

SASHA HARTSLIEF

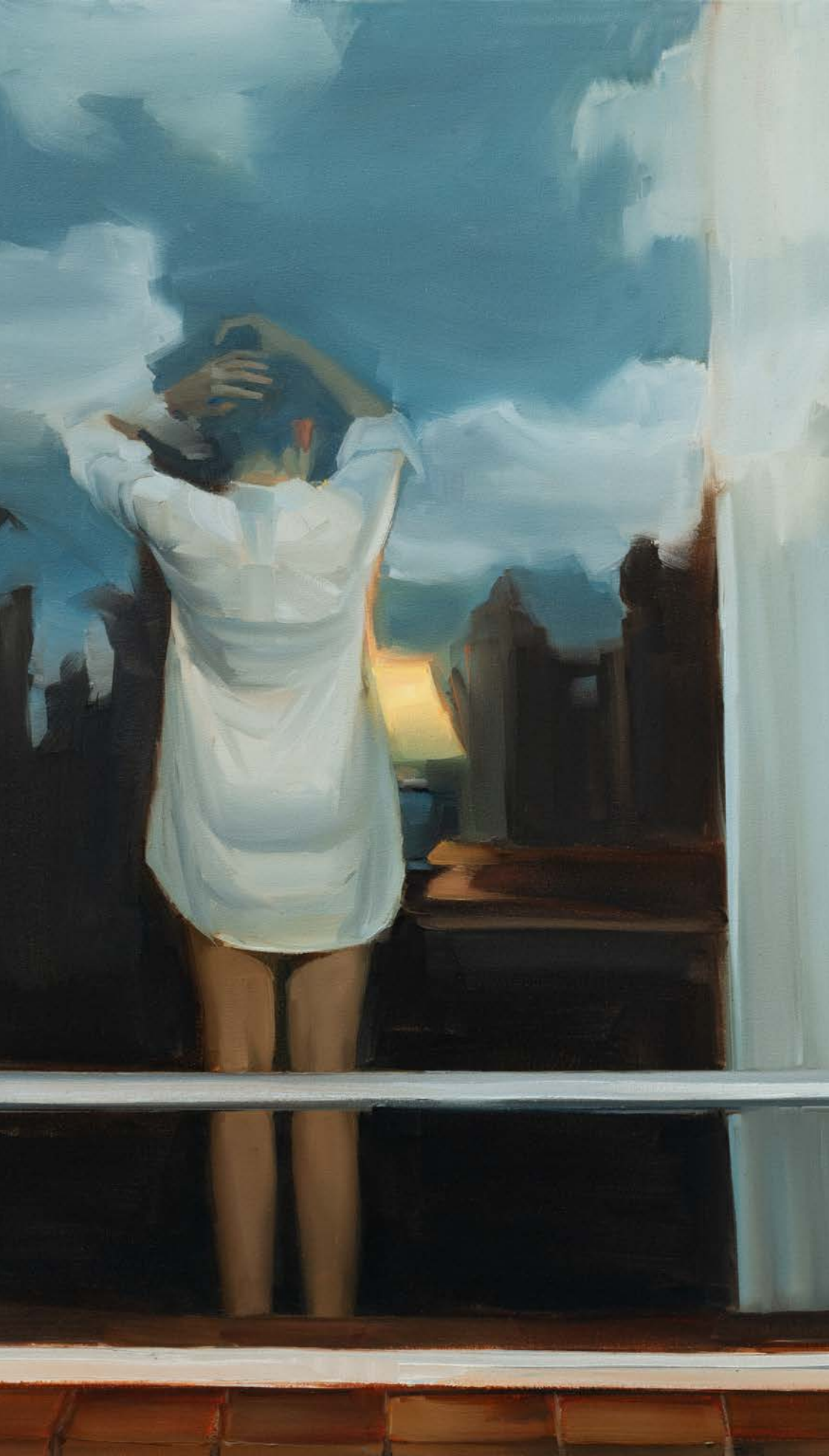
Quietude



SASHA HARTSLIEF

Quietude

13 September – 12 October 2024



Everard Read is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new oil paintings by contemporary South African artist, Sasha Hartslielief.

The artist's collection of works might be described as 'a subtle treatise on the beauty of our mostly unspectacular lives'* as she wills her brushes to immortalise on canvas, the quiet and unexceptional moments of daily life. Spending time with Hartslielief's paintings rewards us with the chance of catching 'some unexpected ray of beauty in the midst of our own mundane activities.'*

Writing in the *Financial Times*, Enuma Okoro notes how 'Hartslielief employs deft brushstrokes in muted tones to create atmospheres where light and shadow play off one another, tenderly capturing moments plucked from daily life. Moments that remind us of the inherent complexity of living with ourselves. Her characters are rarely aware of a viewer, immersed in their own worlds, but worlds any of us might easily slip into – because they feel like fragments from the simple but layered business of being human.'**

In her practice, Hartslielief continues to explore her abiding fascination with light, in all its manifestations, from the dim light of dusk to the crispness of midday sunshine. 'In an attempt to further lay bare the atmosphere and mood of the moment, I

have also become increasingly interested in simplifying my compositions, and removing any noise, so that I am left with the light and the clear form of the composition,' notes the artist.

Hartslielief is drawn to paint the light at what she describes as 'lost and forgotten parts of day, to capture the contrast between a cool, pale wall in the evening and the elusive, warm glow spilling out from a window, to depict the almost tactile sense of edges that are lost in the shadows and emerge crisply into the light.'

This new collection of paintings encompasses atmospheric interiors, where light and Hartslielief's female muses are joint protagonists. Her subjects – often family members, friends, and neighbours – are painted from a deeply personal and intimate perspective, resulting in compelling and intriguing works whose emotional charge keeps us looking.

Everard Read has represented Sasha Hartslielief in South Africa for more than 25 years. This is her fourth solo exhibition with the London gallery. She lives and works in Paarl, South Africa, and continues to attract a broad collector base from around the world.

* Enuma Okoro, *We should all seek meaning in the mundane*, *Financial Times*, 23 February, 2024

** Enuma Okoro, *Decisions and the bigger picture*, *Financial Times*, 20 May, 2022





Woman in the window

oil on canvas

145 x 110 cm

57 x 43 1/4 in.



Studio in first light

oil on canvas

110 x 90 cm

43 1/4 x 35 3/8 in.

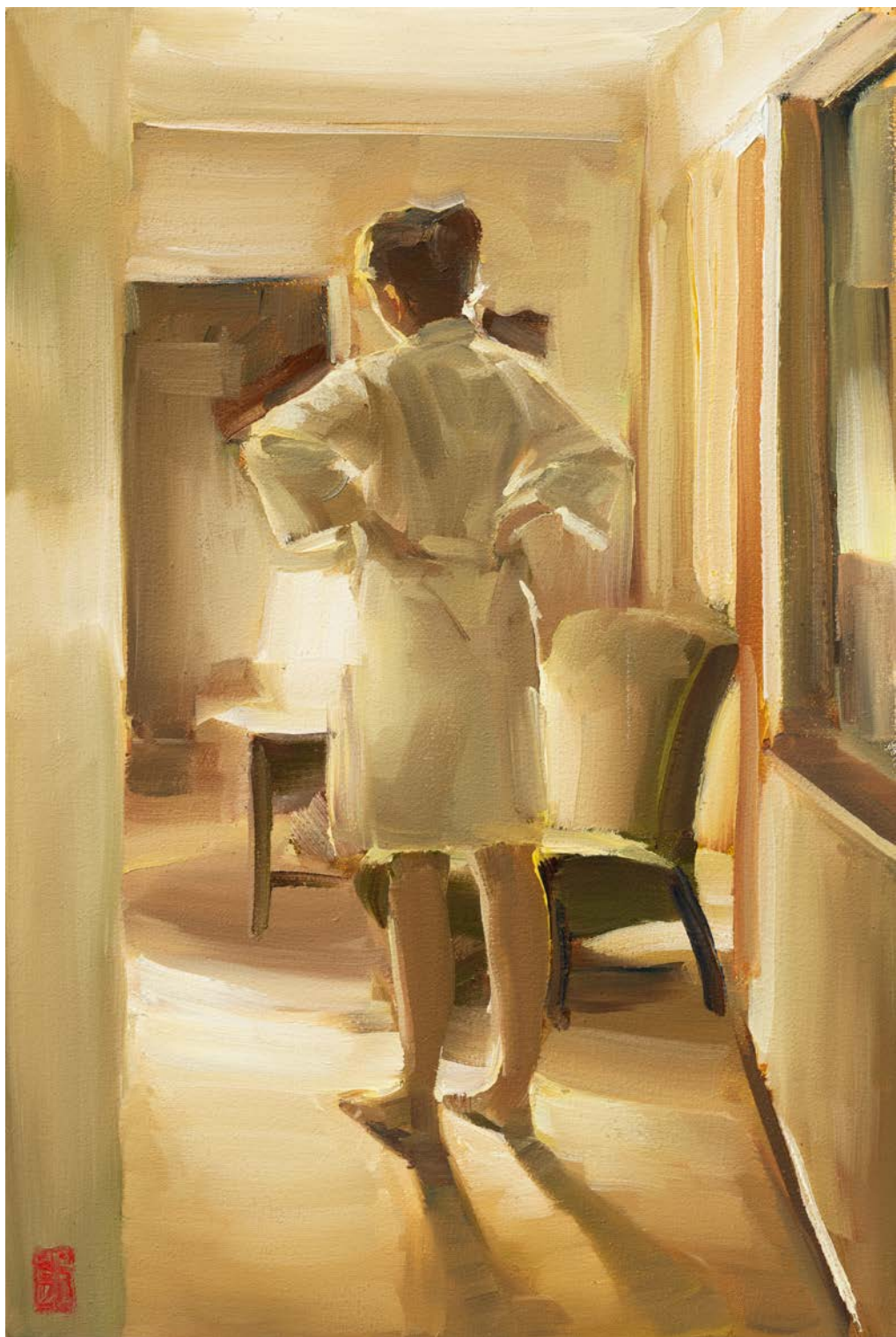


Morning light with white robe

oil on canvas

80 x 60 cm

31 ³/₈ x 23 ¹/₂ in.



Interior light with shadows II

oil on canvas

60 x 40 cm

23 1/2 x 15 5/8 in.





Interior light with shadows I

oil on canvas

60 x 40 cm

23 1/2 x 15 5/8 in.



White shirt with clouds

oil on canvas

110 x 90 cm

43 1/4 x 35 3/8 in.



Remains of the day

oil on canvas

100 x 80 cm

39 1/4 x 31 3/8 in.



The invitation
oil on canvas
140 x 100 cm
55 x 39 1/4 in.





On the threshold
oil on canvas
100 x 80 cm
39 1/4 x 31 3/8 in.



Tea ceremony
oil on canvas
140 x 100 cm
55 x 39 1/4 in.



Interior with candlelight

oil on canvas

100 x 90 cm

39 1/4 x 35 3/8 in.





Waiting and wondering

oil on canvas

100 x 80 cm

39 1/4 x 31 3/8 in.



Seated girl

oil on canvas

40 x 60 cm

15 5/8 x 23 1/2 in.



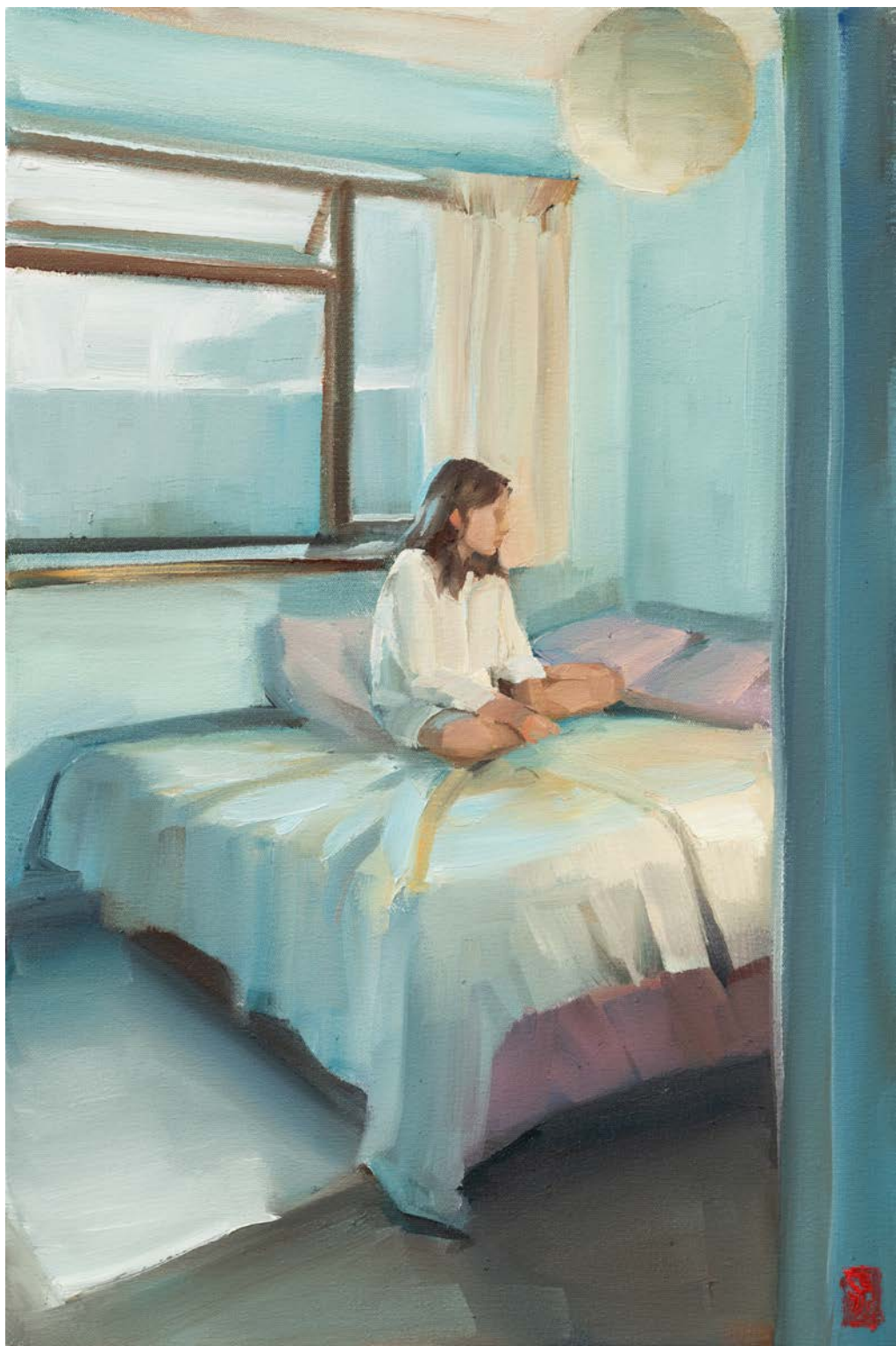
Window on her world

oil on canvas

100 x 140 cm

39 1/4 x 55 in.





Blue room

oil on canvas

60 x 40 cm

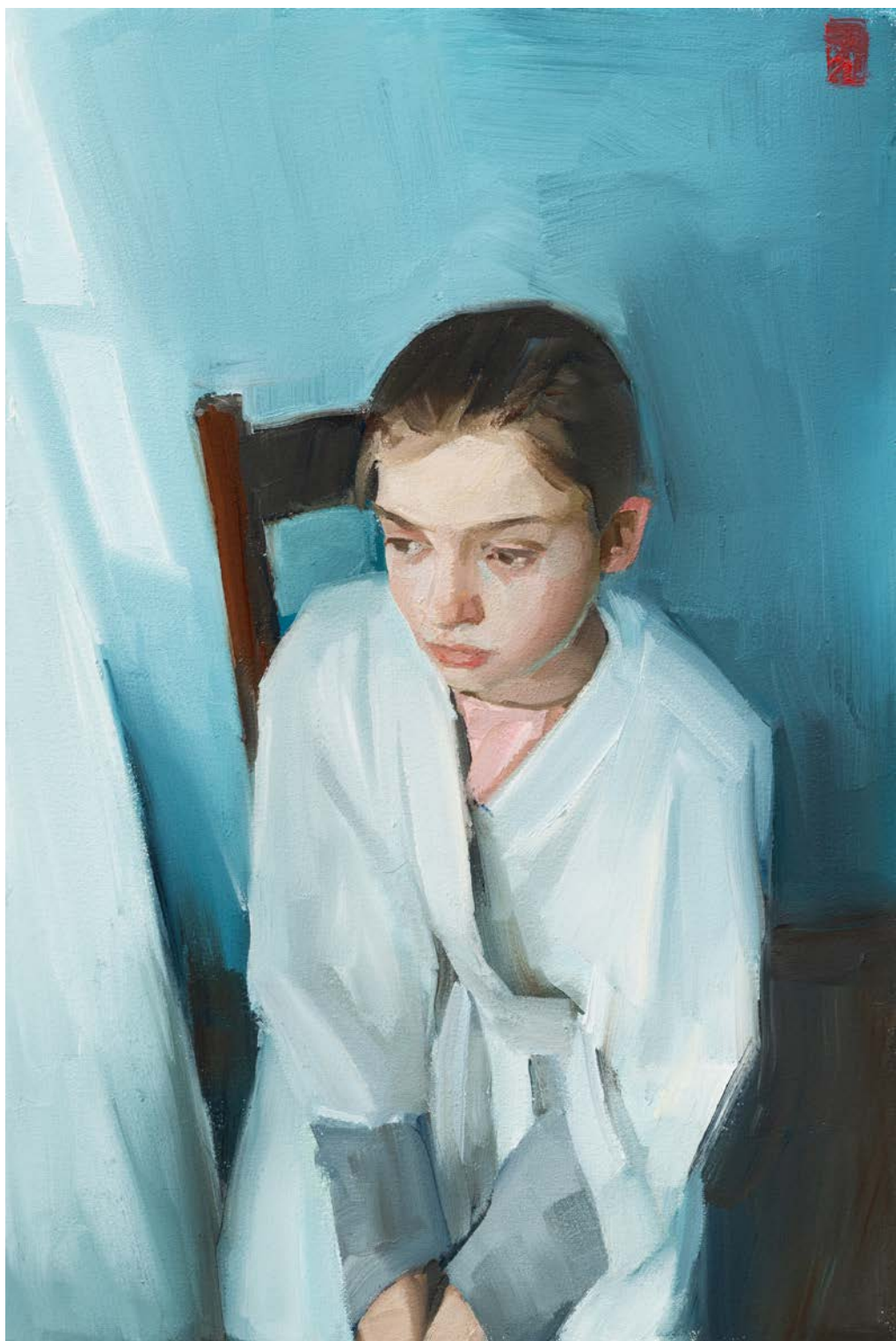
23 1/2 x 15 5/8 in.



Sun on her face
oil on canvas
90 x 100 cm
35 ³/₈ x 39 ¹/₄ in.



Lost in thought I
oil on canvas
95 x 75 cm
37 ³/₈ x 29 ¹/₂ in.



Lost in thought II
oil on canvas
60 x 40 cm
23 1/2 x 15 5/8 in.



Bright light

oil on canvas

40 x 50 cm

15 ⁵/₈ x 19 ⁵/₈ in.



SASHA HARTSLIEF

b. 1974, Gauteng, South Africa

Passionate about drawing from an early age, Sasha Hartslief is largely self-taught. Hartslief's subjects are often viewed from a philosophical, deeply personal perspective, resulting in paintings that are emotionally charged, pensive in mood and considered in composition. Her subtle investigations into the human condition somehow strike a chord with us.

'I defer to the classical Masters for inspiration,' says Hartslief, who admits to placing images painted by the 19th-century American Impressionist, John Singer Sargent, next to her easel while she paints. Her muses include the 19th-century neo-classicist, Ingres, whose draughtsmanship and linear dexterity provide formal inspiration for her works.

But Hartslief's brushstrokes are more diffuse than the precise, stylized techniques of the neo-classicists. Like the French Impressionists, she uses brushstrokes to evoke the transience of light, colour and movement. And like her Renaissance and Impressionist forebears, she employs everyday visual devices to explore the way in which atmospheric light and tonal modulations inform a surface, and to evoke atmospheres fraught with symbolic subtexts. But the transience of the captured moment is counterbalanced by the disciplined rigour of Hartslief's technique and painterly process. She admits to being 'obsessively skills-driven



and consumed' by her work. Each image becomes a formal study in light, contour and line.

Hartslief's experimentation with chiaroscuro techniques derives inspiration from the works by 17th-century Baroque masters such as Rembrandt who, through the use of impasto, evoked light and shadow in his portraits as a psychological device, similar to the way in which stage-lighting functions in the theatre. Often seeming to be lit from below, the expressive shading in Hartslief's portraits tends to converge around the facial hollows, giving the paintings a spatial as well as emotional depth. The eyes of the women in her portraits, in particular, seem inwardly focused.



SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** *Looking In*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2022** *A Quiet Life*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Shadows & Reflections, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2020** *Nocturne*, Everard Read, London, UK
Patterns of Light, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019** *Recent Oil Paintings*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2018** *Interiors*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Aura, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2016** *New Works*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013** *Hartslief: New Works*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012** *Solo Exhibition*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Solo Exhibition, Rosendahl, Thöne & Westphal, Berlin, Germany
- 2011** *Recent Works*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** *Sasha Hartslief: New Works*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2007** *Solo Exhibition*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** *Oasis: 25th anniversary exhibition*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Offering, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2020** *Staring Straight to the Future*, Everard Read online exhibition
Winter, Everard Read, London, UK
Imago, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
On Being, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2019** *Sasha Hartslief & Grace da Costa*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2018** *Summer*, Everard Read, London, UK
People & Portraiture, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Summer Exhibition*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2016** *Nocturne*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015** *Summer in the City*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Homage, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
WINTER, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
EMPIRE, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *Summer Season Part I*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Winter, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013** *100*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

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Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10 am – 6 pm
Friday 10 am – 5 pm | Saturdays 12 pm – 4 pm

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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