

# Joshua Venturino

selected works 2022 – 2024

My practice is based on observing life, from distant memories to places close to my heart, where paintings, drawings and poems intertwine with one another.

Writing is fundamental for the research and development of my art practice. Everyday, thoughts are born and mature into written form. A collection of texts exists as an archive of vanishing thoughts and memories that are to be revisited and created from. It's part of the process that lives subtly within the titles and the works.

Fields of vibrant colours, soft shapes, and aggressive gestures create dynamic images that limbo between abstraction and figuration — often reminding and suggesting landscapes. My painting practice is influenced by drawing. They each play a vital role in the same realm, finding balance as they coexist.



*Collected fragments, 2024*  
Oil and coloured pencil on canvas  
Dimensions variable



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## Estratti giornalieri

### La marina

Con la panda del nonno  
volavamo sulle buche  
per arrivare al mare.

Il mare dista poco,  
meno di mezz'ora,

vedo già un po' di fuoco  
e quel che divora.

Non so se sia oggi  
o ieri  
o domani,  
ma ciò non importa  
dato che siamo lontani da casa.

### Night at the coastal village

The quiet sizzling frying noise  
sets the atmosphere  
in this monochrome neighbourhood.

The cyan sky gradually fades  
into a glittered midnight blue.

Whispers float trough streets  
from house to house  
ear to ear.

I hear the waves composing a melody  
crashing against the rocks.

I think about the people that left too soon.

### Zattera

Galgeggio come un palloncino  
incontrollabile dal vento.  
La corente mi trascina  
velocemente più vicino.  
Dal pensiero io mi tormento,  
ma sulla zattera ci arrivo.

### Tra le undici e mezzanotte

Il paese si dipinge di blu petrolio.

I miei timpani esplodono  
dal frinire delle cicale.

Un'orchestra invisibile agli occhi.

La brezza serale raffredda quel poco che rimane;  
mi bacia la pelle  
e io mi tolgo il costume già asciutto.

Un tutt'uno con l'esterno

Affogo nel materasso  
pieno di nuvole.

### Luce filtrata e sagome color indaco

la luce filtrata dalle tende bianche è poco intensa,  
subito  
ho capito che non ci fosse stato neanche un po' di sole

il maltempo mi va sull'umore,  
che strano, io amavo la pioggia,  
il suono delle gocce mentre cadono sul tetto  
ti avvolgono nel sonno

fluttuo nella stanza col petto pesante  
per passare le ore

mi sono spostato al sud delle alpi  
dove ho visto sagome color indaco  
scontornare il cielo blu,  
o di ciò che ne rimane

### Verso la Liguria

in macchina in quattro  
a parlare  
a discutere  
a litigare per ore  
a scherzare

le mie gambe addormentate tra lo zaino

per più di un'ora il cielo in fiamme  
ci accoglieva al mare

la musica negli auricolari  
mi sembra di stare nel 2017

in tre con la nausea  
uno dopo l'altro  
poi è passata ad ora di cena

camminando verso l'appartamento  
dondolo con mia sorella  
tra le stradine semi deserte

### Words

I like the beauty of making words up  
it's funny how this happens  
it makes me laugh every time

a bit of italian  
a bit of german  
a bit of english

my brain is in a continuous hunt  
for the right words,

failing

### I think about spring while I stretch

the singing birds woke me up  
"I thought there would be sun"

later

I felt my body  
as I stretched my bones

tension between

mind & muscles

the energy form the earth enters the body

trembling, as I rest



*Forest bathing against stress, 2024*  
Oil paint and colored pencil on canvas  
30 × 50 cm



*Lì fermo a guardare l'orizzonte*, 2024  
Oil paint and colored pencil on canvas  
45 × 35 cm



*Sott'acqua / Ammollo, 2024*  
Oil paint and colored pencil on canvas  
30 × 40 cm



*I miss the summer not the heat, 2024*  
Oil paint and colored pencil on canvas  
40 × 60 cm

A natural wall surrounds us  
A cocoon made of rocks

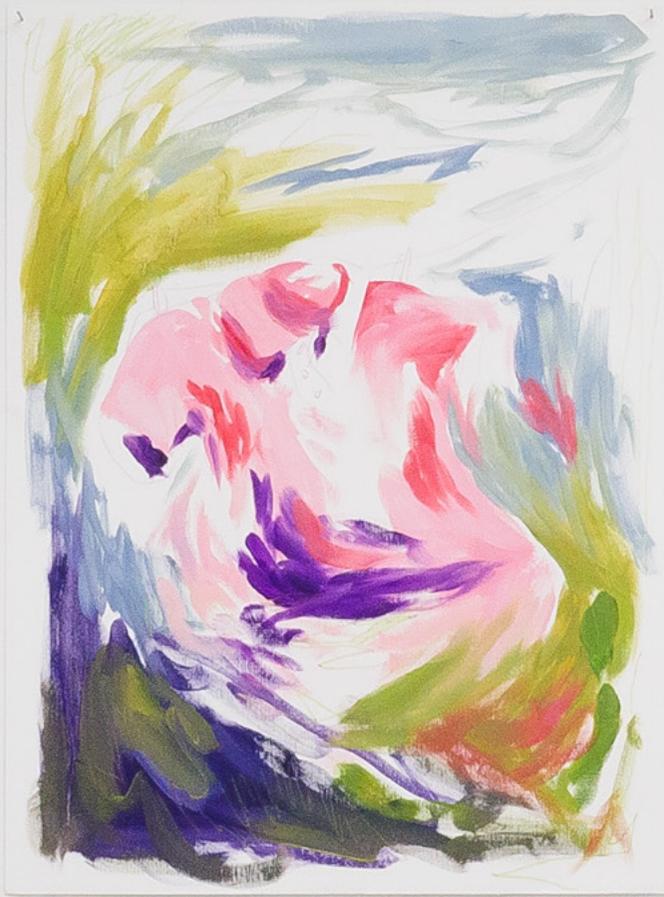
Warm,                    safe,                    isolated

I pierce these sky touching walls  
from north to south (back and forth)  
from south to north (back and forth)  
to travel  
to search  
to see  
to collect roots    (fragmented)

from my mother's land  
    neon  
    green  
    grass

from my father's land  
    dry  
    yellow  
    grass

Once I leave  
I'll glue on my skin  
every piece I found



*Millennial pink polo of my childhood dreams, 2024*  
Oil paint and colored pencil on paper  
48 × 36 cm



Drawings, 2023 ongoing  
Colored pencil on paper  
14.8 x 21 cm each



*Untitled, A cloud slowly covered my body, Pointing tips protect the inside, 2023*  
Oil paint and colored pencil on canvas  
30 × 40 cm each



*Sotto il sole dorato*, 2023  
Oil paint, oil stick and colored pencil on canvas  
30 × 40 cm



*Open sky terrarium, Undiscovered roots under my feet, 2023*  
Oil paint and colored pencil on canvas  
30 × 40 cm each

Beep...beep...beeeep!  
Someone's in the street  
and I'm still under my sheets.

A dirty white truck passes by,  
waking me up, ugh, every time!

A muffled voice through a megaphone  
screams about products in a loud annoying tone.

Blankets  
Towels  
Duvets

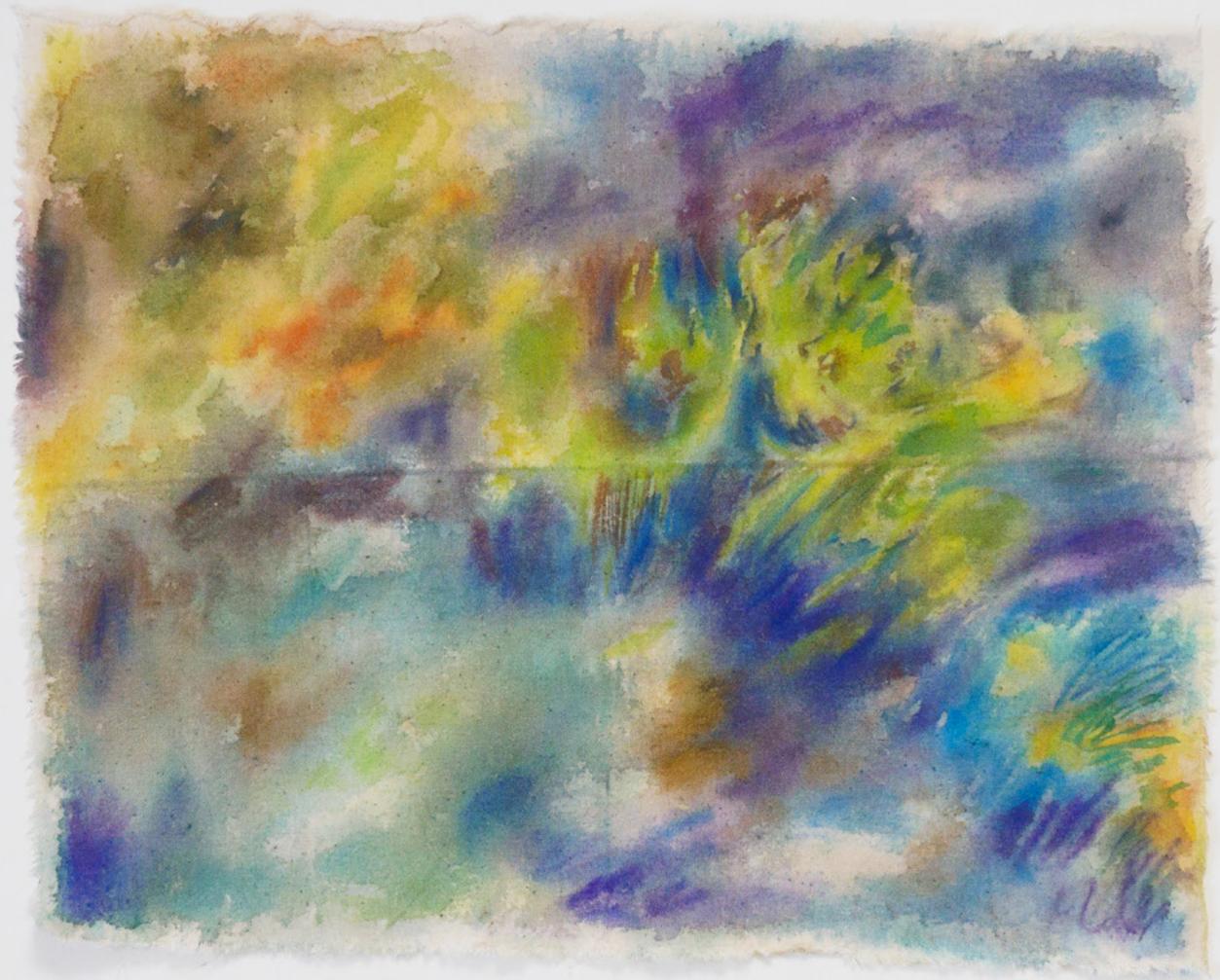
A moving market beneath your house,  
an unnoticed wake-up call  
to start the day,  
whether you want it or not.



*Digging into water, 2023*  
Colored pencil on raw canvas  
50 × 70 cm

*Dopo il bagno sdraiati sulla riva del mare, 2023*  
Liquid watercolours, threads, safety pins  
55 x 100 cm





*Großes Torfmoor*, 2023  
Watercolor and colored pencil on raw canvas  
27 × 33.5 cm



Drawings, 2023  
Colored pencil on paper  
14.8 × 21 cm each

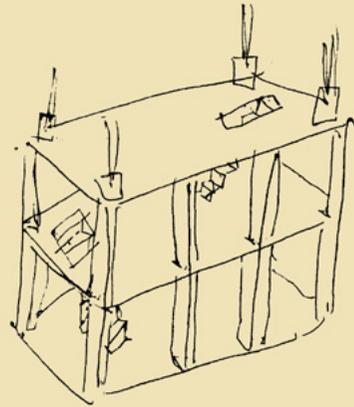


*Sembra di nuotare ai tropici!*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
50 × 70 cm



*Boiling ground*, 2023  
Acrylic and oil paint on canvas  
50 × 70 cm

# *La vita tra rovine moderne*



Joshua Venturino

A light breeze,  
Warm & dry,  
Travels thru  
Man-made structures.  
The salt of the sea  
Eats materials:  
Paint,  
Concrete  
And iron.  
While the sun  
Washes the colours  
Of the houses away.  
After people leave,  
These unliveable  
Buildings  
Continue to live  
In silence.

Una leggera arietta,  
Calda e secca,  
Viaggia attraverso  
Strutture artificiali.  
Il sale del mare  
Mangia materiali:  
Pittura,  
Calcestruzzo  
E ferro.  
Mentre il sole  
Lava via  
I colori delle case.  
Dopo la partenza  
Delle persone,  
Questi invivibili  
Edifici  
Continuano a vivere  
In silenzio.

Metal steps  
That lead nowhere  
But at the starting point.  
Up.  
Down.  
Up.  
Down.  
A dead end.  
A invisible,  
Deserted mall.  
A project  
Left in the drawer.

Scalini di metallo  
Che portano in nessun luogo  
Se quel di partenza.  
Su.  
Giù.  
Su.  
Giù.  
Un punto morto.  
Un centro commerciale  
Invisibile,  
Deserto.  
Un progetto  
rimasto nel cassetto.

I walk  
On boiling ground  
Between homes  
And monumental sculptures.  
A warm wind  
Grazes my face.  
On an emerald bed,  
I immediately jump in.  
I tell myself:  
With humid weather,  
I just can't live.  
The smell of the sea,  
The smell of sulfur,  
It makes you sick,  
A distant memory,  
It reminds me  
Of my stay in Vulcano.

Cammino  
Sul terreno bollente  
Tra abitazioni  
E sculture monumentali.  
Un vento caldo  
Mi sfiora il viso.  
Su un lettino color smeraldo,  
Mi ci butto all'improvviso.  
Io mi dico:  
Col tempo afoso,  
Io non ce la faccio  
A campare.  
L'odore del mare,  
L'odore dello zolfo,  
Da farti star male,  
Un ricordo lontano,  
Mi fa ricordare  
Alla vacanza a Vulcano.



*Night Flowers' Pond, 2022*  
Water soluble pastels and acrylic paint, grey fabric  
120 × 155 cm



*Pink Dust*, 2022  
Oil on canvas  
40 × 40 cm



*Waterfall, 2022*

Fabrics, acrylic paint, water soluble pastels, safety pins, clear fishing wire

Dimensions variable

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#### Education

2021 - 2024 BA Fine Arts, Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, Zürich  
2016 - 2020 Interactive Media Designer, Centro scolastico per le Industrie Artistiche, Lugano

#### Group Shows

2024 *Diplom Exhibition*, ZHdK, Zürich  
2024 Group Exhibition, Villa de Sein, Zürich  
2024 *Promise, I'll Never Know*, ZHdK, Zürich  
2023 *Skinny Dipping*, ZHdK, Zürich  
2023 *Cà Ticino*, Fondazione Claudia Lombardi, Lugano  
2023 *L'esperienza del mistico*, Casa del gufo, Carabbia  
2022 *Via Kreis*, ZHdK, Zürich  
2021 *Playground warrior*, ZHdK, Zürich

#### Publications

2023 Work featured on BLUE, zine issue 2 by The Elegists