

JILL POYOUROW



:: GRANT WAHLQUIST GALLERY



**YOU'RE GONNA
MAKE IT
AFTER ALL!**

3/3-4/8/2023

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:: GRANT WAHLQUIST GALLERY

JILL POYOUROW: YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT AFTER ALL!

“You’re Gonna Make It After All!” is a focused presentation of new paintings and monoprints by an artist whose practice is exceptionally expansive: biology, natural history, migration, personal and cultural genealogy, the history and uses of photography, popular culture, illness, abstraction, and quotidian observations—Poyourow wrestles with and synthesizes them all. Originally trained in the environmental and biological sciences, Poyourow’s earliest works were driven by a hunger to capture the world around her, and this impulse to digest the panoply of her experiences remains, further deepened by lessons learned as a student of Allan Sekula and John Baldessari at CalArts and the indelible imprint of studio visits with feminist artists such as May Stevens and Eleanor Antin. Storytelling is at the heart of all her work, and Poyourow’s own story traverses the heady Los Angeles art world of the 1980s and 90s and her past nearly two decades in the woods of Cape Neddick, Maine. “You’re Gonna Make It After All!” contains many stories, which emphasize resiliency and solidarity from a uniquely Jewish American, feminist perspective.

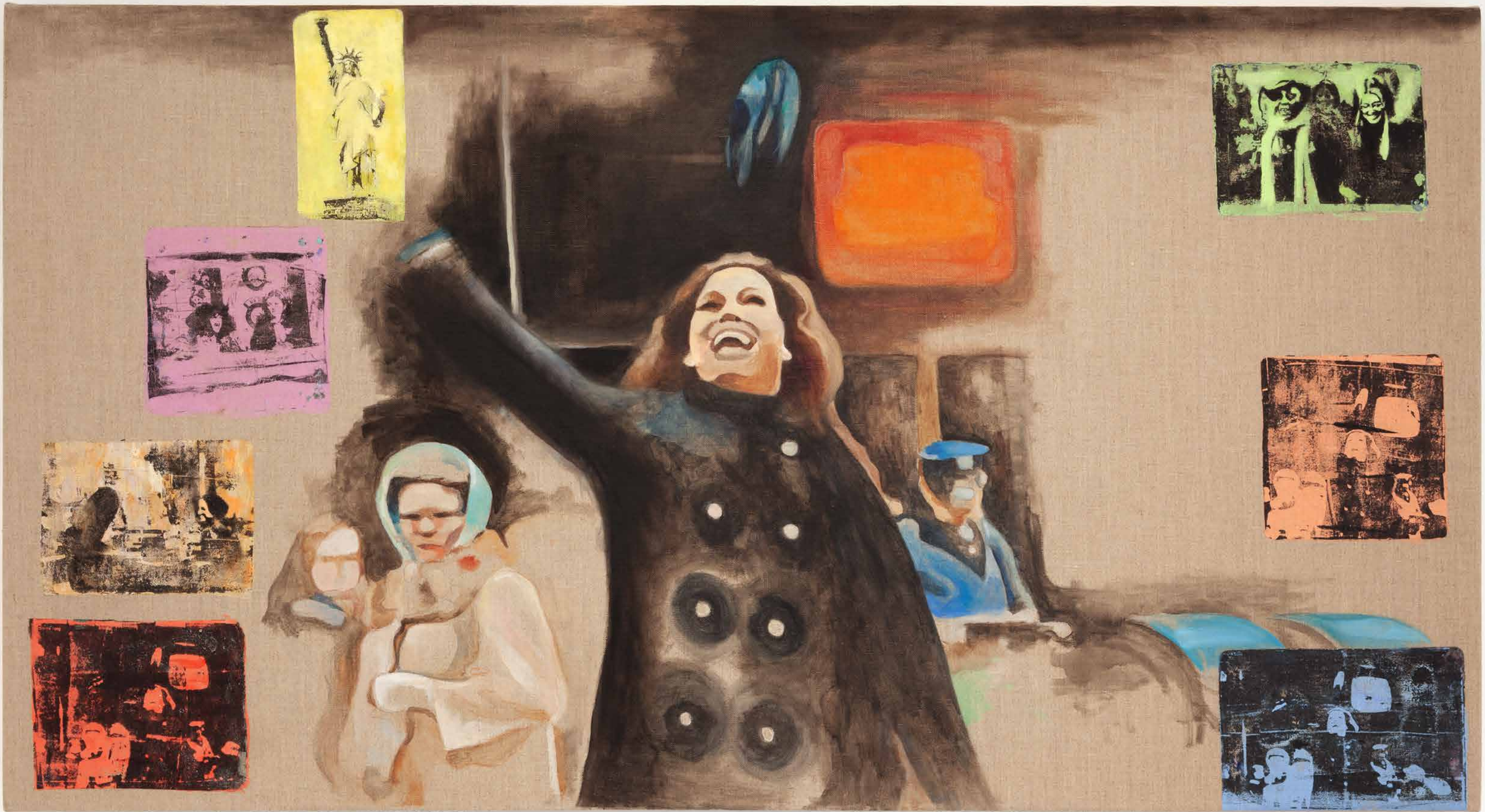
There are many protagonists in these tales. Some are family members: Great Aunt Esther, who taught Poyourow how to draw and paint as a child; Great Uncle Alex, a lyricist in New York’s vaudeville circuit of the early 20th century; ancestors who made the journey from Eastern Europe to the United States for many of the same reasons as other members of the Jewish diaspora; and the artist’s late and dearly missed mother. These family stories intersect with larger historical narratives, for example that of Emma Lazarus, the Jewish poet and activist whose poem “The New Colossus” is inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty (“Give me your tired, your poor, your

huddled masses yearning to breathe free!”). Lazarus is the namesake of the Emma Lazarus Clubs, organizations of progressive Jewish women including Poyourow’s Great Aunt Esther, and this exhibition includes many iterations of a letter of solidarity Esther wrote on the Bronx Council of Emma Lazarus Clubs’ behalf to African American civil rights hero Rev. Joseph A. DeLaine in 1955.

These pieces also include numerous images of icons of popular culture of the second half of the 20th century, which not only serve as a generous access point for the viewer but also manifest Poyourow’s commitment to exploring where the public and the personal intersect. These icons share a sense of buoyancy, sometimes quiet, sometimes brash, that make them beloved by audience members who do not always share their backgrounds: Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice riding a tugboat through New York harbor past the Statue of Liberty in “Funny Girl” (“Nobody’s gonna rain on my parade!”); Jennifer Grey held aloft as “Baby” Houseman in the Borscht Belt (“Nobody puts baby in a corner!”); and, of course, Mary Tyler Moore tossing her hat into the air.

Significantly, the dominant style of the works in “You’re Gonna Make It After All!” is collage-like, and nearly all of them contain some mixture of the above reference points and characters. The mood is Rauschenbergian: bright colors (pastel or acid pinks, blues, yellows, and greens), hybrid media, public and private meanings all mixed together. The exhibition’s retinal zing prompts reflection on enduring and resolutely contemporary questions: How do the stories we inherit and retell create that ever-slippery thing we call “the self”? How does trauma instill or defeat resiliency? How, without collapsing real and salient differences between them, can the experiences of oppressed groups contribute to meaningful solidarity? How do we contextualize and appreciate prior expressions of solidarity in view of changing understandings of what solidarity means? Poyourow’s embrace of these questions results in works that are personal, specific, accessible, and open all at once—and above all, exceptionally fresh.





You're Gonna Make It After All (Love Is All Around)

2023

Oil, acrylic, and watercolor on linen

26 x 48 inches



White Christmas
2023
Acrylic on Stonehenge paper
25 x 32.75 inches (framed)



In the Land of Yesterday

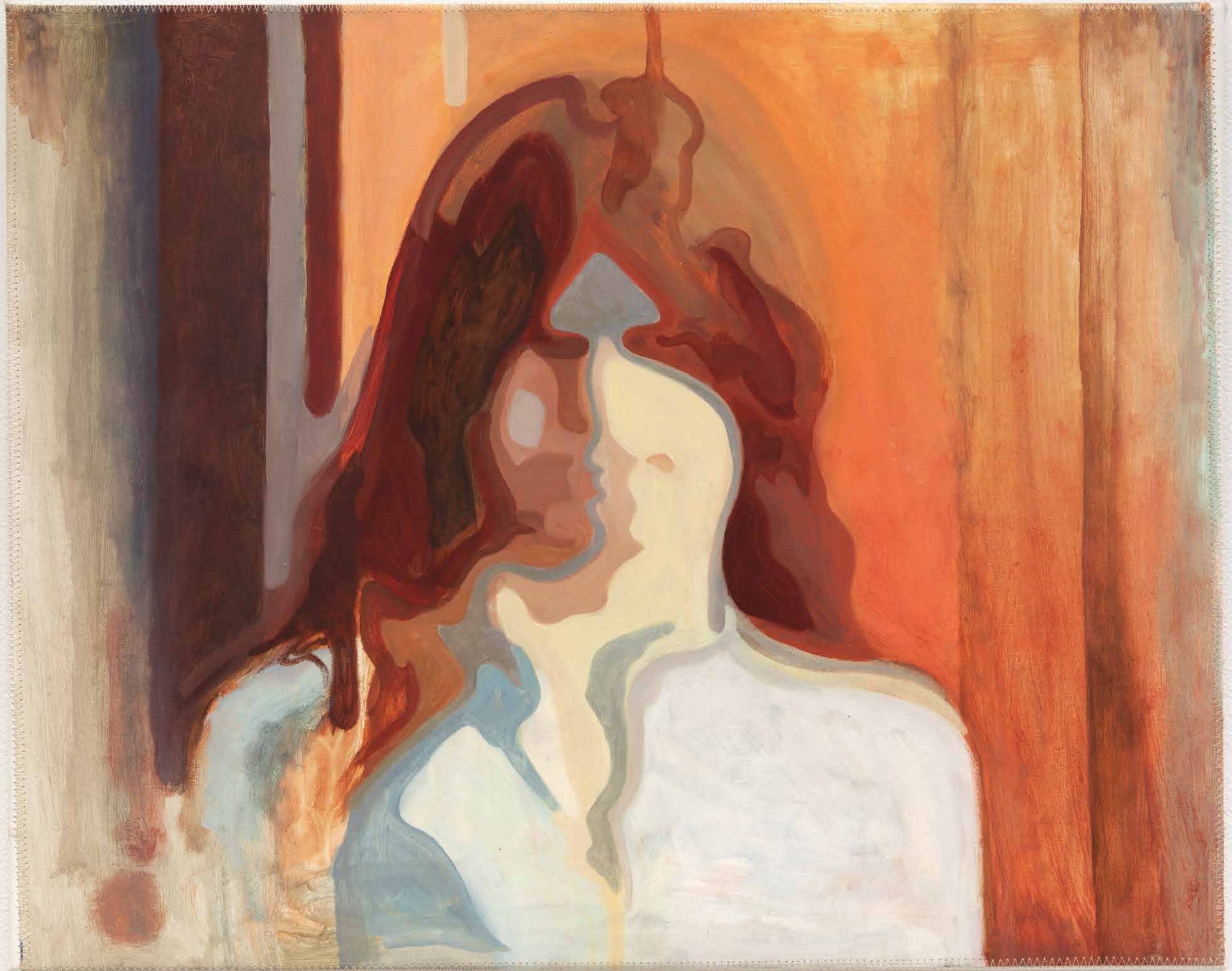
2023

Acrylic on Stonehenge paper

25 x 32.75 inches (framed)



1972
2022
Oil on linen
16 x 20 inches







The members of the Emma...
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ched your side safely by no...

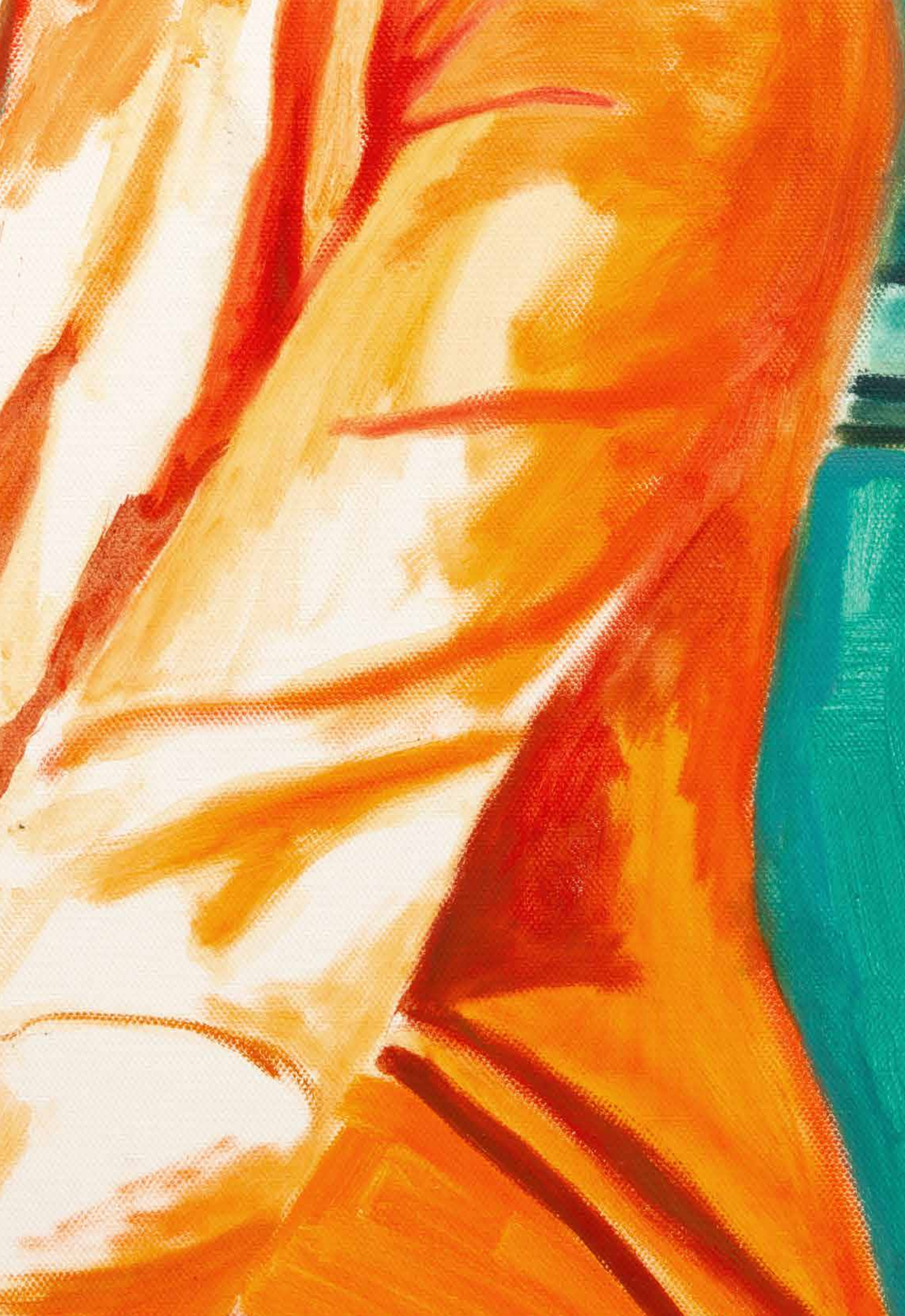
As Jewish women we know...
er discrimination and anti...
lions of our own folks who...
led by Hitler's gangs.

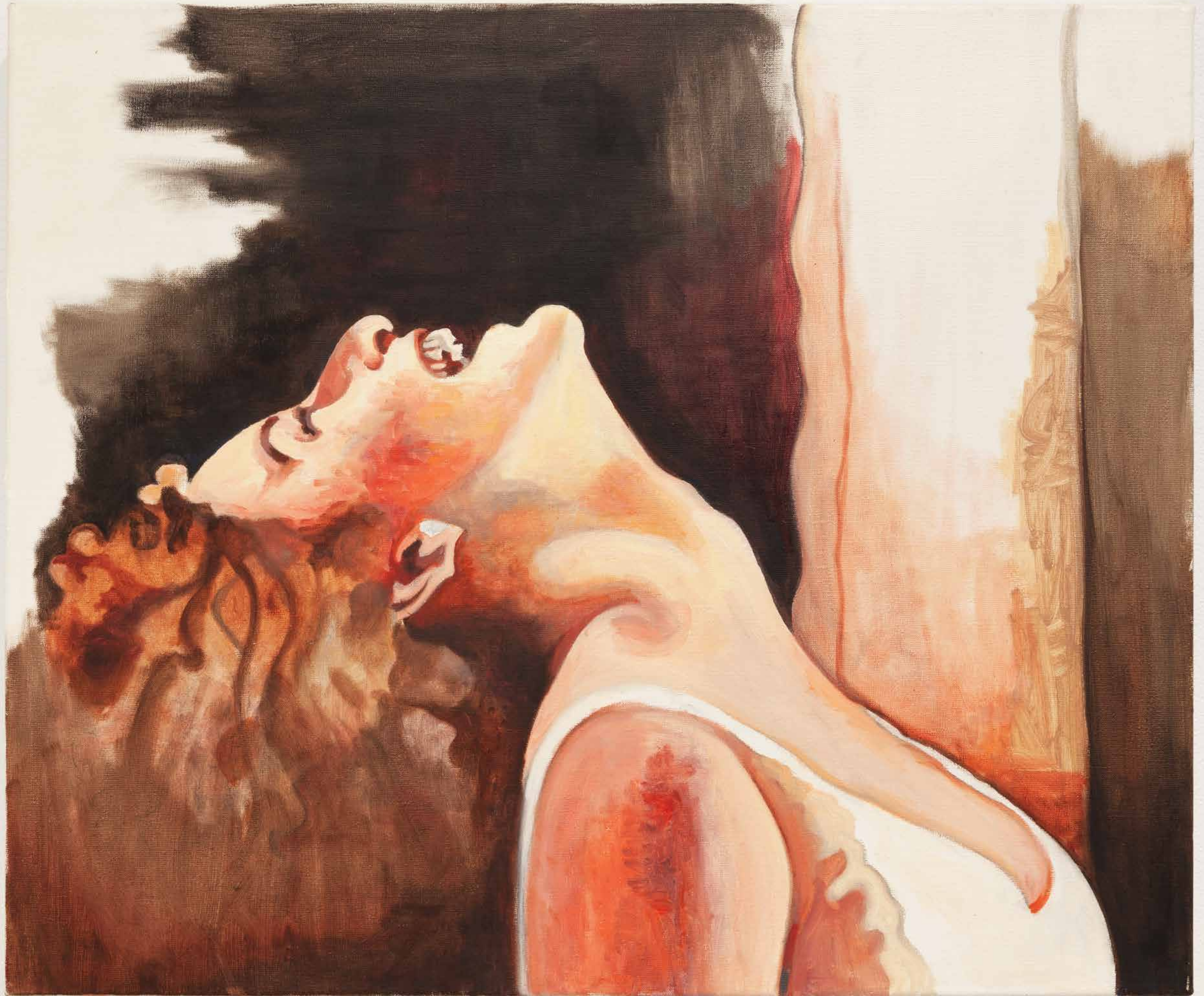
We dont went this ever to...
ro or any other group.

CENTRAL NEWS...
[Small newspaper clipping with a photo]

בני ישראל

Jewish Women Know
2023
Oil and acrylic on canvas
40 x 44 inches





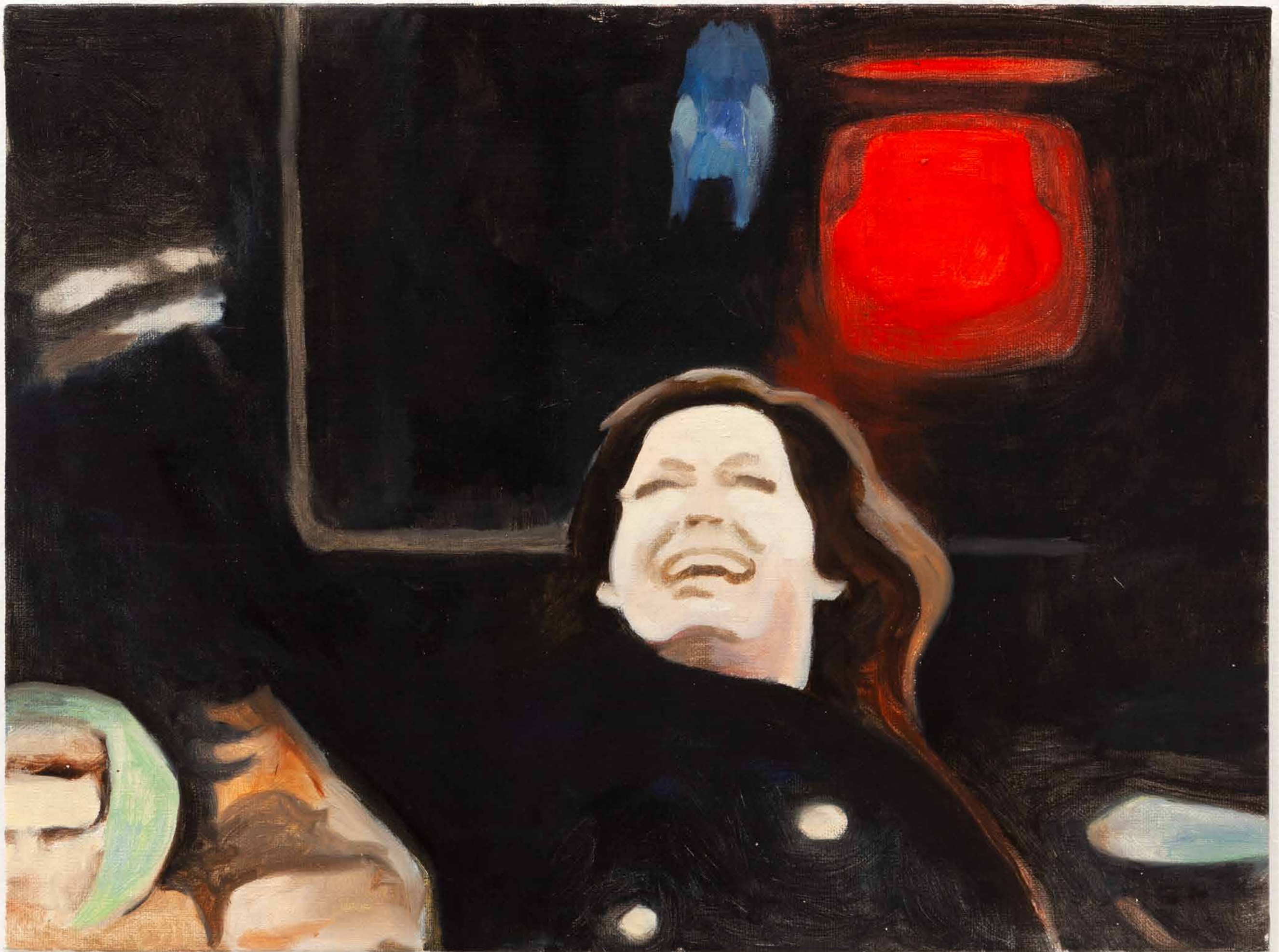
Baby

2022

Oil on linen

20 x 24 inches





***Study for You're Gonna
Make It After All
(Love Is All Around)***
2021
Oil on linen panel
9 x 12 inches

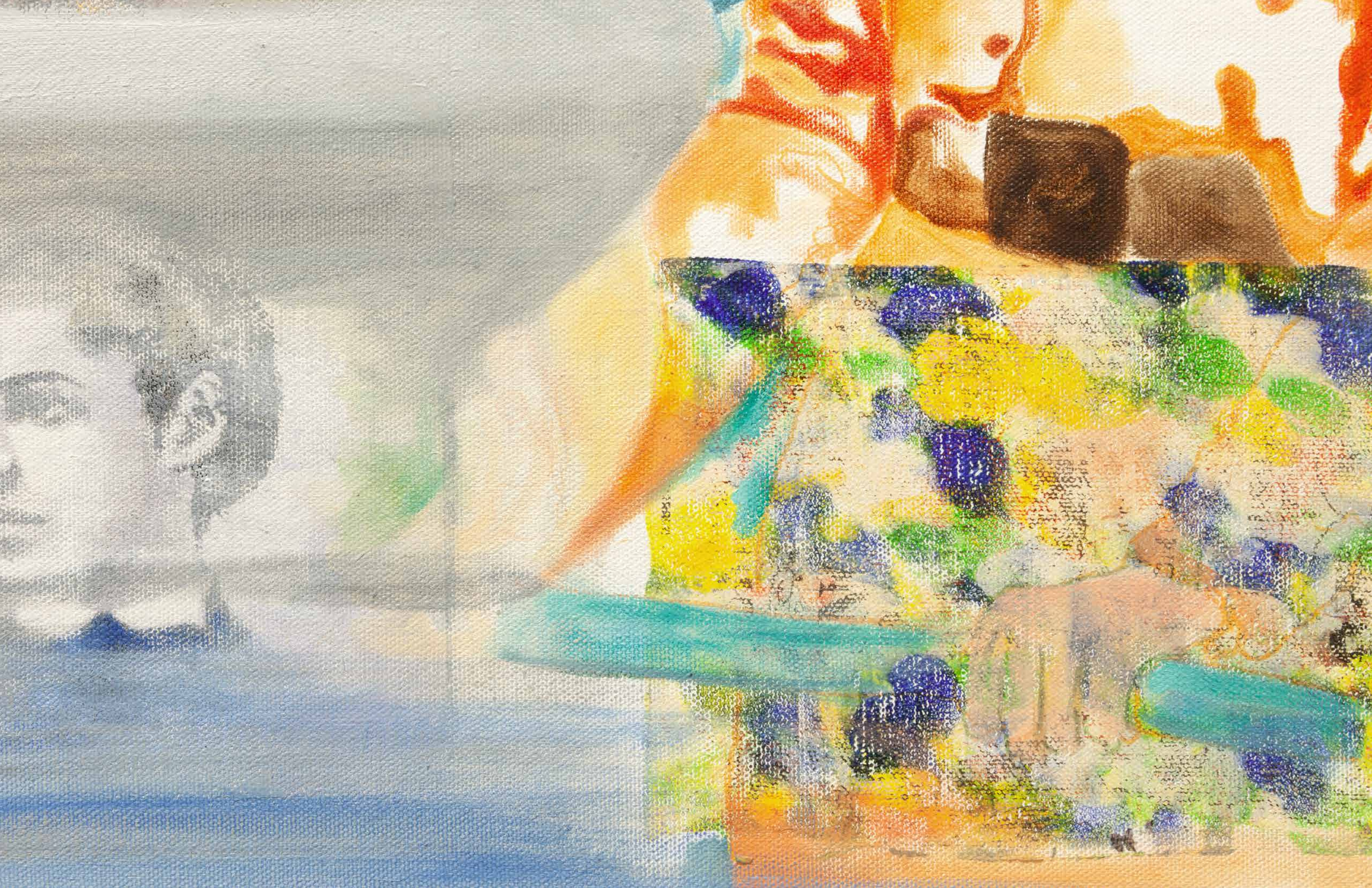


Liberty, Buoyant

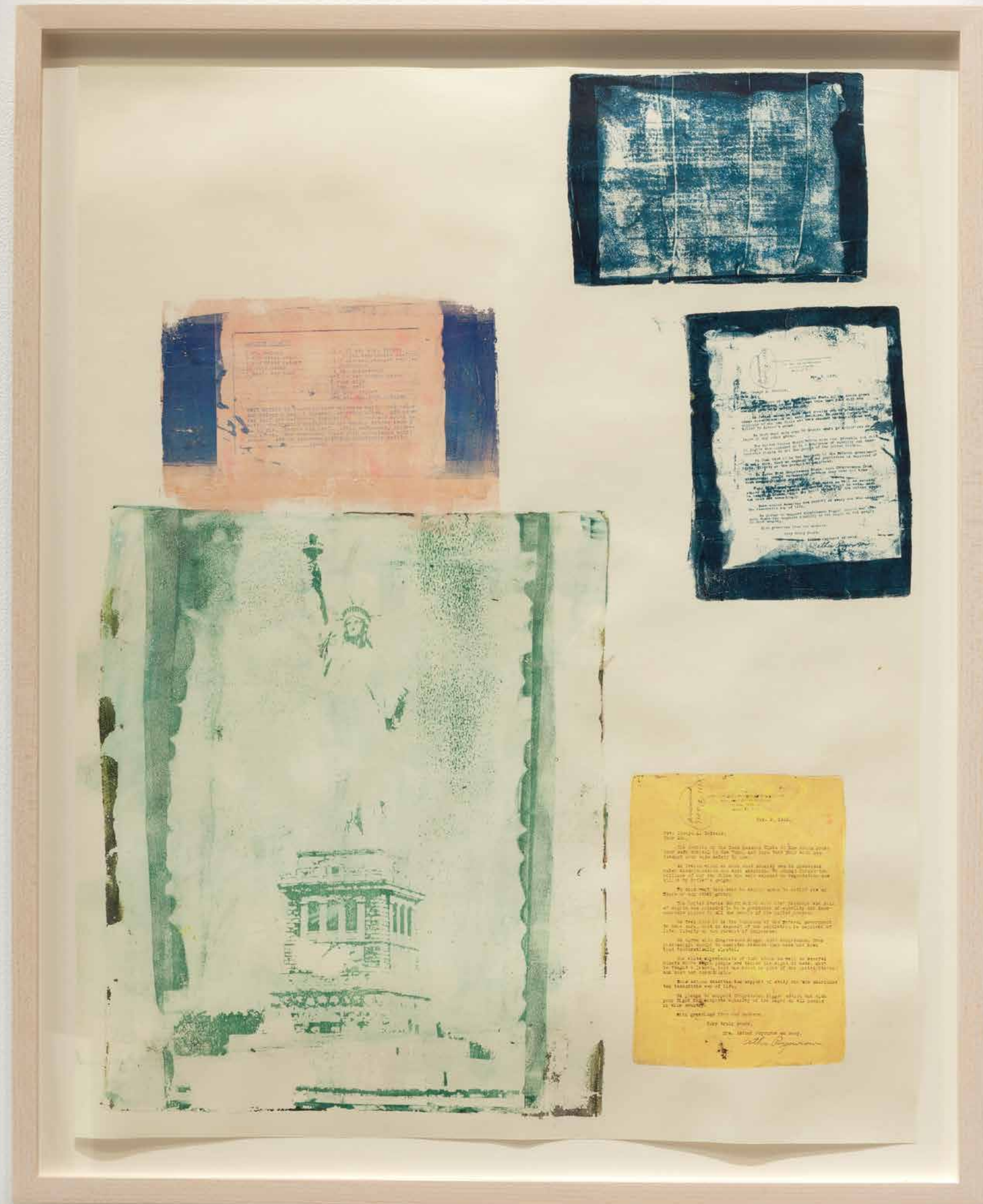
2023

Oil and acrylic on canvas

20 x 24 inches



Lobster Chowder
2022
Acrylic on Strathmore paper
28 x 22.5 inches (framed)



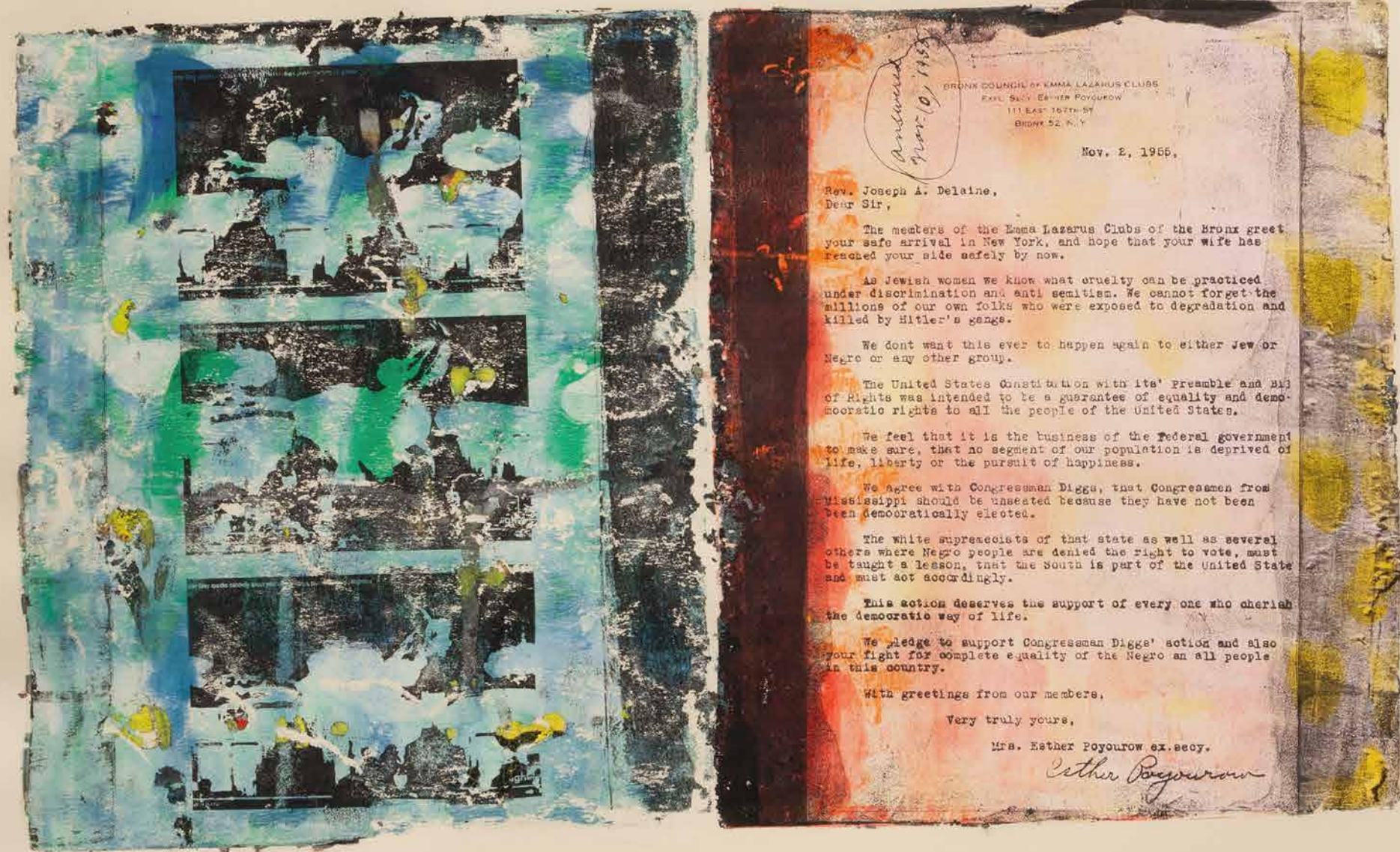


Terror at Twelve
2022
Oil on linen panel
16 x 20 inches



Yellow Star (Forgotten Homeland) :: 2022 :: Oil on canvas :: 36 x 60 inches





Sincerely, Mrs.
Esther Poyourow
2023
Acrylic on Stonehenge paper
25 x 33 inches (framed)



Way Over Yonder

2023

Acrylic on Stonehenge paper

25 x 33 inches (framed)

Stratford-on-Avon (Horty with Pocketbook)

2022

Acrylic on Strathmore paper

19.5 x 16.75 inches (framed)





Flower study
2022
Oil on linen panel
8 x 8 inches



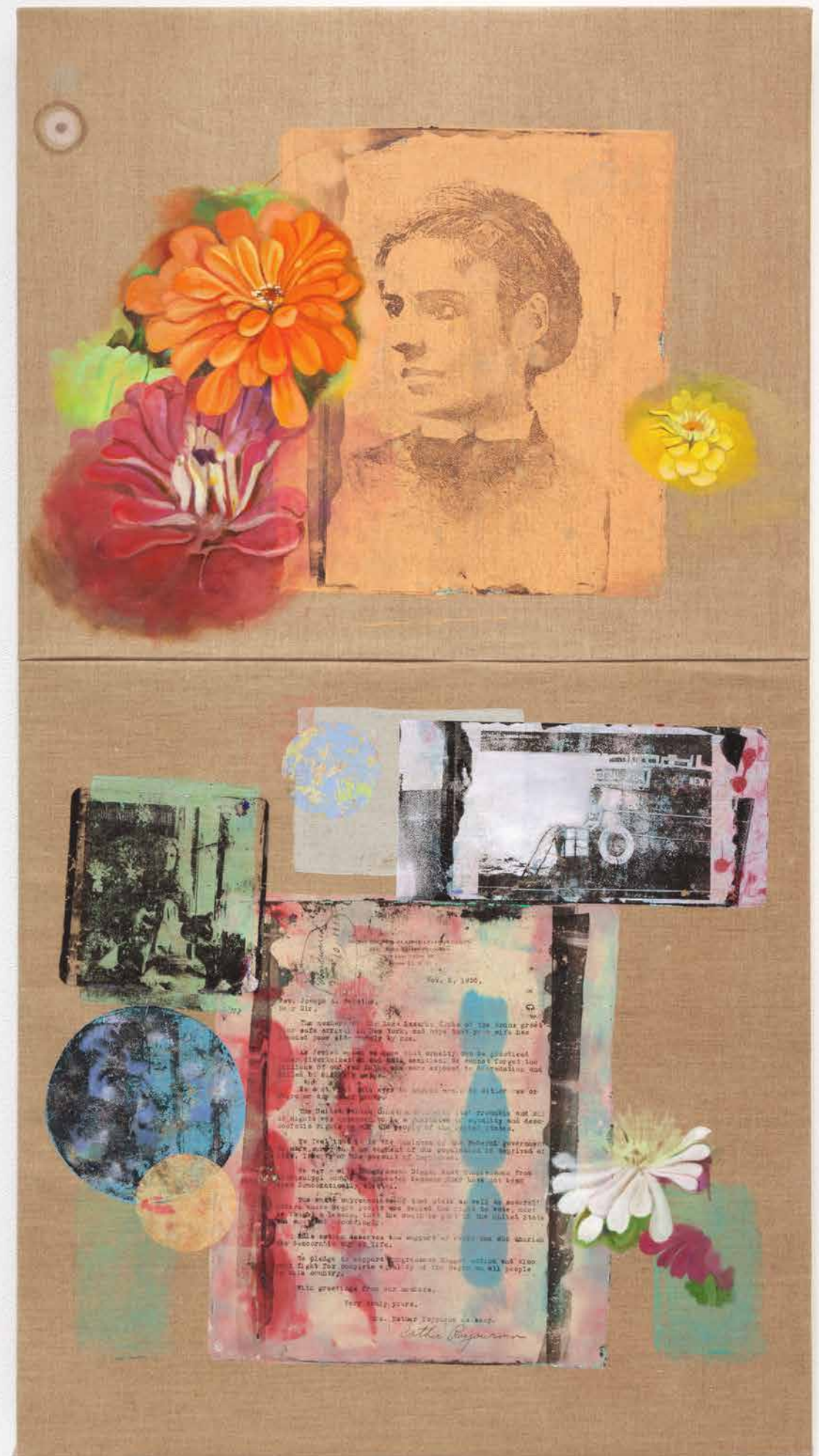
Flower study
2022
Oil on linen panel
8 x 8 inches

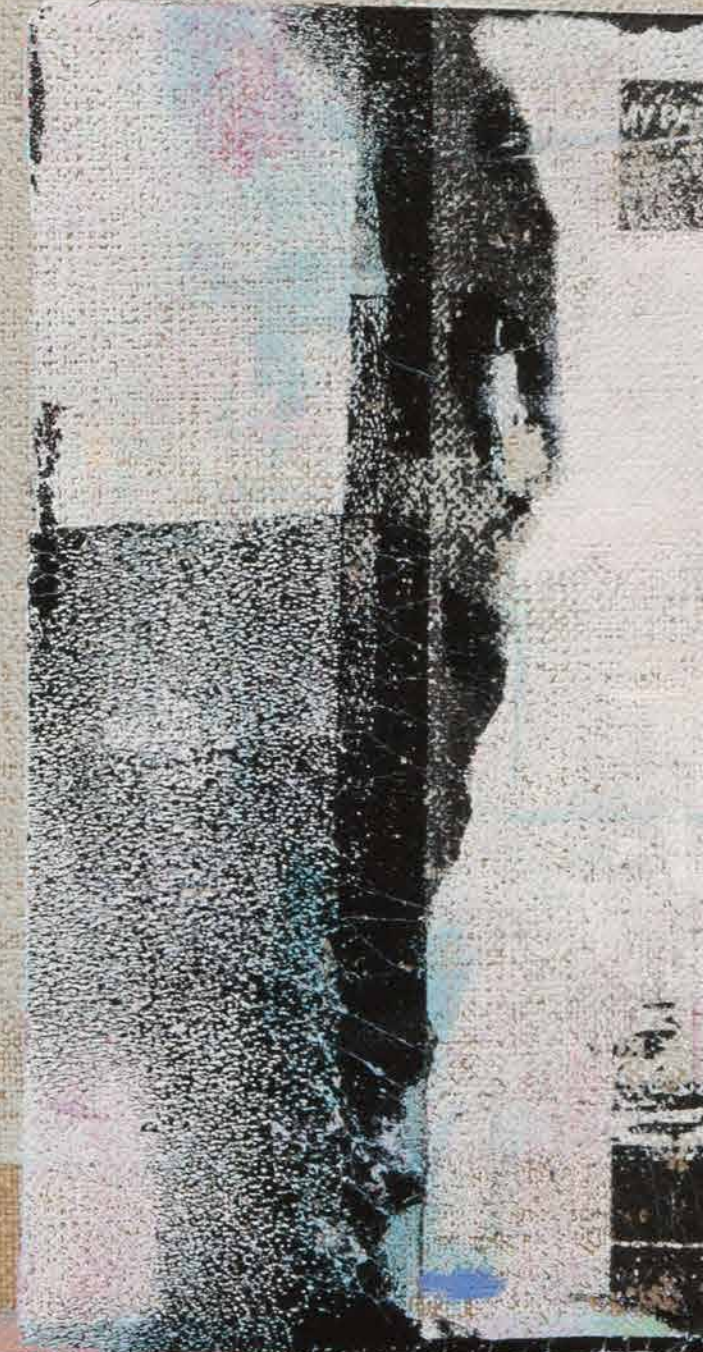
Safe Arrival

2023

Oil and acrylic on linen

44 x 24 inches





Postmarked
Nov 10, 1955

BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF EMMA LAZARUS CLUBS
EXEC. SECY. ESTHER POYUROV
111 EAST 16TH ST
BROOKLYN 52, N. Y.

Nov. 2, 1955,



The Lift

2023

Oil on prepared cotton

26 x 48 inches



Jill Poyourow received a B.S. from Western Washington University, Bellingham, and a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts, Valencia. Poyourow's solo exhibitions include: Grant Wahlquist Gallery; POST, Los Angeles (catalogue with essay by Chris Kraus); and the Apex Gallery, South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City. Her work has been featured in group exhibitions at venues including: POST; Thomas Solomon's Garage, Los

Angeles; the Center for Maine Contemporary Art; Dave Muller's Three Day Weekend, Los Angeles; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions; the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles; the Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena; the Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California; Annika Sundvik Gallery, New York; Side Street Projects, Santa Monica; and the First Biennale Internazionale delle Arti FiliForme.



This exhibition is dedicated to my mom, Dr. Rochelle (Ricky) Poyourow-Ripple (April 23, 1936 - April 26, 2019), who was my best friend and who generously shared love, support, and encouragement for countless years, and whose untimely passing three days after her 83rd birthday left an enormous hole in my life. This exhibition is also dedicated to her lifelong best friend Eleanor (Ellie) Greenfield (March 6, 1936-March 3, 2023), who began to fill that gaping hole with love, support, encouragement, and generosity, but who passed three days before her 87th birthday, on the morning this exhibition opened. I phoned Ellie in July of 2021 to share my inspiration and exhilaration in

the moment, with the story behind the spark of an idea for a show titled "You're Gonna Make It After All!" As the months and then weeks drew closer to the opening date, we discussed what I was working on, and she waited with excited anticipation to see the show, but a sudden medical emergency intervened. Ellie and my mom will now be viewing the show together. I am deeply grateful to these two strong, smart, generous, compassionate, and beautiful Jewish mothers for demonstrating to me how belief in ourselves and each other can conquer adversity and make beautiful things possible!

– Jill Poyourow

*Answered
Nov. 10, 1955*

BRONX COUNCIL OF EMMA LAZARUS CLUBS
EXEC. SECY. ESTHER POYOUROW
111 EAST 167TH ST.
BRONX 52, N. Y.

Nov. 2, 1955.

Rev. Joseph A. Delaine,
Dear Sir,

The members of the Emma Lazarus Clubs of the Bronx greet your safe arrival in New York, and hope that your wife has reached your side safely by now.

As Jewish women we know what cruelty can be practiced under discrimination and anti semitism. We cannot forget the millions of our own folks who were exposed to degradation and killed by Hitler's gangs.

We dont want this ever to happen again to either Jew or Negro or any other group.

The United States Constitution with its' Preamble and Bill of Rights was intended to be a guarantee of equality and democratic rights to all the people of the United States.

We feel that it is the business of the Federal government to make sure, that no segment of our population is deprived of life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness.

We agree with Congressman Diggs, that Congressmen from Mississippi should be unseated because they have not been been democratically elected.

The white supremecists of that state as well as several others where Negro people are denied the right to vote, must be taught a lesson, that the South is part of the United State and must act accordingly.

This action deserves the support of every one who aheriah the democratic way of life.

We pledge to support Congressman Diggs' action and also your fight for complete equality of the Negro an all people in this country.

With greetings from our members,

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Esther Poyourow ex.secy.

Esther Poyourow