

An abstract painting featuring a dark, thick, diagonal stroke in the center. The background is composed of various colors including yellow, orange, red, and blue, with some areas appearing to have a grid or window-like pattern. There are also some dark, swirling lines at the bottom.

EDWINA CORLETTE

JAMES DRINKWATER

You Could Just Make a Painting and Write It All In There — New Paintings From The Slip Room

3 - 23 May 2023

THE SLIP ROOM

I didn't wipe my tears in case I'd miss something
The sea in her mind while she sleeps
In from the coast
With a galaxy of freckles collected
only stars and starfish

When you are really out at sea
I will ventilate you
For all we really do is leave and return
things we found in the soldier's pool
and passing through the slip room

And don't go to sleep
Because I'll miss you too much
when old painters leave
They are only in the ocean garden
Into evening and swimming on golden minutes

On that beach you became an icon
the morning kitchen after the sea
full bellies of coffee and fruit
As obvious as wind across my face

She said

You could just make a painting and write it all in there

James Drinkwater, April 2023



JAMES DRINKWATER

The intimacy and theatre of family life and everyday events are at the core of James Drinkwater's art practice. Inspiration might be found in the coastal life he shares with his partner and children in his hometown of Newcastle, or in something as obscure as the architecture of his son's vintage Japanese cameras - Drinkwater is drawn to the beauty right in front of him, the magic under his nose.

Throughout his career, which began aged five with classes at the Ron Hartree Art School, Newcastle, Drinkwater explored both abstraction and figuration before developing his distinctive aesthetic. He shifts between painting, sculpture, assemblage, collage and drawing in the studio, but it is primarily painting where his ideas are most fully explored. His canvases are viscous, sensual, and physical, with the oil applied in thick swathes of colour by palette knife, rags and his bare hands. His contemplations on themes and concepts drive both the materiality and the composition.

Occasionally disorderly, often unruly, Drinkwater's works are poetic responses to dense family narratives and personal experiences, and capture the energy he invests in seeking beauty amidst the horror and turmoil of the wider world.

James Drinkwater graduated from the National Art School, Sydney (2001) before moving to Melbourne, then Italy and Germany to further his art practice. A finalist in major art prizes such as the Mosman Prize (2020), Paddington Art Prize (2020, 2017, 2016, 2014), Wynne Prize (2018, 2017, 2015, 2014), Kilgour Prize (2018), and the Sulman Prize (2016), he won the Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship in 2014 and the Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship in 2011. He has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions throughout Australia, and internationally in Germany and Singapore, and his work is held in private, corporate and public collections such as the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Gold Coast City Art Collection, Newcastle Art Gallery, Monash University, Macquarie University, University of Newcastle and Artbank.

Carrie McCarthy, June 2022



The Sea In Her Mind While She Sleeps 2023

oil on canvas

137 x 198 cm

\$26,000



Through the Ocean Garden 2023

oil on canvas

137 x 198 cm

\$26,000

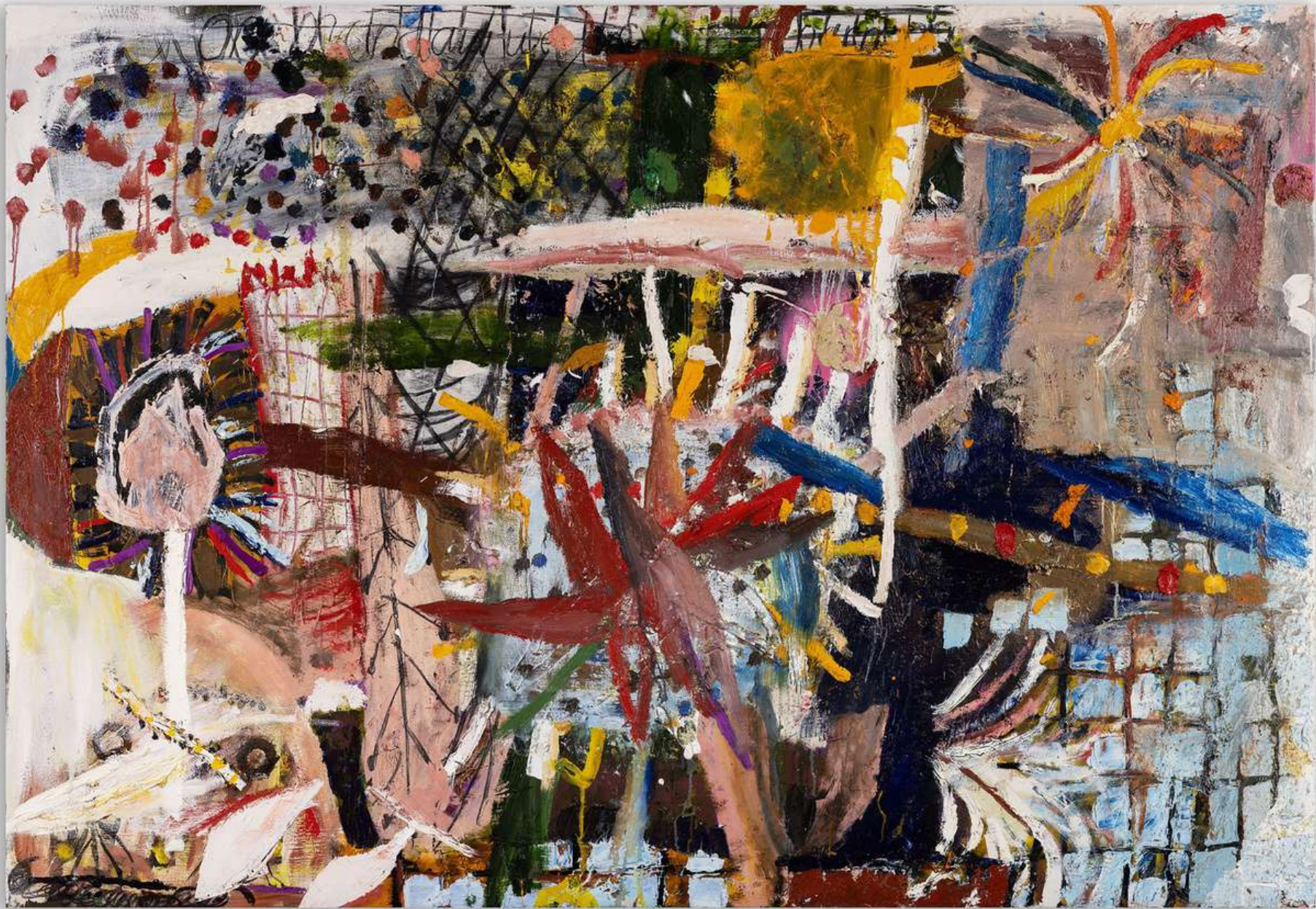


I Didn't Wipe My Tears In Case I'd Miss Something 2023

oil on canvas

137 x 214 cm

\$26,000



Things We Found In the Soldier's Pool 2023

oil on canvas

137 x 198 cm

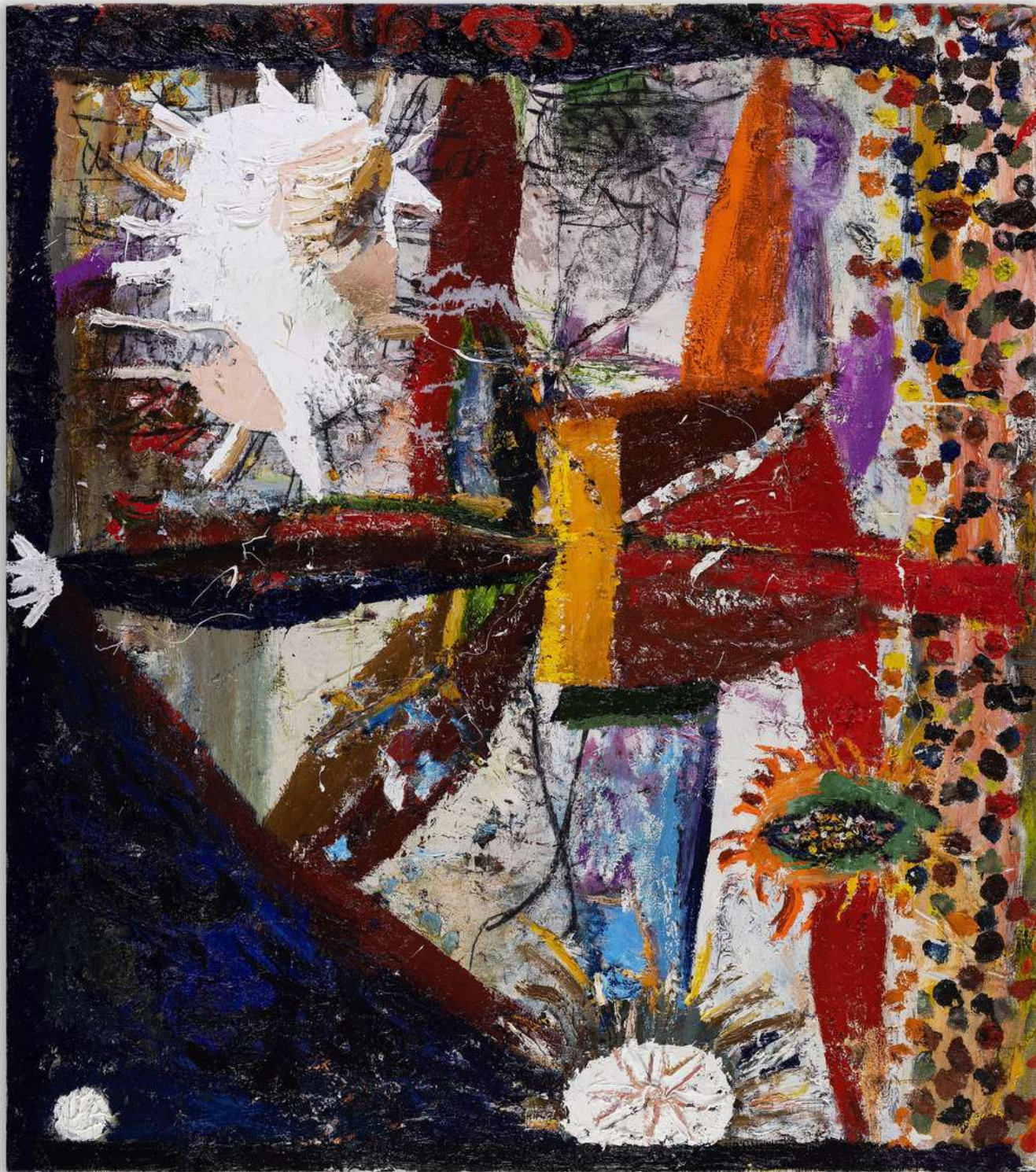
\$26,000



*We All Climb the Hill In
the Morning* 2023
oil on linen
122.5 x 137.5 cm
\$16,000



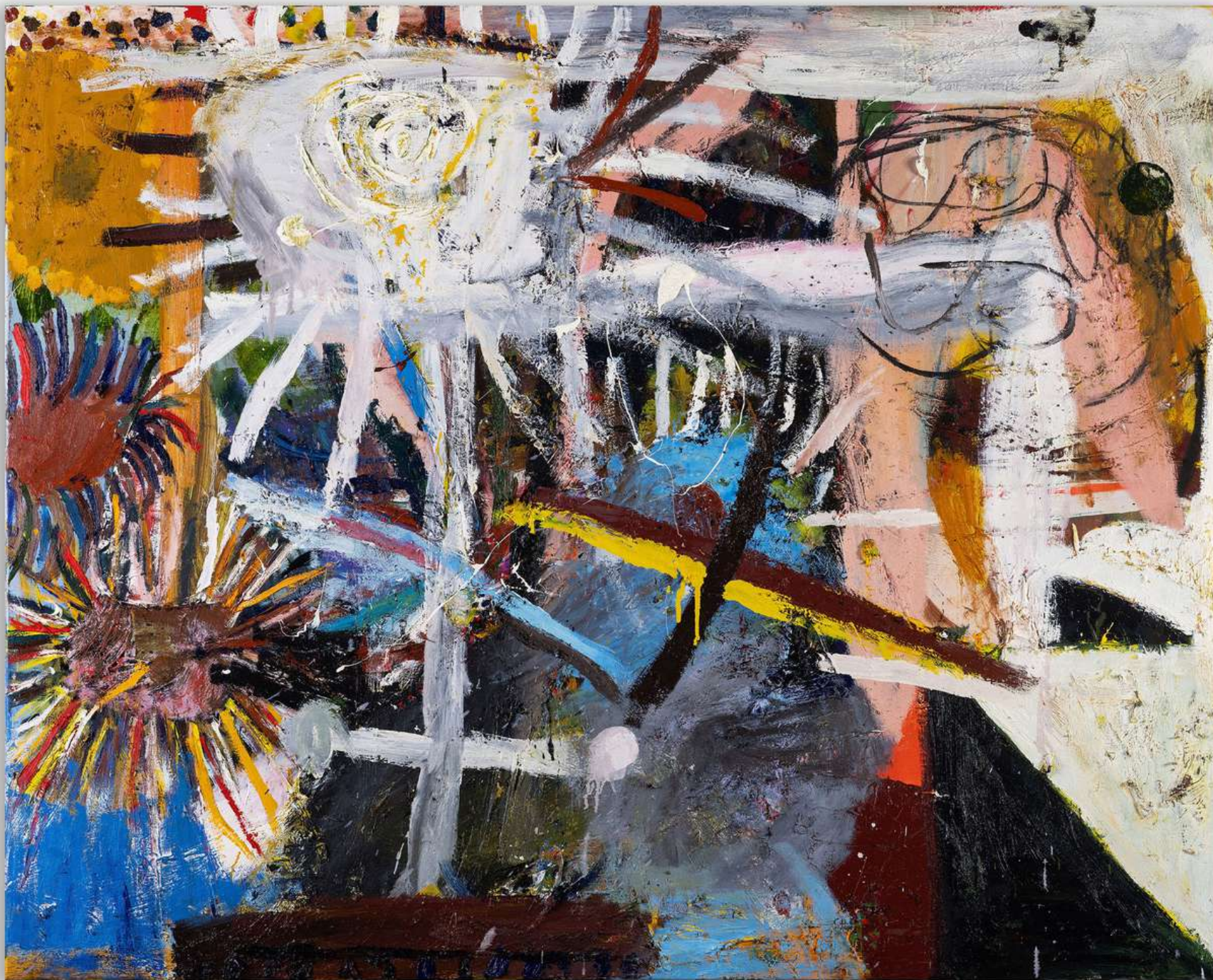
*The Morning Kitchen
After the Sea* 2023
oil on linen
122 x 137.5 cm
\$16,000



When You Are Really Out At Sea 2023
oil on linen
137.5 x 122.5 cm
\$16,000



The Slip Room 2023
oil on linen
110.5 x 110.5 cm
\$12,000



*They Are Starting
to Sing* 2023
oil on canvas
122.5 x 151 cm
SOLD



It's Only a Big Green

Sea II 2023

oil on mirror and ornate frame

95 x 120 cm

SOLD



Cycling to the Sea 2023
oil on hardboard
60 x 92 cm
\$7,000



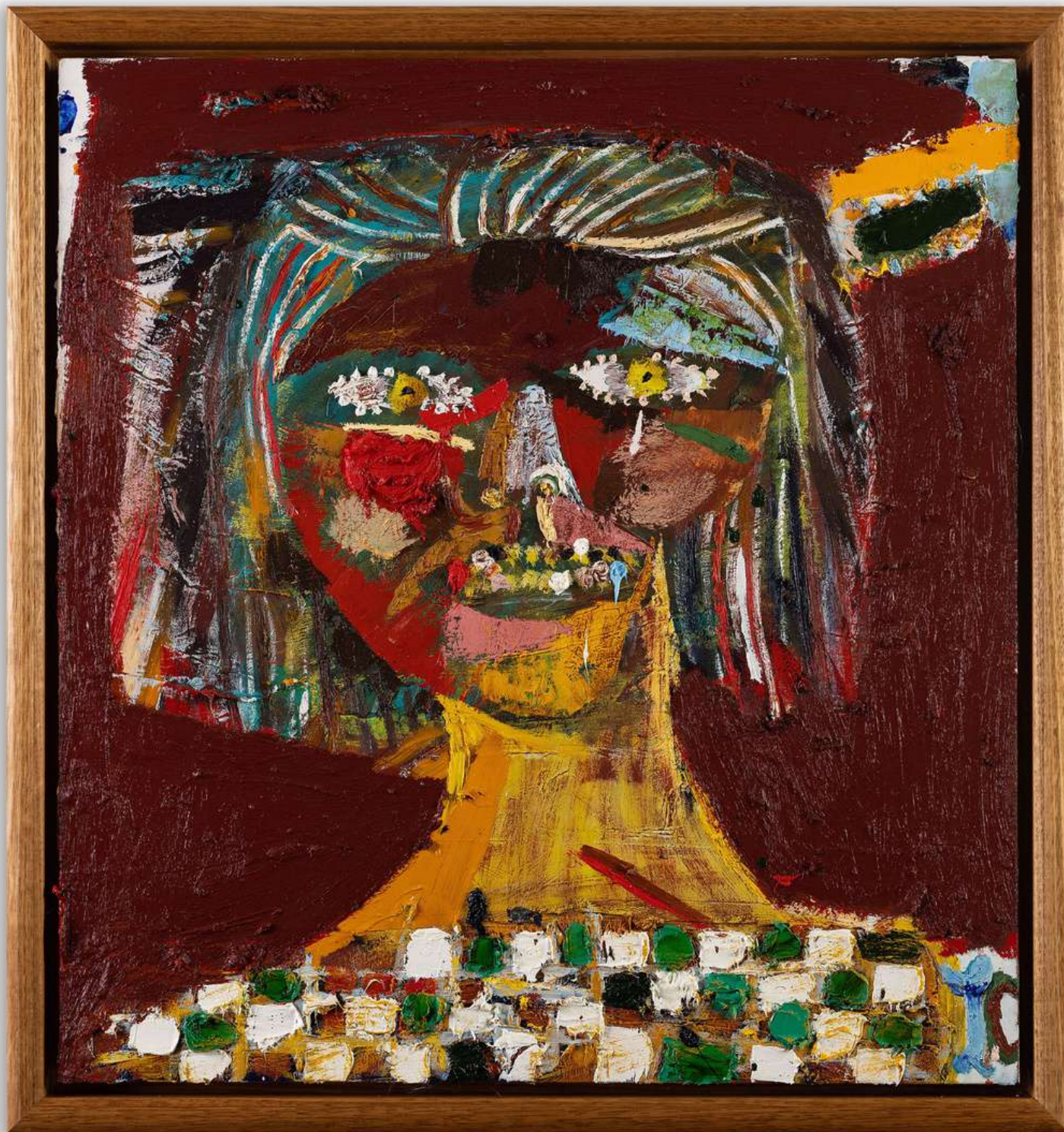
Storm Approaching the Soldier's

Pool 2023

oil on canvas

66.5 x 71.5 cm

\$6,000

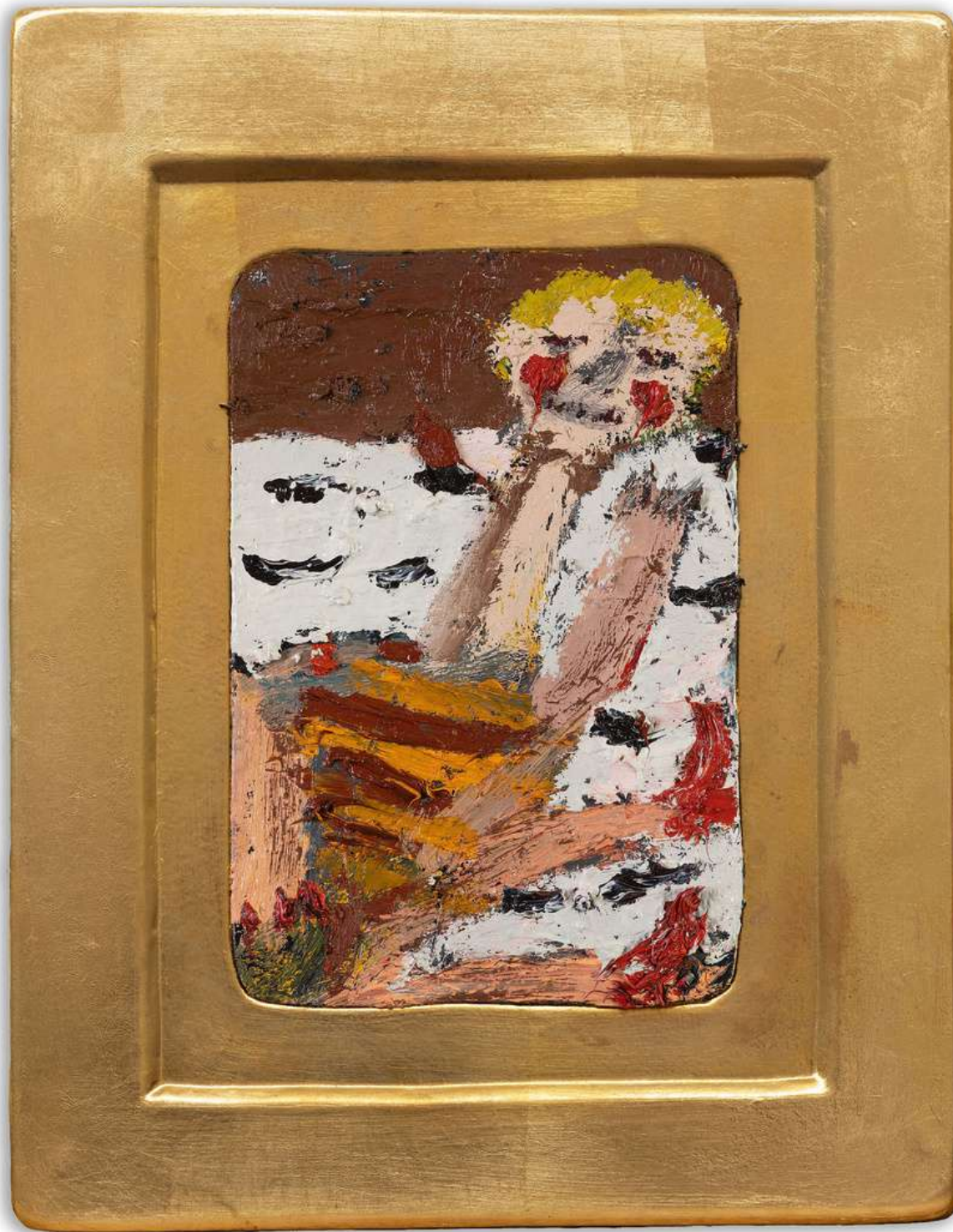


*You Could Just Make a Painting
and Write It All in There* 2023

oil on canvas

71 x 66 cm

SOLD

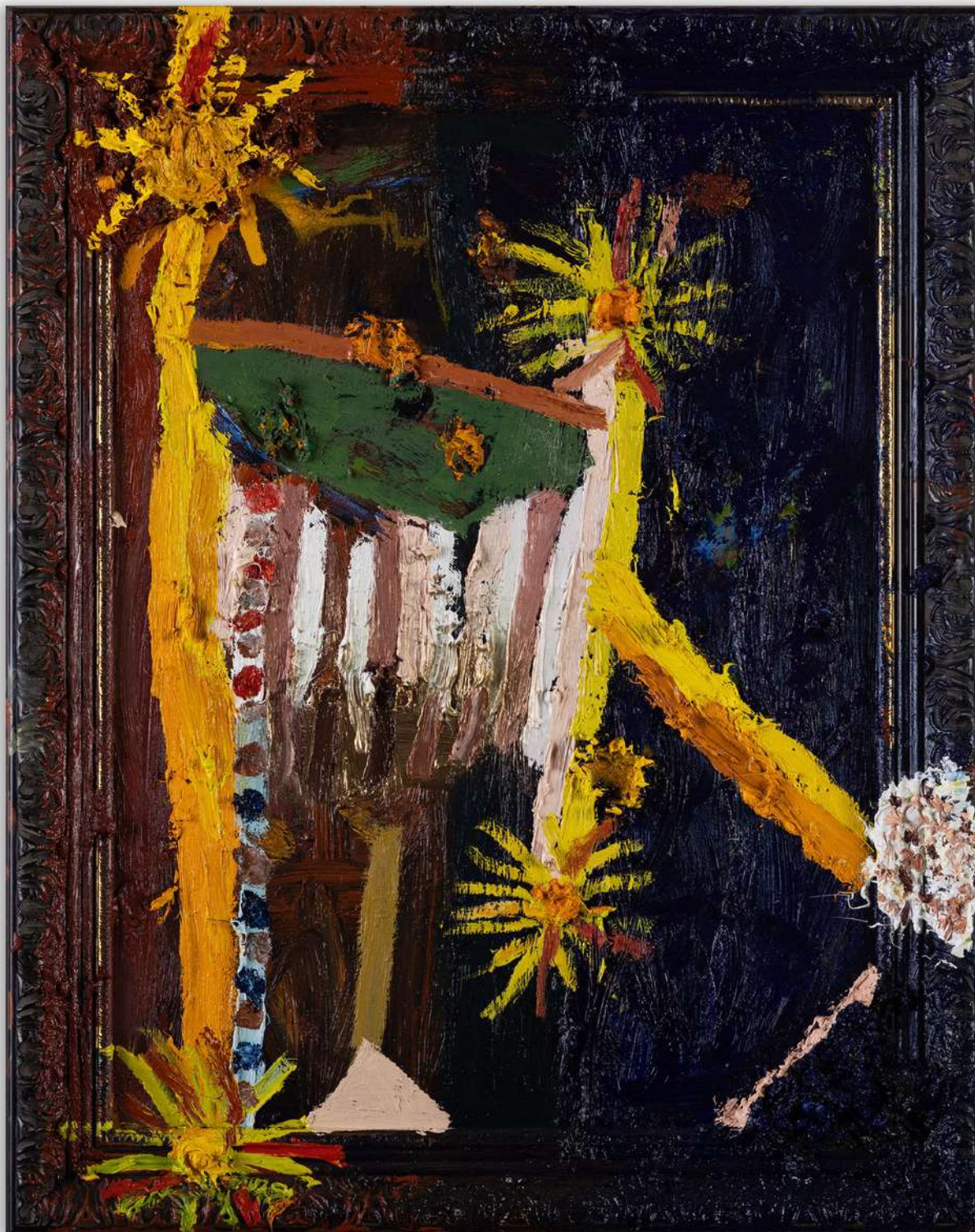


On That Beach You Became An Icon 2023

oil on panel and gold leaf

39 x 30 cm

\$5,500



Night Swimming 2023
oil on hardboard and ornate frame
64 x 50.5 cm
\$5,500



*Aerial View of the
Ocean Baths 2023*
oil on linen
50.5 x 60.5 cm
\$5,500



Child Playing Under a Beach

Umbrella 2023

oil on canvas

61 x 61 cm

\$5,500



Bather and the Sun on the Water 2023

oil on linen

56 x 56 cm

\$5,000



Bolton Street 2023

oil on canvas

51 x 51 cm

\$5,000



*Running Through the
Slip Room 2023*

oil on canvas

51 x 51 cm

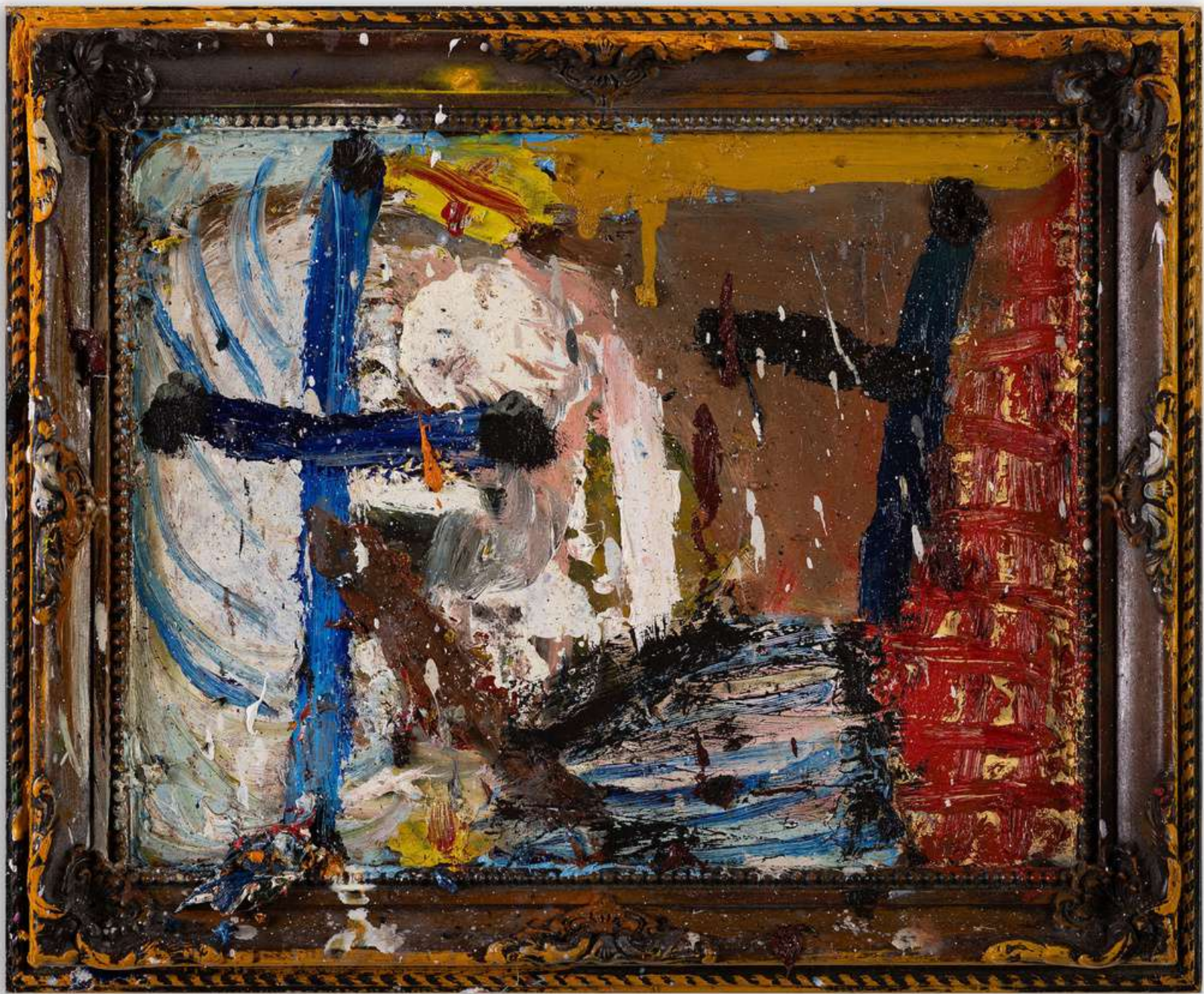
\$5,000



We Are Only Starfish and Stars 2023
oil on hardboard and ornate frame
45.5 x 58.5 cm
\$5,000



Hot Sand 2023
oil on linen
38 x 38 cm
\$4,000



Swimming on the Golden Minutes 2023

oil on hardboard and ornate frame

36 x 43.5 cm

\$4,000



*You Could Just Make a Painting and
Write It All In There Study 2023*

oil on hardboard

30 x 30 cm

\$4,000

JAMES DRINKWATER

EDUCATION

- 2003 Fine Arts, National Art School in Darlinghurst, Sydney
1992 Ron Hartee Art School, Newcastle

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 'Tesoro Mio', Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
'The Boxer, Round 2/ Old Photos Make Me Cry', Newcastle University Gallery
2021 'I Love You So Much I Can't Stop Saying Goodbye', Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
'The Boxer', Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2020 'I Love You More Than Paintings', Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
2019 'The Sea Calls Me by Name', 10 Year Survey, Newcastle Art Gallery
Sydney Contemporary, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2018 'Looking for Urchins and Louis Ferrari', Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2017 'In the Halls of My Youth', The LockUp, Newcastle
'Rungli Rungliot', Australian High Commission, Singapore
2016 'An Entire Life, From the Interior', NKN Gallery, Melbourne
'We Are Clumsy Now On This Southern Beach, New Works from the South of France', Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2015 'Every Pigeon in Paris Became a Dove, New Work from Paris', Peta O'Brian Contemporary Art, London
'In the Arms of Moreton Figs', Gallery 9, Sydney
2014 'The Boy Cried STORM!!!', NKN Gallery, Melbourne
'The Boy and the Ballet', Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
2012 'The Ocean Parade', Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
'Home Stretch', Cooks Hill Galleries, Newcastle
2011 'Nostalgia for Nothing', Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney
2010 'Brooding Town', Lain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
'Postage Paid Australia, Berlin', Cooks Hill Galleries, Newcastle
2009 'Poor Boy', Fortyfive Downstairs, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 'Postcards from Twin Peaks with Paul Ryan', Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
2018 'Kilgour Proze', Newcastle Art Gallery
'Black Diamond Money', Byron School of Arts
'Couplings', Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney
'Sweetness of the New', The Yellow House Gallery,
2017 'Works on Paper', Beers Gallery, London
Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Nanda/Hobbs, Sydney
Spring Art Fair 1883, NKN Gallery
'Into Abstraction II', Macquarie University Gallery
2014 'Paperweight', Newcastle Art Gallery
2013 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Damien Minton Gallery
Working Newcastle, University of Newcastle
'Marked', Cessnock Regional Art Gallery

- 2012 'Young Collectors', John Buckley Gallery Melbourne
'Traces', Leipzig Art Fair, Germany
'The Great Australian Landscape', Tim Olsen Gallery
2010 'A Perfect Day to Chase Tornados (White)', Berlin

PRIZES / AWARDS

- 2020 Finalist, The Vincent Prize
Finalist, Mosman Prize
Finalist, Paddington Art Prize
2018 Finalist, Kilgour Art Prize
Finalist, John Glover Art Prize
Finalist, Wynne Art Prize
2017 Finalist, John Glover Art Prize
Finalist, Wynne Art Prize
Finalist, Paddington Art Prize
2016 Finalist, Paddington Art Prize
Finalist, Sulman Art Prize
2015 Finalist, Wynne Art Prize
2014 Finalist, Paddington Art Prize
Winner, Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship
Finalist, Wynne Art Prize
Finalist, King School Prize
Finalist, Newcastle University Prize
2013 Semi-Finalist, Doug Moran Portrait Prize
Highly Commended, Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship
2012 Finalist, King School Prize
Finalist, Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship
2011 Finalist, Dobell Drawing Prize
Highly Commended, Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship
Winner, Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship
Finalist, Salon Des Refuses
2002 Winner, John Olsen National Art School Life Drawing Prize

COLLECTIONS

- Artbank
University of Newcastle
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Gold Coast City Art Collection
Macquarie University
Monash University
Newcastle Art Gallery
Warner Music Australia
St Francis Xavier College, Newcastle
Private collections, New York, UK, Singapore, Australia, Germany

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