

## NOON Projects Presents

### *Becoming a Swan (Going Through the Veil)*

By  
**Darren Cortez  
John Dillard  
Kristan Kennedy  
and  
Michael Lombardo**

**June 21 – July 27,  
2024**

Opening: June 21, 2024  
6–9pm

NOON Projects is honored to present *Becoming a Swan (Going Through the Veil)* featuring Darren Cortez, John Erwin Dillard, Kristan Kennedy and Michael Lombardo. *Becoming a Swan* is the inaugural show in NOON Project's new exhibition space at 508 Chung King Court.

*Becoming a Swan* is an intuitive, energetic combination of works that creates a constellation not categorized by pedagogical classification. It is an act of creating an acronym for forgetting; that feels akin to the act of dumping out one's bag. The organization of a life through a messy emptying.

Eroded masses of post industrial waste placed atop a painting complicit in philosophical fracas. Oil and Oklahoma dirt on the wall. A praying mantis, a conch shell, and rectangles serve as conduits for contemplation. Each is a device for transformation, forgetting, and letting go that the artists use when Going Through the Veil. The assemblage of these works allows a space for free association to form; to let the light in. An opening into the embodiment of the transcendental.

NOON Projects is a gallery in Chinatown, Los Angeles. Our program showcases artists who work from the heart, with a focus on queerness, the divine, the natural world, craft, and social practices. We host an ongoing program of dinners, concerts, meditation groups, and community happenings.

We aim to create a welcoming space for artists and the community to connect and flourish. Please come by and see us – you are very welcome here.

NOON Projects  
951 Chung King Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday  
Noon–6pm  
And by Appointment

+ 1 971 341 6648  
noon-projects.com  
info@noon-projects.com

# NOON

## Biography Darren Cortez

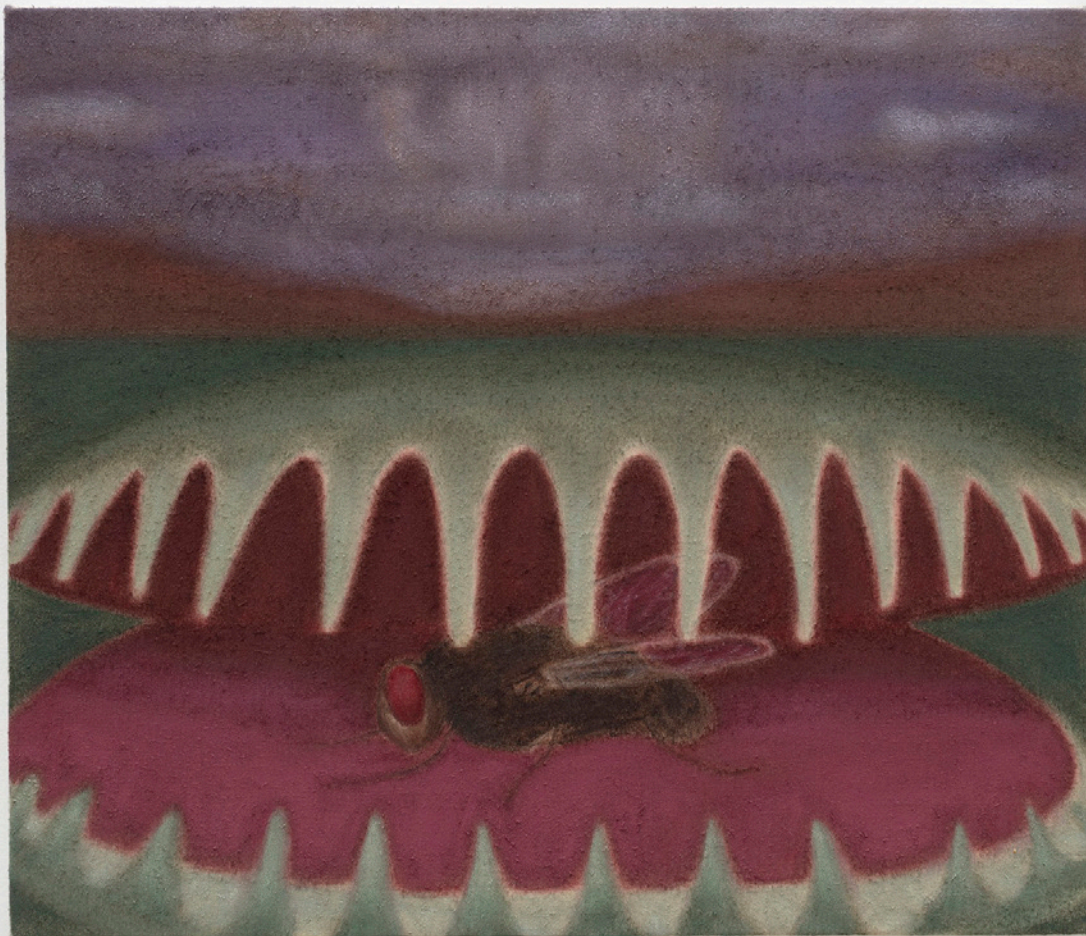
**Darren Cortez** (b. 1994, San Francisco, CA) is an artist based in Los Angeles who creates paintings imbued with a meditative and contemplative nature. The act of making the paintings themselves serve as a form of meditation. Rendered by using soft brush- work that slowly builds layer by layer and gradually shifting from dark to light and then light to dark in a repetitive cycle until form appears and a contemplative tone is attained. Drawing inspiration from a myriad of sources and subject matter relating to photography, film, and art history, Cortez uses symbols as conduits for intrapersonal themes found in daily life and identity.

**NOON**

NOON Projects  
951 Chung King Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday  
Noon–6pm  
Or by Appointment

971 341 6648  
noon-projects.com  
info@noon-projects.com

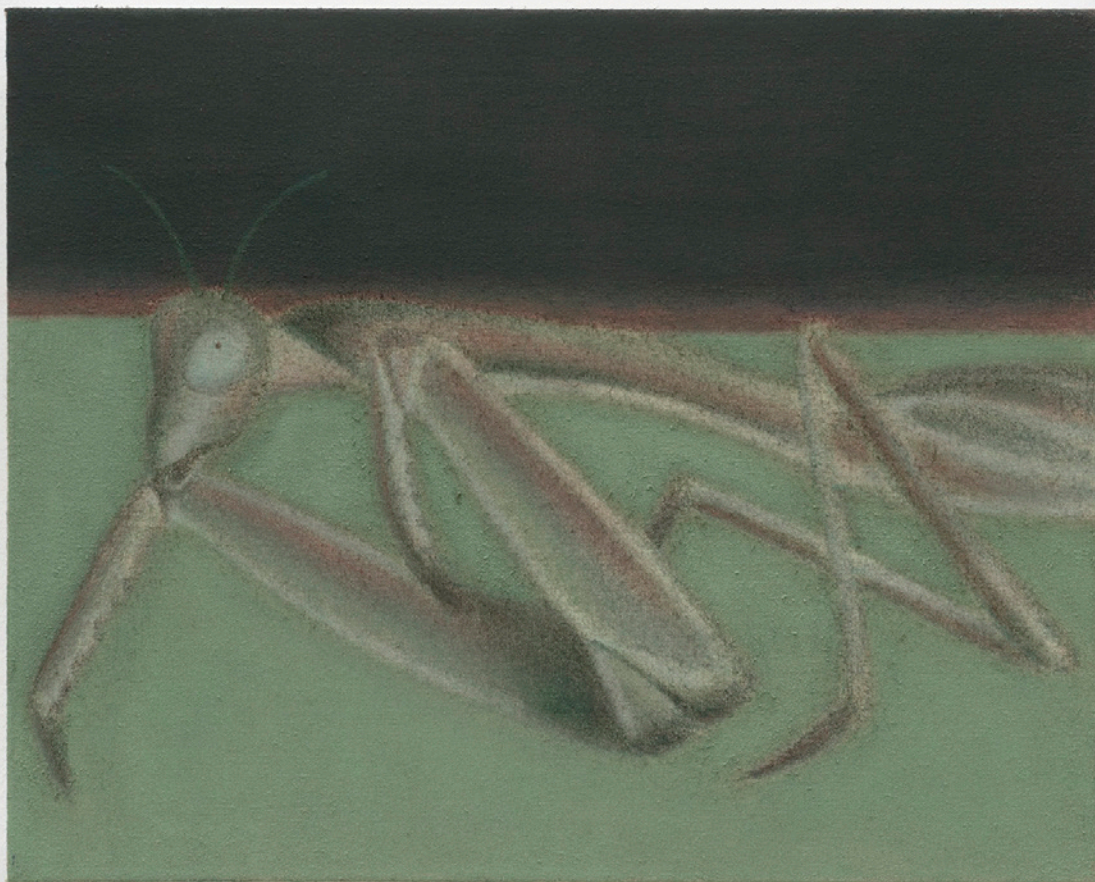


Darren Cortez  
*venus fly*, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
24 x 27 3/4 in. | 61 x 70.5 cm



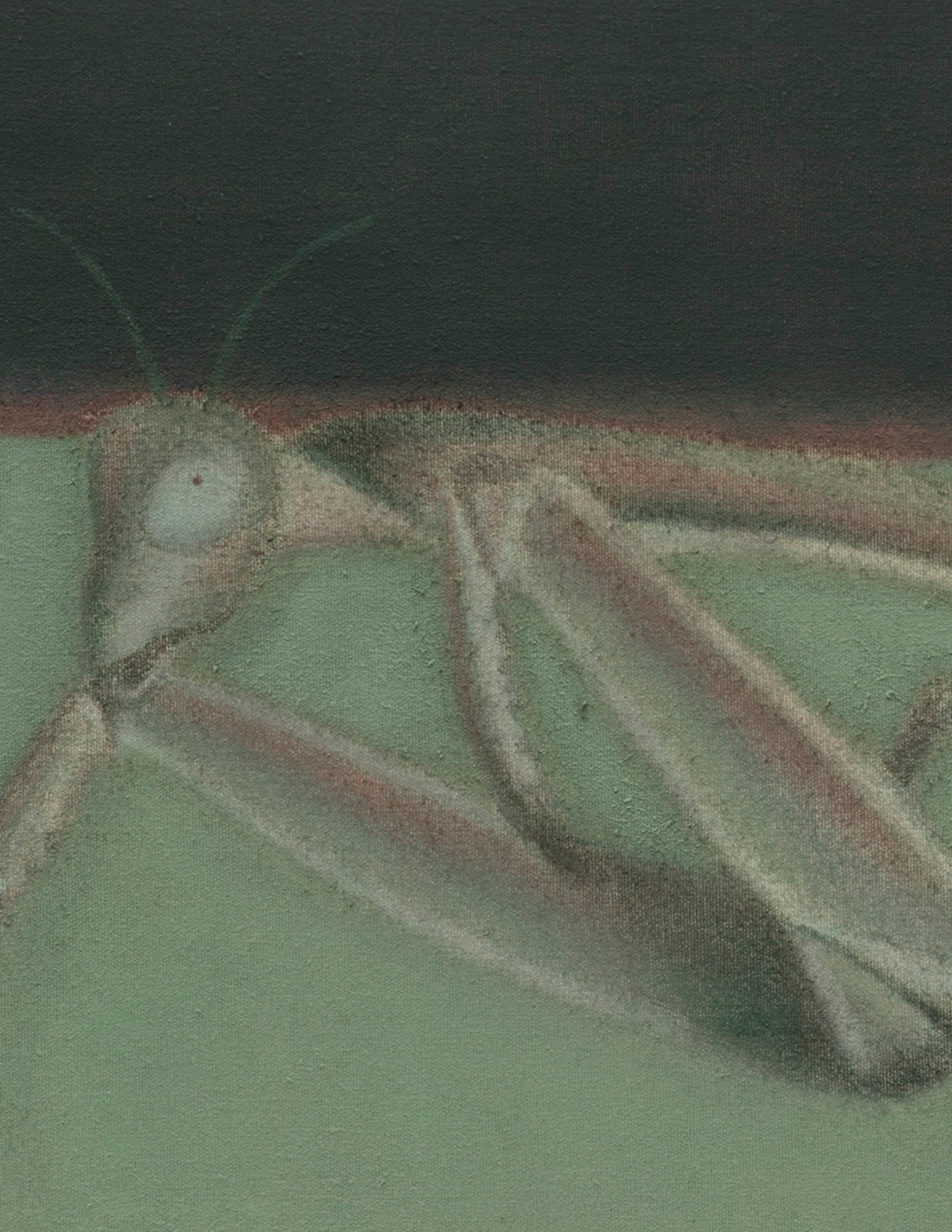






Darren Cortez  
*praying mantis*, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
16 x 20 in. | 40.6 x 50.8 cm









## Biography

### John Edwin Dillard

John Erwin Dillard (b. 1995, Gulfport, Mississippi) exhibits nationally and internationally including solo exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp (20') and Prive NYC (23'). Dillard cites sculpture as “...a site where magic, technology, spirituality and science are merged to imagine new expectations of reality.” The paperweights for this exhibition transform waste from post-industrial materials like cobalt, chromium, and manganese into usable sculpture, many of which shift in colour when placed in different lighting. Dillard considers the economic and sustainable impact in making work to ask, “Does the work have a legacy and impact in entering the world?”





John Edwin Dillard  
*United 001 – 040, 2024*  
Dimensions variable  
Edition of 40











## Biography

### Kristan Kennedy

**Kristan Kennedy** (b. 1972, Brooklyn, New York) is a Portland-based artist, curator, and educator. Kennedy identifies as a painter while also questioning the exclusionary history, process and medium that she is complicit in perpetuating.

Curator and critic Stephanie Snyder says of Kennedy's paintings in Artforum, "their intense dialectic of beauty and repulsion mirrors the artist's philosophical struggles—we sense that both artist and artwork have gone through the wringer—together—to achieve a hard-won grace".

Kennedy's practice extends into curatorial and pedagogical work. She is the Artistic Director, Curator of Visual Art for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA). For more than a decade, Kennedy has focused on commissioning new work by international emerging artists in the form of large-scale, site-specific installations and solo projects that exist at the borders of genres. Kennedy teaches in the Visual Studies MFA program at the Pacific Northwest College of Art (PNCA) Contemporary Art.

# NOON

NOON Projects  
951 Chung King Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday  
Noon–6pm  
Or by Appointment

971 341 6648  
noon-projects.com  
info@noon-projects.com



KRISTAN KENNEDY  
(W.W.D.I.W.S.T.A.W.L.M.I.T.M.O.N.A.S.T.N, 2017  
Bleach sumi and acrylic Ink on linen  
80 x 35 in. | 203.2 x 88.9 cm













KRISTAN KENNEDY  
Y.A.D., 2014  
Sumi, dye, acrylic on linen  
84 x 33 in. | 213.4 x 83.8 cm







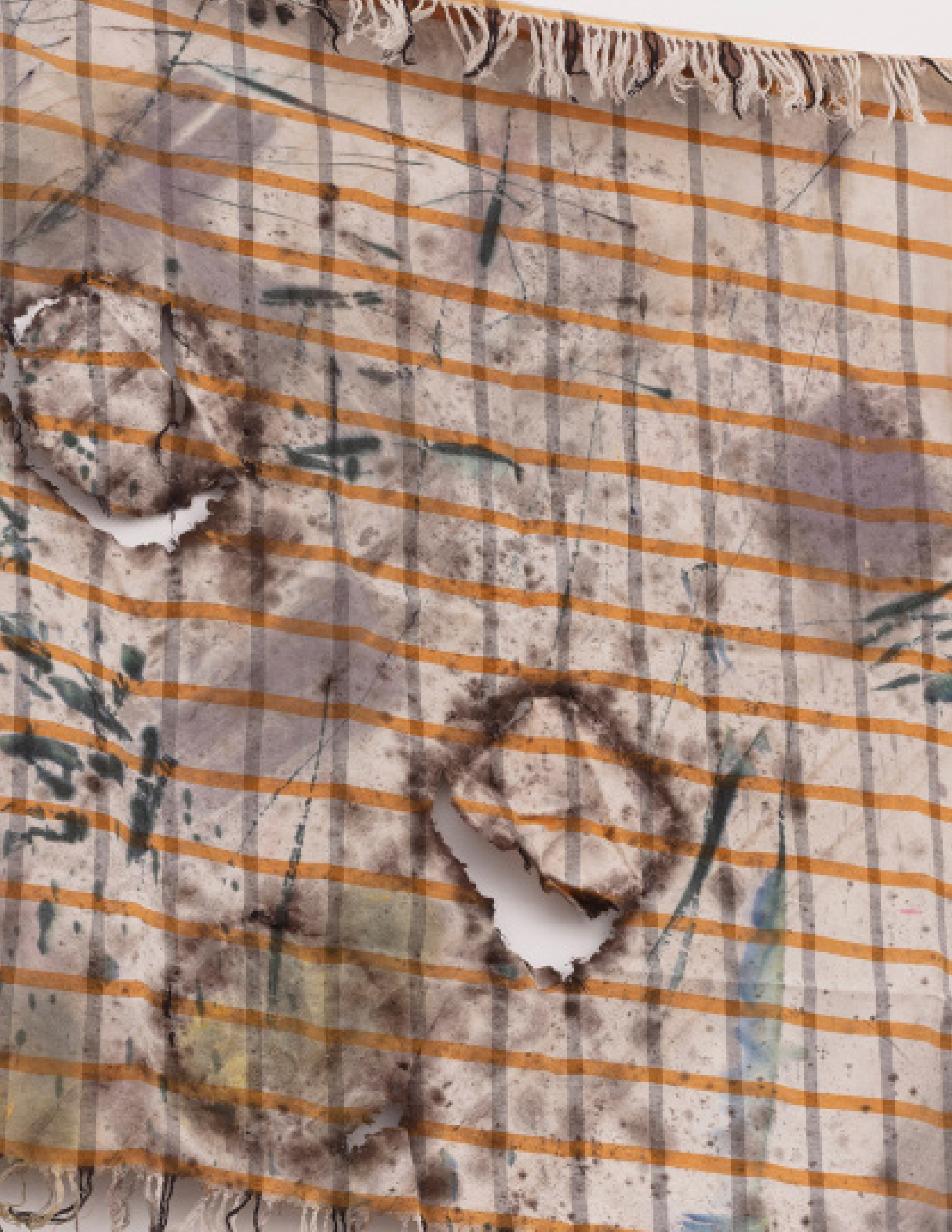
KRISTAN KENNEDY  
*E.P.R.S.N.*, 2014  
Sumi, ink, dye, gesso, on linen  
62 x 33 in. | 157.5 x 83.8 cm







KRISTAN KENNEDY  
*O.I.Y.S.T.R.*, 2012  
Ink, dye, mold on cotton  
40 x 40 in. | 101.6 x 101.6 cm







KRISTAN KENNEDY  
*J.O.A.R.*, 2012  
Sumi and acrylic ink on linen  
31 x 22 in. | 78.7 x 55.9 cm







Kristan Kennedy  
*P.R.G.N.T.S.N.*  
Gesso, acrylic ink, and sumi ink on linen  
17 x 15 in. | 43.2 x 38.1 cm







KRISTAN KENNEDY  
V.E.W.F.R.M.R.S.T.G.B.D., 2024  
Acrylic, ink, and gesso on linen  
12 x 9 in. | 30.5 x 22.9 cm







## Biography

### Michael Lombardo

Michael Lombardo (b. 1990, Norman, OK) makes paintings that depict objects and ephemera associated with the American West and the Great Plains. Regional references and allusions to memory appear across his body of work, capturing fleeting moments and significant heirlooms carefully rendered in his highly detailed and magnified compositions. Traces of landscape appear throughout, charging the canvases with a keen sense

of time and place. Red dirt, for example, unique to Oklahoma's iron-rich soil, is collected from Lombardo's visits back to his birth state, providing not just a formal texture to the canvas but also a gesture to home that materially provides an autobiographical layer to the works. Light is also utilized as formative material in Lombardo's tableaux, foregrounding the sheen of a signature satin Nudie shirt, the glisten of sea shell, and collected weathered sun-drenched signage from the flat, rugged terrains in which he visits. Lombardo distorts the imagery and the perspectives of the classic objects sourced from his personal collections and experiences, allowing him to transform recognizable mise-en-scènes into vivid explorations that celebrate the quiet moments of cherished regional memory and fleeting everyday life.

NOON

NOON Projects  
951 Chung King Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Thursday to Saturday  
Noon–6pm  
Or by Appointment

971 341 6648  
noon-projects.com  
info@noon-projects.com





Michael Lombardo  
*Shell I*, 2024  
Oil on linen with dirt  
12 1/2 x 9 3/4 in. | 31.8 x 24.8 cm









Michael Lombardo  
*Waterlily Bud III*, 2023  
Oil on linen with saw dust  
14 x 12 in. | 35.6 x 30.5 cm







