



STILL

STRAUSS & CO | SUBURBIA CONTEMPORARY



SUBURBIA
CONTEMPORARY

Strauss&co

Africa's Leading Art Auction House

STILL

Jake Aikman and
Alexandra Karakashian

10 December 2025 to 16 January 2026

Strauss & Co, 2nd Floor, Brickfield Canvas,
35 Brickfield Road, Woodstock,
Cape Town

* All prices exclude VAT

Euro prices may vary depending on the exchange rate

ENQUIRIES

Kirsty Colledge

kirsty@straussart.co.za

+27 83 326 8283

Francesco Ozzola

francesco@suburbiacontemporary.com

+34 603 186 769

STILL

Still holds a duality within it that defines the essence of this exhibition: it suggests immobility, the silence of a suspended instant, yet forcefully affirms continuity, an enduring presence in time. 'Still' in this semantic space, between apparent quietude and obstinate survival, the practices of Jake Aikman and Alexandra Karakashian converge. For both, the artistic act becomes a form of radical resilience: a way to bear witness to what remains, to what resists the erosion of history and the force of the elements.

Alexandra Karakashian embodies a material and historical resilience. Her work, rooted in personal biography and the collective scars of the African continent, employs unstable and charged materials such as used engine oil and salt. Her painting is not merely representation, but a geological and political process: the oil staining the canvas evokes resource exploitation and ecological collapse, while the salt crystallizes mourning and the memory of exile. In *Still*, Karakashian's resilience is that of memory refusing to be erased; it is a lament for lost lands and for those who have been 'unhomed.' Her works are fragile yet persistent monuments to an instability that threatens, but does not fully prevail.

Parallel to this, Jake Aikman explores an atmospheric and spiritual resilience. Having abandoned the human figure, perceived as a narrative distraction, Aikman turns his gaze toward the immensity of liminal spaces and



seascapes. Through a disciplined and restricted palette of ultramarine blue, burnt sienna, and sap green, the artist constructs visions of an austere and solemn beauty. His seas are not simple views, but powerful entities indifferent to human affairs. His painting captures ephemeral light and haze, suggesting that true resilience belongs to nature itself, capable of absorbing, submerging, and surviving. *Still*, for Aikman, is the apparent calm of water hiding unfathomable depths, an invitation to humble contemplation before the sublime.

Together, Karakashian and Aikman present two faces of resistance. One looks to the earth, the weight of matter, and human history; the other looks to the horizon, the water, and the natural infinite. In a frantic world, their works ask us to stop, be still, and recognize the silent strength of what, despite everything, remains.



Jake Aikman

*When you have a moment/if you have
a moment (Still, seascape aggregate)*

2025

oil on aluminum panel

48 x 56 cm

R120 000 (6 000€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

fall (after whale fall)

2025

used engine oil and pigment on canvas

200 x 120 cm

R300 000 (15 000€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Gold breach

(Still, seascape aggregate)

2025

oil on aluminum panel

99 x 125 cm

R180 000 (9 000€) EX VAT





Alexandra Karakashian

light fall I

2025

oil paint on sized paper

100 x 70 cm

R120 000 (6 000€) EX VAT





Alexandra Karakashian

still moving I

2025

oil paint on sized paper

38.5 x 28 cm

R60 000 (3 000€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Light at the end

(Still, seascape aggregate)

2025

oil on aluminum panel

200 x 146 cm

R420 000 (21 000€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

light fall (study)

2025

oil paint on sized paper

100 x 70 cm

R55 000 (2 800€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Unfathomed

(Still, seascape aggregate)

2025

oil on aluminum panel

200 x 146 cm

R420 000 (21 000€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

still moving III

2025

oil paint on sized paper

38.5 x 28 cm

R60 000 (3 000€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Still hope I

2025

oil on linen

25 x 20 cm

R24 000 (1 200€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

sanctum

2025

used engine oil and pigment on linen

25 x 20 cm

R45 000 (2 300€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Warm foreshadowing

2025

oil on linen

25 x 20 cm

R24 000 (1 200€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Still hope II

2025

oil on linen

25 x 20 cm

R24 000 (1 200€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

falling (study) II

2025

water colour on stretched paper

20 x 15 cm

R35 000 (1 800€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

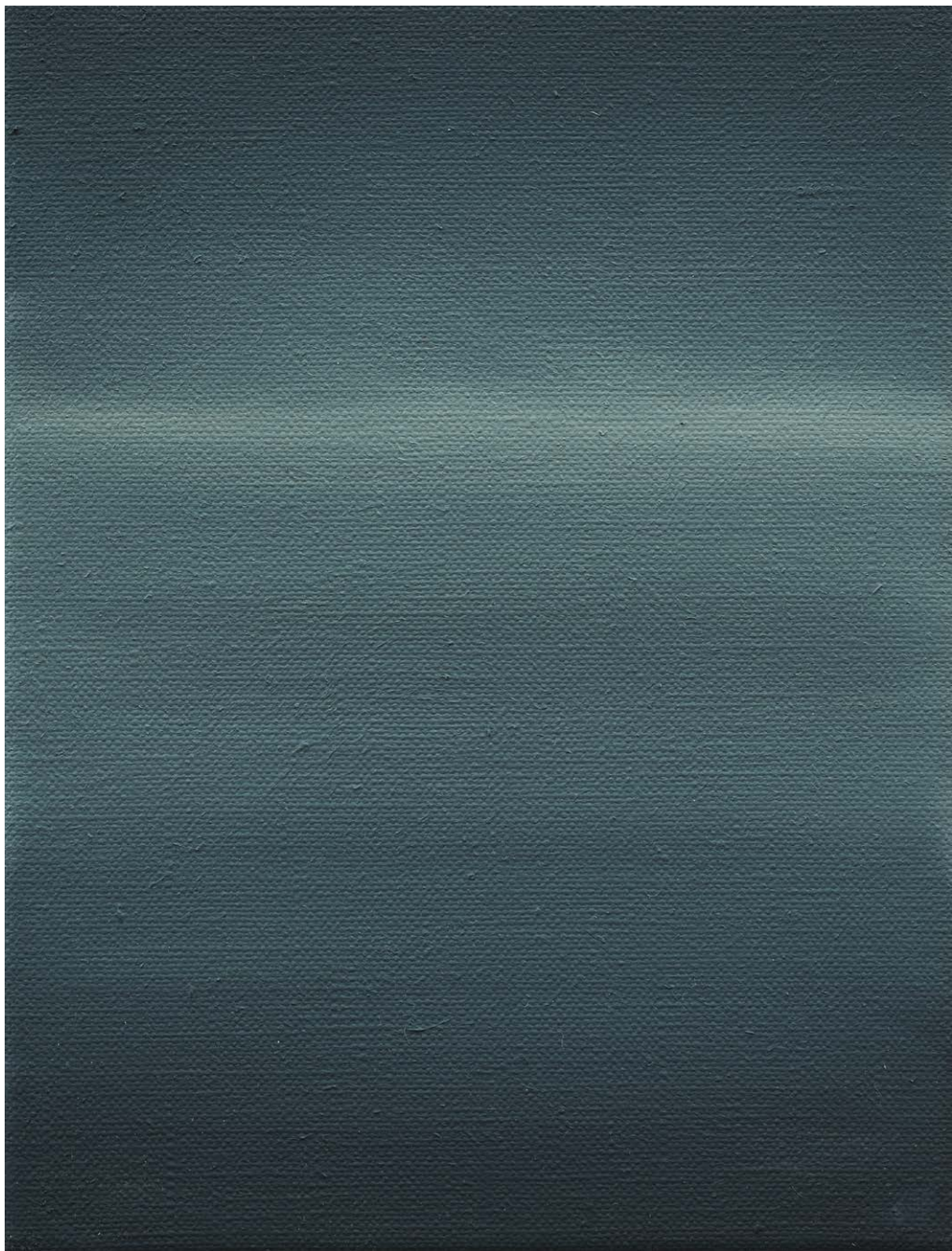
Glimpse I

2025

oil on linen

20,5 x 15,5 cm

R20 000 (1 000€) EX VAT



Jake Aikman

Glimpse II

2025

oil on linen

20,5 x 15,5 cm

R20 000 (1 000€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

falling breath

2025

used engine oil and pigment on canvas

25 x 20 cm

R45 000 (2 300€) EX VAT



Alexandra Karakashian

light fall II

2025

oil paint on sized paper

100 x 70 cm

R120 000 (6 000€) EX VAT





Jake Aikman

Obscure foreshadowing (Atlantic)

2025

oil on linen

150 x 120 cm

R300 000 (15 000€) EX VAT





SUBURBIA
CONTEMPORARY

Strauss & co

Africa's Leading Art Auction House

ENQUIRIES

Kirsty Colledge

kirsty@straussart.co.za

+27 83 326 8283

Francesco Ozzola

francesco@suburbiacontemporary.com

+34 603 186 769