

MICHAEL MCHUGH



**THE CLAYTON UTZ
ART PARTNERSHIP**

CLAYTON UTZ

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Michael McHugh's art practice consistently explores colour, composition and textural abstract form with a strong connection to the natural world. McHugh collects a range of different photographs and drawings during research trips visiting museums, libraries and gardens around the world, returning to his studio to draw and create a series of collages, which lead to large format paintings.

With the use of gestural acrylic mark making, McHugh creates a layered abstraction moving between the paintings' surfaces and botanical shapes. Works are sometimes sombre and brooding, and at other times energetic and vibrant, with textural layers echoing moments in time. McHugh believes constant drawing to be fundamental to his painting process. This foundation enables him to fully explore composition and vigorously push boundaries with colour and technique, while also creating new organic forms.

His largest work to date (200 x 600 cm) and first public piece, *Swimming in the Clouds* (2022), was commissioned for the Public Gallery in Melbourne's Boroondara Arts Centre in the Hawthorne Town Hall Gallery.

Graduating from Whitecliffe College of Arts & Design in New Zealand, he has attended masterclasses in painting at the National Art School in Sydney. He is represented in Sydney by Martin Browne Contemporary Gallery, and Foenander Galleries in Auckland. McHugh will have his first solo exhibition at Milford Galleries in Queenstown in September this year. McHugh's work is held in a number of private collections in New Zealand, Australia, America and Europe.

Artworks courtesy of Michael McHugh.
Michael McHugh is represented by Martin Browne Contemporary, Sydney, and Foenander Galleries, Auckland

The Clayton Utz Art Partnership brings together a unique collaboration between two outstanding Australian artists and our firm.

Each exhibition presents an opportunity to showcase the work of two contemporary artists in the offices of Clayton Utz. Our exhibition space offers a unique visual art experience for clients to get up-close and personal with an amazing array of artwork.

Our Sydney office is delighted to present a duo of exhibitions by Sydney based artists Joanna Braithwaite and Michael McHugh. Long-standing friends, Braithwaite has been a guiding influence on the progression of McHugh's professional career. Braithwaite is a multiple Archibald Prize finalist with an impressive exhibition history across Australia and New Zealand. Originally hailing from New Zealand, McHugh also exhibits regularly in Australia and New Zealand.

United by a deep love of painting and the natural world, the paintings of Braithwaite and McHugh are sure to delight viewers through the palpable energy and joy present in each of their works. Each create exuberant paintings that evoke new worlds, and which also comment on environmental concerns and our relationship to plant and animal life.

The Clayton Utz Art Partnership is a truly exciting initiative and demonstrates our pride as an Australian firm committed to the cultural sector, and the broader creative communities in which we live and work.

We hope you enjoy being part of it.

Click each image to explore Michael McHugh's work in our interactive guide.





Violaceous
2022
acrylic on canvas
180 x 150 cm
\$15,000



Ulysses
2022
acrylic on canvas
100 x 100 cm
\$7,200



Sea Faring
2022
acrylic on canvas
150 x 150 cm
\$15,000



Oasis
2022
acrylic on canvas
150 x 120 cm
\$12,000



Fandango
2022
acrylic on canvas
180 x 150 cm
\$18,000



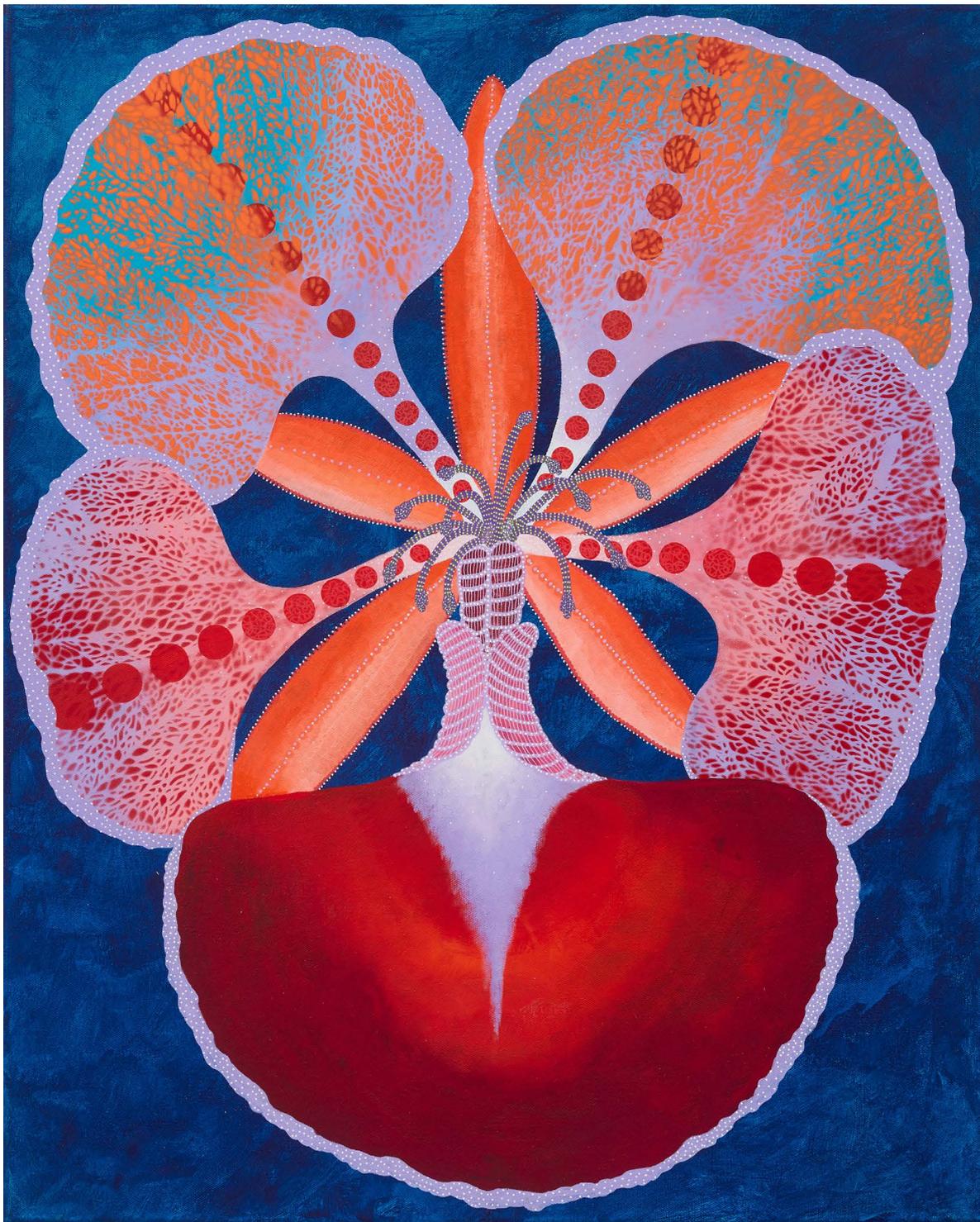
Fiesta
2022
acrylic on canvas
180 x 150 cm
\$18,000



Strangers in love
2022-23
acrylic on canvas
120 x 106 cm
\$9,000



Deeply
2023
acrylic on canvas
100 x 100 cm
\$7,200



Truly
2023
acrylic on canvas
75 x 60 cm
\$4,800



Delight
2020-2023
acrylic on canvas
75 x 75 cm
\$4,800



Prick
2022-23
acrylic on canvas
100 x 100 cm
\$7,200



Good Morning
2023
acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm
\$4,000



Aitutaki
2023
acrylic on canvas
100 x 100 cm
\$7,200



Surprise
2023
acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm
\$3,500



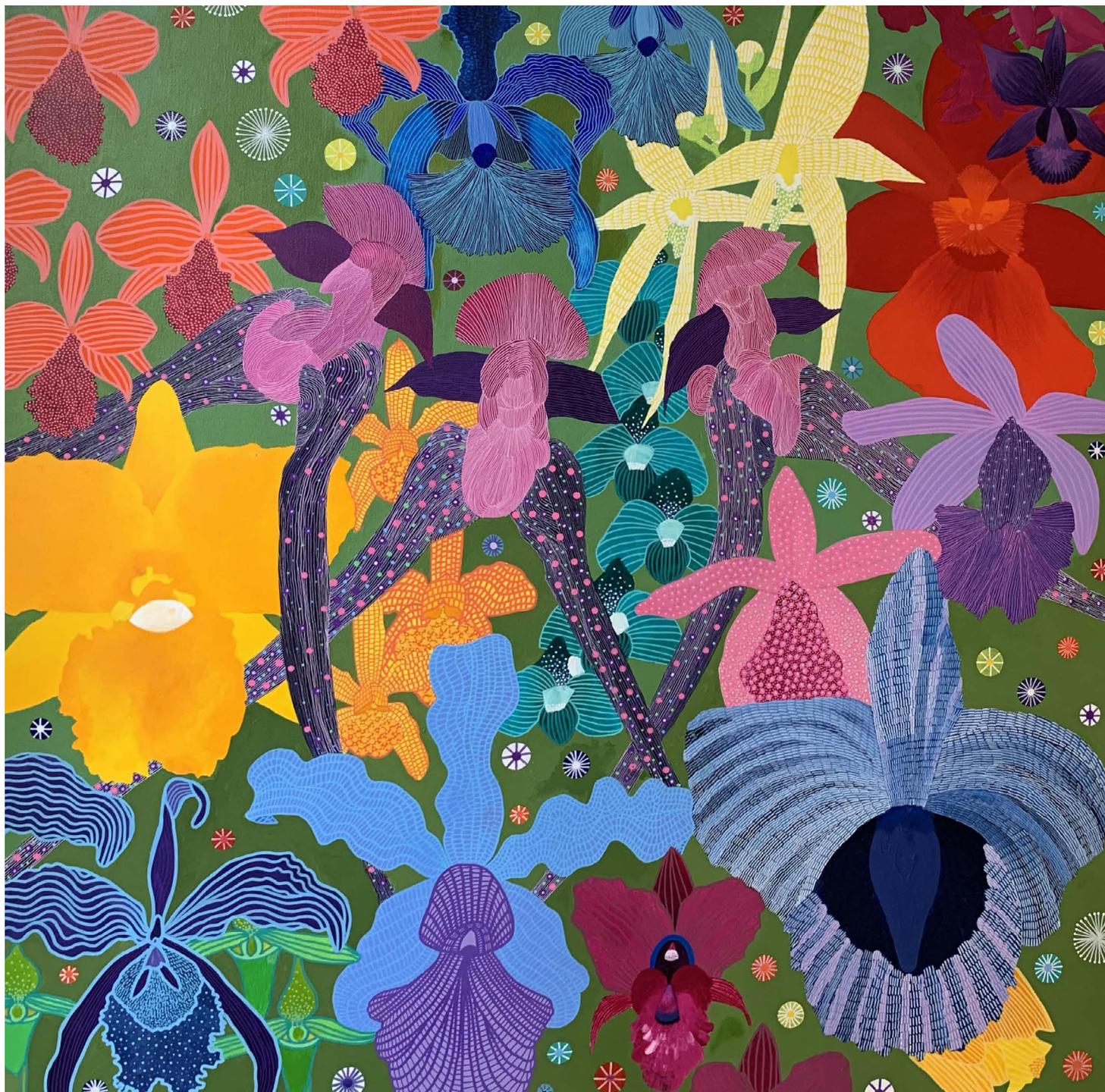
Swimming in the clouds
2022
acrylic on canvas
200 x 600 cm
\$60,000



Lagoonia
2022
acrylic on canvas
150 x 150 cm
\$15,000



Arboretum Avenue
2019
acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 cm
NFS



Jitterbug
2020
acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm
NFS



Knit one pearl one
2020
acrylic on canvas
150 x 150 cm
NFS



Welcome home
2021
acrylic on canvas
74 x 72 cm
NFS

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the
Uncommons
PRESENTED BY CLAYTON UTZ

3:33
art projects