



LIGHT OF DAWN

The inaugural group exhibition by ATMA Contemporary

13th Nov - 11th Dec 2025

Level 2, Mercu Summer Suite, 8, Jalan Cendana
Off Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250, Kuala Lumpur

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Afiq Romi
Asyraf Hidayat
Farhan Rizuwan
Fatini Jalil
Fazreen Sukri
Hazim Jaffry
Irsyad Maktar
Saharudin Ali
Tofu Sze Yu
Waqif Rafie
Yoss Yoseff

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Syed Hafiz

The inauguration of a new space, especially for a new art gallery in the 'noisy' art scene in Kuala Lumpur (KL) while a celebratory occasion, can be nerve-wrecking for some. Why is there a need for another gallery? What will be different about this gallery? Many more questions will be posed towards ATMA Contemporary as they negotiate the hectic art calendar in KL.

For artists and collectors, the option of having another exhibition platform can only be a positive development. The past few years have seen a resurgence of exhibitions and art-related activities in both the public and private sector. Spaces ranging from commercial galleries to extensions of corporate outreach activities such as HARTA and UR-MU have altogether contributed to the vibrancy of the KL art scene.

Hence in this cacophony, where does one go to for some respite and contemplation - a return to the 'encounter' with art, where ideas are the starting points for conversations about life? A seemingly idealistic question but nonetheless a necessary endeavour that is worth pursuing amidst the glitz and glamour of launch parties and transactional sale conversations.

Located in downtown KL, ATMA Contemporary aspires to nurture and facilitate those 'encounters'. Despite being surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the city, Dzur Fazreen Zulkiffli is adamant about not being swayed by 'art market forces'. In the pragmatic world where sales might sometimes take precedence over experimental ideas, this is a brave approach especially in the increasingly-crowded commercial gallery sector.

Hailing from the East Coast of Malaysia, Dzur Fazreen - affectionately known as 'Yeng' to most - might strike some as being a romantic or an idealist but beneath his easy-going demeanour is a tough exterior that has seen him not only take the plunge into the often-cutthroat gallery business but also, a resolve to make it a success on his own terms.

From being an artist assistant to a gallery staff in a few local galleries, Yeng has garnered experiences from various aspects of the local art eco-system. As someone who is familiar with the wheeling and dealing of the art market, Yeng has seen enough to chart a fresh perspective for ATMA Contemporary, something that might be more aligned with the artists' ideals and aspirations. Having graduated from UiTM (Shah Alam) in 2021, Yeng's proximity to the younger artists can be seen as an advantage; his background as a Fine Art graduate, perhaps going some way in capturing the zeitgeist of the current art world.

Casting the spotlight on Light of Dawn, we are presented with a group of young artists whose names are not unfamiliar within the local art circles. Looking through closer at their works, one might notice that most of the works share a common thread across them. Consisting of works across various mediums, the exhibition represents a diversity of practices showcasing poignant issues that are visually engaging.

The works of Fazreen Sukri, Irsyad Maktar and Saharudin Ali for example, provide a window into the aesthetics of the East Coast with their strong craft traditions and provoking our preconceived notions of space – both sculpturally and on canvas. While works by Afiz Romi, Asyraf Hidayat, Tofu Sze Yu and Fatini Jalil invite us to probe deeper into our sub-conscious and reflect on how we negotiate our own internal challenges vis-à-vis societal expectations. On the other hand, works by Farhan Rizuwan, Hazim Jaffry, Waqif Rafie and Yoss Yoseff highlight debates on identity and belonging via the cultural or bodily perspectives.

Unlike a conventional group exhibition, Light of Dawn does not aim to represent a cohesive thought process, rather, the themes of cultural identity interspersed with contemplative questions on the self, invite us to engage with the works on our own terms and time. As mentioned in the exhibition foreword, the exhibition “...stand as both a celebration and a quiet declaration: of promise, potential, and an enduring vision to nurture the soul of art within Malaysia's contemporary landscape.”

Hence, we have much to look forward to as we embrace ATMA Contemporary's entry into the KL art world. As another platform for young and emerging artists, we can only hope that it remains a nurturing platform, an incubator of sort to bridge the art academies to the sometimes - unforgiving art market. In an art world where time and accessibility can sometimes make or break an artist's career, we can only hope that the 'light' of ATMA Contemporary will continue to shine.

Syed Muhammad Hafiz is currently a curator based between Malaysia and Singapore. He has previously curated for public institutions and private galleries in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, contributing to numerous publications and exhibitions.







Afiq Romi

The Silence Between Thorns
Graphite on paper, 183 x 152 cm, 2025

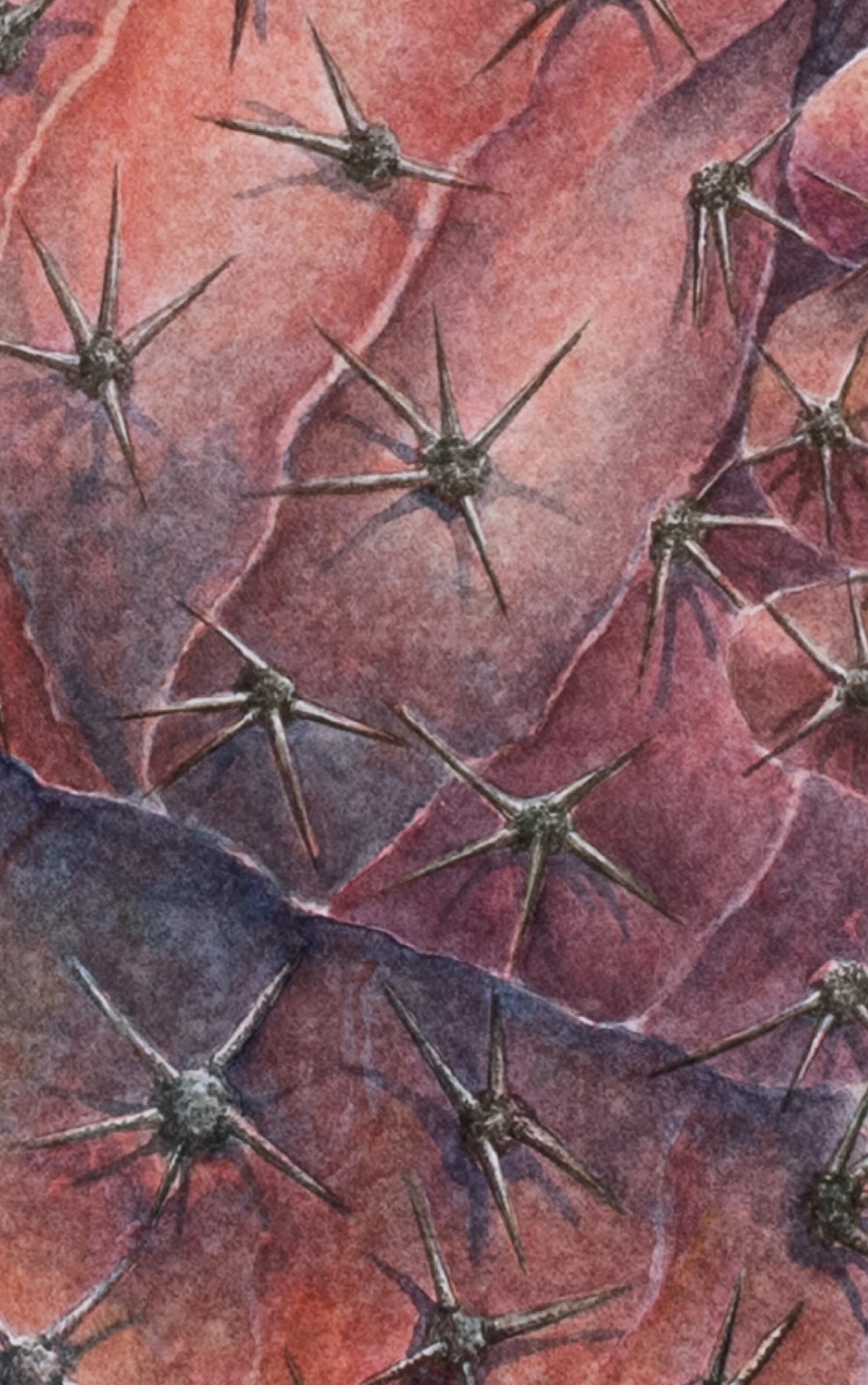




Afiq Romi

A Quiet Resistance
Watercolour on paper, Size varies, 2025





Afiq Romi

The Shape of Stillness

Soft pastel on paper, 100 x 70 cm, 2025





Asyraf Hidayat

Suratan atau kebetulan

Linocut print, patches and ink in ceramic, Size varies,
2025





Farhan Rizuwan

The Patient Witness

Meranti wood, oil based paint & 2K clear coat,
94 x 76 x 57 cm, 2025

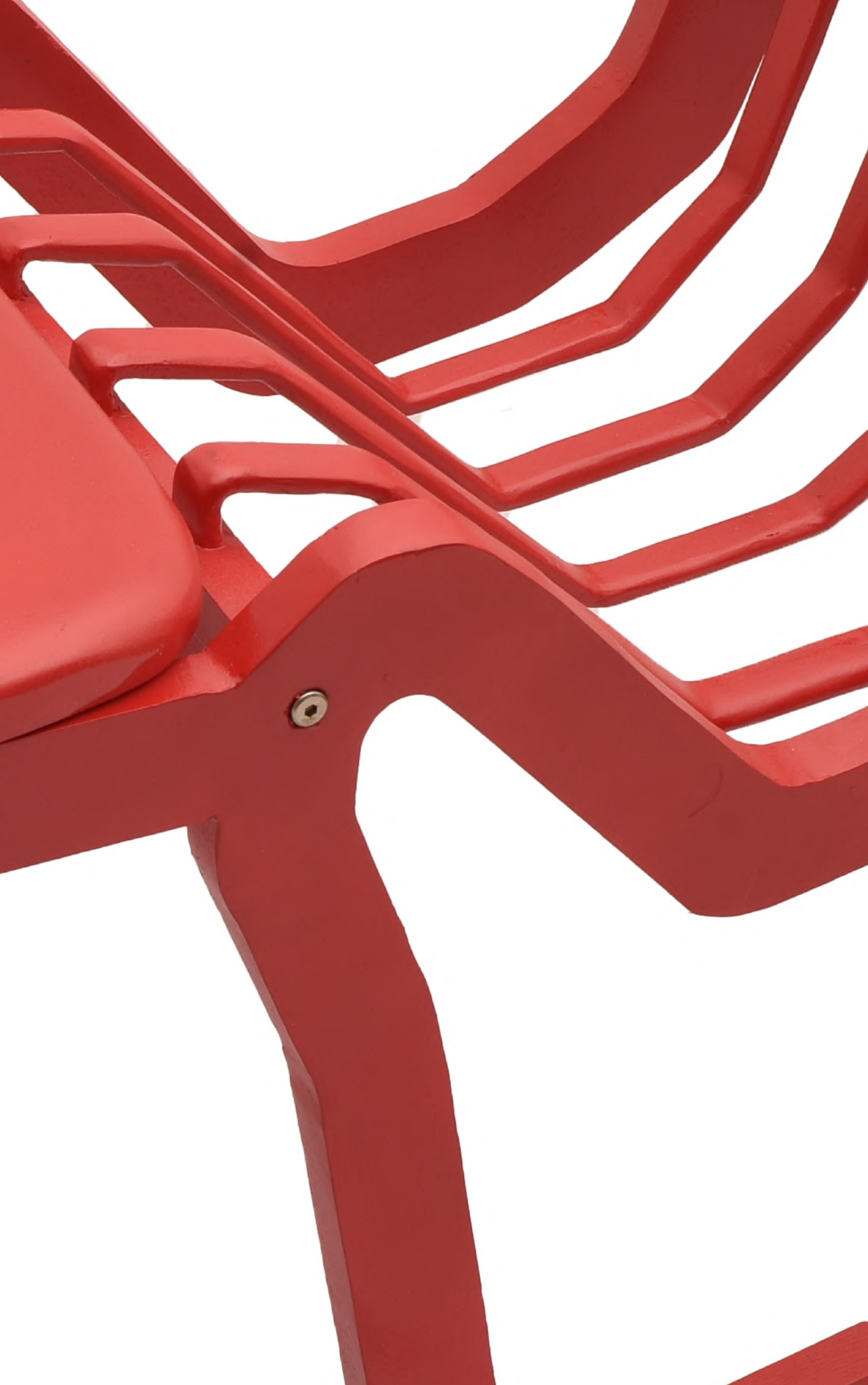




Farhan Rizuwan

Crawling for a Seat
Meranti wood, oil based paint & 2K clear coat,
67 x 58 x 97 cm, 2025

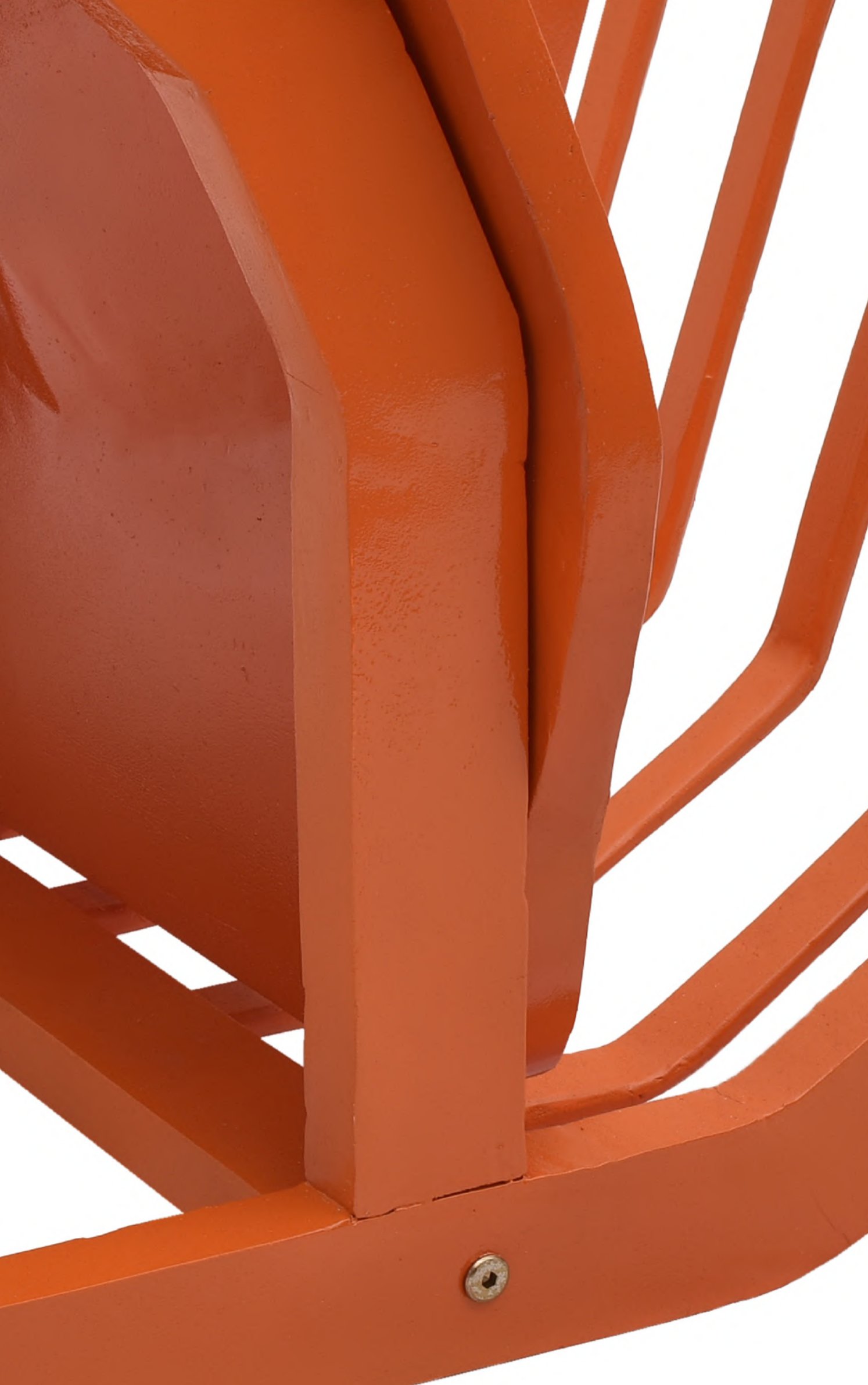




Farhan Rizuwan

The Comfort of Power
Meranti wood, oil based paint & 2K clear coat,
47 x 45 x 74 cm, 2025

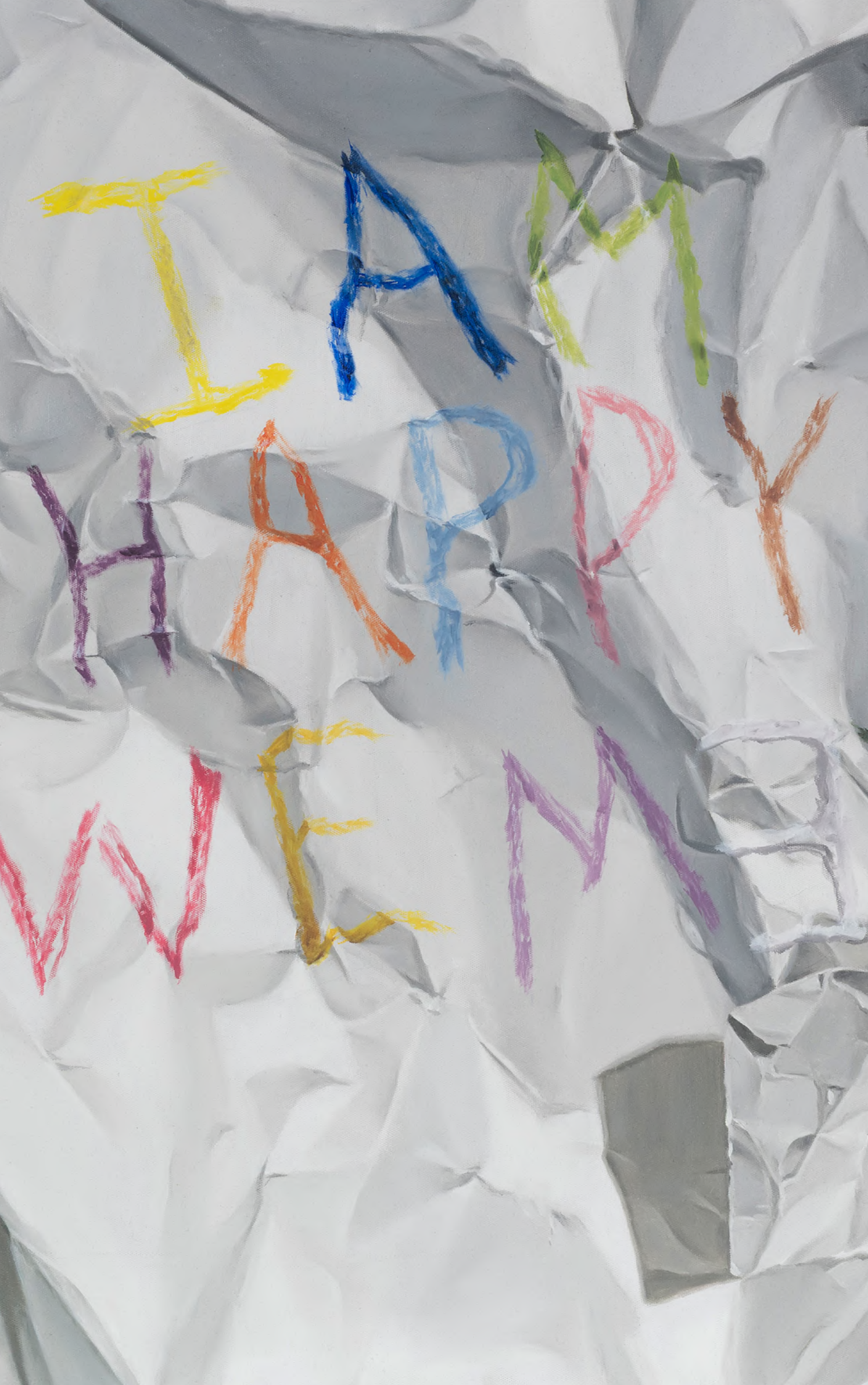




Fatini Jalil

iam happy we met
Oil on canvas, 91 x 91 cm, 2025





Fatini Jalil

i wish i never met you
Oil on canvas, 91 x 91 cm, 2025





Fazreen Sukri

Lingering Conversation (Bua tok abih)
Mixed media on canvas, 122 x 244 cm, 2025





Fazreen Sukri

Parading on 'paper' ('Berayak atah kertas')
Mixed media on canvas, 122 x 122 cm, 2025





Fazreen Sukri

Write, let it disappear ('Tulih, pah wak hile')

Mixed media on canvas, 183 x 152 cm, 2025





Hazim Jaffry

Real Hardcore
Meranti wood, and acrylic paint, 48 x 33 x 29 cm, 2025





Hazim Jaffry

Level Confidence
Meranti wood, and acrylic paint, 44 x 22 x 24 cm, 2025

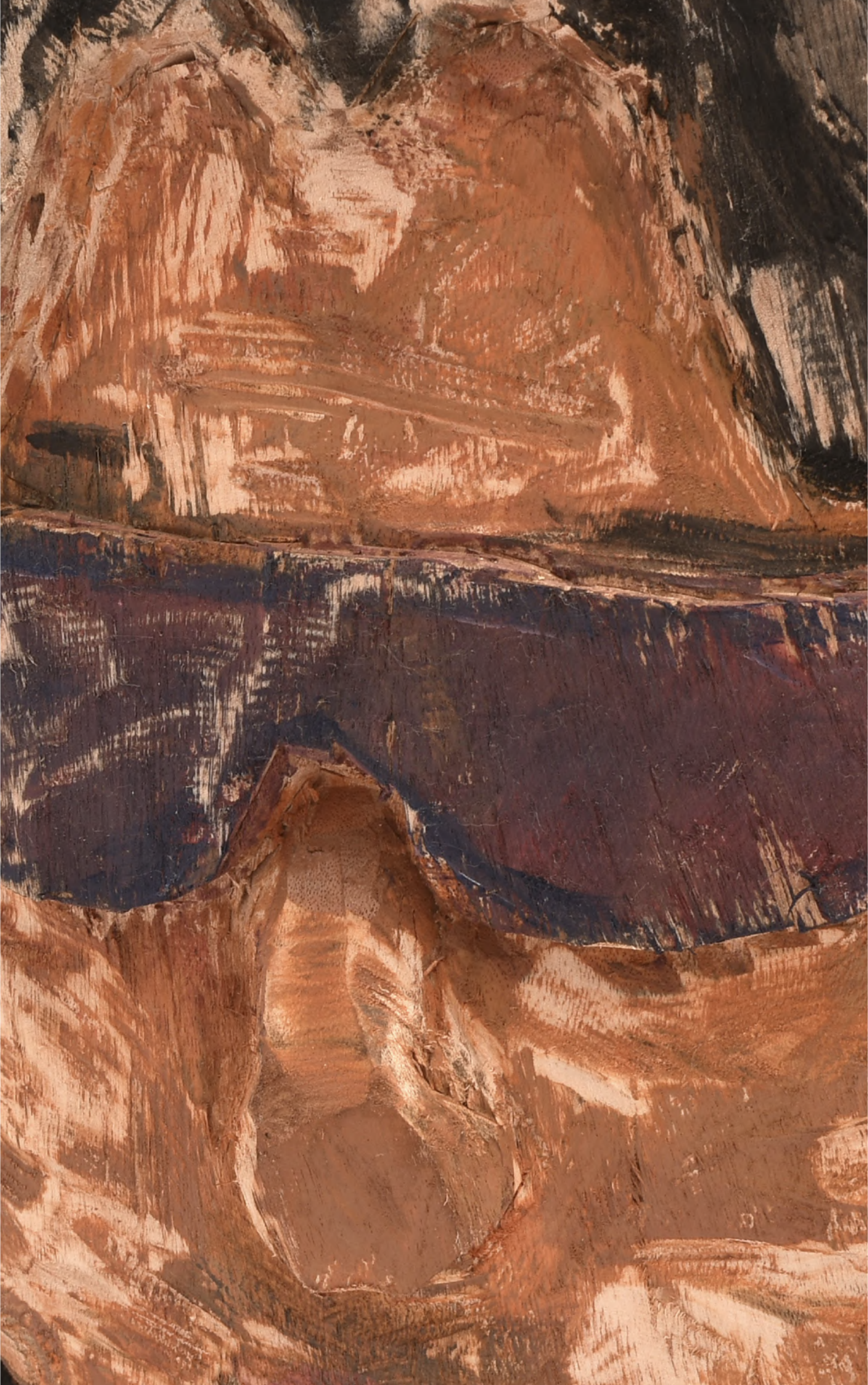




Hazim Jaffry

Berangan Lebih (Self-Portrait)
Meranti wood, and acrylic paint, 42 x 34 x 30 cm, 2025





Irsyad Maktar

Convergent Molecules

Merbau wood, aluminium, stainless steel rod, cable, bolt
and clear wood finish, 142 x 83 x 64 cm, 2025





Irsyad Maktar

Molecule Oscillation

Merbau wood, aluminium, stainless steel rod, cable bolt and clear wood finish, 80 x 274 x 31 cm, 2025





Irsyad Maktar

Endless Continuum

Merbau wood, aluminium, stainless steel rod, cable bolt and clear wood finish, 42 x 45 x 29 cm, 2025





Saharudin Ali

Refleksi Natural

Meranti and chengal wood, 125 x 183 cm, 2025





Saharudin Ali

Dimensi : Rawan
Meranti and chengal wood, 167 x 130 cm, 2025





Saharudin Ali

Palang Bolong

Meranti and chengal wood, 73 x 43 cm, 2025





Tofu Sze Yu

Spiraling echo

Oil on canvas, 153 x 122 cm, 2025

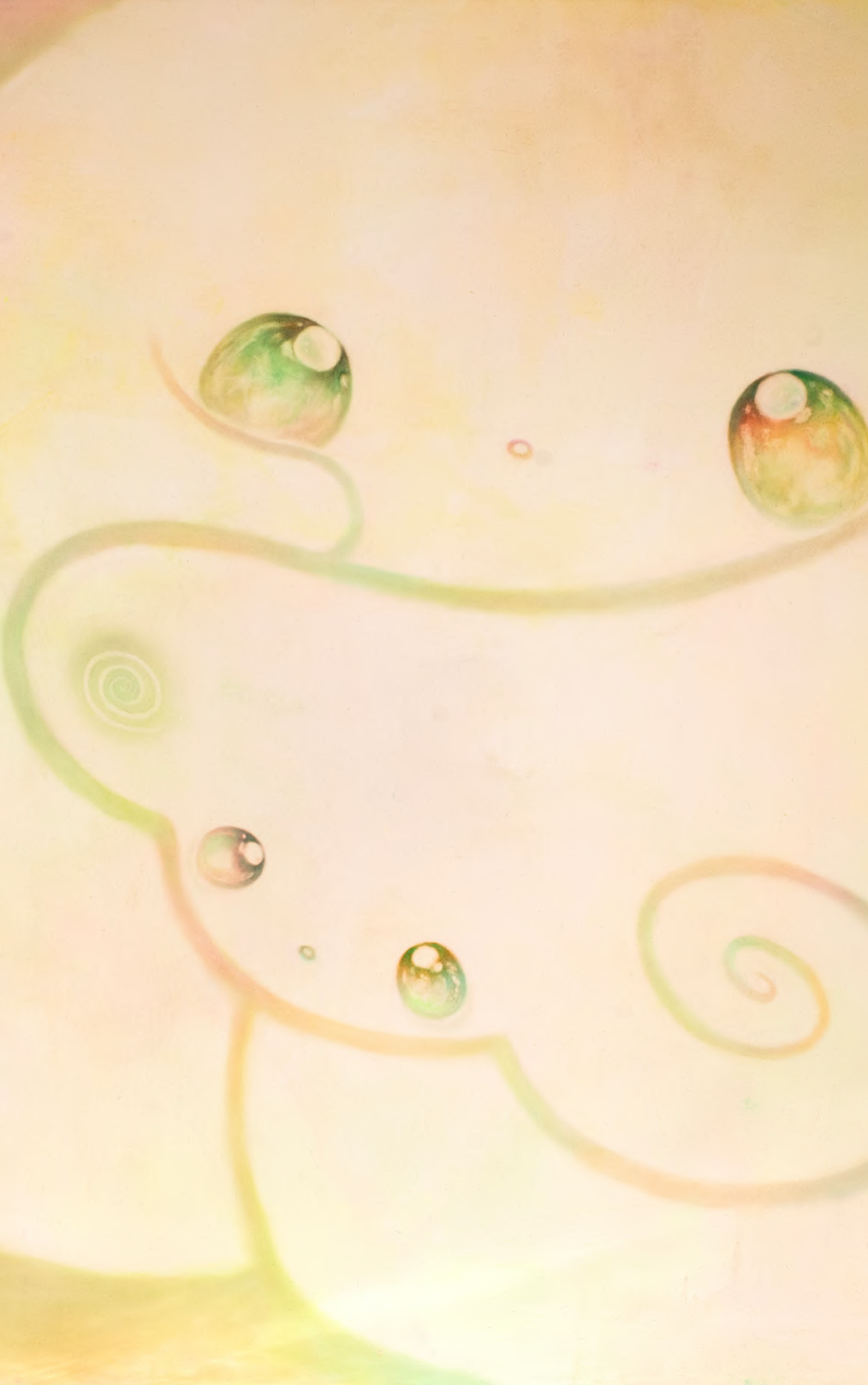




Tofu Sze Yu

Interwoven
Oil on canvas, 123 x 123 cm, 2025

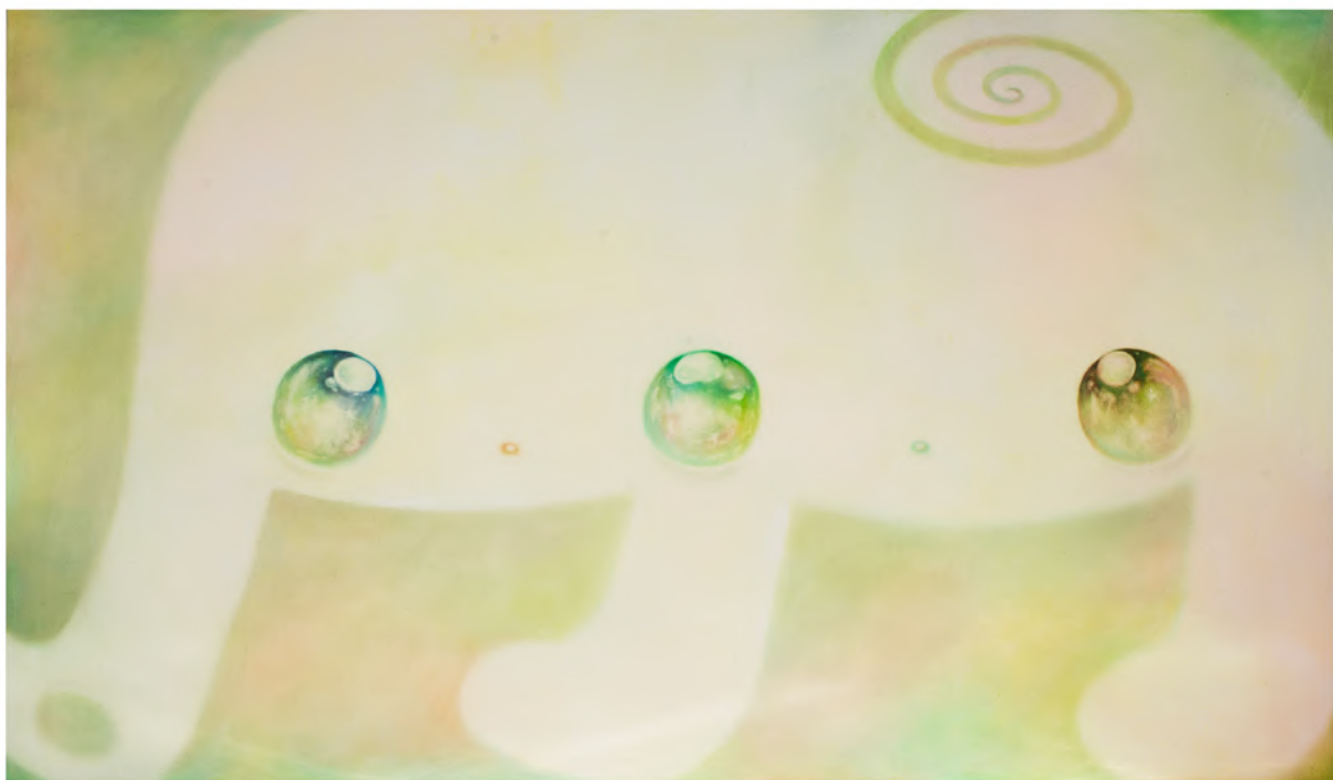


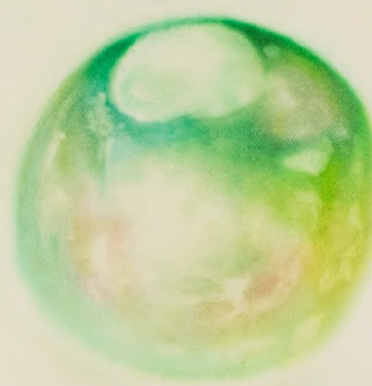
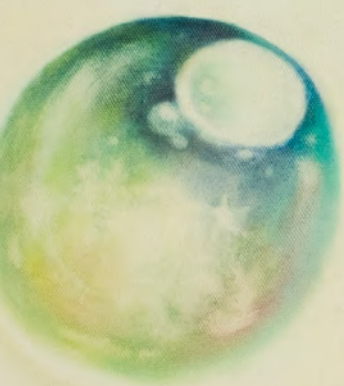


Tofu Sze Yu

As one

Oil on canvas, 92 x 153 cm, 2025

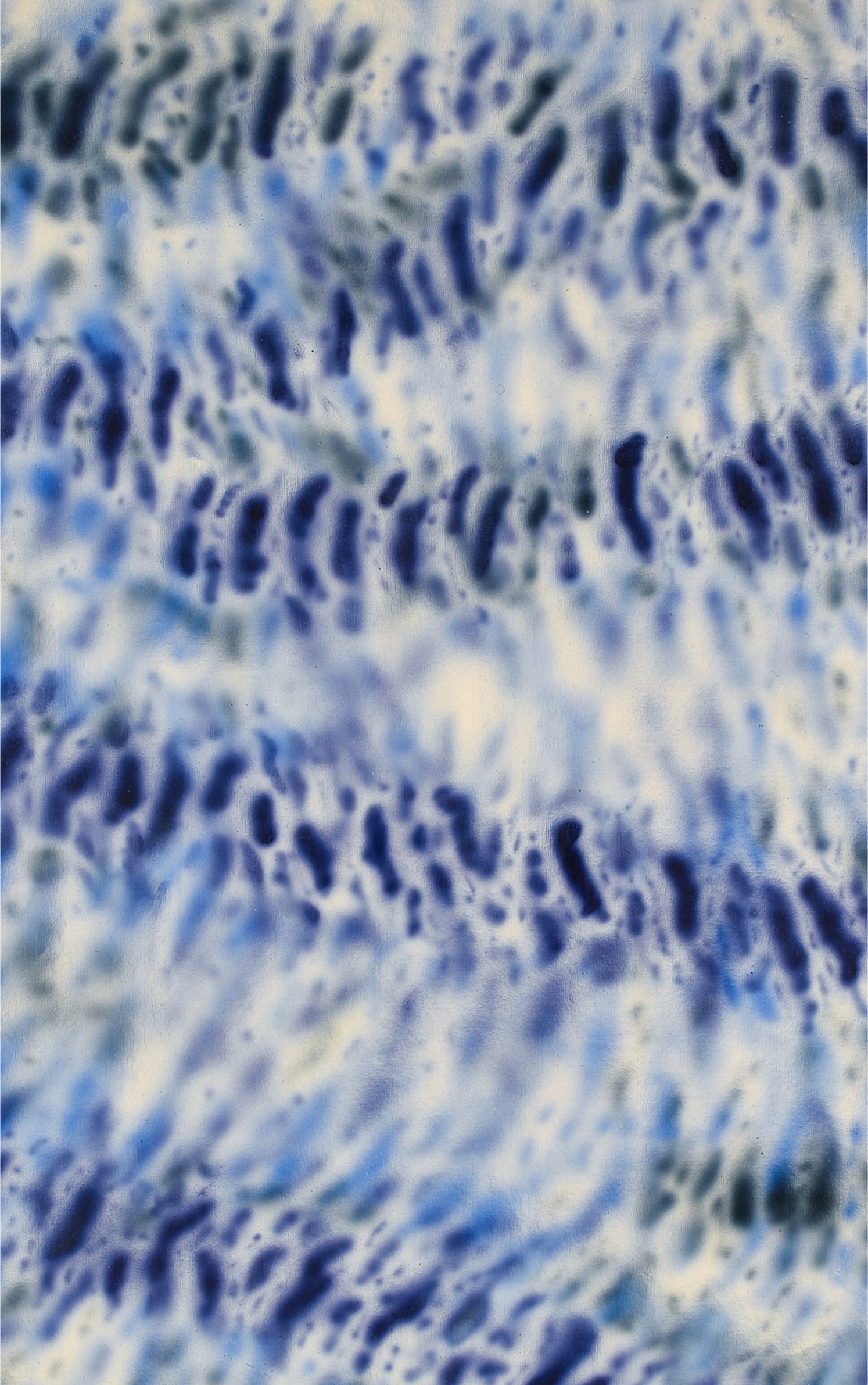




Waqif Rafie

Ritma Laku
Acrylic on canvas, 152 x 122 cm, 2025

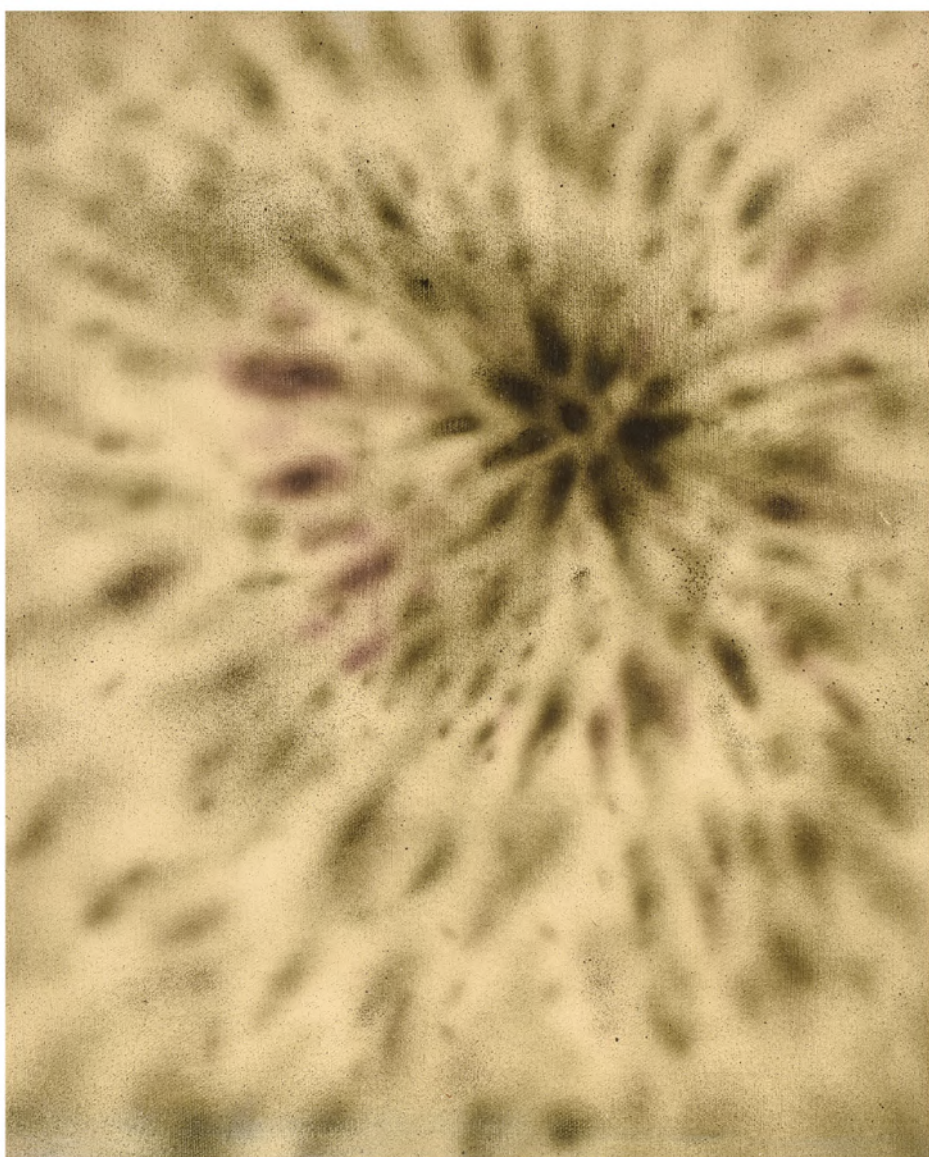




Waqif Rafie

Silang Asal

Acrylic on canvas, 37 x 30 cm, 2025

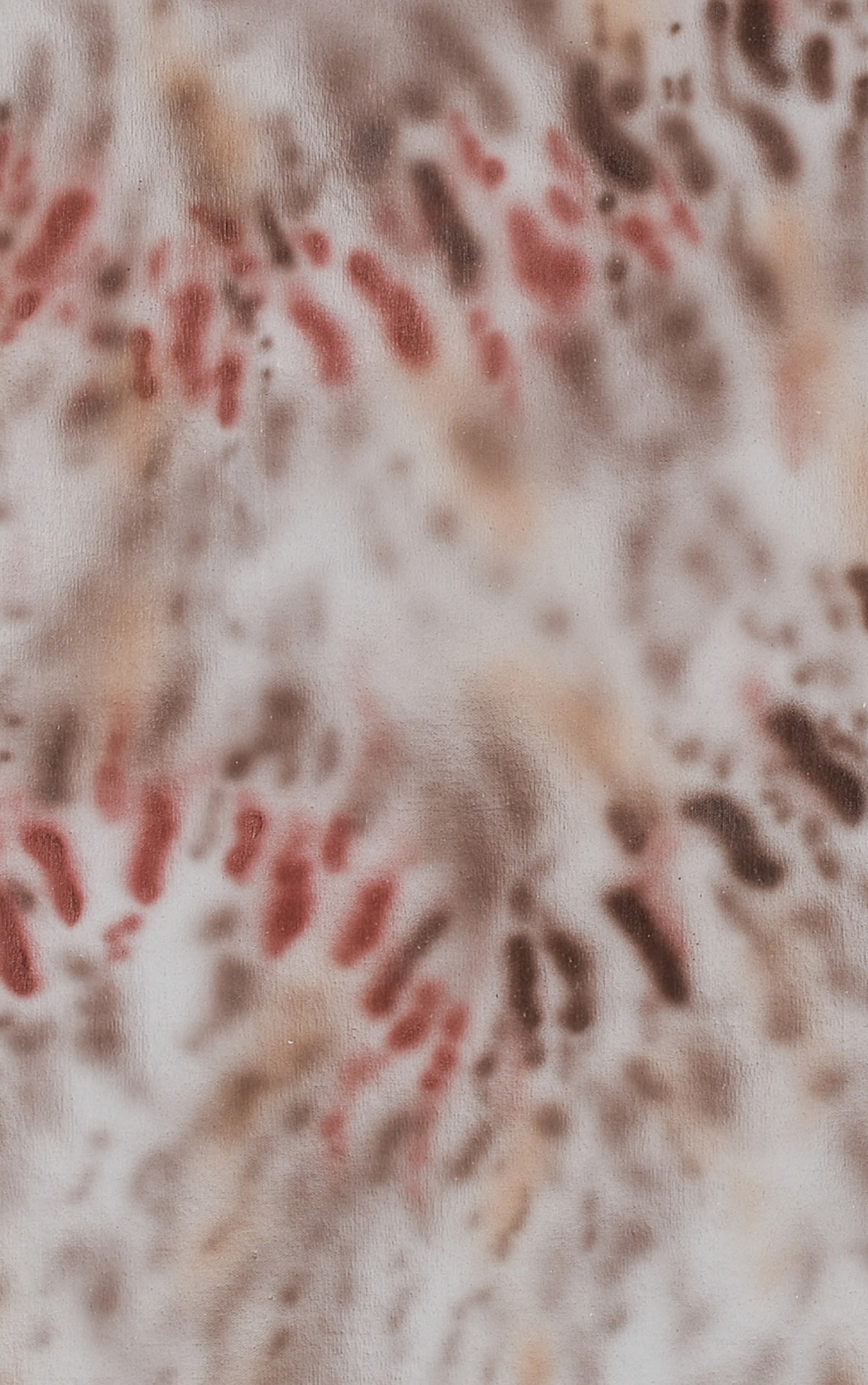


Waqif Rafie

Buram Antara

Acrylic on canvas, 122 x 92 cm, 2025





Yoss Yoseff

Bersipuh

Ballpoint on notebook (fabriano paper, acid free), 28 x 23 x 7 cm (each), 2025





