

Galerie Hoang Beli

presents

'SPEAKING VOLUMES'

(from Painting into Sculpture)

An exhibition by

RUPERT SHRIVE

Private View Wednesday 15 May

16 May to 13 June 2024

30 rue Chapon, Paris 3e

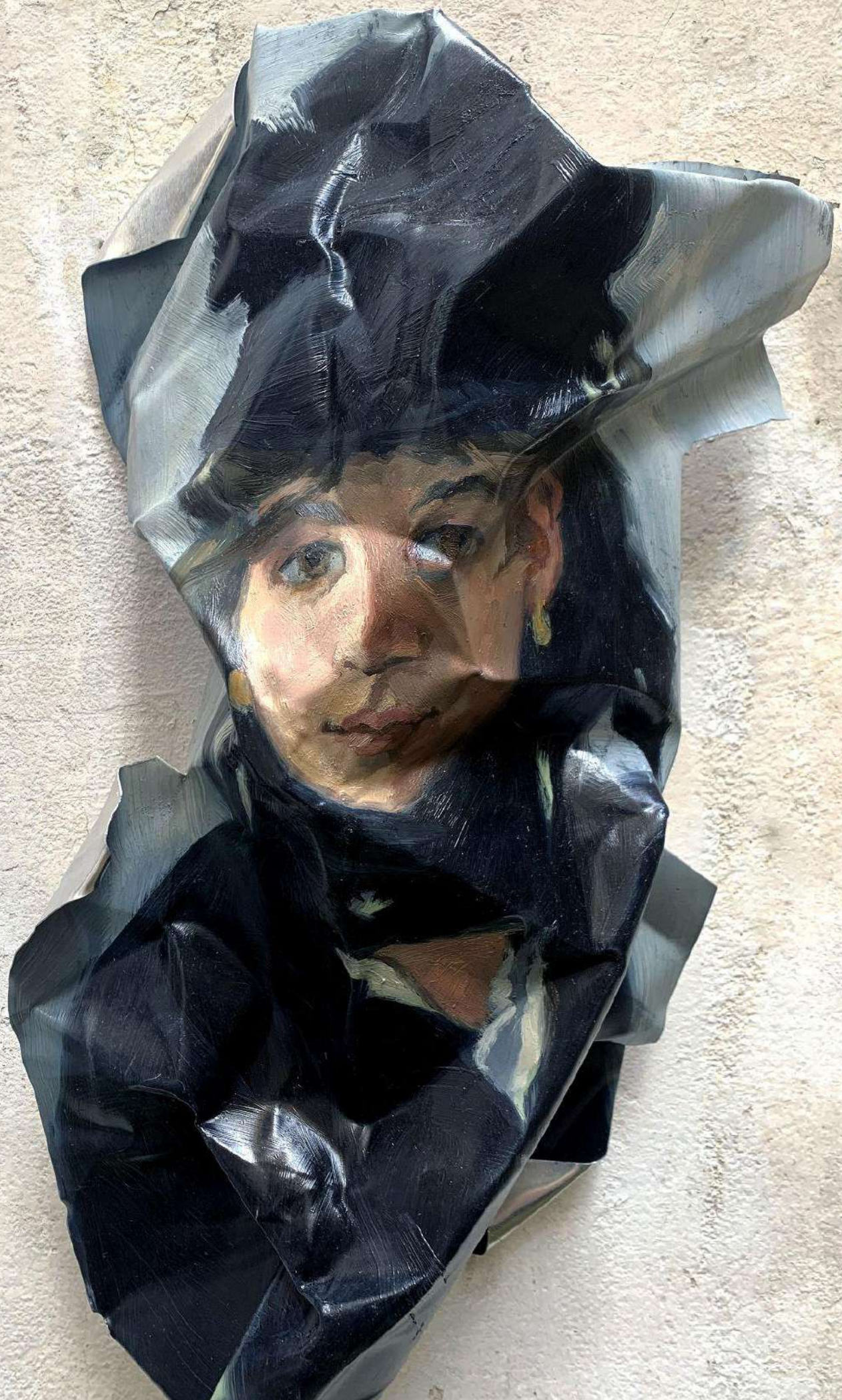


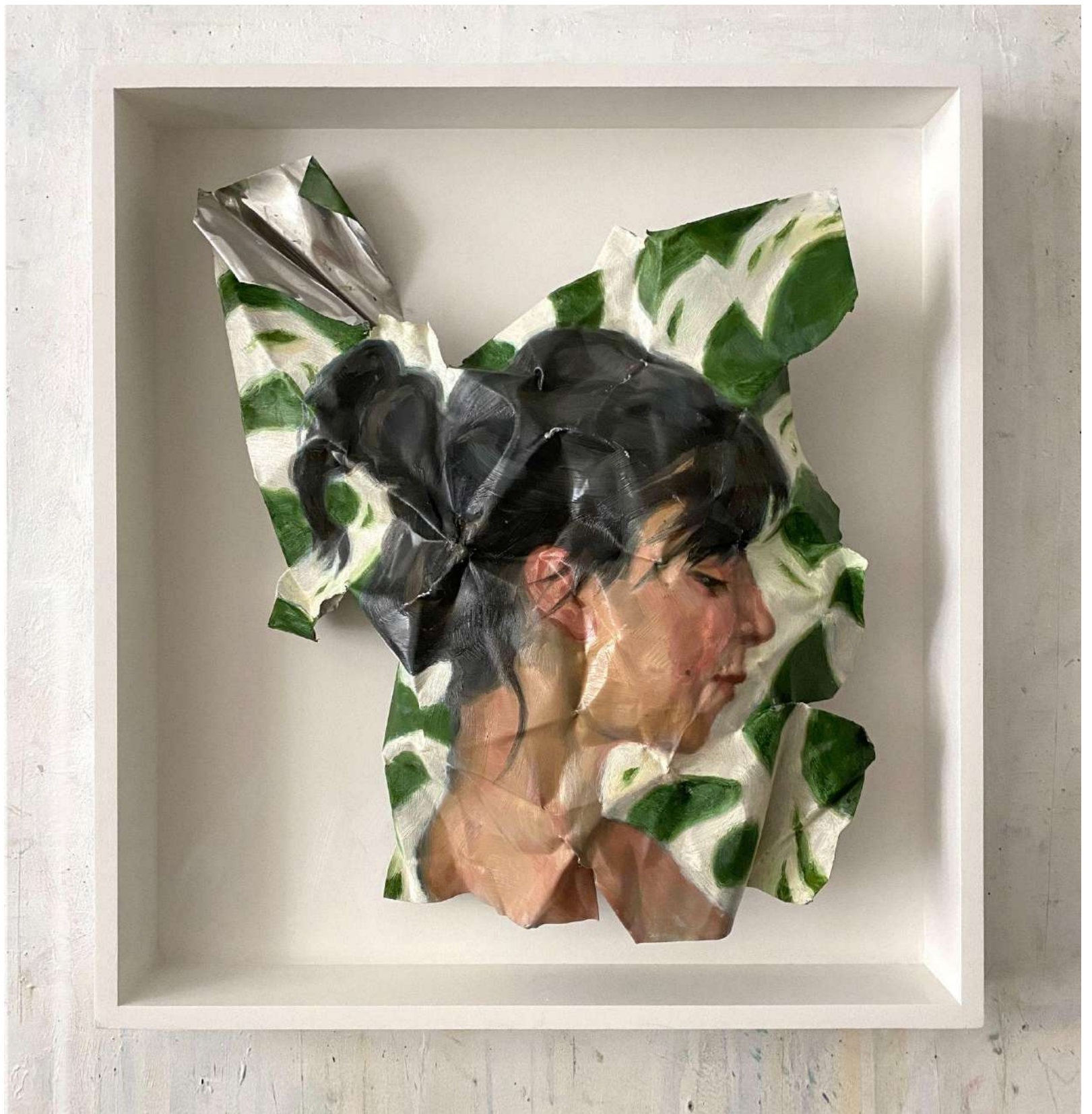


St Luke (after El Greco), 2024,
oil on aluminium,
66 x 43 x 12 cm



Berthe Morisot (after
Manet), 2024
Oil on aluminium
58 x 36 x 12 cm

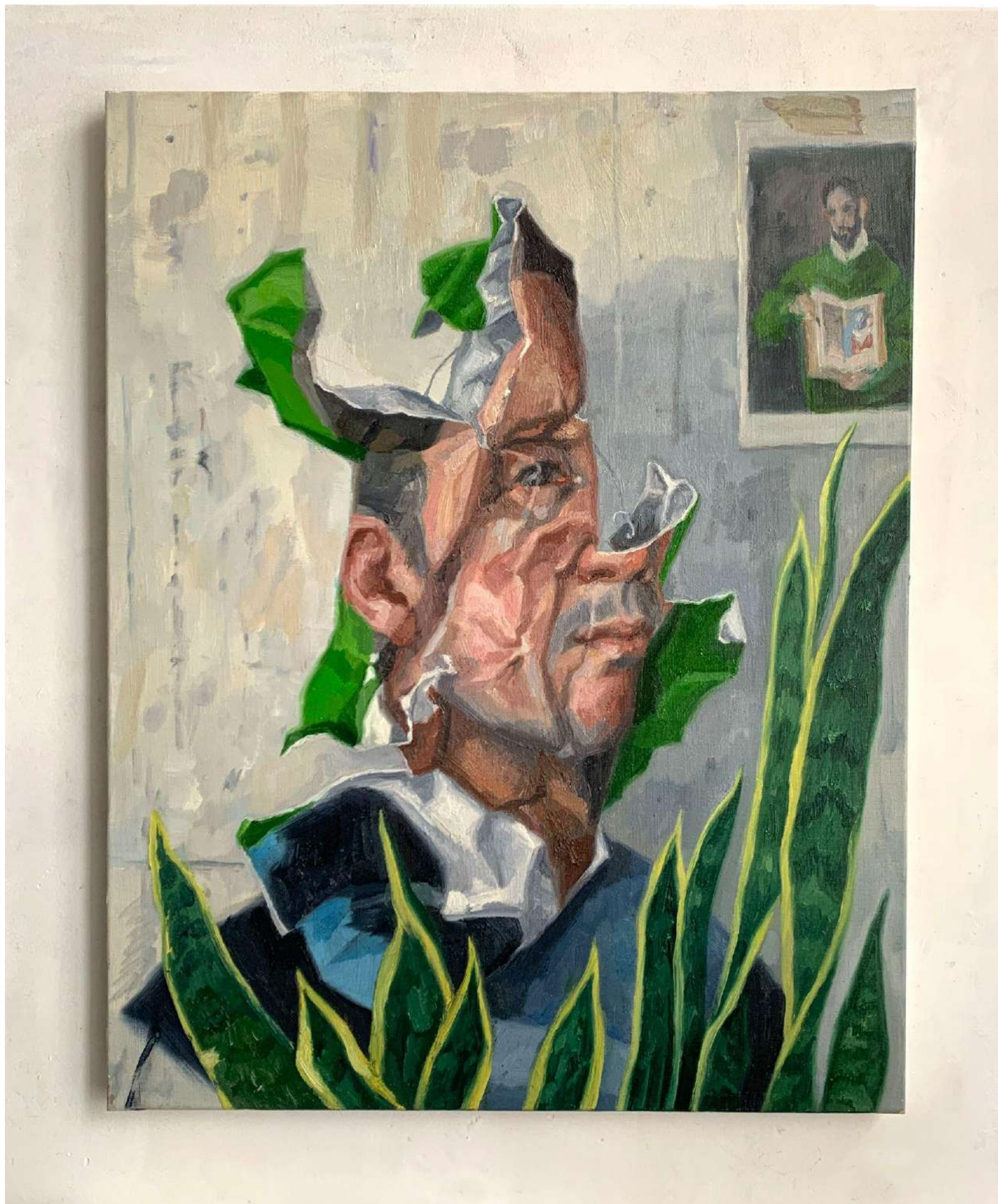




Profile study, 2023,
oil on aluminium,
57 x 61 x 10 cm



Self portrait study
(fragment), 2020,
oil on aluminium,
51 x 37 x 12 cm



Self portrait, 2020,
oil on linen,
61 x 50 cm (Maison
de Balzac, 2022)



Self portrait study, 2024,
oil on aluminium,
58 x 43 x 15 cm

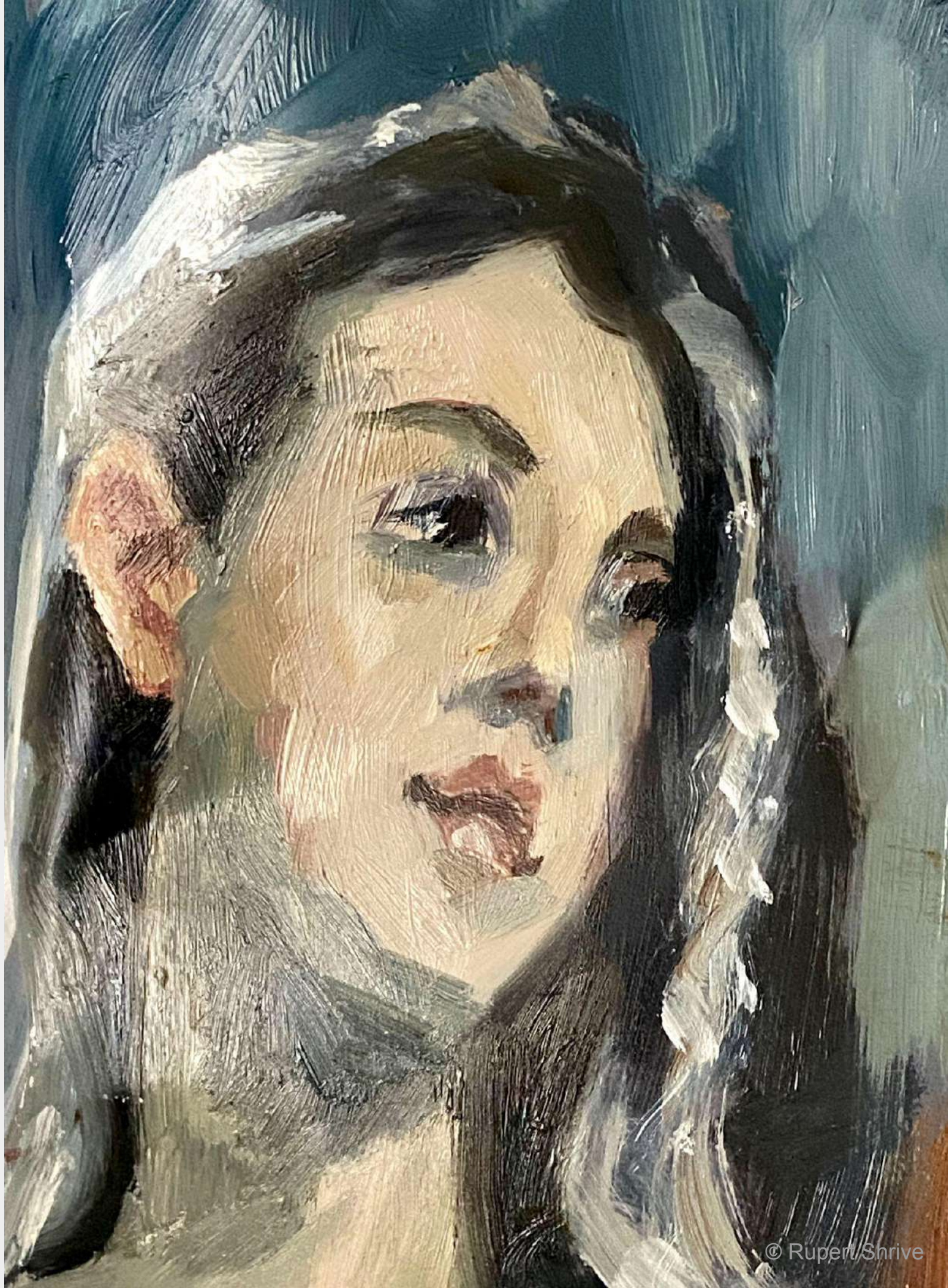




SDAV study, 2024,
oil on aluminium,
54 x 50 x 15 cm

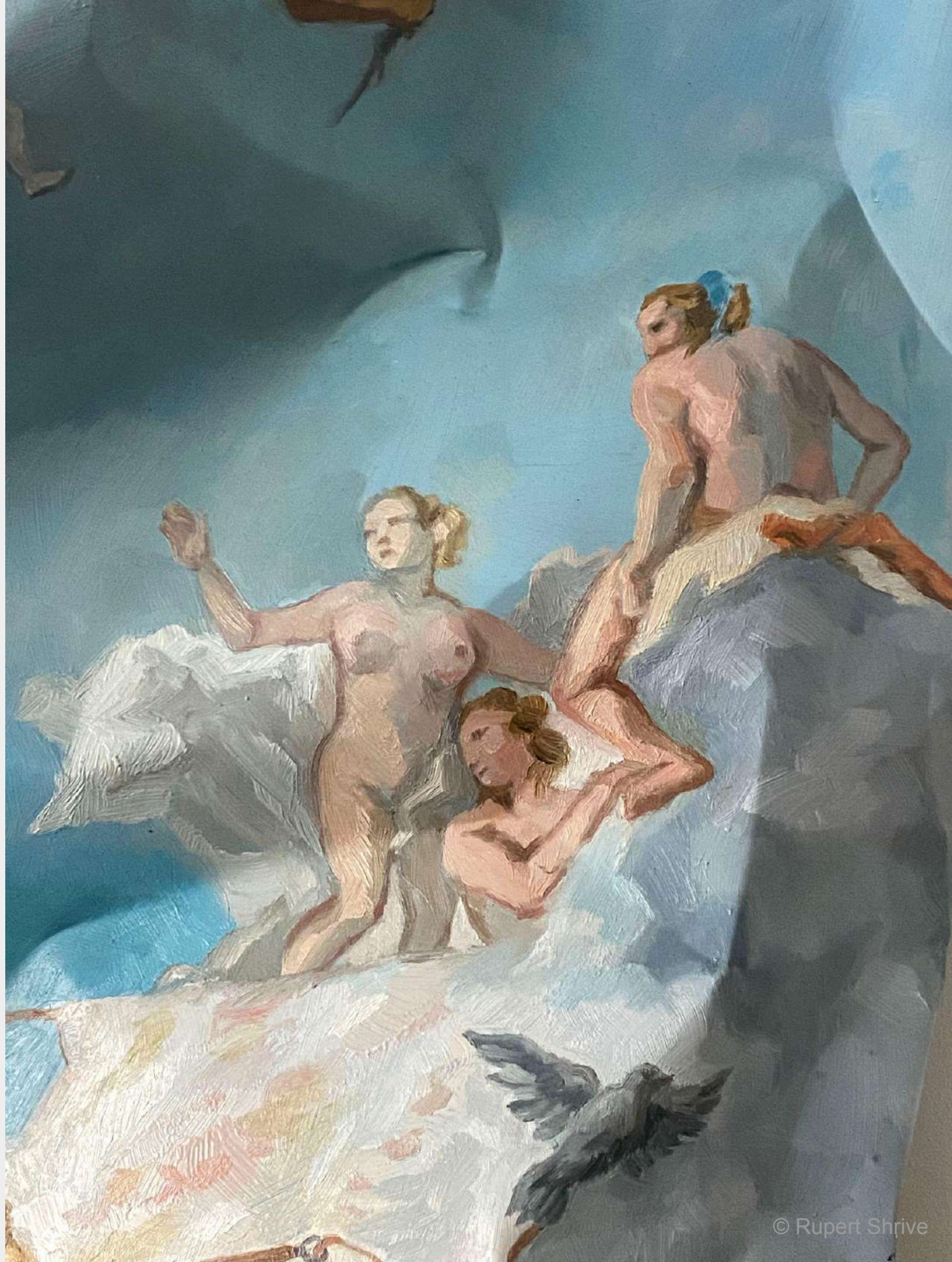


Annunciation study I
(after El Greco), 2024,
oil on aluminium,
116 x 62 x 13 cm

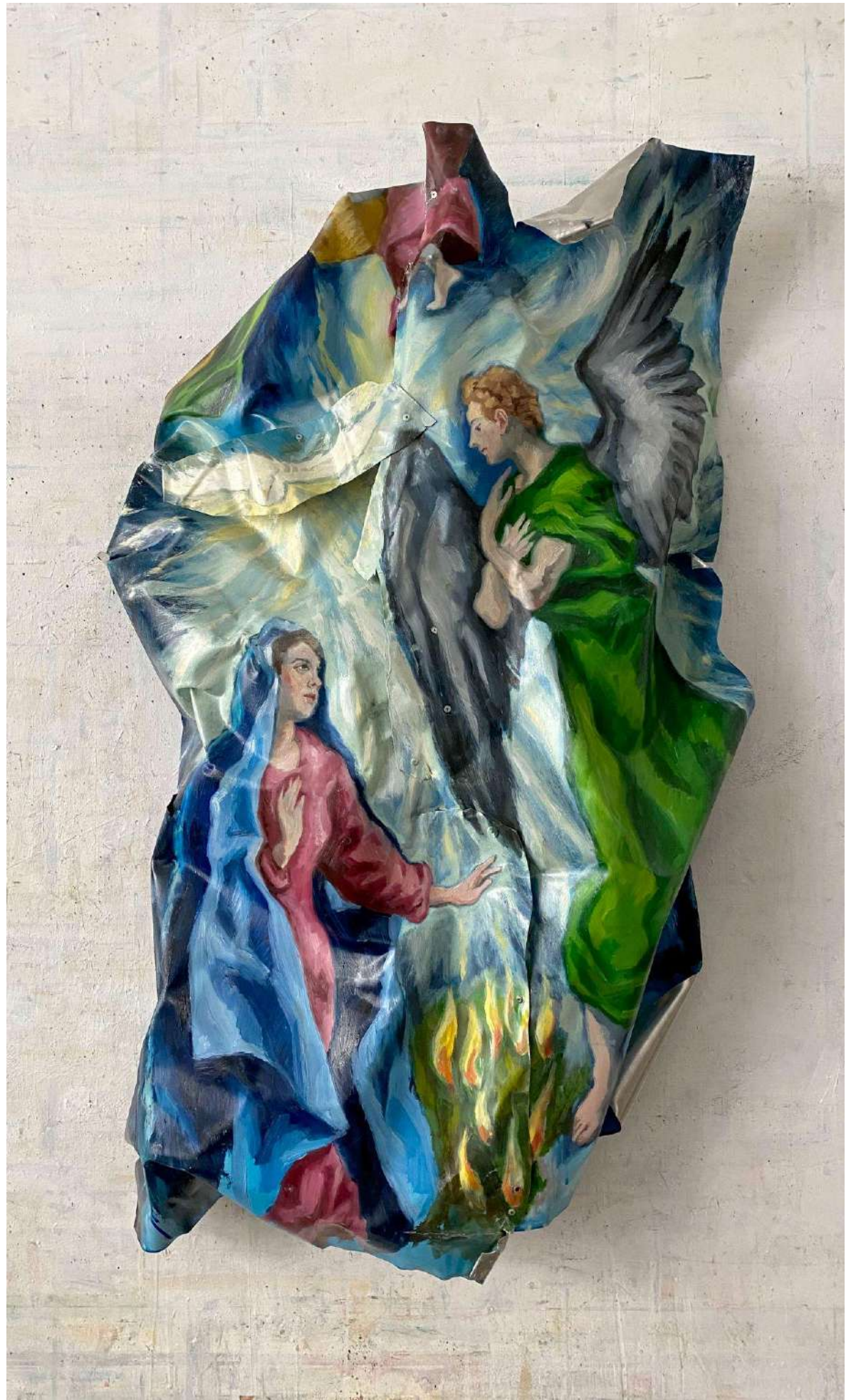




After Tiepolo (Triumph of Venus),
2024, oil on aluminium,
107 x 62 x 13 cm



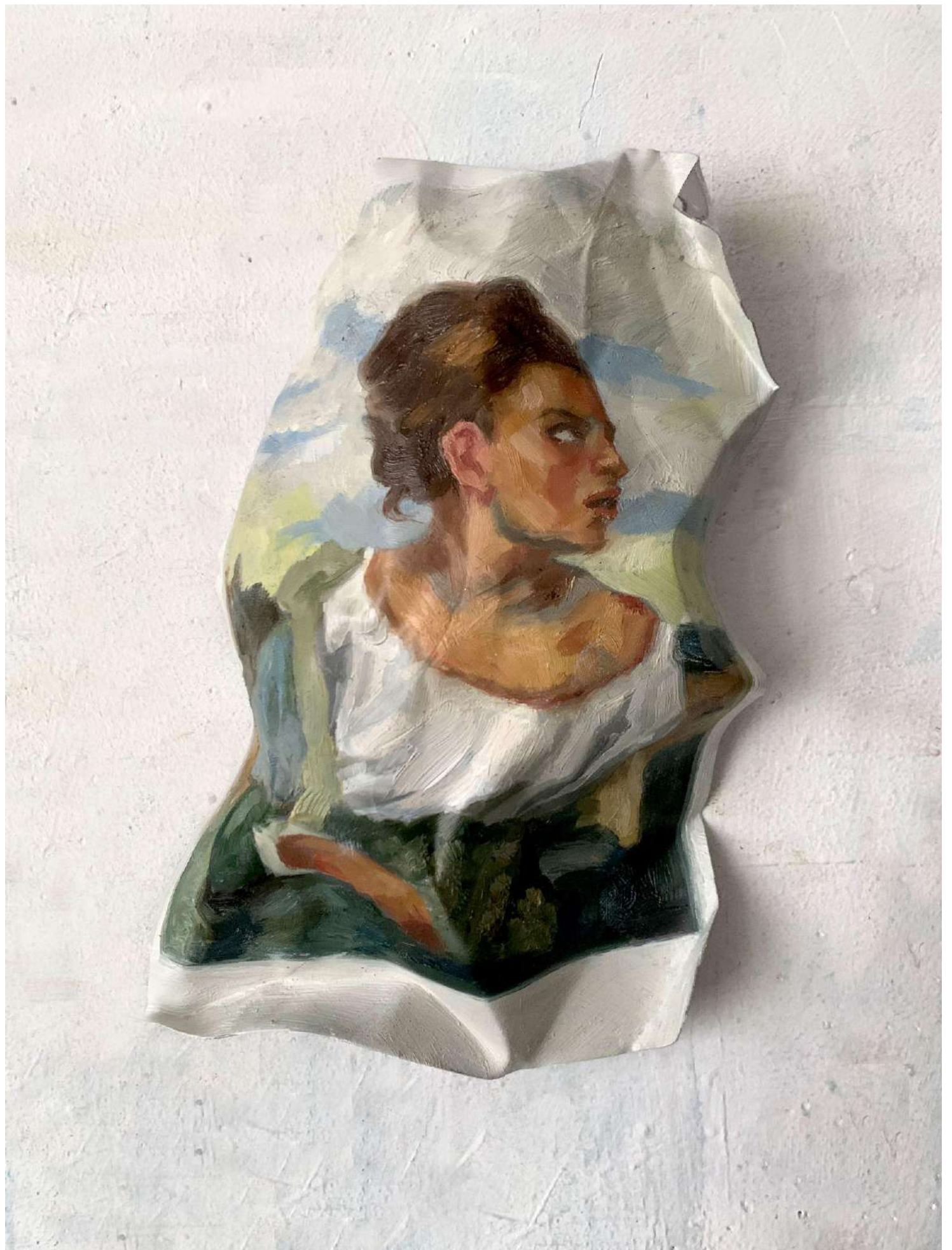
Annunciation study II
(after El Greco), 2024,
oil on aluminium,
125 x 80 x 18 cm



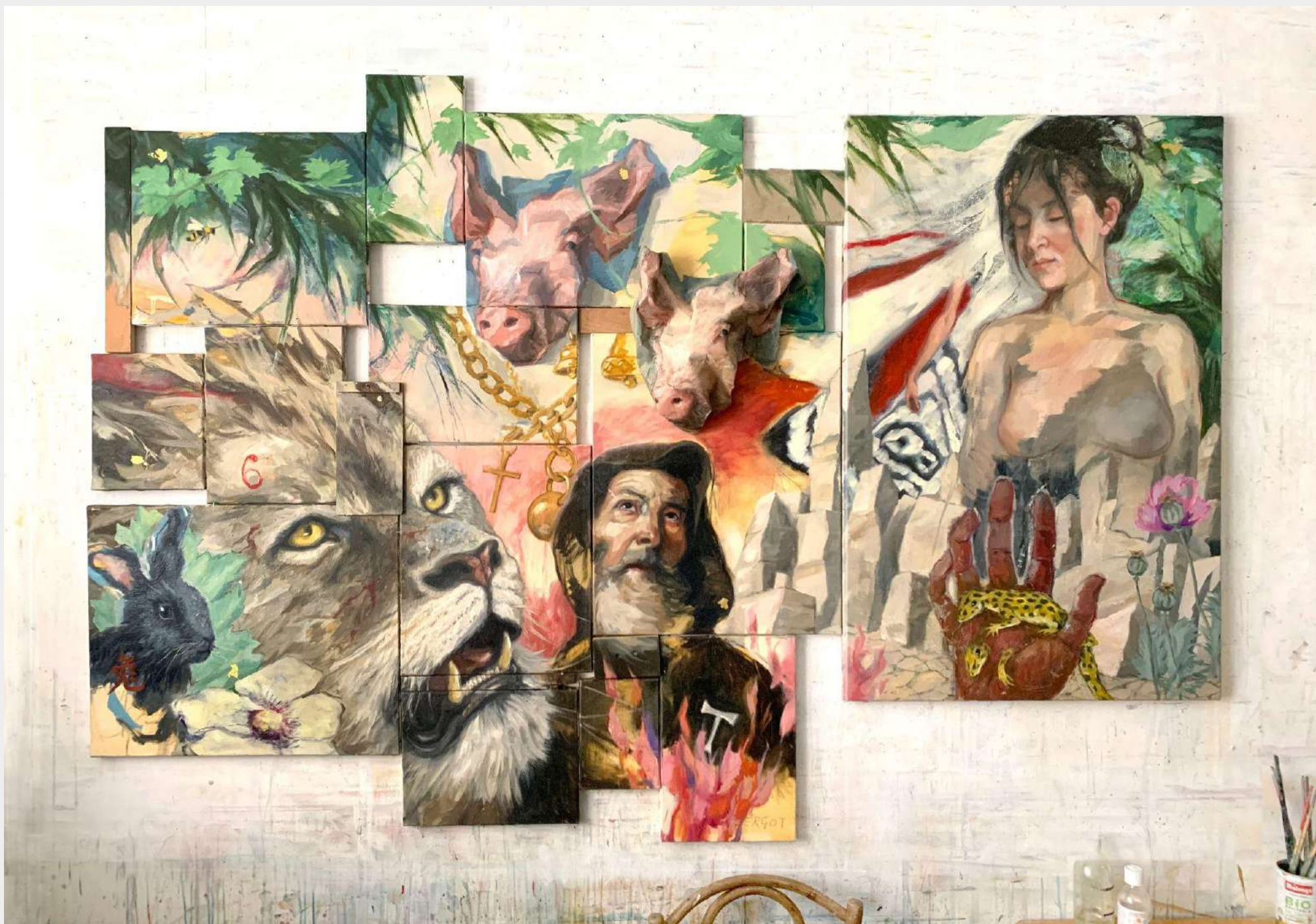


Winged Victory of
Samothrace, 2024, oil on
aluminium, 116 x 75 x 15 cm





Postcard study after Delacroix,
2024, oil on aluminium,
25 x 20 x 5 cm



Polyptych (after Flaubert) 2023,
oil on canvas, found objects, sculpture,
148 x 225 x 16 cm



Crimson composition, 2023,
oil on linen, 81 x 105 cm



Napier Railton, 2023, oil on
linen, 55 x 57 cm



Infinity triptych, 2023,
oil on linen, 41 x 99 cm



Infinity triptych, other arrangements.



Flaubert's parrot, 2024,
oil on aluminium,
45 x 29 x 10 cm



Blue and Gold Macaw,
2024, oil on aluminium,
54 x 51 x 9 cm





Red Fox, 2024,
oil on aluminium,
41 x 33 x 9 cm



Lion, 2020, acrylic on kraft
paper, polyurethane shell,
49 x 48 x 15 cm



Year of the Dragon (after Dürer) 2024,
oil on aluminium, 57 x 85 x 10 cm



Balzac, on the road, Paris to Tours 2023,
Photo S. D'Ayala Valva

Galerie Hoang Beli, 30 rue Chapon, Paris, 73003

'SPEAKING VOLUMES'

(from *Painting into Sculpture*) an exhibition by Rupert Shrive

16 May - 13 June 2024

(private view, Wednesday 15 May)

**"Chance and accident are the most fertile things
at any artist's disposal."**

Francis Bacon's words provide the perfect introduction to British artist Rupert Shrive's much-anticipated solo exhibition, *Speaking Volumes*, hosted by Galerie Hoang Beli in the Marais district of Paris. As a student of Fine Art at London's St Martin's School of Art in the 1980s, Shrive crossed paths with Bacon, a regular in Soho's infamous bars. Bacon's words preempted what would become the future modus operandi for Shrive's ambitious creations.

Speaking Volumes marks a return to the artist's well-known 3-dimensional 'crushed' paintings after a decade-long hiatus during which he focused on 2-dimensional painting, culminating in a celebrated museum show at the Maison de Balzac, Paris in 2022. Shrive continues his exploration at Galerie Hoang Beli presenting a series of 20 pieces - portraits, homages and multi-element polyptychs, many of which display his striking invention of crushing 'finished' paintings into jagged bas-relief forms - transforming his work into sculpture through an aggressive act at odds with the beauty of his painting.

The range of work is cohesive and varied, spreading organically over the gallery walls - with sculptures incorporated within compositions or hung alongside, mirroring their ekphrastic painted depictions.

Shrive's homages to early masters, including El Greco, Manet and Tiepolo are central to *Speaking Volumes*; he is particularly marked by El Greco whom he studied in depth during years spent living in Spain. Shrive's sculptural play on painting's 3-dimensional illusion points directly to his predecessor, whose visionary, flickering figures demonstrate a splintering of form and mannerist twisting (as if they are painted in the round), that anticipated and influenced Picasso and cubism.

Shrive's own 'cubism' is found in the edges and folds of his crushed, bent aluminium sheets, breaking both the image and the flat picture plane into multiple facets - it's as if he's holding a mirror to cubism - whereby, instead of painting many different viewpoints onto one plane, he creates many different viewpoints *from* one plane.

When Bacon and Giacometti's biographer, Michael Peppiatt, interviewed Shrive in Paris in 2010, he described the portraits as "Very tender, sensitive things, as if you're peeling back the skin of appearance to show the strangeness of a human face and the head beneath. But it is not portraiture as we know it." There is a sophisticated complexity in the visual thinking, emanating from Shrive's Montmartre studio: he takes a bold leap from tradition to innovation, reevaluating ideas of portraiture and transforming painting beyond what is usually expected. These crushed images do indeed display the world 'not as we know it', but they also show a sensitivity that resists Shrive's destructive act.

Shrive's Museum show at Maison de Balzac (September-November 2022) concluded with an epic performance comprising a 3.5 m sculpture *Head of Balzac*, made in the crushed painting technique and mounted on wheels to be pushed over 200km on foot by the artist, in a 2 week pilgrimage from Paris to Tours. The sculpture is now installed at the Musée Balzac, Château de Saché.

A film of Shrive's performance by his collaborator Sebastiano D'Ayala Valva is in production.

For reference : [MOVING BALZAC \(Rupert Shrive expose La Peau de chagrin\). on Vimeo](#) and [Rupert Shrive VS Balzac](#)

Born in 1965 in Norfolk, England, Shrive studied painting at Norwich Art School, St Martins School of Art and The Slade, London.

His most recent exhibition was held in the historic French House, Soho, London July-September, 2023 (one of the exact spots where Shrive used to meet Bacon), 4 panels from which are currently on display at Paul Smith, London. He also exhibited with Paul Smith in Paris (2021).

His installation at the Courtauld East Wing, 2011-2012 was inspired by Goya's *The Sleep of Reason Breeds Monsters* etching and a monumental rendition of the Seven Deadly Sins was exhibited in the Grand Palais, Paris, 2011.

Shrive has exhibited widely in the UK, Europe and Hong Kong.

For further ref. Instagram rupert shrive and www.rupertshrive.com

Galerie Hoang Beli, Paris, was founded by young Hong Kong dealer John Hoang in 2023

*Francis Bacon's biographer Michael Peppiatt included his interview with Rupert Shrive in his recent book 'Interviews with artists 1966 to 2012' under the 'School of London' section.

[Interviews with Artists, 1966-2012 by Michael Peppiatt – review | Art and design books | The Guardian](#)

Kate McCrickard April 2024