

# GABRIEL SOTO

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PORTFOLIO 2023

# BIO

# CV

Gabriel Soto (b. El Salvador, 1993) is a painter with an interest in vintage imagery, philosophy, science, and esotericism.

He graduated from The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts with a BFA where he trained in figurative and representational art.

Gabriel is a current recipient of the Artists' Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

His work has been shown in several exhibits in Maryland, DC, as well as the midwest and in virtual spaces.

Primarily focused on classical painting and surreal imagery, Gabriel is currently based out of the Washington DC area, where he resides as a DACA recipient.

## EDUCATION

2017

*BACHELOR'S OF FINE ARTS*

PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS

PHILADELPHIA, PA

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 - CULTIVATE: WITHOUT TITLE, CULTIVATE STUDIOS, KENSINGTON, MD
- 2023 - BE SEEN, THE ARTIST GALLERY, FREDERICK, MD
- 2023 - SPIRITUAL VISIONS, FONTBONNE UNIVERSITY GALLERY OF FINE ARTS, ST. LOUIS, MO
- 2022 - NATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION, DELAPLAINE ARTS CENTER, FREDERICK, MD
- 2022 - INVASION - INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS, WASHINGTON DC
- 2022 - VOLUME 1: PAINTING IN THE NEW ABNORMAL, CONTEMPORARY ART CHRONICLE, VIRTUAL EXHIBIT
- 2021 - REALMS OF POTENTIALITY, THE AEROGRAMME CENTER, VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2023 - GRANT FOR ARTISTS, MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL
- 2015 - MERIT SCHOLAR AWARD, PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS

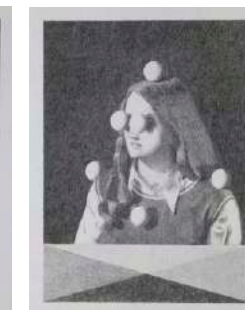
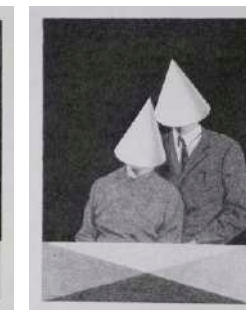
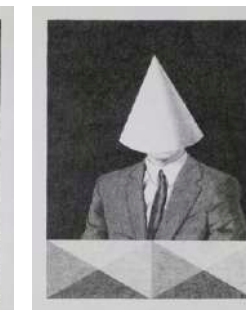
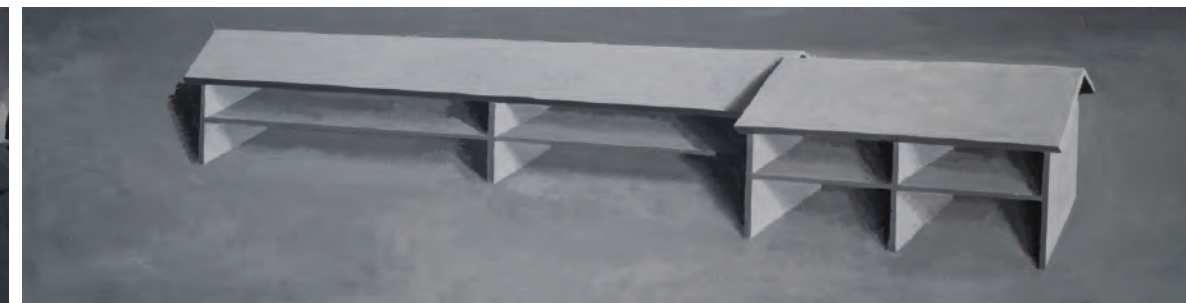
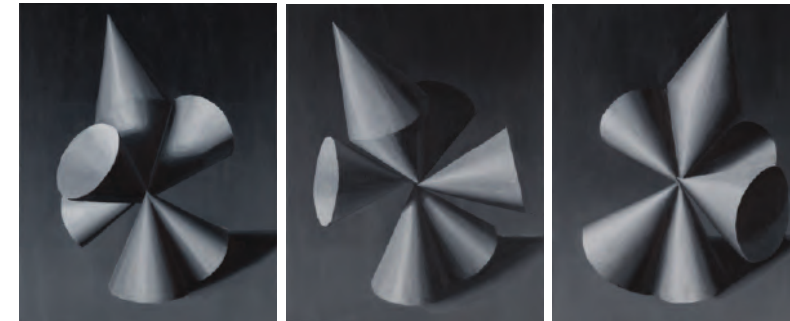
# STATEMENT

# IMAGES

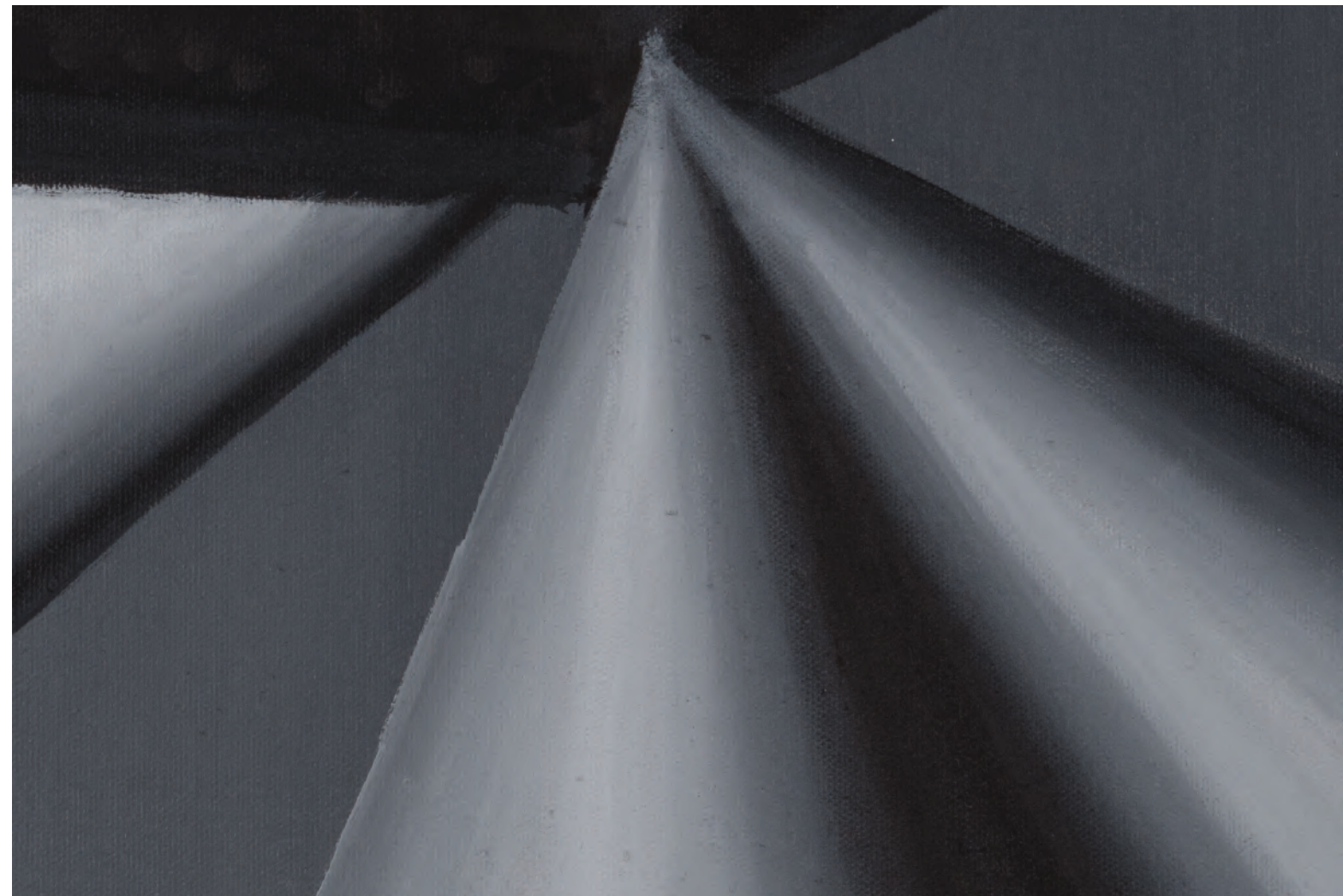
This artwork series features grayscale paintings and drawings depicting abstract geometric structures. I draw visual inspiration from Spanish Baroque painting, vintage photography, and science textbooks. Conceptually, my work is informed by my personal interest in Platonic philosophy, esotericism, and science.

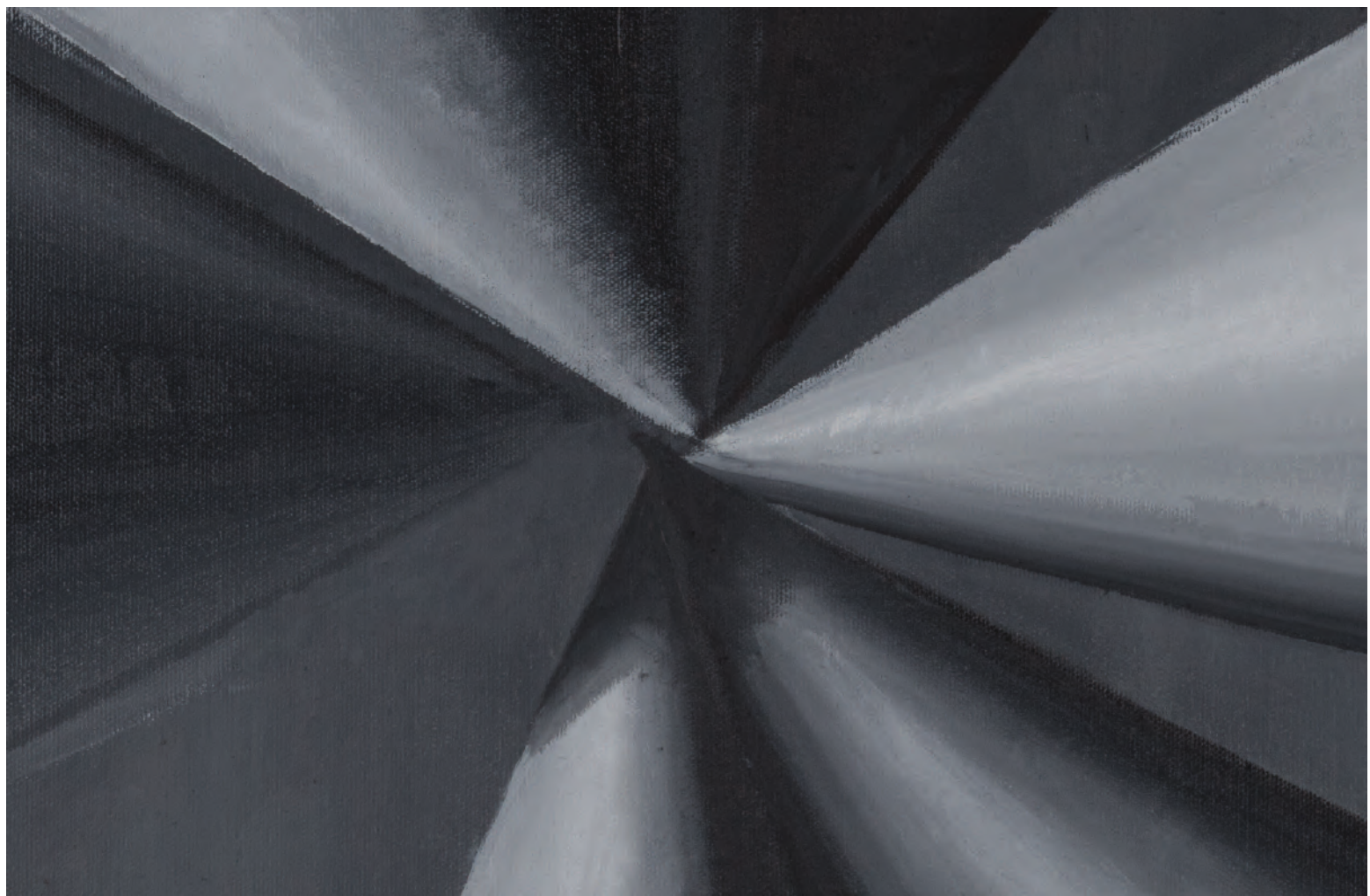
Recently, my paintings and drawings have taken upon two different subject matters. One consists of geometric abstract forms in landscape scenes; combining the style of architectural structures and the theatrical setting of a Spanish Baroque painting. The other subject is a series of portraits inspired by paranormal experiments held in the 1970s.

Although these subjects may appear different, I am using geometric forms as the connecting theme between these works. All of the artwork in this series is a juxtaposition of traditional pedagogy of painting with the aesthetics of scientific illustration and modern mysticism. There is a play on architectural and scientific principles of order and the Platonic concept of unseen abstract worlds that has compelled me to make these works. I am using these contrasting stylistic choices to attract viewers to



**Light Cone 1**  
30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023





**Light Cone 2**  
30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

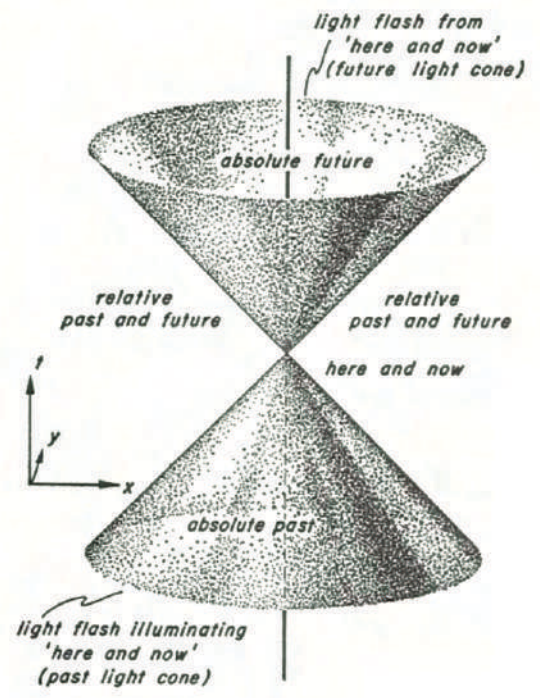
I've been captivated by baroque paintings of hooded saints in prayer. There's something about the vast, almost metaphysical space surrounding the figures that speaks to me. It's a stylistic choice that I find incredibly appealing, but it's also a way of turning the subject of the painting into a meditation on the essence of form and space.

During my research on Spanish Baroque paintings, I became fascinated with the hoods worn by the monks in these works. This inspired me to use conical structures as the figures in my own art. The use of these forms became intertwined with the concept of light cones in physics. Light cones define the boundary between everything that could potentially have an effect on us, and everything that will never be able to.

The interplay between these two concepts—the pious meditation on the totality of God and the scientific visualization of the totality of all things encompassing our reality—is something I find incredibly compelling, and I want to keep exploring it in future works.



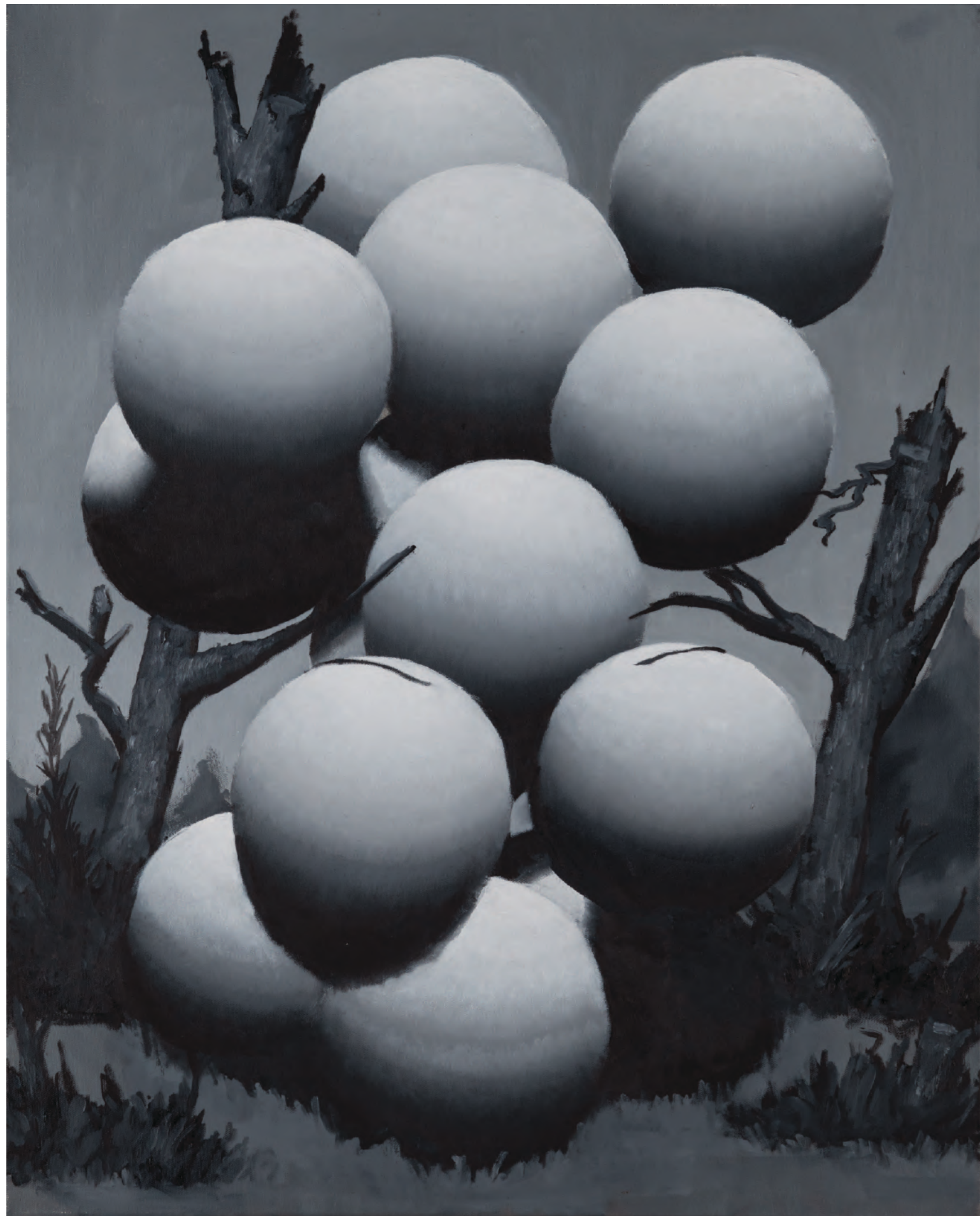
Saint Francis in meditation. Both paintings by Francisco de Zubarán



A Light Cone Diagram  
(From "Relativity & Common Sense" by Hermann Bondi p.143)

**Light Cone 3**  
30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023



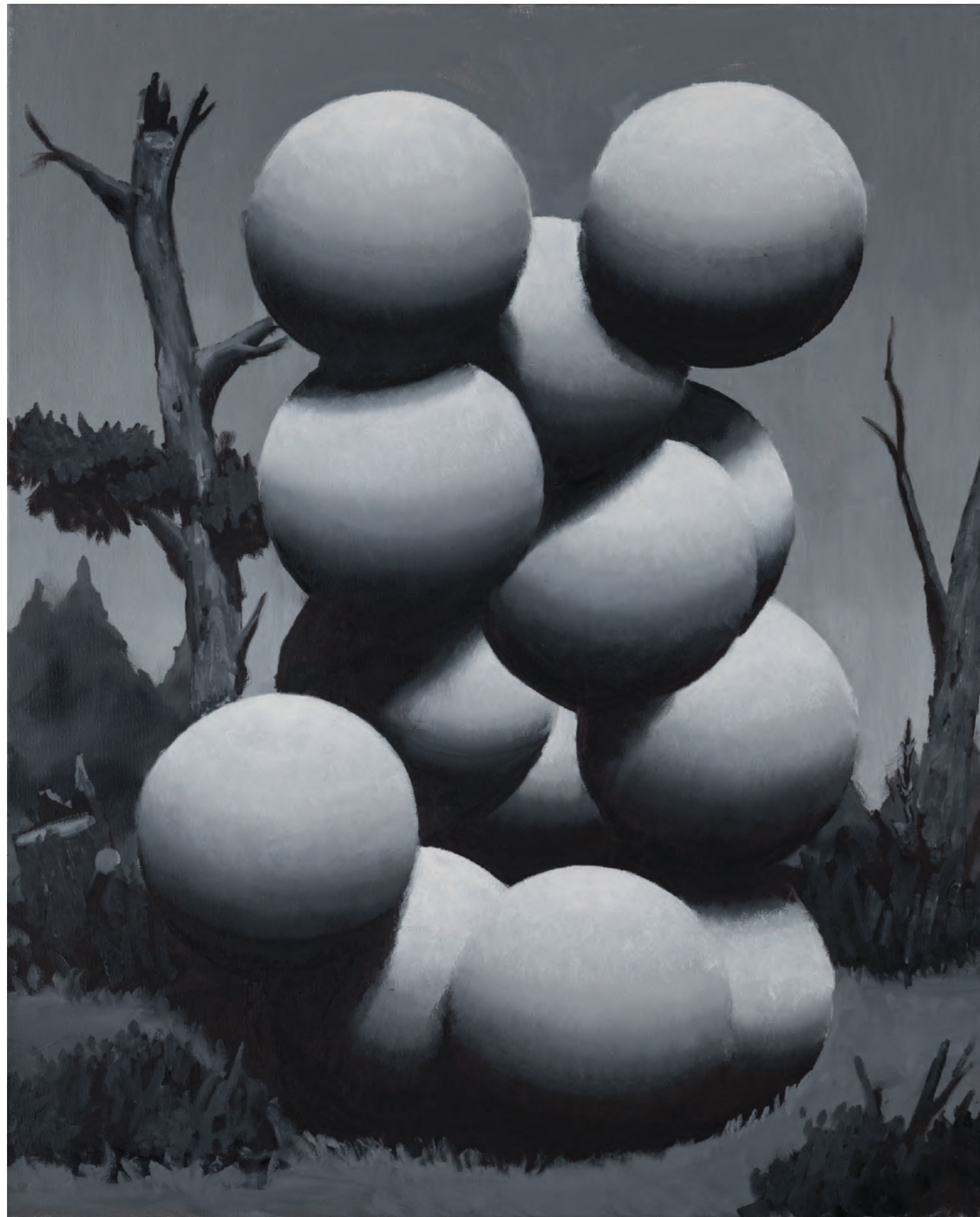


**Monad Molecule 1**  
30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023



**Monad Molecule 2**  
30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023



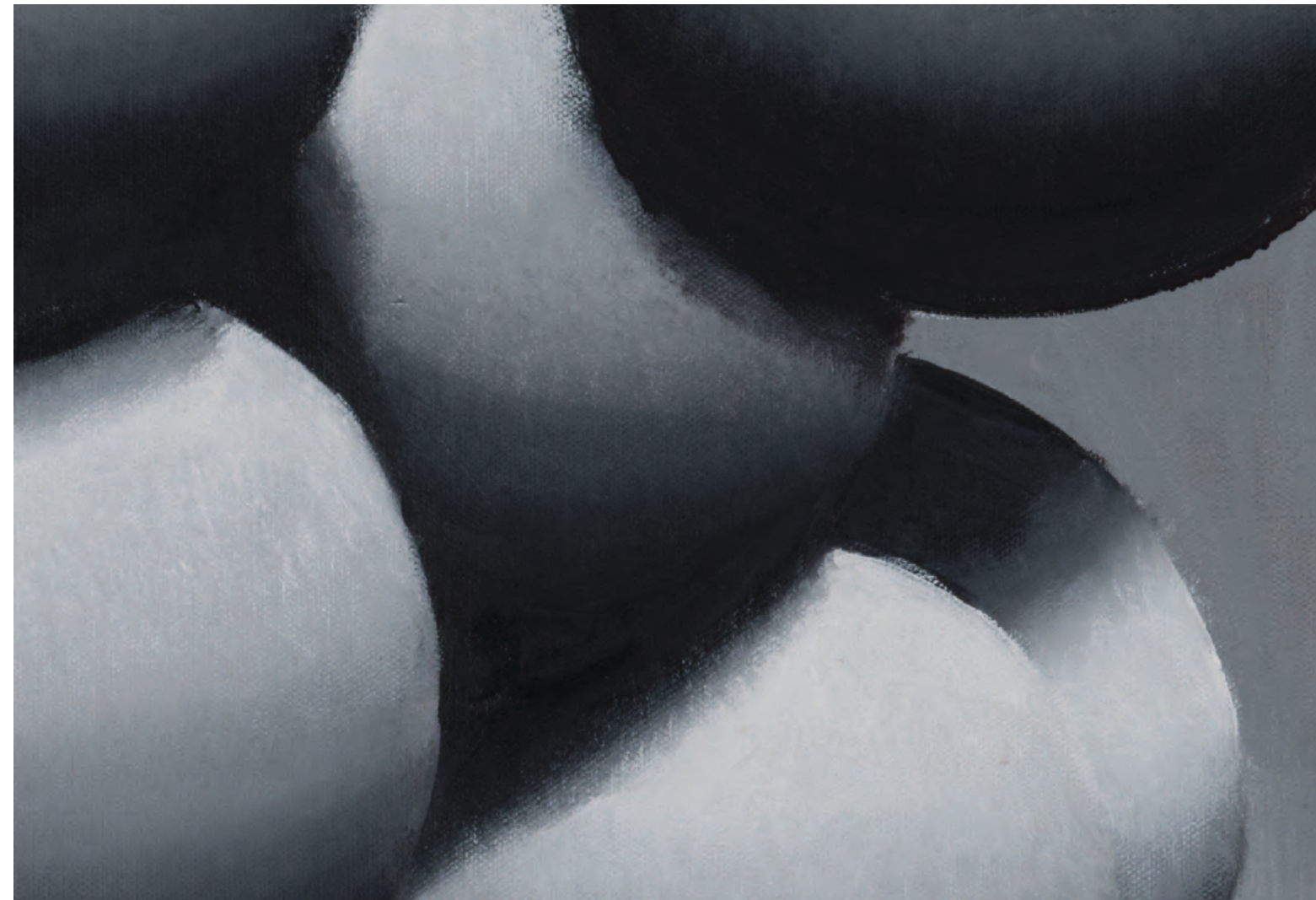


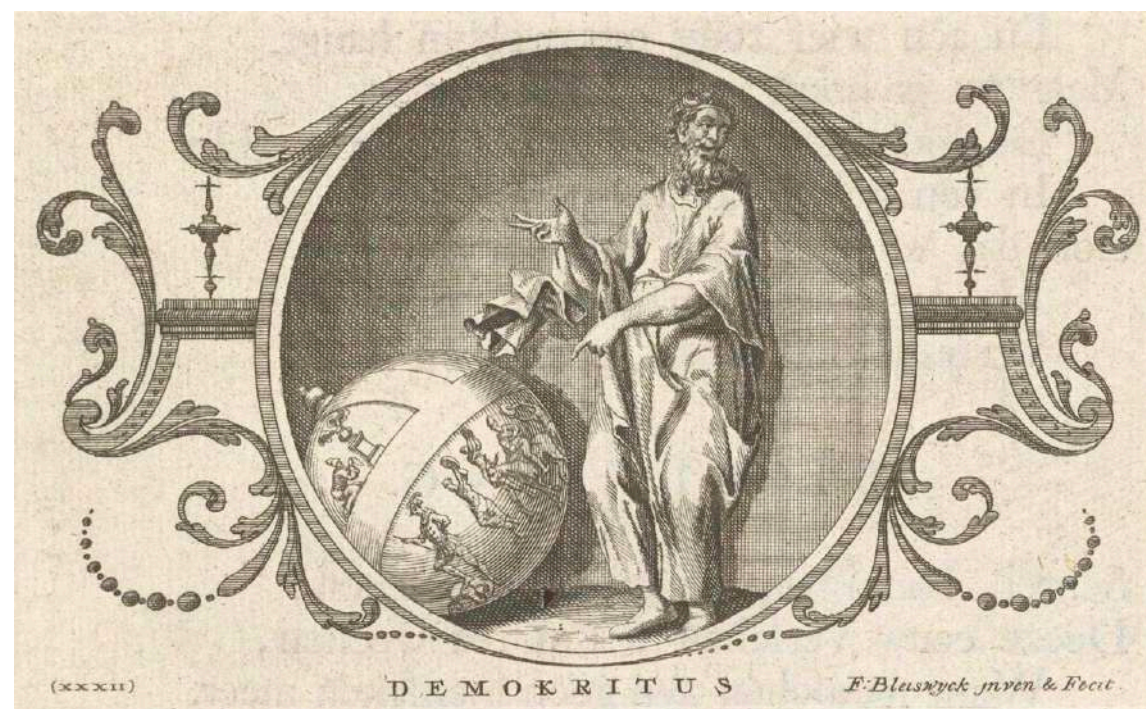
**Monad Molecule 3**

30" x 24"

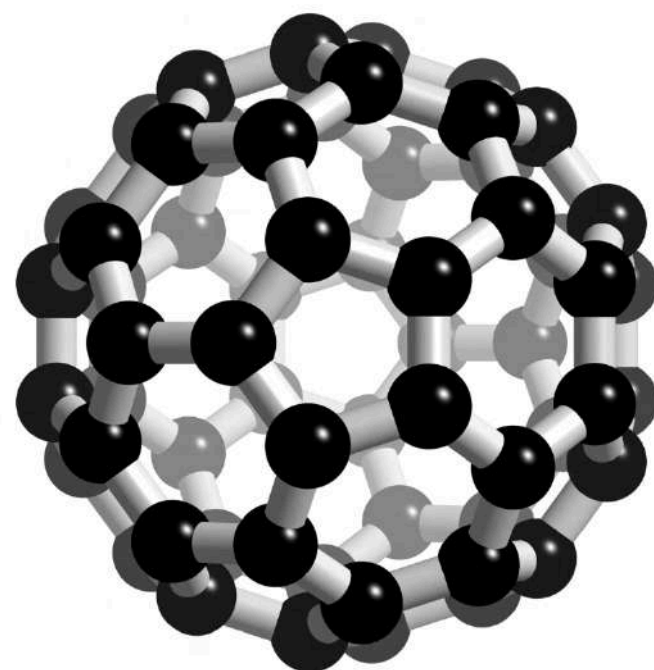
Oil on Canvas

2023





Emblem depicting the philosopher Democritus by François van Bleyswijck



Molecular model from 3dchem.com

Since my senior year at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), I have been interested the concept of monads. defined by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz in 1714, monads are units that are indivisible and represent the fundamental and metaphysical building blocks of reality.

My interest in monads led me to explore their connection with Democritus' theory of atoms, which also seeks to break down reality into smaller, more fundamental parts. Both concepts reflect the long-standing Western obsession with breaking the world down into ever smaller, more fundamental parts.

To symbolize these ideas, I use the sphere as a shape that is perfectly contained and has no details or identity other than its curvature. It can represent both the smallest unit of existence and the totality of the entire world. By grouping spheres together into 'molecules,' I aim to capture the process of abstracting the world into fundamental bits of stuff, reassembling them into models of what reality should look like.

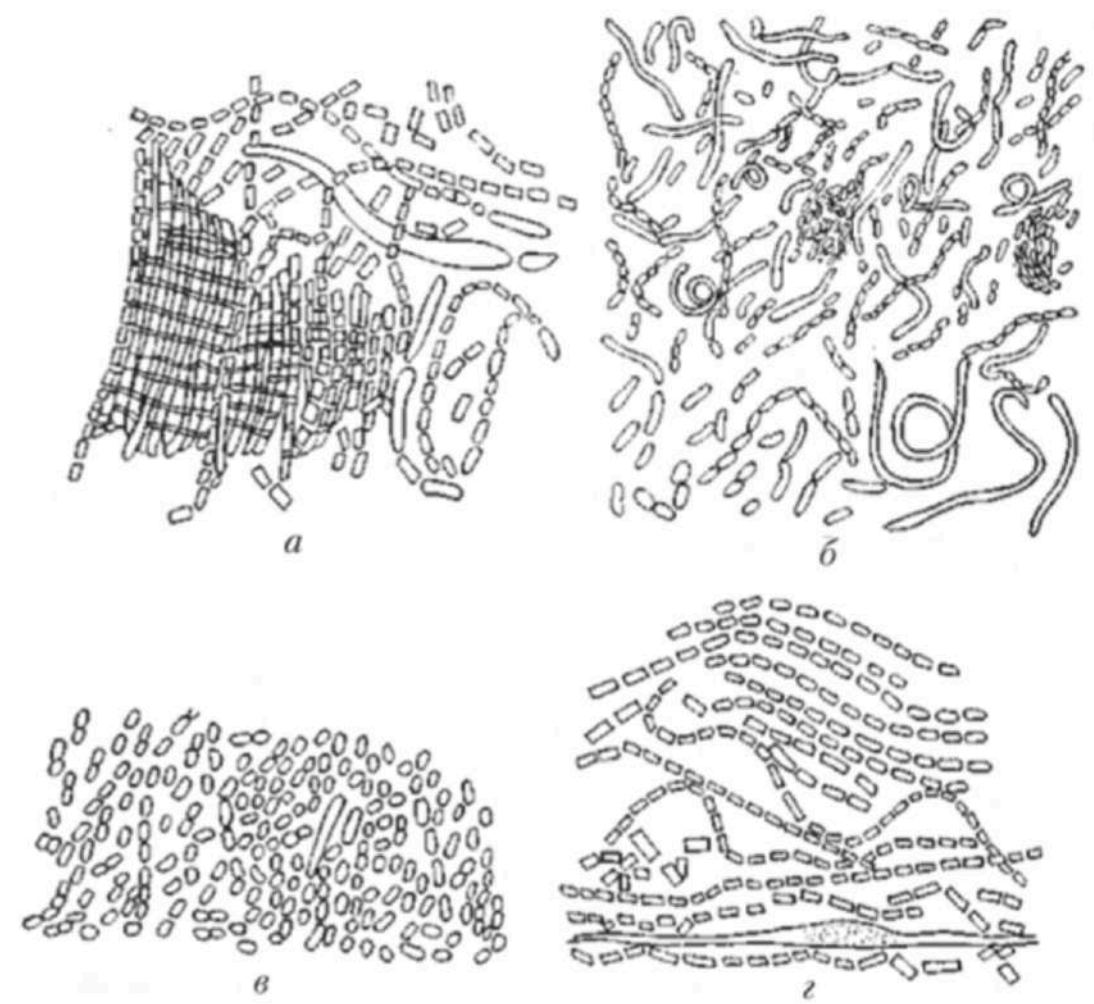
My molecule structures are almost figures, almost buildings, almost real objects, but they ultimately remain abstract groupings of constituent parts. Through these pieces, I wanted to highlight the inherent abstraction in the process of understanding reality.



**Molecular Mountain**  
18" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023



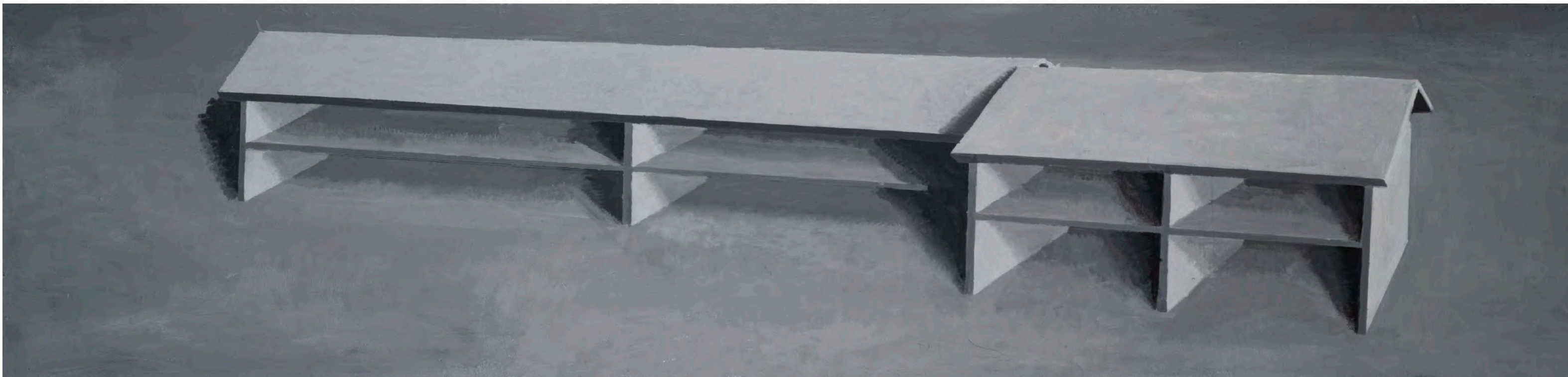
**Divine Bacteria**  
12.25" x 24.25"  
Acrylic, Charcoal on Panel  
2022



*Diagrams of Acetobacter specimens. Source unknown.*



**Platonic Tree**  
*24" x 20.25"*  
Oil on Canvas  
2022



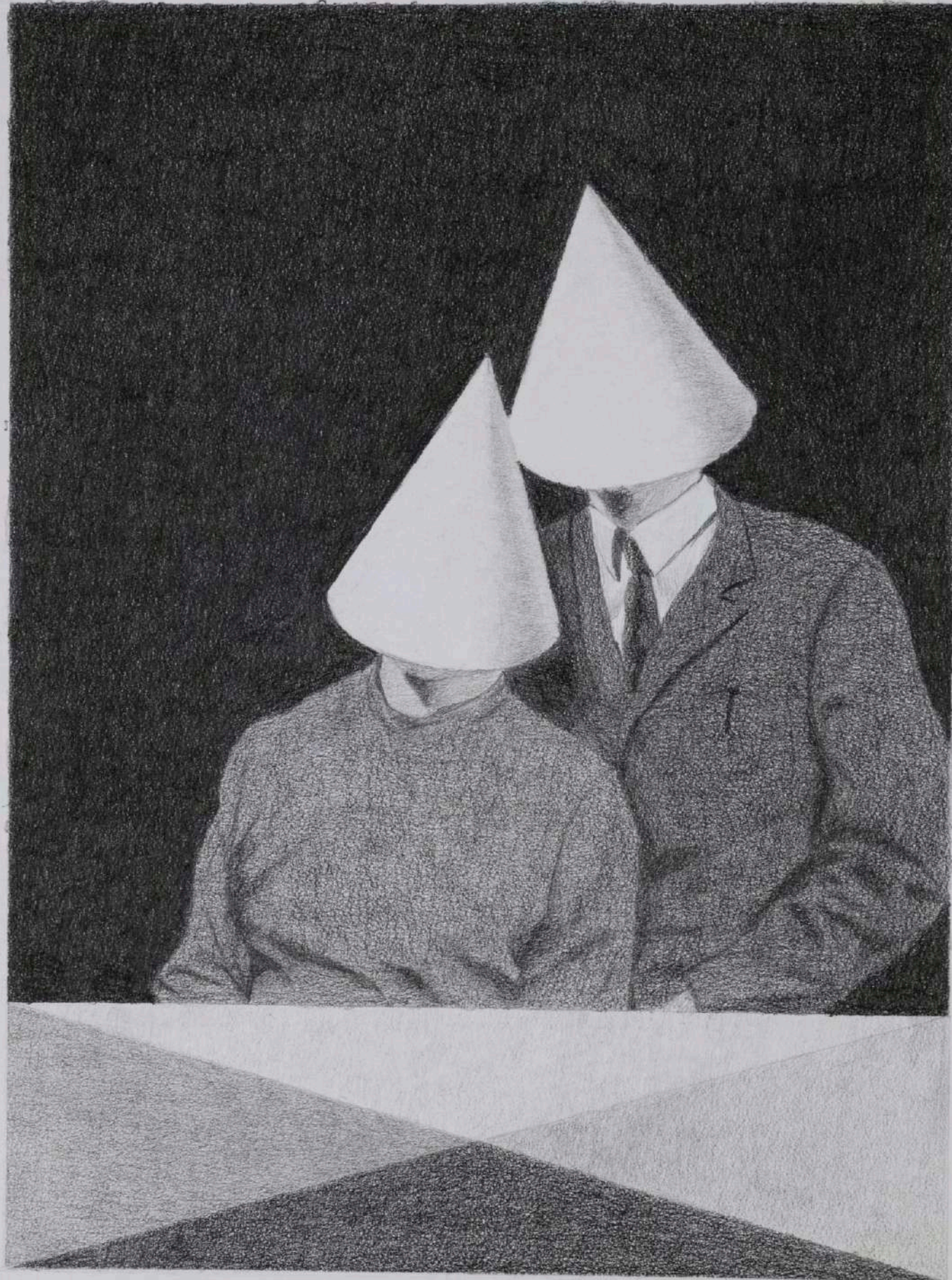
**The House**  
*17.5" x 72"*  
Acrylic on Panel  
2022

**Ganzfeld Cone Portrait 1**

18" x 24"

Graphite on Paper

2023



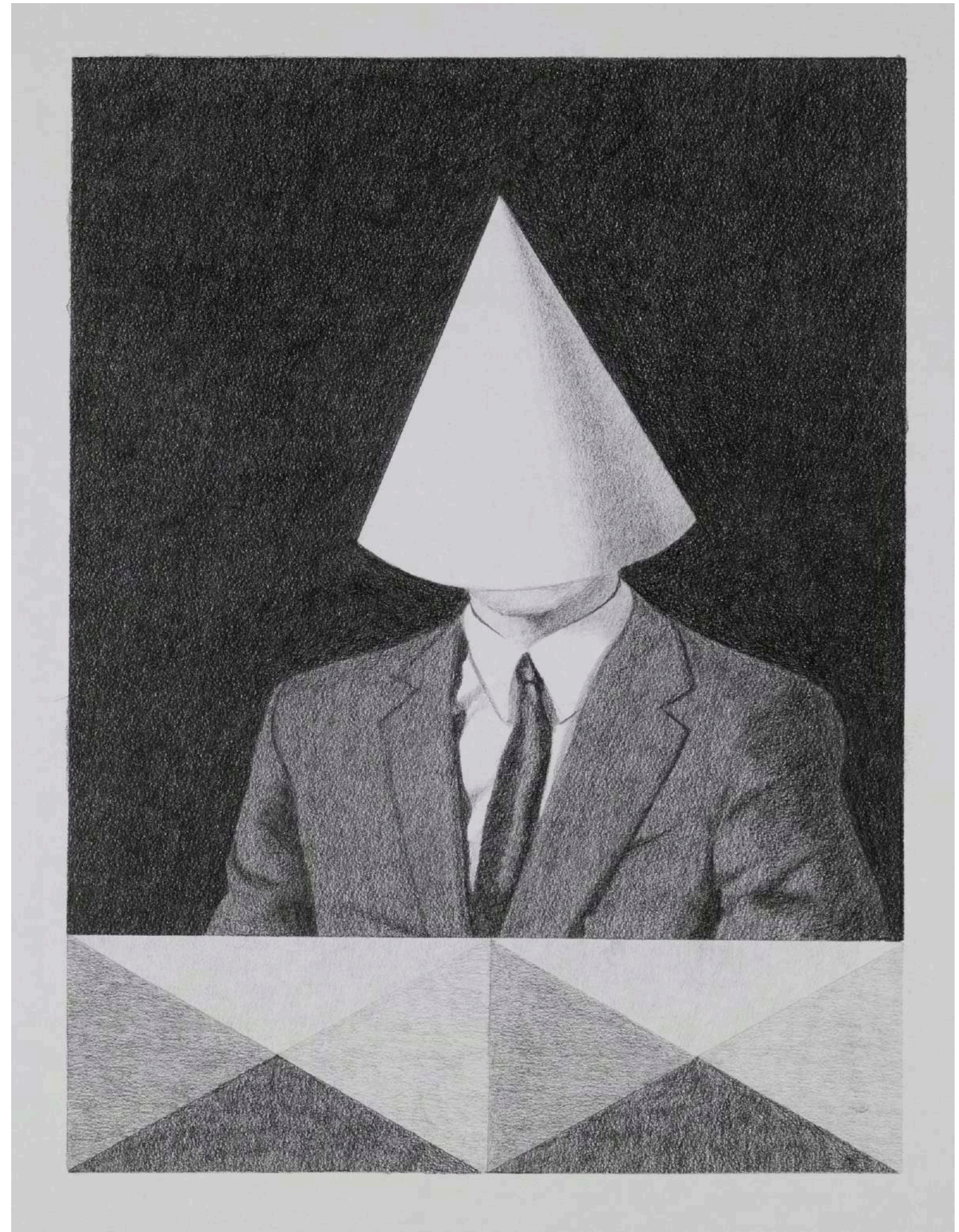


# Ganzfeld Cone Portrait 2

18" x 24"

Graphite on Paper

2023



The Ganzfeld experiments were a series of paranormal trials involving telepathy that were done in the 1970s. They aimed to show that in the absence of sensory input, telepathy between separated individuals was possible.

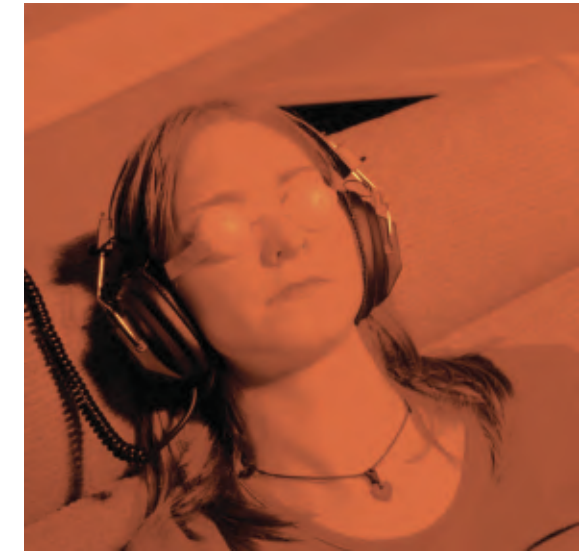
The aesthetic of these investigations, particularly the iconic cut-up ping pong balls used as eye covers for test subjects, struck me as both intriguing and enigmatic. I wanted to create an otherworldly atmosphere, a liminal space where the boundaries between the material and the immaterial begin to get blurred.

With this inspiration in mind, I began a portrait series in which I use spheres and cones to cover and mask the eyes, ears, and heads of my subjects. Through these portraits, I seek to create an aesthetic of modern mysticism, exploring the interplay between scientific rationalism and the pre-modern, enchanted world of the past.

The Ganzfeld experiments epitomize the clash between these two opposing forces. They demonstrate how even in our post-Enlightenment world, we are still drawn to the arational and the divine, seeking connections beyond the material. This series explores this ongoing tension and aims to create a dialogue between these worldviews, drawing on the Ganzfeld experiments as a jumping-off point.



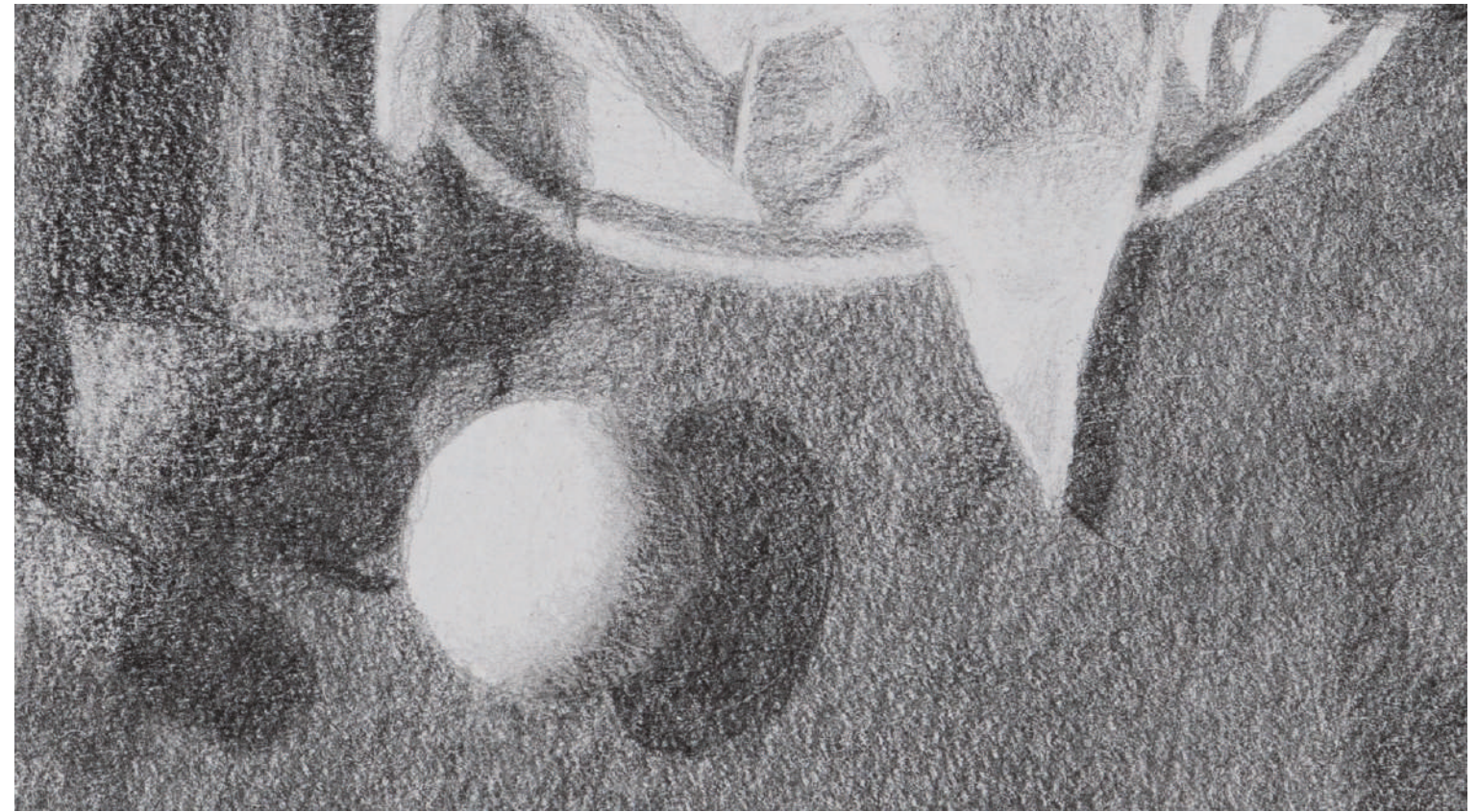
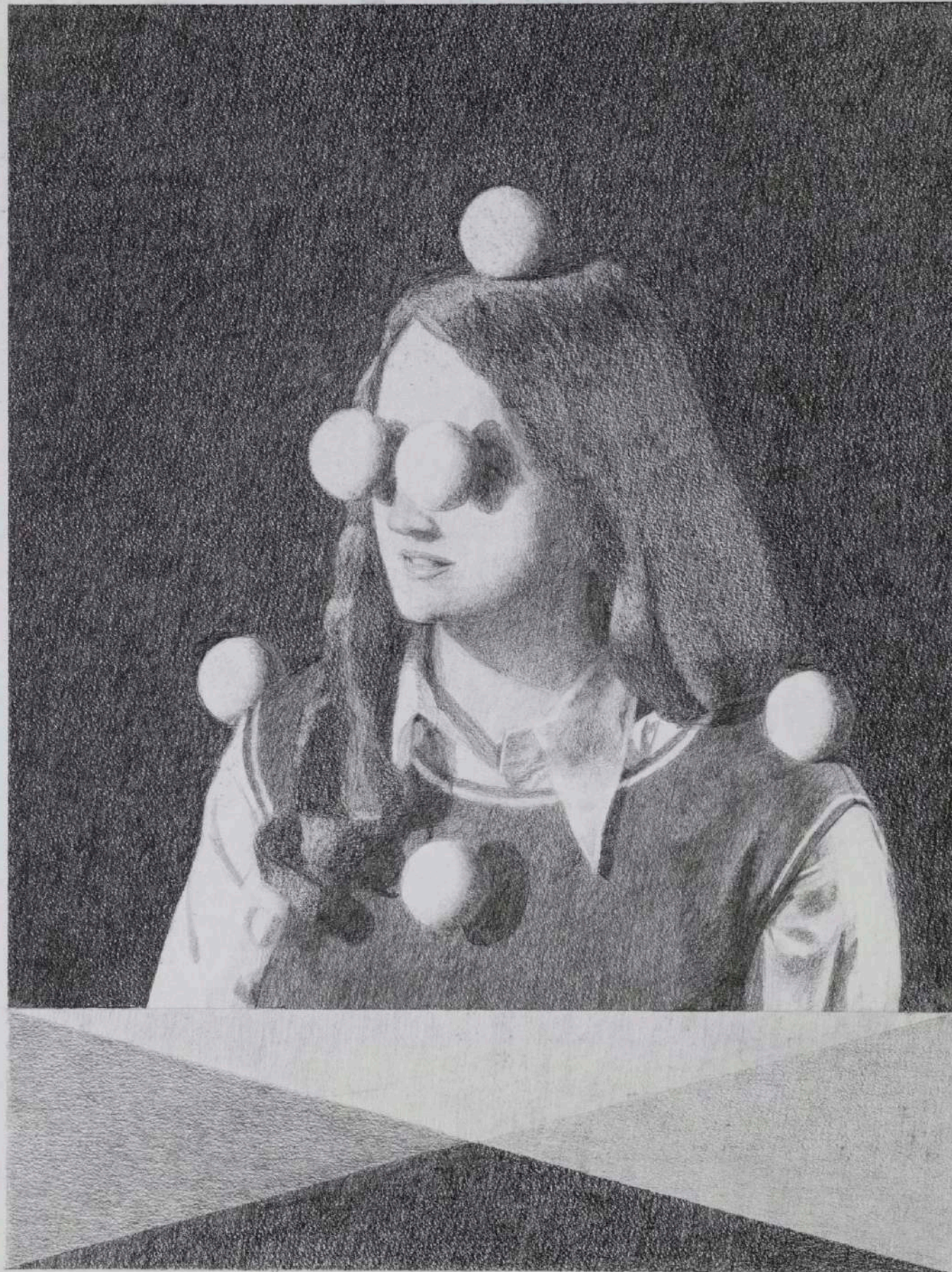
*Ganzfeld experiment photo, published in LIFE Magazine, issued April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1971*



*Woman undergoing Ganzfeld Experiment. Photo by Jeremy Walker*



*A séance depicted in Fritz Lang's 'Dr. Mabuse' (1922)*



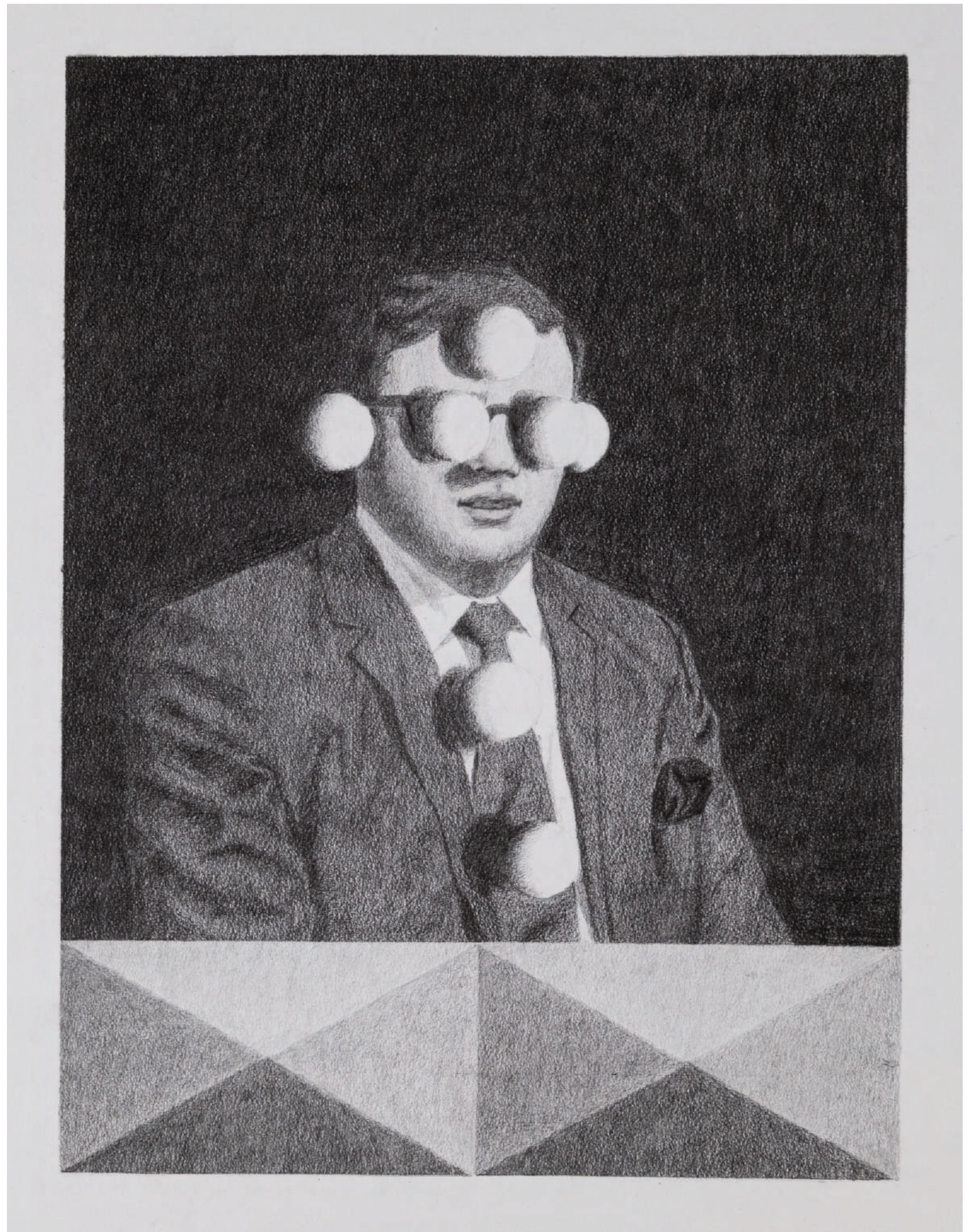
**Ganzfeld Ball Portrait 1**  
*18" x 24"*  
Graphite on Paper  
2023

**Ganzfeld Ball Portrait 2**

18" x 24"

Oil on Canvas

2023



# ITEM LIST

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For all inquires regarding availability and pricing, please refer to the contact information on the last page. Email is preferred for all inquiries.

**All information here is current at the date of Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

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18" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

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Acrylic, Charcoal on Panel  
2022

## **Platonic Tree**

24" x 20.25"  
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## **The House**

17.5" x 72"  
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18" x 24"  
Graphite on Paper  
2023

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18" x 24"  
Graphite on Paper  
2023

## **Ganzfeld Ball Portrait 1**

18" x 24"  
Graphite on Paper  
2023

## **Ganzfeld Ball Portrait 2**

18" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

## **Light Cone 1**

30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

*RESERVED FOR CLIENT*

## **Light Cone 2**

30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

## **Light Cone 3**

30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

## **Monad Molecule 1**

30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

## **Monad Molecule 2**

30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

## **Monad Molecule 3**

30" x 24"  
Oil on Canvas  
2023

*SOLD TO CLIENT*

# CONTACT

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**Email:**

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**Instagram:**

[@ga\\_so\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/ga_so_art)

**Website:**

[www.gabrielsoto.work](http://www.gabrielsoto.work)