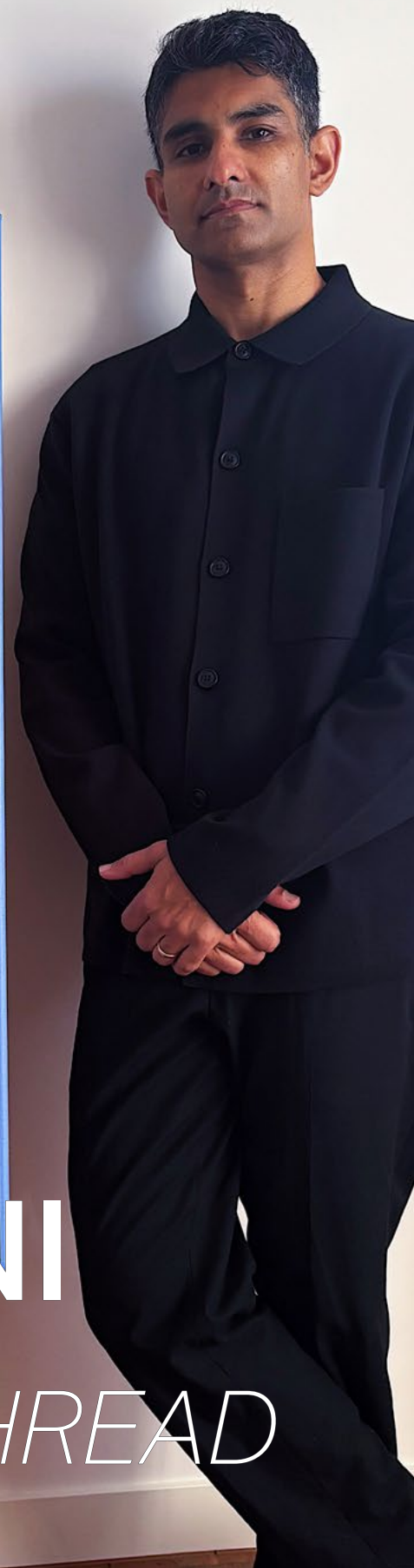




SID PATTNI

A KNOT IN THE THREAD

SID PATTNI

A KNOT IN THE THREAD

26 AUGUST - 20 SEPTEMBER 2025



EXHIBITION OPENING PARTY

Meet the artist and celebrate with us at the exhibition opening party on
Saturday 30 August 2025, 1 - 3pm

Light refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you there.
RSVP appreciated to assistant@flg.com.au

[VIEW EXHIBITION ONLINE](#)



Change the subject

Catalogue Essay by JASMEET KAUR SAHI, 2025

One look at Sid Pattni's paintings and you know nothing is what it seems to be – there is more being said than what a single glance will reveal.

Be it the featureless subjects, their faces filled with stars of the night, shapely eyes staring out, framed in florals. Or the floating botanical fractals dancing like oil on water in bright bold colours that captivate yet resist easy identification – Pattni's work demands that we not just observe but actively engage.

There is a sense of play and performance in his layered works. The process begins digitally, where he collects and manipulates designs and images, before they are realised in their fullness on a physical canvas. Pattni's visual language is a collage of influences that range from the motifs and graphics in the Indian / Mughal miniature style to the European-style Company paintings that British officials in the East India Company commissioned during their time in pre-Independent India.

These influences only scratch the surface of these works. Beneath this assembly laid out in rich oil paint is a narrative of re-contextualizing and reshaping mythologies that through the commissioning of art by colonial powers have in some way shaped the way India and Indians have been viewed. Art, that was executed by Indian painters hybridising technique and tradition, and sometimes even the truth.

These mythologies have favoured and celebrated the name of the patron (East India Company) over the name of the artists, who were sometimes unknown, but on most occasions were renowned painters working in the courts of the rulers of Awadh, Calcutta, Madras and so on.

It would be simplistic to crown Pattni's work as a reclamation of any kind in the vein of – if they could, so can I – because even though the paintbrush can be mightier than the sword, for Pattni reclamation is an 'almost futile cause' and something of a 'hollow term'.

Instead, this son of the diaspora, a person of Indian heritage, born in Kenya, raised in London, who came of age in Australia on Aboriginal land, takes the historical elements of colonialism, power, artistic representation (or lack thereof), and the visual language of Indian painting traditions, and reconfigures notions of identity and belonging through hybridity and assemblage. History cannot be ignored, this is certain.

There are, although, ways to re-create and forge something new from the plural and intersecting histories that have shaped Pattni's sense of self – an act of re-making that is quite deeply embodied in his work.

During our conversation he shares that growing up Indian in Australia has often been an act of dulling many parts of himself that are Indian, and he's frequently questioned this within himself. Pattni suggests that perhaps it's time to encourage others to raise these questions and find their own answers.

'History is not going to paint a full picture and maybe it's our imagination that has to fill in the gaps,' he adds. The fact though remains, whether our histories are entangled or knotted together, what we are left with is this: can those histories and their contemporary manifestations be detangled or do we simply change the subject?

A Knot in the Thread is Sid Pattni's first solo exhibition in Victoria.

Contact Claire Harris, Director with any enquiries or to make a time to view artworks in the gallery.

info@flg.com.au

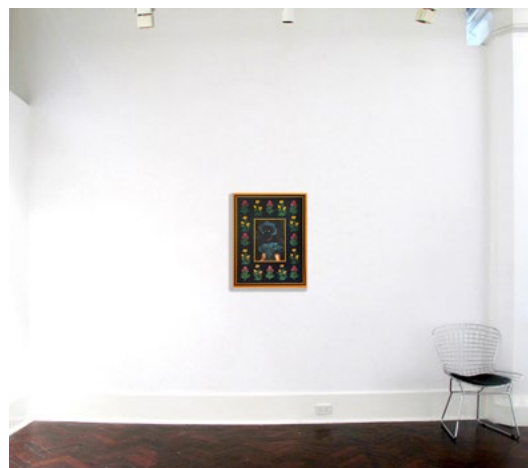




The Self Folded II 2025
oil, synthetic polymer on canvas
76cm x 61cm
\$5,000 AUD SOLD



Artwork Detail



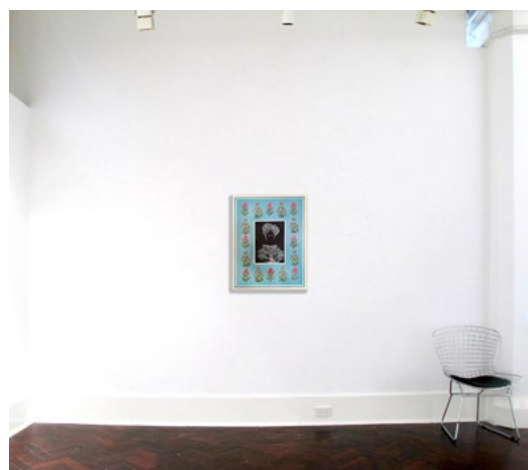
Artwork to scale on 3.7m wall



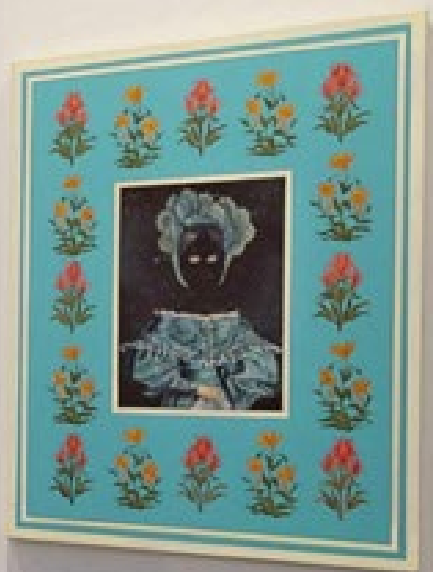
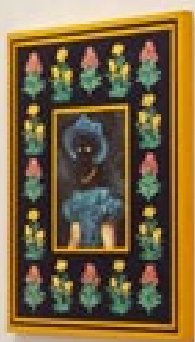
The Self Folded I 2025
oil, synthetic polymer on canvas
76cm x 61cm
\$5,000 AUD SOLD



Artwork Detail



Artwork to scale on 3.7m wall





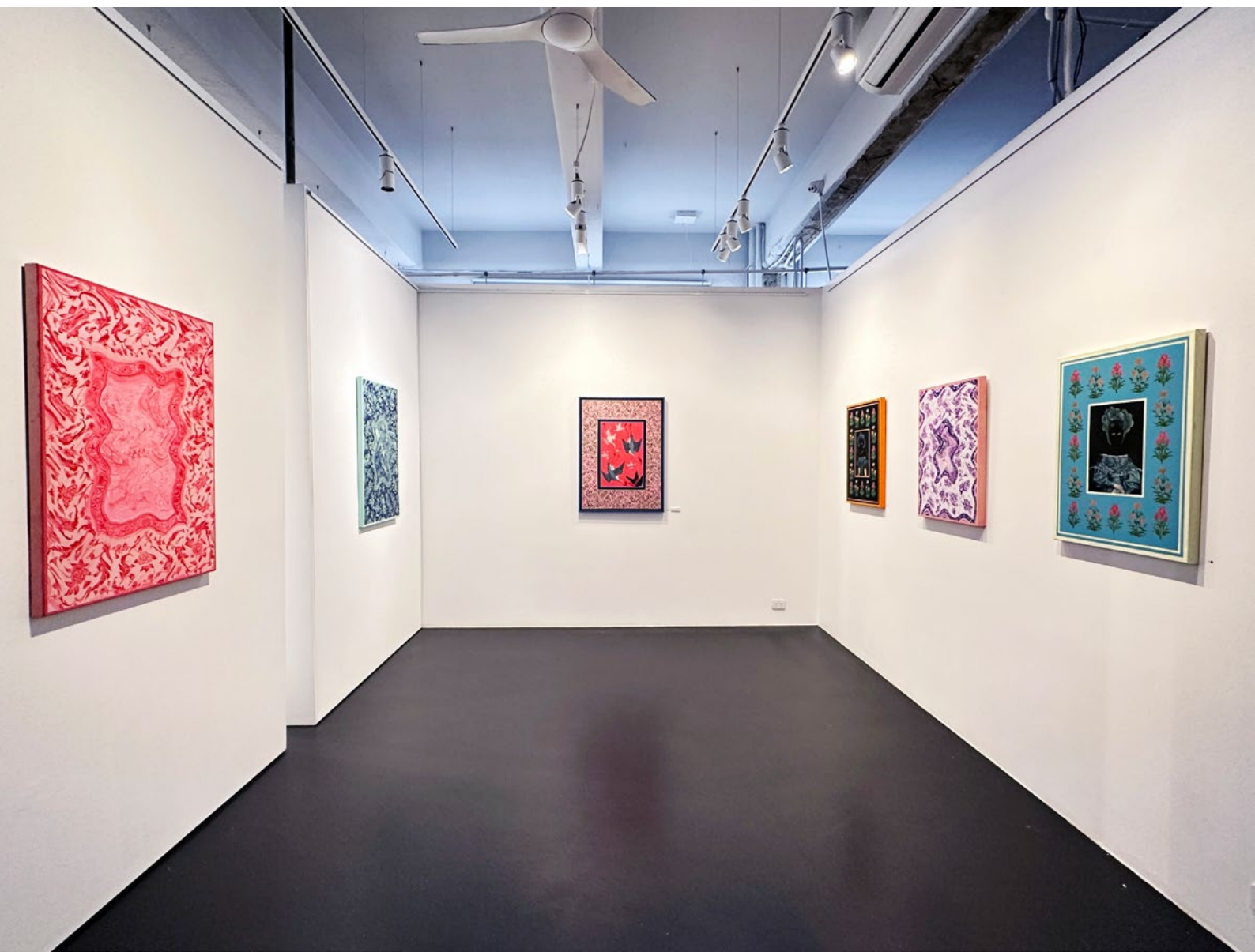
One thing happens, then the next 2025
oil, synthetic polymer on canvas
101cm x 76cm
\$7,000AUD SOLD
ACQUIRED FOR THE ARTBANK COLLECTION



Artwork Detail

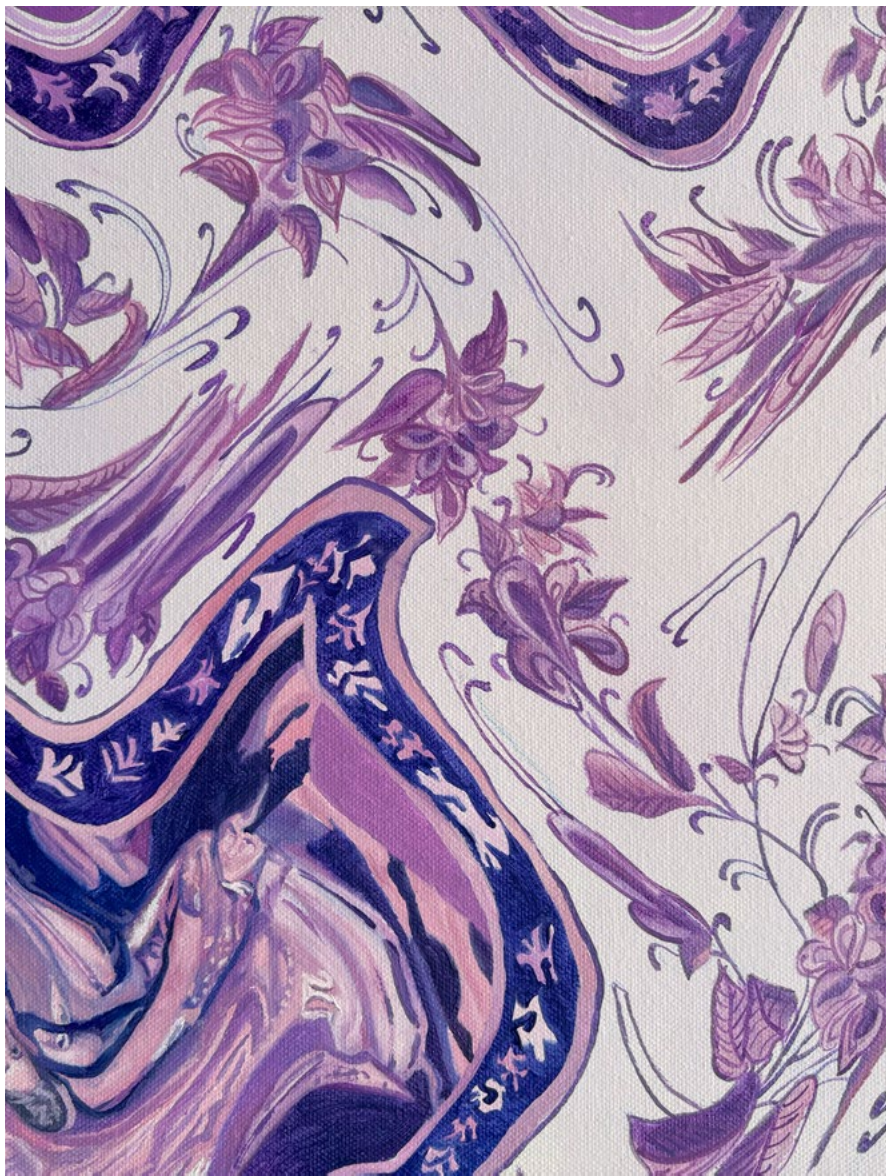


Artwork to scale on 3.7m wall

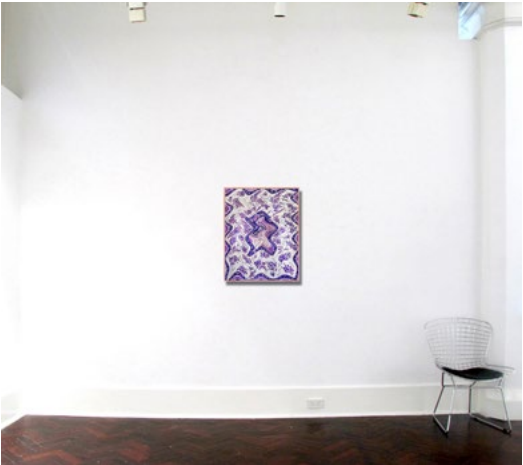




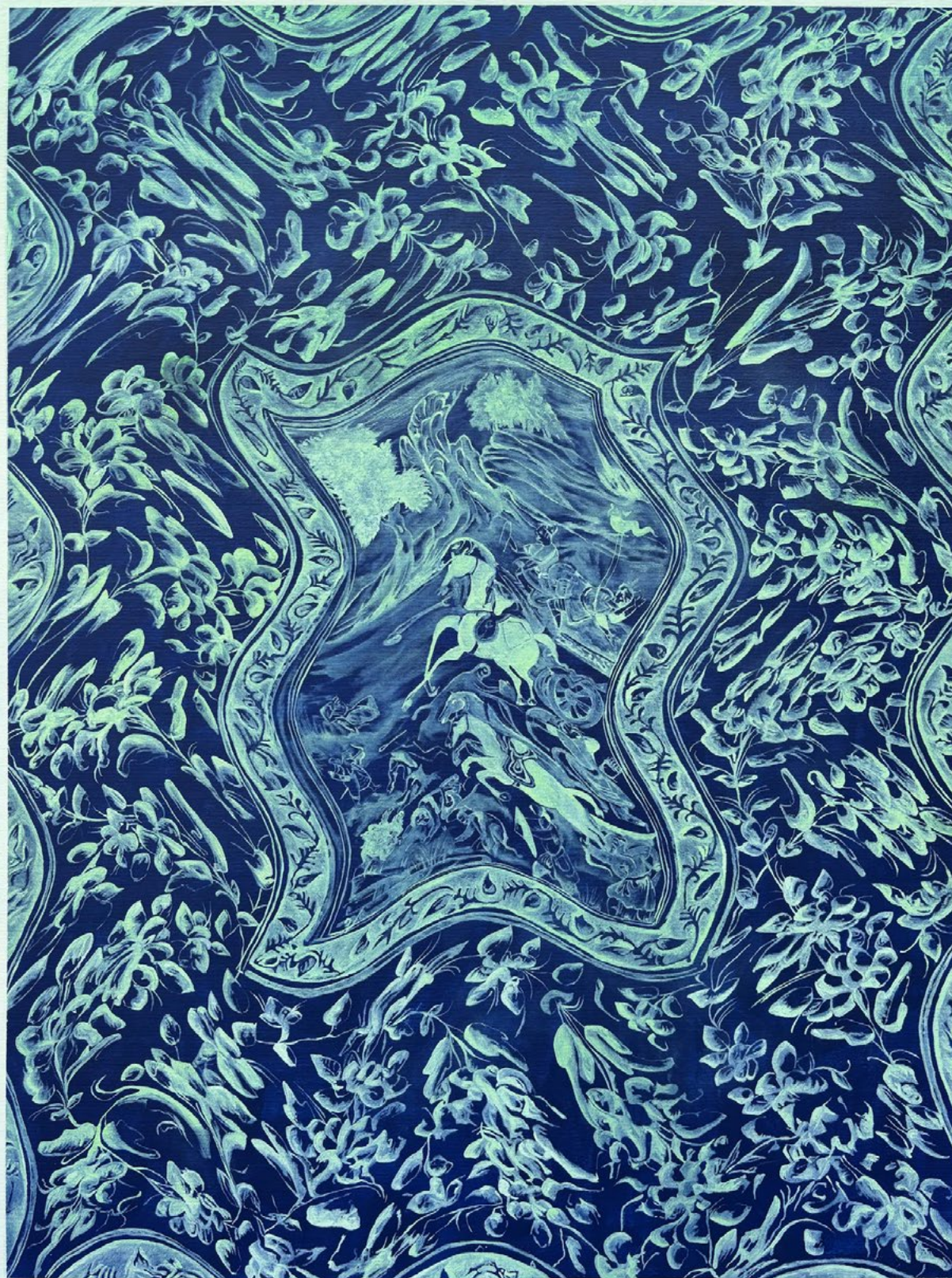
A fly in the milk III 2024
oil, synthetic polymer on canvas
76cm x 61cm
\$5,000 AUD



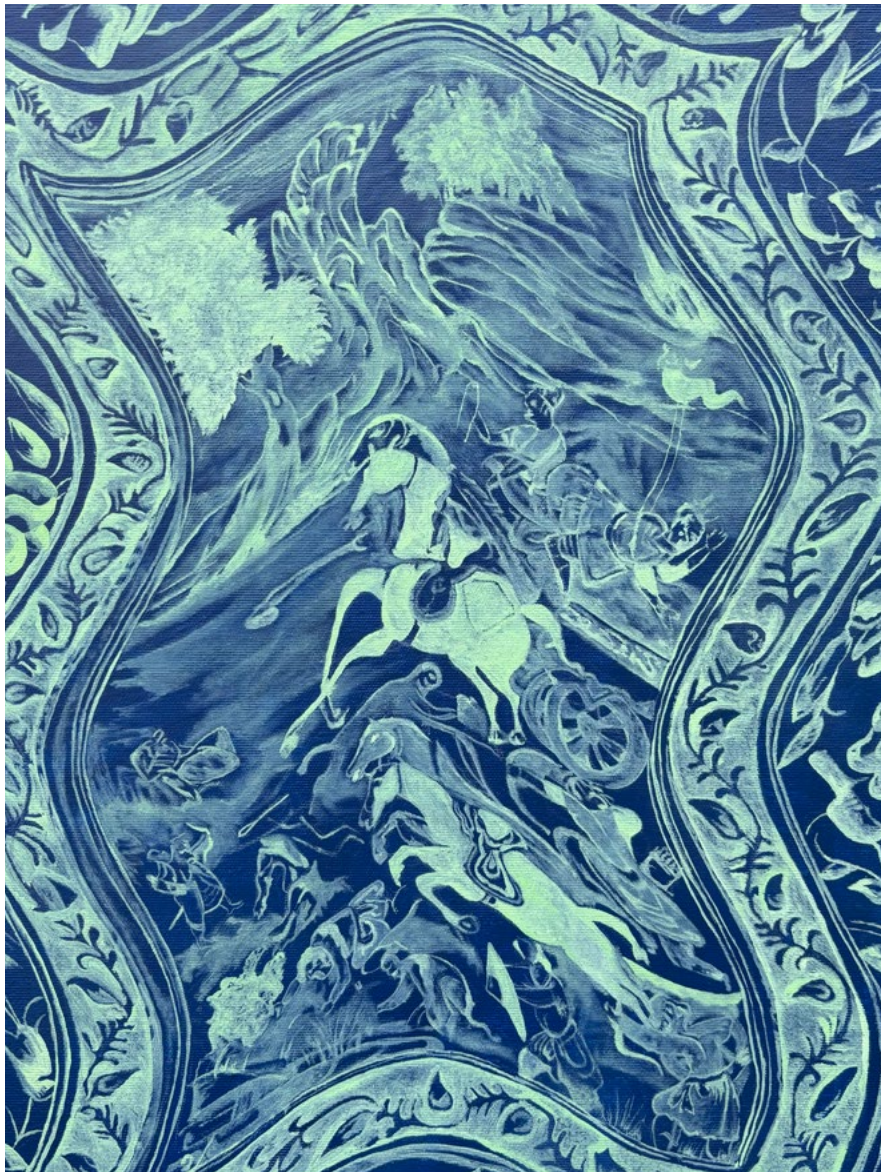
Artwork Detail



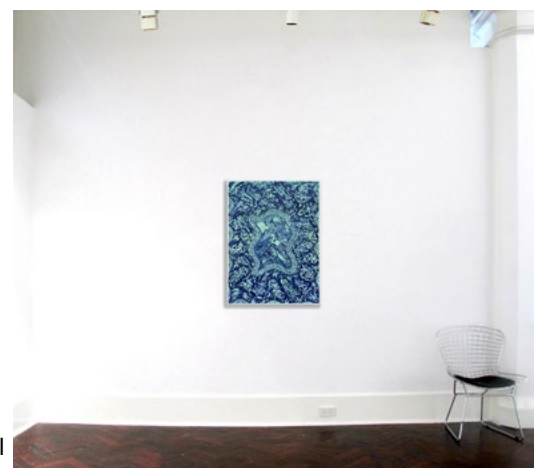
Artwork to scale on 3.7m wall



A well staring at the sky 2025
oil, synthetic polymer on canvas
100cm x 70cm
\$7,000AUD SOLD



Artwork Detail



Artwork to scale on 3.7m wall



A fly in the milk I 2024
oil, synthetic polymer on canvas
101cm x 76cm
\$7,000 AUD



Artwork Detail



Artwork to scale on 3.7m wall



FLG

FLINDERS LANE GALLERY

Level 1, The Nicholas Building
cnr 37 Swanston St and Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE 3000
WWW.FLG.COM.AU
INFO@FLG.COM.AU
+ 61 3 9654 3332

Tue - Sat 11am - 5pm