



Louise Giovanelli *Soothsay*

May 12 - June 30, 2023

54 White Street, New York, NY (US)

GRIMM

Louise Giovanelli

Soothsay

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GRIMM is pleased to present *Soothsay*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Louise Giovanelli (b. 1993, London, UK). This will be the Manchester-based artist's fourth solo exhibition at GRIMM and her third at the New York gallery.

Expanding upon motifs that recur throughout her oeuvre, in particular curtains, stages, performers and vessels, Giovanelli considers the mouth as a site of transformative possibility in her new work. She continues to explore an interest in thresholds: zones or places of change where action occurs, focusing keenly on moments of contemporary spiritual reverie. The mouth as threshold is underscored by the exhibition title *Soothsay*, referring to a prognosticator or prophet who predicts and speaks the truth.

The exhibition marks the US debut of a new series of paintings titled *Entheogen*, which features an appropriated 1970s film still image of a young woman taking the Eucharist. Giovanelli repeats the image across the series of works, though distinguishes each with subtle and deft variations of cropping and color that prompt closer viewing and deeper contemplation. The narrative implications of the image become increasingly elusive, as the religious underpinnings of the subject's euphoric state begin to shift towards more provocative interpretation.

The title *Entheogen*, which refers to psychoactive substances often used in ritual and spiritual contexts and is rooted in the Greek word *Entheos* meaning full of God, reinforces this narrative ambiguity where tropes of religious iconography, hallucinogenic drugs, and sexual revelation coalesce.



Detail | *Mise en scène*, 2023

A new series in the exhibition of correlative enigma to *Entheogen* adapts a still image from a 1980s pornographic film. The woman's expression in this series is akin to that of the Eucharist-receiving subject in *Entheogen* and in pairing these works together, Giovanelli aims to further blur the divide between erotic and spiritual rapture. An undertone of dark humor is exposed when considering this visual conflation and its position on a spectrum that spans from religious innocence to carnal corruption to the illicit.

A deep-rooted interest in the canon of Western Art and Renaissance painting remains, not only in Giovanelli's technique which often employs a thin glaze of underpainting to her work that emanates glowing luminance, but through highlighting classical motifs such as the elongated female neck and challenging traditional single-point perspective as seen in the works of Fra Angelico and Piero della Francesca.



Various new works on view have a thick waxy surface comprised of oil paint mixed with beeswax with the image painted in a thin layer on top, a method that holds weight and time within the painting's surface, while other works employ a fine, pointillist technique that achieves a hazy surface effect that further heightens the depiction of transcendental experience.

A large-scale painting of a curtain bookends the exhibition, offering an element of monumentality amongst extreme intimacy. Its gleaming gold surface is suggestive of curtains one may encounter in a shady nightclub. This serves as an anchoring device and backdrop to the *Entheogen* series on view, augmenting the meaning of the green-hued works and their induced states of ecstasy with its foreboding shimmer.

About the artist

Louise Giovanelli graduated from the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main (DE) where she studied with Professor Amy Sillman. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from the Manchester School of Art (UK) in 2015. Recent exhibitions include venues such as Moon Grove, Manchester (UK); Flag Art Foundation, New York, NY (US); White Cube, London (UK); Hayward Gallery, London (UK); AkzoNobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL); GRIMM, New York, NY (US) and C.L.E.A.R.I.N.G., New York, NY (US).

Selected collections include AkzoNobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL); Fundacion Medianoche0 (ES); The Grundy Gallery Collection (UK); Hall Art Foundation (DE, US); The Hepworth Wakefield (UK); Hort Family Collection, New York, NY (US); Kunstmuseum The Hague (NL); Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL (US); Longlati Foundation (CN); Manchester Art Gallery Collection (UK); MOCA, Los Angeles, CA (US); The National Museum (NO); Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (UK); Yuz Museum Shanghai (CN) and a number of private collections.

All press inquiries

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Entheogen
2023

Oil on canvas
200 x 150 cm | 78 3/4 x 59 in

GRIMM

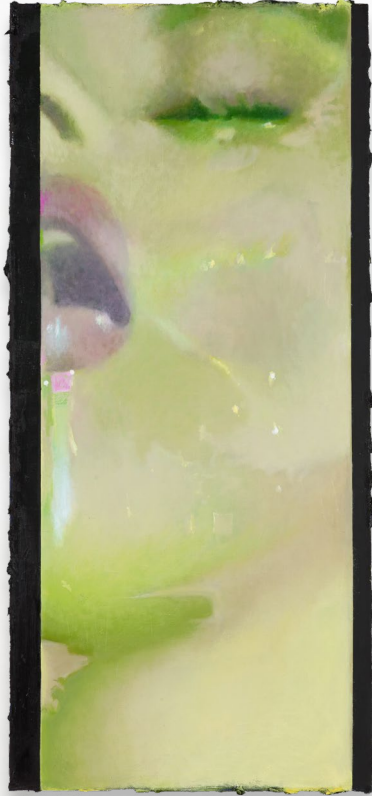




Entheogen
2023

Oil on linen
180 x 90 cm | 70 7/8 x 35 3/8 in

GRIMM



Magdelin
2023

Oil on canvas
112 x 52 cm | 44 1/8 x 20 1/2 in

GRIMM



Stricture
2023

Oil on canvas, diptych
240 x 340 cm | 94 1/2 x 133 7/8 in

GRIMM

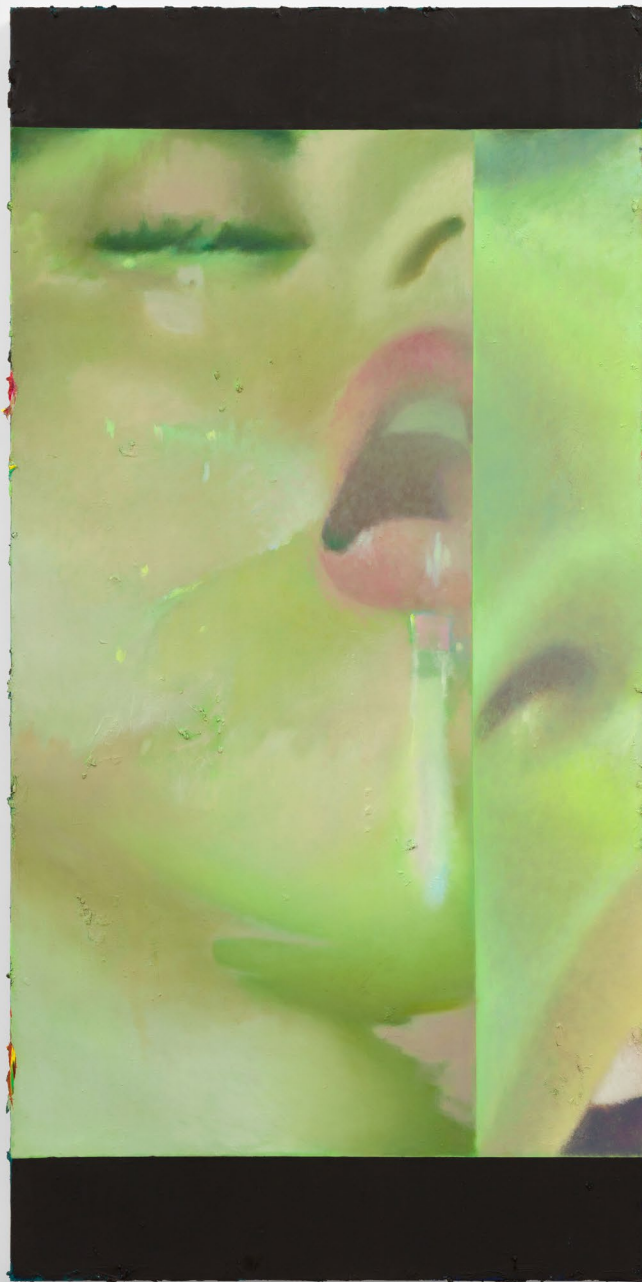


Entheogen
2023

Oil on canvas
96.5 x 40.6 cm | 38 x 16 in

GRIMM

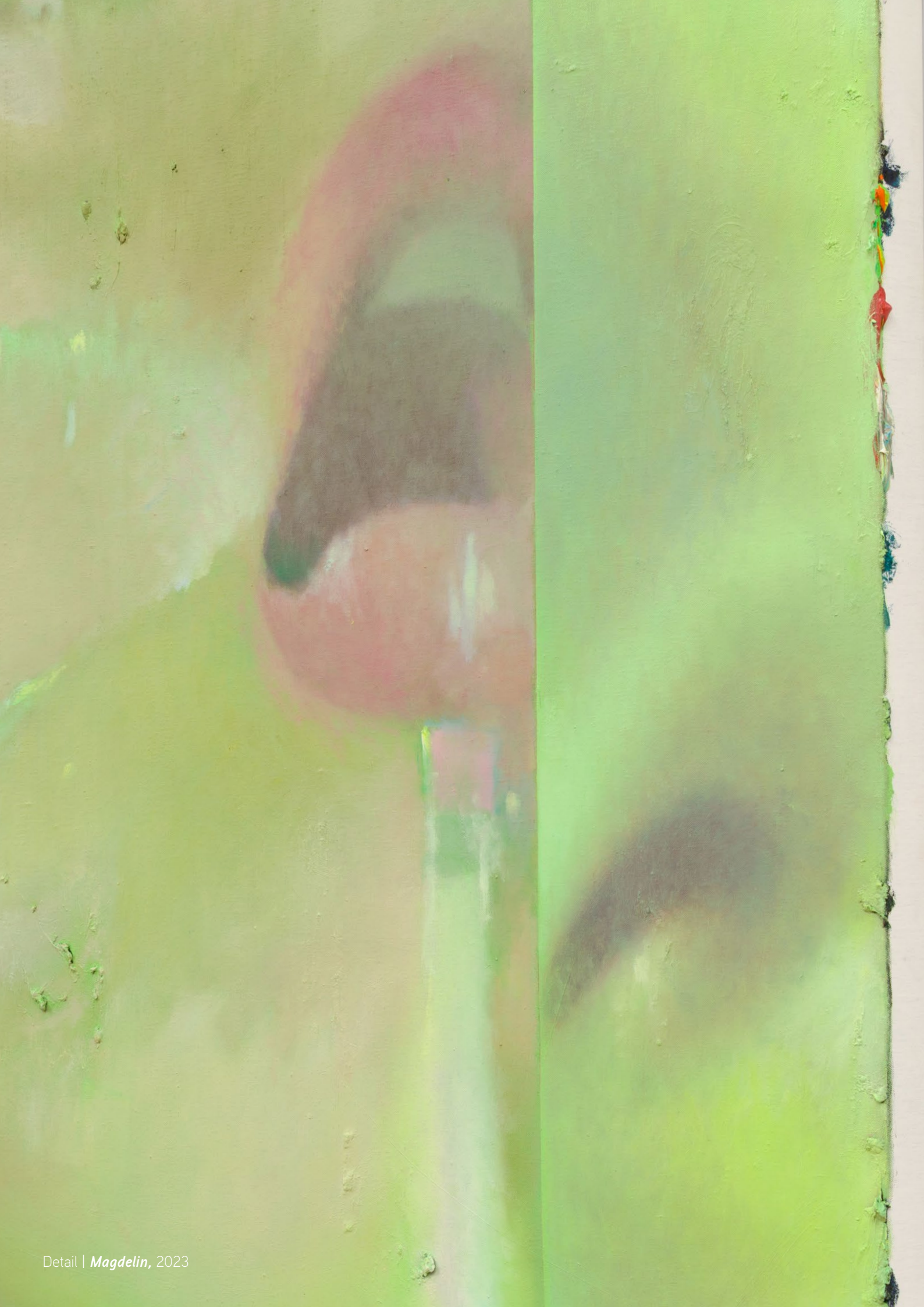


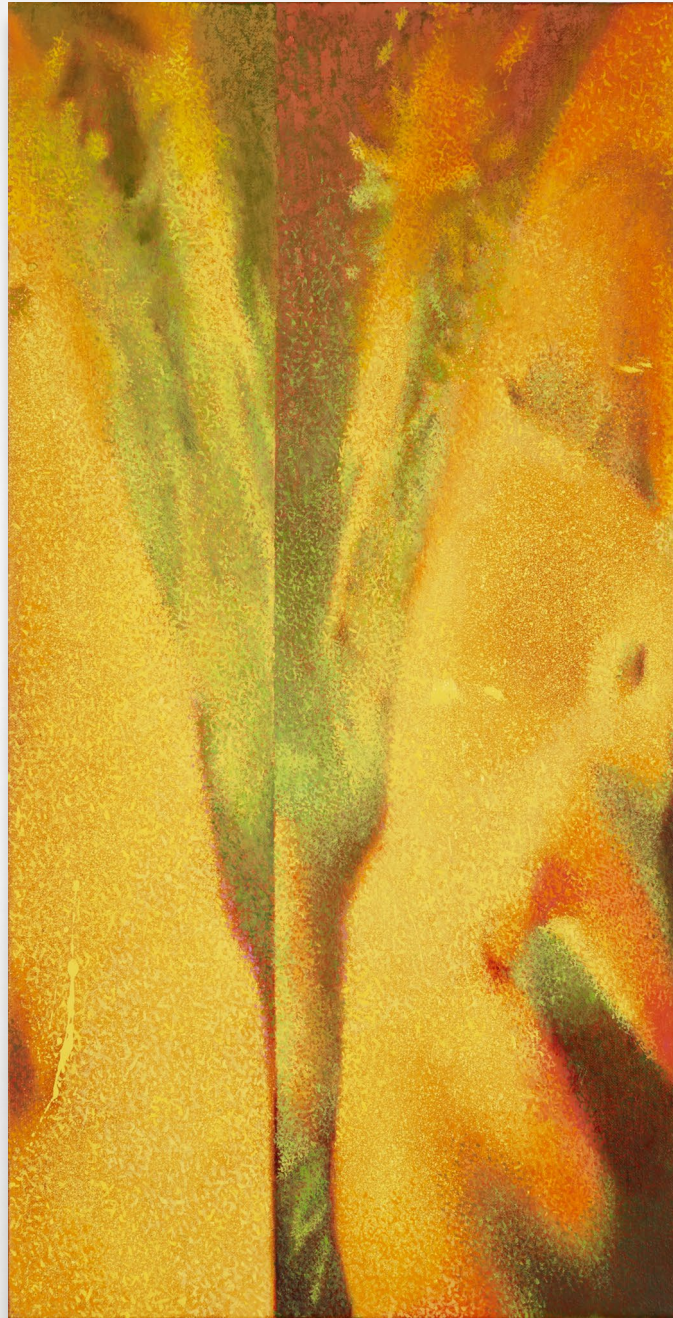


Magdelin
2023

Oil on canvas
182 x 92 cm | 71 5/8 x 36 1/4 in

GRIMM





Mise en scène
2023

Oil on canvas
61 x 31.5 cm | 24 x 12 3/8 in

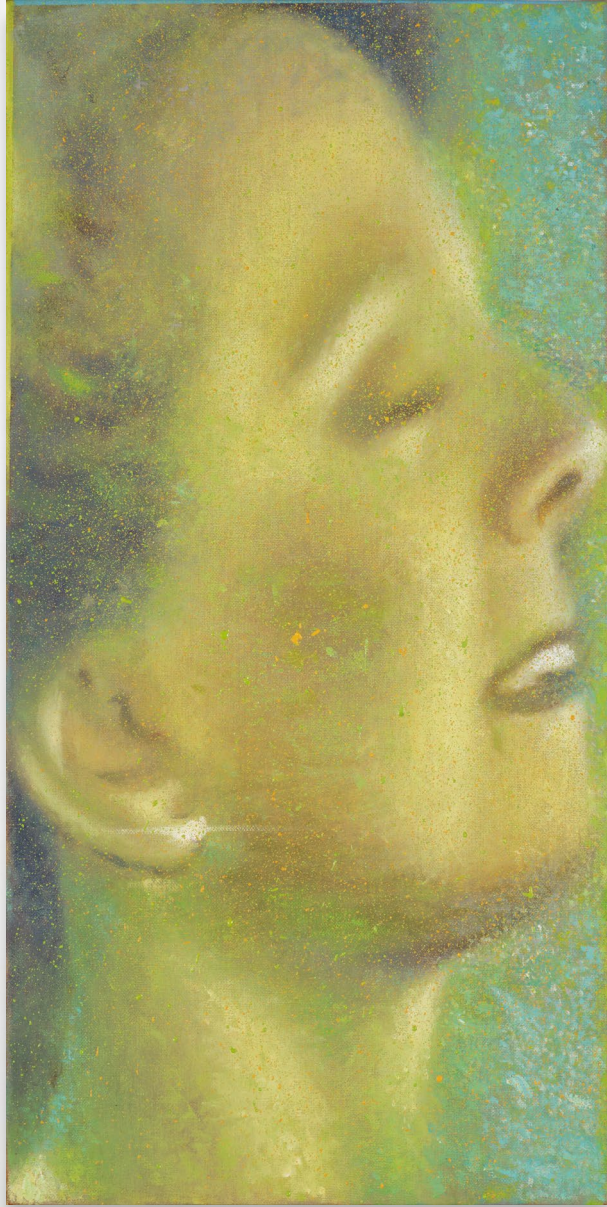
GRIMM



Entheogen
2023

Oil on linen
200 x 150 cm | 78 3/4 x 59 in

GRIMM



Seraph
2023

Oil on canvas
50.5 x 25.5 cm | 19 7/8 x 10 in

GRIMM



Savanna
2023

Oil on canvas
102 x 72 cm | 40 1/8 x 28 3/8 in

GRIMM



Installation View | *Soothsay* | GRIMM New York, NY (US), 2023



Entheogen
2023

Oil on canvas
96.5 x 40.6 cm | 38 x 16 in

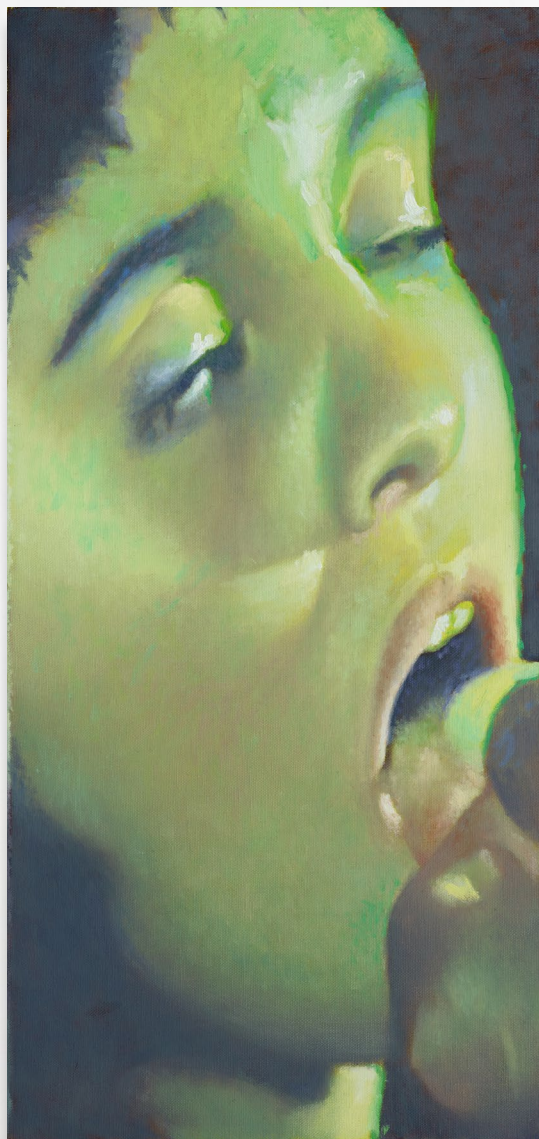
GRIMM



Entheogen
2023

Oil on canvas
200 x 110 cm | 78 3/4 x 43 1/4

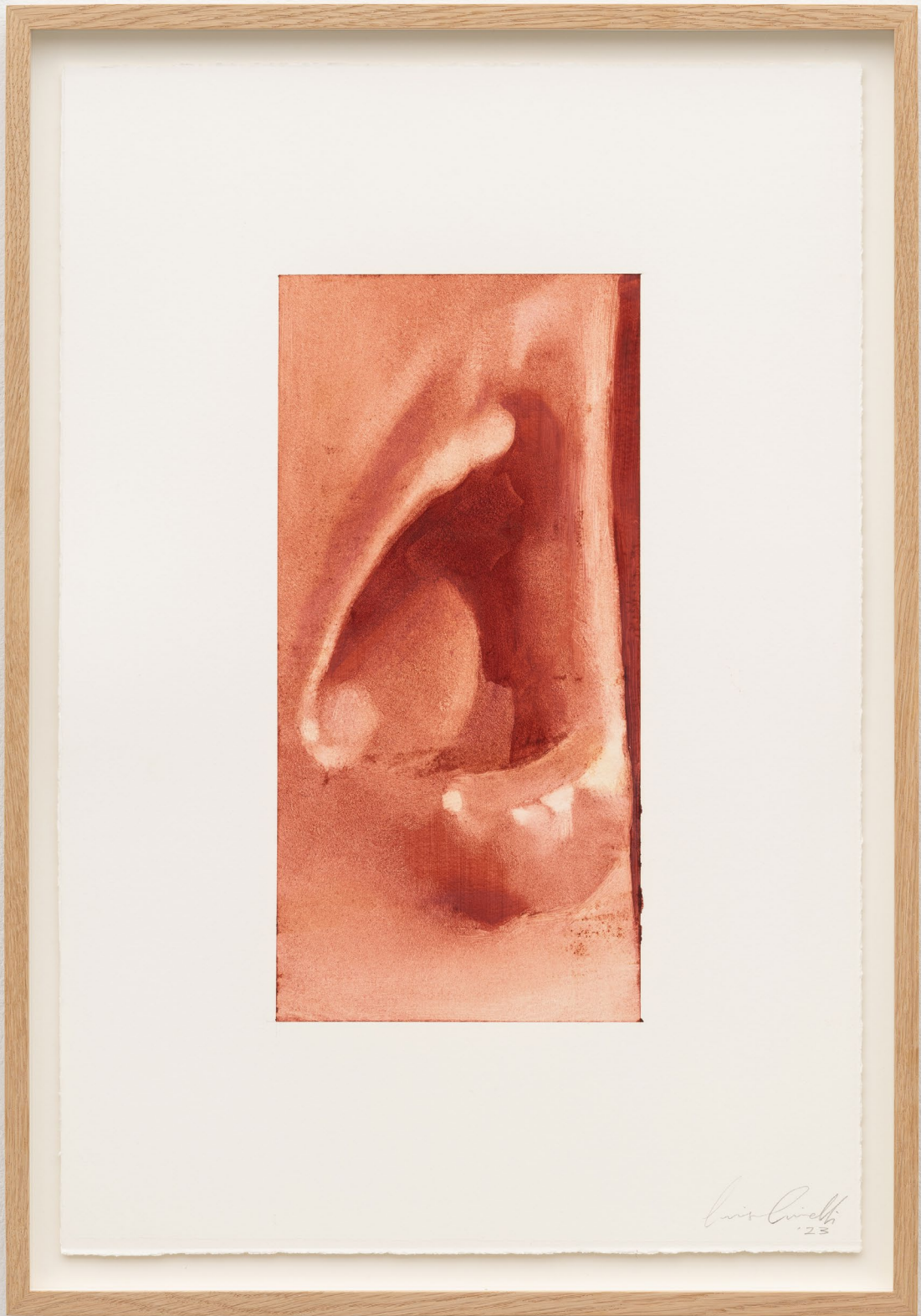
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Entheogen
2023

Oil on canvas
53.3 x 25.4 cm | 21 x 10 in

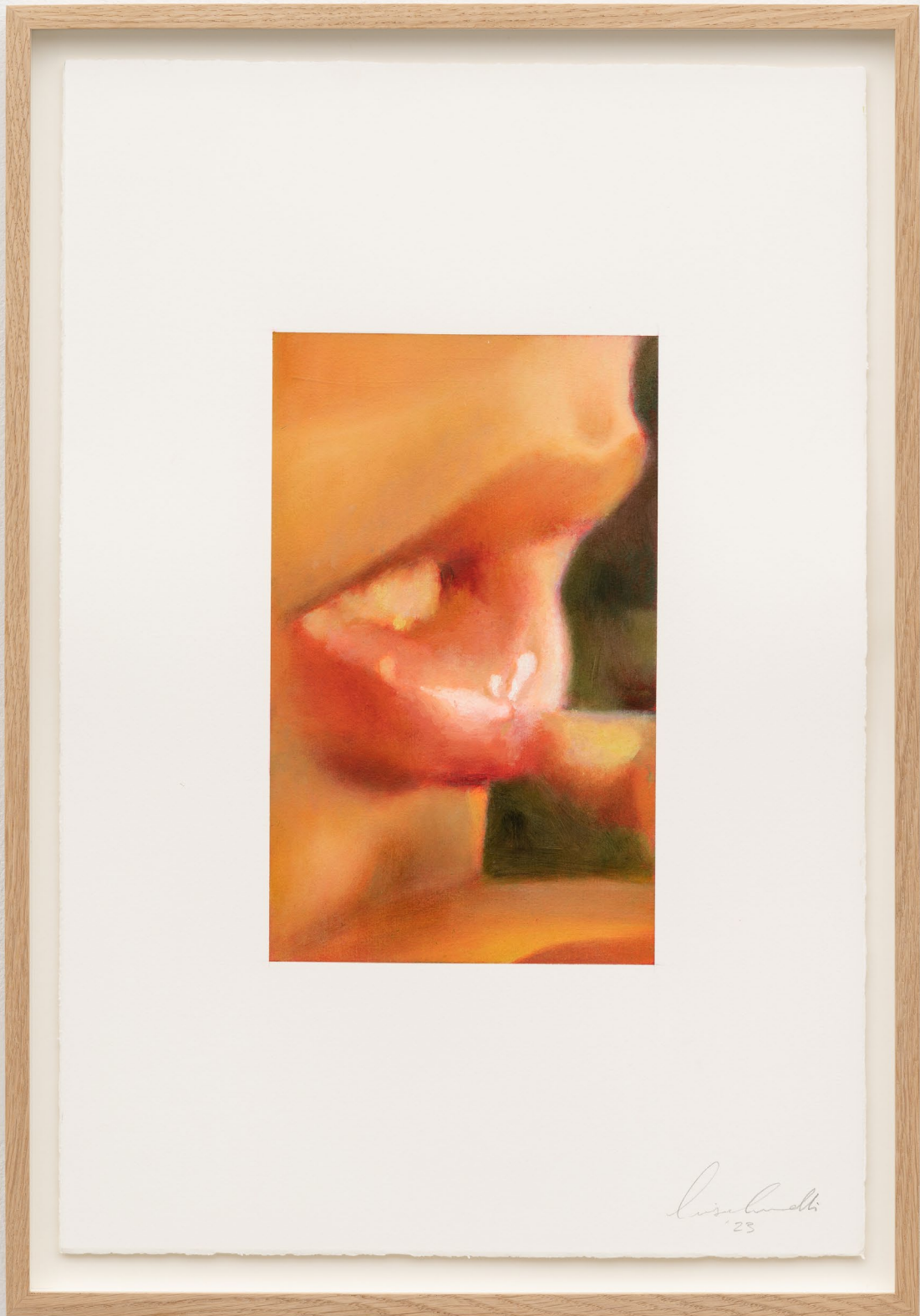
GRIMM



Oil on paper, framed
35.6 x 17 cm | 14 x 6 3/4 in (image)
62.5 x 43.5 cm | 24 5/8 x 17 1/8 in (framed)

Soothsay
2023

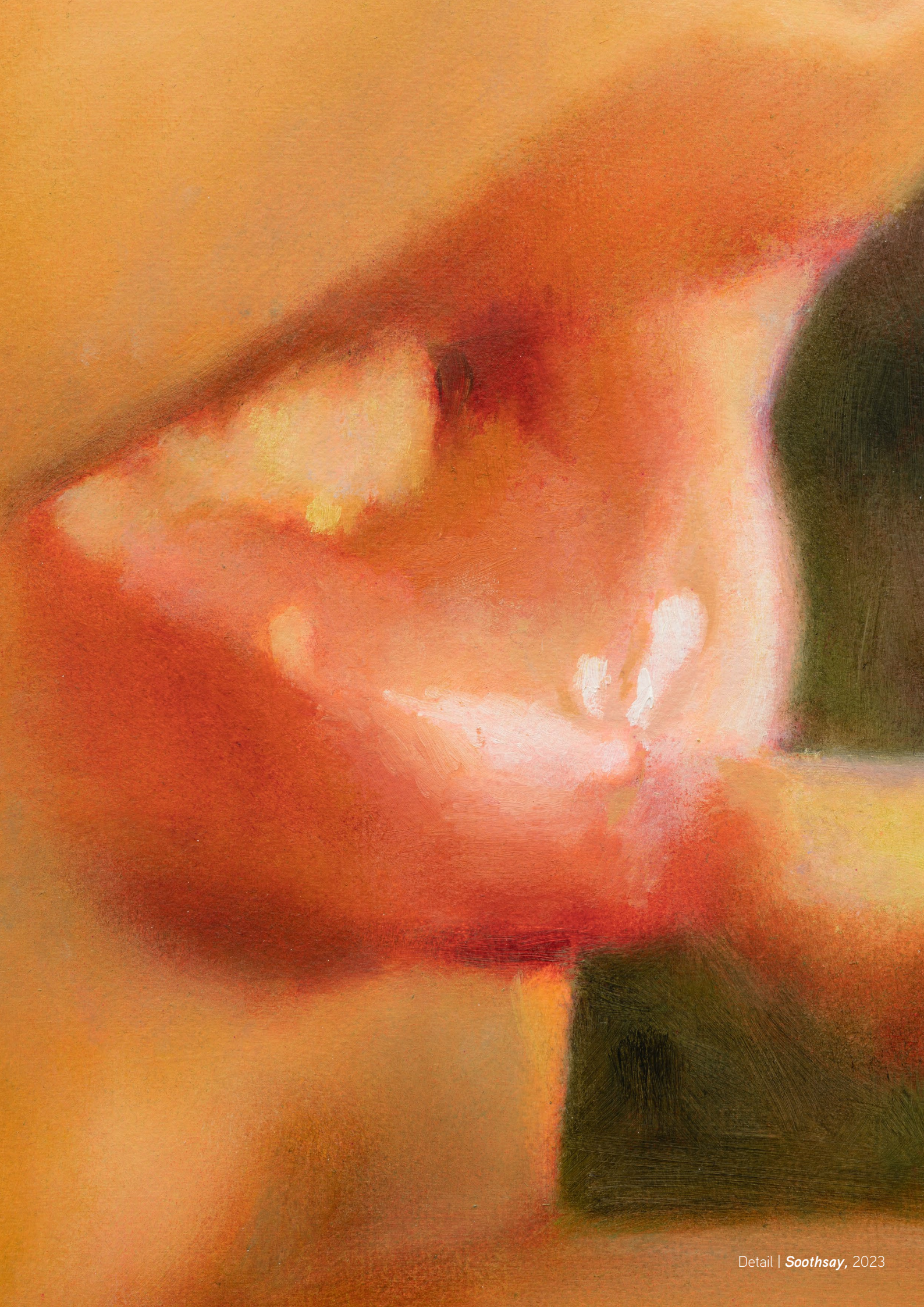
GRIMM



Oil on paper, framed
29.8 x 18 cm | 11 3/4 x 7 1/8 in (image)
62.5 x 43.5 cm | 24 5/8 x 17 1/8 in (framed)

Soothsay
2023

GRIMM





Oil on paper, framed
28.6 x 18 cm | 11 1/4 x 7 1/8 in (image)
62.5 x 43.5 cm | 24 5/8 x 17 1/8 in (framed)

Soothsay
2023

GRIMM

Louise Giovanelli

From Here to Here (part 1 & 2), The Grundy Gallery, Blackpool (UK)

Prima Donna, The International 3, Salford (UK)

b. 1993, London (UK)

Lives and works in Manchester (UK)

EDUCATION

- 2018 Städelschule (Professor Amy Sillman), Frankfurt am Main (DE)
- 2015 B.A. (Hons) Fine Art, Manchester School of Art (UK)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation grant
- 2019 Arts Council England project grant
- 2018 Arts Council England project grant
The Eaton Fund
- 2016 The Contemporary British Painting Prize (special commendation)
- 2015 The Beep Wales Painting Prize (shortlisted)
The Leonard James Fine Art Prize
The Manchester Academy of Fine Art Award
The Ken Billany Painting Prize
Saatchiart, Showdown: The Painted World (second prize)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Soothsayer*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)
Always Different, Always the Same, Moon Grove, Manchester (UK)
- 2022 *Collection Spotlight: Louise Giovanelli*, Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool (UK)
As If, Almost, White Cube Bermondsey, London (UK)
- 2021 *Auto-da-fé*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)
- 2020 *A Priori*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL)
in medias res, Workplace, London (UK)
Aerial Silk, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)
- 2019 *Time Inside*, Frutta Gallery, Rome (IT)
Louise Giovanelli, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester (UK)
Louise Giovanelli, Workplace Foundation, Gateshead (UK)
- 2018 *A Throw to the Side*, Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, Warrington (UK)
- 2016 *Slow to Respond*, Touchstones Gallery, Rochdale (UK)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *In New York, Thinking of You*, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY (US)
New British Abstraction, CICA, Vancouver (CA)
- 2022 *The Kingfisher's Wing*, curated by Tom Morton, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)
Dissolving Realms, curated by Katy Hessel, Kasmin, New York, NY (US)
Women of Now: Dialogues of Memory, Place, & Identity, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, TX (US)
Love is the Devil: Studies after Francis Bacon, Marlborough, London (UK)
- 2021 *Reflections, Part 1, Female Figures by Women Artists*, Workplace, London (UK)
All Eyes | We are the collection, AkzoNobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL)
Mixing It Up: Painting Today, Hayward Gallery, London (UK)
Someone said that the world's a stage, curated by Margot Samel, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)
Reflections beyond the Surface, Akzo Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL)
Interludes, Workplace, London (UK)
Inaugural exhibition, GRIMM, New York, NY (US)
Romancing the Surface, curated by Loie Hollowell, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2020 *Life Still*, C.L.E.A.R.I.N.G., New York, NY (US)
El oro de los tigres, Air de Paris, Romainville (FR)
- 2019 *A meeting with Erna Schilling*, Pablos Birthday Gallery, New York, NY (US)
Tales of the haunted and the body, curated by Kuba Paris, Casa Cristea Schneider, Berlin (DE)
Statue, Frutta Gallery, Rome (IT)
Touching from a Distance, curated by Workplace Foundation, The Conduit, London (UK)
Städelschule: Rundgang, Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main (DE)
On Repeat, The Grundy Gallery, Blackpool (UK)
P is for Portrait, The Art House, Worcester (UK)

- The Dream That Follows The Mouth*, Arcade Gallery, London (UK)
- 2018 *Hold your tongue*, Louise Giovanelli and Pius Fox, Transition Gallery, London (UK)
- One flew east*, Louise Giovanelli and Jenny West, CBS gallery, Liverpool (UK)
- 2017 *In Residence*, The Griffin Gallery, London (UK)
- The Contemporary British Painting Prize*, The Stables Gallery, London (UK)
- Adolf Menzels Foot*, PS Mirabel Gallery, Manchester (UK)
- 2016 *Beep Wales International Painting Prize*, Swansea College of Art (UK)
- Pleasure Islands*, Artwork Atelier, Salford (UK)
- Art in the Home*, various venues, York (UK)
- Institution / Outstitution*, The International 3, Salford (UK)
- 2015 *The Painted World*, Saatchiart Showdown Final, Ace Hotel, Los Angeles, CA (US)
- Tumbling Die*, The Holden Gallery, Manchester (UK)
- Ones To Watch*, Sarow Galerie, Pforzheim (DE)

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

AkzoNobel Art Foundation (NL)

Asymmetry Art Foundation (UK)

The Contemporary Art Foundation (JP)

THE EKARD COLLECTION

Fundación Medianoche0 (ES)

The Grundy Gallery Collection (UK)

Hall Art Foundation (DE, US)

The Hepworth Wakefield (UK)

Hill Art Foundation (US)

Hort Family Collection (US)

Institute of Contemporary Art Miami (US)

Kunstmuseum The Hague (NL)

Longlati Foundation (CN)

Manchester Art Gallery Collection (UK)

Manchester School of Art Collection (UK)

MOCA, LA (US)

The National Museum (NO)

Sarow Gallery Collection (DE)

The UK Government Art Collection (UK)

The University of Salford Collection (UK)

Warrington Museum and Art Gallery (UK)

Whitworth Art Gallery (UK)

Yuz Museum Shanghai (CN)



Portrait of the artist in her studio 2023
Photographed by Michael Pollard