

BREATHING

GERALD DAVID PEDROS



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Essay: Moira McKee

Design: Laura Woermke

Detail: *Breathing 24*, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



FOREWARD

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Observe your own body. It breathes. You breathe when you are asleep, when you are no longer conscious of your own ideas of self-identity. Who, then, is breathing? The collection of information that you mistakenly think is you is not the main protagonist in this drama called the breath. In fact, you are not breathing; breath is naturally happening to you. You can purposely end your own life, but you cannot purposely keep your own life going. The expression, “My life” is actually an oxymoron, a result of ignorance and mistaken assumption. You don’t possess life; life expresses itself through you. Your body is a flower that life let bloom, a phenomenon created by life.”

Ilchi Lee, *The Twelve Enlightenments*

Breathing is an automatic response that works without conscious intervention. While we sleep, receptors in our body constantly monitor the blood’s oxygen and pH levels, automatically sending signals to our brain to tell us how often and how deep to breathe. Breathing is, in a sense, a key part of the essence that precedes our existence.

For Gerald Pedros, developing a body of work that releases him from artistic convention has clear ties to the concept of breathing; revisiting the heart of his artistic practice with an intuitiveness that allows him to refine his technique down to its most vital elements. Producing works that are so essential in nature calls for continued observation and a mastery of the subject, allowing Pedros to push these seascapes beyond the confines of reality—exaggerating volumes, colours and textures to expose the limits of our vision while emphasizing imagery that provokes feelings that universally bind us.

Existing within a reality of sensation rather than embracing geometric formalism, props and crutches, atmosphere is developed in this series through broad, translucent washes of colour, punctuated by spray effects and textures that evoke a briny grittiness that settles between your teeth. Taking a non-literal approach, Pedros presents his truth symbolically, capturing the mood of being in the moment. Devoid of sentimentality and showing little concern for accuracy, effort is focused on representing surfaces and effects of light and colour, delineated by straight, clear lines of graphite.

What is the archetype of a horizon? How much of what Pedros paints comes from academic study or personal exploration is an ongoing source of fascination with his work, where we're left wondering where psychological space

intersects with these meditative bodies of water. Just as the Action Painters of the mid twentieth century recognized a flaw in the concept of the canvas functioning as an arena in which to act rather than a space in which to express a subject, whether it was real, imagined or a conflation of both—the expressive potential of Pedros’ skill as an artist culminates in a gestural, almost romantic approach to painting, where the anonymity of the sea and sky become a source for cultivating mindfulness and reflection on the human condition.

Sublime and the superfluous, the paintings in *Breathing* are an exercise of the imagination—prompting us to search for what we cannot see while making sense of the elements that are there. Here, Pedros’ thoughts surface in vistas that convey the feeling of breathing—animating the mylar with reflections that mirror the simultaneous outward elastic recoil of the ribs and inward elastic recoil of the lungs—life and the cycles that comprise it. We are attuned to our environment through breathing as much as a fish is attuned to living under water and Pedros’ deep respect for the ocean acknowledges the insignificance of the individual in the face of the natural rhythms of life.

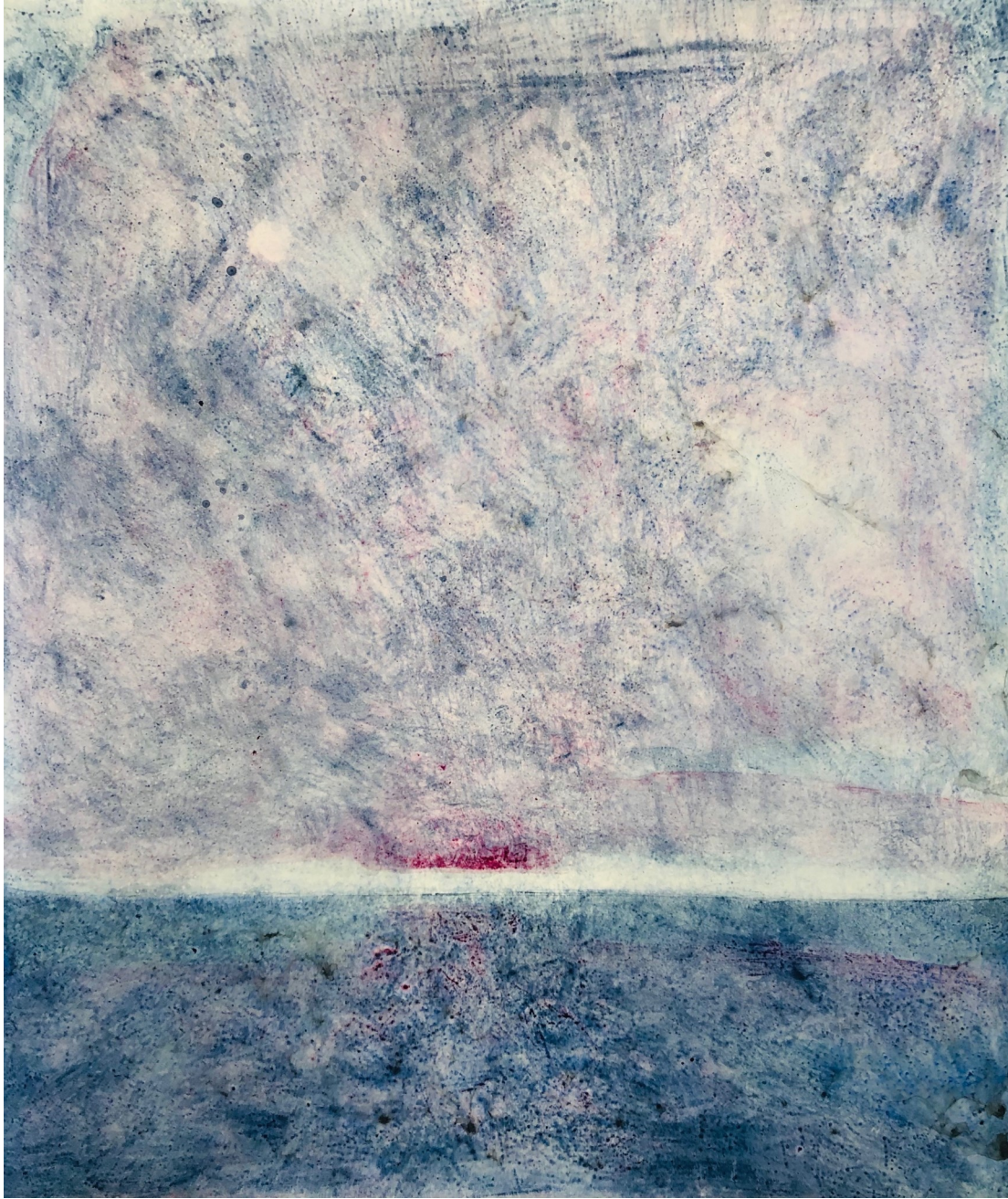
Moira McKee, Excavo Fine Arts



Detail: *Breathing 23*, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.

A watercolor-style landscape painting. The top half is a pale, hazy sky with soft washes of light green and yellow. A horizontal band of bright yellow and orange suggests a sunset or sunrise. The bottom half shows a body of water in shades of blue and green, with a dark, silhouetted horizon line.

IMAGES



Breathing 1, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



Breathing 3, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



Breathing 5, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



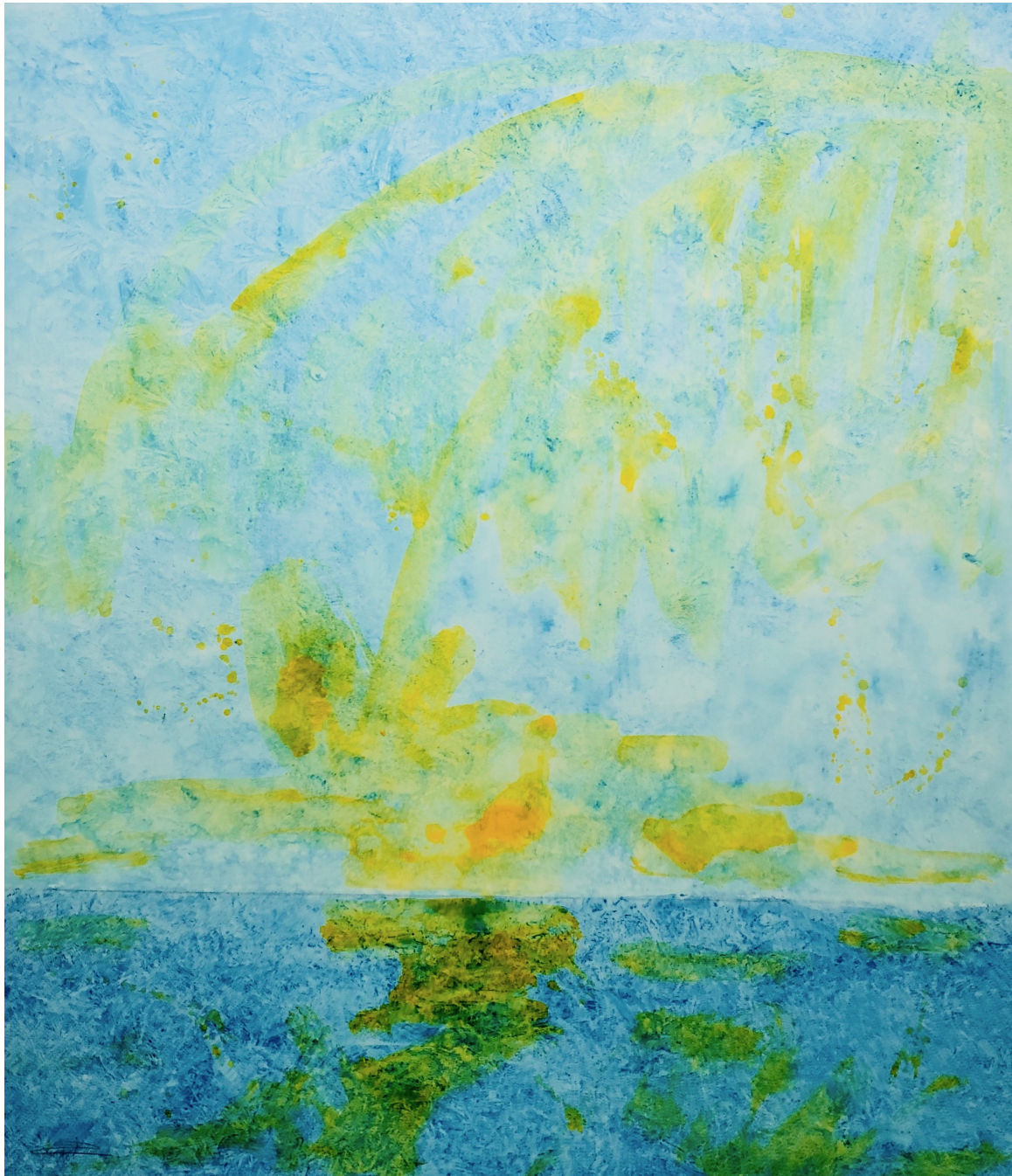
Breathing 8, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



Breathing 13, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



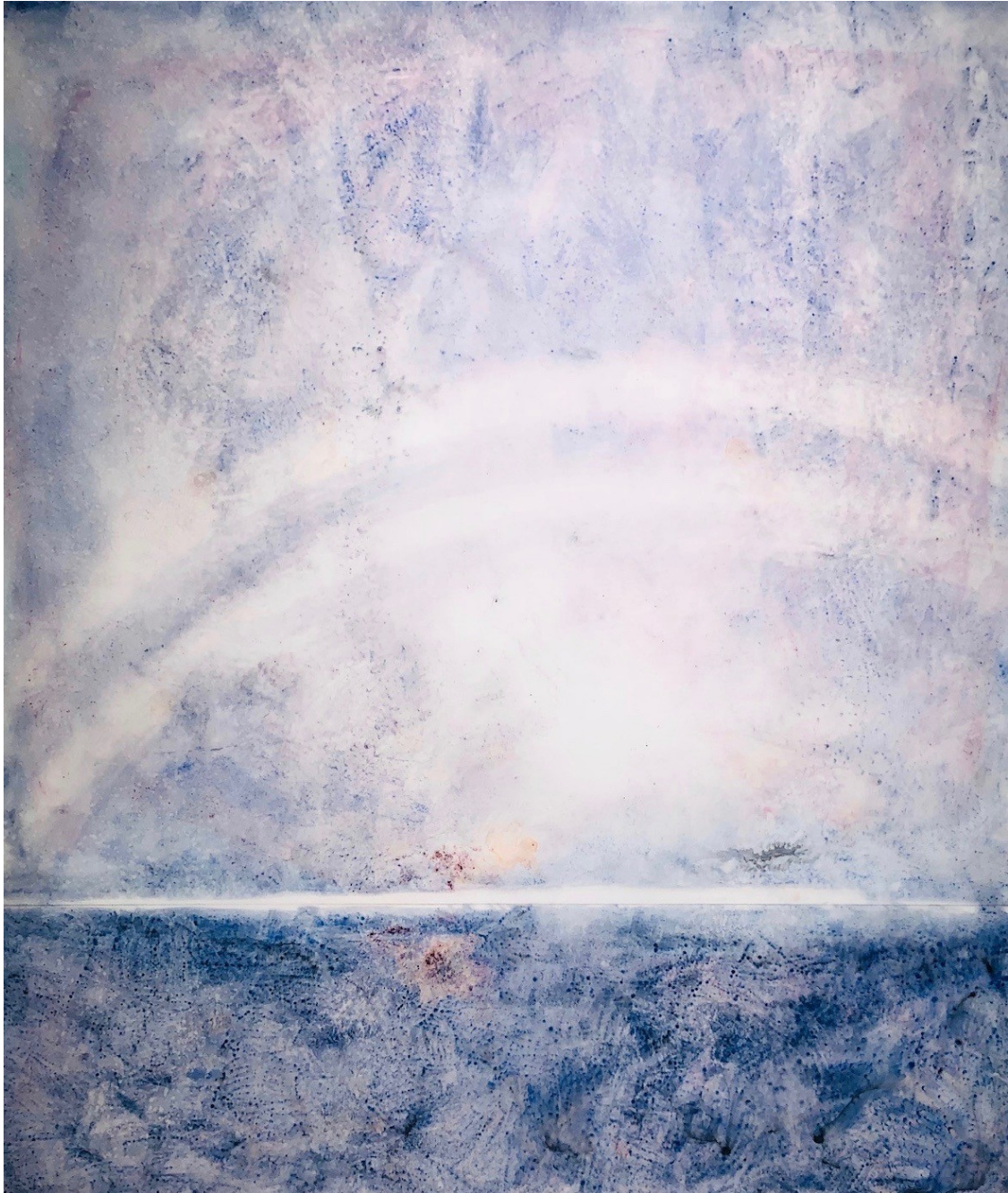
Breathing 23, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



Breathing 21, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



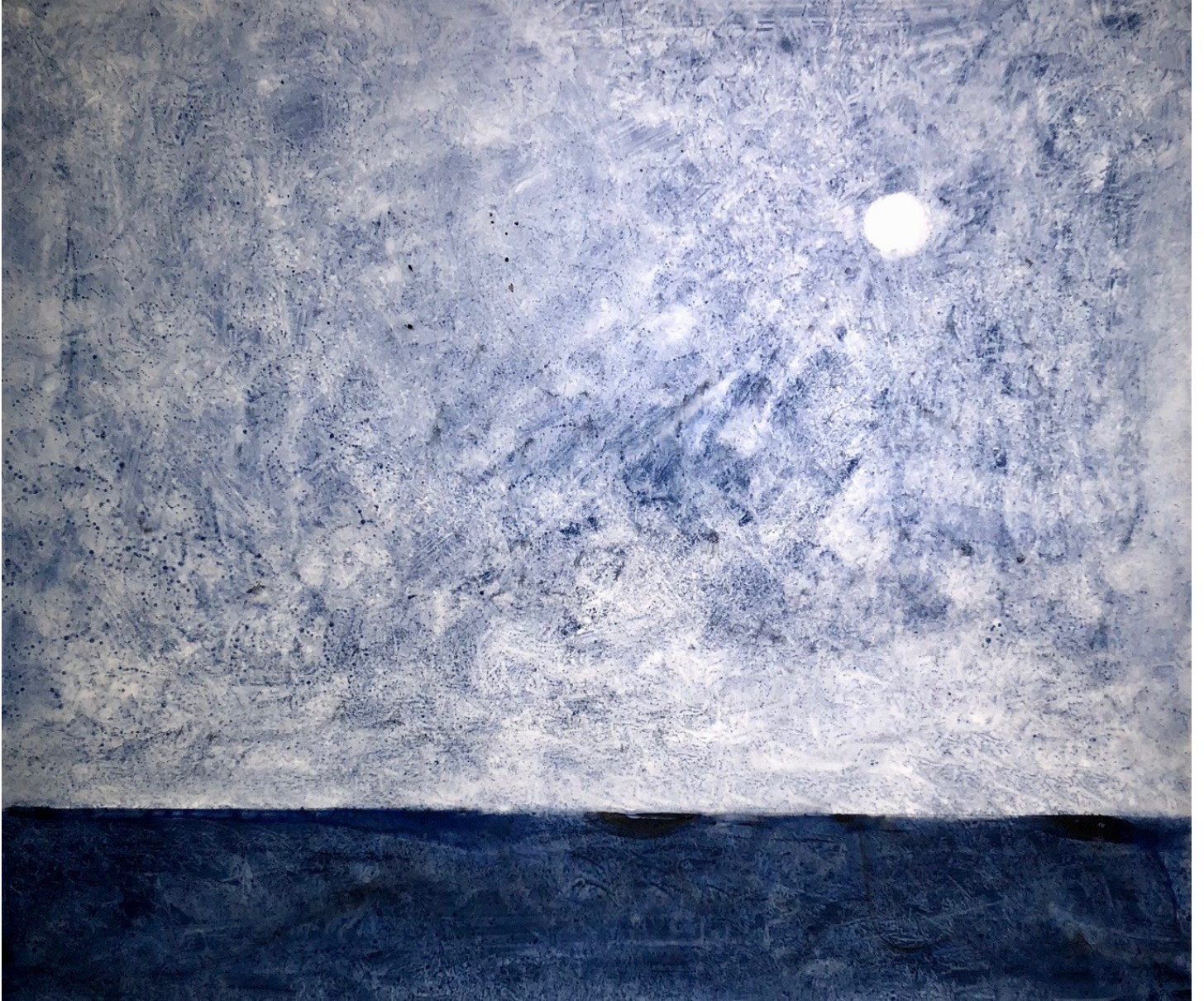
Breathing 22, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



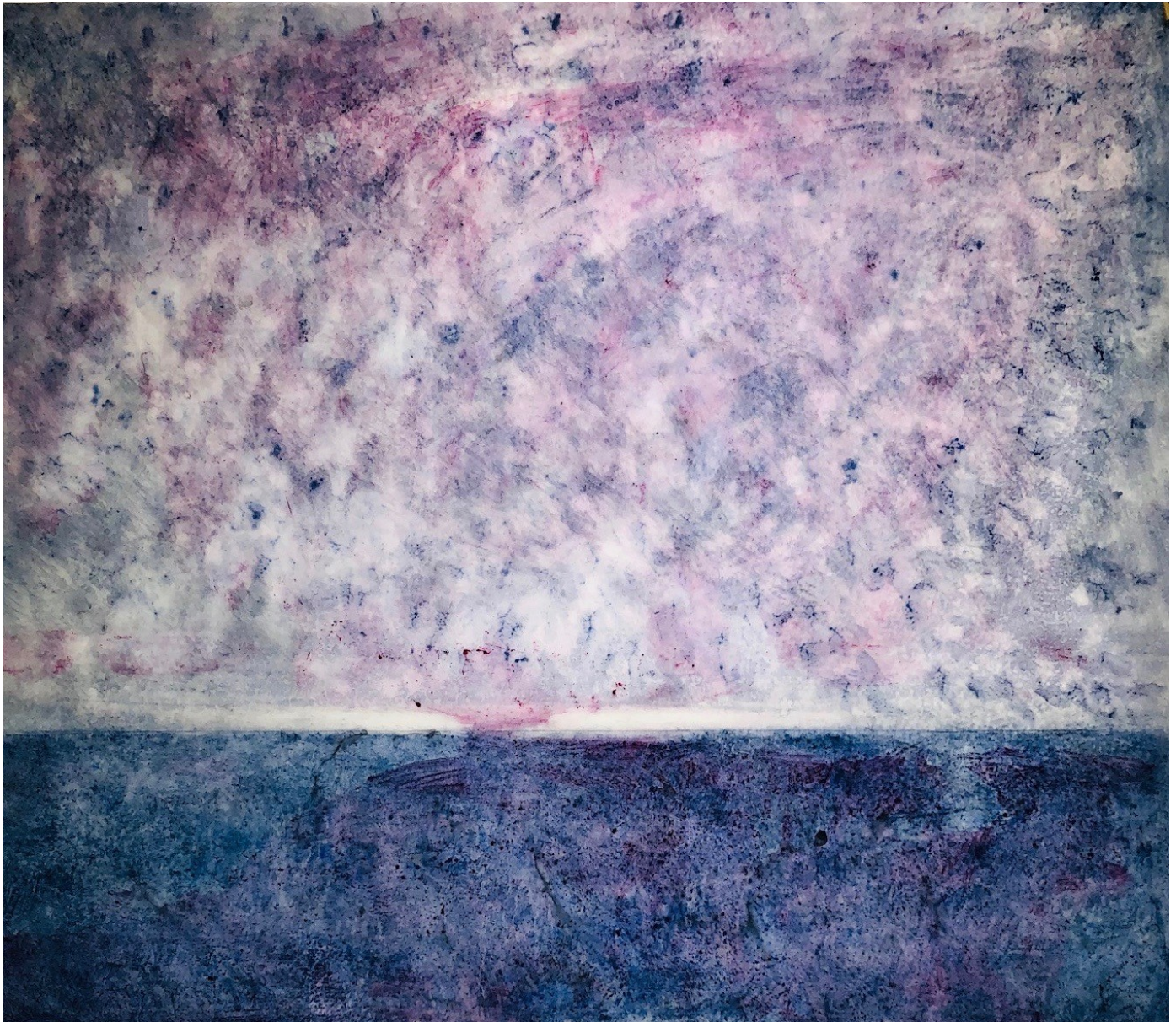
Breathing 10, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



Breathing 18, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 36 x 31 in.



Breathing 4, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 7, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 11, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



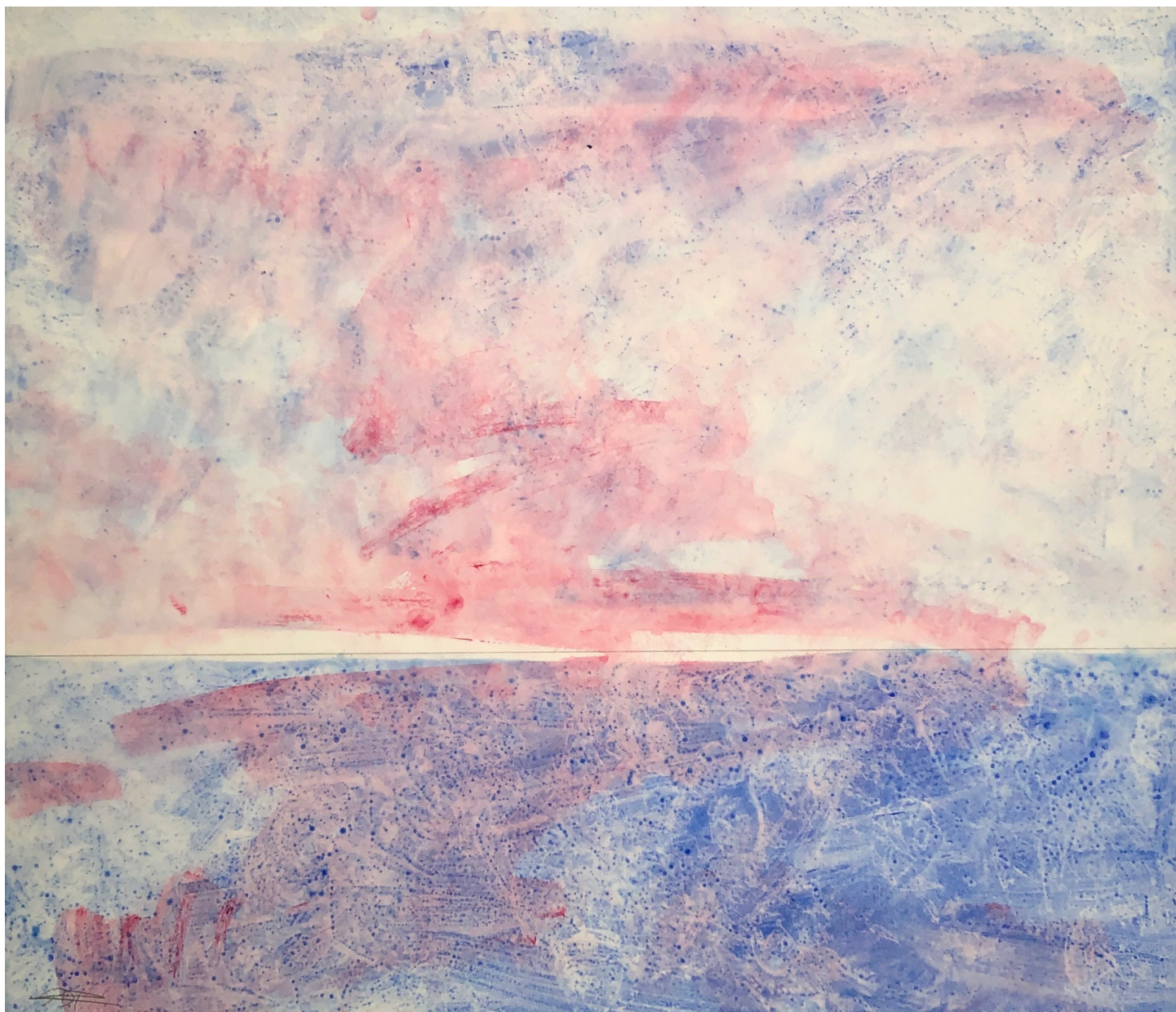
Breathing 12, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 15, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 16, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 17, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 19, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 20, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Breathing 24, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



Detail: *Breathing 19*, 2019, Mixed media on mylar, 31 x 36 in.



CURRICULUM VITAE

Gerald Pedros

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Canadian Exhibitions

- 2019 _ Excavo Gallery, London, ON
- 2018 _ Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2017 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2017 – Big Print Project, Roundhouse Community Centre Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2017 – Big Print Project, Chinese Cultural Centre Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2015 – St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
- 2014 – Big Print Project, Waterfront Theatre, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2011 – St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
- 2010 – Stewart Hall Art Gallery, Pointe-Claire, QC
- 2009 – Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum, Hamilton, ON
- 2009 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2009 – St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
- 2007 – MacLaren Art Center, Barrie, ON
- 2007 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2006 – Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, ON
- 2006 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2005 – St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
- 2005 – James Baird Gallery, St. John's, NFLD
- 2004 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2001 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 2000 – Roberts Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 1999 – Jean-Claude Bergeron Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 1997 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 1997 – Blyth Festival Art Gallery, Blyth, ON
- 1997 – Wallace Galleries Ltd., Calgary, AB
- 1996 – St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
- 1996 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 1995 – Ottawa School of Art, Ottawa, ON
- 1995 – Centre Interculturel Strathearn, Montreal, QC
- 1994 – Thielsen Gallery, London, ON
- 1993 – Centre for Contemporary Art, St. Thomas, ON
- 1992 – Temiskaming Art Gallery, Temiskaming, ON
- 1991 – St. Thomas Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
- 1989 – Galerie Samuel Lallouz, Montreal, QC
- 1985 – Centre Saidye Bronfman, Montreal, QC

International Exhibitions

- 2015 – Museum Gallery, Biograd Na Moru, Croatia

2013 – University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
2011 – Provinciale de Artes Plasticas y Diseno, Santiago, Cuba
2010 – Galeria Jose Peon Contreras, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico
2008 – Salon de La Plasticas Mexicana, Mexico City, Mexico
2006 – Public Exhibition, Berezategui, Argentina
2006 – Faculty of Arts Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Tucuman, Argentina
2006 – Public Exhibition, Catamarca, Argentina
2006 – 2005 – 4th International Conference on Public Art & Muralism, Tlaxcala, Mexico
1994 – Swords into Plowshare Peace Museum, Detroit, Michigan
1991 – Galeria Praxis, Mexico, DF
1991 – Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico
1991 – Kilkenny Arts Festival, Kilkenny, Ireland
1991 – Guinness Hop Store Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
1990 – Ernst Brant Galerie, Cologne, Germany
1987 – Sociedad mexicana des Arts Plasticas, Mexico City
1978 – Centre Genevois de Gravure Contemporaine, Geneva, Switzerland
1978 – Galerei Parallele, Geneva, Switzerland

Public Collections

Museo Nacional de la Estampa, Mexico City, MX
Consejo Nacional Para La, Mexico City, MX
Musee d'Estampes Geneva, CH
Centre de Gravure, Geneva, CH
S.O.M.A.R.T., Mexico City, MX
Guinness Brewery, Dublin, IRL
Bibliotheque Gabrielle Roy, Quebec City, QC
Consulate General of Morocco, Montreal, QC
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, ON
Teleglobe Canada, London, ON
Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, ON
London Life, London, ON
Concordia University, Montreal, QC
St. Joseph's Hospital, London, ON
St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, London, ON
University of Western Ontario, London, ON
Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, ON
Air Canada Corporation, Toronto, ON
Museum London, London, ON

Curatorial Projects

Francis Caprani, *Ghost in the Machine*, July 7 – September 1, 2018
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Francis Caprani and Gerard Pas, *The Nude*, May 24 – June 18, 2018
Central Studios, London, Ontario, Canada

Francis Caprani, *Recent Works*, July 6, 2017
Central Studios, London, Ontario, Canada

Brian Saby, *Playas Tropicales*, November 19, 2016
Central Studios, London, Ontario, Canada

Laura Woermke, *Paper Crown*, August 27, 2016
Central Studios, London, Ontario, Canada

Pamela Williams, *In The Midst of Angels*/Esther Rausenberg *Anima of Air Spirit Soul*
January 17 – March 18, 2009
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Tobey C. Anderson, *The New American Century Project*
November 14 – January 10, 2009
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

La Raza Artists, *The Bank Job: Three Canadian Painters*
September 2008
353 Richmond St. London, Ontario, Canada

Aidan Urquhart, *Making Memories*
Helene Lefebvre, *Social Queen*
September 6 – October 26, 2008
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

John Krygsman, *Upon Closer Introspection*
John Maggio, *Images along the Way*
July 12 – August 31, 2008
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Richard Tetrault, *Urban Topographies*
January 19 – March 8, 2008
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Gerald Vaandering, *Under The Influence*
November 10 – January 6, 2008
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Leslie Putnam, *Alternate Route*
November 10, 2007 – January 6, 2008
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Holly King, Francois Morelli, Lorraine Sims, Michael Smith, Shelly Reeves, Giuseppe Di Leo, *Montreal Artists*
June 16 – August 18, 2007
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Ron Milton, *Symbols*
Jan 20 – March 3, 2007
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Jan Row & Julie Berry, *Discovering a Different Shore*
Jan 20 – March 3, 2007
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Brian Saby, *99-06*
September 2 – October 21, 2006
St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Grants

Canada Council for the Arts: 1979

Ontario Arts Council: 1989, 1992, 1995, 1997, 2001

Greenshield Foundation Graduate Assistantship: 1976, 1977

Education

Dawson College, Montreal, QC 1972 -1974

BFA - Concordia University, Montreal, QC 1974-1977

MFA - Concordia University, Montreal, QC 1980-1983

Studio Residencies

Central Studios, London, Ontario (2015-present)

Potrero Studios, Potrero, Costa Rica (2015)

Pouch Cove Foundation Art Residency Program, Newfoundland (2005)

Banff Centre Leighton Artists Colony, Banff, Alberta (1993)

La Sociedad Mexicana de Artes Plasticas S.O.M.A.R.T., Mexico City, Mexico (1987)

Le Centre Genevois de Gravure Contemporaine, Geneva, Switzerland (1978)

Represented by [Thielsen Gallery, London, Ontario](#)

