

MARIAH ROBERTSON

M+B
20 YEAR PHOTO
ANNIVERSARY

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MARIAH ROBERTSON

As part of M+B's 20th Anniversary celebration, we highlight the work of Mariah Robertson, known for radically expanding the language of darkroom photography. In these Chemigram works Robertson uses only traditional light-sensitive photo paper and the standard photochemistry of developer and fixer and transforms the most basic elements of the photographic process into something unexpected and electric. Instead of painting color onto paper, she activates the dyes embedded within the material by exposing them to regular room light and applying chemistry at non-standard temperatures and dilutions. The results are vibrant, camera-less photographs whose layered striations, splashes, and veils of color push the medium beyond its conventional role as a tool of representation.

Her work underscores the delicate balance between chance and control, between chemistry's unpredictability and the artist's deliberate interventions. By refusing the darkroom's traditional precision, where even slight variations in temperature can "ruin" a print, Robertson courts those irregularities, turning them into compositional strengths. The works become records of both time and process, charting a visual terrain where rigor and accident collide.

Through her engagement with the physicality of photographic materials, Robertson redefines the possibilities of the medium, making visible the tensions between accident, experimentation, and aesthetic control that have always lived within the darkroom.



MARIAH ROBERTSON

Mariah Robertson is known for pushing the boundaries of darkroom photography and for exploring themes of representation, reproduction and the subversion of tradition in her vibrant camera-less photo works. Her works are made from the basic elements of the traditional darkroom, yet defy the dominant paradigm of photography as a direct observation of life. For Robertson, the concrete tools of photography are a system from which to work with, marking the passage of time, and creating tension between chance and plan.

Mariah Robertson (b. 1975) received her BA from the University of California, Berkeley and her MFA from the Yale School of Art. Recent solo exhibitions include *Everything counts & local reality*, Van Doren Waxter, NY; *Eggs*, Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI; *CUT UP*, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, TX; and *Repetition & Difference*, M+B, Los Angeles, CA. Robertson has also been included in group exhibitions at institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, NY; MoMA PS1, NY; International Center of Photography NY; Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI; deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA; and Cleveland Museum of Art's Transformer Station, Cleveland, OH. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. Mariah Roberson lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.



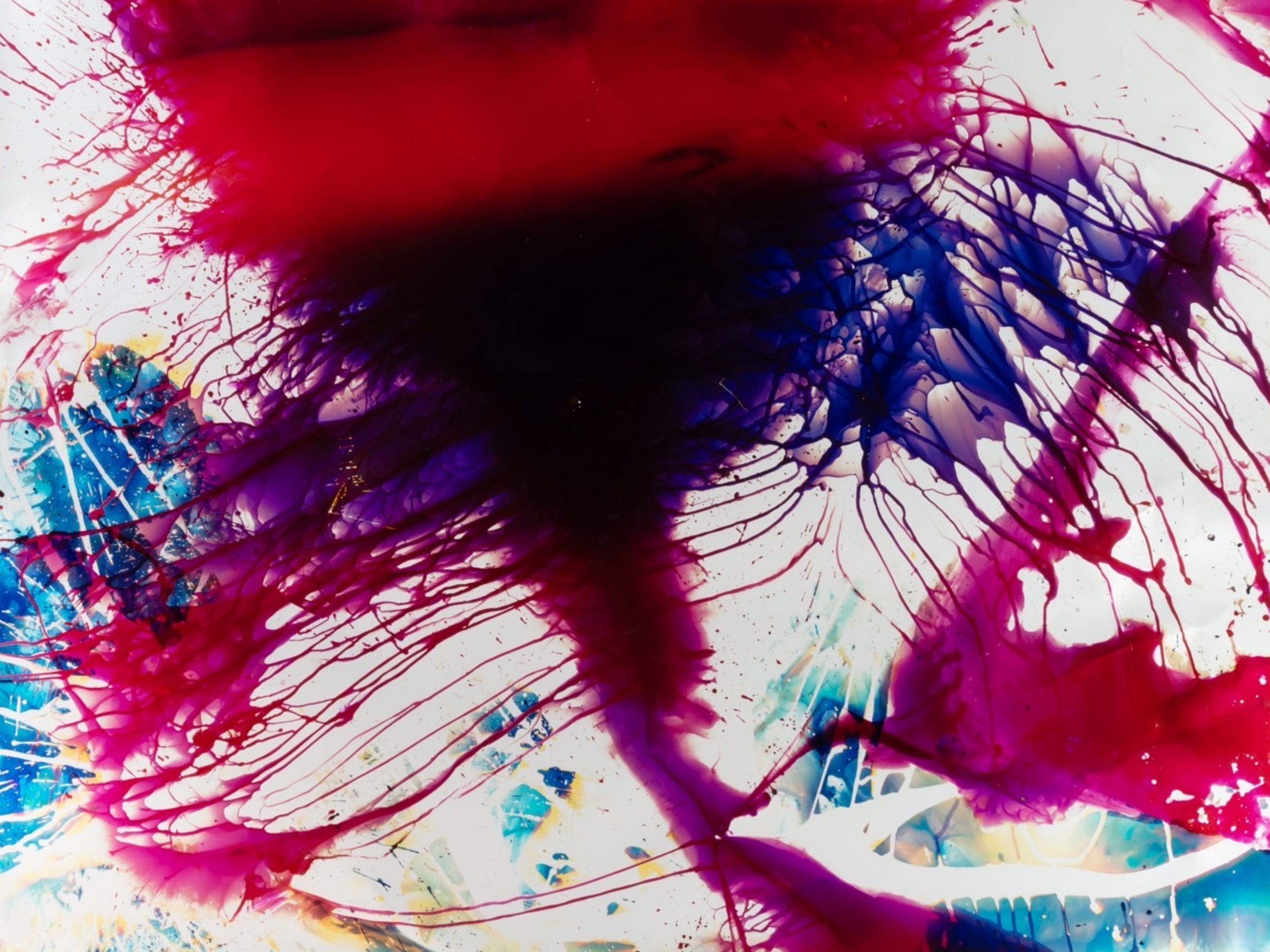
Mariah Robertson | 030, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 60 inches (101.6 x 152.4 cm)







Mariah Robertson | 001, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 50 x 54 inches (127 x 137.2 cm)





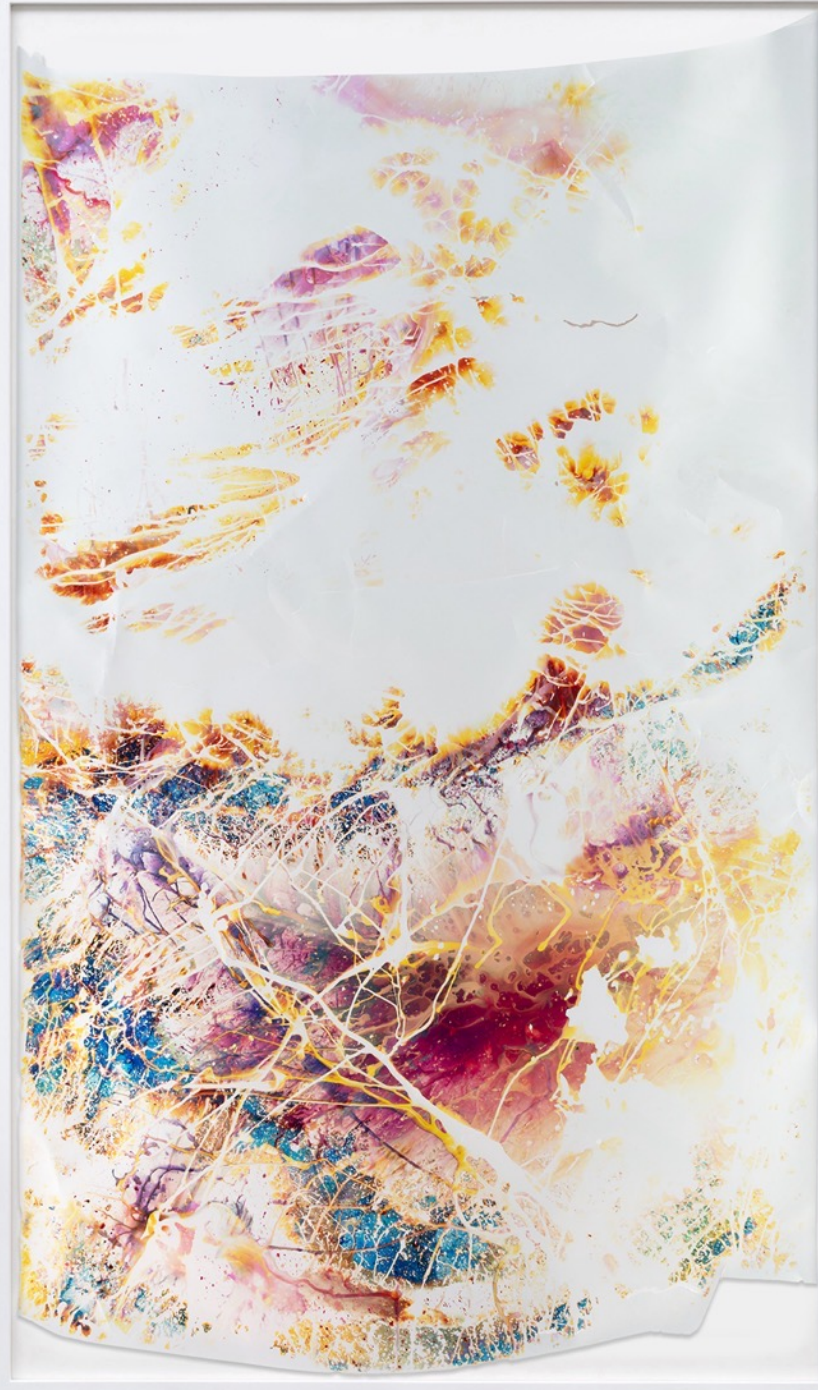
Mariah Robertson | 002, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 50 x 53 inches (127 x 134.6 cm)



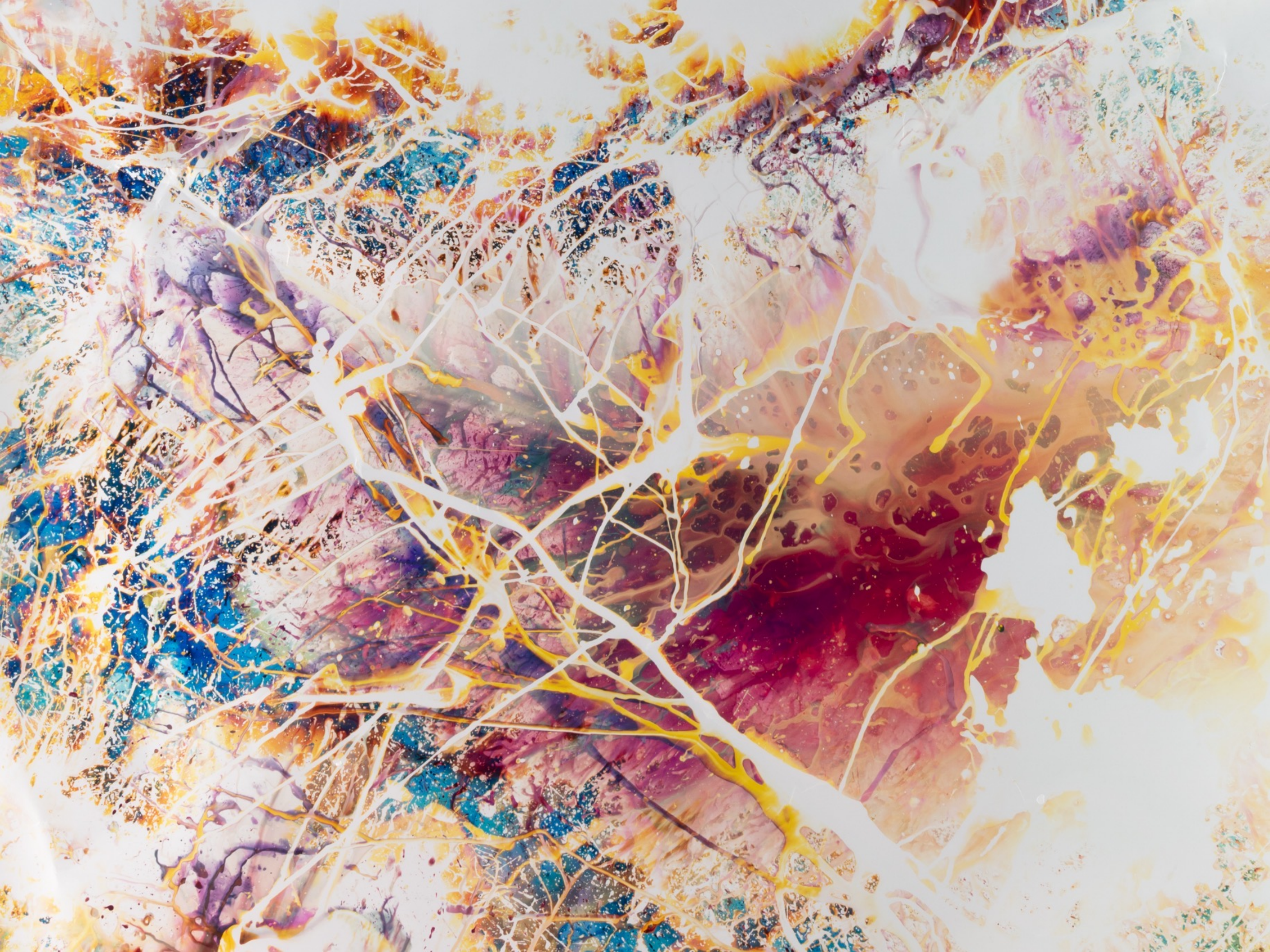
Mariah Robertson | 022, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 57 inches (101.6 x 144.8 cm)



Mariah Robertson | 009, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 53 inches (101.6 x 134.6 cm)



Mariah Robertson | 023, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 67 inches (101.6 x 170.2 cm)

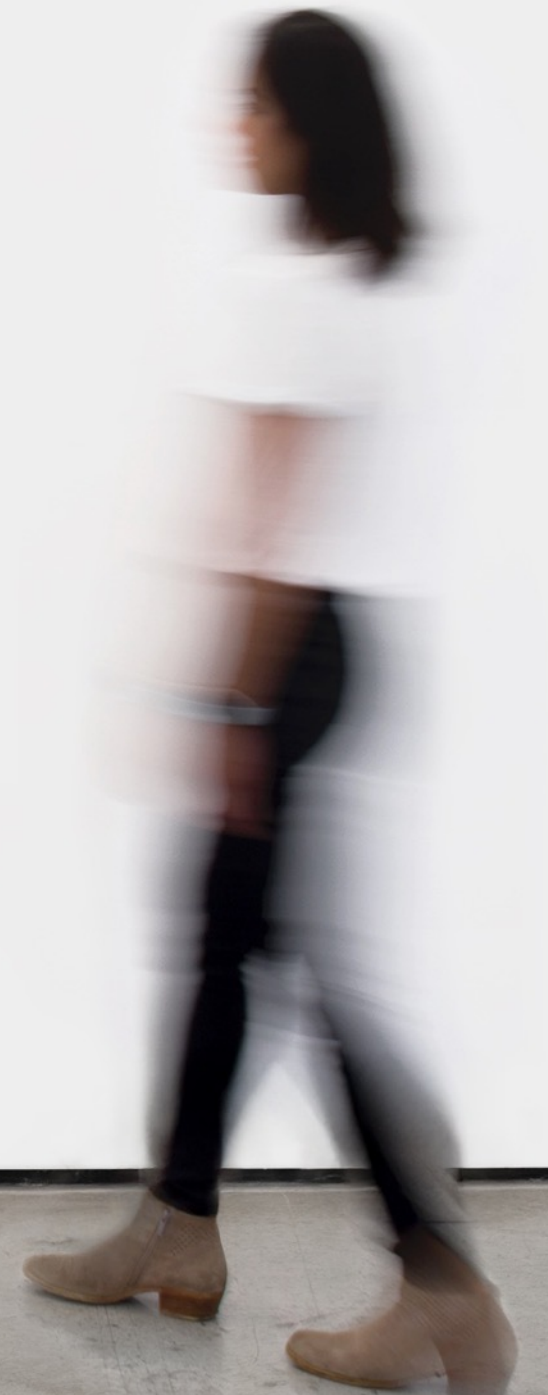




Mariah Robertson | 008, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 43 inches (101.6 x 109.2 cm)



Mariah Robertson | 007, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 66 inches (101.6 x 167.6 cm)





Mariah Robertson | 018, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 50 inches (101.6 x 127 cm)





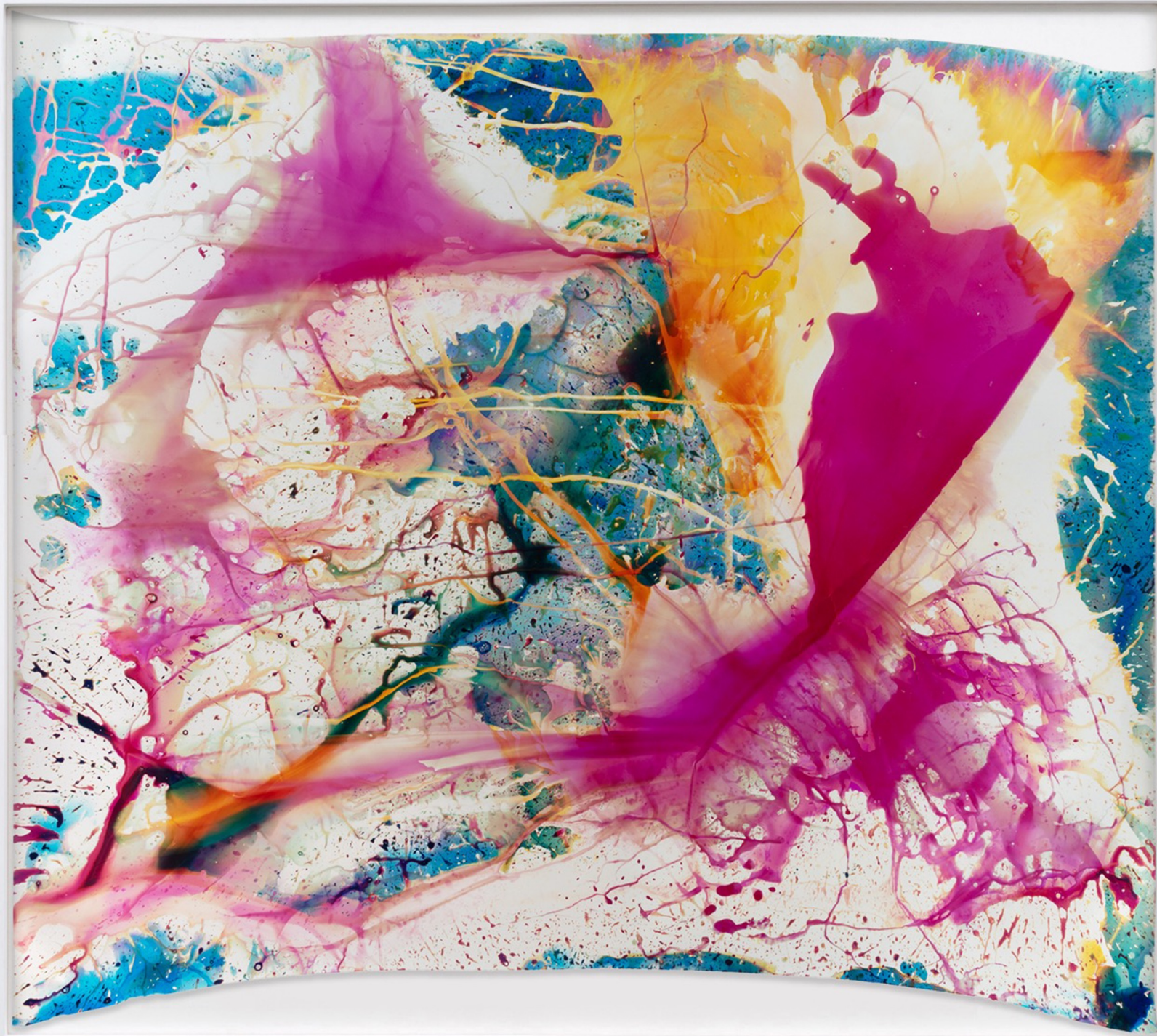
Mariah Robertson | 019, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 54 inches (101.6 x 137.2 cm)



Mariah Robertson | 012, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 50 inches (101.6 x 127 cm)



Mariah Robertson | 028, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 56 inches (101.6 x 142.2 cm)



Mariah Robertson | 027, 2024
chemical treatment on RA-4 paper | 40 x 36 inches (101.6 x 91.4 cm)