



CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

"SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW" BY FRANS SMIT



INTRODUCTION

By Christopher Moller

We are thrilled to unveil the highly anticipated exhibition, "Something Old Something New," by the artist Frans Smit. This exhibition explores how Art techniques from the past hold historical significance as they reflect the cultural, social, and artistic practices of different periods. Studying and practising these techniques allows us to understand and appreciate the artistic traditions and legacies that have shaped the art world.

In our current society where we are overwhelmed with visual content on social media, we often become desensitised by the sheer volume of images. As we scroll through endless feeds, our attention spans tend to become shorter, and we may skim over artworks without giving them the time and contemplation they deserve. This can result in a superficial engagement with artwork, focusing more on the immediate visual impact rather than a deeper exploration of its meaning, context, and artistic intent. The advent of AI image generation also raises ethical questions about human creativity.

In this context, Smit's work serves as a powerful reminder of the significance of painting. Through its tactility, uniqueness, and ability to evoke emotion, painting rekindles our appreciation for the genuine and profound artistic experience.

When we consider Europe's past, we need to acknowledge its dark history of colonialism, slavery, and in South Africa apartheid. However, it is important to recognise that Europe has also contributed greatly to the realms of literature, music, science, architecture, and art. While some may want to erase the past, we can strive to learn from its mistakes and build upon its strengths.

Smit aims to focus on the traditions of the technique of painting. 'Something Old' pays homage to the skilled craftsmanship of the Dutch, Flemish and Italian painters between the Renaissance and Baroque eras of the 15th and 17th centuries. 'Something New' incorporates modern-day techniques incorporating impasto, sharp flat plains of colour and spray paint. These techniques developed in the 20th century gave rise to the expressionist and modernist movements.

These techniques have been passed down through generations, transcending the confines of identity politics that often categorise individuals based on nationality, race, religion, or class. For Smit, these factors are secondary to his primary focus is on the traditions of painting. As the saying goes, "it takes a fool to burn down a barn, but a carpenter to build one," emphasising the wisdom required to understand the value of preserving and building upon artistic traditions.



G A L L E R Y



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

The Renaissance and Baroque periods left an indelible mark on European art history, particularly through the influential works of Flemish and Dutch painters. The Renaissance, spanning from the 14th to the 17th century, brought about a cultural and artistic rebirth across Europe. Originating in Italy, this movement spread to various regions, including present-day Belgium and the Netherlands, known as the Low Countries.

In his exhibition titled "Something Old Something New," Frans Smit draws inspiration from esteemed Flemish and Dutch painters, such as Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder, Nicholas Berchem, Jacob Marrell, Rachel Ruysch, Jan Davidsz de Heem, Jean-Michel Picart, Pieter Claesz, Daniël Seghers and Rembrandt. These artists played a significant role in advancing Renaissance art. The exhibition also showcases the works of Italian painters Sebastiano Conca, GB Pittoni, Marco Liberi, and Bruno Amadio.

Smit builds upon traditional art techniques, using them as a foundation for innovation and experimentation. He skilfully combines these techniques with modernist approaches, employing sharp, flat planes of colour instead of realistic shading and texture. Through this method, Smit creates depth and dimension while intentionally emphasising the flatness of the canvas. It simplifies complex subjects, allowing the essence of the image to take centre stage.

Additionally, Smit employs the impasto technique, applying thick layers of paint to infuse his paintings with energy and expressiveness. This technique enables him to create bold and dynamic brushstrokes, intensifying the emotions conveyed in his artwork. Smit also incorporates mannerisms from religious or mystical forms of the classical era, reinterpreting them with his unique style.

Through the skilful blend of centuries-old traditions and modernist approaches, Smit presents a captivating juxtaposition of styles in his extraordinary exhibition, "Something Old Something New."



AFTER RAPHAEL, MARY, CHRIST AND THE YOUNG JOHN
THE BAPTIST. ALSO KNOWN AS THE MADONNA OF THE
GOLDFINCH (2024)

Oil and spray on linen
95 cm x 90 cm (37.4 x 35.4 inches)
ZAR 95,000 excl 15% SA vat





AFTER SABASTIANO CONCA, MADONNA (2024)

Oil on linen
50 cm x 40 cm (19.7 x 15.7 inches)
ZAR 55,000 excl 15% SA vat



AFTER PIETER CLASS, STILL LIFE WITH SKULL
AND A WRITING QUILL

Oil and spray on linen
50 cm x 40 cm (19.7 x 15.7 inches)
ZAR 55,000 excl 15% SA vat





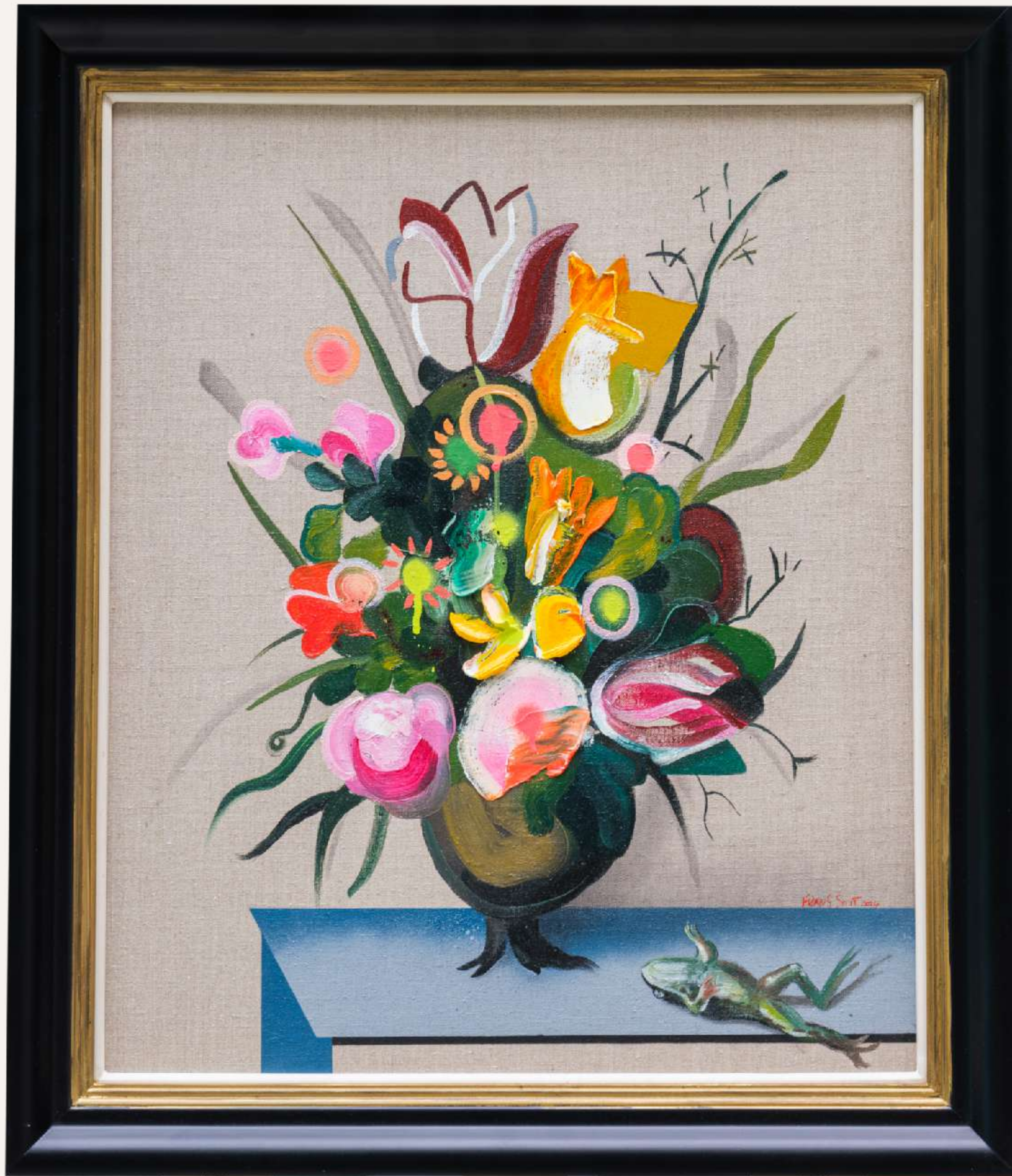
AFTER G.B PITTONI
KING CANDAULETES'S DEATH -DETAIL

Oil and spray on linen
95 cm x 90 cm (38 x 36 inches)
Sold



AFTER RACHEL RUYSCH, FLOWERS IN A GLASS VASE WITH TULIP

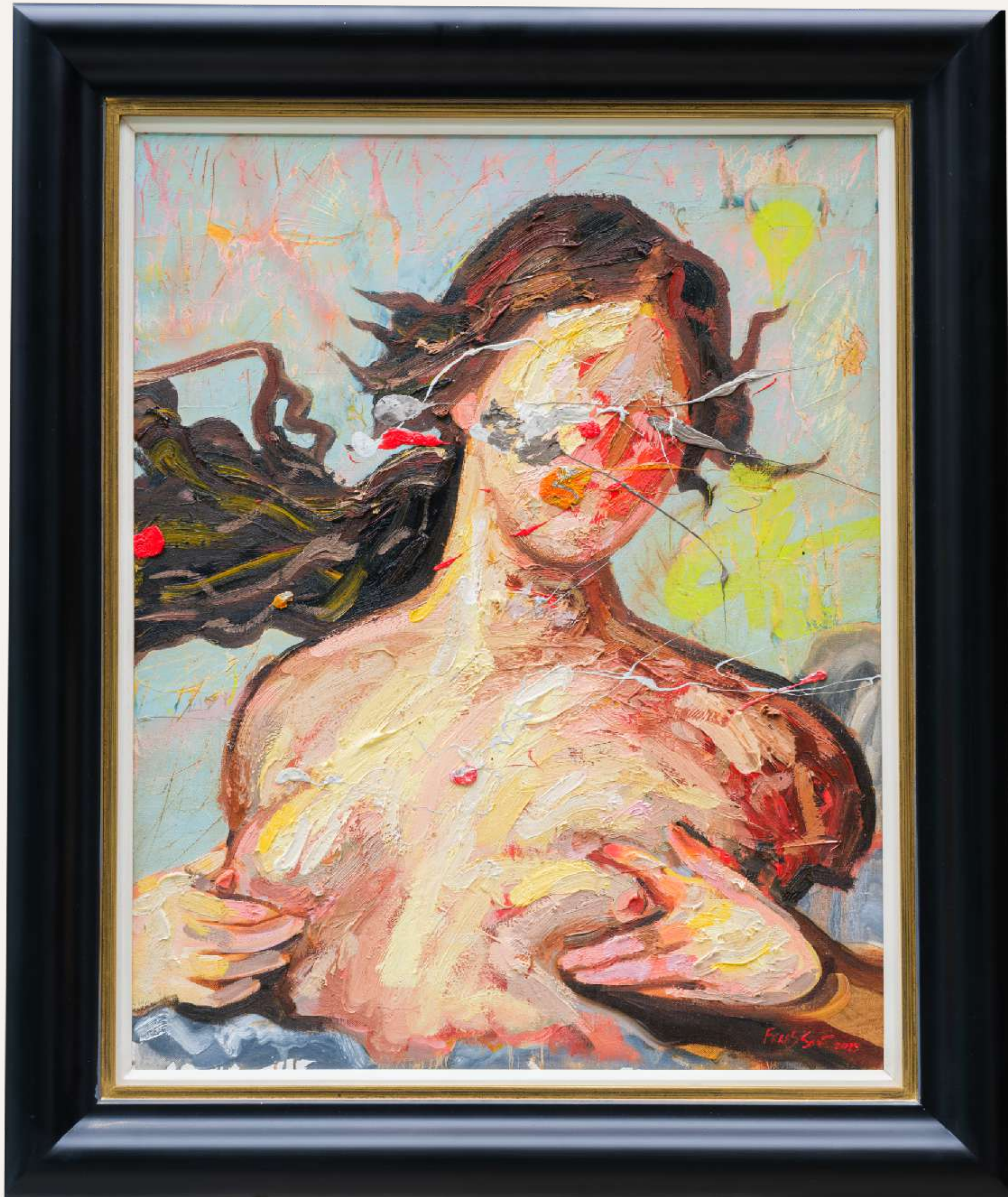
Oil and spray on linen
60 cm x 50 cm (23.6 x 19.7 inches)
ZAR 65,000 excl 15% SA vat



AFTER JACOB MARCELL: STILL LIFE WITH A VASE OF FLOWERS
AND A DEAD FROG

Oil and spray on linen
60 cm x 50 cm (24 x 20 inches)
ZAR 65,000 excl 15% SA vat





AFTER MARCO LIBERI, RIPTION (2023)

Oil & spray on canvas
74 x 59 cm (29.1 x 23.2) inches
ZAR 85,000 excl. 15% SA VAT



AFTER JAN DAVIDSZ DE HEEM, STILL LIFE WITH A GLASS
AND OYSTERS (2024)

Oil and spray on linen
60 cm x 50 cm (23.6 x 19.7 inches)
ZAR 65,000 excl 15% SA vat

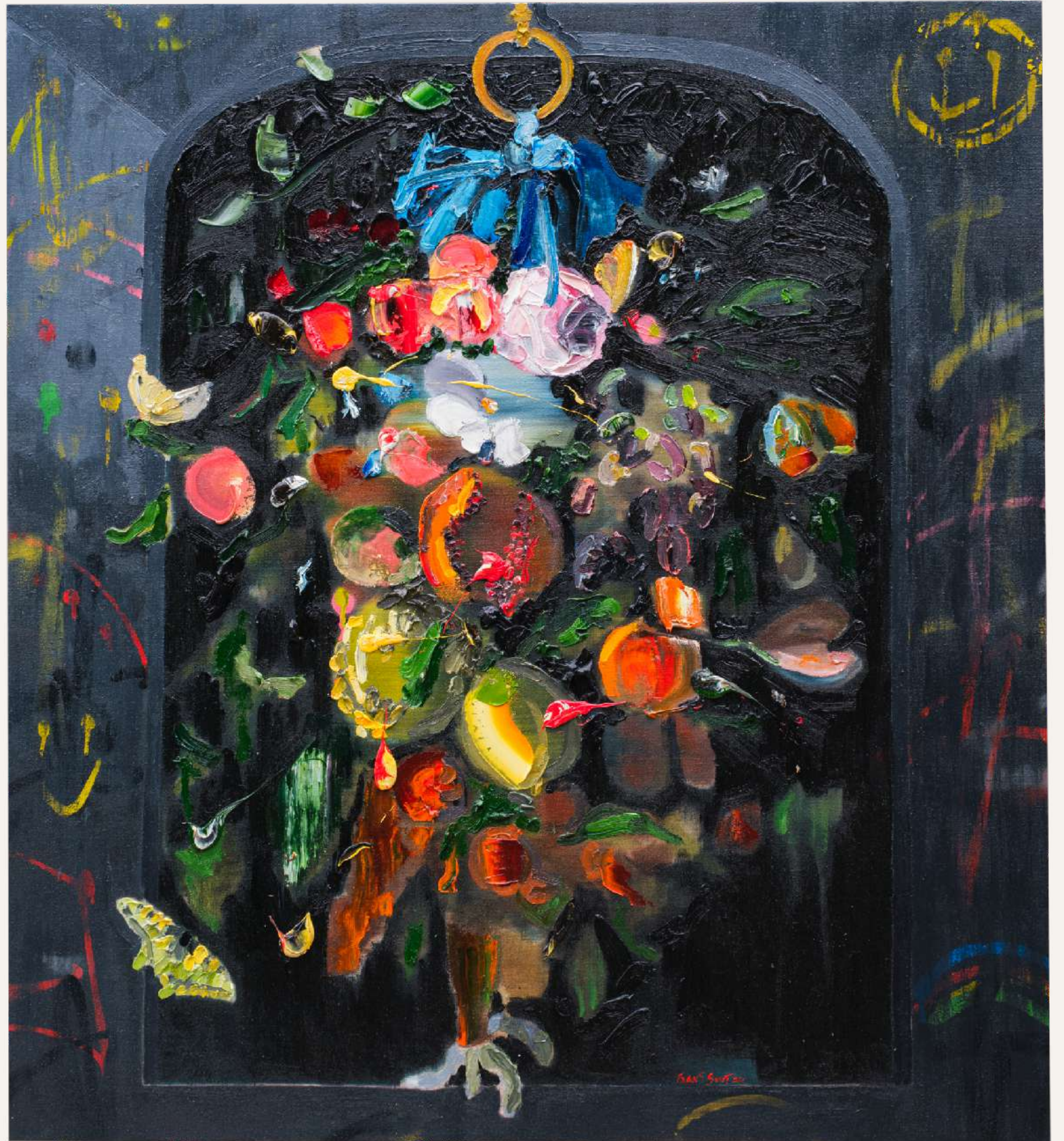




AFTER JEAN-MICHAEL PICART, STILL-LIFE OF FLOWERS
IN A VASE (2024)

Oil and spray on linen
140 cm x 120 cm x 5 cm (55 x 47.2 x 1.9 inches)
ZAR 120,000 excl 15% SA vat

AFTER JAN DAVIDSZ DE HEEM, FESTOON OF FRUIT AND
FLOWERS (2024)
Oil and spray on linen Unframed
110 cm x 100 cm x 5 cm (43.3 x 39.4 x 1.9 inches)
ZAR 100,000 excl 15% SA vat







AFTER DANIËL SEGHERS. FLOWERS IN A VASE

Oil and spray on linen
95 cm x 90 cm (38 x 36 inches)
ZAR 95,000 excl 15% SA vat

AFTER NICOLAES BERCHEM, JUPITER NOTICES CALLISTO

Oil and spray on linen
60 cm x 50 cm (24 x 20 inches)
ZAR 65,000 excl 15% SA vat





The Reading Room





AFTER AMBROSIUS BOSSCHAERT - A VASE OF FLOWERS (2024)

Oil and spray on linen
75 cm x 60 cm (29.5 X 24 inches)
ZAR 85,000 excl 15% SA vat





REMBRANDT SELF PORTRAIT, AFTER REMBRANDT (2022)

Oil and spray on canvas
74x 59 cm (19.1 x 23.2 inches)
Sold



SELF PORTRAIT I (2023)

Oil on canvas
49x 39 cm (19.2 x 15.4 inches)
ZAR 55,000 excl 15% SA VAT

SELF PORTRAIT II (2023)

Oil on canvas
49 x 39 cm (19.2 x 15.4 inches)
Sold





SELF PORTRAIT III (2023)

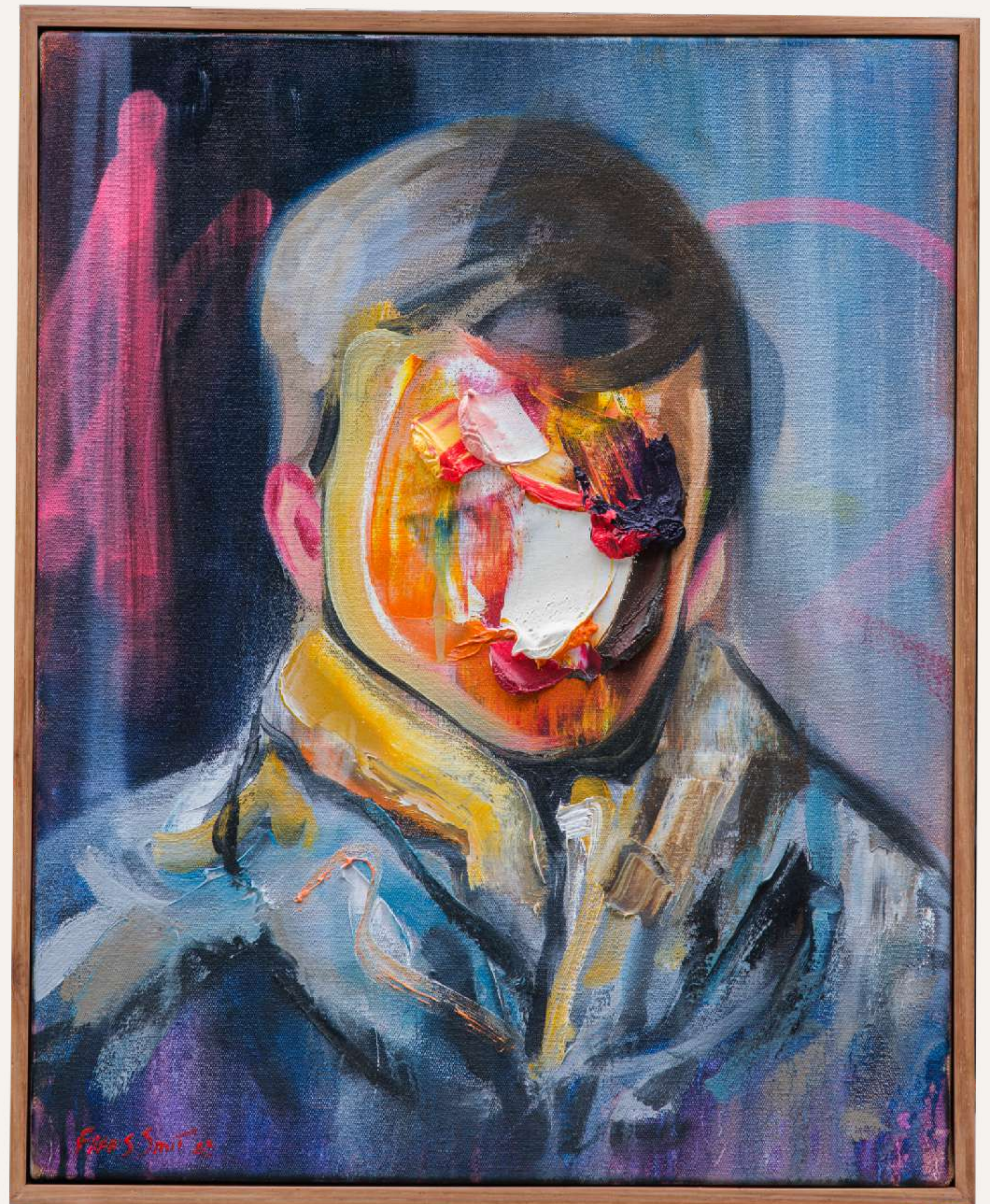
Oil on canvas
50 x 40 cm (19.7 x 15.7 inches)
ZAR 55,000 excl. 15% SA VAT



CRYING BOY (2023)

Oil and spray on canvas
50 x 40 cm (19.7 x 15.7 inches)
ZAR 55,000 excl 15% SA vat

'Crying Boy' is based on a famous print by Giovanni Bragolin that was hung in many Afrikaans speaking homes in South Africa in 1970's and 1980's.



BIOGRAPHY

Frans Smit, a South African-based artist, has made a significant impact on the art world with his distinctive portraits and still-life paintings. With close to fifty international exhibitions under his belt spanning from Denmark to New York, Smit has amassed a dedicated following of collectors who appreciate his unique style. Working primarily with oils, his deeply layered artworks draw inspiration from traditional European portraiture and still-life paintings. However, Smit adds a contemporary, and sometimes absurd twist to these classical masterpieces. His work invites viewers to discard their preconceived notions of classic portraiture and classic oil paintings, immersing the viewer in Smit's own visual environment.

The artist approaches compositions with an intense focus, resulting in deeply visceral works. Bold brushstrokes, multiple layers of paint, surprising colour palettes, and deliberate adjustments to traditional refinements, such as facial features, Smit challenges the narrative of historical portraiture and figurative expression.

Smit's paintings captivate and pull in the viewer with rich tones, textures, and glossy oils – adding a sense of drama and unease to the canvas. His exploration of the freedom found in abstract expressionism, combined with his reverence for historical art, results in a perfect marriage of the two. Through his distinctive approach, Smit disrupts conventions and invites viewers to experience art in a new and thought-provoking way.

EXHIBITIONS

2024

MIDDLE. SOUTH. Lift Gallery. Riyadh. A solo exhibition.
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW.. Christopher Moller Gallery - Solo Show.
INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR. Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town. - Group exhibition.

2023

MY GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING. Mauritshuis Museum, Den Haag, The Netherlands. - Museum show.

RMB LATITUDES ART FAIR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa. – Group exhibition

2022

MUSEUM COLLECTION, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. Solo Exhibition
INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, (February) – Group exhibition.

POST APOCALYPTIC RENAISSANCE, Galleri Sandberg, Denmark (September) - Solo Exhibition.

2021

PAPER | WORK. A SELECTION OF WORKS ON PAPER, Rhodes Contemporary Art, London, United Kingdom (January) – Group exhibition.

FRANS SMIT | SOLO EXHIBITION, Uitstalling Art Gallery, Belgium (April).

2019

Columbus Museum of art, Columbus, Ohio, May.

CHROMA, Rhodes Contemporary, London, August. – Summer Group exhibition.

2018

OLO, Galerie Solo, Antwerp, Belgium, May. SOLO, Galerie Wolfsen, Denmark, October.



G A L L E R Y

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GALLERY

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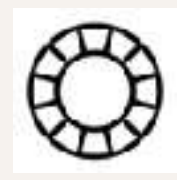
www.christophermollerart.co.za

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TO PURCHASE

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ACQUISITION PROCESS

- Once you have chosen your favourite piece, please contact our team at info@christophermollerart.co.za to confirm your request and advise on your shipping address.
- Please note, your requested piece and invoice will be valid for 7 calendar days. Once payment has been processed and received, ownership of the piece will be transferred.
- Art pieces will be released to the waiting list after 7 days.
- Shipment date will be confirmed per purchase. Kindly note, artwork will only leave the Gallery post exhibition.
- Kindly note all ZAR prices are excluding 15% SA VAT.
- Kindly note, shipping cost excludes any destination taxes & import charges

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

Our bank (Nedbank) has given us the option to do the credit card transaction via e-payment solution for credit cards. This is a secure product that enables the Gallery to send you a link with the amount pre-populated. It requires you to complete your credit card details. This protects you, in that you don't have to give out your credit card details to a third party, while you complete it online. Unfortunately, this system does not accept American Express or Diners Club credit cards.

Please inform your bank of the transaction in advance and provide them with our Merchant code: 2738375 should your bank reject the request from a foreign country.

This is how it works; You will receive an email with the link from the Christopher Moller Gallery. This will include a PDF copy of the invoice. Please click on the link and complete the transaction by completing your credit card details. Kindly note each link has an expiry date and is valid for 2 days. Once the transaction has been authorised, you will receive a notification that the payment has been successful.

ENQUIRIES | How can we assist?

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VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact us to view in person.

Tuesday - Friday · 10h00 - 16h00

Monday & Saturday · Viewings by Appointment Sunday · Closed

CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

VISIT US

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BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.

Please contact our team should you wish to be added to the preview list of your desired exhibition.
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