

ROBERT MARS

RETURN TO MARS COUNTER CULTURE



# FORD

So New  
So Different



STATUTE UNINTENDED!  
For Mustangs Only

ALL  
Cordoba Fiber Paper with  
100% Recycled Content  
and 50% Recycled  
Fiber

WORLDWIDE  
CITY

LA RESS  
LA RESS

CORTAX  
CORTAX

ST SCHOOL  
ST SCHOOL

# RETURN TO MARS | Counter Culture

August 23 - September 28 , 2025

Lion & Lamb Fine Art  
244 Race St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Lion & Lamb is proud to present **Return to Mars | Counter Culture**, a major solo exhibition by Robert Mars. This show marks both a homecoming and a milestone, bringing the artist back to Philadelphia the city where his relationship to skateboarding, and by extension counterculture itself, first took root.

Spanning 25 years of practice, the exhibition traces Mars' enduring exploration of American identity, idol worship, and the evolution of pop. **Return to Mars | Counter Culture** is not just a look back but a vivid reimagining: a journey through neon streets, punk flyers, and icons who became larger than life precisely because they lived outside the lines.

Anchoring the exhibition is a special capsule collection dedicated to Philadelphia, honoring the city that shaped Mars as both a skater and an artist. From scuffed decks and mixtape aesthetics to images of cultural heroes, these works pay homage to the raw grit and creative spirit that defines the city and fueled a generation.

Presented through Mars' signature mixed-media process - layering archival imagery, commercial graphics, and hand-finished detail- the works become contemporary relics, at once personal and universal. They remind us that what begins on the margins often defines the center, and that counterculture has always been truly American.

For collectors, **Return to Mars | Counter Culture** offers a rare opportunity to journey across a quarter century of work, tracing the artist's central themes while unveiling new pieces that celebrate the roots of his vision. The exhibition is a love letter, to rebellion, to Philadelphia, to the American spirit and to the enduring iconography of pop.

Presented by Lion & Lamb, **Return to Mars | Counter Culture** reflects the gallery's commitment to championing artists whose work pushes forward vital conversations around identity, intention, and cultural memory.

Press images, artist bio, and additional information available upon request.



**ROBERT MARS'** graphic compositions, glossy textures, and rich colors provide the ultimate medium in which to explore his fascination stemming from the Golden Age of American popular culture and the icons of the 1950's and 60's. Drawing inspiration from the near-mythical fame that surrounded celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn before the instant and all-encompassing presence of the internet, Mars' daring approach creates paintings with a nostalgic yet innovative vintage feel.

Parsons School of Design educated, Robert Mars taps into the feelings that emanate from his paintings which vacillate between memory and desire. The taste of nostalgia pulls the viewers towards the iconic stars and the consumerist historical subject material of Mars' works. Mars' sources are the very core of these dreams. Photographs of stars like Bruce Springsteen, logos of products like Coca Cola and TIFFANY & CO., and vintage ephemera are layered in beautifully with news stories of seminal events; from the death of JFK to the 1969 moon walk – these captured moments in history serve as vehicles for bringing the American brand to the world. Introducing new icons into his body of work for his current showcase, Mars yet again bridges the past and present in perspective by depicting larger than life personalities like Lady Gaga and Daniel Craig's James Bond.



## American Landscapes

reimagines the mythic roadside of postwar America. Motels, highways, and neon horizons are transformed into cultural icons of nostalgia and motion. Mars collages period advertisements, magazines, and printed ephemera into compositions that echo traditional quilting, embedding history into every surface. These works speak to the open road as both symbol and memory a distinctly American stage for freedom and identity.



**WigWam Motel** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

17 x 17 inches (43.2 x 43.2 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,500

American  
Landscapes



***Fire on the Rail*** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

20 x 16 inches (50.8 x 40.6 cm) - Framed

Price: \$4,000

American  
Landscapes

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit



**No Hand Was At The Wheel** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

20 x 16 inches (50.8 x 40.6 cm) - Framed

Price: \$4,000

American  
Landscapes

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
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***Song of the Road*** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

16 x 16 inches (40.6 x 40.6 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,750

American  
Landscapes



***The Old Horizon*** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

16 x 16 inches (40.6 x 40.6 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,750

American  
Landscapes



PRESENTED BY TEMPLE UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION BOARD  
FRIDAY NOV. 11, 1966 8:00 P.M.  
MITTEN HALL AUDITORIUM  
BROAD AND BERKS STS.  
GENERAL ADMISSION 2.50  
TICKETS AVAILABLE  
AT MITTEN AND WIATT HALLS  
**IS HERE**

*Thomas J. Moore*

**THE PHILADELPHIA CAPSULE** turns inward, honoring the city that shaped Mars as both a skater and an artist. These intimate works on paper draw from quilt patterns and carefully selected historical fragments to celebrate Philadelphia's legends and local heroes. They form a love letter to the city's grit, spirit, and cultural lineage grounding the artist's expansive practice in the place where counterculture first took root for him.



**Billie Holiday** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

24 x 20 inches (61.0 x 50.8 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,500



***Frazier Vs. Liston*** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

26 x 22 inches (66.0 x 55.9 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750



**Coltrane** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

26 x 22 inches (66.0 x 55.9 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,500



**Dr. J (2025)**

Mixed media on paper

24 x 20 inches (61.0 x 50.8 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,500



**Grace Kelly (2025)**

Mixed media on paper  
24 x 20 inches (61.0 x 50.8 cm) - Framed  
Price: \$1,750



***It's a Philly Thing*** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

26 x 22 inches (66.0 x 55.9 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750

Philadelphia  
Capsule

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit



**Joan Jett (2025)**

Mixed media on paper

24 x 20 inches (61.0 x 50.8 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750

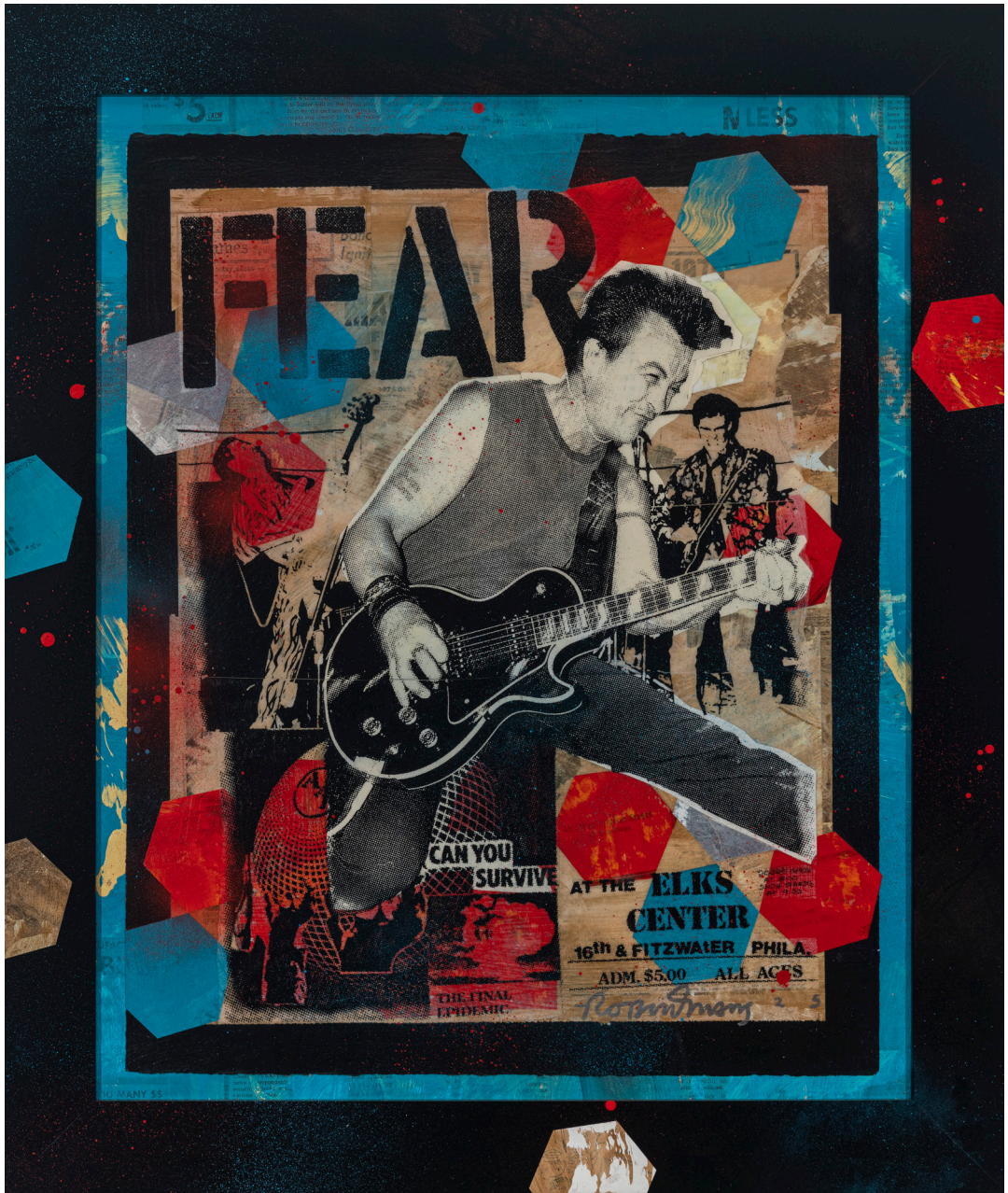


**Kurt Vile** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

26 x 22 inches (66.0 x 55.9 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750



**Lee Ving (2025)**

Mixed media on paper

26 x 22 inches (66.0 x 55.9 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750



**LOVE** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

26 x 22 inches (66.0 x 55.9 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750



**Schoolly D** (2025)

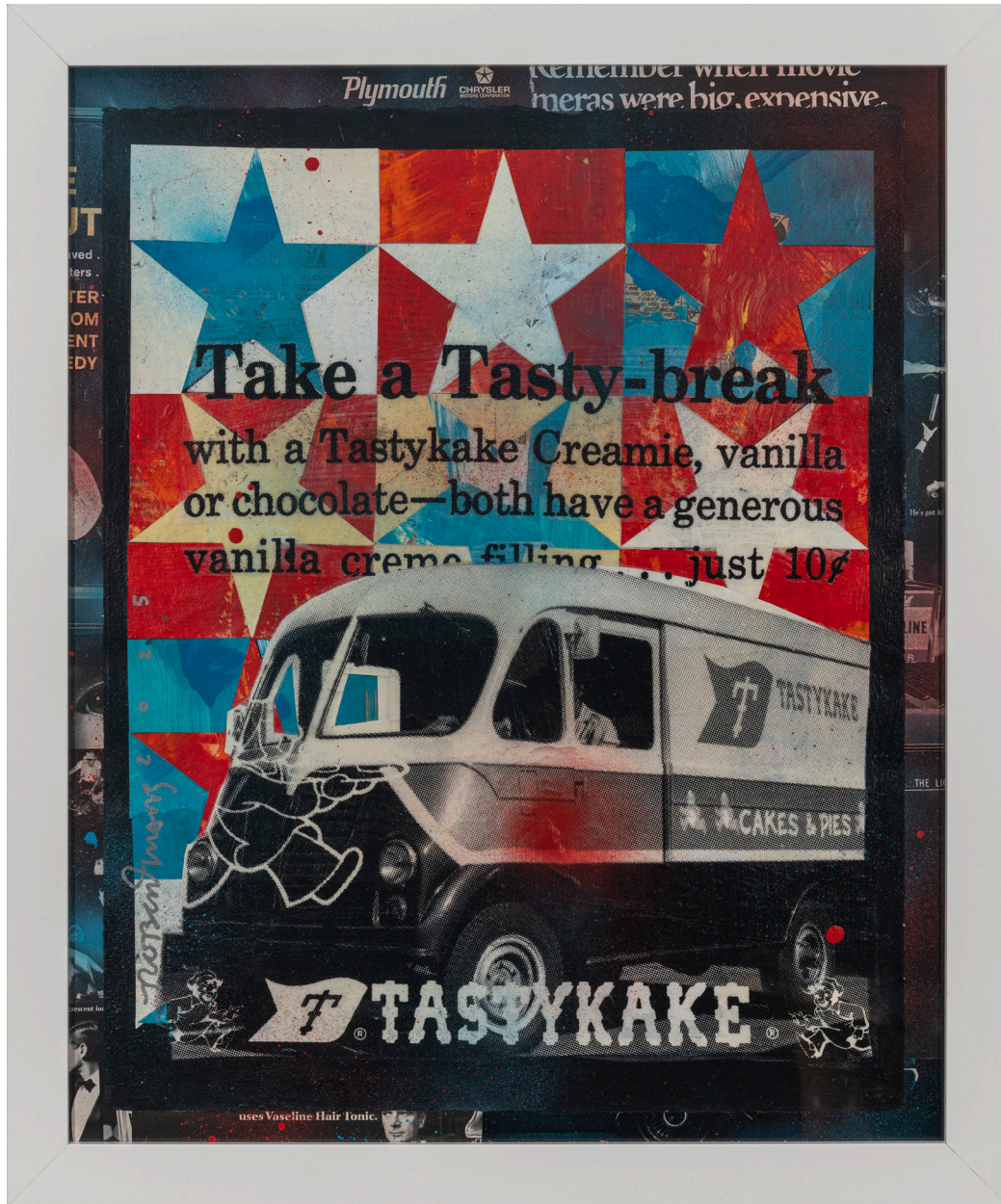
Mixed media on paper

24 x 20 inches (61.0 x 50.8 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750

Philadelphia  
Capsule

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit

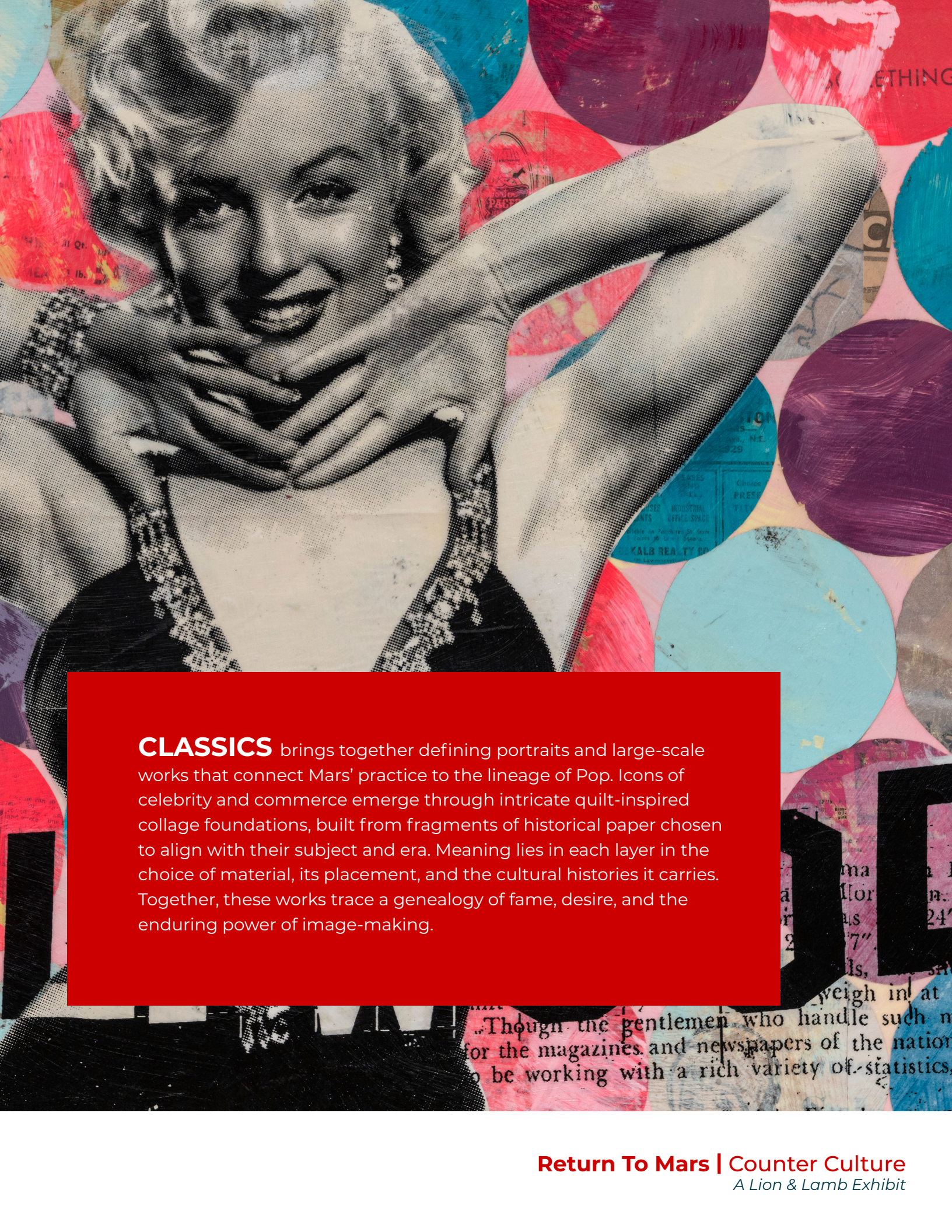


**Tastykake** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

24 x 20 inches (61.0 x 50.8 cm) - Framed

Price: \$1,750



**CLASSICS** brings together defining portraits and large-scale works that connect Mars' practice to the lineage of Pop. Icons of celebrity and commerce emerge through intricate quilt-inspired collage foundations, built from fragments of historical paper chosen to align with their subject and era. Meaning lies in each layer in the choice of material, its placement, and the cultural histories it carries. Together, these works trace a genealogy of fame, desire, and the enduring power of image-making.



***Audrey Fashioned*** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

24 x 24 inches (61.0 x 61.0 cm) - Framed

Price: \$7,300

Classics

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit



**A Deal With God (2025)**

Mixed media on paper

41 x 29 inches (104.1 x 73.7 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,500

Classics

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit



***Diamond Days*** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

41 x 29 inches (104.1 x 73.7 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,500

Classics

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit



**Tradesman** (2025)

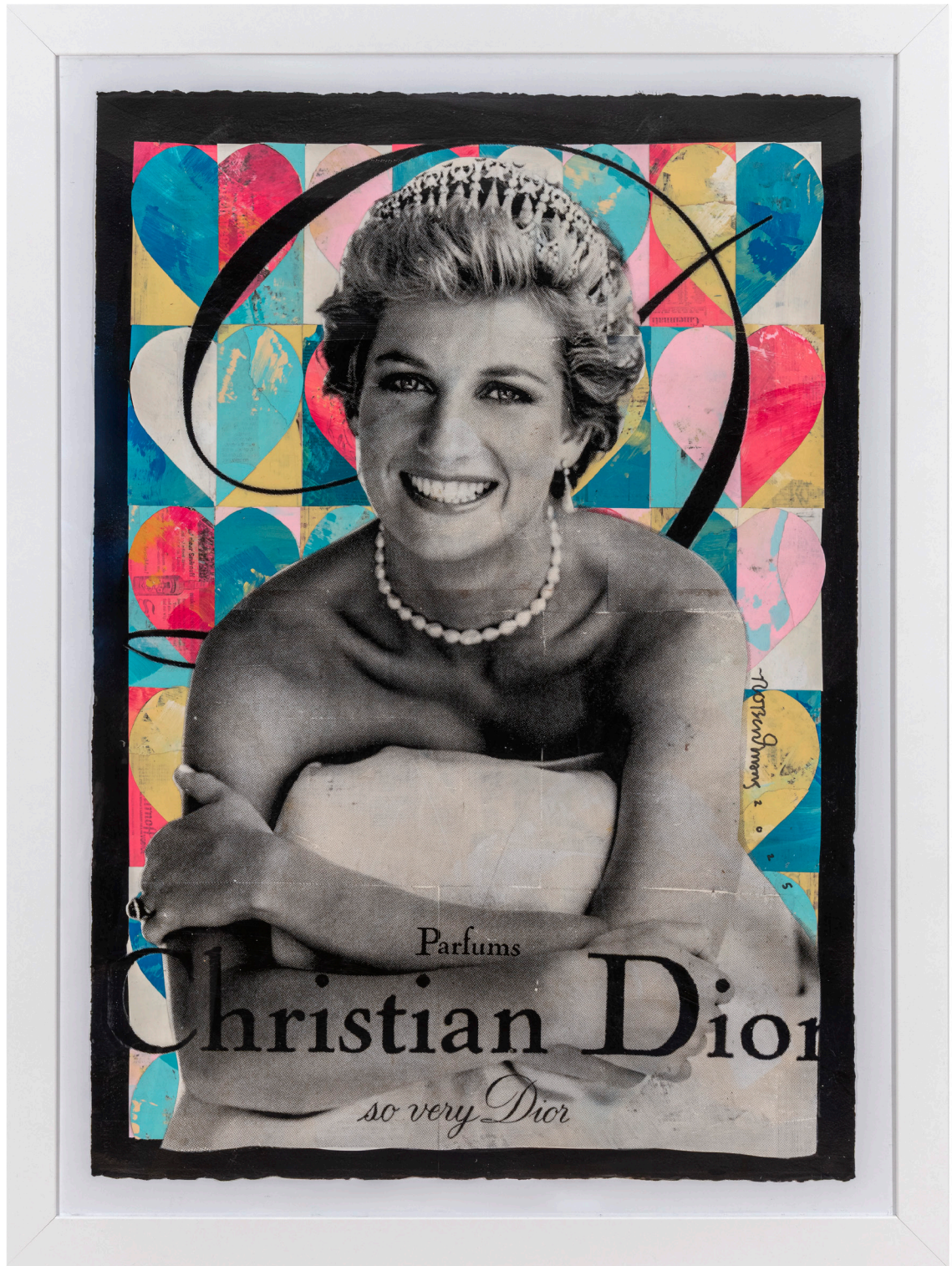
Mixed media on paper

41 x 29 inches (104.1 x 73.7 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,500

Classics

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**  
A Lion & Lamb Exhibit



**Victim of Your Dreams** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

41 x 29 inches (104.1 x 73.7 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,500

Classics

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**Blondie** (2025)

Mixed media on paper

34 x 26 inches (86.4 x 66.0 cm) - Framed

Price: \$3,000

Classics

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**Bond 007 (2025)**

Mixed media on panel

24 x 24 inches (61.0 x 61.0 cm) - Framed

Price: \$7,300

Classics

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**Coca Cola Triplets** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

24 x 24 inches (61.0 x 61.0 cm) - Framed

Price: \$7,300



**Hollywood Diva** (2025)

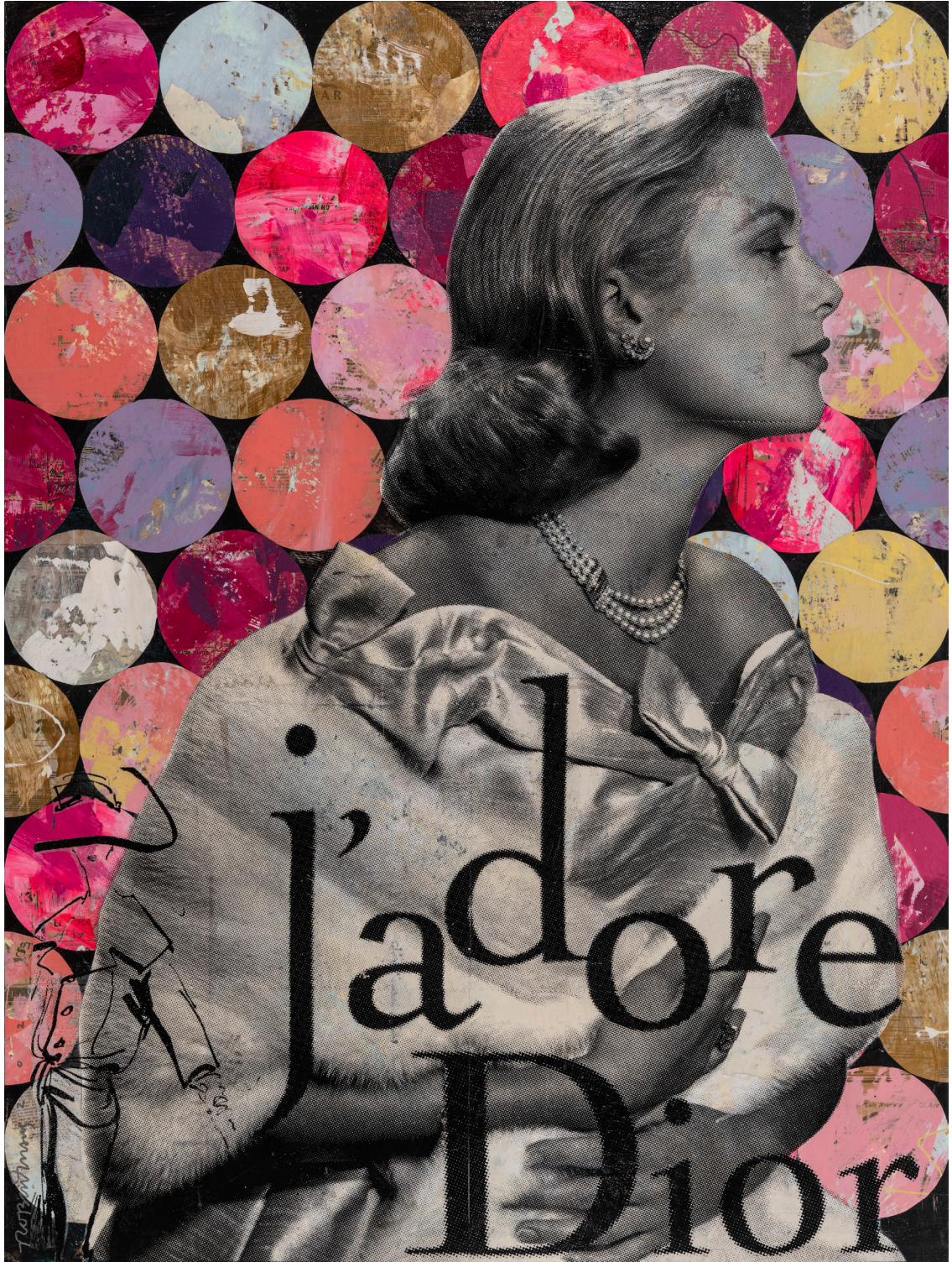
Mixed media on panel

24 x 24 inches (61.0 x 61.0 cm) - Framed

Price: \$7,300

Classics

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**You Look to Yours** (2025)

Mixed media on panel  
48 x 36 inches (121.9 x 91.4 cm)  
Price: \$13,400

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***Traction in the Rain*** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

44 x 66 inches (111.8 x 167.6 cm)

Price: \$19,000

Classics

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**Double Trouble** (2025)

Mixed media on panel

44 x 66 inches (111.8 x 167.6 cm)

Price: \$19,000

Classics

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***Just Breathe*** (2025)

Mixed media on panel  
40 x 80 inches (101.6 x 203.2 cm)  
Price: \$21,000

Classics

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LION & LAMB  
ART ELEVATED

**Return To Mars | Counter Culture**

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[www.lionandlamb.art](http://www.lionandlamb.art)  
[instagram.com/lionandlamb.art](https://www.instagram.com/lionandlamb.art)