



Erotics of Power

Alien Baby Edition

Kate Howe
February 2023
RuptureXIBIT (+Studio)



Erotics of Power: small works and works on paper (Alien Baby edition). Installation view at RuptureXIBIT (+Studio) February, 2023.



A part of the 'Erotics of Power' series, Howe's continuation "Alien babies: small works and works on paper" questions ideas of beauty, power, and social currency through her jewel-toned paintings which appear part alien, part body. Never settling and always transforming, Howe sees these works as queered portraiture.

Cover image, above: "unrelenting as the curse of love permanent as my errors", Kate Howe, 2023, oil on linen board, 20 x 30 cm. (title from text in *A Woman Speaks* by Audre Lorde). Cover image, below "unrelenting..." (detail view).

ABOUT K8H?

Kate Howe (she/they) (b. 1971) is an American artist and writer living and working in London. Howe holds an MA in Painting (Distinction) from the Royal College of Art, a BA (summa cum laude) in Art History from Arizona State University, and an AA in Technical Theatre (highest honors) from Foothill College. She is the founder and current artist-in-residence at RuptureXIBIT (+Studio), an affordable residency and experimental exhibition space for artists in Hampton Wick, London.

Howe was honored to show at the Aspen Art Museum in 2020, and continues to show regularly in London as well as internationally. Howe was invited to participate in the group show *Omitted References*, curated by Daisy Wang at the Mile End Art Pavilion, London, August, 2022. Howe's work was featured in the London Sunday Times *Forget the Summer Exhibition — meet the 5 art stars of tomorrow* by Waldemar Januszczak on Sunday, June 26 2022.

Howe's work resists complicity with historical precedent. They respond to the canonical record by viewing historical works through forensic anthropology's lens, engaging with these works as cold-case crime scenes from which they gather evidence, re-contextualize these works, and resurrect their ghosts.

STATEMENT

Almost always I paint about power and control. I am into the deep machinations and relational politics of my alien creatures—sensual manipulative beasts. They turn and dive, penetrate and flow, stream and wind around each other like eels. Never settling into the organic body or alien autopsy—they want to be beautiful, but end up uneasy and sometimes trembling.

My creatures turn into each other and back into themselves. They are just bad with boundaries. Even a single creature may feel like a struggle for power and control, as if they are trying to both turn and flatten, trying to become one face, or another. They exist in all dimensions, orientations and timelines.

My alien creatures exist outside of gender and only in relation of self-to-self and self-to-other. They are expressions of visceral monstrous envy, greed, succulence, desire, ache—our growling ego. Some people say they are beautiful, and to them I say: be careful what you allow to seduce you.



Above: *which me will survive / all these liberations*, 2023, oil on linen board. 21 x 30 cm. Title quote by Audre Lord from her poem *Who said it was simple*.



Left: *Caught*, 2023, ink on paper, 9 x 14 cm



A thousand gates and the shadow of your blue eyes.
(Sy) 2021, oil paint, oil paste and rapidograph pencil
on canvas, 214 x 214 cm. Left: detail view with plushie
medical toys.

Below: *here there is no place/ that does not see you. You must change your life.* 2023, pen and ink on paper. 14 x 9 cm. Title from Rilke's *Archaic Torso of Apollo*.



Below, Left: *Oh if we can just quiet the world for a moment. And listen within. There's a voice guiding you. I promise it's there. And until you can hear it, I'll be it for you.* 2023, ink on paper. 9 x 14 cm. Title from *I, Joan* by Charlie Josephine.

Below, Right: *i want to be so complete / i could light a whole city.* 2023, ink on paper, 9 x 14 cm. Title from *From Being Independent* by Rupi Kaur.

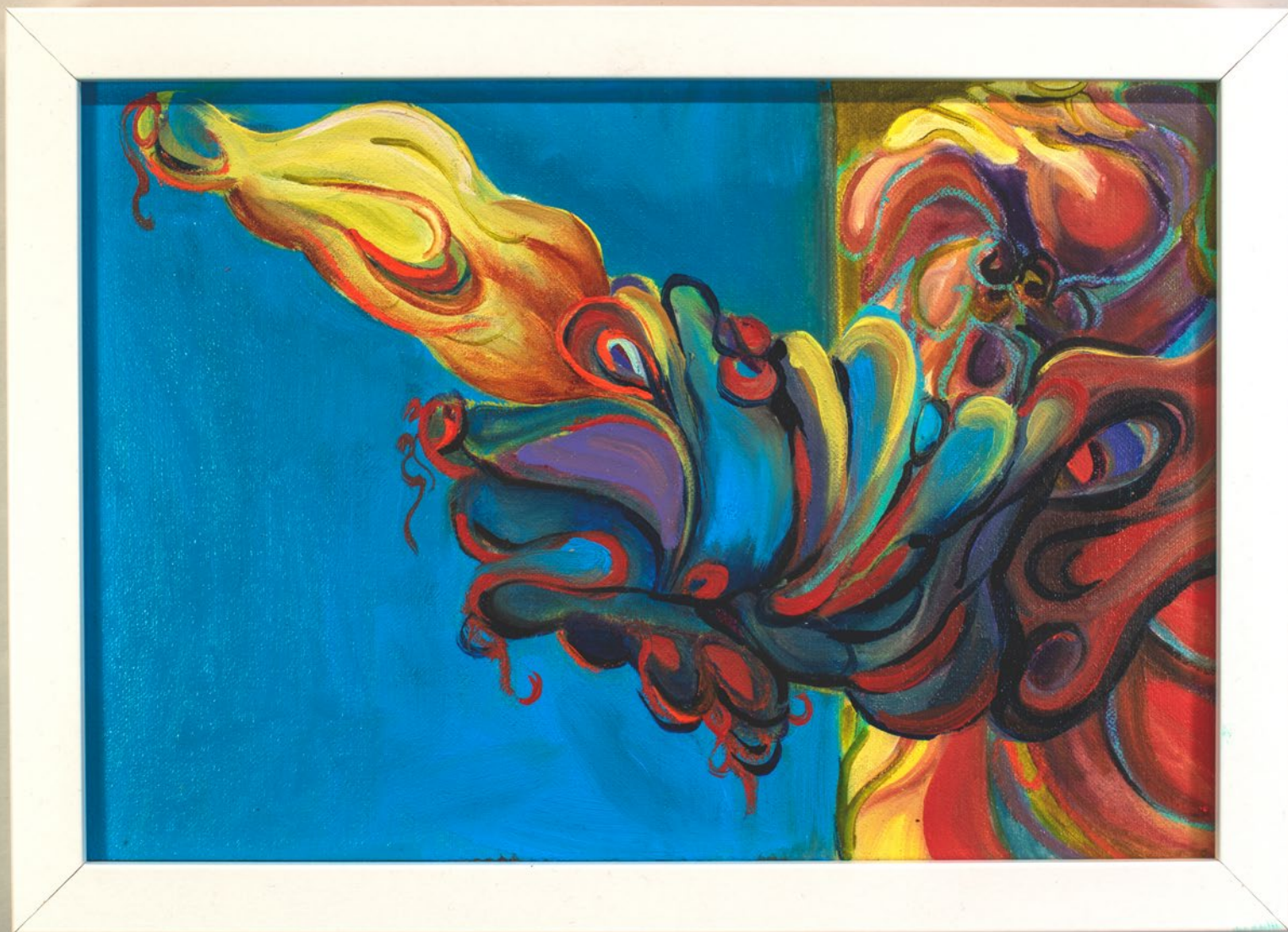




Above: *She stretched languorously, consuming me wholly in one bite. (aka the Operatic Hippopotamus).* 2023, oil and oil pastel on linen board. 9 x 13 cm.



Left: *Ingress.* 2023. pen, ink and tea on paper. 14 x 9 cm.



Above: *Naked as paper to start*. 2023, oil on linen board. 21 x 30 cm. Title from *The Applicant* by Sylvia Plath.

Below: *The edges make a line I can follow, a fold I can slip into, an opening that was always there, and only just appeared*. 2023, pen and ink on paper. 9 x 14 cm.



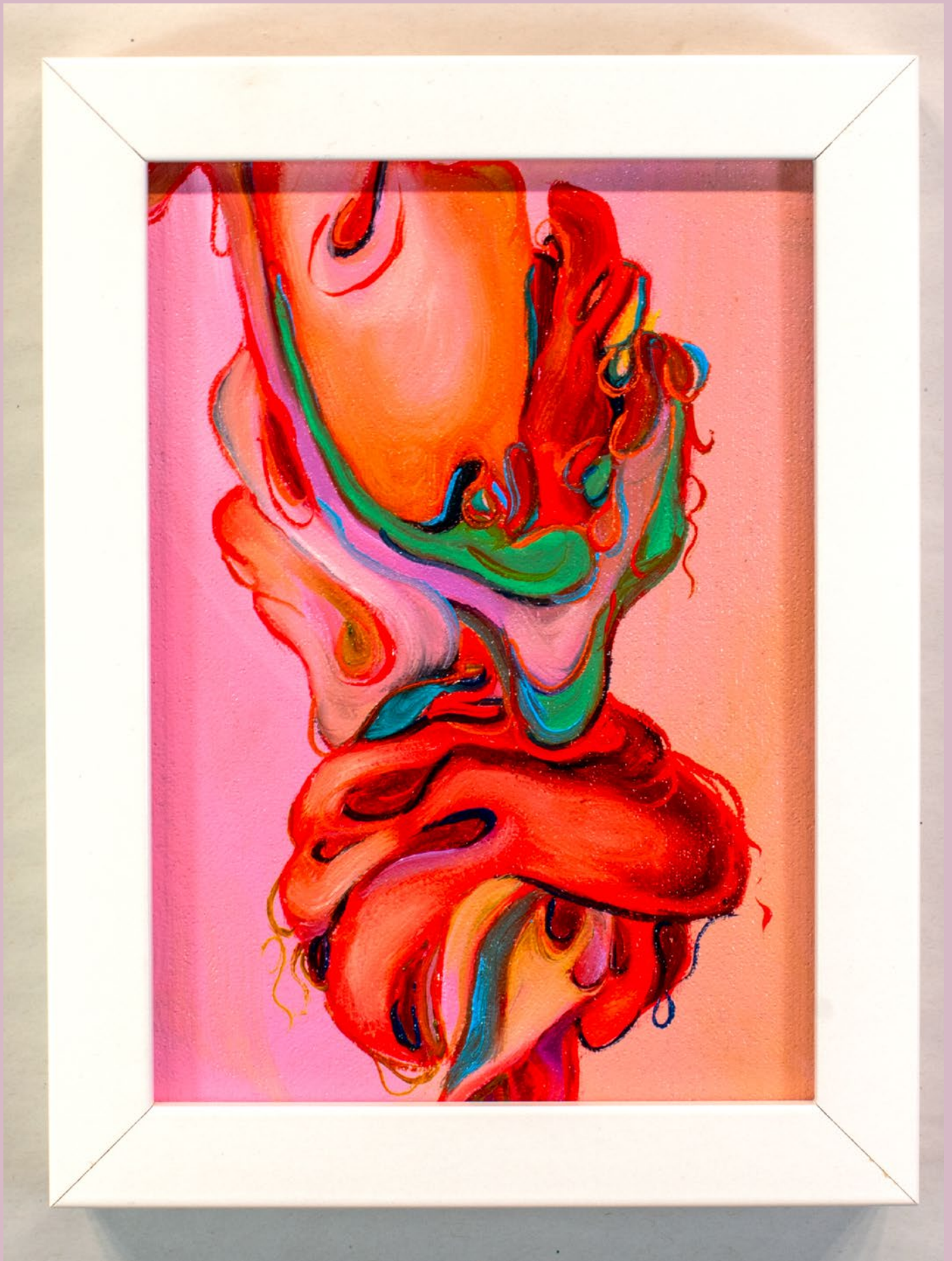


Chill out, Slow down. (After Titian) 2021, oil paint and oil pastel on canvas, 200 x 200 cm

Left: process view in the studio.



QueenBitch_12.. 2023, oil on linen board. 18 x 13 cm.



engage in acts of psychic self-mutilation. kill off the emotional parts, and come with me. 2023, oil on linen board. 19 x 13 cm. Title inspired by a line of poetry from Bell Hooks.

Below: *and sometimes trembling*. 2023, pen and ink on paper. 14 x 9 cm.



Below, Left: *it is midnight, and the time is passing, but I sleep alone*. 2023, ink on paper. 9 x 14 cm. Title from fragment of a poem by Sappho (650 CE).

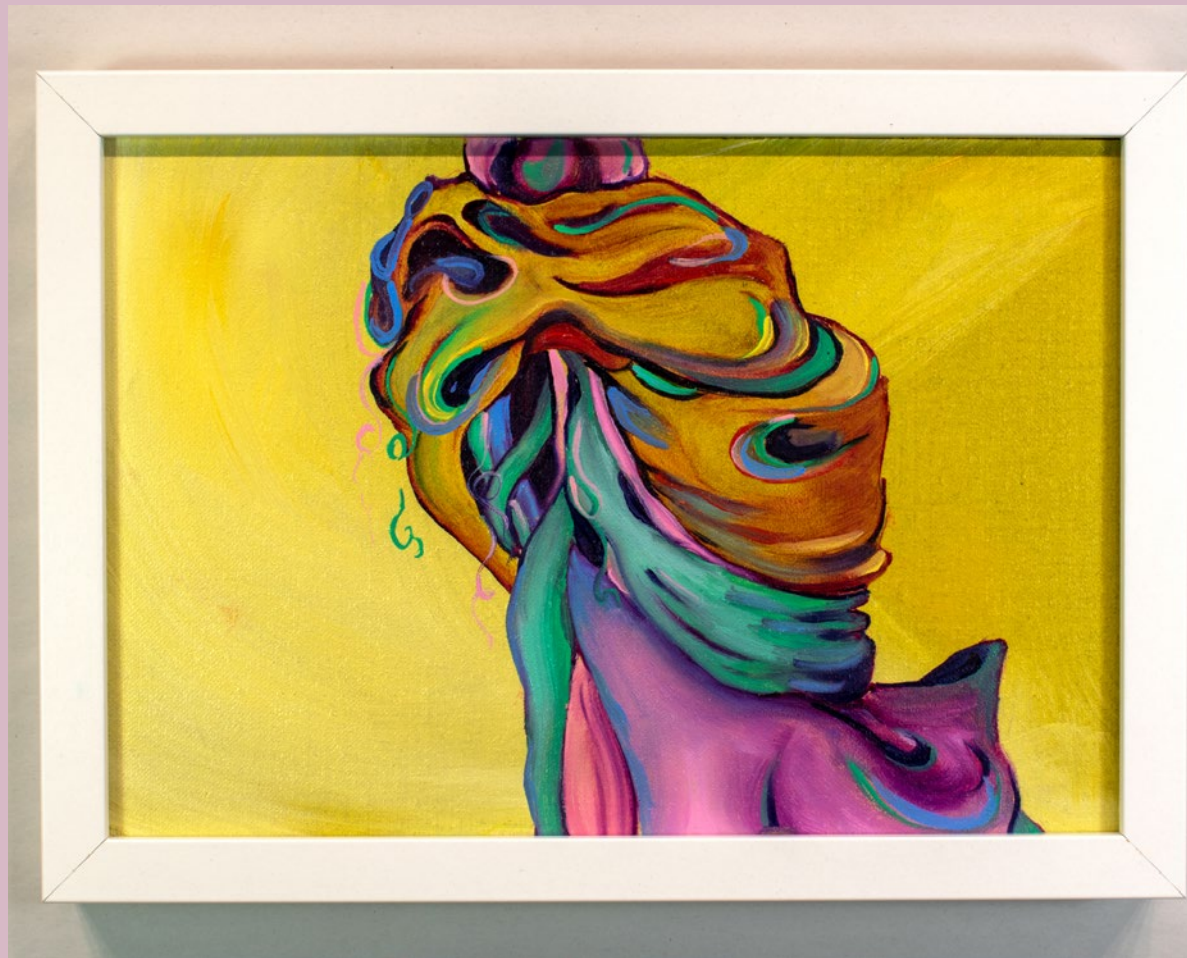
Below, Right: *Don't get ugly with me, gurl*. 2023, ink on paper, 9 x 14 cm.





Tuck and roll, yo. (Peter) 2021, oil paint and oil pastel on canvas, 214 x 214 cm

Left: process view in the studio.



Above: *Sometimes I think there are a great many women behind, and sometimes only one, and she crawls around fast, and her crawling shakes it all over.* 2023, oil on linen board, 21 x 30 cm. Title from *The yellow wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Below: *Just because its good doesn't mean it's healthy.* 2023, oil on linen board, 21 x 30 cm.





Above: *The blushing Buddha of Shame and her lover*. 2023, oil on linen board. 13 x 18 cm. Below: *I, being born a woman and distressed* 2023, 2023, oil on linen board, 13 x 18 cm. Title from *I, Being born a Woman and Distressed* by Edna St. Vincent Millay





Above: *unrelenting as the curse of love / permanent as my errors* 2023, oil on linen board. 21 x 30 cm. Title from *A woman speaks* by Audre Lorde.

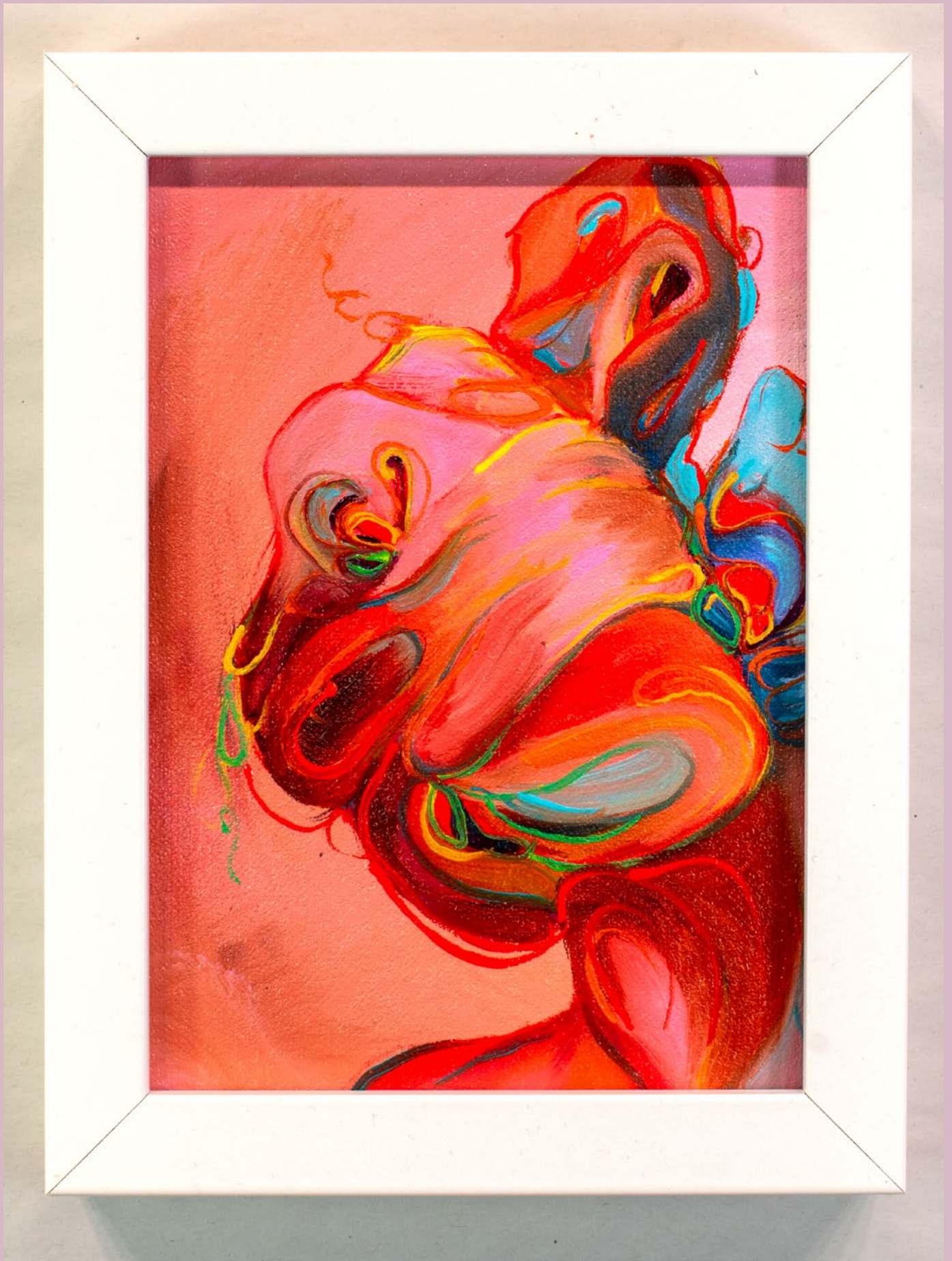
Below: *I am not one piece of myself.* 2023, oil on linen board, 13 x 18 cm. Tile from a quote by Audre Lorde.





Up through the sieve of life with me. (Mariam) 2021, oil paint, oil pastel and rapidograph pencil on canvas, 214 x 214 cm

Left: with Mariam in the studio.



But baby, don't get it twisted. 2023, oil on linen board. 19 x 13 cm. Title from lyrics by Rhianna.

Now you are a broken seal: A scarlet stain upon the earth. 2023, oil on linen board 13 x 18 cm. Title from fragment of a poem by Sappho (650 CE)



Below, Left: *Didn't they tell you that I was a savage?* 2023, oil on linen board. 18 x 13 cm. Title from lyrics by Rhianna.

Below, Right: *Behind that outside pattern the dim shapes get clearer every day.* 2023, oil on linen board. 3 x 5.2 cm. Title from *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.



Reach for divinity, but do NOT bother the bag. 2023, ink and tea on paper
14 x 9 cm



Below, Left: *Unfolded*. 2023, oil on linen board. 2 x 3 cm.
Below, Right: *Lick*. 2023, oil on linen board. 2.5 x 2.5 cm.





And do not saw the air with your hands too much, thus. Hmmm? (Hamlet to players) 2021, installation, oil paint, oil pastel, rapidograph pencil, copper wire, trickline, and stitching on linen, with plastic tarp pieces, dried leaves, logs and festoon lights, painting dimensions: 278 x 488 cm

Below: detail view.

