



Missak Terzian

“Utopia”

Several series from 2022 - 2021

Artist's Statement, "Utopia", June 2022

In 2017, I pivoted from semi-abstract figurative expressionism to modern geometric abstraction. It was a turning point in my career.

The shift can be attributed to my experiences at two of the world's most extraordinary sights: Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, and Faraya in Lebanon.

I marveled at Bryce Canyon's huge and immersive amphitheater, home to the greatest concentration of "hoodoos" on earth.

Likewise, while off-roading in Faraya with Mr. Johnny Mokbel, I found myself struck with awe and inspiration over the millenary limestone rock formations, carved by wind and water over the centuries. I stood astonished by a chain of six hills 1900 meters above the sea.

The Rock & Landscape series came to life on very large canvasses between 2019 and 2021. Large paintings, to me, are grandiose. You are in it. I characterize my paintings by minimalist or complex hard-edged compositions of shapes and colors. My 50 years of chromatic experience was stimulated to interact in primary, secondary and tertiary chromatic palettes, which made the journey more enjoyable. Each tone reveals a particular weight, density, and transparency.

My new collection consists of several series: Rock, Rock Variations, Kissing Rocks, Skyhill, Earth Rise, Blue Diamond, Palm Tree and Olive Tree.






arthaus

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Earthrise Series: A cosmic series of 6 oil paintings

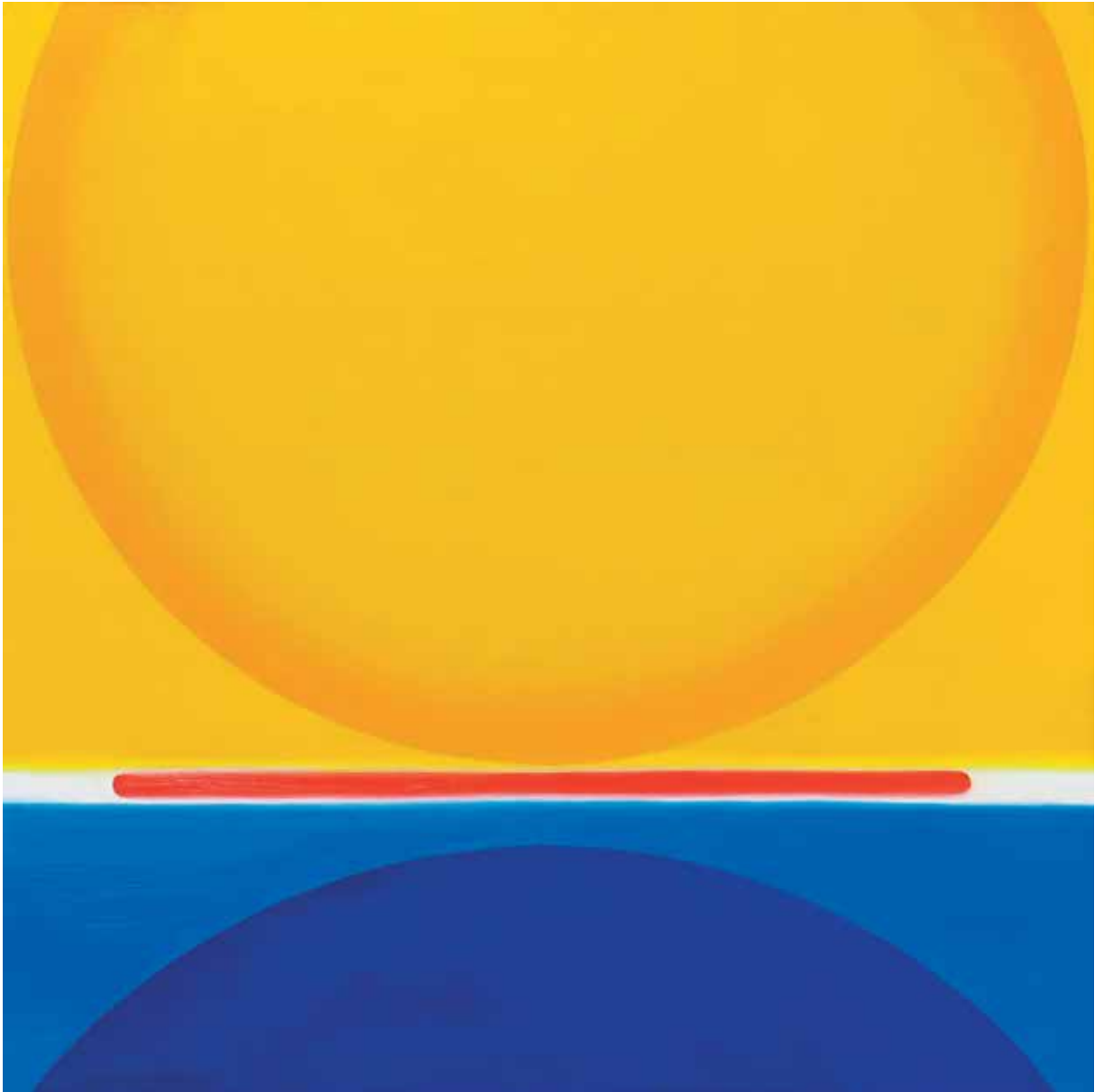
The Earthrise Series is inspired by one of the most influential environmental photographs ever taken: the earthrise image. Captured by astronauts, it plays an important role in helping us put our planet in perspective, as well as inspiring a need for global thinking.



"Earthrise N°1"
Oil on Canvas
200 x 200 cm
2021



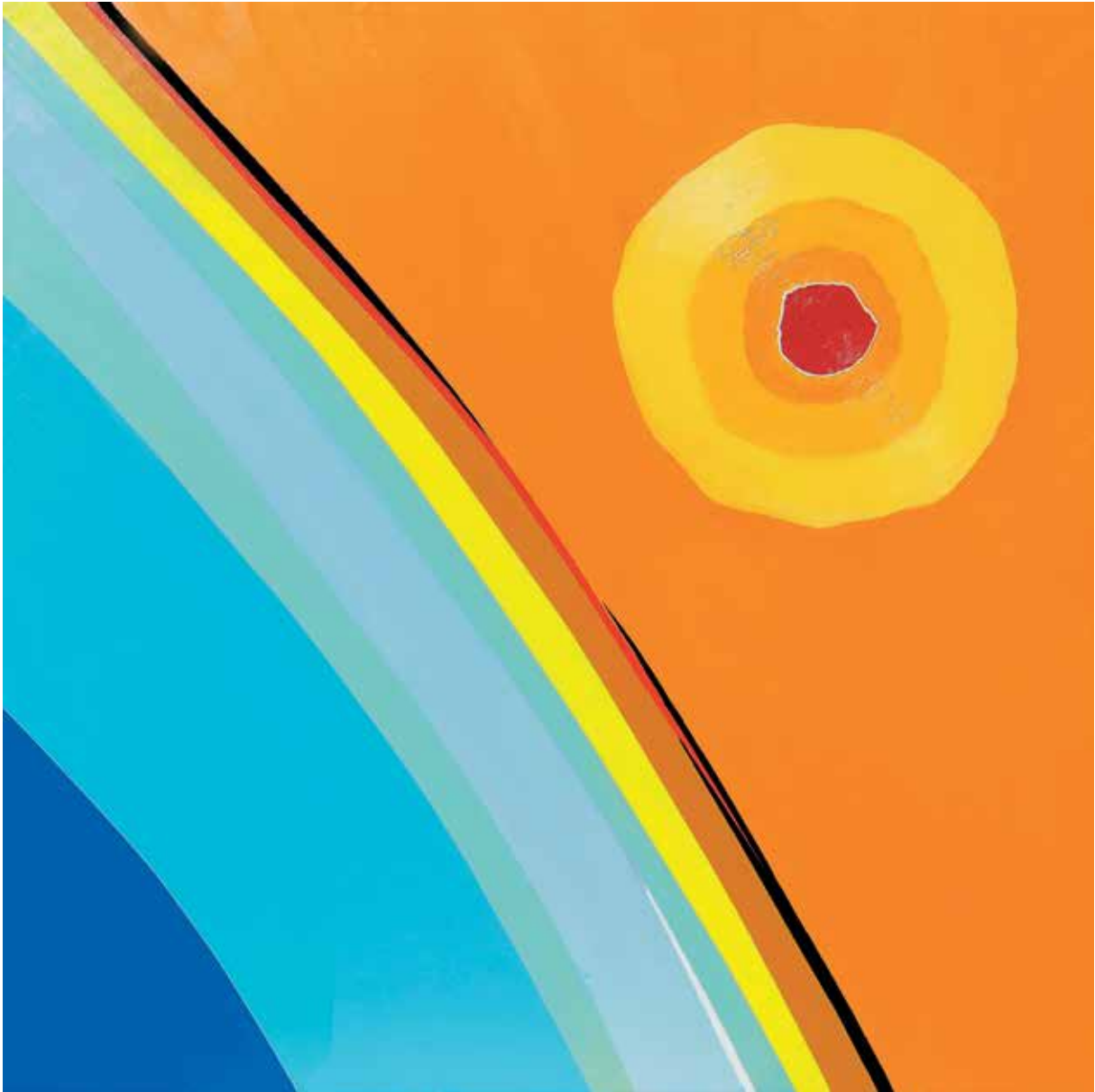
"Earthrise N°2"
Oil on Canvas
200 x 200 cm
2021



"Earthrise N°3"
Oil on Canvas
200 x 200 cm
2021



"Earthrise N°4"
Oil on Canvas
200 x 200 cm
2021



"Earthrise N°5"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 200 cm
2022



"Earthrise N°6"
Oil on Canvas
200 x 200 cm
2021





Skyhill Series: 4 Paintings – Bridge between the Rock and the Earthrise Series:

A derivative of the imaginary vision of the Rock Series that depicts the vertically rectilinear rock formations and the mountain-top hills of Faraya. From valleys to floating hills, from primary colors to secondary and tertiary, the exploration of colors becomes subtle, yet powerful. Then it pushes further up towards the cosmic boundaries with the creation of the Earthrise Series.

The mountain is thought to contain divine inspiration and it is the focus of pilgrimages of transcendence and spiritual elevation. It is a universal symbol of the nearness of God, as it surpasses ordinary humanity and extends towards the sky and the heavens.

Skyhill represents compassion, creativity, reliability, generosity, loyalty, and a love for domestic life.



"Skyhill N°1"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 260 cm
2022



"Skyhill N°2"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 260 cm
2022



"Skyhill N°3"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 260 cm
2022



"Skyhill N°4"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 260 cm
2022





Blue Diamond Series: 4 Paintings

A variation of the Rock Series, the Blue Diamond Series is captivating and enigmatic, with rare, faceted, and harmoniously colored diamonds.

Blue diamonds are produced by the random presence of the atomic lattice-bound trace element Boron and the carbon structure during its formation deep in the earth's core. Perfectly squared, the canvases could accommodate any large wall side by side or a high ceiling, one above the other.



"Blue Diamond N°1"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 175 cm
2021



"Blue Diamond N°2"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 175 cm
2022



"Blue Diamond N°3"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 175 cm
2022



"Blue Diamond N°4"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 175 cm
2022



Palm Tree Series: 2 paintings

Growing mainly in the Mediterranean region, the palm tree has been prized since the beginning of time. This series features two exalted paintings and an explosion of colors.

I have named the first painting after my city, Beirut. The second is named Jaffa as an homage to Palestine.



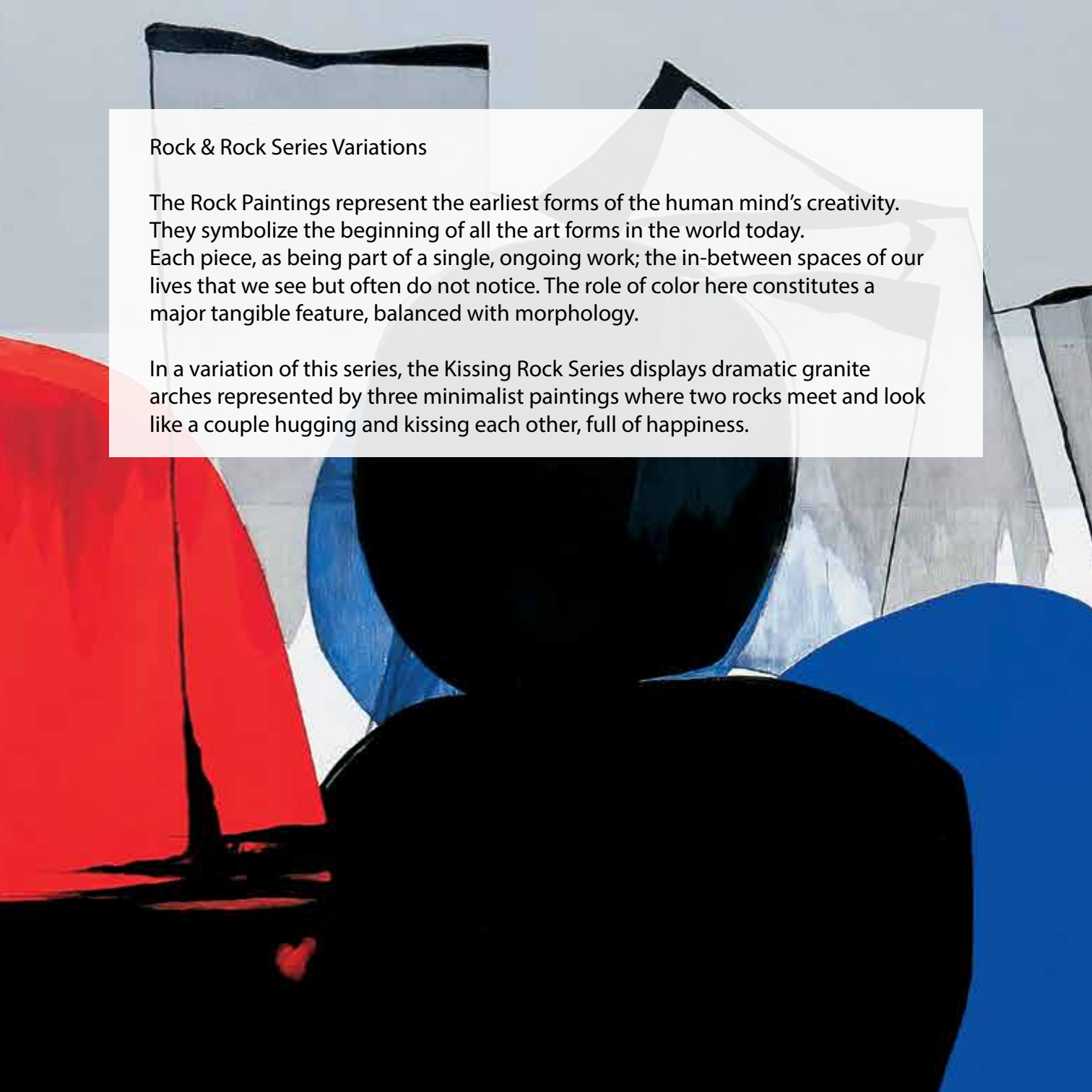


"Beirut"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 305 cm
2022



"Jaffa"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 305 cm
2022

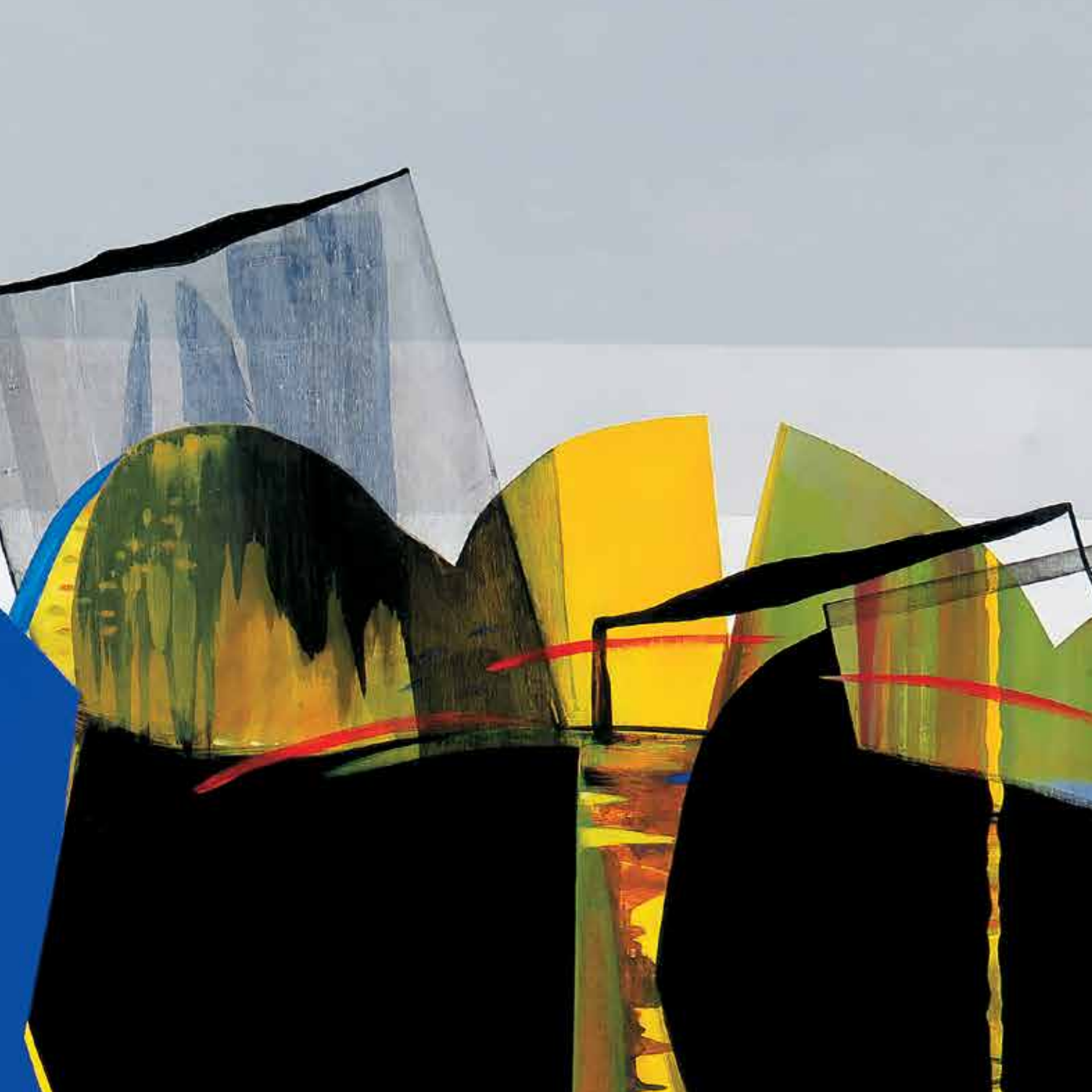


An abstract painting featuring large, bold shapes in red, blue, and black. The red shape is on the left, the blue shape is on the right, and the black shape is in the center foreground. The background is a light, hazy blue with some faint, darker shapes. The overall style is minimalist and expressive.

Rock & Rock Series Variations

The Rock Paintings represent the earliest forms of the human mind's creativity. They symbolize the beginning of all the art forms in the world today. Each piece, as being part of a single, ongoing work; the in-between spaces of our lives that we see but often do not notice. The role of color here constitutes a major tangible feature, balanced with morphology.

In a variation of this series, the Kissing Rock Series displays dramatic granite arches represented by three minimalist paintings where two rocks meet and look like a couple hugging and kissing each other, full of happiness.



"Rock Series N°10"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 260 cm
2021



"Rock Series N°11"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 260 cm
2021



"Rock Series N°12"
Acrylic on Canvas
180 x 240 cm
2021



"Rock Series N°13"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 260 cm
2022

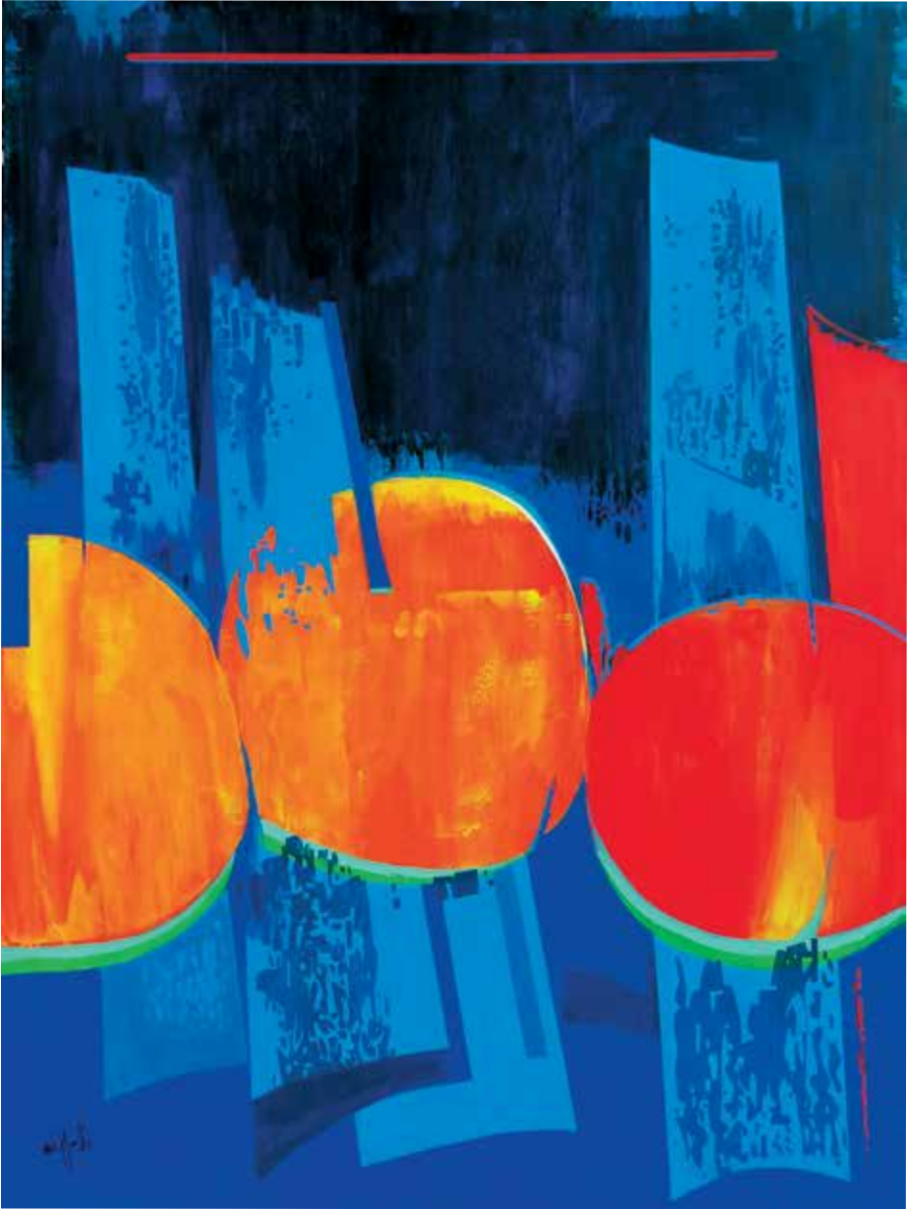


"Rock Series Variation N°2"

Acrylic on Canvas

200 x 150 cm

2021



"Rock Series Variation N°3"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 150 cm
2021



"Rock Series Variation N°4"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 150 cm
2021



"Rock Series Variation N°5"

Acrylic on Canvas

150 x 200 cm

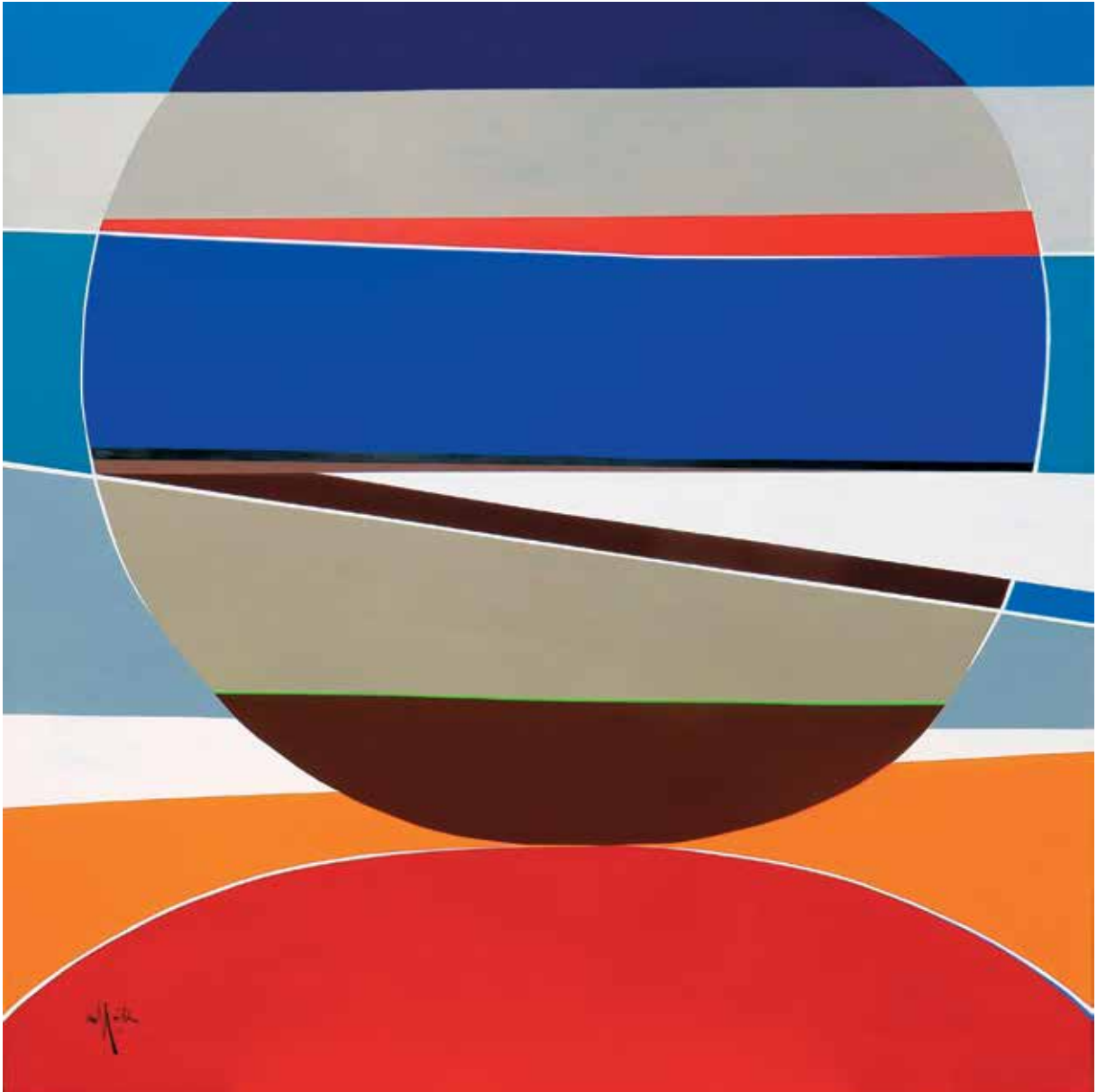
2021



"Kissing Rocks N°1"
Acrylic on Canvas
150 x 200 cm
2021



"Kissing Rocks N°2"
Acrylic on Canvas
175 x 175 cm
2021



"Kissing Rocks N°3"
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 150 cm
2021



"Grand Petit Tableaux N°1"
Acrylic on Canvas
43.5 x 57 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°2"
Acrylic on Canvas
43 x 57 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°3"
Acrylic on Canvas
43 x 57 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°4"
Acrylic on Canvas
43 x 57 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°5"
Acrylic on Canvas
40 x 55 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°6"
Acrylic on Canvas
40 x 53 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°7"
Acrylic on Canvas
40 x 55 cm
2022

"Grand Petit Tableaux N°8"
Acrylic on Canvas
40 x 55 cm
2022



"Golden Rocks"
Oil on Canvas
200 x 150 cm
2021



“The Blooming Olive Tree”

Acrylic on canvas

180 x 240 cm

2021

When i see an olive tree, I visualize the Mediterranean region in general where it grows. Then the first notion that comes to my mind is the fact that the olive tree is mentioned several times in the holy bible starting from Noah, then it takes me to the gardens of Gethsemane in Jerusalem. Symbolically the olive tree branch is allusive to peace.

Nutritionally, it has proven health benefits.

Agriculturally, it gives olives in abundance without asking anything in return. Not even water.

The composition comprises 3 different visualizations.

From left to right, the branches and the leaves are quite realistic.

In the middle the tree is formed in an abstract way, and on the far right hand side it becomes completely abstract.

The yellow background represents the sun, the light and the hostile soil where it grows.

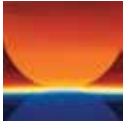


“Jerusalem”
Acrylic on canvas
200 x 260 cm
2022

The majestic blue olive tree named Jerusalem is a mosaic of 35 distinct and harmonious colors. The olive tree is a millinary symbol of peace. With robust roots, it is capable of regenerating itself when destroyed by fire or uprooted. It nourishes humanity and asks nothing in return, not even water.



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"Earthrise N°1"
200 x 200 cm



"Skyhill N°3"
175 x 260 cm



"Rock Series N°10"
200 x 260 cm



"Kissing Rocks N°1"
150 x 200 cm



"Earthrise N°2"
200 x 200 cm



"Skyhill N°4"
175 x 260 cm



"Rock Series N°11"
200 x 260 cm



"Kissing Rocks N°2"
150 x 200 cm



"Earthrise N°3"
200 x 200 cm



"Blue Diamond N°1"
175 x 175 cm



"Rock Series N°12"
180 x 240 cm



"Kissing Rocks N°3"
200 x 150 cm



"Earthrise N°4"
200 x 200 cm



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175 x 175 cm



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40 x 55 cm



"Earthrise N°6"
200 x 200 cm



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175 x 175 cm



"Rock Series Variation N°3"
200 x 150 cm



"Golden Rocks"
200 x 150 cm



"Skyhill N°1"
175 x 260 cm



"Beirut"
From the Palm Series
175 x 305 cm



"Rock Series Variation N°4"
200 x 150 cm



"Jerusalem"
200 x 260 cm



"Skyhill N°2"
175 x 260 cm



"Jaffa"
From the Palm Series
175 x 305 cm



"Rock Series Variation N°5"
150 x 200 cm

Missak Terzian's Biography

Lebanese-American, b.1949 in Beirut to Armenian Genocide survivors. Missak Terzian studied at Ecole d'Art Guvder in 1968 and graduated from London College of Printing in 1971. He held his first major art exhibition in 1984. Since then, the artist has participated in 143 exhibitions worldwide.

Missak Terzian has explored and perfected many different types of techniques and styles. Since his early years circa 60's he is constantly evolving and pushing the boundaries. Missak's colors are recognized for being strong yet subtle, vivacious yet elegant.

In 2019 he pivoted from semi-abstract figurative expressionism to modern geometric abstraction.

His paintings are part of many collections in Europe, United States, the Middle East, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and the Republic of China; namely the Saudi Royal family and prominent Lebanese political personalities. His works are on permanent display at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France and throughout Lebanon, at the Dalloul Art Foundation DAF, the bank Audi head office, the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia museum, Haigazian university, the Sursock museum, the museum of Bzommar, the Banque du Liban head office, the Bank of Sharjah head office and Dubai collection.

With an innate and primal impulse to create, Missak Terzian is in timeless search for existentialism and is eager to record time and occurrences. "For me, painting is a visual testament of the mind, body and spirit. Distortion, exaggeration or minimalist triggers in me a continuous search for the unknown, Missak Explains.





We thank the Mokbel Art Collection,
for making this exhibition possible
with their collaboration

Mr. Johnny Mokbel and Mrs. Nadine Mokbel.

Remain as a consultant and owners of many of Missak Terzian's works



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