



MARINA KOTLIAR

THE INTERSECTION OF
EXPERIENCE AND ART

FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION

Collection of Art and Projects

2025



“Though all artists are using unique methods, techniques, and methodologies while creating their art, they do carry a lot in common - they all want to be able to express themselves and to be understood.”

Marina Kotliar

Marina Kotliar
ARTIST

MARINA KOTLIAR was born and raised in Ukraine in a family of a banker and entrepreneur. Her passion for art has deep roots—her great-grandfather was an artist who worked during the time of the Second World War.

Being an artist in post-Soviet Ukraine often meant a life of financial struggle. For Marina, art was nothing more than a hobby just until recently. **"In Ukraine, to meet an artist, you could go to one of the main streets of the city and see hundreds of artworks placed on the ground in the alley. It didn't matter if it was a hot summer or a bitterly cold winter—artists would always be there,"** Marina comments.

To escape the life of financial hardship, Marina had to give up her dream of pursuing formal academic training in art. Instead, she earned a Master's Degree in Linguistics from Kyiv International University and worked in logistics in her hometown of Dnipro, in eastern Ukraine. There, she spent four years developing skills in various fields, while continuing to paint for her personal pleasure.

"It is sad to realise how much influence society has on us, often shaping an entirely distorted perspective of life. It took me many years to learn that with enough effort and passion, you can succeed in almost any field. Art is no exception," Marina shares.

In 2019, Marina attended art school in Dnipro, Ukraine, which allowed her to dive deeper into her artistic pursuits. While in Ukraine, she also participated in various art courses and became actively involved with artist associations, maintaining a strong connection to the art world.

Moving to the UAE became a big shift affecting Marina's perspective on the world. Driven by the wish to find stability, safety, and security, Marina has spent a few years working in the corporate environment before she was ready to extend her full focus into the art world.

First Gallery that picked up Marina's artworks was the Fine Art Gallery located near Alserkal Avenue in Dubai, where Marina had her studio, getting familiar with the local art environment.

Collecting her experience for the upcoming author artworks, Marina has produced more than 50 artworks since her relocation from Ukraine. She has been working with various styles and mediums before she could shape her own artistic voice. All artworks and projects were created based on the internal world, emotions, experiences, and history of Marina's life.

OF THE SEA

Marina is a feminine name of Latin origin that means 'of the sea' or 'the maiden of the sea,' derived from the Latin word 'mare'.



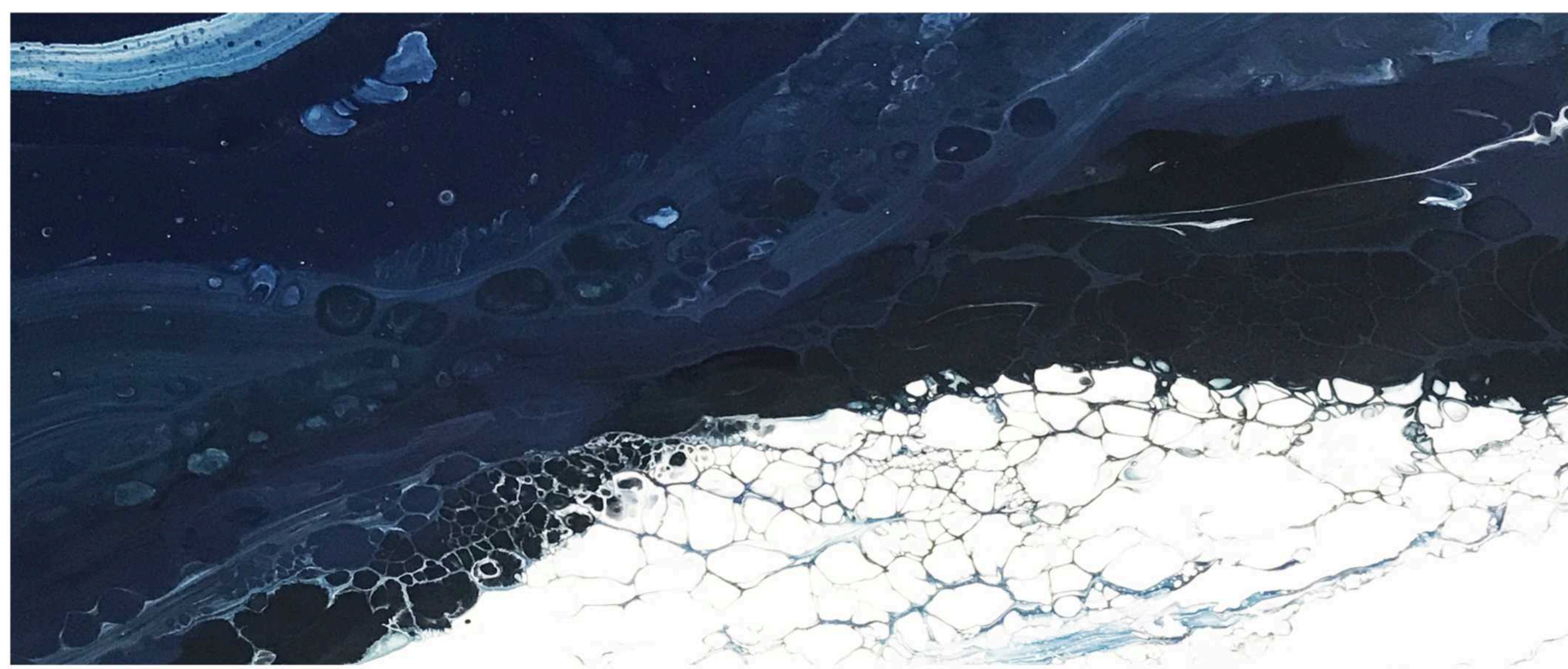
Marina has a deep love for the sea, which serves as the central theme in much of her artwork. She explores the ocean's vast beauty using a variety of mediums and techniques, from acrylic paint pouring and epoxy resin on firm boards to building intricate sea textures with modeling materials, brushes, and paints on canvas. Her seascape artworks have become some of her most sought-after pieces, with over ten commissioned works featuring the sea sold in recent years. The soothing energy of the ocean resonates with many, making these artworks particularly popular, as they effortlessly complement a wide range of interior styles.

Her work consistently reflects a profound connection to nature, often incorporating natural Earth tones that evoke the organic colors of the landscape.

This thematic consistency reveals her open spirit for travel and her eagerness to experience diverse environments, allowing her to filter the natural world through the lens of perception, emotion, and reason. Through her art, Marina captures the ever-changing essence of the sea, blending the physical with the emotional, creating pieces that are both visually stunning and deeply calming.

Marina loves working with epoxy resin to create her seascapes because it adds a unique sense of depth and dimension. The resin's ability to form layers creates a three-dimensional effect, allowing viewers to feel as though they can look beneath the surface of the water and explore its vast, hidden world. The translucent, reflective qualities of the resin mimic the ever-changing nature of the sea, bringing her ocean-inspired artworks to life with an almost tactile sense of immersion.

On this page we can observe the first large-scale sea-scape tryptich that Marina created in 2019 in Dubai. Further pages will show an evolution of the style.



Aerial Tryptich Seascape, 2019
Mixed Media on Acrylic Board
 180*90cm





Salt and Light

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2022

230*100 cm

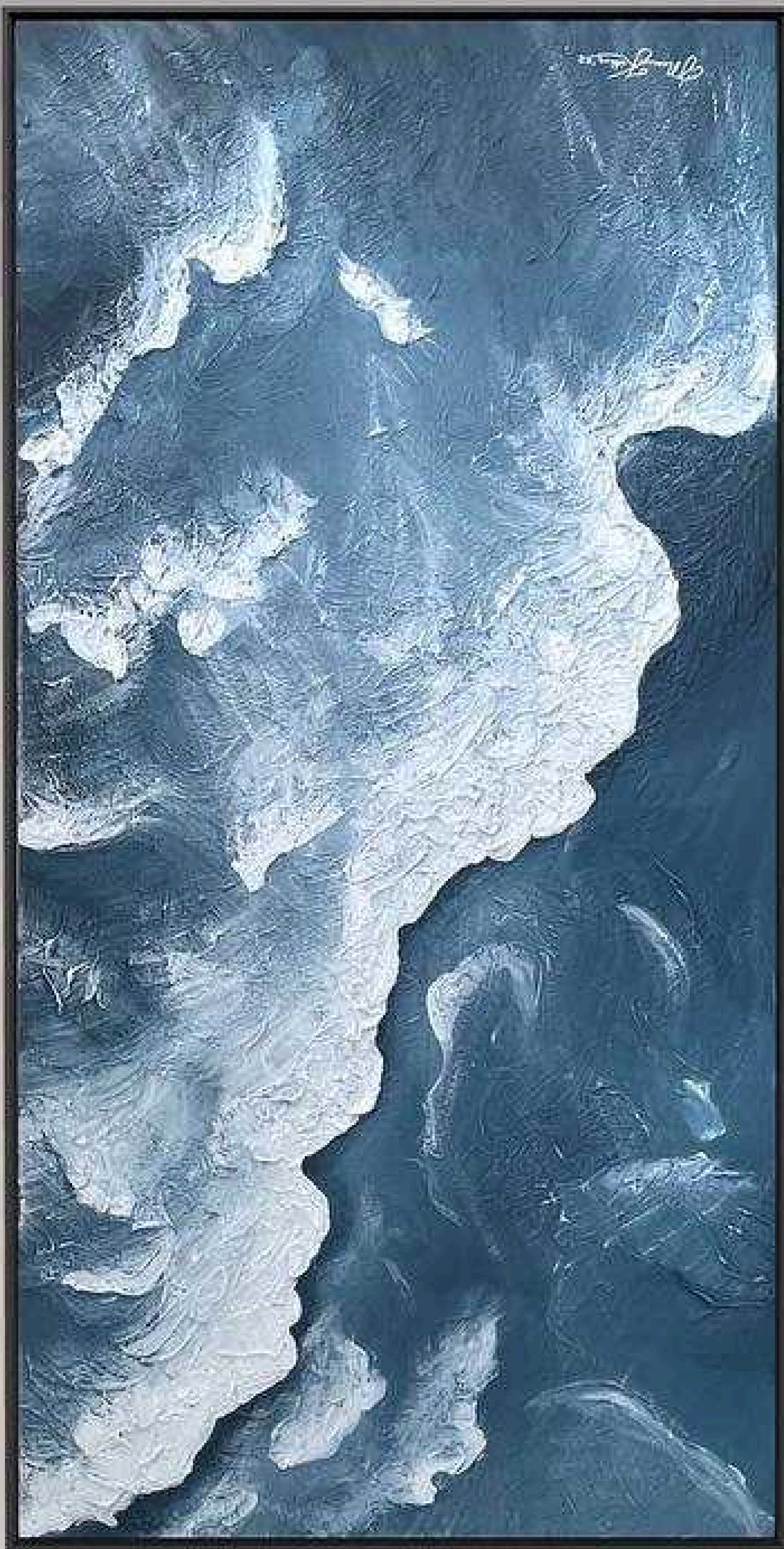




Beneath the Surface

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2021

100*70 cm



Deep Waters

Mixed Media on Canvas, 2022

230*80 cm



‘Deep Waters’ is a striking seascape that took Marina two months to perfect, carefully layering modeling paste, poured acrylic paints, and a variety of mediums to achieve its rich, satisfying texture and vibrant color. The artwork’s depth is built up in layers, with each stroke and medium adding to the immersive feel of the ocean's depths.





In the Wake of the Storm

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2023

110*70 cm



Ethereal Flow

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2019

80*80 cm

FLUID EXPRESSIONS

In 2018, acrylic paint pouring gained popularity among both professional and amateur artists for its ability to create unique, flowing patterns and textures. Marina, an artist with a keen interest in this technique, began experimenting with it to explore the possibility of creating abstract, aerial-like landscapes and marble-like structures—effects that are difficult to achieve with traditional brushwork.

Marina's early process involved extensive trial and error. Acrylic pouring is unpredictable, requiring careful control over paint mixtures, pouring techniques, and materials. Over time, she developed a method to achieve the effects she envisioned, refining her skills and finding the right materials and proportions. As she became more proficient, Marina began offering custom-made acrylic pour artworks, tailored to clients' preferences and interior designs.

By 2019, Marina was creating a range of acrylic pouring artworks in various sizes and color schemes. One of her larger pieces, an abstract work with a green theme, became a notable project. The creation of this piece, titled “The Greenery”, was filmed as part of a series called “Art in Me”, produced by Raam & The Team, a Dubai-based videography company. The videos, available on YouTube, document Marina's process of creating “The Greenery” and provide insight into her approach to acrylic pouring.

Marina's custom artworks have become part of her business model, with clients ordering pieces to match their specific tastes and home decor. While “The Greenery” was one of her largest works, she has continued to create acrylic pour artworks of varying sizes and themes since then, exploring different color palettes and designs.

The “Art in Me” series allowed Marina to share her experience with a broader audience, documenting the steps she took to produce an artwork and providing a glimpse into her creative journey.



Marina's studio in the Fine At Gallery, Dubai



The Greenery

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2020

250*250cm



Tenderness

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2020

120*80 cm

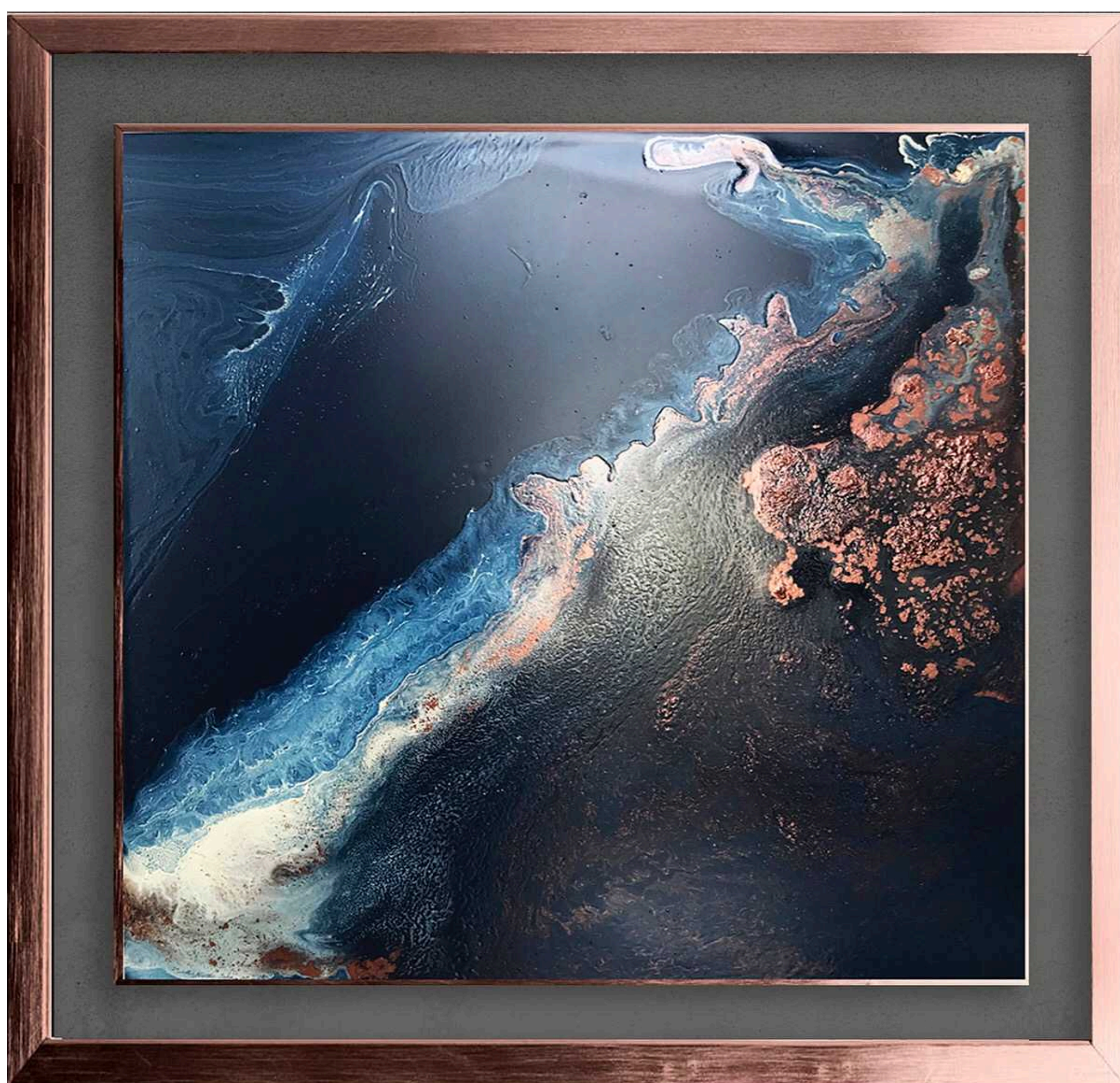


Marina's studio in the Fine At Gallery, Dubai



Pink + White

Acrylic Paints with a layer of Epoxy
Resin on Acrylic Board, 2020
50*50 cm



The Eternity

Mixed Media on Acrylic Board, 2020
50*50 cm



The Countryside

Acrylic Paints on Wood, 2020
50*50 cm



"The Only Victor is Allah"
Fine Art Gallery, Dubai, 2020

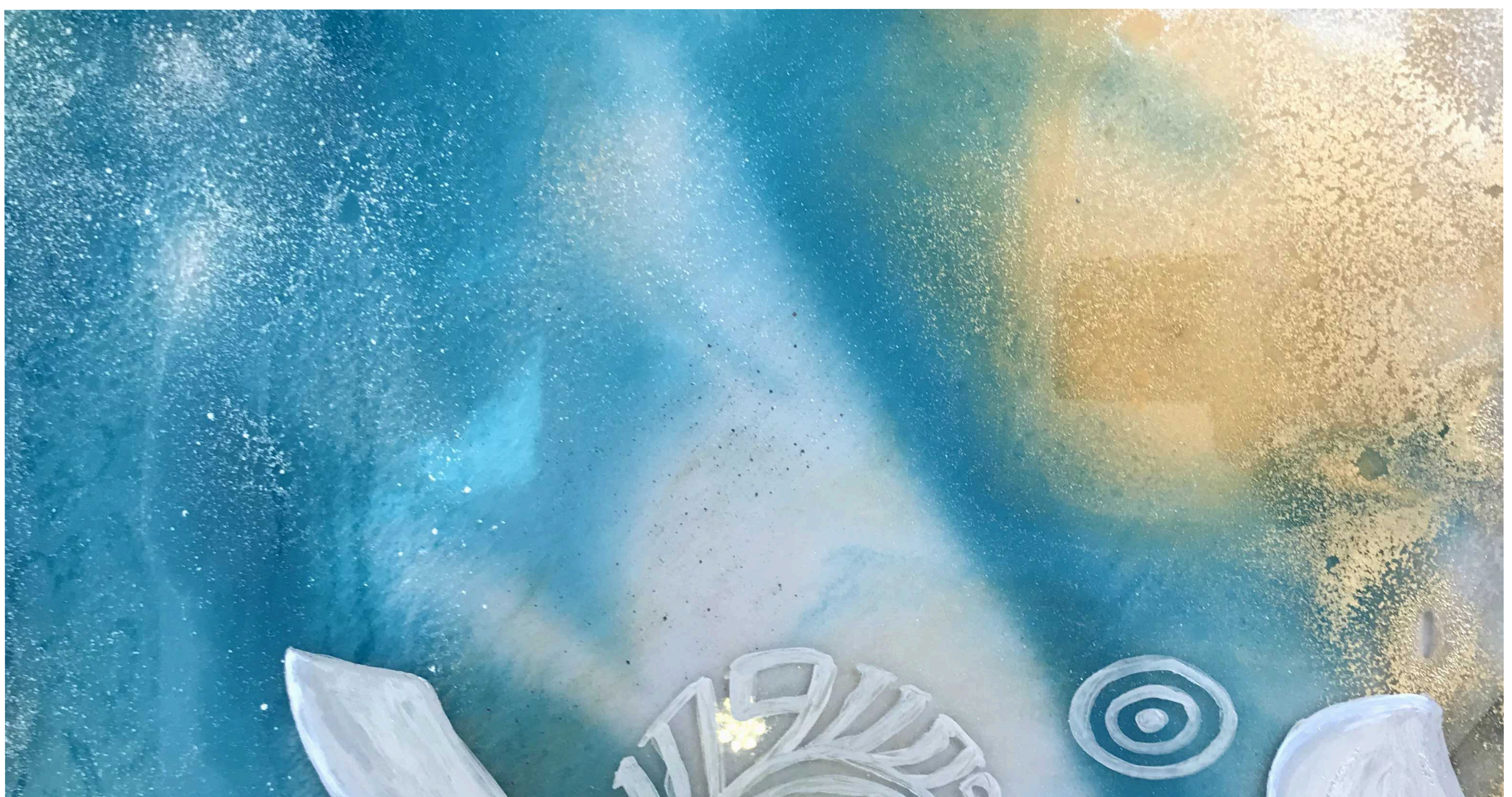
A FUSION OF ART & CULTURE

Living in Dubai Marina, an area known for its modern architecture and rich cultural diversity, Marina found herself deeply influenced by the city's blend of tradition and contemporary life. Surrounded by the vibrant colors, textures, and the influence of Arabic culture, she began exploring new ways to incorporate these elements into her artwork. One of her most distinctive creations was a custom-made mixed media triptych featuring Arabic calligraphy.

This unique artwork, titled “The Only Victor is Allah”, was commissioned by a local client and became a focal point in their Dubai home. The triptych consists of three transparent acrylic boards, each layered with epoxy resin and acrylic paints, creating a three-dimensional effect. The intricate Arabic script, which is a key element of the piece, conveys the powerful message of the supremacy of Allah, a theme deeply rooted in Islamic culture.

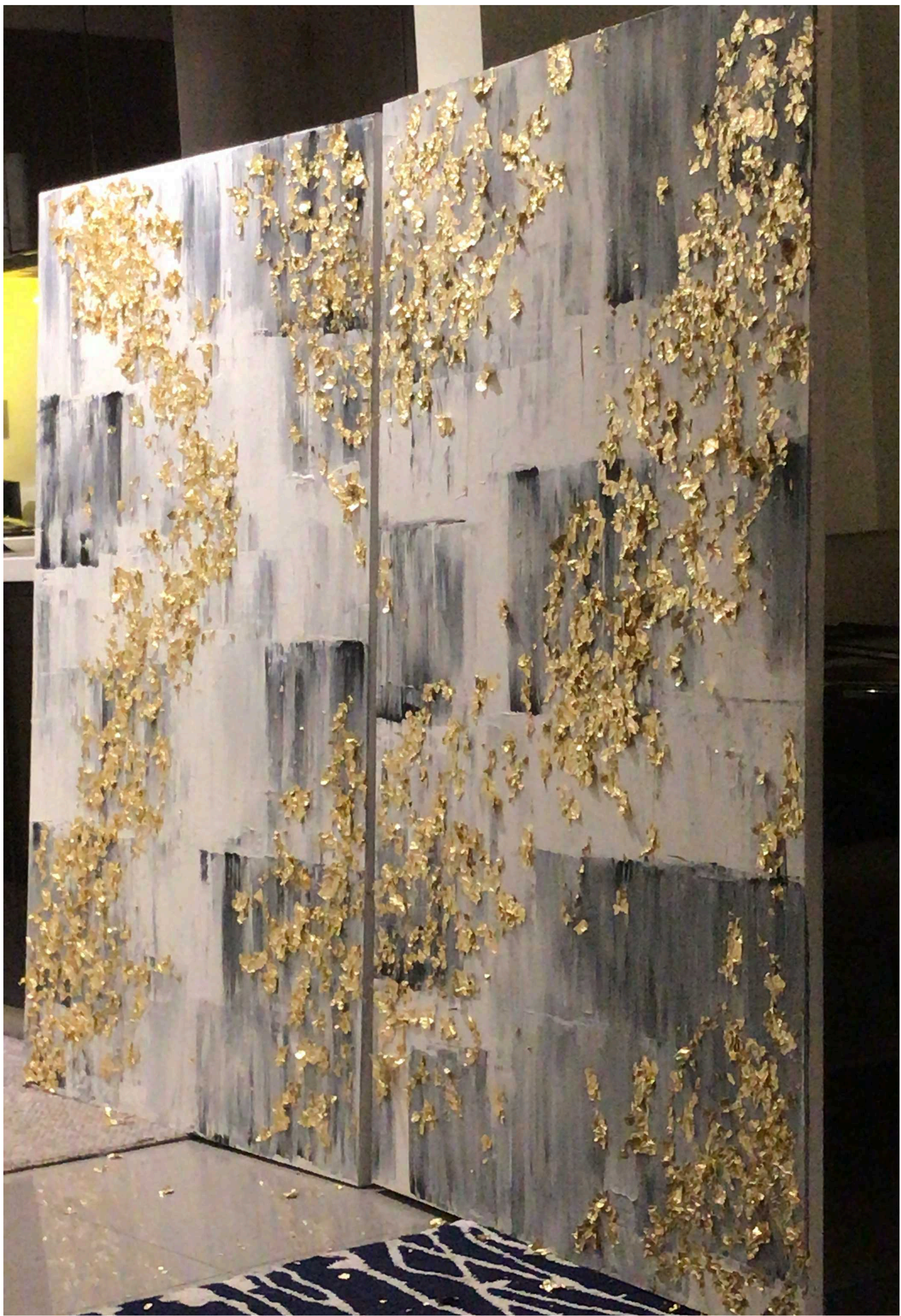
The use of transparent acrylic boards allowed Marina to create a sense of depth within the artwork, giving it a floating, almost ethereal quality. The combination of layers of epoxy resin and acrylic paints added texture and dimension to the piece, while the bold Arabic calligraphy stood out as the centerpiece. The result is a striking, modern interpretation of traditional Islamic art that blends Marina's unique style with the cultural significance of Arabic script.

The triptych now serves as a prominent decorative feature in one of Dubai's homes, where it complements the contemporary interior while honoring the city's cultural heritage. This artwork represents Marina's ability to merge her artistic vision with the influences of her surroundings, creating pieces that resonate with both aesthetic beauty and cultural meaning.





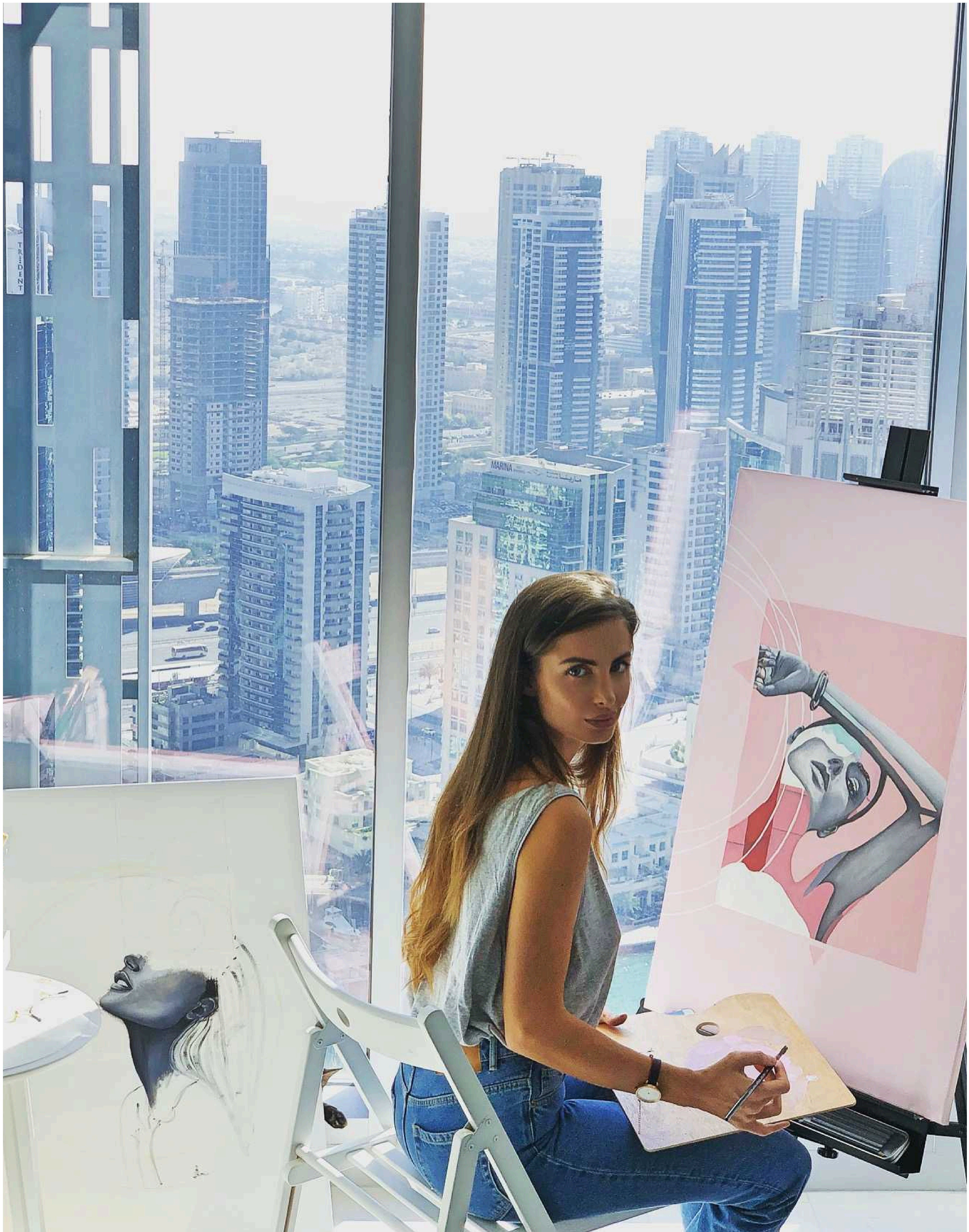
The Leaf
Mixed Media on Board, 2022
70*70 cm



Golden Leaf Dypitch

Mixed Media on Canvas, 2021

200*100 cm



Marina in the home studio, Dubai, 2019

HUMAN FORM & ABSTRACT EXPRESSION

In addition to work with abstract art, Marina has long been fascinated by the human face and anatomy. Over the past five years, she has dedicated herself to exploring ways to blend the expressive power of human portraits with the fluidity and freedom of abstract art. This journey has led to a body of work that challenges the boundaries between figurative representation and abstract expression, creating pieces that feel both familiar and enigmatic.

At first glance, her artworks may seem to come from different artistic hands—some evoking the precision and detail of classical portraiture, while others seem to break free into vibrant splashes of color and dynamic, unrestrained forms. But as Marina continued to explore, it became clear that these seemingly disparate styles were part of her ongoing search for a unified visual language that could express the complexity of the human experience.

Throughout history, many artists have experimented with different mediums, techniques, and styles to articulate their inner worlds—whether through the brushstrokes of an impressionist, the geometric abstractions of a cubist, or the fragmented forms of a surrealist. Marina has pushed her artistic boundaries, merging human anatomy with abstract forms to create a new kind of art that speaks both to the viewer's sense of reality and their emotional responses to color, shape, and movement.

In recent years, Marina's work has evolved into a striking fusion of human faces and abstract elements, where the lines between the figurative and the abstract become blurred. The faces in her art are not mere representations; they are part of a larger, more fluid composition, where shapes and colors break through and around them, creating a conversation between the two worlds. This combination of portraiture and abstraction allows Marina to express not just physical likeness, but the deeper, often unspoken emotions and thoughts that accompany human existence.

Through this experimentation, Marina has found a way to express her internal world visually, using abstract forms as a means of exploring the complexity of identity, perception, and the emotional states that shape us. Her work reflects the notion that art is not static, but an evolving process, with each piece representing a different facet of the artist's personal and creative journey.



Mixed Media on Canvas, 2019
90*60 cm



Mixed Media on Canvas, 2019
90*60 cm



"AUGUST" AND "APRIL" AT WORLD ART DUBAI, 2022

A JOURNEY INTO IMMERSIVE ART

At the World Art Dubai 2022, Marina's two artworks—"August" and "April"—became the defining moments of her artistic journey. These pieces were not just visual representations, but immersive experiences that bridged the gap between the internal world of the artist and the emotions of the viewers.

For Marina, art has always been a means of translating her inner feelings and thoughts into a tangible form. It's about meaning and reasoning, about capturing the essence of her experiences in ways that resonate with others. "August" and "April" were created not only as visual representations but also as auditory ones, incorporating song lyrics that deepened the emotional connection to the pieces.

Each artwork was paired with music that helped convey its emotional core. "August" was accompanied by the lyrics from Elis Noa's "Make me Think of you", while "April" featured Sevdaliza's "Human". The names of the artworks reflect the months when they were started—August in 2020, and in April 2021.

"August" marks the beginning of a significant emotional chapter for Marina. Painted during a period of personal turmoil and the aftermath of difficult relationships, the artwork reflects a raw, emotional intensity. The face depicted on the canvas conveys a sense of anger and confusion—emotions Marina was grappling with after leaving certain relationships behind.

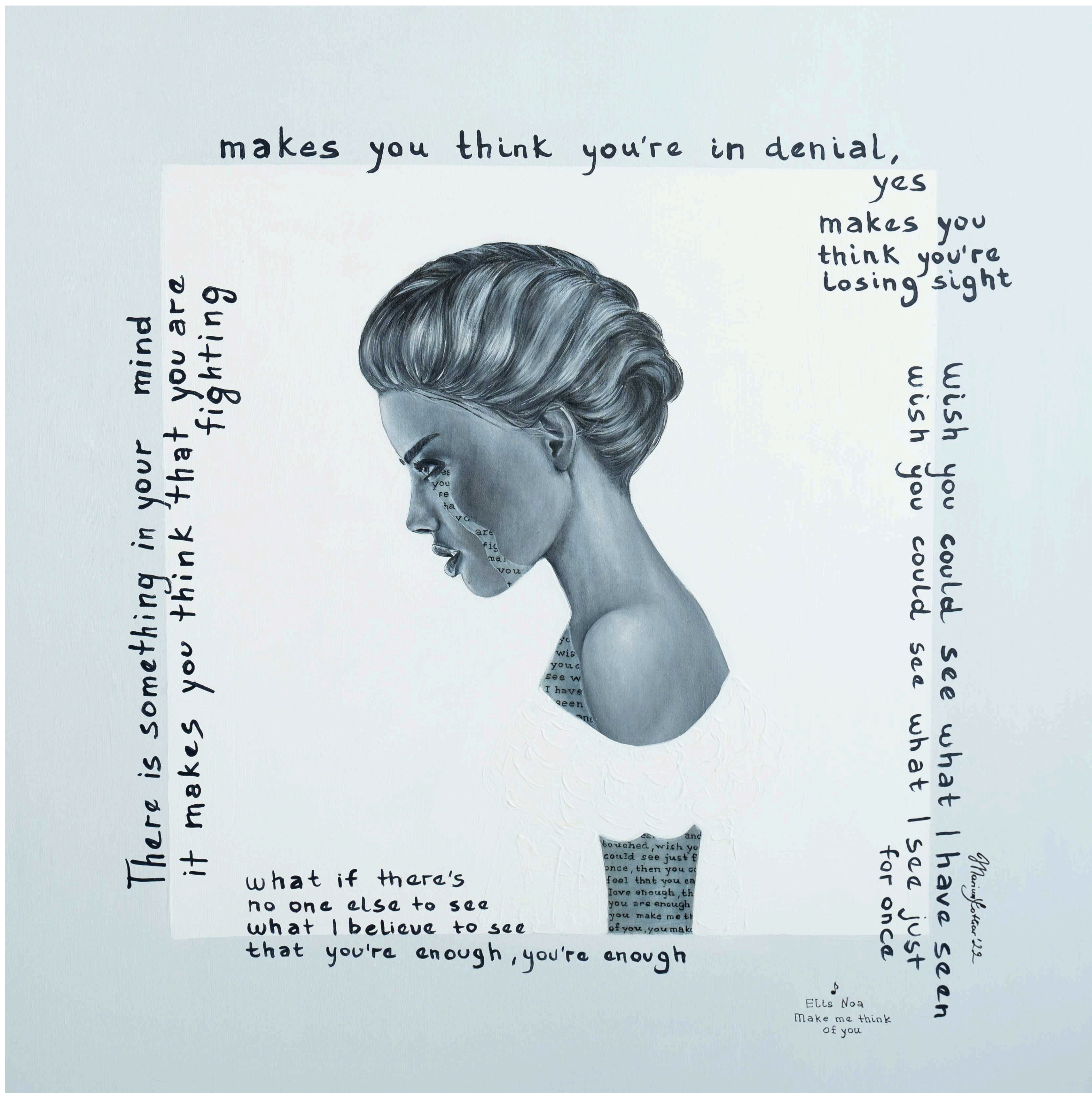
In contrast, "April" portrays a face that exudes strength, confidence, and clarity. Created during a time when Marina regained her sense of self and power, "April" represents a turning point in her life—when she found the courage to move forward and fight for her own happiness. It took Marina two years to finish both artworks.

Following the start of the war in Ukraine just weeks before the exhibition, tears and eupalettes added additional meaning to Marina's works. The grief and fear experienced by the women of Ukraine were reflected in the tears of both artworks, while the heavy eupalettes symbolized the strength and courage women had to muster during the war. Later in 2023, Marina painted two more works, "Stefania" and "Solomiya", both featuring tears running down the canvas in the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

To deepen the viewer's experience, the artworks were paired with headphones at the exhibition, allowing visitors to listen to the music while engaging with the visuals. This immersive element was designed to create a more personal connection with the art, inviting viewers to experience both the emotional depth of the artwork and the resonance of the lyrics.

For Marina, the most profound moment came when visitors were visibly moved by the combination of the artwork and music. Many were brought to tears as they found personal connections to the emotions conveyed in "August" and "April". Witnessing such an emotional response was both humbling and powerful for Marina—it marked a pivotal moment in her artistic journey, confirming that her work had transcended her own experiences to touch the hearts of others.

The exhibition at World Art Dubai, with its immersive elements, became a defining chapter in Marina's career, reinforcing the power of art to communicate not only through visuals but through sound, emotion, and shared human experience.



August

Mixed Media on Canvas, 2022

130*130 cm

"August" started its existence at the end of summer 2020, here in Dubai. At that time, I was going through one of the most difficult breakups of my life. I was angry, hurt, sad, and lost.

Some of these emotions can be seen in the facial expression of the girl painted in this artwork. I wouldn't say that she is me, but I definitely see myself in her—if that makes sense.

Music is a huge part of my life, and the words in this piece are lyrics from the song "Make Me

Think of You" by Elis Noa. The song deeply resonated with me, and I felt the depth of the melody, the colors, the feminine face, the singer's voice, and the words—all of it seemed to capture the emotions I felt during the summer of 2020.

The artwork was completed just a week ago. A lot has changed in the past two years, and putting the final touches on this piece symbolized the end of that chapter in my life. The past is officially behind me.



April

Mixed Media on Canvas, 2022

130*130 cm

"April" began its existence last spring, during a time when my struggles began—struggles that felt overwhelming for someone who had lived a peaceful life, letting things unfold naturally.

Today, those struggles—concerns about work, interpersonal relationships, unfulfilled dreams and plans—seem small in comparison to a war that is happening in the place where I first opened my eyes, took my first breath, walked my first steps, and spent most of my life... the place I call home.

Last spring, I felt as though I was constantly fighting for my place in this fast-paced world, in a society where I needed to prove my worth every single day. It felt like I couldn't slow down, couldn't take a break, and couldn't allow myself to make mistakes. The message of this artwork is simple. It says: I am just human, with feelings, scars, fears, and flaws. The heavy jacket with epaulettes symbolizes strength and self-protection, while the confident look on the face conveys a readiness to fight and stand strong when life is not as pleasant as it seems it should be.

For the full experience of the artwork, I recommend listening to Sevdaliza's song "Human".



Stefania

Acrylic Paints on Canvas, 2022

80*800 cm



ACCEPTED & REJECTED FOR THEIR POLITICAL MESSAGE

“Solomiya” and “Stefaniya” were both initially accepted into an exhibition in one of Madrid’s Art Galleries, only to be later rejected due to the inclusion of what was deemed a “political message.” This unexpected turn of events unfolded when the curators, after reviewing the works, decided that the artworks—powerful in both their symbolism—were too politically charged for the exhibition’s intended theme named “WOMEN”.

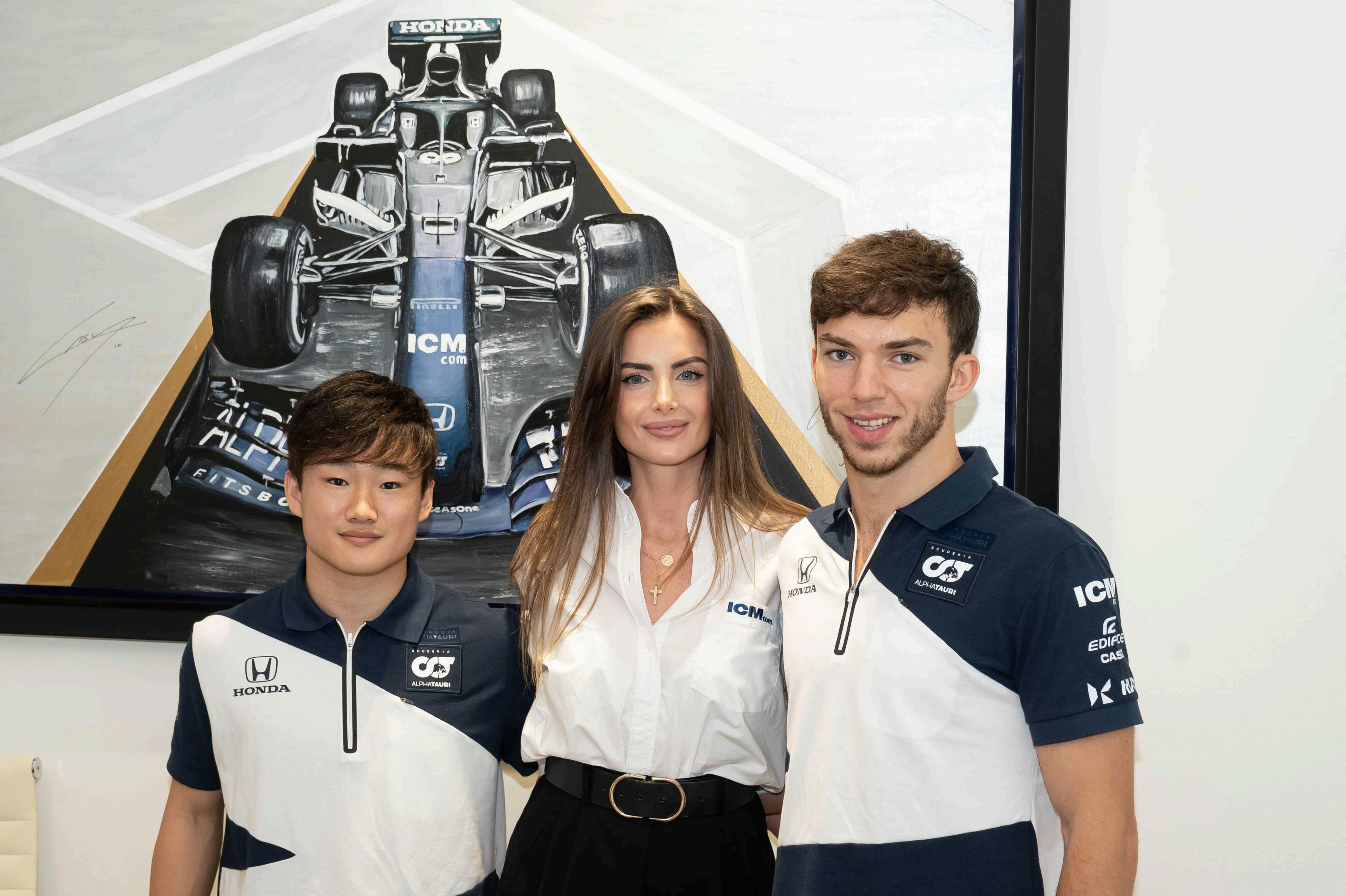
However, both pieces have now found a more fitting home in Madrid, where they are displayed in a space that supports and honors the experiences of women in conflict. Here, their powerful message is not only accepted but celebrated, highlighting the pain of women in times of war.



Scuderia AlphaTauri AT3

Acrylic Paints on Canvas, 2022

230*120 cm



Formula 1 Drivers, Yuki Tsunoda and Pierre Gasly

CORPORATE & ARTISTIC INTERSECTION

In 2022, Marina collaborated with Formula 1 to create a bespoke artwork featuring a Formula 1 car. The project was a unique challenge for her, as she had no prior experience in automotive art. However, with her strong background in artistic expression, she embraced the opportunity and successfully brought the concept to life.

The stunning artwork now holds a special place in one of the Formula 1 offices in Dubai, showcasing not only her technical skill but also her creative ability to capture the essence of precision that defines the sport. Artwork was signed by Formula 1 drivers Pierre Gasly and Yuki Tsunoda.



Falcon

Mixed Media on Canvas, 2023

120*100 cm x 2

ABU DHABI FALCON

Another standout piece in Marina's portfolio was a large-scale custom commission from a client in Abu Dhabi. It took her one month to create a stunning acrylic-on-canvas diptych featuring a flying falcon, which now adorns one of the client's offices in Abu Dhabi. The biggest challenge for Marina was understanding the intricate anatomy of the bird, but in the end, she was extremely pleased with the result.



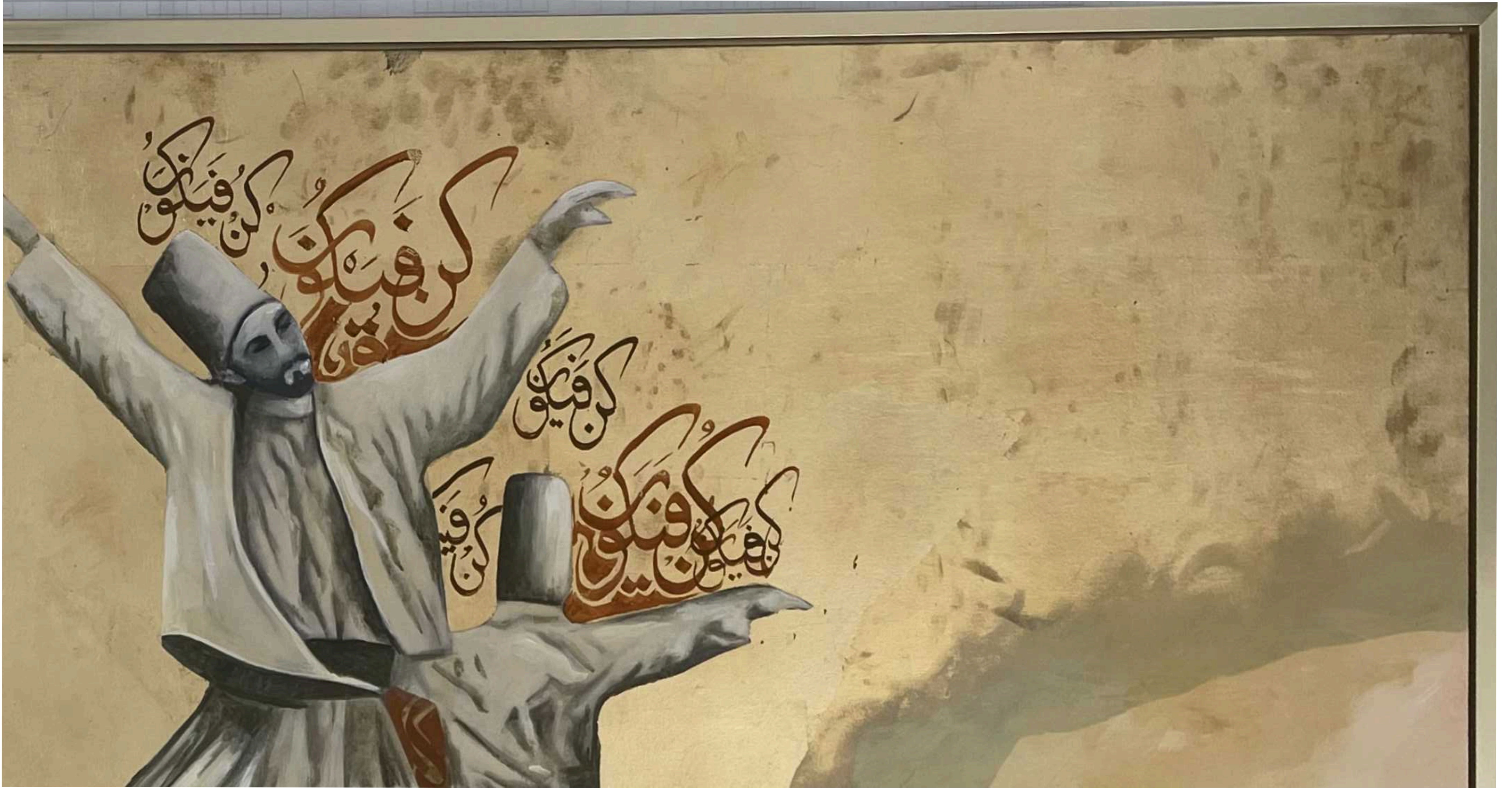
SAVING SUFI WHIRLING

Fine Art Restoration



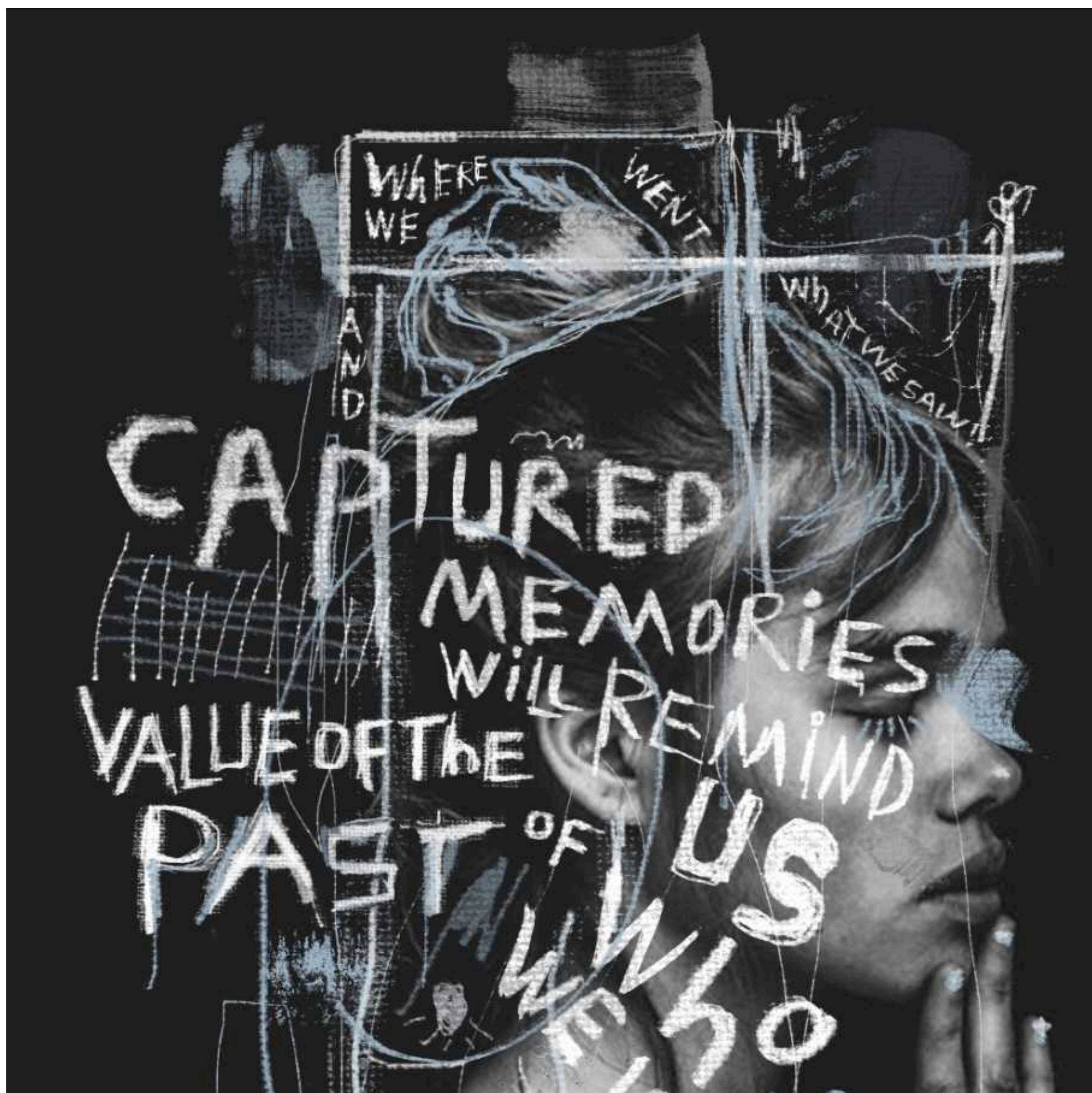
One of the galleries in Dubai approached Marina to assist with restoring a large-scale artwork that had been damaged during transportation. Marina carefully replaced the damaged layer of gold leaf and covered the remaining surface with acrylic paints, ensuring the piece regained its vibrant, organic appearance, as if it had been freshly created.

Damaged Artwork



Artwork After Restoration





DIGITAL ART WITH DEEP ART GALLERY

One of Marina's notable projects was a collaboration with Deep At Gallery in Dubai. This partnership once again showcased the intersection of female faces, vibrant colors, and expressive writings. Each artwork was initially created digitally by Deep Gallery and then hand-finished by Marina, bringing a unique, personal touch to the pieces. The final collection was released as a limited edition on the Deep Gallery website and offered as NFTs.



Marina hand-finishing one of the artworks
Deep Art Gallery, Dubai 2023



'ARTIFY' BY MARINA K STUDIO

One of the projects Marina launched in 2022 was called Artify. The goal of this project was to create high-quality, meaningful gifts through the transformation of personal photos into hand-crafted artworks.

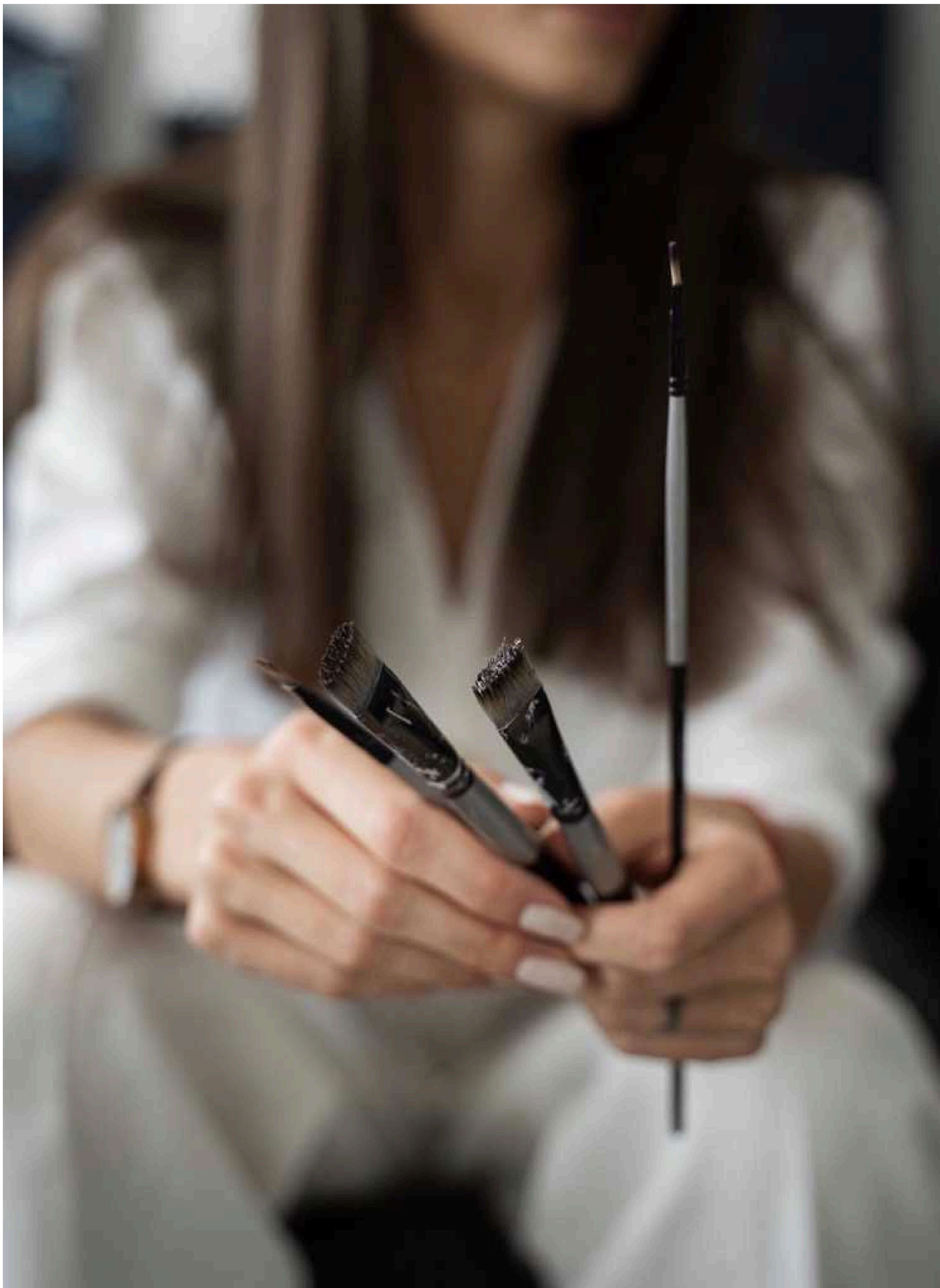
The process began with digital editing and print of a photo on premium-quality photo paper. Marina would then hand-finish the piece with intricate drawings and brushwork, before framing and carefully packaging it.

With Artify, Marina fulfilled her dream of helping people find the perfect, personalized gift for their loved ones.

LOVE NEVER STOP YOU



Nina Kottler '22



In just five years of her artistic journey, Marina has created over 50 artworks that now adorn the walls of many homes. Driven by a deep fascination with beauty, her main motivation is the continuous pursuit of creating pieces that delight the eye. She is committed to honing her skills, pushing creative boundaries, and exploring the endless possibilities within the world of art—all while bringing value and meaning to the global art scene.

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