

# Jessica Lundi-Léandre

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Paris - FRANCE



# Biography

Born in 1998 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jessica Lundi-Léandre lives and works in Paris. A painter, she develops a figurative practice exploring the notions of identity, memory, and desire through the prism of Black corporeality.

Holding a Master's degree in History and Geography, with a background in Art History from the University of Nantes, she conceives painting as a space of dialogue between the intimate and the political.

Her work emerges from an Afro-feminist and Caribbean perspective, where personal narratives become material for universal reflection.

Winner of the SPOT (2024) and CLAP (2023) programs, she presented her first solo exhibition *Demen Limyè Jayi* at Espace Louis Delgrès (Nantes, 2024), and has participated in several group exhibitions in France and Belgium, including *Kimpa Vita et ses héritières* (Charleroi, 2024) and *Enfance* (Galerie Cosmopolis, Nantes, 2023).

In 2024, she was invited by the Centre Pompidou as part of Paris Noir to present the work of the Haitian artist Toto Bissainthe—an invitation that marks the growing institutional recognition of her practice.

In parallel, she develops educational and cultural mediation initiatives through her company, Atelier Lundi-Léandre, offering painting and art history workshops to diverse audiences.

In 2025, she began a new series entitled *Éros*, which examines the female gaze upon the male body, extending her exploration of the intersections between sensuality, gaze, and power.

# Artistic Statement

My oil painting practice is rooted in the exploration of silenced and invisibilized narratives, particularly those connecting femininity, childhood, and Black identity. Through my works, I reconfigure representations of beauty, tenderness, and desire, giving form to perspectives often excluded from the history of art.

My paintings draw from my Haitian roots and from Vodou spirituality as both a source of light and of questioning. As a woman of African descent and as a queer artist, I explore the ways in which painting can articulate the complex relationship between body, faith, and gaze. My work seeks to reveal the nuances of sensitivity—where vulnerability becomes strength and gentleness acquires a political dimension.

My influences range from classical painting to contemporary practices centered on emotion and identity. Inspired by Artemisia Gentileschi, Berthe Morisot, Dorothea Tanning, Faith Ringgold, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, I play with compositions that subvert traditional codes of representation and open a dialogue between narration, symbolism, and sensuality.

Visually, my approach oscillates between realism and dreamlike abstraction, because it is within this tension that the contradictions, aspirations, and resistances nourishing my practice unfold.

If my earlier series—*Enfance*, *Frivoles?*, and *Demen Limyè Jayi*—explored spirituality, memory, family, and feminine desire, my new series *Éros* extends this field to the representation of the male body. It questions the possibility, for a woman, of eroticizing men without objectifying them—revealing instead their gentleness, beauty, and fragility.

Deeply Afro-feminist and Caribbean in spirit, my painting transcends questions of gender and sexuality to address the broader dimensions of care, gaze, and belonging. It aims to create a space for exchange and reclamation, where plural identities can finally recognize themselves in the light and silence of bodies.

# Curriculum Vitæ

Jessica Lundi-Léandre was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 1998.  
She lives and works in Paris, France.

## **Solo Exhibition**

2024 - Demen limyè jayi, Espace Louis Delgrès, Nantes, France

## **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2025 - SJUF, Courbevoie, France

2024 - Kimpa Vita et ses héritières, l'Alba - maison de la culture, Charleroi, Belgique

2024 - Maternelle, cours Saint-Pierre, Nantes, France

2023 - Enfance, Galerie Cosmopolis, Nantes, France

## **Awards**

2024 - Lauréate du dispositif “SPOT”, Nantes, France

2023 - Lauréate du dispositif “CLAP”, Nantes, France

## **Talks**

2025 - Paris Noir - Toto Bissainthe: A Haitian Woman in Paris  
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2024 - ISY ASBL , Kimpa Vita and the Emergence of Black Women:  
Between Memory and Reconstruction, l'Alba, Charleroi, Belgique

## **Résidency**

2025 - Europavox, Ratisbonne, Allemagne

## **Public commission**

2024 - Portrait of Kimpa Vita, I see You ASBL, Charleroi, Belgique

## **Press**

2024 - Ouest France: "Spot a mis en lumière des jeunes artistes nantais"

2024 - Mémoire d'Outre-mer: "Demen Limyè Jayi"

2024 - Ouest France: "Portraits de la Révolution Haïtienne"

## **Selected Educational & Cultural Projects**

2025 - Haitian Festival - Haitian Naïve Painting, Paris, France

2024 - Charliequeen - Mother-Daughter Painting Workshop  
, Charleroi, Belgique

2024 - Charliequeen - “Painting Family with Complementary Colors,  
Charleroi, Belgique

2024 - Accord - Introduction to Art History (Ages 4-5  
, Nantes, France

2023 - Brunch Littéraire, workshop “The Representation of Black Bodies in  
Painting  
”, Nantes, France

## **Youtube**

2024 - Demen Limyè jayi - “Préparer son exposition”



## EROS (in progress)

Éros examines the female gaze upon the male body. Through paintings developed from photographic sessions conducted by the artist, the series explores female desire, sensuality, and the vulnerability of men.

Far from a dynamic of domination, these works depict an exchange—a gaze that chooses, contemplates, and celebrates. The models, Black heterosexual and bisexual men, pose in assumed intimacy where beauty becomes both an aesthetic and political statement.

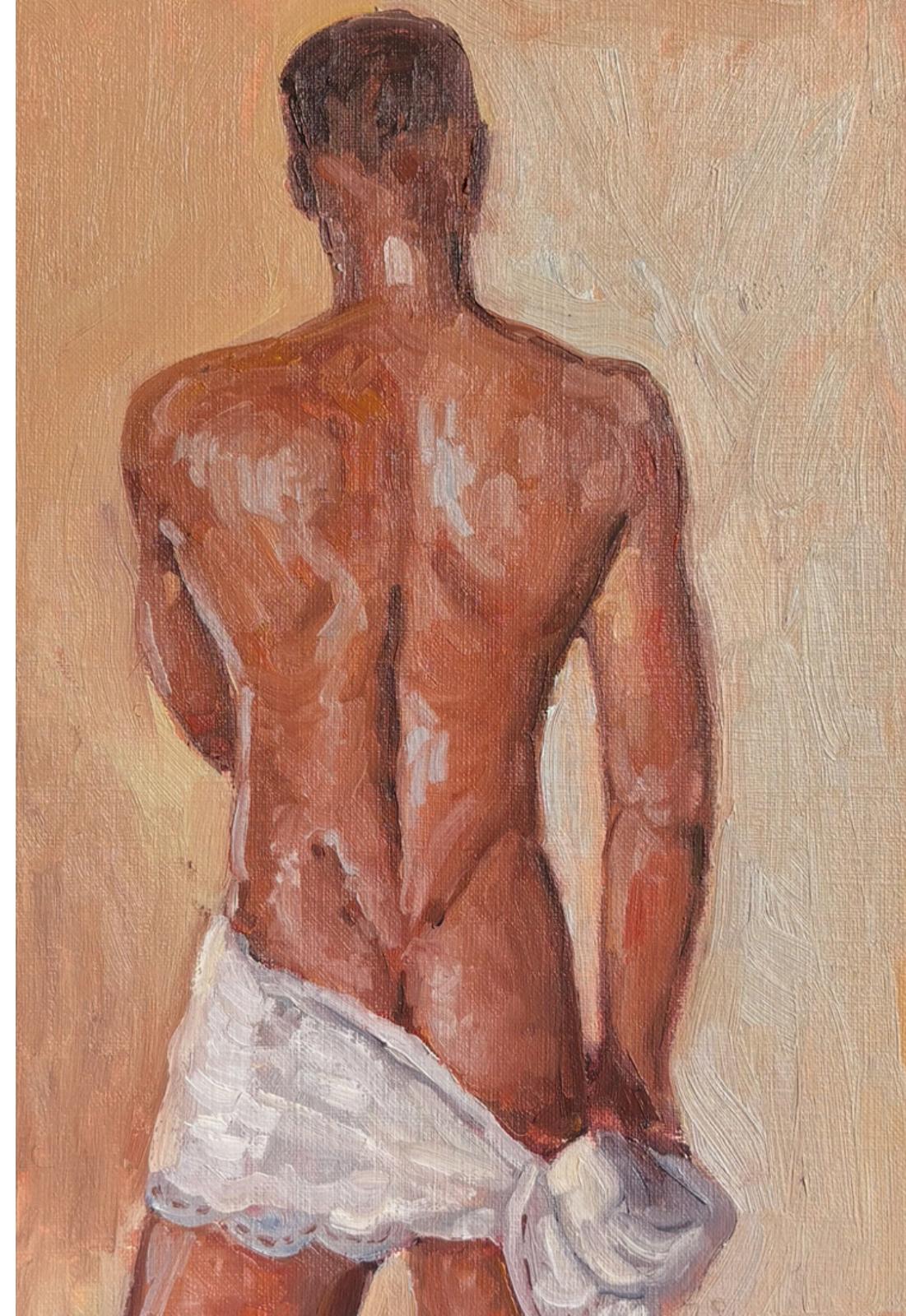
This project marks a shift toward a more symbolic pictorial language, where light, skin, and texture become vectors of emotion and eroticism. Éros continues the reflections initiated in “Frivoles ?” while inverting the perspective of desire.

—  
Oil on linen paper, 2025

21 x 29.7 cm

# EROS

Oil on linen paper, 2025  
21 x 29.7 cm





## FRIVOLES ?

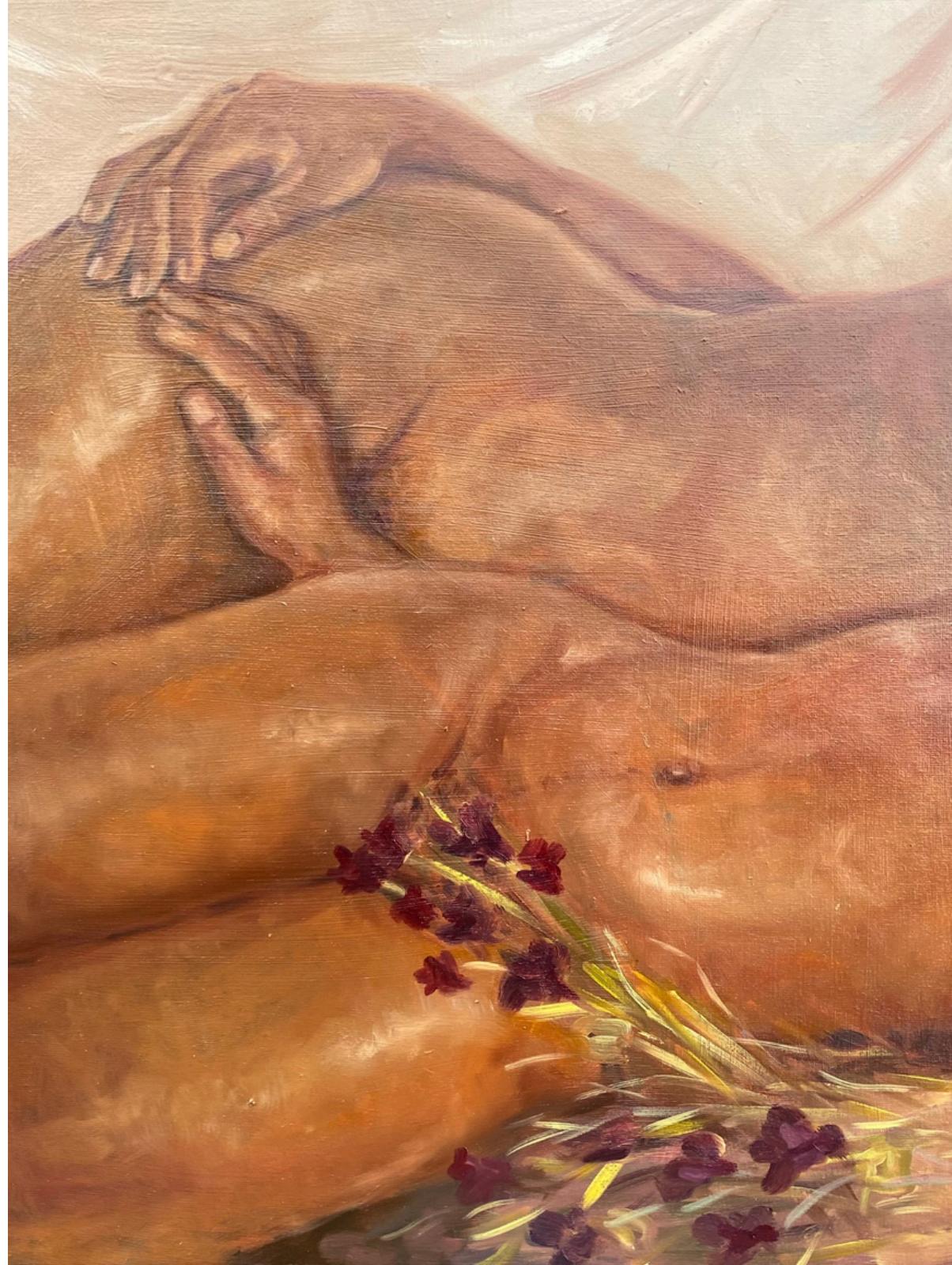
The series “Frivoles ?” explores feminine sensuality and the multiple facets of queer identity—between tenderness and freedom. Through intimate and poetic portraits, it celebrates non-heteronormative loves and proposes a liberated, nuanced vision of femininity—resisting shame, expectation, and stereotype. These paintings reveal the complexity of female desire—its softness, strength, and plurality—and echo the tension present in *Éros*: the need to see and to be seen differently.

Lovers

Oil on canvas,  
115 x 75 cm

# FRIVOLES ?

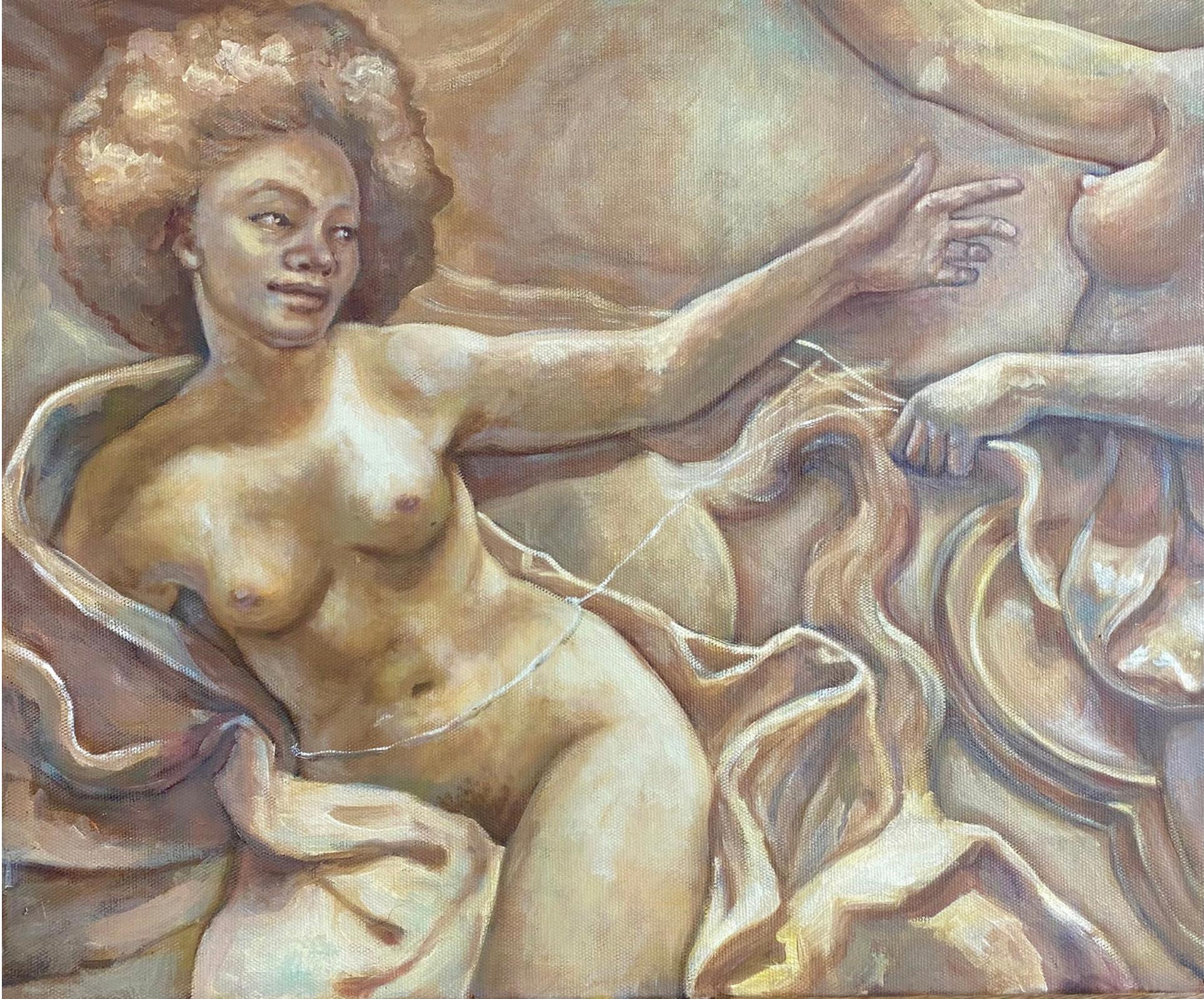
The rest  
Oil on canvas,  
40 × 50 cm

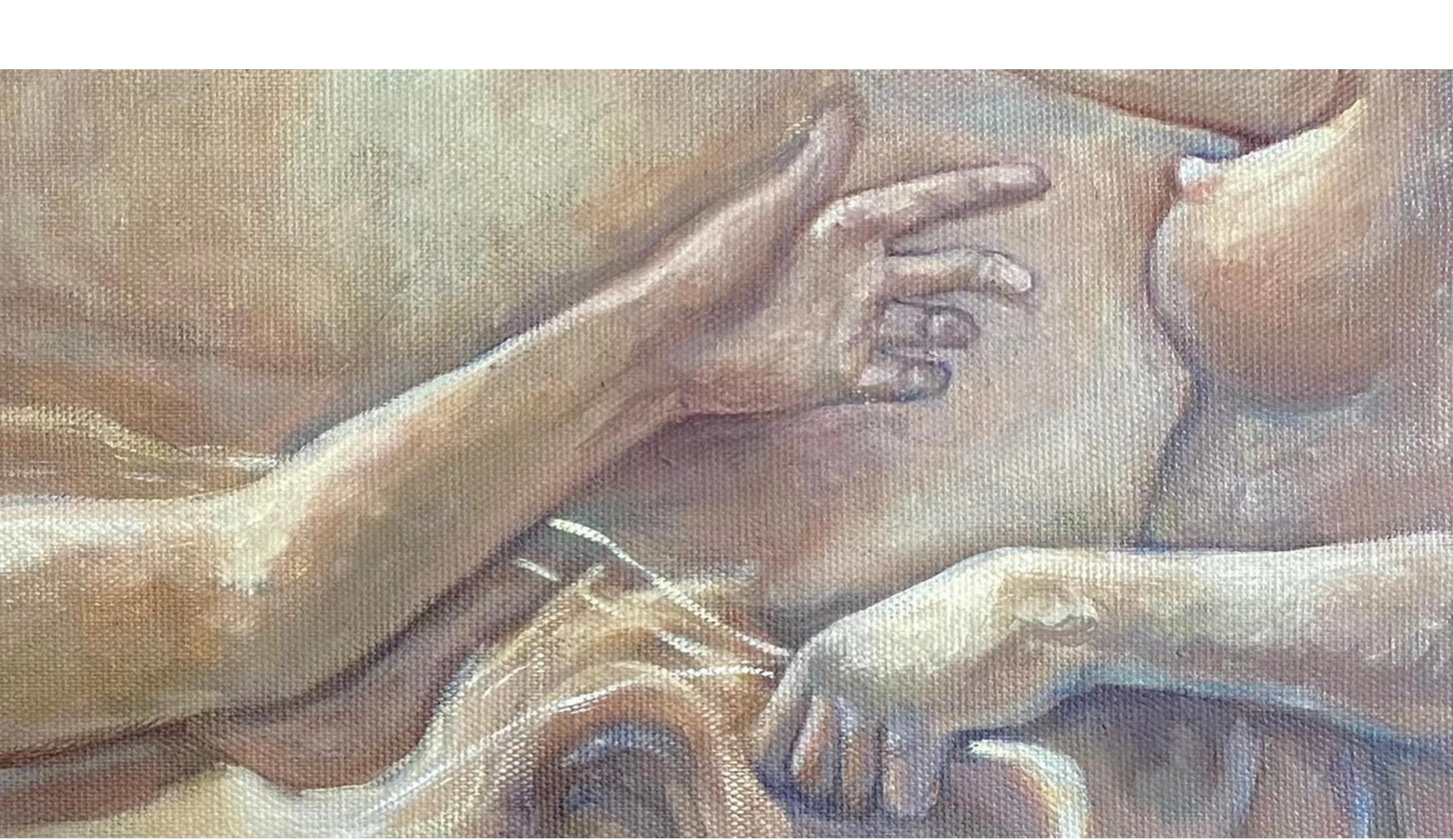


FRIVOLES ?

The abduction

Oil on canvas,  
38 x 45 cm







# ENFANCE

The series **Enfance** (childhood) examines the construction of gender and identity through my memories as a Black girl often perceived as a little boy. It questions how femininity is shaped under the gaze of others—between modesty, play, and resistance.

Through self-portraiture, I approach memory as a space for self-reconstruction, where intimacy becomes a site for interrogating representation and recognition.

## Enfance IV, The Bluest Eye

Oil on canvas,  
50 × 70 cm

# ENFANCE

Self-portrait

Enfance III, jolie fleur

Oil on canvas,

50 × 70 cm



# ENFANCE

self-portrait

Enfance II, “Oh, what a cute little boy”

Oil on canvas,  
50 × 70 cm





Jessica  
Lundi-  
Léandre  
présente

# Demen limyè jayi

La Révolution Haïtienne: la naissance d'une nation au-delà du mythe

13 juin  
— 5 juillet  
2024

Vernissage - 13 juin 2024 à partir de 19h

Espace Louis Delgrès  
89 quai de la fosse, 44000 Nantes  
Ligne 1 - Arrêt Chantiers Navals

Mar - Ven  
10:00 - 13:30  
14:30 - 18:00

## DEMEN LIMYÈ JAYI

This series pays homage to Haiti's revolutionary memory and the spiritual power of women. Inspired by sacred iconography and foundational myths, it explores light as a symbol of resistance and rebirth.

Through blue and gold tones, I evoke transcendence and the collective strength of a people in constant reinvention.

First presented at Espace Louis Delgrès (Nantes, 2024), this exhibition marked a pivotal step in my career—merging painting, memory, and spirituality.

### Manman ak pítit la\*

Oil on canvas,

50 × 65 cm

2019

\*The mother and Child



DEMEN LIMYÈ JAYI

Nativity

Oil on canvas,  
20x20 cm  
2020

# DEMEN LIMYÈ JAYI

Libère oswa Lanmò\*

Oil on canvas,  
100 × 100 cm

\*Freedom or Death





# DEMEN LIMYÈ JAYI

Nègès mawon\*

Oil on canvas,  
100 × 100 cm

\*Unknown Marron Woman



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