

The logo for Nino Mier Gallery, featuring the text "NINO MIER" at the top and "GALLERY" at the bottom, arranged in a circular pattern around a central vertical line.

NINO MIER
GALLERY

NEL AERTS

COCLOPIE

JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 17, 2023



NINO MIER GALLERY BRUSSELS
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NEL AERTS

Coclopie

January 14 – February 17, 2023

NINO MIER GALLERY

BRUSSELS

Nino Mier Gallery is pleased to announce *Coclopie*, an exhibition of oil paintings and graphite drawings by Antwerp-based artist Nel Aerts. A series of paintings and drawings will on view in Brussels, Belgium from January 14 – February 17, 2023.

Coclopie – a word conjoining “oculus”, “cyclops”, and the bioluminescent deep sea creature “copepod” – names the one-eyed creatures emerging from Aerts’ new compositions. Each painting features a pared-down creature embedded within a striped pictorial plane. Aerts’ coclopie comprise only one eye, which cartoonishly peers to one side, and sometimes a torso or a single limb. Despite their painterly reduction, the artist still imbues some of her figures with charged emotionality, like the forlorn downward gaze of *Self-doubt* or the vacant stare of *Camouflaging The Dark Clouds*. Others are mute, both verbally and affectively. “The moment you think you glide into a sentimentality,” says Aerts, “you see that some figures have an erect penis coming out of their heads, assertively dancing in the sky.” Her humor and irreverence rears its head even within this newly economical approach.

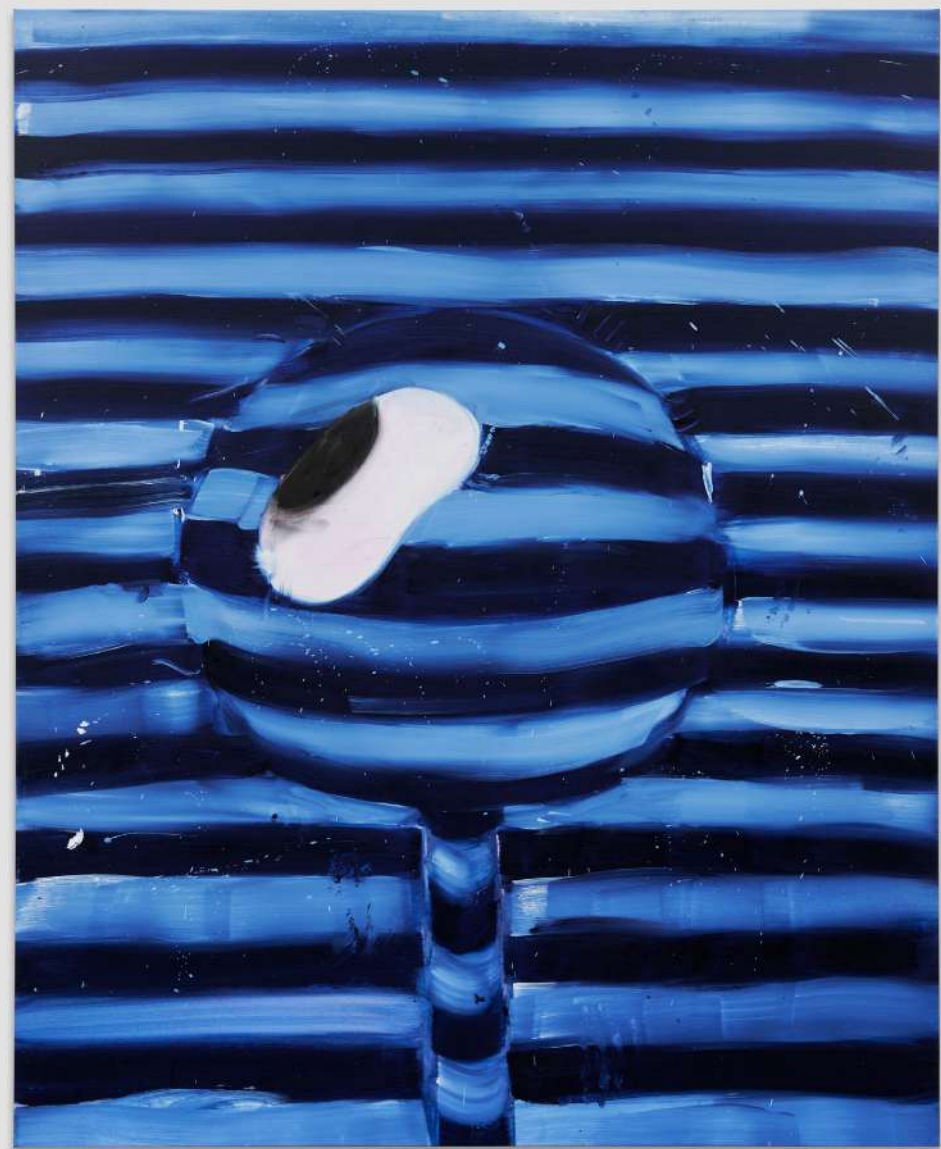
Describing the process for *Coclopie*, Aerts said she felt the works becoming “something more like science fiction: how the world would look in an ancient future, when nothing is left, and we are reduced and obliged to become one with nature again.” The exhibition is therefore not only formally reductive, but also speculates around several other forms of reduction: the reduction of community, of lifeforms, and of personal agency.

A diminished sense of safety also pervades the works in the exhibition. Each figure is camouflaged with its environment, the picture plane. Camouflage is a tool of survival, and its omnipresence in *Coclopie* gives the works a sense of imminent danger, as lighthearted as the figures might otherwise seem. The camouflage makes the foreground and background of each work disappear into each other, leading viewers’ eyes back to the works’ minimal surfaces.

The series of graphite drawings featured in *Coclopie* are self-portraits of Aerts in front of her paintings. She depicts herself in a state of physical and emotional extremity: her limbs extend abundantly, her hands vibrate, her body twists and turns, and she yells, falls, pleads, and cries. “The drawings bring the exhibition back to me,” explains Aerts, “they’re self-deprecating, which is a necessity. They are a way for me to deal with my own vulnerability and the nightmare that is the painting process.” But through darkness comes a light. Like the self-generating light of the copepod, it imparts a spontaneous luminosity to Aerts’ paintings and a nimble humor to her fallen world.

Nel Aerts (b. 1987, lives and works in Antwerp, BE) studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium from 2005-2009. She has had solo shows at museums and galleries worldwide, including at Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles; Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR; Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, UK; Museum M, Leuven, BE; Kunsthalle Lingen, Lingen, DE; Westflischer Kunstverein, Münster, DE; De Warande, Turnhout, BE; Plus One Gallery, Antwerp, BE; Kunsthalle Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK; and Vincent van Gogh Huis Galerie, Zundert, NL, among many others.







Teleport | 2022 | Oil, pastel, and glitter on canvas | 84 5/8 x 72 in, 215 x 183 cm | (NAE23.018)



Thirteen seems to be the age at which a person perfects the eye roll | 2022
Oil stick and oil on paper in artist-made frame | 40 1/8 x 28 3/8 in, 102 x 72 cm | (NAE23.008)



Never Knock Out | 2022 | Graphite on paper | 17 5/8 x 23 1/4 in, 44.7 x 59 cm (framed) | (NAE23.019)



Crush | 2022 | Oil and lacquer on canvas | 59 x 60 1/4 in, 150 x 153 cm | (NAE23.016)



Cyclops Copepods | 2022 | Oil spray paint, oil sticks on canvas | 41 3/8 x 78 3/4 in, 105 x 200 cm | (NAE23.024)



Coclopie Sculpture (self-portrait as Magician) | 2022-2023 | Mixed media Steel, plexiglass, cardboard, Led, glitter, prints and acrylic
51 1/8 x 50 x 2 3/4 in 130 x 127 x 7 cm | (NAE23.026)

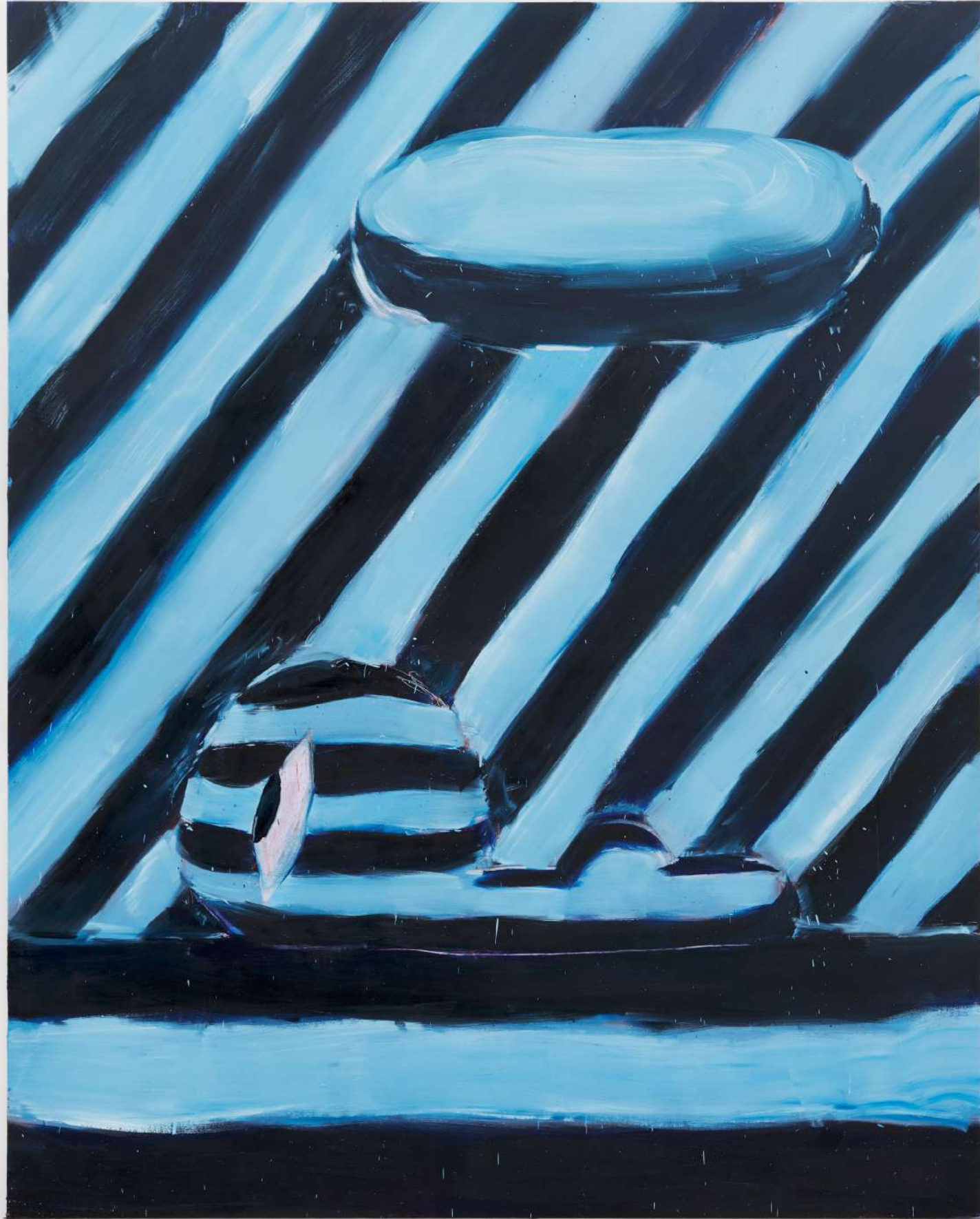




Moon I 2022 | Oil and spay paint on canvas | 55 1/8 x 43 3/4 in, 140 x 111 cm | (NAE23.028)



Energy | 2022 | Graphite on paper | 18 1/2 x 12 3/4 in, 47 x 32.5 cm (framed) | (NAE23.022)



Camouflaging The Dark Clouds | 2022 | Oil on Canvas | 78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm | (NAE23.027)





Self-doubt | 2022 | Oil on canvas | 55 1/8 x 44 1/2 in, 140 x 113 cm | (NAE23.015)



an upward turning of the eyes especially as an expression of annoyance | 2022 | Oil on canvas
55 1/8 x 41 in, 140 x 104 cm | (NAE23.012)





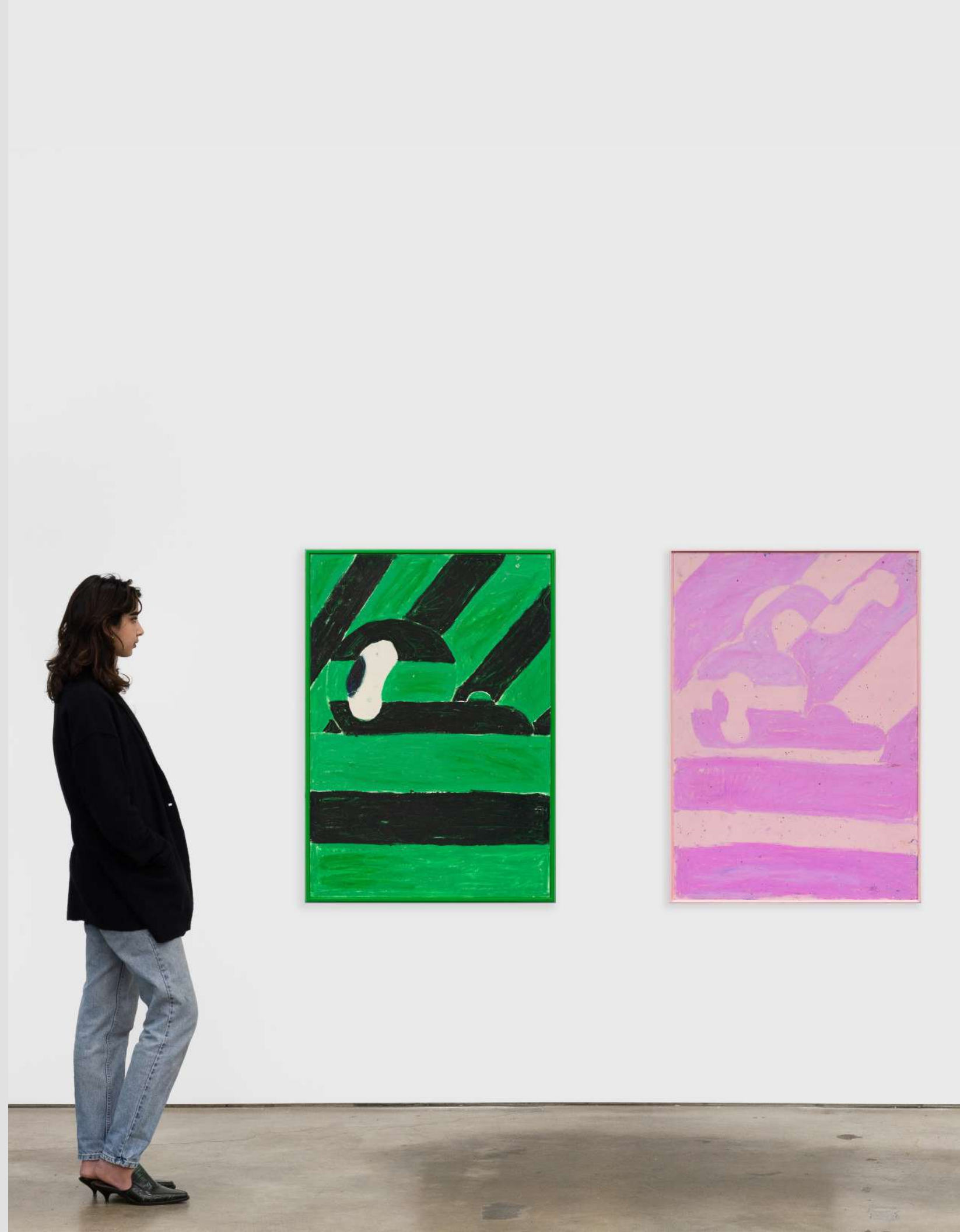
Heart and D | 2022 | Graphite on paper | 18 1/2 x 12 3/4 in, 47 x 32.5 cm (framed) | (NAE23.023)

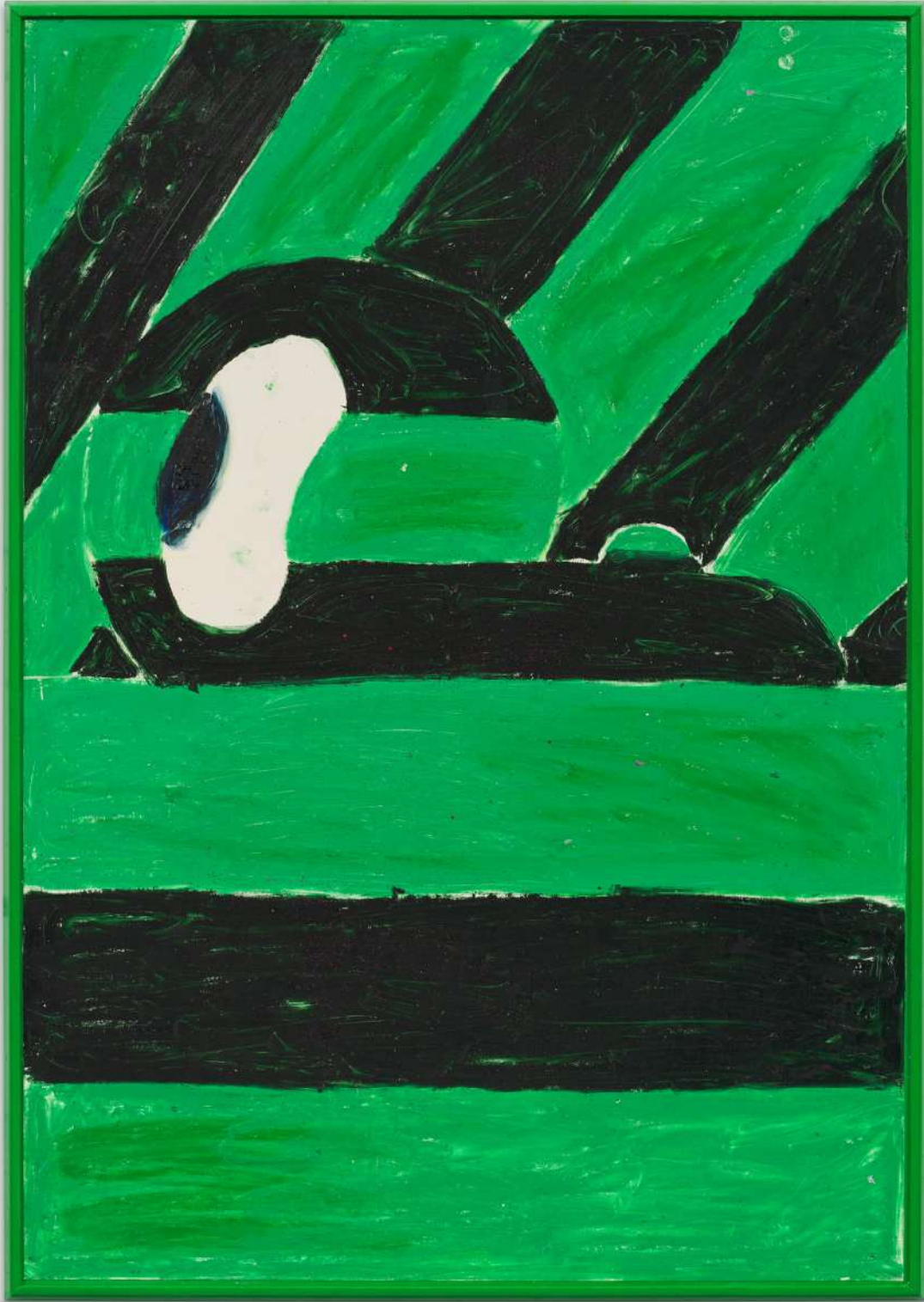


Born Dead | 2022 | Oil on canvas | 55 1/8 x 43 1/4 in, 140 x 110 cm | (NAE23.014)



Pink Girl Boy | 2022 | Lacquer, glitter, and oil pastel on paper in artist-made frame
40 1/8 x 28 3/4 in, 102 x 73 cm (NAE23.006)



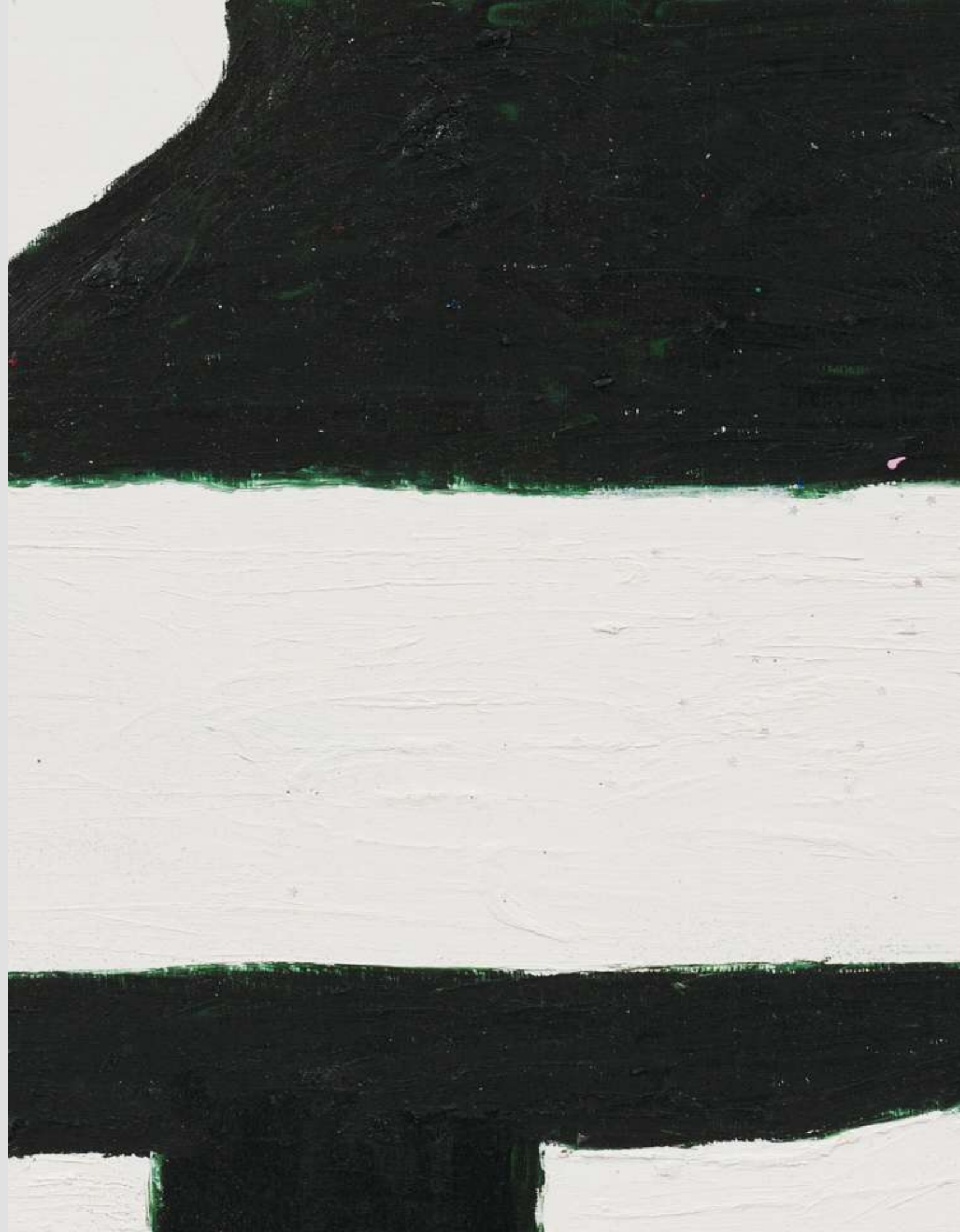
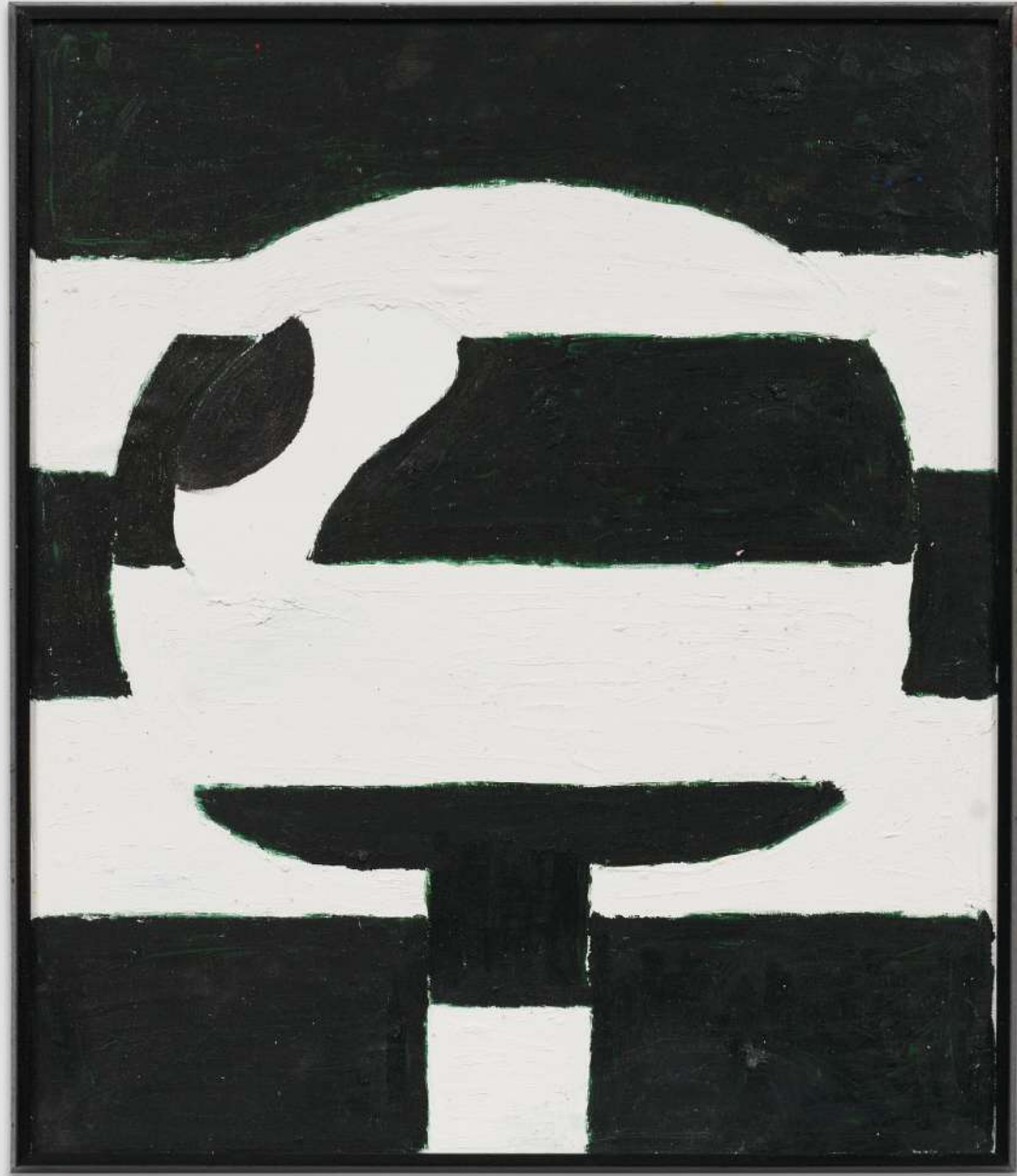


Green and Green and Eye-roll | 2022 | Oil stick and lacquer on paper in artist-made frame
40 1/2 x 28 3/4 in, 103 x 73 cm | (NAE23.007)



Coclopie Sculpture (Downhill) | 2022-23 | Mixed media Steel, plexiglass, cardboard, Led, glitter, prints and acrylic
48 x 45 5/8 x 2 3/4 in, 122 x 116 x 7 cm | (NAE23.025)





B/W | 2022 | Oil stick, coloring pencil and glitter on paper in artist-made frame
28 3/8 x 24 3/8 in, 72 x 62 cm | (NAE23.009)



Silver Landscape I 2022 | Oil stick, glitter, oil, and spray paint on paper in artist-made frame |
32 5/8 x 29 7/8, in 83 x 76 cm | (NAE23.003)

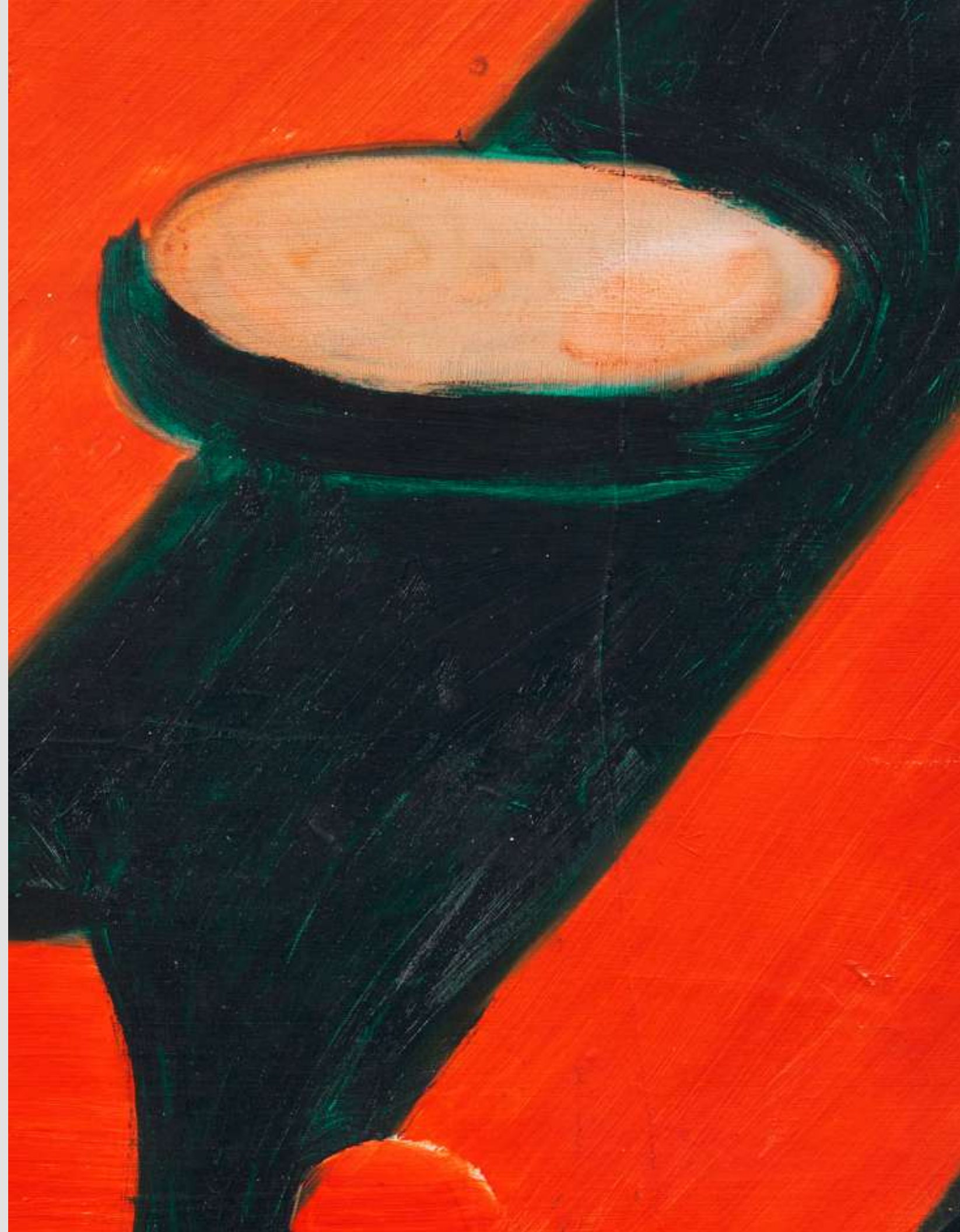


Submissive Idiot | 2022 | Graphite on paper | 18 1/2 x 12 3/4 in, 47 x 32.5 cm (framed) | (NAE23.020)



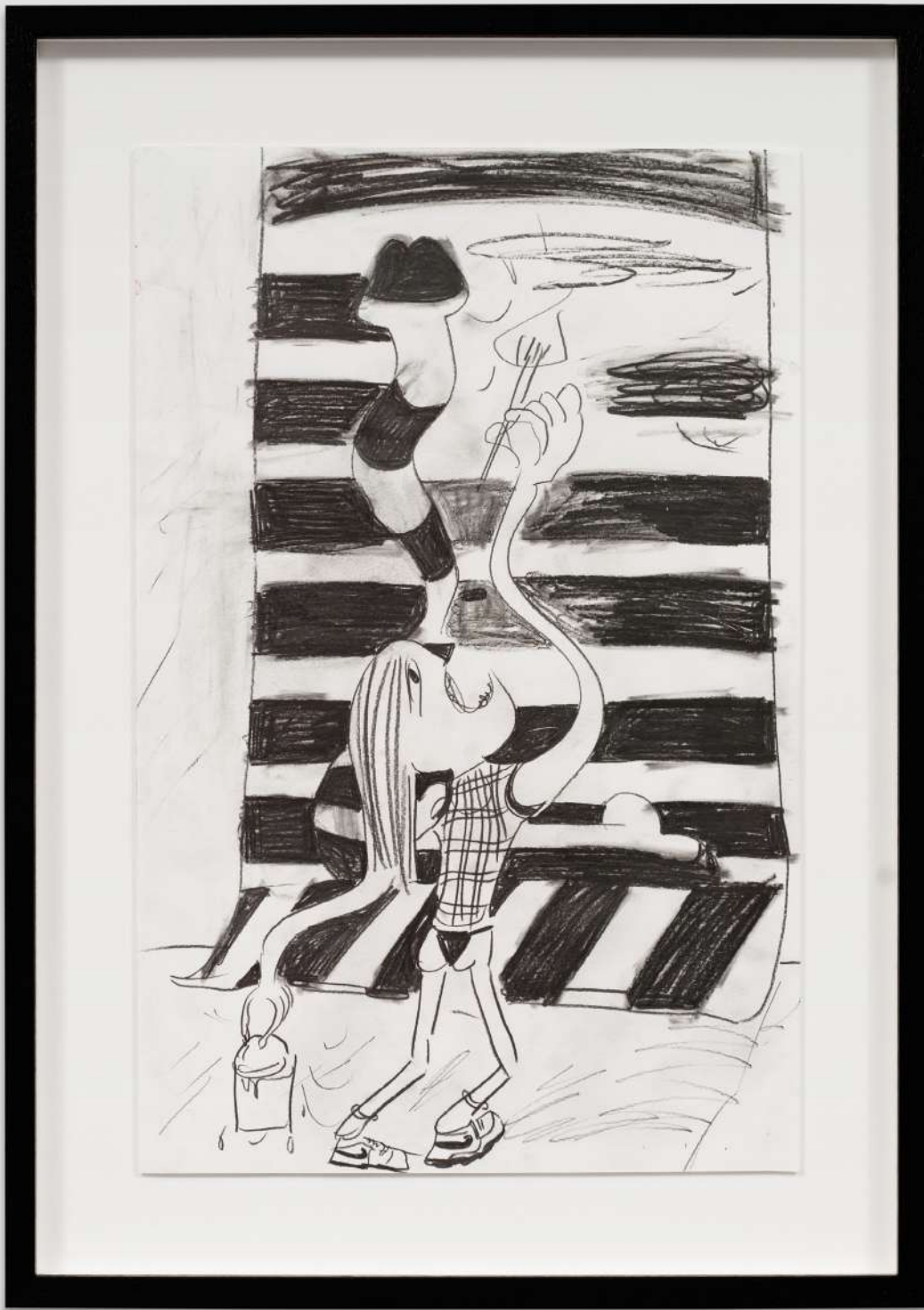
Red Blue Eye Roll | 2022 | Oil stick and glitter on paper in artist-made frame
28 3/8 x 20 1/2 in, 72 x 52 cm | (NAE23.002)





Red Green Cloud and Eye | 2022 | Oil stick and oil on paper in artist-made frame | 41 3/4 x 38 1/4 in, 106 x 97 cm | (NAE23.005)





The Madwoman | 2022 | Graphite on paper | 18 1/2 x 12 3/4 in, 47 x 32.5 cm (framed) | (NAE23.021)

NEL AERTS

Born 1987 in Turnhout, Belgium
Lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium

EDUCATION

2009 MA, Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK), Ghent, BE

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Nino Mier Gallery, Brussels, BE
Half Gallery, New York, US (forthcoming)
- 2022 *Earth Girls*, Stedelijk Museum Hoogstraten, Hoogstraten, BE
- 2021 *SQUIRM*, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US
SWALLOW MAELSTROM HUT HEADS, PLUS-ONE Gallery, Antwerp, BE
- 2020 *Inner Wavy Turmoil Baby*, Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR
Slippery Wobbler, Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, UK
- 2019 *The Waddle Show; a Counteract*, M - Museum, Leuven, BE
Haus der Wanderer, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, DE
Der Schlangenbeschwörer, Kunsthalle Lingen, Lingen, DE
The Other Self (with Ellen Berkenblit), Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR
- 2018 *Checkered Checkmate*, PLUS-ONE Gallery, Antwerp, BE
- 2017 *Ontmaskerd Maske*, De Warande, Turnhout, BE
Lord Nelson FW17, CASSTL, Antwerpen BE
The Village Idiot, Carl Freedman Gallery, London, UK
- 2016 *Jack and the Paradise Cruise*, Horizont Gallery, Budapest, HU
- 2015 *Billenkoek*, KIOSK Gallery, Ghent, BE
Verzopen Vaarwaters, trampoline, Antwerp, BE
- 2014 *Doppelgänger*, trampoline, Antwerp, BE
Lord Nelson's Portrait Gallery, Carl Freedman Gallery, London, UK
A Two-Course Meal, (with Kristian Devantier), Galleri SPECTA, Copenhagen, DK
- 2013 *Liste Basel*, Galerie VidalCuglietta, Basel, CH
POST, Kunsthalle Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, DK
De averechtse val van Huize Frankendael, Frankendael Foundation, Amsterdam, NL
- 2012 *De dans rond het uurglas*, Galerie Vidal Cuglietta, Brussels, BE
- 2010 *Undisclosed Gathering*, Croxhapox, Ghent, BE
- 2009 *One with the Medicine Man*, Pocketroom, Antwerp, BE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Oude Wijn/Nieuwe Zakken*, De Warande, Turnhout, BE
Moods & Memories, Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens, GR
When Species Meet, Lore Deutz, Cologne, DE
- 2021 *Universiteit Lichtekooi*, /w Gert Verhoeven, Lichtekooi, Antwerp, BE
Gest, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US
Beaufort 2021, Ostend, BE
Lipstick and Gas Masks, M HKA, Antwerp, BE
- 2020 *Playground Festival*, Museum M, Leuven, BE
De Nacht, de Warande, Turnhout, BE
Art's Birthday, M HKA, Antwerp, BE
L'heure bleue, PLUS-ONE Gallery & Gallery Sofie Van de Velde, Antwerp, BE
- 2019 *Teixeira de Freitas Collection*, Sala de Arte of the Santander Foundation, Madrid, ES
Salon de Pointer, MHKA, Antwerp, BE
- 2018 *ADA*, Thomas Rehbein Galerie, Cologne, DE
Soft? Tactile Dialogues, MOMU, Maurice Verbaet Center, Antwerp, BE
Affiniteiten #1, LLS Paleis, Antwerp, BE
Private Choices, De Centrale, Brussels, BE
- 2017 *Pélamide*, Gladstone Gallery, Brussels, BE
#infiniteflowersplusone, PLUS-ONE Gallery, Antwerp, BE
- 2016 *Show me yours & I'll show you mine*, Muhka, Antwerp, BE
- 2015 *Rock, Paper, Scissors*, Primo Piano, Paris, FR
11 kunstenaars tegen de muur, Antwerp, BE
Character Traits, Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York, NY, US
Inhabitations, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, CH
Six possibilities in painting, Galerie Bernhard, Zürich, CH
Blue Pink Black, Carl Freedman Gallery, London, UK
Tranen uit de Schelde, Art's Birthday, M HKA, Antwerp, BE
Wrijving van gedachten/Antwerpen-Zundert, Van Gogh Huis, Zundert, NL
- 2014 *De vierkantigste rechthoek*, Kunsthall KAdE, Amersfoort, NL
ATLAS, MOTInternational, Brussels, BE
L'Europe des Artistes, Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, NO
Season of the Which, Castillo/Corrales, Paris, FR
- 2013 *Salon der Angst*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, AT
Time Space Poker Face, Be-Part, Waregem, BE
- 2012 *Definitional Disruptions*, Kunstraum, London, UK
Un-Scene II, WIELS, Brussels, BE
BOOKSHOWBOOKSHOP, Be-Part, Waregem, BE
- 2011 *Art's Birthday*, MHKA, Antwerp, BE
Billboard Projects, Antwerp, BE
- 2009 *Coming People*, S.M.A.K., Ghent, BE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2022 *New edition*, Guillaume Bijl and Gert Verhoeven, Antwerp, BE (forthcoming)
Innen zines, Zürich, BE (forthcoming)
SQUIRM, edition of 200, Lord Nelson #17, Antwerp, BE
- 2021 *SWALLOW MAELSTROM HUT HEADS*, edition of 400, Lord Nelson and PLUS-ONE Gallery, Antwerp, BE
- 2019 *Wobble Doodle*, edition of 300, Lord Nelson #15, Antwerp, BE
- 2018 *Cookie Head*, cookie, unlimited edition, Lord Nelson #13, Antwerp, BE
Checkered Checkmate, edition of 300, published by Lord Nelson #12 & PLUS-ONE Gallery, Antwerp, BE
Lord Nelsons Photo Album (#1), edition of 20, Lord Nelson #11, Antwerp, BE
Ontmaskerd Maske 2, edition of 500, Lord Nelson #10, Antwerp, BE
- 2017 *Ontmaskerd Maske*, edition of 500, De Warande, Turnhout, BE
The Village Idiot, edition of 200, Lord Nelson #9, Antwerp, BE
- 2016 *Billenkoek*, (with Gerard Herman), edition of 64, KIOSK, Ghent, BE
Hundred Zundert, Posture Editions #19, Ghent, BE
- 2015 *Lord Nelson Posters*, edition of 200, Lord Nelson #7, Antwerp, BE
- 2014 *Take a seat*, edition of 17, Lord Nelson #6, Antwerp, BE & Carl Freedman Gallery, London, UK
Al draagt een aap een gouden ring, het is en blijft een lelijk ding (with Vaast Colson), poster, edition of 500, Clean Press #25 & Lord Nelson #5, Antwerp, BE
- 2013 *De averechtse val*, edition of 150, Lord Nelson #4, Antwerp, BE & Galerie Vidal Cuglietta, Brussels, BE
- 2012 *Looking in Looking out*, edition of 12, Lord Nelson #3, Antwerp, BE
Catalogus: De dans rond het uurglas, edition of 50, Lord Nelson #2, Antwerp, BE
Boomhanger (self-portrait), postcard, edition of 200, Lord Nelson, Antwerp, BE
- 2011 *Het gehavend handje* (with Gerard Herman), edition of 36, Antwerp, BE
Whilst the Master sleeps (with Vaast Colson), edition of 300, Clean Press #15, Antwerp, BE
Have a happy one (voor Jan, voor Jelle), edition of 2, Antwerp, BE
Undisclosed Gathering, edition of 200, Antwerp, BE
Undisclosed Gathering, limited colour edition, Antwerp, BE
De Grote Overtocht, edition of 100, Antwerp, BE
- 2010 *Wandelingen (voor Vic)*, edition of 1, Antwerp, BE
- 2009 *Registratie van een actie in Oudenaarde*, edition of 20, Antwerp, BE
- 2007 *Untitled*, edition of 30, Ghent, BE