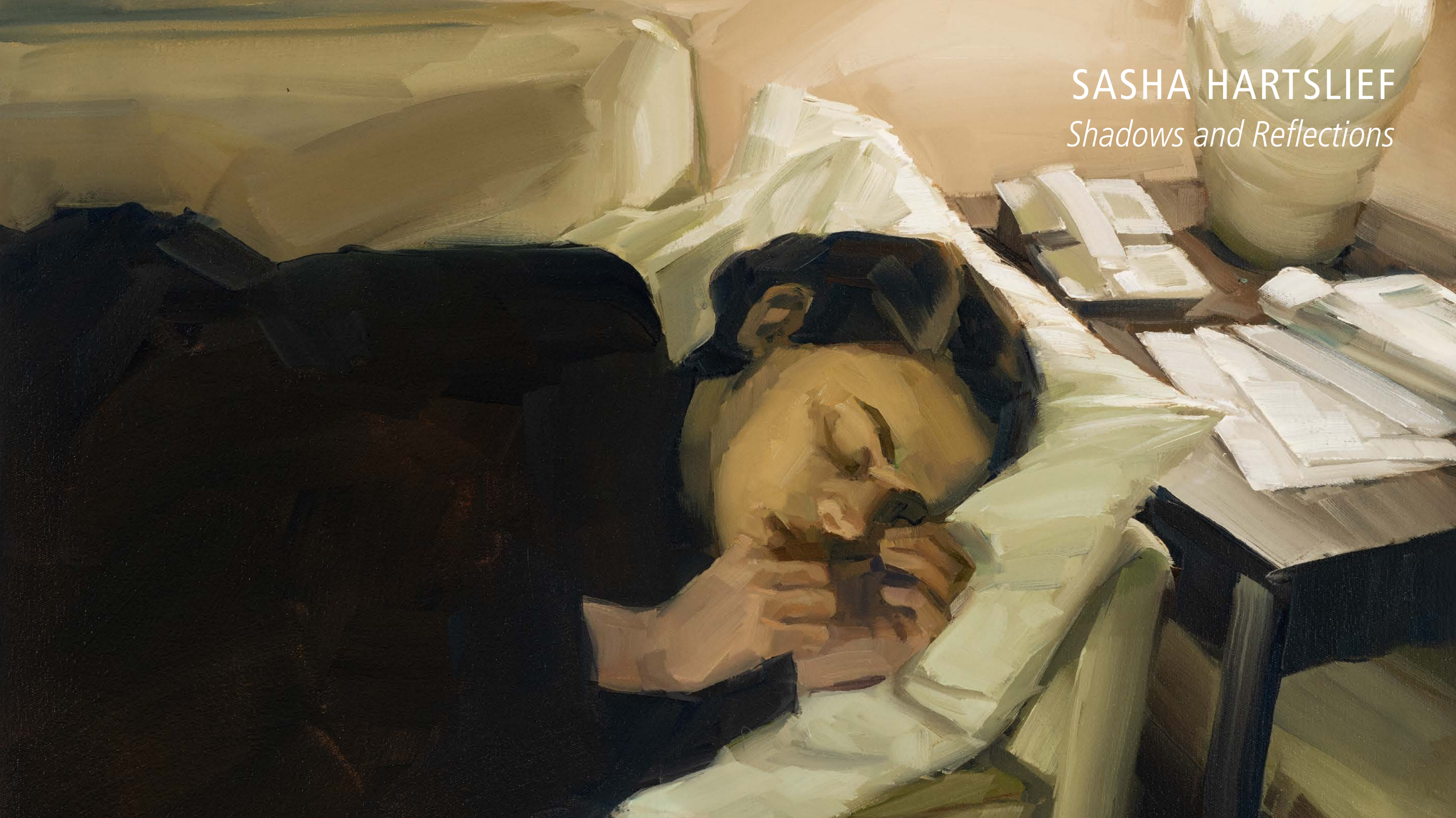
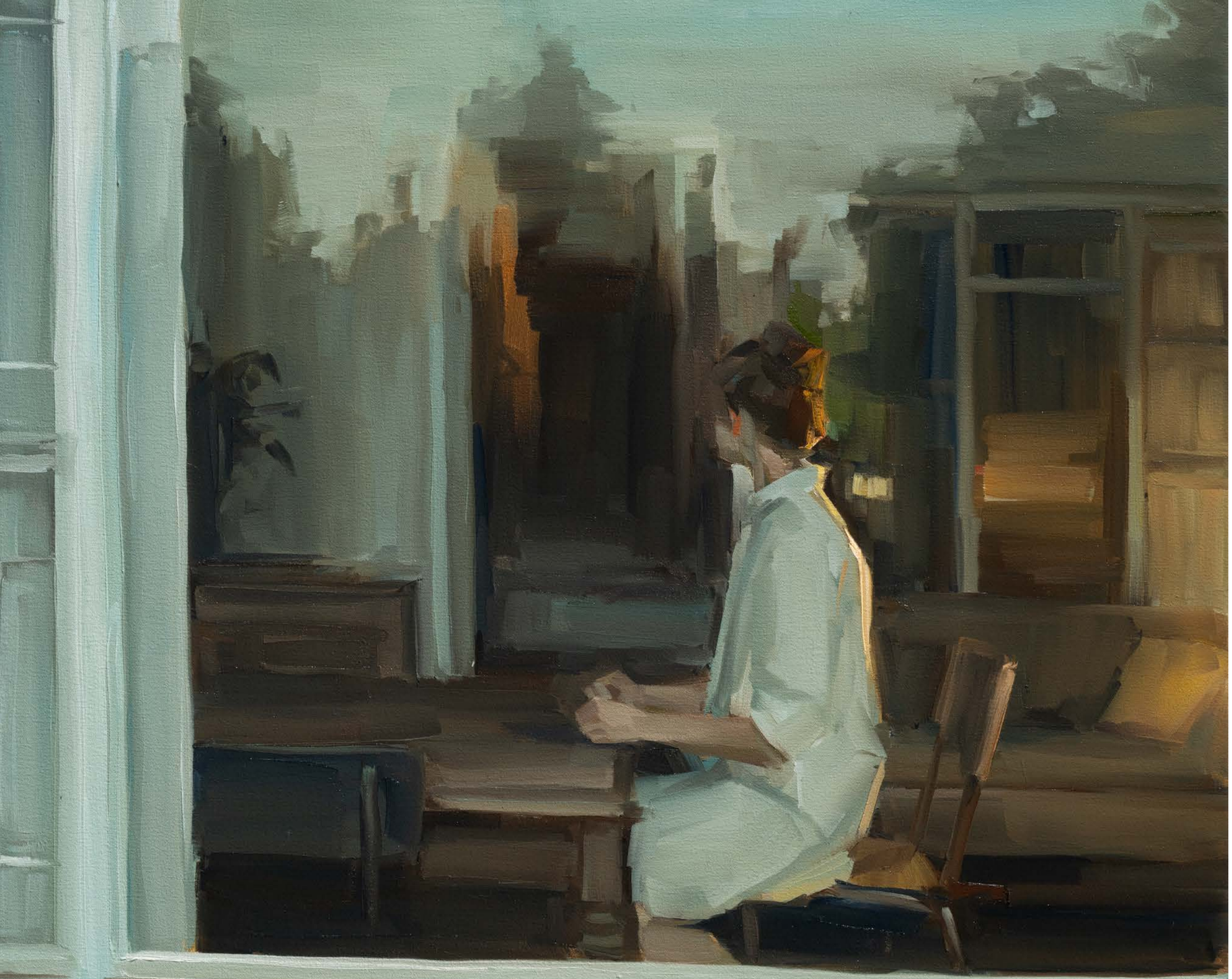


SASHA HARTSLIEF

Shadows and Reflections



SASHA HARTSLIEF

Shadows and Reflections

26 January – 12 February 2022

EVERARD READ | LONDON

SASHA HARTSLIEF

b. 1974, Gauteng, South Africa

Largely self-taught, Sasha Hartslief attained her painting knowledge from books, and by studying the work of the artists she admires. Working almost exclusively in oils, using the *alla prima* method, her paintings are usually finished in one or two days. Once the paint begins to dry, Hartslief considers the painting finished, making the painting process a race against time. This restriction requires her to express her intention and understanding of the subject matter in the most simple, economical way, despite its level of complexity.

In choosing what to paint, Hartslief can become fascinated by something as inchoate as a mood, or specific as a visual concept. Drawn to paint the light at lost and forgotten parts of day, capturing the contrast between a cool white wall in the evening and the elusive warmth spilling out from a window, she depicts the almost tactile sense of edges that are lost in the shadows and emerge crisply into the light.

Hartslief's ideas are more emotive and pictorial than intellectual, never starting out with an abstract concept to which an image can be attached, Hartslief instead finds herself haunted by a certain mood or visual concept and explores this from many angles before it releases her. She also finds herself with many disparate ideas whose only common thread is that they all arise from striking visual moments, which arrest her attention and demand to be painted. 'I try not to label myself as an impressionist, a realist or any such thing, and I hope I never do', says Hartslief

What interests Hartslief most in her painting practice is the emotive quality of light. People, scenes, and objects cannot be viewed devoid of the element of light, but a scene viewed in bright sunlight will convey a completely different feeling to the viewer than that same scene viewed by candlelight or lamplight. Hartslief explains further, 'In a way, light is a subtle language that we all perceive intuitively, and our entire sense of the world is dictated by the quality of light, and this is what has always fascinated me in the scenes which I construct and record. Like music, it is pre-verbal, and totally void of any intellectual constructs. It is something that I feel that I am just beginning to discover and appreciate, and I think I will always feel that way.'

When the painting is done, it often contains unintentional allusions and cadences, making it just as mysterious to Hartslief as anyone else. Not wanting to limit the viewer's experience with the application of anything as closed and final as an artist's intention or a particular narrative, she instead lets the work communicate with those who see it. The open element of interpretation is part of the joy of painting for Hartslief, and despite each painting depicting something objective, there is a mutable dimension buried in the light and mood which will strike each person differently. It is best to look at her work without any specific idea or grid in mind, but rather by inviting the painting to deliver you into your own world of imaginative experience.

Everard Read has represented Hartslief for more than twenty years, this is her third solo exhibition with Everard Read London. She continues to attract a broad collector base from around the world and is one of South Africa's most accomplished talents.

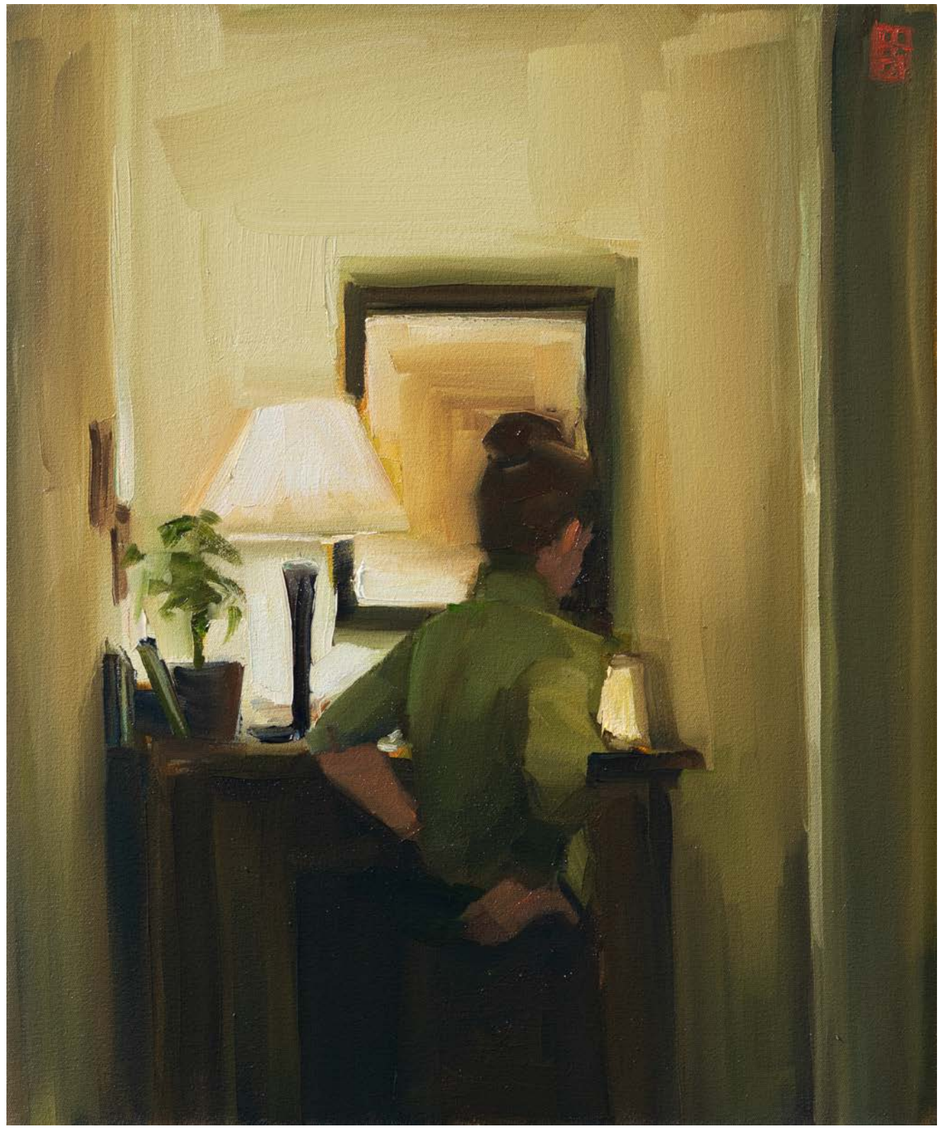
Click here to read the full artist biography

Image credits: Michael Hall. Artist portrait by Sasha Hartslief.

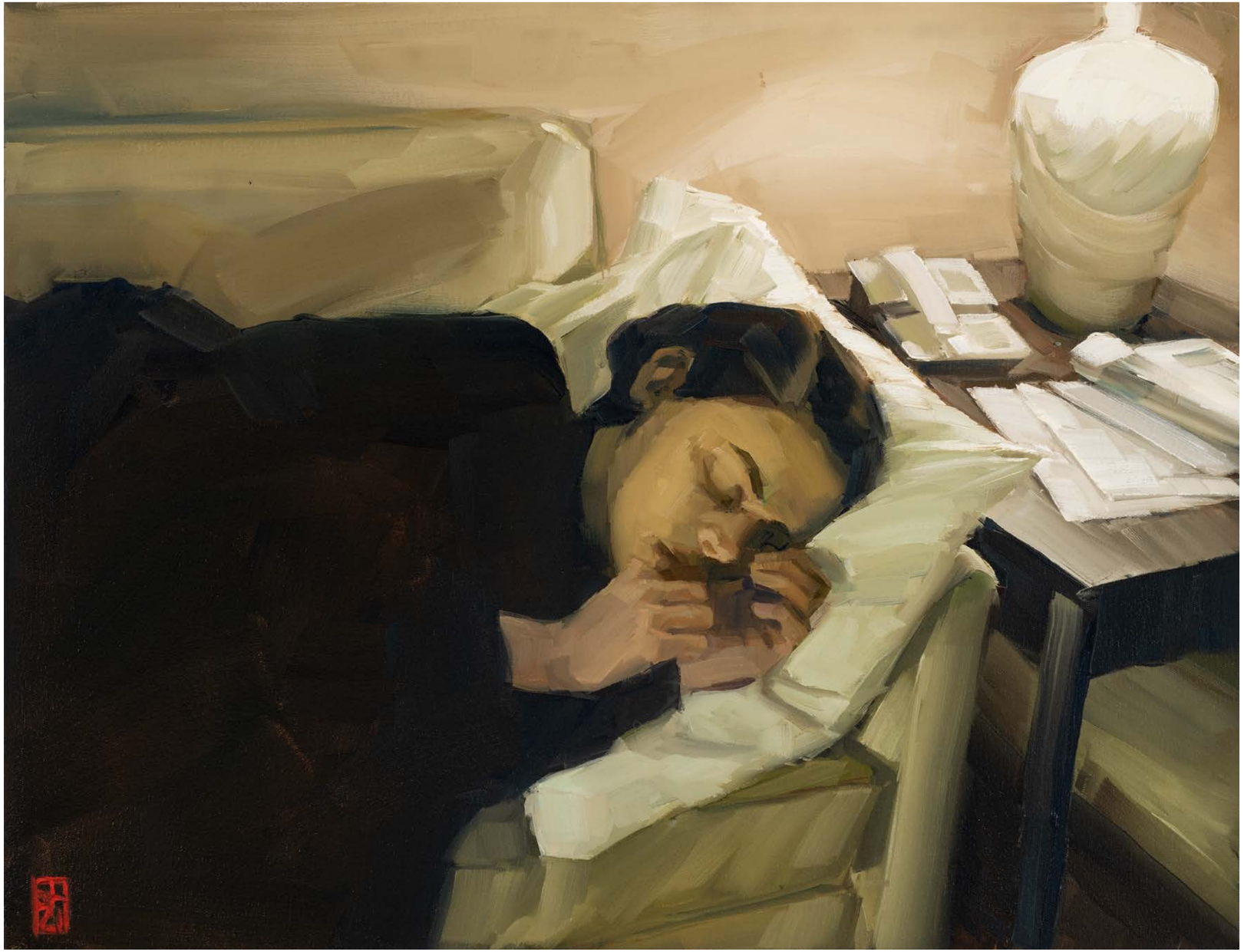
Sunshine
oil on canvas
95 x 85 cm

Early Morning Nursery
oil on canvas
95 x 86 cm

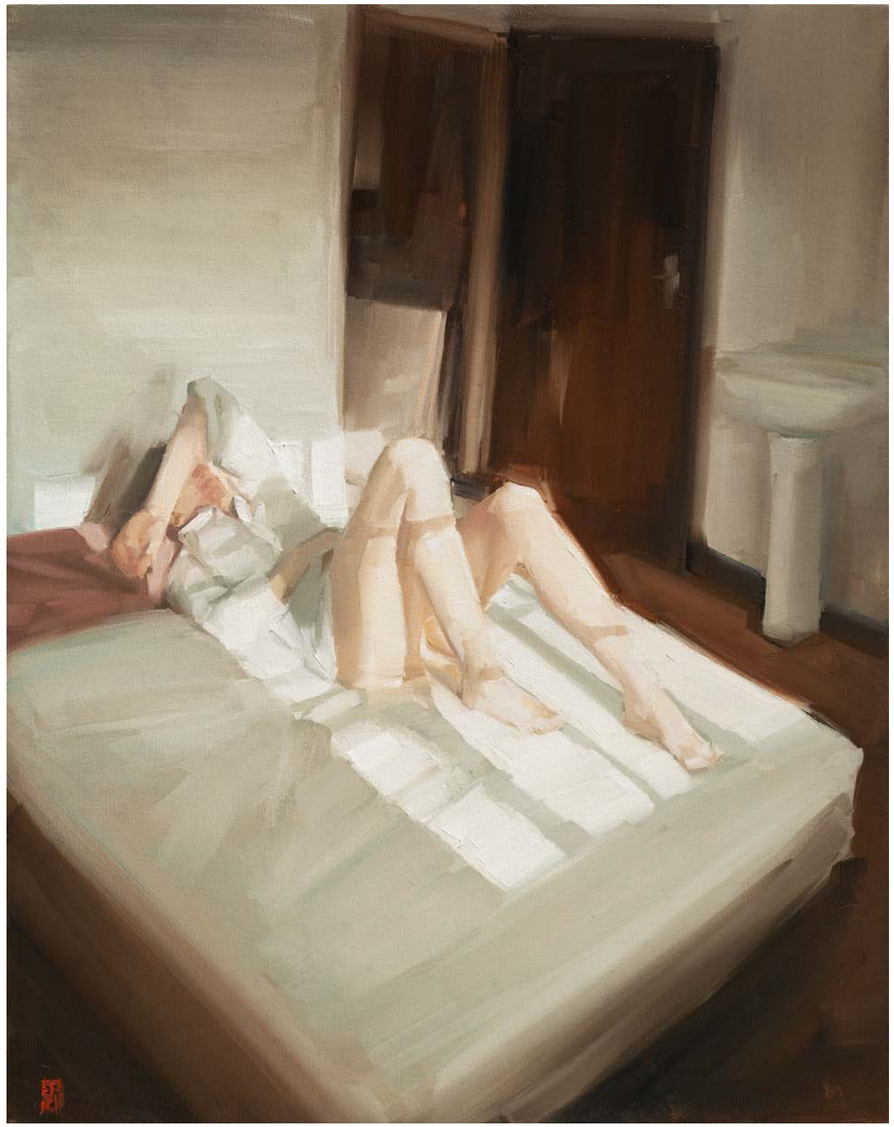
Transparency
oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm



Fleeting Moment
oil on canvas
60 x 50 cm



Nap
oil on canvas
50 x 65.5 cm



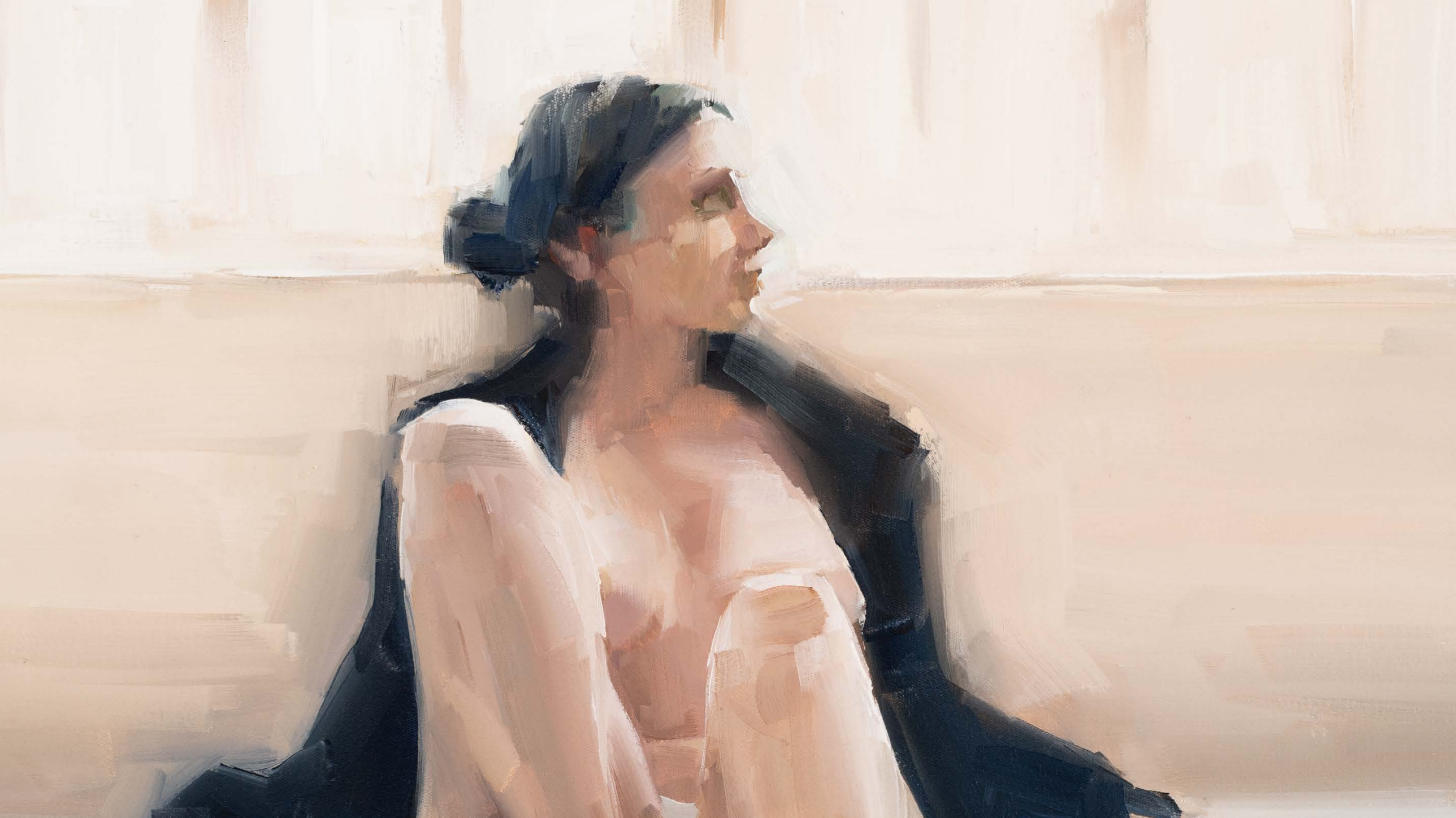
Patterns
oil on canvas
95 x 75 cm

The Reader
oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm

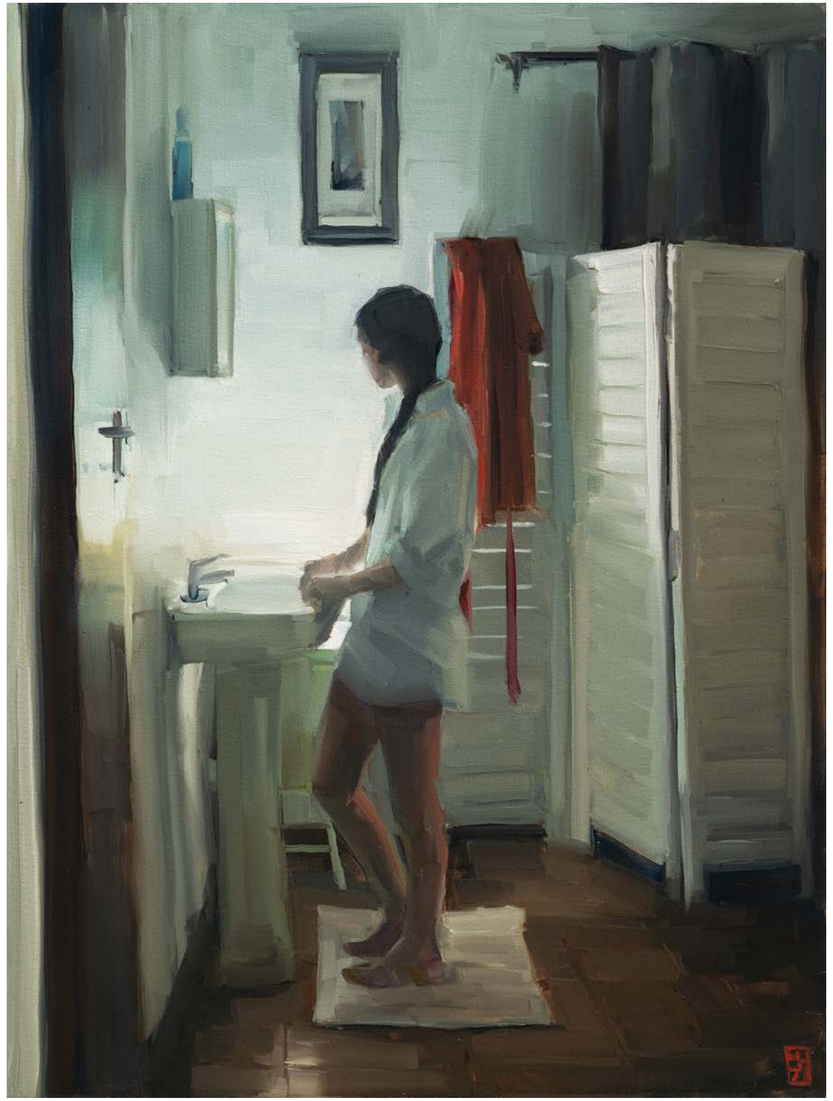
Blue and White
oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm

High Key
oil on canvas
60 x 80.5 cm

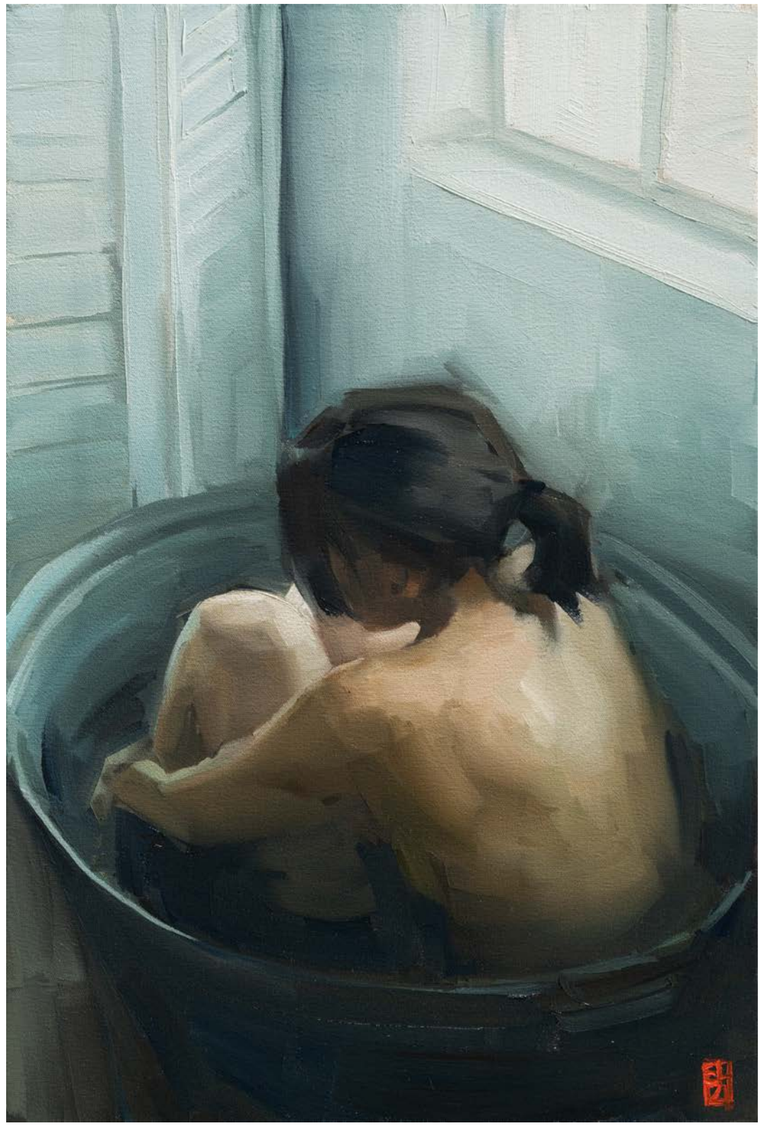
Symmetry
oil on canvas
60.5 x 45 cm



Daily Rituals
oil on canvas
45 x 60.5 cm

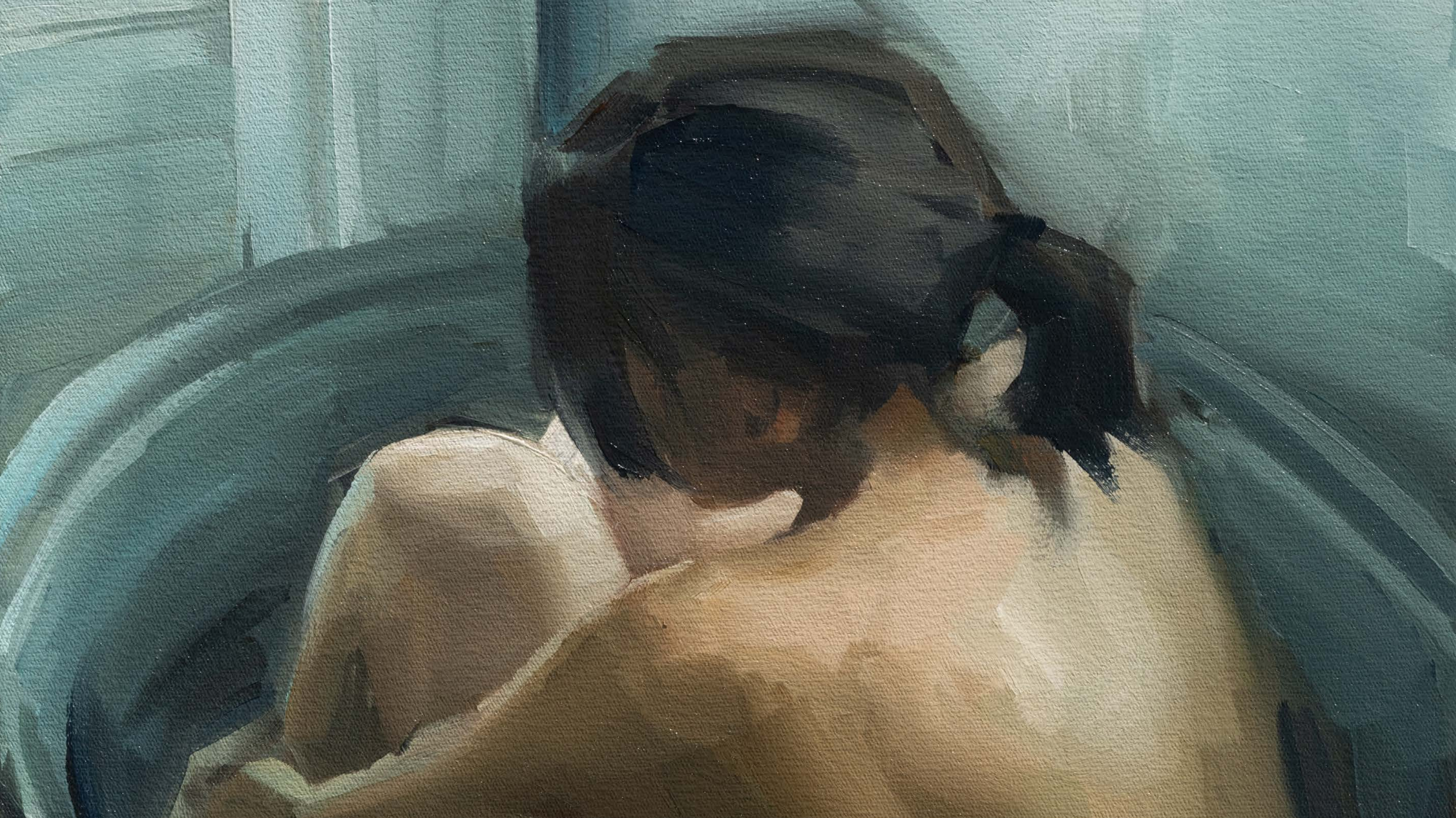


Red Robe
oil on canvas
80 x 60.5 cm

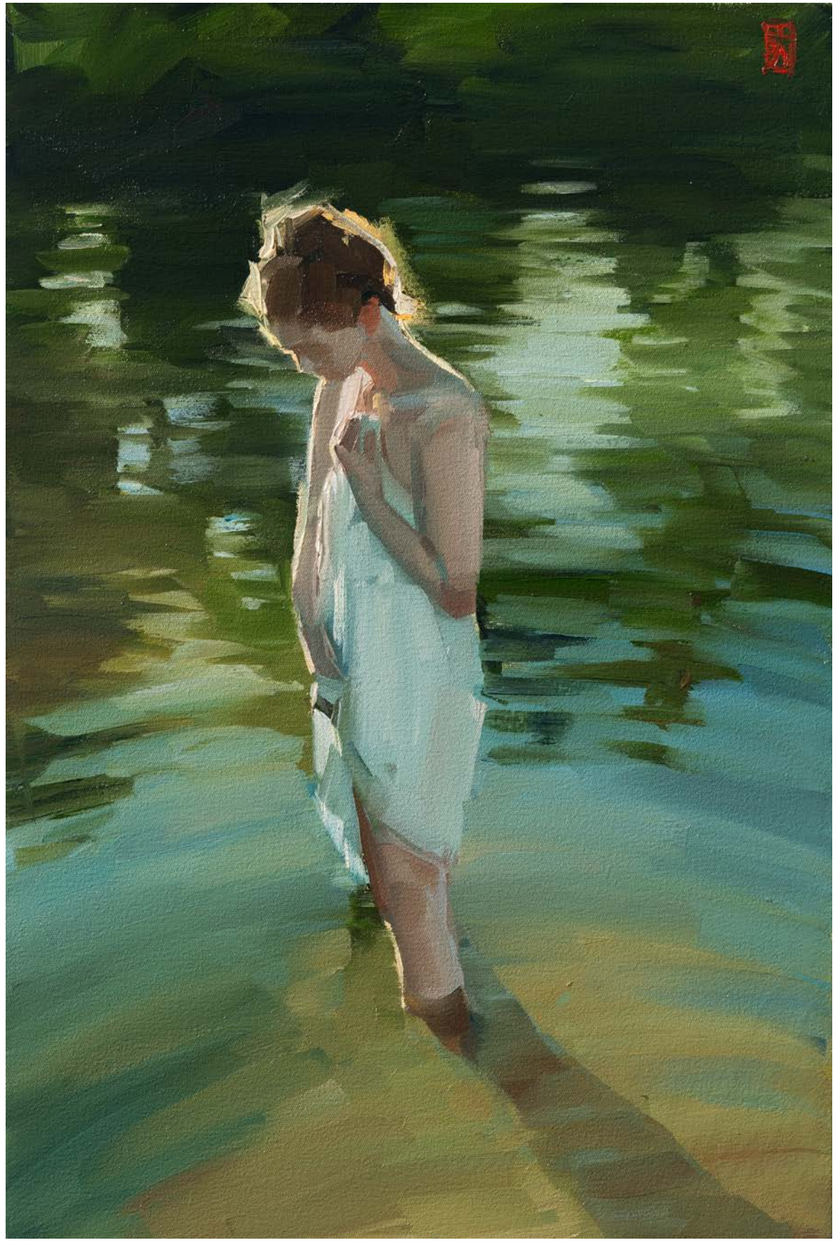


Blue and Grey
oil on canvas
60.5 x 40.5 cm

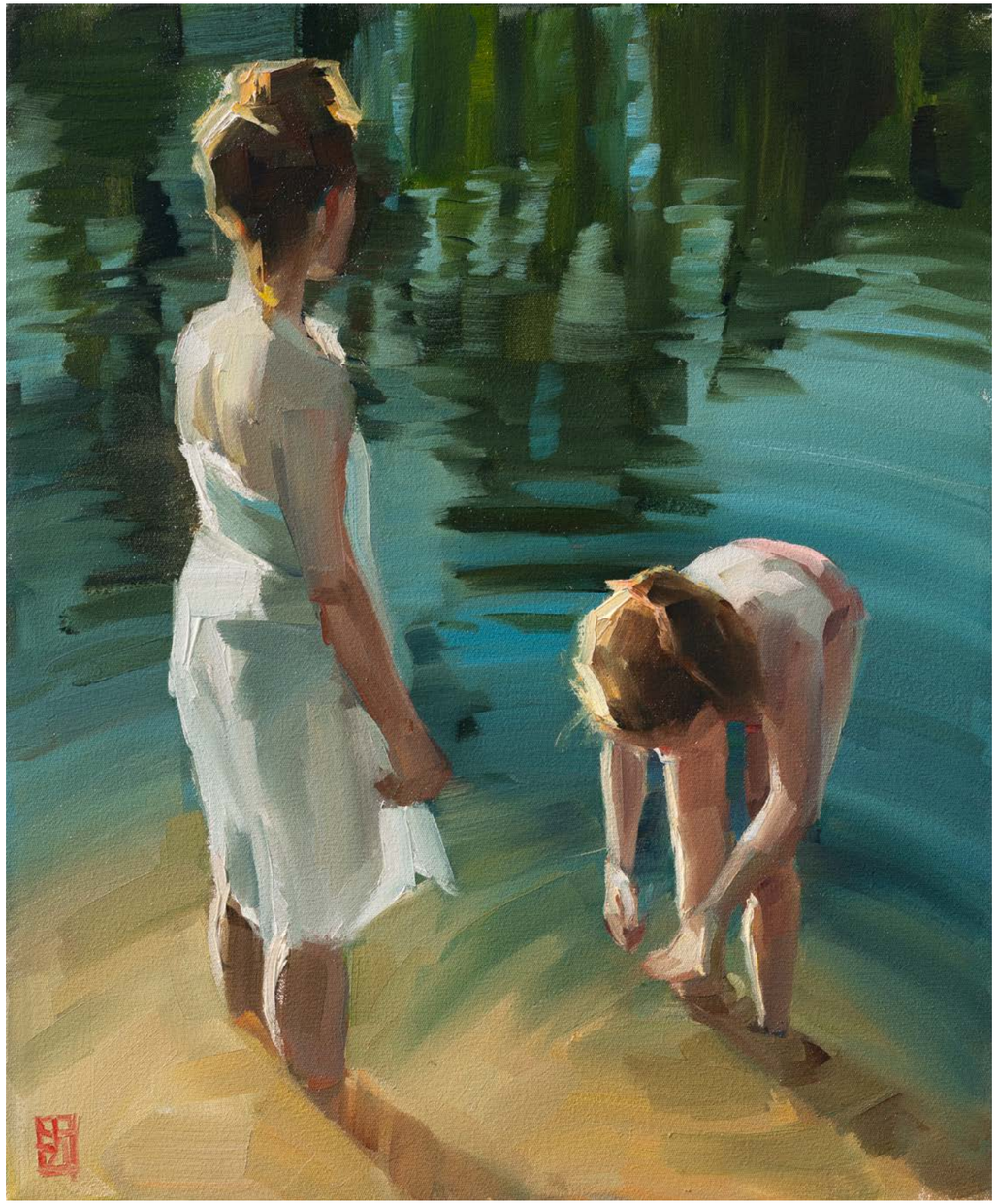
Nude in Tub
oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm



Before the Storm
oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm



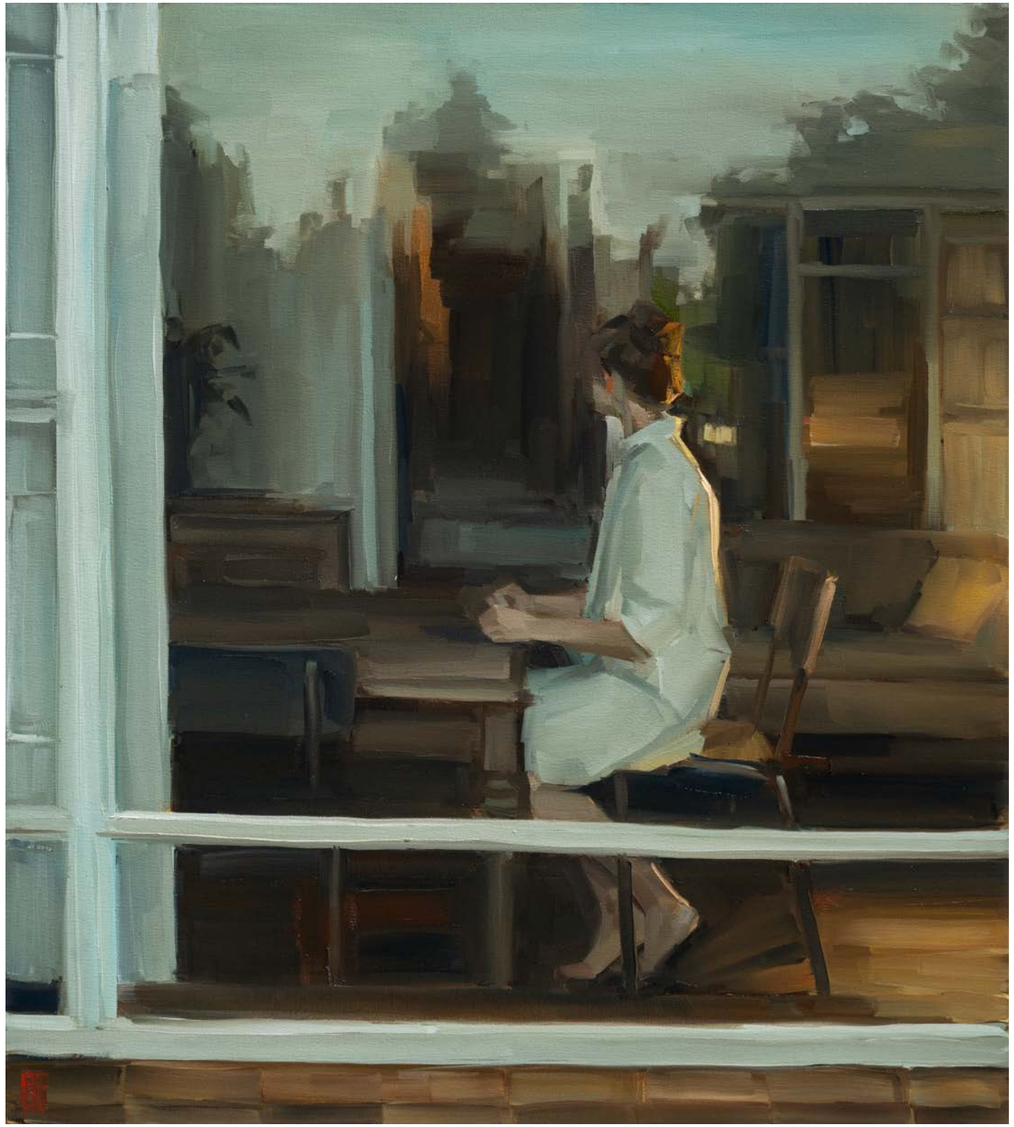
Water & Light II
oil on canvas
60 x 40 cm



Light on Water
oil on canvas
60 x 50 cm

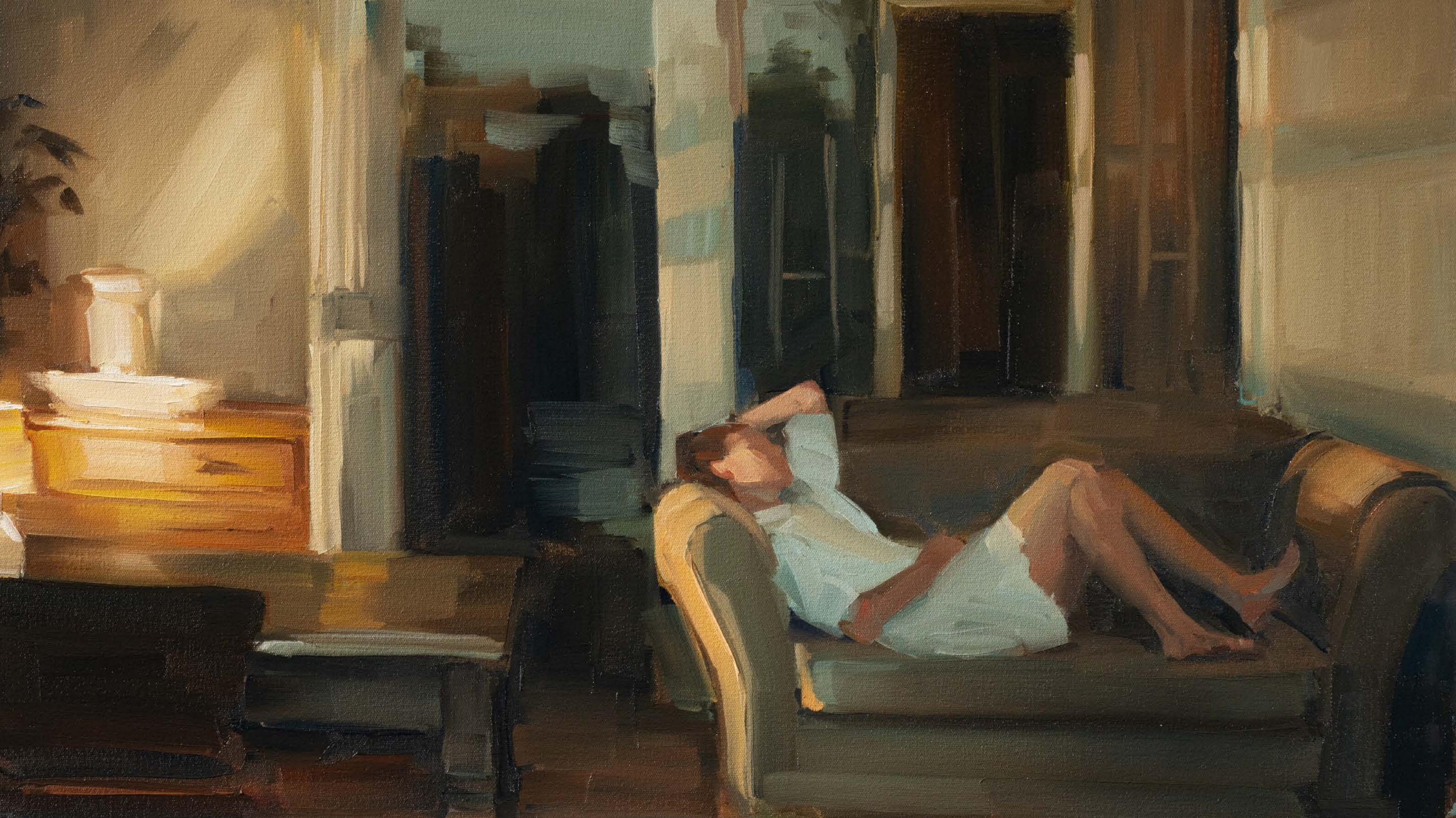
Evening
oil on canvas
110.5 x 110.5 cm

Warm
oil on canvas
95.5 x 80 cm



The Girl in the Window
oil on canvas
95 x 85 cm

Looking in
oil on canvas
80 x 95.5 cm



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PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS
Michael Hall. Artist portrait by Sasha Hartslief.