

Release

STREET
ART
AMANDA WALKER



AMANDA WATT

Release

22 September - 8 October 2022
Gallery Eight - London

8 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6BN
Monday – Sunday 11am – 7pm





Varvara Roza Galleries and K. Nichols Contemporary are pleased to co-present 'Release' by Amanda Watt at Gallery Eight, London. Watt's first large-scale solo show in the UK since the 1980s combines her interiors, landscapes and depictions of the female form to create a show that is bold, bright and brave. All painted since returning to her native Northern Ireland after almost thirty years in the USA, the pieces have taken on a new sensitivity and emotional expression.

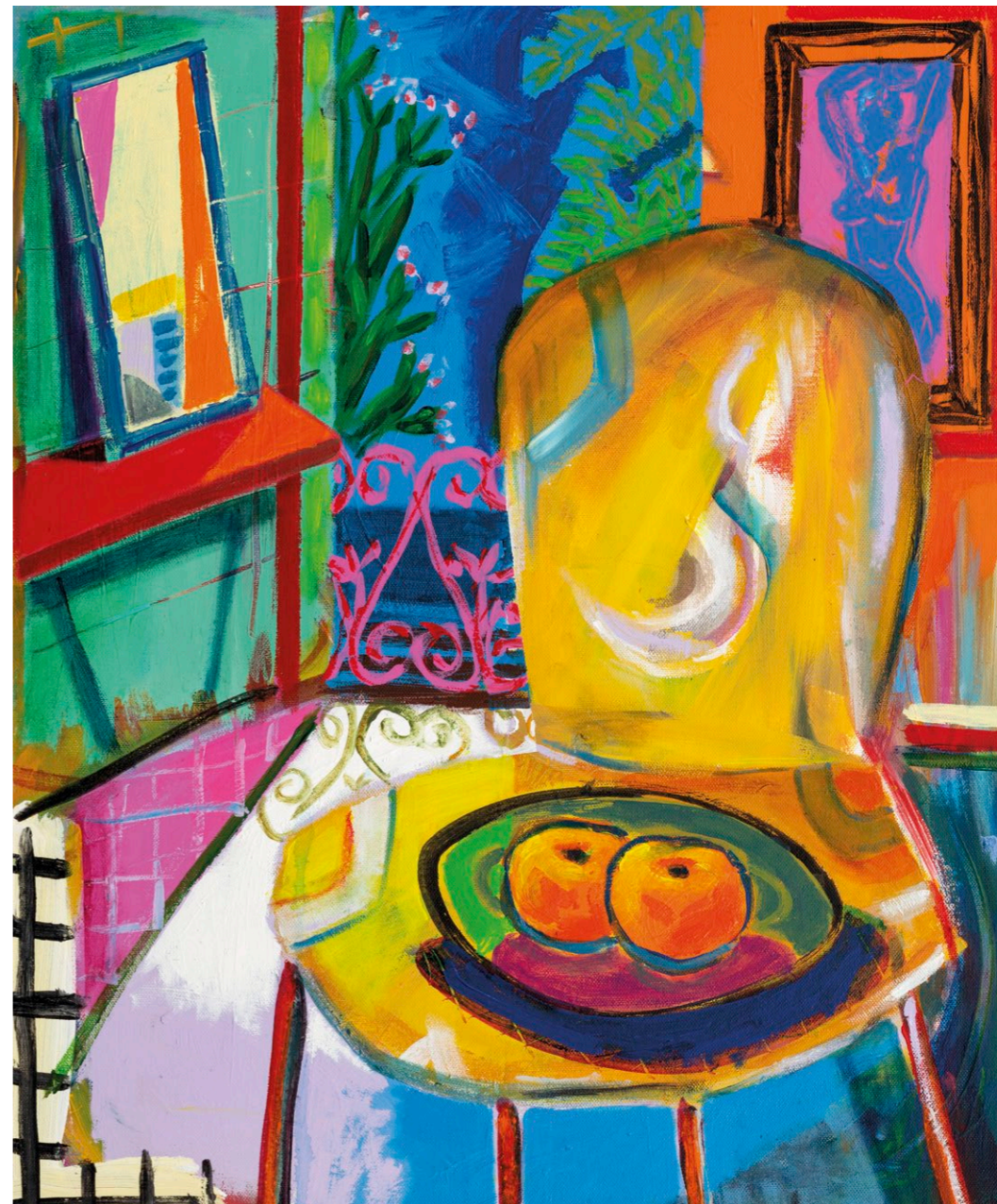
This latest body of work is an artistic release: an outpouring of energy and emotion that creates an explosion of colour and form. Watt investigates her own personality, experiments with paint and canvas, and trusts her intuition, letting her memory and imagination lead the way. Many of the pieces have a cinematic aspect to them – a one-point perspective that gives the feeling of something filmic, as if Watt is releasing a glimpse into her artistic process.

Inspired by her life in California and Florida, and her subsequent return to Ireland, 'Release' is an epiphany for Watt, a true outflowing of creativity.

“

*I eat, sleep and dream colour.
There is no ‘good colour’
or ‘bad colour’: all colour is
beautiful. It’s the unique way
each tone works together
that determines the mood,
energy and emotion of my
paintings.*

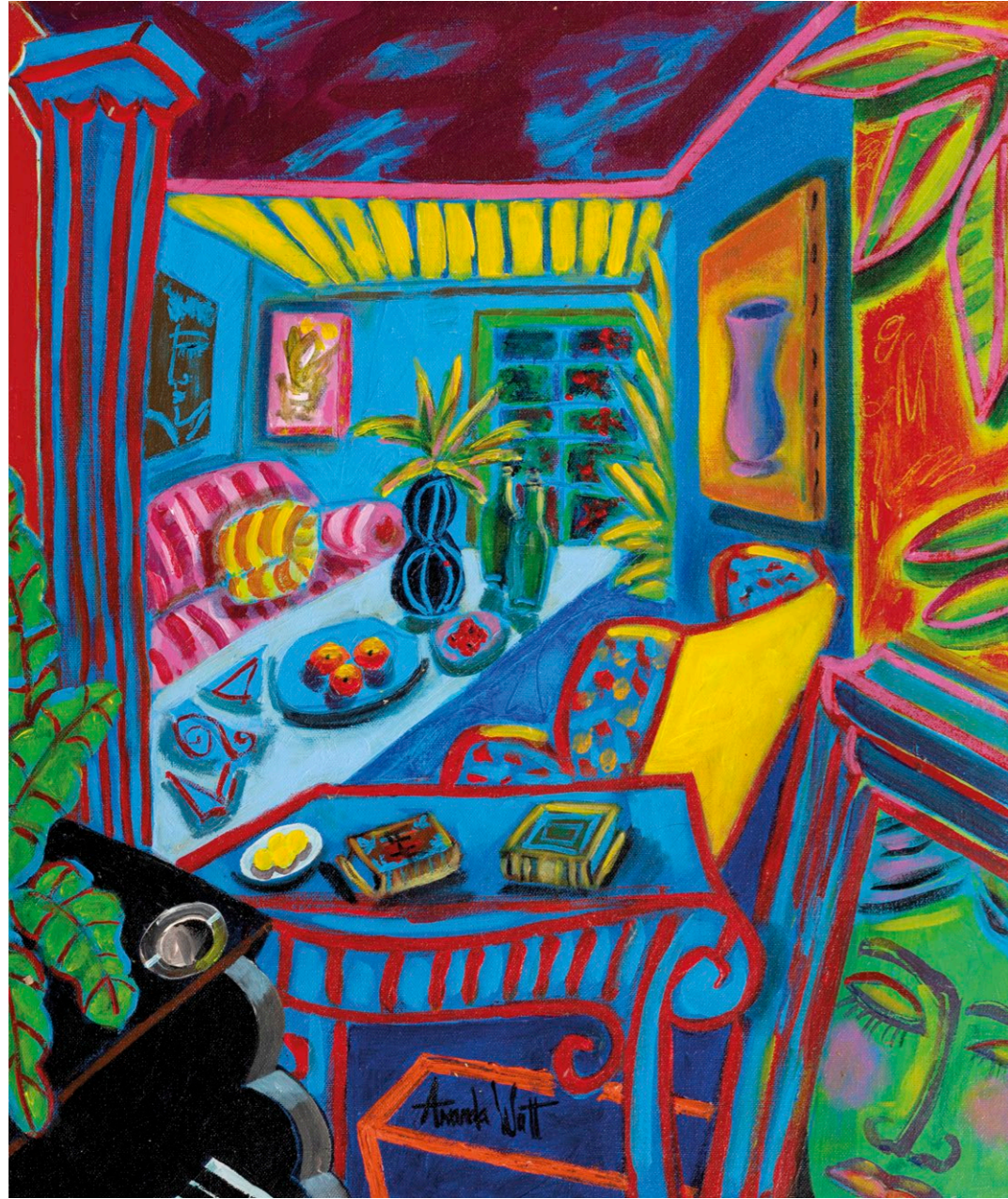
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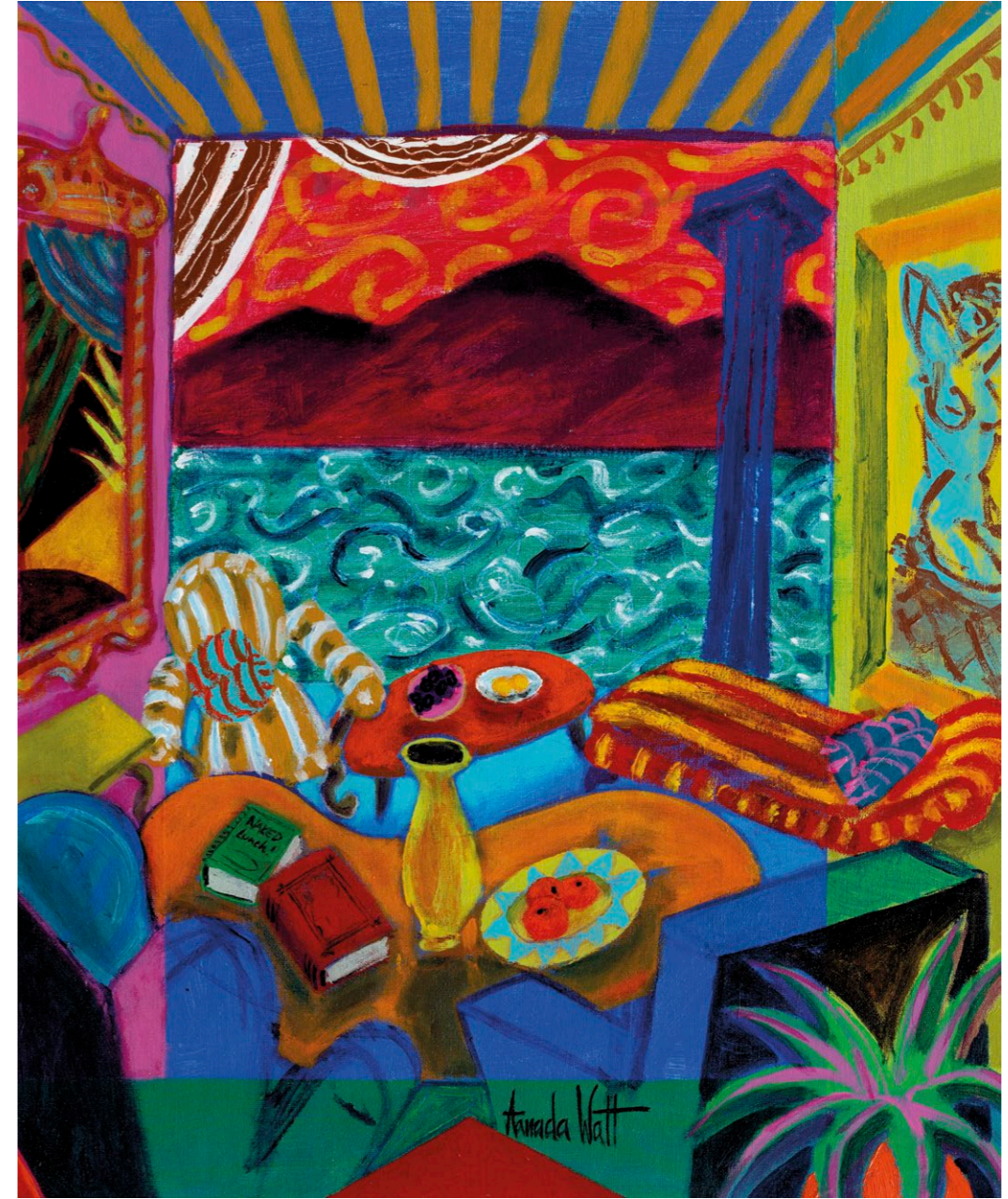
The Chair
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm



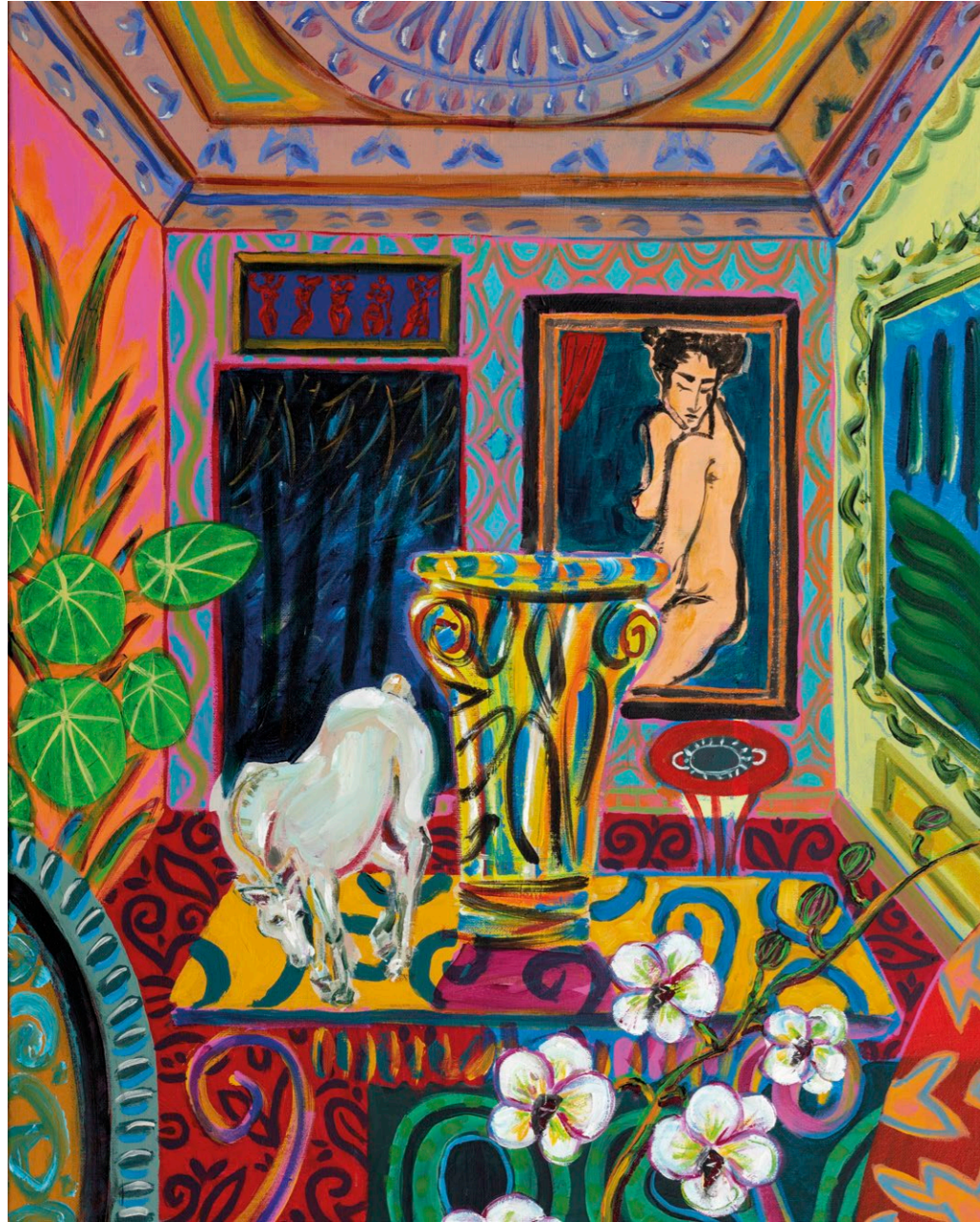
Fortune Cookie
Acrylic on canvas
65 x 75 cm



The Epicurean
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm



Naked Lunch
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm



The Ballroom
Acrylic on canvas
75 x 70 cm



Destiny's Move
Acrylic on canvas
117 x 107 cm



Martel Avenue
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm



Tahitian Tulips
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 40 cm



Scent
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 40 cm



The Blue Sofa
Acrylic on paper
100 x 70 cm



“

If painting were easy, and just about throwing paint on canvas, everyone would be doing it. For me, it's about using experiences, trusting my instincts, and following my intuition to turn chaos into order. Often unable to predict the next move, I have to be brave, embrace the happy accidents and go with it.

”



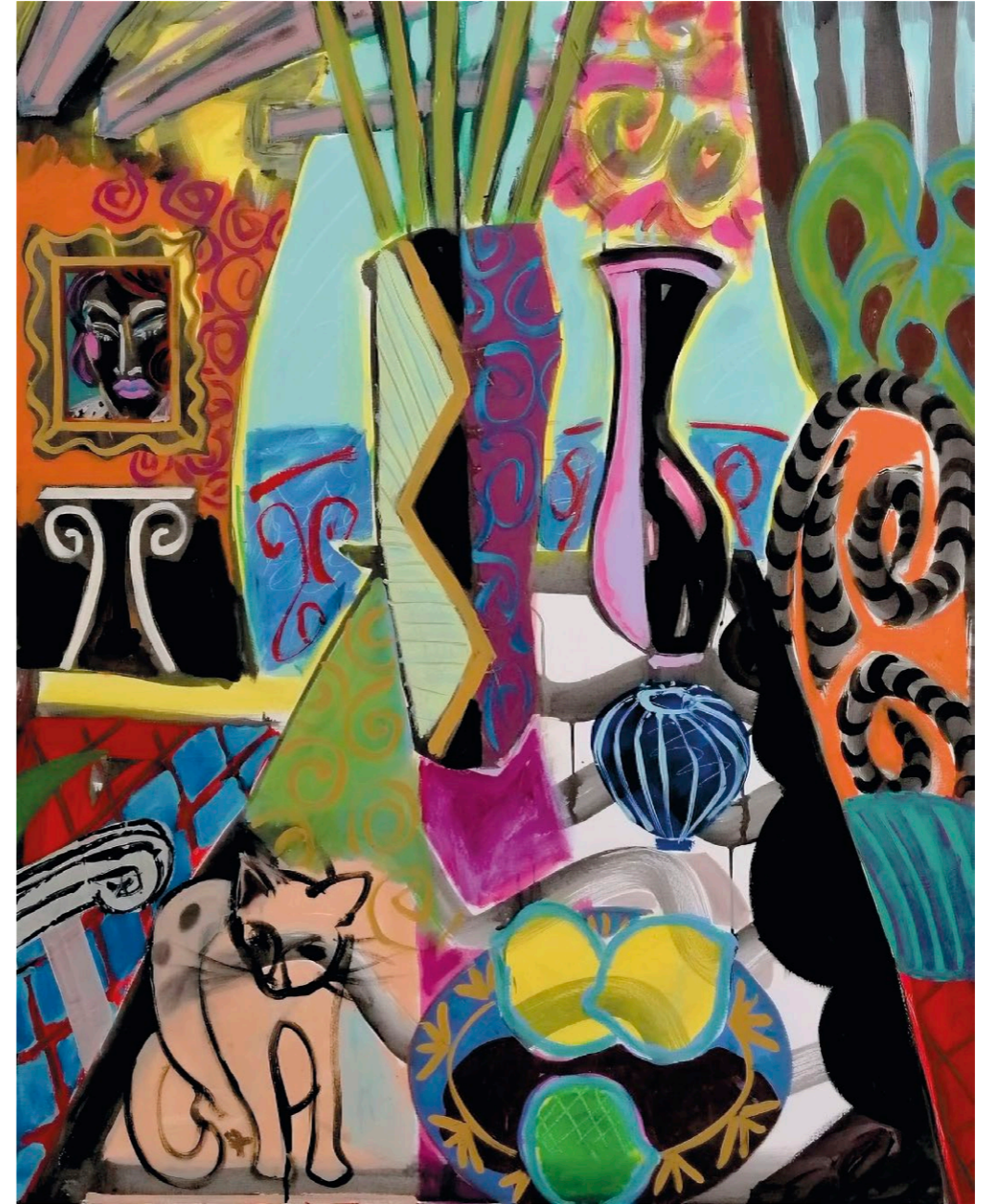
Hollywood Hills
Acrylic on Canvas
100 x 150 cm



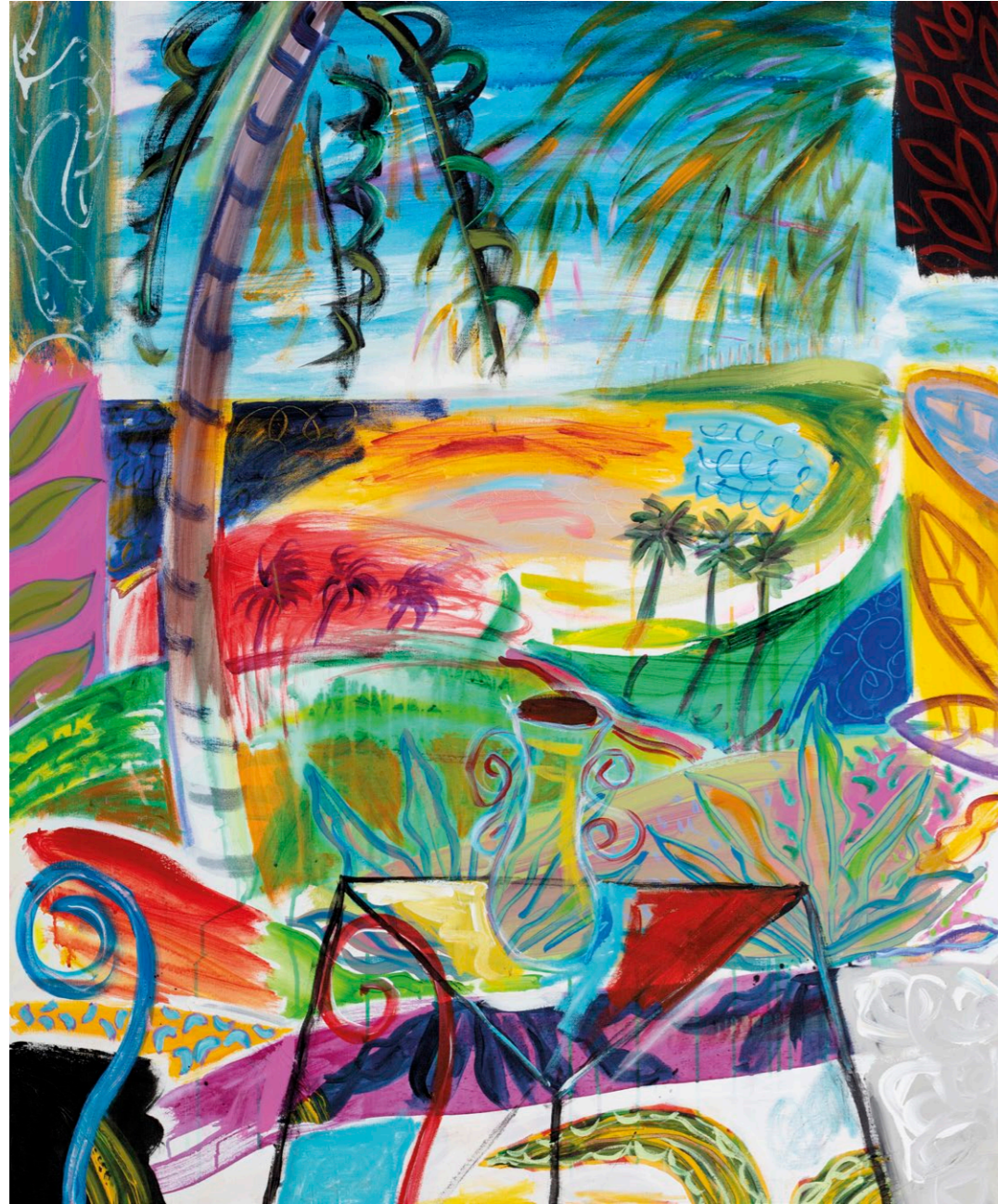
Hockney's View
Acrylic on Canvas
100 x 150 cm



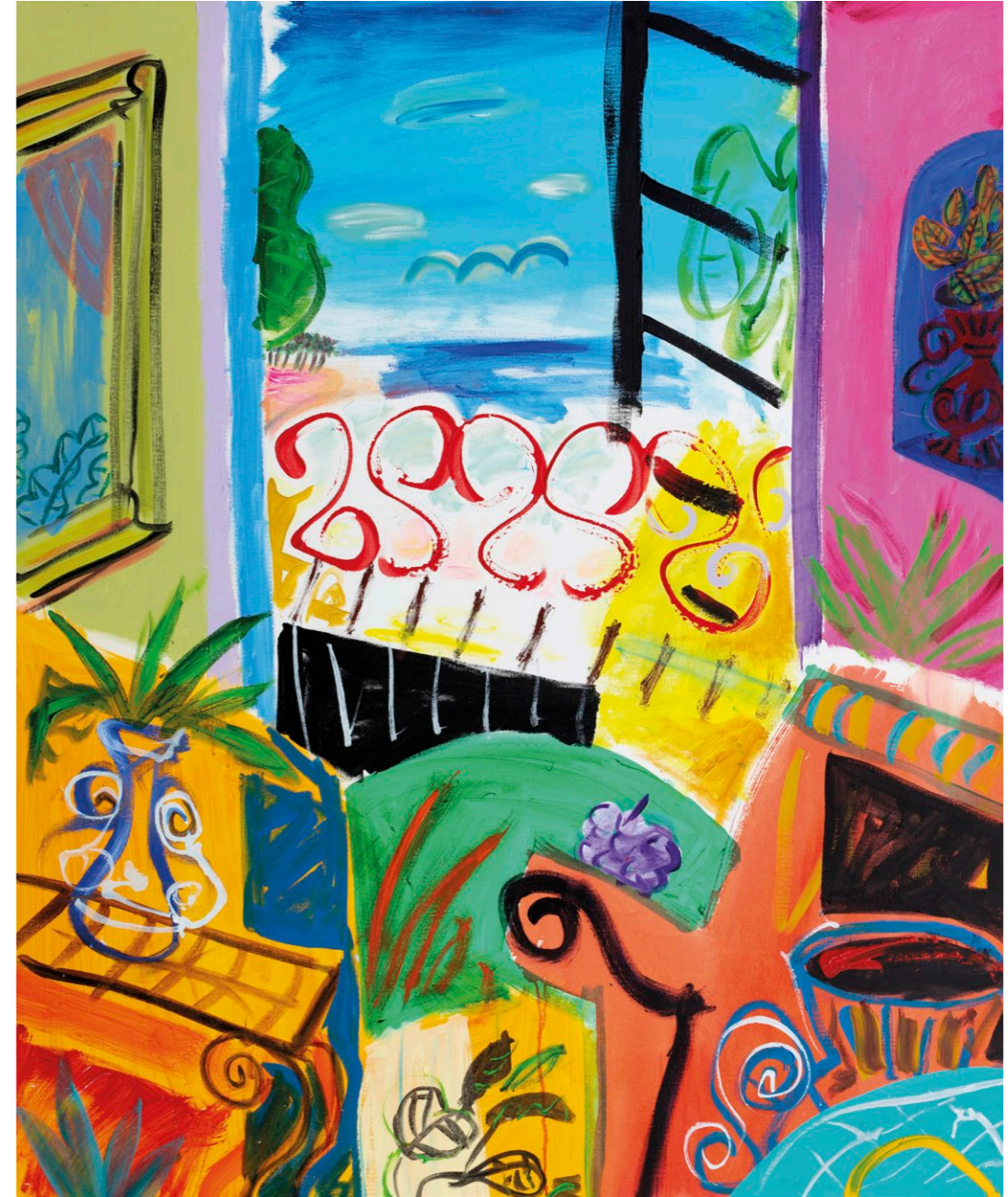
The Secret
Acrylic on Canvas
105 x 80 cm



Persephone
Acrylic on Canvas
105 x 80 cm



California Dreaming
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 100 cm



Mediterranean Studio
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 100 cm



Be Kind
Acrylic on Canvas
100 x 150 cm



Runyon Cyn

Two plate colour engraving on Somerset paper

Image size 30 x 42 cm

Paper size 57 x 80 cm

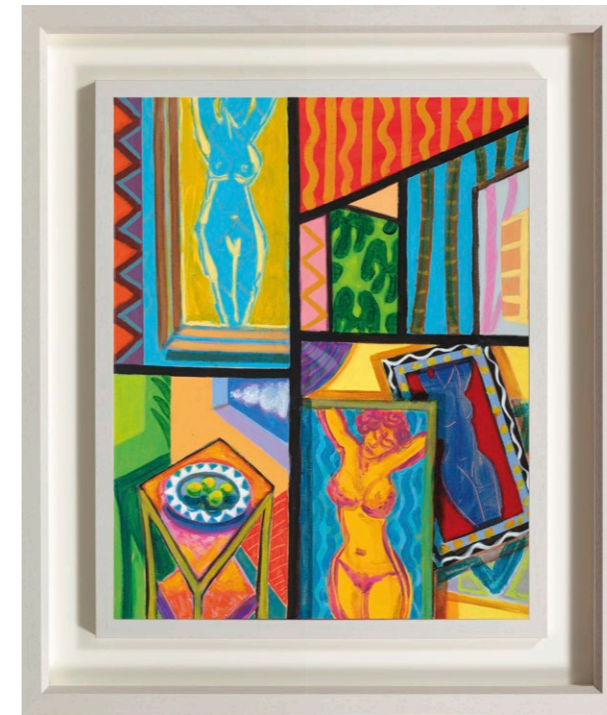
Edition of 25

“

My ‘Fragmented Memories’ draw techniques and ideas from across modern art. The bright colours and flattening of the picture planes amplify the expressive power of each piece, while shouting about the vitality of life. The clean lines of geometric abstraction compartmentalise different memories, thoughts, objects and motifs. While each part has its own meaning, my aim is to combine them to create a balanced whole.

”

Clockwise from top left: **Memory Motel; Meandros; Compartmentalised; Blue Madonna**
Acrylic on Canvas
50 x 40 cm





“

My paintings of the female form explore the theme of relationships, whether with themselves, other characters, or with the external viewer. My women are strong, but at the same time thoughtful and somewhat reserved. Their strength manifests itself in their confident poses, strong lines, and bold colours.

”



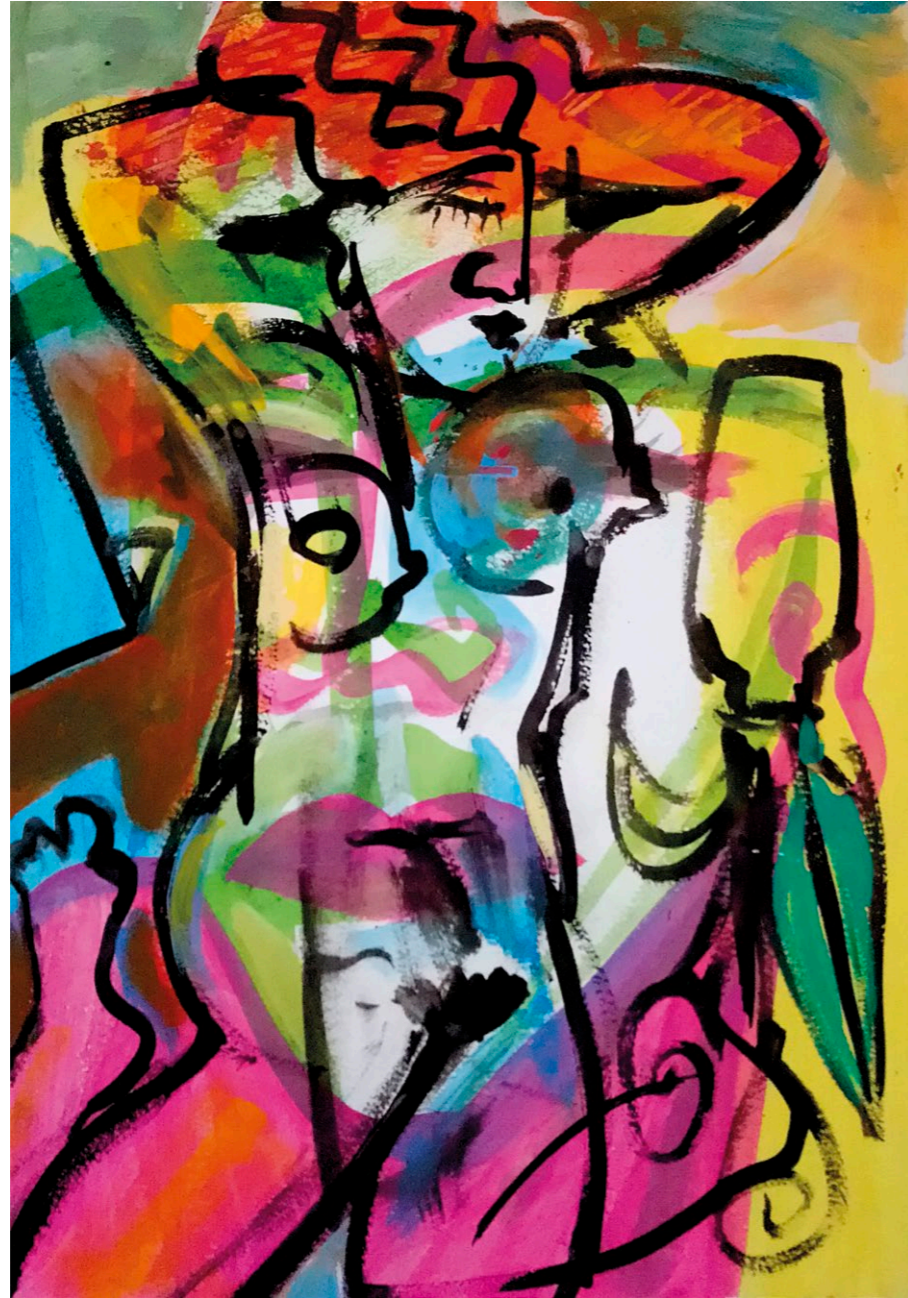
Unchanged: The End of the Day
Acrylic on Board
47 x 70 cm



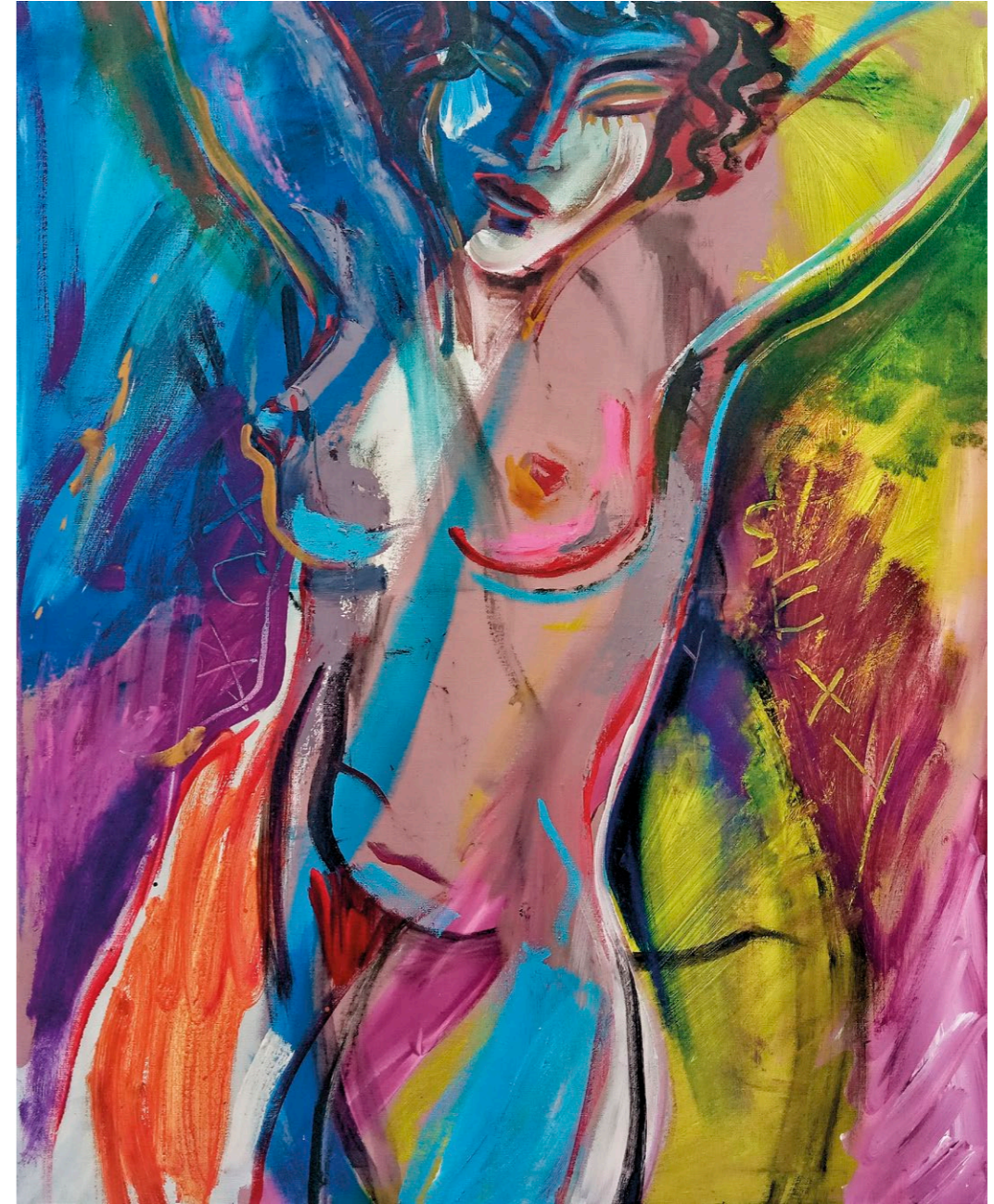
Colour and Form
Acrylic on Board
50 x 50 cm



Bliss
Acrylic on Canvas
50 x 70 cm



The Dashing Geisha
Acrylic on Paper
42 x 30 cm



Sexy
Acrylic on Canvas
75 x 60 cm



Love Knows No Bounds
Acrylic on Canvas
40 x 50 cm



Mindfulness
Acrylic on Canvas
53 x 60 cm



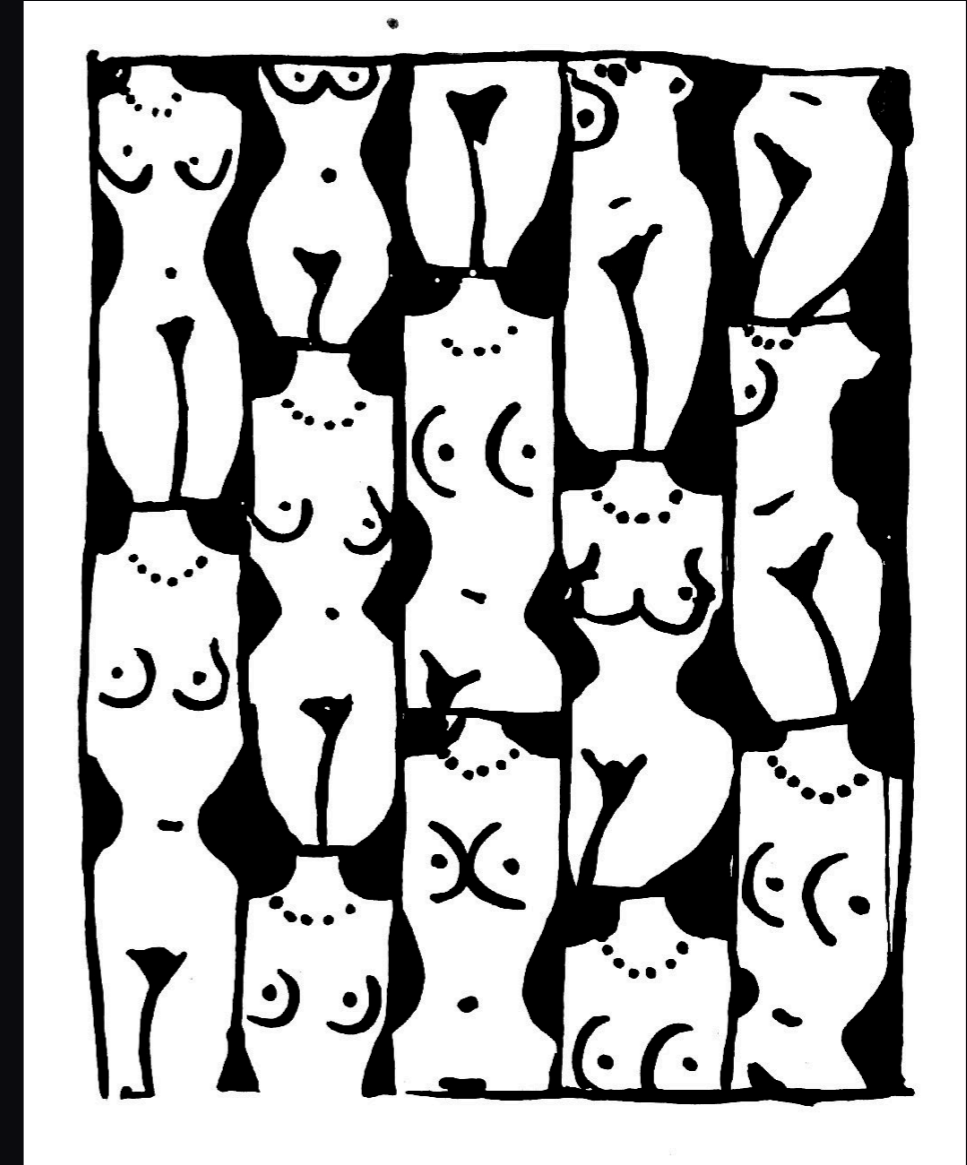
Release

One plate aquatint engraving on Somerset paper

Image size 45 x 57 cm

Paper size 70 x 77 cm

Edition of 25



Girls and Pearls

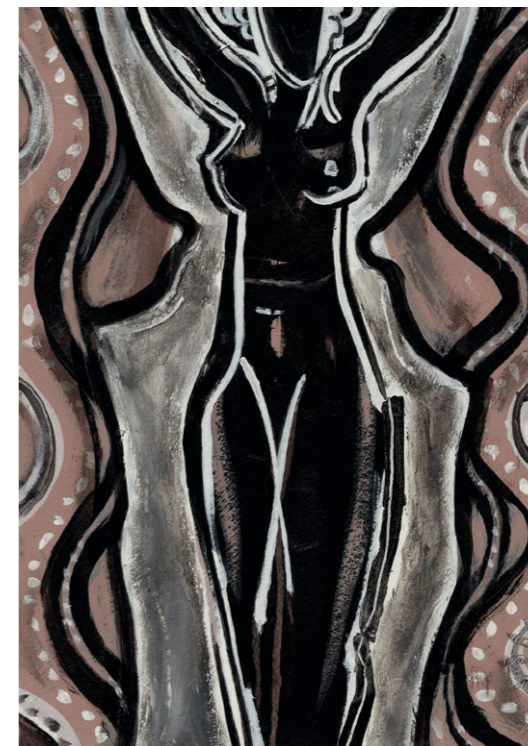
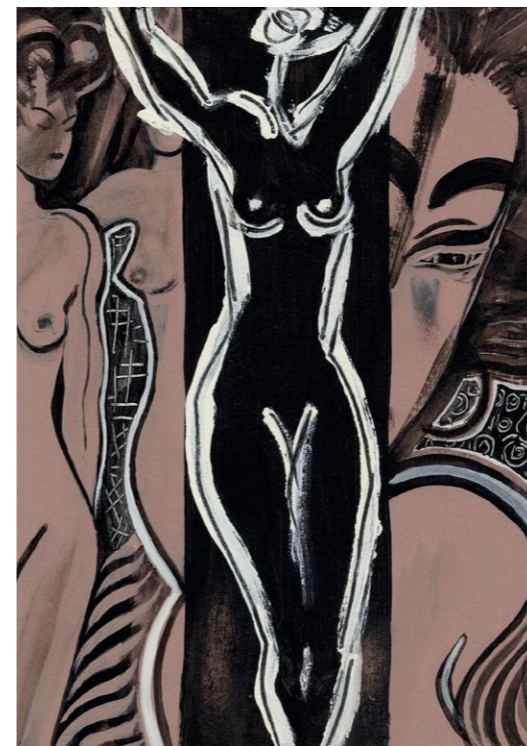
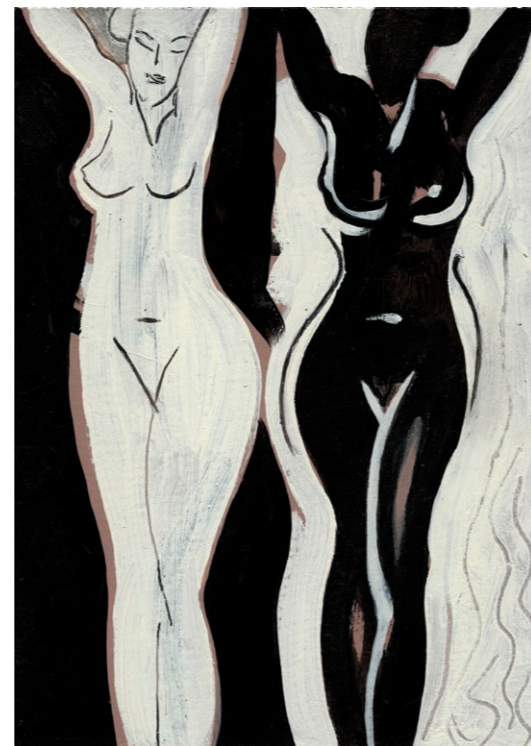
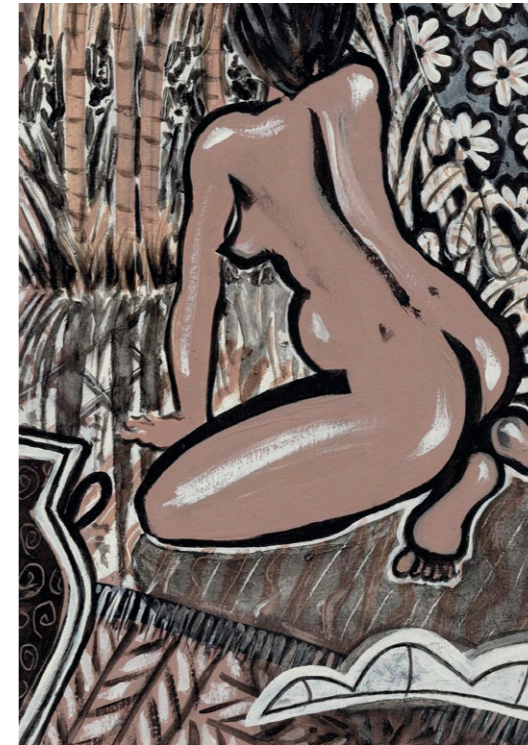
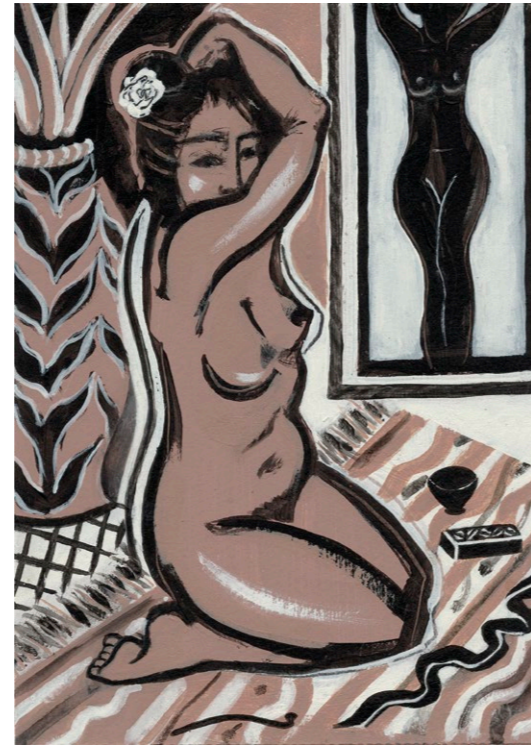
One plate engraving on Somerset paper

Image size 65 x 50 cm

Paper size 100 x 75 cm

Edition of 25

“ ‘A Private Audience’ is a series of small works on paper painted during the COVID-19 pandemic, while isolating in my studio in Northern Ireland. I used muted colours to show the beauty, power and simplicity of the female form. ”



Clockwise from top left:
Close Company;
Demure;
Diana;
Ladies in Waiting;
For Your Eyes Only;
Ebony and Ivory

Acrylic on Paper
25 x 18 cm

About Amanda Watt

A self-confessed 'Fusionist', Amanda Watt pays homage to the past: the multiple perspectives of cubism; the bright energy of expressionism; and the simplicity of primitivism all combine in her unique and highly recognisable style. Her every-day world and that of fantasy collide to create bright and joyful images based on the clarity and simplicity of abstract forms.

Amanda Watt was born in Northern Ireland and graduated from the Belfast College of Art and Design in 1982. After three years in London, she was given an opportunity by one of her collectors to move to Los Angeles, where she spent the next twenty years building a successful career as an artist. With annual solo shows in LA, San Francisco and New York, Amanda's bright, vibrant interior scenes and semi-abstract figurative and landscape paintings became a staple of Californian society. Watt's key collectors include casino mogul Steve Wynn, award-winning film director Barry Levinson, Cultural Ambassador Vanessa Branson, former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, and fashion-designer Marla Ginsburg.

Amanda plays with the fusion of East and West and of genres and styles from the early twentieth-century to the present day. She is inspired by Gauguin's Orientalism and Japanese woodblock prints, which she combines with western cubist principles and the expressionists' use of colour. She cites the pattern-making of Gustav Klimt and the highly stylised figures of Tom Wesselman and Alex Katz as influences, as well as Rainer Fetting's use of bold colour and gestural brushstrokes. The bright Californian colours of David Hockney and the decisive curves of Matisse are clearly recognisable in her work.

Working exclusively with acrylic paint allows Watt a fast pace of work with spontaneous gestures, transparent washes and a great depth and vibrancy. Motifs from memory and imagination are peppered throughout her work: highly stylised furniture; a picture within a picture; a torso – fragmented parts that come together to create a satisfying balance.

Annual Solo Shows:

1995 - 2005 Timothy Yarger Fine Art, Beverly Hills, California
1993 - 2002 Bowles/Sorokko Galleries, New York & San Francisco
1989 - 1993 Tower Gallery, California

Additional Solo Shows:

2004 Marla Ginsburg Productions, private show, Los Angeles
2003 Area Art Gallery, Santa Rosa, California
1999 Lee Hamilton Gallery, Santa Monica, Los Angeles
1998 John Dupree Gallery, Washington DC
1993 Ratner Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
1992 Gallery M, Fresno, California
1992 Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

Key Group Exhibitions:

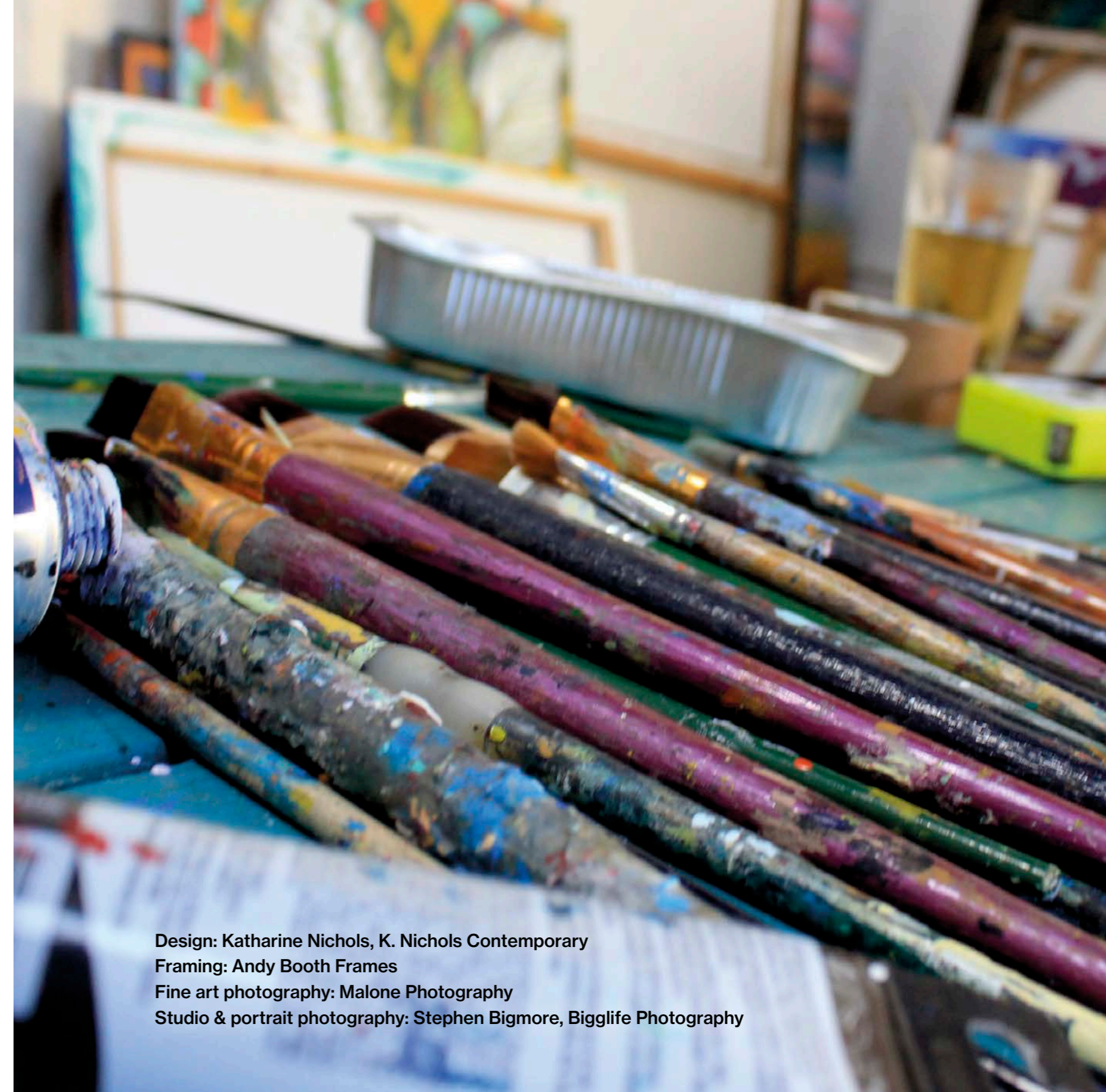
2022 Chelsea Arts Club, London, 'Curated Painting Group Show'
2021 Society of Women Artists, London, 'SWA Annual Exhibition'
2021 Rtistiq (online), 'Purple and Wine'
2020 Society of Women Artists, London, 'SWA Annual Exhibition'
2020 BPP Art Exhibition (online), 'Beckenham Place Park Flower Show'
2020 Envision Arts (online), 'Aqua'
2020 Singulart (online), 'Life Through the Window'
2020 AllBright Club, London, 'Art on a Postcard'
2019 Elizabeth James Gallery, London, 'Inspired by Picasso'
2019 Society of Women Artists, London, 'SWA Annual Exhibition'
2019 Clarendon Fine Art, Mayfair, London, 'Colour & Abstraction'
2018 Clarendon Fine Art, Mayfair, London, 'Summer Exhibition'
2018 Clarendon Fine Art, Mayfair, London, 'What is the Beautiful?'
2017 Clarendon Fine Art, Mayfair, London, 'Fine Art & Fine Wine'
2017 Pop up group show, South Kensington, London, 'Art in Full Bloom'

Publications, Catalogues and Articles:

- 2020 Vouz Magazine, The Art Edit and front cover image
- 2020 Integrity Magazine, 'Interview: Amanda Watt' (Issue 12)
- 2019 New York Waste Magazine, 'All for the love of Art: Amanda Watt'
- 2017 The Irish World Newspaper, 'Gallery Shows Art is in Full Bloom: Fusionist Amanda Watt Leads new pop-up exhibition'
- 2017 Murze Magazine, 'Vegetation'
- 1995 Exhibition Catalogue, 'Amanda Watt: Observations and Fantasies', Bowles/Sorokko/Yarger Fine Art, (California, New York, San Francisco)

Key Global Collections:

- Allied Irish Bank, Dublin, Ireland
- ARCO Corporation, Los Angeles, California
- Nagi Corporation, Tokyo
- BillyBoy*, influencer, Switzerland
- Marla Ginsburg (Now Marla Wynne), LA Television Producer and Fashion Designer
- Barry Levinson, Hollywood Film Director
- Steve Wynn, Casino Mogul and key Art Collector
- Owen Wilson, Hollywood Actor
- Vanessa Branson, founder of Marrakech Biennale and Global Culture Ambassador
- Mary Robinson, first female President of Ireland
- Sarah Miles, British Actress



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Framing: Andy Booth Frames

Fine art photography: Malone Photography

Studio & portrait photography: Stephen Bigmore, Bigglife Photography





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