





# Adams and Ollman

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**Hasani Sahlehe: *We Recordin' Tonight***

**May 20–June 17, 2023**

For inquiries:

Amy Adams  
amy@adamsandollman.com  
+1 215 426 4244

Andrea Glaser  
aglaser@adamsandollman.com  
+1 503 569 4050

Adams and Ollman is pleased to announce *We Recordin' Tonight*, a solo exhibition with Hasani Sahlehe (b. 1991, St. Thomas, USVI; lives and works in Atlanta, GA). Sahlehe's atmospheric paintings explore the formal possibilities of color, shape, and composition to convey that which is unknowable, formless, and distant. Featuring all new acrylic paintings on canvas, the exhibition opens on May 20 and is on view through June 17, 2023.

The title of the exhibition, *We Recordin' Tonight*, references music and live performance, both of which are important influences on Sahlehe and his work. Techniques deployed in improvisational music—sequences, variations, tonal shifts—are found throughout Sahlehe's ecstatic color field paintings that coalesce around a free performance of color, shape, and composition. Like the music that inspires the artist, the works have their own grammar and vocabulary, suffused with both spontaneity and intentionality. *We Recordin' Tonight* also speaks to the impossibility and futility of capturing the fleeting experience of night, its cool air and ambient darkness tinged with possibility and surprise.

Wispy shapes and puffs of color combine and recombine in a call and response across the canvases that mirror repeating musical expressions. Suspended fields of color in various shades of reds, yellows, pinks, and greens create a buzzing sensation against things seemingly infinite—distance, memory, the sky. The works capture the ineffable or ephemeral and give form to the formless—a feeling, mood, or experience of a faraway place. Key concepts of perception and memory, pastness and presence, are explored in Sahlehe's work, questioning the visual and physical ways we perceive, process, and record our memories, dreams, or immediate environment.

Sahlehe's paintings might function like architectural place-holders, imaginative abstractions of joy or longing, or the spaces or environments that contain such experiences—a stage or a dance

floor, for example, where celebrations and performances might take place. The paintings also reference optical phenomena such as rainbows and other mysteries of the physical world, as well as the emanation of auras or energy fields. In *Stage in the Mountains*, a rhombus of prismatic light is surrounded by peaks and valleys depicted with washy triangles of color. A subtle blue line in *Pyramids with Twin Dance Floors* separates two planes—sky and earth or life and death—as two rectangular shapes reflect and recede into the horizon. However, in contrast to the built environment, each composition feels as if at any moment it could dissipate, like a memory that becomes too difficult to reach.

Hasani Sahlehe (b. 1991, St. Thomas, USVI; lives and works in Atlanta, GA) graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2015. His work has been exhibited at The Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA; IO6 Green, New York, NY; I2.26, Dallas, TX; Resort, Baltimore, MD; Westobou, Augusta, GA; amongst others. In 2023, the Forward Arts Foundation (FAF) named Hasani Sahlehe the winner of the 2023 Edge Award.



Hasani Sahle  
*Stage in the Mountains*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023001





Hasani Sahlehe, *Stage in the Mountains*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Live From the Asteroid*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023002





Hasani Sahlehe, *Live From the Asteroid*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Pyramids with Twin Dance Floors*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023003





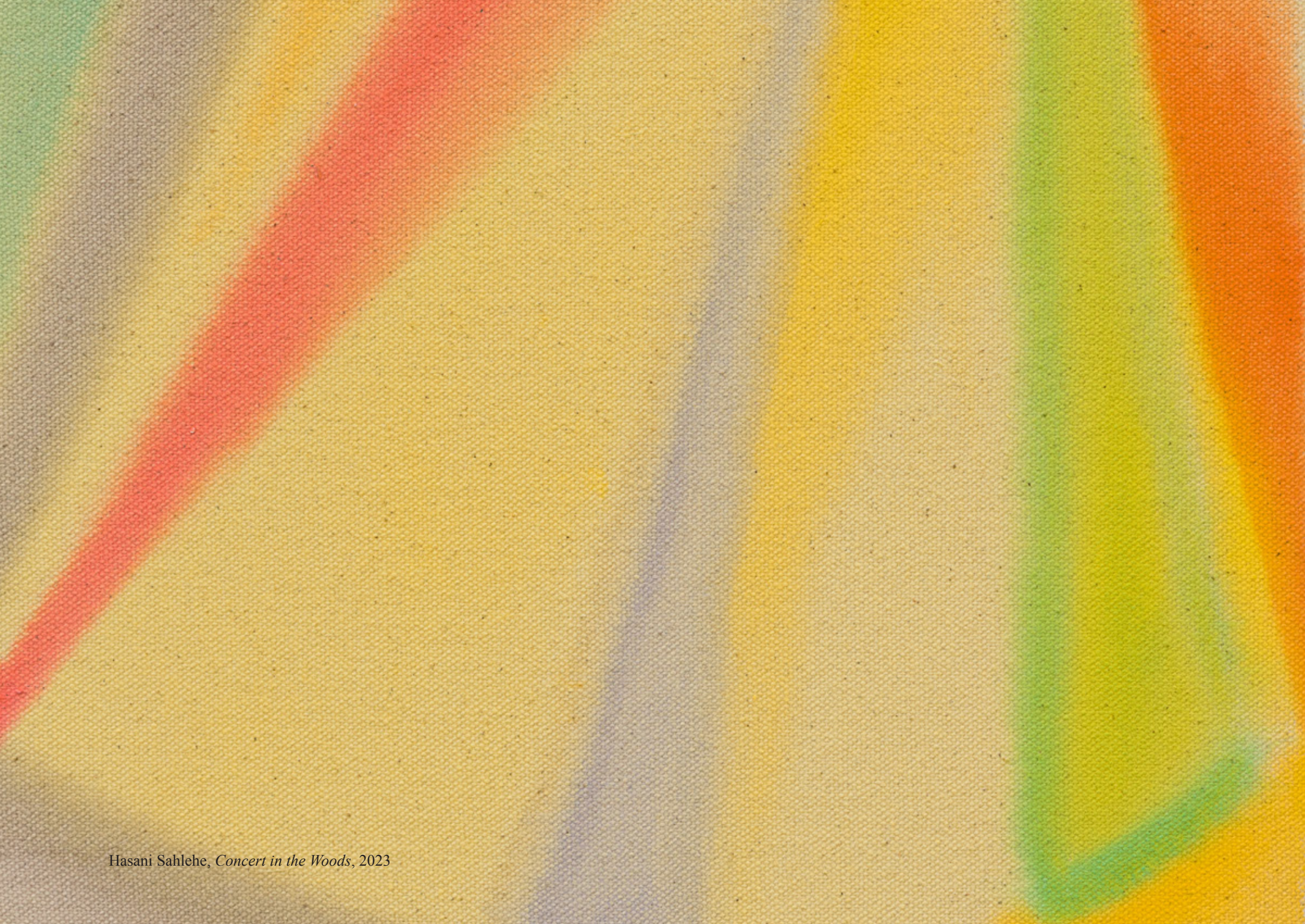
Hasani Sahlehe, *Pyramids with Twin Dance Floors*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Concert in the Woods*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023004





Hasani Sahlehe, *Concert in the Woods*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*I Feel Good*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
65h x 55w in  
165.10h x 139.70w cm  
HSahl2023005





Hasani Sahlehe, *I Feel Good*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Sunday, 2023*  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023006





Hasani Sahlehe, *Sunday*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*The Real Thing*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023007





Hasani Sahlehe, *Real Thing*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Play it Low*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023008





Hasani Sahlehe, *Play it Low*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Bop*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023009





Hasani Sahlehe, *Bop*, 2023





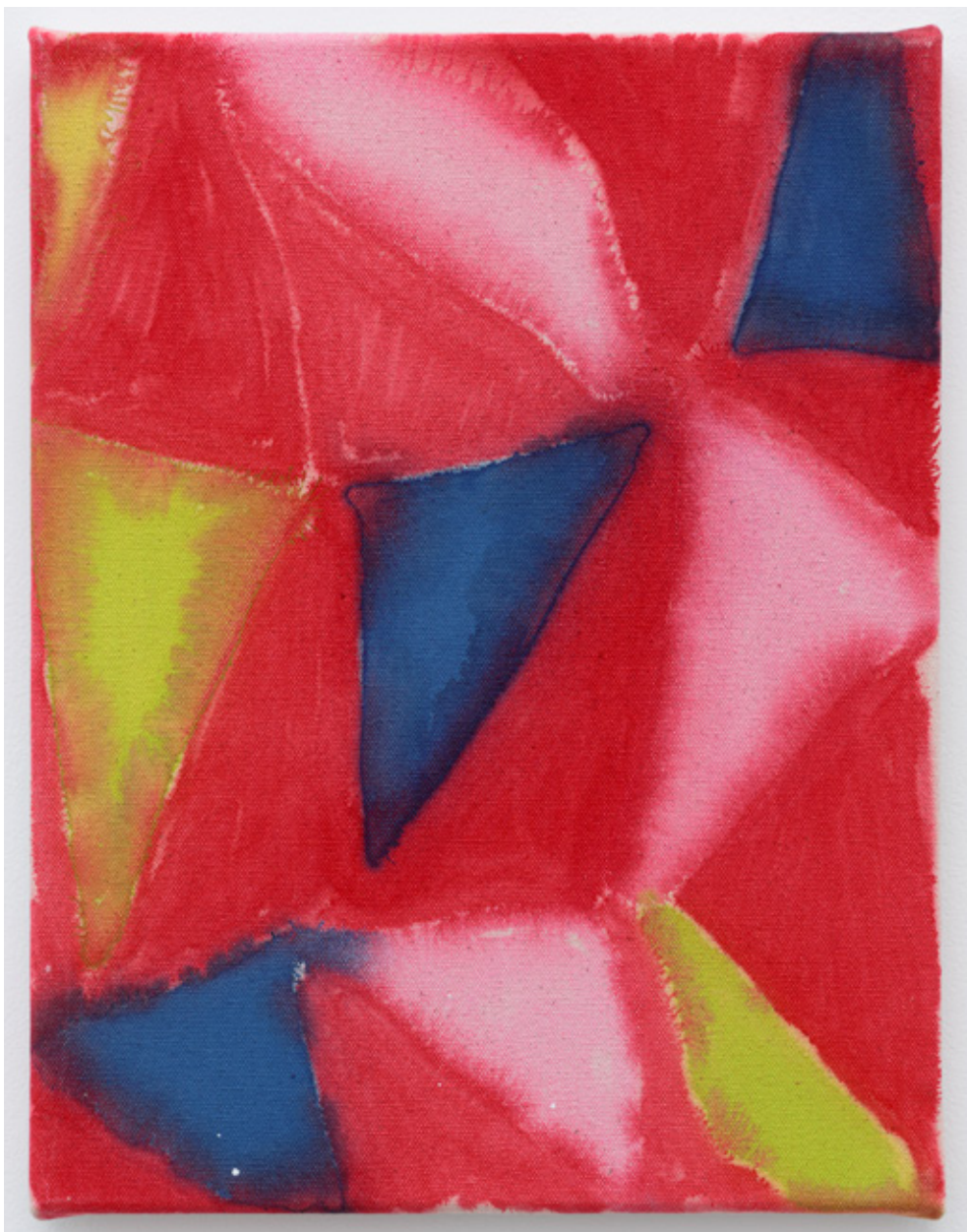
Hasani Sahlehe  
*You're Leading*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023010





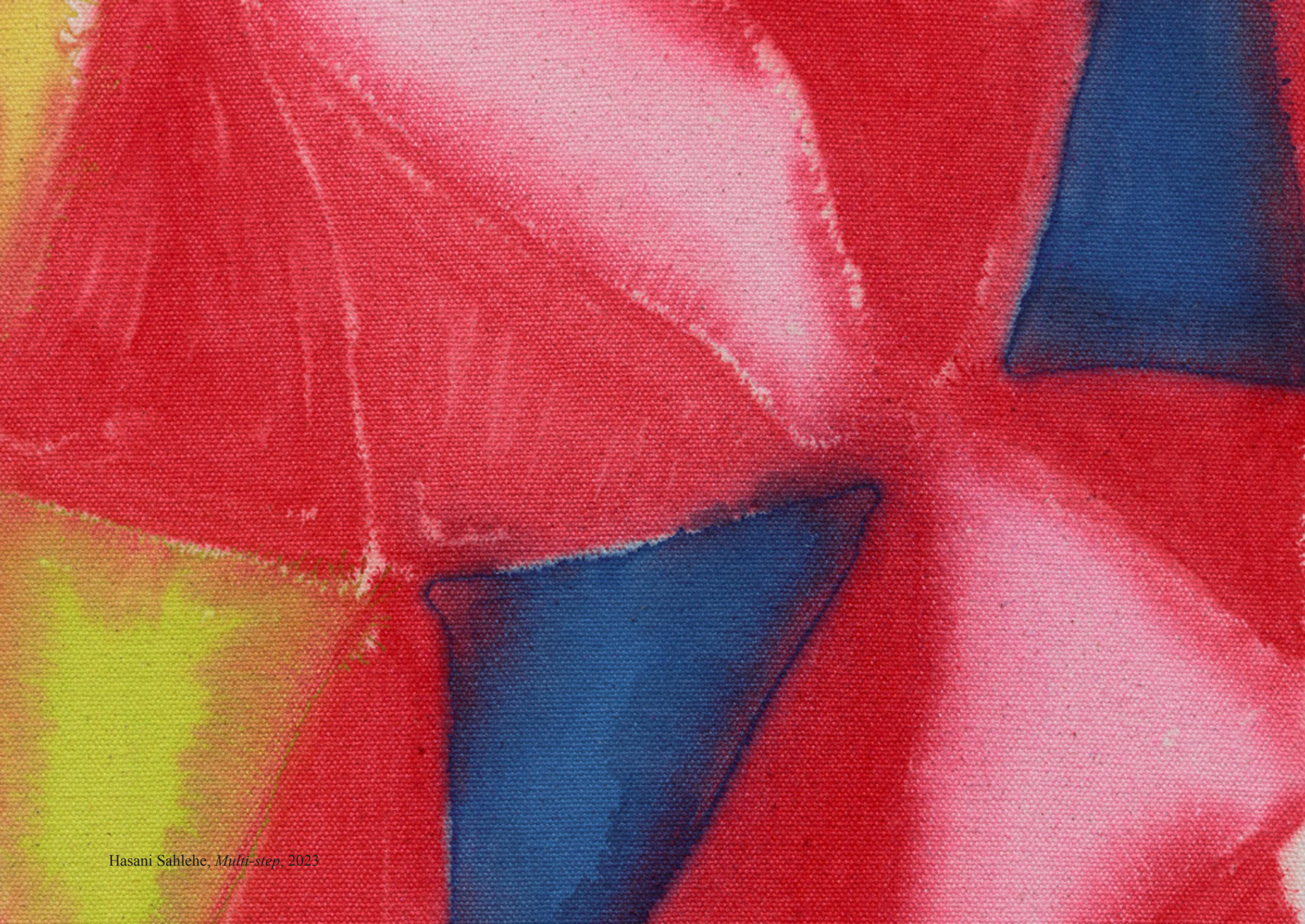
Hasani Sahlehe, *You're Leading*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Multi-step*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023011





Hasani Sahlehe, *Multi-step*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Star Eyes*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023012





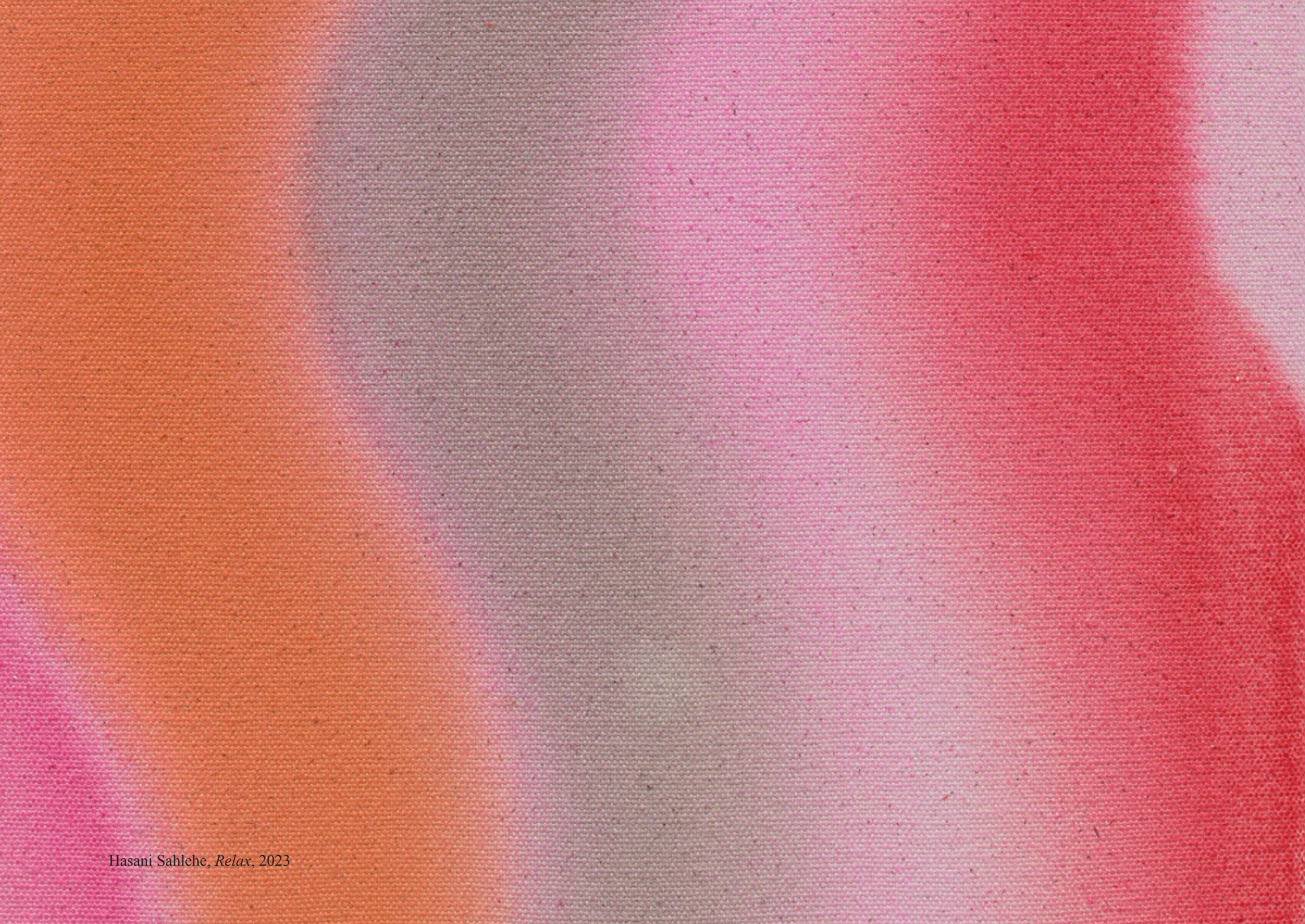
Hasani Sahlehe, *Star Eyes*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Relax*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023013



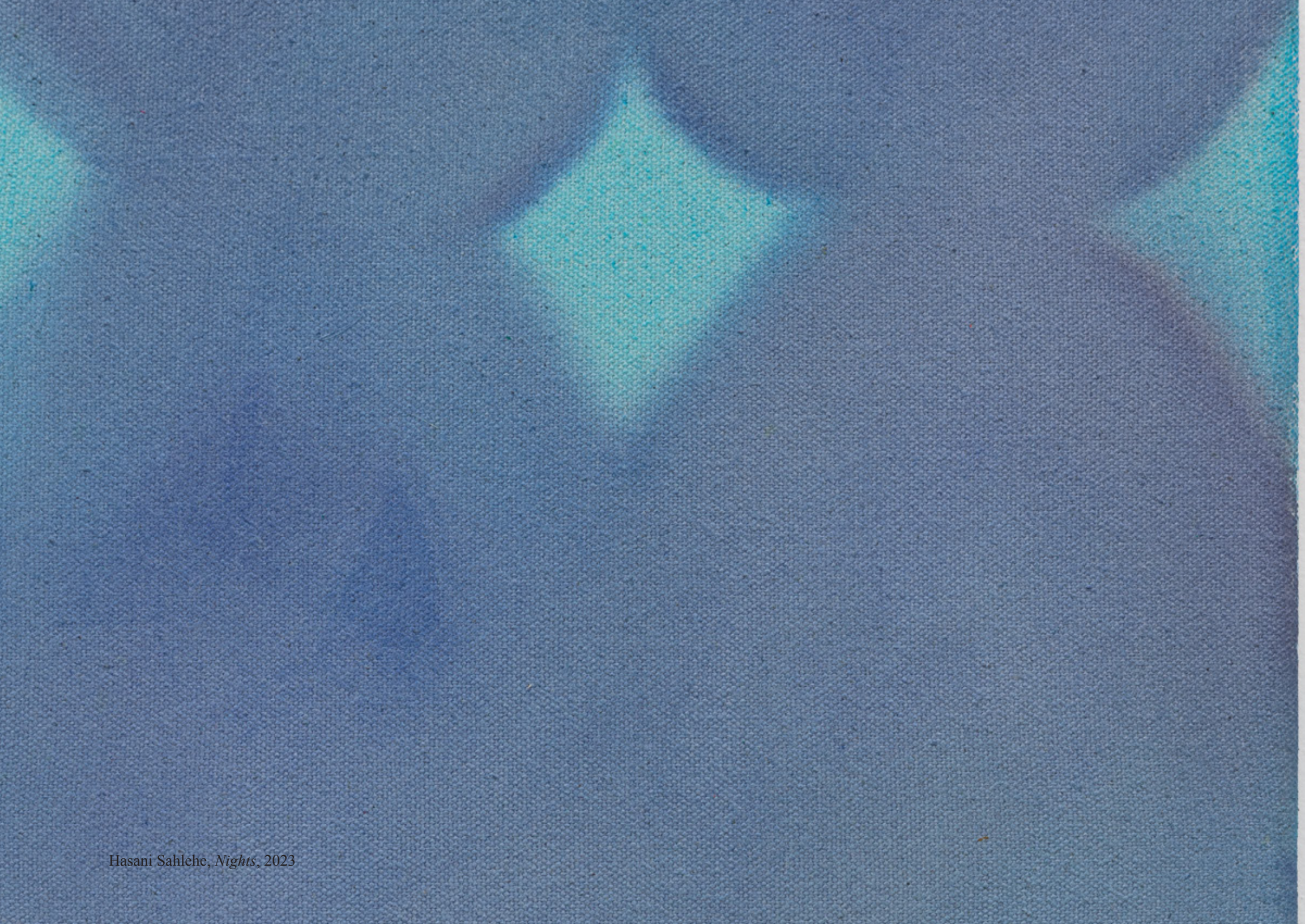






Hasani Sahlehe  
*Nights*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023014





Hasani Sahlehe, *Nights*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Keep it There*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023015





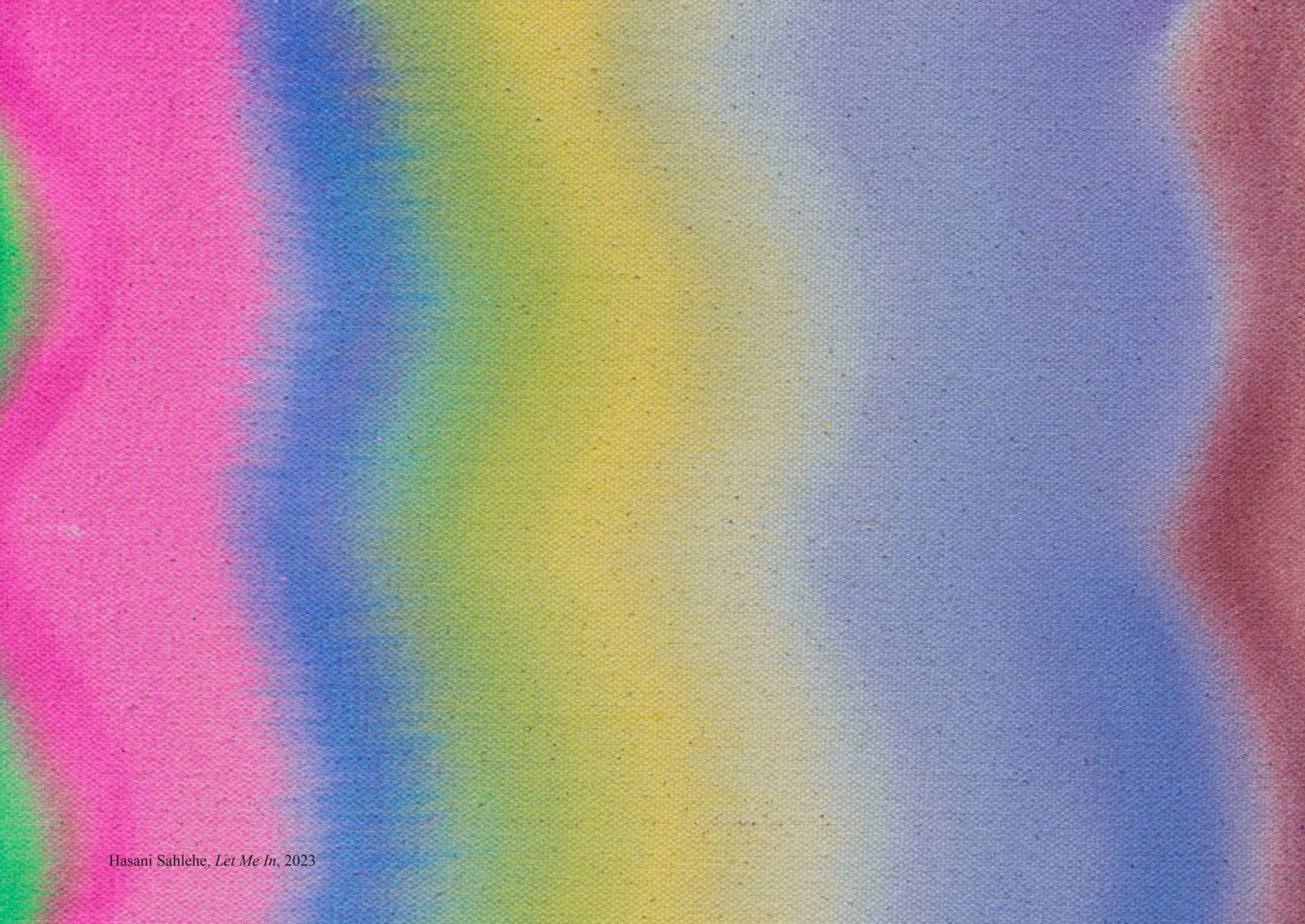
Hasani Sahlohe, *Keep it There*, 2023





Hasani Sahlehe  
*Let Me In*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023016









Hasani Sahlehe  
*Hummin'*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
14h x 11w in  
35.56h x 27.94w cm  
HSahl2023017









Installation view: Hasani Sahlehe, *We Recordin' Tonight*, 2023





Installation view: Hasani Sahlehe, *We Recordin' Tonight*, 2023