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SPACE IS PUNK
Paula Turmina

Paula Turmina
(Brazil. 1991)

Paula Turmina is a multidisciplinary artist based in London. She holds an MA in Painting from the Slade School of Fine Art (2021) and a BA from Wimbledon College of Arts (2016). Her practice explores the shifting boundaries between the human body, animals, plants, and the landscape, drawing on planetary thinking, soil ecologies, and speculative fiction. Red hues run through her palette, anchoring the work in her research about the colonial exploitation of brazilwood and the future of Mars.

Paula's painterly connection to earthly dwellings is driven by the poetic investigation of Earth as a living entity. In its absurdist approach, the idea of orienting oneself towards a major planetary body reveals an overwhelming task, and with it, the limits imposed by the physical aspect of the body. It is within this embodied condition that her work finds form, with each work becoming a gesture offering evidence of life within matter.

Recurring throughout Turmina's compositions are human figures, ants, and plants, rendered in desert-like environments embraced by the sun. These elements appear not as static symbols, but as agents within a dance of relation, twisting and turning in an ongoing negotiation of power and transformation. Through this interplay, Turmina's work invites a reimagining of intimacy, resistance, and the porous borders between living beings, often questioning the ways in which we may have to adapt in order to ensure our survival in the future

Paula Turmina (n. 1991, Brasil) es una artista multidisciplinaria radicada en Londres. Cuenta con una maestría (MA) en Pintura de la Slade School of Fine Art (2021) y una licenciatura (BA) del Wimbledon College of Arts (2016). Su práctica explora los límites cambiantes entre el cuerpo humano, los animales, las plantas y el paisaje, apoyándose en el pensamiento planetario, las ecologías del suelo y la ficción especulativa. Los tonos rojos atraviesan su paleta, anclando su obra en su investigación sobre la explotación colonial del palo de Brasil y el futuro de Marte.

La conexión pictórica de Paula con los espacios habitados terrestres está impulsada por una investigación poética de la Tierra como una entidad viva. En su enfoque absurdista, la idea de orientarse hacia un cuerpo planetario mayor revela una tarea abrumadora y, con ello, los límites impuestos por la dimensión física del cuerpo. Es dentro de esta condición encarnada donde su obra encuentra forma, convirtiéndose cada pieza en un gesto que ofrece evidencia de vida dentro de la materia.

A lo largo de las composiciones de Turmina aparecen de manera recurrente figuras humanas, hormigas y plantas, representadas en entornos desérticos bañados por el sol. Estos elementos no funcionan como símbolos estáticos, sino como agentes dentro de una danza de relaciones, girando y entrelazándose en una negociación constante de poder y transformación. A través de esta interacción, la obra de Turmina invita a reimaginar la intimidad, la resistencia y las fronteras porosas entre los seres vivos, cuestionando a menudo las formas en que podríamos tener que adaptarnos para asegurar nuestra supervivencia en el futuro.

SPACE IS PUNK

Space Is Punk is the first solo exhibition by London-based Brazilian artist **Paula Turmina**. The works presented in this exhibition have been created specifically for the occasion and unfold through a distinct visual language informed by 20th-century avant-garde movements such as Futurism and latinamerican Modernism. They revolve around a theme that is both urgent and poetic: the conquest of space.

Space Is Punk takes as its point of departure a 1961 statement published in Jornal do Brasil: “the cosmos must belong to everyone.” Echoing Brazil’s early position in debates on the governance of outer space, the exhibition reflects on the shifting status of the cosmos—from a shared site of imagination and guidance to a contested domain shaped by geopolitical power, extraction, and surveillance.

Bringing together painting and research, the project examines how outer space has historically informed cosmologies and collective imaginaries, while increasingly becoming entangled in systems of control and privatization. In contrast to these forces, the works propose a return to more intuitive, embodied, and spiritual ways of relating to the cosmos—understood not as a distant frontier, but as something that moves through bodies, stories, and everyday life.

This perspective is informed by the artist’s experience of growing up in the Brazilian countryside, where the night sky functioned as a space of reflection and desire. Today, that same sky is mediated by satellites and technologies that transform wonder into uncertainty. This shift is reflected in a series of paintings in which elongated, fluid bodies appear shaped by shifting gravitational forces, guided less by rational structure than by intuitive, cosmic pull.

Materially, the works incorporate pigments derived from black tourmaline sourced in Brazil, foregrounding the connection between speculative imagery and geological matter. Associated with protection and grounding, the mineral underscores how even fictional worlds are rooted in physical and cultural realities shaped by extraction.

The title, Space Is Punk, frames space as both intimate and expansive—personal, social, and cosmic—while “punk” signals resistance, disorder, and the refusal of control. Together, they challenge the logic of domination that underpins contemporary space exploration, embracing instead its multiplicity and unpredictability.

The project is informed by ongoing conversations with Lucian Walkowicz and Cris Van Eijk, whose interdisciplinary perspectives bring critical insight into the political, social, and imaginative dimensions of outer space.

Space Is Punk es la primera exposición individual de la artista brasileña radicada en Londres, **Paula Turmina**. Las obras presentadas en esta muestra han sido creadas específicamente para la ocasión y se despliegan a través de un lenguaje visual distintivo, influenciado por movimientos de vanguardia del siglo XX como el Futurismo y el modernismo latinoamericano. Giran en torno a un tema que es a la vez urgente y poético: la conquista del espacio.

Space Is Punk toma como punto de partida una declaración de 1961 publicada en Jornal do Brasil: “el cosmos debe pertenecer a todos”. Retomando la posición temprana de Brasil en los debates sobre la gobernanza del espacio exterior, la exposición reflexiona sobre el cambiante estatus del cosmos: de ser un territorio compartido de imaginación y orientación, a convertirse en un dominio disputado, moldeado por el poder geopolítico, la extracción y la vigilancia.

Al reunir pintura e investigación, el proyecto examina cómo el espacio exterior ha influido históricamente en las cosmologías y los imaginarios colectivos, al mismo tiempo que se ha ido entrelazando con sistemas de control y privatización. En contraste con estas fuerzas, las obras proponen un retorno a formas más intuitivas, encarnadas y espirituales de relacionarse con el cosmos, entendido no como una frontera lejana, sino como algo que atraviesa los cuerpos, las historias y la vida cotidiana.

Esta perspectiva está informada por la experiencia de la artista al crecer en el campo brasileño, donde el cielo nocturno funcionaba como un espacio de reflexión y deseo. Hoy, ese mismo cielo está mediado por satélites y tecnologías que transforman el asombro en incertidumbre. Este cambio se refleja en una serie de pinturas en las que cuerpos alargados y fluidos parecen moldeados por fuerzas gravitacionales cambiantes, guiados menos por una estructura racional que por una atracción cósmica intuitiva.

A nivel material, las obras incorporan pigmentos derivados de turmalina negra proveniente de Brasil, enfatizando la conexión entre la imaginería especulativa y la materia geológica. Asociado con la protección y el arraigo, este mineral subraya cómo incluso los mundos ficticios están anclados en realidades físicas y culturales moldeadas por la extracción.

El título, Space Is Punk, presenta el espacio como algo tanto íntimo como expansivo—personal, social y cósmico—mientras que “punk” señala resistencia, desorden y la negativa al control. En conjunto, desafían la lógica de dominación que sustenta la exploración espacial contemporánea, abrazando en su lugar su multiplicidad e imprevisibilidad.

El proyecto está informado por conversaciones en curso con Lucian Walkowicz y Cris Van Eijk, cuyas perspectivas interdisciplinarias aportan una mirada crítica sobre las dimensiones políticas, sociales e imaginativas del espacio exterior.

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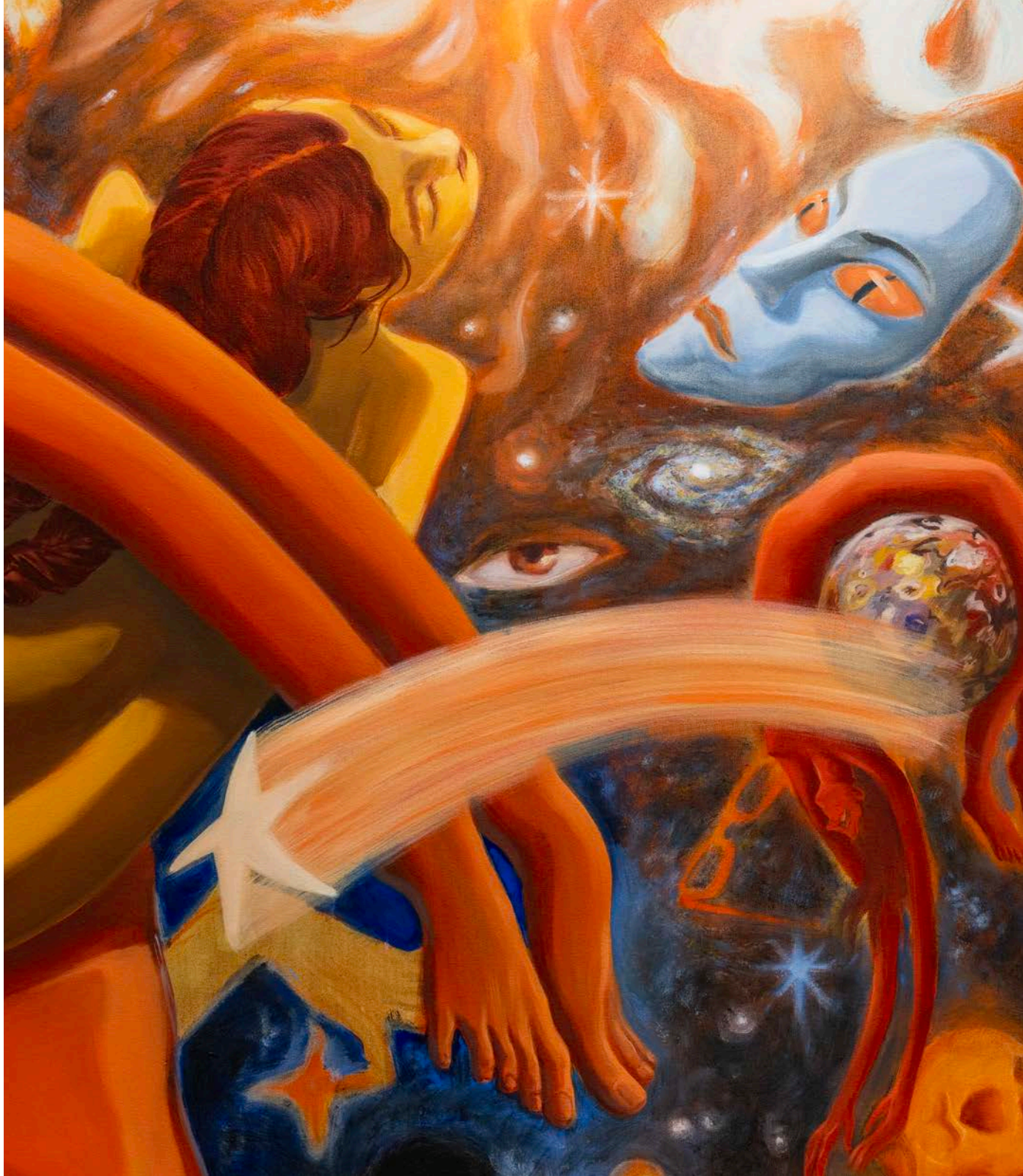
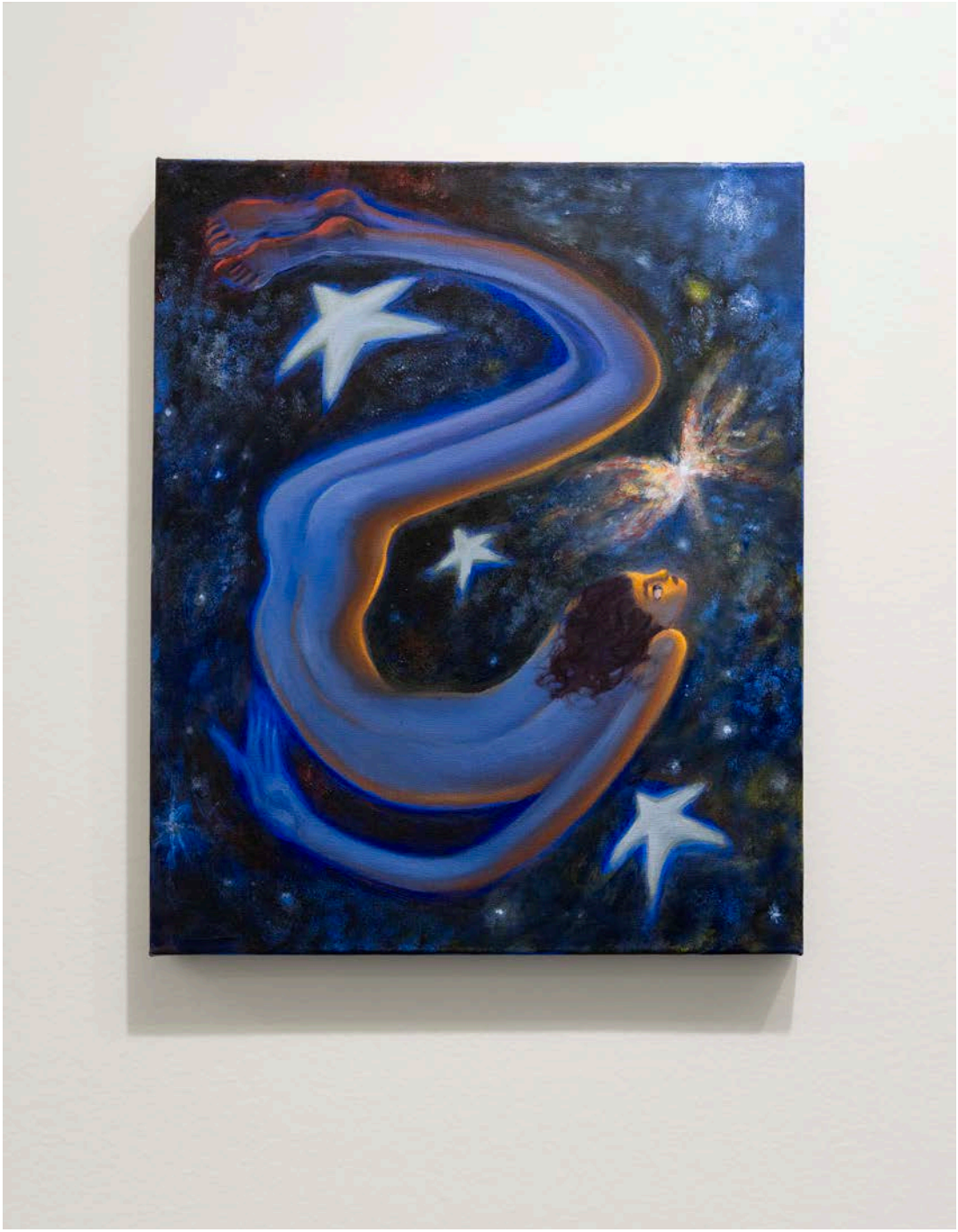
Paula Turmina
Space is punk, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
170 X 200 cm



Detail /Detalle. *Space is punk*, 2026



Paula Turmina
Blue Mary, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
55 X 45 cm

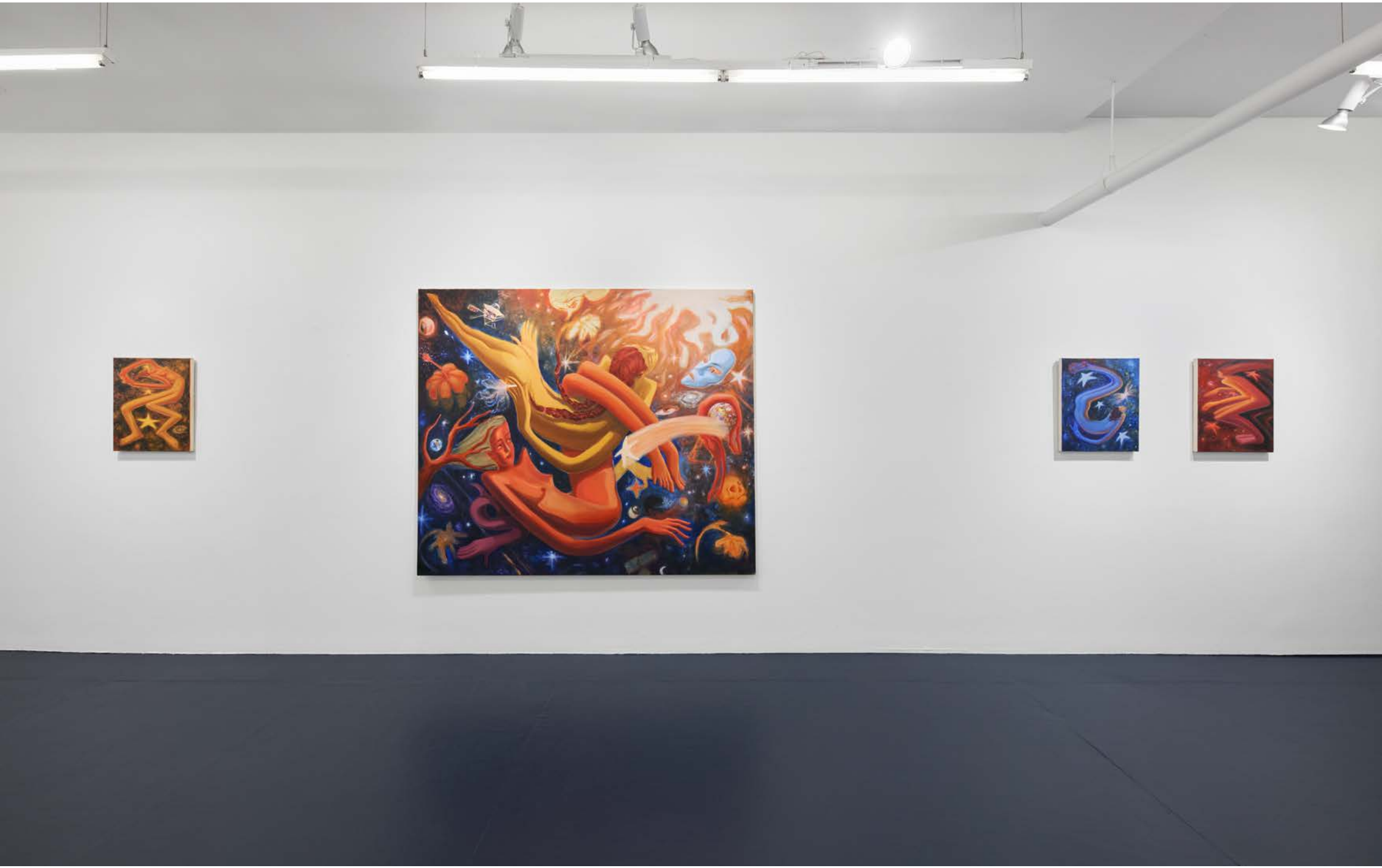
Detail /Detalle. ***Blue Mary***, 2026

Paula Turmina
Red Mary, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
55 X 45 cm

Paula Turmina
Earthbound, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
40 X 55 cm

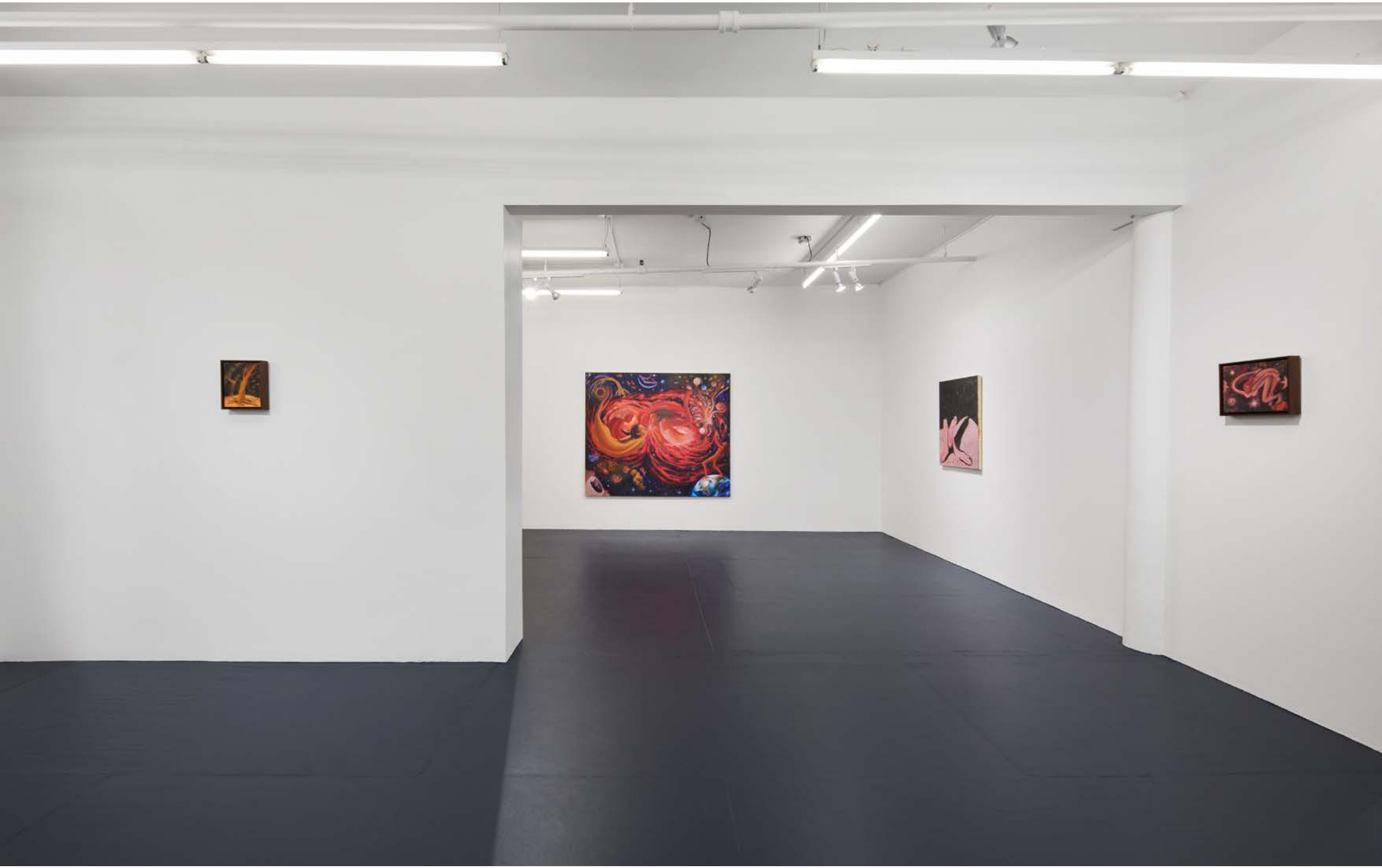
Paula Turmina
Spaghettification, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
30 x 30 cm

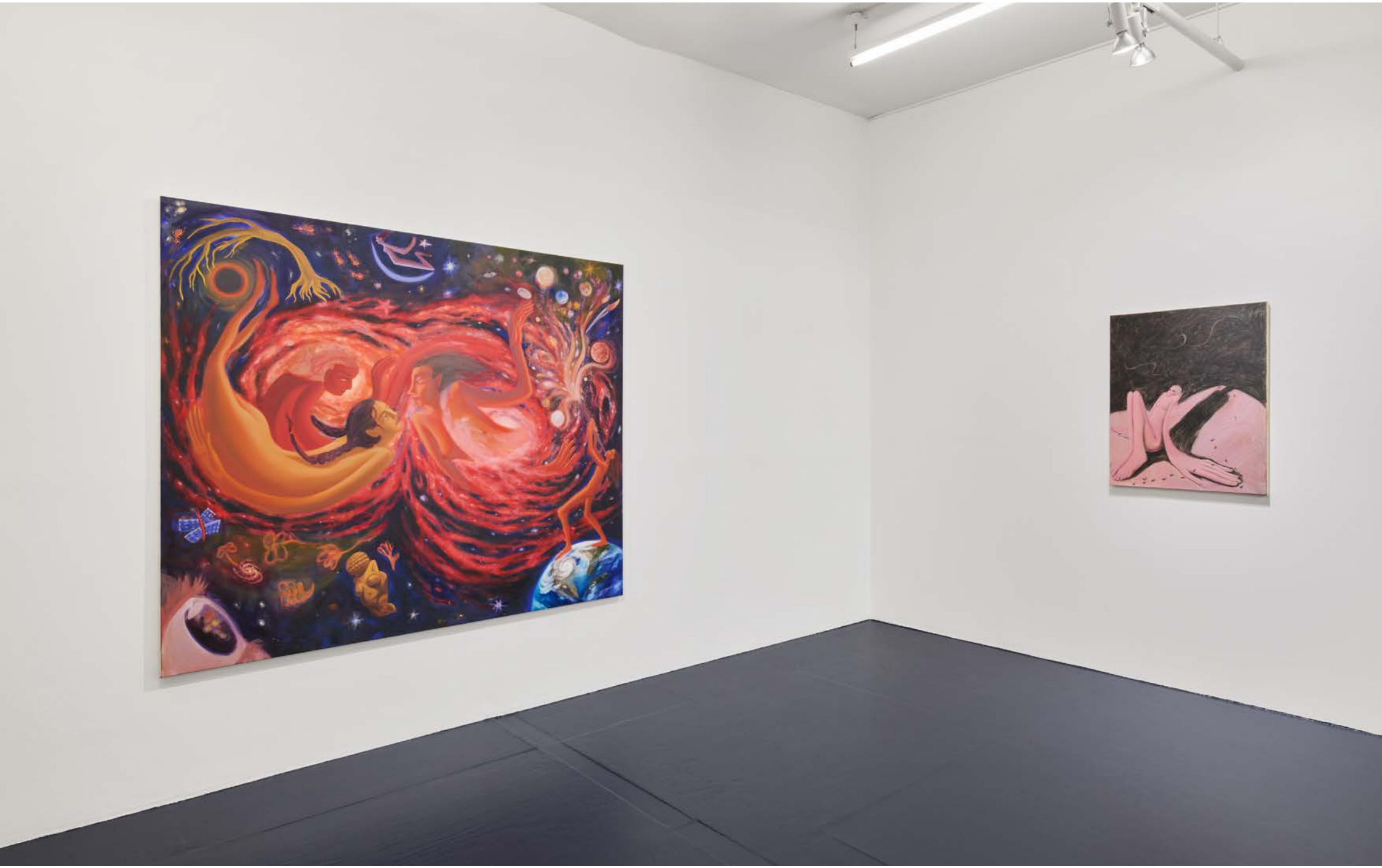
Detail /Detalle. *Spaghettification*, 2026



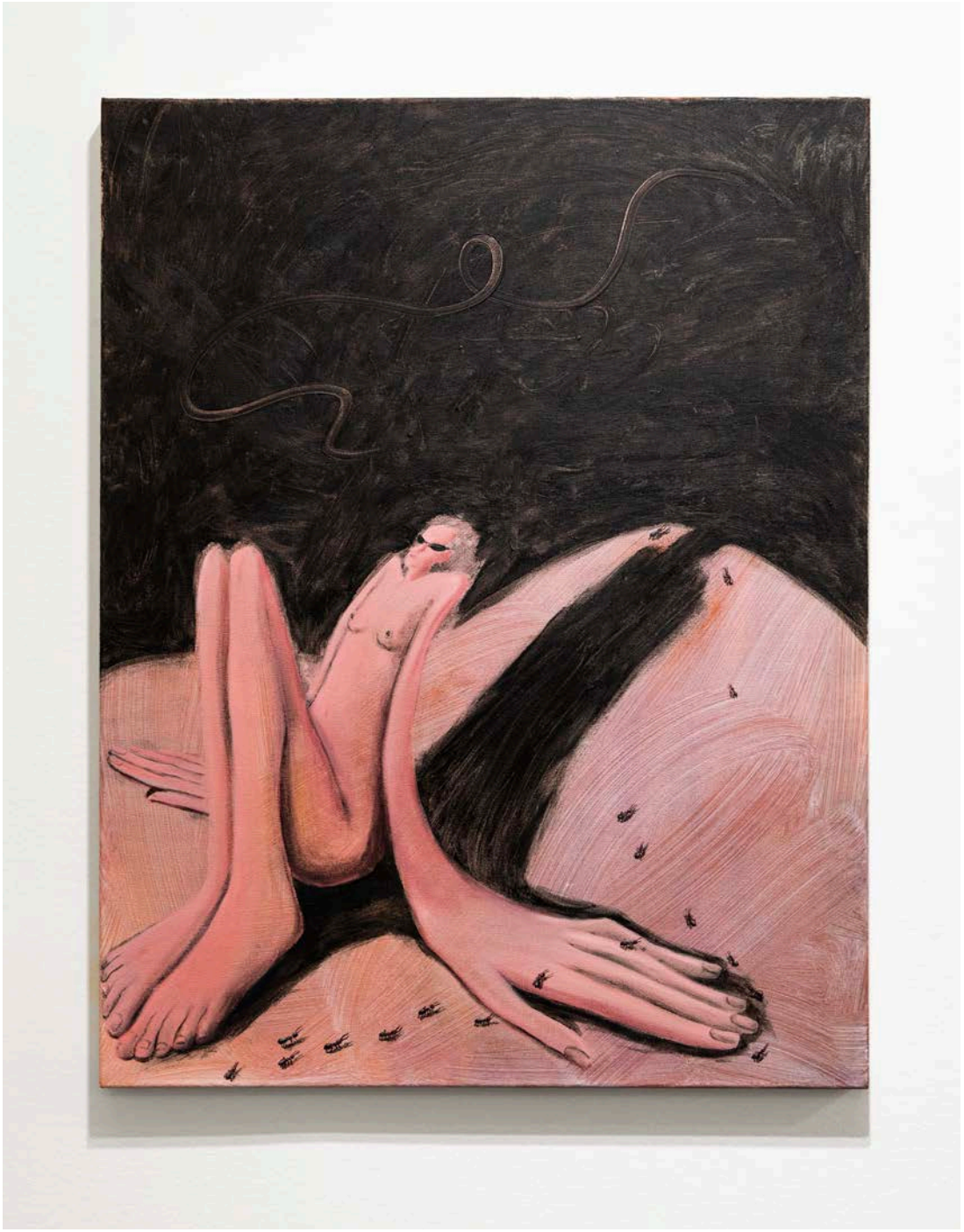
Paula Turmina
Yellow Mary, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
55 X 45 cm

Detail /Detalle. ***Yellow Mary***, 2026



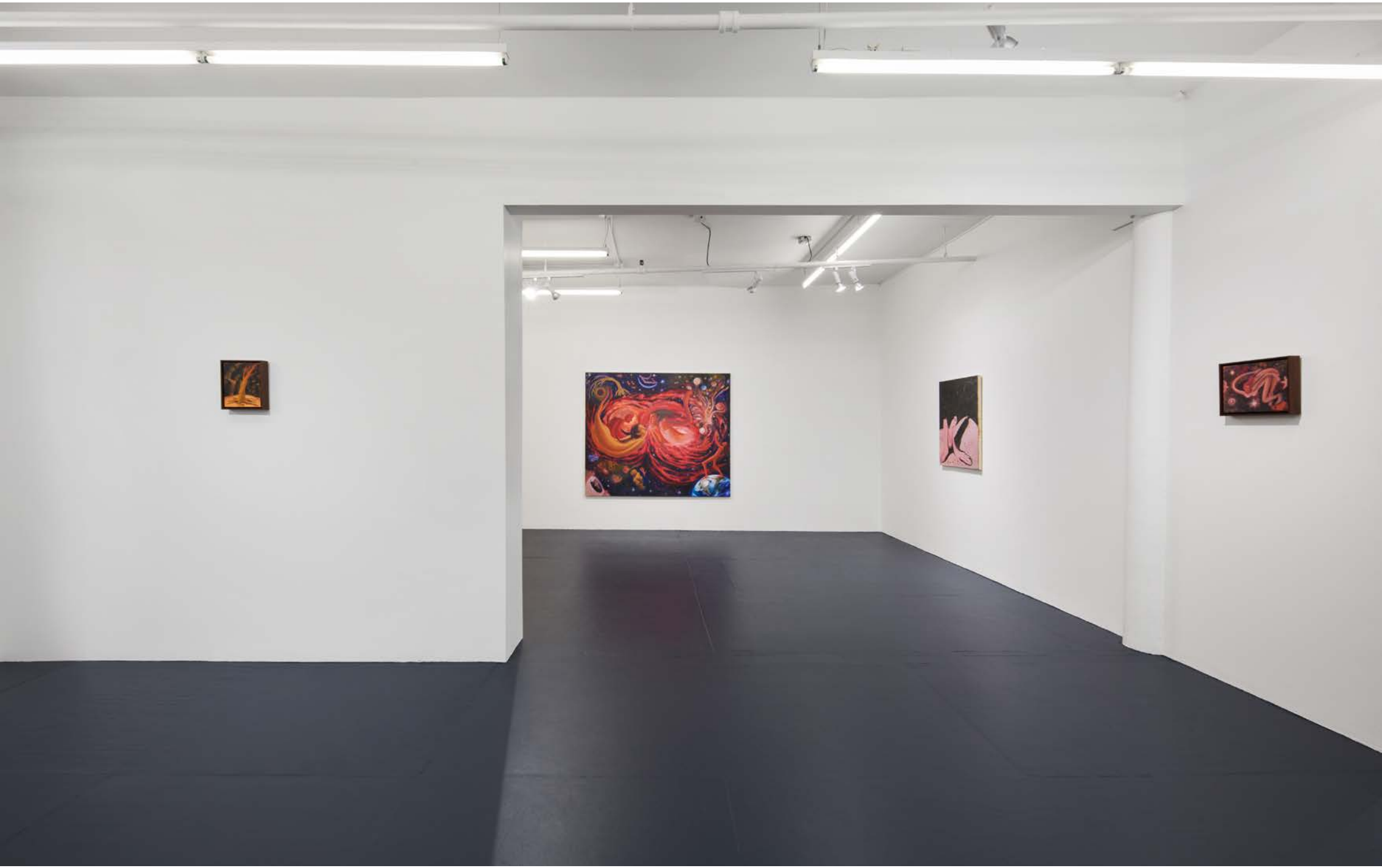


Paula Turmina
Galaxies colliding, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
170 X 200 cm

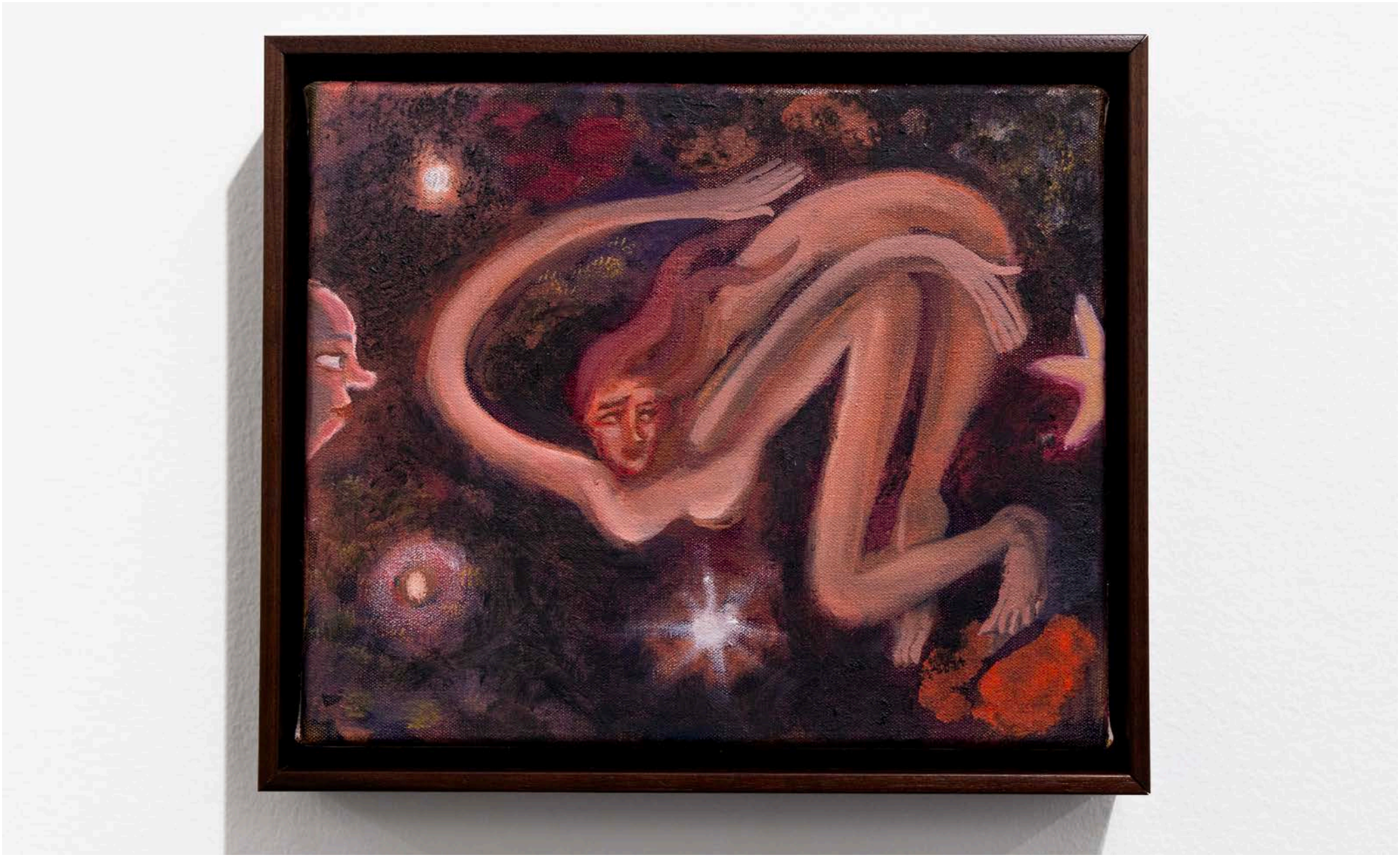


Paula Turmina
Untitled, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
90 X 70 cm

Detail /Detalle. ***Untitled***, 2026

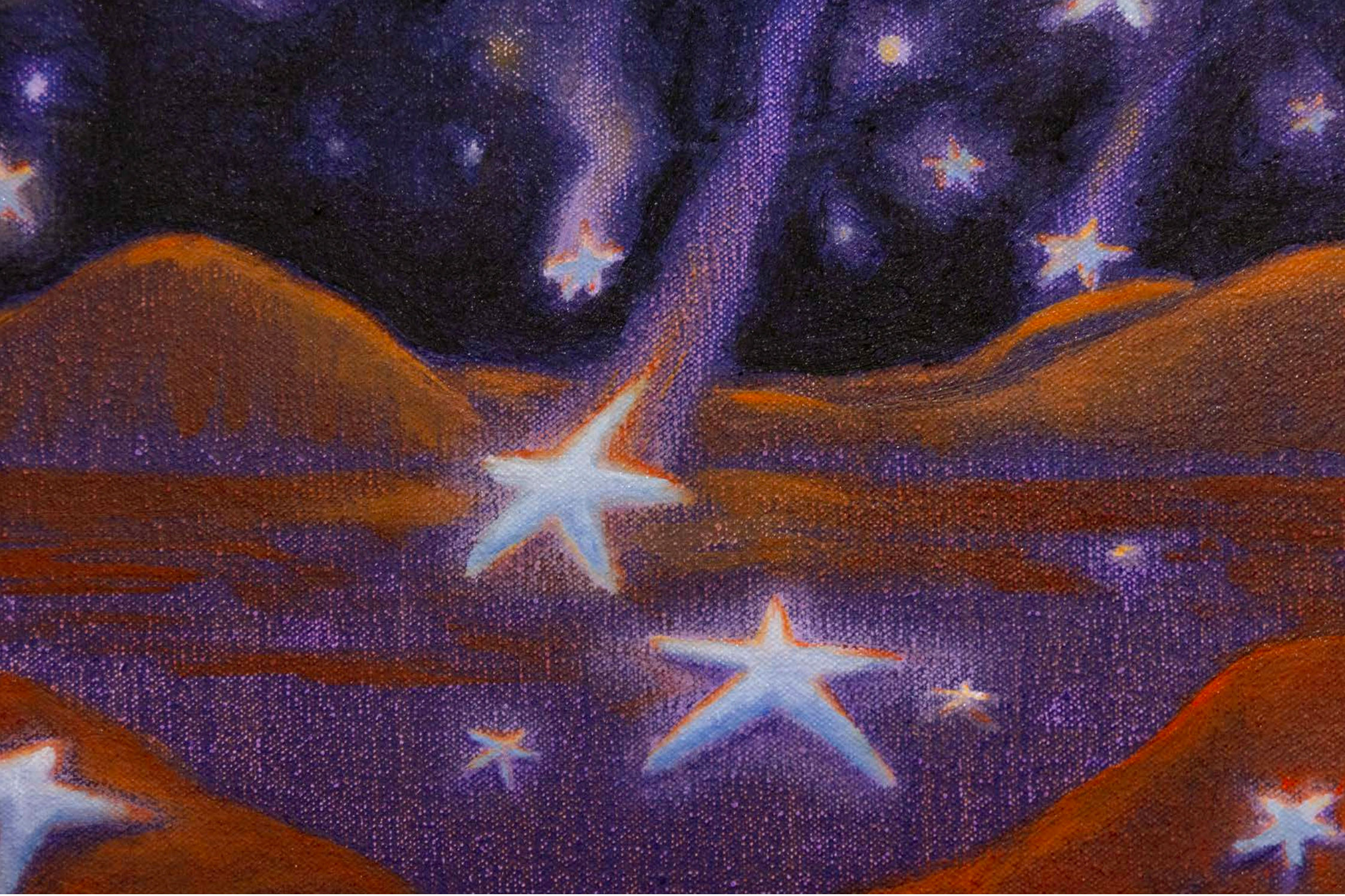


Paula Turmina
Tree, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
30 x 25 cm

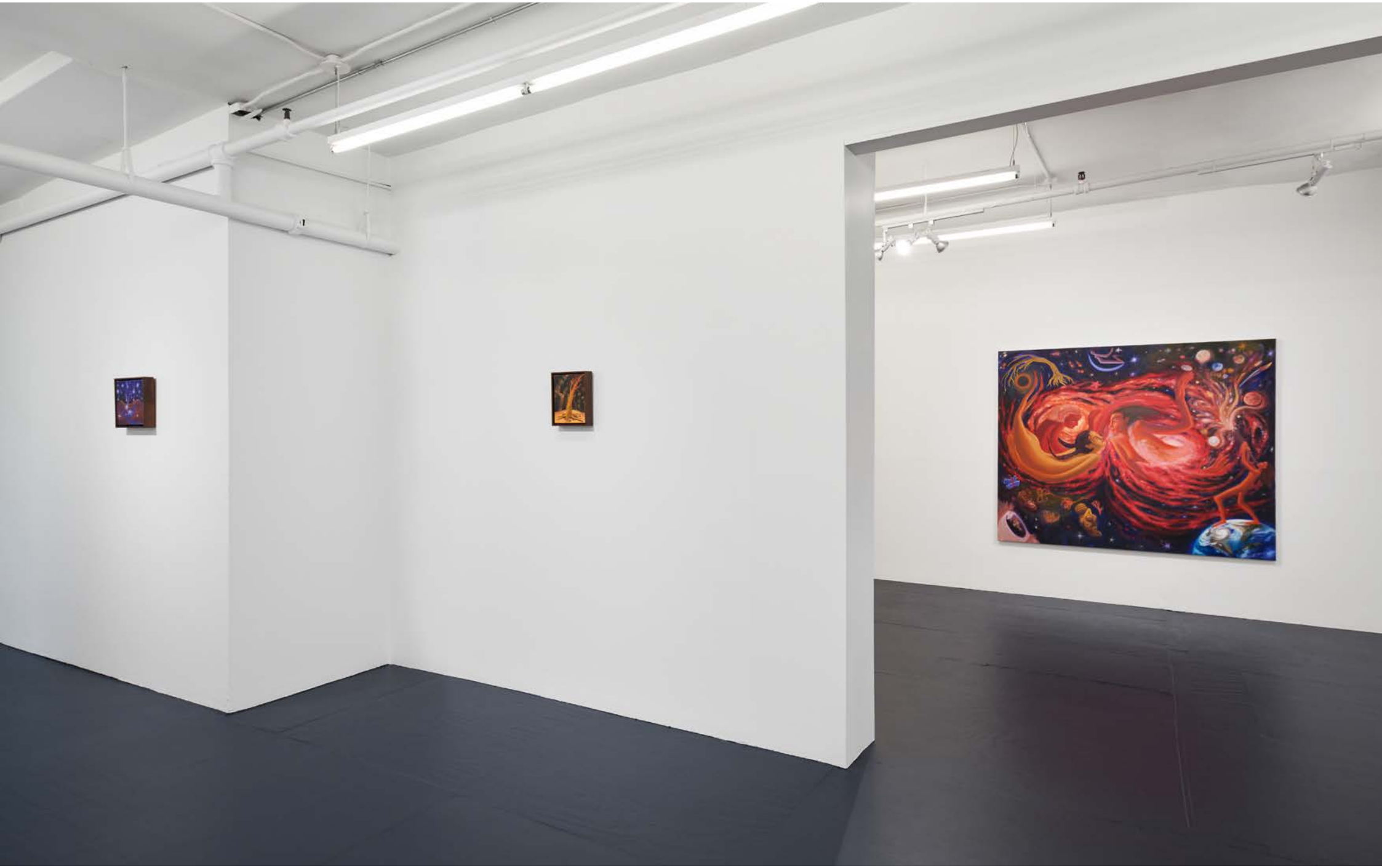


Paula Turmina
Spatial awareness, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
30 x 25 cm

Paula Turmina
Falling sky, 2026
Oil and tourmaline on canvas / Óleo y turmalina sobre lienzo
30 X 25 cm



Detail /Detalle. ***Falling sky***, 2026



Paula Turmina
(Brazil. 1991)

EDUCATION / EDUCACIÓN

2021 M.A. Fine Art: Painting, Slade School of Fine Art (UCL), London, UK
2016 B.A. (Hons) Fine Art: Painting, Wimbledon College of Arts (UAL), London, UK

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSICIONES SELECCIONADAS

2025 "The cave in the mind", Ione & Mann Gallery, London, UK
"Mutable Landscapes", Mama Projects, New York, USA

2024 "Terrenos Maleables", exposición individual, Ambar Quijano Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
"Daffodils Bathed in Butter", The Arts Club, London, UK
"Drawn (in)to the Land", exposición individual, Andrew Reed Gallery, Miami, USA
CAN Art Fair, Lamb Gallery, Ibiza, Spain
"Making Kin", Studio West Gallery, London, UK
"Three Graces", Unit Gallery, London, UK

2023 "Thriving through (chaos)", exposición individual, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK
"Surrealism and Witchcraft", Lamb Gallery, London, UK
"Membrane", exposición individual, Sens Gallery, Hong Kong
"Tomorrow is tomorrow is tomorrow", Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK
"Nature Holds a Mirror", Ambar Quijano, online

2022 "There is Nothing New Under the Sun, but There Are New Suns", Mama Projects, Bienvenue Art Fair, Paris, France
"In Transit, Our Memory Fragments", Chelsea Space, London, UK
"The Red Room", Berntson Bhattacharjee Gallery, London, UK
"Wish Lush", Kravitz Contemporary, London, UK
"Liquid Frictions", Ambar Quijano, online
"Decomposição e Fetiche", Vivian Caccuri Atelier, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2021 "Summer Show 2021", Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK
"Spiral Trap", Lewisham Art House, London, UK
"In Reverie", Acava Studios, London, UK
"Female Gaze", Kupfer Gallery at Artsy, online
"Up Close and Personal", The Curators x Dynamisk, online
"It's a Strange World", Heloisa Genish x Vortic.art, online
"Sun Worshippers", Goldmali Gallery, online

2020 "Polinizações Cruzadas", online platform by Bruno Kurru
"Casa da Escada Colorida", ArtRio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
"London Grads Now", Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
"CAC Trust Recipients 2020", Chelsea Arts Club, London, UK

2019 "Neo Norte 2.0", Exposed Arts Project, London, UK
"Plants Speak, If We Listen" Symposium II, Chisenhale Studios, London, UK
"Plants Speak, If We Listen" Symposium I, Blacktower Projects, London, UK
"Cartoons and Cereals", Offshoot Gallery, London, UK
"Hoc Eva", Eve Leibe Gallery, London, UK
"Speculative Immersion: Multimedia Anthropology in the Anthropocene", UCL, London, UK
"OPEN: Emotional Practices", RCA, London, UK
"Research Images as Art / Art Images as Research", UCL, London, UK
"Anthropologies", TAM, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria
"Pulling Teeth", ASC Gallery, London, UK

2018 "Latin America Myth Deconstruction", Crypt Gallery, London, UK

AWARDS / PREMIOS

2020 Zsuzsi Roboz Award, Chelsea Arts Club, London, UK

SELECTED RESIDENCIES / RESIDENCIAS SELECCIONADAS

2024 GIRLPOWER Residency, Pech Gris, France
2021 Casa da Escada Colorida, residencia online (6 meses, agosto 2020 – abril 2021), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2019 Winsor & Newton Residency, The Fine Art Collective, London, UK

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