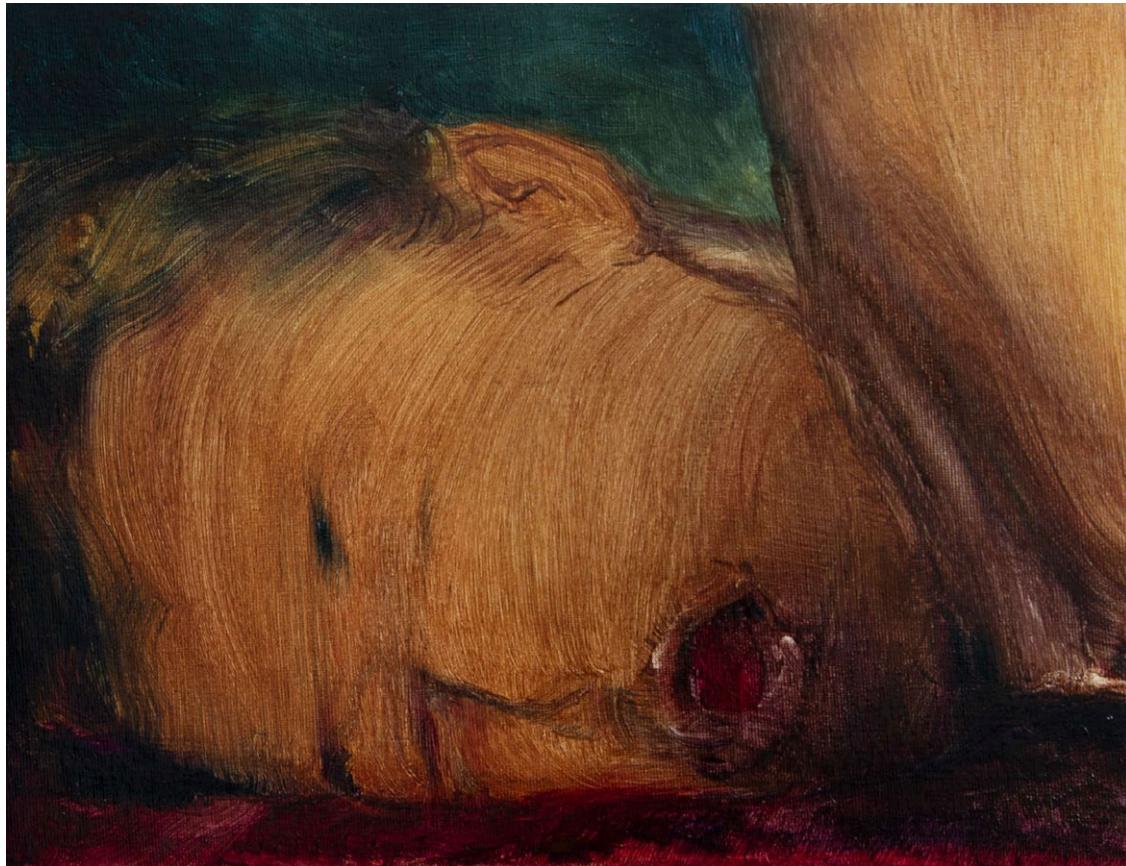


**Xie Lei** 谢磊

Xie Lei (b. 1983 in China) has lived and worked in Paris since 2006. He graduated from the CAFA in Beijing then the ENSBA in Paris. His works have been exhibited in numerous public and private institutions: Collection Lambert, Avignon (FR); Centro de Creación Contemporánea de Andalucía C3A, Cordoba (ES); Casa de Velázquez, Madrid (ES); PS120, Berlin (DE); MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine (FR); Langen Foundation, Neuss (DE); Musée National d'Histoire d'Immigration, Paris (FR); Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dole (FR); Yishu 8 Foundation, Beijing (CN); Ricard Foundation, Paris (FR). His oeuvres feature in many public and private collections such as those of the TBA21 (Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary) Collection, the MAC VAL, the Colas Foundation, the Burger Collection, Rennie Museum in Vancouver and the X Museum in Beijing. In 2016, Xie Lei received his PhD in visual arts at Ecole Normale Supérieure and ENSBA Paris. In 2020-21, he was a resident of the Casa de Velázquez, as a member of the French Academy in Madrid.



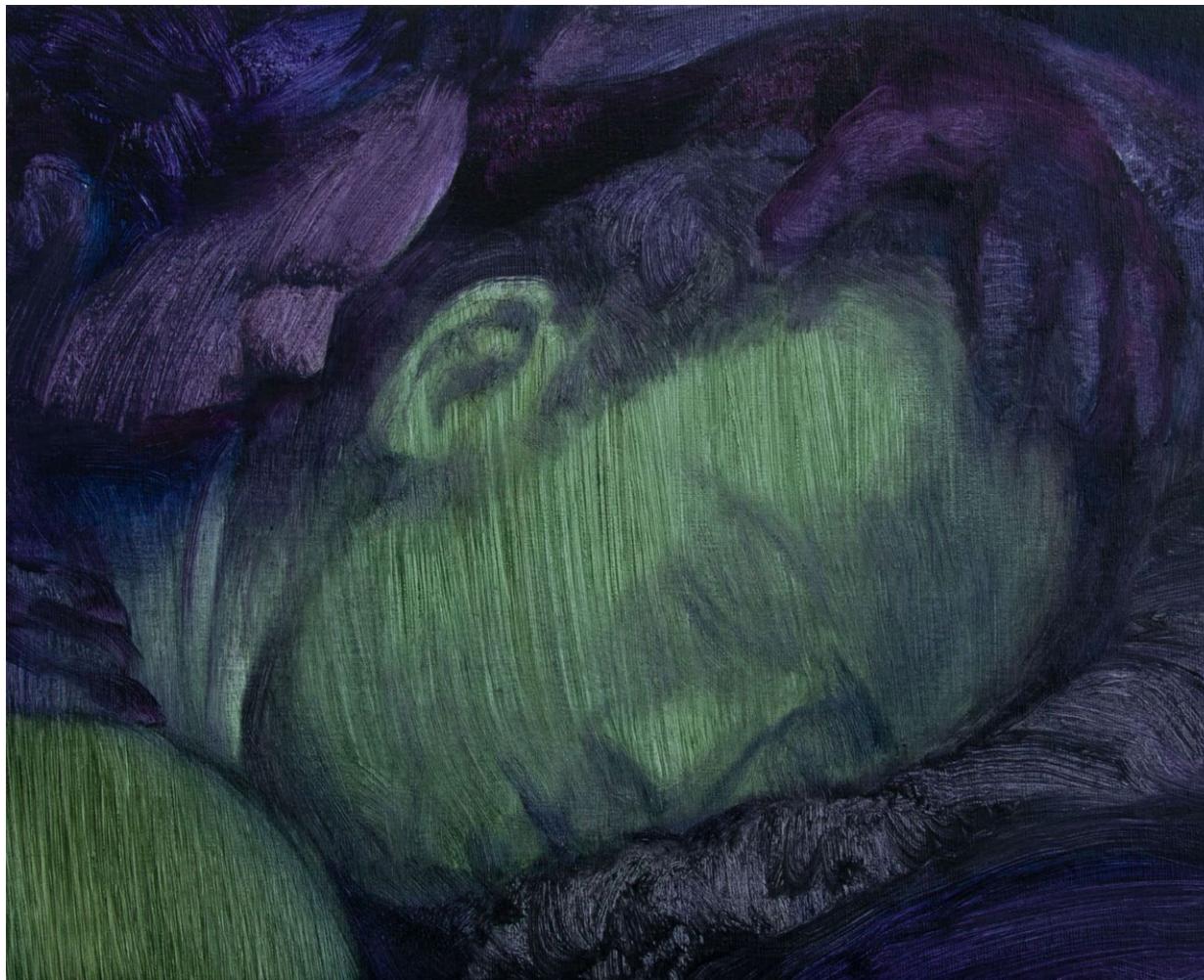
Studio view at the Casa de Velazquez, Madrid, 2021



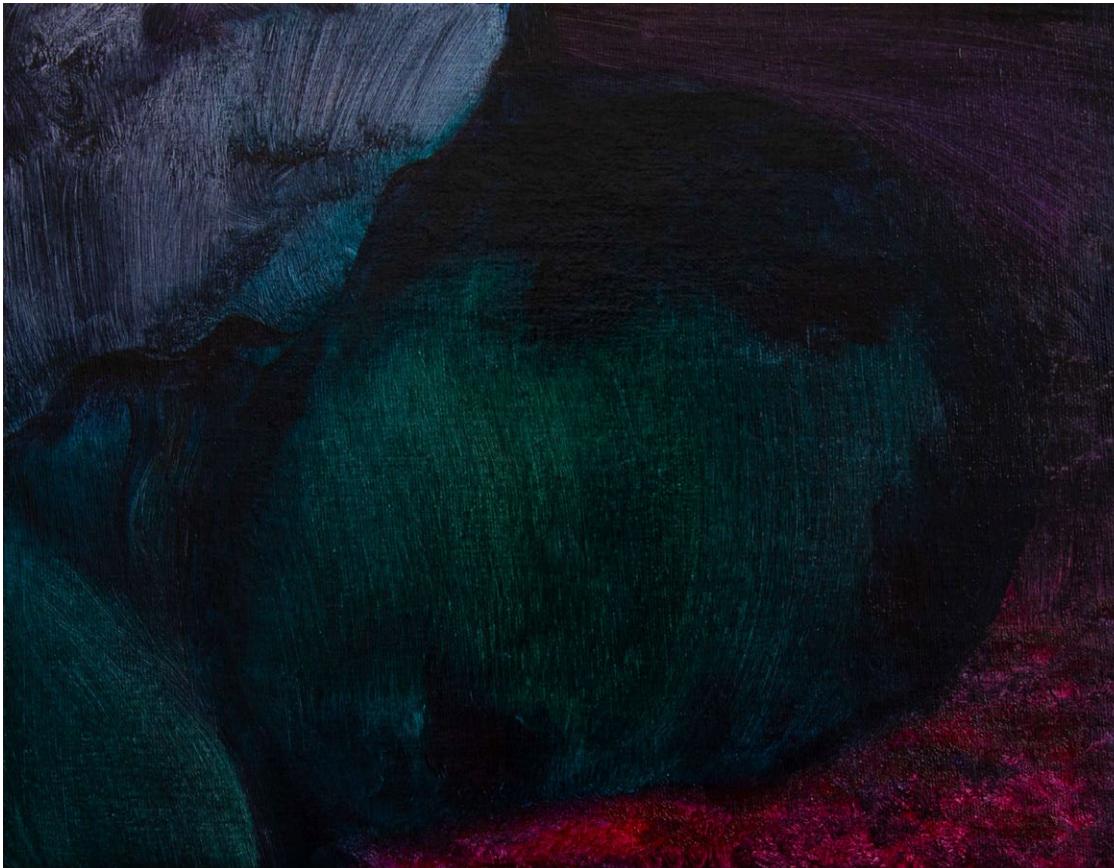
**Slumber I**  
2020  
oil on linen  
27 x 35 cm



**Slumber II**  
2020  
oil on linen  
27 x 35 cm



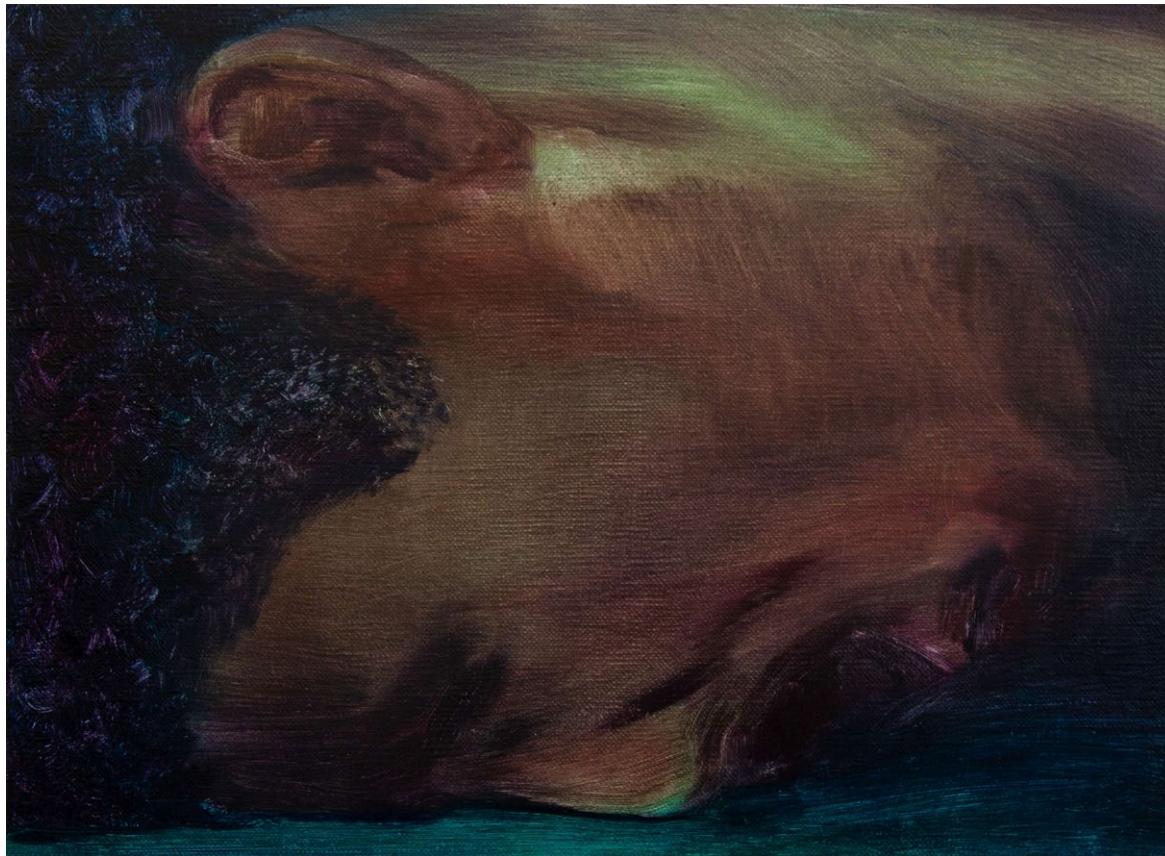
**Slumber IV**  
2020  
oil on linen  
33 x 41 cm



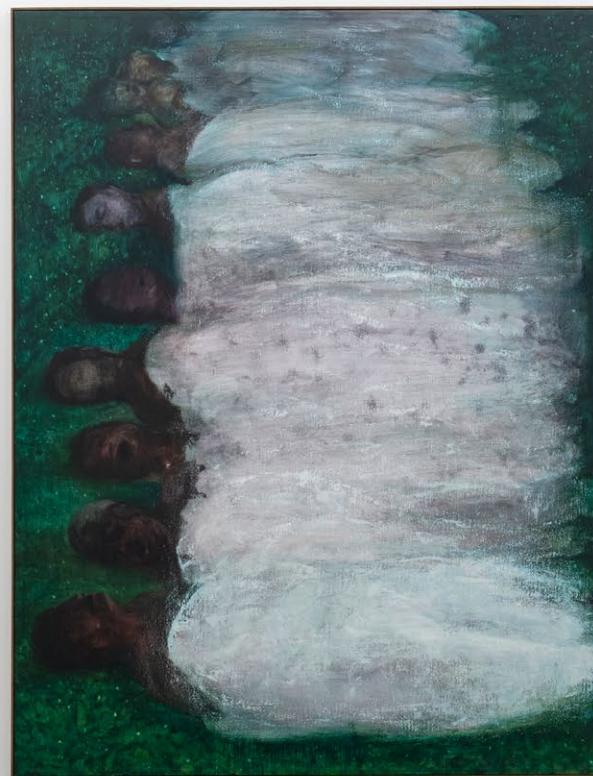
**Slumber V**  
2020  
oil on linen  
27 x 35 cm



**Slumber VII**  
2020  
oil on linen  
24 x 33 cm

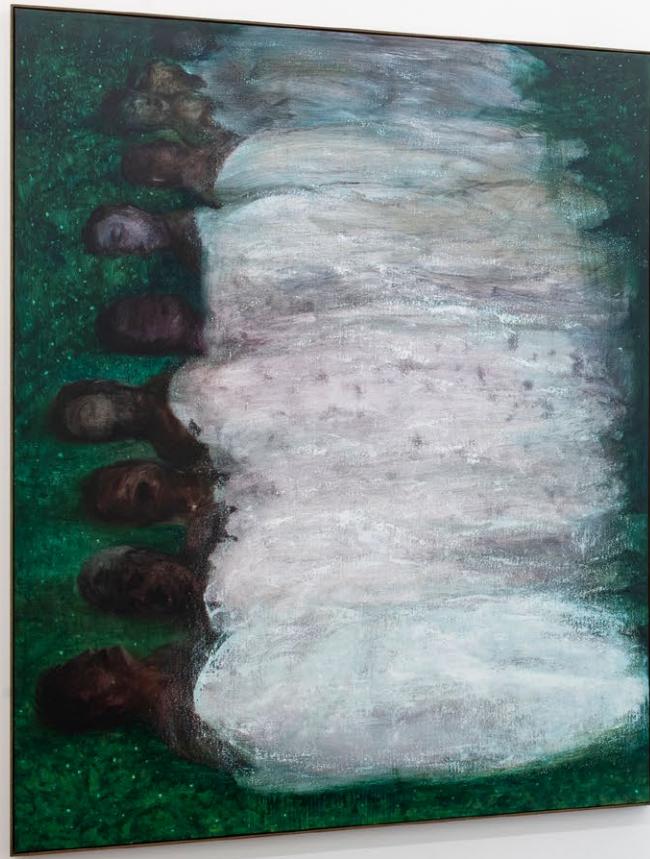


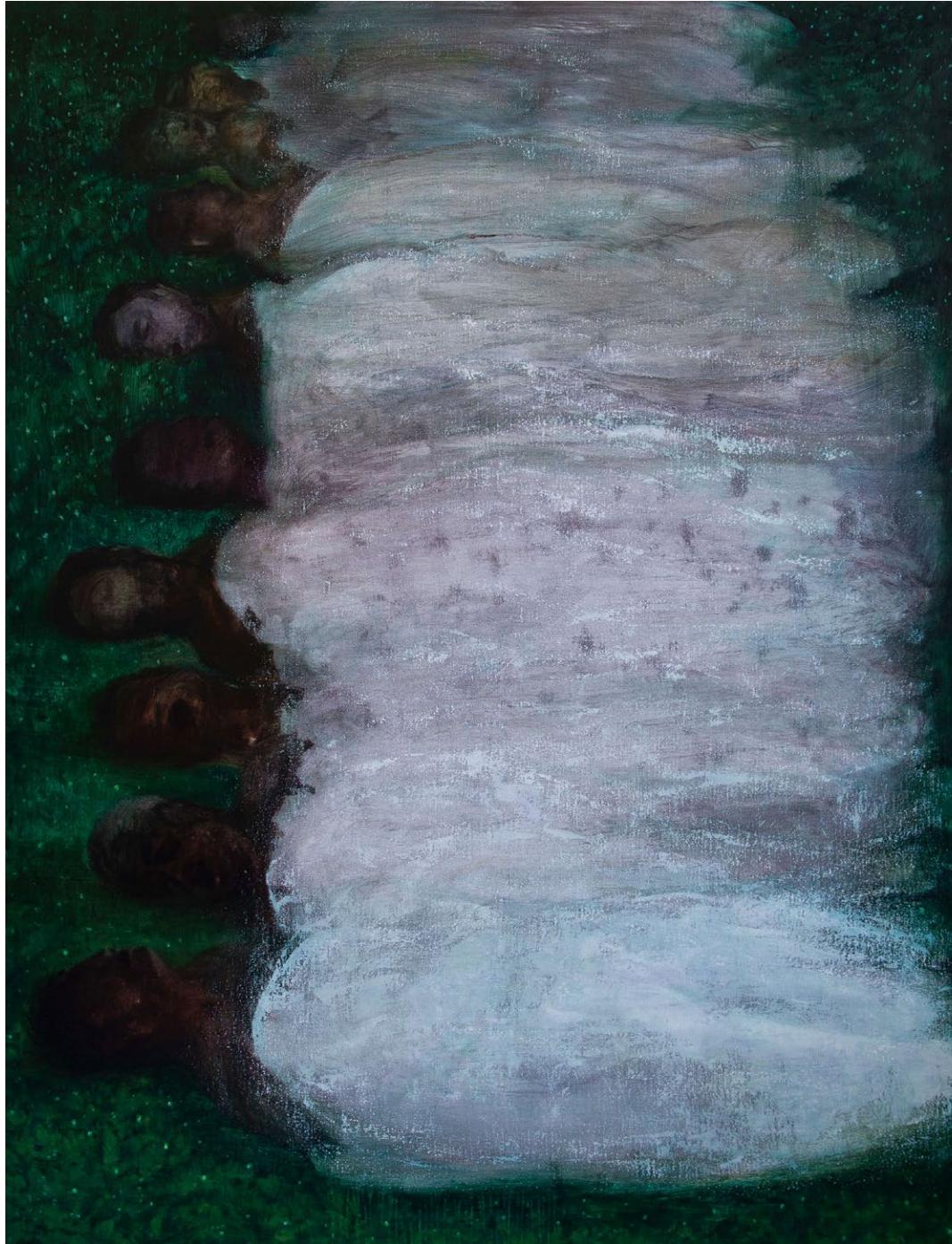
**Slumber VIII**  
2020  
oil on linen  
24 x 33 cm



Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021







Dormeurs  
2020  
oil on canvas  
210 x 170 cm





Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021



**Slumber XI**  
2020  
oil on linen  
30 x 40 cm



Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021



Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021



Fathom  
2020  
oil on linen  
46 x 55 cm



Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021







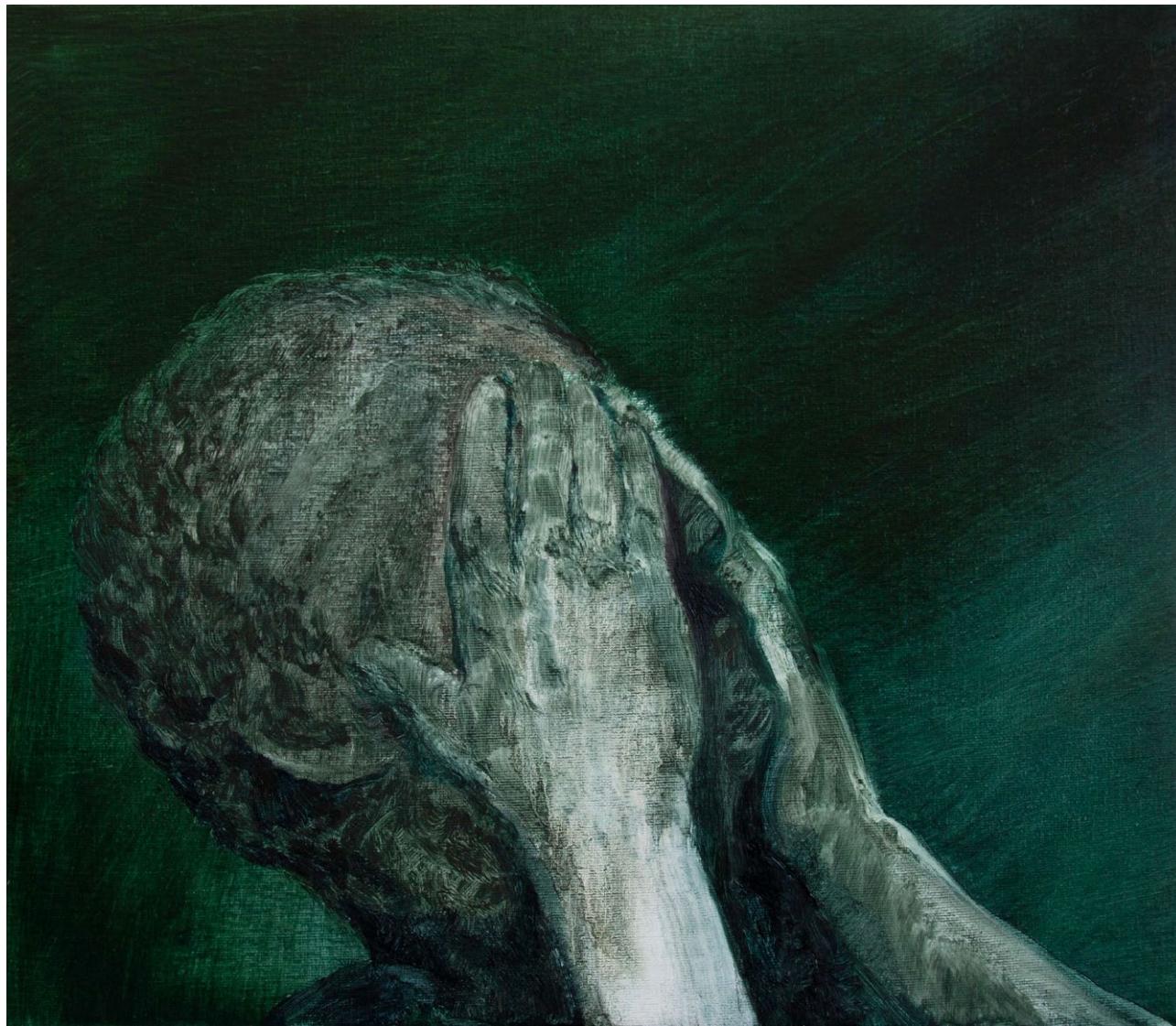


**Germs**

2021

oil on linen

180 x 205 cm



Coronach  
2020  
oil on linen  
40 x 46 cm



Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021





Inside  
2021

oil on linen  
205 x 270 cm





Exhibition view, *Xie Lei - Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels, 2021

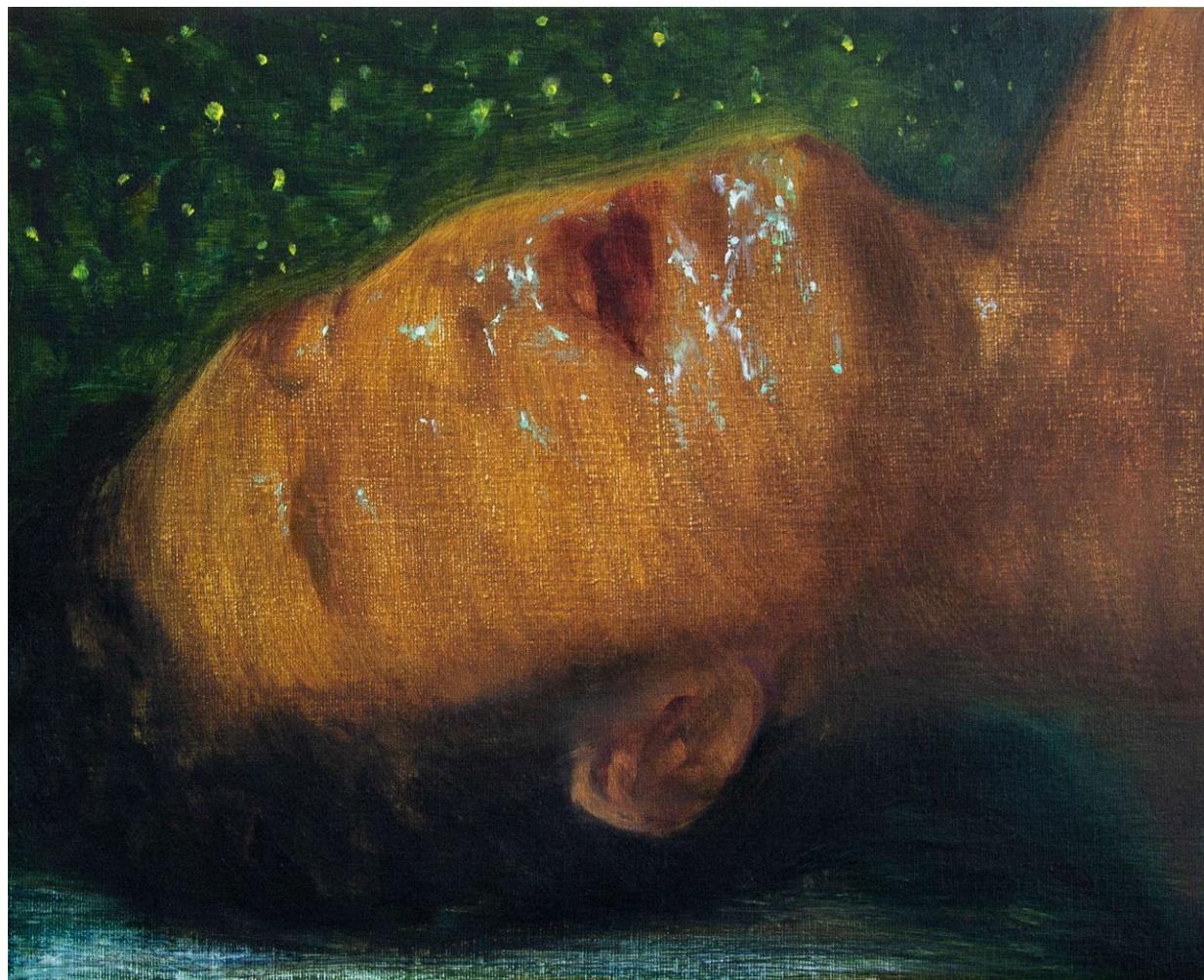




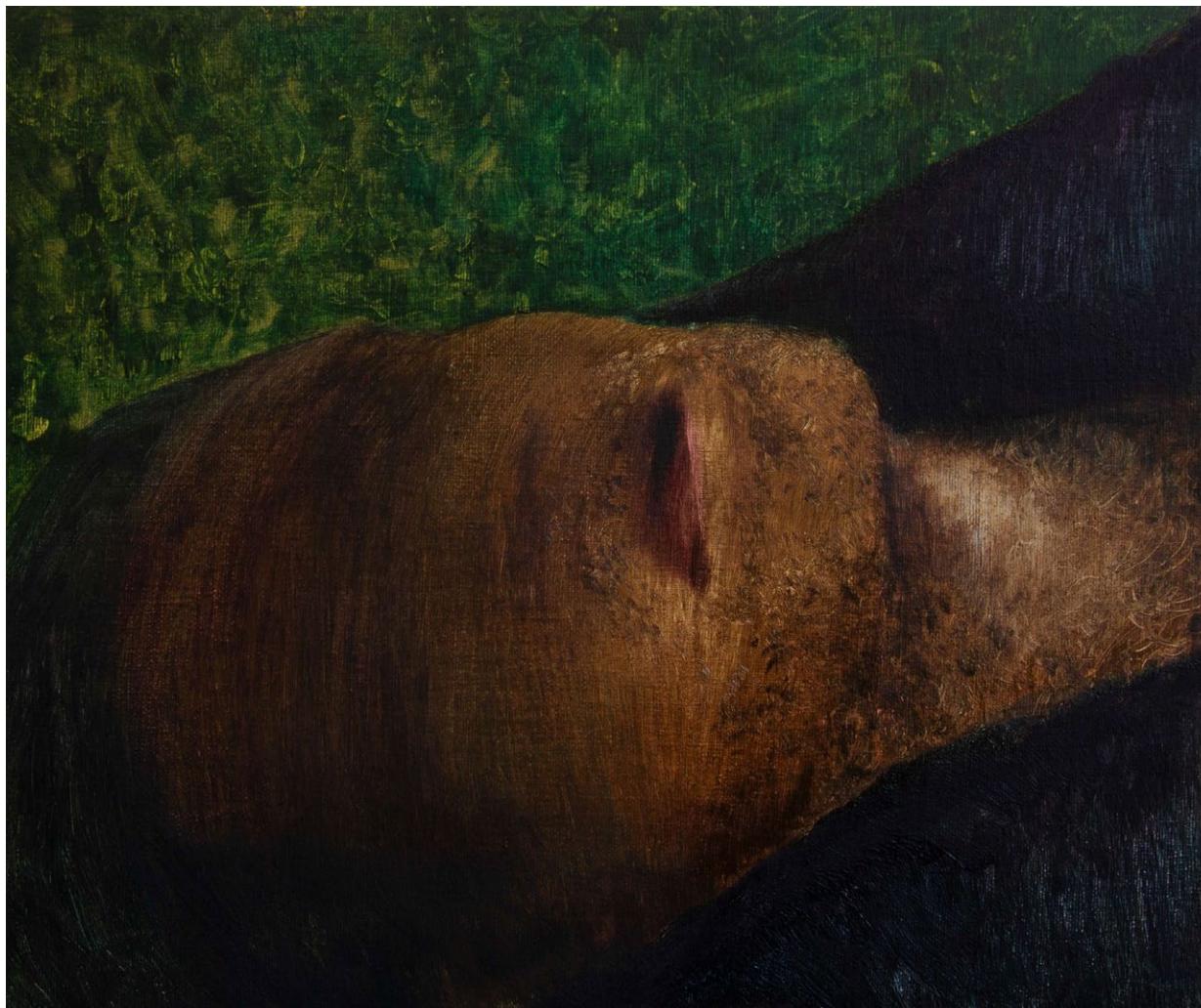


Breath  
2021  
oil on linen  
50 x 60 cm

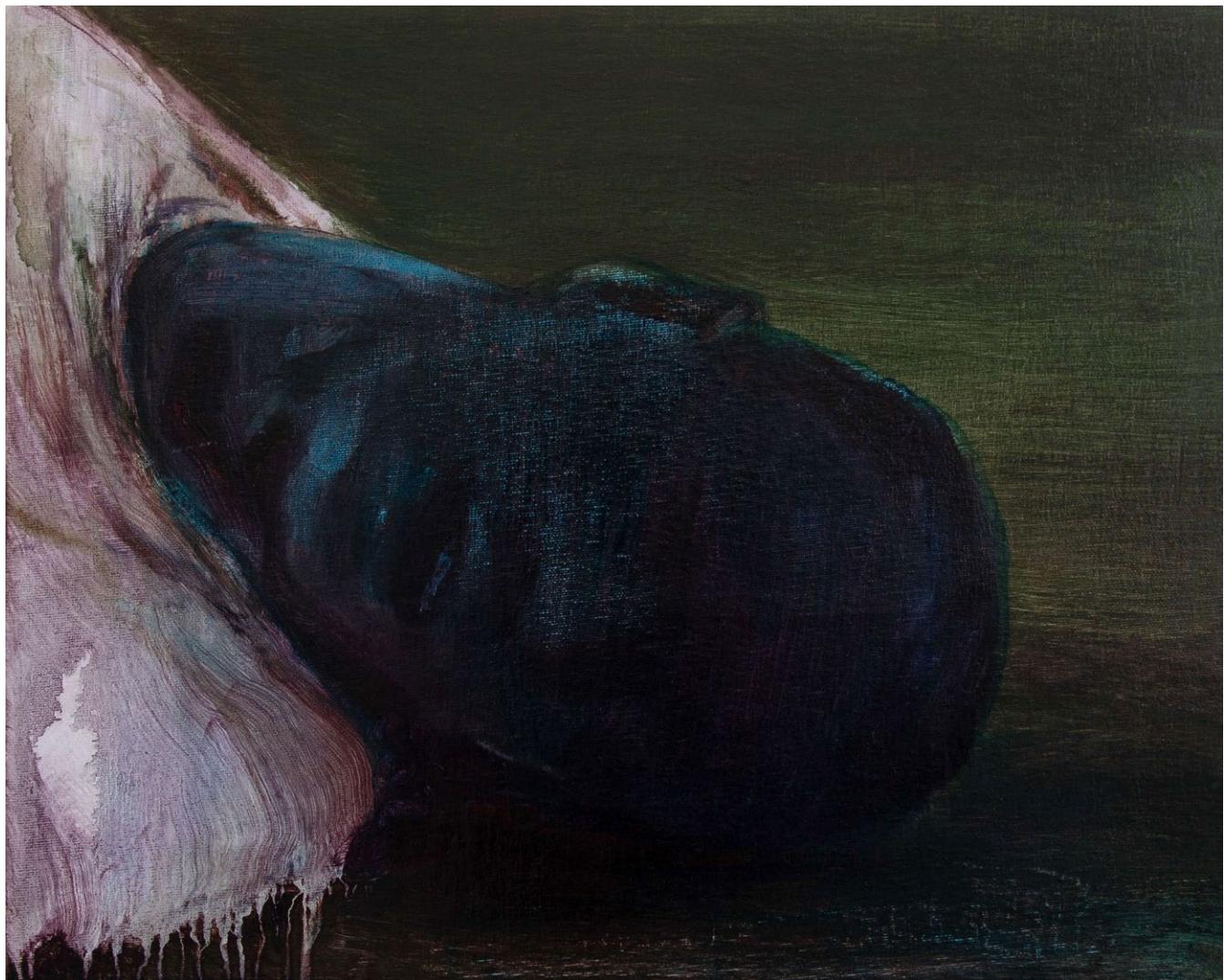




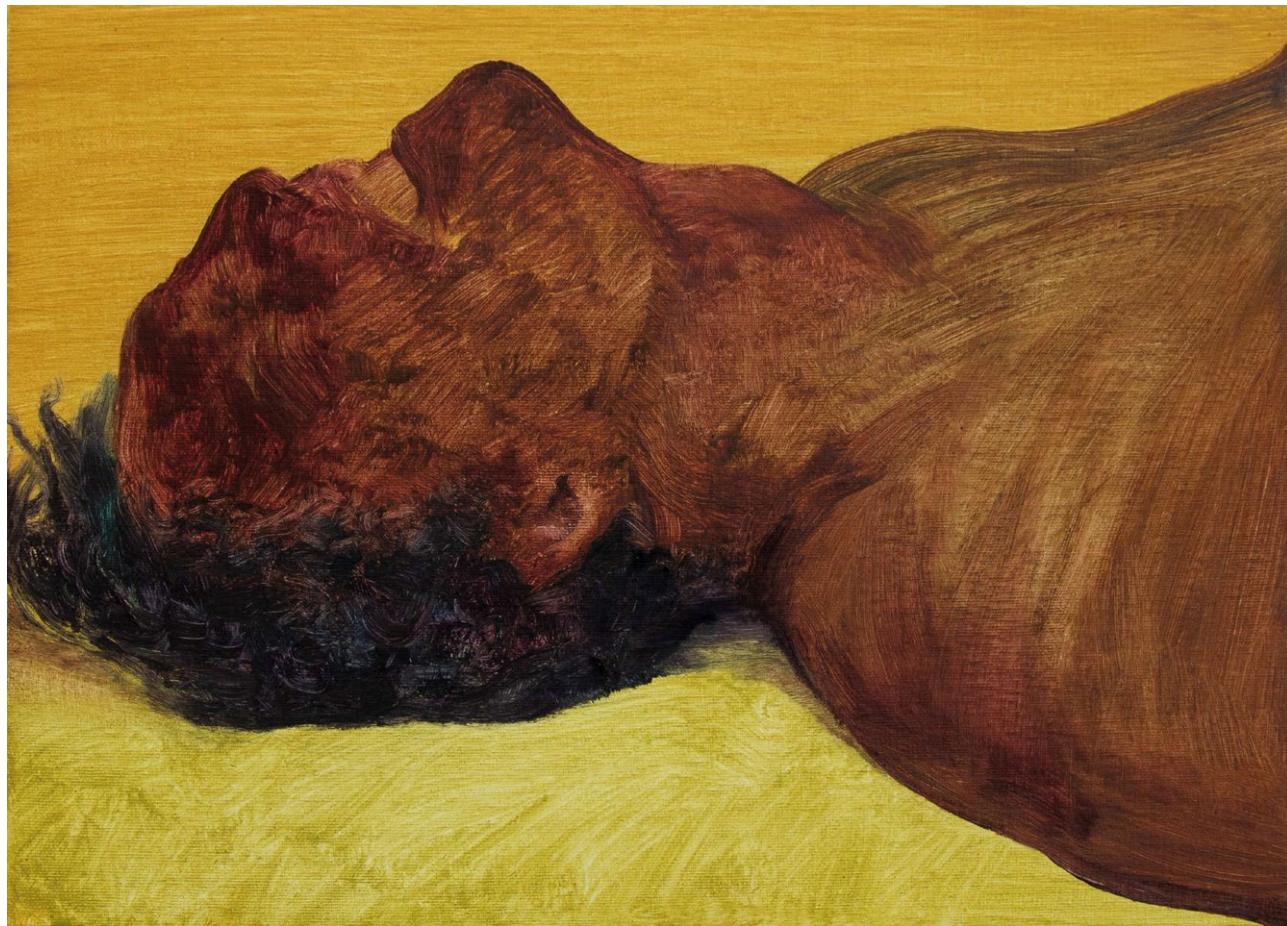
**Slumber VI**  
2020  
oil on linen  
33 x 41 cm



**Slumber IX**  
2020  
oil on linen  
33 x 41 cm



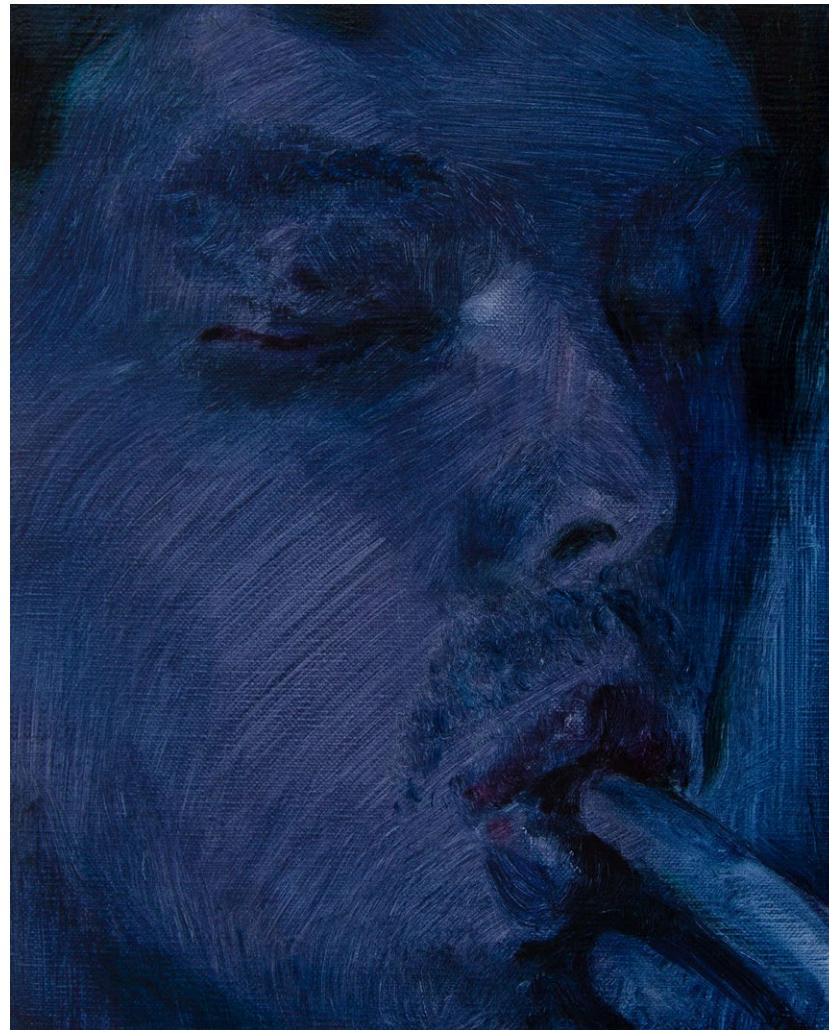
**Slumber X**  
2020  
oil on linen  
40 x 50 cm



**Slumber XII**  
2020  
oil on linen  
33 x 46 cm



**Slumber XIII**  
2020  
oil on linen  
46 x 55 cm

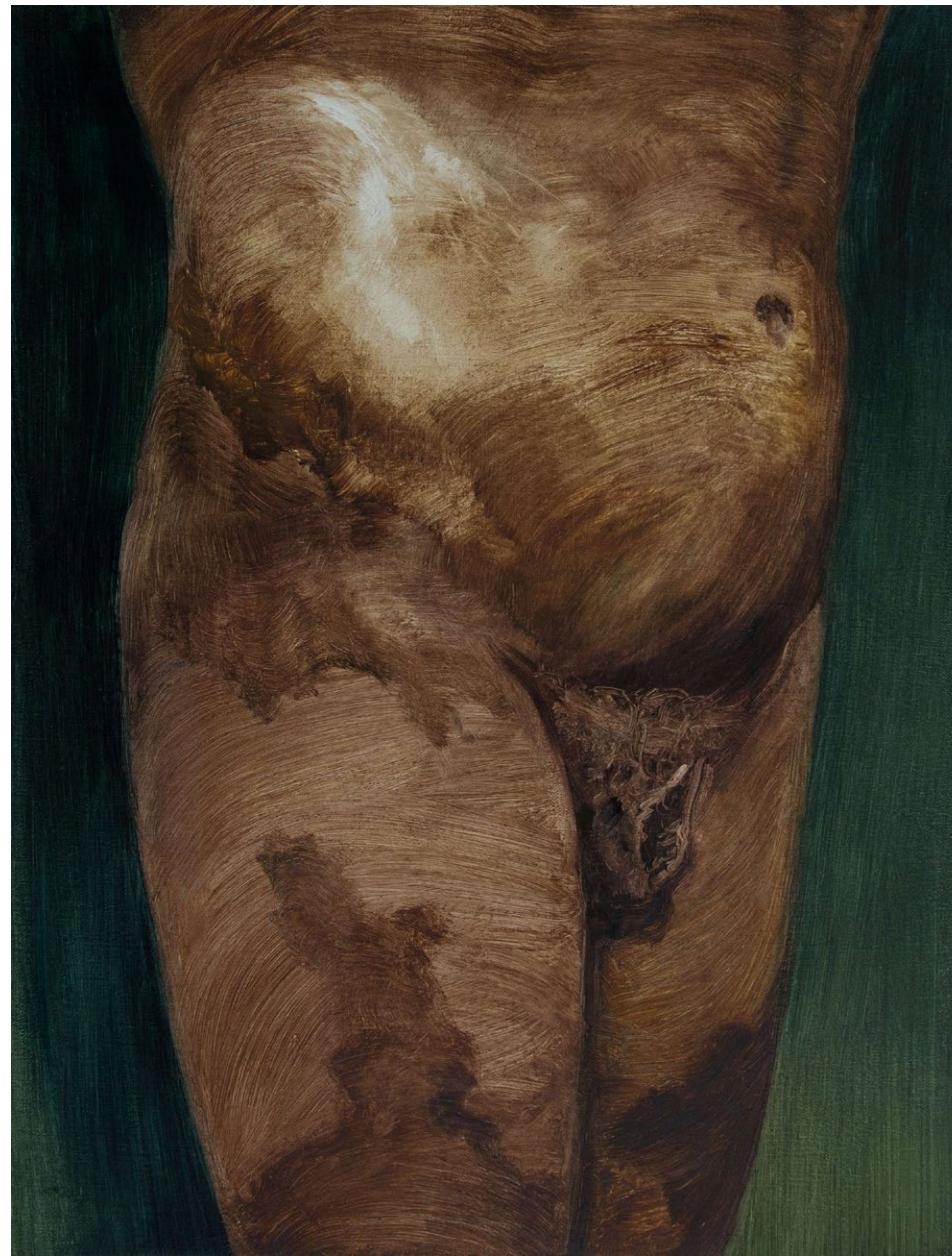


**Mare**  
2020  
oil on linen  
27 x 22 cm

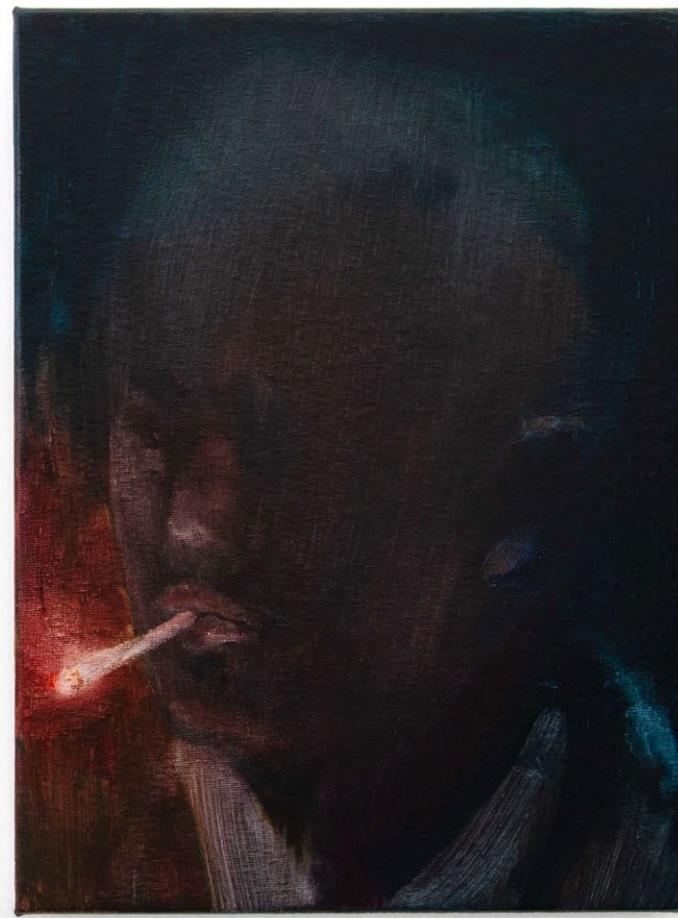


**Intrusion**  
2021  
oil on linen  
65 x 90 cm





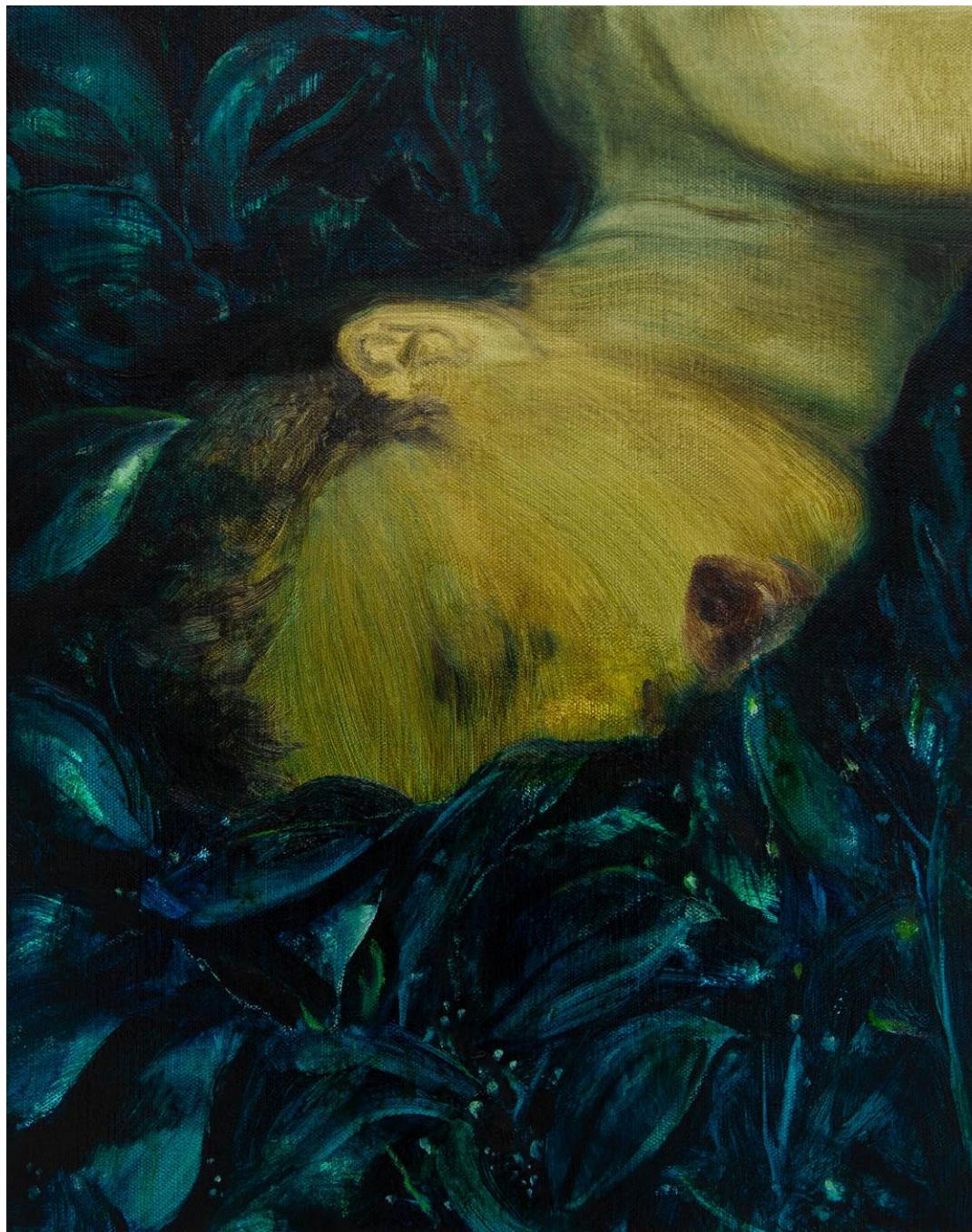
**Continent**  
2020  
oil on linen  
60 x 46 cm



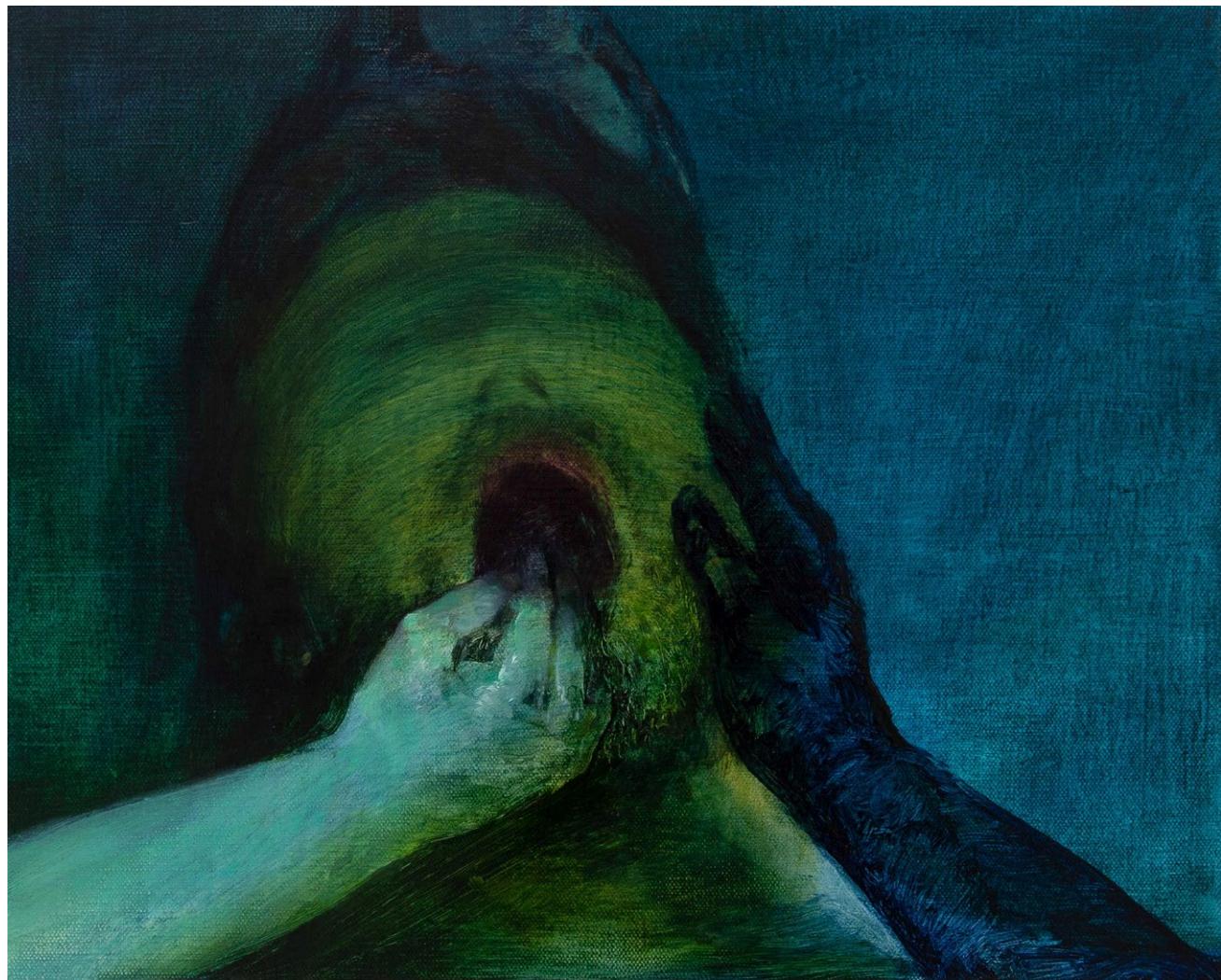
**Communication**  
2020  
oil on linen  
dyptich, each 40 x 30 cm



**Control II**  
2021  
oil on linen  
40 x 30 cm



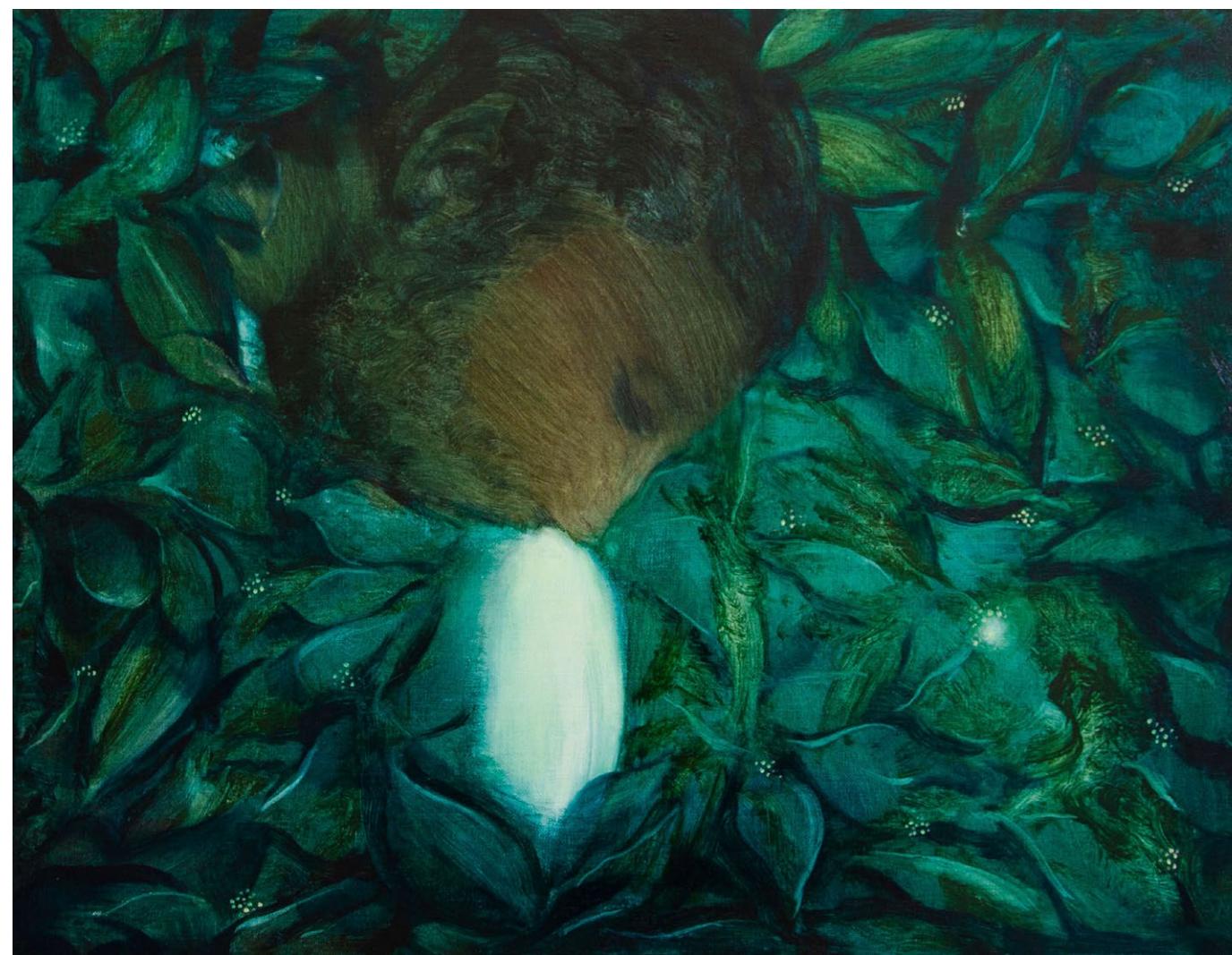
Isaac  
2021  
oil on linen  
50 x 40 cm



**Echoes**  
2021  
oil on linen  
50 x 40 cm



Fecund II  
2021  
oil on linen  
205 x 160 cm



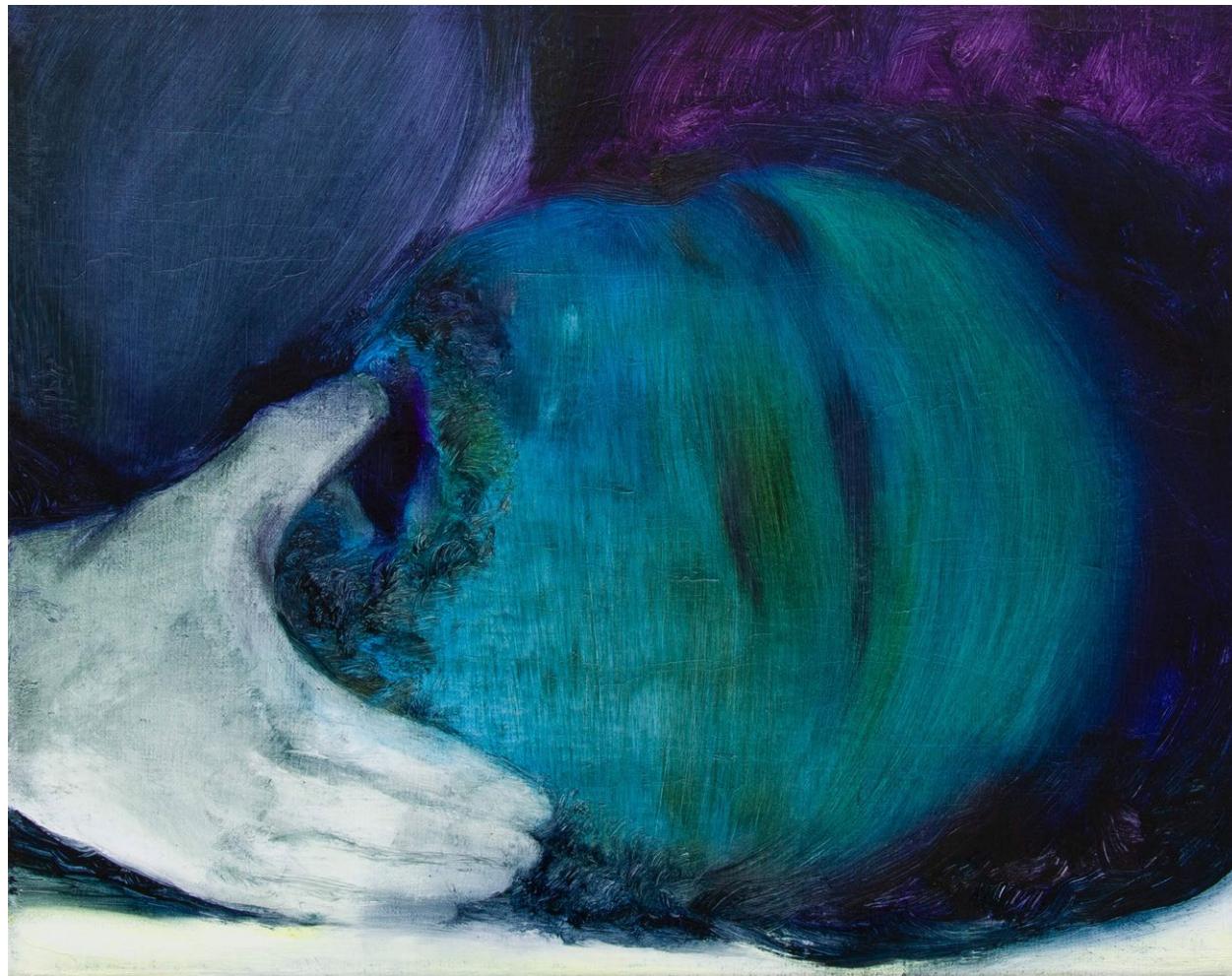
Inspiration  
2021  
oil on linen  
40 x 50 cm



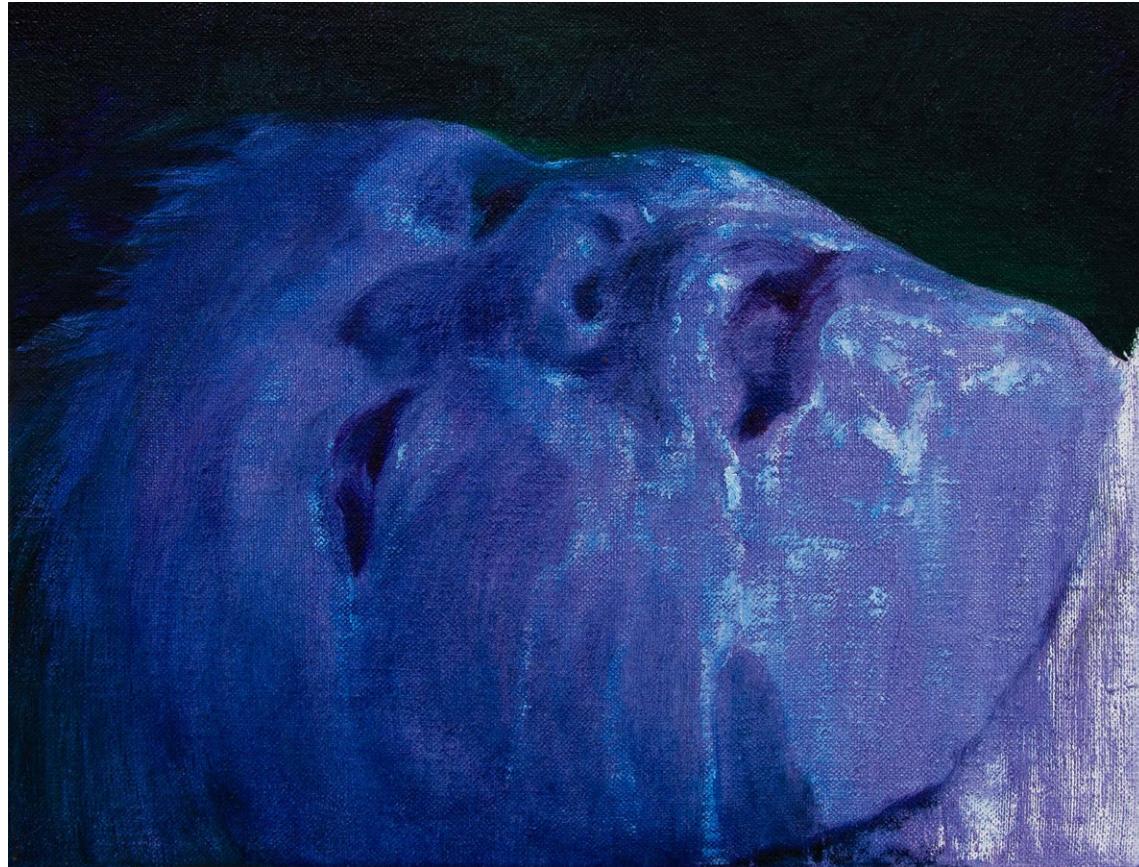
**Together**  
2021  
oil on linen  
50 x 65 cm



Amble  
2021  
oil on linen  
65 x 90 cm



Control  
2021  
oil on linen  
30 x 40 cm

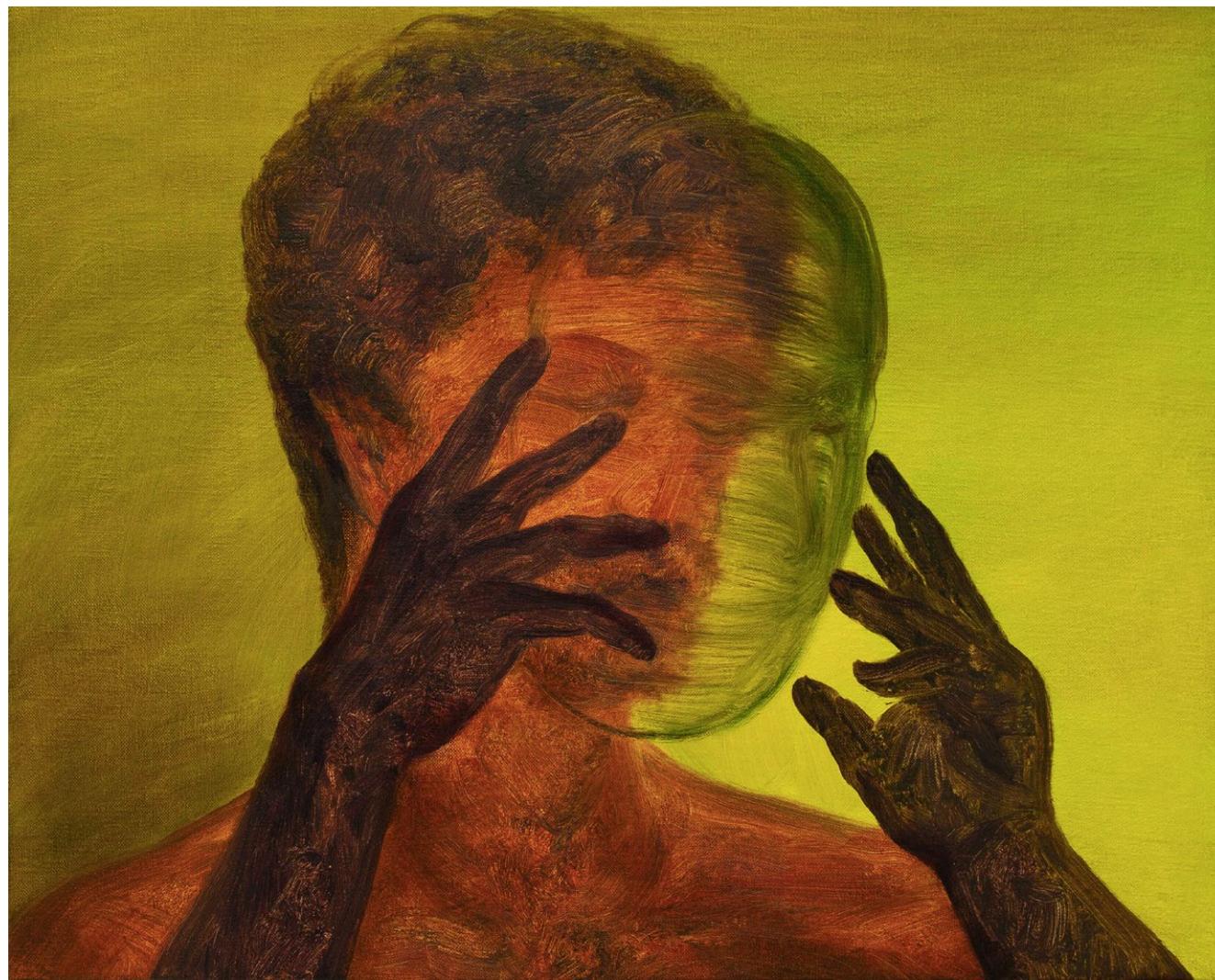


**Dissolve II**  
2021  
oil on linen  
27 x 35 cm



Revelation I  
2022  
oil on linen  
50 x 65 cm





**Revelation II**  
2022  
oil on linen  
40 x 50 cm

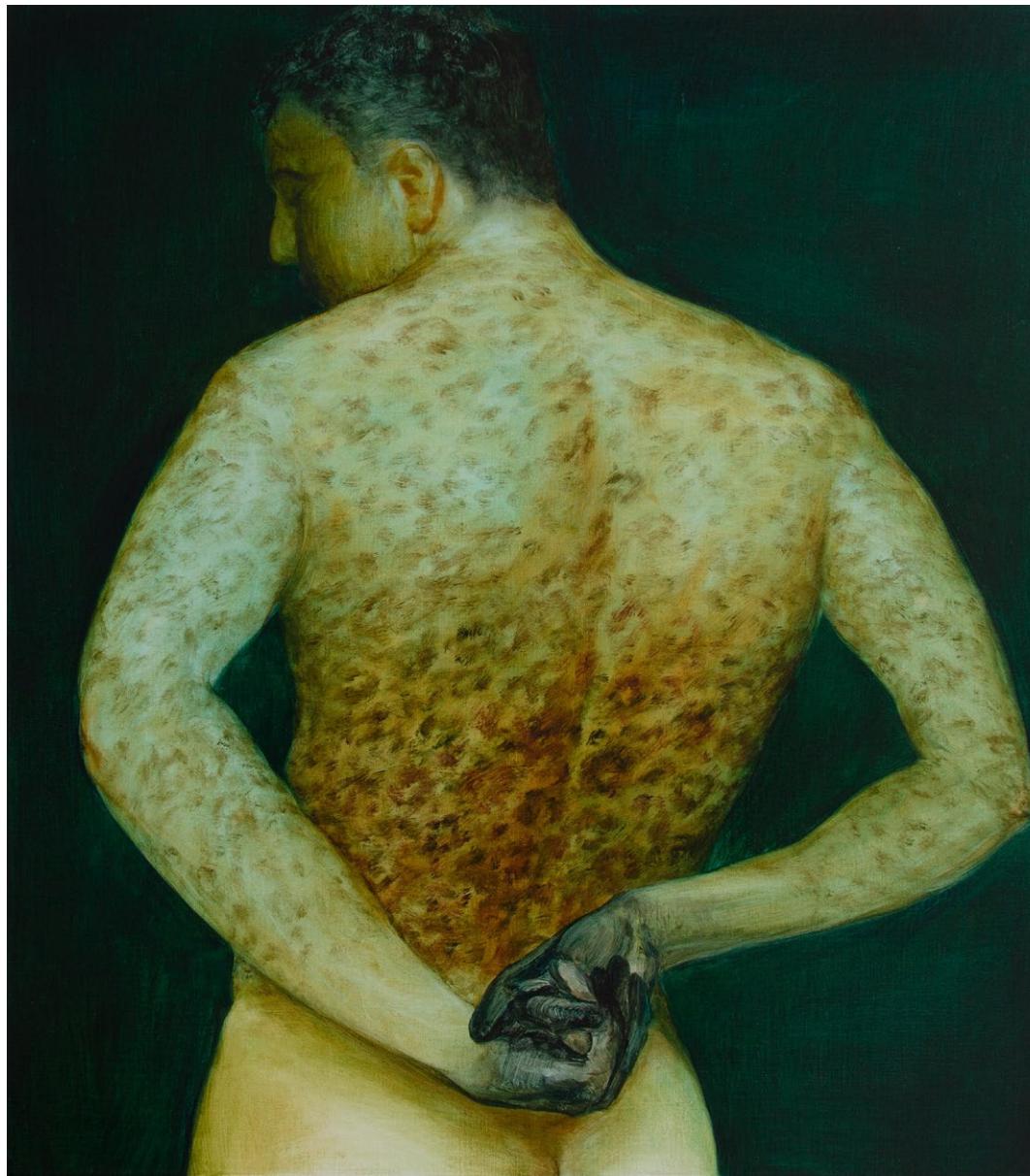


Collect I  
2022  
oil on linen  
170 x 130 cm



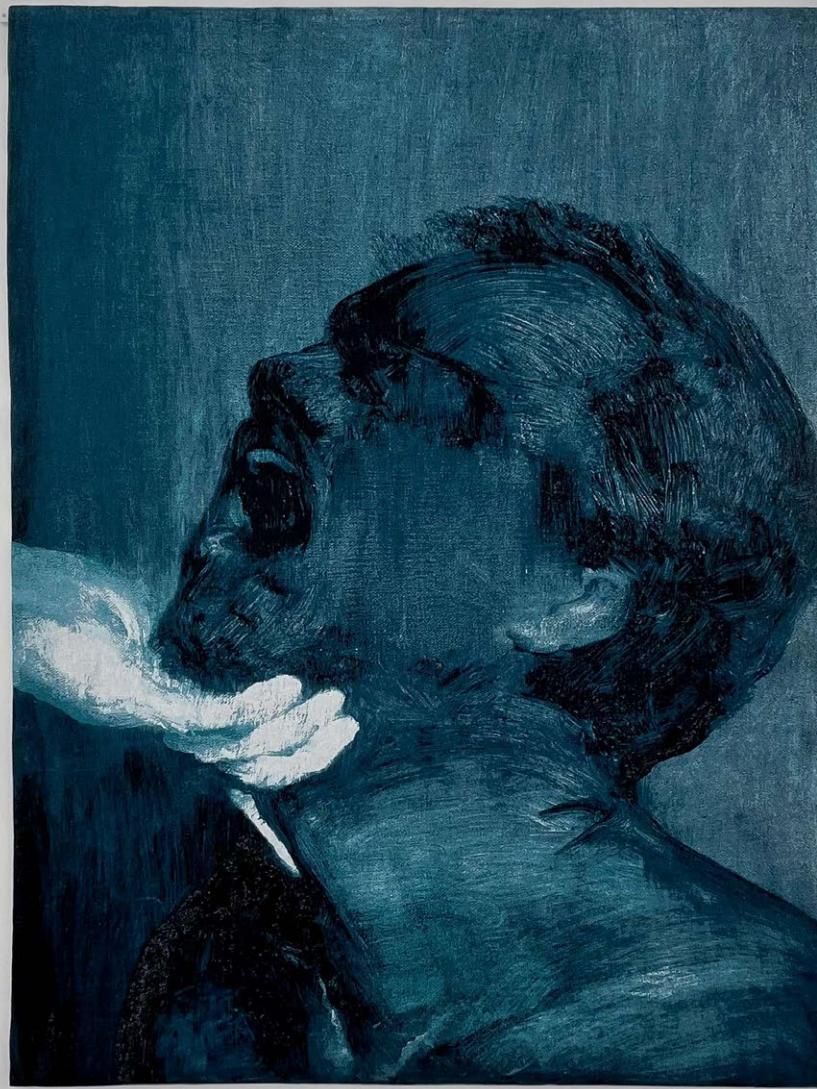
Collect II  
2022  
oil on linen  
170 x 130 cm





**Secret**  
2022  
oil on linen  
90 x 80 cm





Encounter  
2022

tapestry in viscose, wool and coton jacquard,  
embossed weaving, unique piece + 1AP  
230 x 175 cm

## Xie Lei - Le Dormeur

Àngels Miralda

*Les pieds dans les glaieuls, il dort. Souriant comme Sourirait un enfant malade, il fait un somme : Nature, berce-le chaleureusement : Il a froid.*

- Arthur Rimbaud, *Le dormeur du val*, 1870

Each night, as the wakeful mind wanes and approaches its night-form, the body slips into a new state of being. The muscles become limp, the heartbeat slows, body temperature drops, breath becomes deep and the eyes flip up towards the heavens. As if on the limits of death and ecstasy. Sleep is an in-between state where we abandon the material world in order to confront subconscious tasks. Ghosts in our bodies tumble and toss through fantasy dreamworlds. Thin sheets cover a body, it appears motionless and it is difficult to tell whether that peace is from death or sleep. But heat continues to rise, the chest beats slowly upwards and downwards in slow rhythms. In a rare occurrence, a demon emerges. It sits on your chest, looks straight into your eyes, and plots your death as your vocal cords refuse to scream. The phenomena of sleep-paralysis occurs when the mind wakes before the body. It enters flight-or-fight mode which produces hallucinations while the body denies commands to move. Gloved hands pull the body downwards into the earth without resistance.

In Xie Lei's recent works figures both sleeping and awake drift between consciousnesses, between pleasure and pain, moving between physical limits of death and penetration. Their faces appear as nearly anonymous ghosts, shadows of our world that absorb the property of allegory. One represents peaceful rest, the others the jouissance of physical agony, or an orgasmic peak. In his series *Slumber* the figures of men repeatedly appear in similar horizontal positions. The ambiguity of their states and their relative anonymity create a guessing game of interpretation.

Their eyes and expressions are wiped away via the removal of their distinctive features through thin liquid gestures. Carefully defined mark-making sculpts the edges of their bodies away from their environments, even as they sink into them. Departing from the peacefulness of *Slumber III*, the series takes on increasingly intimate and erotic positions. From the inclusion of hands and caressing kisses to the neck in *Slumber V*, to the burst of energy evinced by wincing faces in response to physical stimuli of *Slumber VIII* and *Slumber XII*. The close framing of the subjects maintains a cryptic air as to the source of their expressions, whether the ecstasy of fulfilled desires of caresses and penetration, torturous executions, or mutilations to the body beyond our visible limits.

*Slumber XIII* and *Intrusion* summon the tradition of the monochrome. The delicate layering of paint creates textures and shadows of blues or greens that resemble night conical vision. Shades of a night sky encompass figures as they descend into the ground shaken by quivers and tarnished by time, like the tiny snout of a dog engulfed in a desert landscape of Goya's black paintings. In *Intrusion* hands emerge from the brambles, the same hands of a masseuse that engage pressure points on the skull in *Fathom* now drag the figure into an unknown underworld. Like Millais' *Ophelia* (1851-52), the character is engulfed by nature's materiality, we glimpse him in worldly liminal innocence before his descent. Innocence is his peaceful state after a long chain of past lovers and desires, manifested in blurred memories of intimate faces, that once anchored his skin-encompassed physicality to the material limits of our world.

## Xie Lei

[www.xie-lei.com](http://www.xie-lei.com)

Born in 1983 in Huainan (Anhui), China

Lives and works in Paris since 2006

### Solo Exhibitions

2022

*Chant d'Amour*, Semiose, Paris (FR)

*Secret*, flatmarkus, Zürich (CH)

2021

*Slumbers*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels (BE)

2019

*Xie Lei – Christopher Orr* (duo), HdM Gallery, London (UK)

*Xie Lei*, Z Gallery Arts, Vancouver (CA)

2017

*Walden II*, Yima Gallery, Chengdu (CN)

*Poe's Garden*, Z Gallery Arts, Vancouver (CA)

2016

*Entre Chien et Loup*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris (FR) cat.

2015

*Sans rivage*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR)

2014

*Murmur*, Grenier du Chapître, Cahors (FR) cat.

*Sortilège et diableries : l'inquiétant ordinaire*, Château d'Ardelay, Les Herbiers (FR)

2013

*Xie Lei*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR) cat.

*Everything And Nothing*, Feast Projects, Hong Kong

2012

*Chimères*, Fondation Yishu8, Beijing (CN) cat.  
*Xie Lei*, Galerie Charlotte Moser, Geneva (CH) cat.

2011

*Destination*, Feast Projects, Hong Kong cat.  
*Xie Lei*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR) cat.

2009

*Enter At Own Risk*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR)

### Group Exhibitions

2022

*Viva Villa*, cur. Victorine Grataloup, Stéphane Ibars, Collection Lambert, Avignon (FR)

*Abundant Futures. Works from the TBA21 Collection*, Centro de Creación Contemporánea de Andalucía C3A, Cordoba (ES)

*Machines of Desire*, cur. Kat Sapera, Emilia Yin, Simon Lee Gallery, London (UK)

*En Soi et Au-delà*, cur. Maria Santoyo, Institut Français, Madrid (ES)

*The Tale Their Terror Tells*, cur. Geena Brown, Lauren Guilford, Lyles & King, New York (US)

*Itinérance*, cur. Virginie Bourget, Beaux-Arts de Nantes, Nantes (FR)

*Raw*, cur. Daniel Lippitsch, Vacancy, Shanghai (CN)

*The Hearing Trumpet*, cur. Danielle Shang, Marguo, Paris (FR)

*Mouthed Echoes*, Lyles & King, New York (US)

*Traverser les silences*, cur. Thomas Fort, Dilecta, Paris (FR)

*Atlas of Affinities - The Far Near*, Hua International, Berlin (DE)

*Mist & Thunder*, cur. Àngels Miralda, Sally's Fault, Amsterdam (NL)

*Itinérance*, Académie des beaux-arts, Paris (FR)

2021

*Male Nudes: a Salon from 1800 to 2021*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (BR)  
*Itinérance*, Casa de Velázquez, Madrid (ES)  
*Maze of Branches*, Galeria Marta Cervera, Madrid (ES)  
*Icipit*, Cruce Arte y Pensamiento Contemporaneo, Madrid (ES)  
*Descripción de un estado físico*, cur. Pepe Suárez, Schneider Colao - Elba Benítez, Madrid (ES)

2020

*Much Without Many*, Meessen de Clercq, Brussels (BE)

2019

*Flesh And Bone*, cur. Loïc Le Galle, Justin Polera, PS120, Berlin (DE)  
*Persona grata ?*, cur. Alexia Fabre, Anne-Laure Flacelière and Ingrid Jurzak, MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine (FR)  
*Yellow Reflection*, Galerie Liusa Wang, Paris (FR)  
*Couleurs de la Chine Contemporaine*, Musée Saint-Remi, Reims (FR)

2018

*How To See [What Isn't There]*, cur. Gianni Jetzer, Langen Foundation, Neuss (DE) cat.  
*Persona grata*, cur. Anne-Laure Flacelière, Isabelle Renard, Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris (FR)

*Collection David H. Brolliet – Genève*, Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis (FR)

2016

*Nouvelles acquisitions*, Fondation Colas, Boulogne (FR)  
*Who cares*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR)  
*Utopie Picturale 3*, Galerie Forma, Lausanne (CH)

2014

*Memo II*, White Space, Beijing (CN)

*Utopie Picturale 2*, Fonderie Kugler, Geneva (CH)

*Picturalités singulières*, Château d'Assas, Le Vigan (FR)

2013

*Utopie Picturale*, Villa Dutoit, Geneva (CH)

*Ça grimpe*, Galerie Charlotte Moser, Geneva (CH)

2012

*1912-2012 France - Chine, un siècle de dialogue*, Fondation Yishu8, Beijing (CN)

*Visage et Portrait*, Galerie Charlotte Moser, Geneva (CH)

*Tranches de carrés sur tranches de cercles*, Saline Royale, Arc-et-Senans (FR)

2011

*Résonance / Dissonance*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR)

*Le Vent d'après*, curators : Jean de Loisy, Ulla von Brandenburg, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris (FR) cat.

2010

*Ligne de Chance*, curators : François Bouillon, Bernard Moninot, Fondation Ricard, Paris (FR) cat.

2008

Marlborough Gallery, New York (US)

Institut de France, Paris (FR)

Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris (FR)

Galerie Serge Aboukrat, Paris (FR)

Shcontemporary, Marlborough Gallery, Shanghai (CN)

Salon de Montrouge, Montrouge (FR) cat.

### Monographs & publications

2021

*Casa de Velázquez - Membres de l'Académie de France à Madrid*, texts by Angels Miralda, Caterina Almirall, French Academy in Madrid Xie Lei, *Circulation of Images, From Recognition To Erasure: An Artist's Response*, Art@s Bulletin vol. 10, 1 (spring 2021), p.134-142, École Normale Supérieure, CNRS and Purdue Publishing.

2018

*Contemporary Voices From the Asian and Islamic Art Worlds*, text by Olivia Sand, Milano, Skira *How To See [What Isn't There]*, text by Gianni Jetzer, Zürich, Burger Collection

2014

*Xie Lei - Murmur*, text by Guitemie Maldonado, Les rencontres d'art contemporain, Cahors

2013

*Xie Lei*, text by François-René Martin, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris

2012

*Xie Lei – Chimères*, texts by Henry-Claude Cousseau, Liang Shuhan and Emmanuel Fessy, Fondation Yishu8, Beijing

*Tranches de carrés sur tranches de cercles*, text by Pauline Lafille, Saline Royale, Arc-et-Senans

2011

*Le Vent d'après*, texts by Jean de Loisy and Ulla von Brandenburg, Beaux-Arts de Paris

2010

*Ligne de Chance*, Fondation Ricard and Beaux-Arts de Paris

### Education

2012-2016

practice-based PhD in Visual arts (Very Honorable with unanimous Jury Congratulations), École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts and École normale supérieure (PSL), Paris

2014

Painting Research Programme, Royal College of Art, London

2006-2010

MA (Jury Honours), École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris

2002-2006

BA, Central Academy of Fine-Arts, Beijing

### Public collections

TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary  
Casa de Velázquez, Madrid

X Museum, Beijing

Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne,  
MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine

Rennie Museum, Vancouver

Fondation Colas, Paris

Burger Collection, Hong Kong / Zürich