



Moonrise In A Clear Heaven

Shawn Huckins | Duran Contemporary

Landscape as Liminal Space

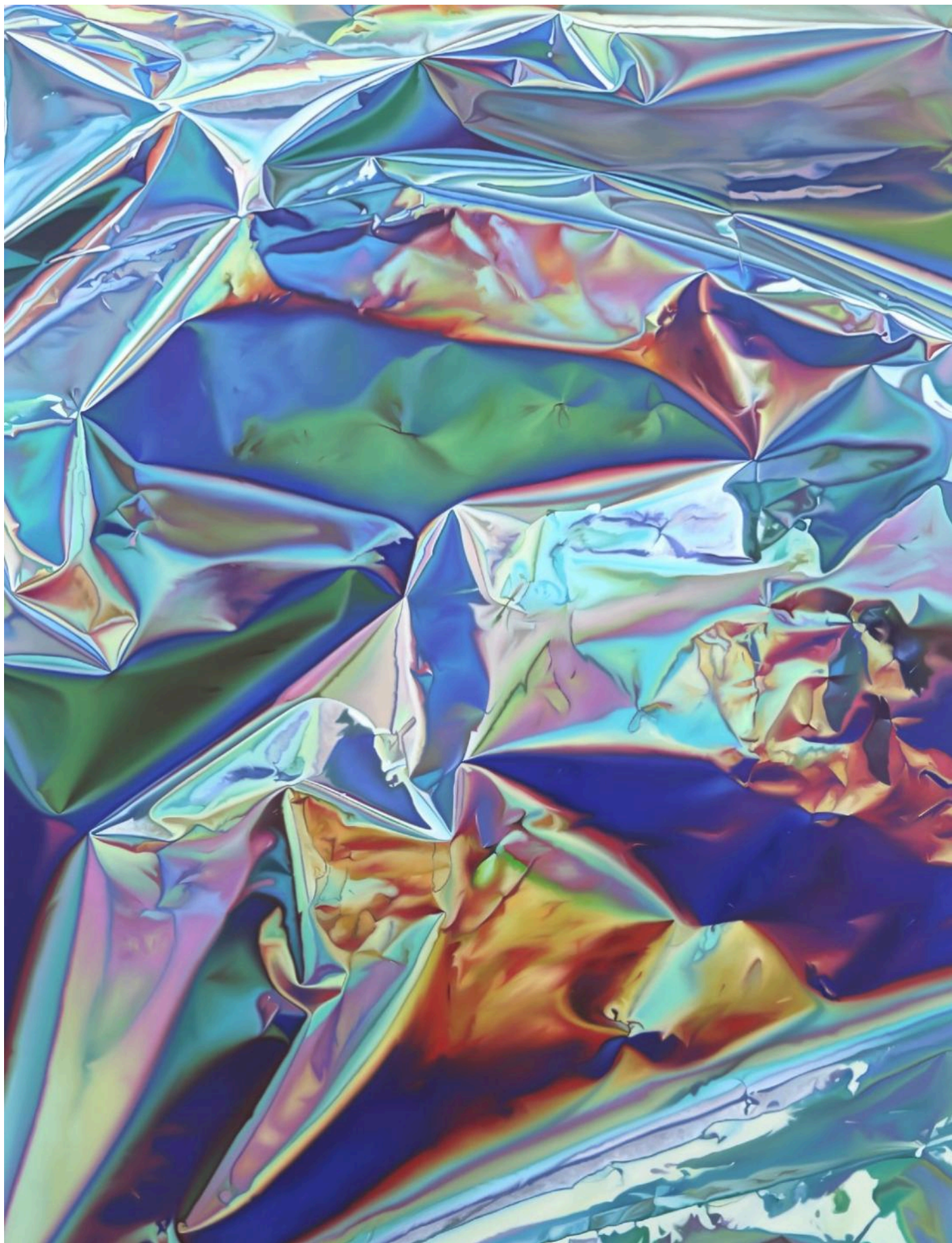
Moonrise In A Clear Heaven explores the evocative potential of stillness and surface. Through an exceptional mastery of light, texture, and composition, Huckins elevates banal objects into subjects of poetic resonance. The exhibition's title itself suggests a duality: a moment of celestial transformation associated with an atmosphere of crystalline clarity. This balance between realism and abstraction, familiarity and enigma, forms the foundation of Huckins' work. His paintings push the boundaries of representation, presenting objects not only as they appear, but as they feel—shimmering, weightless, and suspended in a moment of silent grandeur. Using draped satin, crinkled mylar, and reflective surfaces, his approach falls within the tradition of *trompe-l'œil*, but with a resolutely contemporary sensibility that blurs the line between the tangible and the imaginary.

Drawing inspiration from classical American landscape painters, such as Albert Bierstadt and the Hudson River School, Huckins captures their sense of grandeur and light to enrich his compositions. This historical influence creates a dynamic dialogue between the dramatic immensity of American Romanticism and the more intimate elegance of French Neoclassicism. Through this tension, his works evoke both the sublime splendor of untamed nature and the delicate precision of finely crafted objects. Moreover, Huckins' paintings are not strictly representations of the world as we see it, but rather, they invite the viewer to step into a place that feels both familiar and surreal. The result is an oscillation between expansion and intimacy, inviting viewers to navigate between these two aesthetic poles.

The landscape is more than a setting, however; it is a reflection of the psyche—its desires, fears, and memories. The elements of earth, water, and sky function as symbols of the human experience, constantly shifting in their meaning as they intersect with the subconscious. A lone tree in the distance may evoke solitude or strength; a distant mountain range could symbolize the untouchable aspirations, or the weight of the unknown. These interpretations are not fixed, but in a constant state of flux, much like the landscapes of our own minds.

Cover:

Autumn Sunrise (Mylar Landscape), detail



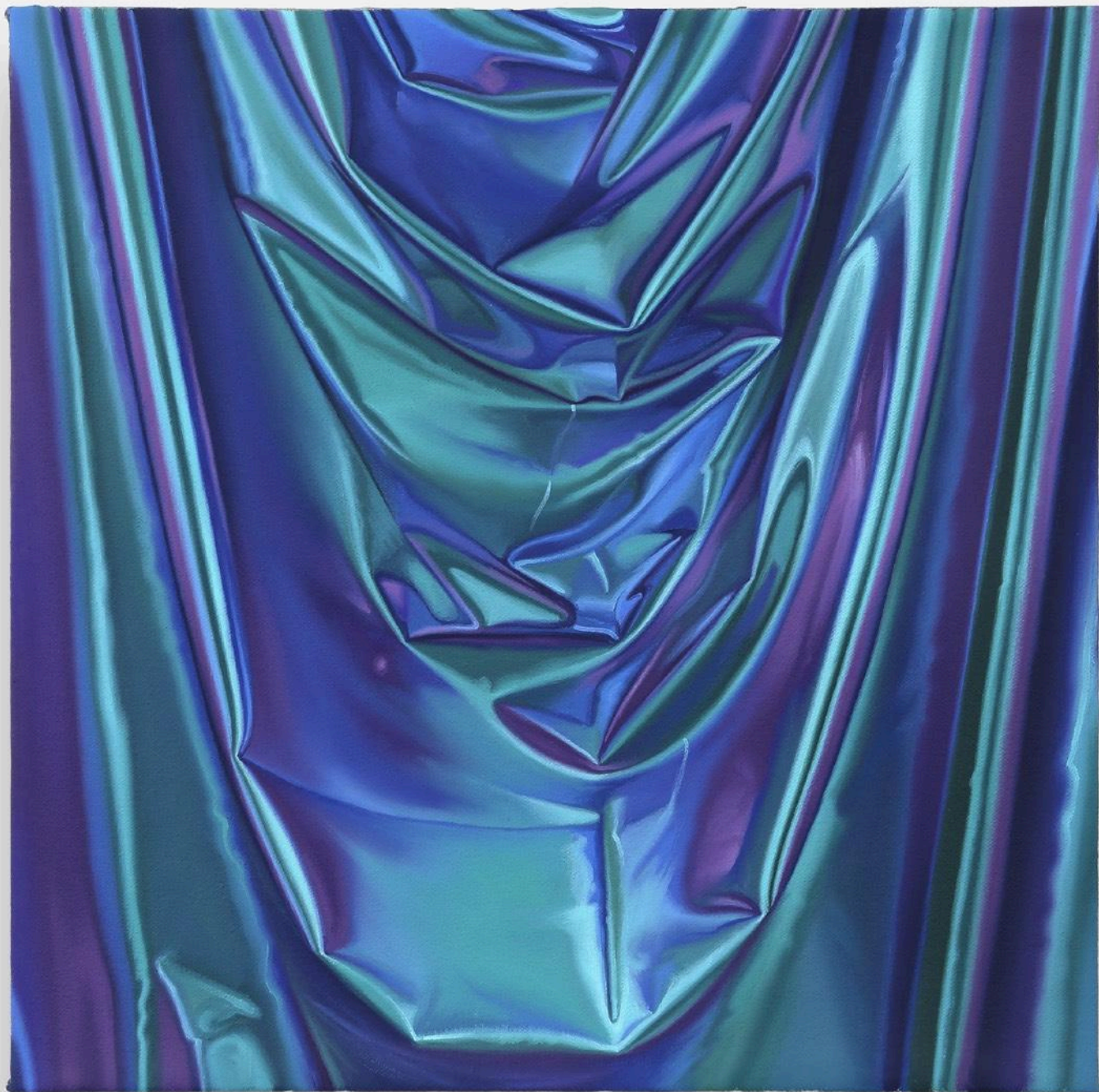
Autumn Sunrise (Mylar Landscape), 2024, oil on canvas, 76 x 58 in. (193.04 x 147.32 cm)



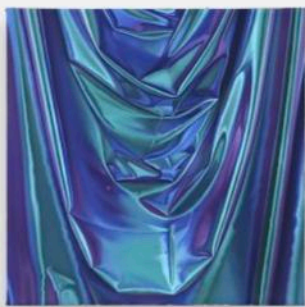


Winter Sky With Pink Satin Fabric, 2025, oil + acrylic on canvas, 32 x 26 in. (81.28 x 66.04 cm)





Iridescent Metallic Fabric Study, 2025, oil on canvas, 14 x 14 in. (35.56 x 35.56 cm)





Afternoon Light Study, 2024, oil on canvas, 14 x 14 in. (35.56 x 35.56 cm)

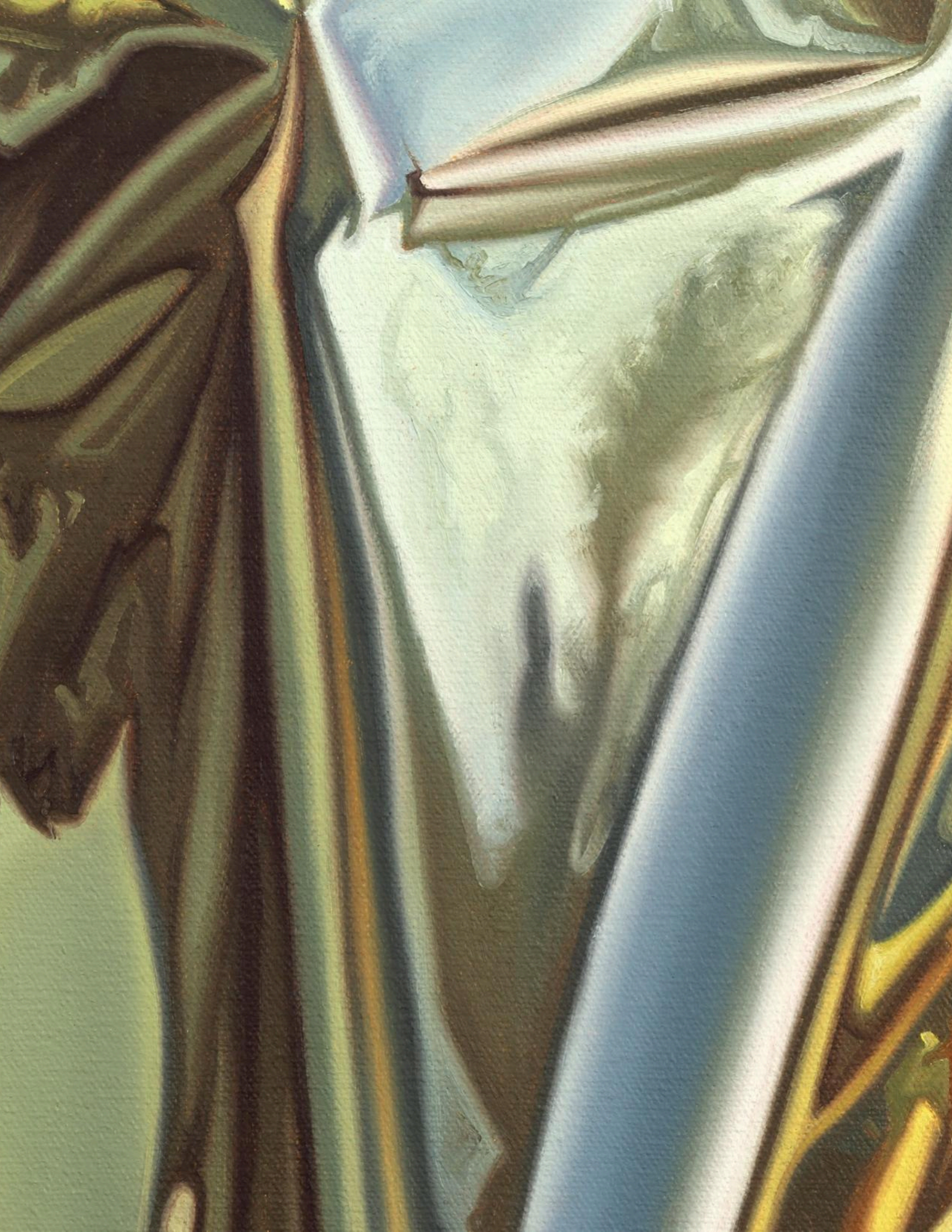


Beaver Moon Over Mt. Monadnock with Soft Gold Satin Fabric, 2025, oil + acrylic on canvas,
36 x 30 in. (91.44 x 76.2 cm)





Dawn Under The Maple Tree (Mylar Landscape), 2025, oil on canvas, 76 x 58 in. (193.04 x 147.32 cm)







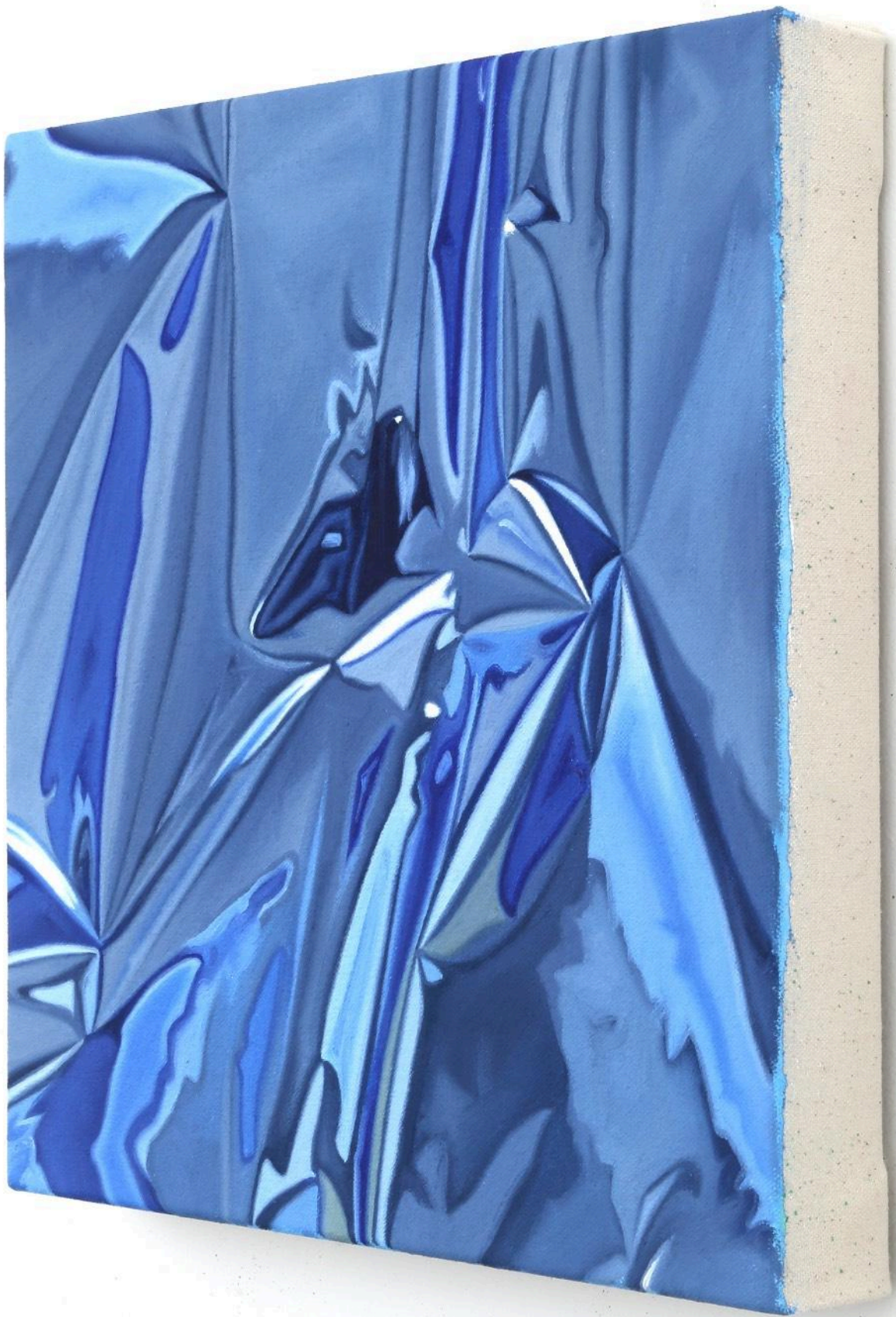
Radiant Sun In Red Metallic Fabric , 2025, oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in. (50.8 x 40.64 cm)



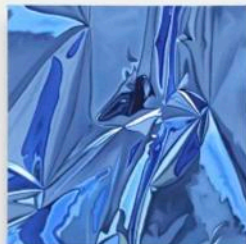
Mylar Study in Magenta, 2024, oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in. (30.48 x 30.48 cm)



Mylar Study in Green, 2024, oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in. (30.48 x 30.48 cm)



Mylar Study in Blue, 2024, oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in. (30.48 x 30.48 cm)





Metallic Teal Green Fabric During Dawn Study, 2024, oil on canvas, 12 x 12 in. (30.48 x 30.48 cm)



Metallic Teal Green Fabric with Landscape (after Bierstadt), 2025, oil + acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 in. (203.2 x 152.4 cm)



*Metallic Teal Green Fabric with
Landscape (after Bierstadt), detail*



Green Satin Fabric with Sunset, 2024, oil + acrylic on canvas, 24 x 20 in. (60.96 x 50.8 cm)



Gradient Mylar With Stars, 2025, oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in. (50.8 x 40.64 cm)





Huckins in his New England studio.