



John Bartley
The Quick and the Slow

7 July - 1 August, 2026



King Street Gallery
on William

Artwork photographs courtesy John Bartley
Cover: Detail from *Circus*, 2025, acrylic on canvas, 138x107cm



Bartley, John

Aretha

\$15,000 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 180x110cm

Enquire



Bartley, John

Billie

\$15,000 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on canvas, framed, 167x122cm

Enquire



Bartley, John

The Long View

\$9,500 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on canvas, framed, 84x122

Enquire



John Bartley in his studio
Photograph courtesy the artist

Artist Statement

John Bartley

Well, here I am, five months out from my exhibition. I began painting for this show seven months ago - an early start for me - I felt that I needed that extra time for the paintings to find their way. I'm well down the road now, with more than twenty paintings completed all vying for attention in the studio.

The last four paintings, finished in November at Frank's in Cassilis, are larger than the earlier works and have shifted the direction of the exhibition. There is a new freedom in the mark-making: a lightness of touch and a simpler vision, with pared-back colour. It is this thread I intend to follow in the months ahead.

It has been a few months since I wrote those preceding words. The work in the studio since has been slower and more demanding. One painting completed at Frank's threw my momentum to the kerb. It stands apart — an imposing, singular piece — and the paintings that followed have struggled to find their own identity. The exhibition has resolved into the quick and the slow: the immediacy of the mark, and the pursuit of beauty.

I wanted the works to be powerful, divine, sexy, mysterious and idiosyncratic.

Asking too much?

In December 2025, the art world lost Geoffrey Legge to old age. A poetic writer and a deep-thinking man, Geoff loved a painting by John Peart, *Black to Black* (1982). It hung on the wall at the foot of his bed, where he could contemplate it each morning and night.

Though dark and sombre in tone, the painting gave Geoffrey endless pleasure. He continually found new ways of interpreting its passages of paint. So taken was he by the work that, in 2008, he produced a small book imagining a conversation between the composer Beethoven and the poet Milton, in which both attempt to account for the depth of their admiration for the painting. In one passage, Beethoven addresses Milton:

“Ah, John, I feel in my heart that the implications of this work are vast and its mysteries inexhaustible. It is not a landscape painting, yet it takes my eye (and therefore me) into a reassuring twilight kingdom where the threshold is dearer than love and where one is led further than hope could go.”

Geoff understood that meaning is never fixed, and that looking is an active act. My hope is that my dear viewer might do the same—to let their eyes wander, to stay awhile, to become immersed in marks, colour, and references, and to come away with something not only seen, but felt.

John Bartley, 2026



Bartley, John

River

\$15,000 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on canvas, framed, 110x180cm

Enquire

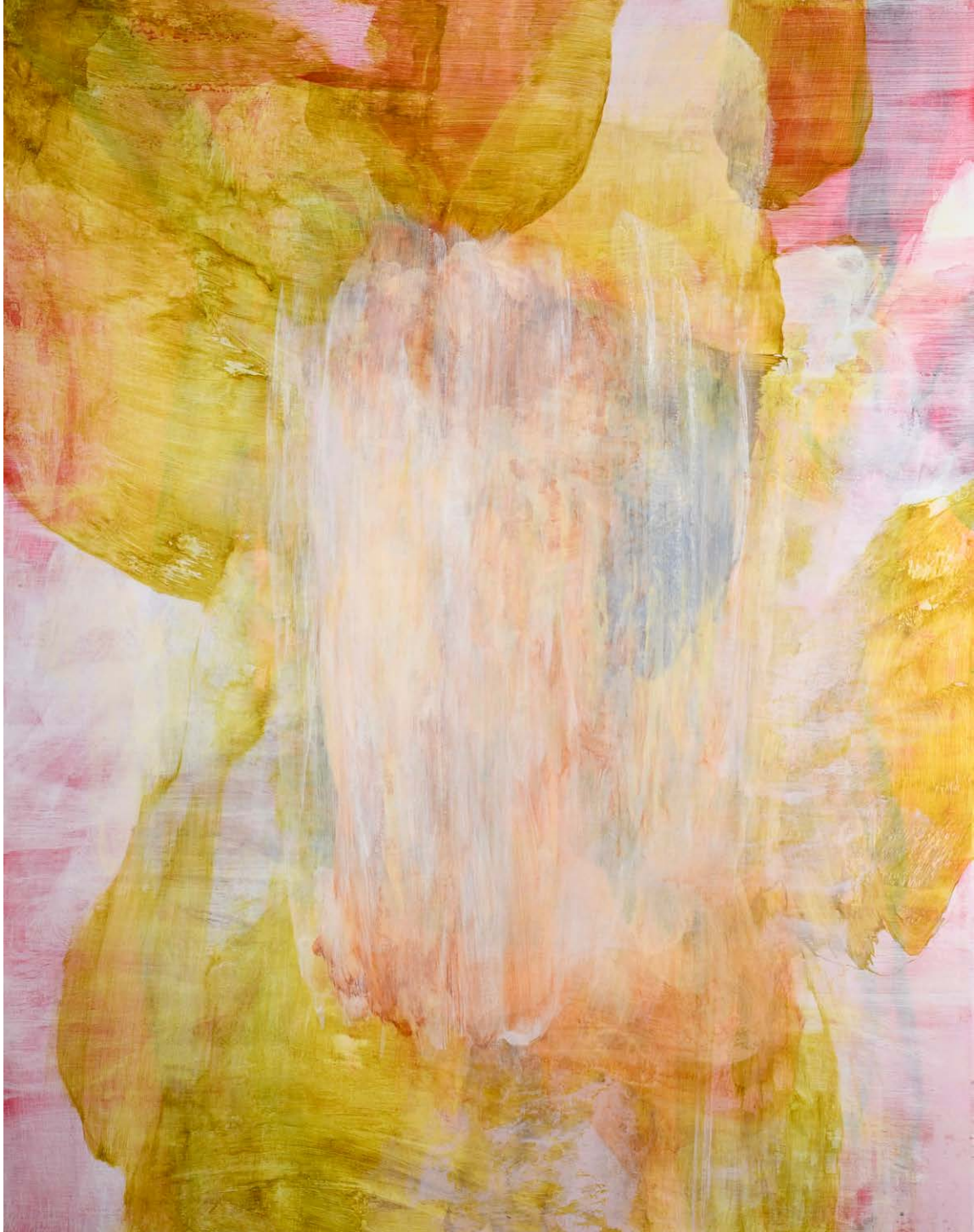


Bartley, John

Circus

\$12,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on canvas, framed, 138x107cm

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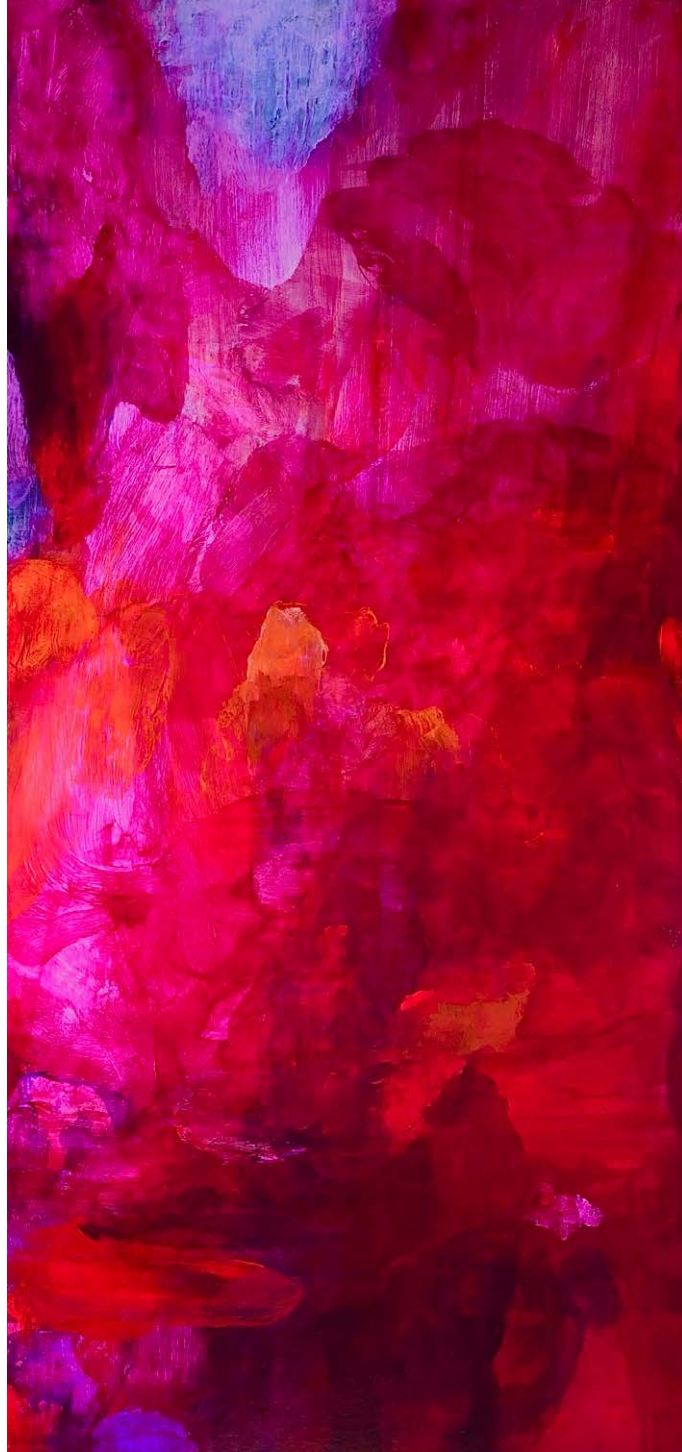


Bartley, John

Veil

\$9,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on canvas, framed, 122x97cm

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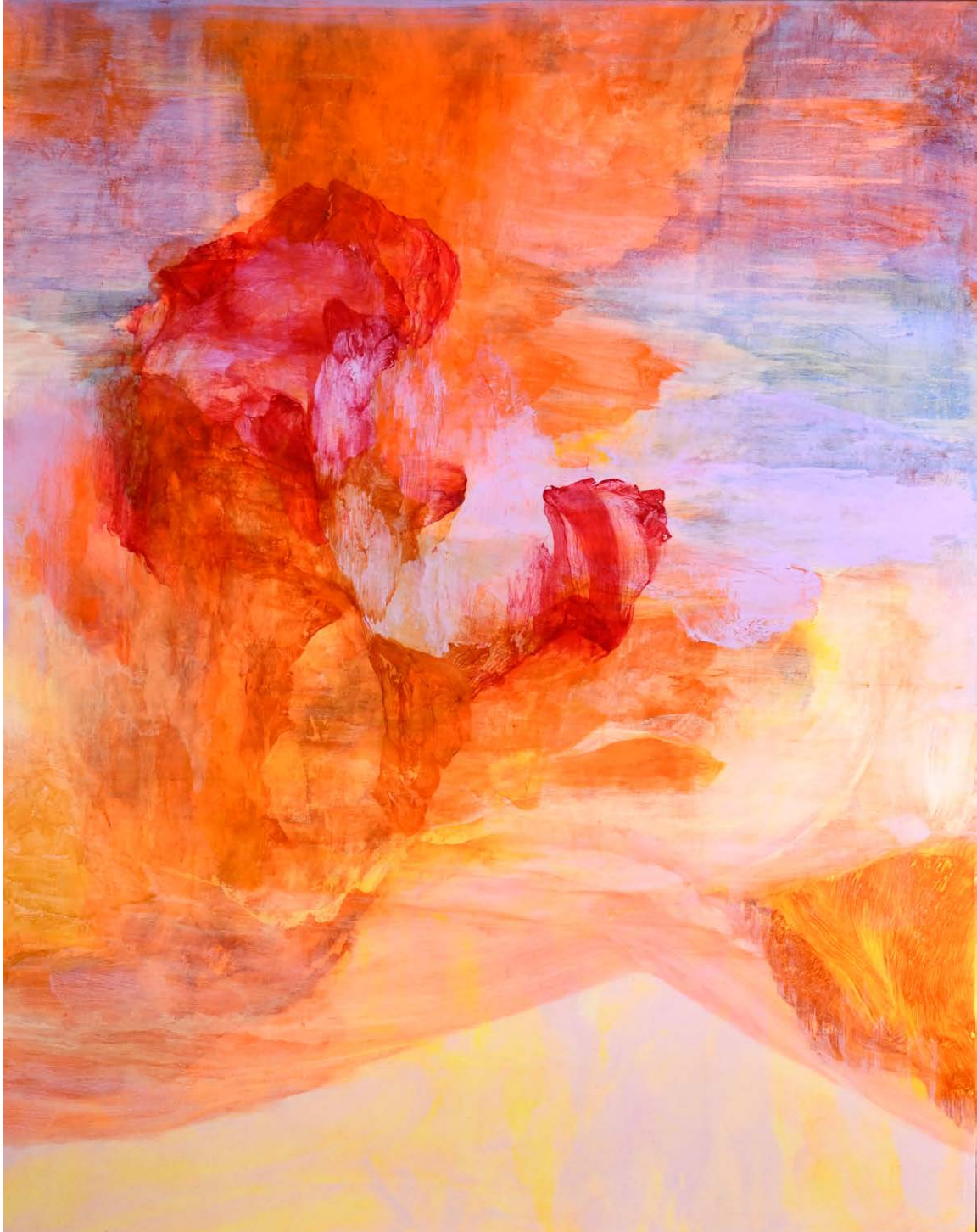


Bartley, John

Divine

\$9,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on canvas, framed, 152x71cm

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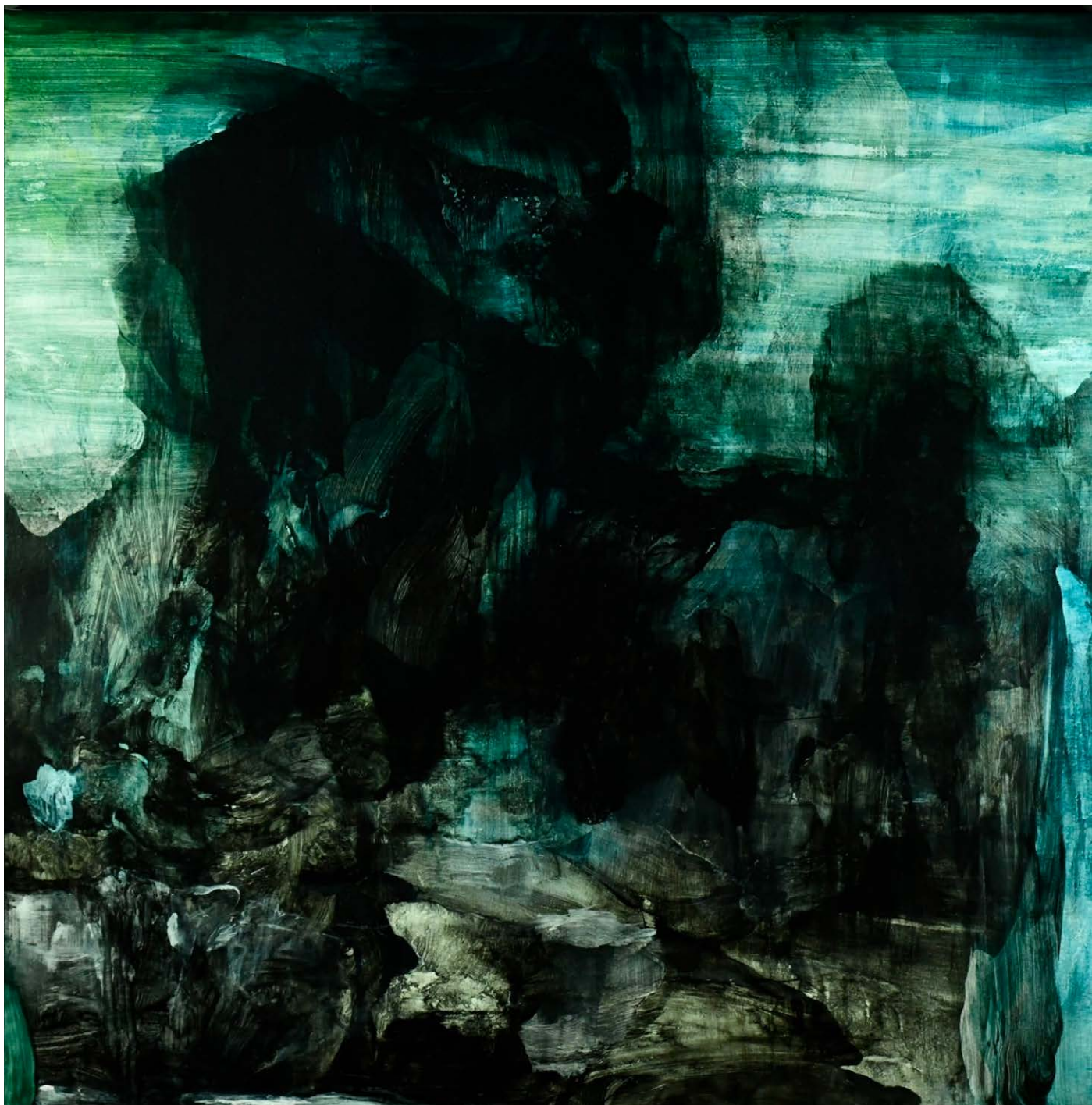


Bartley, John

Fall

\$9,500 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on canvas, framed, 122x97cm

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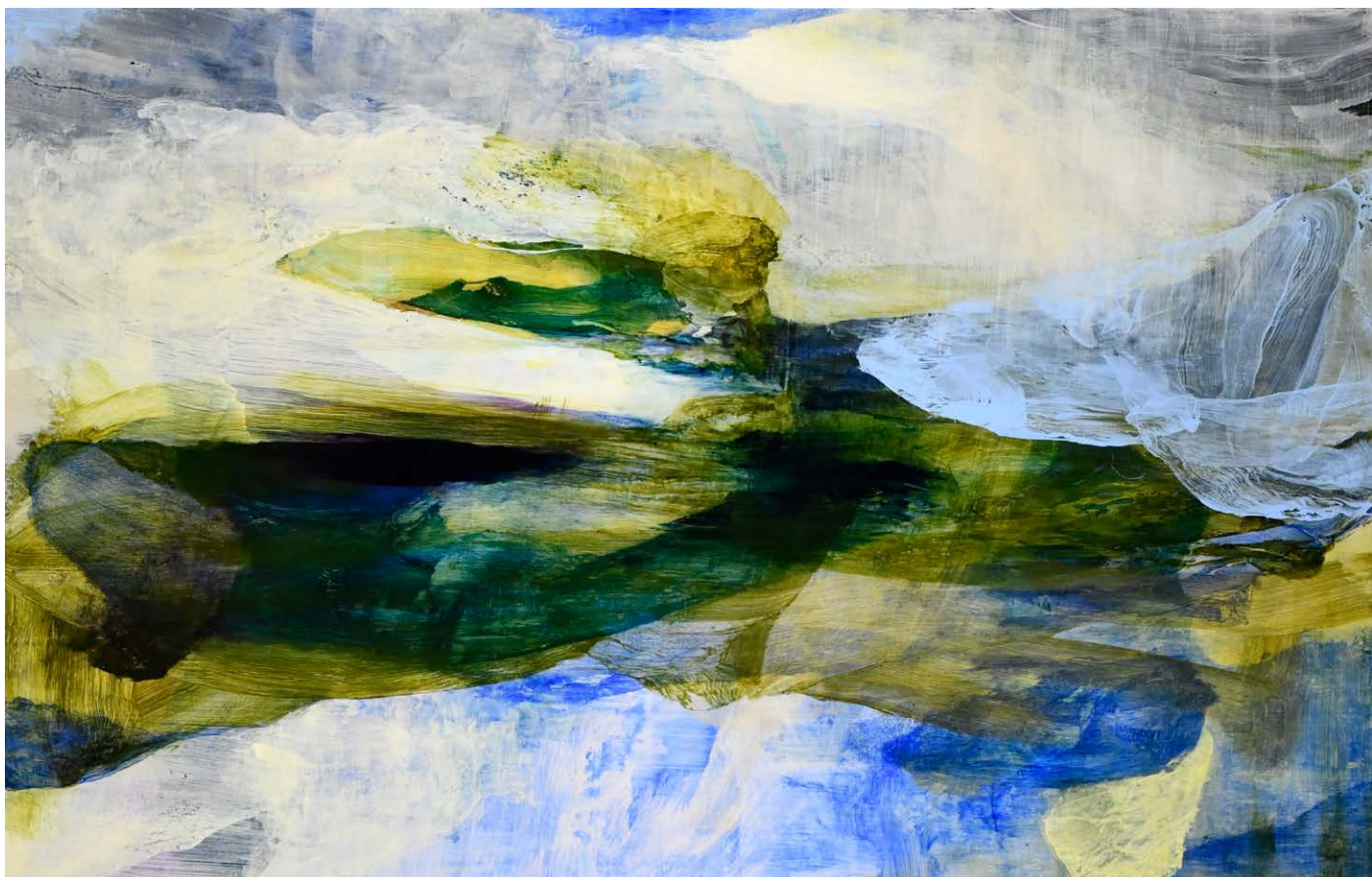


Bartley, John

Back to Black

\$8,500 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on canvas, framed, 97x97cm

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Bartley, John

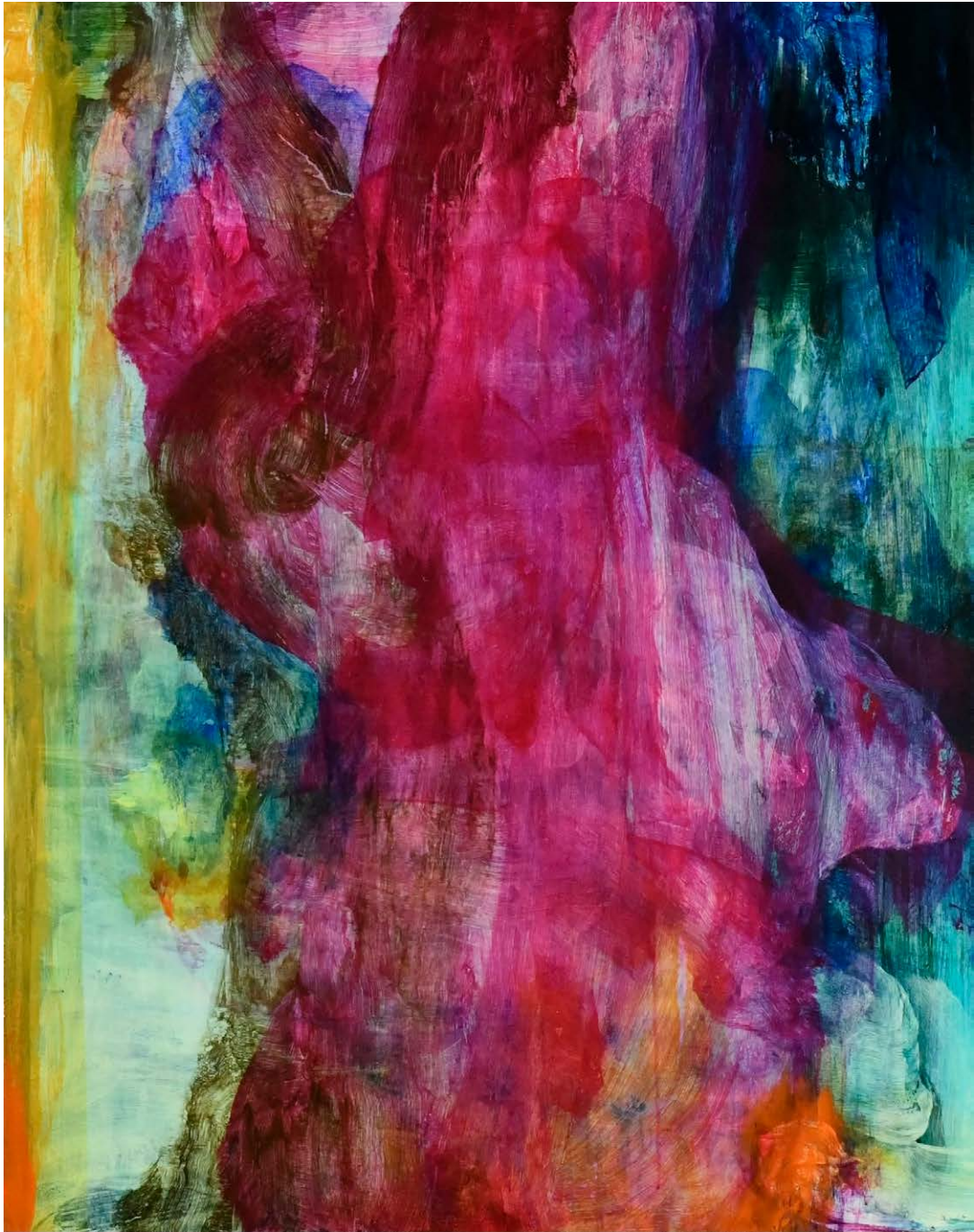
Georgia

\$8,500 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on canvas, framed, 72x112cm

Enquire



John Bartley in his studio
Photograph courtesy India Bartley

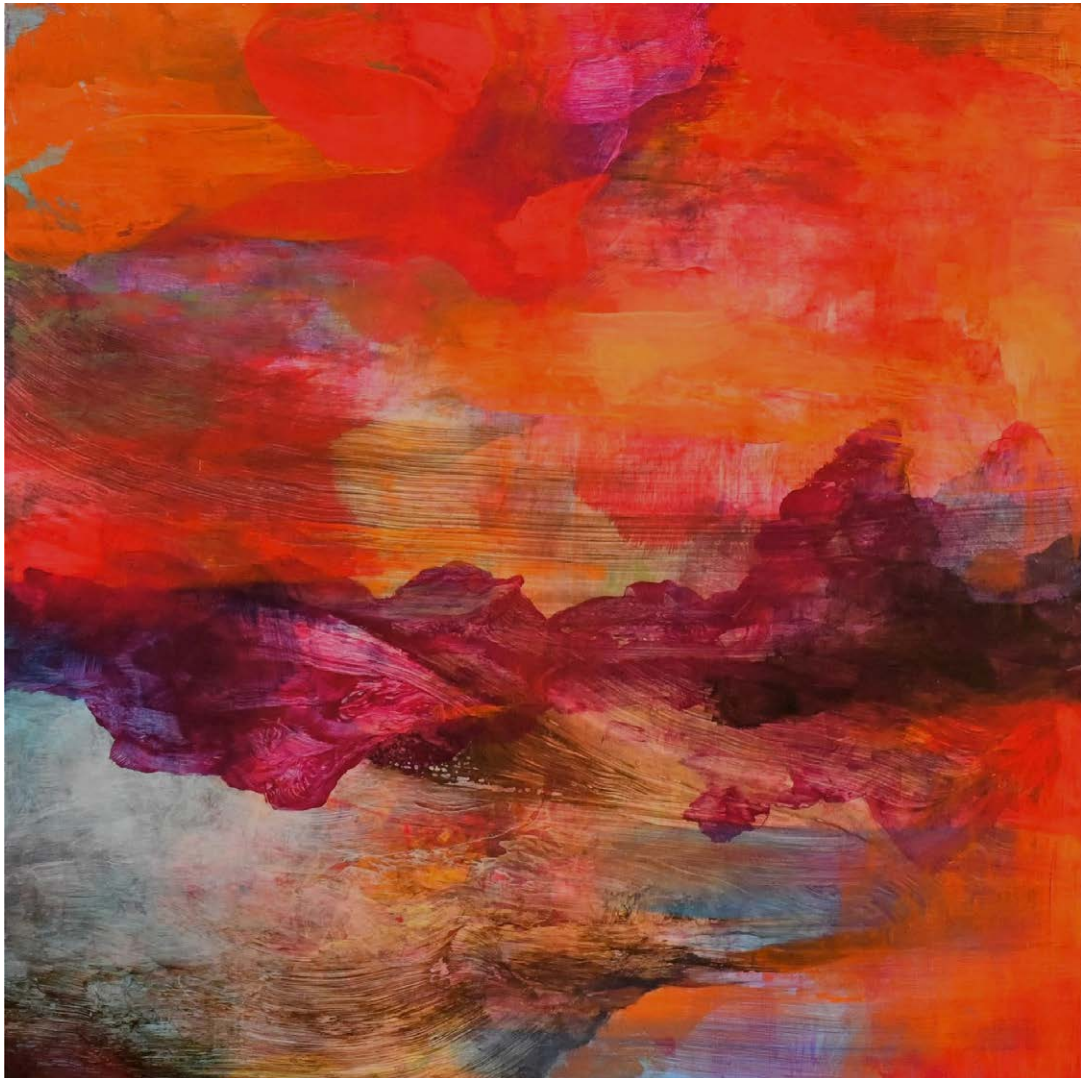


Bartley, John

Dream

\$7,500 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on canvas, framed, 92x71cm

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Bartley, John

Crimson Tide

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire

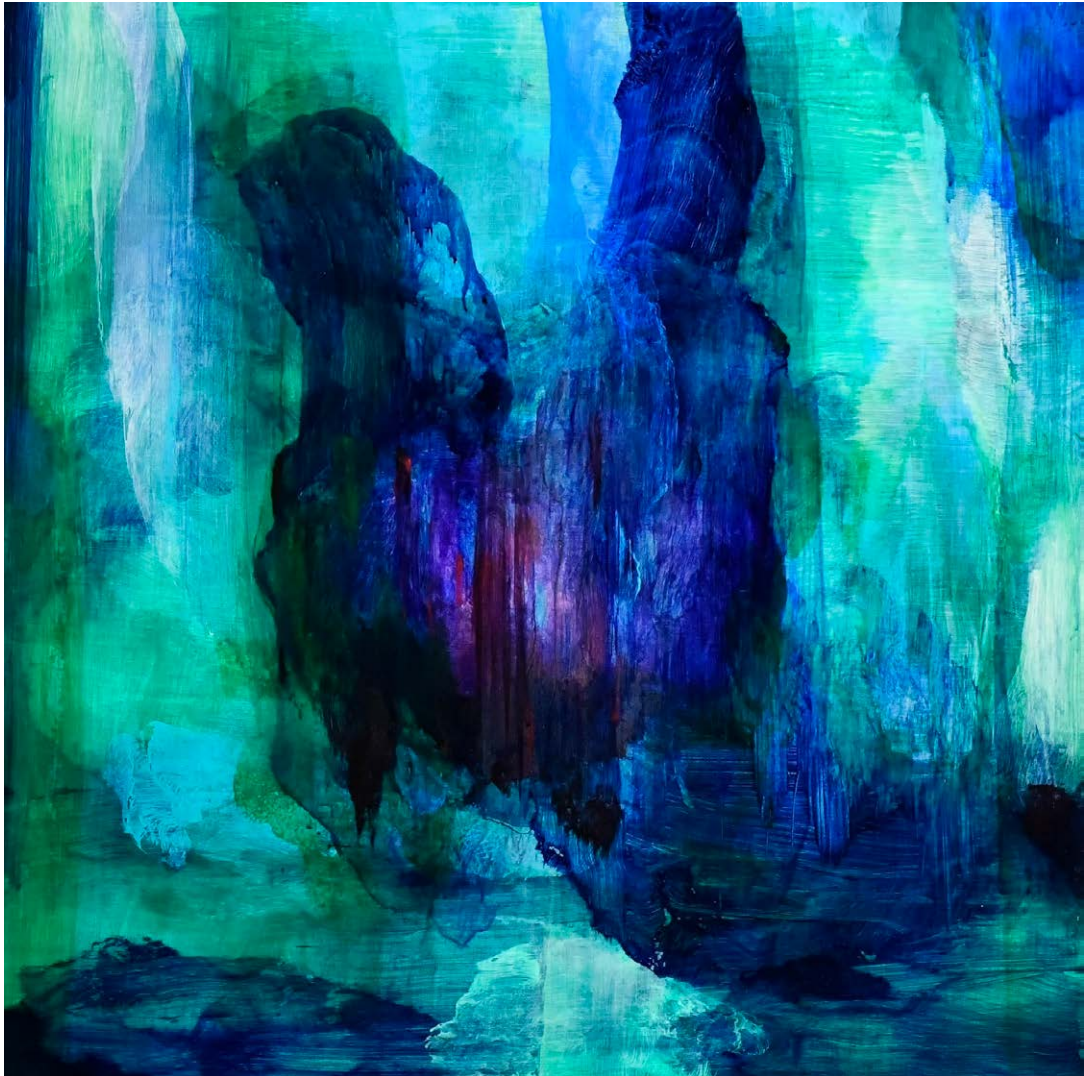


Bartley, John

Eclipse

\$5,200 GST n/a
2026, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire

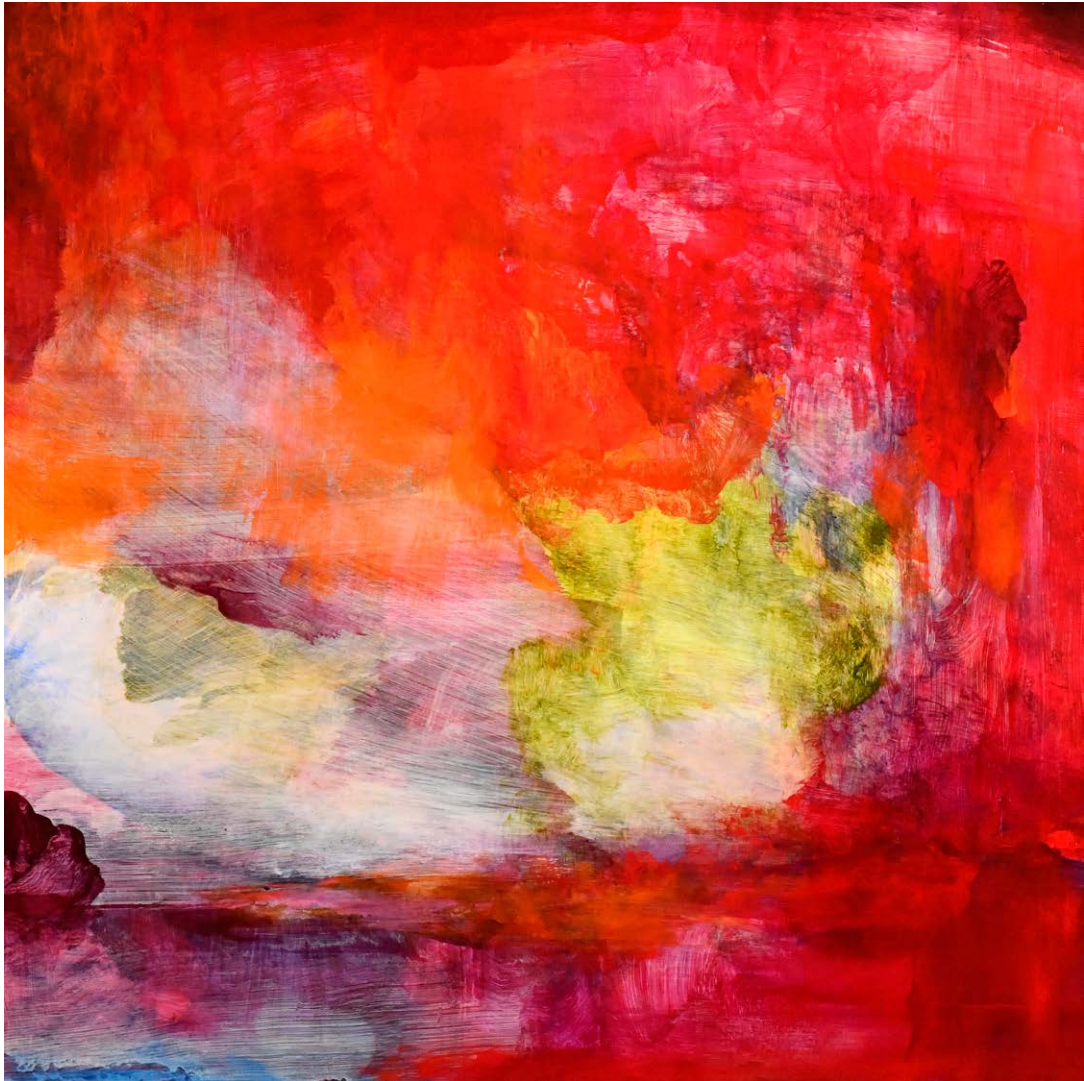


Bartley, John

Jacques

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire



Bartley, John

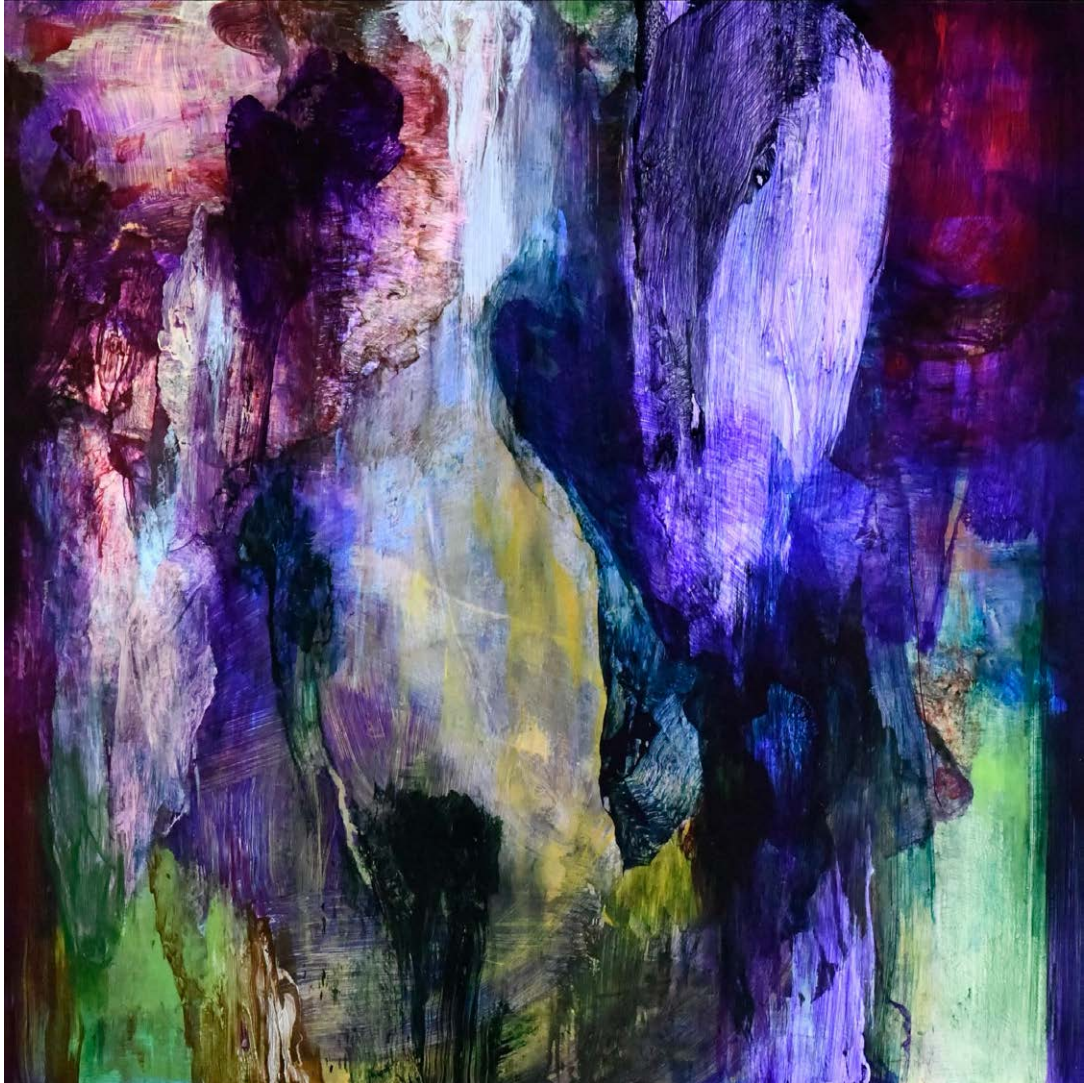
Big Sky

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire



John Bartley's studio
Photograph courtesy the artist

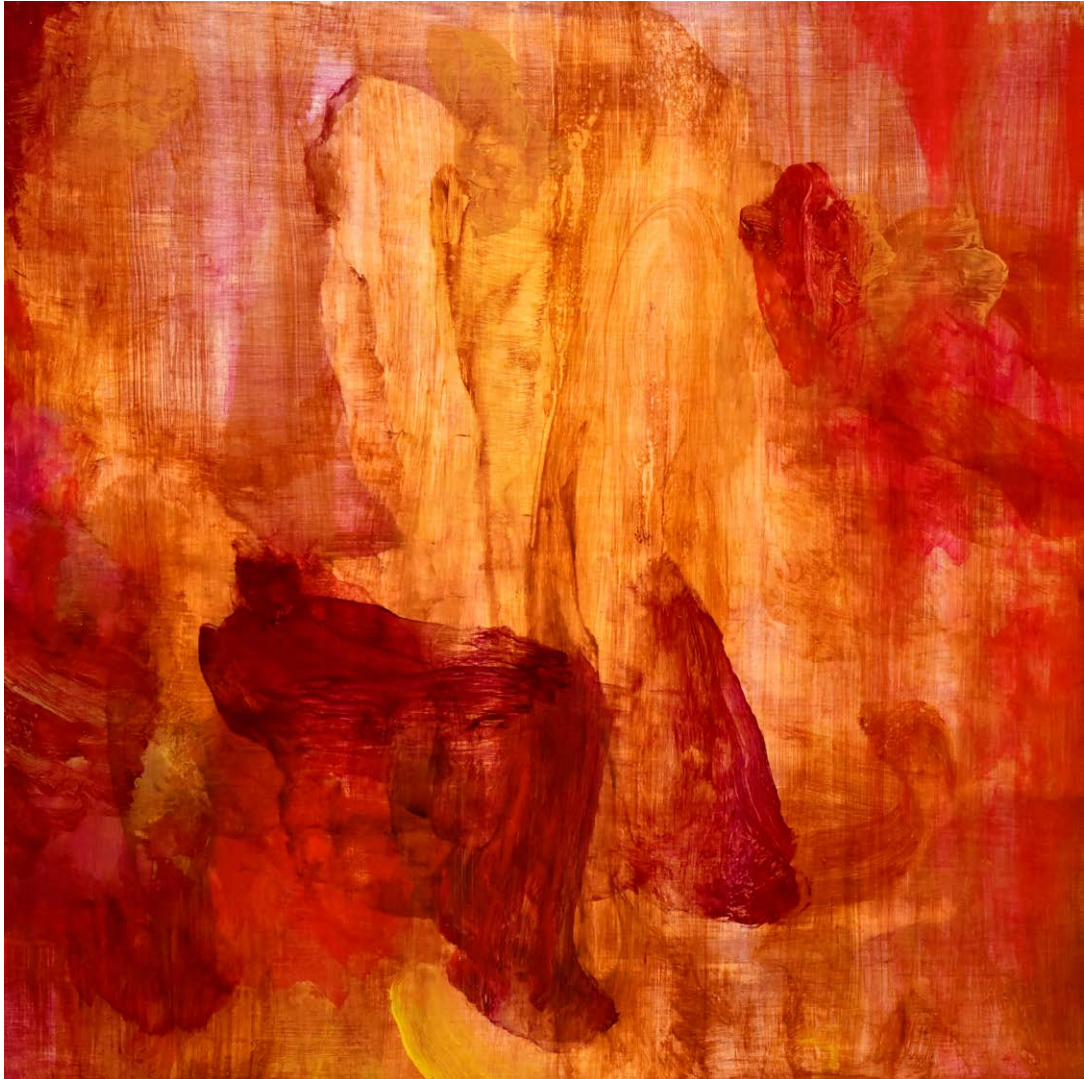


Bartley, John

James

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire

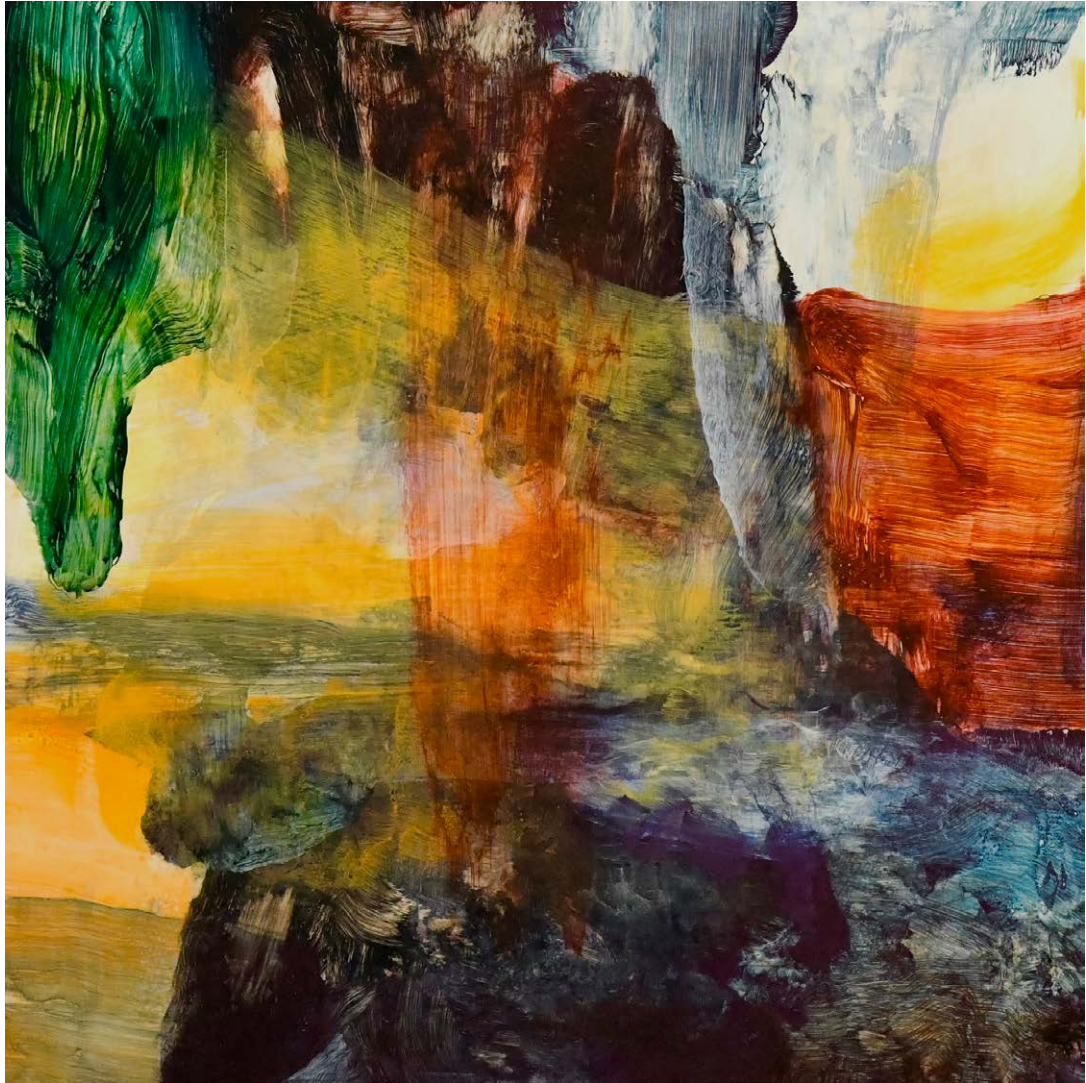


Bartley, John

The Three Graces

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

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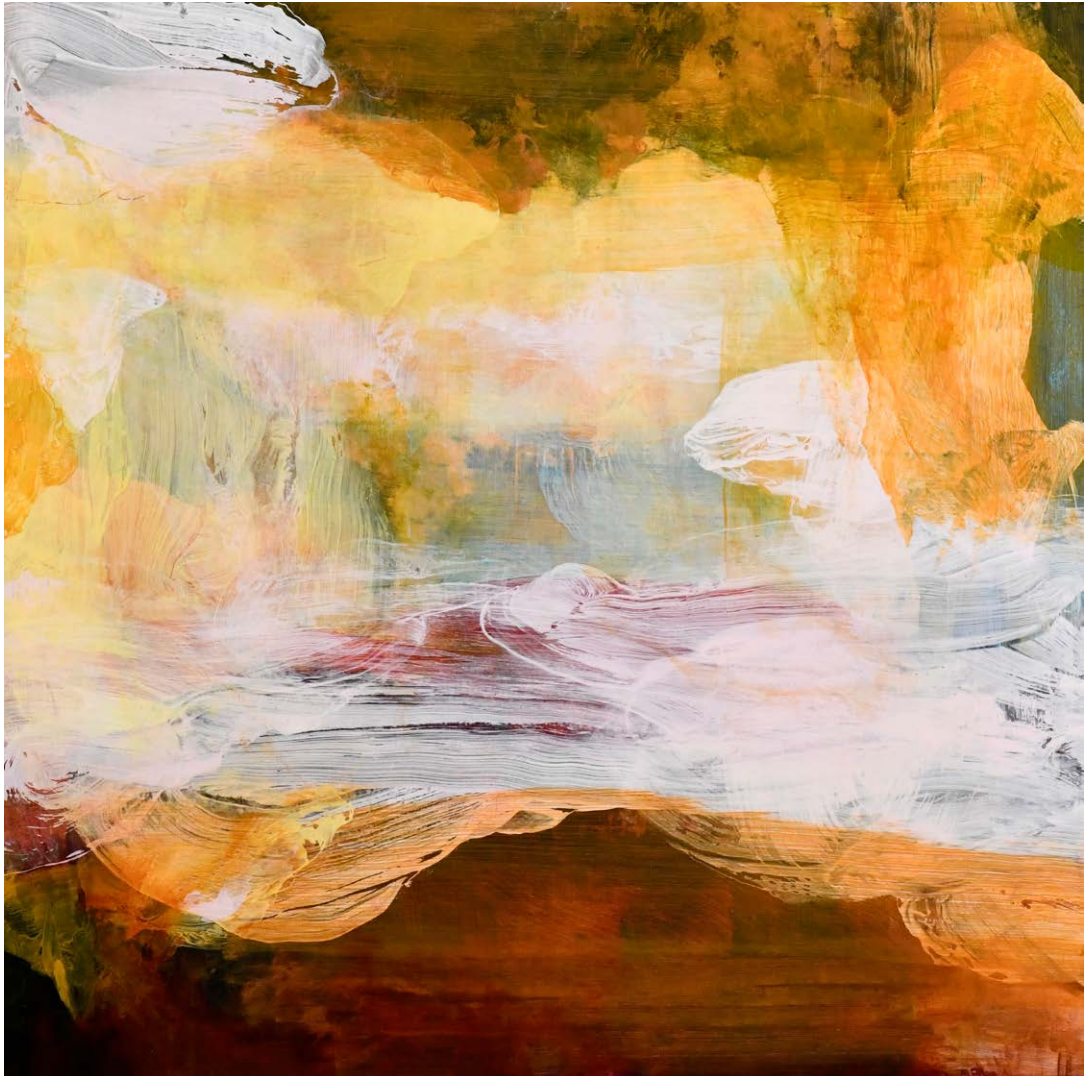


Bartley, John

J.M.W

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire

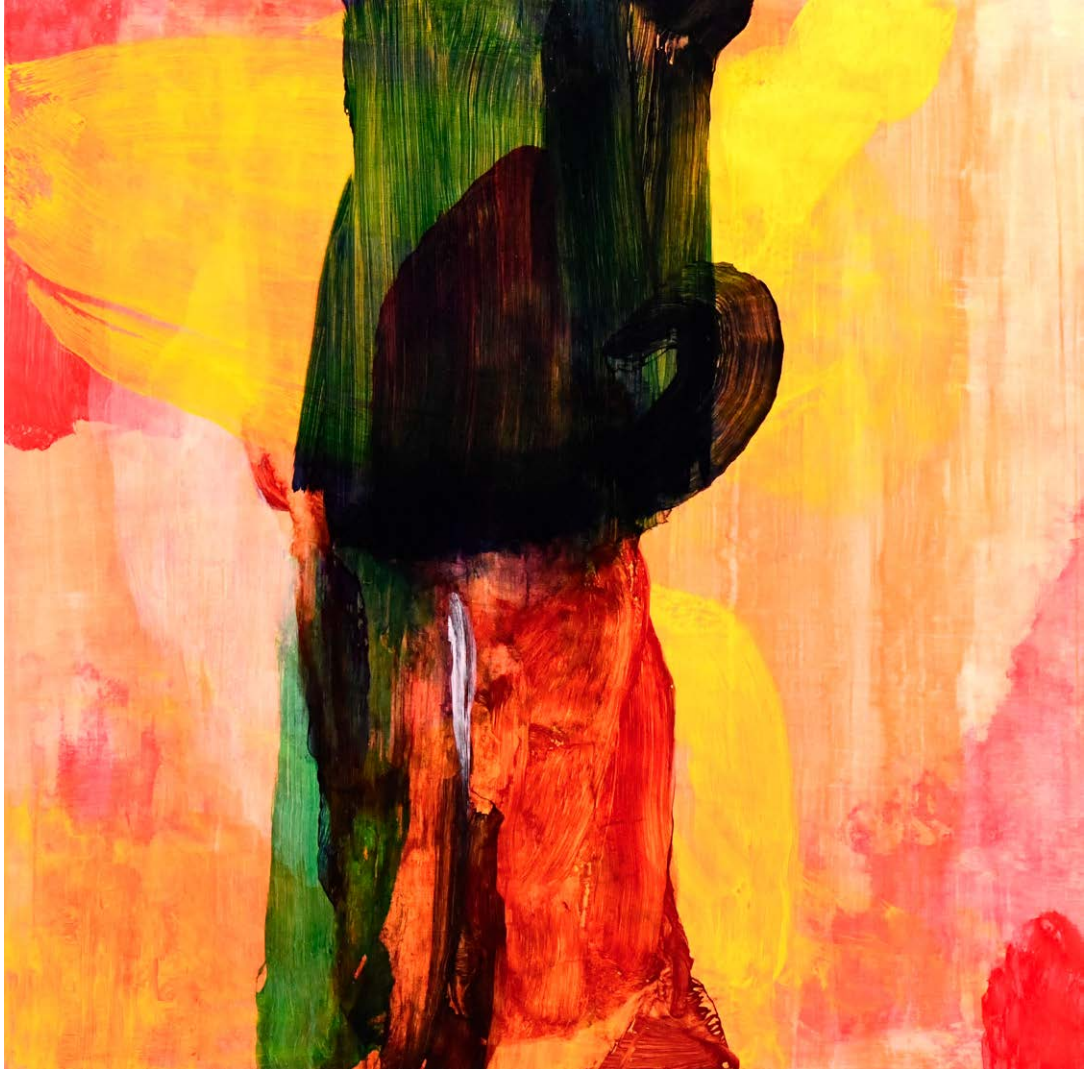


Bartley, John

All at Sea

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire



Bartley, John

The Sunbaker

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire

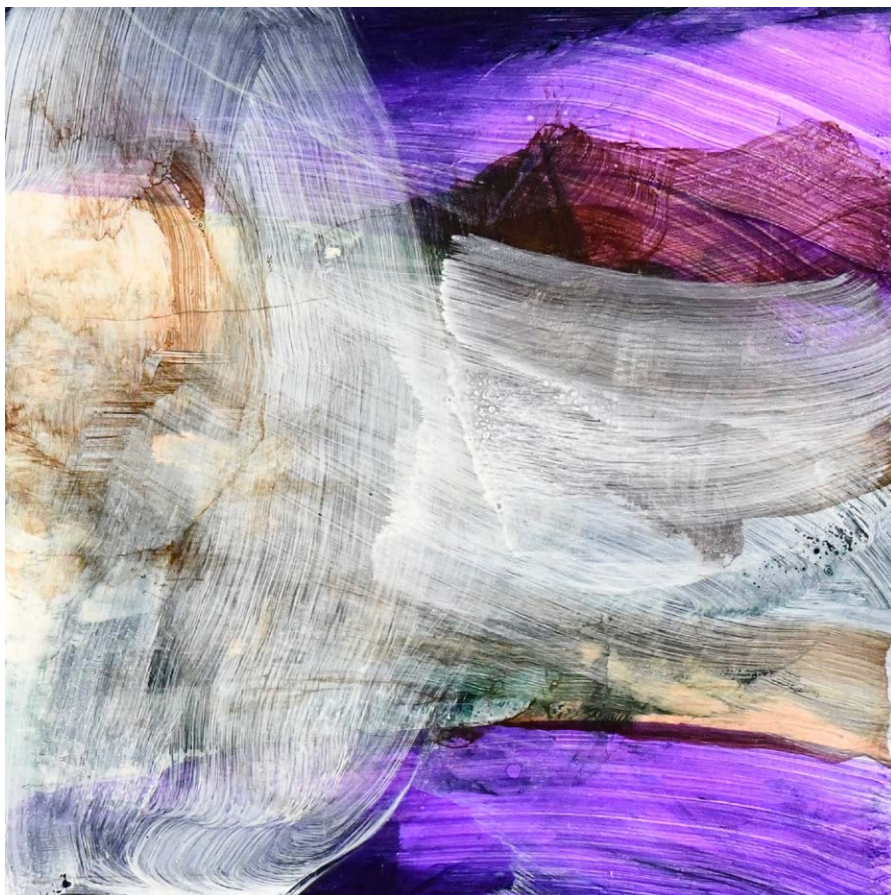


Bartley, John

The Missing Swing

\$5,200 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board, framed, 60x60cm

Enquire



Bartley, John

Flinders

\$2,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board,
framed, 30x30cm

Enquire

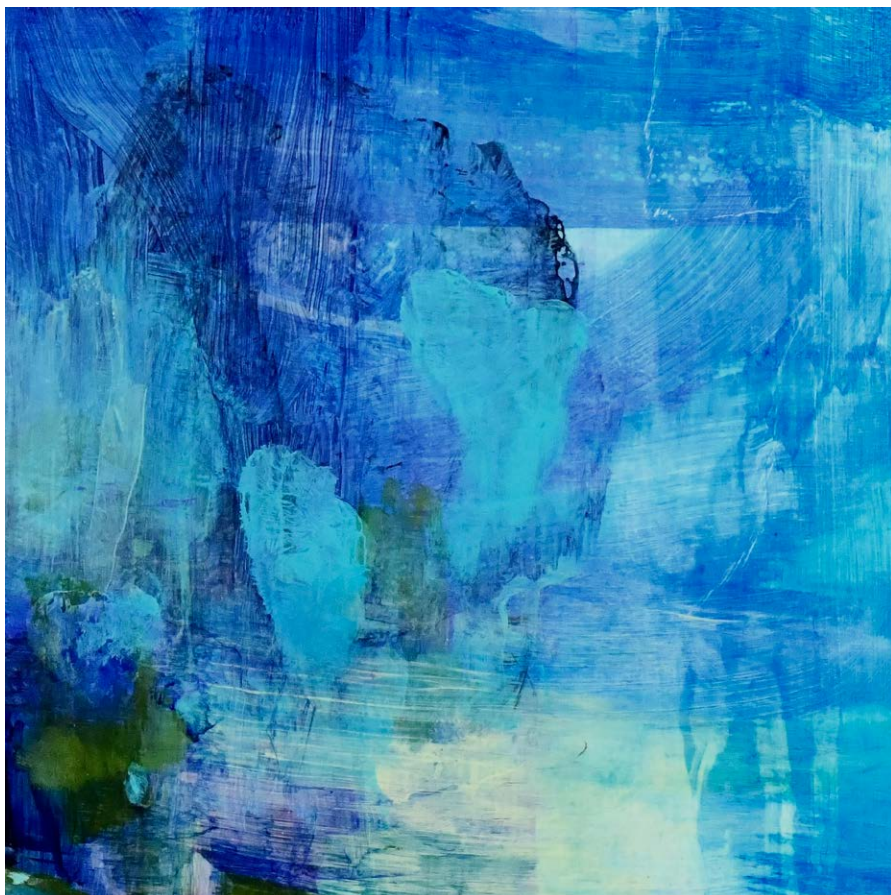


Bartley, John

Japan

\$2,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board,
framed, 30x30cm

Enquire

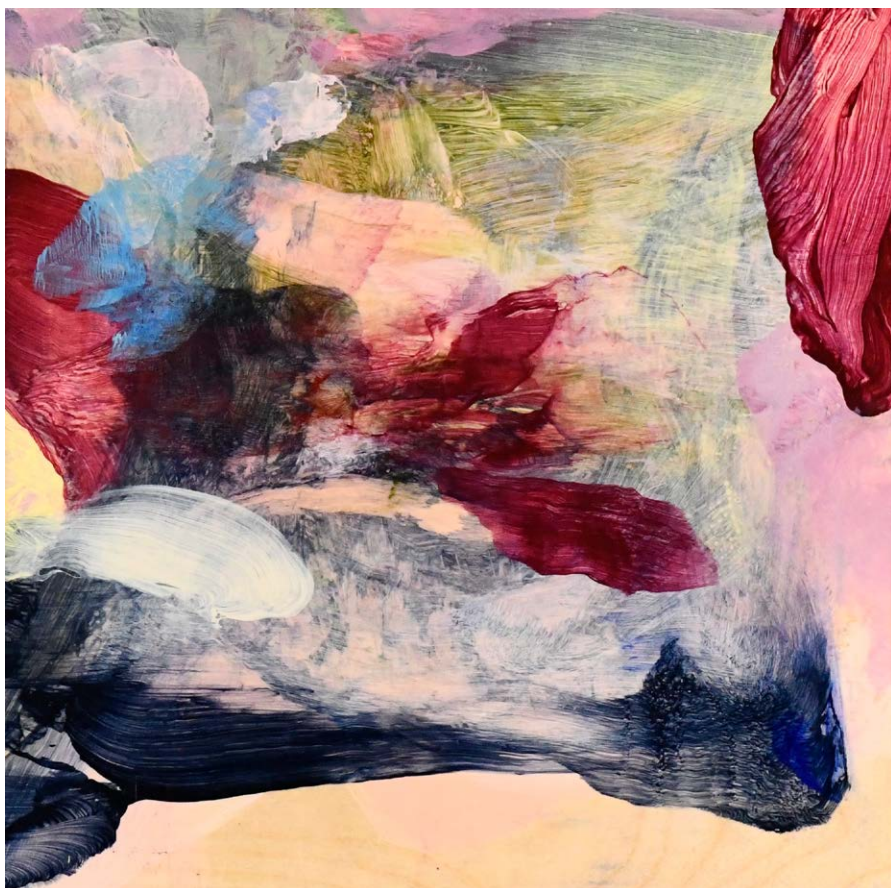


Bartley, John

Betty

\$2,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board,
framed, 30x30cm

Enquire

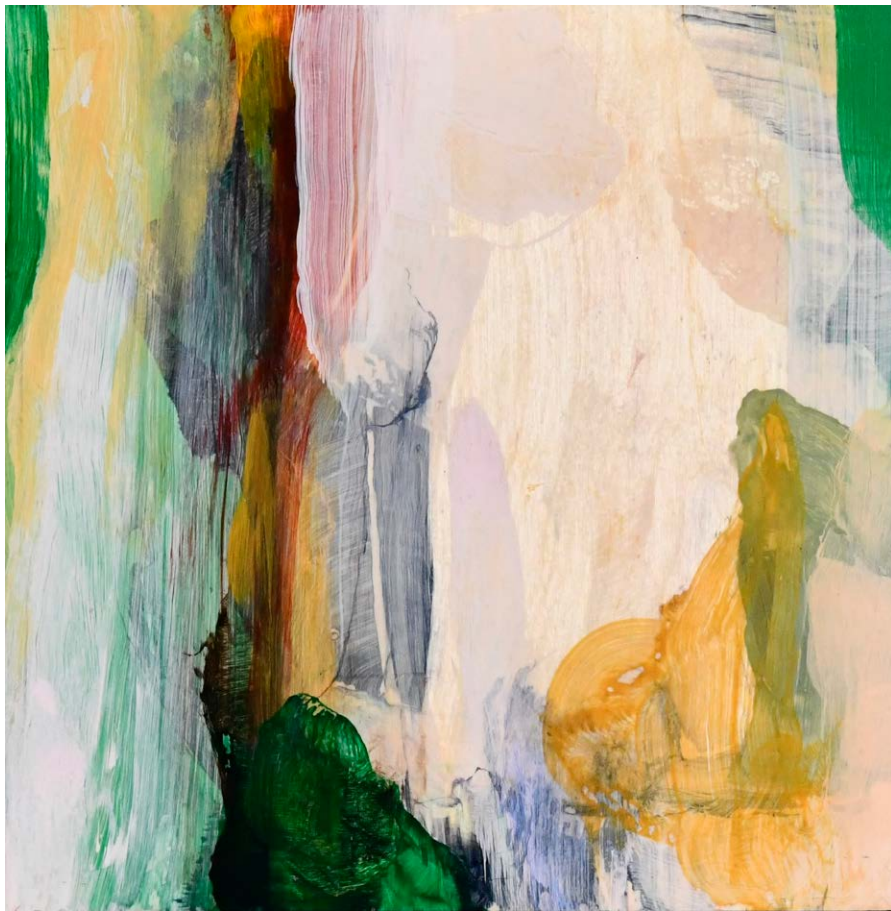


Bartley, John

Fast Car

\$2,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board,
framed, 30x30cm

Enquire

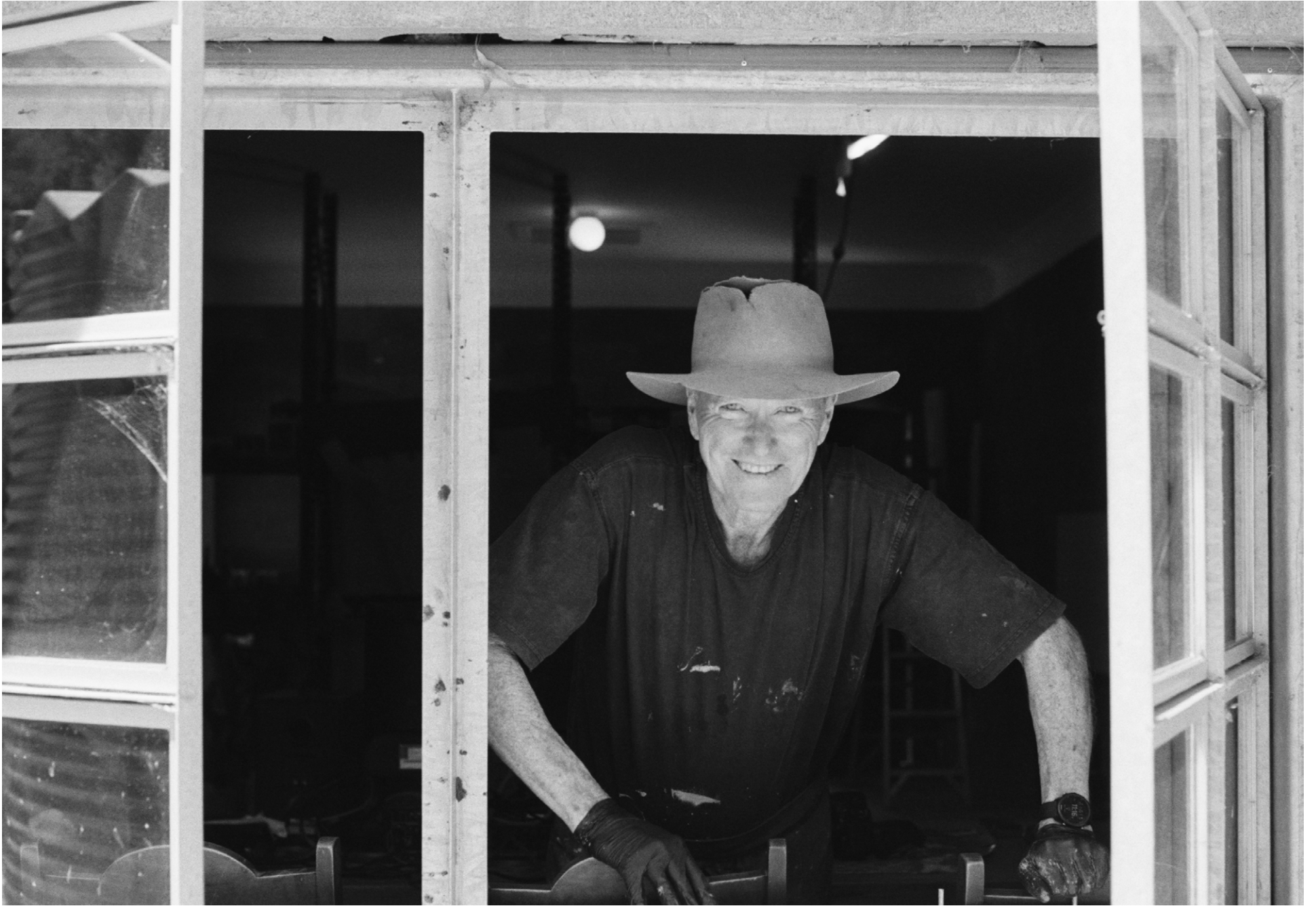


Bartley, John

Pop

\$2,500 GST n/a
2025, acrylic on board,
framed, 30x30cm

Enquire



John Bartley in his studio
Photograph courtesy India Bartley

John Bartley

Select Biography

Lives and works in Scotts Head, NSW

Born 1956 Sydney, NSW

Education

1986-88 Art Certificate & Higher Art Certificate East
Sydney Technical College, Sydney

Solo Exhibitions

2026 *The Quick and the Slow* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney

2024 *"Well, How did I get here?"* King Street Gallery on William

2022 *Something but Nothing* King Street Gallery on William

2020 *Dark beautiful* King Street Gallery on William

2018 *Tweed, Hill End, Home* Watters Gallery, Sydney

2016 *Outside* Watters Gallery

2014 *On a Clear Day* Watters Gallery

2012 *Songs to the Siren* Watters Gallery

2010 *Air* Watters Gallery

2009 *Coming Up for Air* Legge Gallery, Sydney

2007 *Treading Water* Legge Gallery

2006 *Voyages* Legge Gallery

2003 *Saint* Legge Gallery

2002 *5 and 7* Legge Gallery

2001 *High-key Holes* Legge Gallery

1999 *Devils In The Backseat* Legge Gallery

1998 *On The Wing* Legge Gallery

1997 *Belly Songs* Legge Gallery

1996 *Actually I've Always Wanted To Be A Singer! (a reprise)* Legge Gallery

1995 *Buildings, Food, God, Sex, Life, Death* Legge Gallery

1994 *Upstairs* Legge Gallery

1993 *Dark Cars With Maps* Legge Gallery

1992 *Progression Through Loss* Legge Gallery

1991 *Actually I've Always Wanted To Be A Singer* Legge Gallery

1990 *Drawings* Legge Gallery
Looking For Jack Legge Gallery

Group Exhibitions [selected]

2023 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney

2022 *Mosman Art Prize*, Mosman, Sydney

2020 *The Watters Gift*, online exhibition, University of Technology Sydney Gallery, Sydney

2019 *Inside/Outside* King Street Gallery on William
Abstract '19 King Street Gallery on William

2018 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery

2016 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery and Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington, VIC

2015 *Big and Little* Watters Gallery
Brian Hartigan Paintings & John Bartley
Works on paper Watters Gallery

2014 *Watters Gallery 50th Anniversary Exhibition* Watters Gallery

2013 *Watters Gallery 27th Summer Exhibition* Watters Gallery
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery

2012 *Mosman Art Prize* Mosman Council
Packsaddle New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
Stand Up Close: Remembering Ron Lambert Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
Melbourne Art Fair 2012 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Gallipoli Art Prize Gallipoli Club, Sydney

2011 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery and Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, Murwillumbah, NSW
Frank's Flat Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Maitland, NSW
Packsaddle New England Regional Art Museum

2010 *Art Month Sydney* Watters Gallery
Melbourne Art Fair 2010 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Watters Gallery Summer Exhibition Watters Gallery

2009 *Works on Paper* Legge Gallery
John Bartley, Vivienne Ferguson & Derek O'Connor Legge Gallery

2008 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery and Tweed River Art Gallery
Melbourne Art Fair 2008 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2007 *Works on Paper* Legge Gallery
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery
Art Sydney 2007 Royal Hall of Industries Moore Park, Sydney
Summer Exhibition Legge Gallery

2006 *Group Show* Legge Gallery
Who cares? Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney
Salon des Refusés S.H. Ervin Gallery
Melbourne Art Fair 2006 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
John Bartley and Vivienne Ferguson Silvershot, Melbourne
The Year in Art S.H. Ervin Gallery
Summer Show Legge Gallery

2005 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery
Overland and Underworld: new paintings by John Bartley & Tony McDonald Legge Gallery
Redlands Westpac Art Prize Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Summer Show Legge Gallery

2004 *Depth of Field – Anamorphosis* Utopia Art, Sydney
Untitled Legge Gallery
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Council
Stock Show Legge Gallery
Melbourne Art Fair 2004 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Packsaddle New England Regional Art Museum

2003 *Fishers Ghost Art Prize* Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, Campbelltown, NSW
The Year in Art S.H. Ervin Gallery
Packsaddle New England Region Art Museum
Summer Show Legge Gallery

2002 *Packsaddle* New England Regional Art Museum
Waverley Art Prize Bondi, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair 2002 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Group Show Legge Gallery
Legge Gallery Summer Show Legge Gallery

2001 *Packsaddle* New England Regional Art Museum
Legge Gallery Painters Use Atelier
Artists' Acrylics Legge Gallery

2000 *Ten Years* Legge Gallery
Seventh Australian Contemporary Art Fair
 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Fleurieu Art Prize South Australia

1999 *Evolution* Legge Gallery
University & Schools Club Art Prize Sydney

1998 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery
Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair
 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
The Bryan Niland Collection Penrith Regional Gallery, Emu Plains, NSW

1997 *Group Exhibition* Legge Gallery

1996 *View 5 Artists* Legge Gallery
Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair
 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Mellow Down Easy Legge Gallery

1995 *Summer Exhibition* Legge Gallery

1994 *Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair*
 Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Artists Don't Believe In Sanity Clause Legge Gallery

1993 *Tempest* Legge Gallery

1992 *Salon des Refusés* S.H. Ervin Gallery
Works From Stock & Studio Legge Gallery
Thisness Legge Gallery

1991 *Common Sense Curated by Jacques Delaruelle*
 University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
Works On Paper Legge Gallery

1990 *Legge Gallery Preview* Watters Gallery
Mosman Art Prize Mosman Council
Common Sense Curated by Jacques Delaruelle
 King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
The Jacaranda Art Society Drawing Prize
 Grafton Regional Art Gallery, Grafton, NSW,
Cow Show Legge Gallery

1989 *Inside the Greenhouse* Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney
Heritage Painting Prize Blaxland Gallery, Sydney

1988 *Faber-Castell Drawing Prize* Rex Irwin Gallery, Sydney
Graduating Show East Sydney Technical College Cell Block Theatre, Sydney

Collections
 Allens Collection, Sydney
 Artbank
 Baker and McKenzie, Sydney
 BHP Billiton
 Clayton Utz Collection, Melbourne
 Faber-Castell
 Federal Law Court of Australia, ACT
 Laverty Collection
 Mosman Council Collection, Sydney
 University & Schools Club, Sydney
 UTS, Sydney

Bibliography

2022 Sebastian Smee 'Something but nothing' catalogue essay, King Street Gallery on William

2020 McDonald, John, 'It's difficult not to view John Bartley's works in relation to the bushfires', The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 Feb, <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/art-and-design/it-s-difficult-not-to-view-john-bartley-s-works-in-relation-to-the-bushfires-20200213-p53nmb.html>

Legge, Sonia, 'Dark beautiful', catalogue essay, King Street Gallery on William, Jan

2016 McDonald, John, 'Stars of the Salon des Refusés', The Sydney Morning Herald, 5 Aug, <https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/salon-des-refuses-20160802-gqj466.html>

2007 Smee, Sebastian, 'The best of the rest actually the best', The Australian, 8 Mar

2005 Downer, Stella, Redlands Westpac Art Prize, catalogue introduction, Oct

2003 'Search for the Soul', Wentworth Courier, 9 Jul
 Low, Lenny Ann, 'Disparate Visions', Metropolitan, Sydney Morning Herald, 12-13 Jul

1999 Smee, Sebastian, 'A fine line', the galleries, The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 Jul

1996 Smee, Sebastian, 'Brush Notes', The Sydney Morning Herald, 22 Nov

1995 Delaruelle, Jaques, 'Queering reason's pitch', The Sydney Review, Aug
 Fenner, Felicity, The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 Jul

1994 McDonald, John, 'Save us from perfection', Spectrum, The Sydney Morning Herald, 24 Sep

1993 Delaruelle, Jacques, 'Chalk and Cheese', The Sydney Review, 24 Sep
 Fenner, Felicity, The Sydney Morning Herald, 3 Dec
 Watson, Bronwyn, The Sydney Morning Herald, 24 Mar

1991 Osborne, Margot, 'Pleasure justifies public-purse expense' The Adelaide Advertiser, 20 Mar

1990 Allen, Christopher, 'An intuitive voyage into the unknown', The Sydney Morning Herald
 Delaruelle, Jacques, 'Common Sense', catalogue essay, University of South Australia Art Museum
 Palmer, Tony, 'Huntley's Australian Art Investor', 11 Feb

Awards & Residencies

2019 Police Point, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery

2017 Hill End, Haefligers Cottage, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery

2016 Tweed Regional Gallery, Artist in residence

2015 Tweed Regional Gallery, Artist in residence

2012 Mosman Art Prize, Commendation

1990 Mosman Art Prize, First Prize



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on William

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John Bartley in his studio
Photograph courtesy India Bartley