

BETWEEN LIGHT AND MEMORY

ROBERT MESSARRA

&

MARIE TRABOULSI



Between Light And Memory

Robert Messarra & Marie Traboulsi

Duo Exhibition

Opening Thursday, July 16, 2026

6 PM – 8 PM

Kalim Bechara Art Gallery

Noor Gardens 1 Building, Omar Daouk Street, Downtown, Lebanon

Gallery Opening Hours

Monday 11 AM – 7 PM

Tuesday 11 AM – 7 PM

Wednesday 11 AM – 7 PM

Thursday 11 AM – 7 PM

Friday 11 AM – 7 PM

Saturday 11 AM – 5 PM

Sunday CLOSED

For further information, contact:

info@kalimbecharaartgallery.com

+961 70 672 777



This exhibition marks the second activation of the collaboration between Kalim Bechara Art Gallery and the work of Robert Messarra. Following a first presentation in July 2025 dedicated to the artist's vibrant landscapes, this new chapter in 2026 expands the conversation through a dialogue with contemporary artist Marie Traboulsi Marinier, creating a rich encounter between two distinct yet resonant artistic sensibilities.

For Robert Messarra, landscape unfolds through radiant colour and expressive composition. Fields, villages, trees, and horizons are distilled into vibrant pictorial rhythms that capture the warmth and vitality of Mediterranean light. His paintings celebrate the sensory richness of place, transforming familiar scenery into immersive chromatic experiences.

Marie Traboulsi Marinier approaches landscape as a repository of memory. Her paintings emerge through layers of acrylic, charcoal, and gesture, revealing imagined gardens and poetic terrains shaped by recollection and feeling. Each work carries the trace of a personal narrative, where nature becomes a language through which memory, time, and emotion find form.

Presented together, these two bodies of work create a compelling dialogue between observation and remembrance. Messarra invites us into the brilliance of the visible world, while Traboulsi Marinier explores landscapes shaped by memory, intuition, and emotional resonance. Their works converge through a shared attention to nature as both a lived experience and a source of poetic reflection.

Bringing together colour, gesture, atmosphere, and memory, this exhibition offers a journey through landscapes that extend beyond geography, revealing the profound connections between place, perception, and the inner world.

Randa Sadaka
Curator



Robert Messarra

(1944 - 2012)



Born in Beirut, Lebanon, in January 1944, Robert Messarra discovered his artistic vocation in the early 1960s. He studied at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) before continuing his artistic education at the Pietro Vannucci Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia, Italy. Messarra's early work reflects a profound duality: the radiant beauty of nature and the luminous Mediterranean landscape are juxtaposed with an underlying sense of tragedy, shaped by the loss of both his parents at a young age. The outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War forced him into exile in France, where he devoted himself tirelessly to his artistic practice.

Despite the hardship of displacement, Messarra's paintings celebrate a vibrant joie de vivre. His canvases, filled with intense colour and dramatic natural elements, express both a deep nostalgia for the peaceful Lebanon of his youth and an enduring spiritual quest. Although he spent many years in Paris—a city he personally found austere—his work remained deeply rooted in the beauty, light, and landscapes of his homeland.

Following extensive travels throughout Southern Europe, particularly in Italy and Greece, Messarra settled in Carcassonne, in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of southern France, in 2006. He lived and worked there until his passing on 22 October 2012.

Messarra's talent was recognised early by both Lebanese and French art critics. In 1996, he was awarded the Silver Medal for Merit and Devotion (Médaille d'Argent, Mérite et Dévouement), followed by the Bronze Medal of Arts, Sciences and Letters (Médaille de Bronze des Arts, Sciences et Lettres) in 1997. In 2002, the Japanese cultural society The Wind to Future commissioned a series of his paintings for a widely distributed calendar. In 2011, Middle East Airlines featured an extensive profile of the artist in its in-flight magazine, Cedar Wings. Earlier, in 1982, Galerie Chahine in Beirut included his work in the landmark retrospective A Hundred Years of Plastic Art in Lebanon (1880–1980).

Since 2001, Robert Messarra has been listed in the prestigious art reference guides Akoun and Art Price Indicator. His work has been exhibited extensively, with major exhibitions in Beirut between 1971 and 1975, followed by numerous exhibitions in France, including Galerie M. Davaud (Rue de Seine), Galerie Décoart, Galerie de l'Isle (Île Saint-Louis), La Sorbonne in Paris, Galerie Saint-Paul in Lyon, as well as exhibitions in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Barbizon, Béziers, Le Castelet (near Marseille), Strasbourg, and Mulhouse. In 1972, he represented Lebanon at the Universal Exhibition in Brussels.

Working primarily with a palette knife, Messarra developed a distinctive style characterised by richly textured, sculptural surfaces and a striking intensity of colour. Today, his works are held in private and public collections across France, Lebanon, the United States, Canada, Japan, and Australia.



Le Phare En Bretagne

Oil on canvas

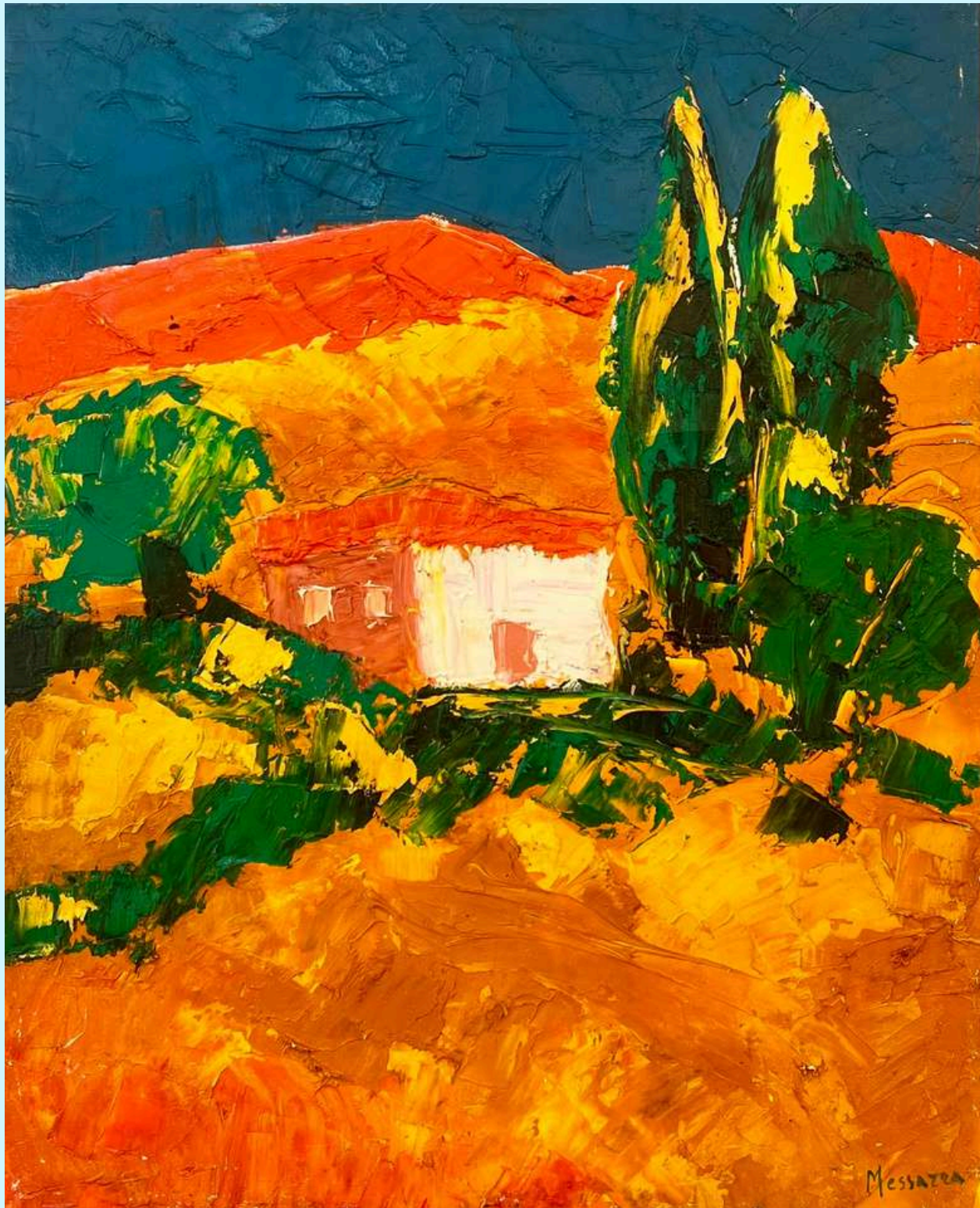
100x80 cm

1997



Cabane Au Printemps

Oil on canvas
70x70 cm



Aux Creux De La Vallée

Oil on canvas

73x60 cm

1998



En Plein Midi

Oil on canvas
60x73 cm



Les Maisons Blanches

Oil on canvas

65x54 cm



Au Bord Du Lac

Oil on canvas

61x50 cm

1999



Le Champ De Blé

Oil on canvas
46x55 cm



Les Deux Cabanes

Oil on canvas

47x55 cm



Les Maisons Isolées

Oil on canvas

46x37 cm



Les Iris



Les Vignes

Oil on canvas

33x41 cm



Marie Traboulsi Marinier

(1955 - Present)

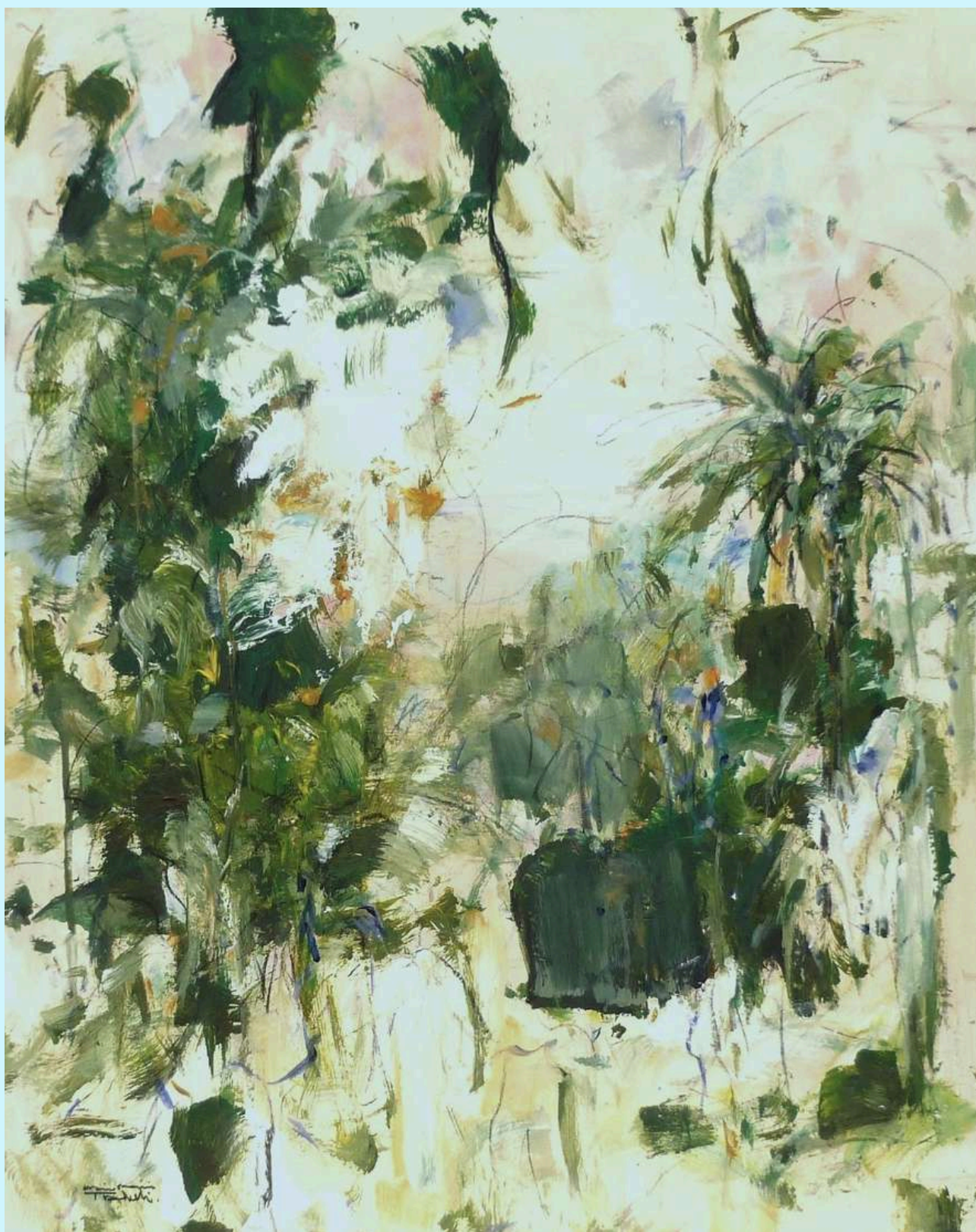


A Franco-Lebanese painter and visual artist, Marie Traboulsi Marinier discovered drawing in Beirut at age 8. She trained under the guidance of artist Haïdar Hamaoui before, at the age of seventeen, creating fashion illustrations for the Lebanese newspaper ***L'Orient-Le Jour***.

Forced to leave war-torn Lebanon in 1976, she settled in France, where she studied graphic design at Penninghen before earning her degree in Interior Architecture from the Académie Charpentier.

From 1988 onwards, Marie devoted herself entirely to painting. She established her studio in Provence, in the heart of the Alpilles, while collaborating with interior architects and designers and exhibiting at leading international trade fairs, including Maison & Objet and Messe Frankfurt.

Now living and working in the Vichy region of France, she remains driven by a desire to express emotion through painting. This commitment has led her to exhibit her work extensively in France (Galerie Dyptik, Nantes; Galerie La Bohême, Deauville; Galerie Corps et Âme, Nîmes; the Cluniac Priory of Saint-Germain-des-Fossés; Galerie Rive Droite, Saint-Étienne; Galerie DB, Paris; the Fonds Culturel de l'Ermitage; Paris 5th District City Hall; Carrefour des Arts, Lalouvesc), in Lebanon (Galerie Joanna Saïkaly and Galerie Cheriff Tabet, Beirut), in the United States (Ariel of France), in Canada (Galerie Bruno Massa), in Brussels (Galerie Inné Art), in Switzerland (Galerie Inné Art at the Lausanne Art Fair), as well as at the Dailan Museum in China, the Musée d'Art Brut in Lapalisse, France, and the Fonds Culturel de l'Ermitage in Garches, France, where she has presented several solo exhibitions.

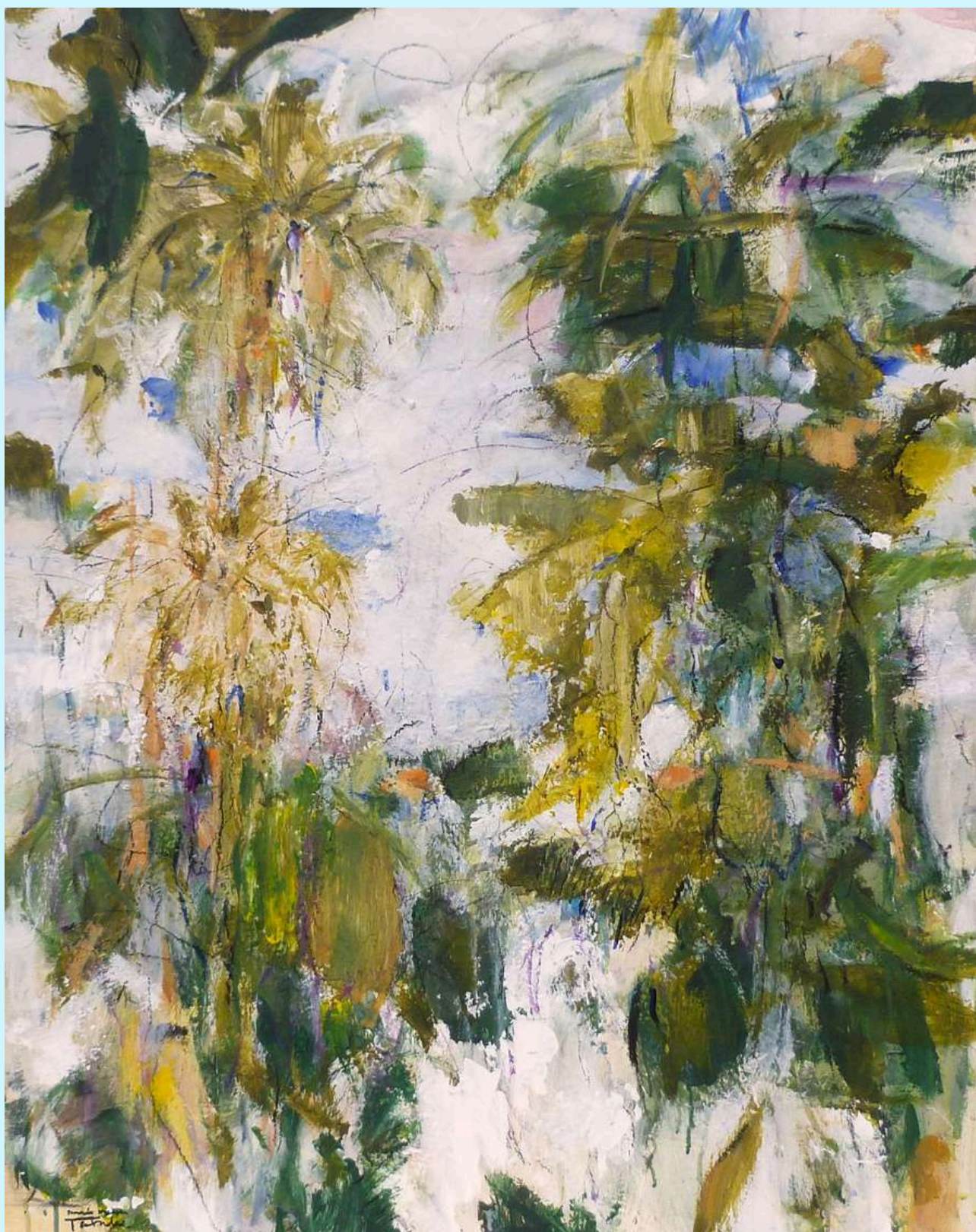


On Dirait Le Sud I

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

100x80 cm

2025



On Dirait Le Sud II

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

100x80 cm

2025



Plonger En Eau Douce II

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

70x50 cm

2025



Plonger En Eau Douce III

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

70x50 cm

2025



Plonger En Eau Douce IV

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

70x50 cm

2025



Fin De Journée

Acrylic and Charcoal on canvas

50x50 cm

2025

THANK YOU