

LUKA KURASHVILI

Selected works 2023 - 2020



The painterly work of Luka Kurashvili emerges from the dynamic interplay of close observation and fleeting vision.

The haunting quality of his paintings derives from contrasting painterly states that unfold in the spectrum between proximity to reality and emotionally driven expression. A fundamental artistic tension between control and freedom becomes immediately tangible when viewing the predominantly large-format canvas works.

In them, a figurativeness prevails that Kurashvili had fixed in fleeting sketches or watercolor drawings on paper beforehand. The motifs stem from casual, everyday observations of banal actions and gatherings of people. Kurashvili finds his protagonists in his close environment; they are friends, relatives, fellow artists. Starting from his own photographic templates, on which he captures certain constellations of figures, as well as postures and poses, he selects his pictorial personnel as in a casting and then brings together individual figures in the way of a collage to form the pictorial composition.

In his painterly staging of everyday situations, Kurashvili, son of a cameraman, adopts the processuality of film shooting and the freedom of decision of the director, who can spontaneously make a figure disappear from the scene.

Similarly, Kurashvili seeks to allow the randomness of the painterly process to expand scopes of action and explore possibilities of bypassing narrow figurative and narrative constraints.

In particular, the dissolution of figurative pictorial areas into pure gestures of painting proves to be an act of artistic liberation. Sometimes Kurashvili even pours a bucket of paint over a canvas that has already been painted in order to liquefy and transform what already exists, what seems unalterably fixed. In such impulsive actions of painterly improvisation, which sometimes take their cue from masters such as Edvard Munch or Henri Matisse, paint is engaged in its very materiality. Paint swirls out in whirlpools or runs in rivulets across the picture surface.

With the organic flow of colors that, as it were, dissolve under his fingers, Kurashvili intentionally allows himself to be driven by unguided processes of the subconscious.

The painter, just as he claims a freedom of decision for himself, concedes a certain degree of independence to the act of painting itself.

Kurashvili acknowledges the possibilities painting reveals. By means of overcoming the laws of perspective or narrative congruence, surprise effects allow for unforeseen reactions, bringing forth dream images and shedding light on unknown mental realms.

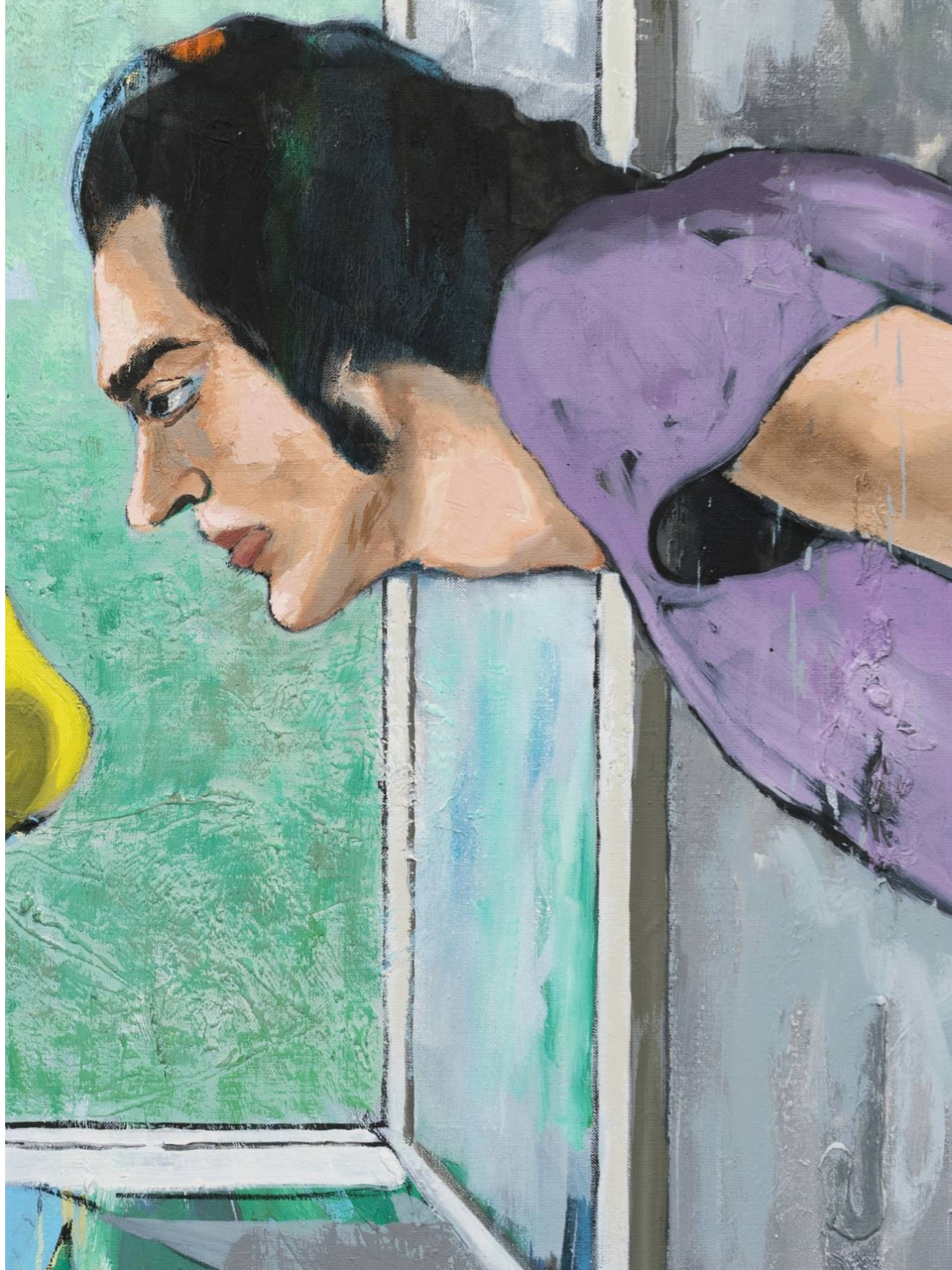
In opening up an experimental level of painterly indeterminacy, the relationship between figure and ground in Kurashvili's settings often remains ambiguous.

Kurashvili's paintings, which always oscillate between a reality-based illusionism and pure imagination, reflect a powerful painterly concern that does not simply disintegrate the planes of the pictorial space in abstract reduction. Instead, issues regarding compositional structures and the organization of the pictorial plane become the subject of a complex artistic interrogation by means of figurative elaboration.

Wednesday, 2021-2022
Oil on linen
180 x 130 cm



Wednesday, 2021-2022
Oil on linen
180 x 130 cm
Detail



Before the show, 2022
Oil on linen
190 x 140cm





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

Yellow bar, 2022 - 2023
Oil on linen
185 x 150 cm .





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.



Installation view: Shouting quiet moments.
Wilson Saplan Gallery, Copenhagen, 2023.

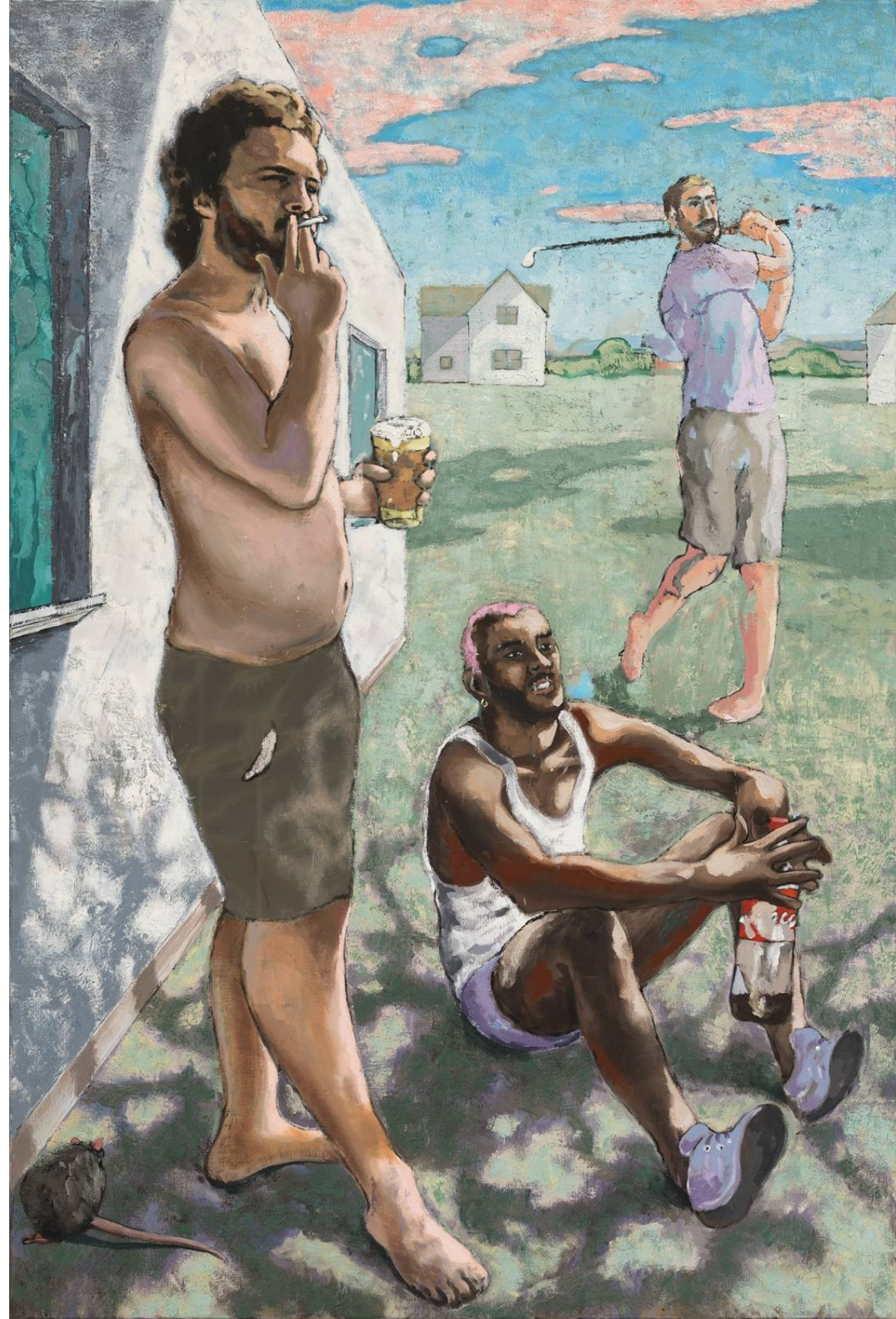


Installation view: Shouting quiet moments.
Wilson Saplang Gallery, Copenhagen, 2023.



Installation view: Shouting quiet moments.
Wilson Saplana Gallery, Copenhagen, 2023.

Sunny day painting, 2021
Oil on linen.
180 x 120 cm

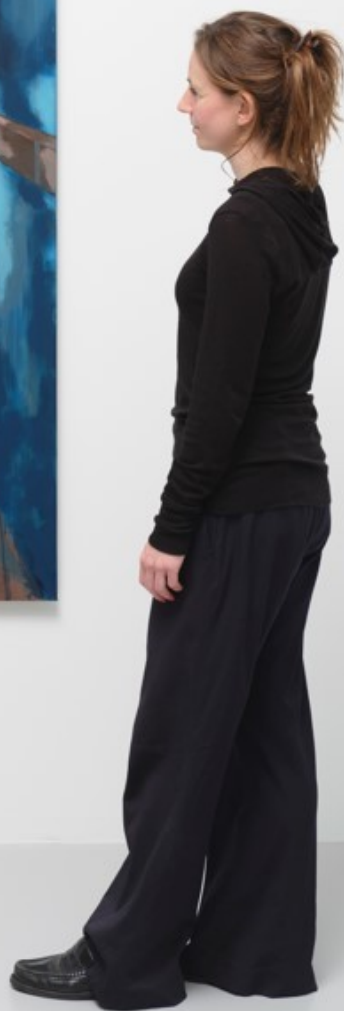




Installation view: Shouting quiet moments.
Wilson Saplang Gallery, Copenhagen, 2023.

Artist talk in elevator, 2023
Oil on linen
190 x 150 cm .





Artist talk in elevator, 2023.
Oil on linen
190 x 150 cm



Billiard players, 2022. oil on linen. 280 x 190 cm



Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

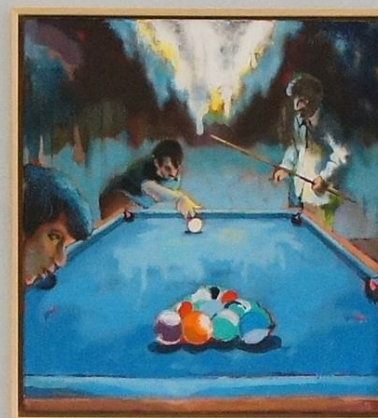


Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

Billiard players (Blue), 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm



Installation view: No strangers
beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

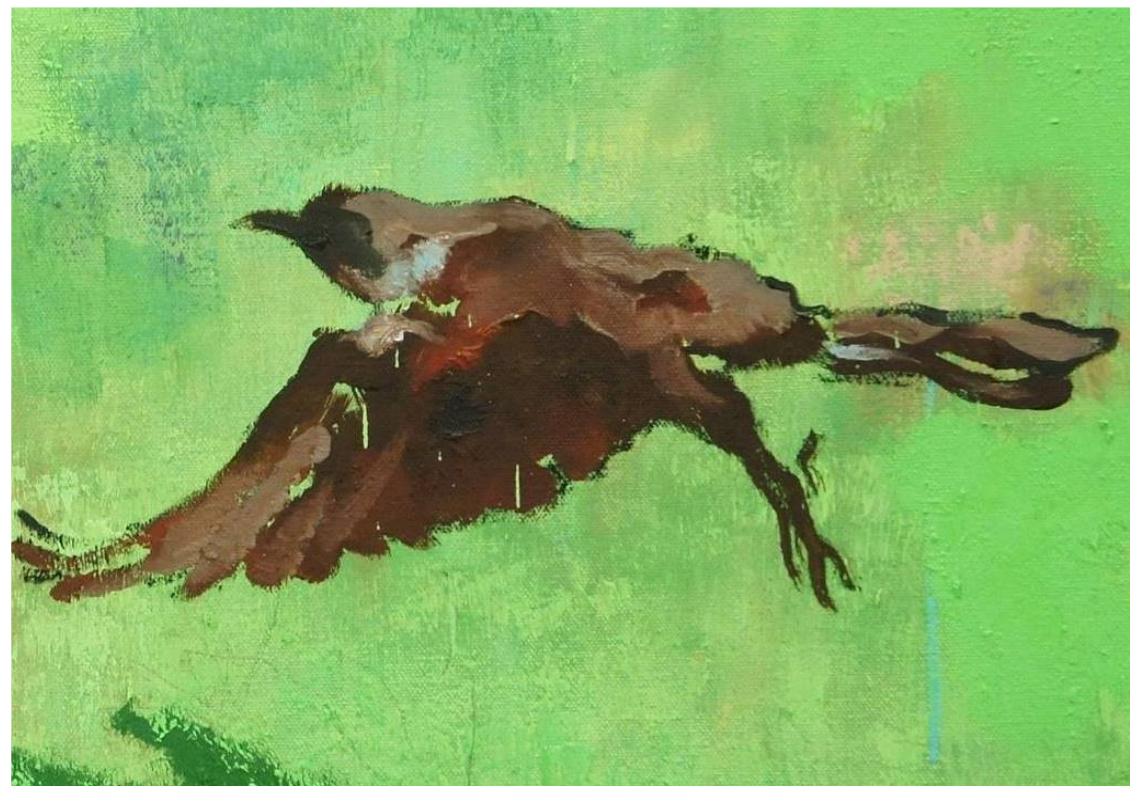
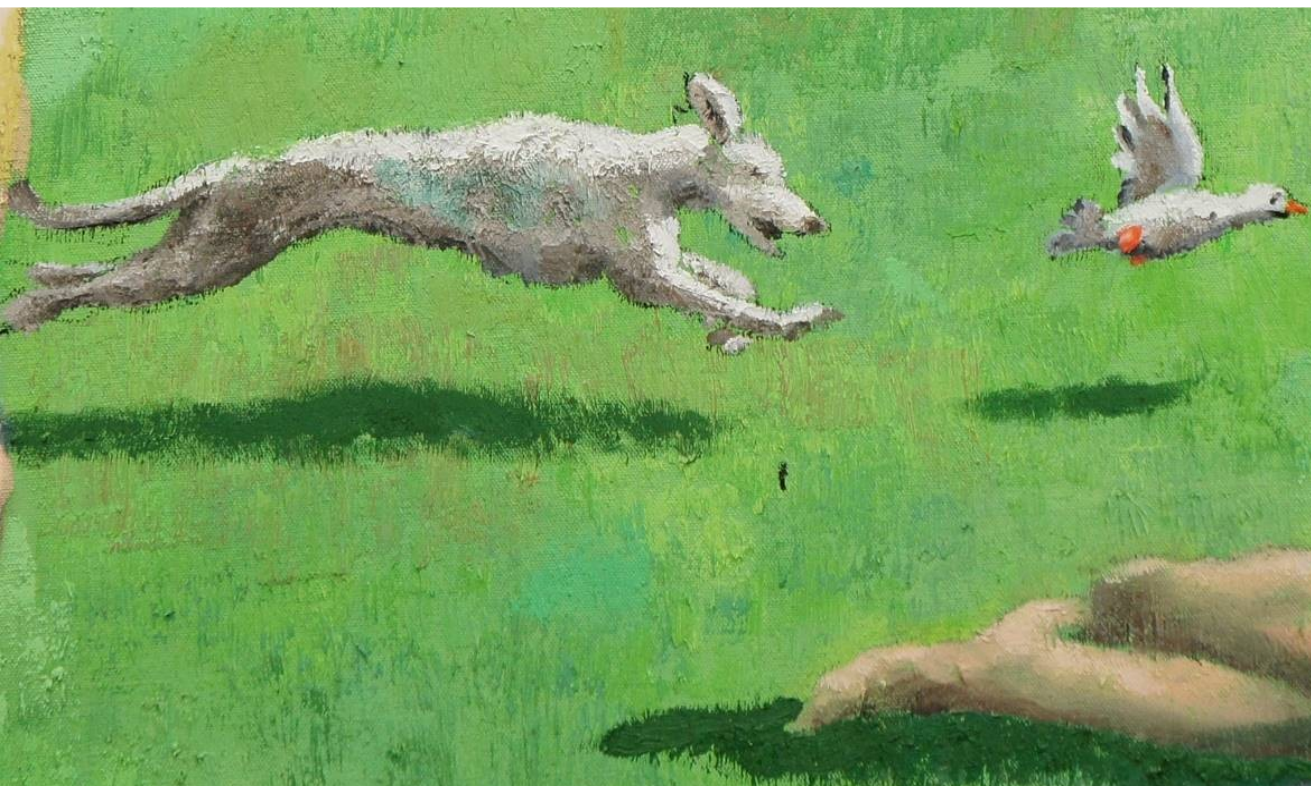




Billiard players (Green), 2023. Oil on linen. 190 x 140 cm



Rheinpark, 2022 - 2023. Oil on canvas. 600 x 240 cm





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotFor\$ale, Basel, 2023.



Two talking boys, 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm

Three figures, 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm

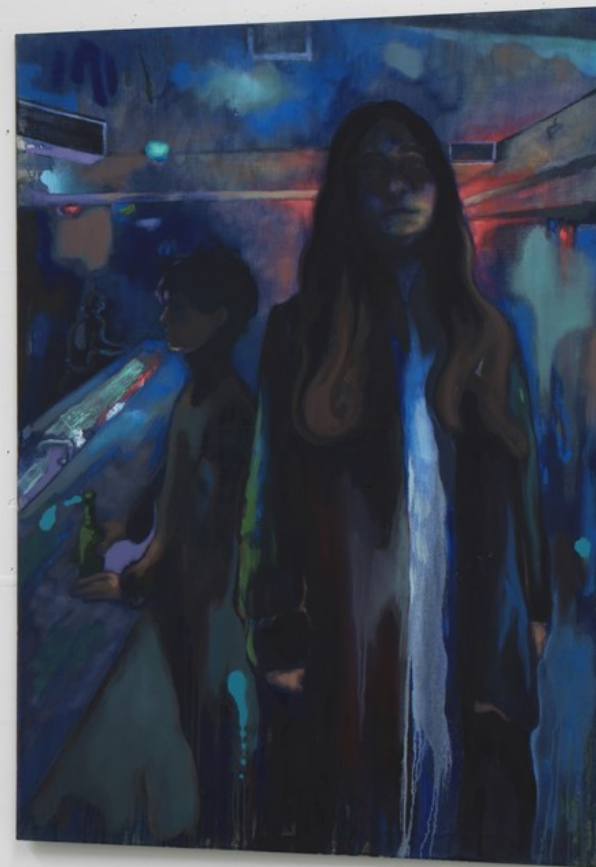




Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

Girl in the nightclub, 2023
Oil on linen
130 x 90 cm





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.



Untitled (Wednesday), 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm



Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

Girl in the nightclub on sunday morning, 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm





Installation view: The future has an orange background.
NotFor\$ale, Basel, 2023.



Installation view: The future has an orange background.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

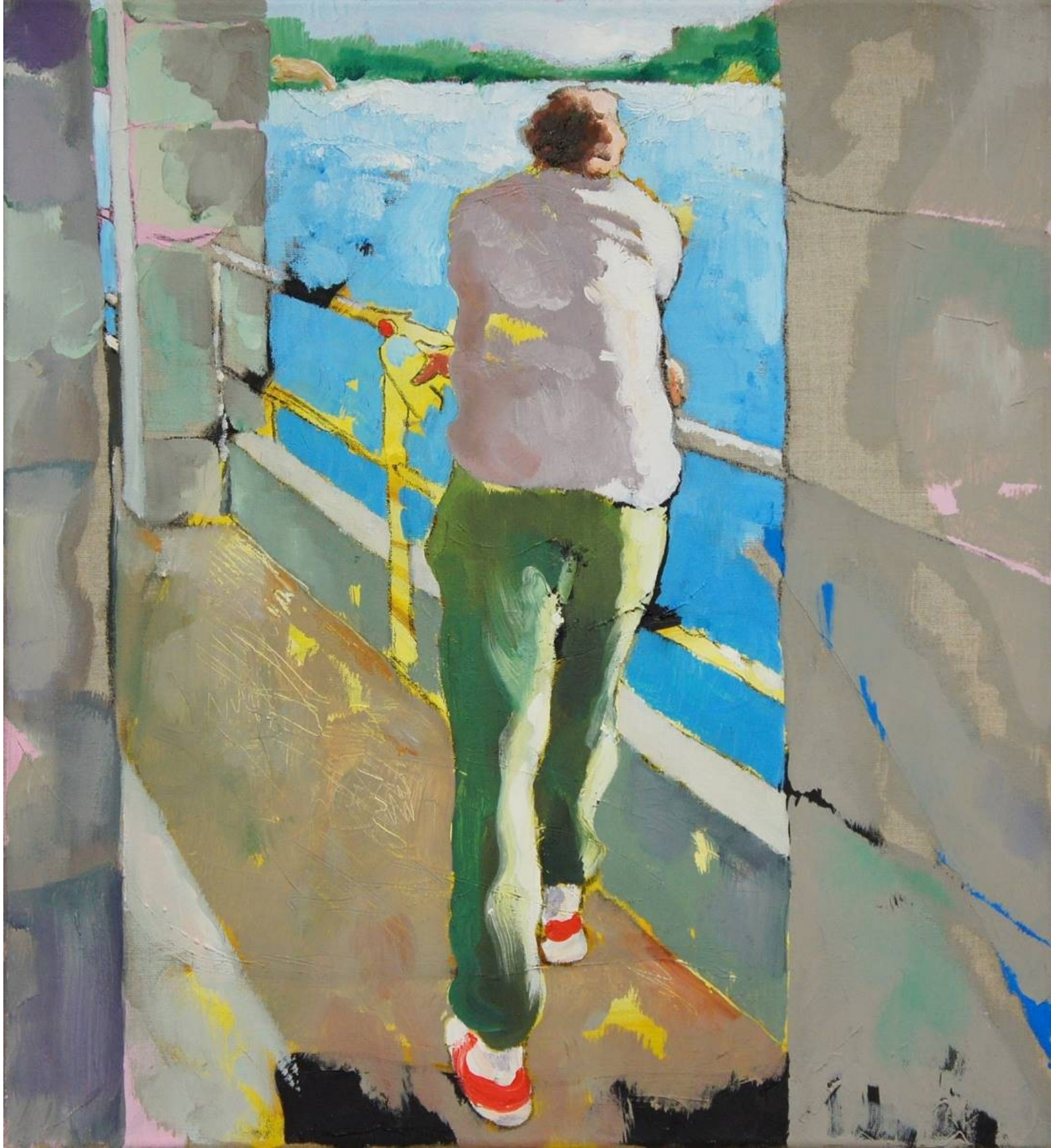


Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.



Two boys on the street, 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm

Man by the lake, 2023
Oil on linen.
60 x 55 cm





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotFor\$ale, Basel, 2023.

Woman by the fireplace, 2022
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.



Man with the icecream, 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm



Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

No strangers beyond the pictures, 2023
Oil on linen.
60 x 55 cm





Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.

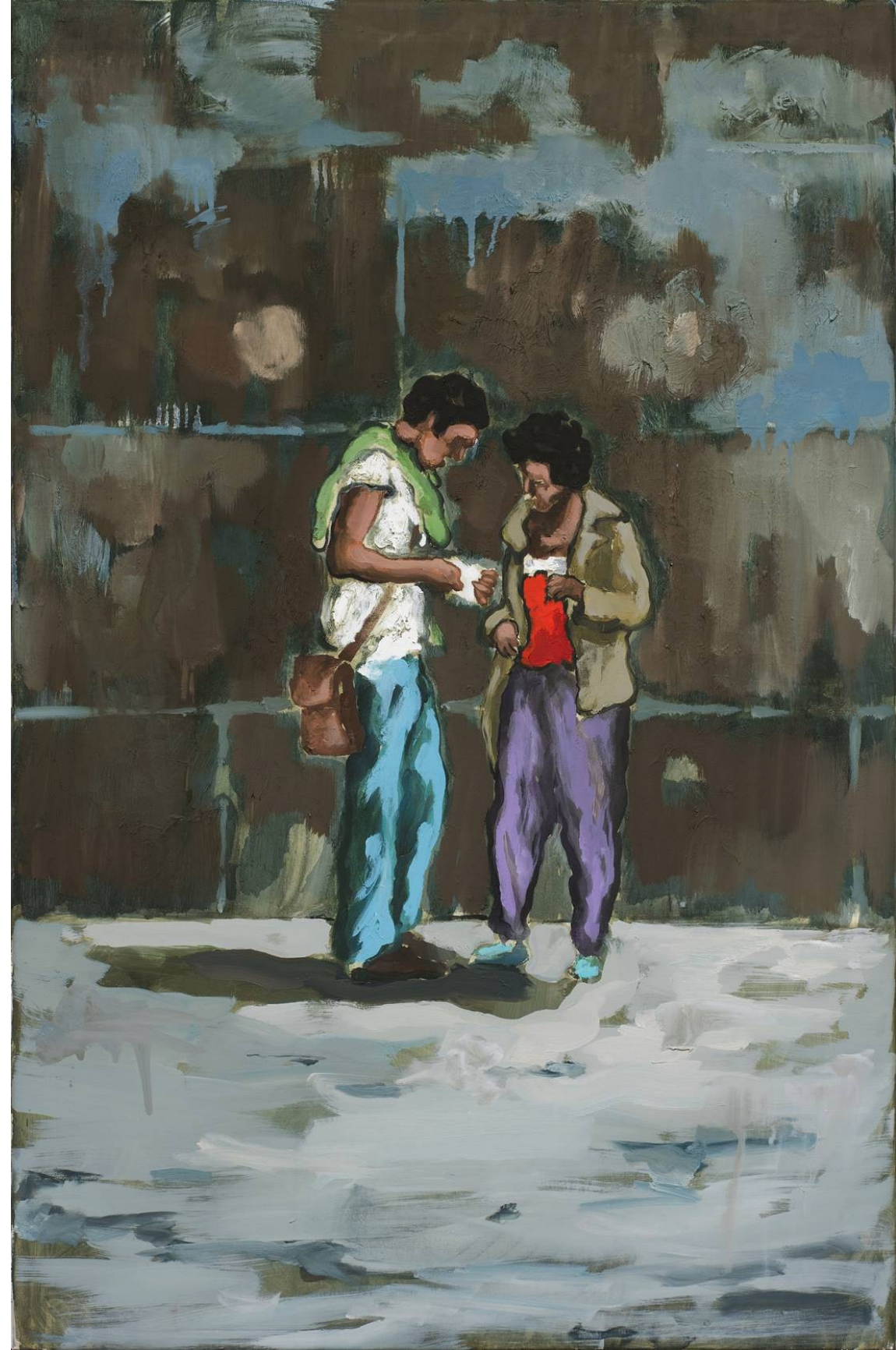


Installation view: No strangers beyond the pictures.
NotForSale, Basel, 2023.



The sleepers, 2023
Oil on linen
60 x 55 cm

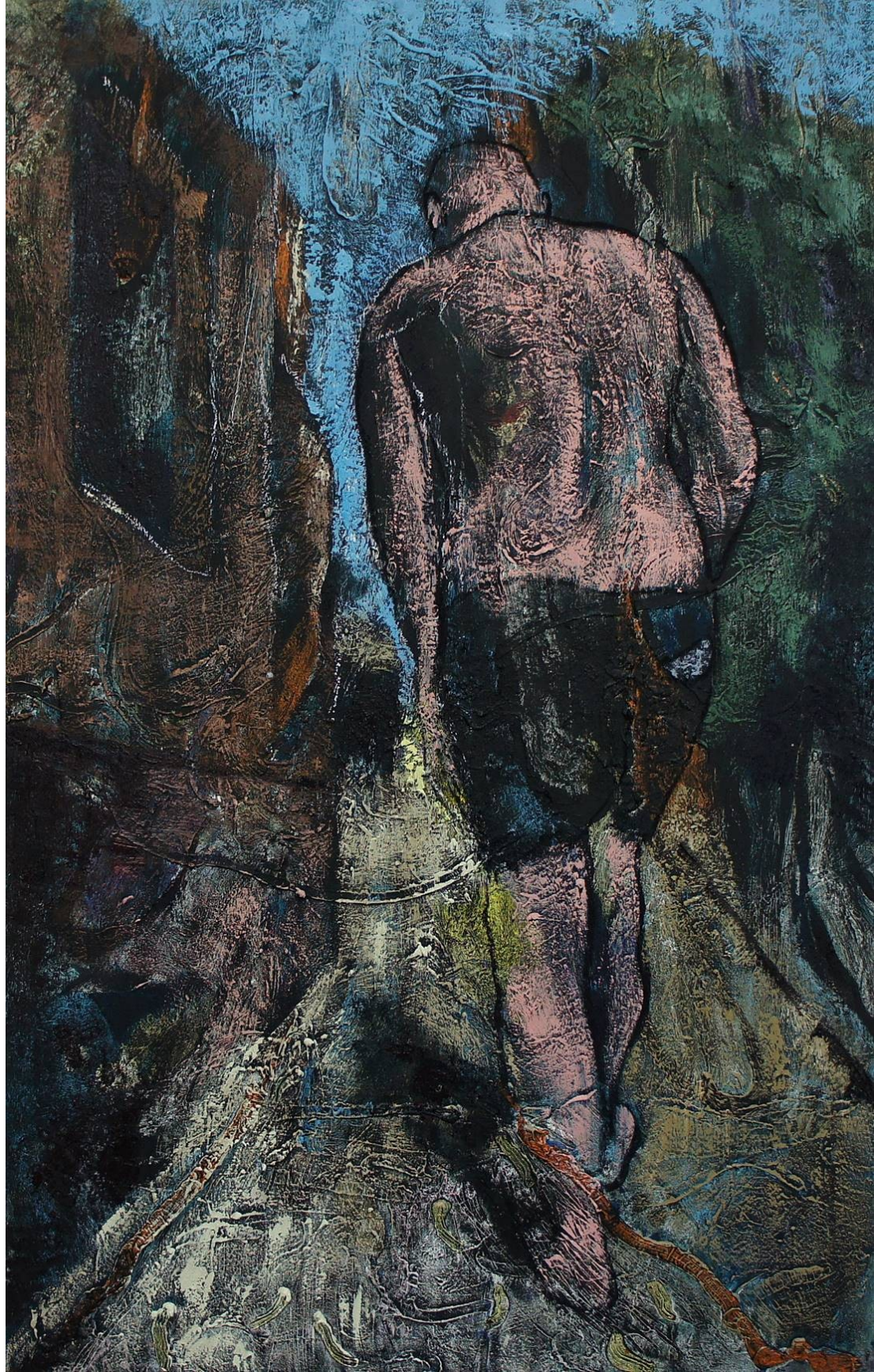
Two talking figures. 2021
Oil on canvas
130 x 85 cm

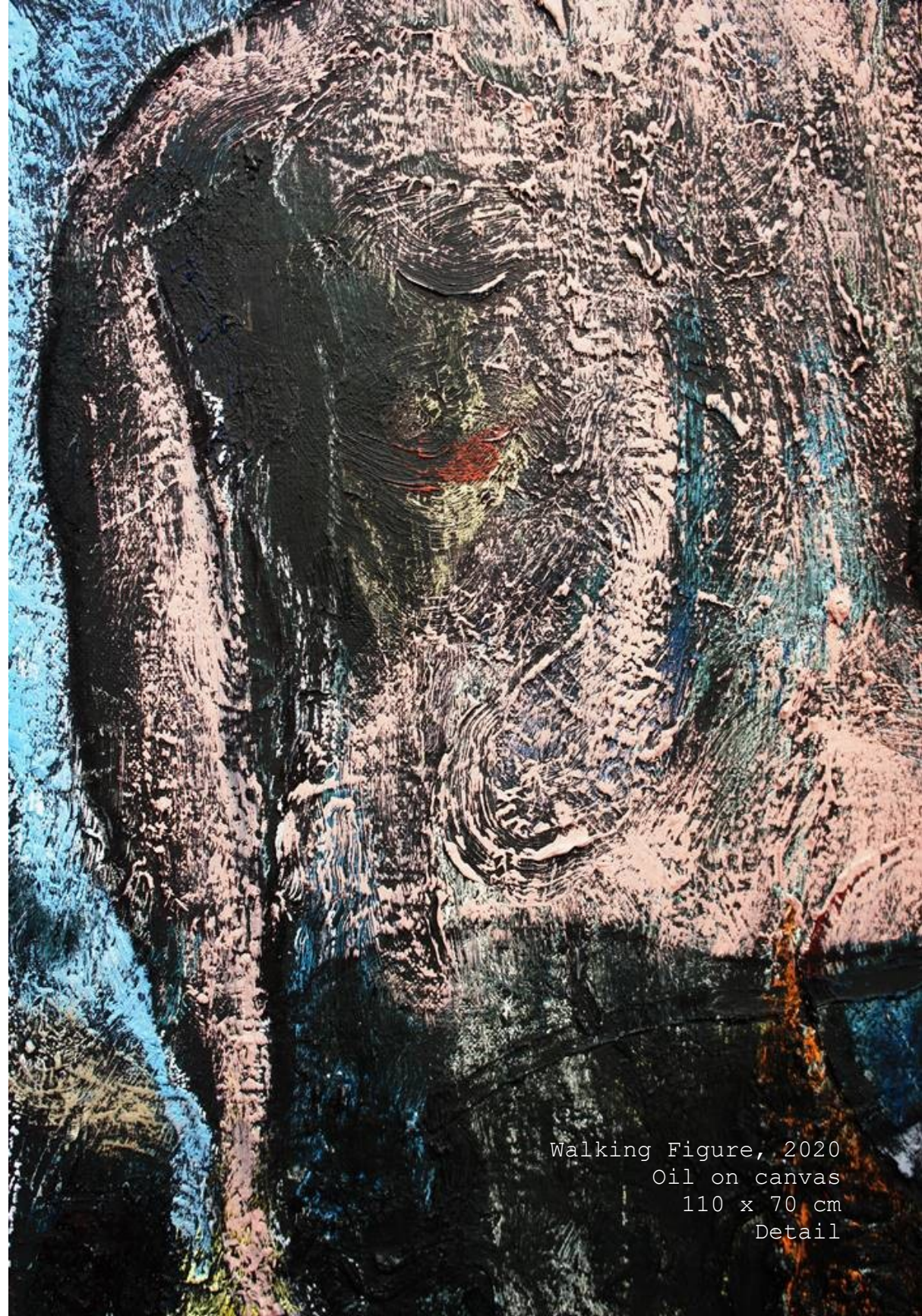




Two talking Figures. 2021
Oil on canvas
130 x 85 cm
Detail

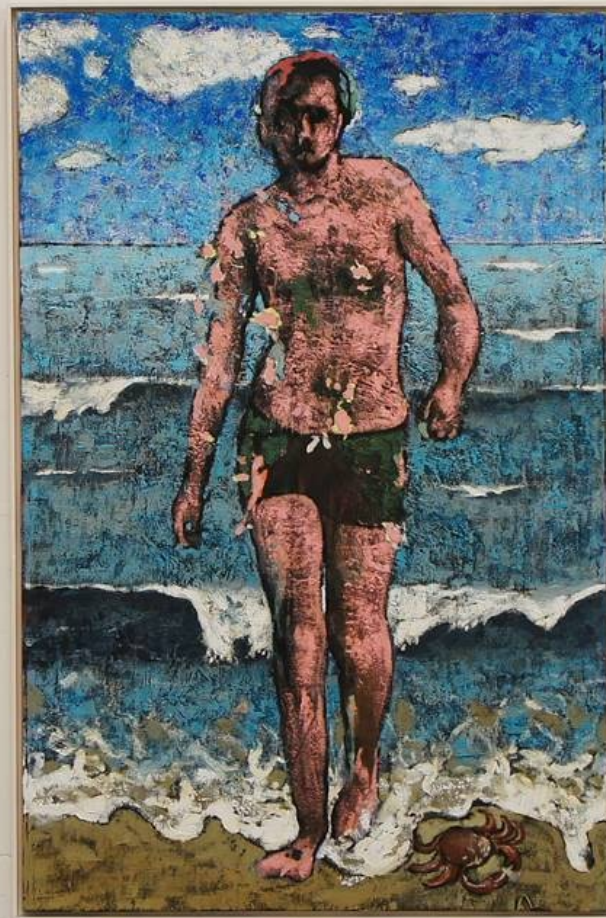
Walking Figure, 2020
Oil on canvas
110 x 70 cm

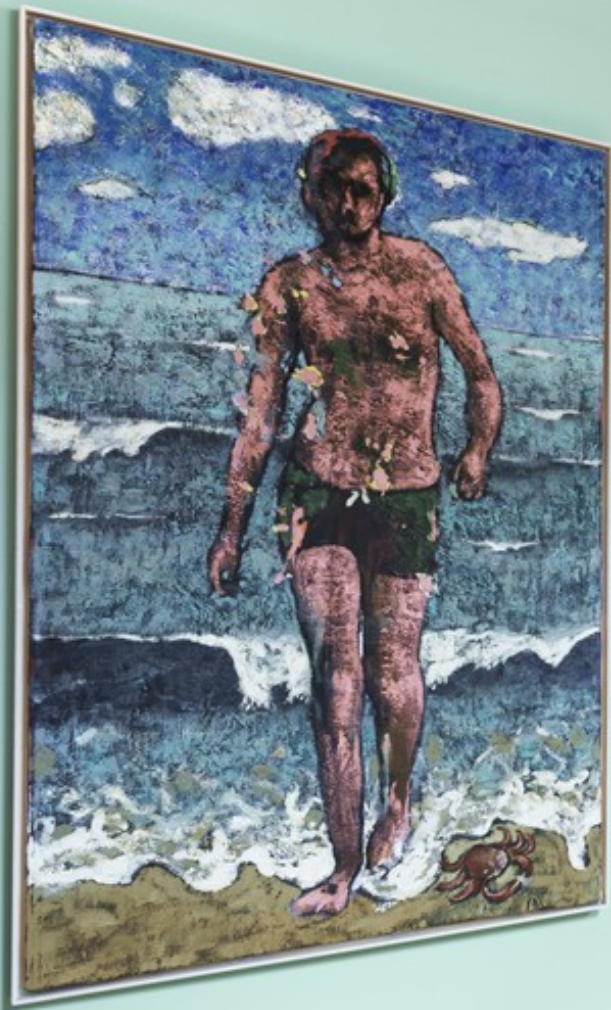




Walking Figure, 2020
Oil on canvas
110 x 70 cm
Detail

The bather, 2021
Oil on canvas
130 x 85 cm



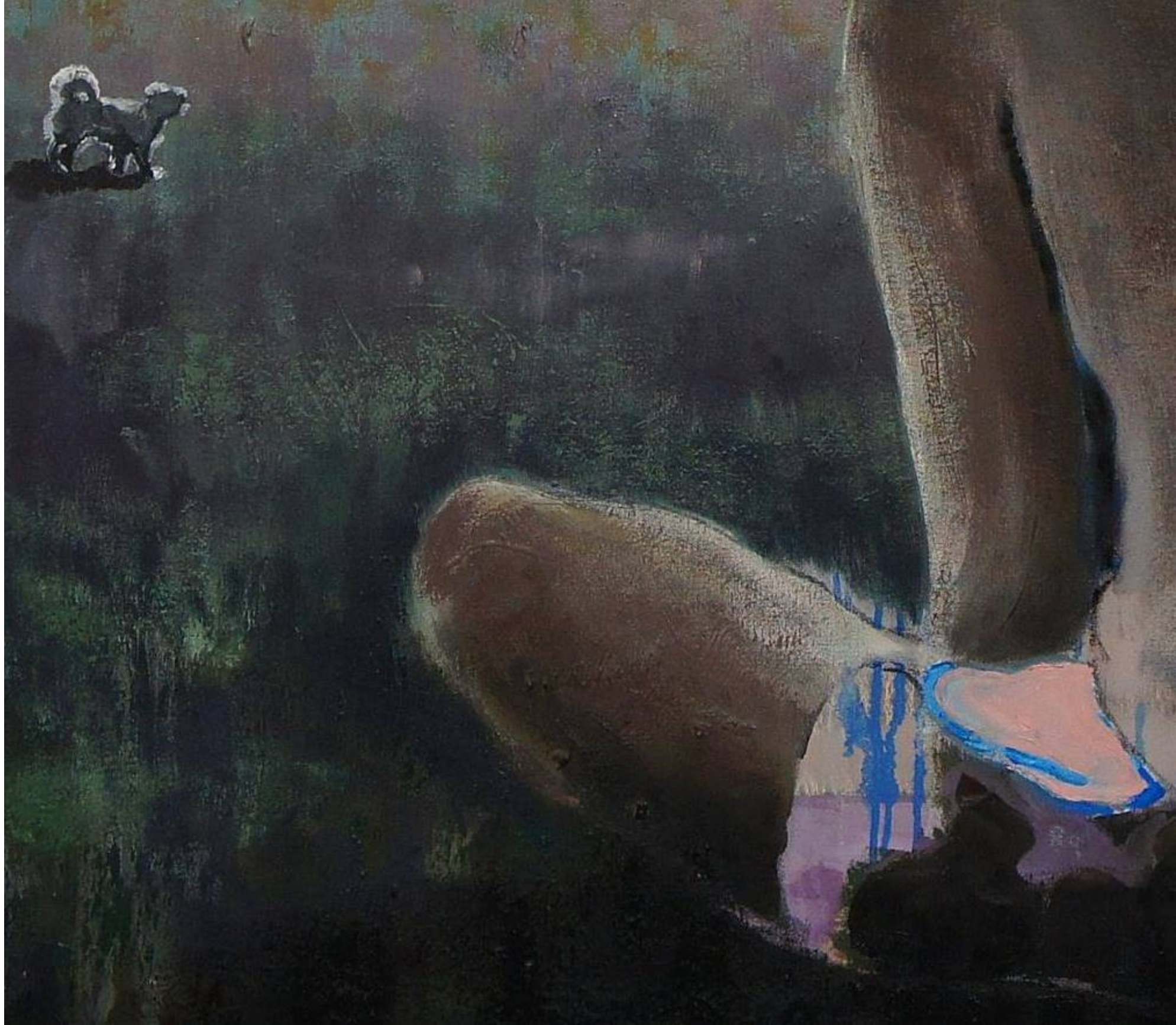


Installation view: The future has an orange background.
NotFor\$ale, Basel, 2023.

A boy in the twilight. 2022
Oil on Canvas
120 x 120 cm



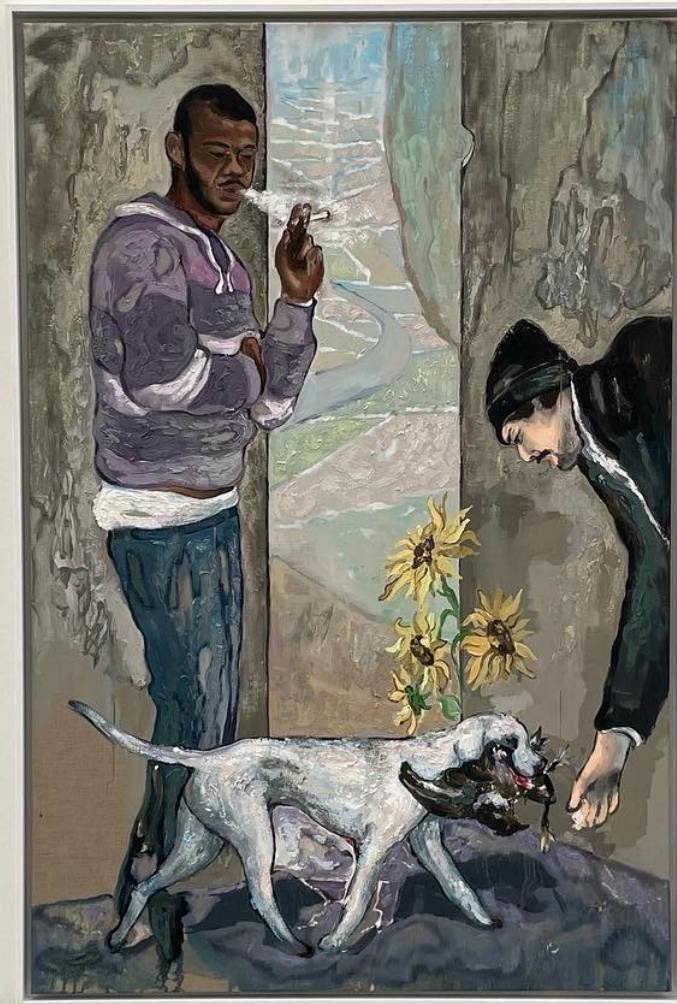
A boy in the
twilight. 2022
Oil on Canvas
120 x 120 cm
Detail

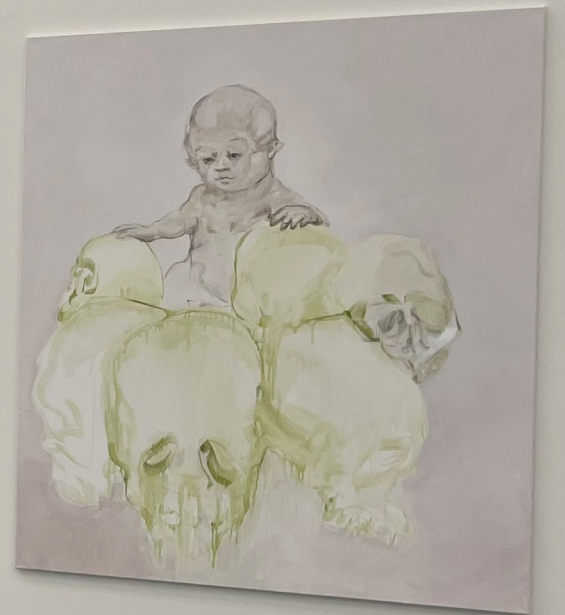


White dog between two figures, 2020 - 2021
Oil on linen
180 x 120 cm



Installation view: Die grosse,
Museum Kunstpalast.
Düsseldorf, 2022.





Installation view: Die grosse,
Museum Kunstpalast.
Düsseldorf, 2022.

Sunday beach painting, 2021
Oil on linen
180 x 120 cm





Installation view: Summer show,
NotForSale, Basel, 2022.



Installation view: People and imaginary places.
Praxis. Basel, 2022.



Installation view: People and imaginary places.
Praxis. Basel, 2022.

Smoking figure, 2019 - 2020
Oil on linen
220 x 150 cm





Smoking figure, 2019 - 2020
Oil on linen
220 x 150 cm
Detail

Untitled (Smoking figure), 2021
Oil on linen
50 x 35 cm





Installation view: People and imaginary places.
Praxis. Basel, 2022.



Installation view: People and imaginary places.
Praxis. Basel, 2022.



The smokers, 2020. Oil on canvas. 155 x 140 cm