

HAZEL WYNN

The
Overview Effect

PREVIEW EVENING
7TH NOVEMBER 5PM-8PM

EXHIBITION RUNS UNTIL 28 NOVEMBER, WEEKDAYS 12PM - 6PM & SATURDAYS 10AM - 3PM

Visit privateandpublic.com or contact Chris Clifford:
+44(0)7797 714 186 | chris@privateandpublic.com



The Overview Effect

For anyone who has ever had that feeling when you fly in a plane and you look down towards the ground and everything looks like toy town. Exquisite patterns appear on the landscape and rivers and tributaries look like silver threads spilling into the sea. I don't know about you, but I experience an overwhelming sense of awe and respect for the beauty of our planet, responsibility for its stewardship, and more perspective on the issues we face in our daily lives.

A couple of years ago, I was listening to the radio when there was an interview with an author named Frank White, who spoke about what he referred to as "the overview effect." He explained that he coined the phrase to describe a profound shift in awareness that astronauts often experience when they see Earth from space. Profoundly affected by the sight of our small, fragile planet hanging in the black void, astronauts frequently report an immediate and overwhelming sense of planetary unity, perceiving Earth as a single, borderless system.

Upon returning to Earth, many describe a powerful awareness of humanity's role and a desire to protect the fragile state of our planet.

After hearing the interview, I felt compelled to buy the book. Once I started reading about this cognitive shift, it made me curious to understand it more and further investigate what awe actually is. I've always felt a sense of natural awe, whether

gazing down from an aeroplane, walking on the beach, wandering through the woods, or staring up at a starry night sky.

I often experience this same feeling when I paint.

A prominent psychologist, Dascha Kiltner, writes about the construct of awe, defining it as an emotional response to something that challenges our understanding of the world, often leading to feelings of connection and transcendence. He believes it helps us better understand what truly matters to us.

This concept resonates powerfully with Iain McGilchrist's research on the brain's hemispheres. McGilchrist proposes that the right hemisphere (RH) serves as the "Master," providing a broad, contextual, and embodied understanding of the world as a living whole. In contrast, the left hemisphere (LH), the "Emissary," offers narrow, focused attention, breaking the world into parts for utility and analysis. McGilchrist's crucial—and controversial—claim is that modern Western culture has allowed the Emissary to usurp the Master, resulting in a fragmented, disconnected worldview that has lost its sense of meaning and awe.

This feeling of connectivity is something I've been striving to achieve in my art. The awe I experience while painting emerges when I work intuitively and embrace a sense of play, allowing the Right

HAZELL WYNN

Hemisphere's broad attention to guide the process. This intuitive approach to capturing the 'Master's perspective' is informed by my study of abstract and historical painters. Artists like Helen Frankenthaler provide a framework for embracing mistakes and playfulness, allowing the creative act to be a spontaneous engagement rather than a planned execution. Similarly, I draw influence from Morris Louis in my use of gravity and multiple layers of veiled colour to explore transparency and flow. Finally, my ambition to convey the sublime and capture the emotional effect of light connects my work to the Romantic movement, particularly the enduring power of J.M.W. Turner's atmospheric canvases.

I intentionally select wooden boards for their uninterrupted flow of natural grain, allowing this organic, continuous line to remain visible beneath my painted layers, establishing a foundational sense of unending life. Subsequent layers of veiled colour build complexity upon this natural and painted continuity, suggesting the rich, deep structure beneath the surface of things. This pursuit of material connection extends to my colour and texture choices, which are directly inspired by the patterns I observe on beach walks. To bring this sense of materiality and texture into my abstract work, I mix sand into my paint. I also incorporate metallic paints (gold and silver) to evoke a feeling of preciousness and connectivity across earthly and cosmic scales.

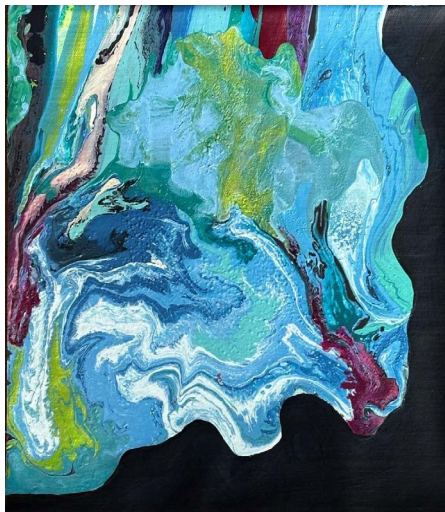
These metallic pigments transform mere colour into light and richness, evoking the valuable resources of the Earth while mirroring the starry brilliance and vastness of the universe. By catching and shifting light, they establish a visual dialogue between the material world (the canvas, the mineral pigments) and the sublime, transcendent feelings of awe and unity, suggesting that the delicate beauty and fragility of our planet are intrinsically linked to the immense, shared structure of the cosmos.

I've spent time exploring the fluidity of paint in an effort to capture an illusion of effortless flowing colours, yet the poured paint remains meticulously controlled. Through a process of trial and error, I tilt and turn the canvas, creating a dynamic ebb and flow. This can be seen as a metaphor for how rivers naturally flow, often altered by human intervention—redirected and dammed to change their course. The result is a pool of swirling colours that invites reflection on both nature and manipulation.

Through colour, texture, and form, my works ultimately invite viewers to feel the forces that bind us. By engaging with these abstract pieces, I invite viewers to connect with their inner landscape, recover a sense of awe, and embrace a unified vision for the stewardship of our planet—mirroring the profound perspective gained by astronauts experiencing the Overview Effect.



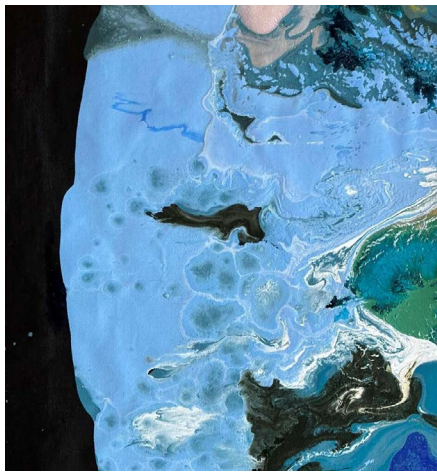
Delta 1, 2025
Acrylic on canvas board
32 x 28 cm
£500 +GST



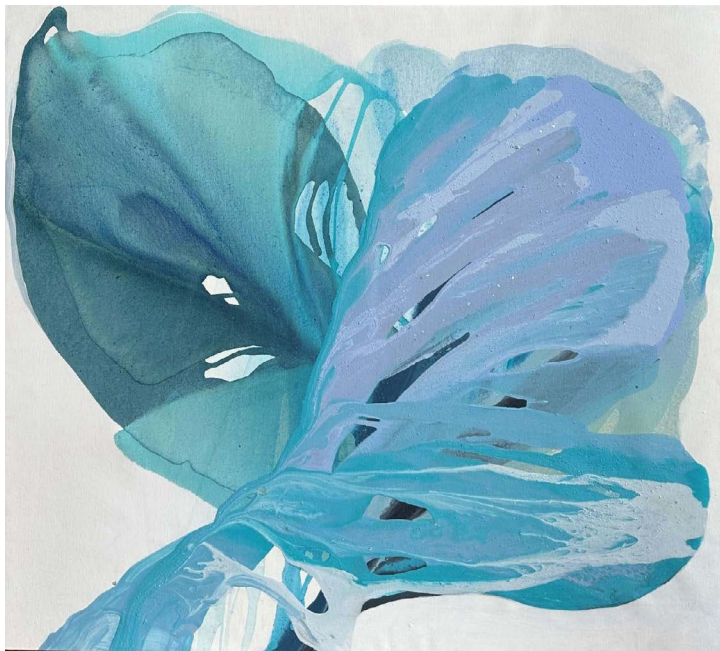
Delta 2, 2025
Acrylic on canvas board
32 x 28 cm
£500 +GST



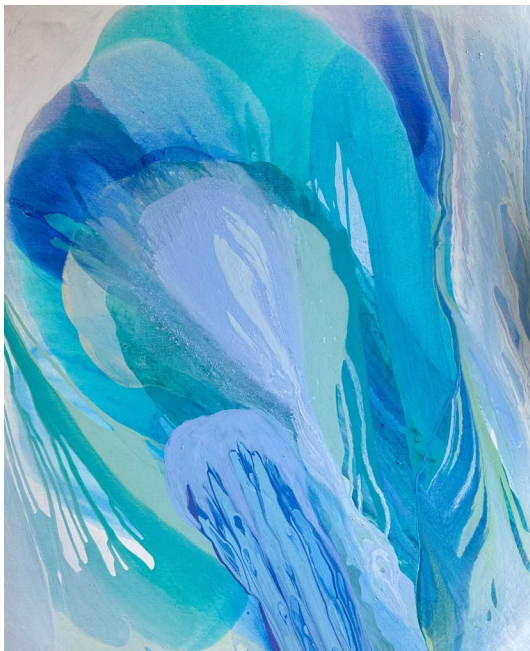
Delta 3, 2025
Acrylic on board
32 x 28 cm
£500 +GST



Delta 4, 2025
Acrylic on board
32 x 28 cm
£500 +GST



Azure Reverie, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
75 x 65 cm
£700 +GST



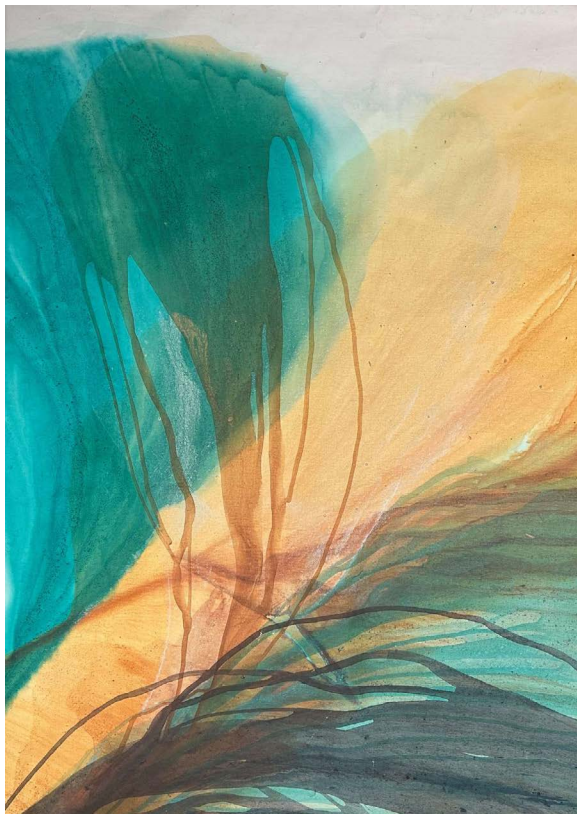
Ebb and Flow, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
85 x 103 cm
£1600 +GST



Rapture, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
59 x 59 cm
£700 +GST



'CN X' 2024
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 85 cm
£1800 +GST



Converge, 2024
72 x 88 cm
Acrylic on canvas
£1200 +GST



Variegate Flow, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
59 x 59cm
£1500 +GST



Plumes and flow, 2025
48 x 74 cm
Acrylic on canvas
£1800 +GST

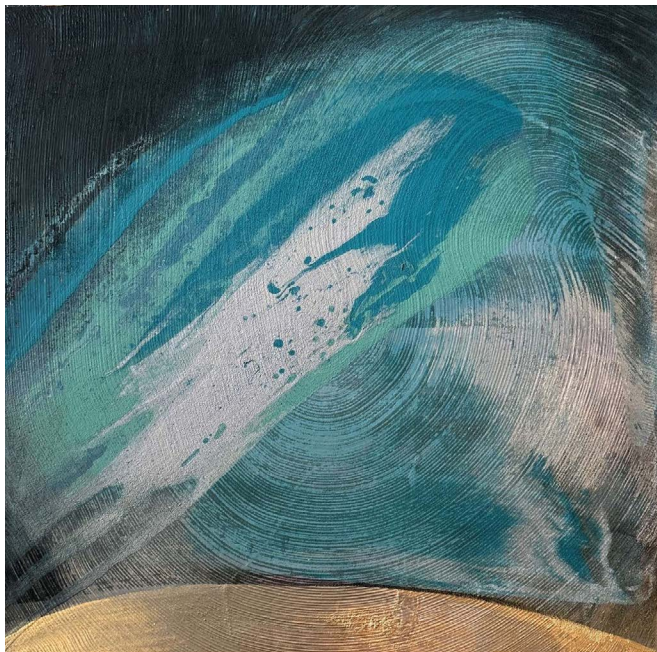


Flow and Merge, 2025
153 x 153 cm
Acrylic on board
£3500 +GST

Cascade Flow 1, 2025
Acrylic on board
122 x 122cm
£2500 +GST



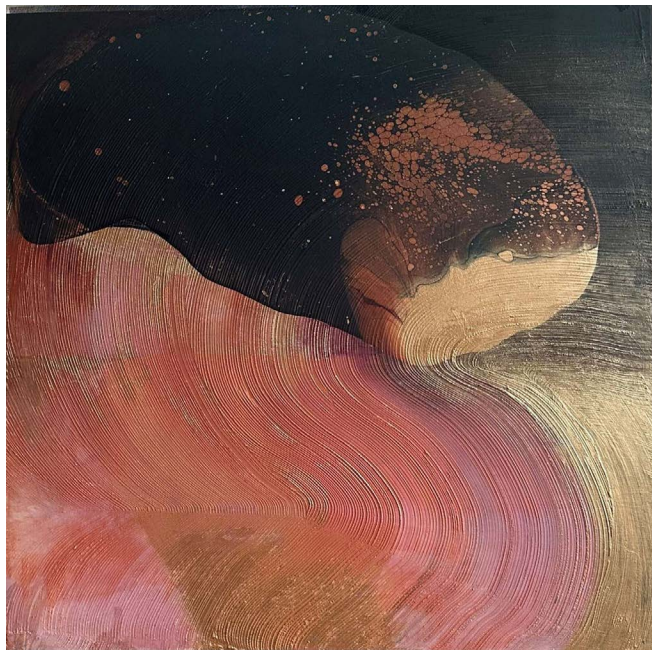
Cascade Flow 2, 2025
Acrylic on board
122 x 122cm
£2500 +GST



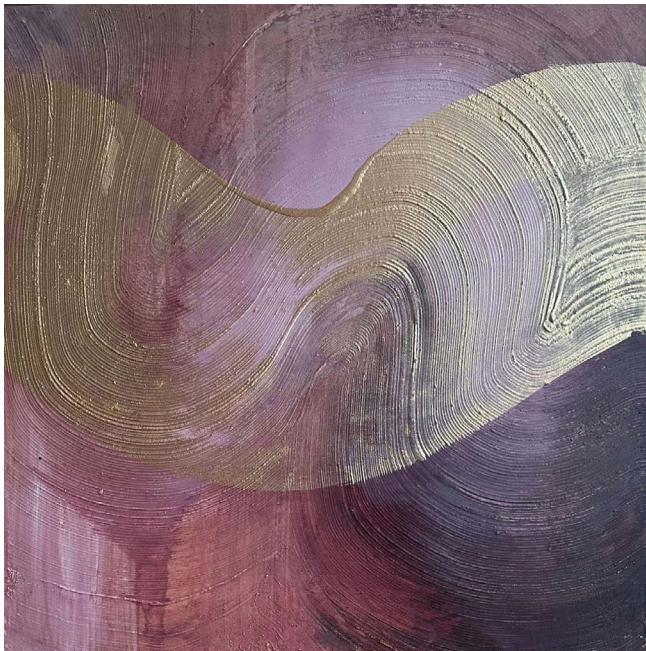
Orbital Embrace, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60cm
£1600 +GST



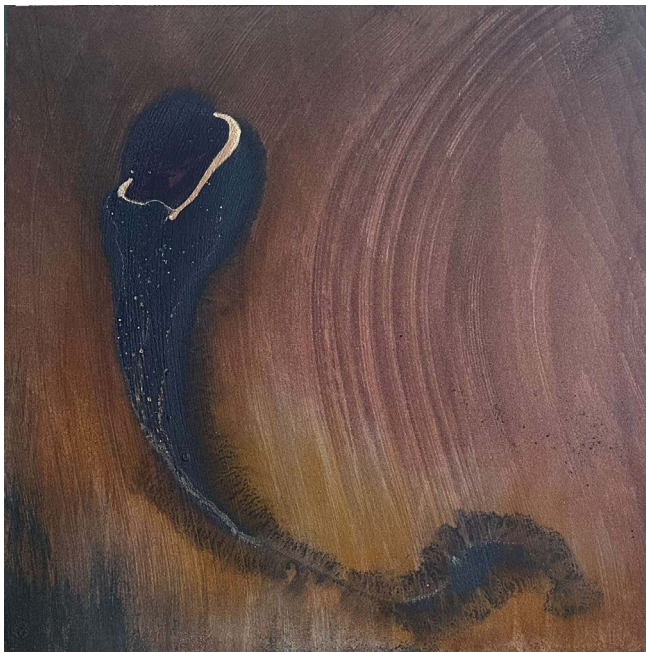
Fusion, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60cm
£1600 +GST



Connect, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60cm
£1600 +GST



Passing Through, 2025
Oil and acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



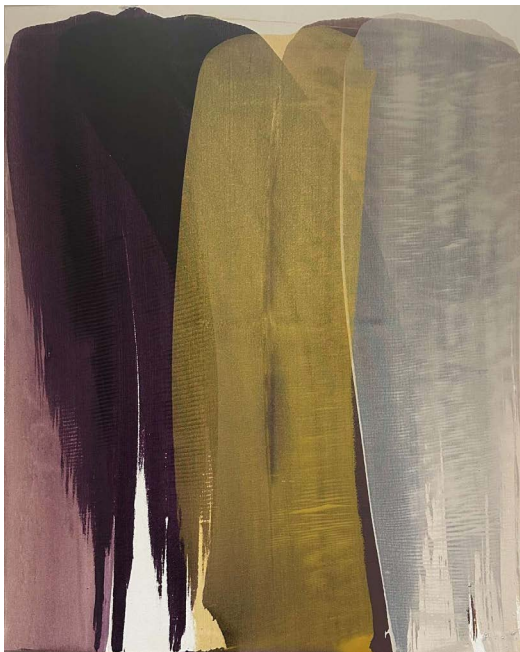
Nebula's Plume, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



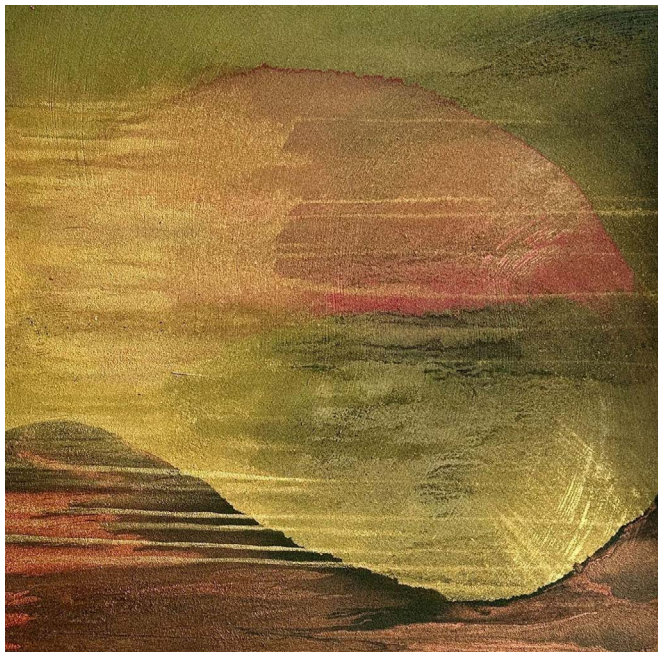
Sulphur and serenity, 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 70 x 85 cm
 £1700 +GST



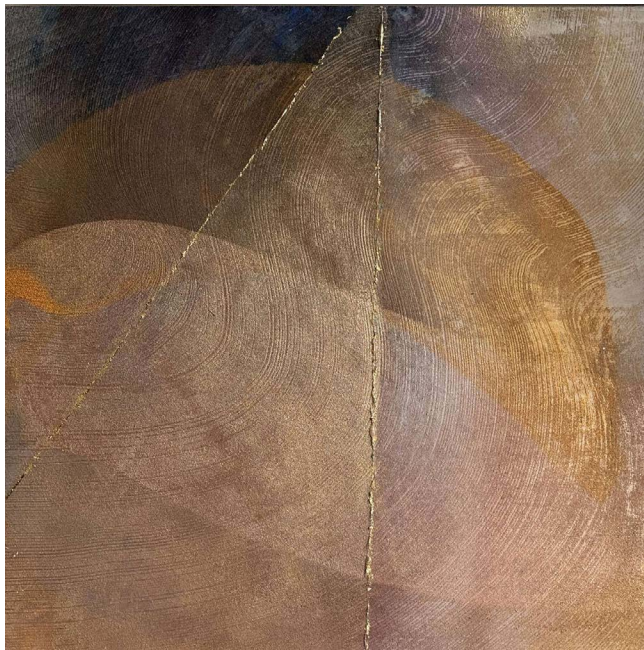
Molten Petals, 2025
 43 x 55 cm
 Acrylic on canvas
 £800 +GST



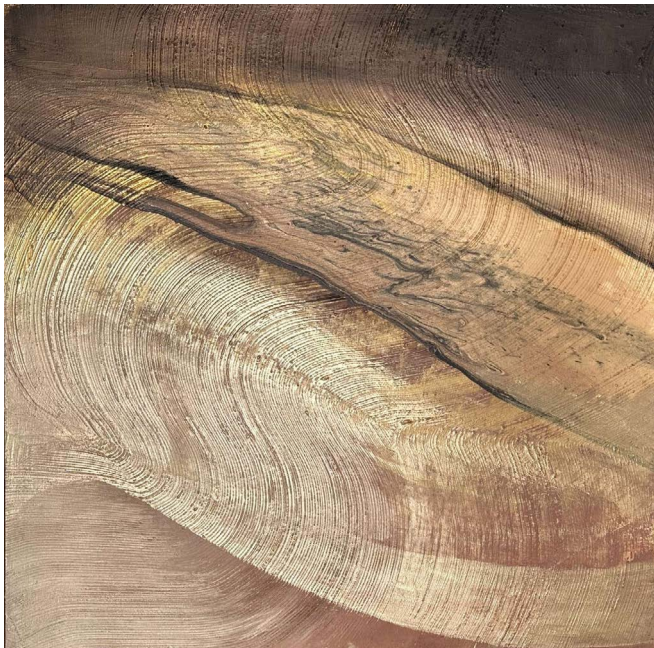
Aura of the Dune, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 100 cm
£1800 +GST



Glimmer, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



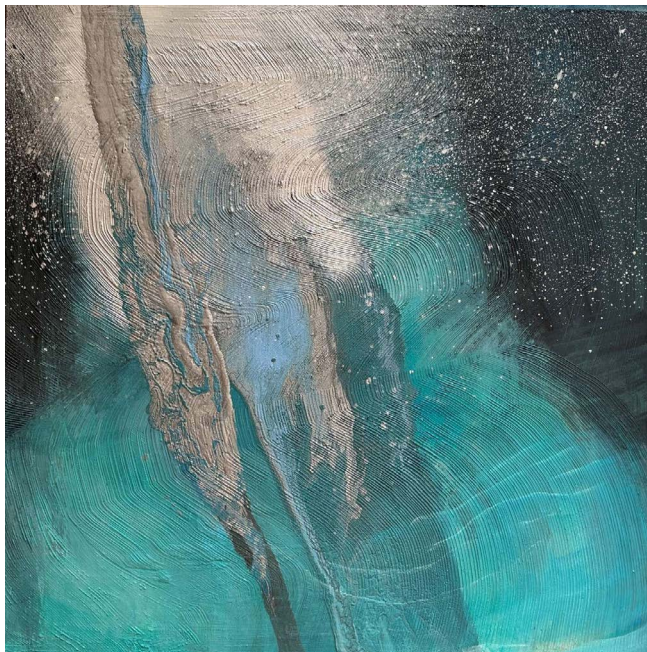
Elenorae, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



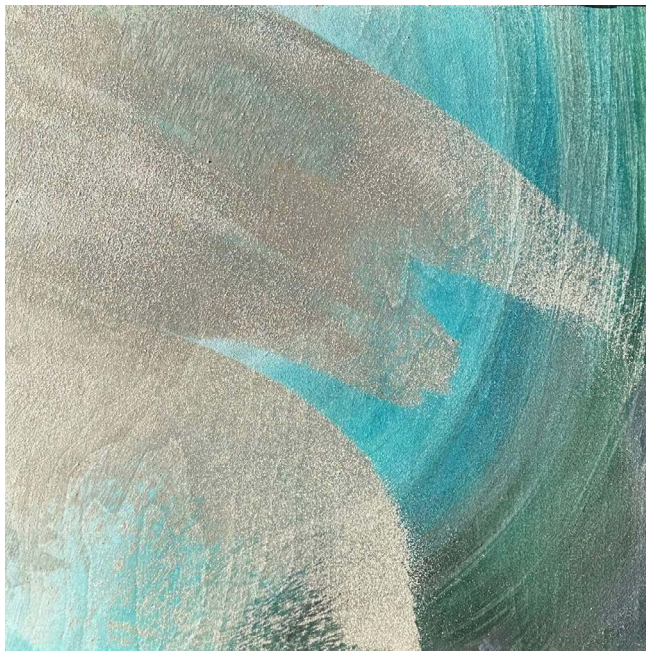
Drift, 2025
acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



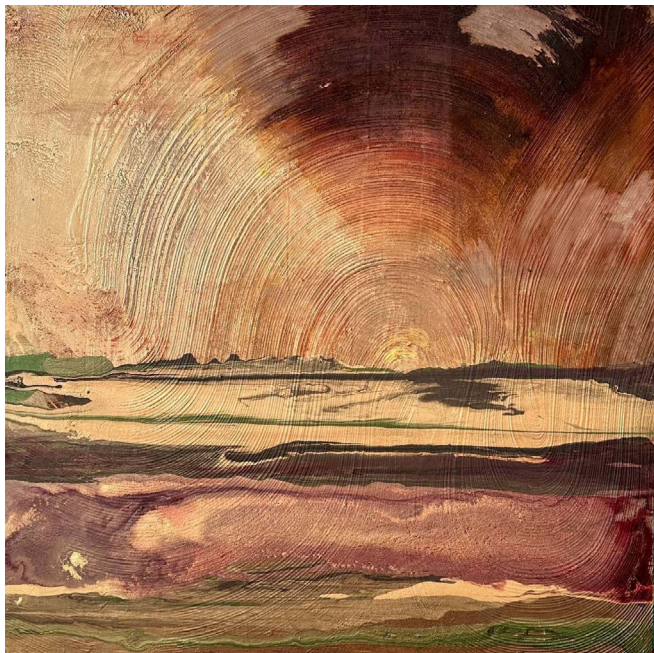
Rippled Nexus, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 100 cm
£1800 +GST



Silver Trail 2025
acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST

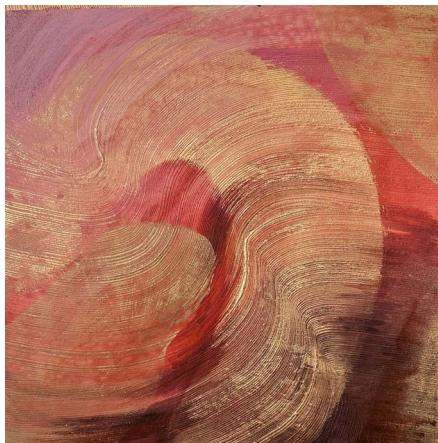
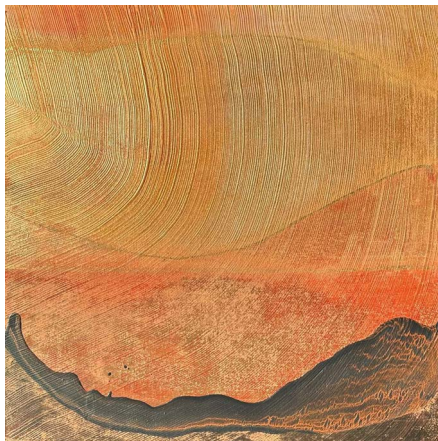


Shimmer, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST

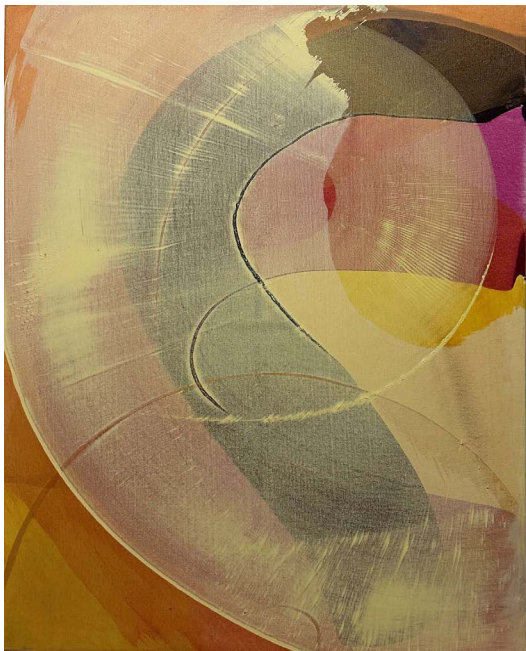


Aura, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST

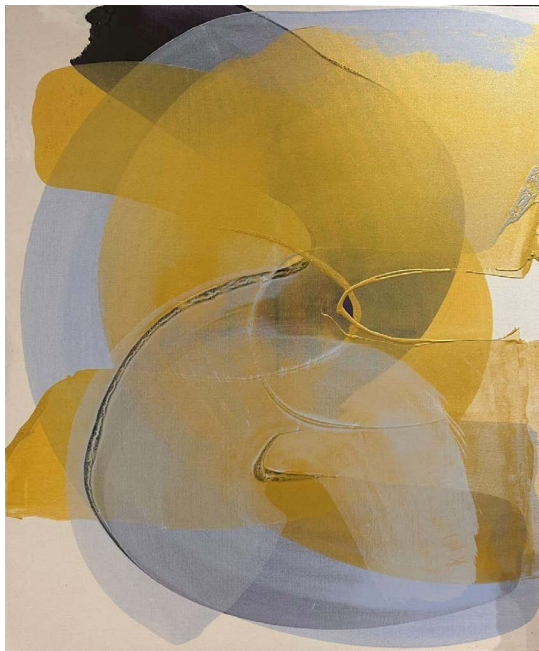
Nagashi, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



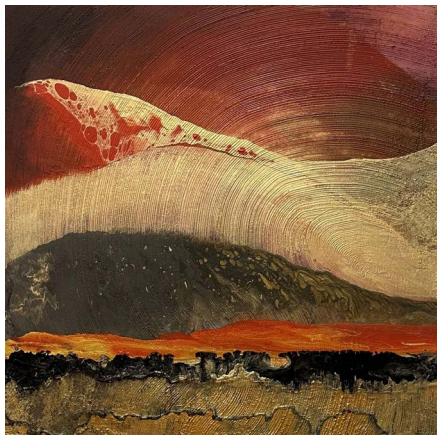
Reflect, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



Midday Ripple, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
80 x 100 cm
£1700 +GST

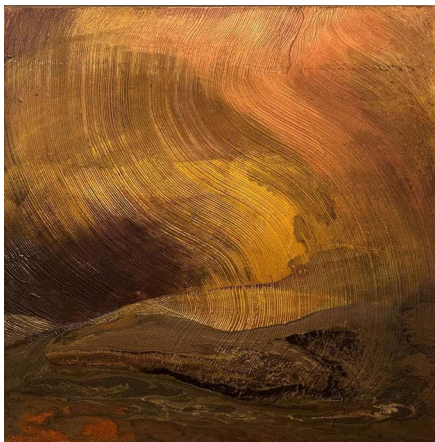


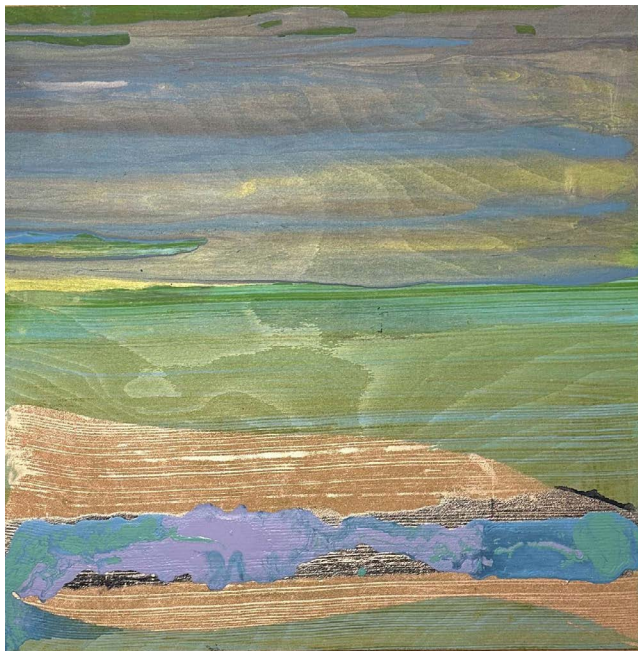
Zenith, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 120 cm
£2200 +GST



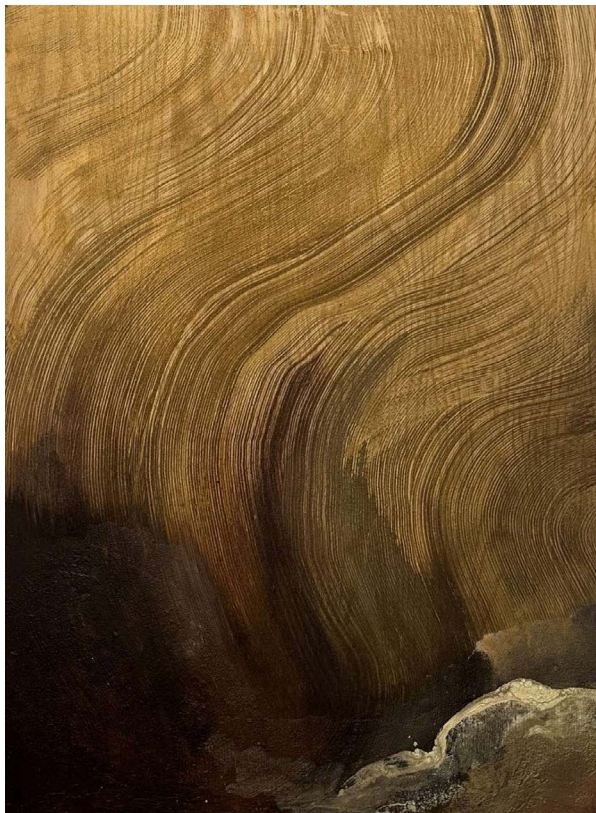
Aether, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST

Nexus, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



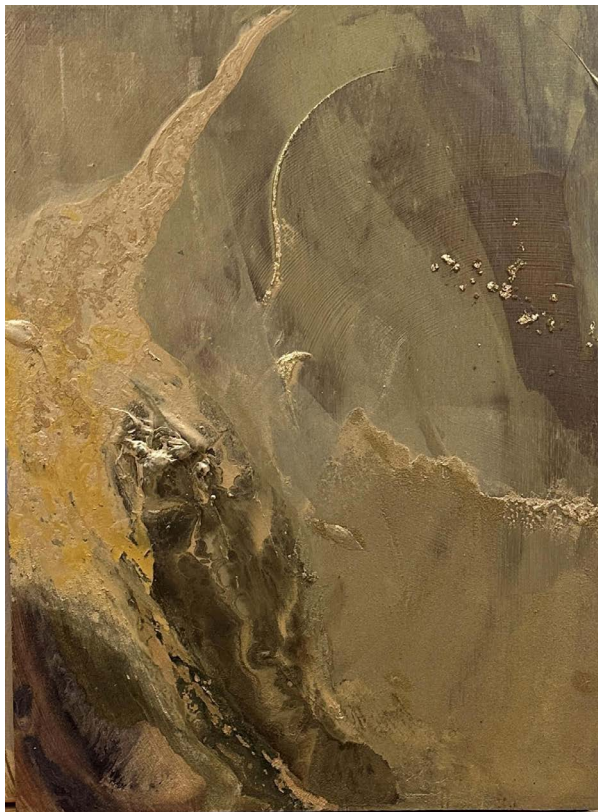


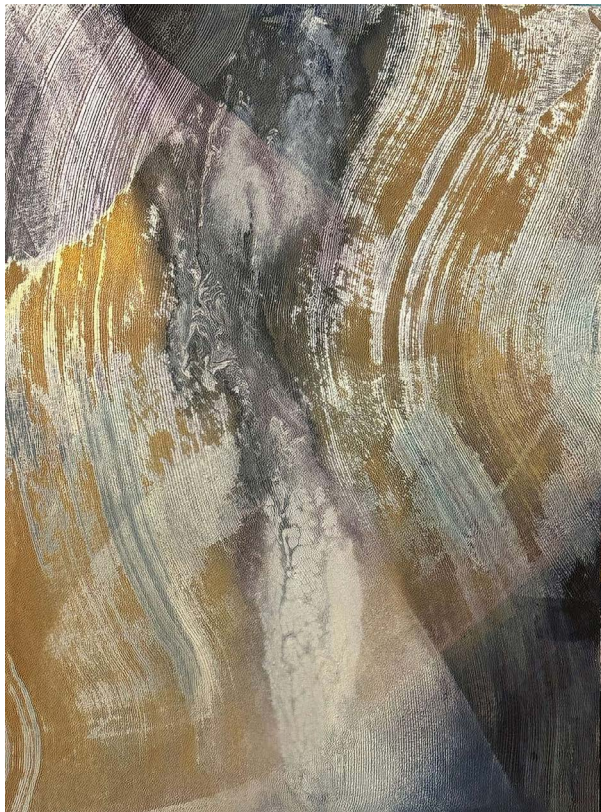
Tidal Ribbons, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



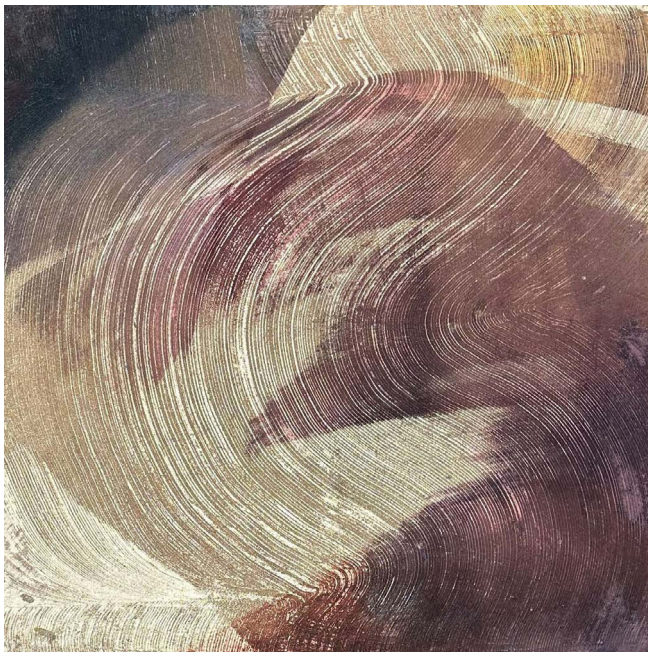
Ephemeral, 2025
60 x 80 cm
Acrylic on board
£1800 +GST

Auric Dune, 2025
Acrylic on board
80 x 60 cm
£1800 +GST

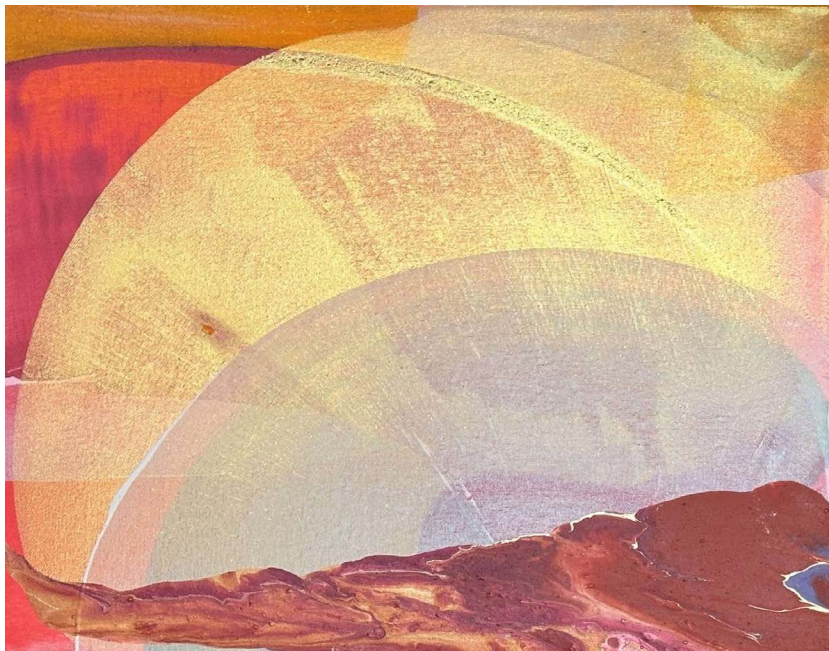




Drift, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 80 cm
£1600 +GST



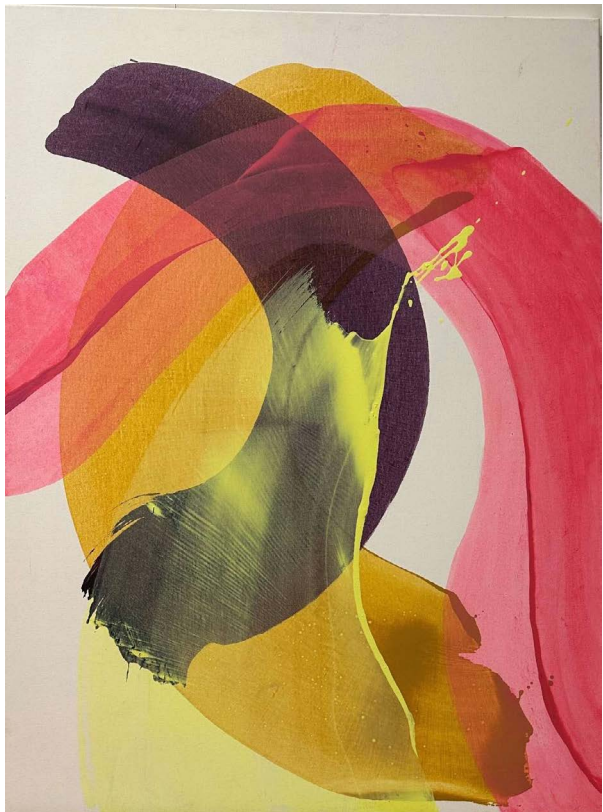
Circum, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



Kineta, 2025
Acrylic on board
46 x 36 cm
£450 +GST



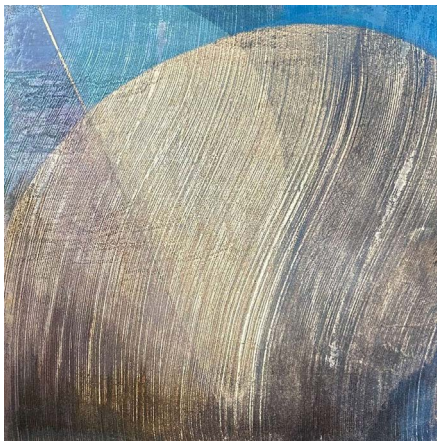
Auric, 2025
Acrylic on board
80 x 60 cm
£1800 +GST



Flare, 2025
Acrylic on board
76 x 101 cm
£1700 +GST

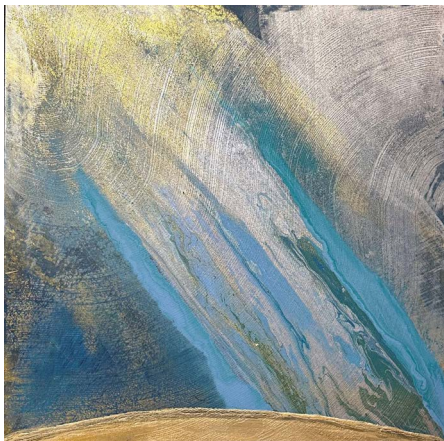


Aureo, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST



Azul, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST

Glide, 2025
Acrylic on board
60 x 60 cm
£1600 +GST





Veridian, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
45 x 36 cm
£450 +GST



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