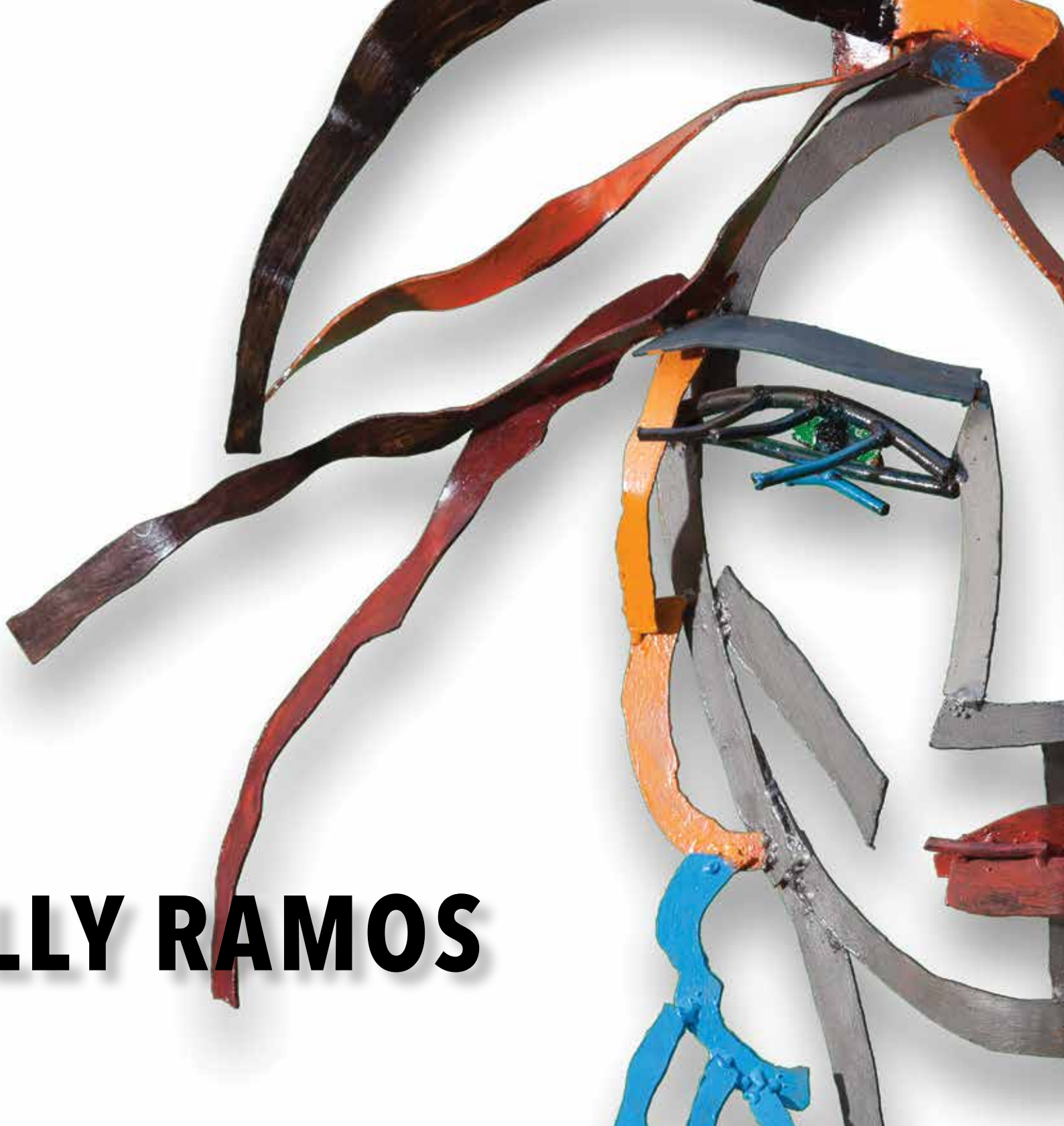
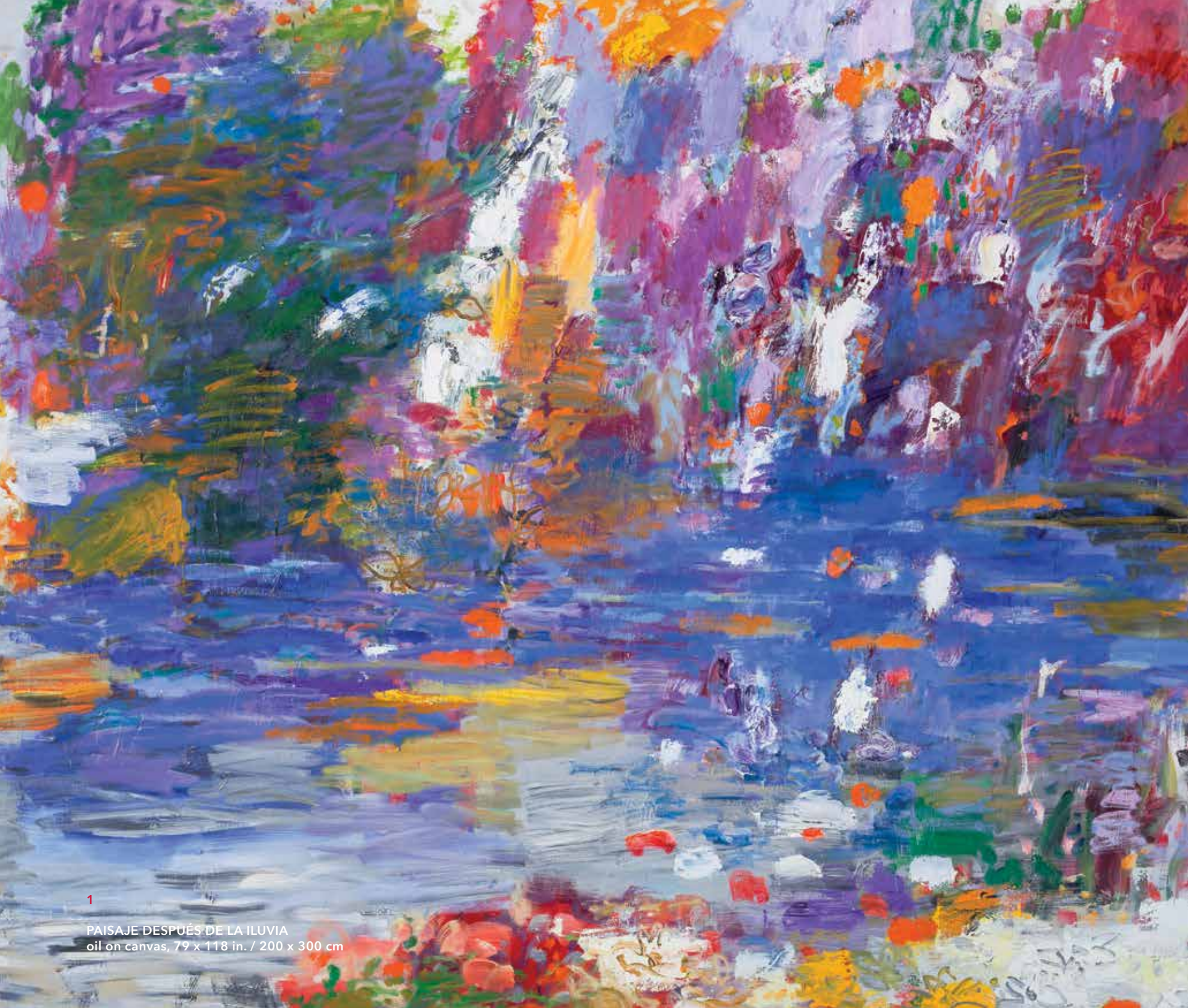


WILLY RAMOS



1

PAISAJE DESPUÉS DE LA ILUVIA
oil on canvas, 79 x 118 in. / 200 x 300 cm

WILLY RAMOS

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WILLY RAMOS | ARIGUANI

Ariguaní comes from an indigenous word meaning flow of clear waters. It's a sacred river for the Arhuacos who live in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in northern Colombia, with most of them settled in Nabusimake.

The works in this exhibition make references to the colour, the light and the energy given off by these landscapes, to the mystery of the colours blended with the breezes that delicately caress our bodies, moulding our hair as it lightly brushes against our cheeks. Willy opens up a world smelling of fresh grass, of fertile, moist soil, a world of impossible colours; he takes us by the hand and invites us to take a stroll through his world, a world filled with passion.

Willy Ramos' mastery with the brush is evident in each of his works, including painted iron sculptures that whisk you away to an unforgettable Caribbean world packed with warmth and sensuality, oils that take you straight to the river of five colours. His creativity has no bounds, and with his enormous skill in combining colours and materials that may at first seem impossible, he achieves harmony in every brush stroke, in every bent iron, forging beauty in each of his pieces.

I'm going to tell you how he came to be in Spain, how he made Valencia his home and how the Mediterranean light made him fall in love with this country and decide to stay and form a family.

When my father was eight years old, back in 1962, a Spanish friar came to my grandmother Teodosia's house. The friar mentioned that he needed a boy to help him out in the church and my grandfather didn't hesitate to choose my father, the quietest and most solitary of his children, who spent hours

2 AMARILLO DE OTOÑO | oil on canvas, 49 x 58 in. / 114 x 146 cm

making his own toys with bits of wood and rusty nails. As you can understand, back then it was strange for a child to be alone for so many hours, surrounded by the nature that he would make his very own world. My father has never stopped playing, but now he has colours, paper, iron and tools, and he uses them to create a fantastic world that we can all enjoy in this exhibition.

So with no time at all to take it all in, he went to live with Pepe the friar, doing various chores, from ringing the bells to taking food by donkey to the nuns who lived nearby.

My father comes from a humble background in northern Colombia. His birthplace is Pueblo Bello, which is a curious name seeing that everything he touches he turns into beauty. He lived with the friar until he was fourteen and because he was so well-behaved and such good company they decided to bring him to Spain, so in the summer of 1968 my father boarded a ship that took a month to reach Spanish shores.

Without knowing it, he had set out on the biggest decision he would ever take in his life, to change country and continent and start from scratch. When he arrived, he could barely read and write, but thanks to Faustino, his teacher, tutor and friend, he learned not only to read and write but also to understand, form an opinion and discuss all the books he could lay his hands on.

In September, when they were due to return to Colombia, my father opted to remain in Spain, such a small, courageous boy. The Capuchin Order in Valencia gave him a home for a while, until at the age of fifteen he was taken in by a Valencian family headed by Miren and José Luis. Many happy memories bubble up when he speaks about them. That same year he enrolled at the Escuela de Bellas Artes de San Carlos, and on completing his studies there, he went to Barcelona, Paris and Urbino in Italy to expand his knowledge of art. He walked round the cities making portraits in the streets and he remembers the queues that would form around him; this encouraged him to keep painting and never lose hope that one day he would make it.

On his return to Spain he threw himself wholeheartedly into painting, exhibiting in the gallery owned by my maternal grandfather Adolfo... and that's how my parents met, fell in love and, most importantly, became a team that launched itself enthusiastically into the art world. Pepa is Willy's wife and my mother, one of the strongest people I know, and I can honestly say that without her many of these projects wouldn't see the light of day. We're a team, we support each other and watch out for each other, we stick together in the face of adversity and we always find a way to work things out together.

I also wish to focus on Willy Ramos' use of the line in his work, because although it's true that this exhibition is a festival of colour, I believe that Willy is a great draughtsman whose colourful oils and sculptures are structured by line drawing which provides a sense of order to the whole composition. Maria Zambrano sheds light on this topic: "The drawn line is pure intelligence in bodies, in things, and, as a direct child of it, it achieves the feat of making the invisible visible."

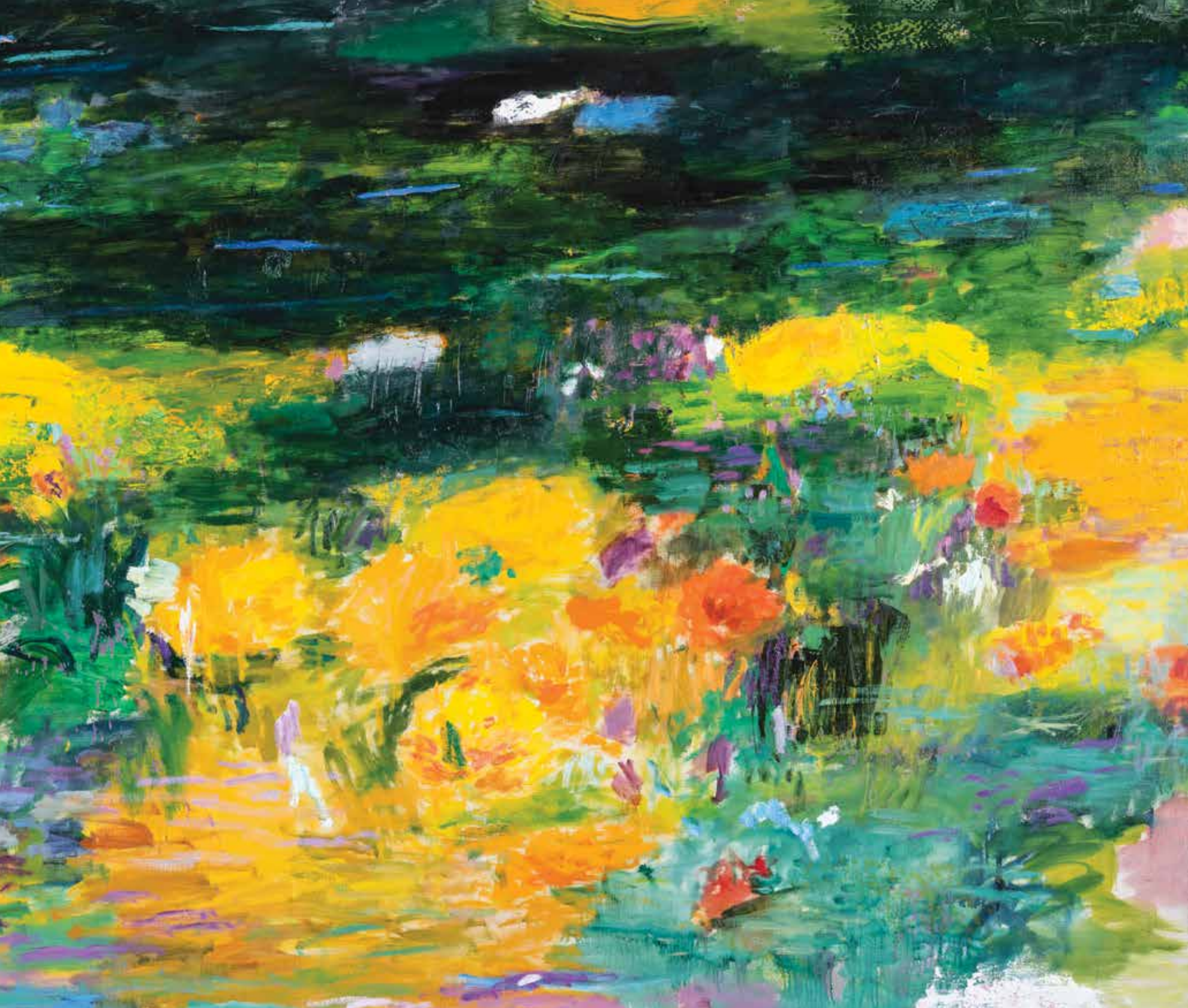
To conclude, I am very thankful to Pepa Cano, because without her nothing would be possible, and to Willy Ramos for giving us the chance to enjoy this show.

Carmen Ramos Cano

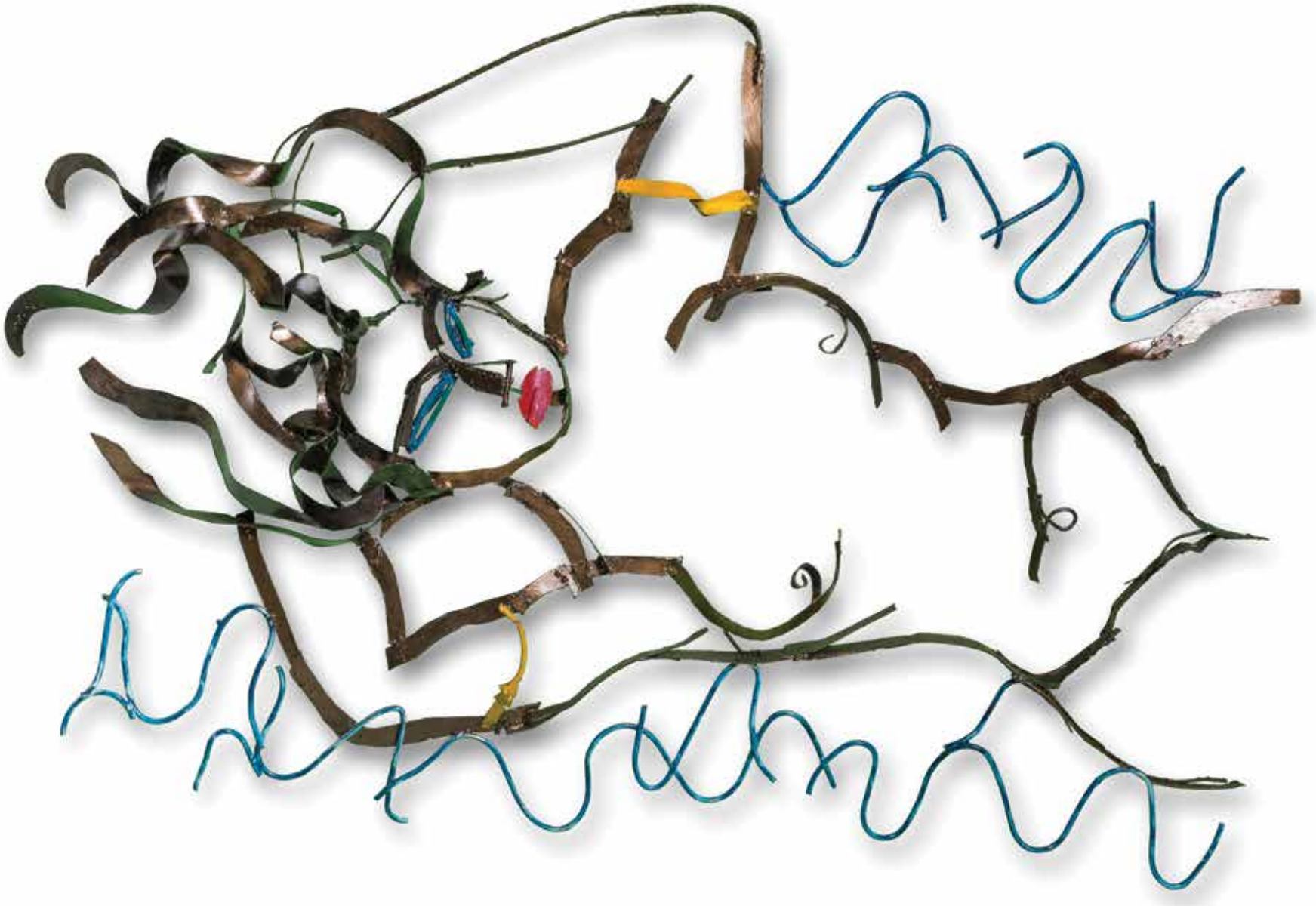
Translated from the original text in Spanish

3

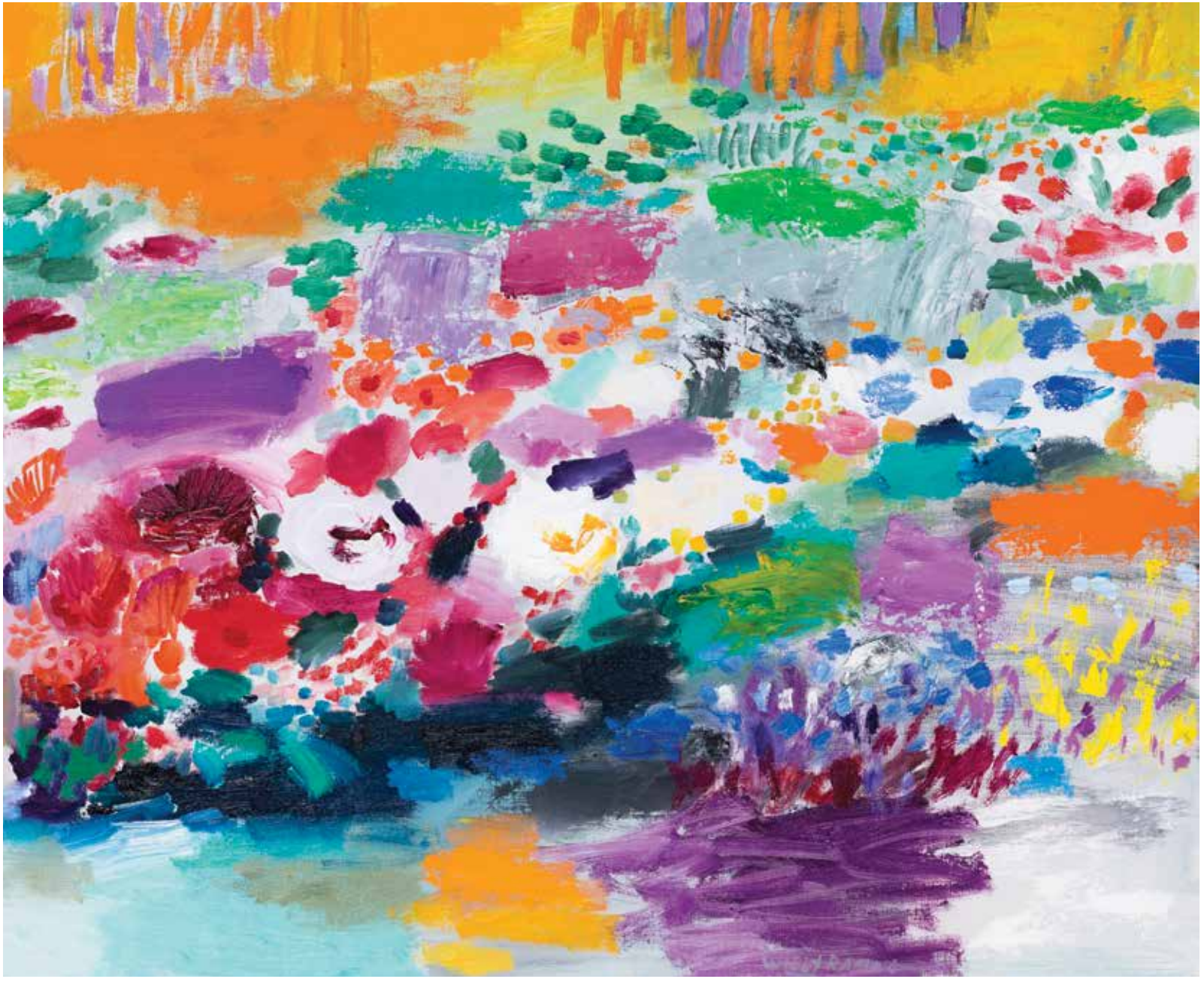
RIO CON FLORES AMARILLAS | oil on canvas, 59 x 98 in. / 150 x 250 cm



COMO UN RIO DE FLORES | oil on canvas, 79 x 118 in. / 200 x 300 cm



DAMA DORMIDA SOBRE LAS OLAS DE LA VIDA VI | polychrome metal, 38 x 57 x 4 in. / 96 x 145 x 9 cm



6

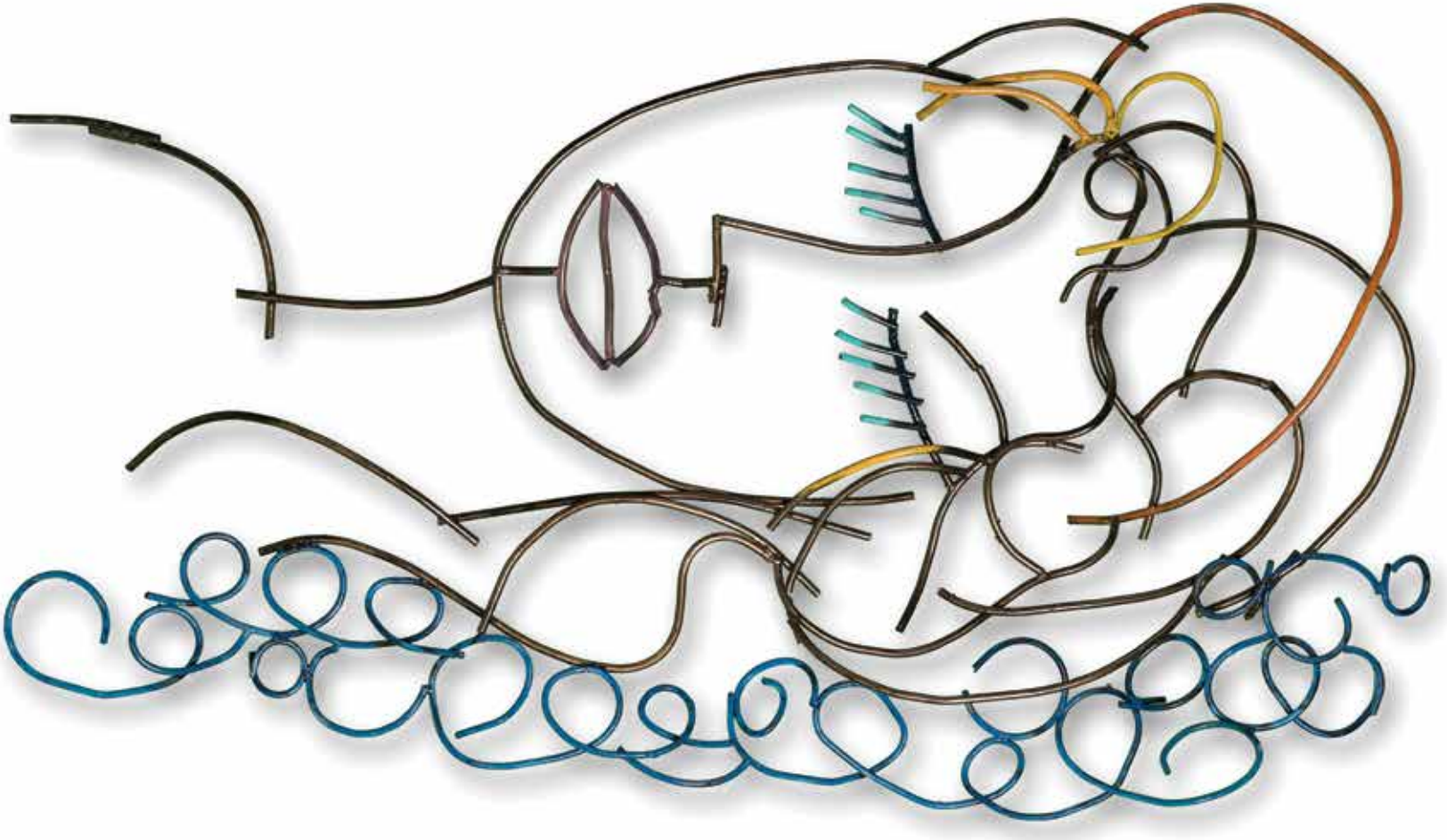
NOSTALGIA DE UN VERDE PERDIDO | oil on canvas, 24 x 29 in. / 60 x 73 cm

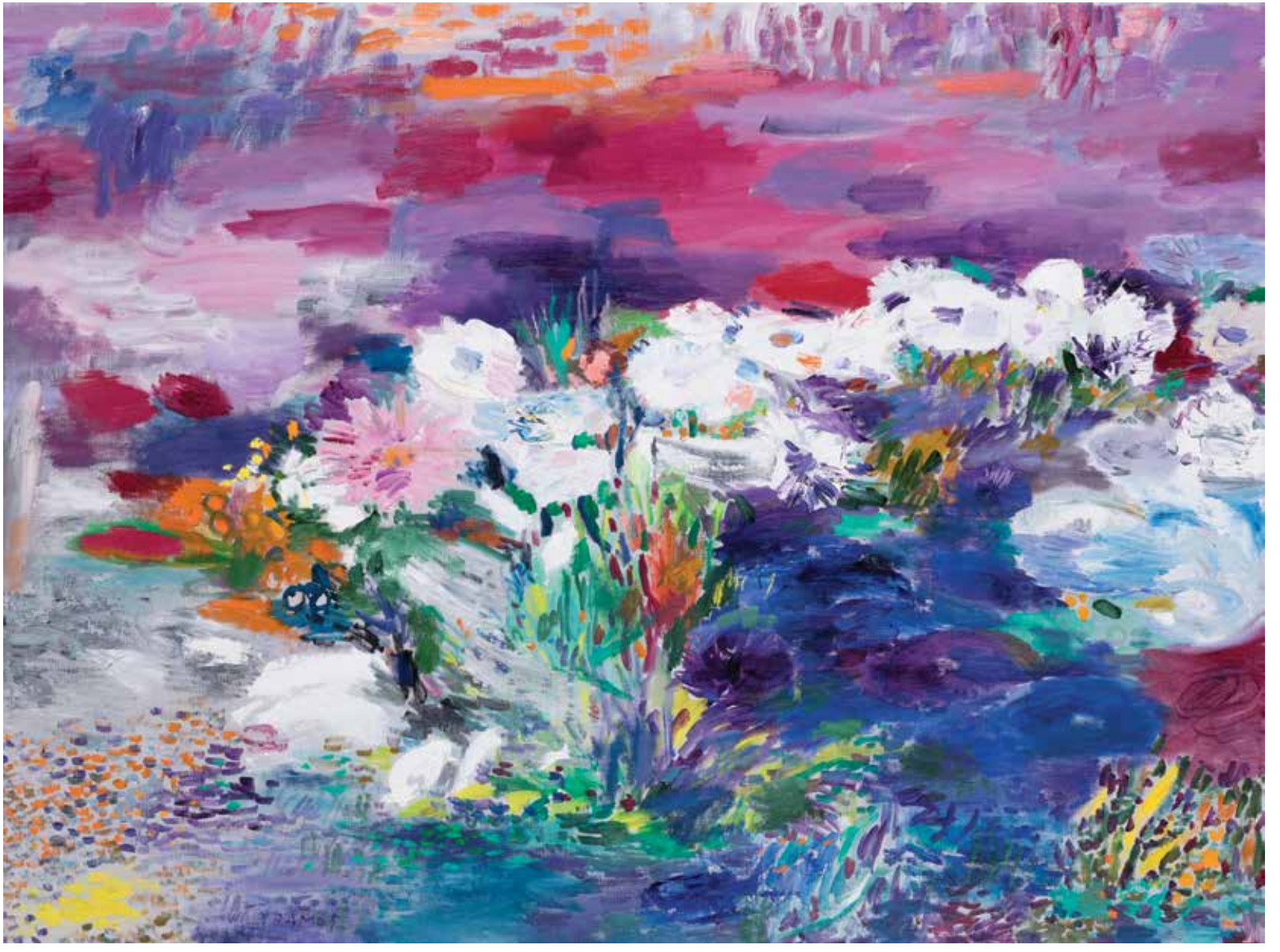
7

TULIPANES PARA PEPA | oil on canvas, 57 x 45 in. / 146 x 114 cm

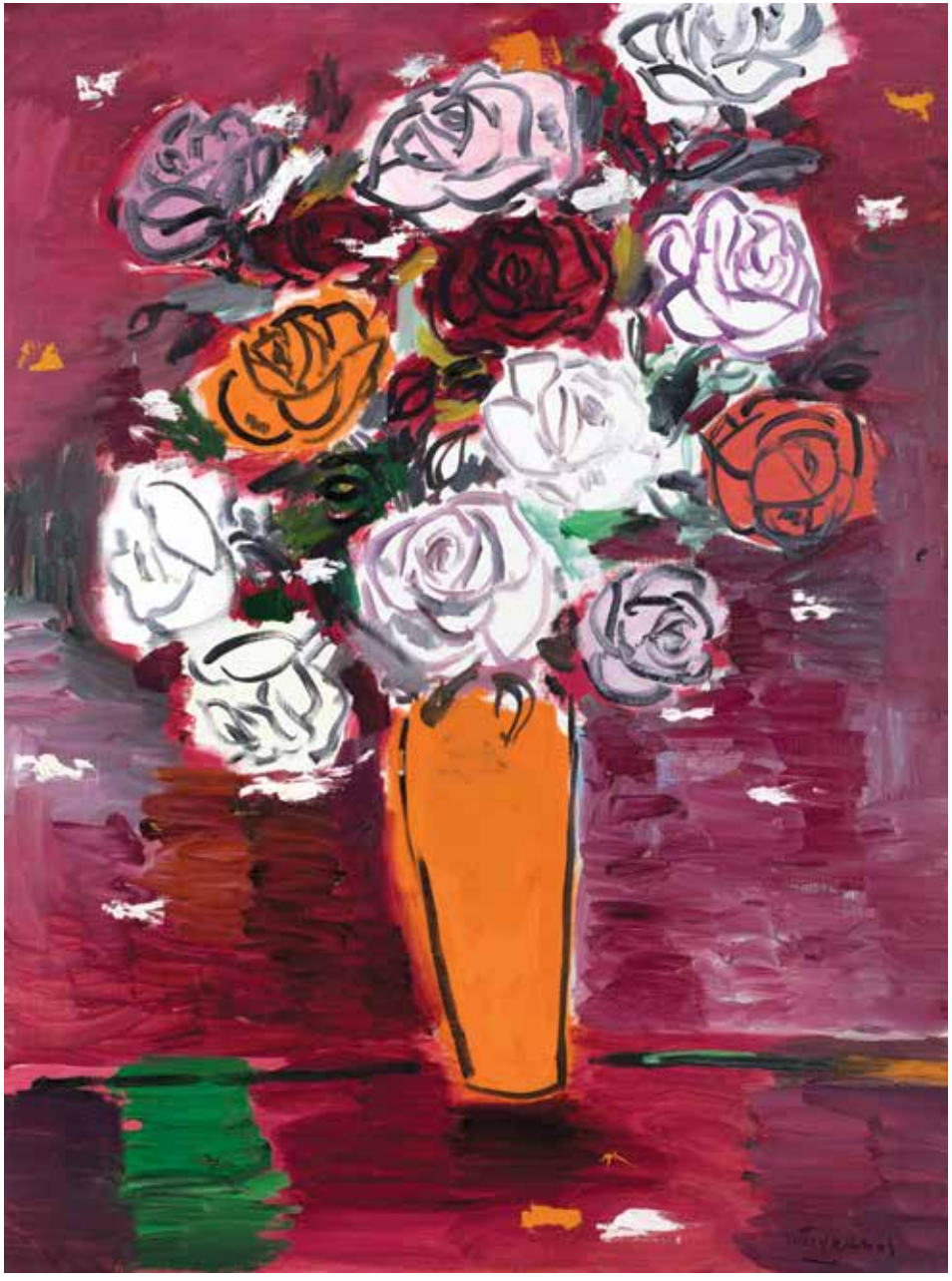
8

DAMA DORMIDA SOBRE LAS OLAS DE LA VIDA III | polychrome metal, 41 x 69 x 5 in. / 103 x 175 x 12 cm





MARGARITAS | oil on canvas, 38 x 51 in. / 97 x 130 cm



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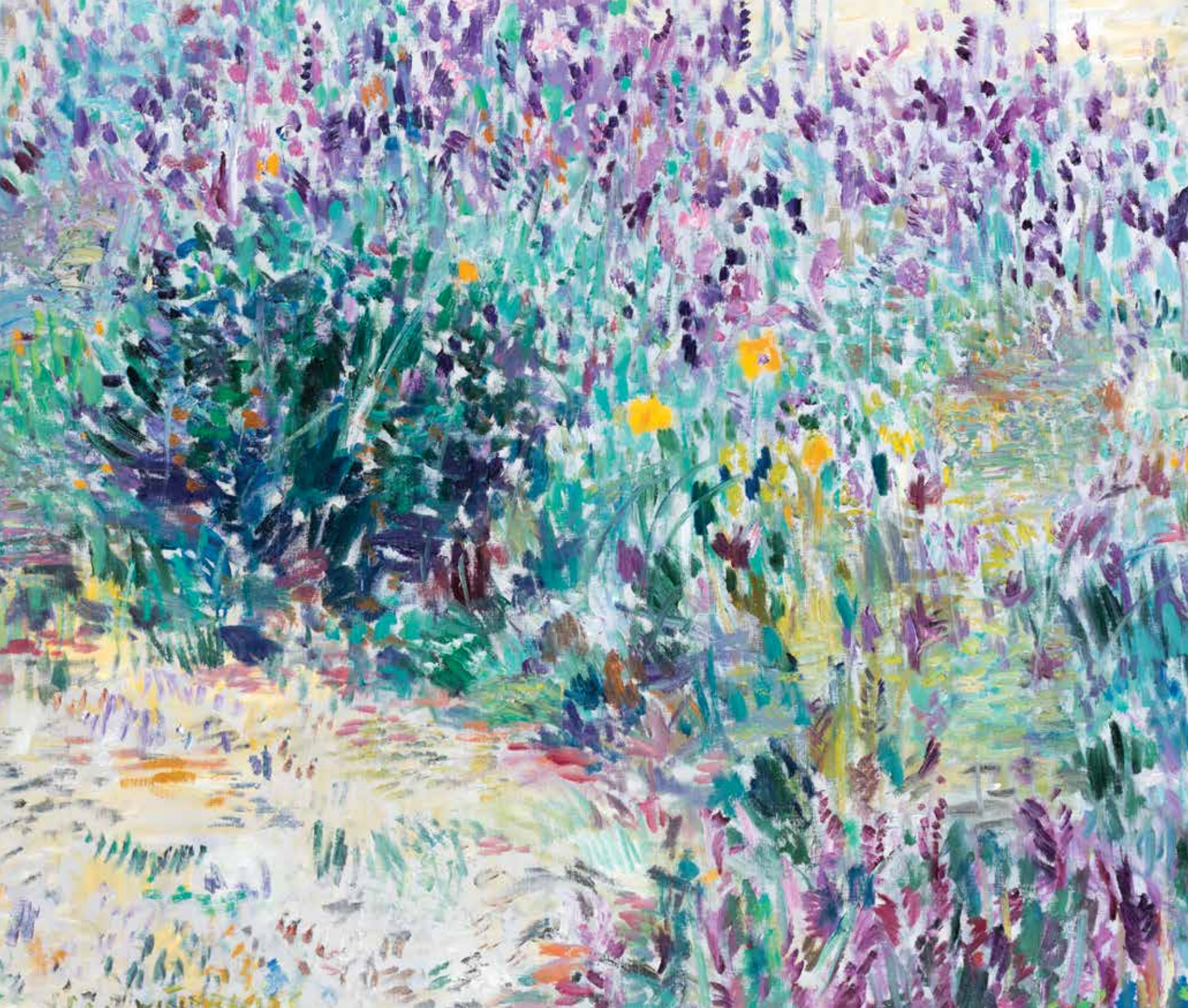
ROSAS BLANCAS | oil on canvas, 51 x 38 in. / 130 x 97 cm



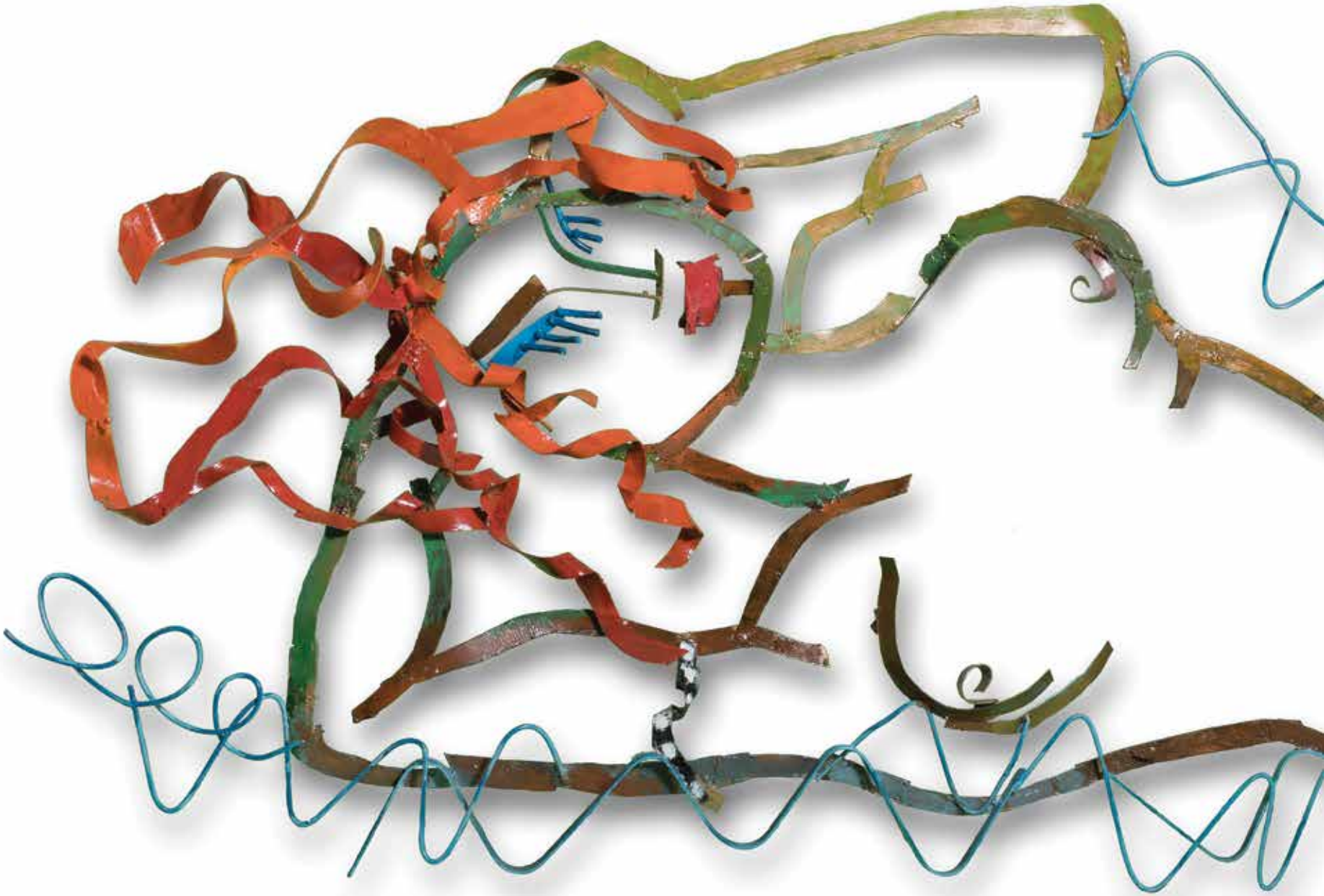
FLORES VIOLETAS | oil on canvas, 38 x 51 in. / 97 x 130 cm

12

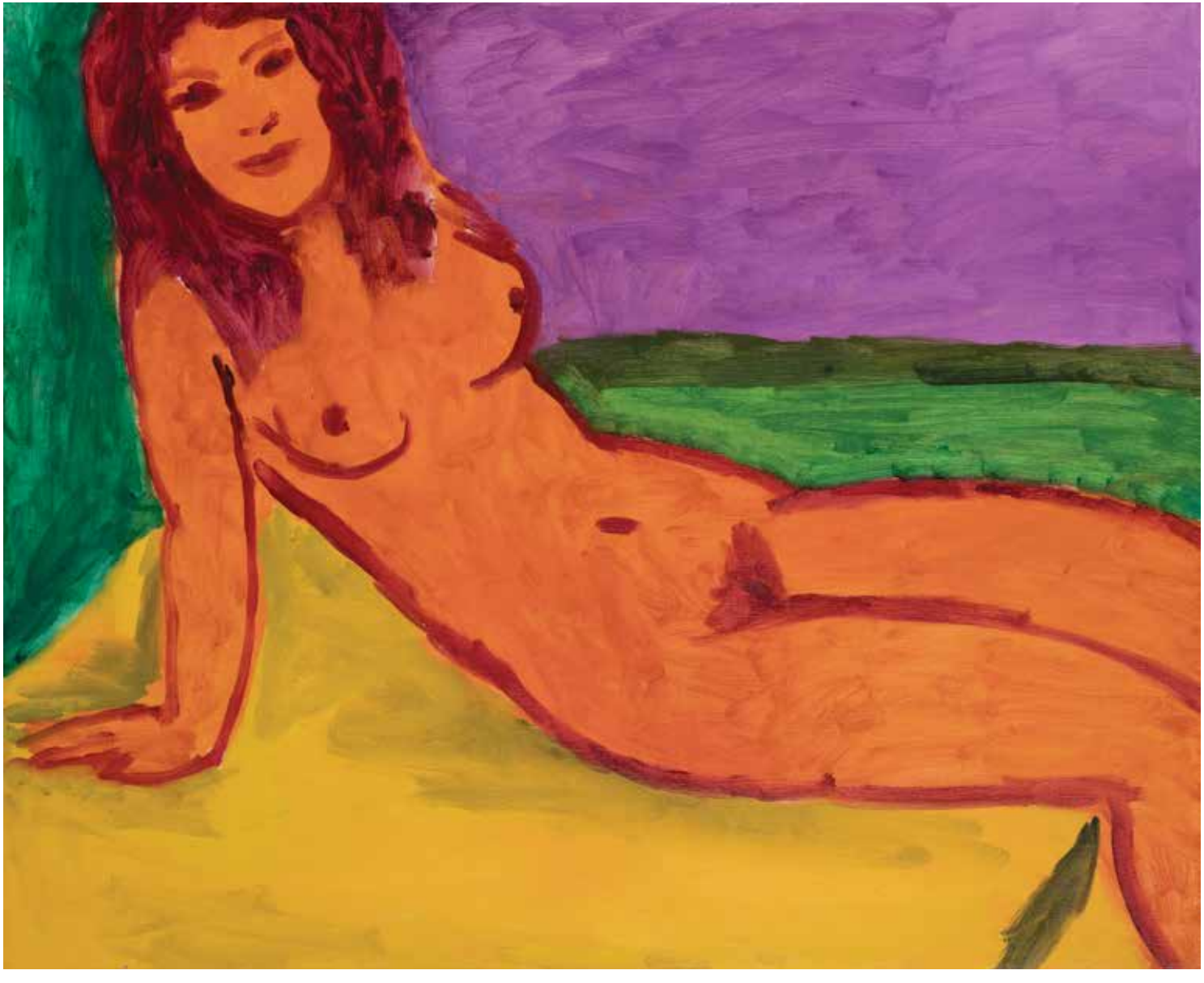
FLORES SILVESTRES | oil on canvas, 38 x 51 in. / 97 x 130 cm

13

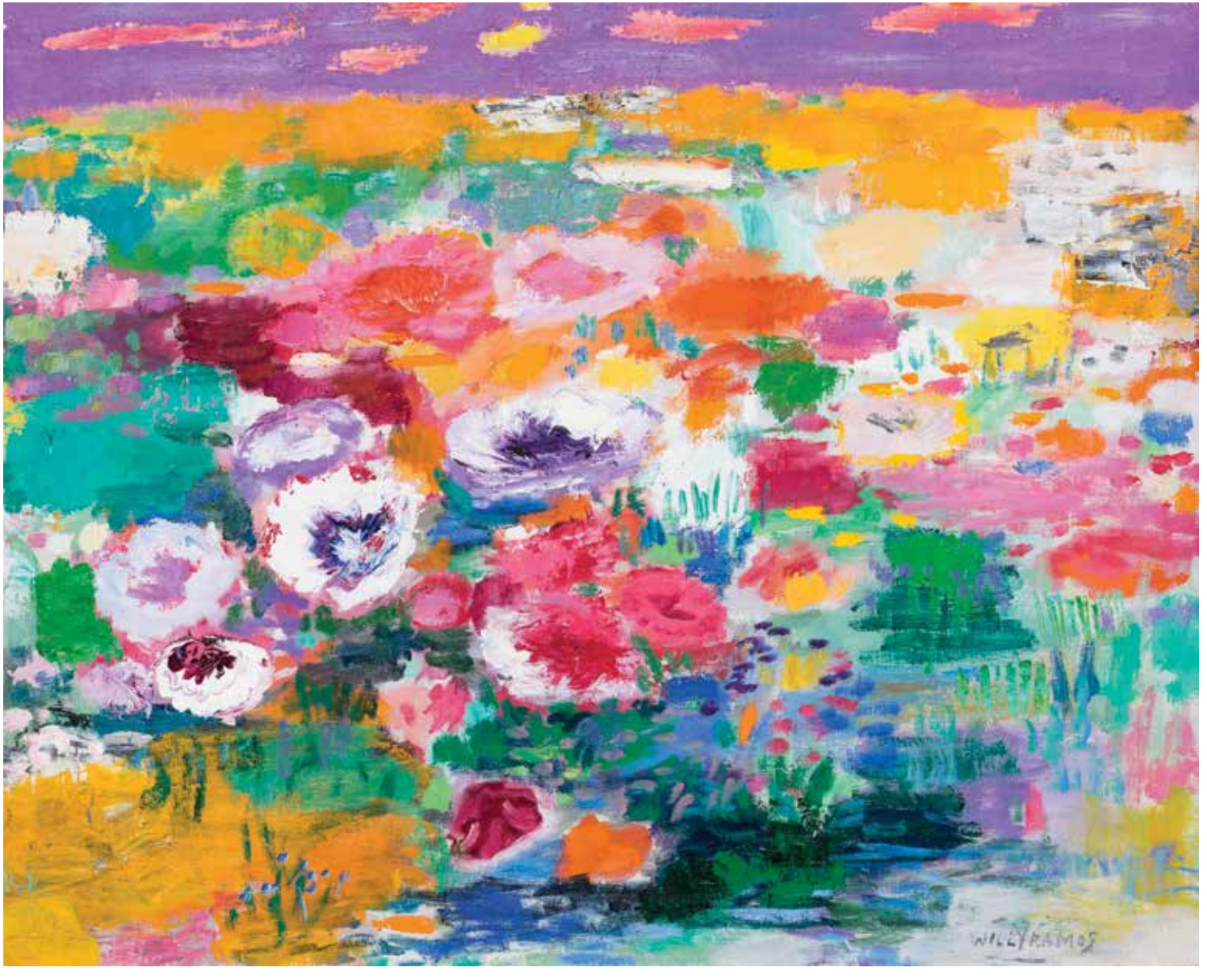
PAISAJE MEDITERRÁNEO | oil on canvas, 38 x 51 in. / 97 x 130 cm



DAMA DORMIDA SOBRE LAS OLAS DE LA VIDA IV | polychrome metal, 32 x 69 x 3 in. / 82 x 175 x 8 cm

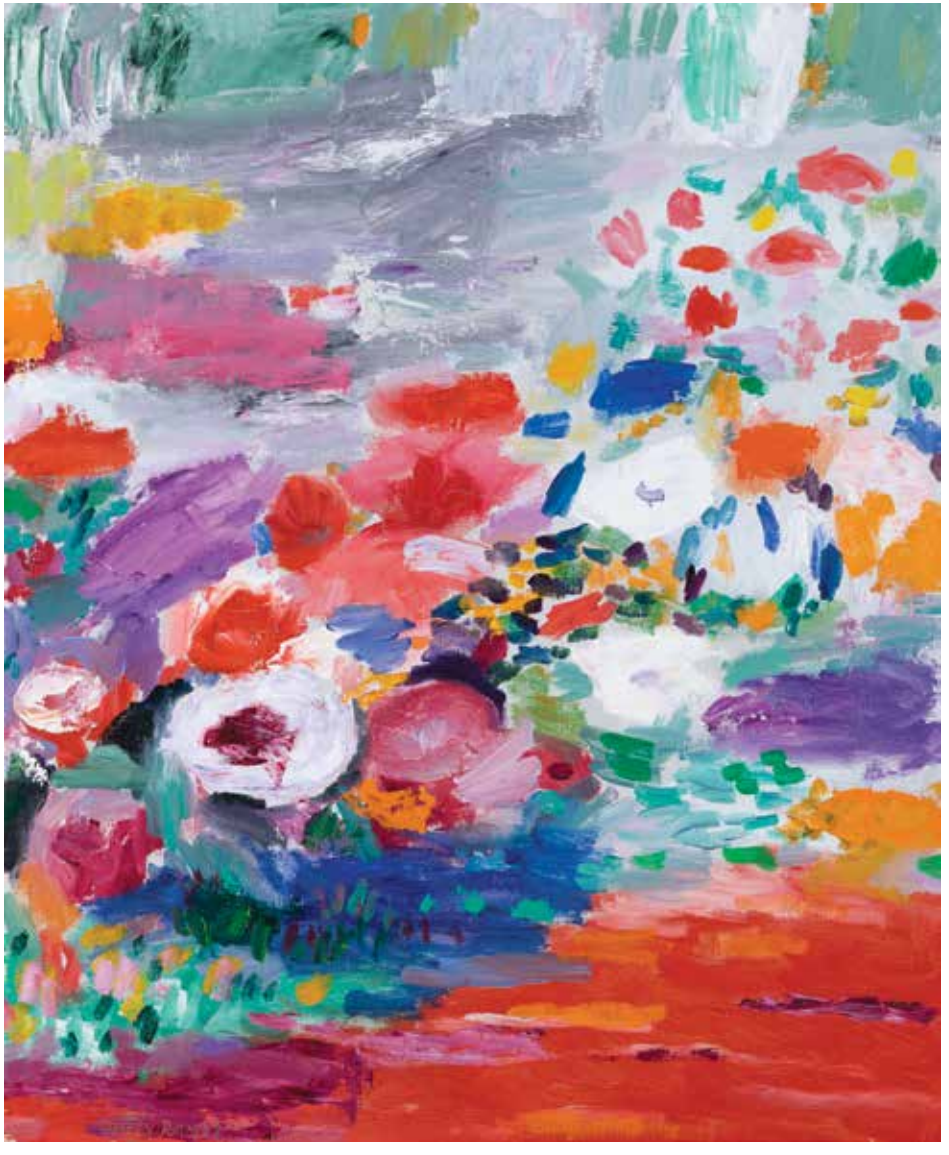


DESNUDÓ RECLINADO | oil on canvas, 32 x 39 in. / 81 x 100 cm



16

JARDIN DE PEPA | oil on canvas, 32 x 39 in. / 81 x 100 cm



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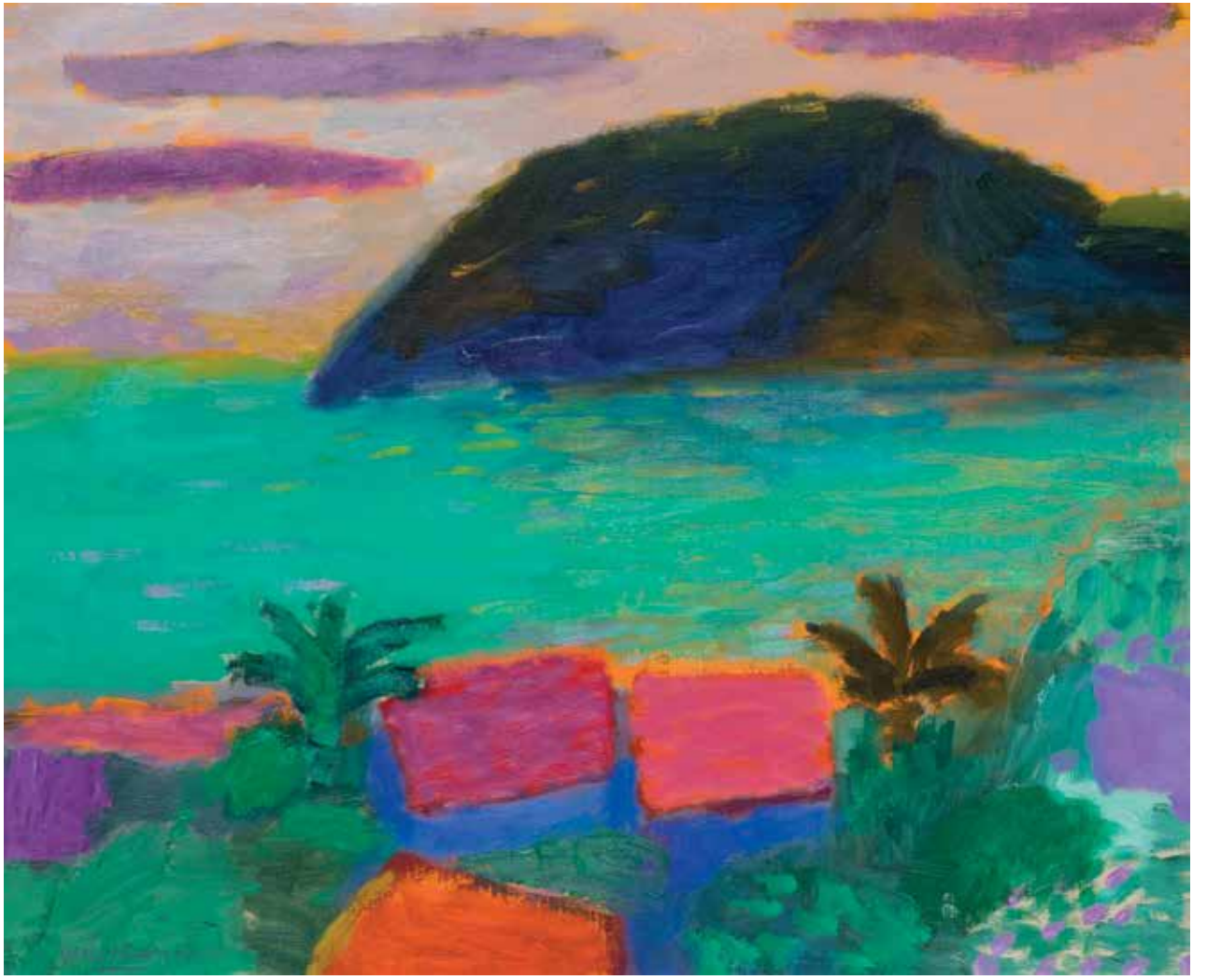
AUNQUE TE ESCONDAS TE VEO | oil on canvas, 29 x 24 in. / 73 x 60 cm

MIRANDO EL MAR | polychrome metal, 35 x 29 x 8 in. / 90 x 75 x 21 cm



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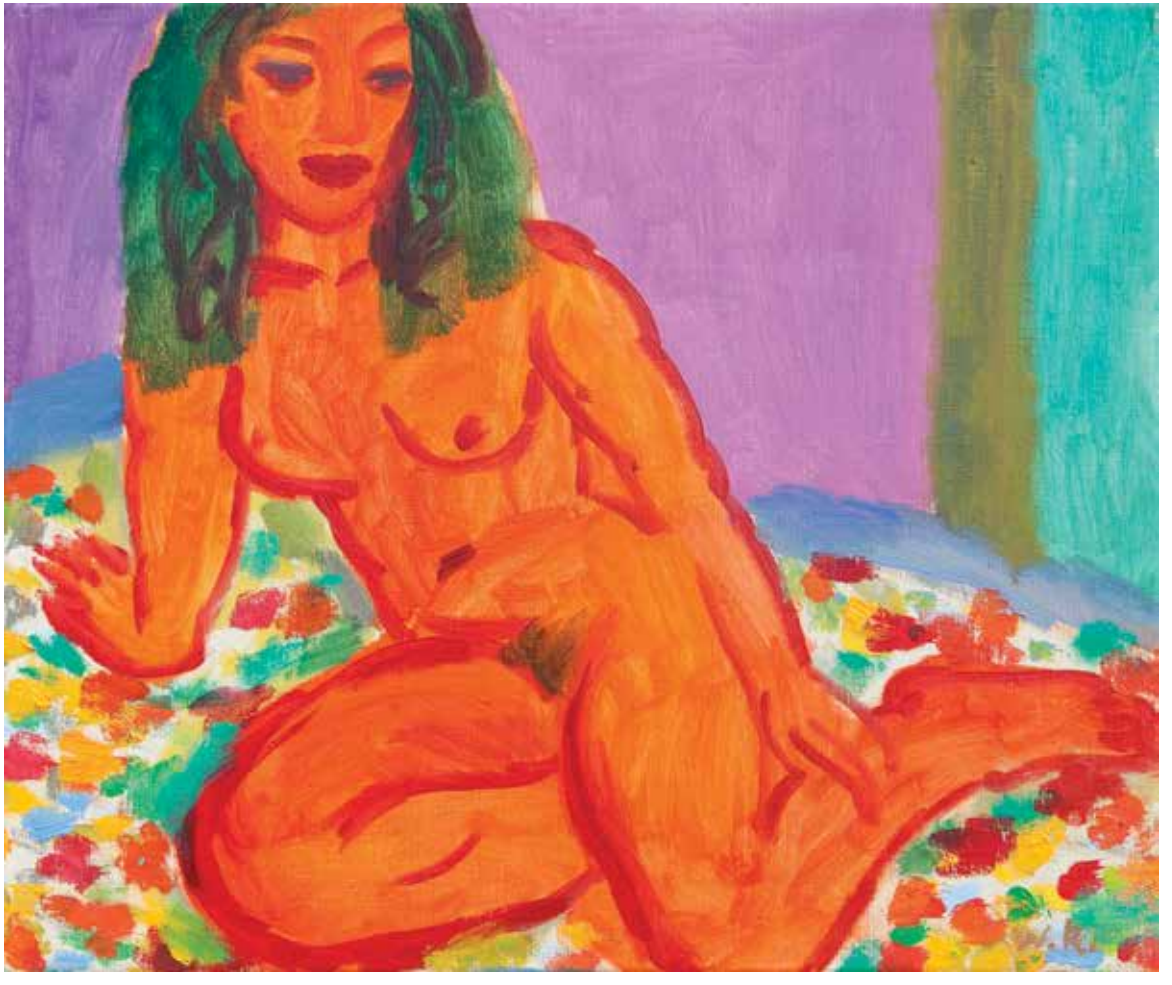
DESDE MI VENTANA | oil on canvas, 24 x 29 in. / 60 x 73 cm



20

MUCHACHA BONITA | oil on canvas, 20 x 24 in. / 50 x 62 cm

WILLY RAMOS

b. 1954 in Pueblo Bello, Colombia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS SINCE 2000

2018 Willy Ramos, Galerie David Bardia, Madrid, Spain
Ariguaní, Diputación de Alicante, Spain
Ariguaní, La Lonja del Pescado, Alicante, Spain
Ariguaní, Bodegas Portia, Aranda de Duero, Spain
2017 Jardines encantados, Galeria Alba Cabrera, Valencia, Spain
2016 El enigma del color, Galería Gabriel Vanrell, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
Odon Wagner Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
2015 La memoria del color, Reial Cercle Artistic, Barcelona, Spain
2014 Forjando el color, Galería Alba Cabrera, Valencia, Spain
El color en la memoria, Galería Espiral, Cantabria, Spain
La memoria del color, Museo Centro del Carmen, Valencia, Spain
Oír el color, Galería David Bardia, Madrid, Spain
2013 Huellas, Muekles Colombia, Barranquilla
Colores selváticos, pestañas celestes, Gabriel Vanrell Galería, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
2012 Celebración del Mundo, Odon Wagner Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
2011 Arte en papel, International First Festival of Graphics Arts, Fundación Saura, Cuenca, Spain
Orquídea loca, Galería 9, Valencia, Spain
Un Mundo Luminoso, Itinerant, Palacio del Almudí y Sala de Exposiciones El Martillo, Murcia, Spain
Paseando entre colores, Sala de exposiciones José Hierro, Noja Cantabria, Spain
Colores sobre papel, Espiral Gallery, Cantabria, Spain
Cuando el color baila, Gabriel Vanrell Gallery, Mallorca, Spain
2010 La Poesía de Willy Ramos, Odon Wagner Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
Encuentros, Galería Bisel, Cartagena, Spain
2009 Pura vida, Galería Set Espai d'Art, Javea, Spain
El color de los días, Espacio Grupo Forja & Galería 9, Valencia, Spain
2008 El río, Quinta Galería, Bogota, Colombia
El color en la memoria, Gallery Chys, Murcia, Spain
El color o el calor del sexo, Galería 9, Valencia, Spain
El siroco de la tarde, Muvim, Valencia, Spain
El siroco de la tarde, Ramón Gaya Museum, Murcia, Spain
2007 Bilder, Zeichnungen, Skulpturen, Am Schweizer Platz Galerie, Frankfurt am Main, Germany and Kunsthaus Schöne, Andernach, Germany
El Siroco de la Tarde, Colombian Embassy, Madrid, Spain
2006 Painting as Offering, Peter Bartlow Gallery, Chicago, USA
Los colores de musica, Galería 9, Valencia, Spain
Malerei als Opfergabe, Galerie Zangbieri, Basel, Switzerland
2005 Mediterranean Splendour, Odon Wagner Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
Casa de America, Madrid, Spain
2004 Nabusimake, Museo de la Ciudad, Valencia, Spain
2003 La atracción del amante, Galería CC 22, Madrid, Spain
Huellas, Muekles, San Pedro del Pinatar, Murcia, Spain
The Colour of Silence, Peter Bartlow Gallery, Chicago, USA
2002 La memoria del color, Fundación Caja Murcia, Madrid, Galería Bisel, Cartagena, Spain, and Casa de Cultura San Pedro del Pinatar, Murcia, Spain
Naturalezas vivas, Casa de Cultura Pucol, Valencia, Spain
2001 La luz del principio, Galería CC 22, Madrid, Spain
2000 El color de los dias, La Ribera, Galería de Arte, Murcia, Spain
Sobre papel, Peter Bartlow Gallery, Chicago, USA

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Caja Rural, Murcia, Spain
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Caja Murcia, Murcia, Spain
Museo de Arte Moderno de Pedralba, Valencia, Spain
Banco de la República, Bogota, Spain
Fundación Cultural CAM, Murcia, Spain
Casa de Cultura de Pego, Spain
Casa de Cultura de Belrreguart, Spain
Ayuntamiento de la Villa de Canals
Fundación de Arte, L'Oreal, Madrid, Spain
Casa de Cultura de Sagunto, Valencia, Spain
Casa de Cultura de Puzol, Valencia, Spain
Fundación BanCaja, Valencia, Spain
Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain
Universidad Nacional Autonoma, Mexico
Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo, Marbella, Spain
Museo de Bellas Artes, Murcia, Spain

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Front Cover: MIRANDO EL MAR (detail), image 18

Back Cover: ROSAS BLANCAS (detail), image 10

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