

# Zari Harat

visual artist, painter, teacher

Artist cv



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## Artist Statement – Zari Harat

My practice is an act of visual cartography, mapping the intersections of lived experience, memory, and social engagement. I approach painting as a means of deciphering the world, translating the frictions of human encounter into a language of visibility and belonging. My work weaves a narrative of inclusivity, seeking the shared human ground that exists beneath the surface of cultural and ideological conflict.

This search for commonality is rooted in a life of cultural multiplicity. Raised across different continents and traditions, I developed an early awareness of the nuances of identity. This background has led me to a lifelong quest: to look past the differences that separate us and instead uncover our fundamental similarities. I create my paintings as a form of personal and collective healing, a way to process the complexities of our history and transform them into a shared visual language that prioritizes connection over division.

A cornerstone of this research is the exploration of female eroticism, which I redefine as a primal, universal force. To me, eroticism represents the precise equilibrium between power and vulnerability. It is a reservoir of emotional strength, rooted in the body's capacity to feel, give birth, and heal, that allows for a coexistence of masculine and feminine energies. By embracing this vulnerability, my work challenges traditional structures of suppression and invites a profound connection to our inner emotional landscapes.

To reach this conceptual depth, my creative process is deeply physical; I paint with both hands, engaging my entire body to translate rhythm and intuition directly onto the surface. I work with fluid mediums, ink, fountain pen, gouache, and self-mixed pigments, alongside rigorous printmaking techniques. Within this process, color and music are structural necessities; they dictate the tempo of my gestures and define the atmospheric depth of each piece. **My work carries a musical sensibility: rhythm, repetition, and variation shape my use of line and space. Music, informed by the cultures I have lived within and those I continue to encounter, flows through the work, while color functions as an emotional register that anchors and intensifies each composition.**

The energy of the studio begins in my everyday life. I carry sketchbooks as a constant companion, capturing impressions, dreams, and fleeting sensations in real-time. In the studio, these "charged" moments undergo a process of decomposition and reconstruction. I break down complex feelings of our shared experience and reassemble them into paintings that function as a common ground where we can see one another and reconnect.

Ultimately, I view my practice as a continuation of a healing tradition, using abstraction to create a "discourse at eye level" (auf Augenhöhe). My paintings are invitations to participate in a journey of recognition and forgiveness. I seek to contribute to a world that is fundamentally connected, transforming individual stories into a shared, inclusive human fabric.

Zari Harat (b. 1955, USA) is a Hamburg, Germany-based artist whose practice explores themes of belonging, reconciliation, cultural memory, female eroticism, transformation, and visibility in humans in and beyond the urban landscape. Working in mixed media, Harat translates the sensory and psychological experience of appreciation, being seen, the worth of land, its weight, fragility, and resilience, into visual form. Her work explores themes of impermanence, regeneration, and the quiet persistence of nature in the urban terrain to reclaim spaces altered by human intervention and ecological impact.

In the past, Harat work has blended painting, drawing, collages, performance, and sculpture with materials such as paper, ink, watercolours, acrylics, oil, lithography, etching, resin, adhesives and metal. Often presented in A3 and A4 formats, her layered compositions engage in reflection, interior mapping, color, and form while blending the inner and outer landscapes. In her latest series, "Recalling a Bench," she investigates human fragility and stubbornness and the tension between promise and humanity, technology, AI, between the sword of algorithms and personal, visual storytelling.

**... and for individuals and families who transcend race, religion, and ethnicity, We are the world. The future is ours.**

**– Chidanand Rajghatta, writer**

## EDUCATION

- 1999/2001** **Cimdata School** of Design, Berlin, specification in Gallery Design / Multimedia Design Virtual and On-site
- 1972/1978** studied studio and abstract art, a joint program at **The School of the Art Institute, Chicago/The University of Illinois at Chicago**
- 1978** graduated: **BFA. Ed**, joint studies, specialisation in performance art, printmaking, art education, studio, and abstract art.  
Art Education/Interdisciplinary Teaching Degree (Kg-12)

## SUMMARY OF SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (last ten years)

### SOLO EXHIBITIONt

- 2023** “**Open Sees**” / Beirut, Lebanon, Gallery Martakla Church Street, Beirut, Drawings and Paintings  
”**Entre Nous**” / Bbk Neustart Kultur,” Paintings and Drawings
- 2022** “**Retrospective**” / **Kulturschloss, Hamburg**, Drawings and Painting  
virtual interview “**Zari Harat: My Recent Work**”/**Davidson College, USA**, Drawings and Paintings
- 2021** “**Ebb and Flow**” / **Kulturschloss-Wansbek**, Hamburg virtual tour and in-person, Drawings and Paintings
- 2019** “**Retrospective**” / **Open Studio / Flachsland Studio Harat**, Drawings and Paintings
- 2016** “**Refugium ist unsere Heimat**” / Kulturforum, Hamburg, Germany, Drawings and Paintings  
“**Ur-Sein / Cause as Beginnings**“ / **Pflegen & Wohnen Husarendenkmal**, Hamburg, Germany, Drawings and Paintings

### DUO EXHIBITION

- 2023** “**The Dance of Cutting & Binding/Der Tanz des Schneiden und Bindens**,” Begine Cultural Centre, Berlin: Paintings and Drawings

### GROUP EXHIBITION

- 2026** “**Amma/Mother**”- **SAKHI Art Project** / Delhi, India, Drawings and Paintings
- 2025** “**Synergy**” / **NAA Open Studio**, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings  
“ **Rekinning, Reckoning and Justice**” / **BGHRA** annual virtual conference with Zari and her international women painters from Egypt / Lebanon / Germany, Drawings and Paintings  
“**Quest in Light**,” - **BBK Open Studios**, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings  
“**Sombre Shading**,” / **Kunstleihe**, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings
- 2024**  
**NAA Open Studio**, “**Coding Flaws**”/ Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings  
“**Joy & Pain**,” / **BGHRA** annual virtual conference: Zari and her artists  
with international women painters from Lebanon, India, and Germany, Drawings and Paintings  
**BBK Open Studio** / “**Algorithms and Other Sobs**”/ Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings
- 2023**  
“**Art in Resistance**” / **BGHRA** annual virtual conference: with Zari and her international women painters from Egypt / Lebanon / Germany, Drawings and Paintings  
**Kunstleihe**, “**Sombre Shading**,”/Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings  
**Lichtwarkschule Teachers’ Art Presentation**,”**The Children of Lichtwark**” / Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings  
Panel: “**Millis Erwachen Burning Issues**” / Kampnagel, Hamburg, art and film presentation/discussion, Drawings and Paintings  
“**Ladders and Labyrinth**”, Dance Theatre, Berlin theatre piece dancing to selected works of mine

**SUMMARY OF SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (last ten years)**

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**GROUP EXHIBITION {cont}**

**2022**

**“Untelling Telling,” / Altes Finanzamt Open Studio, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings**

**“Untelling Telling,” BBK Open Studio, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings**

**film presentation of “Millis Erwachen / (Milli’s Awakening)”, / KFW, Berlinale, Berlin, interview and artwork**

**“Retelling Utopia”, /Fluctoplasma, Westwerk, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings**

**“I AM MILLI“, / Hase 29 Kunstraum Ausstellung, Osnabrück, Digital Collages**

**“Die Kunst ist Eine Frau”, / Zari Harat: Drawings and Paintings**

**2021**

**“Being Seen” / Altes Finanzamt Open Studio, Hamburg, Drawings and Paintings**

**“Respecting Brown Eyes” / “BBK Offene Atelier, Open Studio, Hamburg; Drawings and Paintings**

**RESIDENCIES**

**2026 “Amma/Mother”- SAKHI Art Project / Delhi, India, Drawings and Paintings**

**2025 “Beaches and Betrayal” / Art Residency in Lebanon, Drawing and Painting**

**2024 “Emotional Expressions” / Art Residency in Paris, France/ bbk Neustart, Drawing and Painting**

**2022-23 “Open Sees” / Residency in Beirut, Lebanon, Gallery Martakla Church Street, Beirut, Drawing and Painting**

**PUBLICATIONS**

**2026 “Amma/Mother”- SAKHI Art Project**

**2023 “Millis Erwachen” Group Exhibit Catalogue**

## TEACHING

2026-2010

teaching recurring drawing classes, workshops and seminars for **Boesner, bbk, VHS** and extended education centres in Hamburg and Berlin  
Topics: **Painting and Drawing with Fountain pens, Abstract Painting, Storytelling and Dreams in Drawings, Visual Storytelling, Colour, Urban Sketching, Inner Landscaping, Sketching classes, Sketchbook Journaling, Techniques in Watercolor with other wet mediums, Printmaking and Fountain pens, Illustration, as well as private courses in drawing and painting in my studio.** etc.,.

**In-house and online Drawing, Painting, Presentation and Journaling courses for companies and institutes.**

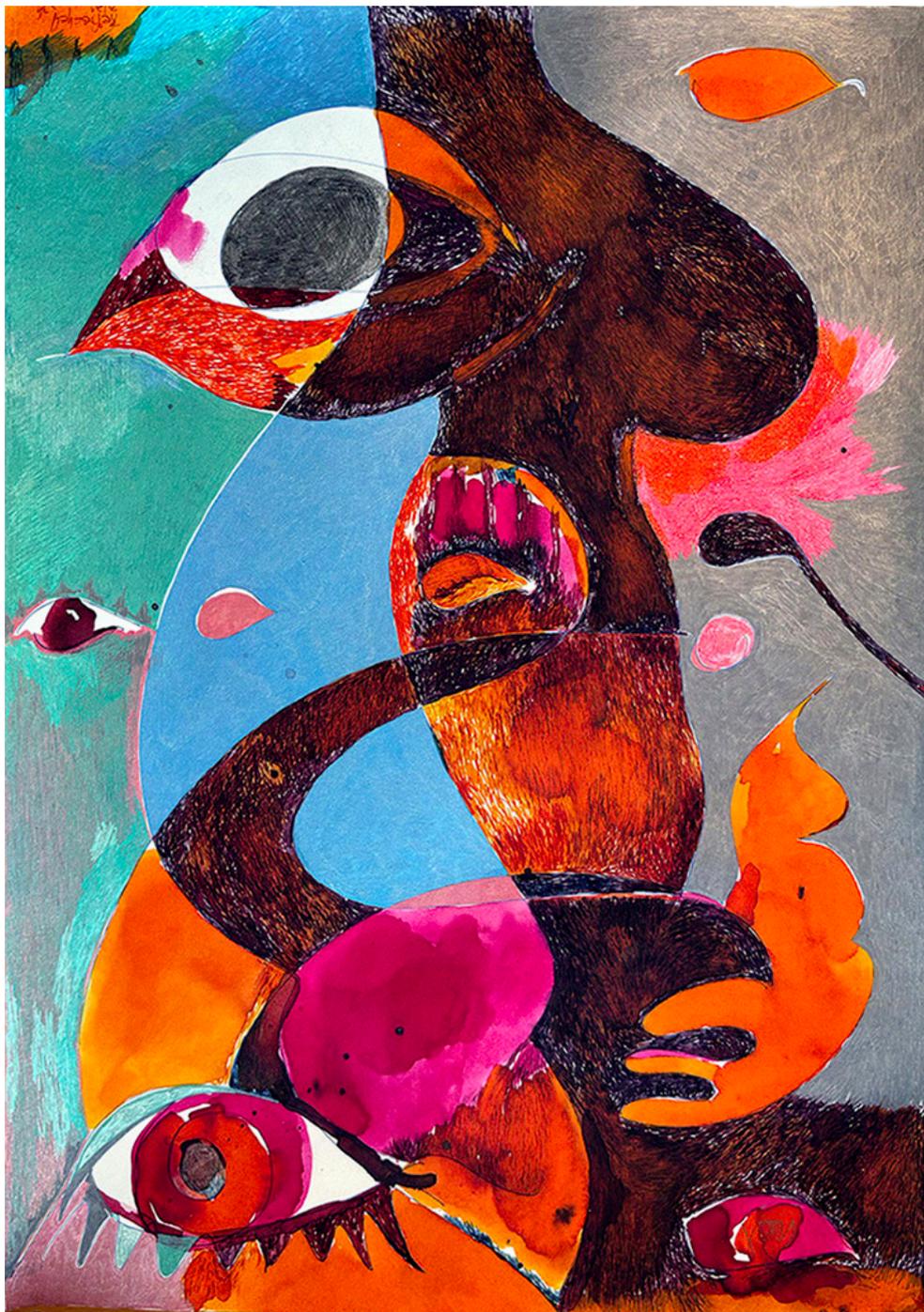
Used drawing and painting materials, sketchbooks, visual storytelling techniques as well as interdisciplinary approaches.

These courses were for top-level employees to use non-business approaches to industrial innovations. Some of the companies were Mercedes, Tesa, VHS, Siemens, Tchibo, etc.,

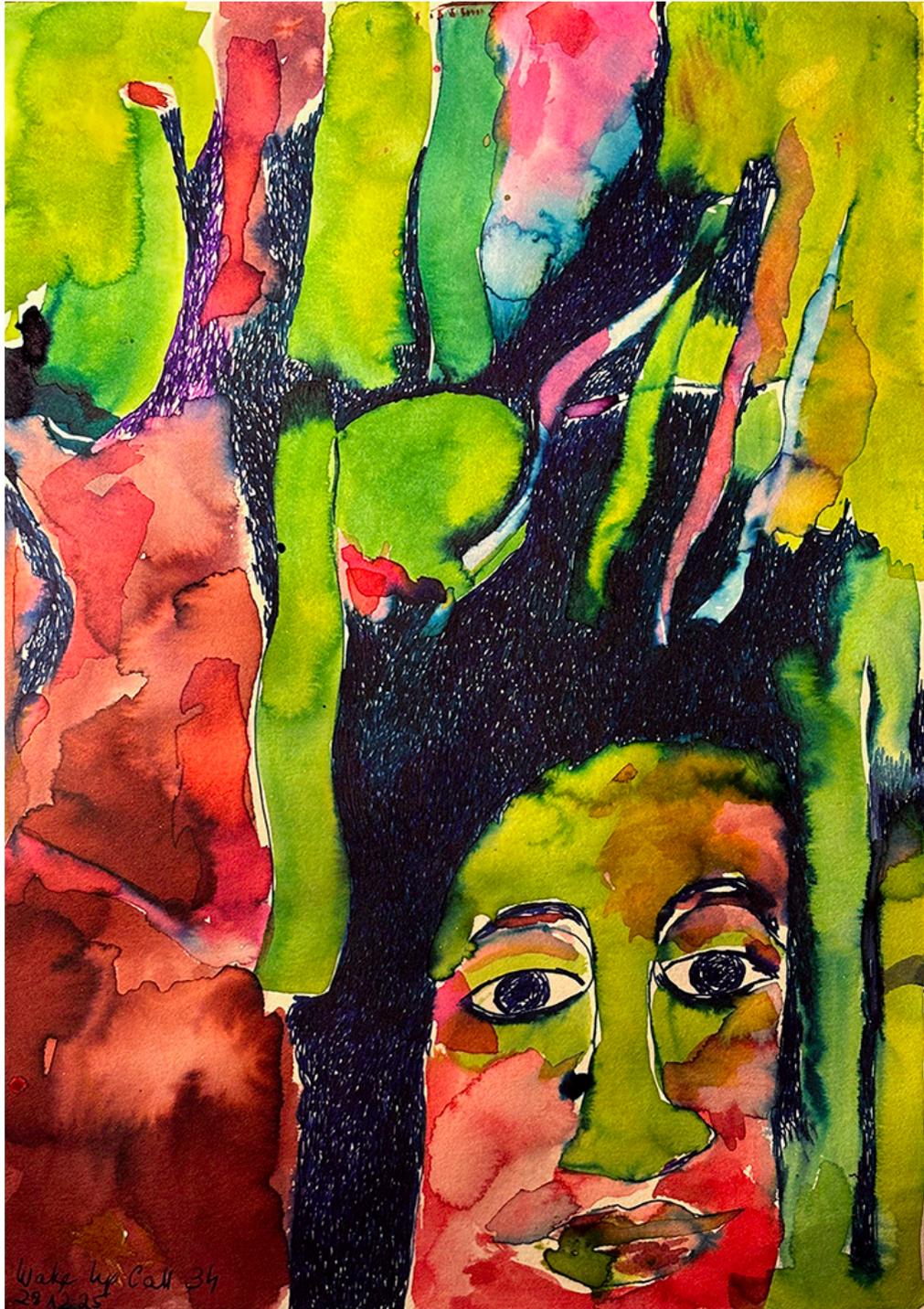
2024-2023

**Lichtwarkschule**, After-school drawing classes for children in areas at risk in Hamburg, Drawing and painting classes, explored, colour, space, dimension, cultural and intercultural fairy tales. Ages 6-12

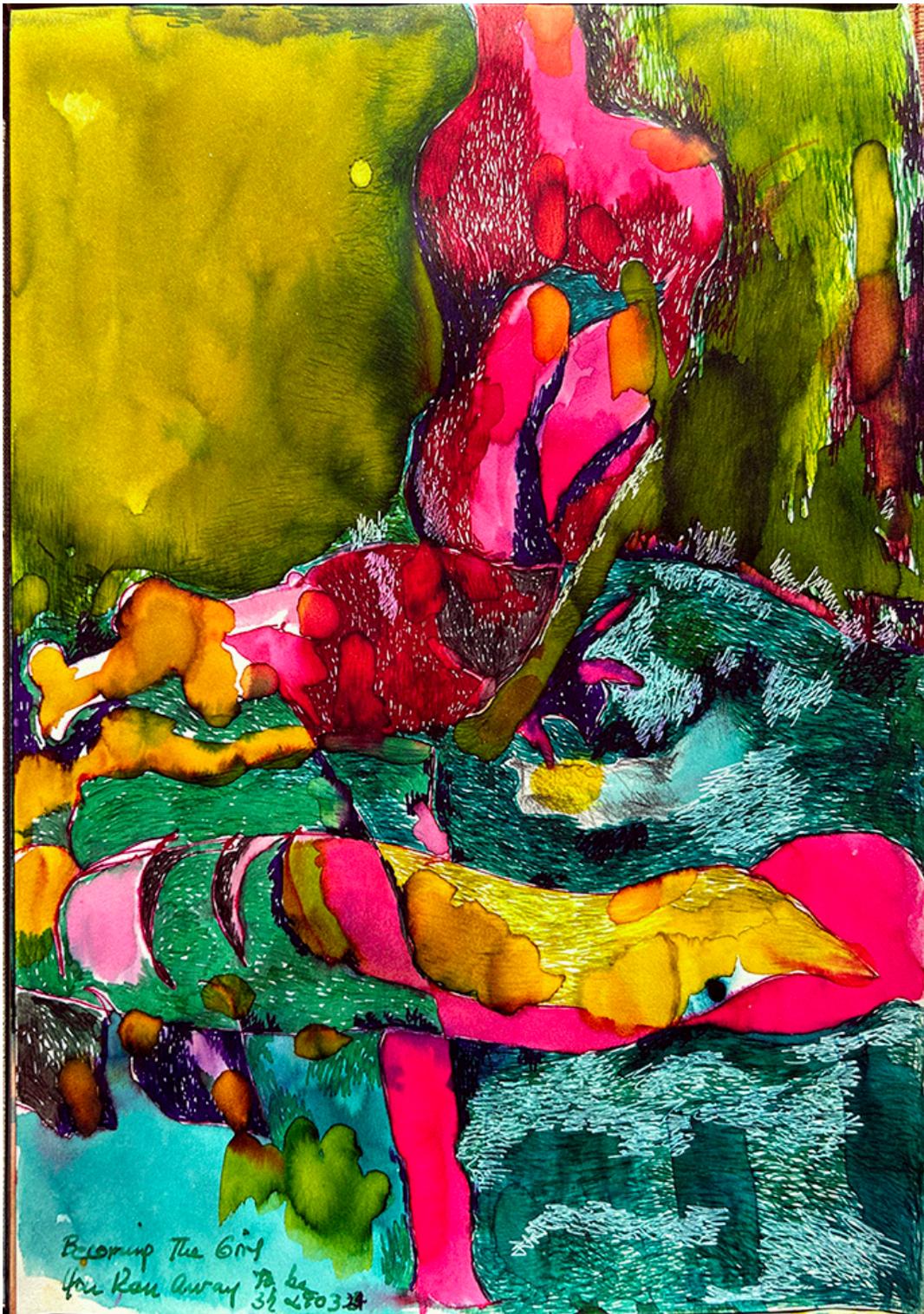
**Selected Samples of My Work**



**refreshed.** 11 July 2025. "42x29,97"  
mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



**wake up call** 31.12.2025. "42x29,97"  
mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



**Becoming the Girl Who Ran Away To Be**  
28.03.2024. "42x29,97", mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



Award Capability 31 21.12.25

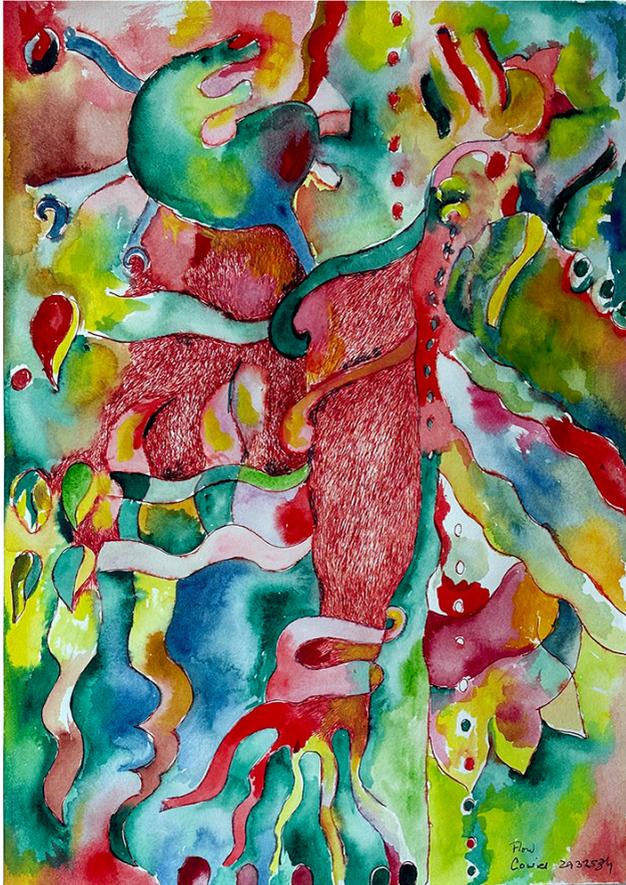
**Award Capability**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
21.12.25, mixed media on paper



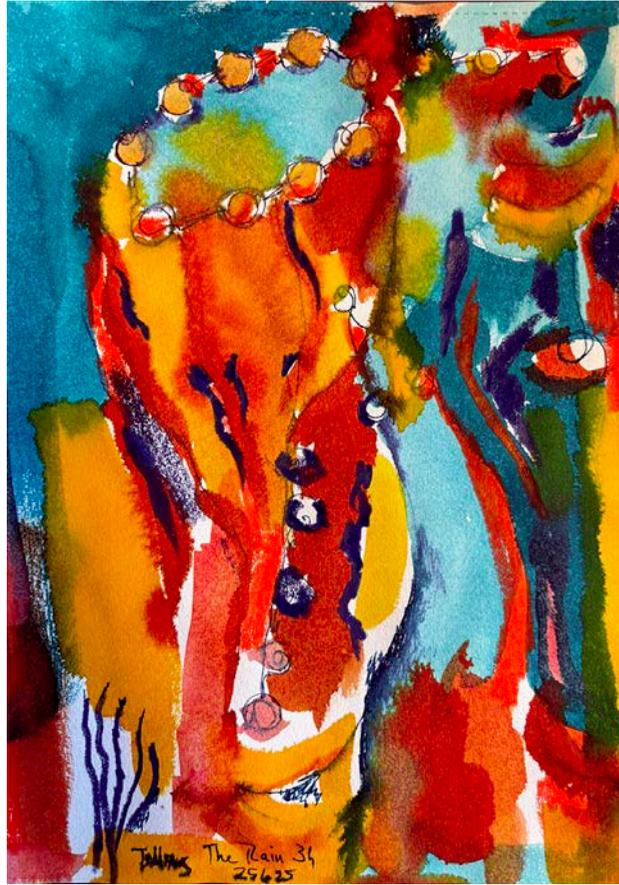
**Geida**, "32x24", Zari Harat  
04.05.25, mixed media on paper



**Late Bloomer**, "32x24", Zari Harat  
20.12.25, mixed media on paper



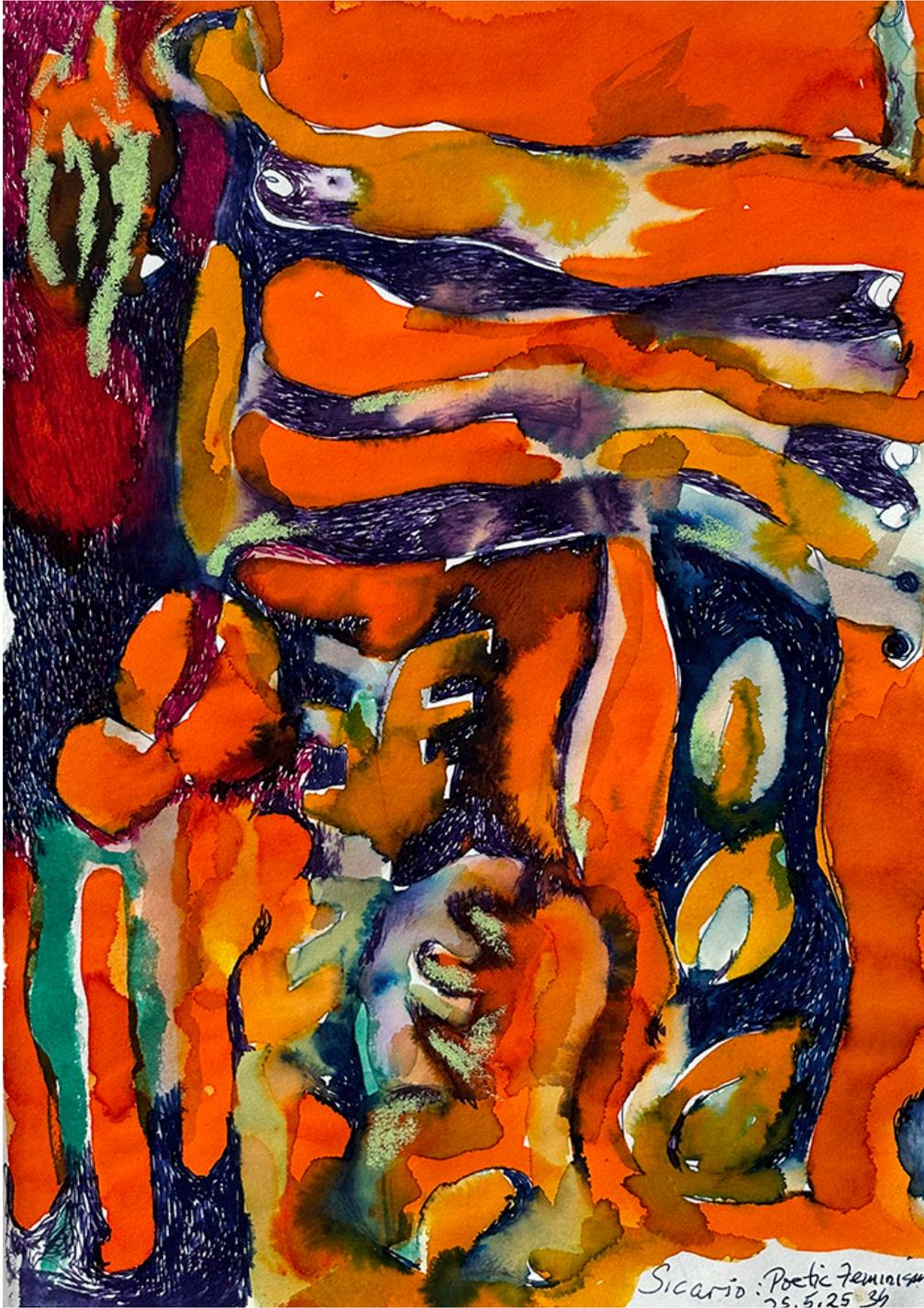
**flow courier**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
29.03.25, mixed media on paper



**Telling the Rain**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
25.06.25, mixed media on paper



**Abyss** 13.08.2023. "28x22"  
mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



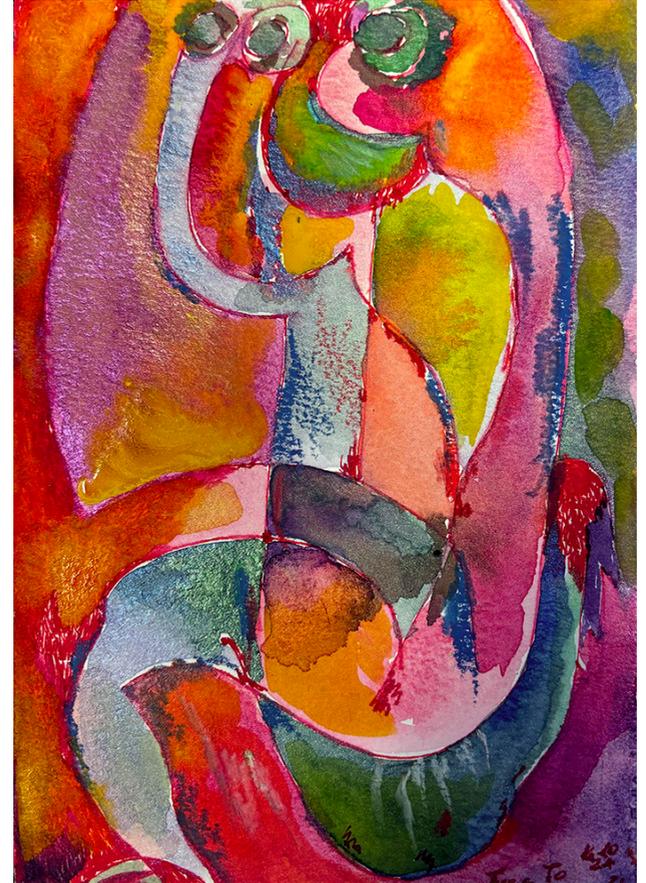
**Sicario**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
25.05.25, mixed media on paper



**The Friend You Are**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
13.09.25, mixed media on paper



**freedom of expression**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
25.09.22, mixed media on paper



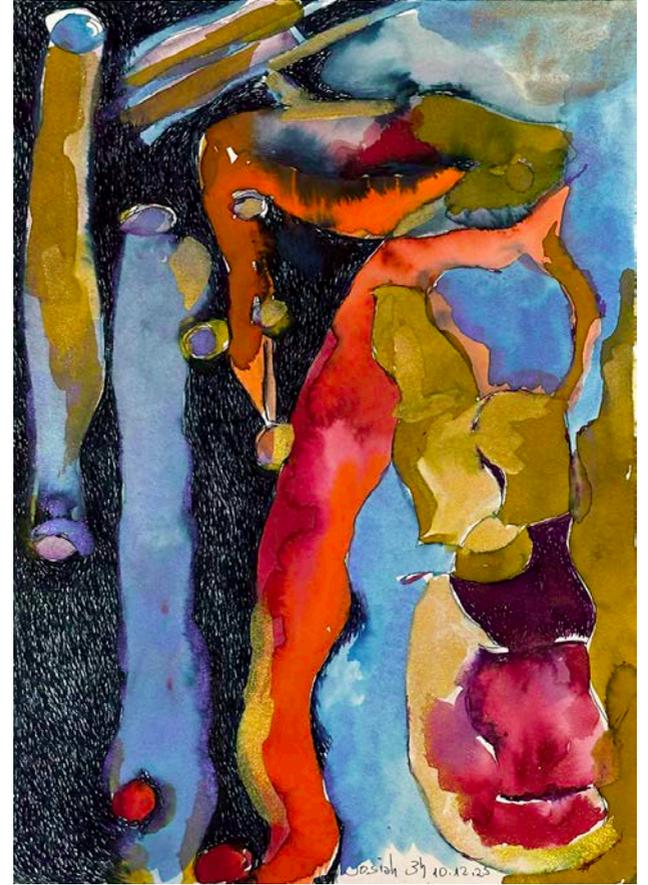
**freedom to revitalise**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
16.10.24, mixed media on paper



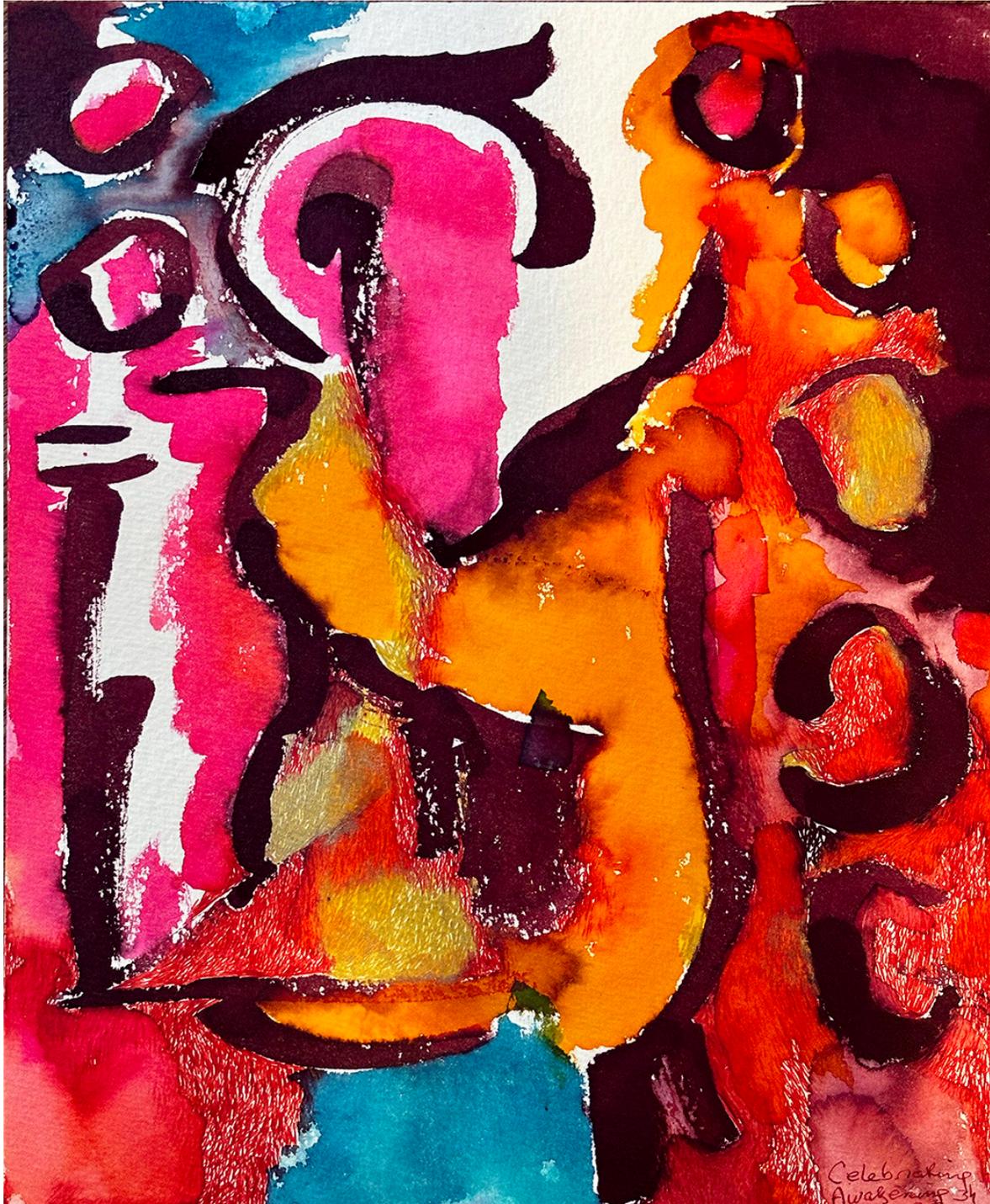
**Recount**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
12 December 25, mixed media on paper



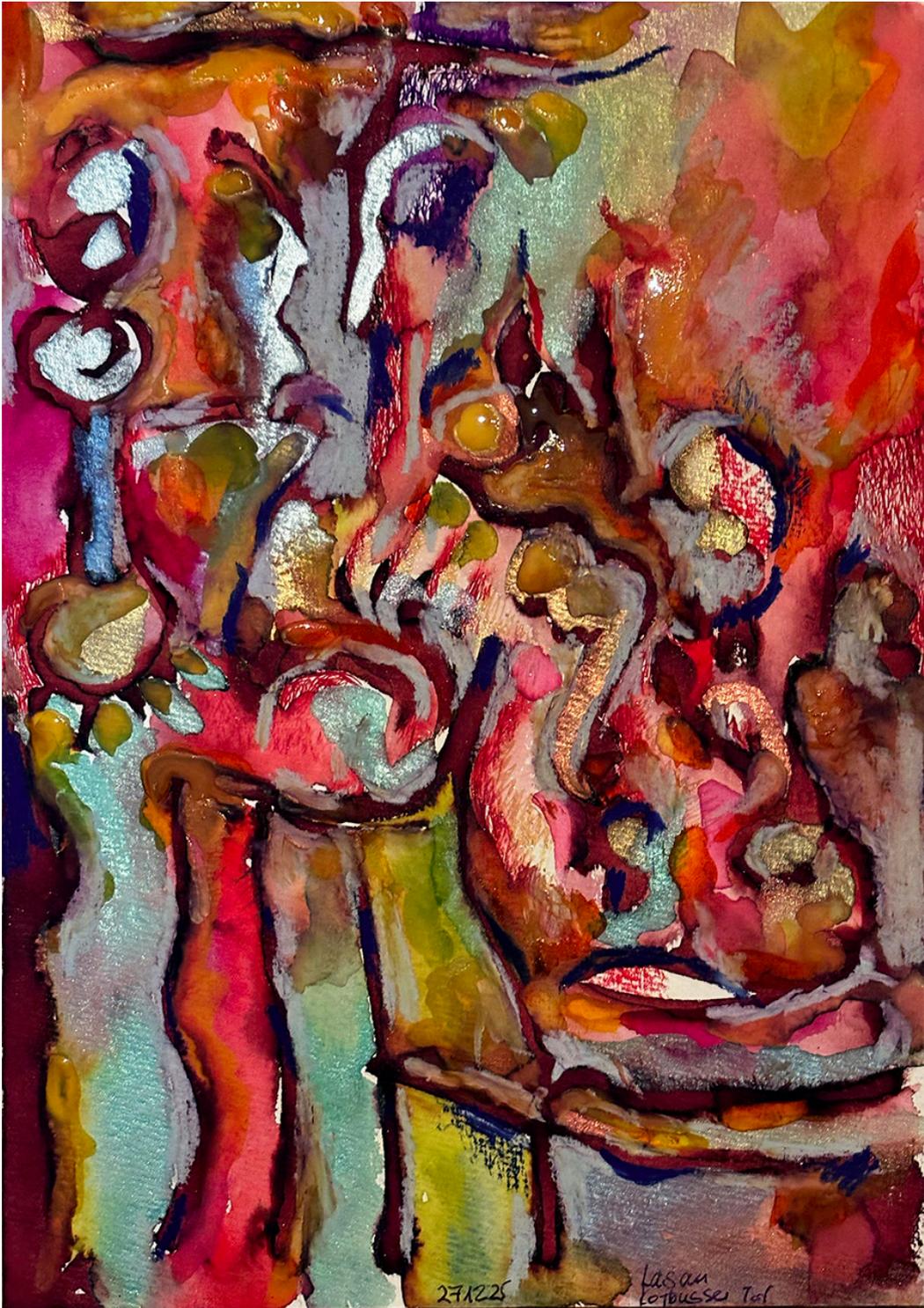
**Chandra Call**, "34x24", Zari Harat  
10.12.25, mixed media on paper



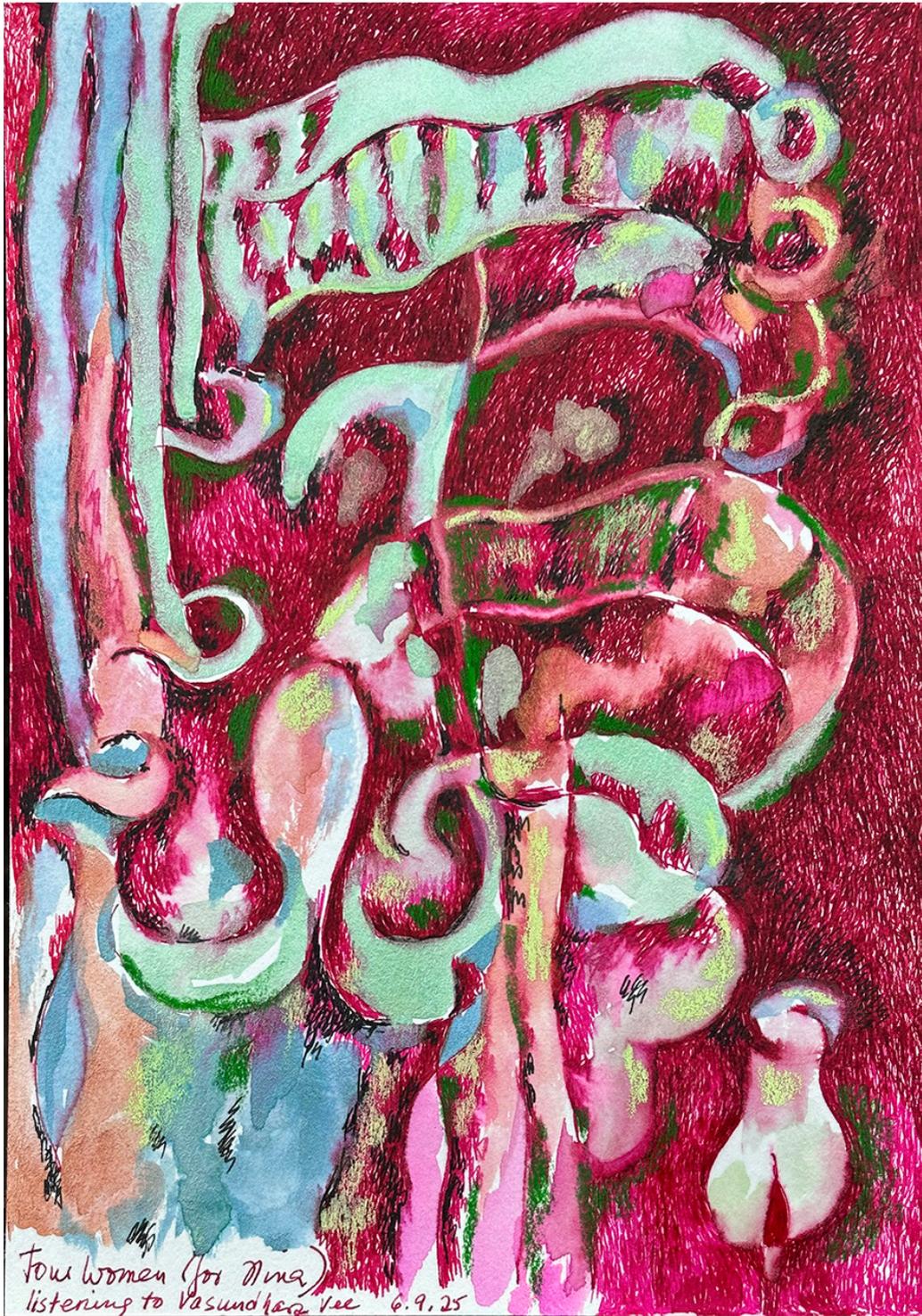
**Josiah**, "34x24", Zari Harat  
10.12.25, mixed media on paper



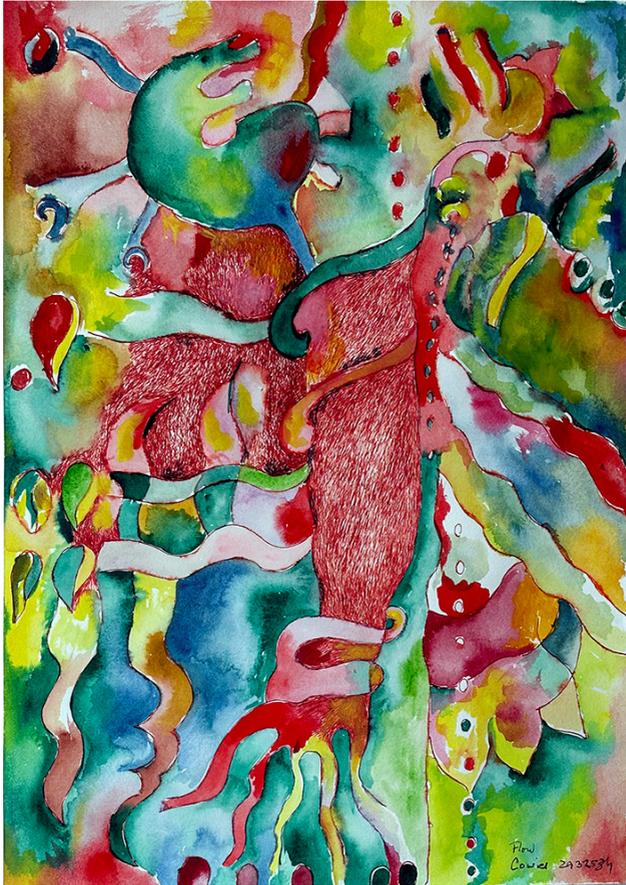
**Celebrating Awakening** 23.12.2025.  
"32x24", mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



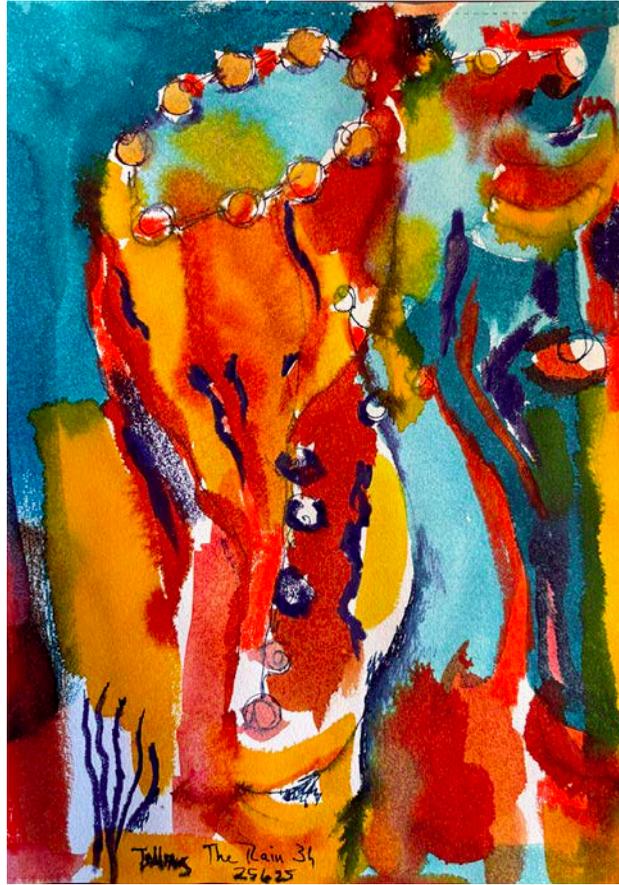
**Lasan, Kottbuser Tor** 27.12.2025. "32x24"  
mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



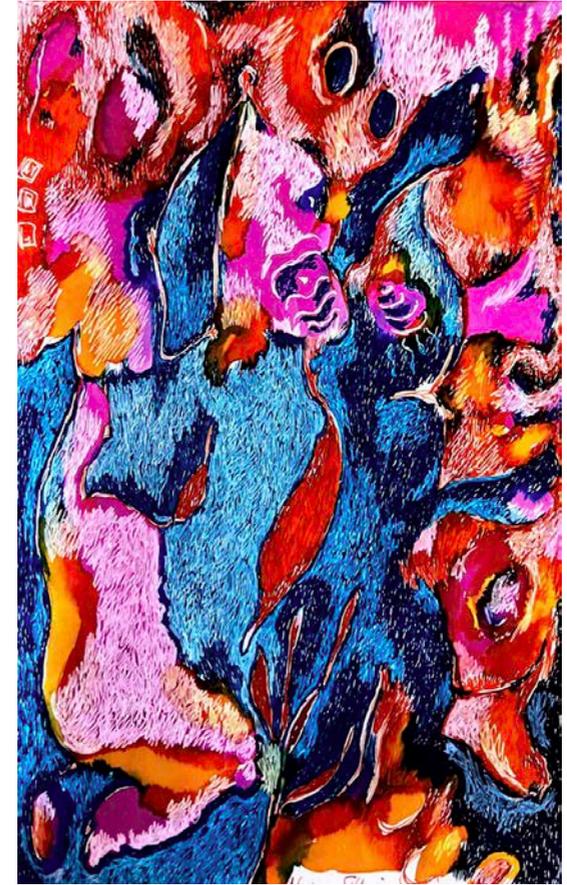
**Four Women (for Nina)** 06.09.2025  
"32x24" mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



**flow courier**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
29.03.25, mixed media on paper



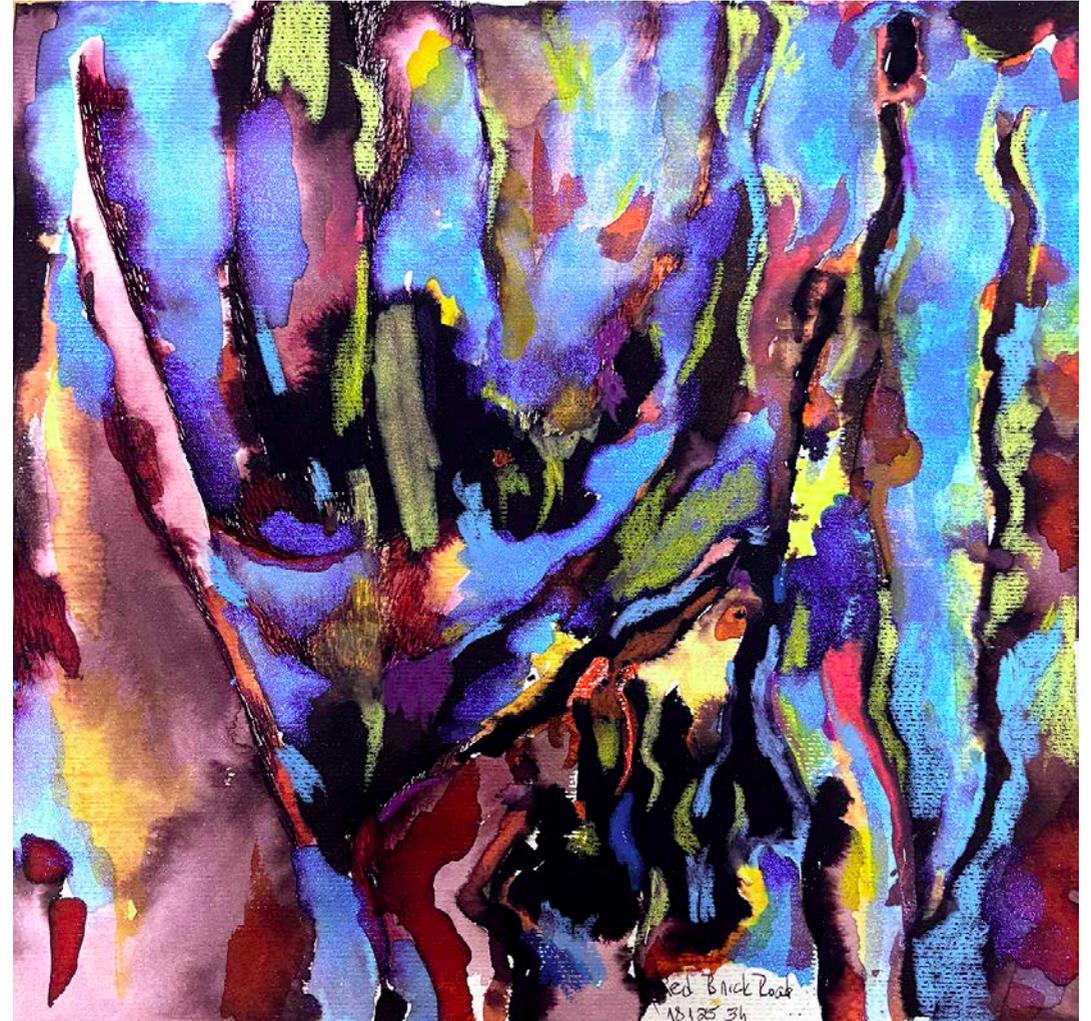
**Telling the Rain**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
25.06.25, mixed media on paper



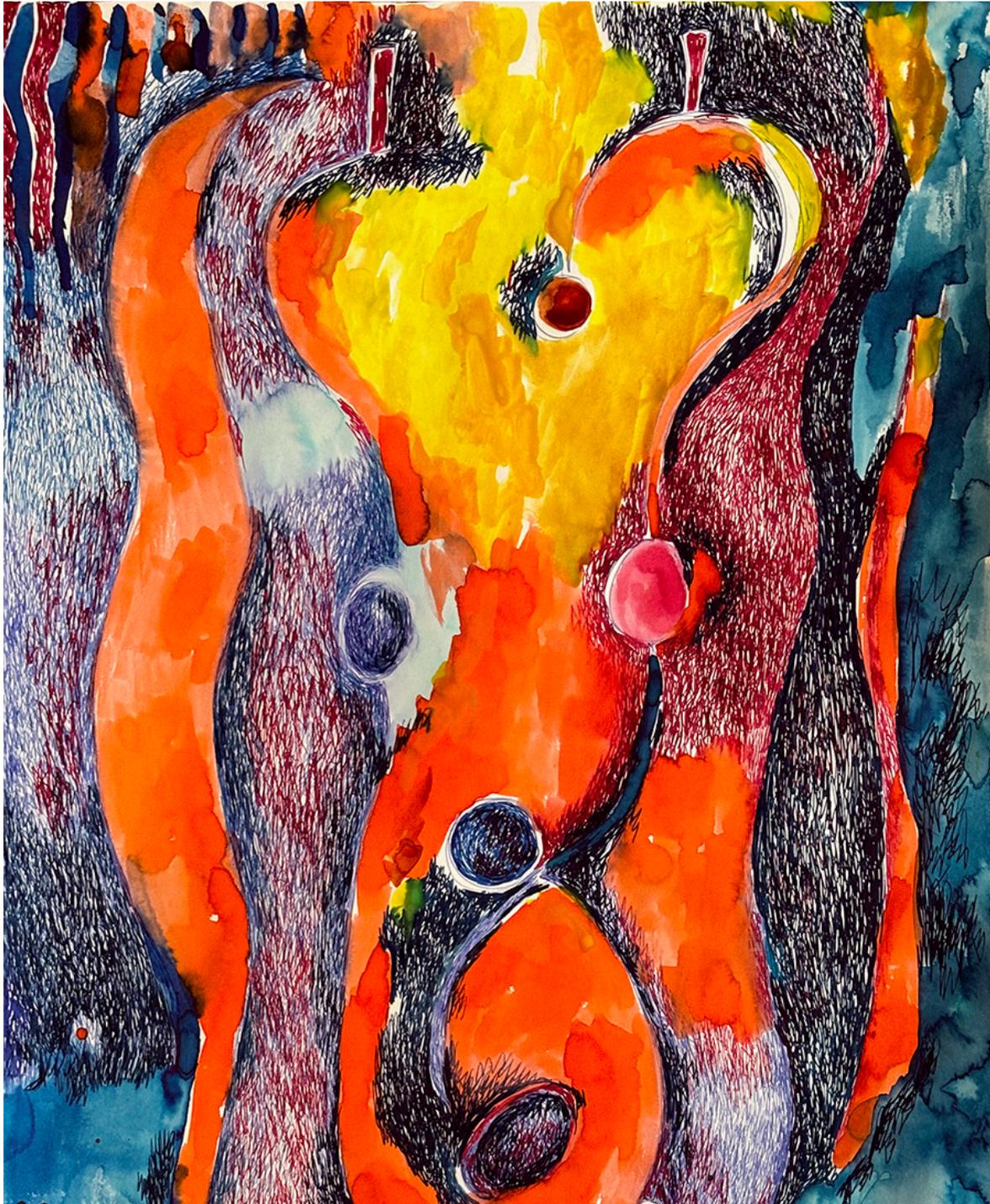
**Abyss** 13.08.2023. "28x22"  
mixed media on paper. Zari Harat



**Simon's Street**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
17.12.25, mixed media on paper



**Red Brick Road**, "42x29,97", Zari Harat  
18.01.25, mixed media on paper



**Righting Recovered** 09.08.2025. "42x29,97",  
mixed media on paper. Zari Harat