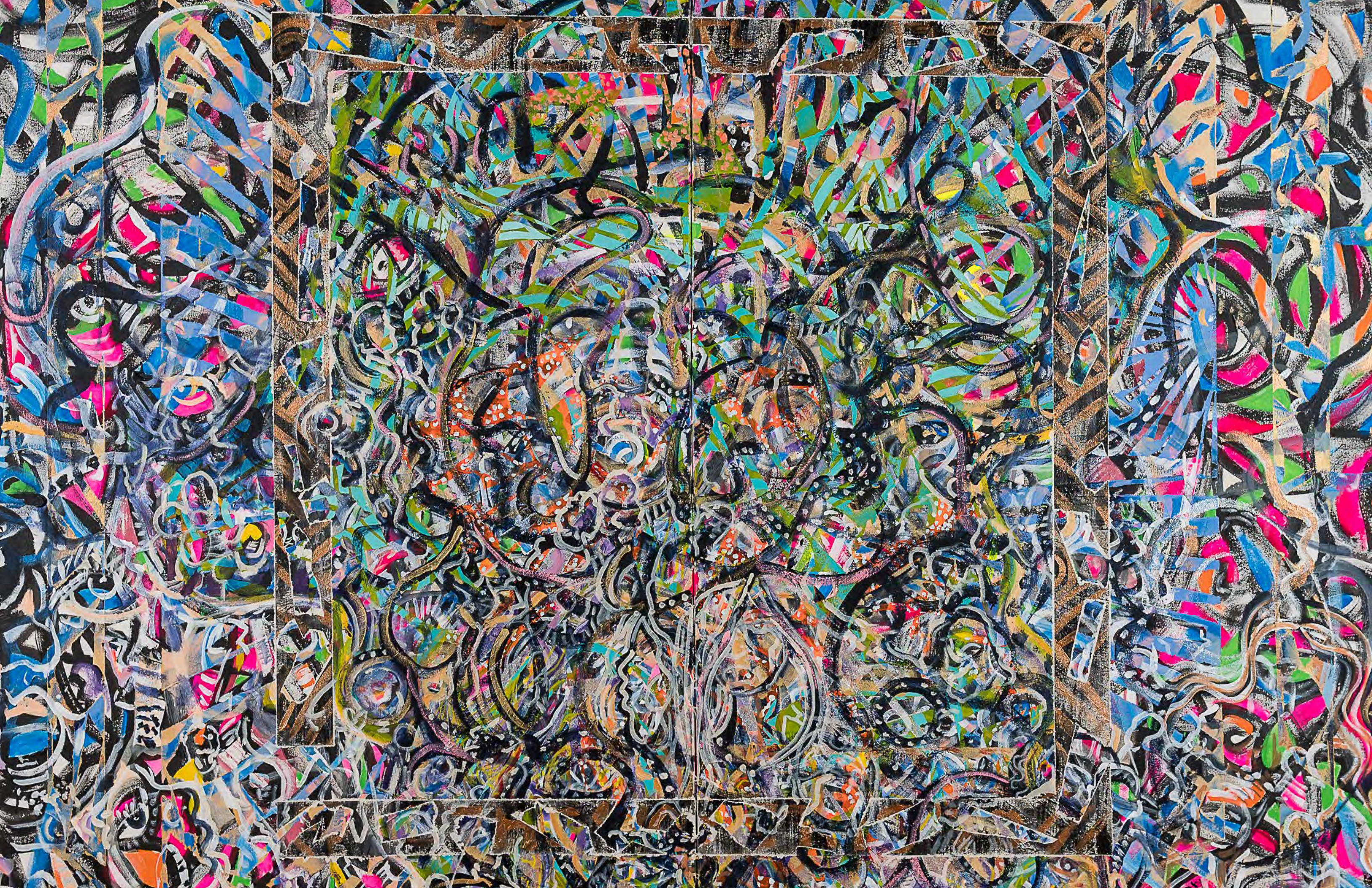


DREAMSONG

**TA-COUMBA
T. AIKEN +
NICOLE
HAVEKOST**

FOCUS | BOOTH F16
FRIEZE LOS ANGELES 2023



DREAMSONG

TA-COUMBA T. AIKEN

Through paintings and works on paper rooted in abstraction, with particular affinities to the work of Norman Lewis and Romare Bearden, and alongside a renowned public art practice ignited through John T. Biggers' mentorship, Ta-coumba T. Aiken has spent decades channeling the spirits of his ancestors through form and color. A 2022 Guggenheim Fellow, Aiken's work is rooted in a deep engagement with Black history and culture.

In the 1970s, inspired by the Black Arts Movement, Aiken learned African drumming, and he is also a dancer and violinist. Drawing on this musical training, he roots his work in a compositional form of call and response, where figures, lines, shapes, and colors vibrate across abstract fields, embodying multiplicity as they echo through infinite permutations. A vessel for the collective memory of his community, the artist begins each painting with intuitive freeform underpaintings which he terms *Spirit Writing*. Upon these serpentine gestures, Aiken accumulates rhythmic motifs in symphonic visions of his ancestral history.

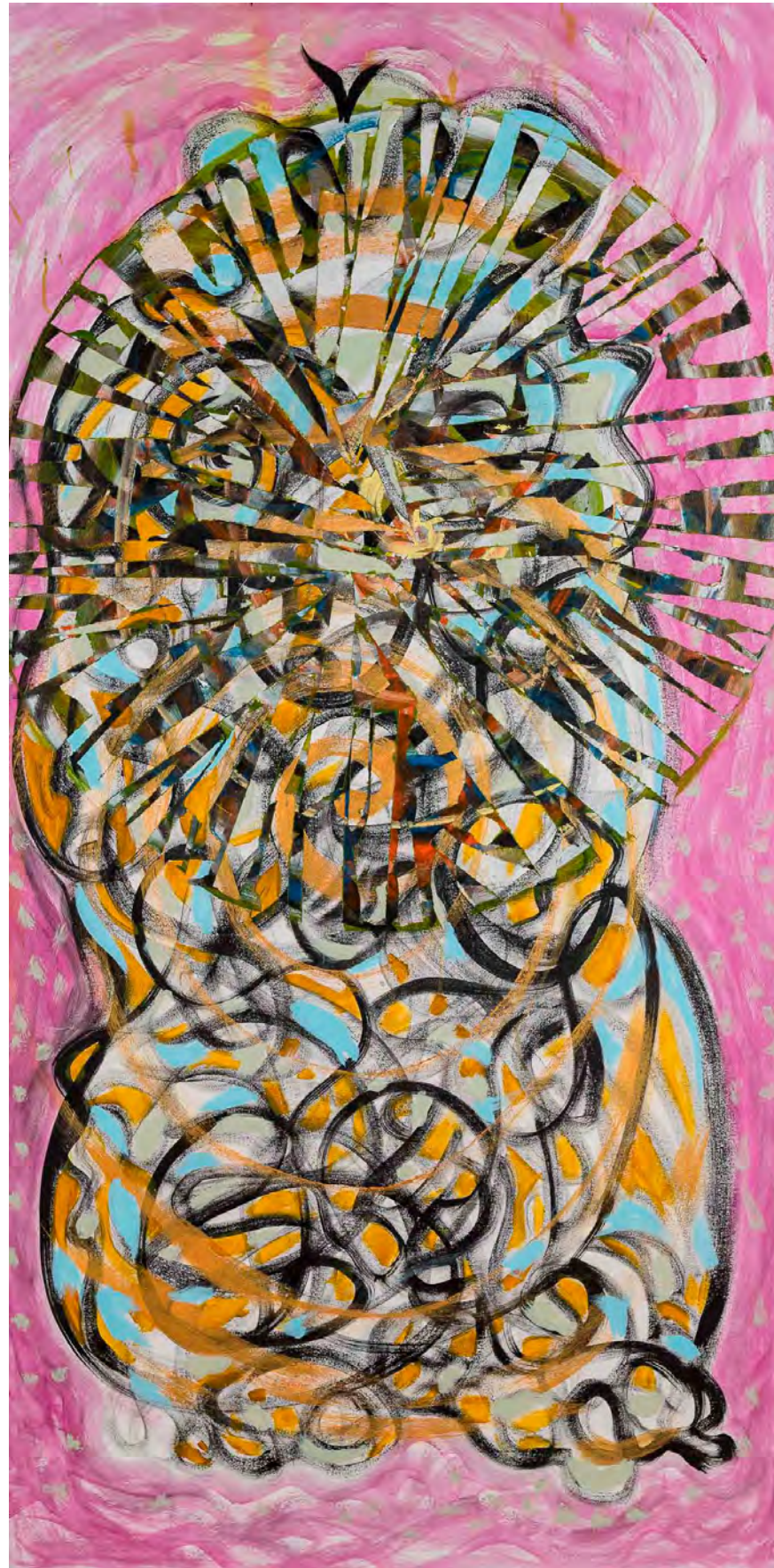
Aiken frequently masks portions of his canvas with tape that is overpainted and removed. These remnants are then repurposed into small-scale tape collages containing enigmatic vestiges of his brightly-colored brushwork. At Frieze, *Dreamsong* presents several of these collages alongside recent paintings.

DREAMSONG



Now Let Me See, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches
\$22,000

DREAMSONG

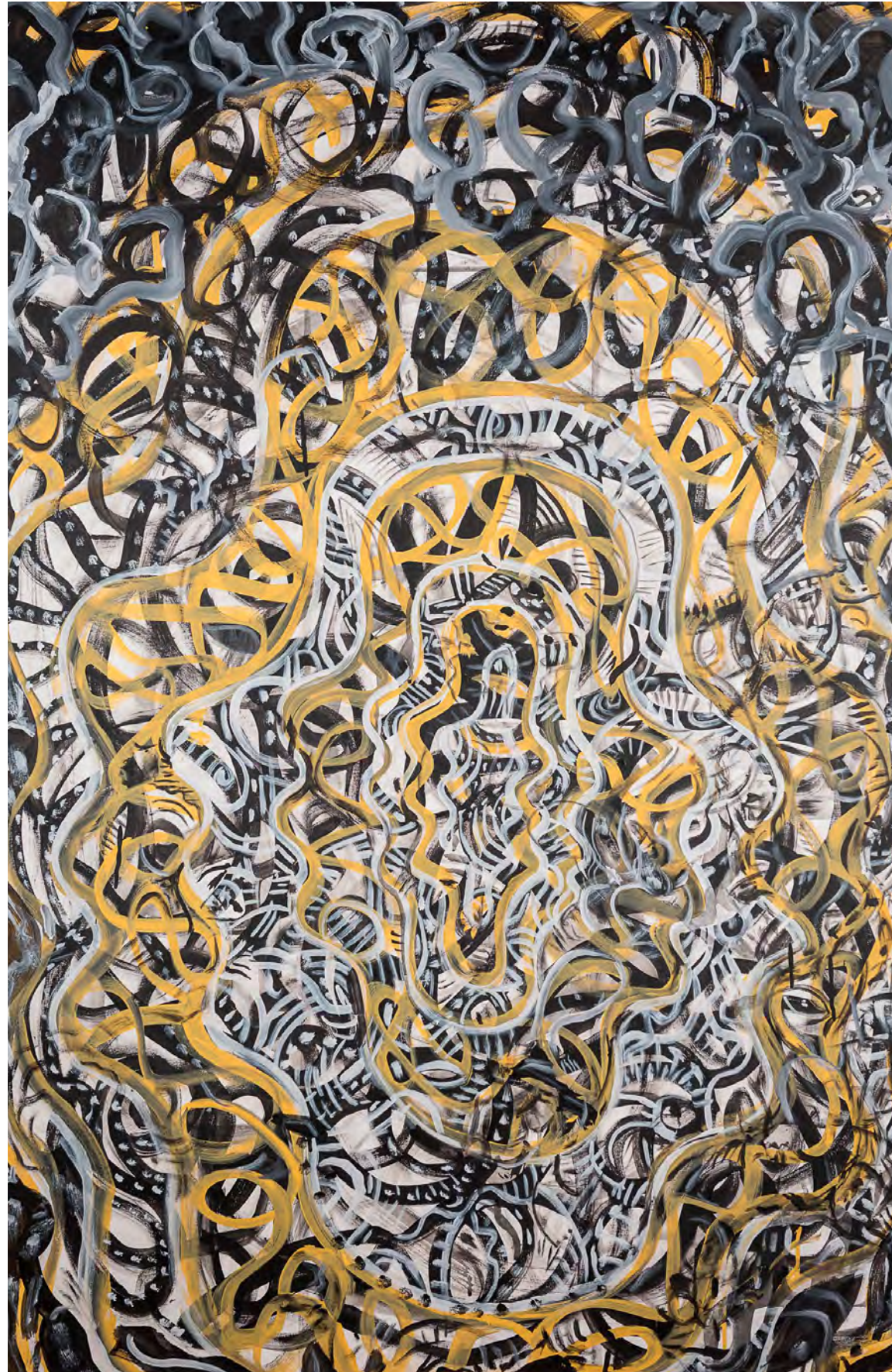


Lioness, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 36 inches
\$24,000



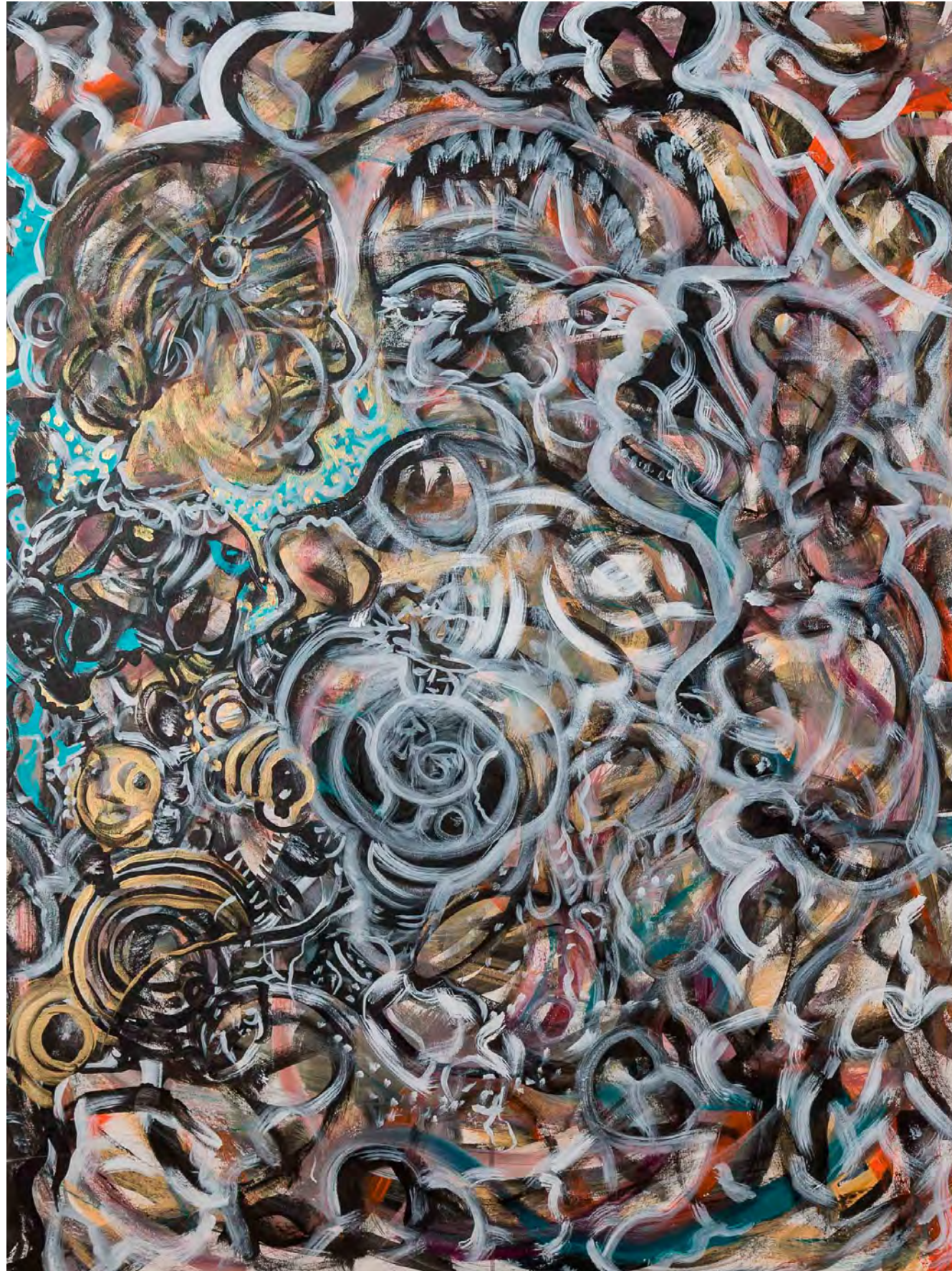
A World of Confusion, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 72 inches
\$48,000

DREAMSONG



Ripple Effect, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 40 1/4 inches
\$22,000

DREAMSONG



Conversation, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches
\$16,500

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“AIKEN IS PART OF A LINEAGE OF
BLACK ABSTRACT ARTISTS WHO
HAVE EMPLOYED STRATEGIES OF
ABSTRACTION AS CONTAINERS
FOR DEEP MEANING, AND AS
EXPLORATIONS OF THE PERSONAL,
THE HISTORICAL, AND
THE SOCIAL.”

- Siri Engberg, Senior Curator and
Director of Visual Arts, Walker Art Center

DREAMSONG



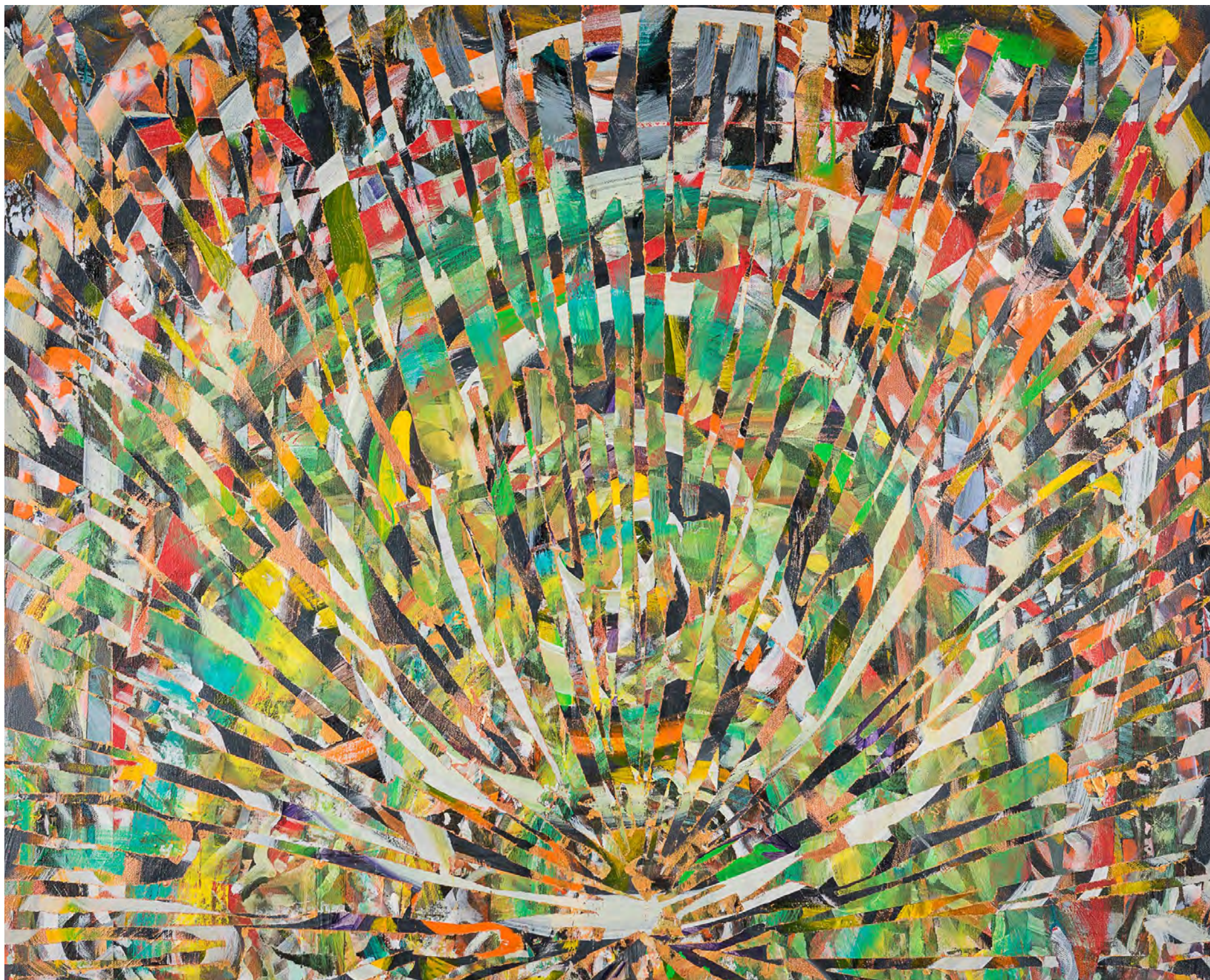
As One, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches
\$16,500

DREAMSONG



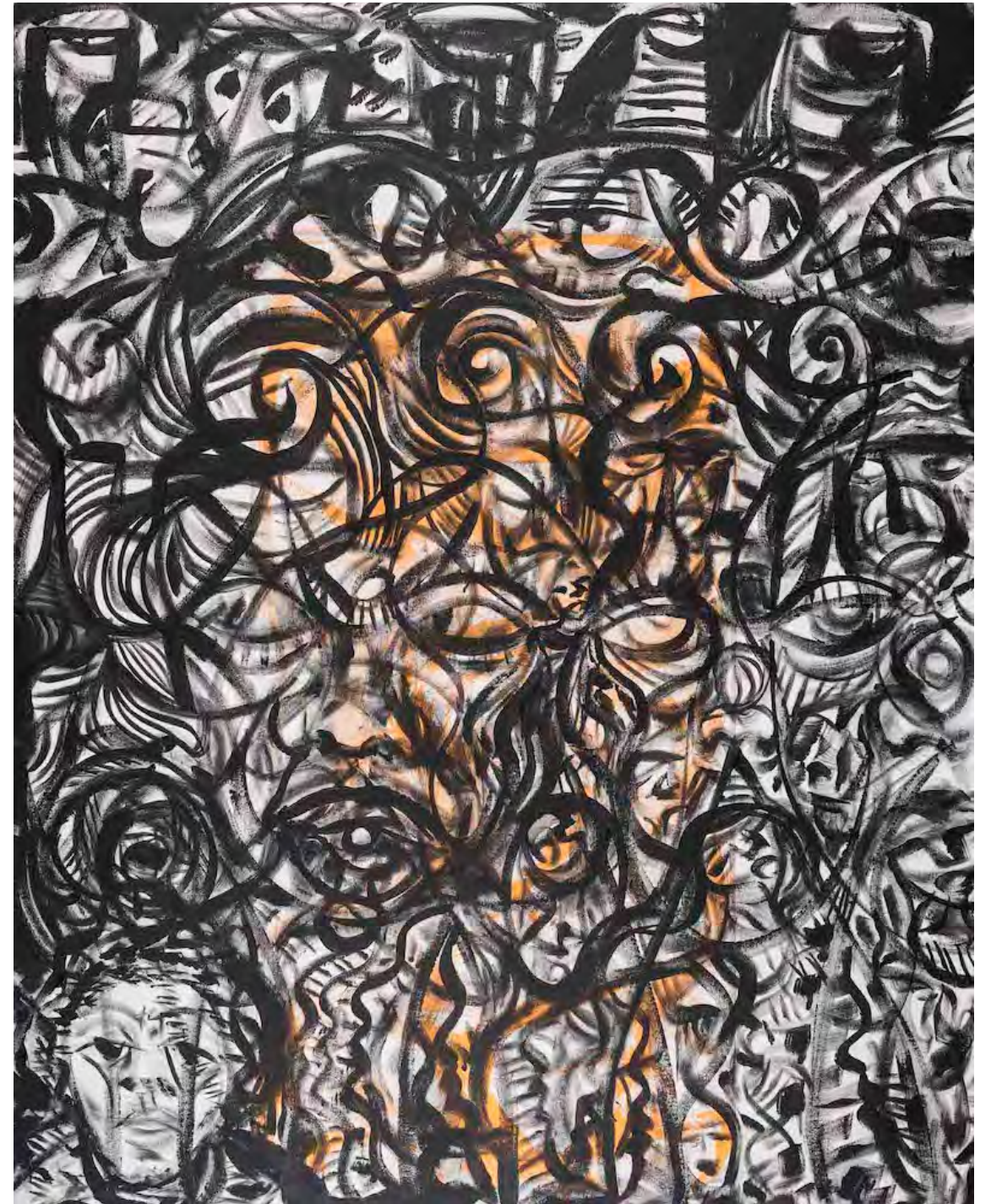
Never again please!, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches
\$16,500

DREAMSONG



Holy Spirit, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 29 3/4 inches
\$8,000

DREAMSONG



In Plain Sight, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches
\$26,000

DREAMSONG



Families Matter, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 48 inches
\$26,000

DREAMSONG



Soul Searchers, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
36 inches
\$15,000

DREAMSONG



Untitled (1), 2022

Acrylic on tape mounted to paper

12 x 9 inches

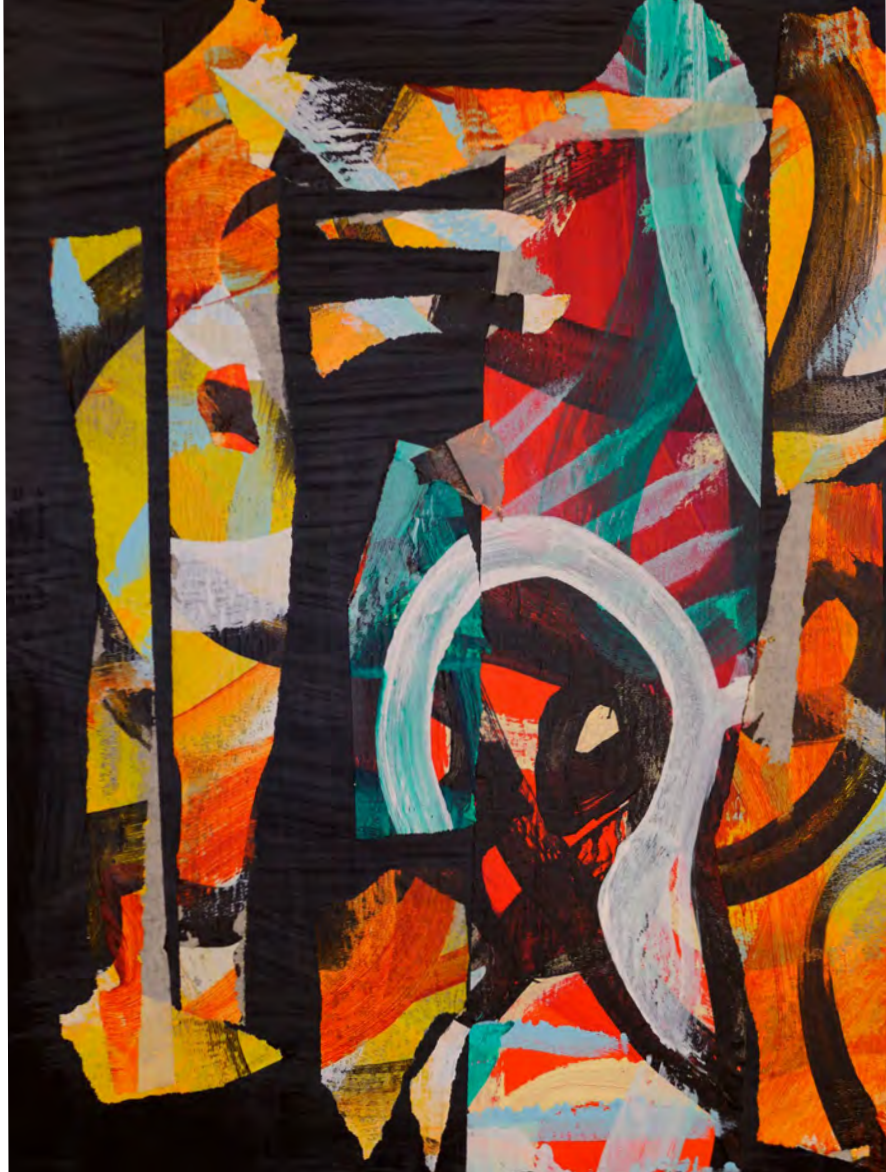
\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG



Untitled (2), 2021
Acrylic on tape mounted to paper
12 x 9 inches
\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG



Untitled (3), 2022

Acrylic on tape mounted to paper

12 x 9 inches

\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

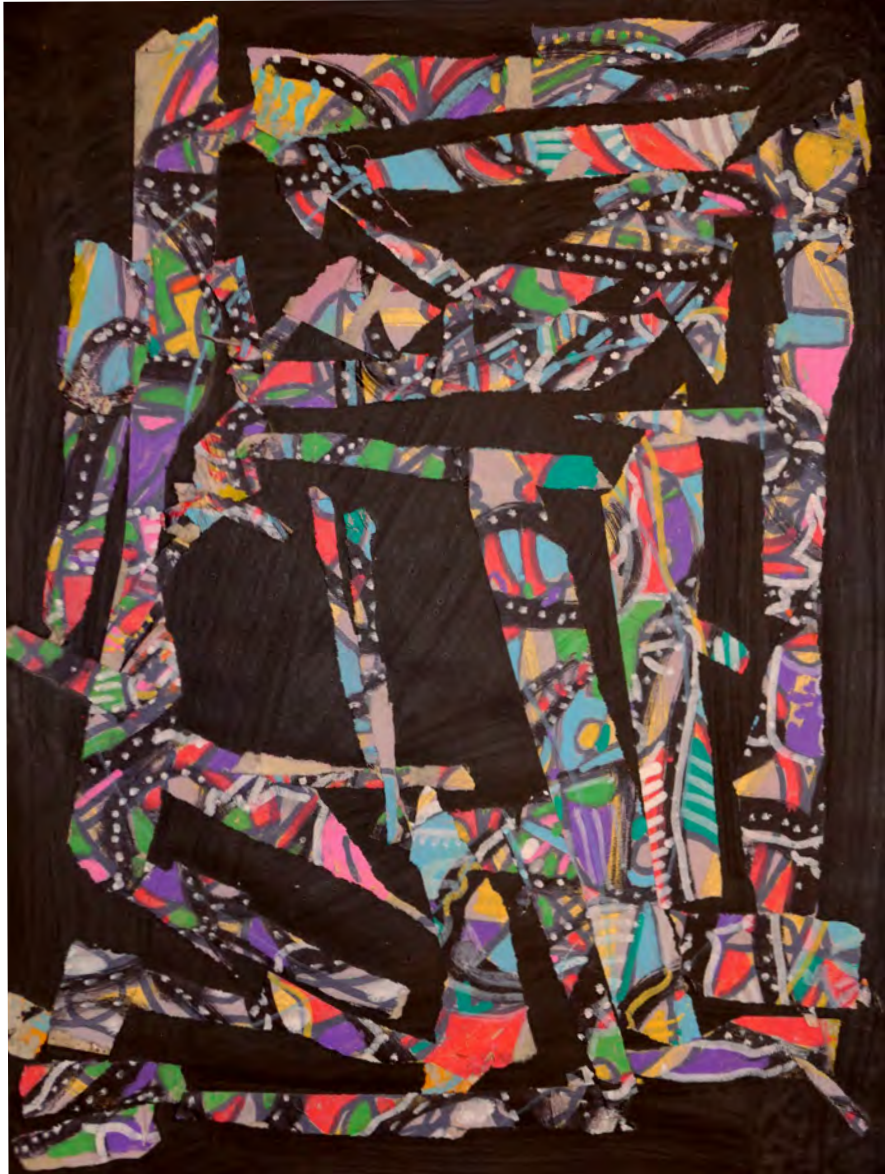


DREAMSONG



Untitled (4), 2022
Acrylic on tape mounted to paper
12 x 9 inches
\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG



Untitled (5), 2022

Acrylic on tape mounted to paper

12 x 9 inches

\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG



Untitled (6), 2022
Acrylic on tape mounted to paper
12 x 9 inches
\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG



Untitled (7), 2022

Acrylic on tape mounted to paper

12 x 9 inches

\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG



Untitled (8), 2022

Acrylic on tape mounted to paper

12 x 9 inches

\$900 [+ \$250 in custom black frame with Optium Plexi]

DREAMSONG

NICOLE HAVEKOST

Minnesota-based sculptor Nicole Havekost (b. 1970) painstakingly sews anthropomorphic soft sculptures and other somatic forms that ooze, decay and loom. Akin to drawing in space, stitching is a labor-intensive practice of mark-making. For Nicole, “Piercing, pulling and closing each stitch is aggressive and restorative. Stitching is an act of accumulation; it is a collection of marks, moments and attachments that give shape to a form.”

Havekost’s practice centers on the female body, which she reimagines as a sovereign organism that is simultaneously exquisite and abject. The work reminds us that despite our desire to tame and groom our bodies, corporeality is inescapable. In a [video](#) produced by the Minneapolis Institute of Art related to her exhibition *Chthonic* (2020), Havekost says, “I have spent most of my adult life trying to control my body and make it do and be exactly what I thought it should be and it turns out, your body has other desires and needs.”

For a recent series of work titled *Sheath*, the artist collected a dizzying array of materials, including beeswax, cat whiskers, horsehair, and volcanic sea salt, to create objects that read like the preserved skins of mythological creatures. For Frieze LA, several of these objects will be presented in custom wood shadowboxes alongside two of the artist’s monumental felt sculptures.



DREAMSONG



Sustain, 2023
Wool felt, thread, paper, galvanized steel,
plywood, hooks and eye
75 x 21 x 25 inches
\$12,000
[opposite page shows alternate view]



DREAMSONG



Burrow, 2021
Wool felt, thread, paper, galvanized
steel, hooks and eye
90 x 80 x 30 inches
\$18,000



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“I AM A DAUGHTER, WIFE, MOTHER. I HAVE FELT MISUNDERSTOOD AND UNRECOGNIZED. MY FEMININITY HAS OFTEN BEEN A MYSTERY TO EVEN ME. PUTTING THE FOCUS ON THE FEMALE ALLOWED ME TO EXPLORE CONTRADICTIONS IN MY OWN EXPERIENCES THAT OFTEN FELT UNIVERSAL TO THE WOMEN I SHARED THEM WITH.”

- Nicole Havekost



DREAMSONG



Reach, 2021
Wool felt, thread, paper, hooks and eye
12.5 x 14.5 x 8 inches
\$1800
[opposite page shows alternate views]

DREAMSONG



Sheath (2), 2022
Wool felt, beeswax, soft & oil
pastel, shellac, latex, cotton thread
12 x 11 x 2 inches
\$3200 [+ \$225 mounted in custom Maple frame]

DREAMSONG



Sheath (5), 2022
Wool felt, beeswax, soft & oil
pastel, shellac, latex, cotton thread
9.5 x 9.5 x 1 inches
\$2200 [+ \$200 mounted in custom Maple frame,
shown on opposite page]

DREAMSONG



Sheath (6), 2022
Wool felt, beeswax, soft & oil
pastel, shellac, latex, silk,
cotton thread
7 x 4.75 x 1 inches
\$1000 [+ \$150 mounted in custom Maple frame]

DREAMSONG



Sheath (7), 2022
Wool felt, beeswax, soft & oil pastel,
whiskers, shellac, latex, cotton thread
9.75 x 4.75 x 3 inches
\$1200 [[+ \$175 mounted in custom Maple frame]

DREAMSONG



Sheath (8), 2022
Wool felt, beeswax, soft & oil pastel,
volcanic salt, shellac, latex, cotton thread
8 x 18 x 3 inches
\$3600 [+ \$250 mounted in custom Maple frame]

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TA-COUMBA T. AIKEN (B. 1952, EVANSTON, IL)

Ta-coumba T. Aiken lives and works in St. Paul, MN. His oeuvre encompasses hundreds of public murals and sculptures in the Twin Cities alongside a dedicated studio practice. His work is represented in numerous public collections, including the Walker Art Center, The Minnesota Museum of American Art, The Minnesota History Center, the Hennepin Theatre Trust, the Walker West Music Academy and at the Gillette Children's Hospital, among many other institutions.

Through his tireless work as an artist, activist, and educator, Aiken has made an immeasurable contribution to the civic and artistic life of the Twin Cities. He attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and is the recipient of numerous awards including a 2022 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in Fine Arts, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant, a Gottlieb Fellowship and a Bush Visual Arts fellowship. Aiken has also served on numerous boards including the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, City of Minneapolis Arts Commission, African American Cultural Arts Center, Forecast Public Arts, Saint Paul Art Collective, Springboard for the Arts, and he has been a public arts advisor to the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Bloomington, Minnesota, and Marin City, California.

SELECTED SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Just My Imagination*, Red Wing Arts, Red Wing, MN
- 2022 *Awakening*, Dreamsong, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *Two/Too*, Bloomington Center for the Arts, Bloomington, MN
- 2012 *Breath Of Life*, McNally Smith Music Academy, Saint Paul, MN
- 2011 *In the Spirit*, Metropolitan State University, Gordon Parks Gallery, St Paul, MN
- 2007 *Call and Response*, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MAEP Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2006 *Metamorphosis: To Be or Not to Be*, Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, MN
- 2001 *Open Face*, Walker Art Center, Art Lab, Minneapolis, MN

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Art Speaks*, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN
- 2022 *Change is God-Take Root Among the Stars: Black Abstraction in the Midwest*, Soo Visual Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *Five Ways In: Themes from the Collection*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
- 2014 *Made Here Project*, 123 GO, Minneapolis, MN
- 2013 *Black and White*, Gordon Parks Gallery, Saint Paul, MN

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- 2007 *Paper Chase*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
- 1993 *Interrogating Identity*, Walker Arts Center, installation, Minneapolis, MN.
- 1988 *Spirit House*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

PUBLIC ART

- 2023 *Dream Sequences*, 36th Avenue Revitalization and Transformation (ART), Minneapolis, MN
- 2021 *Authentic Dialogue*, YOUTHPRIZE, Minneapolis, MN
- 2020 *Witness "Roots"*, Vocal Essence, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *SHADOWS AT THE CROSSROADS*, collaborative installation with Soyini V. Guyton and Seitu Jones, Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
 - Untitled Interior Murals*, Jax Apartments, Saint Paul, MN
 - Untitled Outdoor murals*, Selby Milton Senior Housing development, Saint Paul, MN
 - FLOW*, Capital Region Watershed District, Saint Paul, MN
 - Untitled Outdoor murals*, Victoria Senior Housing development, Saint Paul, MN
- 2018 *MUSIC LIVES HERE*, Walker West Music Academy, Saint Paul, MN
 - BIGGER'S SEED Bridge Project*, City of Minneapolis, Olson Highway & I-94 West, Minneapolis, MN
 - Tell Me What You SEE*, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, MN
 - Made Here*, Hennepin Theatre Trust, Minneapolis MN
- 2017 *Untitled Painting and Murals*, Hagsfor Center for Business, Science, and Religion, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN
- 2018 *Music Lives Here*, Walker West Music Academy, Saint Paul, MN
 - Biggers' Seed Bridge Project*, City of Minneapolis, Olson Highway & I-94 West, Minneapolis, MN
 - Tell Me What You See*, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, MN
 - Made Here*, Hennepin Theatre Trust, Minneapolis MN
- 2017 *Untitled Painting and Murals*, Hagsfor Center for Business, Science, and Religion, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN
- 2012 *Untitled Mural*, Institute for Global Citizenship, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
- 2011 *Four collaborative murals*, St Scholastica College, Duluth, MN
- 2006 *THE POWER OF*, Hennepin County Library System, Minneapolis, MN
- 2005 *ON THE MOVE*, Chicago Lake Metro Transit Hub, Minneapolis, MN
- 2004 *Untitled Mural*, ADC International Headquarters, Minneapolis, MN
- 2004 *Stay Nice*, Gillette Children's Hospital, Saint Paul MN
- 2000 *Voices of Hope*, Gospel Union Childcare Center, St Paul, Minnesota.
- 1999 *Untitled Etched Glass Window*, Robert Street Municipal Parking Ramp, Saint Paul, MN
- 1997 *Celebration of Life Mural*, collaboration with Dr. John Biggers, et. al., City of Minneapolis, Lyndale Avenue and Olson Memorial Hwy, Minneapolis, MN
- 1993 *Shadows of Spirit* (reinstalled 2018), collabortaion with Seitu Jones, Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis MN
- 1979 *Children Are the World*, Pilot City, mural, Minneapolis, MN
- 1975 *Love for the Sun*, Minnesota State Arts Board Grant, mural, Minneapolis, MN

DREAMSONG

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Federal Reserve Bank
McKnight Foundation
The Gillette Children's Hospital
The Hennepin Theatre Trust
The Minnesota History Center
The Minnesota Museum of American Art
The Walker West Music Academy
Walker Art Center

SELECTED AWARDS

2022 Guggenheim Fellowship
2022 Public Art St. Paul Distinguished Artist
2015 Knight Arts Challenge Grant
2011 SALLY IRVINE ORWAY Award
1999 LIN Leaders in Neighborhoods Grant
1994 Gottlieb Fellowship
1994 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship
1992 BUSH Visual Artist Fellowship
1988 POLLOCK / KRASNER Fellowship
1969 Young African American's On the Move Award
1994 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship

SELECTED PRESS

2022 *Awakening*, Catalog published by Dreamsong with text by Siri Engberg, Senior Curator at the Walker Art Center

2022 "[Guggenheim Fellowship Winner Ta-coumba Aiken](#)," on Almanac, TPTP (Twin Cities PBS), Season 2023, Episode 3.

2022 "[Ta-coumba Aiken's Guggenheim Fellowship Was a Long Time Coming](#)," MPLS St. Paul Magazine, August 28, 2022.

2022 "[Just My Imagination Exhibit designed to evoke positive spirit](#)," Republican Eagle, August 17, 2022.

2022 "[Ta-coumba Aiken's abstract art on display](#)," Art Hounds, MPR News, June 9, 2022

2022 "[In conversation with Ta-coumba Aiken](#)," by Yonci Jameson, Mplsart.com, May 23, 2022.

2022 "[Guggenheim fellow Ta-coumba Aiken's solo show at Dreamsong](#)," by Karen Kraco, Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, May 2022.

2022 "[Ta-coumba T. Aiken wins a Guggenheim](#)," by Sheila Regan, MINNPOST, April 26, 2022.

2021 "[The Walker Acquires Works from Local Artists](#)," by Julia Zerull, MPLS St. Paul Magazine, January 5, 2021.

2019 "[Shadowy exhibits added to Minneapolis Sculpture Garden](#)," by Euan Kerr, MPR News, June 20, 2019.
"Ta-coumba T. Aiken and Seitu Jones commissioned to create work for Walker Art Center Sculpture Garden," [Artforum](#), May 24, 2019.
"[Good Thunder elevator mural dedicated in 1988](#)," by Edie Schmierbach, The Free Press, December 1, 2019.
"[Bloomington show pairs two notable local artists](#)," by Alicia Eler, Star Tribune, June 20, 2019

2018 "[Two Afro-Futurists on Using Art as a Portal to Another Time](#)," by Sarah Burke, VICE, March 1, 2018.

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NICOLE HAVEKOST (B. 1970, ROCHESTER, NY)

Nicole Havekost lives and works in Rochester, Minnesota. She earned a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from the University of New Mexico. She has exhibited extensively throughout the United States including recent solo exhibitions at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (2021), Morris Graves Museum of Art in California (2019), Macrostie Art Center in Minnesota (2018), Hutchinson Center for the Arts (2017) and the Appalachian Center for Crafts in Tennessee (2016). She currently has a solo exhibition on view at the Rochester Art Center, Minnesota (2023) and upcoming solo exhibitions at the South Bend Museum of Art (2023) and Dreamsong (2023) and is a member of A.I.R. Gallery in New York.

EDUCATION

1997 MFA, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico
1994 BFA, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

SELECTED SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Dreamsong*, Minneapolis
2023 *Matriarchate*, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, Minnesota
Conversations, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, Indiana
2022 *Boundaries*, Threshold Arts, Rochester, MN
Mother Bear, Hiawatha Gallery, Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland
2021 *Den Mother*, Phipps Center for the Arts, Gallery Two, Hudson, Wisconsin
2020 *Chthonic*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Felt Sense, R02 Art Gallery, Dallas, Texas
2019 *Massed*, Anderson Gallery, Morris Graves Museum of Art, Eureka, California
2018 *Ambiguous Connections*, MacRostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, Minnesota
2017 *Pulling Stitches*, Hutchinson Center for the Arts, Hutchinson, Minnesota
2016 *Altered*, Appalachian Center for Crafts, Tennessee Tech University, Smithville, Tennessee
Undone, Larson Art Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2015 *It's Personal*, Bloomington Theatre and Arts Center, Bloomington, Minnesota
2014 *Cameo*, Groveland Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Stitch and Rend, Hiawatha Gallery, Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland
2013 *Mend and Measure*, RAC2 Gallery, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, Minnesota
2006 *Careful Measures*, Flatlanders Art Gallery, Blissfield, Michigan
Materializing Form, Olin Art Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier,

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Ohio

- 2004 *Candy Ladies*, Flatlanders Art Gallery, Blissfield, Michigan
1997 *A Few Small Repairs*, M.F.A. Exhibition, John Sommers Gallery,
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Structures of Feeling*, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2021 *North of the 45th*, DeVos Art Museum, Marquette, Michigan
A glitter of seas, Dreamsong, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Sculpture 2021, John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Painting at Night, Artlink Gallery, Fort Wayne, Indiana
2019 *Biennial 30*, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, Indiana
Material Matters, SeagerGray Gallery, Mill Valley, California
Instructor Exhibition, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts,
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Chaos, R02 Art Gallery, Dallas, Texas
Female Archetypes, Higher Art Gallery, Traverse City, Michigan
2018 *Between Stitches*, Kirschman Gallery, NOCCA, New Orleans,
Louisiana
Natural Inclinations, SeagerGray Gallery, Mill Valley, California
Chaos, R02 Art Gallery, Dallas, Texas
Beautiful Women, Penny Contemporary, Tasmania, Australia
Four Square, Rochester Community and Technical College Gallery,
Rochester, Minnesota
2017 *Underbelly*, DAB Art, H Gallery, Ventura, California
Figuring it Out, BVU Gallery, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake,
Iowa
Greater Minnesota Showcase, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul,
Minnesota
2013 *Spring Gear*, Blindfold Gallery, Seattle, Washington
2005 *Subject Object*, Buckham Gallery, Flint, Michigan
2004 *Accumulations*, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas
Fabulous Fibers, Lincoln Center Galleries, Ft. Collins, Colorado
Faculty Exhibit, Klemm Gallery, Siena Heights University, Adrian,
Michigan
2002 *Women's Work*, 2002, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston,
Massachusetts
2001 *Documenta: USA*, Musuem of New Art, Detroit, Michigan
2000 *Chasing the Ideal: Women and Eating Disorders*, Moreau Galleries,
St. Mary's College, South Bend, Indiana
Snippets: 3 Women Consider the Body, Ford Gallery, Eastern
Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan
1999 *The Doll Show*, The Carnegie Galleries, Covington, Kentucky
Recent Works, Spotlight Gallery, Acme Art Company, Columbus, Ohio
1998 *fem'-i-nie n women collectively: womankind*, 621 Gallery,
Tallahassee, Florida
1997 *Printmaking Exhibition*, Instituto Chileno NorteAmerica/Moneda,
Moneda, Chile
Tamarind Collaborative Prints, Ralph Greene Gallery, Albuquerque,

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- New Mexico
1996 *University of New Mexico Printmaking Exhibition*, Casa de la Cultura, Instituto Michoacano De Cultura, Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico
Schoharie County Arts Council National '96 Small Works Juried Exhibition, Cobleskill, New York

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Arjo Wiggins Paper Company
Canson Tales, Inc.
Instituto Michoacano de Cultura
Department of Art and Art History, University of New Mexico
Museum of New Art

SELECTED PRESS

- 2023 ["Femme giants and more rise at the Rochester Art Center,"](#) by Alex V. Cipolle, MPR News, January 12, 2023.
- 2022 ["10 Emerging Artists to Watch at Frieze Los Angeles 2023,"](#) Frieze, December 15, 2022
- 2021 ["Meet Nicole Havekost,"](#) Shoutout LA, September 6, 2021.
["Nicole Havekost's Monumental Sculptures Celebrate the Female Body in a Powerful Way,"](#) by Morgan Everhart, A Women's Thing, May 29, 2021.
["Slow Verbs: Nicole Havekost's "Chthonic" at the Minneapolis Institute of Art,"](#) by Russ White, MPLSART.com, May 5, 2021.
["Flaws and all: Nicole Havekost's chthonic sculptures,"](#) by Nicole Soukop, Minneapolis Institute of Art, April 14, 2021.
["Gravity Happens to Us,"](#) by Sheila Regan, Mn Artists, A platform of the Walker Art Center, February 5, 2021.
["Les effets du temps sur notre corps par l'artiste Nicole Havekost,"](#) Le Journal du Design, February 2, 2021.
["A Monumental Collection of Slouching Figures Considers the Effects of the Aging on the Body,"](#) by Grace Ebert, Colossal, February 1, 2021.
- 2019 ["Nicole Havekost, Artist Spotlight, No. 18,"](#) Digging Through The Fat, Volume 6, October 2019.
["Dolls Exploring the Experience of Motherhood,"](#) by Alicia Puig, Create!, Issue 15, July 2019.
["In Stitches,"](#) by Gabrielle Gopinath, North Coast Journal, April 4, 2019, Vol XXX, Issue 14.
- 2017 "Friend of the Artist," Ed. Dannie Liebergot, Fall 2017, 50-53.
"Identity," by, Roseanne Somerson, RISDXZ, Winter 2017
- 2015 "Off 90," Episode 606, KSMQ, Austin, Minnesota, February 2015
- 2014 Chalmers, Jamie: "The Cutting (and Stitching) Edge," by Chalmers, Jamie, Mrxstitch.com, November 2014.