

*Q: Can you tell us about this body of work, exhibited in Capricorn Rising?*

M: The exhibition highlights paintings that I worked on in 2022 in Jersey City as part of the Monira Foundation Residency. I was thinking a lot about a winter palette—colors that expressed the changing light of a winter sky. I merged these ideas with more theatrical themes, as I generally do, and drew inspiration from the lighting and sets of ballet performances; I binged on an entire winter season of New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center! I see the stage as a kind of three-dimensional painting, and it takes shape in my mind as rhythm, lighting, geometry.

*Q: How does it differ from other series?*

M: There is a predictable consistency in my work; mostly I start with an idea of a ‘collection’, a visual story through color, and I work on variations of a theme, much like a fashion designer would work out a narrative in terms of the fabrics and shapes that define a collection. This particular body of work expresses a narrative through muted pink, black, white and blue tones. The forms come partly from prior experience and partly through invention that takes place organically in the studio.