



LEAH THIESSEN
Rustling Canopy

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21 OCTOBER - 8 NOVEMBER 2025

VIEW EXHIBITION ONLINE

Please feel free to contact Claire Harris, Director
with any enquiries or to make a time to view
artworks once they arrive in the gallery.
info@flg.com.au

Meet the artist and celebrate with us at the exhibition opening party on
Saturday 25 October 1-3pm

Light refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

RSVP appreciated to assistant@flg.com.au



Rustling Canopy

Catalogue Essay by Kate McAuley 2025



Around 500 BCE, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus declared that no one ever steps into the same river twice, for both the river and the person are always changing. It's this idea of constant change and renewal that lies at the heart of Leah Thiessen's approach. Just as rivers shift with each passing moment, her works unfold through a process of layering, revisiting, and transformation. Each canvas reflects her ongoing dialogue with the bushland and watercourses that surround her home near the Terranora Broadwater in northern New South Wales. The landscape is never still, the artist herself continues to evolve and her work mirrors that flux.

For Thiessen's latest exhibition, *Rustling Canopy*, the viewer is taken on a journey from the leaf-littered forest floor to the sun-searching boughs of the majestic eucalyptus trees as they dance above us in a world of their own, bending with the wind, dappling and fragmenting the light. Rather than offering static depictions of the environment, these canvases seek to embody the bush's natural rhythms - the pulse of air, the shimmer of leaves, the atmosphere of a place alive with change. It is only through Thiessen's artistry and vision, that nature's movement can be so brilliantly translated through brushstroke and gesture.

Thiessen describes her work as an immersion in the emotional resonance of her surroundings. Each painting begins with subtle impressions - delicate marks and quiet tones - that gradually build into more vigorous layers of color and form. The process is instinctive and physical, guided as much by feeling as by sight. She often pushes a piece well beyond the point where other artists might stop, stripping away and rebuilding until a new kind of harmony emerges. The artist's process is cyclical and layered, and her methods resist control. Paintings are rarely abandoned, but seen as a challenge to be worked through. Nothing is ever settled, but always evolving, until deemed complete. The act of painting becomes a test of endurance, but also of a trust in the process.

For the pieces on display here, planes of acrylic, oil, and pastel are laid down in broad, physical gestures, broken by quick, electric marks of cobalt and indigo that dart across the surface in sudden gusts. Ochres, soft greys, and smoky greens anchor them to the earth, while flashes of rust and vermillion flare like bark catching light. The compositions flicker and shift, pulling the eye across tangled lines and layered textures.

In *Rustling Canopy*, Thiessen presents works that are less representations of place than embodiments of its pulse. They remind us, like Heraclitus's river, that nothing stands still: the bushland shifts, the wind moves, and the artist herself continues to evolve, in both her life and her work. Each canvas becomes a record of that process, a dance between nature, persistence, and transformation.





Flowing, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 133cm x 250cm
\$13,500 ACQUIRED FOR THE LEEUWIN ESTATE ART COLLECTION

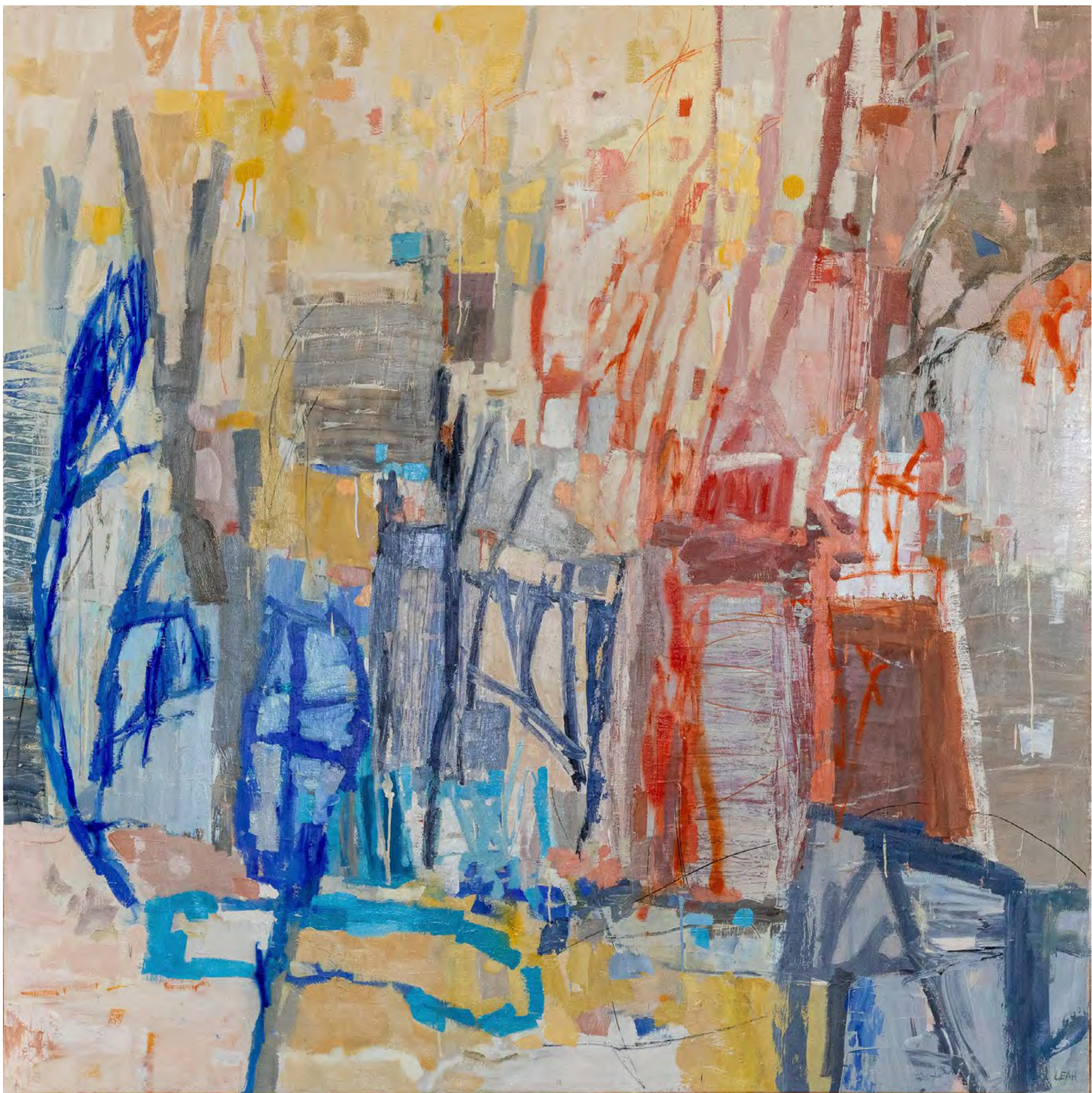






Moonlit Nights, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 180cm x 180cm
\$12900.00 SOLD





Truely, Madly, Deeply, 2025, oil on linen, 180cm x 180cm
\$12900 AUD

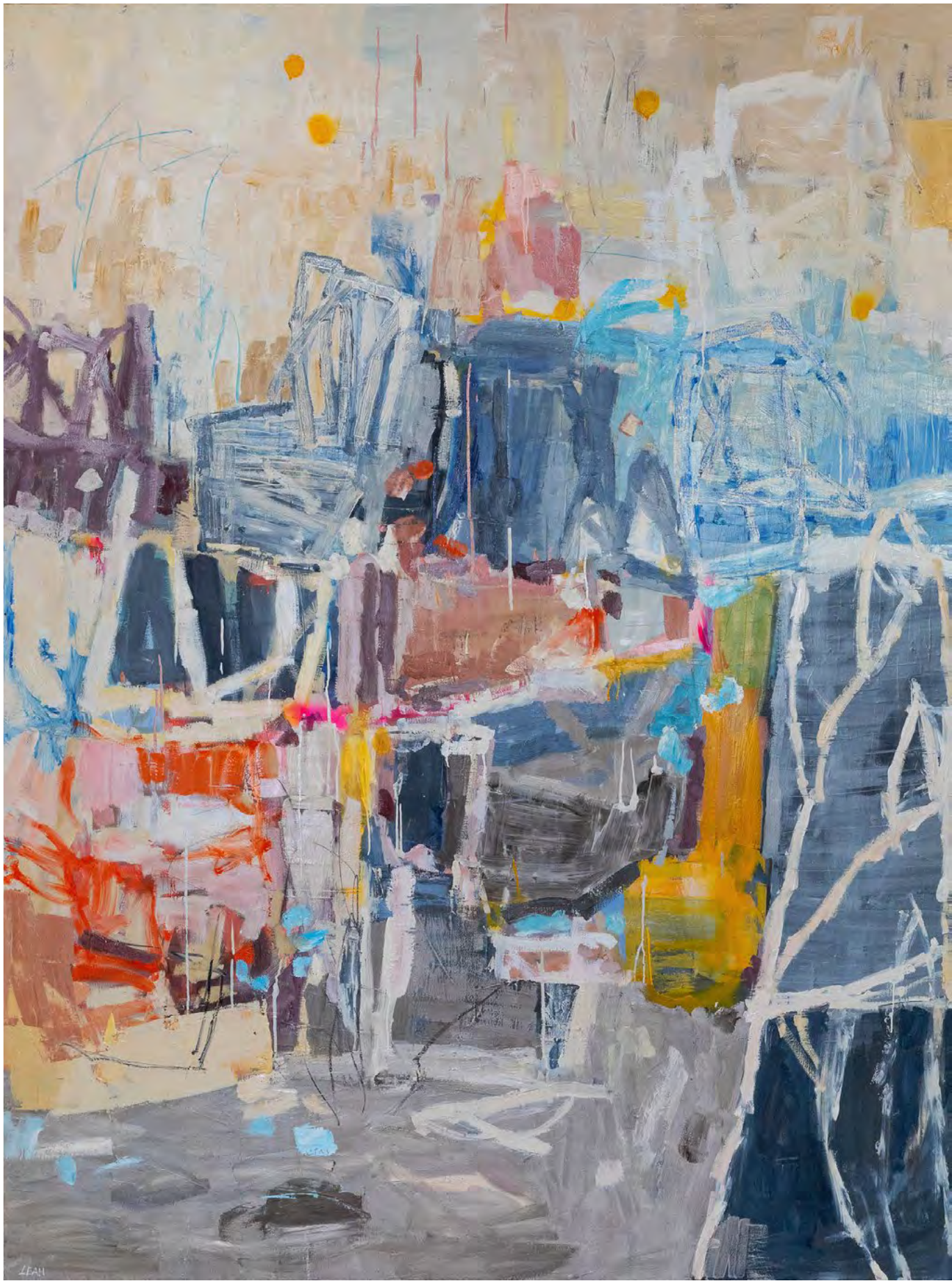




Truely, Madly, Deeply, 2025, oil on linen, 180cm x 180cm
\$12900 AUD

to scale 3.7m wall





Meandering, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 200cm x 150cm
\$12500.00





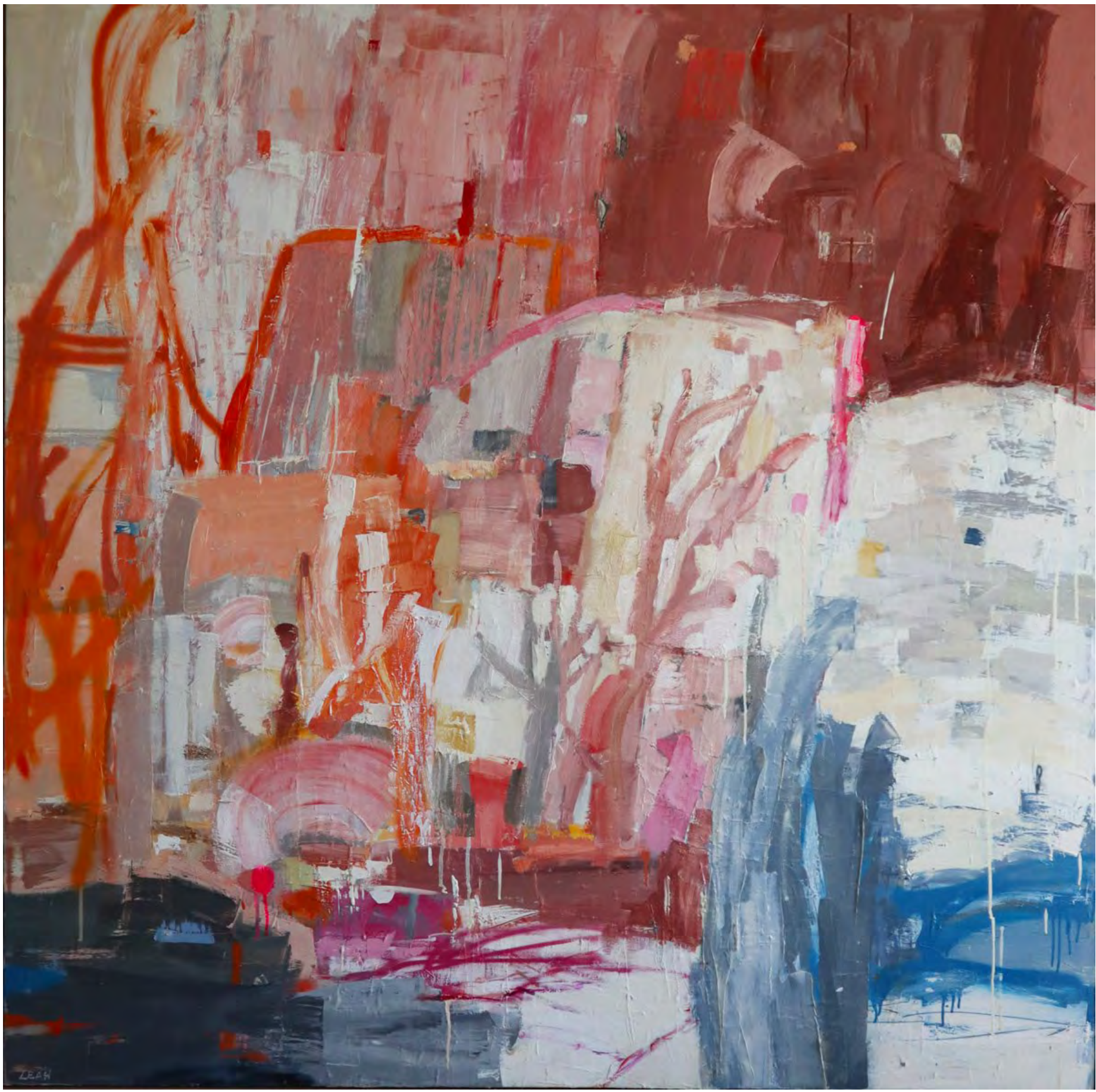


Detail



Meandering, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 200cm x 150cm
\$12500.00

to scale 3.7m wall



Catching Sunbeams, 2025, oil on polycotton, 153cm x 153cm
\$9900

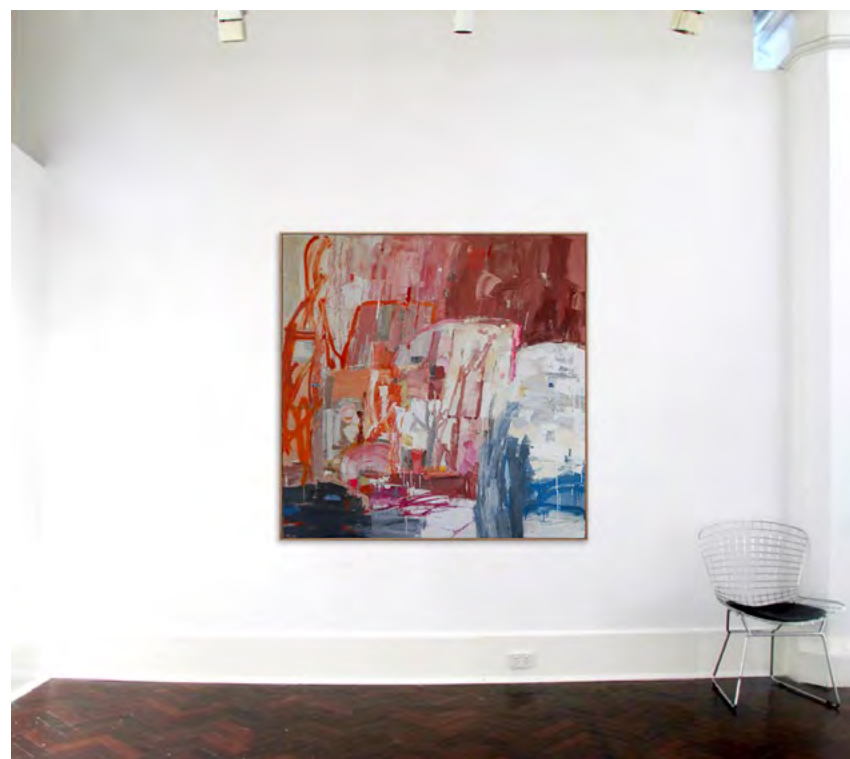


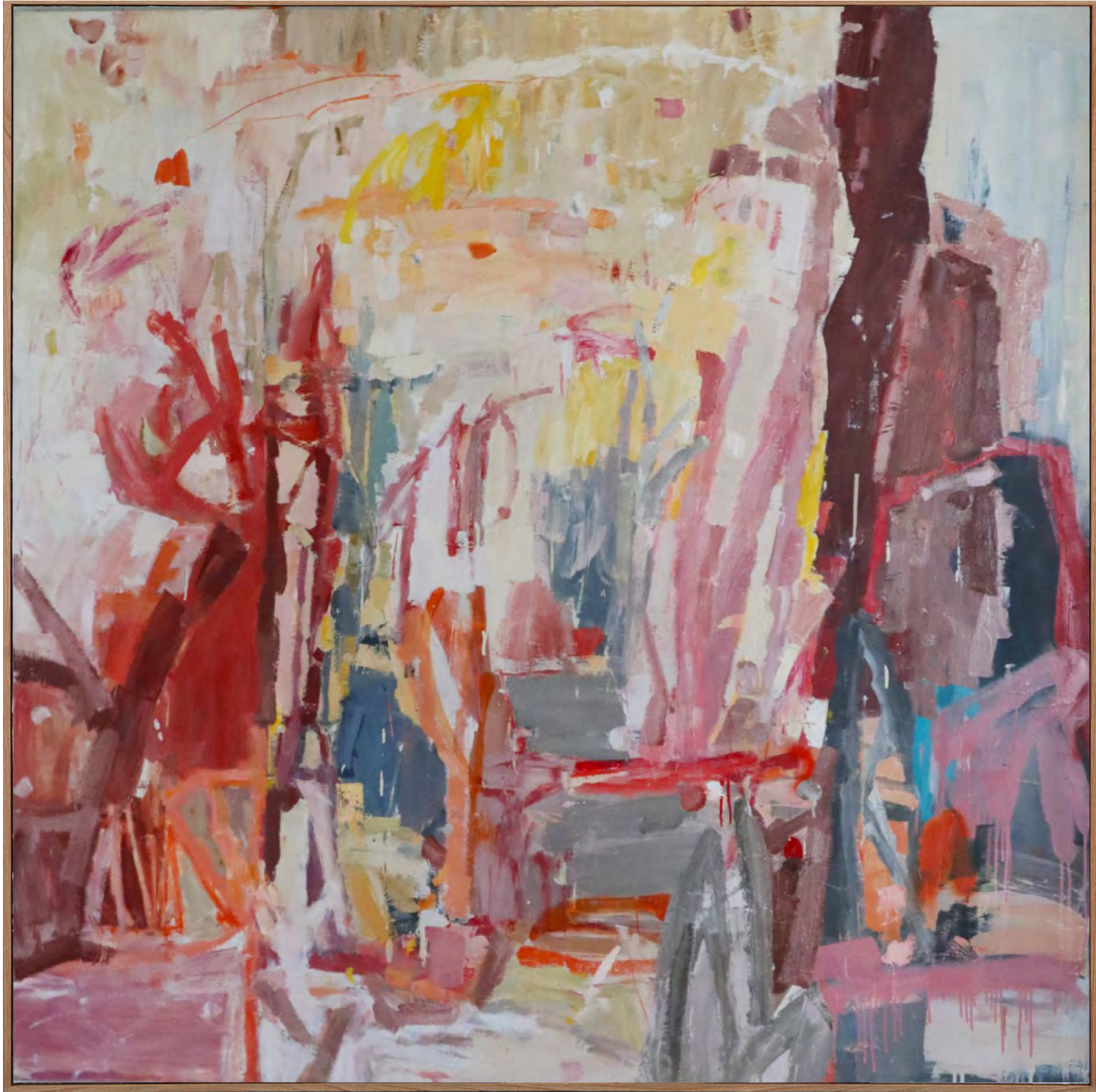




Catching Sunbeams, 2025, oil on polycotton, 153cm x 153cm
\$9900

to scale 3.7m wall





Collecting Sunshine, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 153cm x 153cm
\$9900



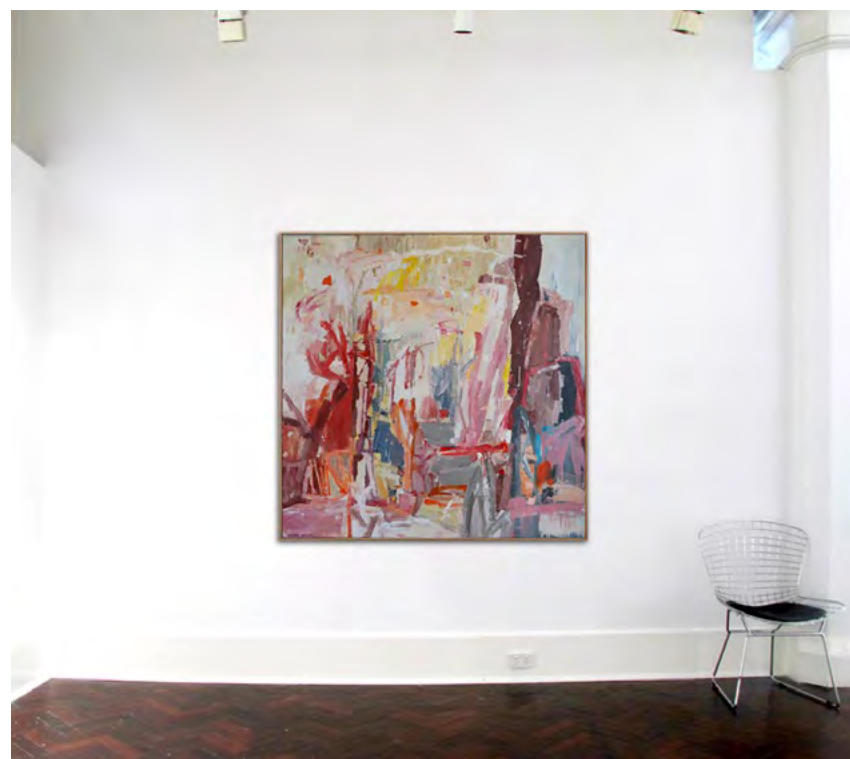


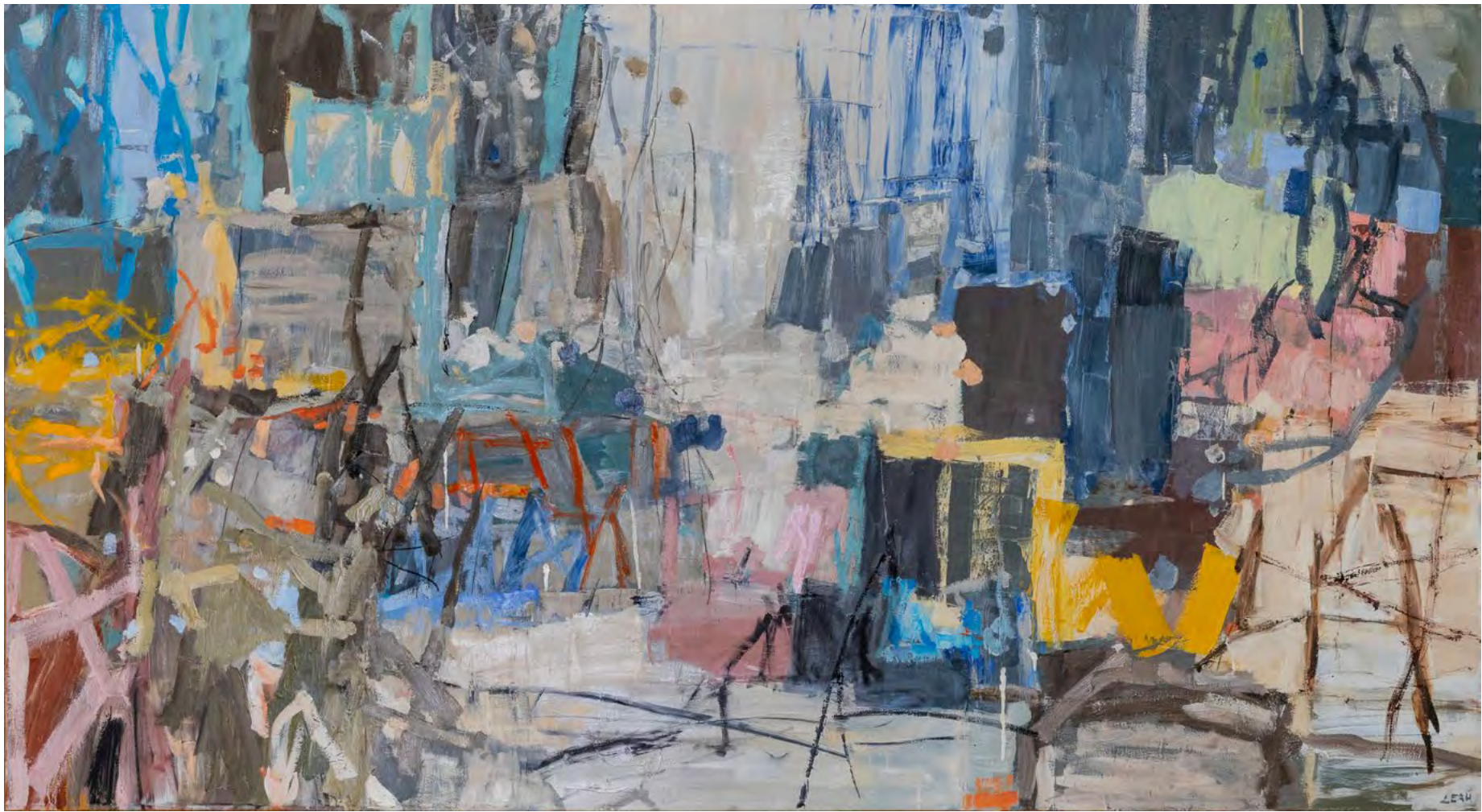


Detail

Collecting Sunshine, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 153cm x 153cm
\$9900

to scale 3.7m wall





Dappled Light, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 110cm x 200cm
\$9900

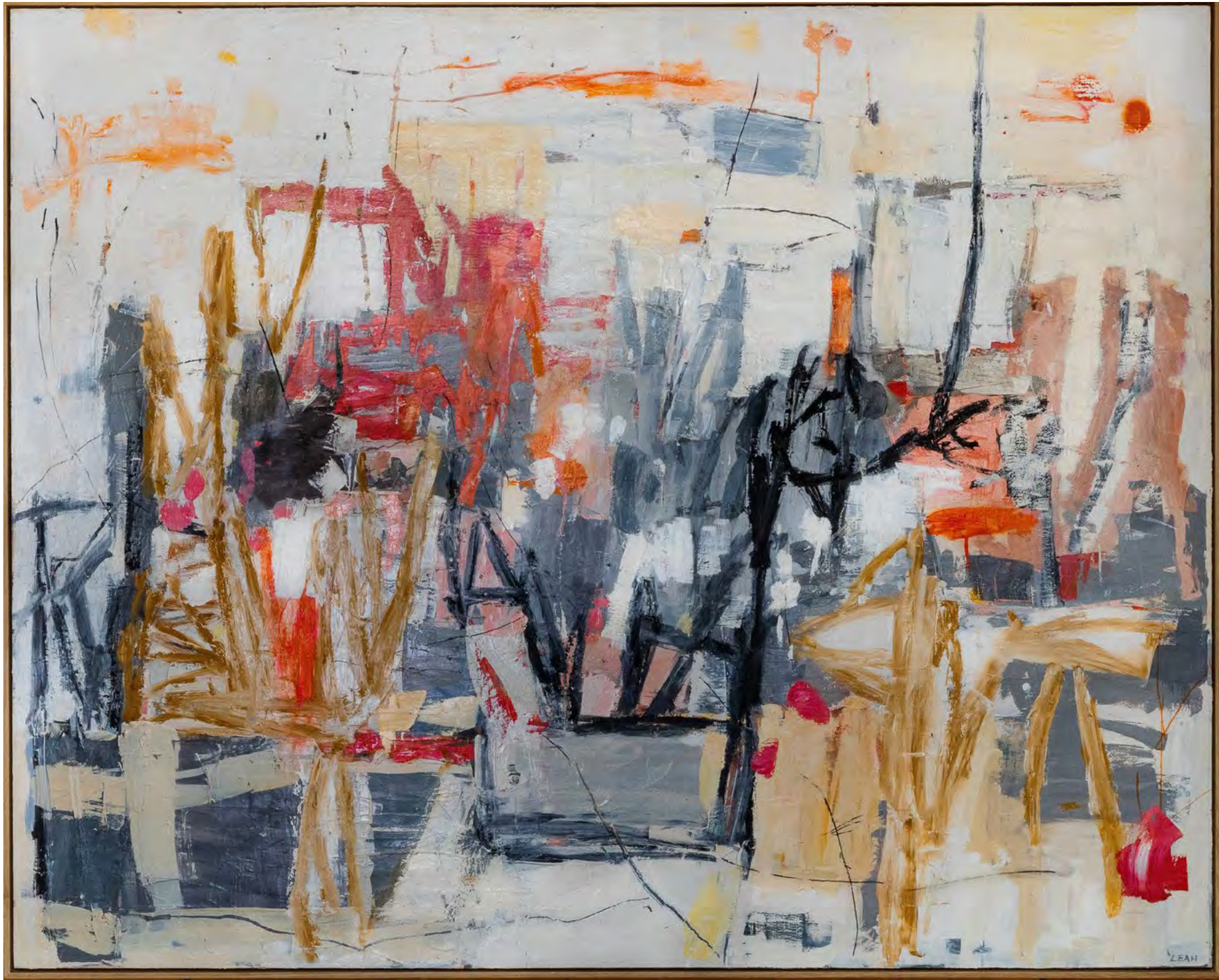






Dappled Light, 2025, oil on poly cotton, 110cm x 200cm
\$9900

to scale 3.7m wall



A Wild Place, 2025, oil on marine ply, 125cm x 155cm
\$9250

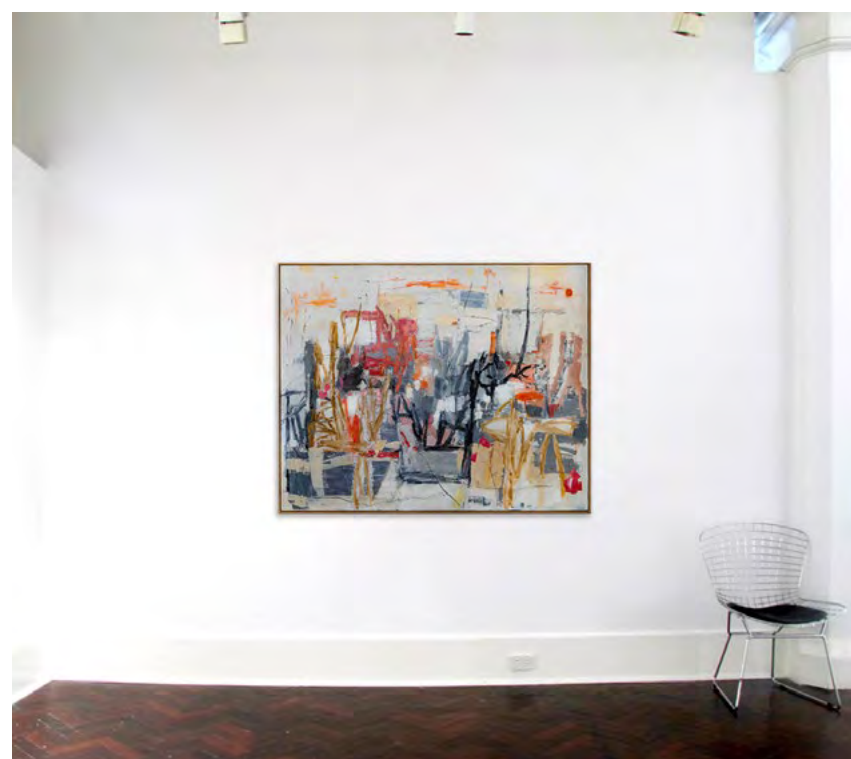




Detail

A Wild Place, 2025, oil on marine ply, 125cm x 155cm
\$9250

to scale 3.7m wall





Kiss the Moonlight, 2025, oil on marine ply, 125cm x 155cm
\$9250





Detail

Kiss the Moonlight, 2025, oil on marine ply, 125cm x 155cm
\$9250

to scale 3.7m wall





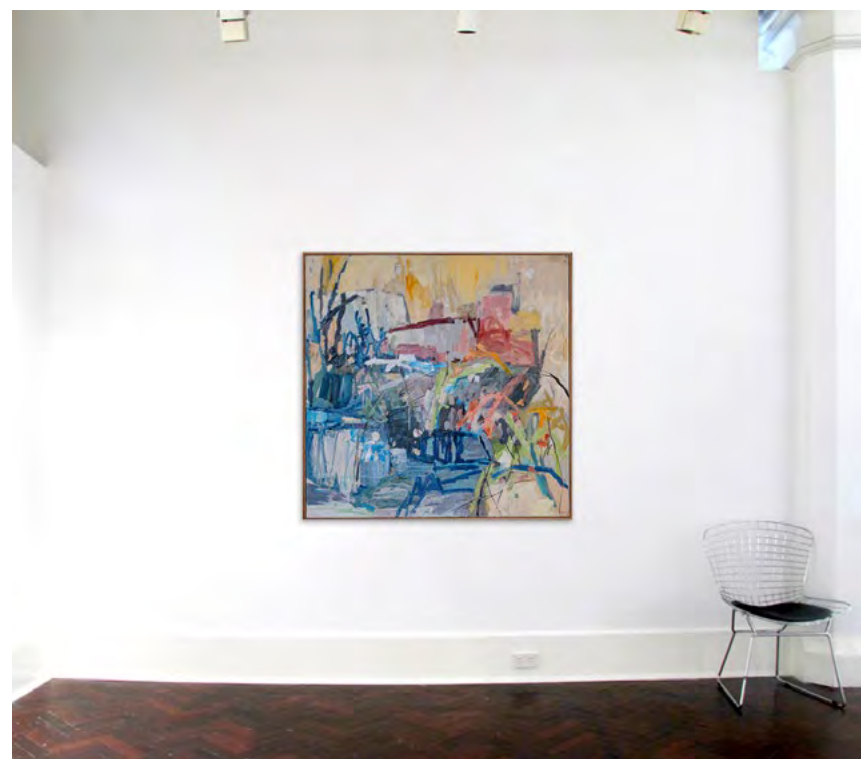
Wild Beauty 2025, oil on polycotton, 133cm x 133cm
\$8,500 AUD





Wild Beauty 2025, oil on polycotton, 133cm x 133cm
\$8,500 AUD

to scale 3.7m wall





Under the Canopy, 2025, Oil on poly cotton, 145cm x 133cm
\$9000

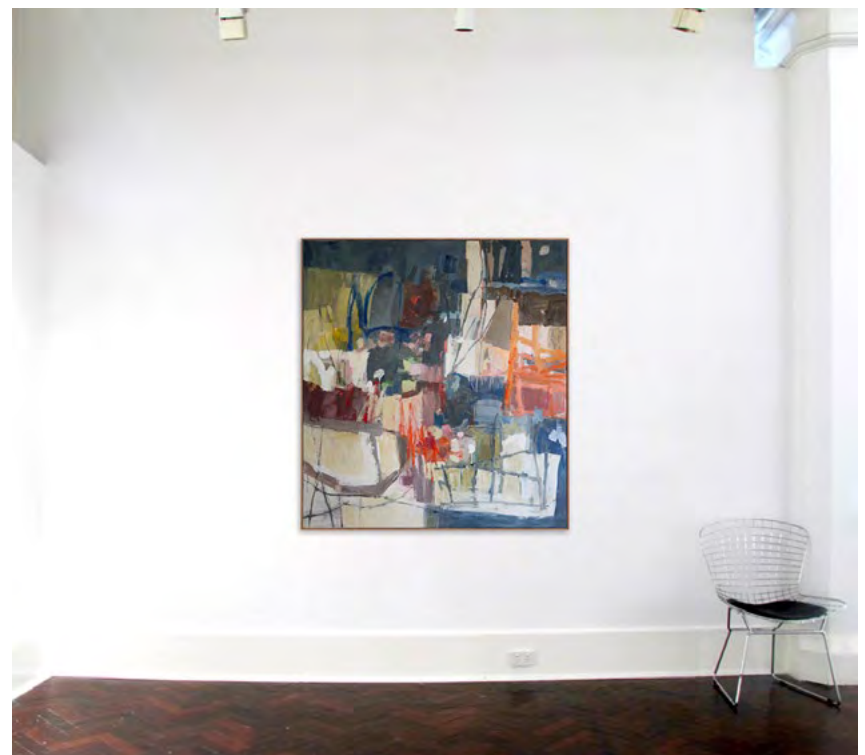




Detail

Under the Canopy, 2025, Oil on poly cotton, 145cm x 133cm
\$9000

to scale 3.7m wall





Flickering Light, 2025, oil mixed medium, 147cm x 123cm
\$8900







Detail



Flickering Light, 2025, oil mixed medium, 147cm x 123cm
\$8900

to scale 3.7m wall



Deep Meadow 2025, oil on polycotton, 133cm x 133cm
\$8,500 AUD

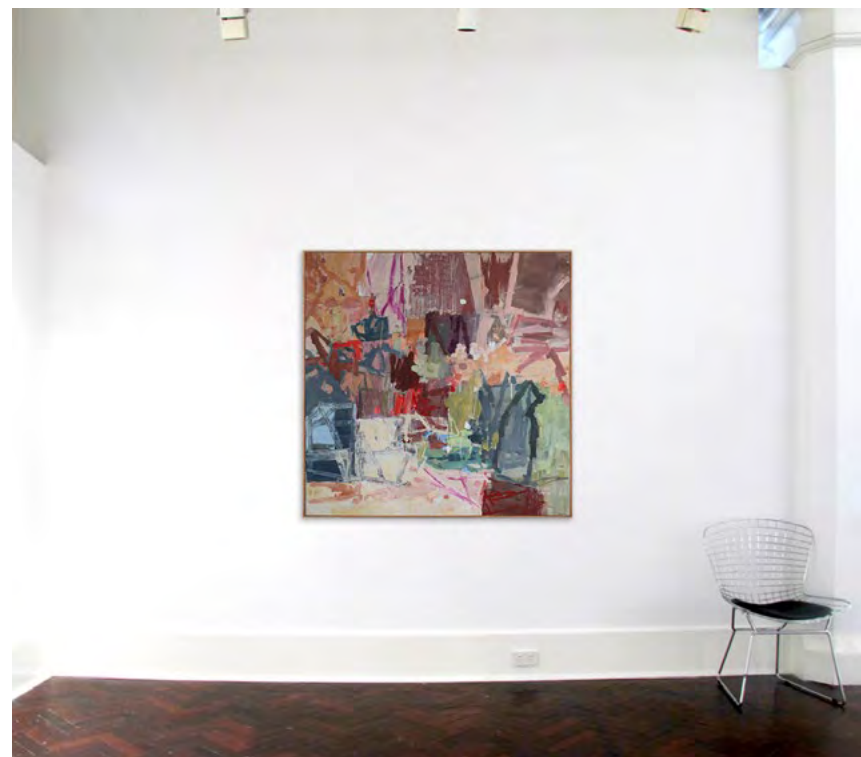




Detail

Deep Meadow 2025, oil on polycotton, 133cm x 133cm
\$8,500 AUD

to scale 3.7m wall



LEAH THIESSEN

ARTIST PROFILE:

Leah Thiessen has been exhibiting nationally since 2010. In both 2025 and 2023 she was listed in the Top 100 Collectable Artists (top100artists.com). She has been a finalist in the Lethbridge Landscape Art Prize (2024, 2022), the Omnia Art Prize (2024), the Calleen Art Award (2022, 2019, 2016, 2015), the Muswellbrook Art Prize (2021), the John Leslie Prize (2020, 2018, 2016), the Glover Prize (2020), the John Villiers Art Prize for Small Works (2020), the Clayton UTZ Art Award (2019), the Gosford Art Prize (2019), and the Paddington Art Award (2016) among others. She has exhibited nationwide since 2010. Her work is held in the Arthur & Suzie Roe Collection.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

"My work immerses itself in the emotional resonance of a landscape, capturing its memories, heartbeat, and untamed energy. Each piece serves as an intimate dialogue with the earth, embodying the unique spirit and atmosphere of a place that stirs my soul.

Drawing inspiration from the wild embrace of nature, my paintings explore the intricate tapestry of the terrain. I often begin with delicate nuances before spiraling into a whirlwind of vibrant expression.

Painting is a primal act, a visceral dance between instinct and emotion. Through dynamic brushwork and bold mark-making, I channel the very essence of a place, allowing the energy to flow onto the canvas. The journey unfolds through layering and revisiting, a transformative process that reveals the final harmony within each piece





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