Jonna Johansson

Selected Works

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Jonna Johansson’s (b.1975) approach to the medium of painting and installation is strongly influential. She creates images that reflect different aspects of humanity at a large scale. On the other hand Johansson deals with the global phenomenon and the social issues on the level of individuals.

Johansson searches her imagery from several different media. And together with her technique and her use of oil, acrylic and alkyd on the same surface in her painting she creates realistic and unrealistic affection at the same time. This can also be seen in her installation work.

For Sale

The "For Sale " exhibition is based on a month-long process of documenting the mass tourism phenomenon at the Spanish Costa del Sol. This was done through photography, text and moving image. I became interested in the mass tourism phenomenon and its surrounding themes ten years ago whilst studying in Madrid.

My point of departure for the project was a phenomenological approach, where I endeavoured to describe the environment and my relationship to it as it appeared to me. The focus thus, became the human experience in all its variations.

The finished works were completed at my studio in Finland. As the working process developed, the distance from the original location, changes in environment and the freedom that painting allows, shaped the works in to something quite different than the architypical imagery associated with mass tourism.

In my practice I examine humanity and global phenomena on an individual level, creating work that primarily develops in to paintings and installations.

”For Sale” näyttelykokonaisuus pohjautuu kuukauden mittaiseen dokumentaariseen työskentelyjaksooni Espanjan aurinkorannikolla, missä dokumentoin massaturismia valokuvin, tekstein ja liikkuvan kuvan avulla. Kiinnostuin massaturismi-ilmiöstä ja siihen sisältyvistä teemoista kymmenen vuotta sitten opiskellessani Madridissa.

Lähtökohtanani kyseiselle projektille oli fenomenologinen lähestymistapa, jossa pyrin kuvaamaan ympäristöä ja suhdettani siihen sellaisena kuin se minulle ilmeni. Painopisteeksi muodostui inhimillinen kokemus variaatioineen.

Lopulliset teokset valmistuivat omalla työhuoneellani Suomessa. Työskentelyprosessin edetessä välimatka tapahtumapaikkaan, ympäristön muutos sekä maalauksen antama vapaus muokkasivat teoksista jotakin aivan muuta kuin massaturismille tyypillistä kuvastoa.

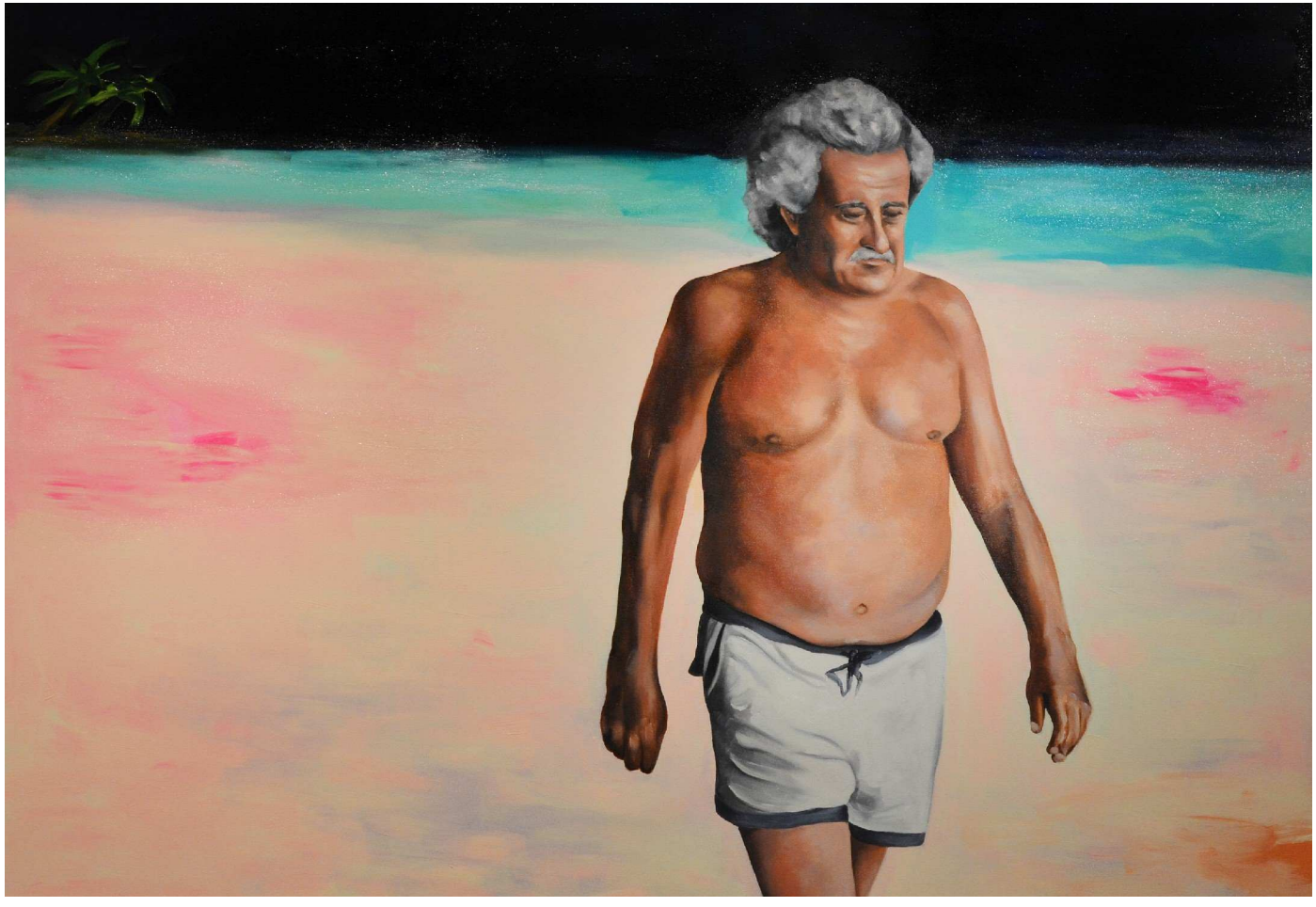
Taiteellisessa työskentelyssäni tutkin ihmisyyttä ja globaaleja ilmiöitä yksittäisen ihmisen tasolla. Välineenä käytän pääosin maalausta ja installaatiota.

Sweltering Afternoon
Oil, alkyd and epoxy on canvas, 140x200cm
2011

Libby
Oil on canvas, 60x60cm
2011

Just before the storm came
Oil on canvas, 105x160cm
2011

Emptiness I and II
Acrylic and epoxy on canvas, 50x 50cm
2011



It is all so fine
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 120 x 160 cm
2011

Emily
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 60 x 40 cm
2010

Dignity

In today’s world where globalisation, mass consumption and material values are very high Johansson says it is very important to deal with subjects such as a growing poverty of individuals, inequality and substance addictions.
Series Dignity consists figurative paintings of homeless people and more or less abstract paintings of “objects” such as donuts.

Dignity sarjan maalausten vuoropuhelu tapahtuu ihmisfiguurien; köyhien, kodittomien, kerjäläisten, hyljeksityiden ja päihteiden käyttäjien sekä pastellisävyisen herkän "donitsimaailman" välillä. Johansson ei pyri moralisoimaan vaan pikemminkin herättämään mielipiteitä ja ajatuksia raottamalla globalisaation nurjaa puolta. Meidän aikamme realismia on se, miten kurjuus ja ylellisyys elävät samassa katukuvassa.
Johanssonin maalausten lähtökohtana ovat erilaiset ja eri tahoilta peräisin olevat kuvamateriaalit, jotka hän on valikoinut työstettäväksi. Materiaaleina Johansson käyttää öljy-, akryyli- ja alkydimaaleja.

"Day dreaming for free”
Oil on canvas, 92x116 cm
2007

“Human development”
Oil, acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 200x140 cm
2008

"Street Dreams”
Oil, acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 140x160cm
2008

"Shelter”
Oil on canvas, 100x80 cm
2007

“Donuts I and Donuts II”
Oil, acrylic, alkyd and epox on canvas,
100x100 cm, 2008

"Dignity"
Oil on canvas, 116x100cm
2006

“Two Vanilla with Strawberry”
Oil, acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 140x200 cm
2008

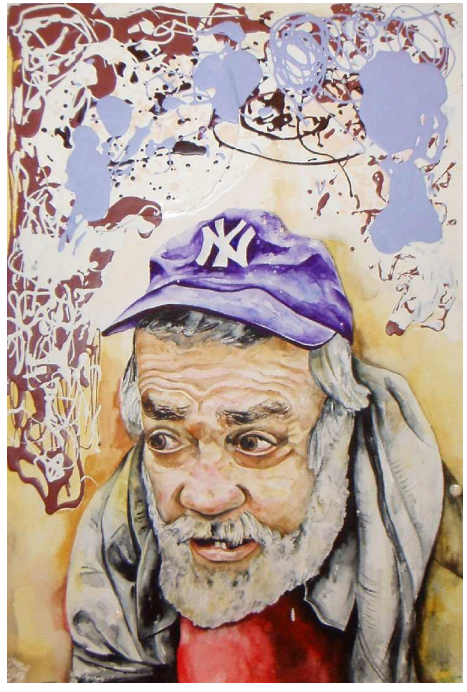
"Pineapple Heaven”
Oil on canvas, 160x140 cm
2007

"Michael, former Prof."
Oil and alkyd on canvas, 150x130 cm
2007

”Walking blindness in a paradise”
Oil, acrylic, alkyd and spray paint on canvas, 140x180 cm
2007

“No name I”
Ink, water colour and alkyd on paper,56x76 cm
2008

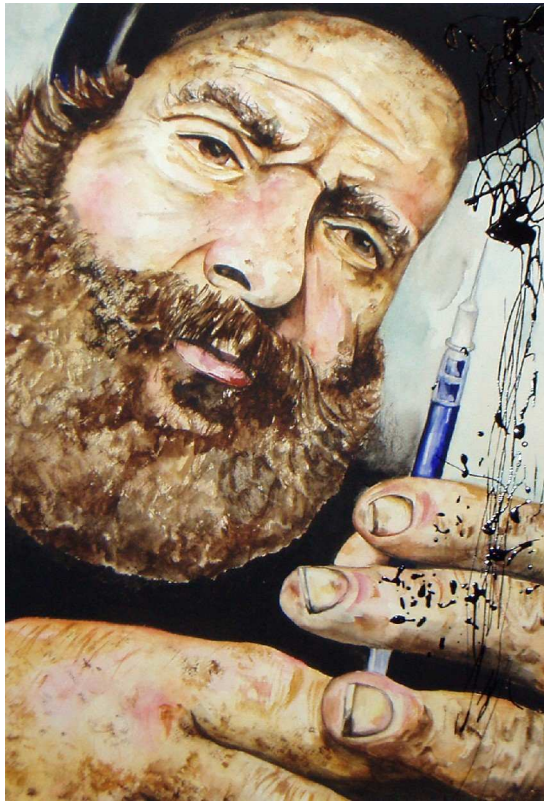
"Obsession"
Water colour and alkyd on paper,
45,5x30,5 cm
2007



"Collector"
Water colour and alkyd on paper,
45,5x30,5 cm
2007

"Juxtaposition”
Oil, acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 150x200cm
2007

"Existence”
Oil, acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 200x130cm
2008

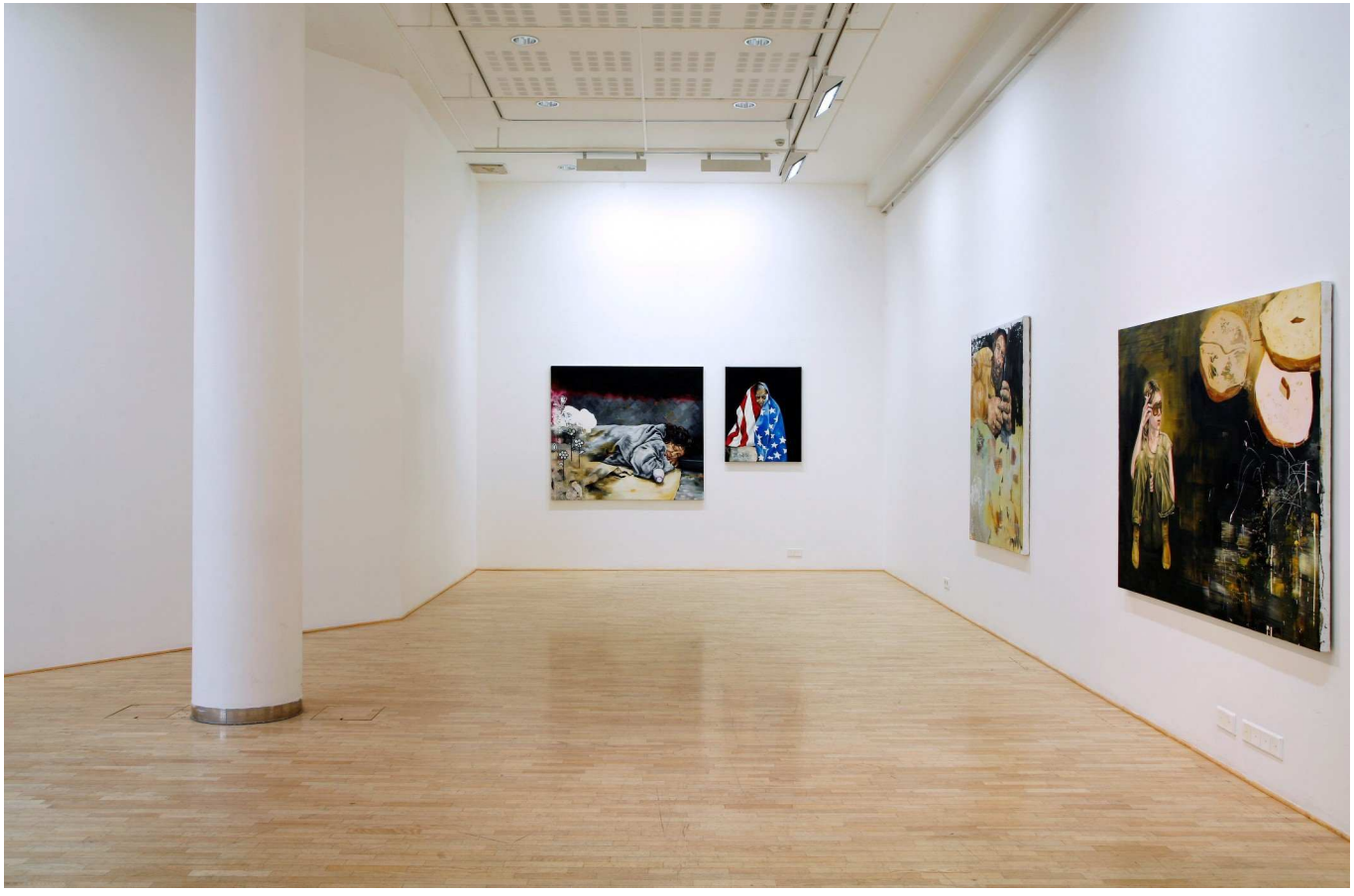


"Obsession"
Water colour and alkyd on paper, 45,5x30,5 cm
2007

"User"
Water colour and alkyd on paper, 45,5x30,5 cm
2007

“No name II”
Ink, water colour and alkyd on paper,56x76 cm
2008

"Not Exist”
Oil on canvas, 100x100 cm
2007



Exhibition view

“Beggar I”
Alkyd, pencil, pastel and varnish on paper
76x56 cm, 2007

“Beggar II”
Alkyd and water colour on paper
76x56 cm, 2007

"There she goes..."
Oil on canvas, 130x100 cm
2006/2010

"Dreamer”
Oil on canvas, 120x100 cm
2010

Our Future

Our Future series takes hold of the welfare society's growing phenomenon, where global multinational corporate chains dominate street image and "sweet" life is pursued in many different levels without thinking its causes.
On the other hand the same structural changes are experienced among the people who live under the poverty line, where standard of living forces people to a certain consumption of food.

Our Future teossarja pureutuu hyvinvointiyhteiskunnan kasvavaan ilmiöön, jossa kaupunkien katukuvaa hallitsee monikansalliset yritysketjut ja ”makeaa” elämää tavoitellaan monella eri tasolla ajattelematta syitä ja seurauksia. Toisaalta samoja kasvavia rakenteellisia muutoksia koetaan myös toisessa ääripäässä köyhyysrajan alapuolella elävien ihmisryhmien parissa, joissa elintaso pakottaa ihmiset tietyn ravintokulutuksen piiriin.

“Sugar Overload”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 200x140 cm
2009

“E171”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 60x60 cm
2010

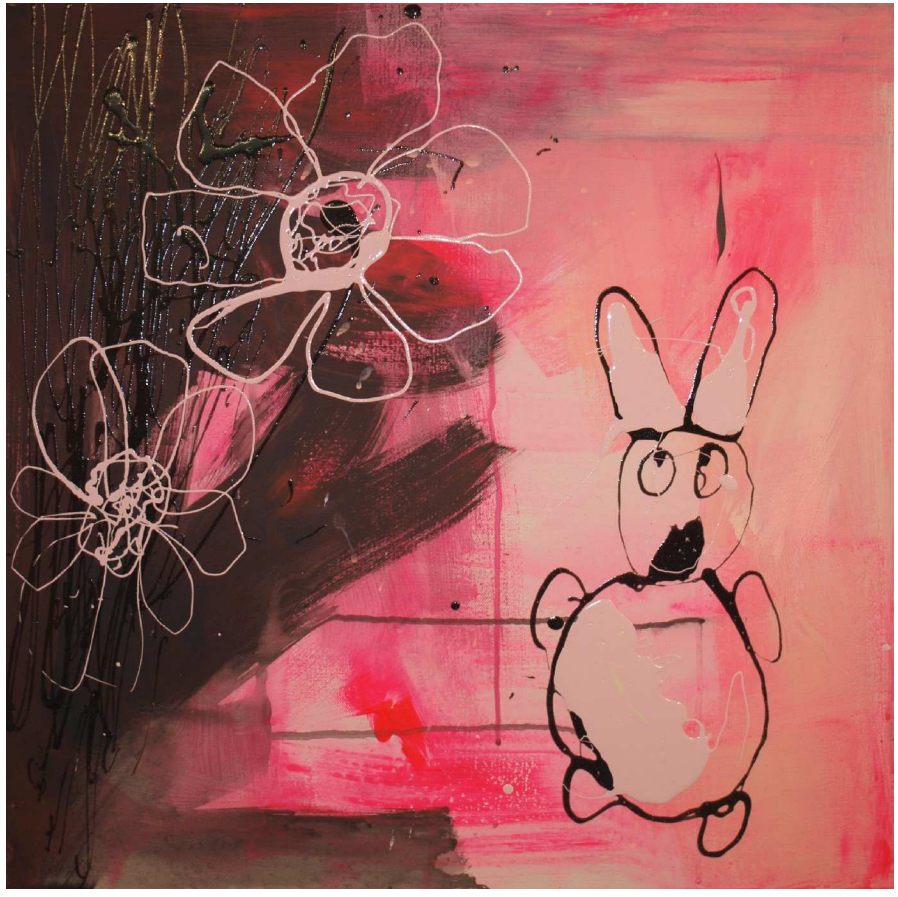
“Donuts”
Mixed media sculptures
2009-10

“E160a”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 60x60 cm
2009

“Mass”
Acrylic, alkyd and epox on canvas, 140x200 cm
2010

“E120E153”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 60x60 cm
2010

“E966”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 60x60 cm
2010



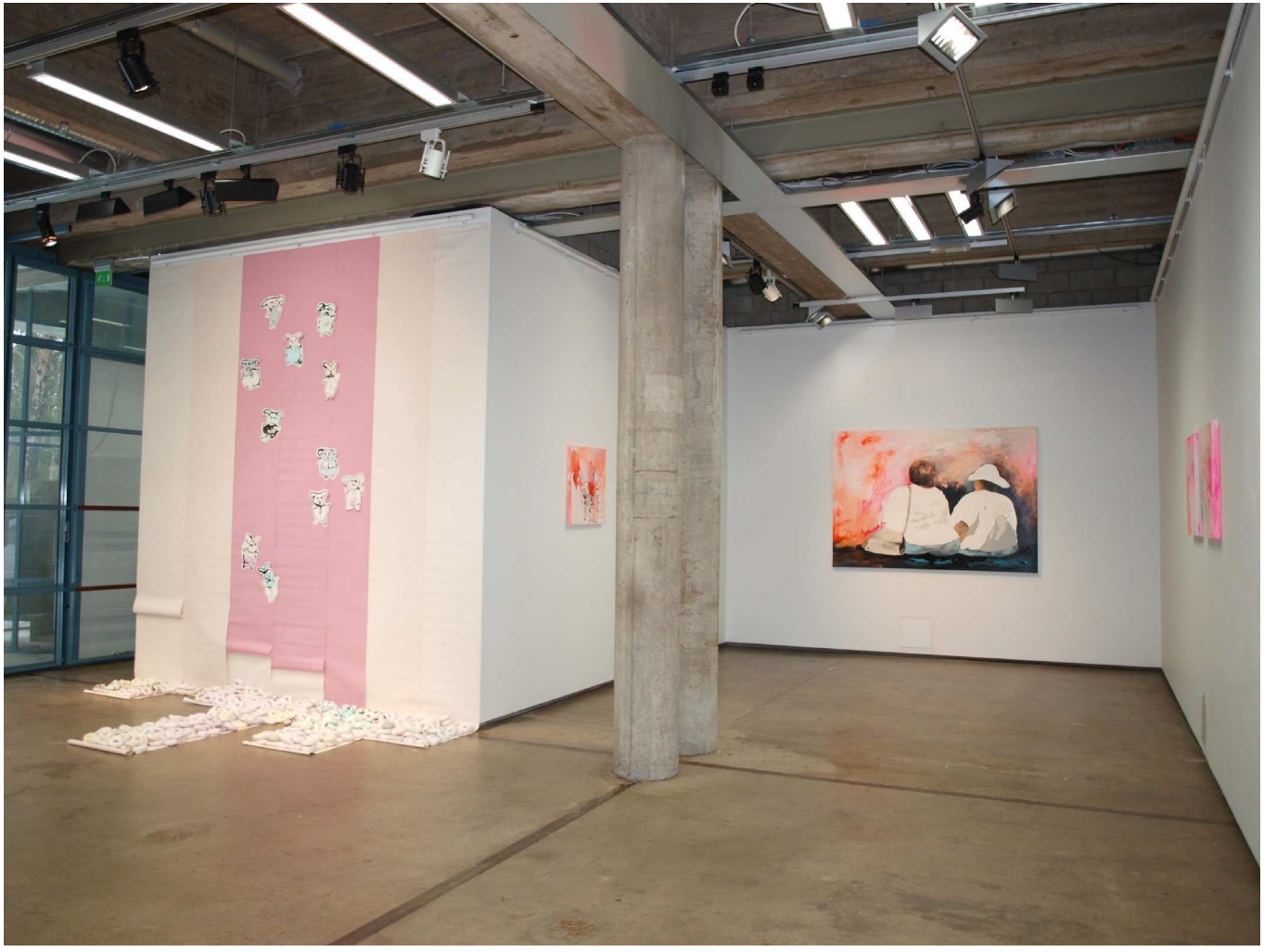
“E965”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 60x60 cm
2010

“E151”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 2010
60x60 cm

“E160b”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 2010
60x60 cm

“E131”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas,50x70 cm
2010

“E104”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 60x60 cm
2010

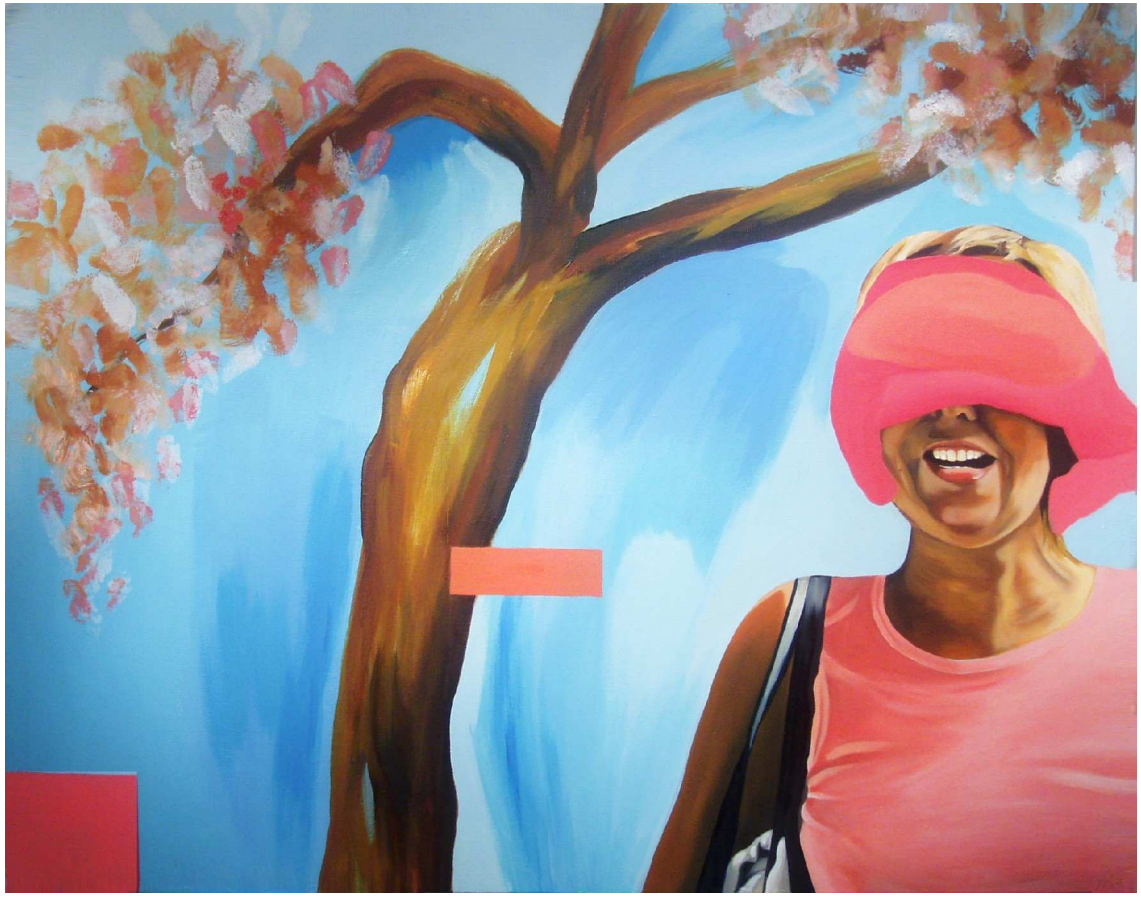


Exhibition view

“Sugar Bunny”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 30x20cm
2010

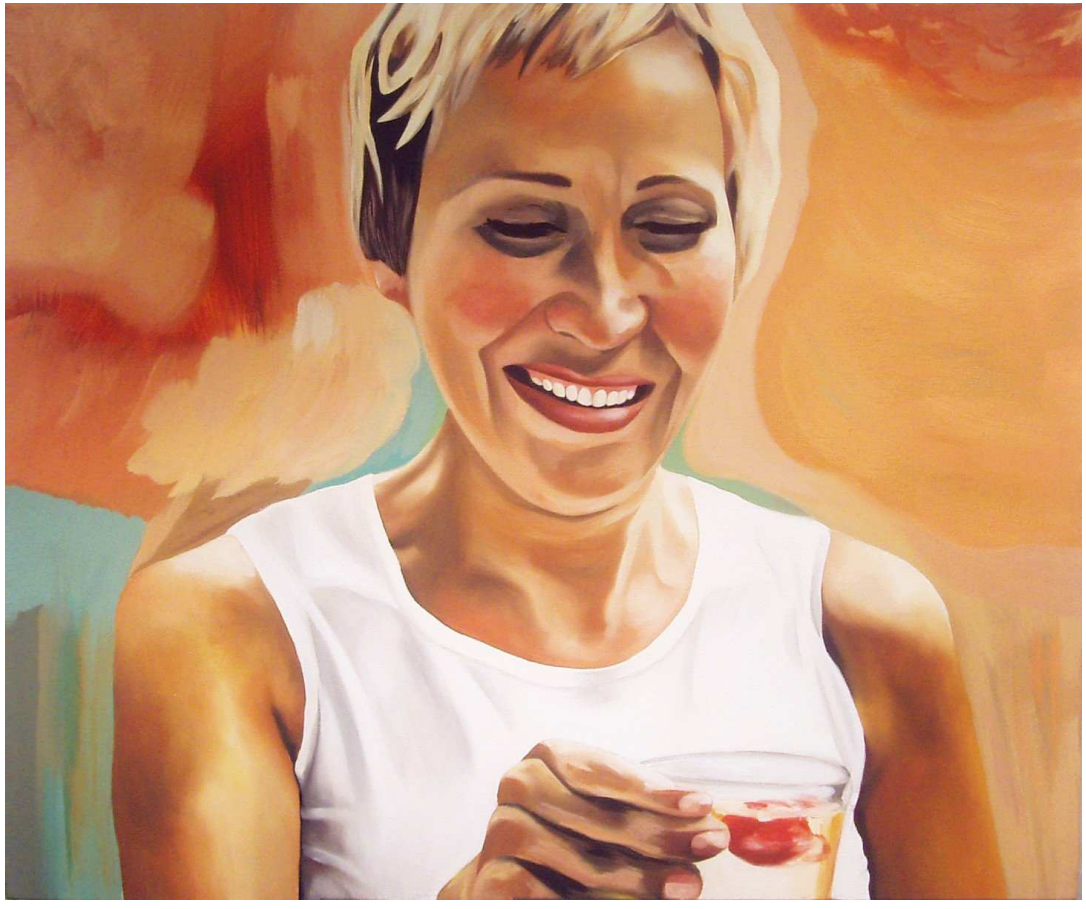
Sweets and Irony

"Role models"
Oil on canvas, 118,5x103 cm
2005



"Suprise"
Oil on canvas, 100x126 cm
2005

“Cat Power”
Oil and spray paint on canvas, 96x76 cm
2006



"Sweet Dreams"
Oil on canvas, 96x76 cm
2005

"What are you looking at?"
Oil on canvas, 70x100 cm
2005

"Sweets and Irony"
Oil on canvas, 96x76 cm
2005

Protection/Beauty

“Protection no 2”
Acrylic on canvas, 2004
100x100 cm

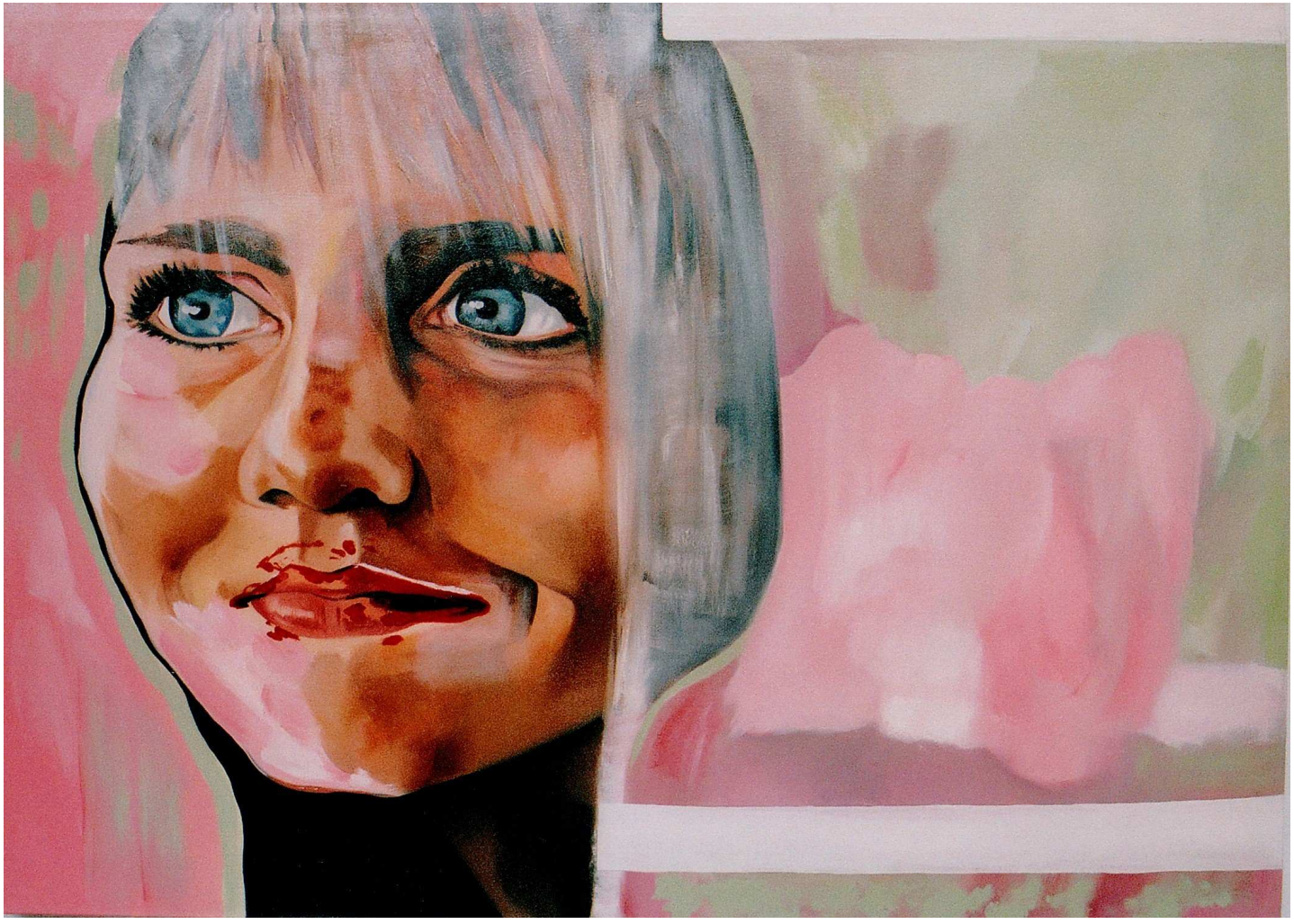
“Protection no 10”
Rubber gloves on canvas, 2005
100x100 cm

“Protection no 3”
Acrylic on canvas, 2004
100x100 cm

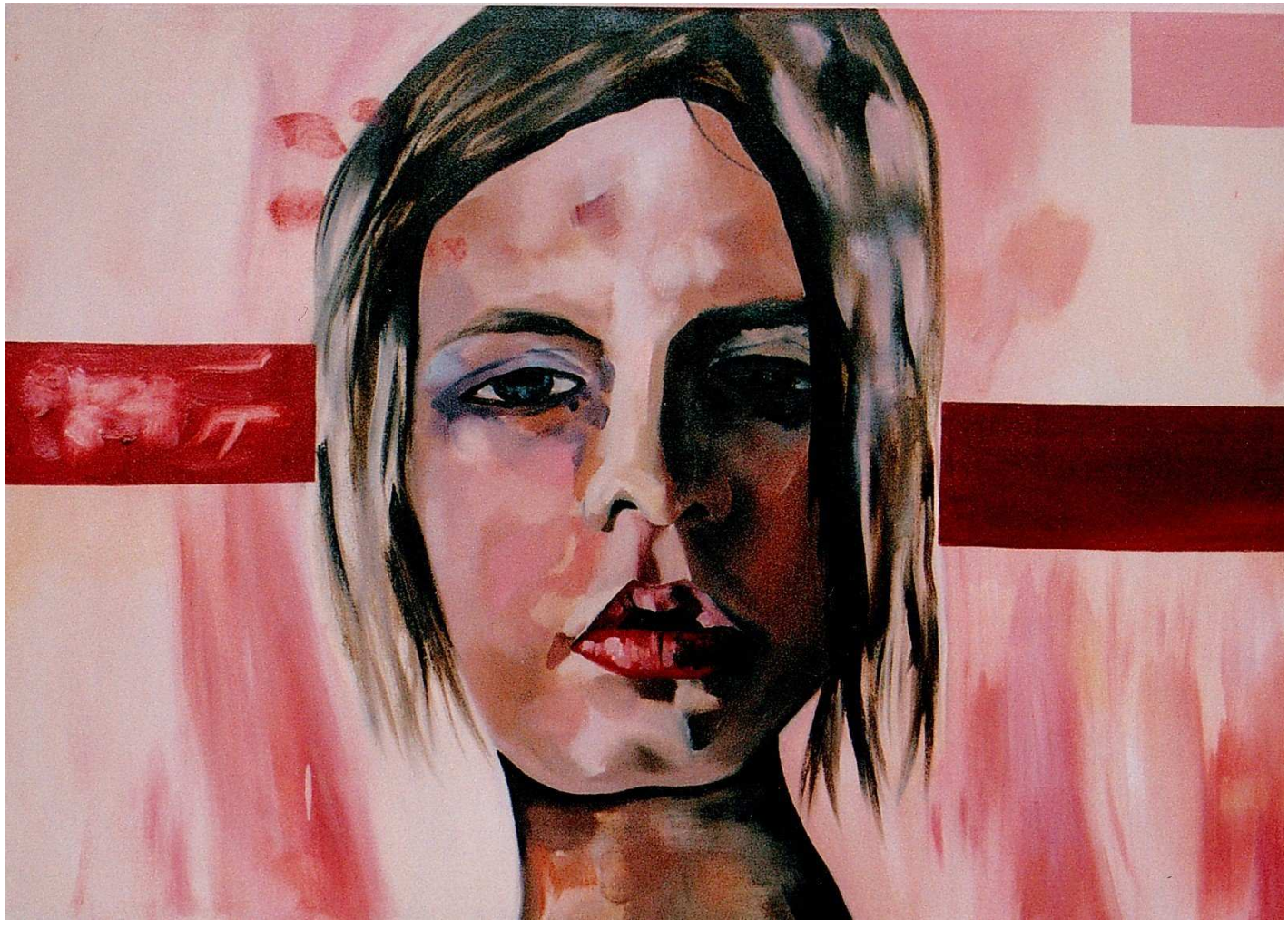
“Protection no 8”
Rubber gloves on canvas, 2004
100x100 cm

“Protection no 9”
Acrylic and alkyd on canvas, 2005
100x100 cm

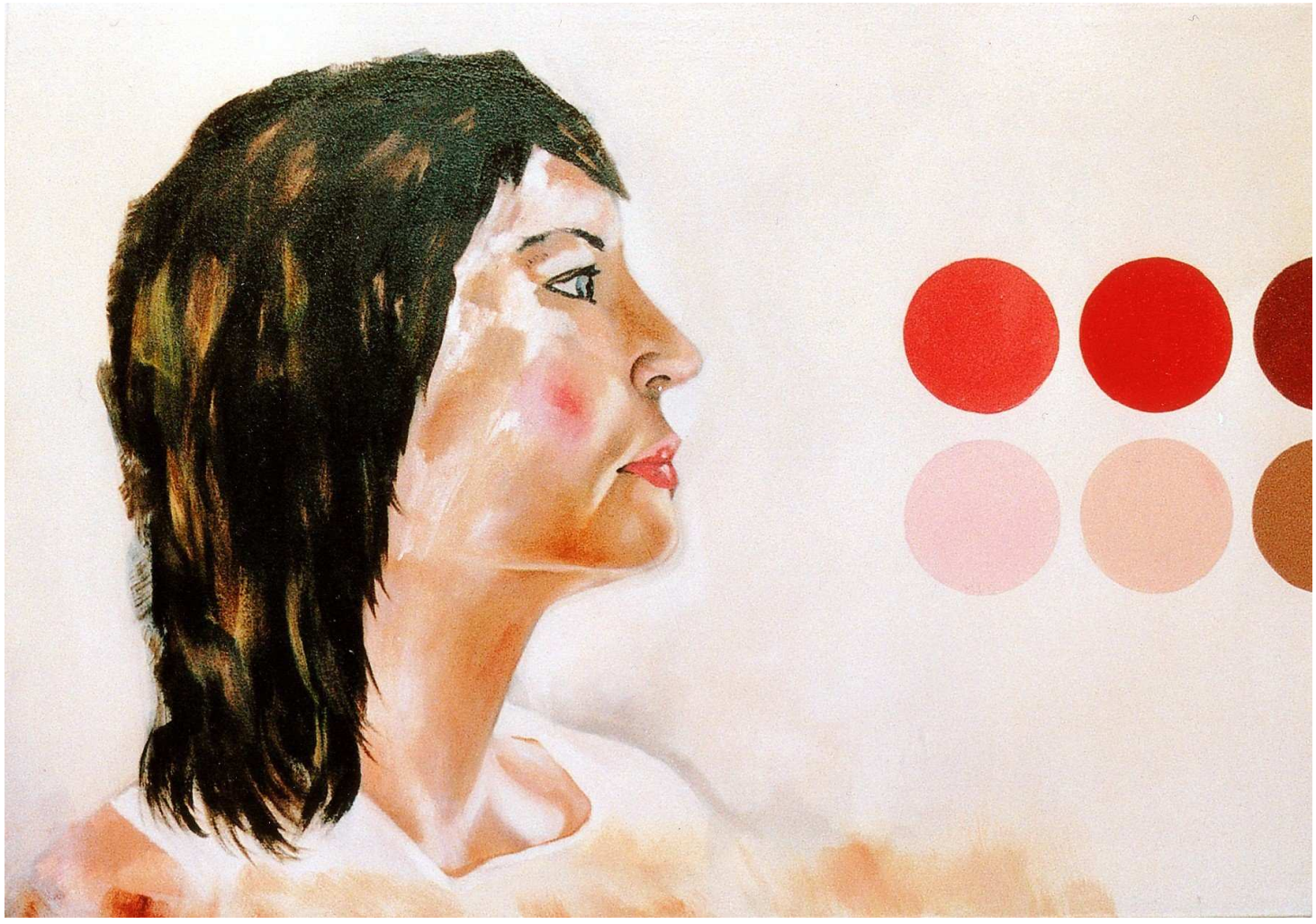
“Protection no 5”
Acrylic on canvas, 2004
100x100 cm



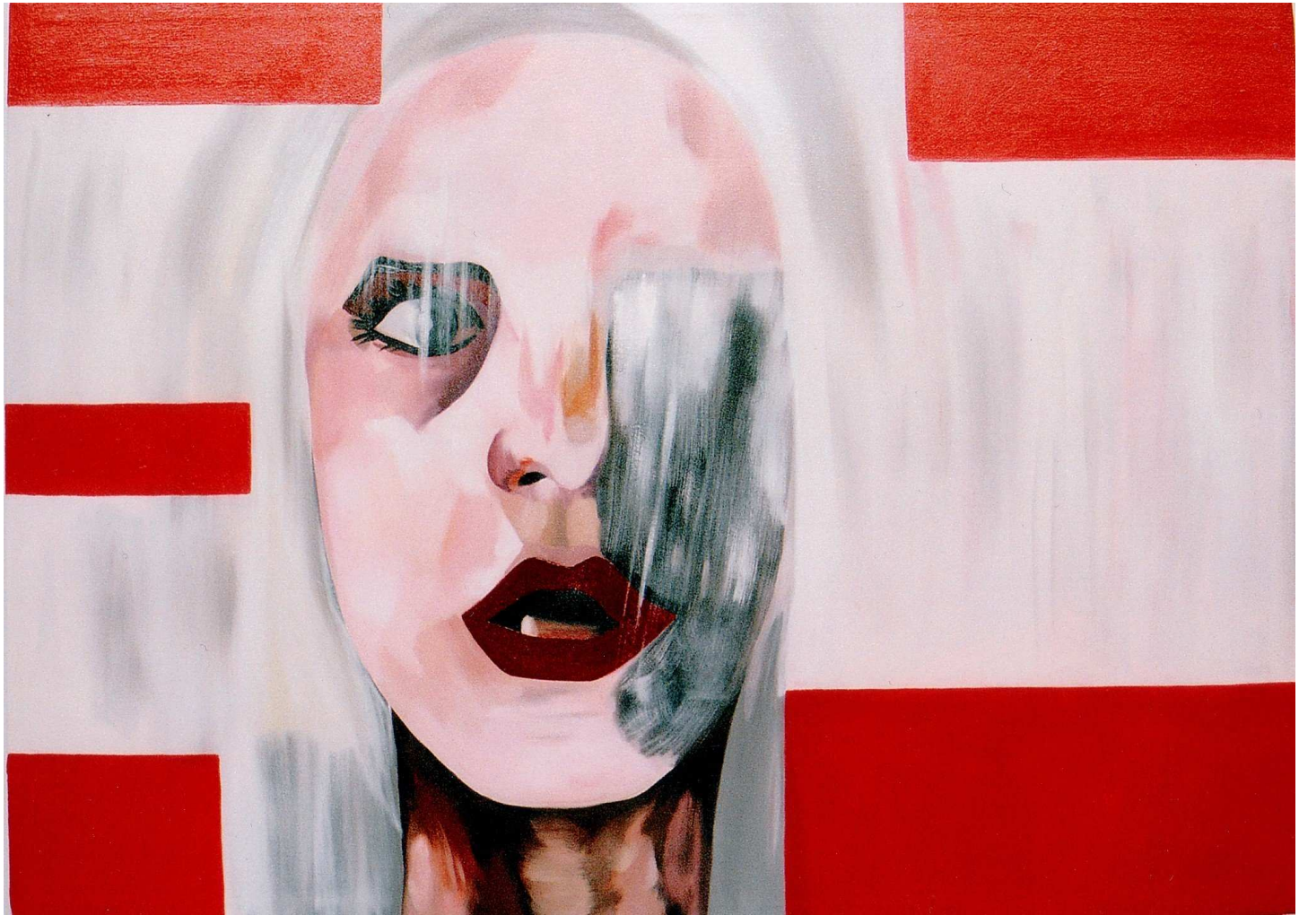
“Beauty no 4”
Oil on canvas, 2005
123x88 cm



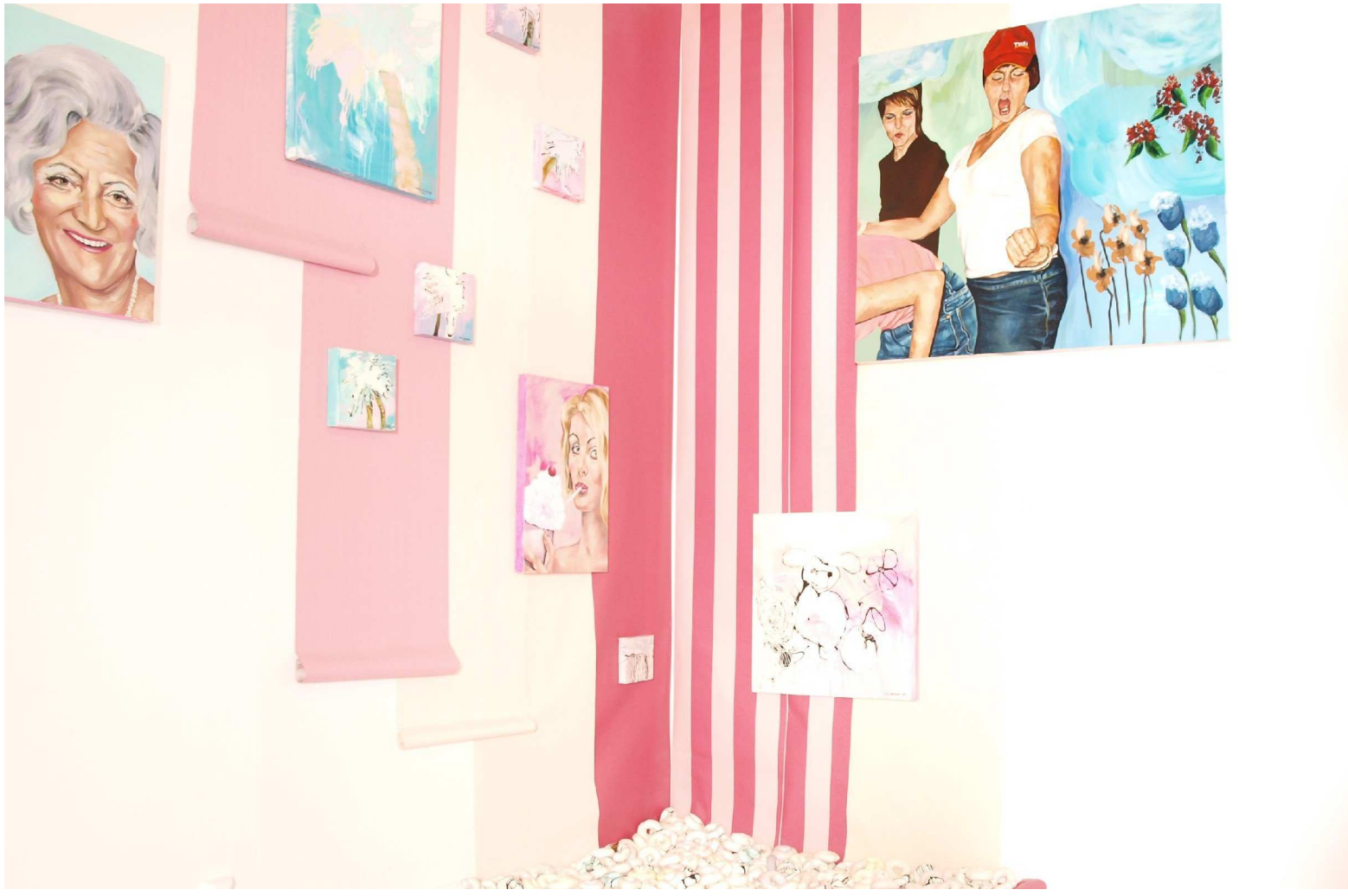
“Beauty no 1”
Oil on canvas, 2005
78x108 cm



“Beauty no 2”
Oil on canvas, 2005
78x108 cm



“Beauty no 6”
Oil on canvas, 2005
122x88 cm



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