



**JOHN VAN 't SLOT**  
YELLOW GALLERY June 2024 Leiden

# JOHN VAN 'T SLOT

“you must close your eyes otherwise you won't see anything”

- Lewis Carroll – Alice in Wonderland

In the vivid tapestry of contemporary art, John van 't Slot emerges as a luminary, wielding a formidable and diverse repertoire that captivates the imagination. Rooted in the avant-garde fervor of the 1980s, he swiftly ascended to prominence as a trailblazer within the hallowed ranks of "de nieuwe wilde" (the new wild), a collective echoing the spirited ethos of their German counterparts, de Neue Wilden.

Van 't Slot's oeuvre, characterized by its progressive and predominantly figurative palette, offers a compelling glimpse into a realm where reality intertwines with enchantment. His early works, brimming with figurative elements, serve as a harbinger of themes that reverberate throughout his illustrious career. Horses, hares, dogs, and birds cavort through his canvases, ensconced within abstract landscapes that exude a palpable aura of mystique. Human figures, adorned in resplendent attire, inhabit these dreamscapes, evoking echoes of fairy tale realms penned by the likes of Grimm and Andersen.

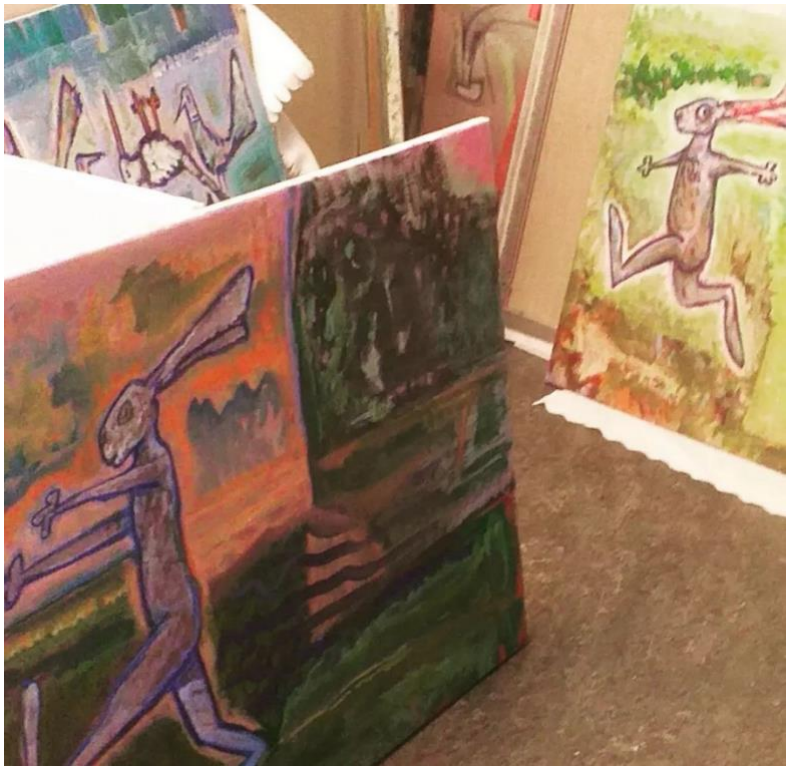
Yet, beneath the veneer of whimsy lies a disquieting undercurrent, reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." Van 't Slot deftly navigates the dichotomy between the whimsical and the disconcerting, as his hare figures, embody a sense of perpetual vigilance, navigating a world fraught with uncertainty. The tension is palpable as they traverse through the canvas, teetering on the precipice of the unknown. In van 't Slot's tranquil landscapes, the mystery of place shrouds us in uncertainty. Are we amidst towering mountains, basking in Mediterranean sun, or swept along a coastal breeze, akin to Dorothy's journey in "The Wizard of Oz"? As viewers, we're irresistibly drawn into these scenes, captivated by their dynamic energy and enigmatic charm.

Not content to rest on the laurels of figurative representation alone, van 't Slot embarks on a parallel journey into abstraction, weaving a tapestry of color and form that defies conventional boundaries. These non-figurative works, pulsating with vibrant hues and intricate detailing, serve as a counterbalance to their figurative counterparts, enriching the viewer's experience with their kaleidoscopic intensity.

The artist's creative evolution is palpable, as his paintings undergo metamorphoses akin to the changing seasons. What begins as a sun-dappled

idyll may morph into a tempestuous maelstrom, only to find solace in the tranquil embrace of a spring garden. Such transformations, meticulously documented on the reverse of each canvas, bear witness to van 't Slot's unwavering commitment to his craft and the relentless pursuit of artistic truth.

In the labyrinthine realm of contemporary art, John van 't Slot stands as a beacon of innovation, his canvases serving as portals to realms both familiar and fantastical, where the boundaries between reality and imagination blur into oblivion.

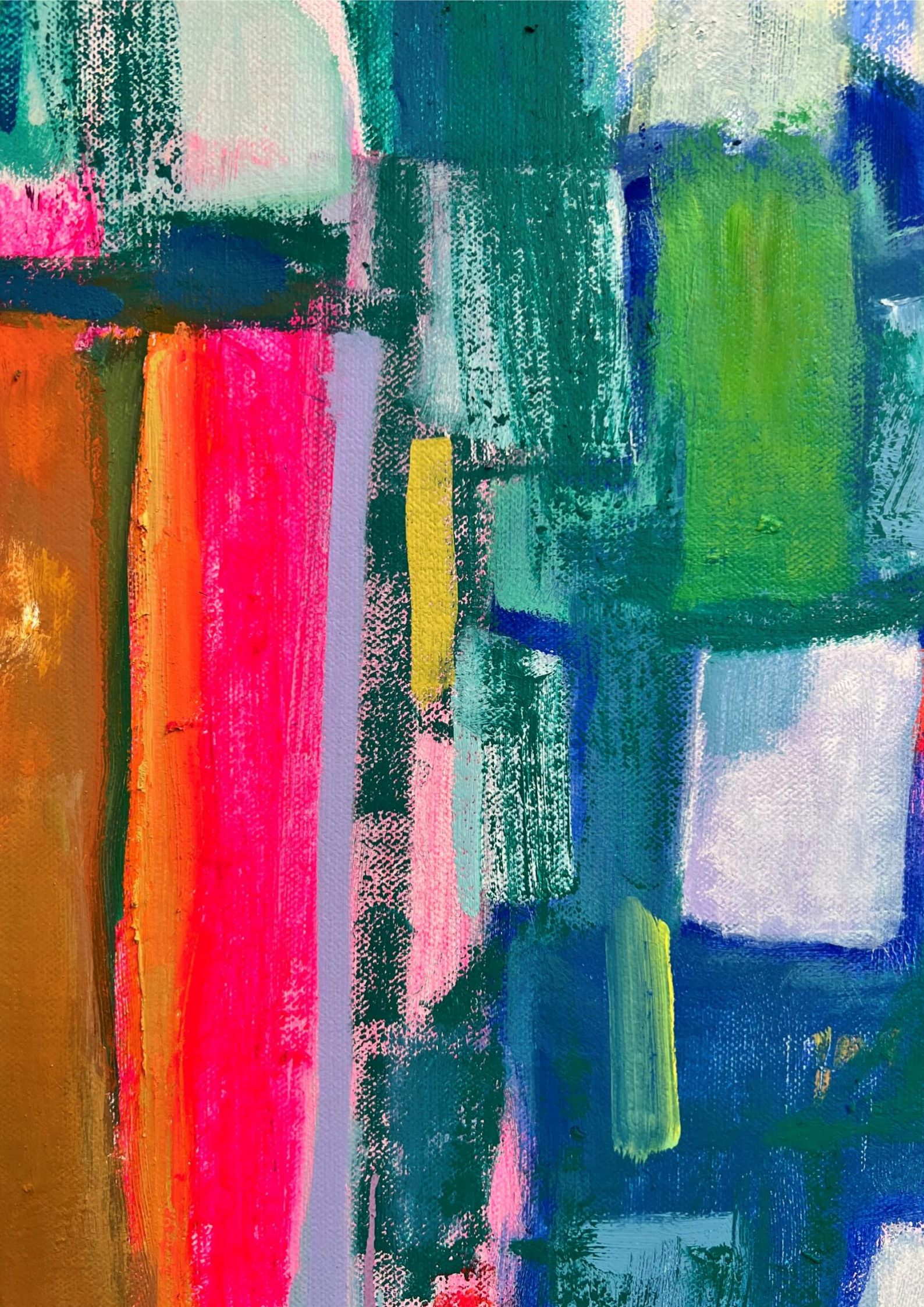


Studio John van 't Slot

JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 1 (2024)  
Oil on canvas  
100 x 120 cm | 39,37 x 47,24 in.



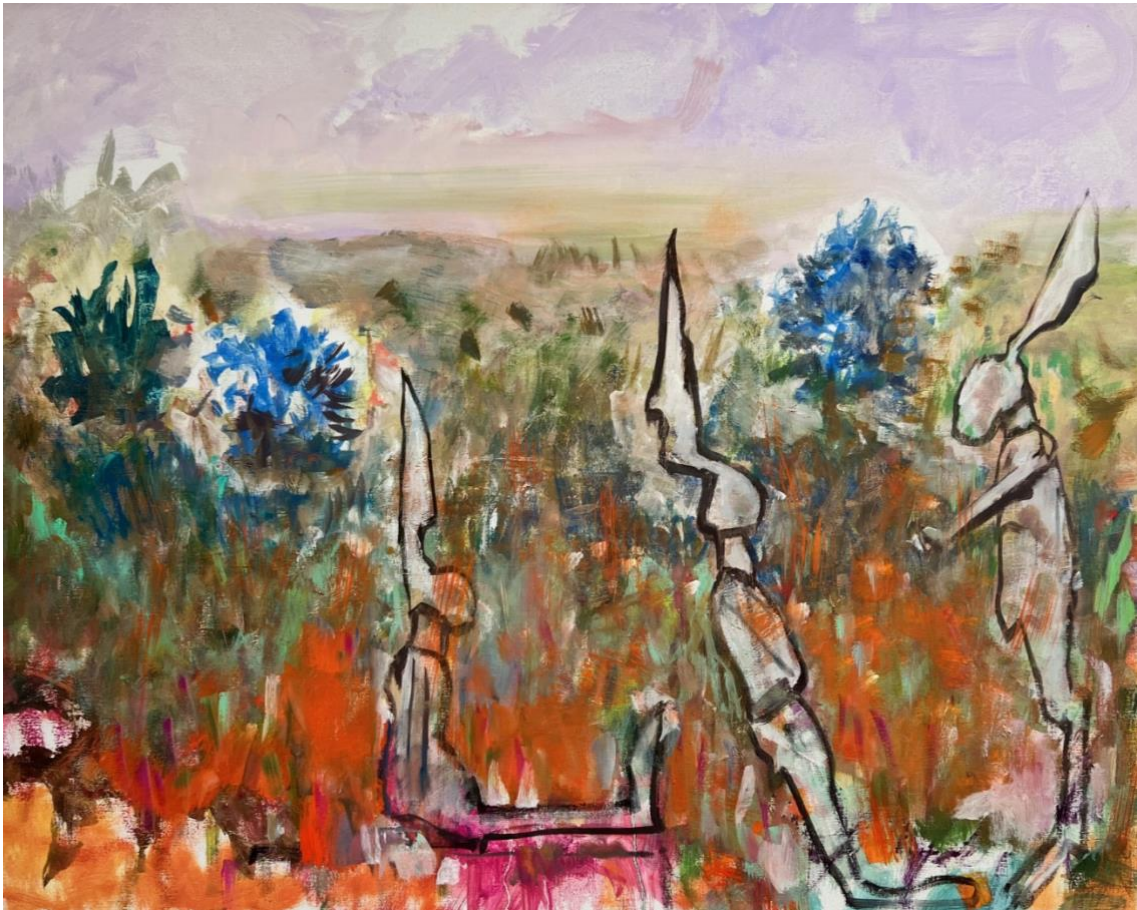


JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 2 (2022)

Oil on canvas

80 x 100 cm | 31,50 x 39,37 in.



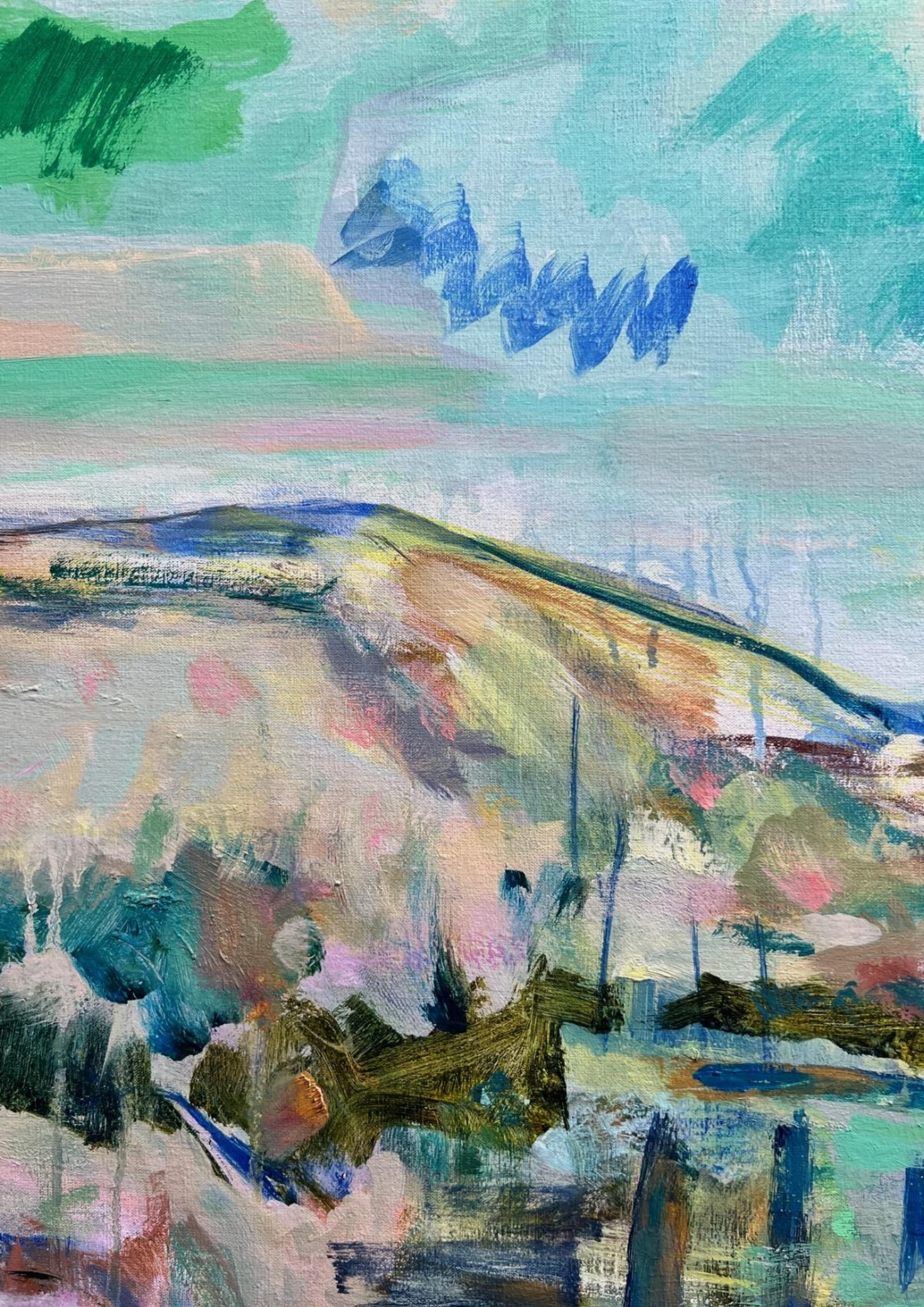


JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 3 (2024)  
Oil on canvas  
80 x 100 cm | 31,50 x 39,37 in.







JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 4 (2024)  
Oil on canvas  
80 x 100 cm | 31,50 x 39,37 in.





JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 5 (2024)  
Oil on canvas  
80 x 100 cm | 31,50 x 39,37 in.





JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 6

Oil on canvas

90 x 110 cm | 35,34 x 43,31 in.



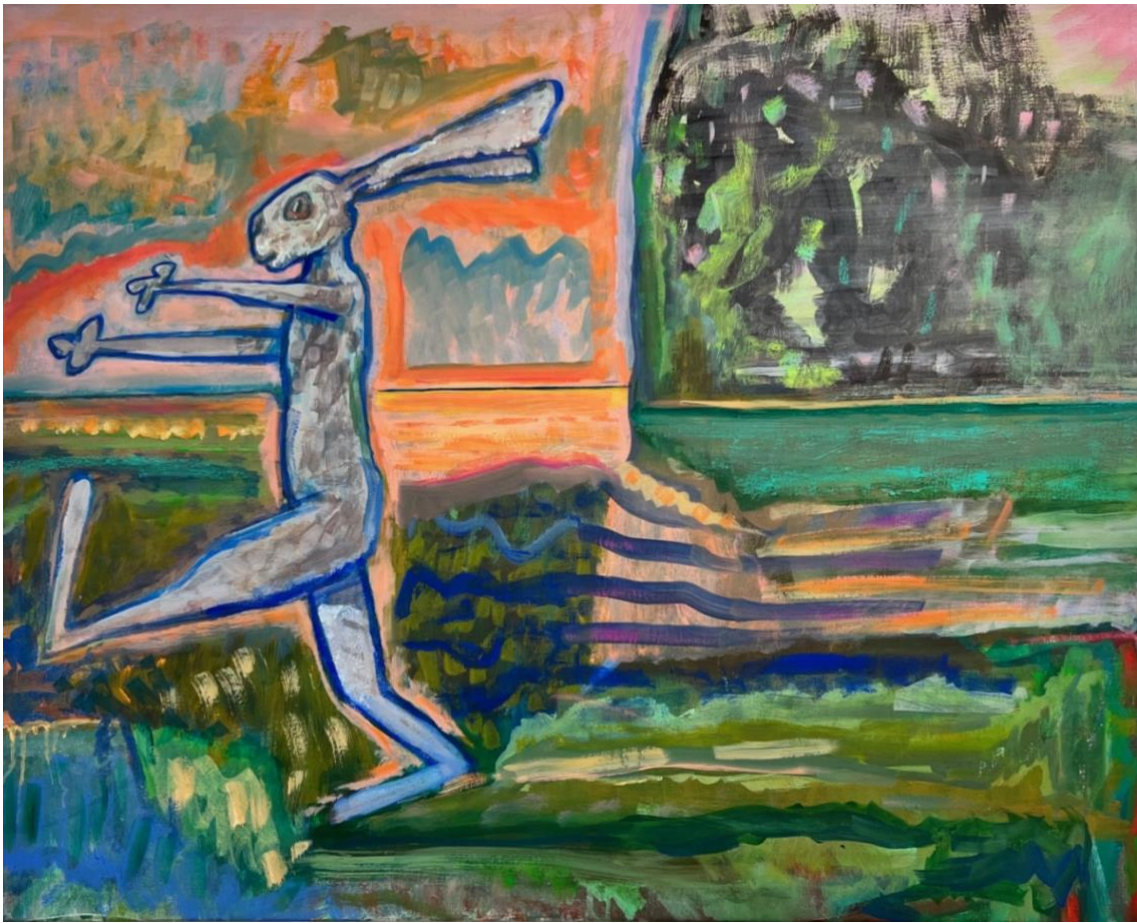


JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 7

Oil on canvas

80 x 100 cm | 31,50 x 39,37 in.





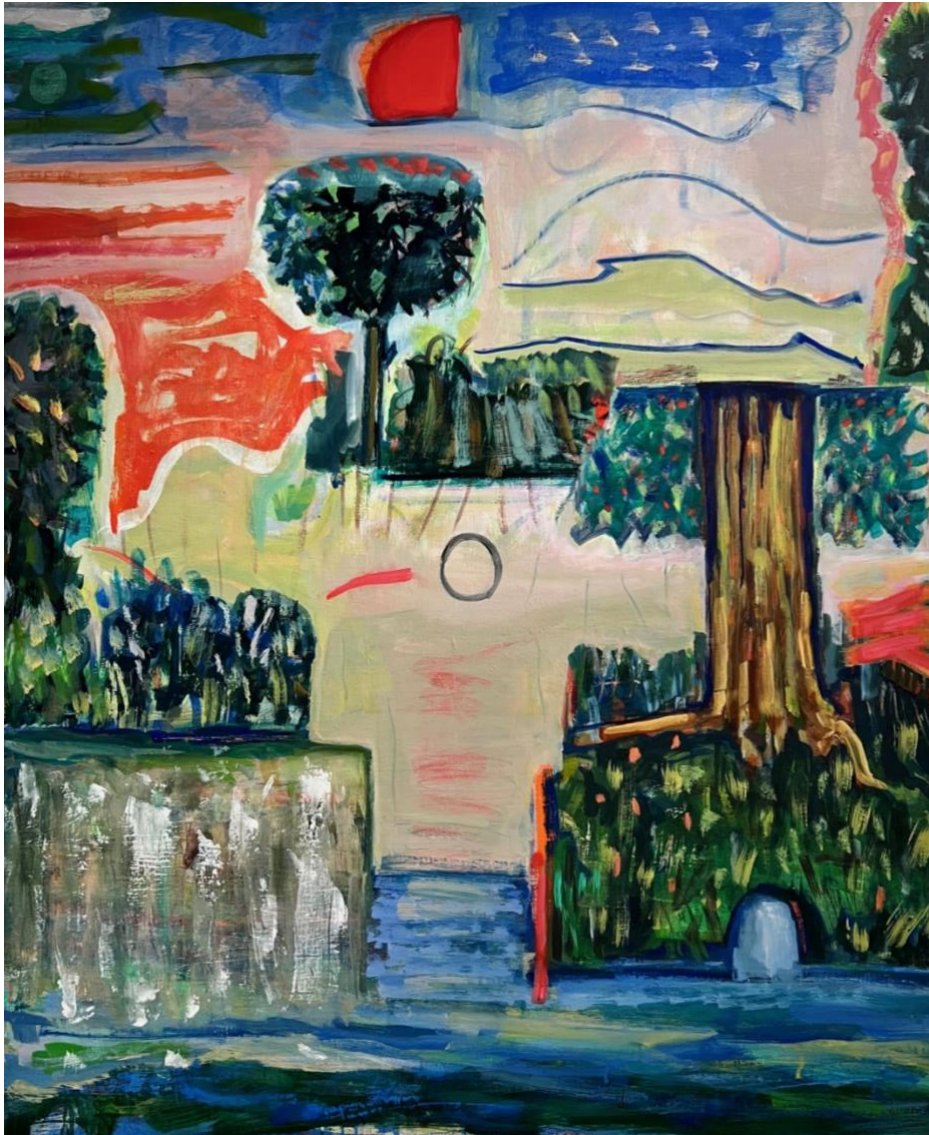


JOHN VAN 't SLOT

Untitled No. 8 (2022-2023)

Oil on canvas

100 x 120 cm | 39,37 x 47,24 in.





# JOHN VAN 't SLOT

## BIOGRAPHY

John van 't Slot, born in 1949 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, left an indelible mark on Dutch art in the 1980s. Trained at the Academie van Beeldende Kunsten in Rotterdam, he became a key figure in the "New Painting" movement, known for its expressive, figurative style infused with humor. Alongside artists like René Daniels and Marlene Dumas, van 't Slot's work epitomized the movement's resurgence as "Wild painting."

In 1982, he exhibited with Daniels in Antwerp, followed by representing the Netherlands at the Venice Biennale in 1984. His art was featured in prestigious exhibitions worldwide, including at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. In 1985, he had a significant solo exhibition at the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague.

His works are held in esteemed collections, including the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and Museum Boijmans van Beuningen. In 2013, the Dordrecht Museum honored his contribution to Dutch art with an exhibition titled "Stop Making Sense, Dutch Painting in the 1980s." Throughout his career, van 't Slot received awards for his innovative approach to painting, leaving a lasting legacy in the art world.

## GALLERY INFORMATION

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Opening times:

***By appointment***

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