



LEILA HELLER GALLERY.



DARVISH



BETWEEN STATES

December 11, 2025 - January 17, 2026

Published on the occasion of the exhibition

Darvish: Between States

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LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

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Front Cover Image: *The Alchemist (Noruz)*, 2025

Inside Cover Images: *Cape Cod*, 2025

Back Cover Image: *April*, 2025

DARVISH

Between States

Darvish paints the hypnagogic state between dreams and reality. The work carries a whimsical yet profound sense of a world suspended. Figures, landscapes, and emotions hover in the lightness of their own present being.

This reflected 'lightness of being' is not a mere aesthetic choice, but a philosophical one. It encourages viewers to embrace a sense of weightlessness in their own perceptions, to hover between understanding and wonder. To be present.

The freedom he seeks to embody in both his painting and performance is driven by transcendence of these respective media, a type of liminal levity, where he invites us to float into our own equilibrium by simply being.

While still rooted in the Western figurative tradition his paintings in this show are looser and more expressive, with a physical language-- scratches representing rain, large directional strokes, and backgrounds that melt into abstraction as you walk closer. The movement of performance meets brush and canvas. This not only demonstrates commitment and confidence in his decades of artistic mastery, but also embodies the fluid dream states he is occupying which cultivate the fluidity and blurred lines between performance and painting.

All of this circles back to the artist's experience and movement through different and in some ways oppositional cultures. Such as, his youth in a lush suburban enclave on the edge of Boston, and his many trips back to Iran to visit what revolution had forced his family to leave behind. All of the places he has traveled shape an interior world that becomes the engine of the work. What we encounter, ultimately, are inner worlds made visible—lush, chaotic, humorous, and unsettling—mirroring the layered realities we are all navigating. "Between States" is the essence of transcendence and the freedom to join ideas.

Written By Nick Falco

Nick Falco is the son of a boiler mechanic and welder from the South Bronx with exquisite passion and taste.



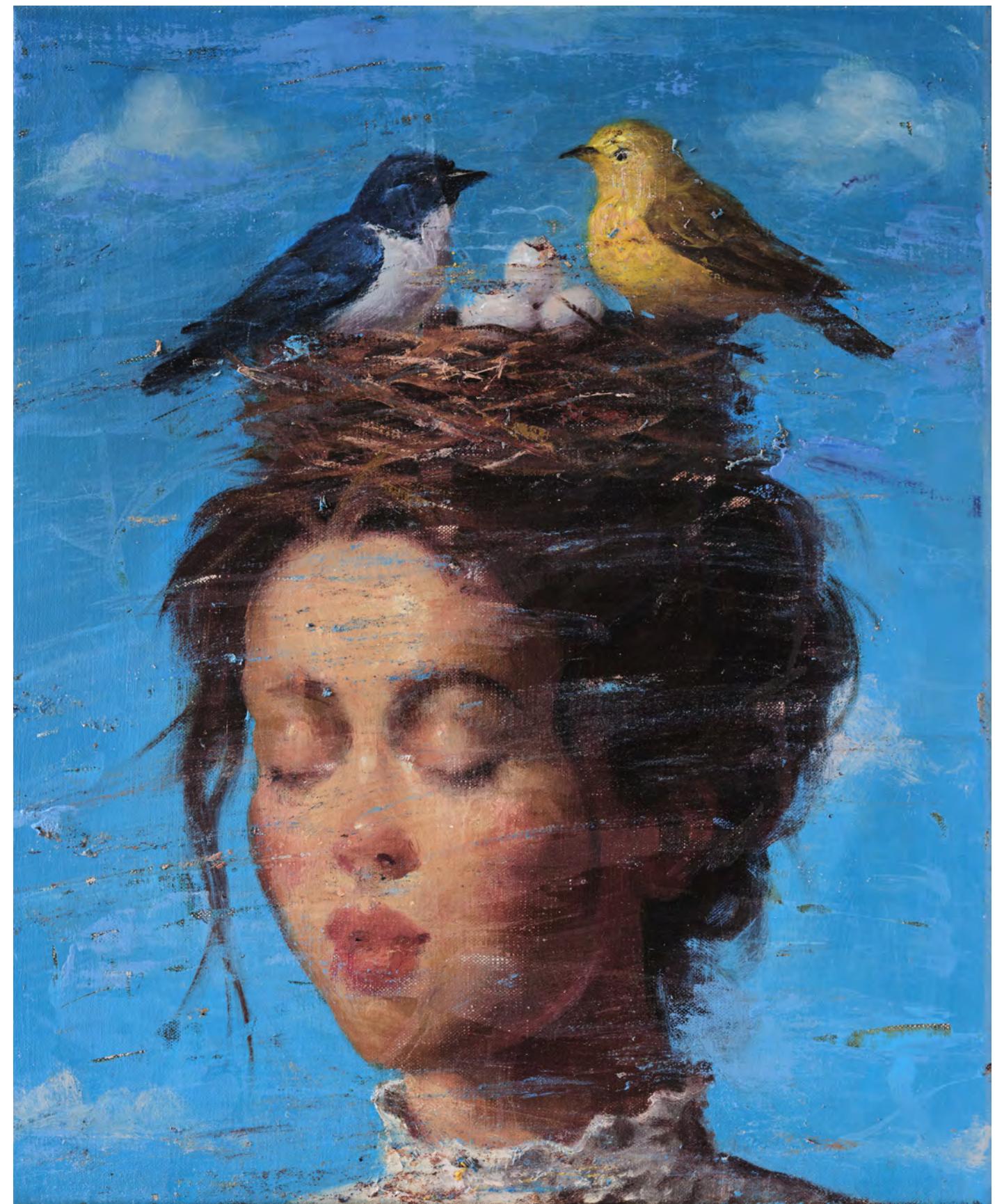
The Gaza Fade, 2025

Oil on Linen

50h x 70w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 27.6w x 0.8d in.



Birthday Boy, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Fresh Air, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Cape Cod, 2025
Oil on Linen

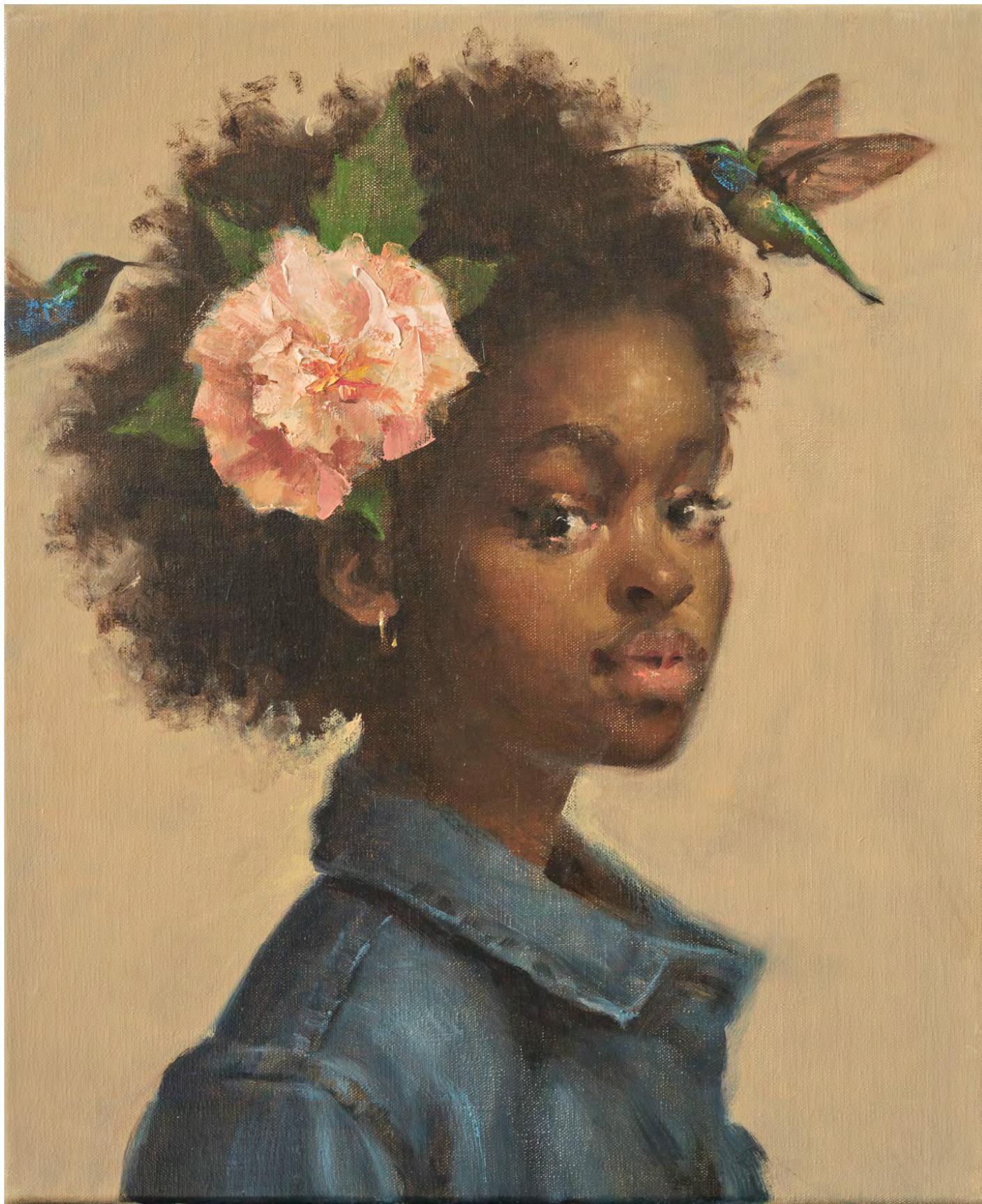
163h x 260w x 3.2d cm / 64h x 102.4w x 1.3d in.



Gaza Circus School, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Dream Big, 2025
Oil on Linen
70h x 70w x 2d cm / 27.6h x 27.6w x 0.8d in.



April, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Princess of Palestine, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Cloud Surfer, 2025
Oil on Board
29.1h x 34.5w x 4.5d cm / 11.5h x 13.6w x 1.8d in.



The Alchemist (Noruz), 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 50w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 19.7w x 0.8d in.



Tailspin, 2025
Oil on Board
30h x 35w x 5d cm / 11.8h x 13.8w x 2d in.



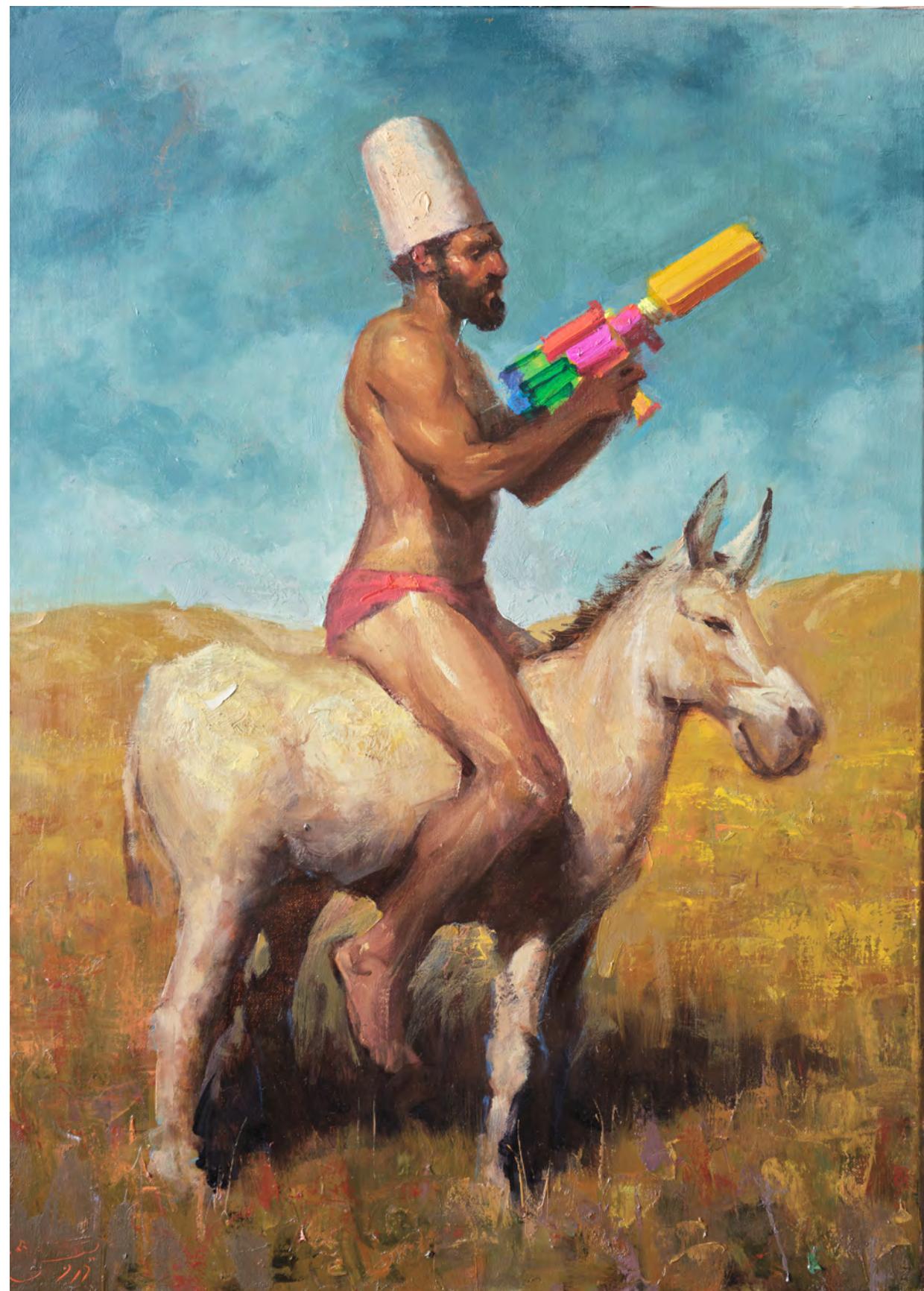
Senegal Glide, 2025
Oil on Board
50.7h x 43w x 1.8d cm / 20h x 16.9w x 0.7d in.



High Tea, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Boy and The Cloud, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



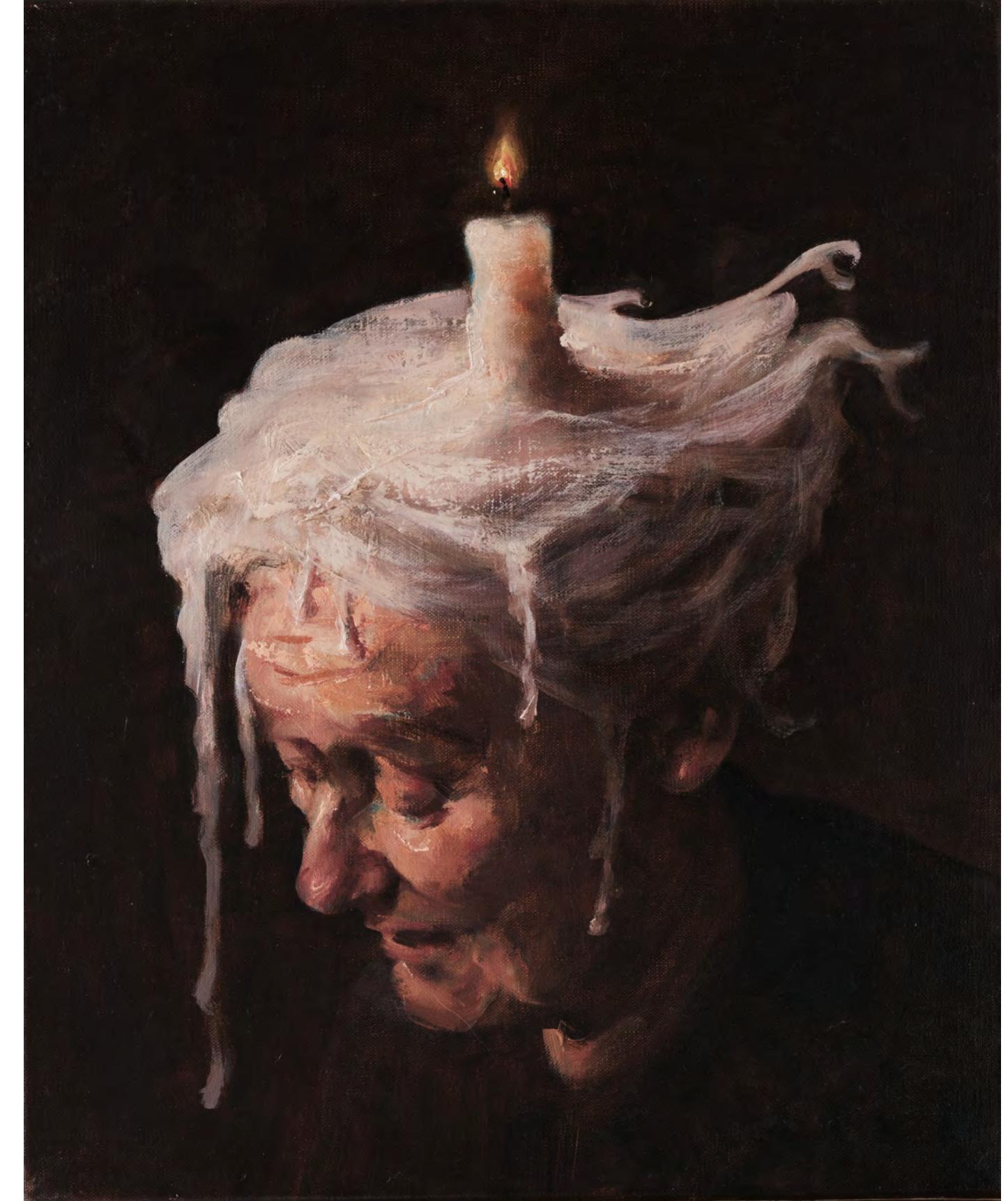
Donkey Rider, 2025
Oil on Linen
70h x 50w x 2d cm / 27.6h x 19.7w x 0.8d in.



Explosion Study I, 2025
Oil on Board (with gold easel)
Painting: 30.6h x 40.5w x 3.6d cm / 12h x 16w x 1.5d in.
Easel: 19 x 36 x 18 cm / 7.5 x 14.2 x 7 in.



Final Call, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 50w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 19.7w x 0.8d in.



Mother Time, 2025
Oil on Linen
50h x 40w x 2d cm / 19.7h x 15.7w x 0.8d in.



Downtime, 2025
Oil on Linen
31h x 39w x 2.5d cm / 12.2h x 15.4w x 1d in.



Frontline, 2025
Oil on Linen
182.5h x 152.5w cm / 72h x 60w in.



Lufy, 2025
Oil on Board
10h x 10w x 0.2d cm / 3.9h x 3.9w x 0.1d in.

BIOGRAPHY

Darvish Fakhr is a half-Iranian, half-American artist based in Brighton, UK, whose work spans painting and performance. Blending Western techniques with Eastern philosophies, he overlays movement, text, and imagery to explore cultural fusion and identity. His "gentle civic disruptions," movement-based works inspired by the whirling dervish—use humor and flight as metaphors for freedom. Fakhr has exhibited internationally, including at The Armory Show, and his work is held in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

CV

- 2024 "Every Story Is Us" Solo show at Leila Heller Gallery, New York
- 2022 "Traveling Light" Solo show at Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
- 2020 "From Tehran with Love" group show with Magic of Persia, Los Angeles
- 2018 "No Man's Land" solo show at Asia House in collaboration with Akram Khan, London
- 2015 The Armory Show, selected as "most photographed and hardest to miss" by Voice of America, New York
- 2014 "Palimpsest" Edge of Arabia, New York
- 2013 "Farce" Aun Gallery, London
- 2011 "Safar" Aun Gallery, Tehran
- 2007 "Embodiment" 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 "Discerning Eye" 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