

LEONIE BARTON

LOOKING OUT TO THE BLOCK

8-18 NOVEMBER 2023



CURATORIAL+CO.

In this series of works, to be shown alongside Lucas Wearne and Kerryn Levy, I have tried to look with a sense of anticipation upon the 70kg limestone block that sits across from my studio in the garden. The irony that I would be responding to a sculptor also using limestone but in its physical form has not been lost on me. The block was purchased to create a large sculptural work prior to my body dictating what my practice could or could not be (for a time). Unable to continue my original practice of ephemeral installations and sculpture, I pursued painting as a way to be stationary and creative.

LEONIE BARTON

LOOKING OUT TO THE BLOCK

I watch this limestone block through the window, I watch the morning sun hit its planes to glow and the afternoon cast its darkest shadows that impose shifts in shape and highlight its rough and now-wearing skin. I imagine it in different forms, what will be added or what will be taken away. In the meantime, it waits for me and emerges in the paintings, while I too wait for it.

Every work begins with laying down an initial base layer of wax, oil and pigment, which is then stained to reveal any grain or prominent marks left behind from applying the wax. I see loose shapes that can be developed from these marks and from there, it becomes a series of responses to bringing the shapes forward or covering them over until a composition emerges. Everything happens on the board; nothing is preplanned and it is simply an exercise in intuitive exploration from then on. Shapes tend to hold their original position, but colours can sometimes change multiple times, the edges soft or hard, and it is the waxy build-up that creates further textures. Patience is essential as each layer needs to dry between applications, which is why I will work on multiple pieces at a time. I frequently work on a series of small, medium and larger works, working with a limited palette that can be used across all works.

For me as an abstract painter, it's all about the process, the physical act of painting. An opportunity to be still and contemplate. Whilst I might reference life, things seen and experiences had, it is simply a starting point and from there, it's just time spent in the studio doing, responding to each step until the painting has no further requirements of me. When it feels balanced and quiet, it's done.

~ LEONIE BARTON, November 2023



Limestone Block in Waiting, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
82cm H x 82cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$3800



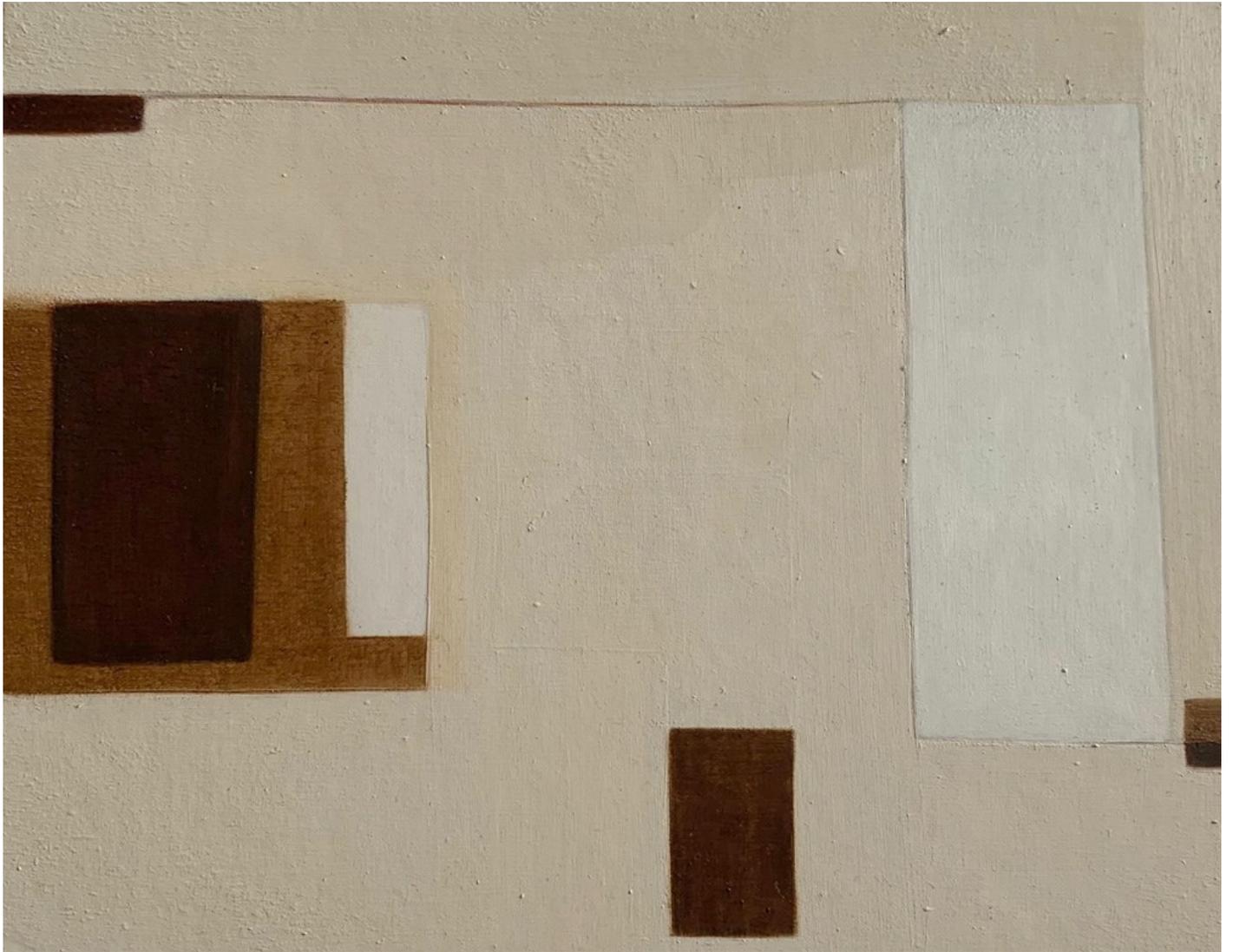
Limestone Block in Waiting 2, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
82cm H x 82cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$3800



Block with Cradle, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
82cm H x 82cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$3800



Block 1, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
102cm H x 67cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$3800



Limestone Block 5, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
22cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



Studio Garden 2, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1100



Studio Garden 1, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1100



Studio Steps, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
22cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



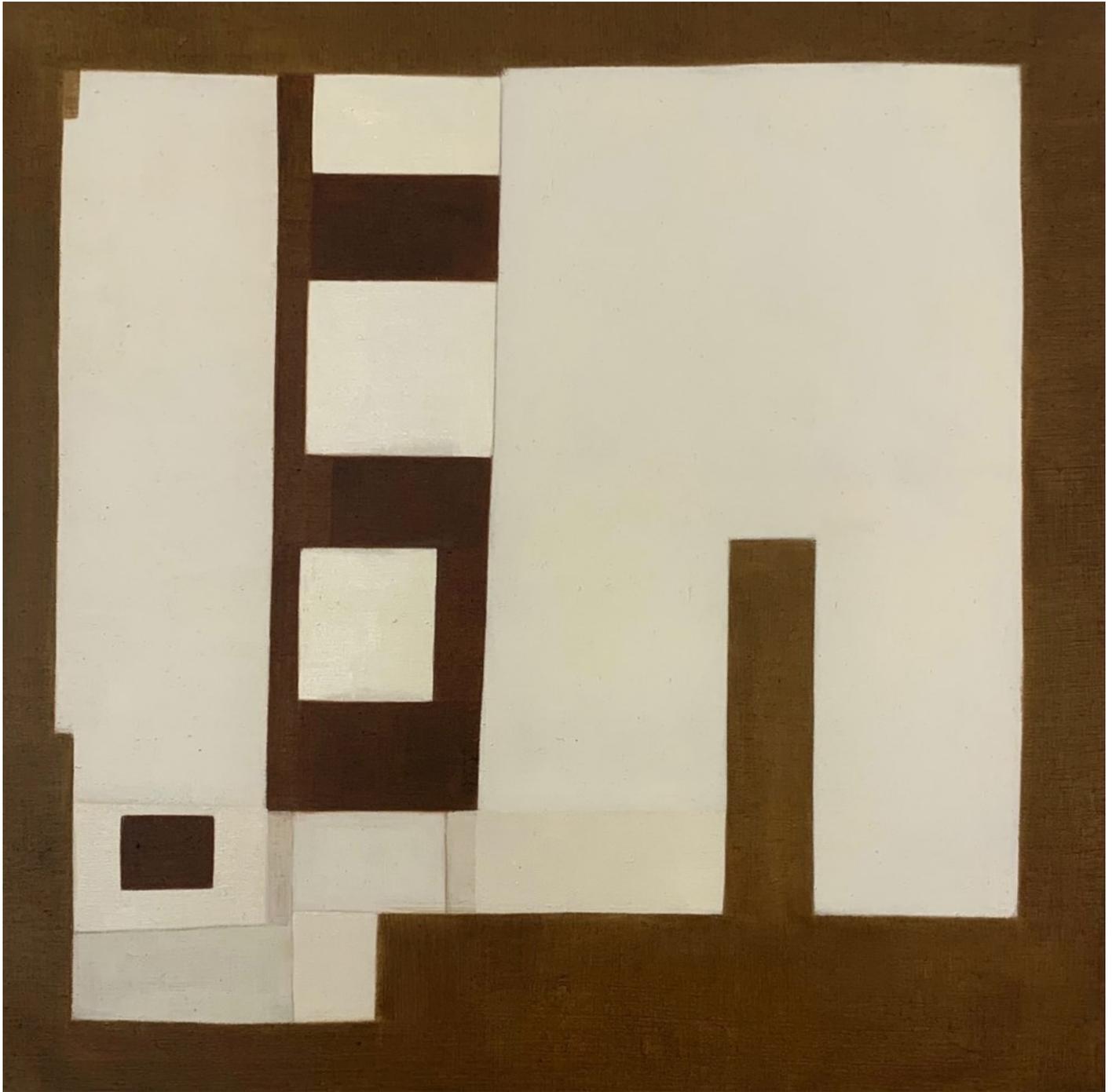
Limestone Block 7, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
22cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



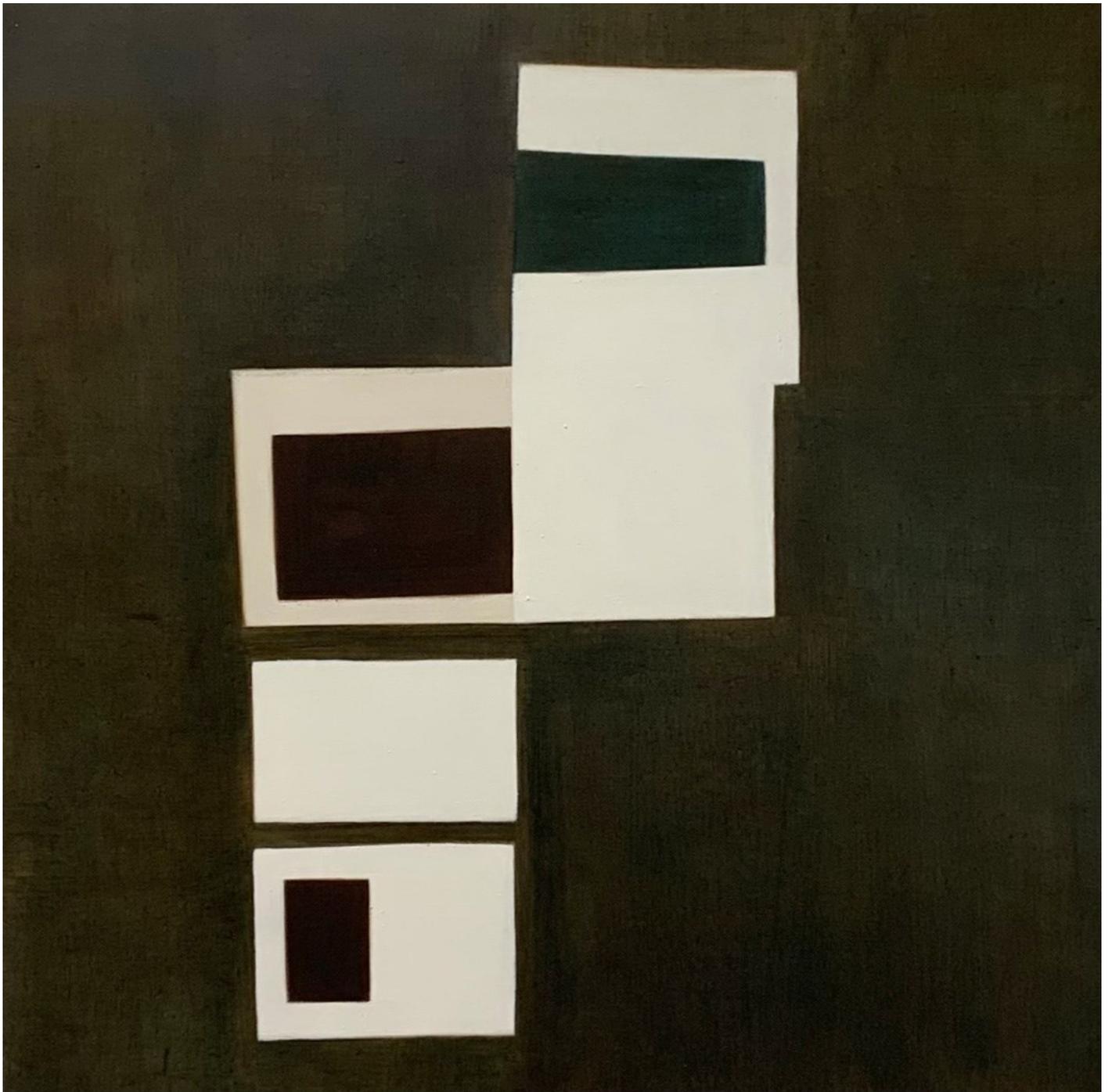
She Went to the Vatican 1, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
52cm H x 52cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$2000



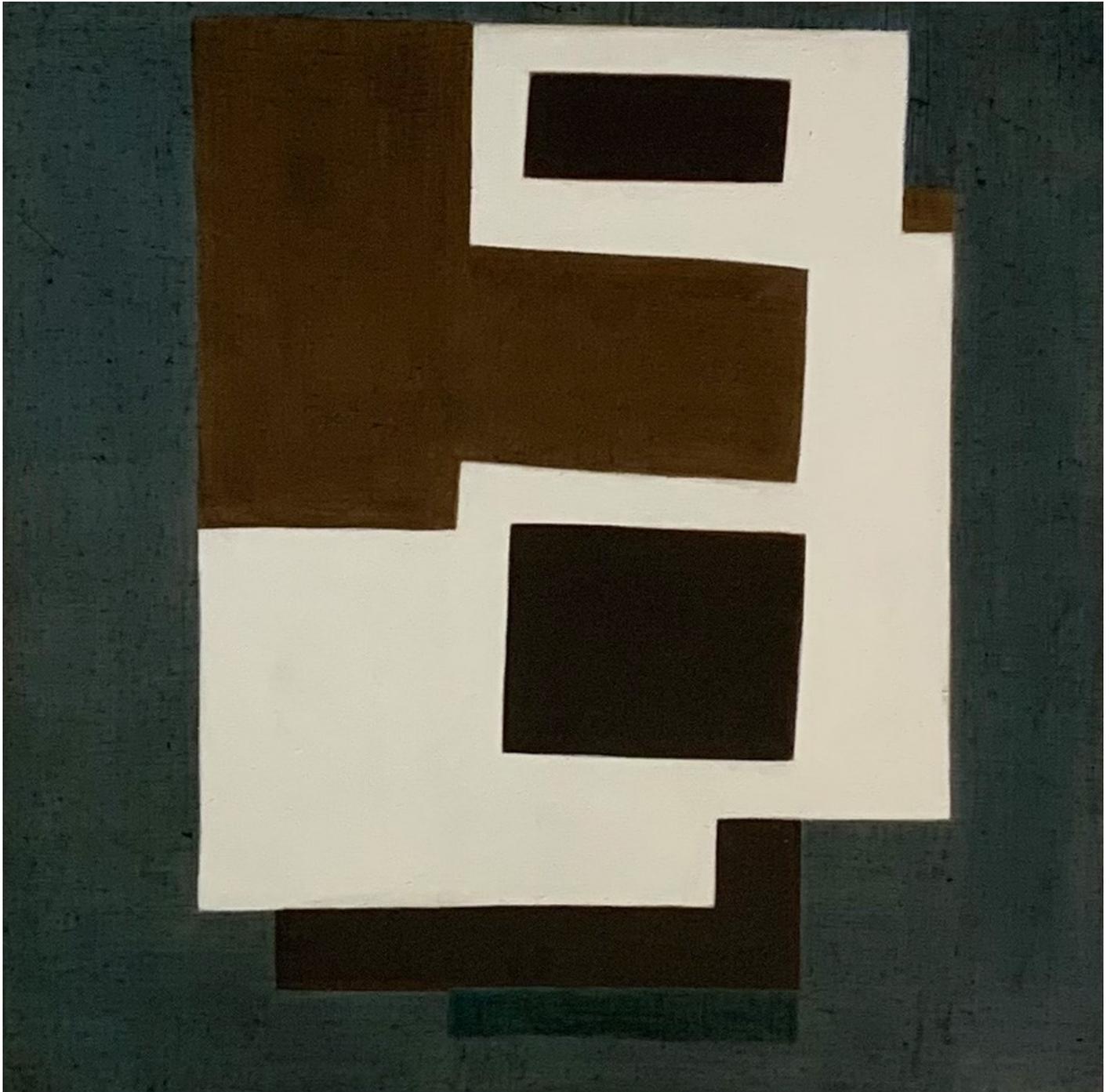
She Went to the Vatican 2, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
52cm H x 52cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$2000



Sprocket Man 1, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
42cm H x 42cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1600



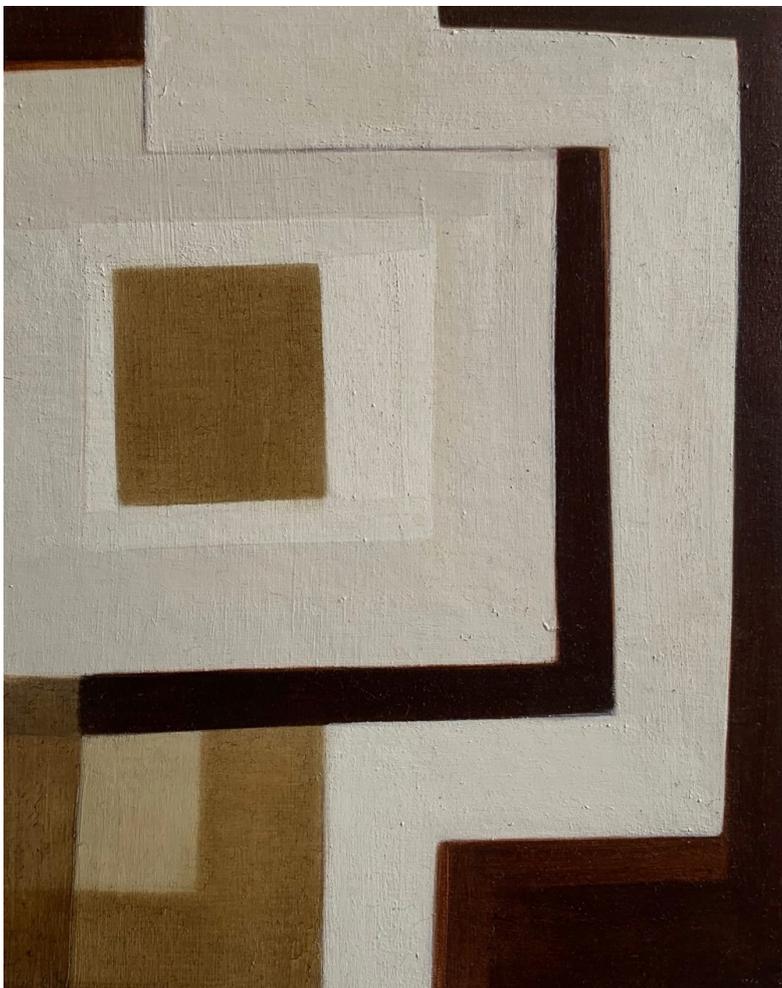
Sprocket Man 2, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
42cm H x 42cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1600



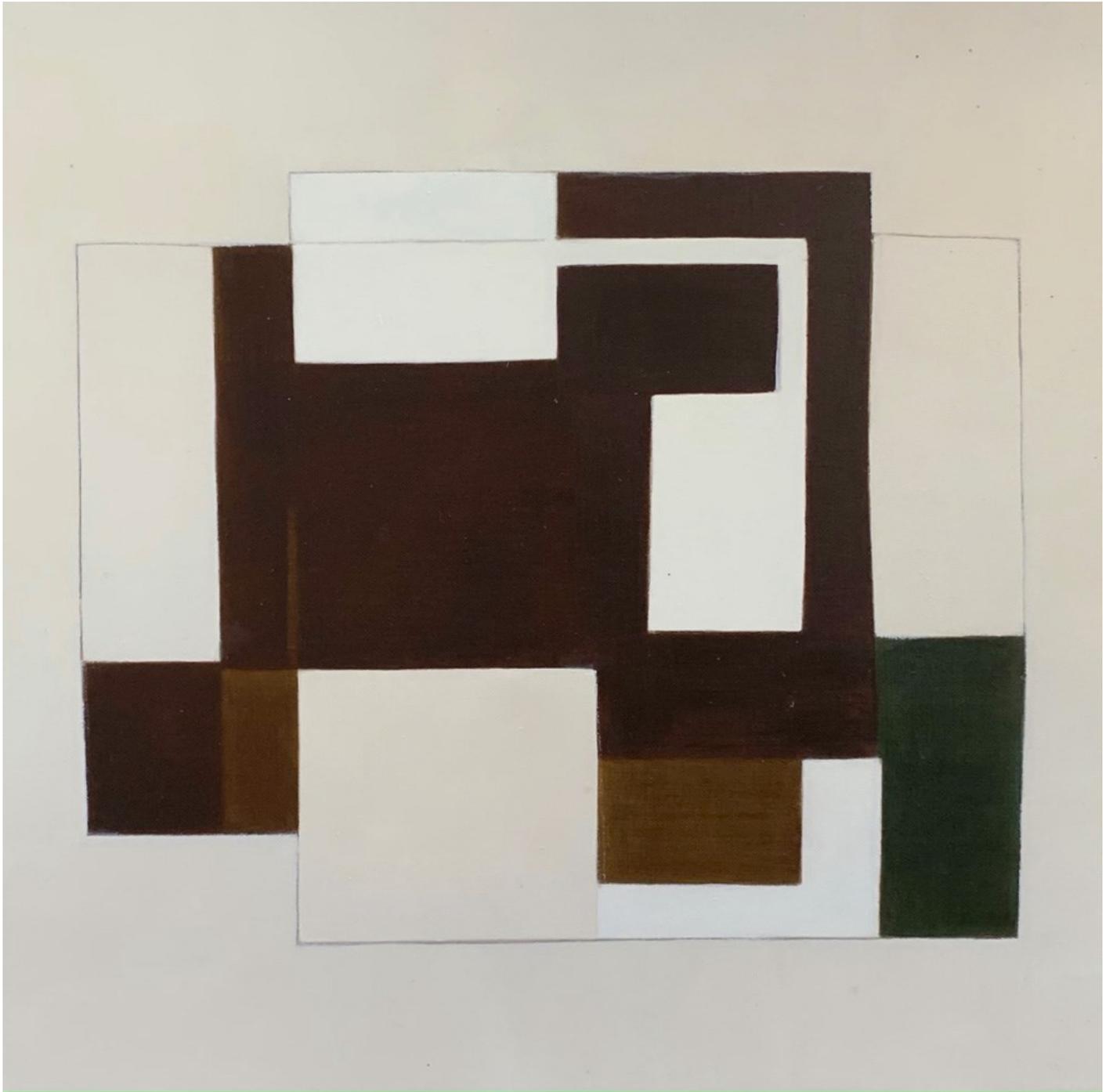
Sprocket Man 3, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1100



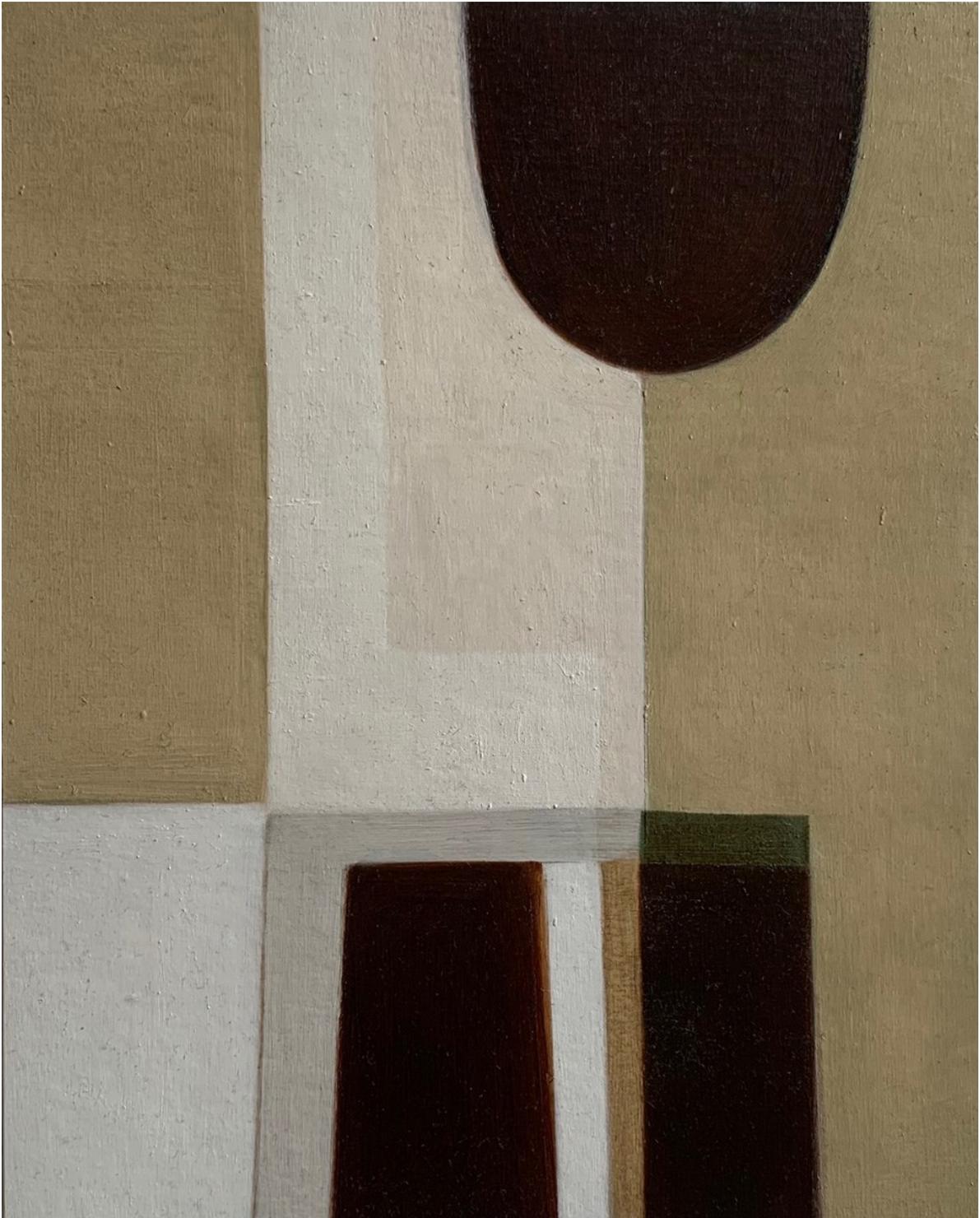
Limestone Block 6, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



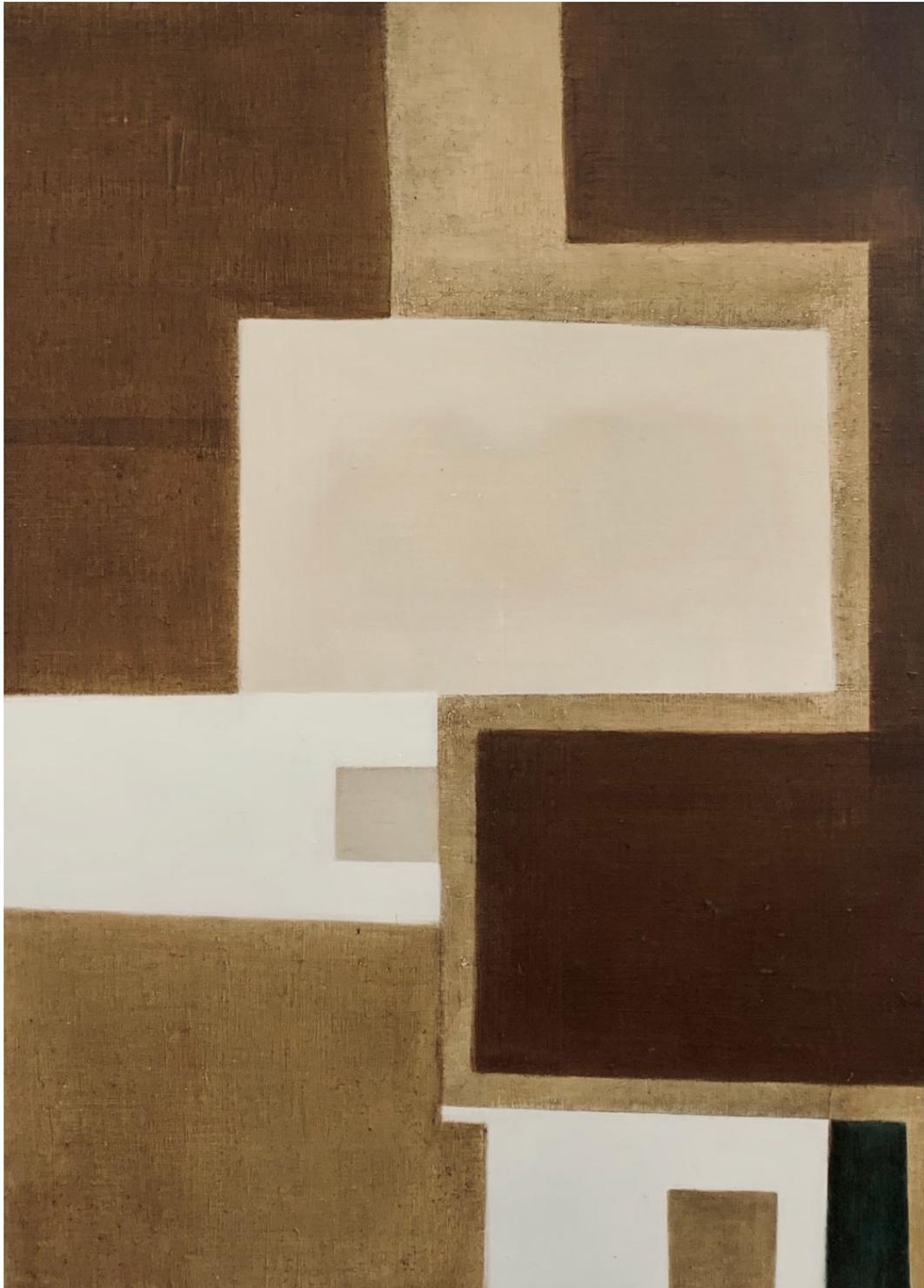
Limestone Block 4, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



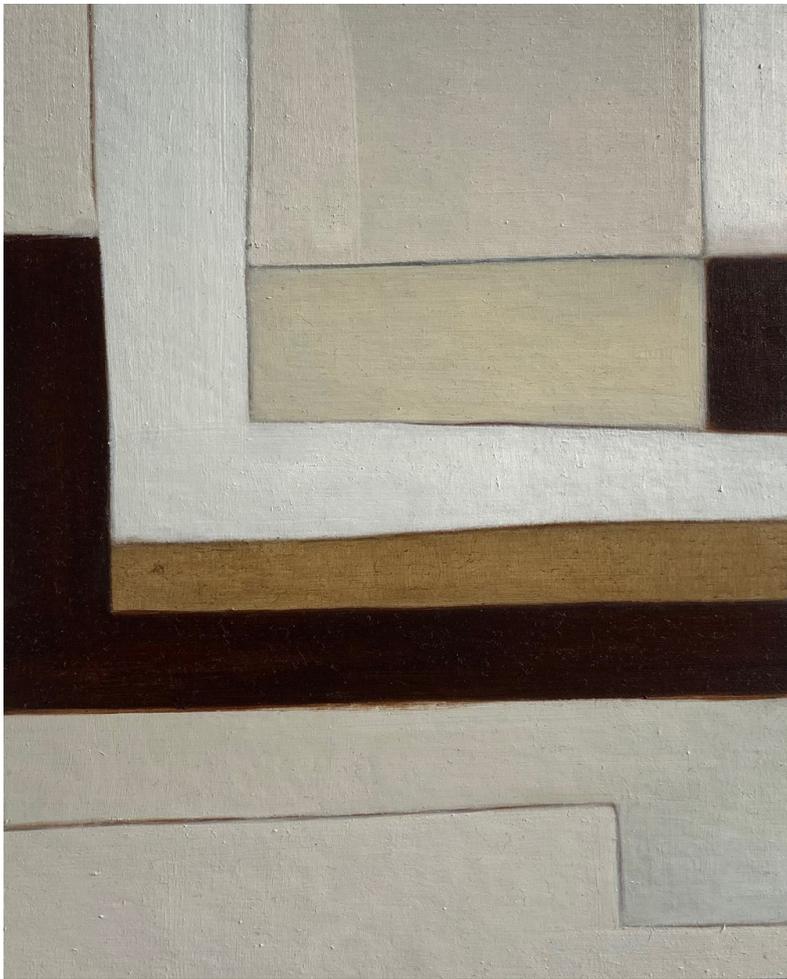
Sprocket Man 5, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
42cm H x 42cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1600



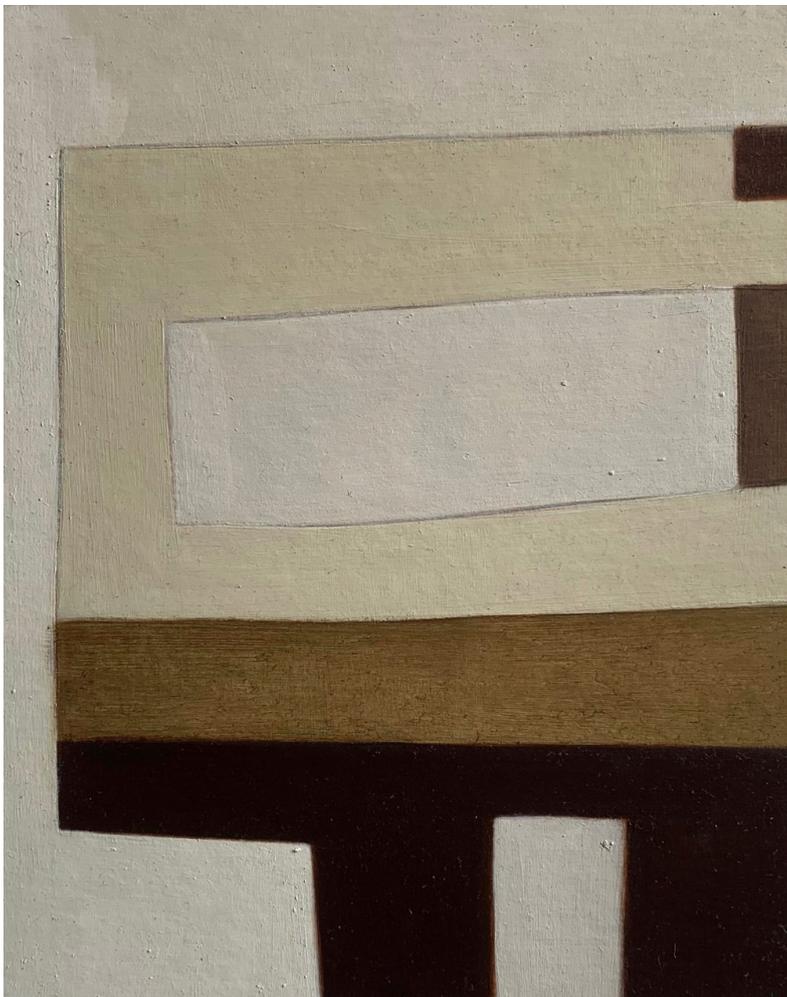
Limestone Block 1, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



Studio Garden 3, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
42cm H x 32cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$1400



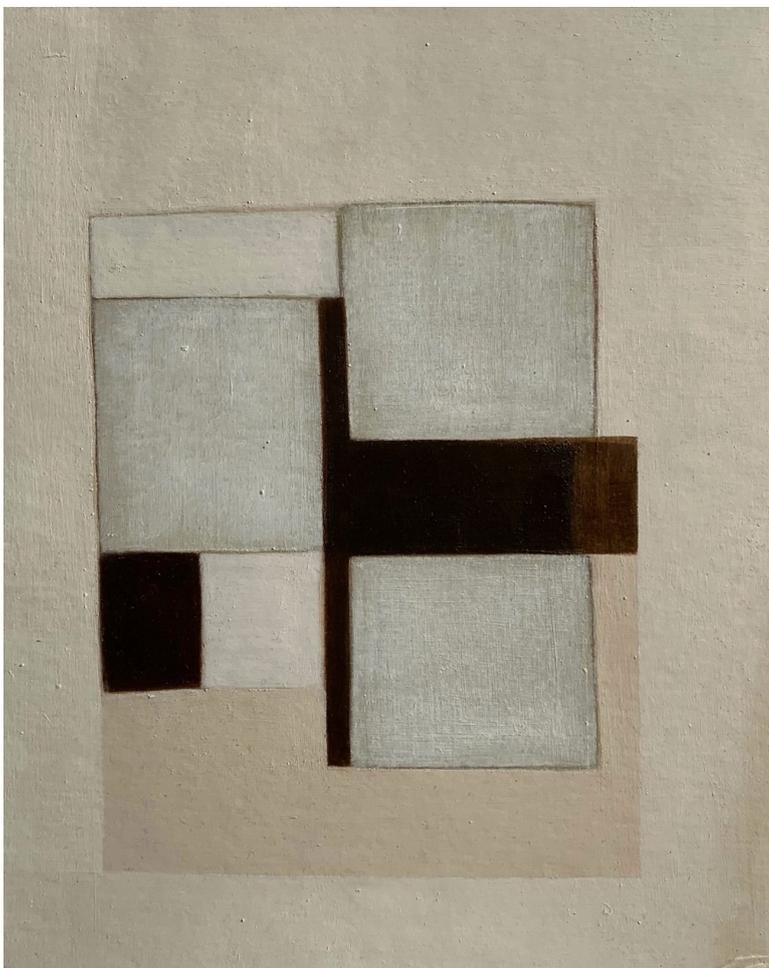
Limestone Block 2, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



Limestone Block 3, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



Limestone Block 8, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



Limestone Block 9, 2023
Oil, wax + pigment on board
32cm H x 22cm W
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$980



CURATORIAL+CO.

ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

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Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.