

An abstract painting with a complex composition. It features a large, light green, curved shape on the left side, resembling a stylized figure or a large letter. To its right, there's a large, red, curved shape with a prominent red circle in the center, also resembling a stylized figure or a large letter. The background is a mix of yellow, orange, and green, with various brushstrokes and textures. The overall style is expressive and modern.

For One Left Dreaming

A tribute exhibition honoring the life and art of
HARRIET YALE RUSSELL

1939 - 2023

PUBLICATION BY:

® **EVOKE**
CONTEMPORARY



As a child, Harriet Yale Russell sat with her mother the painter, watching with fascination as she brushed watercolors across flat surfaces to make pictures. Soon, young Harriet took up her own brush and began to paint alongside her mother. To Harriet, painting was the most natural act in the world. “I was born to it,” she says. “I thought that’s what we were supposed to do.” What the budding artist saw on the outside inspired her, but what she felt on the inside moved her, and continues to drive her today. The innate desire to create, to explore intangible feelings through tangible means, and to realize complex visions and dreams in two dimensions are the guideposts that loosely delineate Harriet Yale Russell’s work as an artist. Not satisfied by any one composition or series of paintings, Russell reveled in the mystery and adventure of art making. Accepting the fact that she never quite knew where any one piece would take her, Russell found the process of discovery to be the motivating force behind her work—its *raison d’être*. “I think it’s the wonder of it, that you don’t know what you’re doing,” she says. Her thrill existed in continually searching for the right shape or color or combination thereof, and then in the momentary satisfaction as they coalesced in a visually and emotionally engaging manner.

Born and raised in Rochester, New York, Russell attended Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire, where she earned a liberal arts degree. Though affection for fine art had pervaded her life to that point, Russell committed in earnest to her professional path in 1960 when she enrolled in the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. “I thought I had arrived in Heaven,” she says of her arrival there, where she immediately fell in love, surrounded by art, classical music, and the unabashed spirit of making art for the sake of art. She earned a diploma with

distinction from the Museum School, and would continue to teach there for another ten years.

Russell spent the following two decades teaching, painting, and showing her work throughout New Hampshire, where she had moved, and also in New York, Boston, and at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. Eventually, she decided to expand her formal training and her geographic paradigm, and enrolled in the San Francisco Art Institute, where she earned her MFA in 1994. Soon after, she relocated once again, this time to New Mexico, where she lived the remainder of her life.

“Life goes on, and certain things stick out and inspire you,” says Russell. Frequently garnering subject matter from an ongoing narrative in her head—both waking thoughts and dreams—she also responded to her surroundings. Her work, in turn, became the physical representation of what she saw or experienced or wondered. It contains unique, nonrepresentational subject matter, which is at once personal to her and universal to viewers. Likewise, Russell’s paintings are informed by her strong sense of design, rooted in traditional aesthetic principles.

Russell has always painted in a nonrepresentational style that both examines and celebrates relationships between formal elements on the X, Y, and Z axes. Shapes emerge and recede, collide and disengage, not simply across a singular surface, but among the many levels assembled, disassembled, and ultimately revealed within the picture plane. As such, she created a micro-universe of infinite possibilities.

Further, Russell’s paintings address the dissection of her thoughts in layers of pigment and marks that also denote strata of reality in a world all their own. Each layer is a window into another. Compositional segments are disparate yet cohesive, not unlike variable regions on a map that come together to create a unified whole.

Russell’s numerous art-world influences include the work of Richard Diebenkorn and William Kentridge, in addition to the richly colored miniature manuscript paintings of India. The India manuscripts, in particular, have inspired her continued exploration of lush, vibrant color. “I’m interested in potency,” says the artist of her color surveys, which run the gamut from a collection of bold hues to a more limited palette.

Russell maintained hands-on contact with her medium at every stage of the creative process, even making her own paint. When it was time to work, she often began painting directly on the canvas without any preliminary work. This approach preserves a

sense of spontaneity, while also allowing the artist to explore her vision freely—or be led by the paint as she applies it. “You either tell the painting where it’s going, or it tells you,” she says.

Russell, who refers to herself as “a drawer,” placed paramount importance on the act of mark making and her physical connection with the materials she used. She considered her marks not only visual articulations, but also physical elements that encompass all of history, carrying on the lineage of humans’ ancient need to draw—as a means to record and preserve, as well as a fundamental mode of expression. “The whole idea of mark making is so deep in the human race,” says Russell, as she strives to communicate via the pure physicality of her medium.

The concept of excavation looms large in Russell’s work as it relates to the many layers of pigment entwined on the canvas, as well as to the layers of history present in her actions. Russell loved to manipulate pigments (sometimes infused with cold wax), building them up and scraping back through to reveal a glimpse of what exists underneath.

Russell embraced the essential, timeless qualities of total abstraction contained within the formal elements from which she derived visual matter, even as she infused her paintings with the deep, internal feeling that propelled her to pick up a paintbrush

in the first place. “Ideally, I would like people who look at the painting to feel the emotion that went into the painting. I feel like that’s the artist’s mission,” says the artist, at the same time recognizing that viewers bring their own set of memories and experiences whenever they look at a piece of art. In this vein, Russell’s work emerges as a distinctive but universal aesthetic, void of geographic or personal reference, and capable of engaging on a visual as well as emotional level—perhaps inspiring introspection.

Russell’s artwork unequivocally reveals the human urge to create, to use visual means to attempt to understand the maelstrom of emotions constantly swirling around in our heads. It substantiates the desire at the core of humanity to make something that defines us as individuals, but also becomes something astounding for those on the outside.

“I think the gift is the curiosity,” Russell says of her art practice. More than a pursuit, it is the path that chose her, and one that she has followed with abandon for the span of her lifetime. It is a noble endeavor that defines her just as she defines it. “I’m basically looking for shapes,” she says, summing up a lifetime of looking and making and discovering. “I’m still looking for my shapes, and I will do that forever.”

Elizabeth Delaney



Cover: *For One Left Dreaming*, 2019, oil on panel, 24" x 23.75".





Infinite Possibilities | Dreaming in Color



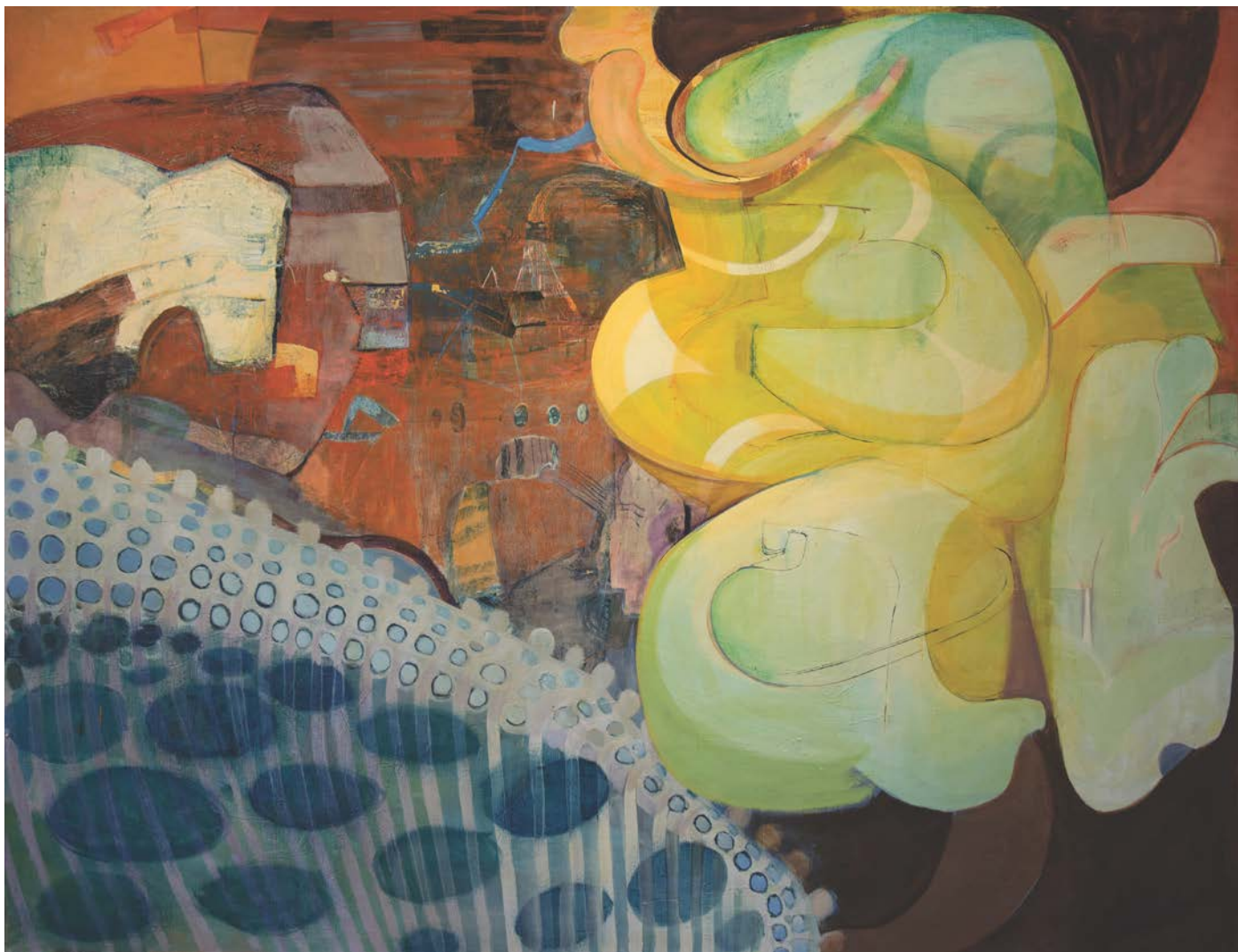


Monadock, 2013
oil and wax on panel, 24" x 30", no.70
\$3,500.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

* Please include title of work you are inquiring about





Nemba, 2006
oil on canvas, 60" x 78"
\$9,600.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

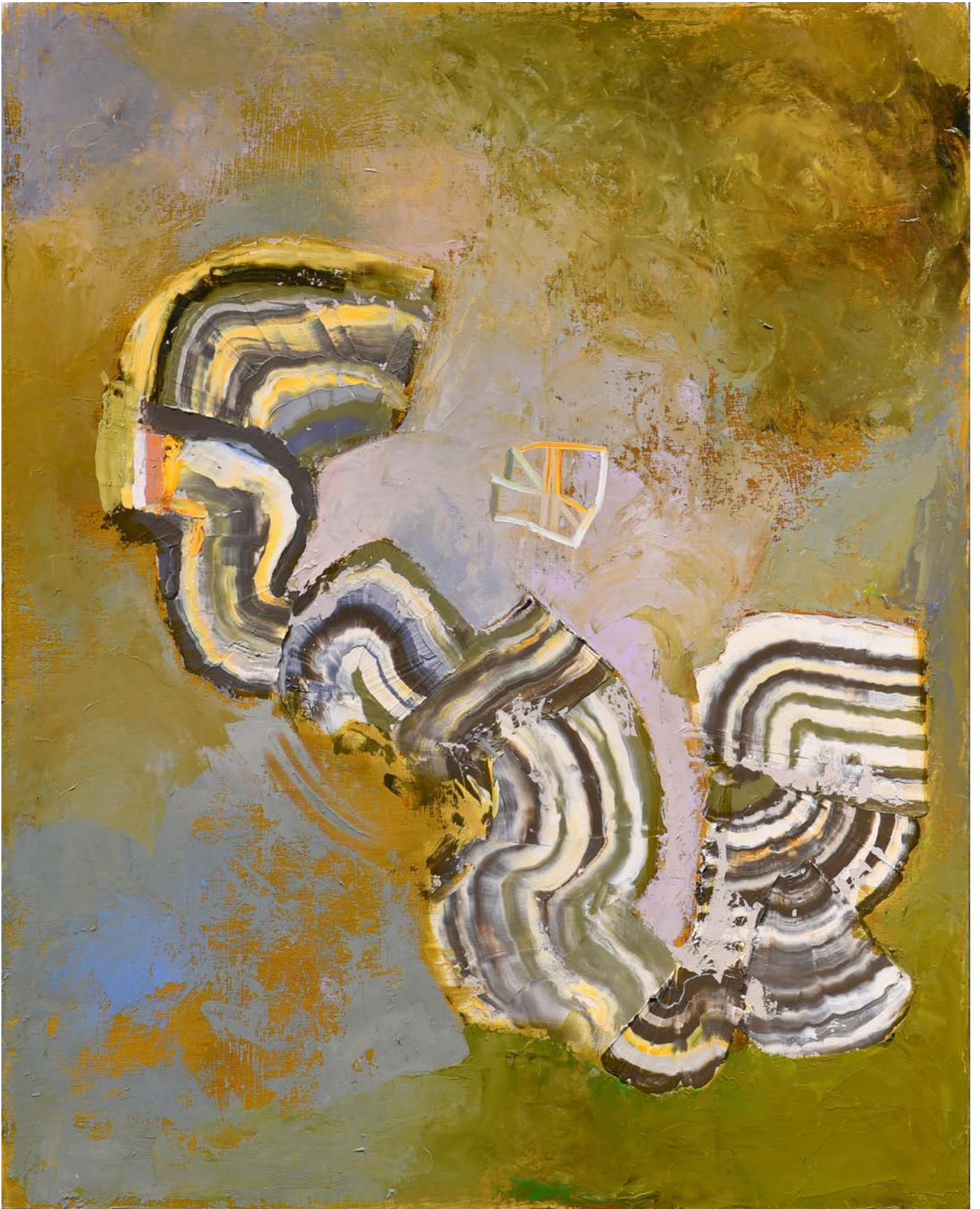
** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

For One Left Dreaming, 2019
oil on panel, 24" x 23.75"
\$2,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Loose Ends, 2019
oil on panel, 20" x 16"
\$1,900.

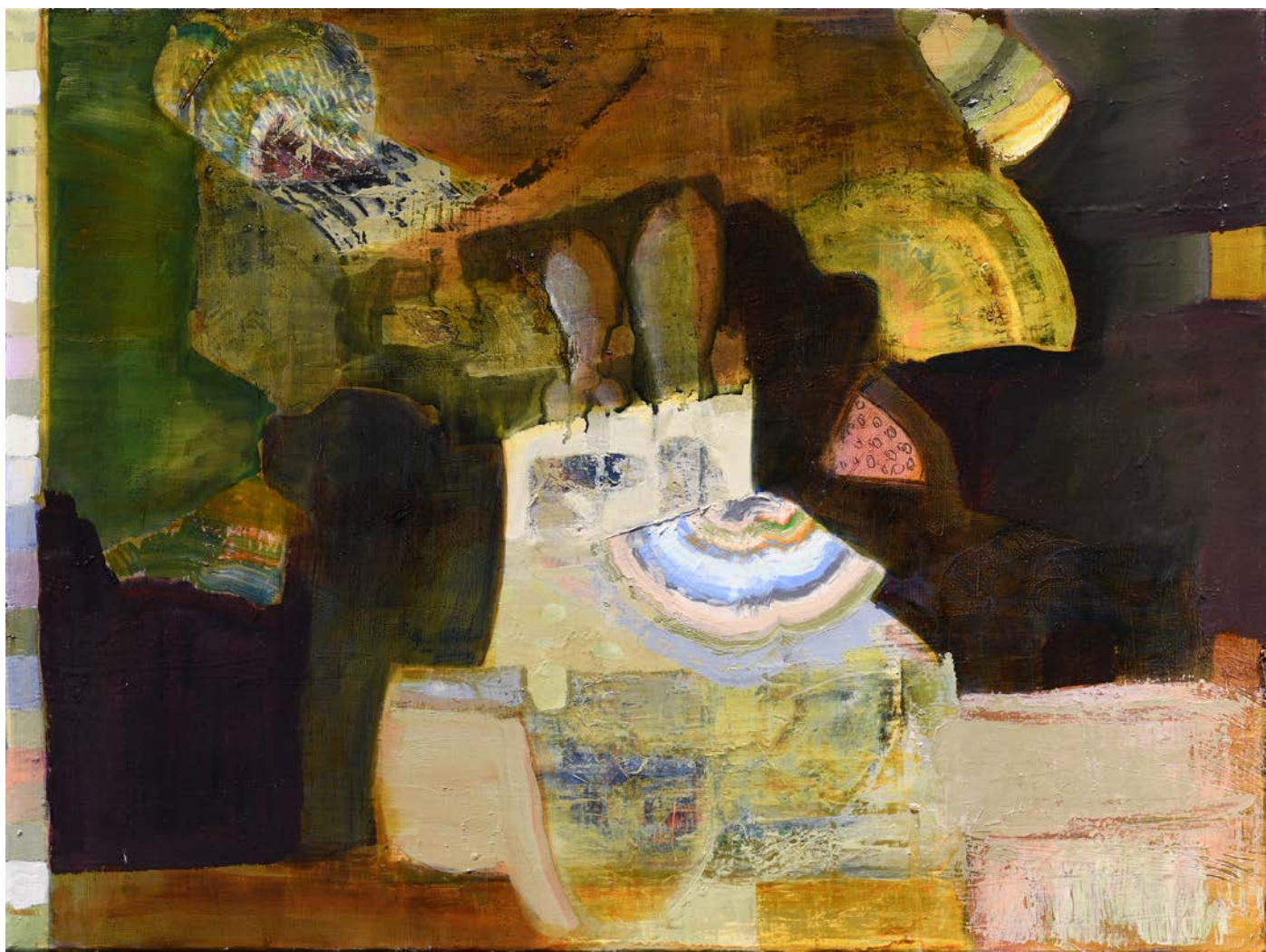
For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

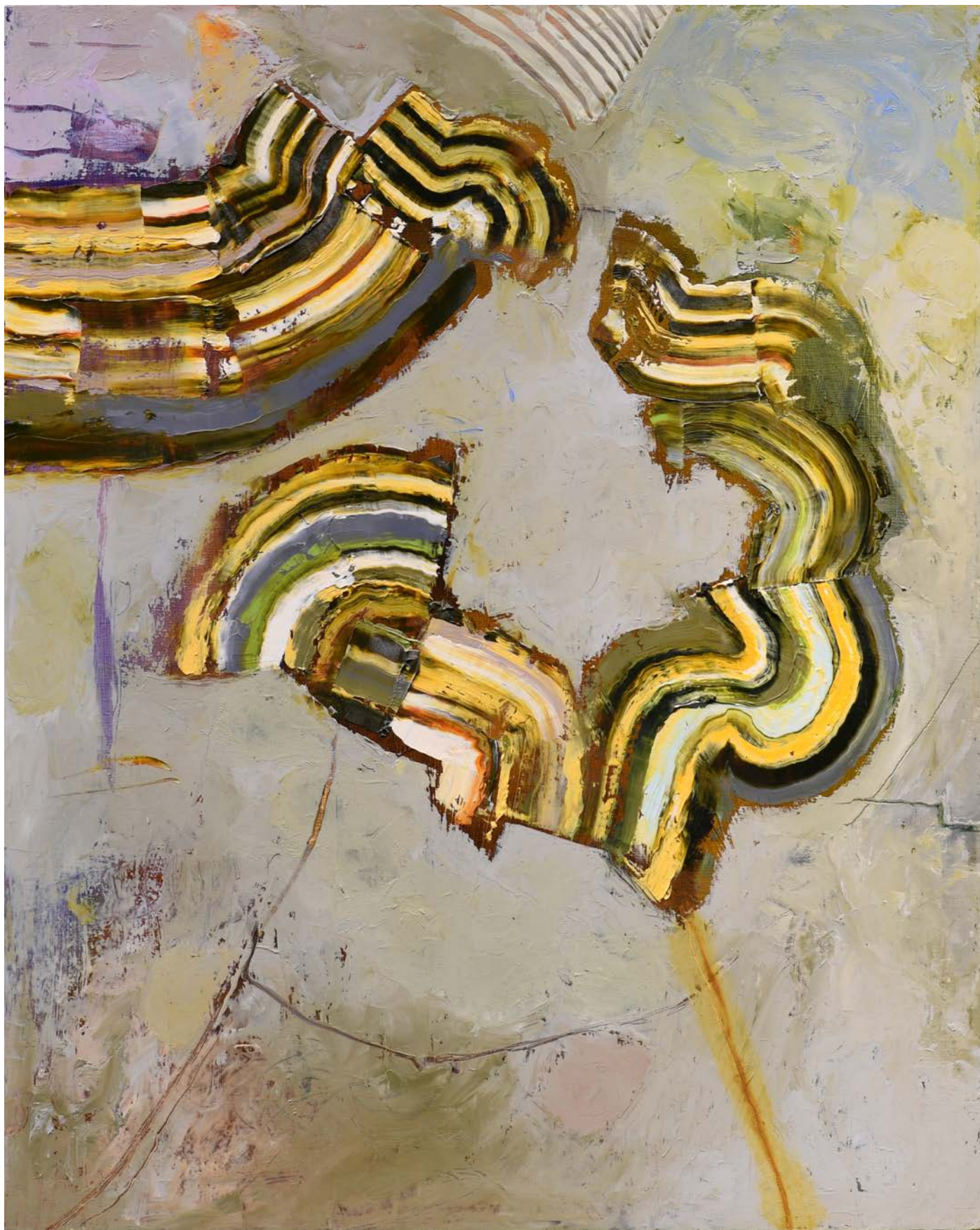
** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Landed, 2019
oil on panel, 20" x 16"
\$1,900.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Fragments from the Sky, 2019
oil on panel, 20" x 15"
\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

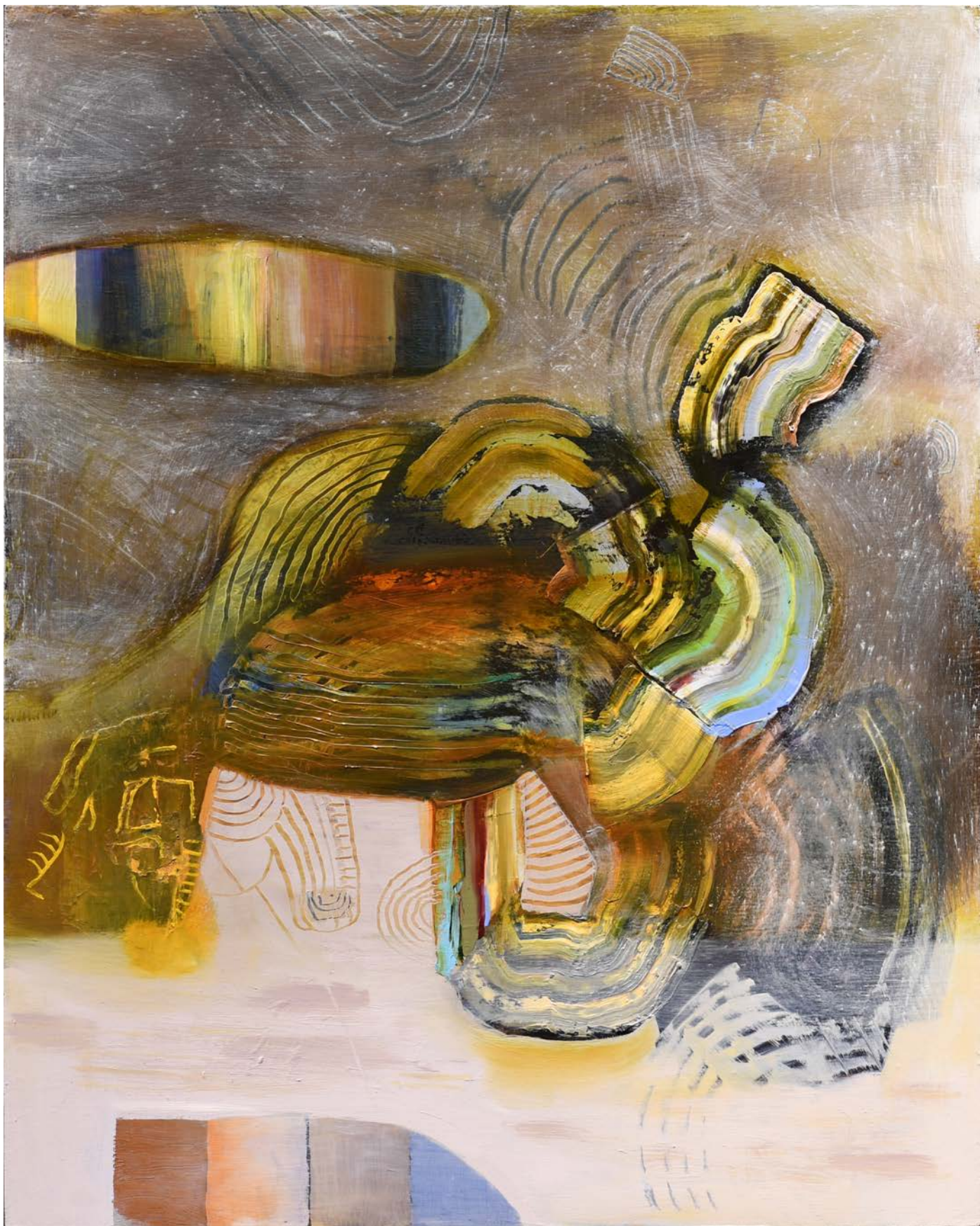
** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Duet in Green, 2019
oil on panel, 24" x 29.75"
\$3,500.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Landed, 2019
oil on panel, 20" x 16"
\$1,900.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Sintra, 2011
oil on canvas, 48" x 60"
\$7,000.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

* Please include title of work you are inquiring about





Violet, 2019
oil on panel, 18x24
\$2,300.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

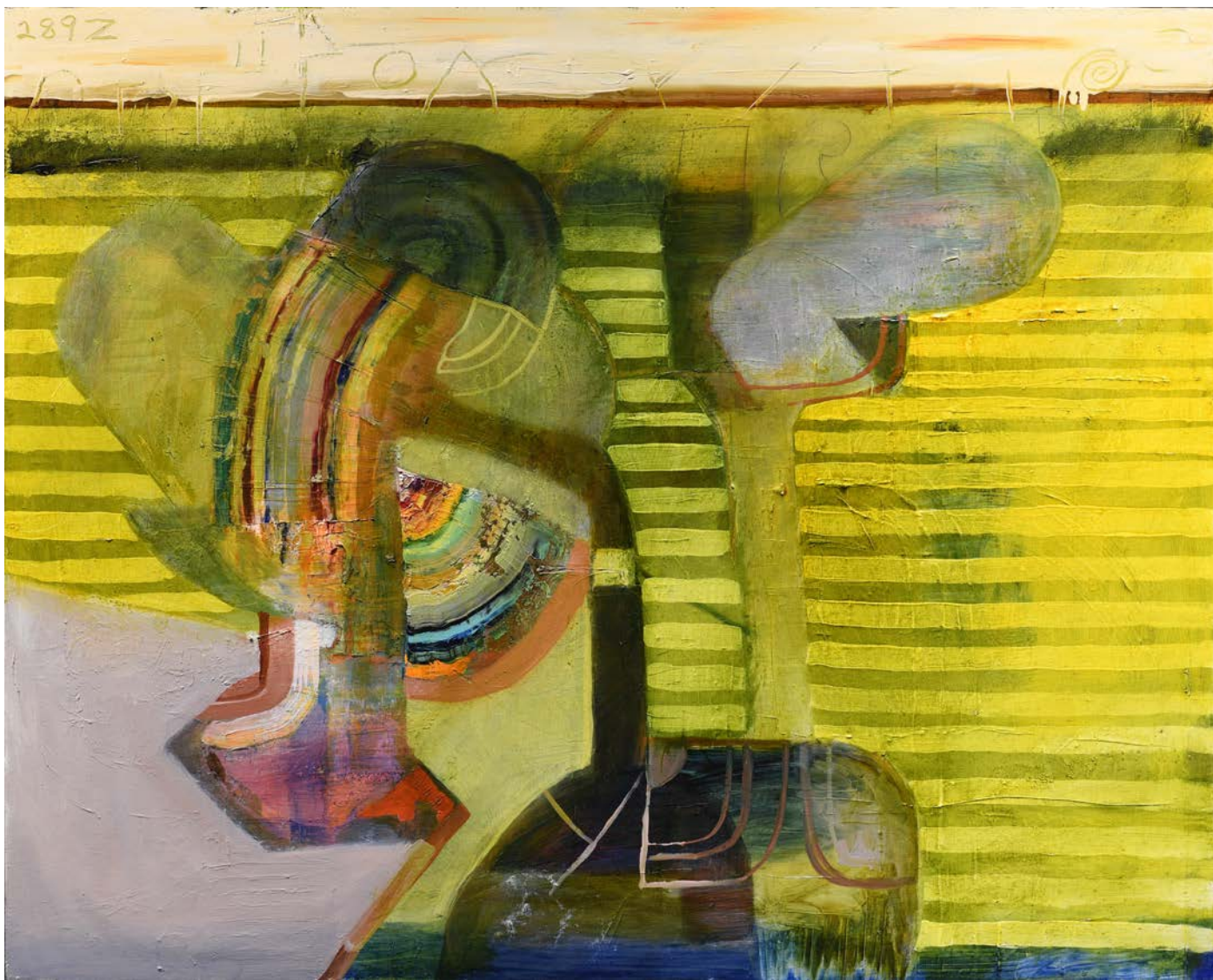
** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Yellow House, 2019
oil on panel, 18" x 24"
\$2,300.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Loose Lips Sink Ships, 2019
oil on panel, 24"x 29.75"
\$3,500.

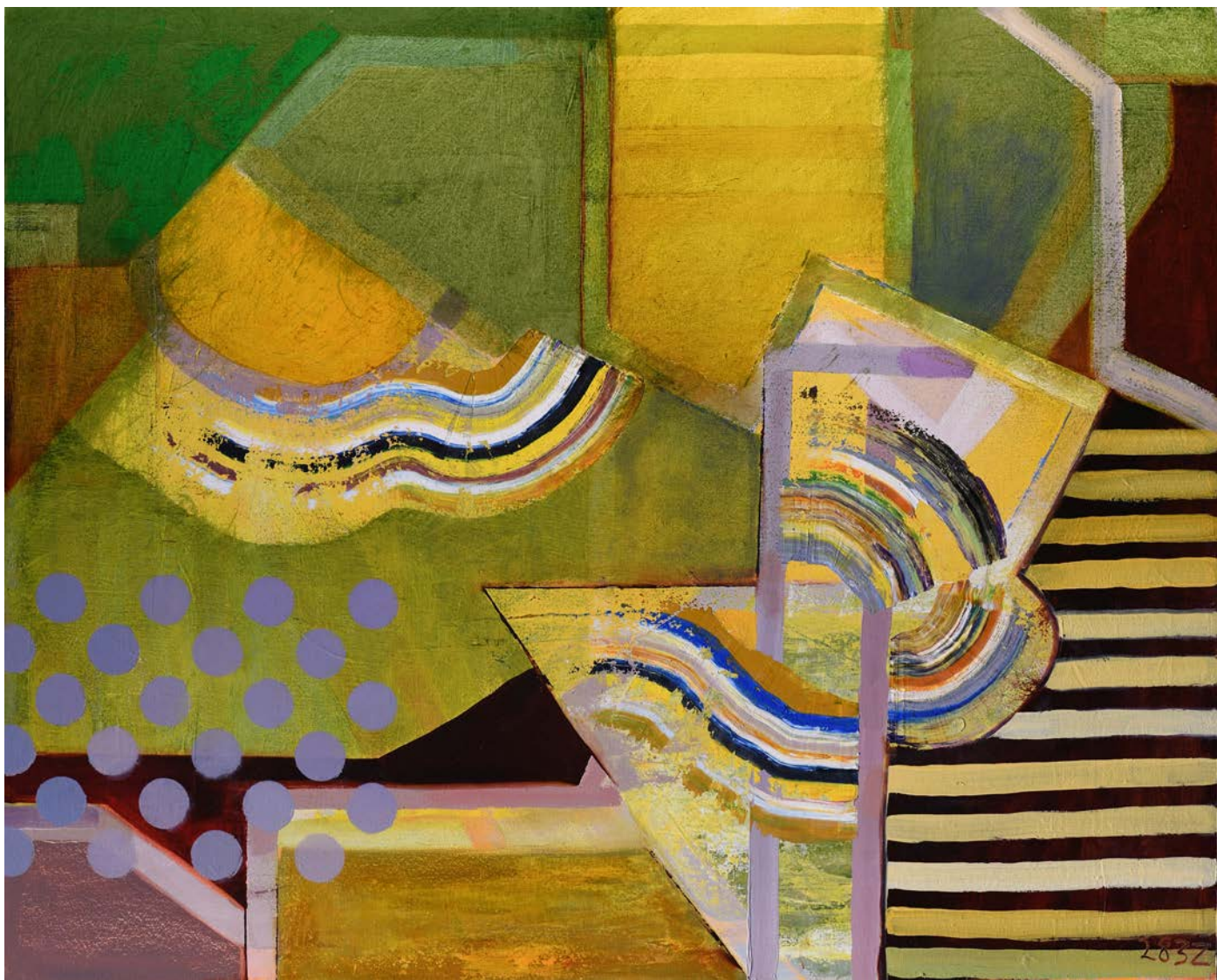
For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Unsaid Things Won't Exist, 2019
oil on panel, 24" x 29.75"
\$3,500.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Overheard Conversations, 2019

oil on canvas, 24" x 24"

\$2,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902

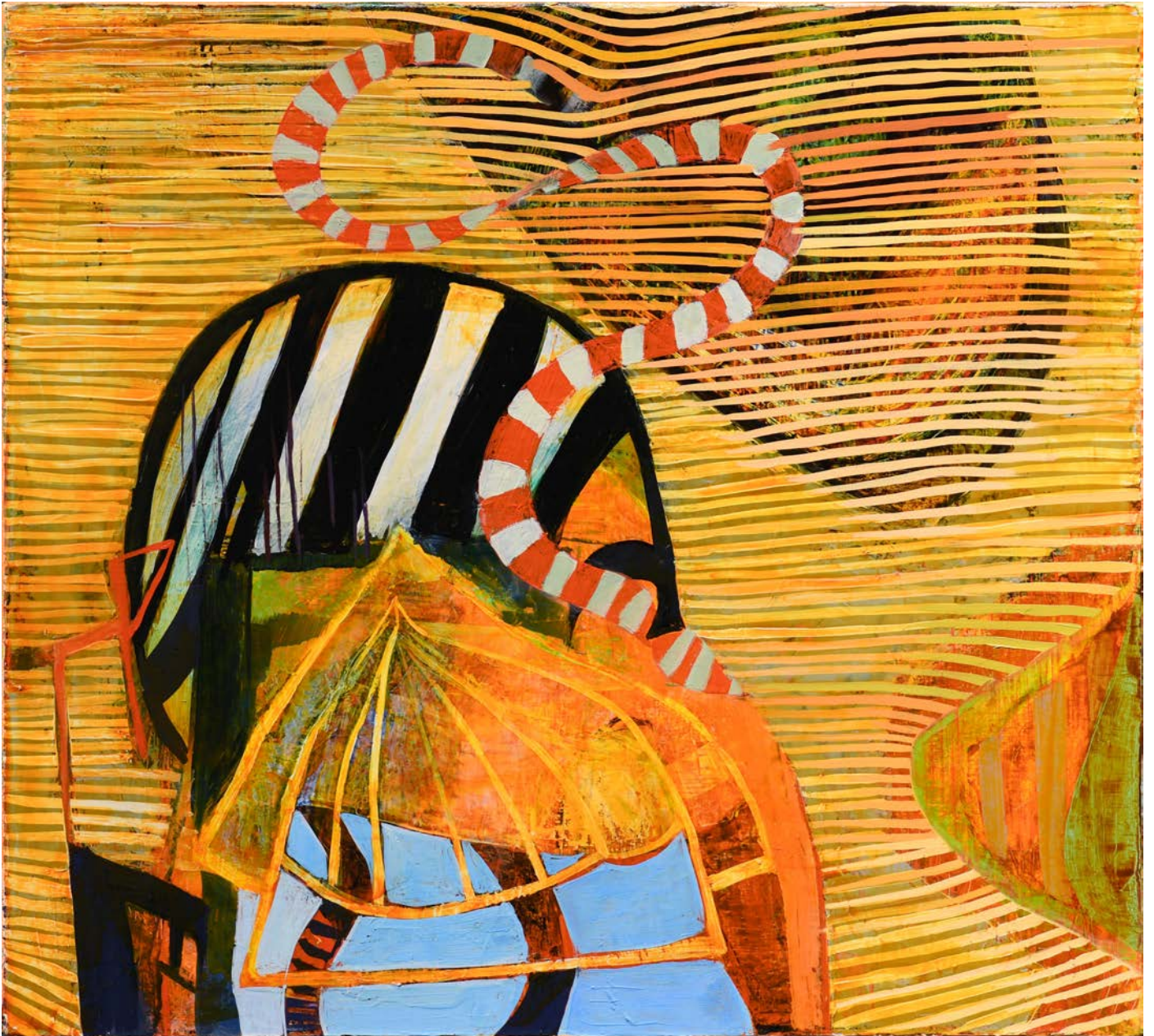
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Looking for Sibelius, 2019
oil on linen, 20" x 22"
\$2,400.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Listen to the Paint | Monochromatic Works



HARRIET YALE RUSSELL:
Listen to the Paint

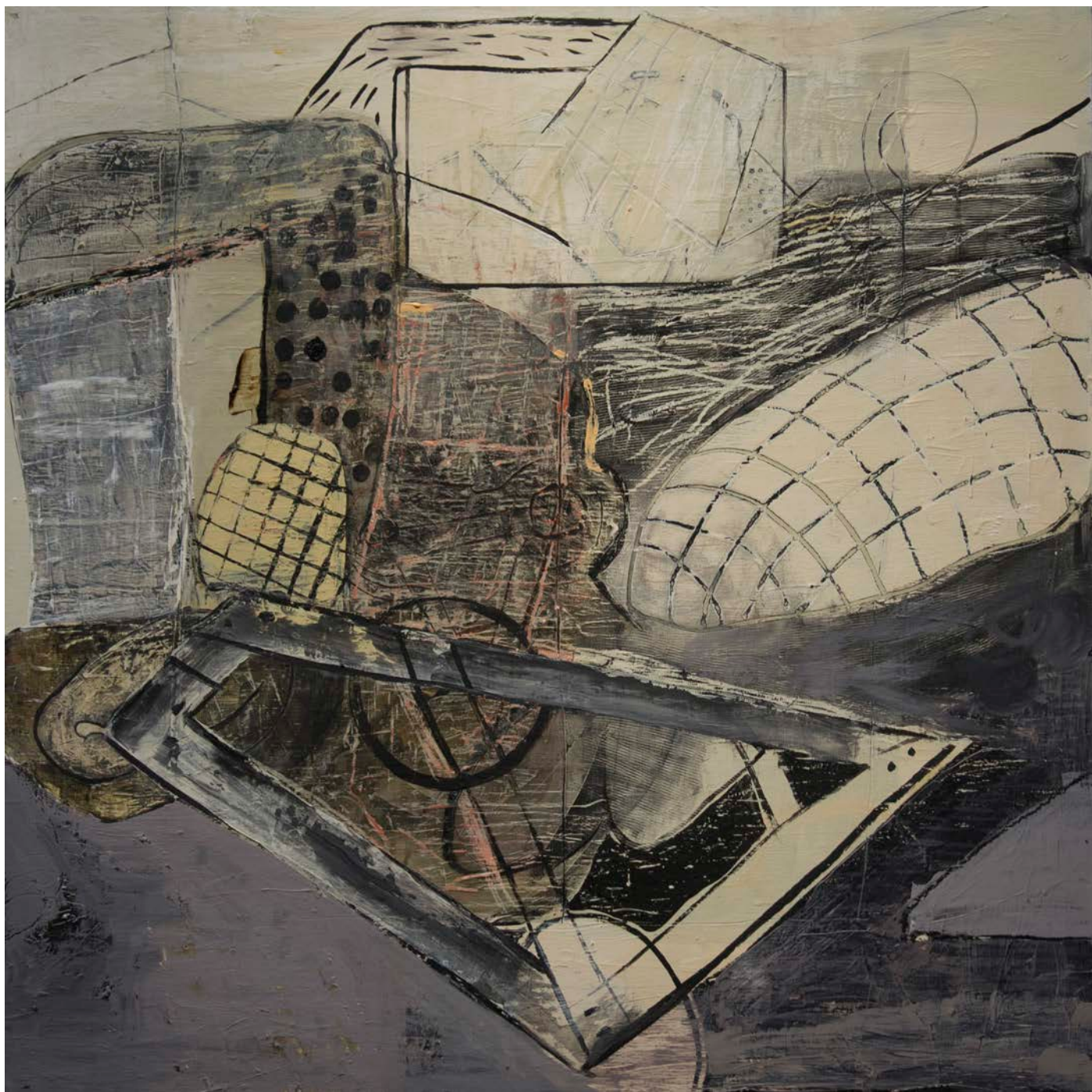


Henge, 2013
oil and wax on panel, 48" x 48"
\$6,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Conodonts, 2013
oil and wax on panel, 36" x 36"
\$4,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Anticline, 2013
oil and wax on panel, 30" x 30", no.502
\$4,300.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Slaty Cleavage, 2013
oil and wax on panel, 48" x 48"
\$6,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Dark to Light | Pandemic and Ukraine Series



Dark to Light | Pandemic and Ukraine Series



Dark to Light | Pandemic and Ukraine Series





Abstract artwork featuring bright yellow organic shapes on a light background.



Abstract artwork featuring layered, torn paper in white and yellow on a dark background.



Abstract artwork featuring layered, torn paper in white and yellow on a dark background.



Abstract artwork featuring layered, torn paper in white and yellow on a dark background.



Chasing Shapes, 2022
gouache on paper, 22.25" x 30.25"
\$2,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Drawn Borders, 2023
gouache on paper, 22.25" x 30.25"
\$2,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Later, 2022

gouache on paper, 17" x 20.25"

\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902

or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Moving Ukraine, 2022
gouache on paper, 16.75" x 20.75"
\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

* Please include title of work you are inquiring about





New Map, 2023
gouache on paper, 22.25" x 30.25"
\$2,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Pangea, 2023
gouache on paper, 22.25" x 30.25"
\$2,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





Shapes, 2023

gouache on paper, 22.25" x 30.25"

\$2,700.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902

or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

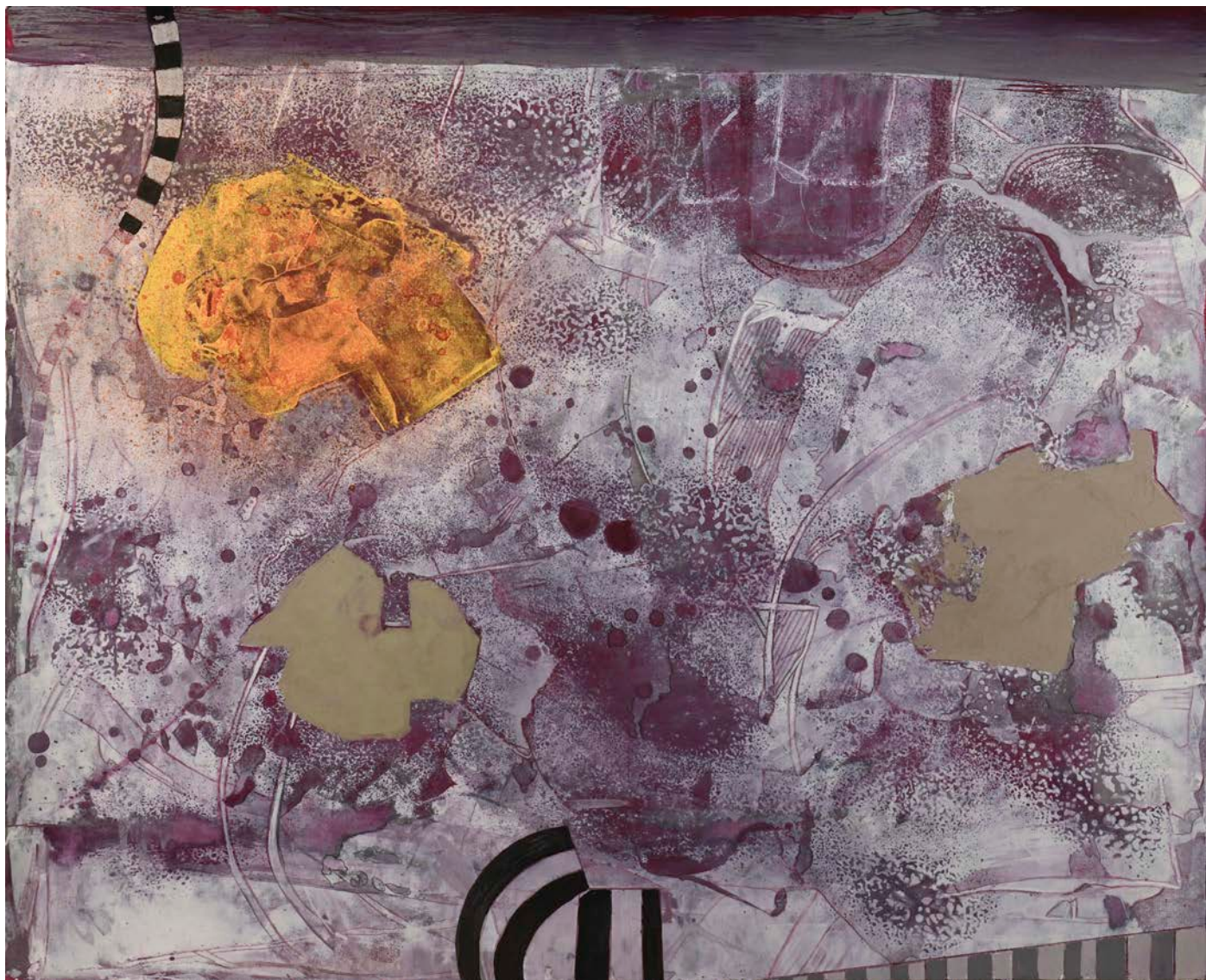
** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

Small Painting for War, 2022
gouache on paper, 17" x 20.75"
\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*





The Smell of Color, 2022
gouache on paper, 16.75" x 20.5"
\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

War on Snow, 2022
gouache on paper, 17" x 20.75"
\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902
or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*



62



White Horses on the Black Sea, 2022

gouache on paper, 17" x 20.5"

\$1,800.

For immediate assistance, call 505.995.9902

or email us at art@evokecontemporary.com

** Please include the title of the artwork in which you are inquiring.*

