

# Curious Figure

An eclectic celebration of artistic expression through the human form, where diverse materials, styles, and skill levels converge in a visual symphony of creativity.

Visiting curator: Raz Seri

Mandy Fraser  
John Jameson  
Herby Thompson  
Adrian Tio  
Pam Hoss  
Sarah Huff  
Eric Isaacsen  
Kat Knutsen  
Marianne DeVaux  
Jackie Canon Pullo  
Nelson Marlowe  
Blaine Bacchiocchi  
Reginald Watkins

The “Curious Figure” exhibit marks the beginning of what will be an eagerly anticipated annual event within the artistic tapestry of the south coast of Massachusetts. This exhibit is not just a static display; it is a living, breathing testament to the power and versatility of figurative art. The show is poised to become a recurring highlight for artists and connoisseurs alike, with each year offering a fresh opportunity for new voices to be heard and new visions to be seen. Artists who are drawn to the allure of the human form as an expressive conduit are encouraged to apply for participation in the second “Curious Figure” exhibit, as the tradition continues to showcase innovation and creativity within the figurative arts community.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Co+Creative Center for graciously hosting the very first “Curious Figure” exhibit. Their support has been instrumental in bringing this concept to fruition. Our sincere thanks also go to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, New Bedford Economic Development Council, and New Bedford Creative for their generous sponsorship and commitment to fostering a thriving cultural environment. This event has been further enriched by the collaboration with the New Bedford Art Museum, Kat Knutsen Studios, Play Arcade, and Kilburn Mills, each hosting accompanying Figurative Art events. Their collective efforts have created a mosaic of artistic engagement that has truly enlivened the community. We look forward to nurturing these partnerships as we continue to celebrate and honor the diverse talents of figurative artists in the years to come.



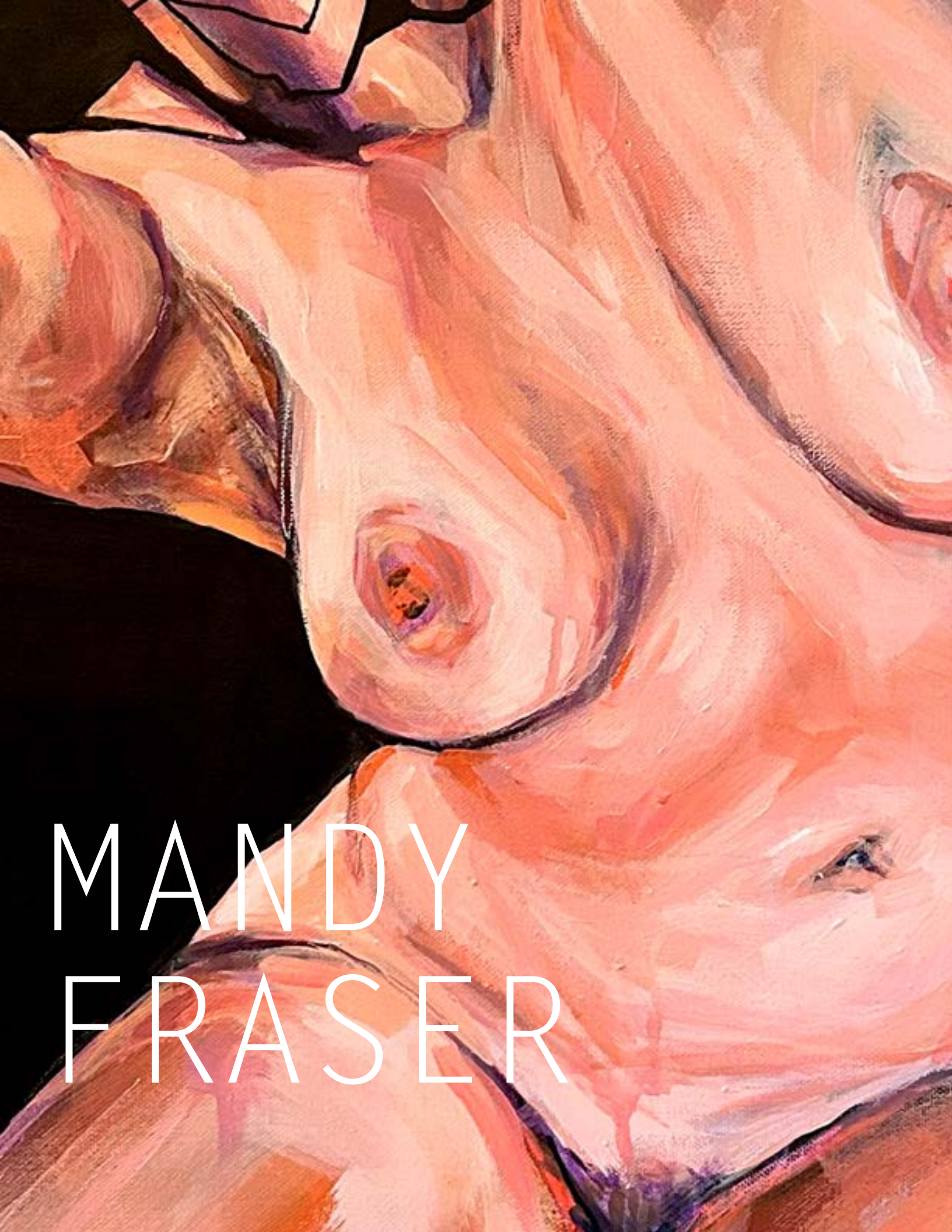
Juror: Raz Seri

Raz's art is driven by his passion to capture humanity in all its beauty and humility. In his portraits Raz explores the psychology of human experience and is inspired by the subtlety of emotion that shows through his subjects eyes. In all his work he strives to capture his subjects in the most vivid and truthful way possible. His Landscapes are inspired by the rich beauty of color in nature and honoring the beauty of the natural world.



Raz Seri was born and raised in Tel Aviv, Israel. He discovered his passion for color and painting in his early 20's and began his studies of painting under Eitan Fried in Tel Aviv. He was searching for a deeper education and in 2001 he moved to Italy to study in the style of the old masters at Florence Academy of Art. Raz returned to Israel in 2004 to pursue drawing and painting while teaching private painting classes. In 2009 he continued his studies in Florence and graduated in the spring of 2010.

He moved to Denver in 2011 and taught art in a variety of schools and private groups. He is co-founder and artistic director of The Boulder School of Fine Art. In summer of 2022 he moved to Austin, Tx and is now teaching at Dojo Atelier.



MANDY  
FRASER

*“Creative and detail-oriented painter with a strong background in figure painting, illustration, and graphic design. My multidisciplinary work provides unique and thoughtful concepts and brings new and original content to any given project. Community-based art projects and murals are my current career focus.”*

*-M. Fraser*



“Hold Fast (Quarantine)”  
24 x 30 in  
Acrylic on Canvas

*“Drawing and painting the figure has been my main studio engagement for the past 55 years.”*

*-P. Hoss*

*“Alejandra”  
30x18 in  
charcoal on paper*



Pamela  
Hoss



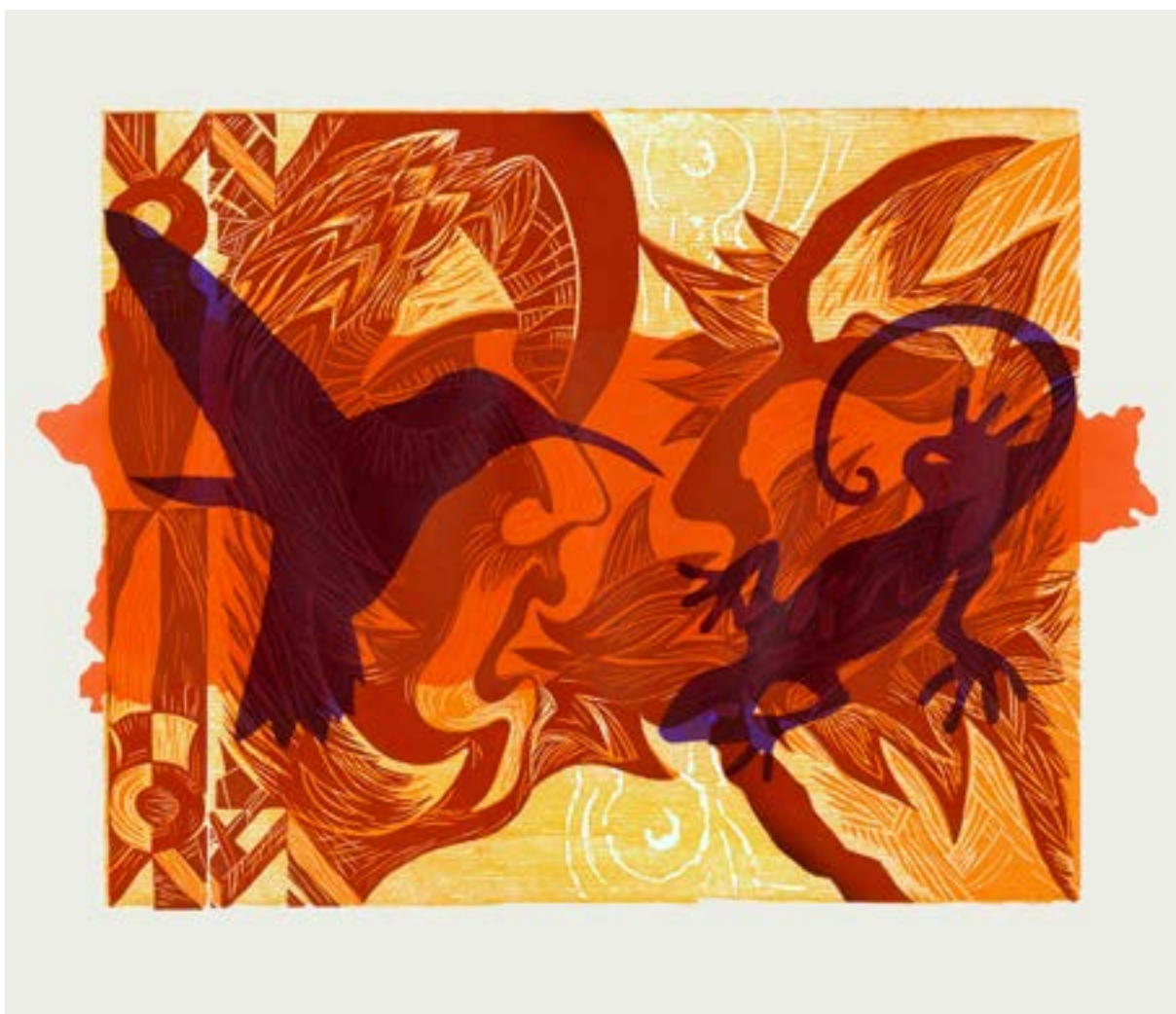
Adrian  
Tio



*“Printmaking offers a visual format that can communicate to a broader, at times, bilingual audience. Works such as these source images from my own family history. As a Latino with a Caribbean heritage, these works help expand and enrich my mainstream American identity while navigating the dichotomy of these two worlds.”*

- A. Tio

“Island Dreams”  
14x16 in  
Relief and silkscreen print  
with hand drawn imagery





“The Emerald Brine” 25 x 45 in Oil on canvas

*“My most recent paintings are narrative recollections of the sensory feelings our environment provides. When we recall in a visceral way the experience of how the human body feels in nature, in all of its delights or turbulence, we have a chance to achieve a greater sense of place and – if it is shared – empathy. The aim of each piece in my new body of work seeks to take a moment, a sensation, or a time of year and – through the meditation that comes with the processes of painting – provide a space for the viewers to center themselves. The work invites viewers to remember specific moments in their own lives when they felt connected to the natural world, and their existence in it. This connection is regrettably forgotten by many amidst the tumult and unrest of contemporary life. An ever present theme in my work is the acknowledgment of human bodies subject to the passage of time within our lived environment, and how we must carry the joys from kinder seasons into the ones we have to simply endure.”*

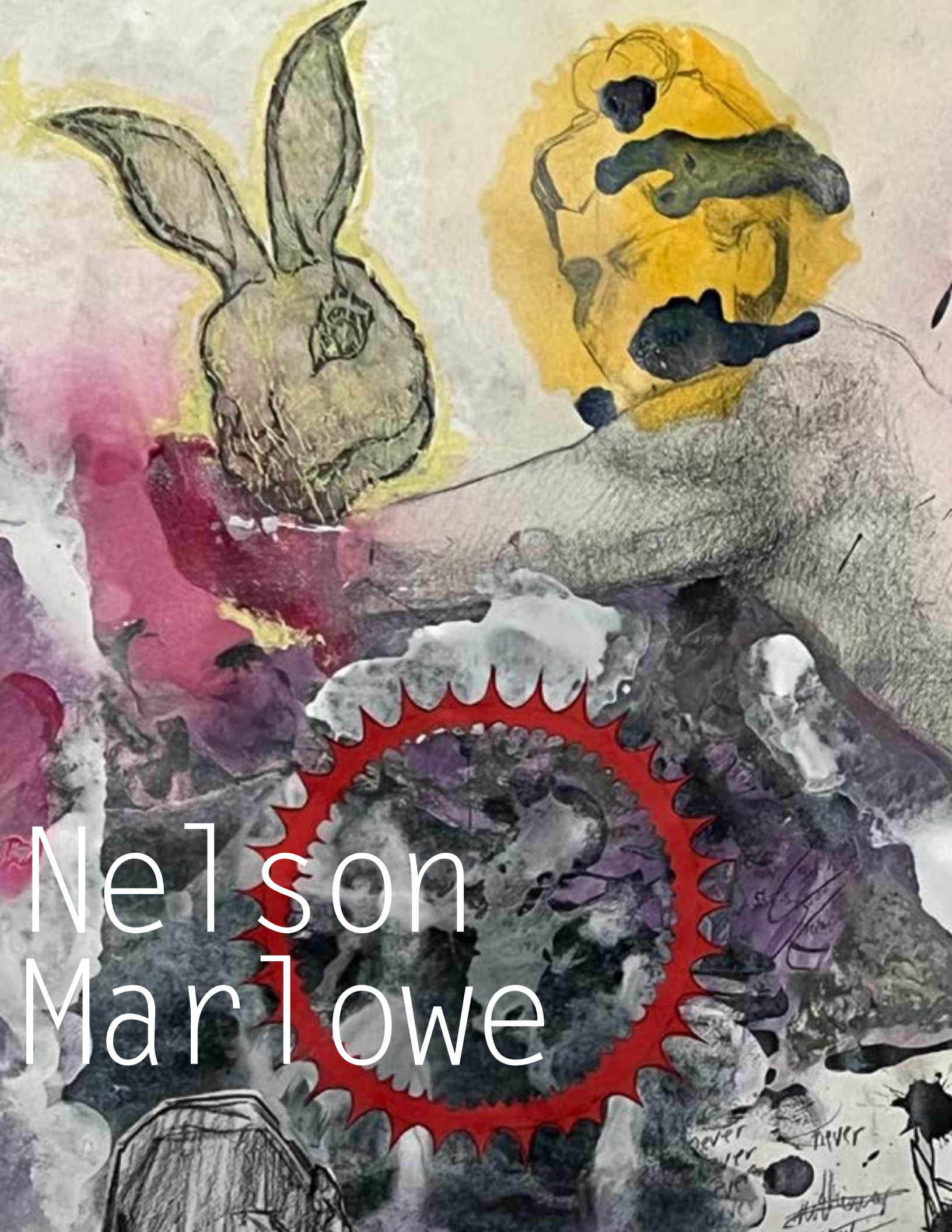
John Jameson is a contemporary artist working in New Bedford who focuses on seascapes and portraiture as his primary subjects. Strong emphasis on color, boldly organized compositions, and rich networks of textured brushwork are hallmarks of Jameson’s work. His paintings have been shown in Boston, New York, Newport (Rhode Island), and Kamakura (Japan).

Jameson received his Bachelor’s of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and his Master’s of Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art. He has taught painting extensively at various institutions around Massachusetts. He currently teaches drawing at North Shore Community College and landscape painting and color theory for artists, as well as figure drawing from sculpture, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.





John  
Jameson



Nelson  
Marlowe

“Topsy-Turvy” (detail)  
18 x 24in  
Mixed-Media

*“My artistic process conflates abstract forms and expressive mark-making with high levels of naturalism in a search for personal truths that risk a more painful resolution than that of aesthetic pleasure alone.”*

-N. Marlowe

“Desire For Perfection”  
24 x 18in  
Mixed-Media



“Tango”  
24x18 in  
Cyanotype print

*“I am intrigued with using layered lines and shapes; and with how this provokes curiosity about the dynamics among the figures.”*



“Group Dynamics”  
14x11 in  
Drypoint etching



Marianne  
DaVaux



Kat  
Knutsen



*“I try to weave the enigmatic allure of illusion with visual symbols, crafting scenes that beckon viewers into a dance of perception and meaning. This piece is a homage to my Native American heritage, an invocation of ancestral memory that celebrates the magic ingrained in our origins. My work invites all to remember and rejoice in the experiences that have shaped us.”*

- K. Knutsen

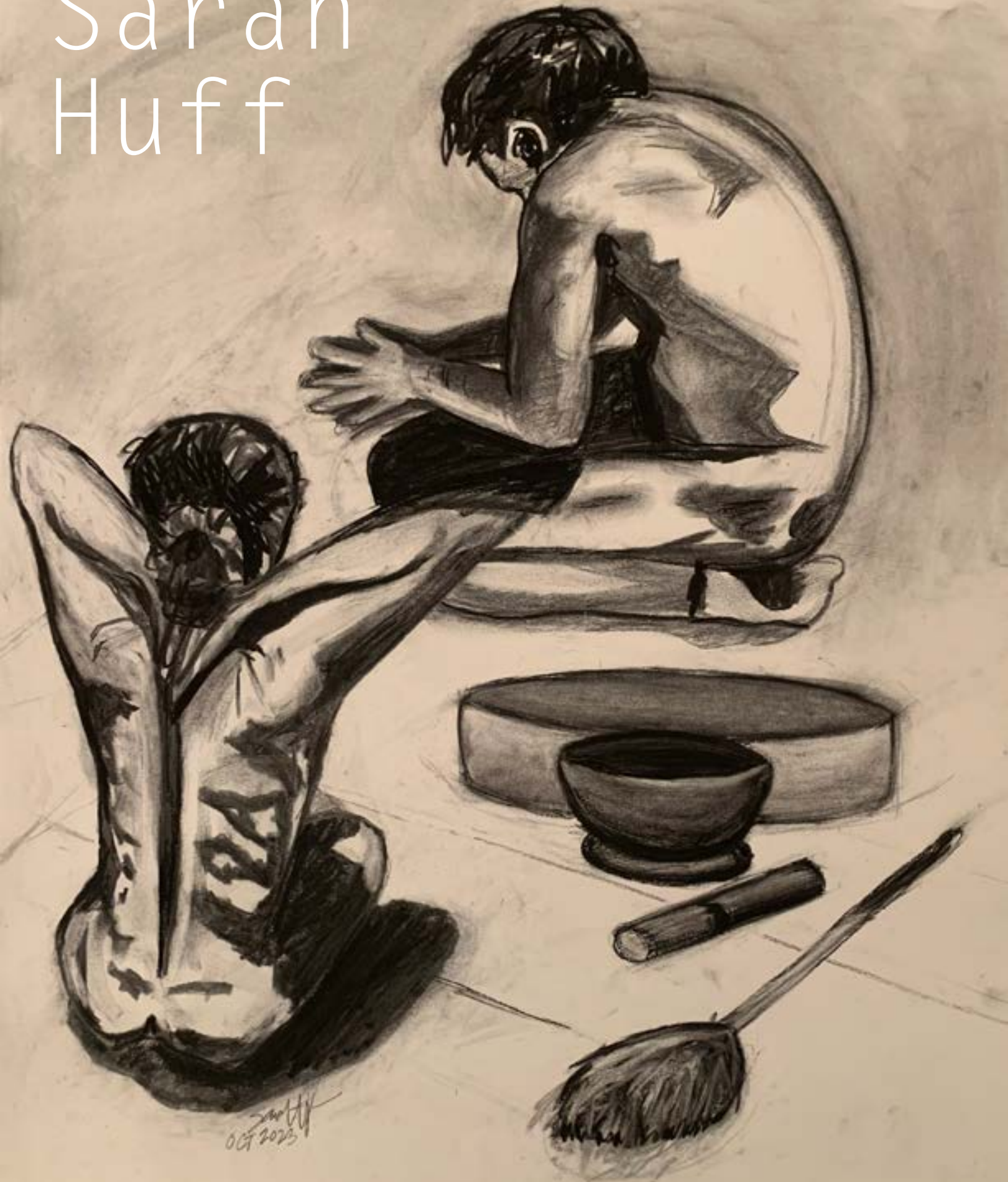
“Inner Summoning”  
24 x 30 in  
Oil on Canvas

*“I am an artist who loves to enjoy painting, as well as drawing. I have studied visual design and illustration, and enjoy, coming up with different compositions, different color, palettes, and concepts for each of my pieces.”*

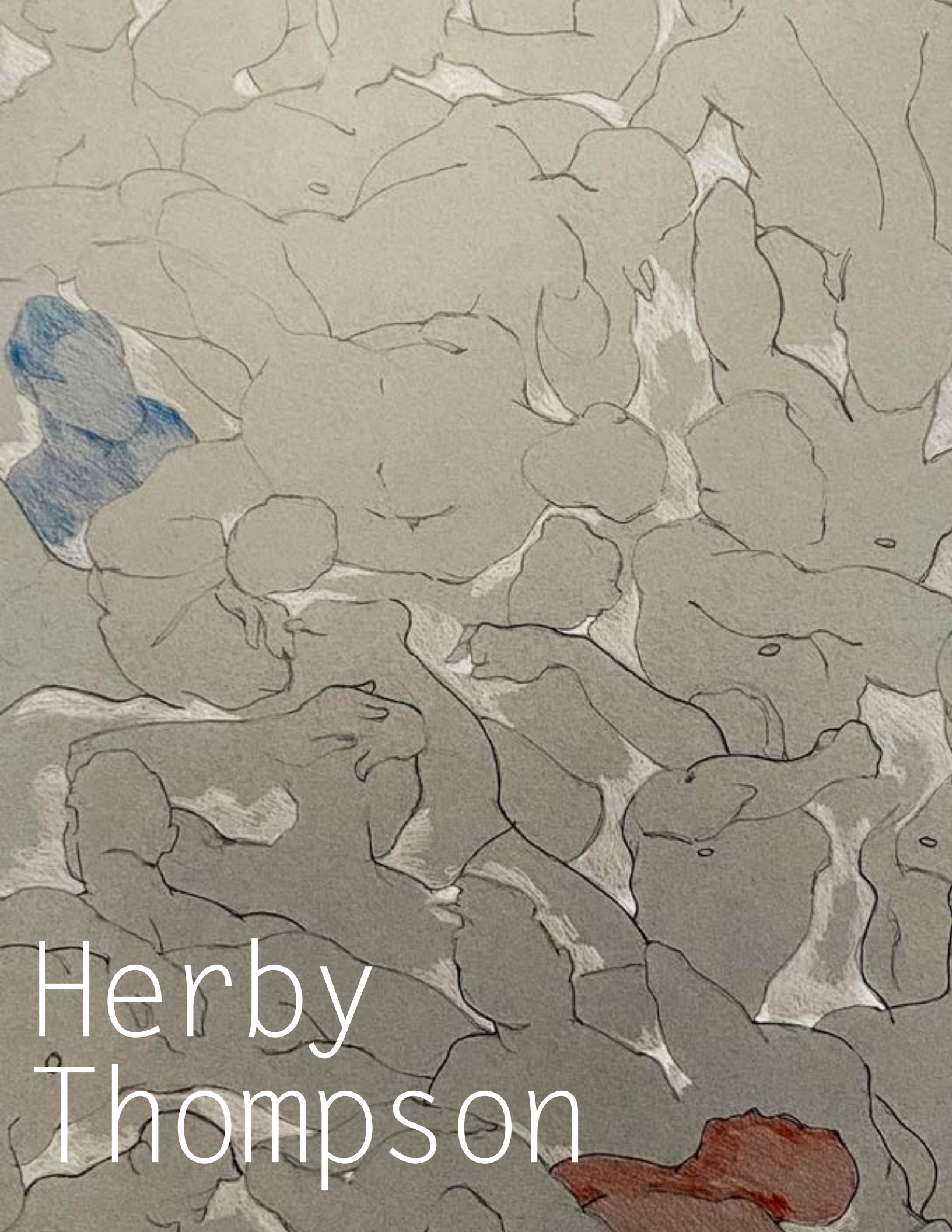
*-S. Huff*

*“Where Love Resides”  
24 x 18 in  
Charcoal on Paper*

Sarah  
Huff

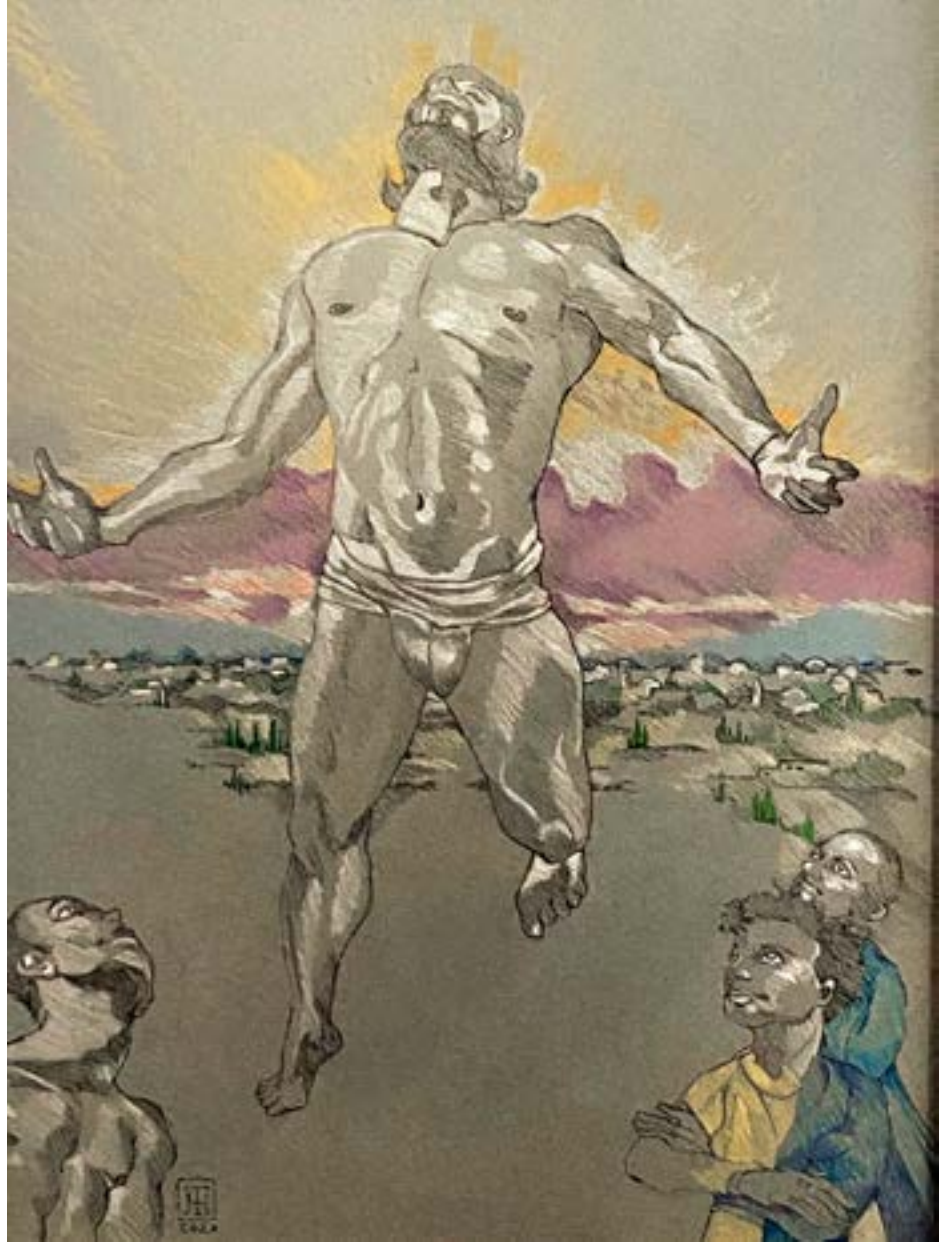


Sarah Huff  
OCT 2023



Herby  
Thompson

“Hell is Crowded”  
18 x 24 in  
Prismacolor on Strathmore paper



“Ascension of Jesus”  
18 x 24 in  
Prismacolor on Strathmore paper

Herby is a lifetime graphic designer with an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, and a BFA from Swain School of Design. He is retired NEXCOM visual merchandising specialist.

Blaine Bacchiocchi is a former Art Teacher and local New Bedford Area Artist. They are interested in many forms of creative self expression and work in a variety of media. In this body of work they were interested in exploring the spaces between. The spaces between abstraction and realism, simplicity and complexity, and the spaces we normally don't pay attention to when creating or viewing figurative painting.



“Leg Hole”  
14 x 14 in  
Oil on Canvas



Blaine  
Bacchiocchi



Jackie C  
Pullo



*“Greetings! My goal in art is to create a narrative utilizing shape and color to form a question the viewer is left to answer. My passion is to capture the puzzle of light and shadow in vibrant color. My art journey began at 10 when my Mom found a drawing of a naked man and woman, side by side, not depicted in any sensual way, but as a study to see how the body fit together. My 1st show was when she posted that on the refrigerator for the world to comment.*

*After a BFA in painting from Southeastern MA University, raising my Daughter, 25 years in a special education career, and the pandemic, I found myself retired and ready to put my skills to the test. Thank you for supporting the arts!”*

*-J. Pullo*

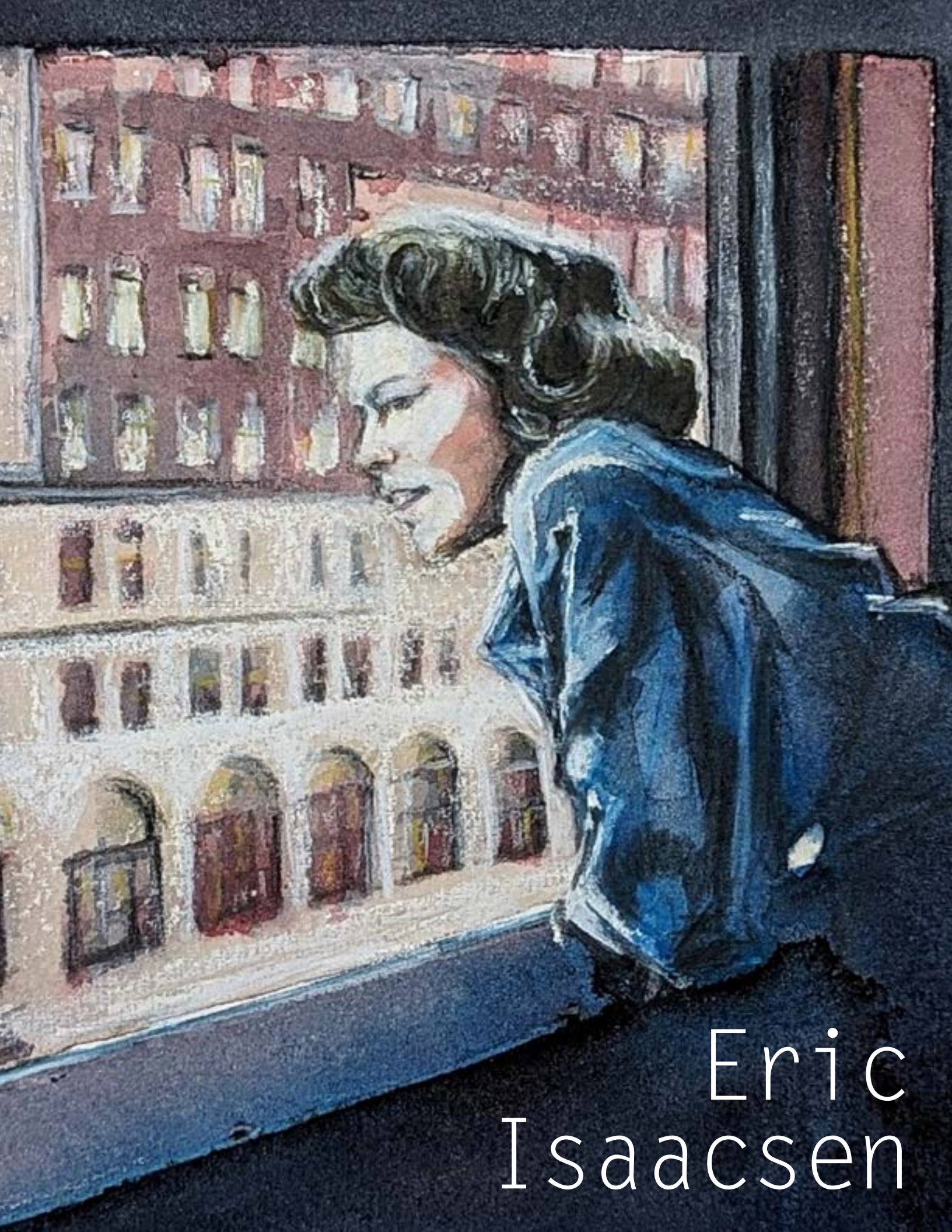


“Ginny saves her pennies for the organ grinder’s monkey as they make their way down Newbury Street”

9.5 x 7.5in  
Watercolor

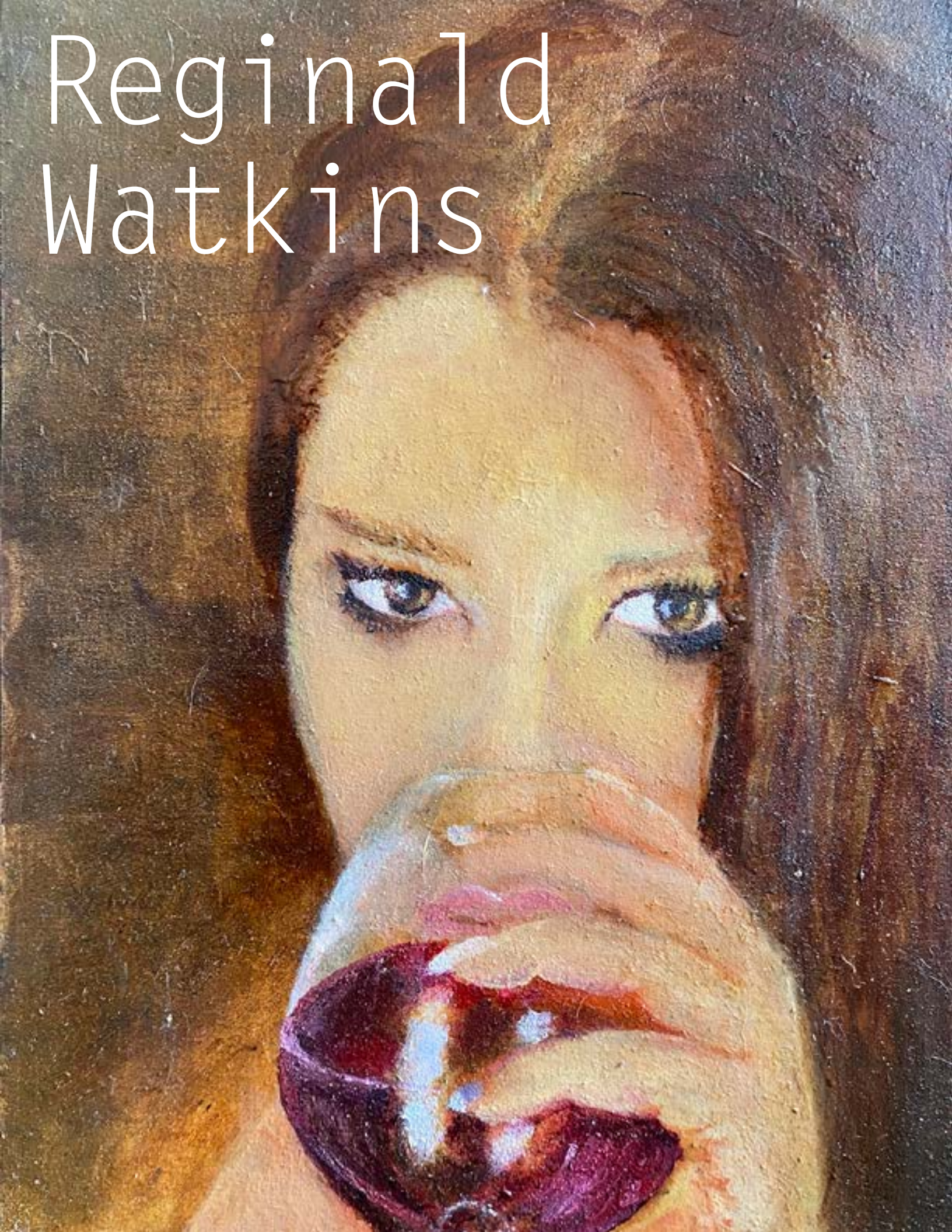
*“Here and now.  
That’s where I’ve been with my art lately.  
I’ve gravitated to watercolor for it’s  
immediacy, spontaneouety and honesty.  
Being in the here and now allows my  
curiosity, intuition and imagination to  
take the wheel.”*

- E. Isaacsen



Eric  
Isaacsen

# Reginald Watkins



*“It was about the summer of 2016 when I met an amazing woman with whom I became enamored. She had a quite successful occupation while I was struggling and trying to rebuild my life. I knew I wanted to do something to impress her. I wanted to draw her, but I knew my skills fell short of where they needed to be. So I looked for an art teacher and was directed to Rey Ford. I told him that my goal was to become a better drawer. After a few sessions of drawing, Rey said to me, “You know you can do that with paint.” I was immediately intrigued and shortly after held my first paint brush. From that moment on, I pursued what I never thought was possible- to become an artist. My first efforts in painting started in still life. The techniques I was taught by my instructor were called Abstract Realism. It took a few years before I returned to my desire to portrait paint. I later decided to enhance my drawing ability through atelier classes by two Florence Academy graduates. And my latest efforts in portrait painting demonstrates their influence as well”*

**-R. Watkins**

“The Listener”

8 x 10 in

oil on board