

An abstract painting featuring a rich palette of warm colors, including shades of yellow, orange, red, and pink. The composition is dominated by expressive, textured brushstrokes and visible paint splatters, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is vibrant and energetic.

LOVE CHANT
CHRIS WATTS

BODE

Chris Watts is an abstract painter and mixed-media artist whose work interrogates social and personal narratives around embodiment, and understandings of the visible. Within his work, the artist seeks to analyse, re-examine and revise existing conventions by means of their abstract representation, and re-evaluation.

At the center of this artistic approach lies the creation of momentum; of disruption. These moments might be generated by absence, as well as through the representation of windows, into a layered assemblage of space where the distinction between reality and representation is thoroughly confused. Painted on soft and sheer textiles like poly-chiffon, silk, or poly blend wraps, the disruption functions on a visual as well as tactile level, through the haptic qualities of the surface. Thereby, the works foster an encompassing perceptual reception and a reconsideration of the terms of the visible.

Chris Watts (b. 1984 in North Carolina, USA) attended the MFA program at Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT, the College of Arts and Architecture at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC, and the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Wroclaw, PL. The artist is a 2022-23 Soros Justice Fellow, and has held various artist residencies, among them the Marek Maria Pienkowski Foundation, Chelm, PL; McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Charlotte, NC; the Art & Law Fellowship Program, at Cornell University Art Architecture Planning, New York, NY; and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Program, New York, NY. His work has been exhibited in national and international institutions and exhibitions. Chris Watts lives and works in New York, NY, and North Carolina, USA.



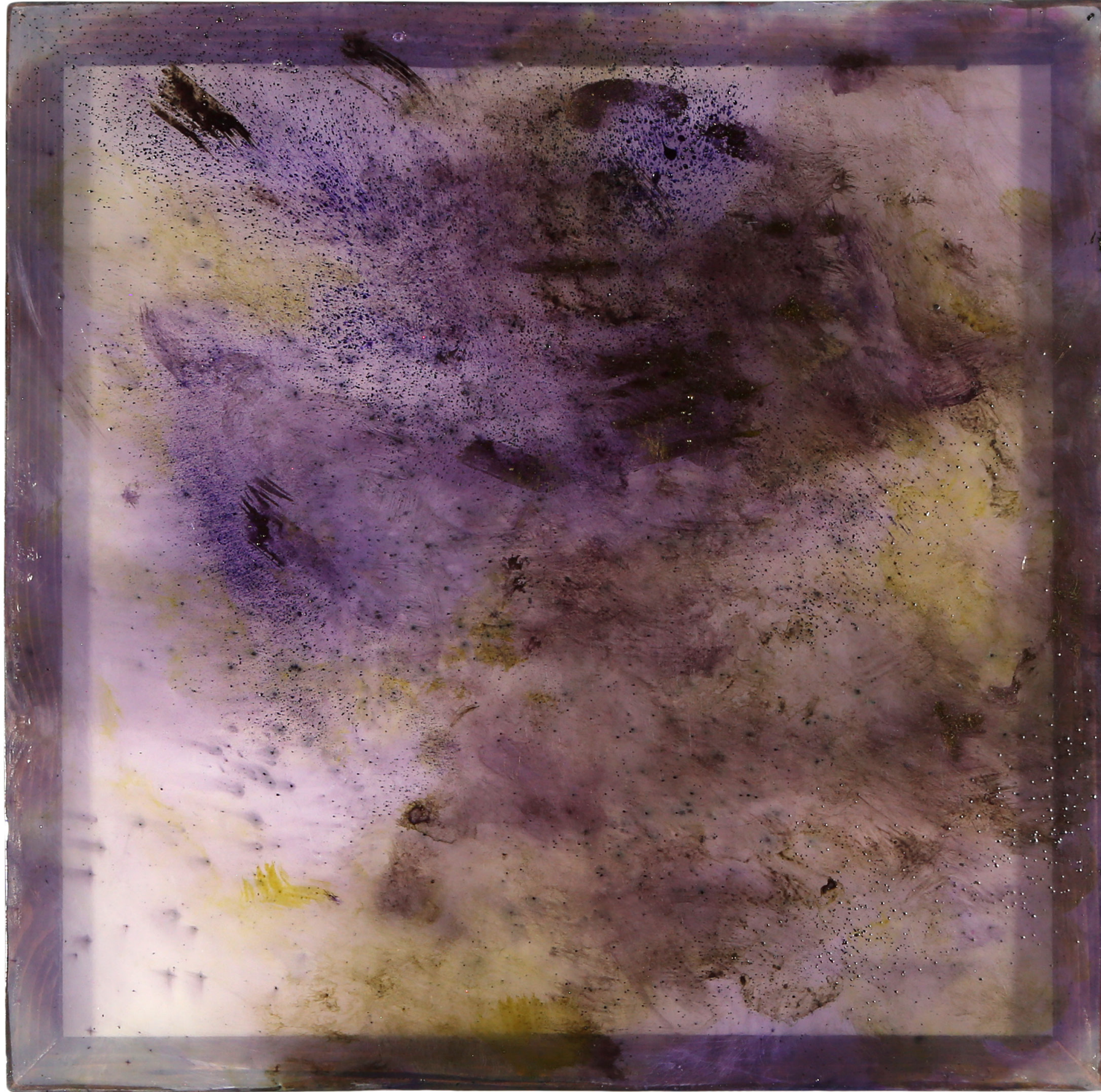
Love Chant

22.07. – 27.08.2023

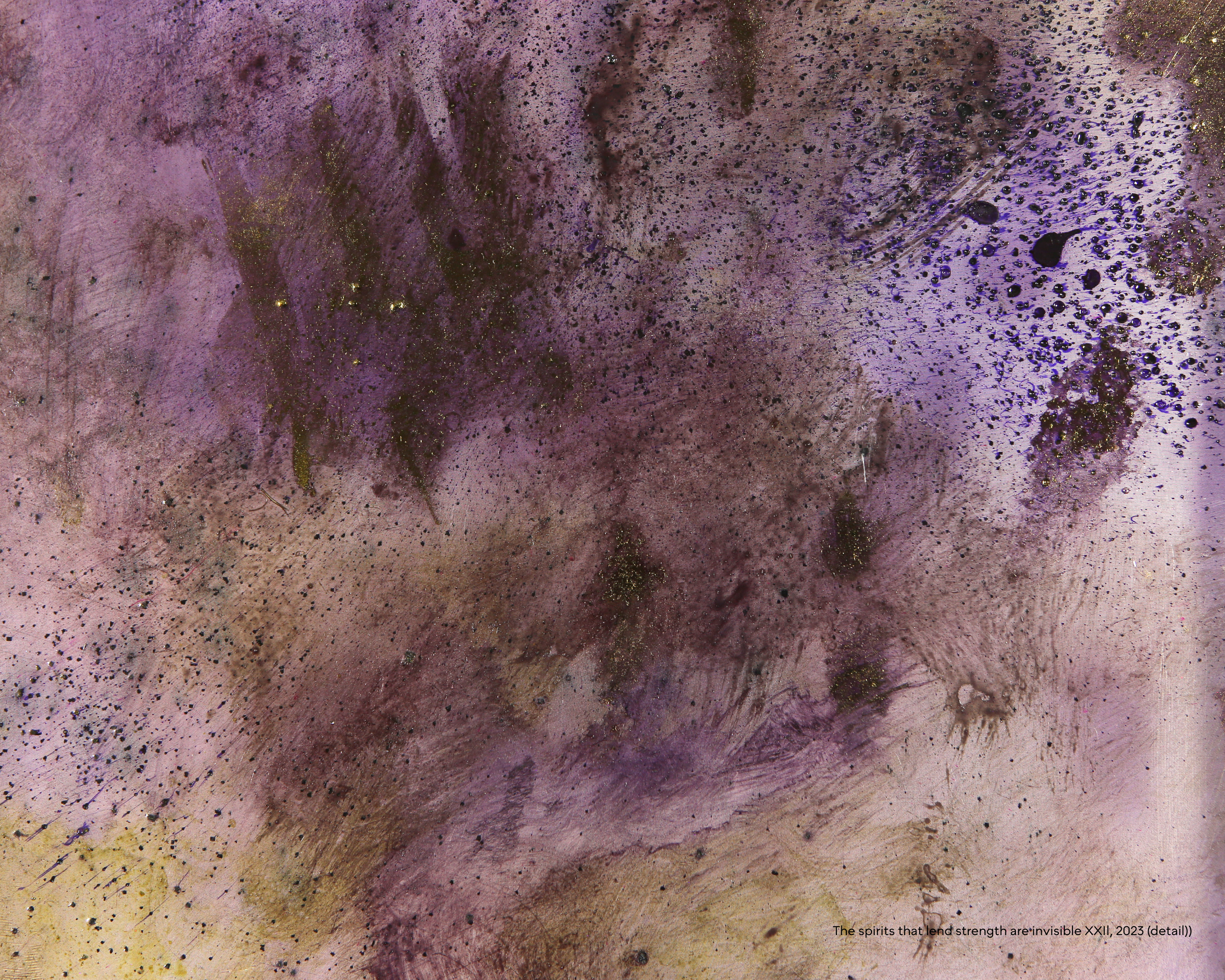
An avid traveler of a mixed ethnic background, which represents not just his identity but the diverse cultural fabric of his native United States of America, contemporary artist, Chris Watts, presents Love Chant wherein he uses alchemy and the ancient history of Peruvian pigments to investigate the relationship between Africans and Native Americans prior to Europe's cultural imposition. With bright purples, pinks, and oranges that burst and blend in luminous resin, this series of abstract works delve into folklore and ancient African deities. He investigates the collaborations between the gods of Africa and the gods of the 'New World' represented in a variety of cultural groups extending across North and South America. It is with the pigments he acquired during a trip to Peru, resin, among other materials, that he applies his interest in the alchemic properties of minerals and ancient traditions he learned during interactions with the local Shamans of the country.

As an articulation of the study of Abstraction and Expressionism, Love Chant is also a nod to the work of German artist Sigmar Polke (1941-2010). In the 1980s, Polke applied his experimental approach within his practice to a body of work that further explored his interest in alchemy. During that time, he created a set of five large-scale abstract works titled after a Native American proverb, "The Spirits that Lend Strength are Invisible", which included materials like artificial resin with tellurium and nickel, among other minerals. He played with the mixing of materials and the potential chemical reactions these would produce as he was interested in what he described as the American Expressionist mystique. In Love Chant, Chris Watts picks up from Polke's last work in the abovementioned series to create an indefinite number of unique but similarly titled pieces based on his own alchemic interests and the search for these pigments' full potential.

In this exhibition, Chris Watts plays with the way color may have the power to produce spiritual vibrations in people. Through bright bursts of pigments held within his trademark use of transparency and fabrics, he displays his intuitive understanding of color to explore how it can affect the psyche of people. How the color and scale of a work, may produce energy and a sense of spirituality. Unlike the impactful but more muted series of German artist, Sigmar Polke, Chris Watts' biography and cultural background give a fresh, brighter, more contemporary approach to how we may interact with a crosscontinent spiritual past. With the use of science and a deep love and understanding of color, Chris Watts will continue to push the alchemic potential of these Peruvian pigments until there are no more.



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXII, 2023
Peruvian pigments, acrylic, resin, poly-chiffon, stained wood
81.3 x 81.3 cm
32 x 32 in



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXII, 2023 (detail)



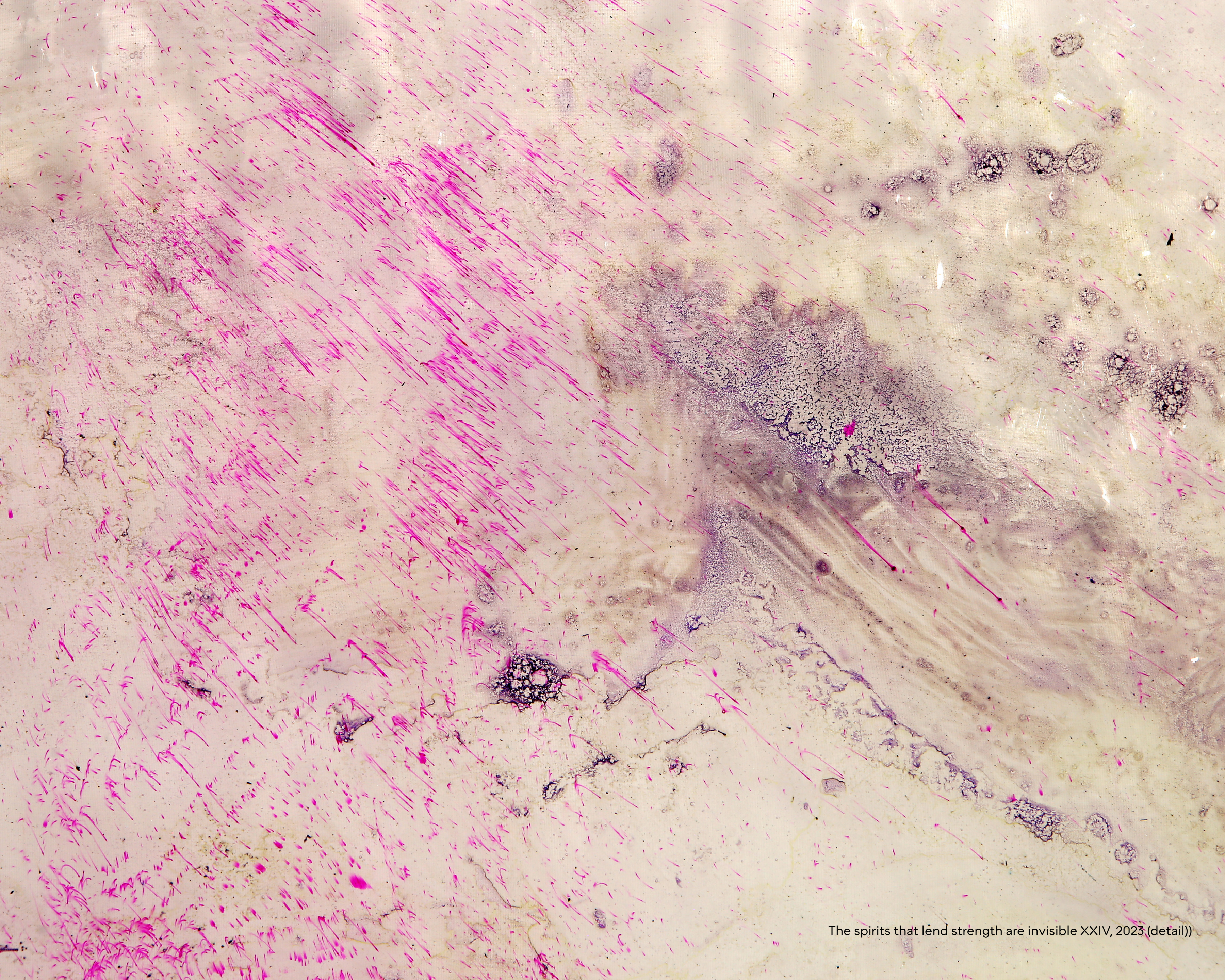
The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXIII (Yanui Beach), 2023
Peruvian pigments, acrylic, resin, poly-chiffon, stained wood
81.3 x 81.3 cm
32 x 32 in



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXIII (Yanui Beach), 2023 (detail))



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXIV, 2023
Peruvian pigments, resin, silk, stained wood
81.3 × 81.3 cm
32 × 32 in





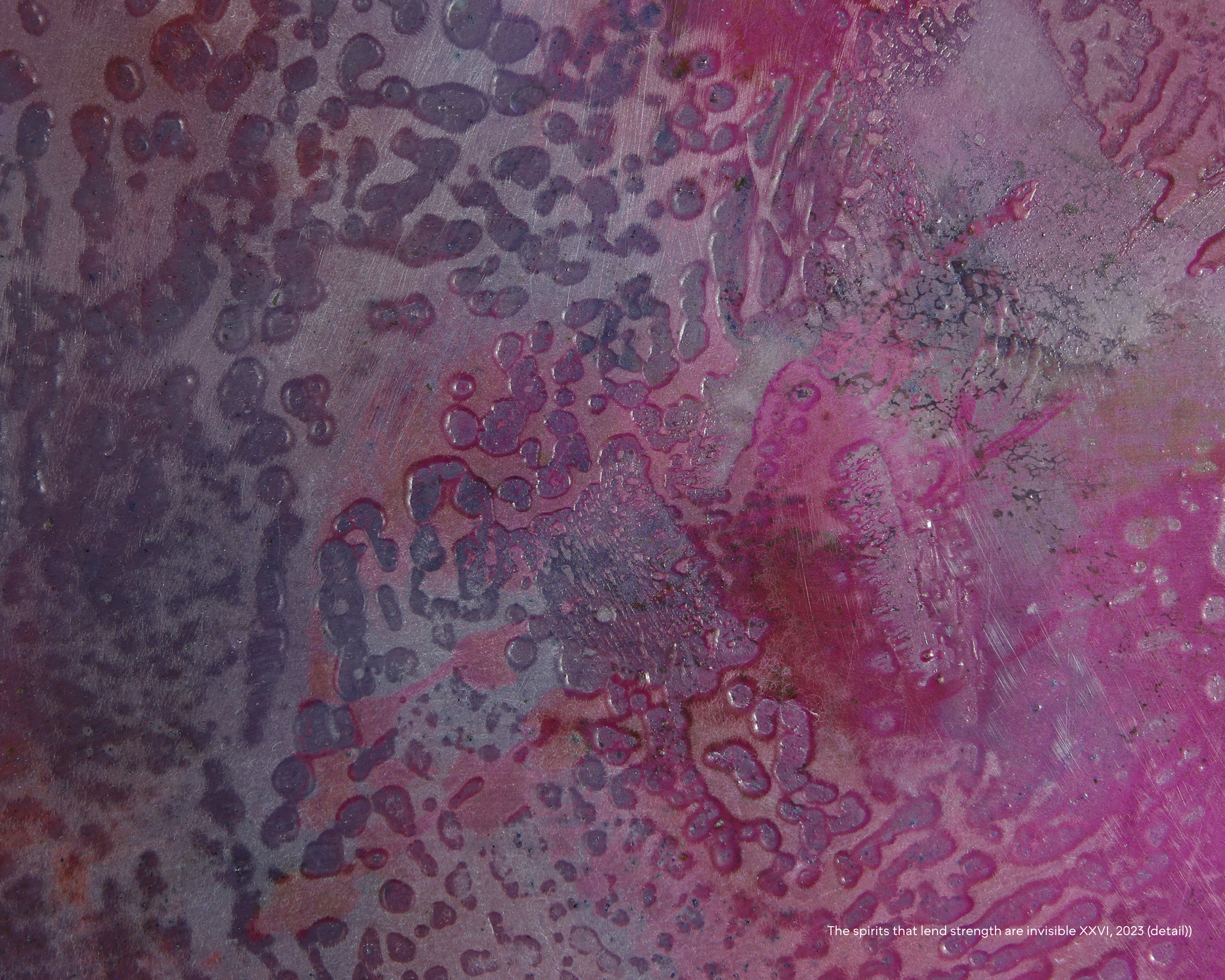
The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXV, 2023
Peruvian pigments, acrylic, resin, poly-chiffon, stained wood
81.3 × 81.3 cm
32 × 32 in



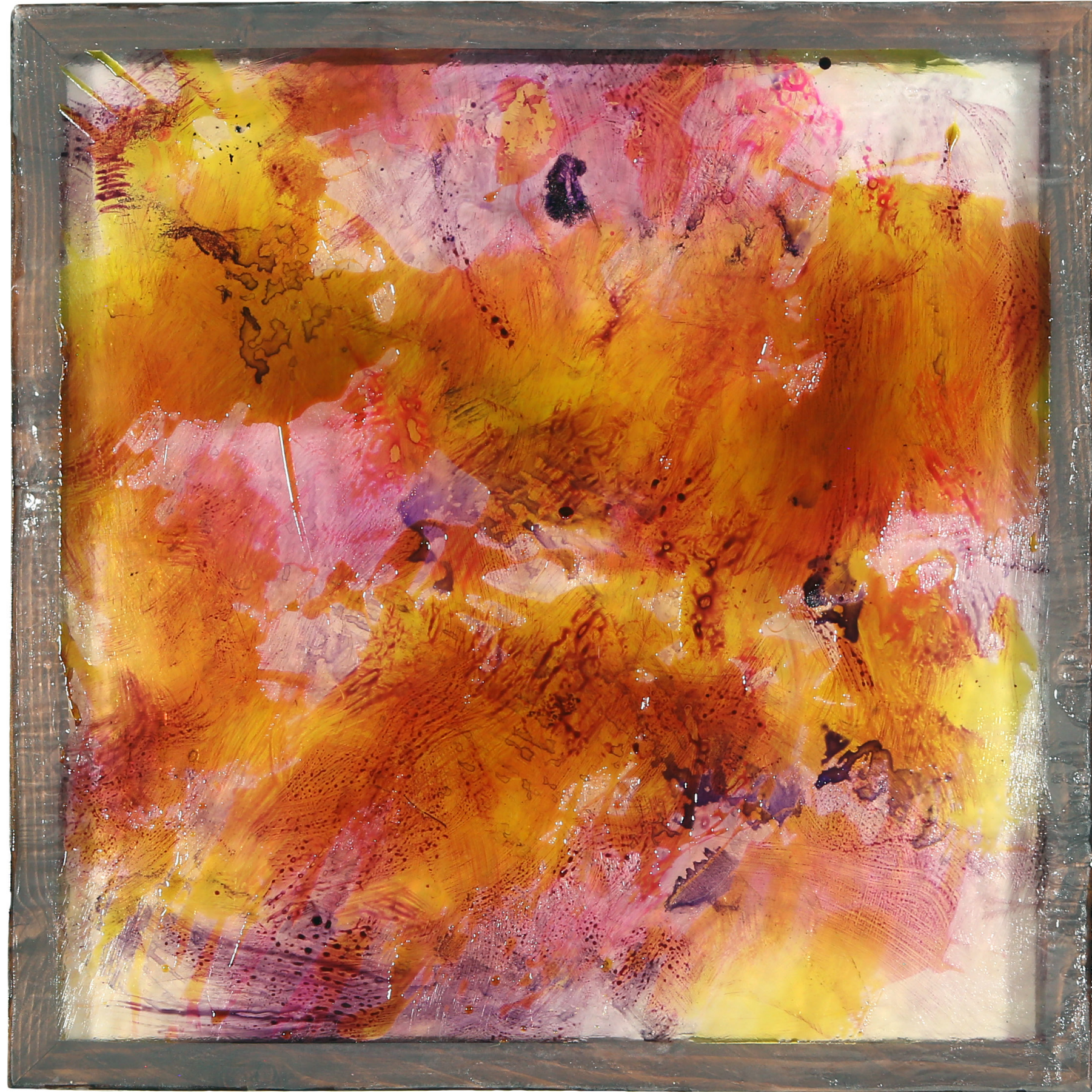
The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXV, 2023 (detail)



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXVI, 2023
Peruvian pigments, acrylic, resin, silk, stained wood
81.3 × 81.3 cm
32 × 32 in



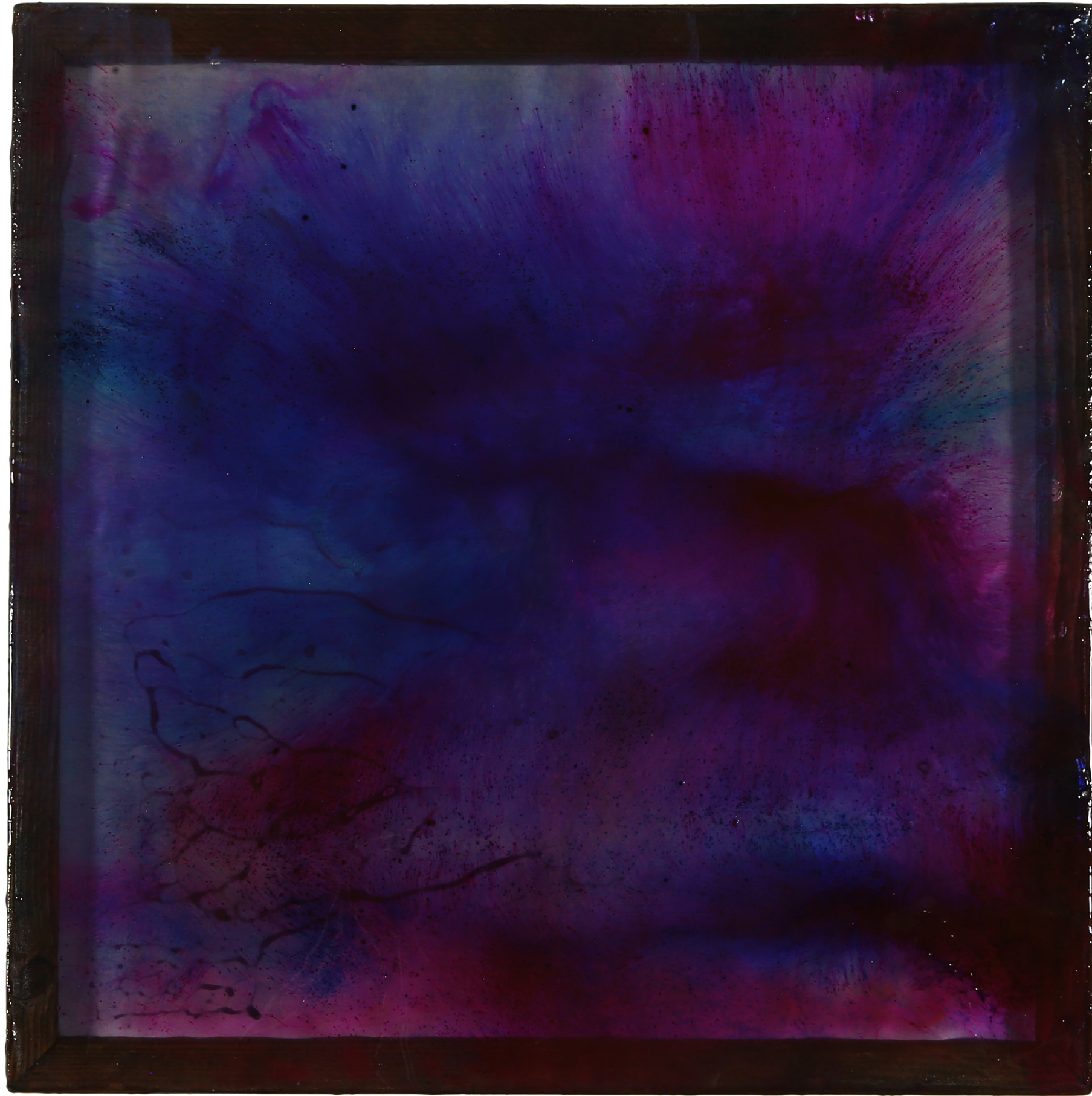
The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXVI, 2023 (detail)



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXVII, 2023
Peruvian pigments, acrylic, resin, silk, stained wood
81.3 × 81.3 cm
32 × 32 in

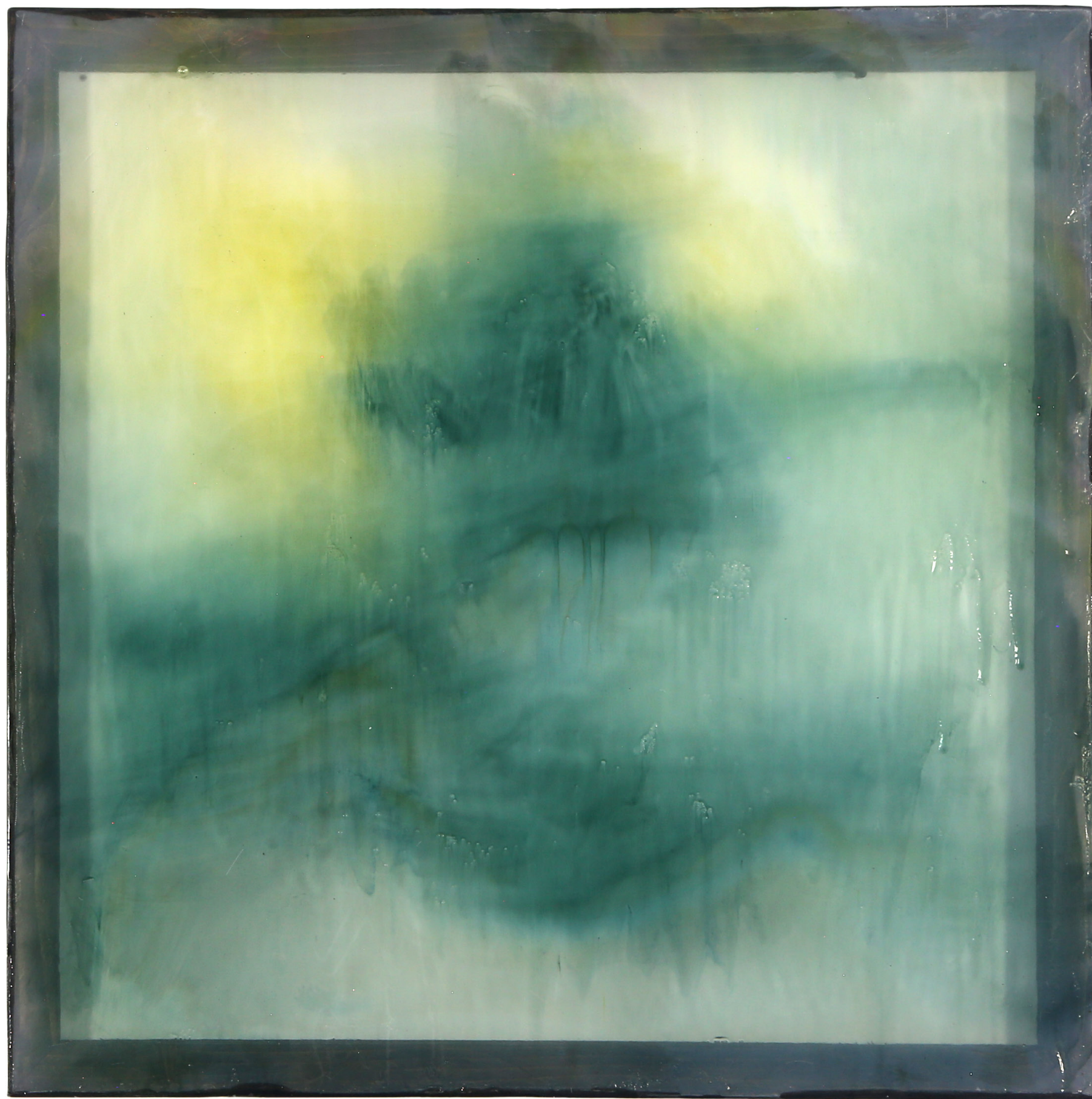


The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXVII, 2023 (detail))



The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXVIII, 2023
Peruvian pigments, acrylic, resin, silk, stained wood
81.3 × 81.3 cm
32 × 32 in





The spirits that lend strength are invisible XXVIII, 2023
Peruvian pigments, resin, poly-chiffon, stained wood
81.3 x 81.3 cm
32 x 32 in

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