

SCOTT BENNETT



PAINTINGS 2025

"Here we find ourselves suddenly not in a critical speculation but in a holy place, and should go very warily and reverently. We stand before the secret of the world, there where Being passes into Appearance and Unity into Variety. The Universe is the externization of the soul."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson: Essays, Second Series

At 73 I feel like I have come to a place where my work is integrating the main concerns and influences that have occupied my studio practice from the beginning, in a way that satisfies my demanding standards more fully than ever before. I am a landscape painter at heart but I need the freedom that non-objective abstraction offers. The art writers and art historians can add their own thoughts and perceptions.

If I attempt to list the influences the task becomes overwhelming since it is really what I would call all great painting and sculpture all the way back to the caves. There are the more obvious influences of what is loosely called painterly painting that includes all of the best Old Master, Impressionist, Pre-War American Modernists, Abstract Expressionist, Color Field, Post Painterly Abstraction, etc, but also includes African and Oceanic tribal sculpture and architecture, Early American quilt and folk art design, children's art, primarily within the 4-8 age group, and more. I absorb influences voraciously.

My sea stack and related abstract landscape pictures occupied me for quite some time and led me to these newest pictures that began in late 2024 and continue into 2025. But there are also paintings from the 80's and 90's that were heading in or hinting at this direction. Even my Tree Portrait and Color Stack series, which I continue to follow up on, offer fodder for these newest pictures where a simplified format contains an expanse of a thinly applied single appearing color and a thickly painted collaged shape placed toward the bottom of the picture with poured flat color areas on the sides and bottom (some exceptions). In most cases there are areas of thick paint extruding from under the edges of the collaged piece. There are variations I have yet to follow up on.

The first part of the catalogue shows some of these variations and works I see as pre-cursors or otherwise relating to the development of the most recent paintings. It's important not to misconstrue this presentation as a presumption of some kind of progression toward something better necessarily, but in this case certainly toward some kind of distillation and simplification. Time will tell what is better or best. While I have a healthy deep satisfaction with these new paintings, I know that the internal demands I feel will continue to drive me and my work as the paintings unfold and change - one by one.

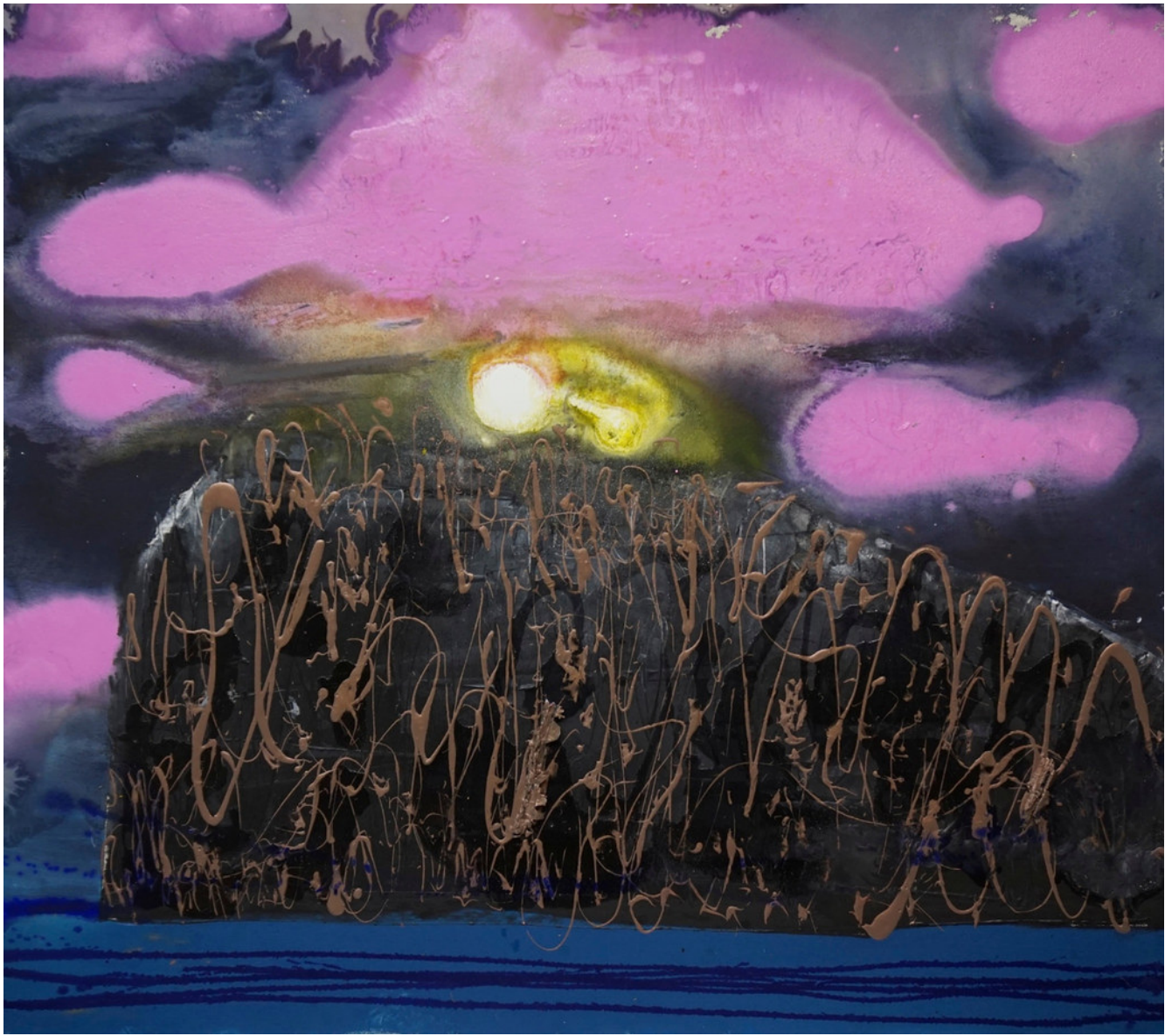
Scott Bennett May 2025



Argonaut, 2024, acrylic, collage, Iridescent polyester flakes on canvas, 23 x 26 1/2"



Sun, 2016, acrylic and collage on canvas, 23.25 x 30"



Black Mountain Moon, 2015, acrylic on canvas, 47 x 53.25"



Waiting for the Storm, 2022, acrylic and collage on canvas, 28.75 x 22.25"



Yggdrasil, 2022, acrylic and collage on canvas, 47 1/2 x 37 1/2"



Rising, 2024, acrylic and collage on canvas, 30.75 x 58.5"



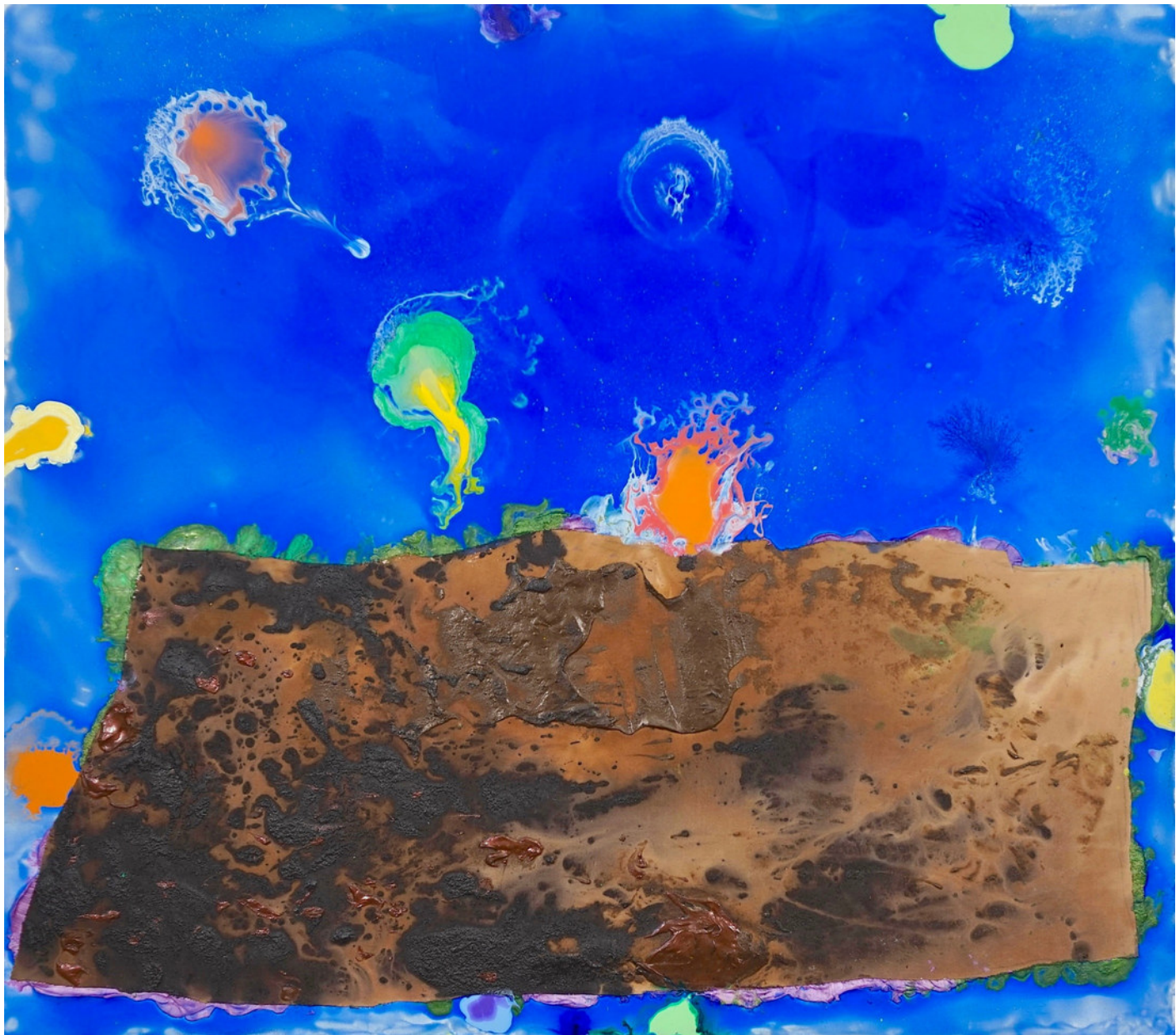
The Scale of Gravity, 2024, acrylic and collage on canvas, 31 x 58"



Hot Aurora, 2024, acrylic and collage on canvas, 23 x 29.5"



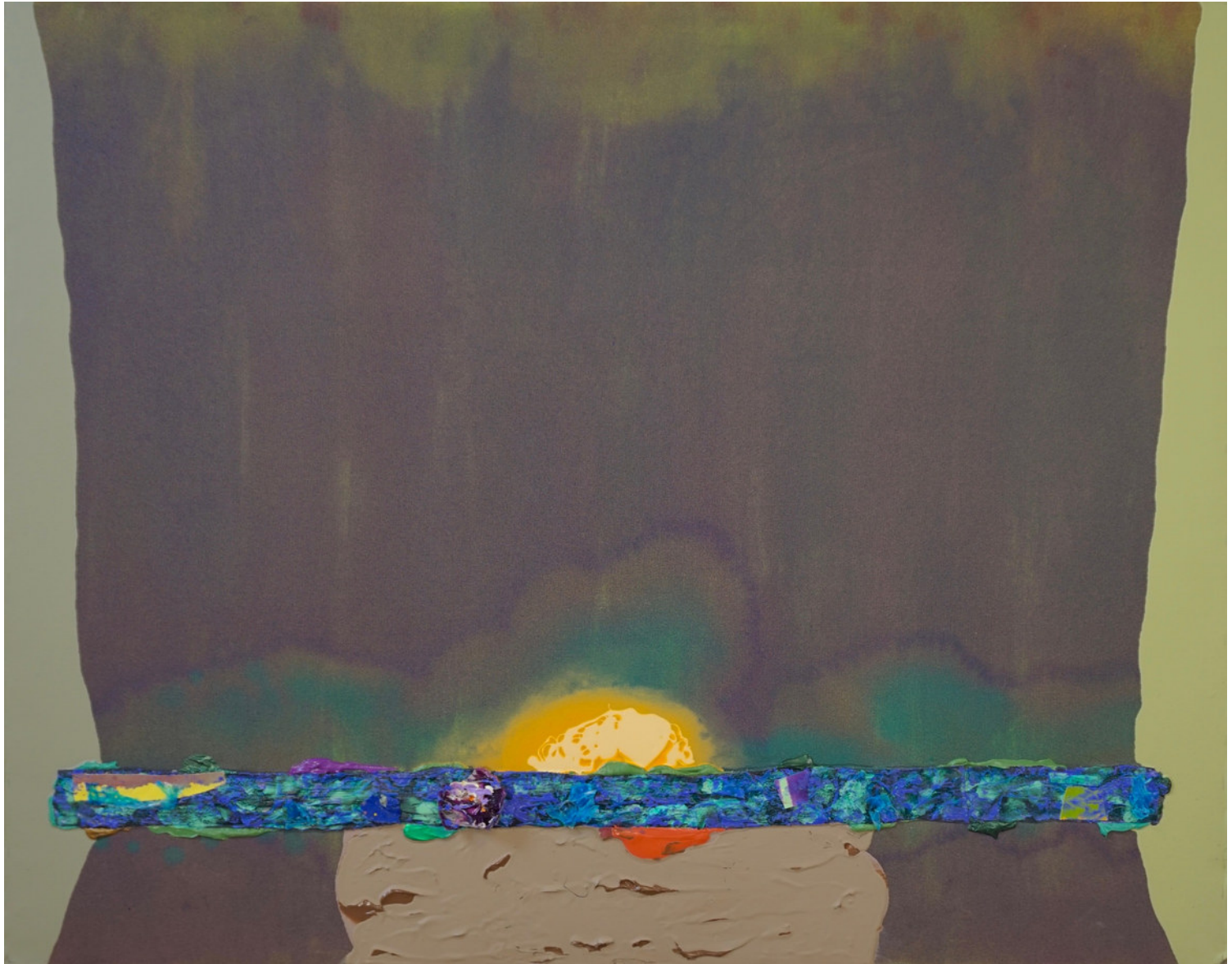
Aurora, 2024, acrylic and collage on canvas, 23 x 22.5"



Natures Way, 2024, acrylic and collage on canvas, 47 x 52.75"



Birth of Worlds, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 58.5 x 46.25"



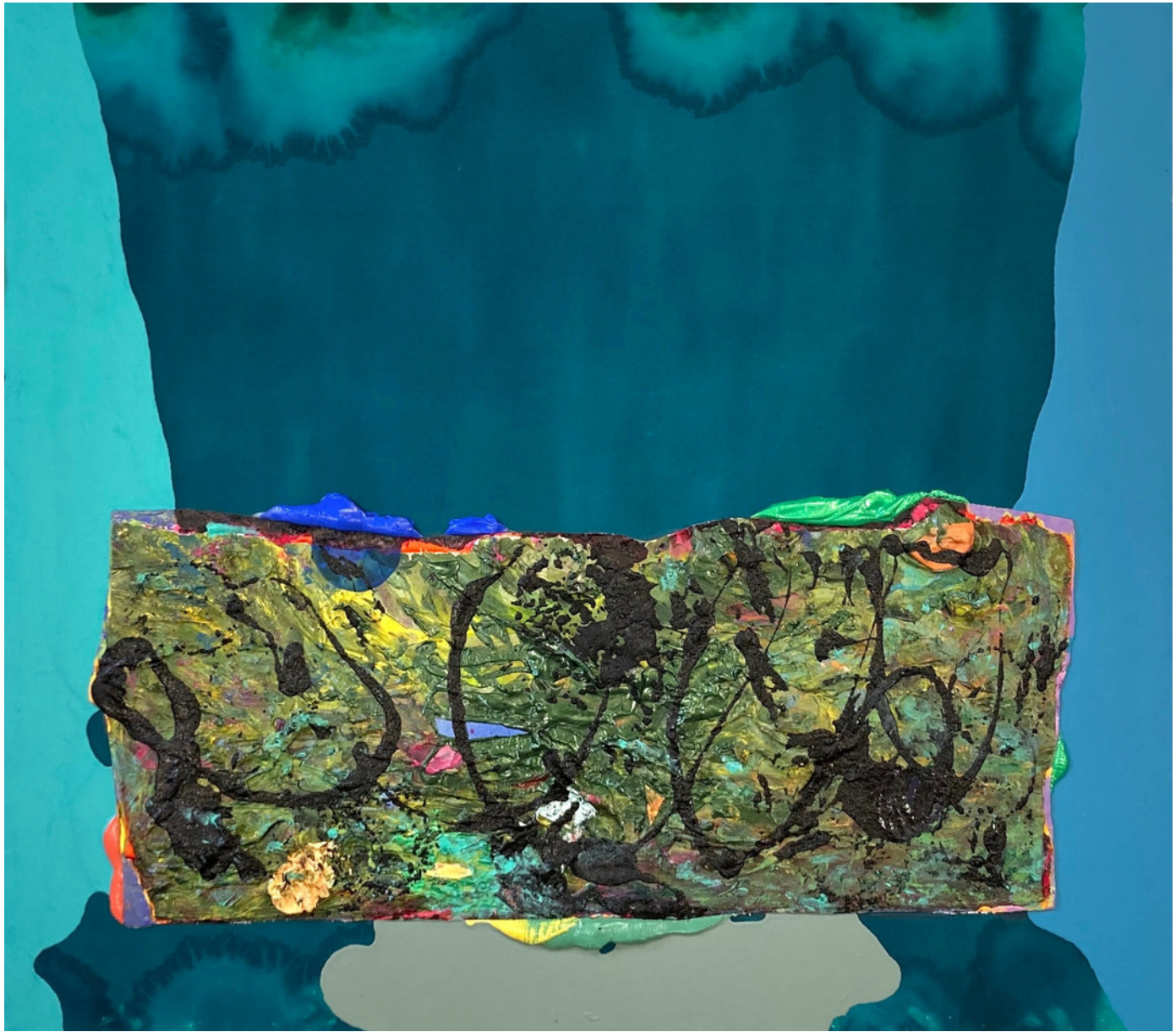
Sprite, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 46 1/4, x 58 3/4"



Sargasso, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 46.25 x 57.75"



Voice Lesson, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 46 x 52 1/2"



Tethra, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 45.75 x 52.5"



First Light, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 46.5 x 55.5"



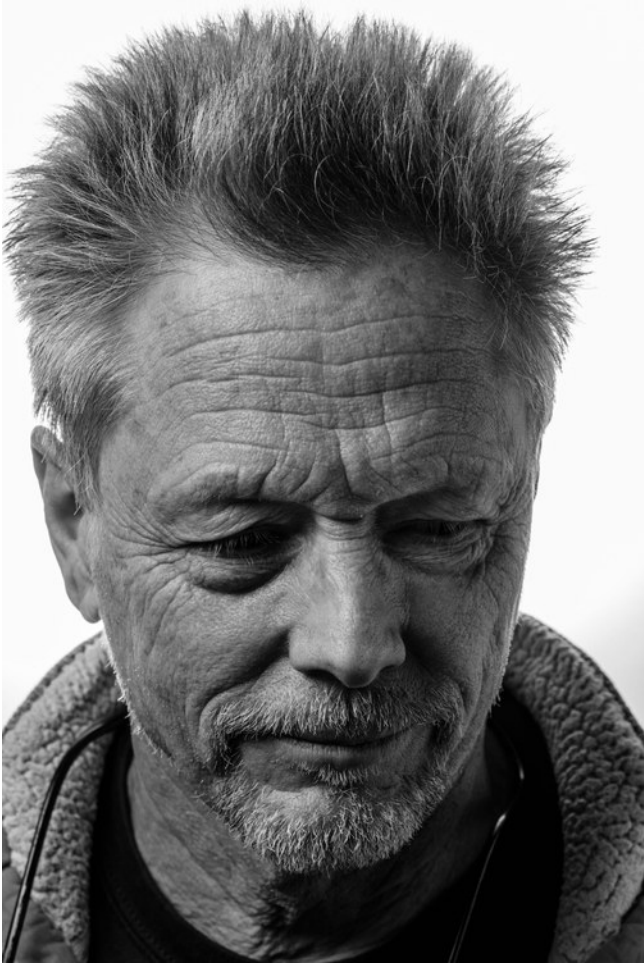
Mesolith, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 46.5 x 58"



Vastness of Night, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 44.75 x 66.75"



Ember, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 48 x 67.5"



Cover: Ember, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 48 x 67.5"

For more information about the artist: scottbennettart.com

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Cover: *Ember*, 2025, acrylic and collage on canvas, 48 x 67.5"