

A vibrant, abstract painting of a woman's face. The style is expressive and colorful, with thick brushstrokes and a palette dominated by bright greens, pinks, blues, and yellows. The face is rendered with a mix of realistic and abstract elements, featuring large, expressive eyes and a wide, open mouth. The background is a light, textured blue. The overall composition is dynamic and energetic.

KILMANY-JO LIVERSAGE

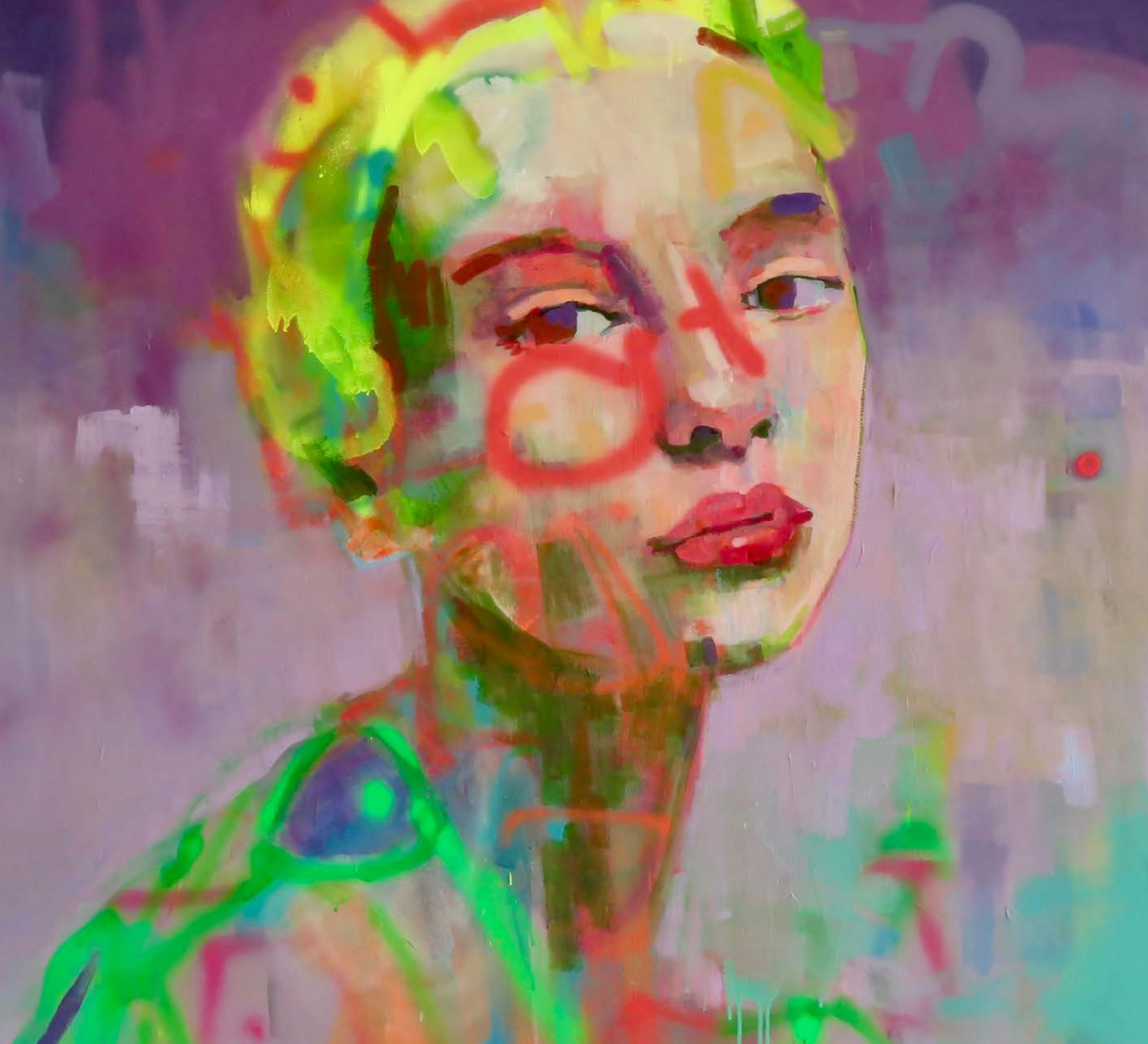
ILLUMINA23



KILMANY-JO LIVERSAGE

ILLUMINA23

27 January – 25 February 2023



ILLUMINA23

Everard Read London presents its first exhibition of new paintings by South African artist, Kilmany-Jo Liversage. Taking inspiration from pop culture, fashion and a plethora of social media platforms, this new body of work was made over the past year and a half, in the artist's sprawling Cape Town studio.

Spray paint is Liversage's medium of choice which she assuredly deploys, along with acrylics, to challenge the traditional delineations between fine art and urban or street art culture. Fusing Renaissance portraiture with a strident urban sensibility, what emerges from her studio are penetrating portraits and unruly floral still lifes in a psychedelic palette of luminous pinks, blues and fluorescent yellows and oranges. Liversage's focus is on 'the here and now, on inner-city alleyways and sites of both decay and gentrification, where the tag, squiggle and scrawl of graffiti carry as much gravitas and value as the high art of her forebears.'*

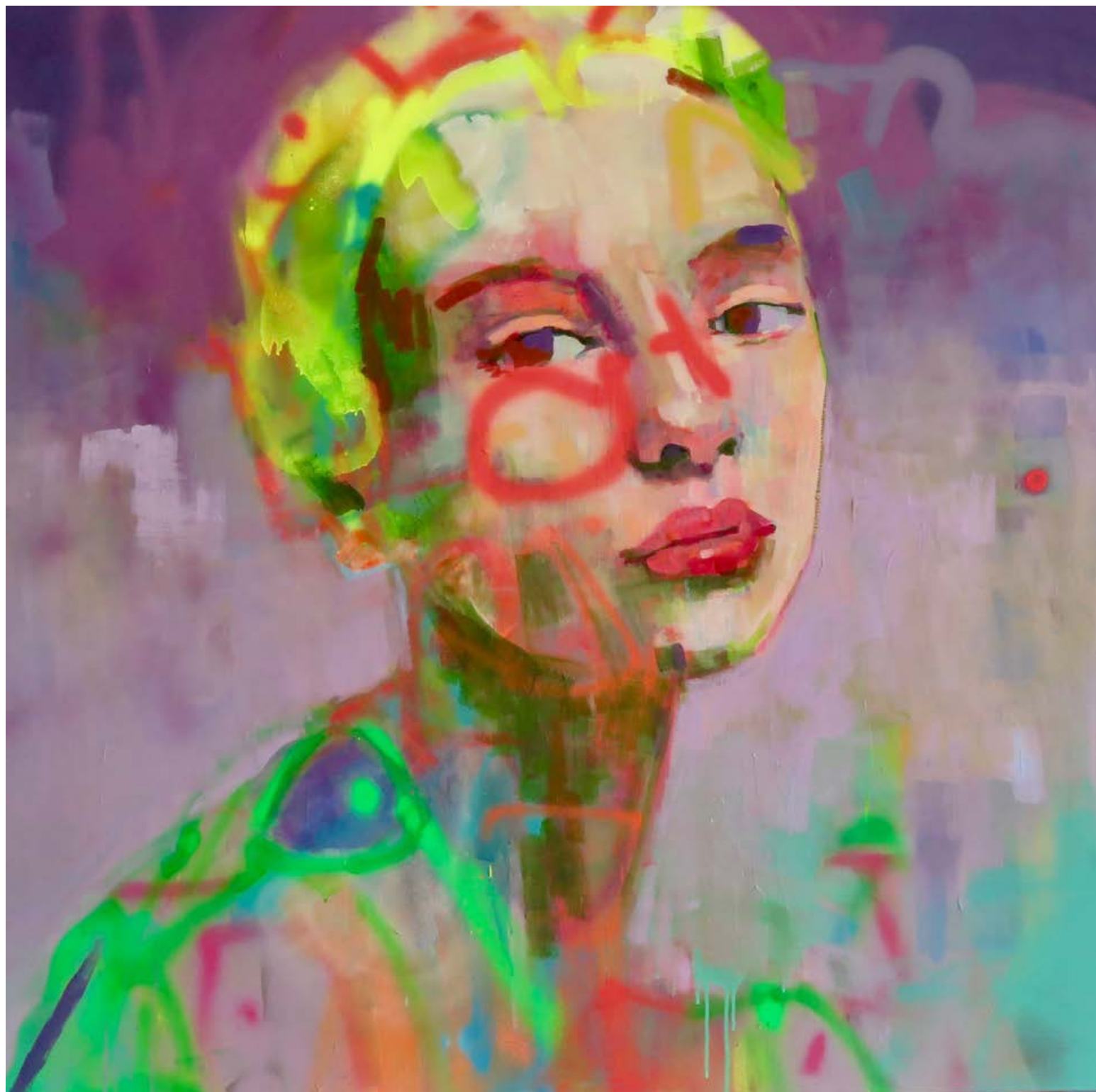
Although Liversage has executed numerous murals in various cities around the world, including a collaborative large-scale canvas which was exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 2013, she does not consider herself a street

artist. Operating within the framework of 'urban contemporary', Liversage may have incorporated aspects of street art into her practice – considerable scale, a predilection for working outside and the custom of tagging – but she trained as a fine artist and painting is her committed pursuit.

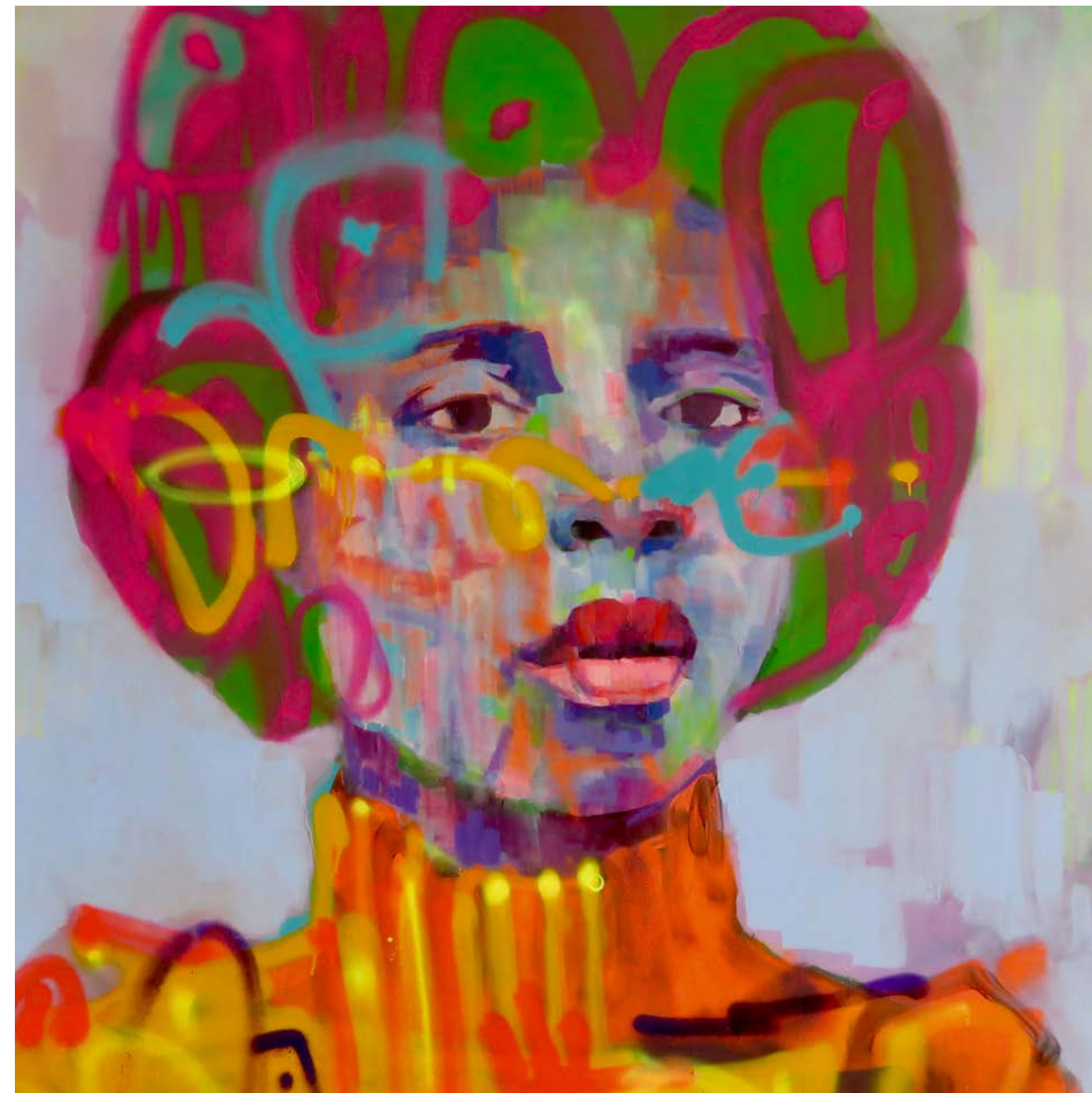
Liversage remains faithful to Renaissance standards of portraiture, working within the established canon and taking into account the very same compositional considerations as the Old Masters. But her work embraces the spontaneity of mark-making and the confidence of her spraying and dripping veers far outside traditional patriarchal lines.

'I feel strongly about the role women play in our society and am interested in portraying the strength and Femme fatalism of women in my portraits and still-lifes', says Liversage. 'The role of matriarch has gained impetus through the digital age. Empowerment, transformation and a greater emphasis on gender-equality has created a global shift in how femininity is perceived and how contemporary women are portrayed.'

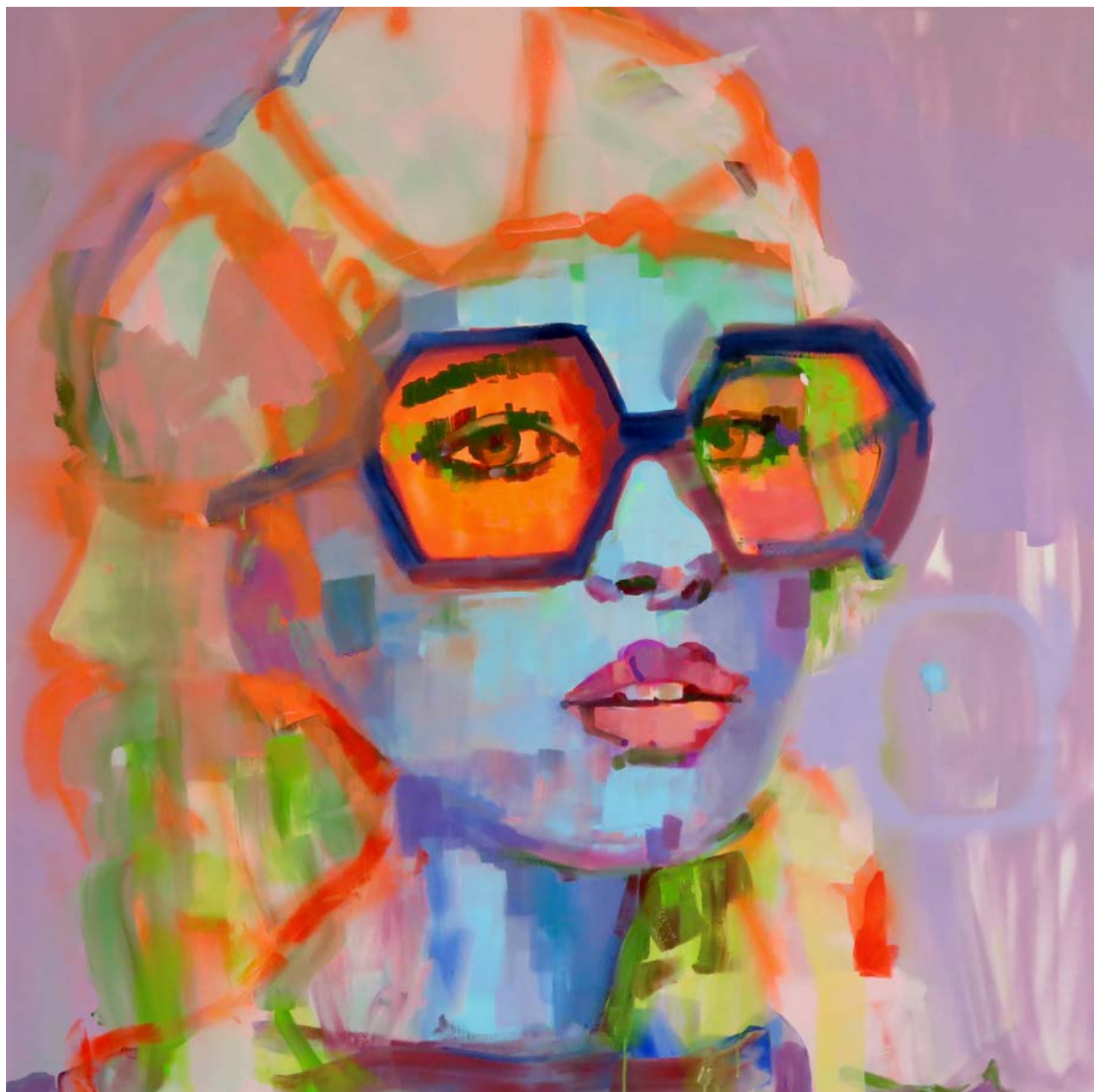
* Hazel Friedman, February 2020, essay entitled *The Art of Discontent* for the exhibition *Against Interpretation*, Everard Read London, June 2020



PASSEÓA23
acrylic and aerosol spray on canvas
120 x 120 cm



JELLIKA23
acrylic and aerosol spray on canvas
150 x 150 cm

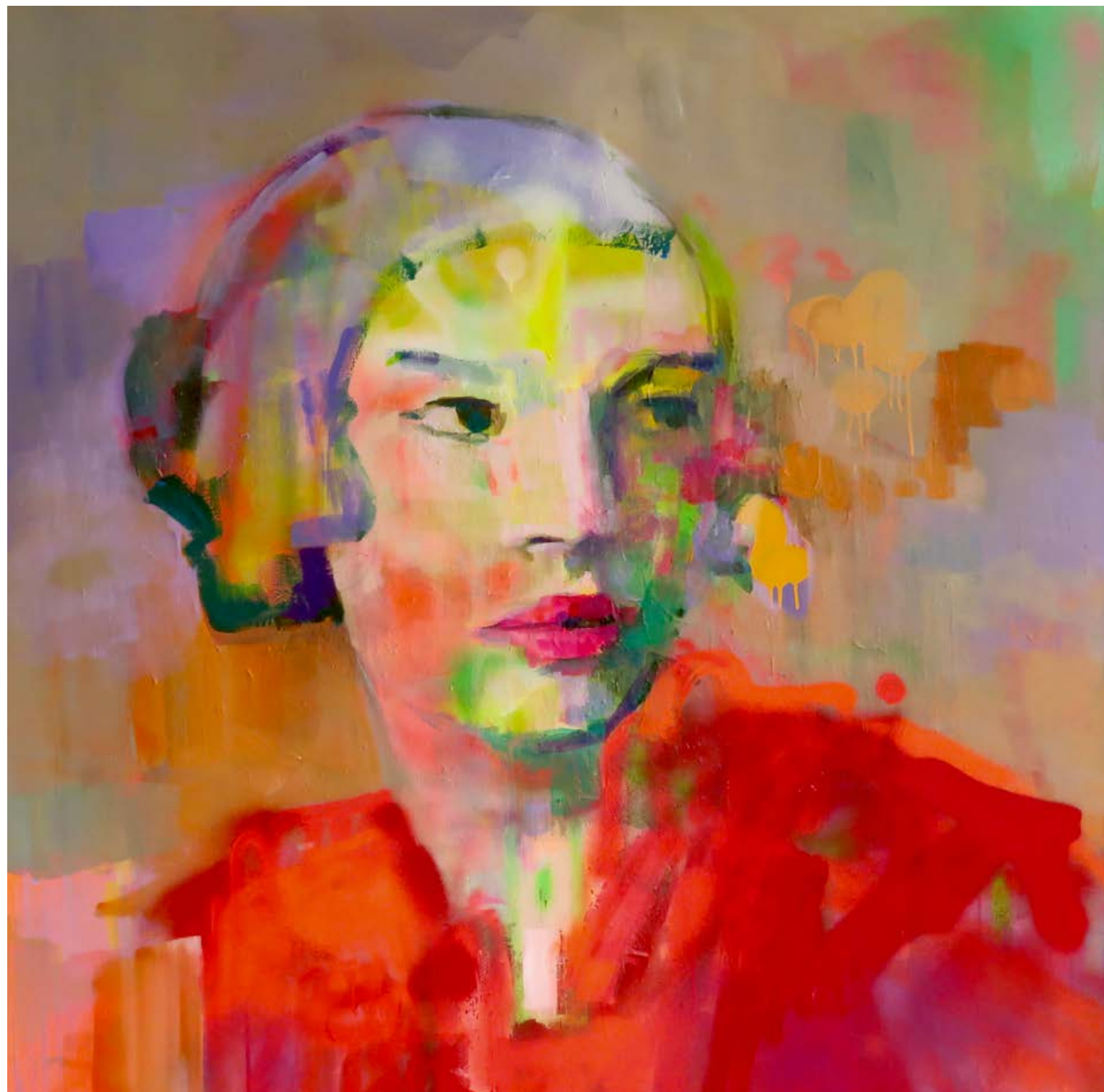


ILLUMINA23
acrylic and aerosol spray on canvas
150 x 150 cm

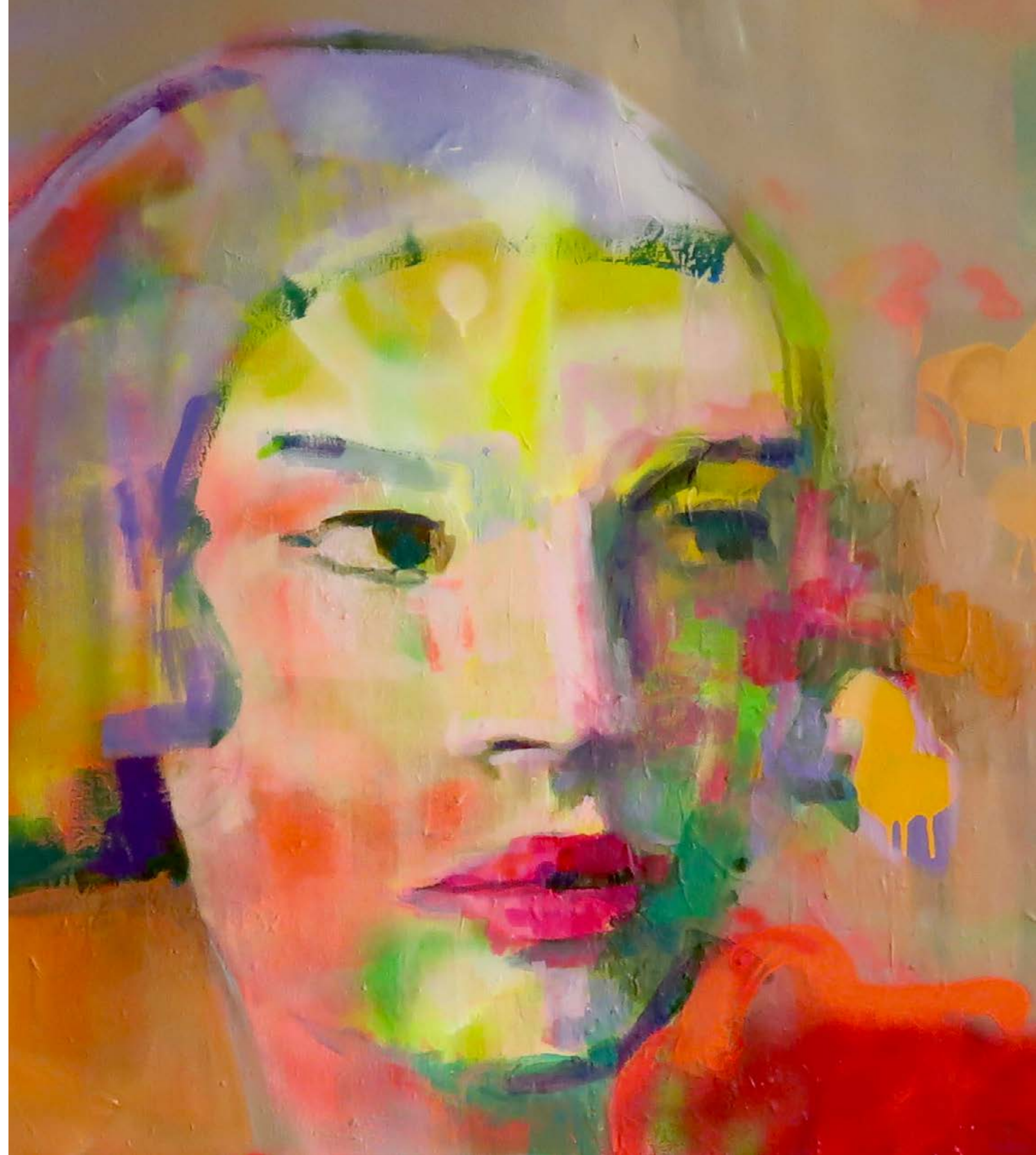


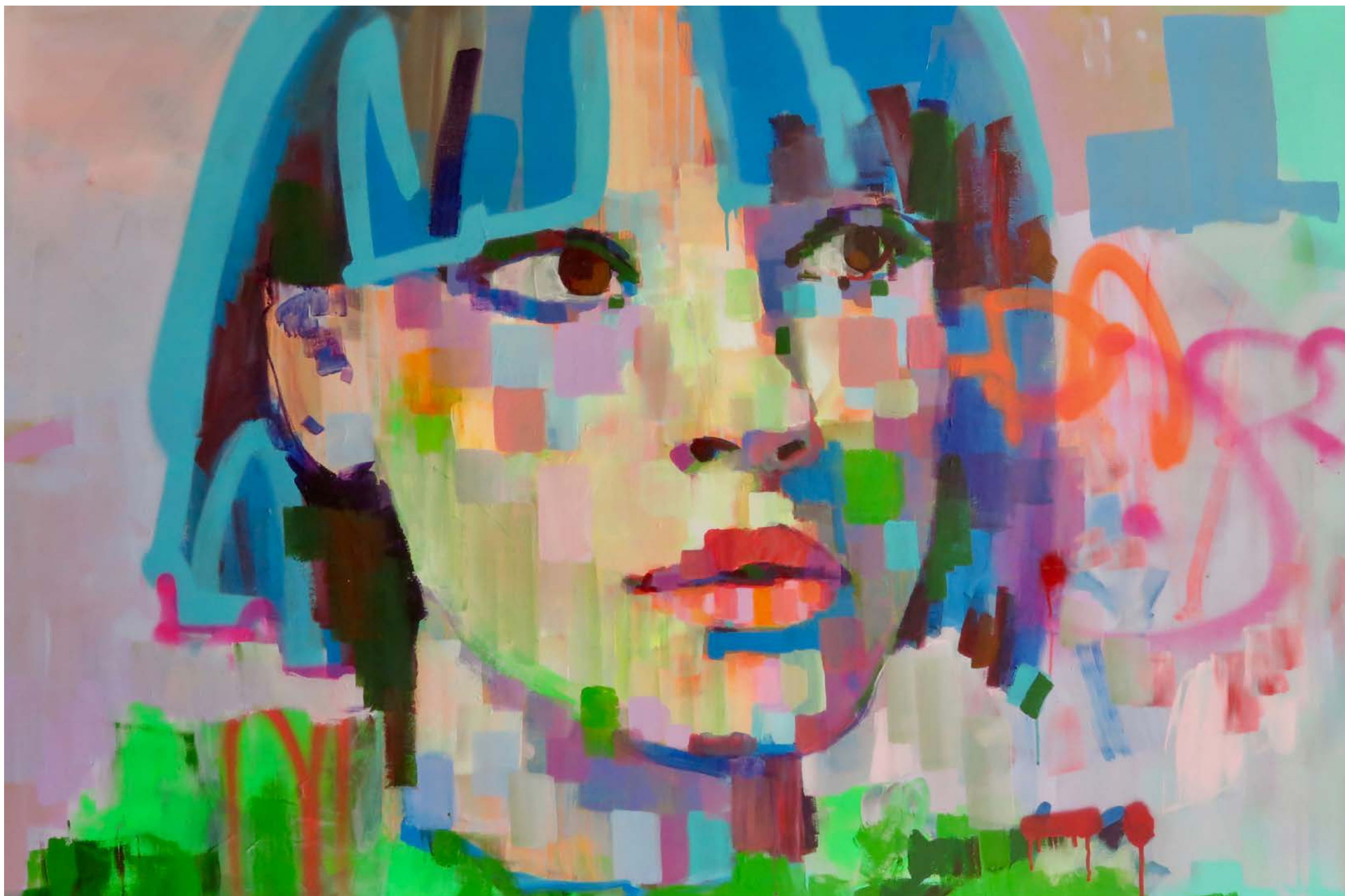
ELLIXA23
acrylic and aerosol spray on canvas
150 x 180 cm



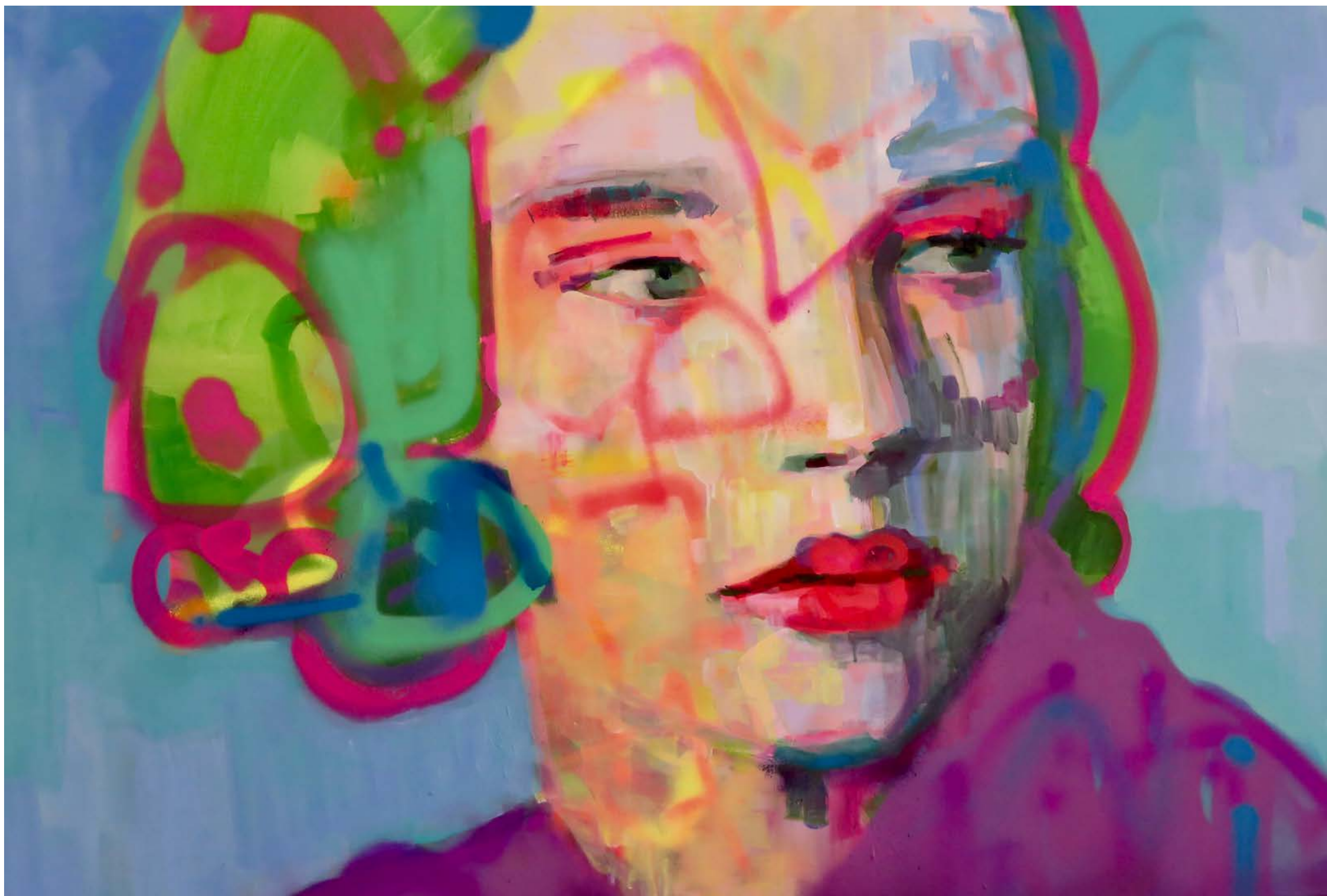


SOLIDARIA23
acrylic, aerosol spray and marker on canvas
120 x 120 cm





SHIYA23
acrylic, aerosol spray
and marker on canvas
100 x 150 cm



TRANSFYXIA23
acrylic and aerosol spray
on canvas
100 x 150 cm



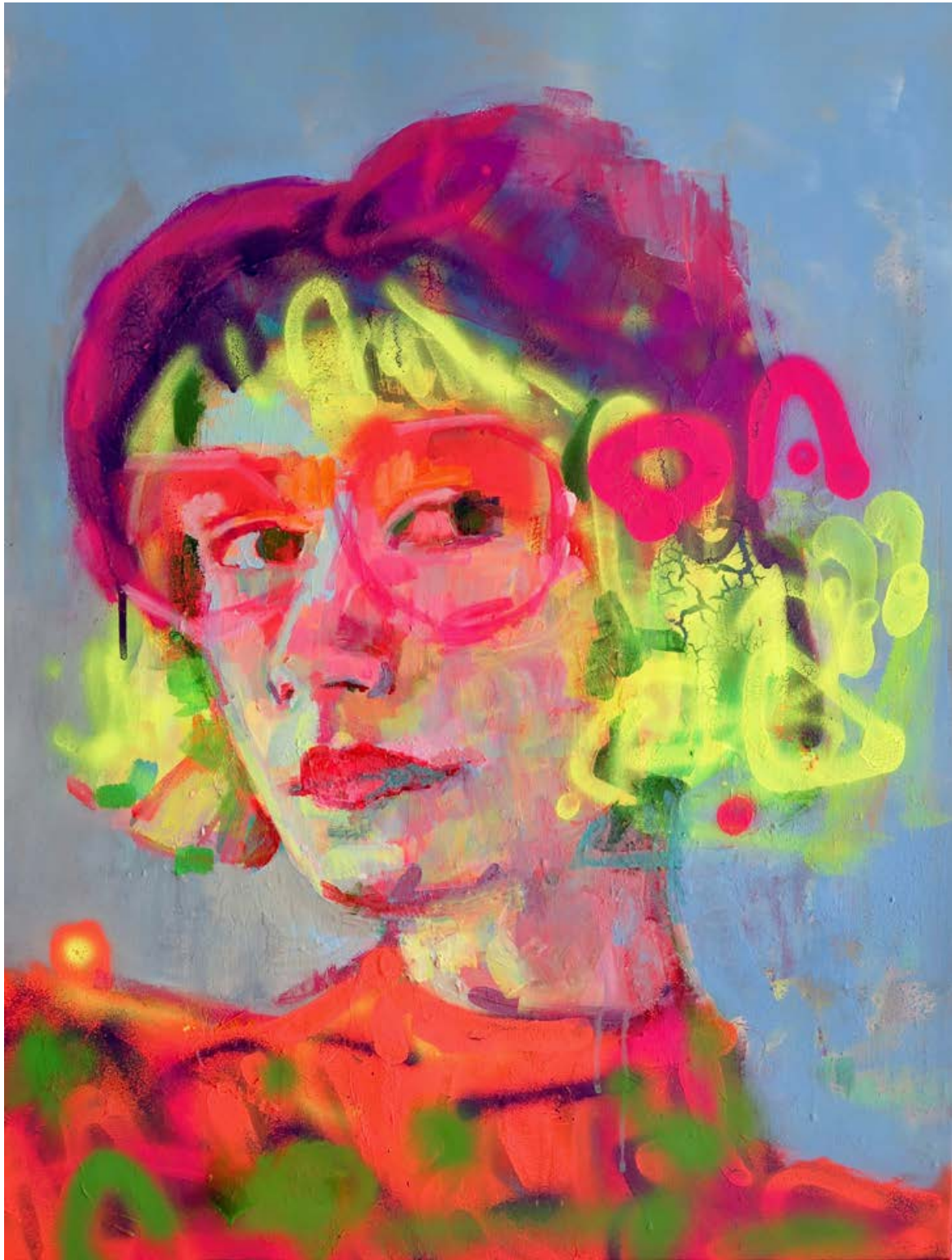
FLORUMA23
acrylic and oil paint, aerosol spray and marker on canvas
150 x 150 cm



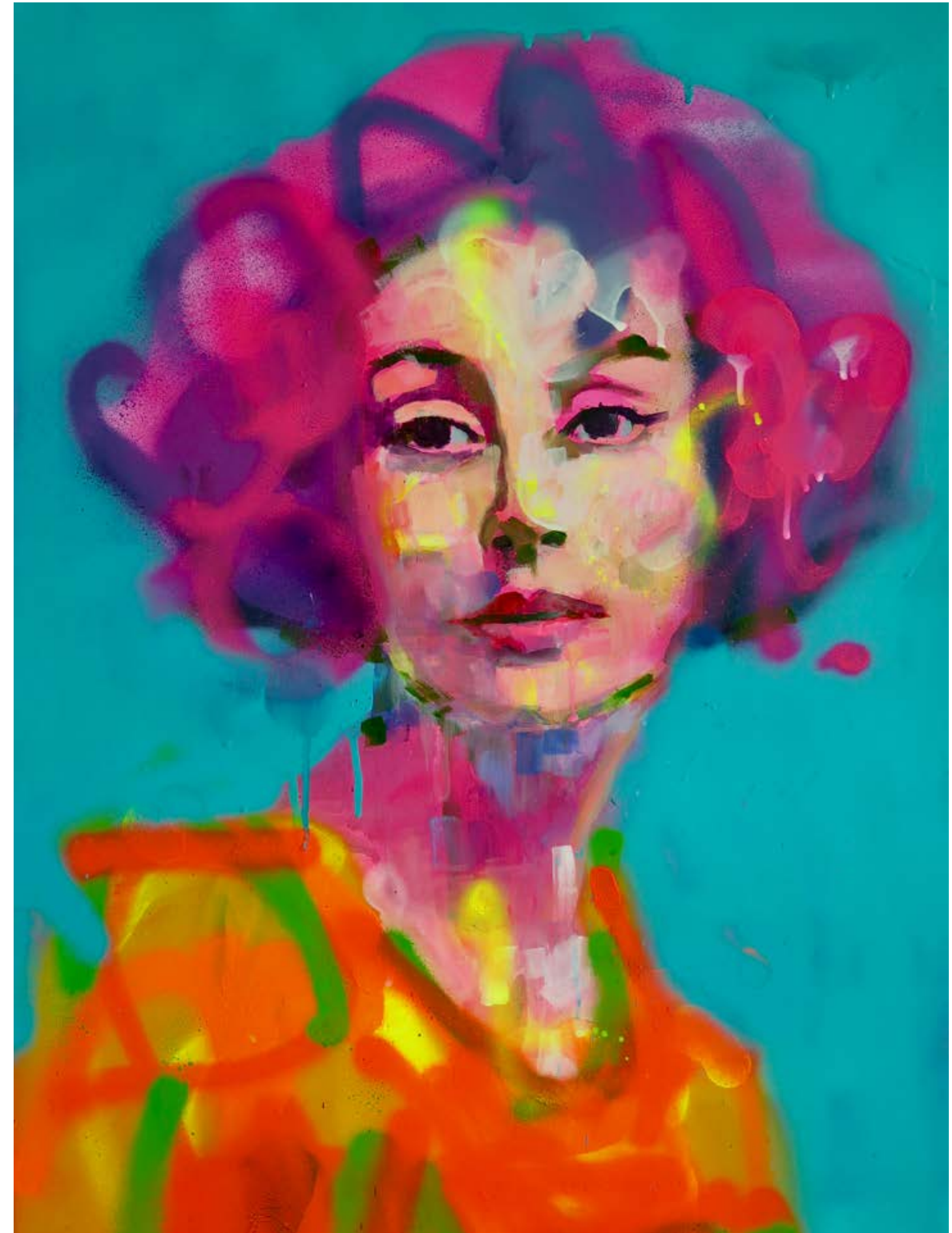
OLEAE23
acrylic and oil paint, aerosol spray and marker on canvas
120 x 120 cm



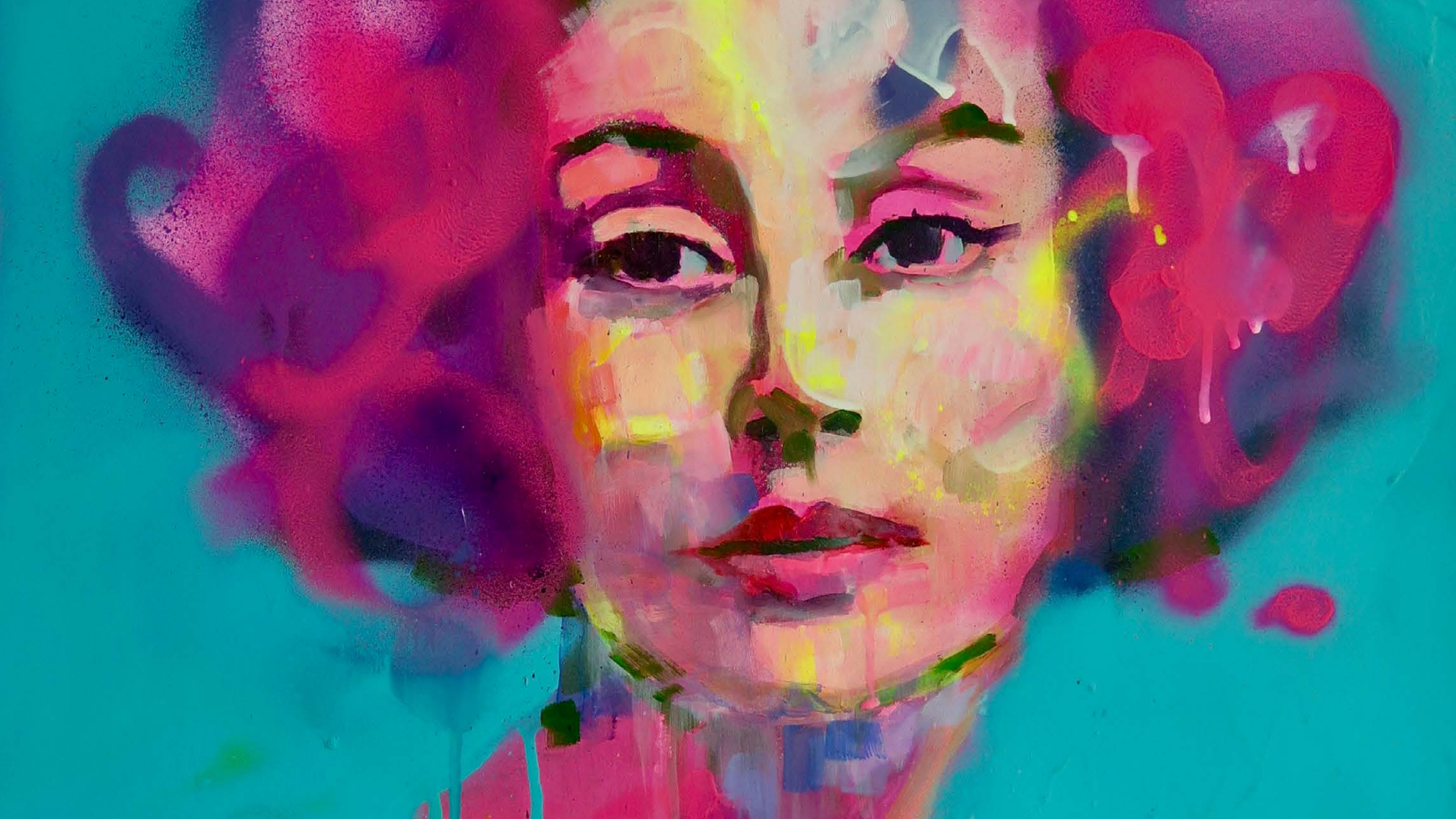
FLORAMA23
acrylic, oil paint, aerosol spray and marker on canvas
90 x 190 cm



ORDA23
acrylic, aerosol spray and marker on 300g Fabriano paper
77 x 56 cm



FLEURA23
acrylic and aerosol spray on 300g Fabriano paper
77 x 56 cm





ORGANIKA23
acrylic, aerosol spray and marker on 300g Fabriano paper
77 x 56 cm

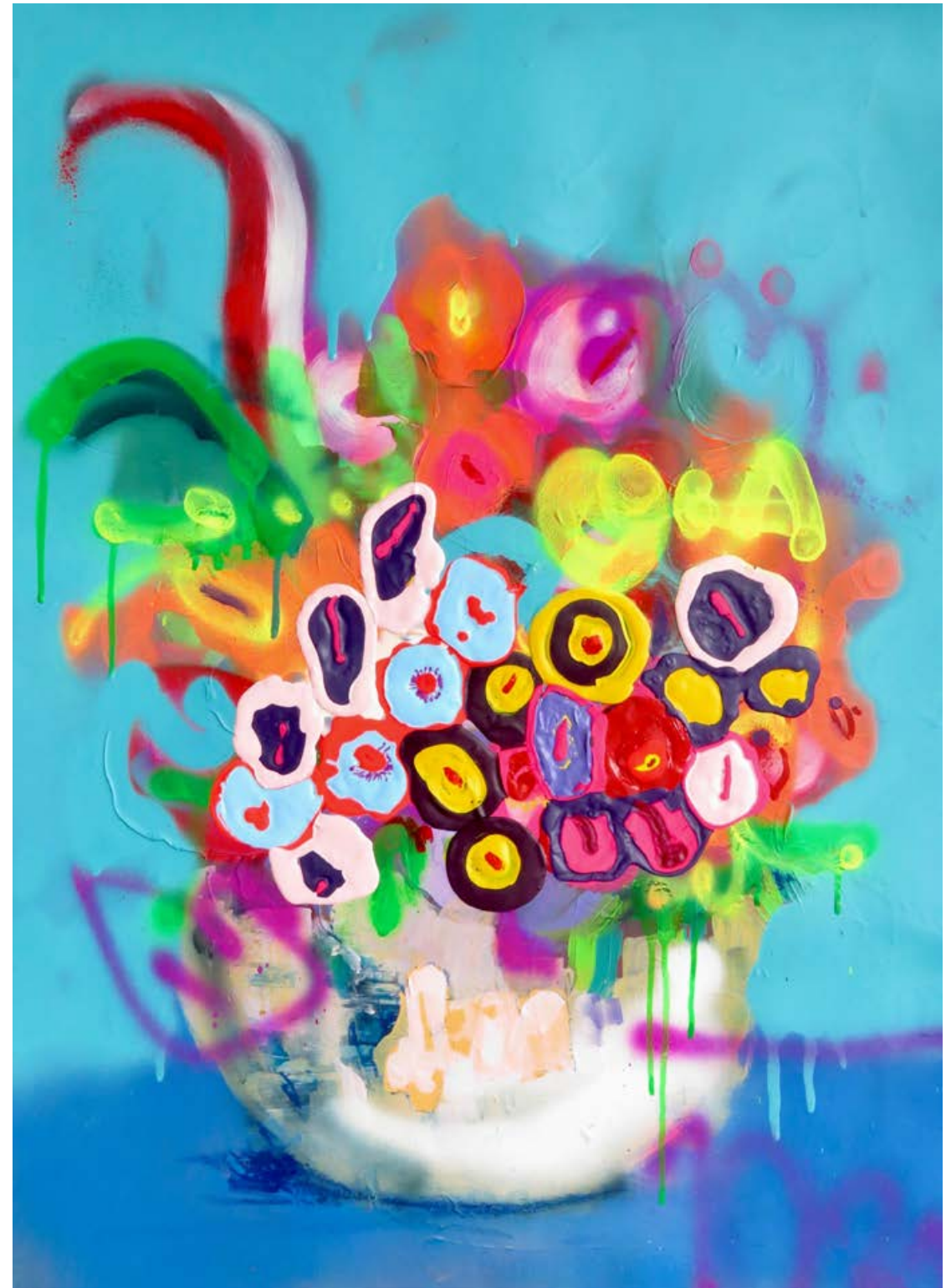




IMERVIA321
acrylic and spray paint on canvas
120 x 120 cm



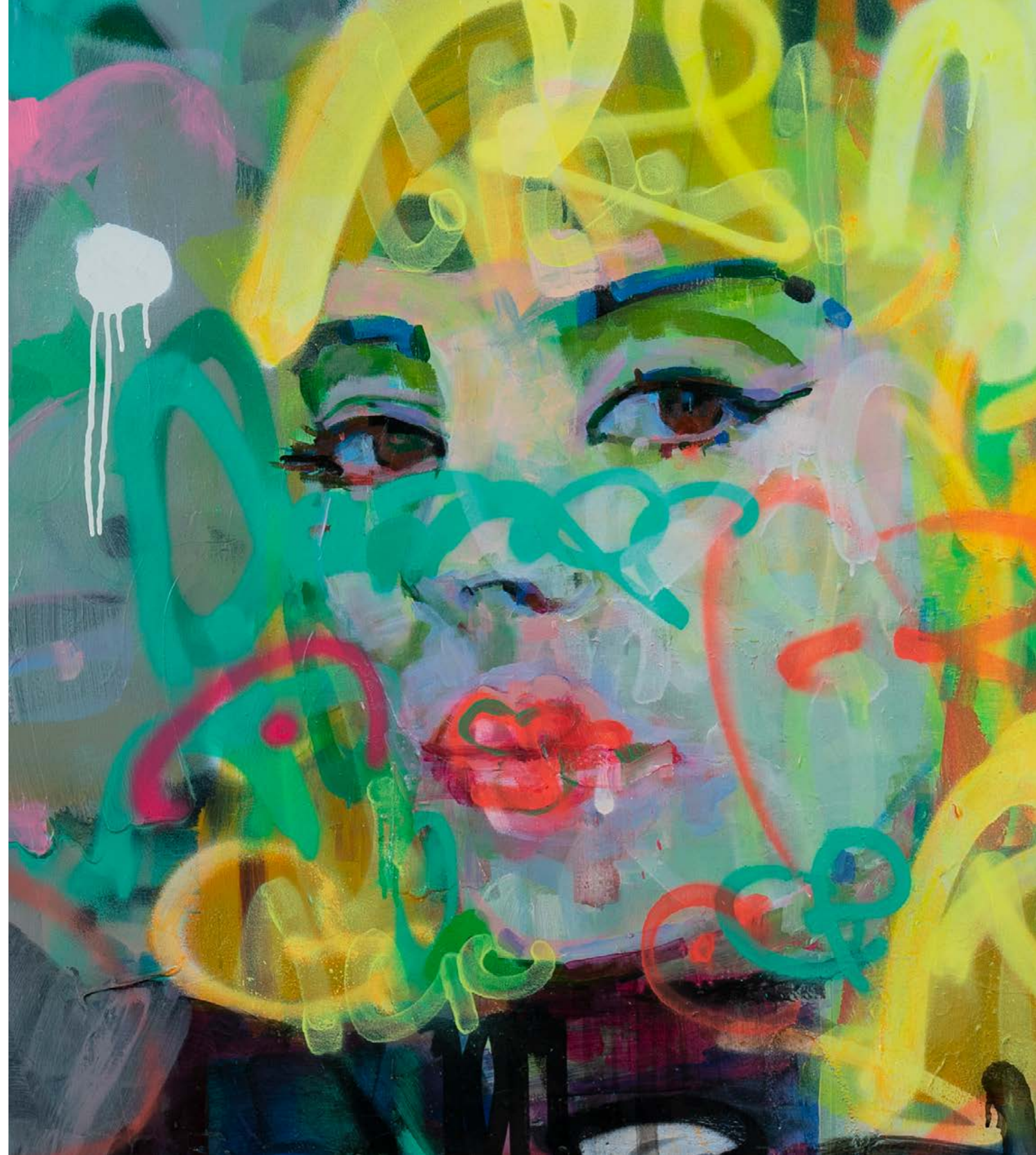
VALLURA320
acrylic and spray paint on canvas
150 x 100 cm



OVULA23
acrylic, aerosol spray and marker on 200g Fabriano paper
77 x 56 cm



SALOME919
acrylic and spray paint on canvas
120 x 120 cm





ORGANA23
 acrylic, aerosol spray and marker
 on 200g Fabriano paper
 77 x 56 cm



FALLOPIAH23
 acrylic, aerosol spray and marker
 on 300g Fabriano paper
 77 x 56 cm





KILMANY-JO LIVERSAGE

b. 1973, South Africa

Kilmany-Jo Liversage creates portraits that intentionally blur the boundary between fine art and street art. Her rendering of female subjects is inspired by Renaissance era portraiture and, by adopting the language of graffiti or urban art, she updates, renews and challenges the conventions of painting. The result is a series of vivid, large-format paintings, evoking the street, art history as well as a vision of the future.

Liversage explains: 'During the Machine Age, artists would reduce their compositions to its smallest constituent parts. With my current paintings I manufacture this deconstruction by combining the painting tradition of portraiture with idiosyncrasies from the urban culture of tagging. This enables me to explore the intersection between street art and fine art while reconstructing them into a new genre of portraiture.'

With a list of achievements that include the Sasol New Signatures Award in 2000 and a UNESCO bursary in 2005, as well as an artists' residency in Colombia, Kilmany-Jo Liversage has had the opportunity to explore and interpret the concept of street art in a distinctive and original way.

Liversage lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. Her work is included in several public and private collections in South Africa and around the world.



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** FERVA21, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019** FEMFLEKTA619, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018** Chroma718, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016** Orda716, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
Orda716, Lizamore & Associates, South Africa
- 2015** Ordamental515, Hay Hill Gallery, London
- 2014** Obversa714, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
Obversa714, Lizamore & Associates, South Africa
- 2012** Portra, Source 53, Singapore, Singapore
Portra, Artspace gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Portra, Worldart gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011** Moniker, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010** Orda 2010, Erdmann Contemporary, South Africa
- 2009** Symbol of Tribute, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006** Orda 2006, Blank Projects
- 2003** Orda 2003, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** Summer 2021, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2020** Against Interpretation, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2019** Southern Aspect - A Group Exhibition, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2011** Tattoo Convention, Word of Art, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010** Creative Context: A Group Show by Contemporary African Fine Artists, Singapore, Singapore
- 2010** World Aids Congress – Vienna, Brussels, Belgium
Matters Conceptually, Erdmann Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2005** Graffiti is Public Art, Jardin Botanical Garden, Medellin, Colombia

- 2004** Spier Outdoor Sculpture Biennale 2004, Stellenbosch, South Africa

EDUCATION

- 1997** B.Tech Fine Arts, Free State Technikon
- 1994** H.Dip Fine Arts, Free State Technikon. Received a distinction in Painting

COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

- 2013** Back 2 back to Biennale, 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2005** UNESCO Aschberg Bursary, Paris, France
- 2004** Spier Arts Trust, Spier Sculpture Biennale, South Africa
- 2000** SASOL New Signatures Art Competition, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 1995** Coca-Cola Bursary
- 1994** Distinction-H.Dip FA (Painting)

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2005** UNESCO Asch erg-Medellin, Colombia, South America
WORKSHOPS (GRAFFITI)
Centro Colombo Americano. Paul Bardwell Contemporary Gallery of Modern Art – Medellin, Colombia
University of Bolivariana, Department of Graphic Design, Colombia

COLLECTIONS

- Absa Bank Art Collection, South Africa
- Centro Colombo Americano. Paul Bardwell Contemporary Gallery of Modern Art – Medellin, South America
- Comfandi Centre-Cali, Colombia
- Department of Science and Technology, Pretoria, South Africa
- Nando's collection

