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Elefante - Preview



Leopoldo Goût is an artist, writer, and filmmaker who works across mediums to capture the ephemeral: an abstract and figurative clash with memory and humanity, with chaos. Born in Mexico City, Goût grew up among poets, musicians, explorers, activists, filmmakers, scientists, and visual artists. Their stories and ideas inspired Goût, who quickly became part of that community. He embarked on numerous artistic pursuits: painting, drawing, sculpture, filmmaking, digital art, soundscapes, performance, and more. He studied in London at the renowned Central Saint Martins School of Art through a full scholarship from the Mexican Center for the Arts and the British Council. He also won the Erasmus scholarship, despite not being European. It was at school that he began to approach his work as a kaleidoscope of references that inhabit and obscure easy origins and meaning.

"I want to emulate and echo that fleeting moment when you wake from an intensely vivid dream, but immediately those images and senses start to dissipate," Goût says. "I believe my work lives in that ephemeral space. Now you see it, now you don't." What may at first appear random, without any form whatsoever, is in reality a carefully crafted, unique perspective on what it means to be conscious.

All his projects, including films and novels, influence each other in unexpected ways. Goût's perspective is a confluence of the modern and ancient, order and disorder, and speaks to a wide audience. He has written and produced films, documentaries, and television shows for more than a decade (Molly's Game, directed by Aaron Sorkin; Days of Grace directed by Everardo Goût, among others).

Goût's documentary film Carlos debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival and was theatrically distributed by Sony Pictures Classics. He wrote and produced The Chosen One (El Elegido) with his brother Everardo, a television show that debuted on Netflix in 2023 on the top 10 list in more than 70 countries.

Goût is also an accomplished novelist. His book Piñata with Nightfire (Macmillan) won the Top 10 Horror Novels of 2023. His series Genius: The Game won several awards, including The Mathical Book Prize, the CONACULTA grant for artists, and various other recognitions in film, documentaries, and art. He is in the process of transforming his illustrated novel Monarca (Harper One) into a magical experiential adventure in support of the butterfly sanctuaries in Michoacán, México.

He lives with his family in NYC and has studios in NYC, Mexico City, and Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca. His work has appeared in galleries and museums throughout the world, including The West Collection of Pennsylvania, The Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Mexico City, Galeria Museo of Bogotá, Colombia, The Dikeou Collection, The Pritzker Collection, Tricia Collins Contemporary Art, Sandra Gering, Jack Tilton, and PS1.



Elefante

Elefante is a solo exhibition of multimedia works by the notorious Mexican artist, author, and filmmaker Leopoldo Goût. Reflecting a fierce maximalism, *Elefante* spans textile, bronze sculpture, painting, video, and sound. The exhibition, in its many degrees, explores the artist's obsession with contradictions, dreams, and the ephemeral. International in its production and deeply referential to the artist's decades-long career, *Elefante* presents image-making as a migratory tale.

The show is set to a deeply personal ambient soundtrack, *Telar Adentro* (composed by Oriana Gidi), which will be released on limited edition vinyl records. In addition to the exhibition, a career retrospective book and an international documentary *Common Thread* (Directed by Esteban Alarcón) further commemorate Goût's loud return to the contemporary art world after more than a decade.

I am guessing that he would say that is what art is all along—the process where we try to shade in the missing parts of dreams. Of course it makes perfect sense. But it also makes me wonder, not just about elephants, but all the unbelievably large behemoths that rampage through his mind whenever Leopoldo goes to sleep.

Marlon James

On Tapestry



Leopoldo expresses his work and his life through art, and with this collaboration I find myself wanting to dive in and discover what's behind our process. I see his work and I imagine that it's a kind of unique cosmos that we translate into a tapestry.

–Antonio Ruiz Mendoza

To make *Disambiguation*, Leopoldo Goût created a large, ephemeral painting on the floor of his former studio in New York City's World Trade Center. The painting was then captured by an architectural laser scanner and transferred to paper. That image was given to Antonio Ruiz Mendoza, a young artisan from Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca, who used it to create a series of large woven pieces.

Mendoza, a fourth-generation member of the Ruiz Mendoza family, is part of the Zapotec Vidau community, an organization dedicated to researching and reviving ancestral techniques. The Zapotec Vidau Textile Art Center was formed in response to some artisans in the region turning to acetic and sulfuric acids as fixatives for dyes. These chemicals quickly showed adverse effects on the health of both the environment and the artisans, causing water pollution and diseases. The Zapotec Vidau Textile Art Center encourages a return to traditional dyeing methods, a slow process with numerous challenges. But the results have been excellent, improving conditions for both the craftsmen and the earth. By working with plant-based dyes, they've also rediscovered a wide spectrum of colors and enriching processes.

Like his parents and their parents, Ruiz Mendoza specializes in the art of weaving with a two-pedal loom. He uses only natural dyes that they personally make, in keeping with their ancestral tradition. To dye the wool, Oaxacan artisans use a variety of materials, including plants, fruits, insects, and minerals to oxidize and treat different hues. Those natural ingredients enable them to create a wide range of vibrant colors. Natural dyes are not: only a significant part of the cultural heritage, but also a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to textile production.

Teotitlán del Valle is a town in the central valleys of Oaxaca best known for its intricately crafted wool rugs. In the Zapotec language, Teotitlán means "under the stone," which refers to the long-held practice of using natural dyes to create colorful, detailed patterns in woven textiles. Gout's father has European origins and is also a descendant of the Zapotec people. His family often visited Oaxaca and Chiapas when he was a child. Goût has since met and collaborated with many artists and artisans from the area, combining his unique perspective with their ancestral practices.

Ruiz Mendoza and his family spent considerable time working with Goût and his studio team in Mexico. Collaborating very closely, they established a distinct color range and unique process that was both intimate and fruitful. In this process, Goût offers an original visual language born from observation, emotion, and instinct. These large tapestries, which originated directly from the floor of Gout's studio, are reimagined and reborn in the ancient practices of Teotitlán del Valle.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

(1) Indigo-dyed wool washing process

(2) Margarita Mendoza Garcia, Procoro Ruiz Gutierrez,
marush dyeing process for the base of red tones

(3) Celso Ruiz Gutierrez, Antonio Ruiz Mendoza,
process of making the tapestries on a two-pedal
loom measuring 3 meters

(4) Tapestry in progress

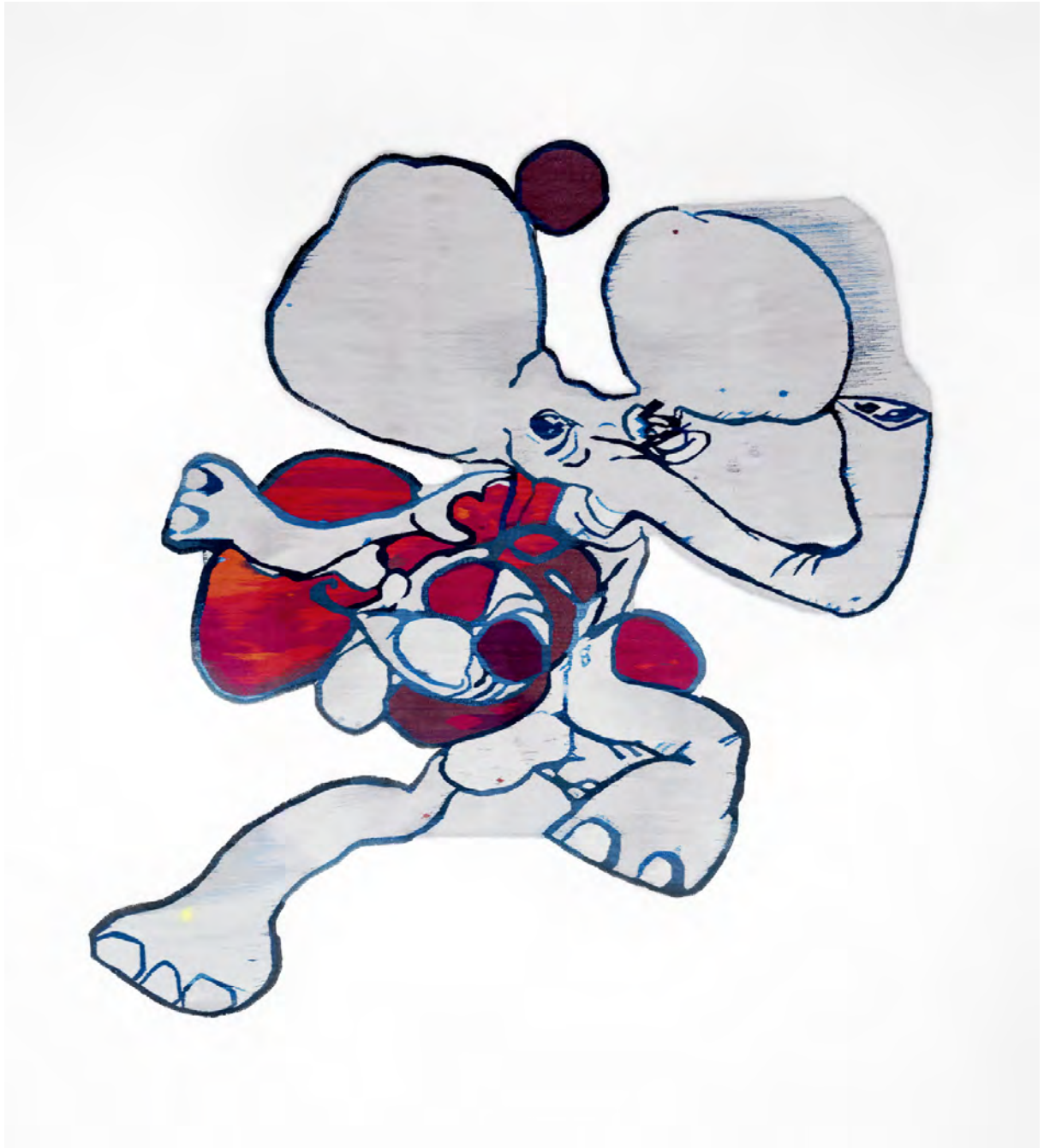
Process photos by Danna
Castillo







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**La Desambiguación de un Elefante
(no.1)**

"And so it begins"

wool, natural dyes woven on a hand
loom

112 inch x 120 inch







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La Desambiguación de un Elefante (no.2)
"When I dance, I always need to find you"

wool, natural dyes woven on a hand loom

300 x 280 cm

118.11 x 110.24 inches

2023-2024

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La Desambiguación de un Elefante (no.3)
"We started to use lipstick again"

wool, natural dyes woven on a hand loom

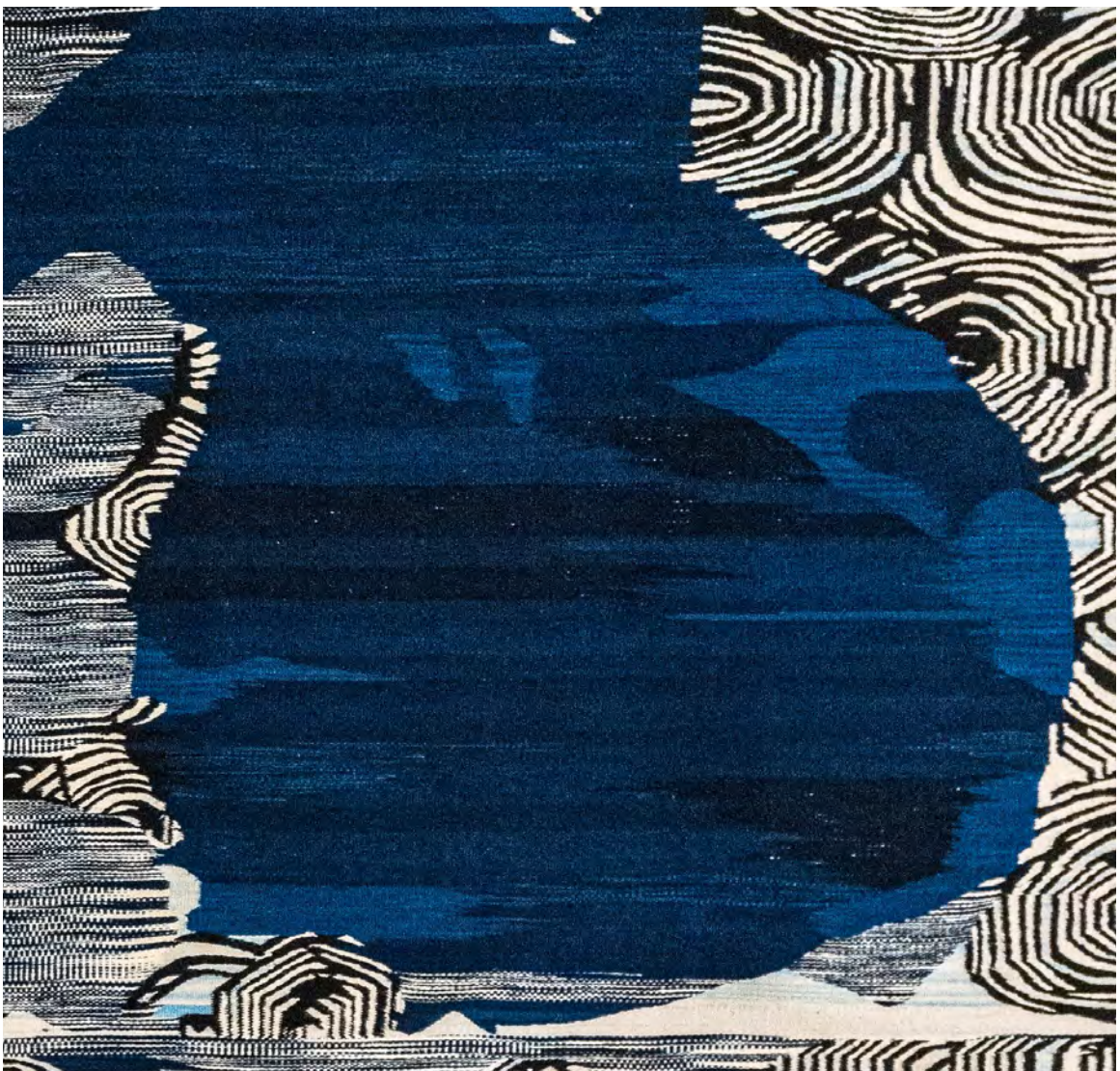
300 x 280 cm
118.11 x 110.24 inches

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Schrödinger's Cat (part deux)

wool, natural dyes woven on a hand loom

370 x 290 cm

145.67 x 114.17 inches

2024



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Elefante Flotador (Parte Una)

Lost wax bronze

102.5 x 65 x 6.25 cm
41 x 26 x 2.5 inches

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Elefante Flotador (Parte Dos)

Lost wax bronze

102.5 x 65 x 6.25 cm
41 x 26 x 2.5 inches

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Elefante Flotador (Parte Tres)

Lost wax bronze

102.5 x 65 x 6.25 cm

41 x 26 x 2.5 inches

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Elefante Flotador

Edition of 100

Lost wax bronze
11.43 x 8.57 cm
4 1/2 x 3 3/8 inches

2023 - 2024



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Untitled audio set

2024

Carved Hydrocal, wood, steel
Stereo-components

Añil pigments naturally done in Teotitlan del Valle Mexico @ Leopoldo's studio with
the familia Ruiz Mendoza Audio components in collaboration with "hano analog"

20 x 70 x 70 inches
50.8 x 177.8 x 177.8 cm

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Pigeon Dreams of Stag

Ballpoint pen, charcoal on drop cloth

300 x 280 cm
118.11 x 110.24 inches

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Huracán de Ciervos

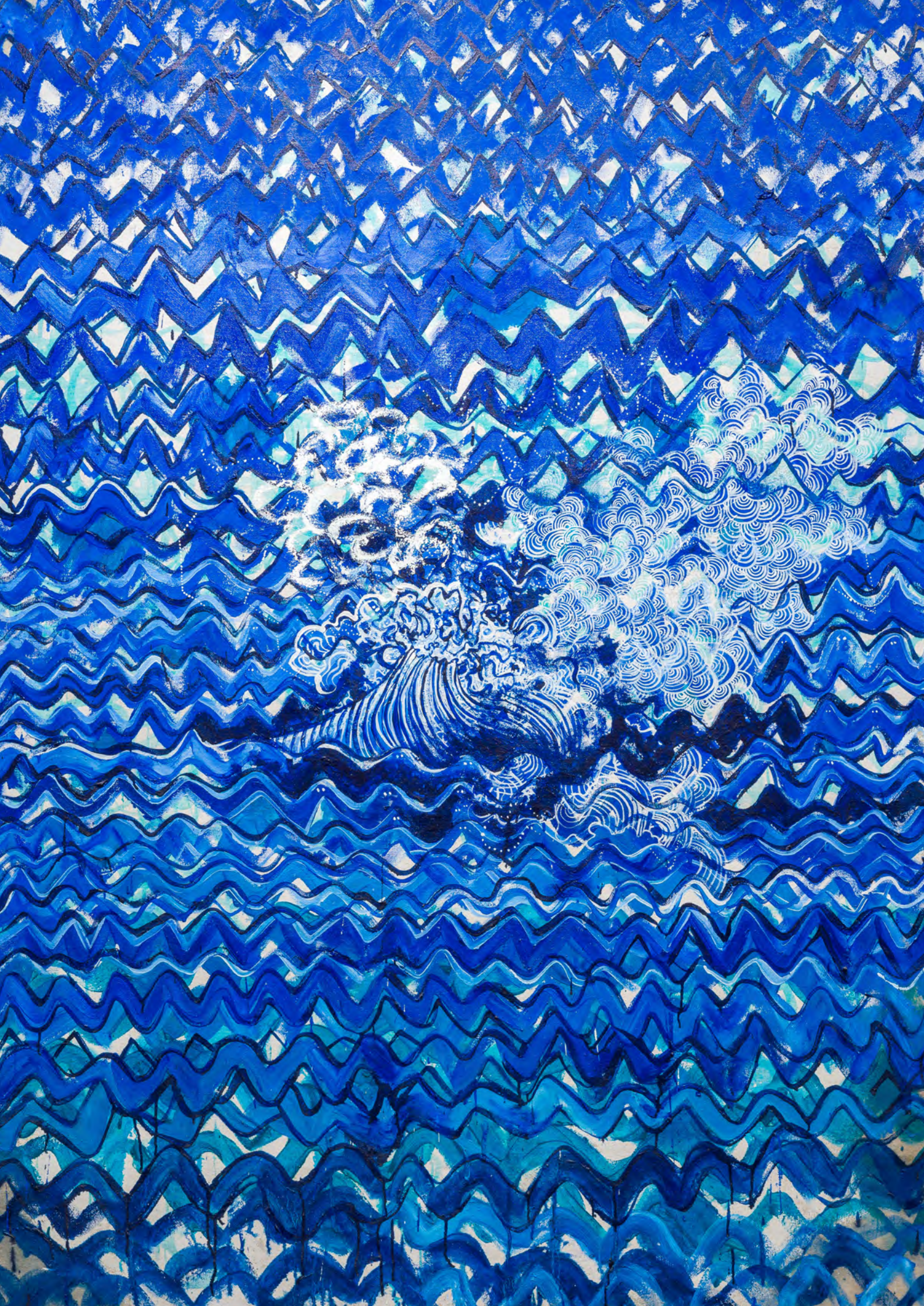
Bronze

100x71.4x23cm

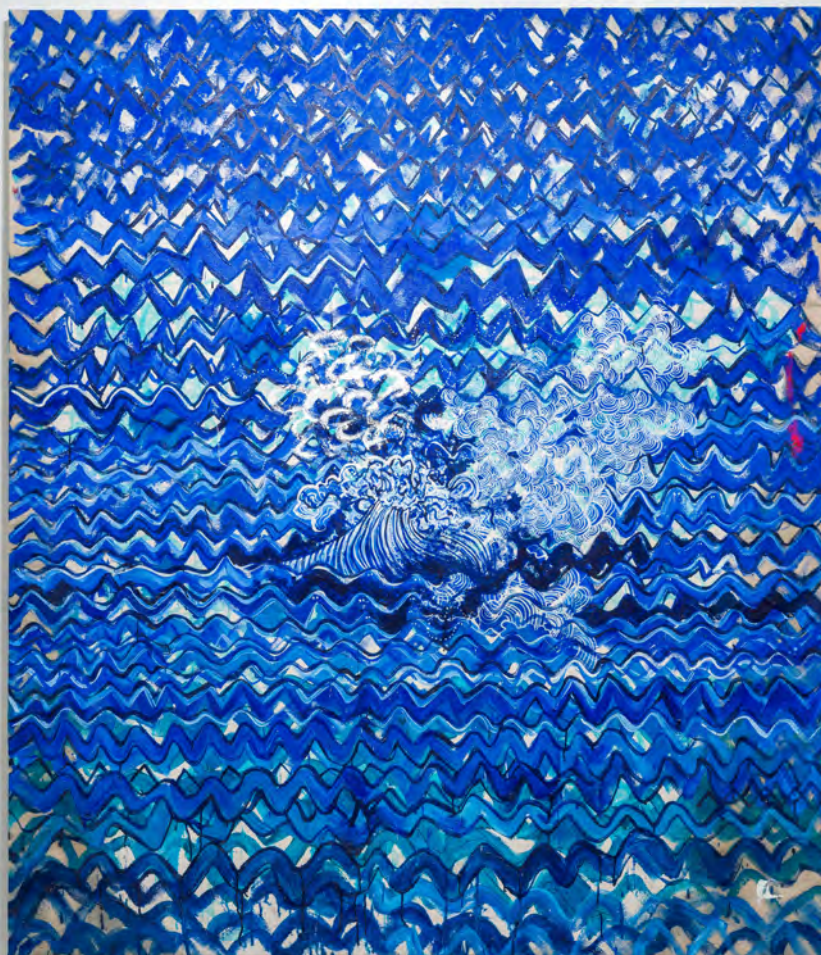
39.3x28.1x9.1 inches

Limited edition / 20

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Mar Adentro

2023-2024

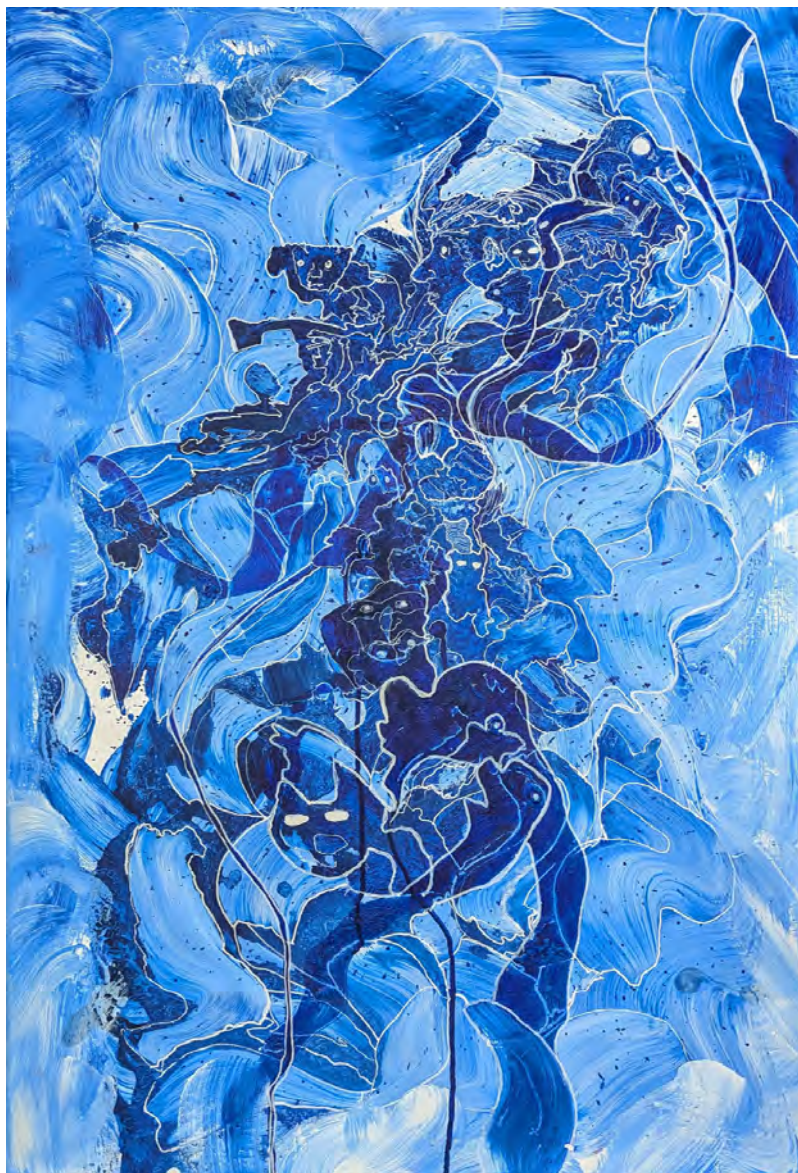
Oil and oil pen on Linen

73 1/4 x 61 3/8 inches
186 x 156 cm

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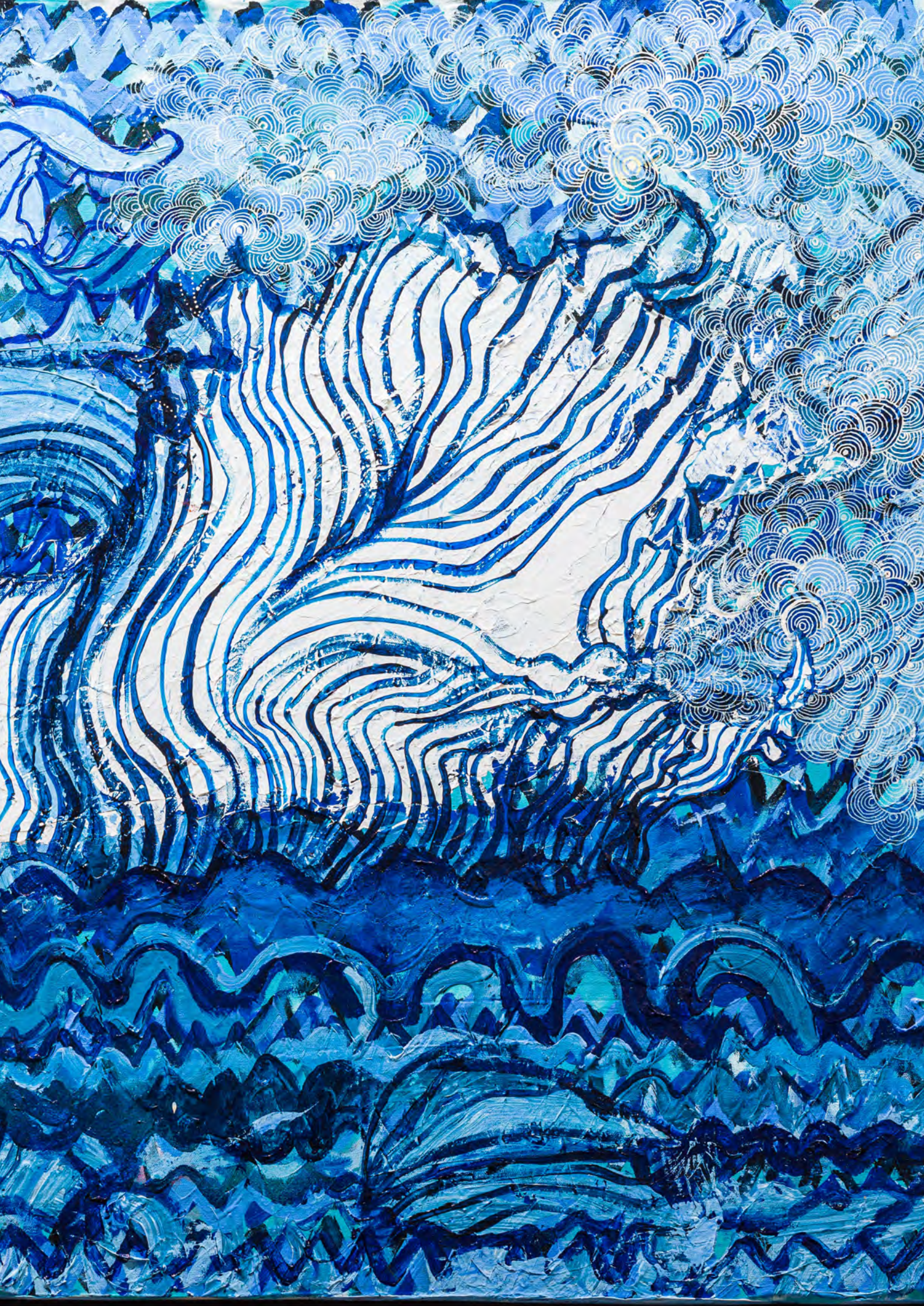
Catatastrophe

2024

Acrylic and oil pen on linen

24 x 36 Inches
60 x 90 cm

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Red wave

2024

Acrylic and oil pen on linen

30 x 50 inches

76.2 x 127 cm

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Telar Adentro

Limited edition etching w/ unique drawing

Album Composed by Oriana Gidi

12" x 12"

Limited edition /350

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