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EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

FROM AND TO: ReFuge

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18.06.22 - 15.08.22

Curated by Caroline Haller, this first exhibition by Art Dealer Street discusses the perpetually changing condition of refuge or shelter from the unique perspective of seven artists.

Artists featured in this exhibition are Riley Lauren Lynch, Simone Athena Scigousky, Tanja Vetter, Malvina-Carola Liuba, Hildos, Ruben Cukier, and Jean-Luc Feugeas.

These artists grapple with finding refuge, establishing forms of refuge and understanding forms of shelter. Forms of shelter vary greatly, particularly when migratory experiences and refugee experiences are taken into consideration. That form of shelter might be a home or house, but it might also be a transitory place meant to provide the basic means of survival until a better place can be found.

Home might be an unattainable idea or an ideal of the past. Additionally, the fracture of a previous home creates the need to establish new shelter in different means.

And in some cases, when there is no form of shelter, that home and shelter must be created within ourselves.

The body and mind can be a shelter or can be a refuge from outside stress and displacement.

The examination of these forms of shelter and places of refuge proves a timely pursuit. This exhibition highlights the cyclical, everchanging and unpredictable forms of shelter and refuge for artists as changing ideals of the domestic home cause dissonance within our international society.

Due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, more than 5 million refugees have left Ukraine, with far more displaced from their homes.

This humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is sadly but one of the many refugee crises that have taken place in the last few decades or that continue to take place and dispel millions of people from their homes and countries.

These crises force refugees to take shelter in countries other than their own.

Refugees are typically ostracized and often victims of hate crimes. In addition to missing their homes and cultures, refugees are forced to embrace new cultures and new ideas of home and refuge.

This exhibition features the experiences and ideas of artists who interpret forms of shelter, refuge and the ideas of home. Many of the pieces included in this exhibition show the idea of domesticity in discord and the breaking down of a cultural normative idea of what a perfect home means.

These artists all share, in their practice, an examination of the physical spaces or forms of shelter, refuge and safety. Their experiences underscore the idea of finding and questioning the perfect home, shelter, or domesticity with the fractured nature of refuge in today's world.

The Artists

Riley Lauren Lynch

Riley Lauren Lynch is an interdisciplinary artist from Chicago, Illinois. Their fibre-base works utilizes themes of labor, domesticity and healing through the solace and comfort of “home.”

Lynch’s *We Were All There Once* is based on a rug from Lynch’s childhood memories. Thus, it

serves as an ode to the home and environment that is a place of refuge and belonging for them.

North Lizzie, as a multi-media fibre collage, questions the designation of the medium as “craft” as opposed to fine art through the examination of the prejudice towards domestic pursuits.



Riley Lauren Lynch

North Lizzie

2022

Fibre collage with caning, fringe, sea glass, crystal, beads, suede, cotton and pleather

\$ 295.00



Riley Lauren Lynch

We Were All There Once

2021

Embroidery and beads on muslin

\$ 375.00

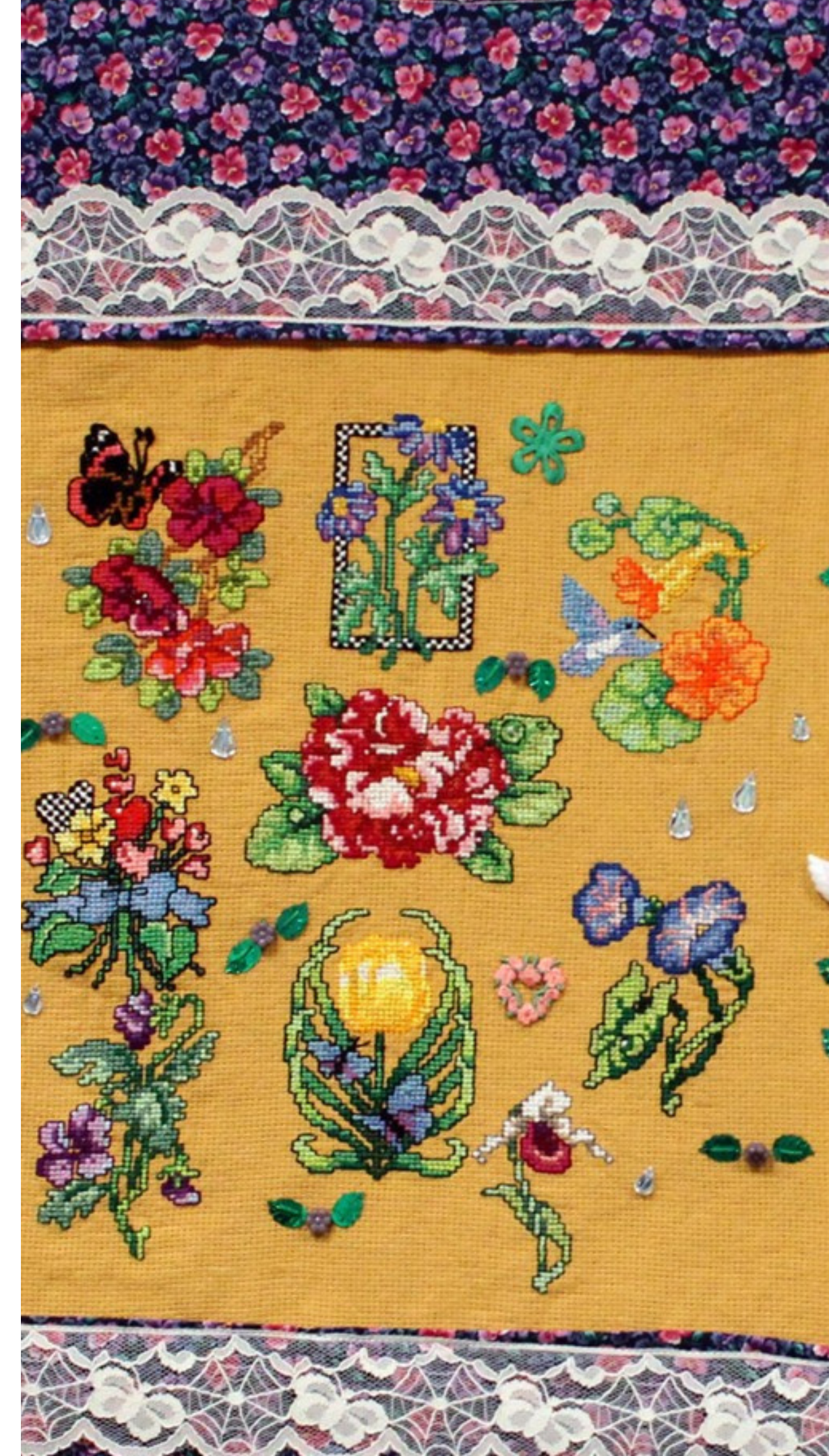


The Artists

Simone Athena Scigousky

Chicago-based artist, Simone Athena Scigousky's art highlights the relationship between their Greek, American, queer, feminine identity, and the world around them.

Their childhood home and memories of the past are juxtaposed with their present identity. Scigousky's art finds itself at a crossroads of several timely themes: femininity, domesticity, queerness, comfort and resistance. Featuring a technicolor palette, Scigousky's *Tending My Yard* investigates use of stereotypically "domestic" materials in a lively way which challenges long held beliefs about domesticity and identity.



Simone Athena Scigousky

Tending My Yard

2021

Fabric, Aida cloth, grandmother's embroidery floss, sequins, beads, and appliqué patches. Original cross-stitch patterns from thrifted Bucilla flower design playing card deck.

\$ 2,500.00

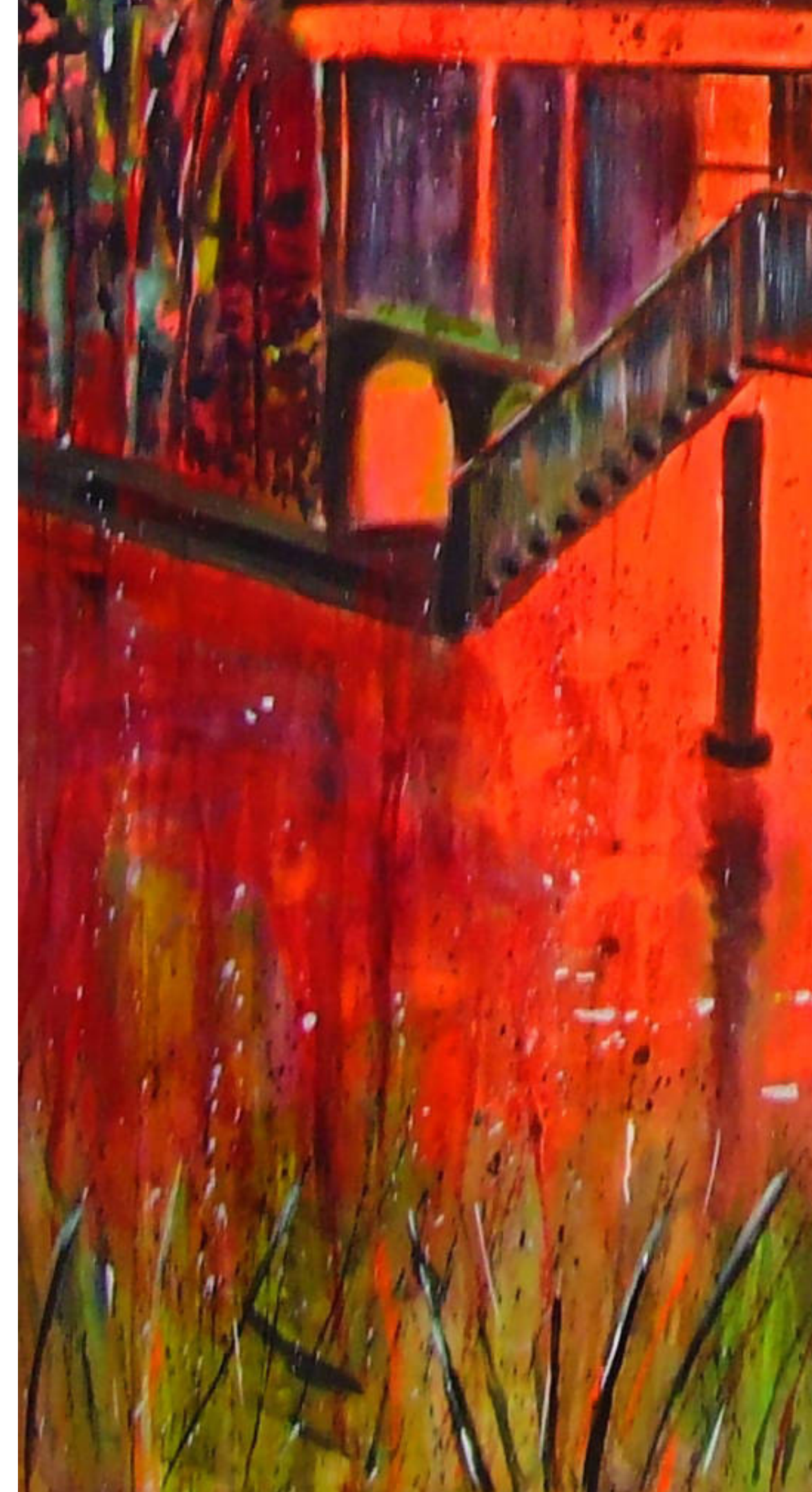


The Artists

Tanja Vetter

Tanja Vetter is a German artist whose canvases *Refuge* and *Spirit of Nature III* are ethereal visions.

The neon colors create a vibrancy which contrasts the natural world. The effect is an aesthetically pleasing but uneasy vision of nature as a form of refuge, if not a mindscape to take refuge in.



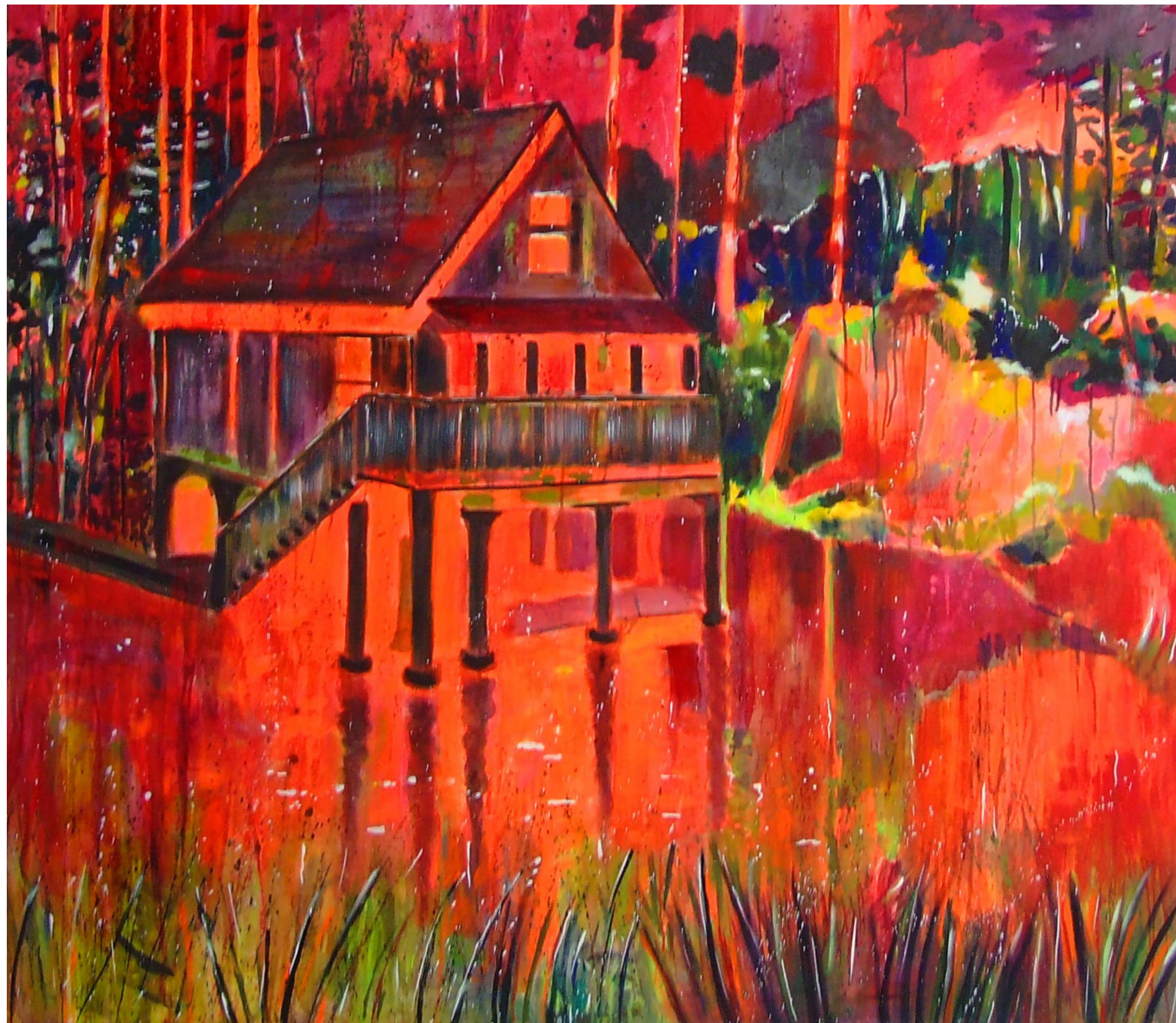
Tanja Vetter

Refuge

2015

Tempera on canvas

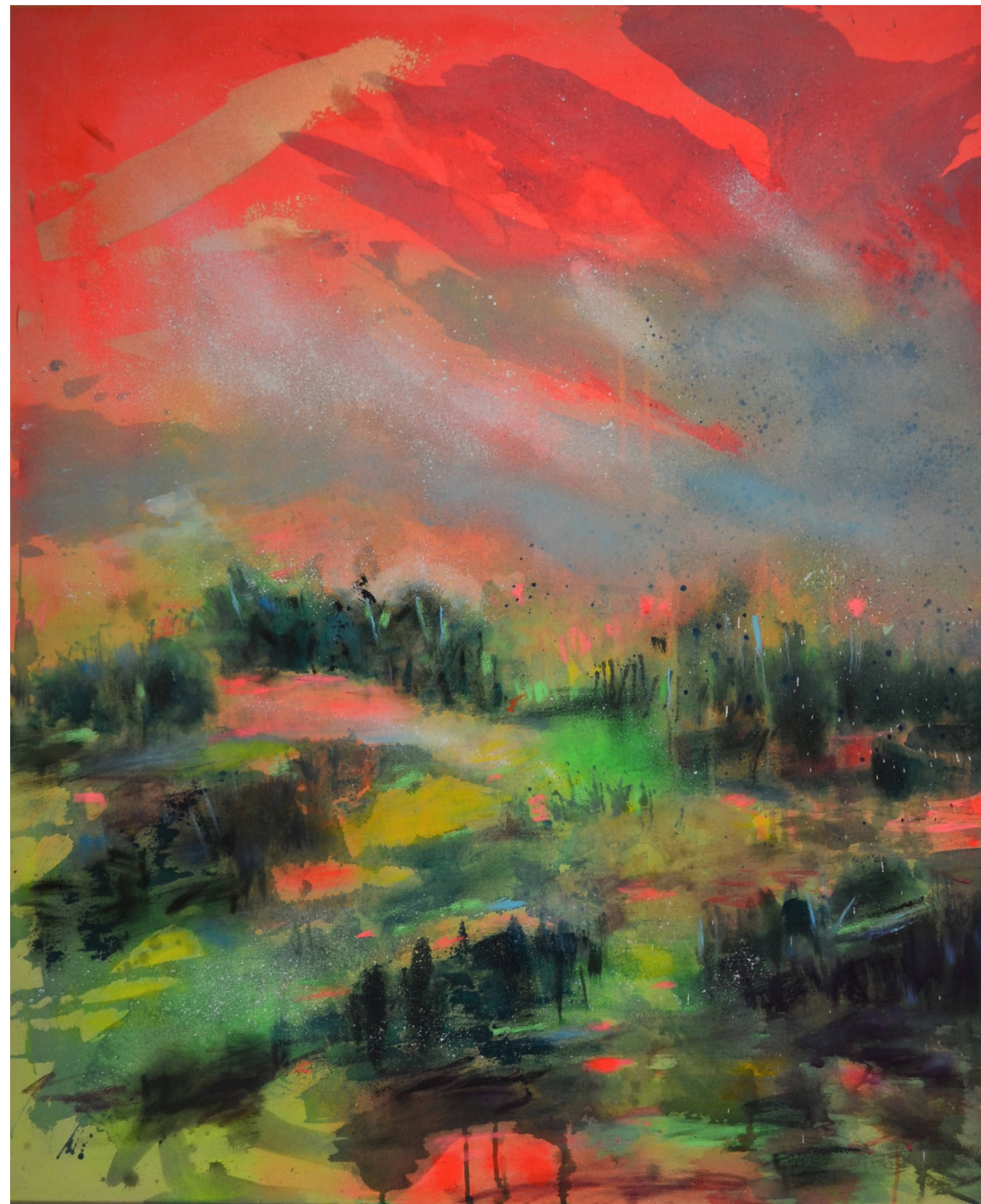
\$ 5,300.00



Tanja Vetter

Spirit of Nature III
2021

Acrylic on canvas
\$ 4,500.00



The Artists

Malvina-Carola Liuba

Artist Malvina-Carola Liuba was born and raised in Romania. Liuba blends abstraction with symbolic geometric shapes to bring her dynamically colorful canvases to life. This is beautifully exemplified in *Glitch 2*. Liuba's painstaking process alludes to the metaphor of bringing order to the chaotic world of abstraction. In *Disquiet of Our Time*, Liuba cuts open the human form to display inner emotion sheltered from the outside. In *Nest*, Liuba builds up hard geometric shapes around a soft center which allows for the viewer to imagine a safe place to nest in the center of the canvas.

The geometric forms in *Refuge* symbolically reference furniture and a physical structure. As the title implies the canvas depicts an abstracted version of a refuge allowing the viewer to consider their own spaces of refuge.



Malvina-Carola Liuba

Glitch 2

2022

Acrylic on canvas

\$1,000.00



Malvina-Carola Liuba

Oil on canvas

2015

Oil on canvas

\$ 1,00.00



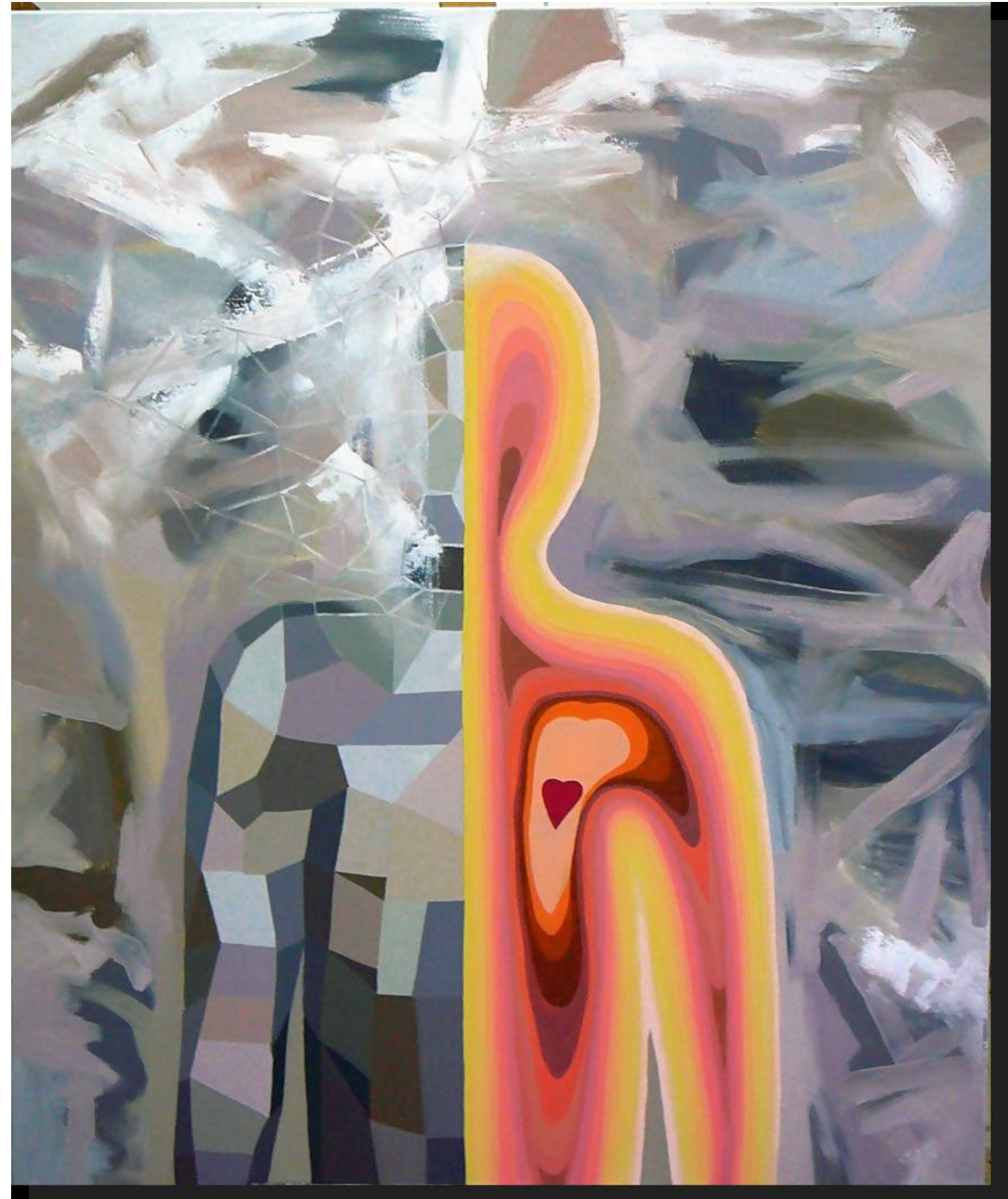
Malvina-Carola Liuba

Disquiet of Our Time

2014

Oil on canvas

\$ 1,050.00



Malvina-Carola Liuba

Nest

2014

Oil on canvas

\$ 1,150.00



The Artists

Hidos

Hidos is a Lebanese-Armenian artist whose artistic career led her from her birthplace of Beirut to New York City.

Hidos is talented and diverse among her pursuits. She has a MA in marketing

and communications, dabbles in theatre, and presented her ideas at a TEDxLAU TED talk event in September 2013.

Hidos's paintings attempt to find security and shelter within one's own body, understanding that the body can be a refuge, but that it is often an imperfect one. In fact, Hidos conveys that the purpose of her art is "seeing the beauty in imperfection." This certainly resonates in the four works on display in this exhibition.

Beginning with *Inside Out* each of her works seem to further develop self-confidence through a playful lens. *Met des Fleurs...Utilise un Drap* features a more complete figure who is grappling with self-acceptance. The third work, *Snowy Sensuality*, features a more careless abandon. Finally, our heroine is able to pass on this confidence to another younger female in *Inner Mending*.



Hidos

Snowy Sensuality

2014

Mixed Media on paper

\$ 5,000.00



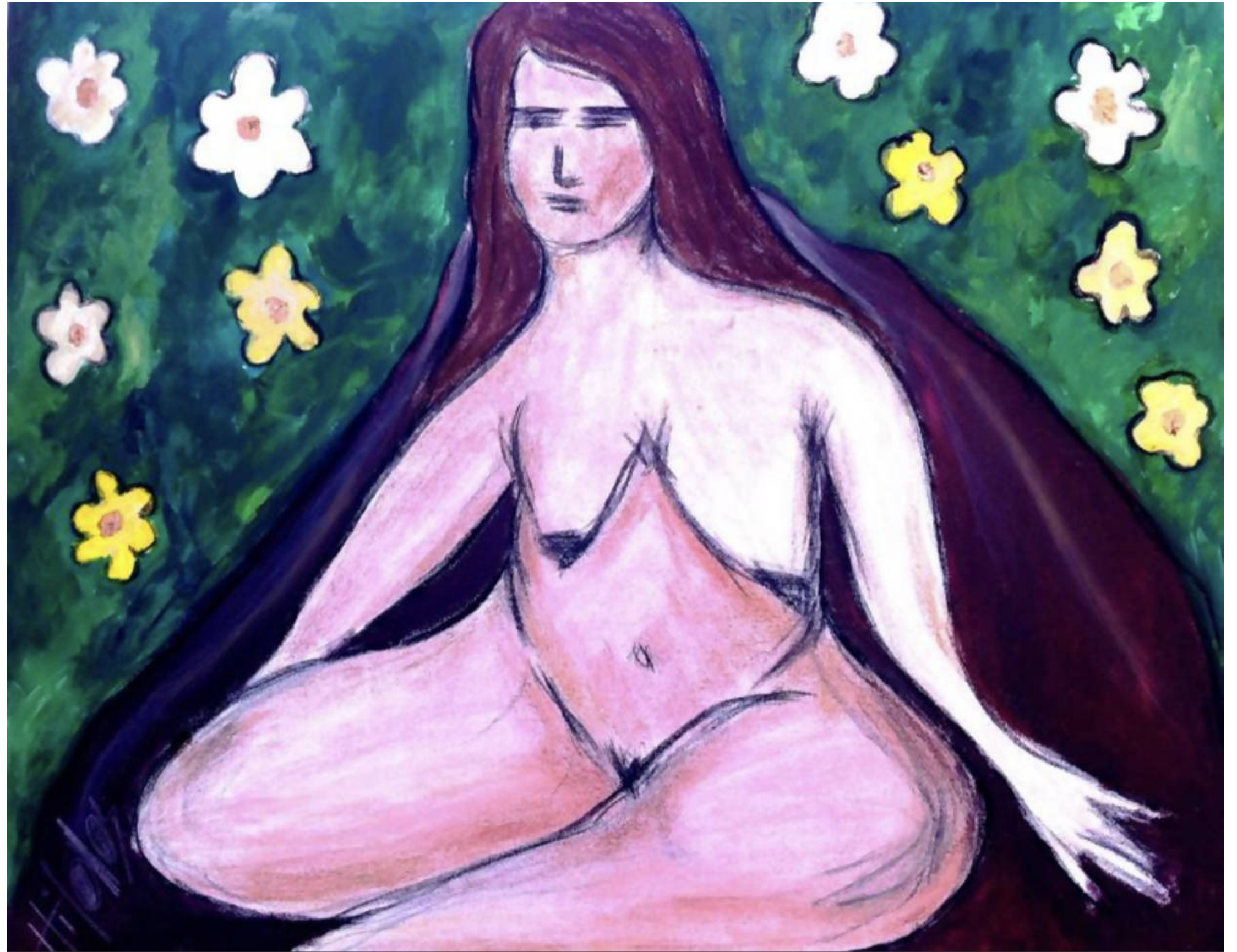
Hildos

Met des Fleurs...Utilise un Drap

2012

Mixed Media on Canvas

\$ 2,500.00



Hildos

Inside Out

2021

Mixed Media on Canvas

\$ 4,000.00



Hidos

Inner Mending

2021

Mixed Media on Canvas

\$ 7,000.00



The Artists

Ruben Cukier

Ruben Cukier's surrealist genre paintings place the fantastical within minimalistic settings, all while considering the loneliness, or emptiness which can occur in the physical structure of home and refuge.

Cukier's works reveal a psychoanalytic perspective of the deep reality of dreams, nightmares and hopes. His desire for a deeper and less superficial living plays out on the surface of his canvases. Both Think of Nothing and Soledad (Loneliness) show a physical structure of shelter.

The sunlight and porch light in the two paintings evoke a tentative hope. Shadows of War reveals a more somber introspection. Cukier was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina but has exhibited his work in Israel, Italy, Germany, and the United States.



Ruben Cukier

Think of Nothing

2022

Oil on Canvas

\$ 2,500.00



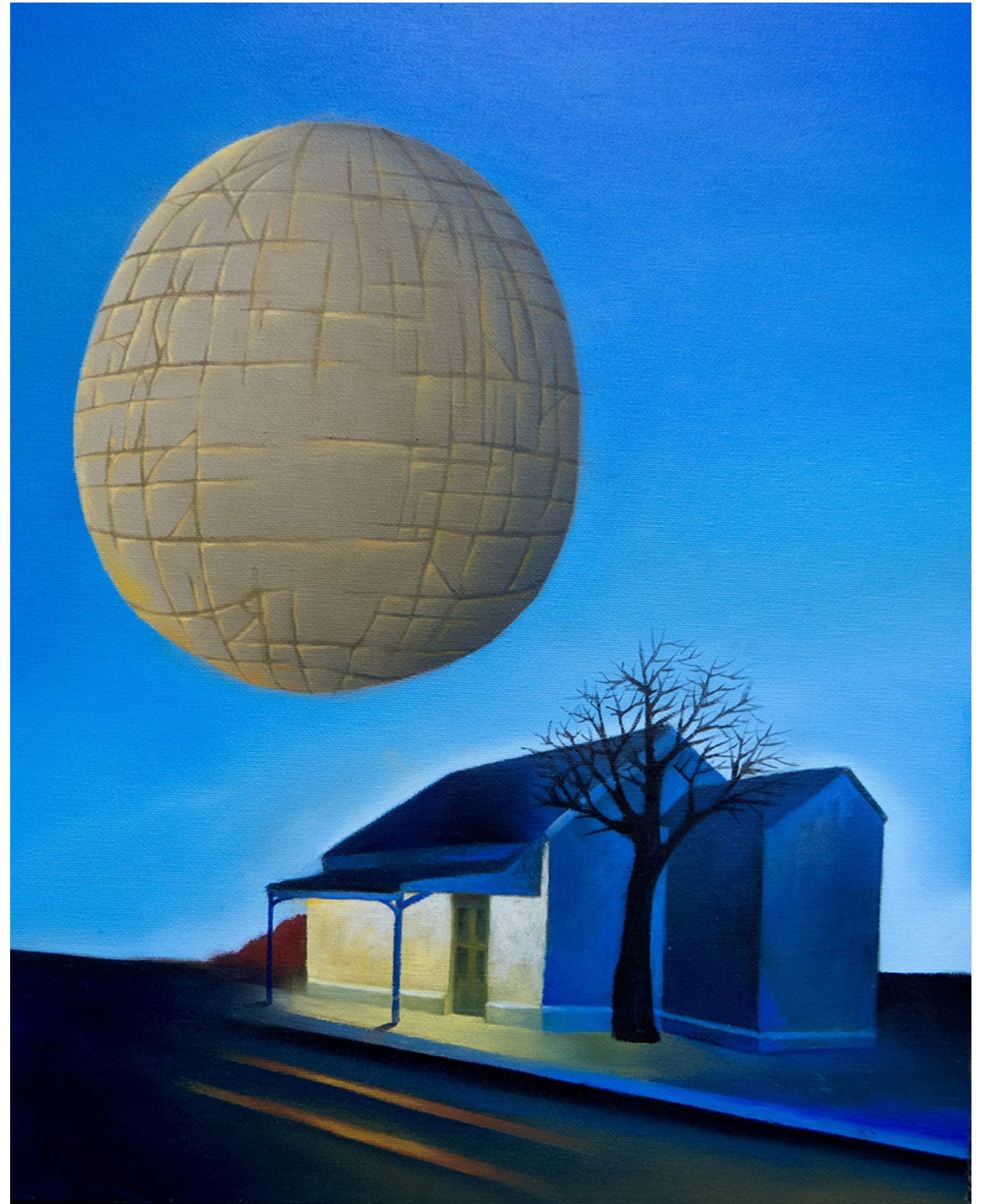
Ruben Cuckier

Soledad (Loneliness)

2017

Oil on Canvas

\$1,200.00



Ruben Cuckier
Shadows of War
2022
Oil on Canvas
\$ 2,850.00



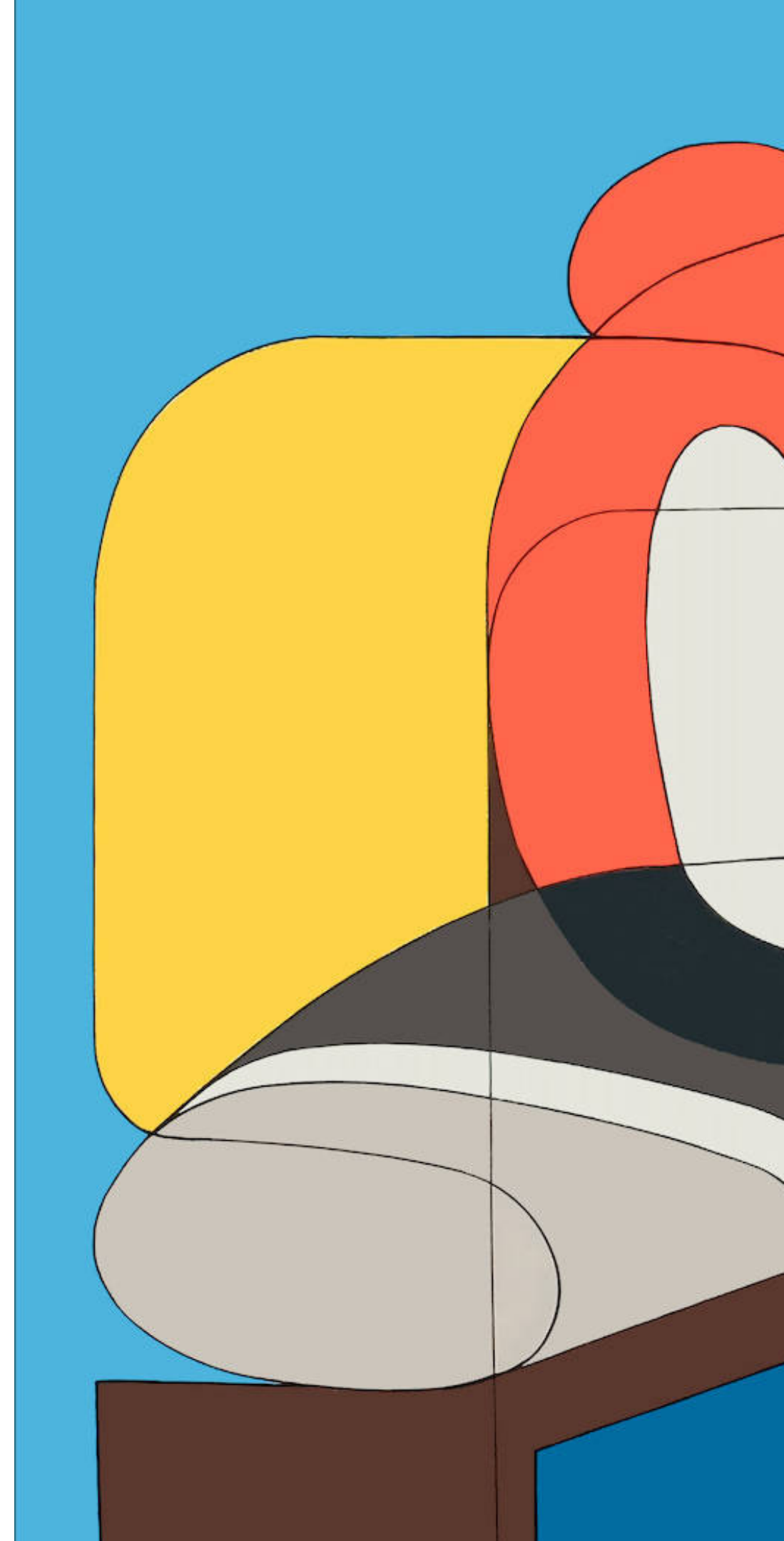
The Artists

Jean-Luc Feugeas

French painter, Jean-Luc Feugeas's *Un Sauvage* was created for the Festival of Urban Art in Dax, France in 2019, as a public mural project. Feugeas has a PhD in mathematics.

His university research in theoretical physics guides his practice and rules of perspective and geometric principles are evident on the surface of his paintings. The figure represented has departed for a better life but is shipwrecked. The survivors are abandoned at sea in a makeshift boat.

The hot sun and vast sea consume their hope. These migrants are treated like savages by the people that live in the "better world," which they had hoped to be a part of. Feugeas wrote, "This is the story of a rescue that will never come." In *Un Sauvage*, the fragmentary blocks of color add an element of whimsiness to the sense of longing and hopelessness.



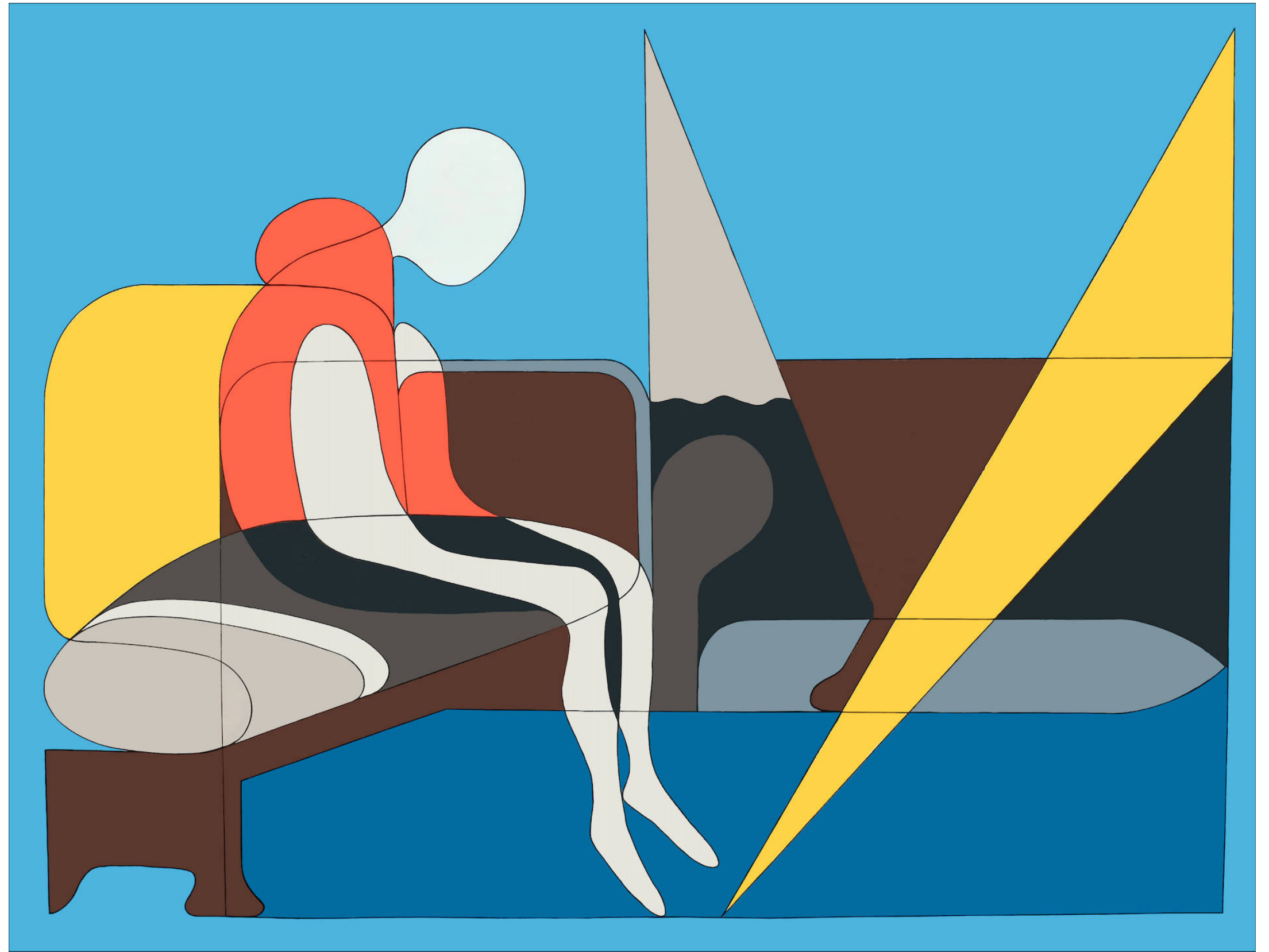
Jean-Luc Feugeas

Un Sauvage

2019

Acrylic on Canvas

\$ 9,730.00



We all acknowledge that refuge, home and shelter mean so many different things to everyone.

We can attempt to build an inclusive world in which those that are displaced from their homes, or typical forms of shelter, can find safe spaces for refuge.

Hopefully, this exhibition has caused you, the viewer, to consider what shelter and acceptance mean from a variety of different perspectives and understandings.

Caroline Haller
Curator

