

BERNHARD

VOGUE





Pitztal Valley, 56 x 76cm, Watercolour

Bernhard Vogel

24th October - 11th November

CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP
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Picture in your mind's eye a watercolour painting of San Gimignano in Tuscany. Yes, San Gimignano – the hilltop village in the heart of Italy's 'Chianti' region. The UNESCO World Heritage site. You're seeing something impossibly pretty. Maybe even a little twee.

Well, prepare for a shock. San Gimignano features in Bernhard Vogel's new collection for the Catto. Twee it is not. The painting depicts the village's famous medieval towers under siege. From below the antagonist is the voracious hillside, a raging swirl of angry greens decorated with chaotic blobs and lines. From above looms the oppressive sky, bearing down in ominous inky blues.

It's such a dramatic interpretation of what could otherwise be a clichéd scene. But that's Bernhard. He sees things differently. This, of course, is what we expect from the very best artists. We want a new way of looking at the familiar. We want to be prodded and jolted. The new show more than delivers.

Here's another example: Santa Maria Salute. Venice's Baroque masterpiece is another frequently depicted landmark, but Bernhard re-frames it entirely. His loose dancing brushwork gives the basilica a jarring instability. He throws in streaks of strange Halloween orange that look like fire. Bernhard makes the church appear as if it's about to go into orbit.

The show is bursting with these eye-popping visions of otherwise familiar places; Trafalgar Square, Isle De Paris, St Katherine's Dock, 5th Avenue and more. Time and again, Bernhard dispenses with 'correct' colour, chooses vertiginous aerial viewpoints and throws in bits of newsprint or cardboard – whatever achieves the desired effect.

This signature approach has propelled Bernhard's professional career since the early 1980s. Bernhard was born in Salzburg in 1961 and showed early promise as an artist. But he preferred sports. However, a motorcycle accident at the age of 23 forced him into a re-think. He began experimenting in watercolour, which reignited his passion for art. "I tried everything, and realised my painting could convey drama, mystery and secrets," he remembers.

Soon after, Bernhard's professional career began. He was part of the 1985 Salzburg Summer Academy, and had hosted his first London exhibition by 1990. Today, he exhibits in the major cities of the world and has collectors in every continent. He is one of the Catto's best loved and most established artists. This new collection shows why.



Houses of Parliament, 100 x 140cm, Mixed Media

N.Y. UN Young Adults,
100 x 200cm, Mixed Media







Trafalgar Square
56 x 42cm, Watercolour



Isle de Paris, 56 x 76cm, Watercolour



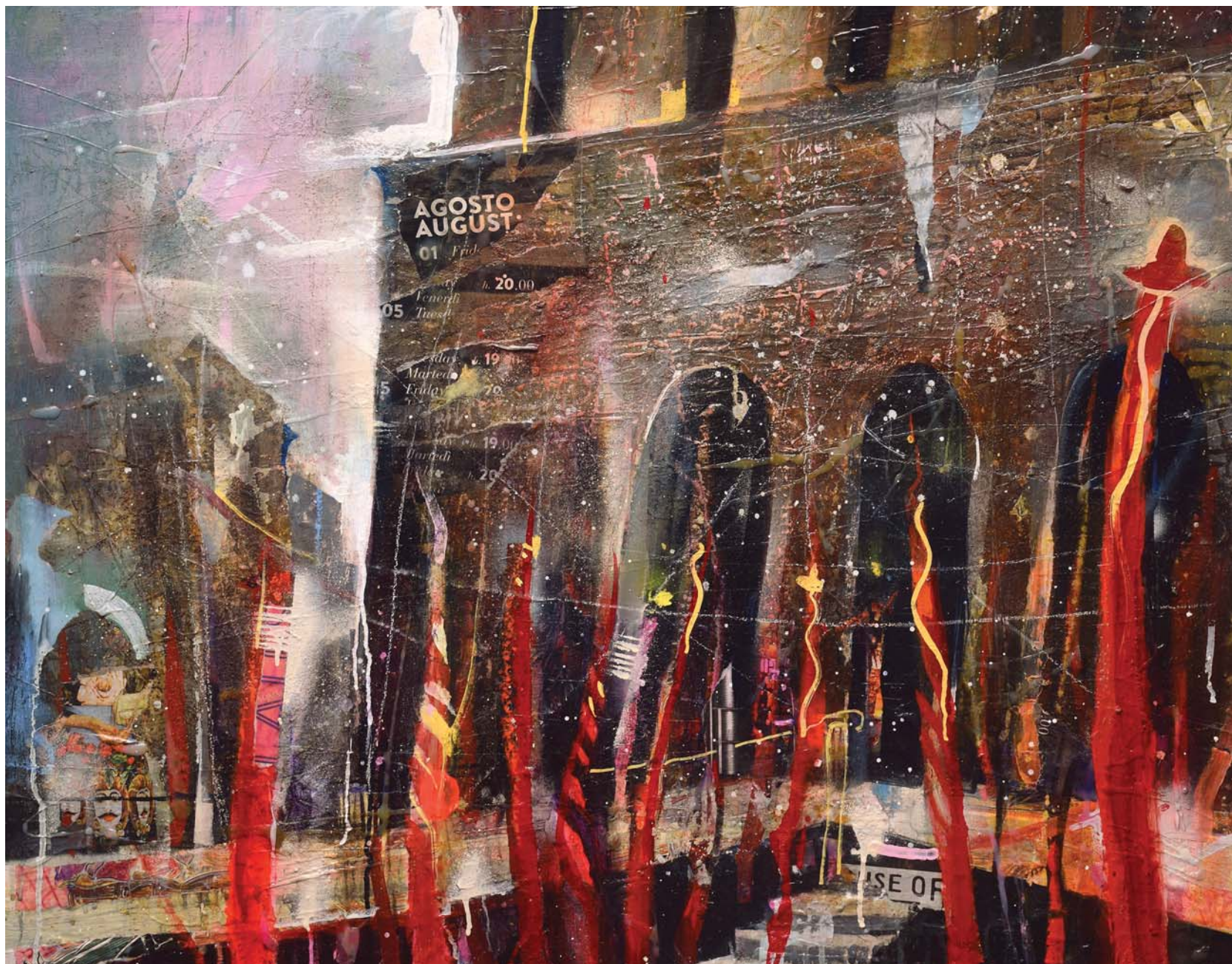
N.Y. Sunrise (Let it be), 80 x 80cm, Mixed Media



N.Y. Lower Manhattan, 80 x 80cm, Mixed Media

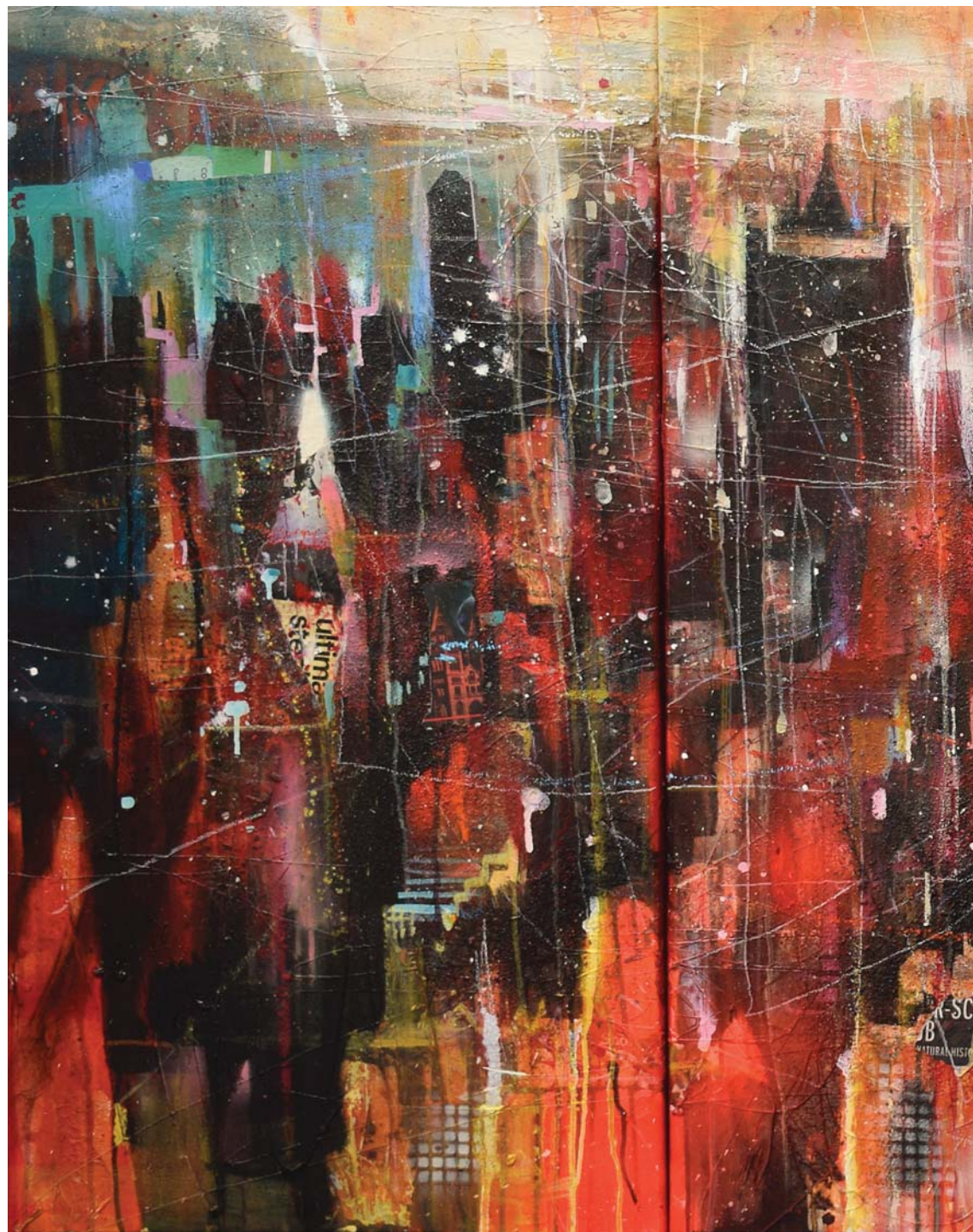


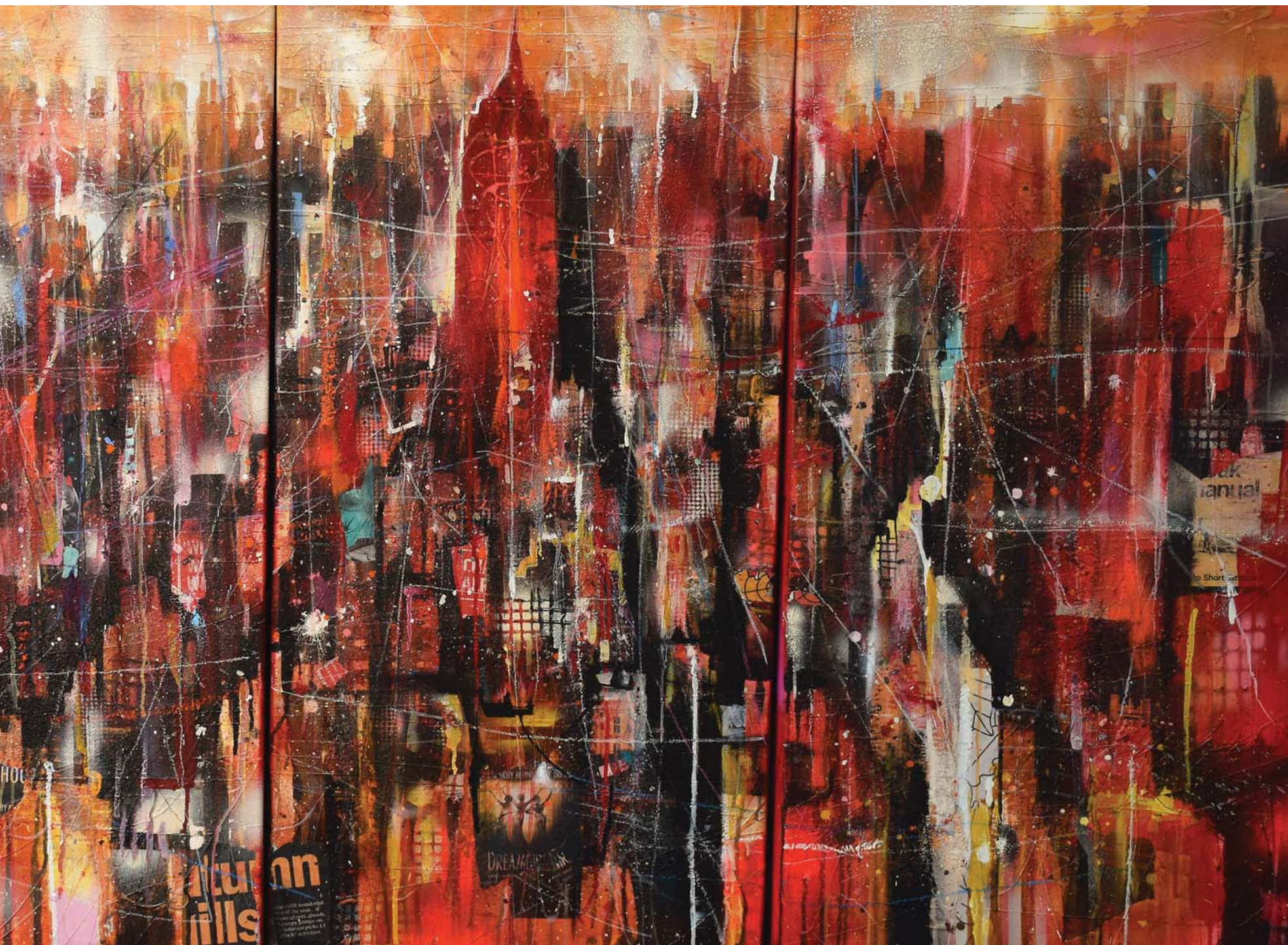
San Gimignano, 56 x 76cm, Watercolour



Palazzo Vendramin Calerghi, 80 x 100cm, Mixed Media

N.Y. Midtown (Autumn),
100 x 200cm, Mixed Media







St. Katharine's Docks, 56 x 76cm, Watercolour



Aviary Rooftop view, London, 90 x 120cm, Mixed Media



N.Y. Sundown (the King has arrived), 80 x 80cm, Mixed Media

Times Square (Planet Hollywood)
100 x 70cm, Mixed Media

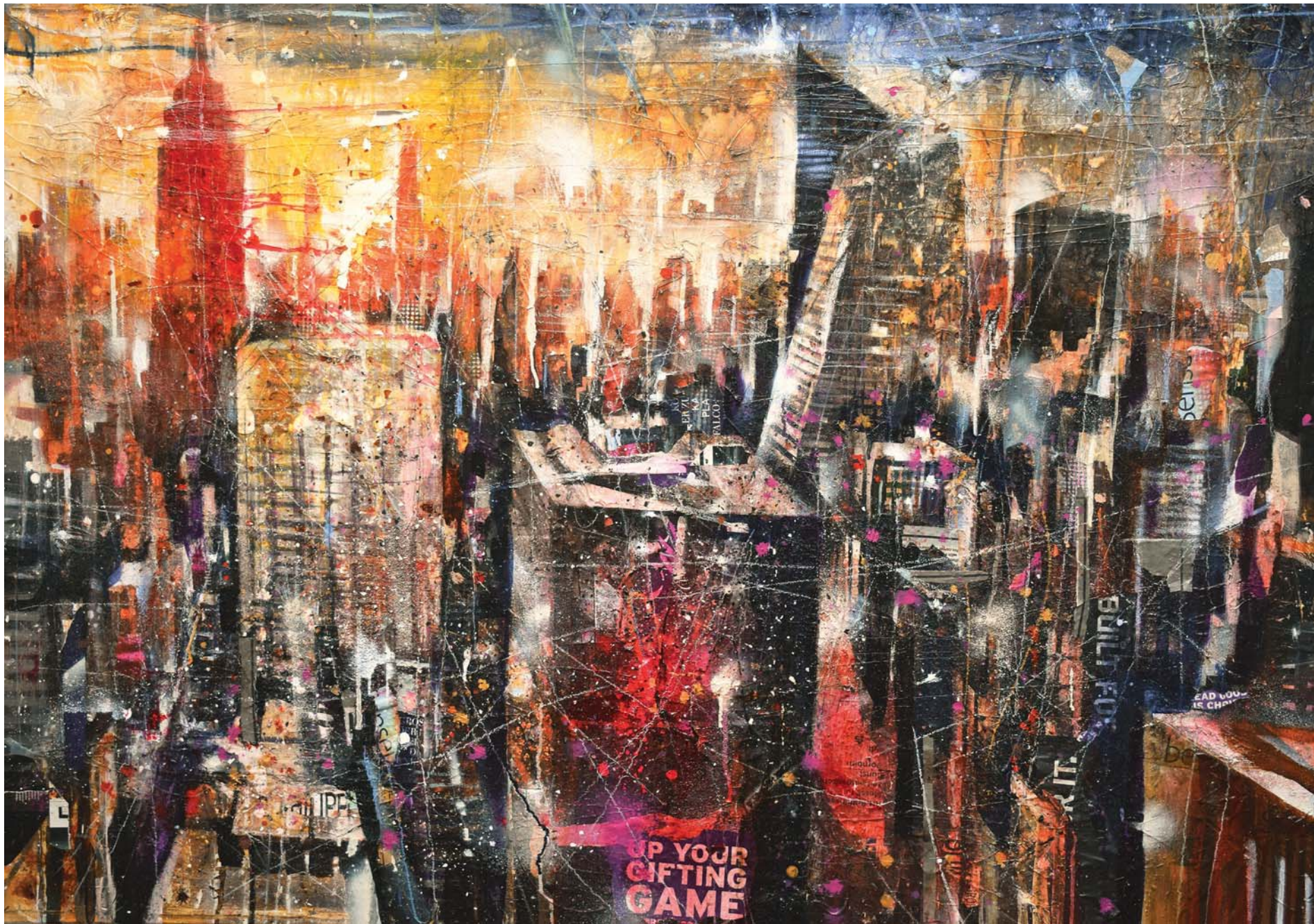




Rio del Ghetto
76 x 56cm, Watercolour

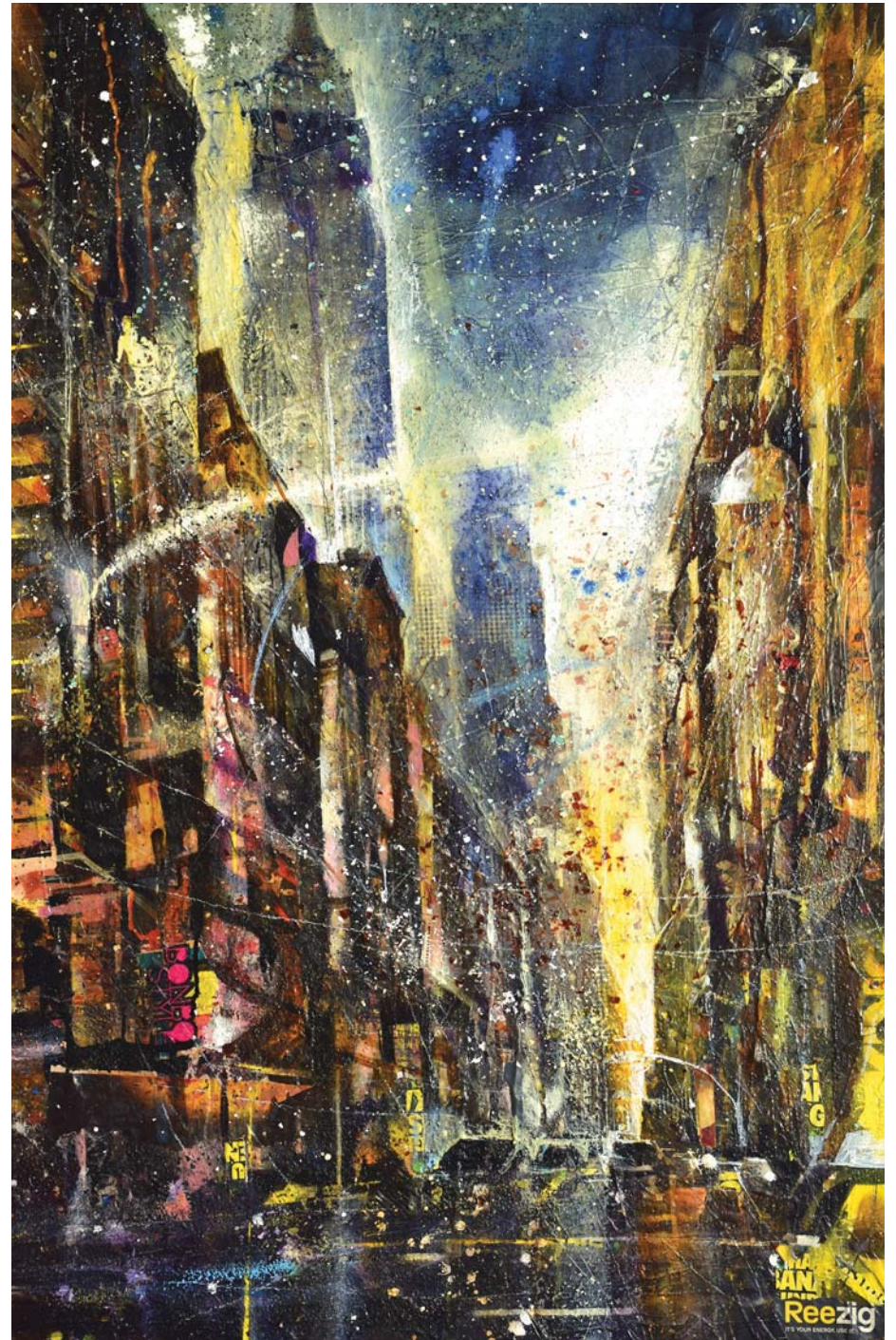


Santa Maria Salute, 56 x 76cm, Mixed Media

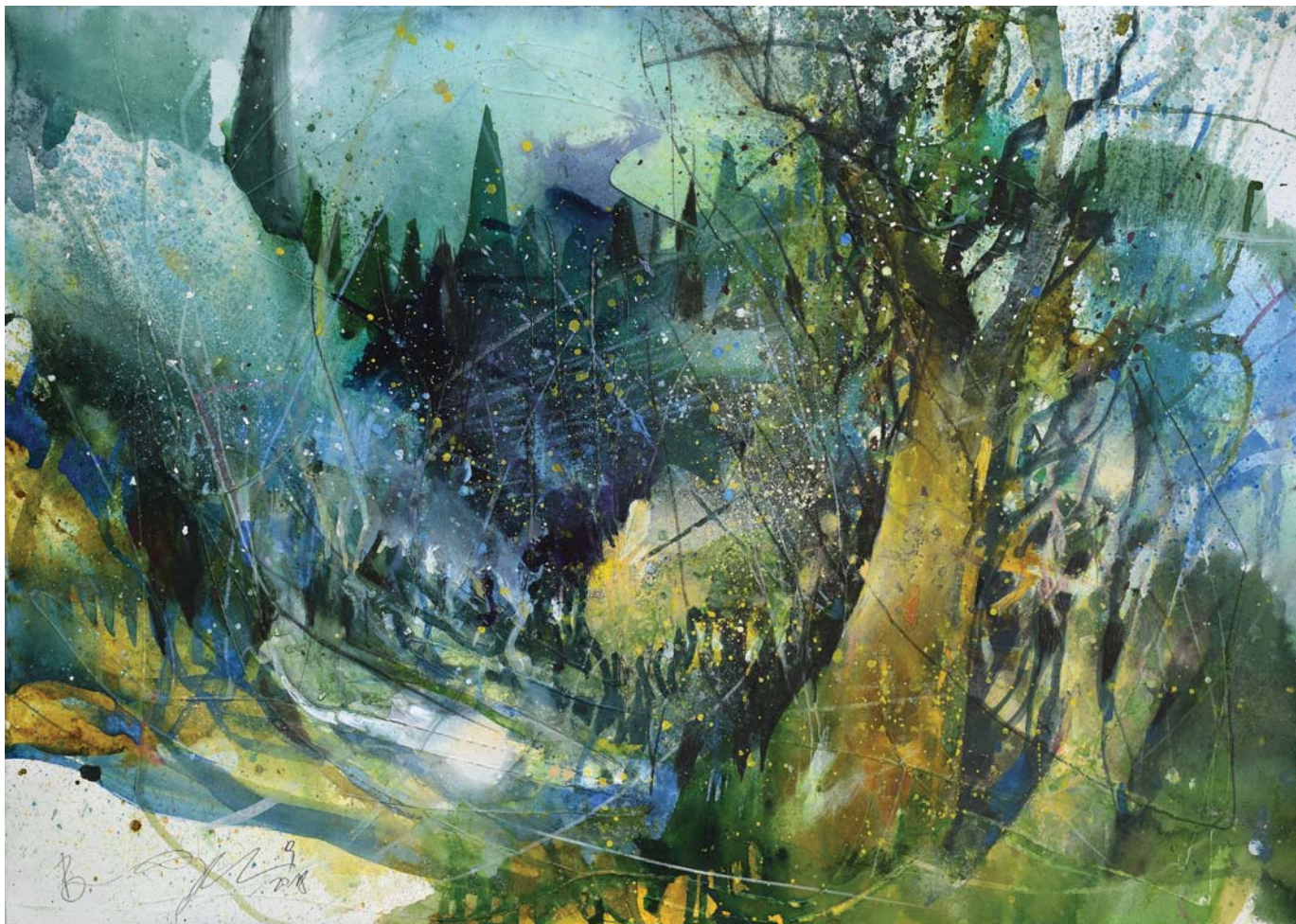


N.Y. Midtown Game, 100 x 140cm, Mixed Media

N.Y. 5th Avenue Reezig, 120 x 80cm, Mixed Media



Back Cover: Olive Trees, San Miniato, Tuscany, 56 x 76cm, Watercolour



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Opening times: 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat • 12.30pm - 6pm Sunday • and by appointment

Exhibition dates: Thursday 24th October – Monday 11th November 2019