

Art Unlimited
Booth U49

Janaina Tschäpe

To cover the earth with a new mist

Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel / SEANKELLY









For Basel 2024 Unlimited, Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel (São Paulo, Brazil) and Sean Kelly (New York/Los Angeles) are pleased to jointly present a new, monumental nine painting suite by Janaina Tschäpe entitled *To cover the earth with a new mist*, 2024. Among the artist's most ambitious projects to date, this nine-panel work harnesses and amplifies the expansive energy that increasingly defines the artist's approach to painting.

The title *To cover the earth with a new mist* is taken from the 1987 Octavio Paz poem, *The House of Glances. For Roberto Matta*, a passage that forays into the geological state of the psyche, marrying together geographical and astronomical concerns. Similarly, Tschäpe's intricately layered abstract landscapes, featuring imagery evocative of the natural world, suggest growth, transition, and metamorphosis; the worldly and otherworldly. Exponentially expanding the artist's investigation into the relationship between gesture and painting and the mediation of physical and psychological states, her painting has in recent years taken on an entirely new level of exuberant confidence, both in terms of scale, sophistication of palette, and finesse in execution.

This major new work was conceived as a single sequential suite of nine canvases, each measuring 80 x 102 inches. Vigorous calligraphic oil stick markings dance across the surface of each panel, tethered together in a restless current of dynamic motion. Deep blue hues sediment under and throughout shades of soft pink, vibrant orange, and bracing yellow, tracing a horizon line in an otherworldly separation of sea and sky. The cold and warm hues shift and mingle, bringing on a fusion of their metaphorical equivalents: moon and sun, water and fire, darkness and light, now no longer polar opposites, but transitive, spectral properties.

In Tschäpe's previous bodies of work, she often combined casein, watercolor, colored pencils and crayons with oil and oil stick; however, this remarkable cycle of paintings was created using only oil and oil stick. With this medium, Tschäpe feels she can "dive further into the layers" of the painting, creating much more fluid and gestural surfaces, while also creating distinct layers of stratification. Building up the image with large, sweeping brushstrokes provides a foundation and structure for Tschäpe's vigorous compositions, her signature marks becoming embedded in both foreground and background.

Describing her process, Tschäpe states, "I want the brushstroke to conquer the canvas... To me, painting means feeling something right up close, being physically in the present with body and soul." Indeed, Tschäpe's paintings are extremely physical compositions, reflecting the dynamic range of motion and intensity of focus the artist brings to their making. At the same time, these are contemplative and suggestive compositions that translate Tschäpe's observations and memories of natural phenomena, such as changes in light, the movement of leaves, the rushing of water and movement of the wind, into a language of abstraction that is at once lively and serene; deeply personal, yet open to interpretation.



This suite of paintings by Tschäpe is inspired by her experience of exhibiting her own work in dialogue with Claude Monet's *Les Nymphéas* (waterlilies) at the Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, in 2020–21. That interaction, along with her consideration of other important cycles of painting throughout the history of art, including subjects as varied as Peter Paul Rubens, *Marie de' Medici Cycle*, 1625, in the Louvre Museum, Paris; Barnett Newman's *Stations of the Cross*, 1958, in the National Gallery, Washington, DC; Mark Rothko's paintings for the Rothko Chapel, 1964–67, The Menil Collection, Houston; and Thomas Cole's *The Course of Empire*, 1833, in The New York Historical Society, inform her own ambitious contribution to this historical dialogue.



Janaina Tschäpe

To cover the earth with a new mist
2024

Oil and oil stick on canvas

9 canvases, each: 80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)

Overall: 80 x 950 x 2 inches (203.2 x 2413 x 5.1 cm)



Panels 1- 3

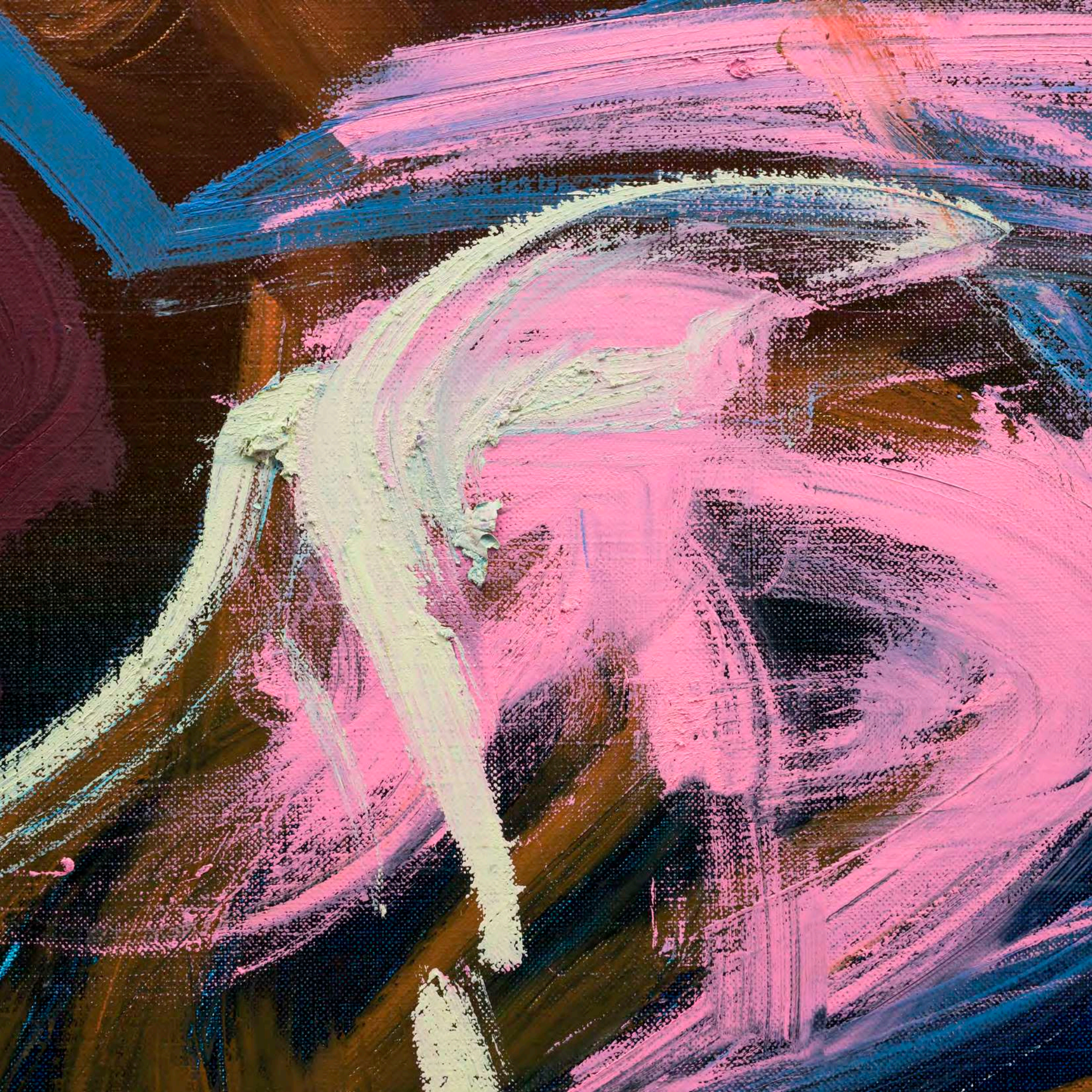


Panels 4- 6

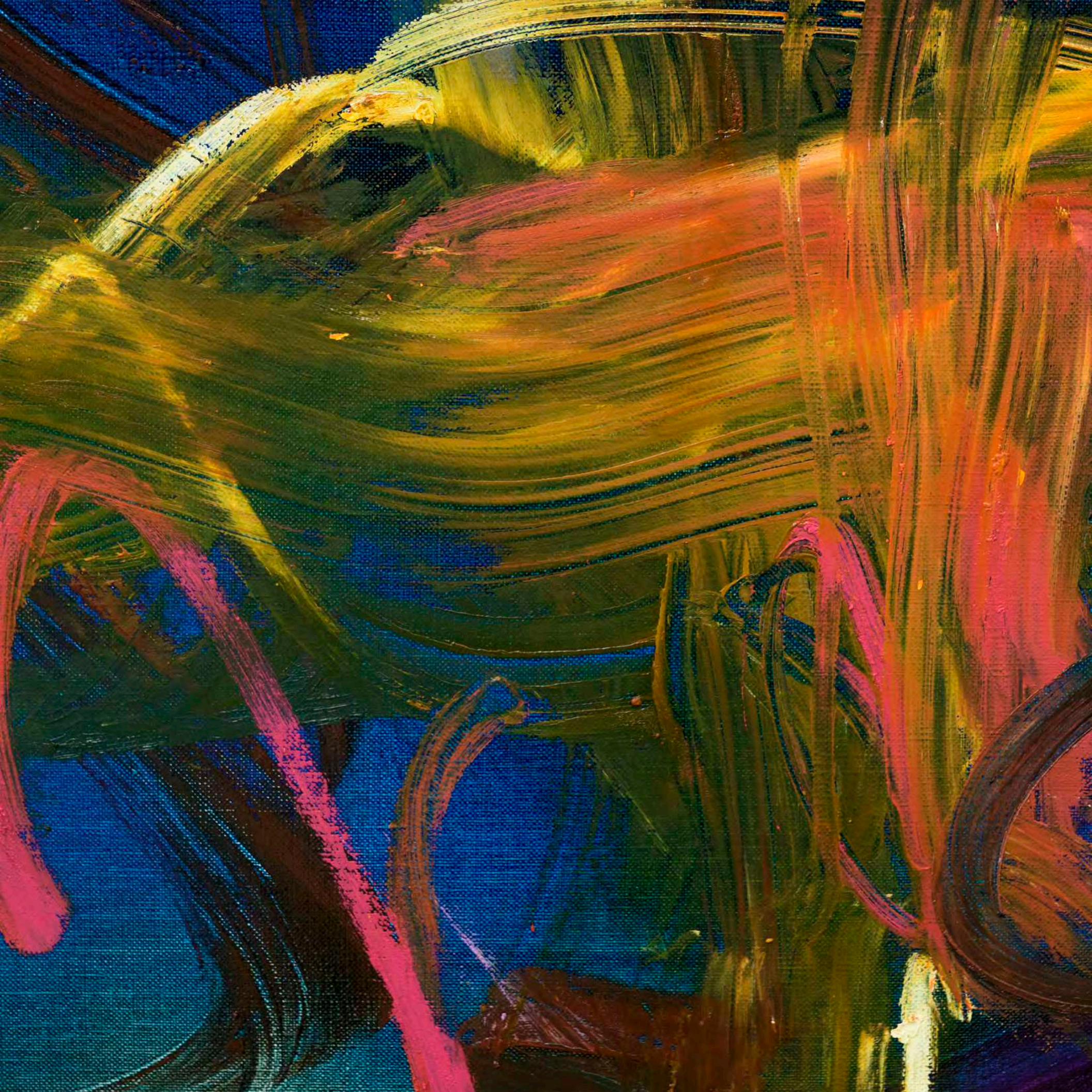


Panels 7- 9















Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 1], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



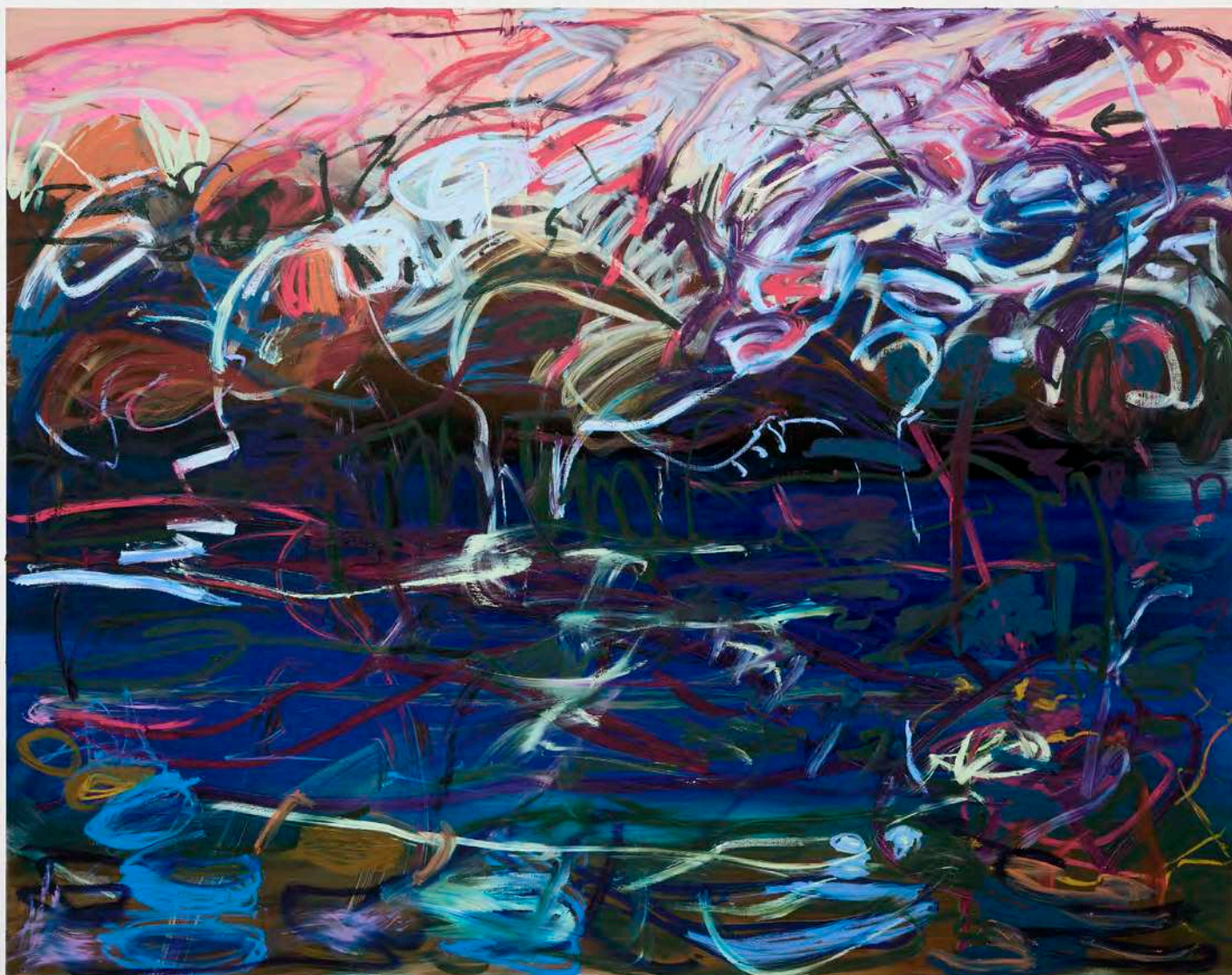
Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 2], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 3], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 4], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 5], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 6], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 7], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 8], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe
To cover the earth with a new mist [Panel 9], 2024
oil and oil stick on canvas
80 x 102 x 2 in (203.2 x 259.1 x 5.1 cm)



Janaina Tschäpe was born in Munich, Germany in 1973 and lives and works between New York and Brazil. Janaina Tschäpe's work was recently the subject of a major solo museum exhibition, titled "I am my own landscape" (2023), at the The Center for Contemporary Art, Málaga, Spain.

Tschäpe's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Den Frie Center of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark; the Sarasota Art Museum, Florida; the Musée L'Orangerie, Paris, France; the Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson, Arizona; Kasama Nichido Museum of Art, Kasama, Japan; the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland; and the Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis.

She has been featured in numerous group exhibitions at venues including NCA Taipei, Taiwan; Whitechapel Gallery, London; TBA21-Augarten, Vienna, Austria; CCB, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Centre D'Art Contemporain de Normandie, France; 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Nanazawa, Japan; Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo; Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Kunsthal Kade, The Netherlands; Ronnebaeksholm, Denmark; Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Massachusetts; and Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Taiwan.

Her work is part of important public collections, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna, Austria; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, amongst others.