

INCOMPARABLE FIREWORKS
SOLO PAINTING EXHIBITION OF WEN CHEN

4/9 - 4/16/2022

不一樣的煙火：
陳文畫展



開幕式/OPENING: 3 PM, 4/9, SAT.

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序

初識陳文，是在隱士畫家侯寧的梨園裡。三月梨花勝雪，探春會人頭攢動。陳文從人群中走來，白色牛仔褲，深色休閒西裝，油彩潑上身，雅痞不羈，分外顯眼。繼而得知他剛剛驅車橫跨美洲大陸，從佛羅里達一路向西，來到加州。

他1974年出生在福州，17歲隨家人移居美國，在餐飲業闖出一片天地，2014年後瀟灑轉身，做起流浪藝術家。他畫畫不是科班出身，也沒有師承，曾經自嘲說：「我名字裡的“文”是沒有文化的“文”。」促使他拿起畫筆的是，在生活的重壓下情緒釋放和宣洩的需要。他也曾嘗試具象的繪畫，但總感覺缺點什麼，直到找到抽象表達這種途徑，才真正達到酣暢淋漓的境界，「像洗瀑布澡一樣」，陳文如是說。

走近他的畫，觀者很容易被那種原始的生命張力所觸動。他的筆觸、他的色彩、他的構圖、他的情緒，無一不是率真的，沒有矯揉造作，沒有掩飾，毫無保留地鋪陳在畫布上，就像他拿手的烹飪，選材、配料、刀工、火候，七十二般武藝，全都同時呈現在小小的一盤裡。他的藝術基調是浪漫、自由、青春、重生，帶著粗獷的野性，深徹地表現了強盛的生命力。

他常常走出畫室，開著汽車到處遊歷。他在路上探索什麼？追求什麼？觀眾可以從他《夢囈》、《斑斕》、《寥闊》、《神秘》等系列畫作中細細品味。他在路上常常哼起張國榮的那首歌：「我就是我，是顏色不一樣的煙火。天空海闊，要做最堅強的泡沫。」他非常享受在人生定格前不斷地上路，在畫布上留下旅途中煙火人生的痕跡。他的藝術創作就像一部公路片，沒有預設的目的，連路線也是從心所欲，重要的是持續地上路、上路，路上的時時刻刻才是鮮活的。這是一趟朝聖之旅，答案或許在路的盡頭。

陳文說今年他已開車在佛羅里達和加州間來回三次，馬上為這次硅谷展覽迎來第四次，有時一開就是近三十小時。他說不累，也不孤寂，因為能在當下安頓，一切可以按捺住，除了畫興來時不可遏。正如陸放翁詩云：「法不孤生自古同，痴人乃欲鑿虛空。君詩妙處吾能識，正在山程水驛中」。

美國藝術家與詩人傑克·凱魯亞克在《達摩流浪者》這本書裡有句名言：「永遠年輕，永遠熱淚盈眶」，被搖滾青年奉為圭臬。陳文的畫讓我們相信：即使不再年輕，你依舊可以熱淚盈眶。



徐心如
硅谷亞洲藝術中心
2022年4月

Incomparable Fireworks: Solo Painting Exhibition of Wen Chen

Preface

The first time I met Mr. Wen Chen was in the pear orchard of artist Ning Hou. It was March, the pear blossoms were as white as the snow, and the spring gathering made the orchard a busy place. Mr. Chen came from the crowd, in white jeans, dark casual suit, oil splashed on his clothing, yuppie and uninhibited, he was very conspicuous. Then I learned that he had just driven across the American continent, all the way to the West Coast from Florida.

Mr. Chen was born in Fuzhou, Fujian Province of China in 1974, and relocated to the United States with his family at the age of 17. He made a breakthrough in the restaurant industry. After 2014, he decided to make a turn and became a nomadic artist. He was not academically trained in painting, nor did he have a teacher. He likes to joke about himself: "The Wen (literacy) in my name is from mei you wen hua (illiterate)." What motivated him to pick up the paintbrush was the need for emotional release and expression under the weight of life. He has also tried figurative painting, but he always felt that there was something missing. It was not until he found the way of abstract painting that he really reached the state of hearty and incisiveness. "It's like taking a waterfall bath," said Mr. Chen.

Approaching his paintings, the viewer is easily touched by the original tension of life. His brushstrokes, his colors, his compositions, and his emotions are all sincere, without pretentiousness, without disguise, and laid out on the canvas without reservation, just like his cooking, selection of materials, ingredients, cutting skills, are all presented in a small plate at the same time. The keynote of his art is romance, freedom, youth, rebirth, with rough wildness, and profoundly expressing strong vitality.

He often walked out of the studio and drove around in his car. What is he exploring on the road? What to pursue? Audiences can savor his series of paintings of "Variegated", "Boundless", "Mysterious" and "Turmoil". He often hummed Leslie Cheung's song on the road: "I am what I am; I am fireworks of a different color. The sky is wide open, the ocean is so broad, and I'll be the strongest bubble." He very much enjoys going on the road before his life is fixed, leaving traces of the sparkles of life on the canvas. His artistic creation is like a road movie, with no preset destination, and even the route is picked at his will. It is a pilgrimage, and the answer may be at the end of the road.

Mr. Chen said that he has driven back and forth between Florida and California three times this year, and will soon usher the fourth time for this Silicon Valley exhibition. Sometimes he drives for nearly 30 hours straight. He said that he is neither tired nor lonely, because he can settle down in the moment, and everything can be restrained, except eager of painting is coming. Just like a poem Lu You (1125-1210) wrote to another poet: "I know the beauty of your poems, they are all in the landscape and on the road."

American artist and poet Jack Kerouac (1922-1969) has famous quote in the book The Dharma Wanderer: "O ever youthful, O ever weeping", which is regarded as guidelines by rock youth. Mr. Chen's paintings make us believe that even if we are no longer young, we can still keep our eyes teary.

Xinru Xu
Silicon Valley Asian Art Center
April 2022



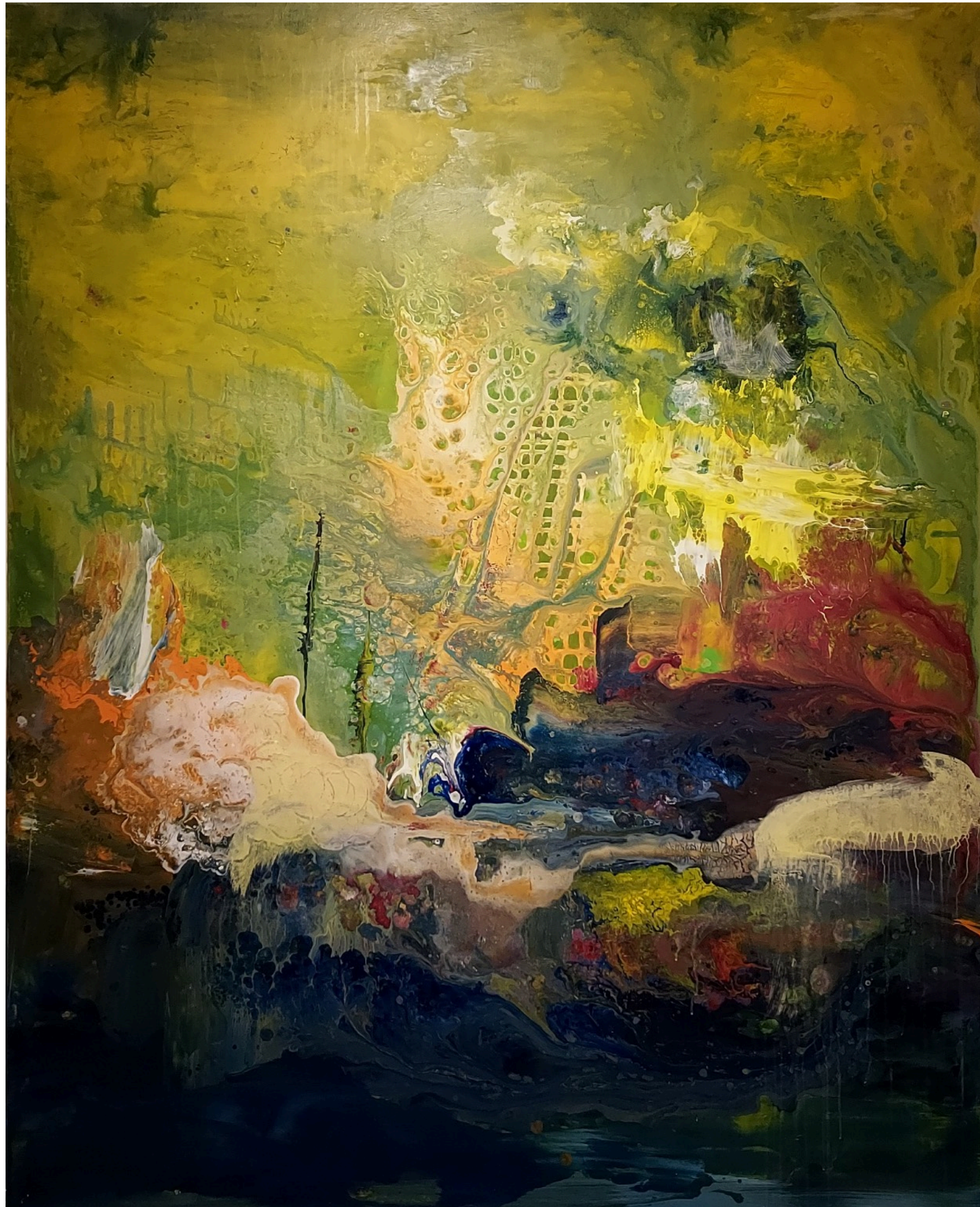
1 Memory of A Dream
夢憶

60 X48 inch



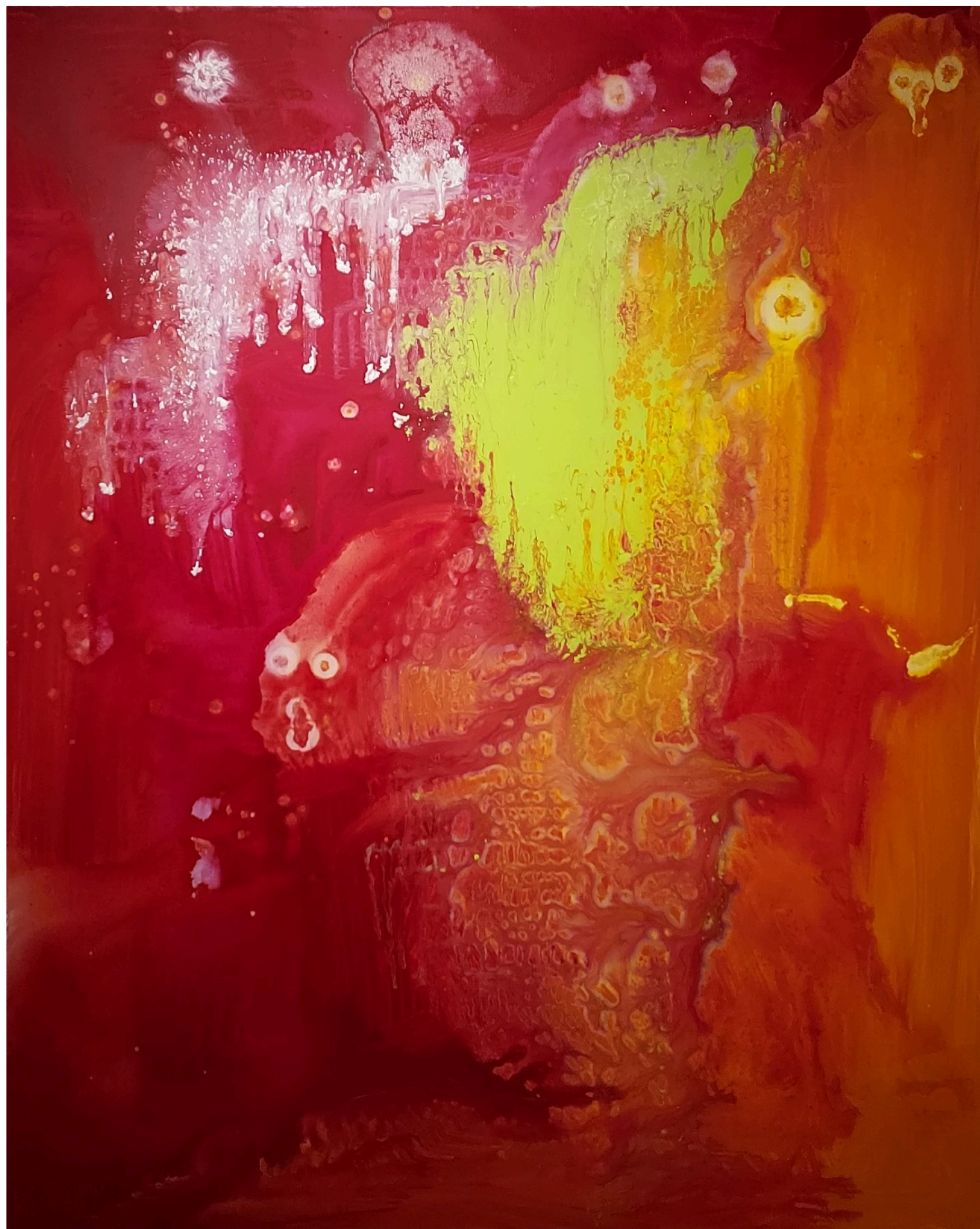
2 Illusions
幻相

48X60 inch



**3 Landscape of Spring
Mountain**
春山之景

60 X 48 inch



4 Red Dream
紅夢

60X48 inch



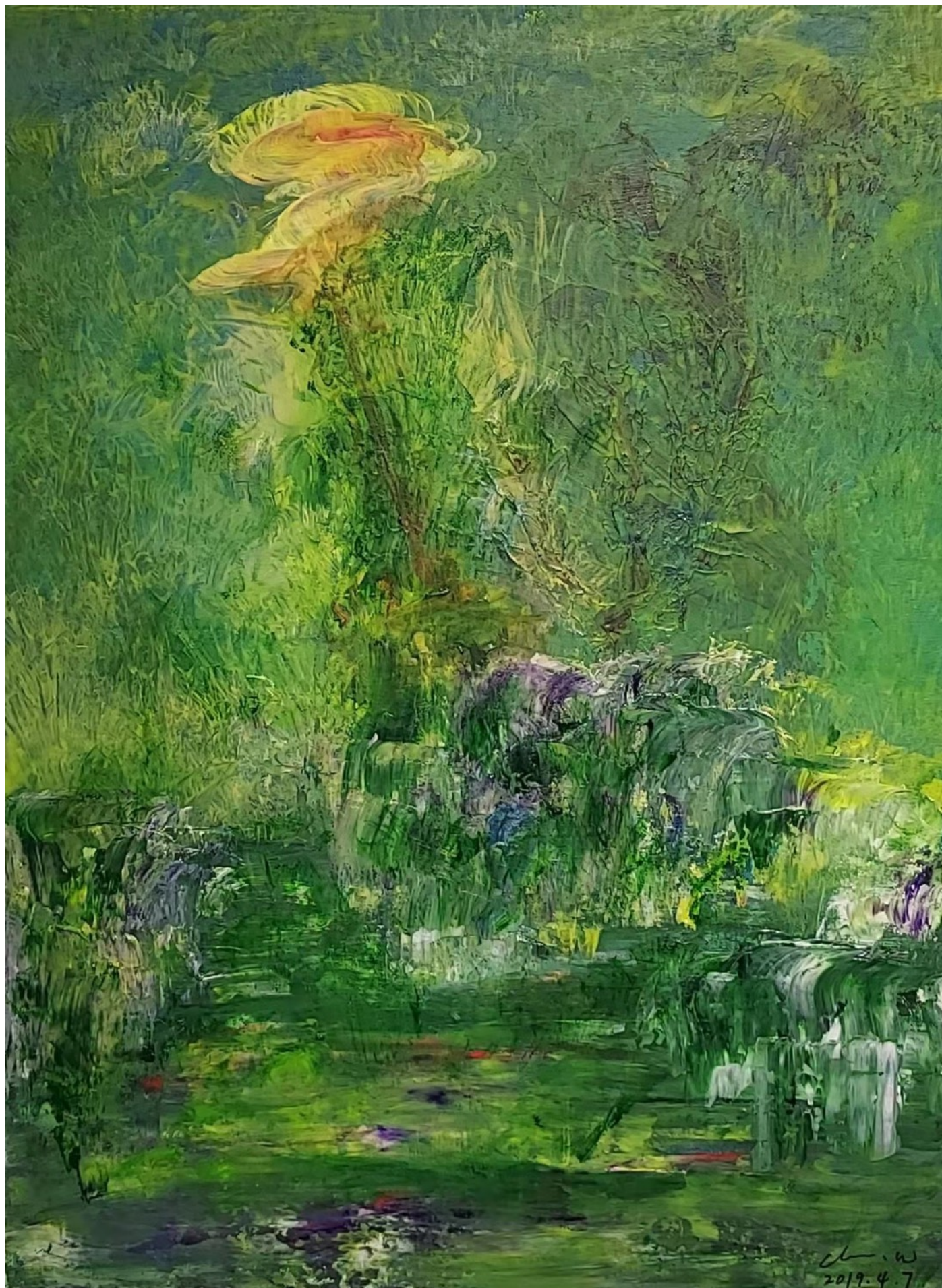
5 Blue Illusion
藍幻

60 x 48 inch



6 Nameless Landscape
無名之景

60 x 48 inch



7 Sprouts
萌

24X18 inch



8 Memory of the Past
往憶

60X48 inch



9 Vanishing World
混界

60 X 48 inch



10 Searching
覓

60 X 48 inch



11 Intoxicated
醉景

18 X 24 inch



12 Light of Heart
心光

60 X 48 inch



13 Lure of Light
光誘

48 X 60 inch



14 Explore
尋

60 X 48 inch



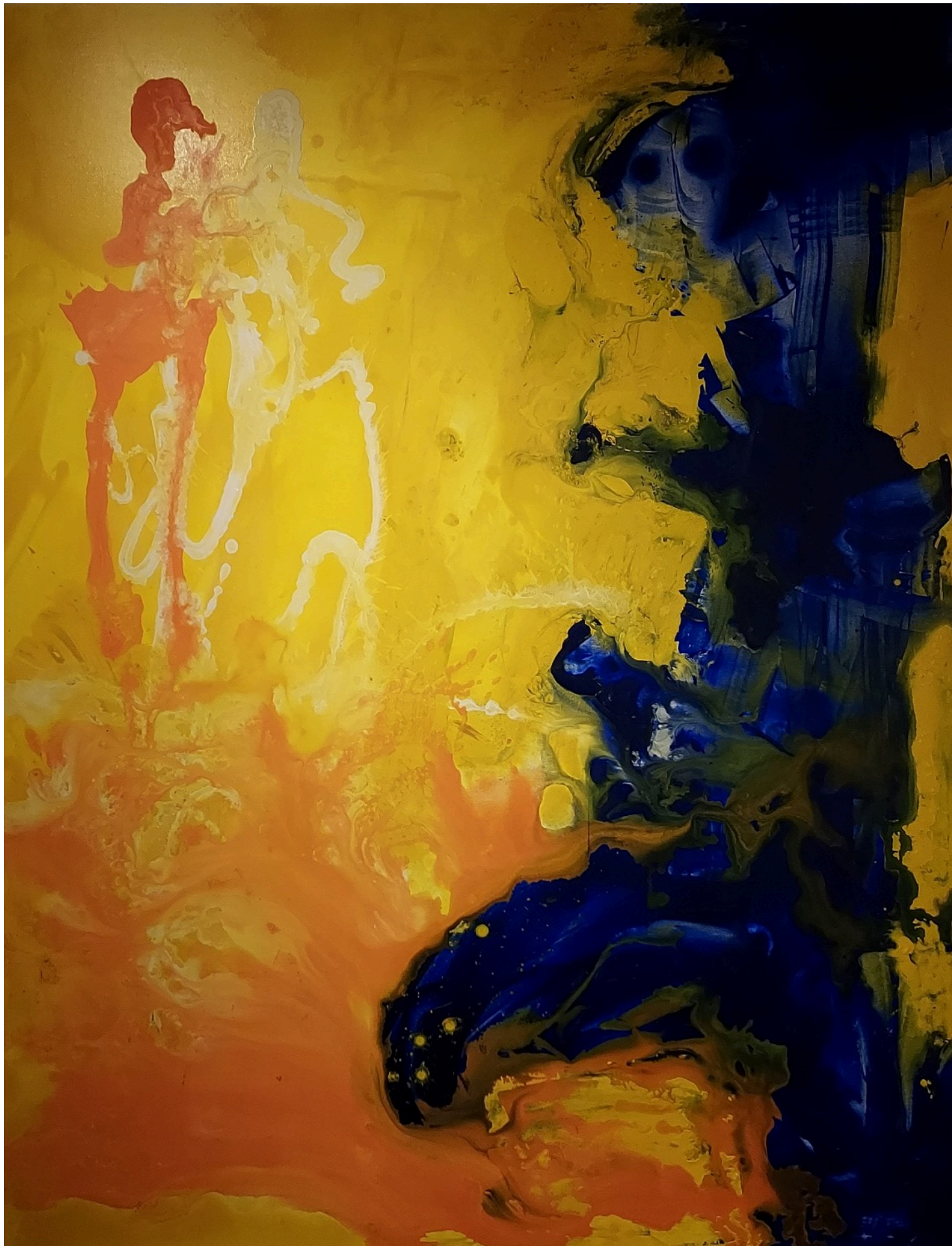
15 Dream of Colors
斑斕之夢

48 X 60 inch



16 Dream of the Sea
海夢

48 X 60 inch



17 Scream
呐喊

60 x 48 inch



18 A Walk in the Dream
夢行

60 X 48 inch



19 Four-Way Circumstances
四方之景

48 X 60 inch