

G A L E R I E

Droste

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NIELS SHOE MEULMAN | UNIDENTICALS AND REVERSE PAINTINGS
20th of May - 15th of July 2017

Niels Shoe Meulman – UNIDENTICALS AND REVERSE PAINTINGS

First tagging his soon to be hallmark and middle name *Shoe* in the age of twelve Niels Meulman, born in 1967 in Amsterdam, became acquainted with New York graffiti legends such as Dondi White, Rammellzee and Keith Haring in the 1980s and quickly became a legend himself strongly influencing the European graffiti style. Educated by graphic artist Anthon Beeke in the 1990s he combined aspects of classic calligraphy with graffiti to develop what he proclaimed as *Calligraffiti* in 2007.

His series of diptychs called *Unidenticals* displays different subjects, which are duplicated by their apparent copies. Identical to the limits of artisanal accuracy they force the audiences to look closer. Aware of the fact that most people do not take the effort to have a decent look at abstract art they are now invited to search for the differences and therefore go deeper into the issue to find ontological answers to the attribution of original and copy. Whether we perceive the *Unidenticals* as two paintings standing next to each other or as a single unit, the philosophy of dichotomy affects every aspect of life and existence as everything has two sides.

Shoes *Reverse Paintings* even objectify this idea of reversal as they are made of windscreens allowing seeing both sides of the painting. Reminding of ancient reverse glass painting this idea is not exactly new – but that doesn't cause any conflict to Shoe, who states that originality is overrated; everything has been done in some way anyway. The real innovation lies in the painting style: Through repetition the once figurative painting became gestural and in consequence organic.

Therefore we can understand the title *Reverse Paintings* in both ways, related to the two-sided objects themselves and to their contextual message manifested in the style of the paintings displaying herbal panoramas through the glass and more genuine graffiti on the rear sides.

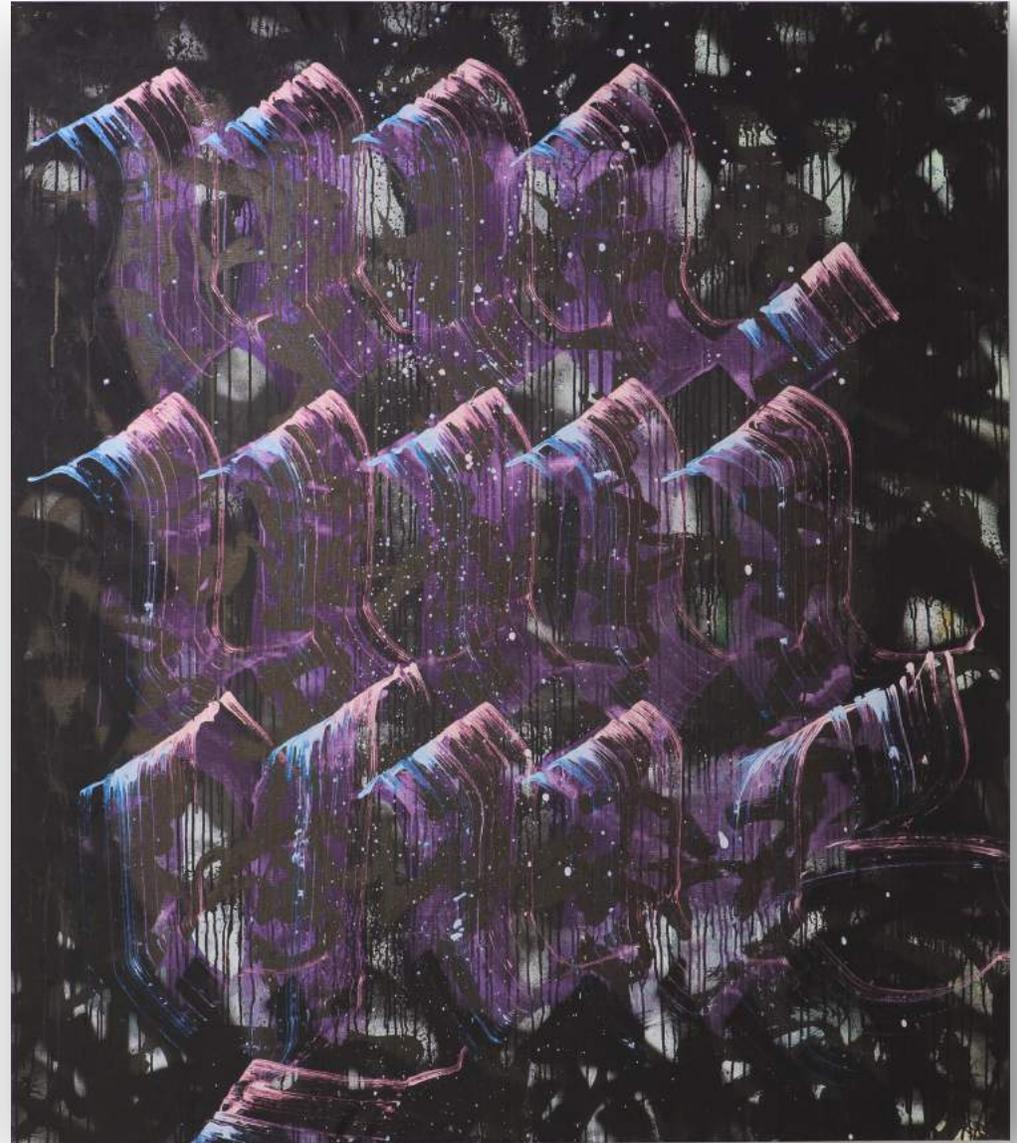
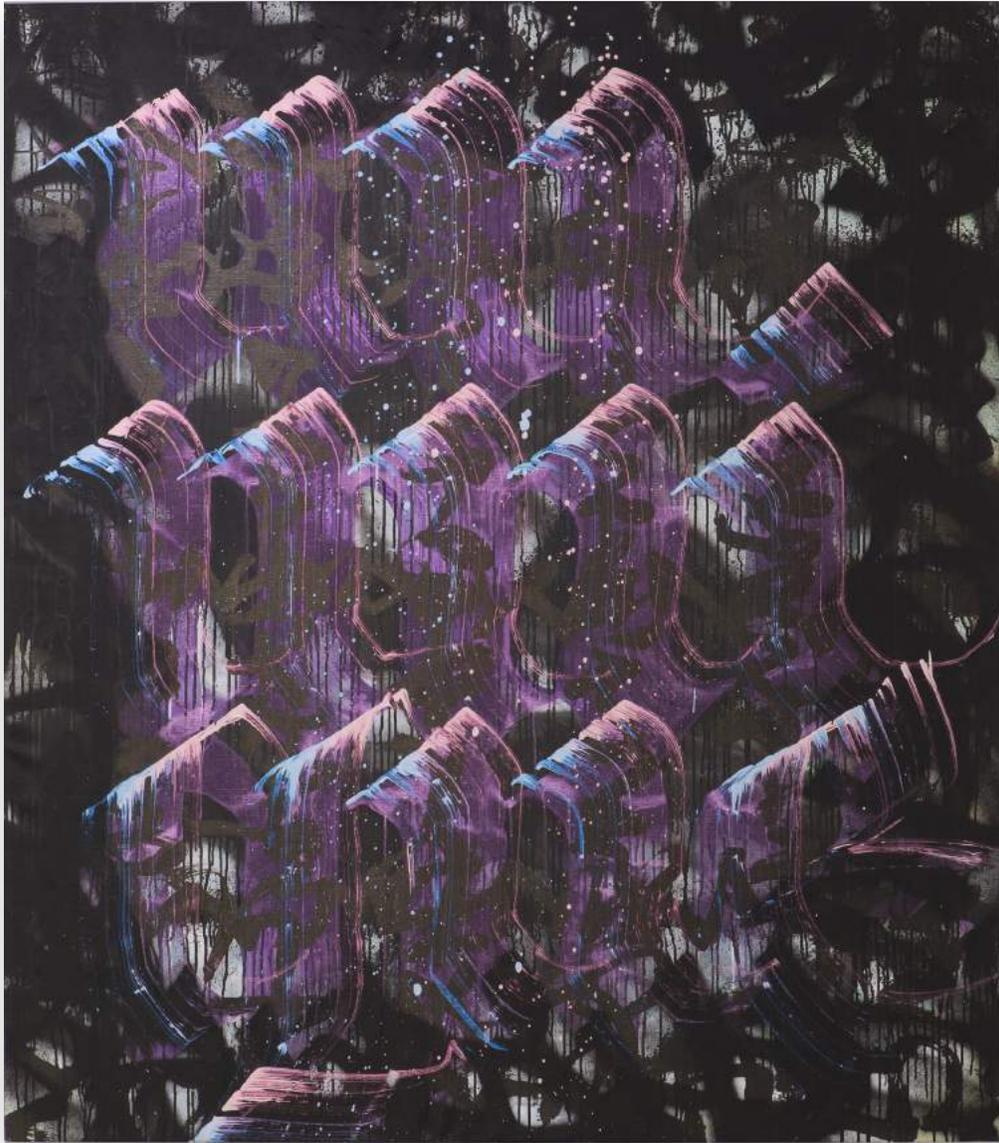
The reverse-painted windscreens share the same typical color scheme as the paired *Unidenticals*. His preference for the unpigmented interference colors with their pearly gloss effect changing depending on the viewer's perspective, as well as the generous use of black, lead to very subtle paintings which transport the myth of the insight his analysis of written language brought to light.

The exhibition catalogue contains further information, as well as thoughts and poetries of Niels Shoe Meulman himself. It can be purchased at the Galerie Droste.

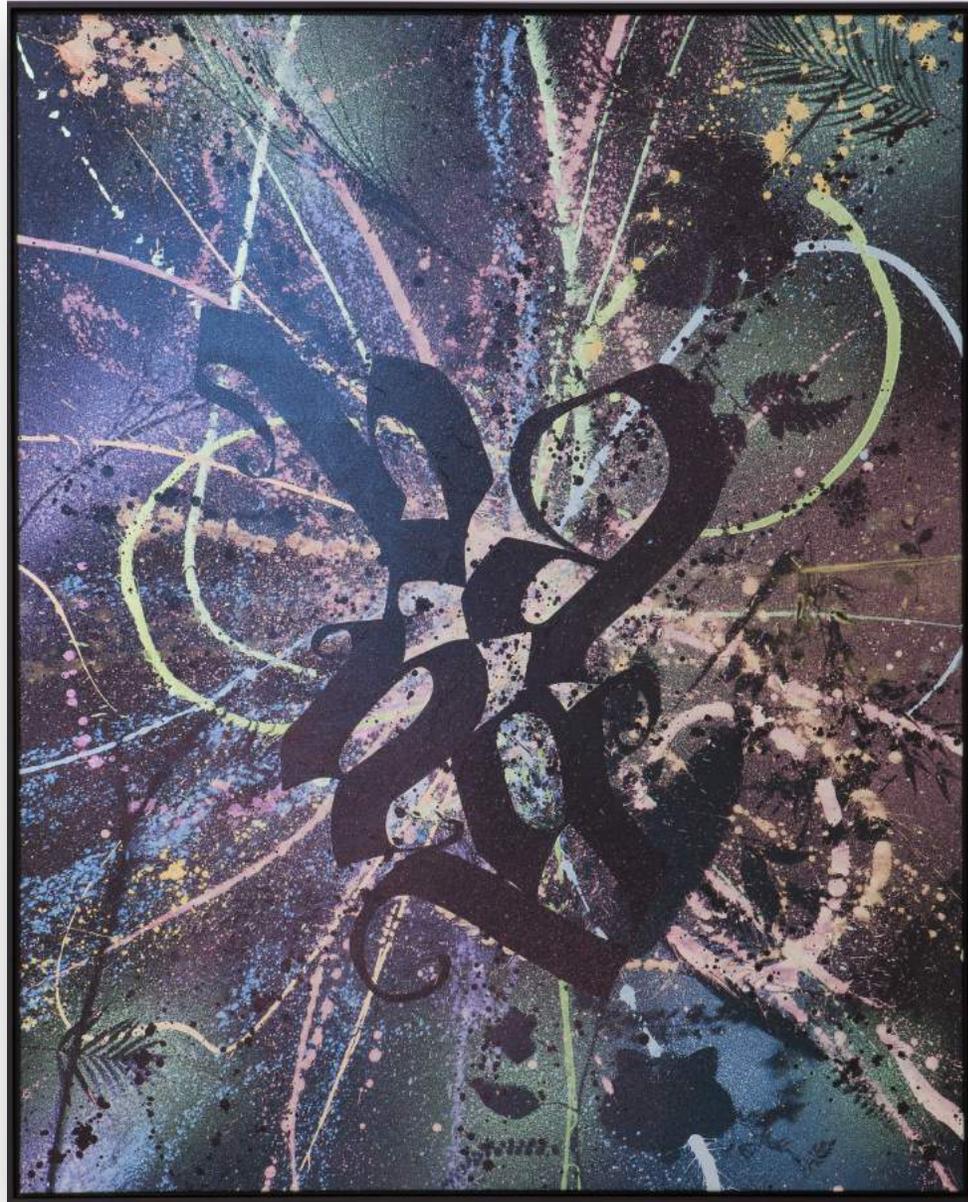




INSIGNIFICANT AND UNINSIGNIFICANT, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on cotton, 193 x 153 cm (each)

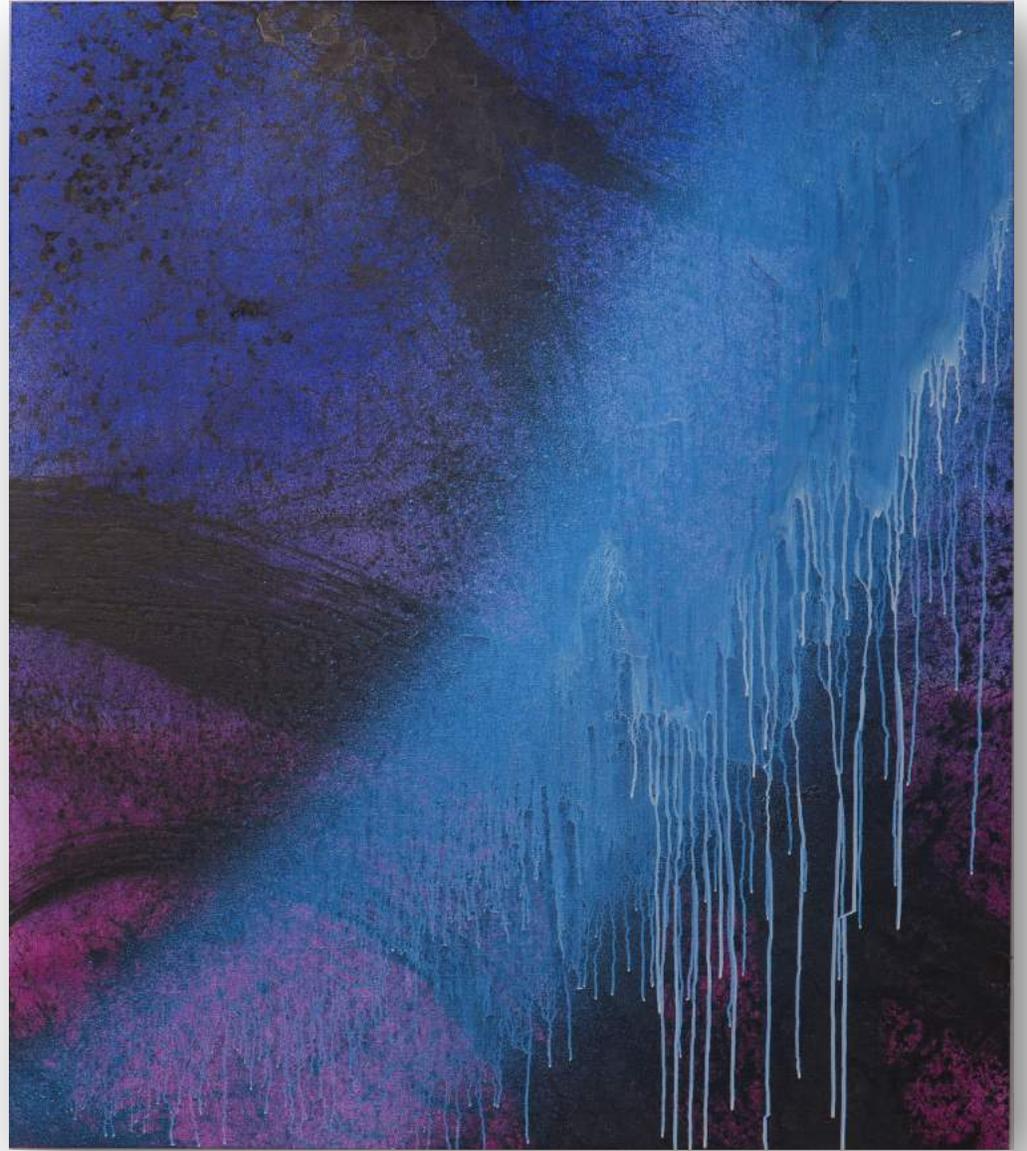
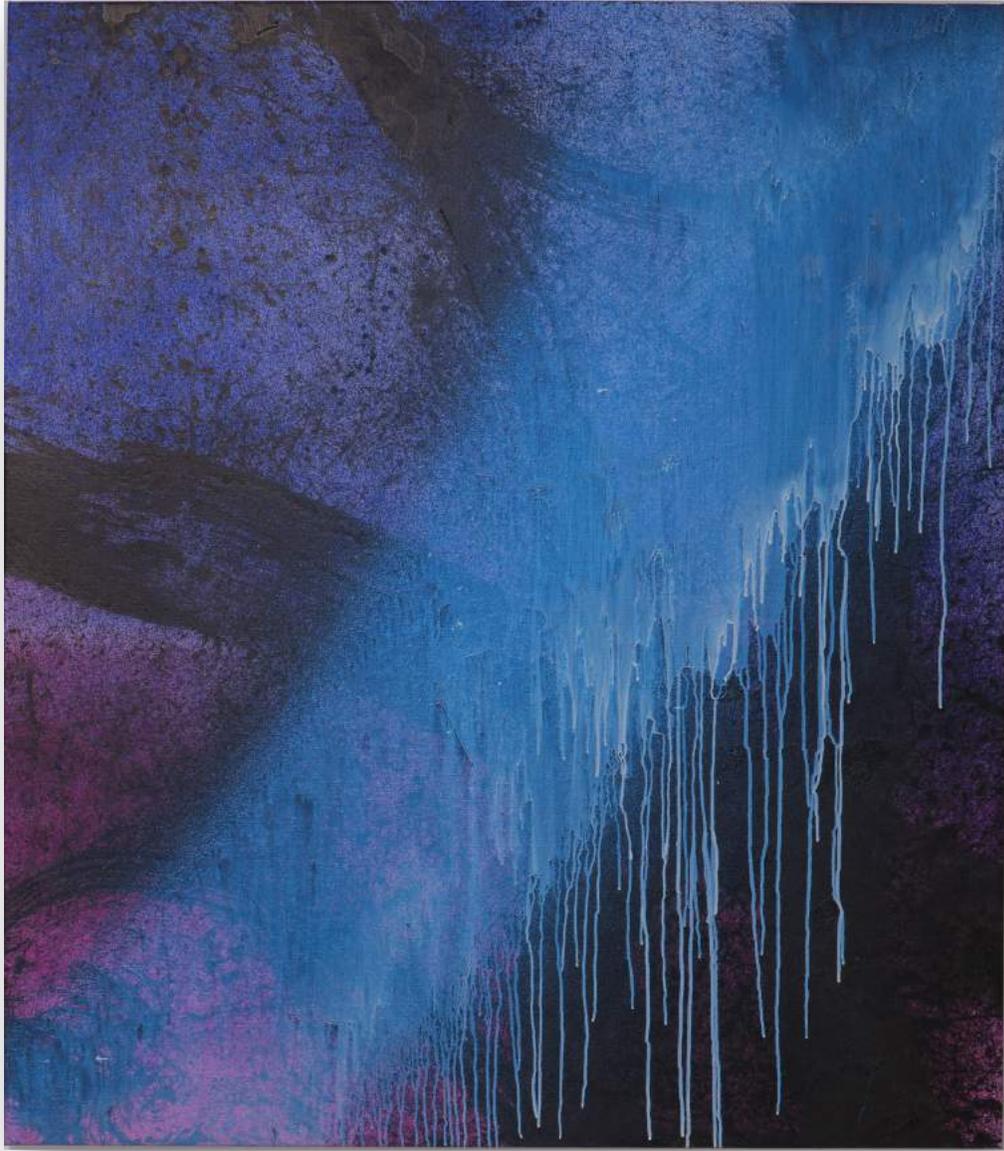


UNUNIQUE, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 166 x 143 cm (each)



BIG BANG AND LITTLE BANG, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 175 x 139 cm (each)



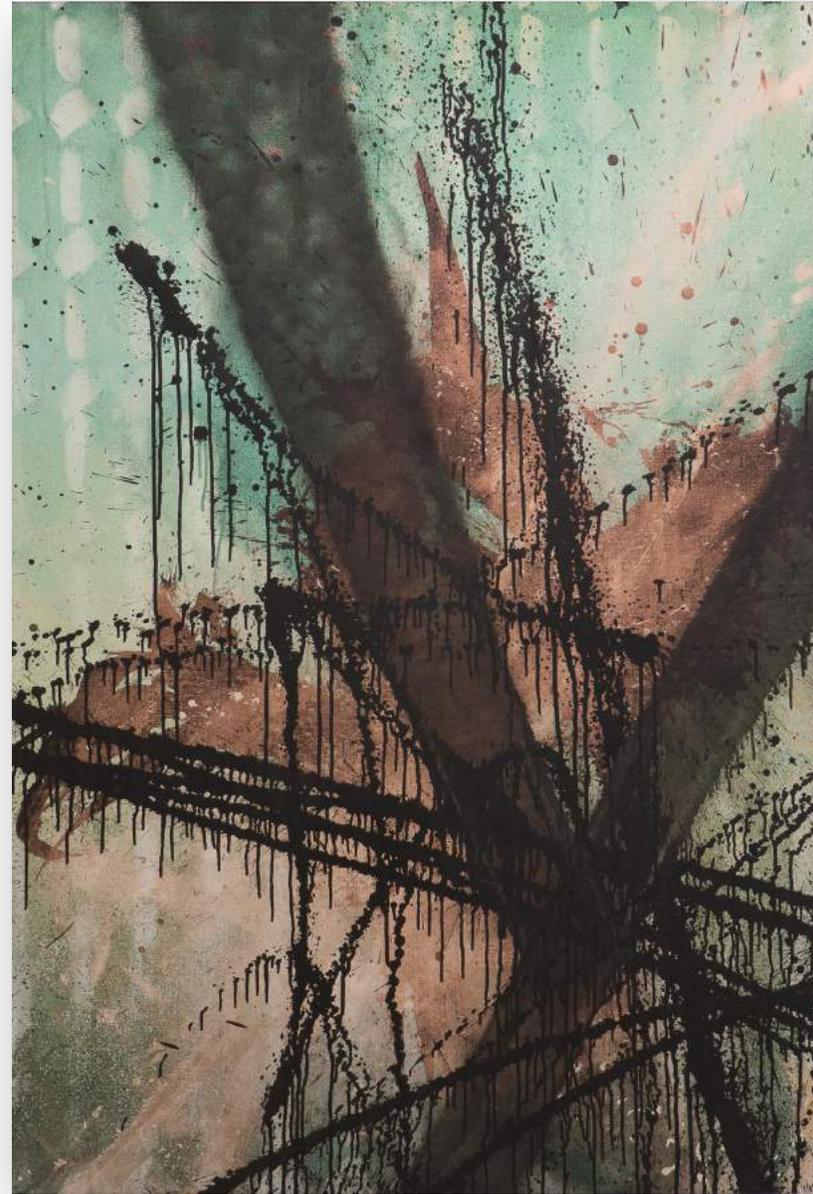


IMAGINED AND UNIMAGINED, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 155 x 134 cm (each)





FOLIAGED AND UNFOLIAGED, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 132 x 97 cm (each)

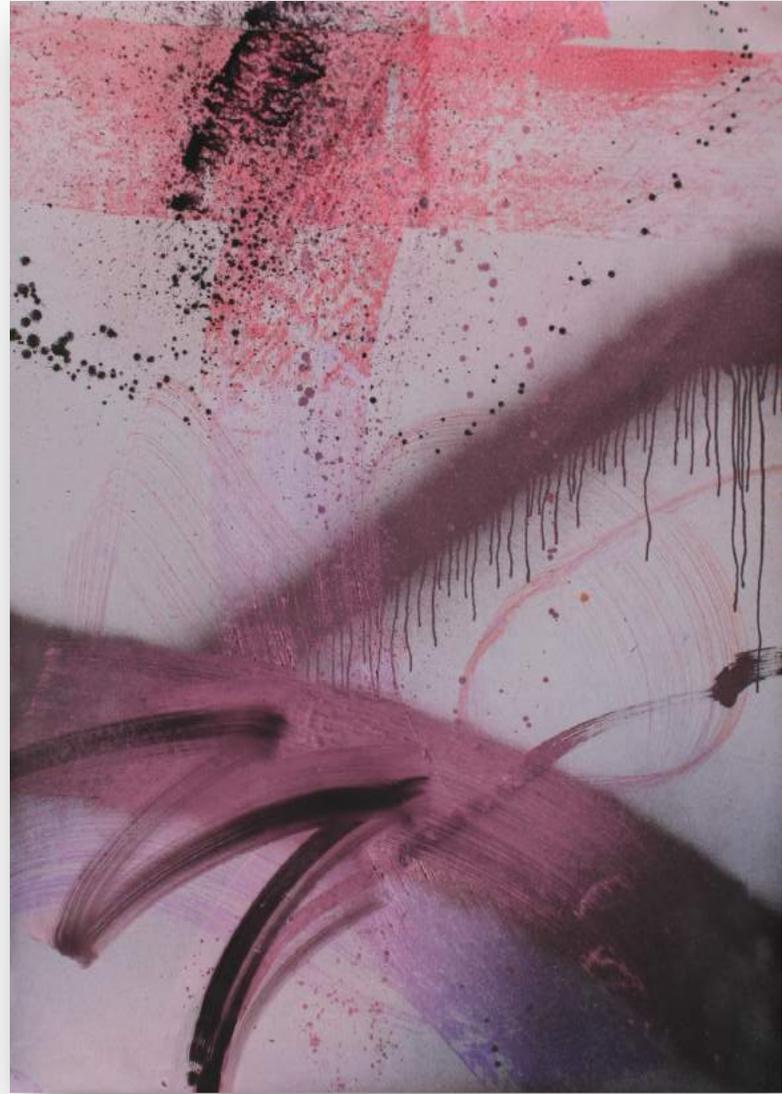


DUCK SEASON AND RABBIT SEASON, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 144 x 97 cm (each)





UNIDENTICAL, 2014, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on cotton, 100 x 90 cm (each)



UNENDING AND UNBEGINNING, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 151 x 109 cm (each)



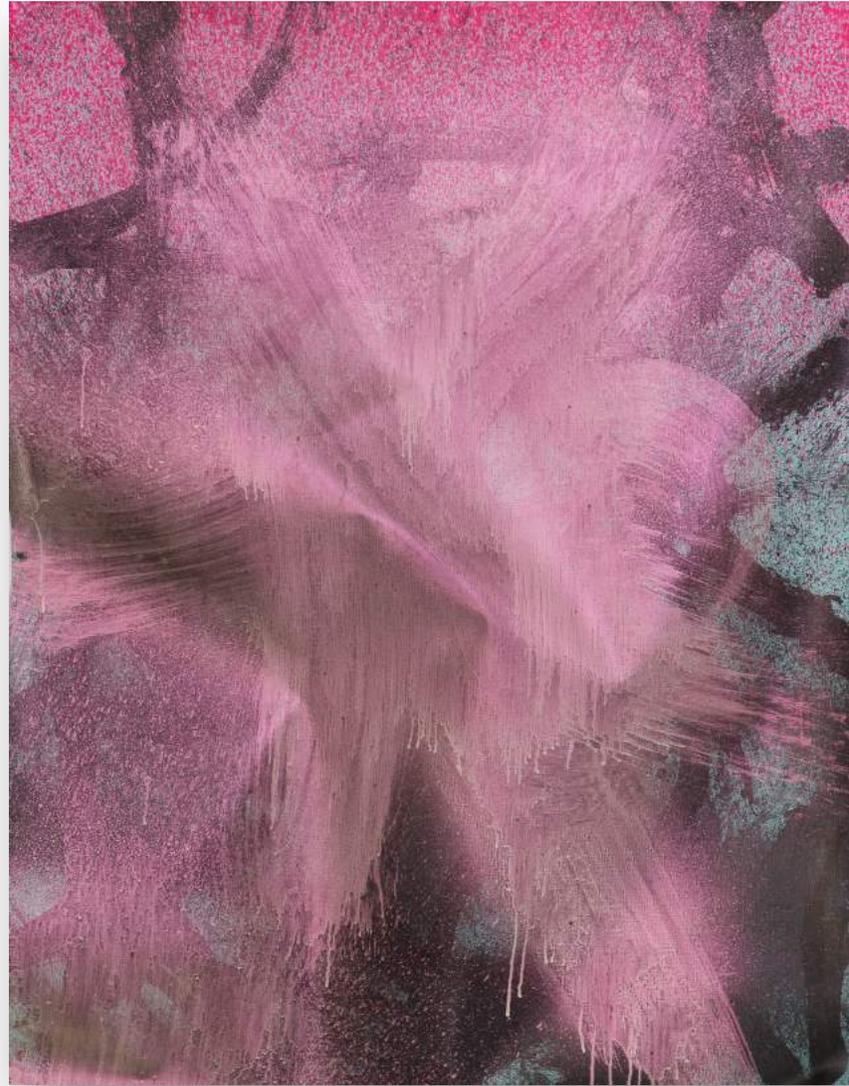
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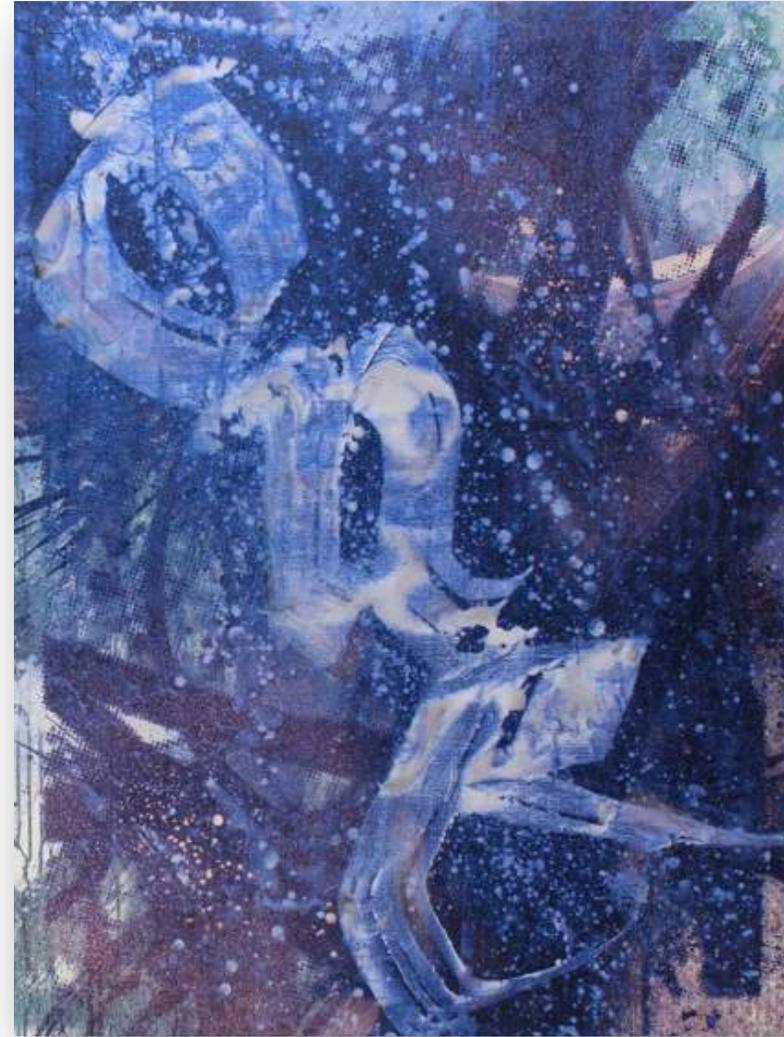
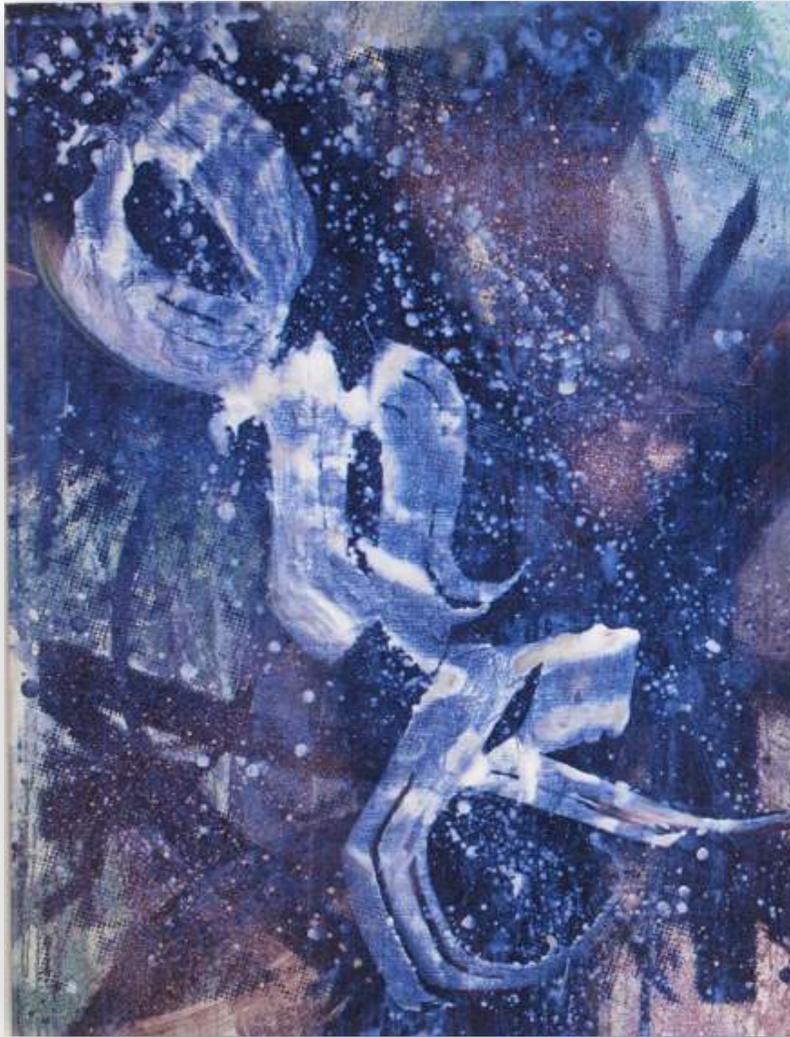


OBSERVED AND UNOBSERVED, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 104 x 75 cm (each)





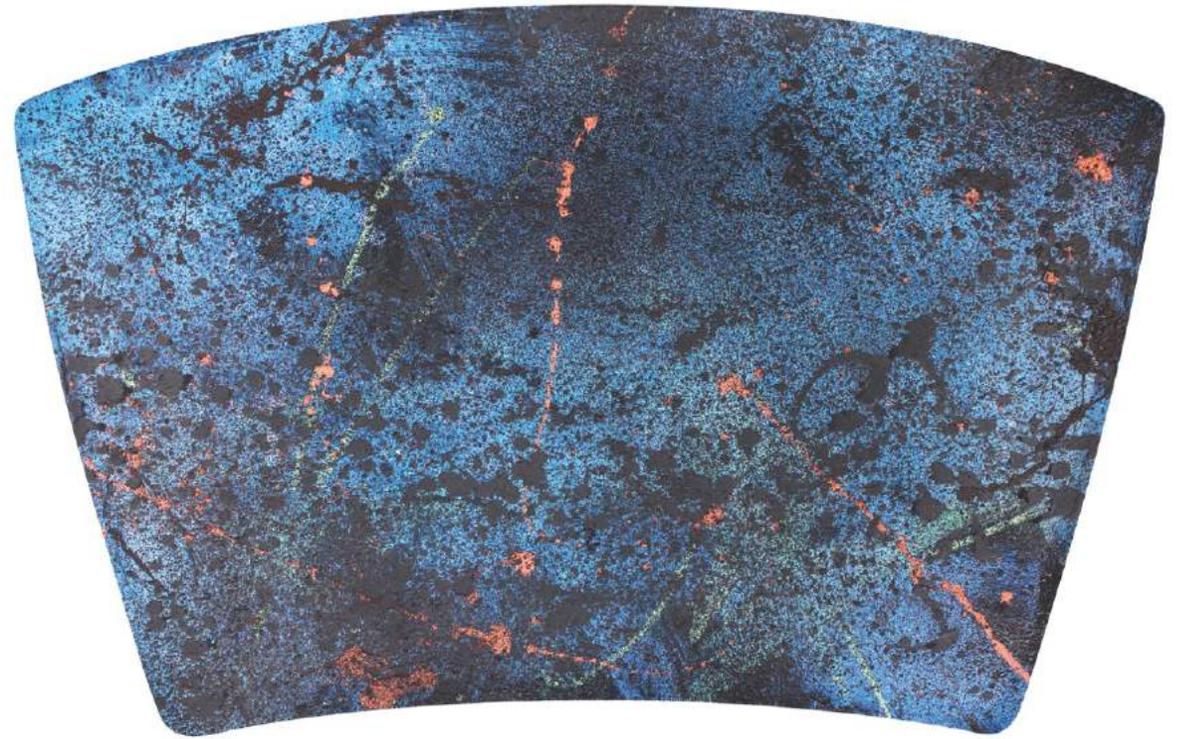
INFINITE AND UNINFINITE, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 134 x 101 cm (each)



ONE, 2017, Diptych, Acrylic and ink on linen, 126 x 94 cm (each)







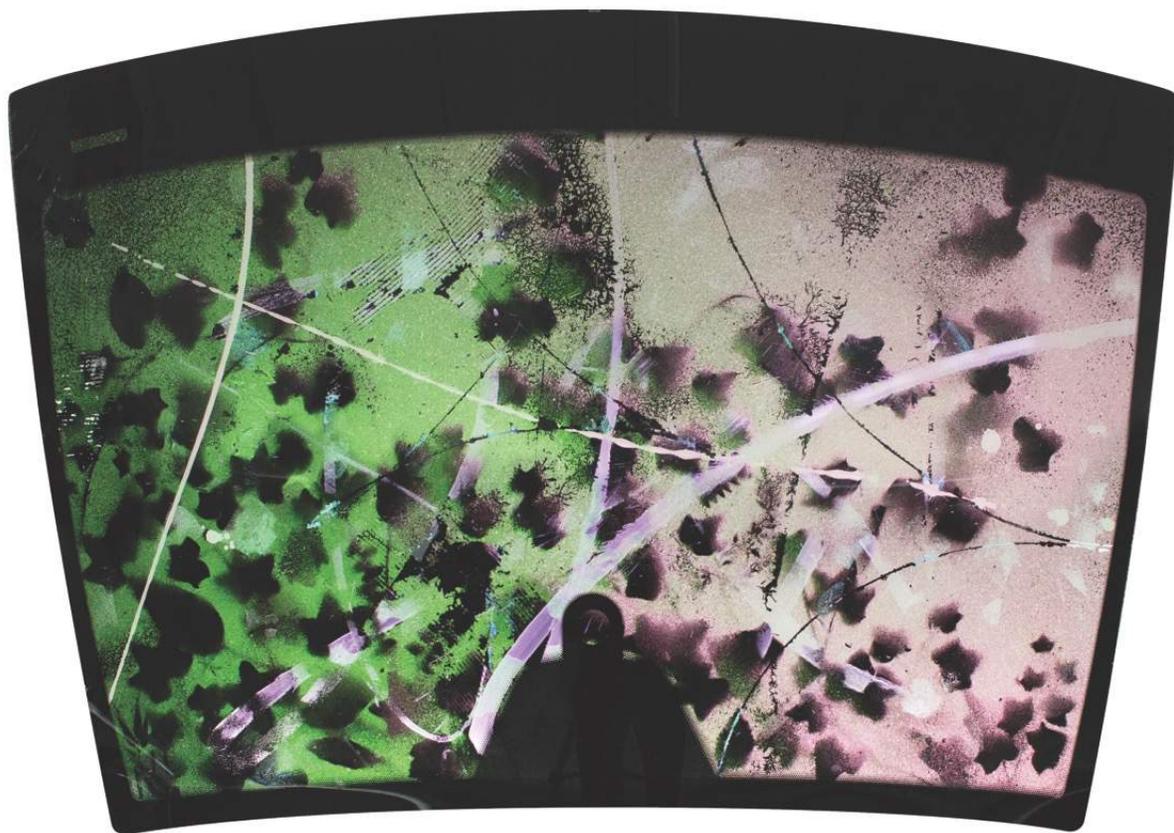
REVERSE PAINTING 2 (front and back), 2017, Acrylic and spray paint on glass, 90 x 140 cm



REVERSE PAINTING 3 (front and back), 2017, Acrylic and spray paint on glass, 84 x 134 cm



REVERSE PAINTING 4 (front and back), 2017, Acrylic and spray paint on glass, 92 x 137 cm



REVERSE PAINTING 5 (front and back), 2017, Acrylic and spray paint on glass, 92 x 137 cm





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