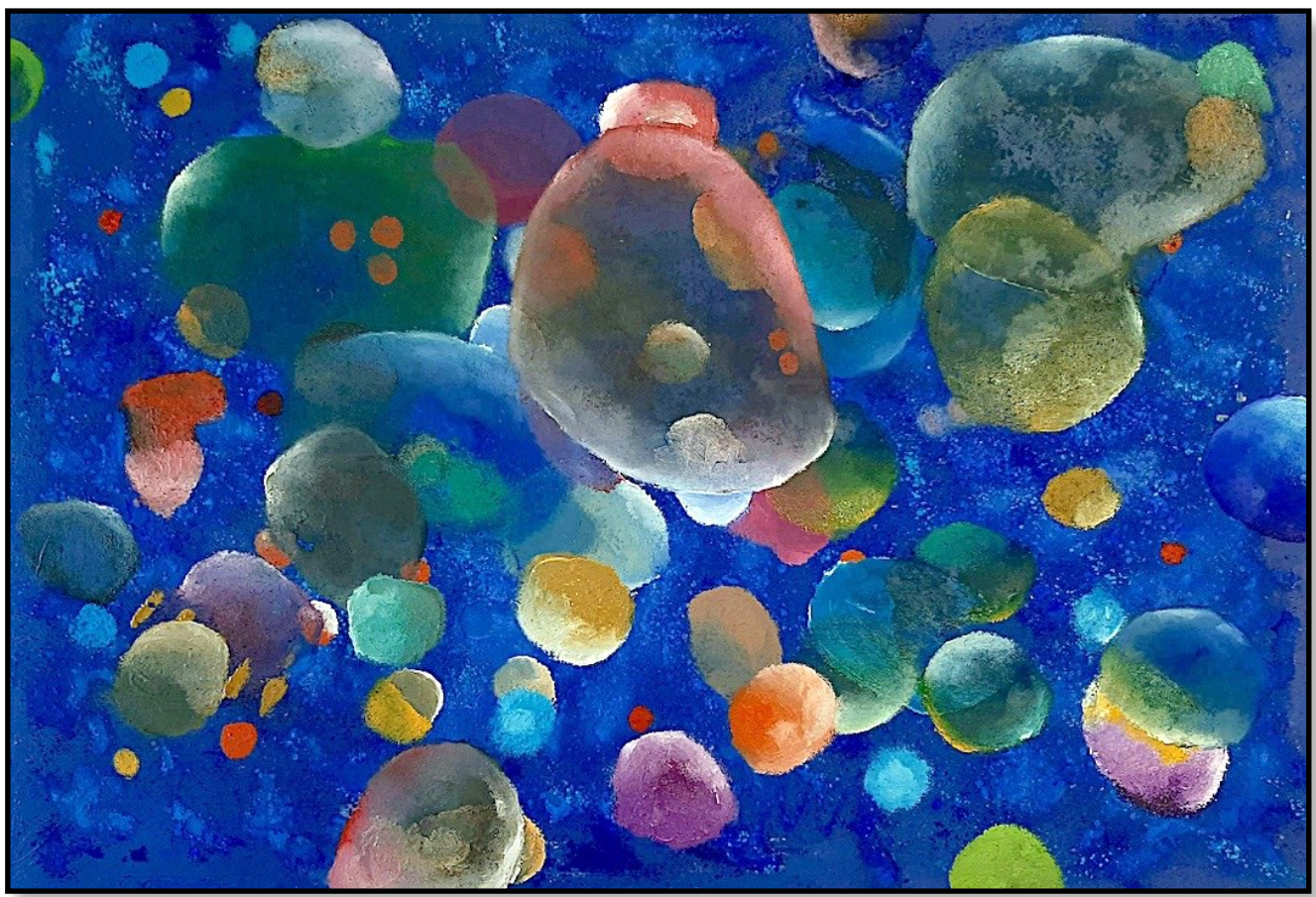


WHAT IS

#015

**En Route To Lightness**

Study

Acrylic / Oil on canvas
75x120cm
Framed in black
2020

Nesting...

I've got myself a blank unpainted Matryoshka from Moscow. The original one was created by wood carver *Vasily Zvyozdochkin* from a design by *Sergey Malyutin* in 1890 and consists of eight painted dolls; the outermost is a mother holding a hen, the innermost is a baby, and in between are her children: boys and girls (notice no father). The Matryoshka is a symbol of family and fertility. The biggest one so far is 51 pieces nesting dolls. Mine is five.

A year since I have it and I've been wondering how to go about it. Without the painted peasant and her children, this object is abstract: a salt shaker, a bowling pin, a dildo, a baby bottle, a nipple, a snow man, a peanut, a chess pawn, a piggy bank, a cactus, an avocado...? Out of these, only the piggy bank shows to be fitting the nesting mechanism e.g. *the money saved went to the bank, the bank gave it to the government, the government gave it to god knows who, god knows who used it to god knows what, the smallest of the dolls representing a dark secret.* A metaphor for corruption I guess. Anyone wishing to pursue this artistic route could get well-inspired by the abundance of material.

I will leave my nesting bubbles blank for now.

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THEORBO

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