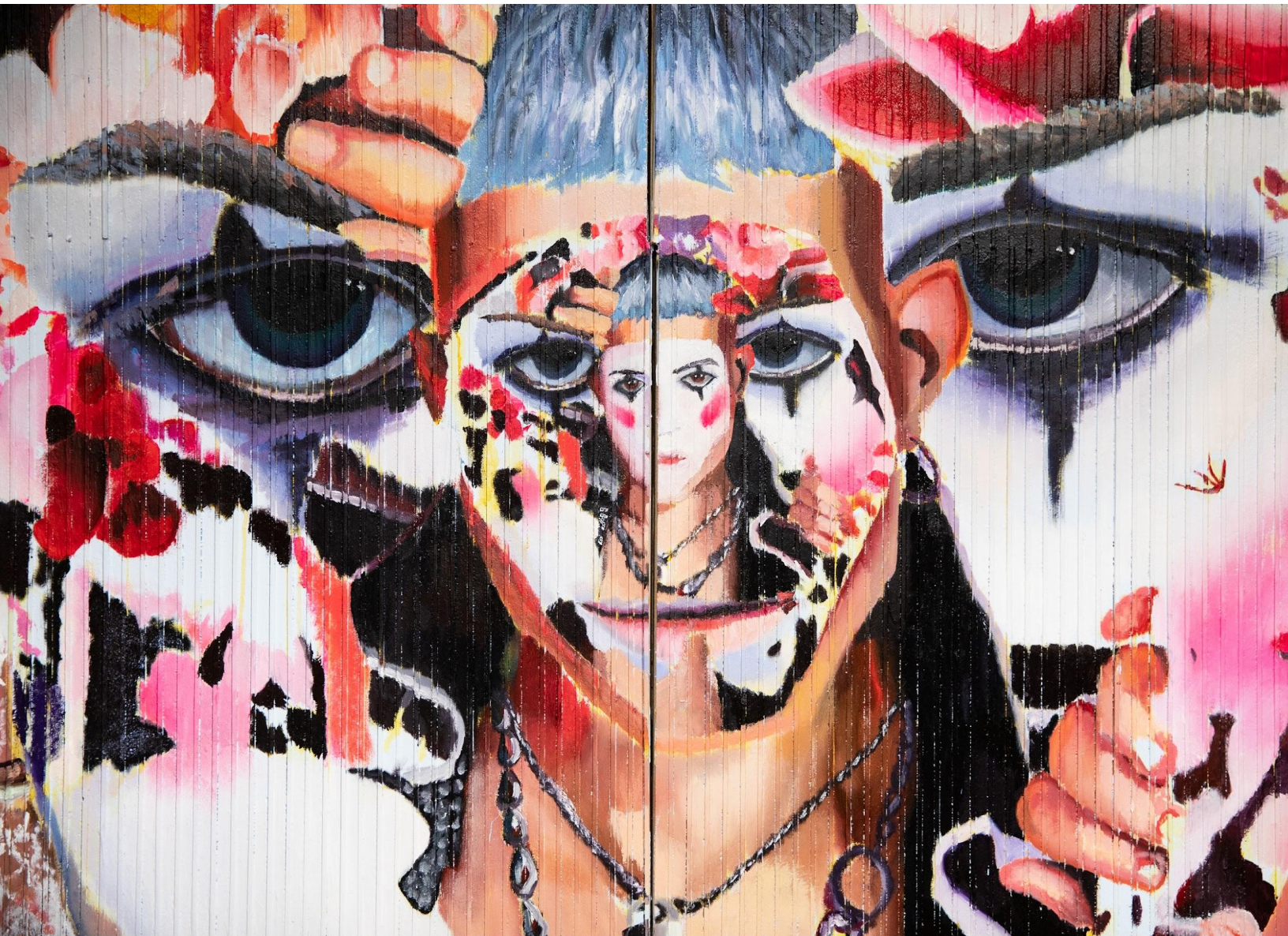


HARRISON HAFT

ACMESTHESIA | THE PAINTINGS



2023 CATALOG

ARTIST STATEMENT

I CHALLENGE THE CONCEPTION OF AN INCONTROVERTIBLE AND HEGEMONIC TRUTH. THROUGH UNEXPECTED SURREAL COLLISIONS OF MULTIPLE REALITIES, I FABRICATE AND LIBERATE NEW CONDITIONS OF EXISTENCE FOR BOTH MY PAINTED SUBJECTS AND THOSE THAT EXPERIENCE THEM. WITH SATURATION AND DRAMATIC SURREAL COMPOSITION, THIS WORK DIRECTLY ADDRESSES VIEWERS FORCING THEM TO CONFRONT HYBRIDITIES BETWEEN GENDER AND REALITY, OFFERING VAGUE, DELICATE ALTERNATIVES WITH SHARP EDGES. USING PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES, WHICH I STAGE AND MANIPULATE, I WISH TO ARTICULATE OTHERNESS AND SOCIAL DISBELONGING THAT MANIFESTS INNER TURMOIL THROUGH VISCERAL RUPTURES OF FLESHY REALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA THROUGH PHYSICAL CORRUPTION.

MY OVER THE TOP WORK AS A WHOLE REBUKES MINIMALISM AS I FIND SUCH CONVENTIONS OF FORCED RESTRAINT OFFENSIVE AND IN LINE WITH THE VALUES ESTABLISHED BY HYPOCRITES LIKE BRUCE BOWER, THAT TOUTED THE NECESSITY OF RESPECTABILITY POLITICS FOR THE SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE QUEER SUBJECT. THE MANIPULATED PHOTOGRAPHS WILL NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICS, EACH OF WHICH ARE FAR EXTRAPOLATED THEORIES THAT GROUND THEMSELVES IN ARBITRARY ASSUMPTIONS AT THEIR CORE.

THE IMAGERY GRAVITATES THEMATICALLY AROUND PLEASURE AND PAIN, DECADENCE AND AESTHETICS, AND THE OBFUSCATION BETWEEN OUR HUMAN IDENTITY AS BOTH CULTURES AND CREATURES. THE ONUS OF THIS PROJECT IS TO DISCONNECT VIEWERS' EXPERIENCE FROM THE WORLD AROUND THEM BY PROVIDING AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING MOMENT OF AWE FROM THEIR SITUATION IN FRONT OF THE WORK. THE PIECES WILL ENTWINE THE MULTIFACETED NATURE OF REALITY THAT IS OFTEN ELIDED IN NATURALISTIC AND SUBDUED PORTRAYALS OF THE WORLD AROUND US. I WILL BUY INTO UNIVERSAL SOCIETAL, RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, AND SEXUAL CONVENTIONS AND TRANSMOGRIFY THEM, SUBVERTING THEIR ORIGINAL CONTEXTS AND MEANINGS TO FABRICATE THEATRICAL, OBSESSIVELY ORNATE COMPOSITIONS THAT OFFER REMINISCENT, PROLIFERATED PHENOMENOLOGICAL SYMBOLOGIES IN CONTEXTS THAT DEFIANTLY SATIRIZE THE ARBITRARY NATURE OF THE SUPPOSED TRUTH.

ARTIFICE IS QUINTESSENTIAL TO MY PAINTING PRACTICE. I'VE FOUND FROM THE PAST YEARS OF ART-HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP ALONGSIDE OVER A DECADE IN FORMAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EDUCATION THAT A LARGE PORTION OF MODERN ARTWORK CLAIMS TO PURPORT THE HEGEMONIC AND

INCONTROVERTIBLE TRUTH. I PLAN TO DISMANTLE THIS MYOPIC STRANGLEHOLD THROUGH CAMPED SURREAL AESTHETICS, WHEREIN THE ASCETICALLY MINIMAL ARE PROVOKED BY PAINTINGS THAT OFFER UNABASHED ANALYSIS AND EXPRESSION WITH NO SUCH PROMISES. IN A WORLD THAT FINDS ANYMORE THAN THE PLAIN AS SUPERFICIAL, THE PLEASURE DERIVED FROM MY WORK IS AN ACT OF REVOLUTION.

“THAT WHICH DECLARES ITS OWN AUTHENTICITY BUT IS INDEED FALSE, IS TO ME IS EXPLOITATIVE. THAT WHICH EMBRACES ARTIFICE, BRANDISHING IT AS A LEITMOTIF FOR CHANGE, RINGS TRUE.”

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AGAPE, OIL ON SLIT PARTICLE BOARD, WITH 702 LASER CUT
PLYWOOD IN-LAYS, VERTICAL DIPTYCH, 96" X 96", 2023

PRICE: \$10,000



I FORGET TO PRAY FOR YOU, OIL, COPPER, BRONZE, EPOXY, LATEX PAINT, SALT, SUGAR,
VINEGAR, POWDERIZED GLASS, INK, HEAT, POLYURETHANE,
HYDROCHLORIC ACID, FOUR BIRCH PANELS

2023

72 INCHES × 96 INCHES

PRICE: \$10,000



AEGIS OF PATIENCE, 176 SLITS (3/4" DEEP LENTICULAR HAND-CUT INTO 2, 5/8" DEPTH PLYWOOD SHEETS), LIGHT, HAND-ROUTED PATTERN, PLASTER CAST HANDS, SPRAY PAINT, PERSPECTIVE, 96" X 96", 2023

PRICE: \$6500



WE DON'T BELONG IN CAGES, OIL ON PANEL, 36" X 48", 2021

PRICE: \$6000



SWEETER, WHEN IT'S FINALLY FOUND, OIL ON PANEL, 48" X 60", 2022

PRICE: \$5,750



USED TO REBEL, OIL ON PANEL, 36" X 48"

PRICE: \$5,000

SOLD



SCIAMACHY, 40" X 50", OIL, ALCOHOL PIGMENTS, AND ACRYLIC WISPS ON PRINTED ALUMINUM PANEL PHYSICALLY ABRADED AND CORRODED WITH HYDROCHLORIC ACID, MOUNTED TAXIDERMY BEAR HEAD, 2022

PRICE: \$7500



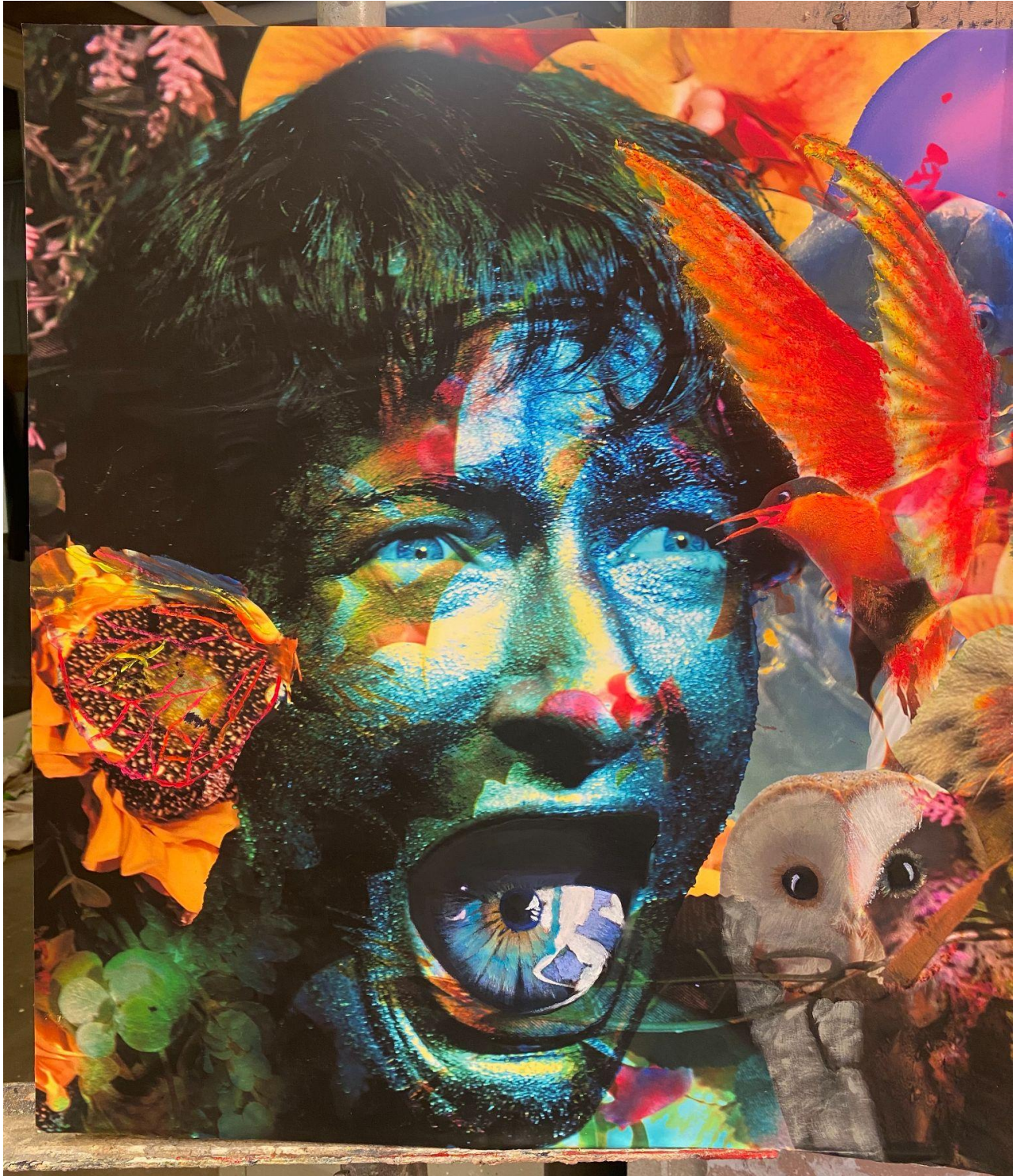
ABIENCE & ADIANCE, OIL ON MOUNTED MIRROR WITH HANDMADE WOODEN BRACE,
48" X 84", 2022
PRICE: \$6,250
SOLD



DISJECTA MEMBRA, 24" X 76" (TOTAL), OIL ON THREE SEPARATE WOOD PANELS
ADJOINED—BUT OPPOSABLE—BY A MOUNTED PRINT OF DIGITALLY MANIPULATED
ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS, CLOSES FROM THE SIDES AS AN ALTAR, 2022

PRICE: \$4,000

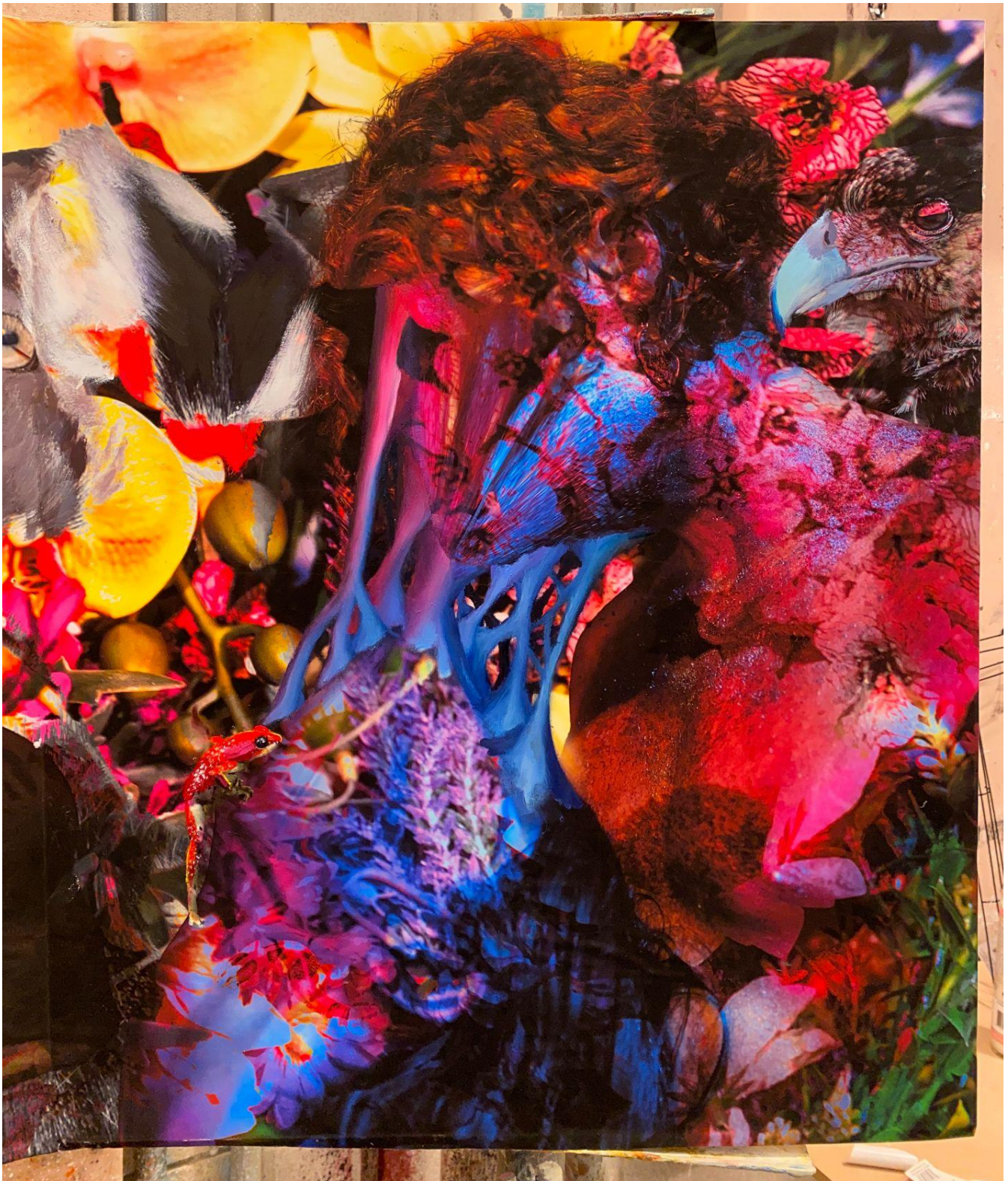
SOLD



LEFTMOST PANEL (20" X 24")



CENTER PANEL (24" X 36")



RIGHTMOST PANEL (20" X 24")