



JOEL ARTHUR
PLOTS AND GROUNDS

18 APRIL - 18 MAY 2024

THIS IS NO FANTASY
dianne tanzer + nicola stein

JOEL ARTHUR

PLOTS AND GROUNDS

Plots and Grounds is Joel Arthur's first solo show with THIS IS NO FANTASY.

The boundaries between representation and abstraction merge and blur in Joel Arthur's paintings, making them feel at once familiar and foreign. Nature, constructed forms, and everyday subjects intersect on the canvas, in works that constantly tread the line between fantasy and reality - often with a psychedelic twist.

Arthur's practice concentrates on faux-natural parks and gardens to discuss ownership, the division and development of land, and the modification of place through time. Importantly, the urban park is always in a state of flux - a green space protected and maintained by local government which sets the stage for a vast range of social activities. This theatrical green space remains an urban oasis with its boundaries defined, while at its perimeter the city shifts and changes in progress.

Referencing art history, particularly modernism, and perceptual painting, Arthur's observations of his local surroundings are filtered and disrupted through his studio processes. The artificial spaces in his imagery fused with fabricated still life structures and at times more abstracted forms, draw attention to the false and multiple ways that culture and histories can be narrated while mediated through painting.

BIO

Joel Arthur, born in Canberra and now based in Sydney, considers the role of perception and illusionism through representation and abstraction.

His painting style slips between abstraction and expressionism, drawing from his immediate surroundings, the urban environment, and art history. Utilising a variety of materials and mediums, his paintings explore utopian and dystopian landscapes that appear at once both foreign and familiar.

Arthur is undertaking his Masters in Fine Art by Research at the University of New South Wales School of Art and Design, and previously graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Art (Honours) from the Australian National University (ANU) School of Art in 2014. He is a finalist in the 2024 Bayside Painting Prize, and in 2023 was selected as a finalist in the Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Waverley Art Prize, Fremantle Print Award, and the Muswellbrook Art Prize. Arthur was also awarded Runner Up and Highly Commended at the 2022 Waverley Art Prize, selected as a finalist in the Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize 2022, and Guirguis New Art Prize 2017.

His work is held in collections including Artbank Sydney, the Australian National University, Deloitte, and KPMG.



Photography: Claire Fletcher



JOEL ARTHUR



Borrowed Space, 2023
oil on linen
61 x 76 cm
\$3,500

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Dwelling, 2023
oil and acrylic on canvas
152 x 183 cm
\$8,000

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Excavator II, 2023
oil on linen
122 x 152 cm
\$6,500



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Modern Feel, 2024
oil on linen
122 x 152 cm
\$6,500

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Excavator, 2023
oil on linen
81 x 92 cm
\$4,500

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Hoarding, 2024
oil on linen
61 x 76 cm
\$3,500

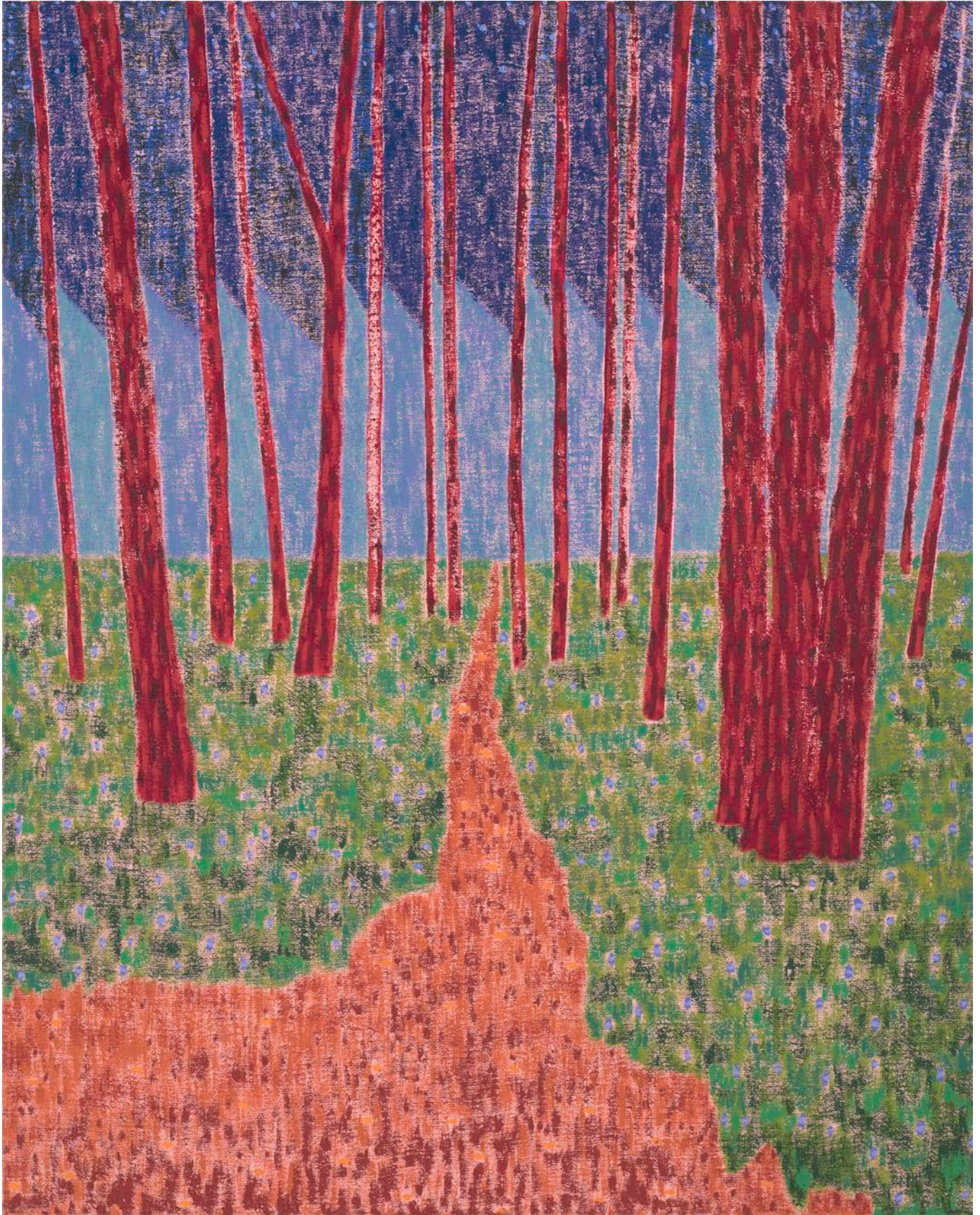


JOEL ARTHUR



Machine, 2023
oil on linen
122 x 152 cm
\$6,500

JOEL ARTHUR



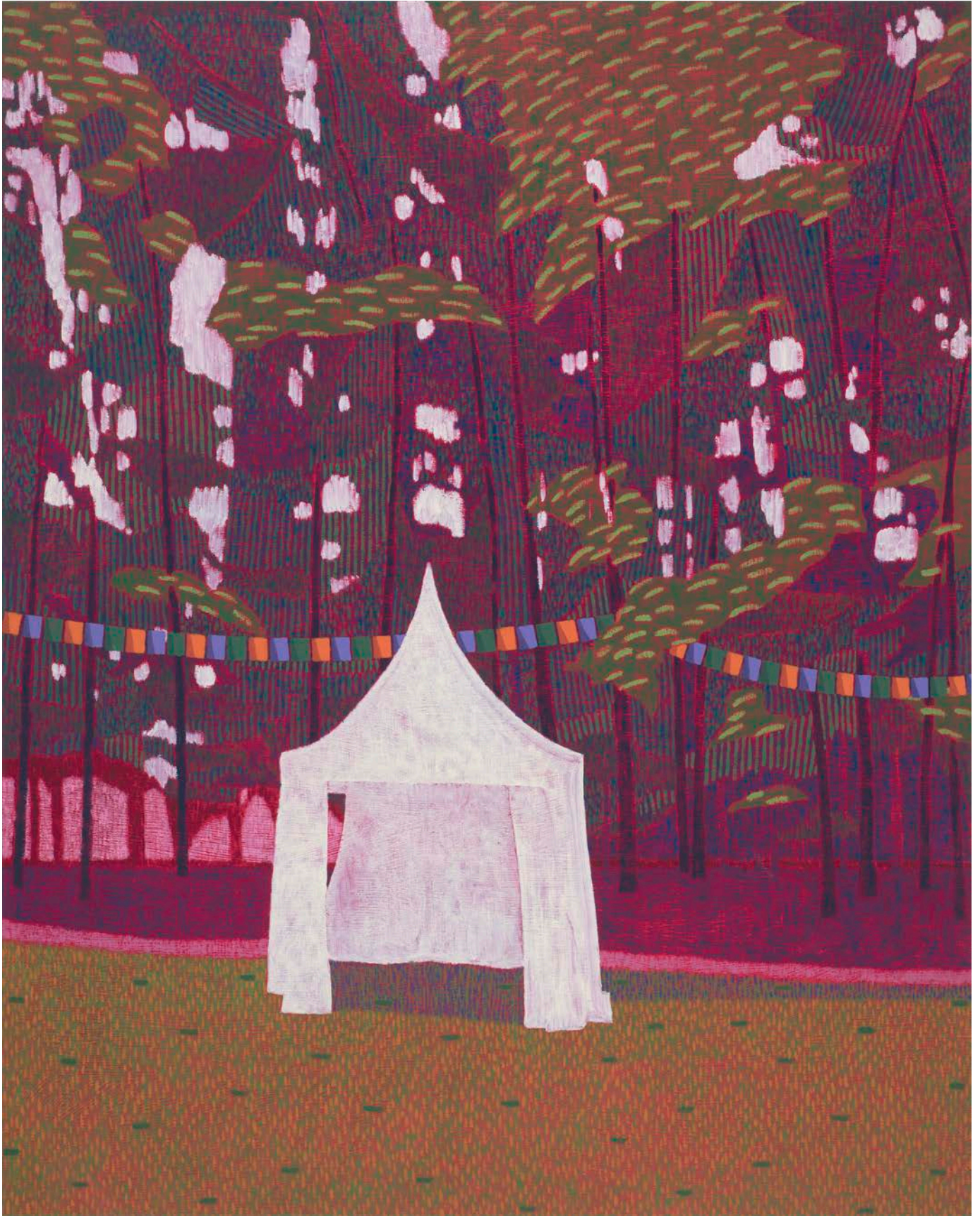
Desire Line, 2023
oil, acrylic and pumice powder on linen
76 x 61 cm
\$3,500

JOEL ARTHUR



New Apartments, 2024
oil on linen
152 x 122 cm
\$6,500

JOEL ARTHUR



Canopies, 2024
oil on linen
152 x 122 cm
\$6,500

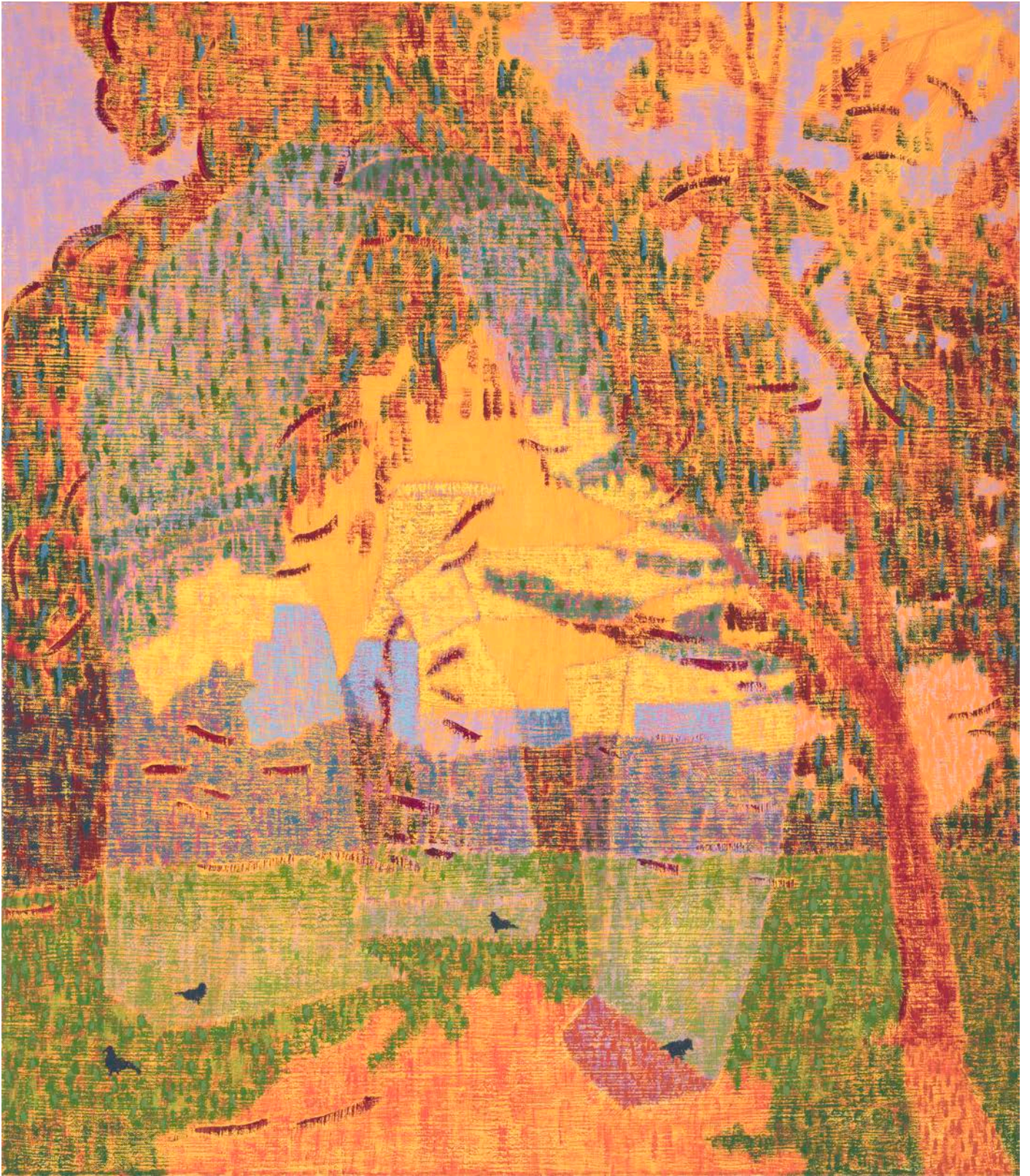


JOEL ARTHUR



Shelter, 2023
oil on linen
92 x 81 cm
\$4,500

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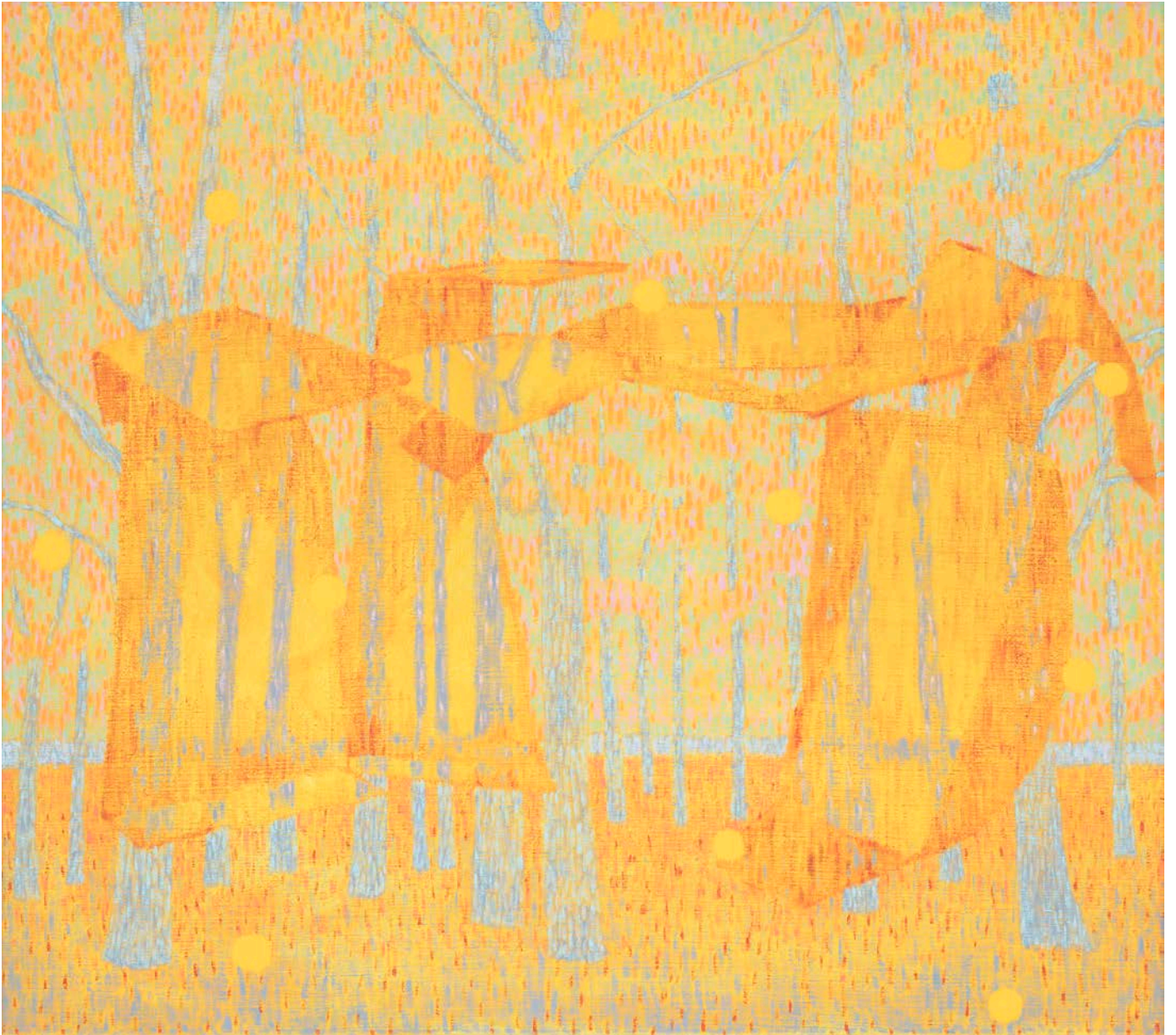
Social Structure, 2023
oil on linen
81 x 71 cm
\$4,500

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The Lunar and the Social Path, 2023
oil on linen
92 x 81 cm
\$4,500

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Transference, 2023
oil on linen
81 x 92 cm
\$4,500

JOEL ARTHUR CV

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2026 Master of Fine Arts (Research), University of New South Wales School of Art and Design, Sydney
- 2014 Bachelor of Visual Art Honours First Class (Painting), Australian National University School of Art and Design, Canberra

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Plots and Grounds, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2022 A Landscape to Build On, Gallery 9, Sydney NSW
- 2019 Ocular Demand, ANCA, Canberra ACT
- 2018 Moving Image, The Front Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2016 All Lined Up, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra ACT

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Bayside Painting Prize, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2023 Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Bendigo Regional Art Gallery, Bendigo VIC
- Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA
- Waverley Art Prize, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney NSW
- Between Things, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra ACT
- After the Past, ANU School of Art and Design Gallery, Canberra ACT
- Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Muswellbrook NSW
- 2022 Recent Acquisitions, Artbank, Sydney NSW
- Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize, Bayside Gallery, Brighton VIC
- Waverley Art Prize, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney NSW
- The Edge of Light, curated by Julian Laffan, Measured Gallery, Canberra ACT
- Megalo Editions, Megalo Print Studio, Canberra ACT
- Group Hang, Gang Gang pop up gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2021 Homebound, curated by David Broker, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra ACT
- One or Two Paintings, ANCA, Canberra ACT
- 2020 Highlights from the ANU Art Collection, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2018 The Point, curated by Dr. Kirsten Farrel, Nishi Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2017 Superman 3, Tributary Projects, Canberra ACT
- 10 Years Of Collecting Art For The ANU, curated by Terence Maloon, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra ACT
- Guirguis New Art Prize, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat VIC
- M8, M16 Art Space, Canberra ACT
- 2016 Op Art, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney NSW
- You Are Invited, Watters Gallery, Sydney NSW
- Blaze 10, curated by Sara D'Alessandro, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra ACT
- 2015 Hatched, PICA Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth WA
- CAPO Art Prize, M16 Artspace, Canberra ACT
- Sometimes There Isn't Anything To Get, curated by Rosie Goldfeder, Nancy Sever Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- Play Nice, curated by Oscar Carpezio, You Are Here, Canberra ACT

AWARDS | GRANTS | PRIZES

- 2024 University Postgraduate Award (Scholarship), University of New South Wales
- Finalist – Bayside Painting Prize
- 2023 Finalist – Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize
- Recipient of ArtsACT out of round activity funding
- Finalist - Waverley Art Prize, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney NSW
- Finalist - Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA
- Finalist - Muswellbrook Art Prize, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Muswellbrook NSW
- 2022 Highly Commended - Waverley Art Prize, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney NSW
- Finalist - Bayside Aquisitive Art Prize, Bayside Gallery, Brighton VIC
- Recipient of ArtsACT in round activity funding
- 2021 Recipient of ArtsACT in round activity funding
- 2020 Recipient of ArtsACT in round activity funding

JOEL ARTHUR CV

- 2017 Finalist - Guirguis New Art Prize, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat VIC
- 2014 Peter and Lena Karmel Award
- Sydney Canvas Company Award
- ACT Legislative Assembly Award
- Canberra Contemporary Art Space Residency Award

RESIDENCIES AND PROJECTS

- 2022 Megalo Editions, Megalo Print Studio, Canberra ACT
- 2015 Canberra Contemporary Art Space studio residency, Canberra ACT

COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney NSW
Deloitte, Canberra ACT
Australian National University, Canberra ACT
Bradley Alan Love, Canberra ACT
James and Jacqui Erskine, NSW
KPMG, Canberra ACT
Various private collections in Australia

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Emerson, Ellisa. 2023. Muswellbrook Art Prize. Muswellbrook: Hunter Valley Publishing
- Wilson, Emma-Kate. 2023. "50 Things Collectors Should Know: 22 Joel Arthur". Art Collector. January 2023
- 2022 Hall, Viva. 2022. "Found in Translation", Imprint. January 2022. The Print Council of Australia Inc
- 2021 Haynes, Peter. 2021. "In Homebound, seven local artists assess their practice in light of COVID-19". The Canberra Times. April 24.
<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7184394/an-intriguing-show-with-punch/>
- 2017 Hinton, Shelley. 2017. Guirguis New Art Prize. Sovereign Press: Ballarat
- 2016 Canberra Contemporary Art Space. 2016. "Blaze Ten @ Ccas (2016)." Issuu
https://issuu.com/ccas_canberra/docs/2016_-_blaze___ccas?e=14755631%2F33555148



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PHOTO: CLAIRE FLETCHER