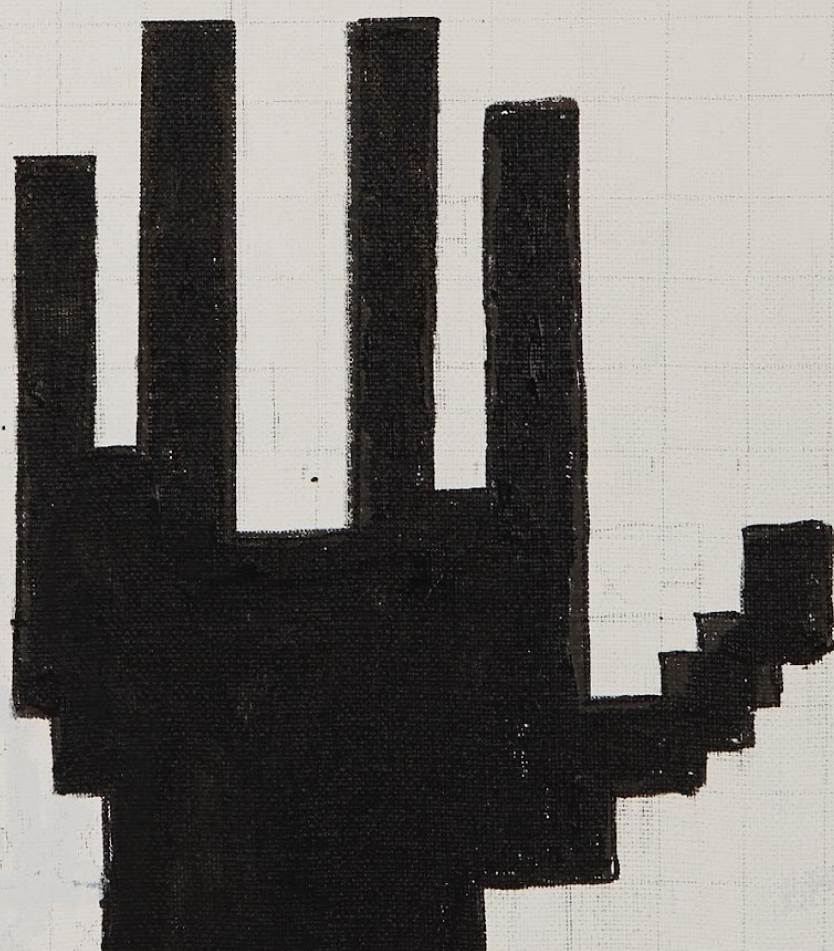




Ken Grimes:

Evidence for Contact

January 13 – February 10, 2024



Ken Grimes: *Evidence for Contact*

parrasch heijnen is pleased to present *Ken Grimes: Evidence for Contact*, a retrospective exhibition of work by Ken Grimes (b. 1947, New York, NY). This exhibition is organized on the occasion of the release of a major book titled *Evidence for Contact: Ken Grimes, 1991-2021* (Anthology Editions, 2023) showcasing the artist's nearly 40-year career.

In Grimes' work, graphic motifs and recurring patterns are the *prima materia* of an imagistic language. Often working with a black and white palette, simplified shapes, and flattened compositional forms, Grimes' paintings and drawings postulate systems at once terrestrial and cosmic.

Alongside the extensive use of text in his artwork, Grimes visualizes modes of communication: radio signals, satellite transmissions, musical staves, binary codes. As perceptual fields of energy and transmission, they offer a foil to the linguistic and enter the realm of the symbolic. Often working in series, Grimes' variations on themes are attuned to the subtle nuances of system and codes.

At the time of the Vietnam War, Grimes' father operated a business that manufactured parts for rifles, trigger guards, grenade launchers, and other weapons. In interviews, Grimes professes the anxiety he felt as a young man during the military draft, an event that preceded his diagnosis of schizophrenia. In Grimes' work, militarized technologies are omnipresent structures in physical and mental landscapes.

In *Untitled (The aliens at a distant solar system...)* (2020), Grimes renders side-by-side depictions of the Earth as viewed from the solar system and a radio antenna erected in a field, the blue of the sky a small fraction of atmosphere beneath the opaque darkness of space overhead. In the lower half of the painting, Grimes provides metatextual and unpunctuated profusions of language—speculative alien fictions, ancient histories, and scientific developments.

Grimes' preoccupation with extraterrestrial communication poses both existential questions and a fixation with the interminable pursuit of truth and connection. Of his process, Grimes says, "I'll do four or five rewritings of the text; I'll boil down the language, all the thoughts, and when it speaks clearly to what I want to say, I put it on a piece of drawing paper."

Grimes' insistence on clarity and precision in his artwork is not only based in the scientific but in the spiritual, an attempt to locate oneself within an incomprehensible universe.

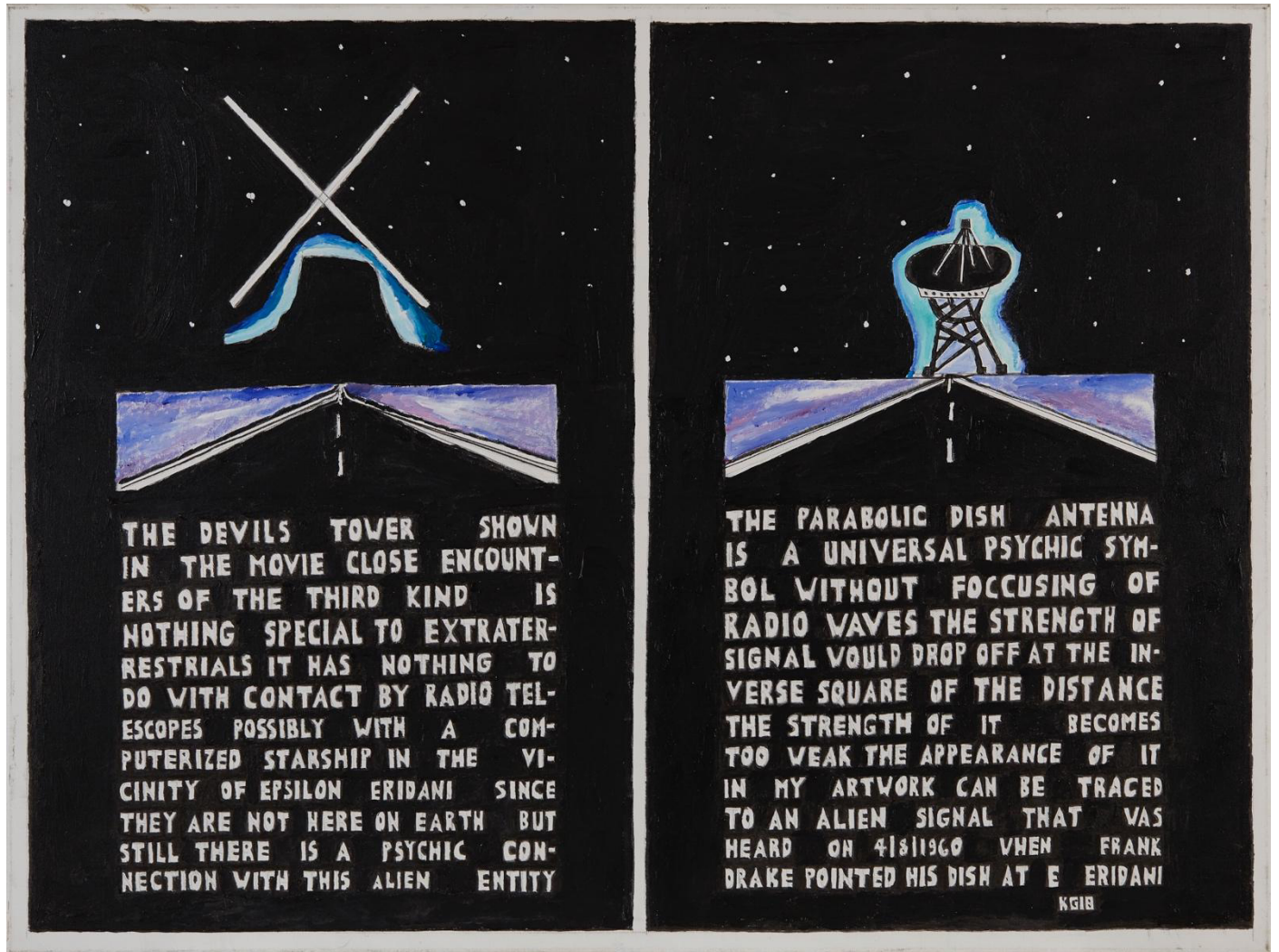
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Ken Grimes (b. 1947, New York, NY), lives and works in New Haven, CT. His work resides in the permanent collections of the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI; the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Chicago, IL; and the American Folk Art Museum, New York City, NY. In the 1998 travelling exhibition *Self-Taught Artists of the 20th Century*, organized by the American Folk Art Museum, Grimes was one of the four extant artists among the thirty-one included. In 2018, Grimes' work was selected as one of the exhibitions in a six-part yearly series titled *Field Station* at Michigan State University's Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, MI. In 2019, Grimes was invited to participate in the deCordova Museum Biennial. The publication of *Evidence for Contact: Ken Grimes 1993 - 2021* is being accompanied by exhibitions of Grimes' work at Ricco/Maresca Gallery, New York, NY (October 26 - December 2, 2023), Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France (November 2, 2023 - January 14, 2024), and parrasch heijnen, Los Angeles.

Ken Grimes: Evidence for Contact will be on view at parrasch heijnen, 1326 S. Boyle Avenue, Los Angeles, from January 13 – February 10, 2024. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, January 13, 5-7p. Gallery staff are available to guide you through our exhibitions virtually via Zoom upon request. For more information, please contact the gallery at +1 (323) 943-9373 or info@parraschheijnen.com.



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KEN GRIMES

Untitled (The Devils Tower & Parabolic Dish), 2018

acrylic on canvas

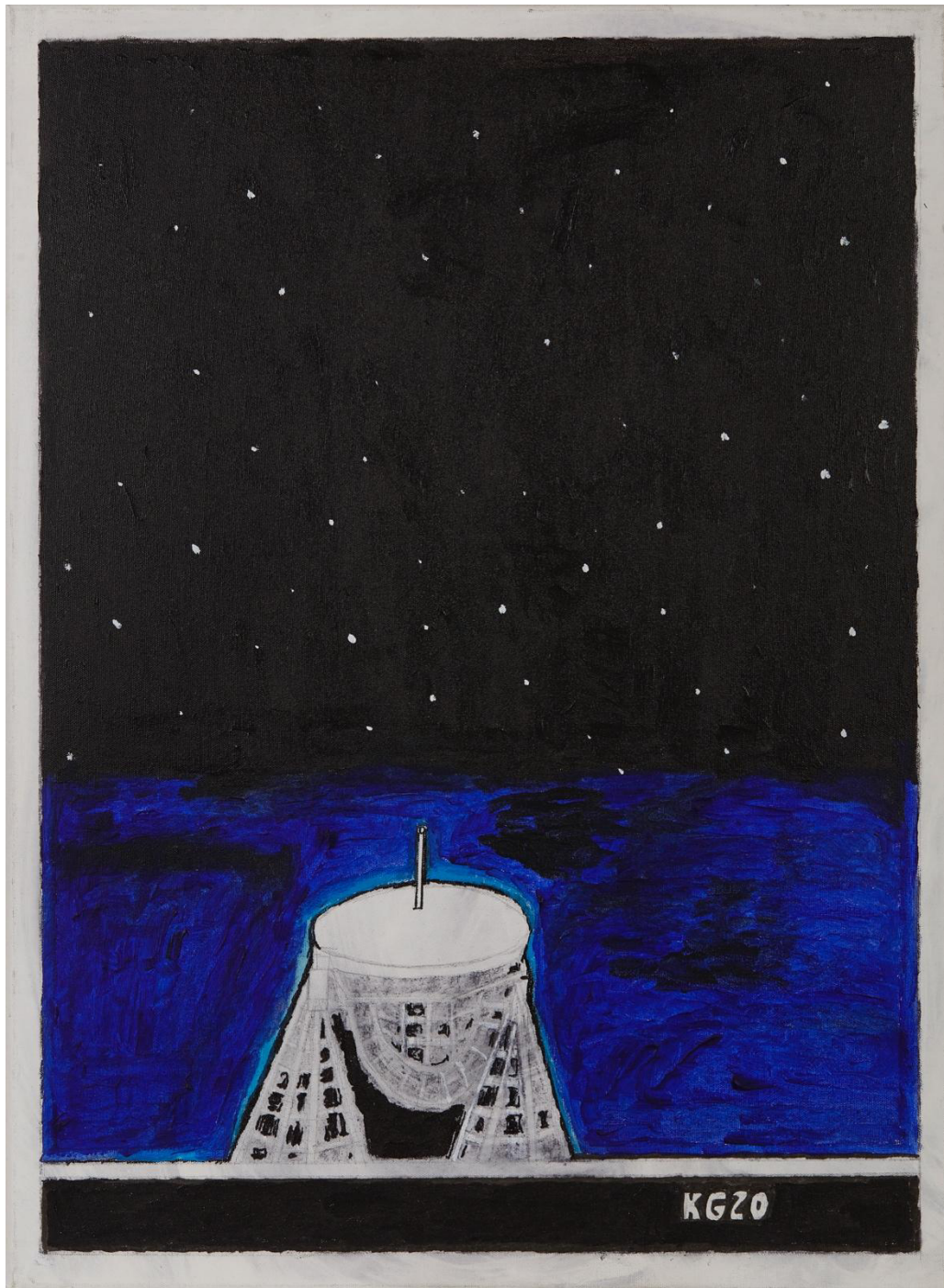
36 x 48 inches

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KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2020
acrylic on canvas
30 x 22 inches

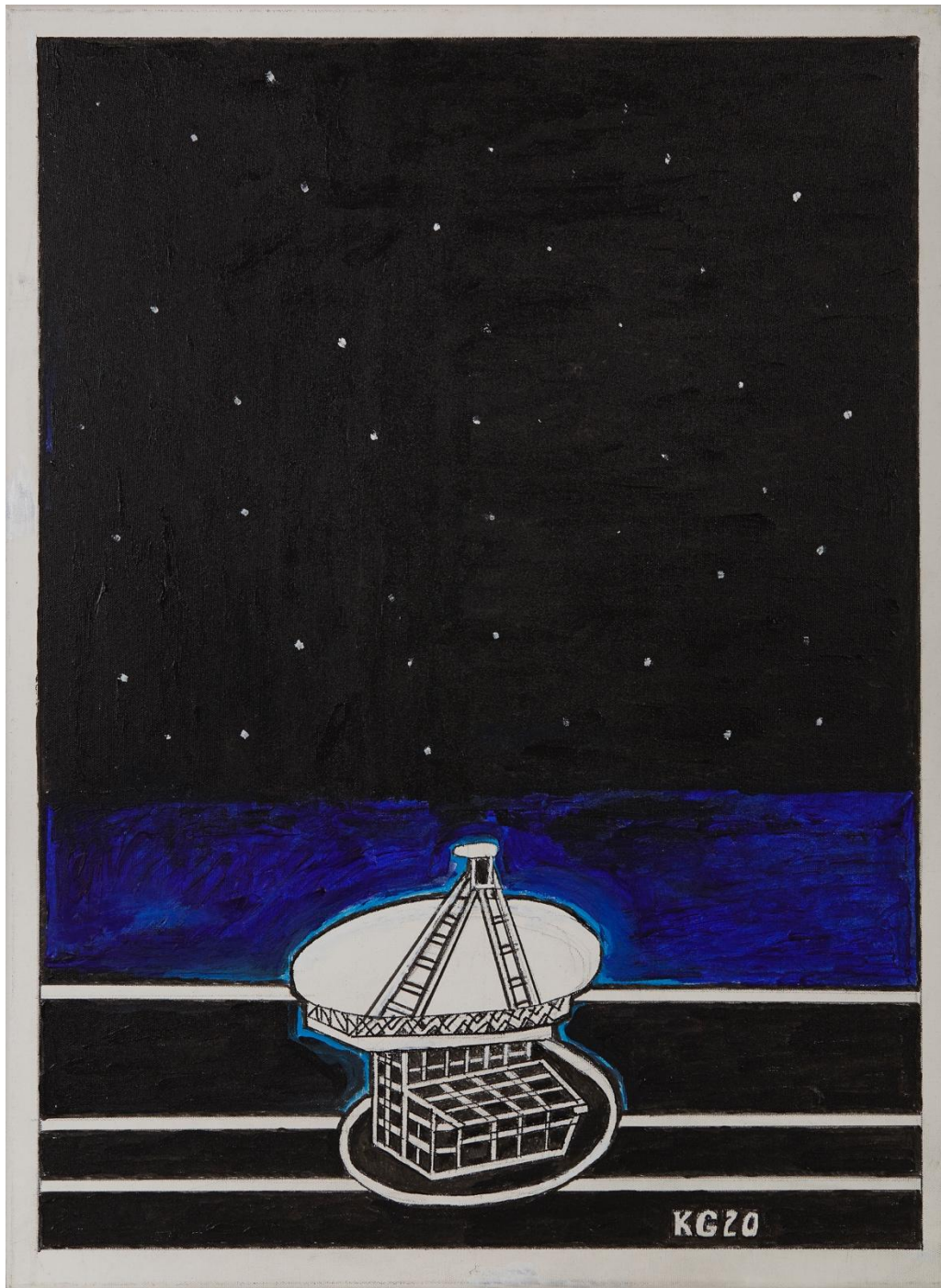
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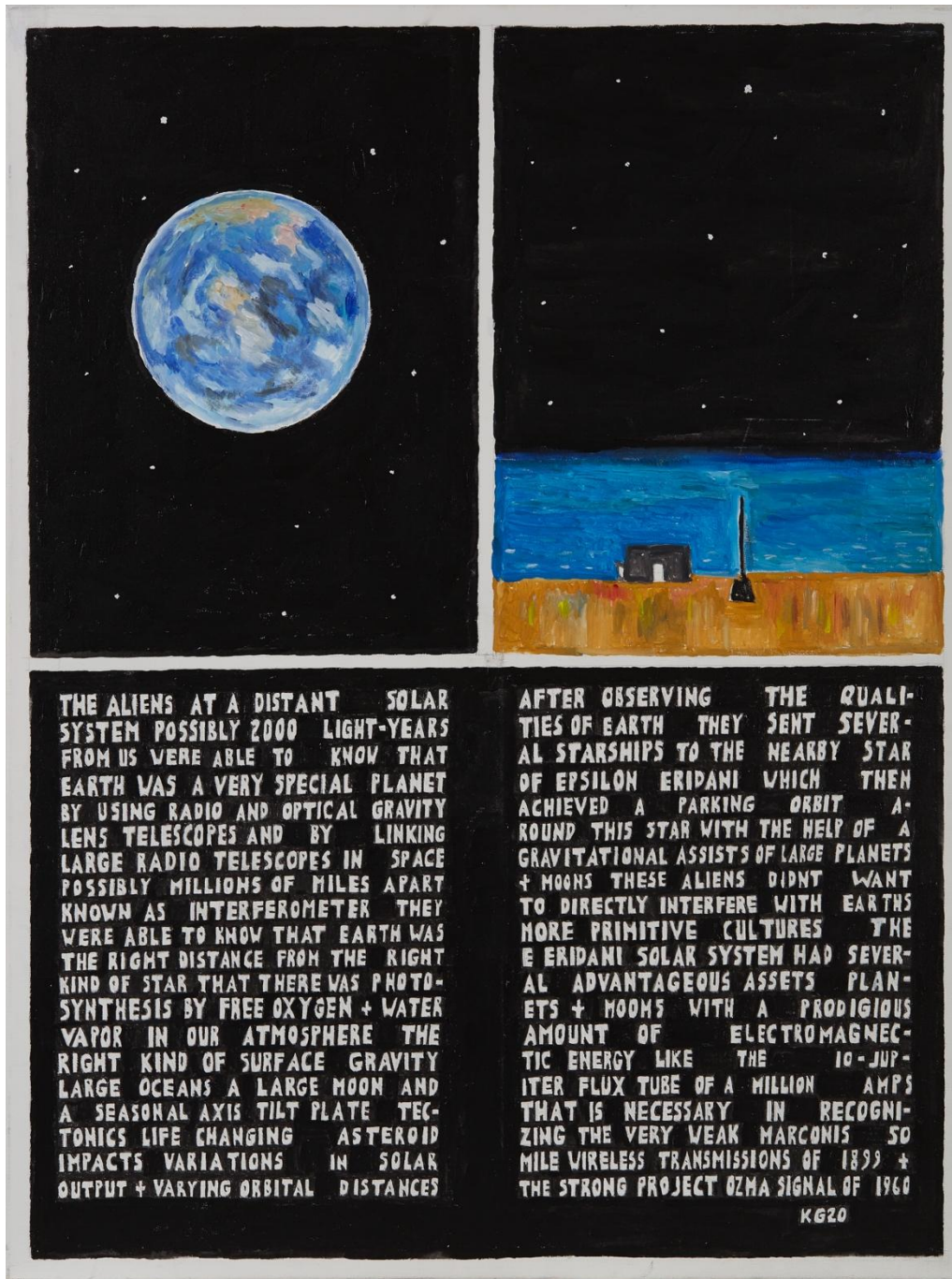
KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2020
acrylic on canvas
30 x 22 inches



parrasch heijnen



KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2020
acrylic on canvas
30 x 22 inches



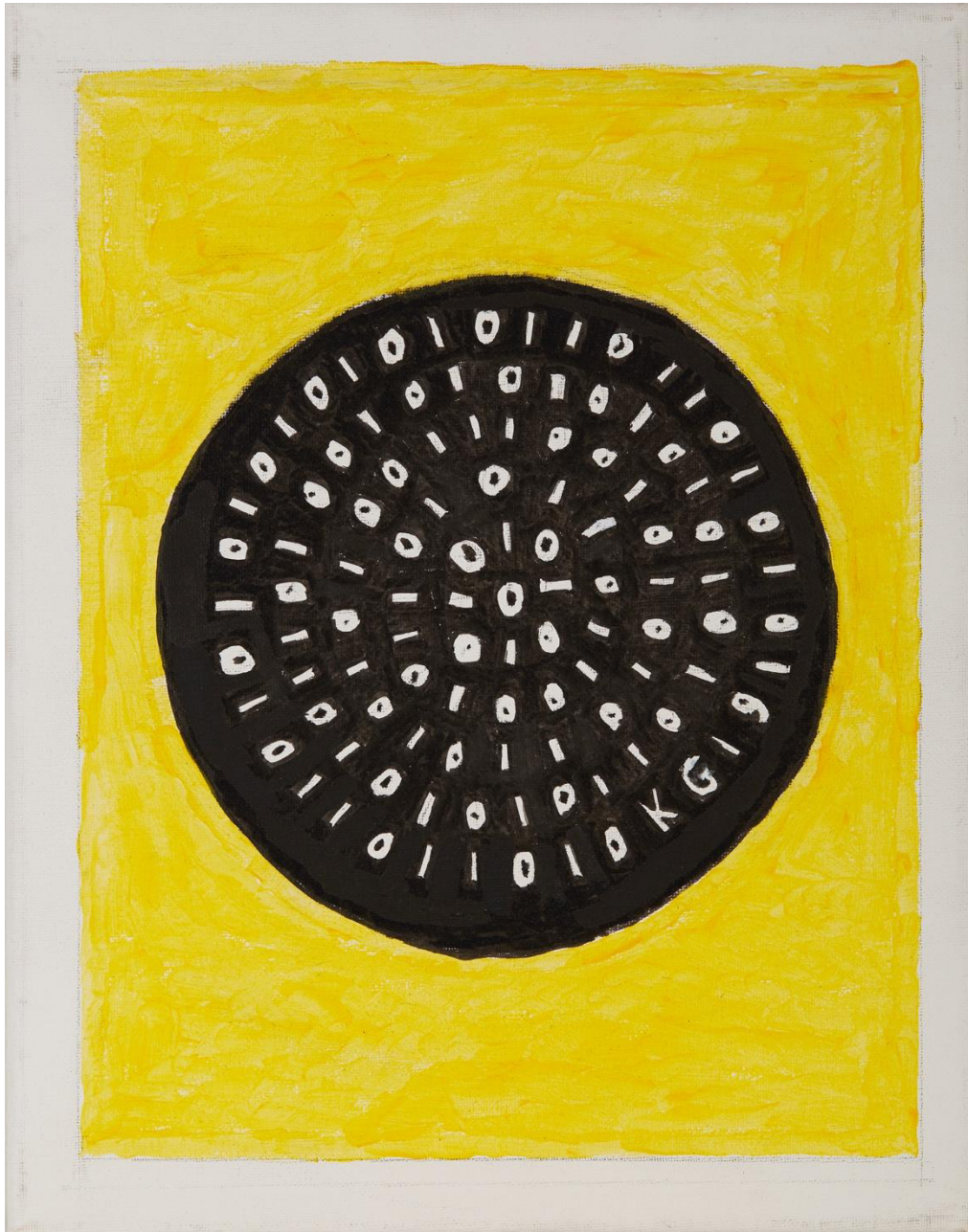
KEN GRIMES

Untitled (The aliens at a distant solar system...), 2020

acrylic on canvas

48 x 36 inches

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KEN GRIMES

Untitled (Binary code variation), 2019

acrylic on canvas

14 x 11 inches

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KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2006
acrylic on Masonite
48 x 72 inches

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KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2004
acrylic on Masonite
48 x 96 inches

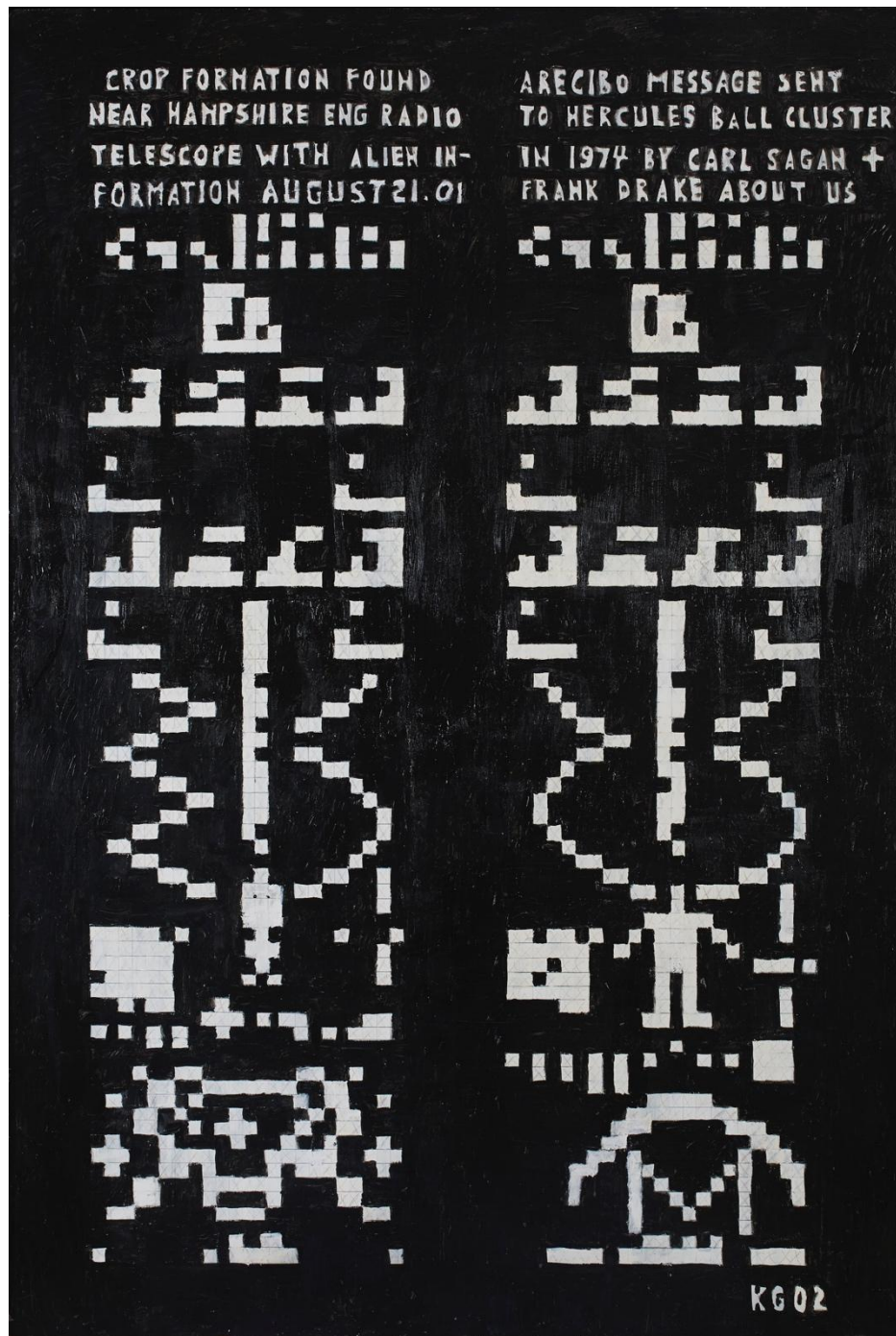


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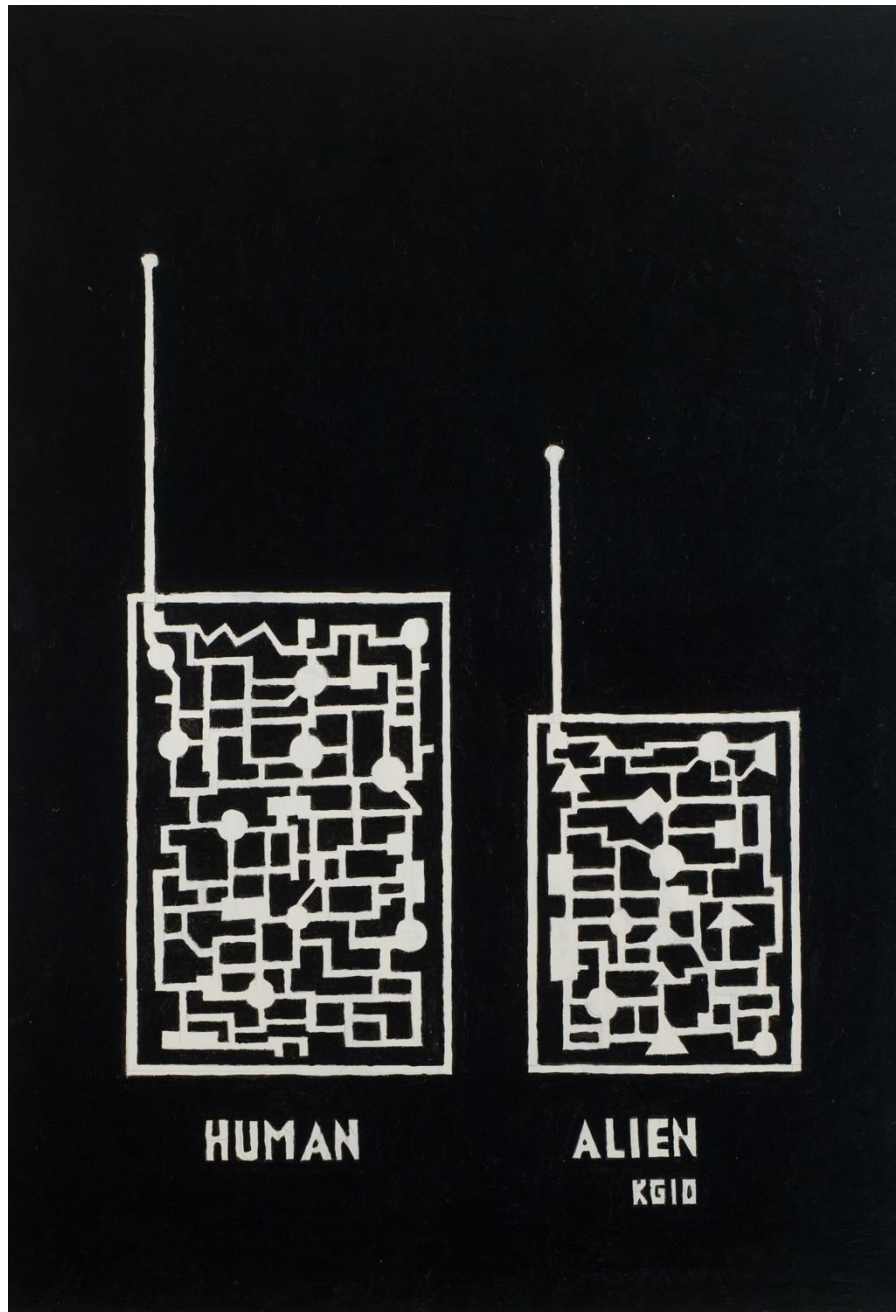
KEN GRIMES

Untitled (Crop formation/Arecibo message...), 2002

acrylic on Masonite

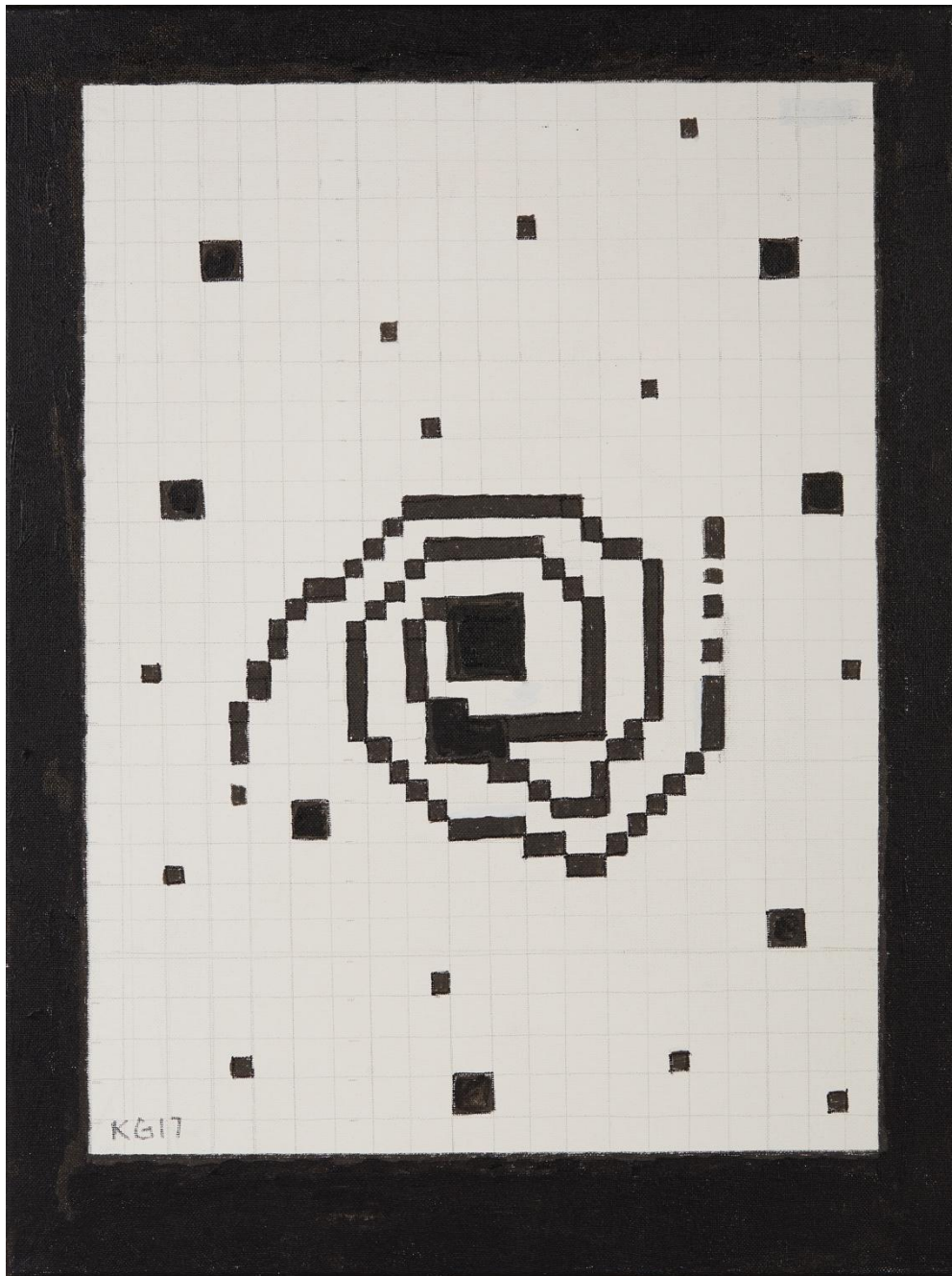
72 x 48 inches

parrasch heijnen



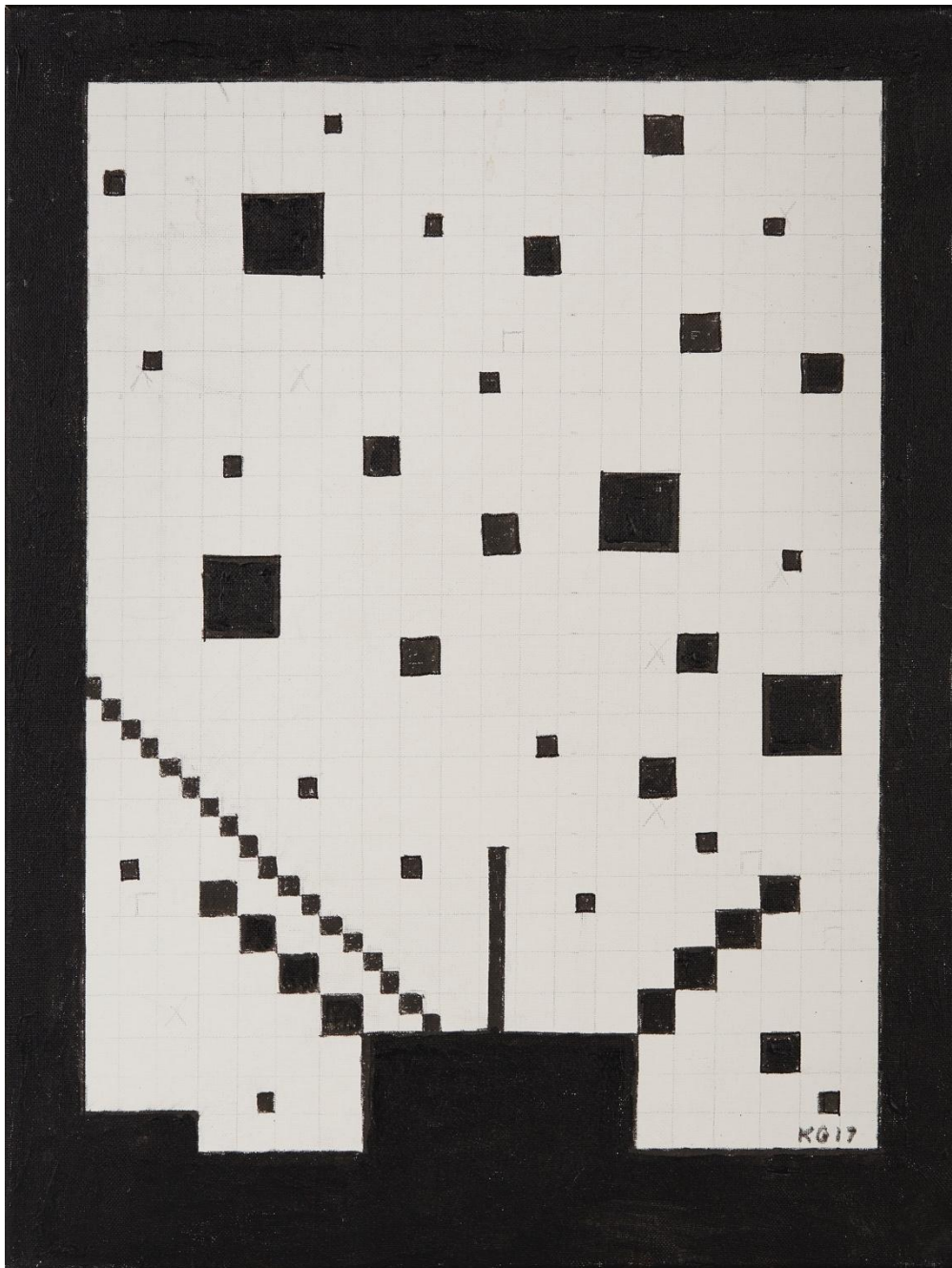
KEN GRIMES
Human/Alien, 2010
acrylic on Masonite
48 x 33 inches

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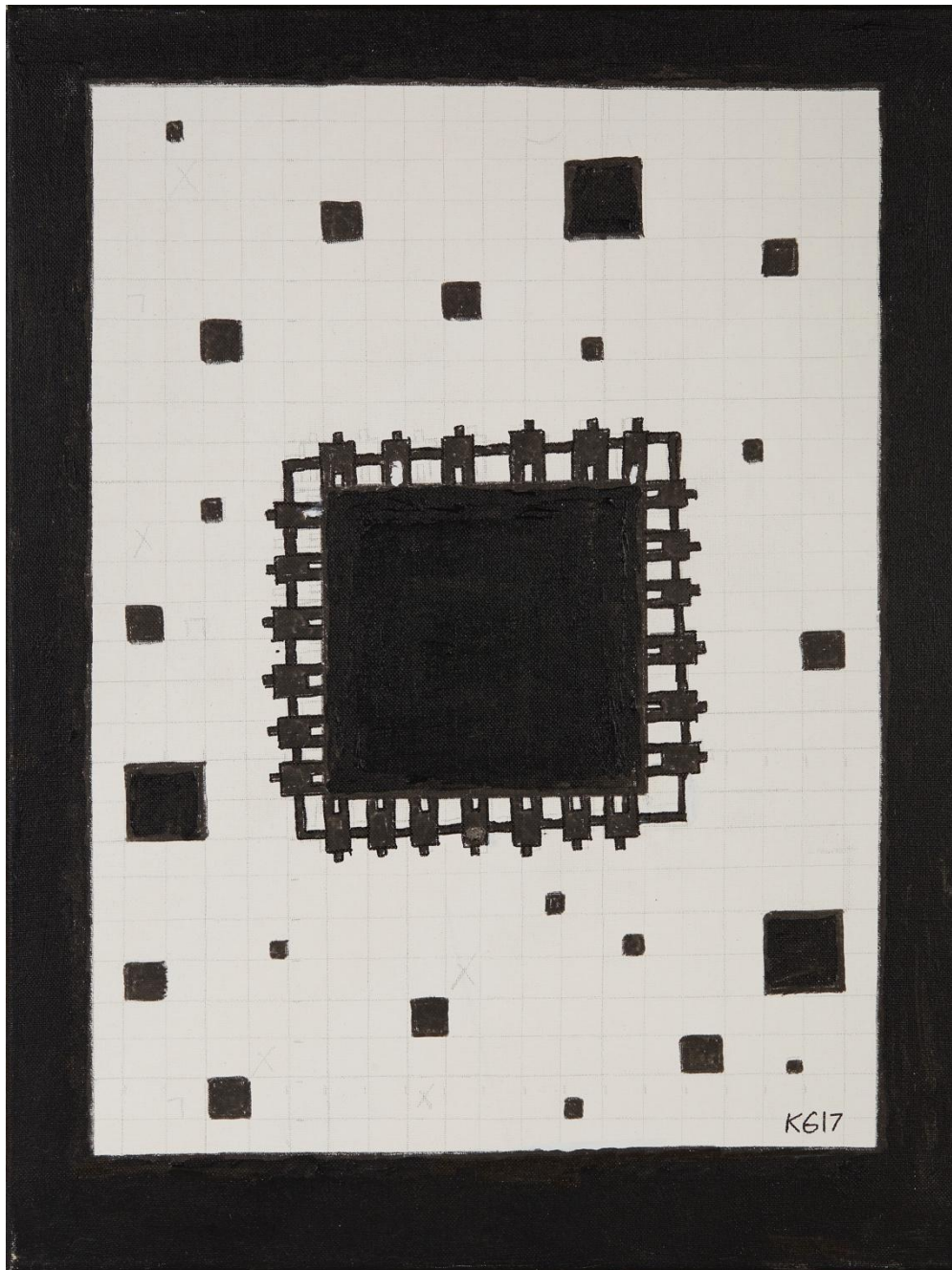
KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2017
acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches

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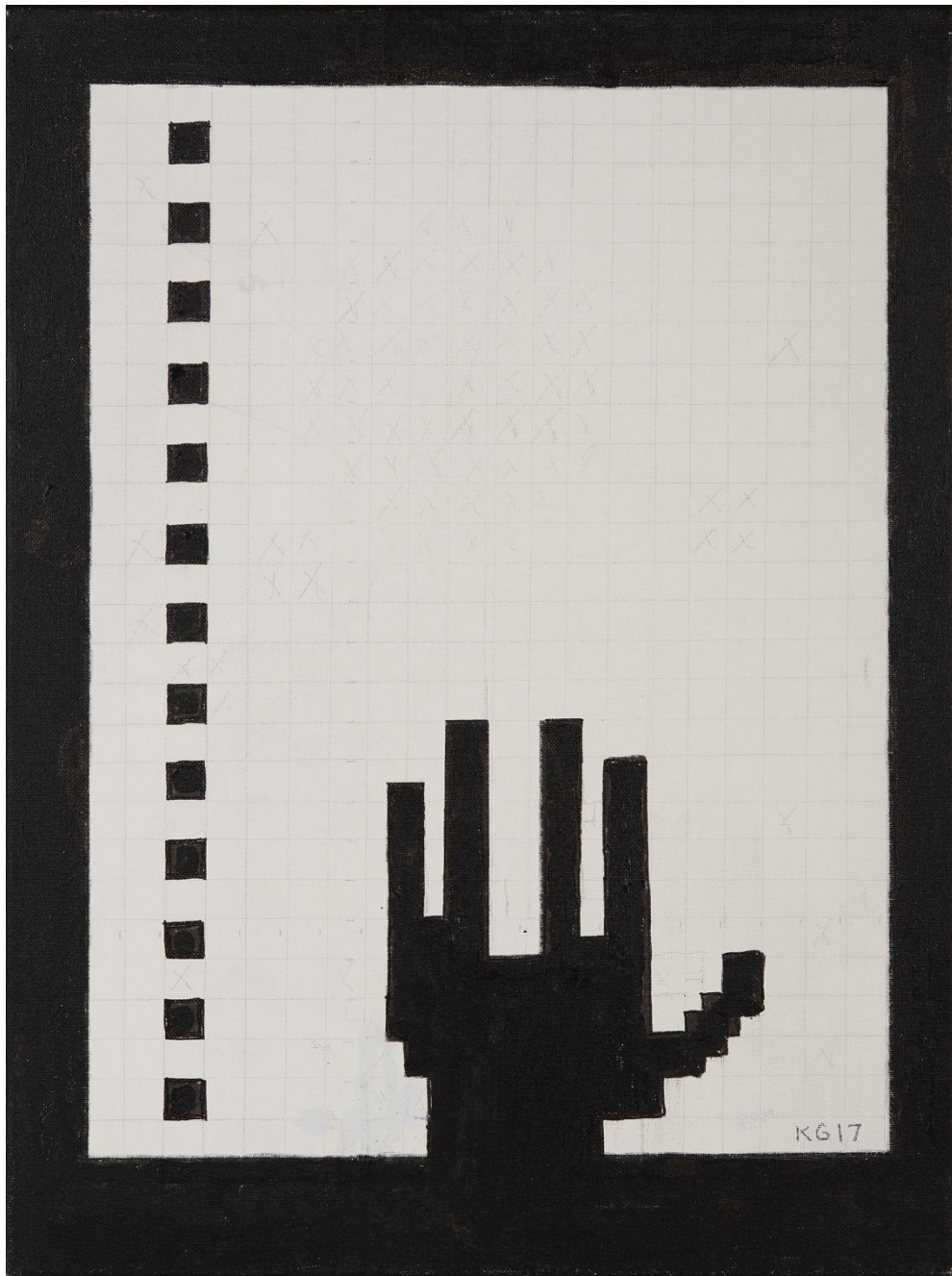
KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2017
acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches

parrasch heijnen



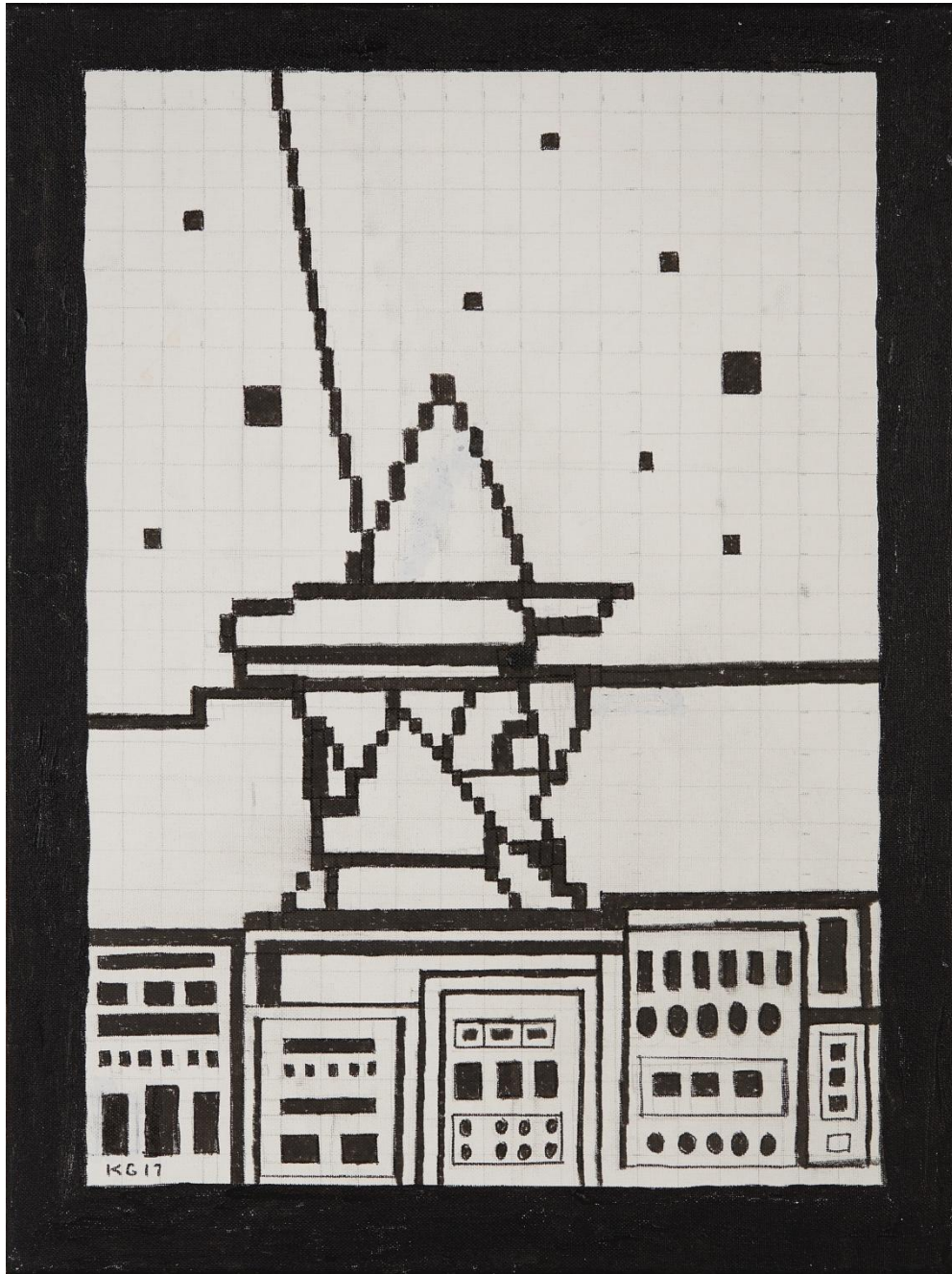
KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2017
acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches

parrasch heijnen



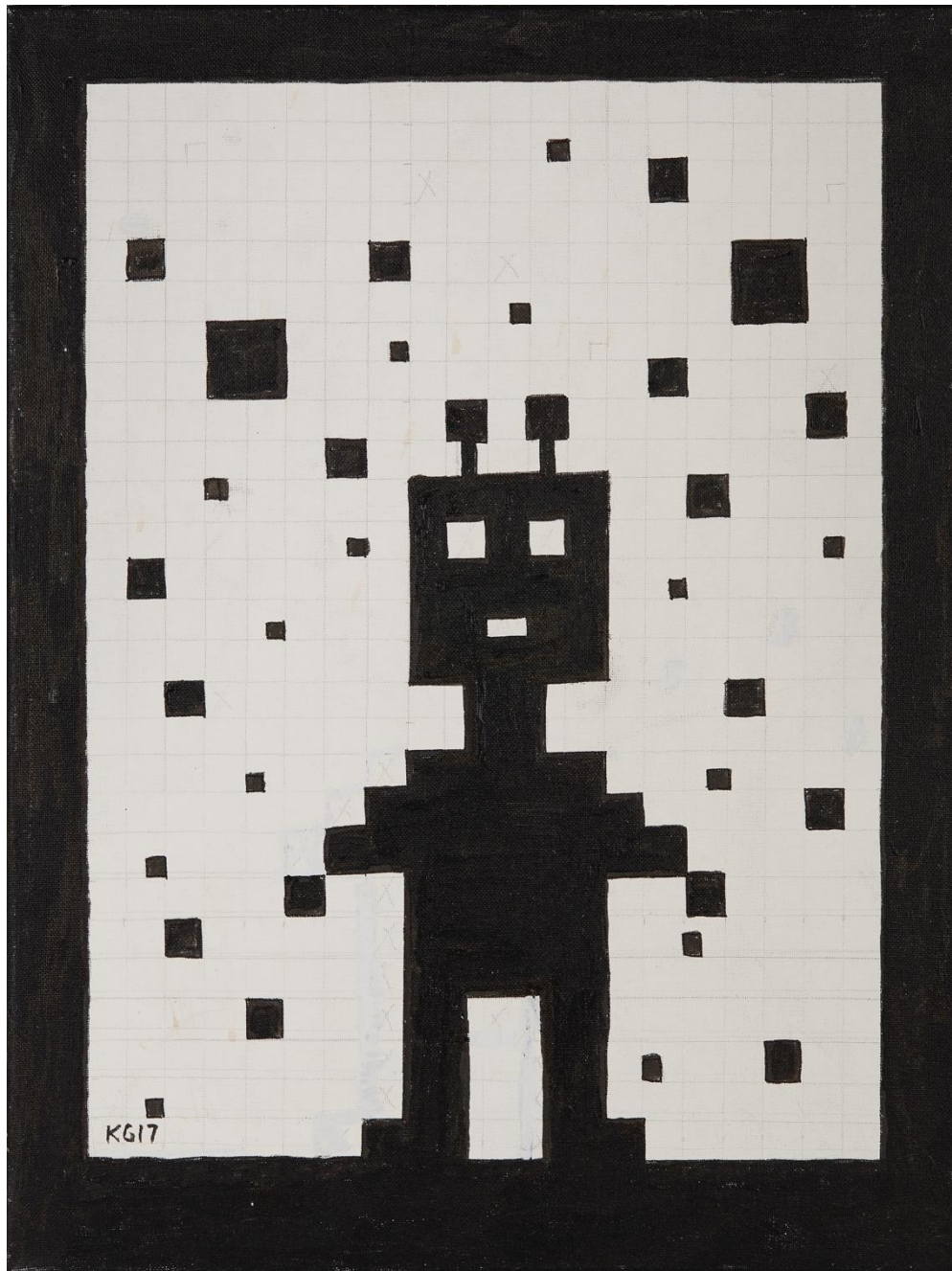
KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2017
acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches

parrasch heijnen



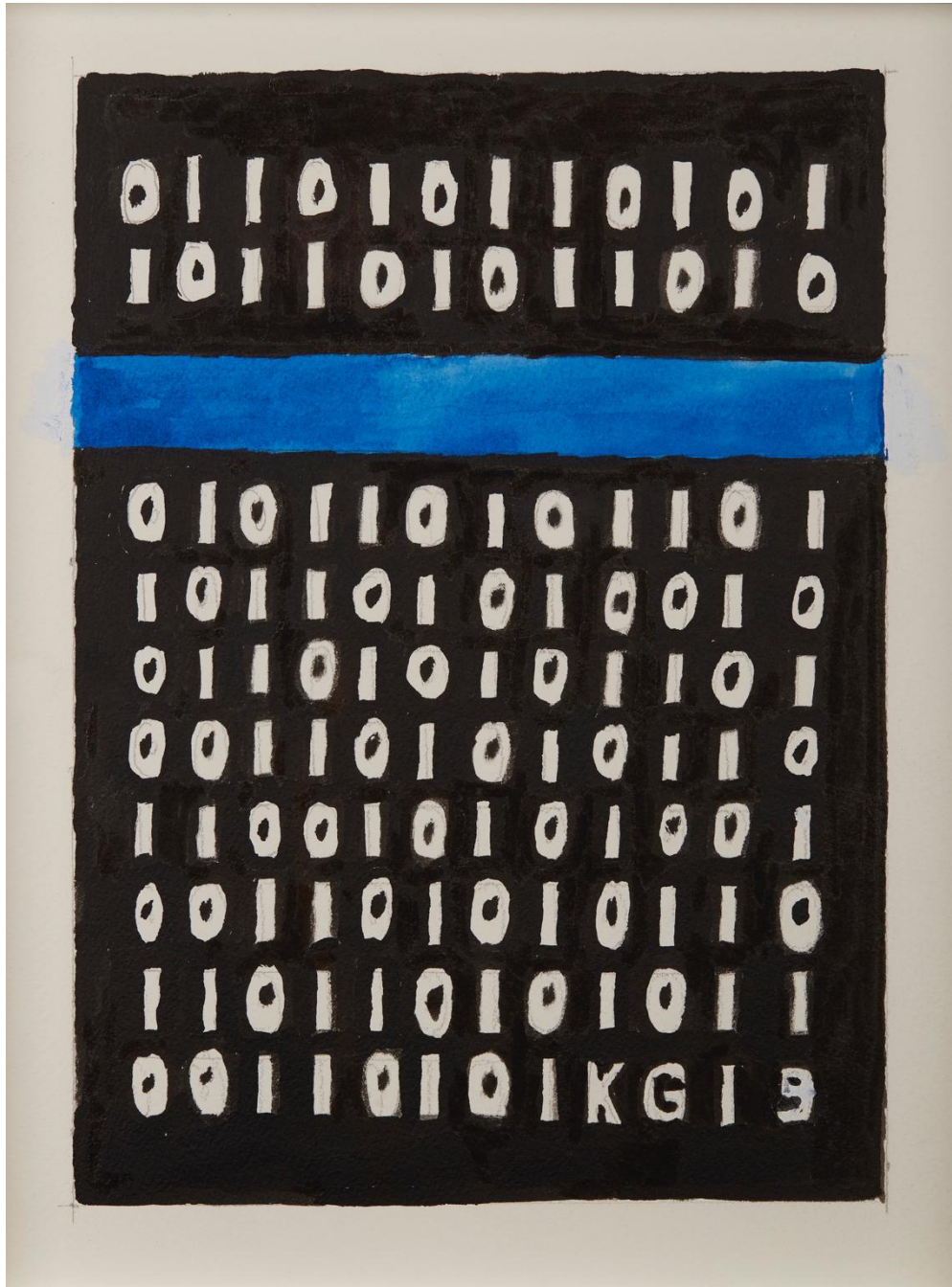
KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2017
acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches

parrasch heijnen



KEN GRIMES
Untitled, 2017
acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches

parrasch heijnen



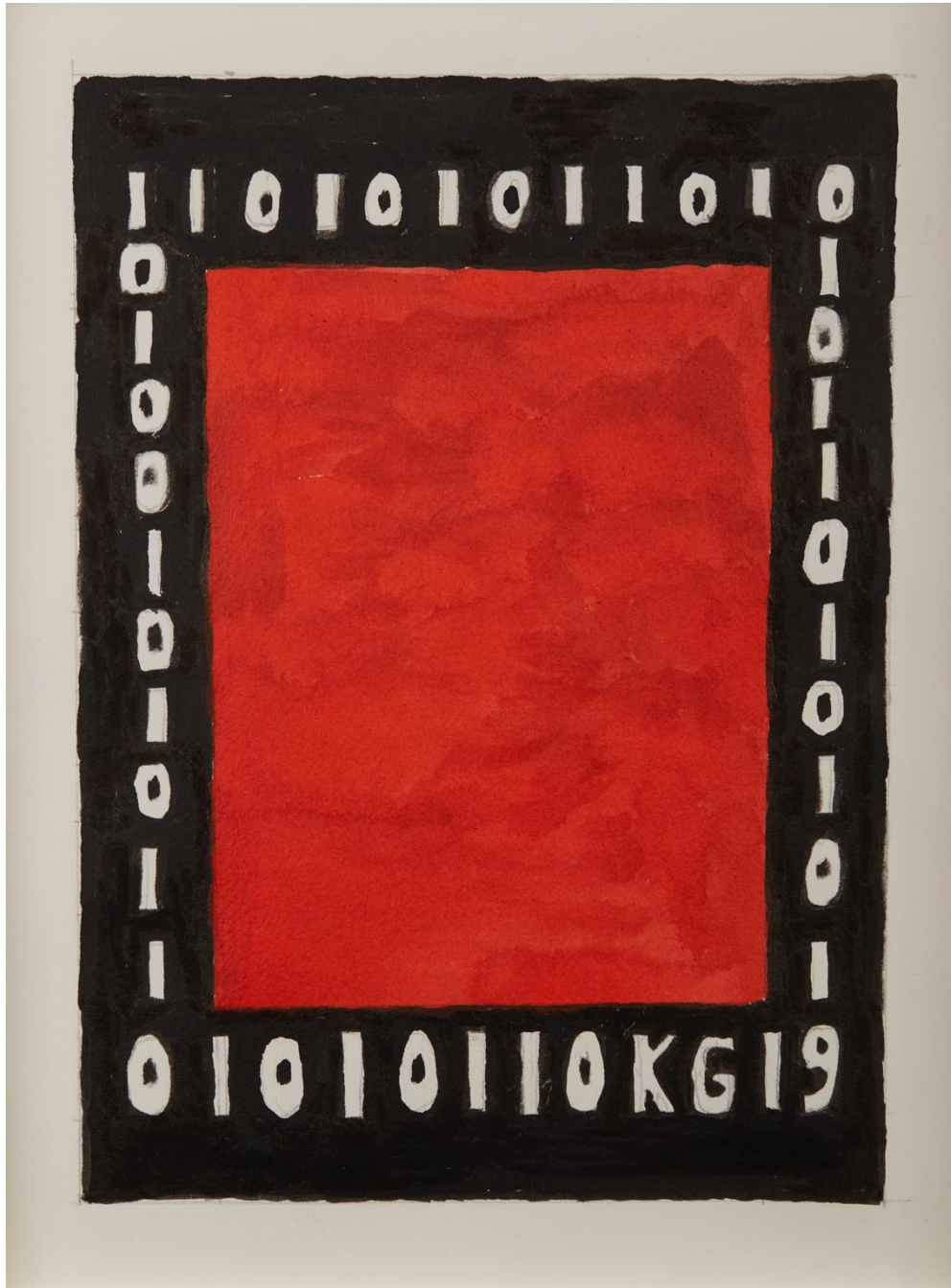
KEN GRIMES

Untitled Binary Code Series (Blue Horizontal Stripe), 2019

ink on paper

12-1/4 x 9 inches

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KEN GRIMES

Untitled Binary Code Series (Red Large Shape), 2019

ink on paper

12-1/4 x 9 inches

parrasch heijnen



KEN GRIMES

Untitled Binary Code Series (Red Strip), 2019

ink on paper

12-1/4 x 9 inches