

CHATEAUSHATTO

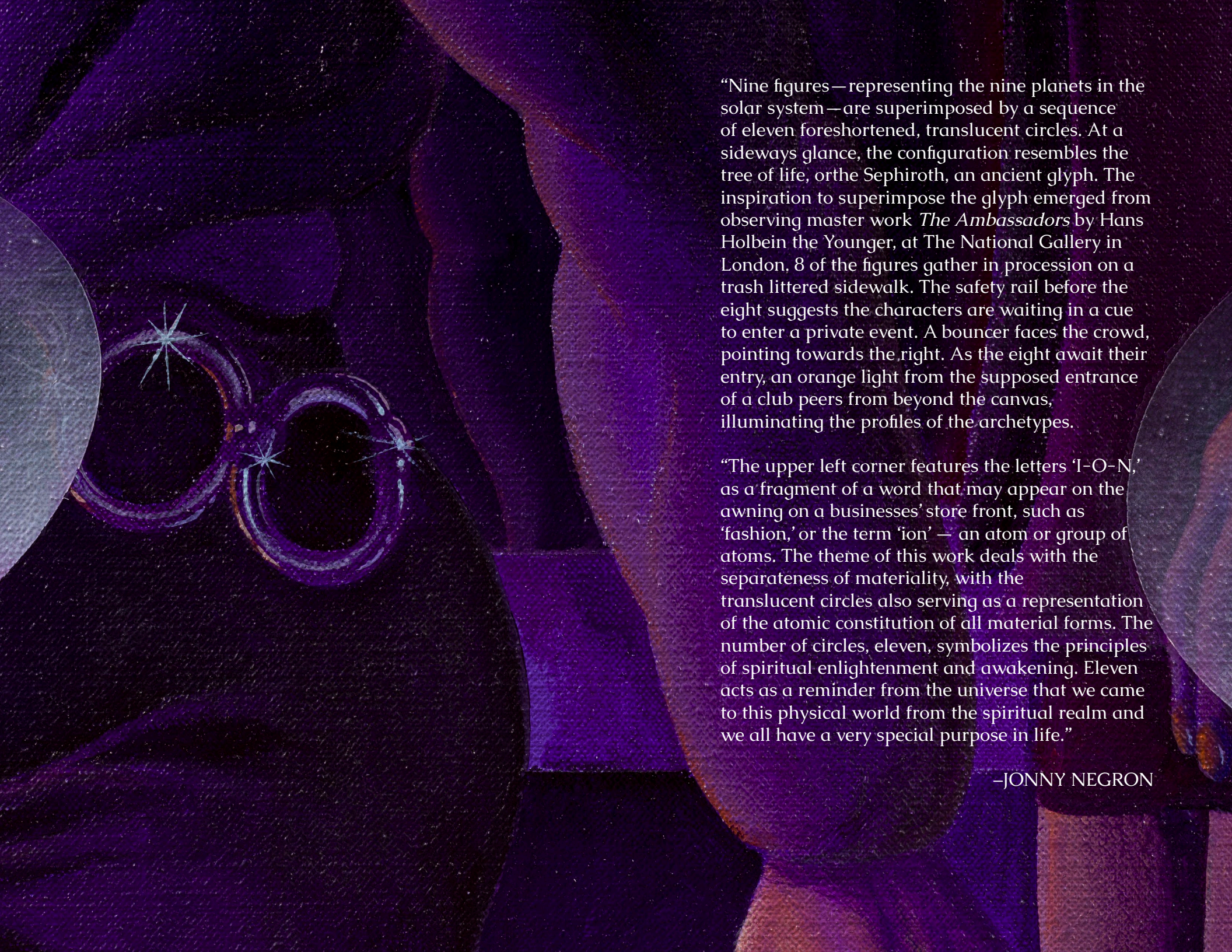
JONNY NEGRON

Digitalis
Dangxia Art Space, Beijing
September 15–December 15, 2023

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JONNY NEGRON
The Return, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 93 in / 162.6 x 236.2 cm



“Nine figures—representing the nine planets in the solar system—are superimposed by a sequence of eleven foreshortened, translucent circles. At a sideways glance, the configuration resembles the tree of life, or the Sephiroth, an ancient glyph. The inspiration to superimpose the glyph emerged from observing master work *The Ambassadors* by Hans Holbein the Younger, at The National Gallery in London, 8 of the figures gather in procession on a trash littered sidewalk. The safety rail before the eight suggests the characters are waiting in a cue to enter a private event. A bouncer faces the crowd, pointing towards the right. As the eight await their entry, an orange light from the supposed entrance of a club peers from beyond the canvas, illuminating the profiles of the archetypes.

“The upper left corner features the letters ‘I-O-N,’ as a fragment of a word that may appear on the awning on a businesses’ store front, such as ‘fashion,’ or the term ‘ion’ — an atom or group of atoms. The theme of this work deals with the separateness of materiality, with the translucent circles also serving as a representation of the atomic constitution of all material forms. The number of circles, eleven, symbolizes the principles of spiritual enlightenment and awakening. Eleven acts as a reminder from the universe that we came to this physical world from the spiritual realm and we all have a very special purpose in life.”

—JONNY NEGRON

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The Return, 2023
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64 x 93 in / 162.6 x 236.2 cm







JONNY NEGRON
Neutralized, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 93 in / 162.6 x 236.2 cm

“Past tense: neutralized; past participle: neutralized

Render (something) ineffective or harmless by applying an opposite force or effect. ‘impatience at his frailty began to neutralize her fear.’

Make (an acidic or alkaline substance) chemically neutral. ‘splashes on skin should be neutralized immediately’

Disarm (a bomb or similar weapon). ‘120 bombs were neutralized’.

A euphemistic way of saying kill or destroy, especially in a covert or military operation. ‘Counter-intelligence programs designed to neutralize individuals’

The term ‘neutralized’ was chosen for its multiform meaning relative to the themes of this exhibition. Neutralized’also relates to equanimity, a concept of Buddhism.

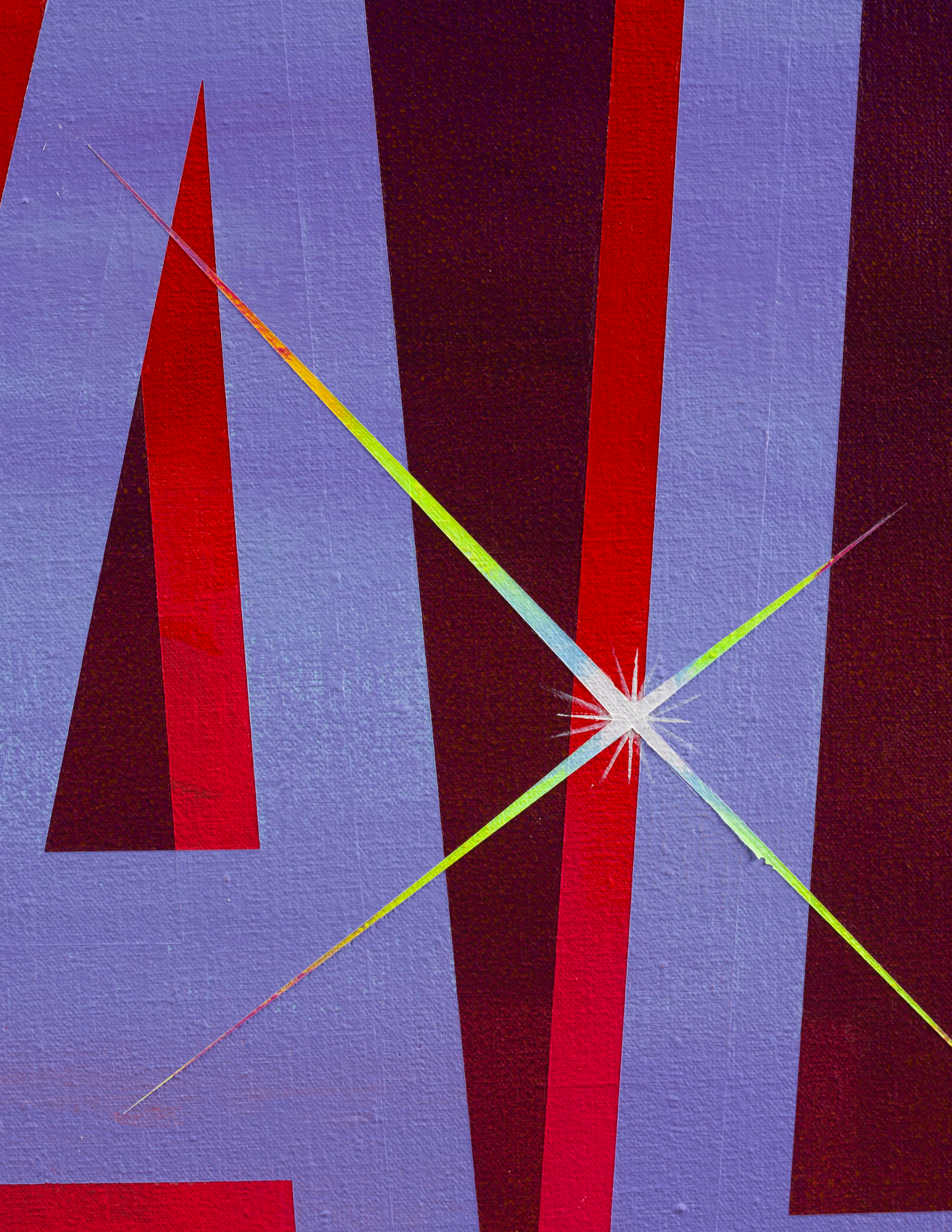
In Buddhism, equanimity (Pali: upekkha; Sanskrit: Upekṣā) is one of the four sublime attitudes and is considered:

“Neither a thought nor an emotion, it is rather the steady conscious realization of reality’s transience. It is the ground for wisdom and freedom and the protector of compassion and love. While some may think of equanimity as dry neutrality or cool aloofness, mature equanimity produces a radiance and warmth of being. The Buddha described a mind filled with equanimity as ‘abundant, exalted, immeasurable, without hostility and without ill-will.’”

—JONNY NEGRON

JONNY NEGRON
Neutralized, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 93 in / 162.6 x 236.2 cm





LORD, HERE COMES THE FLOOD



LORD, HERE COMES THE FLOOD

WE'LL SAY GOODBYE

TO FLESH AND BLOOD

IF AGAIN THE SEAS ARE SILENT IN ANY STILL ALIVE

IT'LL BE THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR ISLAND TO SURVIVE

DRINK UP, DREAMERS

YOU'RE RUNNING DRY...

JONNY NEGRON
Here Comes the Flood, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm

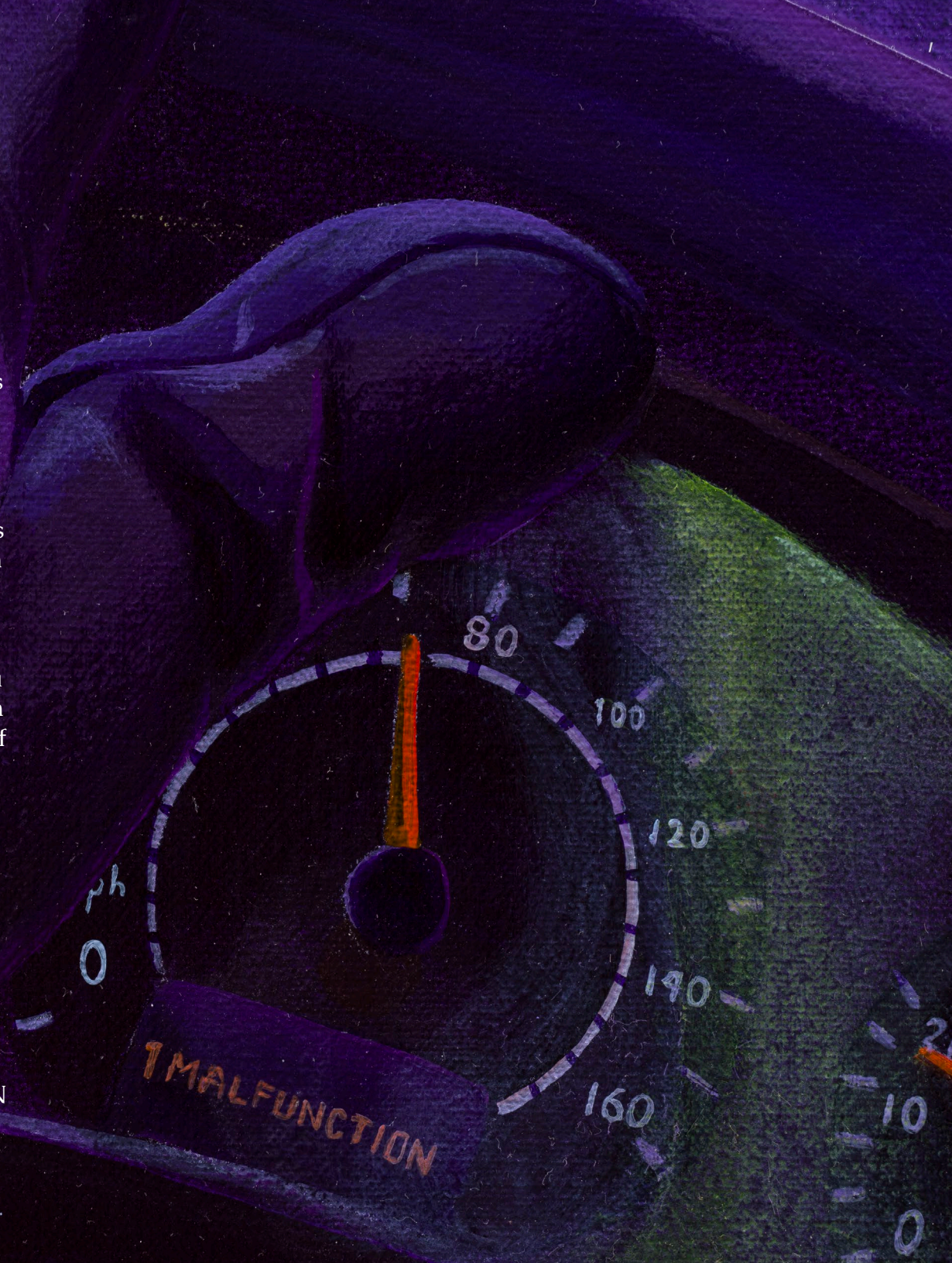
"Here Comes The Flood depicts a first person perspective driving toward a distant cityscape resembling Downtown Los Angeles. In the rear view mirror appears a face with a lamenting expression and three palm trees. Like *Visions of Your Reality*, the hue of the mirror offers a mercurial orange. Suspended under the rear view mirror dangles a rosary with thirty-seven beads. A leather gloved hand holds the steering wheel with the three point star of the Mercedes Benz logo in its center.

'Mercies' is the latin word for Mercedes. On the dashboard the number '11:11' can be read. There are 11 drops of water over the windshield — rain is imminent. Surrounding the image reads lyrics from the song *Here Comes The Flood* by Peter Gabriel.

Here Comes The Flood relates to the anxiety of the modern experience. The image was inspired from a vision from the artist's dream, in which the anguish on their face could be seen, as the natural beauty of their original habitat became smaller and smaller in view, as they drifted toward a manufactured, industrial world of unnatural neon light. Here the color purple serves as the color of night, of dreams, and the subconscious.

The lyrics to *Here Comes the Flood* were chosen due to their relevance with the artist's personal experience. This also calls back to my previous work entitled *Small Map of Heaven*."

—JONNY NEGRON



JONNY NEGRON
Here Comes the Flood, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm

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JONNY NEGRÓN
Fakest Year Ever, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm

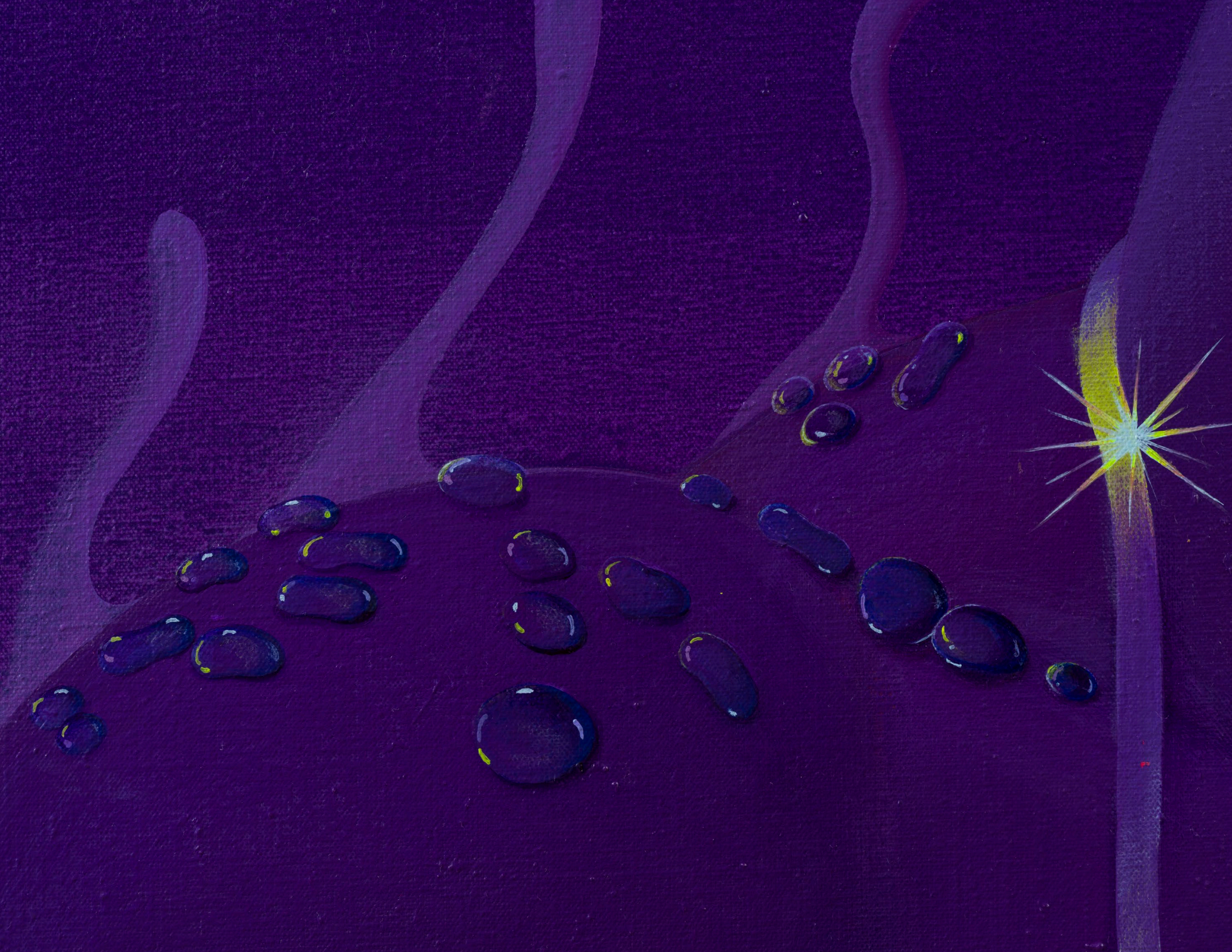


"Fakest Year Ever depicts a male figure in contemplation, as he gazes at the insert of an audio compact disc. The compact disc is *Zuckerzeit* by German duo Cluster. In German 'zuckerzeit' means 'sugar time, or sweet era.' Here the subject ponders, 'Where's my sweet era?' The figure orients the insert at an angle suggesting he is not actually reading the contents of the booklet. Small globules of liquid gather on the surface of the figure's skin, particularly on his shoulders, forehead and forearm. Steam rises from the figures back. These bodily by-products represent the various sensations of the body and the heightened sense of awareness obtained through deep concentration. In the pupils of his eyes and on his necklace, there are a total of five sparkles, which represent the five senses."

—JONNY NEGRON

JONNY NEGRON
Fakest Year Ever, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm







JONNY NEGRON
ATM, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm



“*ATM* features a hand holding a bank card before an automated teller machine. *ATM* serves as a sort of companion to *Valis* in that they each depict the bank card which reads ‘VALIS.’ Where *Valis* shows an exchange between two hands, the *ATM* serves as the intermediary between the human and their currency. Speckles of liquid can be seen on the surface of the machine, suggestive of raindrops. Upon the wrist of the hand is a shiny Rolex watch. Numbers four, seven, eight, & nine are visible beneath the hand. The screen of the *ATM* shows an illustration of two hands shaking, with the text ‘Transaction Successful!’”

—JONNY NEGRON

JONNY NEGRON
ATM, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm



Transaction
Successful!





JONNY NEGRON
Valis, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm



“*Valis* depicts a red bank card held between two hands with the name ‘VALIS’ inscribed on the card. The term ‘Valis’ derived from Philip K Dick’s novel of the same title. The title serves as an acronym, abbreviating ‘Vast Active Living Intelligence System.’ It was Phillip K Dick’s first novel related to his religious experiences. The composition of the hands reflects Adam and God’s hands in Michelangelo’s *Creation of Adam* on the Sistine Chapel. A single sparkle appears on the edge of the bank card. On the sleeve of the lower hand are three tiny orbs of liquid in the shape of a triangle. Here the color orange takes a mercurial connotation, representing an intellectual agent that actively influences man. The bank card serves as the key to the exchange of information.

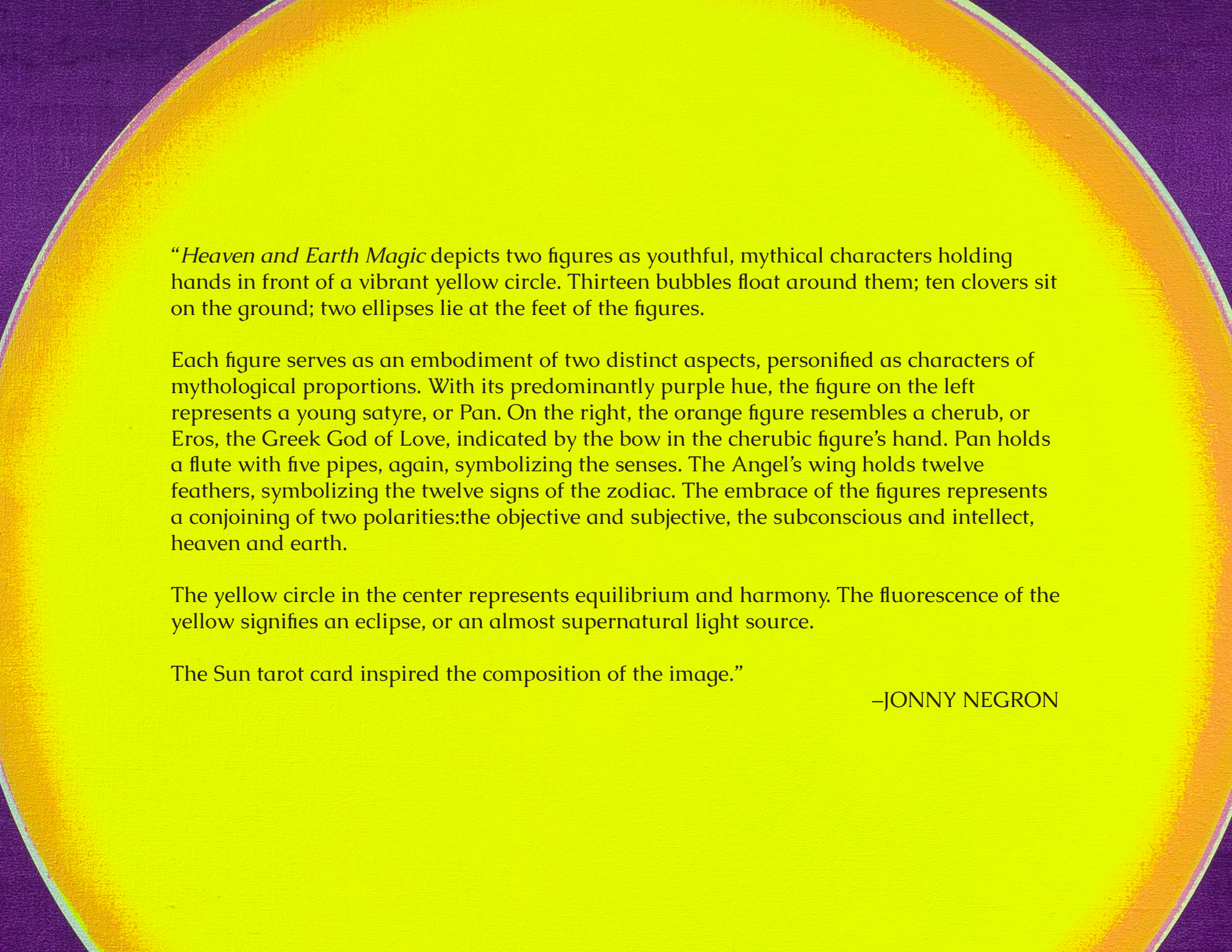
—JONNY NEGRON

JONNY NEGRON
ATM, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm





JONNY NEGRON
Heaven and Earth Magic, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm



“Heaven and Earth Magic depicts two figures as youthful, mythical characters holding hands in front of a vibrant yellow circle. Thirteen bubbles float around them; ten clovers sit on the ground; two ellipses lie at the feet of the figures.

Each figure serves as an embodiment of two distinct aspects, personified as characters of mythological proportions. With its predominantly purple hue, the figure on the left represents a young satyre, or Pan. On the right, the orange figure resembles a cherub, or Eros, the Greek God of Love, indicated by the bow in the cherubic figure’s hand. Pan holds a flute with five pipes, again, symbolizing the senses. The Angel’s wing holds twelve feathers, symbolizing the twelve signs of the zodiac. The embrace of the figures represents a conjoining of two polarities: the objective and subjective, the subconscious and intellect, heaven and earth.

The yellow circle in the center represents equilibrium and harmony. The fluorescence of the yellow signifies an eclipse, or an almost supernatural light source.

The Sun tarot card inspired the composition of the image.”

–JONNY NEGRON

JONNY NEGRON
Heaven and Earth Magic, 2023
Acrylic on linen
64 x 56 in / 162.6 x 142.2 cm







JONNY NEGRON
Visions of Your Reality, 2023
Acrylic on linen
Diameter: 56 in / 142.2 cm

“You’ve never seen death? Look in the mirror every day and you will see it like bees working in a glass hive.” —Jean Cocteau

A hand holds a compact mirror. A face reflects in the mirror as a lip gloss applicator presses against the applicator’s lower lip. Here the image of the mirror holds a mercurial quality, as mirrors used to be made from mercury.”

—JONNY NEGRON



JONNY NEGRON
Visions of Your Reality, 2023
Acrylic on linen
Diameter: 56 in / 142.2 cm

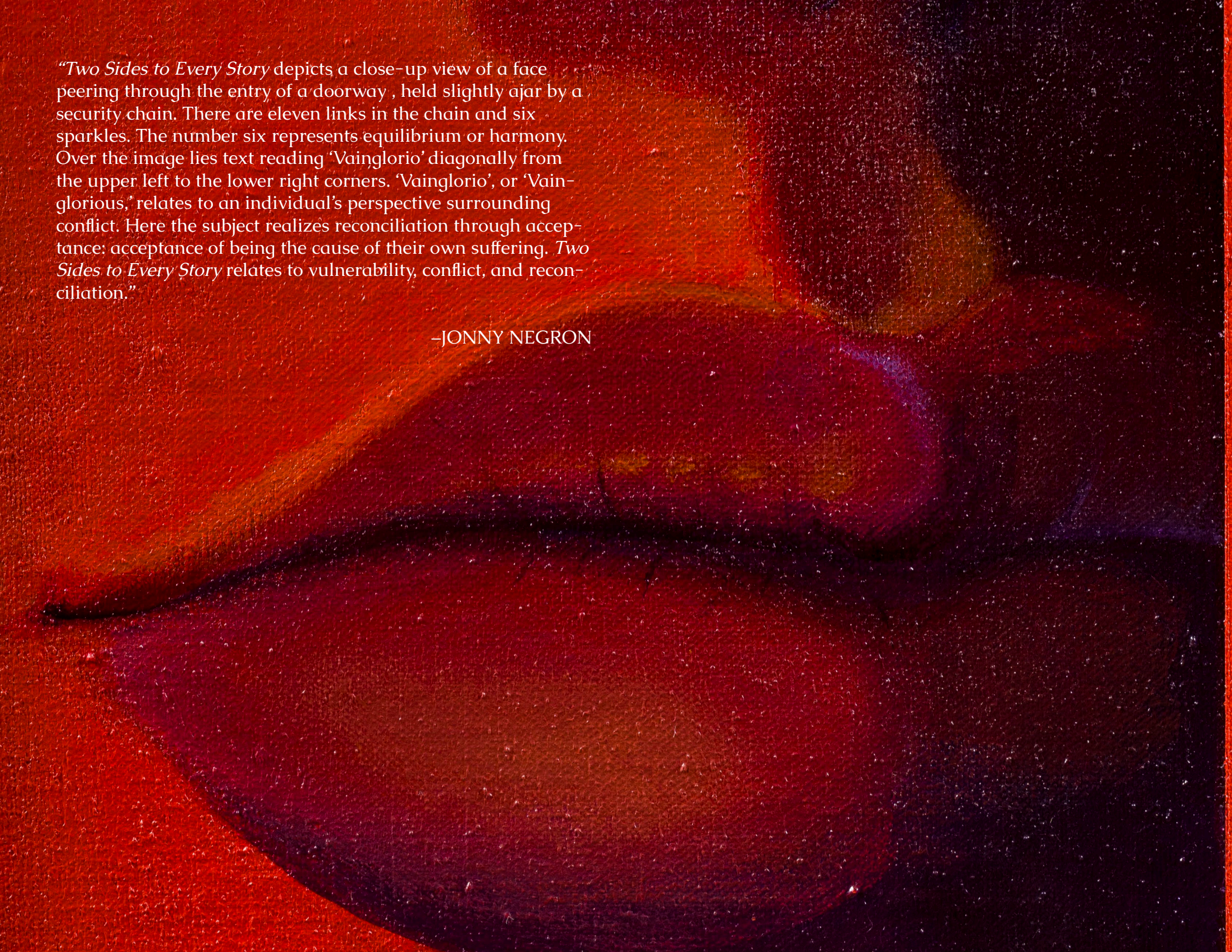


JONNY NEGRON
Visions of Your Reality, 2023
Side view





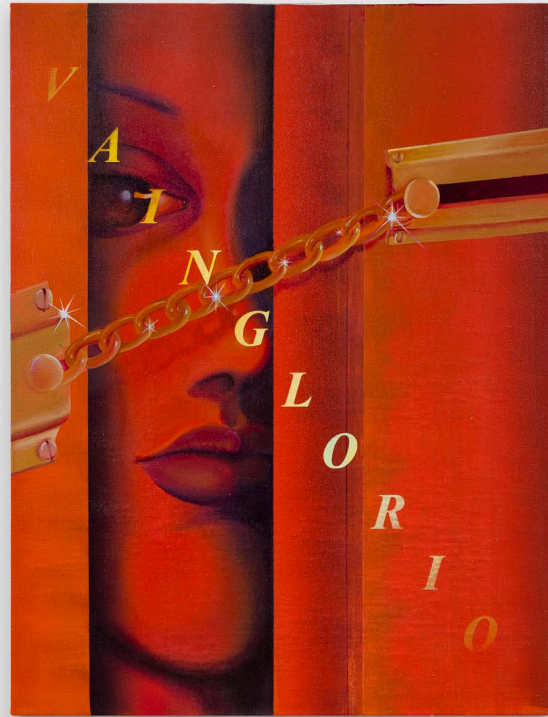
JONNY NEGRON
Two Sides To Every Story, 2023
Acrylic on linen
42 x 32 in / 106.7 x 81.3 cm



*“Two Sides to Every Story depicts a close-up view of a face peering through the entry of a doorway, held slightly ajar by a security chain. There are eleven links in the chain and six sparkles. The number six represents equilibrium or harmony. Over the image lies text reading ‘Vainglorio’ diagonally from the upper left to the lower right corners. ‘Vainglorio’, or ‘Vain-glorious,’ relates to an individual’s perspective surrounding conflict. Here the subject realizes reconciliation through acceptance: acceptance of being the cause of their own suffering. *Two Sides to Every Story* relates to vulnerability, conflict, and reconciliation.”*

—JONNY NEGRÓN

JONNY NEGRON
Two Sides To Every Story, 2023
Acrylic on linen
42 x 32 in / 106.7 x 81.3 cm



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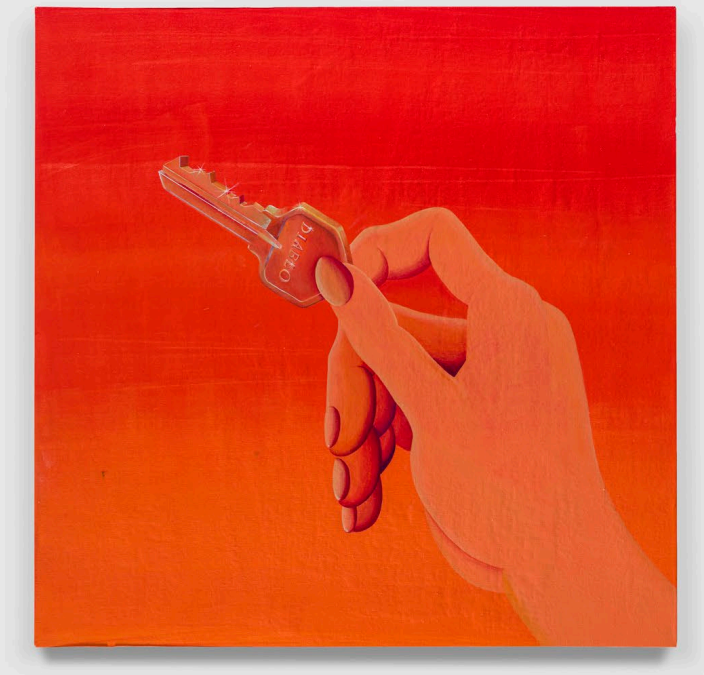
JONNY NEGRÓN
The Spectacular Commodity, 2023
Acrylic on linen
36 x 36 in / 91.4 x 91.4 cm

“A hand holds a key with an inscription reading ‘DIABLO,’ the Spanish word for devil. Here, The term ‘DIABLO’ relates to materiality itself embodied by the pursuit of carnal pleasure. The hand flourishes the key as a common vehicle to ingest snortable recreational drugs, typically found in social settings such as night clubs.”

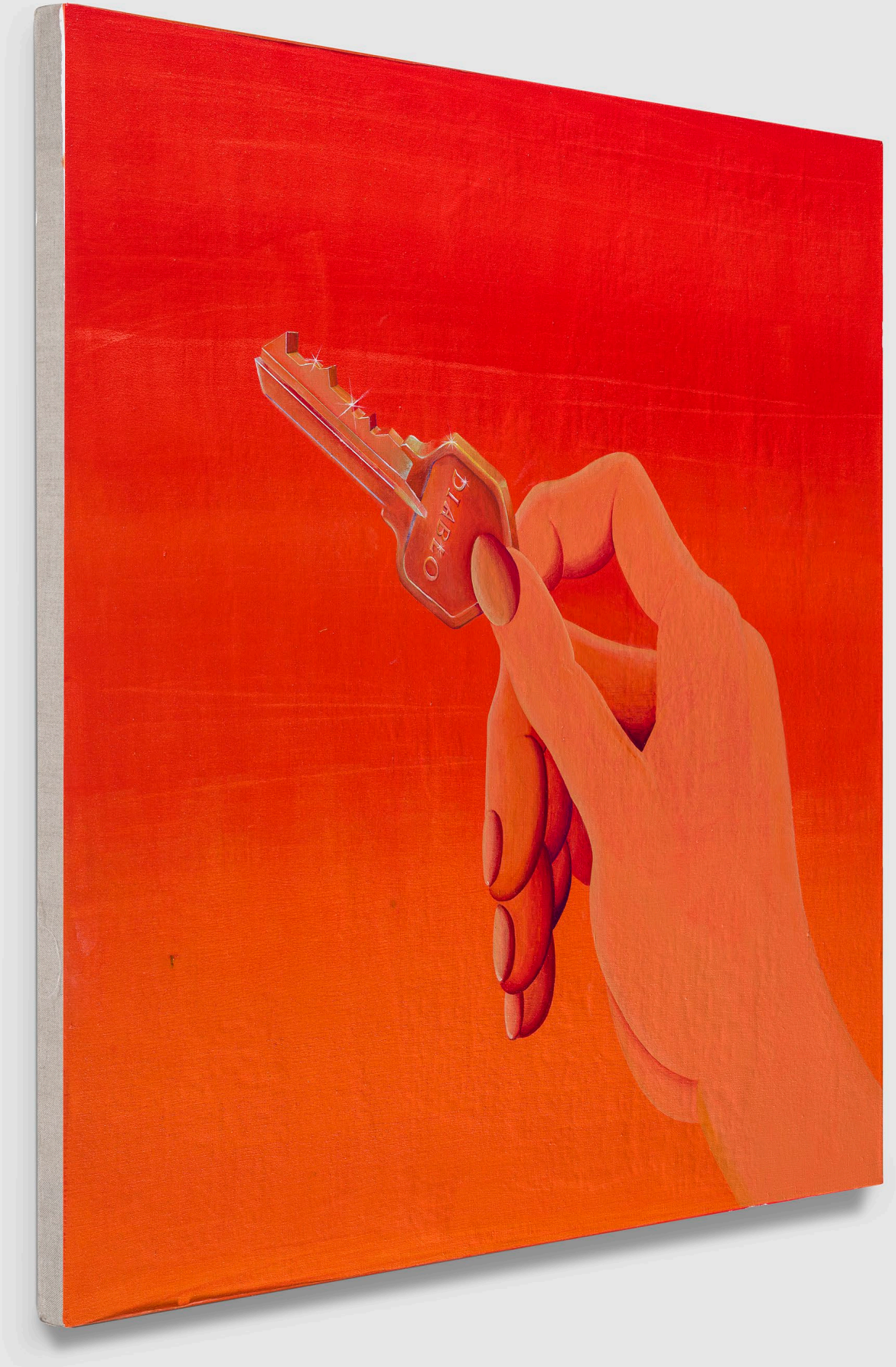
—JONNY NEGRON



JONNY NEGRON
The Spectacular Commodity, 2023
Acrylic on linen
36 x 36 in / 91.4 x 91.4 cm




JONNY NEGRON
The Spectacular Commodity, 2023
Side view





JONNY NEGRON
My Game of Loving, 2023
Acrylic on linen
36 x 36 in / 91.4 x 91.4 cm



“My Game of Loving depicts a disc shaped lock with its shackle slightly pulled open by the lock’s key. There are various inscriptions on the lock, including ‘Hard’ (short for hardened), ‘Stain’ (short for Stainless Steel), ‘Diskus’ and ‘ABUS’ — which also appears on the key. The word ‘ABUS’ can be translated as misuse, or abuse. A greek disk thrower appears etched on the lock, as well. There appear five sparkles of varying sizes, the number five representing the senses. *My Game of Loving* imbues cycles of abuse and the difficulty of breaking those patterns. I was inspired to use this lock as a subject after borrowing the lock from my father. After I had revealed to him that I had taken it to use for a painting, he told me he had received it from my maternal grandfather.”

—JONNY NEGRON

JONNY NEGRON
My Game of Loving, 2023
Acrylic on linen
36 x 36 in / 91.4 x 91.4 cm





Diska

Germania

ALBTRA

Catalin



JONNY NEGRÓN
Spinning Coins and Wishing on Clovers, 2023
Acrylic on linen
15 x 15 in / 38.1 x 38.1 cm



“ ...The Universe contains different forms of existence, each using the same blueprint, an examination of any part of the Universe at a particular time should reveal, by analogy, the forces pertaining to the whole, and so the other parts of the Universe ... the structure of the microcosm (the inner world) is similar in outline to the structure of the macrocosm (the outer world). A close modern analogy to this would be to point out, as James Jeans has, that the structure of the atom, that of the solar system, and that of a nebula, are in principle the same. This vision of ‘Wheels within wheels’ ... ‘

A hand holds a coin with a symbol of a four leaf clover. The four clovers represent the four elements, air, earth, water and fire. The clover serves as a symbol of luck, of benevolence. The numerals inscribed represent 2023 “

-JONNY NEGRON

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Spinning Coins and Wishing on Clovers, 2023
Acrylic on linen
15 x 15 in / 38.1 x 38.1 cm



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Spinning Coins and Wishing on Clovers, 2023
Acrylic on linen
15 x 15 in / 38.1 x 38.1 cm



CHATEAUSHATTO

EXHIBITION HISTORY AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Jonny Negron (b. 1985, Carolinas, Puerto Rico) lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

Recent solo exhibitions include Château Shatto, Los Angeles; Mao Space, Shanghai and Qingdao Art Museum, Qingdao.

Recent group exhibitions include Pond Society, Shanghai; Galerie Crèvecoeur, Paris; David Zwirner, New York; Tegners Museum, Dronningmølle; Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Los Angeles; Lily Robert, Paris; Embajada, Puerto Rico; The Hole, New York; and American Medium, New York.

Negron's work has been featured in Artforum, Hyperallergic, Cultured, CURA Magazine, Office Magazine, Wallpaper, Editorial Magazine, Garage Magazine, Artillery, KALEIDOSCOPE, Interview Magazine and Los Angeles Times.

Negron's work is in the permanent collection of Dangxia Foundation, Beijing; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Xiao Museum of Contemporary Art, Rizhao; and Pond Society, Shanghai.