

Spirituality in painting

Thomas Van Cauwenberghe

Thomas Van Cauwenberghe is an artist based in the heart of Europe, Belgium, Brussels. Thinking of the deep natural forces, he has undertaken studies of painting in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Ghent. The painter has also studied deep philosophies in their original country such as tantra, shivaism. In his painting studies, he studies the materiality and the conflicts that occur between colours, forms and matter. In addition to his paintings, he is also a climate activist and for this reason, this theme sometimes reoccurs.



This very simple painting, made up of only 2 elements, provokes a very current feeling. Isn't it that one is attracted by something beautiful and is immediately crushed. The spectator is sucked up by a very soft horizon but is simultaneously crushed by the 2 big black rocks. The rocks are as if detached from the scenery, yet they are part of it. This result is due to a different use of paint. The painter used a very light impasto for the horizon and another very heavy for the rocks.

Ecrasement

80x100cm,
oil on canvas



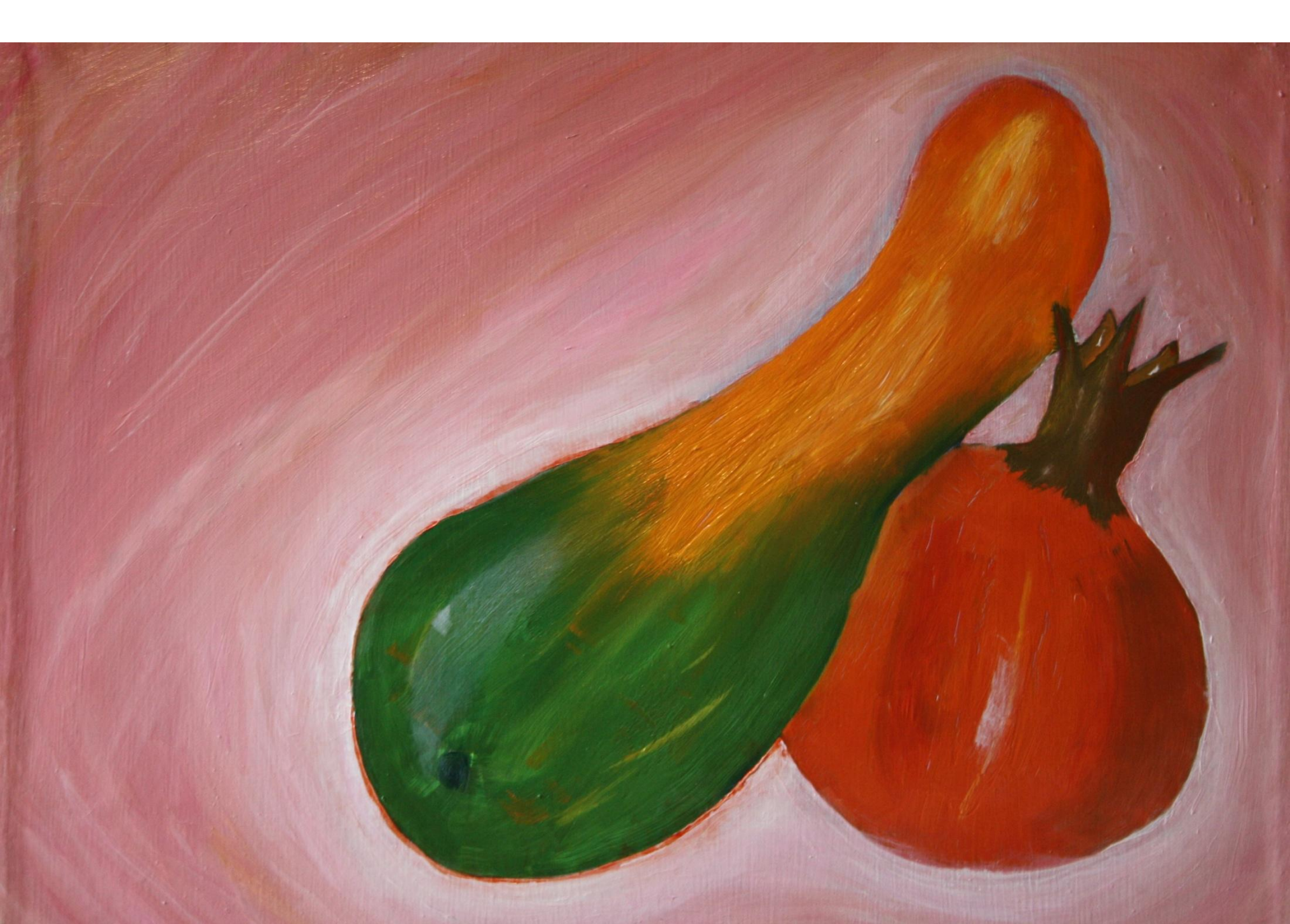
L'Hyronde, 80x60cm, oil on canvas

For this painting, the painter was inspired by a tree. The multitude of branches are like the course of a life. A path taken leads to multiple options and so on. A swallow is present to signify calm and serenity and the sun is for benevolence and protection in this world of devotion and cruelty. A small bird in the sun creates the disturbances of daily life. This painting is called Swallow but its first name was meditation.



L'Escargot, 60x40cm, oil on canvas

The snail was inspired by Salvador Dali. Dali used to make very pointy shadows. Almost everything has a shadow, the rocks, the tree except the snail from which a river flows. A very geometrical river reminiscent of surrealism. The decor is very dark and plunges us into the night. The white alludes to a full white moon.



Fruits, 50x40cm, oil on canvas

Fruits is my first painting with a sexual approach. This painting was inspired by Van Eeckhoud, a Flemish painter who liked to paint still lives. In this painting, the painter uses the force of colors. A blue halo next to the squash in the shape of an orange penis whose bottom is green. The squash stands next to a dashing almost red pomegranate. The fruits are cradled in a cloudy background but made of the color of the vagina.



Perspectives, 90x70cm, oil on canvas

Perspectives is a painting that gives you a headache when you look at it. You see different planes but before that, the tree reminds you of a moment of rest. This is why you don't go straight to discover the different planes. Without these planes the tree would not make sense. This is why this conflicting zone of wanting to go further while having an element of rest, gives us an unpleasant effect.



Le conque, 70x50cm, oil on canvas

Sexual and symbolic painting. Le conque is a shell that transported Venus, god of sex and feminine beauty, out of the waves on earth. The conch is painted in the shape of a vagina. From this vagina flows a river, the natural vaginal lubricant. The painter has painted a sort of penis-shaped islet against the current. Drops of semen can be seen there. Next to the conch is a tree with the Adam's apple, symbol of fertility. Next to this symbolic shape, one admires the power of the juxtaposed colors.



Vagin,

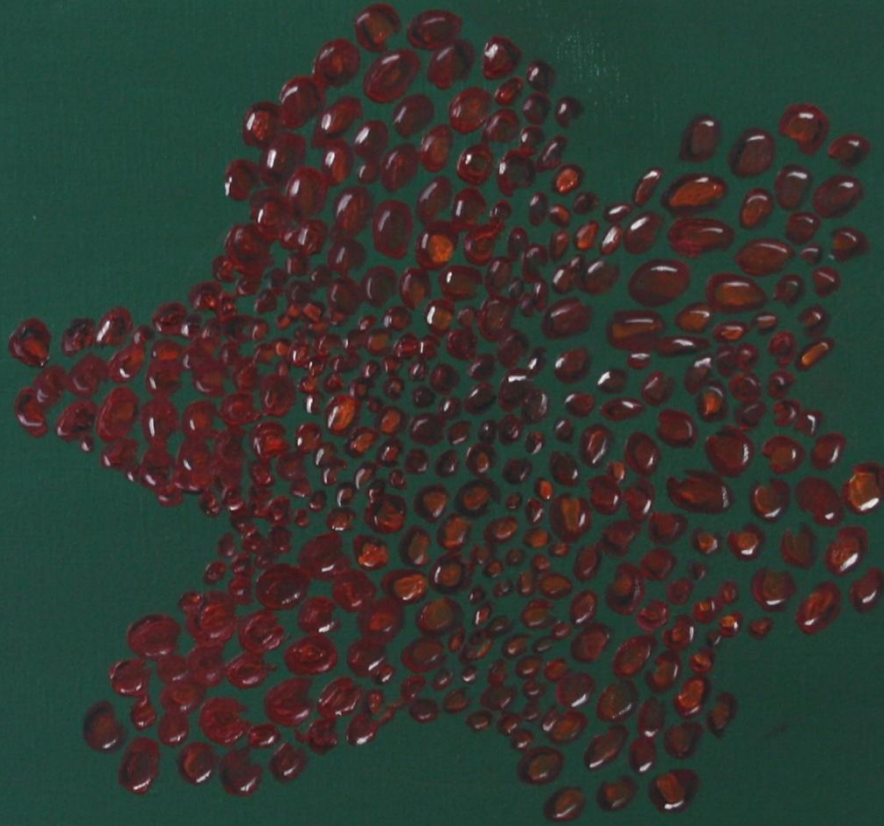
40x50cm,
oil on canvas

Here, the painter insisted on the depth of colors and was inspired by one of Salvador Dali's paintings. Indeed, the painter is dealing with a palette of colors that are not necessary the primaries of the chromatic circle. To do so, he used examples to make good use of the maximum intensity with what he had. This painting, more complex than the previous ones, is also much richer, not in elements but in colors. Vagina is also surrounded by a light emitted shape.



Vitesse vaginale, 100x90cm, oil on canvas

There's a lot in this picture. It combines mystery, railroad, enlightenment, reflection and vagina. The painter's love for the railroads can be felt here. Different perspectives are used, geometrical perspective, atmospheric perspective, chiaroscuro, color contrast and thickness. Due to the many layers, vague elements have appeared. These elements, independent of the painter's will, never cease to surprise his audience. The painter himself is surprised by them. This painting never ceases to be a discovery. An accident that occurred during its finishing, gave birth to new elements. Instead of being destructive of the painting, it has enriched it even more.



La grenade is a very rich painting by its contrasts. Very simple with only two opposite colors, it dominates by its sculpture. The pomegranate is also a symbol of fertility. The painting was done on a still life but is very much more alive in the painting.

La Grenade

40x60cm, oil on
canvas



Guillaume is a Yogi whom the painter met during his Tantra training in Nepal. The painter felt that painting had more to say than just a picture. For him, painting can change the individual. Painting also communicates because it is called feeling. For this he referred to several painters including Turner and Rothko. The colors are more intense in his neck as to show a presence.

Yogi Guillaume

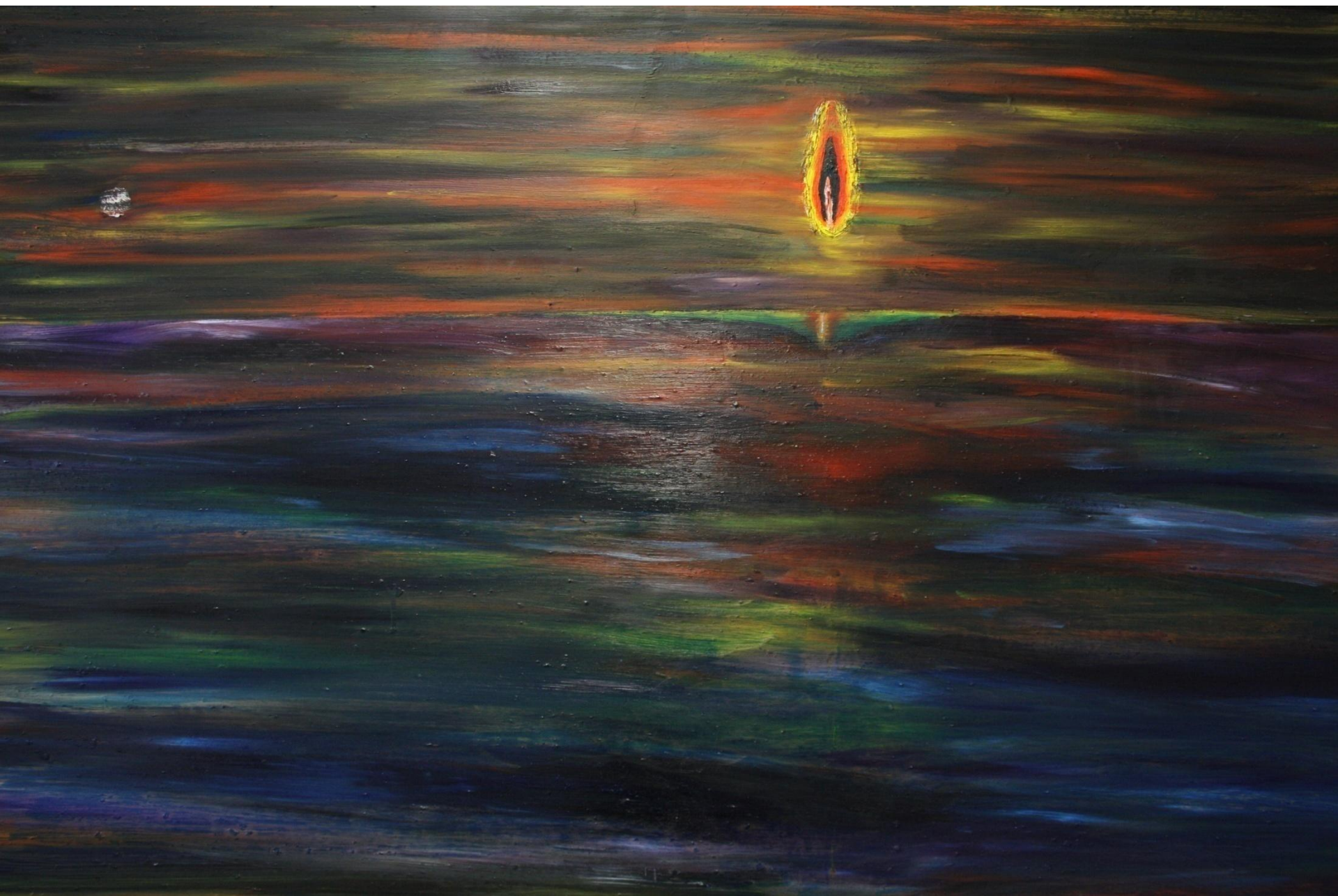
50x70cm,
oil on canvas



Big bang is a juxtaposition and superposition of a multitude of colors. It is an exact reproduction of the yonni (vagina). The yonni is the source of life, of the universe. In some cultures the yonni is represented as a sacred symbol. Around its epicentre, several waves of colors propagate beyond the painting, into the room. The deepness is good to see on the right side of the painting.

Big bang

50x70cm,
oil on canvas



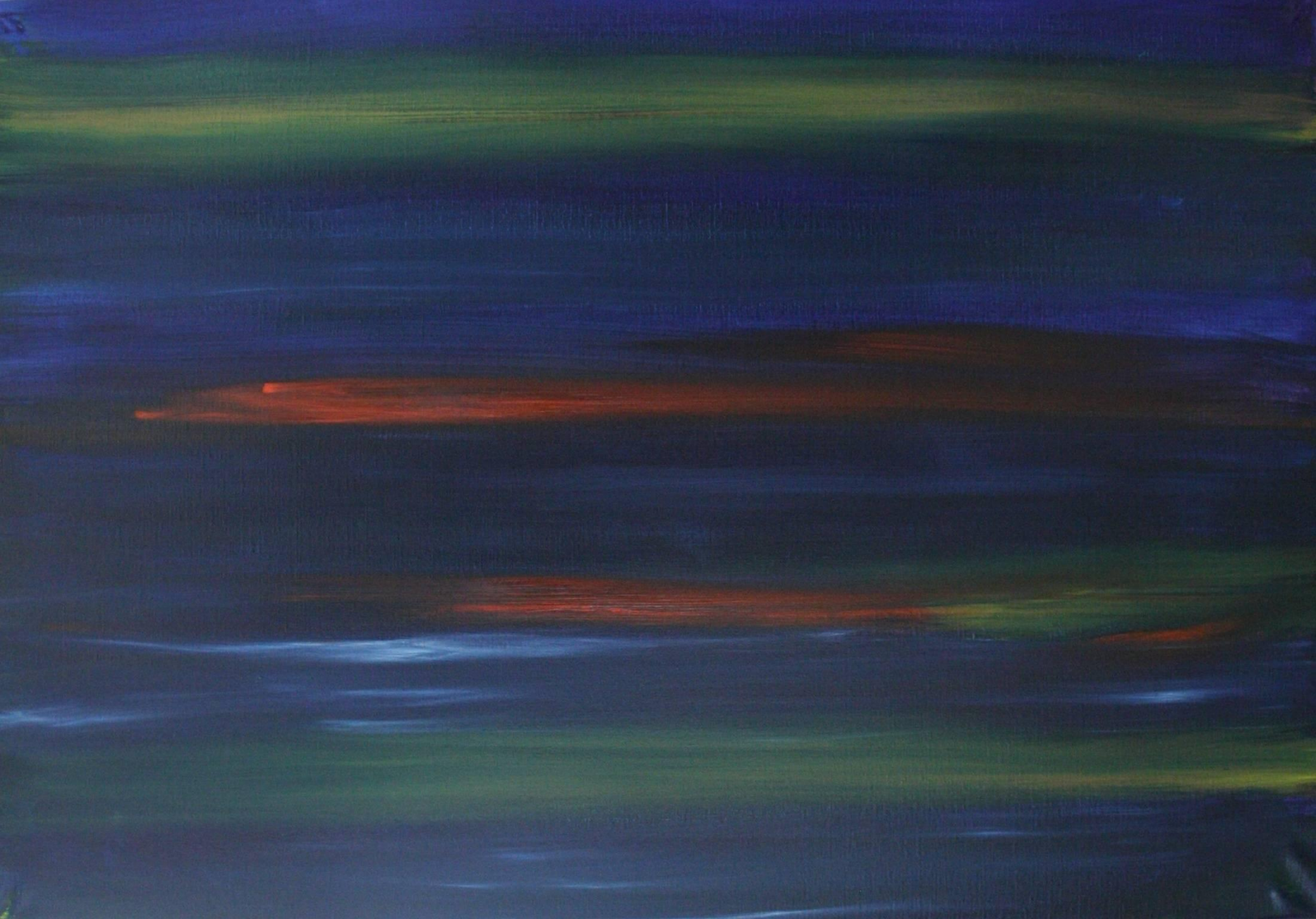
Eau trouble, 138x88cm, oil on wood

Eau trouble is a landscape where two points of light are reflected in the moving tide. These points of light have a different reflection as if the white moon is attracted to the vagina. In this the vagina has a horizontal reflection. It is a semi-abstract, semi-figurative painting, taking into account the multiple cases of figures that exist: vagina, moon and horizon. The painter insists on the superimposition and on the dynamics of the colors. Not only do the colors look like unstable waves, but they physically change their aspect according to the lightening.



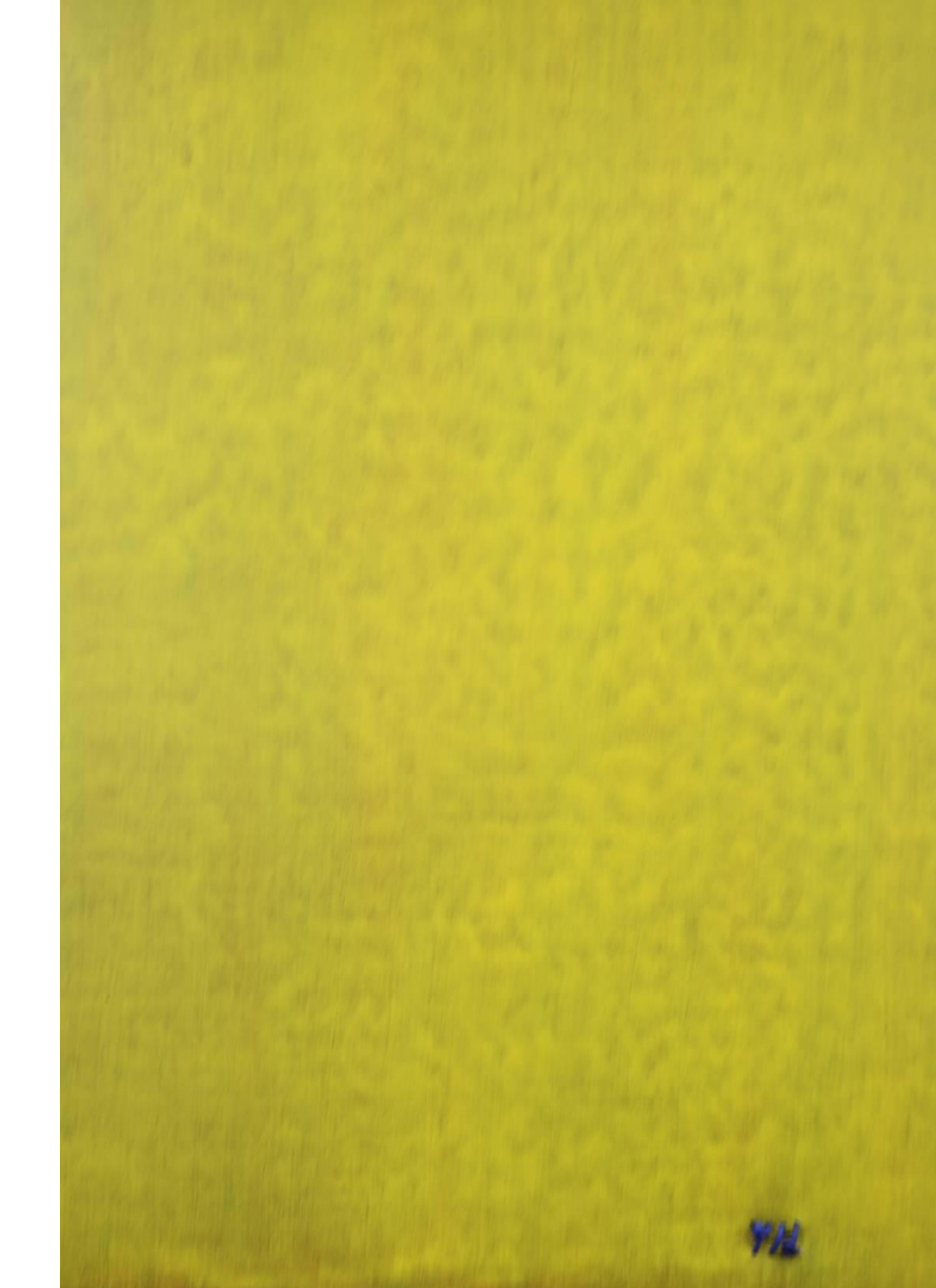
Les cubes, 60x40cm, oil on canvas

This small table is a study on the transparency of blue. Ultramarine blue has the highest frequencies in the pictorial image. The still life represents cubes stacked on top of each other. The transparency on other transparent cubes creates a strange and pleasant aspect. In this painting, the painter uses minimal illusion.



Profondeur vaginale, 80x65cm, oil on canvas

Called vaginal depth, the name says it all. Indeed, one can hear depth of color, which implies the transparency of the colors. The overlay of colors is no longer matt but implies that each color can be seen and felt if necessary. Here, the painter used colors with rather high frequencies. The higher ones are at the very back and the one with a wider amplitude, for example red, is in front. This painting has been constructed in a very scientific way, leaving little room for chance. No figuration has been used in the painting, if it is called vaginal depth it is because it looks like it.



This abstract monochrome is made up of several colors using the transparency technique. Inspired by a visit to the Brazilian Amazon, the use of the canoe is very frequent. The monochrome represents the yellow water of the river, below we have the fish or the rocks, but it could be also the forest covered with a thick yellow fog. The blue wires suppose a skin, the amazon skin of the woman genital. Chronological overlay is not respected. Colors with a large amplitude are at the bottom, while those with a higher frequency are in the foreground, for example yellow.

Amazon

80x100cm,
oil on canvas
with plastic
electrical rope



La note

138x110cm,
oil on canvas

This unfinished painting has been left unfinished. It's a tone, a high pitch or a timpani sound.

Each color has its properties but these are dynamic, they fluctuate according to the conditions of use. In this case the light green and the starfish in almost red constitute a dazzling softness.



L'Etoile, 138x80, oil on canvas

This painting drew its inspiration from Albert Oelhen and Charline von Heyl and finally from René Daniels. Albert and Charline helped to lay out the black line and the triangles. Because of the big difference of the elements, everything is part of the painting and they participate in increasing an energy. They play with each other because they push themselves off but at the same time they pull themselves on. For example, the transparent triangles complete exactly the hue associated with the other shades. They are necessary to maintain the balance in the painting.

What would be a complete strange element that ties everything together? The painter chose that by placing a strong electric wire. The color had been chosen as an adjective color that had not yet been used. That electric wire, together with the other elements, gave depth. That depth gave way to other elements. Nowadays the painting was no longer 2D but 3D and that depth was infinite. The painting had now been given n' kind of freedom.

After the first frame the painter painted a second and smaller frame. The second one is intermediate (come between the squid and the first large frame). Inspired of René Daniels, the painter drew the depth illusion as independent of the other elements in the painting. René Daniels made very complicated paintings in such a way that he couldn't use some of the elements again, yet he played with the transparency of the elements below. The painter also used the warmth of the colors: the denser, the warmer. He used the closest colors of the frame below, to put a link between the two.

The logical order is :

1. Background in red + green hue + vaginal slit
2. The big framework
3. The small frame
4. The black line
5. The squid
6. The triangles and the ball



Paysage, 100x90cm, oil on canvas

It's a revival of an old painting. The old painting that is now the background is a figurative representation of the banks seen from a bank of the Amazon River. In this figuration, the painter has added a dynamic: rays coming from a vaginal slit. Leaving from below and returning from above, which gives a continuous flow.



Called 'lingvam'. It is the religious symbol of Shivaïsm. Shivaïsm is a religion that is originated in Nepal. A penis in a vagina is the symbol similar to the cross of Jesus in Europe. Finding the iconic representation too far from reality, the painter made his own representation. Here we can find different complementary colors : red and green, yellow and purple, orange and blue.

Lingvam

50x70cm,
oil on canvas



L'œil, 138x80cm, oil on canvas

The vaginal eye is present in many things. The painter wanted to play with the organic aspect and the intermixing of colors. The intermittent waves of the brush strokes give a tumult and an illusion of depth.



G-spot, 140x100cm, oil on canvas

This living painting comes to you and is more than a representational picture. G-spot is the particularly sensitive epicenter of the vagina whose situation is imaginary. Some say that the G-spot looks like an oval located 5 cm from the entrance, but others say that it is an imaginary point that is more sensitive than other vaginal surfaces. The painter has taken something for sure is that rays start from its center and spread throughout the body. The rays seem to float out of the frame. This is due to an overlaying leading to a reflection of the upper layer. The painter has managed to create volume and detachment without shadows and without the appearance of classical illusion.



The thin layer of acrylic used for the red background gives an impression of luminosity. The brushstrokes let you feel the dynamism of the character. A picture of Socrates on his seat was used as a model.

Socrate sur roche

160x200cm,
acryl & oil on
canvas



6th chakra, 87x64cm, oil on canvas

The stone of Amber is the sixth chakra, on a blue background stands out well by the opposition of complementary colors. The painter chose this stone because of the importance of creativity as a pleasure.



conjugubalité, 80x64cm, oil on canvas

Conjugability is a complex painting because it brings together two epicentres. Two major forces hold together and complete each other. The 6th chakra stone tends to raise the energy and the vagina clings to it. At the same time, a great orgasm starting from the G-spot and blossoming in the form of roots takes place.



L'Œuf, Ceramique with chakra stones, 80x60x60cm

The egg supported by 2 hands represents the alignment of our chacras as an element. The chakra of the root is between the two hands, then inside the circle we have the chakra of the belly, the navel, the sex, the third eye and the divine spirit.



Ejaculation is a painting departing from a circle. It has a very dynamic invisible background. The whole has been surpassed by grouting, impasto and swirling effects. The spontaneous effect of this painting is in correlation with the title.

L'éjaculation

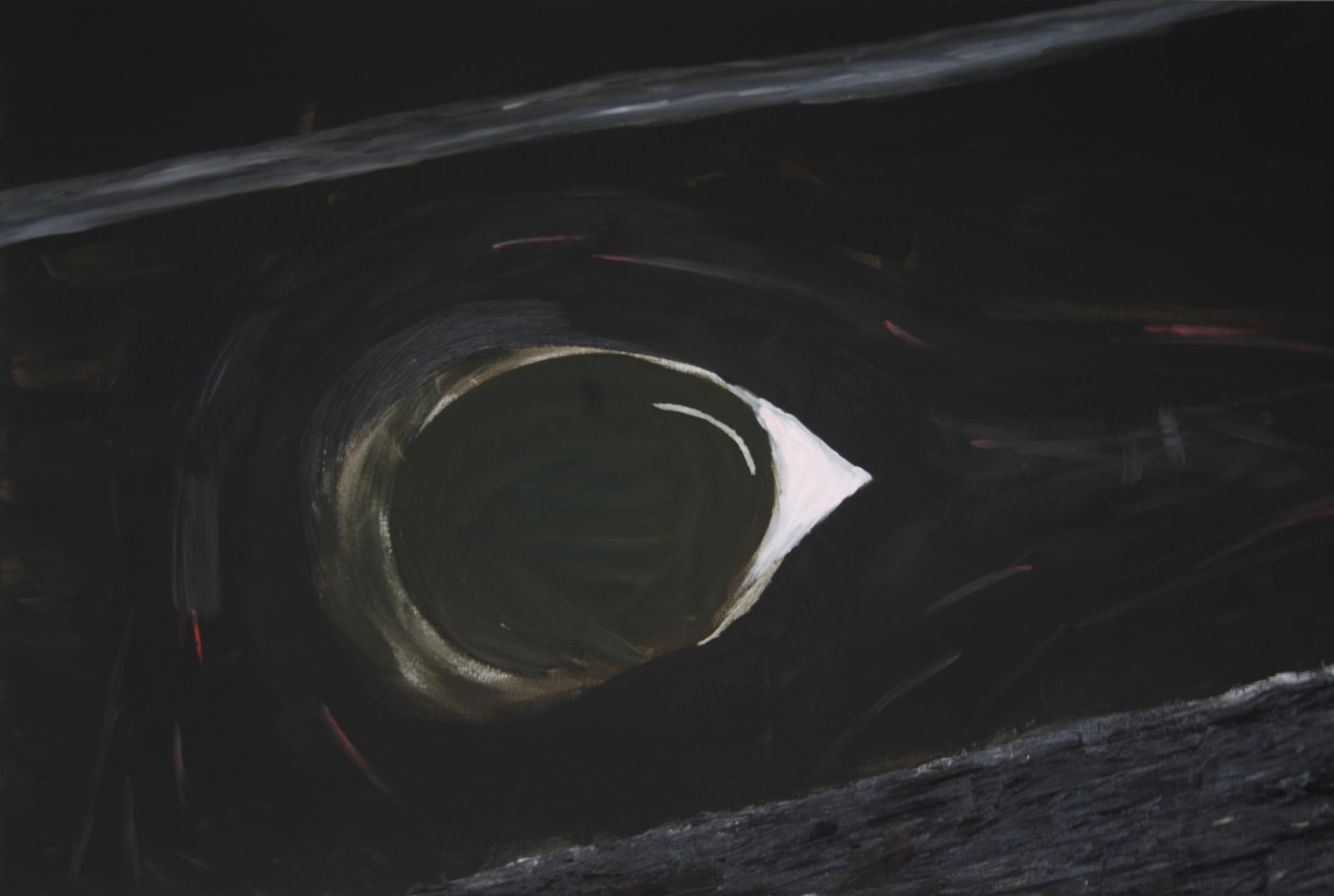
124x124cm,
oil on canvas,
silicone, lime,
acryl and coal



The needle is a job partly left to the flow of the paint (the purple paint dripping). But it is also an embrace of elements that attack each other. The energy is in the paint. It is a painting that follows Dan Graham's ideology of Art for Art's sake.

L'aiguille

120x100cm,
Oil, lime and
coal on canvas



Eye of cow or The death

140x80 cm, oil and coal on canvas

During a visit to a slaughterhouse. The painter was moved by the new arrivals. Especially the cows for which it was their last day. The painter fixed this emotion in painting.

Psyche



The painting was painted in honor of my cat's eye. However, it is an abstract painting therefore without figuration and without memory. The paint trickle indicates tears and the wall paint crackle could refer to an unstable life.

Mural painting and oil on canvas



The cat is a majestic, divine and cute animal. The painter wanted to capture its emotion on canvas. For this, he used different mediums to assume its superiority by the cracking of the background and its presence with the insistent colors. The painting was partly painted horizontally to allow the different thick layers to overlap.

The cat

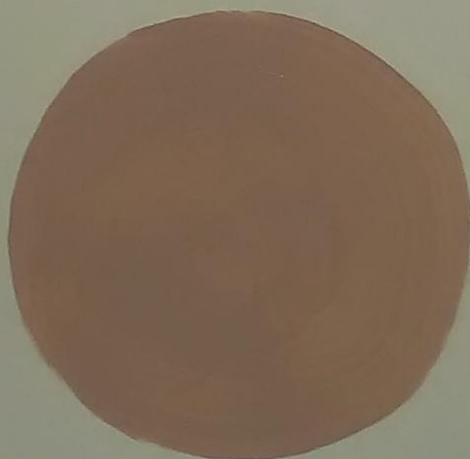
100x160 cm,
mural painting, oil and
acrylic on canvas



Phenomenology

This black monochrome make an analogy to the course « Figures of Dissent ». At the end of the '60, we tried to change the society to a more liberal course. Unfortunately it didn't succeeded. The black unhuman capitalism is still the leader.

Oil on canvas, 100x120 cm



The three elements, oil on canvas, 180x160 cm

The three elements is an abstract painting that figures three elements playing with each other. They seem to move in a dynamic circular shape but also in depth.



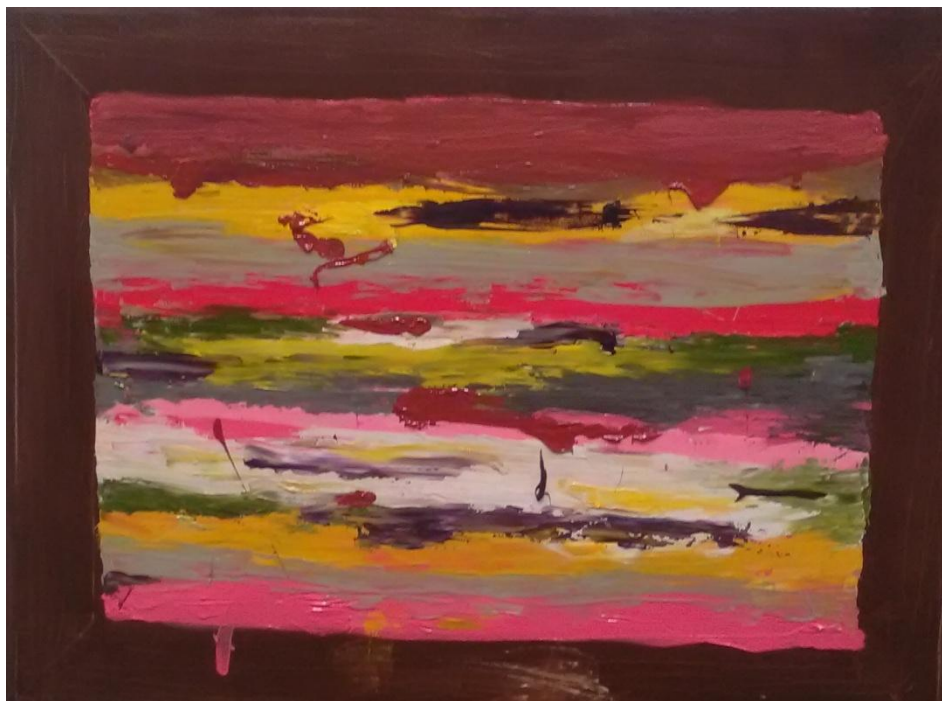
Calligraphie, oil on canvas, 184x115 cm

Calligraphie is an abstract painting that figures different symbols with lines and repeated holes. Depth is the major interest point of this painting.



Contrast, oil on canvas, 184x115 cm

The painting is presented in different forms that intertwine. Basically the important parts are the vagina and the eye. These are not only linked by their psychological meaning but also by the ropes that connect them. The plain background joins the whole by the light and appealing color. However the eye or the sphere is very different from the rest of the plane by its composition which results in the universe it contains.



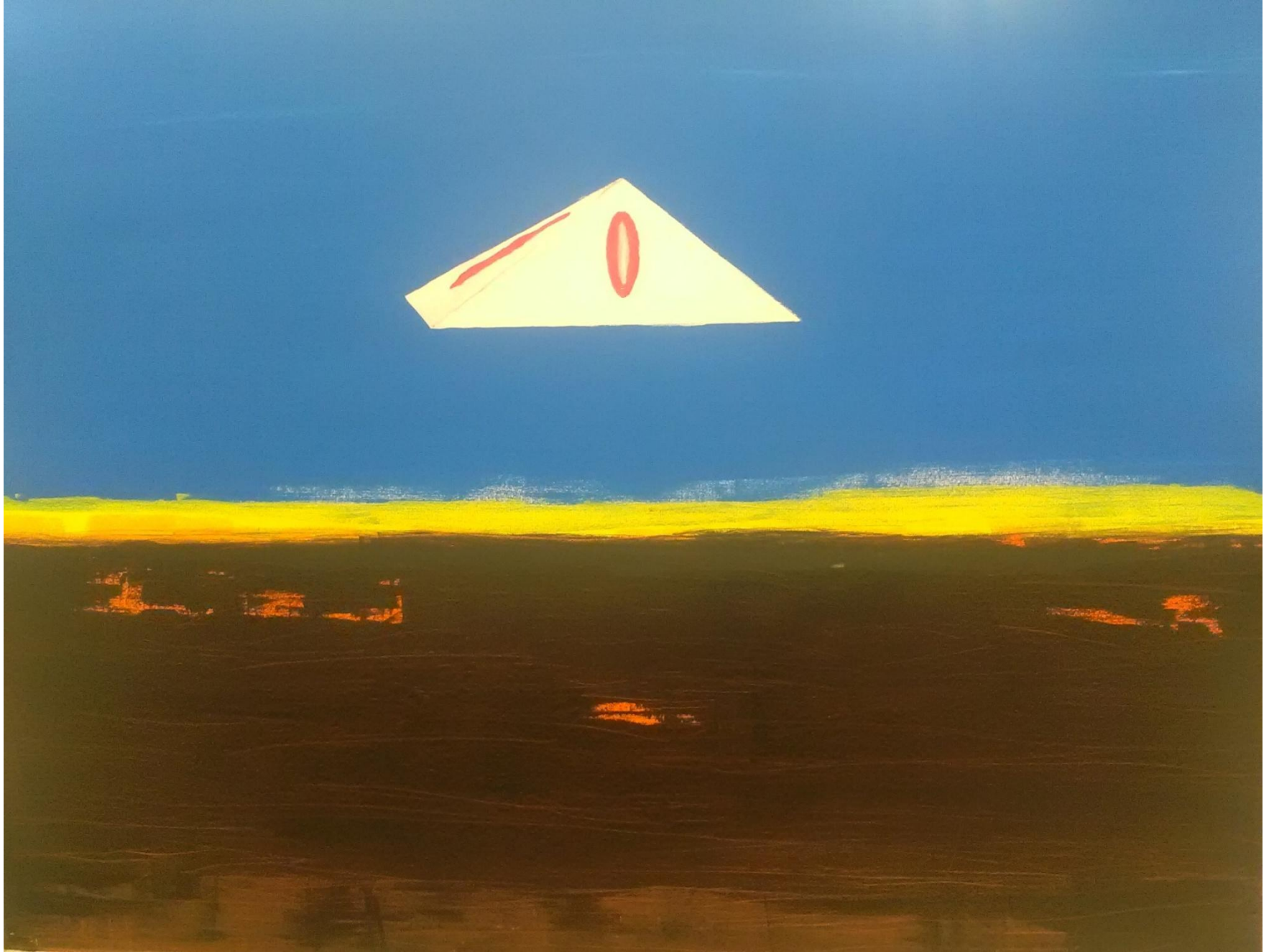
Souffrance, oil on canvas, 114x85 cm

This abstract painting was based on the painter's personal experience. It represents the suffering before and after circumcision.



Orbite,
oil and acryl on
canvas, 73x85 cm

Orbite brings together several universes intertwined and joined by a serpentine. The colors respond to each other. A sperm marks the painter's signature. A layer of fluorescent acrylic allows light to radiate through the background.



Vaginal triangle, oil on canvas, 180x140 cm



Solénoïde, 180x140, oil on canvas

From the shape of the vagina and the solenoid, the painter juxtaposed different colored shapes with a very intense perception. He allowed the different grouts of paints to express themselves. Painting is above all an invitation to travel.



7th heaven, 180x140 cm, oil on canvas

The 7th heaven is a painting in which the viewer knows how to get lost. The painting was based on an orgasm and the depth of the eyes. Red is for orgasm while blue-black is for depth. When you look into the eye, you discover another world an unknown universe.



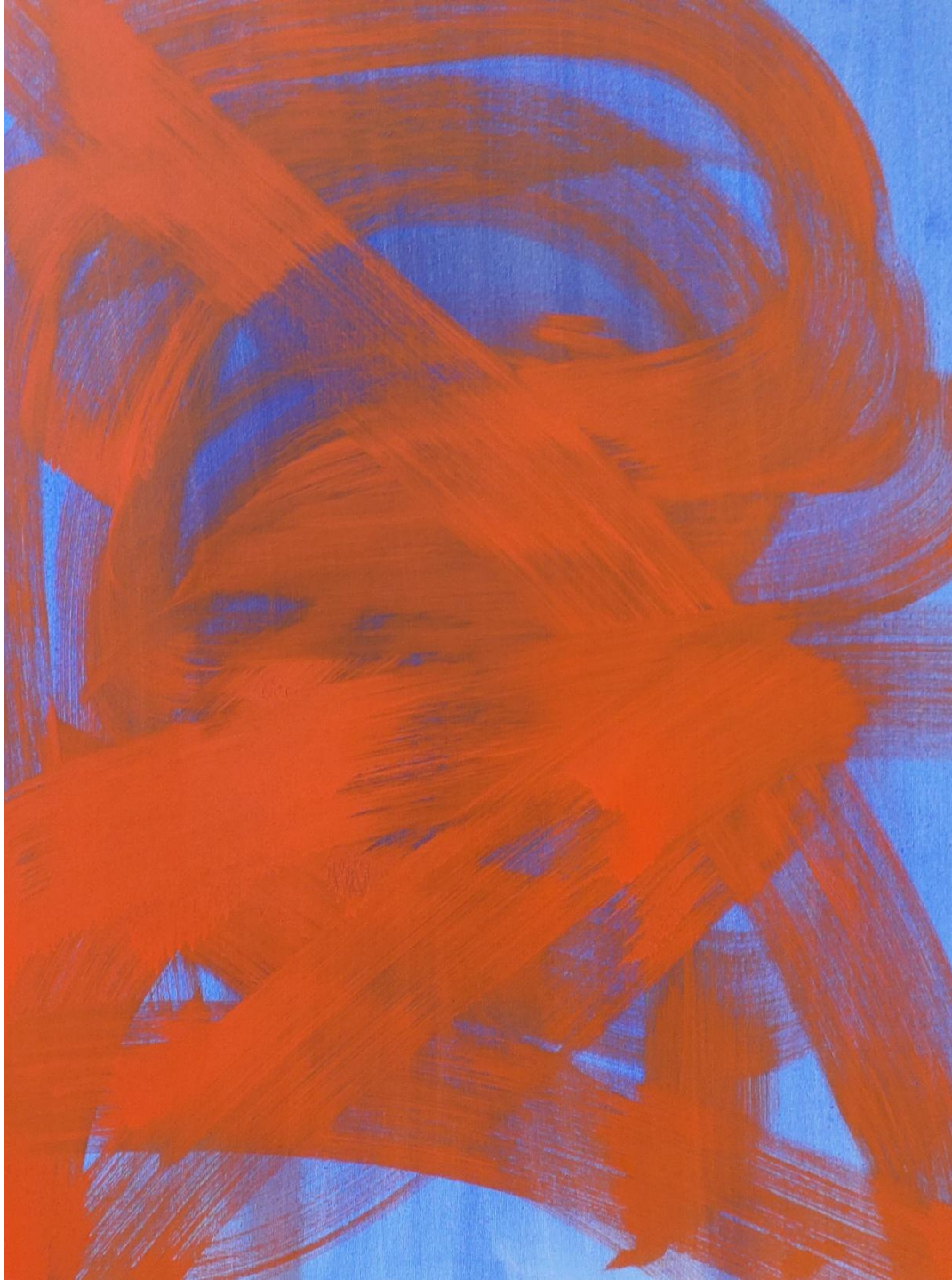
L'éclat, 180x140 cm, oil with fluo white pigment on canvas

L'éclat is a very spiritual painting where the painter was inspired by an accident. Very vivid colours and first of all the white glow bring out the mysterious depths of the canvas. Here it is the mysterious that is part of the canvas and we find ourselves on one and the same plane.



Vagin anthropomorphique
70x140 cm, oil painting on canvas

The intertwining colors are
connecting to the vaginal hole.



Énergie brute 1
100x140 cm, oil on canvas

Énergie brute connotate the undefining energy of a soul. This invisible energy that is allways with us.



Light 1

oil and acryl on canvas,
100x150 cm

Divine light seems to come from the background. It overlooks everything it encounters and ends up by lightening up the darkest corners.



Énergie brute 2
100x140 cm, oil on canvas

Énergie brute connotate the undefining energy of a soul. This invisible energy that is allways with us.



Énergie brute 3
100x140 cm, oil on canvas

Énergie brute connotate the undefining energy of a soul. This invisible energy that is allways with us.



Énergie brute 4
100x140 cm, oil on canvas

Énergie brute connotate the undefining energy of a soul. This invisible energy that is allways with us.



Mélange, oil on canvas
120x100 cm

Mélange is the dance of two distinct energies as a disruptive element tries to disturb them. This painting holds its place in the love or union of two living beings.



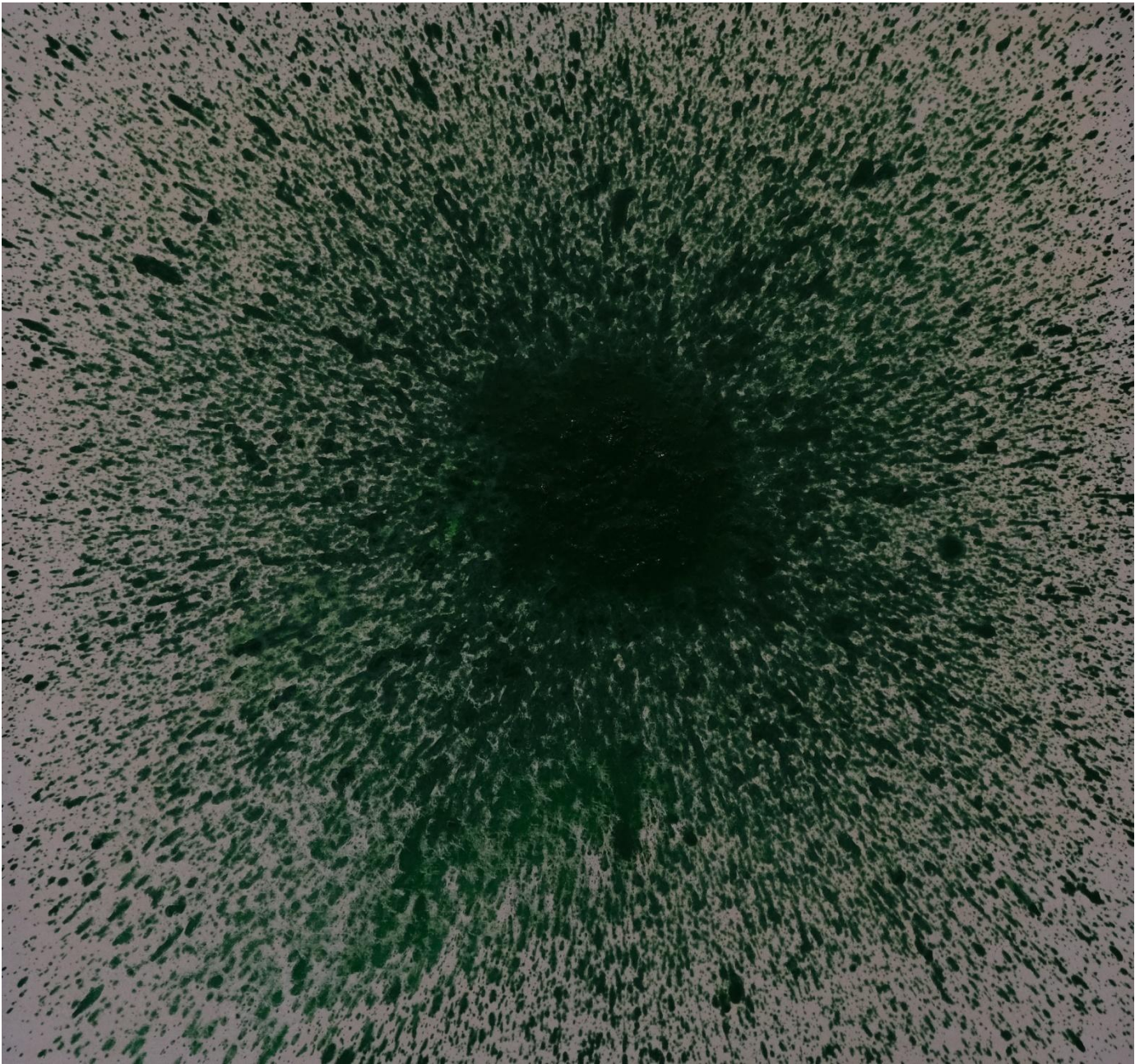
Spasme, oil on canvas, 180x160 cm

Maybe it's an attempt to a connection with spiritual energy?
An uncertain energy seems to twirl from one space to another. The painter tries to demonstrate something shapeless and answering to no reason. May be they are cells which are misshapen, organic and of indefinite capacity. One thing is for sure, is that they are full of life.



Enlacement, oil on canvas
150x100 cm

Three energies symbolized
by the serpentines,
intertwine and play
together.



Explosion,
oil on canvas
90x90 cm

Something
unexpected
happens in life
that's like an
explosion. This is
the matter of this
painting.



Pensées sombres, oil on canvas, 80x100 cm

The 2 crepusculars enlase a seemingly burning light.

Personal details

Full name	Thomas Van Cauwenberghe
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Educational story

2020-2022	Royal academy of fine Arts Gent / K.A.S.K.	Ghent	Master	Major subject: seminarie 1 : Phenomology of improvisation, seminary 2 : Figures of dissent (cinematography of the '70), seminary 3 : Living colors Internships : Hans op de Beeck : airbrushing, making models, making boxes, cleaning and preparing the gallery Others subject : 3D printing, Blender essentials
2017-2020	Royal academy of fine Arts Gent / K.A.S.K.	Ghent	Bachelor	Major subject: Painting, history and philosophy of painting Others subject : sculpture, drawing, narrative of music, Animation studio
2016-2017	Royal academy of fine Arts Liège / E.S.A.V.L.	Liege	Bachelor	Major subject: Painting, history and philosophy of painting
2014-2016	Amirato + aca St Gilles	Working PEB auditing + switching to painting		
2012-2014	European Commission	Working as supporting manager		
2011-2012	Alliance engineering	Working as engineer		
2007-2011	Haute école libre en Hainaut / H.E.L.Ha	Tournai	Bachelor + master	Major subject: HVAC engineering Other subjects: technical English
2006-2007	Institut Gramme	Liege	Bachelor	Major subject: HVAC engineering Other subjects: 3D drawing with Solidworks

Language and skills

Languages	English A2, Flemish B2, French (mothertongue), German A1, Russian A1
Skills	Use of Drawings program : Krita (animation program), Photoshop Use of autocad 2D, powerpoint, word, excel, wordpress, Blender essentials, cinema 4D Technical skills of painting, drawing, sculpting techniques, use of multimedia resources and previously some engineering skills.
Interest	Philosophy of Art, Philosophy of music, Human kind & environmental

Projects

Projects/participation	October 2021 : Internship at Studio Hans op de Beeck (www.hansopdebeeck.com) March-June 2021 : Internship at Nadar-expo (www.facebook.com/NADAREXPO) February-March 2021 : working as an actor in a short film project September 2020 : final exhibition at the jury of 3 rd year of Bachelor at KASK April 2019 : exhibition as public exposure in 2 nd year of Bachelor at KASK June 2018 : participation in final exhibitions at 1st year of Bachelor at KASK March 2017 : exhibition in a fansfair at Liege
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