

HEFT



KEVIN ESHERICK

The Artist Is Absent

COMPLETE CATALOG

HEFT SOLO SHOW V: February 11 - March 14, 2026

The Artist Is Absent

Esherrick's February 2026 solo show at Heft is a deep exploration into how technology stands to reshape the roles of authorship and authenticity in our society, both in art-making and beyond.

What happens when technology can do everything that we can do, but "better"? What happens when it replaces us? What do we do then? Who do we become? Esherrick is reckoning with these questions by living them out, training an AI model on his own work until it's capable of replacing his practice, and then letting it do exactly that for one year. This model is now ready, and the period of his replacement will begin with the opening of this show.

The focus is not the technological achievement of such a model, or even the art created by it, but instead on the one year performance of leaving the artist adrift. The prospect of spending a year alienated from an artist's practice and passion is invariably daunting, and this undertaking looks at how losing our sources of creativity, human meaning, and connection changes us.

For this show, the last of Kevin's human-conceived art-making for the coming year, two new bodies of work explore these same themes of artistry & authorship.

The first, titled Homages, complicates the notion of homage with a collection of new works made using AI models that have been trained on some of Esherrick's favorite contemporary artists. Where Sturtevant used replication to explore the proliferation of images and the idea of the simulacrum, and Levine re-photographed canonical images to challenge constructs of authorship, Esherrick is now working with today's tools to imagine the inevitable consequences on artistry of AI. This means not only the prospects of automation and alienation that it spells, but also its capacity for imagination and transcendence of human limitation. The series engages with the work of painters, photographers, and conceptual, digital, and performance artists alike in an almost devotional fashion, religiously replicating their styles while asking in the same breath what might happen when the most human elements of the art-making process have been made replicable.

A second body of work, Ablation Studies, looks at these topics through the lens of Esherrick's "latent painting" style. With its distinctive melding of abstraction and figuration, the latent painting process is applied here to quintessential historical artworks, capturing the half-formed images from a disrupted AI image generation process to portray an erasure of the artist's hand and its work. This visual erasure serves as a metaphor for the fears surrounding these technologies, but finds in this erasure a potent new aesthetic sensibility that might see us through whatever is to come. Through it, these works present the tension between antiquity and futurity, humanity and technology, images' abundance and their meaning.

Brooklyn, NY
July 23rd, 2024

THE ARTIST IS ABSENT

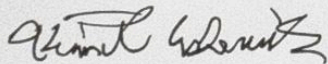
I'm embarking on a performance piece called The Artist Is Absent.

I've begun training LLMs on both my writing and my concepts for art pieces. Once these models can credibly produce in a manner virtually indistinguishable from my own voice and vision, I will hand over all production of my work to them for one year.

The aim is to render myself superfluous.

Sincerely,

Kevin Esherick



KEVIN ESHERICK
The Artist Is Absent, 2024

Unique printed letter on paper, signed in pen.
8.5 x 11 in.

Sold

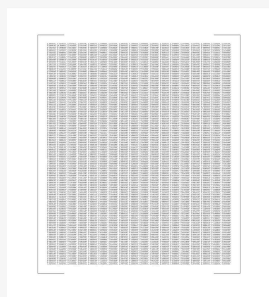
info@heftgallery.com

Kevin Esherick

Kevin Esherick is an American conceptual artist and writer. His work is deeply influenced by his studies in philosophy, psychology, and technology. Esherick explores themes spanning from consciousness and consumerism to the nature of aesthetics and the experience of loss. Working across these themes, he employs a diverse range of mediums including denim, painting, algorithmic art, dynamic NFTs, and generative AI.

His work has been exhibited at Expanded Art in Berlin (2024) and Heft Gallery in New York (2025), as well as the Hirshhorn Museum (2022), the Art Institute of Chicago (2022), and the National Gallery of Art (2022) (without permission). His art is also part of the collection at the Francisco Carolinum Linz in Austria.

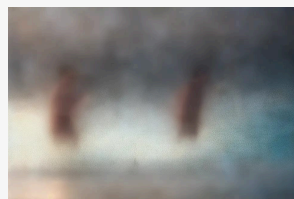
Hyperportraits (2025)



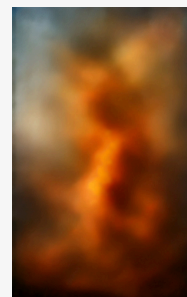
Sky World (2025)



I'm With You (2024)



In Utero (2024)



DVD Screensaver (2024)



Catalog (2023)

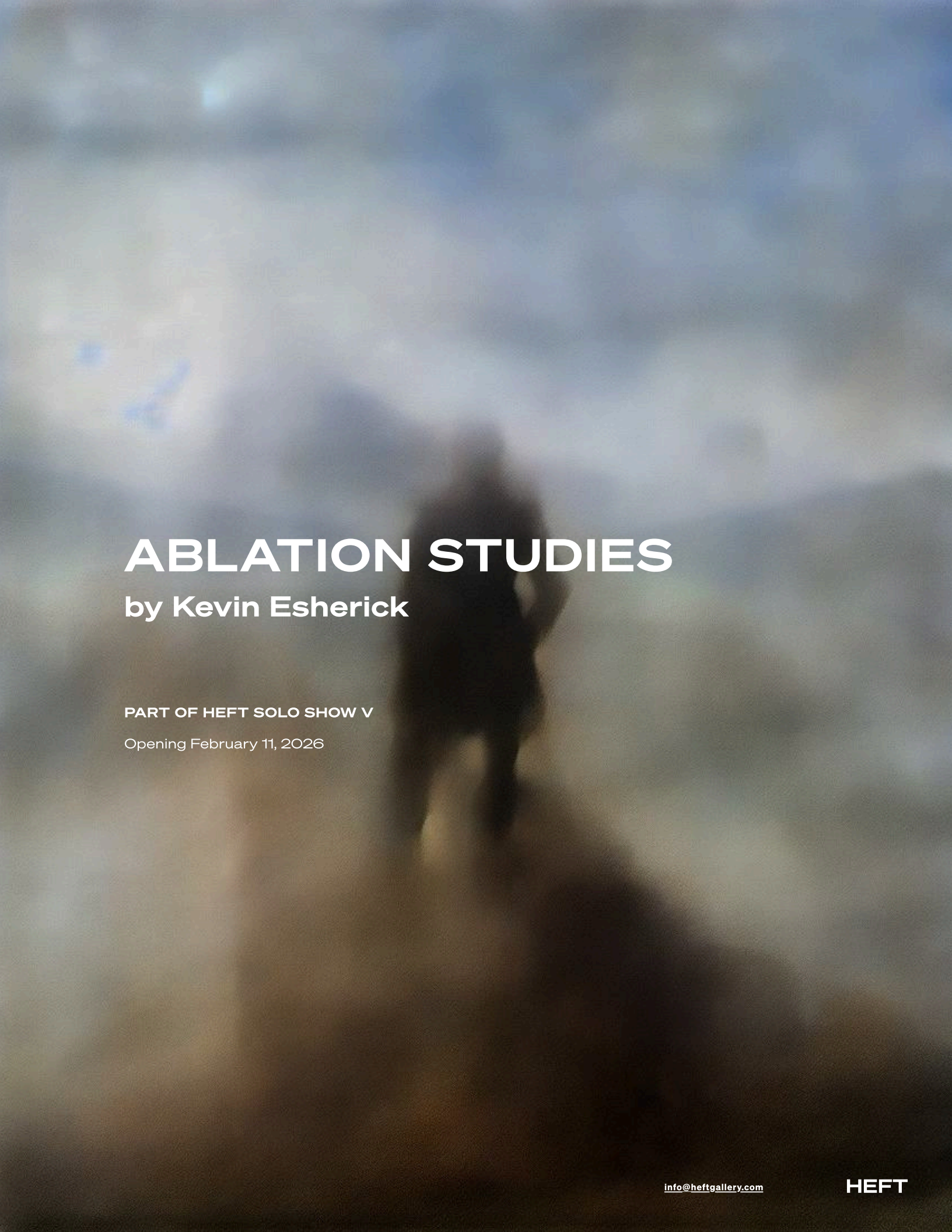


Artist Bingo (2023)



Material (2022)





ABLATION STUDIES

by Kevin Esherick

PART OF HEFT SOLO SHOW V

Opening February 11, 2026

SERIES OVERVIEW

Ablation Studies is a new series of unique digital artworks by Kevin Esherick, each an Ethereum NFT that has a corresponding signed print, up to 24" on its long edge.

Each work uses the artist's special 'latent painting' technique to generate new images of well-known paintings from history. Artwork examples on the following pages show a cross section of how different types of original paintings are interpreted.

\$1500 each payable via eth, usdc, ach, wire

1/1 Ethereum token

Unique print unframed, label signed, size chosen by collector

up to 24" on long endge

ABLATION STUDIES

In machine learning, an ablation study is a way of examining what happens when parts of a system are removed, eroded, or destroyed by their human experimenters. Ablation Studies turns this logic on its head, examining how systems of human meaning and relations degrade under the proliferation of artificial intelligence, how their subjects push back, and what new beauty might emerge from the dialectic.

Here Esherick turns his signature “latent painting” process toward works from the canon of art history to reflect on the impact of artificial intelligence on art and image-making culture. The method disrupts the image generation process to look inside the “mind” of the AI model, pulling out half-formed images that we were never intended to see. Where the artist previously used the technique to create entirely new images, here existing images are fed to the model and prematurely removed, using this glimpse inside the system to explore what it means for images to be consumed, digested, absorbed, and spit back out by it. The aesthetic of erasure that’s conjured beckons us to observe the history of human culture through this lens, as a kind of psychic landscape populated by beautiful, haunting ruins.

The resulting series embraces deeply conflicting emotions toward the changes wrought by technology. On the one hand, we see in these images the history of art being eroded, obscured, and co-opted before our very eyes, the hands of its artists all but erased. And yet the new aesthetic of these abstractions offers a sense of the poetic to accompany the loss, and a sense of hope that these new systems will complement rather than replace what they ingest. In change, there is growth. In rupture, we find rapture. In death, rebirth.

SERIES ARTWORKS

Available for presale at the release of this catalog to first takers. Artist retains the right to add or remove works from this series until the show closes in March.



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Hopper (Nighthawks), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright, unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



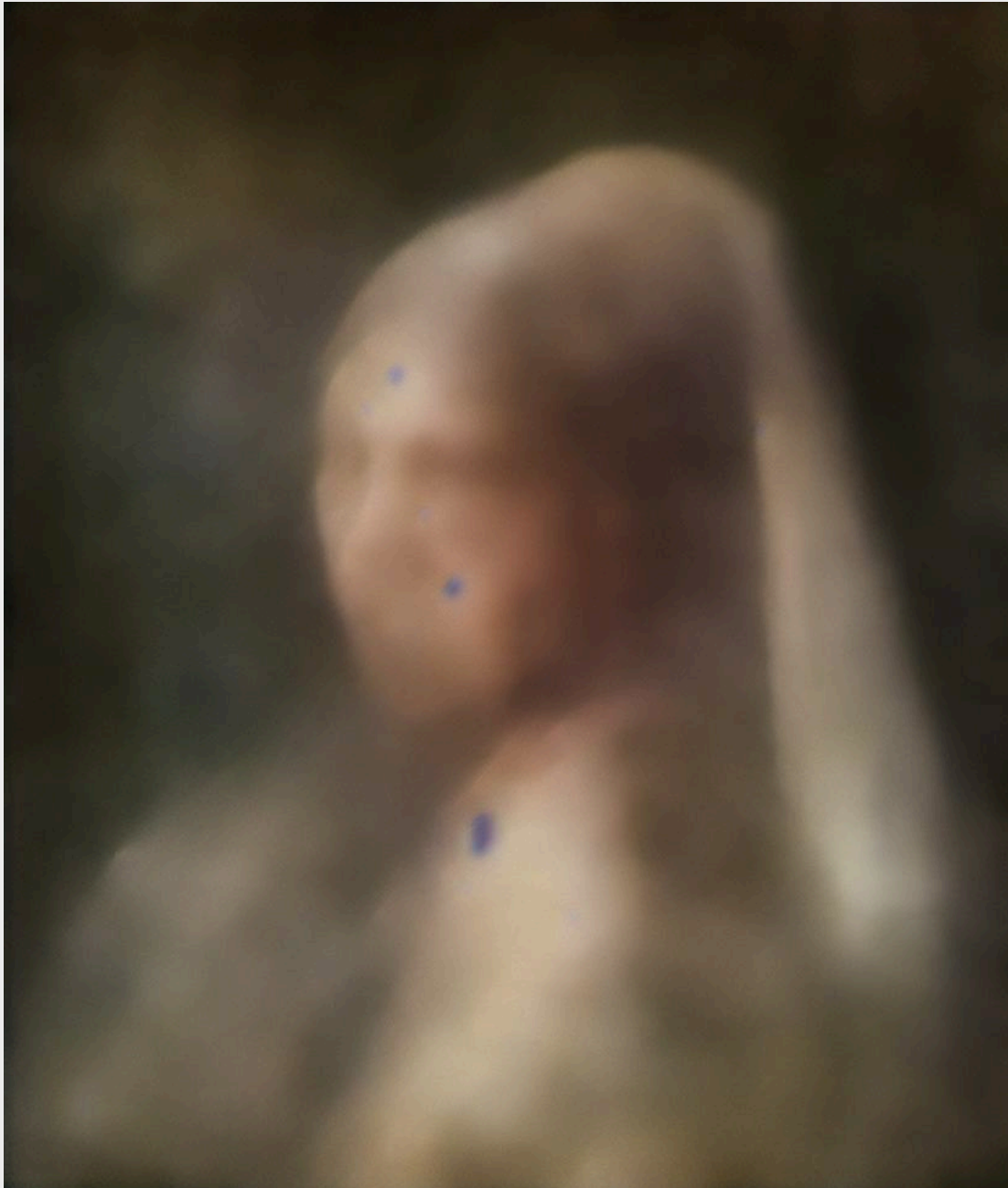
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Monet (Wheatstacks), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token.**

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

After Vermeer (Girl with a Pearl Earring), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



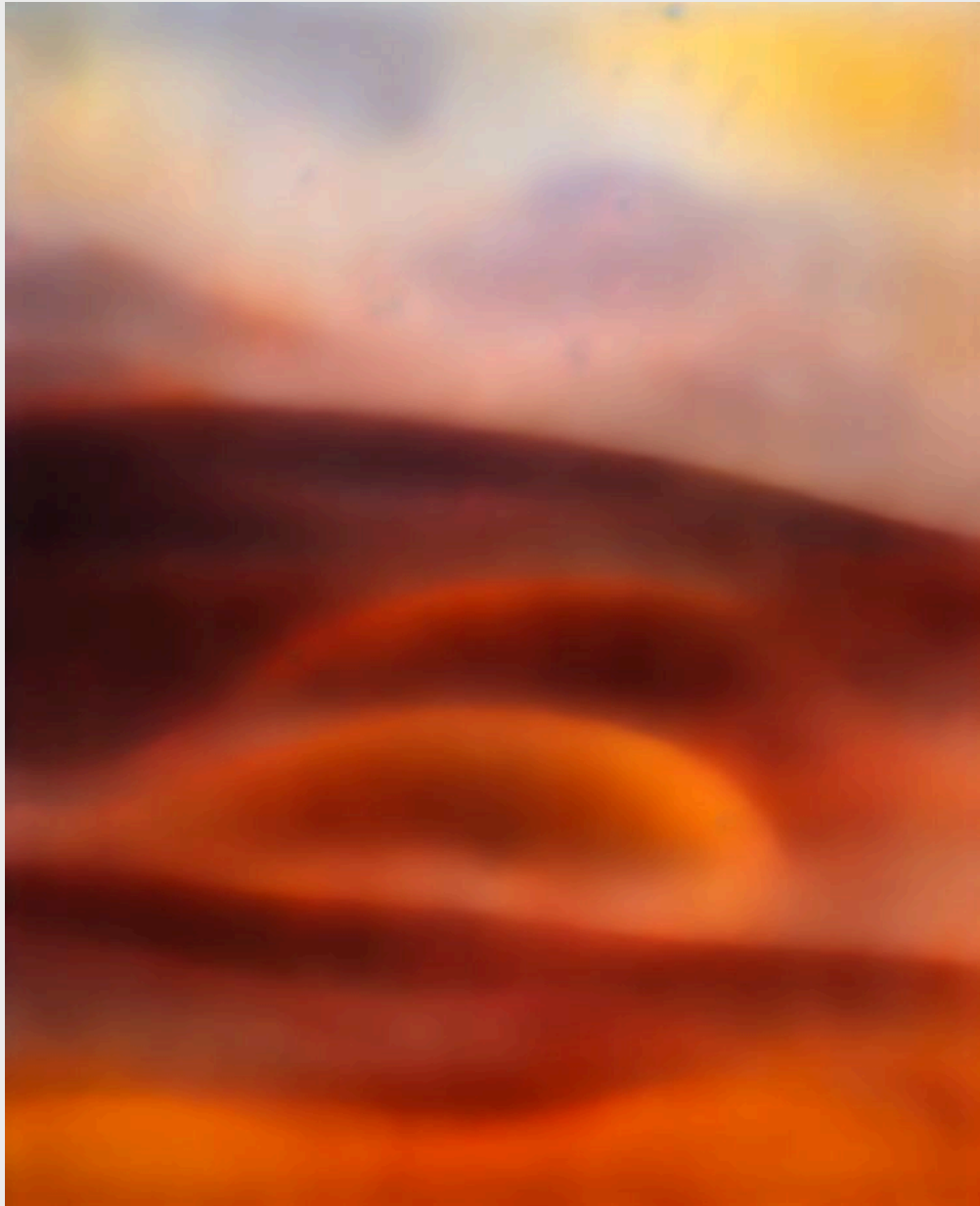
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Wood (American Gothic), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



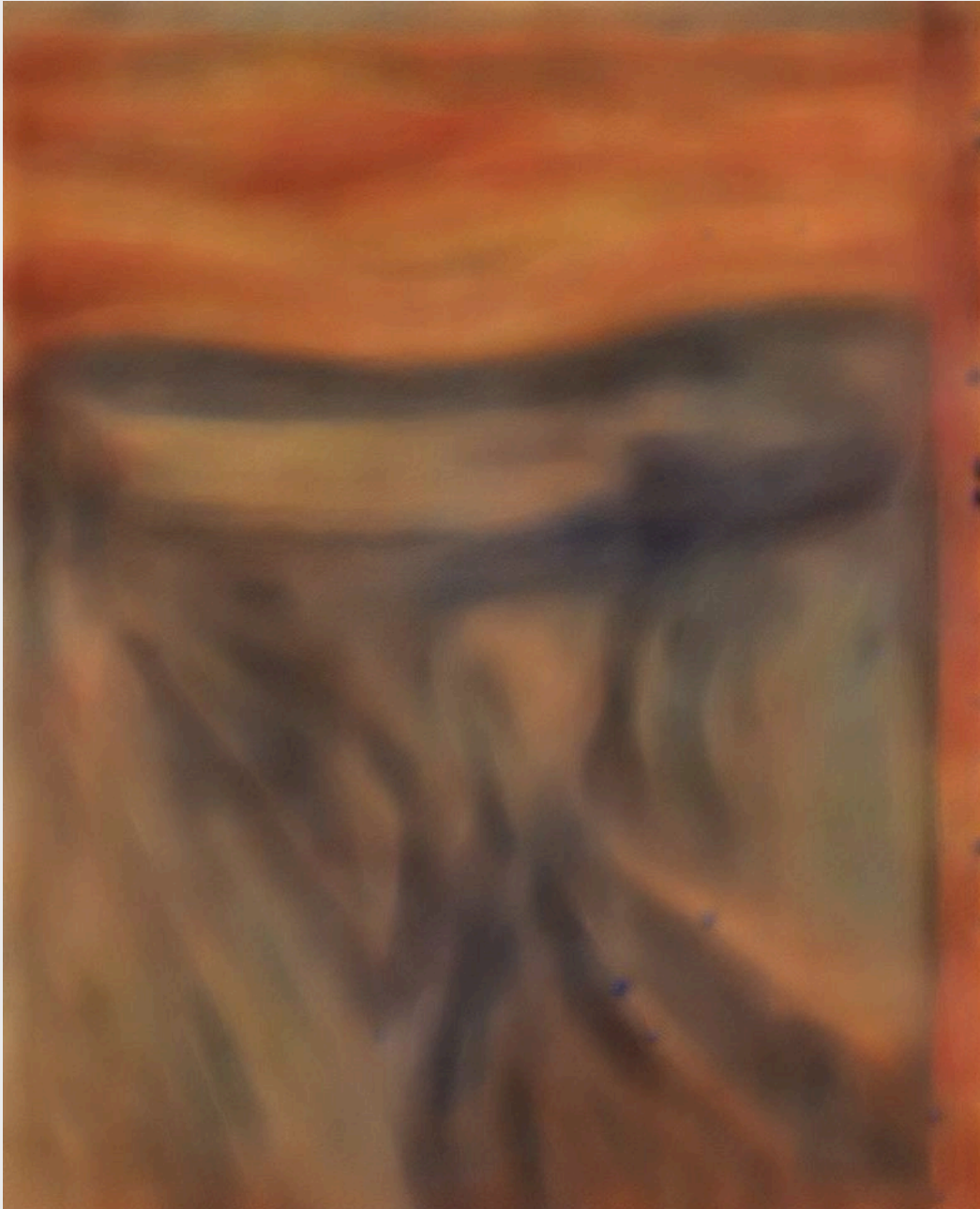
KEVIN ESHERICK
After O'Keeffe (Red, Yellow and Black Streak), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



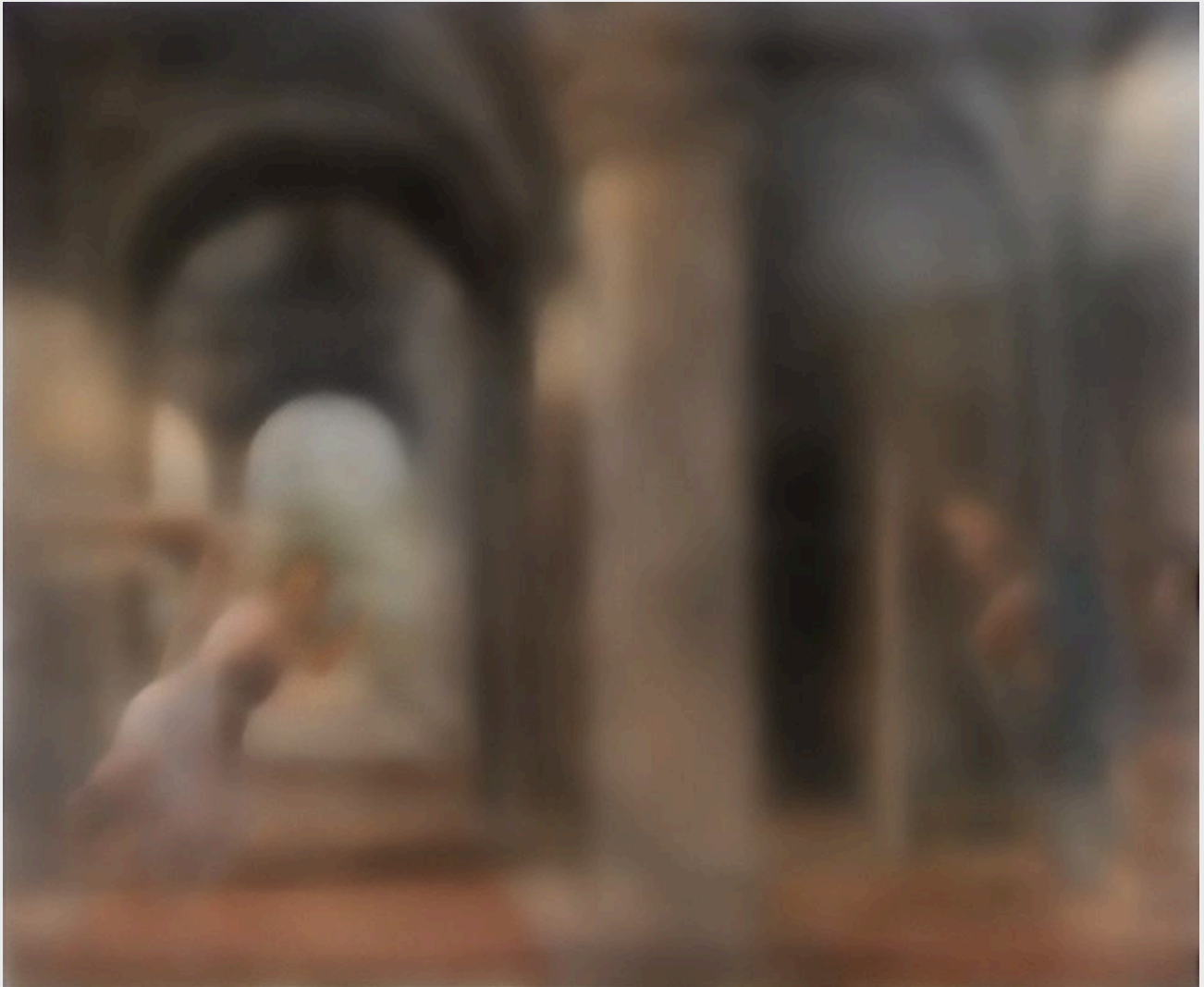
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Munch (The Scream), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



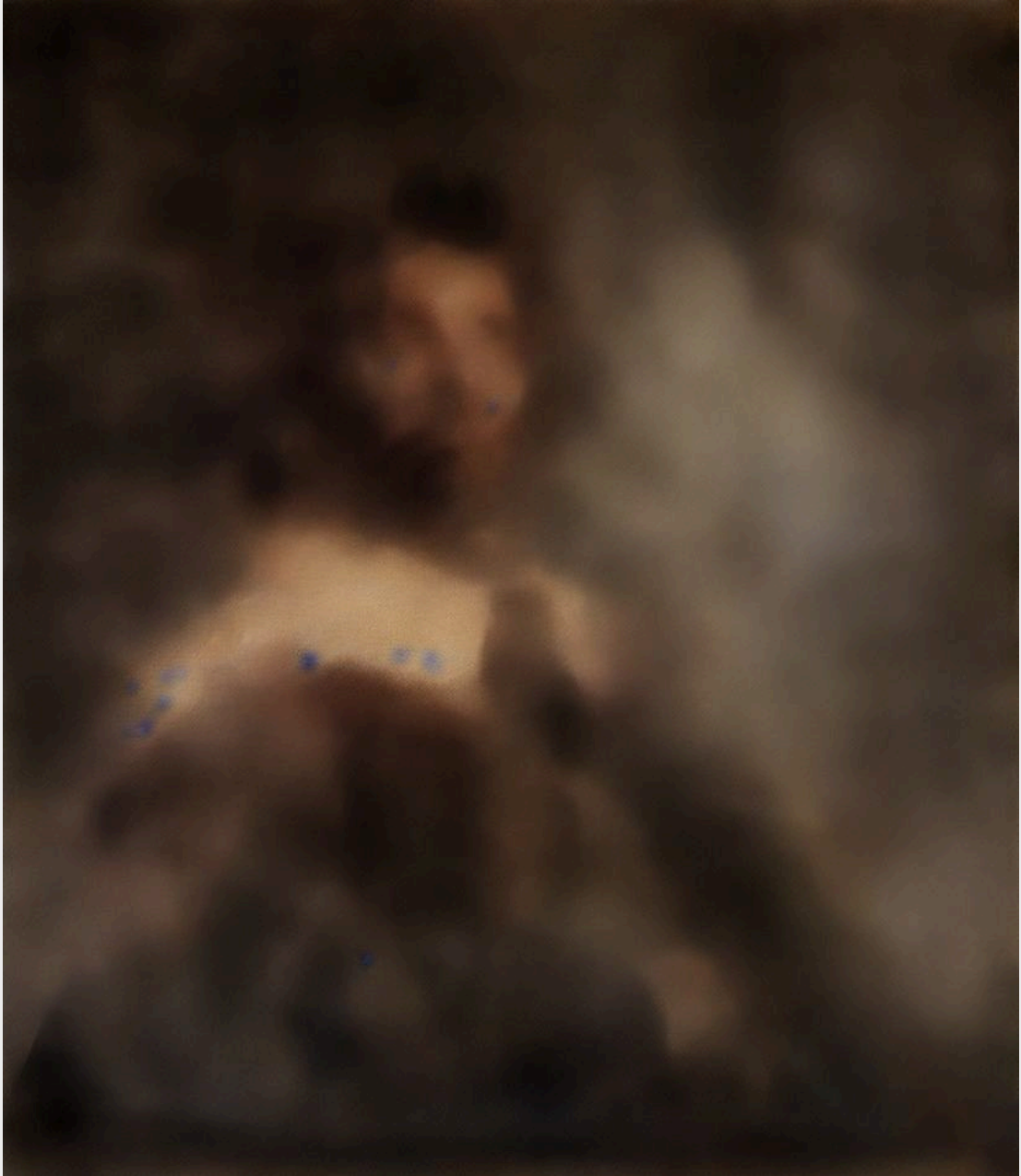
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Botticelli (The Annunciation), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

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KEVIN ESHERICK

After Velazquez (Portrait of Juan de Pareja), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



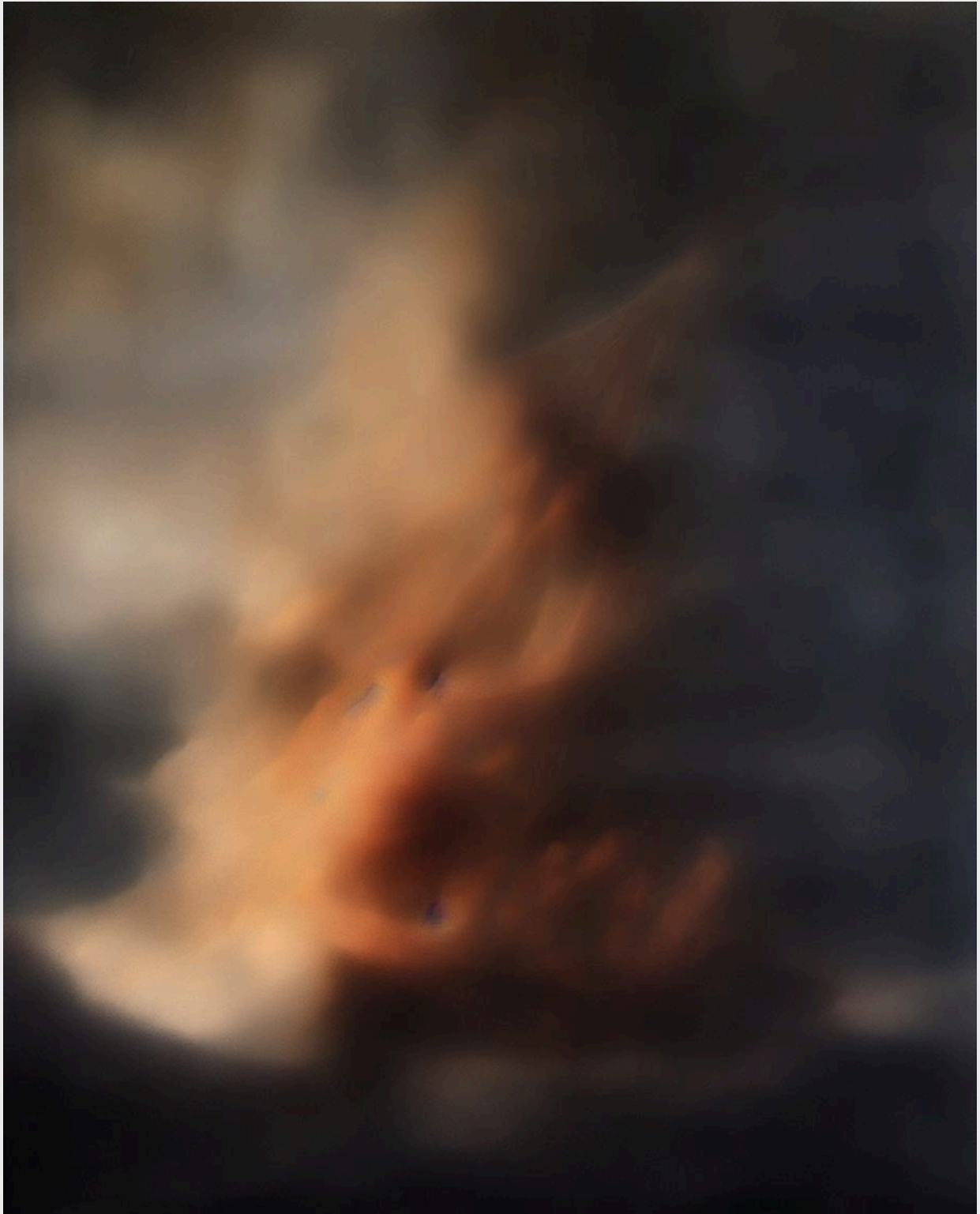
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Klein (Untitled Anthropometry), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

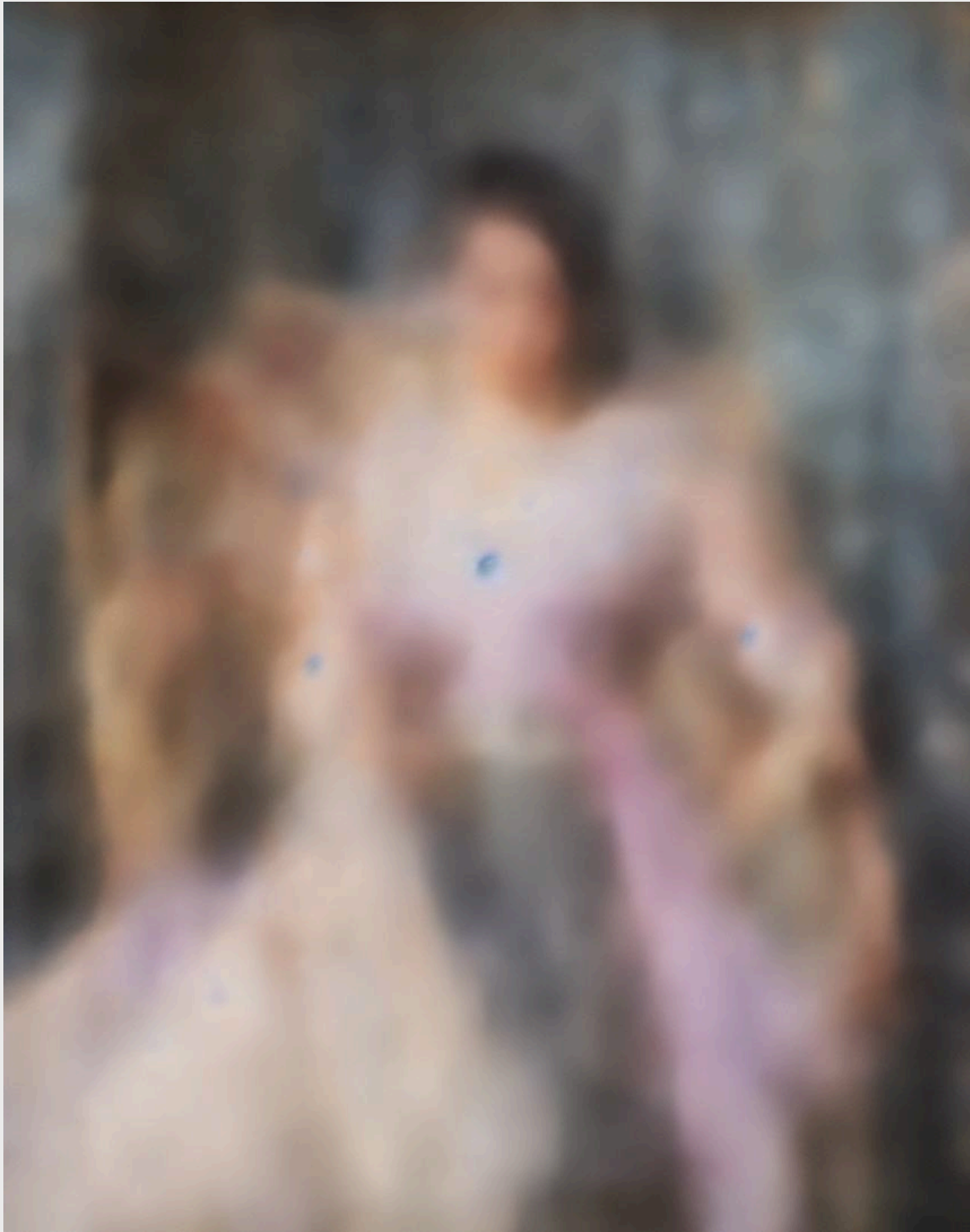
After Rembrandt (The Storm on the Sea of Galilee), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Sargent (Lady Agnew of Lochnaw), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright, unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

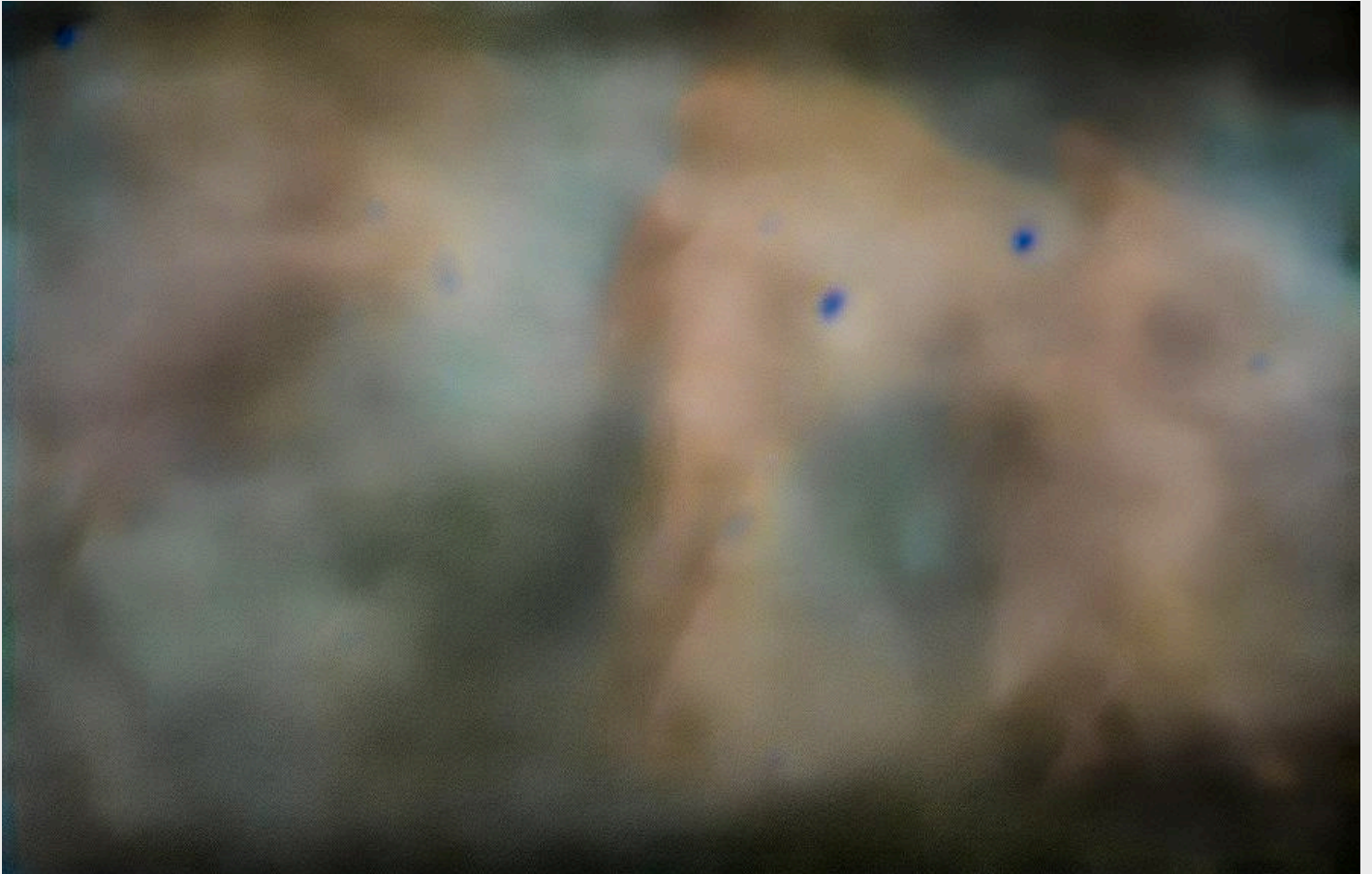
After Friedrich (The Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

After Botticelli (The Birth of Venus), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Twombly (Untitled I), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token**.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



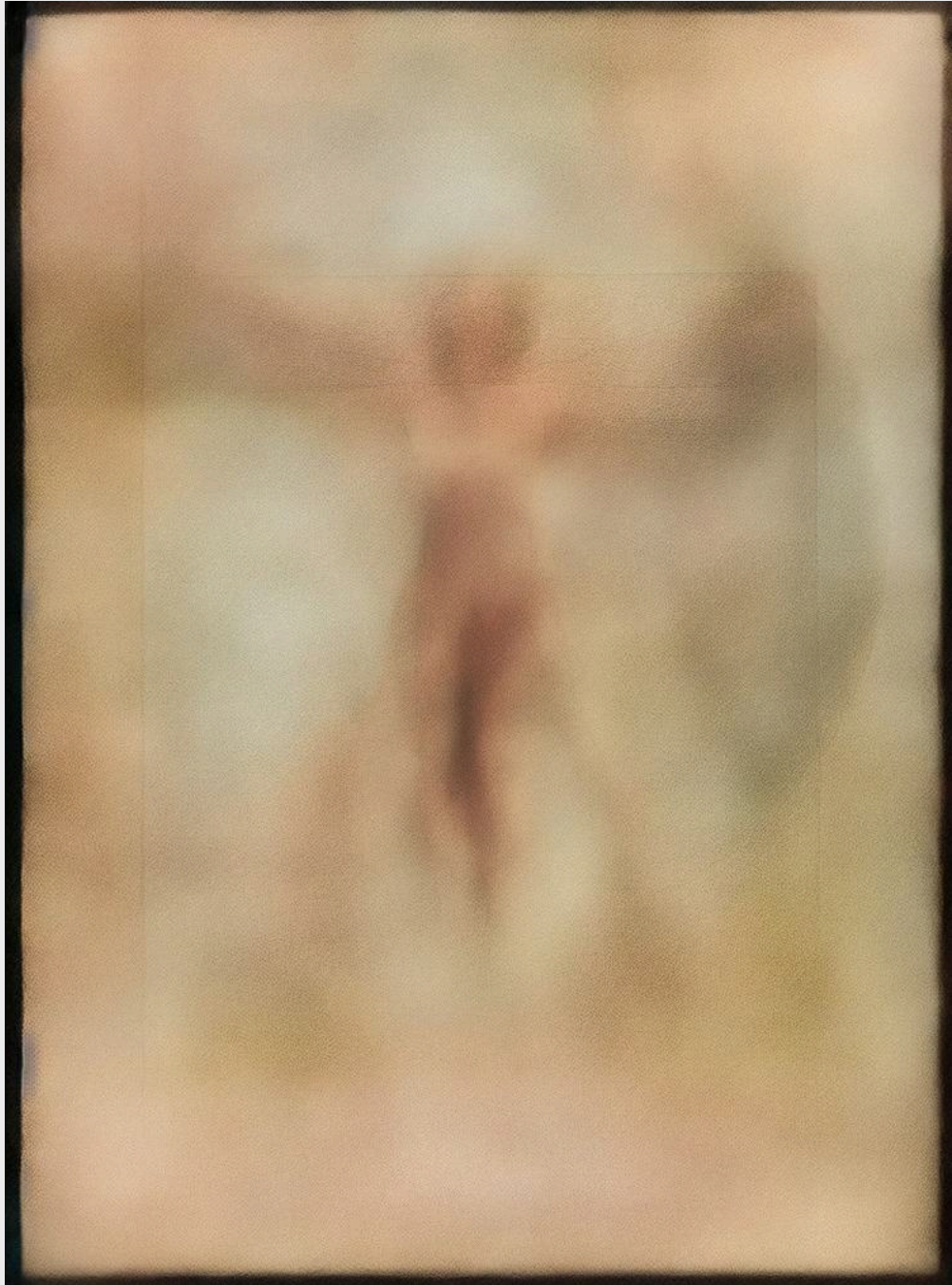
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Homer (The Gulf Stream), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



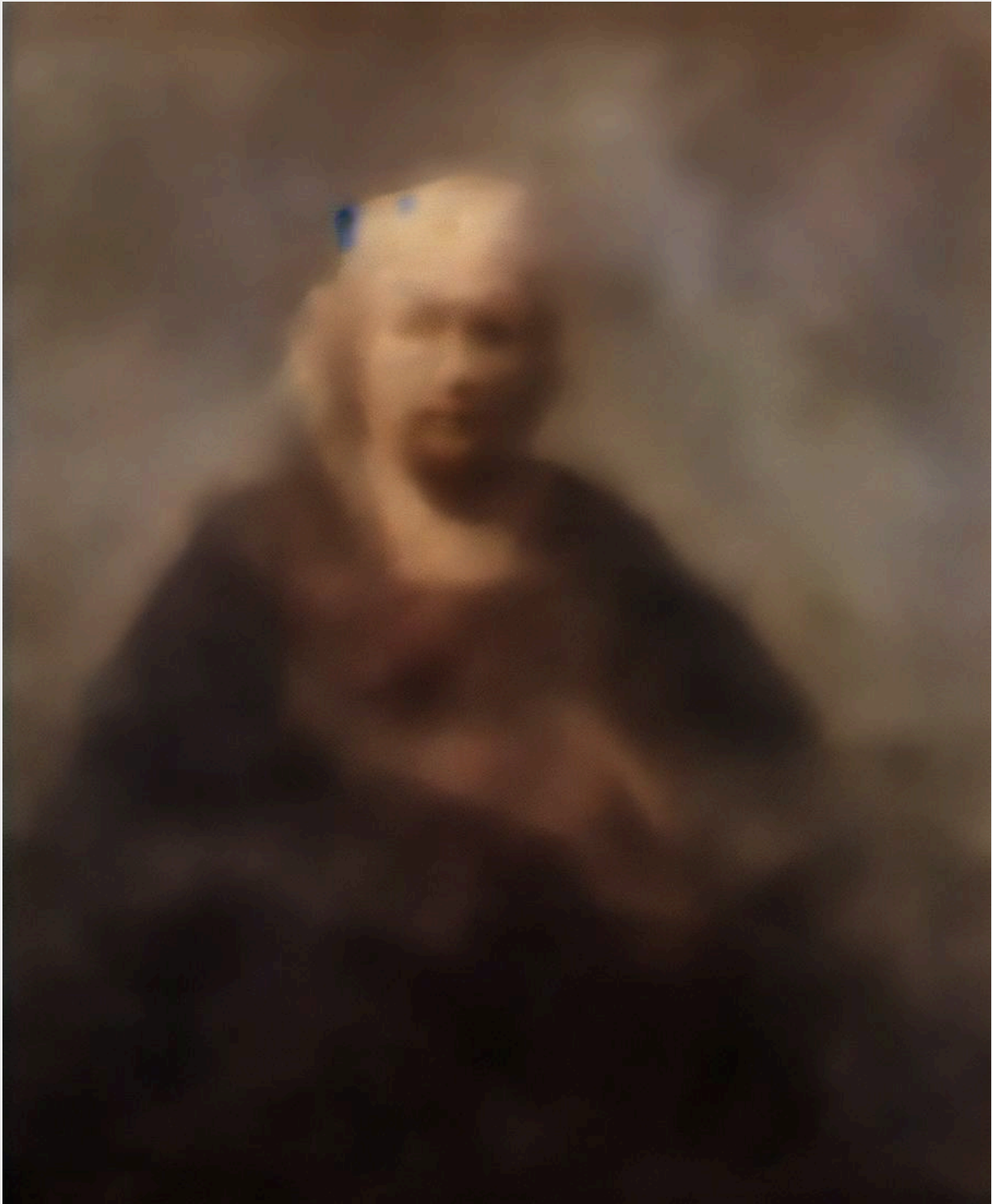
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Da Vinci (Vitruvian Man), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token**.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

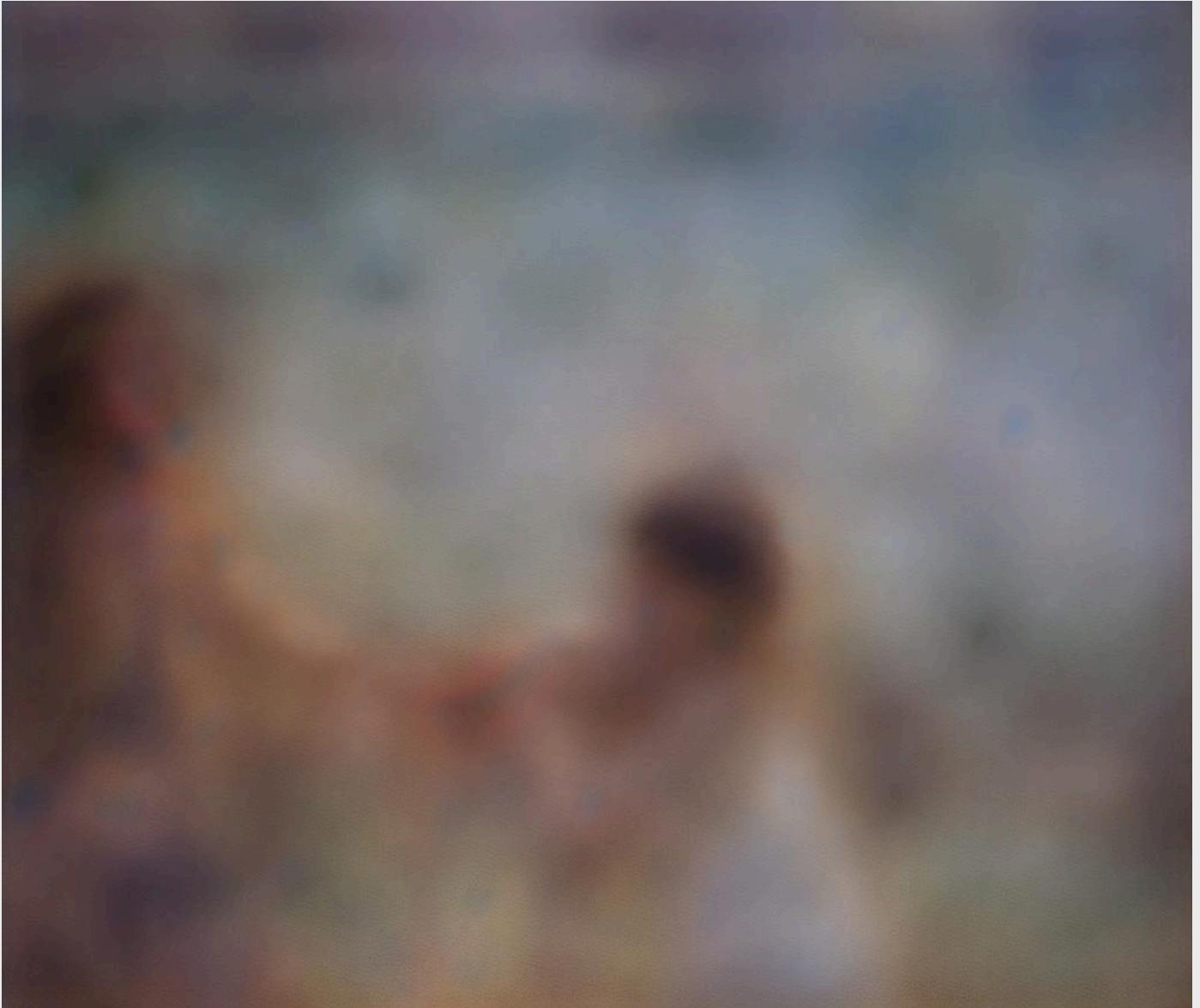
After Rembrandt (Self Portrait with Two Circles), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



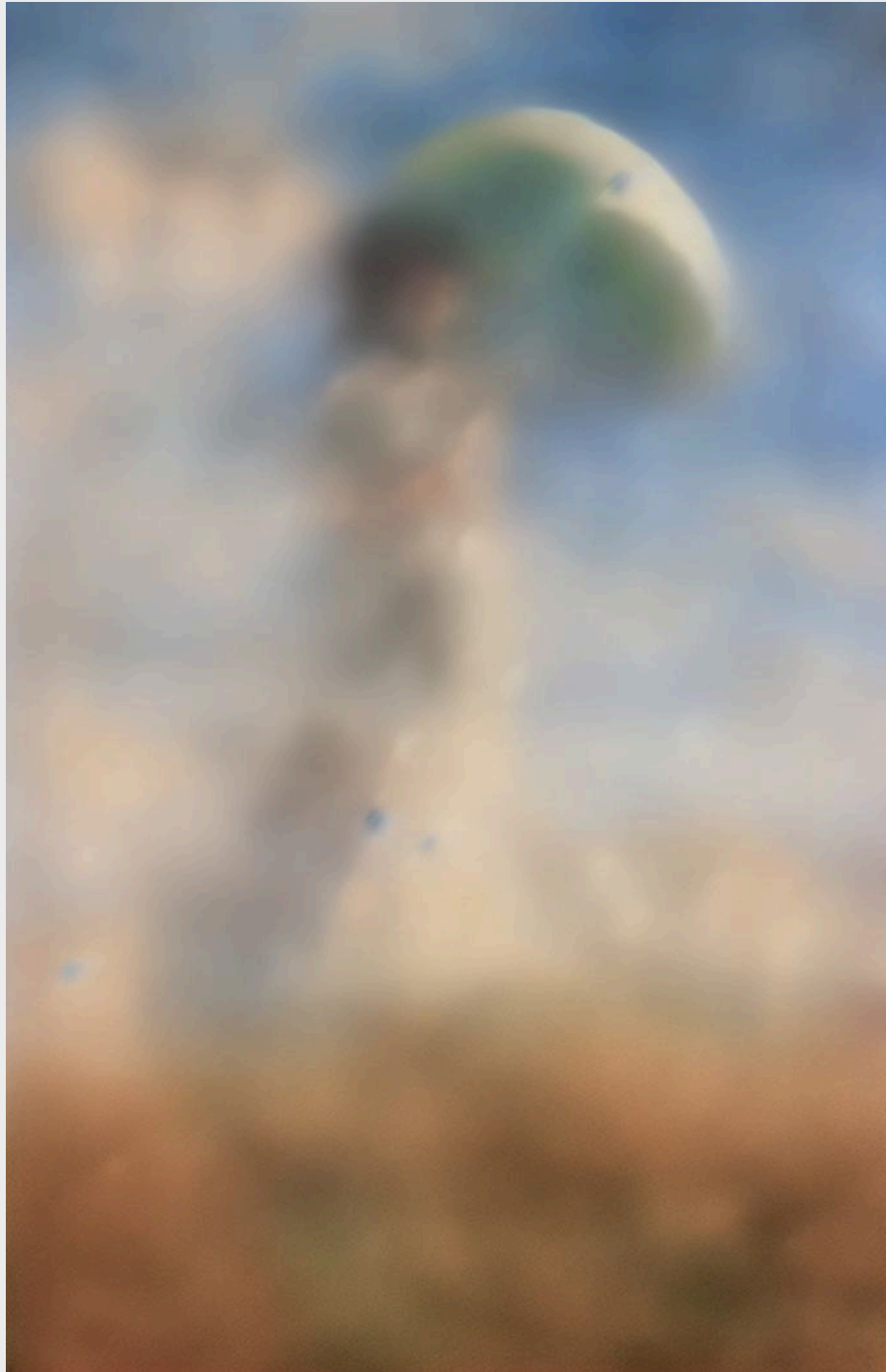
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Renoir (By the Water), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token.**

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Monet (Woman with a Parasol), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



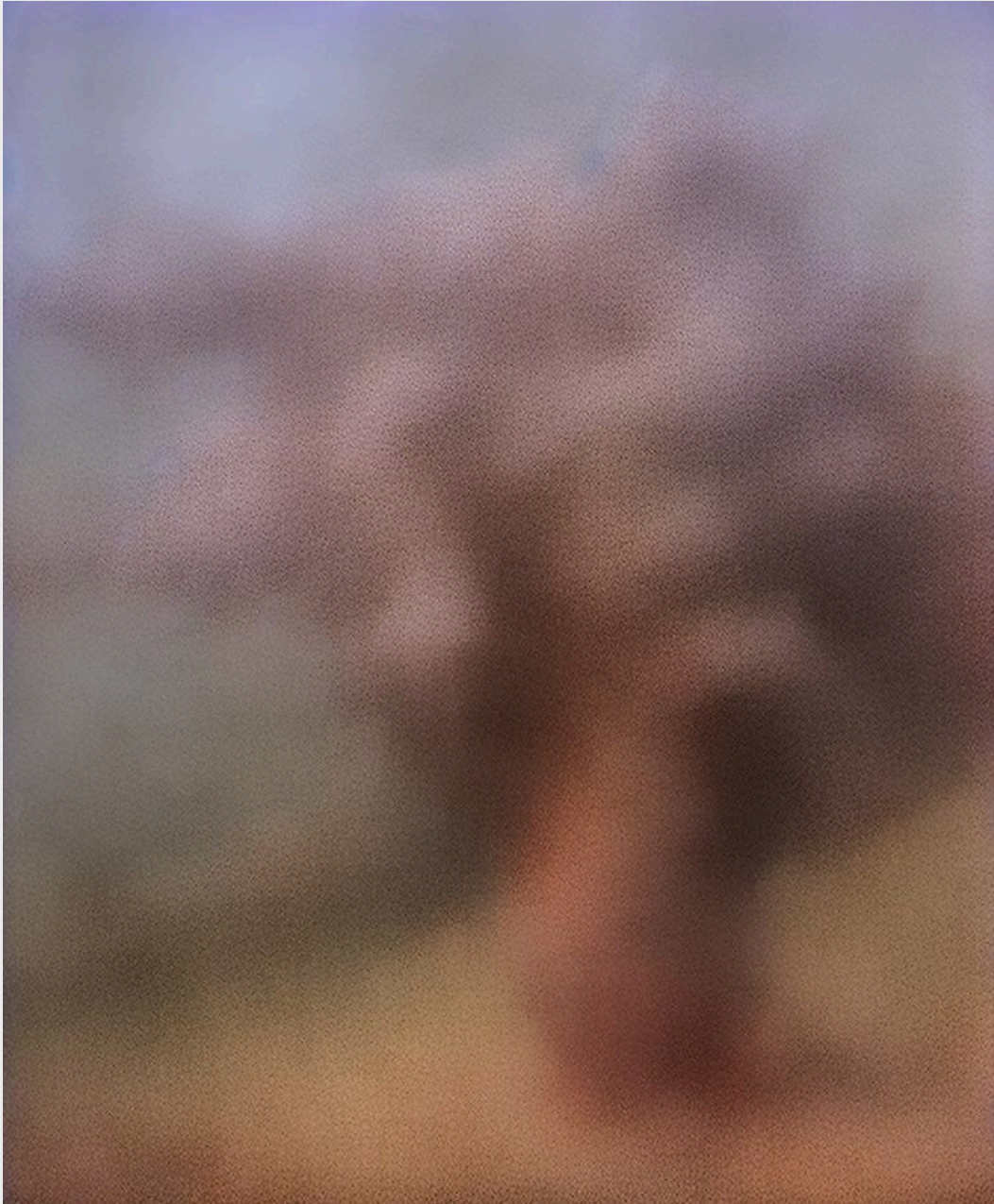
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Hopper (Ground Swell), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



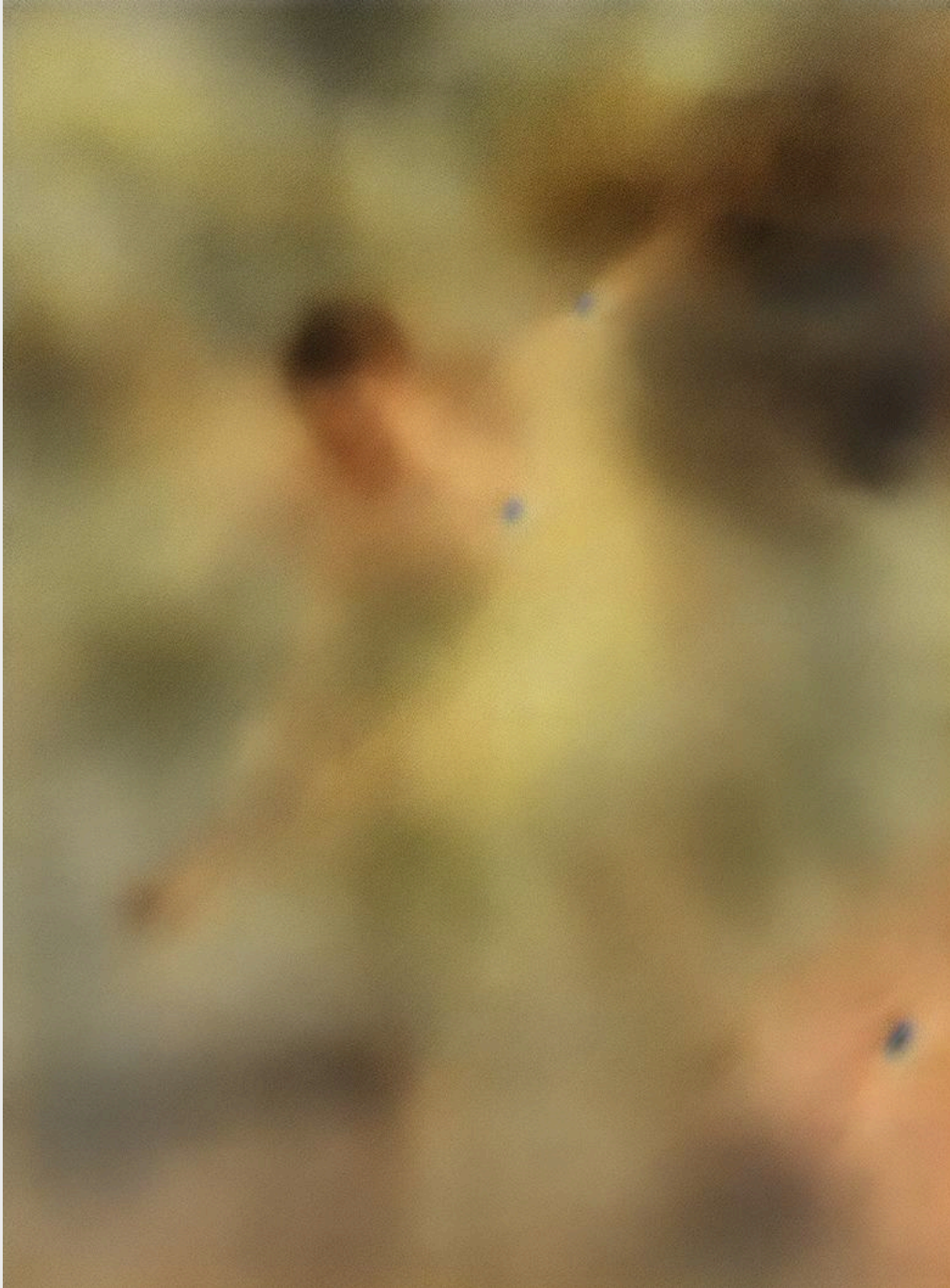
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Cassatt (Lilacs in a Window), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

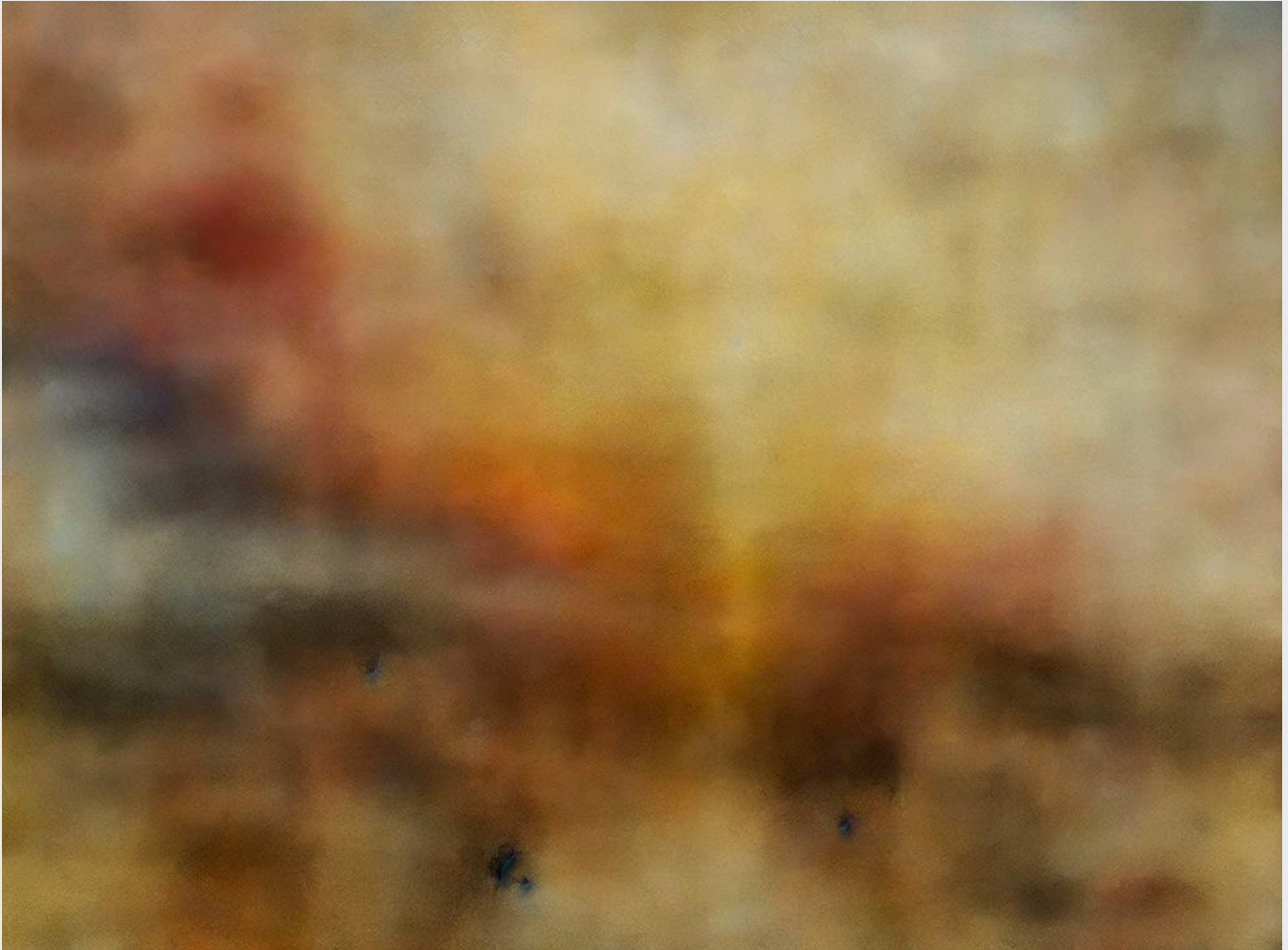
info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Degas (Dancer Tilting), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token**.
24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Turner (The Slave Ship), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Rothko (Deep Ocean), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

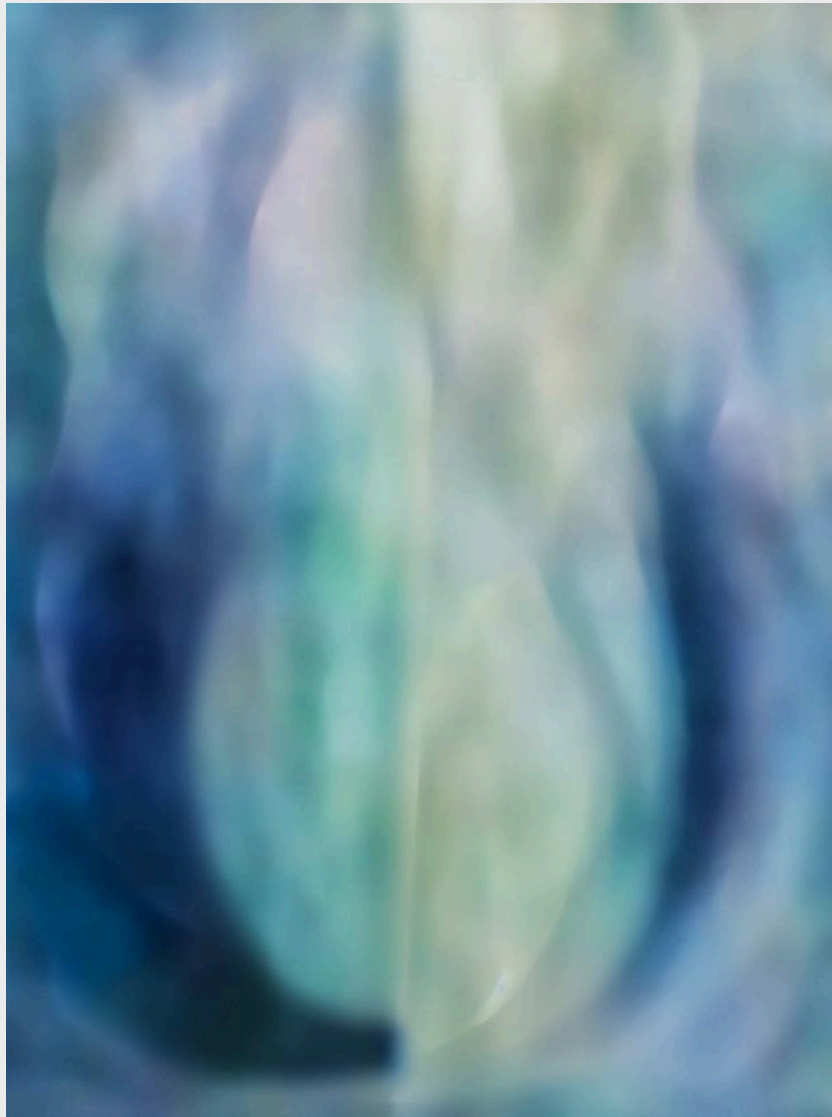
After Hokusai (The Great Wave off Kanagawa), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

After O'Keeffe (Abstraction Blue), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token**.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



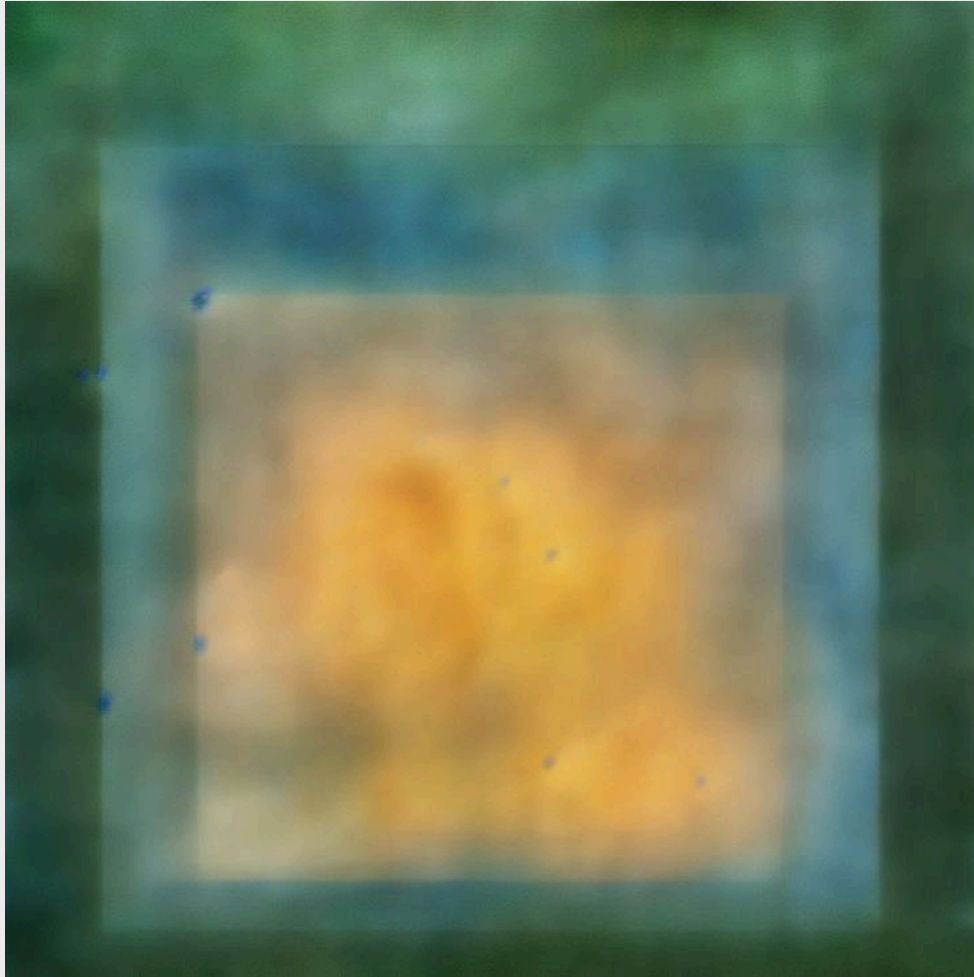
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Van Gogh (Van Gogh's Chair), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

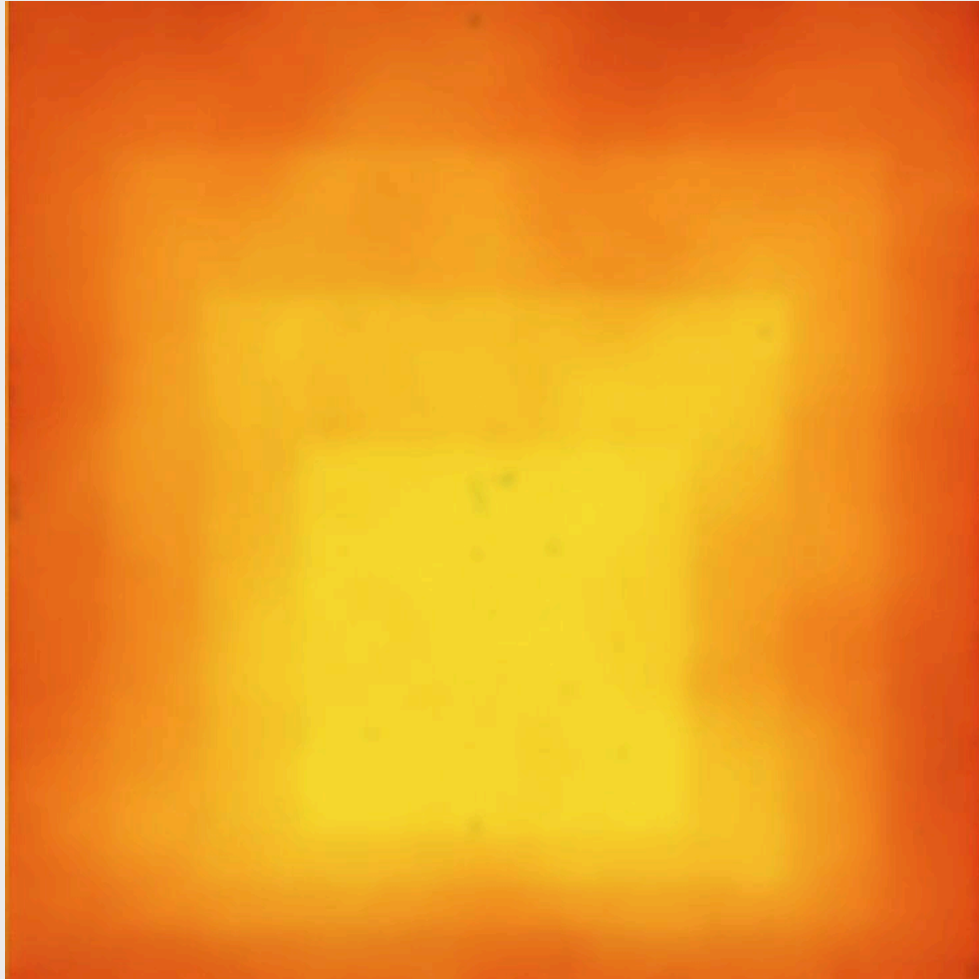
After Albers (Homage to the Square: Apparition), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

After Albers (Study for the Homage to the Square: Starting), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

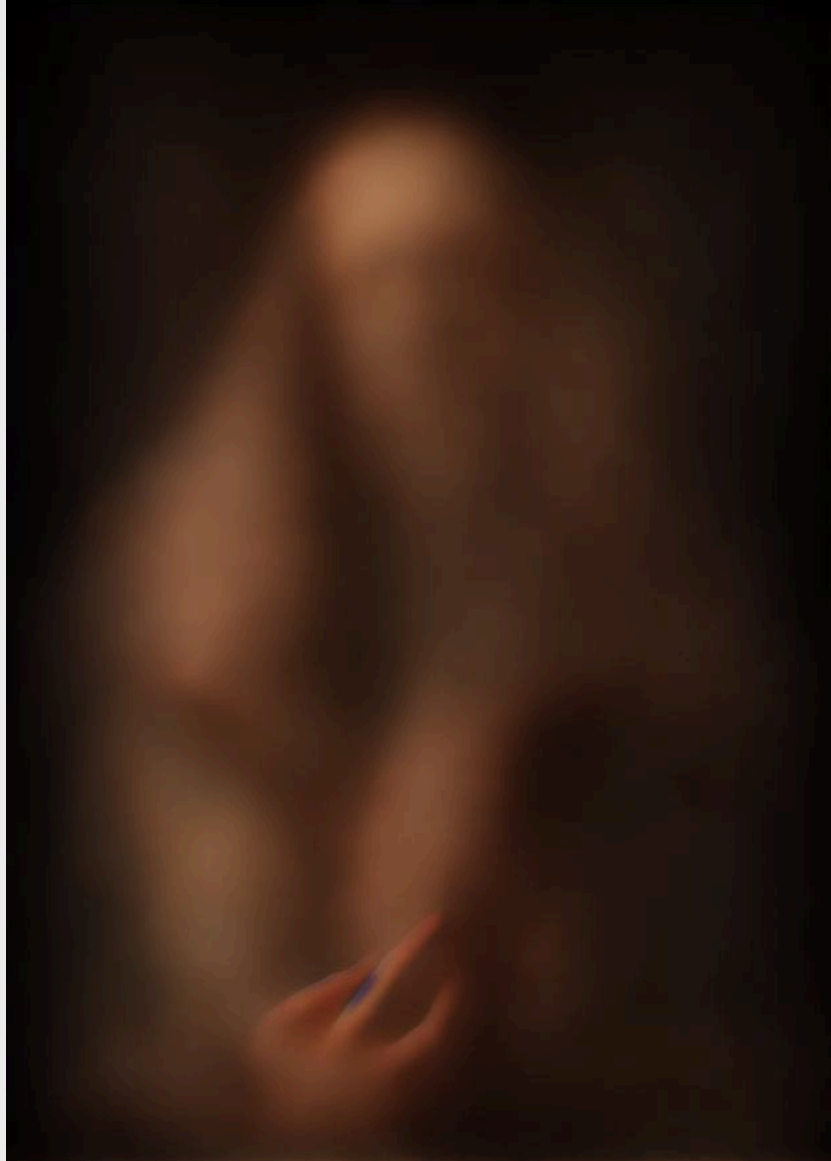
After De Nittis (In the Wheat Fields), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

After Dürer (Self-Portrait at the Age of Twenty Eight), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Vermeer (The Milkmaid), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Da Vinci (The Last Supper), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Sargent (Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



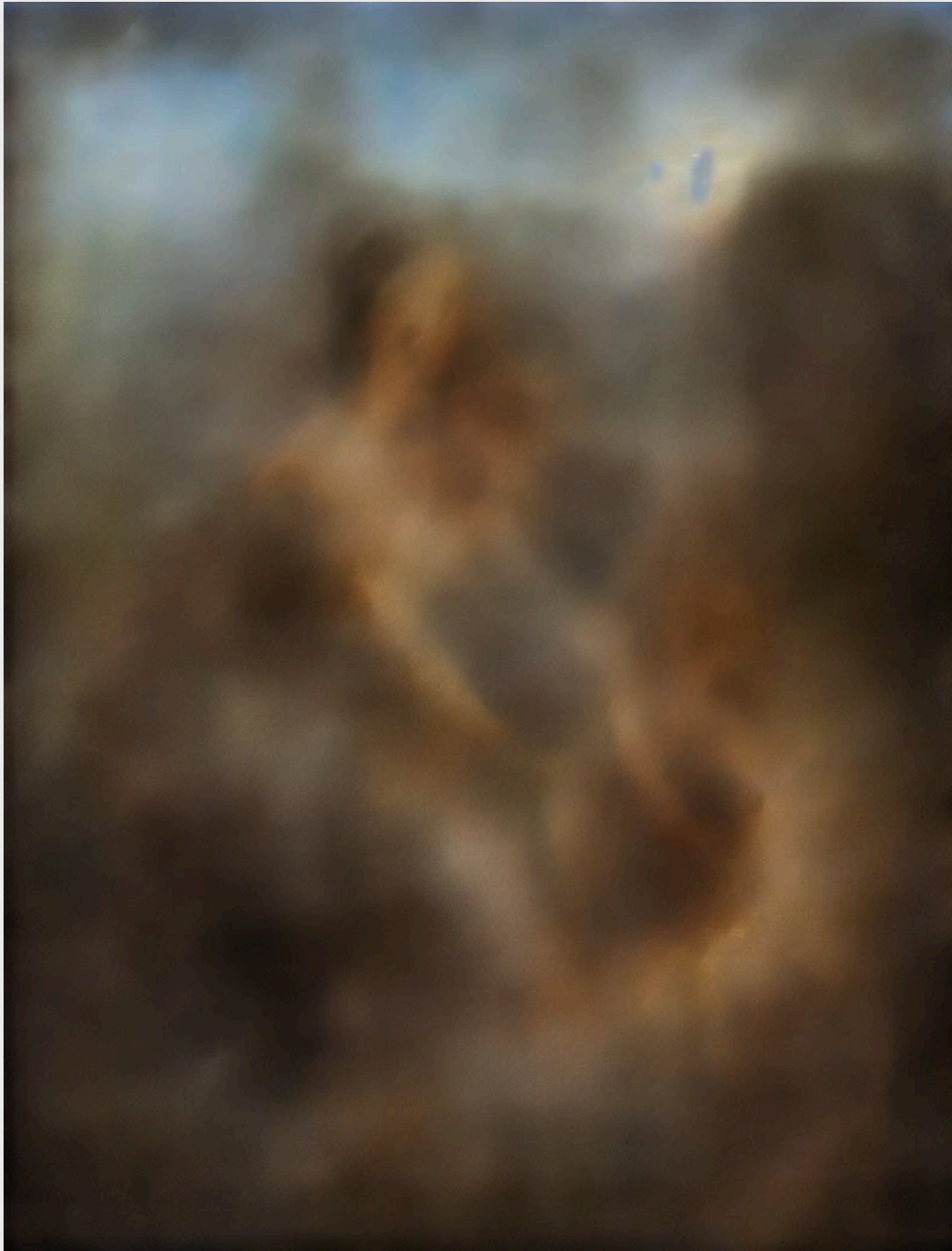
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Degas (Study of Hands), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

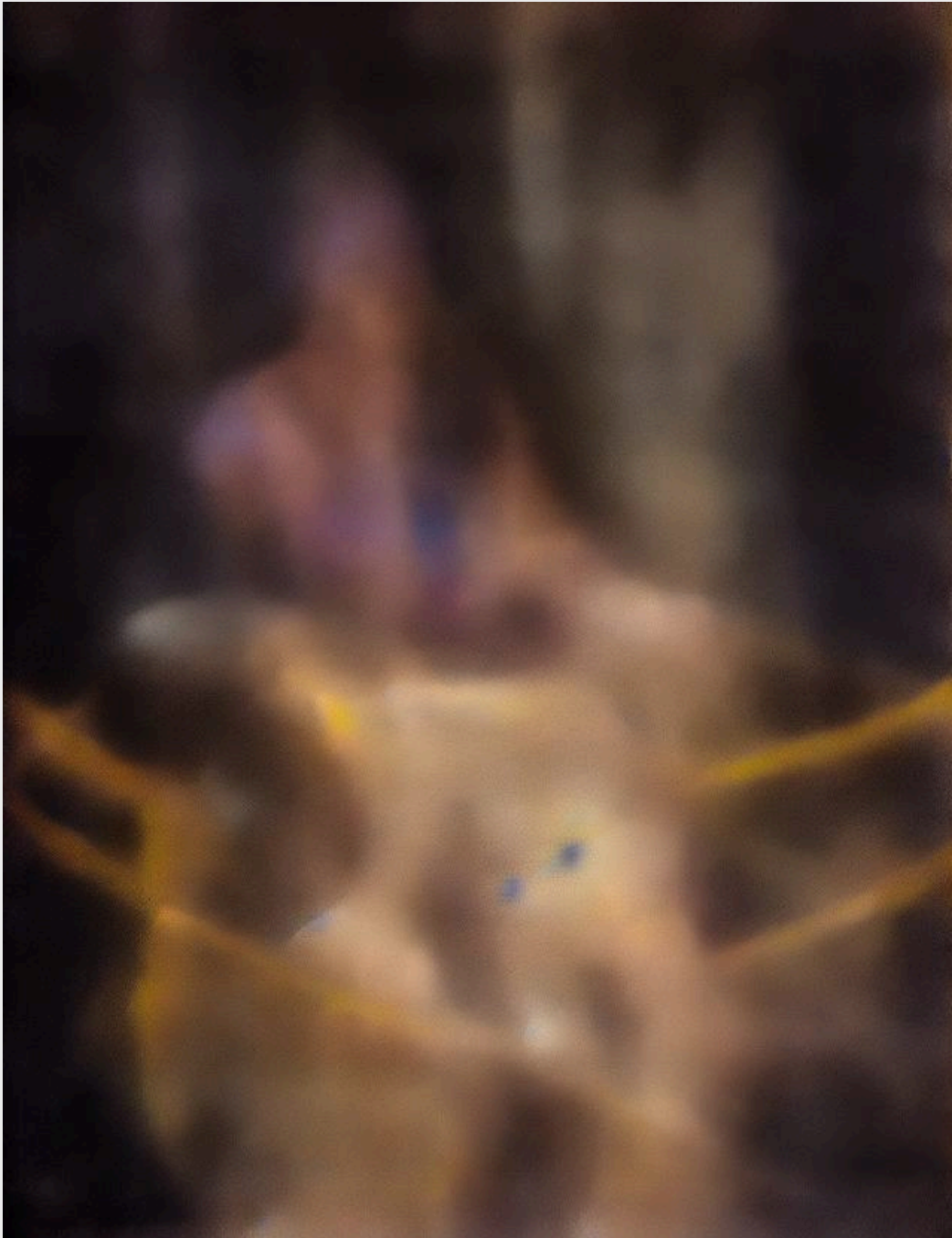
After Da Vinci (The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

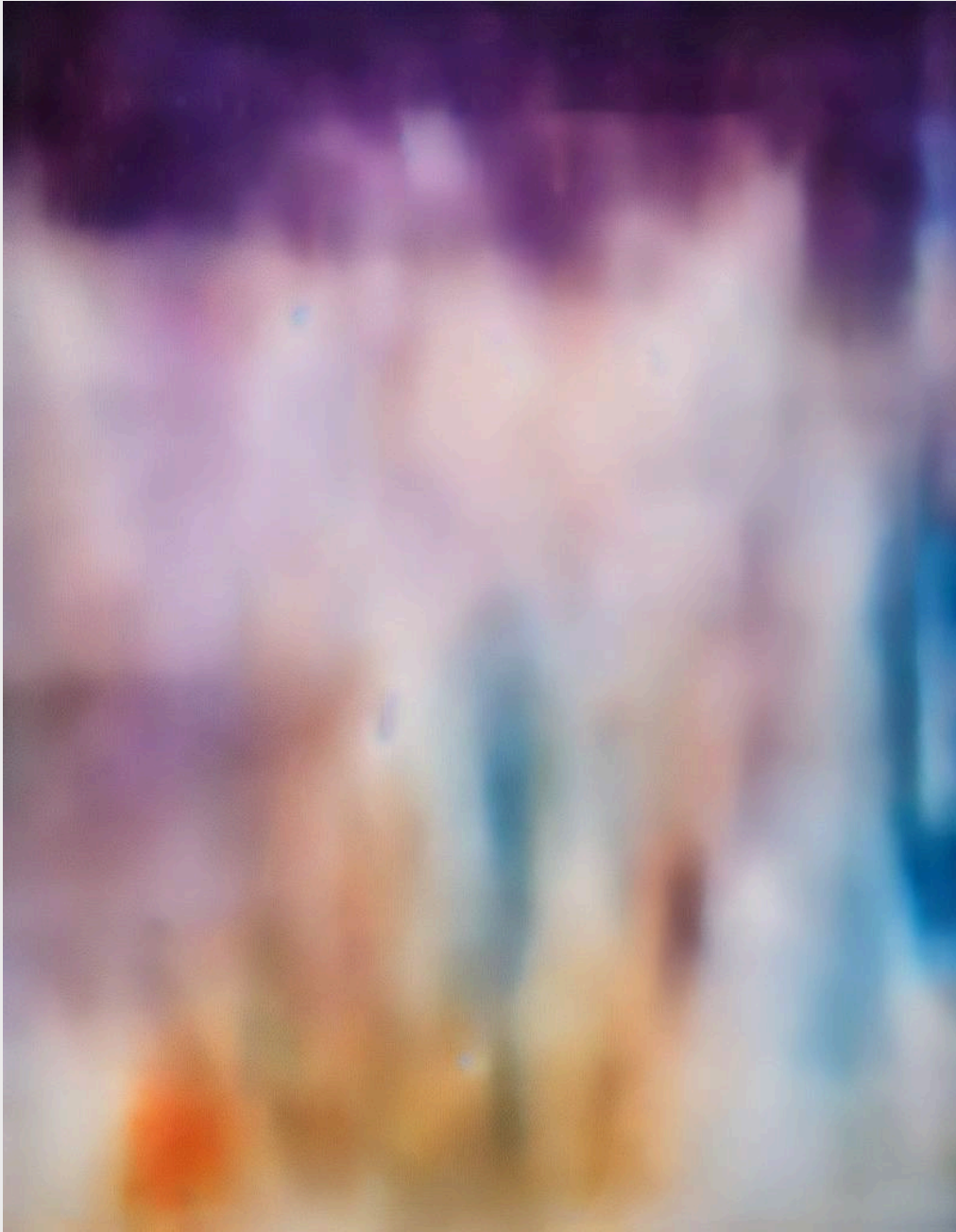
After Bacon (Study after Velázquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright, unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

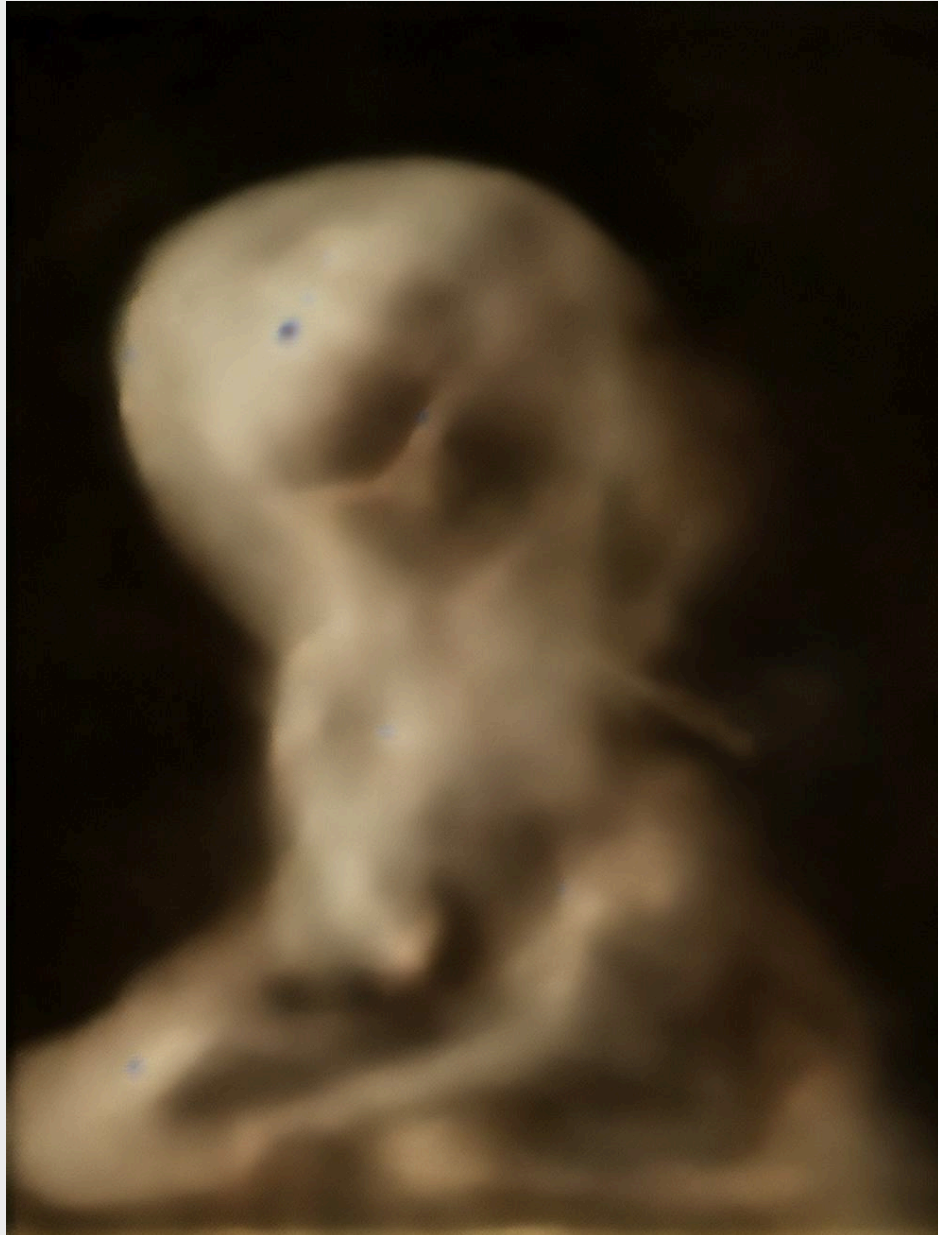
info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Frankenthaler (Magnet), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.
24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500



KEVIN ESHERICK

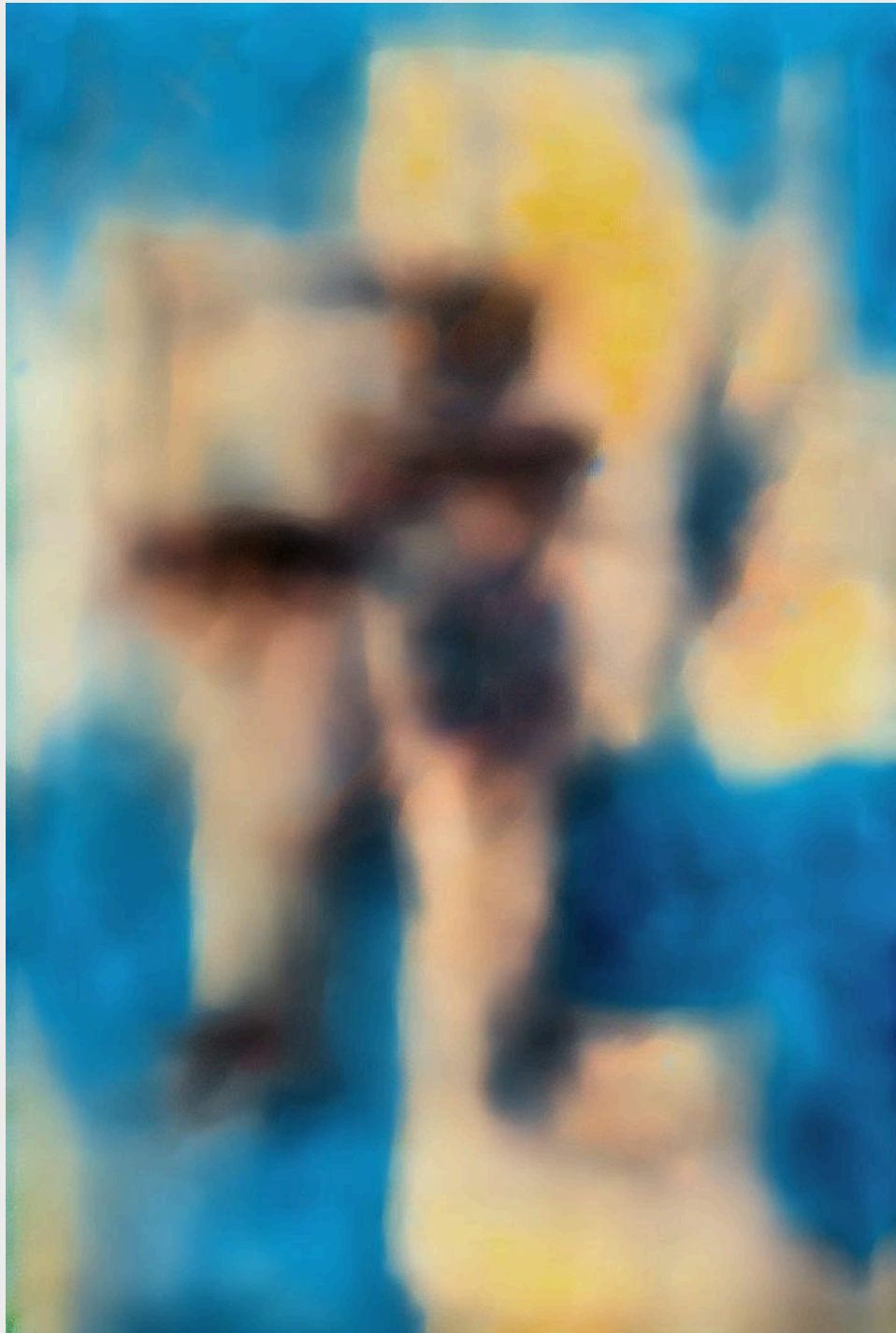
After Van Gogh (Skull of a Skeleton with Burning Cigarette), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Reserve

info@heftgallery.com

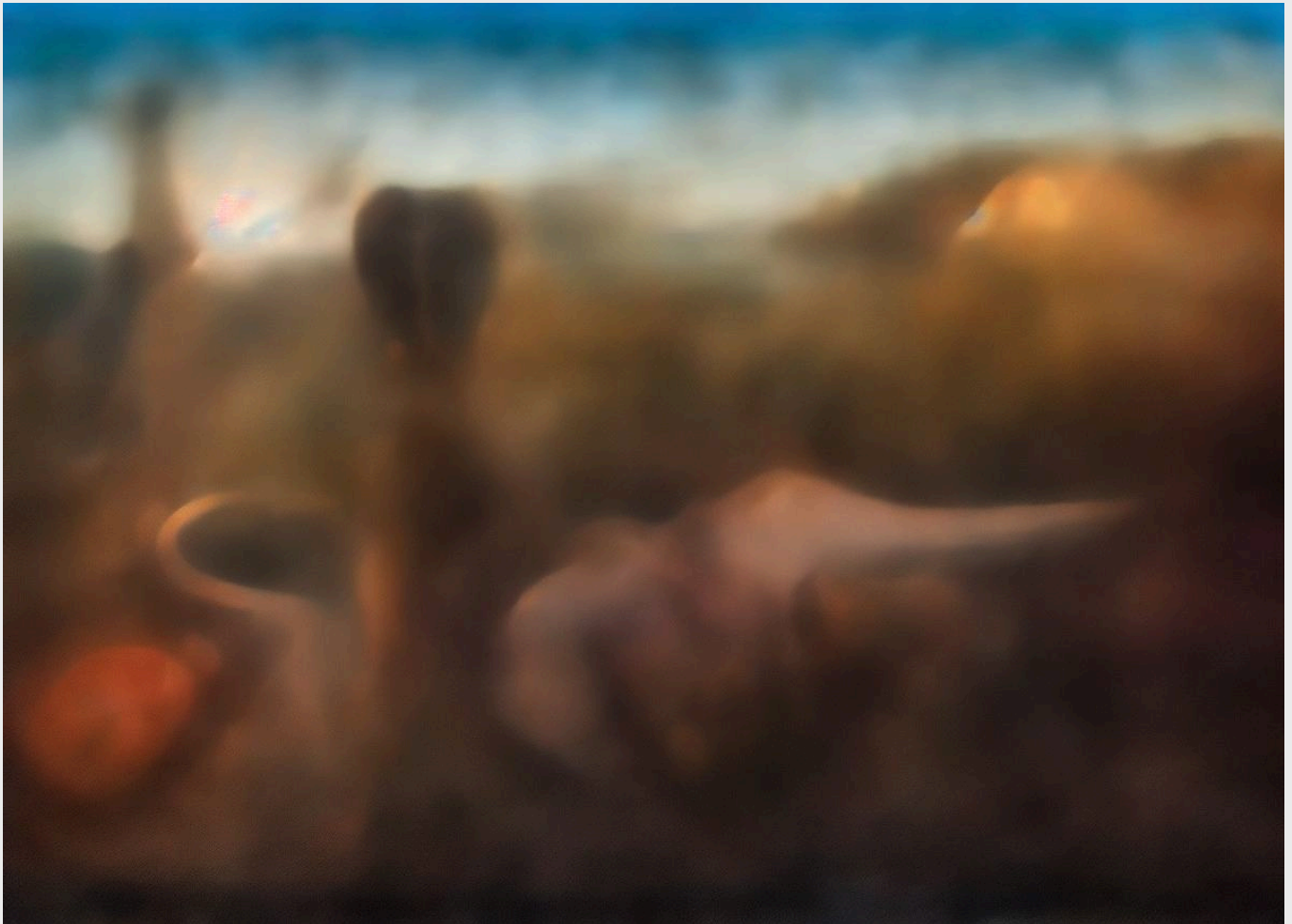


KEVIN ESHERICK
After Basquiat (Warrior), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + **Ethereum token**.
24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Dalí (The Persistence of Memory), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After Af Klint (The Swan), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

\$1,500

info@heftgallery.com



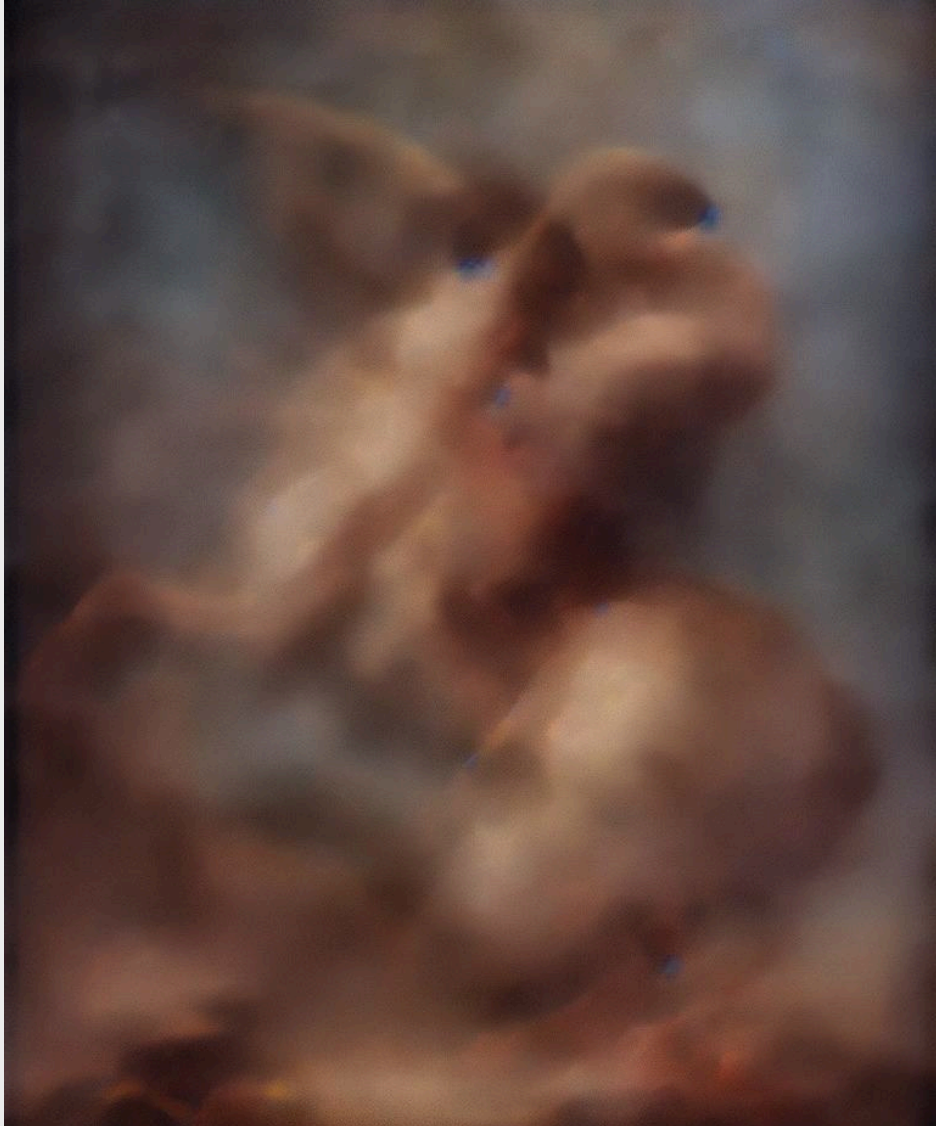
KEVIN ESHERICK
After Kawara (APR. 24, 1990), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



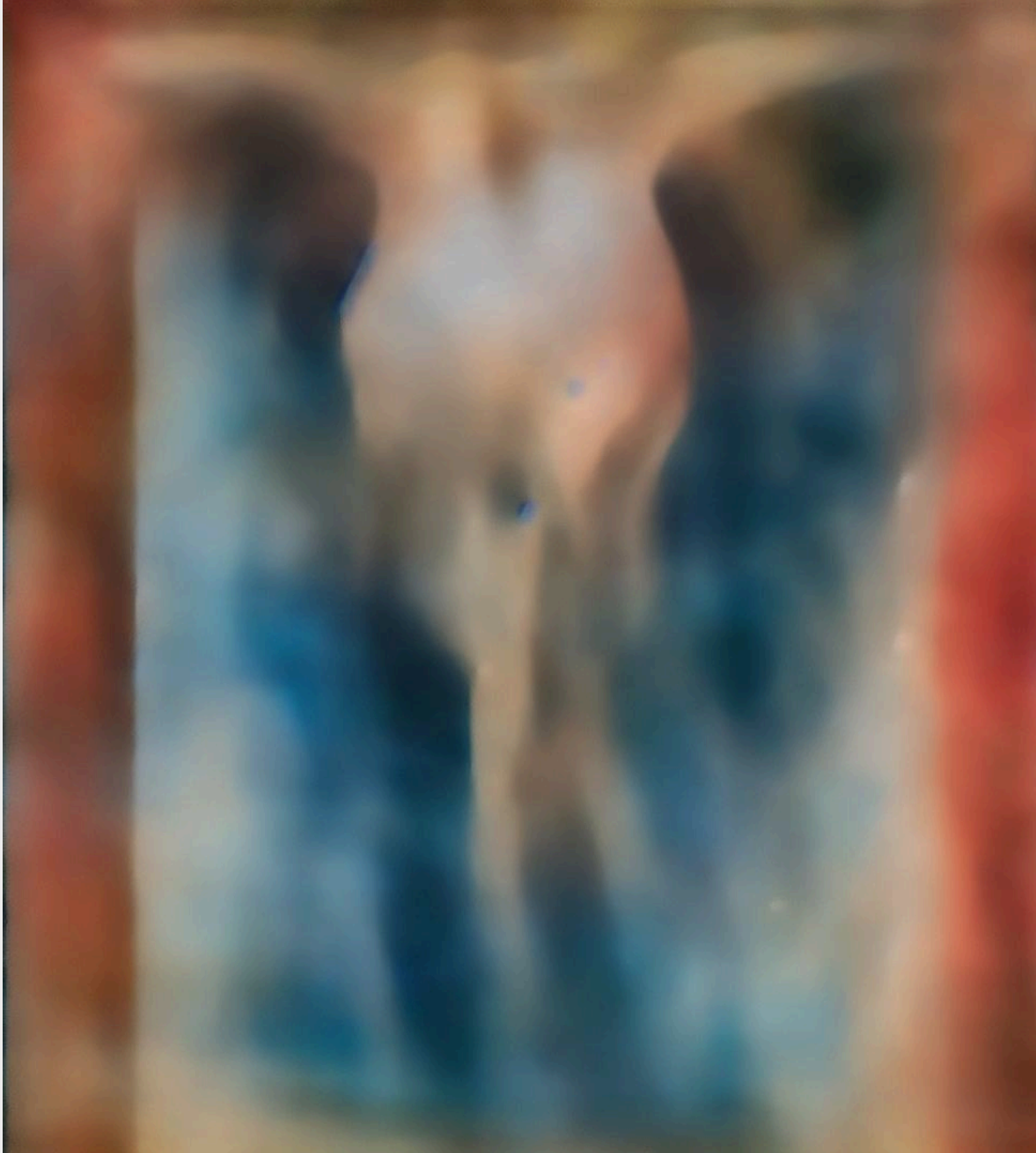
KEVIN ESHERICK
After David (Napoleon Crossing the Alps), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK
After O'Keeffe (Cow's Skull_ Red, White, and Blue), 2026

\$1,500

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

After Velazquez (The Rokeby Venus), 2026

Unique archival pigment print, on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Bright , unframed, label signed + Ethereum token.

24 in. (60 cm) wide or smaller

Sold

info@heftgallery.com

If you have a specific historical painting in mind for this series that you would consider collecting as an Ablation Studies piece, please send your request to Adam or Kevin.



HOMAGES

by Kevin Esherick

PART OF HEFT SOLO SHOW V

Opening February 11, 2026

SERIES OVERVIEW

Homages are original works modeled after the style, subject matter, and conceptual approach of eight selected artists, all deeply admired by Esherick. Using AI to seemingly replace the originating artist's presence in the making of these pieces is about raising the topic on every artist's mind today, and done out of utmost respect.

In fact, no works are listed for sale before checking with the homaged artist, and these artists are offered to sign each piece in their works' likeness and take the full artist's share of sales.

HOMAGES

Homages is a series of new works made by training custom AI models on the oeuvres of seven of Esherick's favorite contemporary artists. Ranging from painters and photographers to conceptual and digital artists, the results span mediums, approaches, and identities. Together these unique artworks paint a dizzying vision of artistic authorship in which style becomes malleable material and identity becomes fluid.

In doing so, they straddle the border between devotion and appropriation. Like the greats of appropriation art—Sturtevant, Levine, Prince, et al.—Esherick pokes and prods at originality and authorship, raising questions. He has, for example, invited each homaged artist to sign “their” works, receiving his share of the sales proceeds for it in return. But rather than a taunt or a dare (though recognizing its provocative nature), the gesture is a genuine invitation to imagine and partake in new forms of art-making being opened up by our rapidly changing technocultural environment.

It's in this sincerity that the Homages cross over into the realm of the devotional. Esherick selected each artist out of a deep appreciation for their work, spending countless hours learning about them in an effort to understand the way they see the world and engage with their practice. Through this process, he imagines what we often dismissively call “style” not as a mere surface, but as a substantive aesthetic language that structures every facet of our worldview. The Homages suggest that such aesthetic languages, or facsimiles thereof, are replicable now, but that precisely for this reason they must be cherished, protected, and reinvigorated—they are too precious to lose. Replicable does not mean replaceable, and where these works succeed in replicating, they fail to replace.

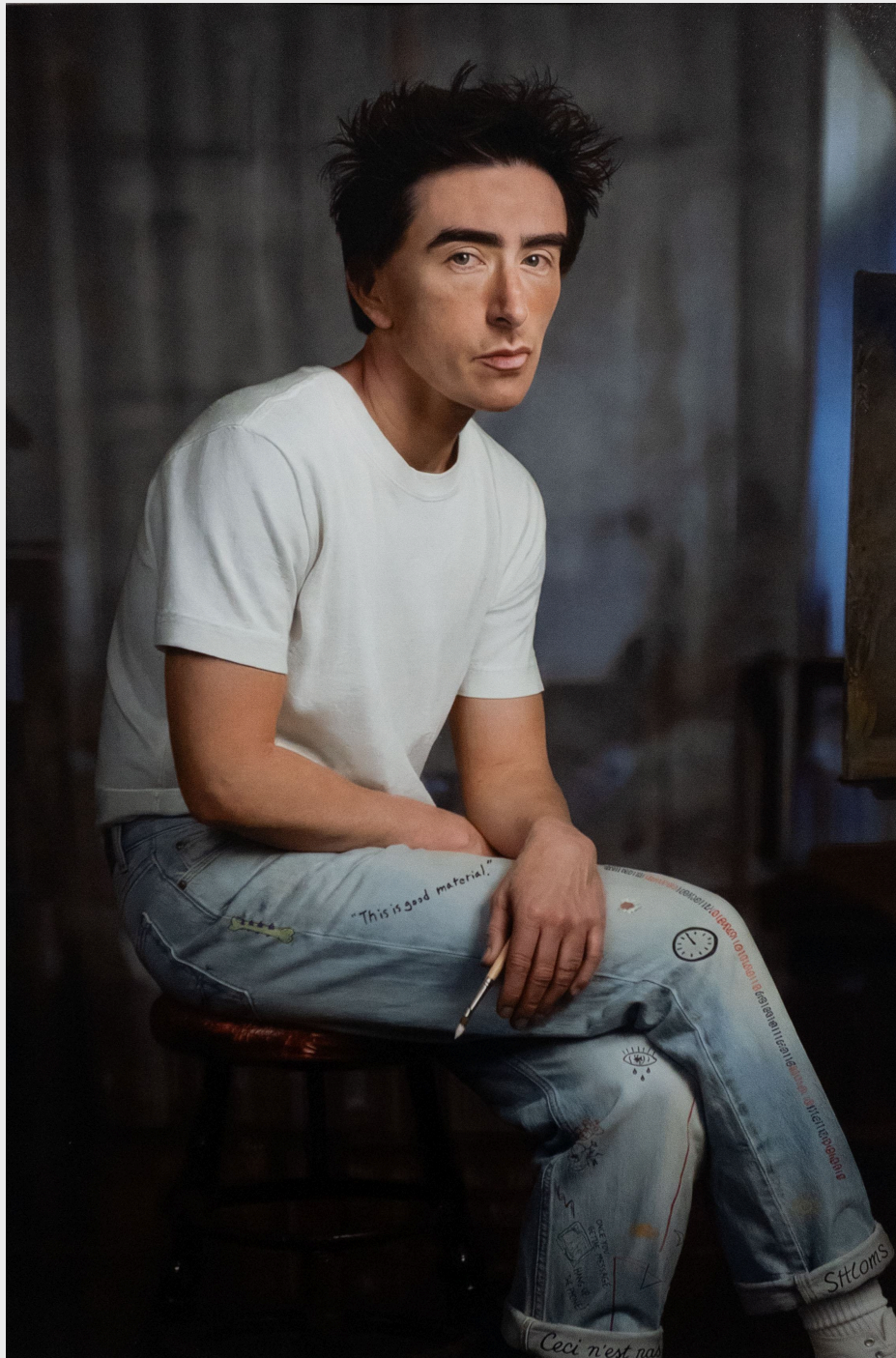
What, then, remains irreplaceable, and how can we keep the irreplaceable alive? Do presence and aura still have a place in a digital society? As the contrasting threads of appropriation and devotion weave together to color these works, we're left with a string of challenging questions like these in their wake. What happens to artists whose style is taken from them? Those who do the taking? Can style be owned in the first place? How does our relationship to style evolve when it can be generated infinitely? What importance does the human hand have now, when so far removed from its creations? And how does the role of the artist change under all of these shifting conditions? If, per Sontag, the artist is truly the “exemplary sufferer,” then the questions raised by Homages pertain to us all—the artists are just being asked first.

After Cindy Sherman

Who is Cindy Sherman? Despite featuring in nearly every one of her 600+ photographic works, the artist remains elusive. She is a shapeshifter, a chameleon, depicting herself not as herself but as a series of selves—imagined and often eccentric yet somehow strikingly real characters, built through costumes that reveal their own artifice to examine the mercurial, constructed nature of identity.

Here a model trained by Esherick on Sherman's works has picked up not only on the style of images, but on the features of the person beneath those costumes, the traces of Sherman that persist across images—a figure, a facial structure, a pair of eyes. Harnessing the presence of these features beneath a set of trademark features of his own, Esherick presents a self portrait by way of Cindy Sherman.

The conceit of the Homages serves as a vehicle to further Sherman's practice of identity play. Elsewhere in the show Esherick "dresses up" variously as painter, performer, conceptualist, and digital artist, spinning a kaleidoscopic vision of identity in the age of AI. With this final Homage, he gestures toward all of those roles under the guise of Sherman, the photographer: Esherick posing as Sherman posing as Esherick posing as an artist. The resulting figure stares arrestingly out at the viewer, but somewhere beneath that stare he—she?—winks.



Unique print and 1/1 digital original NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Untitled #1 (After Cindy), 2026

1/1 Ethereum token + Unique archival pigment print, 34 x 24 in.

Signed by Esherick on back

Sold

info@heftgallery.com

After Salman Toor

Toor paints intimate scenes of contemporary cosmopolitan life among young, brown, queer men, navigating both the comforts and anxieties of their world and culture.

Esherick trained an AI image model to understand Toor's corpus, creating entirely new digital images in his style, drawing on his own experiences and observations from life in New York City for inspiration. The artist worked closely with a small team of painters to produce the final works in oil on canvas.



Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
The Sitter (After Salman), 2026

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 24 x 20 in.
Signed by Esherick on back

\$4,000





Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Garden Night (After Salman), 2026

\$3,500

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 23 x 18 in.
Signed by Esherick on back





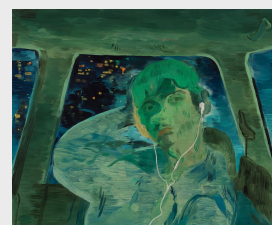
Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Backseat (After Salman), 2026

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 25 x 30 in.
Signed by Esherick on back

\$5,000



After Shara Hughes

Hughes paints invented landscapes from imagination rather than observation, using vivid, expressionistic scenes as representations of her own psychological states. Her canvases layer colorful gestural marks to create dreamlike environments—forests, skies, gardens—that feel simultaneously familiar and impossible, emphasizing painting's capacity for pure invention.

Esherick trained an AI image model to understand Hughes' recent corpus while working with his own psychological terrain to create entirely new digital images in her style. The artist worked closely with a small team of painters to produce the final works in oil on canvas.



Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
In Bloom (After Shara), 2026

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 50 x 40 in.
Signed by Esherick on back

\$6,000





Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Last Dance (After Shara), 2026

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 50 x 40 in.
Signed by Esherick on back

\$6,000



After Julien Nguyen

Nguyen's paintings fuse Renaissance-inspired figuration, symbolism, and architectural motifs with elements of science fiction and contemporary life. Teeming with art historical allusions, his allegorical compositions often feature young figures in enigmatic tableaux.

Esherick trained an AI image model to understand Nguyen's corpus, creating entirely new digital images in his style, mining religious and mythological imagery to step into the world Nguyen has built. The artist worked closely with a small team of painters to produce the final works in oil on canvas.



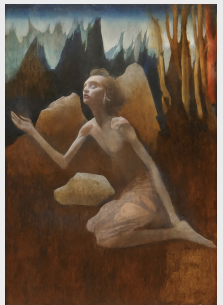
Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Saint Jerome in the Wilderness (After Julien), 2026

\$5,000

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 36 x 25 in,
Signed by Esherick on back





Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Ode to Ligeia (After Julien), 2026

\$3,500

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 21.5 x 16 in.
Signed by Esherick on back





Unique physical work, to be rephotographed for accuracy after stretching.

1/1 Digital original, NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
A Passenger Here (After Julien), 2026

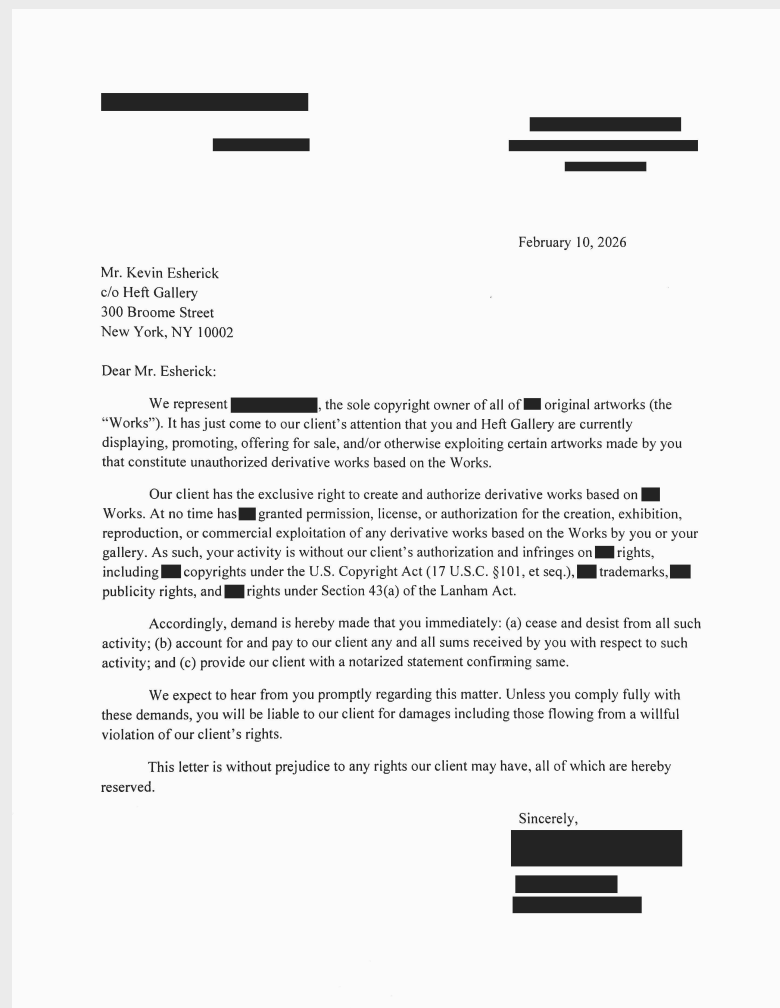
Original oil painting on canvas, stretched + **Ethereum token**. 12 x 12 in.
Signed by Esherick on back

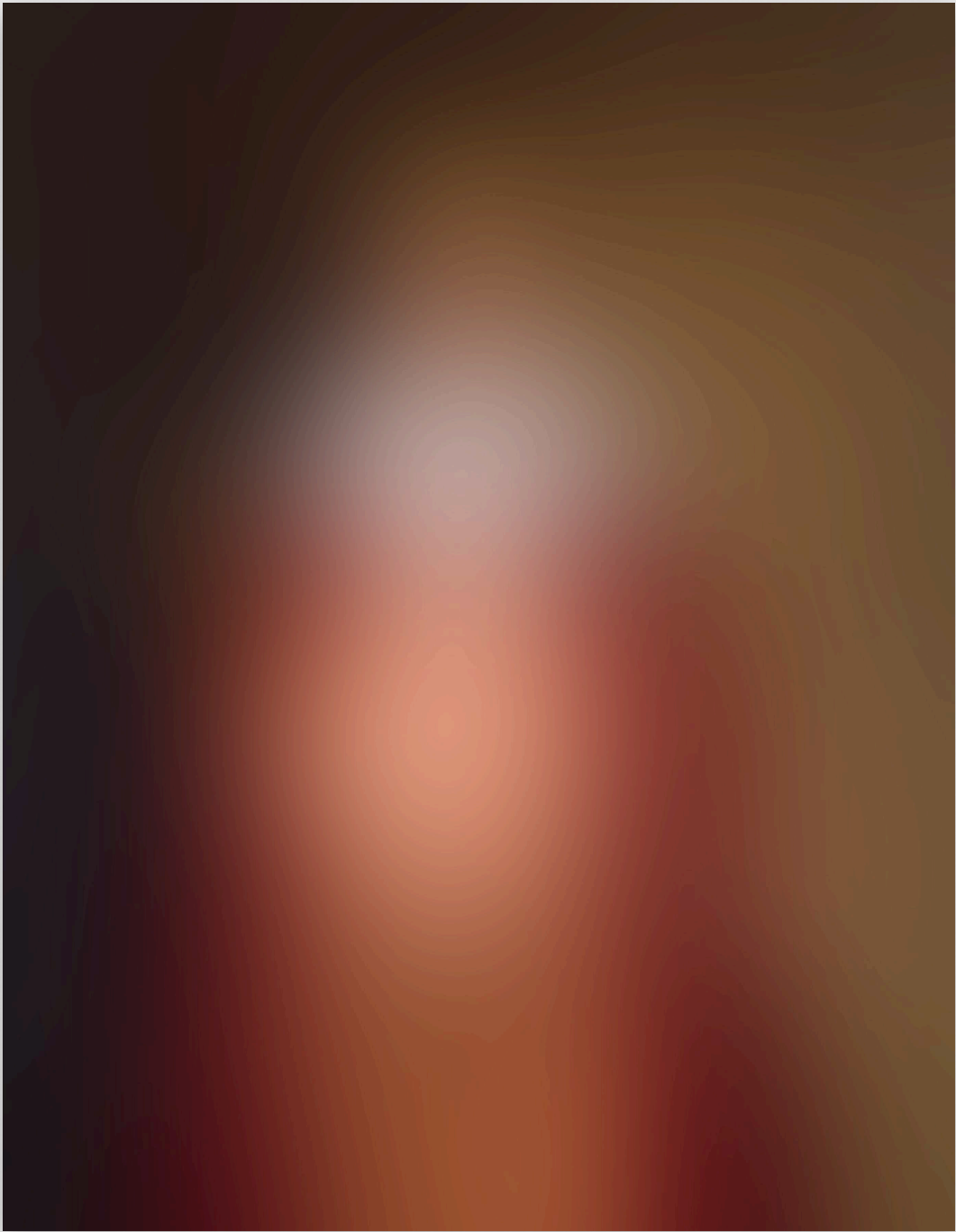
Sold



After George

Original artworks no longer shown, at the homaged artist's request. The physical paintings were covered in black velvet and hung in their intended location within the gallery exhibition, now accompanied by a redacted copy of the Cease & Desist letter that was delivered the day before the show. Each painting (plus accompanying redacted black nft), also comes with a framed copy of the letter.



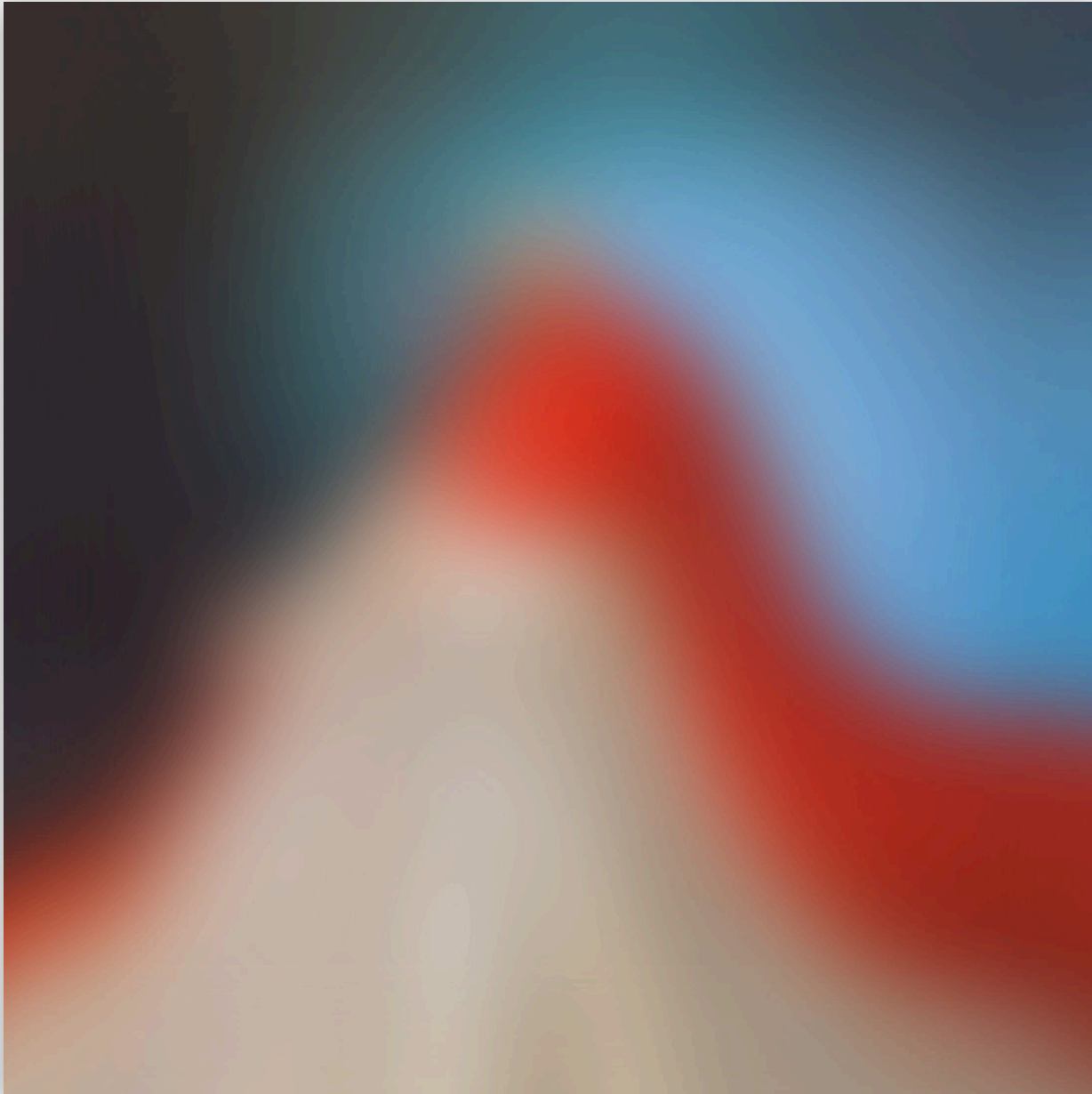


Work hidden at the Homaged Artist's request.

KEVIN ESHERICK
REDACTED: Reginald III (After George), 2026

\$5,000

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched, covered in black velvet + **Ethereum token**. 36 x 28 in.
Signed by Esherick on back + Framed copy of redacted cease + desist letter.

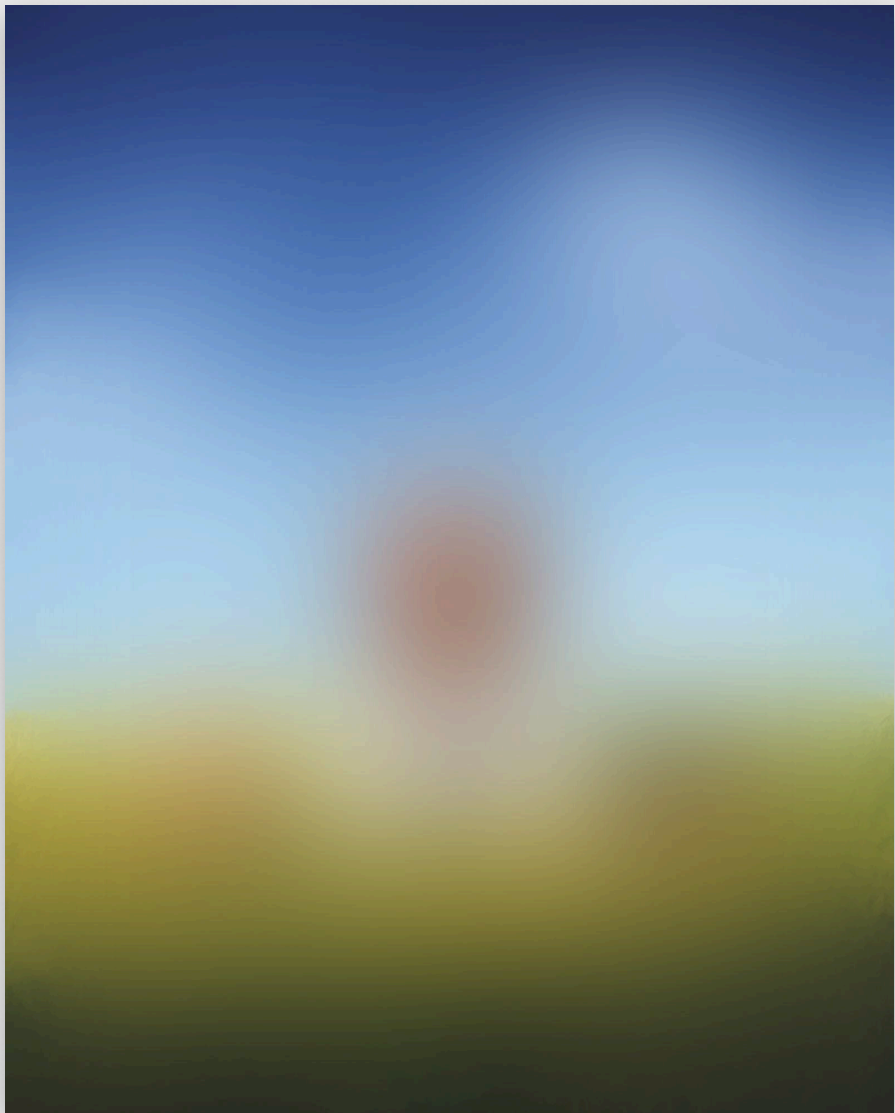


Work hidden at the Homaged Artist's request.

KEVIN ESHERICK
REDACTED: The American Pope (After George), 2026

\$4,000

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched, covered in black velvet + **Ethereum token**. 30 x 30 in.
Signed by Esherick on back + Framed copy of redacted cease + desist letter.



Work hidden at the Homaged Artist's request.

KEVIN ESHERICK
REDACTED: Groundhog Day (After George), 2026

\$2,500

Original oil painting on canvas, stretched, covered in black velvet + **Ethereum token**. 20 x 16 in.
Signed by Esherick on back + Framed copy of redacted cease + desist letter.

After Petra Cortright

Cortright is an interdisciplinary artist working across video, painting, and digital media, known for her involvement in the Net Art and post-internet art movements. A large swathe of her oeuvre comprises digital paintings made by layering compositions using Photoshop brushes, filters, and other digital manipulations.

Esherick trained an AI image model on selections from these digital paintings to create all-new works in Cortright's style, emulating her approach of printing on aluminum.

“What do you lose, what can you always have.”

—Petra Cortright



Unique print and 1/1 digital original NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
HUMMINGBIRD ACID KISS RENDER CYCLE SPOTLIGHT (After Petra), 2026

Unique archival UV print on aluminum + **Ethereum token**. 25.7 x 40 in.

Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Cortright

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



Unique print and 1/1 digital original NFT

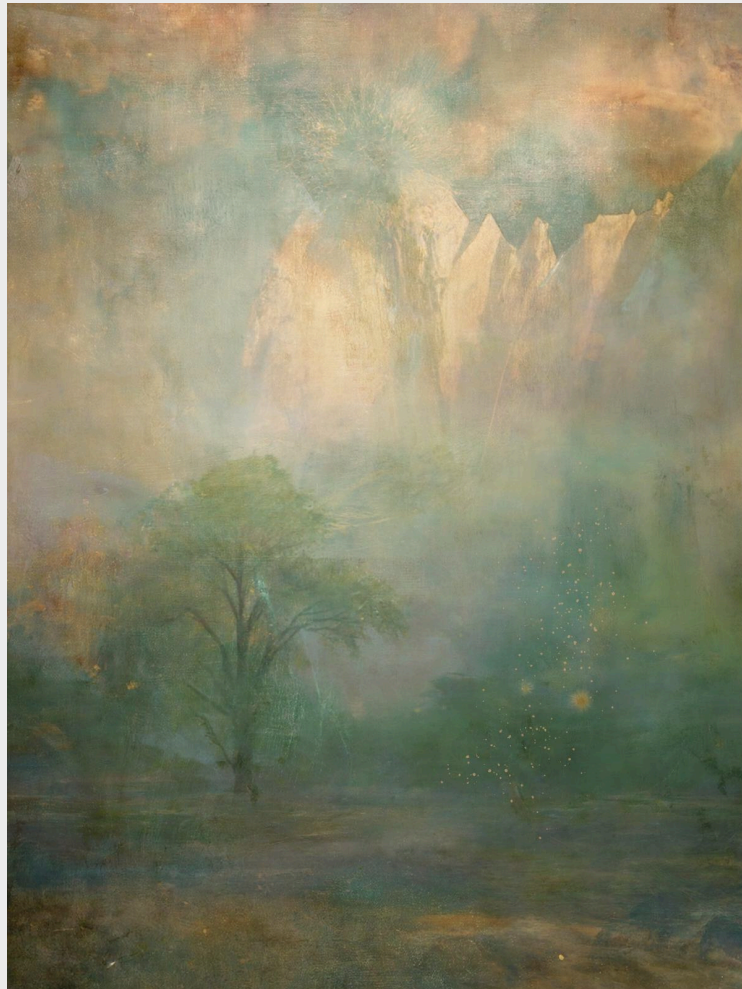
KEVIN ESHERICK
lavender_cloud_racer "BOOMroom" 77 (After Petra), 2026

Unique archival UV print on aluminum + **Ethereum token**. 30 x 40 in.

Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Cortright

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



KEVIN ESHERICK

starstruck cherry blossom DRONE_STRIKE.exe "soft_focus" (After Petra), 2026

1/1 Ethereum token.

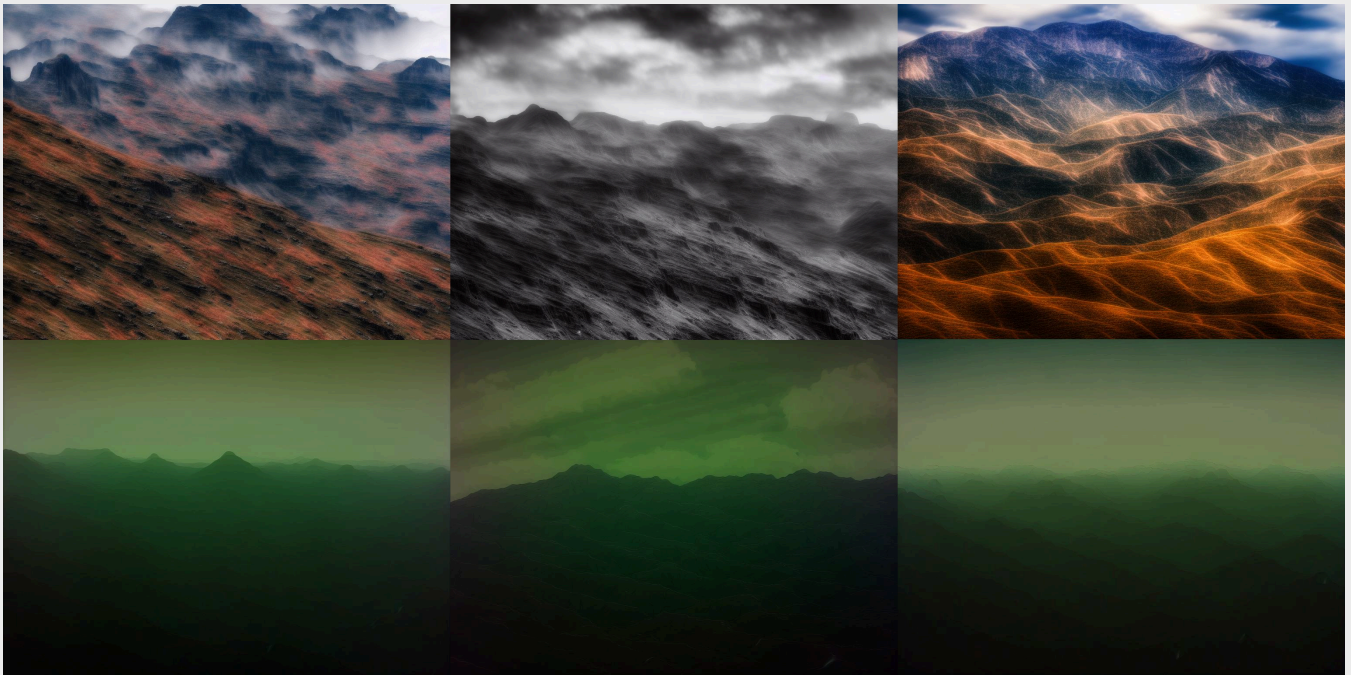
Sold

After Trevor Paglen

Trained as a geographer and photographer, Paglen is a conceptual artist making the invisible operations of military and corporate power visible to everyday citizens. In this capacity, he has frequently worked in the tradition of landscape, visualizing how said powers shape the physical and psychic terrain of our lives.

For this series, Esherick trained a model on Paglen's concepts for artworks, using this model to then generate ideas for an entirely new series. The result is Formations, which builds on Paglen's own work examining AI models as structures of power.

Every AI model constructs its own ontology—its way of categorizing and seeing the world. Image models develop a set of features through which they visualize the world, features which don't map easily onto any human-readable concepts. Looking at these features is like seeing an alien mind at work. In the same way we might describe something as "smooth" or "rough", they visualize them in terms of these features that we don't quite have the words for. Formations is a survey of landscape images generated by a model in which custom code has been written to "turn up" different features, evincing their various natures. Laid out next to each other, they illustrate the inscrutable means by which these technologies reconstruct our world.



Unique print and 1/1 digital original NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK

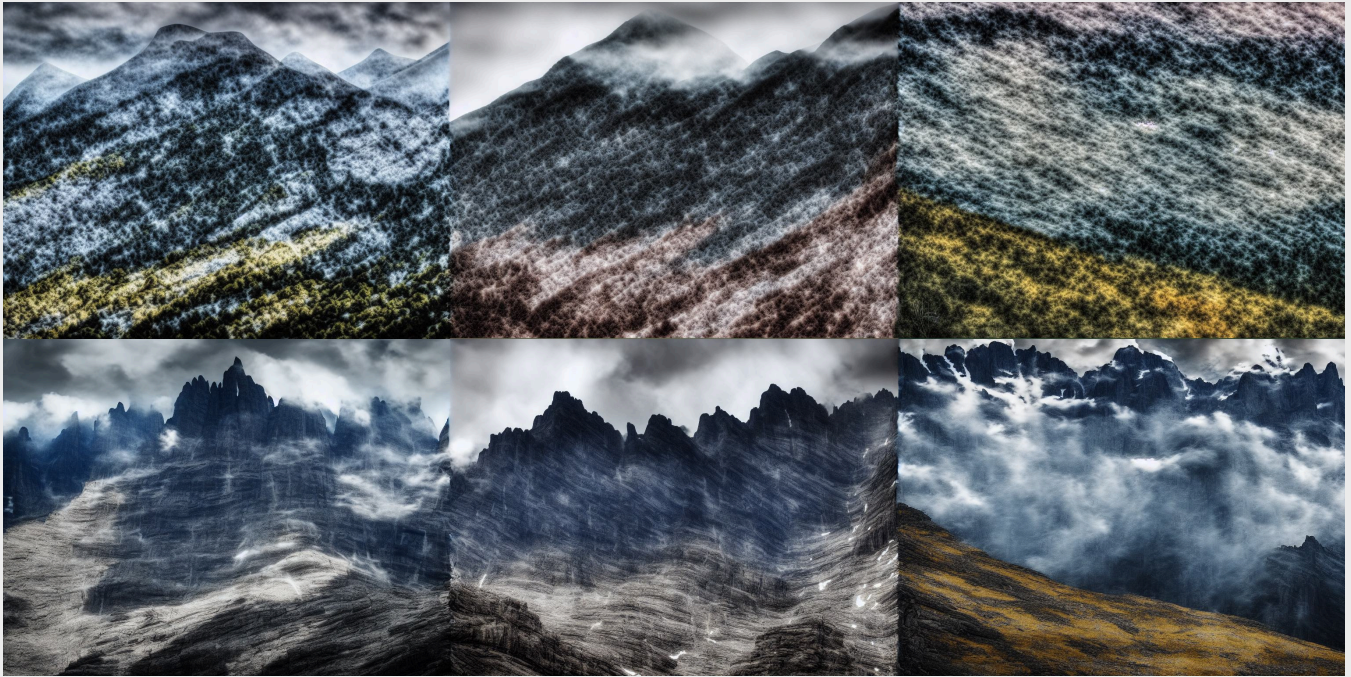
Formations: Vector 315, Vector 227 (After Trevor), 2026

Set of six unique archival pigment prints, unframed, label signed + 1/1 Ethereum token.

9 x 12 in. each (six total). Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Paglen

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



Unique print and 1/1 digital original NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK

Formations: Vector 322, Vector 7 (After Trevor), 2026

\$2,500

Set of six unique archival pigment prints, unframed, label signed + 1/1 Ethereum token.

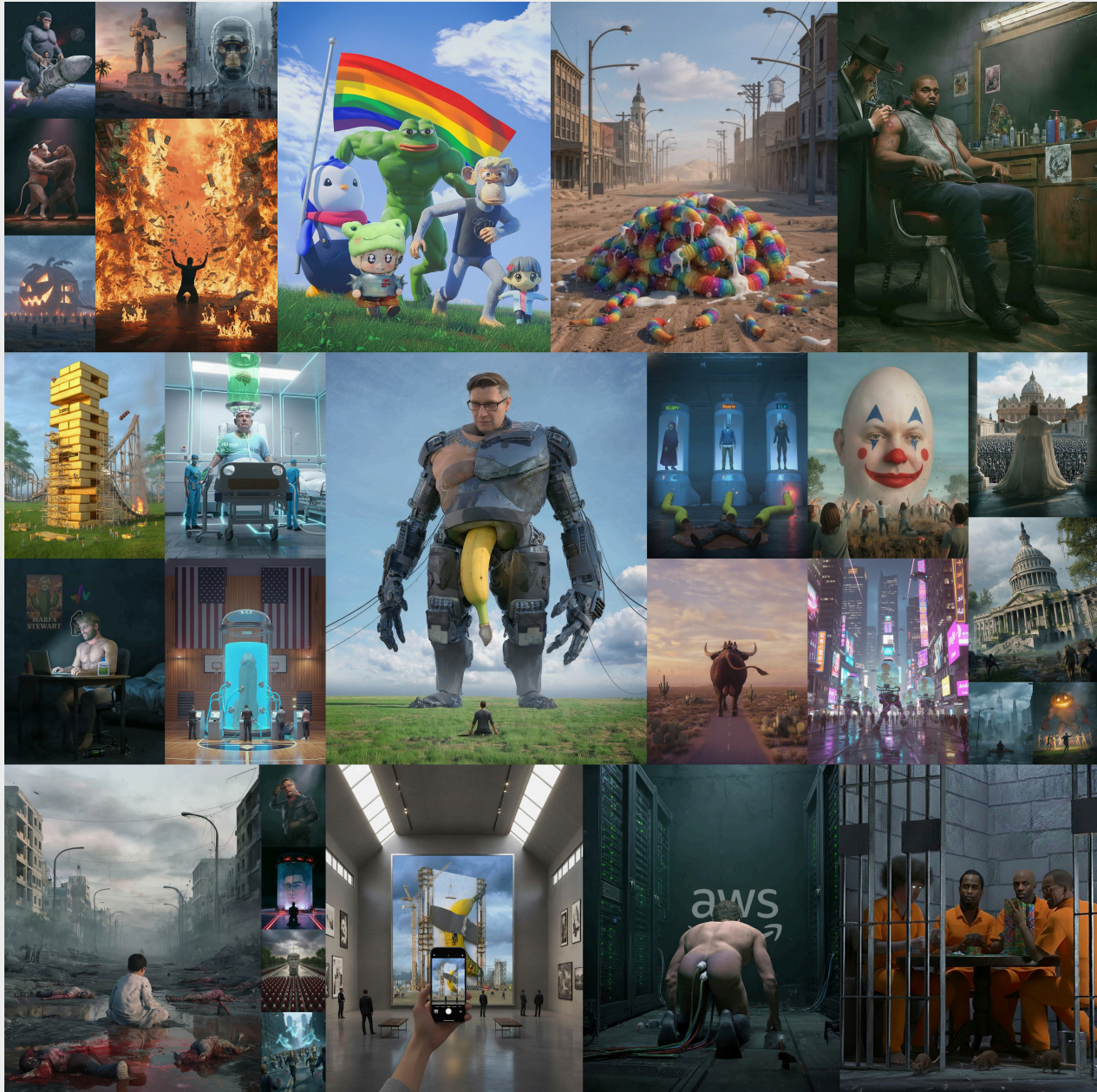
9 x 12 in. each (six total). Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Paglen

info@heftgallery.com

After Beeple

A figurehead of the digital art movement, Beeple has been creating an artwork and posting it online every day for almost 20 years. These “Everydays” function as a running commentary on current events, pop/internet culture, and technology. The first 5,000 of these, compiled as a single digital mosaic, were famously sold at Christie’s in early 2021, igniting a massive boom in the digital art movement.

Esherick trained an AI image model on works from the Everydays series and emulated Beeple’s approach by making a new work in his style every day for a month, building his own running commentary on events in contemporary culture over the course of that period. Mirroring Beeple’s watershed sale at auction, Esherick’s 30 pieces have been compiled as a digital mosaic and will be auctioned following the opening of this exhibition.



Unique print and 1/1 digital original NFT

KEVIN ESHERICK
Homages: The First 30 Days (After Bleep), 2026

1/1 Ethereum token + Unique archival pigment print, 32 x 32 in.

Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Bleep

Sold

info@heftgallery.com

After Marina Abramović

A special performance in homage to Abramović accompanied the opening event for Esherick's *The Artist Is Absent* solo show at Heft on February 11, 2026. Attendees of the opening were invited to sit in a re-enactment of the seminal *The Artist Is Present* performance with an actress impersonating Abramović with professional prosthetics and makeup, and replica dress and chairs, fully orchestrated by Esherick.

The following pages outline four special works that embody the performance and tension between 'presence' and 'absence' that is central to the show at large. For special patronage packages involving these works, please reach out to Adam.



Image above from Esherick's event,
[Very early test video sample here](#)

A video segment of the final sit of the performance, Kevin sitting with "Marina", where each frame is translated into the style of his Ablation Studies from the show, and assembled as the first ever moving image in his 'latent painting' style.

Preliminary tests have been done with footage of the real Marina sitting at MoMA (in white dress vs red). New tests will be done with actual footage from Kevin's show soon.

This digital-only 1/1 ethereum NFT is a marquis expression of the show concept, opening event, and an expression of the exhibition namesake The Artist is Present / Absent.

KEVIN ESHERICK

Title TBD Option 1 (After Marina), 2026

Set of six unique archival pigment prints, unframed, label signed + 1/1 Ethereum token.

9 x 12 in. each (six total). Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Paglen

Sold

info@heftgallery.com



Actual chairs



AI rendered chairs for fabrication

Oak hardwood chairs made in replica of the exact design used for Abramovic's performance at MoMA. The most visible accessory to the performance, essentially its platform. The chairs were made using AI interpretations and translations into 3D models based on photos from the performance. These chairs are handmade, solid, and heavy. They can be used, or they can be displayed. Whether displayed as individual chairs, or arranged in their iconic positioning, they are a reminder of the artist's absence from the performance.

KEVIN ESHERICK

Absence Chairs (After Marina), 2026

\$15,000

Set of two chairs, oak hardwood, hand made, AI modeled after originals

info@heftgallery.com



Exemplary image, more artifacts and final images to come

The re-making of Abramovic's performance art piece, *The Artist Is Present*, involved significant transformation and production for each aspect of *The Artist Is Absent* performance. Artifacts of this making process, particularly in the actor's impersonation of Abramovic, are being photographed and reworked using AI into images that also homage Irving Penn's large format photography of objects. While they will work as gorgeous prints, they are devised as natively digital works. More tests will be completed soon and available to share with interested parties.

These images will be a small series of digital-only 1/1 ethereum NFTs of print-resolution images.

KEVIN ESHERICK

Title TBD Option 3 (After Marina), 2026

\$15,000

Set of six unique archival pigment prints, unframed, label signed + 1/1 Ethereum token.

9 x 12 in. each (six total). Signed by Esherick on back, currently Unsigned by Paglen

info@heftgallery.com



Original artwork showing sitters at
The Artist Is Absent



Details

"Portraits in the Absence of Marina Abramovic" – titled after the original "Portraits in the Presence of Marina Abramovic"

In the same spirit as the original performance at MoMA, each sitter was photographed with Marina at Heft gallery during the opening. These faces will be assembled in a singular grid to embody the engagement and reactions of the sitters who participated.

This digital 1/1 Ethereum NFT is a marquis expression of the show concept, opening event, and the reactions of people witnessing the absence of the artist.

KEVIN ESHERICK

Portraits in the Absence of Marina Abramovic (After Marina), 2026

\$15,000

1/1 Ethereum token + optional unique archival pigment print, unframed, label signed

info@heftgallery.com

HEFT

Heft is a contemporary gallery in New York City presenting artists who use systems to create meaningful new works. Partnering with a fluid roster of artists, the gallery shows a wide spectrum of work – emphasizing inventive uses of traditional materials, memorable experiences, and provocative artworks that are rapidly gaining recognition for advancing the generative art movement.

Featuring projects by pioneers and groundbreaking emerging artists, Heft collaborates closely to elevate their practice. These artists engage urgent cultural questions using the tools of their time – algorithms, systems, artificial intelligence, and other generative processes – to show broader audiences what this medium is and what it can become. Heft is led by artist, curator, and creative director Adam Heft Berninger, alongside a growing team of artists and insiders. His background spans traditional art disciplines and creative technologies, bringing a unique perspective to the gallery's vision and program. A RISD graduate with a lifelong art practice and decades of collaborative work, Berninger has also created digital experiences and brand platforms for arts organizations including MoMA, Public Art Fund, Paddle8, UOVO, the Gardner Museum, and Google Art Project.

With over 50 projects presented under Heft (formerly Tender), the gallery continues to engage a global collector base and participate in leading international fairs – such as Untitled Art Miami, Paris Photo, and Contemporary Istanbul – while presenting monthly exhibitions from its Lower East Side space in NYC.

GALLERY INFORMATION

300 Broome Street
Lower East Side, NYC 10002

@heft_gallery on twitter
@heft_gallery on instagram

info@heftgallery.com



THANK YOU

Contact Adam Berninger at Heft to collect works from this show.

Adam Heft Berninger

Founder + Director, Heft Gallery

adam@heftgallery.com

@adamberninger on x and ig

1.917.609.2365