sun-kissed

NOV 8 - DEC 27 2025

Shawn Huckins

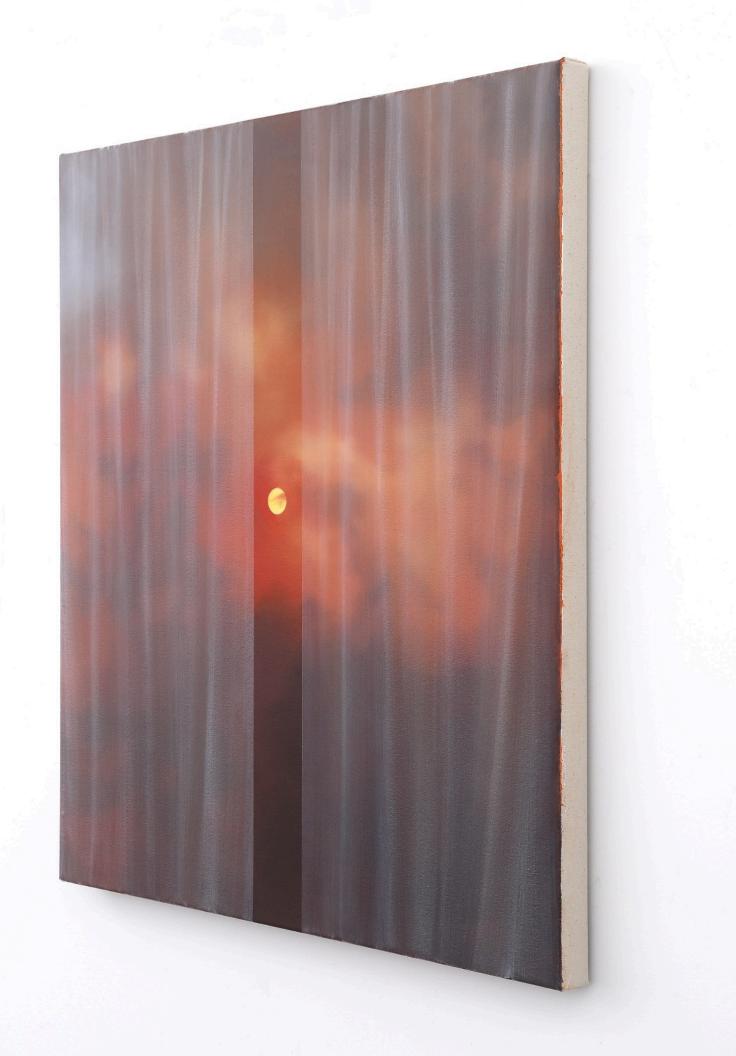
K Contemporary Project Space Once gently sun-kissed, the Earth now simmers under an intensified solar embrace, its climate systems straining under the heat of an altered atmosphere.

sun-kissed explores the uneasy intersection between natural beauty and environmental crisis by presenting wildfire scenes disguised as idyllic sunrises or sunsets, framed theatrically by curtains. These paintings invite viewers to question their initial perceptions, revealing how easily destruction can be mistaken for wonder when cloaked in the familiar aesthetics of landscape painting.

The curtain evokes a stage or performance, suggesting that what we often admire as sublime might be a spectacle masking deeper ecological truths. This duality is central: the way climate change disguises its devastation in the beauty of nature's palette and how easily we accept, or even admire these images without acknowledging the underlying cause — a planet in crisis.

Inspired by the hazy sunrises shaped by drifting Canadian wildfires, each painting is framed as though viewed from a window — a domestic perspective that represents both literal and psychological distance. This visual device invites the viewer to confront their own place in the climate emergency: comfortable, insulated, and perhaps complicit. The window becomes a barrier, a screen through which we witness disaster without feeling its heat. *sun-kissed* juxtaposes beauty and destruction, safety and threat, jolting our sense of detachment and encourages a more urgent, intimate reflection on the realities of a warming planet.







Wildfire Sunset and Blue Curtain (1) | 2025 | oil + acrylic on canvas | 84 x 68 in. (213.36 x 172.72 cm.)











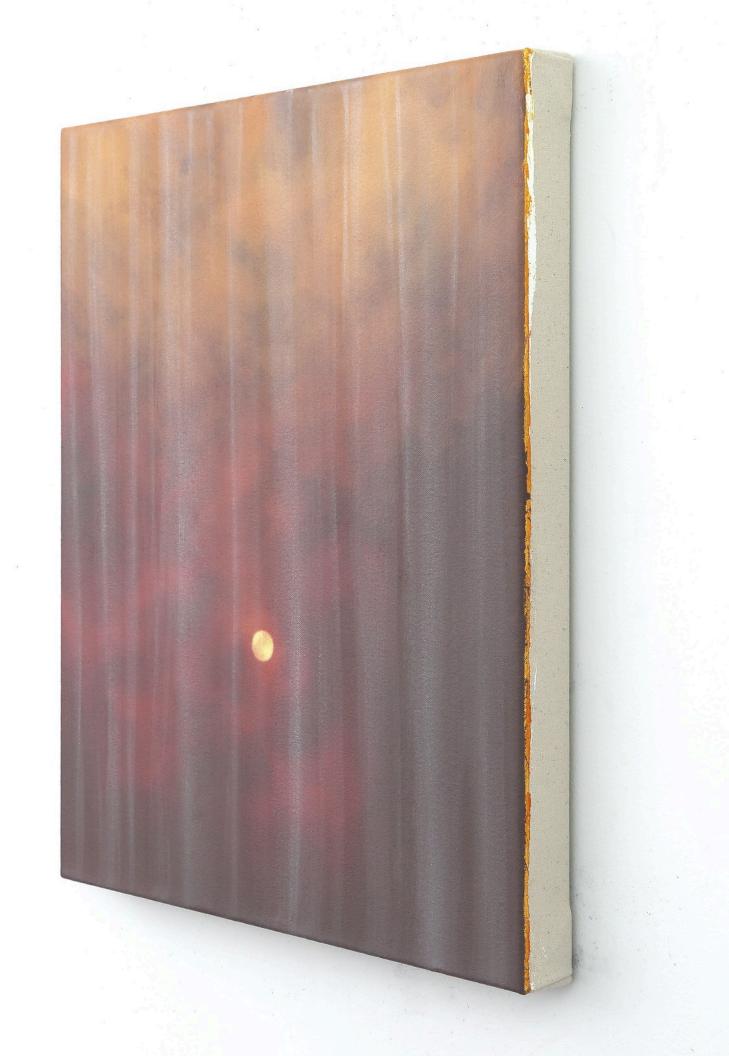


















Wildfire Sunrise and Blue Curtain (2) | 2025 | oil + acrylic on canvas | 72 x 54 in. (182.88 x 137.16 cm.)







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