

# **A BRUSH WITH FANTASY**

Words By Zara Connelly  
Paintings by Jimmy's Brushes

**AMANITA**

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# A BRUSH WITH FANTASY



Words By Zara Connelly  
Paintings by Jimmy's Brushes

In occasion of Jimmy Connelly's debut exhibition in New York and first show in 15 years. Connelly presents 104 canvases painted during the last decade.

Jimmy Connelly

*A Brush with Fantasy*

September 14, 2023 - October 15, 2023

Amanita, 313 Bowery, New York NY

Words by Zara Connelly

Paintings by Jimmy's Brushes

Dive deep into the world of Jimmy's brushes and the incredible adventures of their paintings. They waited in the studio for 20 years without a show before taking matters into their own bristles...

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**Section 1**  
The Beginning

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*I still like to make friends you know?, 2010*

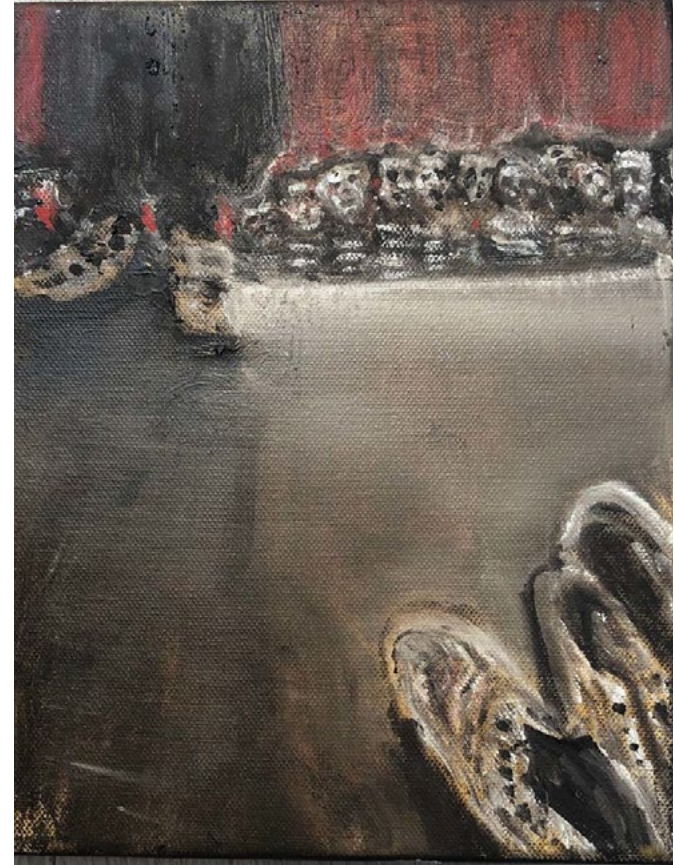
Earth is another word for burned umber, the most important pigment in painting.

In the beginning, a man was made from earth. Perhaps he painted because he wanted to make more friends.

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**Section 1**  
The Beginning

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*Foot-lights, 2015*

Royal, red velvet curtains crease and swing, ready to reveal a confident actor to his composed audience.



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**Section 1**  
The Beginning

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*Devotees of the monolythic monologue, 2022*

All eyes are on him as he entertains his attentive crowd.

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**Section 2**  
The Beyond

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*Loud Mouth, 2016*

Supernatural energies are being released.



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Section 2  
The Beyond

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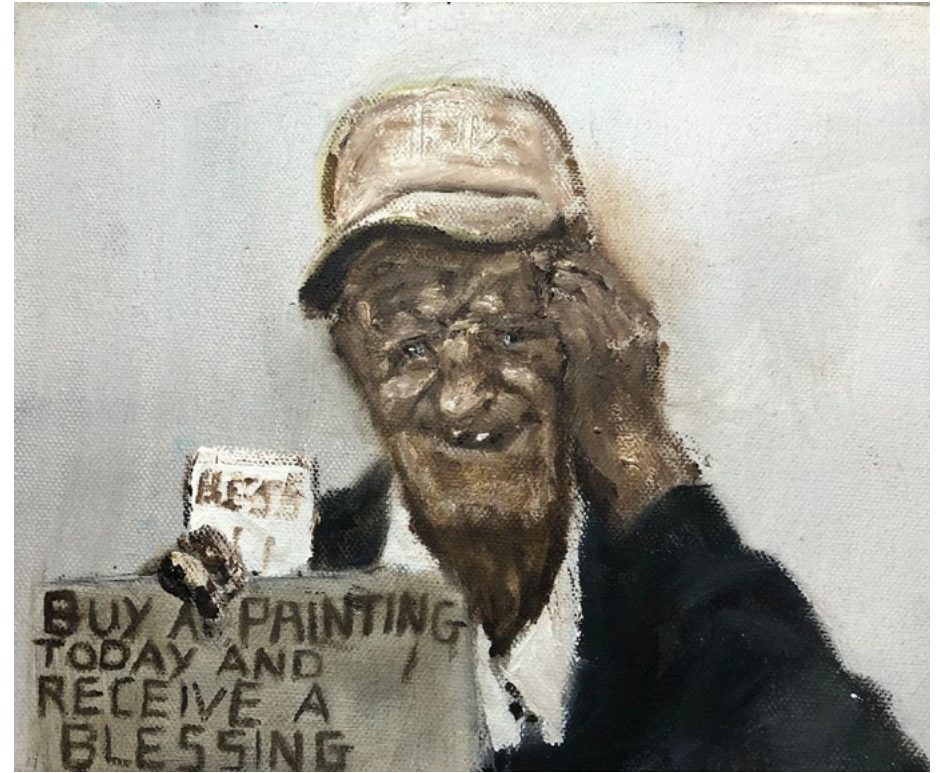
*Perpetual Breaths, 2021*

They circulate with enormous strength.

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Section 2  
The Beyond

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*Roadside shaman, 2021*

An artist has the power to supply them...



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Section 2  
The Beyond

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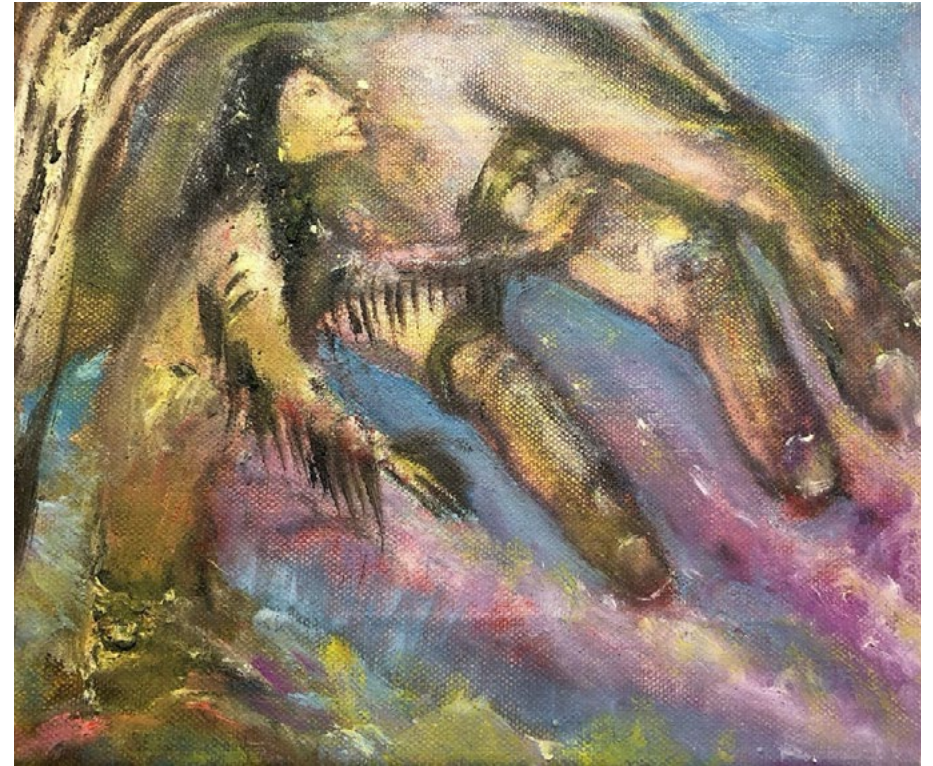
*Lineage, 2022*

He dreams big.

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Section 3  
The Above

---



*Lift, 2014*

May the mighty hand of the cosmos lead us to where...



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Section 3  
The Above

---



*Wings of Friendship, 2011*

...humans are soaring the skies with eagles' assistance...

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Section 3  
The Above

---



*Synchronized Soaring, 2021*

...in many different ways.



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**Section 3**  
The Above

---



*Bird in a tea cup, 2021*

While others ponder...

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**Section 3**  
The Above

---



*Updraft, 2021*

...until they are forced to battle.



---

Section 3  
The Above

---

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Section 3  
The Above

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*Kindred hearts & hobbies feed the soul, 2020*

My grandfather had a hard life. He was a really tough eagle, but he was considerate and gentle...



*Hello Little Friend, 2022*

If human angels are given wings, then what are bird angels given?



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**Section 3**  
The Above

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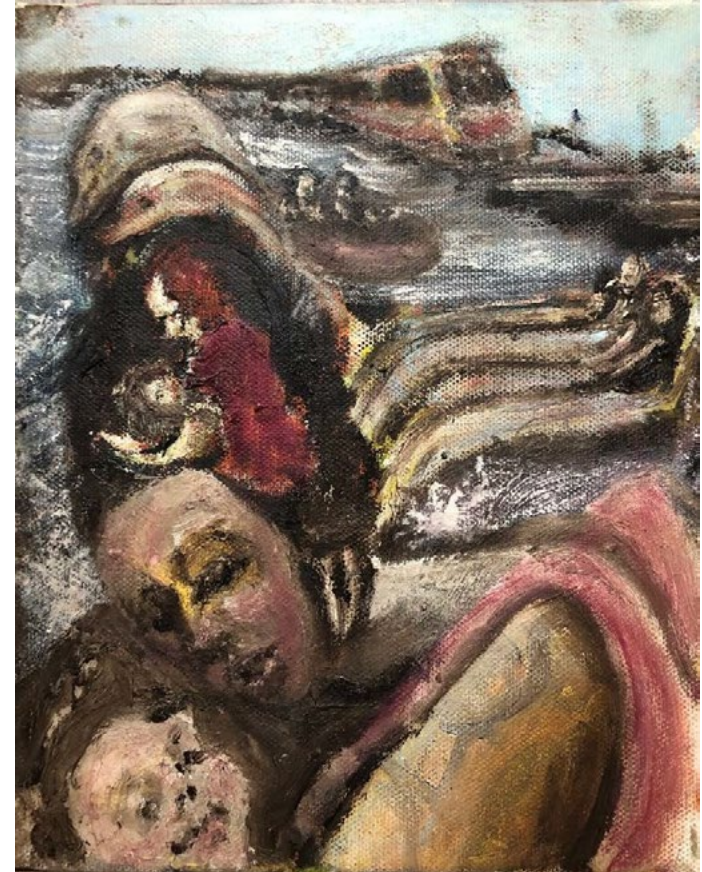
*Flight Training, 2021*

He taught himself to fly when he was a young lad.

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**Section 4**  
The Subconscious

---



*The dreams your mother used to have, 2020*

My grandmother's dreams were different to the ones my grandfather used to have.



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**Section 4**  
The Subconscious

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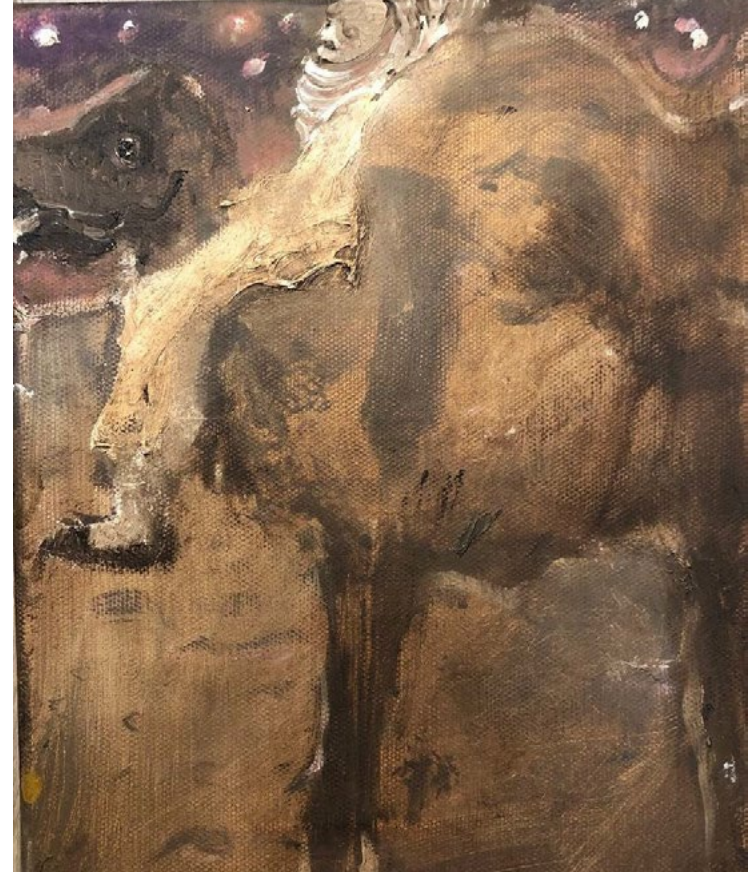
*Football Dreams, 2008*

He always dreamed about playing football...

---

**Section 4**  
The Subconscious

---



*Desert Dreams, 2022*

My uncle spent his life close to nature. He dozed off with the beaming stars laid out neatly in front of him...



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**Section 4**  
The Subconscious

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*Many hands make light work, 2021*

Once he dreamt that he was anointed by a goddess of fertility and prosperity.

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**Section 5**  
Legends

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*Mushy pea Medusa, 2021*

If you looked into the eyes of snake-haired Medusa, you would be turned to stone. Mushy Pea Medusa was her brother. If you looked into his eyes, you would crave gravy, peas and mashed potatoes.



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Section 5  
Legends

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*Man dancing the lambada with a giant anaconda, 2020*

God sent his best goalkeeper to stop the giant sea serpent named Leviathan, in an unseen version of The Book Of Job.

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Section 5  
Legends

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*Swampy hide and seek, 2022*

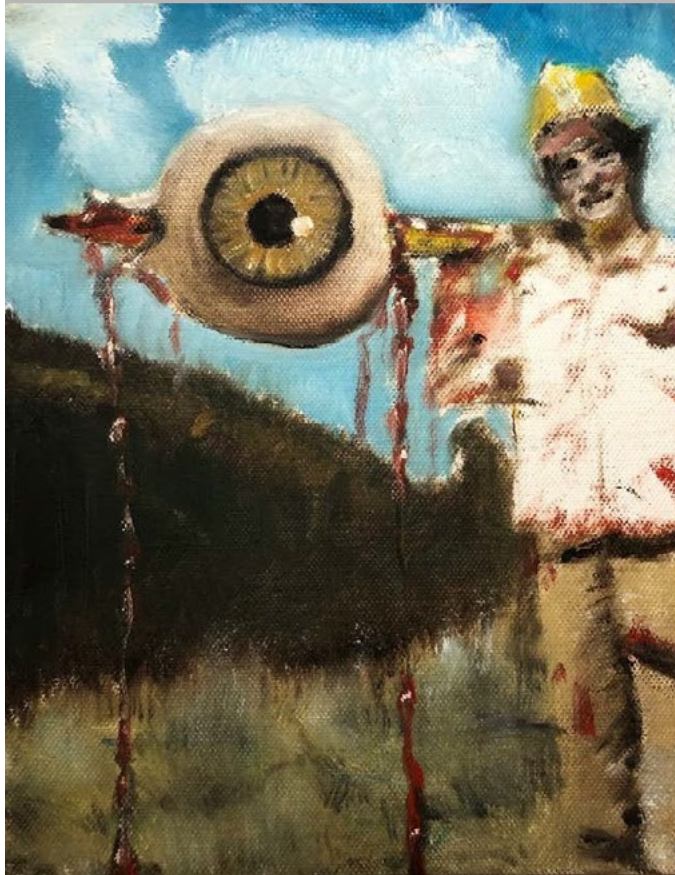
In the legend of Saint George, children were sent as sacrifices to the dragon when there were no sheep left in the village. However, the children were smart and hid under traffic cones. The princess held her breath as the dragon drew nearer.



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**Section 5**  
Legends

---



*Saint George, 2007*

After killing the dragon, the king thanked St George. Nonetheless, years later he fell upon hard times. Luckily he managed to acquire a desk job in a surveyor's office to make ends meet. He did, however, manage to keep up his dragon slaying hobby during his lunch breaks.

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**Section 6**  
Trust

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*A worm ate my dream, 2021*

When a ravenous worm eats your dreams...



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Section 6  
Trust

---



*Brave knight of the order of the golden bannana skin,, 2020*

And you find yourself in a dark place with energies compounding.  
Furthermore things get worse when sparks begin to fly...

---

Section 6  
Trust

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*Hephaestus the God of fire watching the news on television', 2020*

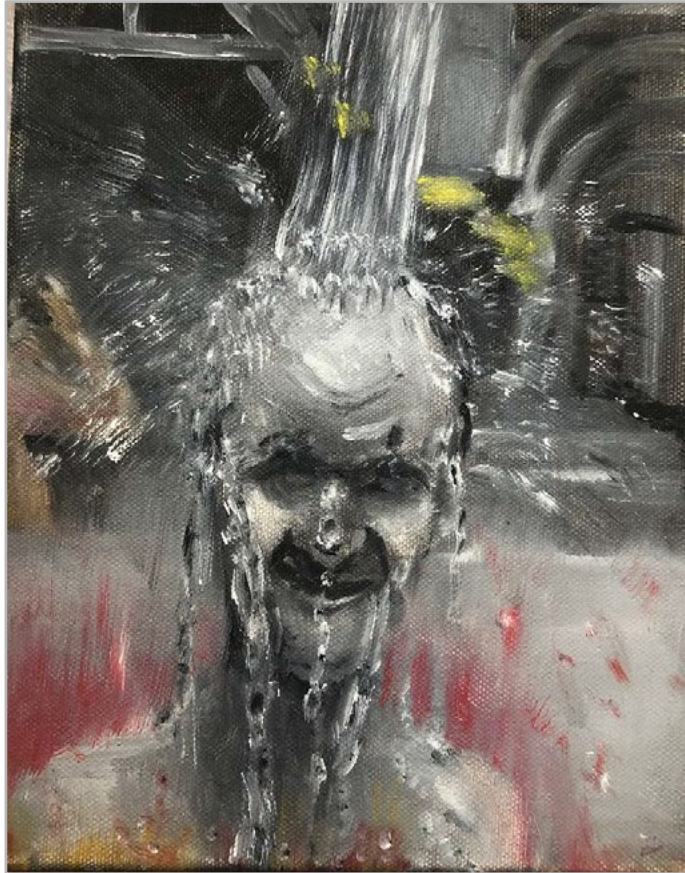
It begins to feel as if every strand of your hair has been set on fire..



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Section 6  
Trust

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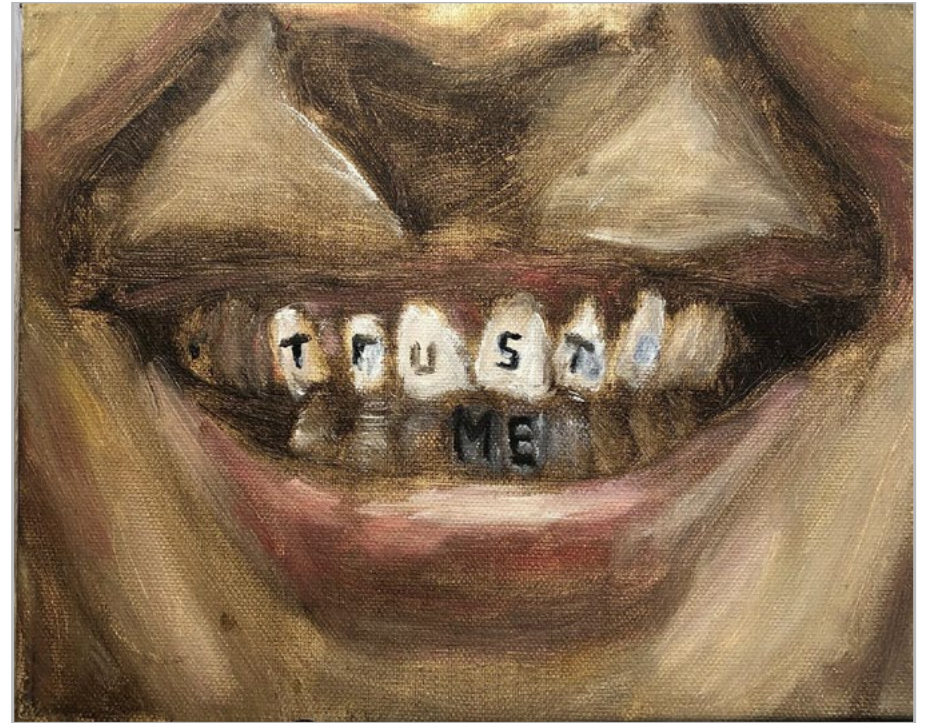
*Head rush, 2020*

You will only have one safe option - to extinguish it with a gush of icy water...

---

Section 6  
Trust

---



*Can you trust me? The only way to find out is to trust me, 2019*

...and TRUST ME...



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Section 6  
Trust

---



*I'm a prince whether you kiss me or not, 2022*

To guide you to the pond of wisdom where two prudent frogs named Golic and Golek will lead you...

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Section 6  
Trust

---



*Rainbow Warrior, 2018*

...to the rainbow warrior.



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**Section 7**  
Coming of age

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*Bee Nice, 2014*

Buzz, a frustrated boy, stands in between his two bee parents, embarrassed and longing for normality.

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**Section 7**  
Coming of age

---



*Small World Big Dreams - Small Dreams Big World, 2020*

He desperately wished that his parents could be as normal as all of his friends' parents. But then he wouldn't be the normal one any more in comparison.



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**Section 7**  
Coming of age

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*Belly Header, 2007*

The growing pressure to fit in and follow the latest fashions is enormous.

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**Section 8**  
Melody

---



*Anthem, 2021*

An entire drowsy brass band shares one giant, ears-splitting tuba with a multitude of mouthpieces - one for each heavy-eyed musician...with their mouths shut tightly inside the end of the tiny bronze cups.



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Section 8  
Melody

---



*Ring, 2022*

In dialogue, another small brass band blares back, communicating through from a far away hilltop reverberating through the troposphere...

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Section 8  
Melody

---



*A Song for the River, 2020*

...while others sing spiritual river songs for the river into the fresh spring morning air...



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Section 8  
Melody

---



*A song for your ancestors, 2022*

...a song for your ancestors while they listen through an opening in time...

---

Section 8  
Melody

---



*The Manager, 2021*

...The manager of 'The Shining Lights' soul quintet watches their every move intrusively...



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Section 8  
Melody

---



*Decision, 2009*

...Sorting their moves into yum and yuk. Some say over-monitoring is a form of bullying....

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Section 8  
Melody

---



*Monster Rock, 2021*

Meanwhile a monster plays a sublime riff on a beastly guitar.



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**Section 9**  
Growth

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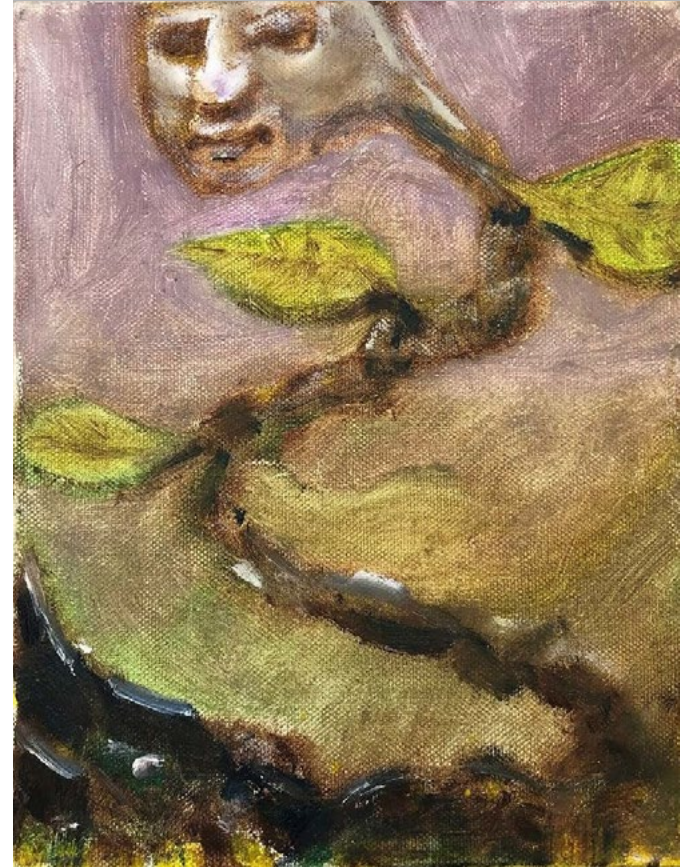
*Planting Dreams, 2021*

Plant seeds of life into the little clay soil house..

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**Section 9**  
Growth

---



*Vitus Keaney, 2016*

...and watch it grow into a colossal half human, half plant, smiling beanstalk with massive, drooping leaves named Vitus Keaney...



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Section 9  
Growth

---



*Ficus McTight, 2016*

...At the peak of another hybrid forms a smiling human head named Ficus McTight in the place of a flower ...

---

Section 9  
Growth

---



*Spagnum O'Neil, 2018*

...Hidden in the mysteries of mother nature is a creature named Spagnum O'Neil...



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Section 9  
Growth

---



*Malus McGee, 2015*

...On its many earthy branches sits countless human headed apples.  
This one is names Malus McGee.

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Section 10  
The Centaur

---



*Discovering Mum's Secret, 2018*

Astonished sisters witnesses their mother, an undisclosed centaur, in  
her playful element at night time...



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Section 10  
The Centaur

---



*Morning Frolics, 2021*

Her and many others gather in a place far away from home.

---

Section 10  
The Centaur

---



*Centaur Marksmen, 2022*

Prancing around and socialising with each other under the moonlight.



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**Section 10**  
The Centaur

---



*Flames of the Night Mare, 2011*

Some boast of their bravery by taking turns to gallop through roaring flames...

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**Section 11**  
The Philosophers

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*Great Thinkers, 2021*

A world of wonder awaits the philosophical girl and the historical philosophers above her. Her gentle but complex thought processes are unseen and discrete to human eyes.



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Section 11  
The Philosophers

---



*Giant Voyage, 2022*

Her philosophical friends had travelled far and wide...

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Section 11  
The Philosophers

---



*Land, 2020*

And washed up on the shores of brave new worlds.



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Section 11  
The Philosophers

---



*Birds of Pray(er), 2018*

Now they swirl around the after-life for mankind.

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Section 11  
The Philosophers

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*The After-life for Fish, 2021*

And hunt for fish in the after-life for water breathing creatures.



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**Section 11**  
The Philosophers

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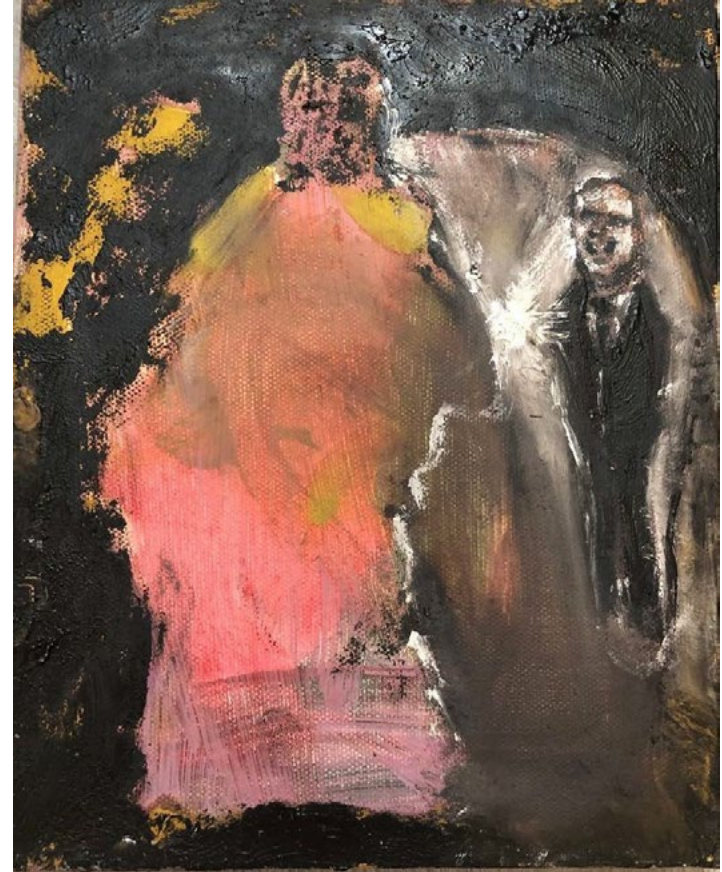
*Nocturnal Fish, 2022*

Three fearless night swimmers in a narrow river lit by the blood-red moon search for nocturnal fish, but the eerie atmosphere suggests they might get more than they had bargained for.

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**Section 11**  
The Philosophers

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*Reunion, 2022*

Like a portal where old friends reunite for a chat...



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Section 11  
The Philosophers

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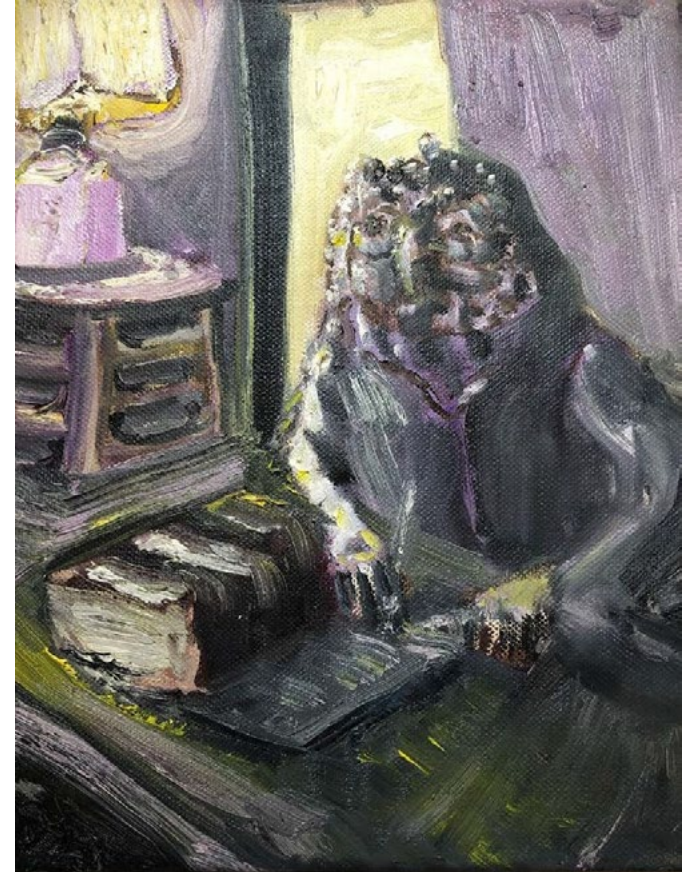
*Carriage To Everywhere, 2021*

There is also a carriage that travels along metaphysical pipework to the other dimension.

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Section 11  
The Philosophers

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*Old Books Old Friends, 2020*

Where animals philosophise and govern over the humans...



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Section 11  
The Philosophers

---



*Hoofing it to Work, 2021*

Some philosophers get reincarnated as animals...

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Section 11  
The Philosophers

---



*Feeling Wisdom, 2010*

Where their wisdom is undiscovered.



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**Section 12**  
The Journey

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**Section 12**  
The Journey

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*Angel building affordable housing in heaven, 2012*

Imagine spreading your wings and building a spacecraft...



*Home made flying saucer, 2021*

In which you and a pet...



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Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Alien loft conversion, 2010*

Invite your family on board...

---

Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Heaven is but a mile in the sky, 2021*

Because heaven is but a mile in the sky.



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Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Contact, 2020*

And when you reach outer space...

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Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Family Photo in Space, 2020*

Be sure to have a family photo on the moon...



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Section 12  
The Journey

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Section 12  
The Journey

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*Home Is Where Love Floats, 2020*

To compare with the one when times were tougher.



*Friends of the Earth, 2019*

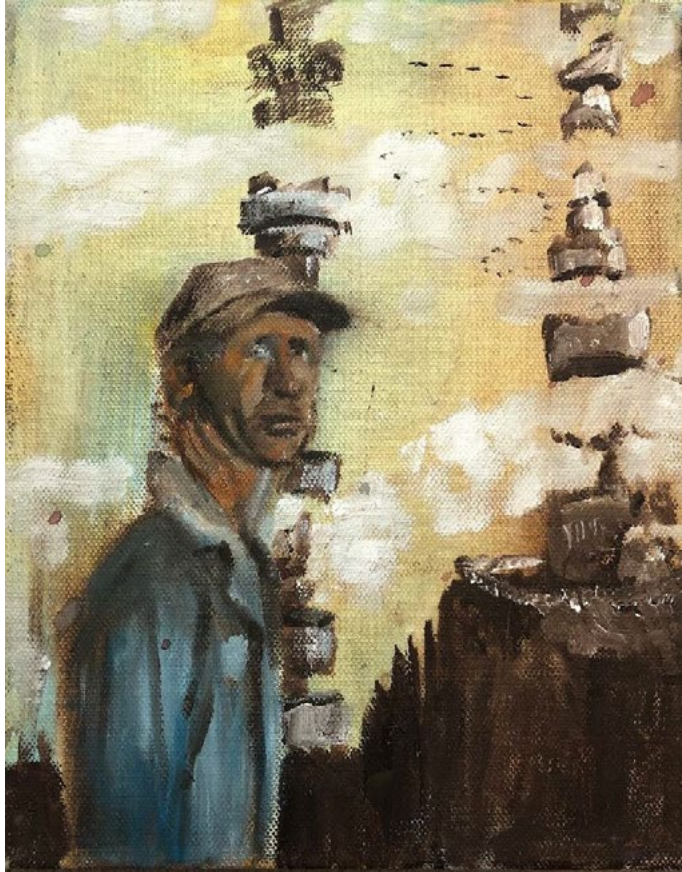
Then continue your voyage...



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Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Accidentally Waking Up in Someone Else's Dream, 2019*

To a beautiful place...

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Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Butterfly Envy, 2021*

Where chrysalises envy butterflies...



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Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Pretty shy for a fly guy, 2022*

And fellow outsiders welcome you...

---

Section 12  
The Journey

---



*Stowaway Stoat, 2020*

And ask to travel home with you in your suitcase.



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**Section 13**  
The Toymaker

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*The Toy Maker, 2020*

The toy maker knows that when...

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**Section 13**  
The Toymaker

---



*The King is Asleep - Time to Wake Up the Toys, 2021*

...the king is asleep, it's time to wake up the toys...



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Section 13  
The Toymaker

---



*Soul Searching, 2014*

...the police are afraid.

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Section 13  
The Toymaker

---



*Holy enigma of the dogbot, 2008*

However, many humans form boundless bonds with the toys and know they have nothing to fear...



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Section 13  
The Toymaker

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*Aggie Aye Aye, 2009*

Fury little spies adorn every little nook and cranny...

---

Section 13  
The Toymaker

---



*Monkey Chef, 2008*

Watching every move...



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Section 13  
The Toymaker

---



*Triple Stare, 2022*

We know we are being watched...

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Section 13  
The Toymaker

---



*Purple Haze, 2011*

We can even be watched through the mist...



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Section 13  
The Toymaker

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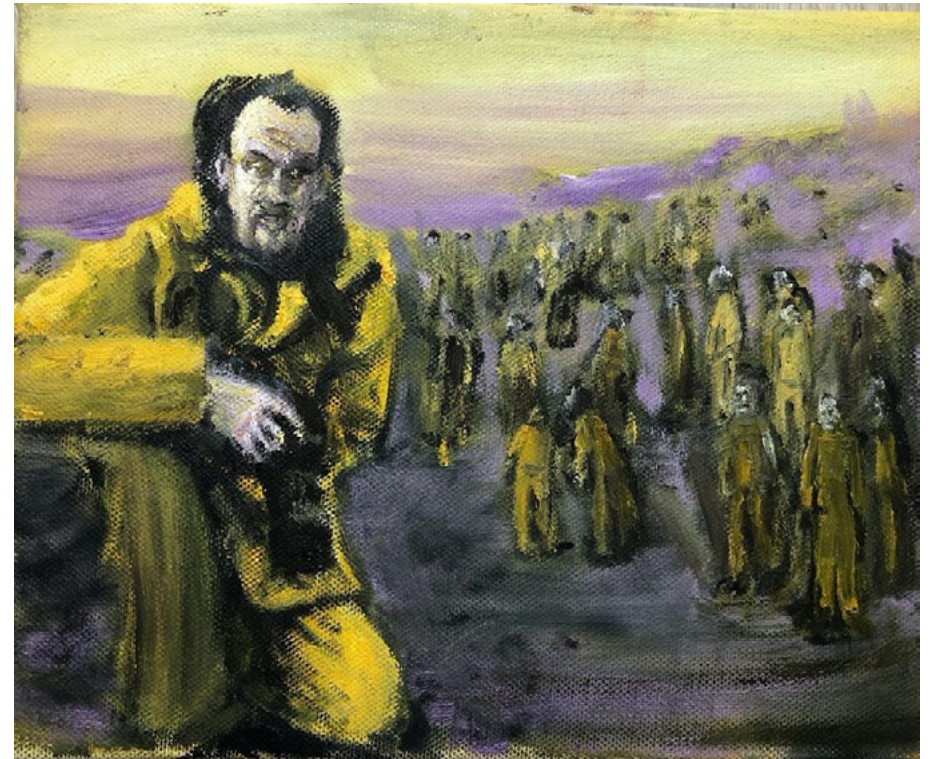
*Good fences make good neighbours, 2011*

Good fences make good neighbours.

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Section 13  
The Toymaker

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*Penguin People, 2012*

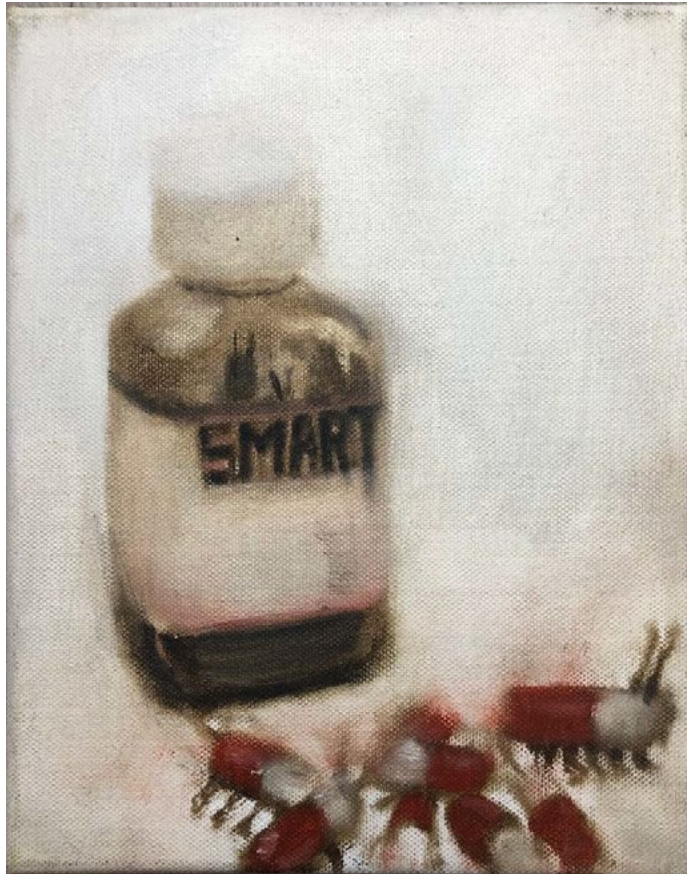
Nevertheless, we are beautiful when we are together.



---

Section 13  
The Toymaker

---



*Pills that make you smarter, 2013*

And are free to improve our minds...

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Section 14  
Sport

---



*You are a natural born winner, 2022*

In the prime of Sebastian's life, he was the speediest snail to have ever won the Dash 365 Snail Races...



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Section 14  
Sport

---



*Reminiscing, 2021*

Now, in his senior years, living with his dear friend Sally-Long-Legs, he shares long ago stories of his fame-filled career...

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Section 14  
Sport

---



*Daddy Long Legs, 2022*

Sally's lengthy legs descended from her much-loved father, Daddy-Long-Legs. When he is happy, he is as buoyant as a recently inflated helium balloon; he was a legendary high jumper in his day...



---

Section 14  
Sport

---



*Living Room Ballet, 2021*

Sally also has a twin rabbit-eared sister. They have a very much enjoyed hobby of dancing together merrily and calmly, which they perform to the rest of their encouraging family between competitions.

---

Section 14  
Sport

---



*My wild duck riding brothers, 2021*

Sally also has a twin rabbit-eared sister. They have a very much enjoyed hobby of dancing together merrily and calmly, which they perform to the rest of their encouraging family between competitions.



---

Section 14  
Sport

---



*Plodding Jumbo Shells, 2021*

Sally also has a twin rabbit-eared sister. They have a very much enjoyed hobby of dancing together merrily and calmly, which they perform to the rest of their encouraging family between competitions.

---

Section 14  
Sport

---



*Measuring the Soul, 2009*

...Their eyes are fixed on all of the frenetic action...



---

Section 14  
Sport

---



*The Other Banshee, 2021*

...On one viewing platform, a bird woman who is perched up on a high pew remains silent, determined not to be spotted.

---

Section 14  
Sport

---



*Keep me safe keep me safe keep me safe, 2022*

After the duck race is finished, angels protect the frightened man as he walks back through the dark forest with his cheese-and-pickle-sandwich-filled shopping bags. He feels like he's in a grown up version of the Little Red Ridinghood story.



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Section 14  
Sport

---



*Big red riding hood, 2022*

In reality, he is a fully grown man now. He still wears a white apron along with his signature red cape. He has now found a part-time job in a dingy sports bar in the city.

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Section 14  
Sport

---



*Human piñata, 2021*

There are even some sports where people strike each other as if they were human piñata.



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Section 15  
Marriage

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*Royal rat wedding, 2022*

An underground rat wedding takes place in the damp tunnels of the sewers...

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Section 15  
Marriage

---



*Secret love birds and floating doggy, 2021*

Above ground, lovebirds, Sky and Robin, enjoy their water-themed honeymoon with their dog Rupert and his favourite red-coated floaty...



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Section 15  
Marriage

---



*Cutting zero gravity turf in an endangered bog land, 2010*

Robin has always had a hazy, recurring dream where his father teaches him to fly with inky clouds and sooty gray ropes.

---

Section 15  
Marriage

---



*Premonition, 2022*

Above ground, lovebirds, Sky and Robin, enjoy their water-themed honeymoon with their dog Rupert and his favourite red-coated floaty...



---

Section 15  
Marriage

---



*Men trapped in cheese, 2013*

Robin has always had a hazy, recurring dream where his father teaches him to fly with inky clouds and sooty gray ropes.

---

Section 15  
Marriage

---



*Cinematic Seabird, 2012*

The wedding photographer had flown in specifically for the job, and he turned out to be their hero. He saved them just in time.



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313 Bowery, New York, 10003 NY



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