

Sonder

Matthew Browne

Matthew Browne is fascinated by the subjectivity of perception and the fallibility of memory. Can a shared experience truly exist, if what we perceive and what we remember varies from person to person?

Sonder welcomes this ambiguity of reality, and probes how each work can provoke an entirely different reaction in every individual. Browne describes these paintings as open-ended platforms for our engagement and contemplation, activated by our speculation. The abstract forms intentionally defy definition, and teasingly hint at some long-forgotten memory or sensation. One imagines that if the forms shifted just slightly one way or the other, one could pin down the sense of recognition just tantalisingly out of reach.

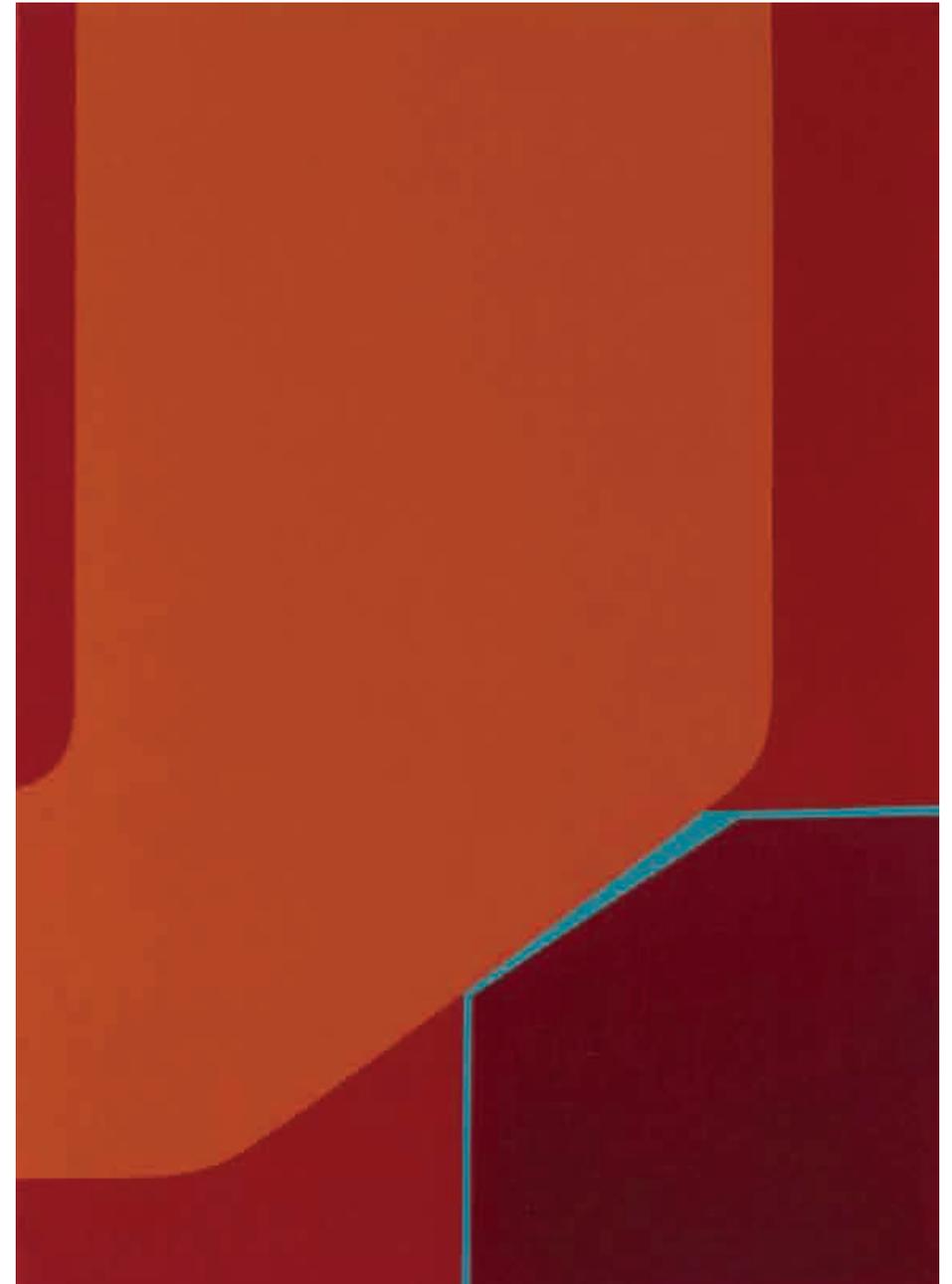
Browne's paintings are thoughtful deliberations on colour, form, and the spaces between. Each form appears to float out of the ether, and gently lands on the canvas with uncanny precision. In some works they hover over each other, creating rich tonal depths, and in others they gently nudge and vibrate against one another. The internal arrangement of each canvas creates conversations between every contour and colour.

Browne describes making his *Sonder* paintings as 'unearthing' each composition from his unconsciousness, discovering the balanced forms as they emerge. Creating the perfectly crisp contours and confident colours is a meditative and instinctive process.

These are deeply personal compositions, each enjoying a unique connection with the artist, but also released from any intended meaning or reading. Ultimately, it is this elusiveness that holds our attention. There is an effortless grace to the paintings, and it ceases to matter what the works may represent, but instead that they reflect the plurality of our perceptions and selves back to us.

Linda Yang, September 2017

[detail on cover] *Sonder 11* (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 1 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 2 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 3 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 4 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 5 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 6 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 7 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 8 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm

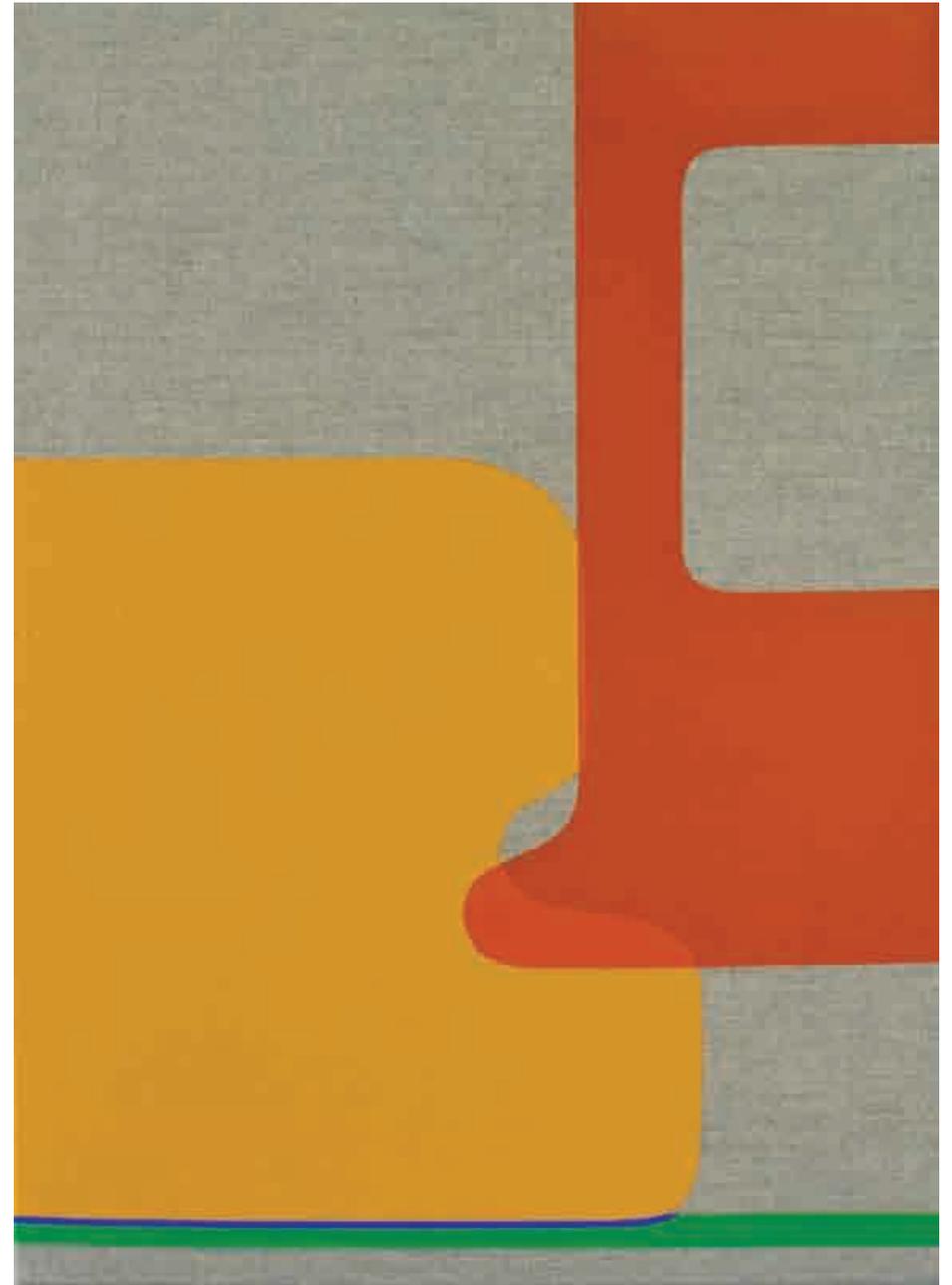


Sonder 9 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm

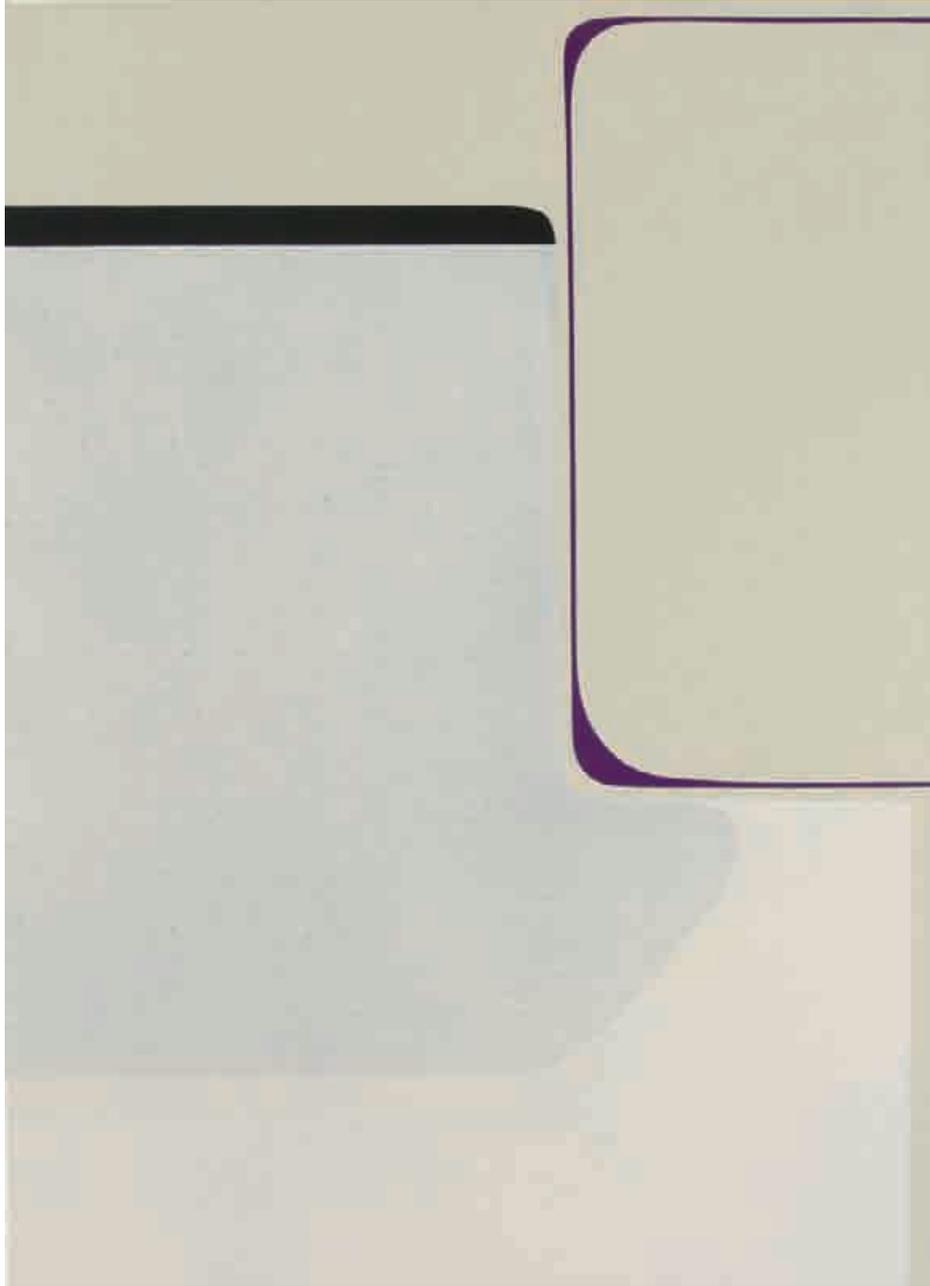




Sonder 10 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



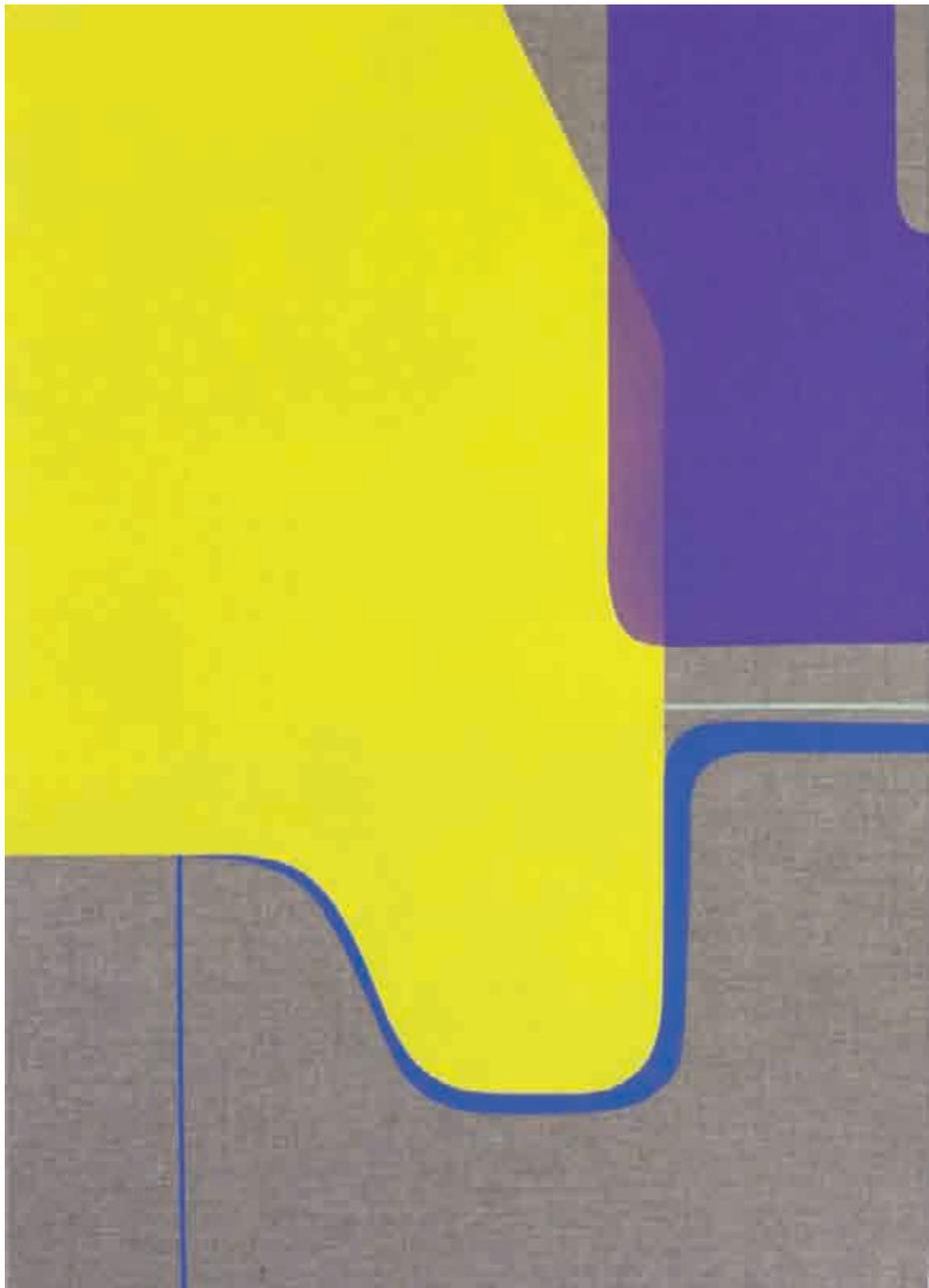
Sonder 12 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 13 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 14 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 15 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



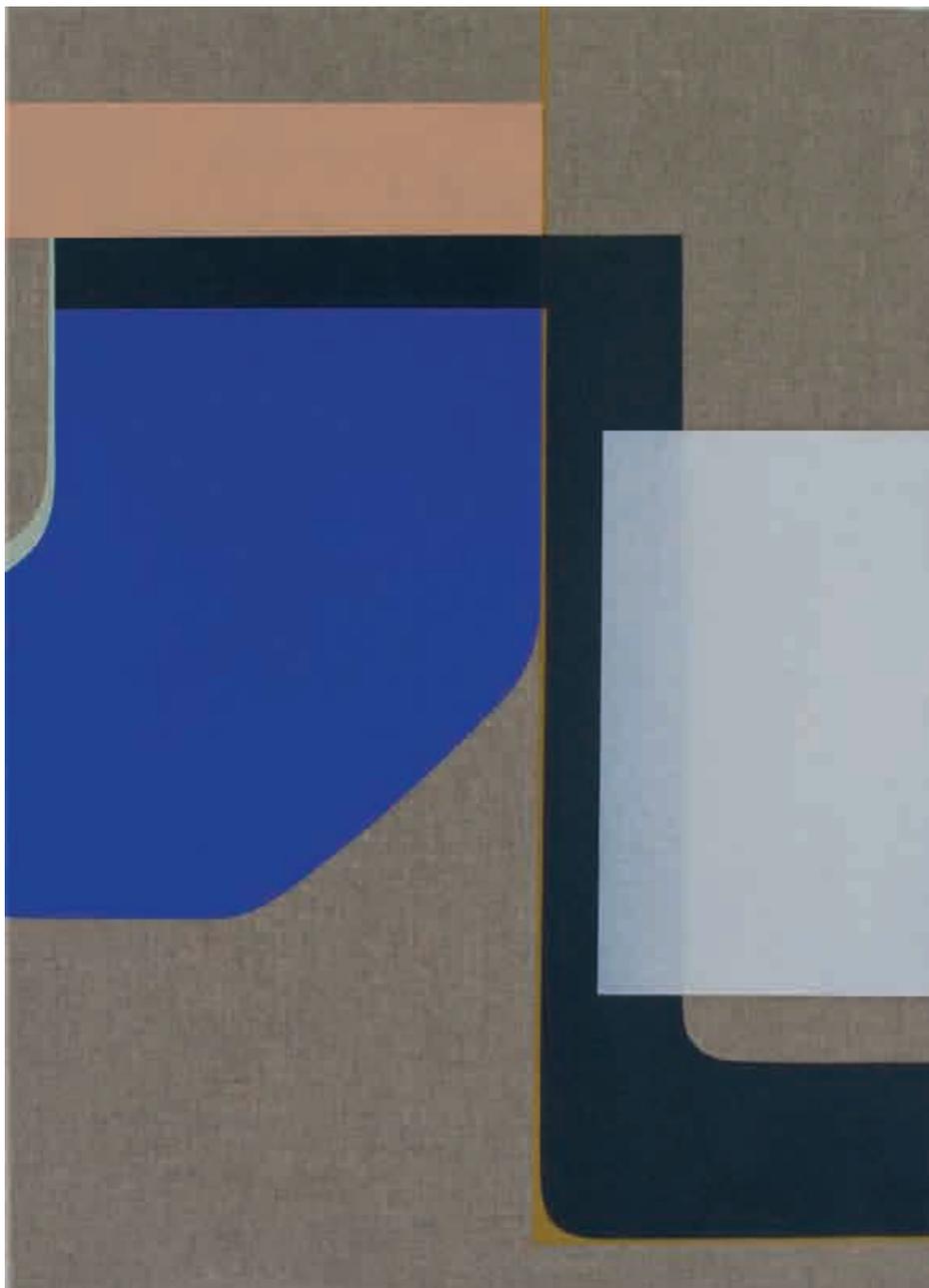
Sonder 16 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 17 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 18 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



Sonder 19 (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm

Biography

Born in Britain to New Zealand parents, Matthew Browne moved to New Zealand in 1991. Browne is an artist working within the traditions of painting and sculpture.

He studied at Camberwell College of Arts in London, gaining a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Painting in 1982. Further studies in New Zealand at Elam School of Fine Arts, led to a Master of Fine Arts (Honours) in 2000.

Browne has exhibited his work widely throughout New Zealand and the UK. His work is represented in private collections in New Zealand, UK, Australia, Denmark, Singapore, Canada and the USA. Public collections include the Parliamentary Collection, Wellington, The Royal Overseas League, London and The James Wallace Charitable Arts Trust, Auckland.

In 2005 he was the joint winner of the *People's Choice Award* at The Wallace Art Awards and in 2009 was awarded a *Merit* for his painting *Wonder* at the New Zealand Painting and Printmaking Awards. He has consecutively been selected as a finalist in the annual Wallace Art Awards since 2000.

Browne says, "I see my painting and sculpture as a way to encourage and make visible those metaphorical images and sensations that normally reside deep in the unconscious. I like to believe that I am embracing the Rudolf Arnheim statement that 'Truly productive thinking takes place in the realms of imagery'. I also see my position as one aligned with Surrealist thinking and the poet, Guillaume Apollinaire, who defined this as 'Pure psychic Automatism'... and... 'the true process of thought'".

– Matthew Browne, 2017

[detail on back cover] *Sonder 20* (2017) vinyl tempera & oil on linen, 560 x 405mm



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