

Vie.

Bobby Dowler
SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM

Exhibition curated and organised by Yasmine Helou.
In collaboration with **Vie Projects**.





Bobby Dowler

SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM

On the occasion of Art Basel Paris 2025, Paris-based British artist Bobby Dowler takes over the space of Vie Projects, with *Surplus & System: Studies in Rebuilt Form*, a striking site-specific exhibition, between painting, collage, sculpture and architecture. Following a diligent yet organic *modus operandi*, the works encapsulate and mirror the artist's meticulous practice, based on collecting, reusing and transforming discarded canvases and stretcher frames to create completely new compositions. In this sense Dowler's dynamic artistic process inexorably leads to a myriad of possibilities, perpetually questioning the very limit of his own work, and the space he finds himself in.

Often distinguished by strong colors and geometrical shapes, the resulting works of art are a bold manifestation of a laborious process that may seem open-ended at times but ultimately finds a clear sense of direction and resolution. These novel "painting-objects" stand as a strong testimony to the tension between chaos and order, rejection and appreciation, failure and reinvention that underpins Dowler's technique. Arising from what could have been considered undesirable materials, "leftovers of consumer and art-world culture—specifically discarded canvases, orphaned artworks, and salvaged materials" Bobby Dowler rethinks the very economy of austerity. His creative process is fueled by an aversion for waste and an absolute need to save and structure, conserve and build. In this spirit, the chaotic affair of amassing is, rather paradoxically, precipitated into a quasi-scientific system of comprehension through which Dowler processes waste and production.

Through order and geometry, his artistic practice seems to flirt with historical references such as Modernist Abstraction and Industrial Aesthetics, while questioning a range of contemporary issues around the uniformisation of taste, consumerism, authenticity, rejects and creation. His hybrid "painting-objects" are in this sense constructed and deconstructed, assembled and disassembled over and over again in his studio, and eventually in the exhibition space before being deployed and installed. Ultimately, they

compose an ever finished series of studies and explorations around multiple forms of art, but also a tangible corpus investigating the ontology of objects via the objectification of space through time. Here, Dowler seems to distinguish time from chronology.

Through a somewhat experimental approach of constant metamorphosis, Bobby Dowler reappropriates the space of Vie Projects, with vivid color, texture and shapes. Seemingly following the precepts of Lavoisier "nothing is created, nothing is lost, everything changes" or perhaps just epitomising the famous proverb "one man's trash is another man's treasure", *Surplus & System: Studies in Rebuilt Form*, is a compelling reflection on contemporary value systems, and the capacity of reinvention. Archeologist, through his excavation of discarded material, alchemist in their transformation, sculptor, painter and architect in their assembling, Dowler first and foremost invites the audience to reconsider the obsolete, and embrace it with dynamism and creative sight.

Dates: 23.10.2025 - 08.11.2025

Opening hours: 11:00 — 18:00, Monday — Saturday

Address: Vie Projects, 55 Boulevard Beaumarchais, 75003, Paris

For more information and high res images please email hello@vieprojects.com

Bobby Dowler (b. 1983, London, GB) lives and works in Paris.

British-Irish artist Bobby Dowler's work is characterised by a central focus on the materiality of pre-existing paintings on canvas and their framing devices. Through his deconstruction of found paintings, his application of oils and acrylic paint to their reverse and front (overpainting or on their unprimed reverse sides), he eventually reunites these material wrong/odd-sized wood-stretcher frame-devices.

This unorthodox method of transforming 'paintings' into 'objects' reveals visual clues to his irregular process, as well as elements of information contained in the original subjects (orphaned paintings made by friends, or even strangers - that he has adopted over time).

Dowler's works are known for their rough and unrefined application of colour, and his process of collecting, assemblage, cutting, pasting, stapling and overlaying. Dowler's oeuvre challenges the straightforward narrative of painting, preferring to engage with its own areas of interest and discovery - often presenting them as installations that play with uneven arrangements, unexpected colour combinations and industrial aesthetics. His practice is rooted in material economy, the information that time creates and self-imposed constraints, embracing imperfections and the physical labour and errors involved in making art. Through his unique procedural methods, he incorporates offcuts and remnants of past decisions into new compositions.

"I build artworks through an experiential research process. I embrace unexpected experiences and discover unusual solutions to the problems that I create,"

Dowler explains, highlighting the transformative nature of his work. His art engages in a self-critical dialogue with the material history of painting and sculpture, opting for a direct, physical presence rather than illusionistic space. The results are strange, unpredictable, and insistently material. His approach reflects elements of Arte Povera and post-minimalist strategies, prioritising process over fixed meaning. The resulting compositions are both raw and deliberate, challenging traditional hierarchies of front and

back, finished and unfinished, surface, system and structure.

Bobby Dowler holds a Master's in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, London, GB. His work has been presented at The Peckham Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale; Musée du Fumeur, Paris, FR; Galerie Ceysson & Benetiere, Paris; Shoot The Lobster, New York City, NY; Fine Art Network, Vienna, AT; New Art Centre, Roche Court, Wiltshire, GB; Workspace Gallery, Gateshead, GB; Bold Tendencies, London; Chelsea Space, London; Lethaby Gallery, London; Beaconsfield, London; SlugTown, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, GB and Hannah Barry Gallery, London. Recent solo exhibitions include Reasonable Adjustments, The Goma, Madrid, ES (2025) and When You're Strange, Galeria Alegria, Barcelona (2024). His work was featured in the duo exhibition "Betwixt, Beyond and Unbound" curated by Yasmine Helou (2025), Casa Gilardi, CDMX, MX.

He co-founded two artist-run spaces: Lyndhurst Way, London (2006-2007) and Fokidos, Athens, GR (2012-2013). He was awarded the Alumni Art Prize, University of the Arts, London (2022).

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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Work, Hanging Sculpture

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_01c(10-25)S&S.JDS-YH
2025
Paint and objects
238 x 142 cm



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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Work, Hanging Sculpture

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_01c(10-25)S&S.JDS-YH
2025
Paint and objects
238 x 142 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_02c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
100 x 80 cm
33 x 46 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_03c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
97 x 146 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_04c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
60 x 40 cm



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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_05c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
148 x 92 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_06c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
138 x 136 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_07c(10-25)S&S
2025
Paint and objects
24 x 13 x 13 cm



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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_08c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
30 x 30 x 30 cm





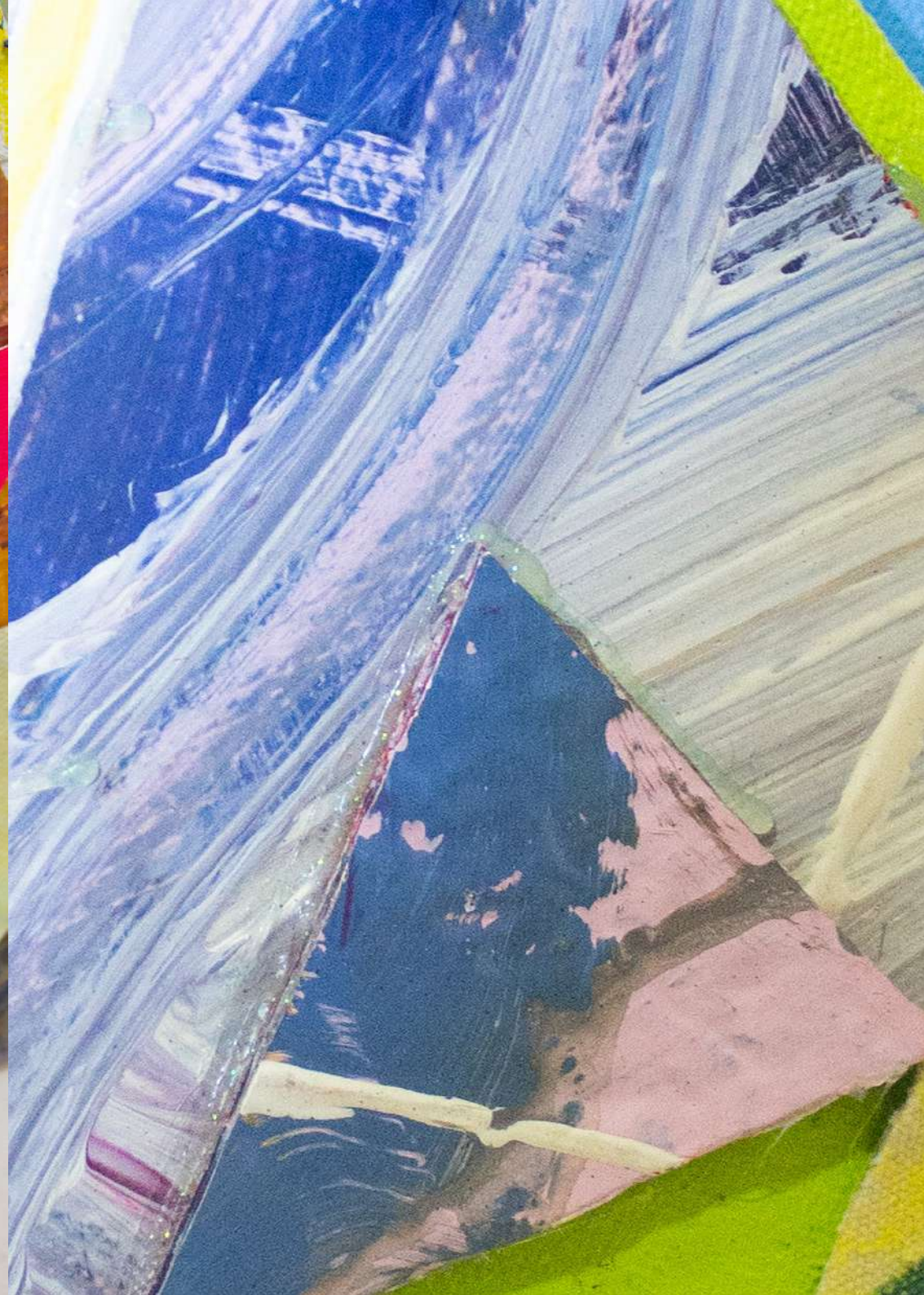


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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_09c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
18 x 20 x 20 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_10c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
26 x 26 x 15 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_11c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
20 x 20 x 10 cm





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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_12c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
20 x 20 x 15 cm

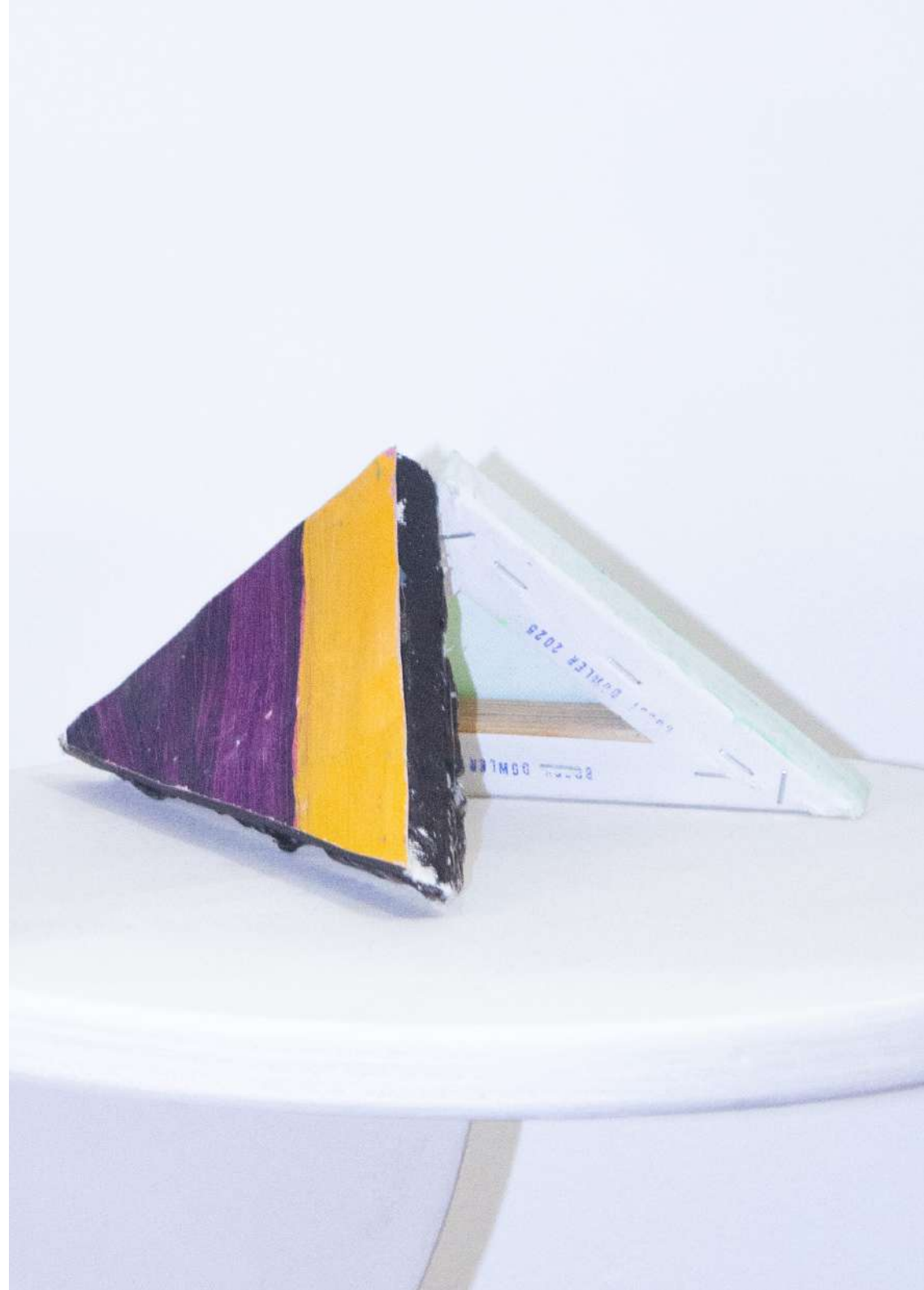


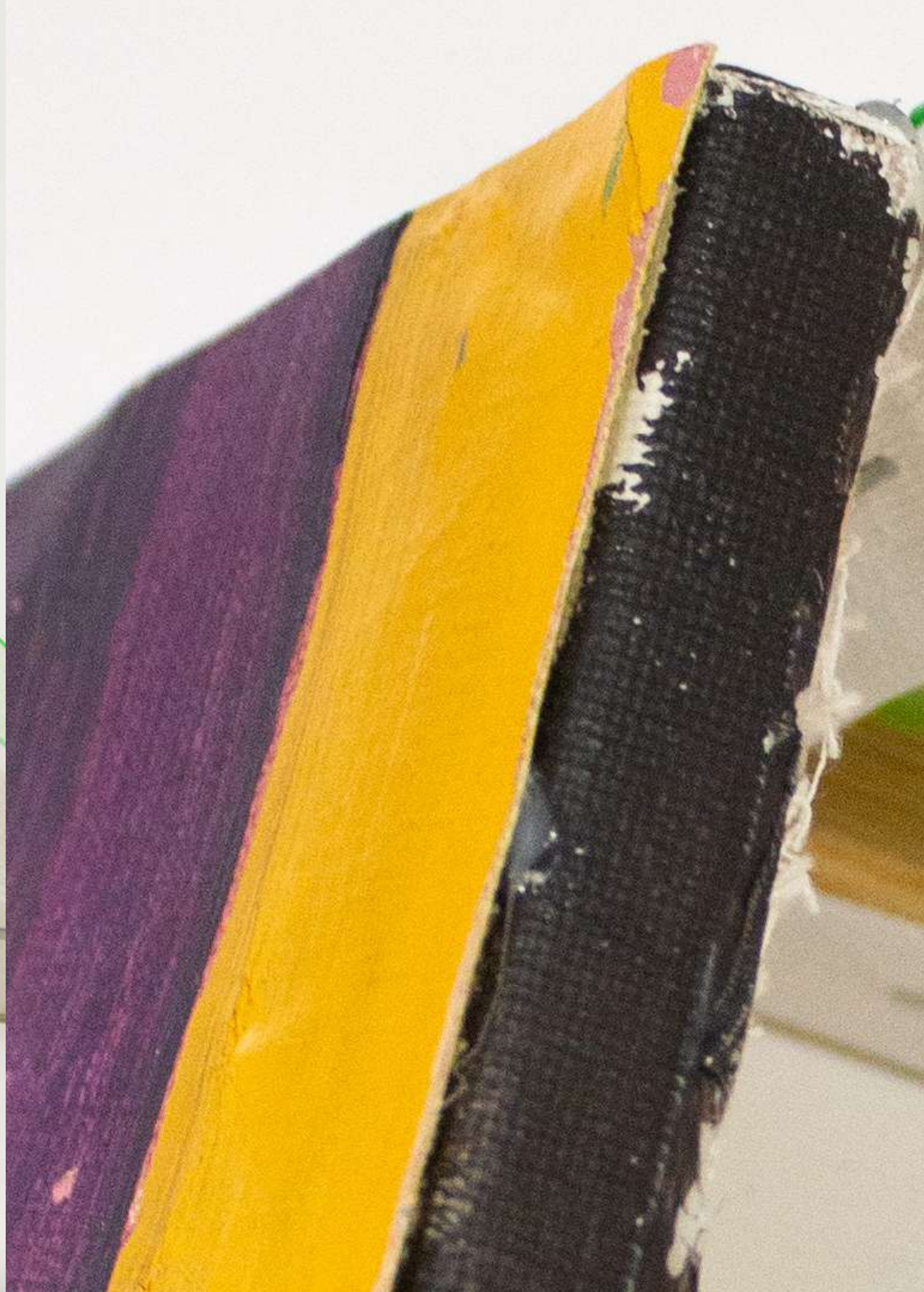


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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_13c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
18 x 18 x 12 cm





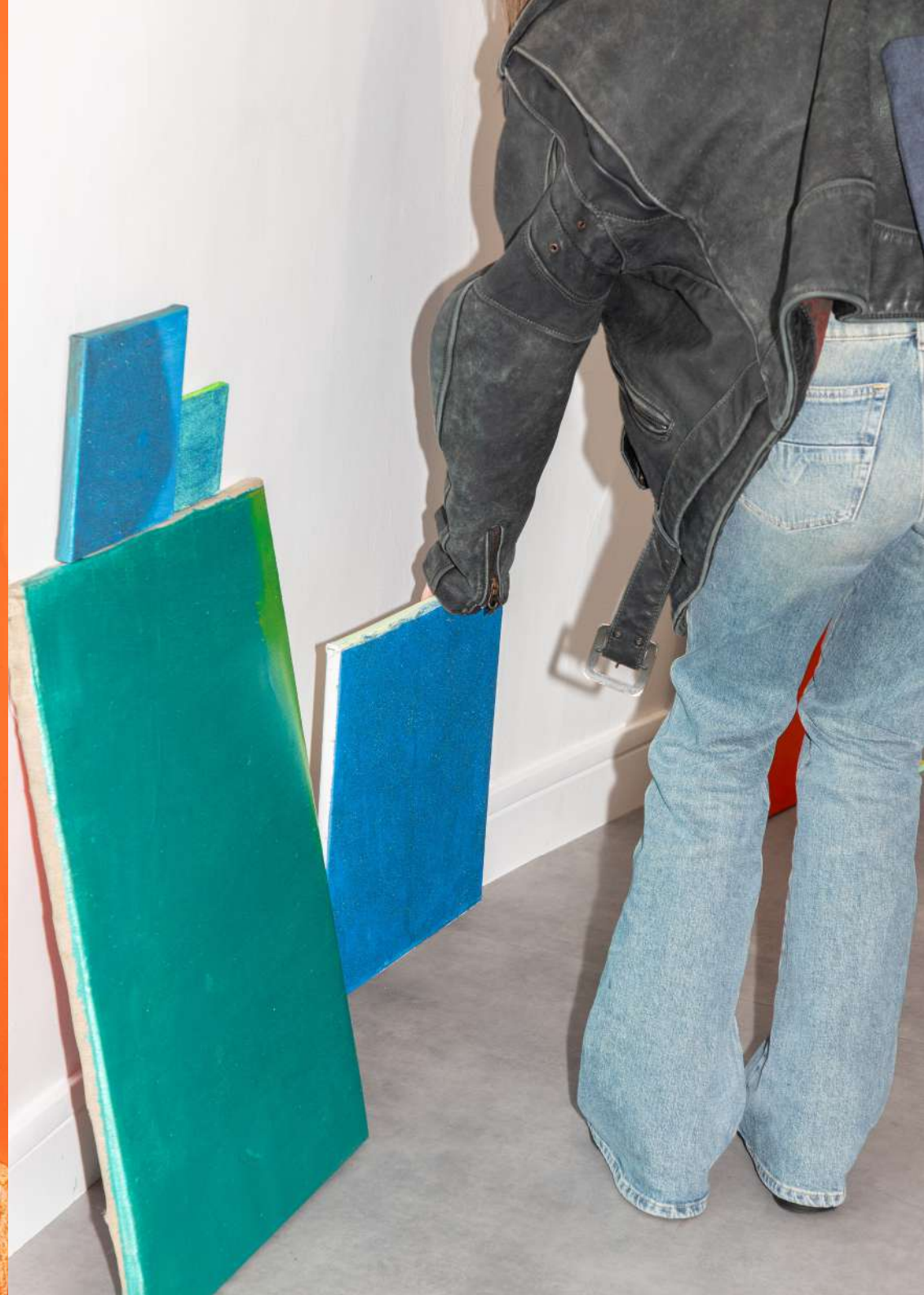
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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Fixed Works

Bobby Dowler
Painting-Object_14c(10-25)
2025
Paint and objects
30 x 30 x 22 cm







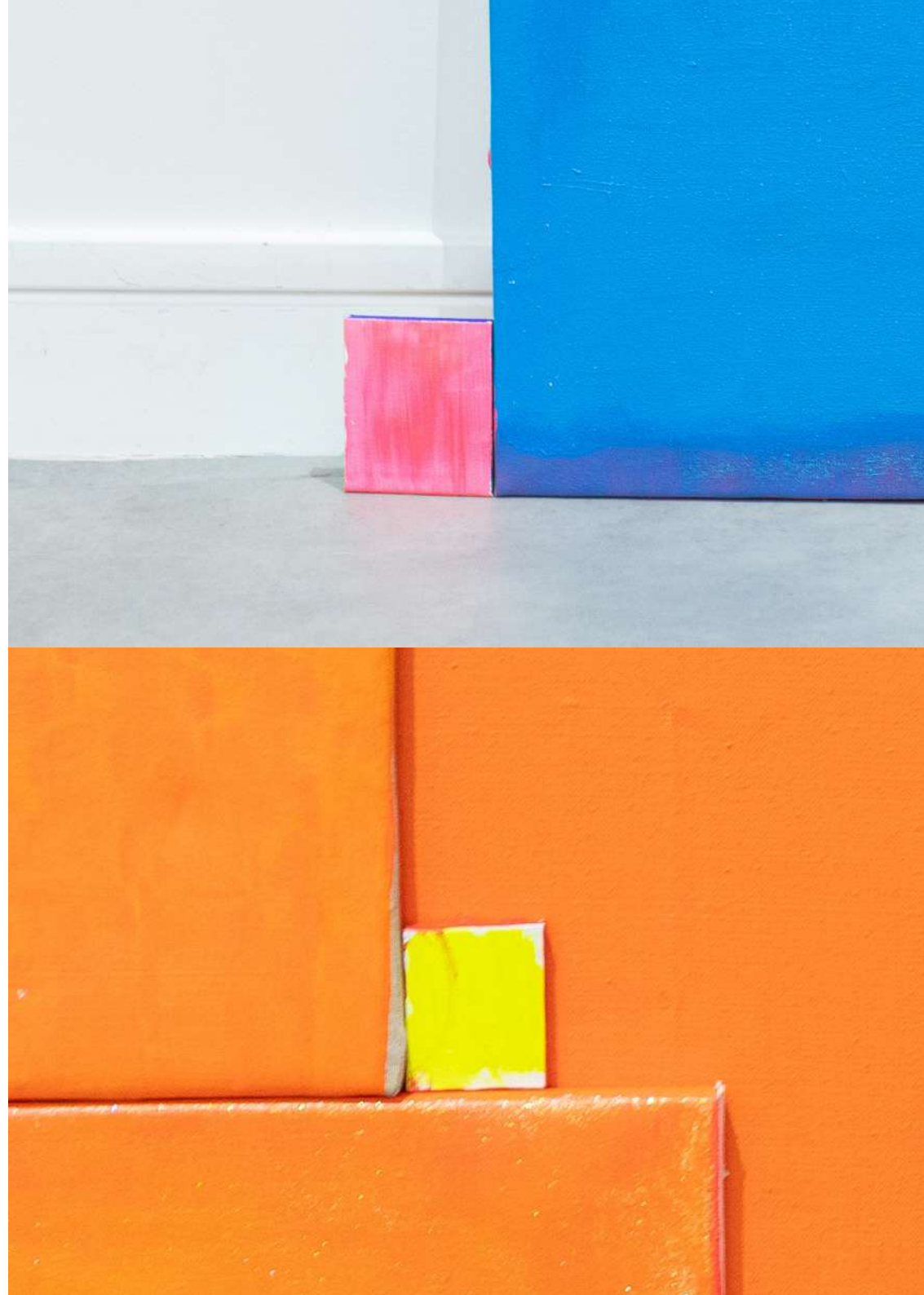
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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Modular Works

Surplus & Systems: Studies in Rebuilt Form is the artist's invitation to the audience to interact with the works and assemble their own.

Bobby Dowler
Extra Small Canvases
2025
Paint and objects

5 x 5 cm



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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Modular Works

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Bobby Dowler
Small Canvases
2025
Paint and objects

Varying dimensions
10 cm to 20 cm



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SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Modular Works

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Bobby Dowler
Medium Canvases
2025
Paint and objects

Varying dimensions
40 cm to 60 cm



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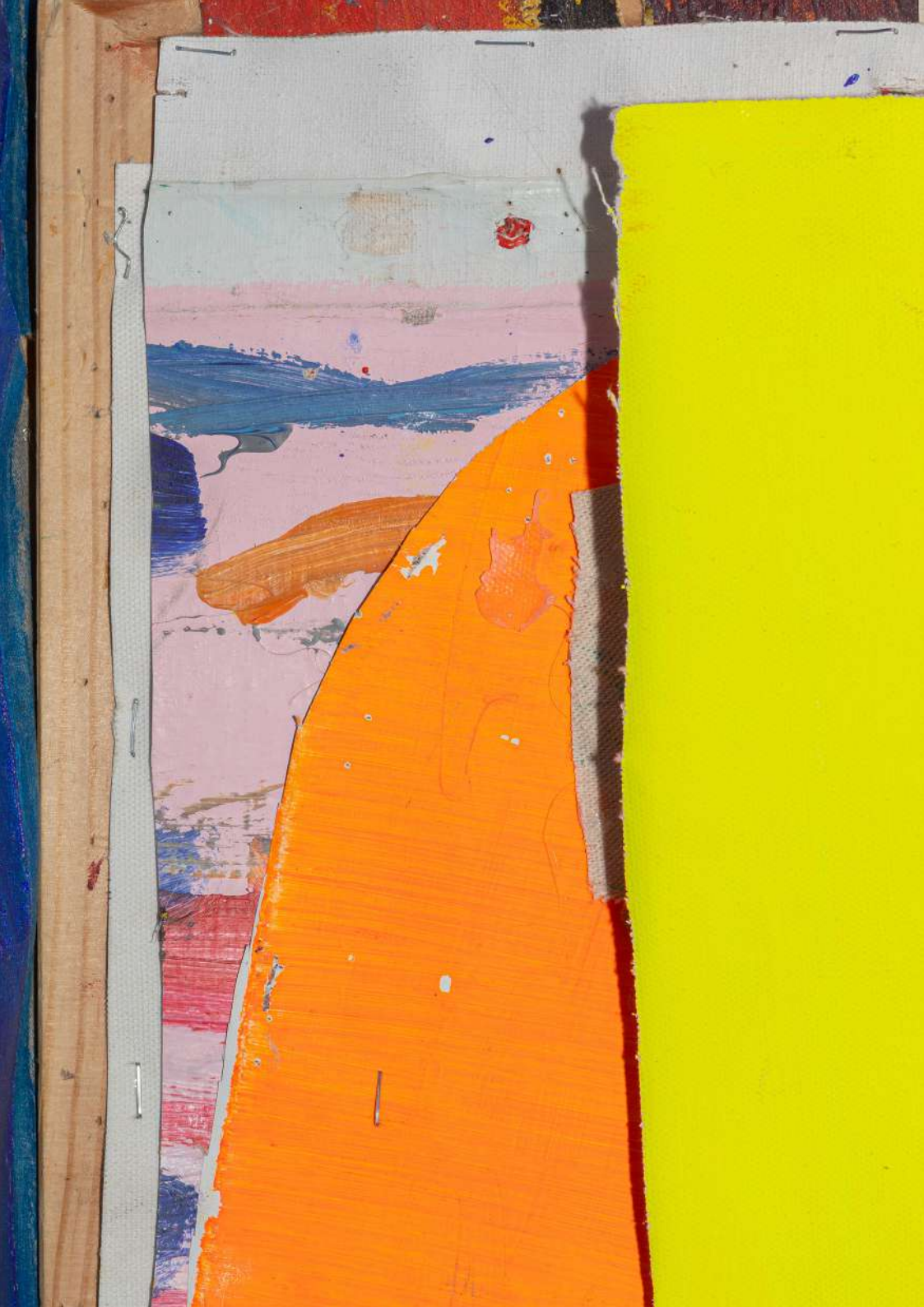
SURPLUS & SYSTEM: STUDIES IN REBUILT FORM
Modular Works

Surplus & Systems: Studies in Rebuilt Form is the artist's invitation to the audience to interact with the works and assemble their own.

Bobby Dowler
Large Canvases
2025
Paint and objects

Varying dimensions
74 cm to 146 cm



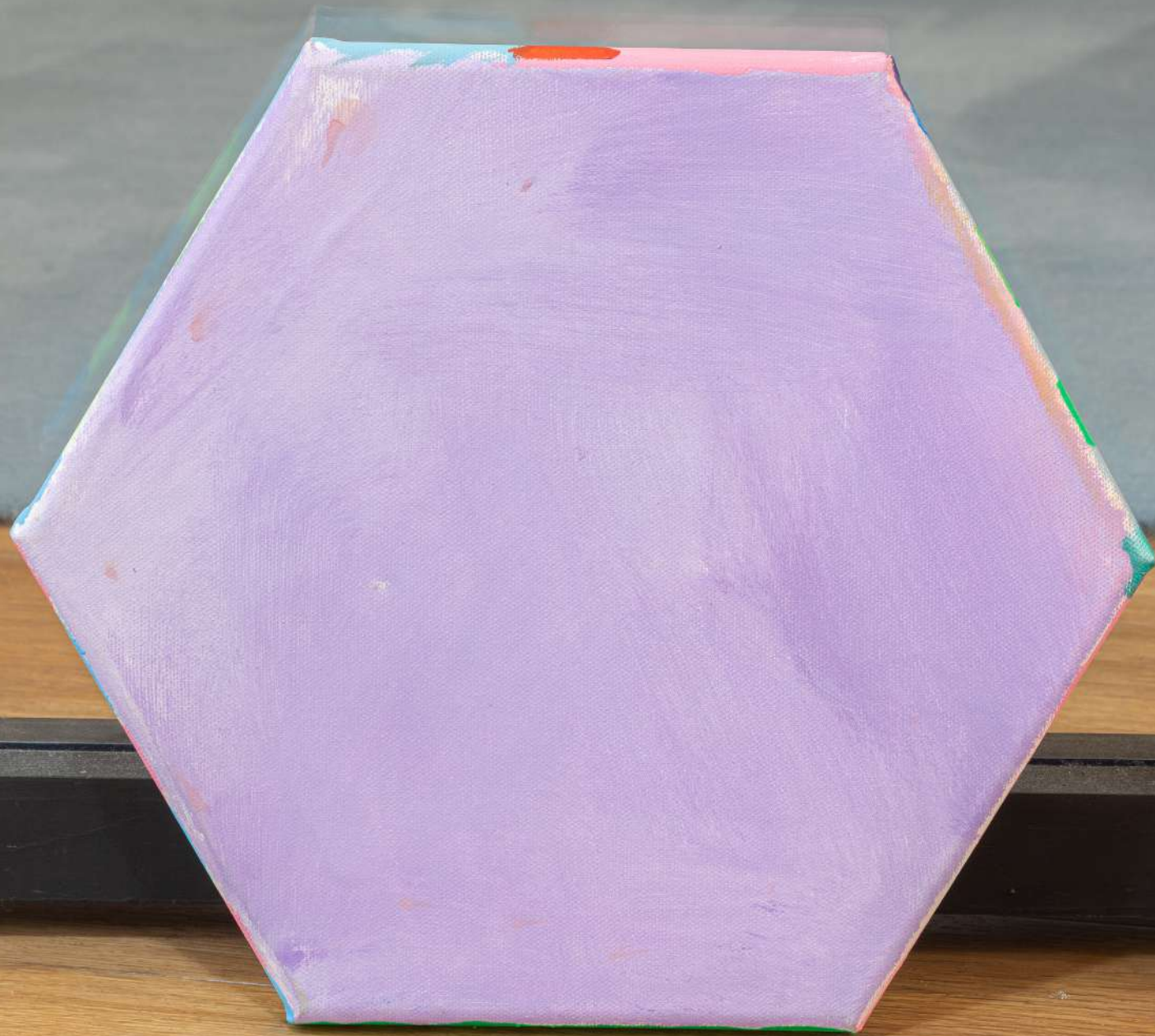
















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Surplus & System:
Studies in Rebuilt Form

November 10th - 11th
10:00 - 18:00
Saturday

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For more information and inquiries
email hello@vieprojects.com.