



Photo Jon Archdeacon

MICHAEL AJERMAN

GRIP

13th November 2020 - 12th January 2021

Curated by John Silvis

Michael Ajerman's new solo exhibition Grip was curated by John Silvis and will be presented on Aleph Contemporary's online gallery platform starting November 13, 2020.

The Grip exhibition features a selection of stellar new paintings by American artist Michael Ajerman. His recent oil paintings on canvas continue to highlight his mastery of tightly structured compositions, that simultaneously entice the viewer's imagination to unfold. With his luscious movement of paint, Ajerman captures the essence of his subjects in a few effortless brush strokes. His muted palette and roughly rendered figures, aptly reflect the tensions of this era which are brewing beneath the surface. Although the scenes he envisions hover somewhere between fiction and reality, they ultimately reflect our common experiences.

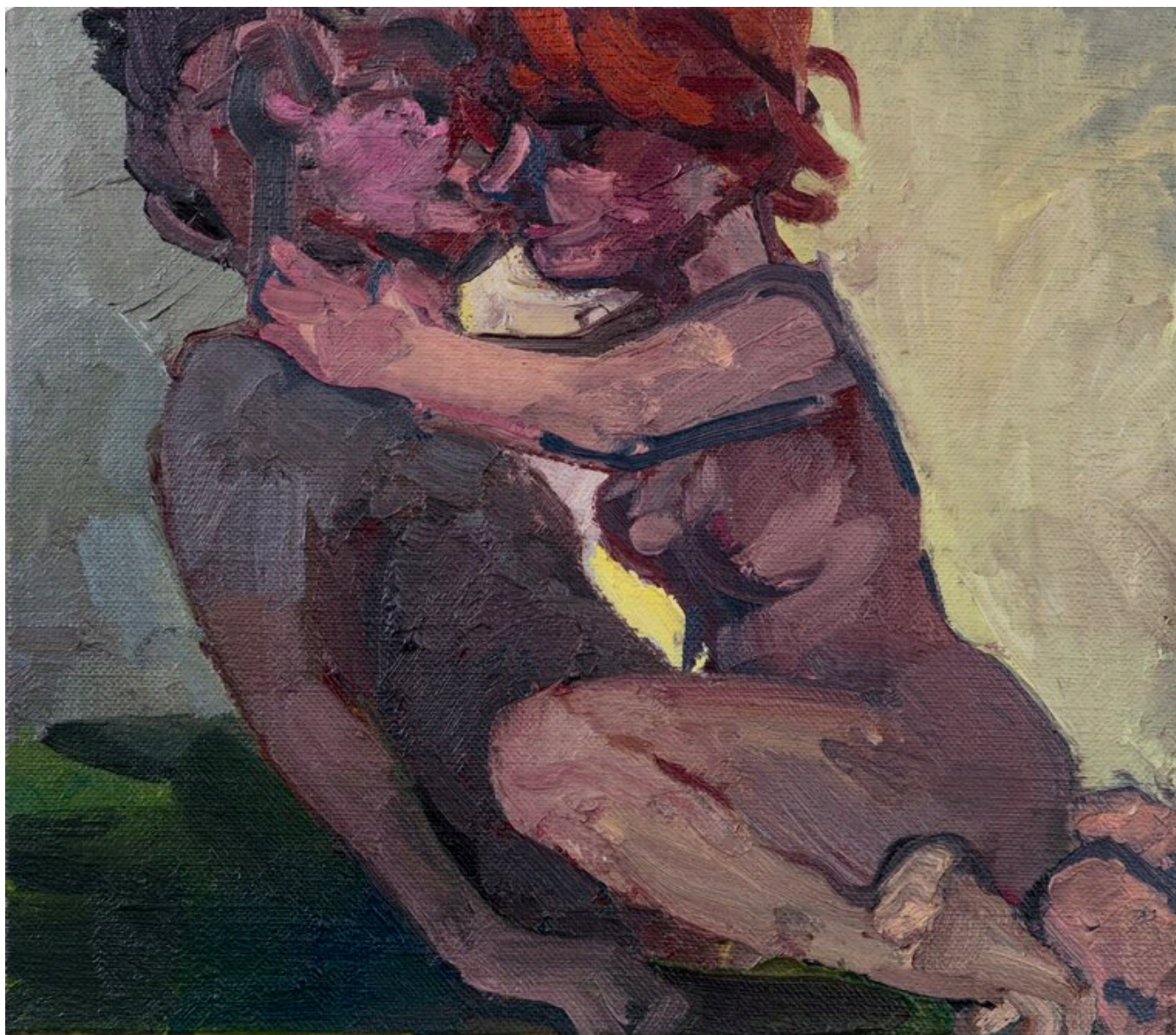
Ajerman's visceral handling of paint is not expressive in the traditional, art historical sense because of its skillful precision, however he uses the tactile viscosity of the paint to energize the ordered and manicured settings. His seductive handling of the paint in Santa Monica Pool for example, reveals the power of the psyche even in fleeting moments of intimacy at the edge of the pool. Unlike recent paintings by expressionistic artists that attempt to tell larger narratives, such as Tom Anholt or Laurence Egloff, his scenarios have an immediacy that mimics what we experience in the fast-paced, digital reality we live in.

Grip, the painting which the show is titled after, teases us with an erotic gesture that doesn't seem spontaneous and matter-of-fact. The male and female figures caught in an act of love-making underscore the reoccurring theme of relationship and connectedness in Ajerman's oeuvre. Rather than emphasizing flesh of sexuality, the characters seem to embody a moment of collision between two separate beings. Many of his images hint at the idea of encounter, which is emphasized by depicting our relationships with domestic creatures. The playful gesture of a cat resting on a man's buttocks is a gleeful celebration of the mundane in Wake-Up and the viewer feels his sense of delight with every brush stroke.

Another aspect of humor is brought into Ajerman's work with the interjection of fairy tale elements, some of which are jarring or perplexing at first glance. In Pinocchio Alone, the mischievous children's book protagonist is lost and alone with own thoughts sprawled out in the middle of a field. Return of Possessions introduces two mythological characters who are engaged in a mysterious and foreboding exchange in a forest clearing. Transporting the viewer beyond the expected settings of a home or garden, these fables add a level of wonder to his arresting vignettes and perhaps suggest that our daily conundrums are being played out in a parallel universe.

John Silvis, November 2020

John Silvis is a New York and Berlin-based curator and art advisor. Silvis' recent artist research has taken him to Hong Kong, Indonesia and Vietnam. In addition to curating contemporary art in New York and Los Angeles, he writes for Artsy, CNN and PARNASS. Recent curatorial projects include Season 3 at the Orange County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, Twinkle at Barney Savage, New York and Interface: Art and Community in the Ahmanson Collection, Irvine, California and Jumping the Shadow at Sapar Contemporary, New York. As an art advisor his expertise is to expand the public presence of dynamic art collections.



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Grip', 2019
Oil on linen
35.5 x 40.5 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 3 500



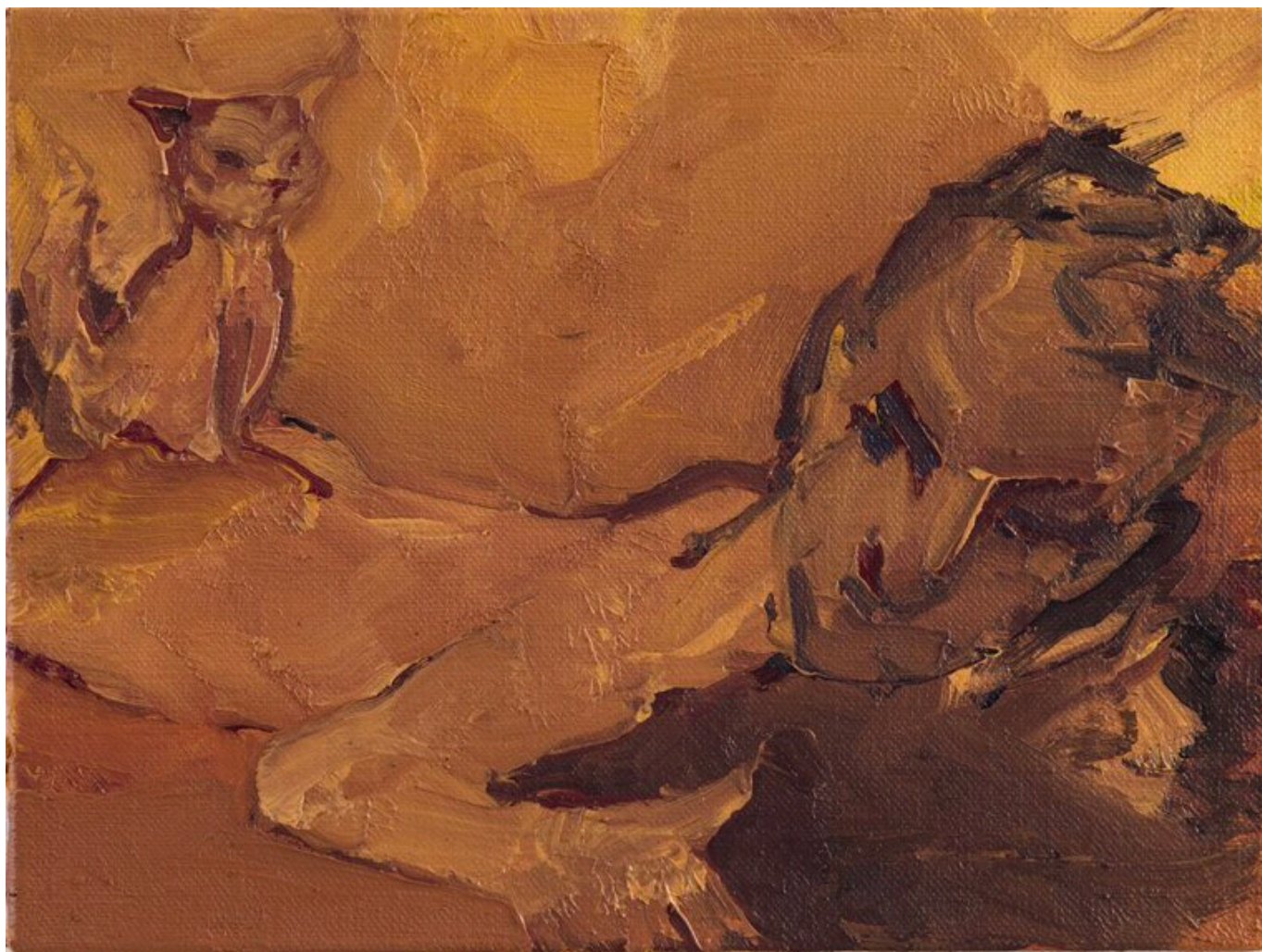
MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Return Of Possessions', 2019
Oil on linen
40.5 x 51 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 4 000



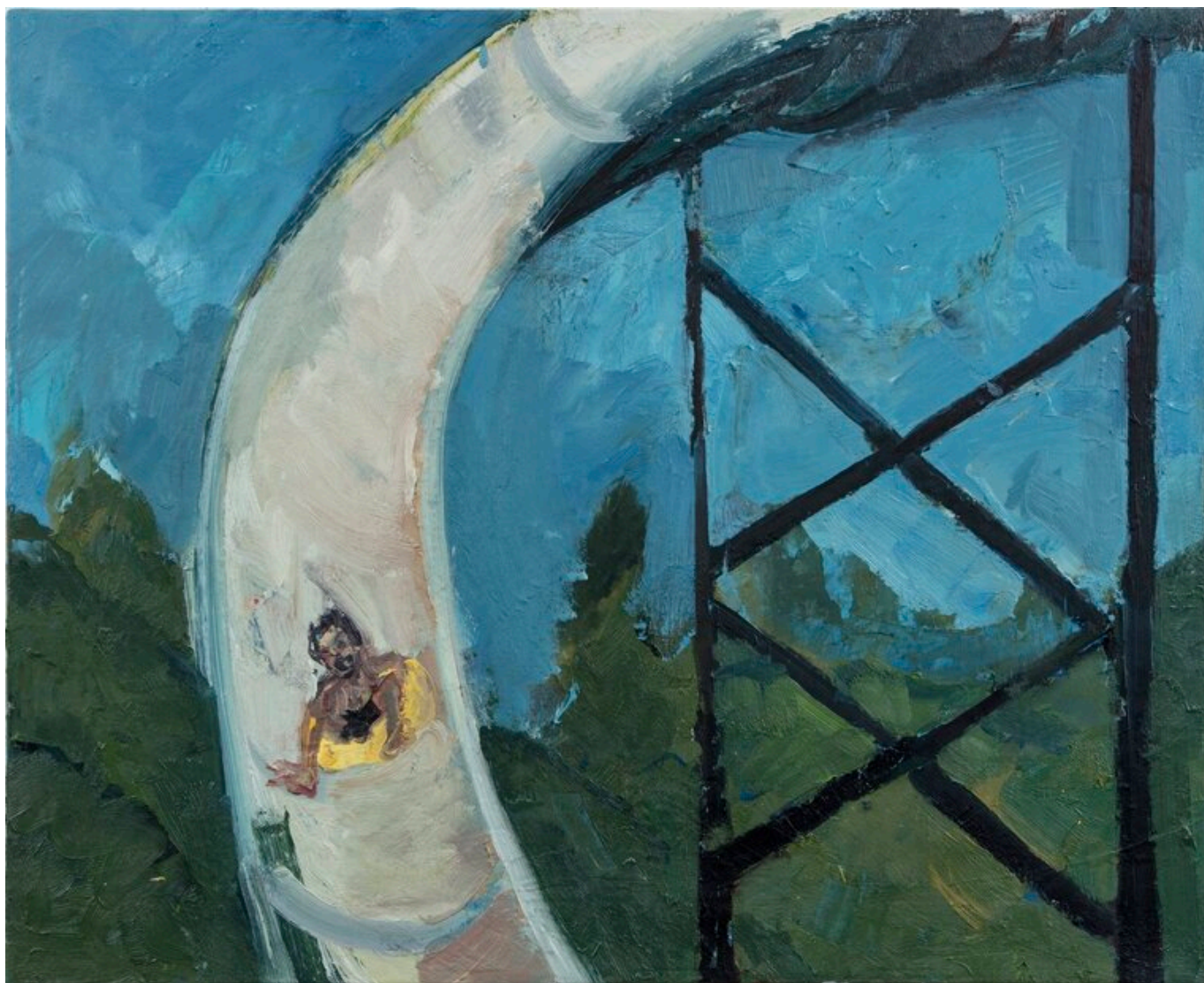
MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Pinocchio Alone', 2018
Oil on linen
30.5 x 46 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 3 500



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Camden Town Nudes II', 2019
Oil on linen
61 x 51 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 4 800



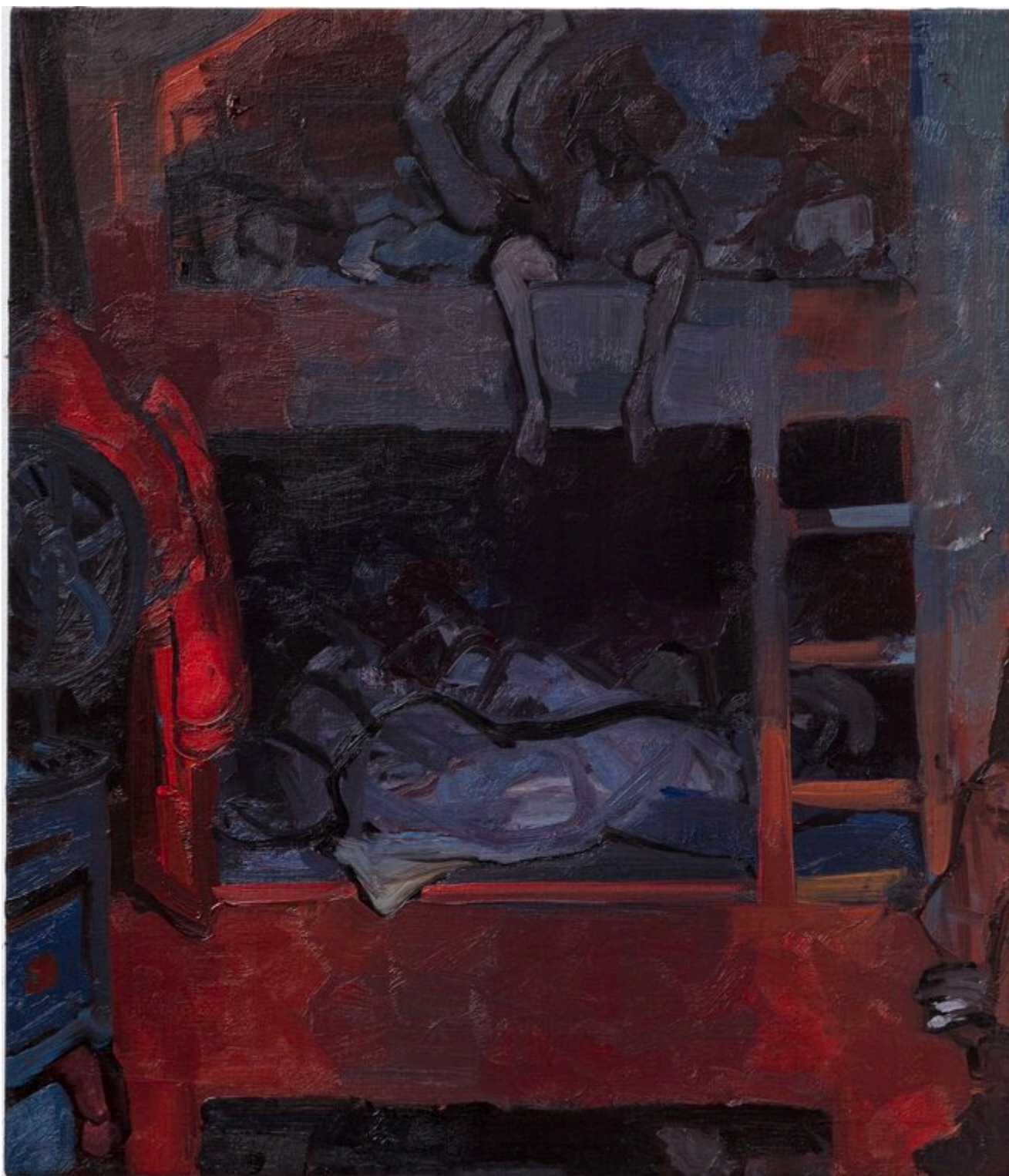
MICHAEL AJERMAN
'The Wake Up', 2019
Oil on linen
30.5 x 40.5 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 3 500



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'September In Izmir', 2018
Oil on linen
60 x 80 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 5 400



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Night Writer', 2019
Oil on linen
70 x 60 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 5 400



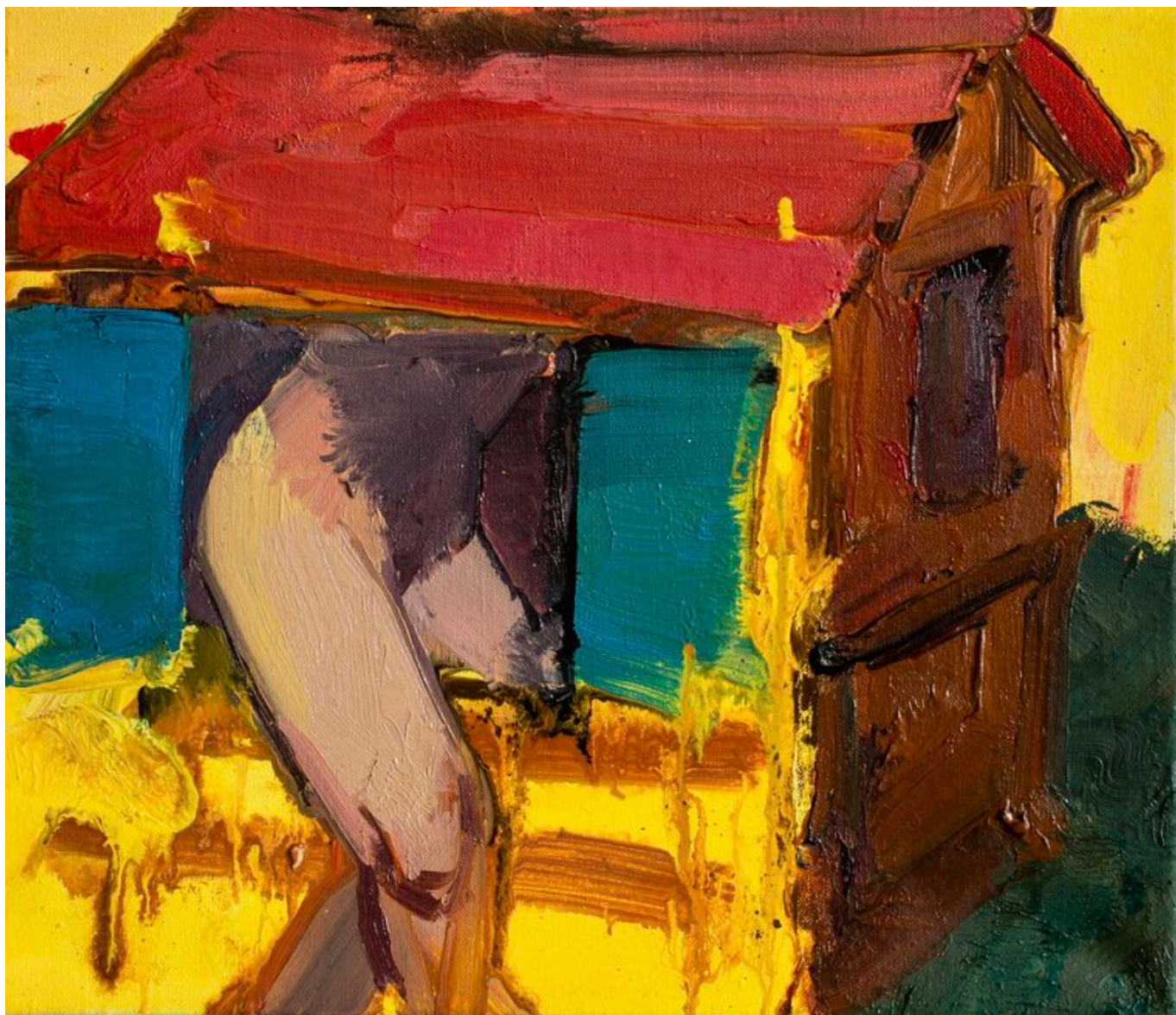
MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Bunk', 2019
Oil on linen
70 x 60 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 5 400



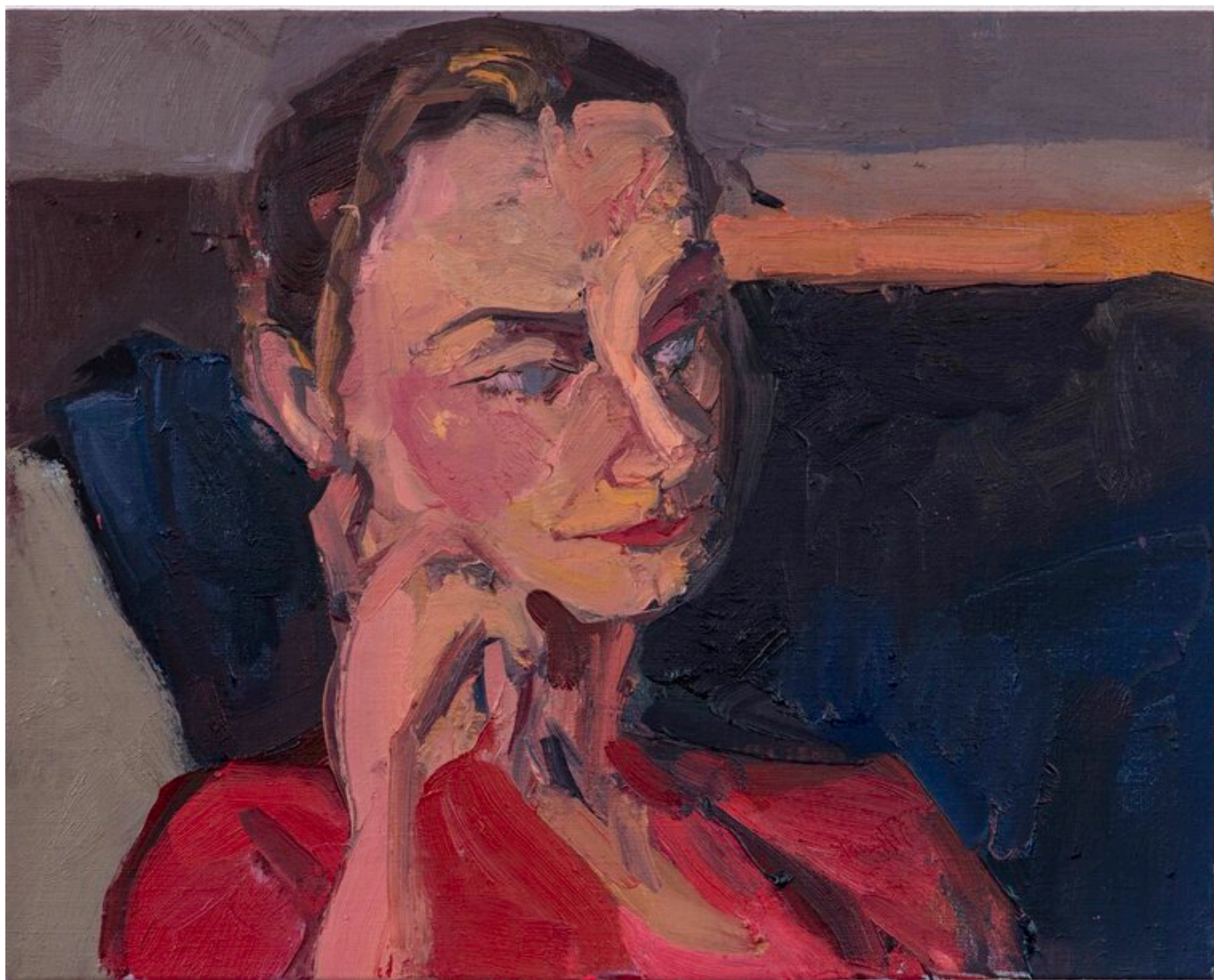
MICHAEL AJERMAN
'By The Sea Wall', 2018
Oil on linen
51 x 41 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 4 000



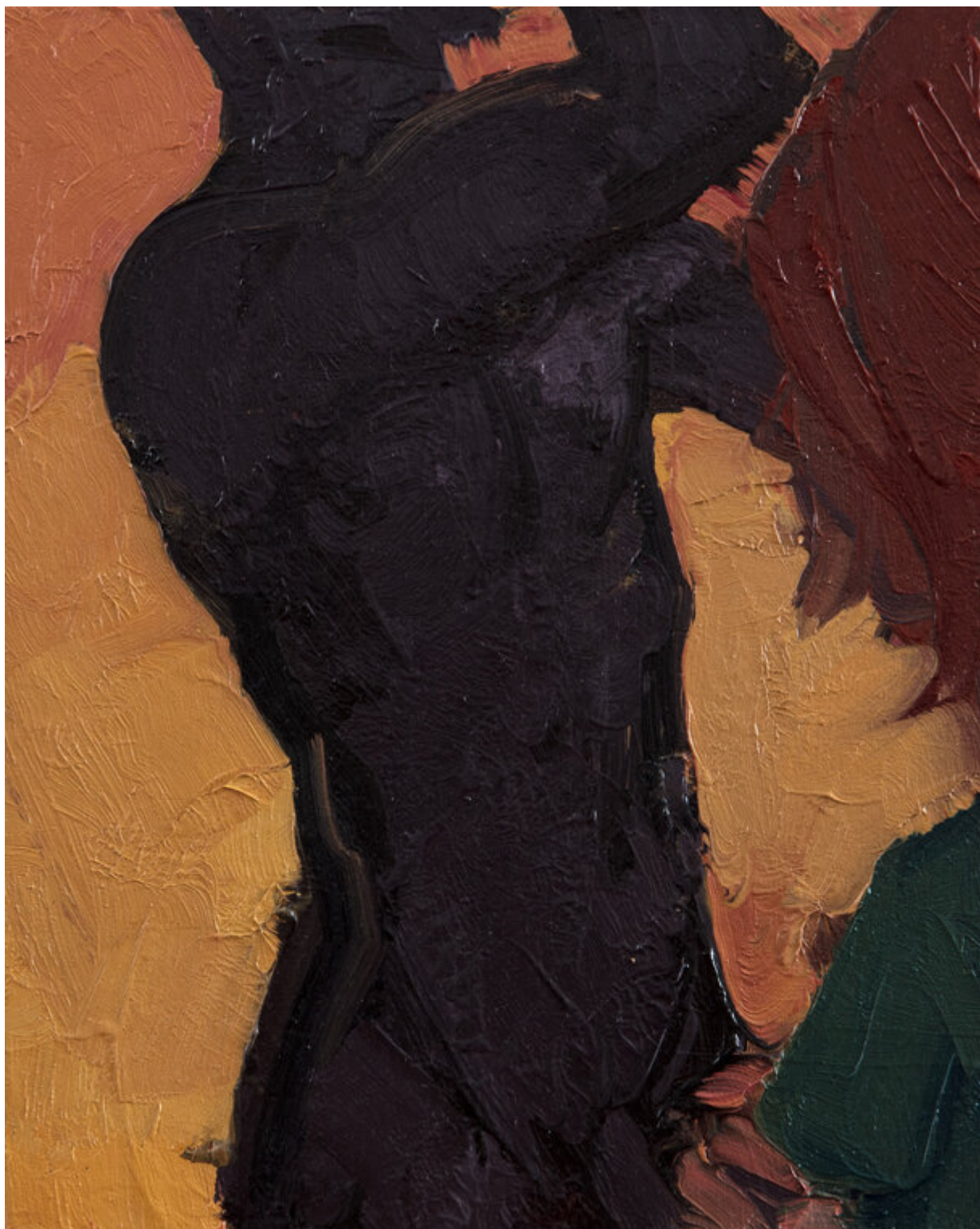
MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Santa Monica Pool', 2018-2019
Oil on linen
56 x 61 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 4 800



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'House', 2016
Oil on Linen
30.5 x 35.5 cm (h x w)
GBP 2 800



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'December Portrait', 2019
Oil on linen
46 x 61 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 4 800



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Admiration (Rodin)', 2019
Oil on uneven angled board
28 x 23 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 2 000

EXTRA WORKS AVAILABLE



MICHAEL AJERMAN
'Night Walk', 2020
Oil on linen
70 x 60 cm (h x w)
GBP£ 5 400

BIOGRAPHY

MICHAEL AJERMAN. American. B, 1977

Select solo exhibitions at Diane Rosenstein Gallery in Los Angeles, CA, 2020 and 2019; Hemingway Art Gallery, Oxford, 2017 and 2011; Transition Gallery, London, 2013 and 2010; Galleria Ghetta, Ortisei, Italy, 2012; Marcorossi Artecontemporanea Milan, and Eventinove Borgomanero, Italy, 2012; Toomey-Tourrell Gallery, San Francisco, 2010; Eventinove Artecontemporanea, Torino, Italy, 2010; Marcorossi Artecontemporanea, Verona, 2010; Jerwood Project Space, London, 2009; Rothschild Fine Art, Tel Aviv, 2009; Bridge Art Fair, London, 2007; Bischoff/Weiss, London, 2005 and 2007; AR Contemporary, Milan, Italy, 2006.

Ajerman's artwork is found in international private collections.