KATRINA O'BRIEN Dream Letter

14 June—1 July 2023



Dream Letter

Borne out of a love of text, a love of writing and a love of dreaming, *Dream Letter* is an idealistic notion of being able to talk to the Muse. For me, the Muse comes in many forms; whether it be nature, music, intriguing people and interactions. I am forever enchanted by the Muse and all the realms they open up for me. A good Muse opens the floodgates of words and images where dreams, landscapes, narrative and poetry flow like a river.

Text is an artform in and of itself: decoding, flipping and dissecting words and meanings has long fascinated me. The simplicity of some of these works speaks to my love of books and a nostalgia for something I can't quite put to words. I often think of my works as chapters in a book—not made in chronological order but revisiting different parts of a narrative without a clear beginning or end, yet each page, each work is interconnected through an intricate web of dreamscapes.

The title, *Dream Letter*, was inspired by the album and song by Tim Buckley with the same name. The song itself is not the inspiration, but the notion of writing a song, a painting or a letter to someone who may never receive it was the fixation of these works. For Tim, it was writing to his son Jeff Buckley, who he tragically never really made an effort to be a father to. Both their lives have always fascinated me—Tim, a bad father with an amazing vocal range, Jeff his son with equally amazing vocal skills—both not wanting anything to do with the other and yet their lives mirrored each other's in a deeply compelling way. Both had so much talent and yet crumbled under the weight of it all. I sometimes wonder what it would have been like to meet either of them. I wonder about the music they might have made if their fate had been to live on. Some of these imagined conversations play a part in my new works.

When I was younger I would write letters to an unknown person or thing. Within these letters I would muse on the meaning of life and I would recall fascinating observations in nature. I would speak of a love for beauty, for complexity of thought and existential debate. Within each letter contained my love for words themselves—the origin and formation of words were just as curious to me as how language could be structured to make a story, a poem or even a painting. Some of these letters would morph into an idiosyncratic code, indecipherable and yet, made complete sense to me. I would see the world through this lens of enchantment and it is something that I still do to this day.

If the nightingale could speak, what would it say?

If a stone could sing, what would it sound like?

If a stone could dream, of what would its mind be filled?







Dream Letter I (Emergence) Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 149cm x 234cm Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex \$11500

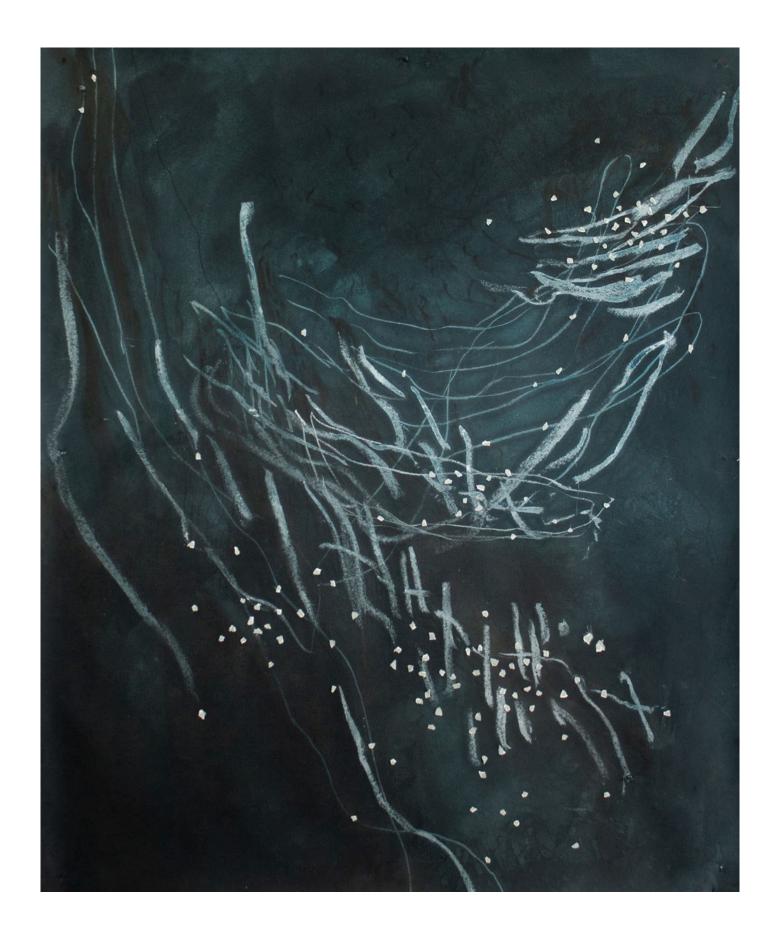


A Dream of Context Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 127cm x 169cm Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex \$7500 If the nightingale could speak,

what would it say?



Temple
Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper
127cm x 100cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex
\$5500



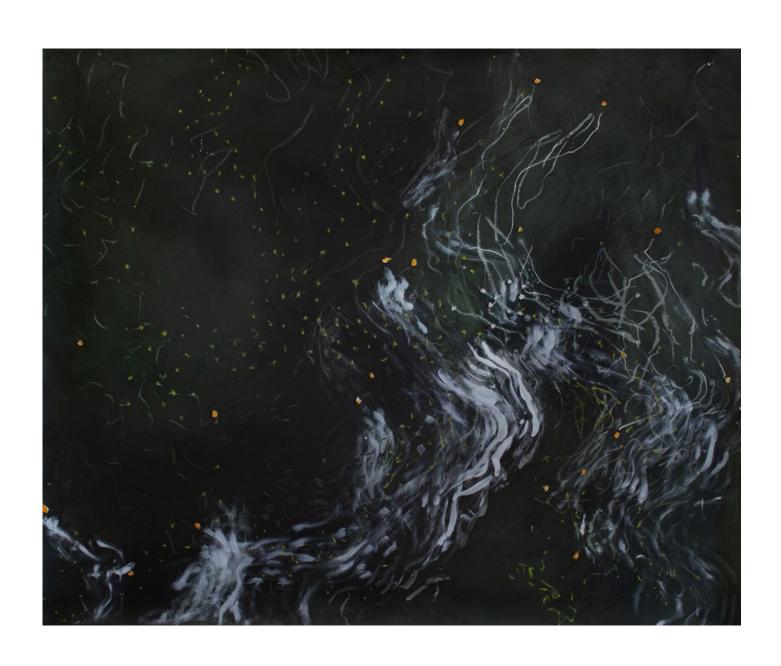
Pull Me to the Depths of Your Sea Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 148cm x 126cm Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex \$6500



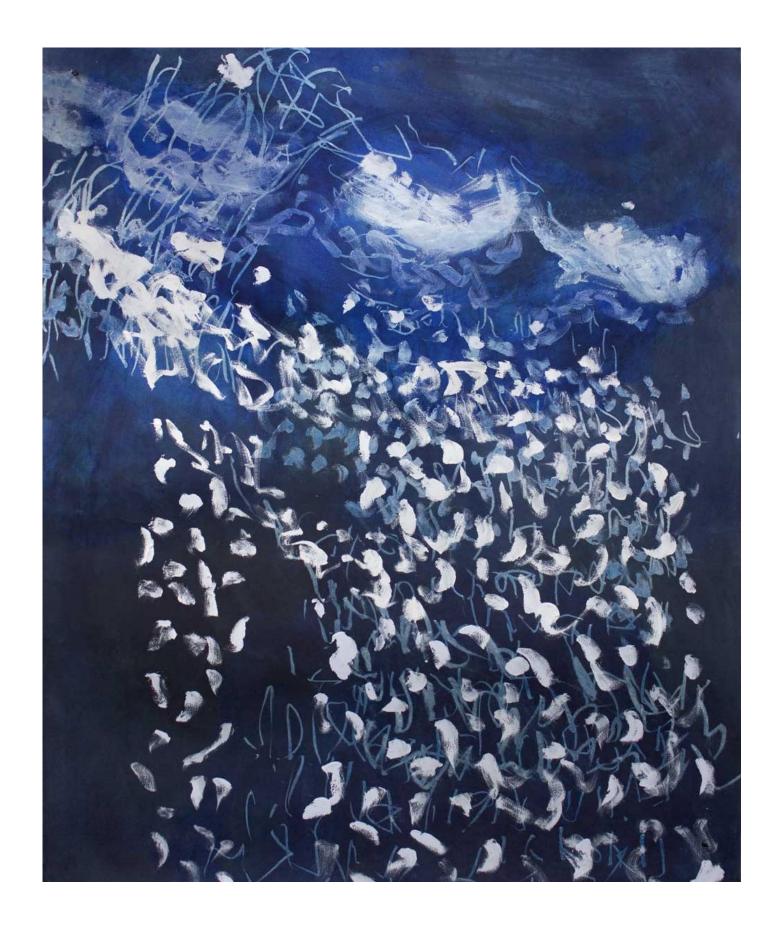
Carried Like a Whisper Oil + acrylic on canvas 115cm x 94.5cm Framed in black woodgrain \$4800



I Shed My Skin for an Echo on the Wind Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 148cm x 126cm Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex \$6500



If a stone could sing, what would it sound like?



Snowflakes into Stars Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 148cm x 126cm Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex \$6500



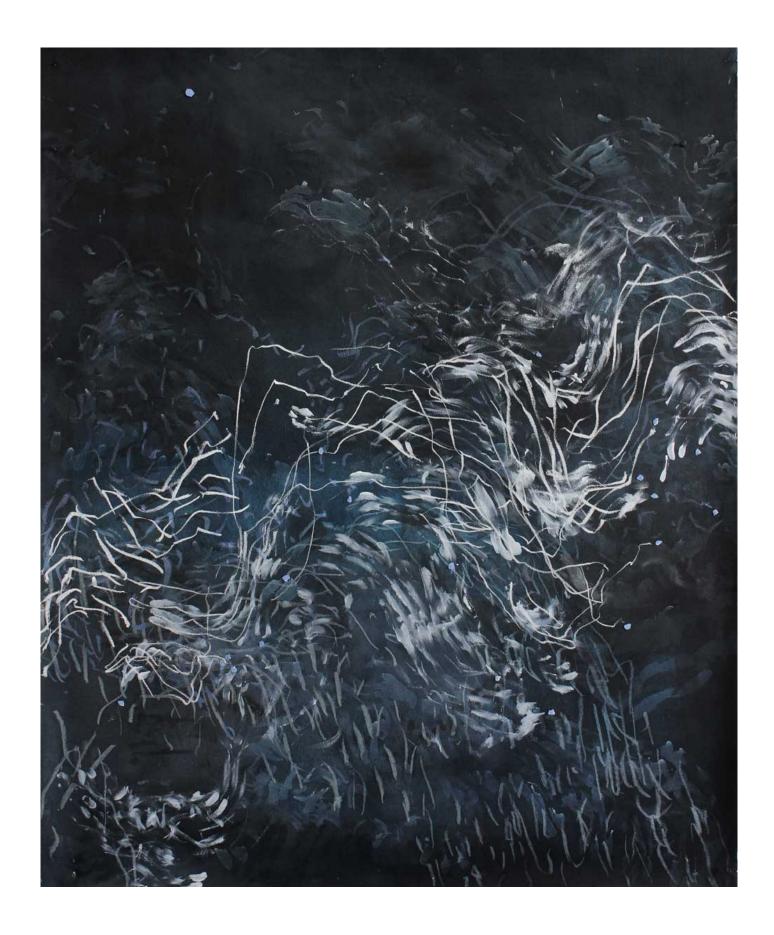
Of What, does a Stone Dream?
Oil + acrylic on canvas
135cm x 186cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$9000



Of What, does a Stone Sing? Oil + acrylic on canvas 135cm x 186cm Framed in Tasmanian oak \$9000



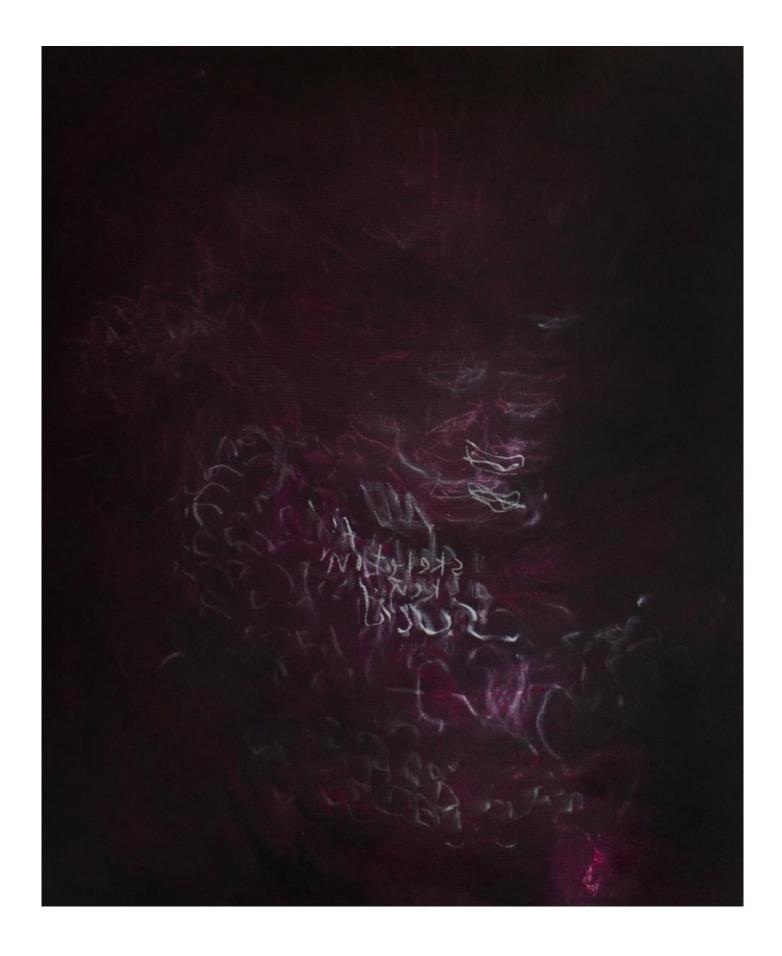
The River that Never Runs Dry Ink, acrylics, oil pastel + pencil on Arches paper 148cm x 126cm Framed in Tasmanian oak with Perspex \$6500



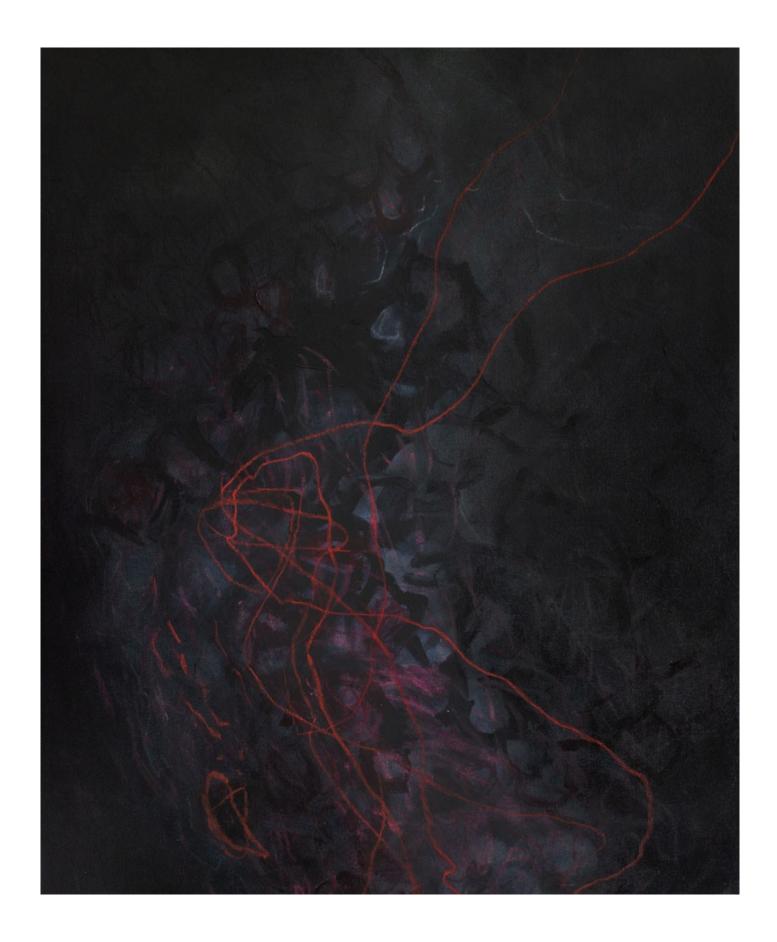
If a stone could dream,

of what would its mind

le fillel?



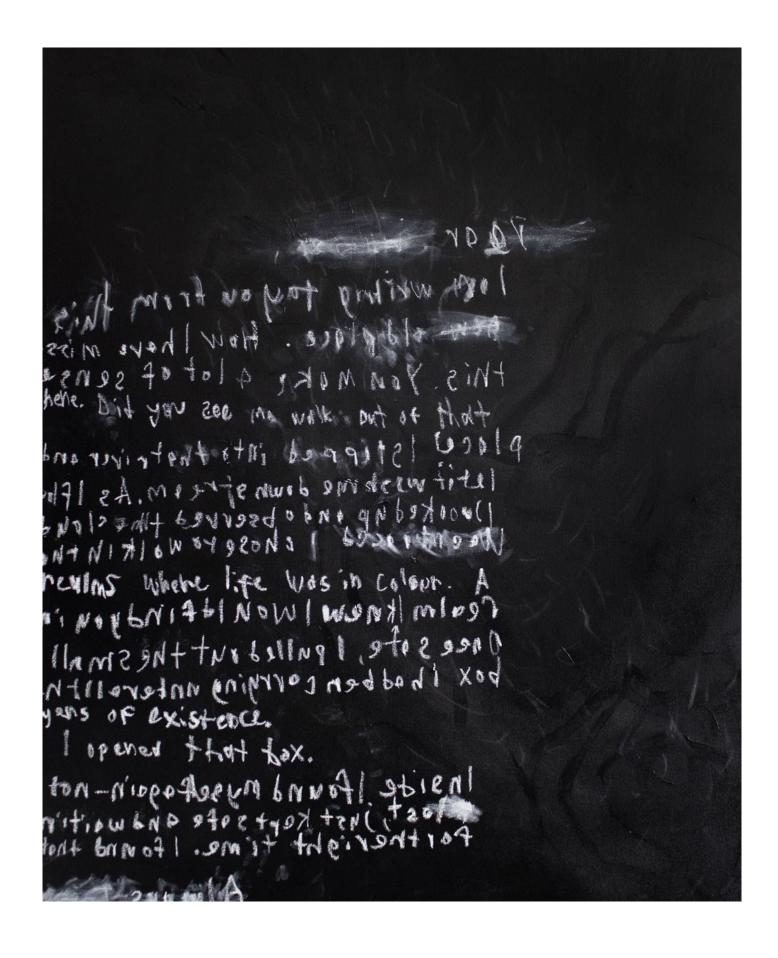
Beating Heart
Oil + acrylic on canvas
115cm x 94.5cm
Framed in black woodgrain
\$4800



Threads and Certainties
Oil + acrylic on canvas
115cm x 94.5cm
Framed in black woodgrain
\$4800



Dream Letter II (Before, Now and After)
Oil + acrylic on canvas
115cm x 94.5cm
Framed in black woodgrain
\$4800





I Wrote You a Letter as I Drifted Down the River Oil + acrylic on canvas 115cm x 94.5cm Framed in black woodgrain \$4800



Photo by Matt Houston



ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

ENQUIRIES TO SOPHIE VANDER, DIRECTOR

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