

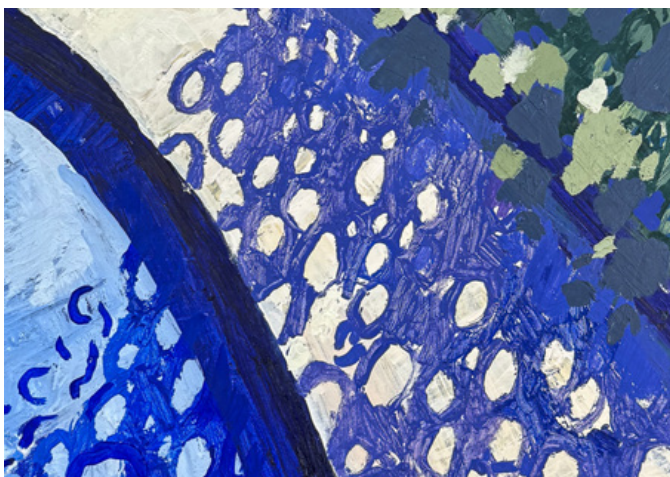
Vivacity

Artists: Michael Beckurts

Mezzanine Gallery - 07.03.24 - 18.04.24



Catalogue



Detail of (Clockwise)

- Michael Beckurts - *Dreams Translated*
- Michael Beckurts - *Early Morning*
- Michael Beckurts - *Full House*
- Michael Beckurts - *Into the Water*
- Michael Beckurts - *Lift Me Up*

Vivacity

Central to my practice is the genuine feeling of human connection. I paint scenes not because of their beauty but rather because I have interacted with them in a meaningful way. For me, place is a condenser of memory and associations. My process starts with being in an environment physically and filtering sensory information. It's the fragrance of the fynbos, and navigating the *middelmannetjie* on the farm road. It's the thrumming of music and voices in the night air. It's the dry heat and the dappled shade. By returning repeatedly to the scene, an emotional connection is formed and the memory entrenched. This is the source I draw from when making a painting.

Working in oil paints engages my whole body. It is a process of leaning, mixing, stretching, and arcing left and right. This physicality heightens my sense of awareness and stimulates the recollection of unexpected details. Art helps me to understand how I move in the world. How I blend in. How I make myself heard and seen. I paint to record, recall, and relive experiences and places to which I have a connection. These are spaces that give me a sense of freedom.

Biography

Michael Beckurts (b.2000) lives and works in Cape Town. Since graduating in 2021 from the Cape Town Creative Academy, he has been a full time visual artist working in oils, charcoal, watercolour, and digitally.

Drawing from memory to create luminous, vivid scenes, Beckurts' oils on canvas are characterised by rapid mark making and considered compositions. From family gatherings, to farm road walks, and nights out with friends, central to all these scenes is the connection to nature and connection to people.

Ever curious to explore new media, Michael can be seen at evening jazz sessions where he combines his love of music with his observational skills. Here he live-draws in sketches projected onto a wall.

Beckurts has had 3 solo exhibitions: *Archives* held at the Test Kitchen in Woodstock (2021), *Portraits of Nature, Portraits of Places* at MOK Gallery, Muratie wine estate, Stellenbosch (2022) and *Remember to Play* at Openwine, Wale Street (2023).

He participated in the Baz Art International Public Arts Festival in Cape Town in 2019 and 2023 and has also displayed his artworks in several group exhibitions. Beckurts was a participant in the 2023 Sessions Programme for Visual Artists led by Dominique Edwards which culminated in a group exhibition, *Pomegranate* in Woodstock, Cape Town.

In the words of critic Ashraf Jamal, "Beckurts' art draws us towards what we long for most – stillness, with all its tremulous vivacity. [He] is a marvel of promise in an embittered world."



Michael Beckurts
Dreams Translated, 2024
Oil on canvas
74×53.5 cm
R16 000 (inc VAT)



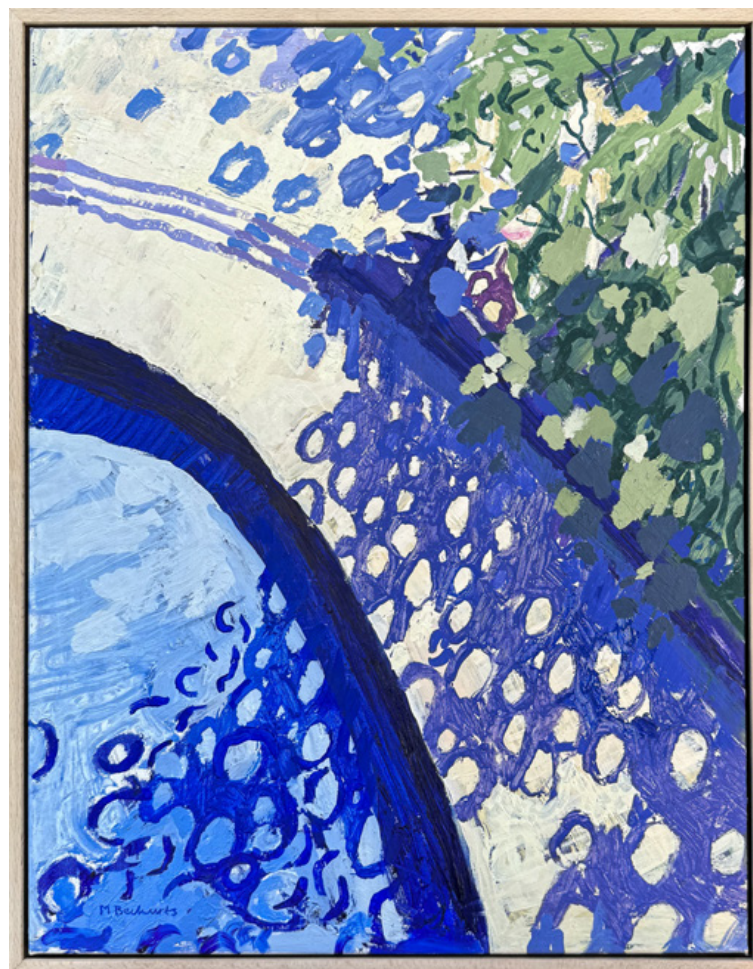
Michael Beckurts
Early Morning, 2023
Oil on canvas
103 x 77.5 cm
R19 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Full House, 2024
Oil on canvas
67.5 x 50.5 cm
R13 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Into the Water, 2023
Oil on canvas
52 x 47 cm
R9 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Lift Me Up, 2023
Oil on canvas
56,5 x 44,5 cm
R13 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts

On the Slope of a Small Mountain, 2024

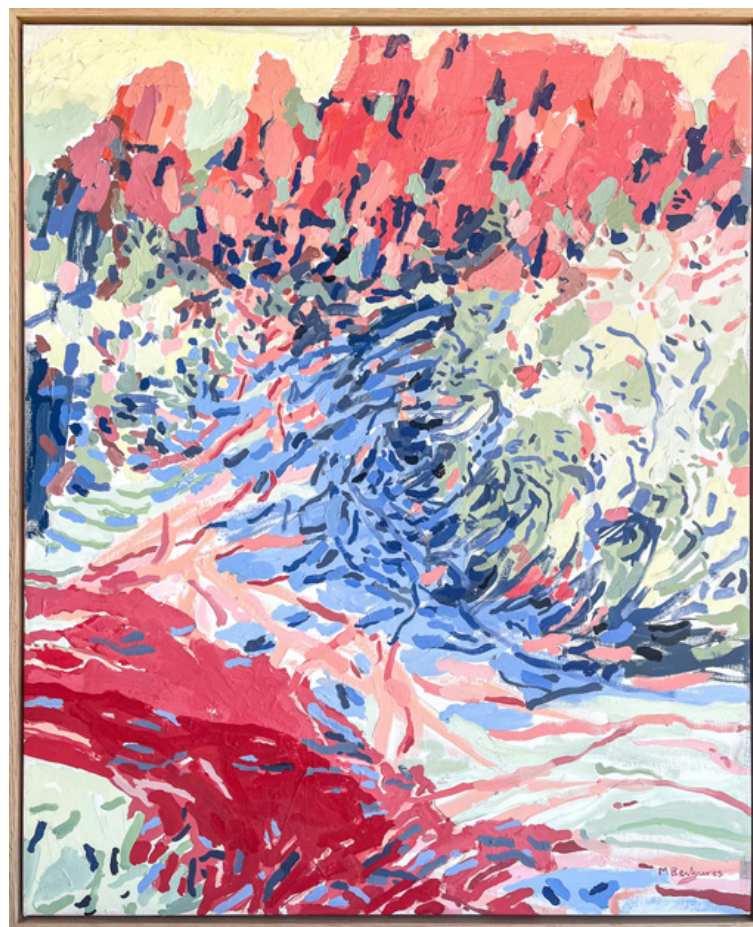
Oil on canvas

68,5 x 52,5 cm

R16 000 (inc VAT)



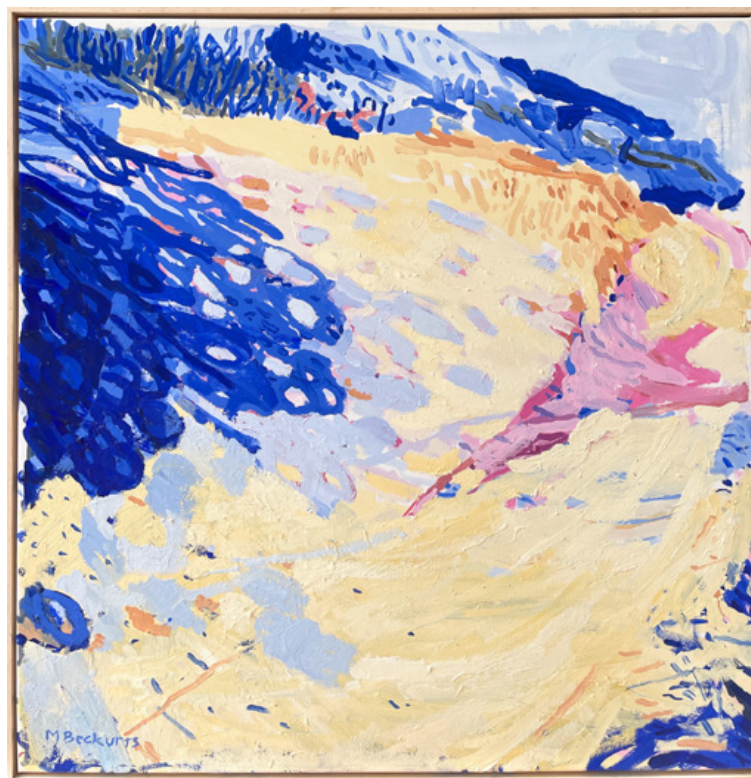
Michael Beckurts
Planted Heat, 2024
Oil on canvas
59 x 52.5 cm
R13 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Returning, 2024
Oil on canvas
65,5 x 54 cm
R13 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Sorella, 2023
Oil on canvas
79,5 x 59 cm
R25 000 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Stillness I, 2023
Oil on canvas
55 x 54 cm
R9 400 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Stillness II, 2024
Oil on canvas
55.5 x 50.5 cm
R13 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Sun Harmonics, 2024
Oil on canvas
64.5 x 54.5 cm
R14 900 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
The Bay, 2024
Oil on canvas
53,5 x 44 cm
R9 400 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Under Stars, 2023
Oil on canvas
69 x 54 cm
R13500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Wind on Wind, 2024
Oil on canvas
73 x 55.5 cm
R16 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Afterglow, 2024
Oil on canvas
53,5 x 51 cm
R9 400 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Chorus of Cicadas, 2023
Oil on canvas
88 x 64,5 cm
R15 500 (inc VAT)



Michael Beckurts
Colour Studies I-II, 2024
Watercolour on Fabriano
14,5 x 12,5 cm
R1 950 (inc VAT) framed



Michael Beckurts
Colour Studies III-V, 2024
Watercolour on Fabriano
22 x 19,5 cm
R2 950 (inc VAT) framed



Michael Beckurts
Colour Studies VI-XII, 2024
Watercolour on Fabriano
Dimensions variable
R2 650 (inc VAT)



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