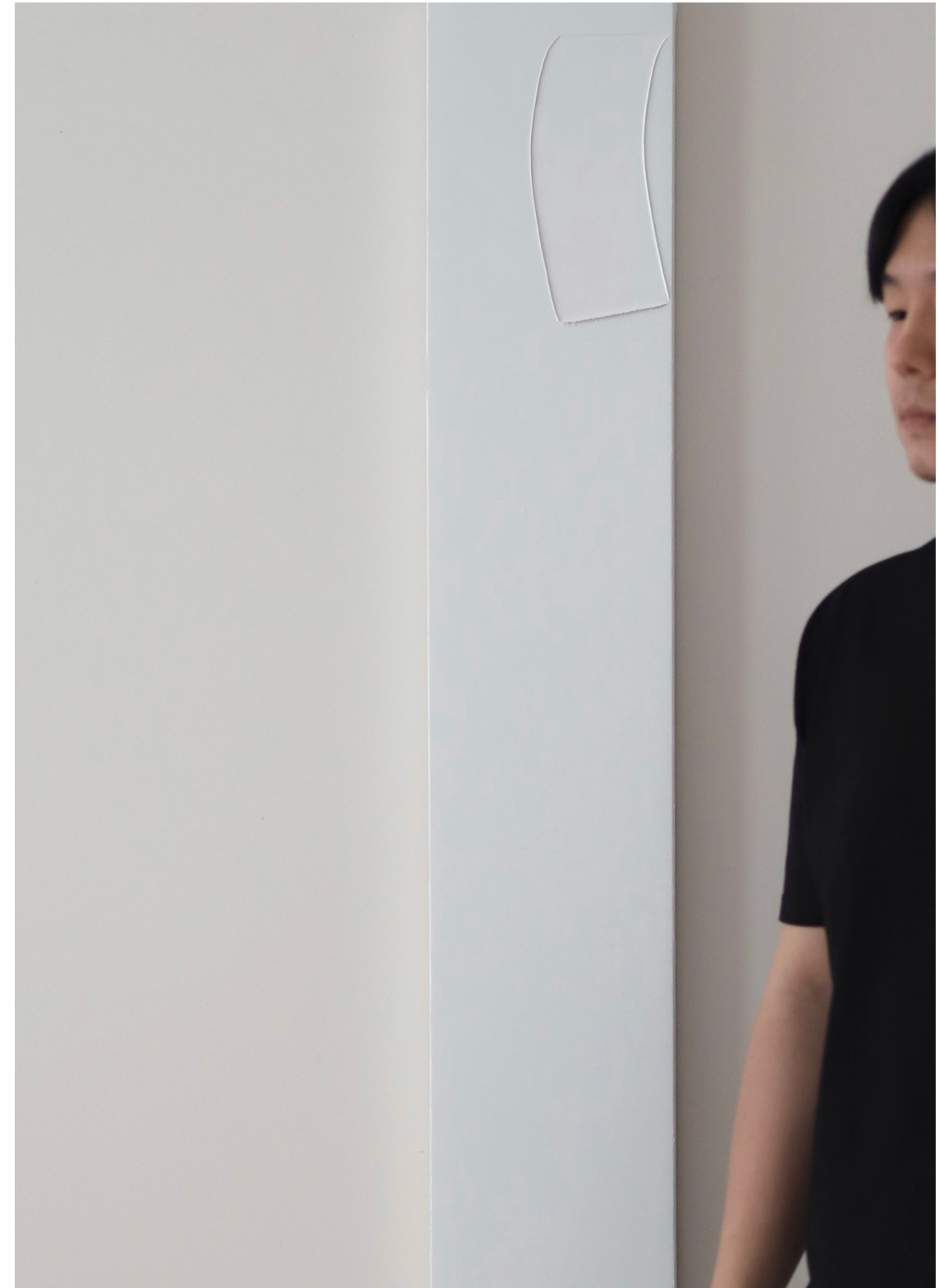


GJ KIMSUNKEN
FIGURATION

JULY 23 - SEPT 10, 2022

YI GALLERY

GJ Kimsunken (b. 1985, Seoul, South Korea) received his MFA from the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture in 2010, and an BFA from the National Art School in Sydney, Australia in 2008. Kimsunken currently lives and works in New Jersey. His work has been featured in galleries and institutional exhibitions around the world.



In his work, Kimsunken asks questions about human existence: who are we, why are we and what are we for? Generally, he titles each work *Figuration*. The new works represent a significant departure from his previous series and are an exciting development in his continuing interest in and investigation into human figuration. Kimsunken still methodically primes the canvas with gesso, which he then covers in multiple layers of oil paint, giving the surfaces an otherworldly luminescence, as well as substantial weight. Despite his compositions' reductive, abstract appearance – achieved by scraping away paint from the canvas – Kimsunken's paintings represent the human figure. To the artist, this method is very much the most direct way of mark-making and is related to the core theme of his work - arousing the human condition - leading to the question of human salvation.

Kimsunken's non-descriptive figure paintings occupy a singular space between representation and abstraction. His repetitive and rigorous painting process emphasizes the physical properties of oil paint, with the resultant works deeply rooted in the history of the medium.





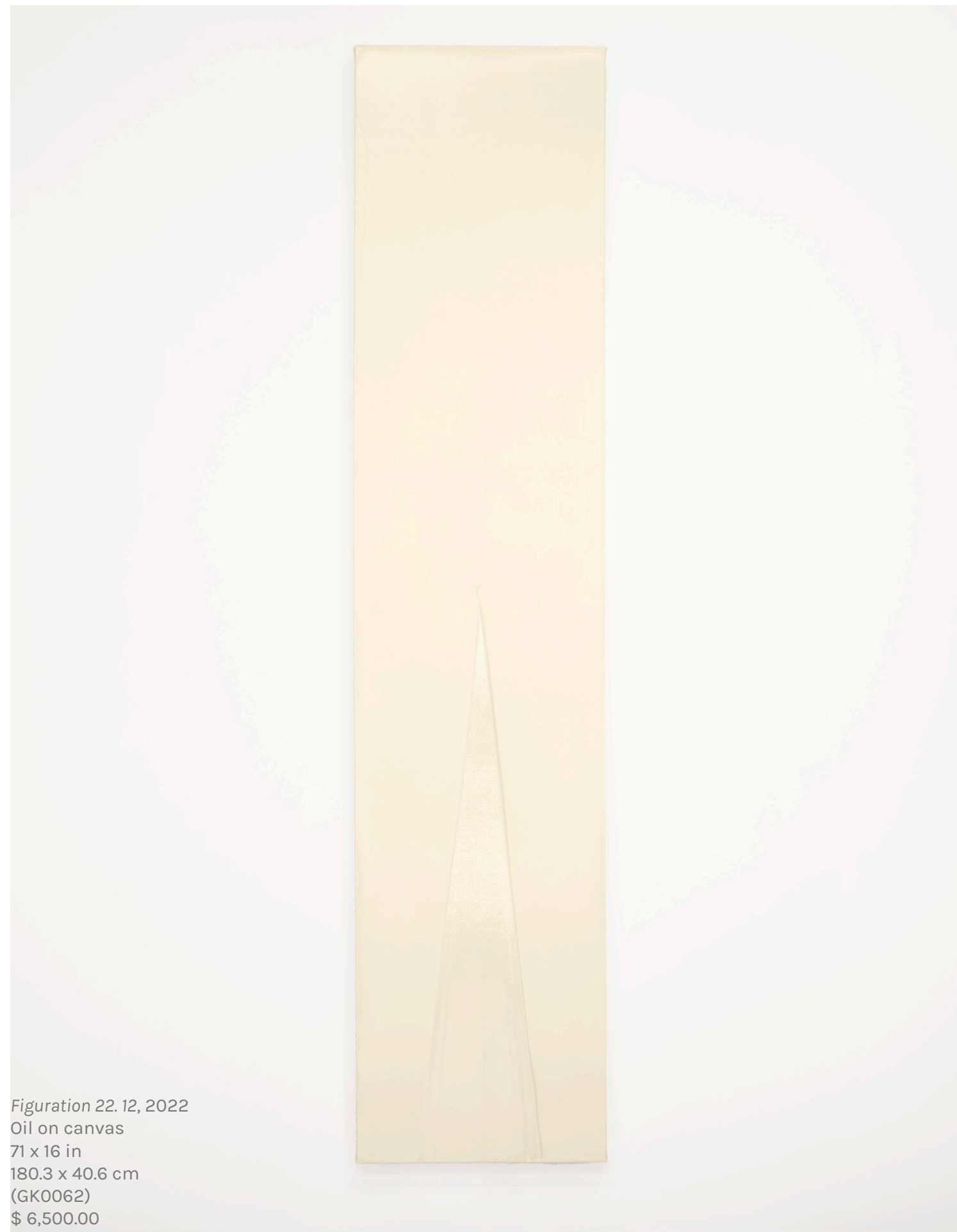
For this exhibition, the artist reflects on new modes of representing and abstracting the human figure. Absence and presence are equally important in the new group of works – absence makes presence possible and presence exists through absence. The two states of being are inseparable. Only four inches wide, *Figuration 22. 14* is the same height as the artist himself – seventy-one inches. Here, Kimsunken makes direct reference to the concept of absence by using an exaggerated, elongated format, cropping out a large part of the canvas and giving it an almost sculptural presence off the wall. In the artist’s own words, “My work seems to question the meaning of presence through the concept of absence.” Kimsunken wants viewers to stand next to a painting and feel the presence of a figure. The elongated, upright format isolates the essential image from the larger compositional structure and accentuates the human figure through articulation of the head. The exploration of this long format is further developed in two paintings, *Figuration 22. 12* and *Figuration 22. 17*, which allude to cropped torsos and suggest the presence and absence of a full figure.

Figuration 22. 18 (Otherness), 2022
Oil on canvas
71 x 8 in
180 x 20 cm
(GK0076)
\$ 6,000.00



In the rear gallery, three smaller scaled works reflect the artist's most recent exploration in figuration. By isolating part of the human figure, one at a time, Kimsunken encourages the viewer to use imagination to fill the blank wall space, where their own figure stands. Intended by the artist to hang low on the wall, *Figuration 22. 16 (legs)* alludes to the position of legs where a human figure stands. Questions of spatial relationship are necessarily a part of viewing *Figuration 22. 13 (shoulder)* and *Figuration 22. 15*, in response to one's own figure and other bodies in space. Through radical and tactful placement of intimately sized canvases, Kimsunken invites the viewer into a transcendental experience which affirms one's own sense of presence.

As with much of the artist's practice, these predominantly monochromatic paintings possess subtle yet richly worked surfaces with pronounced textures. Kimsunken sought to investigate the relationship between the paint material and the passage of time, with an emphasis on raising physical matter to the height of the human spirit.

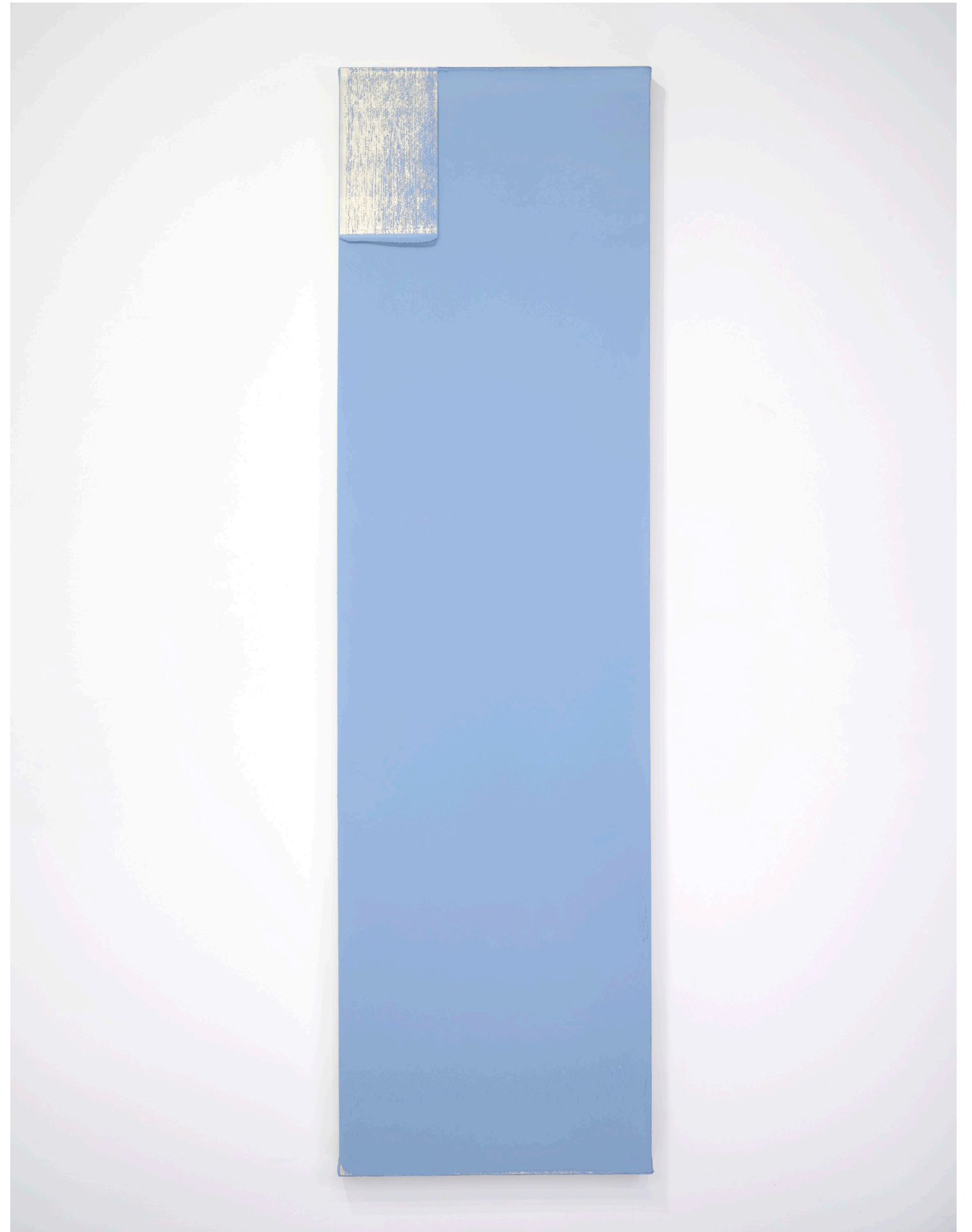


Figuration 22. 12, 2022
Oil on canvas
71 x 16 in
180.3 x 40.6 cm
(GK0062)
\$ 6,500.00





Figuration 22. 17, 2022
Oil on canvas
71 x 19.5 in
180 x 50 cm
(GK0059)
\$ 6,500.00



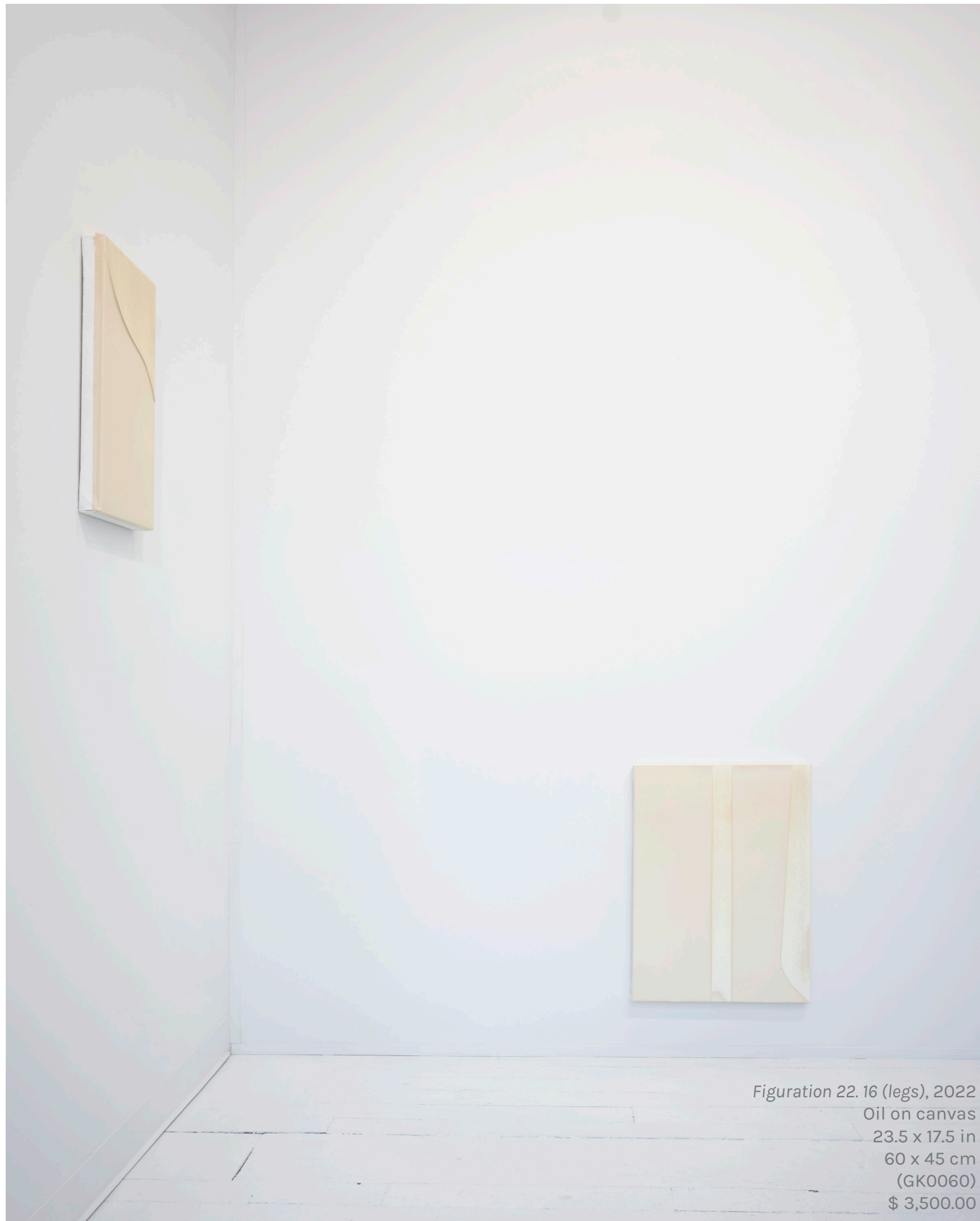






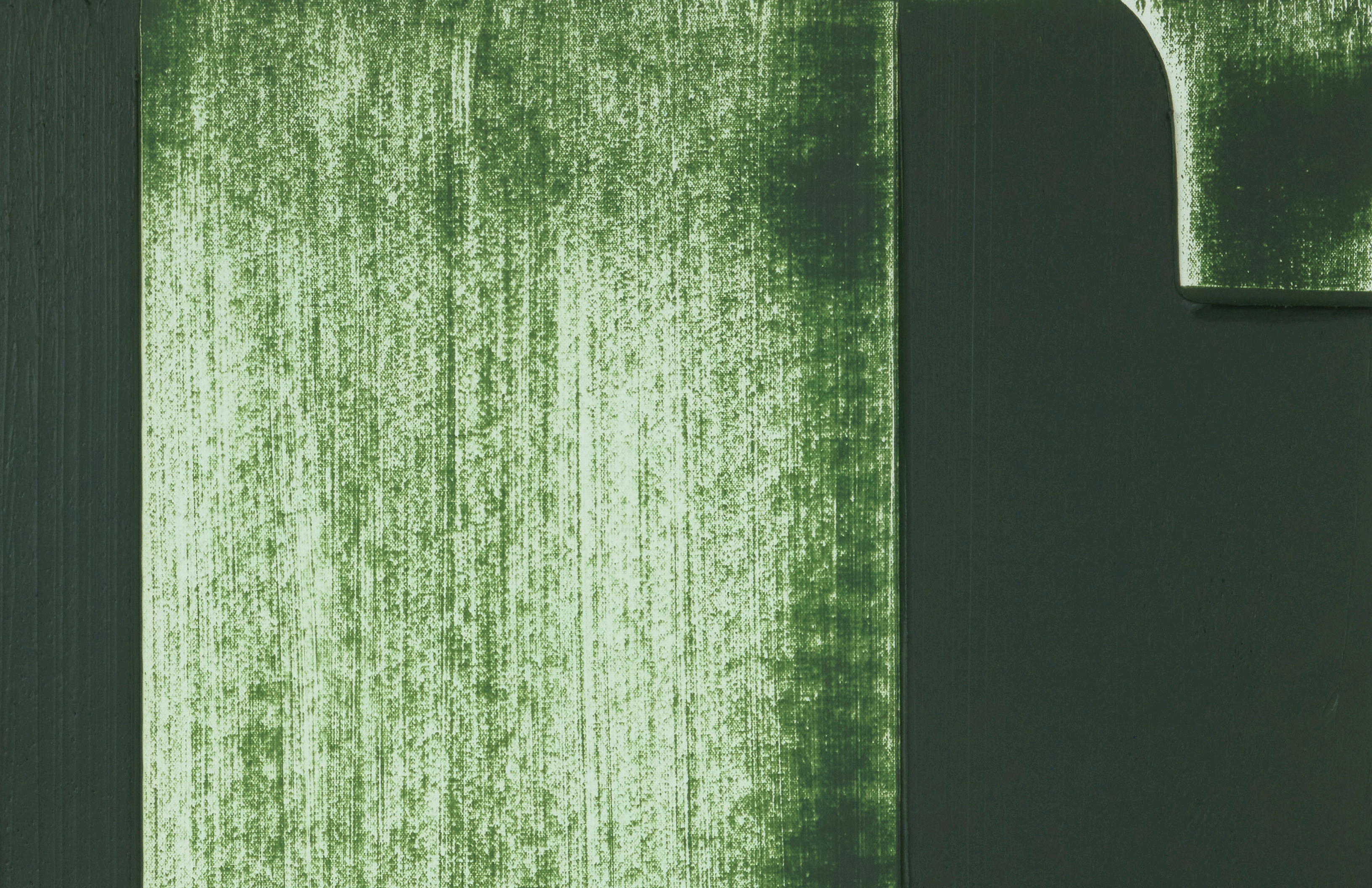
Figuration 22. 13 (shoulder), 2022
Oil on canvas
19.5 x 10 in
50 x 25 cm
(GK0058)
\$ 2,000.00





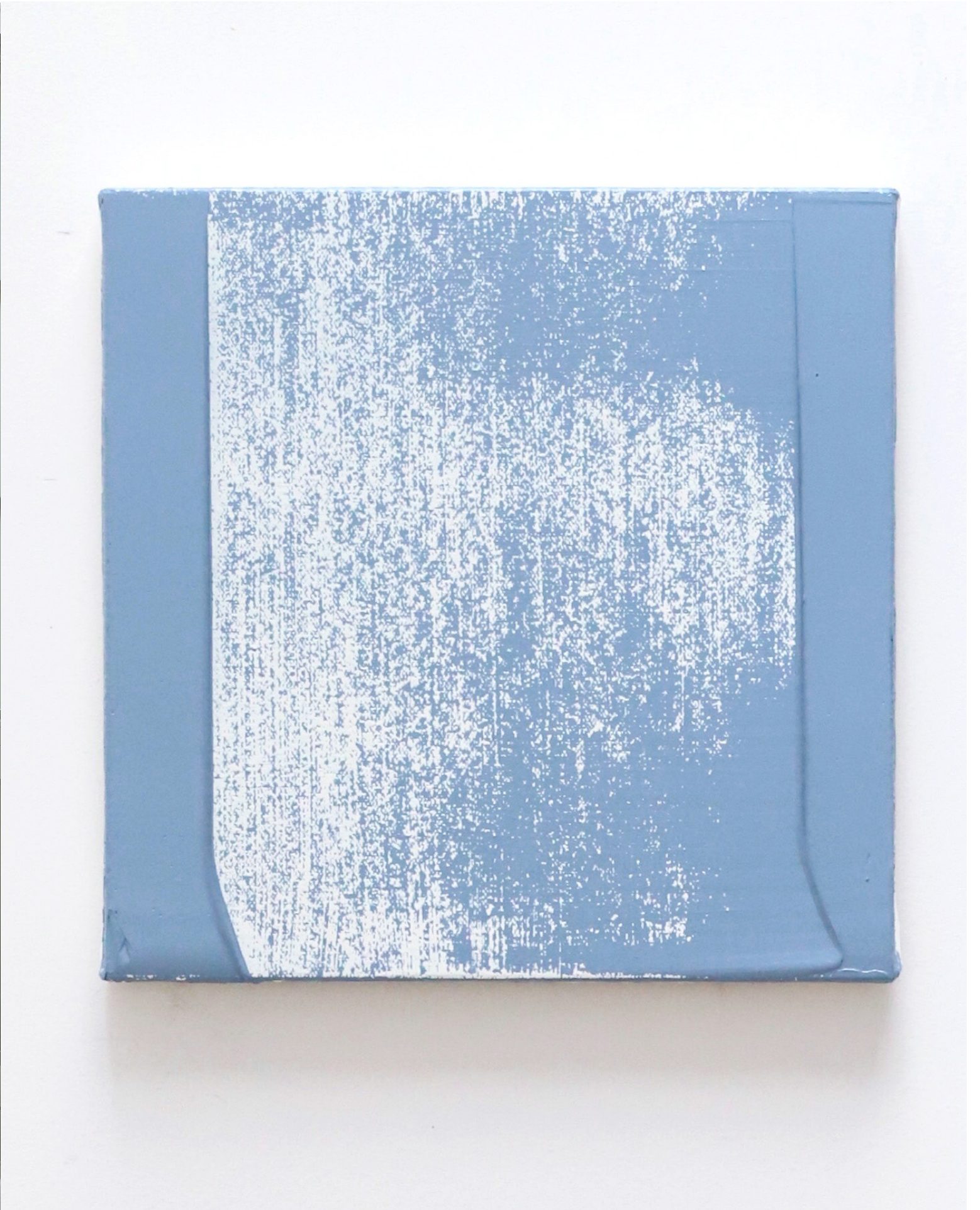
Figuration 21. 27, 2021
Oil on canvas
36 x 24.5 in
91 x 61 cm
(GK0064)
\$ 4,500.00





Figuration 22. 15, 2022
Oil on canvas
10 x 10 in
25 x 25 cm
(GK0057)
\$ 1,500.00






Figuration 22. 5, 2022
Oil on canvas
24.5 x 12.5 in
61 x 31 cm
(GK0065)
\$ 2,500.00







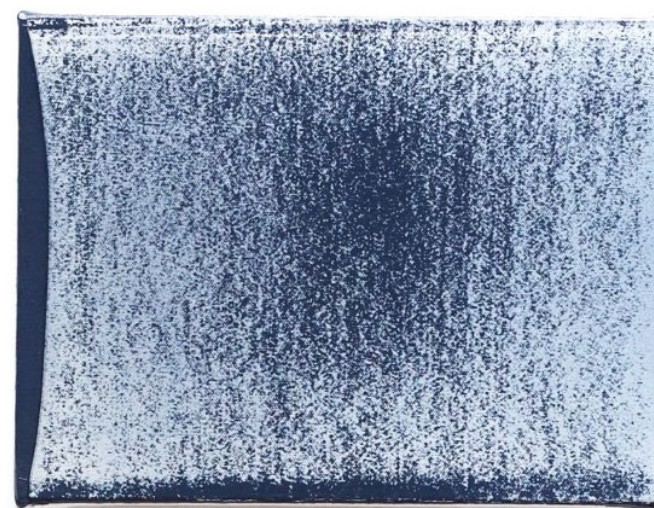


“MY WORK SEEMS TO QUESTION THE
MEANING OF PRESENCE THROUGH
THE CONCEPT OF ABSENCE.”

- GJ KIMSUNKEN

Figuration 21. 31 (son), 2021
Oil on canvas
48.5 x 24.5 in
122 x 62 cm
(GK0066)
\$ 5,000.00





Figuration 22. 8 (head), 2022
Oil on canvas
9.5 x 12.5 in
23 x 31 cm
(GK0063)
\$ 1,500.00



Untitled, 2022
Watercolor on paper
21.5 x 14.5 in
54 x 37 cm
(GK0072)
\$ 650.00



Untitled (head), 2022
Acrylic on paper
9.5 x 11.5 in
24 x 29 cm
(GK0075)
\$ 500.00



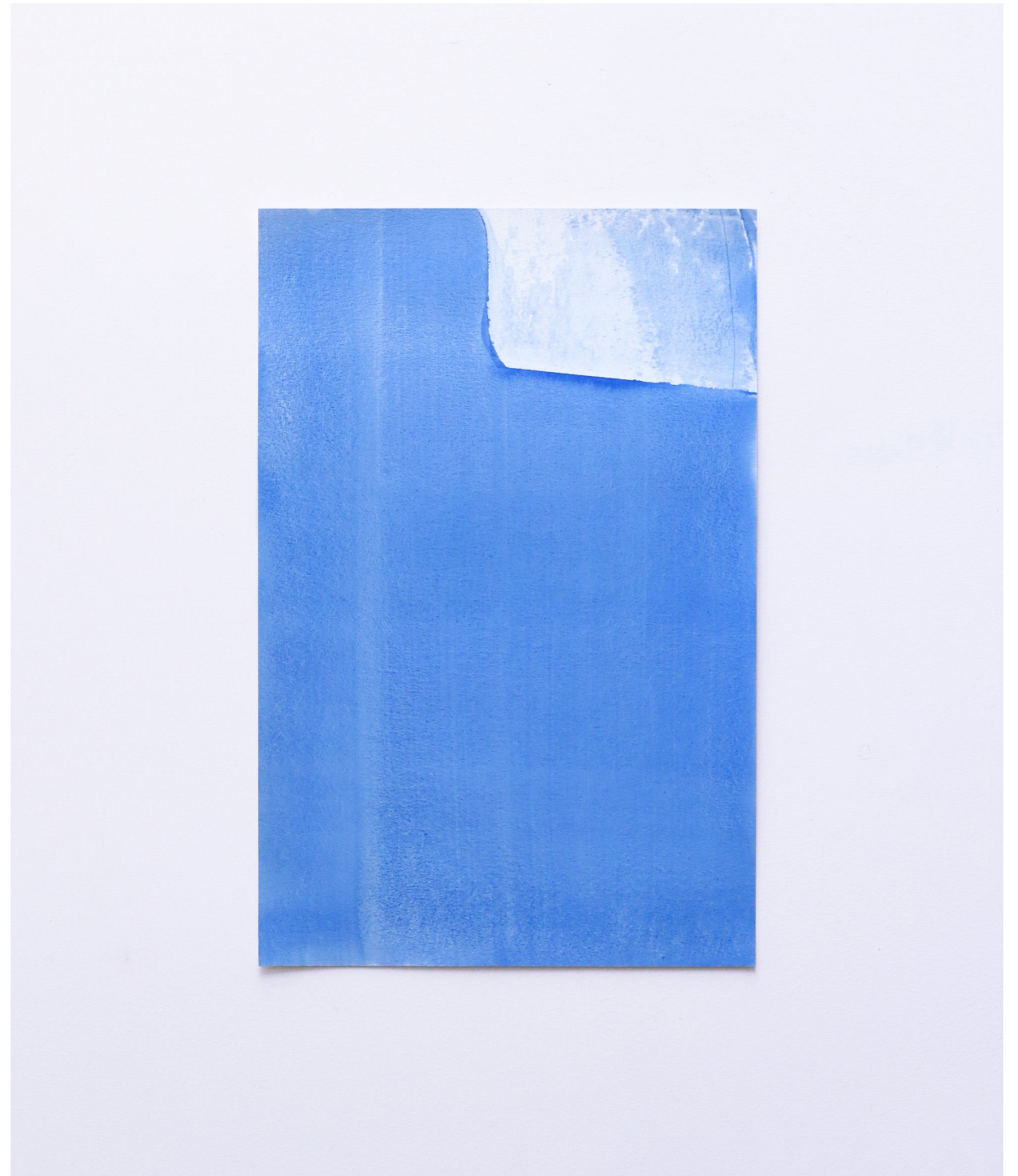
Untitled, 2022
 Watercolor on paper
 21 x 14 in
 53 x 35 cm
 (GK0074)
 \$ 650.00



Untitled, 2022
 Watercolor on paper
 23.5 x 3.5 in
 60 x 9 cm
 (GK0073)
 \$ 600.00



Untitled, 2022
 Watercolor on paper
 21 x 14.5 in
 53 x 37 cm
 (GK0070)
 \$ 650.00



Untitled, 2022
 Watercolor on paper
 21 x 14 in
 53 x 35 cm
 (GK0071)
 \$ 650.00



Born in 1985, Seoul
Lives and works in New Jersey

Education

2010 - MFA. New York Studio School, New York

2008 - BFA. National Art School, Sydney

Solo Exhibition

2022 - *Figuration*, Yi Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2021 - *Show Them Life, and They'll Find Within Themselves* (Online), Lowell Ryan Projects, Los Angeles, CA

Selected Group Exhibition

2021 - *Where We Meet Ourselves* (with Debra Ramsay), Yi Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2021 - *The Elements of Pattern and the Spaces in Between*, SFA Projects, New York, NY

2019 - *Telephone To The Divine*, Carvalho Park, Brooklyn, NY

2018 - Bushwick Open Studio, John Doe Gallery, Brooklyn, NY



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