

ASHOK GULATI

A SHOAL IN SERIES 2007

LANSDOWNE GALLERY, MUMBAI

SEPTEMBER 3 - 18, 2007

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Underlying philosophy of Lansdowne Gallery

“A gallery is made not only by exhibits and collections, but by passionate patrons and valued visitors. Art is not about mere buying and selling of works; it’s not about appreciation in mere market value; it’s more about appreciating the aesthetics and the beauty of a creation.

“Ideally, the value of an art work should correspond to the quality of creation, and not mere speculation. A mass of aware buyers can make this happen, which is so very vital especially when the art market is truly booming. This is where Lansdowne Gallery enters the picture.

“We are here to serve as a link between keen, young, high-value buyers who seek an insight into the trends in modern art and the best of emerging talent in India. Our role at the galley is not limited to hosting exhibits. At a broader level, we want to stimulate a vigorous interaction among our patrons and experts. The idea is not only to deal in art but also to discuss art.

“Our focus will rest firmly on art education and orientation. With the help of an esteemed panel of scholars, we hope to create awareness among our visitors, of what they are viewing and among buyers of what they are buying, in the context of Indian art history and tradition.

The Lansdowne Gallery will be home to a comprehensive collection of contemporary artwork and will offer a platform to promising artists. It will be an umbrella for Indian art in all its glorious hues, winding back to its rich past as well as bringing to fore the best of emerging talent in modern art and highlighting the achievements of veteran Indian artists.

Jai Bhandarkar

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Ashok Gulati strives to capture the essence of a passing moment that elapses into eternity and beholds the soul's reflection.

Each of his works reflects his own personal vision. With the passage of time, they show a tendency to a greater freedom of form, tending toward minimalism of expression. The simplicity, lucidity, and lyrical quality of Ashok's compositions lie at the heart of his creative character.

This multi-faceted artist, after completing his graduation from the Government College of Arts, Chandigarh, has dabbled in graphics, printmaking, painting and performing arts. He has also penned several thought-provoking poems, which often inspire him to paint.

Ashok is also a renowned photographer. Switching from photography to painting is an intuitive transition from one medium to another. As he puts it, "I shed the inhibitions of a photographer when I paint, and vice-versa. Photography and painting are different in visualization and execution hence the respective creative processes are also different for both the art forms."

After the wide range of experimentation, the artist now focuses on painting for fulfilling his creative urge. Painter-poet Umesh Varma has been a witness to his rise to prominence over the last few years. A curator of a group show, 'Sixth August' (2002), comprising the young artist's works, mentions: "An objective yet sensitive person, Ashok Gulati has a zeal for the contemporary plastic expression; not very loud nonetheless, almost subtle." Charting his artistic sojourn, Copenhagen based senior artist Sohan Qadri mentions: "In the last couple of years, Ashok Gulati has posed himself with challenges of colour and composition. His response to these challenges are quite evident. His art demands and rightfully deserves a serious observation. For, a casual eye might miss the potentialities standing next door to unfold."

"Confronting an empty canvas, he handles the proposition with a mind purged off all the thoughts and concepts, but only keeping the promise towards energies exuded by colours in an endless space." He appreciates the artist's unique repetition of strokes, a sign of his inherent promise, and rightly terms Ashok Gulati's compositions as an 'ample visual experience' to which the latter reacts by saying, "My strokes are aimed at creating a sense of harmony along with a sense of seamless movement on the canvas."

The artist follows his inner instinct, and remains faithful to his style and subject instead of resorting to gimmicks. This probably explains as why his work has managed to hold the attention of art critics and connoisseurs in spite of his maintaining a low-profile.

Summing up his passion for painting, the artist says, "I paint, because I love painting. I am on a totally different plane, and am transported into an intriguing imaginary world where the aesthetic experience becomes a mystic experience."

"The scale of my work has also got larger," he adds. "When I am working on a series, I create two or three canvases simultaneously. Obviously, they all are an extension of each other, creating an enhanced sense of unity and continuity."

Ashok's new series is another milestone in his exploration of forces of life, and his meditative search of uniting the Self with Nature. It's a world that stands still, resonating with the sounds of silence and swaying to the rhythm of the waves.

"The artist replicates a realm, where there, perhaps, is a chance for peace." as he mentions in one of his beautiful poems:

"Everyone.....even the butterfly fluttered,
to vanish and to fly back; no one around.

Sky in the pond

A flowerbed

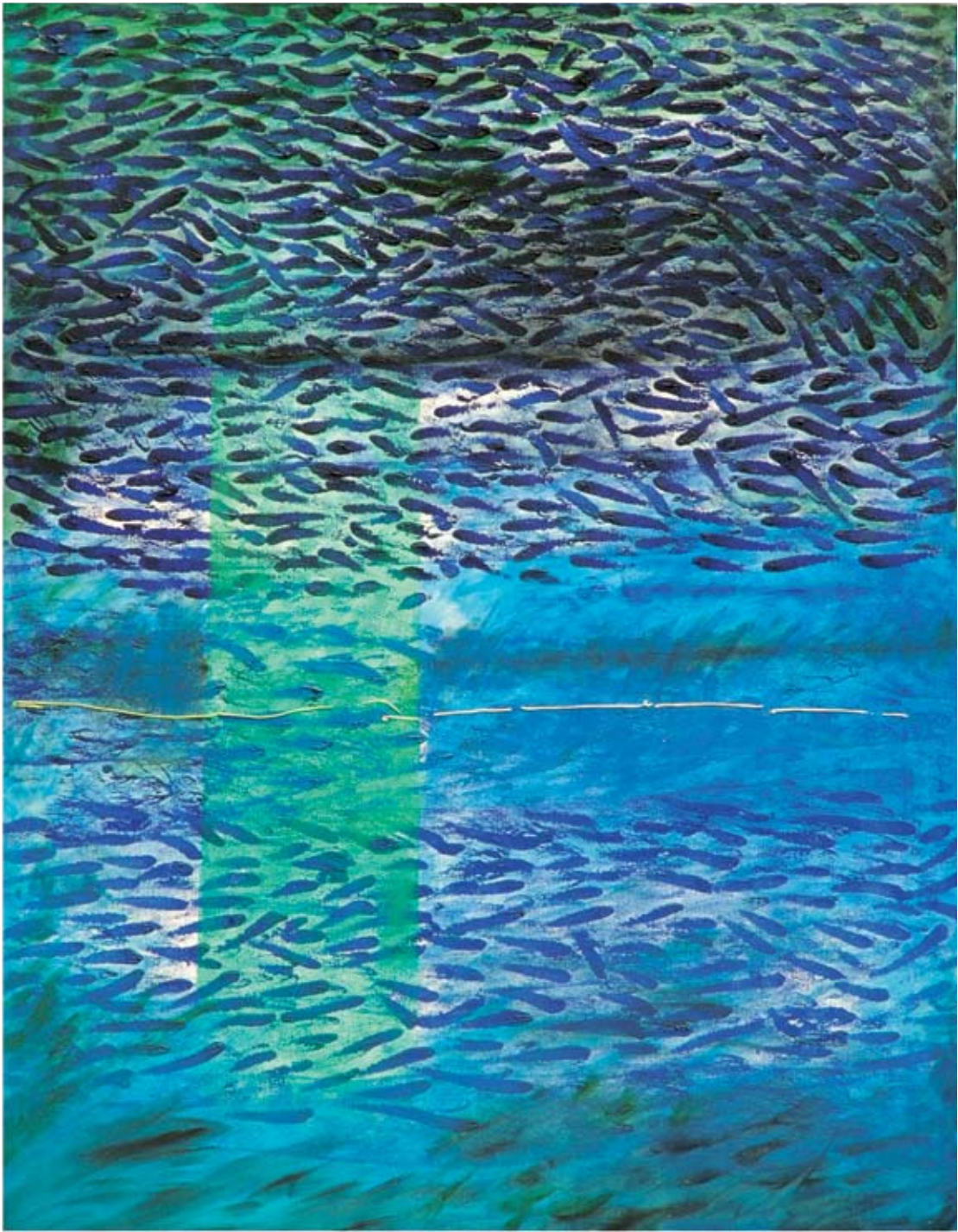
Deep-rooted trees; Birds perching on the treetop,

chirping in the open sky; Freedom on the wings

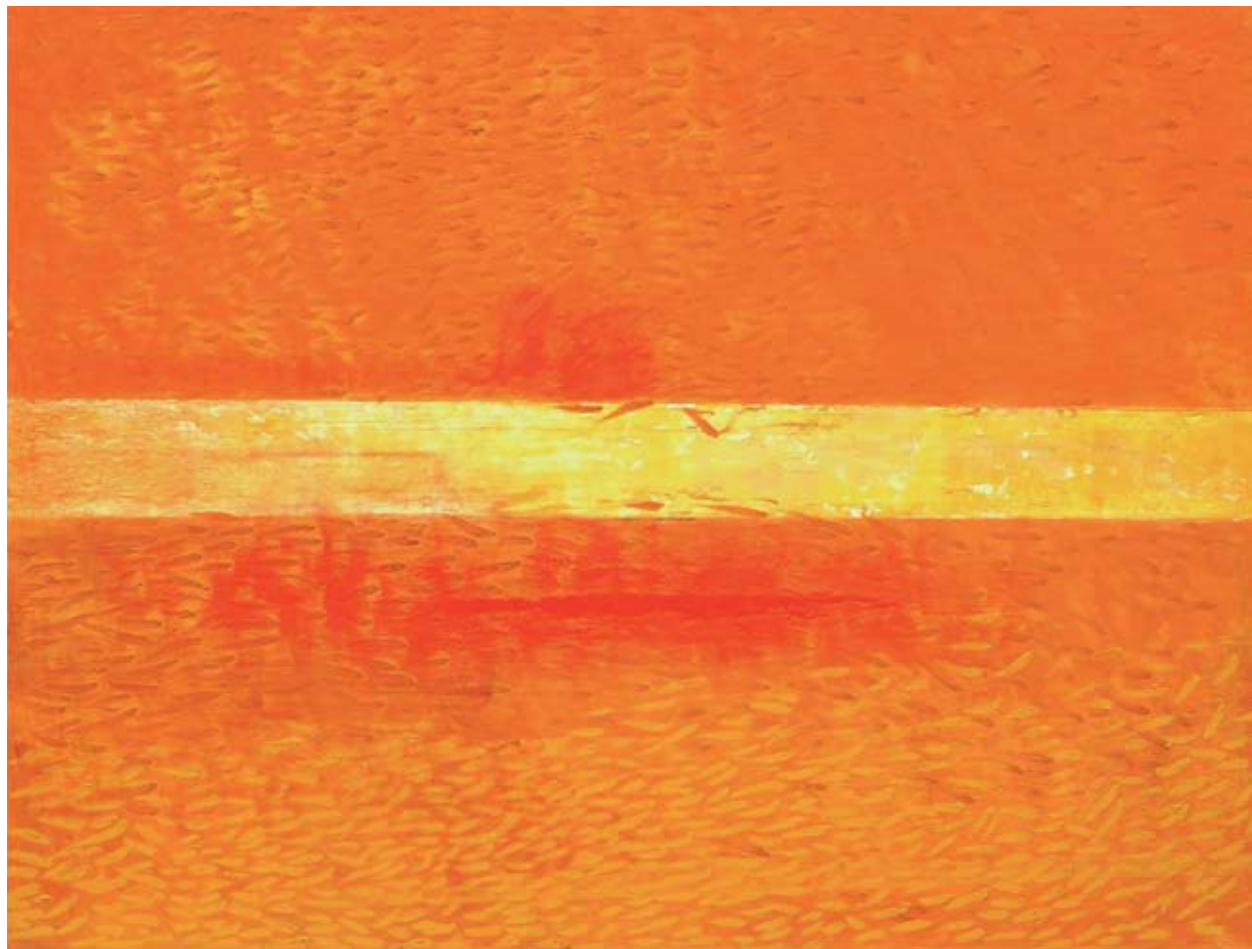
A sea of azure, Mild breeze, fragrant jasmine

...There, perhaps, is a chance for peace."

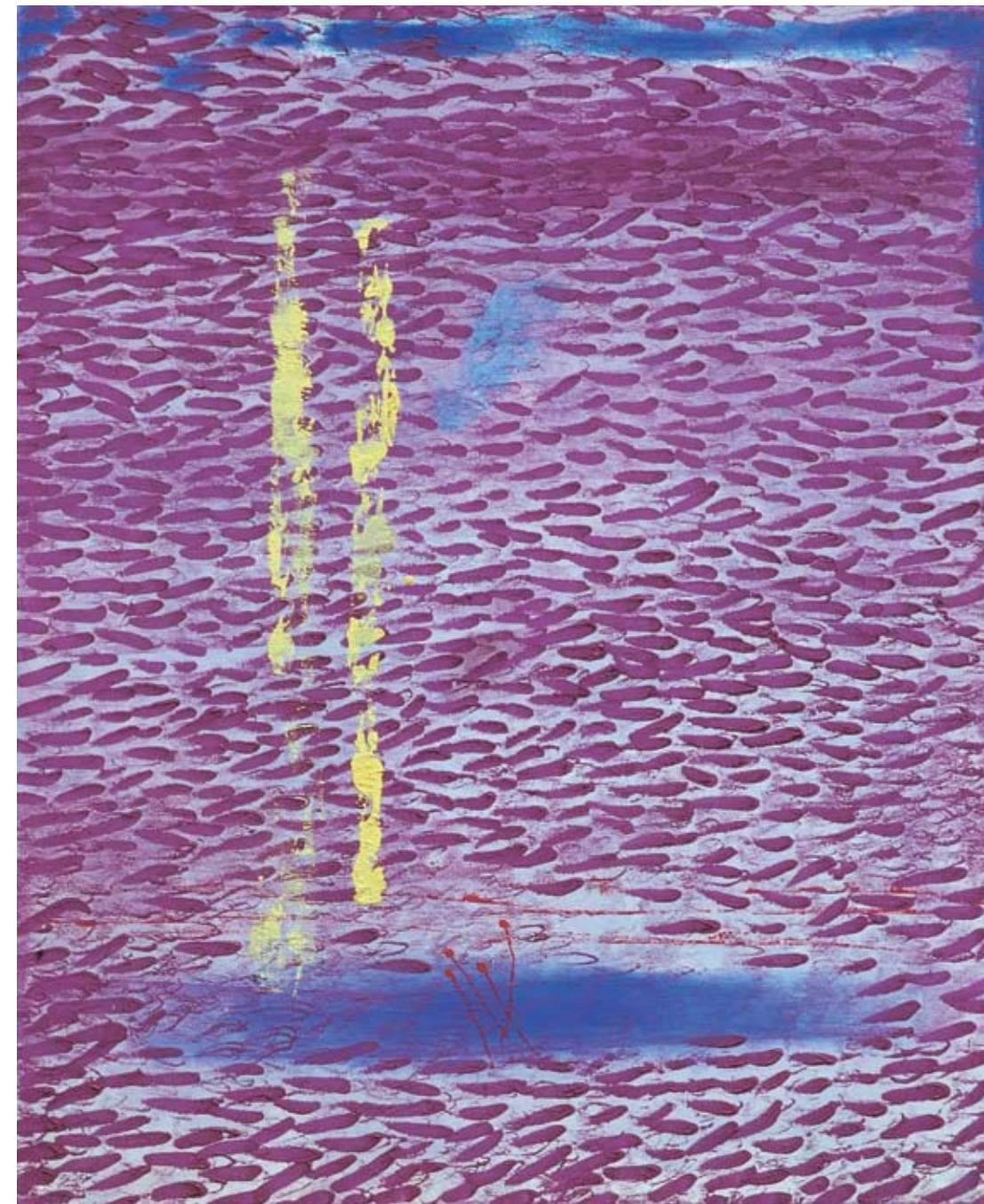
The sojourn is still on...



A Shoal in Blue - IX
2007
36" x 30"
Oil on Canvas



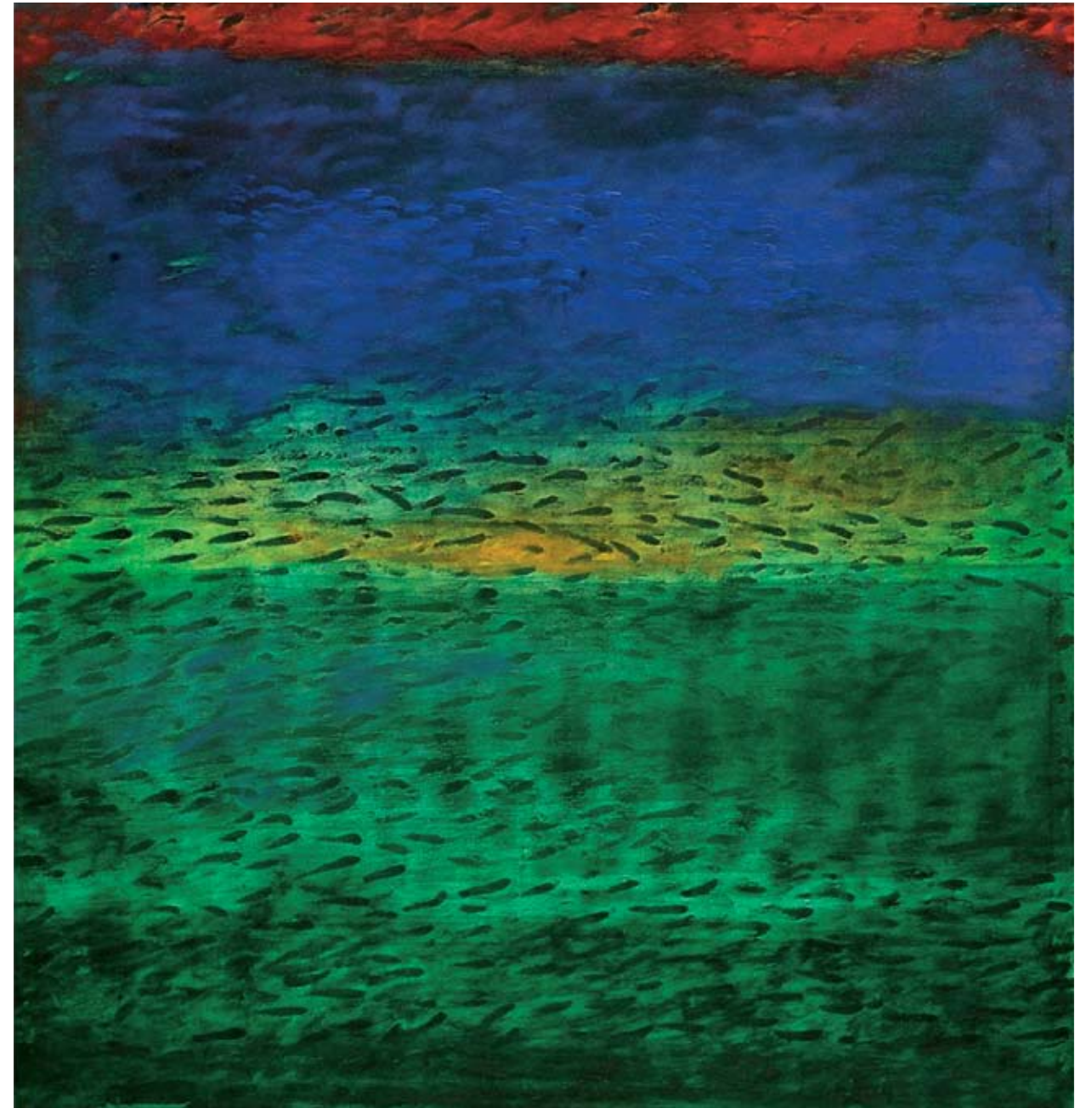
A Shoal in Golden Yellow – I
2007
42" x 55"
Oil on Canvas



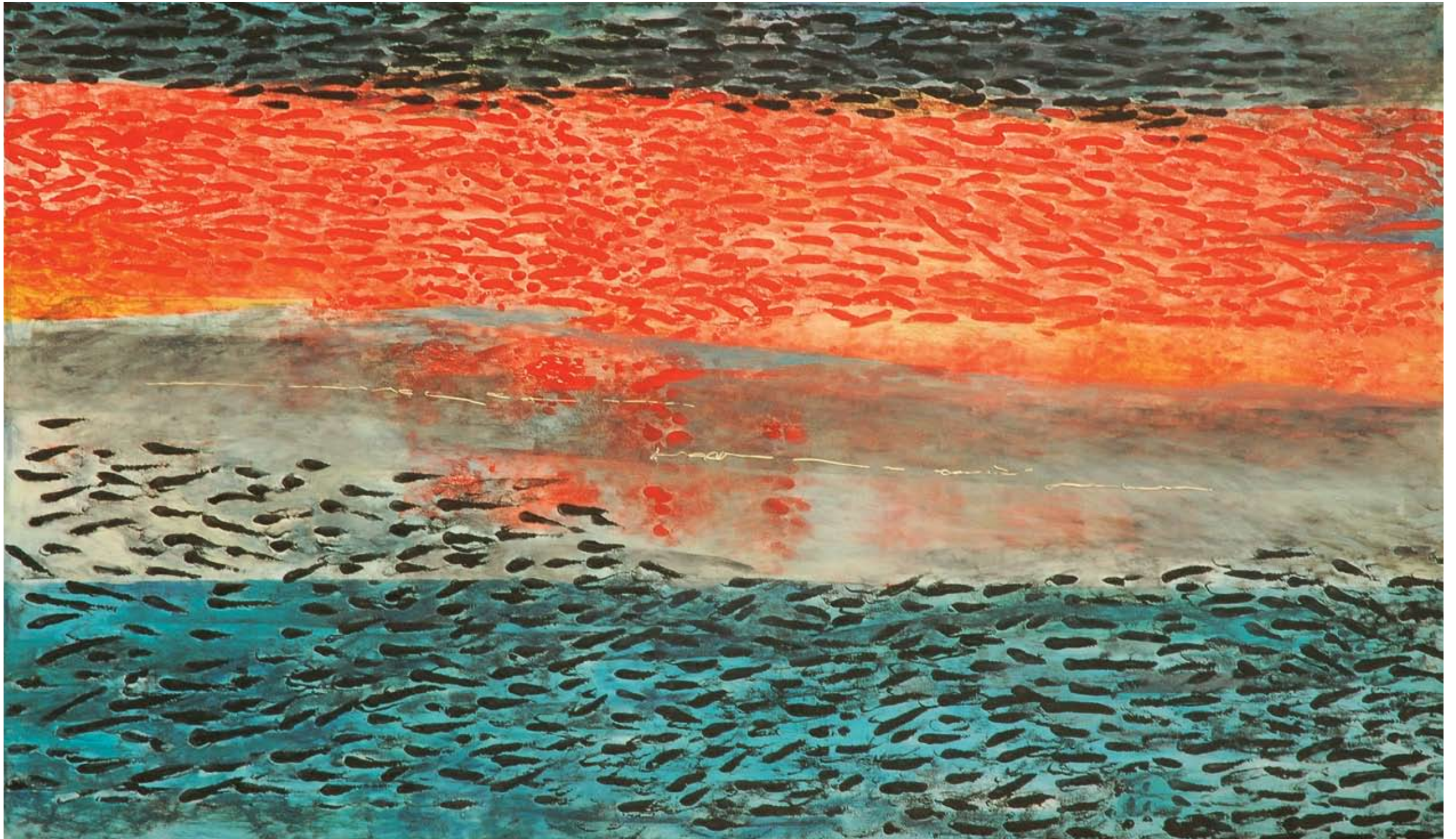
A Shoal in Blue - IV
2007
36" x 30"
Oil on Canvas



A Shoal in Red – IV
2007
36" x 36"
Mixed Media on Canvas



A Shoal in Aqua Green – I
2007
46" x 44"
Oil on Canvas



A Shoal in Red - V
2007
34" x 57"
Oil on Canvas



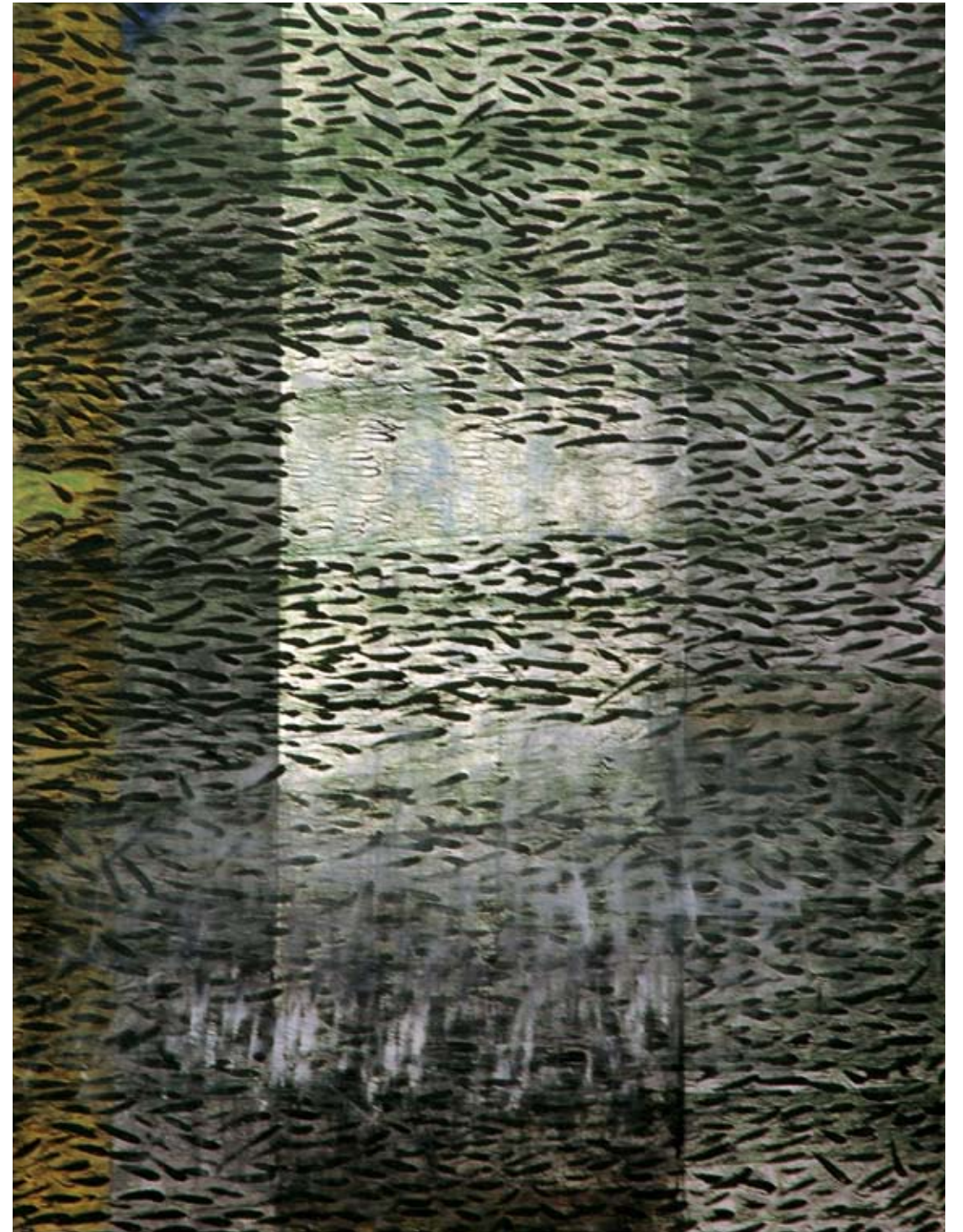
A Shoal in Green – VII
 2007
 37" x 42"
 Mixed Media on Silk Pasted on Canvas



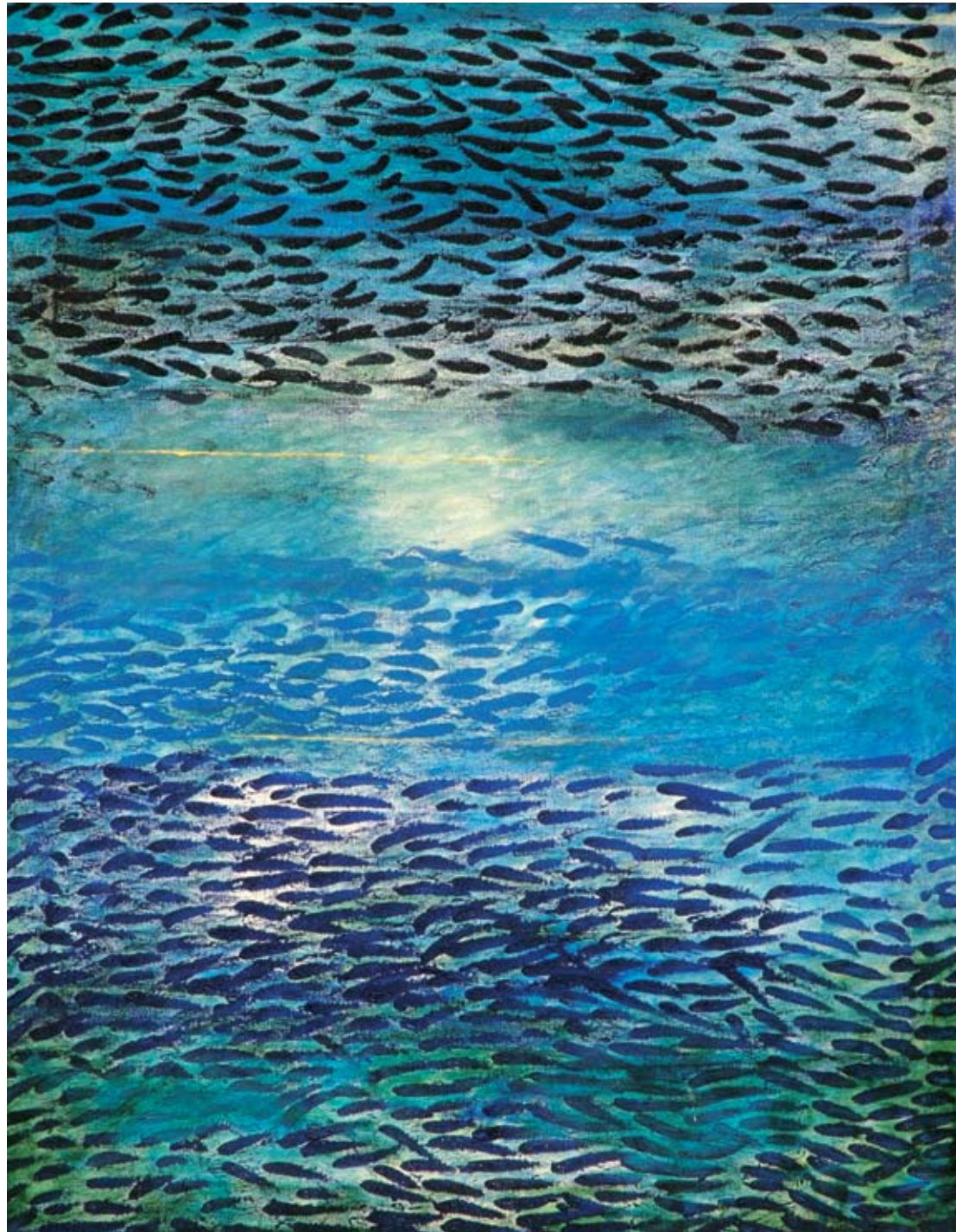
A Shoal in Green – II
 2007
 36" x 36"
 Mixed Media on Canvas



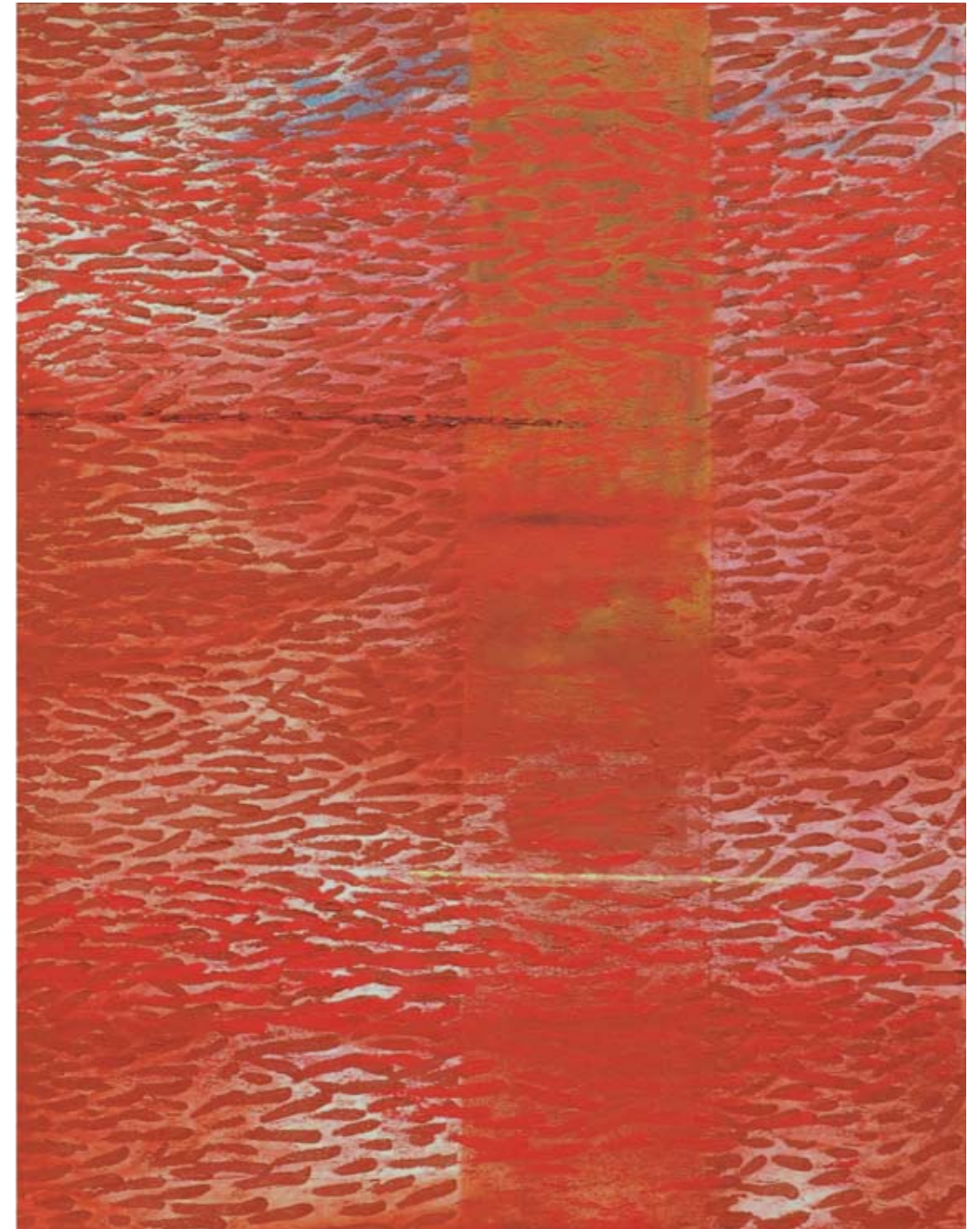
A Shoal in Blue – VIII
2007
32" x 57"
Oil on Canvas



A Shoal in Black – II
2007
36" x 30"
Oil on Canvas



A Shoal in Blue – VI
 2007
 36" x 42"
 Mixed Media on Silk Pasted on Canvas



A Shoal in Red – II
 2007
 38" x 30"
 Oil on Canvas



Ashok Gulati

Graduated from Govt.College of Arts – Chandigarh 1980.
Specialization in Graphic Art,
Attended various Graphics, Printmaking, Painting & Performing Arts workshops at
Chandigarh, Bhopal, New Delhi.

Participation

Graphic Exhibition (Six Week Summer Workshop)
Graphic Workshop Held at Chandigarh and Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi.
Annual Art Exhibition of Govt. College - Chandigarh
Annual Exhibition of Punjab Lalit Kala Academy.
First Art fair at Chandigarh
Participated in Apple yatra symposium on publishing & Multimedia.

Artist Camps & Workshops

Carol Summers- A distinguished American Printmaker.
Printmaking Workshop organized by USICA-New Delhi,
and Govt. College of Arts-Chandigarh
6 weeks special workshop on Print Making at Chandigarh.
Artist workshop at Chandigarh & New Delhi
Attended five days art camp at KASAULI. HP -2003
Attended one day art camp organized by Tivoli Garden & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.
Attended art camps organized by Dhoomimal gallery.

Member

The Solids - A forum of Contemporary Artists.
Nukkad - A Group of Contemporary performing Artists.

Participating regularly in most of the National & International Exhibitions.
Participated in The Incredible Moment- 2005. A All India Photo Exhibition Organized by PFA
and TOI at Maurya Sheraton, New Delhi.
Collection of Graphics/Drawings, Painting at various Personal & Private levels.
2002 - Group Shows
(a) Sixth August: A Group show curated by Umesh Varma, a very
Senior & distinguished artist. at Garhi Gallery, Kala kutir, lalit kala Academy
(b) Vision - 2002 at Urusvati Art Gallery 6th Sep. to 25 th Sep.
(c) Ravi Jain Annual-2002 to 2005 - Indian Art Festival at Dhoomimal Gallery.
(d) Karmaa Art Fair - 27th Oct. to 25 Nov. 2002.
(e) An Exhibition of Drawings inspired by Shri Ashok Vajpeyi by selected artists of
Lalit Kala Akademi-Regional Centre, Garhi, New Delhi. on 16th,Dec’2002
(f) A Workshop & Exhibition organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
HASSTAKSHAR-expressed by the Artists of Delhi to mark their solidarity
against terrorism, on 13th,Dec’2002.
2003 - Group Shows
All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society-Platinum Jubilee(75th)
All India Art Exhibition- Entries in open section.
Sixteenth International Biennial Exhibition of Humour & Satire in the Art Gabrovo, BULGARIA.
Ravi Jain Annual - 2003 - Contemporary Indian Art Show - A Journey to past through present
unto the Future at Dhoomimal Gallery.
Solo Exhibition at Hungarian Cultural Center New Delhi.
Solo Exhibition at Dhoomimal gallery New Delhi.
Solo Exhibition organized by Department of Fine Arts- Panjab University Chandigarh.

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A Shoal in Yellow
2007
46" x 44"
Oil on Canvas