

XANTHE BURDETT  
VOICES CAUGHT IN THE  
EARTH

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WILDER

Wilder Gallery is thrilled to announce its participation in the inaugural Echo Soho Art Fair, 16 - 19 October, London, where we will be presenting a solo showcase of new works by Xanthe Burdett. Burdett's presentation, *Voices Caught In The Earth*, features her signature large-scale painting and a series of intimately scaled oil and metal leaf works on board.

Working at both large and very small scales, Xanthe Burdett's paintings explore the relationship between human and nonhuman entities. In *Voices Caught in the Earth*, bodies emerge from the soil as though rooted and curling plant fronds form human faces; her multiplicitous non-anthropocentric visual worlds celebrate the compelling unruliness of plants and the strangenesses of the human stories we use to attempt to understand our environments.

This body of work, particularly the large painting *Lady Bertilak*, is closely inspired by the medieval story of Gawain and the Green Knight, in which a knight who is "grass green and greener still" challenges Sir Gawain to deal him a blow with his sword, after which the knight will return the favour. Gawain cuts off his opponent's head, only for the knight to pick it up and ride off laughing, apparently unaffected. The Green Knight, who exhibits a plant-like indifference to beheading, and his wife Lady Bertilak, whose role is to test Gawain's purity by trying to seduce him, evoke the uncanny and unruly wildness of nature, revealing the weirdness of the places where human and nonhuman forces meet.

However, Burdett's painting does not constitute a simple illustration of a moment in the Gawain story, instead alluding obliquely to several aspects of the narrative. The work also contains echoes of art historical paintings of Salome holding the head of St John the Baptist, as well as hints of the pale figures of classical sculpture and ancient mythologies of metamorphosis. The work holds a variety of references without demanding that the viewer tear open the image and analyse it, instead insisting on an acceptance of ambiguity and multiplicity.

For her large-scale paintings, Burdett begins on a base of clear-primed grey linen. Using a traditional technique of Renaissance fresco painters, she draws her figures onto paper before transferring them to the canvas using chalk. She paints the figures in white gesso, then instinctively applies washes of intense green colour over the top. As a result, the human bodies gain an otherworldly luminosity, as though gazing out through a veil of colour which separates their pictorial space from that of the viewer. Finally, Burdett adds the details, delineating delicate facial features and twining foliage.

By contrast, her smaller works are created on boards coated with polished metal leaf. Here, she sprinkles solvents onto thin oil washes to create a speckled effect, relinquishing total painterly control and allowing her materials their own agency. She then adds layers of glazes to create depth and detail, resulting in works that are simultaneously gleaming and somehow muddy, recalling the underground worlds she depicts in these tiny paintings.

Like the larger pieces, the small works evoke a variety of mythologies and traditions, recalling gilded religious icons, medieval illustrations of mandrake plants, and folkloric tales of the underworld. Across this series, soil becomes a space of potential narratives and a portal to the other worlds that exist alongside us. For instance, *Portent* features an image of a dog stepping lightly upon its own shadow, reflecting Burdett's interest in the mythological role of dogs as guides between different states of being. The pieces featuring human-like figures similarly express a condition of inbetweenness; slipping mercurially between an earthy groundedness and a mystical ethereality. Text by Anna Souter

Echo Soho champions female-led galleries, amplifying their influence in contemporary art in the heart of London's Soho.

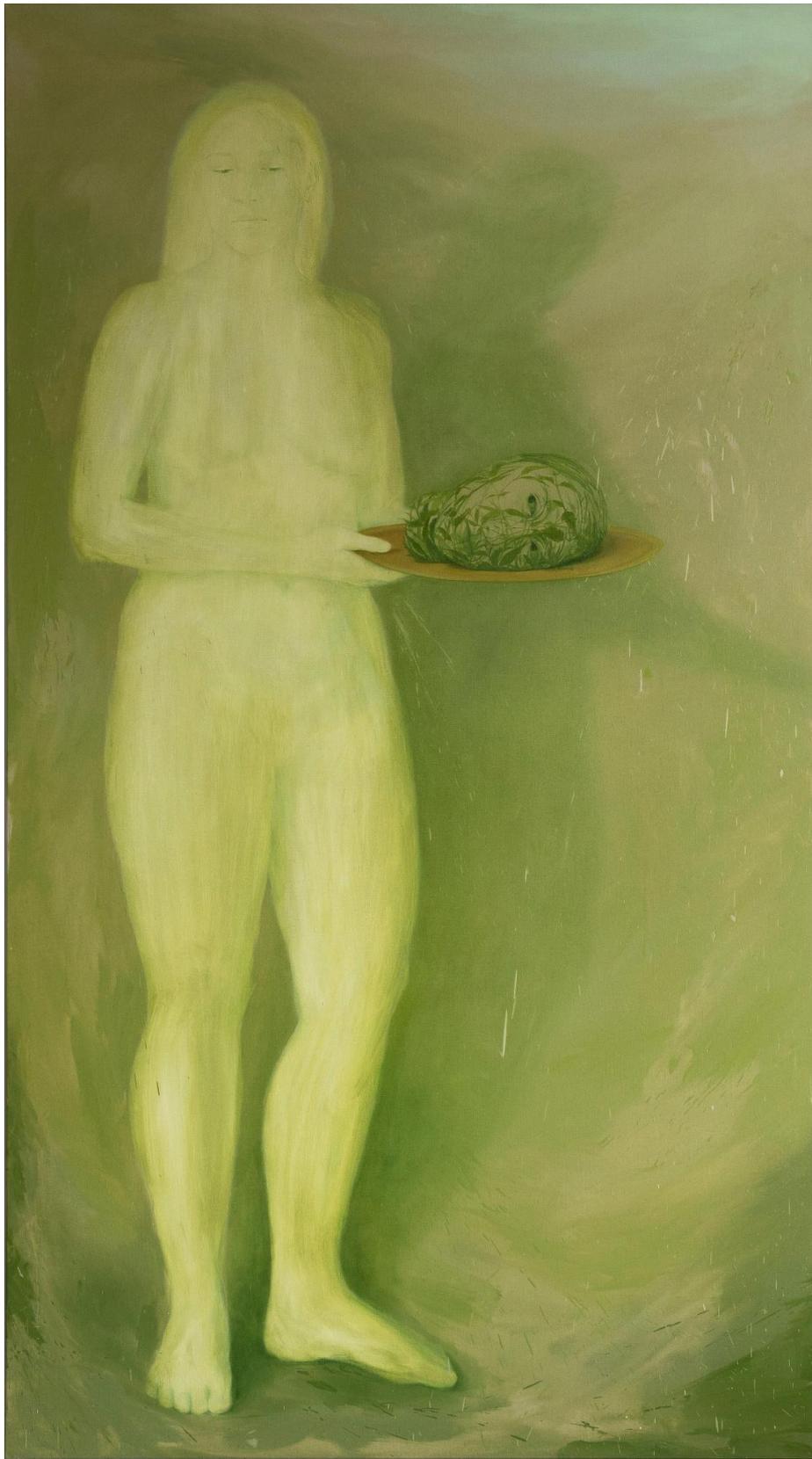
#### Fair Dates

Friday 17 October: 11 AM – 6 PM

Saturday 18 October: 11 AM – 6 PM

Sunday 19 October: 11 AM – 4 PM

Echo Soho Fair: Artists House, 14 Manette Street, Soho, London



Xanthe Burdett

*Lady Bertilak*

2025

Oil on linen

180 cm x 100 cm

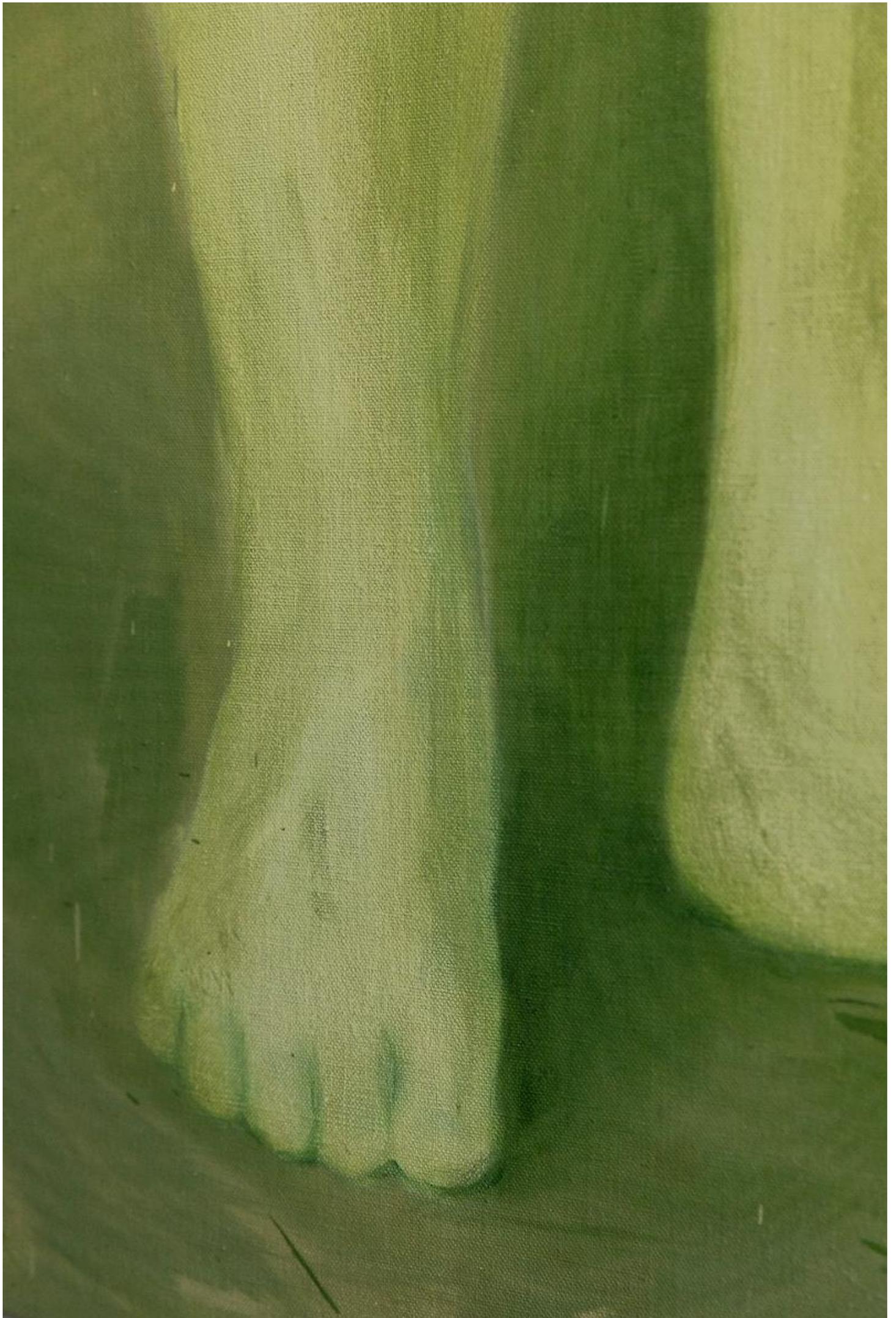
70.87 x 39.37 inches

£ 6,800 ex. applicable taxes

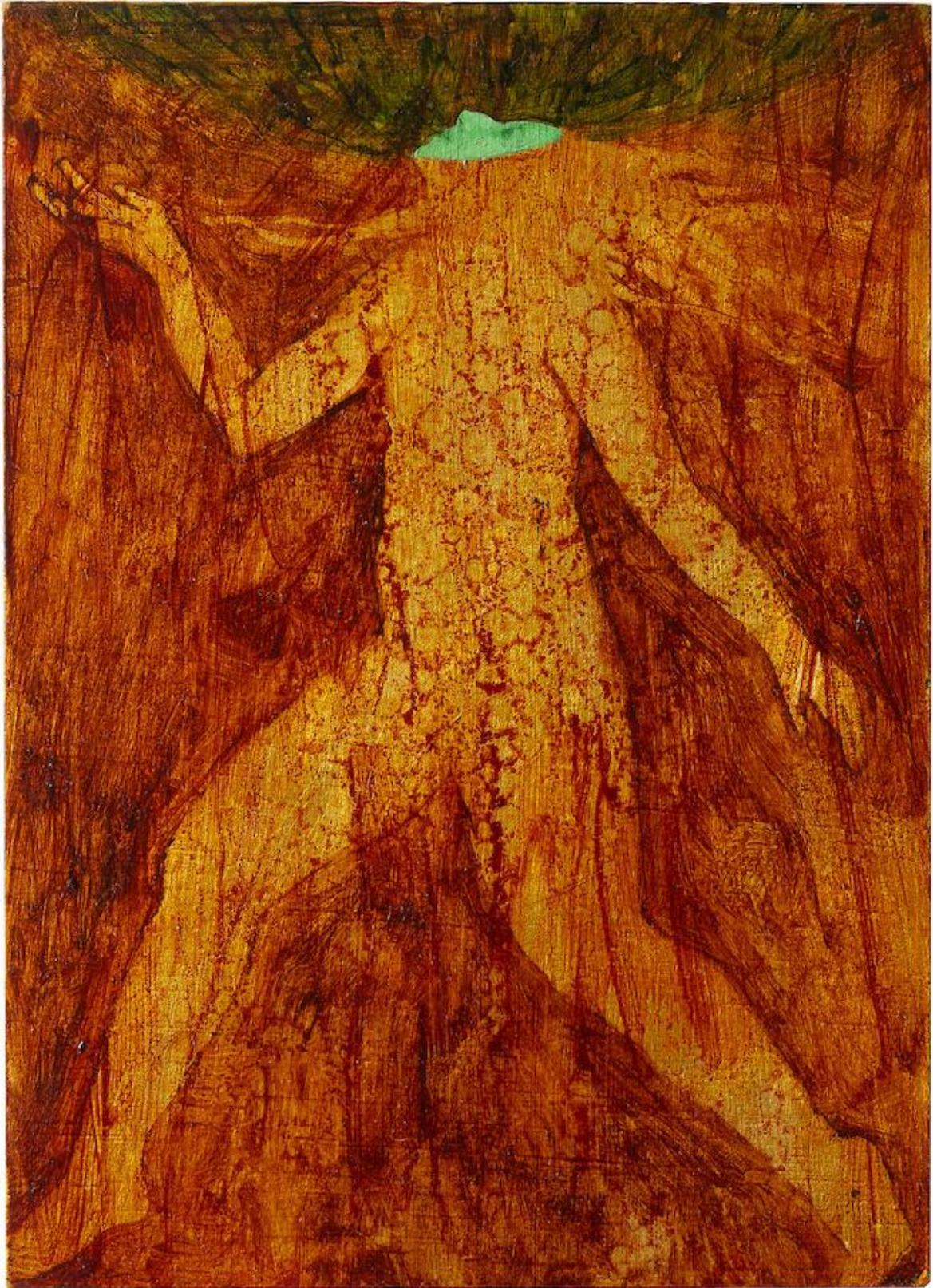
£ 8,160 including vat











Xanthe Burdett

*Root Walker*

2025

Oil and metal leaf on board

17.78 cm x 12.7 cm

7 x 5 inches

£ 900 ex. applicable taxes

£ 1,080 including vat







Xanthe Burdett

*Earthwards*

2025

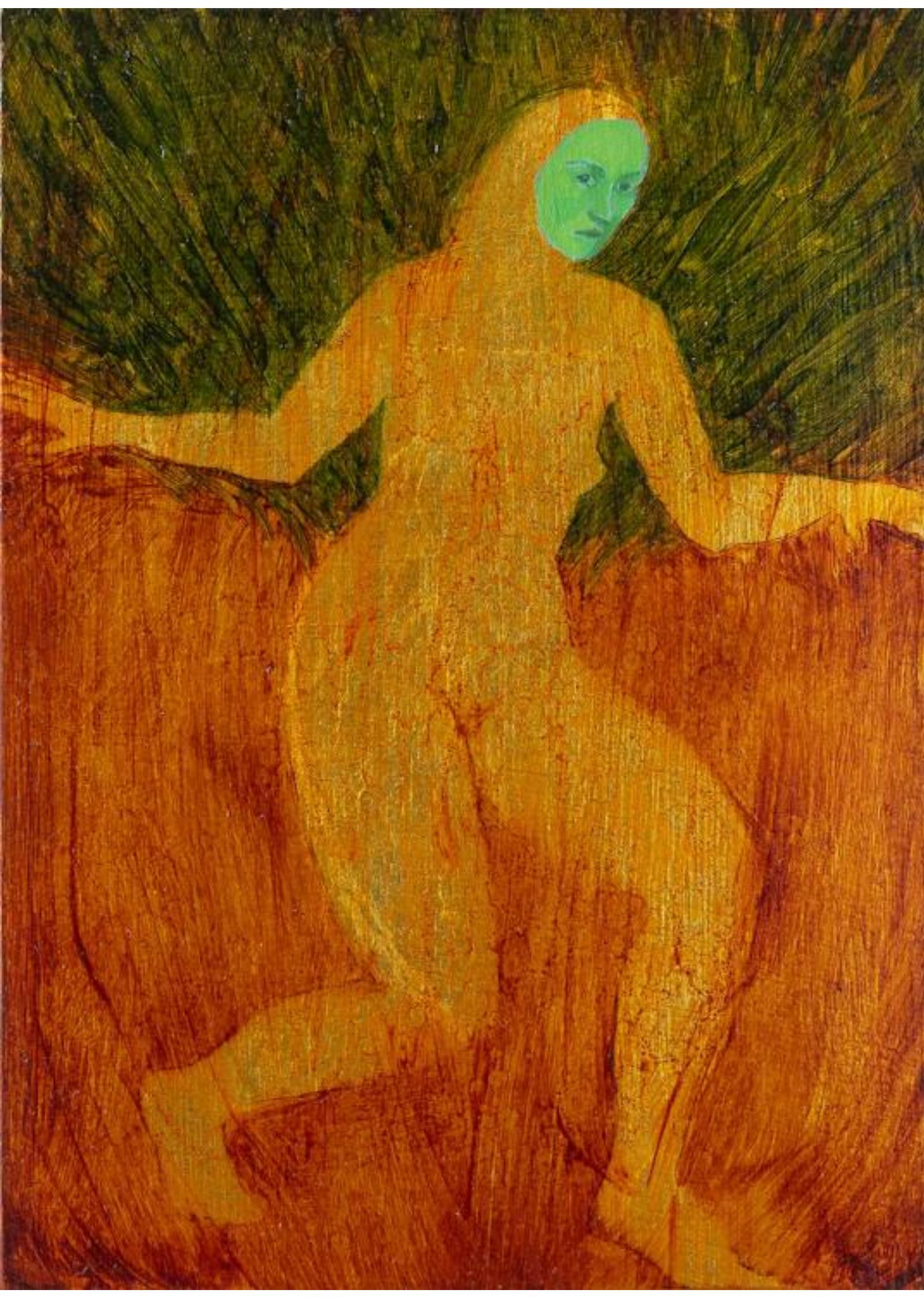
Oil and metal leaf on board

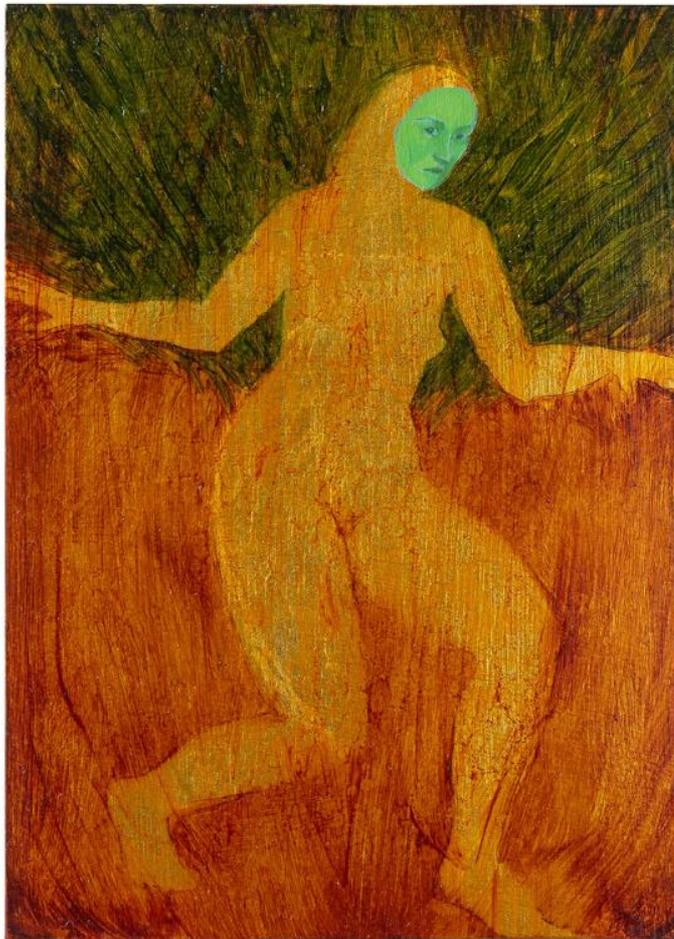
17.78 cm x 12.7 cm

7 x 5 inches

£ 900 ex. applicable taxes

£ 1,080 including vat







Xanthe Burdett

*Luminary*

2025

Oil and metal leaf on board

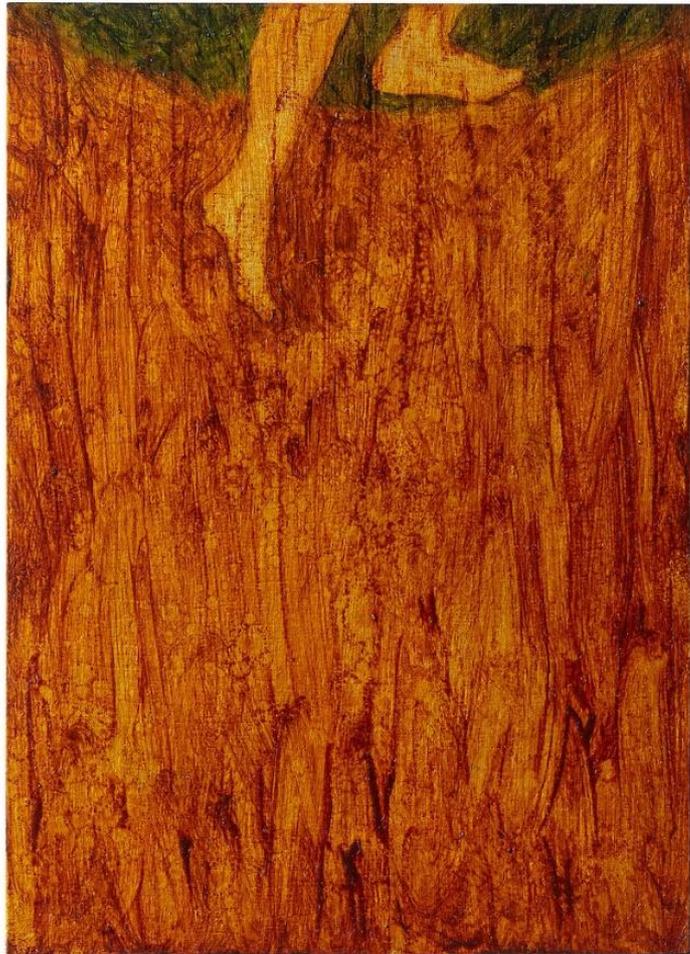
17.78 cm x 12.7 cm

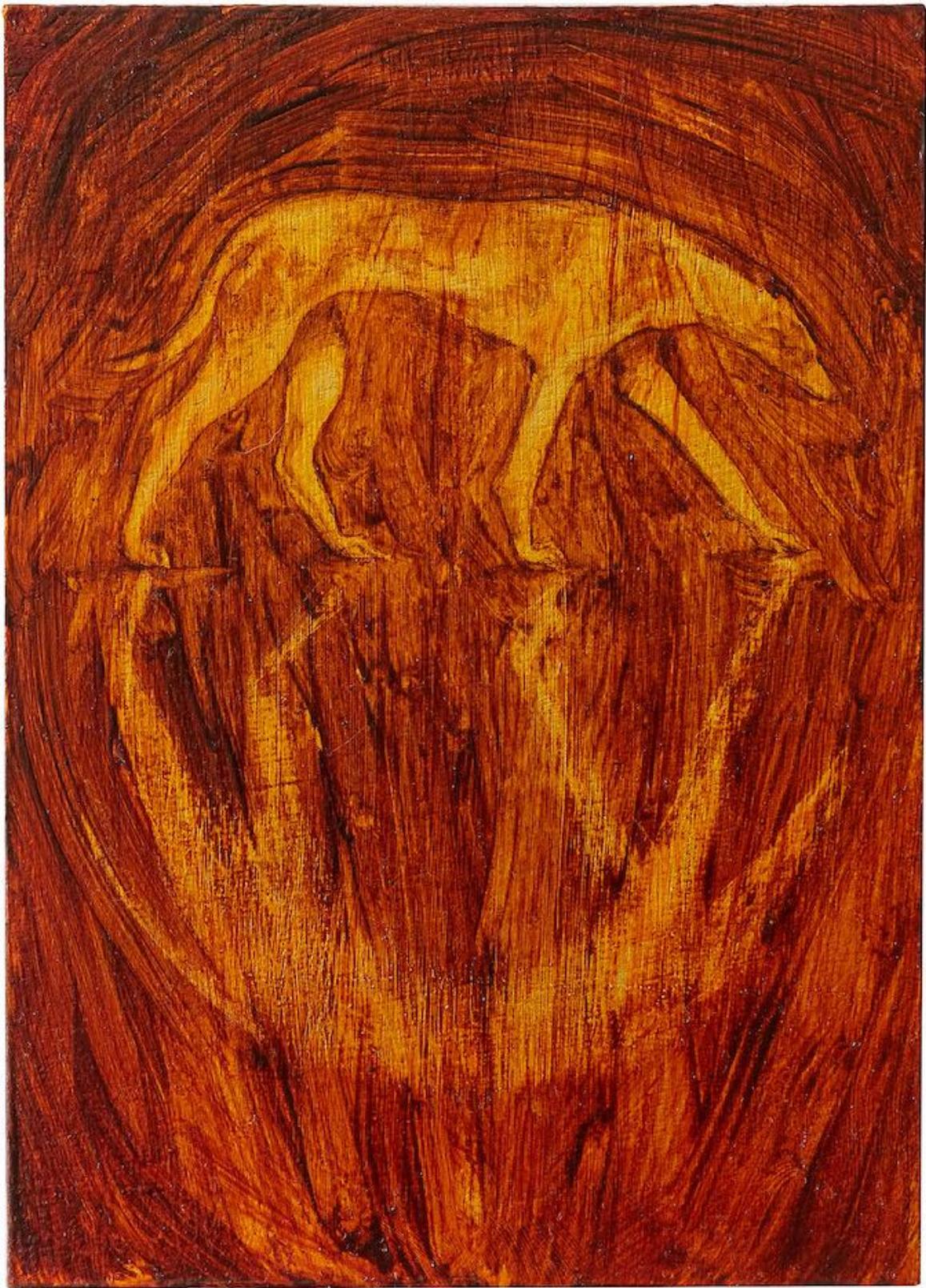
7 x 5 inches

£ 900 ex. applicable taxes

£ 1,080 including vat







Xanthe Burdett

*Portent*

2025

Oil and metal leaf on board

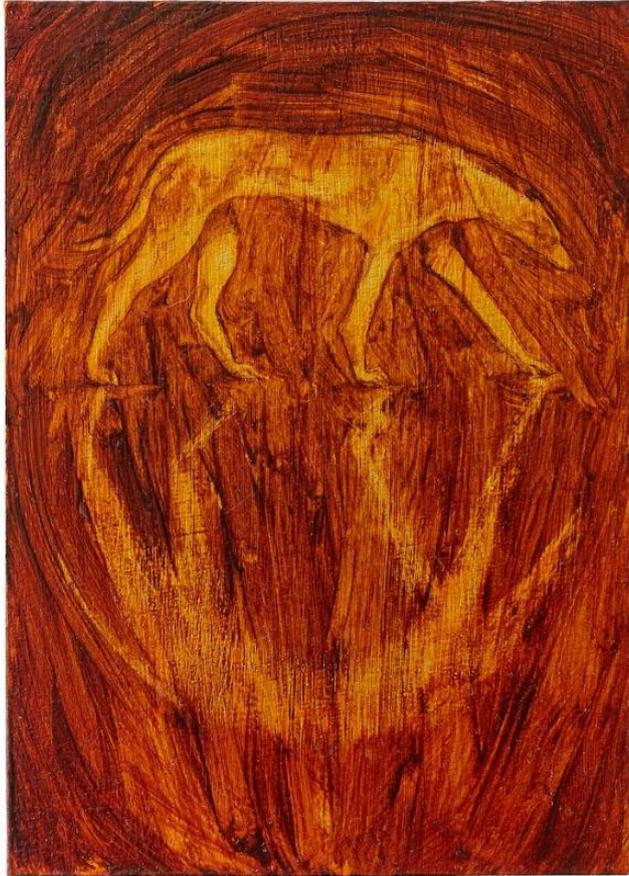
17.78 cm x 12.7 cm

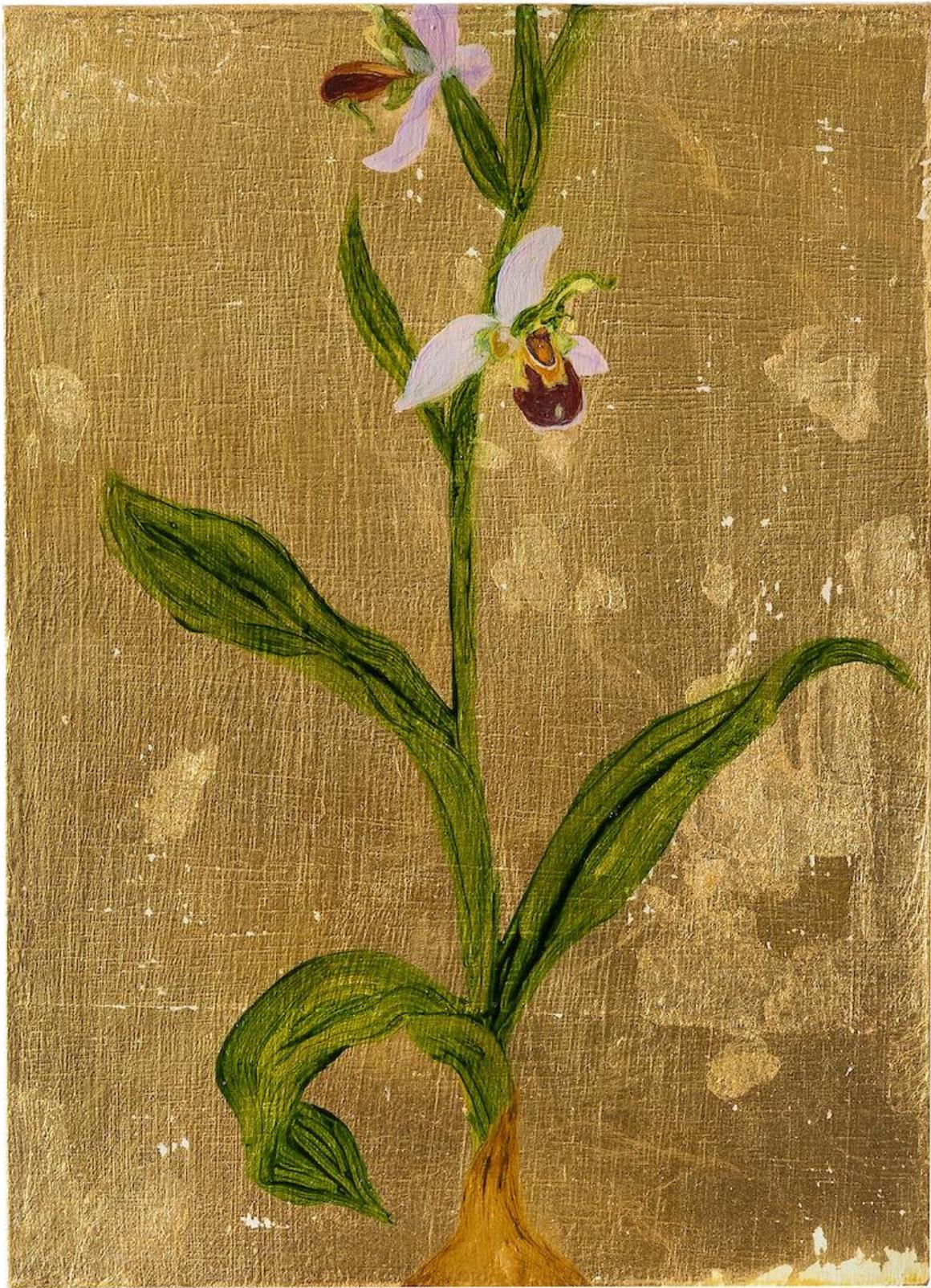
7 x 5 inches

£ 900 ex. applicable taxes

£ 1,080 including vat







Xanthe Burdett

*Mimic*

2025

Oil and metal leaf on board

17.78 cm x 12.7 cm

7 x 5 inches

£ 900 ex. applicable taxes

£ 1,080 including vat







Studio portrait by Demelza Lightfoot

Burdett's work explores the relationship between the body and nature, questioning the concept of the body as nature itself. Through a personal mythology deeply rooted in her upbringing near the woodlands of Dartmoor, she creates layered compositions where the boundary between human and non-human forms becomes fluid. Her pieces often move between extreme scales, revealing strange, otherworldly creatures that emerge through layers of glazing.

She considers her practice to be like a "mesh," where each painting is part of an interconnected web of references. These threads extend from monumental hunting tapestries at the V&A to the way light dances across a fallen tree from her childhood. She also draws inspiration from mythology, folklore, and art history, weaving these stories into her work to create a space where timelines and narratives can overlap.

Xanthe Burdett (b. 1995) is an artist from Devon living and working in London. Her practice is led by painting but also encompasses drawing and installation. She graduated from MA Painting at the Royal College of Art in 2024 and has previously exhibited work with Arusha Gallery, Sarah Kravitz Gallery, Blue Shop Gallery and Palo Gallery. Burdett has work in the Cambridge University Collection, University of Maryland Collection, Soho collection and the Soho House collection and was the winner of the De Laszlo Foundation Young Artist Prize.



Education

Royal College of Art (2023 - 2024) University of Cambridge (2015 - 2018)

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025

Palo Gallery, Aspen Art Fair  
 Huxley-Parlour, Flora's Cloak  
 New Art Projects, Women Who Paint Women  
 Palo Gallery, Early Bird  
 Palo Gallery, I am the I am

2024

Studio West, West Residency open studios  
 Blue Shop Gallery, When the Curtain Falls  
 Salford Museum, Omnipotence of a Dream  
 Wilder Gallery, Artist Focus  
 Liliya Gallery, Within and Without  
 The Royal College of Art, MA Degree Show  
 Sarah Kravitz Gallery, The Unwritten Script  
 Art on a Postcard, International Women's Day Auction  
 Arusha Gallery, Palimpsestic Impressions

2023

Blue Shop Cottage, Works on Paper 5  
 Jackson's Painting Prize exhibition, Bankside Gallery

2022

Cynthia Corbett Gallery, Young Masters Art Prize  
 Blue Shop Cottage, Works on Paper 4

2021

Royal Academy of Art Summer Exhibition

2020

Mall Galleries, Royal Institute of Oil Painters



Awards and Residencies

2024 Studio West - West Residency  
 2023 De Laszlo Foundation Young Artist Award - Winner  
 2023 Jacksons Painting Prize - Shortlisted  
 2022 De Laszlo Foundation Young Artist Award - Highly Commended



Wilder Gallery partners with Own Art, enabling art buyers from the UK to acquire work between £100 - £25,000 over a 10 month interest free period. The artwork is delivered immediately and available to enjoy before the first instalment is paid. If you would like to purchase with Own Art or find out more please email Michelle [info@wilder.gallery](mailto:info@wilder.gallery).

International buyers: We understand the importance of flexible payment options. We offer interest-free installments directly with the gallery, and are committed to working with you to create a timeline that suits your purchasing needs. Please contact us to learn more.

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