

## Ulriche Jantjes | In My Mind's Eye

"In both mood and title, my paintings continually gravitate towards the theme of keeping watch, of bearing witness. This very particular way of seeing is perhaps not one traditionally associated with landscape, but it is one pertinent to what I consider the role of an artist: one who constantly seeks out realities that wander *beyond*, in murkier, ambiguous reaches.

More than a merely static, observed vista, I see landscape as a locale for contemplation, inviting a perceiving that is not passive but active and alert. Landscape is also more than material: The terrain I reference is "out there" but also interior, imaginary. And when translated onto canvas, it is something else entirely; neither here nor there, but an ever-expanding space of flux that now engages the viewer's reflections as well.

Certainly – and importantly – my initial reference points are specific: actual and geographical, and inextricably personal, as I negotiate themes of histories and futures, rootedness and belonging, by contemplating the site of my own roots – the Overberg landscape and its village of Elim, home to my forebears. In a process akin to taking field notes, I constantly observe, converse and gather photographs from family archives, this collecting and connecting also guided by the particular atmosphere or mood indwelling my mind at that time.

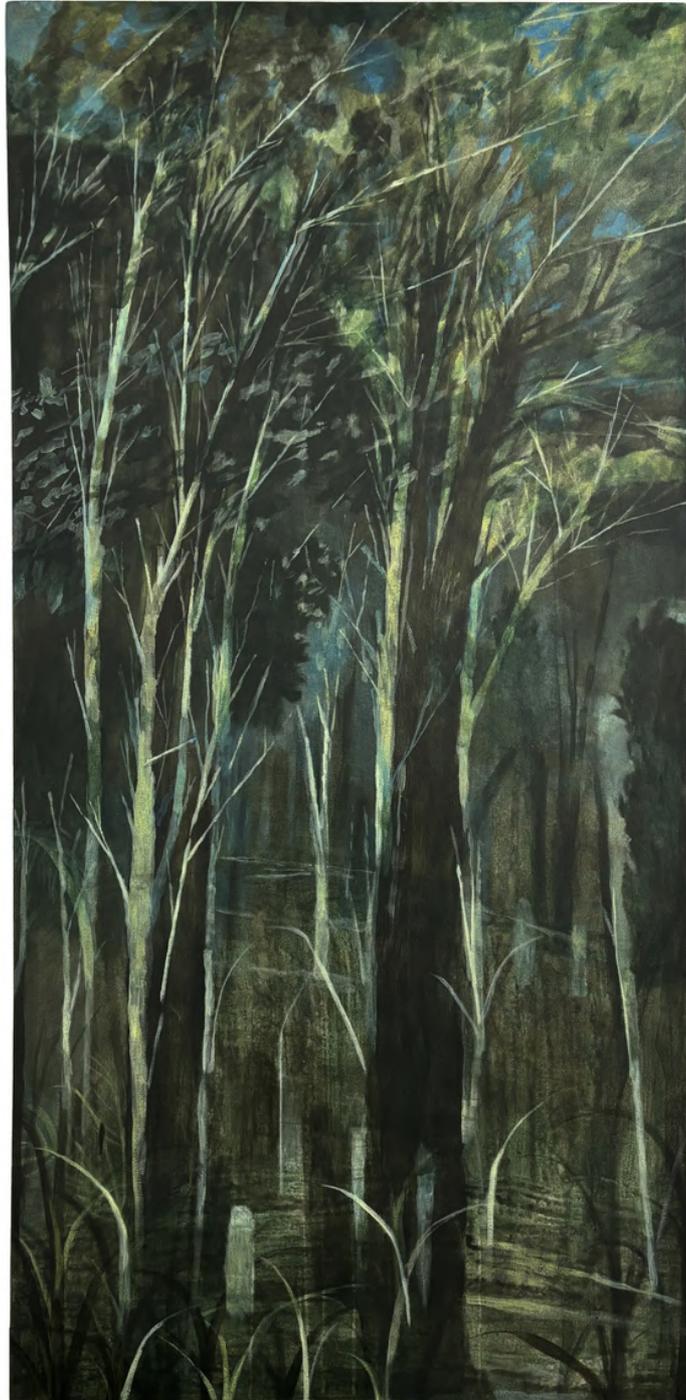
In the studio, these "notes" serve as visual cues for my painting process, where the notion of landscape is less noun than shifting, active verb: a landscaping, land-shaping on the canvas, further formed by clues mapped out on my inner world. This way of thinking-by-doing, of *figuring* out, relies heavily on the nature of the oil painting process; layering lends itself to fumbling, muddying and fixing; and the glazes, specifically, act as veils that obscure narratives below and allow a simultaneous revealing and concealing.

I add certain landmarks and remove others. Human figures become ghostly, lingering between presence and absence, stillness and movement. Ground reads as water, and its depth is unclear. As I use layers of paint to create overlapping, imagined worlds within real landscapes, the coalescing visuals repeatedly pose questions and possible answers, conveying dualities and ambiguities central to my subject matter.

The dark, muted colour palette further saturates this atmosphere with uncertainty and mystery, forms becoming even less distinct as one's eyes strain for clarity in the shadows, in a widening, wandering search for interpretations."

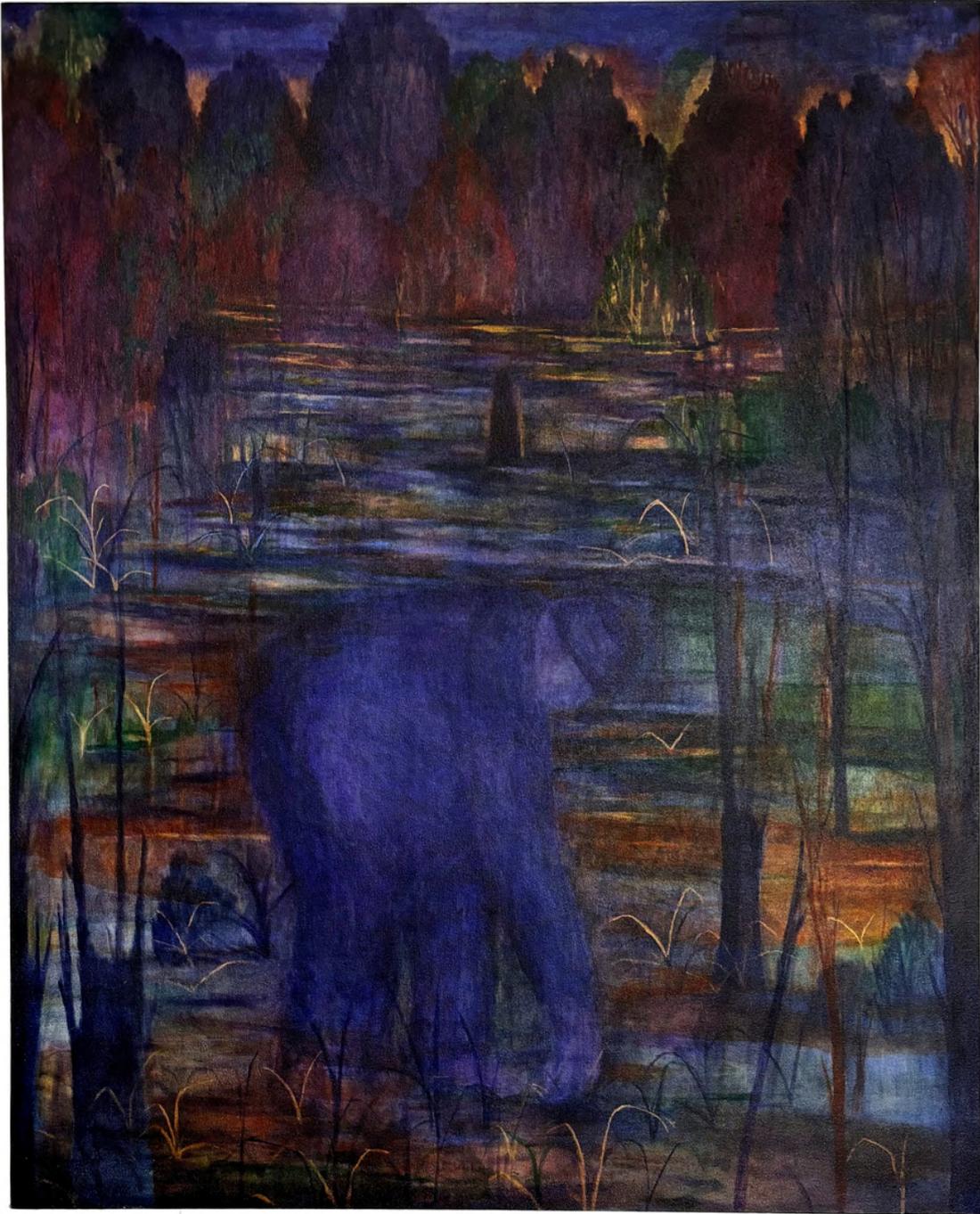


ULRICHE JANTJES  
*Sentinel I*, 2025  
Oil on canvas  
188.5 x 91.3 x 5 cm  
ZAR 60,000



ULRICHE JANTJES  
*Sentinel II*, 2025  
Acrylic on canvas  
188.5 x 90.8 x 4.5 cm  
ZAR 60,000

# 99 LOOP



ULRICHE JANTJES

*Toil*, 2025

Oil on canvas

150 x 120 x 5 cm

ZAR 60,000

# 99 LOOP



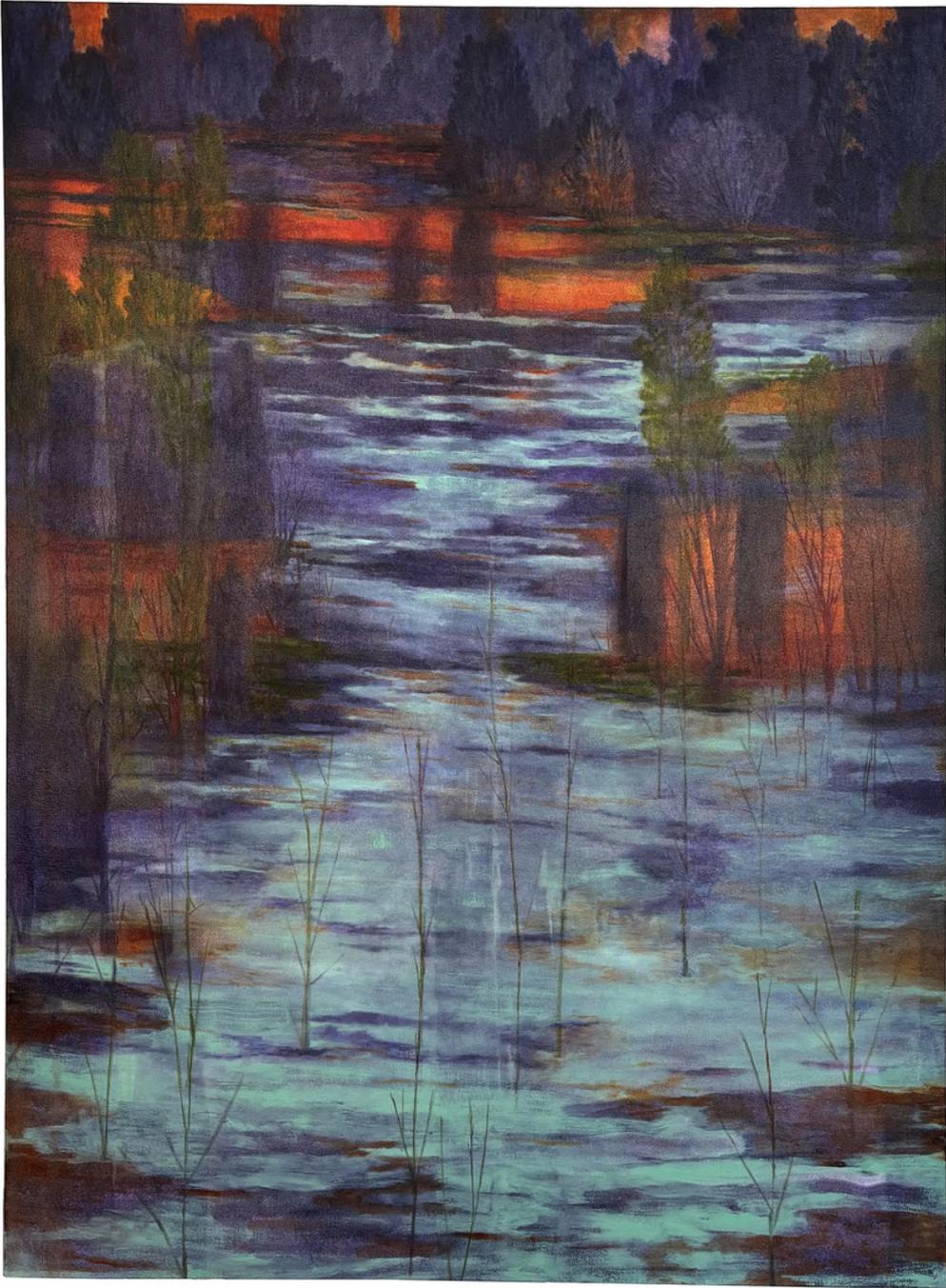
ULRICHE JANTJES  
*Guarded*, 2025  
Oil on canvas  
120.6 x 90.5 x 5 cm  
ZAR 43,500

# 99 LOOP



ULRICHE JANTJES  
*Pasture*, 2025  
Oil on canvas  
150 x 120.5 x 5 cm  
ZAR 60,000

# 99 LOOP

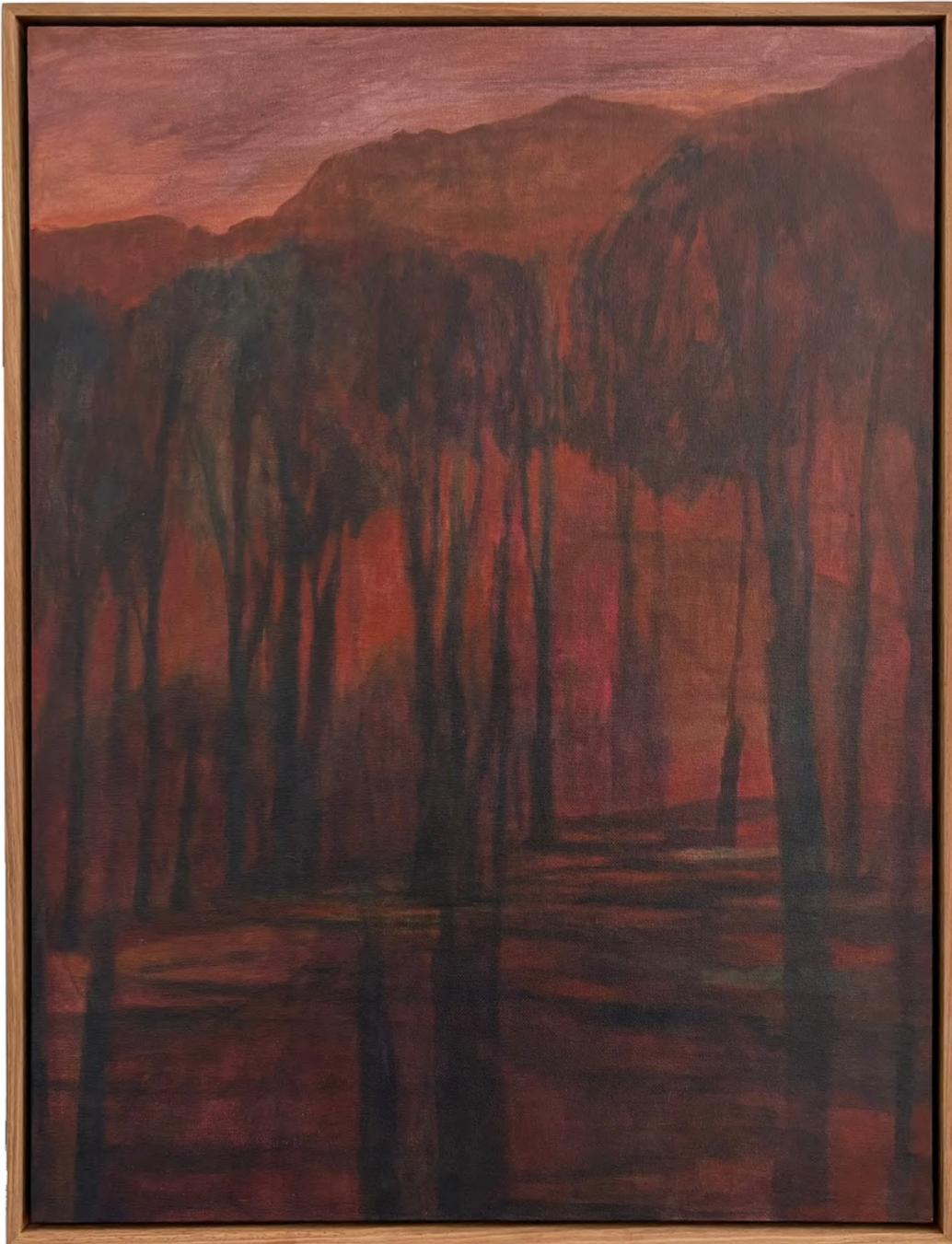


ULRICHE JANTJES  
*Marsh, 2025*  
Oil on canvas  
150 x 110 x 5 cm  
ZAR 55,000



ULRICHE JANTJES  
*Shadow, 2025*  
Acrylic on canvas  
91.5 x 76.2 x 5 cm  
ZAR 34,000

# 99 LOOP



ULRICHE JANTJES

*Amiss*, 2025

Acrylic on board

61 x 45.7 cm / 63.2 x 48.2 x 5.2 cm framed

ZAR 21,000

## About the Artist

Ulriche Jantjes (b. 1997) employs painting and printmaking to reflect on heritage and identity, as manifested in place. With roots in Elim, a Moravian mission settlement established in 1824 in the Overberg, she draws abiding yet fluid connections between this terrain and her sense of heritage and belonging, stating: "The landscape is ever-present in my work to function as an expanse which holds and beholds histories continuing to unfold within it." Her work is thus deeply personal, but, by referencing landscapes both exterior and imagined, and through her ruminative rendering in oils, it also achieves a sense of the universal and almost mythical, inviting the viewer to contemplate their own place, past and present.

Jantjes was born and raised in Cape Town. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art and a Master of Fine Art (with distinction) from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town. Jantjes has held several solo shows, including a solo booth at the 2024 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, and participated in numerous group exhibitions.