

PETER  
STRICKMAN

## THE STORY OF THE PAINTINGS

This catalog documents the work of artist Peter Strickman during his most productive years - primarily the decades of the 1960's and 1970's.

Peter Strickman was born August 17, 1946 in Fall River, MA and attended public schools there until the middle of his junior year in high school when Marlboro College in Vermont accepted him as a student. Two years later, he passed the college comprehensive examination and embarked on a tutorial project of producing a one-man show in each of his remaining two years at Marlboro.

Artist, Wolf Kahn, was Pete's 'outside examiner' for graduation and said of his work:

*"Bravura painting goes hand in hand with sensitive observation and imaginative use of color. These works are imbued with genuine romantic spirit, remarkably free from stylistic posing and attitudinizing. One feels in these works a gentle, slightly ironic, affectionate and generous personality; it is this quality which gives the pictures their charm and interest. He responds to the personality of sitters in portraits or the moods of nature in landscape with equal spontaneity."*

In addition to the many Peter Strickman paintings already out there in the world, there are more than 200 remaining paintings, stretched or framed; most are represented in this catalog. There are also hundreds of ink scrolls, numerous sketch books, and hundreds of un-stretched drawings and paintings in portfolios.

The creation of this catalog to honor the talents and indomitable spirit of my brother has been a labor of love. My 'big brother' was diagnosed with schizophrenia when he was in his early twenties. I would often describe his condition as "every religion warring for his soul". Pete is a brilliant, well-read, well-informed scholar, not only of religions, but of many fields of study; he can quote from the Koran in Arabic, for example. He has been a scientist, a mathematician and a musician; he is a poet and wonderful story-teller. He is a mystic with a deeply evolved inner life.

Pete sold and gave away many paintings when he was in his twenties and thirties and making his living as a painter. He had solo shows at The Newport Art Association (now The Newport Art Museum) and at many galleries. He was prolific, producing hundreds of paintings. During one of his hospitalizations, my parents turned to artist Barbara Alpert, a family friend and Pete's first painting teacher, to help them with the daunting task to sort through and 'let go' of nearly half of the paintings.

This remaining collection has had quite a journey. Those paintings that were not hanging on the walls of my parents' or my homes or under my parents' bed, spent more than twenty years stored in the finished basement of family friends, Neil and Hattie Caplain, in Fall River, MA. One day, when Neil was in his early nineties, I received a call. Could I come and get the paintings?

For nearly six years, the paintings survived in the back of an aluminum van in Newport, RI. They have been moved three times since then – to each of the houses I rented in Newport, and at last to my own house in Tiverton, RI.

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, curator of The Newport Art Museum, admires Pete's work and has been very supportive. She has included several of his paintings in two recent shows at the museum.

As my brother evolved as a painter and as a human being, so did his style and subject matter. I have grouped the paintings into five categories: Landscapes, Objects, People, Abstractions and Ink Paintings. Reference numbers, for example 233 , are for cataloging purposes only.

For my unique and cherished brother, Pete.

**Bonnie Strickman**

*January, 2014*



**Topsy**  
ink on paper  
13 x 15½

*PS lower right; Happy Birthday, Bonnie! Love, Pete 1972 on back*

233



early drawing of skyscrapers  
crayon on paper  
8½ x 5½

305

When I was a youngster, I drew many pictures - my favorite subject was skyscrapers. In my early teens, a wonderful artist in my hometown, Barbara Alpert, invited me to join her housewives' drawing group. She gave me a wonderful foundation in drawing, which prepared me perfectly for a college major in oil painting.

I studied at a very small college in the beautiful low mountains of southern Vermont. I was taught by a very fine master artist from the New York art world, Frank Stout. It was there I fell in love with painting landscapes from nature in the open air.

Early in Frank's superlative education in painting, he made a prediction, telling me I would leave the world in my thirties, and imploring me to leave something behind me for the world before leaving the world behind. I never forgot his advice and followed it.

Frank gave me a straight "A" for my graduation grade, and Wolf Kahn, a famous New York painter Frank invited to evaluate my work for graduation as an outside examiner, also gave me a straight "A". Those grades were all that counted for my graduation grade.

In his commencement address, the president of the college spoke at length of me. At the end of the ceremony, a woman came up to me and offered me my first professional non-college solo show at her gallery in a village nearby. It was a success, and on the proceeds from it, I toured Canada and the U.S. Then I returned to Vermont and lived and painted in the woods

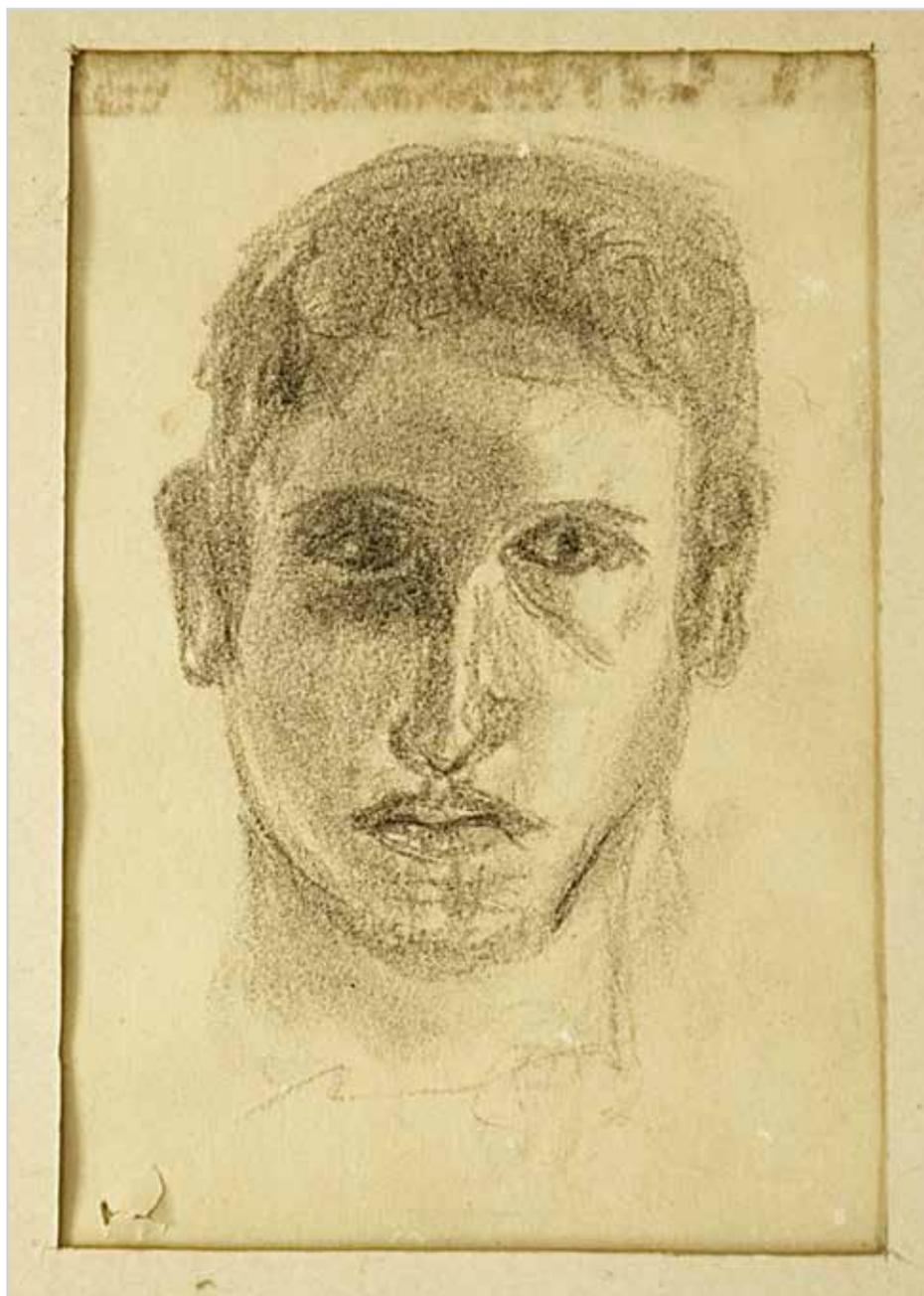
After a while, I returned to my hometown in Southeastern Massachusetts, Fall River, and continued working. I would get up at three or four in the morning, meditate for a while, and drive to my very large studio downtown. I would prepare my materials, pack them into my little truck, and drive out into the beautiful countryside surrounding the city. I would set up and start painting just after sunrise.

I also painted in my studio, in every major genre: still lifes, nudes from life, portraits, and abstractions. I was given many shows in Fall River and surrounding cities, and sold a number of paintings. I was often written up in local papers.

Fulfilling my teacher's wishes, I left a great deal of fine work behind me. I retired to deep visionary spiritual life in my early thirties, just as Frank had predicted. That was the end of my professional work though later I did a great number of post-professional ink paintings in the East Asian fashion.

For years after I stopped painting in oils, I was given show after show without my even asking, the show being put together by others without my having to do anything at all. Sadly, in my thirties, a large amount of my fine work previously was destroyed, but a large amount of paintings survives. My younger sister, a fine artist in her own right, a successful jazz singer in New York for many years, has put together a large collection of my finest work, and it is through her efforts that this photo catalog was put together, and on her request, this bio.





early self-portrait  
pencil on paper  
10 x 6½

226

I like to think my work makes its own statement, but a presentation of a few works only may require an amplification.

I am essentially a river artist. Living in Fall River as an adult for six years now, I have been strongly marked by my locale. The paintings of mine which deal with landscape almost all seem to have water, usually fresh water in them. The people I paint are mostly native. When I venture into abstraction, paintings I do generally seem to have blue coming through upper layers of paint.

I feel that choice of subject and the way it is treated is a thing marked by the boundaries of a person's life. The variations of personal expression from painting to painting to painting include all the small events that intervene in our daily lives. It is one of the rewards of painting to see a record of this process in the work of a month, or a few years. My own life is much richer because of this.

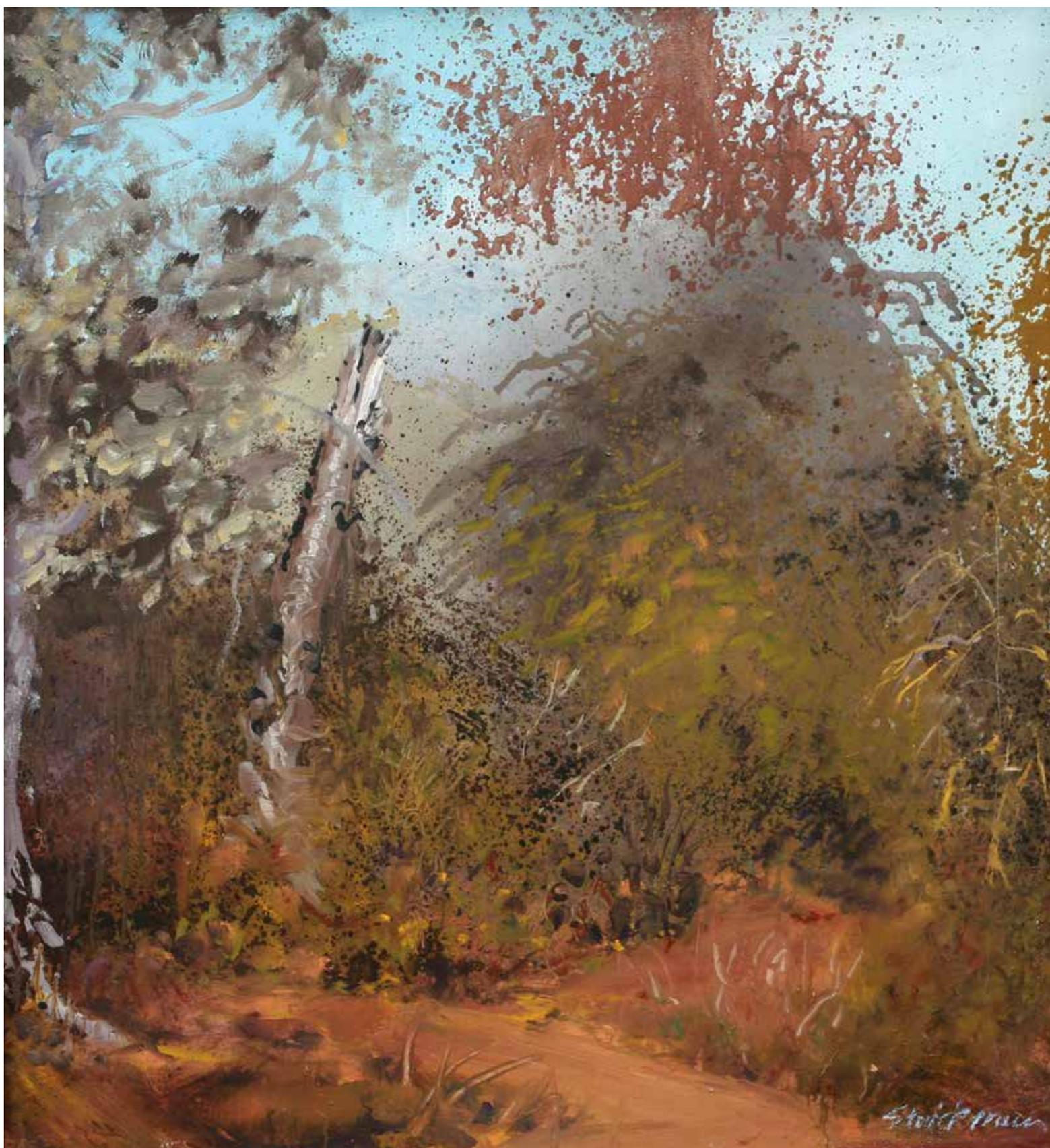
Each person is of his own era. Anyone painting in this century reflects the particular anxieties and euphorias of his own time. Questions of style do not bother me, because each work reflects me in the same way as my handwriting does. It is mine.



LANDSCAPES



**Swansea Dam Pond**  
oil on canvas  
19 x 22  
*Peter Strickman August 1969 on back*



oil on canvas  
36 x 34  
*Strickman* lower right  
(painted over another painting)



**Green River Pasture Late Fall**

oil on canvas

30 x 32

*Strickman, PS lower right; Spring '66 on back*

06

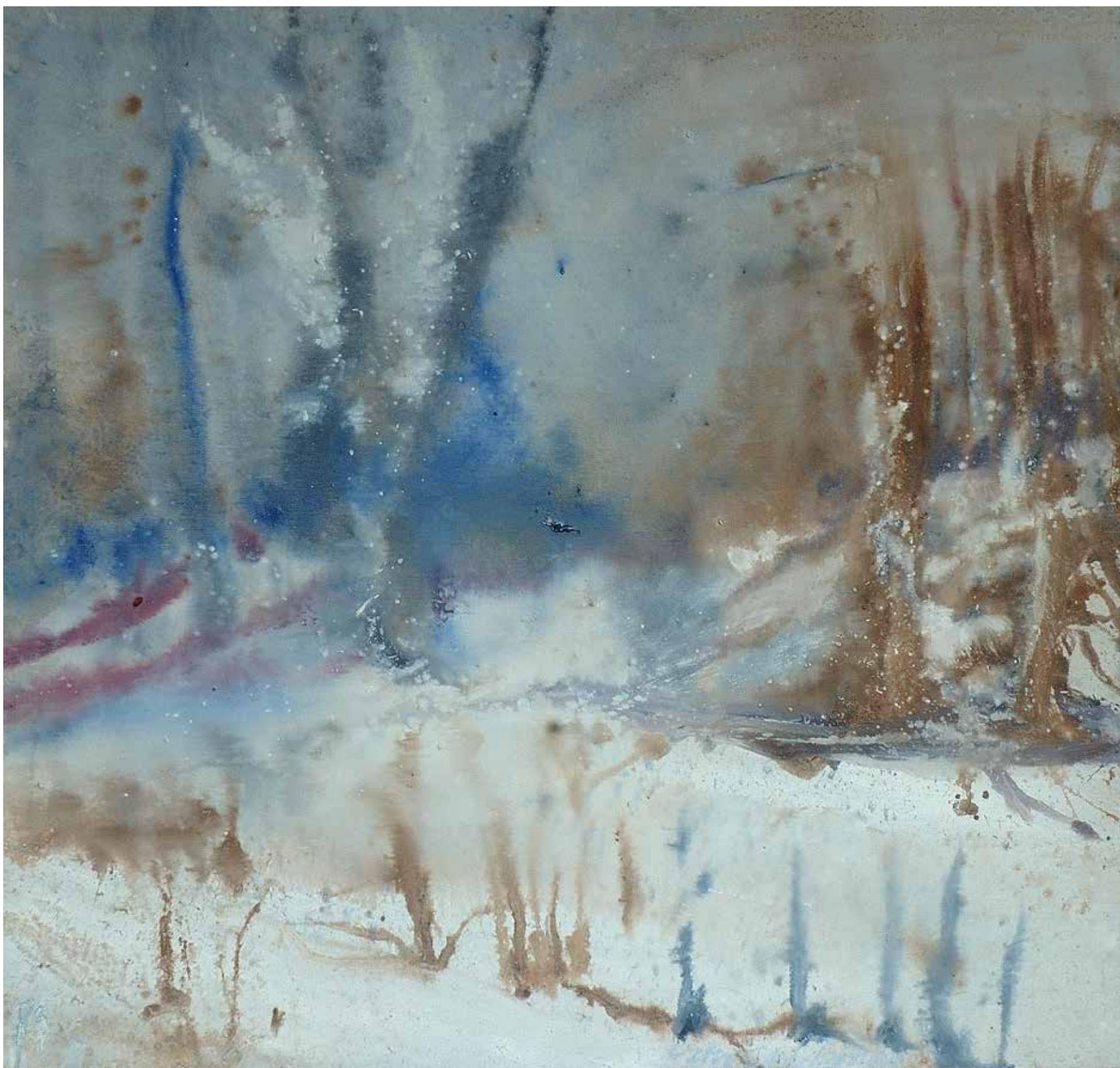


oil on canvas  
32 x 35

02



oil on canvas  
14 x 14  
*Peter Strickman on back*



**Frozen Dream**

oil on canvas

35½ x 37½

*PS* lower left; *Peter Strickman* lower right



oil on canvas  
21½ x 36½



oil on canvas  
16 x 24  
*Strickman* lower right



house paint on canvas  
14½ x 17¼  
*Peter Strickman* lower left



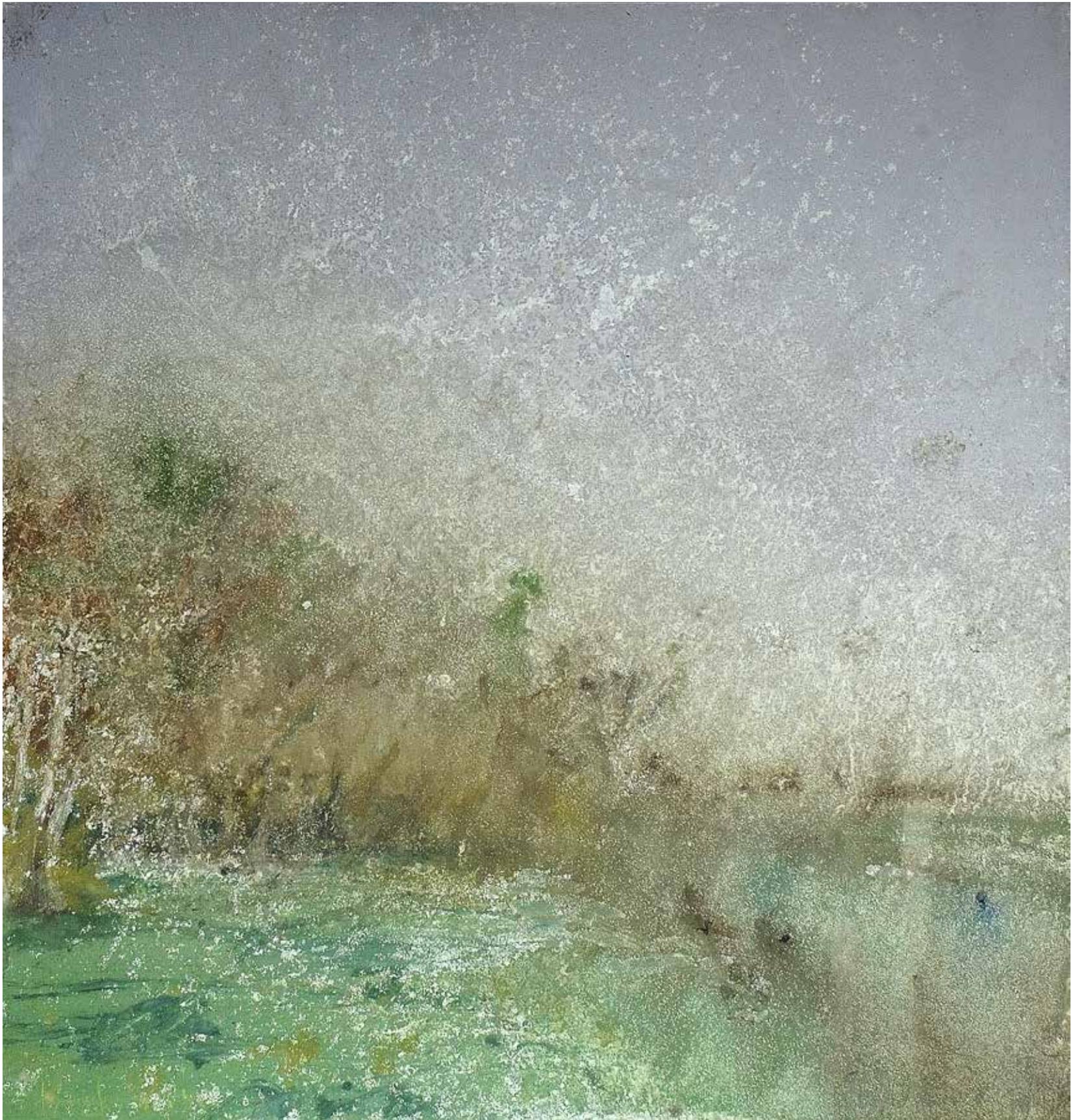
oil on paper  
19½ x 23½  
*Strickman lower left*

137



oil on canvas  
28 x 32

243





oil on canvas  
47<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 47<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
Strickman lower right; Peter Strickman on backs



**Seekonk River**  
oil on canvas  
43<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 50

*Strickman lower right; the river-up to the bridge, Spring '69 on back*



oil on canvas  
43 x 49  
*Strickman* lower right



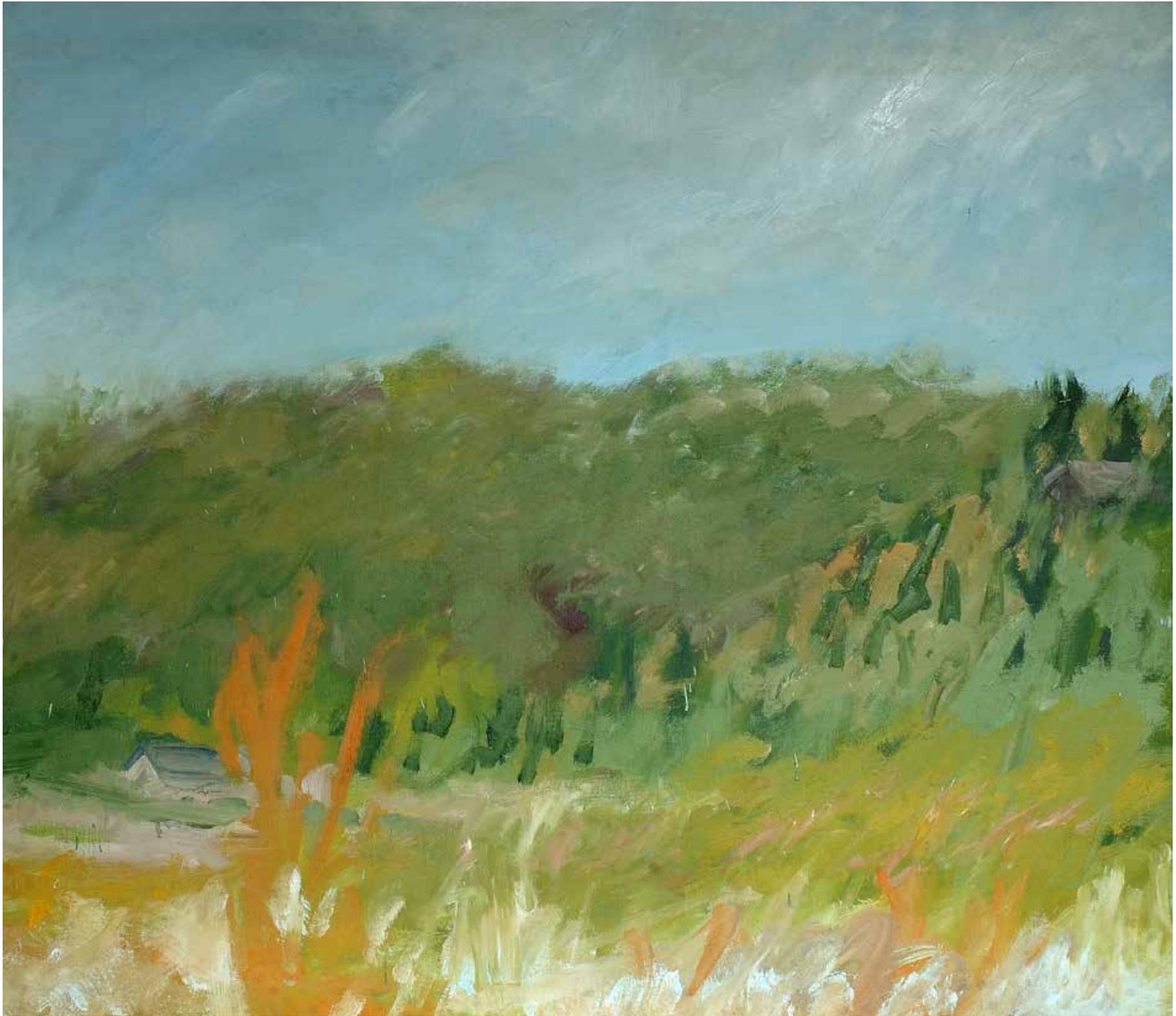
oil on canvas  
26<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 50<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
*Strickman* lower right; *Summer '68* on back



oil on canvas  
48<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 47<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
*Strickman* lower right

173





oil on canvas  
42 x 48

21





oil on canvas  
35¾ x 40

106



oil on paper  
23¼ x 19¼  
*Strickman lower right*

240



(top)  
oil on canvas  
11 x 12  
*Peter Strickman on back*

254



(bottom)  
oil on canvas  
14 x 16  
*Peter Strickman on back*

253





oil on canvas  
32 x 38

263





oil on canvas  
22 x 16

127





oil on canvas  
14 x 14

*Happy Birthday, Dad, 1976 love, Pete lower right; Peter Strickman on back*

202



oil on board  
23½ x 18½  
*P* lower right

256

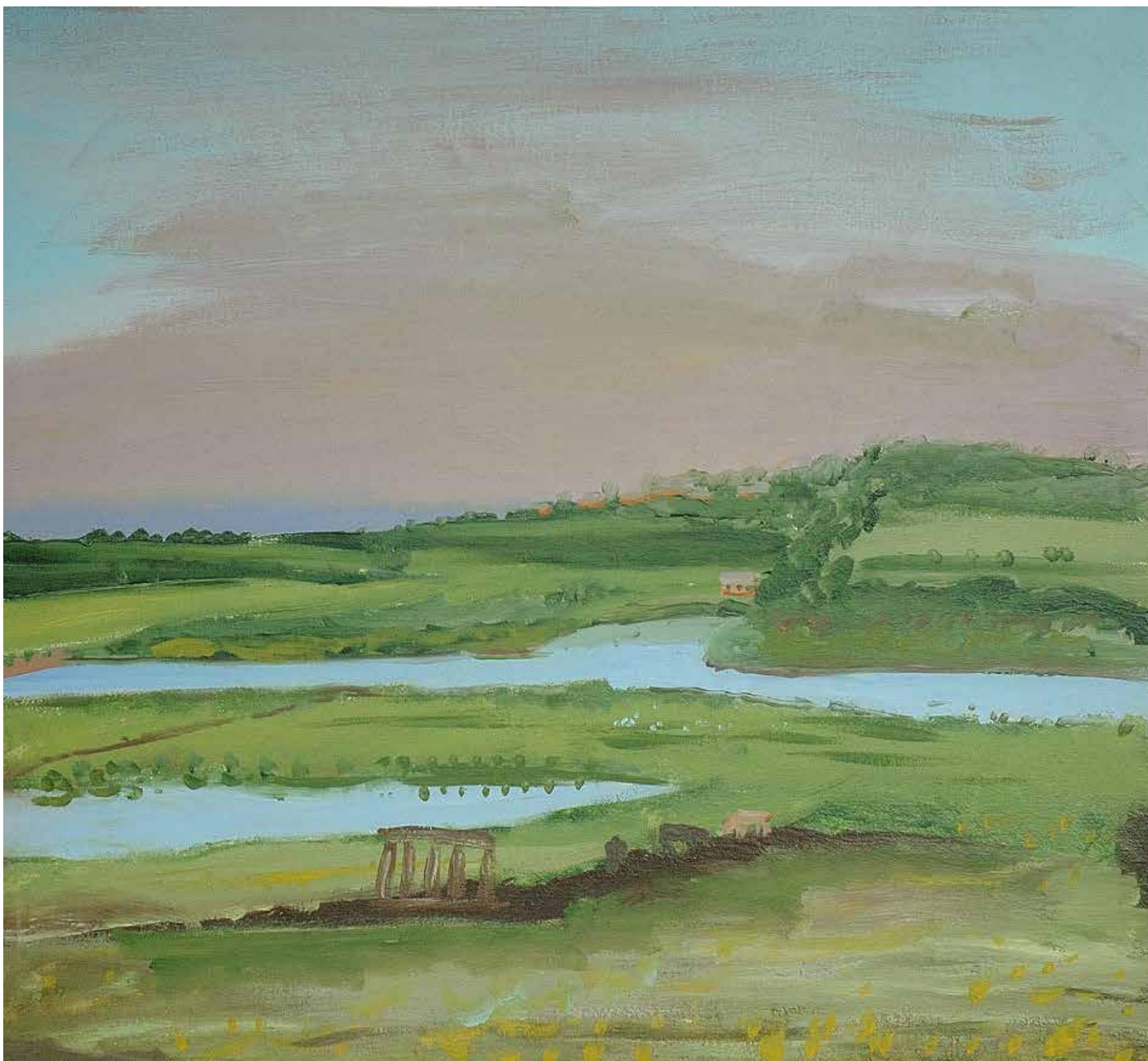


oil on canvas  
49¼ x 45½

13



oil on canvas  
48 x 47½



oil on canvas  
36 x 40  
(Sold)

03



oil on canvas  
39<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 39<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

20



oil on wood  
8½ x 11¾  
*PS* lower right



oil on canvas  
40 x 48

05



oil on canvas  
32 x 38

19

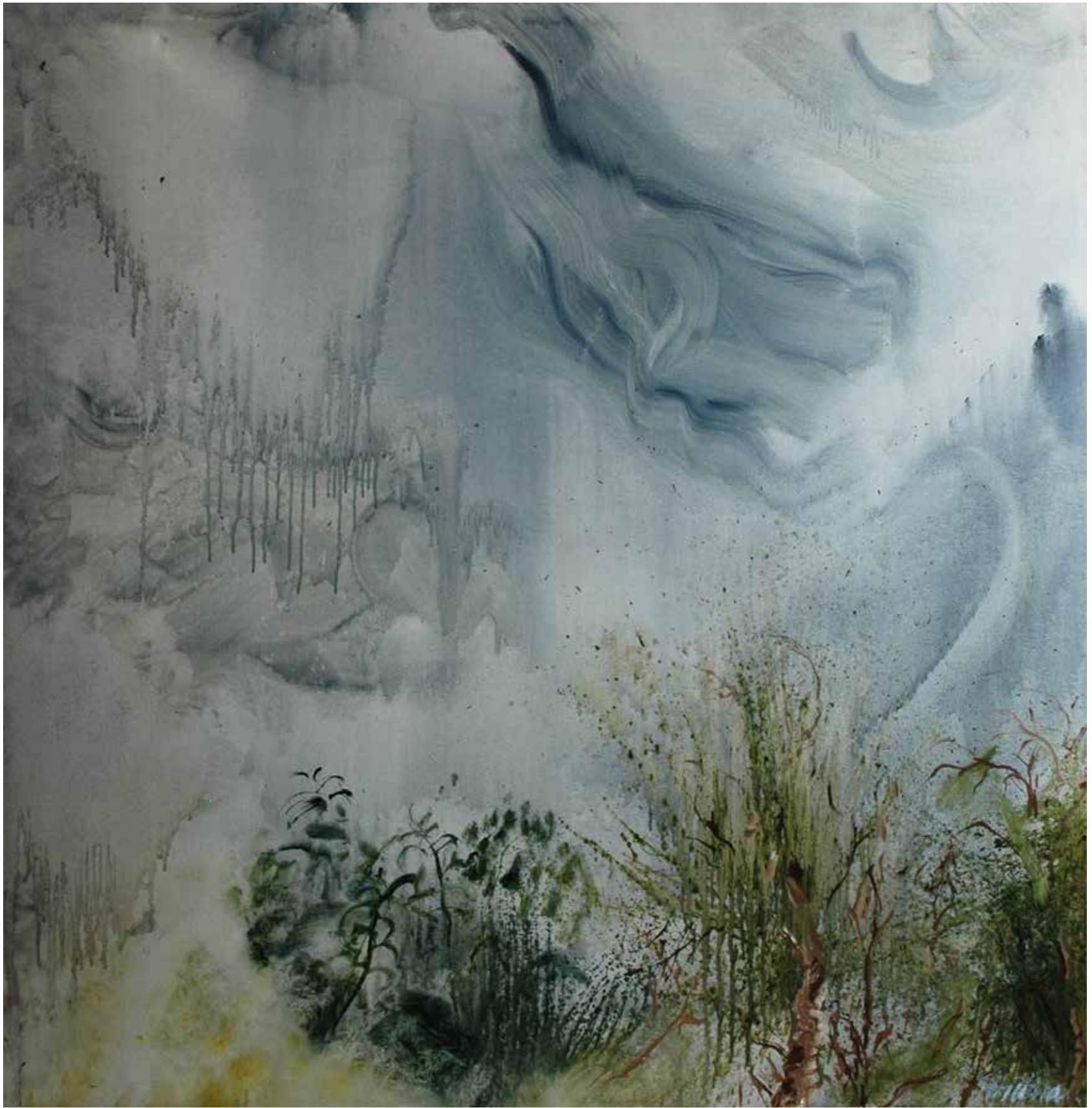




oil on canvas  
36 x 28  
*Peter Strickman on back*

262





**Thunderstorm**

oil on canvas

49½ x 50

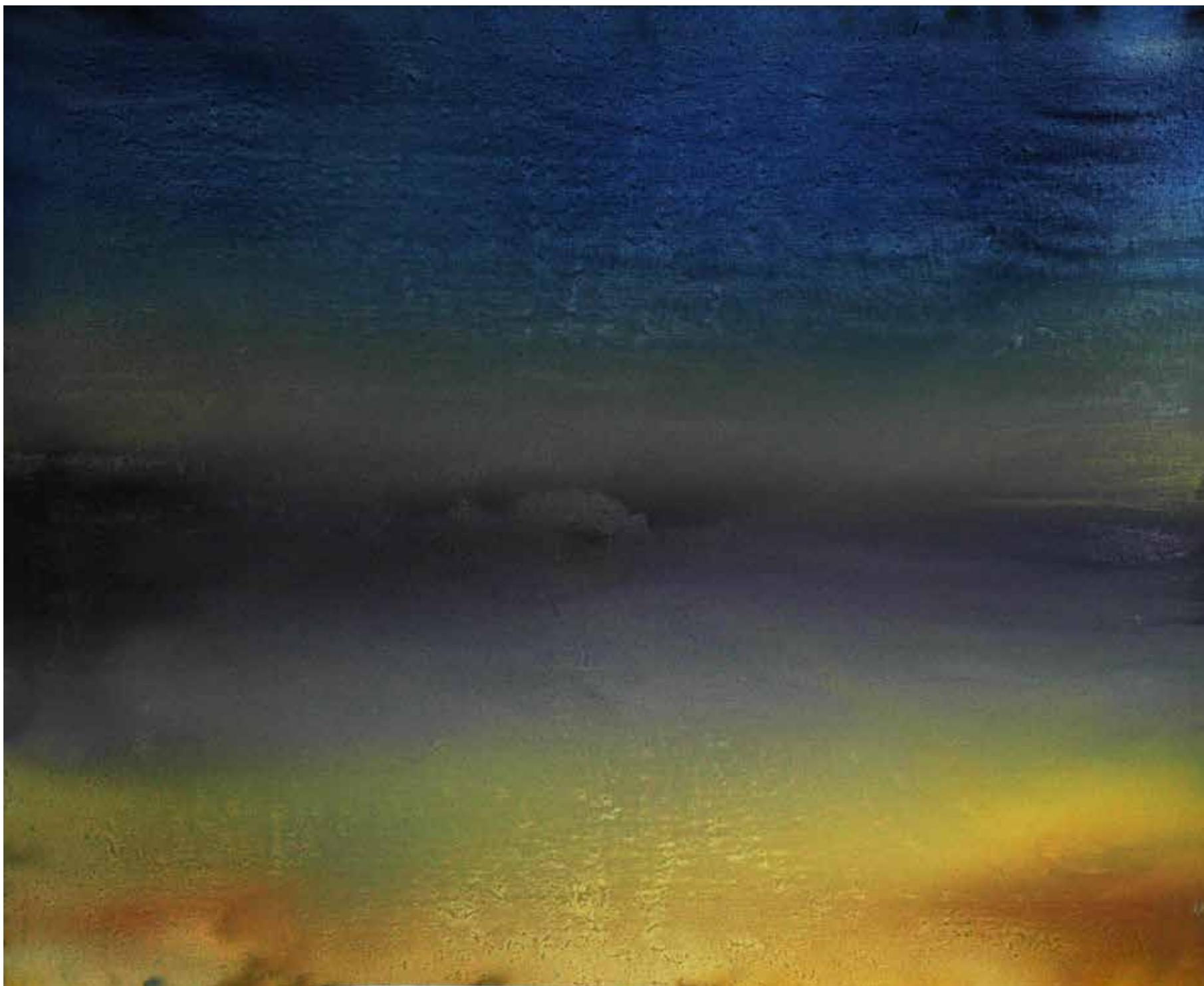
Strickman lower rightRef. #59

149



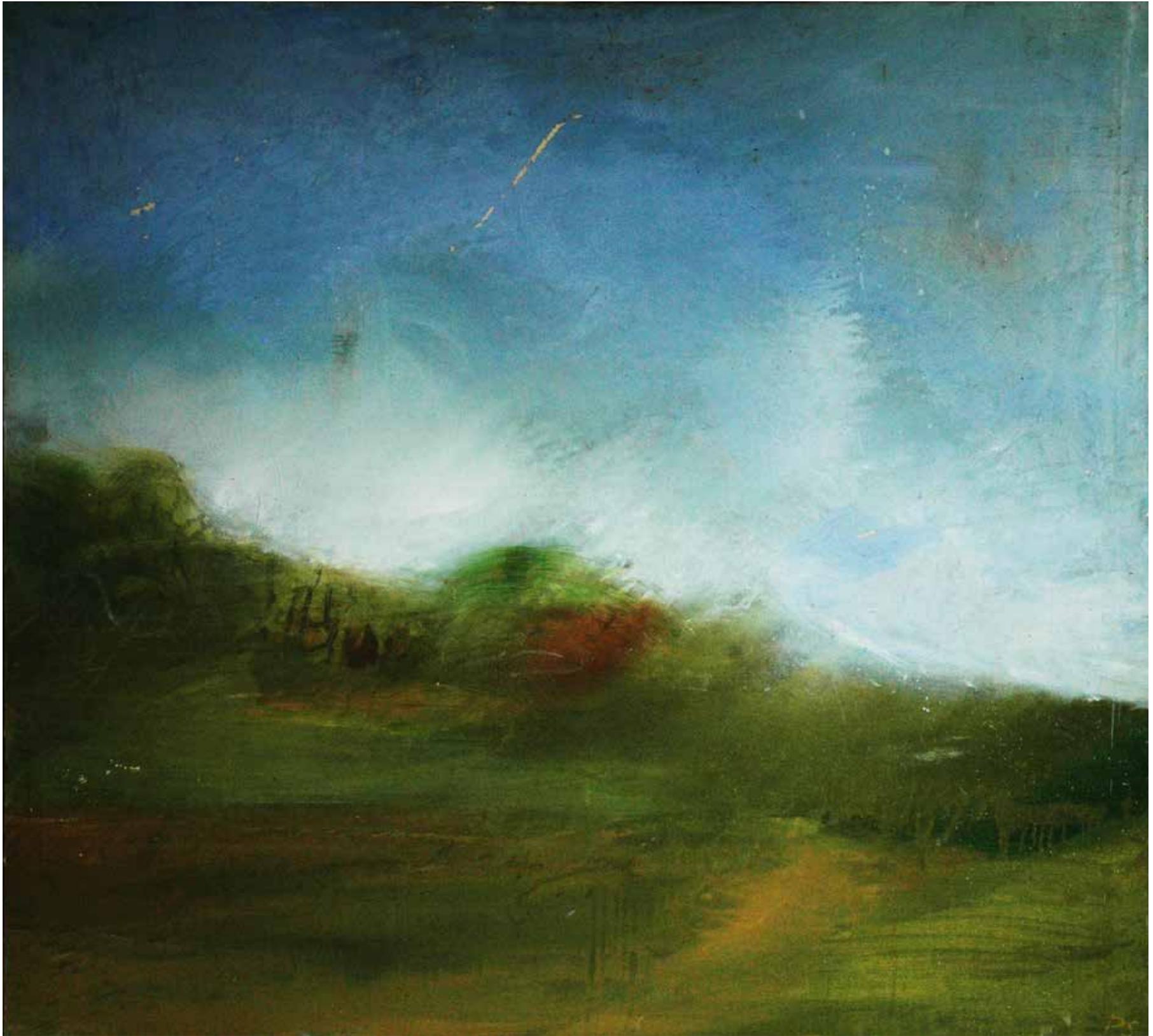
oil on canvas  
12 x 14  
*Peter Strickman on back*

255



oil or acrylic on canvas  
39½ x 48

175



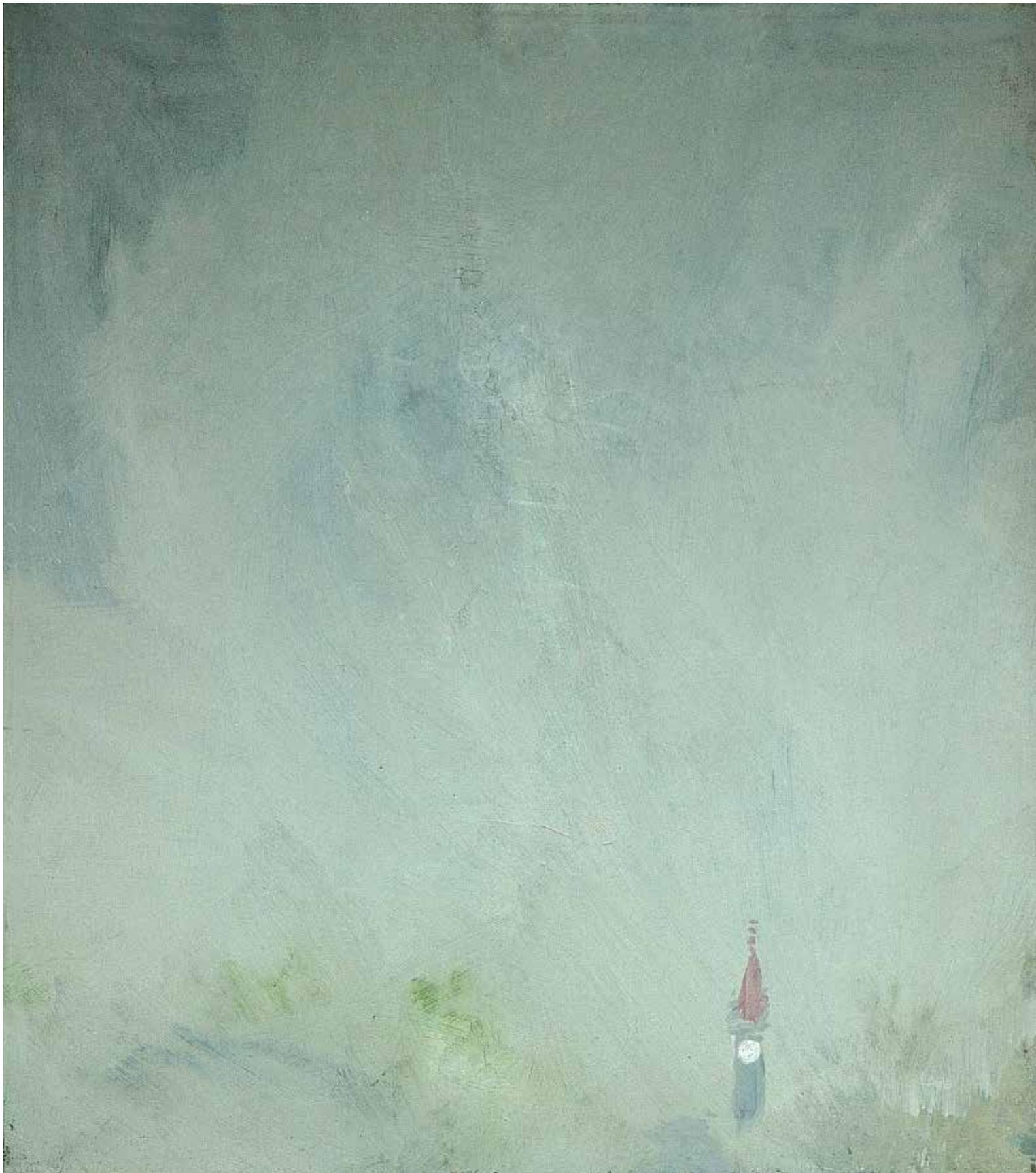
oil on canvas  
45½ x 48¾  
*PS* lower right

180



oil on canvas  
38 x 36

171





oil on canvas  
48 x 48

14





oil on canvas  
40 x 36

01

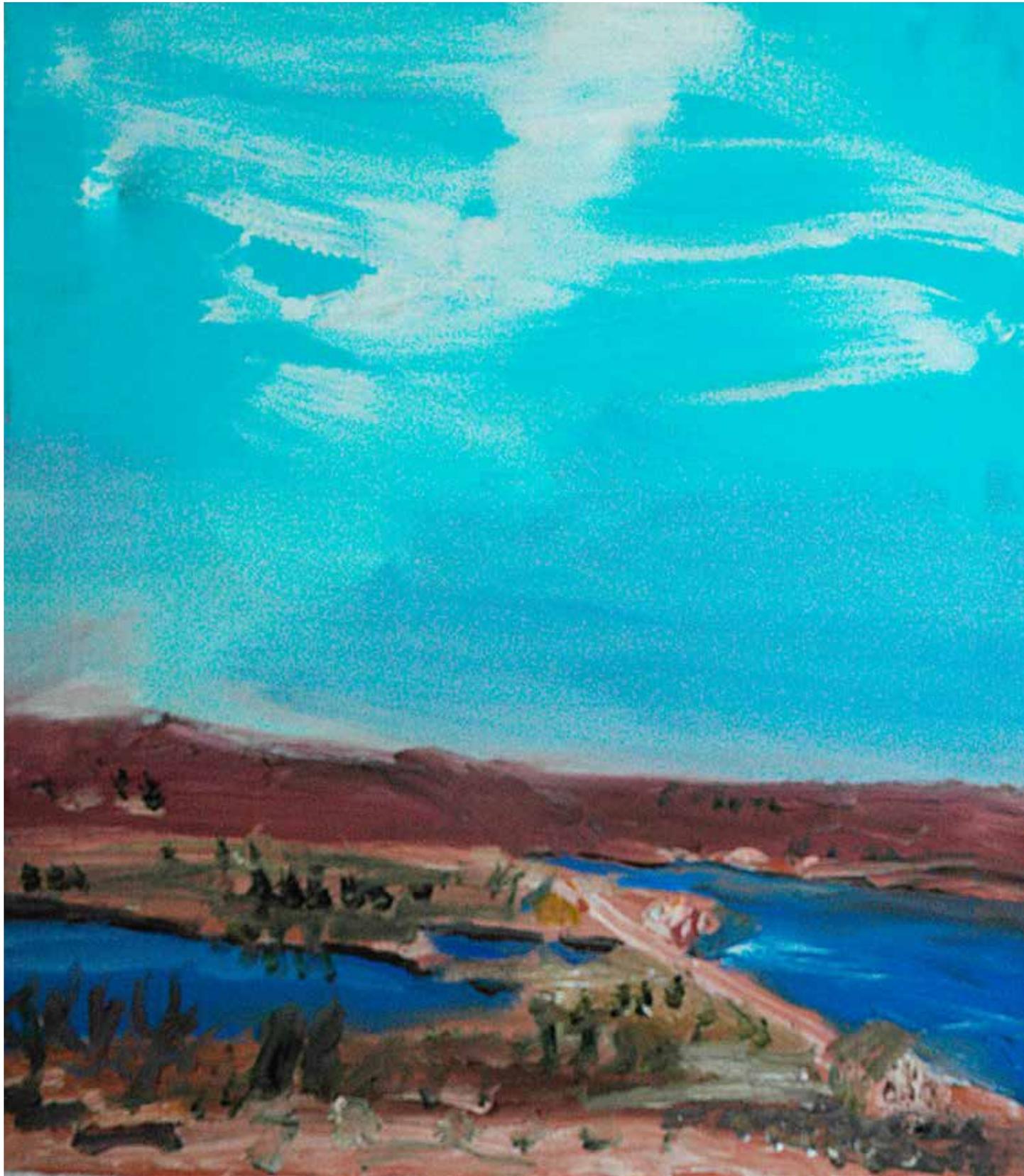


oil on canvas  
30 x 28  
PS lower left



oil on canvas  
33<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 38  
*Strickman* lower right



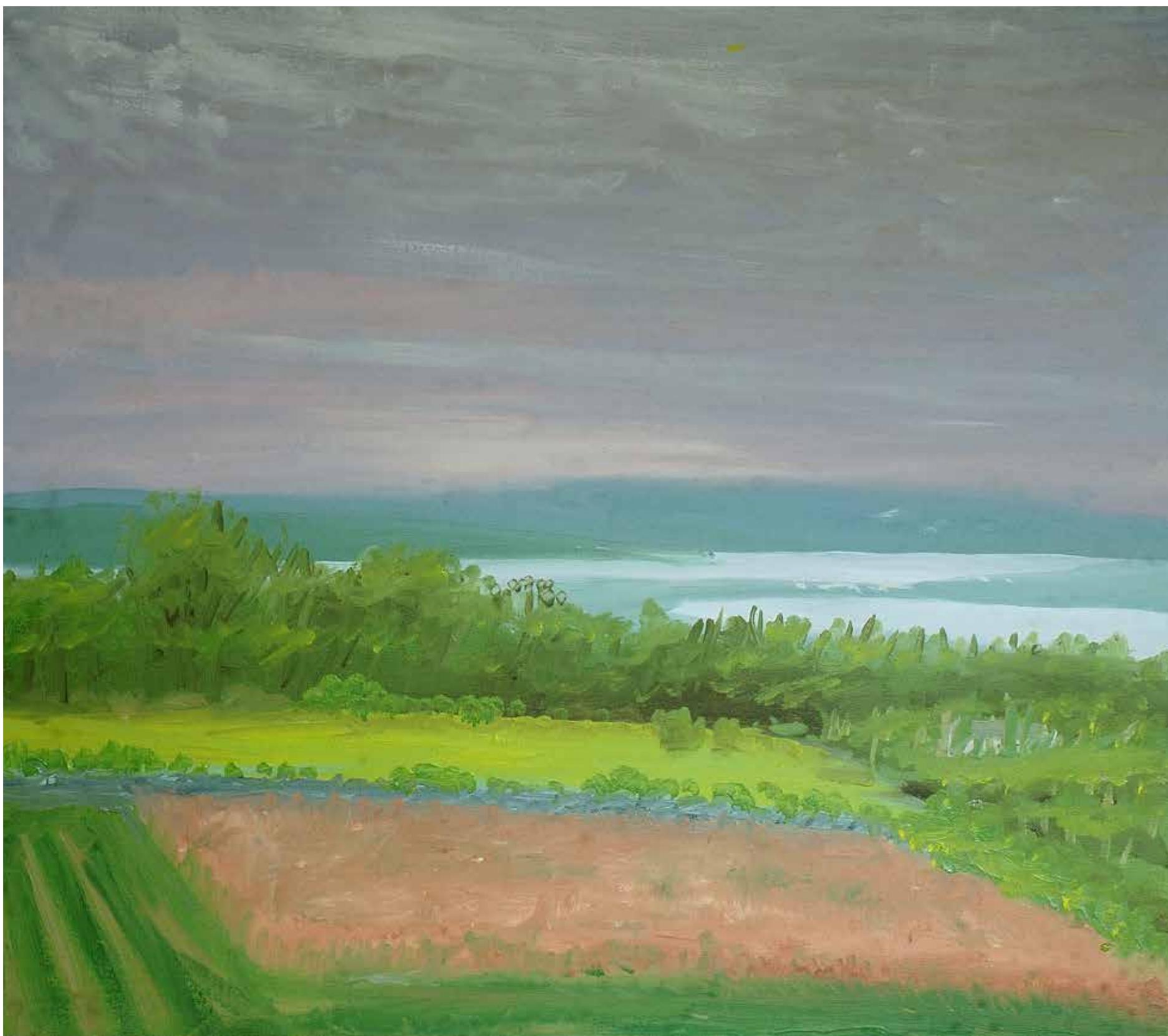


oil on canvas  
28 x 24

196



oil on canvas  
39¾ x 40



oil on canvas  
43<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 48

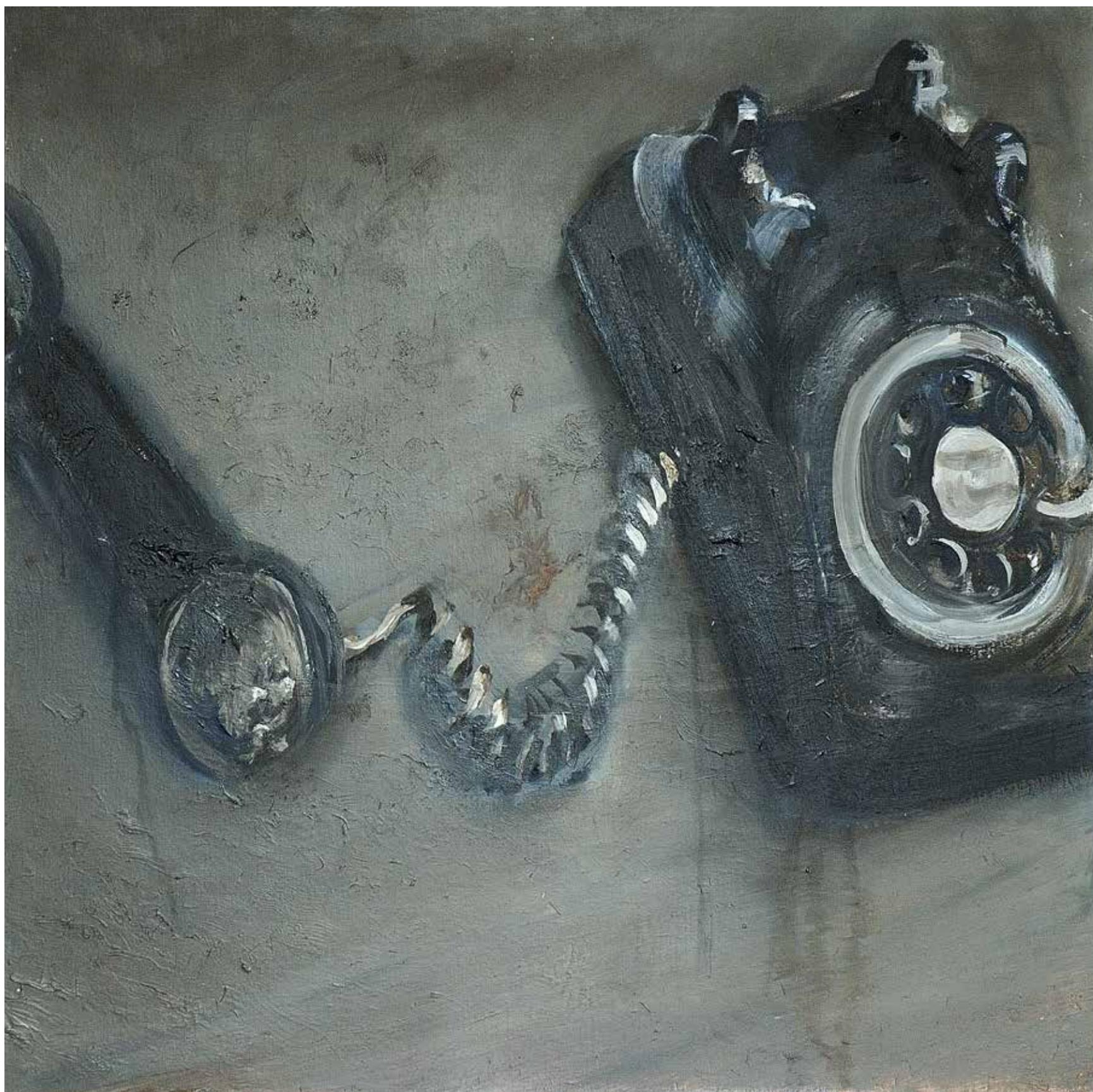


oil on canvas  
48 x 80  
(double painting)

302



OBJECTS



oil on canvas  
35½ x 35½



oil on canvas  
22 x 18  
*Peter Strickman on back*

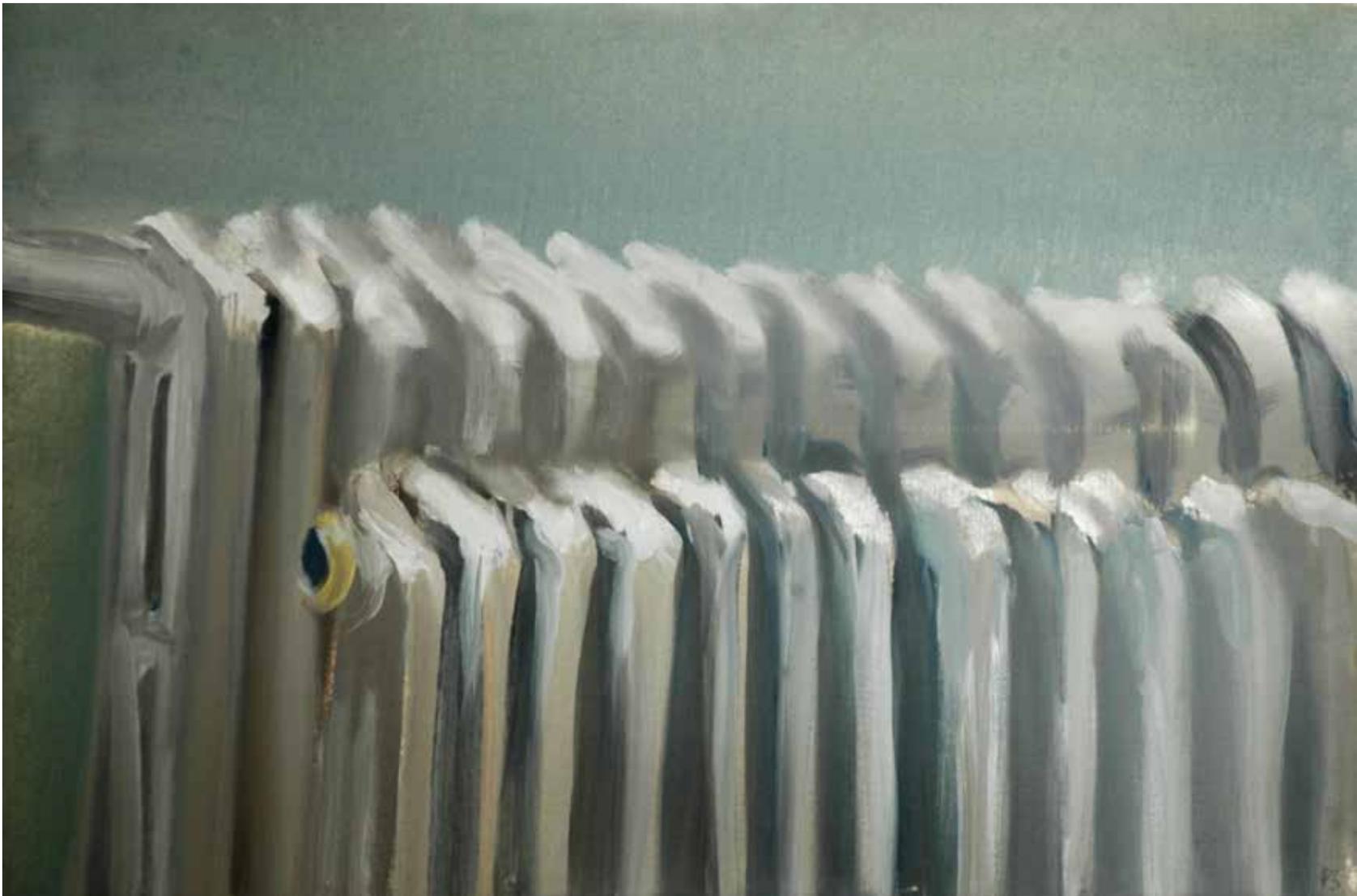
251



oil on canvas  
30 x 36  
*Peter Strickman on back*



ink and water color on paper  
12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
PS lower right



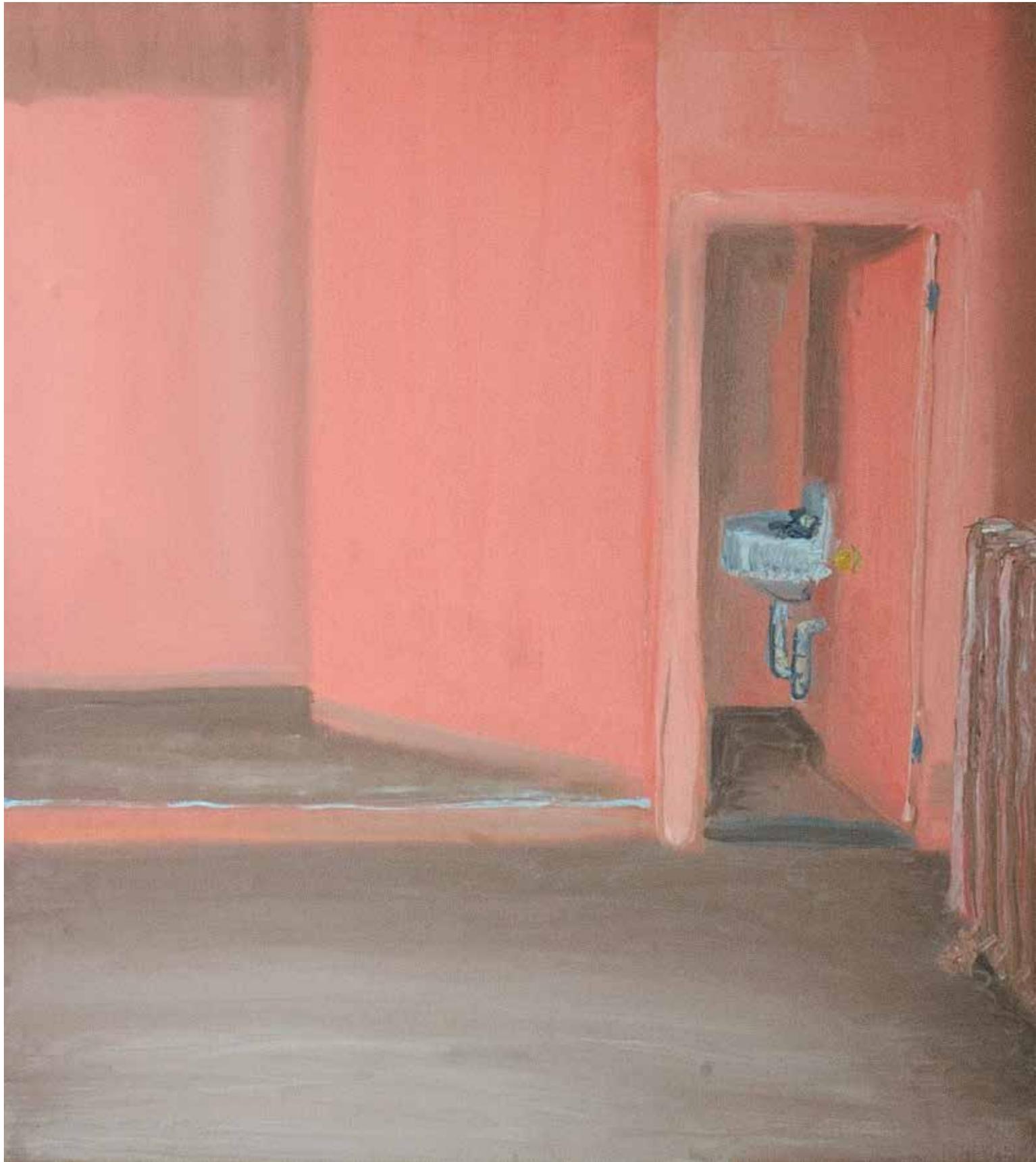
**Two Radiators**

oil on canvas

20 x 30

*Peter Strickman August 1969 on back*

170





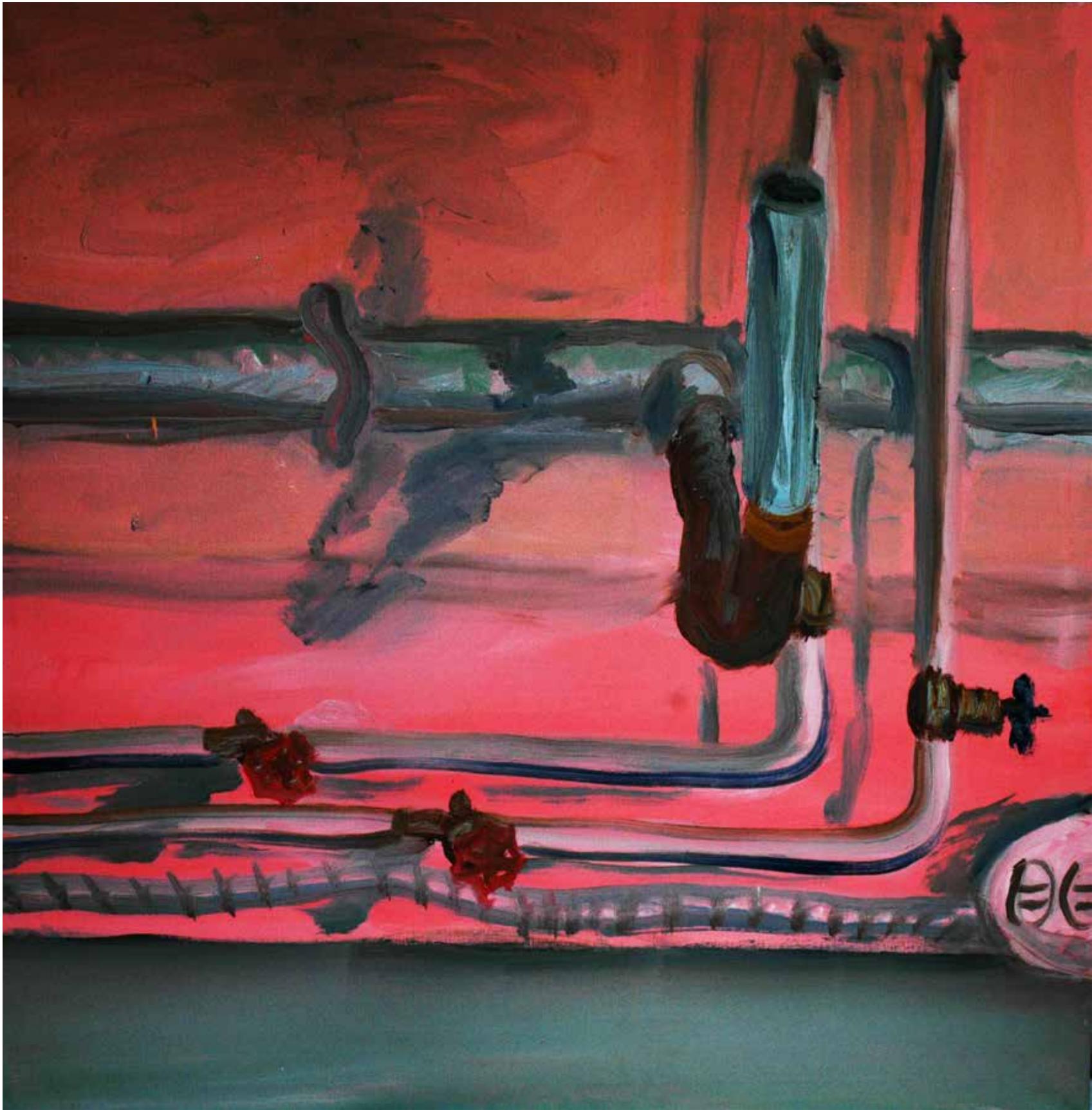
**Steak**  
oil on canvas  
24 x 22  
*Peter Strickman, May '69 on back*



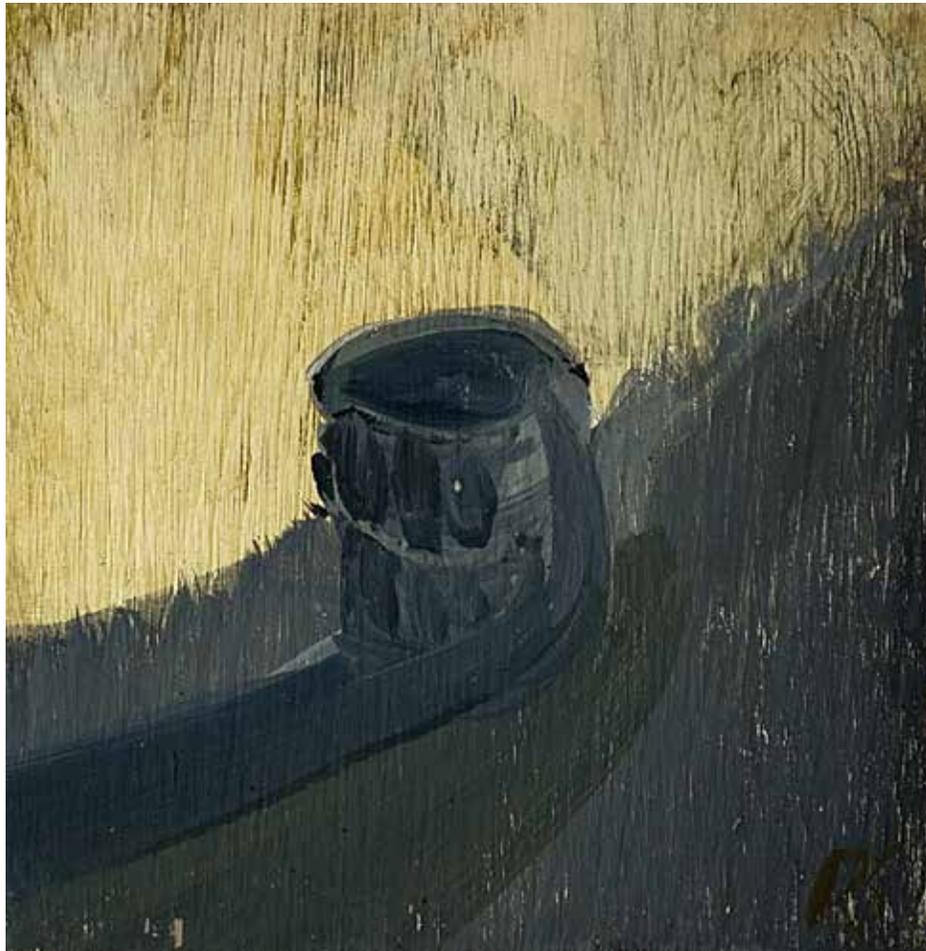


oil on canvas  
30 x 27  
*PS* lower right

105



oil on canvas  
40½ x 48

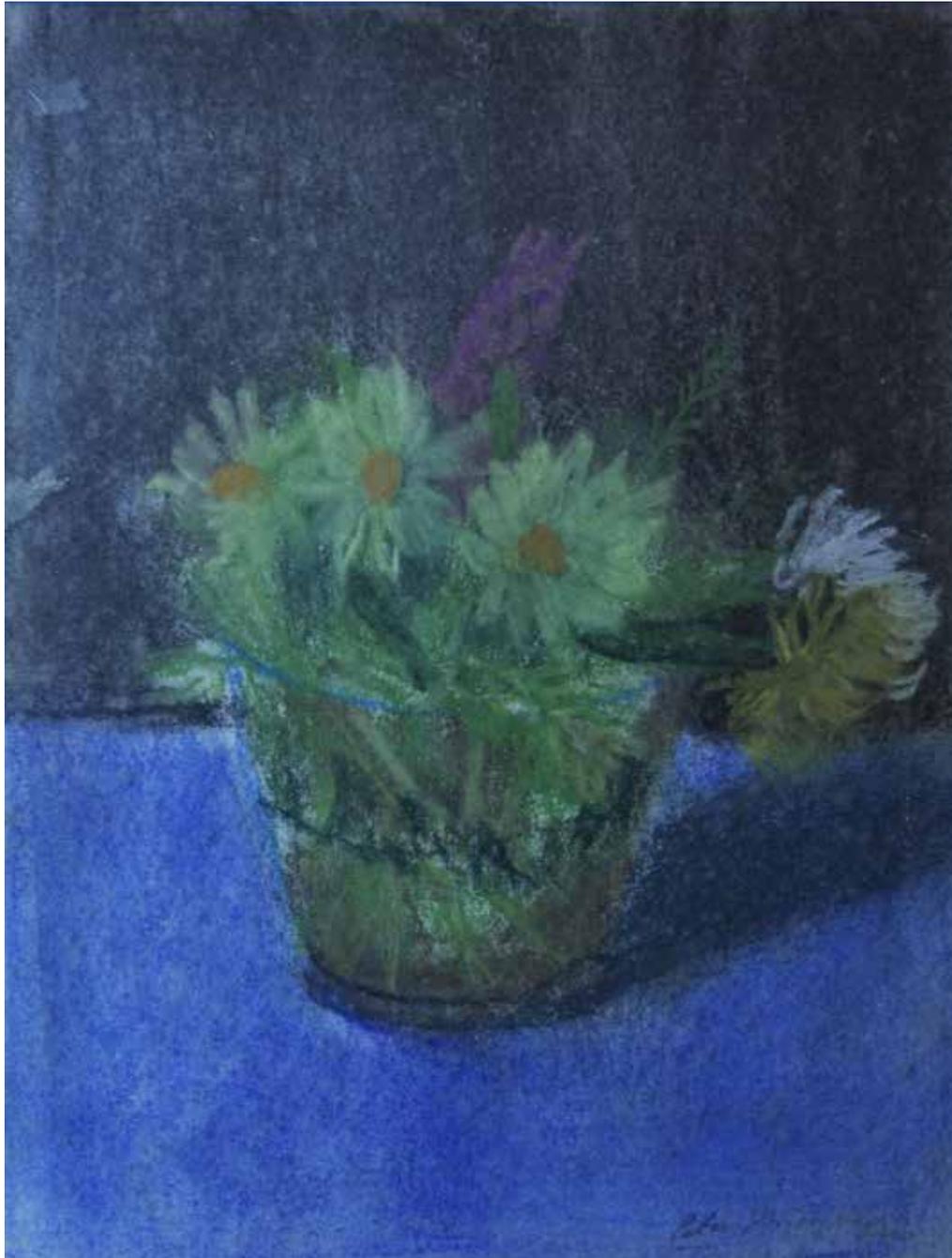


oil on wood  
9 x 9  
*PS* lower right

215



oil on canvas  
14 x14  
*Peter Strickman on back*



early pastel on paper  
11 x 8½  
*Peter Strickman* lower right

257



oil on canvas  
43 x 39<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
*Strickman* lower right



oil on canvas  
32 x 41  
PS lower right

09

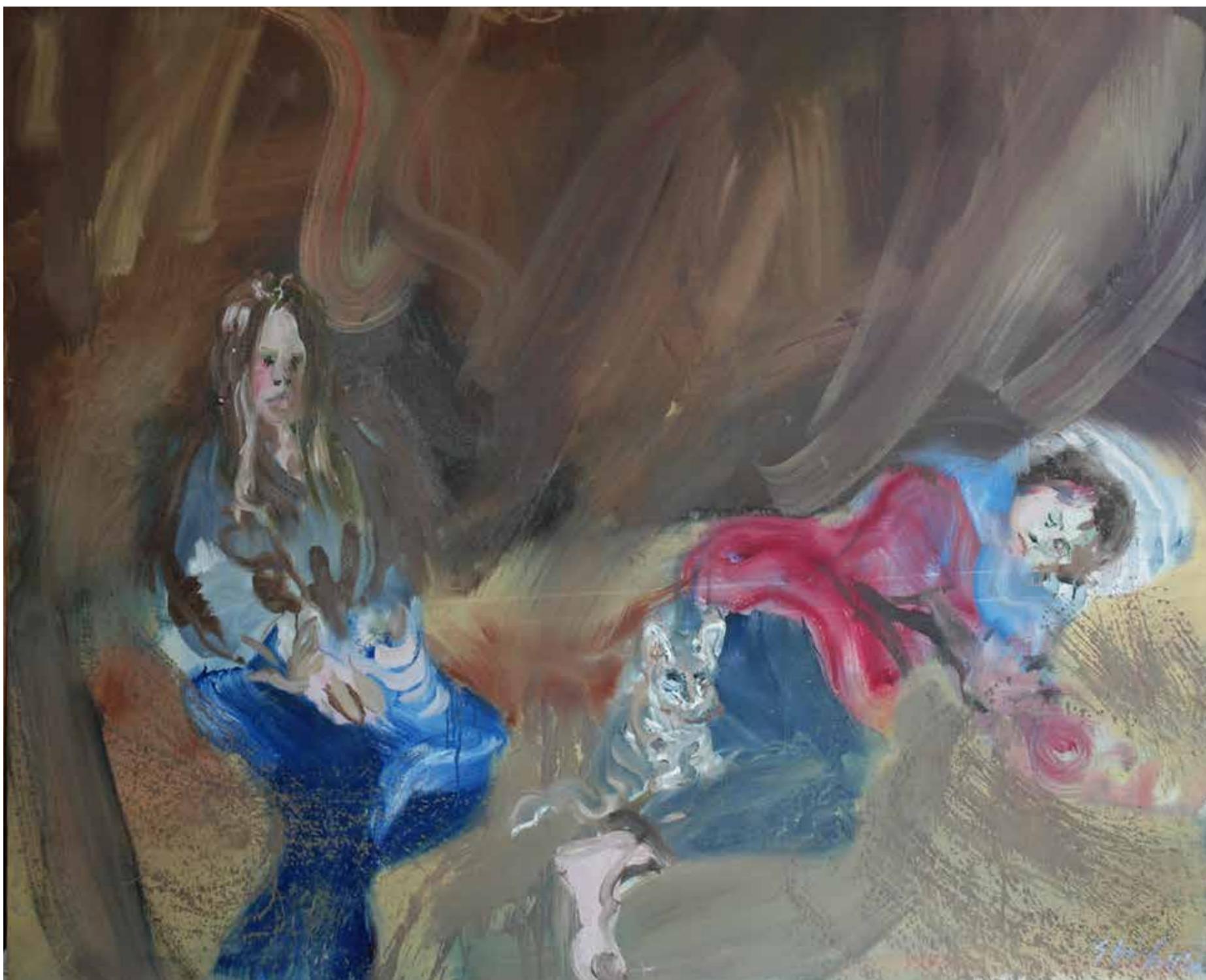


wood sculpture  
8½h x 2w x 2½d

250



PEOPLE



**Evann, Joan and Cat**  
oil on canvas  
43½ x 53  
*Strickman, Summer '68 on back*



**Shelly**

oil on canvas

42 x 46

*PS* lower right; *Spring '67* on back

16



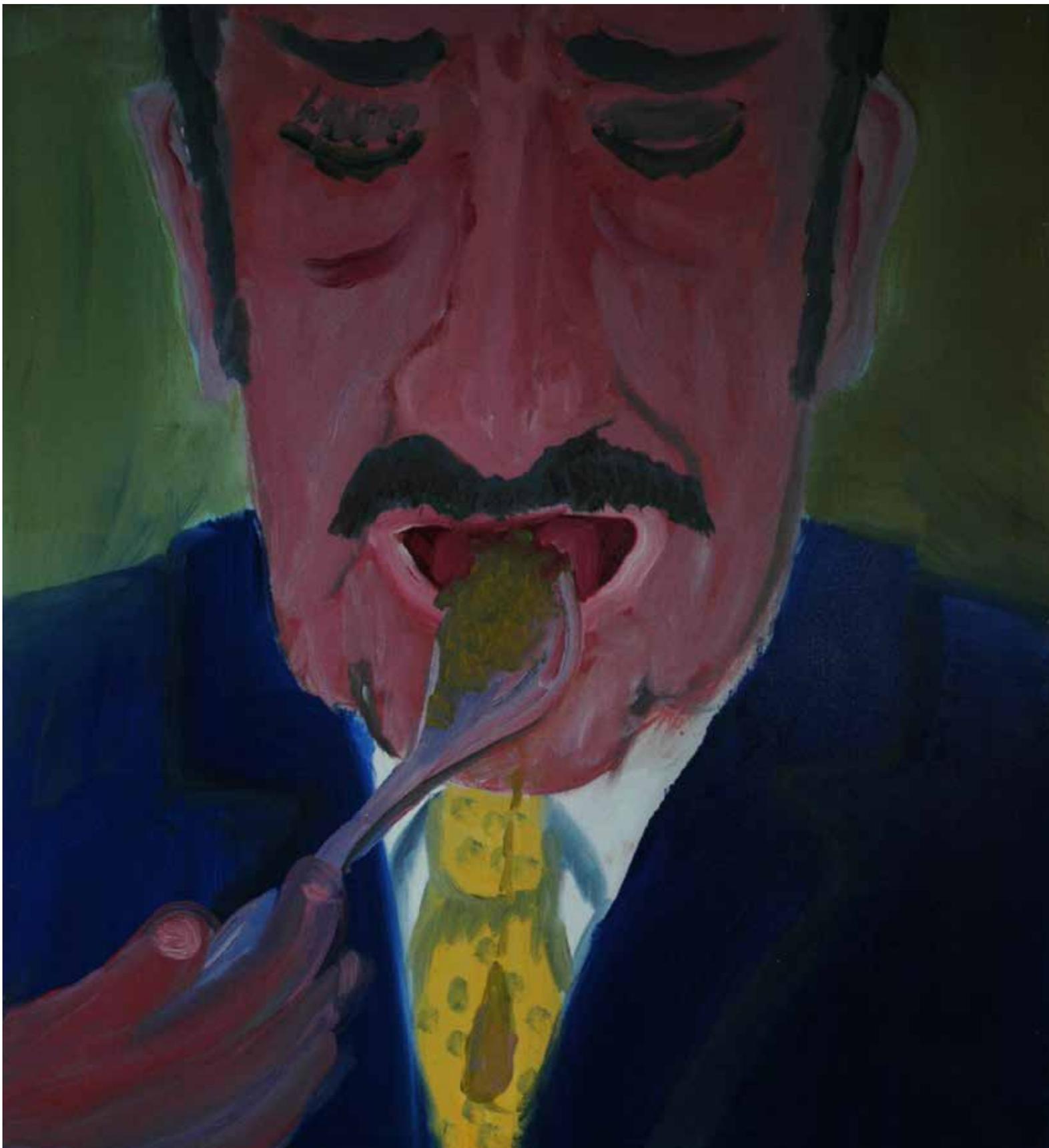
oil on canvas  
47<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 39<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

120



oil on canvas  
45½ x 49¾

122

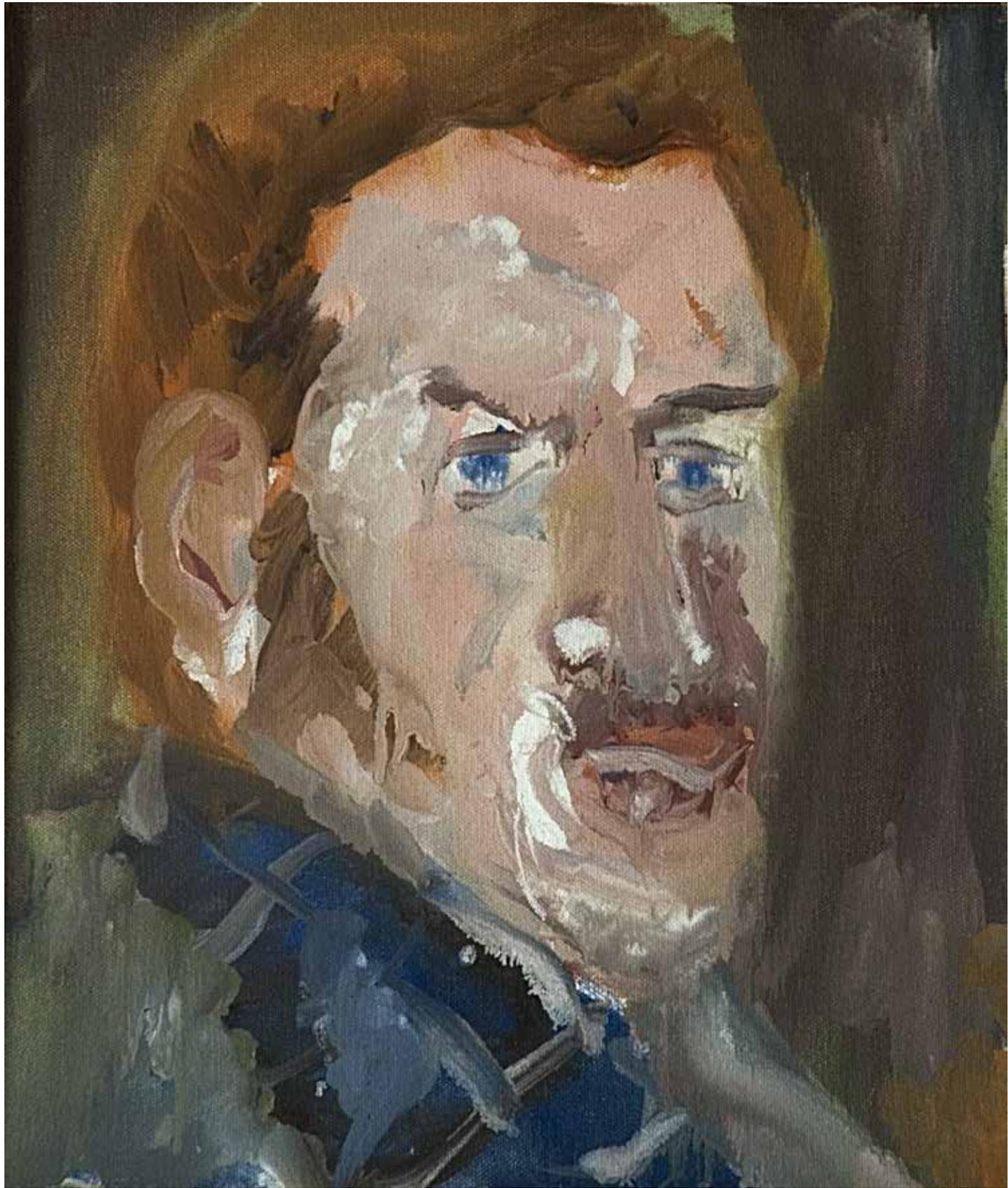


oil on canvas  
43<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 39<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

189

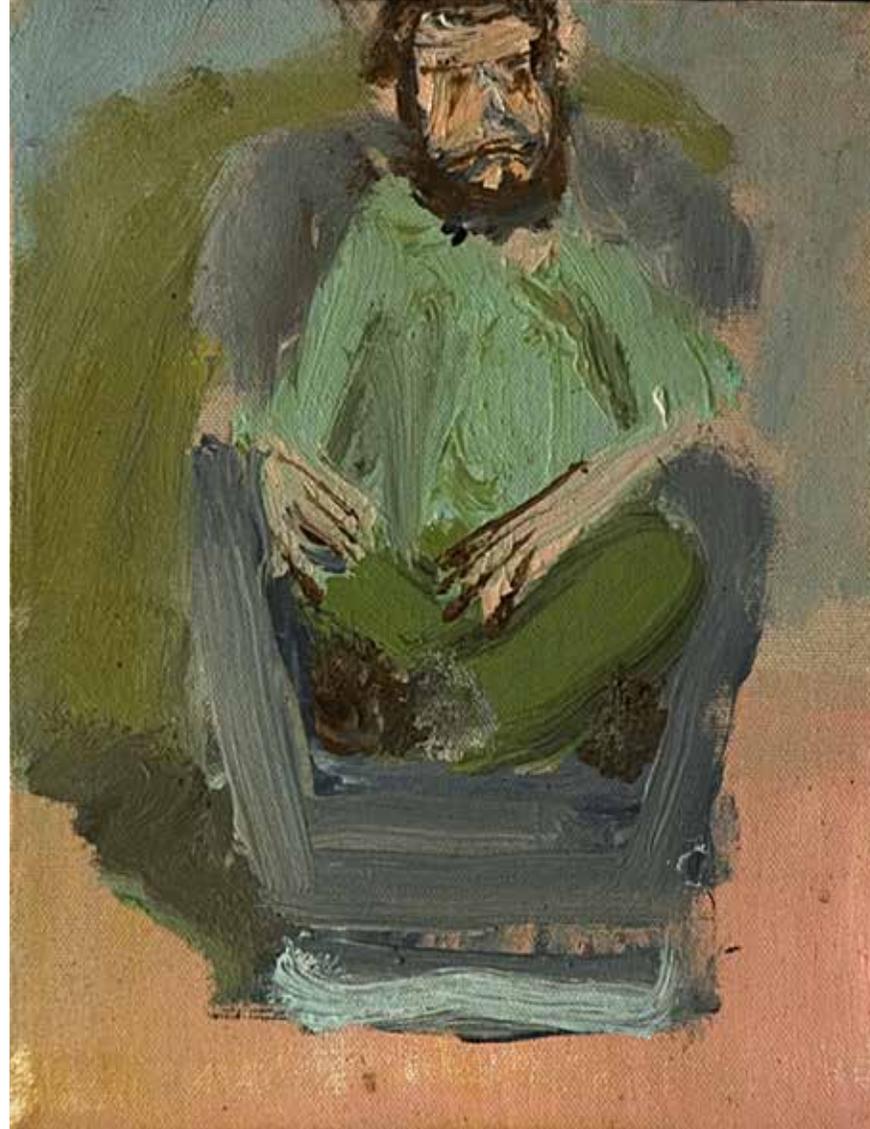


oil on canvas  
28 x 22  
*Peter Strickman on back*  
169



oil on canvas  
14 x 12  
(self-portrait)

203



oil on canvas  
10 x 8  
*Peter Strickman on back*

210



oil on paper  
22 x 17 $\frac{3}{4}$

258



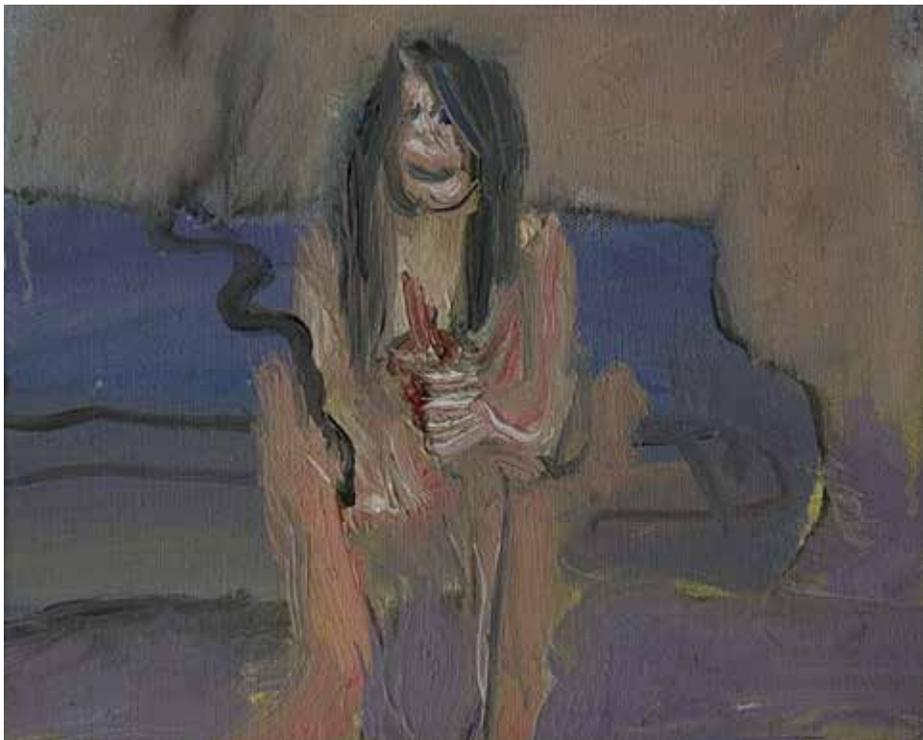
oil on canvas  
39½ x 35½  
(self portrait)

119



oil on canvas  
48½ x 46½

181



(top)  
oil on canvas  
13 x 14  
*Peter Strickman on back*

216

(bottom)  
oil on canvas  
8 x 10  
*Peter Strickman on back*

206



*(top)*  
oil on canvas  
8 x 8

212

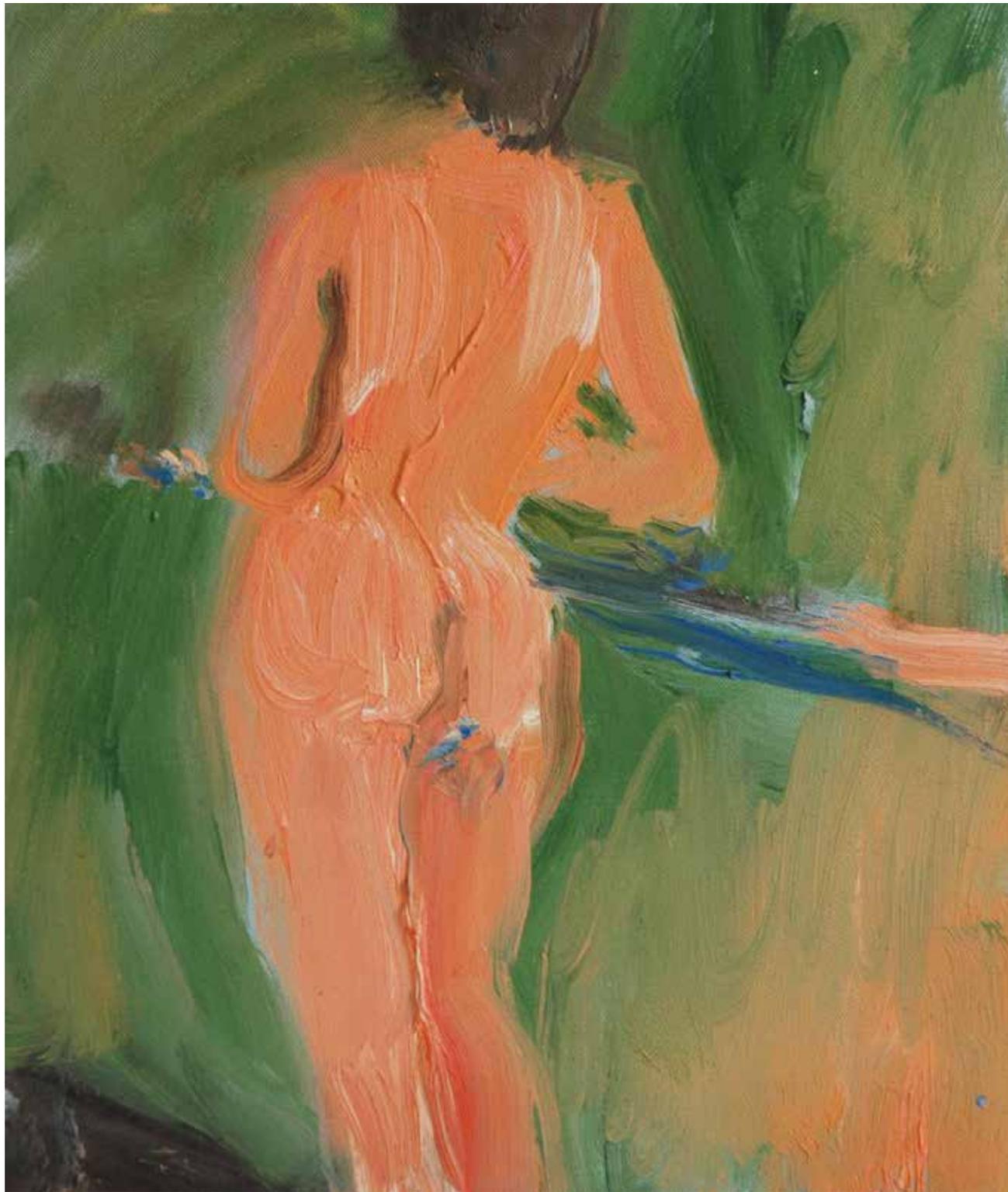
*(bottom)*  
oil on canvas  
14 x 10  
*Peter Strickman on back*

213

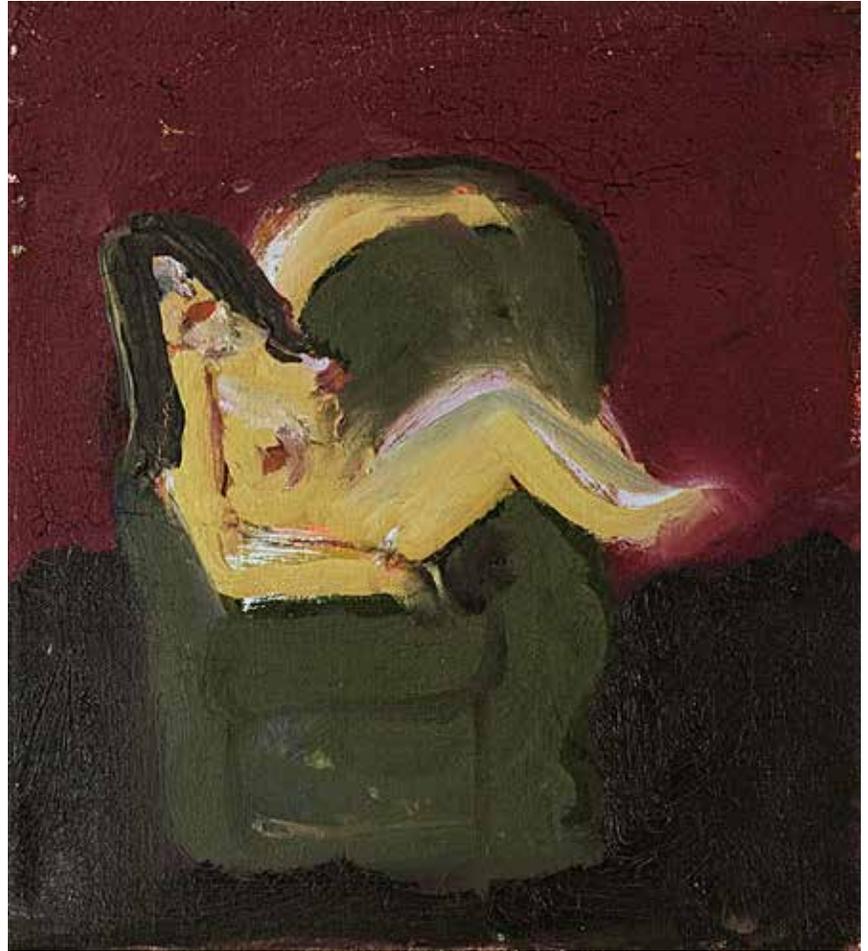
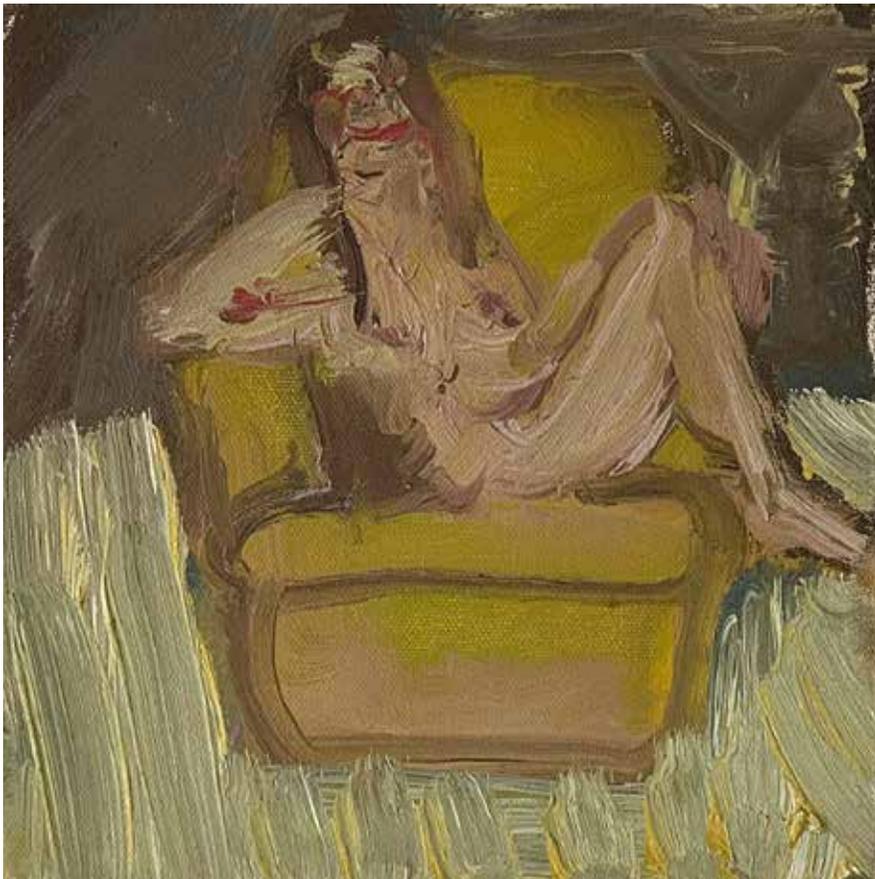




oil on canvas  
10 x 12  
*Peter Strickman on back*



oil on canvas  
14 x 12  
*Peter Strickman on back*



*(top)*  
oil on canvas  
12 x 11

209

*(bottom)*  
oil on canvas  
8 x 8

*Peter Strickman on back*

211



(top)  
oil on canvas  
8 x 10  
*Peter Strickman on back*

207



(bottom)  
oil on canvas  
8 x 12  
*Peter Strickman on back*

208





oil on canvas  
48 x 48

177



oil on canvas  
22 x 25  
*Peter Strickman '74 on back*

129



oil on canvas  
28 x 24

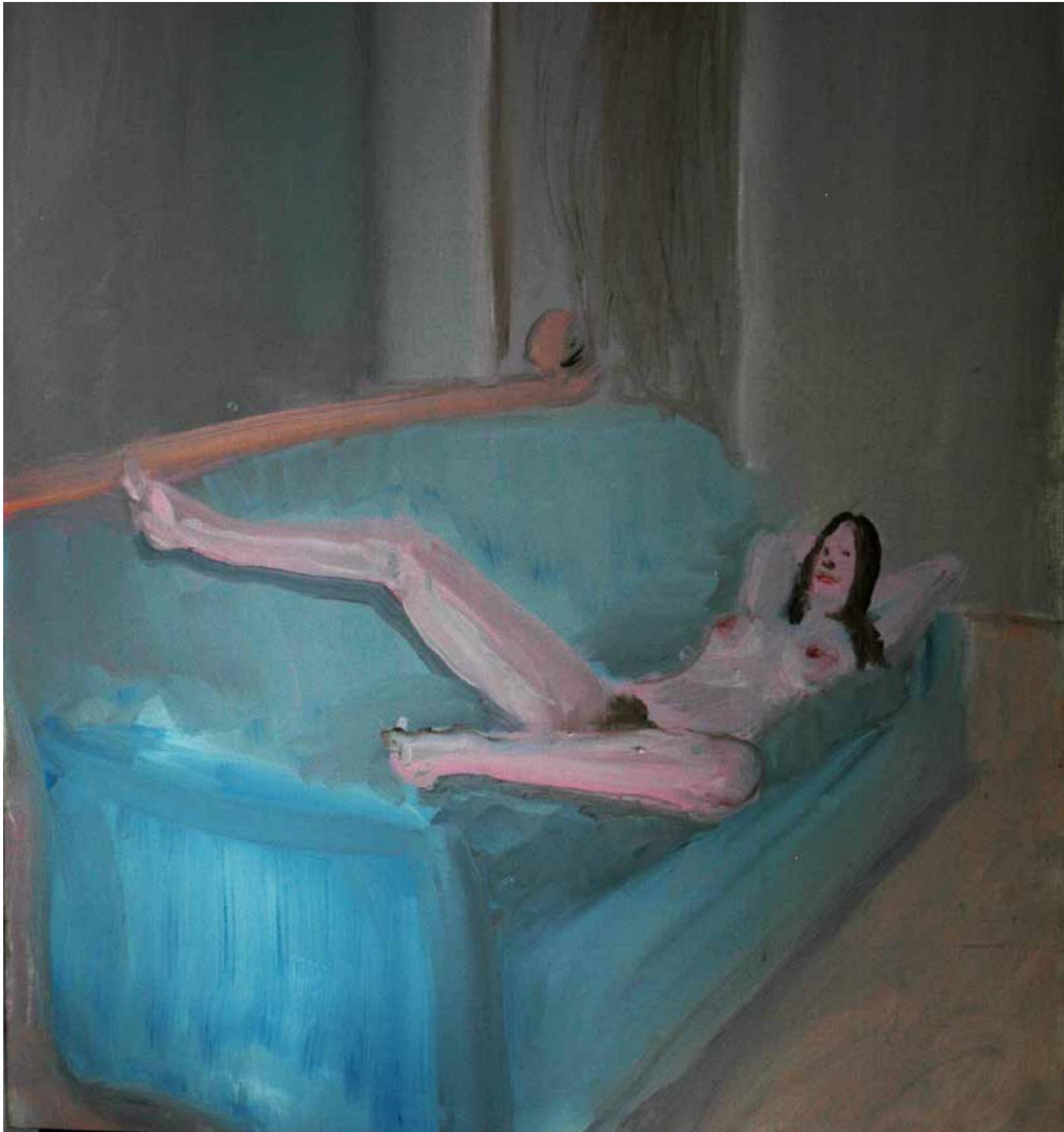
195





oil on canvas  
48 x 39<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

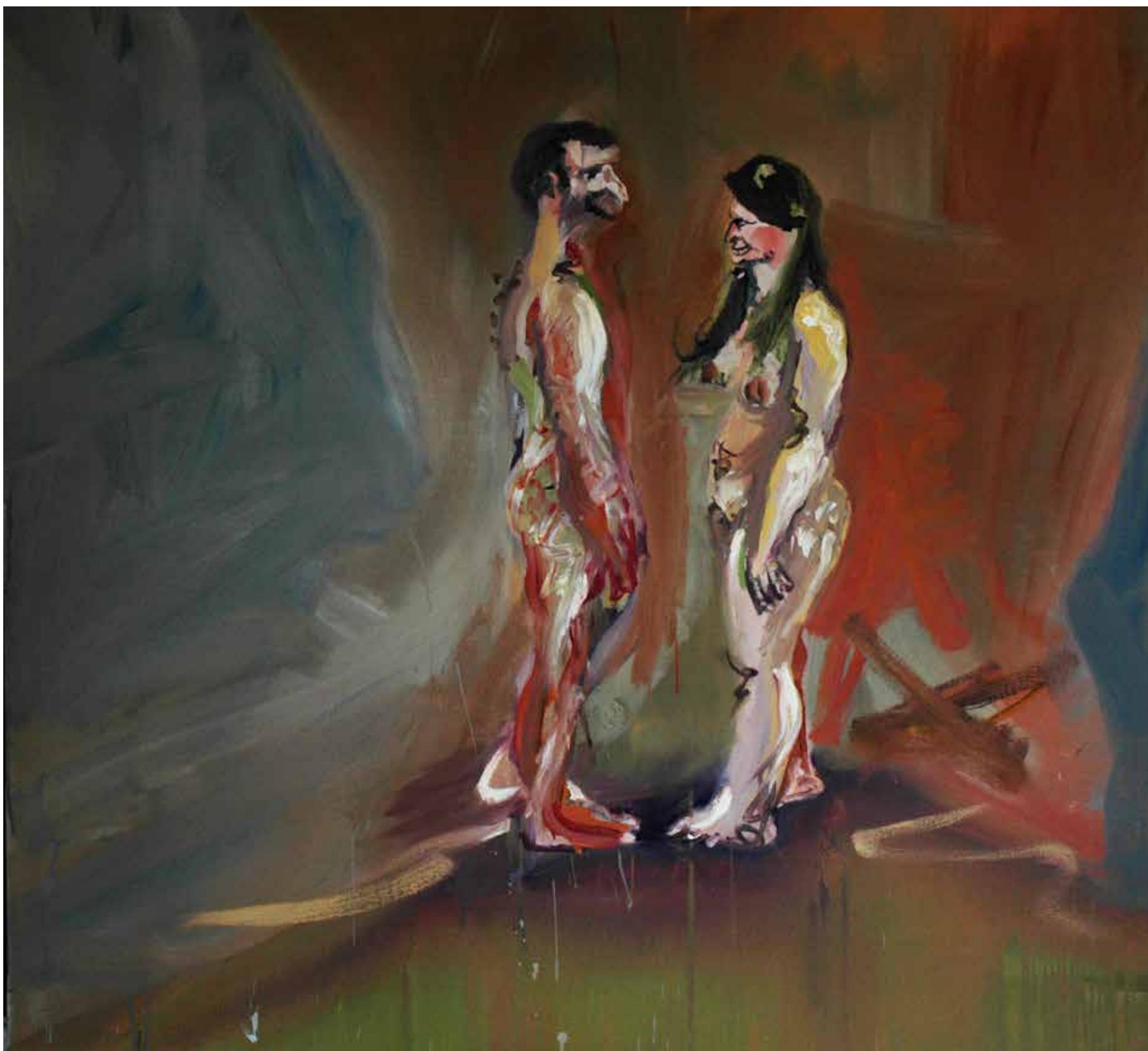
192





oil on canvas  
49¾ x 48

191



oil on canvas  
49½ x 50  
*Spring 1969 on back*

187



oil on canvas  
48 x 48

186





ink on paper  
12½ x 15½  
*PS* lower front

236



**Nude Sitting**  
oil on canvas  
36 x 37

*Strickman* lower right; '69 on back

188



oil on canvas  
50 x 46

176



**Dale in Armchair**  
oil on canvas  
48¼ x 49½  
*PS* lower right; *Winter '66* on back



oil on board  
22½ x 20¼

166



oil on wood  
14 x 12  
*PS* lower right  
204



oil on wood  
10 x 12  
*PS* lower right

214





oil on canvas  
40 x 36

101



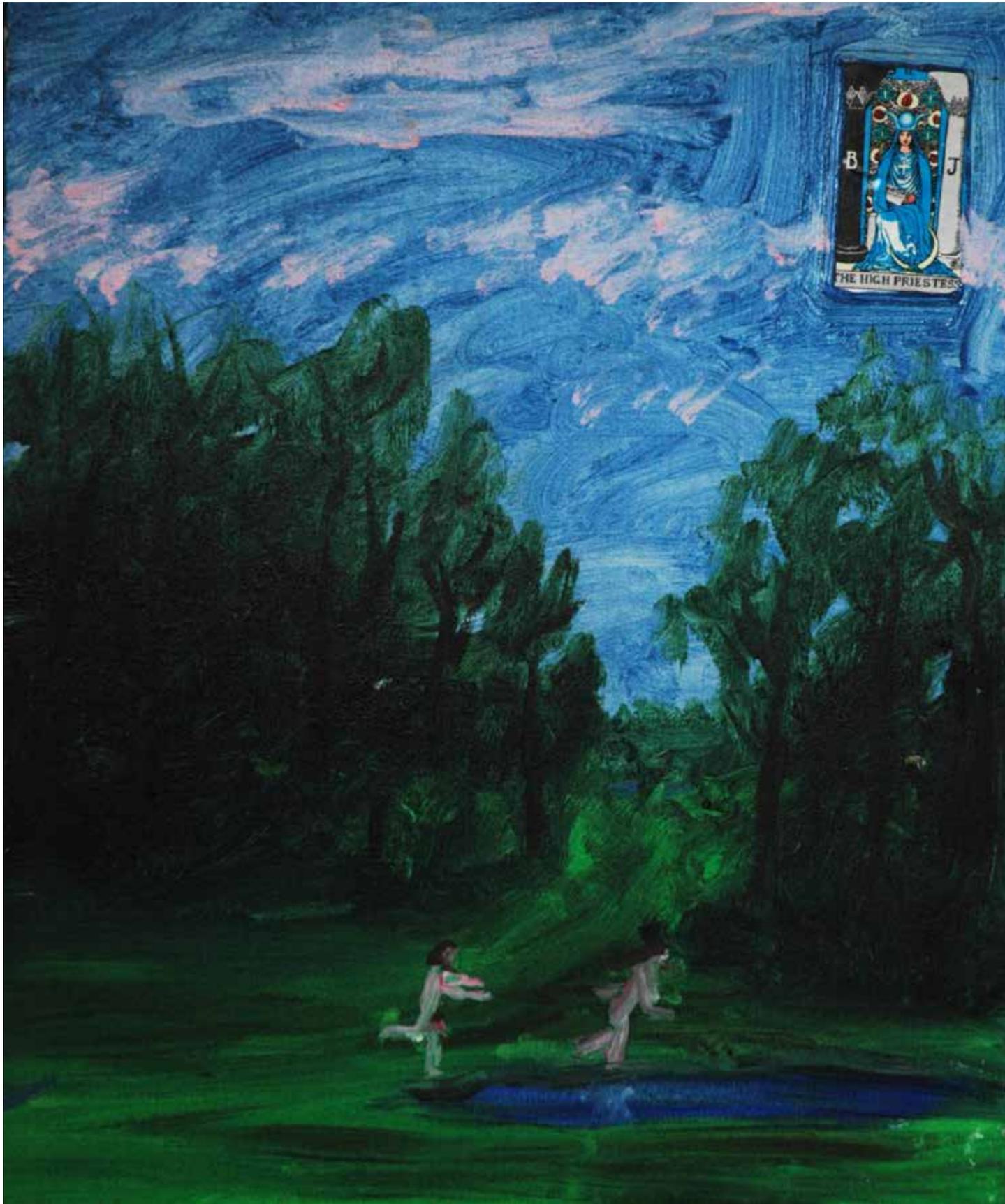
**Dale Reading and Skeleton**  
oil on canvas  
38 x 34

174



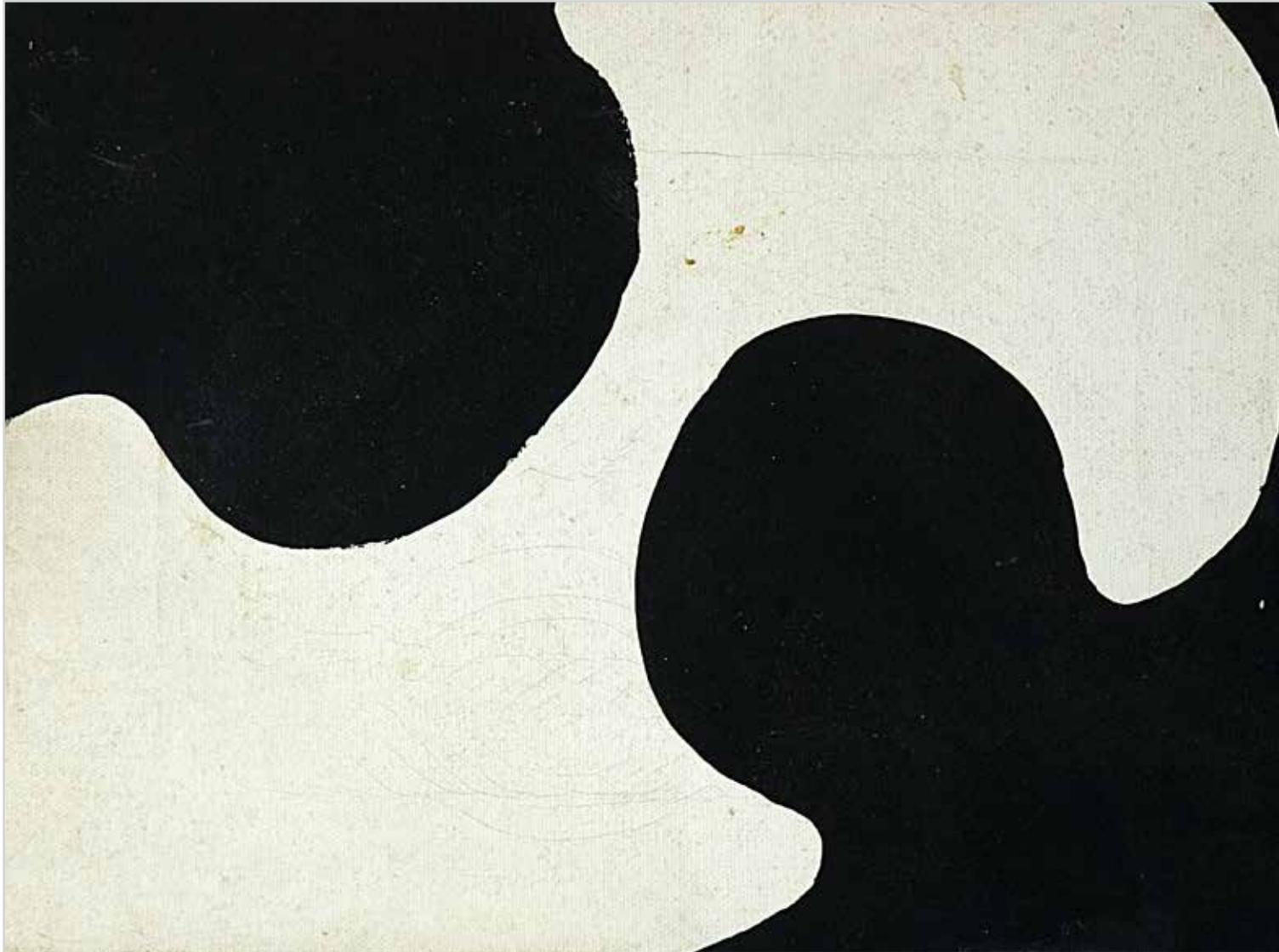
oil on canvas  
31½ x 36

58





ABSTRACTIONS



house paint on canvas  
9 x 12

224

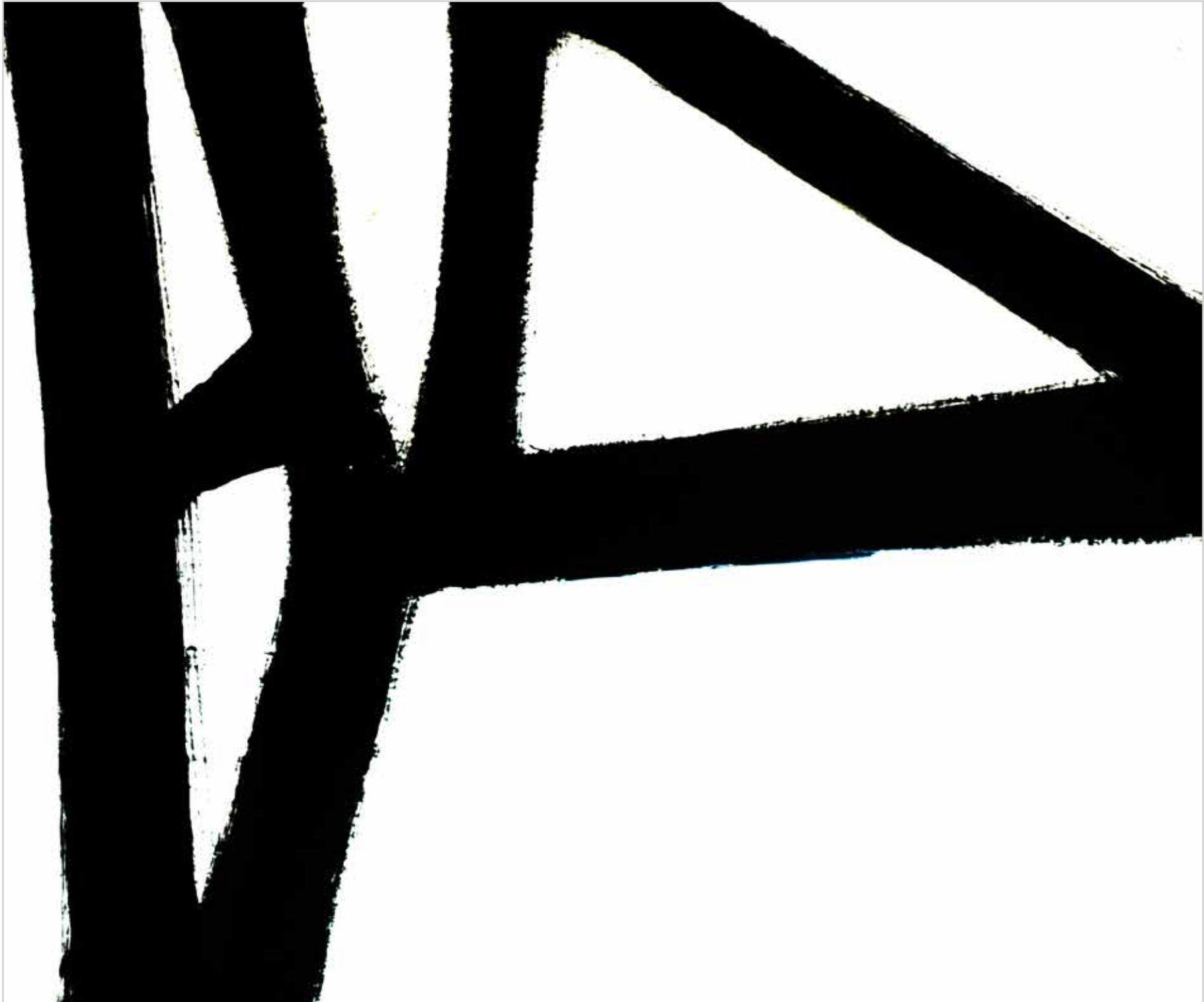


house paint on canvas  
41 $\frac{3}{4}$  x 48 $\frac{1}{2}$



house paint on canvas  
28 x 24

162





house paint on canvas  
46½ x 50

157



house paint on canvas  
48½ x 49¾



house paint on canvas  
41¼ x 48

154



house paint on canvas  
30 x 36



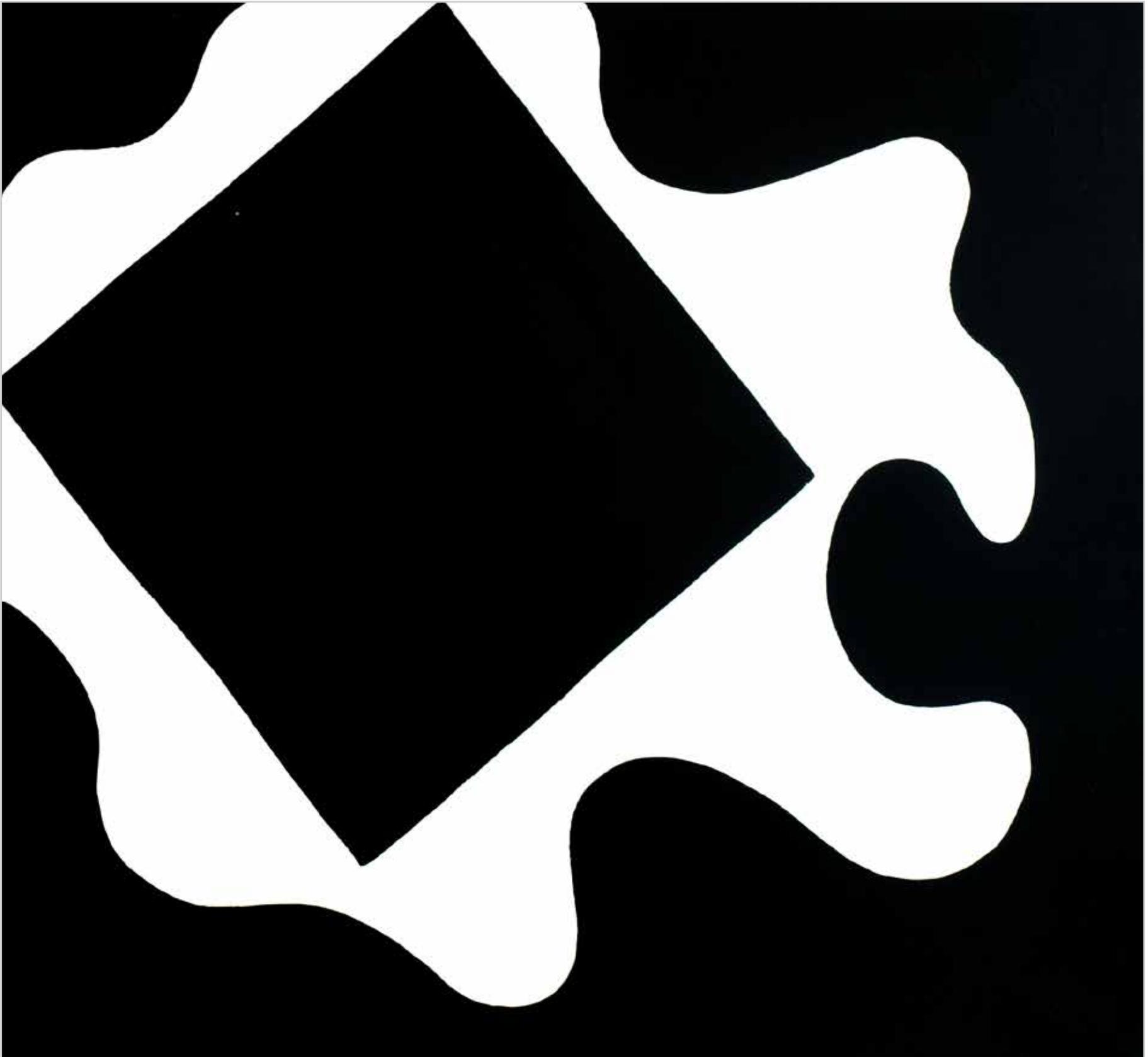
house paint on canvas  
16 x 24

164



house paint on canvas  
45¼ x 50

156



house paint on canvas  
35¾ x 40

160

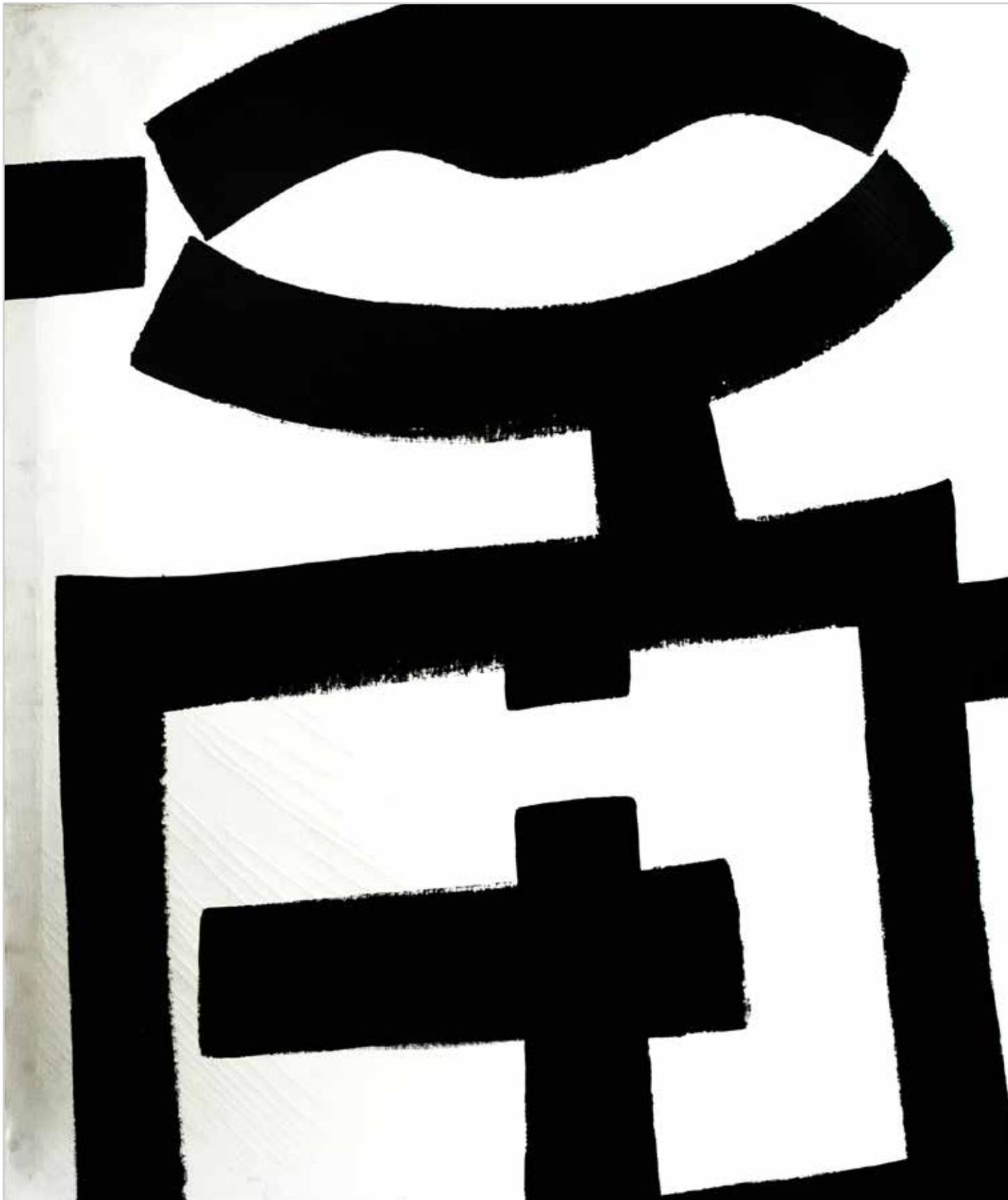


house paint on canvas  
26 x 30  
(painted over another painting)

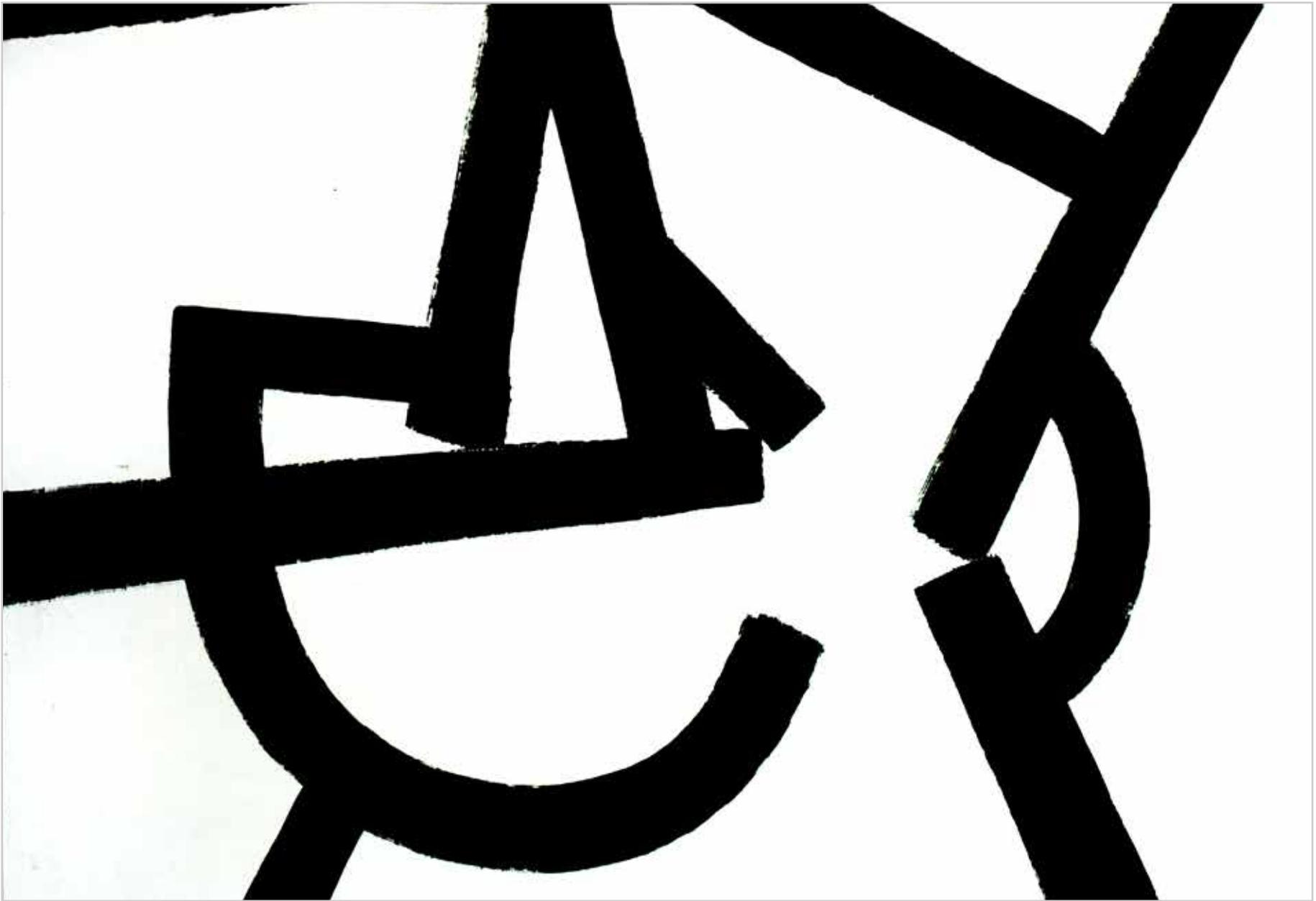


house paint on canvas  
41½ x 50

155



house paint on canvas  
49½ x 43¼



house paint on canvas  
29<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 43<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
*P. Strickman Fall 1972 on back*



house paint on canvas  
43½ x 49¾



oil on canvas  
47 x 48½

183



oil and white house paint on canvas  
47 x 45



oil on canvas  
49¼ x 49¼



oil and white house paint on canvas  
49½ x 47¼



(left)  
charcoal on paper  
29½ x 23½

133



(right)  
charcoal on paper  
29½ x 23½

134



early ink and water color on paper  
13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
*(in the style of Paul Klee)*

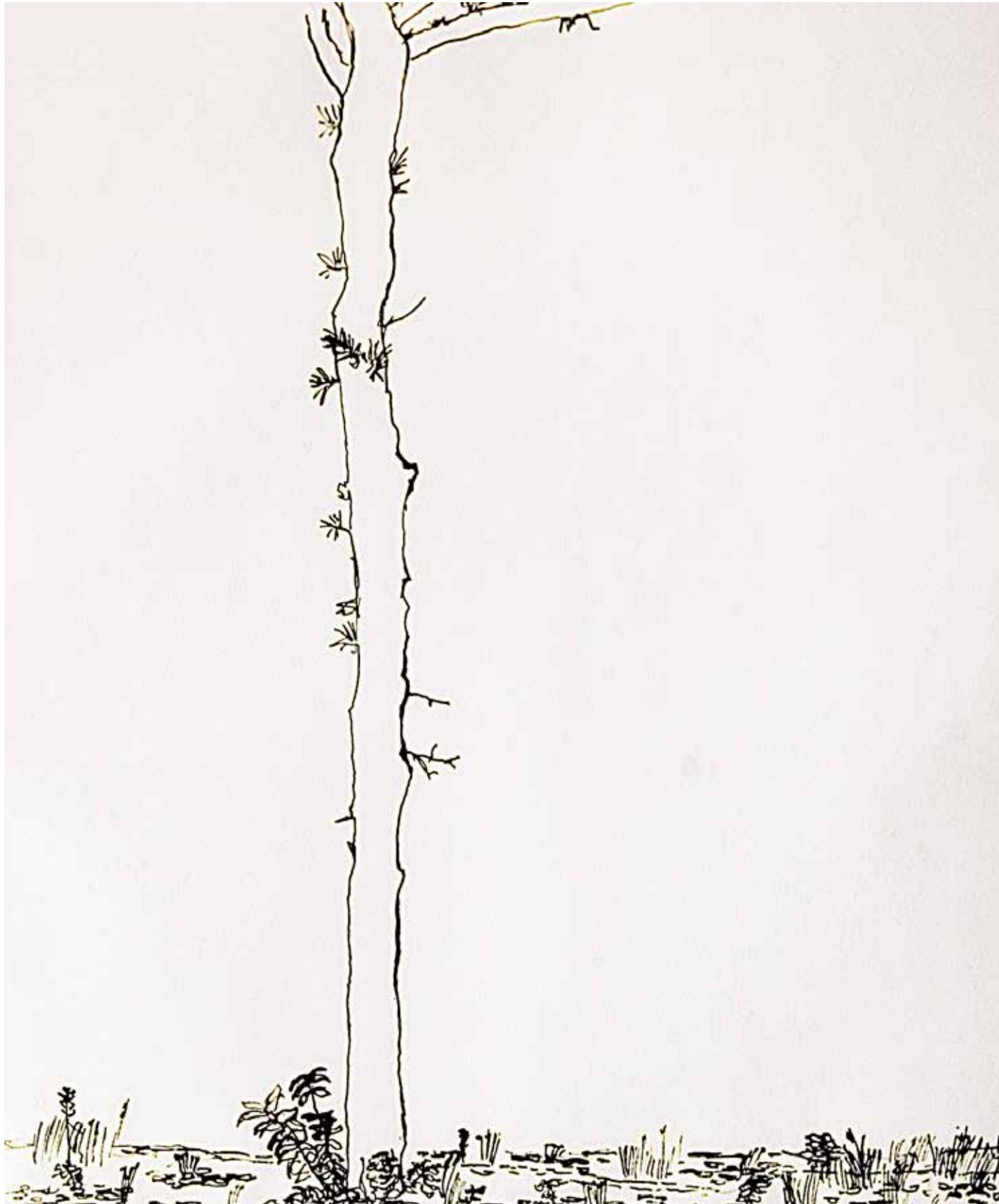


INK PAINTINGS



ink on paper  
12½ x 15½  
*PS* lower right

238





ink on linen  
34 x 42

109



ink on paper  
23½ x 29½  
*Peter Strickman lower right*



ink on linen  
27½ x 35

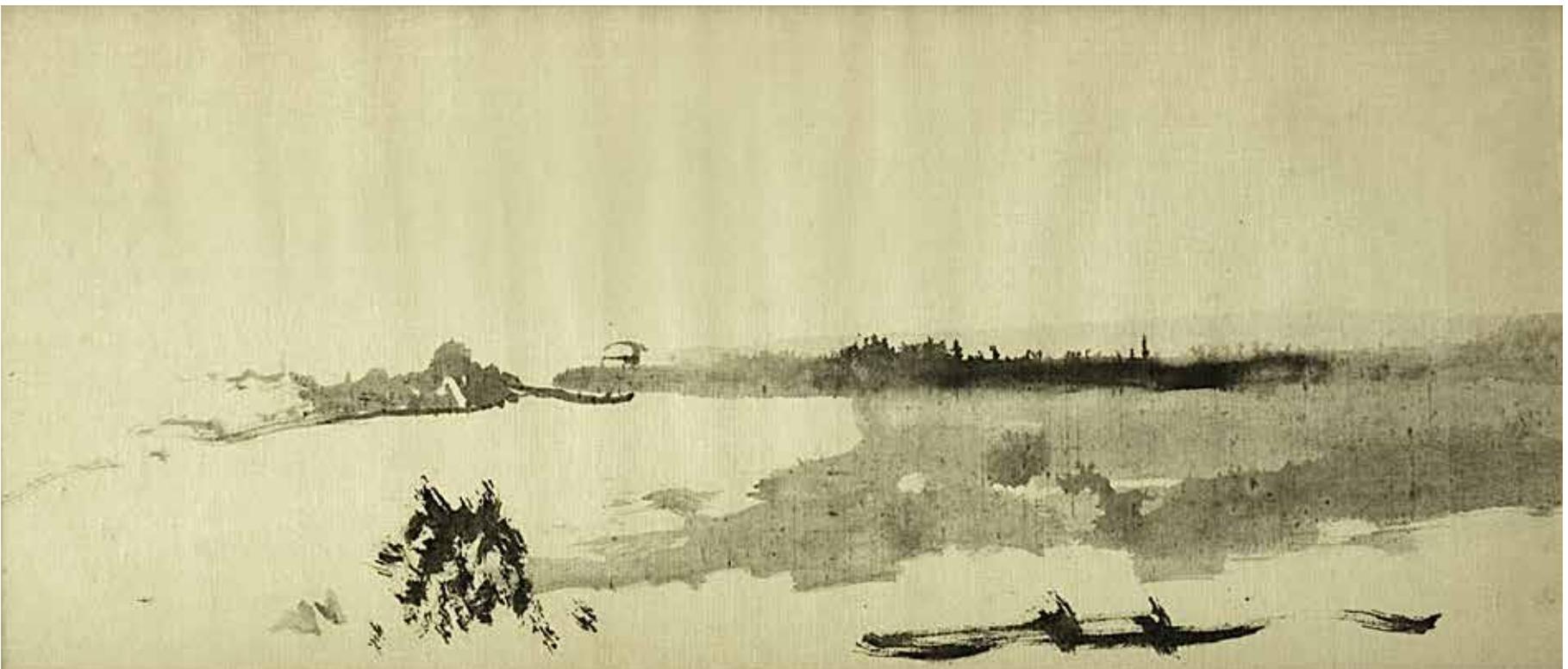
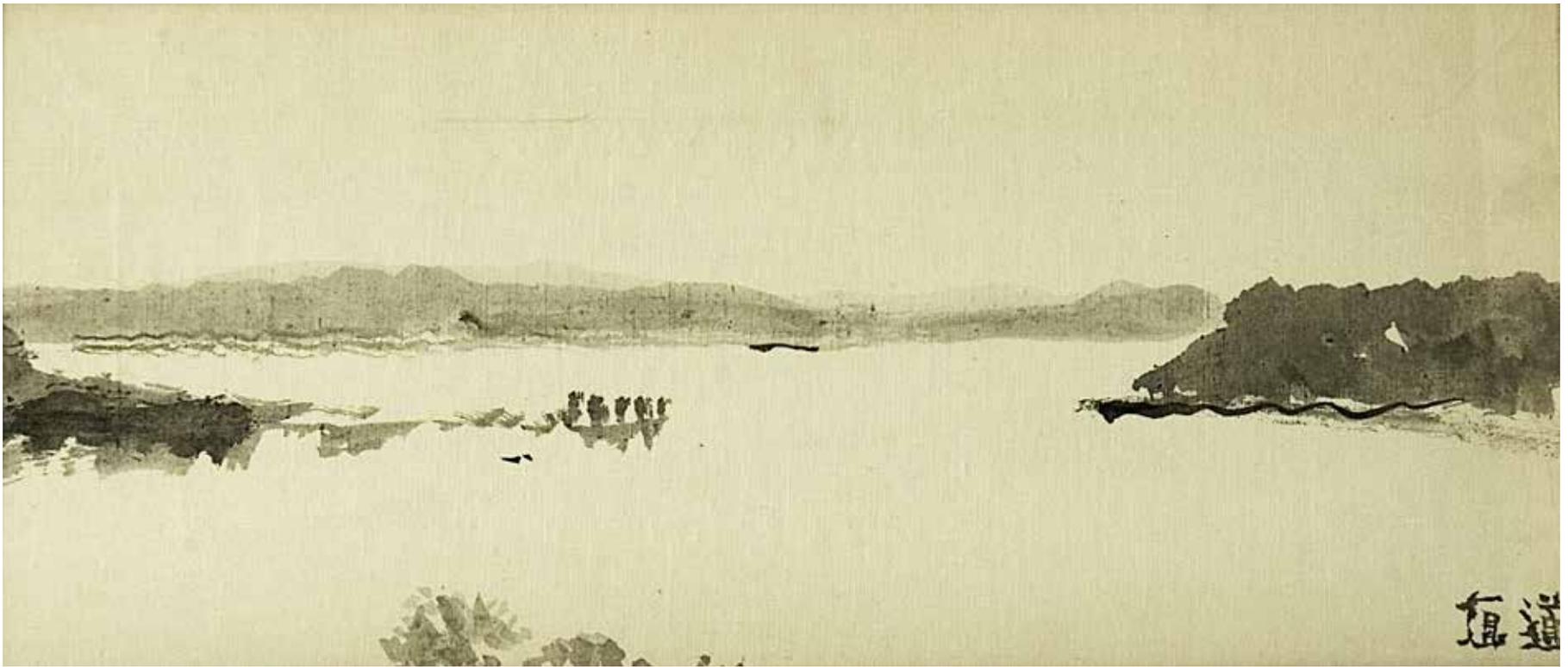
301





ink on paper  
28 x 21 3/4

248



(top)  
ink on linen  
8 x 17½

232

(bottom)  
ink on linen  
8 x 17½

231



ink on linen  
34 x 44

110





ink on linen  
34 x 40

107





ink on linen  
22 x 34

113



(top)  
ink on paper  
16½ x 22½  
*Peter Strickman lower right*

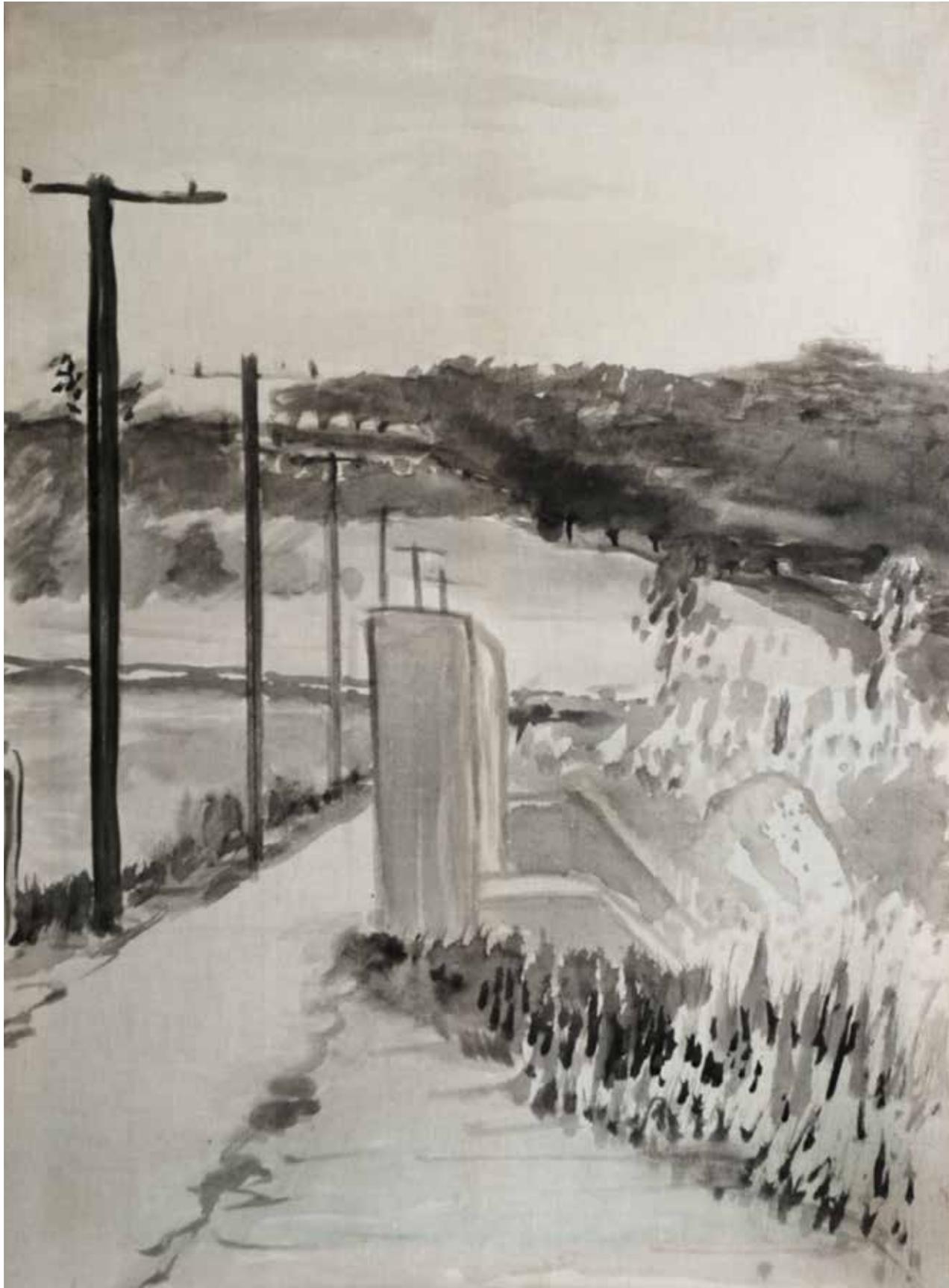
132

(bottom)  
ink on paper  
16½ x 22½  
*PS lower right*

131



ink on paper  
18½ x 24½  
*Peter Strickman* lower right



**Pond Bridge Road - Sitting on the Ground**  
ink on linen  
40 x 30

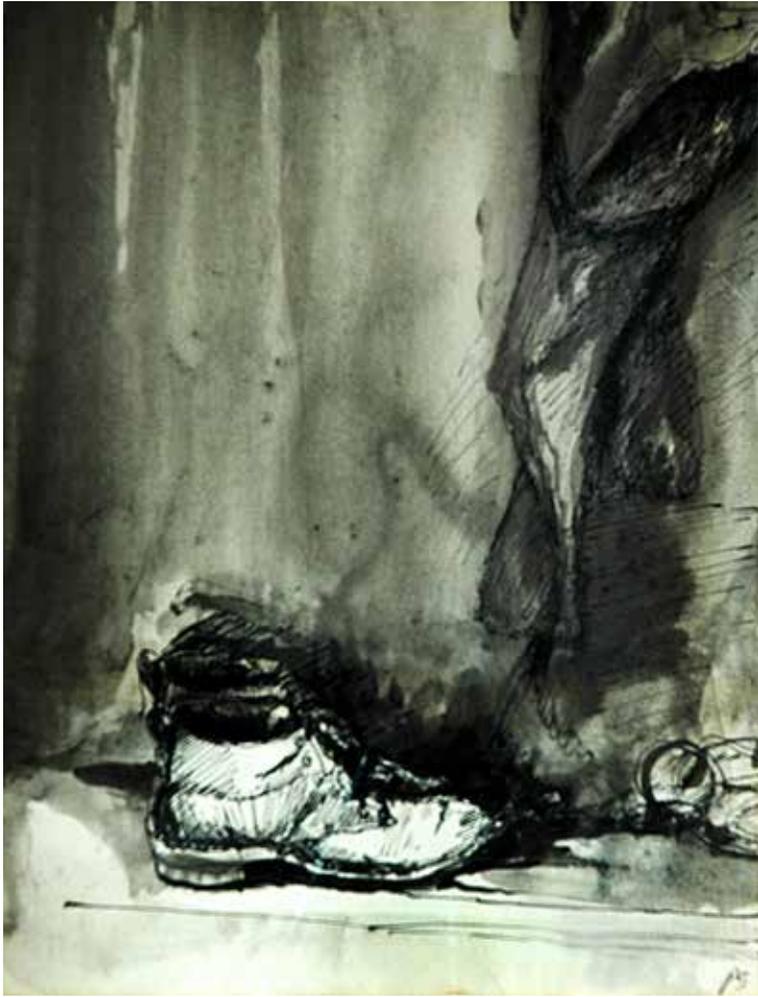
118



ink on paper  
13 x 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
PS center front

245





(top)  
ink on paper  
15 1/2 x 12 1/2  
PS lower right

136



(bottom)  
ink on paper  
13 1/2 x 10 1/2

235





**Homage to Arshile Gorky**  
ink on linen  
28 x 18  
*PS* lower center

28



**Innerlife**  
ink on linen  
20 x 31¼  
*PGS* on back



ink on linen  
11 x 8  
*PS* lower right



ink on linen  
18 x 30  
PGS lower right



*(left)*  
ink on linen  
17 x 18

124

*(right)*  
ink on linen  
18 x 8  
*PS* lower right

125





ink on linen  
32 x 21  
*PGS* upper left



(top)  
ink on linen  
13 x 21  
PGS upper left

222



(bottom)  
ink on linen  
10 x 11  
PGS upper left

223





ink on linen  
25 x 18  
*PGS* upper left

30



(top)  
 ink on linen  
 16 x 25  
 PGS June 1992 upper right

29

(bottom)  
 ink on linen  
 8 x 28  
 Painted by Matawa (Peter the Painter) at the Temple of Peace, Art, Meditation and Dreams, Boston November 1990  
 for M & L, Thanksgiving Day 1990, as a token of thanksgiving for the dubious gift of life on front

144



ink on linen  
10 x 13  
PGS lower left

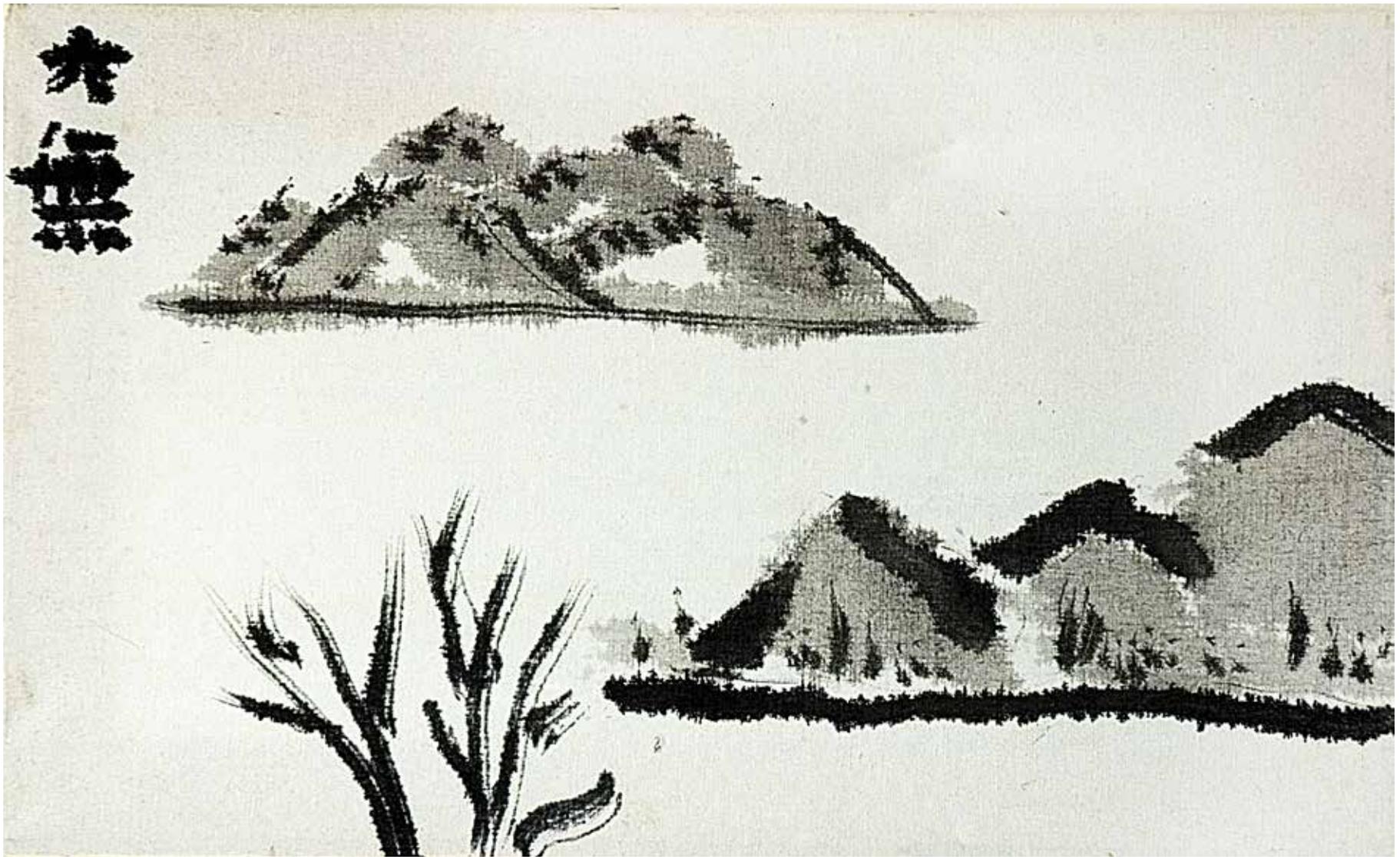
220





ink on paper  
22 x 31½  
PS lower right

130





(top)

**Jacob Kissing Rachel at the Well**

ink on linen

8 x 24

*Peter Strickman, Gentleman Painter, Boston 1989 July on front*

218

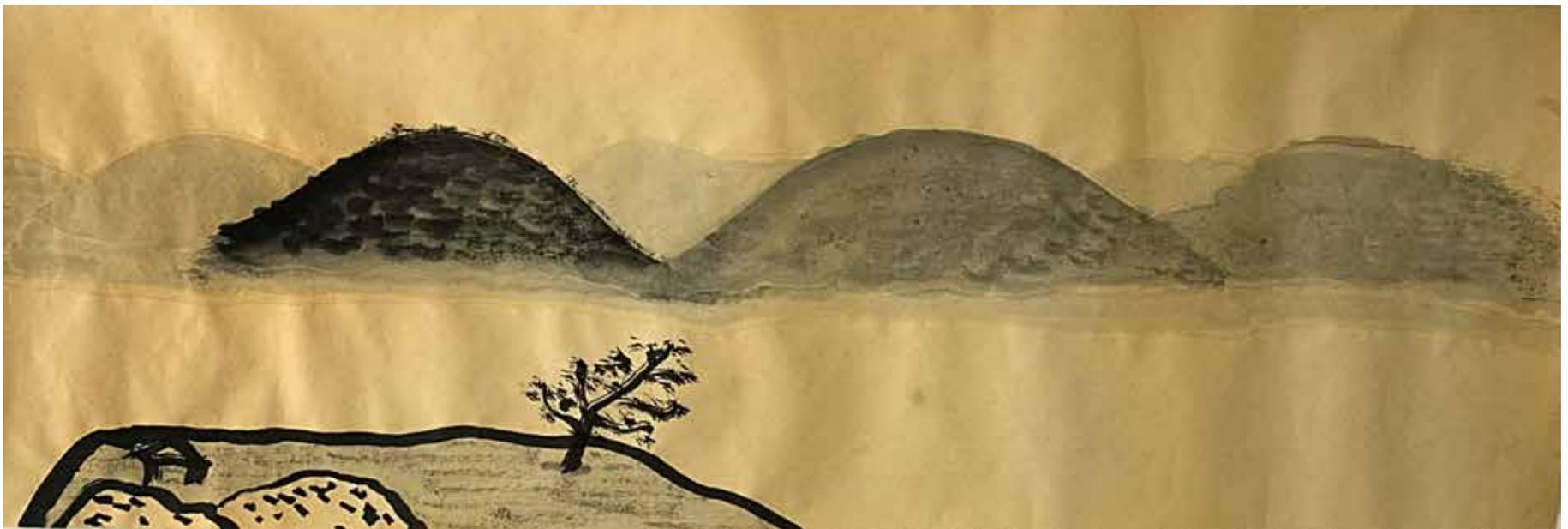
(bottom)

ink on linen

8 x 28

*Peter Strickman, Gentleman Ink Painter, Boston September 1989 on front*

145



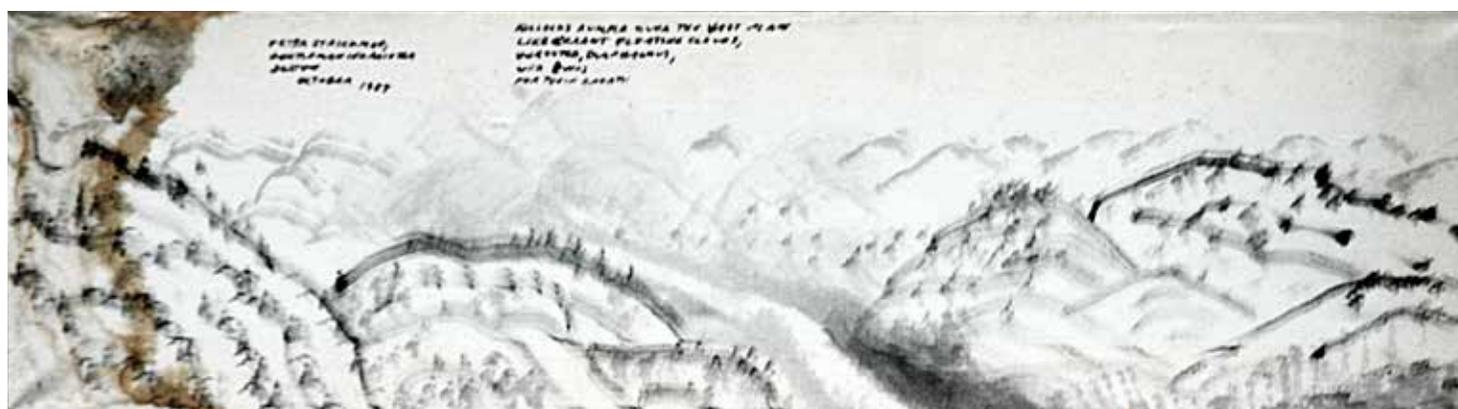
(top)  
**Blurb of Mountain Strength**  
 ink on linen  
 8 x 20

*Painter-Poet Peter, Boston December 1988 on front*

217

(bottom)  
 ink on rice paper  
 13 x 37¼

227



(top)

**Painting in the Style of Huang Kung-wang**

ink on linen

18 x 60

*Peter S, September 1985 on front*

143

(bottom)

ink on linen

8 x 28

*Peter Strickman, Gentleman Painter, Boston October 1988*

*hillocks rumple over the vast plain like errant floating clouds, unrooted, diaphanous, with rivers for their breath on front*

146



(top)  
**Wild Mountain**  
ink on linen  
12 x 60

*Painter - Poet Pete, Boston December 1988 on front*

141



(bottom)  
**Emergence of an Old View**  
ink on linen  
14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 60

*November 1988 Boston on front*

142



**Bodhidharma the Zen Patriarch**

ink on linen

20 x 8

*Peter Strickman, Gentleman Ink Painter*  
*Boston July 1989 on front*

225



(top)  
ink on paper  
17½ x 46

229

(bottom)  
ink on paper  
17¾ x 65

228





(left)

**Who Really Wants It Anyway**

ink on linen

60 x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$

Peter Strickman, *Gentleman Ink Painter*  
Boston November 1989 on front

139

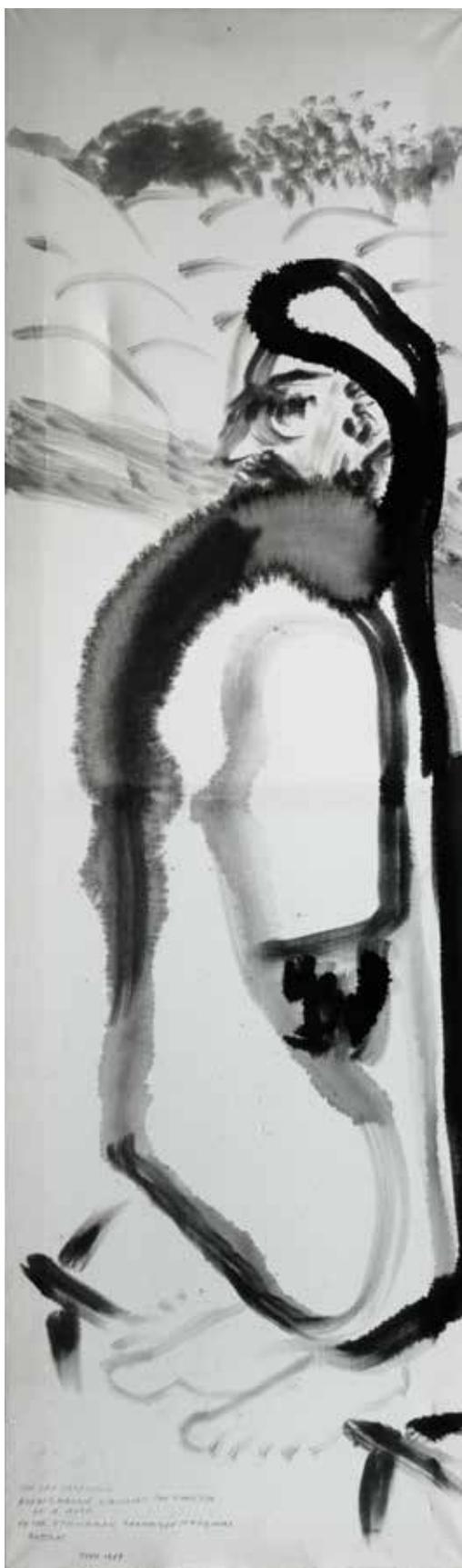
(right)

ink on linen

60 x 18

Peter Strickman, *Gentleman Ink Painter*  
Boston September 1989 on front

140



**The Zen Patriarch**

ink on linen

60 x 18

*Peter Strickman, Gentleman Ink Painter*

*Boston July 1989 on front*

138



ink on linen  
36 x 23<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

*Peter, the painter; For Mama with all my love on back*

31

So many people have helped to see this catalog come to fruition at last.

Dan McManus photographed each of the paintings when I decided to create this catalog. Meredith Brower and Dolores Lusitana also photographed a few of the paintings that have recently been given back to me.

Meredith Brower sat with me and transferred all of the information and photos to the computer and helped develop the initial layout.

Thomas Palmer was a valuable advisor each step of the way, and helped to organize the photos and design.

Dolores Lusitana/SituationBook.com designed and produced the final book.

Many others have also contributed – advice, support and friendship.

### THANK YOU

Meredith Brower, Dolores Lusitana, Dan McManus, Thomas Palmer

Aunt Eva, Gail Arch, Dorothy and Jim Baker, Russell Daly, Claudia Flynn, Christian Heckscher, Ilene Klein, Donna Maytum, Lunid Palmer

Jill Snyder Perlman, Marika Van Vesseem, Cristina Wally, Troy West, Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Karl Willers



#### **Flowers and Weeds**

ink on paper

22 x 17½

Sept 1967 San Francisco on back

303

**For more information  
about the work of Peter Strickman**  
contact: Bonnie Strickman  
tel: (401) 816-0563  
email: [bonniestrickman@gmail.com](mailto:bonniestrickman@gmail.com)