

Laurence Lejay
Painting

Artist statement



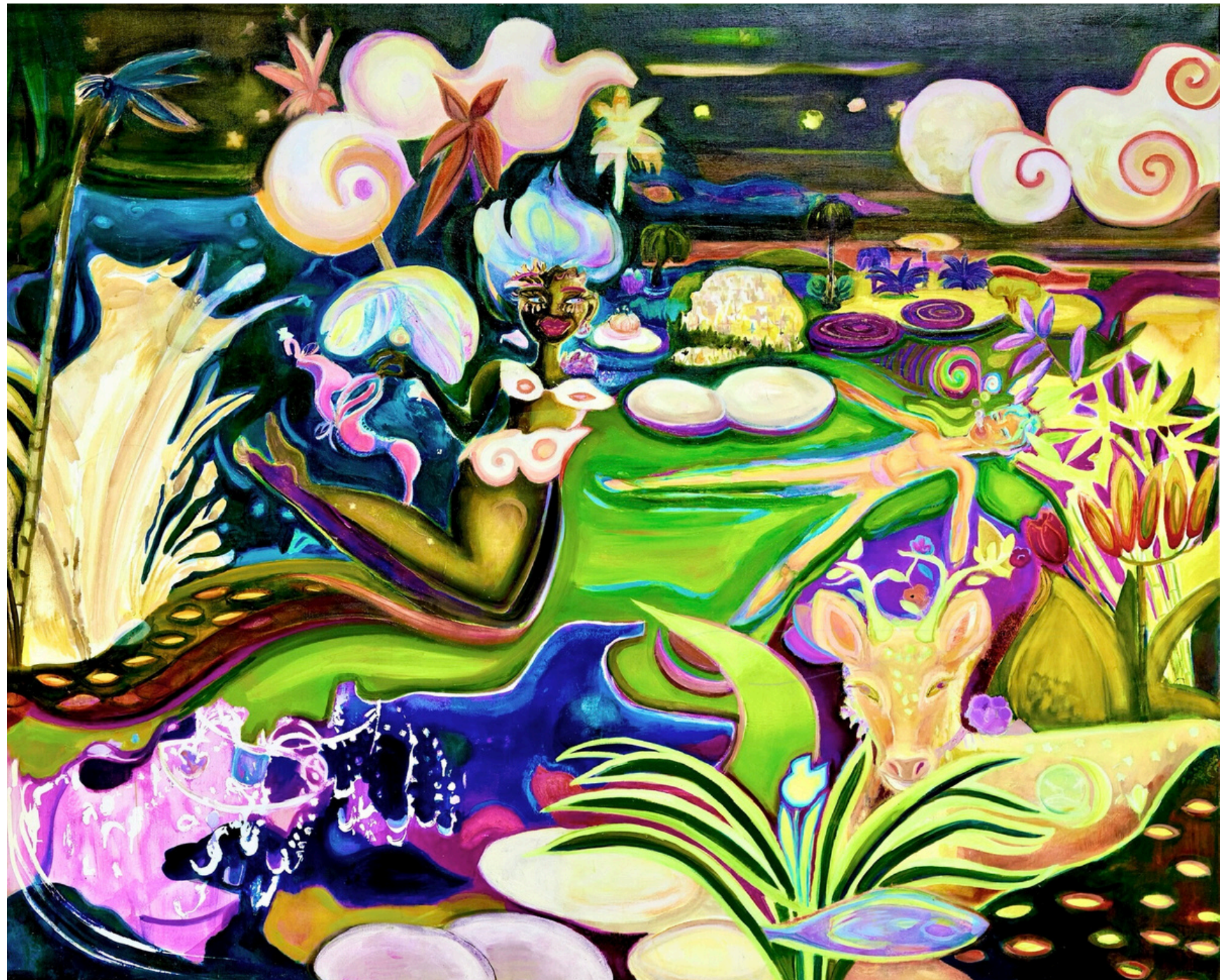
My work delves into memory, nostalgia, and the delicate endurance of places and moments that shape our existence. In 2018, a fire ravaged my studio, obliterating all the paintings I had created up to that point. This abrupt loss of my visual history profoundly altered my relationship with painting. Since that pivotal moment, nostalgia and reconstruction have emerged as central themes in my artistic practice. Through painting, I conjure imagined worlds that inhabit the space between memory and invention. These environments are both intimate and whimsical, populated by expressive animals and feminine figures navigating festive or dreamlike landscapes. These characters and their interactions enable me to evoke fragments of recalled places, emotions, and relationships, transforming them into new narratives. My paintings evolve within a realm that straddles realism and abstraction. I aim to craft scenes that evoke a sense of familiarity while possessing an element of the fantastical, where color, texture, and pattern play an equally significant role in conveying meaning alongside the figures themselves. My background in textile design has profoundly shaped my focus on materiality, surface, and decorative structures. The role of material is fundamental in my practice. For me, material serves as a narrative language, akin to color or composition. I integrate two contrasting techniques within a single painting. Ink and watercolor facilitate spontaneity, chance, and expressive immediacy, while layers of oil glazes, inspired by historical painting methods, impart patience, depth, and luminosity. The interplay between these varying temporalities imbues the work with sensuality and vitality. Through these reconstructed universes, I aim not only to evoke aesthetic pleasure but also to awaken memories within the viewer. I aspire for my paintings to resonate with personal recollections, inviting viewers to reconnect with forgotten or overlooked moments from their own past.



The Song of the Sirens, 2025
Oil, ink, printed fabric sewn onto linen
200 cm x 300cm



The studio, 2024
Ink and oil on canvas
130 cm x 165cm



And we have nights more beautiful than your days, 2022
Ink and oil on canvas
135cm x 160 cm.



A special day, 2024
Ink and oil on canvas
150 cm x 200 cm



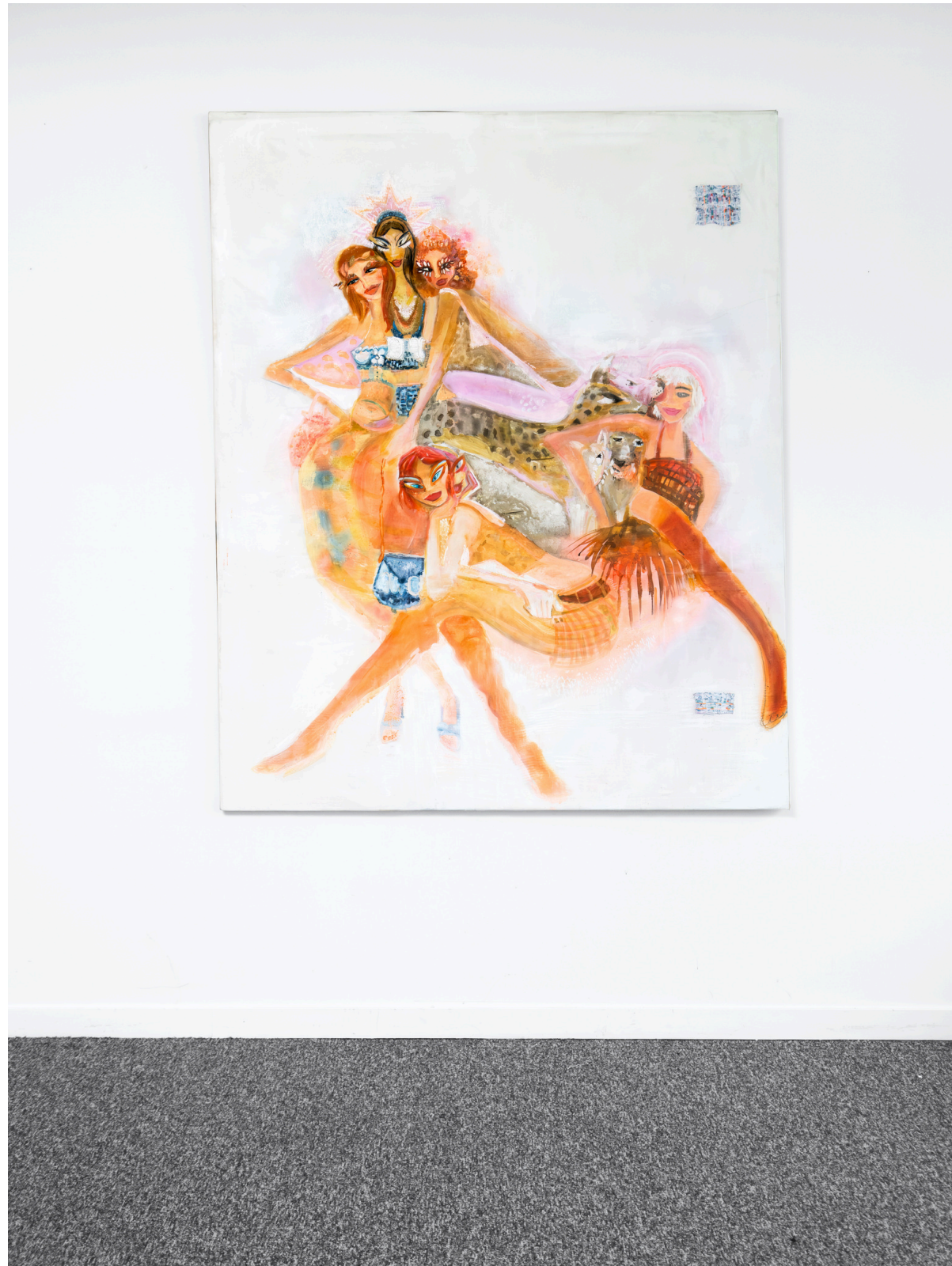
Our limitless tomorrows, 2022
Ink and oil on canvas
130 cm x 165 cm



By so much beauty our tears have dried, 2024
Ink and oil on canvas
150 cm x 200 cm



Paris Fashion Week I, 2026.
Ink and oil on canvas.
175 cm x 150 cm



Paris Fashion Week II, 2026.
Ink and oil on damask and embroidered linen tablecloth.
168 cm x145 cm



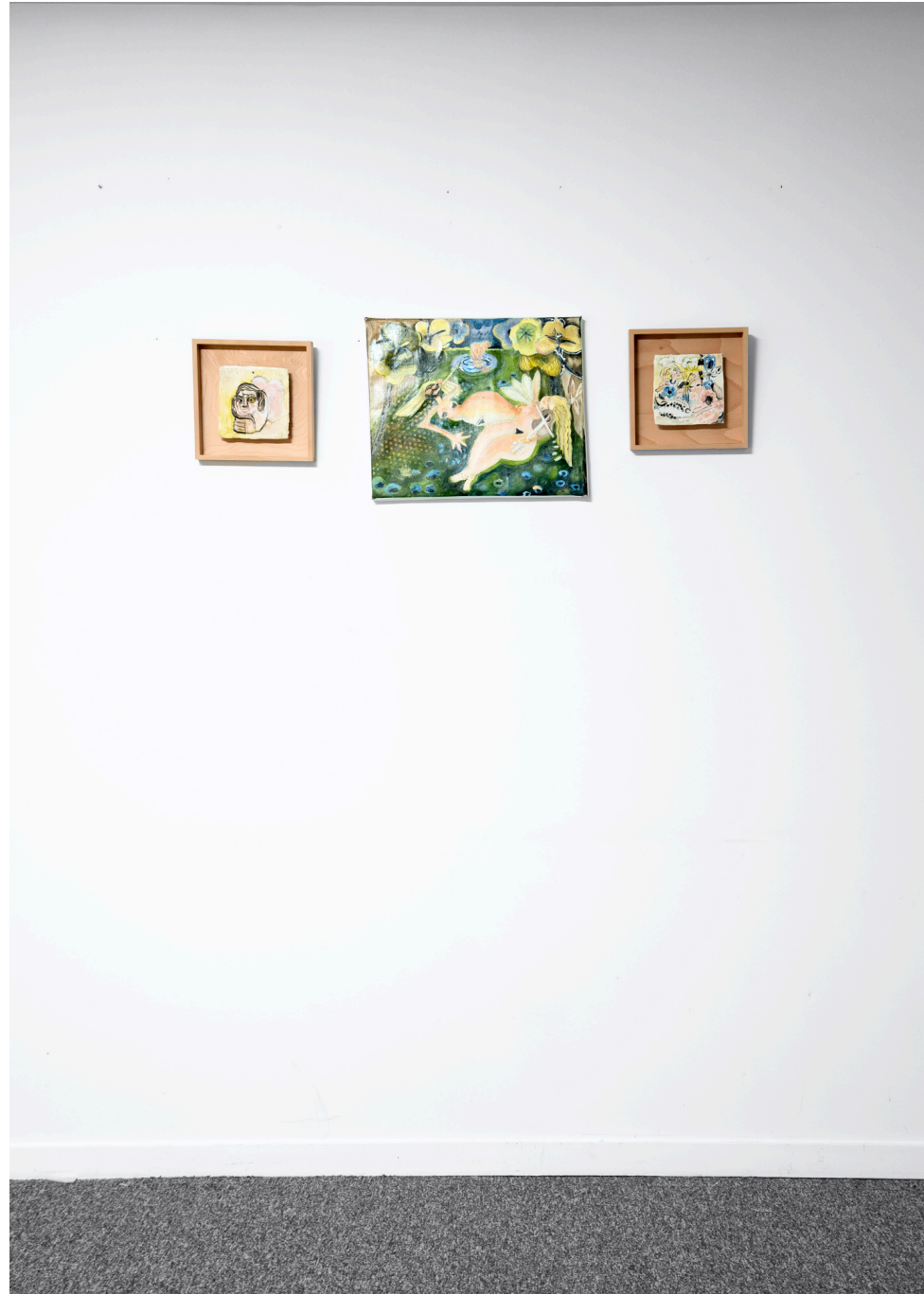
The Bride Wore Green, 2023
Ink and oil on canvas
80 cm x 80 cm



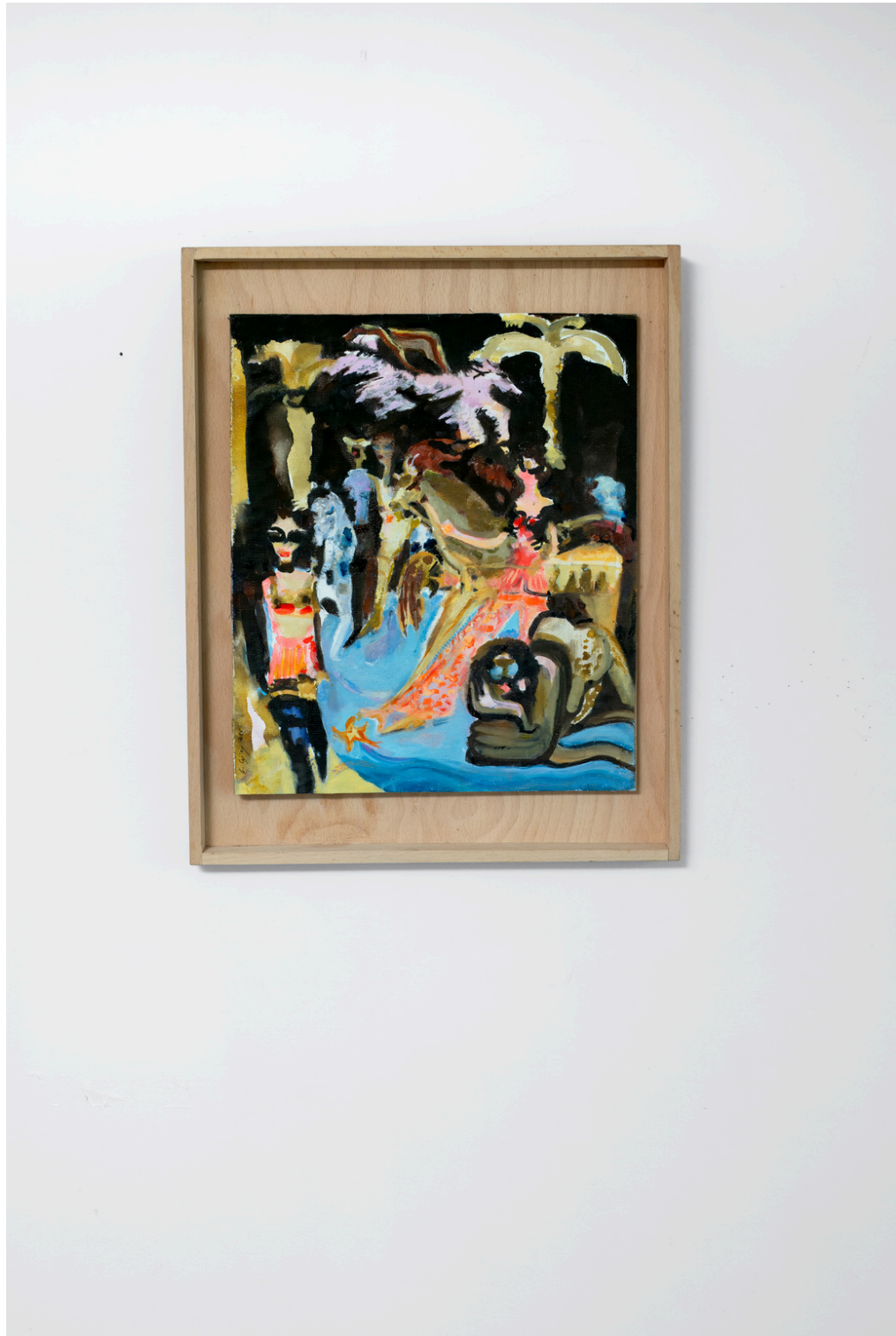
Detail



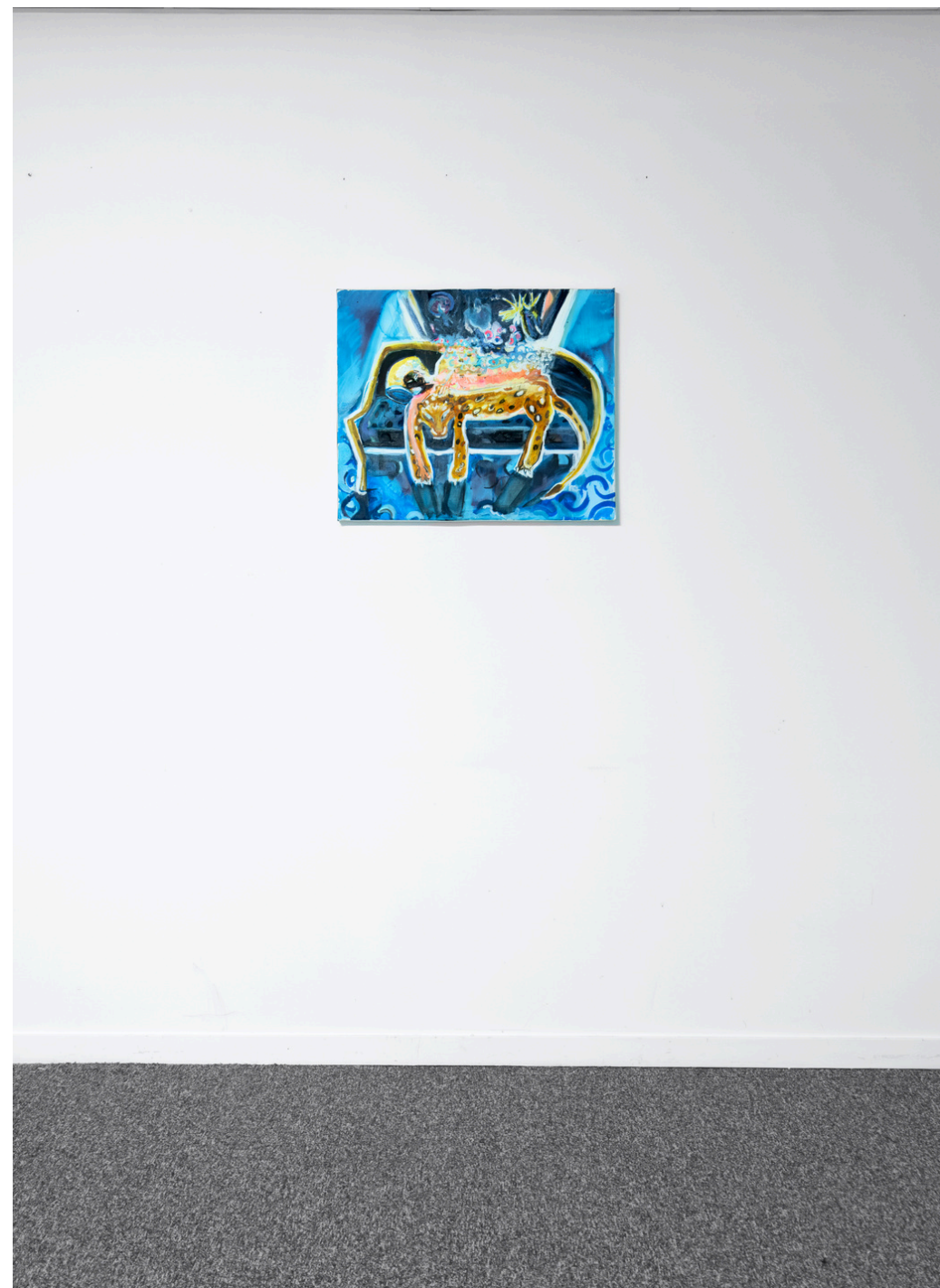
River, 2024
Ink, wax, and oil on canvas
110 cm x 86 cm



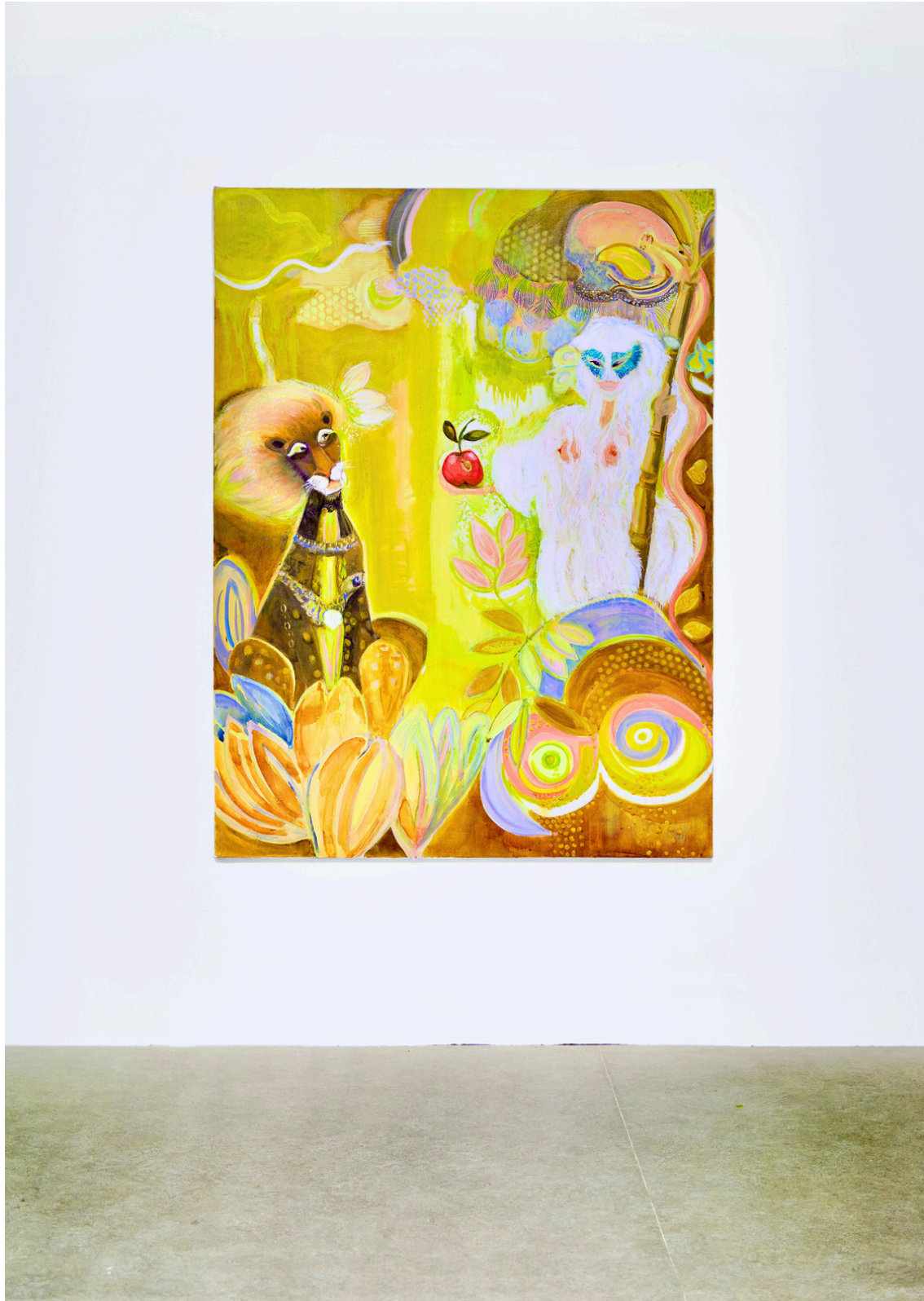
An afternoon on the grass, 2024
Oil and ink on linen
38 cm x 46 cm



Hermes and the Amazons, 2026.
Ink and oil on canvas, affixed to wood.
48 cm x 33 cm



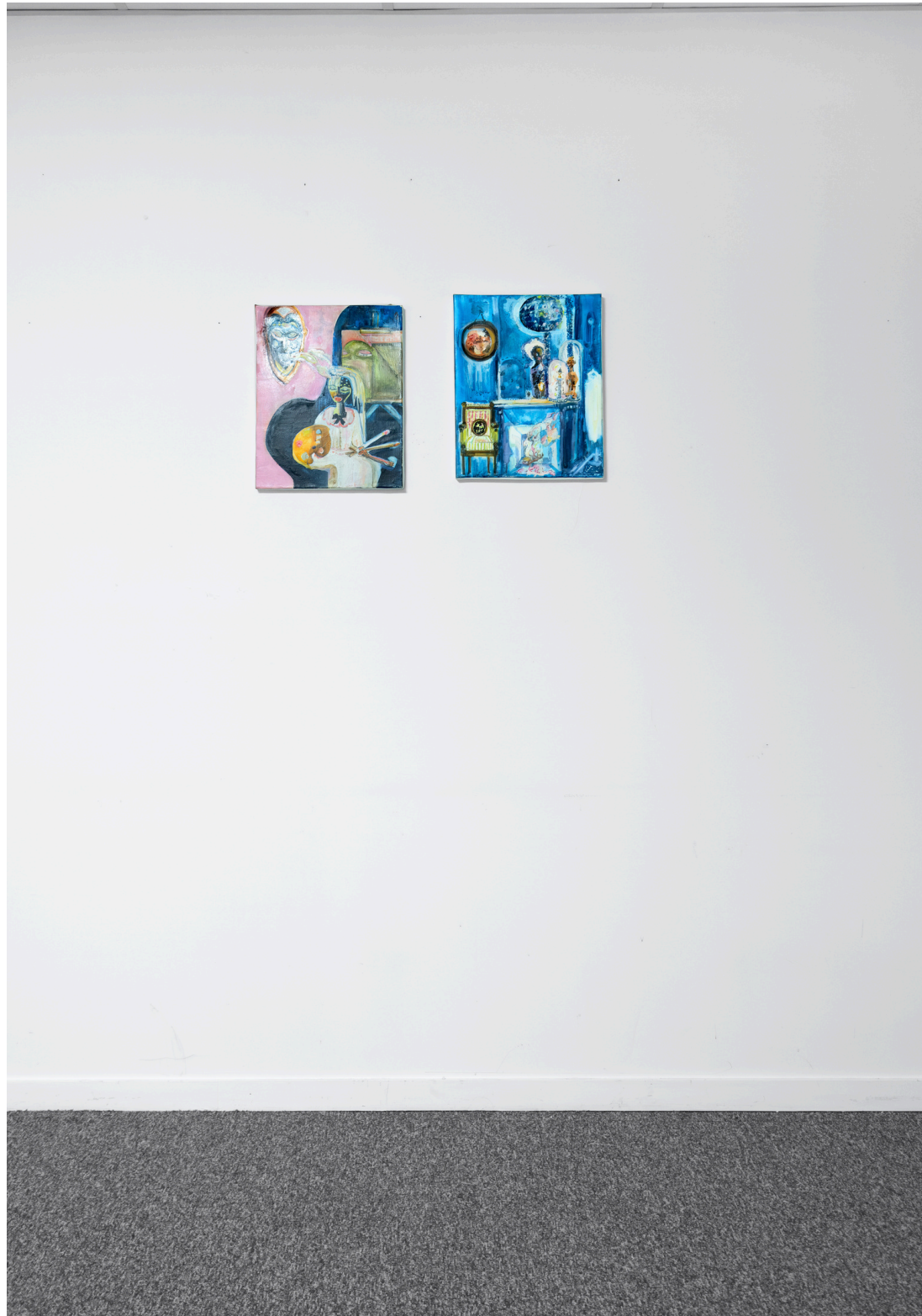
Tiger dream's
Ink and oil on linen
50 x62 cm



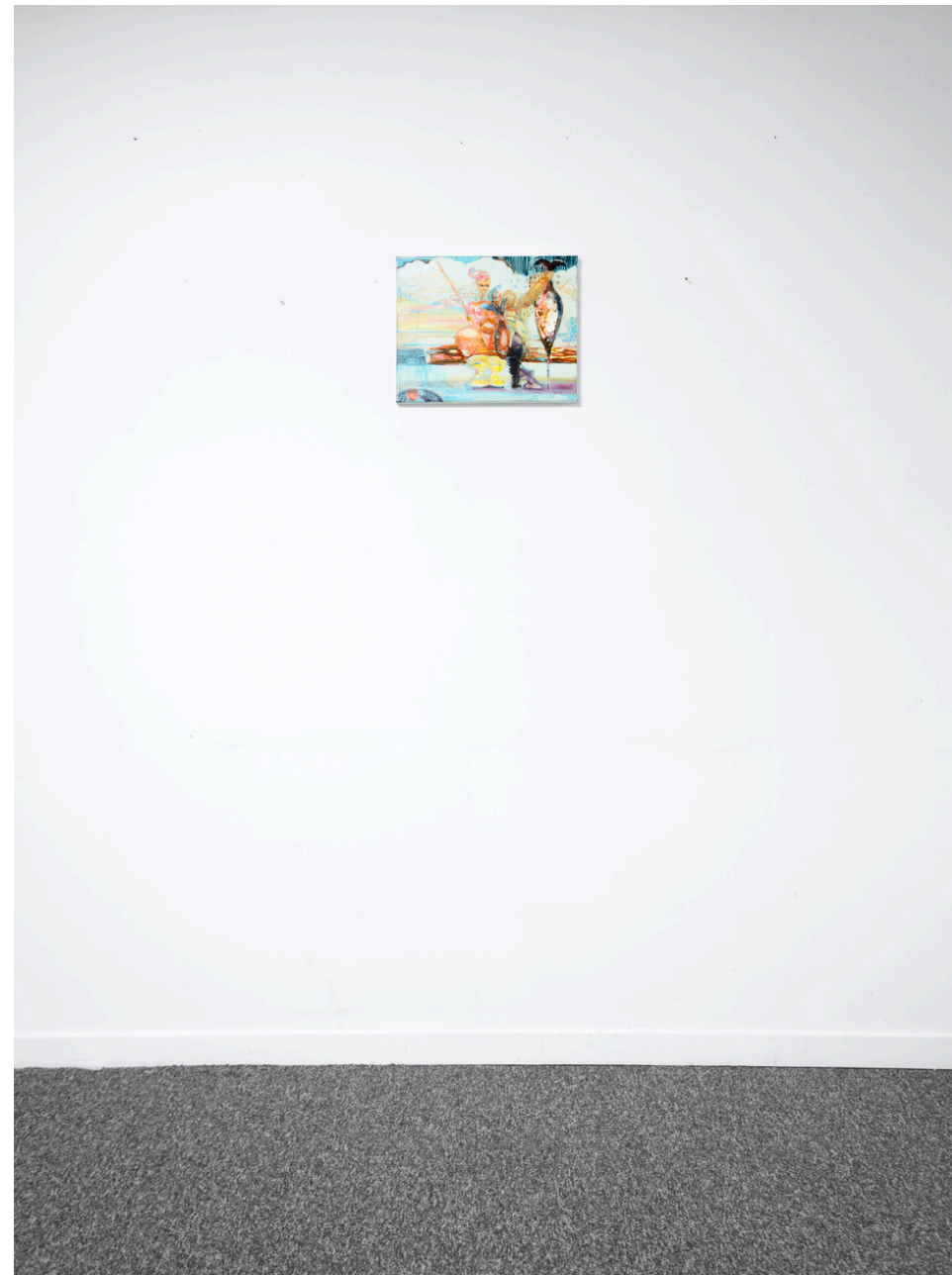
Eve, Adam, The Apple and the snake, 2024
Ink and oil on canvas
130cm x 113 cm



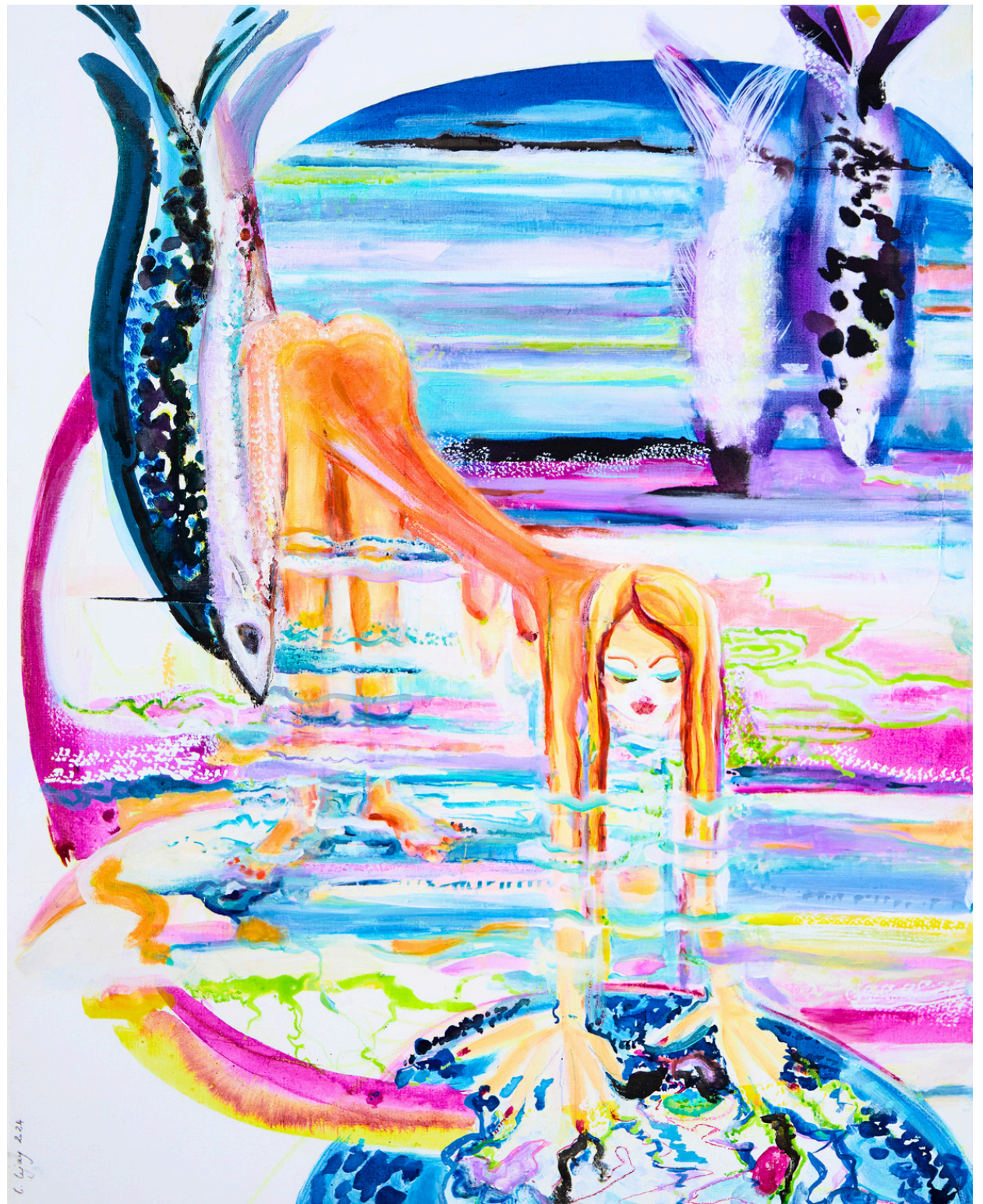
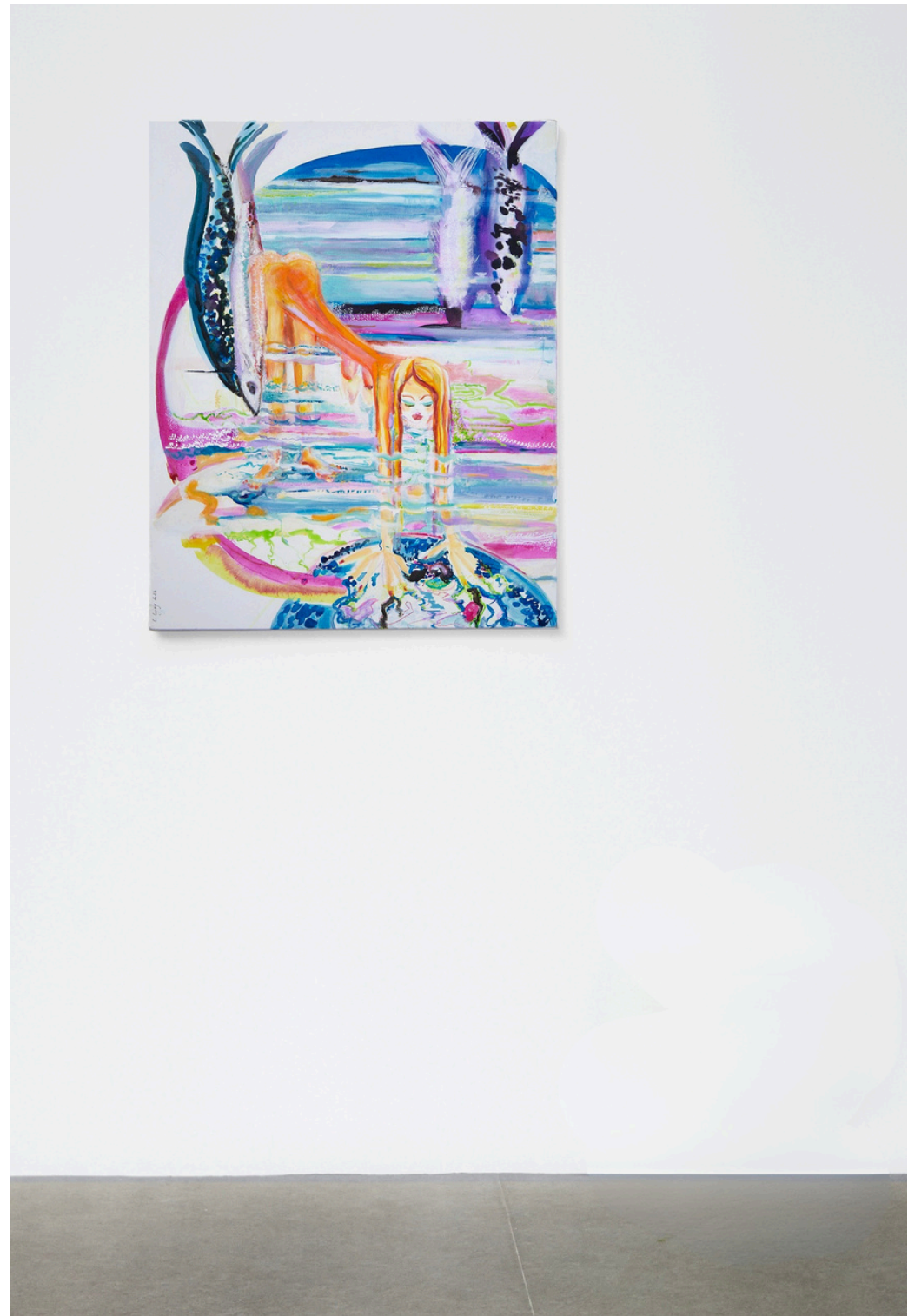
Midnight, 2023
Ink and oil on canvas
100 cm x100 cm



Inspiration from Air Currents; 2023
Ink and Oil on Canvas
40 cm x 32 cm



Ice fishing, 2021
Ink, cold wax, silver leaf and oil on linen
36 cm x 45cm



"Ice and diamonds our future at our fingertips", 2023
Ink, cold wax and oil on canvas
116cm x90cm



Tonight you will be my king, 2022
Ink and oil on canvas
100 cm x 100 cm.

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