

The image is a highly textured and layered painting. It features a central figure of a woman's face and upper torso. The face is rendered with a mix of colors, including shades of pink, red, and white, with visible brushstrokes and some areas that appear to be made of paper or fabric. Her eyes are dark and looking directly at the viewer. Her hair is dark and styled in a traditional, possibly Japanese, fashion. The background and the lower part of the image are a chaotic mix of colors, including reds, blues, greens, and blacks, with various textures and patterns. The overall effect is one of depth and complexity, suggesting multiple layers of meaning and identity.

Lita Cabellut
Layered Identities

OPERA GALLERY

Lita Cabellut
Layered Identities

22 May – 7 June 2026

SINGAPORE

OPERA GALLERY



FOREWORD

A new body of work by Lita Cabellut, 'Layered Identities' is the continuation of a longstanding and valued collaboration. This exhibition brings together a series of portraits that collectively probe the shifting terrain of identity in an increasingly interconnected world.

Cabellut has long distinguished herself through a practice that fuses technical mastery with an emotional intensity. In this latest series, her signature visual language is defined by the tension between finely rendered figuration and acts of disruption. Faces emerge and dissolve, their surfaces fractured by gestural marks and tears that evoke both erosion and inscription, as though each subject were carrying the visible traces of lived experience.

The portraits in 'Layered Identities' resist being read as fixed likenesses; they present identity as a dynamic and layered process. Across the series, Cabellut explores the tension between presence and flux, capturing the self as constantly shaped, disrupted, and rewritten over time. The series as a whole reflects on the complexity of human interiority, suggesting that each individual is both a singular being and part of a broader, interconnected landscape of experience.

Across the exhibition, Cabellut's restrained palette—anchored in earthy ochres and siennas—provides a grounding structure, against which moments of chromatic rupture introduce a sense of volatility. These interventions do not obscure the subject; they complicate our access to it, insisting on a more active form of looking. The gaze becomes reciprocal; the viewer is not merely an observer, but a participant in a dynamic exchange.

While her work remains informed by a deep engagement with art history, Cabellut's practice is resolutely anchored in the present. Her portraits speak to a condition in which identity is no longer stable or singular, but layered, contingent, and continually in formation.

GILLES DYAN
Founder & Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

IRENE CHEE
Gallery Manager
Opera Gallery Singapore

STÉPHANE LE PELLETIER
Director, Asia Pacific
Opera Gallery Singapore



Lita Cabellut in her studio, The Hague, Netherlands
© Eddy Wenting

Layered Identities The Soul Beneath the Surface

Set within the high-velocity cultural landscape of Singapore—a city-state functioning as a definitive global nexus of heritage and futuristic synthesis—‘Layered Identities’ offers a rigorous interrogation of the contemporary self. This exhibition explores the ontological fluidity of the individual through a series of monumental portraits that challenge the liminality between the private interiority and the curated public persona.

The core premise of the collection resides at the intersection of radical multiculturalism and the “gaze”. By situating these works within Singapore’s international art hub, the exhibition addresses a world characterised by hyper-connectivity and introspection. Rather than merely observing the subject, the narrative seeks to deconstruct the way history and environment are overwritten upon the human form to reveal a universal essence—facilitating a critical dialogue regarding the intersubjectivity established between the viewer and the viewed.

The primary thematic anchor of the exhibition is the gaze: not simply an act of looking, but a charged site of encounter in which vision becomes reciprocal. In the portraits of subjects such as *Alba*, *Evi*, and *Simon*, the directness of the eye contact functions as a bridge, pulling the viewer into a psychological exchange. This contact forces an acknowledgement of the subject not as a static object of beauty, but as an active participant in their depiction.

The diverse nomenclature of the subjects—spanning Western identifiers like *Finn* and *Emma* to those suggestive of broader global origins like *Rocio*, *Yara*, and *Halina*—underscores a borderless identity. This multicultural ensemble mirrors a world where traditional silos of ethnicity are being replaced by a complex, globalised sense of belonging.

The artistic methodology is defined by a sophisticated materiality, characterised by a deliberate tension between hyper-realistic figuration and chaotic fragmentation. The works utilise a palette dominated by muted earth tones, ochres, and sienna, which provide a grounded, organic foundation. This sobriety is punctuated by sharp, aggressive splashes of crimson and teal, creating a visual noise that mirrors the sensory overload of the modern experience.

A defining feature of this collection is the “graphic intervention”—bold, calligraphic strokes resembling large curves and abstract tagging that overlay the portrayal of subjects such as *Emma 2*, *Marian II*, and *Yara II*. These marks function as a layer of “visual noise”, suggesting that the self is constantly being overwritten or “tagged” by external societal forces. Furthermore, subjects like *Lucia* and *Aurora* exhibit “halos of abstraction” surrounding their heads, creating a state of aesthetic dissonance where the realistic precision of their features appears to be either eroding into or emerging from a void of splattered pigment.

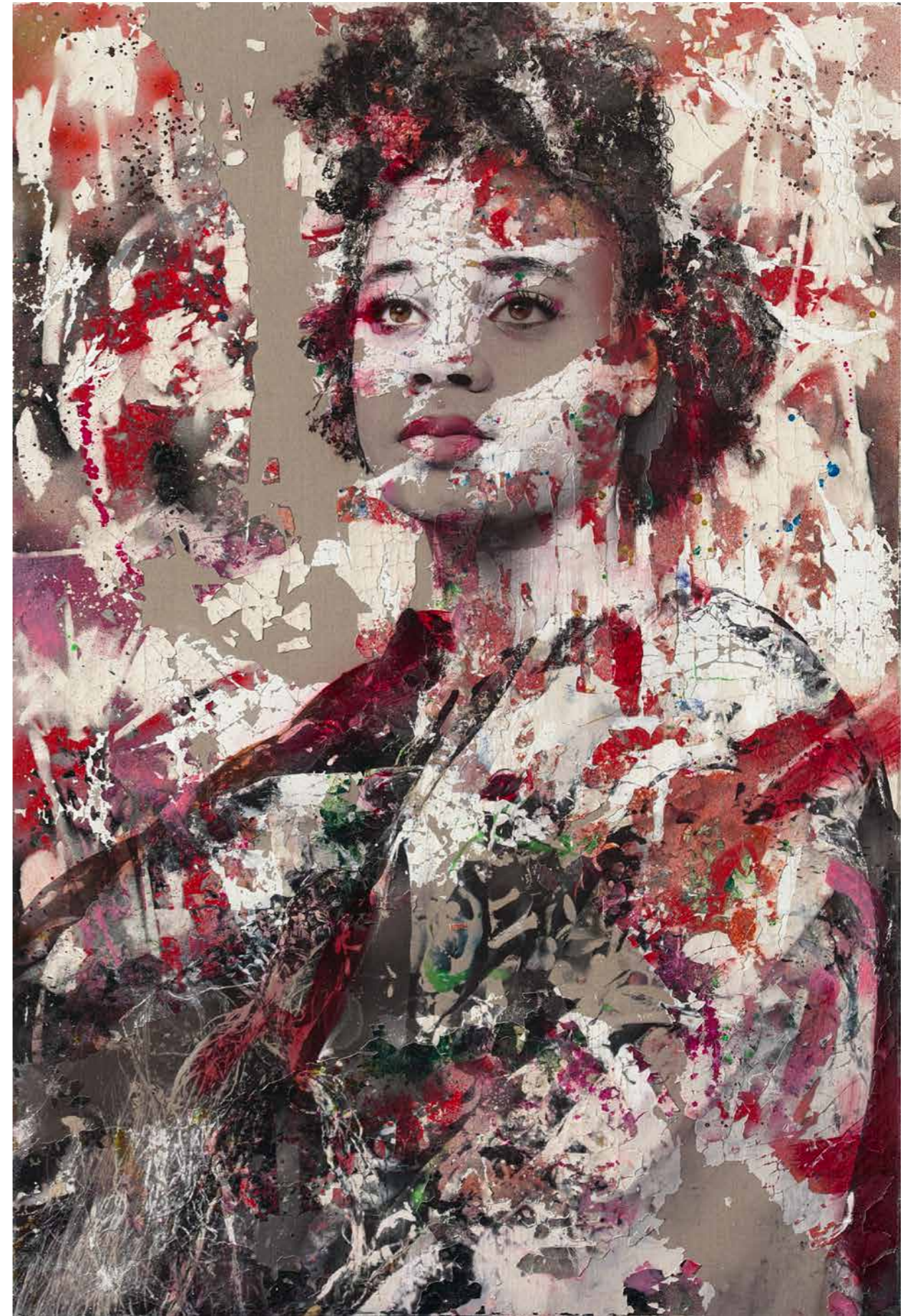
This fragmentation serves as a visual metaphor for the layers of personal history. The paint is layered in a way that suggests the passage of time and the accumulation of experience. The visual tension—the clear facial features struggling against the gestural abstraction—emphasises that identity is never a finalised product but a perpetual state of flux.

By synthesising technical complexity with raw emotional expression, the series captures the 21st-century zeitgeist: a period defined by the struggle to maintain a coherent self, amidst a fragmented, globalised reality. This exhibition engages contemporary portraiture by moving the genre away from static likeness toward a more profound exploration of human “becoming”.



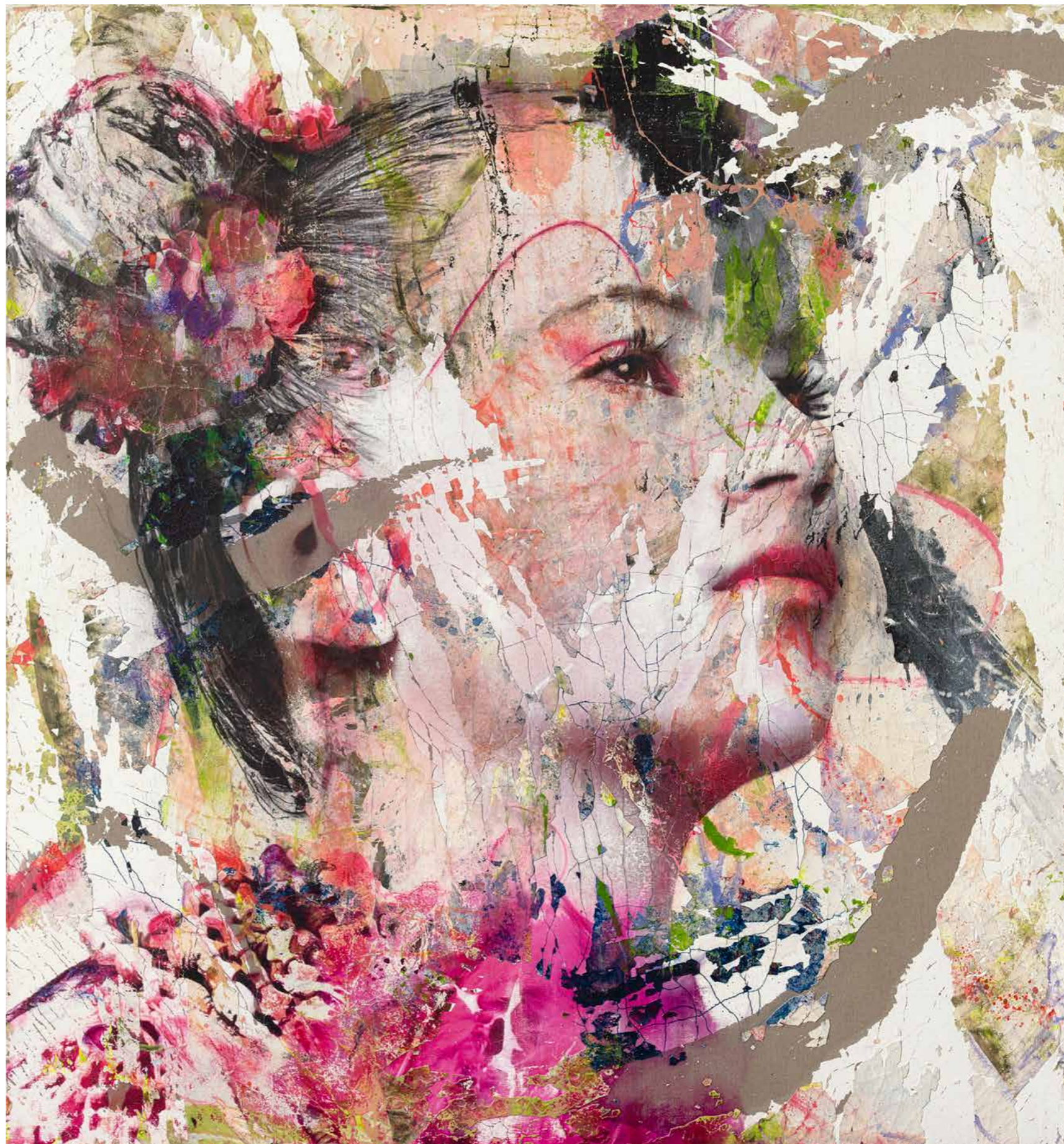
Alba
2025

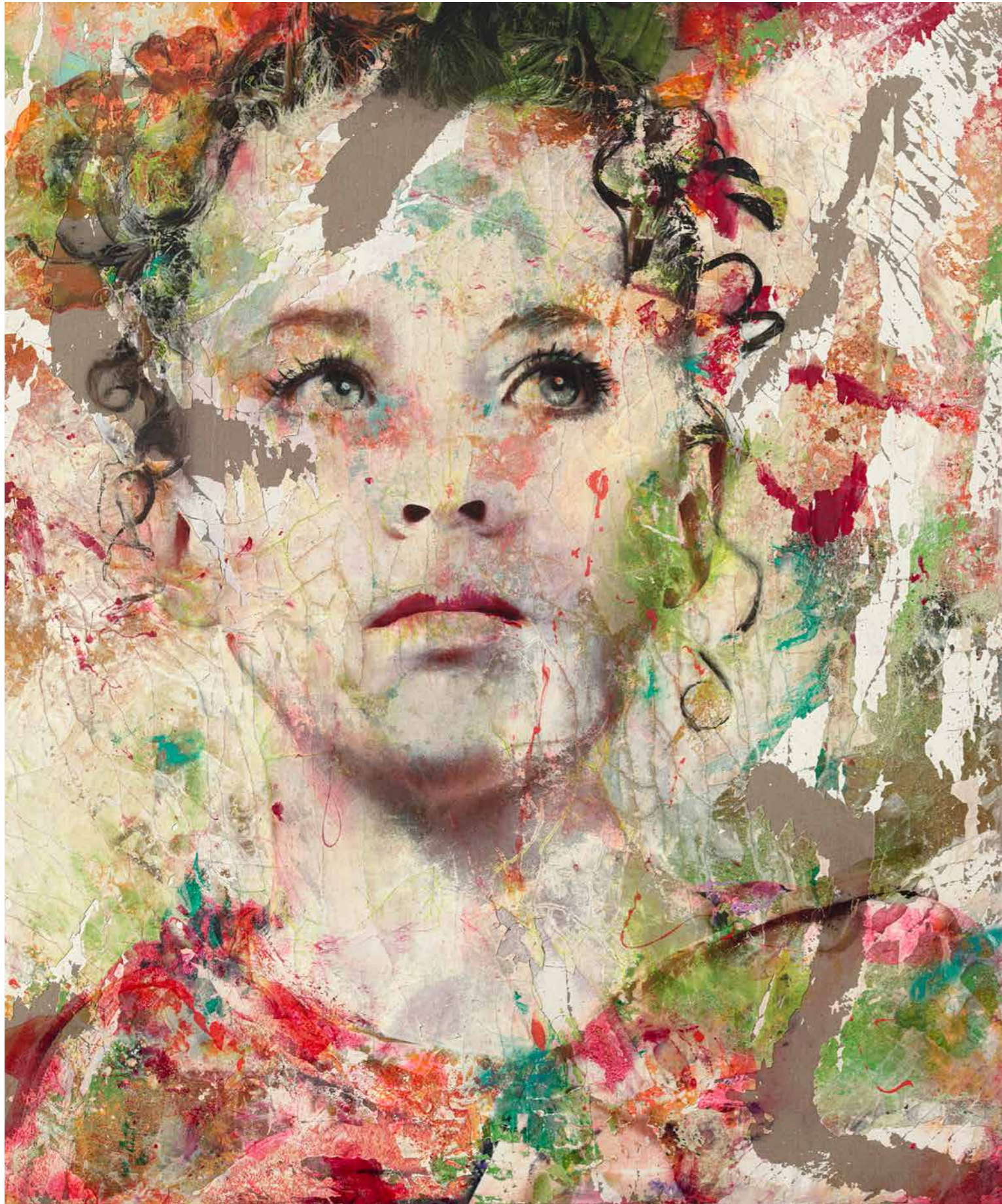
Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 145 cm | 84.6 x 57 in



Emma 2
2025

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 200 cm | 84.6 x 78.7 in





Evi
2025

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 200 cm | 84.6 x 78.7 in



Finn 2
2025

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
80 x 80 cm | 31.5 x 31.5 in



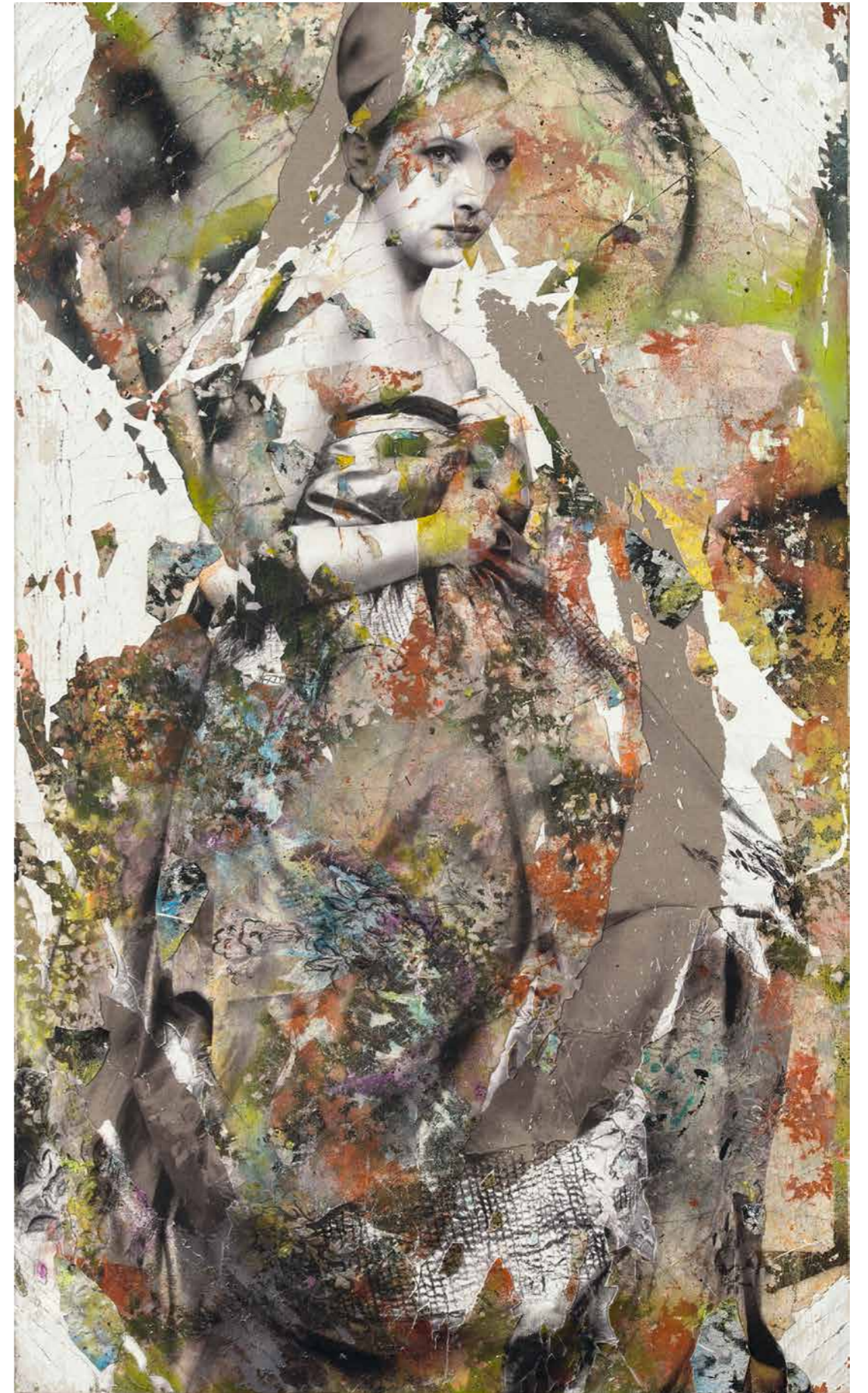
Finn 3
2025

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
80 x 80 cm | 31.5 x 31.5 in



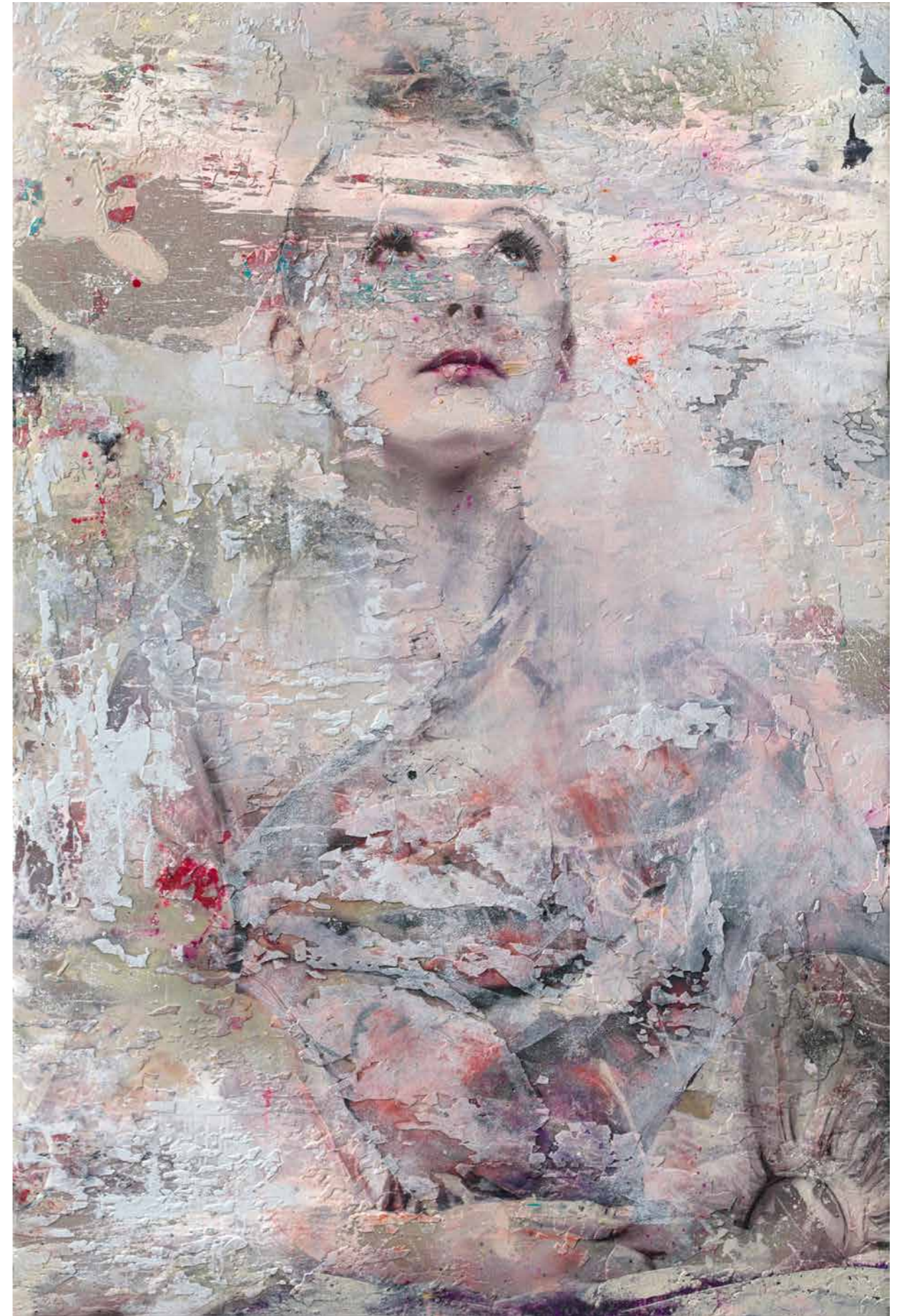
Halina
2025

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
200 x 120 cm | 78.5 x 47.2 in



Aurora
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
150 x 100 cm | 59.1 x 39.4 in





Lucia
2026

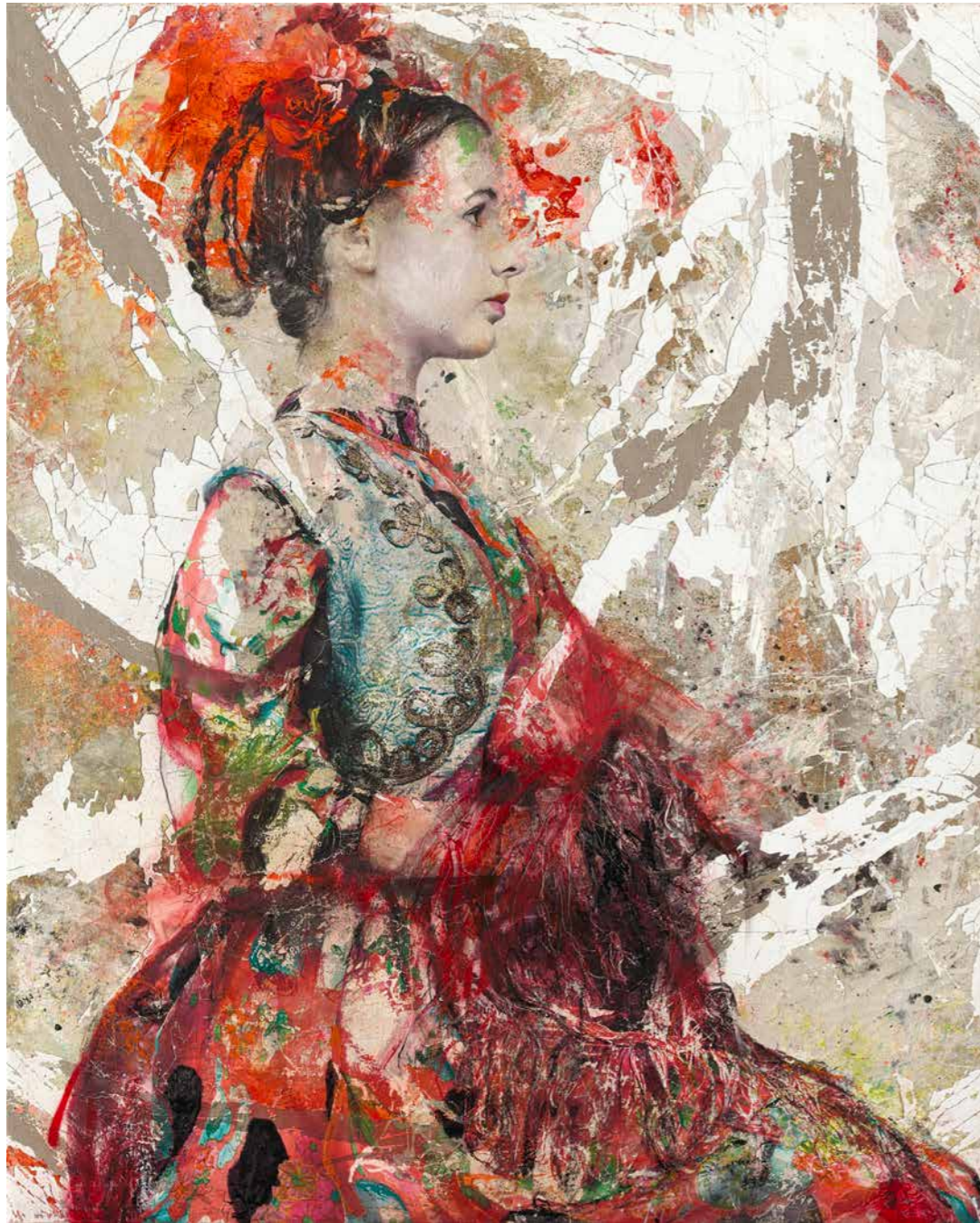
Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
120 x 85 cm | 47.2 x 33.5 in



Luisa
2026

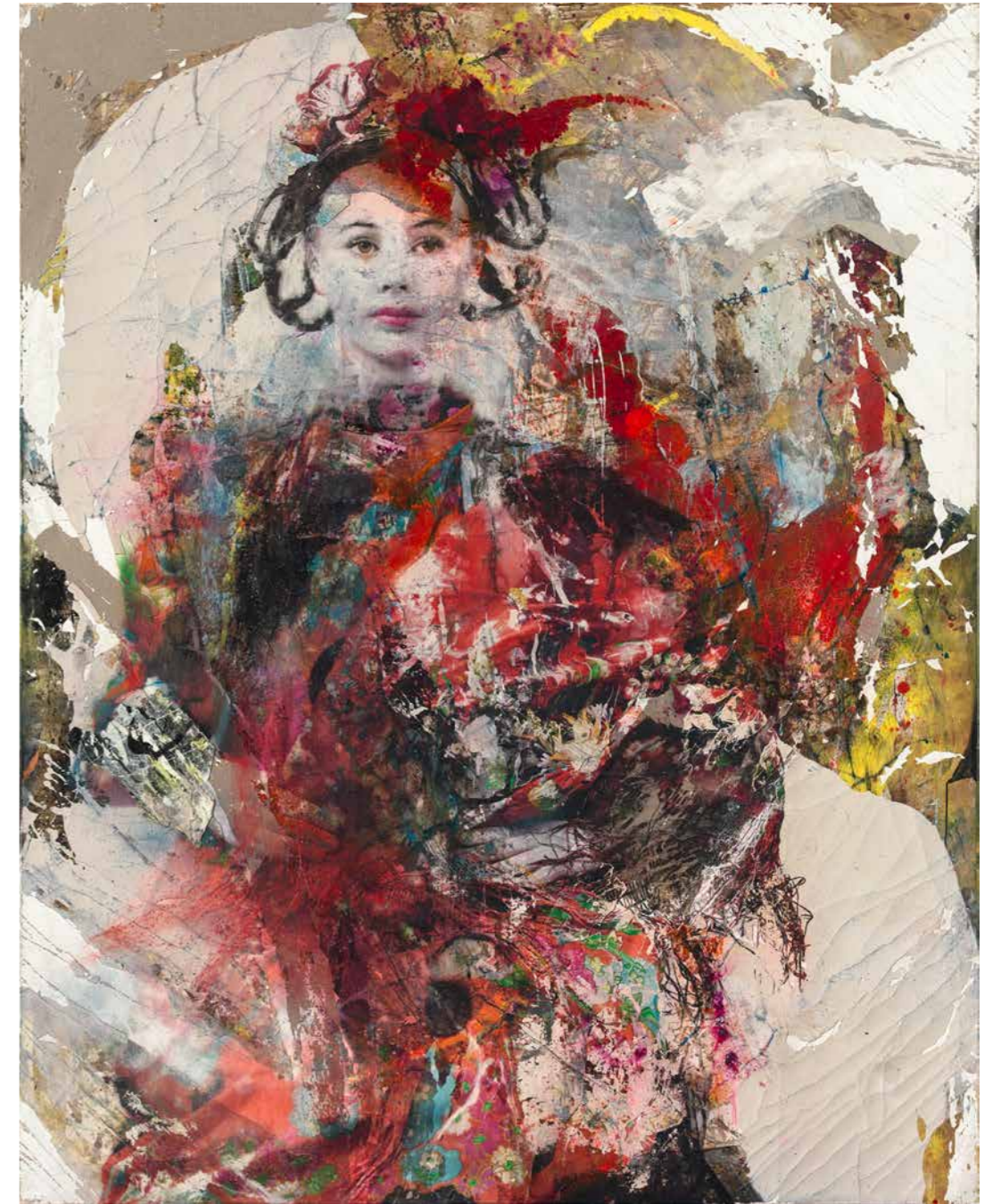
Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
180 x 180 cm | 70.9 x 70.9 in





Marian
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
200 x 160 cm | 78.7 x 63 in

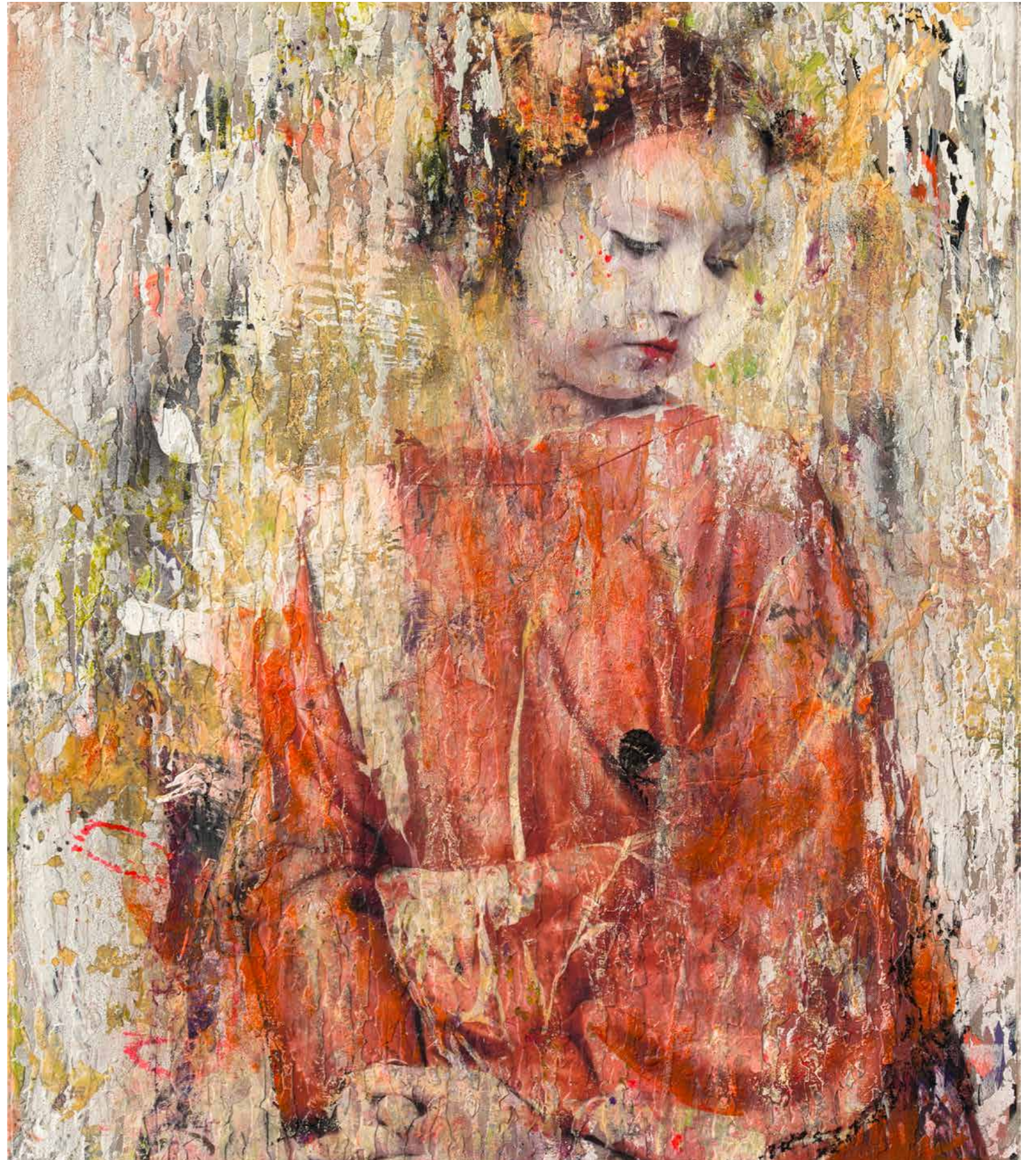


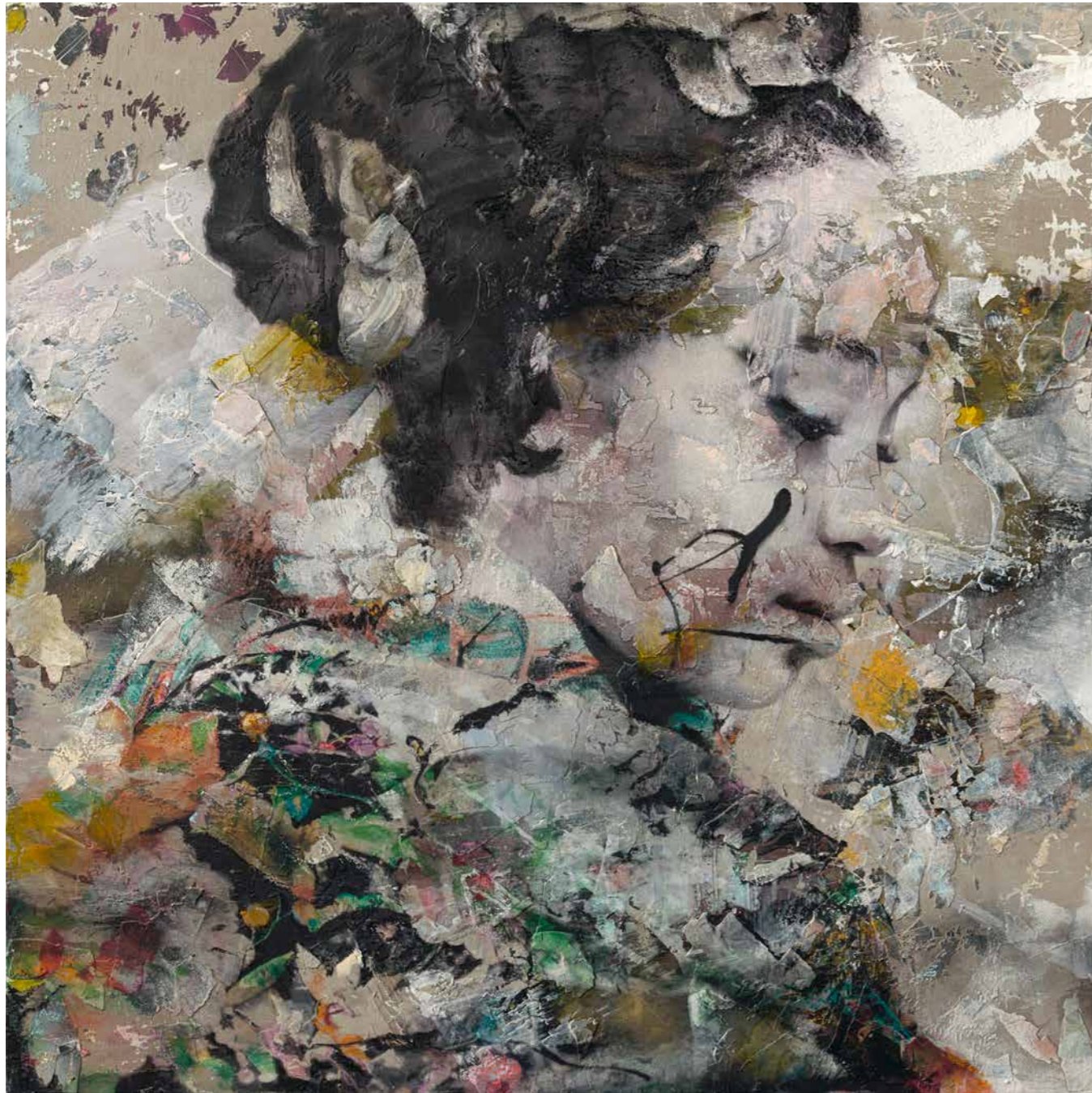
Marian II
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 200 cm | 84.6 x 78.7 in

Marieke
2026

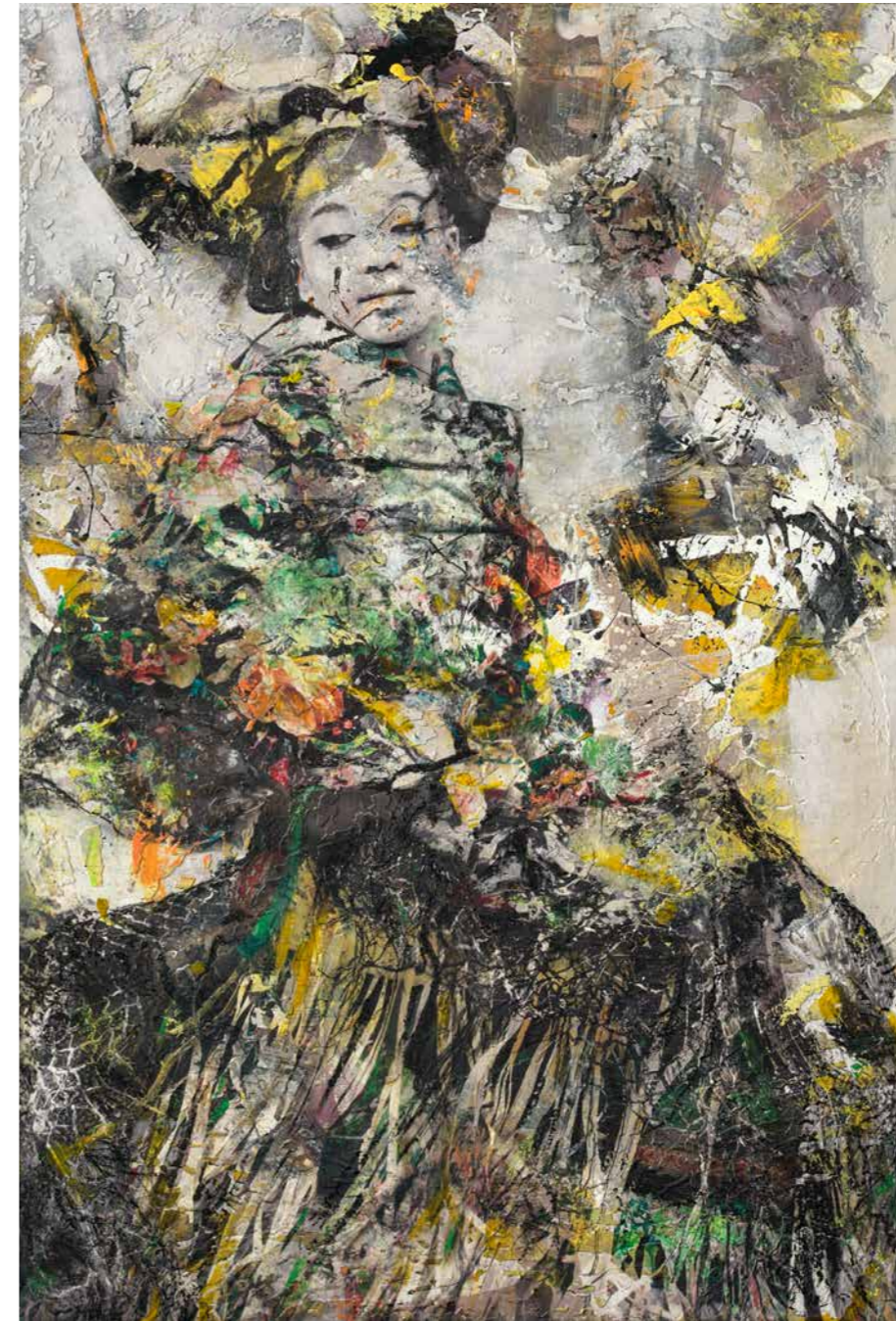
Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
115 x 100 cm | 45.3 x 39.4 in





Rocio I
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
150 x 150 cm | 59.1 x 59.1 in



Rocio II
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 145 cm | 84.6 x 57.1 in



Simon
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
80 x 80 cm | 31.5 x 31.5 in



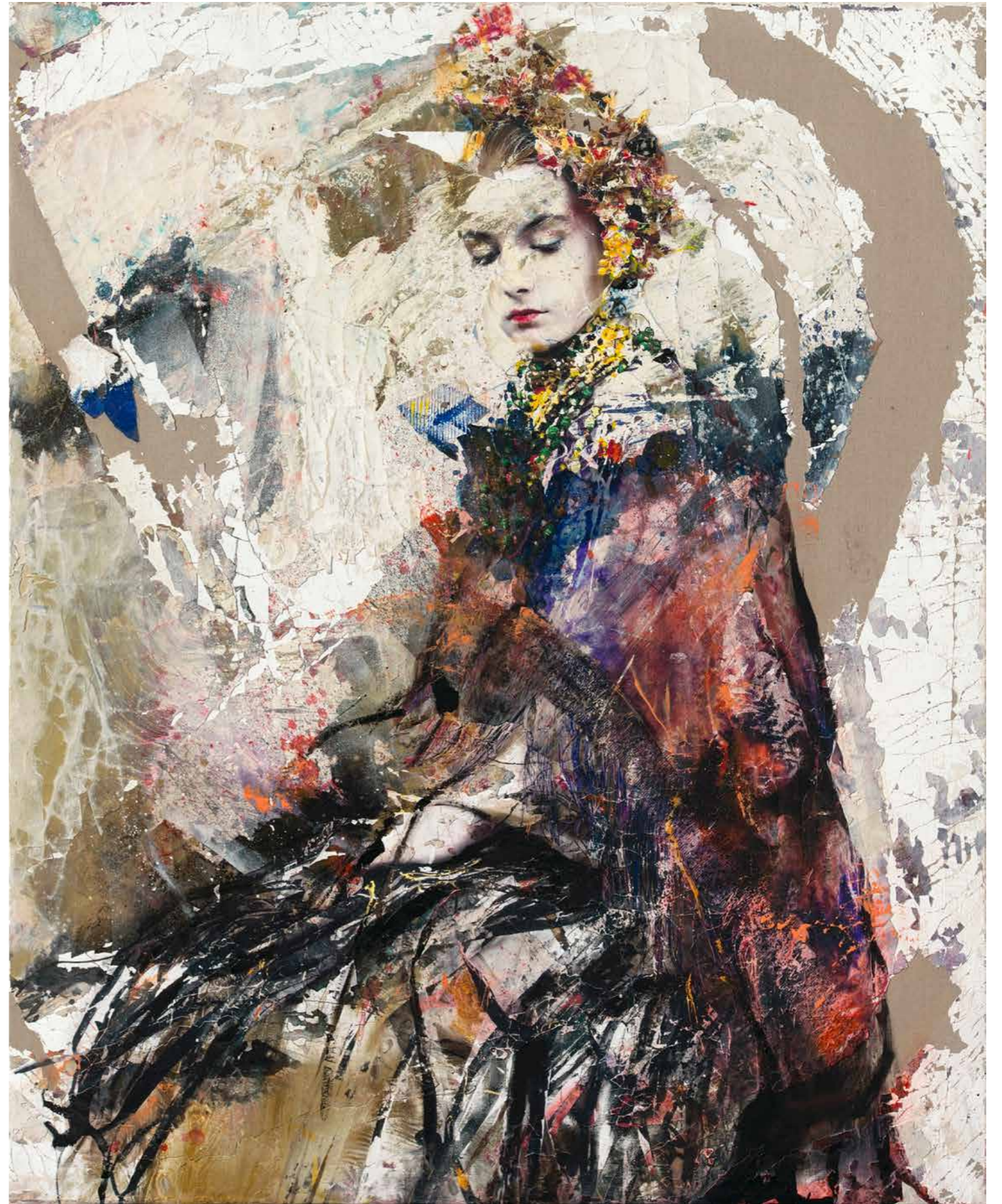
Yara
2025

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 200 cm | 84.6 x 78.7 in



Yara II
2026

Mixed media on canvas
Signed on the reverse
215 x 175 cm | 84.6 x 68.9 in





Lita Cabellut's studio in The Hague,
Netherlands © Eddy Wenting



LITA CABELLUT

Lita Cabellut (b. 1961, Spain) is an artist who lives and works in the Netherlands and is considered one of the important painters on the international contemporary art scene. She has developed an ability to mix disciplines that prevents technique from becoming an impediment to her artistic language. Cabellut's creative process is founded on reflection and detailed study of the selected motif as the main concept that she later develops in her atelier. The pieces she creates on a large scale combine traditional techniques and modern applications. The characters chosen are the communication channel of the concept. Through these characters that act as interlocutors, the human being, the social message, brutality, selfishness, ignorance, dehumanisation or transcendence are the central themes in her work. Her creative process is visceral and physical, and this is reflected in the texture, gestures and unvarnished emotional intensity of her pieces. She considers art a capital element for transforming and improving society.

At a very early age, she had the opportunity to discover the masters at the Museo del Prado, and it was from that moment on that she discovered the transformative power of art and felt, physically and emotionally, the need to express herself through painting, which led her years later to the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. It was in the Netherlands that she absorbed the inspirational legacy of the great masters: her unabashed social commitment is indebted to Francisco de Goya, the gaze of the characters to that of Velázquez, she sought the light of Vermeer, the flesh tones of Rubens, the vibrant colours of El Greco, the anguish of Rembrandt's portrayal of everyday life, the spirituality of Mark Rothko, the materiality of Anselm Kiefer, the rawness of Francis Bacon, and the conceptualism of Joseph Beuys. These are artists whose influence appears and disappears throughout her creative career and across the series that shape her artistic development.

Cabellut's work has been exhibited internationally in major museums and institutions, including the Seoul Arts Center, Seoul; Museo d'Arte Contemporanea della Sicilia, Catania; and CSMVS Museum, Mumbai. Her works are held in numerous prominent public and private collections, among them Museo Goya Colección IberCaja, Zaragoza; Museu Europeu d'Art Modern, Fundació Vila Casas, Barcelona; Théâtre Mogador, Paris; the Fendi Collection, Italy; Copelouzos Collection, Greece; the RAK Art Foundation, Bahrain; and the Joop & Janine van den Ende Foundation; and the Paul van Rensch Foundation in the Netherlands.

SELECTED MEDIA & PROJECTS

- 2025 'De tu mano' | Artist's book | Editorial Artika | Madrid | Spain
- 2024 Awarded the title of *Honoris Causa* | University of Barcelona | Barcelona | Spain
Commander of the Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic | Spain
Award Influyente Culture | Premio El Confidencial | Madrid | Spain
'Chaplin, Spirit of the tramp' | Art Director | Documentary, Animation | USA, UK, France
- 2023 Advisory Committee | Biennial Masterly the Hague | The Hague | The Netherlands
Award 'Culture' | Premios Vanguardia, La Vanguardia | Barcelona | Spain
'OCO-The Show' | Scenery, Costumes & Video Art | Espacio Ibercaja | Madrid | Spain
'Lita Cabellut, Unfolding Density' | Artist's book | TeNeueus | Düsseldorf | Germany
- 2022 Deposit of Legacy at 'Caja de las Letras' box nr.1250 | Cervantes Institute | Madrid | Spain
'El sabor a sangre no se me quita de la voz' | Artist's book | Editorial La Barraka | Madrid | Spain
W1 Curates Lita Cabellut | W1 Curates | London | UK
- 2021 National Artist of the Year 2021 | Stichting Kunstweek | The Netherlands
Jury Princess Girona Foundation Awards | FPdGI | La Rioja | Spain
'(A)mar' | Artist's book | Editorial La Barraka | Madrid | Spain
Guest lecturer | Dreamschool | NTR, Dutch Public Broadcaster | The Netherlands
- 2020 Jury Project Rembrandt | NTR, Dutch Public Broadcaster | The Netherlands
'Bodas de Sangre' | Artist's book | Editorial Artika | New York | USA | ARCO Madrid | Spain
Jury Princess Girona Foundation Awards | FPdGI | La Rioja | Spain
- 2019 Award Most Influential Artist | F&A, La Vanguardia, Ibero Press | Barcelona | Spain
Award Attitude 43 Creative | Harper's Bazaar, Hearst Magazines Group | Madrid | Spain
- Performance – Image XXI Flamenco | Biennial Sevilla 2020 | Sevilla | Spain
Conference 'The corridors that turned my life into color' | Museo del Prado | Madrid | Spain
Award 'Excellent in the Cultural Field' | Comunidad de Madrid | Madrid | Spain
Award Fair Saturday ad Honorem | Fair Saturday Foundation | Bilbao | Spain
Jury Lang Leve Rembrandt | Rijksmuseum | Amsterdam | The Netherlands
'Exceptional women: the value of an opportunity' | BBVA Microfinance Foundation | Madrid | Spain
Jury 10th 'Figurativas' | Fundació Privada de les Arts i els Artistes | Barcelona | Spain
'Karl V' Opera | Scenery, Costumes & Video art | Bayerische Staatsopera | München | Germany
Jury Project Rembrandt | NTR, Dutch Public Broadcaster | The Netherlands
Jury 11th National Painting Contest Parliament of La Rioja | La Rioja | Spain

2018 Award 'Person of the Year. Fuera de Serie 2018', Art Category | Fuera de Serie, El Mundo | Madrid | Spain

Festival Castell Peralada 2018 | Image | Festival Castell Peralada | Girona | Spain

2017 'Crónicas: Lita Cabellut, el lenguaje de los colores' | RTVE, Spanish Public Broadcaster | Spain

'Le Siège de Corinthe' Opera | Scenery, Costumes | Rossini Opera Festival | Pesaro | Italy

'Close Up: Lita Cabellut, Schoonheid boven alles' | NTR, Dutch Public Broadcaster | The Netherlands

2016 Festes de Gracia 2016 | Image | Festes de Gracia | Barcelona | Spain

Universitat Pompeu Fabra Schoolyear 16/17 | Image | Universitat Pompeu Fabra | Barcelona | Spain

2015 Jury 5th 'Figurativas' | Fundació Privada de les Arts i els Artistes | Barcelona | Spain

SELECTED MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 'Ver & Nabij—gebroeders Van Lymborch X hedendaagse kunstenaars' | Stevenskerk | Nijmegen | The Netherlands
'Mares de tierra' | Sala Arquitecto Luis Berges Roldán | Diputación de Jaén | Jaén | Spain
'Bodas de sangre X Kruvinos vestuvės' by Lita Cabellut | Samogitian Art Museum | Plunge | Lithuania
[Referencers] | Sala d'exposicions del Govern | Andorra
'Lita Cabellut' | Museum Jan | Amstelveen | The Netherlands
- 2025 'Lita Cabellut, Vida desgarrando Arte' | Fundación Bancaja | Valencia | Spain
- 2024 'Goya x Lita: Misera humanidad, la culpa es tuya' | RABASF | Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando | Madrid | Spain
'Lita Cabellut' | Shanlight Art Museum | Guiyang | China
- 2023 'Lita Cabellut' | Westred Art Museum | Harbin | China
'Arte & Poesía' | Centro Cultural Casa de Vacas | Madrid | Spain
- 2022 'Retrospective' | Raffles City | Beijing | China
'De vrouw van Sluiter tot Cabellut' | Katwijk Museum | Katwijk aan Zee | The Netherlands
'Diarios Cromáticos' duo with Patricia Chaplin | Claustro de Santo Domingo | Jerez | Spain
'Vorm aan de Vecht' | Buitenplaats Doornburgh | Maarssen | The Netherlands
'Mirar de Nuevo, la mujer contra el tiempo' | ABANCA Fundación | A Coruña | Spain
- 2021 'Reencuentro' | Omega Capital | Madrid | Spain
'(A)mar' | La Cama Sol | Madrid | Spain
- 2020 'De Zwarte Tulp' | Museum Zwarte Tulp | Lisse | The Netherlands
- 2019 'Van Muze tot scheppende kunstenaar' | Instituto Cervantes | Utrecht | The Netherlands
'8th Beijing International Art Biennale' | Hispano American hall - National Museum of Art (NA-MOC) | Beijing | China
'Naakt of bloot?' | Museum Jan Cunen | Oss | The Netherlands
'La Victoria del Silencio' | Museo Goya | Zaragoza | Spain
- 2018 'The Rossini Project' | Documentationcentre German Sinti en Roma | Berlin | Germany
'A Chronicle of the Infinite' | Museum Jan van der Togt | Amstelveen | The Netherlands
Masterly The Hague | Hoogsteder & Hoogsteder | The Hague | The Netherlands
'Charlie Chaplin—A Vision' | YUZ Museum Shanghai | China
'Testimonio' | Centro Cultural Cascais | Cascais | Portugal
'Mujeres Artistas Hoy' | Museo Europeo d'Art Modern | Barcelona | Spain
- 2017 'Testimonio' | Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Gas Natural Fenosa | La Coruña | Spain
'Retrospective' | Espais Volart—Fundació Vila Casas | Barcelona | Spain
- 2016 'The Figure in Process: de Kooning to Kapoor, 1955-2015' | Pivot Centre for Art + Culture | Seattle | USA
- 2015 'Disturbance' | Museum Jan van der Togt | Amstelveen | The Netherlands
'Black Tulip: The Golden Age' | Lalit Kala Akademi | New Delhi | India
'Trilogy of Truth' | MEAM Museu Europeu d'Art Modern | Barcelona | Spain
'Blind Mirror' | Hälsinglands Museum | Hudiksvall | Sweden
'Trilogy of Doubt' | MacS Museo Arte Contemporanea | Catania | Italy
'Black Tulip: The Golden Age' | CSMVS (former Prince of Wales Museum) | Bombay | India

SELECTED MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 'Black Tulip: The Golden Age' | State Visit Okura Hotel | Tokyo | Japan
 '100 Masterpieces' | Seoul Art Centre | Seoul | South Korea
 'Here to Stay' | Kunststation Kleinsassen | Berlin | Germany
- 2013 'Trilogy of Doubt' | Het Noordbrabants Museum | 's-Hertogenbosch | The Netherlands
 'Trilogy of Doubt' | Fundació Vila Casas | Barcelona | Spain
 Gratis is het woord niet | Tribute to Grunberg | Atrium The Hague | The Netherlands
 'Me, you and Others' | The Finnish Labour Museum | Werstas | Finland
- 2012 'Retrospective' | Tricot | Winterswijk | The Netherlands
- 2007-2008
 Gongzhen—Art in Sport ADIDAS | Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenyang, Nankin, Chengdu, Beijing | China

GALLERIES | SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 'Resilience Unveiled' | MPV Gallery | Oisterwijk | The Netherlands
 'Ver(de) mar de ver(de) tierra' | Renace Contemporary Art | Baeza | Spain
- 2024 'La niña en la mirada' | Opera Gallery | Madrid | Spain
 'Whispers of Inspiration' | Art of the World Gallery | Houston | USA
- 2023 'Tremble' | Opera Gallery | Dubai | UAE
- 2022 'Fur & Feathers' | Opera Gallery | London | UK
 'Unfolding Density' | MPV Gallery | Oisterwijk | The Netherlands
- 2021 'The Choice of Memories' | Smith Davidson Gallery | Amsterdam | The Netherlands
- 2020 'The Colors that Remains' | Art of the World Gallery | Houston | USA
- 2019 'The Echo of the Masters' | Opera Gallery | Singapore | Singapore
 'Transformation' | Opera Gallery | London | UK
- 2018 'A Chronicle of the Infinite' | Opera Gallery | NY | USA
 'Lita Cabellut in Seoul' | Opera Gallery | Seoul | South Korea
- 2017 'Army of Poets' | Opera Gallery | Paris | France / Hong Kong | China
- 2016 'Fairy Flowers' | Opera Gallery | Beirut | Lebanon
 'Colour of Dew' | Opera Gallery | Dubai | UAE
 'One Artist Show' | Art Karlsruhe | Galerie Günther Zulauf | Karlsruhe | Germany
- 2015 'Impulse' | Opera Gallery | London | UK
- 2014 'Black Tulip: The Golden Age' | Opera Gallery | Paris | France
 'Starcatcher' | Opera Gallery | Seoul | South Korea
- 2013 'Hidden Dreams' | The Moscow World Fine Art Fair | Opera Gallery | Moscow | Russia
 'Dried Tear' | Opera Gallery | Singapore | Singapore
 'Behind the Curtains' | Opera Gallery | Hong Kong | China
- 2012 'After the Show' | Galerie Terminus | Munich | Germany
 'Portrait of Human Knowledge' | Opera Gallery | London | UK
 'Memories Wrapped in Gold Paper' | Opera Gallery | Dubai | UAE
- 2011 'Coco: The Testimony of Black and White' | Opera Gallery | Paris | France
 'Camarón' | Galerie Kai Dikhas | Berlin | Germany
 'La Perla Negra' | Opera Gallery | London | UK



INDEX



Alba 11
2025



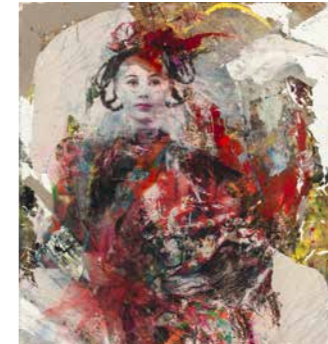
Emma 2 13
2026



Evi 14
2025



Marian 30
2026



Marian II 31
2026



Marieke 33
2026



Finn 2 16
2025



Finn 3 17
2025



Halina 21
2026



Rocio I 34
2026



Rocio II 35
2026



Simon 37
2026



Aurora 23
2026



Lucia 24
2026



Luisa 27
2026



Yara 38
2026



Yara II 43
2026

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Lita Cabellut, *Marian II*, 2026

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