



nathaniel aric galka

*"rebellious nature..."*

LEILA HELLER



Published on the occasion of the exhibition of  
Nathaniel Aric Galka: “rebellious nature...”  
February 22, 2022 - April 27, 2022

**LEILA HELLER.**

17 East 76th St., Garden Level  
New York, NY 10021  
T.: +1 (212) 249-7695  
F.: +1 (212) 249-7693  
[www.LeilaHellerGallery.com](http://www.LeilaHellerGallery.com)

Leila Heller, President  
Ella Schwartz, Assistant Director  
Marvin Doctor, Registrar and Preparator

Catalogue Designed by Marvin Doctor  
Images courtesy of the Artist  
Front Cover Image: “*there is more to the story...*,” 2021  
Back Cover Image: “*my clover patch is life to us...*,” 2021

nathaniel aric galka

“*rebellious nature...*”

# NATHANIEL GALKA

Nathaniel Galka's work is first and foremost a love for history and nature. His art is derived from the diverse cultural aesthetics of many different centuries. His works are immersed within a multitude of art references that have stimulated inspiration for him. Nathaniel's references are most recently focused on gathering knowledge of the Buddhist arts from the 13th through 17th-century. His appreciation of Asian art primarily exists in silk painting and woodblock prints from Korea and China. Along with introspective minimalist works of Buddhist art, you can also see his love for historical Shinto sum floral paintings of 17th-century Japan and the cultural aesthetic of ikebana (Japanese flower arranging). He gathers his love for this culture as inspiration in his creations.

With western European influences, undoubtedly it is the 17th-century "vanitas," or still-life paintings, of the Netherlands, along with French/Russian aristocratic "chinoiserie" decorative arts that show an idealized interpretation of eastern culture. The chinoiserie style is in complete contrast with its robust and sensual frivolity to the more restrained Asian essence. Nathaniel's most emotional connection to a particular time in art is a century later with the romantics of the 19th century. The period known as Romanticism was characterized by its emphasis on emotion and individualism as well as the glorification of the past and nature. It was partly a reaction to the Industrial Revolution and the aristocratic social era along with the political norms of the Age of Enlightenment and the scientific revelation of nature — all components of modernity.

As far as current history, he speaks to the language of abstract expressionists like Jackson Pollock and Helen Frankenthaler. The accumulation of styles that honor history in his paintings, one will find it is where he has found his universal language. He shows, through his works, that one of the ways we speak as a culture is within the aesthetic of beauty and beautiful things. Beauty, as it is, speaks to greater consciousness. Art, when beautiful, sustains time and allows its viewers less resistance to see what an artist like Nathaniel is aiming to convey.

Nathaniel's works are even constructed with many historical practices. To start, he prepares his surfaces with

a personally made marble plaster "gesso." This is applied to the wood panels or on linen jute-wrapped panels by using a trowel. He paints in oil, sometimes enamel, and shellac India ink with a dipped pen to create calligraphy to reference the woodblock prints. The final painting is then varnished with two coats of damar varnish and three coats of hand-polished bleached wax to finish the surface. Nathaniel's desire in the final paintings is to feel as if they are historical fragments and have a storied place through time.

As far as why he paints the subject matter of nature ... it is very simple. He is trying to explain with paint what we, as a civilization, are doing to ourselves and our planet. How we are directly changing our connection to mother nature and spirit simply for "vanity." With all of his art-work, Nathaniel is pointing to the need for greater connective, spiritual/nature intuitiveness, showing that we need to change our great loss to connect to our spiritual self. While also considering the romantic notion of how nature and spiritual life when approached as an art of emotions, can enhance our inner psychological health and our outer harmony in modern culture. As we continue to shape popular ideas on many issues with how we approach personal awareness, we simply need to be aware of our reality but with an optimistic notion to find beauty and inner peace. The teachings of Buddha and the philosophies of the Romantic movement were born into a period of great social ferment: political, cultural, and religious/spiritual upheaval; all of which exist today, but we can now add environmental exhaustion. Like many creatives in the past, Nathaniel is dissatisfied with the simplified cultural traditions, pro quo, in which he was raised. He is in search of a new way to understand and comfort his spiritual dissatisfaction. Nathaniel is looking inward and aiming to emphasize his inspiration, subjectivity, and the primacy of the individual self within the world's chaotic reality.

"There is a place and time for escaping reality and a time to be brave and see what is real." - Nathaniel Galka



***"a curious thing..."*** 2020  
Oil on marble plastered jute on panel  
40h x 32w x 1.75d in. / 101.6h x 81.28w x 4.45d cm.





***"where is everyone else..."***, 2021  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered linen  
10h x 10w x 1.75 in. / 25.4h x 25.4w x 4.45d cm.



***"my clover patch is life to us..."***, 2021  
Oil on marble plastered linen on panel  
10h x 10w x 1.75 in. / 25.4h x 25.4w x 4.45d cm.





***"hey buddy..."***, 2021  
Oil on marble plastered linen on panel  
10h x 8w x 1.75 in. / 25.4h x 20.32w x 4.45d cm.



***"you know it is this way..."***, 2018  
Oil on marble plastered jute on panel  
20h x 14w x 1.75 in. / 50.8h x 35.56w x 4.45d cm.





***"i have a story to tell you..."***, 2020  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered jute on panel  
16h x 16w x 1.75 in. / 40.64h x 40.64w x 4.45d cm.



***"i got the gossip..."***, 2020  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered jute on panel  
16h x 16w x 1.75 in. / 40.64h x 40.64w x 4.45d cm.



***"be gentle my dear..."***, 2020  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered jute on panel  
16h x 16w x 1.75 in. / 40.64h x 40.64w x 4.45d cm.



***"the gang is with you..."***, 2020  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered jute on panel  
16h x 16w x 1.75 in. / 40.64h x 40.64w x 4.45d cm.





*"finding the warm light..."* 2020  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered linen on panel  
8h x 10w x 1.75 in. / 20.32h x 25.4w x 4.45d cm.



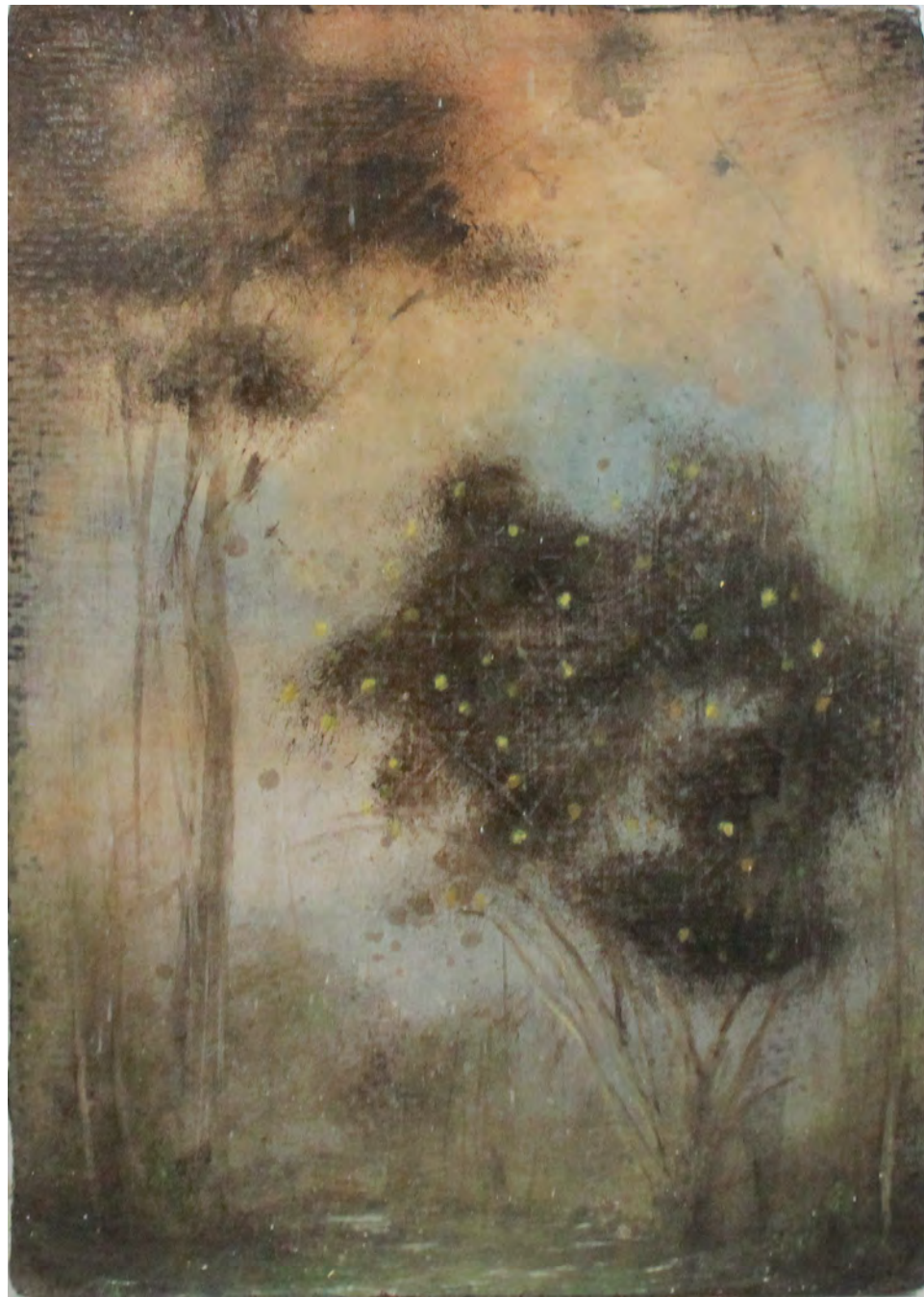
*"we need the healing moon..."* 2021  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered linen on panel  
12h x 12w x 1.75d in. / 30.48h x 30.48w x 4.45d cm





*"a gardens revolution..."*, 2020  
Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered jute on panel  
43h x 72w x 1.75d in. / 109.22h x 182.88w x 4.45d cm.





***"lemons lemons lemons..."***, 2017  
Oil on marble plastered jute on panel  
20h x 14w x 1.75d in. / 50.8h x 35.56w x 4.45d cm



*"fly with me... my lovely..."* 2017  
Oil on marble plastered panel  
30h x 24w in. / 76.2h x 60.96w cm.







left: ***"flutter me pretty..."***, 2017  
 Oil on marble plastered panel, faux crackled paint, with antiqued gold leaf molding  
 24h x 10w in. / 60.96h x 25.4w cm.



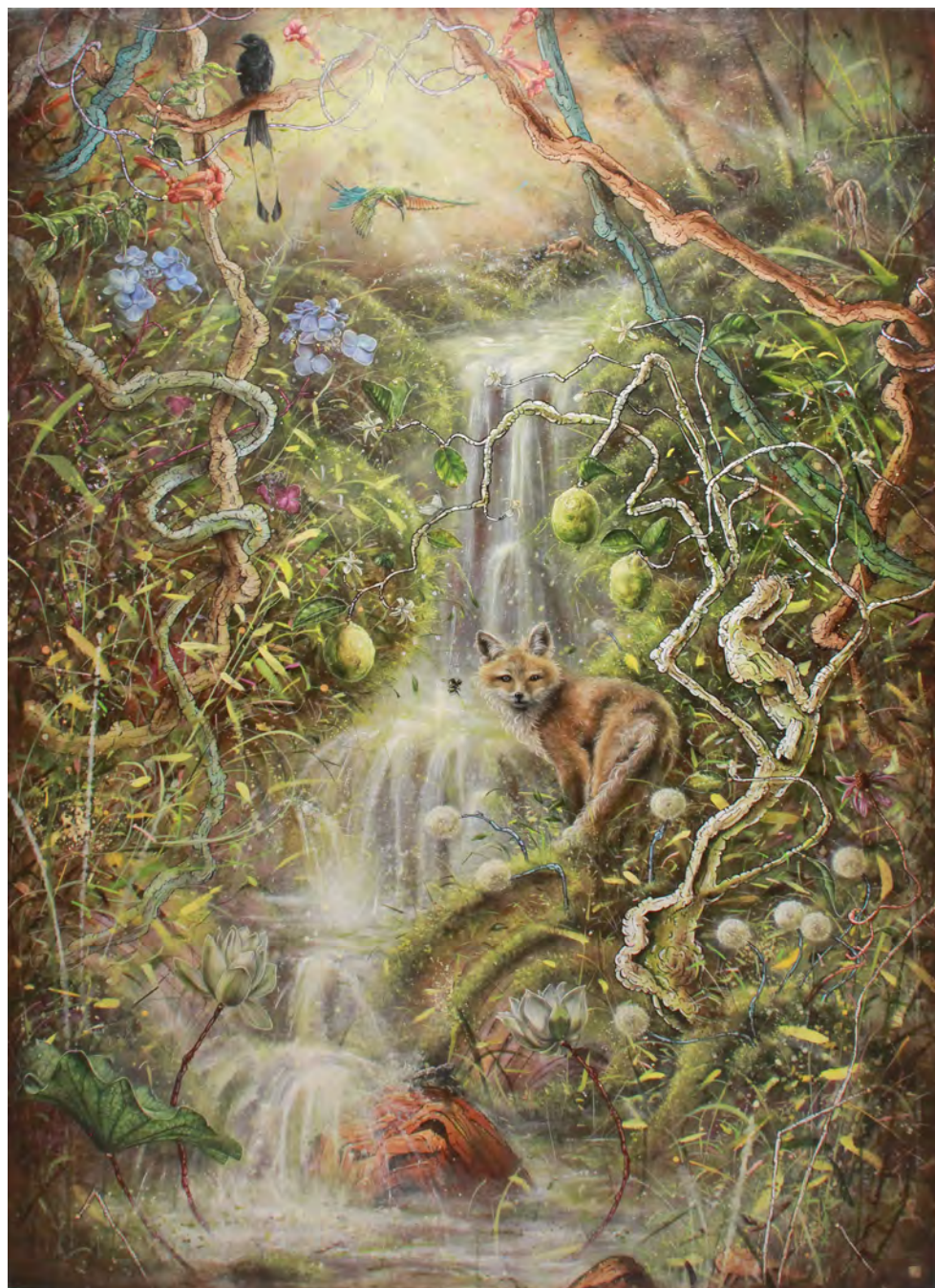
right: ***"simply waiting my dear..."***, 2019  
 Oil on marble plastered panel, faux crackled paint, with antiqued gold leaf molding  
 24h x 10w in. / 60.96h x 25.4w cm.





*"the calm was protested with the white eyes cry..."*, 2019  
 Oil and gold leaf on marble plastered jute on panel, diptych  
 24h x 48w x 1.75d in. / 60.96h x 121.92w x 4.45d cm.  
 24h x 24w x 1.75d in. / 60.96h x 60.96w x 4.45d cm. each panel



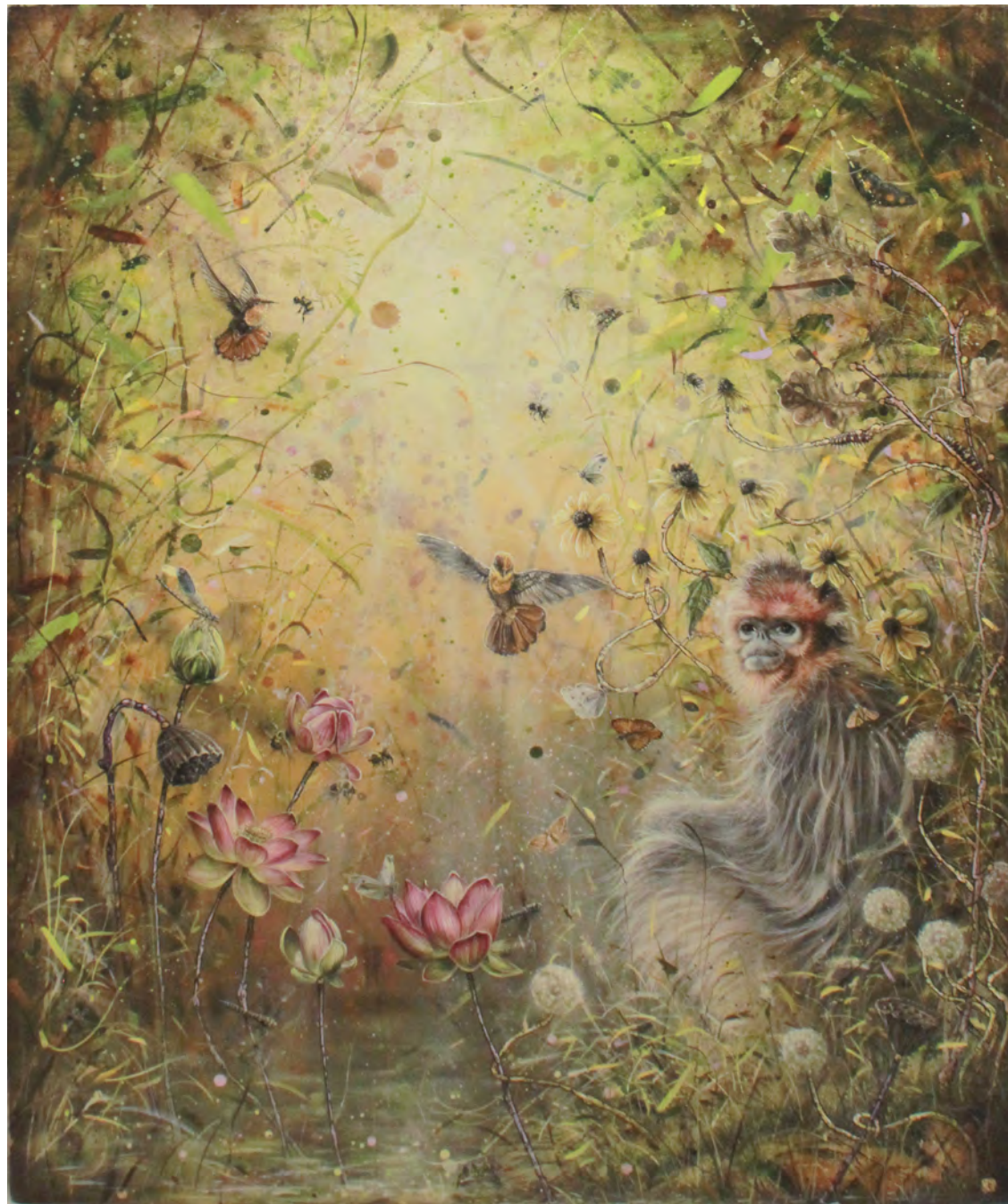


***"walking through a constellation of a golden sunset..."***, 2022  
 Oil on marble plastered jute on panel with gold leaf  
 64h x 43w x 1.75d in. / 162.56h x 109.22w x 4.45d cm.

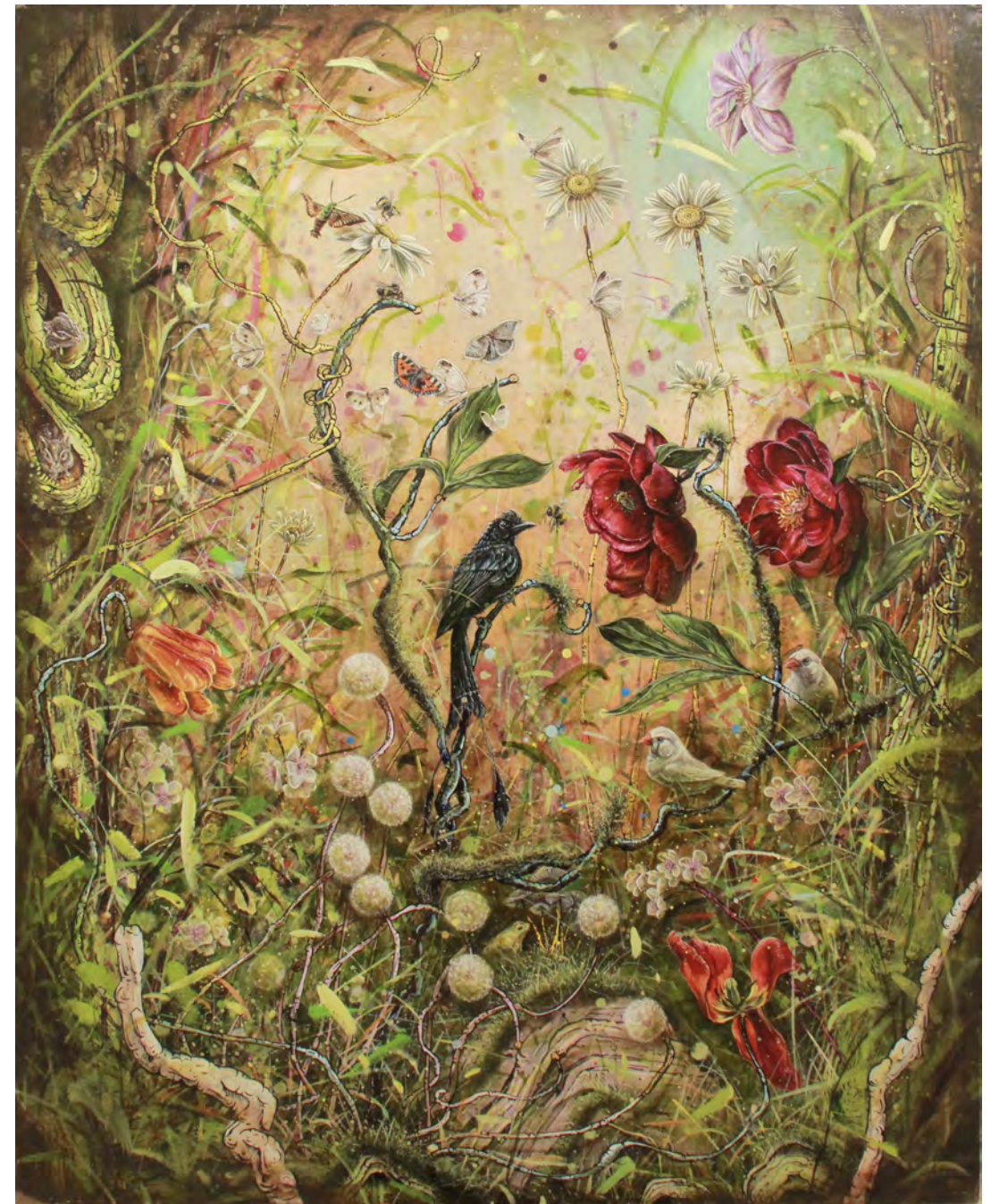


***"with my mother's watchful eye..."***, 2022  
 Oil on marble plastered jute on panel with gold leaf  
 48h x 48w x 2d in. / 121.92h x 121.92w x 5.08d cm.





***"frogie's swimming hole..."***, 2022  
Oil on marble plastered jute on panel with gold leaf  
40h x 32w x 1.75d in. / 101.6h x 81.28w x 4.45d cm.



***"there is more to the story..."***, 2021  
Oil on marble plastered jute on panel  
40h x 32w x 1.75d in. / 101.6h x 81.28w x 4.45d cm.



# CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

- 2001 MFA, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Full Scholarship and Fellowship
- 1998 BFA, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, Ohio. Top Scholarship
- 1993 Marie Walsh Summer Art Program recipient.

## GROUP SHOWS

- 2021 "the world that has been given" / "drawing challenge #xvii," Jason McCoy Gallery, New York, NY
- 2020 "from dark to light" / "drawing challenge #1, 3, 4, 12, 15," Jason McCoy Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 "guild summer salon," Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
- 2019 "five and under," Arcadia Gallery, Pasadena, CA
- 2019 "we believe," Red Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY
- 2019 "New Guild Artist Show," Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
- 2018 "outside the box," Gitana Rosa Gallery, Art Factory Studios, Patterson, NJ
- 2018 "Small works," (Not) Sheep Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2018 "summer rotation/group show #1," Little John Contemporary, New York, NY
- 2018 "summer rotation/group show #2," Little John Contemporary, New York, NY
- 2017 "summer group show," Little John Contemporary, New York, NY
- 2017 "group show," Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2017 "group show," Gitana Rosa Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 "group show," Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2016 "group show," Hall-Barnet Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 "group show," Hilton Hotel Downtown, Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2015 "4 artists' group show," Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2015 "flowers and clay," Curly Tale Fine Art, Chicago, IL
- 2014 "diver up," Stray Cat Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 "arthamptons," Gitana Rosa Gallery (New York), Bridgehampton, NY
- 2014 "krampus show", Curly Tale Fine Art, Chicago, IL
- 2014 "juicy", Gitana Rosa Chelsea, New York, NY

- 2014 "three in nature", Kai Lin Gallery, Atlanta GA
- 2014 "flower vine", Gallery Minerva, Asheville, NC
- 2014 "nature", Gallery Minerva, Asheville, NC
- 2013 "inaugural show", Photo Gallery, Hoboken, NJ
- 2013 "show", 423 West Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 "2 person", Curly Tale Fine Art, Chicago, IL
- 2012 "affinity", Kai Lin Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 "five in one", Wriggle House, Knoxville, TN (curated by Hali Maltsberger)
- 2012 "the others", Gitana Rosa Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 "pop", Kai Lin Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 "dog days", Gitana Rosa Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 "art at the airport", Knoxville, TN
- 2012 "illustrative", Kai Lin Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 "bloom", Kai Lin Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 "metamorphosis: recycle to art", Oak Ridge Art Center, Oak Ridge, TN
- 2012 "terra", Kai Lin Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 "national juried show", The Emporium Building (The Cultural and Arts Alliance), Knoxville, TN (Award Best in Show)
- 2011 "sideshow", Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2011 "a show of teachers", Oak Ridge Art Center, Oak Ridge, TN
- 2011 "glow", Kai Lin Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2011 "new artists", Plum Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2011 "bring on the bling", Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2011 "art at the airport", Knoxville, TN
- 2011 "openshow", Oak Ridge Art Center, Oak Ridge, TN (Award Best in Show)
- 2011 "reused", Gallery at The Lunch Box, Knoxville, TN
- 2010 "arts Capes", Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN
- 2010 "on going", Redline Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2009 "4 arts tonight", 8 Shooters Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2008 "march", Three Flights Up Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2007 "june show", Three Flights Up Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2003 "rope climb", Aron Packer Projects Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2000 "group", Dittmar Gallery, Evanston, IL
- 1999 "red", Dittmar Gallery, Evanston, IL
- 1994-9 "annual show," Outside Juried Competition, Columbus, OH

## SOLO SHOWS

- 2020 "we need to see...", The Salon, Glen Cove, New York, NY
- 2020 "a new view," The Gallery at 200 Lex curated by Gail Garlic of Good Design, New York, NY
- 2019 "lost and i found you...", The Gallery at 200 Lex curated by Gail Garlic of Good Design, New York, NY
- 2019 "appeal of the blooms...", New York, NY
- 2018 "nature's walk...", Perch for Pergola, Kent, CT
- 2018 "stories of the forest...", Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2018 "flat ikebana photographs...", The Gallery at Lillian August, Norwalk, CT
- 2018 "the promise of lingering...", The Gallery at Lillian August, Norwalk, CT
- 2017 "nomadic now...", Gitana Rosa, New York, NY
- 2016 "wonderland...", Palos Verdes Art Center, Palos Verdes, CA
- 2015 "bounty...", Flatiron Design Collective, New York, NY
- 2015 "first forest," New York, NY
- 2015 "twilight light," Hilton Columbus Downtown Art Space curated by Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2015 "nature's affair," Curly Tale Fine Art, Chicago, IL
- 2014 "twilight falls gently," Kai Lin Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2014 "unbridled muses," Gitana Rosa Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 "cloud bouncing," Kai Lin Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2012 "tumble time...", Gallery Minerva, Asheville, NC
- 2012 "planted here...", kla2 Gallery, Atlanta, GA (curated by Yu-Kai Lin, Kai Lin Gallery)
- 2012 "flower to honey," kla2 Gallery, Atlanta, GA (curated by Yu-Kai Lin, Kai Lin Gallery)
- 2012 "flora domicile...", Aron Packer Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2012 "the birds and the bees...", Muse Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 2012 "the wave hits happy...", Oak Ridge Art Center, Oak Ridge, TN
- 2012 "a garden for patrick...", TVUUC Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2011 "flowers-n-friends," The Small Hall Gallery at Magpies, Knoxville, TN

- 2011 "poppy talk...", Gallery at The Lunch Box, Knoxville, TN
- 2011 "the altamonte gallery presents... nathaniel galka," The Altamonte Theatre, Asheville, NC (curated by Anna Parker Barnett Consulting, Gallery Minerva)
- 2011 "fun with garden scissors...", Red Line Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2011 "blue room...", Symphony League Showcase House, Knoxville, TN
- 2010 "the birdies are here...", Bella Vista Art Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 2010 "long skies... flat land," Gallery at Nouveau Classics, Knoxville, TN
- 2010 "land...", Gallery at Nouveau Classics, Nashville, TN
- 2009 "wild times...", Bella Vista Art Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 2009 "bird...", World Grotto Gallery, Knoxville, TN
- 2001 "undercover...", Dittmar Gallery, Evanston, IL
- 1999 "nogasha (nudes)," Waldo's on High Gallery, Columbus, OH
- 1998 "my work to date," Canzoni Gallery, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH
- Hilton Hotel Downtown, Columbus, OH
- The Pentagon Building, Washington D.C.
- Hope Center, Nashville, TN
- Tennessee State Capitol Building, Nashville, TN
- Pilot Oil, Knoxville, TN
- Oak Ridge Art Center, Oak Ridge, TN - Contemporary Collection
- uncap, Nashville, NC
- Horizons Organization, Chicago, IL
- DeAngelis Ltd., Glen Head, NY



