

Holly Oration

New York Studio School MFA Thesis Exhibition
May 2026

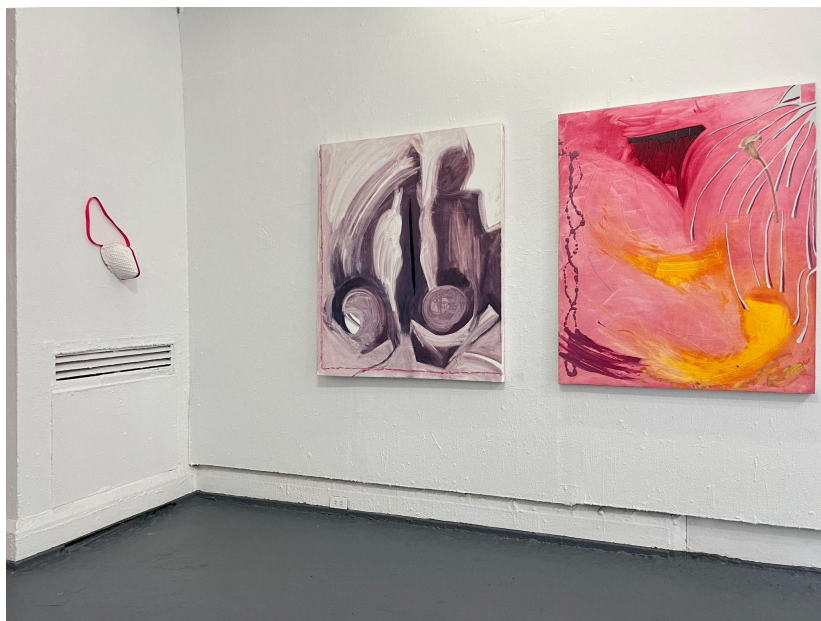
ARTIST STATEMENT My work is the performance of painting. The stage is set in anticipation...

Orifices contort and convex in motion on
canvases large enough for the storm of my
body to pass through.

I break illusions of space with hand prints,
kisses, glitter, scrapes and words.

I **ravish** the surface.

The canvas is the viewer's body, my body, and
persons of desire. My marks show that

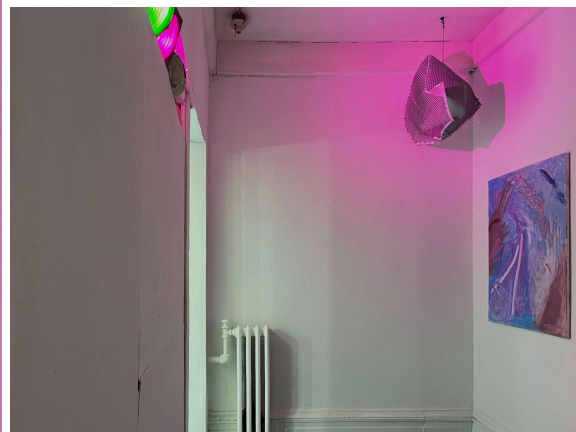
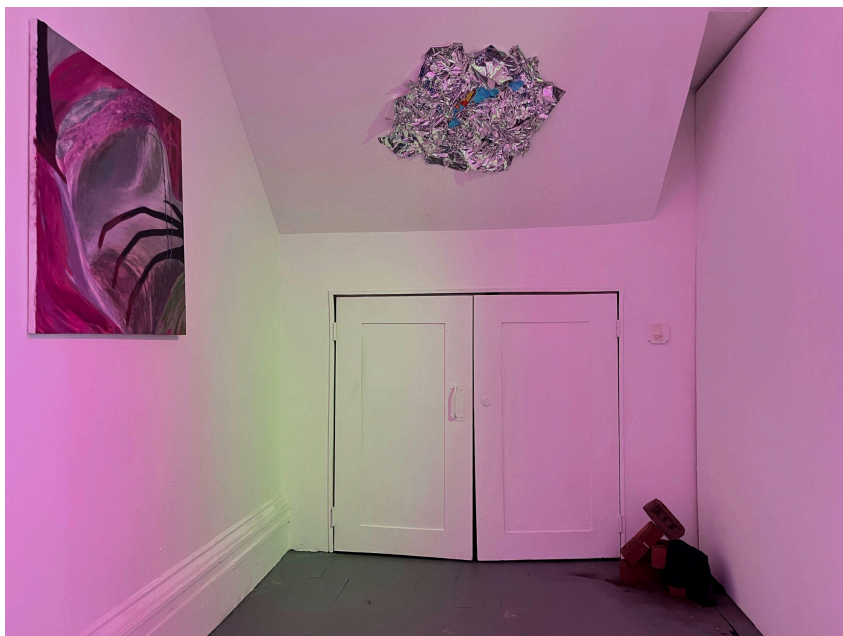


The
"I see
you

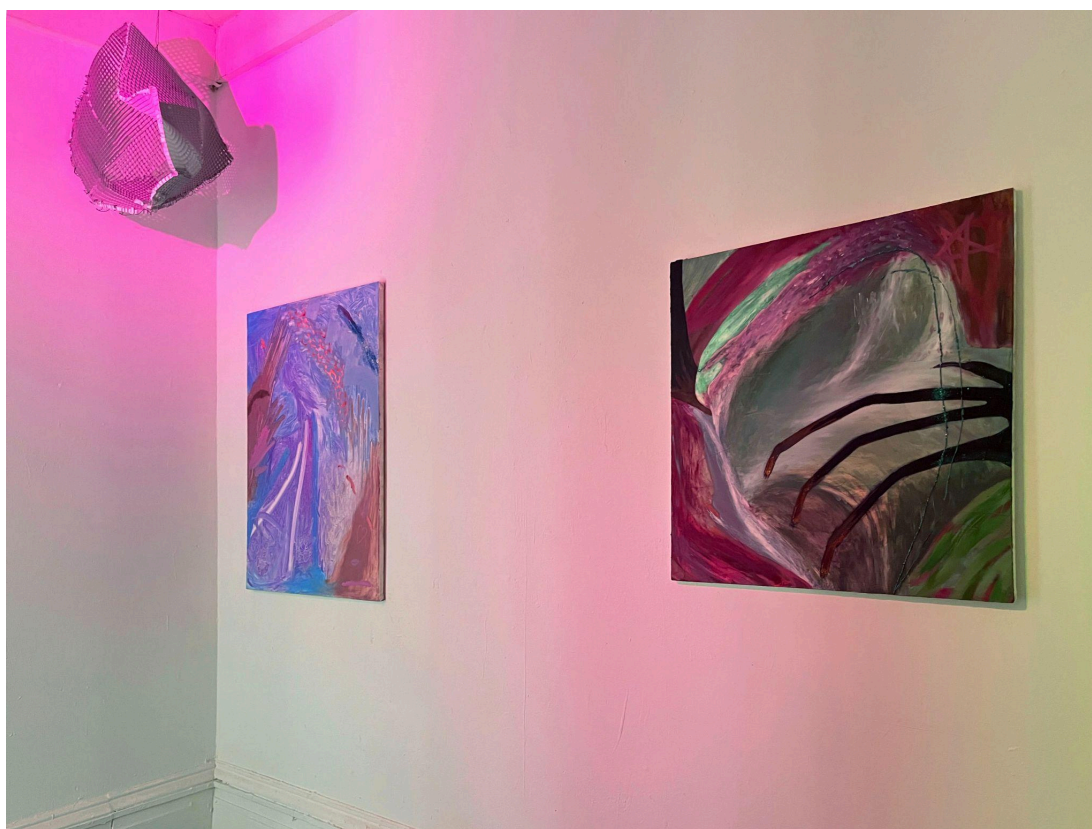
I. Was. There.

paintings say,
you,
see me."

Night colors like stage lights appear out of the darkness.



Purple and green beckon.



Unconventional materials, arbitrary smudges on the sides and untouched areas ask,

“Am I not



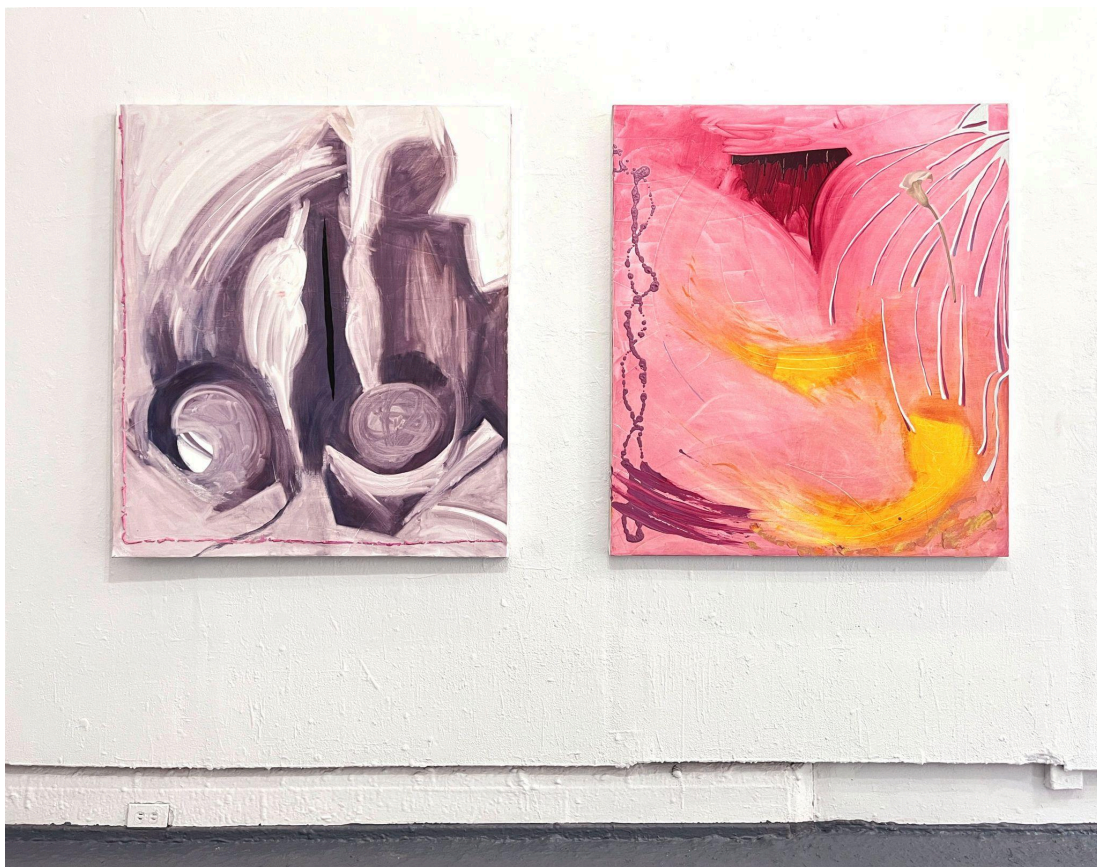
painting, too?”



All three dimensional works by **Kathleen Callahan**. Site specific installations tease the aura of the place beyond pragmatic intention.

The Fate of the Surface...

What motivates the performer?



Accompanying text posted between two paintings:

*The Boy in her lap asked intimate questions. Her **cave** wasn't enough to hold him. He carved a **tunnel** through her and out the other **wall**. His pitch-perfect cooing still echoes inside.*

*I wish to close the **portal** we opened... kneeling down for Hera to ice me out, "Look what I did with him! Be jealous!" No, it will be slow, like the end of the pandemic, or the way you move on from any major event that is not fiction.*

She sits at the table of the crystal tea party; a finely installed and articulated network of images and ideas. Stars twinkle. She yawns and tugs the yellow cable. "Is art real?" The buildings flash through the MTA bus window. CVS is closed. Its fluorescent lights illuminate millions of random shits on shelves. "I'm just as real as that," she sighs with relief.

Fetishizing her sweetness-as-the-result-of-pain. Boy, stop TAKING from her. "You let them take from you," Sappho says. Caught in a loop I cannot leave, for this is all a cry for more. Admonish. Sink. Crumple. Rise. Repeat.

(Am I in a Fassbinder film? Sulking behind his women as he pushes them into Stars.) Painted as a monster by an untrusty Steed; sung as a simple siren; a Hollywood actress plunging to her death.

An involuntary audible whimper calls me out as pathetic, but in seconds, the first bird responds at 5:02am first light! "I also survived the night," the bird tells me, "and I too sing for her to mate with me." The window is blue now; not a black void.

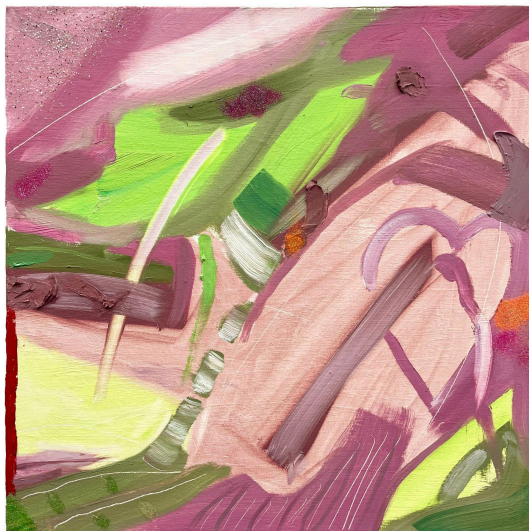
I wish Van Gogh never cut his ear off— the cliché of what an artist is.

And hang my painting in your bedroom.

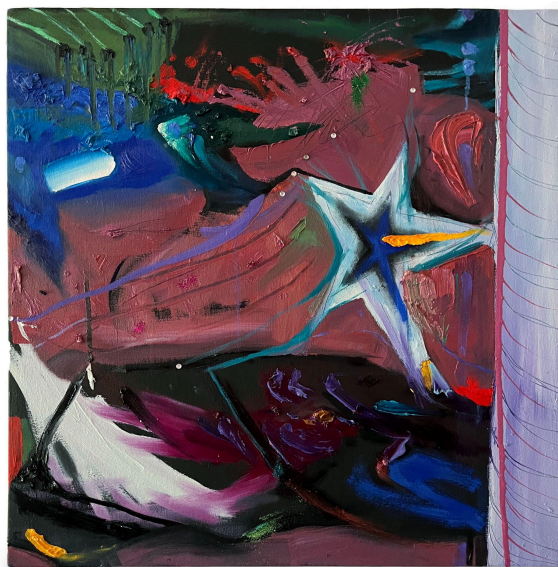
I will never make your bed or cut your grass. Let the imprint of my body echo inside/haunt you.

*(Pause) ...she waves a white flag for a truce if only to hold the Boy once more. But he prefers the triangle of eros, so she slinks back into her cave of hidden delights where **purple** and **green** lights beckon.*

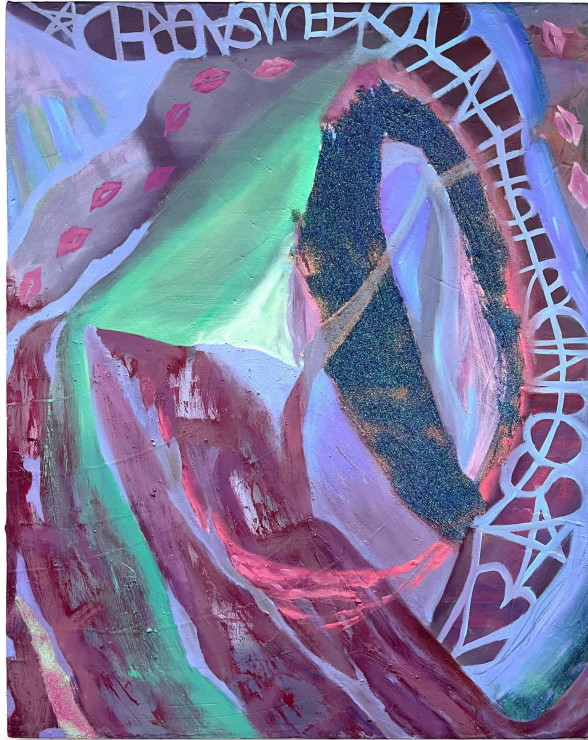
Exhibition Checklist



LUVU4EVA, 20x20", oil, cold wax and glitter on canvas, 2026, available



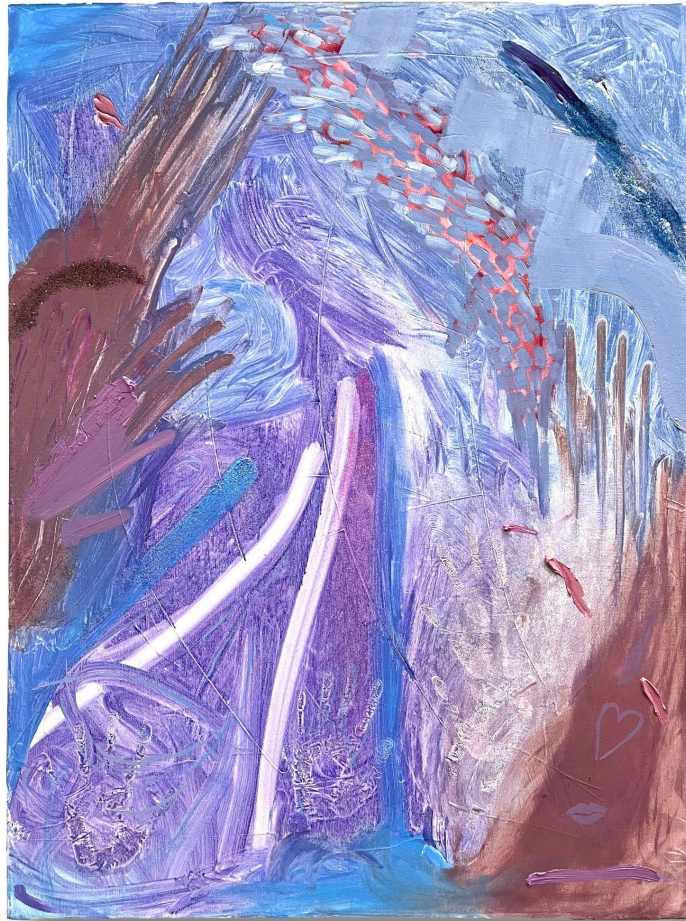
Black Star, 24x24", oil, cold wax, glitter and black gesso on canvas, 2026, sold



Cyclone of Kisses, 30x20", oil and glitter on canvas, 2026, available



Heart Soup, 15x12" custom white frame and white mat, ink, soft pastel, graphite and glitter on watercolor paper, 2025, available



Sparkle Sand, 40x30", oil and glitter on canvas, 2026, available



Black Teeth, 15x12" custom white frame and white mat, ink, soft pastel, graphite and glitter on watercolor paper, 2025, sold



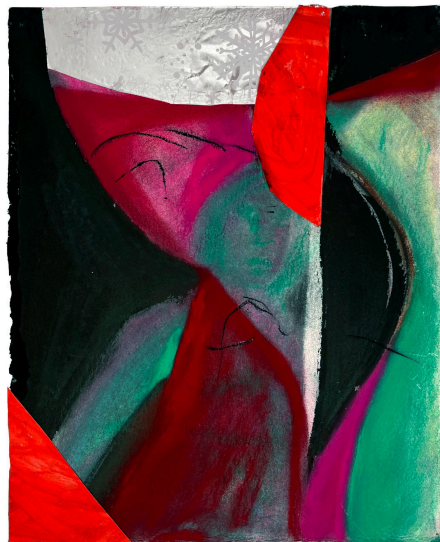
Visualizing My Creative Success, 15x12" custom white frame and white mat, ink, soft pastel, graphite and glitter on watercolor paper, 2025, sold



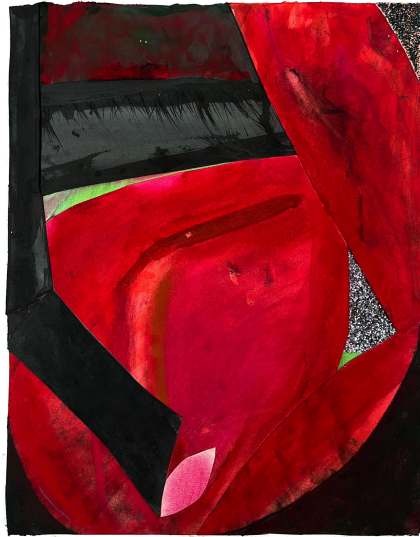
What You Dune?, 18x28", oil, glitter and charcoal on canvas, 2026, available



Water Cave Spider, 30x30", oil, glitter and interference pigment on canvas, 2026, available



You Find That Ideal Lover Yet?, 25x19" custom white frame and white mat, charcoal, soft pastel, ink and wrapping paper on watercolor paper, 2025, available



Enhanced Flavor, 25x19" custom white frame and white mat, charcoal, soft pastel, ink and glitter on watercolor paper, 2025, available



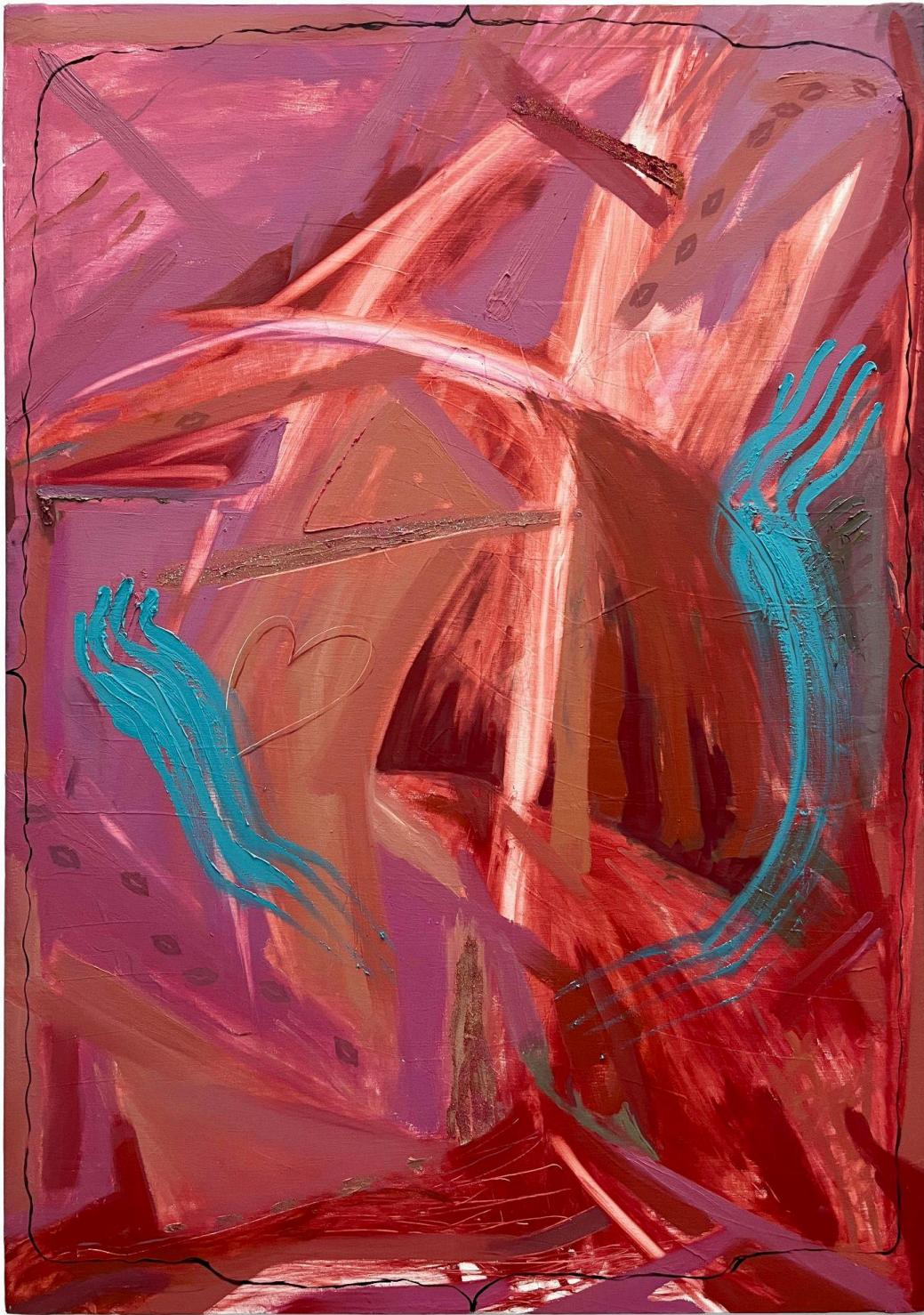
Blood-y Waterfall, 30x22", chalk pastel, ink, charcoal, glitter on paper, 2026, available



Swoosh, 52x43, oil, glitter and cold wax on canvas, 2026, available



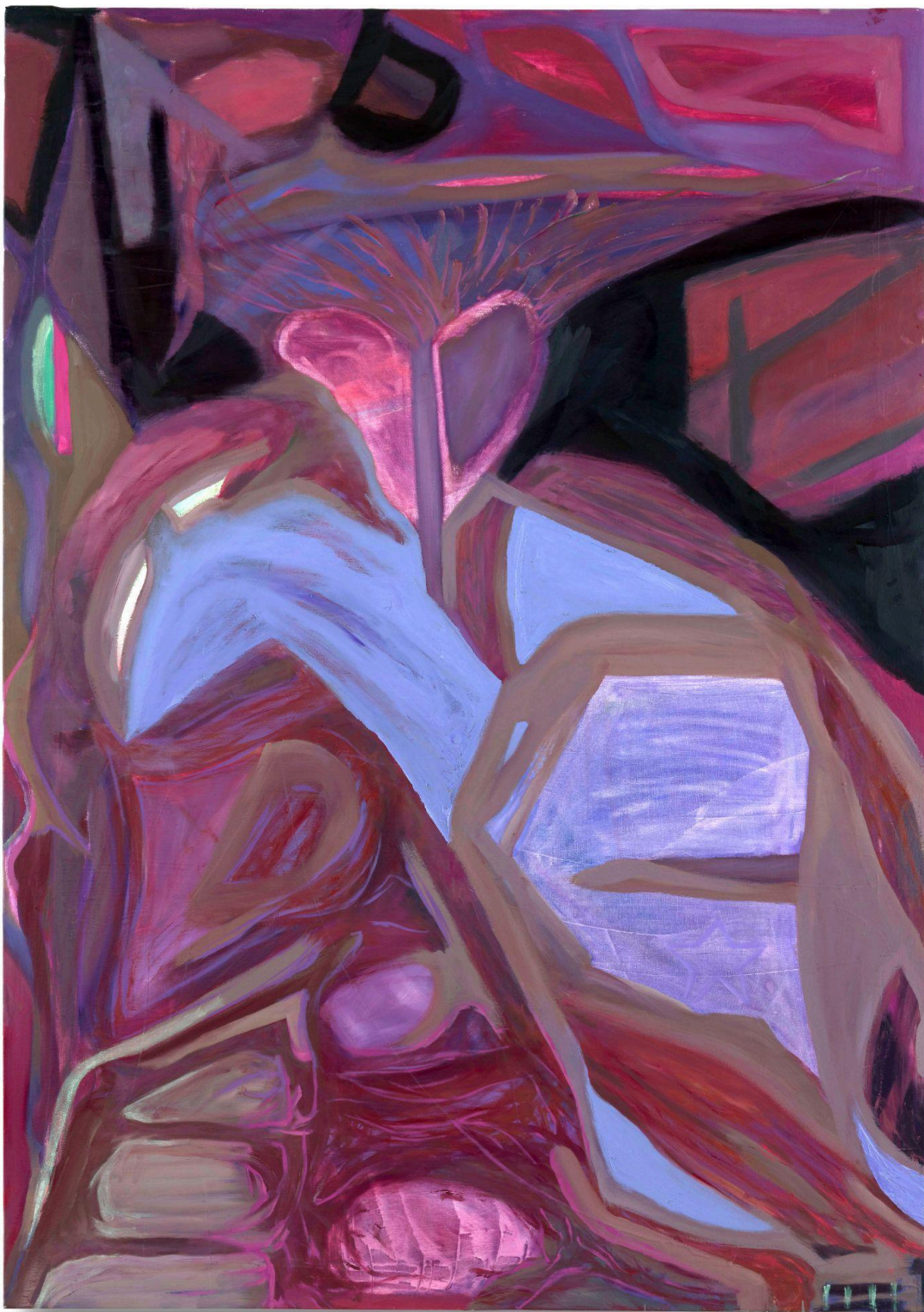
Surrounded by Fixers, 52x43", oil, glitter and cold wax on canvas, 2026, available



Ravish, 61x43", oil, cold wax and glitter on canvas, 2026, available



Kite Strings, 61x43", oil, cold wax and glitter on canvas, 2026, available



Out of the Void Comes Joy, 61x43", oil and interference pigment on canvas, 2026, available

THANK YOU FOR VISITING!



<3 HOLLY

hollyoverton.com
hollyanitaoverton@gmail.com