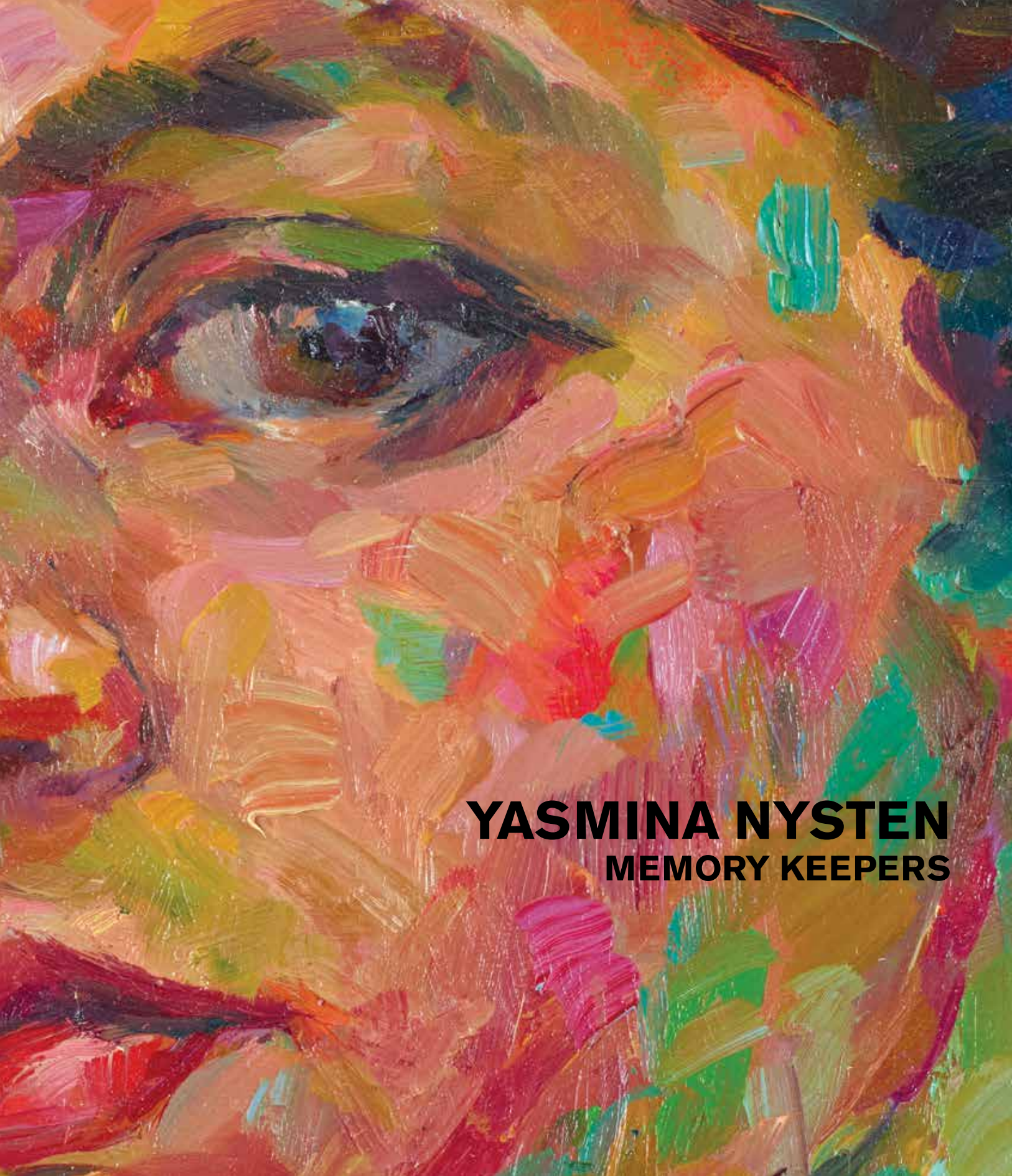




YASMINA NYSTEN
MEMORY KEEPERS

YASMINA NYSTEN
MEMORY KEEPERS

Catching the Room

The work of Yasmina Nysten tends towards the face, portraits that combine large swathes of muted colour with quick swatches of unapologetic brightness. Her sensitivity to contrast plays out also in the wider environs of her paintings, including objects so casually yet carefully placed we cannot but imagine they have some specific meaning, a relation to the face beside them, the body resting, the shifted world the artist creates. The world here divides into parts and pattern, more than light, brights and darks. There is a recognisable and an unrecognisable part, a clear brush stroke, a face formed from parts, what else forms a face except reality has no brush, or it is harder to see the strokes.

Pattern, when used, is dedicated, honours the way the world can catch on a moment, the light can catch, the world becoming for a second all pattern, all flecks and small, shifting subtleties. There is a colour wheel and no words, shadows catching on the extremity of light; what was red actually becomes yellow, is yellow, actually, and the fold can also be the collar of a shirt, a river. Always, Nysten moves us towards the object through the contrasting intensities of colour and pattern, the small strokes of the brush. The world divides, divides again, is rearranged, made new.

Amy Todman 2026



Cézanna

Oil on canvas | 28x35.5 cm | 2025

Memory Keepers

These paintings are portraits, depictions of individual characters, hyper-individuated singularities, and athematic types.

I am resolved to paint people, yet not to paint anyone in particular.

These works are portraits of individuals seen in scenes set elsewhere: a collection of bare, unfettered relics culled from the creative process and unearthed from its discipline. At its core is discovery.

My primary motivation is to capture the sudden, electrifying jolt of another human consciousness existing in the exact same air as you; to create singular impressions operating under physical and metaphysical laws made manifest in modern times. In honoring those humble details without pretense, I find the only true dignity painting can offer.

If there is a contemporary condition reflected in these figures, it is their refusal to signify. They do not speak a language; rather, they teeter on the edge of a message. They offer only their ground: an absolute, silent being-there that confronts us at the very limit of what can be seen.

Yasmina Nysten



Mayyar

Oil on canvas | 70x76.2 cm | 2025



Minor Keys
Oil on canvas | 76.2x70 cm | 2025



The Countryside
Oil on canvas | 91x60 cm | 2026



Street Lights
Oil on canvas | 100x76 cm | 2025



Sister Bird
Oil on canvas | 70x60 cm | 2025



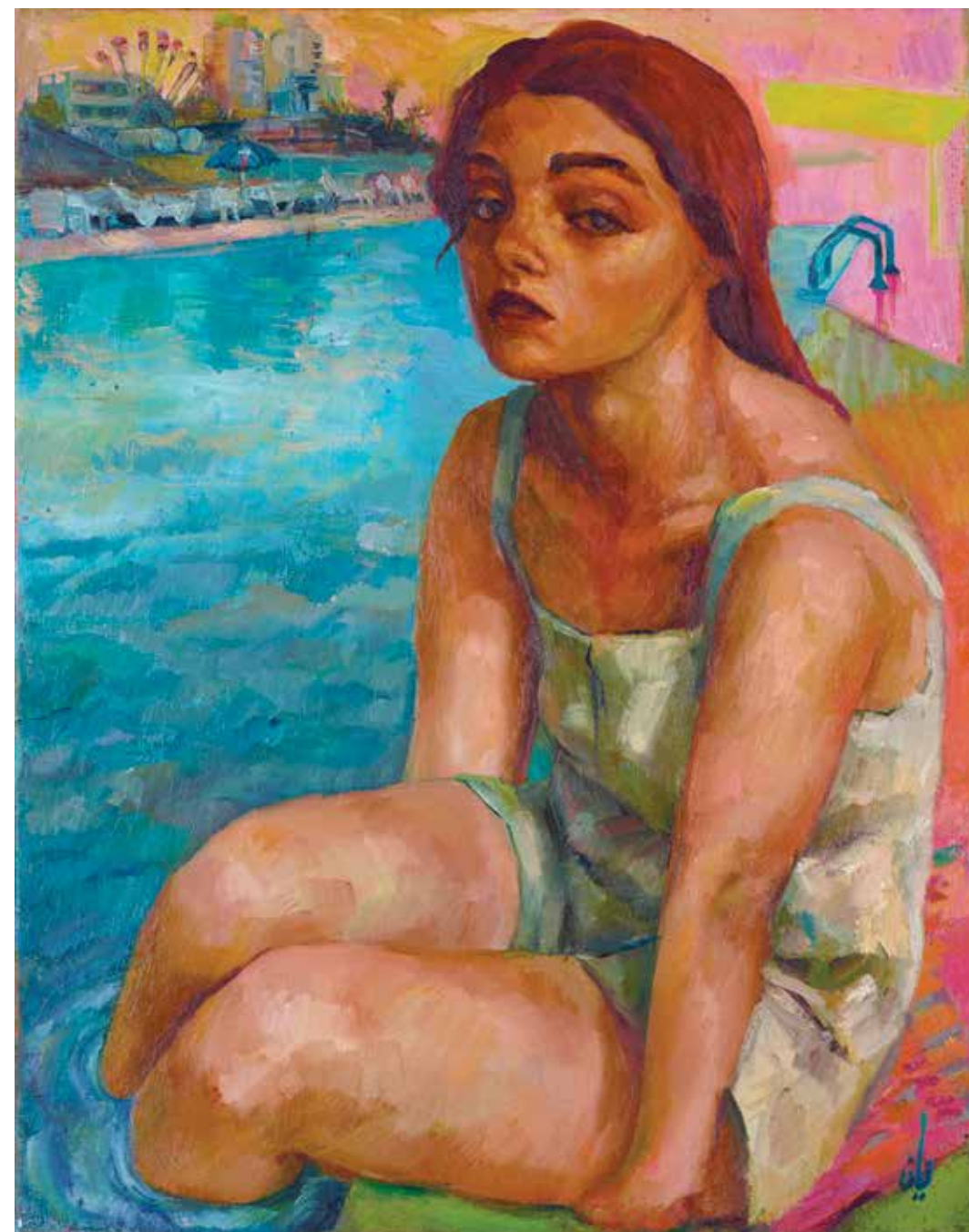
Bedroom
Oil on canvas | 50x50 cm | 2025



Runaway
Oil on canvas | 35.5x28 cm | 2026



Seagull
Oil on canvas | 51x40.6 cm | 2025



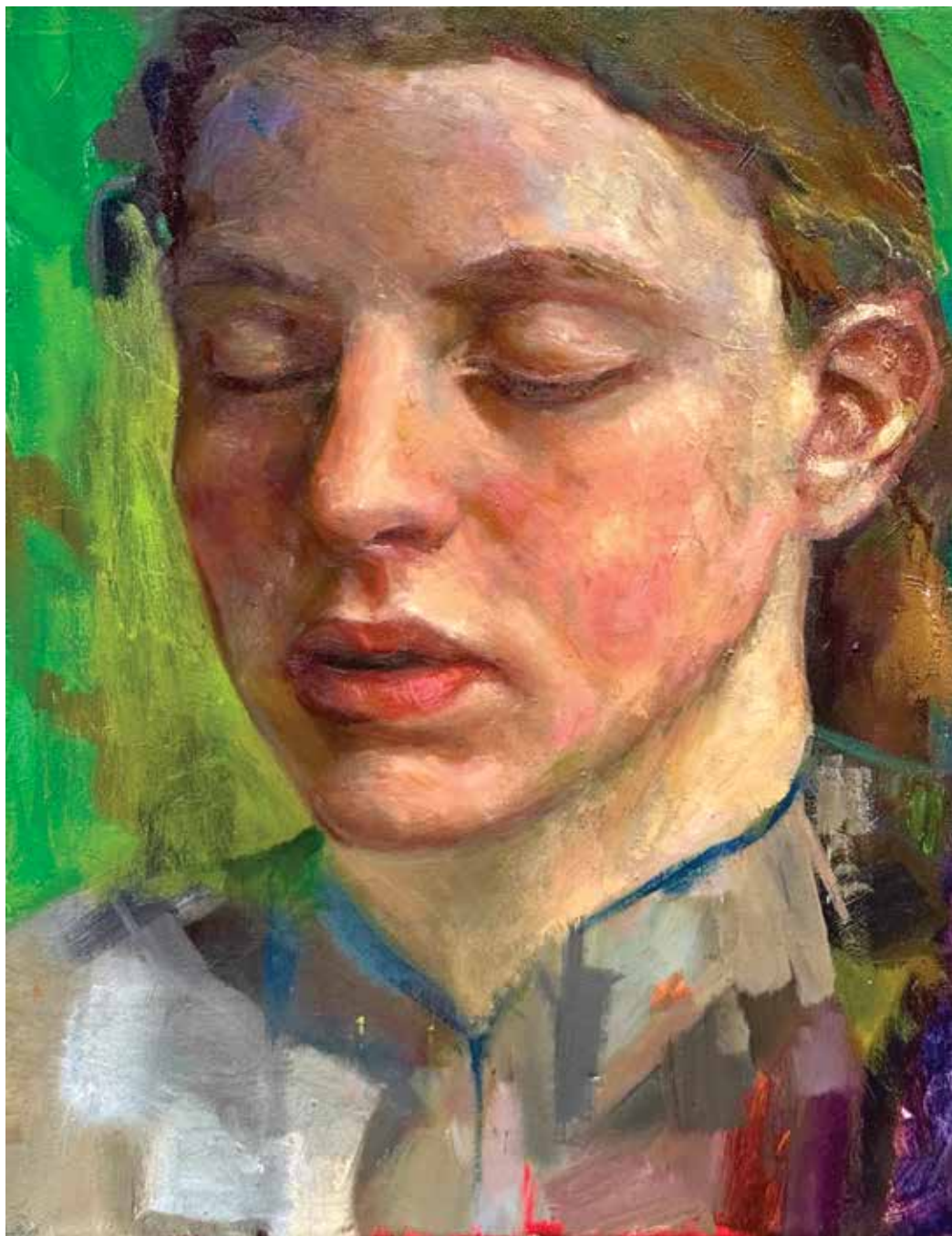
Second Pool
Oil on canvas | 51x40.6 cm | 2025



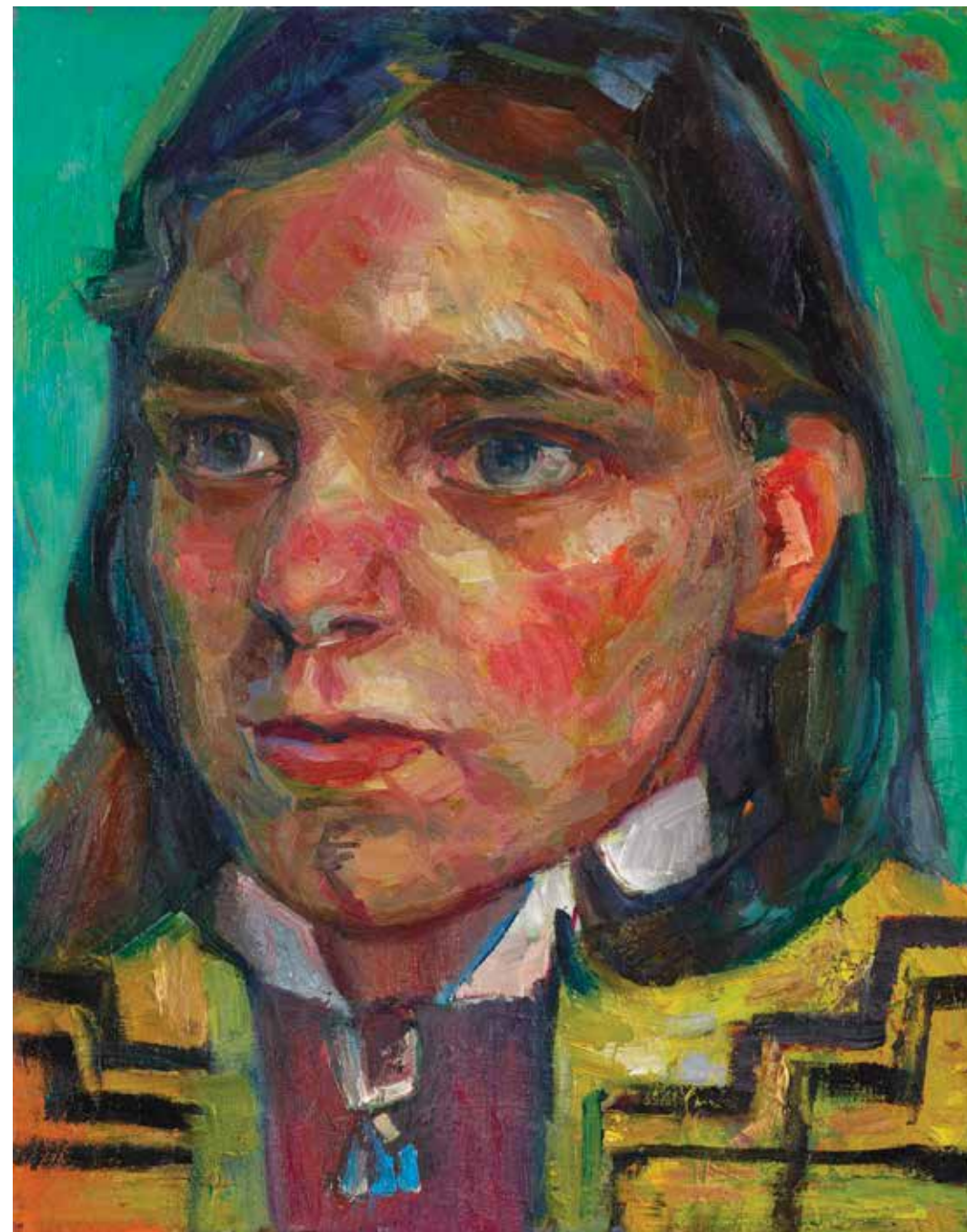
Pine Stone
Oil on canvas | 40.6x51 cm | 2025



Fouad
Oil on canvas | 40.6x51 cm | 2025



Arctic Refuge
Oil on canvas | 35.5x28 cm | 2026



Boleyn
Oil on canvas | 35.5x28 cm | 2026



Cricket
Oil on canvas | 51x40.6 cm | 2026



Odessa
Oil on canvas | 51x40.6 cm | 2026



Kerfuffle
Oil on canvas | 51x40.6 cm | 2025



Karélia
Oil on canvas | 51x40.6 cm | 2025



Shadow Palm
 Oil on canvas | 40.6x51 cm | 2025



Untitled
 Oil on canvas | 40.6x51 cm | 2025



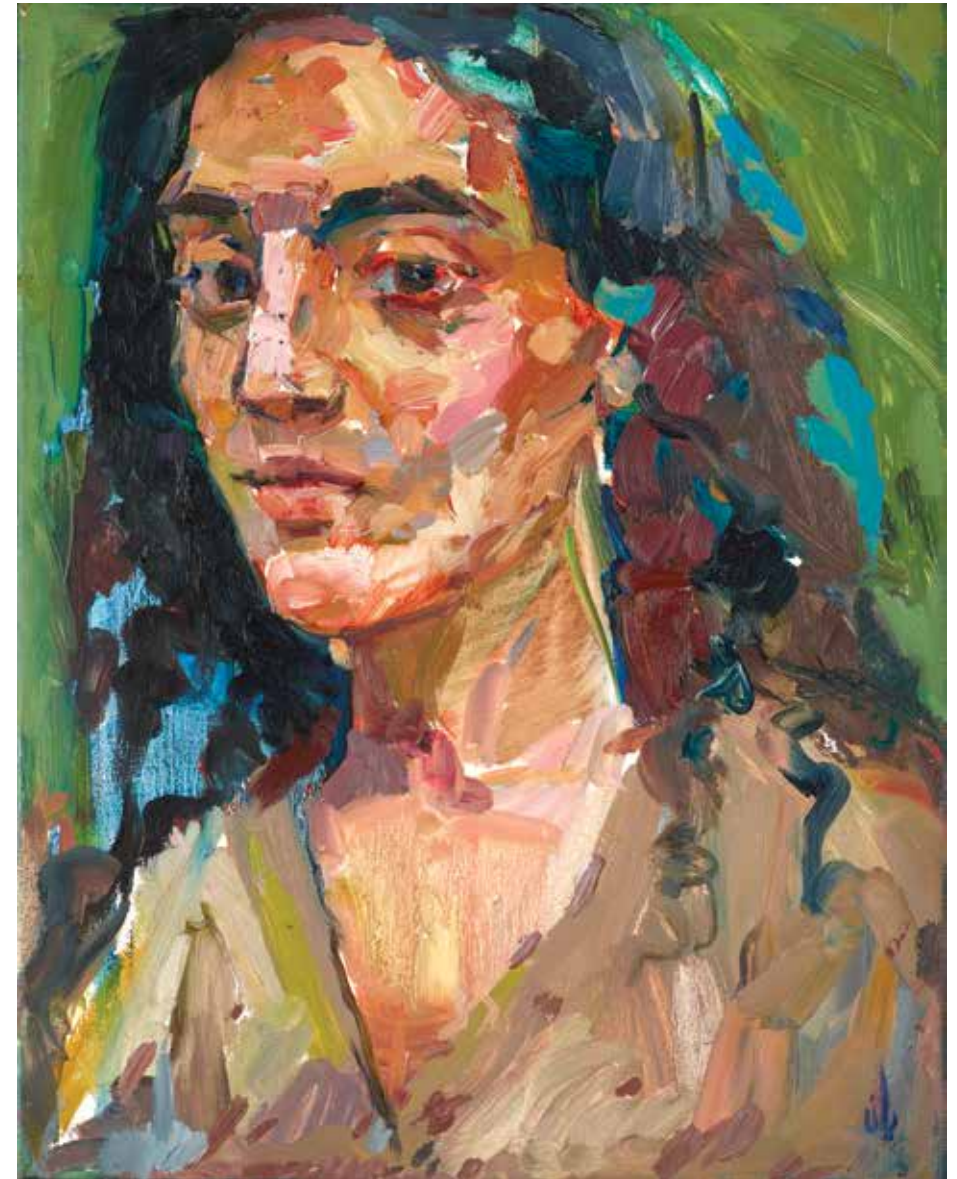
Ancestral Interference
Oil on canvas | 28x35.5 cm | 2025



Cleio
Oil on canvas | 28x35.5 cm | 2025



Fond-du-lac
Oil on canvas | 35.5x28 cm | 2026



Waiting Jane
Oil on canvas | 35.5x28 cm | 2025

About the Artist

Yasmina Alexandra Nysten is a Lebanese-Finnish artist based in Oregon. Born in Helsinki in 1988 and raised in Beirut, she earned a BFA from the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) and an MFA in Digital Arts from Pratt Institute in New York.

Nysten's early practice focused on the body through large-format paintings and works on paper. During her years living and exhibiting in New York, this work expanded to encompass urban environments, social narratives, and the dynamics of visibility and absence. Grounded in these experiences, her practice frequently bridges subcultural and global perspectives across both Middle Eastern and American artistic contexts.

Recently, working along the Pacific Coast in Oregon, Nysten has turned toward portraiture as a space to examine identity beyond literal likeness. Her figures balance material presence with atmospheric softness, acting as thresholds where interior states, ancestral memory, and environments overlap. Through a self-reflexive visual language, she continues to explore the human experience and its quieter, ethereal dimensions.



© Saleh Barakat Gallery - All rights reserved
Design by Carol Chehab
Photography by Mansour Dib
Printed by Salim Dabbous Printing Co. sarl
September, 2026
The Upper Gallery | Saleh Barakat Gallery | Justinian St. | Clemenceau
Beirut | Lebanon
info@salehbarakatgallery.com
www.salehbarakatgallery.com

 [@salehbarakatgallery](#)
 [Saleh Barakat Gallery](#)
 [@_SBGallery](#)

