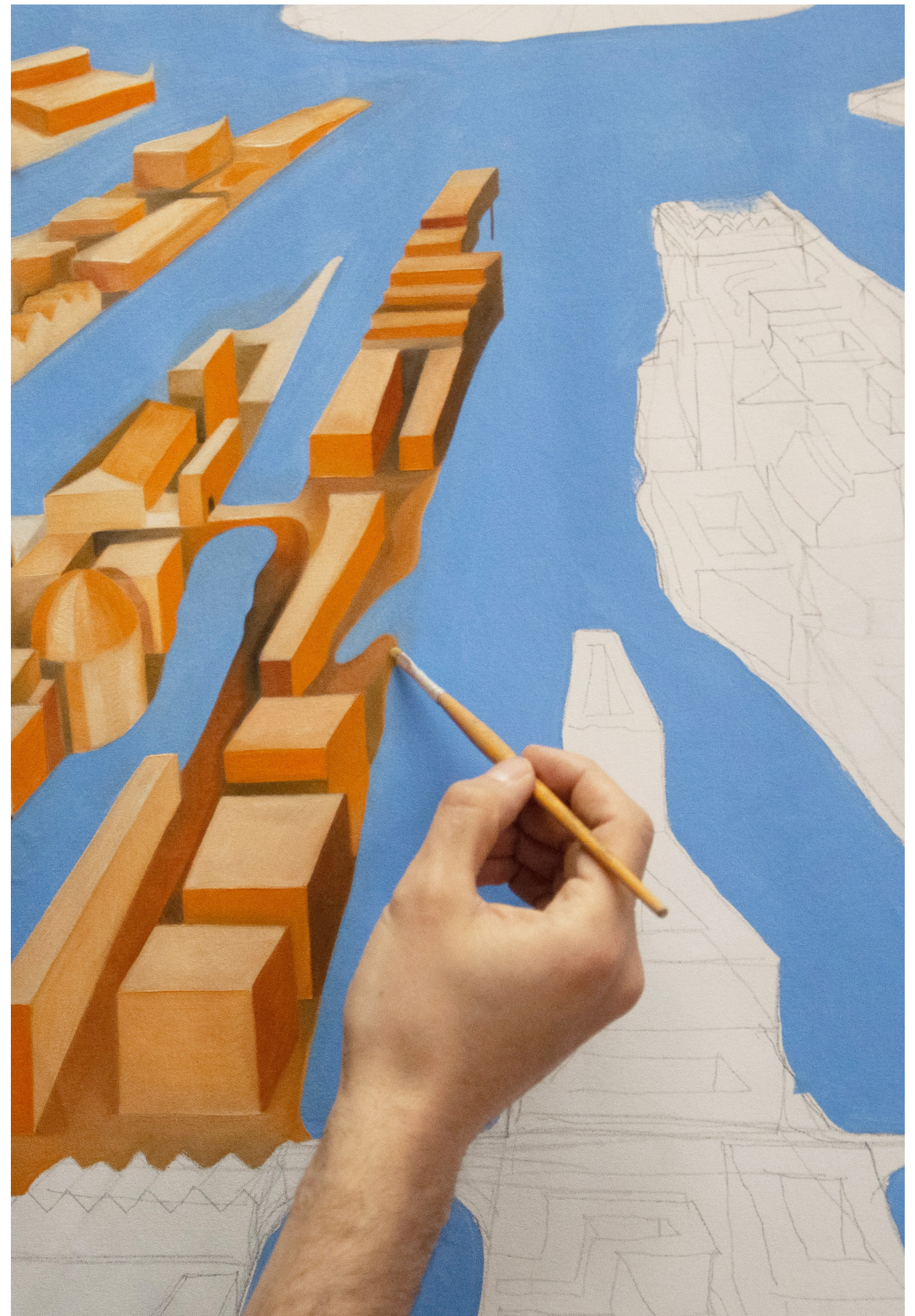


The city as a living artwork

Jacopo Grilli

ARTIST & URBAN DESIGNER

“Representing the city is the starting point to go beyond the space and describe its essence. The city is more than buildings, parks, and infrastructures: it’s a collection of feelings, possibilities, natural and social flows that condition life. I consider the city as a living artwork, I wonder how can behaviors and feelings be channeled in a unique physical and emotional environment. The city’s shape must morph, adapt and change in response to human and natural needs. Through visual language, new imaginations can be activated to influence reality.”



Jacopo Grilli

BIO

ARTIST & URBAN DESIGNER

WORK

02/2023 - current	Artist in Residence at La Jete Foundation, NDSM art city, Amsterdam
08/2022 - 01/2023	Artist in Residence, CBK Zuidoost (Shebang Amsterdam)
02/2021 - current	Teacher & collaborator at Academy of Architecture of Amsterdam
09/2021 - 07/2022	Honorary program Art & Society (AHK Amsterdam)
10/2018 - 01/2022	Urban Designer at BURA Urbanism, Amsterdam
11/2017 - 07/2018	Urban designer at West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture, Rotterdam
2/2016 - 01/2017	Urban designer at Play the City, Amsterdam

EXHIBITIONS

02/2023	Shoki event (I), Sissi Expo Resto, Amsterdam
02/2023	“Body of Routine” performance with R.Wijnruit, Podium Mozaiek, Amsterdam
10/2022	IABR(Rotterdam Arch. Biennale), Future Generations / Ministerie van Maak
07/2022	“Future Encounters“ Solo exhibition Commandant woningen, Marineterrein
06/2022	“A Feeling Environment“: Makersfestival, Het Koorenhuis theater, Den Haag link
05/2022	“Physical Portfolio“s Solo exhibition, Schietbaan, Marinetrrein
09/2021	Archiprix exhibition, Dutch design week, TU Eindhoven
03/2021	Archiprix Nomination, Best graduation projects of the Netherlands link
06/2021	Archiprix exhibition, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam

EDUCATION

08/2020	Master Degree in Urbanism, Academy of Architecture of Amsterdam 2016-2020
02/2015	Bachelor Degree in Urban Planning, Politecnico di Milano 2011-2015

INFO

Name:	Jacopo Grilli
Email:	artofcities@gmail.com
Telephone:	+31 68593908
Nationality:	Italian
Birth:	Milano, Italy, 29/8/1991
Address:	Amsterdam (NL)
Website:	Art of Cities
Instagram:	art_of_cities



Amsterdam, 2023

"**The city as a living artwork**" is a selection of paintings that reflect on the status of the human being in the urban context, executed between February and March 2023 during an art residency at NDSM Art City.

The city is the most complex human invention; it is the representation of society, with its mistakes, adjustments, successes, failures, and its monumental hopes and desperations. Every work reflects on the role of the human as the creator and beneficiary of the city. The human figure and its shadow, the volume and the detail of the city, the nature and the emptiness, are the universal themes of the works. As a journey, the sequence of works starts from the past of dealing with changes; the exchange city, like Venice, and agriculture are just details in comparison to the majestic project of the human being. Its presence is dominant and elegant, without a clear identity if not as a universal creator of knowledge and cultural progress. "**Beneath, below, behind**" - that is an illusion.

The reflection follows a spatial consideration of the amount of city, nature, and emptiness that one human needs: "**The Amount**". Almost a mathematical equation for what only a shadow can reach - a glimpse of spatial necessity that is eating up the entire planet. "**City dust**" is the faded individual on an urban carpet, laid out to support our life, nothing more, nothing less. Dusty, misty, and polluted is the environment that the human prefers.

At this point, the journey takes a twist of hope and the stubborn direction of one who finally accepts their fate and mission - an effort: "**The Effort**" - the effort of hugging a hill, of filling up an abyss of misbehaviors and abuses upon our hosting landscape. To be very honest, the effort is a childish dream to lay on a green hill soft of grass and warmed up by the sun. The effort is a hope for all creatures with two powerful but dangerous hands - hands that can heal and hurt, caress or scratch.

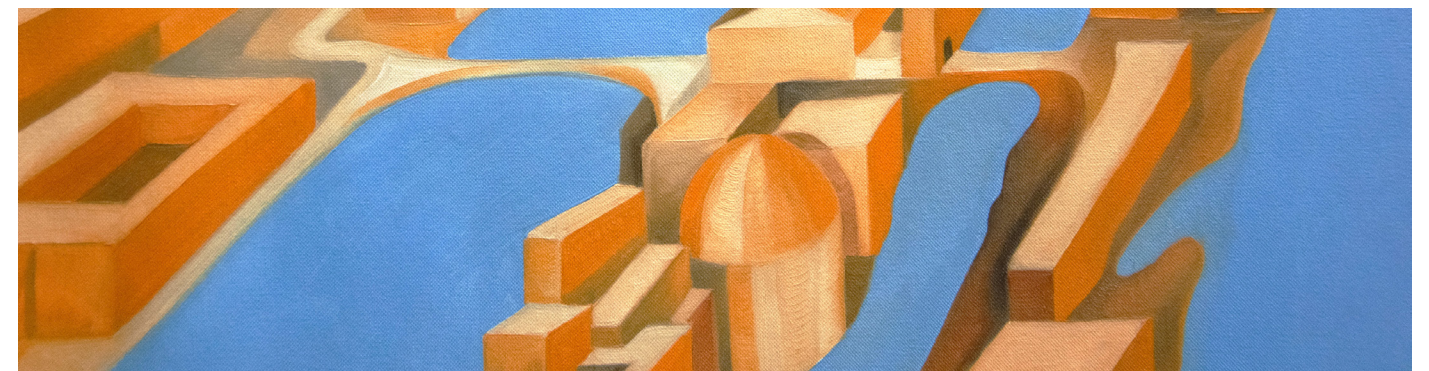
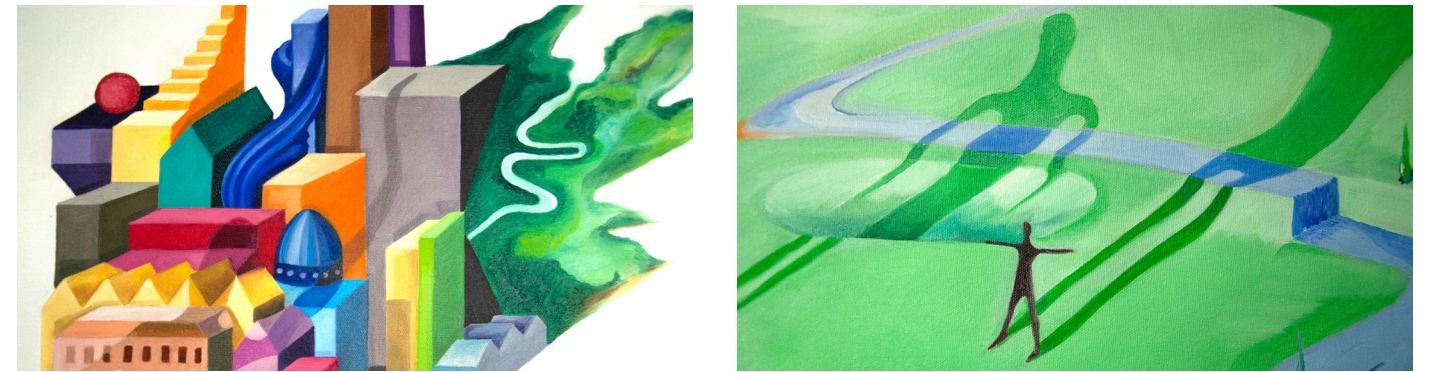
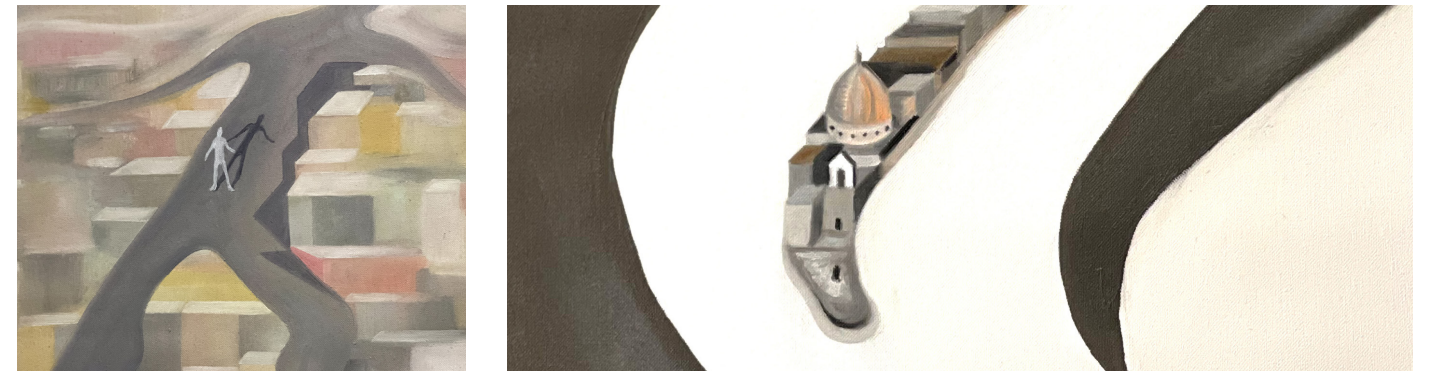
From here, we look at the future, a new version of the past, like a medieval center, like a perched city, like a berry cake after a spinach soup - something contrasting but maybe needed. "In the end, at the bottom of our stomach, everything is dark", as a wise man used to say.

"**Path of the light, the shadows and the empty**" is the realization that the form of our habitat is a combination of full, empty, darkness and light. A sweet unhealthy landscape crossed by a ferrous infrastructure. "You can have your cake after you finish your veggies." This is what the city is. We tend to forget the necessary steps for achieving pleasure, happiness, and realization.

The visual journey goes to an incomplete work: "**Let's flood in love.**" Finally, we accept our fate, but we still want a chance to design it. A merchant-oriented, warehouse-populated, floating and to-be-flooded city is going to appear. The speculation of our living with nature, in balance with cultures, and supported by our only efforts is going to repay us finally. With a dramatic view of our doing, Venice is back, Amsterdam is added, Hamburg goes along, for a tiny New York-ish lifestyle: it is the dream of the contemporary man.

To conclude this landslide of images and feelings, the tiniest and greatest reward to our actions and thoughts, as far as any antipodes, is the ecosystem - the eco-system, an echo system. "**Echo-system**" signifies the smallest and most revolutionary attempt, effort, amount, and compliment we could give to ourselves - to have created an artwork, an ecosystem, a nature-matching habitat: **the city as a living artwork.**

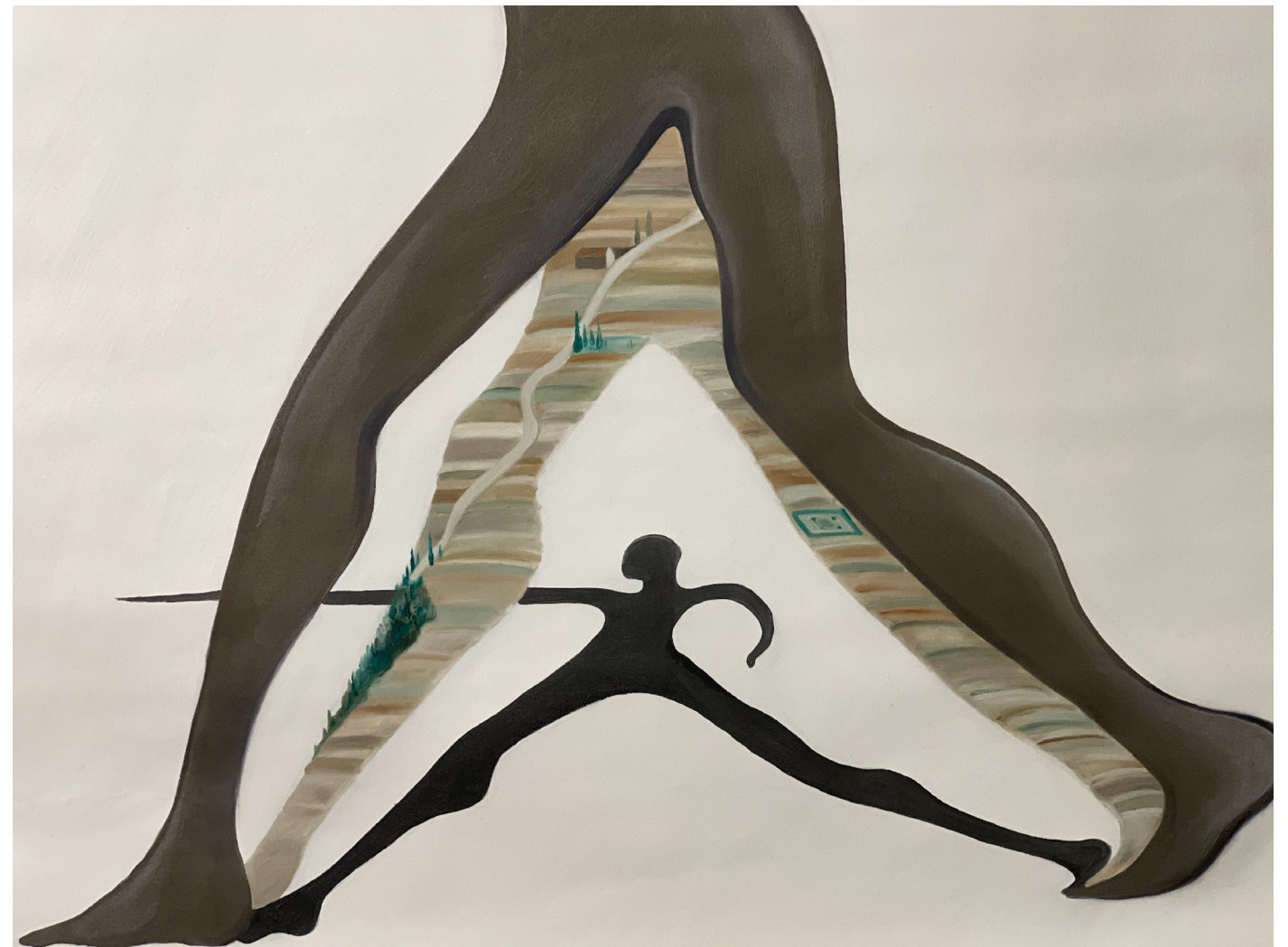
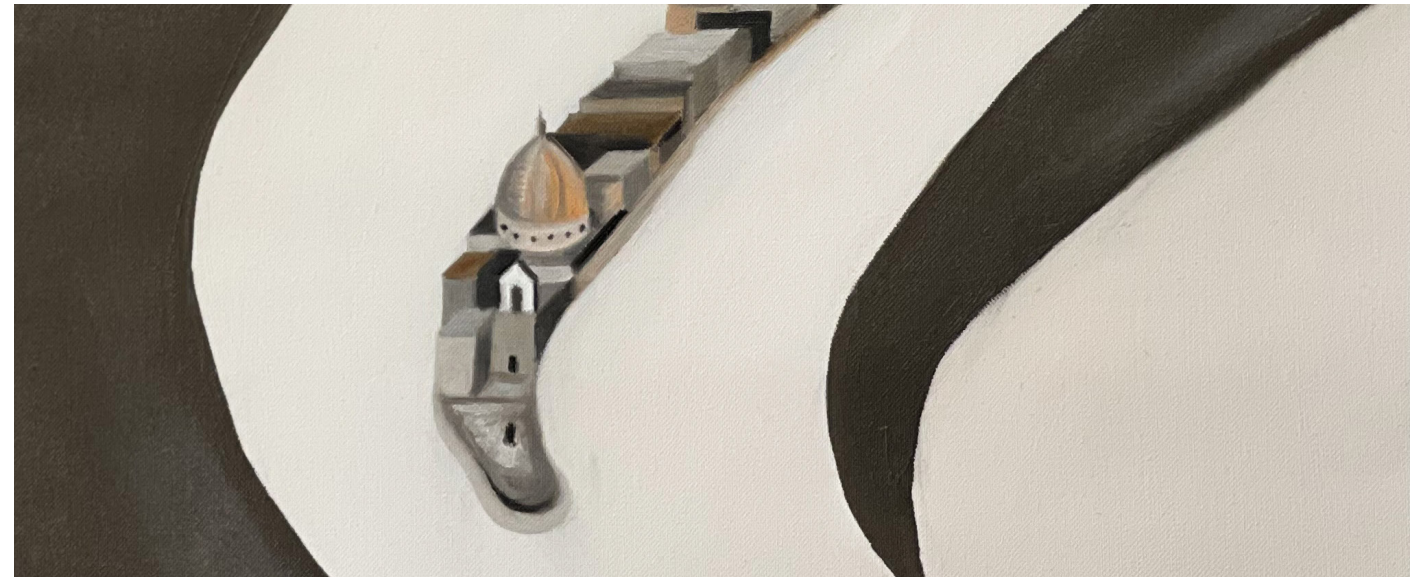

Jacopo Grilli





Beneath, Below, Behind

93 x 81 cm
Oil on canvas
2023





The Amount
 80 x 75 cm
 Oil on canvas
 2023



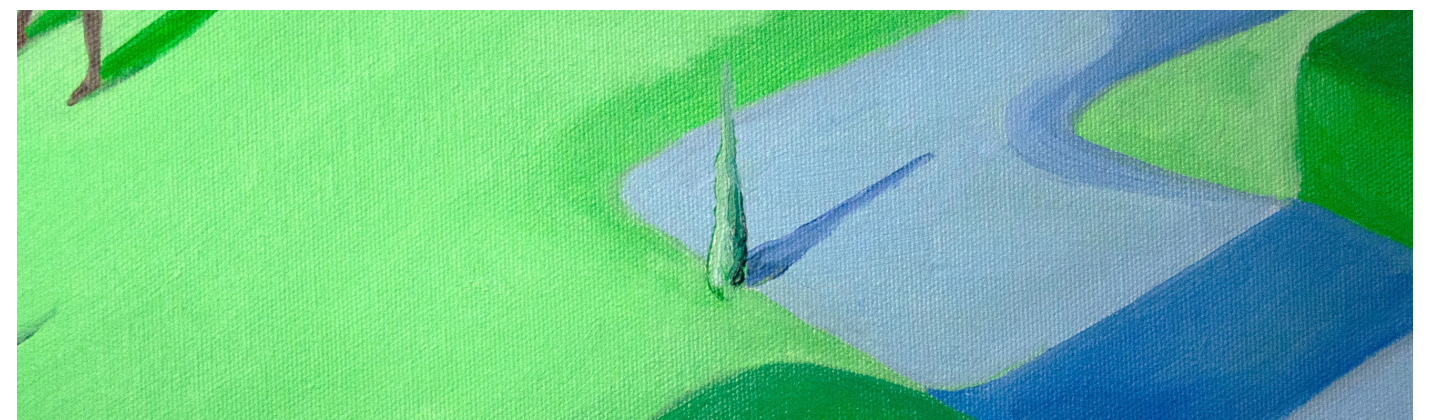


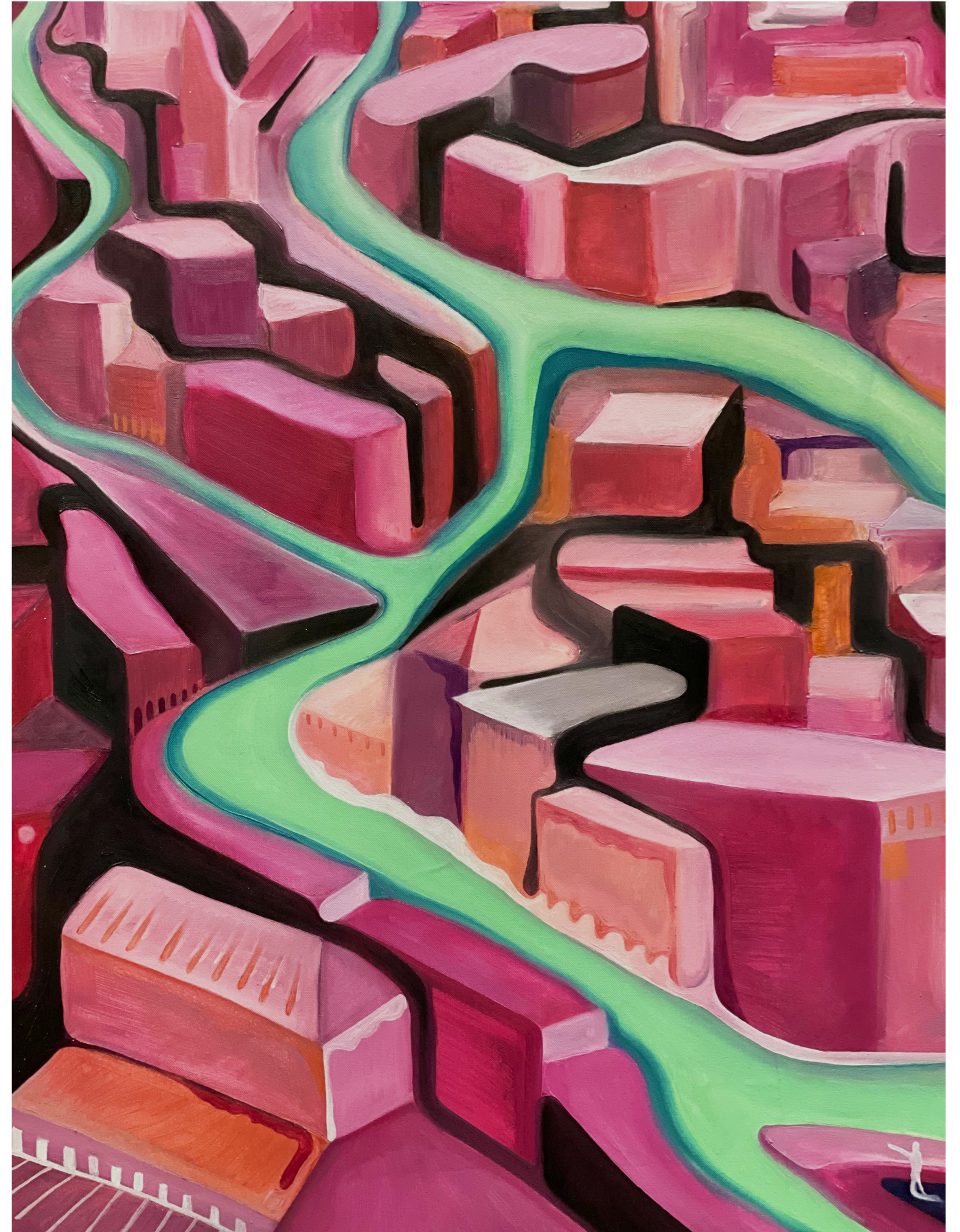
City dust
53 x 30 cm
Oil on canvas
2023





The Effort
 80 x 80 cm
 Oil on canvas
 2023





Path of the light,
the shadows and the empty
(berry cake after a spinach soup)
83 x 51 cm
Oil on canvas
2023



Let's flood in love

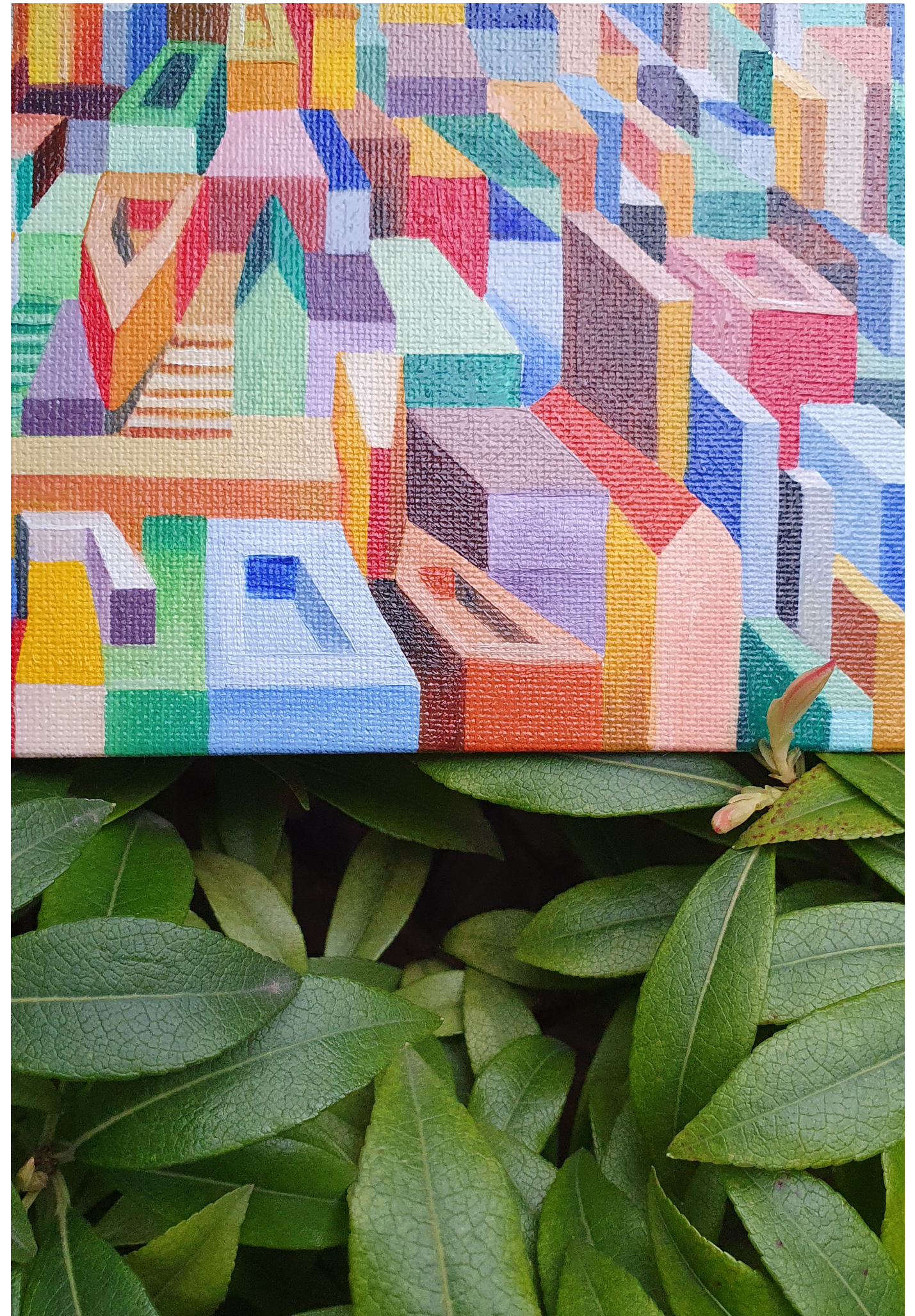
(work in progress)
82 x 82cm
Oil on canvas
2023





Echo-system

20 x 14,5 cm
Oil on carton
2023





Scenario making

20 x 50 cm
watercolours on paper
2023

