Simon
GA
MA

Untitled

Five paintings · 2023

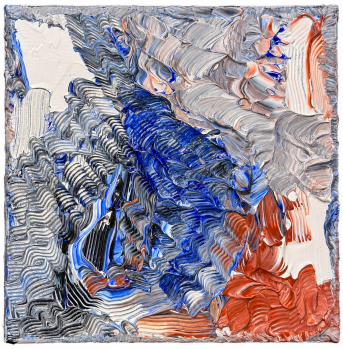
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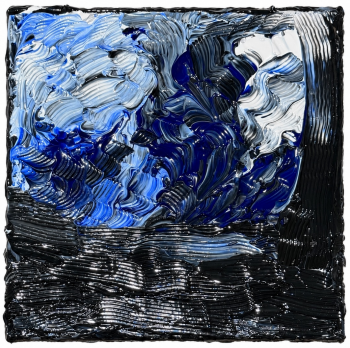
THE WORKS











Five untitled paintings made in the summer of 2023, in the middle of the American Dream years. Built with heavy-body acrylic and a palette knife on unprimed canvas, they are a study of color and texture — vivid, fine, and deliberately aesthetic — begun as therapy and rest inside a period of intense stress. Long believed lost, the five works were recovered in 2026 and returned to the artist.

About the artist. Simon Gama is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist based in New York. Working with industrial paint, wire, chains and found objects, his series American Dream (2021–2025) explores labor, migration, identity and survival. His work was selected for the 42nd Community Art Exhibition in VR at Circular ArtSpace (UK).

THE IDEA

> *“I was looking for new textures, but finer ones, not so heavy. I wanted something more aesthetic. I began this series as therapy and rest, because during those years I was under a lot of stress, and sometimes I would go into the studio just to relax and play with my materials.”*
>
> — Simon Gama, on Untitled (2023)



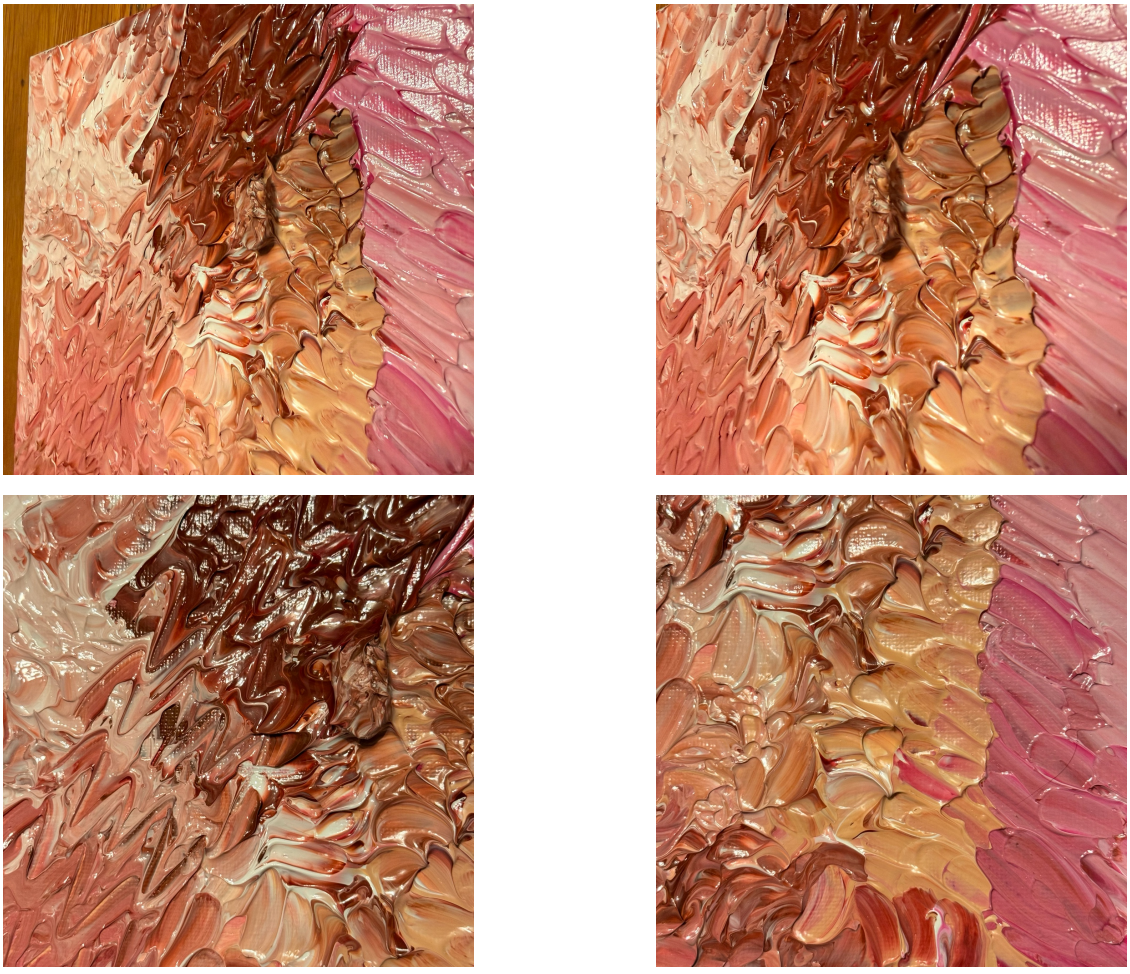
Untitled, 2023

Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in

No. 1 of 5

Untitled No. 1 — up close





Details of Untitled No. 1 — the palette knife and the material, up close.



Untitled, 2023

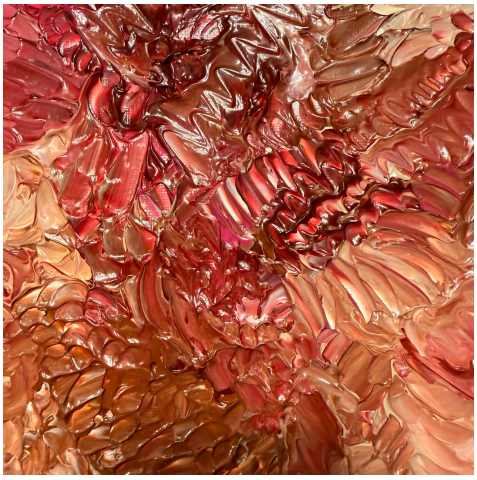
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 10 in

No. 2 of 5

Untitled No. 2 — up close









Details of Untitled No. 2 — the palette knife and the material, up close.



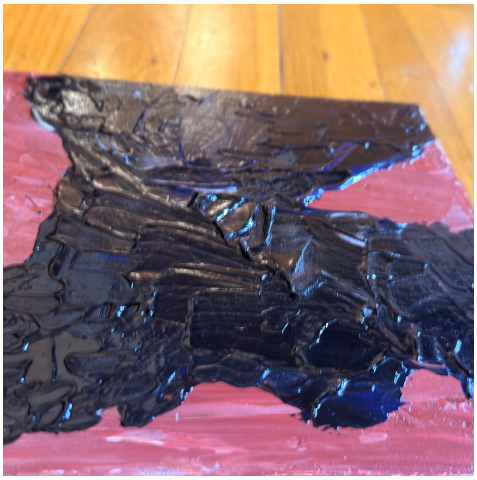
Untitled, 2023

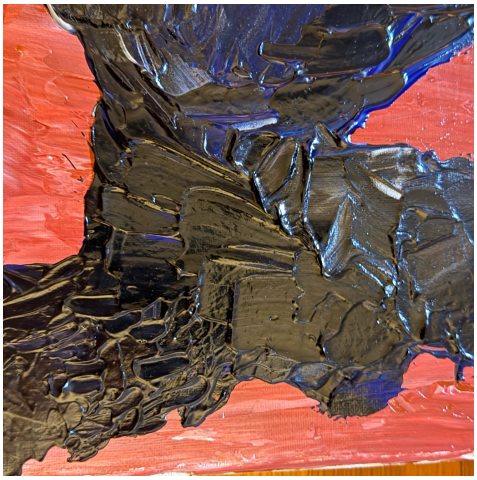
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in

No. 3 of 5

Untitled No. 3 — up close



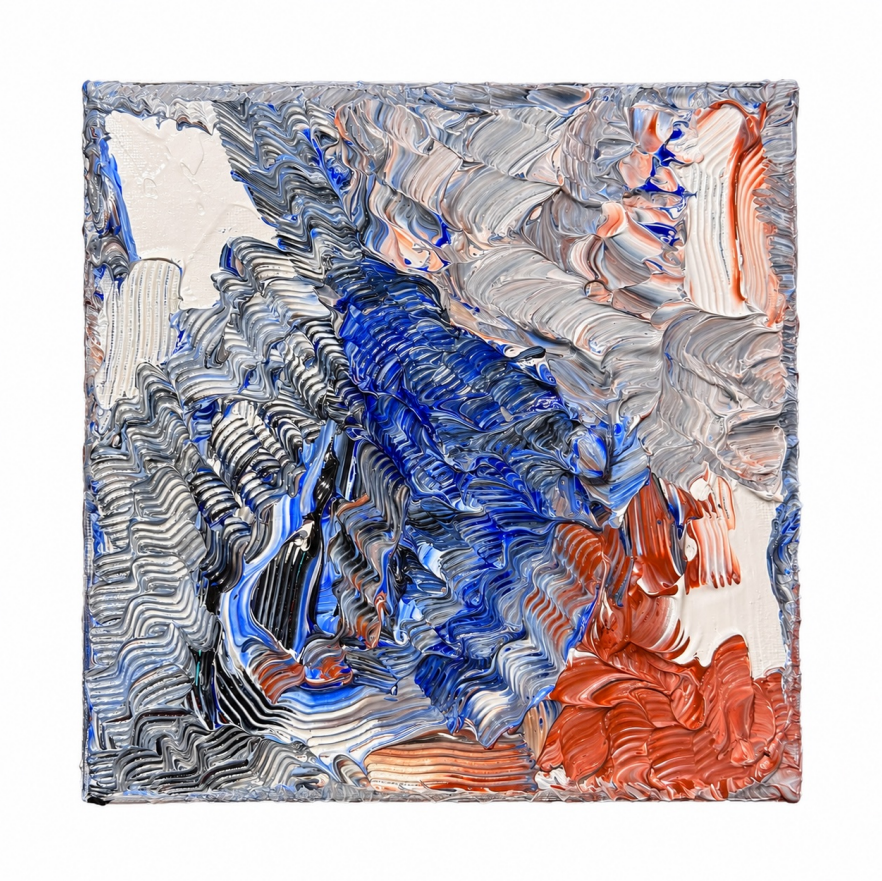








Details of Untitled No. 3 — the palette knife and the material, up close.

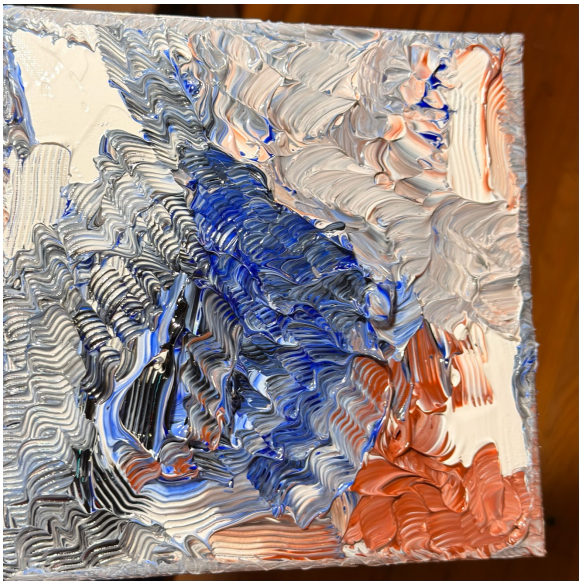


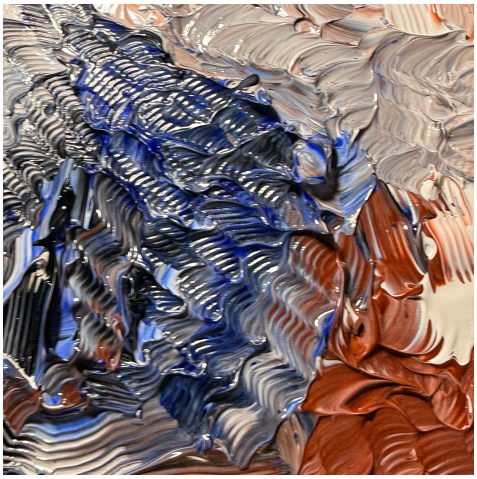
Untitled, 2023

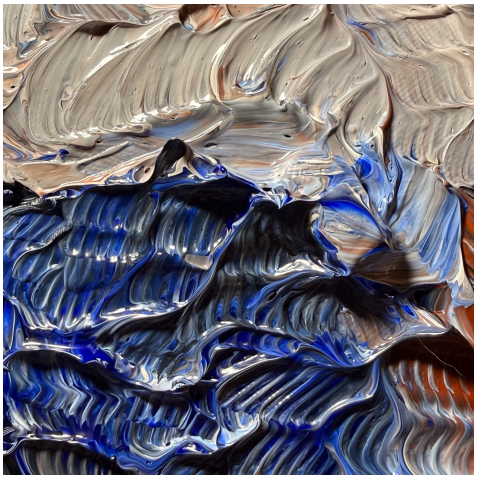
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in

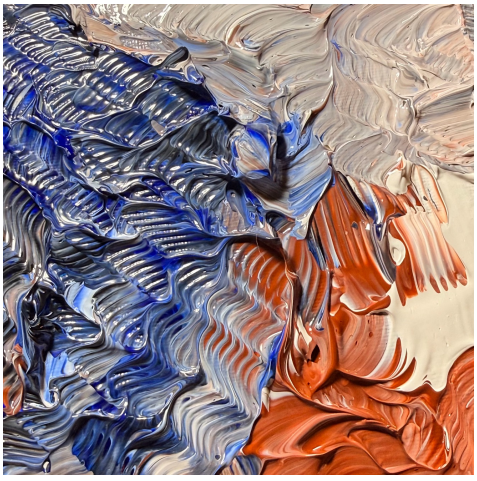
No. 4 of 5

Untitled No. 4 — up close

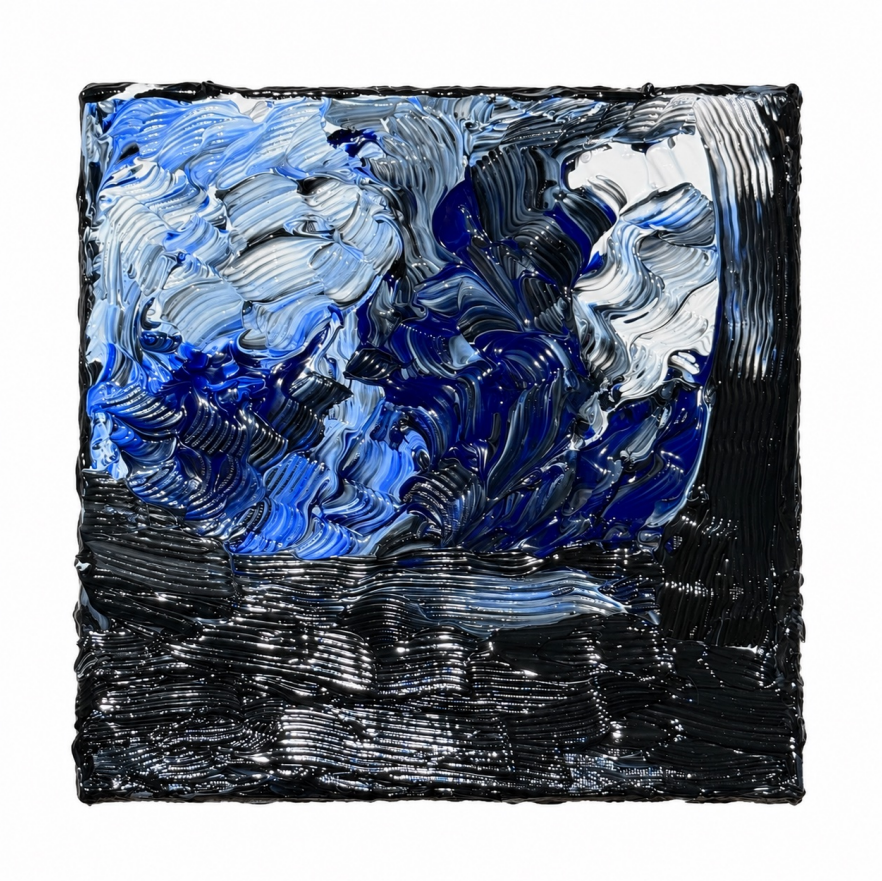








Details of Untitled No. 4 — the palette knife and the material, up close.

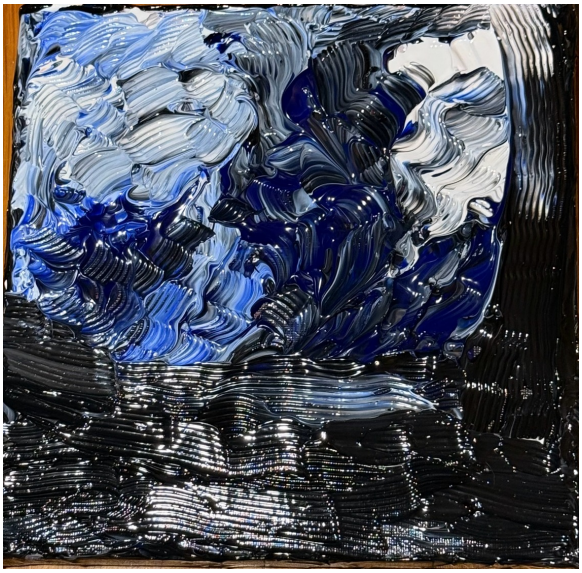


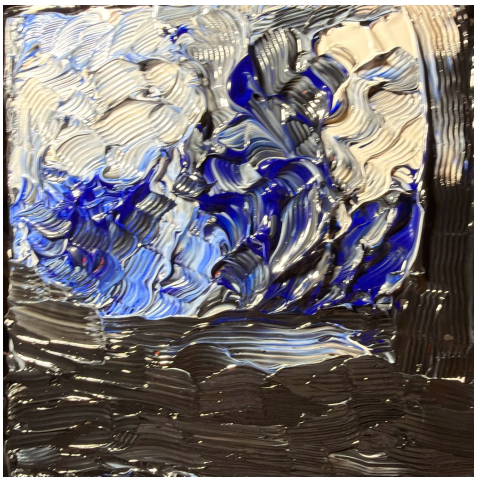
Untitled, 2023

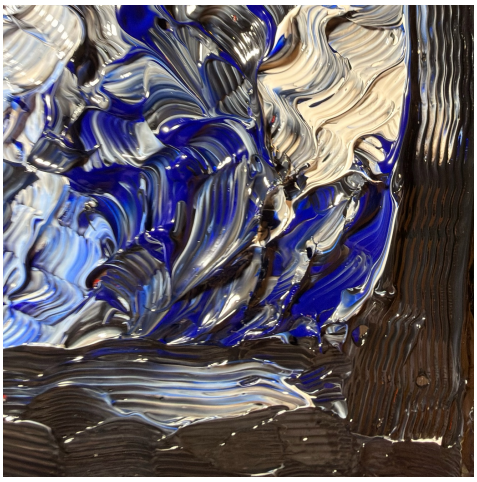
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in

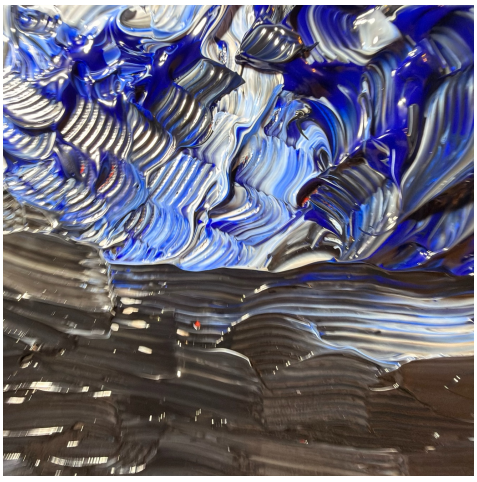
No. 5 of 5

Untitled No. 5 — up close









Details of Untitled No. 5 — the palette knife and the material, up close.

THE PROCESS

Each painting is built directly on unprimed canvas — no gesso — with heavy-body acrylic: highly pigmented, naturally brilliant, laid down and carved with a palette knife. The knife replaces the brush entirely; the ridges, waves and dragged edges remain exactly as the material decides. A coat of varnish protects the finished surface — its purpose is protection, not gloss. The five paintings form a single series and are kept together.

SPECIFICATIONS

No.	Work	Year	Medium	Dimensions
1	Untitled	2023	Heavy-body acrylic on canvas	8 × 8 in
2	Untitled	2023	Heavy-body acrylic on canvas	8 × 10 in
3	Untitled	2023	Heavy-body acrylic on canvas	8 × 8 in
4	Untitled	2023	Heavy-body acrylic on canvas	8 × 8 in
5	Untitled	2023	Heavy-body acrylic on canvas	8 × 8 in

Finish: protective varnish · Support: unprimed canvas (no gesso) · The series is in the artist's collection and available for competition, exhibition and acquisition.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I don't paint to be liked. I paint what I must.

Since I was a child, I knew I was an artist. My father painted and sold his paintings, and I grew up with paint on my fingers, painting beside him. Largely self-taught — documentaries, observation, little houses built out of clay — my hands were always making things. My father told me I had something different. I believed him.

I begin with curiosity — books, images, clean lines, body shapes — and then I disrupt it. Anxiety arrives, and I tear into the composition. That disruption is not the opposite of my work. It is my work. Strong color, irregular forms, and worn, weathered surfaces emerge: doubt turned into beauty. Then I fill what survives with the day I lived — what I felt, what I saw, what I read, what I couldn't stop thinking about. My paintings are diaries. Every one hides something underneath — names, phrases, private material — that I'll never show you. Every one has to hold the memory of the time it was made.

I work with industrial materials — factory paint, filler, things people call cheap. I spent years observing that world, and its cheapness is part of the work's truth. What matters is never what the material costs, but the idea and the condition it carries.

My series American Dream (sixteen works, 2021–2025) looks at labor, migration, and survival — and asks a hard question of its own title. It is political, because I won't look away from what's in front of me. But I refuse to be only that. Feelings are disappearing; people don't show them anymore. So I paint those too — tenderness, anger, emptiness, memory, curiosity. A human being is both.

My early works were my education — small, stubborn pieces made with whatever I had, where I learned to trust my hands before any theory. American Dream was the reckoning. Autumn — four works from a season of going inward — is where I stand now: black and white, heavy texture, memory pressed into the surface, even a small photograph of myself hidden in one of them. The Studies on Paper are my laboratory: nine small experiments in color and gesture, where I let myself play. The Autumn works and the Studies are available from the studio — a finished painting wants to live somewhere, not in storage.

I make this work for myself — to prove to myself that I can — not to defeat anyone. I'd rather you feel disgusted than feel nothing.

If you see injustice, say something. Speak up. Don't be part of it.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Simon GAMA

Visual artist · Painting, mixed media, sculpture, installation New York, USA · simongama.art · hello@simongama.art

SELECTED PROJECT

American Dream, 2021–2025. A completed series of sixteen works in painting, mixed media, sculpture and installation on labor, migration, identity, consumer culture and the mythology of the American Dream. Exhibition proposed for 2027; seeking a gallery, institution or curatorial partner.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022 — Orange County Community Arts Grant, Orange County Arts Council, New York. Grant supporting the development of American Dream.

EXHIBITIONS

2027 — “New Beginnings” Online Exhibition, Manhattan Arts International, New York, January 18 – March 18, 2027 (Upcoming). Juried online exhibition; curator Renee Phillips. Selected artwork: Untitled, 2026. 2026 — 43rd Community Art Exhibition in Virtual Reality, Circular ArtSpace CIC / MetArtSpace, United Kingdom, November 9 – 30, 2026 (Upcoming). International virtual group exhibition. Selected artworks: Employee #911-94094X; Nunca Escaparás; Untitled, 2026. 2026 — 42nd Community Art Exhibition in Virtual Reality, Circular ArtSpace CIC / MetArtSpace, United Kingdom, October 12 – November 3, 2026. International virtual group exhibition. Selected artwork: The New American Flag. 2026 — Friday Night Salon (Next 50 Artist Open Call), Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, November 13, 2026 (group). 2024 — Love Safely, Play Creatively (National Condom Day Art Show), Brooklyn Community Pride Center, Brooklyn, NY. Group exhibition. 2022 — Invited artist, 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration (P.O.W.E.R.), Warwick, NY. 2020 — Solo exhibition, Artisan Emporium Square Market, Middletown, NY.

PRESS AND FEATURES

2026 — Artist Spotlight, Orange County NY Arts Council. Feature on the completed American Dream series. 2027 — Five works from American Dream selected for publication in The Polk Street Review 2027, the annual anthology of CEArts (Community • Education • Arts), Noblesville, Indiana. 2027 — Two works from American Dream selected for publication in VACANT Arts Journal, Volume One: Maiden Voyage, USA.

FORTHCOMING

December 8, 2026 — Radio Interview — La Voz con Mariel Fiori, La Voz Magazine (Bard College) · Radio Kingston. Interview on the American Dream series. 2026 — Interview on the American Dream series, ELSEWHERE / STRATUM Journal. 2026 — Artist interview on the American Dream series, Al-Tiba9, Barcelona, Spain.

PANELS

2022 — Guest panelist, I.D.E.A. Workshop (Understanding Privilege and Bias), Orange County Arts Council, New York · Held online.

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Self-taught visual artist with an ongoing studio practice since 2015.

CHECKLIST OF WORKS



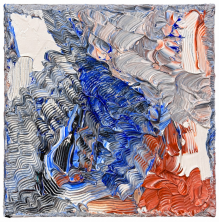
Untitled, 2023
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in
No. 1 of 5 · Protective varnish · No gesso



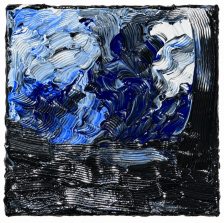
Untitled, 2023
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 10 in
No. 2 of 5 · Protective varnish · No gesso



Untitled, 2023
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in
No. 3 of 5 · Protective varnish · No gesso



Untitled, 2023
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in
No. 4 of 5 · Protective varnish · No gesso



Untitled, 2023
Heavy-body acrylic with palette knife on canvas · 8 × 8 in
No. 5 of 5 · Protective varnish · No gesso

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SIMON GAMA
New York, USA

For competition, exhibition and press inquiries:
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High-resolution images available on request.



The artist, in New York.

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