

PIA MURPHY



LOOK WHAT I FOUND

NICHOLAS
THOMPSON
GALLERY

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2025

7 TO 24 MAY 2025

Inspired by the insatiable curiosity of childhood, ***Look What I Found*** is a series of nine oil paintings that navigate the space between abstraction and figuration—exploring colour, texture, and form.

Averse to rigid planning or predetermined outcomes, my process embraces uncertainty and engages with materials openly. It is within this indeterminate space that new visual languages can emerge and previously unarticulated knowledge may be revealed.

Imagination has long served as a source of comfort. Encountering Heinz Kohut's theory of the 'self-object,' I realised that creativity had functioned as such an object from a young age. In this context, painting becomes a reparative act—one that facilitates self-cohesion and nurtures a sense of belonging.

Pia Murphy, 2025

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Brain storms

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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Indeterminate growth

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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Night garden

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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Self object

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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Sudden density

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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The value of uncertainty

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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These days

2025

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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Unfamiliar hilarity

2024

oil and sand on canvas

138 x 102 cm

\$5,500

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Un chien

2025

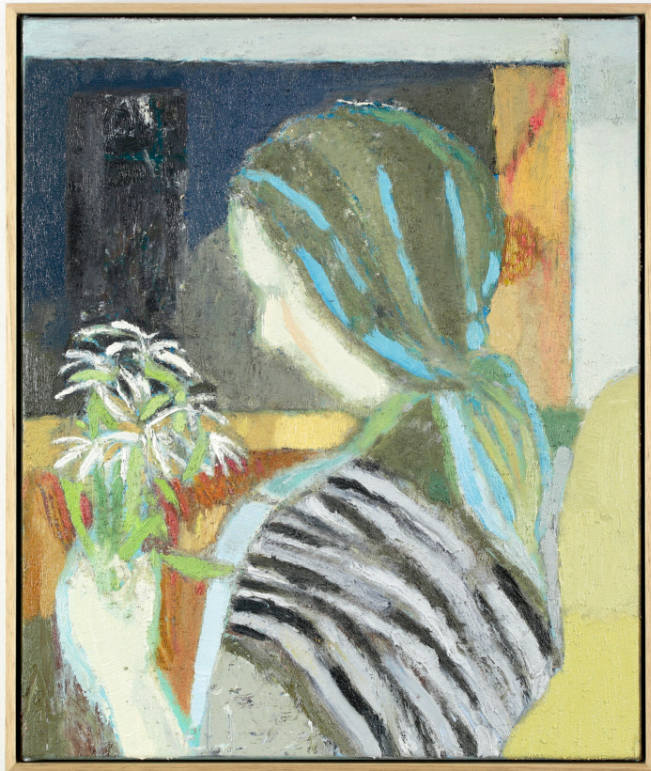
oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

\$2,600

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PIA MURPHY

Look at the flowers

2024

oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

\$2,900



PIA MURPHY

Sings it's songs into the world

2024

oil and sand on canvas

55 x 46 cm

\$2,900

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THOMPSON
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PIA MURPHY

The small things

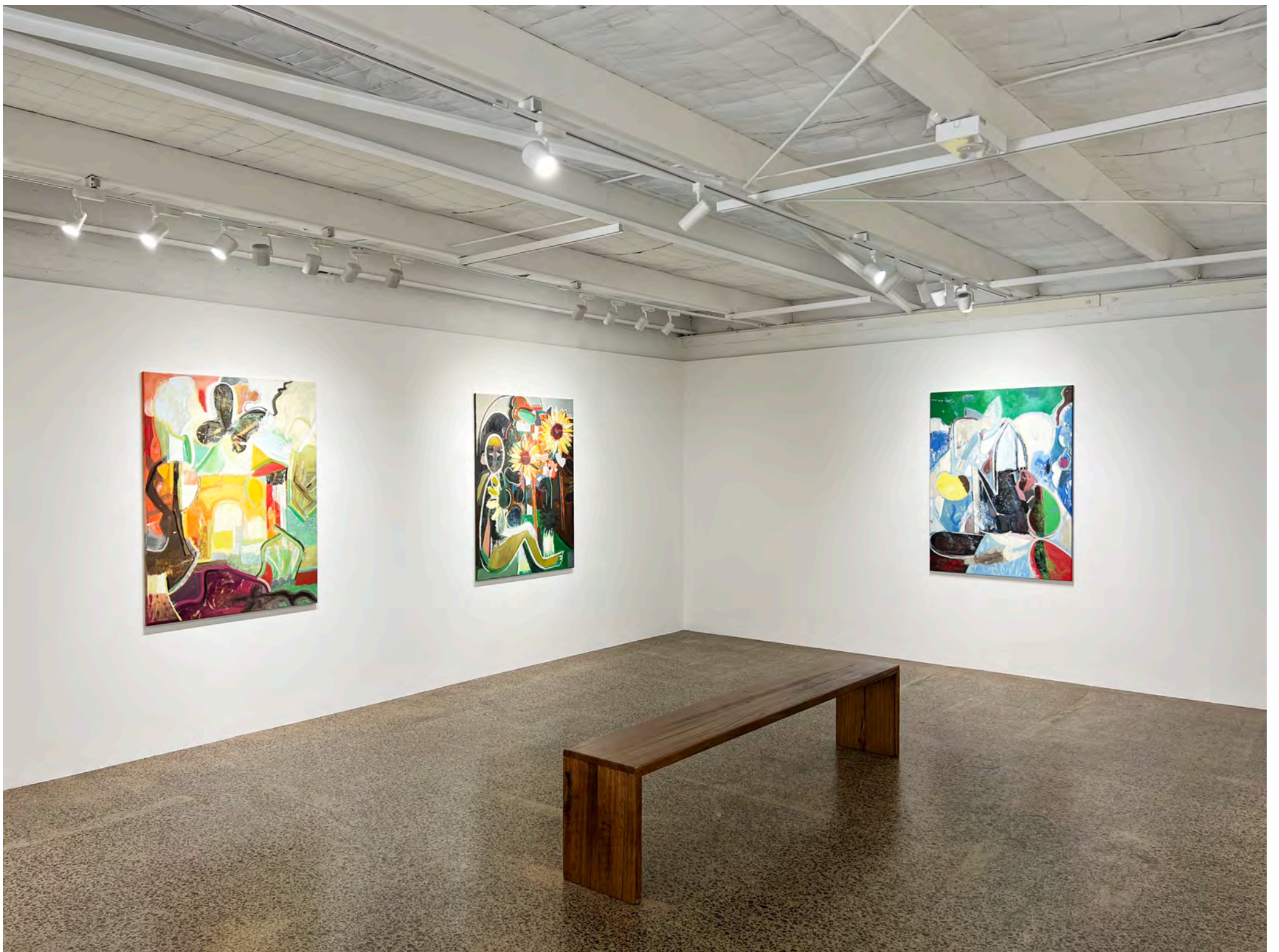
2024

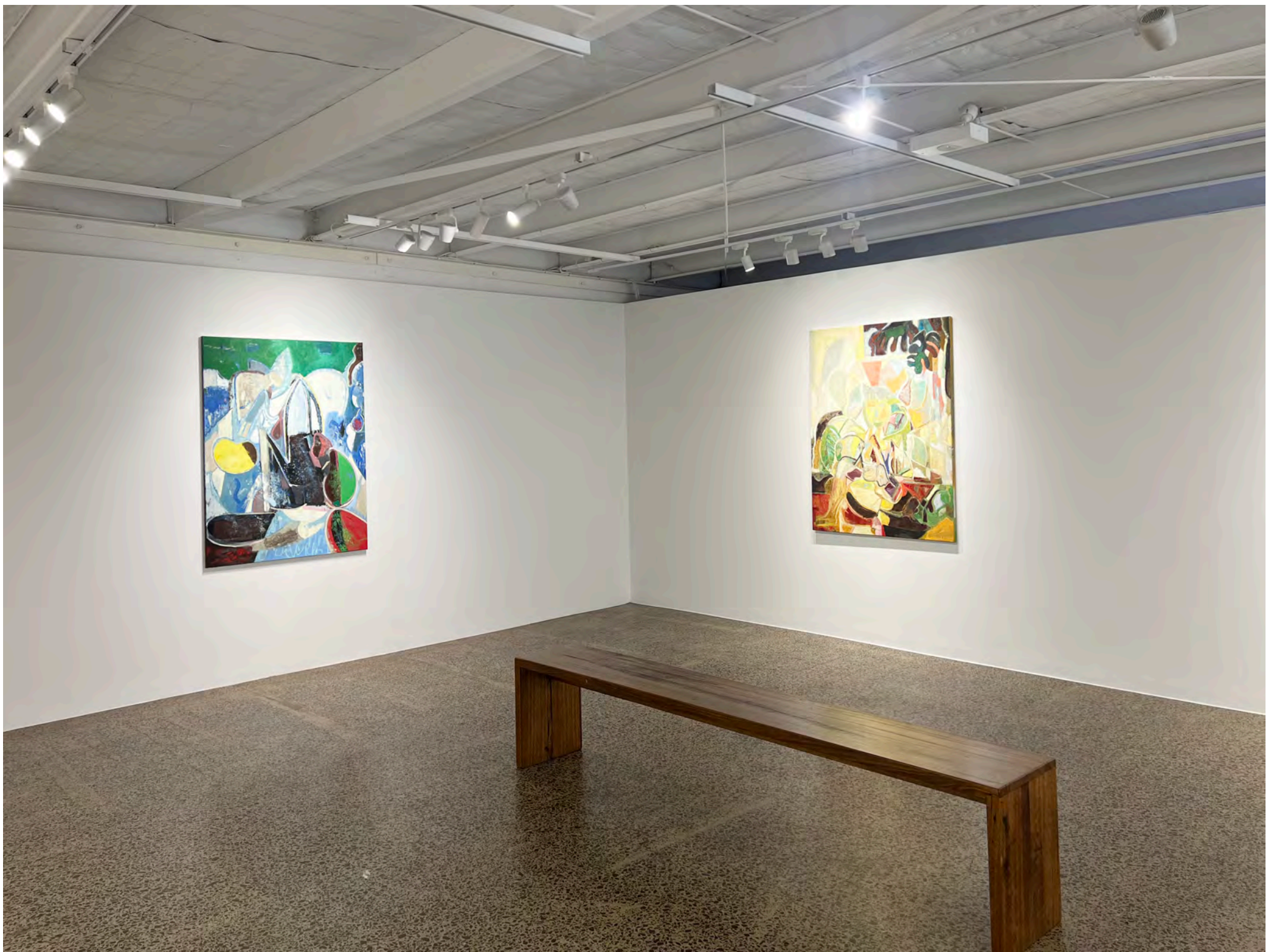
oil and sand on canvas

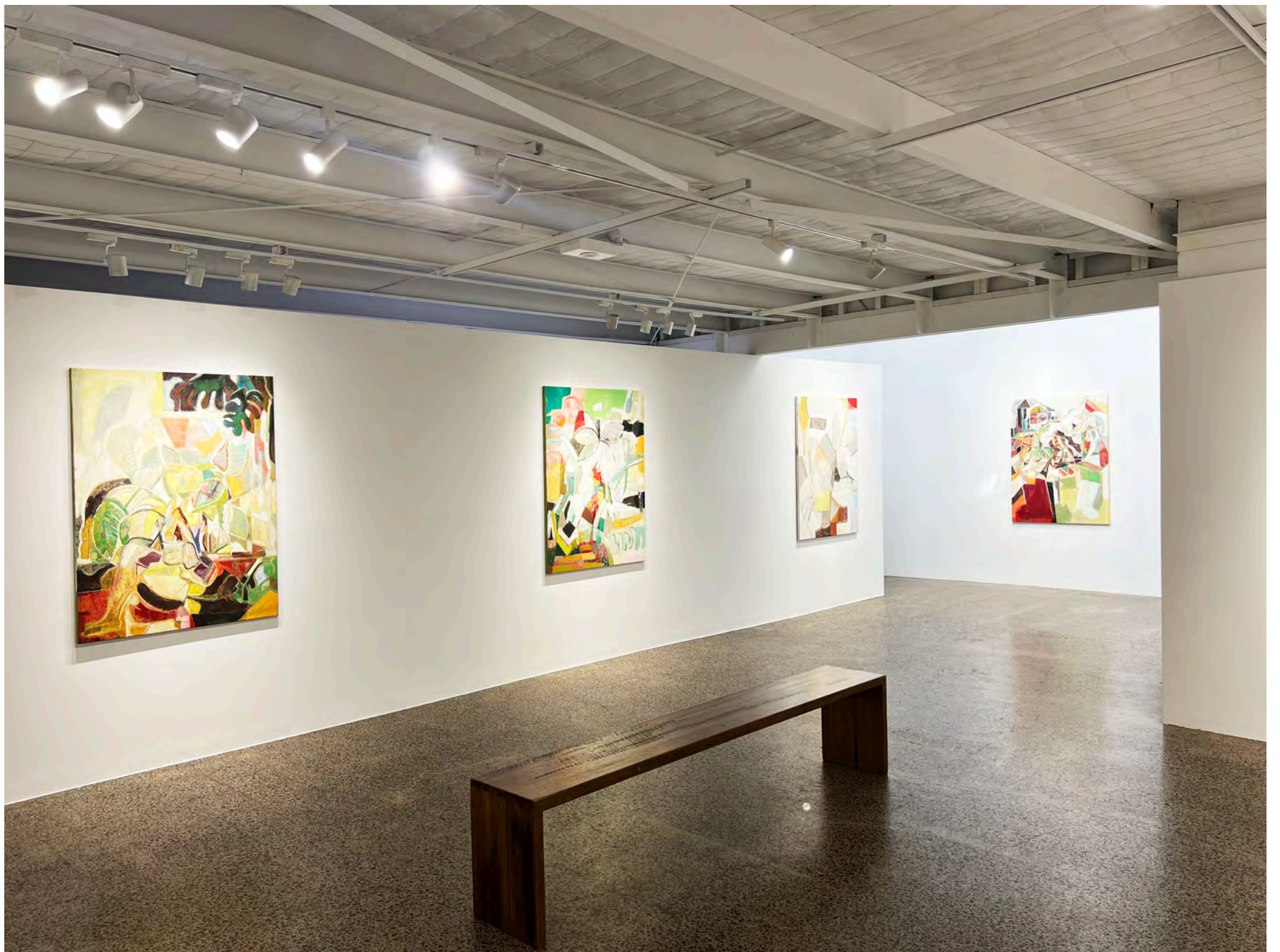
55 x 46 cm

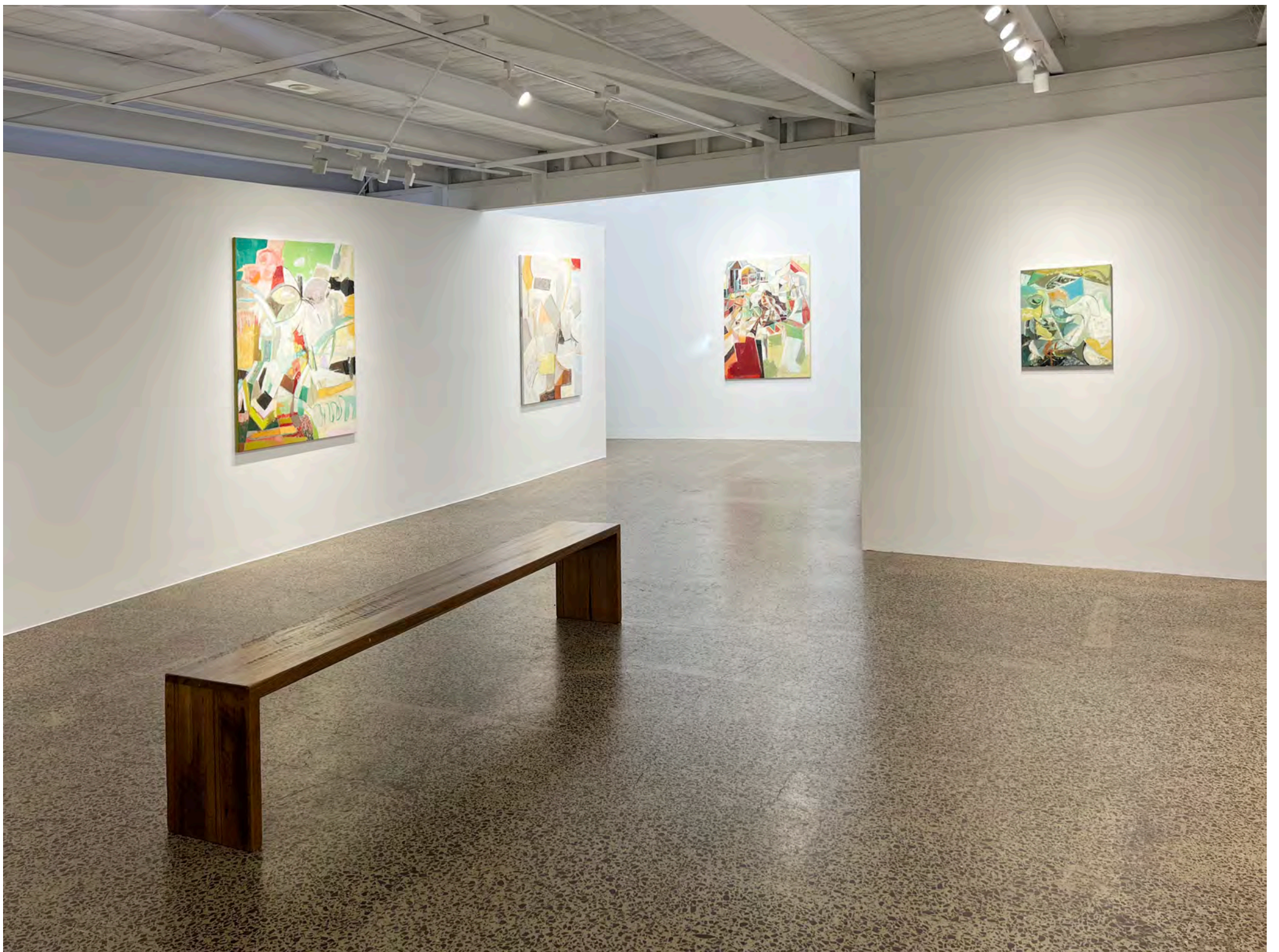
\$2,900

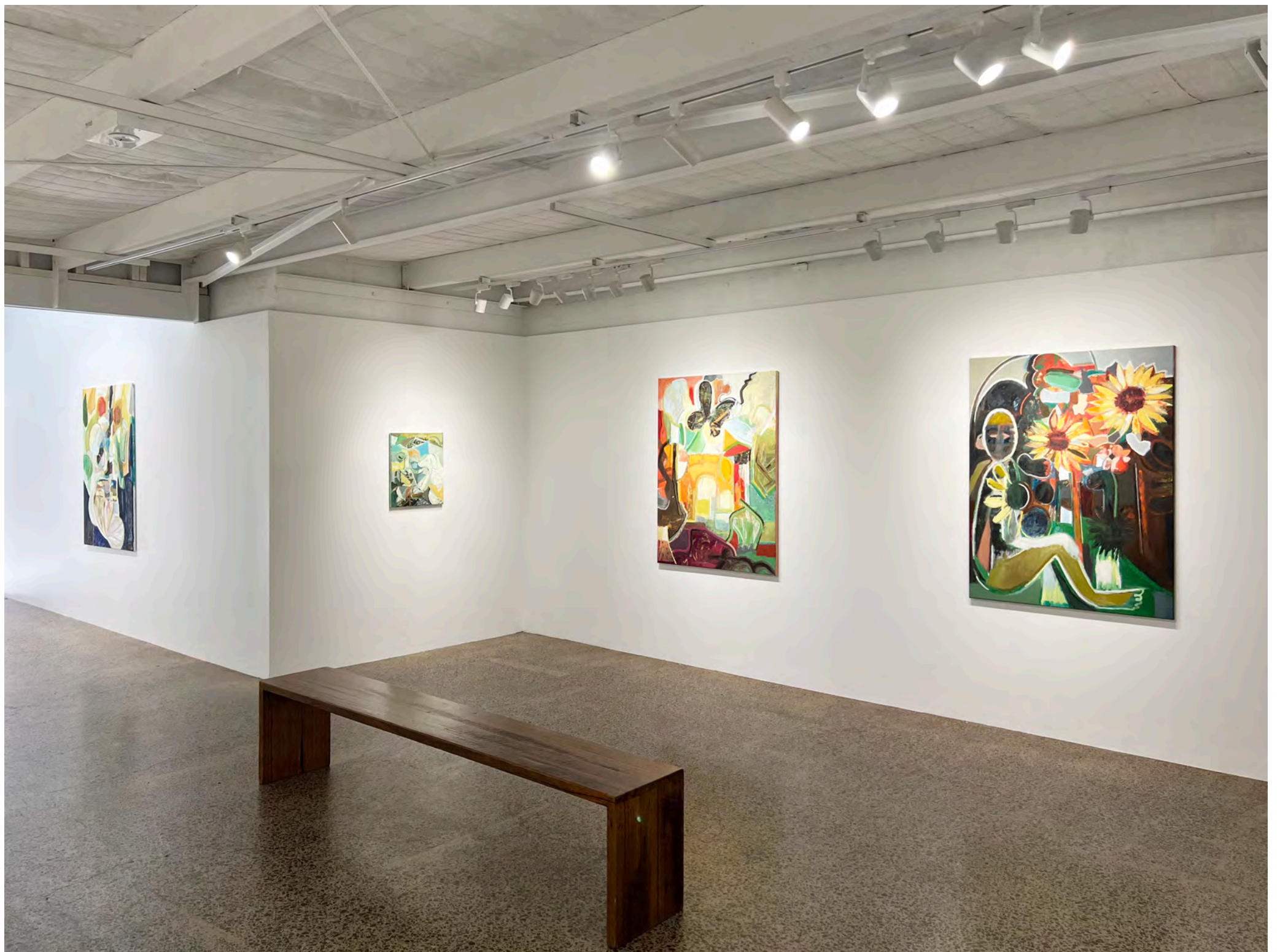


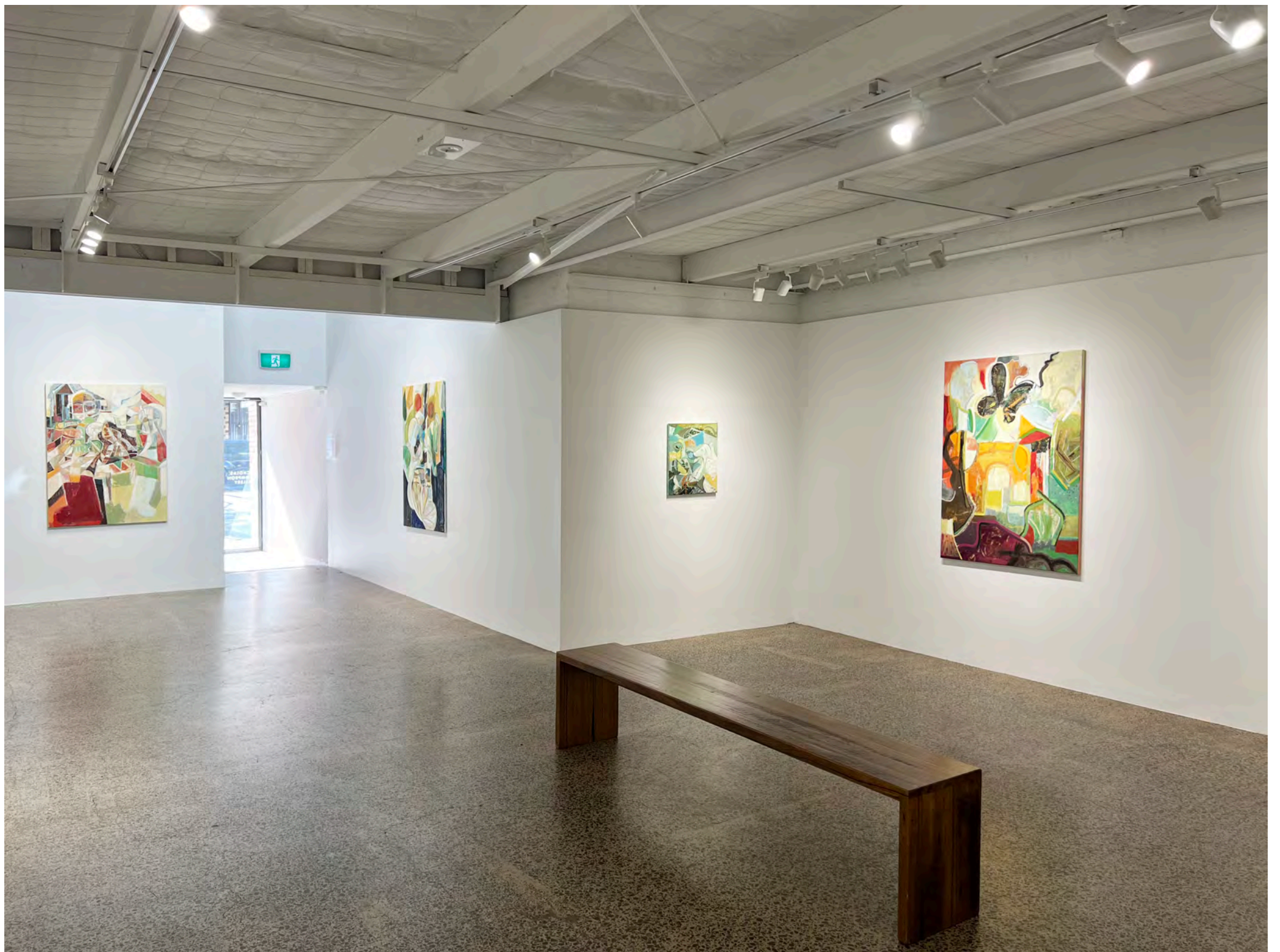






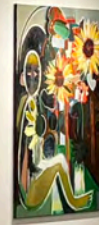














Pia Murphy is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (2004) and has held solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney since 2010. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at significant Australian galleries including CAVES, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Brighton, Arts Project Australia, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, St Helliers St. Gallery, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Geelong Regional Gallery, Hobson's Bay City Council Gallery and internationally in Spain.

Pia Murphy has been awarded a Visual Arts Fellowship from the Edward F. Albee Foundation (2025) and received the National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association Encouragement Award (2004). Pia has been featured in Art Guide Australia, the Age, the Journal of Australian Ceramics and Broadsheet. Murphy's work is held in private collections in Australia, USA, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Germany.



PIA MURPHY

EDUCATION

2004 Bachelor of Fine Art, Printmaking, Victorian College of the Arts

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Look What I Found*, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2024 *Florescence*, EDWINA CORLETTE, Brisbane
Garden Gravity, Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2022 *Eternal Springtime*, Michael Reid Northern Beaches, Sydney
- 2018 *Twin Flames*, LON Gallery, Melbourne
- 2017 *A great big shape and a smaller one*, Caves Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 *Land*, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2013 *Saccade*, Pieces of Eight Gallery, Melbourne
- 2012 *Woolgather*, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, Melbourne
New work, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
- 2011 *Gorman presents - Pia Murphy*, Melbourne
- 2010 *New work*, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Quarantine Art Fair*, Portsea with Nicholas Thompson Gallery
- 2024 *How to Swim*, curated by Sally Anderson, EDWINA CORLETTE, Brisbane
- 2023 *Small Works*, Edwina Corlette Gallery
The Birregurra Art Show, Birregurra, Victoria
Sunday Salon showroom, Melbourne
- 2022 *Softly, Softly*, Curated by Amber Cresswell Bell, Michael Reid Northern Beaches, Sydney
- 2021 *The Birregurra Art Show*, Birregurra, Victoria
A Square of Sunlight, Curated by Helen Gory, Backwoods Gallery, Melbourne
The show must go on, Sunday Salon, Melbourne
Brindar con extranos, Galeria Trinta, Spain

- 2019 **Spring-Time #4**, Lamington Drive, Melbourne
- 2018 **Spring 1883** CAVES inc. Melbourne
The Horse, Curated by Noel McKenna, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney
The Birregurra Art Show, Birregurra Hall, Victoria
- 2017 **Not Fair**, Melbourne
Last Drinks, LON Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 **Concrete Agenda**, Curated by Tai Snaith, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
The ordinary instant, Over 50 works by Clarice Beckett alongside Seven contemporary women artists, Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre, Brighton
Faux Studio, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
group show: second iteration, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne
- 2015 *group show*, Chapterhouse Lane Gallery, Melbourne
Shots off the dices - an exhibition of Australian and international artists
 Curated by Rhys Lee. Nicholas Thompson Gallery, Melbourne
Faux Fair, C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
- 2014 **Faux Museum**, Curated by Anusha Kenny, Melissa Loughnan, Kate Tucker and Ace Wagstaff. C3 Contemporary Art Space, Melbourne
- 2012 **Paintings of Steves' Paintings**, St. Heliers St. Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 **1.85 Million: Art Peripheries**, Curated by Joseph Allen Shea
 Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
Scarecrow, Curated by Rhys Lee including Rhys Lee, Pia Murphy, Heidi Yardley, Rob McHaffie, Daniel Price and Matt Hinkley. Karen Woodbury Gallery, Melbourne
- 2010 **Exquisite Palette Show**, St. Luke. Artist Colourmen, Melbourne
- 2008 **Exquisite Palette Show**, St. Luke. Artist Colourmen, Melbourne
- 2007 **50 - a print exchange portfolio**, Curated by Rona Green. Geelong Regional Gallery
- 2004 **Nguyen Van Cuong Printmaking Project**, Hobson's Bay City Council Gallery, Melbourne

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2024 Visual Arts Fellowship from the Edward F. Albee Foundation

2004 National Gallery of Victoria Women's Association Encouragement Award

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 'Pia Murphy – Preview' by Sally Gearon, Art Guide Australia, May/June
- 2024 Mind Head magazine feature issue 3.
- 2023 Miasma magazine feature issue 1.
- 2022 Hunter & Folk feature by Holly Terry
- 2016 Artists collaborate without talking - Art Guide Australia, Andrew Stephens,
December 2016
- 2014 Pia Murphy + Rhys Lee - Journal of Australian Ceramics volume 53
issue 3, By Alicia Sciberras November 2014
- 2012 A new chapter - Broadsheet, May 22, 2012
- 2011 Ceramic goodness - Frankie Magazine, November 24, 2011
Scarecrow - Dan Rule. The Age, Saturday June 17, 2011

COLLECTIONS

Private collections Australia, USA, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany.