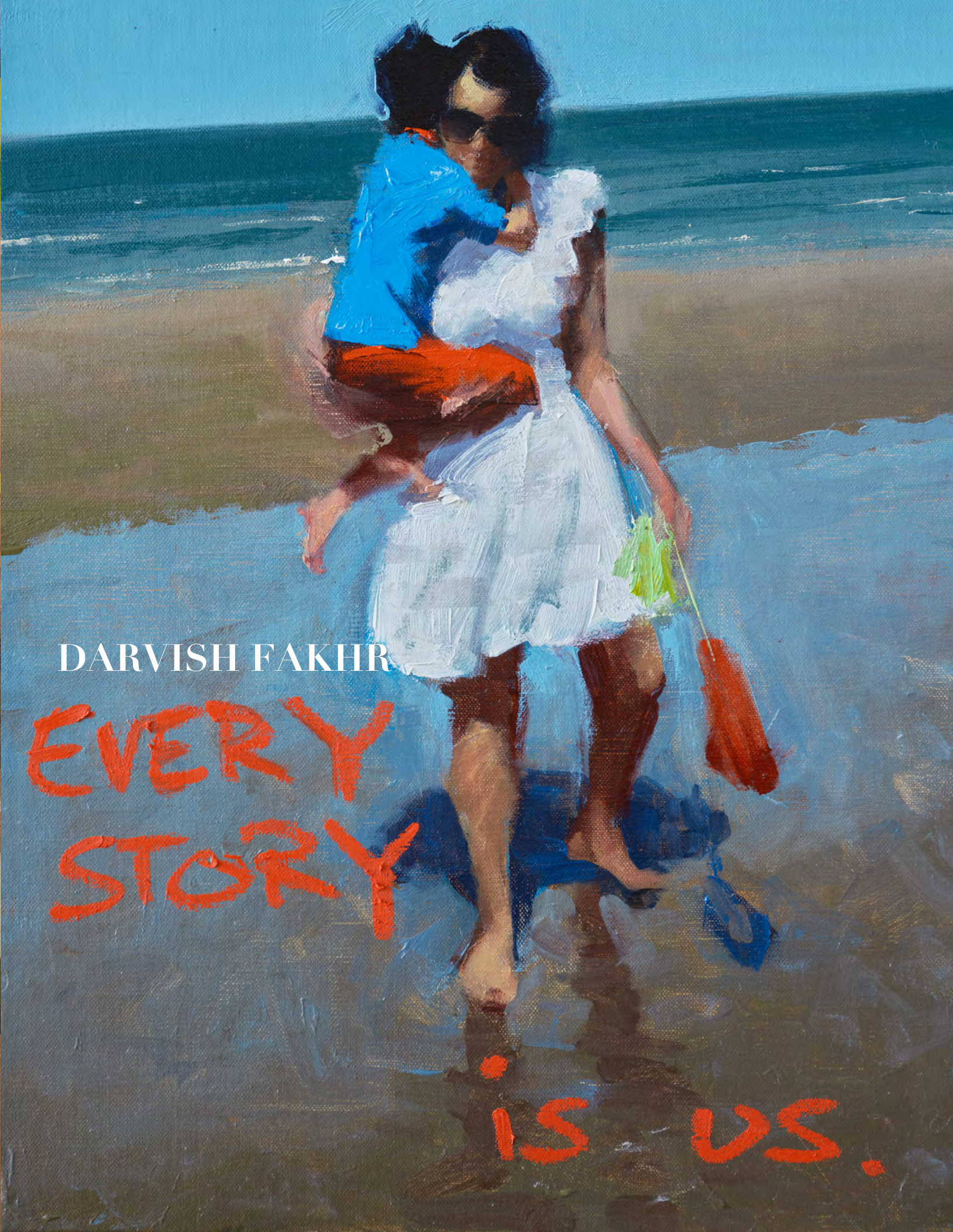




LEILA HELLER.



DARVISH FAKHRI

EVERY
STORY

is us.

EVERY STORY IS US

DARVISH FAKHR

Published on the occasion of the exhibition of:

Darvish Fakhr: Every Story Is Us

October 17 2023 - November 2023

Leila Heller Gallery would like to express deep gratitude to Tina and Ebi Melamed for their kind introduction to the fabulous, fantastic, surreal, and phantasmagorical Darvish Fakhr.

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Catalogue Designed by Marvin Doctor

Images courtesy of the Artist, Darvish Fakhr

FrontCover Image: *EVERY STORY IS US*, 2023

Back Cover Image: *WE WERE TOGETHER*, 2023

Darvish Fakhr is a half-Iranian, half-American artist whose work ranges from meticulous oil painting to expressive movement art. In his practice, he amalgamates disparate cultures by overlaying various concepts and aesthetics through interference, which can take the form of movement, paint, or text. Darvish's work straddles the line between beauty and destruction. Known for his classical style and meticulous technique, his precise paintings are then desecrated by his alterego, The Urban Sufi.

"Every Story is Us" explores the feeling of freedom found within the present moment. In a world marked by ceaseless transformation, the tales we cherish today evolve when we recall them tomorrow. Within this ever-shifting narrative landscape, layers of significance coalesce and fracture, unveiling a palimpsest of fluid messages. Fakhr's works take shape through the convergence of Western-style painting techniques, steeped in control and mastery, and the translated verses of Eastern mysticism, drawn from Sufi wisdom. This fusion of cultures forms the cornerstone of both his creative process and his way of life. The work invites the viewer to reflect on these intersections.

Darvish's tongue-in-cheek humor grinds against robust otherworldliness and political critique in his ritualistic live performances. The artist pushes his work into a spiritual direction by writing Eastern inspired poetry over finished oil paintings. This uncomfortable act of artistic expression aims to merge notions of the spiritual and the physical as well as the divine and the mortal. On the subject, he writes:

"There is a moment, very briefly, at the top of any jump where everything becomes still and weightless. Through paint and movement I try to express the particular quality of that moment."

In what he calls "gentle civic disruptions," Darvish challenges our preconceived notions of culture and tolerance in performance work that strikes viewers with its surrealism, humor, and optimism. The guerrilla nature of such work is meant to disrupt the familiar rhythms of daily existence by proposing alternative approaches to tempo, physicality, and conduct. Employing spontaneous intervention as a creative medium, Darvish aims to echo the profound essence of the present moment. Through the dual channels of oil painting and movement, he cultivates on-going transformations within his creations, willingly surrendering to the chaos of the unknown.

Most recently, Darvish exhibited *"Traveling Light"* at Leila Heller Gallery in Dubai. In this body of work Darvish continues his lifelong exploration of the tension between art as object, and art as action, using damage and destruction to create new forms of meaning. Darvish began using text in his painting in 2013, during his show *"Farce"* at Aun Gallery in Tehran. Farce is a play on the word Fars which was the original name of Iran and where the word 'Farsi' originates. The images in this series are odd juxtapositions of the daily lives of Iranian living with the constant threat of war and unrest.



EVERY STORY IS US, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 40 cm. / 19.69 x 15.75 in.



MELTING SNOW, 2023
Oil on Board
79 x 58 cm. / 30.71 x 22.83 in.



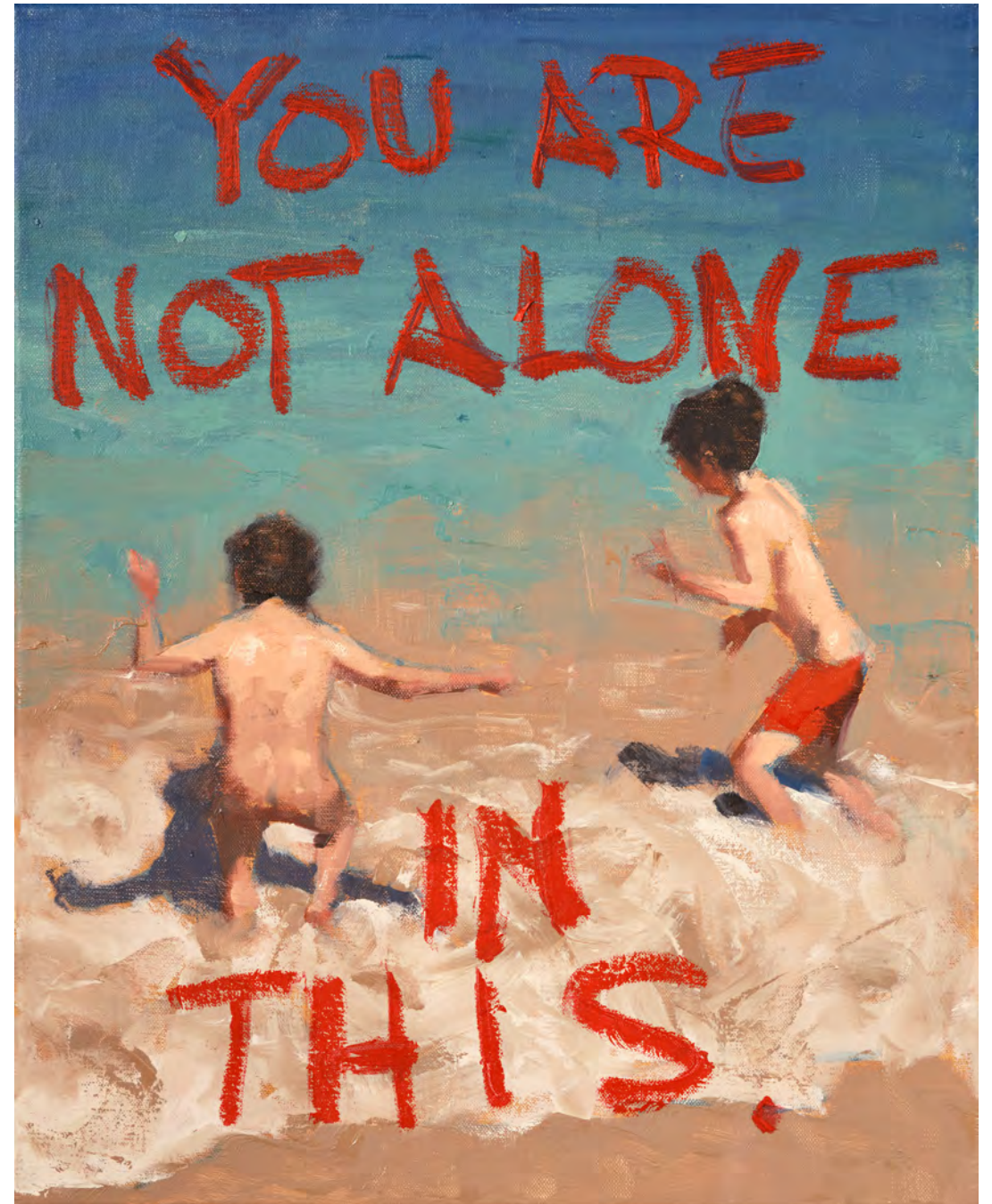
SEASCAPE, 2023
Oil on Linen
40 x 60 cm. / 15.75 x 23.62 in.



WE WERE TOGETHER, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 40 cm. / 19.69 x 15.75 in.



WE WERE TOGETHER, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 40 cm. / 19.69 x 15.75 in.



NOT ALONE, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 40 cm. / 19.69 x 15.75 in.



GET LOST, 2023
Oil on Board
13 x 18 cm. / 5.12 x 7.09 in.

FLOW, 2023
Oil on Board
13 x 18 cm. / 5.12 x 7.10 in.



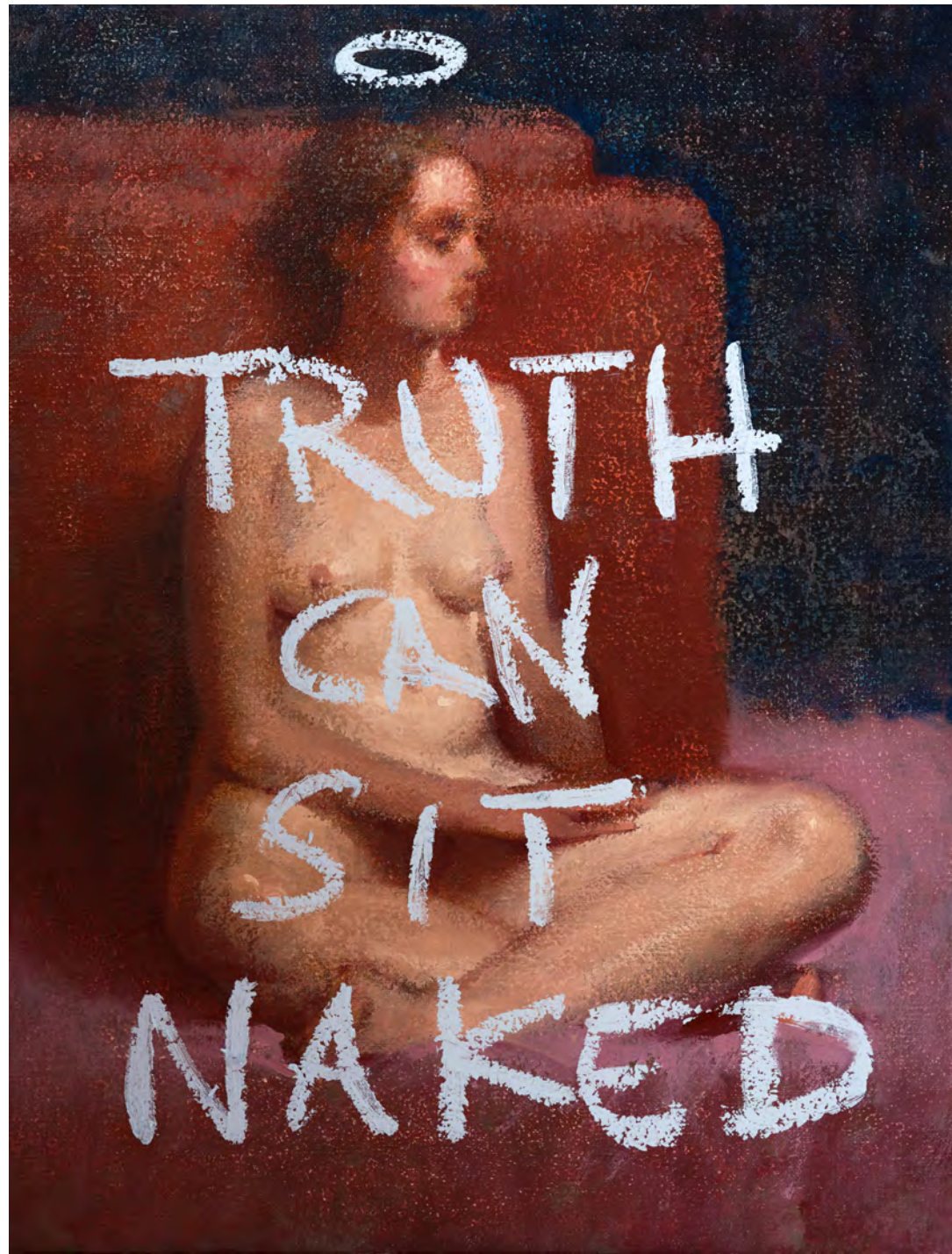
HERE NOW, 2023
Oil and Spray on Linen
40 x 60 cm. / 15.75 x 23.62 in.



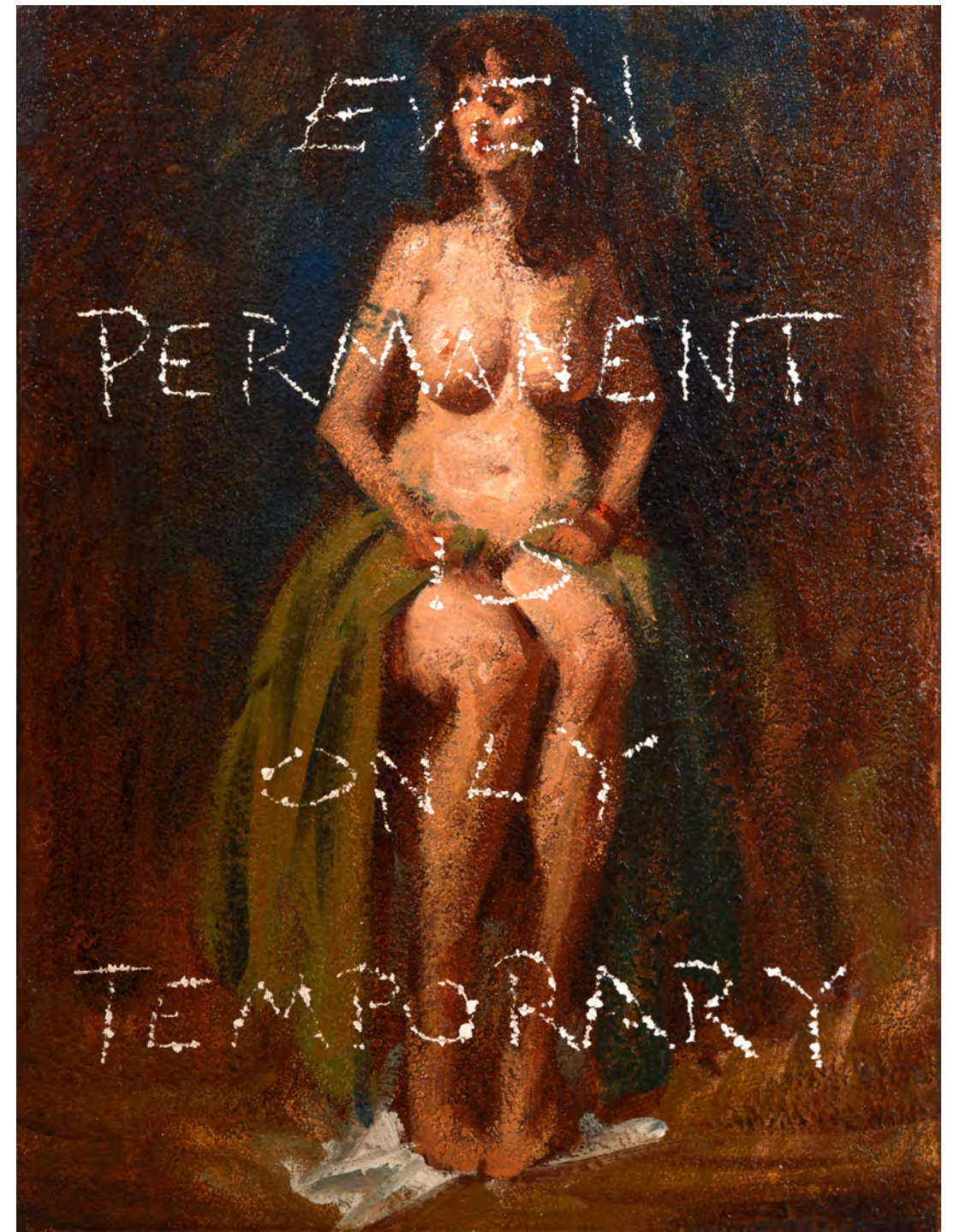
MADE BY HAND, 2023
Oil on Board
13 x 18 cm. / 5.12 x 7.09 in.



NON NFT, 2023
Oil on Canvas
20 x 20 cm. / 7.87 x 7.87 in.



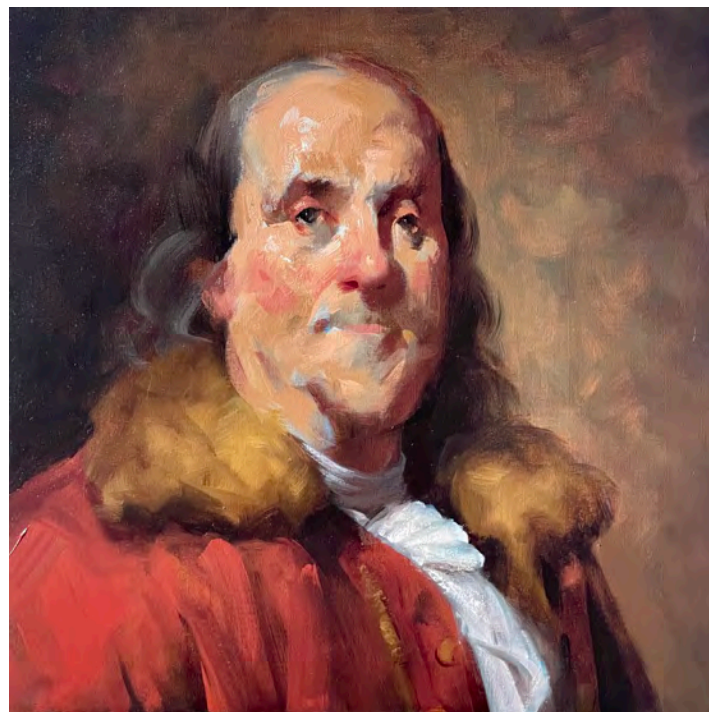
NAKED TRUTH, 2022
Oil on Linen
45.5 x 35 cm. / 17.91 x 13.78 in.



TEMPORARY NUDE, 2023
Oil on Board
41 x 32 cm. / 16.14 x 12.60 in.



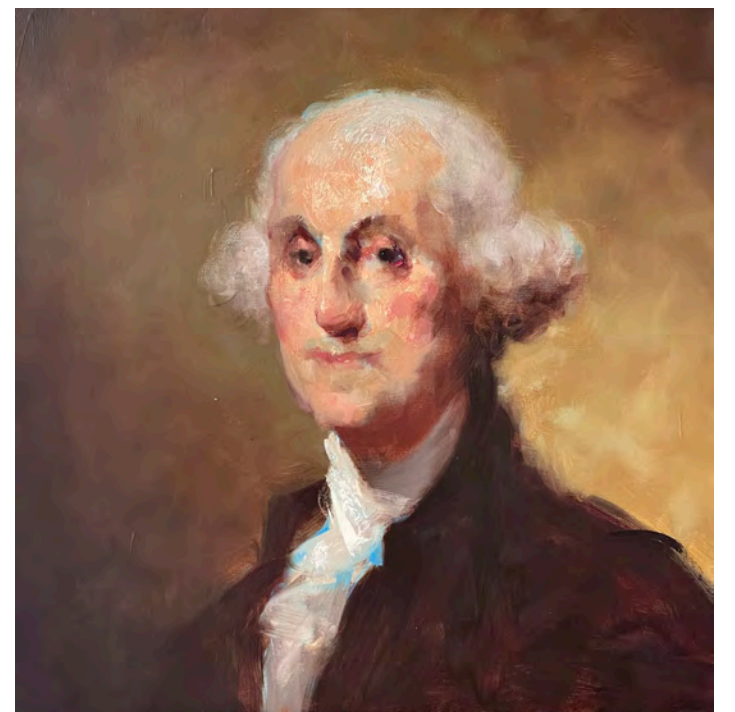
MLK, 2023
Oil on Linen
60 x 60 cm. / 23.62 x 23.62 in.



BF, 2023
Oil on Linen
60 x 60 cm. / 23.62 x 23.62 in.



AL, 2023
Oil on Linen
60 x 60 cm. / 23.62 x 23.62 in.



GW, 2023
Oil on Linen
60 x 60 cm. / 23.62 x 23.62 in.



BUY BEWILDERMENT, 2023
Oil on Linen
64 x 132 cm. / 25.20 x 51.97 in.



PRESENT, 1999
Oil on Linen
97 x 130 cm. / 38.19 x 51.18 in.



LAKE II (STUDY), 2020
Oil on Board
20 x 30 cm. / 7.87 x 11.81 in.



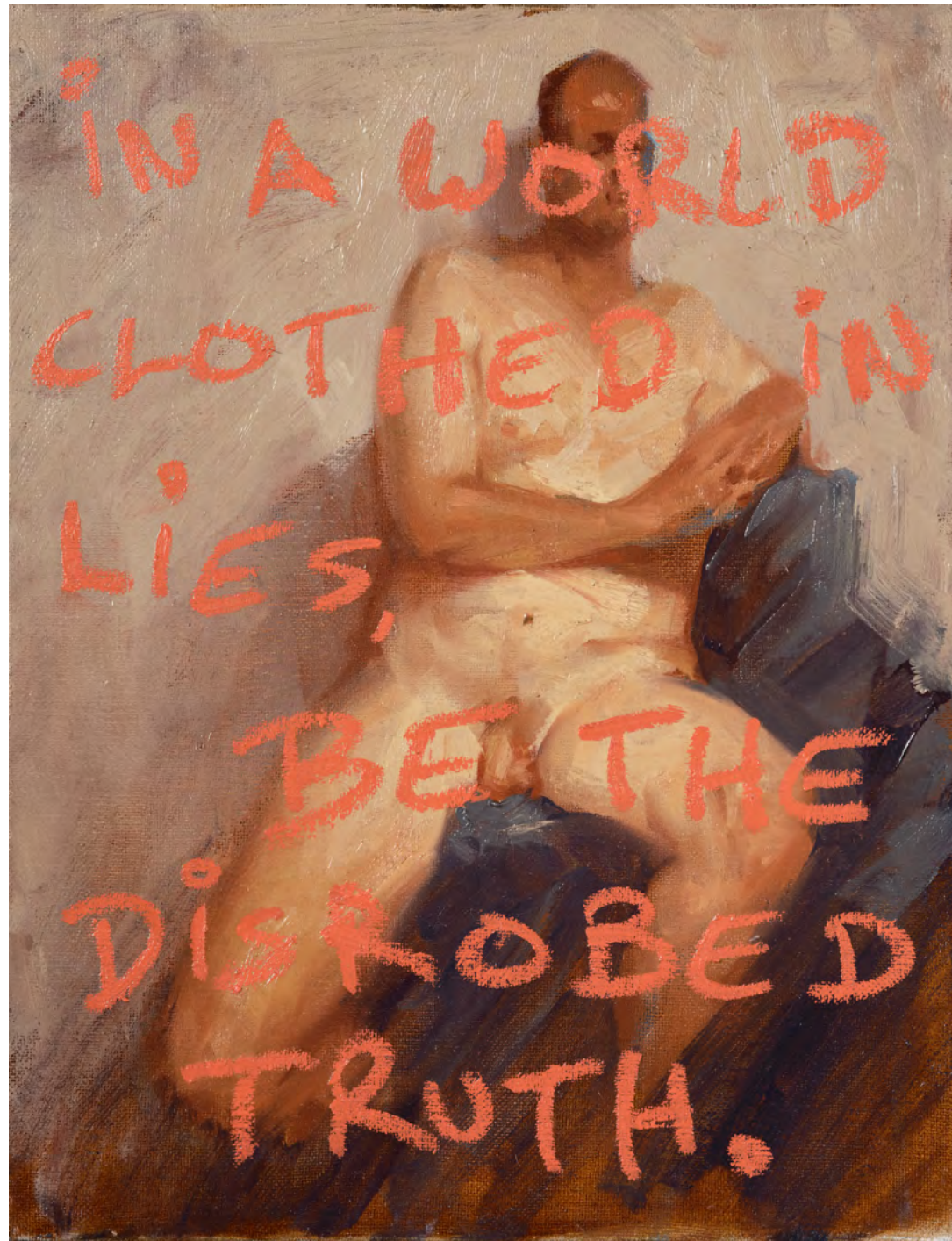
LAKE I, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 70 cm. / 19.69 x 27.56 in.



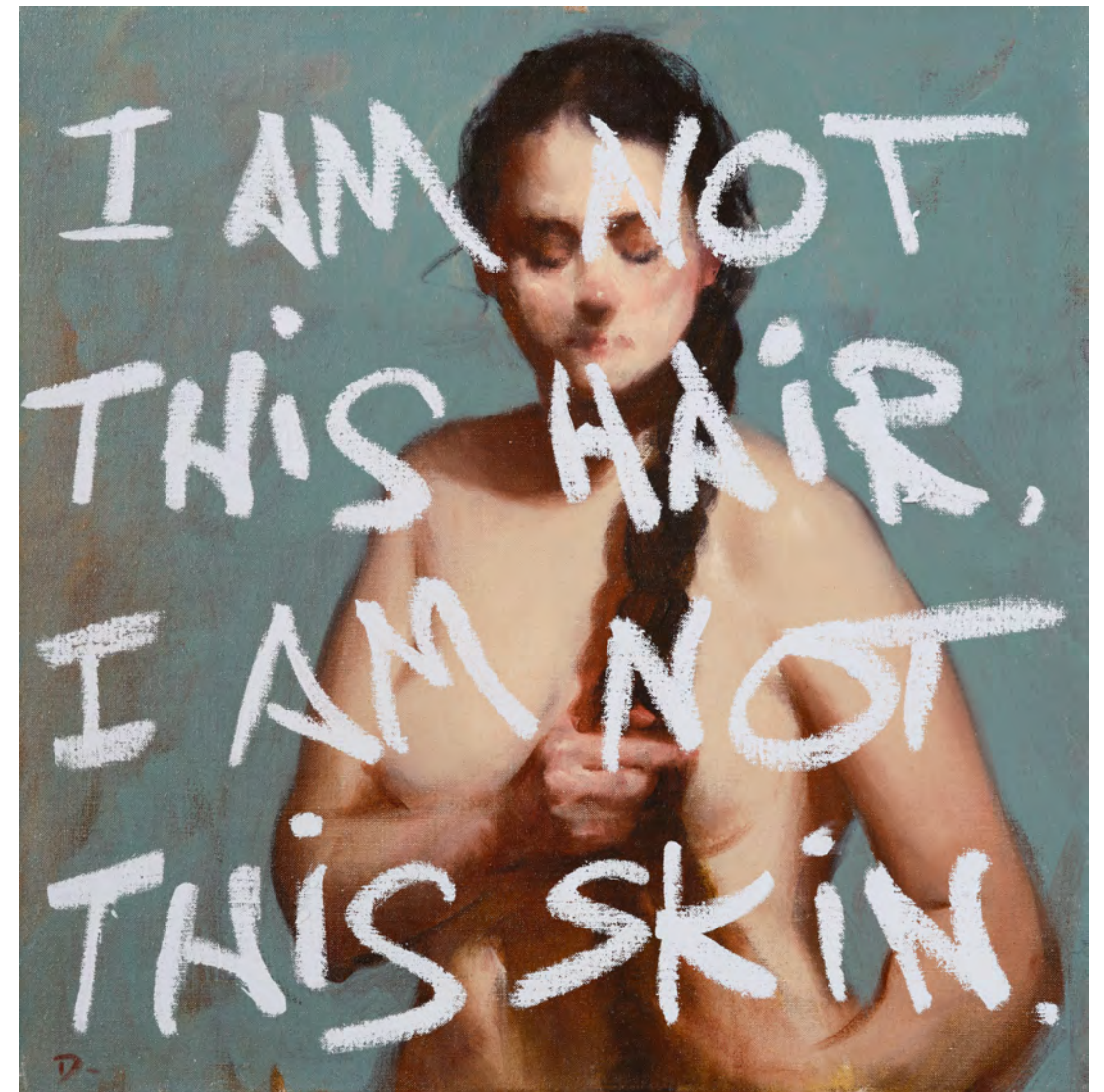
LAKE II, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 70 cm. / 19.69 x 27.56 in.



LAKE III, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 70 cm. / 19.69 x 27.56 in.



DISROBED TRUTH, 2023
Oil on Linen
35 x 27 cm. / 13.78 x 10.63 in.



NOT THIS SKIN, 2023
Oil on Linen
50 x 50 cm. / 19.69 x 19.69 in.



PAST RIGHT AND WRONG, 2023
Oil on Linen
40 x 60 cm. / 15.75 x 23.62 in.



FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS, 2023
Oil on Board
18 x 24 cm. / 7.09 x 9.45 in.



WHOLE THING, 2023
Oil on Board
20 x 30 cm. / 7.87 x 11.81 in.



SPLIT OPEN, 2023
Oil on Board
30 x 30 cm. / 11.81 x 11.81 in.



ENTIRE UNIVERSE, 2023
Oil on Board
20 x 30 cm. / 7.87 x 11.81 in.



INSIDE JOB, 2023
Oil on Linen
40 x 40 cm. / 15.75 x 15.75 in.



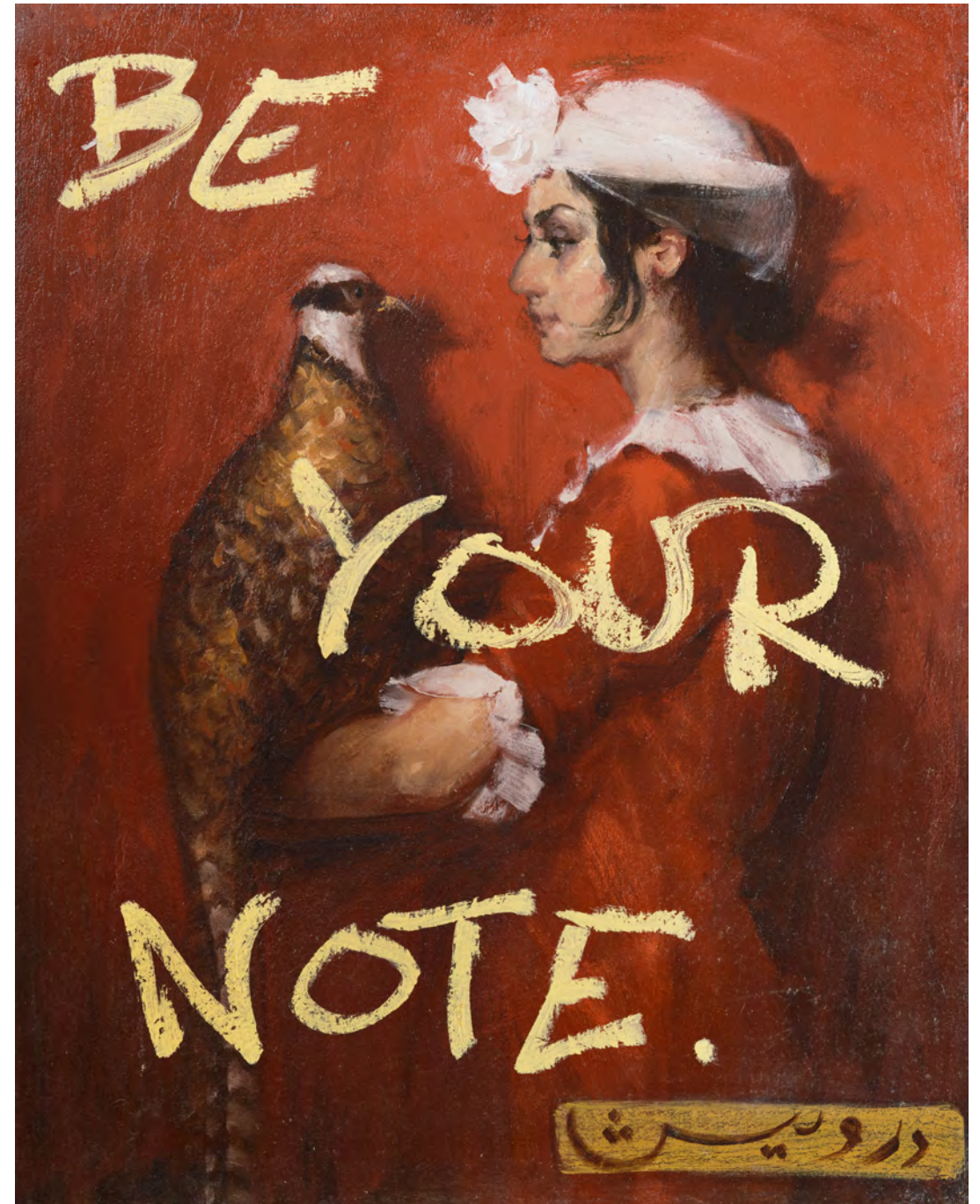
BEST DISGUISE, 2023
Oil on Linen
40 x 40 cm. / 15.75 x 15.75 in.



SEEK THE SPIRIT, 2022
Oil on Mounted Canvas
118 x 92 cm. / 46.46 x 36.22 in.



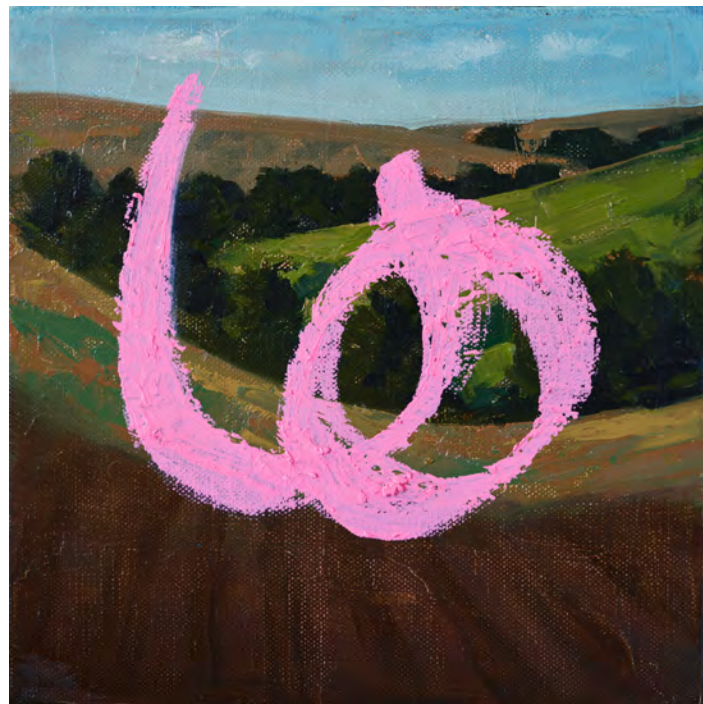
DO YOU, 2023
Oil on Board
56 x 47.5 cm. / 22 x 18.70 in.



BE YOUR NOTE, 2022
Oil on Board
51 x 41 cm. / 20.08 x 16.41 in.



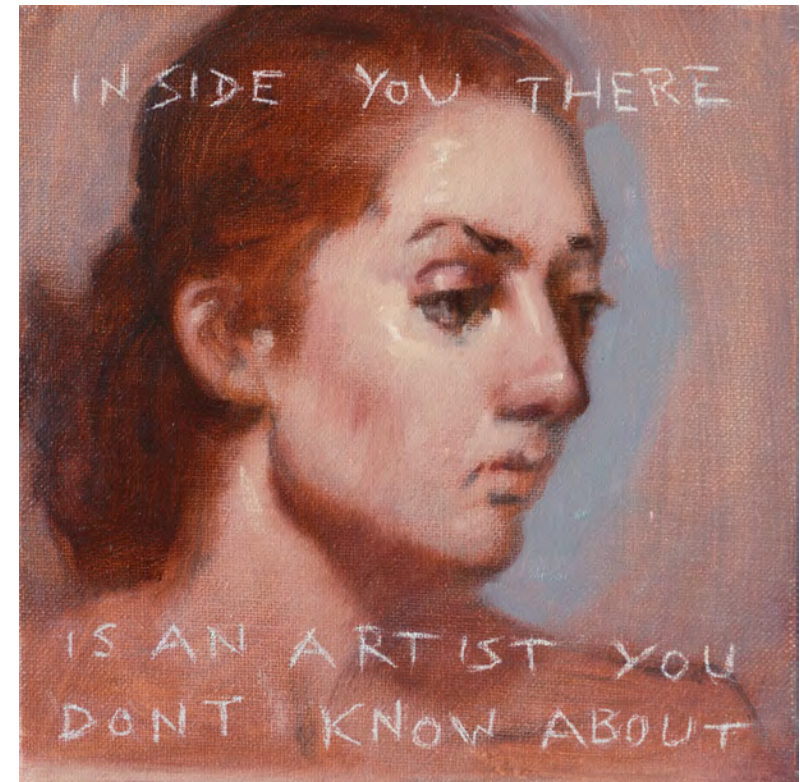
HA 1, 2023
Oil on Linen
20 x 20 cm. / 7.87 x 7.87 in.



HA 2, 2023
Oil on Linen
20 x 20 cm. / 7.87 x 7.87 in.



HA 3, 2023
Oil on Linen
20 x 20 cm. / 7.87 x 7.87 in.



UNKNOWN ARTIST, 2023
Oil on Linen
20 x 20 cm. / 7.87 x 7.87 in.



OLD IS THE NEW (AFTER VELASQUEZ), 2023
Oil on Board
15 x 15 cm. / 5.91 x 5.91 in.



TEACHER (SELF PORT.), 2023
Oil on Linen
60 x 60 cm. / 23.62 x 23.62 in.

DARVISH FAKHR

Darvish Fakhr currently lives and works in Brighton, UK. He has exhibited and performed internationally, including at The Armory Show in New York. He is in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London. Darvish graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, London with an MFA in 1997 where he studied with Paula Rego.

EDUCATION

1997	M.F.A.,	Slade School of Fine Art, London
1994	B.F.A.,	Museum School of Fine Arts, Boston

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2022	<i>"Traveling Light"</i>	Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
2020	<i>"From Tehran with Love"</i>	Group Show with Magic of Persia, Los Angeles
2018	<i>"No Man's Land"</i>	Solo Show at Asia House in collaboration with Akram Khan, London
2015	The Armory Show, selected as "most photographed and hardest to miss"	by <i>Voice of America</i> , New York
2014	<i>"Palimpsest"</i>	Edge of Arabia, New York
2013	<i>"Farce"</i>	Aun Gallery, London
2011	<i>"Safar"</i>	Aun Gallery, Tehran
2007	<i>"Embodiment"</i>	Group Show at Signal Gallery, Hoxton
2005	BP Travel Award Show,	London and Aberdeen
2004	National Portrait Gallery,	London and Edinburgh
2003	Mall Galleries, Quoad Art Gallery,	Brighton
2003	Royal Society of Portrait Painters,	London
2002	Chelsea Art Fair	
2001	Medici Gallery, Piccadilly,	London
2001	<i>"Discerning Eye"</i>	at Mall Galleries, London
1998	Exhibition of Portraits at Blue Gallery,	Chelsea
1997	Degree Show,	Slade School of Fine Art
1993	Annual Boit Competition,	Museum School, Boston

COLLECTIONS

National Portrait Gallery - Permanent Collection

AWARDS & GRANTS

2007	BP Award,	National Portrait Gallery, London
2006	BP Award,	National Portrait Gallery, London and Ediburgh
2001	Royal West of England Academy,	3rd Place, Bristol
2000	BP Award,	National Portrait Gallery, London and Aberdeen
1999	BP Award,	National Portrait Gallery, London and Aberdeen
1998	BP Award,	National Portrait Gallery, London and Aberdeen
1993	Annual Boit Competition,	Museum School, Boston