

RICHARD KETLEY

ANTHILL



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The title of this series relates to the novel of the same title by the Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, which is about a imagined but corrupt West African nation.

The shapes in these pieces are inspired by the Adinkra symbols (from the same area) for “enjoy yourself”, “good living” and “truth” - in the novel how these are achieved involves anything but the truth. Many of the works in this series are executed on a much travelled truck tarpaulin from a truck that travelled the hard roads that stretch from Johannesburg into the rest of the continent - where parasitic police road blocks are a constant menace. Many of the shapes are the result of collage. These works are intended to be rough and to be displayed as a wall hanging. Other pieces address our notion of the Sahel as perpetual desert as portrayed in the media.



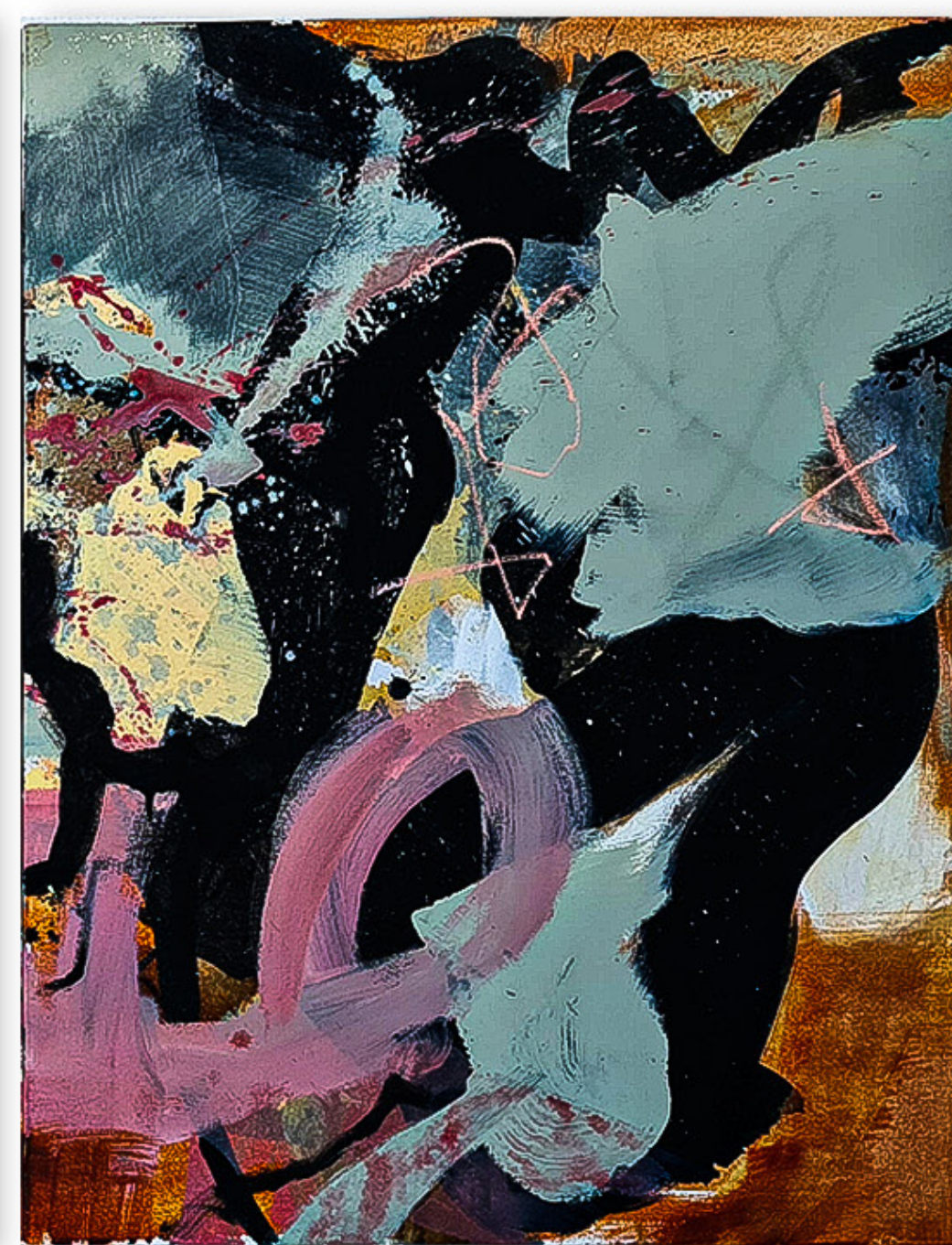
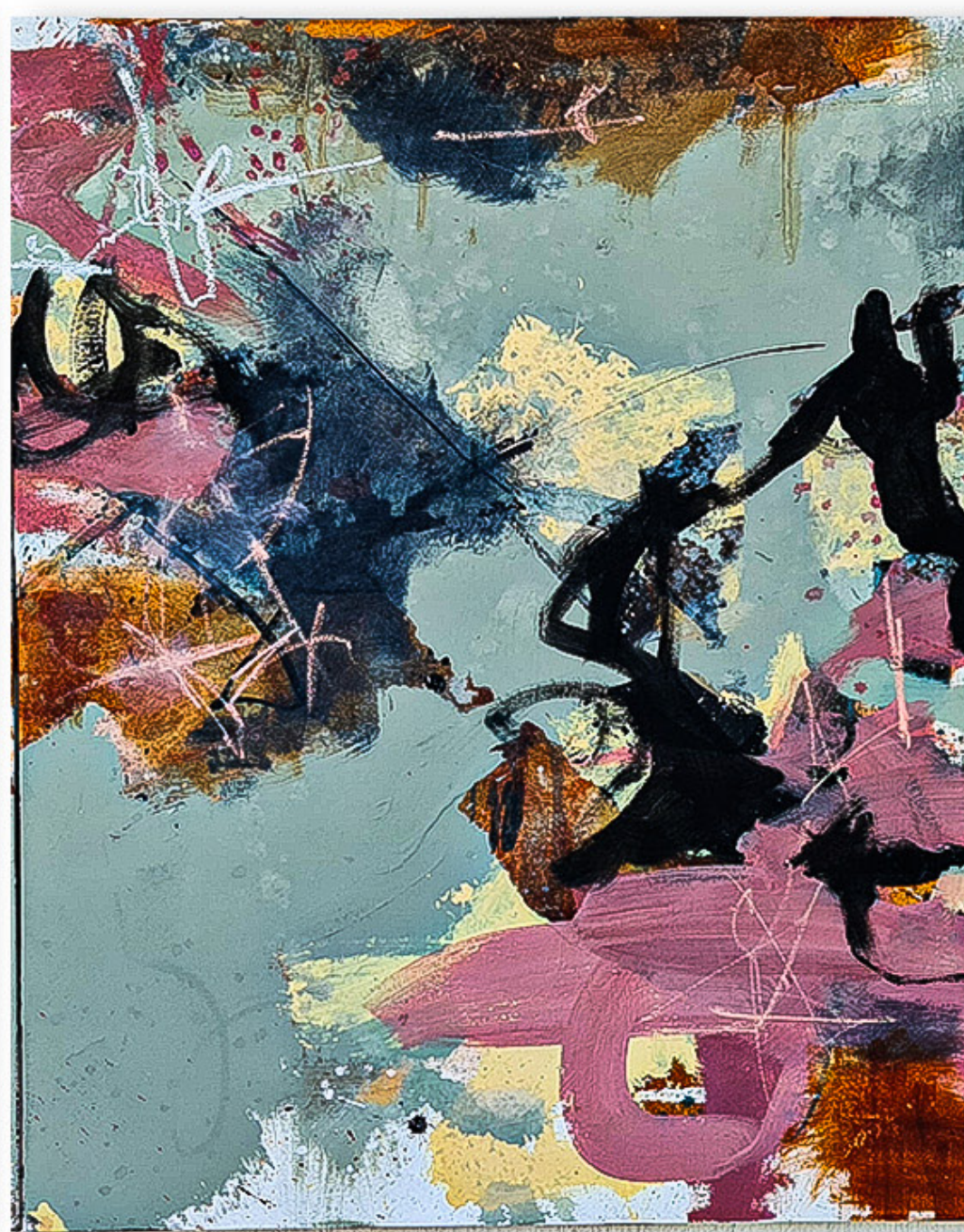
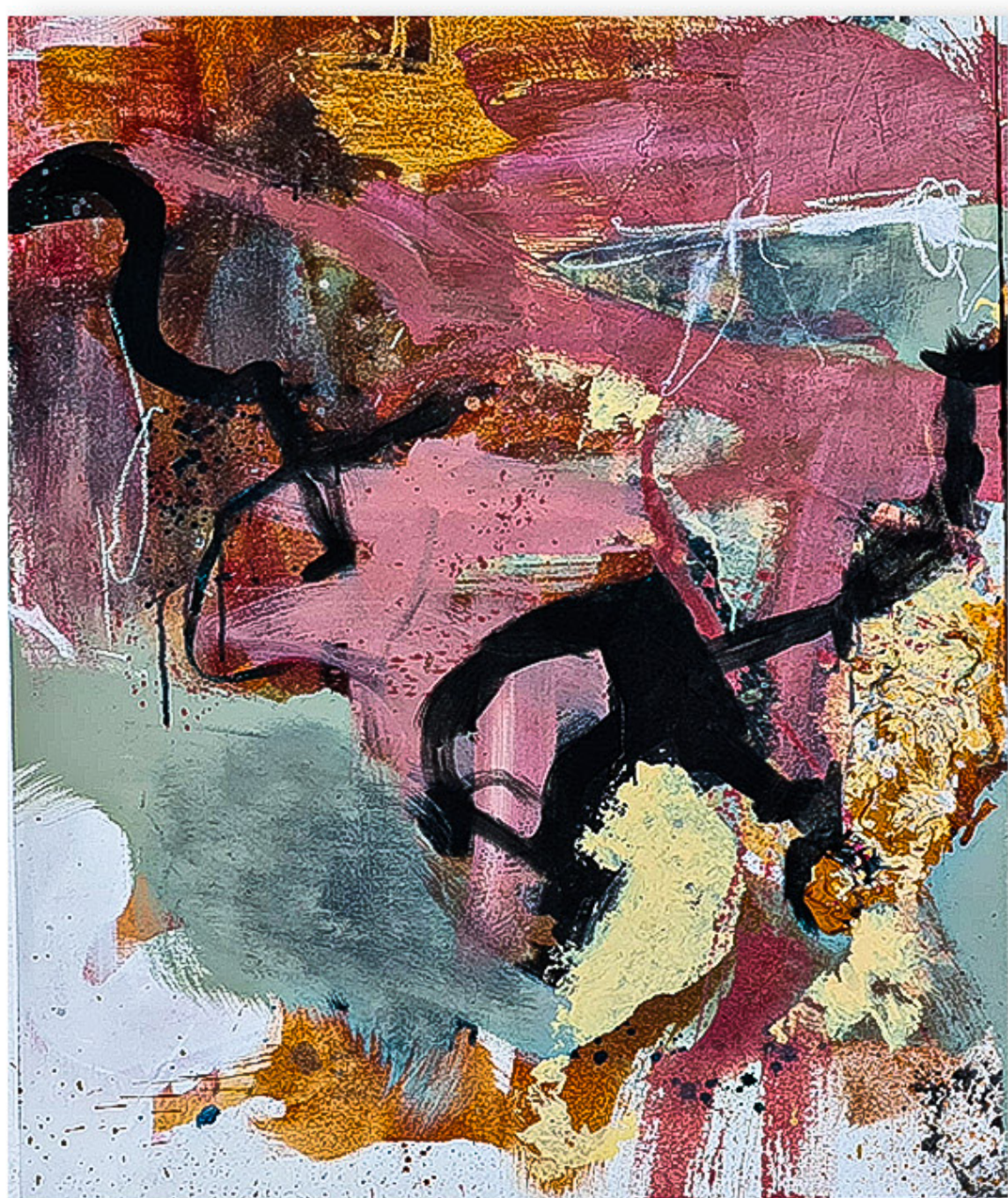
Anthill of the Savannah

Size: 90 x 140 x 5 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas



Anthill of the Savannah: II

Size: 90 x 210 x 5 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas



Anthill of the Savannah: III

Size: 90 x 210 x 5 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Anthill of the Savannah: IV

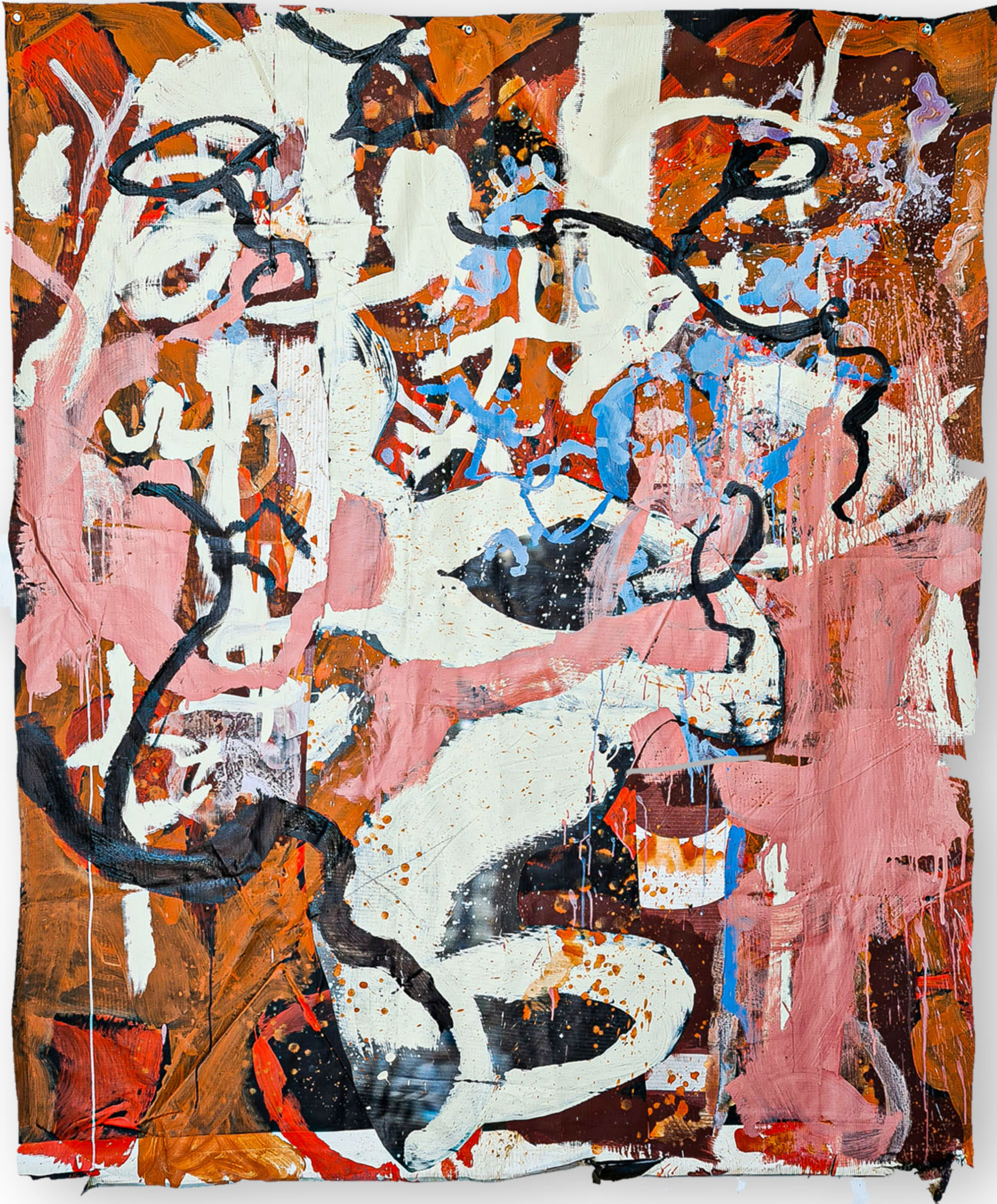
Size: 146 x 213 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin





Anthill of the Savannah: V

Size: 157 x 210 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin



Anthill of the Savannah: VI

Size: 196 x 160 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin



Anthill of the Savannah: VII

Size: 117 x 144 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin



Anthill of the Savannah: VIII

Size: 92 x 153 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin



Summer in the Sahel

Size: 162 x 148 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin



Sahel Ramadan

Size: 133 x 164 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Tarpaulin



Artist Statement

I find meaning where others do not - in the fall of light on a sandy building in Riyadh, the chaos of the shacks of Kampala, the crowded taxi parks of Johannesburg. I travel widely in the Middle East and Africa, but I have not found my Tahiti - a landscape populated with primary colours, instead I find landscape covered in sandy construction sites, tin roofed shacks, humanity sweating as trucks our loaded with voluminous bundles - struggles for hope in adverse contexts. Hope that I create with the form and structure of my work.

Profile

Born in 1964, Richard Ketley has painted since he was at school and held his first solo exhibition while still a student at Hyde Park High School. During his early career, he exhibited at Artists in the Sun and at the Sandton Gallery, Johannesburg, and participated in a joint exhibition at the National Galley in Kampala, Uganda. Some of his most recent work has been shortlisted for the SA Taxi Art Award (2015 and 2016). During 2016 he held a joint exhibitions of his work in Lagos and Johannesburg and featured in the Joburg Fringe. In 2017 his work featured at the Art Africa Fair and he held a solo exhibition at 70 Juta Street. In 2018 his work has featured in Art makes Water, Kampala.