

Róbert Batykó

(b. 1981, Miskolc, Hungary)

acb



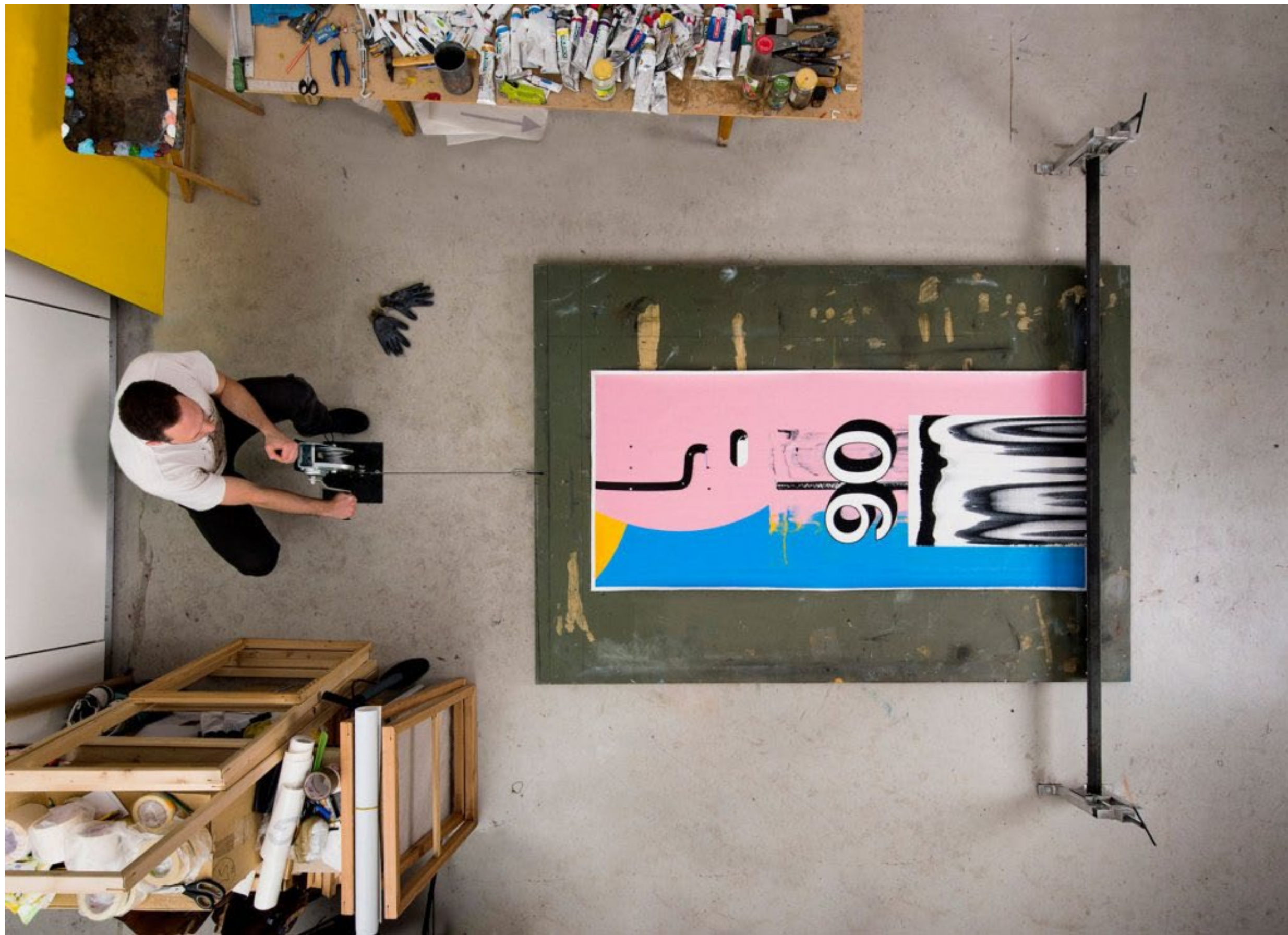
Róbert Batykó in 2019

Róbert Batykó (1981, Miskolc) graduated in 2005 at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Department of Painting, in the class of Károly Klimó. He is currently attending the DLA program of the University of Pécs. He has received numerous recognitions for his work. In 2007 he received the Strabag Art Award, between 2008 and 2011 he was on Derkovits Scholarship, in 2010 he was nominated for the Aviva Award, and in 2011 he won the Leopold Bloom Art Award. He lived and worked in the Netherlands for several years. Since 2007, besides acb Gallery, his works have been exhibited at every prominent Hungarian institution from the Ludwig Museum through the Hungarian National Gallery to the MODEM in Debrecen. His mid-career retrospective just closed in the monumental space of Paks Art Gallery and a catalogue summarising his career so far on almost 400 pages has been published in 2022 as well.

The newest paintings of Róbert Batykó (1981) in the past years have been dominated by the mechanical gesture of scraping or smearing paint across the canvas, which, despite it's impersonality, renders his paintings at once personal and concrete as a kind of unrepeatable and irreproducible act. Batykó transposes digital images in painting; with their themes and lack of facture, they evoke radically extracted details of software interfaces. Batykó's new paintings also deal with the register of the technological subconscious, while the reality – and vision – manipulating effect of image editing software provides them with a solid frame of reference.



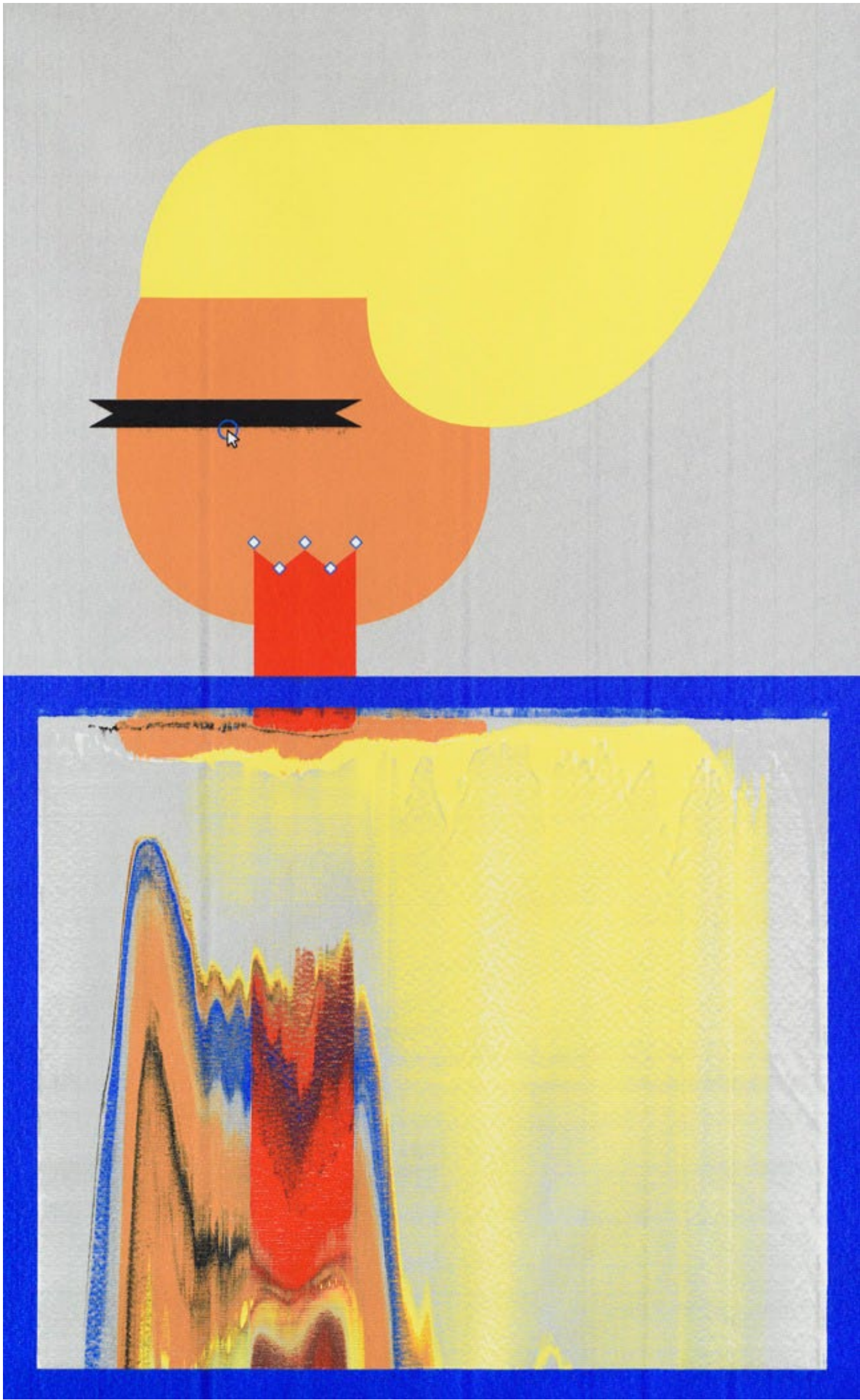
Visualization of acb Gallery's booth with the works of Róbert Batyjó at SPARK Art Fair, 2022



The artist constantly re-formulated figurativeness is manifested this time in organizing basic graphic forms into vague figures. In defining his themes, Róbert Batykó uses figures from step-by-step illustrations showing how to make vector images, taken as “found objects” from guides to vector drawing. Taken out of context, these illustrative stages of schematically constructed drawing processes, these figures become anthropomorphic in Batykó’s paintings. The artist flashes the haunting subconscious of the manipulation and technological transformability of images in unfamiliar yet familiar, abstract yet figurative form. Moreover, Batykó analyses our vision, as he seeks the autonomous identity of such “frames” in the digital flow of images that are still not quite distinct, but already have the potential of expressivity.

The dynamic, smeared surfaces in his canvases may stand for releasing the momentary pause of still images, as a sort of allegory of the flow of digital imagery. Batykó takes illustrations found on the internet and often recreates them using vector graphic software, then cuts these out as a large stencil, which he uses to paint his canvases. Following this, he mechanically smears the paint before it dries, by a special device, he designed. By reactivating the flow of images through the various stages of transfer in his creative process, he repositions his painting in the age of digital images by delving into the categories of performativity, temporality and participation beyond the painterly problems of representation and abstraction.

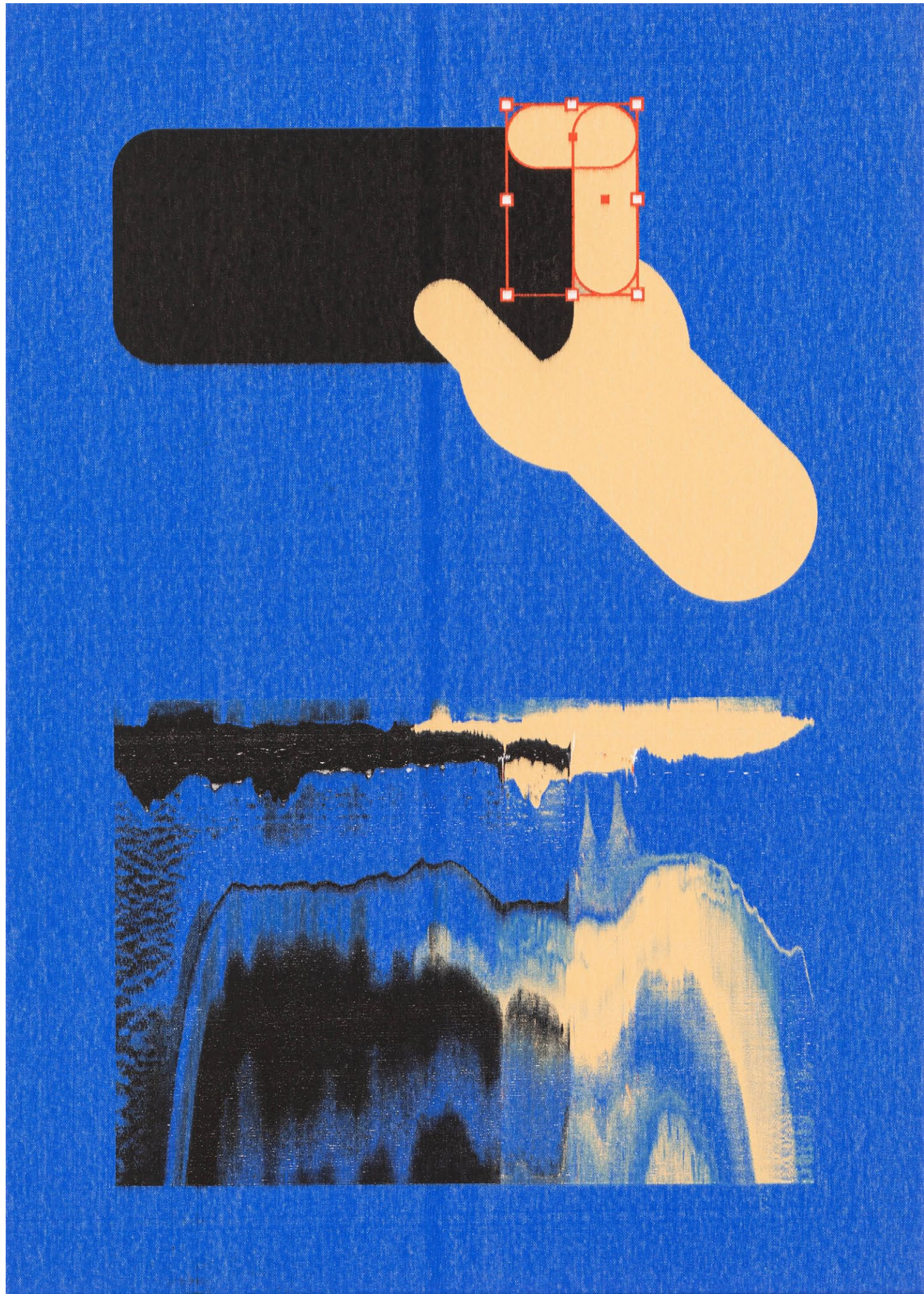
Presented works



Róbert Batykó: *Hocus 2*, 2021, oil on canvas, 235 × 145 cm



Róbert Batykó: *Yummy*, 2019, oil on canvas, 75 × 85 cm

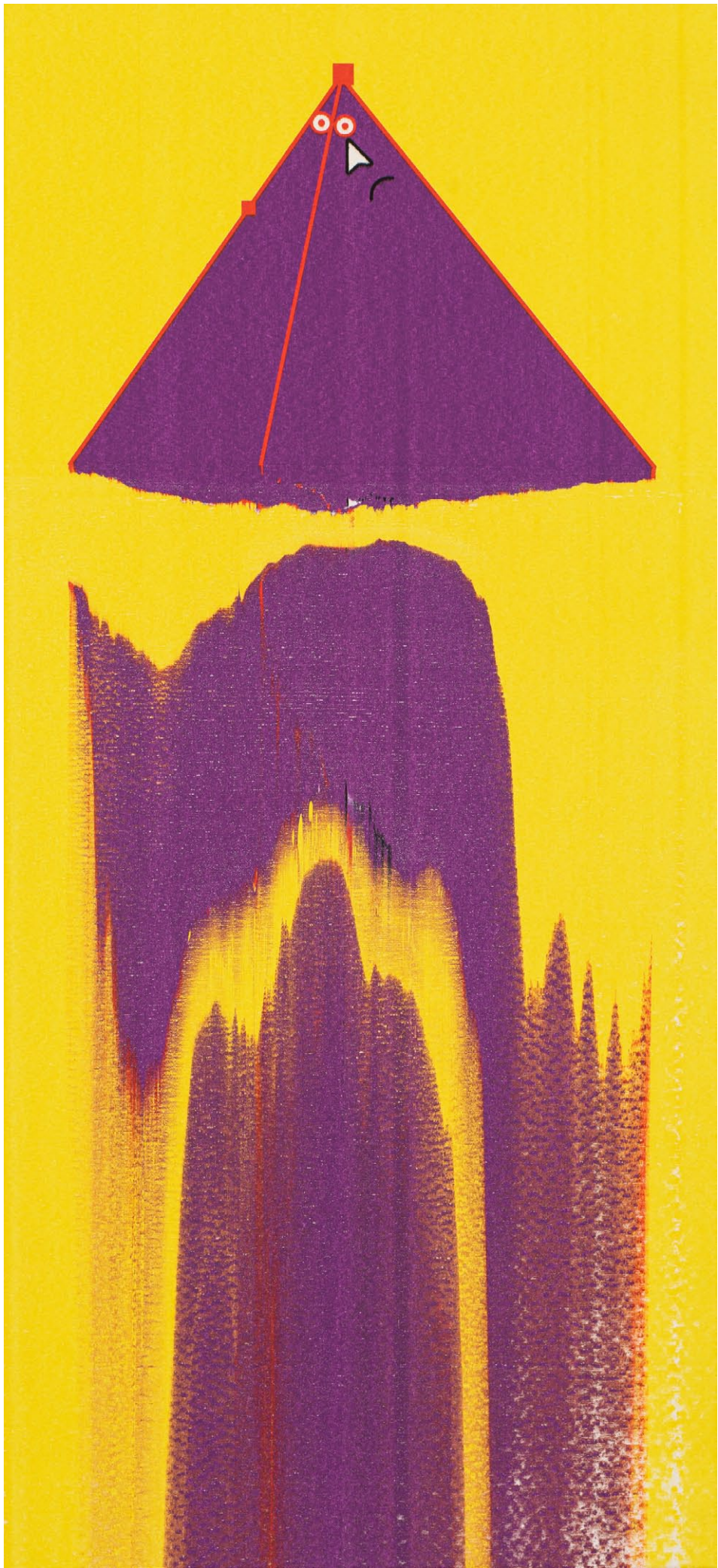


Róbert Batykó: *Caption this*, 2021, oil on canvas, 105 × 75 cm



Róbert Batykó: *Mad Noise*, 2021, oil on canvas, 70 × 70 cm





Róbert Batykó: *Limestoned*, 2021, oil on canvas, 175 × 80 cm



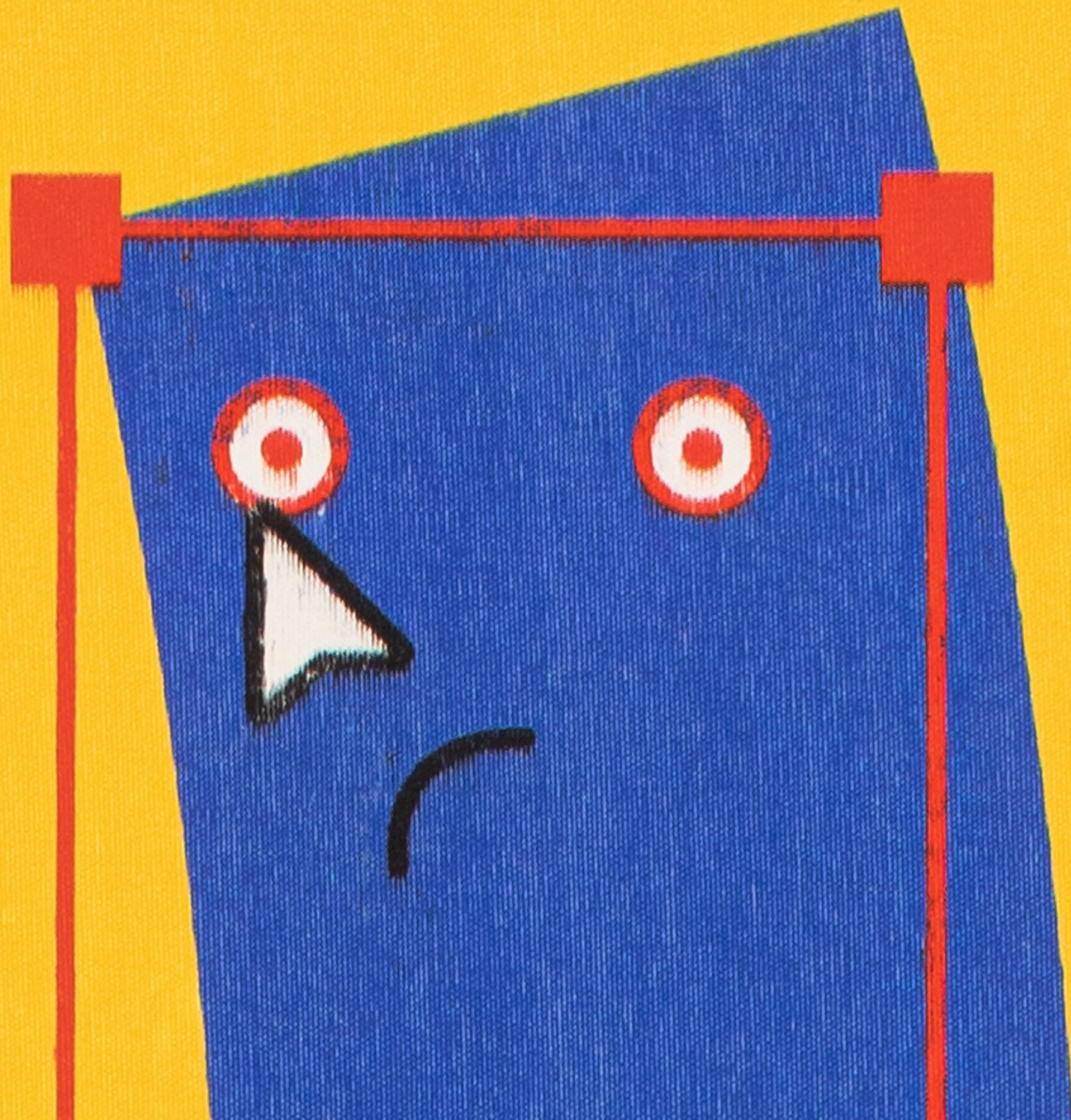
Róbert Batykó: *Gossau*, 2020, oil on canvas, 152 × 134 cm



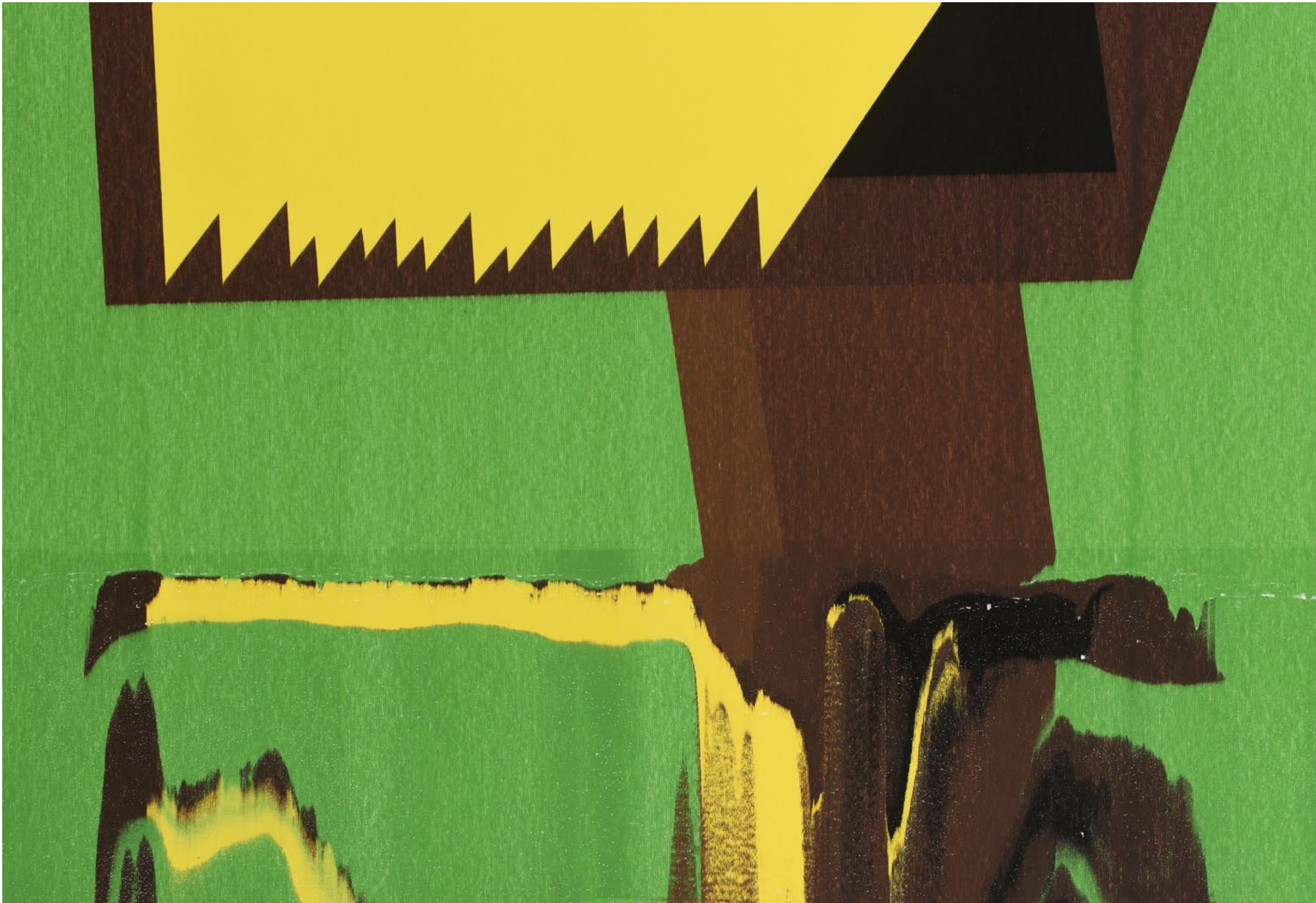
Róbert Batykó: *Voltage*, 2021, oil on canvas, 95 × 65 cm



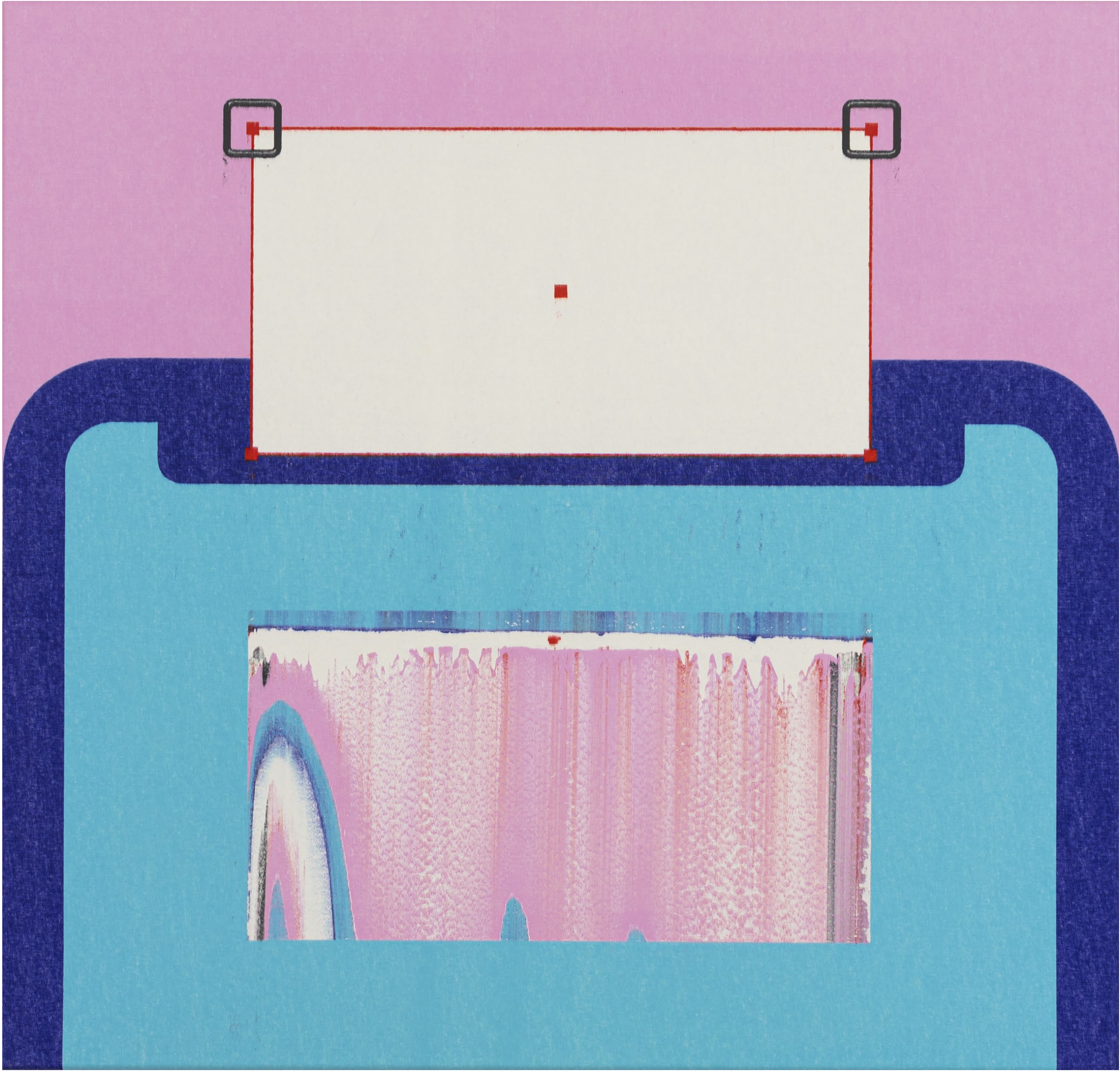
Róbert Batykó: *Captain Mustard*, 2021, oil on canvas, 198 × 45 cm



Further works



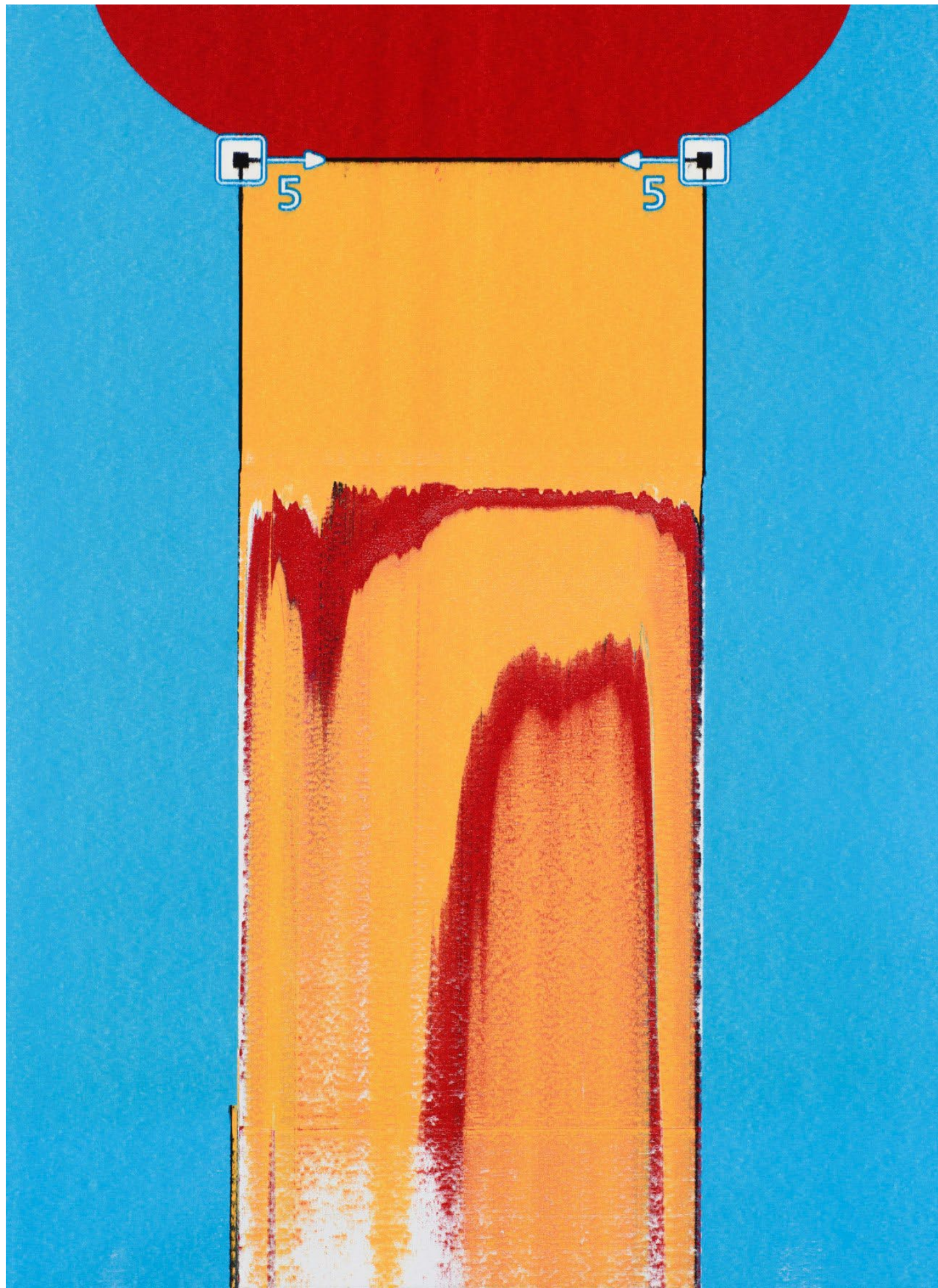
Róbert Batykó: *Green Box*, 2021, oil on canvas, 69 × 100 cm



Róbert Batykó: *Gushy*, 2020, oil on canvas, 65 × 68 cm



Róbert Batykó: *Down to Earth*, 2021, oil on canvas, 69 × 91 cm



Róbert Batykó: *High Five*, 2020, oil on canvas, 117 × 85 cm



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