



A LOT TO DO ABOUT NOTHING...

UNCONSCIOUS AND AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL POETICS

2024 EXHIBITION @ DENNY'S GALLERY, NANAIMO, BC **AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 1**

RECENT 2-D VISUAL ART BY

R. MICHAEL FISHER

Curated by Barbara Bickel

Artist Statement

A LOT TO DO ABOUT NOTHING... is a solo exhibition of “new works” that I have created as part of my daily meditations, although some of them are more planned pieces. These are art pieces that aesthetically reflect musing of the Unconscious and my playfulness with poetics. Often I feel many pieces are visual poems. They are typically short bursts of expression although I may involve a disciplined and tedious element in the techniques as you will see in many of the textured markings (dashes, squares, dots) that I have been using more so in the last five years of making art. At times, with these intensities of textured markings my aim is to find a way to feel like I am sewing, crocheting or knitting. I like the experience of repetitive tediousness. Yet, at other times I like the explosive spontaneous combustions that make up some pieces. At other times, I find objects and paste them down with more a collage like appearance, especially of late they have a lot of autobiographical memory and are part of my art-based inquiry into writing a memoir, which I am planning to publish.

The title of the exhibition came to me from a particular set of aesthetic exercises you can see where I just took a colored pencil (or a set of 2, 3, 4 colors only) and I just sat with a simple piece of white paper and let the led start moving on the grain of the paper. I held the colored pencil on its side so as to have a ‘rubbing’ effect rather than a drawing impression—and, this took me into discovering a great simplicity in doing just about ‘nothing’ to the white paper and composition—it all just unfolded and totally surprised me when I said: “O.K. that’s enough, don’t do anything more.” This left me with a few pieces that hardly one might call ‘art’ but seem like controlled scribbles as if from a child playing with this new fancy tool of a colored pencil and not knowing what they are doing. I liked how this process made me forget I know what I am doing in the studio. Magic happens.

R. Michael Fisher

Nanaimo, BC

August 2024

Curatorial statement

R. Michael Fisher's multi-media art exhibition may have "A Lot To Do About Nothing" but it also has a lot to do about keeping an artist-philosopher's life in a syncopated groove. Fisher is a self-taught drummer who dances with self-learned visual art mediums and techniques. What he learns through playful and meditative practices of spontaneous creation-making he loves to teach and share. He has the gift of painting evocative compositions in high realism, that the commercial world of art loves to market and sell for grand prices, yet he has chosen to stay true to the spirit of a philosophical artist. A philosophical artist who desires heart-mind engagement with those who encounter his art. When the sacred triangle of connection forms, his teacher self appears. If you are so fortunate as be in the presence of Michael with his art, a conversation, filled with a wisdom gained over many decades of exploring the inner and outer realms of his being, begins to hold and carry you into new realms.

A conversation with Fisher is a dance filled with gestures and moves seeking the "right note," as bassist Ron Carter described about his own music-making process. Colorful, rich and resonate notes are inspired by the co-encounter between the art, artist and audience. The viewer/listener is not passive in this dance, but moving in an unanticipated syncopated groove that remains in their inner eye and ears long after the dance has ended.

Barbara Bickel
August 22, 2023
Nanaimo, B.C.
Canada

#21. Absolute Objectivity
mixed media on canvas (diptych)
9 X 12 in. each (9 X 24 in.)
\$110



#20. Enter
mixed media on canvas
12 X 9 in.
\$65



#19. Autobiographic Heroes
mixed media on canvas
9 X 12 in.
\$50



#37. Ancestral Dancer
mixed media on matboard
11.5 X 6.3 in.
\$35



#22. Surreal
mixed media on matboard
10.5 X 7.75 in.
\$45



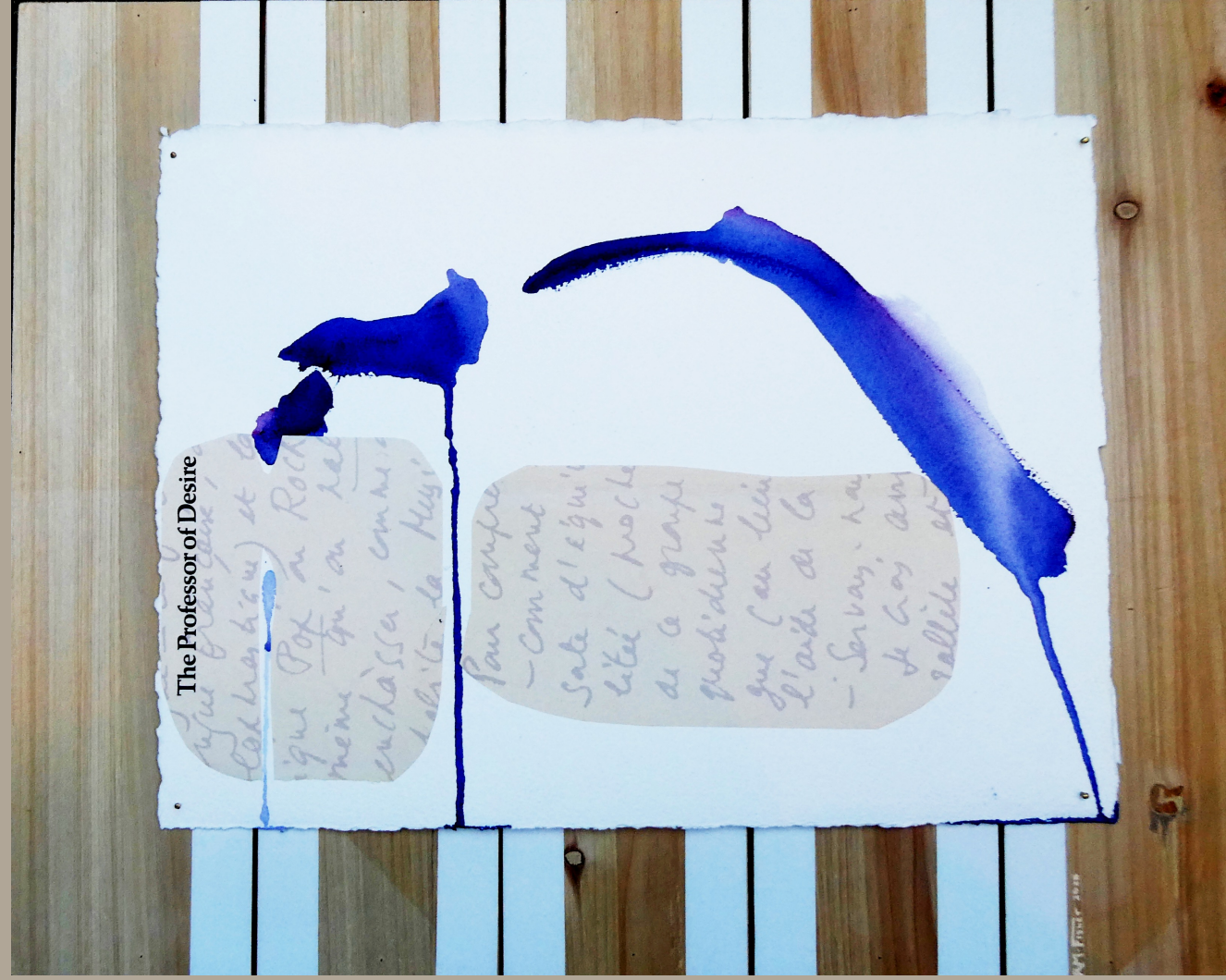
#18. Enox
mixed media on paper/matboard
10 X 11 in.
\$45



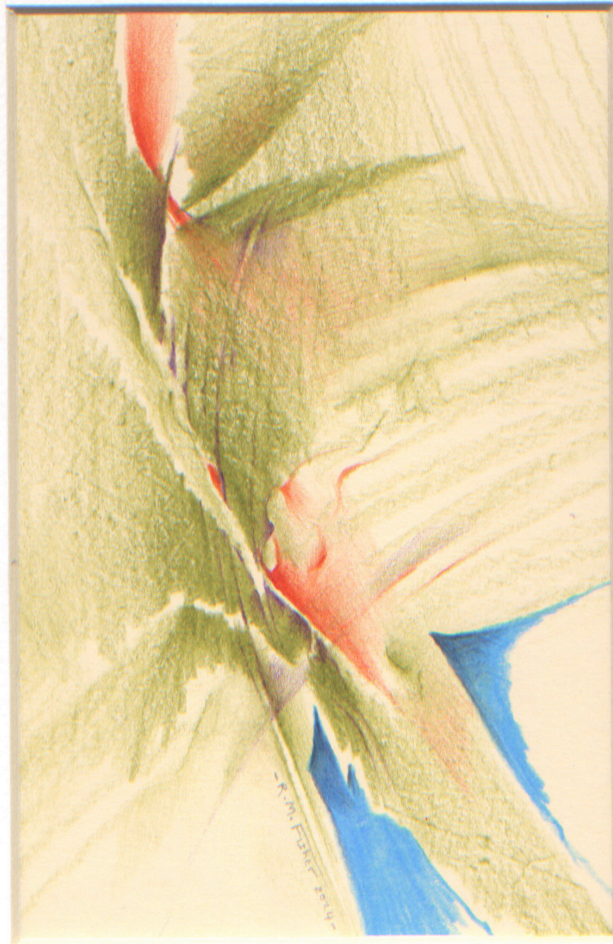
#40. Vee
mixed media on canvas
12 X 19 in.
\$110



#11. Professor
mixed media on wood
12.5 X 9 in.
\$110



#30. Exotican Traces
color pencil on paper w/ mat
8 X 10 in.
\$35



#38. Tropos
watercolor & ink on paper w/ mat
9 X 14 in.
\$35



#27. Resurgence
color pencil on paper w/ mat
8 X 10 in.
\$35



#28. Salination
color pencil on paper w/ mat
11 X 14 in.
\$55



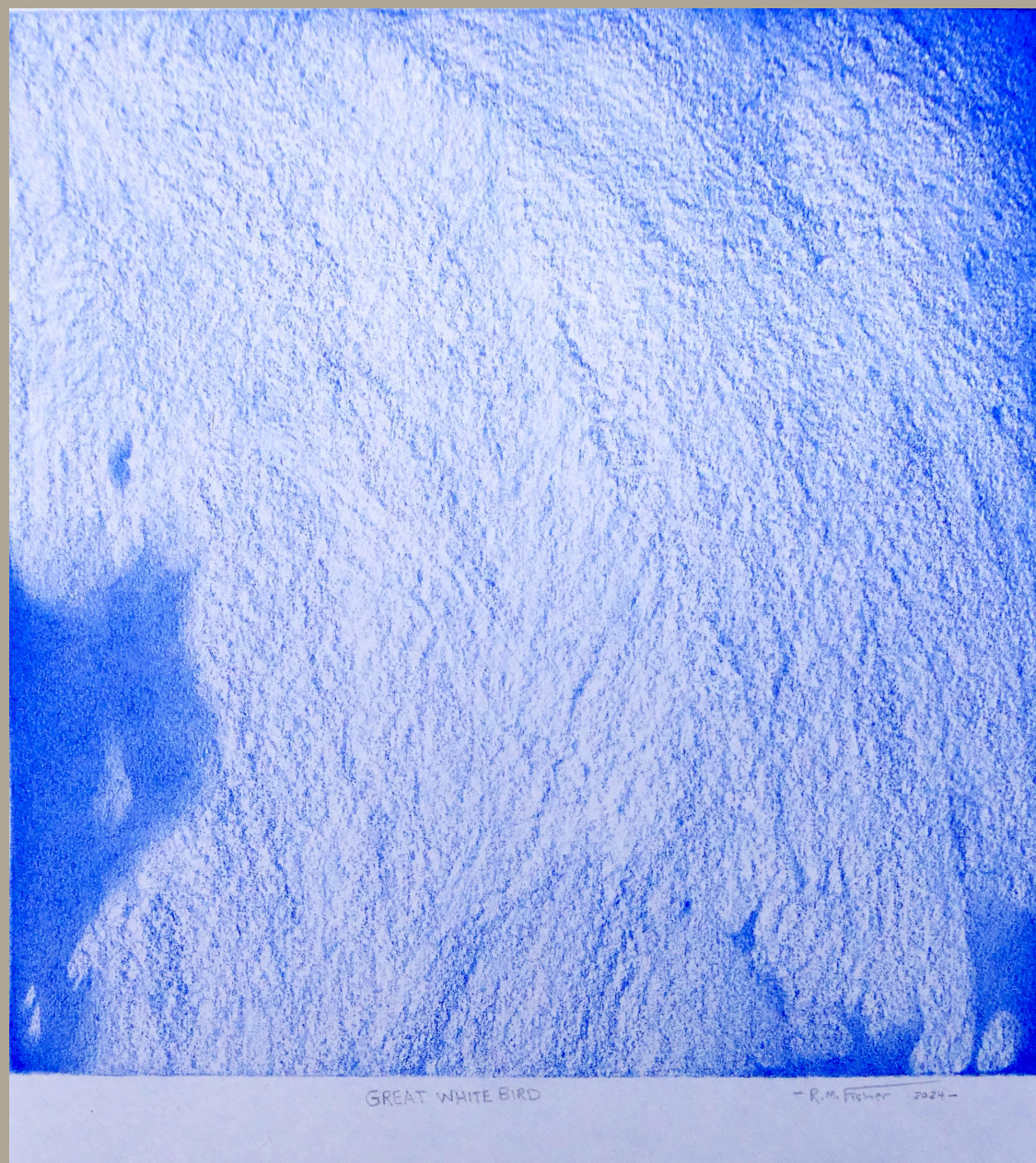
#29. Harmon I
color pencil on paper w/ mat
8 X 10 in.
\$45



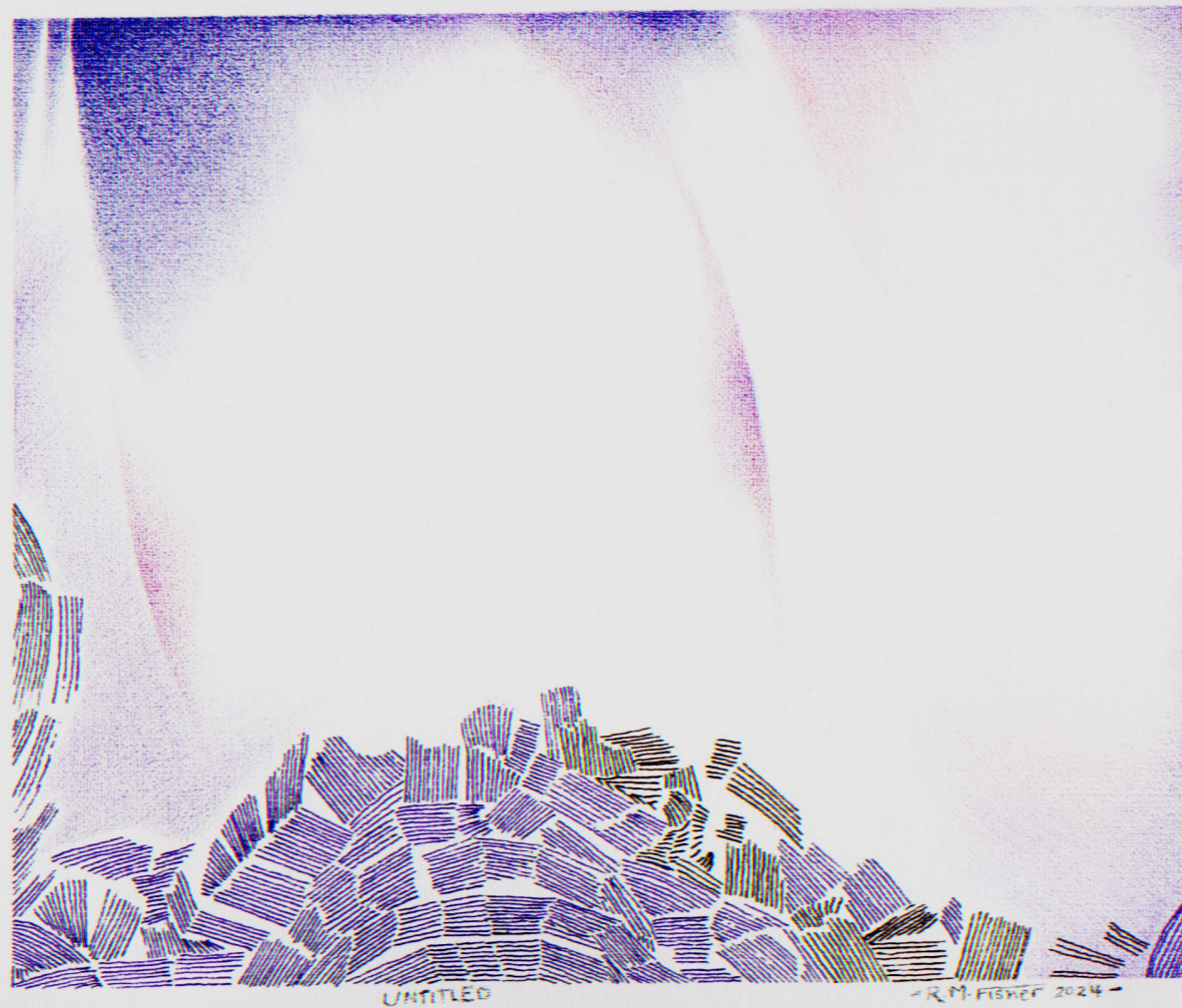
#23. Summa
colored pencil on paper w/ mat
11 X 14 in.
\$50



#39. Great White Bird
colored pencil on paper w/ mat
11 X 14 in.
\$45



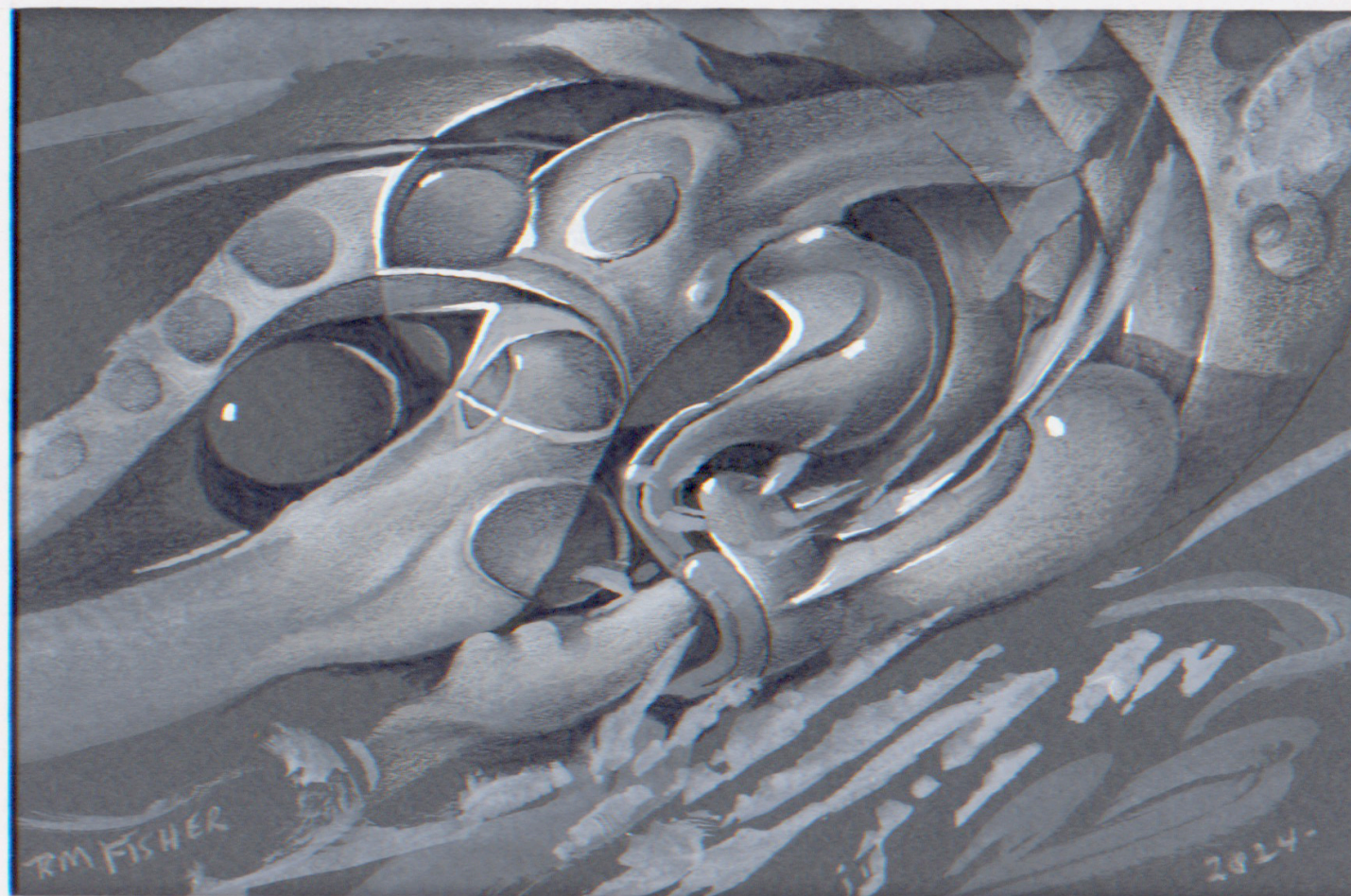
#25. Untitled
mixed media on canvas
9 X 12 in.
\$45



#41. Comedic Continuum
colored pencil on paper w/ mat
11 X 14 in.
\$60



#32. Falling Raven
mixed media on matboard
8 X 10 in.
\$35



#44. Reset
graphite on paper w/ mat
14 X 18 in.
\$35



#26. Terroir Bodies

pencil crayon on paper w/ gold-colored metal frame (glass covered)

6.5 X 14.5 in

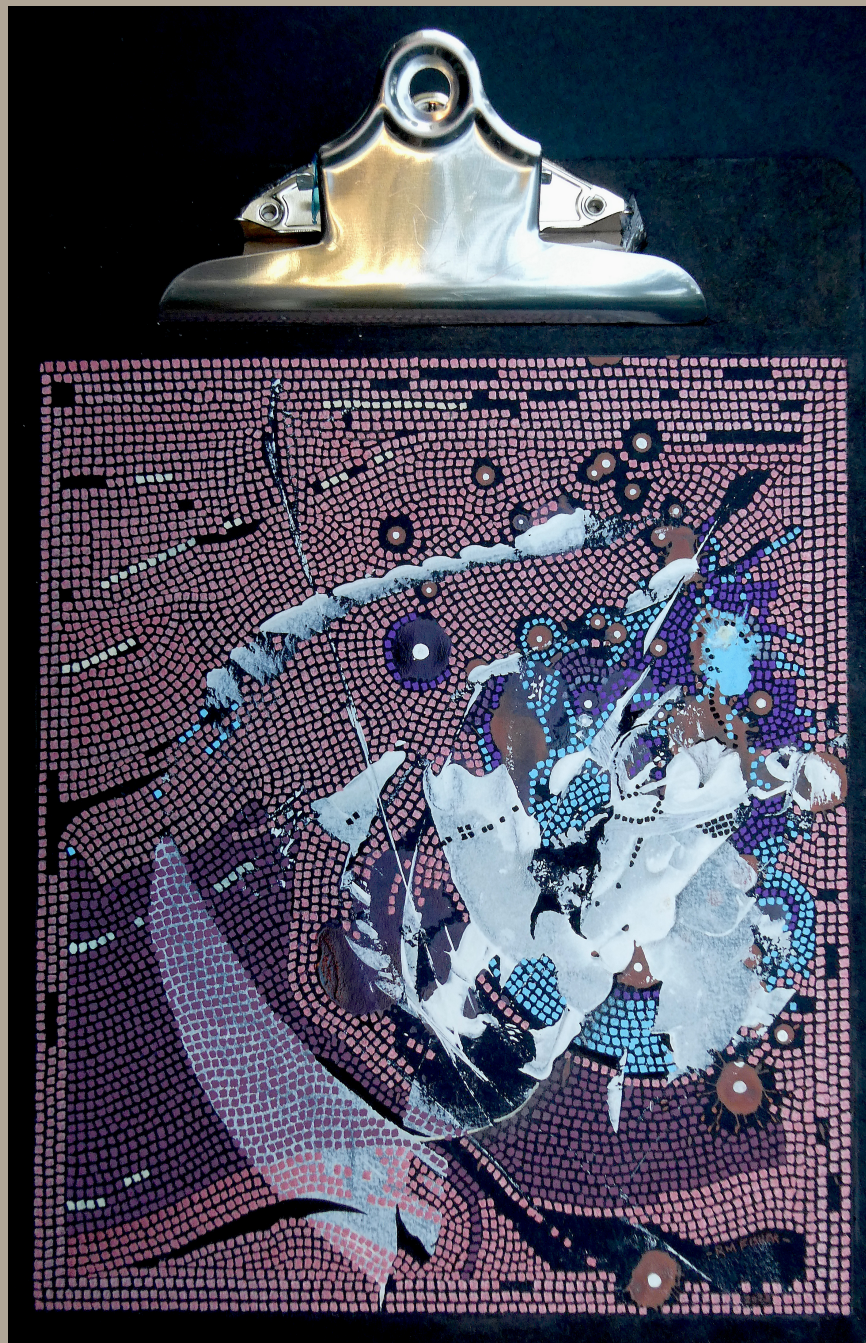
\$110



#42. Women Helping Women
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#4. Orpheus
mixed media on clipboard
9 X 12 in.
\$45



#13. Atom Splicing
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in
\$45



#8. Albino Haunting
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#1. Orion Template
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#12. Carter @ 12:01 am
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in
\$45



#7. 1978 Memoria
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#10. Uturn
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#2. Mask Spirit
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#3. Black Swans
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#14. Crusades
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



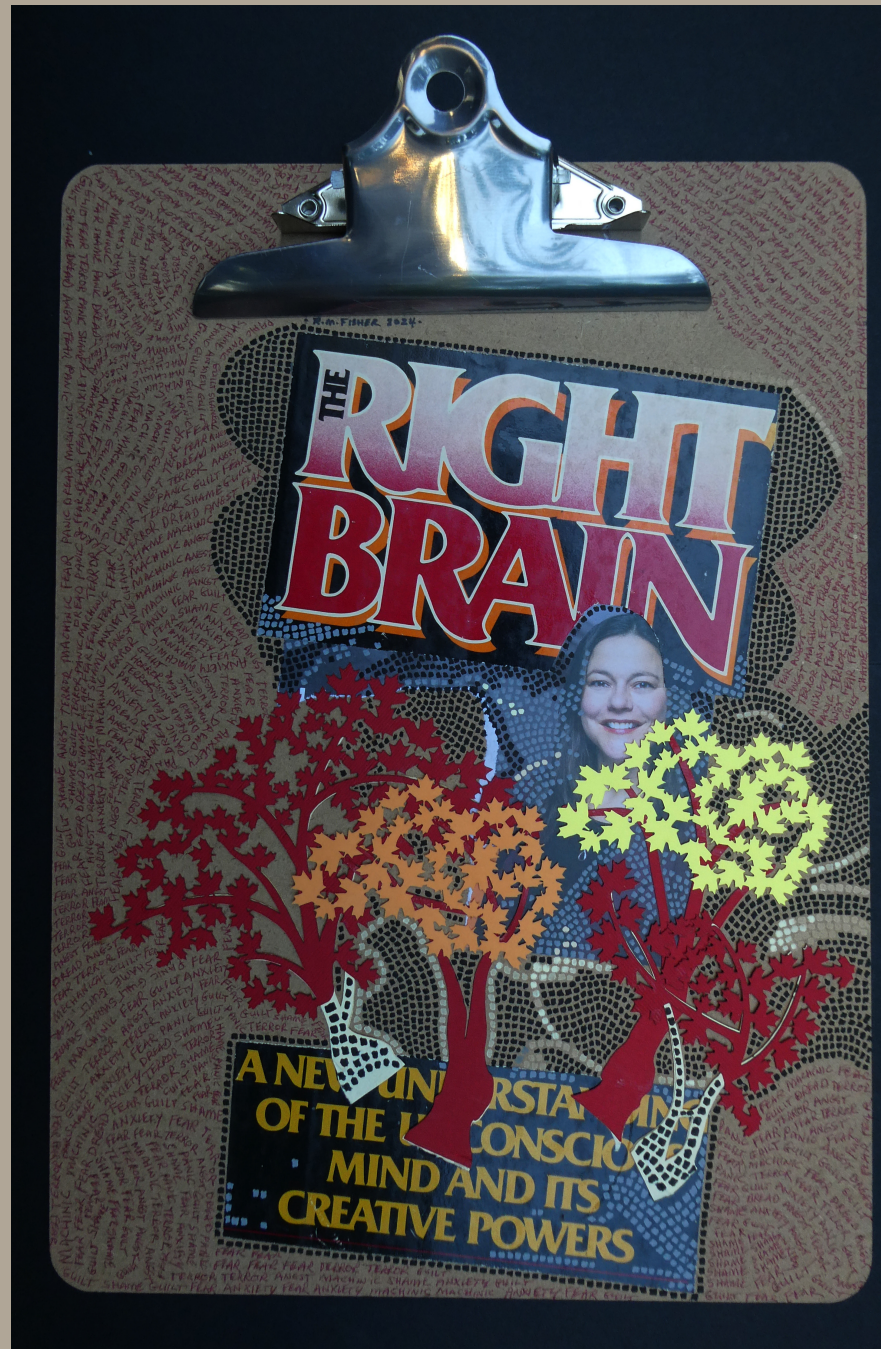
#6. Primeval Universe
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



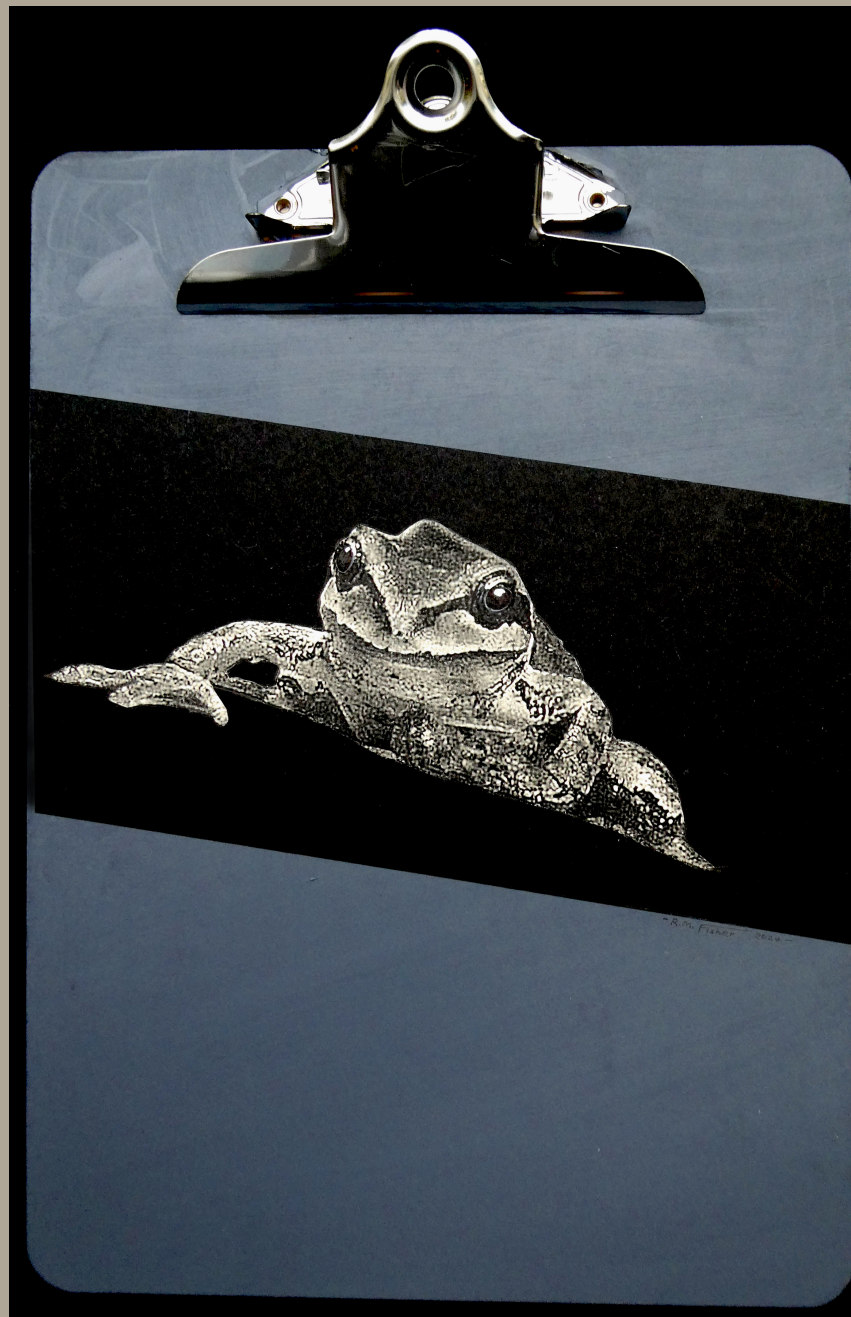
#9. Chronus Bound-Unbound
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



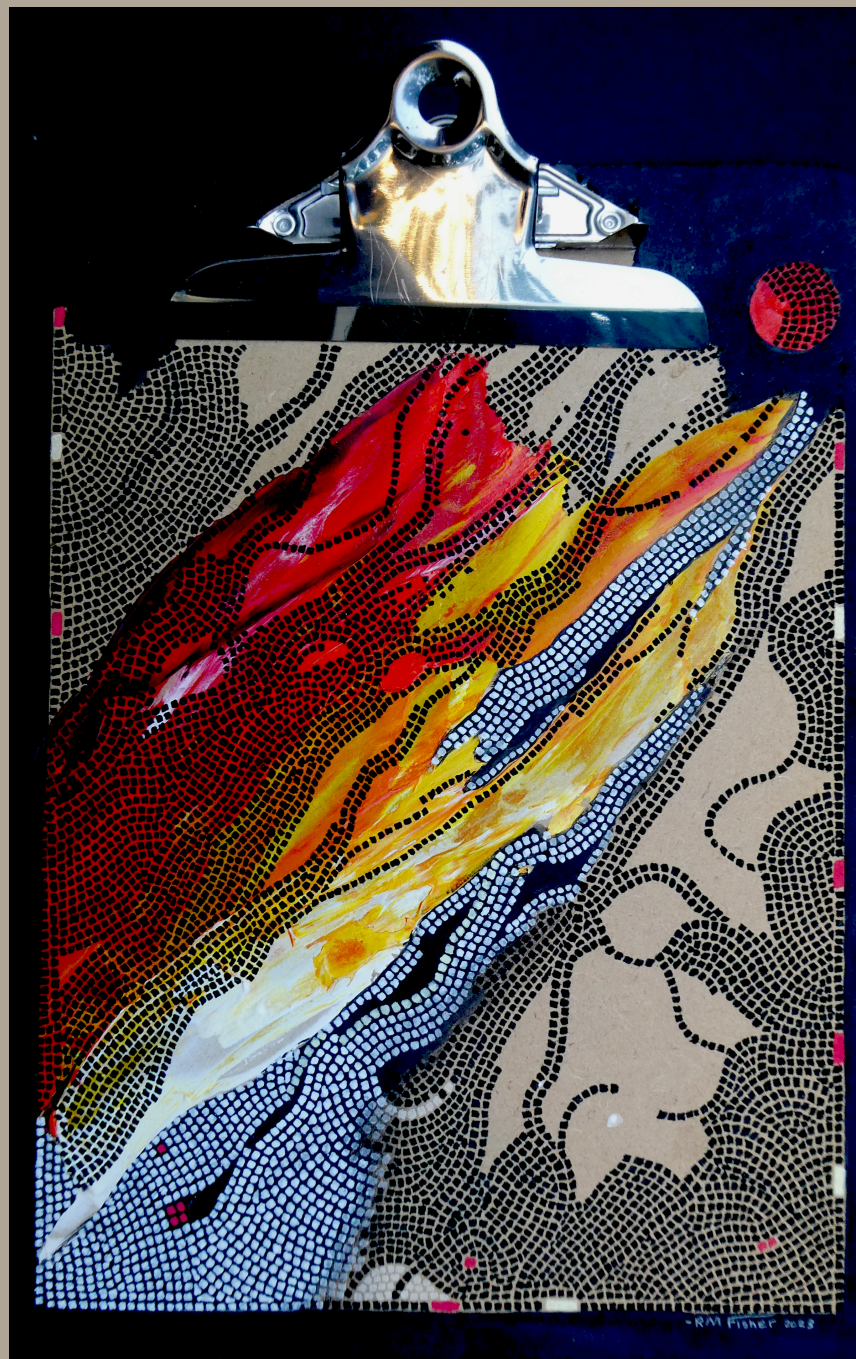
#15. Fear Brain
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



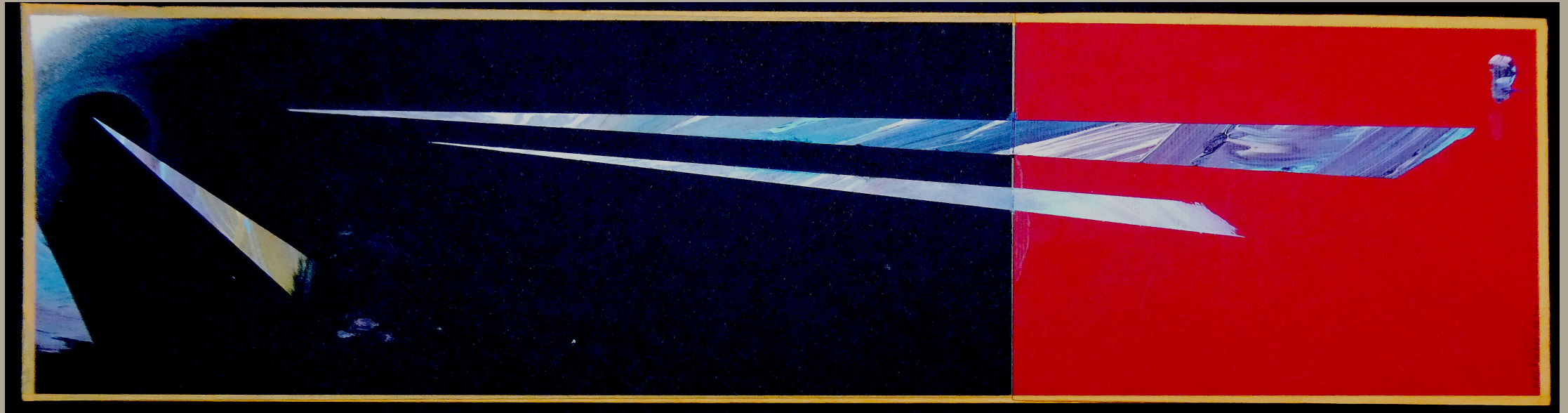
#43. Pseudacris regilla: Up Close
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



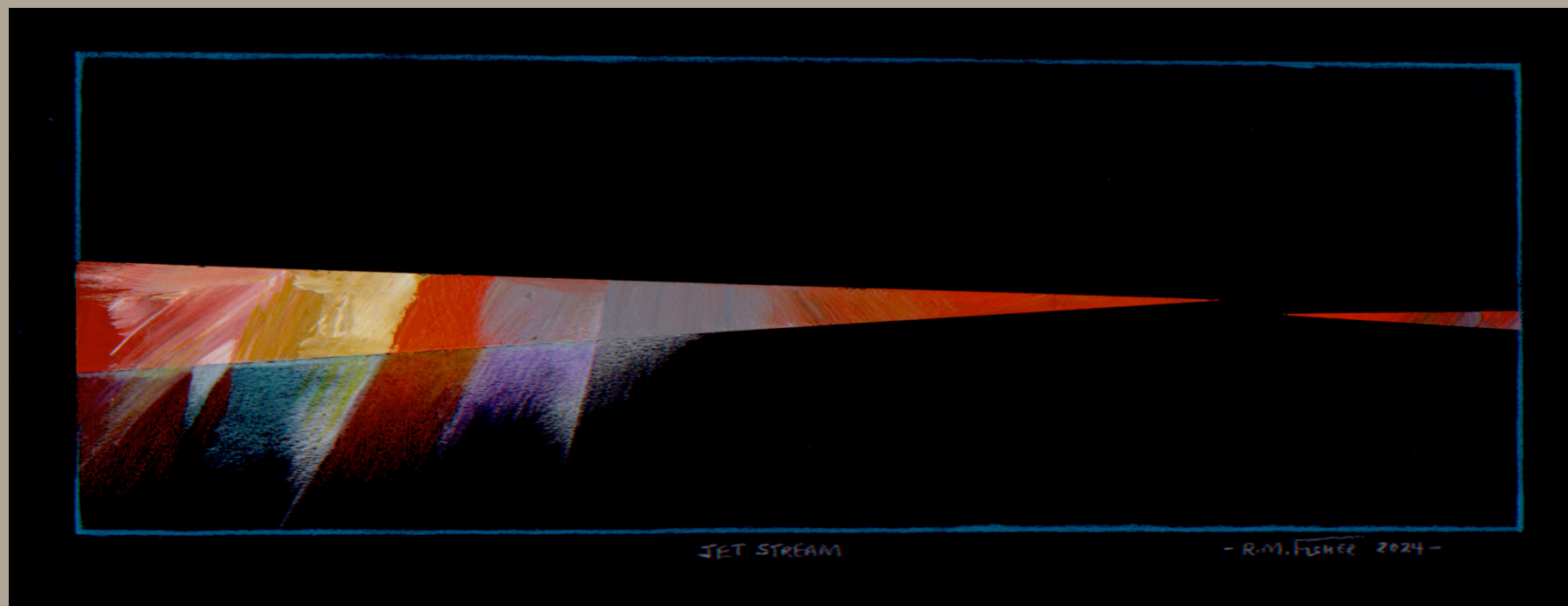
#5. Interpretive Flame
mixed media on clipboard
12.5 X 9 in.
\$45



#17. Terrain Abstraction-I
mixed media on paper/cardboard
4 X 14.5 in.
\$35



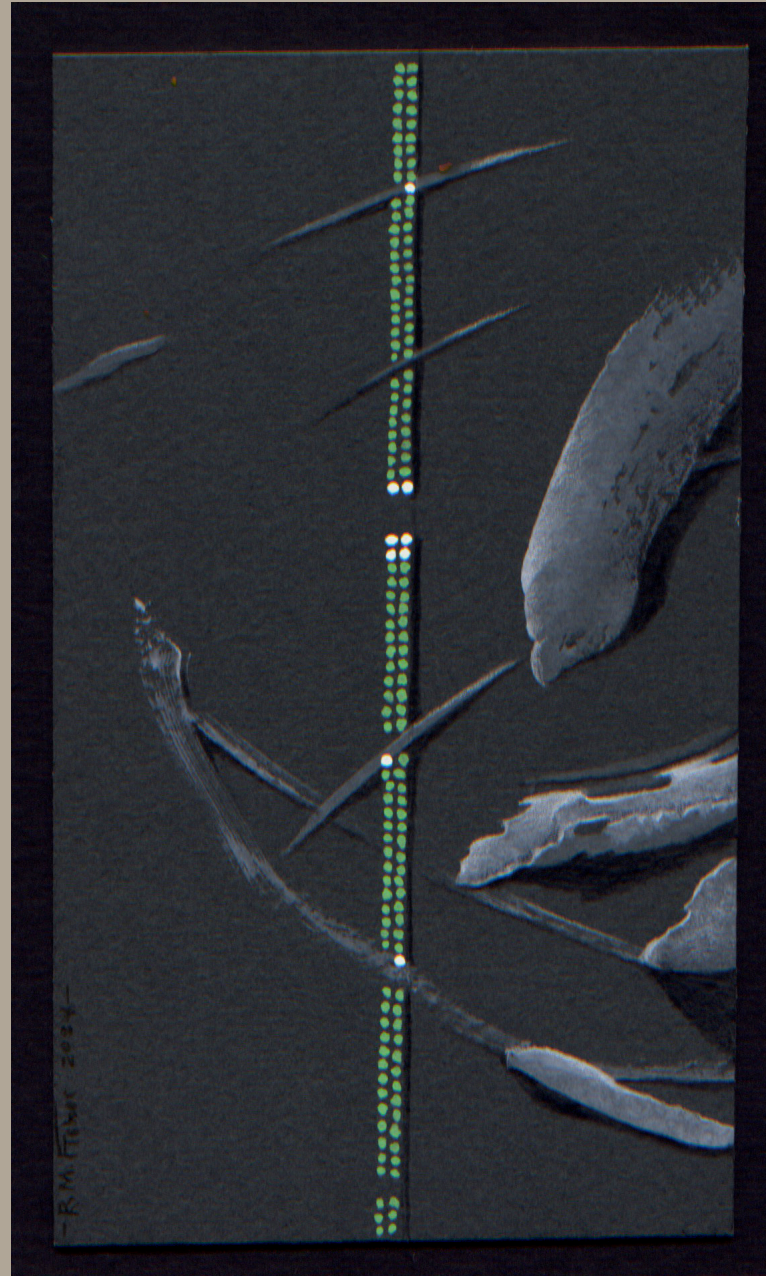
#35. Jet Stream
mixed media on matboard
5.25 X 10.25 in
\$30



#34. Orpheus-I
mixed media on matboard
10.25 X 5.25 in.
\$30



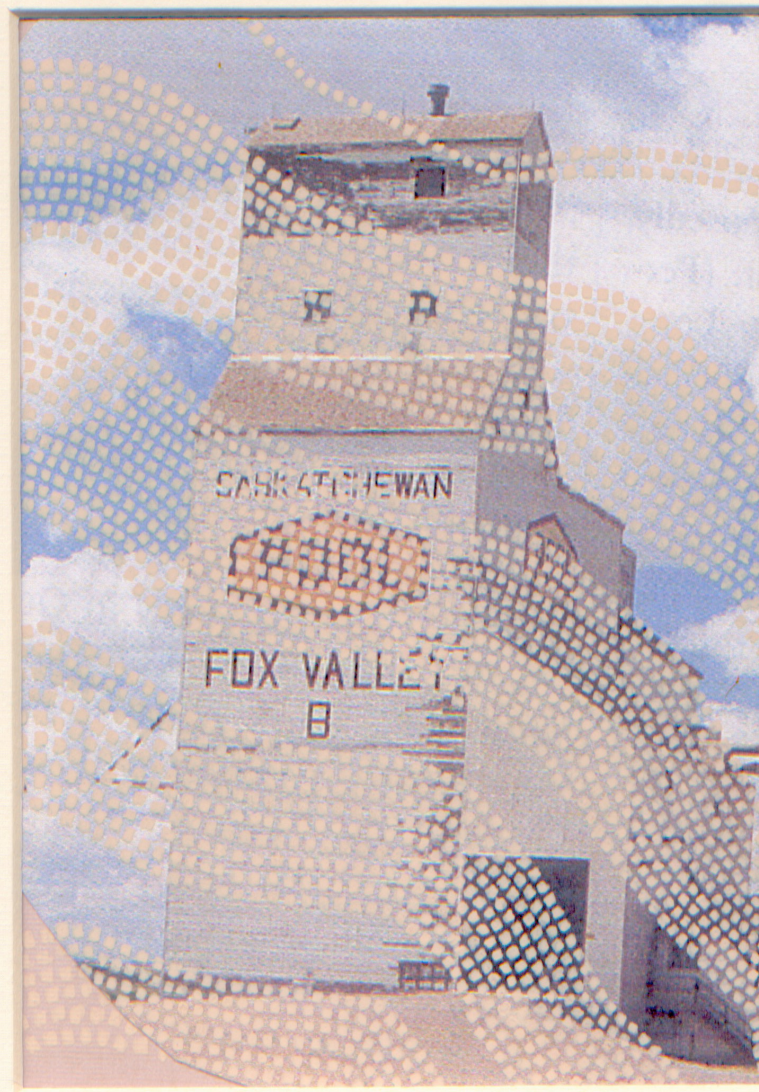
#33. Saturation
mixed media on matboard w/ matt
9 X 6.5 in.
\$30



#36. Three Slippers
mixed media on black paper
11.25 X 4.75 in
\$30



#31. Lasting Towers
mixed media on paper w/ mat
10 X 8 in.
\$30



LASTING TOWERS

-R.M. Fisher 2024-

#24. Coming Together: The Teacher
mixed media on wood
7 X 9 in.
\$30



A LOT TO DO ABOUT NOTHING -Inventory Aug. 2024

Clipboards:

1. Orion Template - acrylic on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45 - SOLD
2. Mask Spirit – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
3. Black Swans – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
4. Orpheus – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
5. Interpretive Flame – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
6. Primeval Universe – mixed media with stone on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
7. 1978 Memoria – collage on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
8. Albino Haunting – collage & mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
9. Chronos Bound-Unbound – collage & mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
10. Uturn – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
11. Professor – collage & mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
12. Carter at 12:01 am – collage & mixed media, colored pencils 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
13. Atom Splicing – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
14. Crusades - mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
15. Fear Brain – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45

OTHER WORKS

17. Terrain Abstraction 1- mixed media on paper/cardboard 4 X 14.5 in. \$35
18. Enox – mixed media on paper/matboard 10 X 11 in. \$45
19. Autobiographic Starts for Heroes – mixed media on canvas 9 X 12 in. \$50
20. Enter – mixed media on canvas 12 X 9 in. \$65
21. Absolute Objectivity – acrylic & ink on canvas, diptych 9 X 12 in. (18 X 24 in.) \$110
22. Surreal – mixed media on matboard 10.25 X 7.75 in. \$45
23. Summa – colored pencil on paper 11 X 14 in. (matted) \$50
24. Coming Together: The Teacher – mixed media on wood 7 X 9 in. \$30
25. Untitled – mixed media on canvas 9 X 12 in. \$45
26. Terroir Bodies – pencil crayon on paper 6.5 X 14.5 in. (metal frame & glass) \$110 - SOLD
27. Resurgence – pencil crayon on paper 8 X 10 in. (matted) \$35
28. Salination – pencil cray on paper 11 X 14 in. (matted) \$55
29. Harmon 1 – pencil crayon paper 8 X 10 in. (matted) \$45
30. Exotican Traces – pencil crayon on paper 8 X 10 in. (matted) \$35
31. Lasting Towers – acrylic & collage on paper 10 X 8 in. (matted) \$30
32. Falling Raven a – mixed media on matboard 8 X 10 in. \$35
33. Saturation – mixed media on matboard 9 X 6.5 in. (matted) \$30
34. Orpheus I – mixed media on matboard 10.25 X 5.25 in. (matted) \$30
35. Jet Stream – mixed media on matboard 5.25 X 10.5 in. (matted) \$30
36. 3 Slippers – mixed media on black paper 11.25 X 4.75 in. \$30
37. Ancestral Dancer – mixed media on matboard 11.5 X 6.34 in. \$35
38. Tropos – watercolor and ink on paper 9 X 14 in. (matted) \$35
39. Great White Bird – colored pencil on paper 11 X 14 in. (matted) \$45
40. Vee – mixed media on canvas 12 X 9 in. \$110
41. Comedic Continuum – colored pencil on paper \$60
42. Women Helping Women – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
43. Pseudacris regilla: Up Close – mixed media on clipboard 12.5 X 9 in. \$45
44. Reset – graphite on paper 16 X 20 in. \$35

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