

MICHAEL REID



# Dalin Alejandrino

## *Poetry Within*

The paintings gathered in *Poetry Within*—an exhibition presented across Michael Reid Northern Beaches and Michael Reid Southern Highlands over July—reveal two complementary strands within Dalin Alejandrino's practice.

At Newport, she turns towards the brightness of the coast. Blues, sea greens and pale washes of colour open the surface to light. In Berrima, the palette is swept into ochres, charcoal and muted greens, giving the work an earthbound presence. Seen together, the two exhibitions reveal an artist with a finely developed feel for the emotional possibilities of abstraction.

Alejandrino paints intuitively. Layers of acrylic and oil stick accumulate over the course of a studio session, moving between broad gestural flourishes and moments of close, staccato brushwork. Each mark responds to the last, so that a painting becomes a record of its own making rather than the pursuit of a predetermined image.

A horizon line, the edge of a ridge, light across water or a weather cell are suggested—obliquely—but never directly or literally described. “The environment and emotion are deeply tied for me,” she says. “There’s something in the act of layering that feels like uncovering both.”

A finalist in the 2024 **Fisher's Ghost Art Award**, Alejandrino names Monet and Turner among her earliest influences. She returns to them for their handling of light—for the way atmosphere—a weeping sky, or a cloak of mist on the waterfront—can be worked into paint itself. For these masters, light was the organising force of their work, shaping its entire emotional tenor as surely as it carved and defined a cliff face.

Painting first became important to Alejandrino as a teenager. “Art was the visual language I could be expressive in,” she recalls. Growing up in a Khmer-Australian family in south-west Sydney, where her parents rebuilt their lives after arriving in Australia as refugees, she set those ambitions aside in favour of a more conventional career. She returned to painting after the birth of her daughter. “Painting was precious time to myself.” The simplicity of that remark is telling. The studio became a place where the demands of everyday life gave way to quiet—a whirring mind and a working brush.

*Poetry Within* marks Alejandrino's first solo exhibition with Michael Reid, following her inclusion in the major group exhibition *Quiet Tide* at Michael Reid Northern Beaches in 2025.

### INTRODUCTION.

3

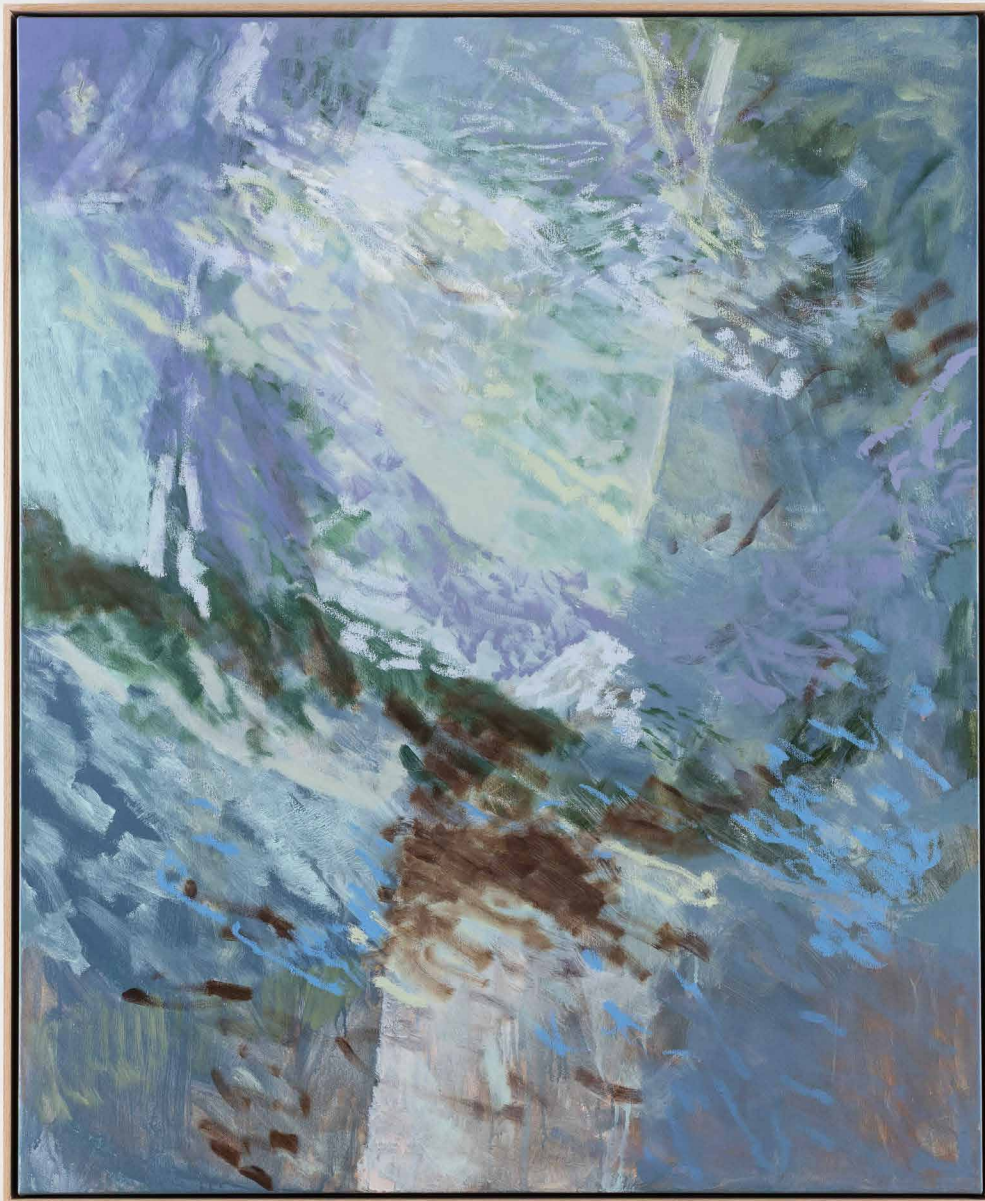
### ARTWORKS.

4 - 16

Rooted in Deep Wisdom  
The Land Remembers Her  
Poetry Within  
Light and Strength Within  
Underwater Symphony  
Wind, Trees, Sky Magic  
Little Voices, Endless Laughter  
Always Within Me  
All Interconnected  
Resilience Is My Favourite Word

### ARTIST STATEMENT.

17



Dalin Alejandrino  
*Rooted in Deep Wisdom*, 2026  
acrylic and oil stick on canvas  
Tasmanian oak frame  
140 × 110 cm  
\$5,800





{previous}

Dalin Alejandrino

*The Land Remembers Her*, 2026

acrylic and oil stick on canvas

charcoal-stained Tasmanian oak frame

110 x 150 cm

\$5,900

Dalin Alejandrino

*Poetry Within*, 2026

acrylic and oil stick on canvas

charcoal-stained Tasmanian oak frame

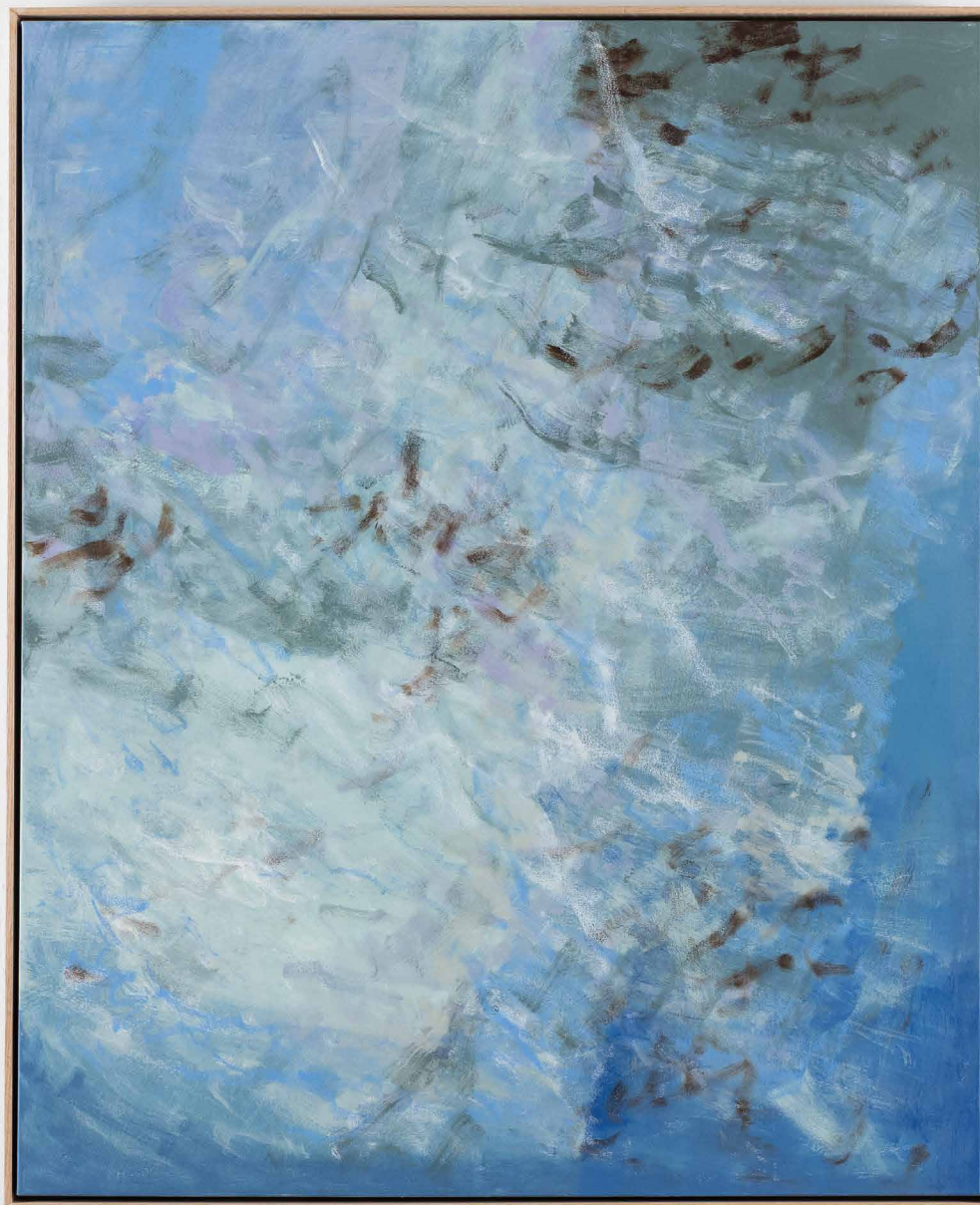
110 x 90 cm

\$4,500









{previous}

Dalin Alejandrino

*Light and Strength Within*, 2026

acrylic and oil stick on canvas

Tasmanian oak frame

150 × 110 cm

\$5,900

Dalin Alejandrino

*Underwater Symphony*, 2026

acrylic and oil stick on canvas

Tasmanian oak frame

140 × 110 cm

\$5,800



Dalin Alejandrino

*Wind, Trees, Sky Magic*, 2026

acrylic and oil stick on canvas

charcoal-stained Tasmanian oak frame

110 × 110 cm

\$5,200



Dalin Alejandrino

*Little Voices, Endless Laughter, 2026*

acrylic and oil stick on polycotton

Tasmanian oak frame

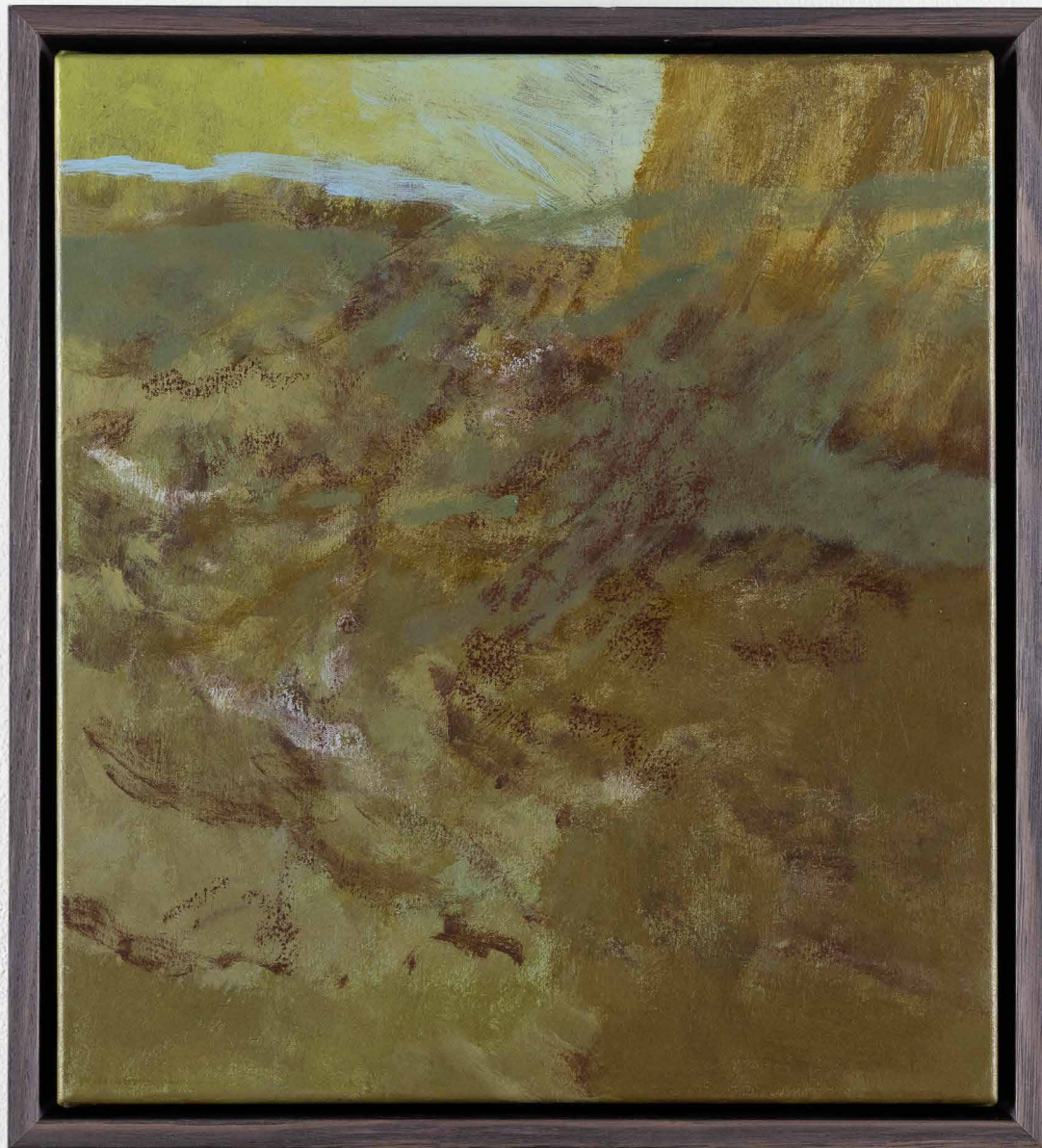
35 x 30 cm

\$900

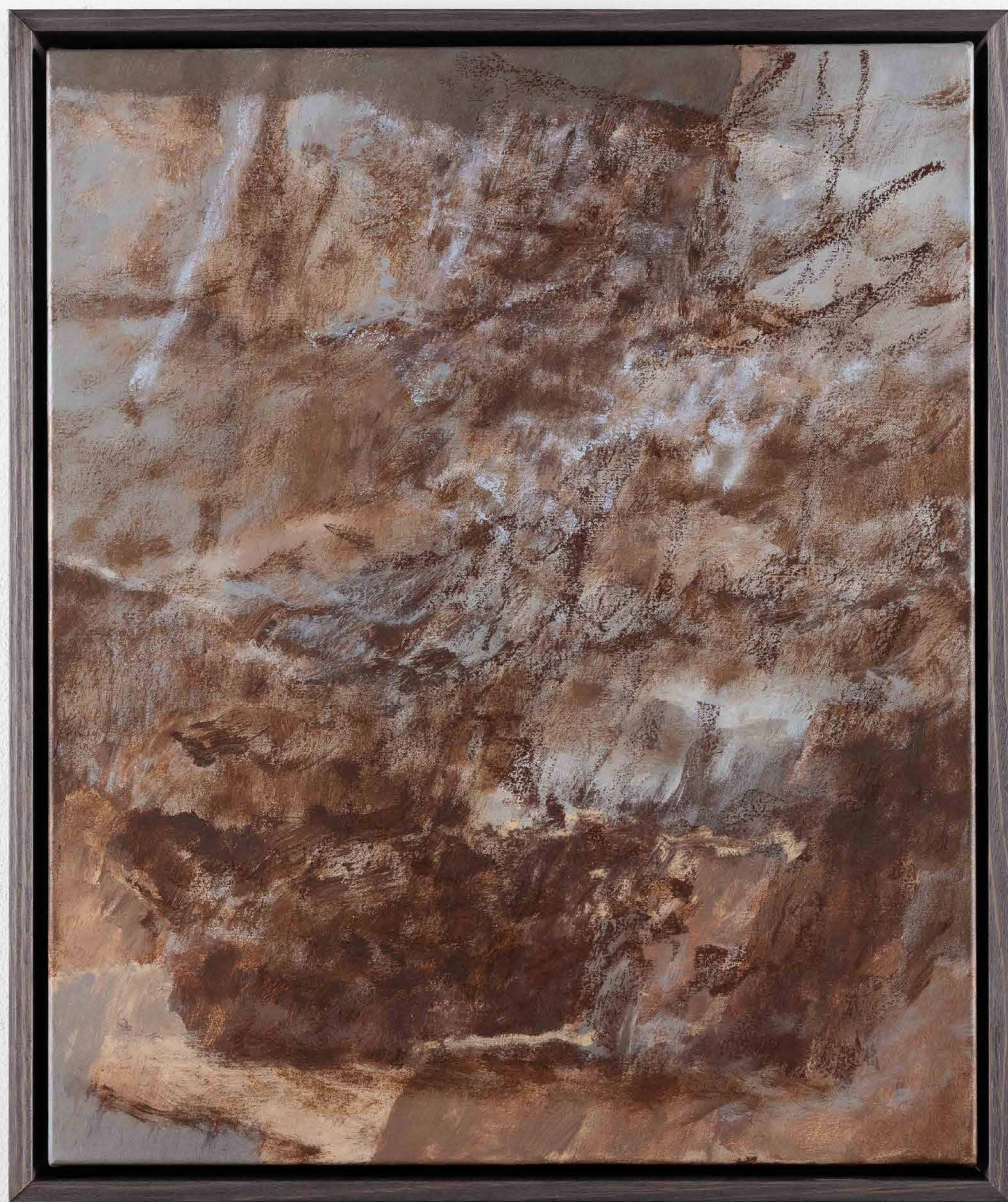




Dalin Alejandrino  
*Always Within Me*, 2026  
acrylic and oil stick on polycotton  
Tasmanian oak frame  
35 x 30 cm  
\$900



Dalin Alejandrino  
*All Interconnected*, 2026  
acrylic and oil stick on polycotton  
charcoal-stained Tasmanian oak frame  
35 x 30 cm  
\$900



Dalin Alejandrino  
*Resilience Is My Favourite Word*, 2026  
acrylic and oil stick on polycotton  
charcoal-stained Tasmanian oak frame  
50 × 40 cm  
\$1,400

Sometimes it's a line from a book I'm reading that strikes a chord and everything seems to make its way back into the studio. Other times, it's the mundane moments with my children and husband that inform the work. Almost like trying to capture a moment in time – laughter, a tight hug, sand between my toes, light reflecting on the water, or dancing clouds in the sky. The beauty of our natural world is an endless muse to me, and the fact that we get to live out this spiritual experience in human form is quite magical.

- Dalin Alejandrino



MICHAEL REID