

SEIZAN GALLERY

TOKYO NEW YORK

JAMES ISHERWOOD





JAMES ISHERWOOD (b. 1971, Boston, MA)

Described by critic Pier Luigi Sacco as a “master of deception,” James Isherwood constructs paintings that destabilize the familiar language of architecture, transforming buildings into enigmatic protagonists within carefully staged illusions. Drawing loosely from real-world structures, his compositions unfold in hyper-saturated palettes that oscillate between seduction and disquiet, evoking spaces that feel at once tangible and impossible. These environments, often reminiscent of the stylized clarity of David Hockney yet emptied of human presence, resist habitation and narrative closure. Instead, they operate as psychological theaters—waking-dream landscapes where viewers are invited to project themselves into scenes that are playful, uncanny, and faintly foreboding. The absence of figures becomes a generative device, opening a space where perception drifts between recognition and estrangement.

Isherwood’s process balances precision with improvisation, combining rigorous draftsmanship with accumulations of translucent washes and layered surfaces that can number in the hundreds. Beginning with photographic or architectural references, he methodically departs from them, allowing each work to evolve into an autonomous visual system governed as much by intuition as by control. His paintings subtly echo the conceptual gamesmanship of René Magritte and other Surrealists, embracing paradox, visual wit, and the destabilization of spatial logic. Color plays a central role in this alchemy, shifting from luminous and atmospheric to corrosive and cosmic, suggesting everything from serene natural phenomena to volatile, otherworldly forces. Through this interplay of structure, illusion, and sensation, Isherwood has developed a distinct visual language—one that transforms architecture into a site of speculation, where reality is continuously reimagined and perception itself becomes uncertain terrain.

CURRICULUM VITAE

JAMES ISHERWOOD

EDUCATION

1993 BFA in Painting, Parsons School of Design, New York

SOLO EXHIBITION (by selection)

- 2024 THAW, SEIZAN Gallery, New York
- 2022 Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2022 Future Memory, Galeria Ana Serratosa, Valencia, Spain

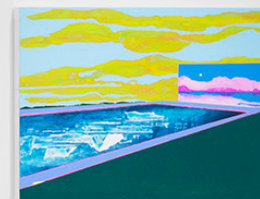
GROUP EXHIBITION (By selection)

- 2025 WHERE WE ARE NOT, SEIZAN Gallery, New York
- 2024 Art Miami, SEIZAN Gallery New York booth, Miami, FL
- 2024 Highlight Reel, Collectbean curated in collaboration with The Art Kollektive
- 2024 Landscapes Of Transcendence Part 1: Magical Realism, Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson, NY
- 2023 Surpassing Structure, Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson, NY
- 2022 Small Wonder, Curated by Emily Miraglia, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2021 Winter Selects 2021, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2021 Space Deconstructed, Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson, NY
- 2020 Homegrown, Hauser & Wirth
- 2020 Summer Selects, Susan Eley Fine Art, Hudson, NY
- 2020 Americana, Curated by Emily Miraglia, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2019 Art Toronto, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Toronto, Canada
- 2019 Reveal Art Fair, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2019 A Sense Of Place, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2019 On The Rocks, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2019 Wavelength, Beaudry Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 2019 Friends From Social Networks, Thomas Deans Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2019 Art On Paper, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, PIER 36 NYC
- 2019 Winter Selects Silvermine, Silvermine Arts Center, New Canaan, CT

- 2018 Reveal Art Fair, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2018 Entirely Twelve Square, Eisenhauer Gallery, Edgartown, Martha’s Vineyard, MA
- 2017 CONTEXT Art Miami, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Miami, FL
- 2017 Art Toronto, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Toronto, Canada
- 2017 Art On Paper, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, PIER 36 NYC
- 2016 CONTEXT ART MIAMI, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Miami, FL
- 2016 Art On Paper, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, PIER 36 NYC
- 2015 BUILD IT!, I. D. E. A. Museum, Mesa, AZ
- 2014 Elements Of Domesticity, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2013 Friends With Benefits, Lorimoto, Ridgewood, NY
- 2012 Architectural Musings, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2012 Aqua Art Miami 2012, Susan Eley Fine Art’s booth, Miami, FL
- 2011 Summer Selects, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2011 Fountain Art Fair, Camel Art Space, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2010 Photogenic, Drew Wiedemann, Camel Art Space, Brooklyn, NY
- 2009 Heading Home, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2008 Regarding Arcadia: Rural Viewpoints, Susan Eley Fine Art, New York
- 2002 The Christmas Show, curated by Burr Dodd, Brooklyn Fire Proof Gallery, New York
- 1998 Small Works, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York

AWARDS / RESIDENCIES

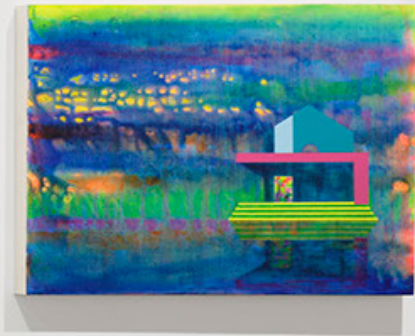
- 2022 Saltonstall Foundation For The Arts Fellowship, Ithaca, NY
- 2022 Willipa Bay Air, Oysterville, WA
- 2019 The Mabel Residency, The Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, RI
- 2018 Virginia Center For The Creative Arts, Robert Johnson Fellowship, Amherst, VA



INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *THAW*
MAY 2 - JUNE 15, 2024



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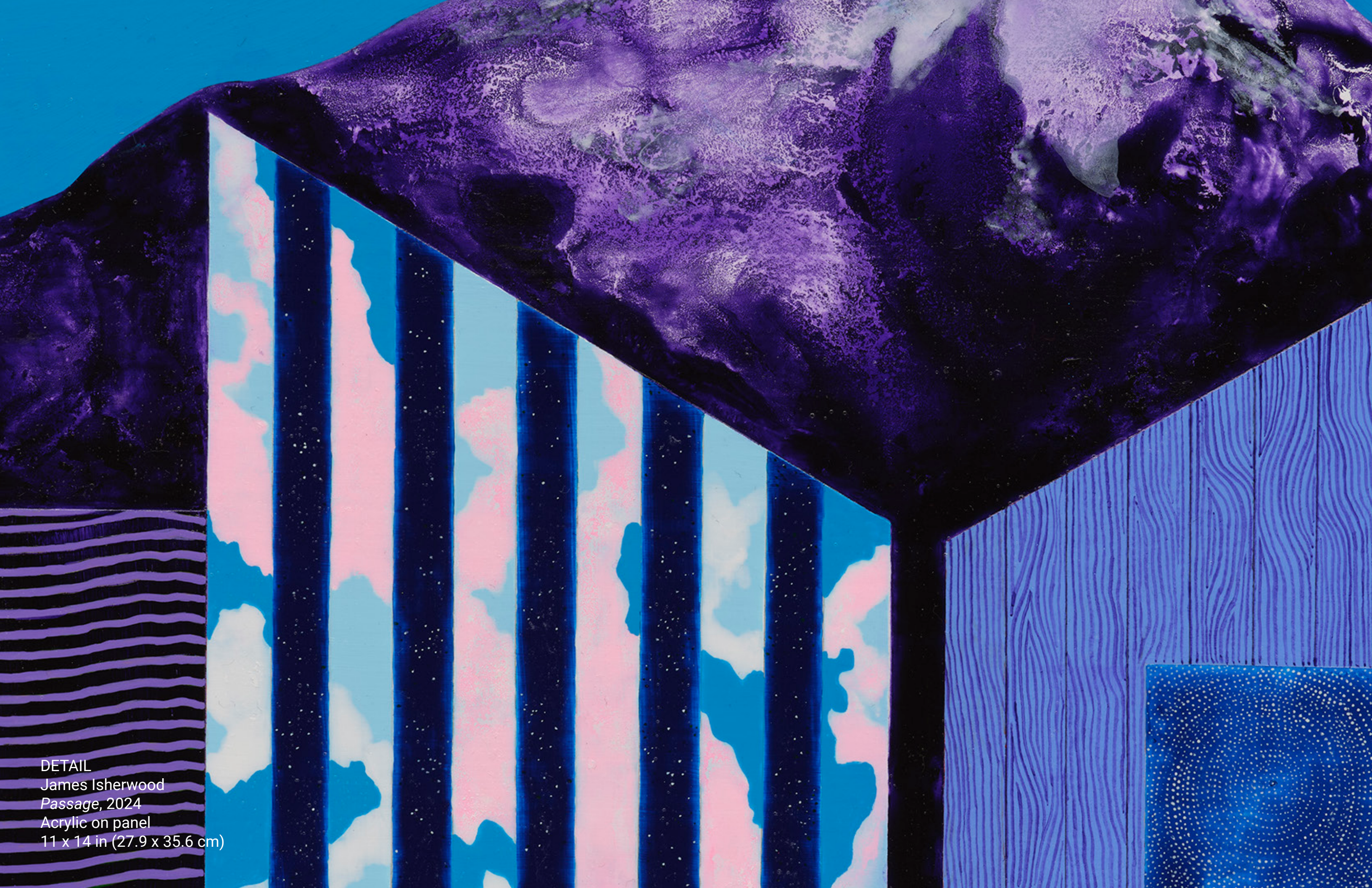
INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: WERE WE ARE NOT
JULY 3 - AUGUST 23, 2025



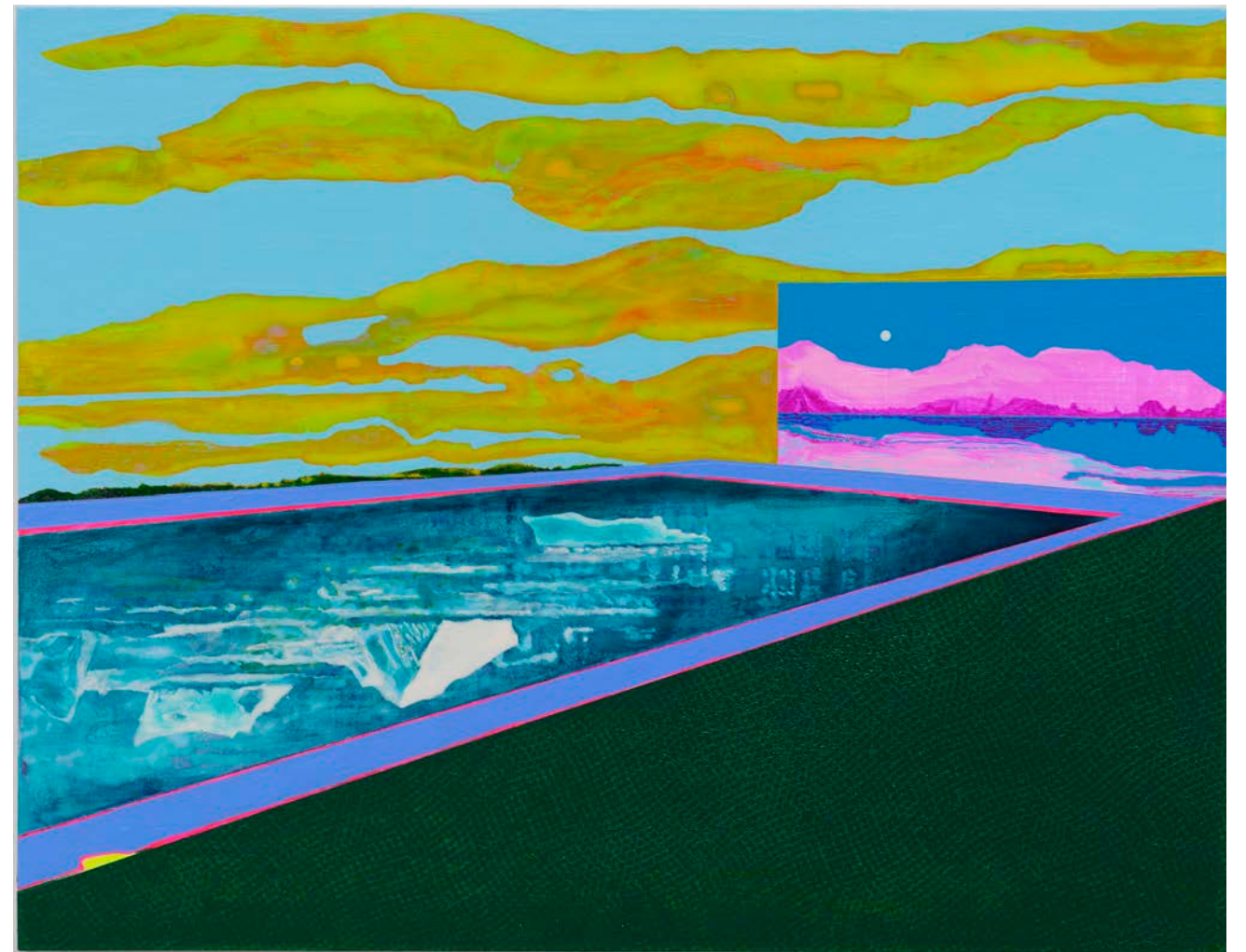
INSTALLATION VIEW OFF: *WERE WE ARE NOT*
JULY 3 - AUGUST 23, 2025



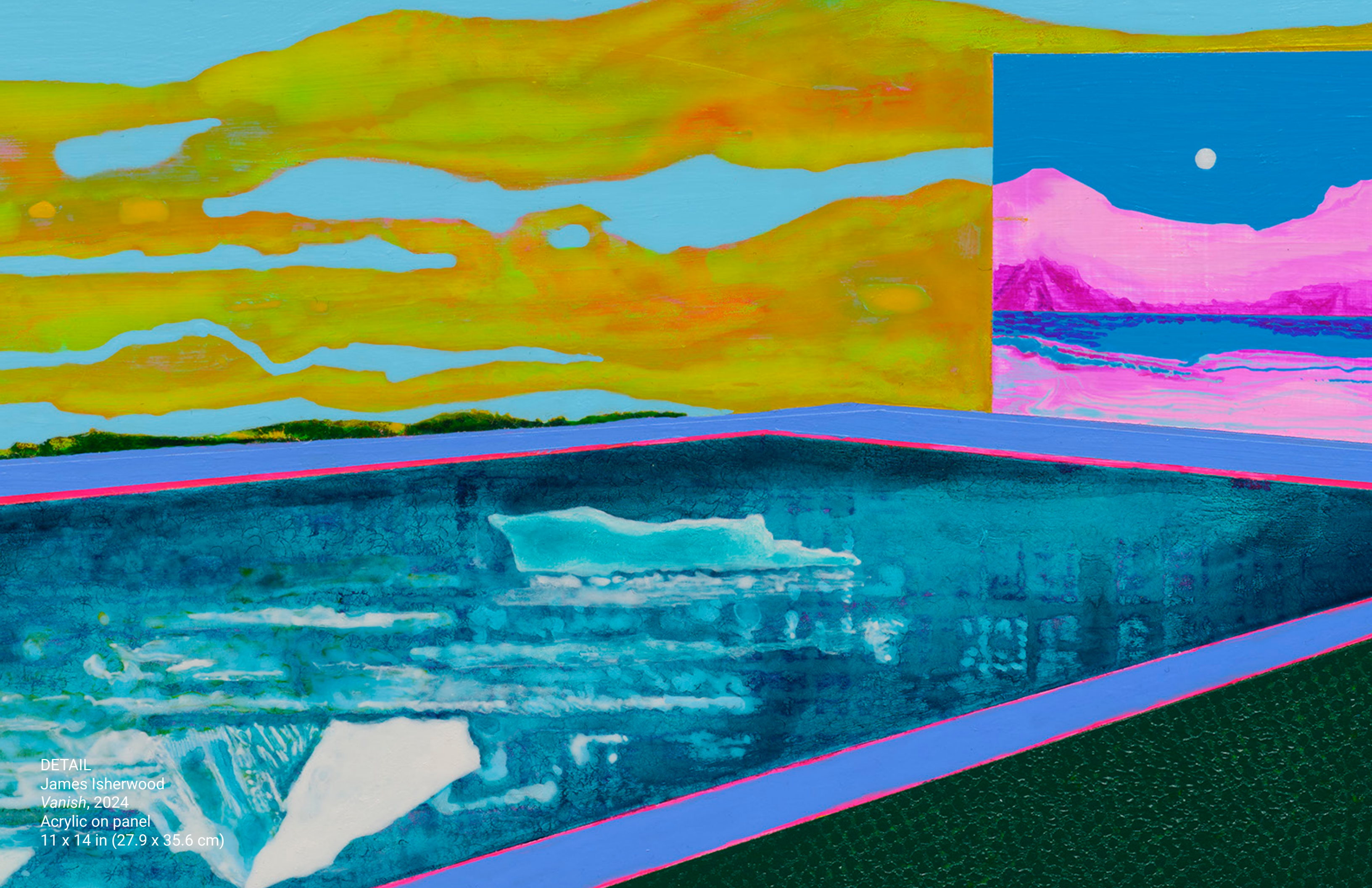
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Passage, 2024
Acrylic on panel
11 x 14 in (27.9 x 35.6 cm)



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For inquiries
director@seizan-gallery.com