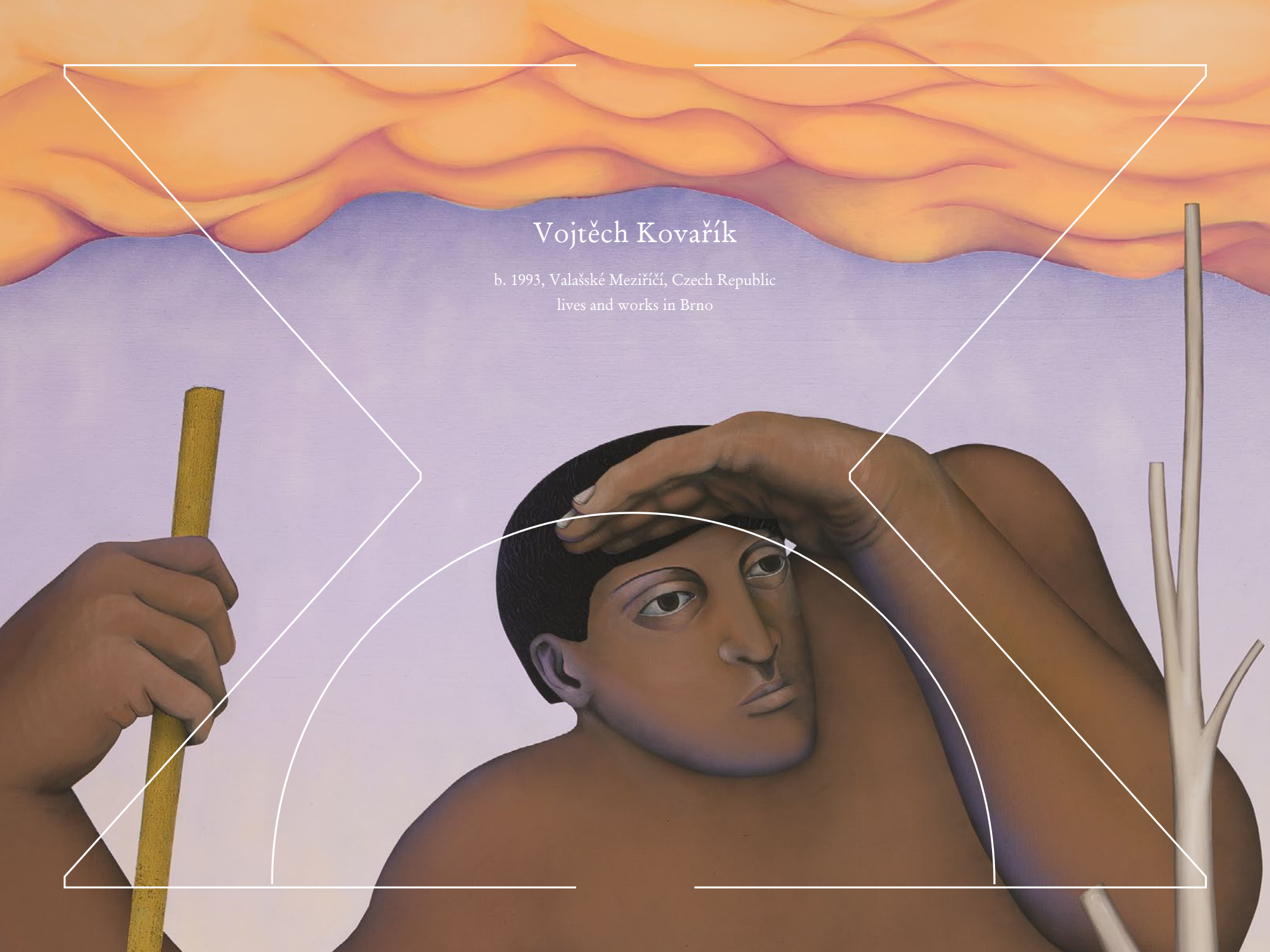




Vojtěch Kovařík

b. 1993, Valašské Meziříčí, Czech Republic
lives and works in Brno



Iconography and mythology lie at the heart of Vojtěch Kovařík's paintings, whose large, boldly colored compositions recall the weight of sculpture. The Czech artist's contorted Herculean figures appear trapped within the frame, their blue, green, and yellow flesh set against lush, vibrant botanical backgrounds, depicted in conflicting states of both physical and psychological grace and restlessness.

Trained in ceramics and sculpture, Kovařík only later gravitated to painting through a self-taught approach of mixing oil, acrylic, and spray paint to suggest reliefs on a flat surface. Figures from Greek mythology, as well as pop culture references, appear across series that fully embrace figuration.

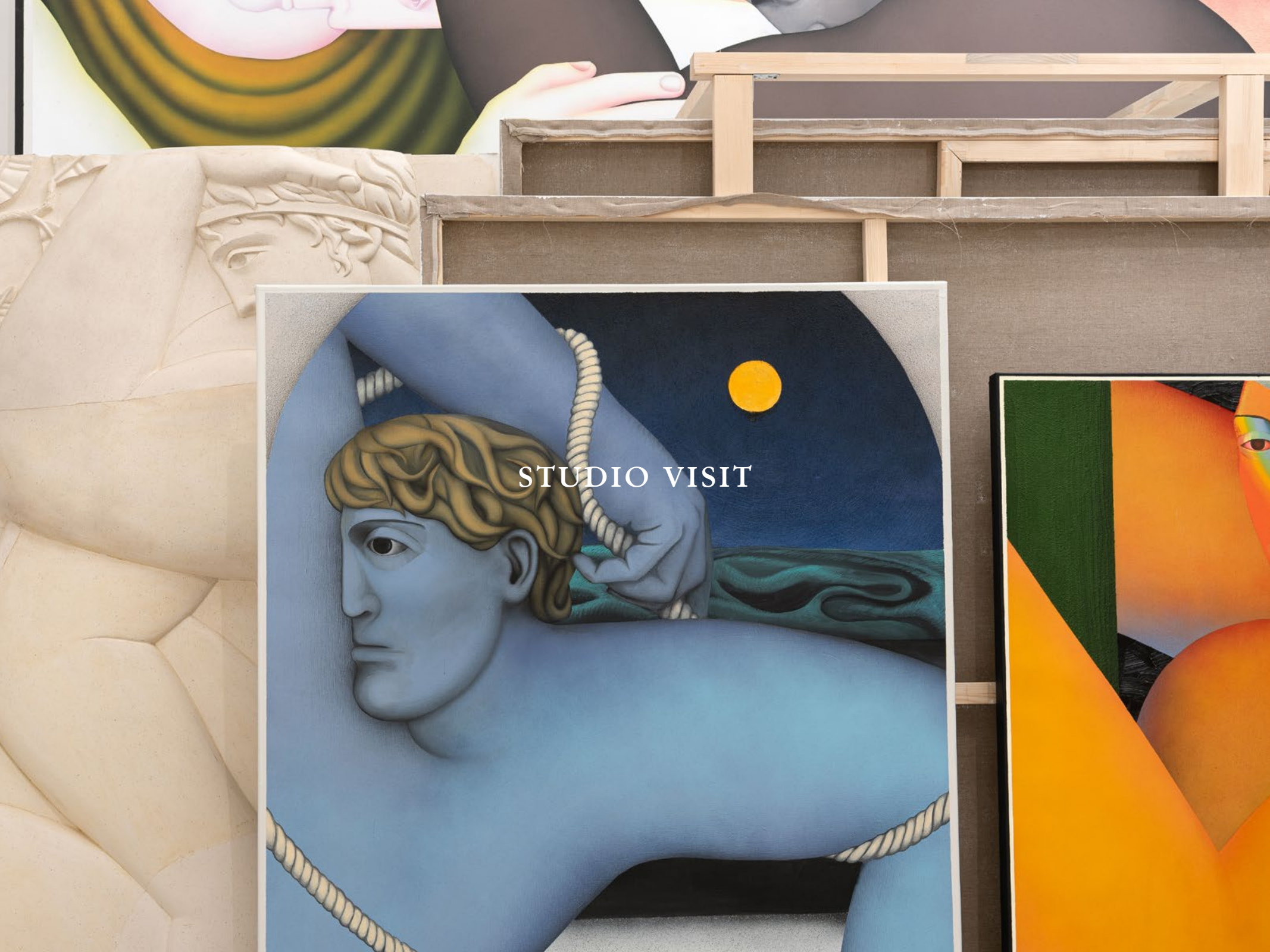
His incorporation of Greek mythology into his practice stems from its significance in the European cultural and collective unconscious, but Kovařík subverts its meaning by reconstructing its most prominent characters.

One can observe that Kovařík's tone frequently shifts between violence and absurdity. His exaggerated, flaunting masculine forms become caricatures and objects of curiosity. Through this distortion, Kovařík challenges conventional notions of strength and power.

Vojtěch Kovařík (b. 1993, Valašské Meziříčí, Czech Republic), lives and works in Brno.

Recent solo exhibitions include *In Between*, **Mendes Wood DM**, New York (2026); *Soulscape*, **Galerie Derouillon**, Paris (2026); *Inner World*, **Mendes Wood DM**, São Paulo (2025); *From Lines to Matter*, **Kampa Museum**, Prague (2024); *Under the weight of the world*, **Power Station**, Dallas (2024); *The Labours of Hercules*, **Mendes Wood DM**, Brussels (2023); *Dusk of the Gods*, **Mendes Wood DM**, New York (2022); *Destinies of Stone Faces*, **Galerie Derouillon**, Paris (2022); *In the Thickets of Unexplored Places*, **Mendes Wood DM**, São Paulo (2021); **Mendes Wood DM at Villa Era**, Vigliano Biellese (2020); *Hidden Garden*, **Galerie Derouillon**, Paris (2020). Recent group exhibitions include *Mundo Mágico*, **Kunsthal kAdE**, Amersfoort (2026); *NGV Triennial*, **The National Gallery of Victoria**, Melbourne (2023); *Ars22: Living Encounters*, **Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma**, Helsinki (2022) and *Baltic Triennial 14: The Endless Frontier*, **Contemporary Art Centre**, Vilnius (2021).

The artist's work is present in museums and public collections worldwide, including **Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)**, Los Angeles; **Musée d'art Moderne de la ville de Paris**, Paris; **National Gallery of Victoria**, Victoria; **Zuzeum Museum**, Riga; **X Museum**, Beijing; **ICA Miami**, Miami; **Blenheim Foundation**, Oxfordshire; **Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**, Turin; **THE EKARD COLLECTION**, the Netherlands; **Bunker Artspace**, West Palm Beach; **Deji Museum**, Nanjing; **K11 Foundation**, Hong Kong; **National Gallery Prague**, Prague; **Kistefos Museum**, Jevnaker.



STUDIO VISIT







An abstract painting featuring large, overlapping, curved shapes in various shades of green, from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes resemble stylized leaves or petals. The background is a mix of dark green and black, with some lighter green and white areas. The overall composition is dense and layered.

SELECTED
EXHIBITIONS



2025

Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo

Inner World

“A painting is more than a place where inner conflicts are given expression, it is also a place where these conflicts are bearable, that is, a place of peace and joy. To paint is to see and to articulate what is seen in colors and shapes.”

– Vojtěch Kovařík

Mendes Wood DM is pleased to present a solo exhibition *Inner World* by artist Vojtěch Kovařík in São Paulo. The show, considered to be the Czech artist's largest and most ambitious to date, features new works including paintings and sculptures in bronze, wood, and plaster, which occupy the entire space of the large gallery located in Barra Funda.

Inner World is a continuation of the artist's exploration of characters and themes from Greek mythology through sculptural representations of Calypso and Odysseus and paintings of Ariadne, alongside other figures. What interests the artist, however, are the secondary and less frequently recounted moments of the stories, such as finitude itself, loss, and death. At the same time, the artist plays with artistic remnants of human memory, he is also interested in revisiting and redefining classical mythology because its themes recur in contemporary times – revealing the extent to which human beings probably haven't changed that much.

The body of work developed for this exhibition displays an amalgamation between Kovařík's ideas and the themes of Greek mythology. As if the flow of thoughts and dreams had merged into an interior universe in which we could stop for a moment.



Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



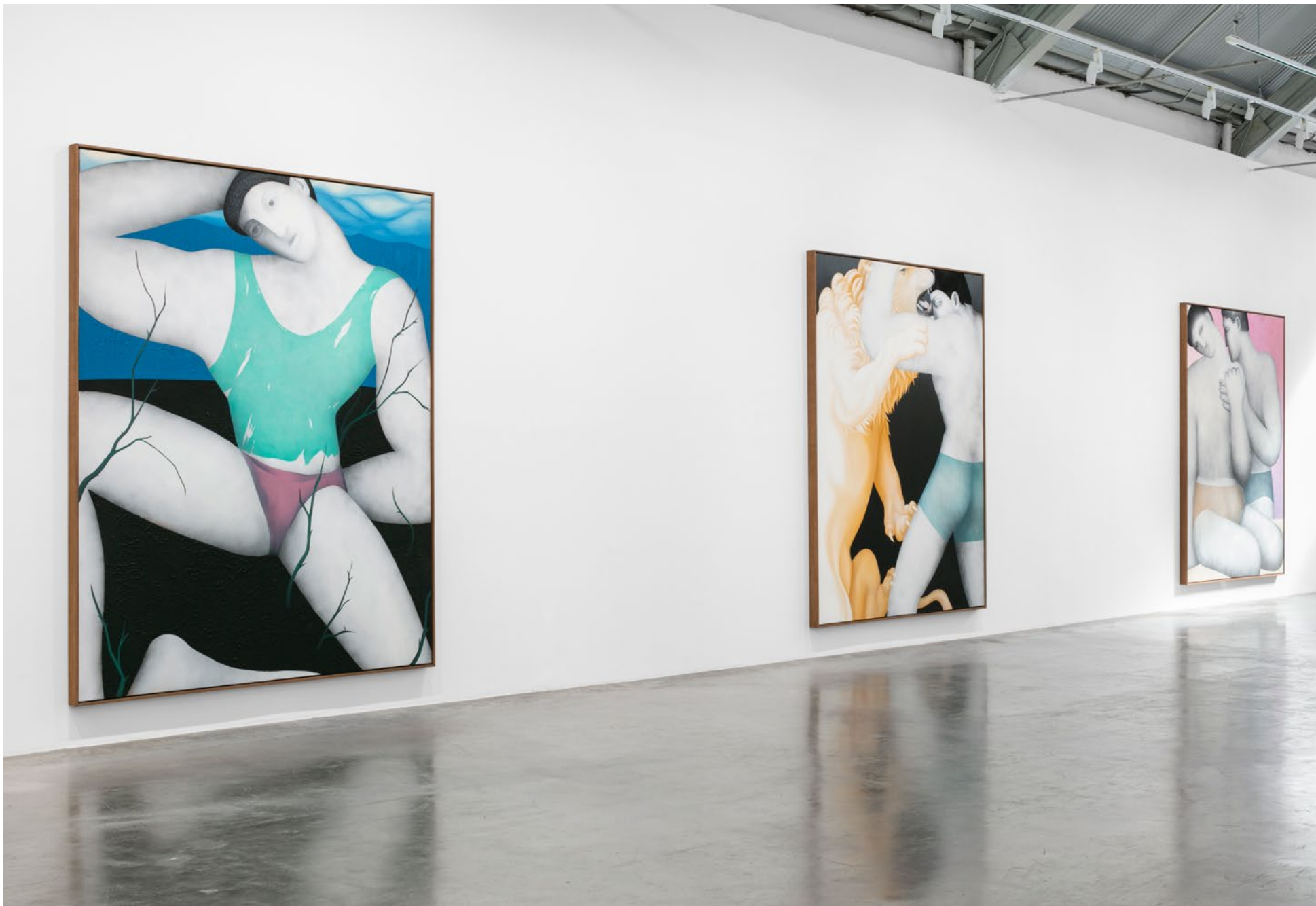
Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



2025

Warehouse Dallas Art Foundation, Dallas

Double Vision: The Rachofsky Collection and the Hartland&Mackie/Labora Collection



2024
Museum Kampa, Prague
From The Lines To The Masses



From The Lines To The Masses, Museum Kampa, Prague, 2024



From The Lines To The Masses, Museum Kampa, Prague, 2024



From The Lines To The Masses, Museum Kampa, Prague, 2024



From The Lines To The Masses, Museum Kampa, Prague, 2024



From The Lines To The Masses, Museum Kampa, Prague, 2024



From The Lines To The Masses, Museum Kampa, Prague, 2024



2024
Power Station, Dallas
Under the Weight of the World



Under the Weight of the World, Power Station, Dallas, 2024



Under the Weight of the World, Power Station, Dallas, 2024



Under the Weight of the World, Power Station, Dallas, 2024



Under the Weight of the World, Power Station, Dallas, 2024



Under the Weight of the World, Power Station, Dallas, 2024

2023

Mendes Wood DM, Brussels

The Labours of Hercules

Through a combination of immersive large and small-scale paintings, Kovařík isolates moments from the myth that resonate with his sensibilities and puts them to canvas. Rather than creating a chronologically framed cycle of works that charts the entire story from start to finish, the artist hones in on critical or iconic moments within the narrative, but also offers more intimate and psychologically charged looks at the states of mind of some of the characters in the story.

Using his signature mix of acrylic, oil and sand on canvas, Kovařík breathes new life into this ancient and cautionary tale of heroism and redemption, with the sculptural bodies of his heroes, always constrained by his canvases, frozen in time but alive with a colour palette that stands in stark contrast to the sober, white sculptures of Hercules that line the sculpture halls of antiquities museums around the world.





The Labours of Hercules, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, 2023



The Labours of Hercules, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, 2023



The Labours of Hercules, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, 2023



The Labours of Hercules, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, 2023

2022

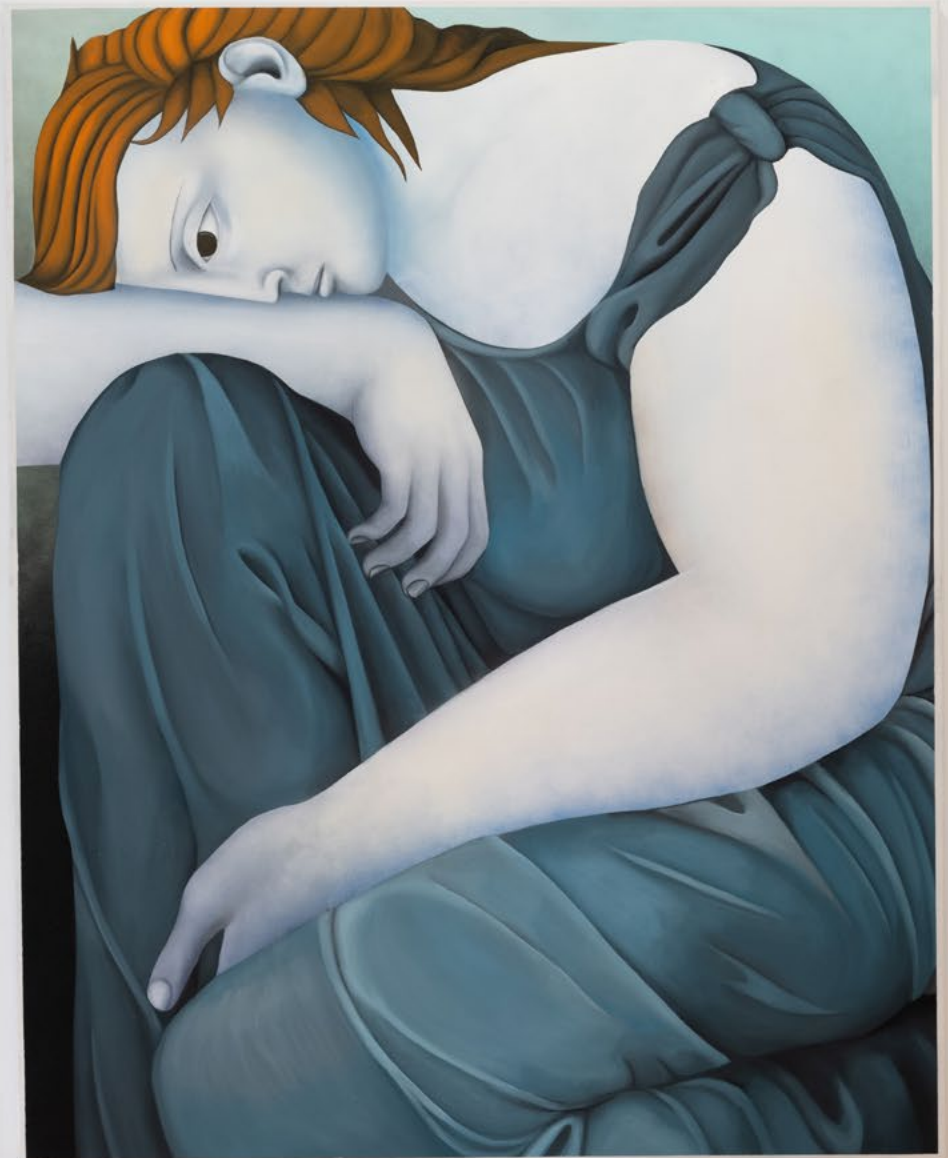
Mendes Wood DM, New York

Dusk of the Gods

Kovařík's interest in Ancient Greek art and mythology serves as a point of departure for a new body of work inspired by the myth of the Golden Apple.

Large scale, immersive paintings of these mythical scenes—gods, goddesses, and ancient heroes—are on view across both floors of the gallery space. In the artist's signature style, these figures appear set in stone, somehow frozen in the melancholy space of a pictorial frame that refuses to give their heaving bodies the space they need. Solidified by their own sculptural presence, they appear as tired and jaded as they are imposing and visually arresting, as if today's world does not allow room for the old gods. A more pronounced use of sand, mixed with acrylic and spray paint, gives the figures their mass and volume while an emotive application of oil paint accentuates color and space within each painting's composition.

Crucially, this exhibition includes a group of sculptures realized in wood, sand, and acrylic paint, which points to Kovařík's early training as a sculptor and ceramist, before he turned his hand to painting. The *fil rouge* remains evident, as we are confronted with real sculptures installed among paintings of sculptural bodies, showing the continuity and coherence of Kovařík's practice which, despite the artist's young age, displays an uncanny degree of maturity and artistic research.





Dusk of the Gods, Mendes Wood DM, New York, 2022



Dusk of the Gods, Mendes Wood DM, New York, 2022



Dusk of the Gods, Mendes Wood DM, New York, 2022



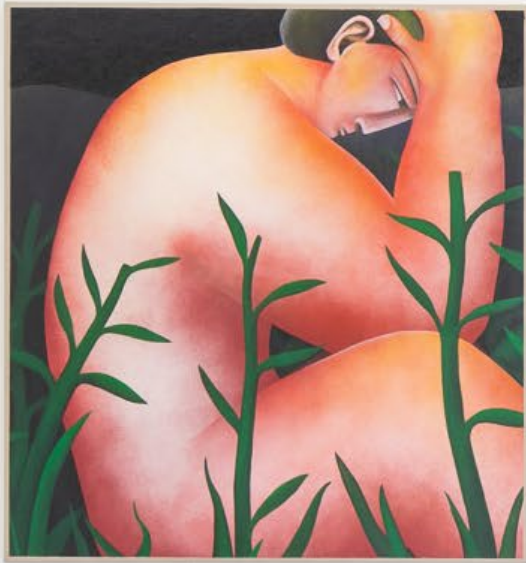
Dusk of the Gods, Mendes Wood DM, New York, 2022

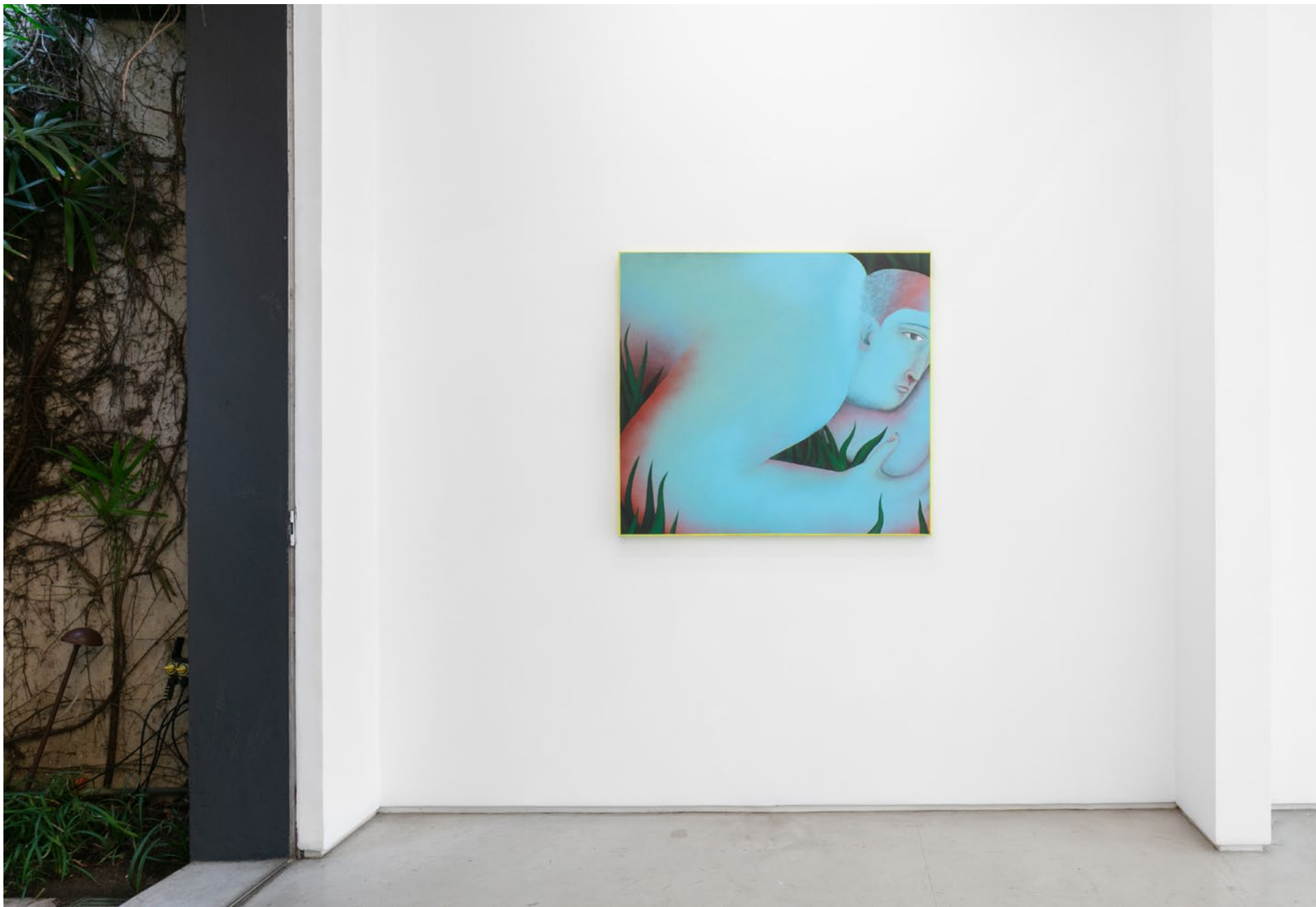
2021

Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo

In the Thickets of Unexplored Places

For Czech artist, Vojtěch Kovařík, iconography and mythology are fundamental to his work. His large-format, forceful and vividly colored compositions result in impactful paintings that evoke the strength of sculpture. His herculean figures are contorted, seemingly defeated by the frame of the canvas, flaunting their blue and green flesh amongst vegetal backgrounds. Figures from Greek mythology as well as pop culture references appear in Kovařík's paintings, fully embracing figuration. His interest in Greek mythology comes from its importance in the European cultural collective unconscious, subverting its meaning by reconstructing its most prominent characters.





In the Thickets of Unexplored Places, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2021



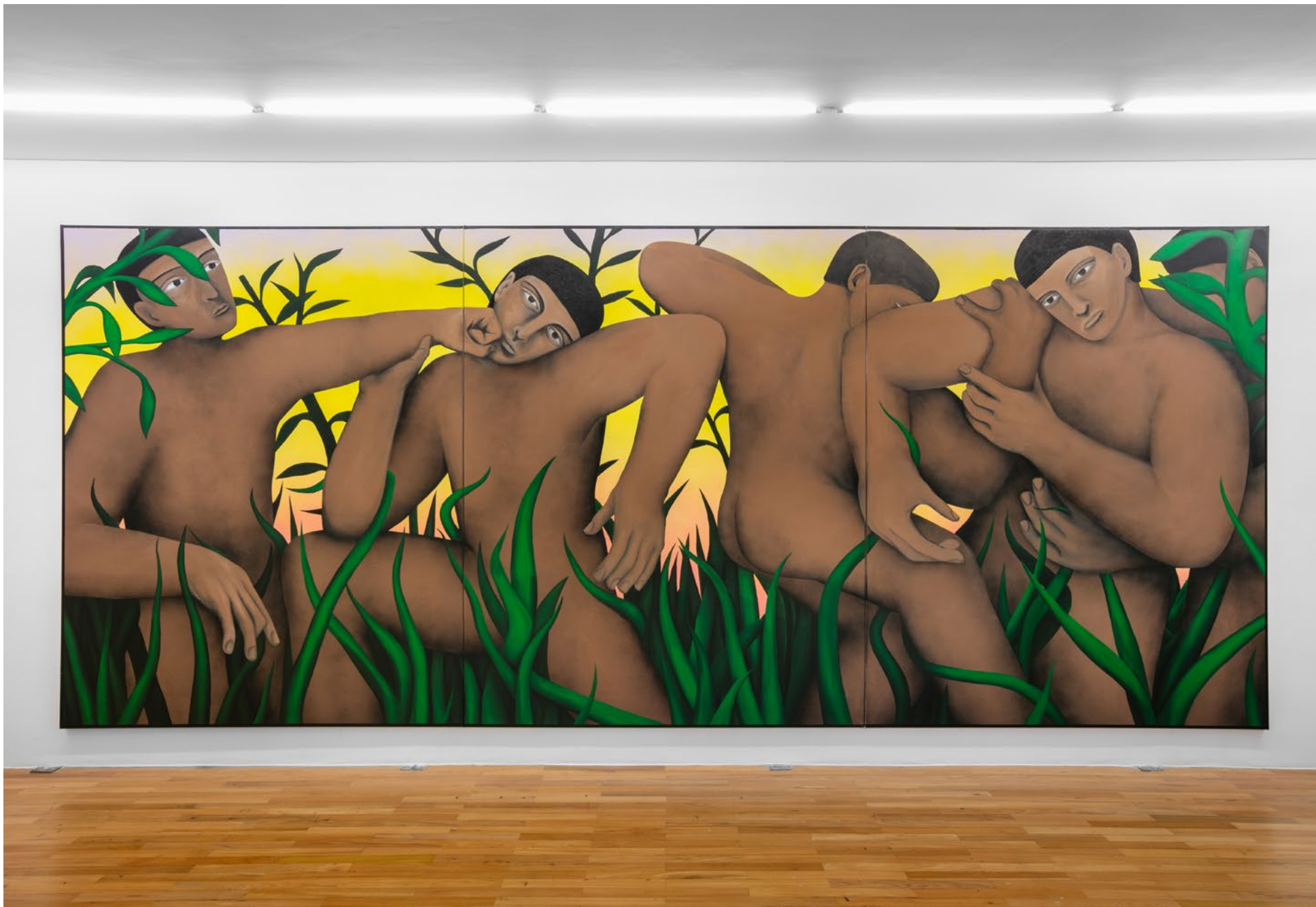
In the Thickets of Unexplored Places, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2021



In the Thickets of Unexplored Places, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2021



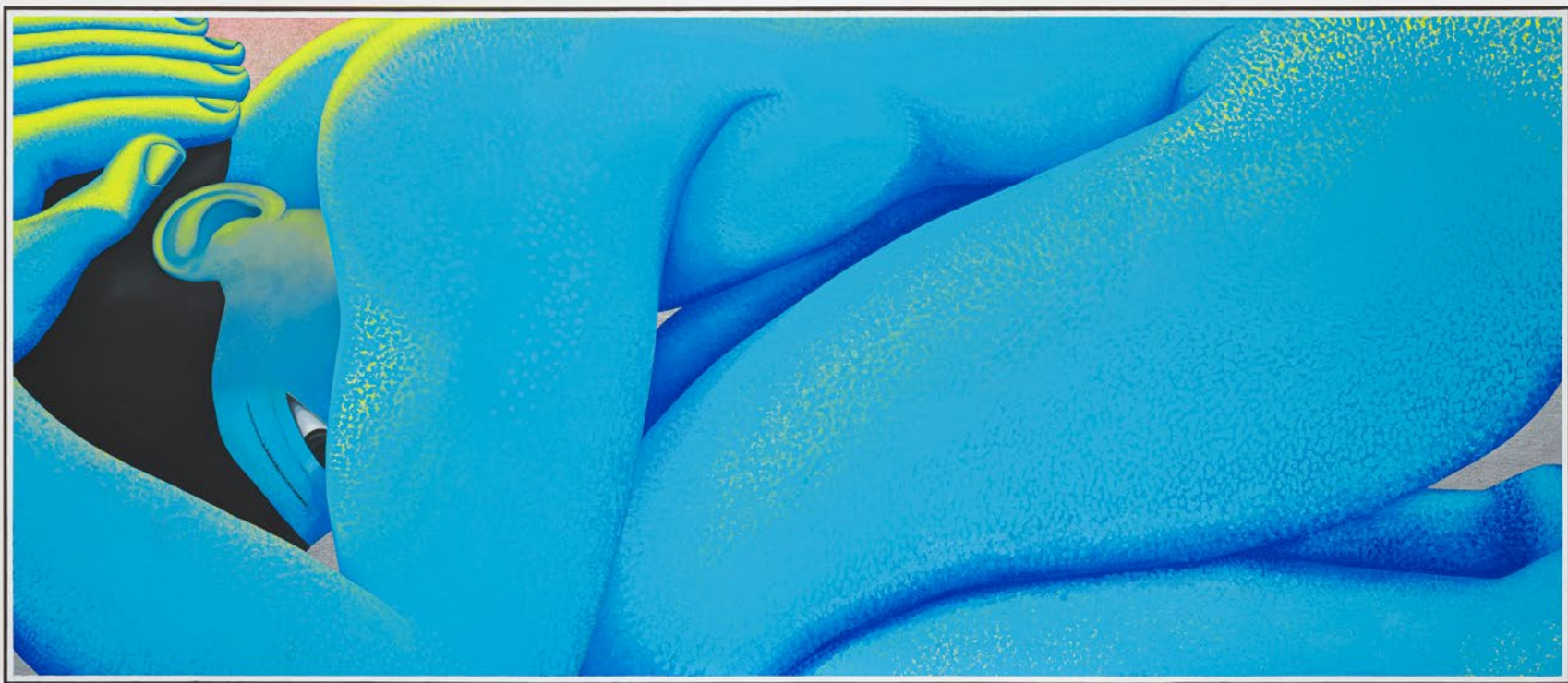
In the Thickets of Unexplored Places, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2021



In the Thickets of Unexplored Places, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2021

An abstract painting featuring a stylized face in profile, rendered in shades of yellow and black. The face is positioned in the upper half of the frame, with its eyes closed and a serene expression. The background is a mix of yellow and black, with some areas showing a textured, almost crystalline appearance. The overall composition is minimalist and evocative.

SELECTED
WORKS



Vojtěch Kovařík, *Broken Titan*, 2025, acrylic and sand on canvas, 260 x 600 x 8 cm | 102 3/8 x 236 1/4 x 3 1/8 in, MW.VKO.134





Vojtěch Kovařík
Portrait of Nemesis, 2025
acrylic on canvas
52.5 x 42.5 x 7.5 cm
20 5/8 x 16 3/4 x 3 in
MW.VKO.131





Vojtěch Kovařík
Prophetic Eyes, 2025
acrylic and sand
acrílico e areia
52.7 x 43 x 7.5 cm
20 3/4 x 16 7/8 x 3 in
MW.VKO.132





Vojtěch Kovařík, *In Front of the World*, 2024, acrylic and sand on canvas, 220 x 250 x 8 cm | 86 5/8 x 98 3/8 x 3 1/8 in, MW.VKO.111





Vojtěch Kovařík

Thread of time, 2024

acrylic, sand on canvas

255 x 225.5 x 8.3 cm

100 3/8 x 88 3/4 x 3 1/4 in

MW.VKO.122





Vojtěch Kovařík, *Judgement of Paris, Paris*, 2024, beech wood, 150 x 250 x 20 cm | 59 x 98 3/8 x 7 7/8 in, MW.VKO.128





Vojtěch Kovařík

Migraine, 2024

acrylic on canvas

50 x 40 cm

19 3/4 x 15 3/4 in

MW.VKO.113





Vojtěch Kovařík

Hermes, 2024

acrystal (acrylic resin)

200 x 150 x 28 cm

78 3/4 x 59 x 11 in

MW.VKO.101





Vojtěch Kovařík

Leandros and Héro, 2024

acrylic, sand, iron and oil on canvas

600 x 300 x 8 cm

236 1/4 x 118 1/8 x 3 1/8 in

MW.VKO.093







Vojtěch Kovařík

Castor tames his horse, 2024

acrylic and sand on canvas

200 x 220 x 6 cm

78 3/4 x 86 5/8 x 2 3/8 in

MW.VKO.106





Vojtěch Kovařík

Portrait of Virtue, 2023

acrylic on canvas

80 x 70 cm

31 1/2 x 27 1/2 in

MW.VKO.079





Vojtěch Kovařík

Pride, 2023

oil, sand and acrylic on canvas

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in

MW.VKO.070





Vojtěch Kovařík

Hercules dips his arrows in the Hydra's poisonous black blood, 2023

acrylic and sand on canvas

250 x 200 cm

98 3/8 x 78 3/4 in

MW.VKO.075





Vojtěch Kovařík

Virtue, 2023

acrylic on canvas

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in

MW.VKO.069





Vojtěch Kovařík

Orpheus and Eurydice, 2022

acrylic on canvas

70 x 70 cm

27 1/2 x 27 1/2 in

MW.VKO.060





Vojtěch Kovařík, *The Golden Apple (To the Most Beautiful)*, 2022, acrylic and sand on canvas, 520 x 220 cm | 204 3/4 x 86 5/8 in (in total), MW.VKO.061





Vojtěch Kovařík

Athena and the Olive Tree, 2024

Acrylic and oil on canvas

200 x 200 x 6 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 x 2 3/8 in

MW.VKO.096





Vojtěch Kovařík

Athena, 2022

acrylic and sand on canvas

200 x 250 cm

78 3/4 x 98 3/8 in

MW.VKO.058





Vojtěch Kovařík

The Kidnapping of Helena, 2022

acrylic and sand on canvas

200 x 220 cm

78 3/4 x 86 5/8 in

MW.VKO.055





Vojtěch Kovařík

Ruthless Zeus, 2022

acrylic and sand on canvas

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in

MW.VKO.053





Vojtěch Kovařík

Human Lock, 2022

acrylic and sand on canvas

250 x 180 cm

98 3/8 x 70 7/8 in

MW.VKO.052





Vojtěch Kovařík

Zephyr, 2022

acrylic and oil

170 x 150 cm

66.9 x 59 in

MW.VKO.051





Vojtěch Kovařík
Two Amazones, 2021
acrylic on canvas
220 x 200 cm
86 5/8 x 78 3/4 in
MW.VKO.046





Vojtěch Kovařík

Odysseia, 2020

acrylic on canvas

200 x 200 cm

78 3/4 x 78 3/4 in

MW.VKO.013





Vojtěch Kovařík, *Trojan War*, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 270 x 430 cm | 106 1/4 x 169 1/4 in, MW.VKO.011



Vojtěch Kovařík

Dionysus, 2020

acrylic on canvas

220 x 200 cm

86 5/8 x 78 3/4 in

MW.VKO.002





I make heroes on a supra-human scale because they are powerful heroes and gods. The people who lived for the gods died with them. I have respect for heroes and gods and in my work, and try to reflect on and give life to old heroes who transform into new forms. The fact they are often just cutouts or cramped bodies around the perimeter of the frame reinforces my belief that this gives them more emotions and depth, immortality, and fragility, or even coarseness and softness.

– Vojtěch Kovařík

Education

2019

Master at the Faculty of Arts of the Ostrava University, Czech Republic

2017

Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland

2013

Bachelor at the Faculty of Arts of the Ostrava University, Czech Republic

Solo Exhibitions

2026

In Between, Mendes Wood DM, New York, USA

Soulscape, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

2025

Inner World, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2024

From Lines to Matter, Museum Kampa, Prague, Czech Republic

Under the Weight of the World, Power Station Dallas, Dallas, USA

2023

The Labours of Hercules, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, Belgium

Lost in Time, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

2022

Dusk of the Gods, Mendes Wood DM, New York, USA

Destinies of Stone Faces, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

2021

In the Thickets of Unexplored Places, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2020

Sadness and Beauty, NADA MIAMI, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

Mendes Wood DM at Villa Era, Vigliano Biellese, Italy

Hidden Garden, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

Even Heroes Need a Rest, L21 Gallery, Mallorca, Spain

2019

Capture Hypothesis, The Cabine, Los Angeles, USA

Lovers and Fighters, Public Gallery, London, UK

Landscapes of Muscle, Galerie Dukla, Ostrava, Czech Republic

Heaven Hell Paradise, Galerie města Třince, Třinec, Czech Republic

Temple of Doom, Berlínskej Model, Prague, Czech Republic

2018

ARMAGEDDON, Galerie OFF/FORMAT, Brno, Czech Republic

Group Exhibitions

2026

Mundo Mágico, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands

2025

Visions of the World, Museum Kampa, Prague, Czech Republic

Double Vision: The Rachofsky Collection and the Hartland&Mackie/Labora Collection, Warehouse Dallas

Art Foundation, Dallas, USA

Waiting Room, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

2024

Habiter le Monde, Château Aubenas, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Aubenas, France

Dreaming of Spilliaert, Mendes Wood DM at d'Ouwe Kerke, Retranchement, the Netherlands

My World, Singer Laren, Laren, the Netherlands

X COLLECTION 202: PORTRAIT OF A MAN, X Museum, Beijing, China

2023

NGV Triennial, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Paper Trails, Mendes Wood DM, Retranchement, the Netherlands

Linhas Tortas, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

Les Anneaux de Saturne, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, France

2022

Ars22: Living Encounters, Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland

Fire Figure Fantasy: Selections from ICA Miami's Collection, ICA Miami, Miami, USA

2021

Baltic Triennial 14: The Endless Frontier, Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius, Lithuania

1920 – 2020: Figures and Portraits, MASSIMODECARLO, Milan, Italy and London, UK

2020

A Very Long Wait, Newchild Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

What fruit it bears, Peres Projects, Berlin, Germany

2019

A Private Matter, LM Gallery, Latina, Italy

A Snake Without A Head Is Just A Rope, Sim Smith, London, UK

Contemporary Visions 2019, Beers London Gallery, London, UK

12th Prize of Art Critique for Young Painting, Galerie Kritiků, Praha, Czech Republic

2018

Tales of Talent, Galerie Wolfsen, Aalborg, Denmark

4 + 4 Days In Motion, Desfourský palác, Praha, Czech Republic

2017

Temporary Storeroom – Drawing: Case Study 2, PLATO Ostrava, Ostrava, Czech Republic

Residencies

Fores Project London, UK, 2020

La Brea Studio Residency, The Cabin LA, Los Angeles, USA, 2019

L21 Gallery x Camper, Mallorca, Spain, 2019

Awards

Winner of 12th Prize of Art Critique for Young Painting, Galerie Kritiků, Prague, Czech Republic, 2019

Collections

- Blenheim Art Foundation
- Bunker Artspace
- Deji Museum
- Fondation Lafayette Anticipations
- Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo
- ICA Miami
- K11 Foundation
- Kistefos Museum
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
- Musée d’art Moderne de la ville de Paris
- Museo Jumex
- National Gallery Prague
- National Gallery of Victoria
- Rachofsky House
- THE EKARD COLLECTION
- X Museum
- Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art
- Zuzeum Museum
- Warehouse Dallas Art Foundation

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small green plant. The hand is positioned in the upper right, with fingers gently gripping the stem. The plant has several long, pointed green leaves and a small cluster of five-lobed flowers. The background is a solid, light pink color. The overall composition is simple and focuses on the interaction between the human hand and the natural plant.

Mendes
Wood
DM

São Paulo
Brussels
Paris
New York

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