

MEKIA MACHINE

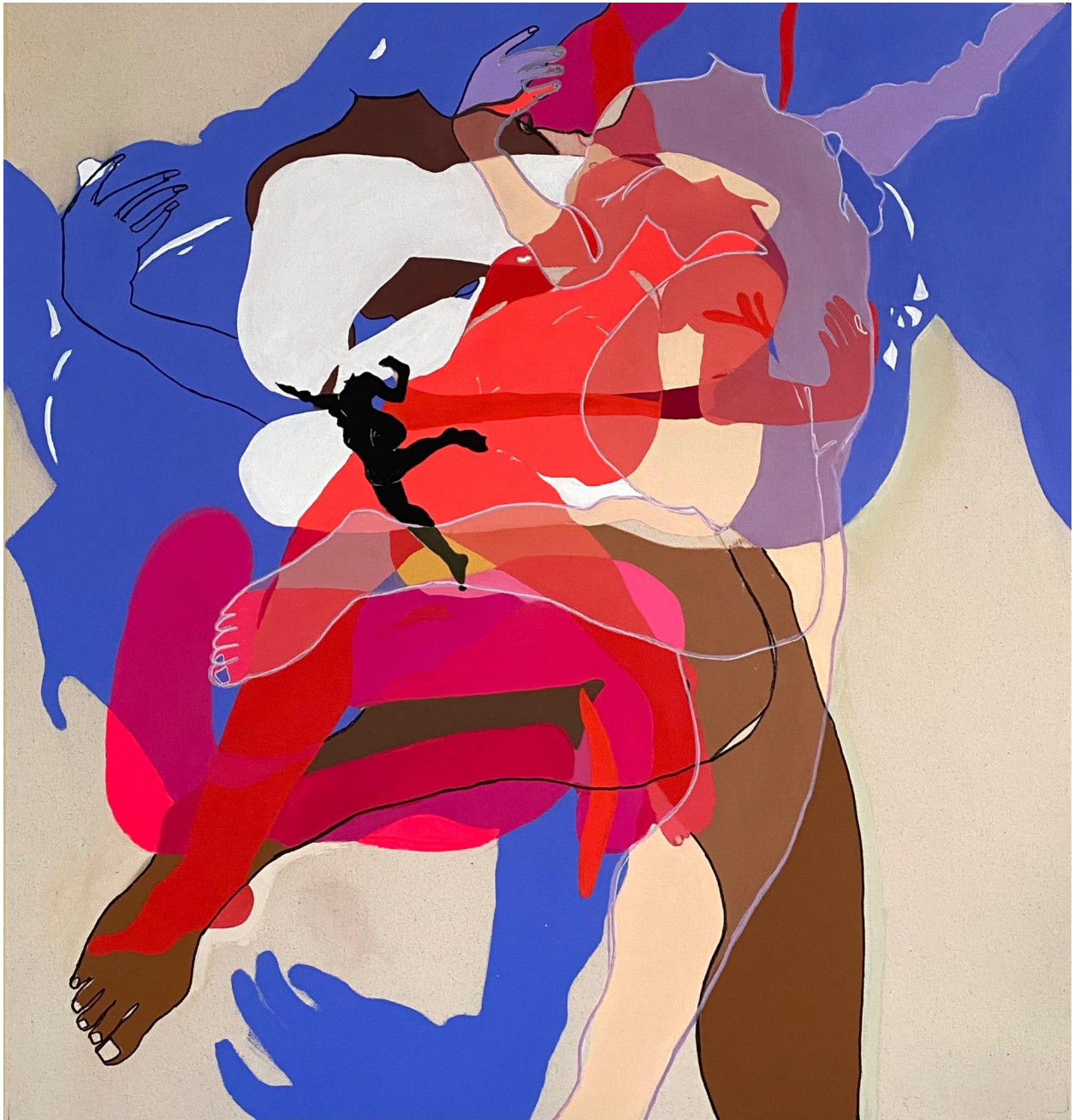
DEAD LOVERS

2021 - 2022

Last Update: 07/20/2023

Series Statement:

Dead Lovers is a series of paintings consisting of a single image, the headless body of a woman wading in water. In actuality it is of a naked swimmer photographed from below, head above water. The image, at first glance, triggered memories and questions of the death of my childhood best-friend and first love. What happened to her body? She drowned 23 years ago trying to come to America illegally. Compositionally, each painting represents a snapshot of memories at once, reading like the pattern of my habitual rumination--a single issue or thought reexamined to no end in my mind. The overlapping and falling, floating and dissipating of the body is the awful question I ask inwardly, of how did it happen? How did she fall? Where is she now? How does it look? What happened to her body? I was 11 years old when I saw her last before migrating to the US. I don't remember her face enough to paint it. However, I remember her body and how it felt, so drawing on a memory of a feeling, and my increasing obsession with painting dead people-- family, friends, ancestors who've died leaving no photographic evidence of their existence, over time an image emerges in my mind, at times triggered by a portrait. Allowing myself to sit with these painful thoughts of her brutal death contrasted with memories of a simple yet colorful life as island girls, I could finally mourn her. This series is an attempt to resurrect and spend time with an old friend as we did as kids.



Dead Lovers No. 1

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

36 X 35 inches

2021

Location: London, UK

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 2

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

35 X 35 inches

2022

Location: UK



Dead Lovers No. 3

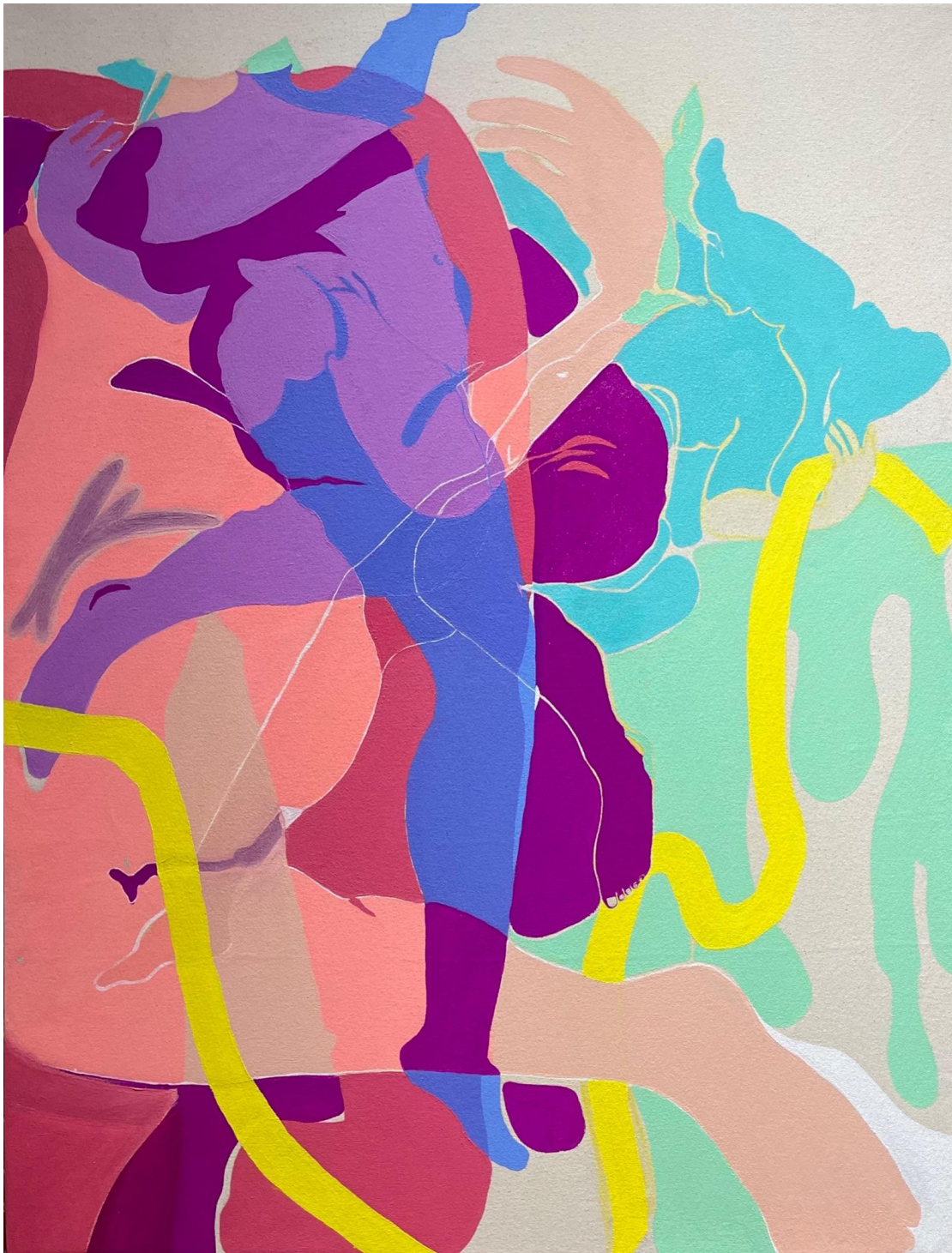
Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

36 X 28 inches

2021

Location: San Diego, CA

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 4

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

36 X 28 inches

2021

Location: UK

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 5

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

58 X 40 inches

2021

Location: Denmark

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 6

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

72 X 50 inches

2021

Location: New York, NY



Dead Lovers No. 7

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

58 X 40 inches

2021

Location: London, UK



Dead Lovers No. 8

Acrylic, gouache, Flashe, pen on canvas

17.3/4" X 16.1/4"

2022

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 9

Acrylic, gouache, Flashe, pen on canvas

17.3/4" X 16.1/4"

2021

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 10

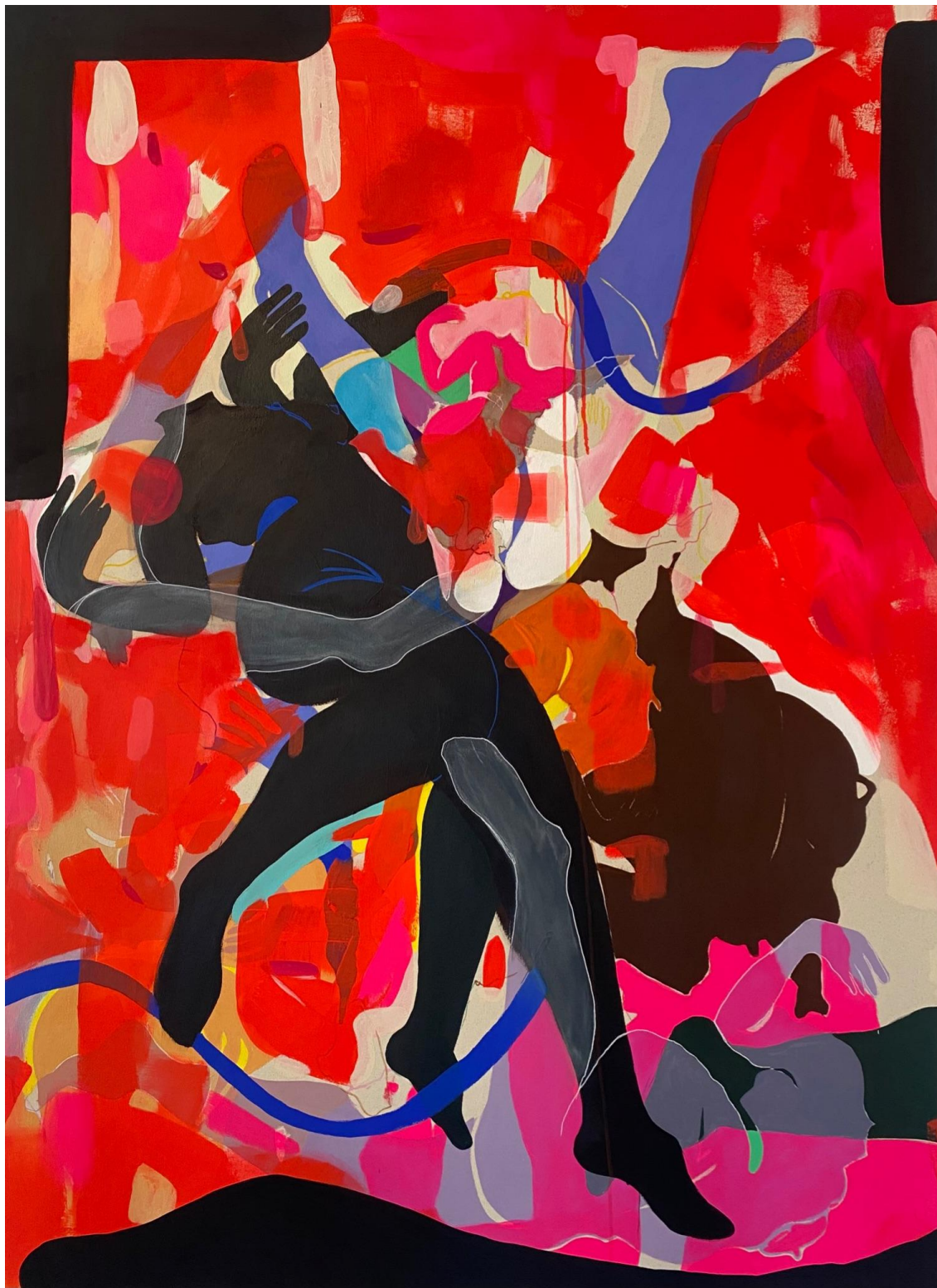
Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

66 X 48 inches

2022

Location: UK

SOLD



Dead Lovers No. 11

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

66 X 48 inches

2022

Location: New York, NY



Dead Lovers No. 12

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe and pen on canvas

66 X 48 inches

2022

Location: New York, NY



Dead Lovers No. 15

Acrylic gouache, acrylic, pen on canvas

44 x 32 inches

2022

Location: Alexandria, VA

(On Reserve)