



CURATORIAL+CO.

AMBER HEARN

SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY 2024

My Body Makes Way For You

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'My Body Makes Way for You' is a series of self-portraits woven into landscapes that capture the anticipation of the arrival of Amber Hearn's daughter, speaking to both the emotional and physical shifts within the body. The works highlight the complexities of labour and childbirth, whilst encapsulating the symbiotic relationship between the pain and beauty of that experience.

These 'body-sized' paintings envelop the viewer, allowing them to experience both senses of expansion and contraction for themselves within the composition - for a moment assuming the dual experience of both mother and daughter. In her unconventional portraits, Hearn is presented as raw, unedited and evolving as the body prepares for an emergence - a new life. Vivid brush strokes create a sense of movement, embodying the ephemeral female body where organs shift and make space to nourish and nurture. Multiple layers of paint reveal the dynamic interplay of destruction and creation. Juxtapositions in the colour palette evoke the visceral sensations of curtaining flesh, blood, water and tears.

Central to the compositions are visual framing systems that denote a particular place. The geographic perspectives in Hearn's paintings reference specific times when she has felt safe. These include the view from her wardrobe where she prepared for birth; vistas of mountains; being encased in shower water (veils); and aerial views from a small aircraft with her father. Hearn often layers multiple perspectives to create abstract compositions that disorient the viewer, speaking to the varying emotions of her experiences. The most significant viewpoint is that of her own body seen from her eyes, and a view from the warmth of the womb seen by her daughter.

Alongside these perspectival indicators, Hearn has developed a personal language of motifs that reoccur as symbols in her works. In this series, mountains recur as bulbous feminine forms; painted milk veils act as curtains for the reveal; and orthogonal lines invoke the 'safe' boundaries of a tennis court from her childhood. By repeating the forms, she creates parameters of the familiar and a sense of comfort.

As with her earlier works, she uses this repetitious language as a way of leading herself through challenging personal narratives.

Of this post-partum series Hearn says: *"I find myself translating my visceral internal sphere directly through the landscapes of the mountains I currently inhabit. Embracing a primal, immediate space, rainy mountains transform into gushing milk, river gorges symbolise waters breaking, and breast-like mountains and openings emerge. It's an exploration of 'being in the world', where the observer fades away, and the canvas becomes a vessel for the overflow of self."*



My Body Makes Way For You, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

156 x 141 x 5 cm

Framed in Tasmanian oak

\$ 6,500



Mother Told Me, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

156 x 141 x 5 cm

Framed in Tasmanian oak

\$ 6,500



The Stars Told Me About You, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

156 x 141 x 5 cm

Framed in Tasmanian oak

\$ 6,500



Mother Court, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
156 x 141 x 5 cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$ 6,500



Labour in My Wardrobe, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

156 x 141 x 5 cm

Framed in Tasmanian oak

\$ 6,500



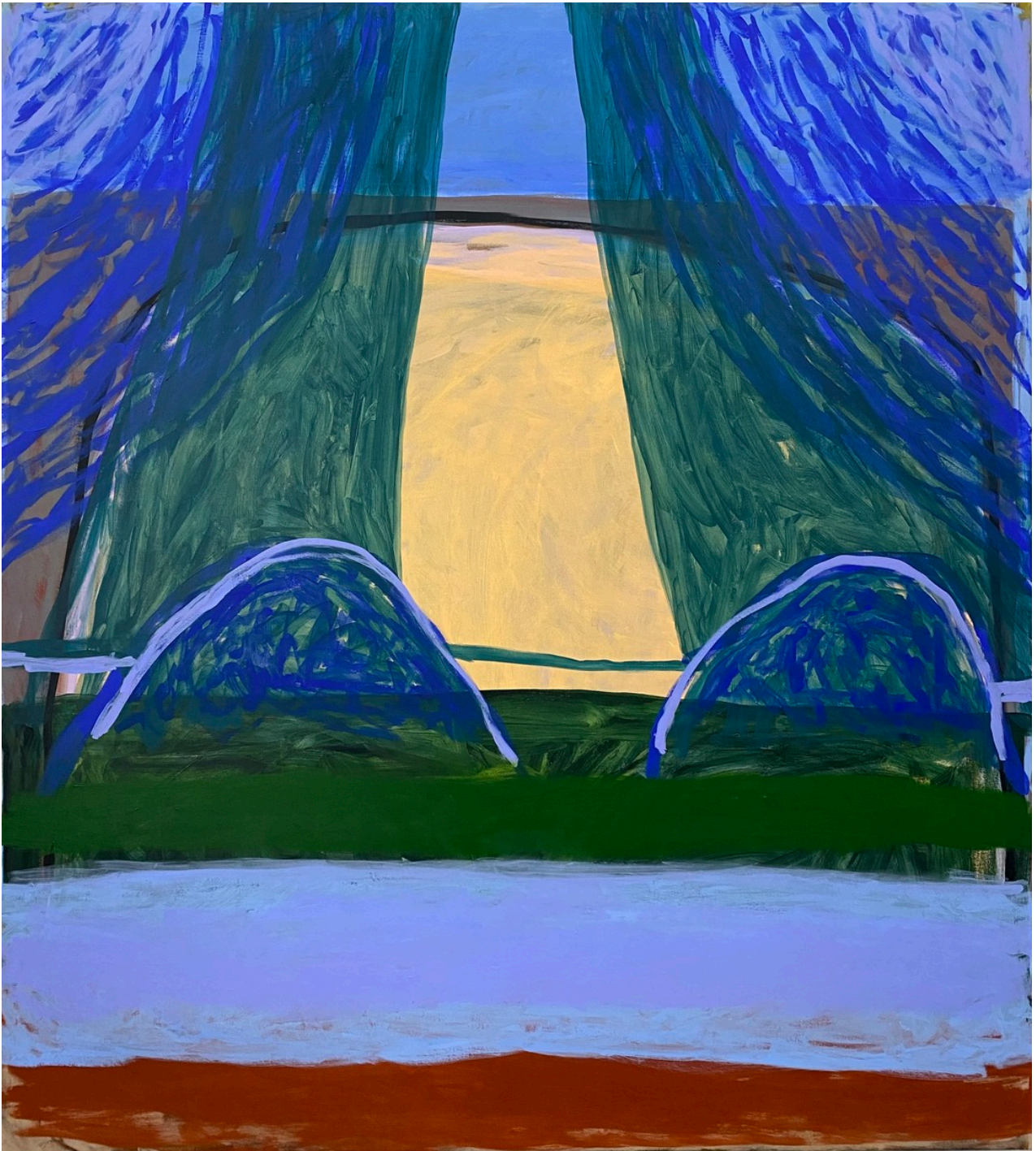
All of Me is Me, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

141 x 116 x 5 cm

Framed in Tasmanian oak

\$ 5,200



Birth Court, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
156 x 141 x 5 cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$ 6,500



Echo in My Waters, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
141 x 116 x 5 cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$ 5,200



My Waterways, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
141 x 116 x 5 cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$ 5,200



Ready to Emerge, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
141 x 116 x 5 cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$ 5,200



Surrender to Her, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
141 x 116 x 5 cm
Framed in Tasmanian oak
\$ 5,200



As You Enter, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

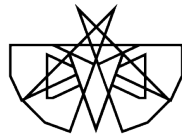
141 x 116 x 5 cm

Framed in Tasmanian oak

\$ 5,200



Photography: Tomm Hearn



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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, and present.