

## *Between Being and its Semblance*

2021 – ongoing

*Between Being and its Semblance* is an ongoing series of paintings, initiated in late 2020.

The series has been developed in relation to close studies of the concept of *The Mirror Stage*. This is considered a stage in the psychological development of the self, in which one's material being breaks down and fragments, in order to (re)build.

The theory of *The Mirror Stage* was conceived by psychoanalyst Jaques Lacan, and later developed by feminist psychoanalyst and philosopher Julia Kristeva. The theory is based around the process of establishing a concept of self – through forming a connection between the self and the physical body; becoming aware of where one's own body ends and where the body of another begins. Through identifying one's own movements in a (mirroring) surface, an understanding and definition of one's self is outlined. It is a process of fragmentation and of unity; as we are confronted with our own materiality – moving from fragmented body parts into a united self.

*The Mirror Stage* places us between subject and object positions. In the process we exist between being subject and object – we are neither and both. The mirror itself also plays a role as being in-between subject and object; situated on the border, which it both erases and underlines.

*The Mirror Stage* further links to for example the concepts of performativity and of the abject – to fluid understandings of bodiliness, and the material body's relation to identity.

The title of the series emanate from Lacanian *Screen Theory* – originally from Lacan's essay on *The Mirror Stage*, and later developed into a Marxist-psychanalytic film theory linked to, for example, the feminist film theories of Laura Mulvey – all revolving around identification through a 'mirror image'. Hence, *The Mirror Stage* opens for further readings of identification and representation.

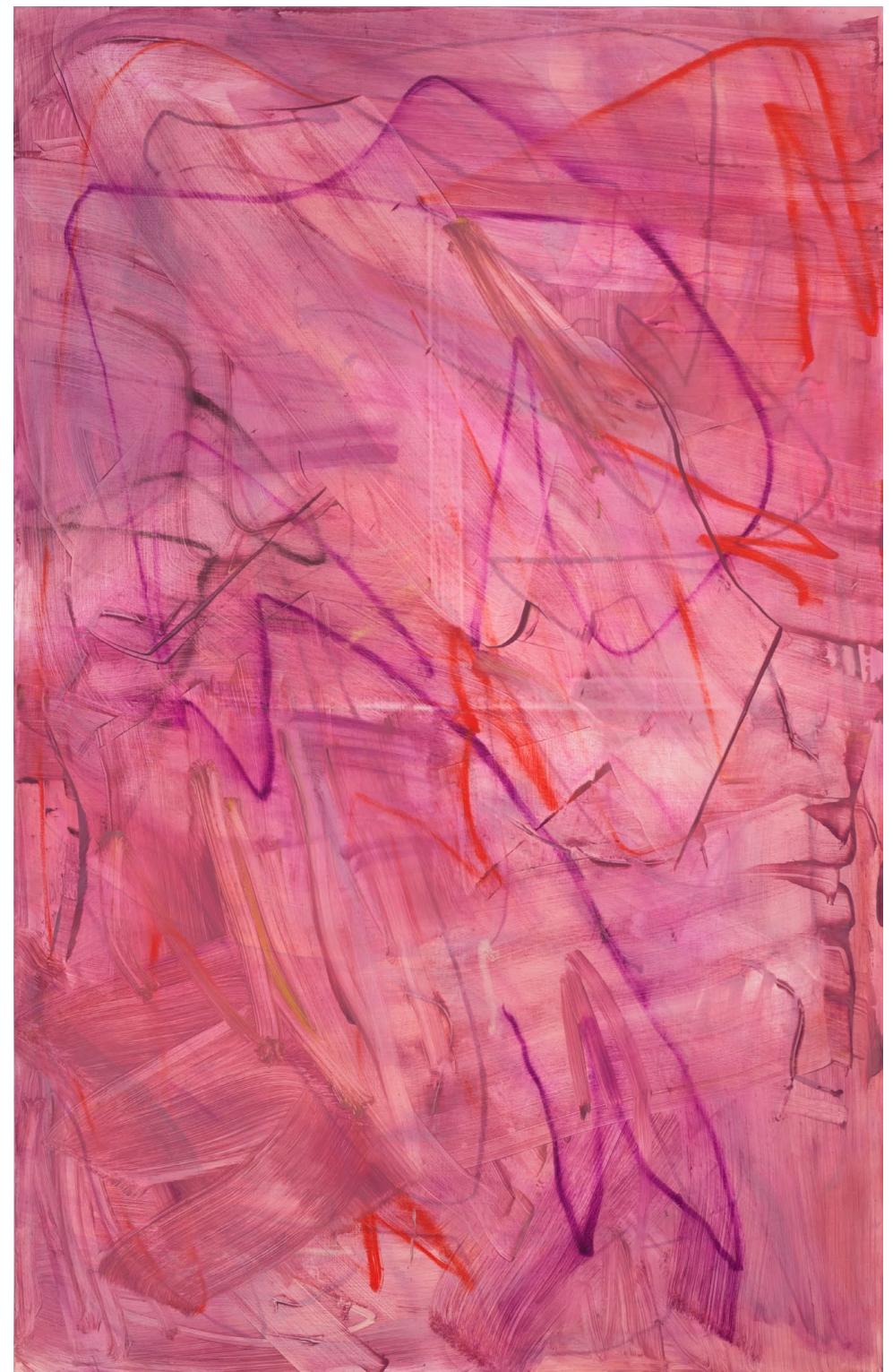




*Between Being and its Semblance (I)*  
oil on canvas  
130x205 cm  
2021



*Between Being and its Semblance (II)*  
oil on canvas  
130x205 cm  
2021



*Between Being and its Semblance (VI)*  
oil on canvas  
130x205 cm  
2021



*Between Being and its Semblance (VII)*  
oil on canvas  
120x205 cm  
2021

