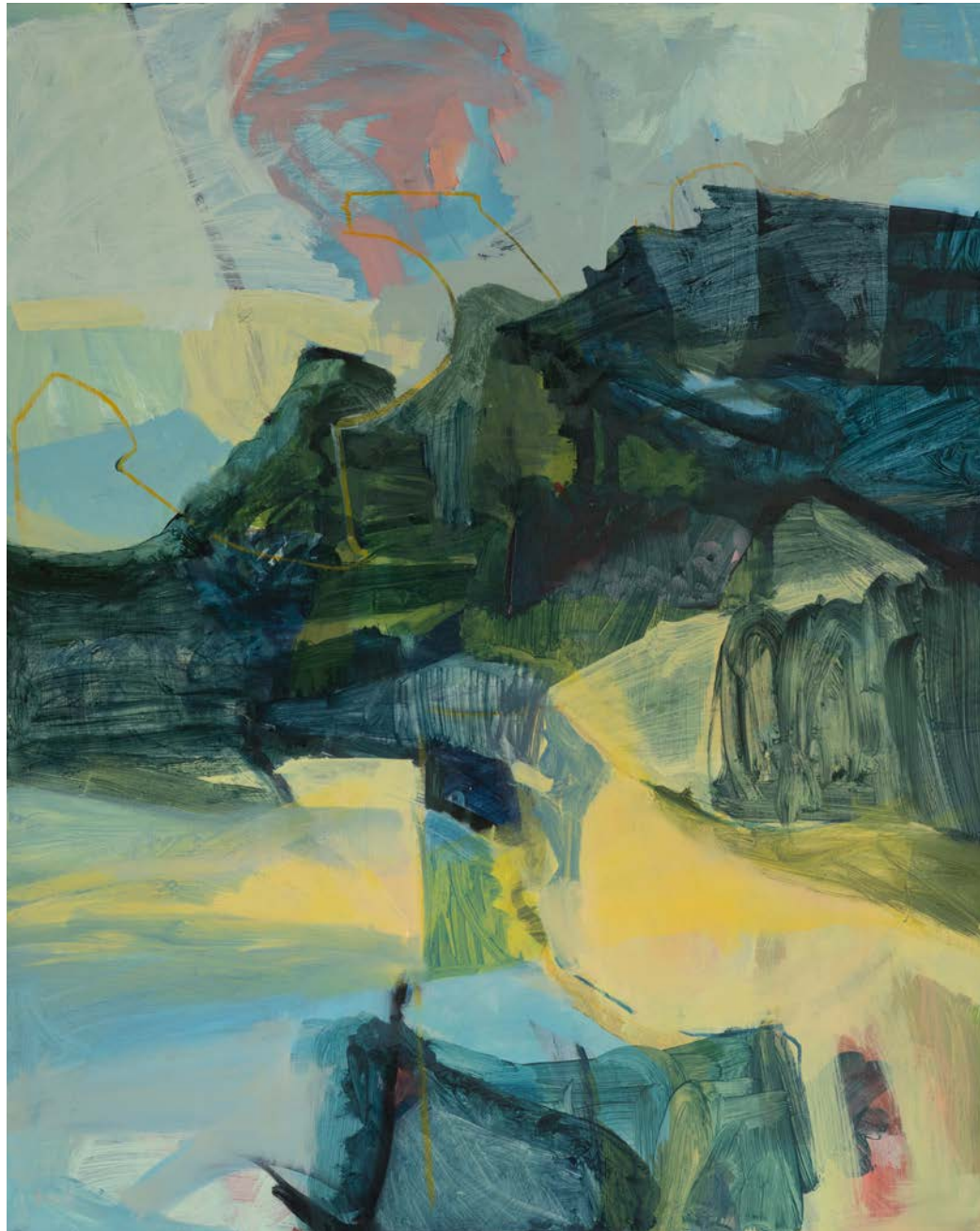
SEEPS

Tanja Truscott

Oil on canvas, 2022

112 x 90 cm

R25 000.00



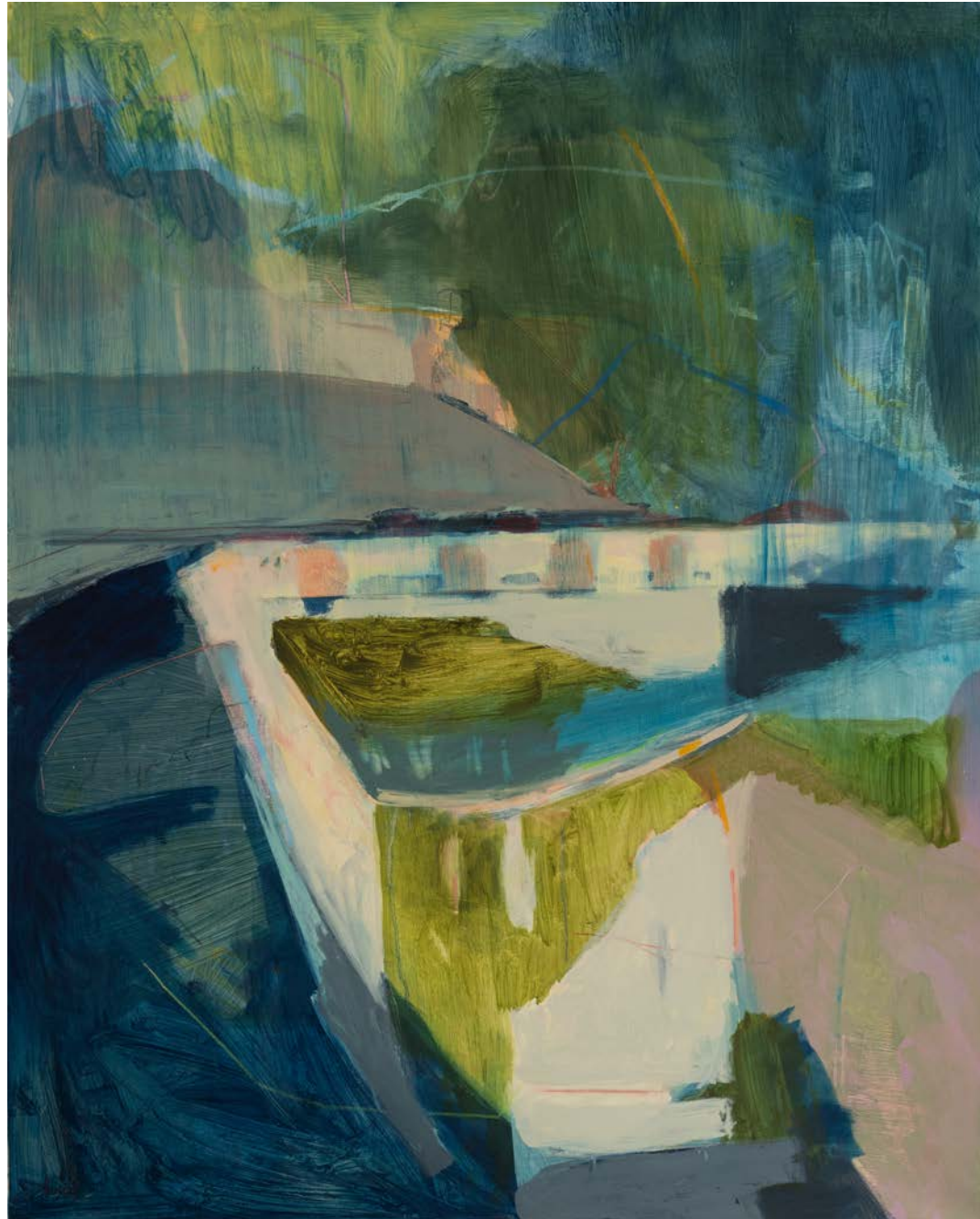
SOURCE

Tanja Truscott

Oil on canvas, 2022

112 x 90 cm

R25 000.00



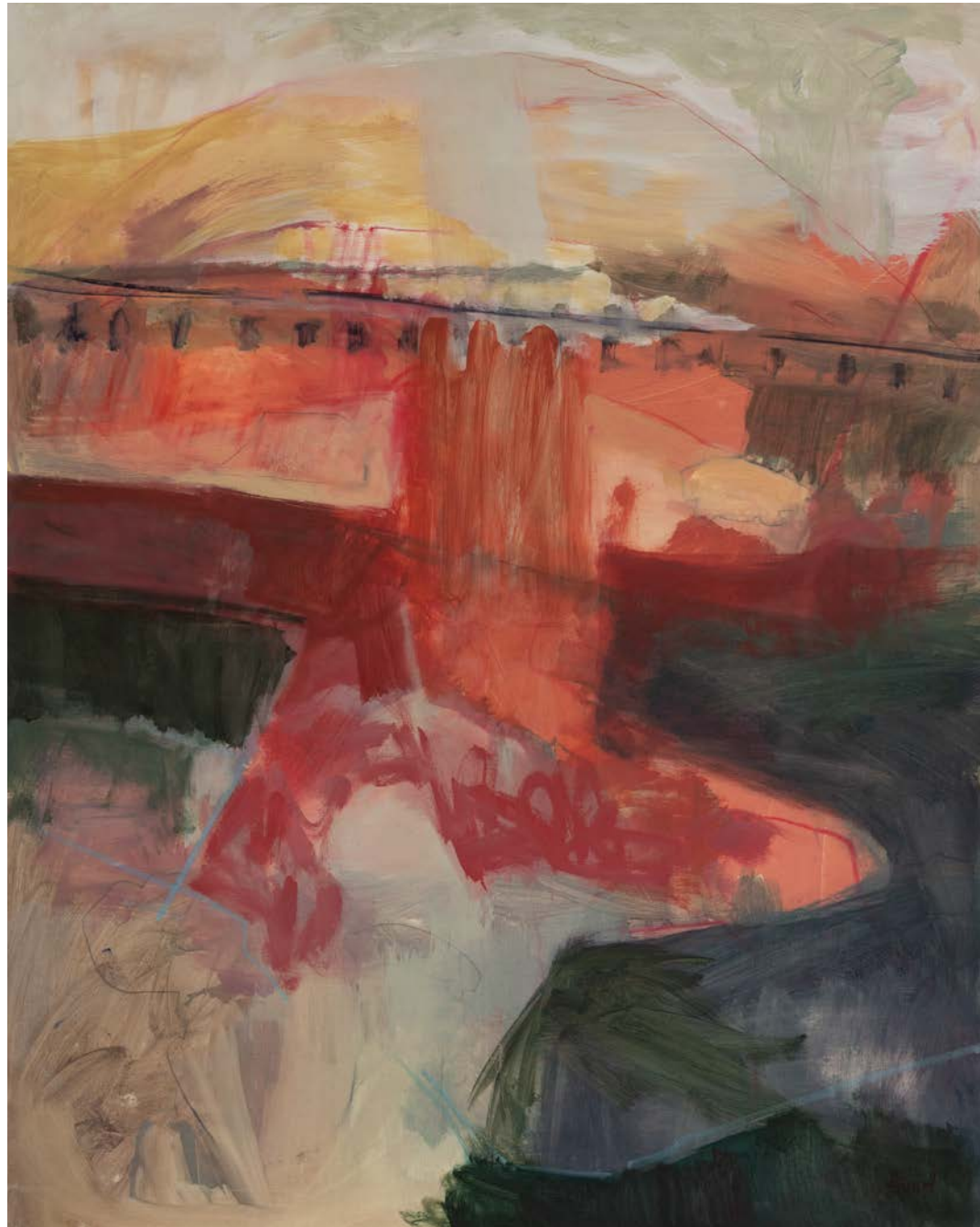
CROSSING

Tanja Truscott

Oil on canvas, 2022

120 x 96 cm

R25 000.00



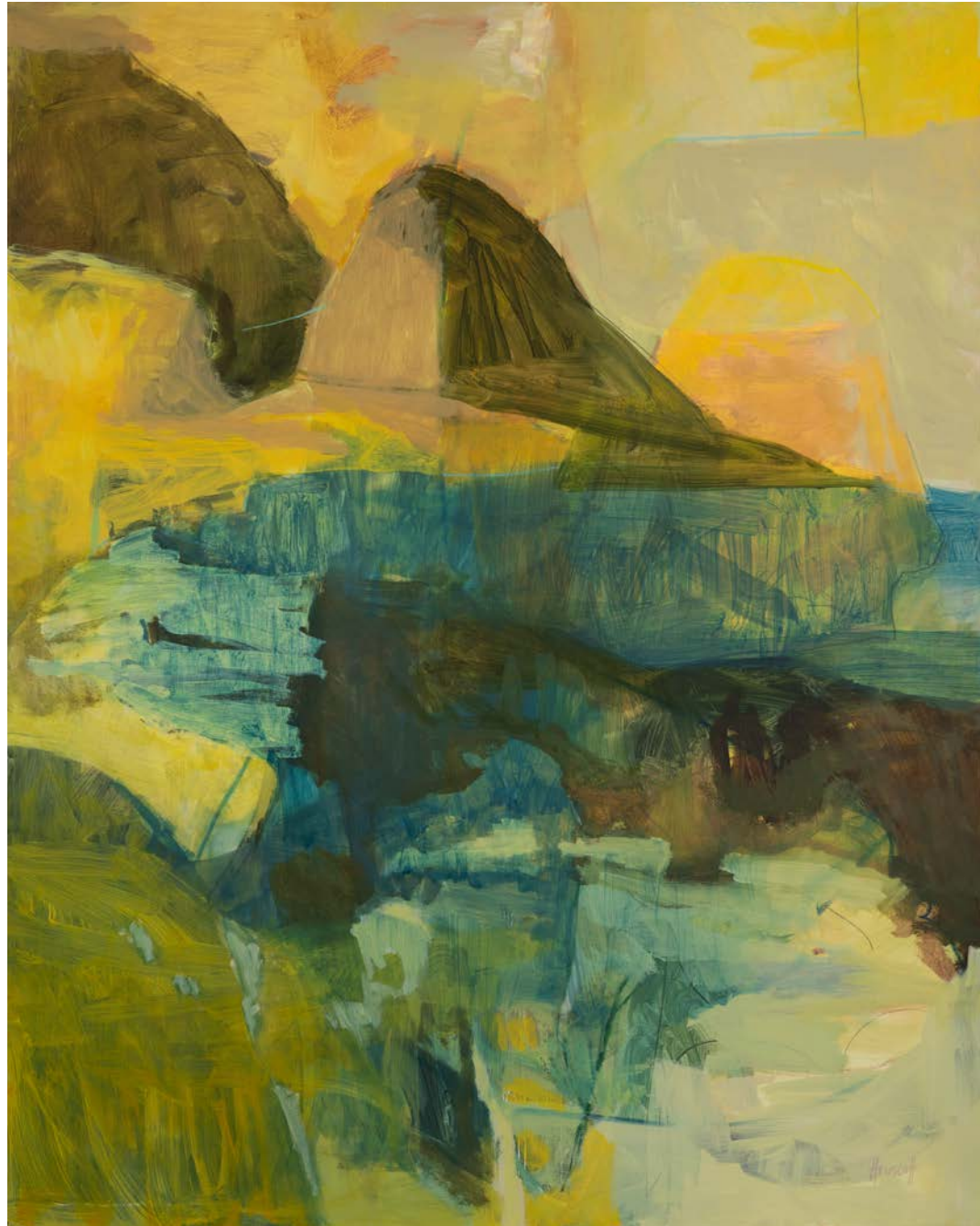
DAM WALL

Tanja Truscott

Oil on canvas, 2022

120 x 96 cm

R25 000.00



VLEI

Tanja Truscott

Oil on canvas, 2022

120 x 96 cm

R25 000.00



VELILE SOHA (1961 -)

Velile was born in Cape Town in 1957. He developed an interest in art from a very young age and was encouraged to pursue his talent. He attended the Community Art Project (CAPP) and studied at Rorke`s Drift Art School in Kwazulu-Natal between 1981-1983. He worked and lectured at the Nyanga Art Centre and Community Art Project, Cape Town.

Velile`s work has featured in several solo and group exhibitions across South Africa and in Namibia, Germany, U.S.A, England, Argentina, Holland, Sweden, Canada and Wales. Currently, there are 239 of his artworks in the Nando`s collection.

“I am a realistic artist,” he says. “I express myself mostly through black township and homeland scenes. My aim is to show outside communities how my own people live. My background is one that many South Africans can relate to. My father is from the homeland of Ciskei while my mother grew up in Somerset Strand and they raised me in Langa, where I still live today. My life in the township, as well as my childhood trips to Ciskei, have profoundly influenced my work. I paint how people live and I see myself as a witness to the lifestyles of the people in my community – their everyday struggles for survival and upliftment. I am passionate about working with and educating the youth in my community and will be the first to admit that when you give a boisterous group of young kids art materials, wonderful mess ensues!”

Facebook: [@velile.soha.526](#)

Instagram: [@sohavelile](#)



OLD SHOES

Velile Soha

Etching on paper, 2022

39 x 32 cm

R6 000.00



TAP

Velile Soha

Etching on paper, 2022

42 x 33 cm

R6 000.00



HOUSEWIFE PREPARING SUPPER

Velile Soha

Lino-cut on paper, 2022

53 x 48 cm

R7 000.00



KETTLES

Velile Soha

Lino-cut on paper, 2022

46 x 47 cm

R7 000.00



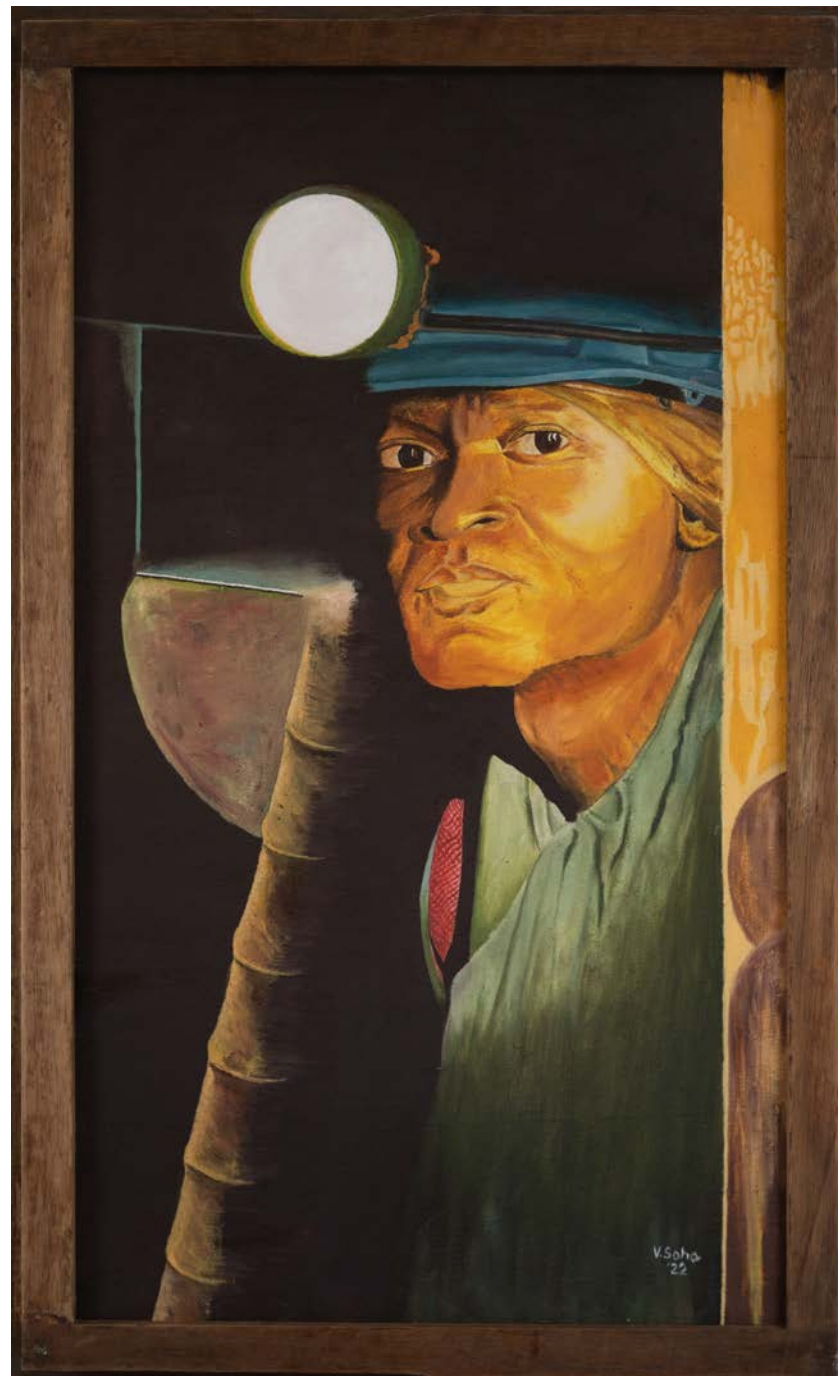
WASHING DAY

Velile Soha

Lino-cut on paper, 2022

53 x 60 cm

R7 000.00



MINE WORKER

Velile Soha

Oil on canvas, 2022

82 x 61 cm

R15 000.00



***MOTHER AND CHILD FEAR
FOR THEIR LIVES FROM FLOODS***

Velile Soha

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

84 x 92 cm

R14 000.00



TRADING STORE

Velile Soha

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

91 x 76 cm

R14 000.00



FLOODS IN THE YARD

Velile Soha

Oil on canvas, 2022

96 x 76 cm

R14 000.00



ARRIVAL FROM THE MARKET PLACE

Velile Soha

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

95 x 76 cm

R14 000.00



QUESTION OF STYLE

Velile Soha

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

101 x 51 cm

R14 000.00



RAINY DAY IN CROSS ROAD

Velile Soha

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

102 x 76 cm

R14 000.00



THE BLUES MAN

Velile Soha

Acrylic on canvas, 2022

102 x 76 cm

R14 000.00



BLEAK VIEW

Velile Soha

Oil on canvas, 2022

151 x 91 cm

R34 000.00

/ 'wɔ : tə(r) /

1 December 2022 - 12 January 2023

AVA Gallery
35 Church Street,
Cape Town
021 424 7436
admin@ava.co.za