

Billy Crosby: *Airplane Mode*

Mare Karina, Venice, Italy

Sept 27 – Nov 16, 2024

Mare Karina is pleased to present *Airplane Mode*, a solo exhibition by Billy Crosby, on view in Venice, Italy, from September 27th until November 16th, 2024.

Born in 1992 in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, Crosby currently lives and works in London. *Airplane Mode* marks the artist's first exhibition with the gallery and in Italy, and it features new paintings created during his final year at the Royal College of Art in London.

Airplane Mode addresses the structure of feelings produced by the developing complexities of technological acceleration. Walking a line between sentimentality, anxiety and hope, his paintings are sympathetic vessels; things downstream of digital media, where data flows intermingle with neurological excitement and the clunky charm of material manipulation.

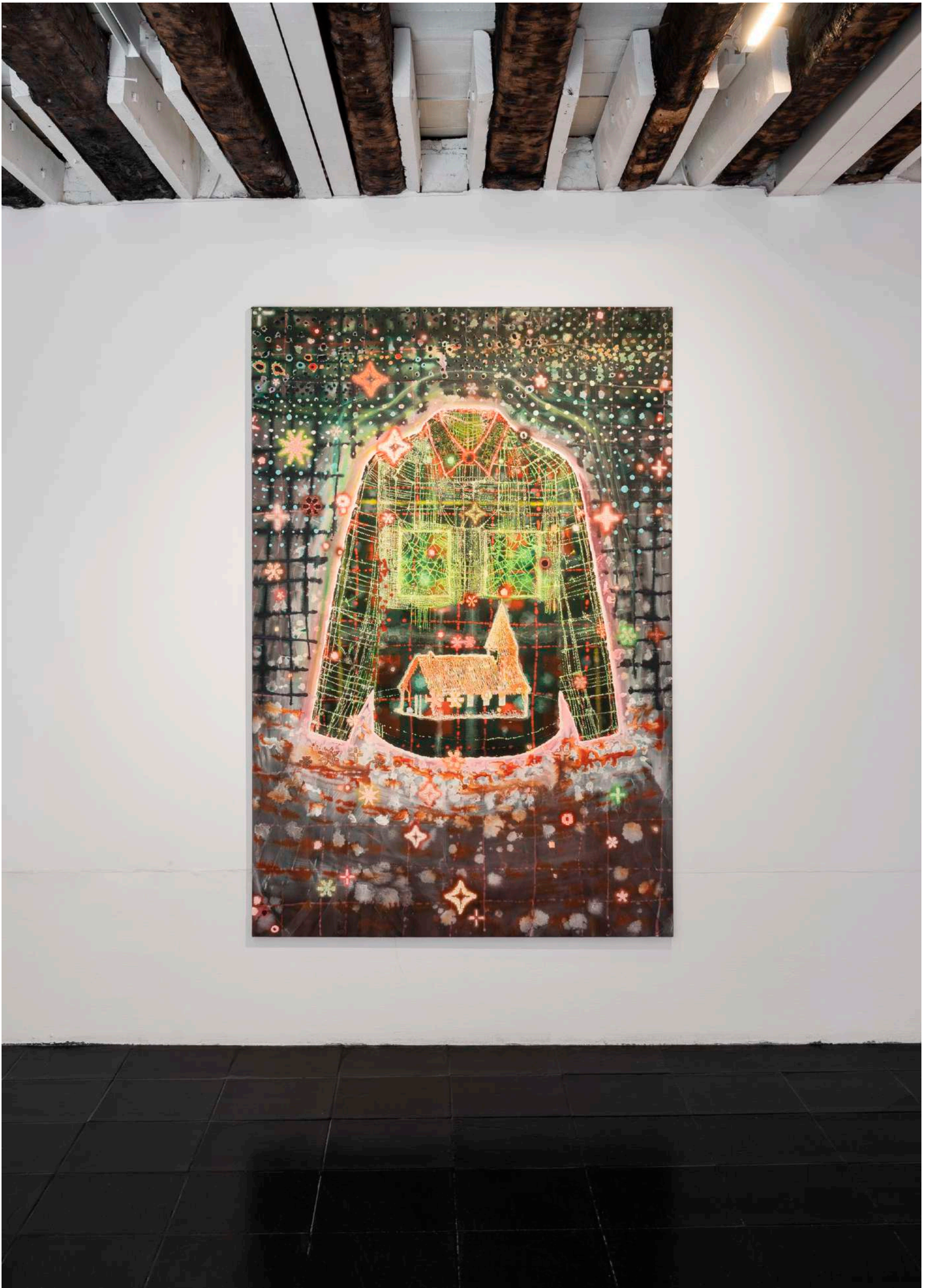
Across the works produced for this exhibition, Crosby filters algorithmically driven image culture through the escapist pastoral tropes of a simpler reality. Using a psychedelic configuration of perspectives, the micro and the macro constantly shift and muddle into one another.

Among the painted subjects are miniature houses manifesting like fungus out of stained abstract landscapes; herds of cows in seemingly liminal spaces as if viewed from a passing train and bearing the eerie uniformity of cloning experiments; and shirts woven from neural network-like spider web patterns, glowing, in environments blooming emergence.

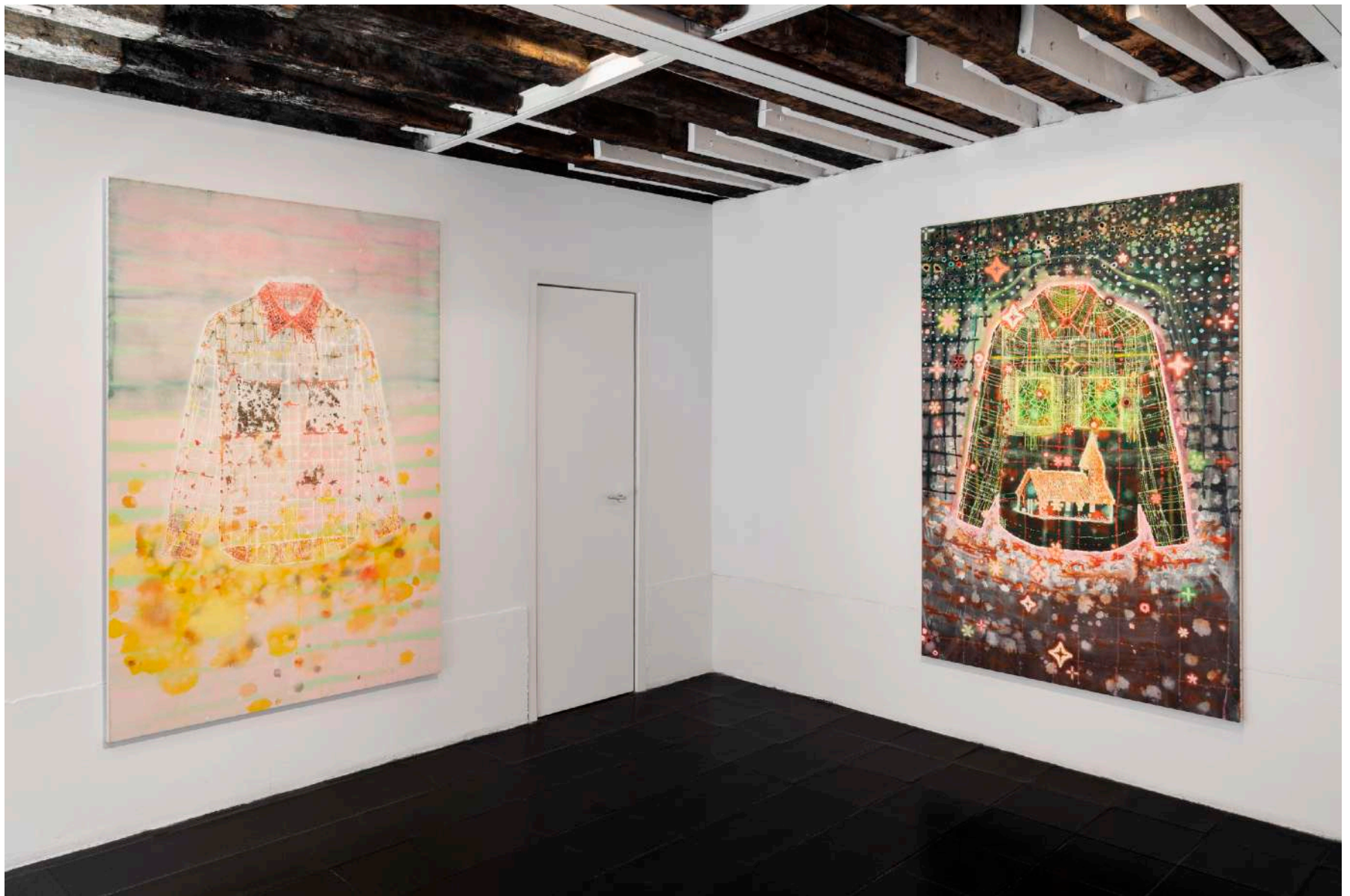
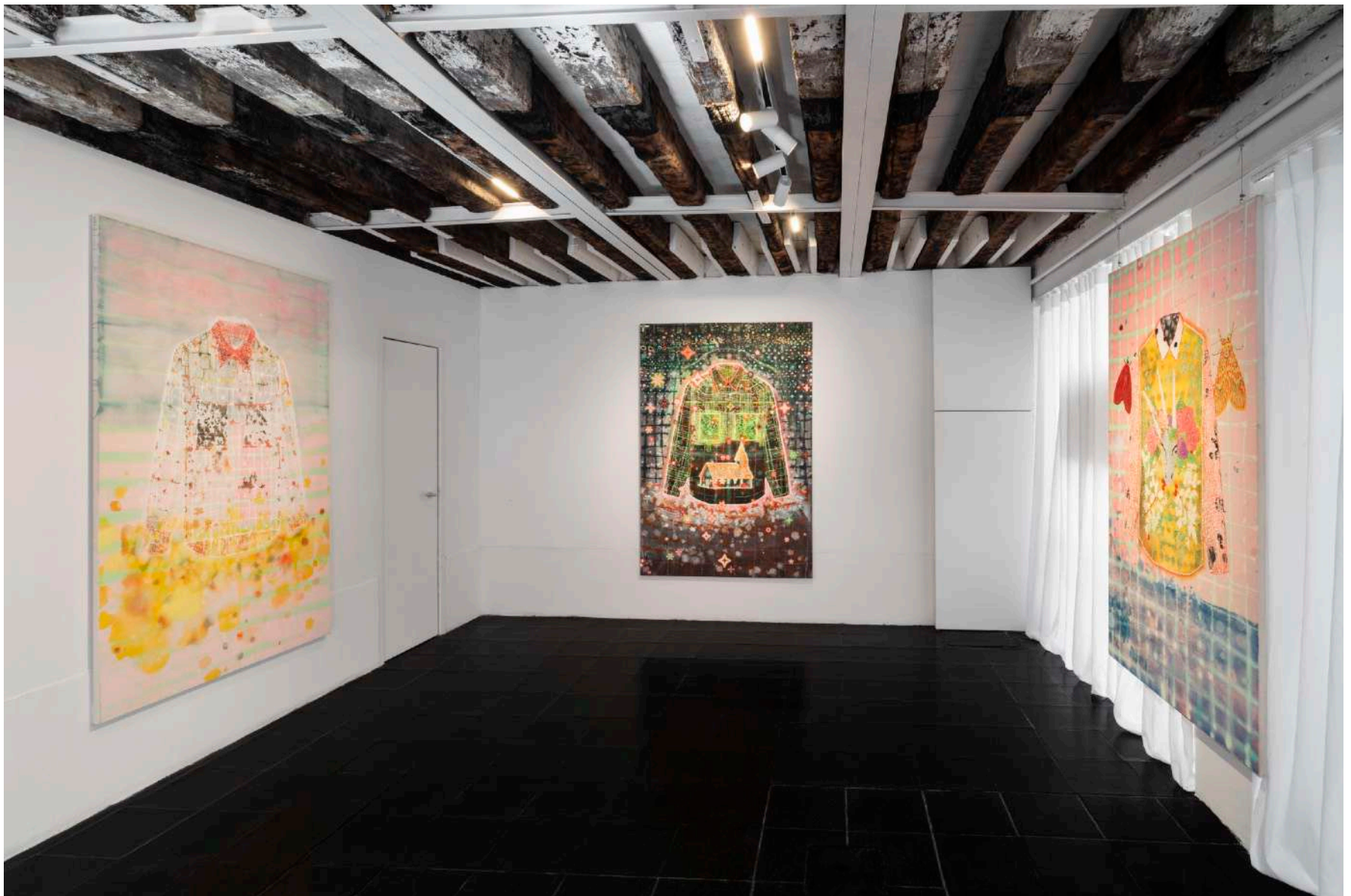
In the artist's studio, raw canvas is left to absorb abstract acrylic washes before intricate airbrushing, collage techniques and 3D puff paint detailing is applied to embroider its surface. Everywhere things coalesce, as if gently alive.

This new body of work draws on the fragmented, non-linear critical media theories by Vilém Flusser (1920 – 1991, Czech Republic and Brazil) and Berlin-based writer Caroline Busta (b. 1978, US). AI technology is embraced to painterly reconfigure the familiar, producing emergent properties in a landscape where an attenuation to *vibe* is as good a light as any to guide us through the mist.

Exhibition images



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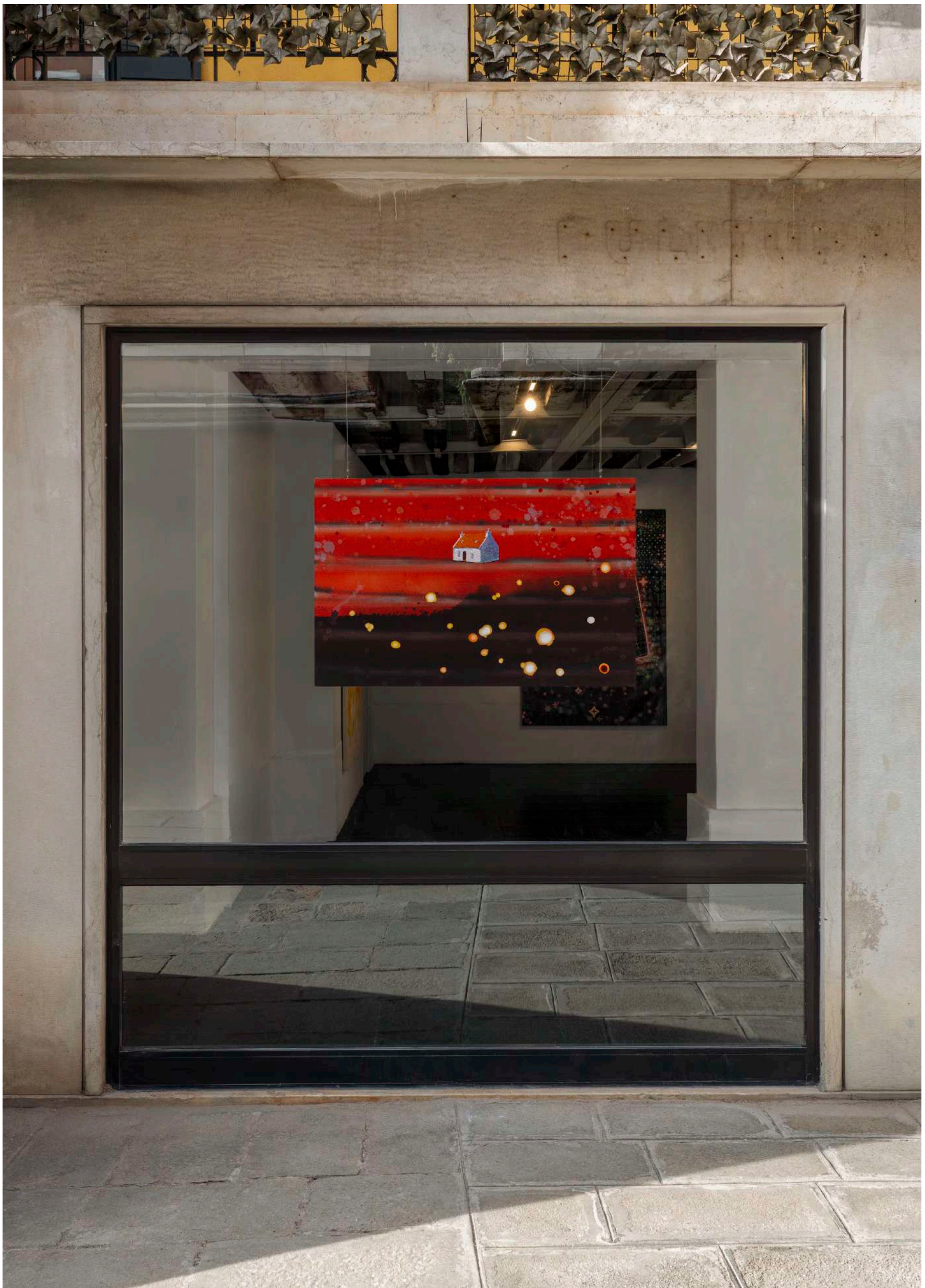
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Born 1992 in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.
Lives in London.

Selected Solo and Duo Exhibitions

- 2023 *This Package Contains the Universe*, Calcio, London (with Siân Newlove-Drew)
- 2022 *In search of our most precious resource...*, Well Projects, Margate, UK (with Siân Newlove-Drew)
- 2020 *Phlegm Festival*, Honeymoon 226, London
- 2019 *Superorganism*, Thames-side Studios Gallery, London
- 2017 *Props*, Camberwell Space, Camberwell College of Arts, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Greta Thunder*, Special Animal, London
- 2024 *The Fruit is Not There to be Eaten*, Art Accent, Art Busan, South Korea (curated by Sunjoo Jung)
- 2024 *Caper*, 10 Greatorex Street, London (curated by Toby Rainbird)
- 2024 *Linked Out: Logged In*, Gossamer Fog/Enclave Projects, London (curated by Nina Wong)
- 2024 *Palimpsestic Impressions*, Arusha Gallery, London
- 2023 *Contingency part 1/Cozzie Livs part II*, Des Bains, London (co-curated by Tom Bull)
- 2023 *Baggage Claim*, Staffordshire St, London (curated by Georgia Stephenson and Rosalind Wilson)
- 2022 *High Windows*, Recent Activity, Birmingham (curated by Ted Targett)
- 2019 *All or Nothing*, Lungley Gallery, London
- 2018 *Fatal Attraction*, Thames-side Studios Gallery, London (curated by Chris Thompson)
- 2018 *Paper Cuts*, Saatchi Gallery, London (curated by Kristian Day)
- 2018 *Salt Castles*, Lewisham Arthouse, London
- 2017 *Changelings*, The Flying Dutchman, London
- 2016 *Sticking the Moon with Double Sided Tape*, Fotopub, Slovenia (curated by Marta Barina)

Prizes & Residencies

- 2018 The John Moores Painting Prize, Liverpool, UK (shortlisted)
- 2016/17 The Vanguard Court Award, artist residency, London
- 2016 The Marmite Prize, Block 336, London and Highlanes Gallery, Ireland

Education

- 2024 MA Painting, Royal College of Art, London
- 2016 BA Painting (Hons), Camberwell College of Arts, London

Publications

- 2023 *Seeking Channels Anthology*, Well Projects, Margate

Artworks from the exhibition



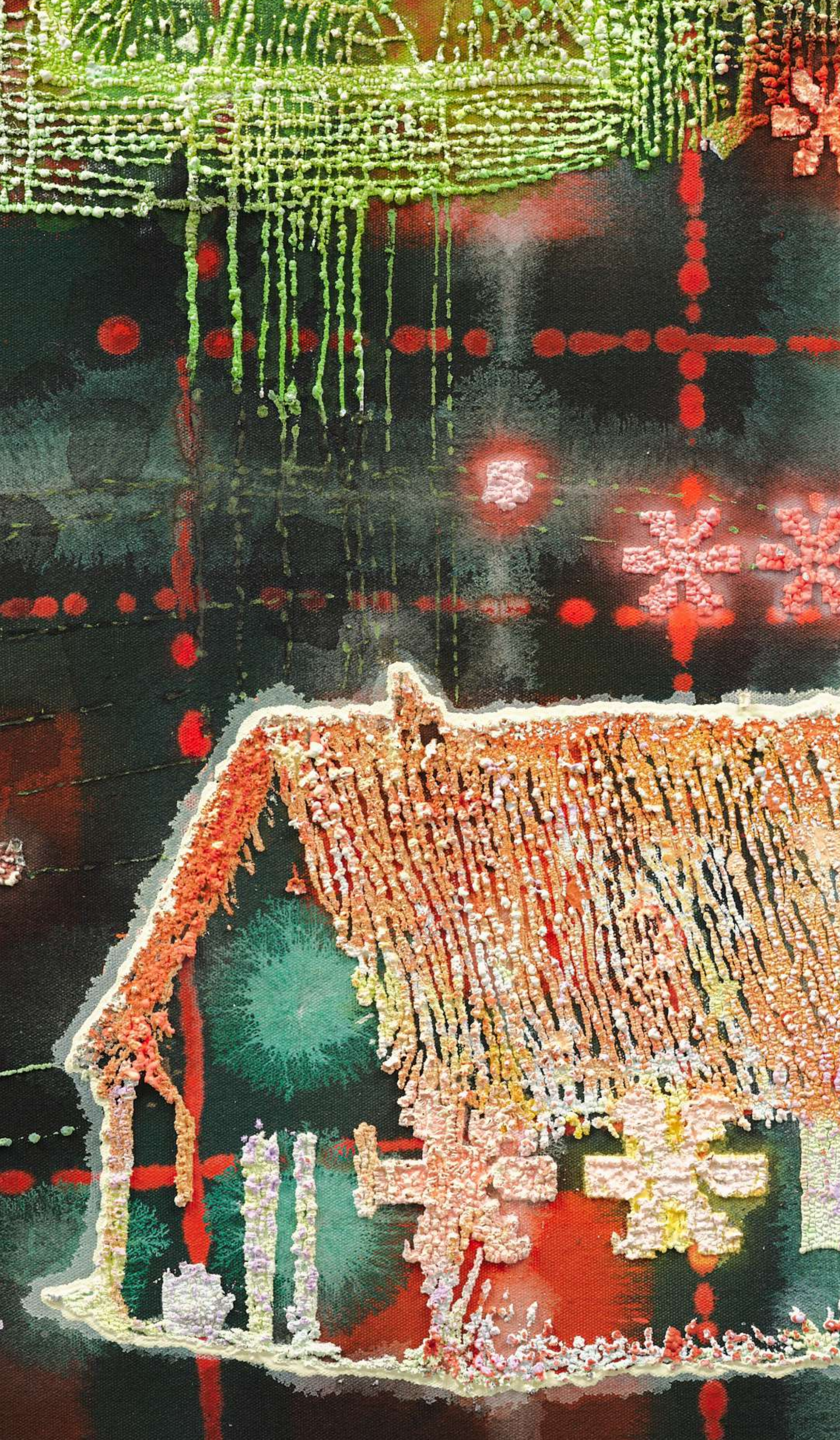


Billy Crosby
Her Name is my Password, 2024
Acrylic and puff paint on canvas
180 x 120 cm
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in





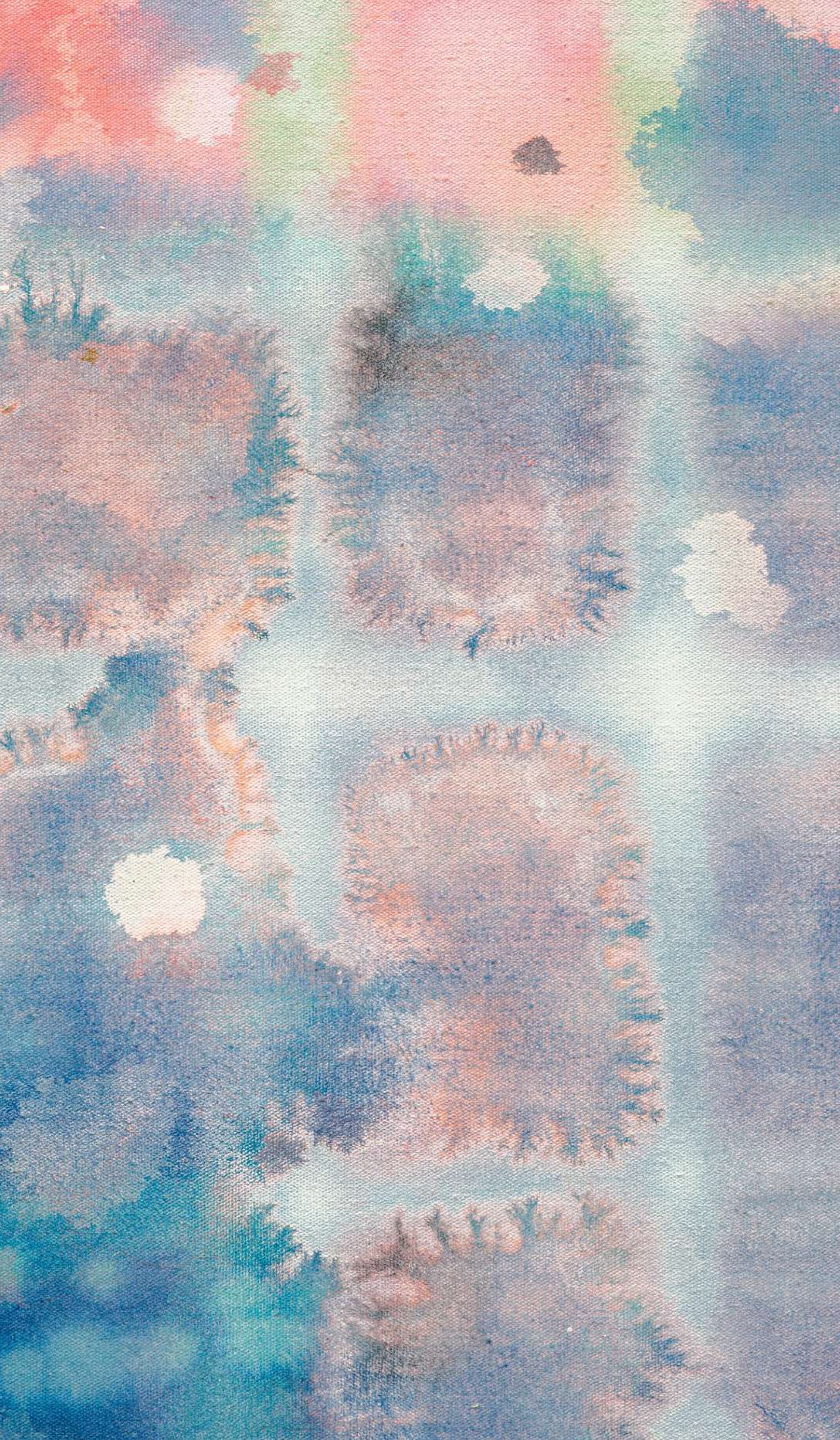






Billy Crosby
Homebrew, 2024
Acrylic, puff paint and collage on canvas
180 x 120 cm
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in











Billy Crosby
How the Boy Configure, 2024
Acrylic, puff paint and collage on canvas
180 x 120 cm
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in











Billy Crosby
Stable Diffusion, 2024
Acrylic and puff paint on canvas
180 x 120 cm
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in











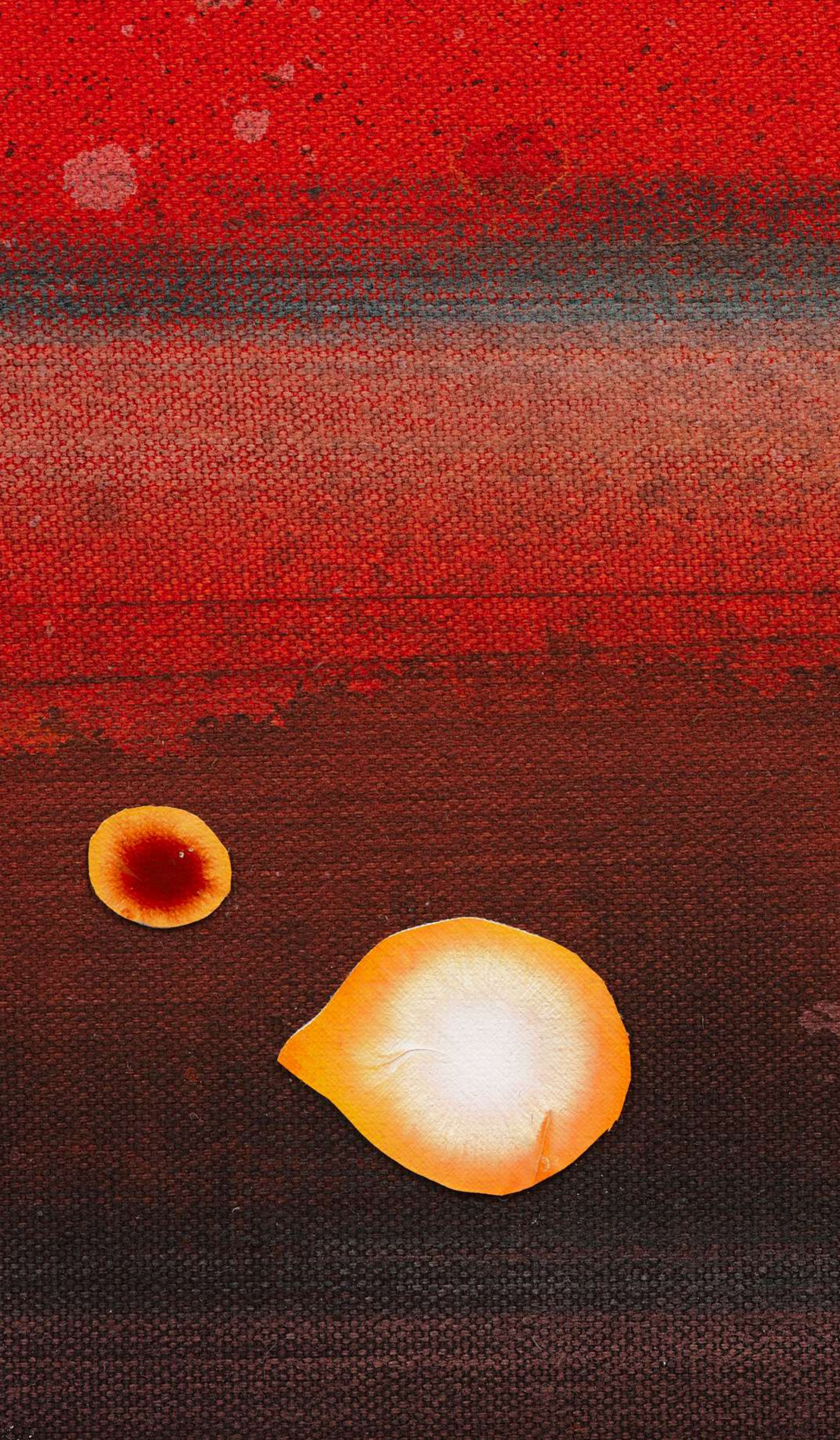


Billy Crosby
Airplane Mode 2, 2024
Acrylic, puff paint and collage on canvas
66 x 101.6 cm
26 x 40 in



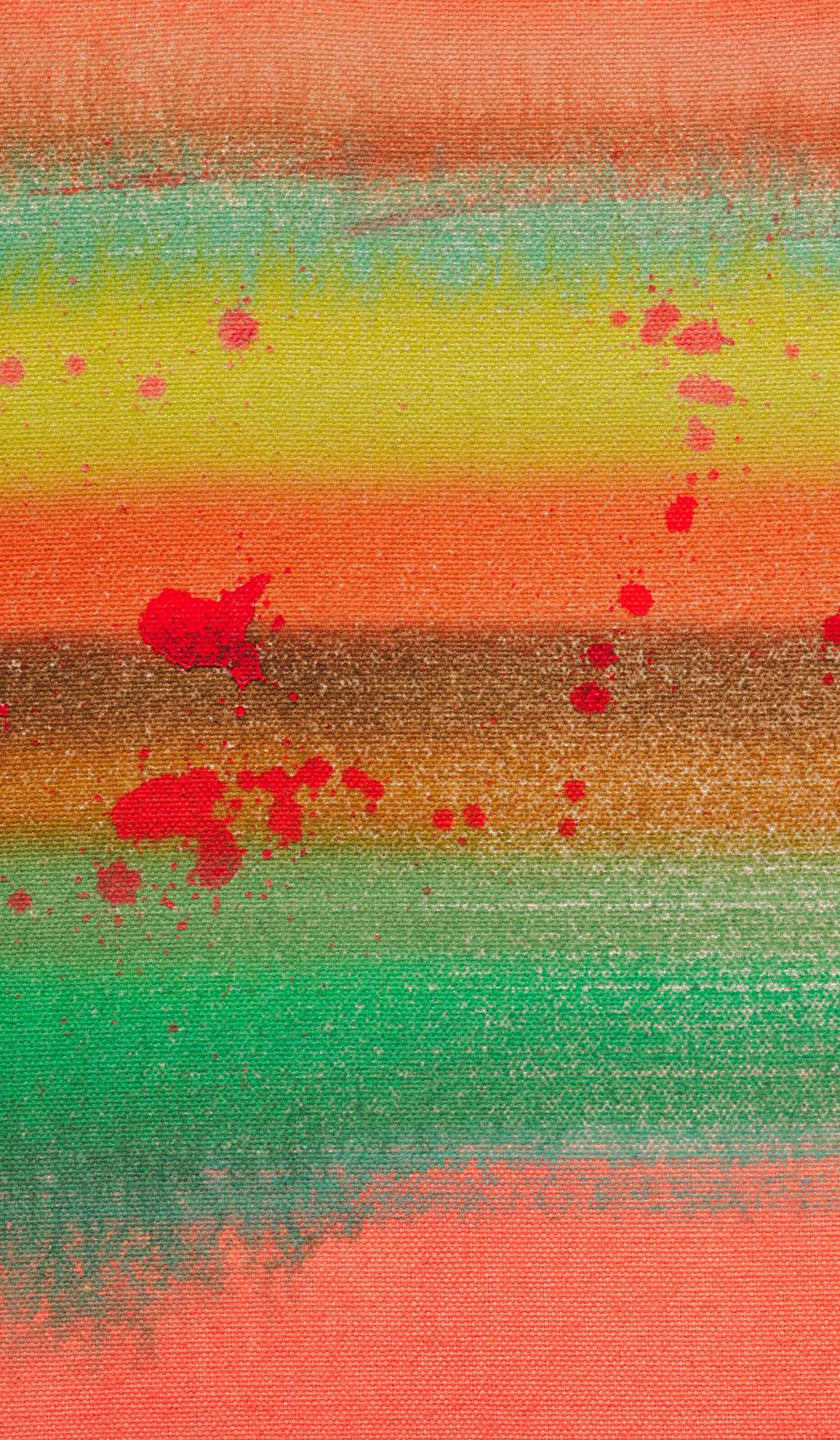








Billy Crosby
Manifestation Painting, 2024
Acrylic and puff paint on canvas
66 x 101.6 cm
26 x 40 in







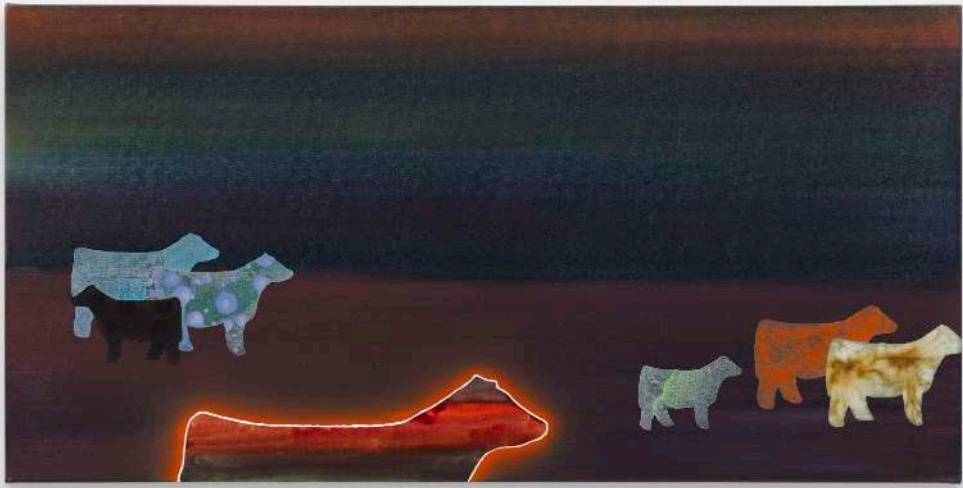
Billy Crosby
Pastoral Scotopic, 2024
Acrylic on polyester
50.8 x 101.6 cm
20 x 40 in



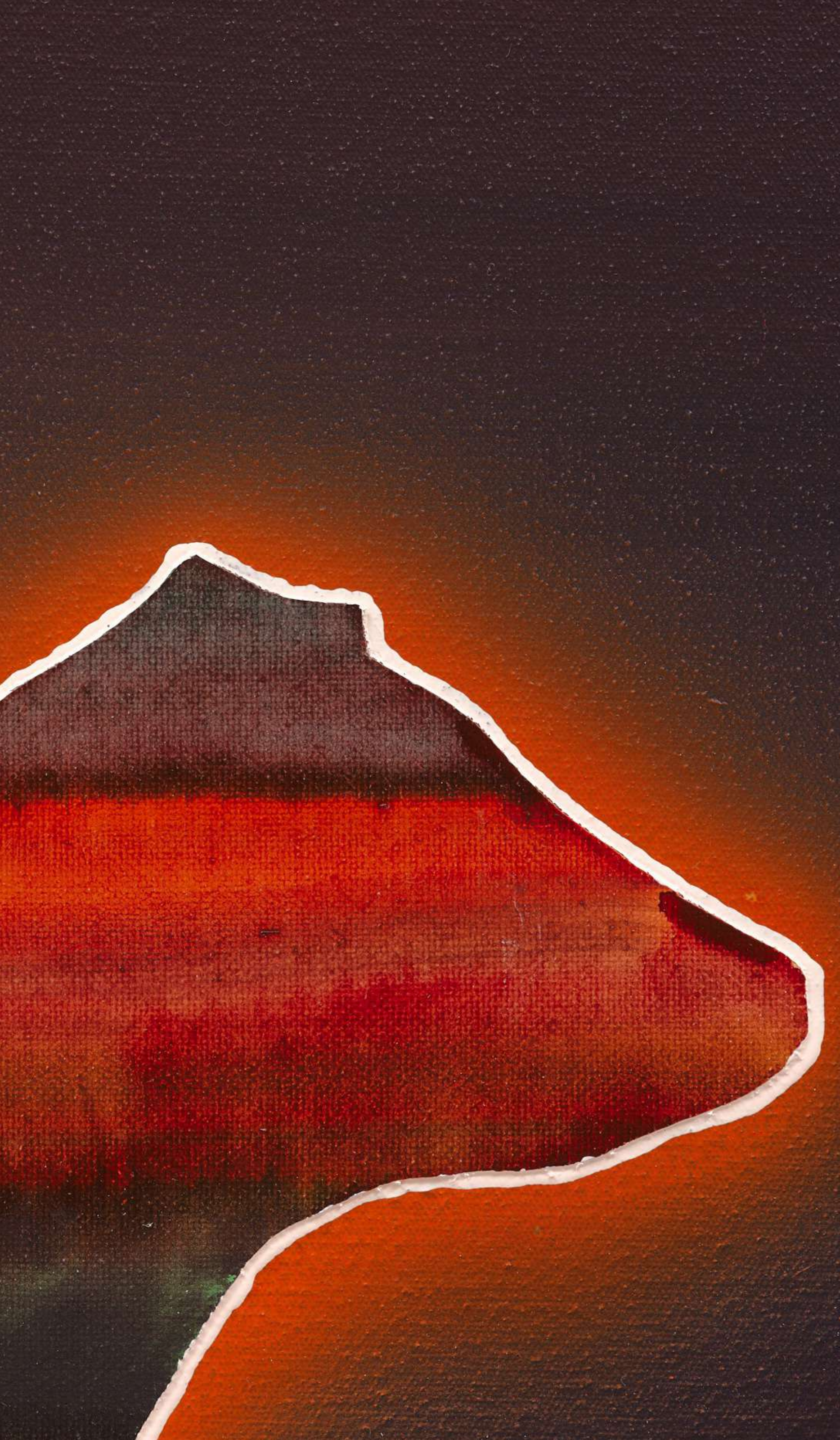




Billy Crosby
Concentration Without Effort, 2024
Acrylic and collage on polyester
50.8 x 101.6 cm
20 x 40 in





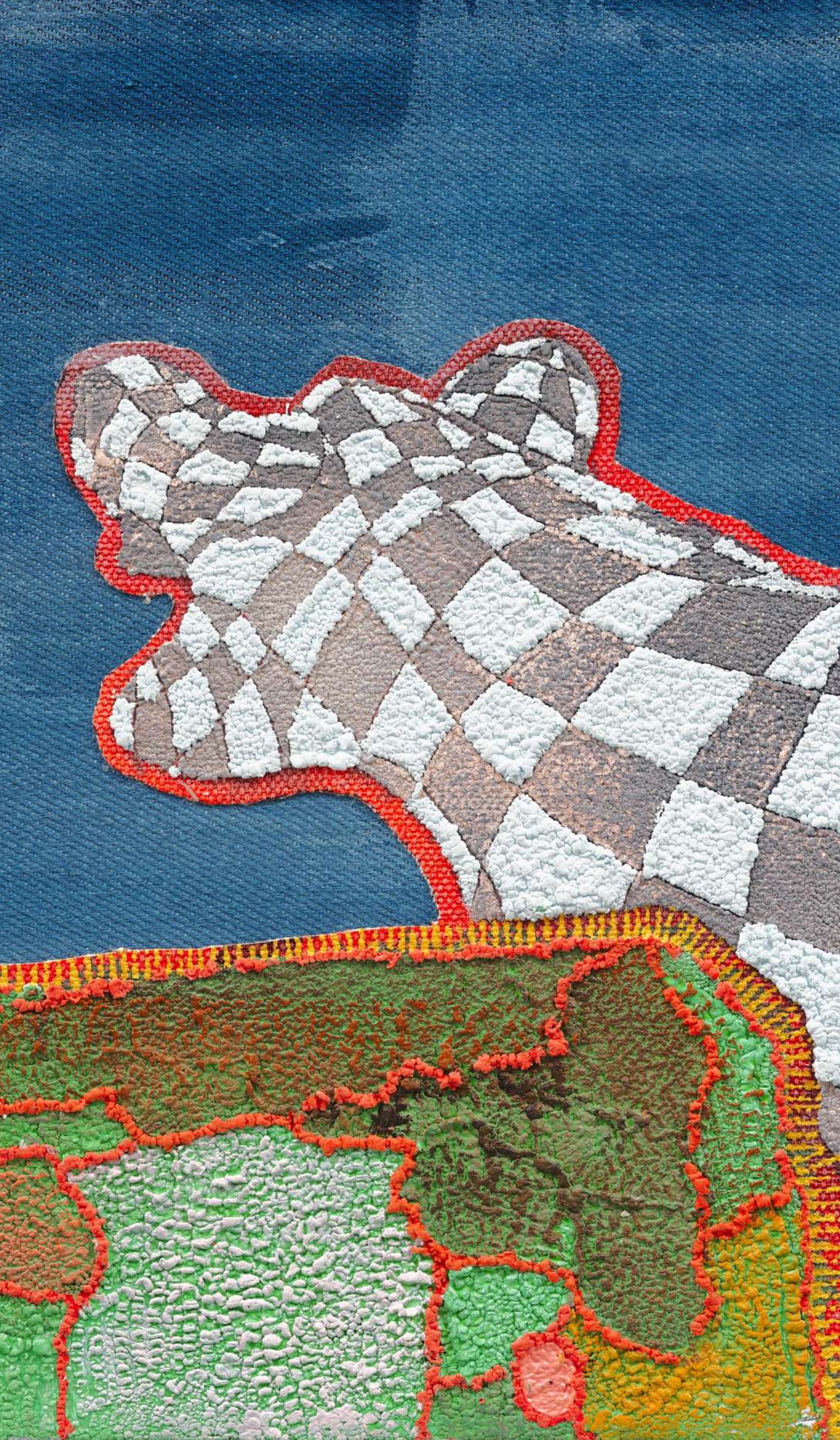


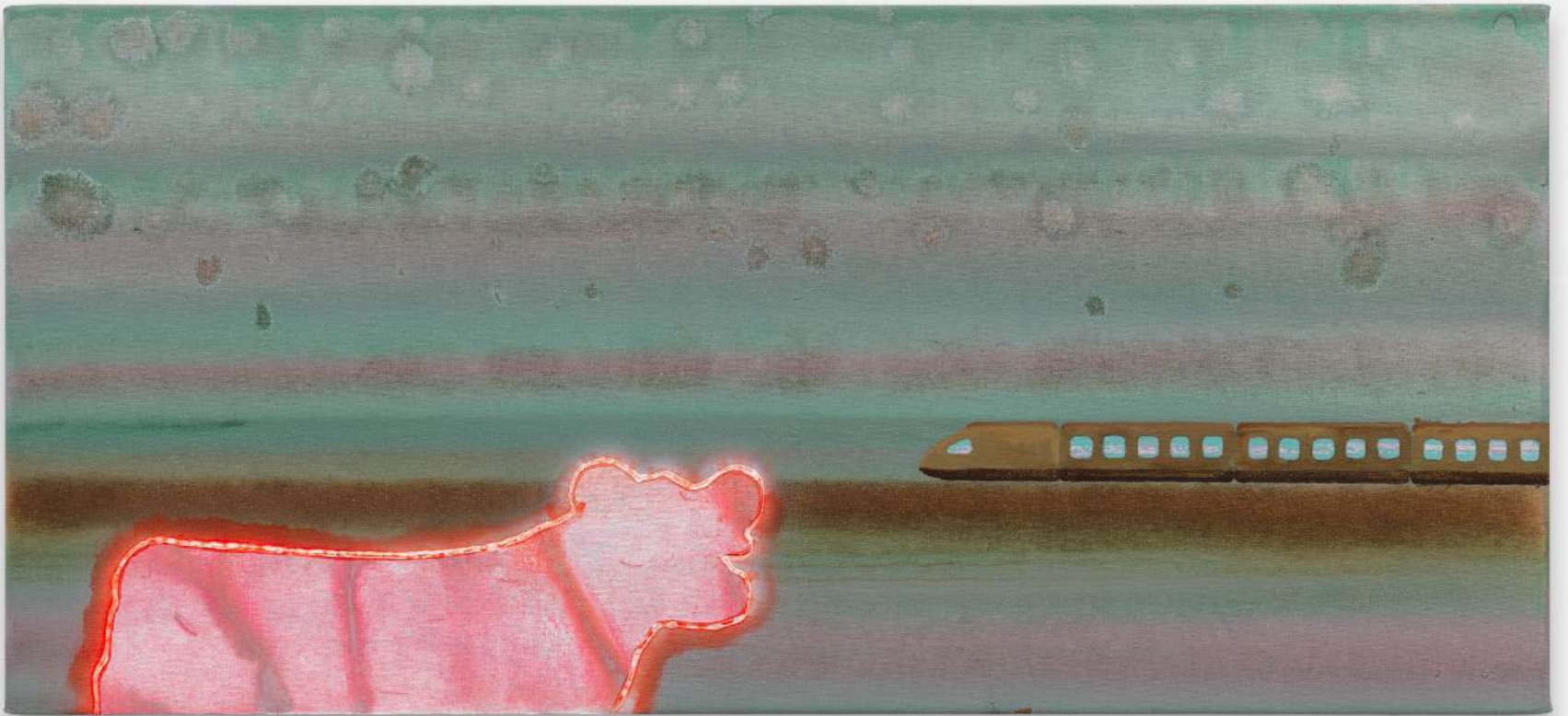




Billy Crosby
Painting at a Distance 2, 2024
Acrylic, puff paint and collage on canvas
40.8 x 101.6 cm
16 x 40 in







Billy Crosby
Painting at a Distance, 2024
Acrylic and collage on polyester
30.5 x 66.1 cm
12 x 26 in

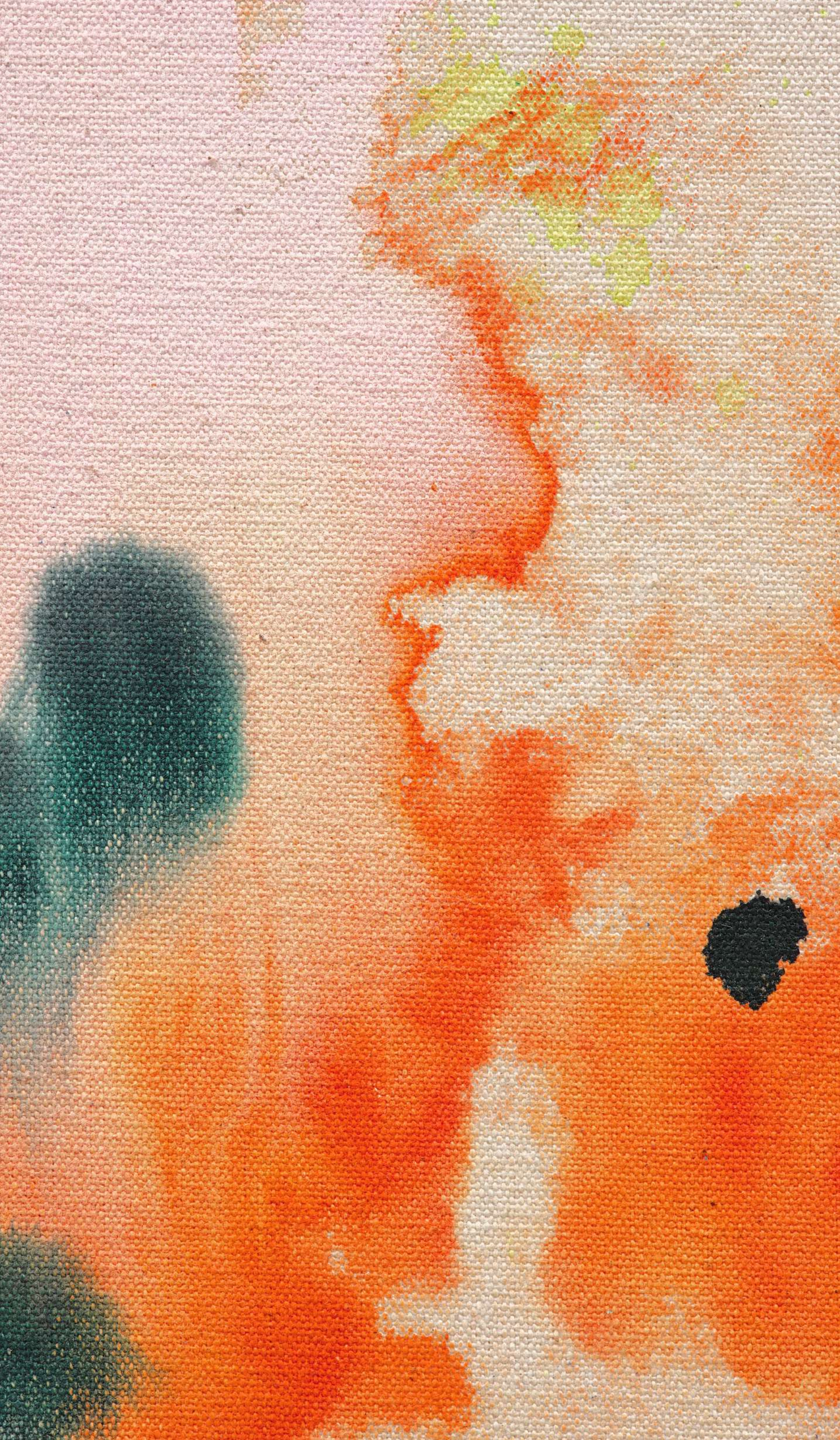




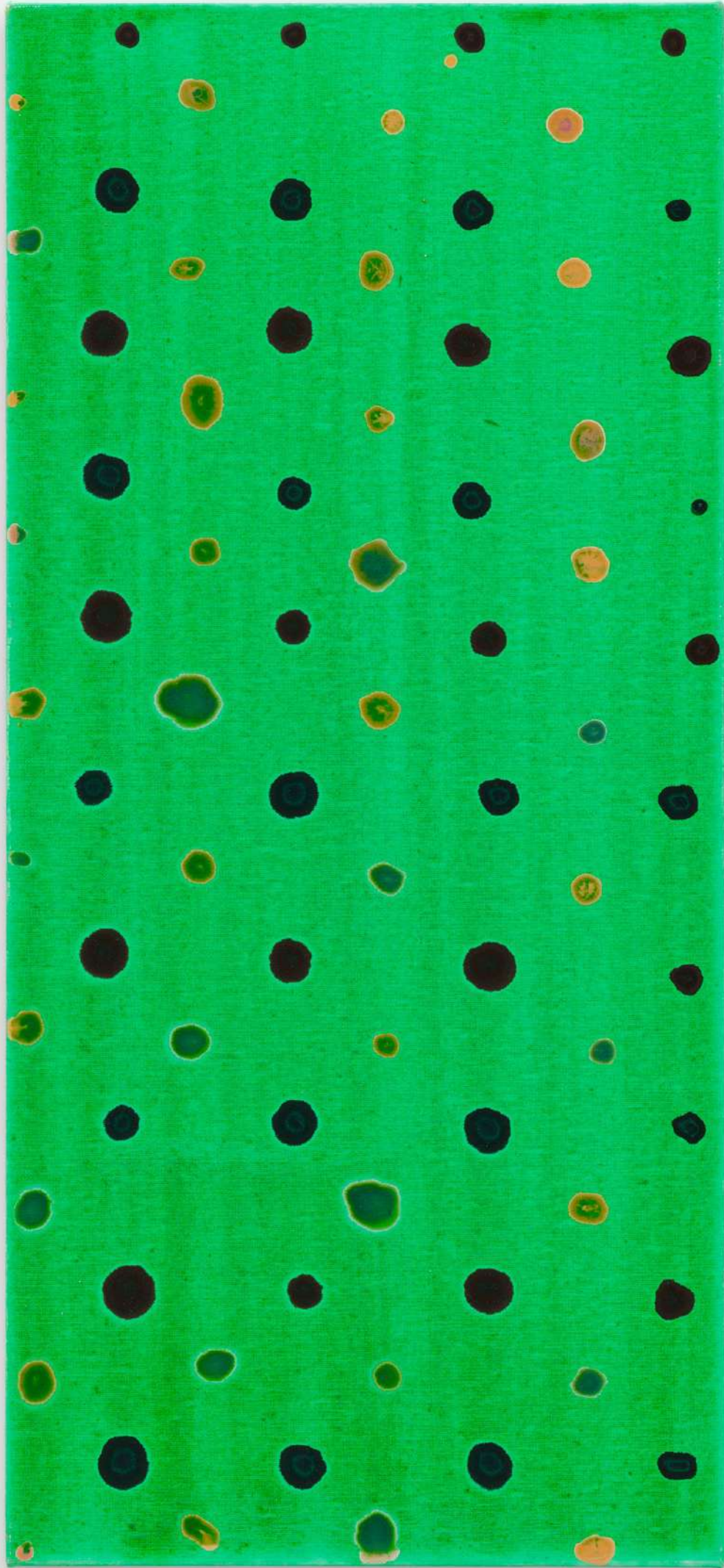


Billy Crosby
Looking for Love, 2024
Acrylic, puff paint and collage on canvas
101.6 x 40.8 cm
40 x 16 in

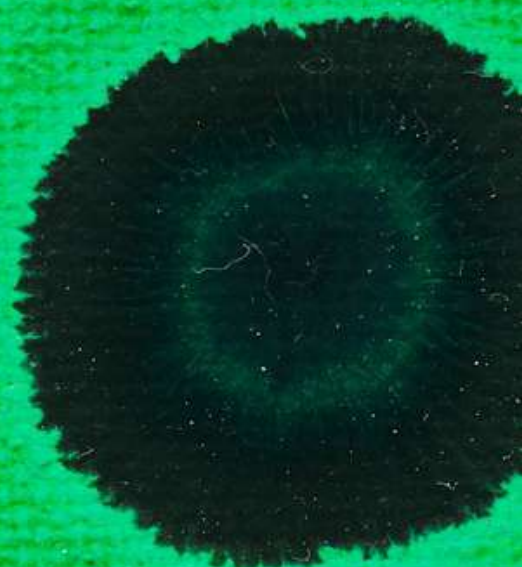


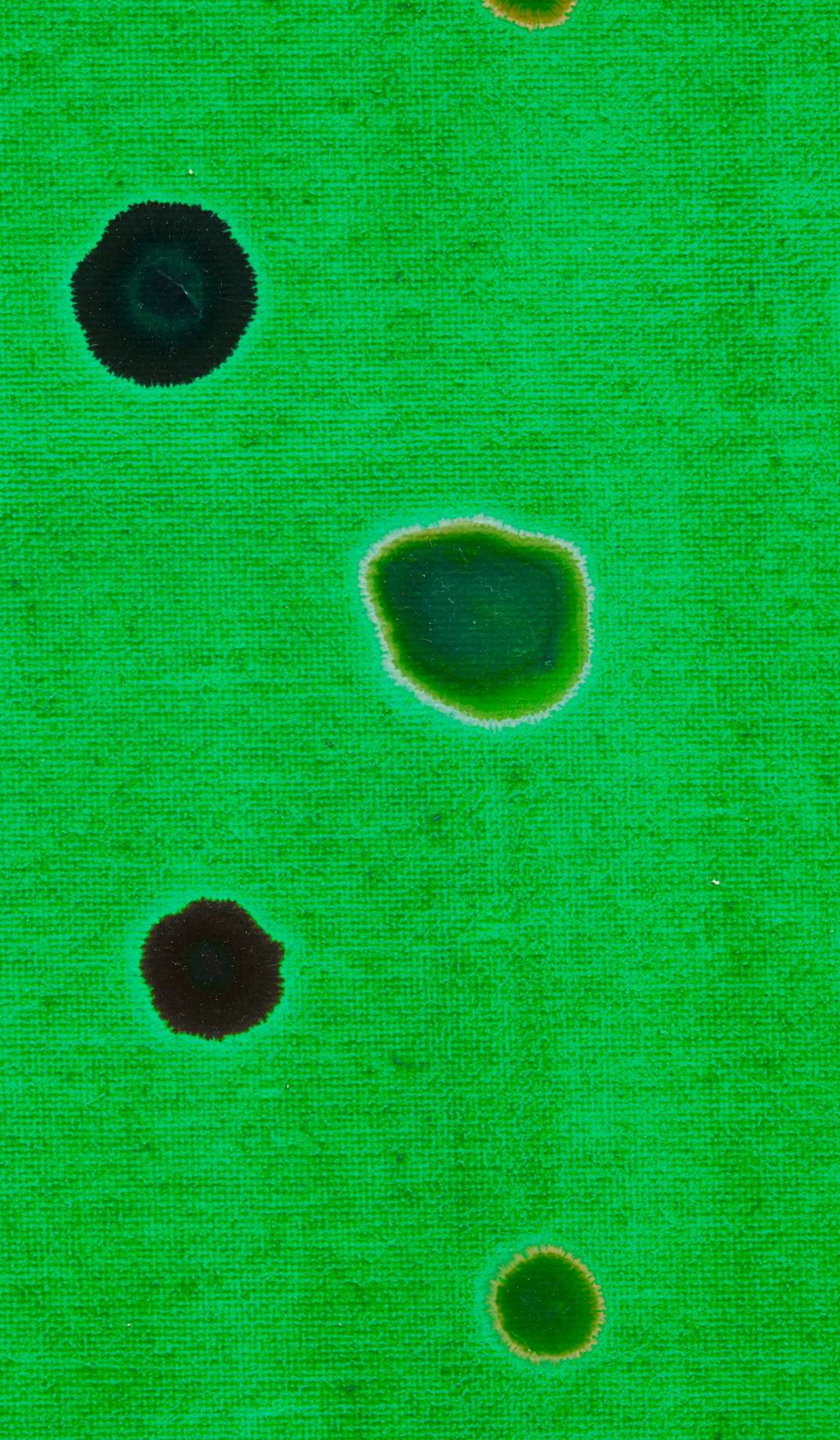


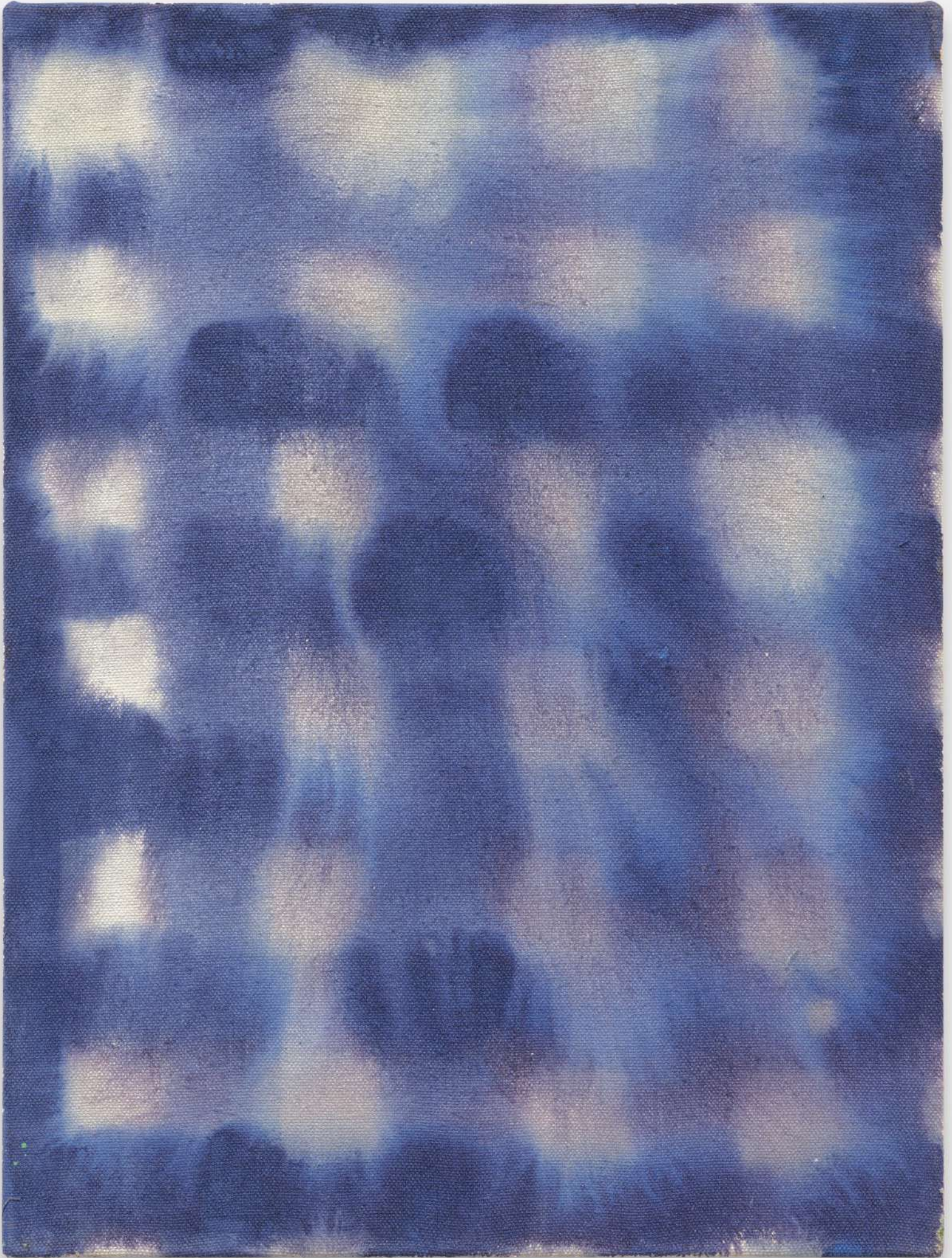




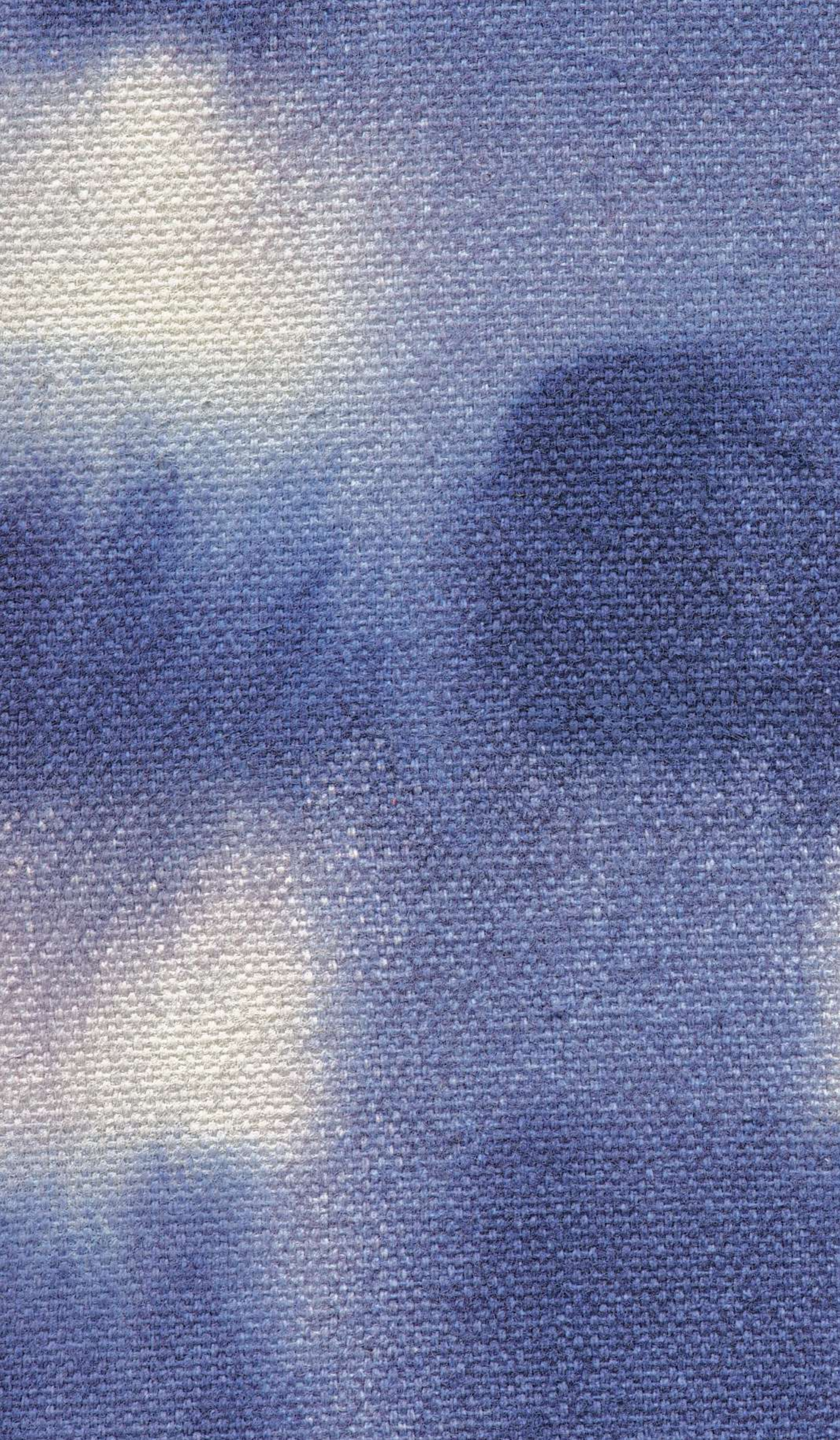
Billy Crosby
Cellular Level, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
66.1 x 30.5 cm
26 x 12 in

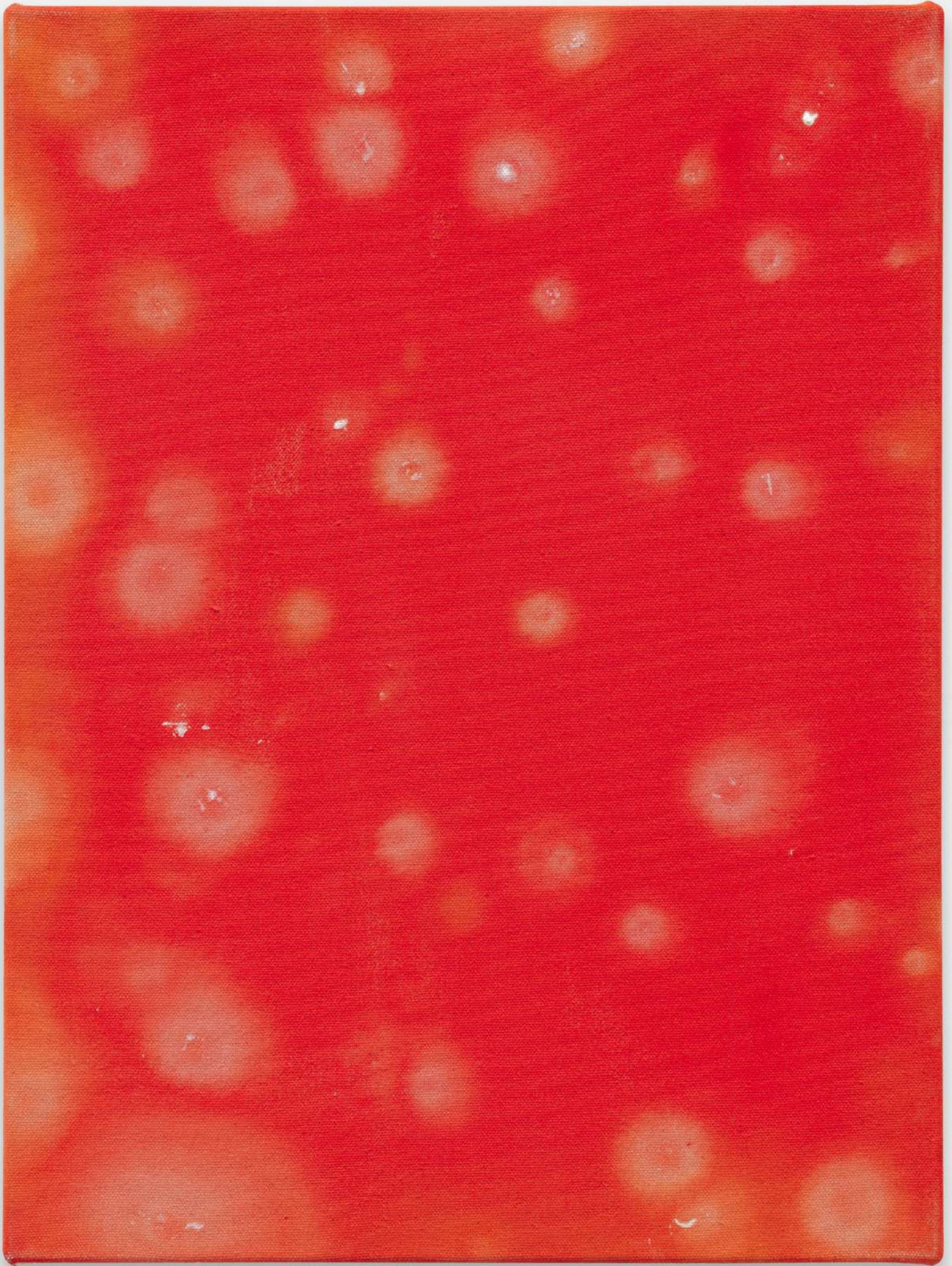






Billy Crosby
Window, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
40.6 x 30.5 cm
16 x 12 in





Billy Crosby
Glimmer, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
40.6 x 30.5 cm
16 x 12 in



