



Guy Allott

Men with Pipes

Catalogue of works

based on the exhibition at Mountains,
Berlin, Jan 20 – Feb 24, 2024

Mountains is pleased to announce the solo exhibition *Men with pipes* by London-based artist Guy Allott. The exhibition premieres the whole suite of 13 anonymous portraits of people from the world of chemsex.

***Men with pipes* is the artist's second solo exhibition with Mountains. Guy Allott's past exhibitions include Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Whitechapel Gallery, London; MAC VAL, Vitry-Sur-Seine/Paris; a. o.**

Works by Guy Allott are in the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Zabłudowicz Collection, London; UBS Art Collection, a. o.

Men with pipes serves as a powerful visual exploration of the multifaceted subculture of chemsex, capturing both the allure and the darker aspects that accompany it. Through his masterful brushstrokes and keen artistic vision, Guy Allott invites viewers to delve into the complex nuances of this evolving social landscape.

The inspiration for the *Men with pipes* series comes from a long history of depicting smokers in art, and especially the iconology of smoking in the pre-modern and modern era, with Van Gogh, Picasso, Cézanne, and Munch as the genesis for this painting project. 'It was a period when oral and genital satisfactions became confounded, and desire blended with hostility' (Dolores Mitchell). Yet Allott's *Men with pipes* have to be seen in a contemporary context. If you look at their glass pipes, they are obviously tied to drug use, and as we learn from the artist, more specifically to sexualised drug use, also known as chemsex. In the last decades chemsex has become an established practice among gay subcultures (especially in London and Berlin), to enhance sexual experiences with other men.

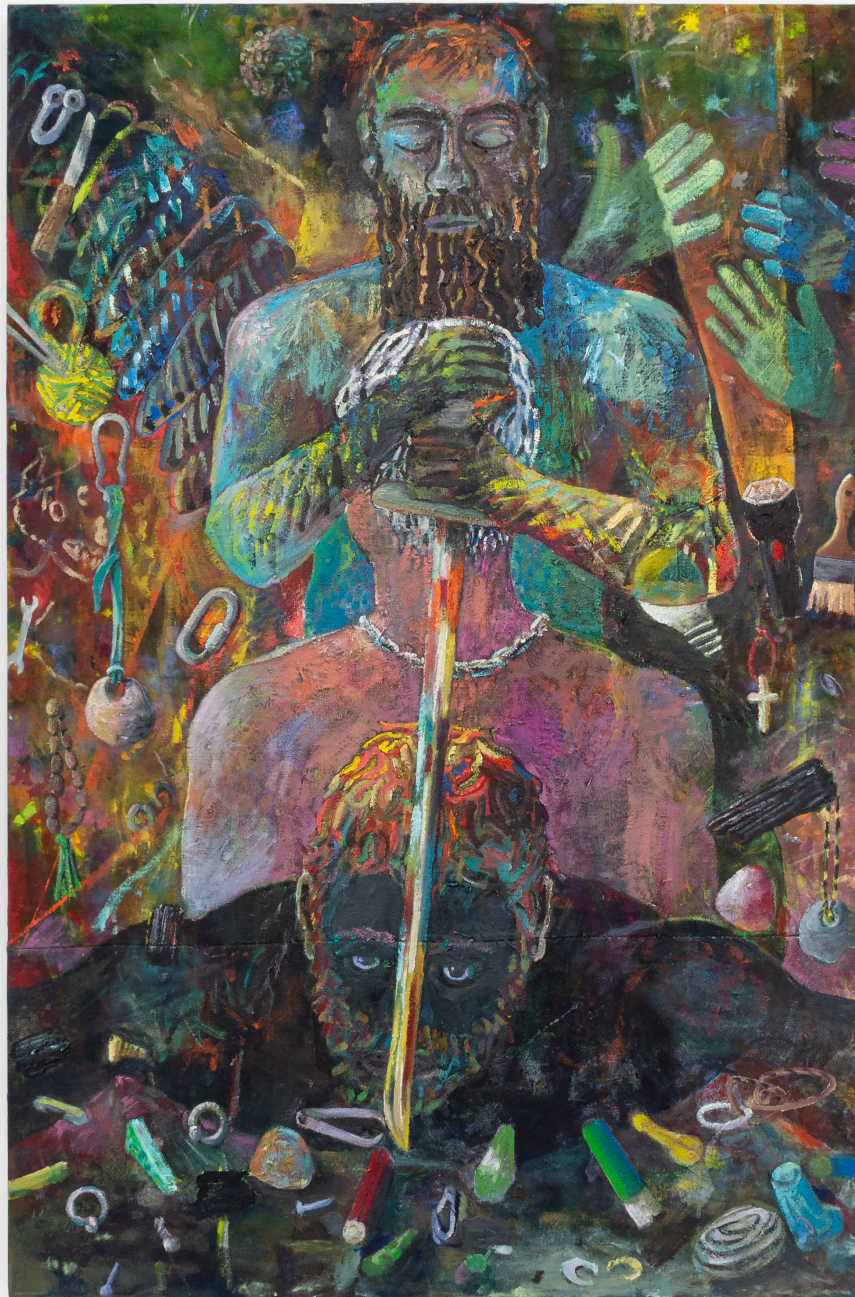
As the taboo topics surrounding sexuality and recreational drugs come together and inform Guy Allott's concept of portraiture, he aims to preserve anonymity whilst giving a voice to people from an underground scene, and ultimately raising awareness of this phenomenon. In the context of the gallery's recent group show *Unputdownable*, the artist wrote: 'My friend Simon Watney had emailed and suggested I read some things including the obituary of David Stuart (1967—2022) which I was pleased to do since he was a HIV activist and global campaigner to help reduce the risks of chemsex on the gay community, and who were ultimately the very people I had made imagined portraits of over the last few years.'

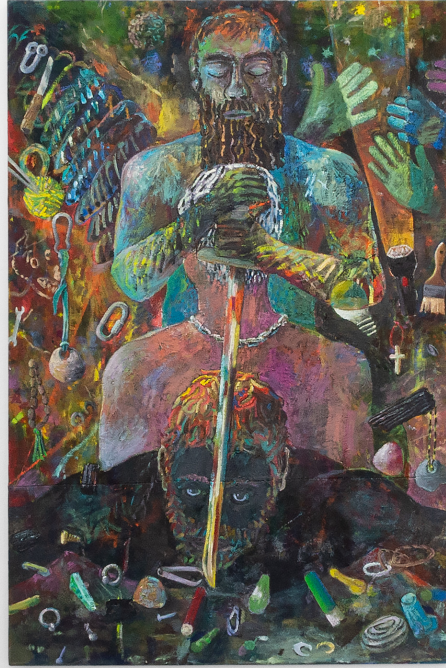
In the exhibition, the suite of portraits is complemented by a small number of canvases made at the same time as the *Men with pipes*, as well as *The Side Door* from the artist's previous exhibition at Mountains which acts as a baton between the two shows.

(from the press release)



Untitled (The Sword), 2023
Oil on canvas
150 x 120 x 3 cm / 59 x 47.2 x 1.2 in
Unique







Young Man with Pipe (Men with pipes I), 2021
Oil on canvas
30 × 25,5 × 2 cm / 11.8 × 9.8 × 0.8 in
Unique



Man with Pipe (Men with pipes II), 2022
Oil on canvas
40 × 30 × 1,5 cm / 15.7 × 11.8 × 0.6 in
Unique



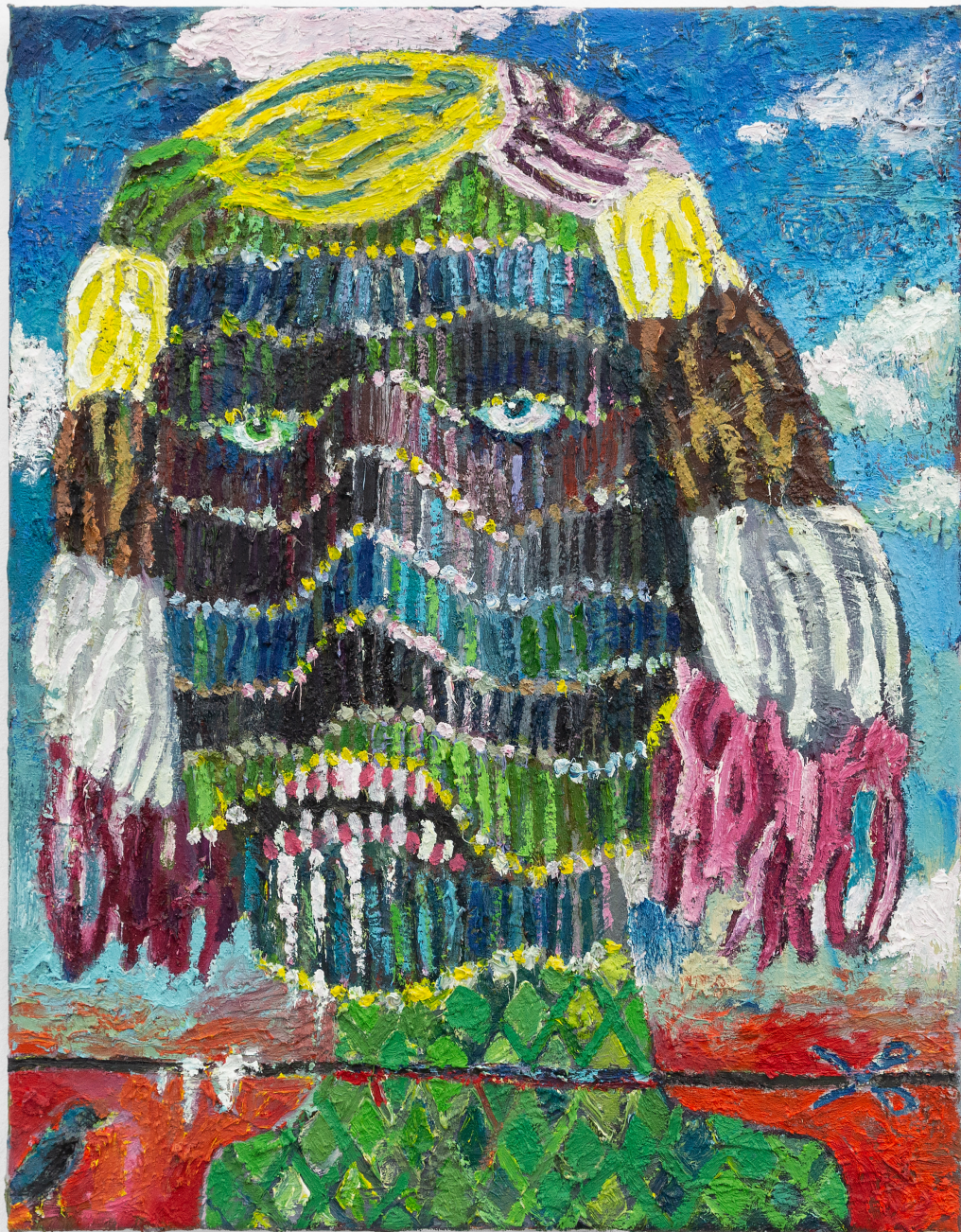
Portrait for Malcolm (Men with pipes III), 2023
Oil on canvas
29,5 × 21 × 2,5 cm / 11.6 × 8.3 × 0.9 in
Unique



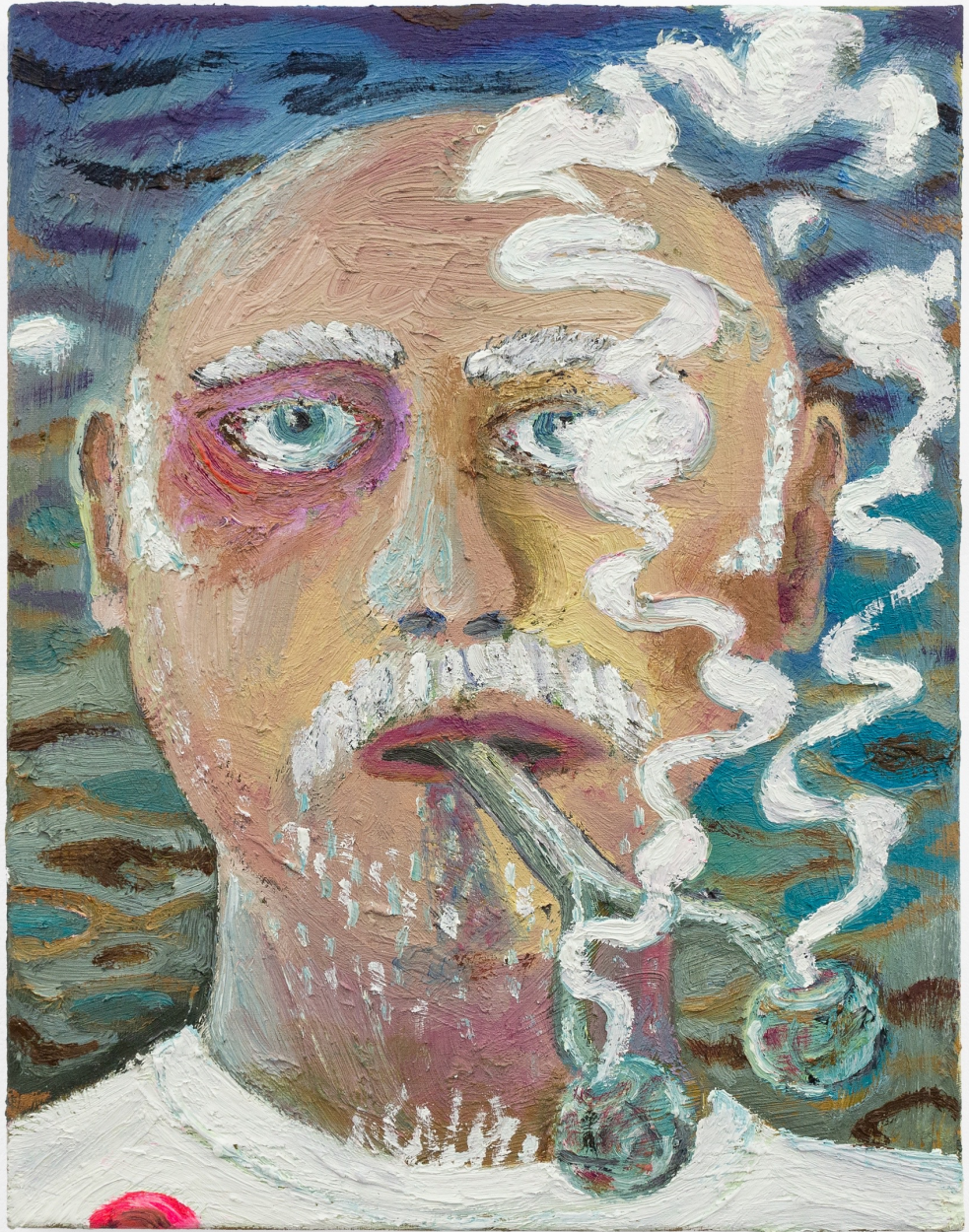
**The Boy Who would work it all out a lot later
(Men with pipes VI), 2022
Oil on canvas
50 x 40 x 2,5 cm / 19,7 x 15.7 x 0.9 in
Unique**



Ophelia in Drag (Men with Pipes XIII), 2022
Oil on canvas
45 x 35 x 1,5 cm / 17.7 x 13.8 x 0.6 in
Unique



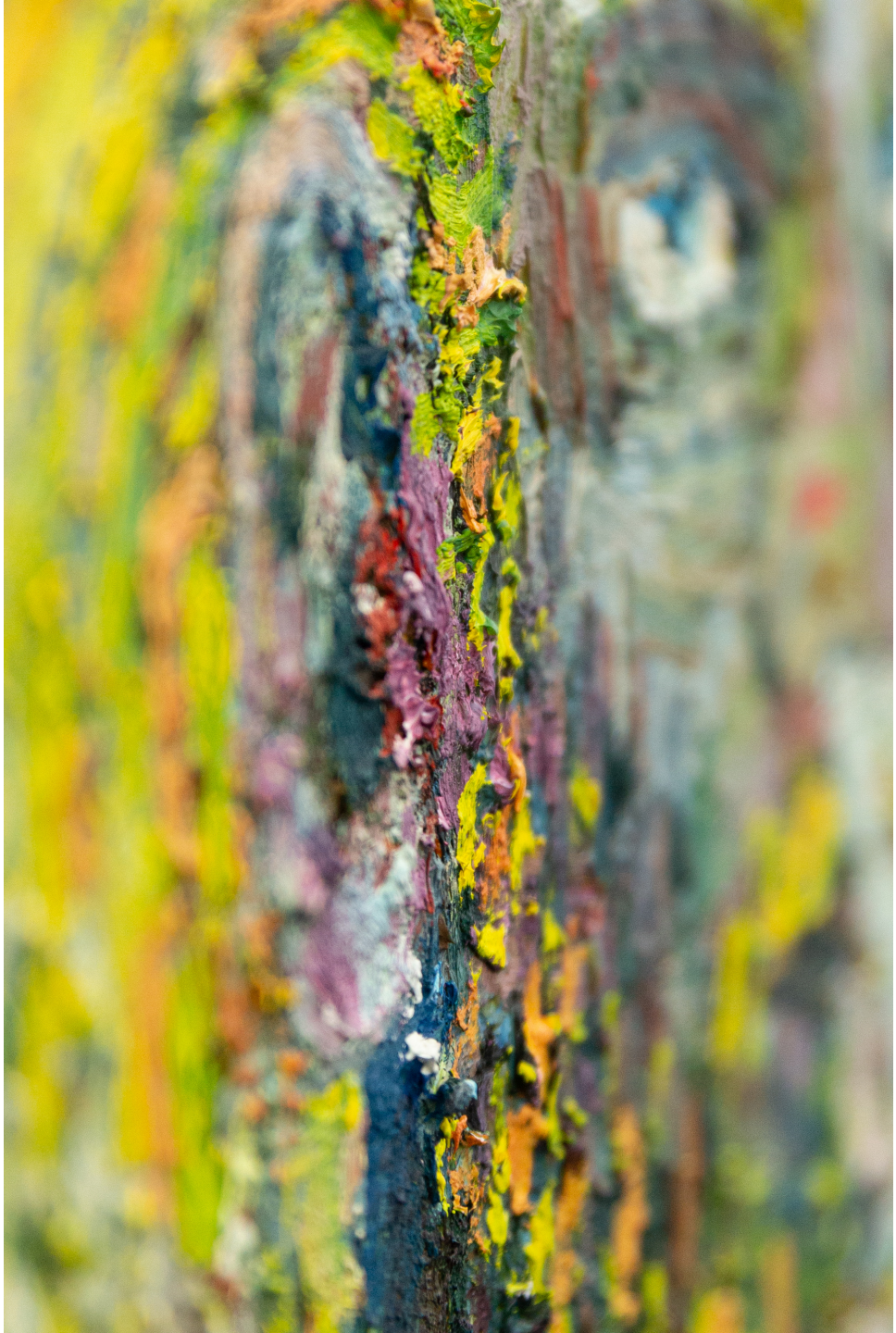
**Man with Double Pipe (Men with
pipes VIII), 2022
Oil on canvas
46 x 35 x 1,5 cm / 17.7 x 14 x 0.6 in
Unique**



Boy with Pipe (Men with pipes V), 2022
Oil on canvas
50 × 40 × 1,5 cm / 19.7 × 15.7 × 0.6 in
Unique



detail

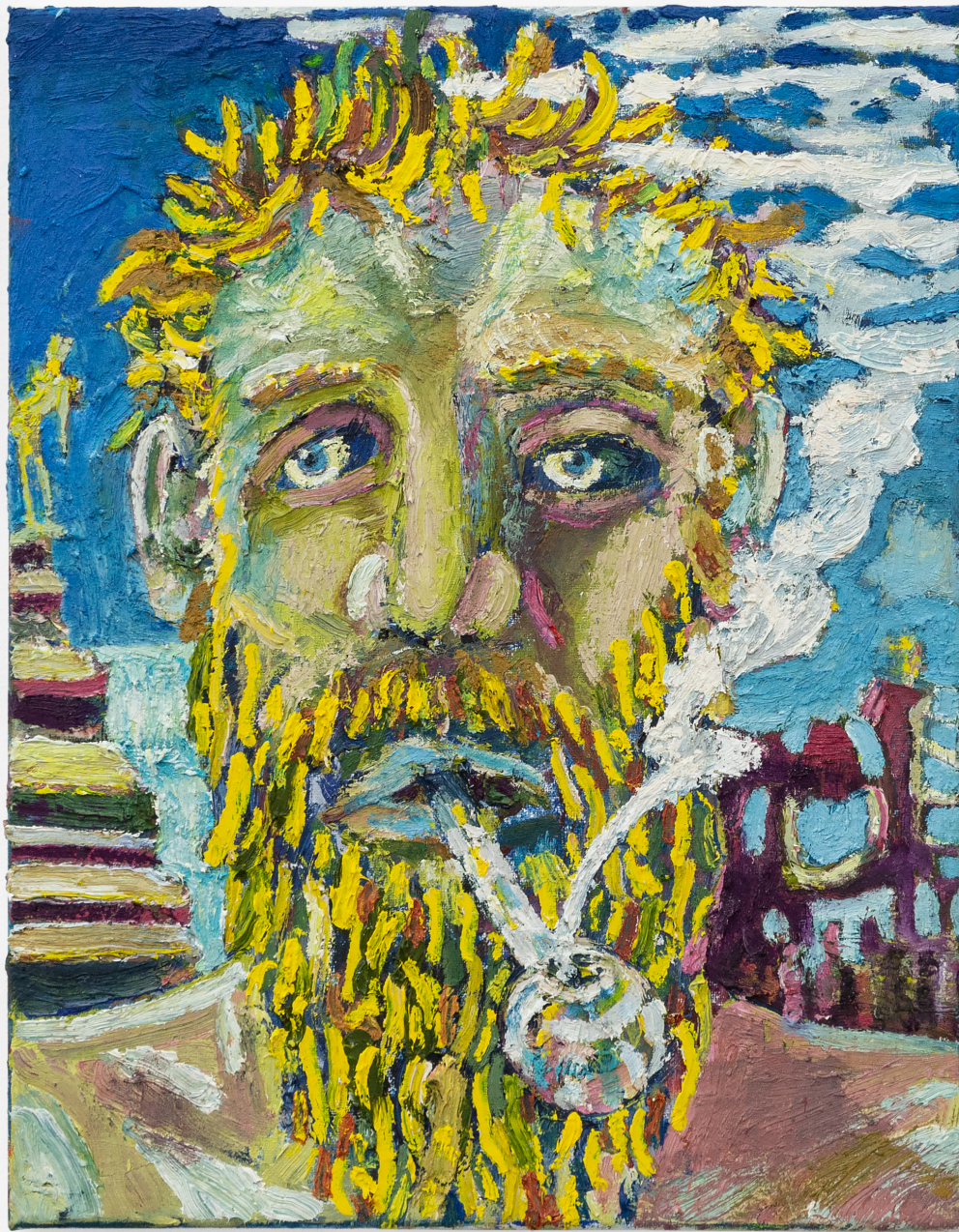




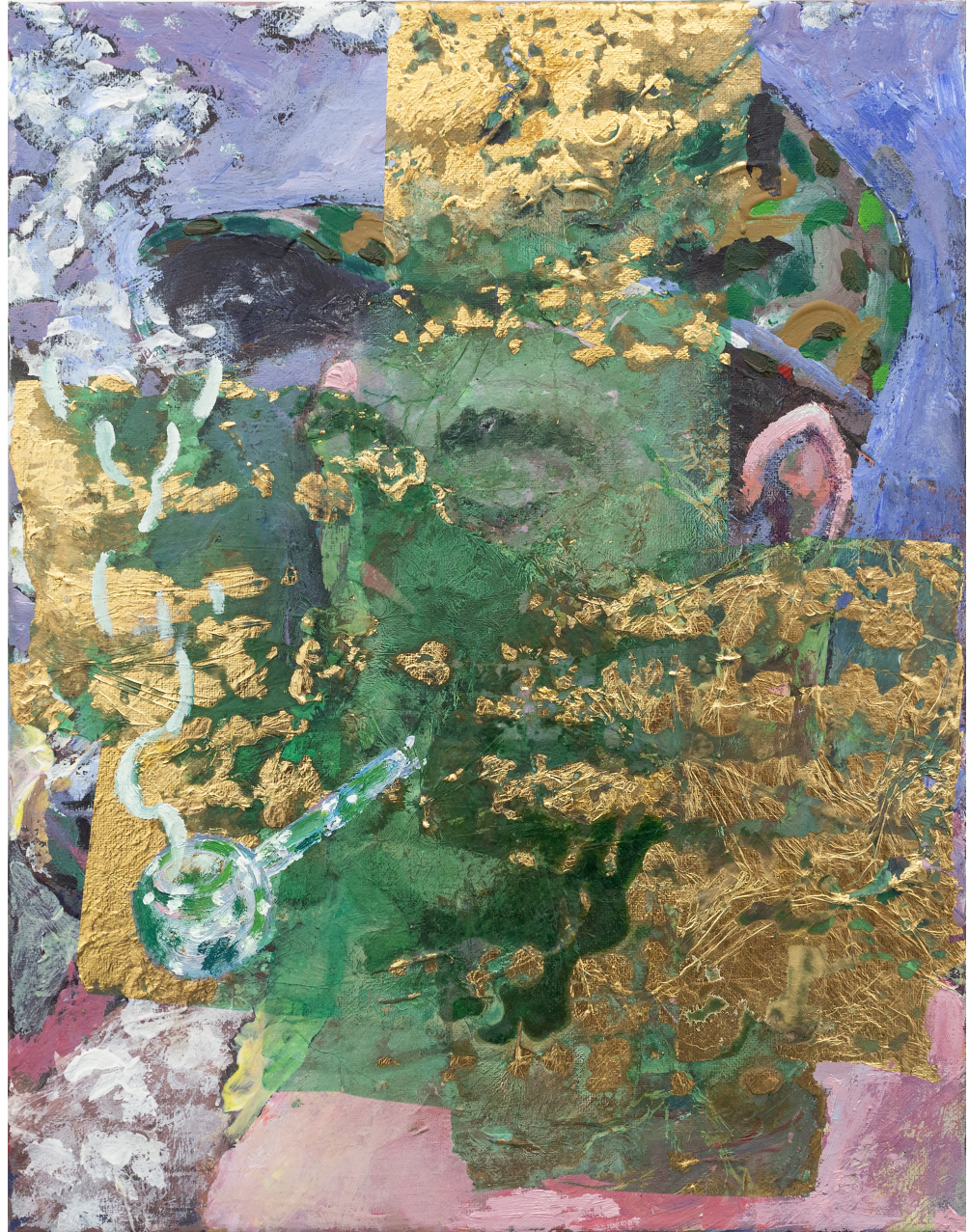
Boy with Pipe (Men with pipes V), 2022
Oil on canvas
30,5 x 25 x 1,5 cm / 12 x 9.8 x 0.6 in
Unique



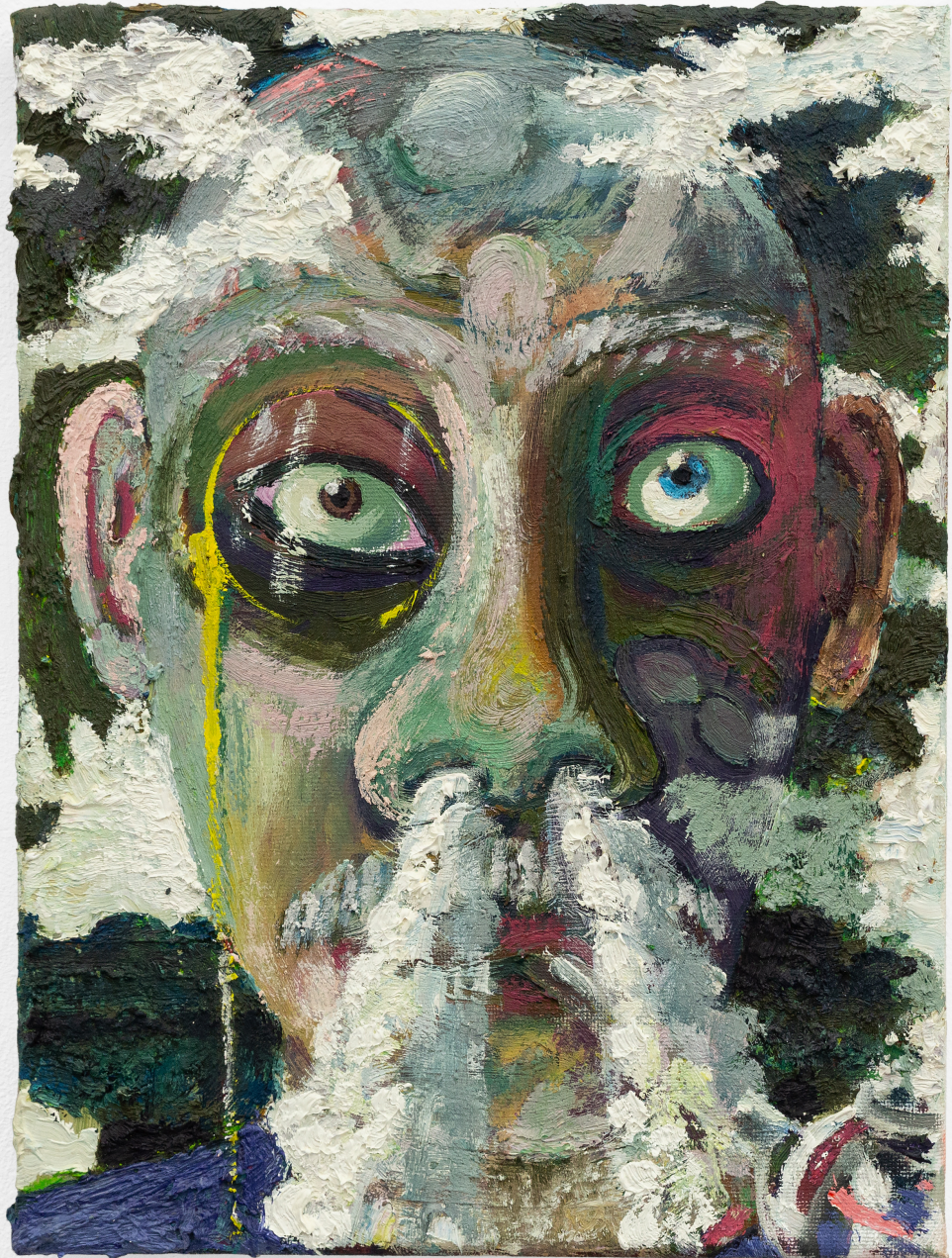
**Ben's Son, This is another soul, this is not
or ever was the man – that calls himself
Ben's Son (Men with pipes IX), 2023
Oil on canvas
46 x 35,5 x 1,5 cm / 18.1 x 14 x 0.6 in
Unique**



Man with Pipe (Men with pipes X), 2023
Oil on canvas
45 × 35 × 2,5 cm / 17.7 × 13.8 × 0.9 in
Unique

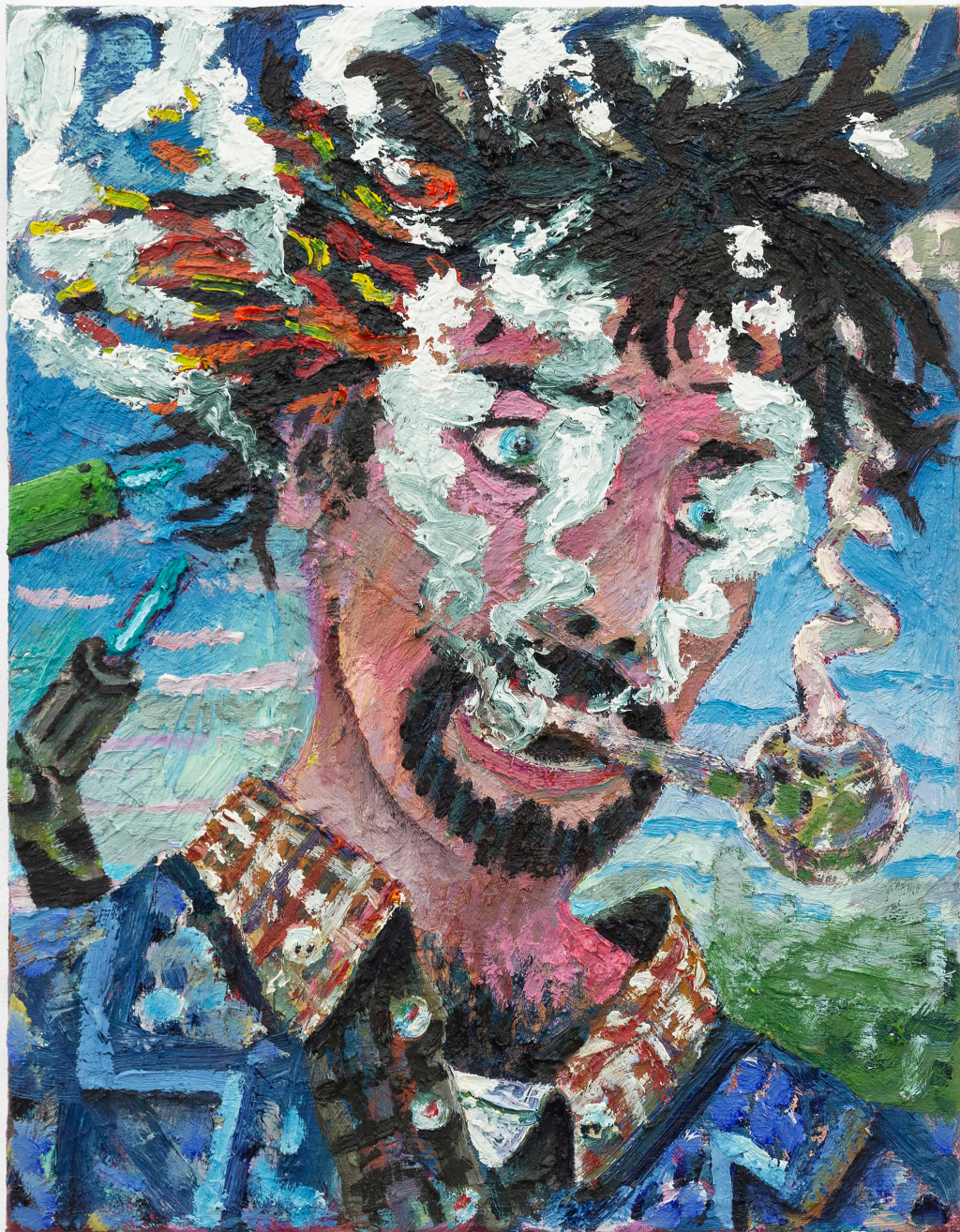


Man with Monocole (Men with pipes VI), 2022
Oil on canvas
31 × 23 × 1,5 cm / 12.2 × 9.1 × 0.6 in
Unique





Men with Hair on Fire (Men with pipes XII), 2024
Oil on canvas
45 x 35 x 2,5 / 17.7 x 13.8 x 0.8 in
Unique



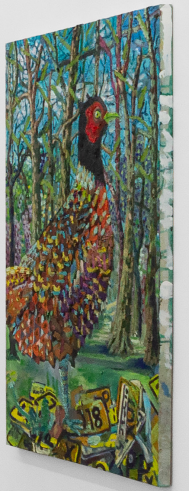
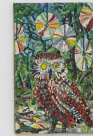
**Men with Pipe on the Heath at Night (Men with
pipes XI), 2022**
Oil on canvas
30 × 22,5 × 2 cm / 11.8 × 8.9 × 0.8 in
Unique





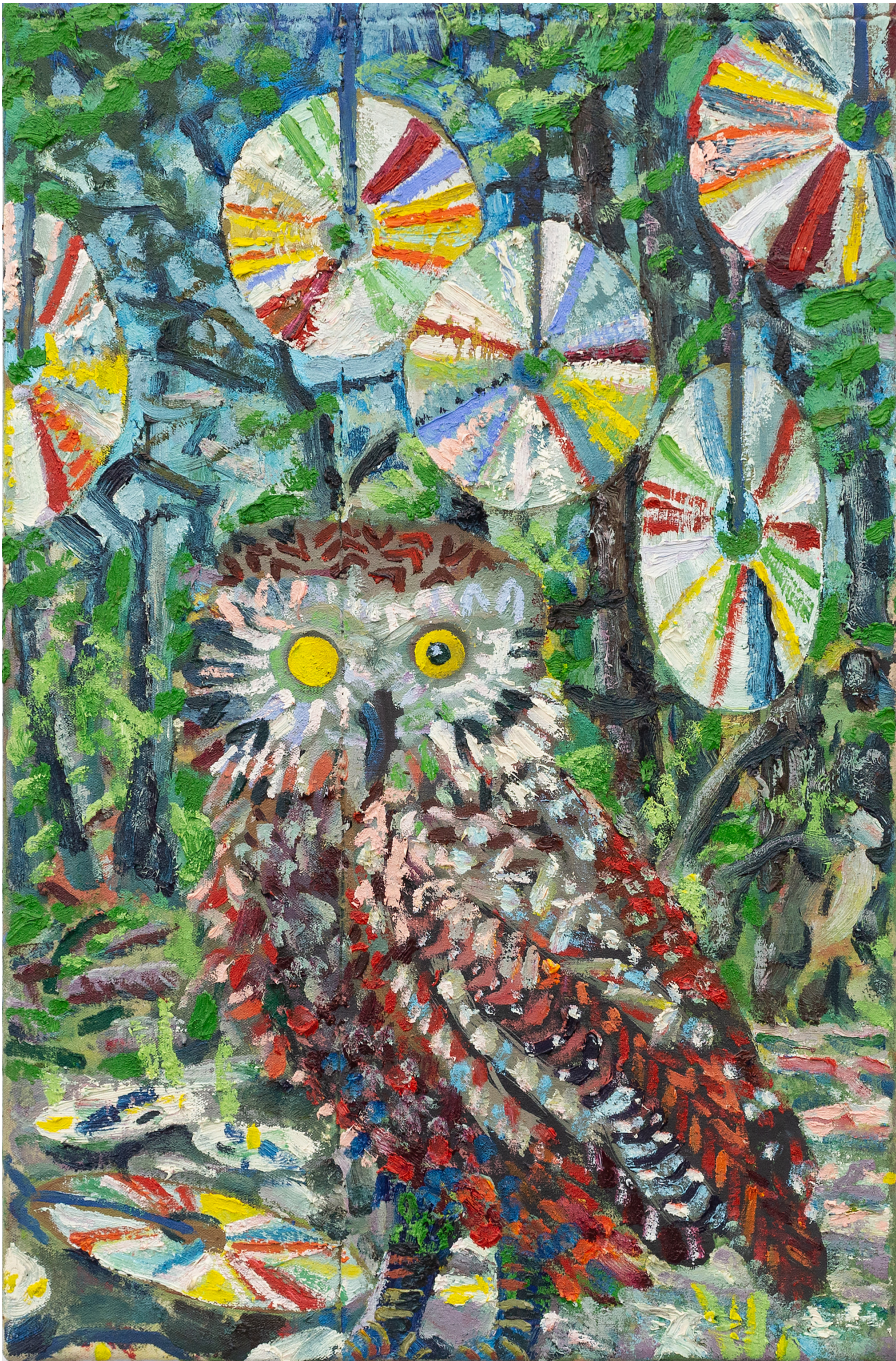


Torches in the Forest, 2021
Oil on canvas
71,5 × 61 × 2 cm / 27.9 × 24 × 0.8 in
Unique

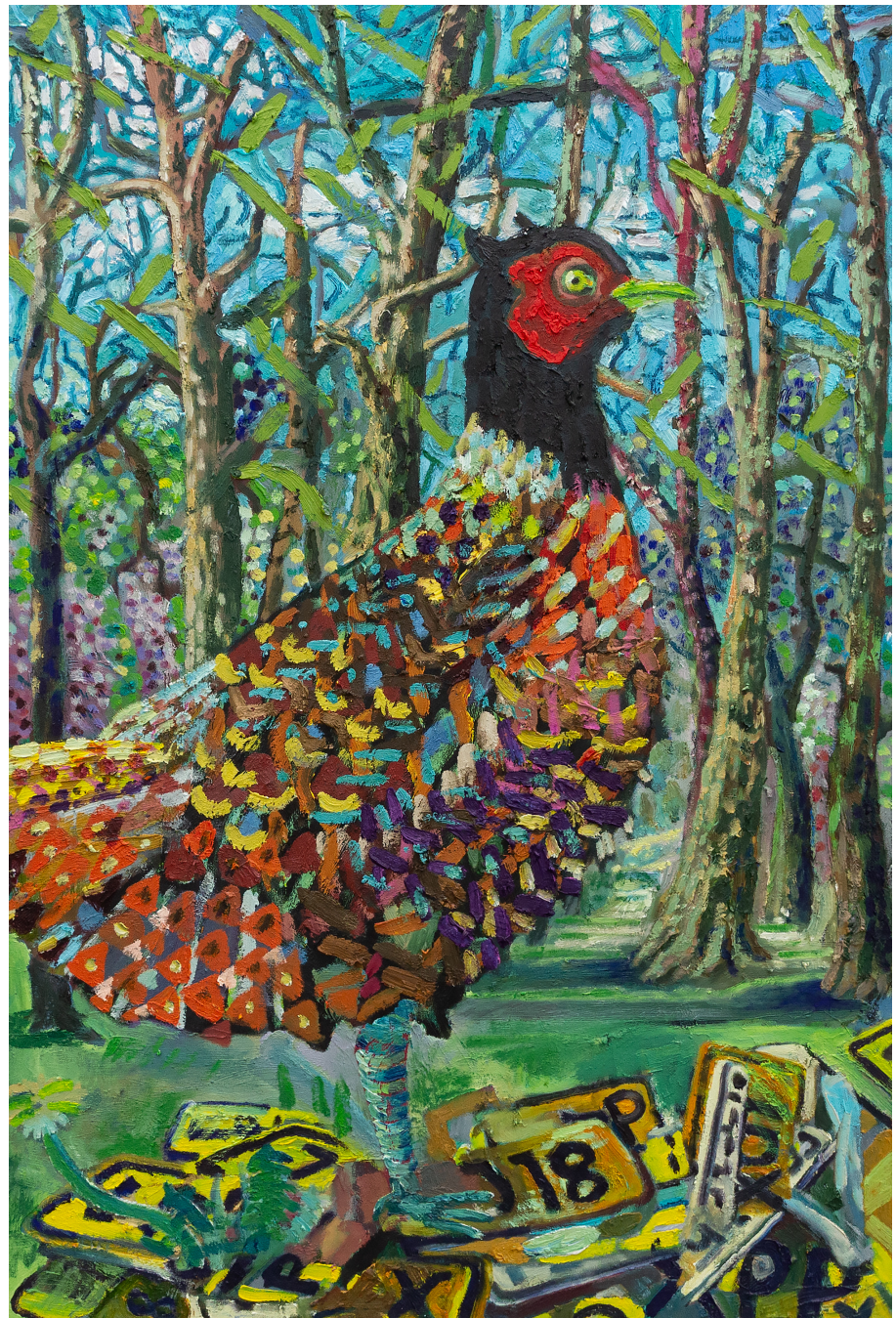




Knowledge + Compassion, 2023
Oil on canvas
54 x 35 x 2,5 cm / 21.3 x 13.8 x 0.9 in
Unique



His Edges (Owl), 2020
Oil on canvas
54 x 35 x 2,5 cm / 21.3 x 13.8 x 0.9 in
Unique



Pheasant (For Morpheus), 2023
Oil on canvas
90,5 x 60 x 2,5 cm / 8.5 x 6.1 x 0.9 in
Unique



The Lost New Balances of Hampstead Heath, 2023
Oil on linen
40 x 35 cm x 2,5 / 15.7 x 13.8 in
Unique



The Side Door, 2020
Oil on linen
65 × 55 × 2,5 cm / 25.6 × 21.6 × 0.9 in
Unique



Contacts:

Klaus Voss

voss@mountains.gallery

+49 151 506 586 77 (call/text/WhatsApp)

Markus Summerer

summerer@mountains.gallery

+49 171 90 13 691 (call/text/WhatsApp)