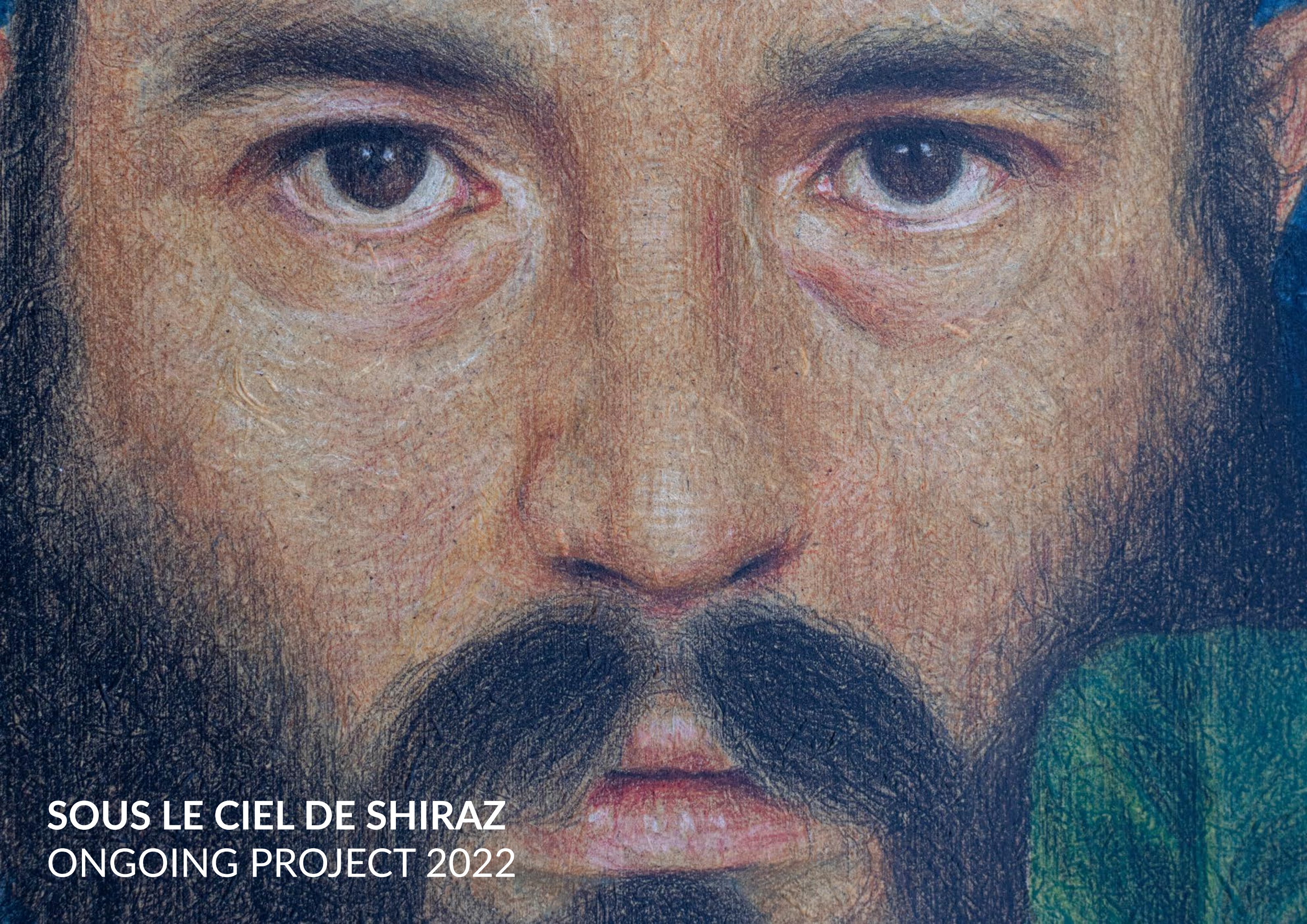




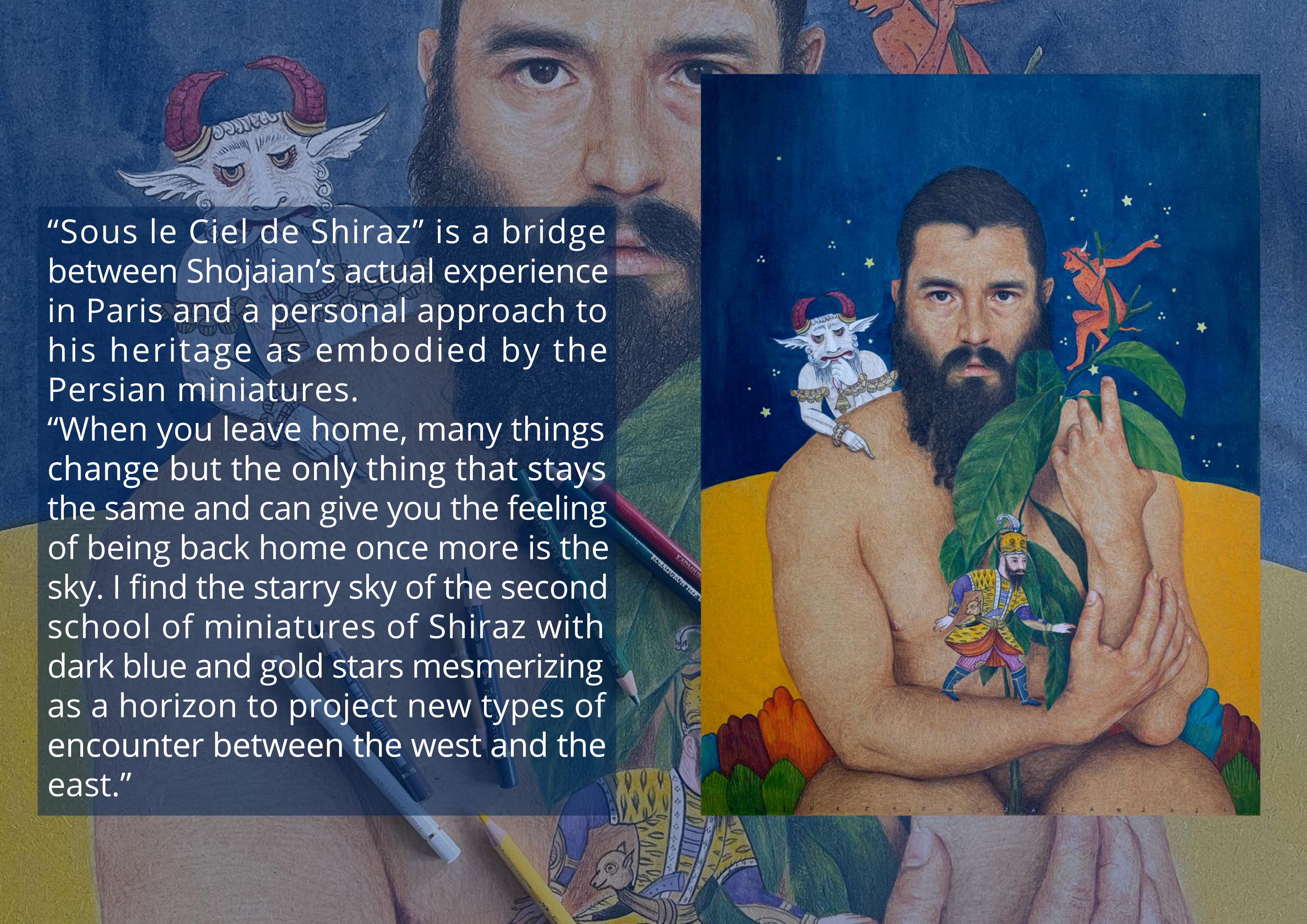
ALIREZA SHOJAIAN



Alireza Shojaian is an Iranian painter and visual activist. Shojaian was born in Tehran, Iran in 1988. Shojaian depicts his subjects nude or semi-nude in intimate and vulnerable positions. His work aims to fight societal prejudice against LGBTQIA+ people while making space for non-heteronormative masculine identities. His work reflects on the queer history of West Asia, the present context, and his own experiences. Shojaian's queerness meant he could not continue his practice in Iran, where carnal depictions are censored and sexual identity is scrutinised and politicised. In 2016 he moved to Beirut and In 2019 Shojaian was offered by the French embassy in Lebanon an art residency with the Académie des beaux-arts of Paris. He now resides in Paris.

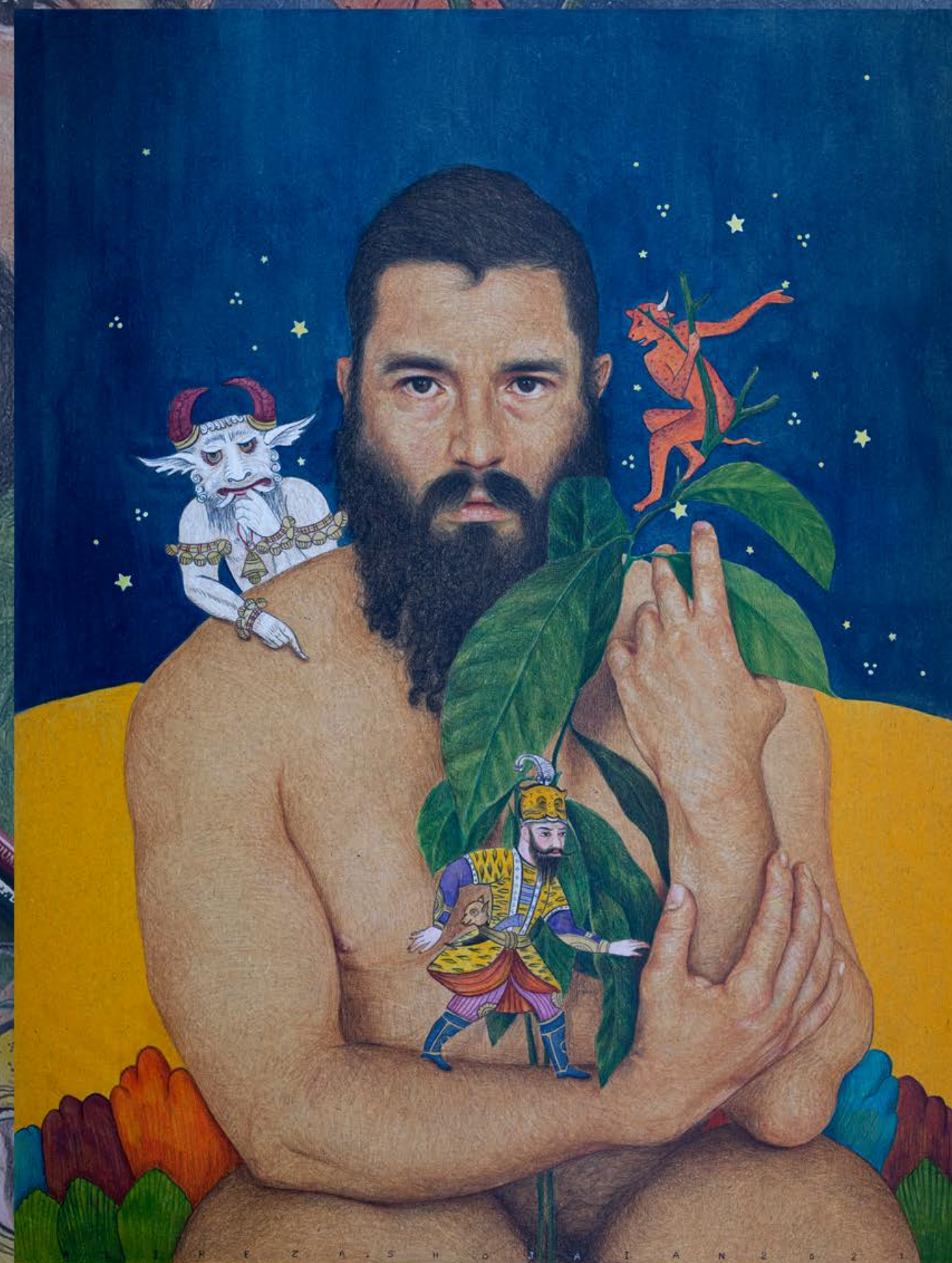


SOUS LE CIEL DE SHIRAZ
ONGOING PROJECT 2022



“Sous le Ciel de Shiraz” is a bridge between Shojaian’s actual experience in Paris and a personal approach to his heritage as embodied by the Persian miniatures.

“When you leave home, many things change but the only thing that stays the same and can give you the feeling of being back home once more is the sky. I find the starry sky of the second school of miniatures of Shiraz with dark blue and gold stars mesmerizing as a horizon to project new types of encounter between the west and the east.”



PAYKAN ART CAR

The PaykanArtCar, a non-profit, was launched earlier this year after the purchase at auction of famous Iranian-made Paykan car, once owned by the Shah of Iran and later by Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The founder of the PaykanArtCar project have turned this storied car into a canvas for marginalised Iranian artists so that they can highlight human rights issues in Iran. Alireza Shojaian is the PaykanArtCar's first collaboration.





In this work Alireza has borrowed characters from the paintings of Hossein Qollar- Aghasi, to narrate a contemporary story by turning the battle between these two national warriors into a romantic moment on the front of the car which takes place in a Persian garden under the starry sky of Shiraz, as immortalized in so many Persian miniatures.





JARDIN PERSAN 2021



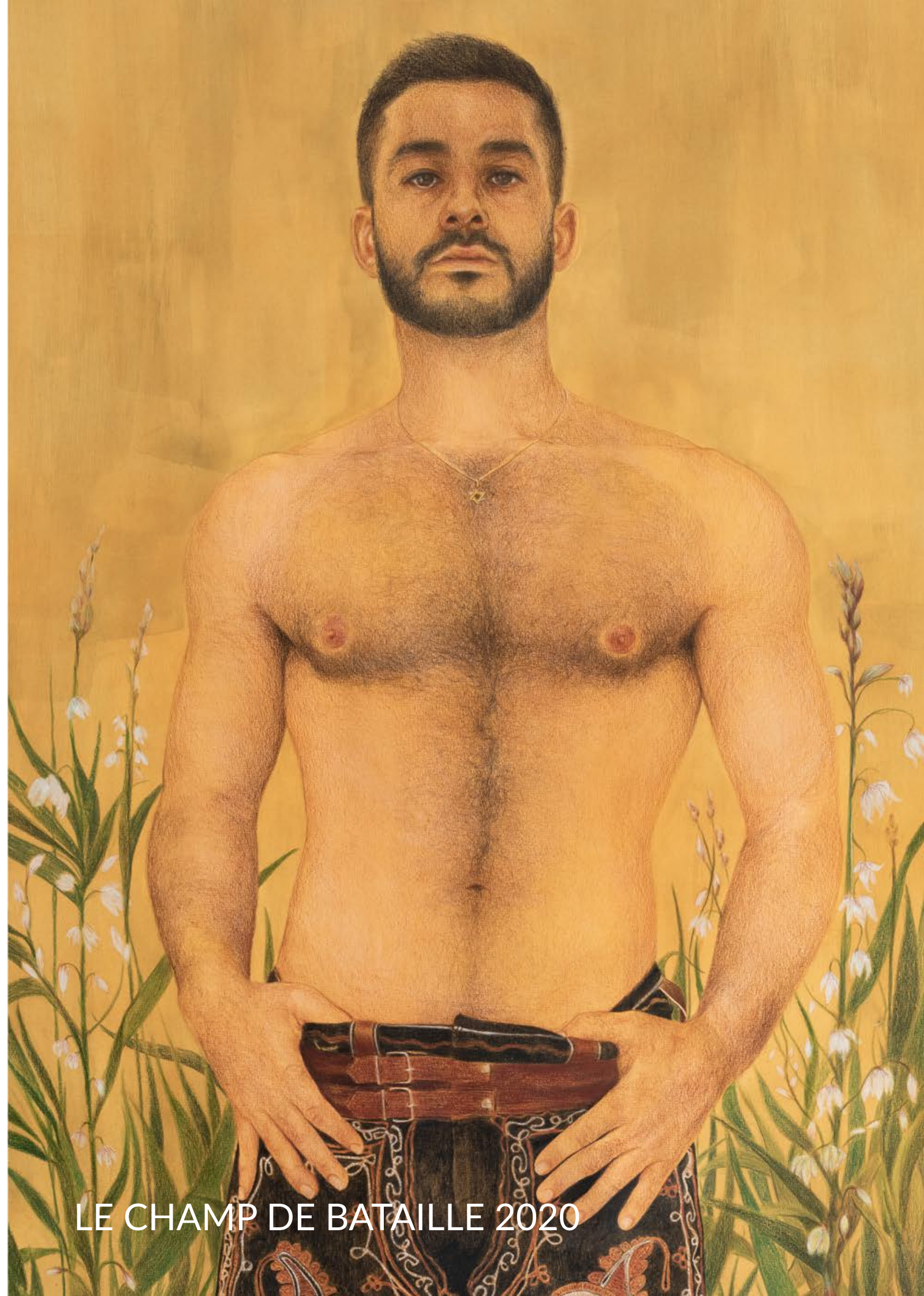
BLOSSOM AT THE MENTION OF YOUR NAME
2020



Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 60 x 60 cm



Acrylic & color pencil on paper canvas, 180 x 90 cm



LE CHAMP DE BATAILLE 2020

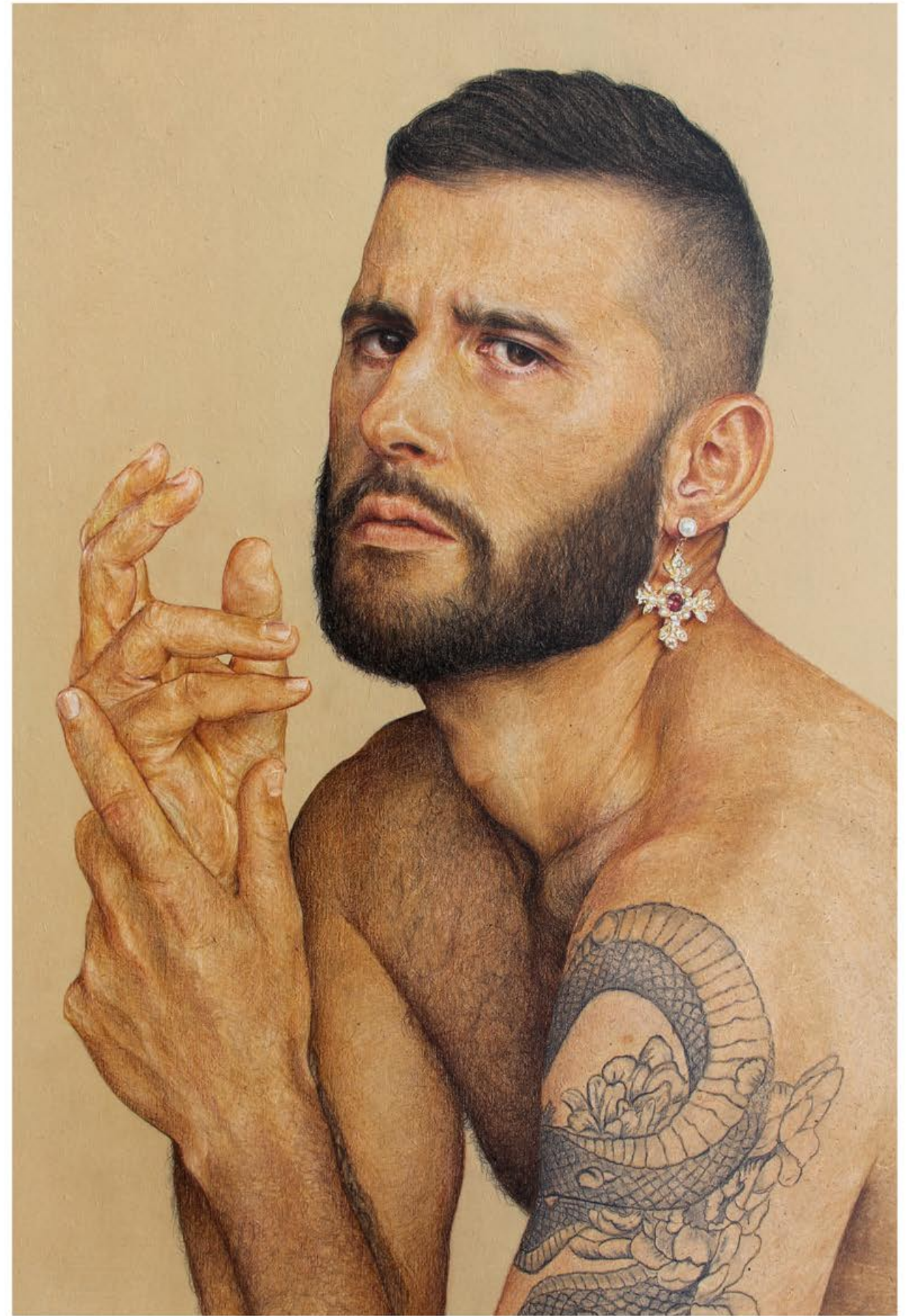


MNEMONIC 2020

MNEMONIC

The word "mnemonic" is derived from the Ancient Greek word (mnēmonikos), meaning of memory. Mnemonic systems are techniques or strategies consciously used to improve memory. This series is documenting intimate moments of people from the LGBTQI+ community in Paris and their confidence towards their sexual identity, not least as a result of the fight of prior generations.

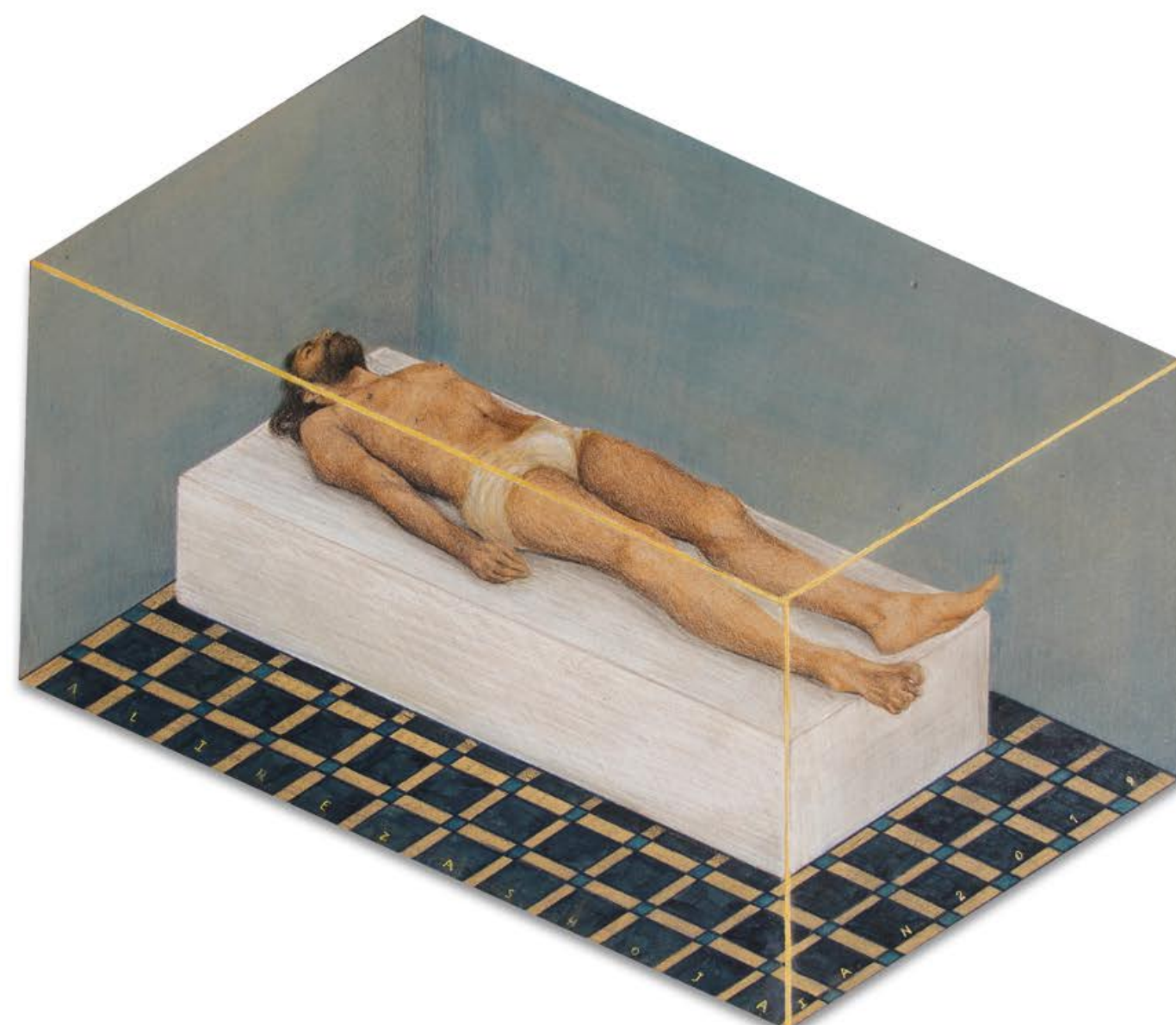




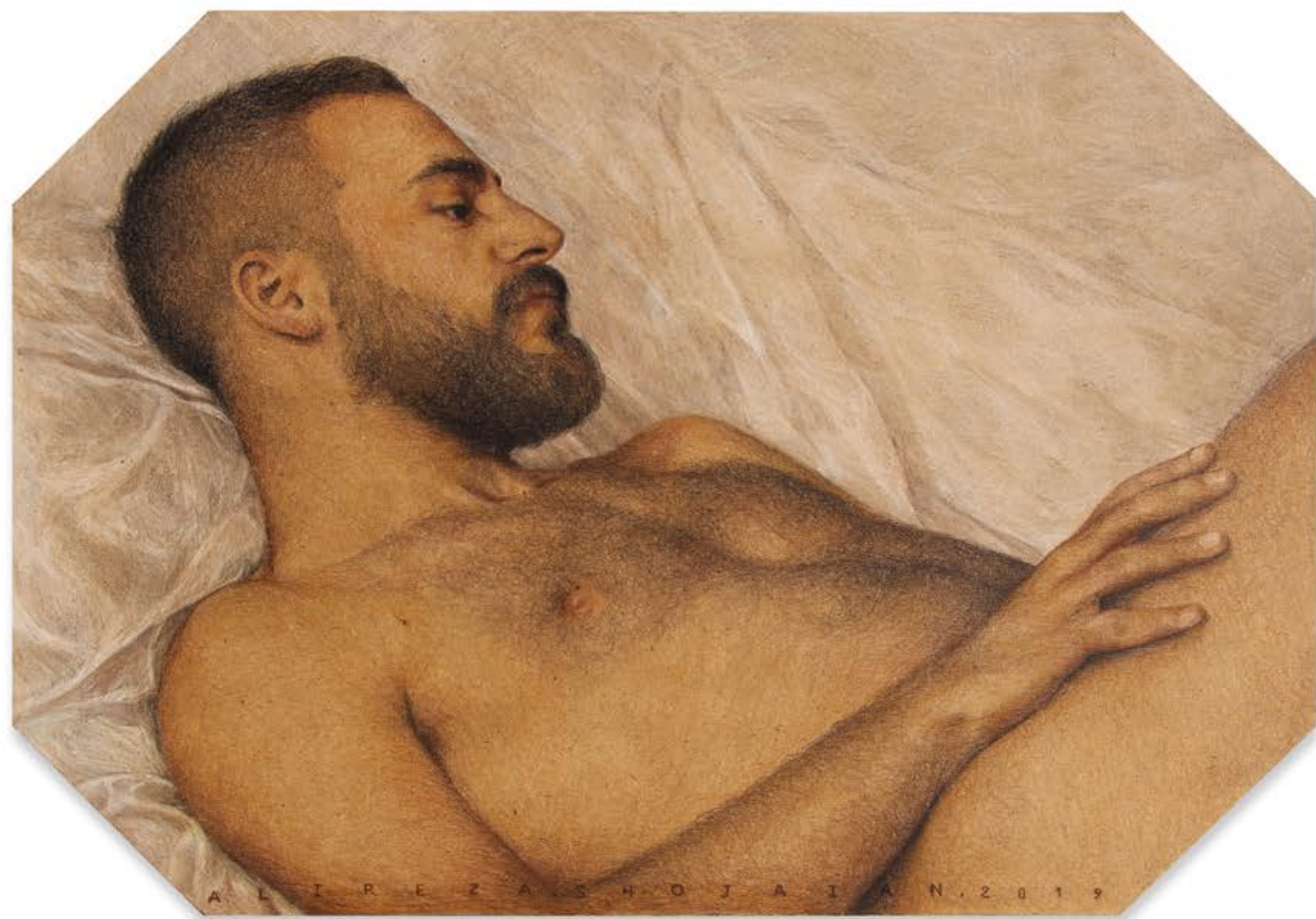
Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 60 x 45 cm



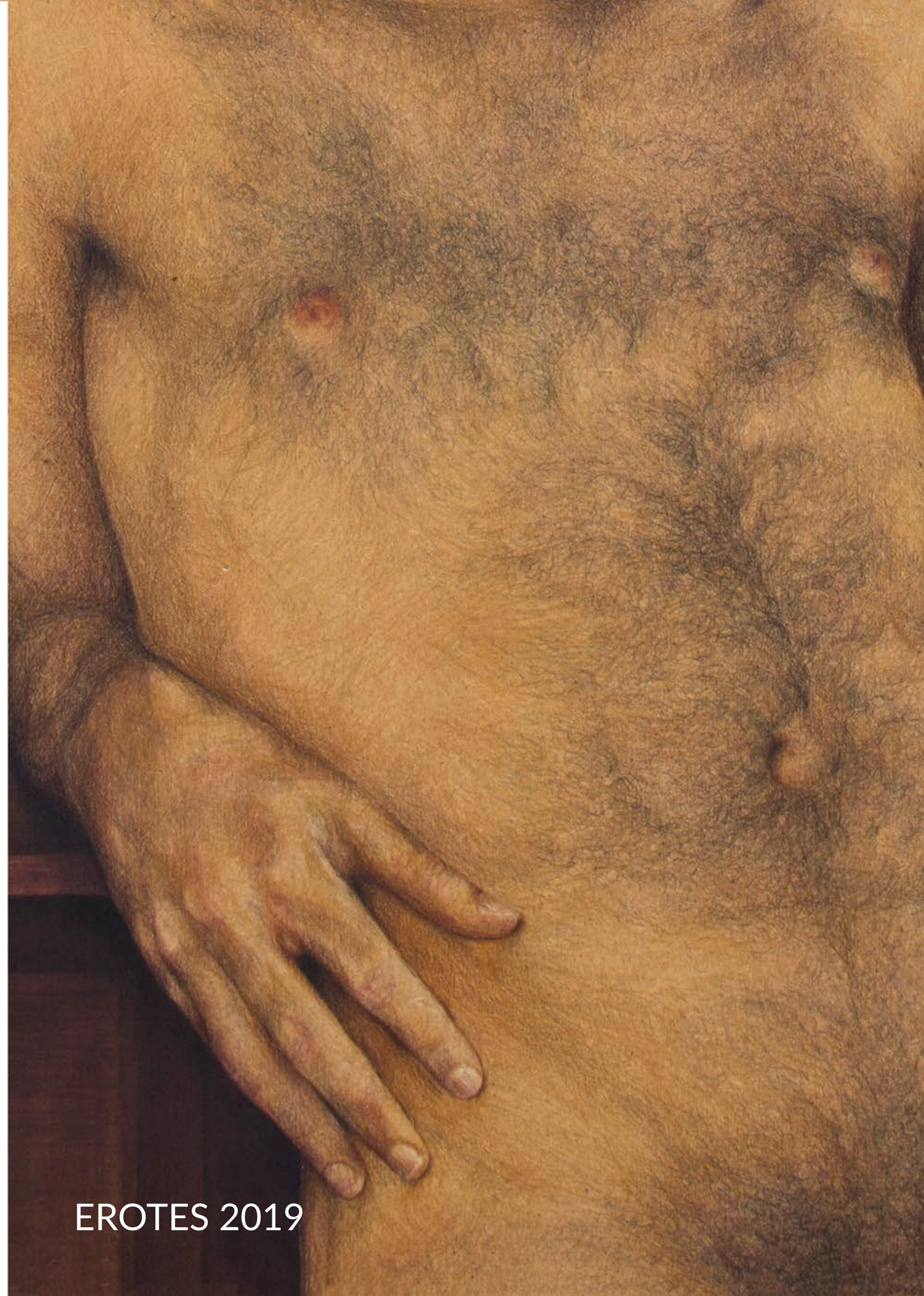
HETEROTOPIA 2019



Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 35 x 55 cm



Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 35 x 50 cm



EROTES 2019



Hamed Sinno et un de ses frères 2018

HAMED SINNO ET UN DE SES FRÈRES

The same composition as “Gabrielle d’Estrées et une de ses sœurs” to portray a particular moment in our recent history when, during a concert by Mashrou’ Leila, in Cairo in 2017, many concert goers were arrested by the police for waving the rainbow flag in support for the LGBTQI+ community during the performance.

This governmental intolerance to this particular community is recursive in most Middle Eastern countries.

Shojaian captured this not-to-be documented event by dedicating this collaborative artwork to Hamed Sinno, the lead singer of Mashrou’ Leila and portraying him pinching the nipple of Anubis the ancient Egyptian god, who holds Ankh, the symbol of immortality.



Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 150 x 220 cm



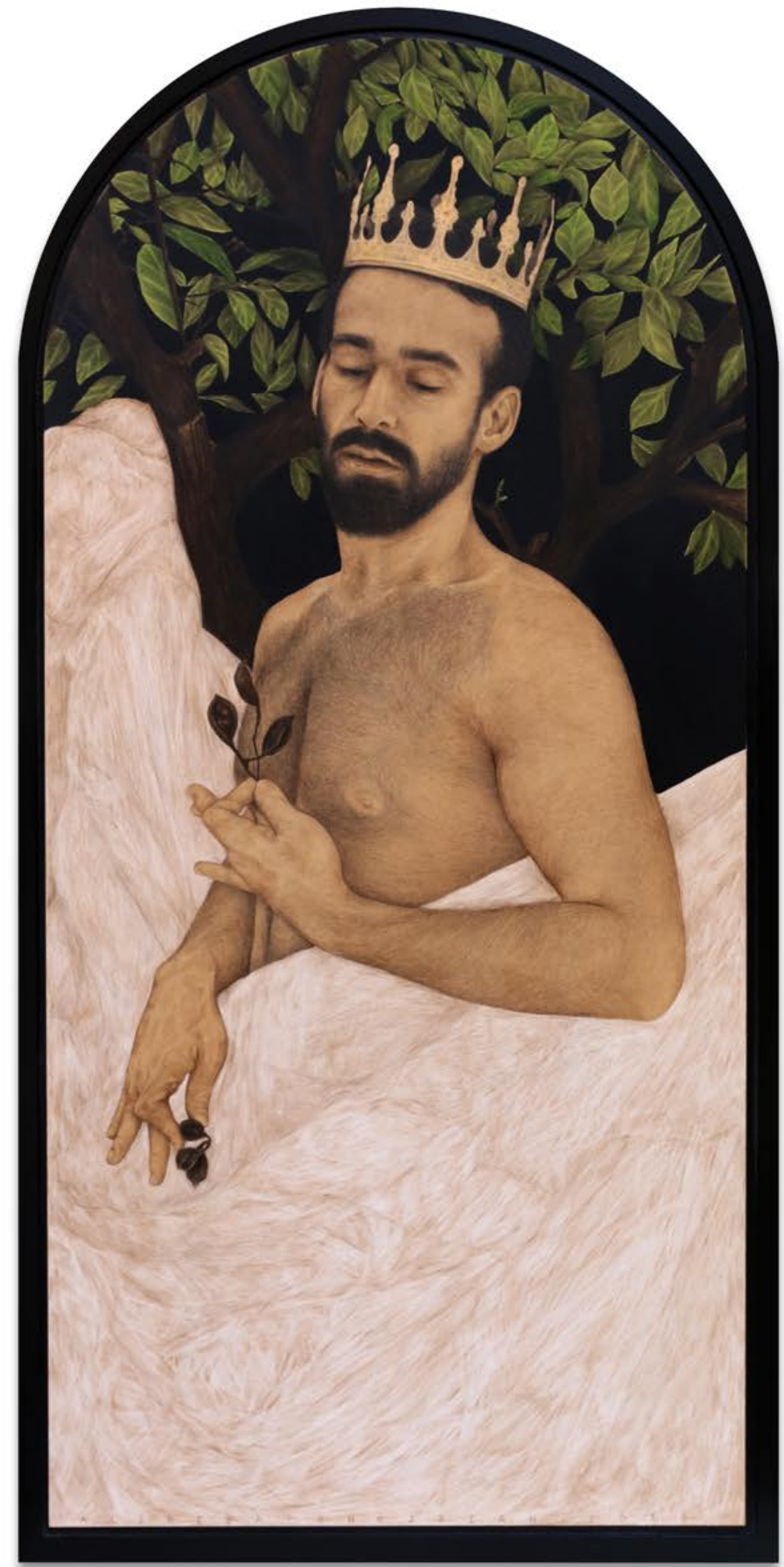
THE MIRROR 2018



Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 150 x 80 cm



SWEET BLASPHEMY 2018



Acrylic & color pencil on wood, 150 x 70 cm

SWEET BLASPHEMY

"I knew that my time with Rumi was coming to an end. Through our companionship Rumi and I had experienced an exceptional beauty and learned what it was like to encounter infinity through two mirrors reflecting each other endlessly. But old maxim still applies: Where there is love, there is bound to be heartache."

(The Forty Rules of Love/ Elif Shafak)



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018, SWEET BLASPHEMY

Artlab Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

2017, CORPS À CORPS

Artlab Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

DUET EXHIBITION

2021, OMBRES D'HOMMES

Depardieu Gallery, Nice, France

Curated by Muriel Mayette-Holtz

Director of national theatre of Nice,

Ex-director of La Villa Médicis in Rome

ART RESIDENCIES

2021, Le Château de Lourmarin

Académie Des Beaux-arts, France

2019 - 2020, Villa Les Pinsons

Académie Des Beaux-arts, France

ART FAIRS

2018, Beirut Art Fair (Artlab)

2017, Beirut Art Fair (Artlab)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

More than 20 group exhibitions in Iran, Lebanon
Norway, the United States and France

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