MICHAEL CARNEY



Fragments of the Forest





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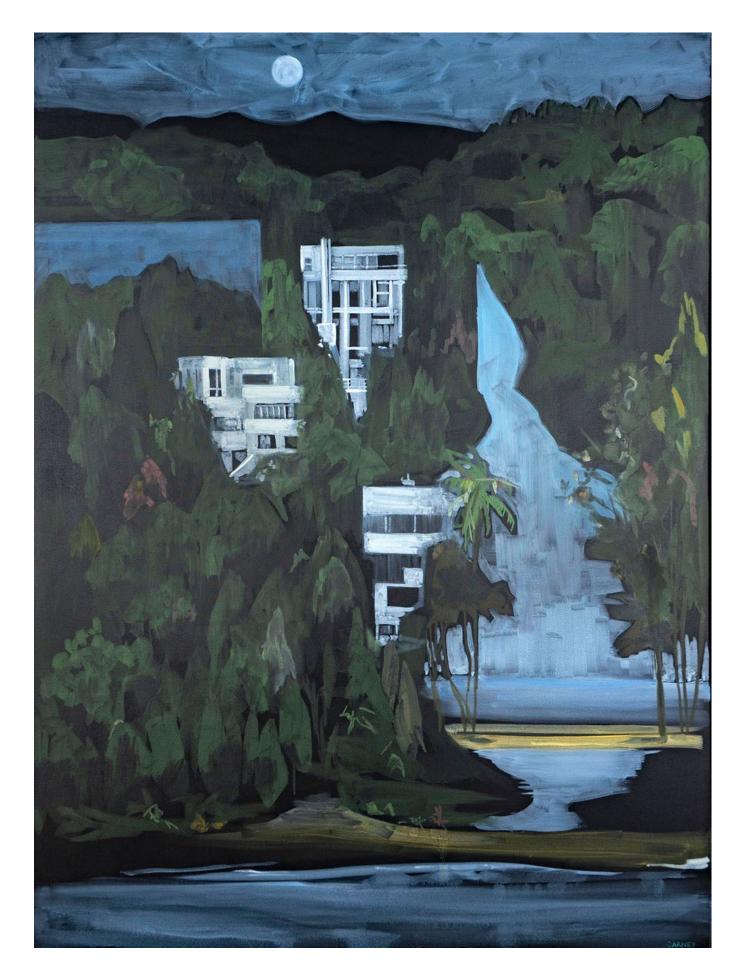
"The forest is a place of fear and beauty, where the darkness can be both alluring and menacing." Sylvia Plath – The Forest

Michael Carney grew up surrounded by the lush bushland of the Adelaide hills, which perhaps is where the roots of his recent subject matter took place. Today, however, like most of us, he consumes nature through a lens—fragmented, digital and ghostly. The forest manifests in some paintings as the villain, waiting to grow over society; in other compositions it plays the role of a sanctuary, a place of peace and beauty that we can look to for escape. In numerous instances, the paintings strive to meld these divergent asapects, constructing the imagery with layered complexity.

Fragments of the Forest draws inspiration from the atmospheric narratives of film noir, thrillers and post-apocalyptic cinema. The paintings offer a glimpse into a larger narrative, suggesting a sequence of events that unfolds beyond the canvas. The viewer is the director of their own experience, free to interpret the work in a way that resonates with their own thoughts, feelings and experiences. Winding through urban and natural environments that converge and intertwine, dimly lit by the moon or the numerous windows of an unidentified building, Michael delves into the noir tropes through his use of aesthetic symbols and compositional elements, whilst keeping us connected conceptually to his source of inspiration with an underpinning sense of a subversive atmosphere.

This body of work presents a paradoxical tapestry where beauty and unease coexist. In each painting, nature is a realm of both allure and peril, captivating and menacing. The viewer's journey into the forest is a journey into their own subconscious mind, and it is a journey of self-discovery.

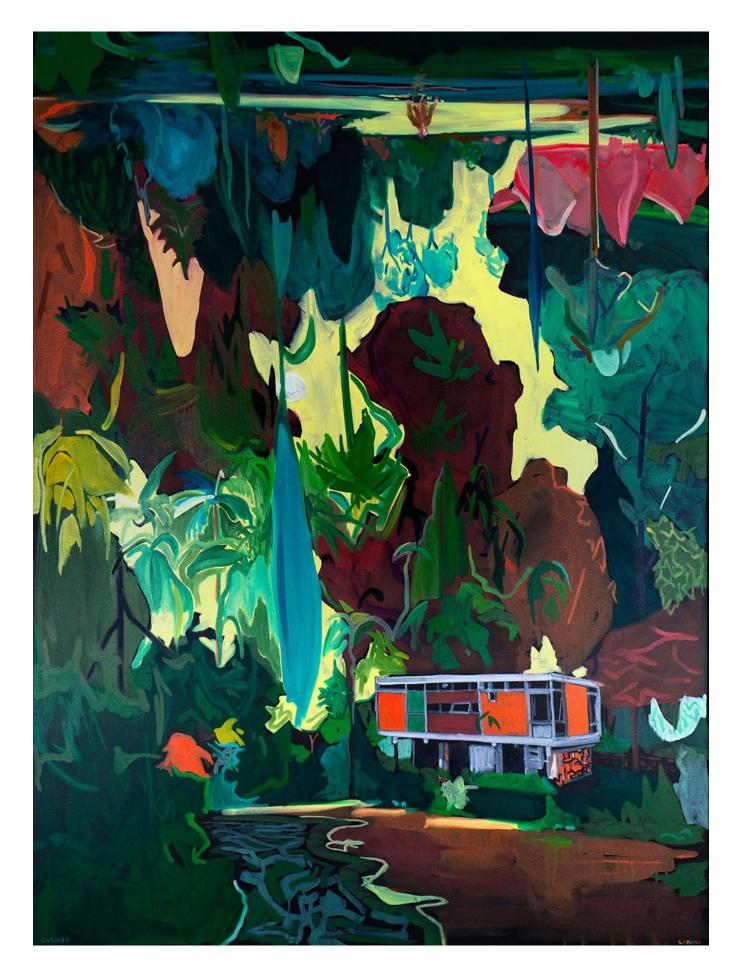
Michael states: "My practice provides me with a creative space where I can engage in a kind of emotional and psychological alchemy. Within this space, I blend and experiment with sensations, aiming to evoke emotions that are simultaneously familiar yet elusive. For the past year or so, I've been delving into the theme of nature. It serves as an ideal, ever-shifting, and abstract subject in which to examine both ourselves and the world that surrounds us."



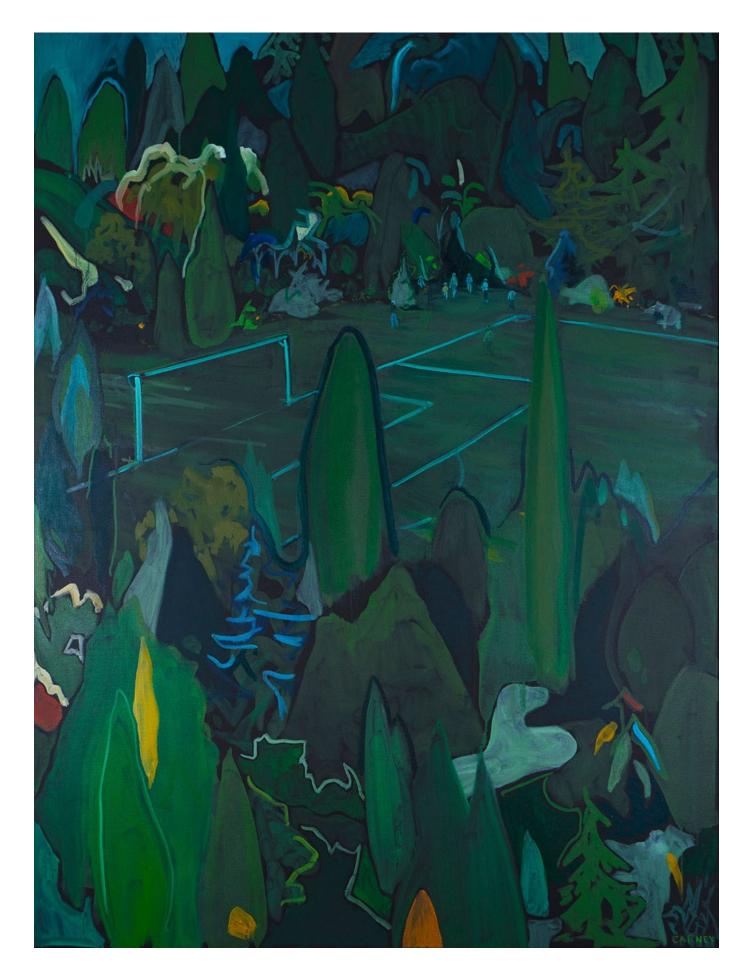
Fragment, 2023 Oil on canvas 140cm H x 104cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3800



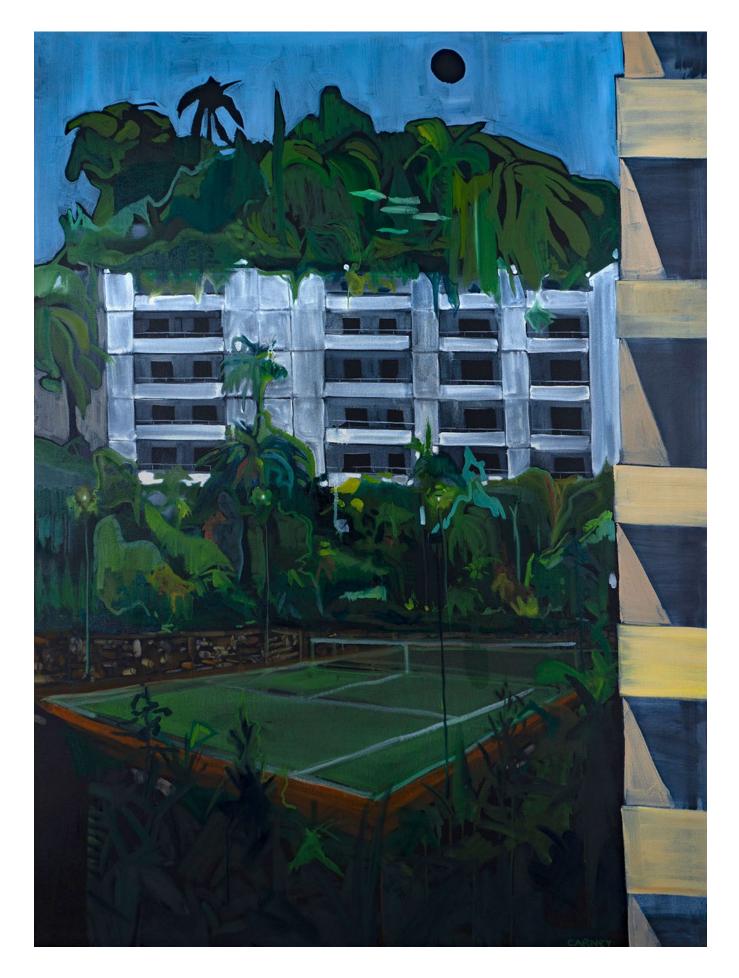
Boundary, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



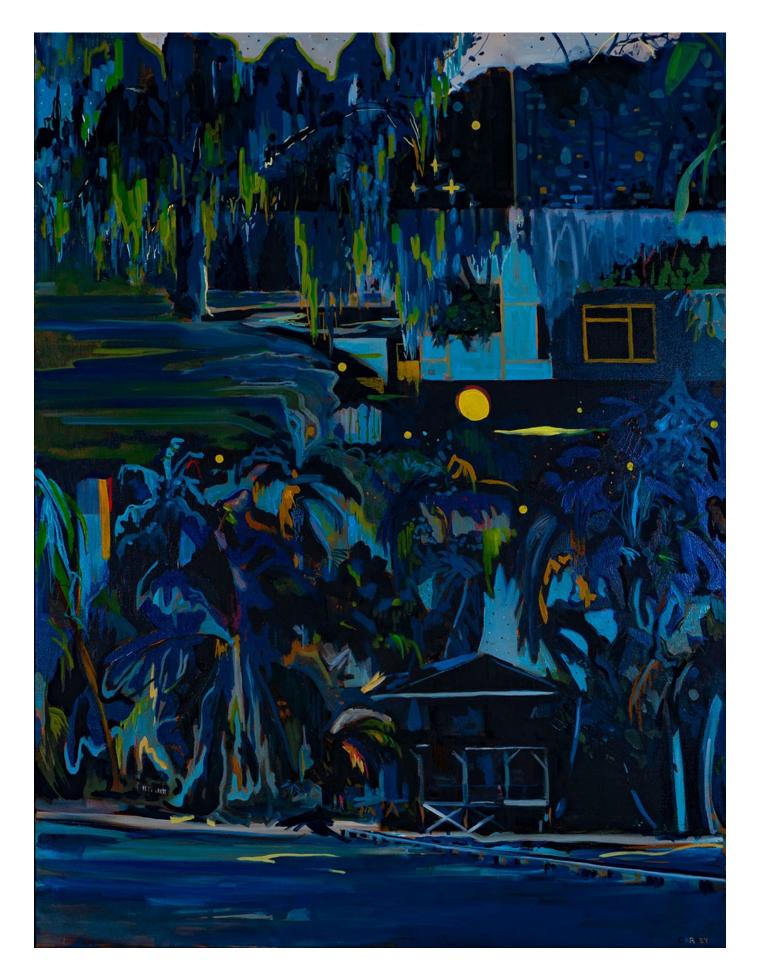
Haven, 2023 Oil on canvas 140cm H x 104cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3800



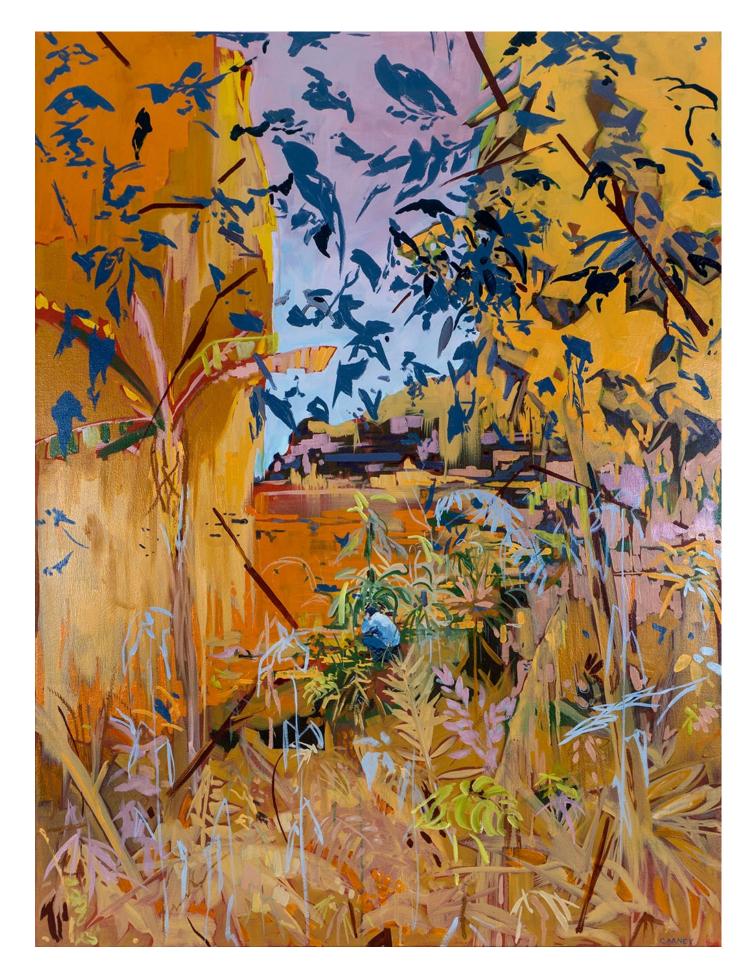
Forgotten, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



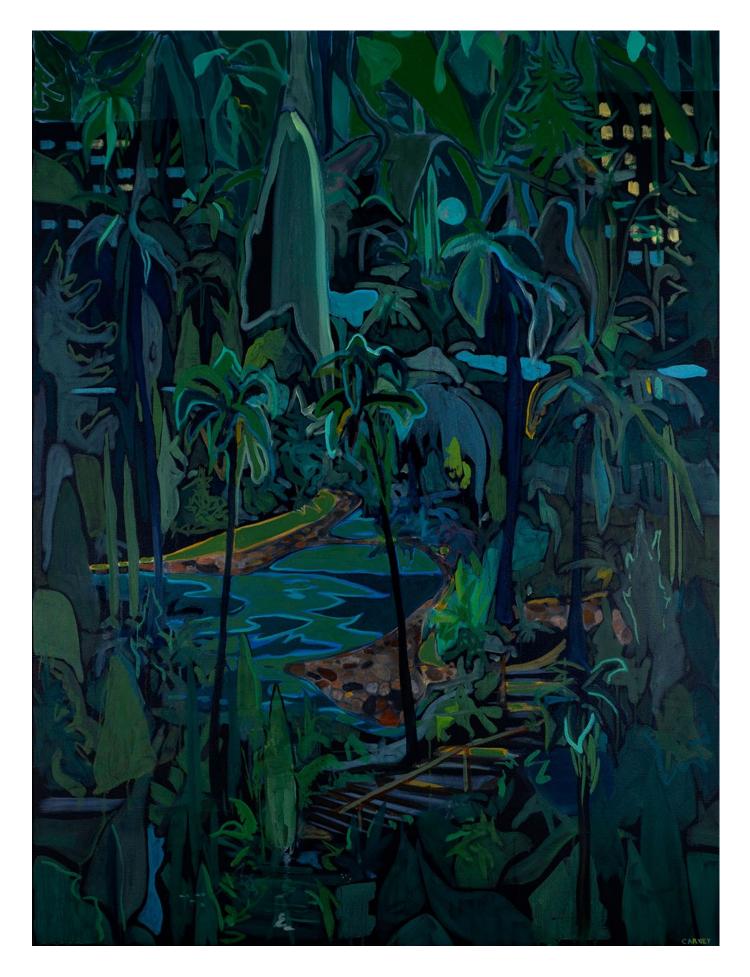
Last Resort, 2023 Oil on canvas 140cm H x 104cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3800



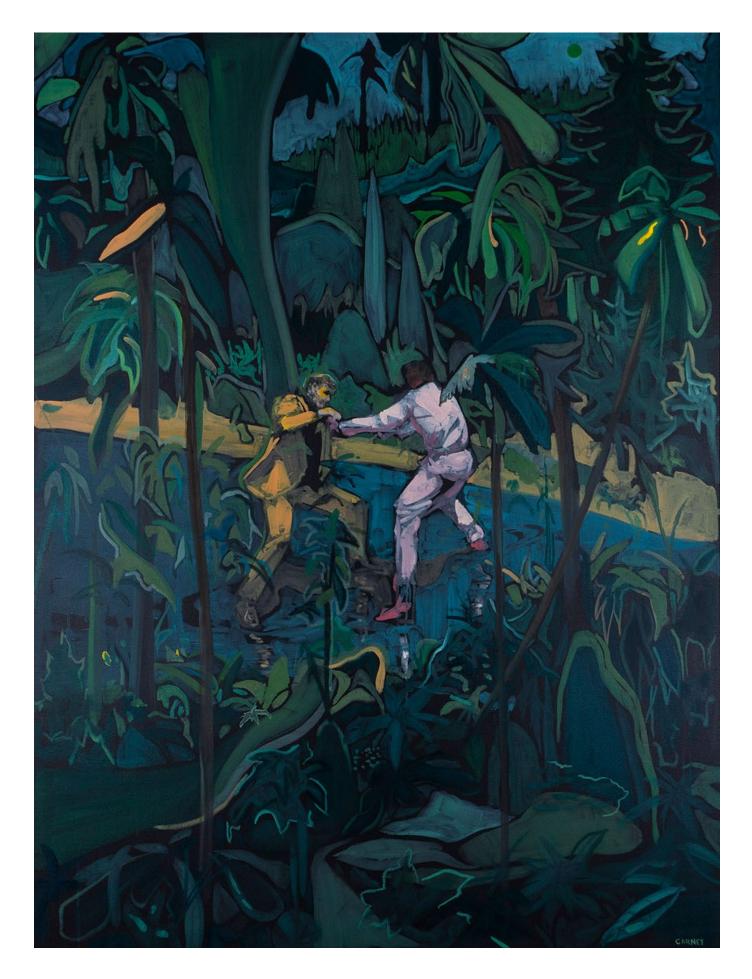
Nocturnal, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



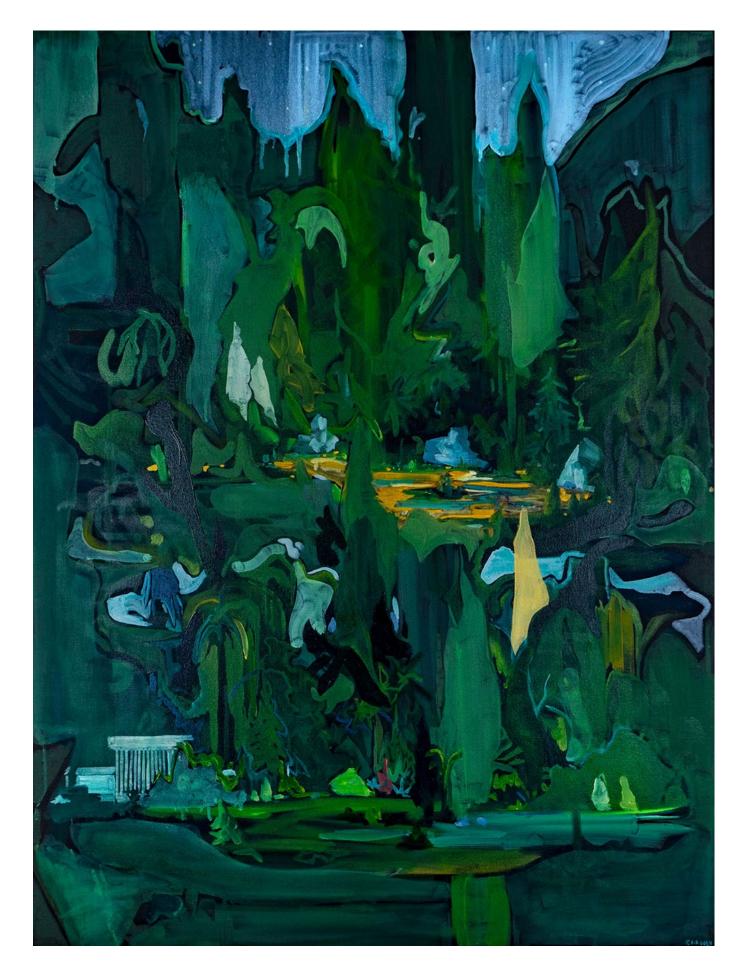
Lost, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



Nostalgia, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



The Dance, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



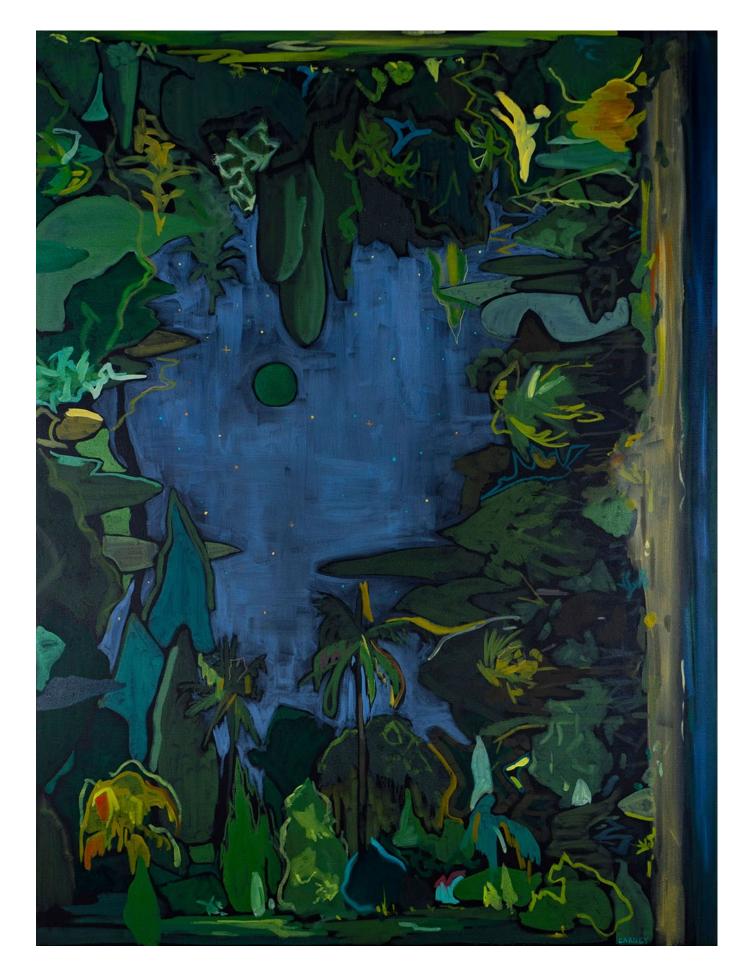
Verdant, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



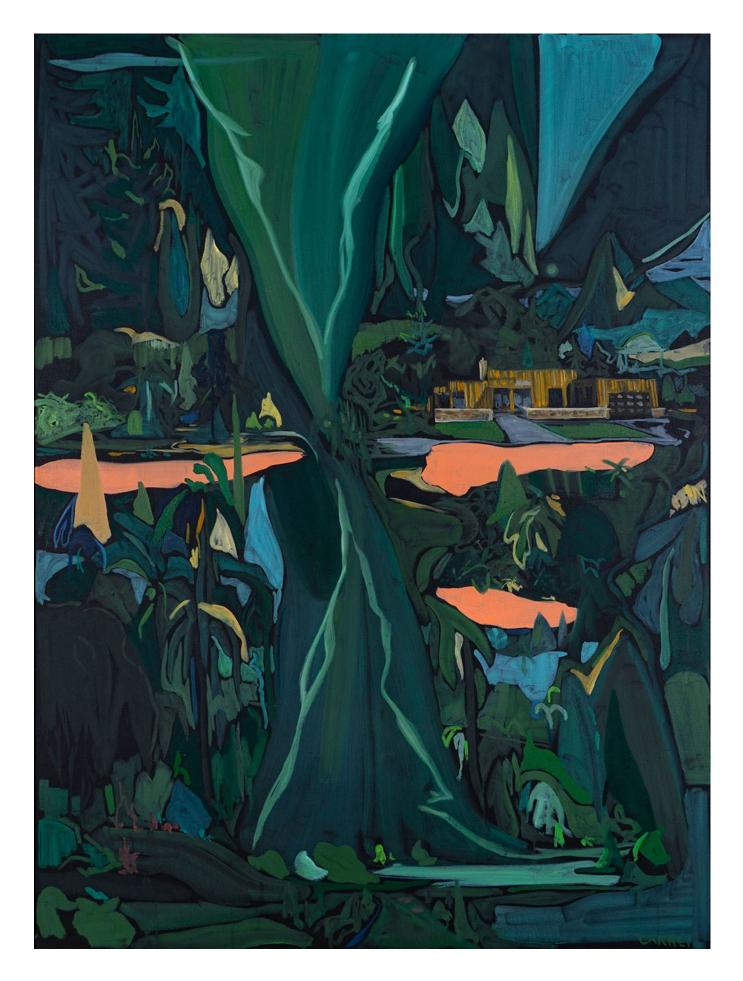
Verse, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



The Vandamm House, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



Vertigo, 2023 Oil on canvas 124cm H x 94cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3500



Above and Below, 2023 Oil on canvas 140cm H x 104cm W Framed in Tasmanian oak \$3800





ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

ENQUIRIES TO SOPHIE VANDER, DIRECTOR <u>curatorialandco.com</u> | hello@curatorialandco.com 80 William St, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 +61 2 9318 1728 | <u>@curatorialandco</u>

Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.