

Michael Harnish

Shangri-La

October 15 - November 12, 2022

Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present *Shangri-La*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Southern California-based artist Michael Harnish. Utilizing a vibrant palette and varied forms of mark-making, these acrylic and oil-based works incorporate juxtapositions that allude to native flora, pattern, Japanese woodblock prints, horizon lines, house plants, and ceramics. Taking its title from the mythical local in James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*, Harnish brings a dose of Southern California insouciance to the subject matter—infusing an east-meets-west visual dialog indicative of his home surroundings with a spray of neon paint under the shadow of a palm tree.

In *Shangri-La*, the works are installed as a montage, reading off each other as color, form, and imagery echo throughout the exhibition. Harnish who frequently begins his process by creating collages—tearing pages from books and magazines, and combining images and color intuitively—reflects that action in these paintings. A cartoonish depiction of a Japanese woodblock print is juxtaposed against a pink sky over the ocean at sunset, rich gold and black brocade set off a brushy rendering of a hanging fern, while painterly applications of bold swaths of color intersperse the picture planes throughout the works. The paintings in *Shangri-La* reflect glimpses of place, memory, and illusion that tell a story unique to the artist's whims.

As a native Californian, the concept of 'Shangri-La' itself plays out in Harnish's surrealist works. The experience of growing up and living in such a diverse culture is envisioned in his choice of subject matter. As told in the book *Lost Horizon*, a meeting of cultures plays out in a fictional utopian lamasery where time stands still. Los Angeles with its mild climate, sense of possibility, and imported palm trees is a beacon for people from all over the world, and while Hollywood has long explored a fabled concept of Los Angeles, living in a place that lacks distinct seasons has the ability to distort one's perception of time. As we find in the novel, a distortion of reality does not always work out to one's advantage, however maintaining a feeling of wonder and youth can operate as a tonic to the soul.

Michael Harnish (b. 1982, Dana Point, CA) lives and works in Fullerton, CA. Utilizing imagery pulled from various sources including botanical books, fashion magazines, and commercial signage in his native Southern California, Harnish begins his painting process by first making paper collages. These collages then become the inspiration for his paintings—sometimes accurate depictions of the original collage, other times improvisation takes the lead once the brush hits the canvas. Having received his MFA from the Laguna College of Art and Design in 2010, Harnish has exhibited at various galleries in Southern California including a recent exhibition with the Newsstand Project, Los Angeles.

For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com



Michael Harnish
Odyssey
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-048

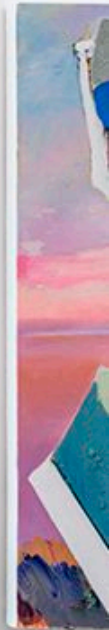




Michael Harnish
Cast Shadows
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-049



Michael Harnish
October Warm Light
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-050





Michael Harnish
Lost Horizon
2022

Acrylic, oil, collaged paper, acrylic
spray paint, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-051





Michael Harnish
No Surprises
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-052



Michael Harnish

Bye Bye

2022

Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas

72h x 60w inches

182.88h x 152.40w cm

MH-053





Michael Harnish

I Try

2022

Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas

72h x 60w inches

182.88h x 152.40w cm

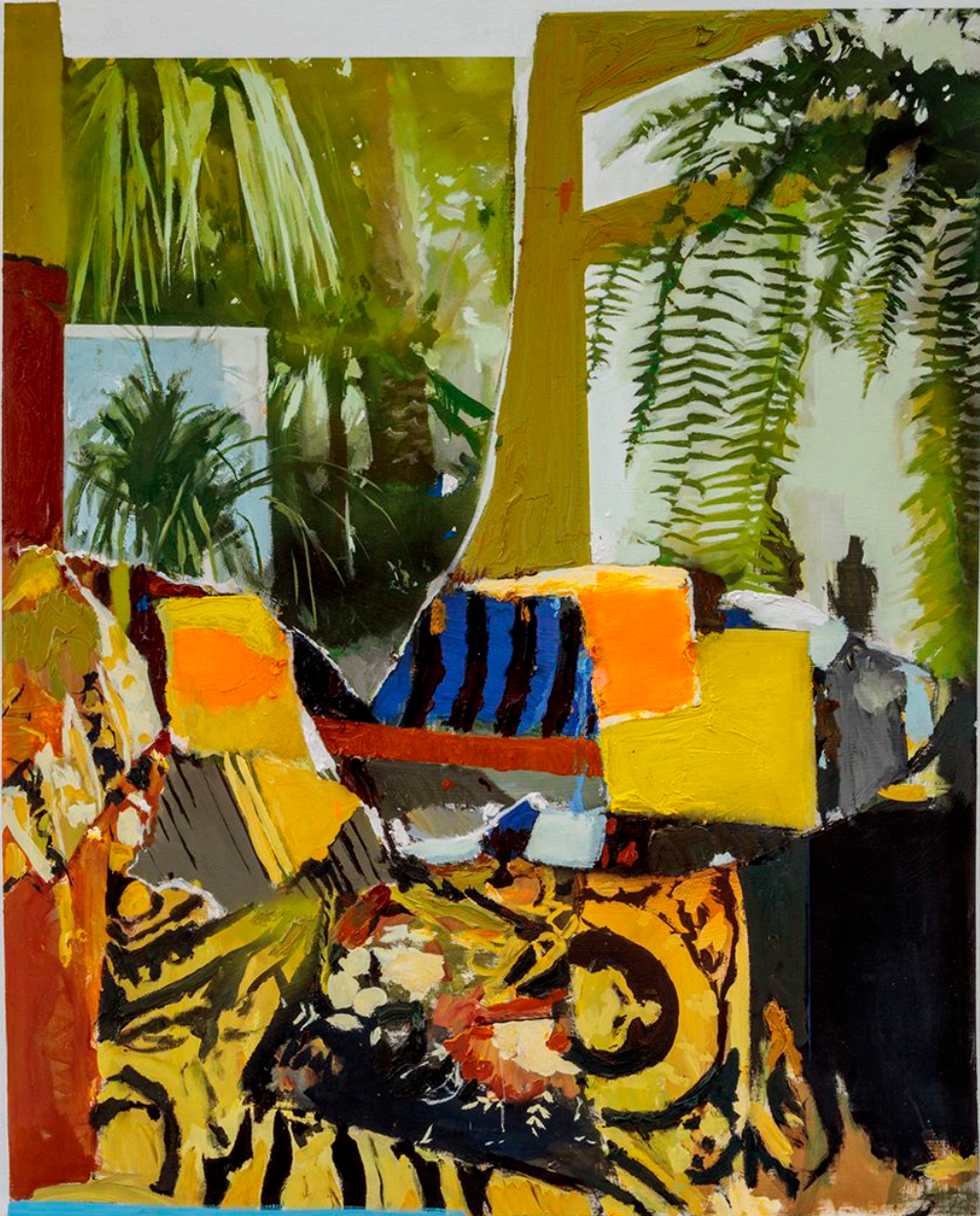
MH-054





Michael Harnish
Arrangement in Red
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-055

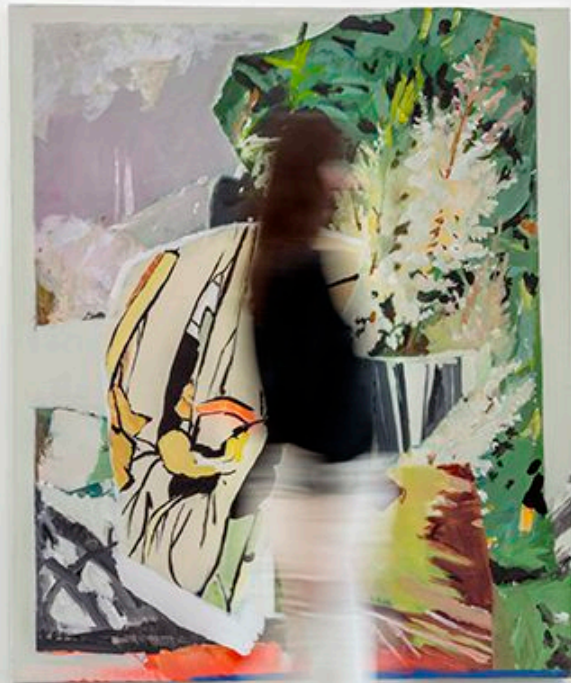




Michael Harnish
Cigarettes and Coffee
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-056



Michael Harnish
Tide Is High
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-057





Michael Harnish
Explosion
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-058





Michael Harnish

Echo

2022

Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas

72h x 60w inches

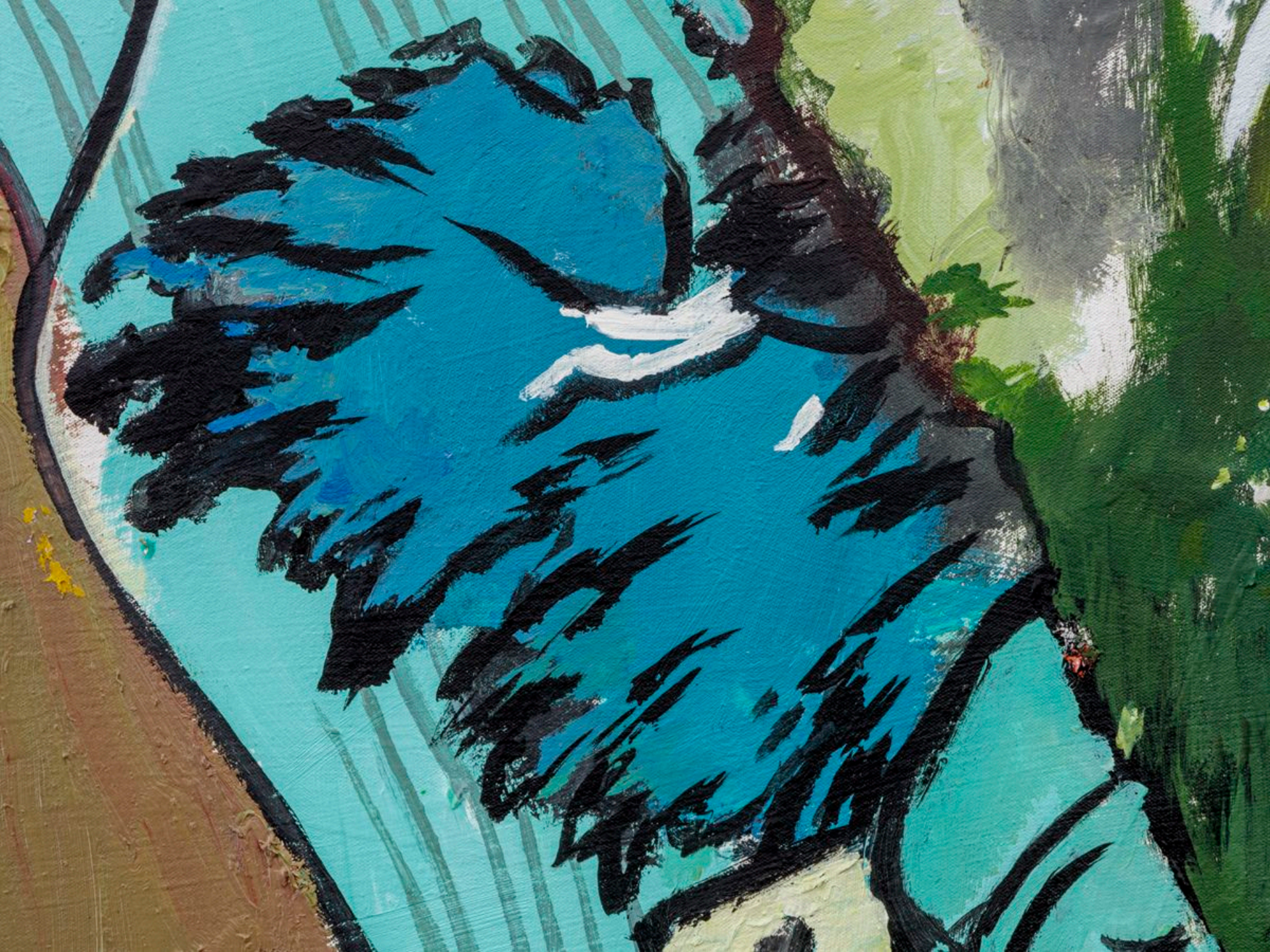
182.88h x 152.40w cm

MH-059



Michael Harnish
Paved Paradise
2022

Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-060





Michael Harnish
Bound to Blow Away
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-061





Michael Harnish

Daydream

2022

Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas

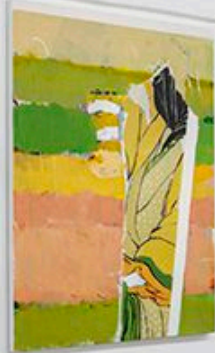
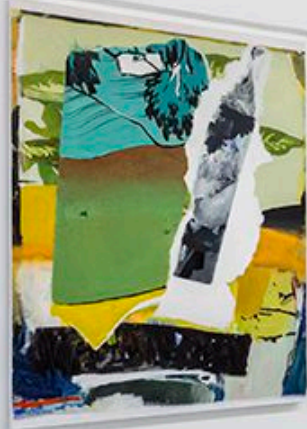
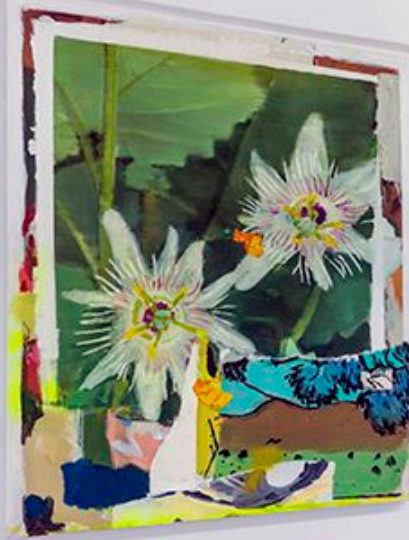
72h x 60w inches

182.88h x 152.40w cm

MH-062



Michael Harnish
Roman Rule
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.40w cm
MH-063





Michael Harnish

Passing Time

2022

Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas

48h x 36w inches

121.92h x 91.44w cm

MH-073



Michael Harnish
Confusion and Conflict
2022

Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-072





Michael Harnish
Truer than True
2022

Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-071



Michael Harnish

Different Sky

2022

Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas

48h x 36w inches

121.92h x 91.44w cm

MH-070





Michael Harnish
Sunrise
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-069



Michael Harnish

24 Hours

2022

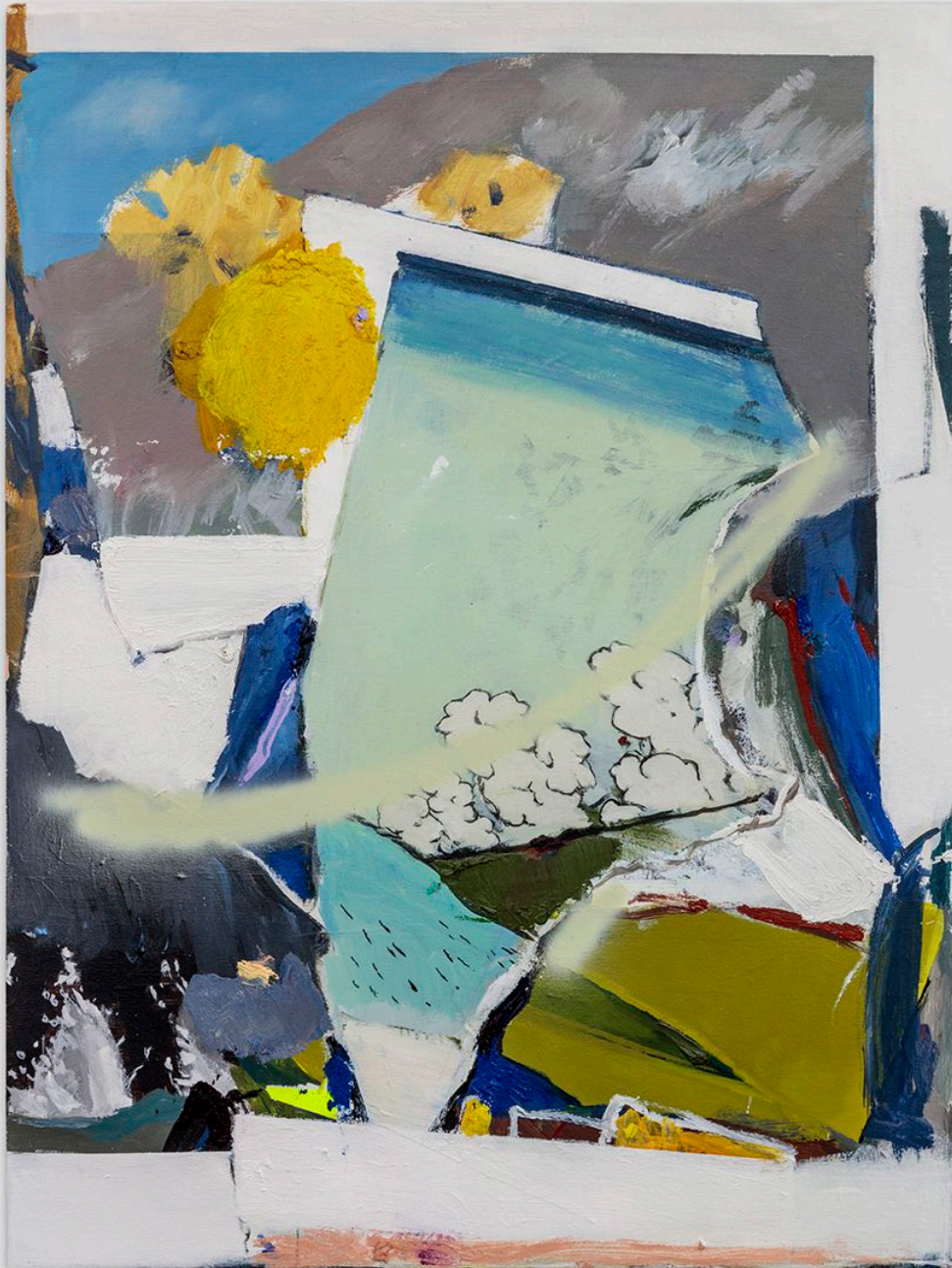
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas

48h x 36w inches

121.92h x 91.44w cm

MH-068





Michael Harnish

No Tears

2022

Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint, and oil stick on canvas

48h x 36w inches

121.92h x 91.44w cm

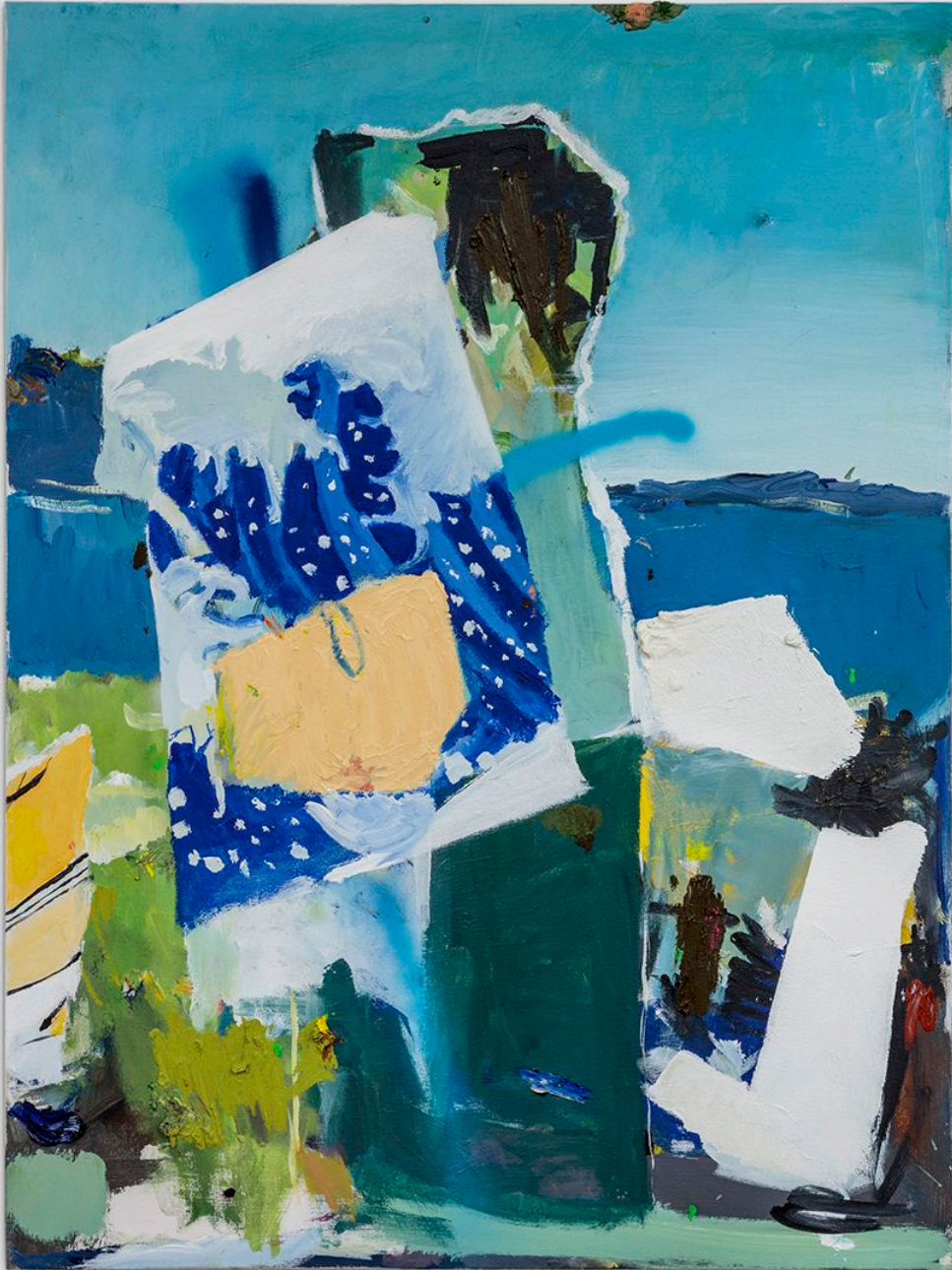
MH-067



Michael Harnish
Soft Landing
2022

Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint, and oil stick on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-066





Michael Harnish
Salted Memory
2022

Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint, and oil stick on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-065



Michael Harnish
Withstanding the Elements
2022
Acrylic, oil, collaged paper, and
acrylic spray paint on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-064



