

5-50

TWISTED TOONS

Michael Saunders, Raquel Da Silva, and Michael MacDonald

On view: July 8 - August 6

Opening reception: July 8, 4 - 7 pm



Michael Saunders, *Paper*, 2022, oil on linen, 10 x 8 in.

TWISTED TOONS is an exhibition at 5-50 Gallery that features the works of artists **Michael Saunders**, **Raquel Da Silva**, and **Michael MacDonald**. United in their visual connections to popular media such as cartoons, comics, and graffiti, each artist possesses their own distinct style. Relating to the aforementioned media through their fun, eye-catching visuals, these works diverge from them in that they are somewhat darker and edgier both in terms of formal qualities and themes. All of the works included incorporate aspects of everyday life, but with a twist that makes you reconsider how we perceive and interact with the commonplace subjects and themes we encounter daily. The exhibition will be on view from July 8th through August 6th, with an opening reception on July 8th from 4-7 pm.

Cosmic dolphins, dancing stars, domesticated cats, and other odd forms populate **Michael Saunders'** eye-catching paintings. Saunders' works make deep impressions on the spirit, through their depictions of the joy, humor, and absurdity of a beautiful momentary experience. Sometimes poetic, always silly, his art is not

meant to be taken too seriously. Layers of paint and color evoke a physical sensation in the viewer and emphasize the materiality of his practice. Gouache, oil, spray, and any material that calls out to him are utilized to heighten the feeling and textures of his works.

Raquel Da Silva's work centers around the exploration of fundamental cultural narratives and societal concerns, investigating their integration into the fabric of daily existence. Working predominantly in painting, her recent works aim to capture fleeting moments of ordinary life, encapsulating both the small joys and the challenges stemming from the prevailing economic and environmental landscape. Da Silva aims to create a type of visual diary that offers an insight into our current times and can serve as a time capsule for future generations. The inclusion of loosely painted vases within her paintings pays tribute to the tradition of utilizing painted pottery as a means of documentation about significant events during bygone eras.

Michael MacDonald's paintings depict minute scenes that hint at a larger, more surreal narrative. Hyper-rendered volume and shadows, flattened textures, vibrant colors, and faceless features lend an uncanny and sinister undertone to these otherwise comic scenes, and they remove the artist's hand from the work just enough so that the viewer has space to interpret and claim a little ownership over MacDonald's narrative and intent. In his work, the paintings produce more questions than they do answers, focusing instead on creating a specific emotional tenor in lieu of providing a succinct and straightforward anecdotal tale.

Michael Saunders is a painter and tattoo artist living and working in Jacksonville, Florida. He earned a BFA in Painting in 2013 from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and was awarded the 2013 Art & Design Award by the school. Recent exhibitions include *betwixt and between* at Project Gallery V in New York City, *Outer Liminal Non Space* at Bold Bean in Jacksonville, FL and two shows this year at Florida State College and Florida Mining Gallery, both in Jacksonville, FL.

Artist **Raquel Da Silva** lives and works between Toronto and New York City. She graduated in 2020 from OCAD University in Toronto with a BFA in Painting and a minor in Furniture Design. Her work has been shown internationally, including in recent exhibitions such as *About to be born, Already felt* at PADA Gallery in Lisbon, Portugal, *The Meaning of Things* at Collision Gallery in Toronto, ON, and *Sunday in the Strand* at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, ON. Da Silva has participated in residencies at PADA Studios and Residency in Lisbon, Portugal and at the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto x Akin Studio Residency in Toronto, ON.

Michael MacDonald lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He holds a BFA in painting from The Rhode Island School of Design. His work has been exhibited at SPRING BREAK Secret Show (New York, NY 2023), Pamplemousse Gallery (Richmond, VA; forthcoming in 2023), The Chicago Fine Art Salon (Chicago, IL; 2023), Fresh Salad Gallery (online; 2022), and Create Arts Center (Silver Spring, MD; 2022). Michael's work has been published in *Feels Zine* (2023), *Random Access* (2023), and *Create! Magazine* (2022) and featured in The Collar Works *Flat Files* (Troy, NY; 2022).

5-50 Gallery is an art gallery / curatorial project space set in the former site of a stone carving studio in NYC.



Michael Saunders
Paper, 2022
Oil on linen, 10 x 8"

\$800



Michael Saunders

Sad to Leave, 2023

Painting, Oil, Flashe, Charcoal, Acrylic on Linen Stretched onto Board, 16,25 x 20,25"

\$2400

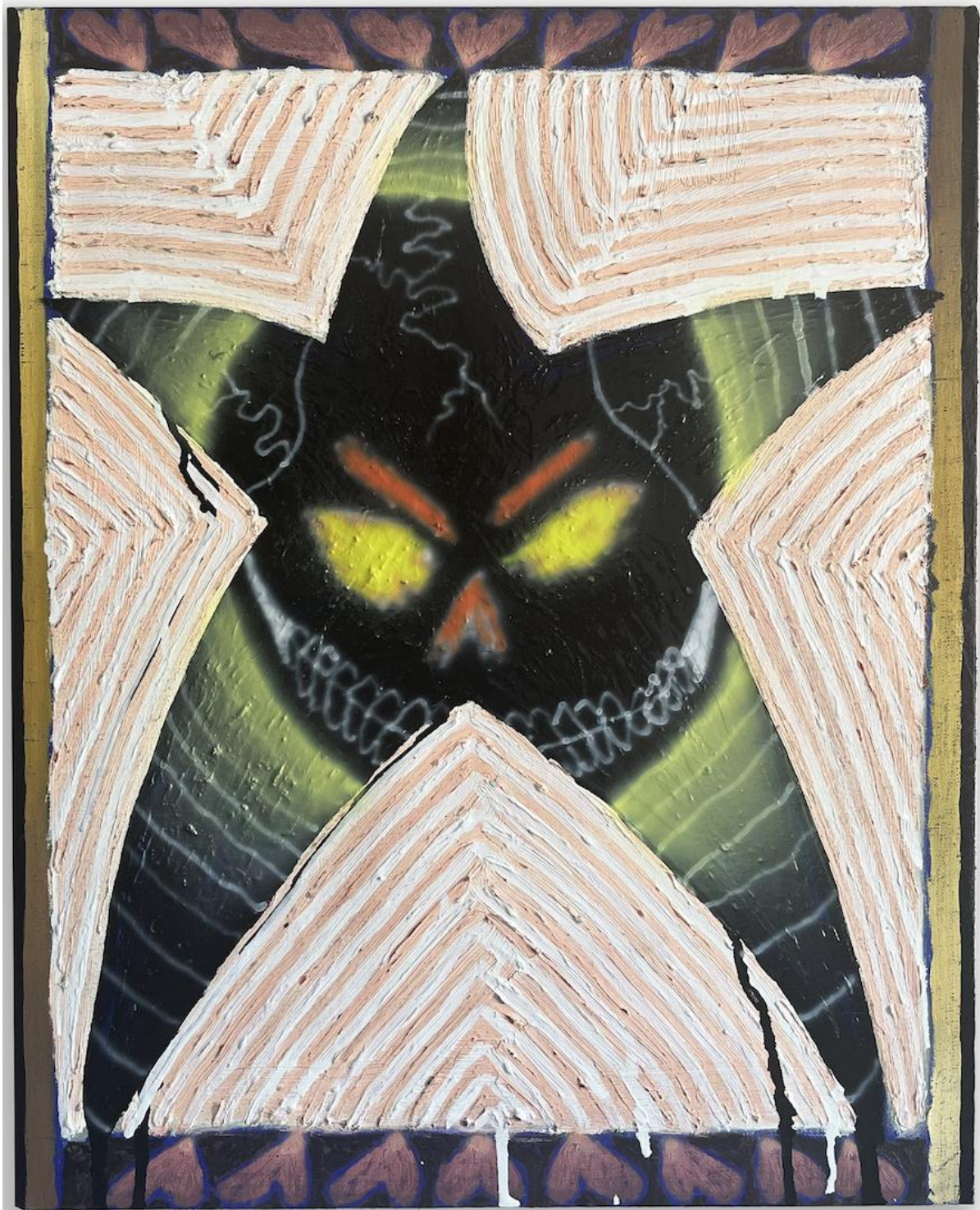
5-50 Gallery

5-50 51St Ave. Long Island City, New York

www.5-50gallery.com

[@550gallery](https://www.instagram.com/550gallery)

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Michael Saunders

Haunting Loneliness, 2022-2023
Oil and acrylic on linen, 16 x 20"

\$2400

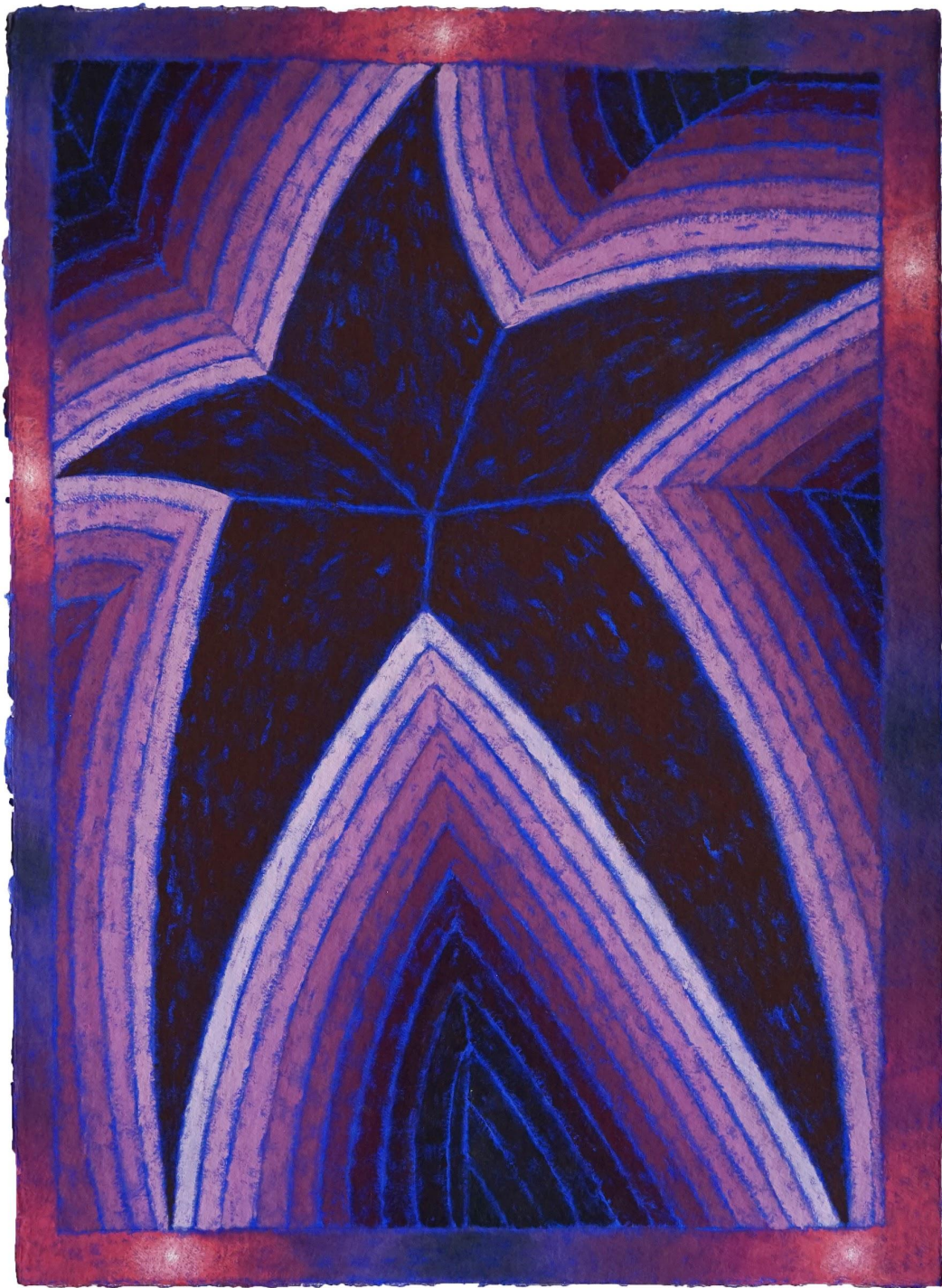
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Michael Saunders

Hallelujah, 2022

Gouache on paper, 13 x 18"

\$1450

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Michael Saunders

Dancer, 2022

Oil and acrylic on linen stretched onto panel, 9 x 11"

\$900

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Michael Saunders

Dancer II, 2022

Oil and acrylic on linen stretched onto panel, 9 x 11"

\$900

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Michael Saunders

Blue Duck, 2022

Gouache on Paper, 18" x 17"

\$1750

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Raquel Da Silva

Infernal Basement, 2023

Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 50"

\$5800

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Raquel Da Silva

Taninha, 2023

Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 50"

\$5800

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Raquel Da Silva

Watering Hole, 2023

Acrylic on canvas, 9 x 12"

\$900

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Raquel Da Silva

A Lonely Tree (at night), 2023
Acrylic on canvas, 9 x 12"

\$900

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Michael MacDonald

Shapes, 2023

Acrylic and oil on panel, 12 x 14"

\$1200

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Michael MacDonald

Man and Castle, 2021

Acrylic and oil on paper, 8 x 10"

\$1200

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Michael MacDonald

Boy and Dog, 2021

Acrylic and oil on paper 9 x 12"

\$1250

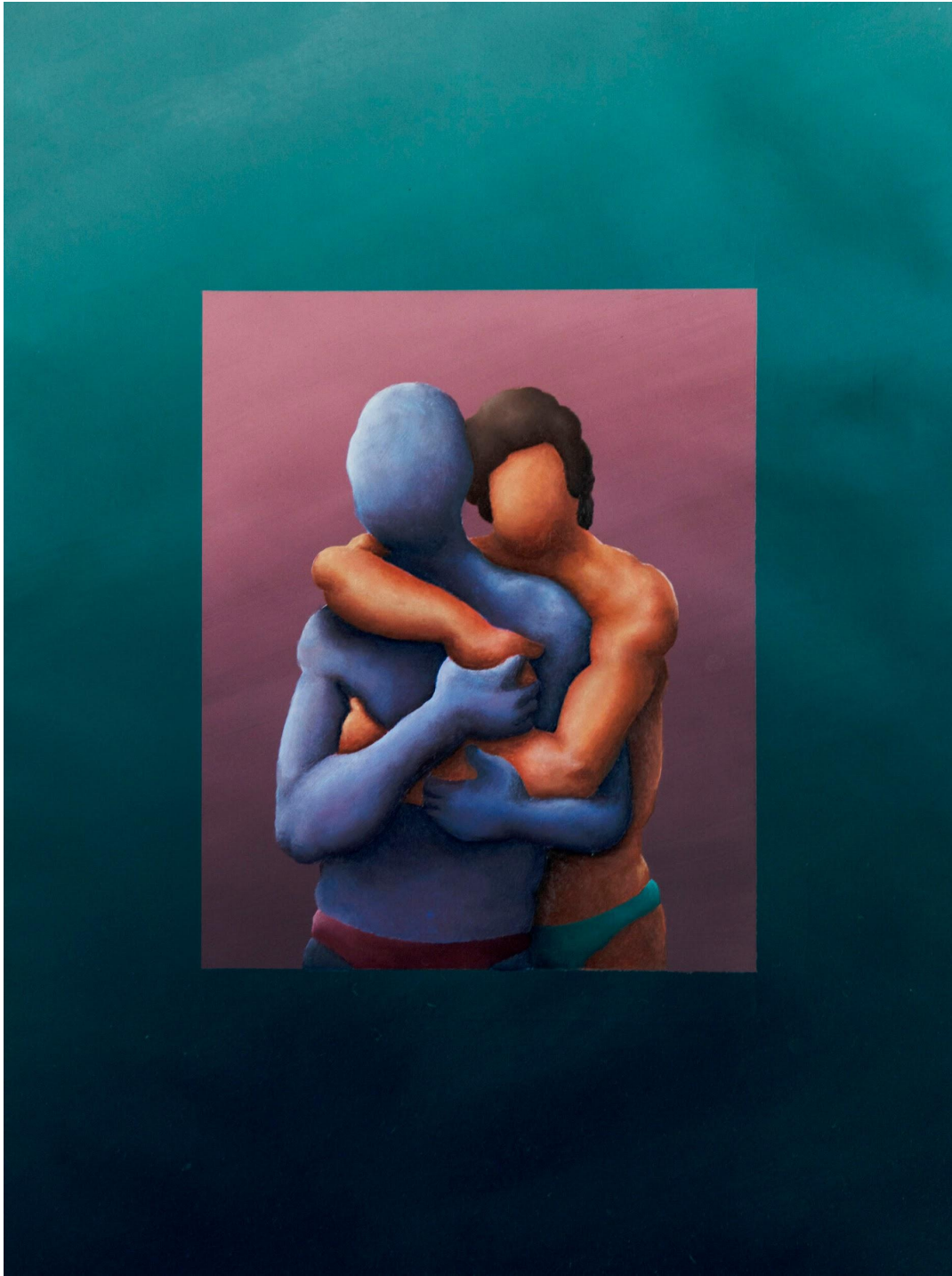
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Michael MacDonald

Best Friends at Camp Embrace, 2021

Oil and acrylic on paper, 12 x 18"

\$1300

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