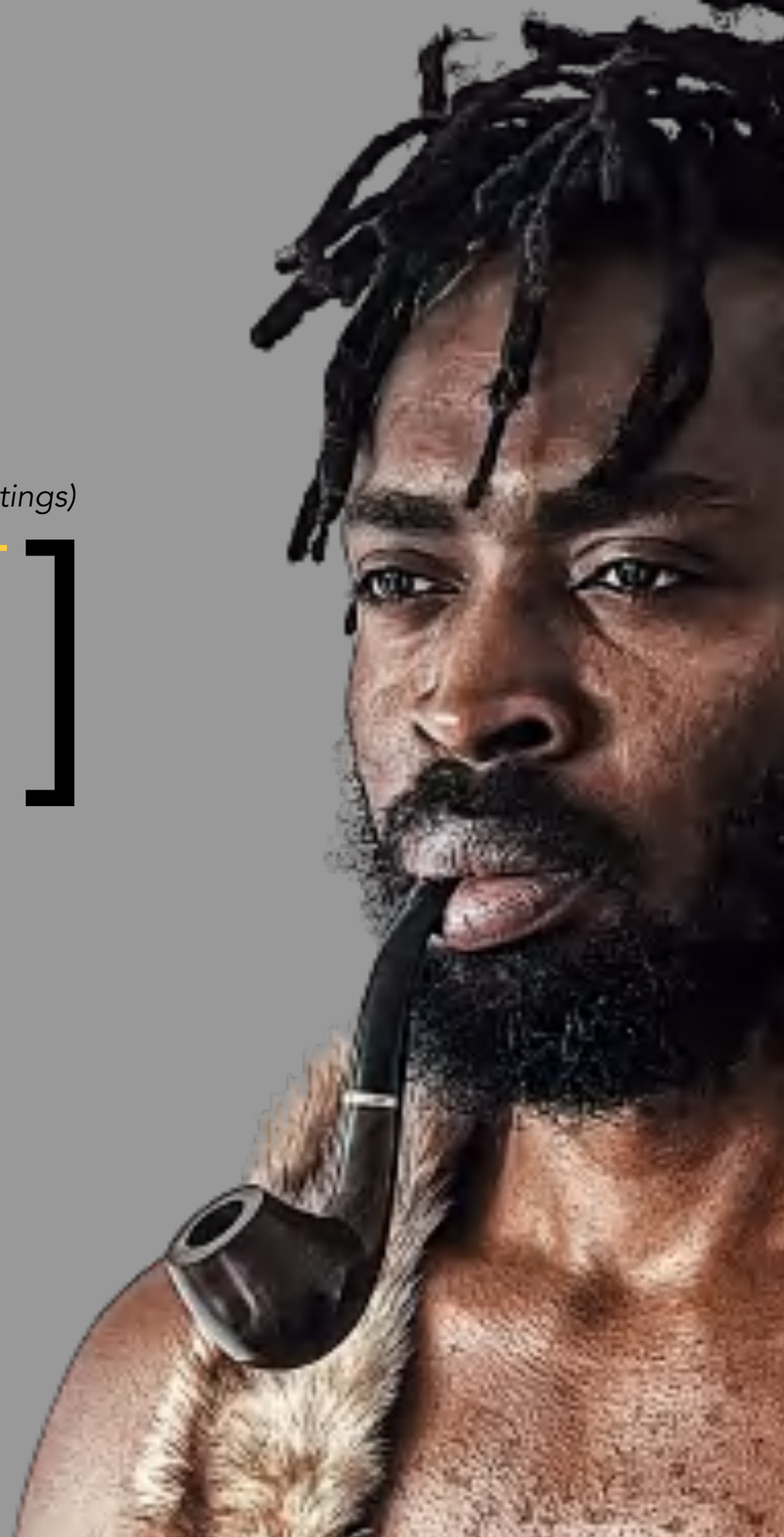


ART[IST] UNO

an artist portfolio (paintings)

January 2023



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This catalogue was created by the artist and it is updated twice annually. It is intended to inform, promote and archive paintings that have been created and shown herein.

All inquiries regarding information, media content or artworks shared herein should be forwarded directly to the artist through the contact details provided. For lease, purchase, reproduction, representation, press coverage, distribution, collaboration, exhibition participation, please contact the artist directly.

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Uyi Nosa-Odia UNO

CONTENT



INTRODUCTION

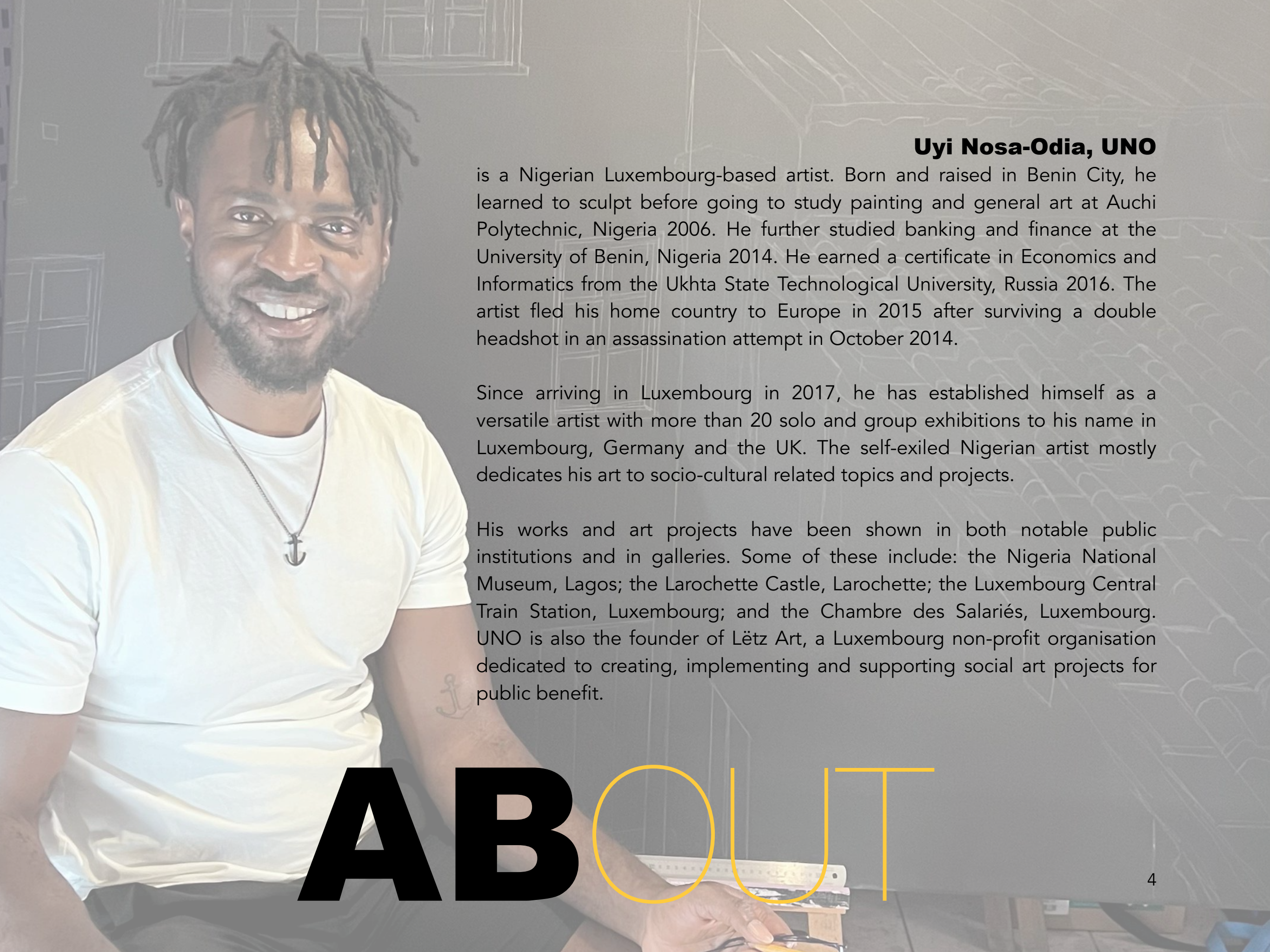
Like many artists, I started creating art from a young age. The support of family, the admiration of others, the opportunity to freely express as well as the pocket money that art earned me would encourage me as a teenager to take it more seriously.

Effectively, my professional artistic career spans almost two decades and has seen the creation of about 80 paintings and 25 sculptures. A fourth of these are in private and family collections in Nigeria. I currently retain about half of my artworks, while the remaining pieces are in private and public collections in Luxembourg, France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and Spain.

As you will discover in this catalogue, my paintings are distinctly colourful yet also *subdued*. I am of the *school of colourism, simplism, didacticism, figurative, abstract and contemporary* art. I paint unconventionally with improvised cups and bottles, often pouring and spreading paint on canvas with different levels of control. This self-developed technique results in my three ecstatically distinct groups of paintings. I paint mostly with acrylic especially since 2017.

Generally, I am inspired by my experiences, by people, events, life [and death], the world around and within me, the *past and the future*. I love stories and I enjoy telling many through colours.

INTRO



Uyi Nosa-Odia, UNO

is a Nigerian Luxembourg-based artist. Born and raised in Benin City, he learned to sculpt before going to study painting and general art at Auchi Polytechnic, Nigeria 2006. He further studied banking and finance at the University of Benin, Nigeria 2014. He earned a certificate in Economics and Informatics from the Ukhta State Technological University, Russia 2016. The artist fled his home country to Europe in 2015 after surviving a double headshot in an assassination attempt in October 2014.

Since arriving in Luxembourg in 2017, he has established himself as a versatile artist with more than 20 solo and group exhibitions to his name in Luxembourg, Germany and the UK. The self-exiled Nigerian artist mostly dedicates his art to socio-cultural related topics and projects.

His works and art projects have been shown in both notable public institutions and in galleries. Some of these include: the Nigeria National Museum, Lagos; the Larochette Castle, Larochette; the Luxembourg Central Train Station, Luxembourg; and the Chambre des Salariés, Luxembourg. UNO is also the founder of Lëtzt Art, a Luxembourg non-profit organisation dedicated to creating, implementing and supporting social art projects for public benefit.

ABOUT



The artist and his works have been the subject of more than 10 media publications including news articles, video documentary, radio interviews, TV broadcasts, audio podcasts and news blogs. Notable among them are with the Deutsch Welle (DW), Germany, RTL, Luxembourg; Tageblatt, Luxembourg; Le Quotidien, Luxembourg, The Us People Podcast, UK. ICON Magazine, US.

"I paint to play, to love and to speak. I make art to live my imaginations, curiosity, doubts and beliefs"

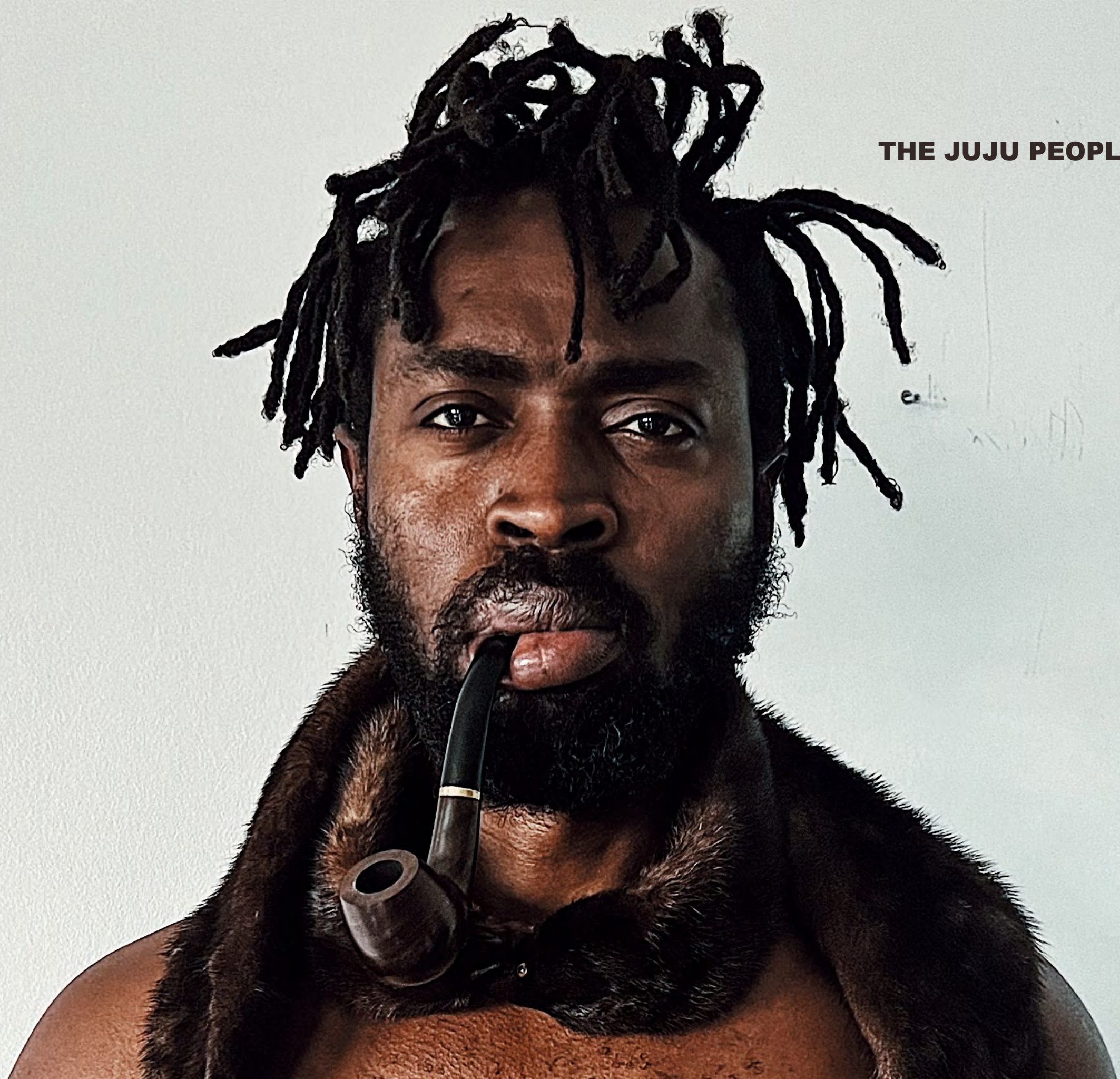
ABOUT

Besides the usual participation in thematic and open group or solo exhibitions, UNO favours creating art projects with specific themes involving the creation of bodies of artworks dedicated entirely to the given theme of the projects.

A preview of some of these projects with links to more details are provided in the following pages.

PROJECTS

THE JUJU PEOPLE





THE JUJU PEOPLE

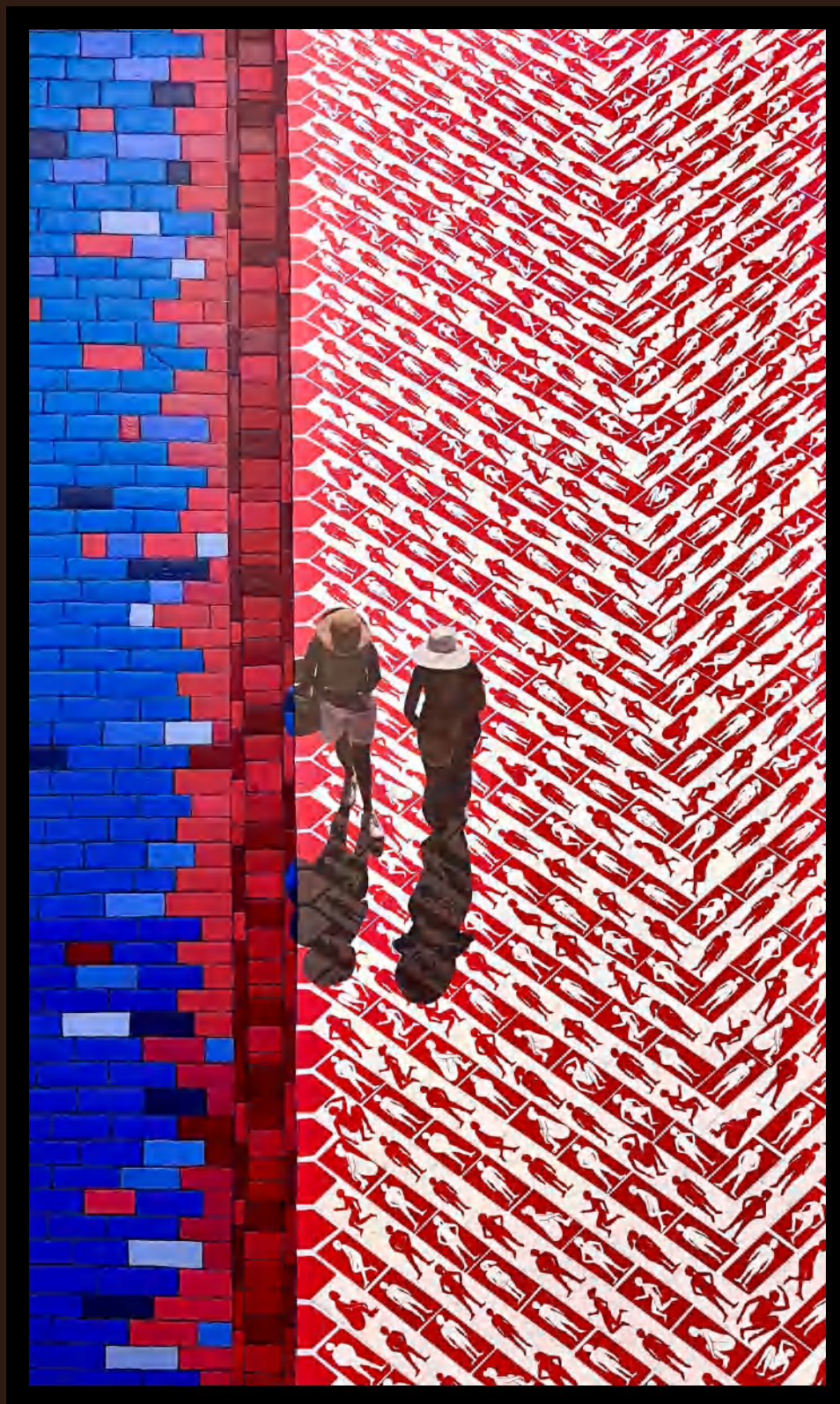
is an ongoing contemporary painting project started by UNO in 2022 consisting of the creation of several paintings from research drawn from books, artefacts, historical records and modern-day *juju* (African religious practices) in Edo State, Nigeria. Each painting is used to tell stories of different deities, gods, ancestral spirits as well as of the Benin/Edo peoples and their environment.

UNO hopes to use the project to increase awareness about topics such as identity, Africanism, religious diversity, while also offering contemporary interpretations to the thousands of Benin Bronzes in museums in Europe.

As of January 2023, one painting, *UHU* (*Head Deity*) has been completed while four are being worked on.

TABLEAUX DE FUSION





TABLEAUX DE FUSION

is a social art project created by UNO and implemented as part of the celebration of the 2022 European Capital of Culture, ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE, ESCH2022, Luxembourg's second most populated city. The project incorporated photography, digital art/design, printing and painting together on the same canvases. 17 artists of different nationalities participated in the project with at least four artists of different artistic professions creating each given artwork. 45 artworks were created and exhibited in the *Kamellebuttek Contemporary Art Gallery*, Esch-sur-Alzette with the partnership of some private and public organisations. Each artwork represented historical sites, peoples and cultural events from the 27 countries of the European Union, the 19 communities and towns of the Culture Capital and one for the international community.

Luxembourg is famous for its small but highly diverse population. The project was therefore used to highlight this while promoting artistic cooperation, cultural diversity, integration and the archiving of history through art.

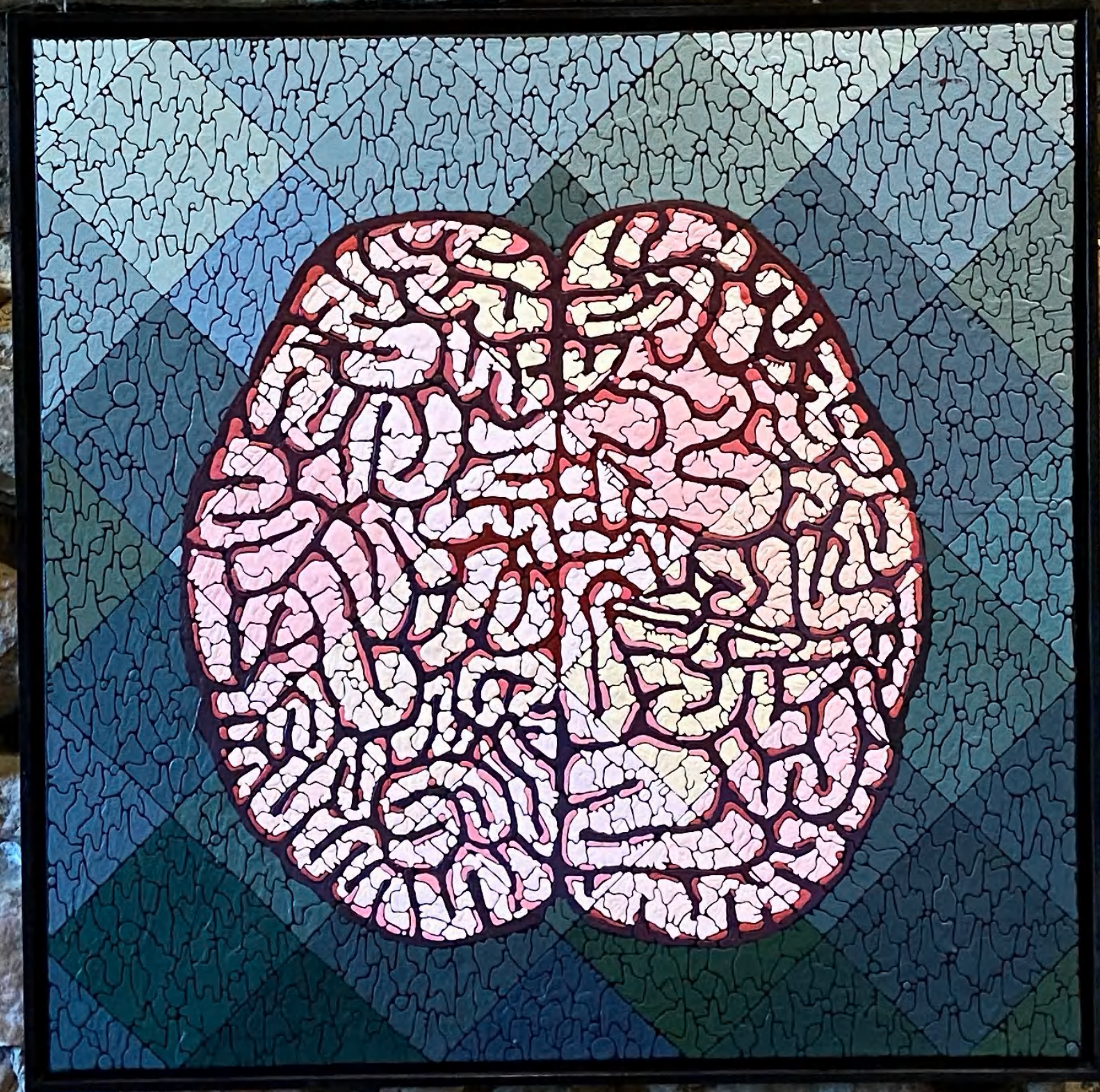
Watch the project documentary video here

<https://youtu.be/4kjH4Mz9Wi8>

Download/view project catalogue via this link:

t.ly/6W19







X-RAY

is a social art project created by UNO and implemented in 2021 in partnership with the organisations *Omega 90 ASBL*, the Ville de Larochette, *Literandra ASBL* and the Larochette Castle Museum & Monument. It involved the creation and exhibition of ten paintings and ten resin sculptures to raise awareness about mental health in young people.

The exhibition which was held in the 11th century castle was well received by many. A digital magazine titled, *DEEP* was published by *Literandra* in collaboration with the artist to document details of each artwork and the project in general.

You can download a free copy through the link below.
t.ly/Q0Qn



EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITIONS

Since graduating from art school in 2006, UNO has participated in over twenty solo and group exhibitions. Most recent among them are:

2022

- ***Jahresausstellung der Kulturwerkstatt (group)*** - TUFA, Trier, Germany. November - December
- ***Festival de Nations (group)*** - Kulturhuef, Grevenmacher, Luxembourg. October
- ***Tableaux de Fusion (collaborative)*** - Kamellebuttek Contemporary Art Gallery, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg. July - September
- ***ARTMANIF (Festival des Migrations, des Cultures et de la Citoyenneté) (group)*** - The Chambre des Salariés and the CFL Gare Centrale, Luxembourg, Luxembourg. April
- ***Nature Takes Over (group)*** - Kamellebuttek Contemporary Art Gallery, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg. March - April

- ***Art & Food (duo)*** - Yabani by Chiche!, Leudelange, Luxembourg. March - June

2021

- ***X-Ray*** - Larochette Castle Museum, Larochette, Luxembourg. August
- ***Effervescent***, Ruth Gallery, Casino 2000, Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg. April - May

2020

- ***Luxembourg Art Week (Virtual, group)*** - Luxembourg, Luxembourg. November
- ***The Beautiful Healing (solo)*** - Wortshop Gallery, Luxembourg, Luxembourg. August
- ***Never Seen Before (solo)*** - Kunsthaus Gerwert, Idar-Oberstein, Germany. June - July
- ***Emerging (Virtual, group)*** Hansford & Sons Art Gallery, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom. April

2019

- ***34. Jahresausstellung der Kulturwerkstatt*** - TUFA, Trier, Germany. November
- ***Luxembourg Art Week***. Hall Victor Hugo, Luxembourg, Luxembourg. November
- ***Hariko Art Exposition***. Lycée des Garçons Esch-sur-Alzette, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg. May

2018

- ***Jahresausstellung der Kulturwerkstatt (group)*** - TUFA, Trier, Germany. November - December
- ***Fin du Hariko (group)*** - Hariko, Bonnevoire, Luxembourg. November
- ***ONGD Anniversary (solo)*** - Centre Polyvalent A Schommesch, Niederaanven, Luxembourg. November
- ***Pieces of Us (solo)*** - Haus Omega, Hamm, Luxembourg. July - August

PRESS COVERAGE

UNO and his art have been the subject of several media publications. These include news articles, radio and TV interviews, documentary videos, magazine and catalogue publications. Below is a selection of some notable ones.

- **RTL Luxembourg** - Radio and e-News interview, 23 August 2022
- **Le Quotidien Newspaper Luxembourg** - Interview, Issue No. 159, 12 July 2022
- **ESCH2022 Gazette** - Esch-sur-Alzette, July Issue, July 2022
- **UYI NOSA-ODIA, A PORTRAIT** - a documentary film produced by the Comité de Liaison des Associations d'Etrangers CLAE asbl, 10 April 2022
- **The US People Podcast** - Podcast interview, Season 3, Episode 108, 5 April 2022
- **HeART 2 HeART Conversations** - Hello ICON Magazine, Issue No. 6, 29 November 2021
- **DEEP** - eMagazine, *Literandra* Publication, 12th August, 2021.
- **THINGS2DO** - CASINO 2000 Journal, Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, Issue No. 12 Spring/Summer, 2021.
- **Deutsch Welle DW, The 77 Percent Street Debate** - TV debate, Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany. 08 July 2021.
- **Luxemburger Wort** - Newspaper publication, Issue No. 270, Vol. 172, 19 November, 2020.
- **ARA Radio Your Art Scene with Yasemin** - Interview. 20th August, 2022
- **Zeitung gum Lëtzebuenger Vollek.** Issue No. 149, 11 August 2020
- **Tageblatt Newspaper** - Interview, Issue No. 155, Vol. 106, 22 July 2020
- **Lëtzebuenger Land Newspaper** - Culture Pop, 28 June, 2019



ARTWORKS



L.A.L.A.

2022

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 200 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

A painting with a deep secret only to be revealed to whoever owns it.

Q. What is the full name?

A. That is also a secret.



UHUN (HEAD DEITY)

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 200 cm

2022

(Available. Artist collection)

Most coveted amongst thousands of the *Benin Bronzes* are the Bronze Head(s). One was sold for £10m in 2016. This painting, first in *The Juju People* project, offers contemporary interpretations to the centuries old religious practice of the *Edo People* (formerly *Benin Kingdom*, in southern Nigeria). Practiced by millions and central to the religion is the belief that the *head* is the seat of the *Ehi* (soul/spirit) and a direct link to *ancestral spirits*. Whereas the practice is essentially the same throughout the region, objects used differ based on an individual's social ranking, family lines and community.

For this painting, earthy colours were used to capture the face. This was inspired by the predominantly reddish orange soil of the region. Whereas the background's bluish green colour is reminiscent of the verdigris patina formed on brass, bronze and copper, materials used in the *Bronze Heads*.



previous page

LE TIGRE

2020

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 160 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

The Tiger is the third painting in the endangered animal painting series. It captures the *last call* of a tiger for *help* before getting killed by poachers. The painting, like the *Rhino* and *Un Éléphant ou d'Ivoire*, were created between 2018 and 2020 as part of my support for the conservation of wildlife and nature.

next page

LA VIE (LIFE)

2019

Acrylic & oil on canvas

200 x 150 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

Every painting has a life of its own. Some take a more dramatic form than the others. *La Vie* started out as a giant still-life painting. After a salvageable accidental colour spill, I saw something different on the canvas. This is the semblance of what I saw.





previous page

SPRING

2020

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 160 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

I love walks. Never more so than during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns . The forest floor filled with blooms and blossoms. Or maybe the pandemic had forced *me* to notice this more during this unexpected break as spring renewed the land. This painting was my effort to preserve those moments spent walking or watching birds and insects in *nature*.

next page

RAIN OF COLOURS

2020

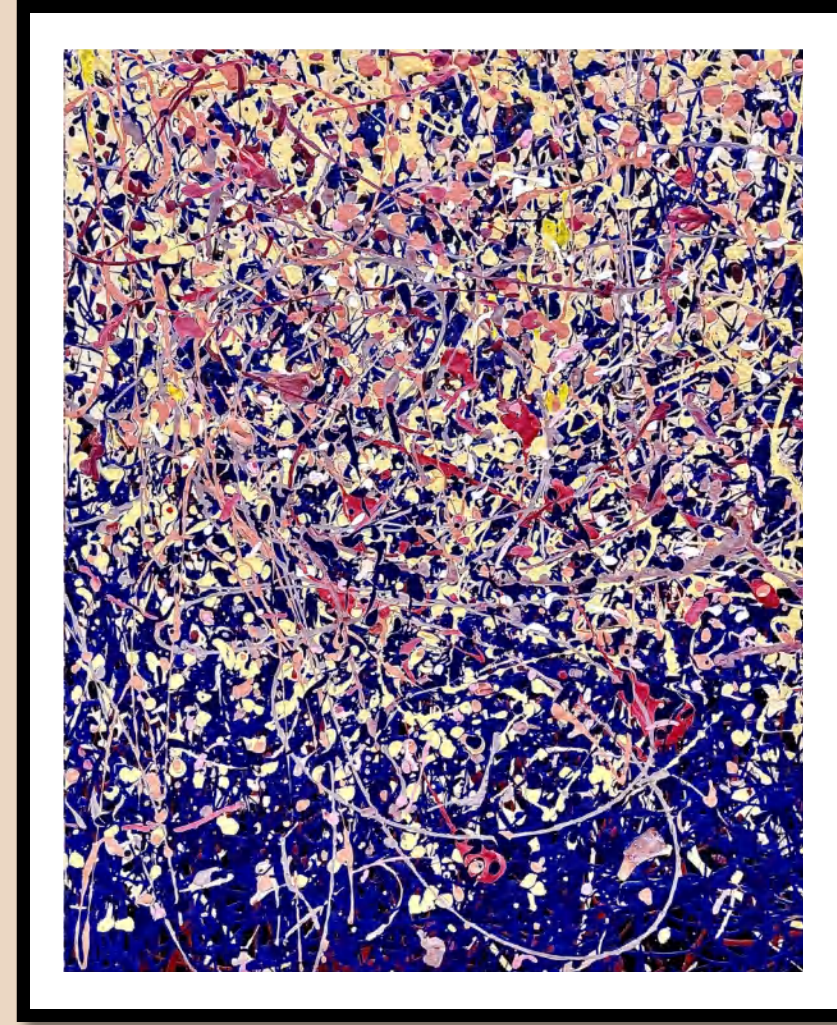
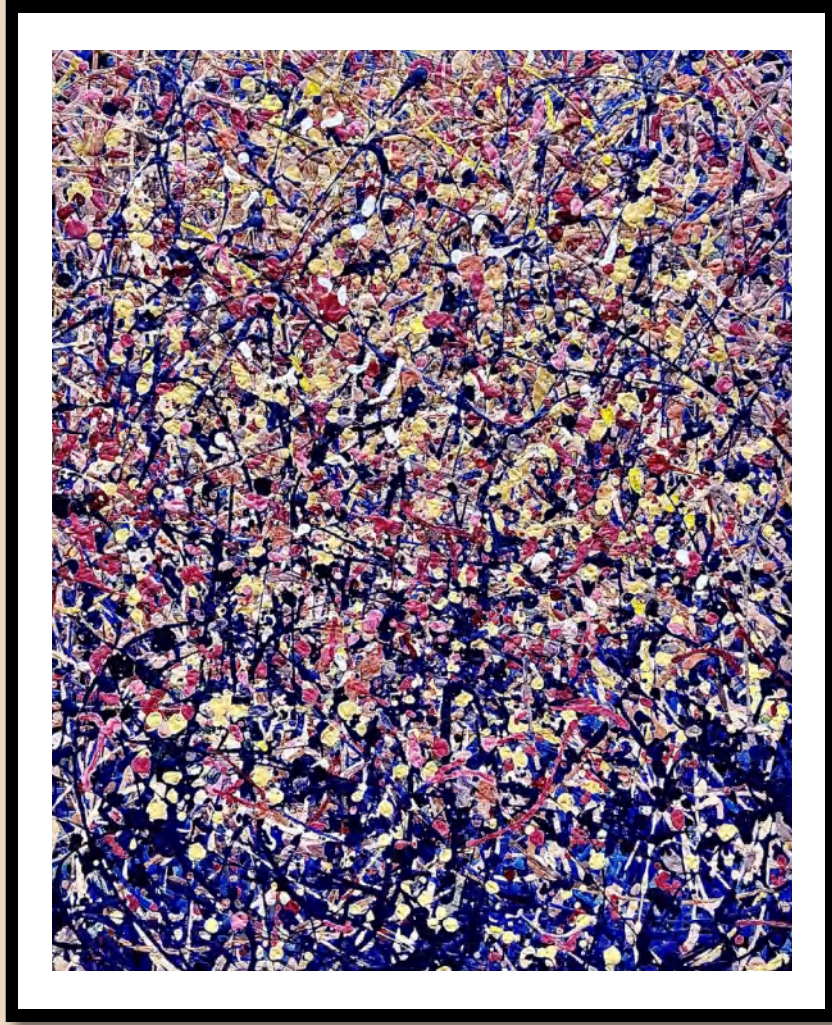
Acrylic on canvas

200 x 200 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

A part of being an artist is having wild imaginations. I imagine that one day I can make it rain colours from the sky. Until then, this painting serves the purpose for me. But I warn you, if you look closely, you might find out more about survival.





LES ÉTOILES (THE STARS)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

50 x 70 cm (*frame incl.*)

(*Available. Artist collection*)



FESTIVAL DE NATION 2022 LOGO

2022

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 80 cm

(Unavailable. Ville de Grevenmacher collection)

The painting was commissioned by the integration committee of the *Ville de Grevenmacher*, Luxembourg, to mark its annual Festival of Nations 2022 event. The original logo design was created by the committee.



UNTITLED (COMMISSIONED)

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm

2021

(Unavailable. Private collection. Luxembourg)



UNTITLED (COMMISSIONED)

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm

2021

(Unavailable. Private collection. Luxembourg)



INTERTWINED

2018

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 80 cm

(Unavailable. Private collection. Luxembourg)

A figurative abstract painting created to capture the moment lovers lock lips and become one.



previous page

LA SOCIÉTÉ II (SOCIETY II)

2018

Acrylic on canvas

200 x 100

(Unavailable. Private collection. Luxembourg)

This painting, like the first version, was created as a result of my exploration of the relationships between people living within a giving society and the world at large. As can be observed in the painting, we are all linked to the rest one way or the other. The first version is in a private collection in Spain.

next page

DREAM

2021

Acrylic on canvas

70 x 70 cm

Part of X-RAY PROJECT

(Unavailable. Private collection. Luxembourg)

Most parents have great hopes for their young children. But who can determine the future? A father said to his young son, "dream son, dream!". But the child died before his 12th birthday.





page before

THE FAMILY CIRCLE

2018

Acrylic on canvas

200 x 100

(Unavailable. Private collection. Luxembourg)

This is an abstract family portrait. The painting comprises of two large circles (representing couples) fused together to create a middle circle (representing children). The painting highlights family values while emphasising the importance of parenting.

next page

LA FEMME III (THE WOMAN III)

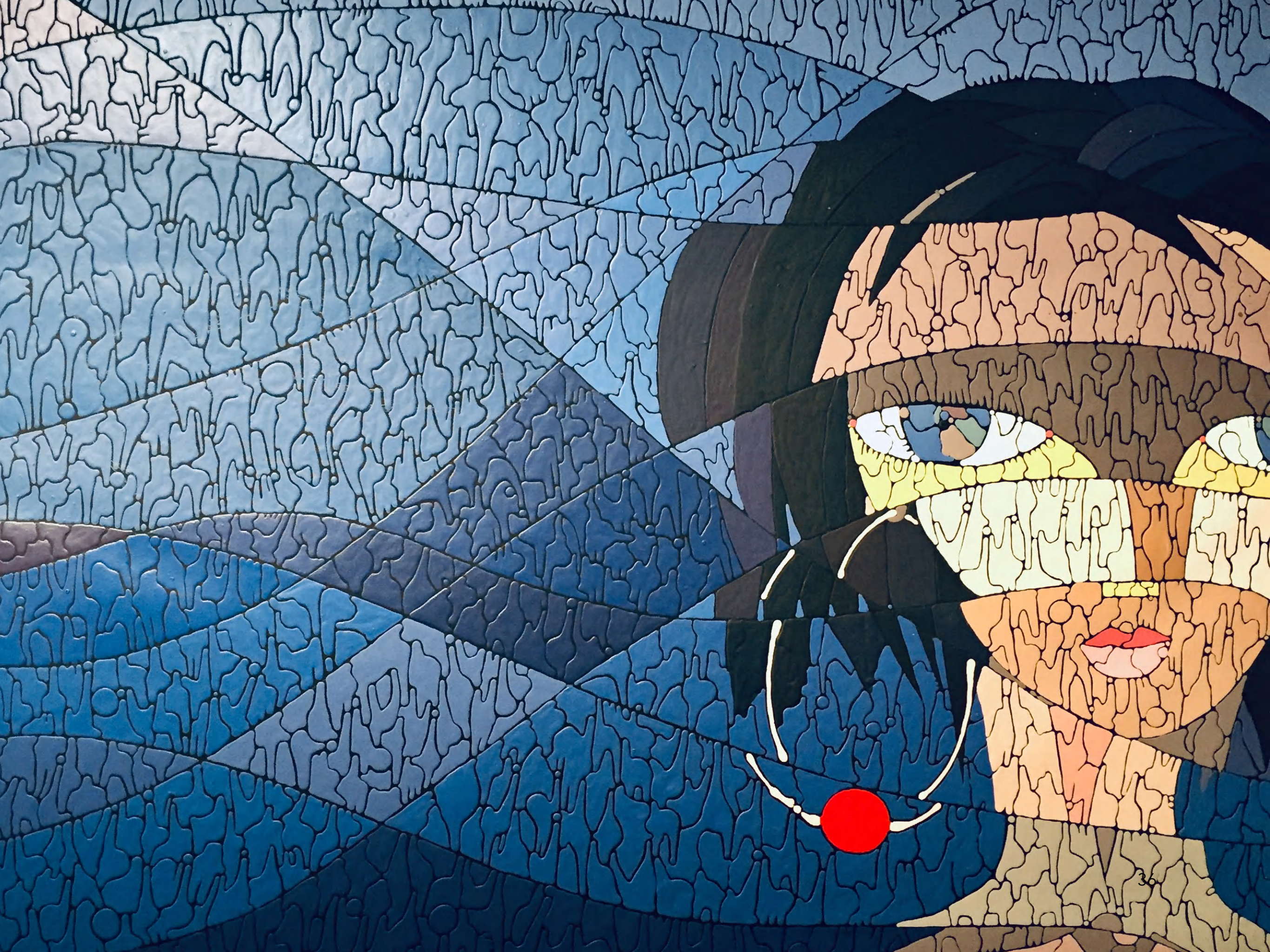
2019

Acrylic on canvas

160 x 120 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

Third in a series of abstract portrait paintings of women, the series spotlights similarities in struggles that women face worldwide. Five paintings of different sizes, colour schemes and models were created for the *La Femme* series between 2018 and 2020. Three are in private collections in Luxembourg and Germany while two remain in the artist's private collection. In this version, the model is placed on the side of the canvas. This implies the often second place women occupy in societies.





page before

AMÈ (WATER)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

110 x 80 cm

Part of X-RAY project

(Available. Artist collection)

A man lost his dog, his house, his wife and his children to a great flood. While he despairs and grieves, he notices that he's very thirsty and quenched his thirst with a full jug of cold water.

Water kills, water we must drink.

- An Edo folklore.

next page

LE MAÇON (THE BUILDER)

2018

Acrylic on canvas

200 x 200 cm

(Available. Private collection. Luxembourg)

First, he builds himself. Then his family. *He* is the society. The painting represents UNO's convictions that the strengthening of the family unit, starting from oneself, invariably builds society.





ADAM

2019

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 80

(Available. Artist collection)

Adam was a human. Neither white, brown
or black. Neither man nor woman.



page before

**UN ÉLÉPHANT OU D'VOIRE?
(AN ELEPHANT OR IVORY?)**

2018

Acrylic on canvas

145 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

This is the first in a series of three endangered animal paintings of an elephant, a rhino and a tiger. We may have gone to the moon and travelled around the world in a day, but we still hunt elephants and rhinos for their ivory tusks, sharks for their fin and tigers for their bones and teeth. What an irony, right?

next page

RHINO II

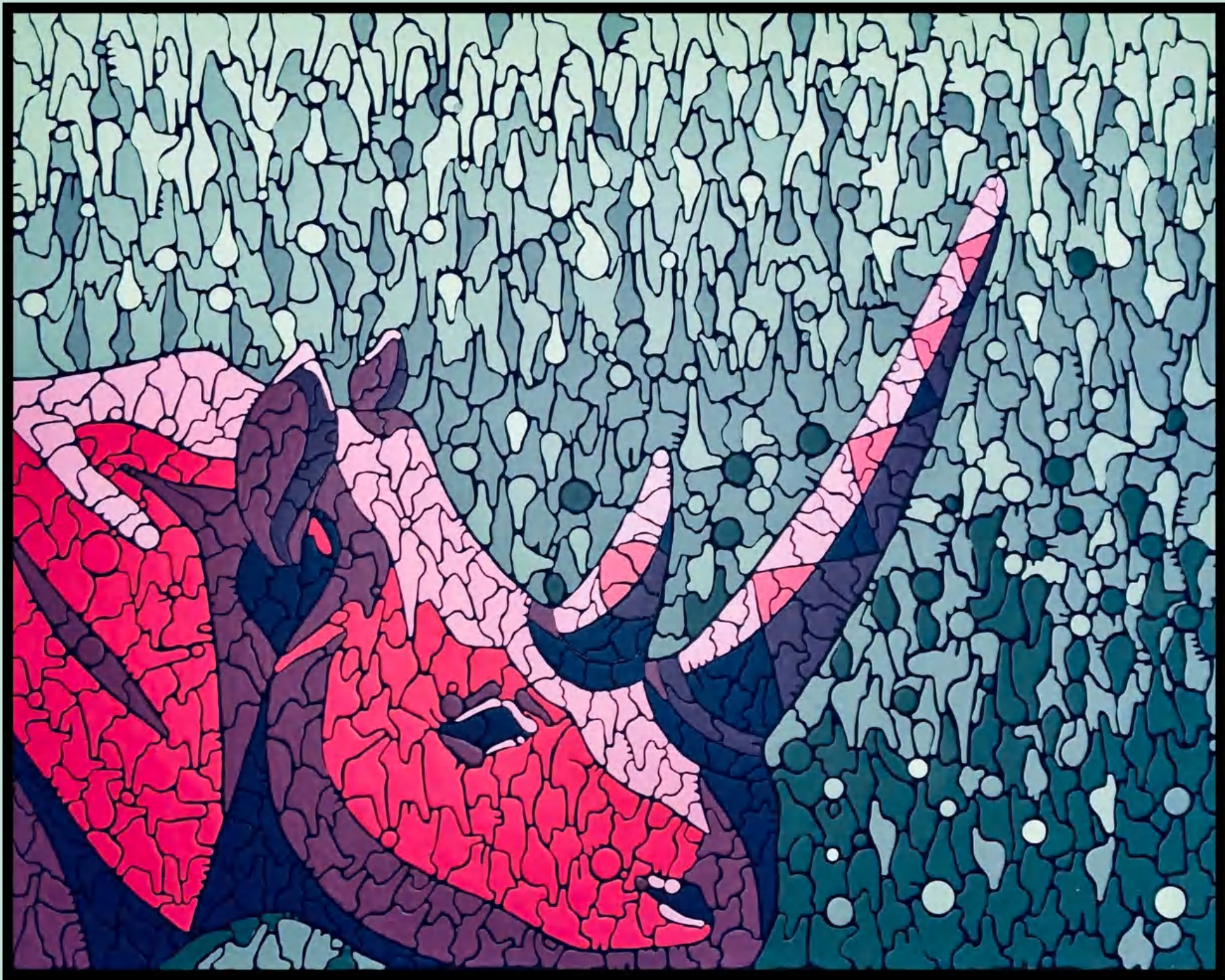
2020

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 80 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

The painting is the second version to be created by the artist as part of the series of three endangered animal paintings. The first, *Rhino I*, was collected by the *Commune de Niederaanven* in 2018.





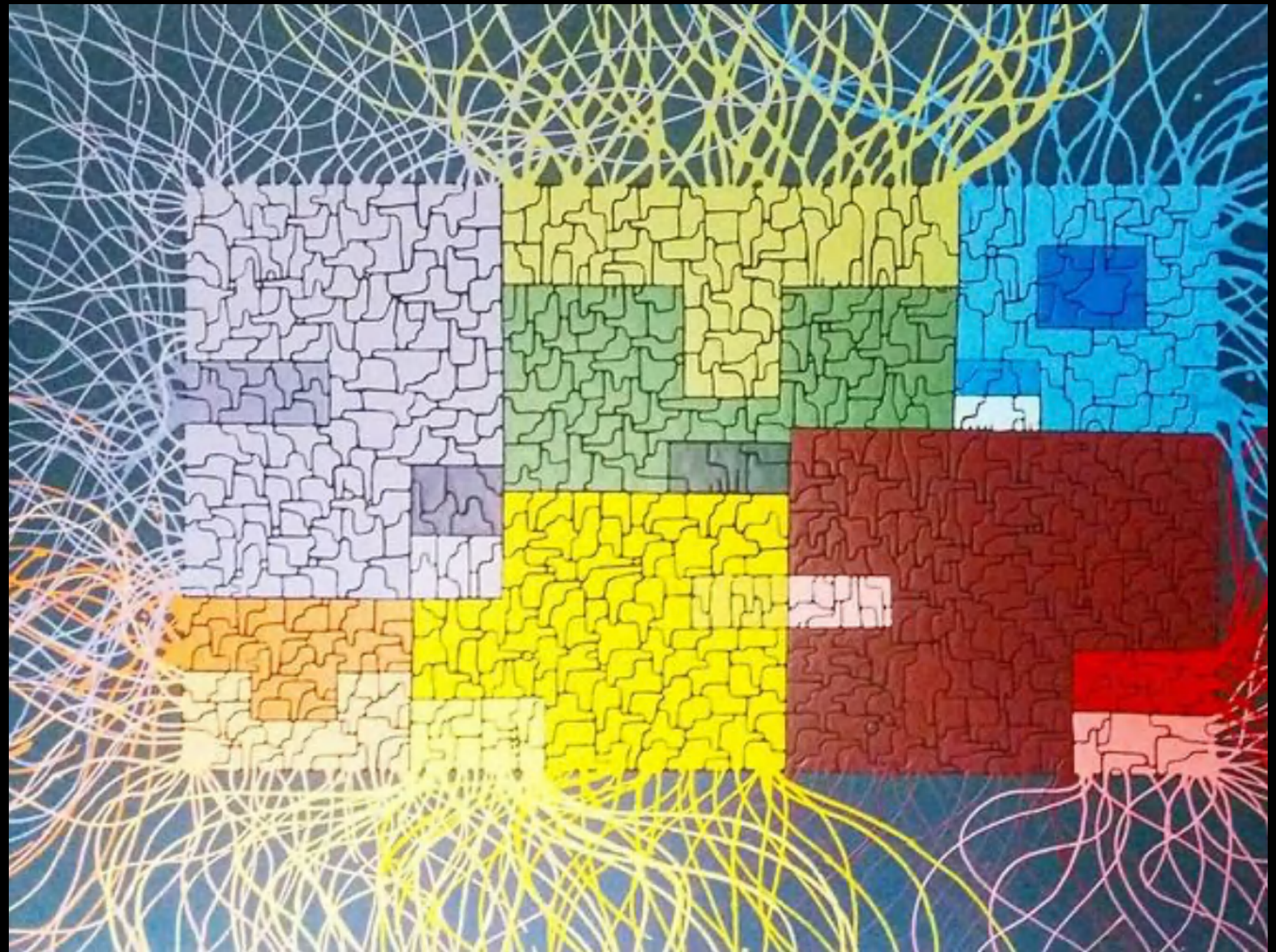
REFLECTION

2018

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 80

(Unavailable . Private collection. Luxembourg)



page before

THE BOXED LIFE

2018

Acrylic on canvas

145 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

In 2018 when I created the painting, I had lived in about five cities in Europe in only three years. There was a similarity in how people lived in all these cities and towns which was in stark contrast to societies in Nigeria — the individualistic approach to life.

next page

CONTENTMENT

2018

Acrylic on canvas

145 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

The painting was created less than a year after arriving in Luxembourg as a reminder that being contented with my *situation*, regardless, was non-negotiable.





page before

LA FAMILLE (THE FAMILY)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

Family sucks

Family hurts

Family talks

No matter what

Family is all

next page

DEMAIN (TOMORROW)

2018

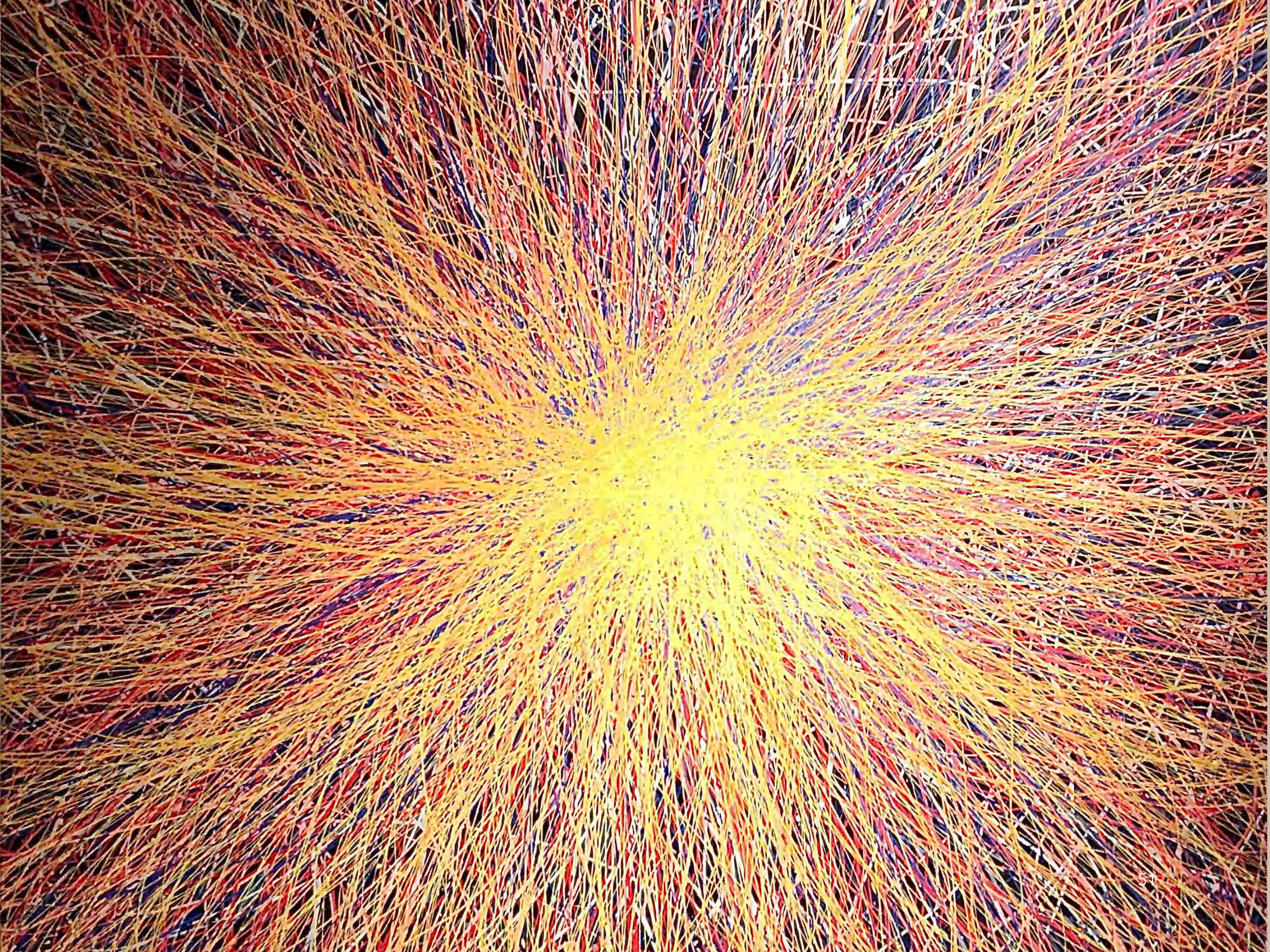
Acrylic on canvas

145 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)

We have come so far from the moment of our birth. The walk of life that started with a single step. The painting was used as a self reminder that however big a dream might be, it is only achievable if one can begin with baby steps.





previous page

IN THE BEGINNING

2019

Acrylic on canvas

200X160CM

(Available. Artist collection)

Many many years ago, colours would fill my eyes and my head until I slipped into unconsciousness in a sea in the clouds.

Many years ago, I learned about malaria induced hallucination in children.

Some years ago, I started remembering those dreams

The painting like the others of its kind is part of a series inspired by childhood memories of hallucinations.

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UNTITLED

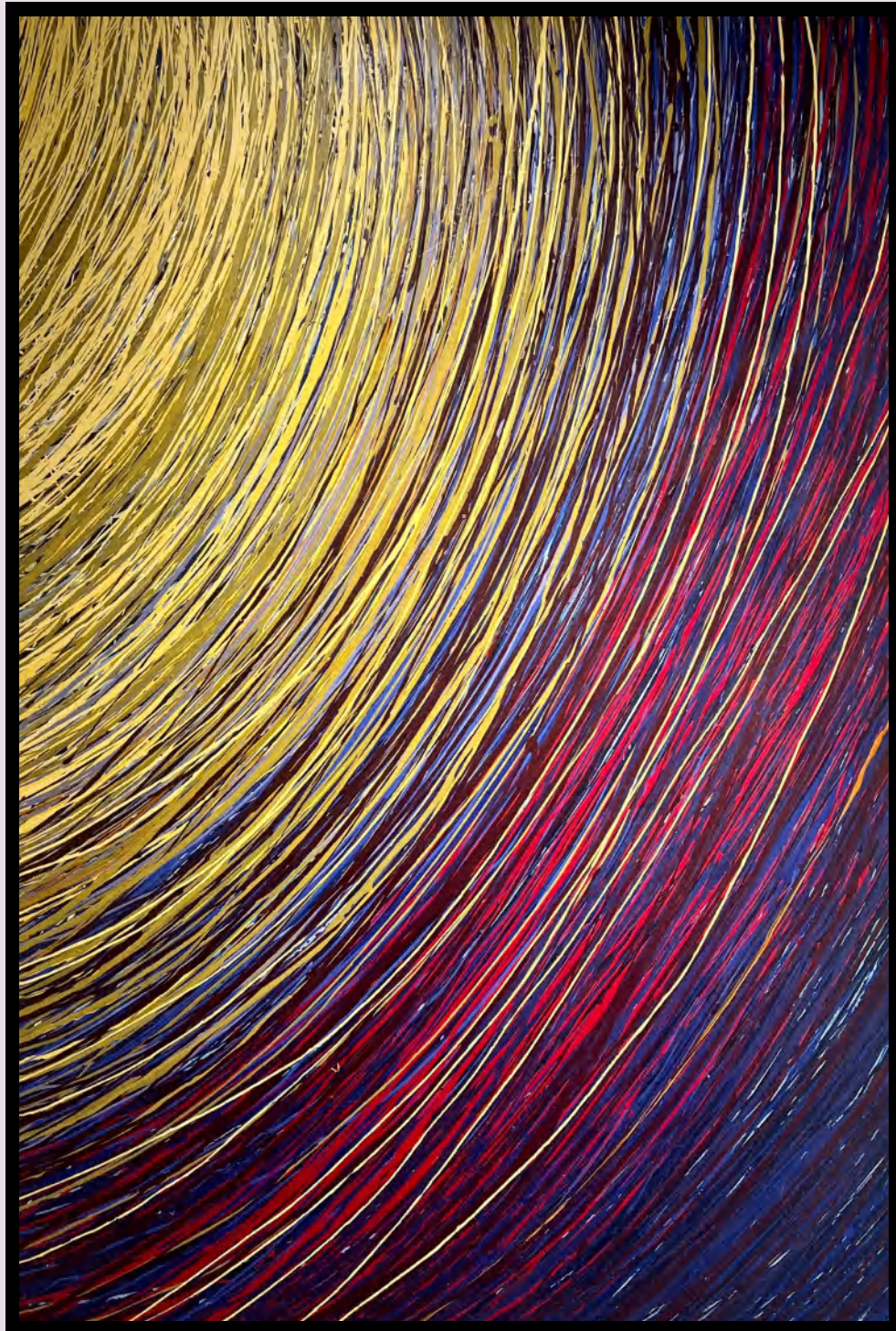
2022

Acrylic on canvas

200 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)





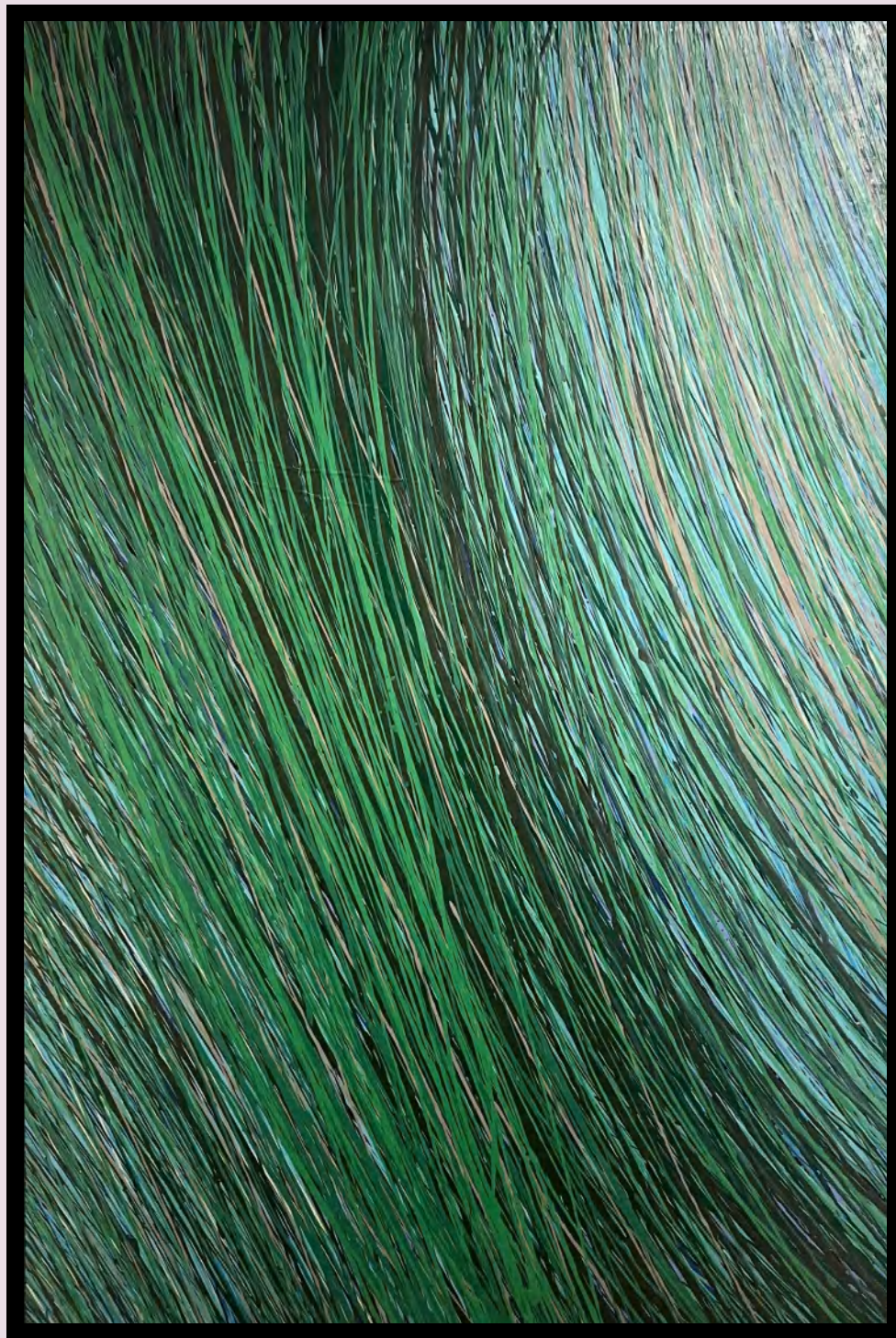
ENDLESSNESS

2022

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 100 cm

(Available. Artist collection)



GRASSES

2022

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 100 cm

(Unavailable. Private collection. Netherlands)

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