



**SOPHIE
GANNON
GALLERY**

EMBER FAIRBAIRN

THE FORMS REARRANGE THEMSELVES

6 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2022

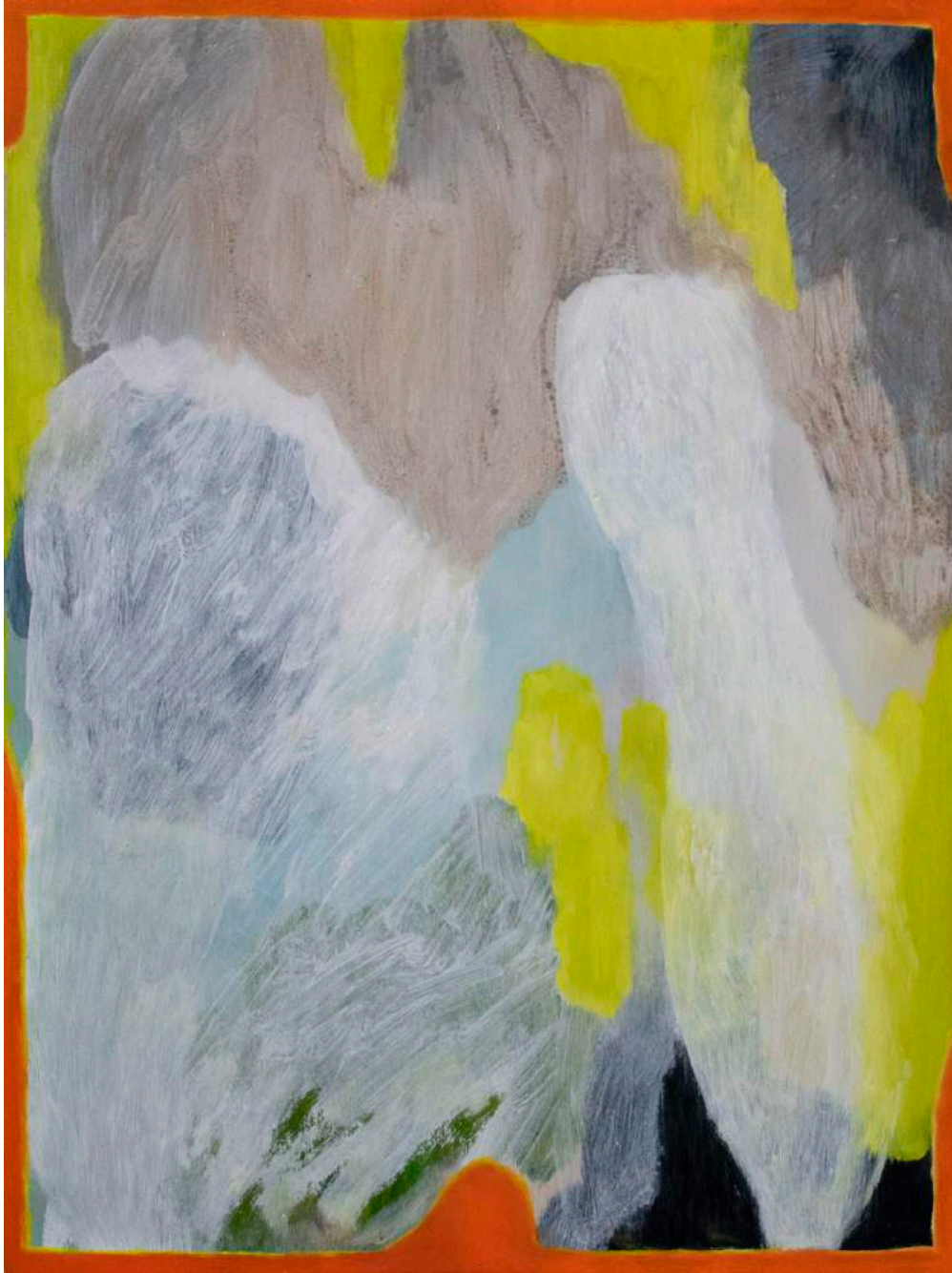
SOPHIE GANNON GALLERY
2 Albert Street Richmond VIC 3121 Australia T +613 9421 0857
info@sophiegannongallery.com.au www.sophiegannongallery.com.au

Spectral beings populate Ember Fairbairn's paintings. They manifest as amorphous forms beneath layers of transparent colour, inhabiting a liminal state of presence—gentle and phantasmagorical, as though of another world. From one painting to the next, these spectral beings appear as slightly altered forms, as though having jumped across the frame and transformed in the process: a delicate orange hourglass (*North Wind*) metamorphoses into a stalactite (*The Forever Home*) and then a small mountain (*Sharp Fangs Holy Mouth Ecstatic*). Indeed, the exhibition's title *The Forms Rearrange Themselves* embodies the conceptual underpinnings of these transmutations. That is, the notion that the past, present and future are all connected through a process of constant remaking.

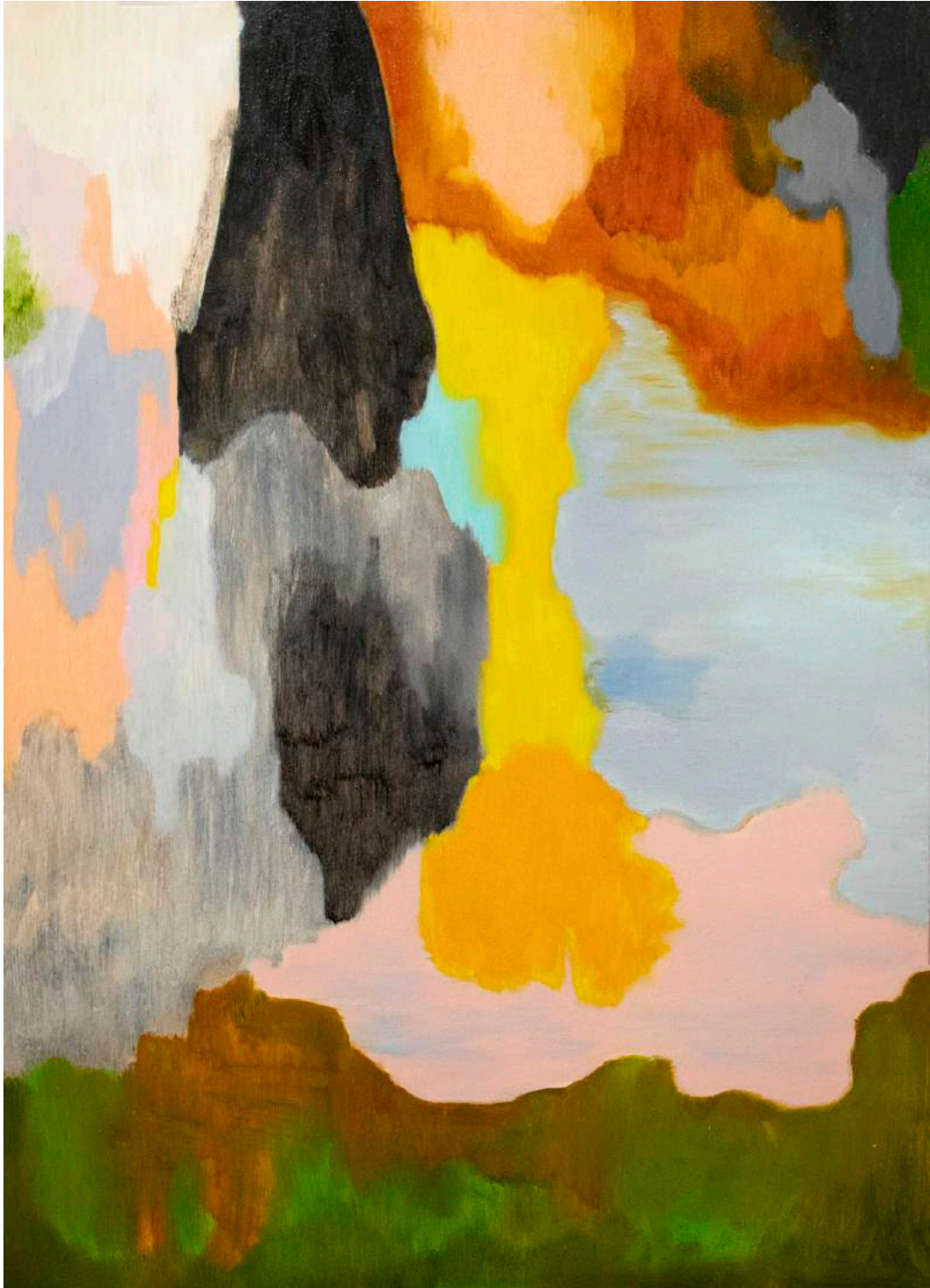
The spectre is perhaps the most fitting entity for abstract painting like Fairbairn's. It resists any sort of concrete structure or identity. Fairbairn draws out the speculative logic of the style by way of a distinctive layering technique, applying whisp-thin strata of oil on to birchwood boards. The birchwood resists the paint. As a result, the wood's grain coalesces with Fairbairn's brushstrokes which both remain visible on the surface. This creates the first of many ambiguities that culminate in Fairbairn's phantom-like works. A sense of time is embedded in this visibility but it is an indistinct time registered by the coming together of Fairbairn's body and the wood, indexing two completely different histories.

Fairbairn allows her viewers to make what they will of her paintings. This mutability is perhaps the most critical aspect in this body of works. She purposely confuses planes, plays tricks on the viewer's vision, transposes forms and shields sections as though protecting them from prying eyes. What manifests as a mountain to me might be a mound of dough for the next viewer. By layering paint in translucent, dream-like films, Fairbairn takes the ambiguity of her abstraction to the next level. The spectre is, after all, ambiguous.

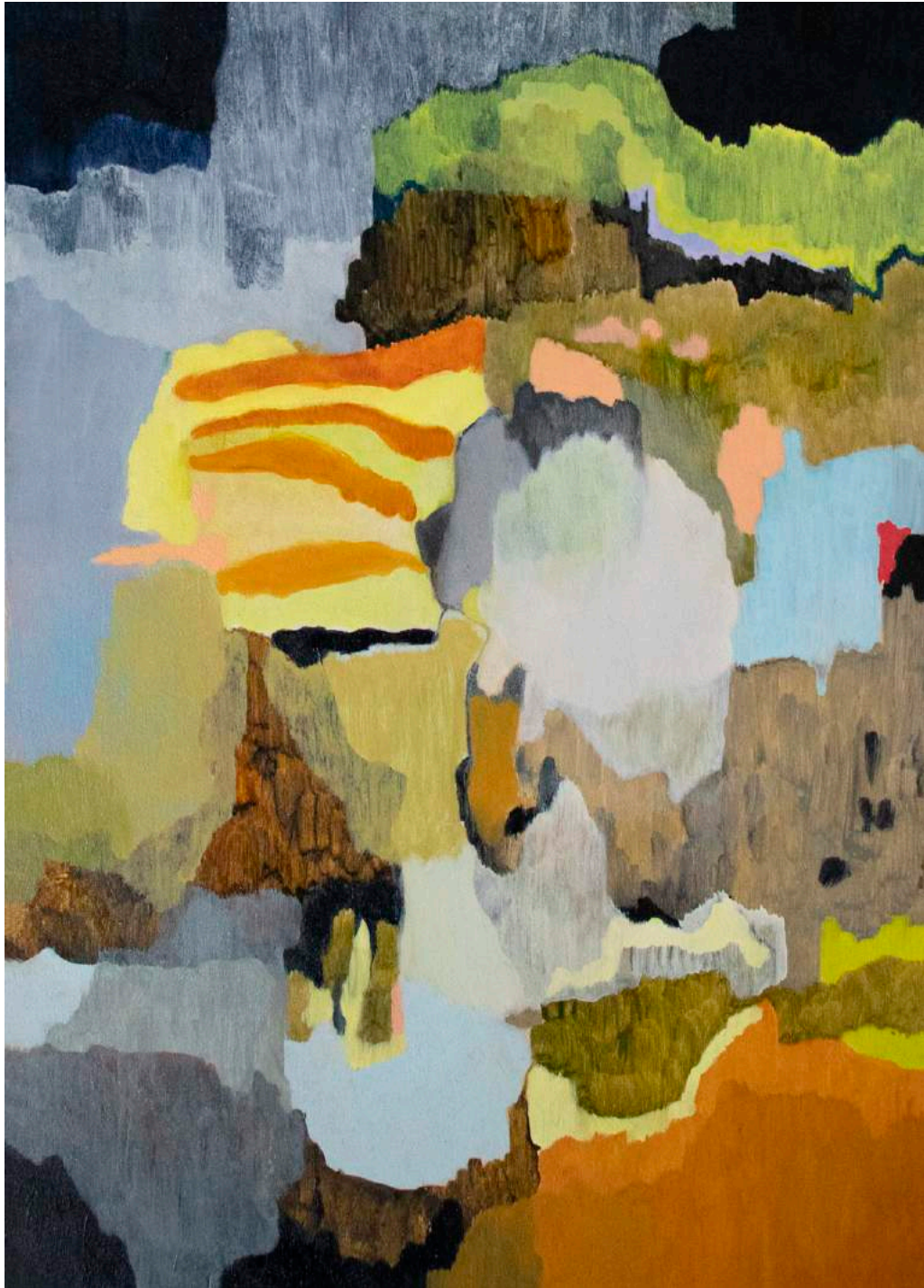
—Amelia Winata



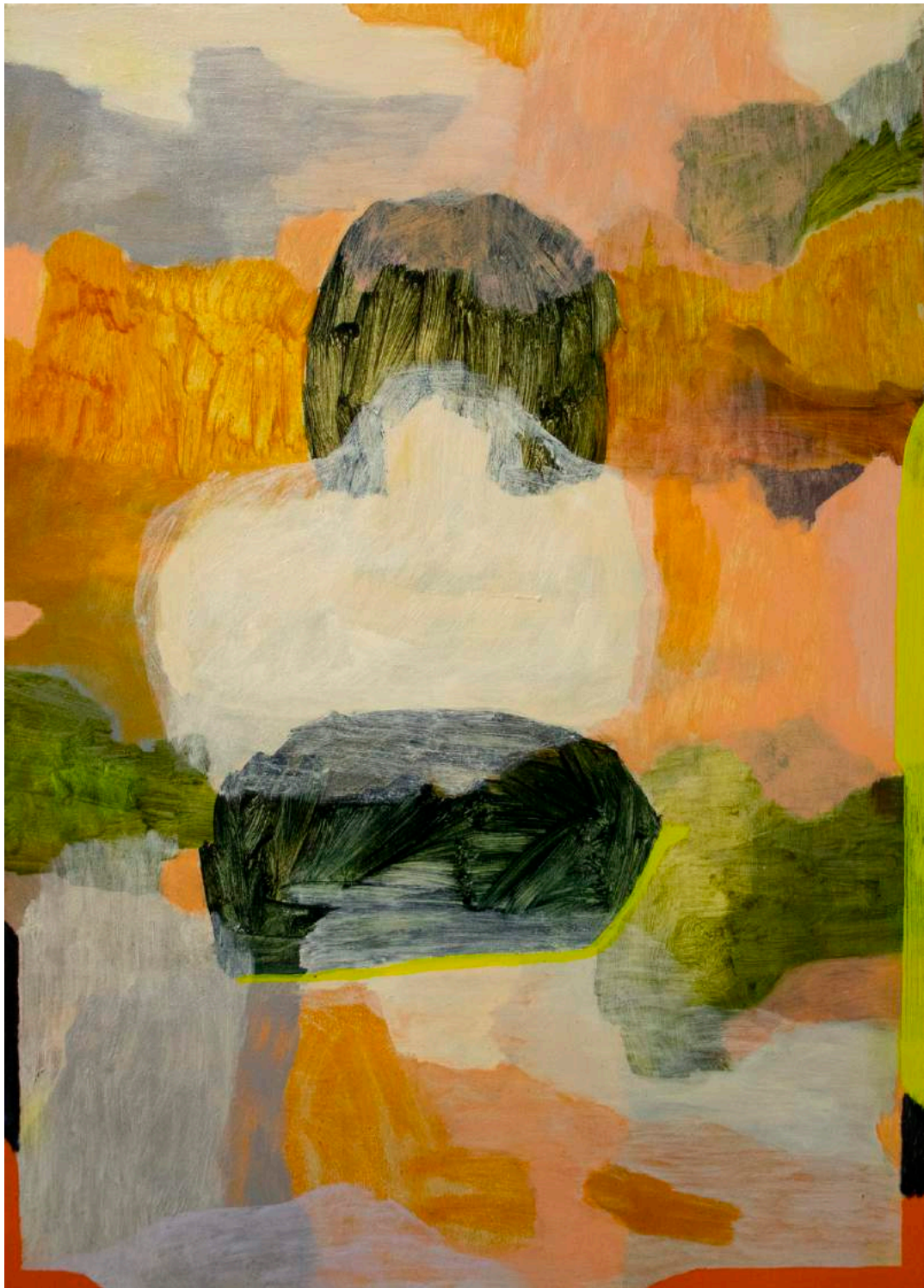
Ember Fairbairn
Familia
2022
oil on birchwood
40 x 30.5 cm
\$1,100.00



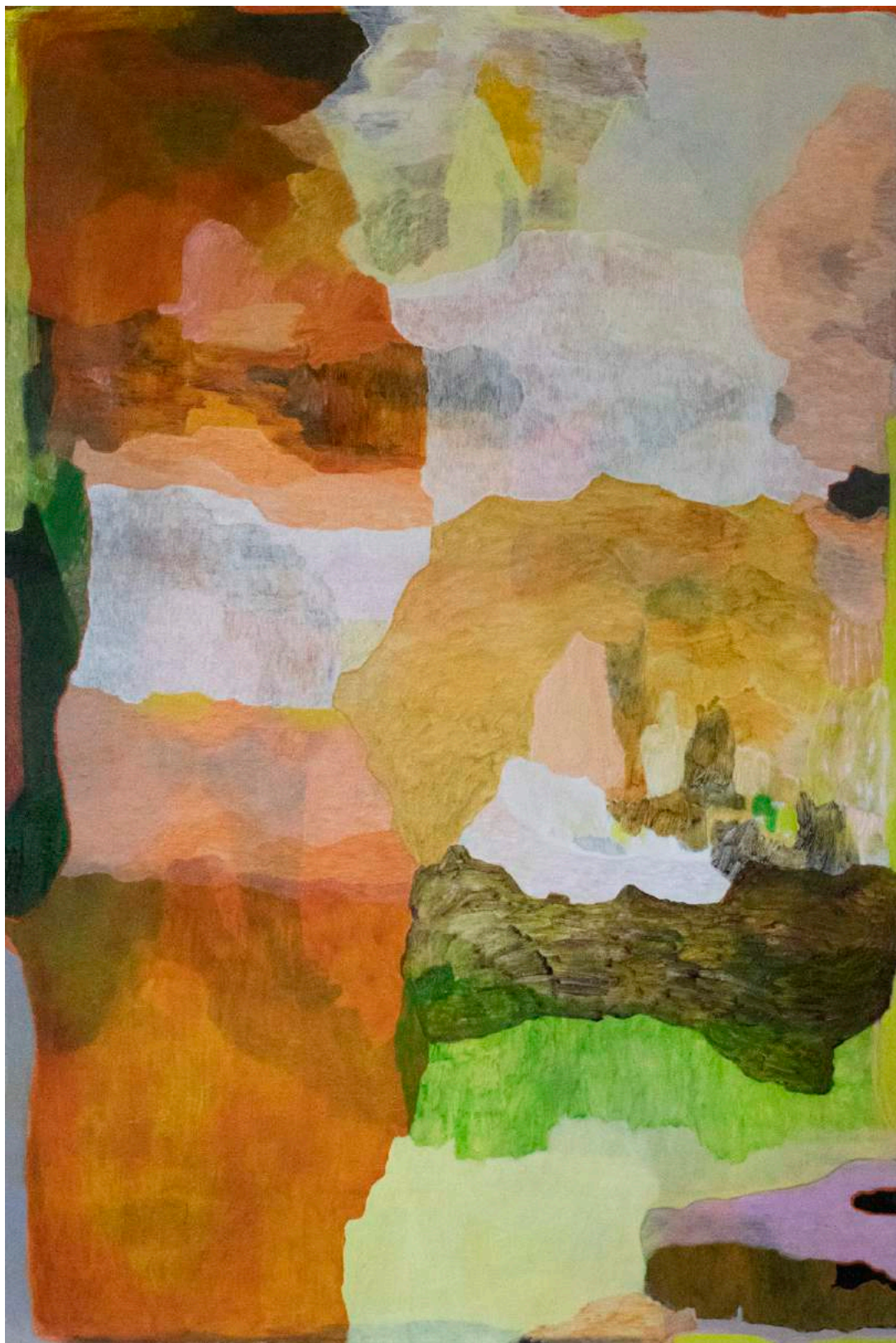
Ember Fairbairn
Socket
2022
oil on birchwood
40 x 30 cm
\$1,100.00



Ember Fairbairn
Love like stone
2022
oil on birchwood
40 x 30 cm
\$1,100.00



Ember Fairbairn
Girl seeks self
2022
oil on birchwood
40 x 30 cm
\$1,100.00



Ember Fairbairn

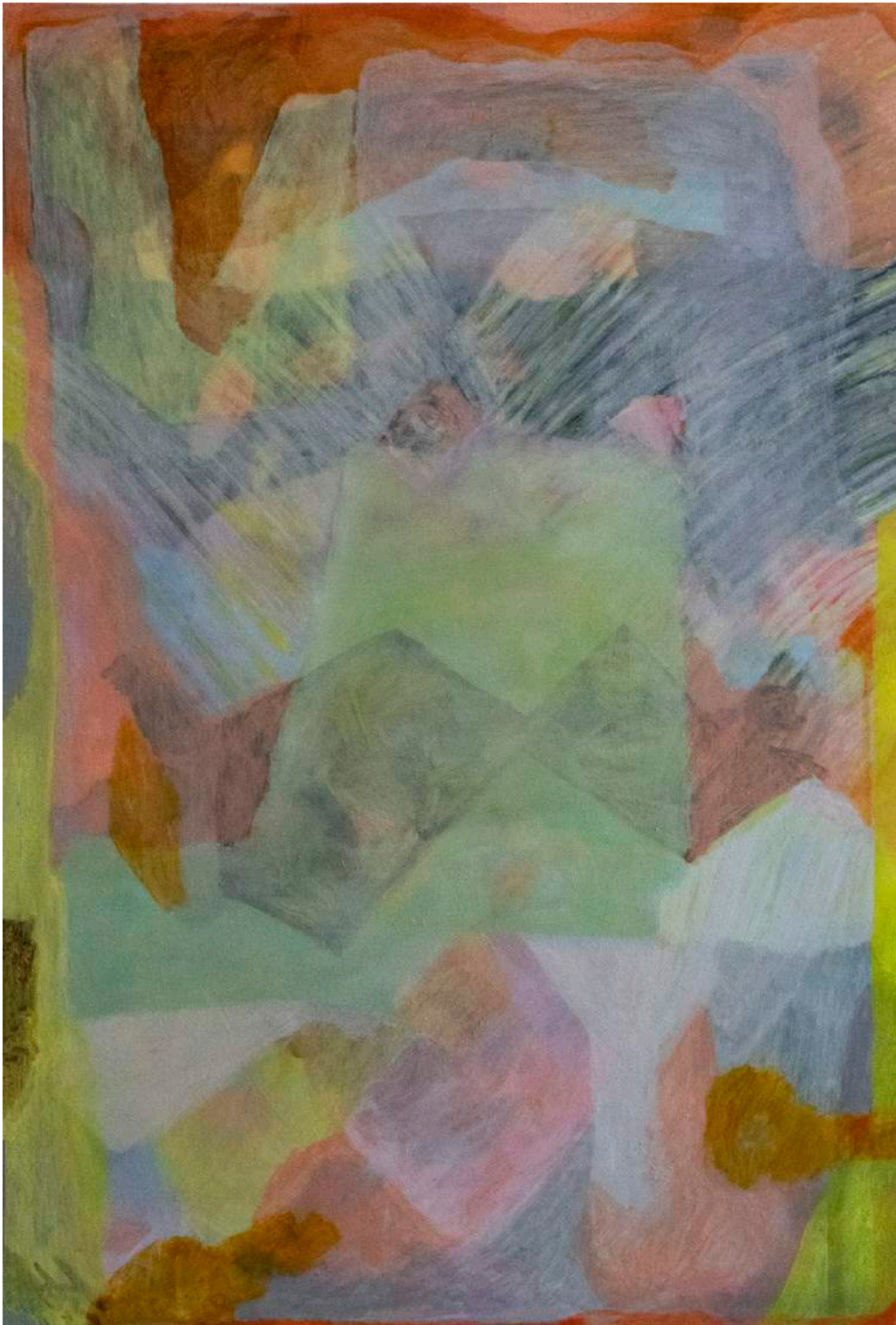
Reorient

2022

oil on board

120 x 80 cm

\$4,000.00



Ember Fairbairn

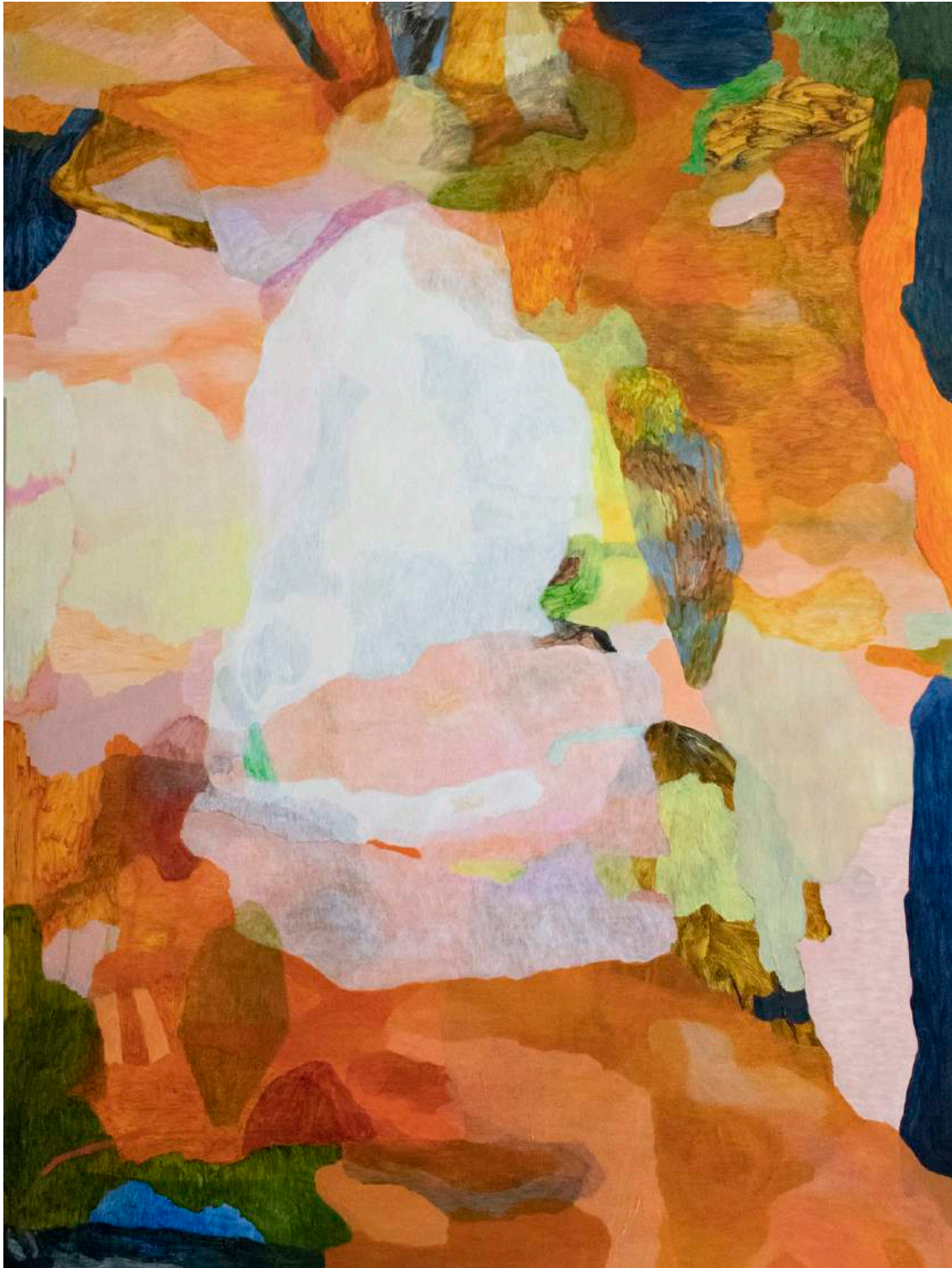
Nostalgic in Avocado green (90's esoteric bookshop)

2022

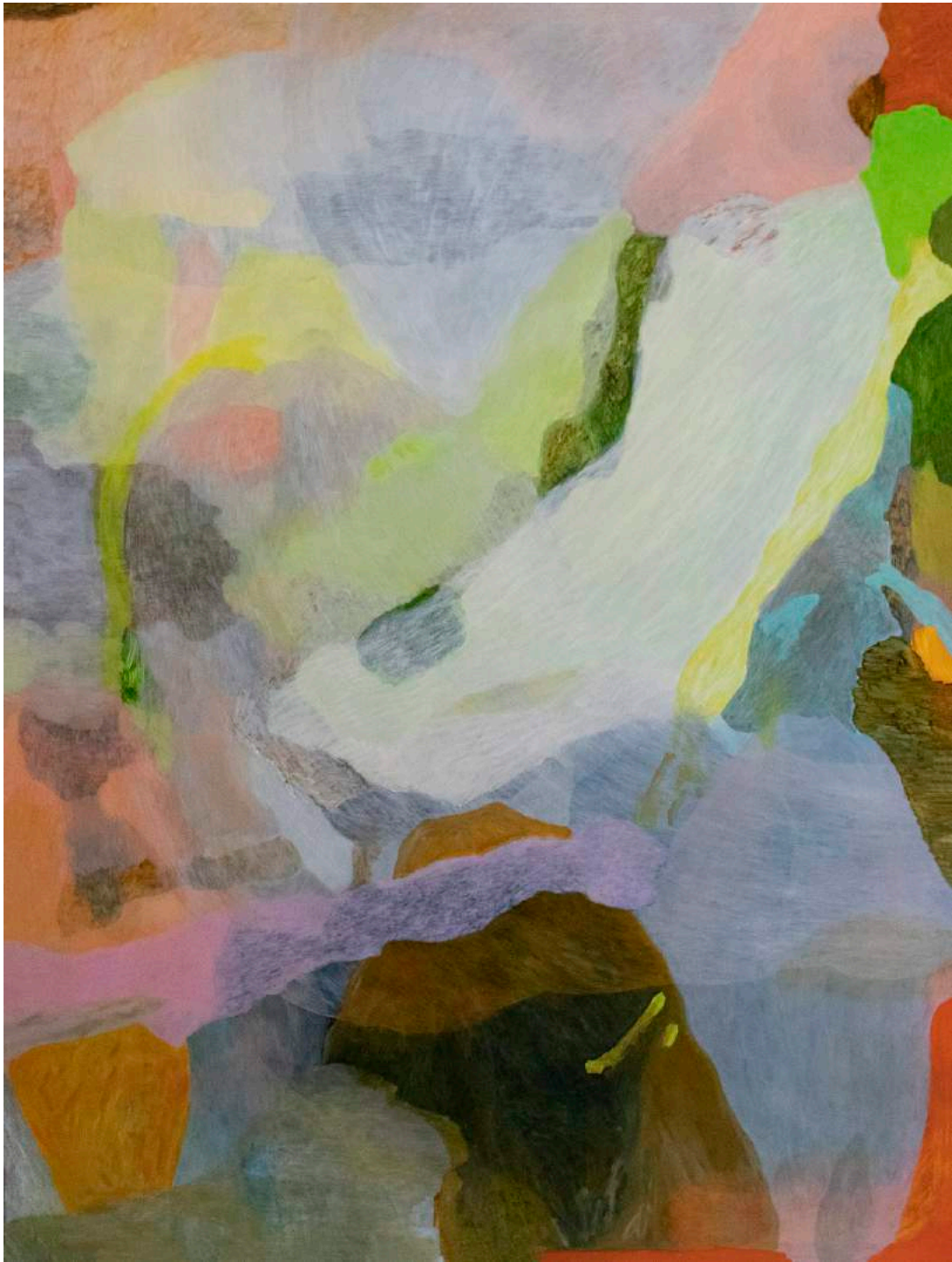
oil on board

160 x 120 cm

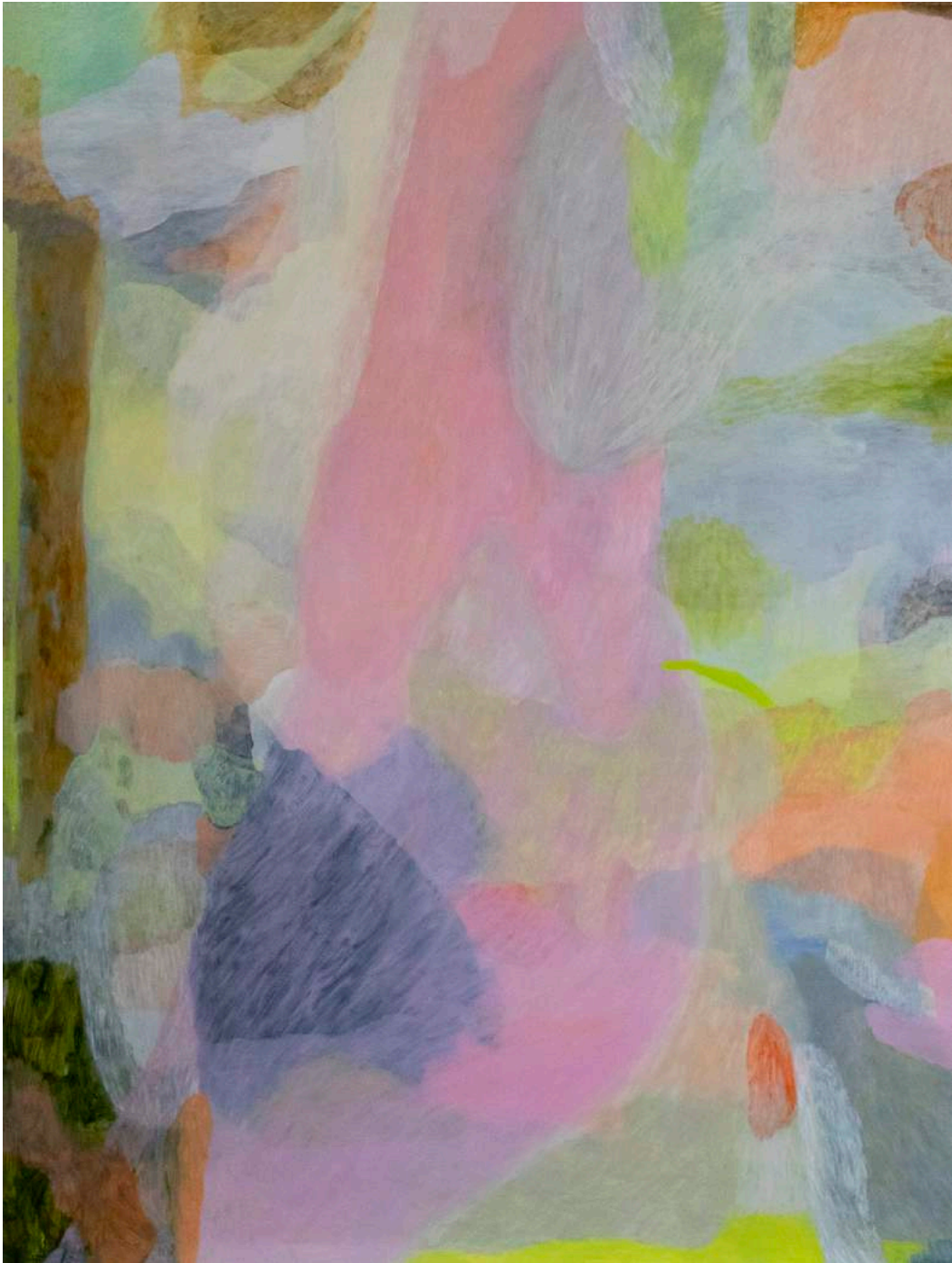
\$4,000.00



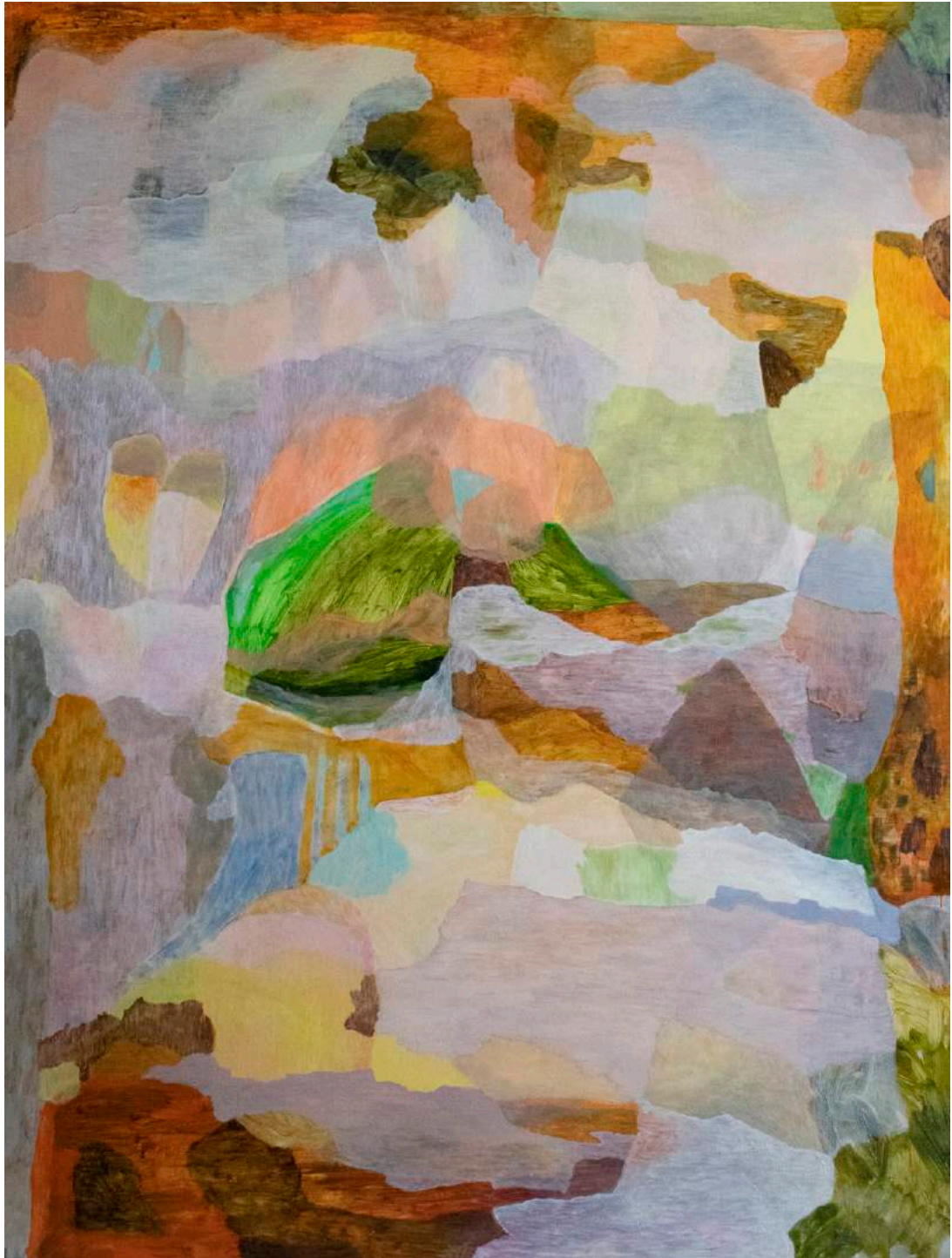
Ember Fairbairn
Fool's threshold
2022
oil on dibond
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



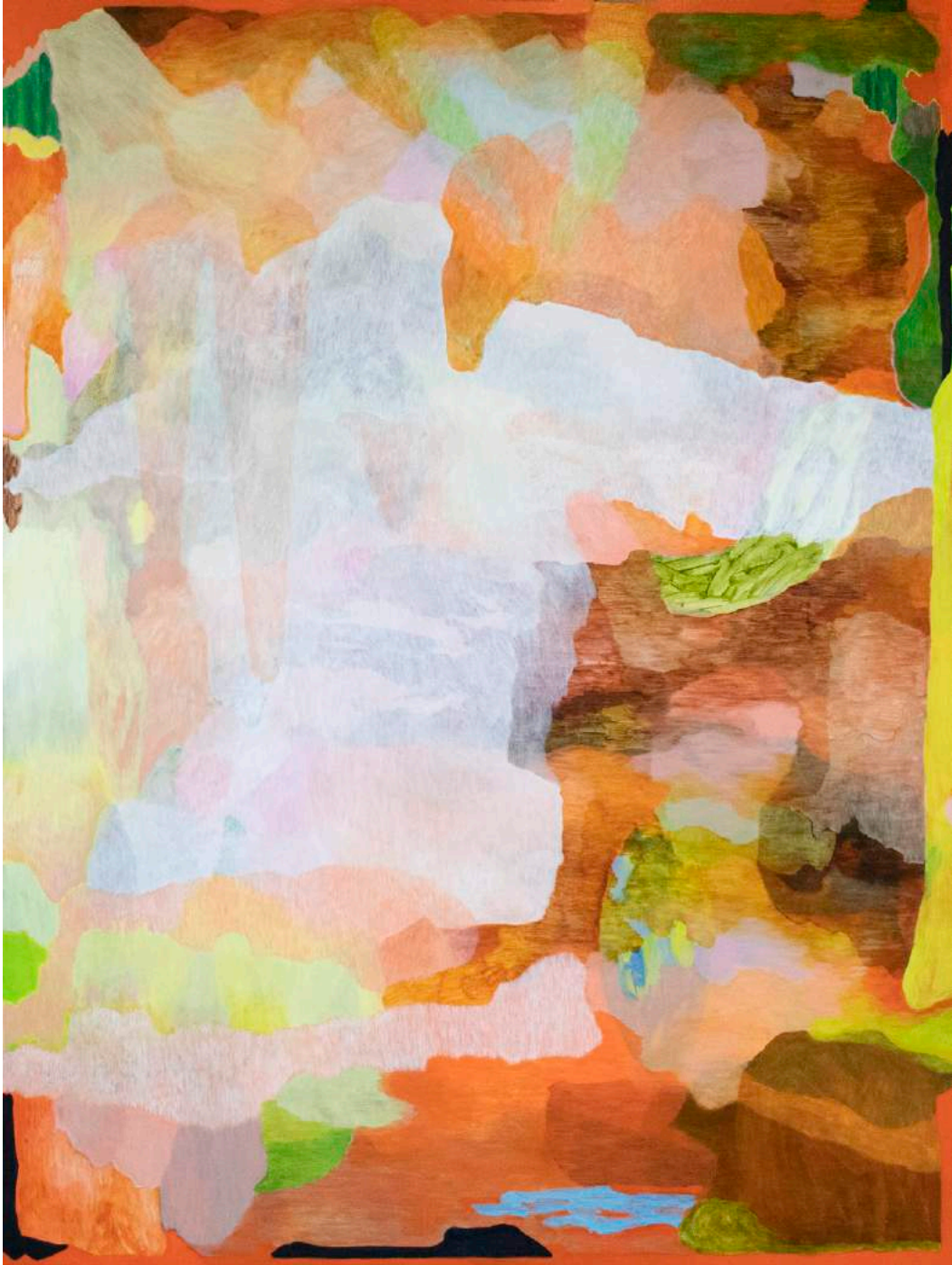
Ember Fairbairn
Incantation
2022
oil on dibond
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



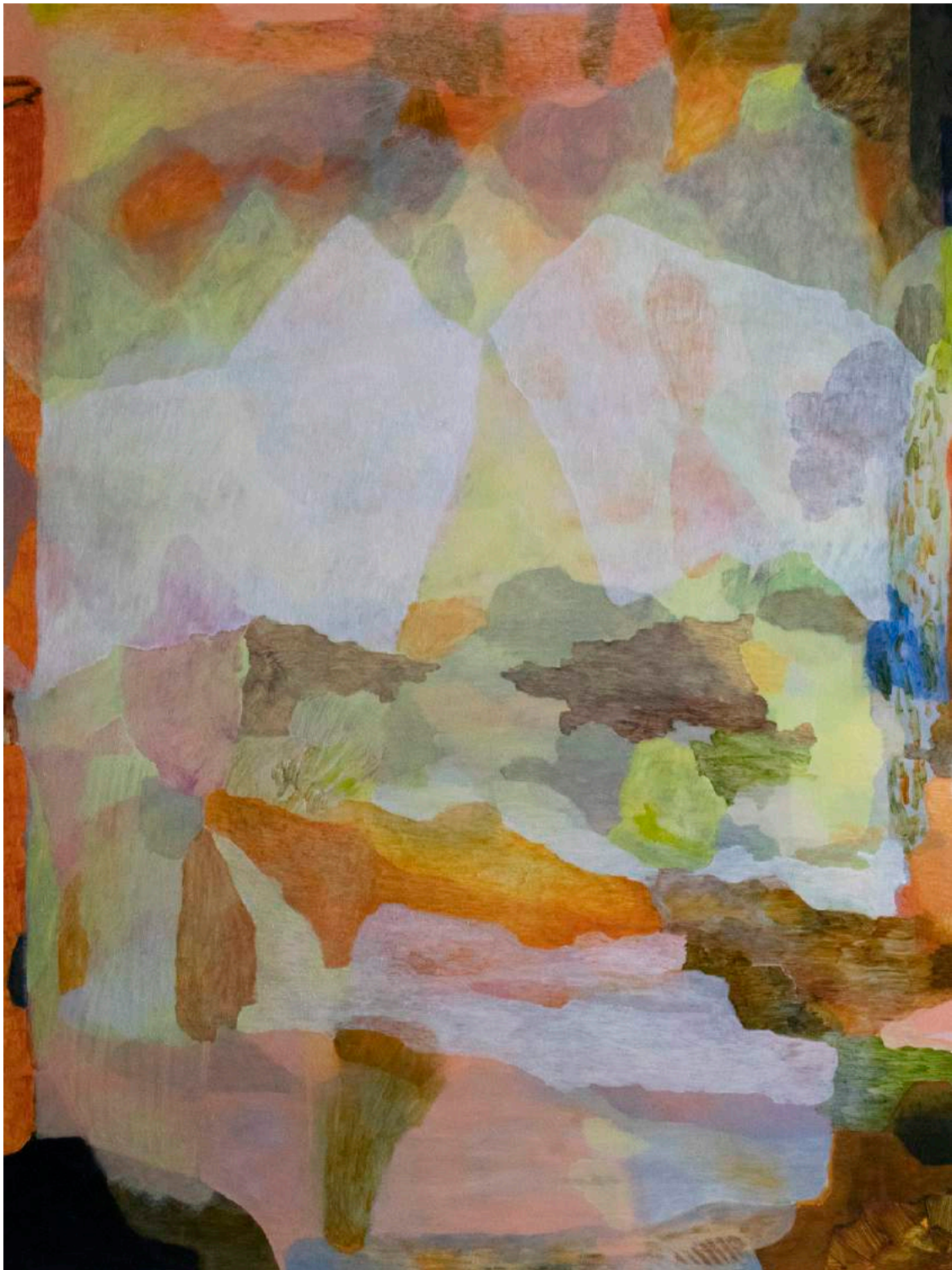
Ember Fairbairn
Carnal
2022
oil on dibond
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



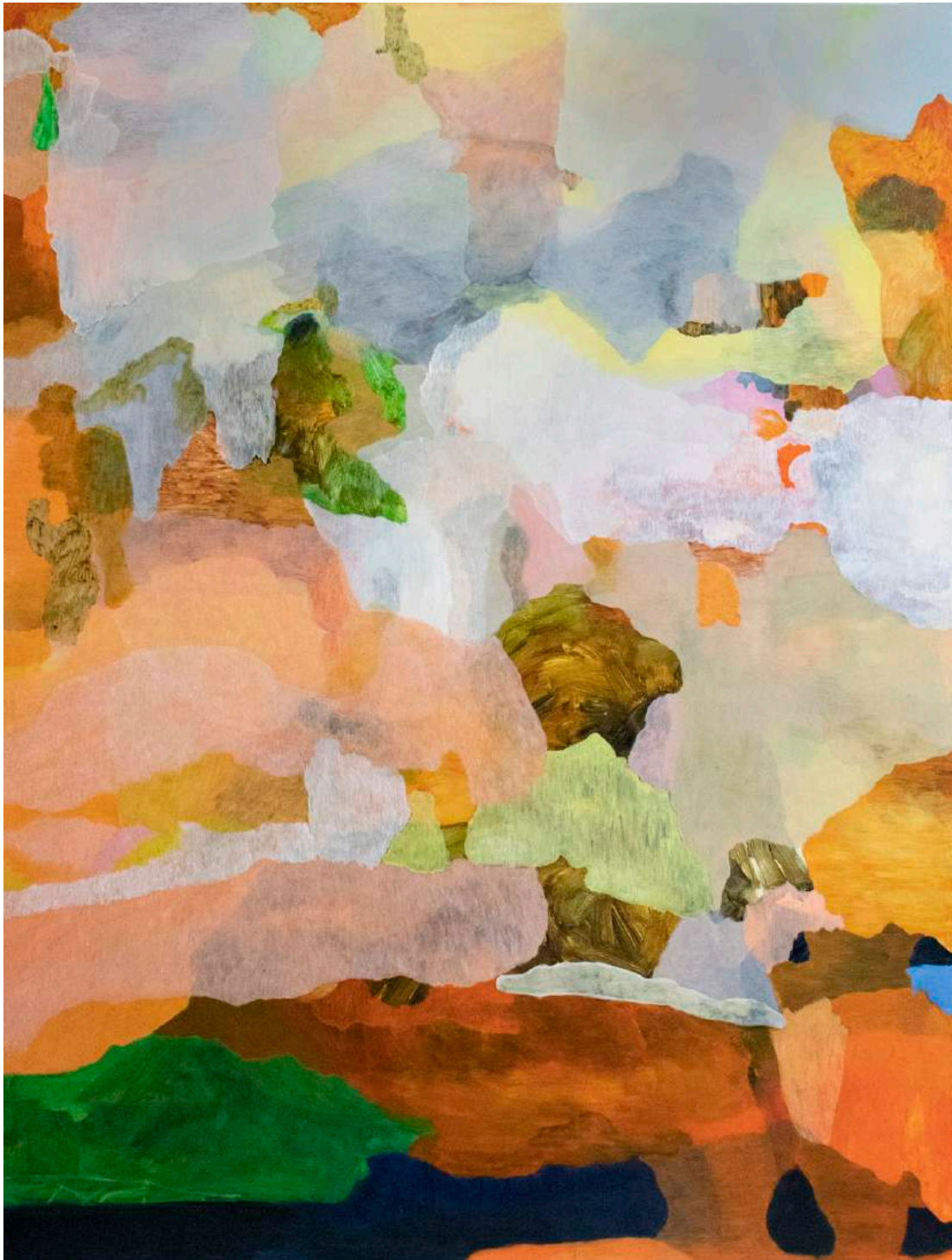
Ember Fairbairn
Omphalos
2022
oil on board
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



Ember Fairbairn
The forever home
2022
oil on birchwood
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



Ember Fairbairn
North wind
2022
oil on board
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



Ember Fairbairn
To proclaim a place
2022
oil on board
160 x 120 cm
\$7,000.00



Ember Fairbairn
Sharp fangs holy mouth ecstatic
2022
oil on board
100 x 220 cm
\$8,000.00

EDUCATION

2019	Master of Contemporary Art, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, Melbourne
2017	Graduate Certificate (Visual Art), Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, Melbourne
1995	Certificate IV (Visual Art), Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, Sunshine Coast, QLD

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022	The forms re-arrange themselves, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
2020	Thin Skins, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne GoGo Series Art Award, Chin Chin, Melbourne
2018	Recent Works, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne
2015	Scent of Light, Platform 72, Sydney
2013	Supra Sex, Platform 72, Sydney
2012	We Are This, Platform 72, Sydney
2011	Form, Burrinja Artspace, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021	Fall Back, Spring Forward, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne
2020	Summer Salon, Boom Gallery, Geelong, VIC Group Exhibition, Stockroom, Kyneton, VIC
2019	Love Letters to Feminisms, Trocadero Art Space, Melbourne
2018	Let Them Decide, VCA Art Space, Melbourne Reflections of Summer, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Contemporary Art Australia, Singapore
2017	Untitled, Traffic Jam Galleries, Sydney Spring, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne Parameters, George Paton Gallery, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Celebrate, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Contemporary Art Australia, Singapore
2016	Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Contemporary Art Australia, Singapore Ember Fairbairn and Monica Adams, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne
2015	Shadow and Flower, Monsalvat Art Centre, Melbourne Living with Nature, Manyung Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2014	The Colours of Spring, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne Nature, Manyung Gallery, Melbourne
2013	Cabin Fever, Platform 72, Sydney
2012	Affordable Art Fair Melbourne, Melbourne
2011	Out From Down Under and Beyond, Agora Gallery, New York Pathway to Abstraction, Agora Gallery, New York Opening, Warburton Art Centre, Melbourne

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2021	Finalist Tatiara Art Finalist Paddington Art Prize
2020	Athenaeum Visual Arts Research Award
2019	Art150 Travelling Fellowship, Victorian College of the Arts GoGo Art Series Award, Chin Chin
2018	Ravenswood Women's Art Prize (finalist)
2014	Montsalvat Artist in Residence

COLLECTIONS

St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Private collections in Australia and Overseas

