



GALERIE EVA PRESENHUBER

SHARA HUGHES
TREE FARM
JUNE 7 – JULY 20, 2024
WALDMANNSTRASSE, ZURICH

PRESS RELEASE

**Shara Hughes
Tree Farm**

**June 7 – July 20, 2024
Waldmannstrasse 6, Zurich**

Galerie Eva Presenhuber is pleased to present *Tree Farm*, the gallery's fifth solo exhibition with the New York-based artist Shara Hughes.

When Hughes moved to New York in 2014, she had been painting interiors, calculated spaces that frame figures and prop-like objects of personal significance. Soon thereafter, she left these rooms, conjuring instead exterior scenes of swamps and lakes, dense woodlands with strokes for leaves and clearings opening to patches of thunderous faraway skies. Some vistas were framed within a proscenium of branches or the aperture of a cresting wave—pictorial devices signaling the image as having been staged. Hughes has described these ongoing works from the last decade as kinds of *imaginary landscapes*, most literally in that they do not depict specific places. But this further suggests how Hughes appropriates the genre as a way to think about how one might arrange color and shape on a flat surface into something recognizable.

Hughes's paintings are about painting as much as about nature, of trees grown not in soil but sprouted, as if *sui generis*, from the sluice of underpainting. In *Tree Farm*, they flaunt their inventiveness, offering the comparative play of difference within a serial format: one tall tree per vertical canvas. Each painting seems to harbor its own light source, palette, and temperature, cultivating within these distinct atmospheres specimens that arc to the physical edges of supports as if heliotropic, crown their enclosures, or fall to the loam where undergrowth rises to meet the detumescent branches. Color is everywhere saturated and pitched to maximum expressive potential, if modulated according to its site. *Wits End* is a conflagration of reds and signal orange cut with ribbons of turquoise, lapis, and goldenrod; by contrast, *Come and Get It* is a nocturne of deep purples and red-brown hills, its gangly protagonist standing erect with so many boughs—evocative of limbs—ending in orbs that redouble the celestial flecks legible as stars.

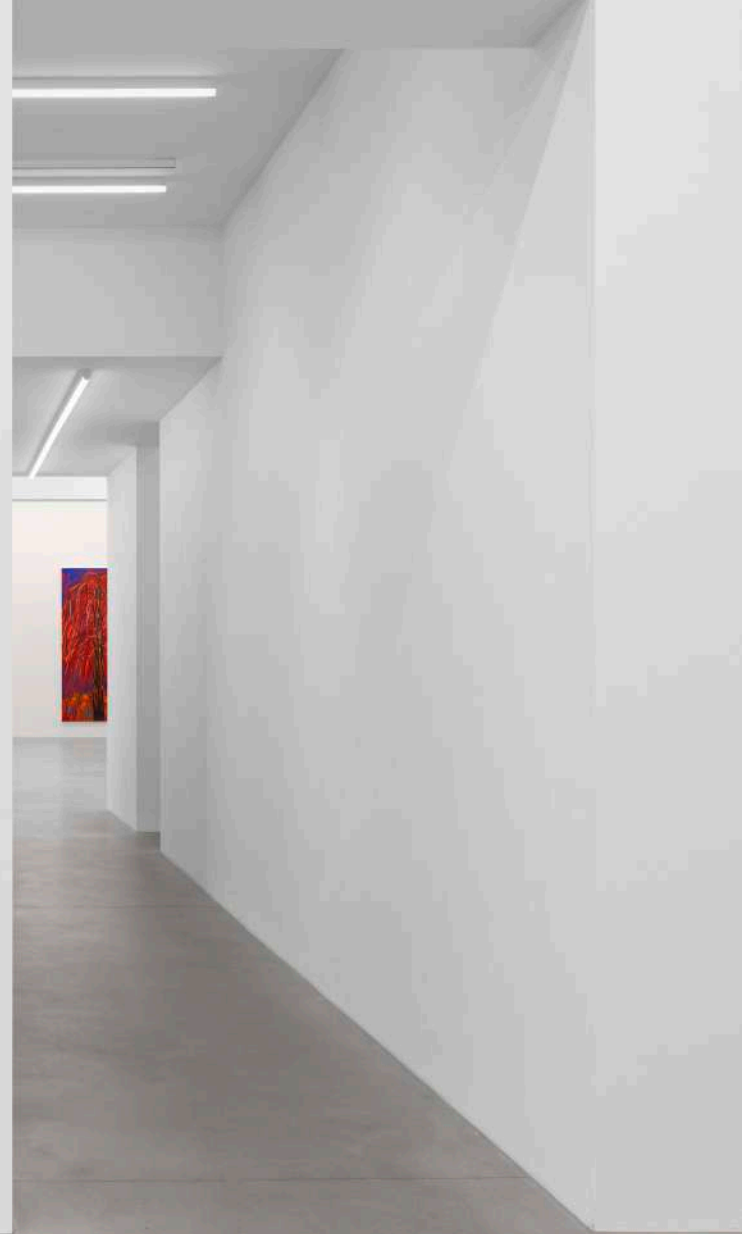
Hughes here coaxes ever more possibilities for compositional generation from her evolving lexicon. Prismatic, faceted planes, arcing lines spaced or tightly striated and ordered, clustering daubs and dots, and transitions between these and other modes of applying paint might be endlessly recombined without yielding the same effects. And in any given instance, Hughes near-magically slips between having the paint signify and be: marks stand for foliage or snow or rock even as they visibly remain marks. Look at any section and watch aspects disambiguate and reverse. Like the psychological tool of the bistable image (most famously in Joseph Jastrow's representation of the duck that is also a rabbit, but not at the same time), Hughes's paintings point to how visual experience is organized for the maker as much as for the viewer—and how the positionality of both is very literally determinant.

The title, *Tree Farm*, refers to Hughes's family's pine tree farm in western Georgia, where she spent time as a child, amidst new growth that in time came to be large enough to fell and replant. Thus does it introduce not only the shifting perspective of passage through a prepared environment, marked by the volatility of light and weather, but also how fantasy and memory mediate the encounter. Here, Hughes is likewise exhibiting for the first time a group of tabletop ceramics. These small sculptures model arboreal varieties, knobby and slender, sprightly and

manicured, their glazes crackling and lustrous by turn as befits the process of firing without controlling the outcome. The makeshift grove that results invites movement to see each piece from multiple vantages and to understand them in relation. As with the accompanying paintings, they continue Hughes's use of the nominal subject of landscape as a heuristic for experiments in generating form.

Accompanying the exhibition is a curated selection of paintings by the artist's father, Joe Hughes, on view in a cabinet next to the main gallery.

Suzanne Hudson



Installation view, Shara Hughes, *Tree Farm*, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Waldmannstrasse, Zurich, 2024



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SHARA HUGHES

Come and Get It

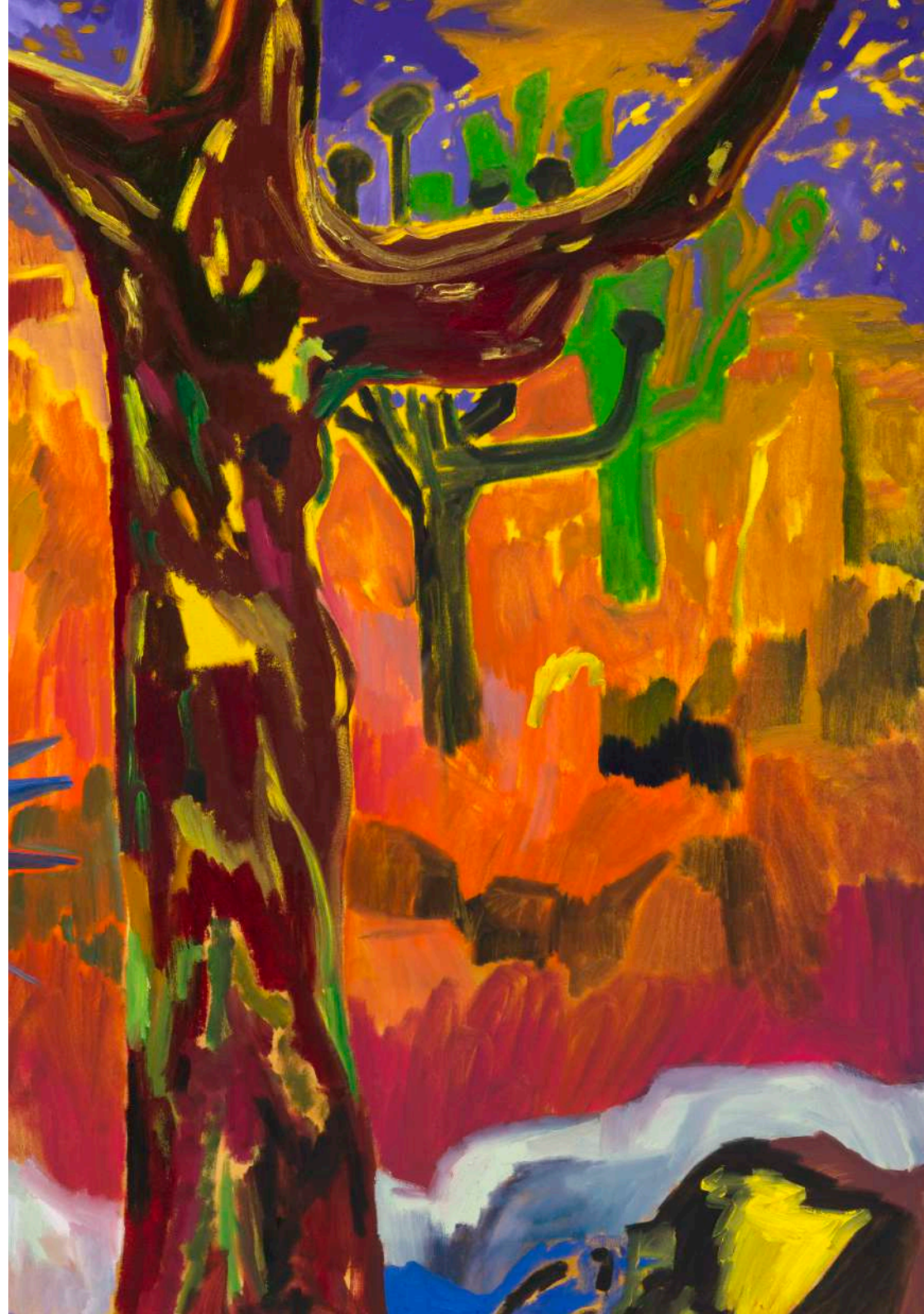
2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60263

500'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

What Nerve

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60264

500'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

Harder Core

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60265

NFS



SHARA HUGHES

Whose with Me

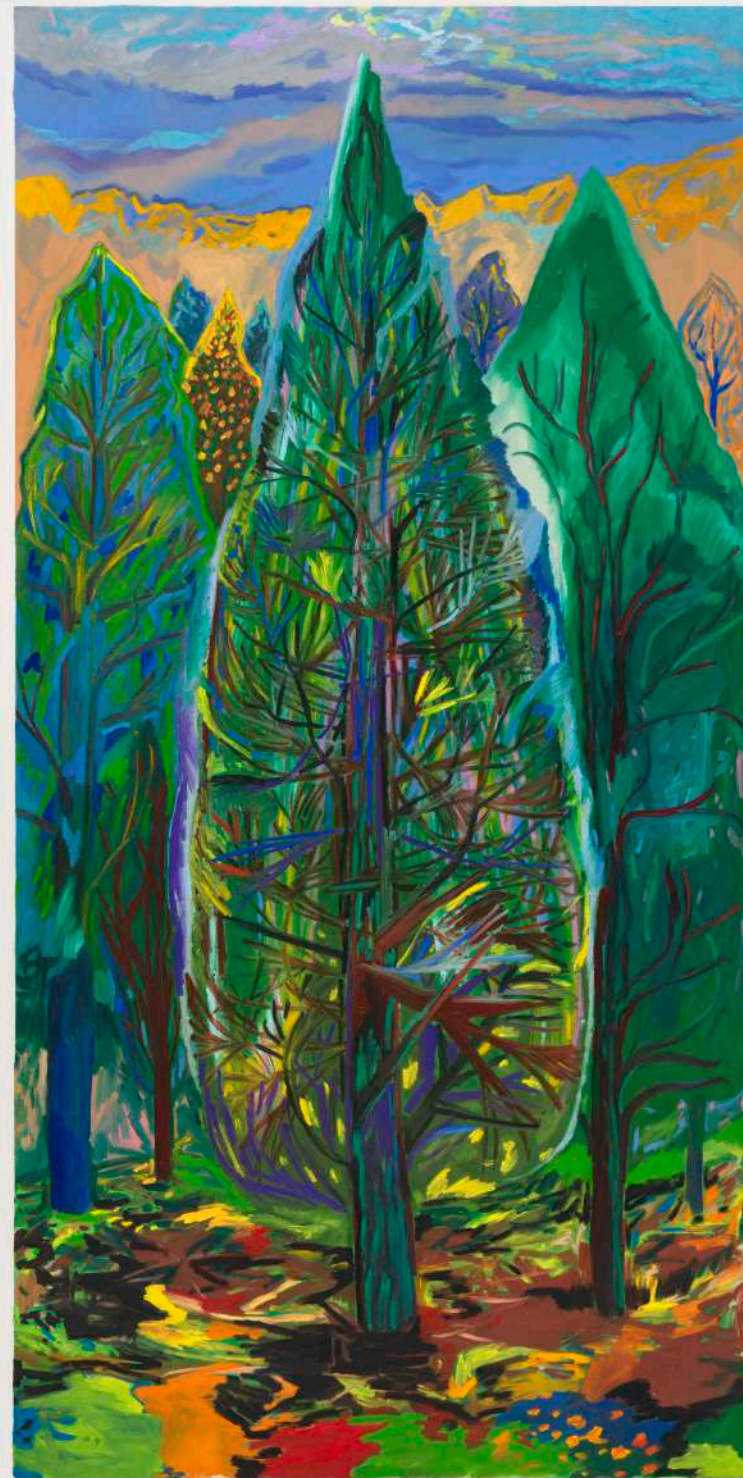
2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60266

500'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

Wits End

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60267

500'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

Play More

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60474

500'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

Many Hats

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60475

500'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

Stand Tall

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60476

500'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

Cover Me in Darkness

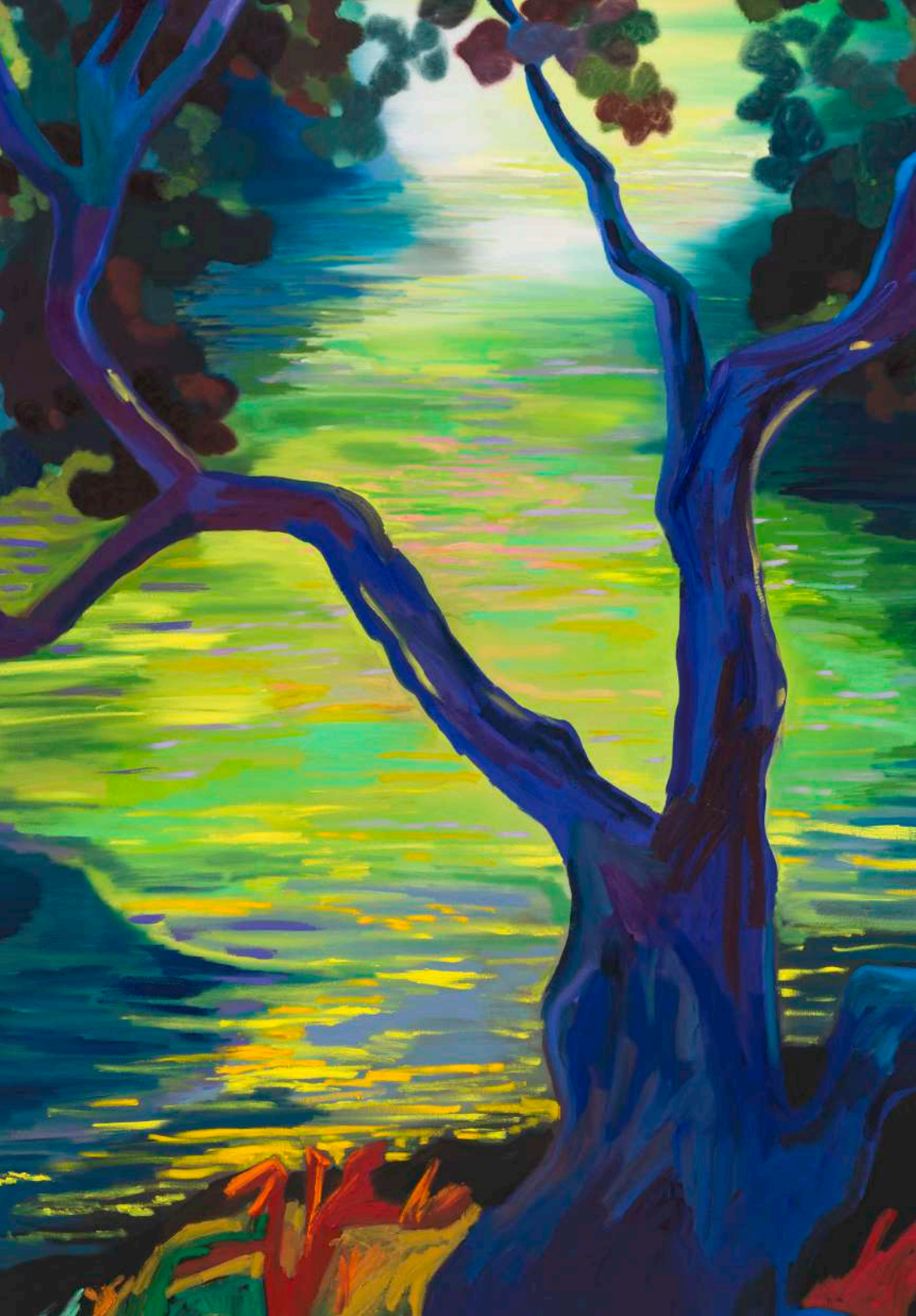
2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

254 x 127 cm / 100 x 50 in

HUGHE60478

500'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

Branching Out

2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

198 x 167.5 cm / 78 x 66 in

HUGHE60261

500'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

Resilience

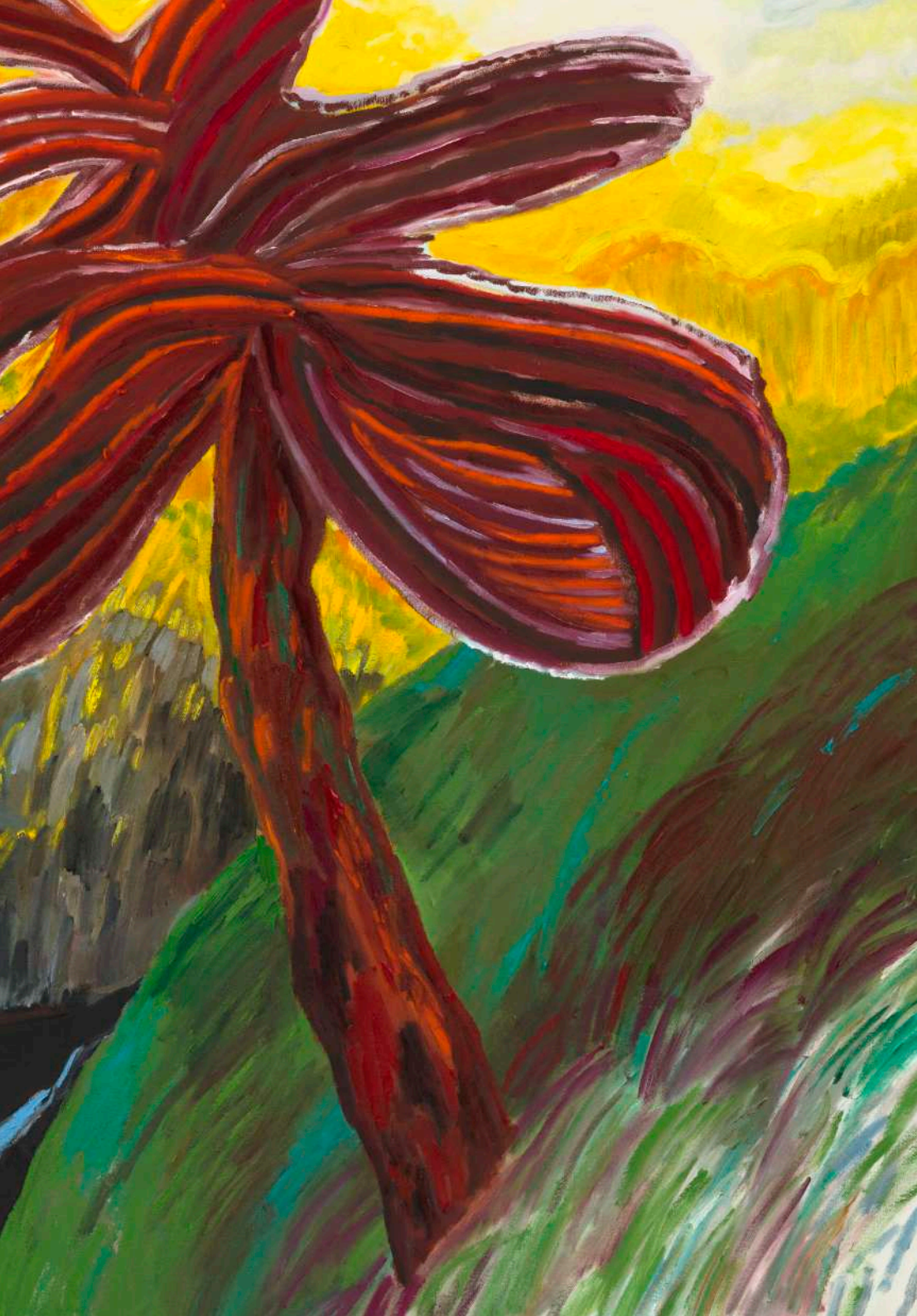
2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

122 x 101.5 cm / 48 x 40 in

HUGHE60471

275'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

Still and Familiar

2024

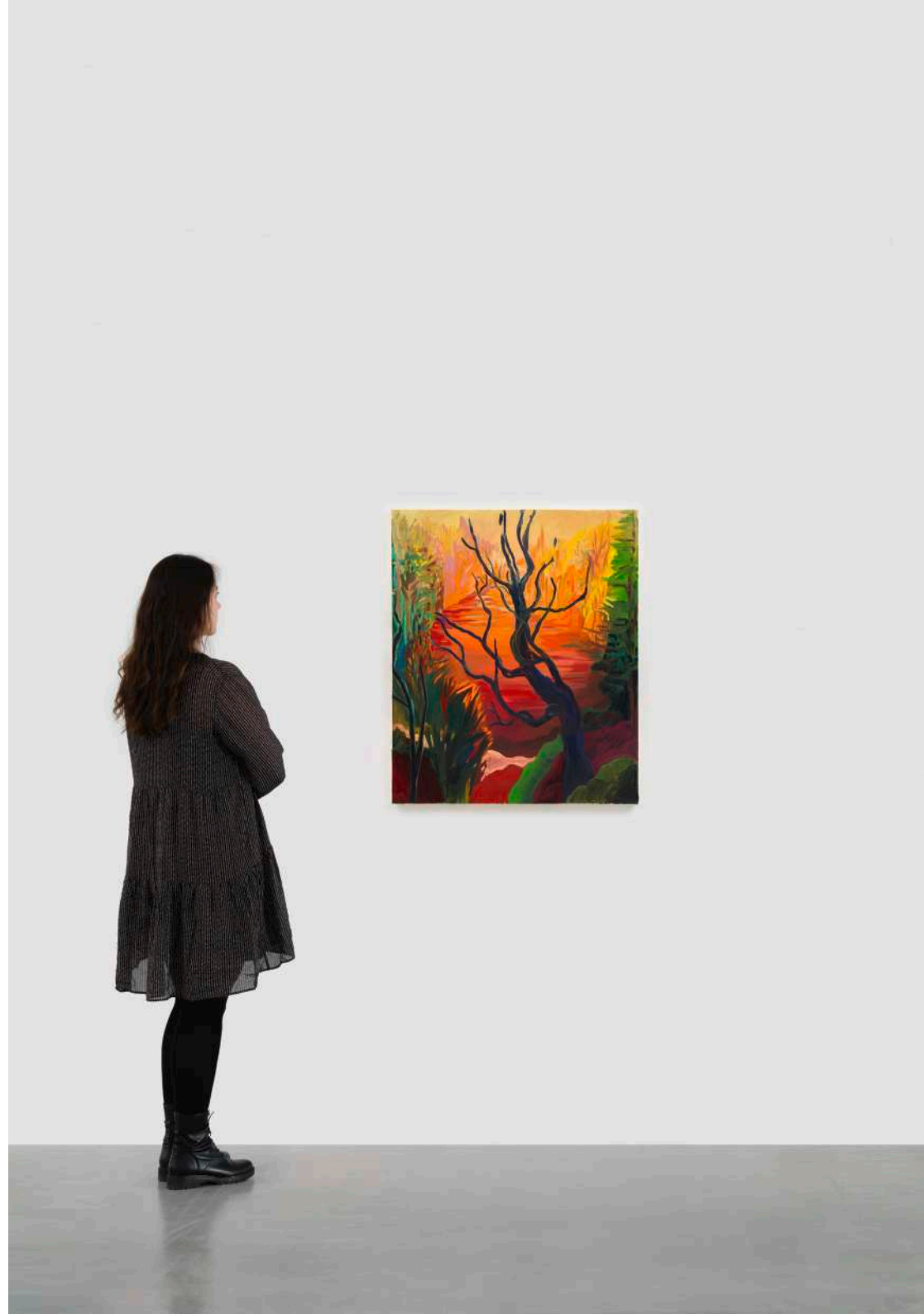
Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

91.5 x 76 cm / 36 x 30 in

HUGHE60472

200'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

Lonley Island

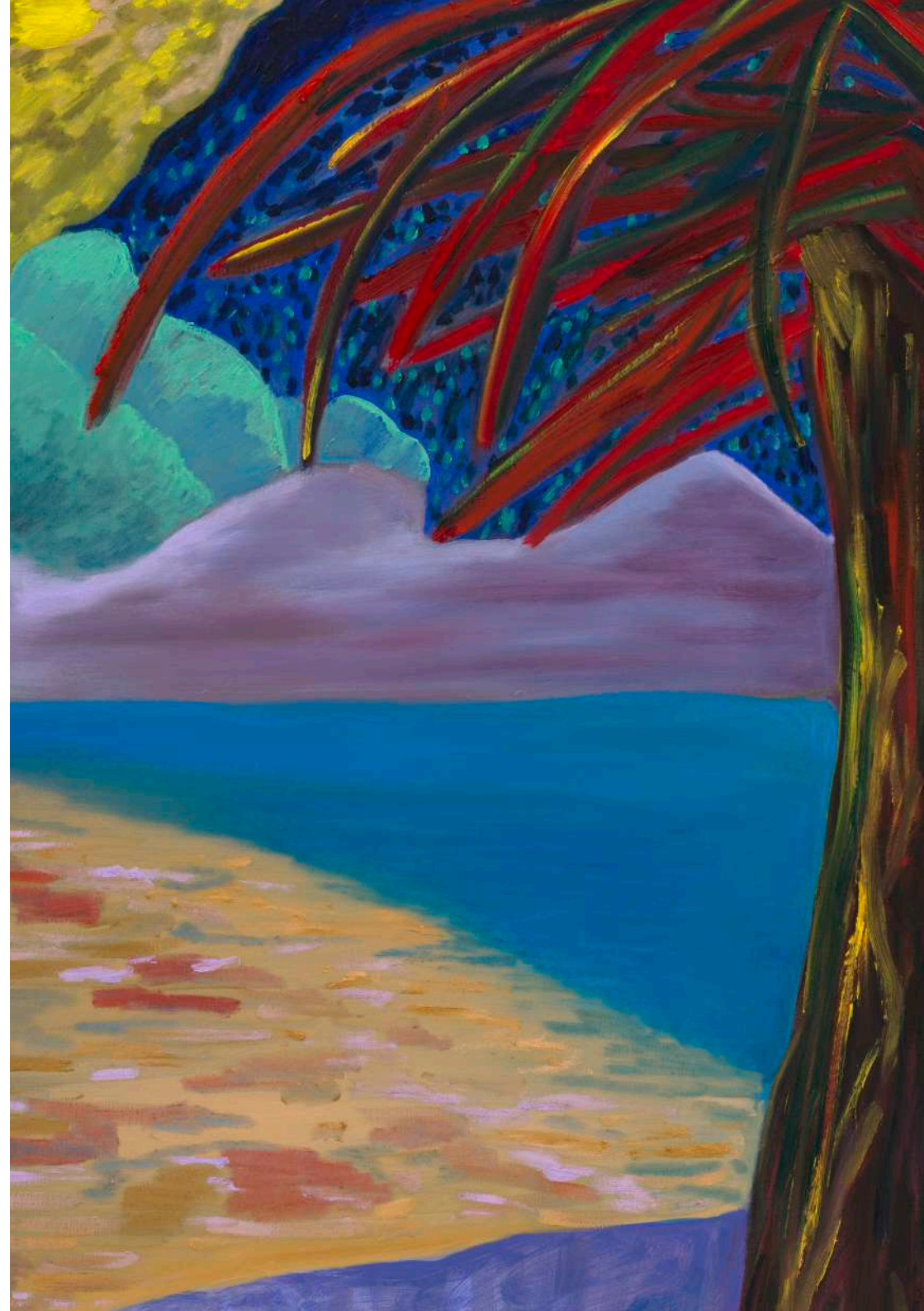
2024

Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

91.5 x 76 cm / 36 x 30 in

HUGHE60479

200'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

In Stillness

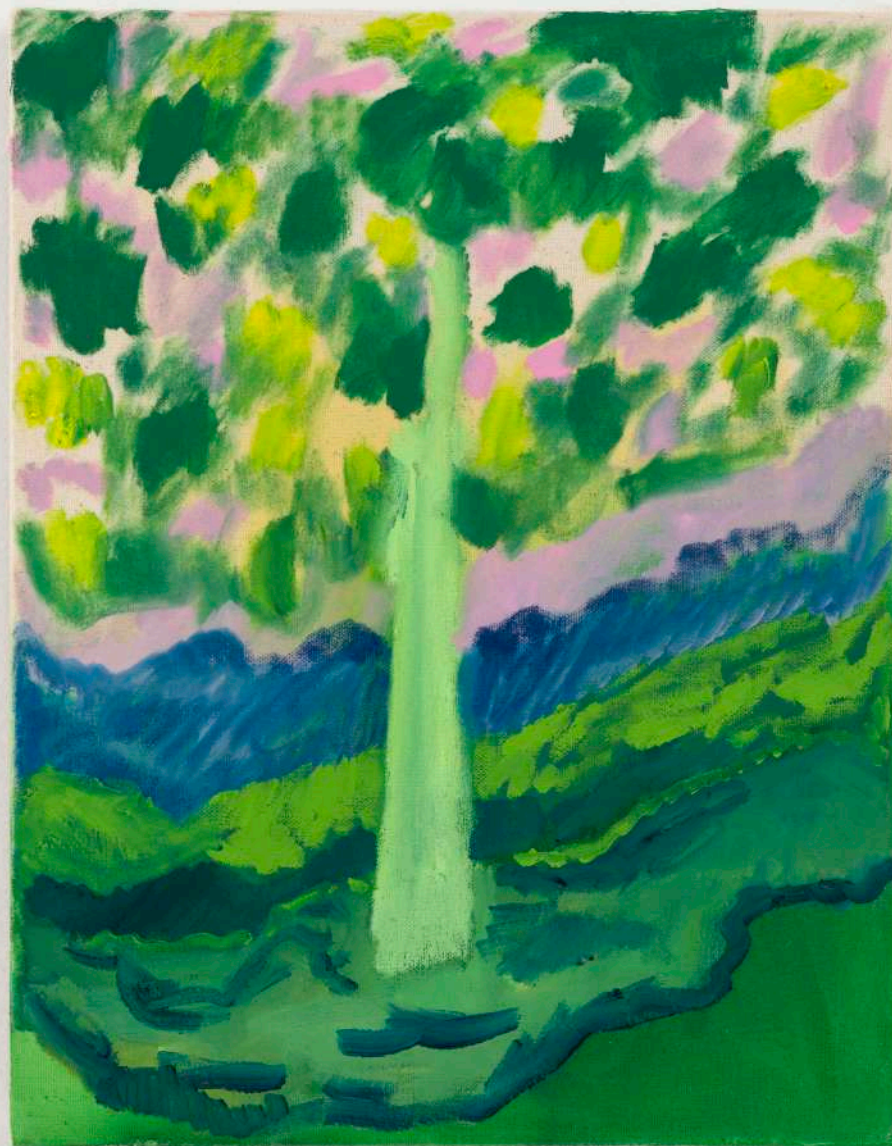
2020

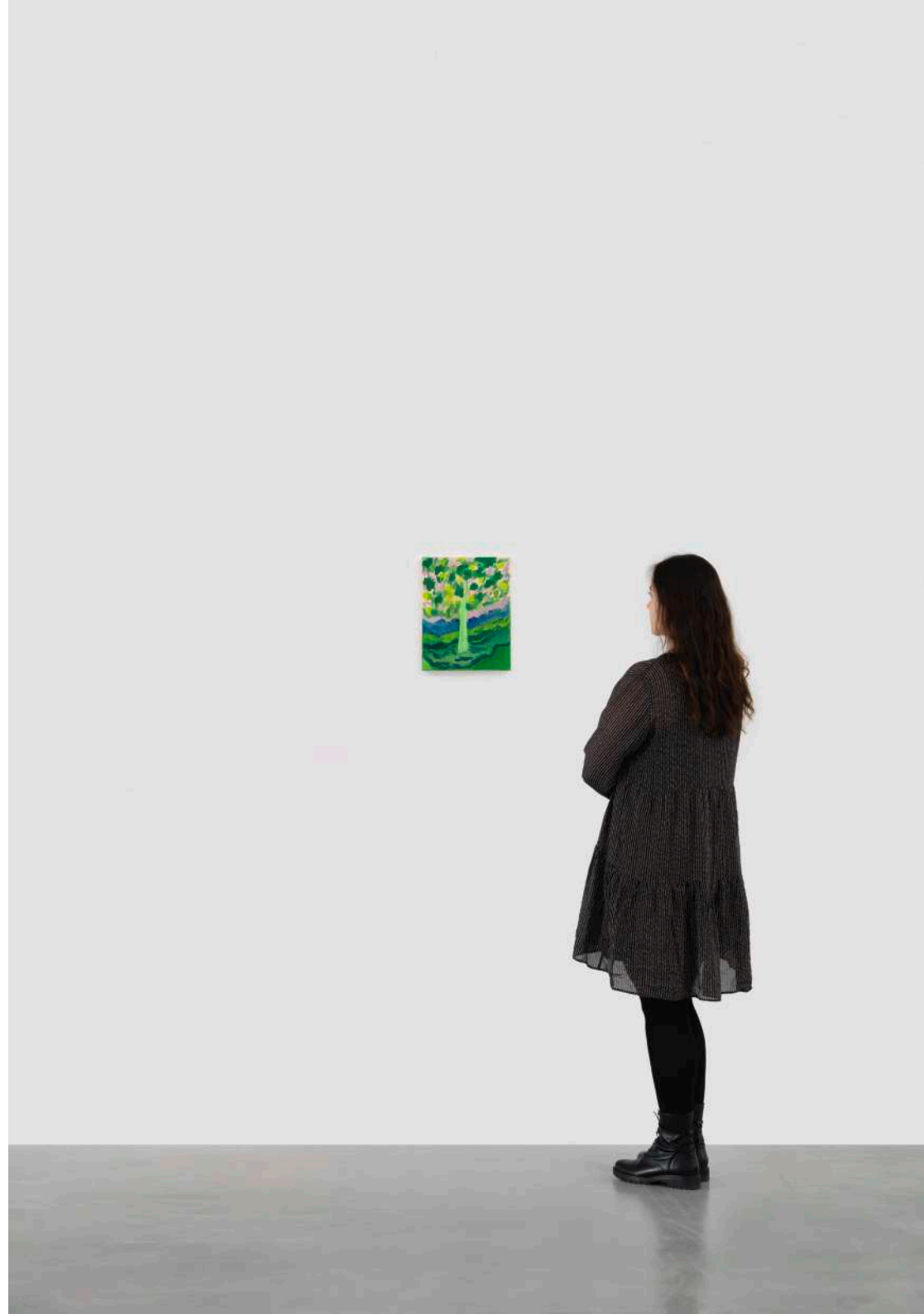
Oil and acrylic on canvas

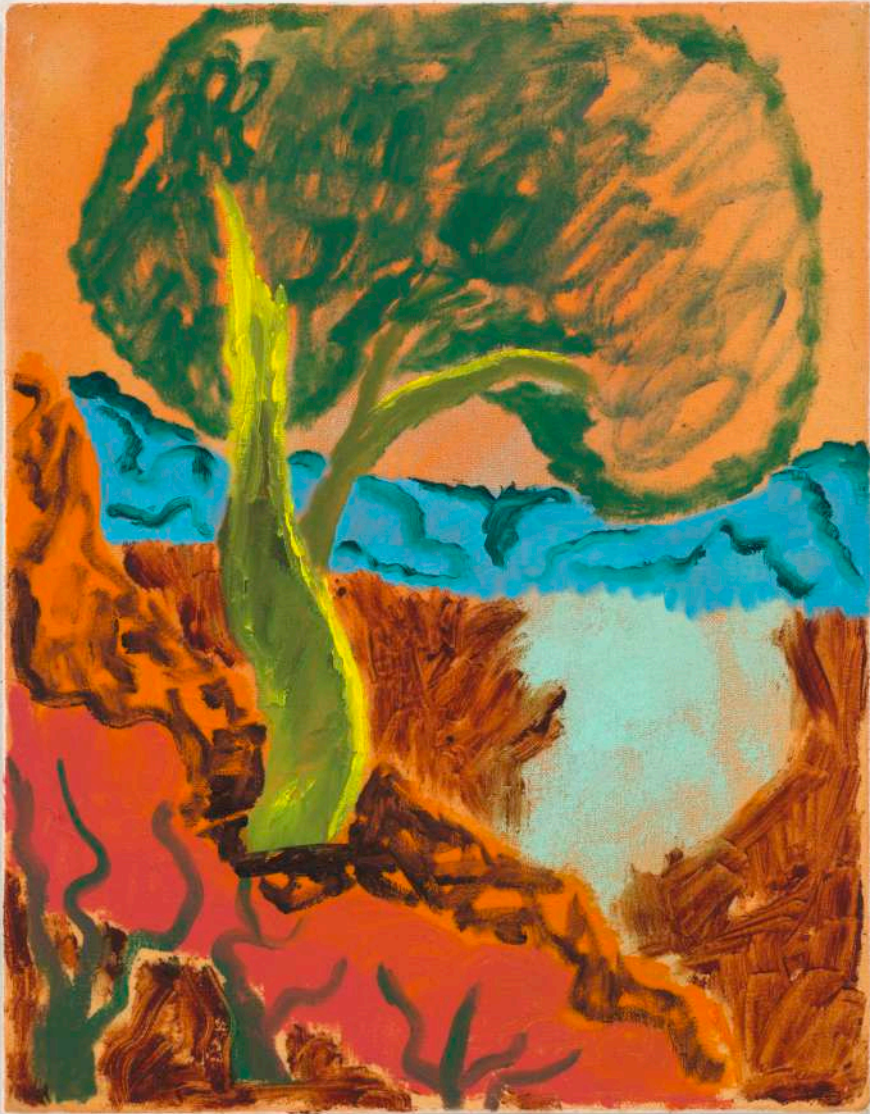
35.5 x 28 cm / 14 x 11 in

HUGHE48196

80'000 USD







SHARA HUGHES

By My Lonesome

2020

Oil, acrylic, and dye on canvas

35.5 x 28 cm / 14 x 11 in

HUGHE54540

80'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

Shifty

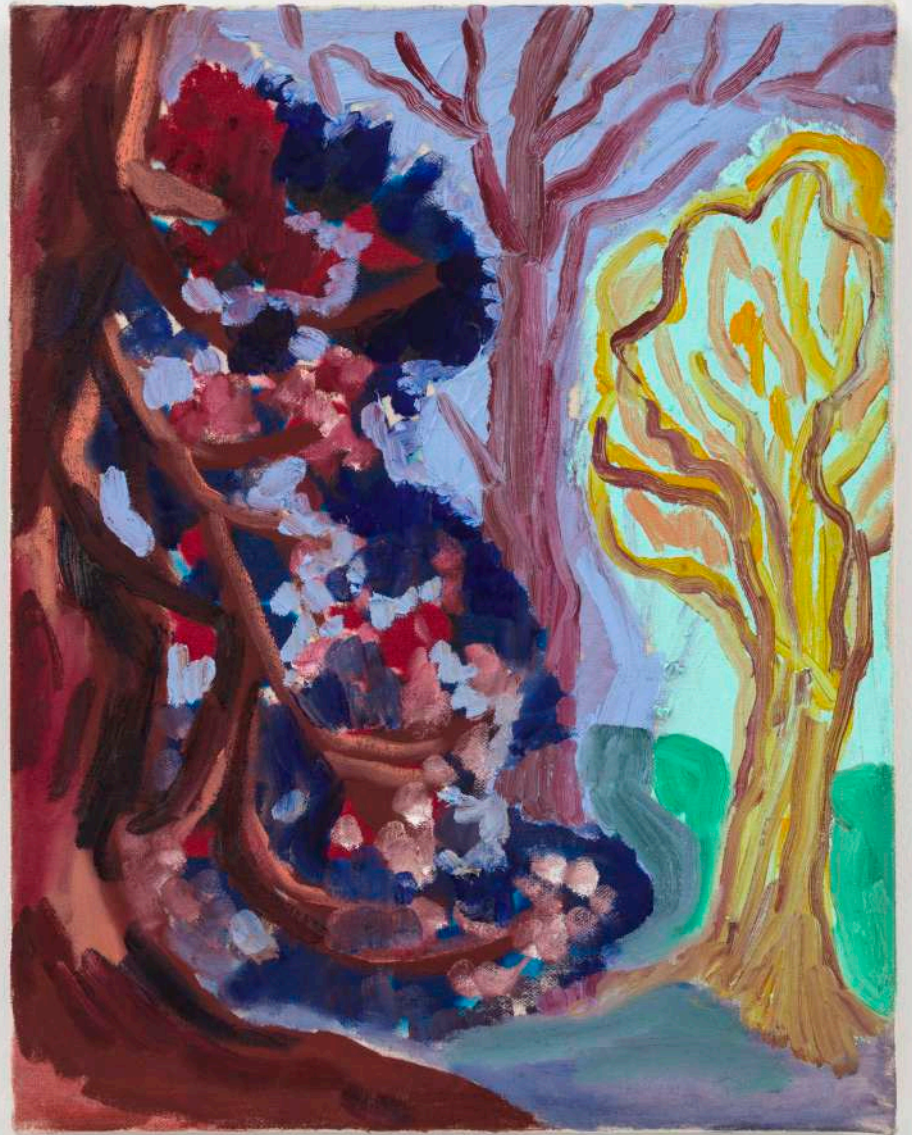
2023

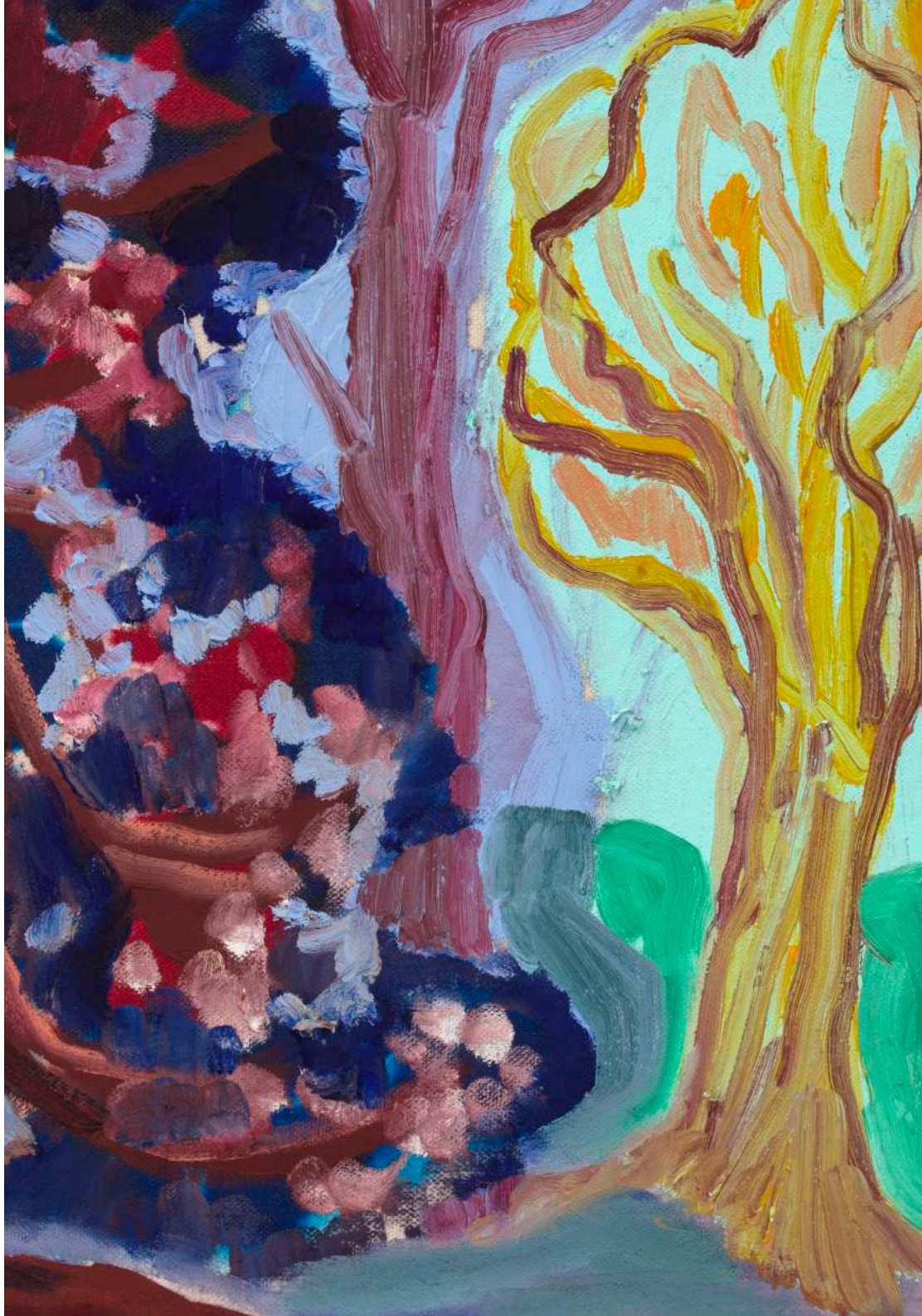
Oil, acrylic and dye on canvas

35.5 x 28 cm / 14 x 11 in

HUGHE60473

80'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES
TREE FARM CERAMICS



SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 1

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 23 x 7 x 6 cm / 9 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 11 x 12 x 10 cm / 4 3/8 x 4 3/4 x 3 7/8 in

Object C 24 x 4 x 4 cm / 9 1/2 x 1 5/8 x 1 5/8 in

HUGHE60466

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 2

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 15.5 x 9 x 6 cm / 6 1/8 x 3 1/2 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 18 x 12 x 5 cm / 7 1/8 x 4 3/4 x 2 in

Object C 17 x 6 x 6 cm / 6 3/4 x 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

HUGHE60460

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 3

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 15 x 9 x 4 cm / 5 7/8 x 3 1/2 x 1 5/8 in

Object B 20 x 6 x 5 cm / 7 7/8 x 2 3/8 x 2 in

Object C 19 x 4 x 4 cm / 7 1/2 x 1 5/8 x 1 5/8 in

HUGHE60457

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 4

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 12 x 7 x 5 cm / 4 3/4 x 2 3/4 x 2 in

Object B 21 x 8 x 6 cm / 8 1/4 x 3 1/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object C 19 x 10 x 5 cm / 7 1/2 x 3 7/8 x 2 in

HUGHE60459

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 5

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 16 x 16 x 4 cm / 6 1/4 x 6 1/4 x 1 5/8 in

Object B 23 x 5 x 5 cm / 9 x 2 x 2 in

Object C 18.5 x 6 x 5 cm / 7 1/4 x 2 3/8 x 2 in

HUGHE60470

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 6

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 15 x 6 x 6 cm / 5 7/8 x 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 16.5 x 12 x 7 cm / 6 1/2 x 4 3/4 x 2 3/4 in

Object C 23 x 8 x 7 cm / 9 x 3 1/8 x 2 3/4 in

HUGHE60464

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 7

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 16 x 10 x 8 cm / 6 1/4 x 3 7/8 x 3 1/8 in

Object B 26 x 8 x 5 cm / 10 1/4 x 3 1/8 x 2 in

Object C 22 x 10 x 6 cm / 8 5/8 x 3 7/8 x 2 3/8 in

HUGHE60465

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 8

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 16 x 8 x 5 cm / 6 1/4 x 3 1/8 x 2 in

Object B 23 x 8 x 4 cm / 9 x 3 1/8 x 1 5/8 in

Object C 20 x 6 x 4 cm / 7 7/8 x 2 3/8 x 1 5/8 in

HUGHE60461

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 9

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 18.5 x 10 x 7 cm / 7 1/4 x 3 7/8 x 2 3/4 in

Object B 16 x 10 x 5 cm / 6 1/4 x 3 7/8 x 2 in

Object C 22.5 x 6 x 5 cm / 8 7/8 x 2 3/8 x 2 in

HUGHE60456

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 10

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 20.5 x 8 x 5 cm / 8 1/8 x 3 1/8 x 2 in

Object B 20 x 5 x 5 cm / 7 7/8 x 2 x 2 in

Object C 17 x 6 x 4 cm / 6 3/4 x 2 3/8 x 1 5/8 in

HUGHE60468

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 11

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 16.5 x 9 x 6 cm / 6 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 21 x 9 x 7 cm / 8 1/4 x 3 1/2 x 2 3/4 in

Object C 19.5 x 6 x 4 cm / 7 5/8 x 2 3/8 x 1 5/8 in

HUGHE60467

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 12

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 16 x 9 x 3 cm / 6 1/4 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/8 in

Object B 25 x 4 x 4 cm / 9 7/8 x 1 5/8 x 1 5/8 in

Object C 22 x 6 x 6 cm / 8 5/8 x 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

HUGHE60469

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 13

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 13.5 x 8 x 6 cm / 5 3/8 x 3 1/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 15 x 15 x 6 cm / 5 7/8 x 5 7/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object C 22 x 8 x 7 cm / 8 5/8 x 3 1/8 x 2 3/4 in

HUGHE60462

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 14

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

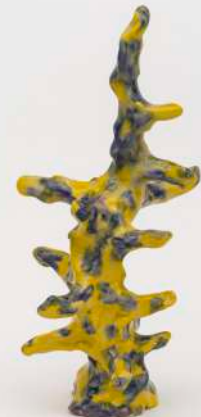
Object A 17 x 6 x 6 cm / 6 3/4 x 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 18 x 4 x 4 cm / 7 1/8 x 1 5/8 x 1 5/8 in

Object C 25 x 7 x 7 cm / 9 7/8 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 in

HUGHE60458

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 15

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 18 x 10 x 7 cm / 7 1/8 x 3 7/8 x 2 3/4 in

Object B 22 x 6 x 5 cm / 8 5/8 x 2 3/8 x 2 in

Object C 18 x 19 x 5 cm / 7 1/8 x 7 1/2 x 2 in

HUGHE60463

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 16

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 22 x 5 x 4 cm / 8 5/8 x 2 x 1 5/8 in

Object B 21.5 x 6 x 6 cm / 8 1/2 x 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object C 18 x 18 x 4 cm / 7 1/8 x 7 1/8 x 1 5/8 in

HUGHE60482

30'000 USD





SHARA HUGHES

Tree Farm Group 17

2024

Glazed and painted ceramics; 3 parts

Object A 17.5 x 7 x 6 cm / 6 7/8 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/8 in

Object B 20 x 6 x 6 cm / 7 7/8 x 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

Object C 19.5 x 15 x 10 cm / 7 5/8 x 5 7/8 x 3 7/8 in

HUGHE60481

30'000 USD



SHARA HUGHES

Shara Hughes refers to her paintings and drawings as psychological or invented landscapes, a term that derives from her working process and describes the way her paintings are created only in the very moment of painting. Hughes states that during painting, her works are created purely from the inside; this inside, however, is strongly informed by a deep knowledge of art history as well as the work of contemporary peers, as her frenetic colors and vibrant brushstrokes show.

Shara Hughes was born in 1981 in Atlanta, GA, US, and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, US. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and later attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Tree Farm, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich, CH (2024)
Right This Way, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, DK (2023)
Spotlight, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY, US (2022)
Time Lapsed, Kunstmuseum Luzern, CH (2022)
The Bridge, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, CN (2021–2022)
Shara Hughes, Garden Museum, London, GB (2021)
On Edge, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, US (2021)
Shara Hughes, Aspen Museum of Art, Aspen, CO, US (2021)
Pivot, Le Consortium, Dijon, FR (2021)

SELECTED PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

Albertina Museum Wien, Vienna, AT
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX, US
Denver Museum of Art, Denver, CO, US
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, FR
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, US
Jorge M. Perez Collection, Miami, FL, US
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, US
Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, GA, US
M Woods Museum, Beijing, CN
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ, US
Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, TX, US
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO, US
Si Shang Art Museum, Beijing, CN
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., US
Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY, US
Yuz Museum, Shanghai, CN

