

An abstract painting on a textured, light brown background. A prominent horizontal line, rendered in a dark brown or black color, runs across the middle of the composition. Below this line, the lower half of the painting is divided into two main color fields: a large area of warm, reddish-brown on the left and a dark, forest green area on the right. The colors are applied with visible brushstrokes, giving the work a gestural and expressive quality. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

# ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

# ON THE LINE

---

Susan Ossman

*On the Line* leads us to recall fresh laundry's associations with purity, intimacy and propriety and to question which social bindings are loosened when the fresh scent and delicate touch of sheets on the line become just a memory.

February 11–March 11, 2013  
La Sierra University Brandstater Gallery  
Riverside, CA

Cover Image: *Three Across*, Oil on Canvas, 2012



### 3 ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

---



*Caught in the Sheets*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012



## 4 ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

In this exhibition I contemplate clotheslines to investigate lines of all kinds. Miming the hanging of laundry in painted gestures, I catch the words of women who exchange gossip on terraces or tell secrets across backyard fences as they hang their clothes to dry. Sheets in the breeze are like sails; they catch the wind and find direction through what tethers them. Ropes, ties, knots and belts are points of connection. They conjure other lines: of thought, action and performance.



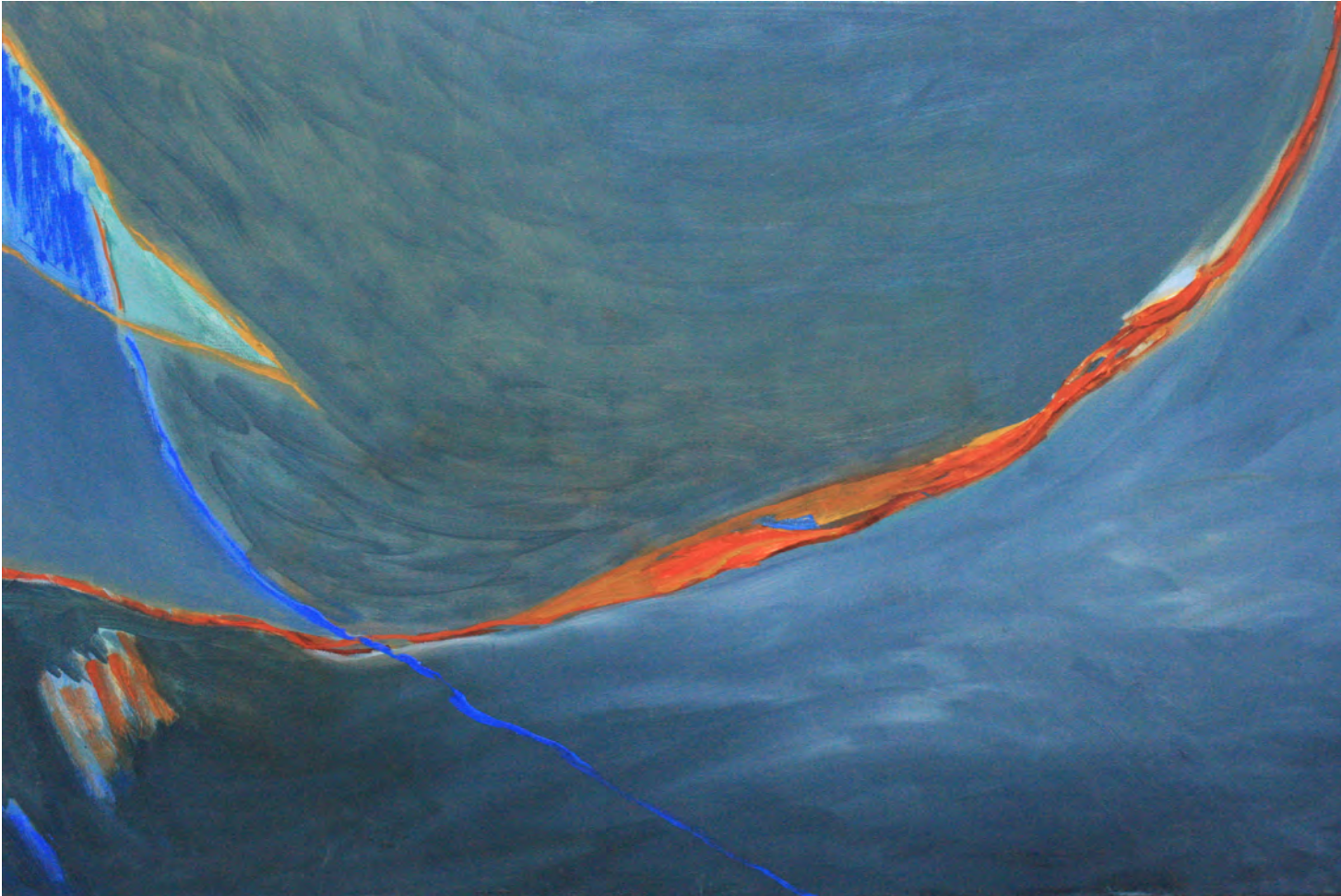
*Winter Wash*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012



## 5 ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

---



Anthropologists often associate body techniques with particular cultures or epochs while situating human universals at a deeper level associated with biological and cognitive processes. This exhibition considers continuities of bodily experience and sensuous imagination that are so widespread and banal as to escape notice by those seeking significance and too concrete to be considered by those seeking humanity's fundamental dispositions.

*Strung*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010

## 6 ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

---

In California, where many housing developments outlaw clotheslines, where drawing has been erased from the school curriculum, and where writing in full lines seems a vanishing practice even among English majors, contemplation of lines might be seen as a kind of “salvage” anthropology. *On the Line* invokes the sensuous qualities of fabric on the line with the same nostalgia with which one might consider lost languages or civilizations. It registers my own experience of seeing a practice I took for granted while living in Europe and North Africa interpreted as a quaint survival when I moved to California. What of painting itself?



*Tangled*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012



## 7 ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

---



I paint to turn mountains and deserts into bits of cloth hung out to dry against the relentless blue sky of Southern California, using brush strokes to evoke and challenge the directed flow of freeways, aqueducts and airline routes. It is not just energy that is wasted and lost when we fail to notice the dryness of the desert air. *On the Line* leads us to recall fresh laundry's associations with purity, intimacy and propriety and to question which social bindings are loosened when the fresh scent and delicate touch of sheets on the line become just a memory.

*Christo's Laundry*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012

8 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Stitching Water to Sand*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010



9 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Tying Land to Sky*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010



10 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Your Third Glass of Wine*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



11 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*After Thought*  
Oil on Canvas  
2011



12 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Lines on Yellow*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



13 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Regret*  
Oil on Canvas  
2011



14 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Line Dry #1*  
Oil on Canvas  
1994



15 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

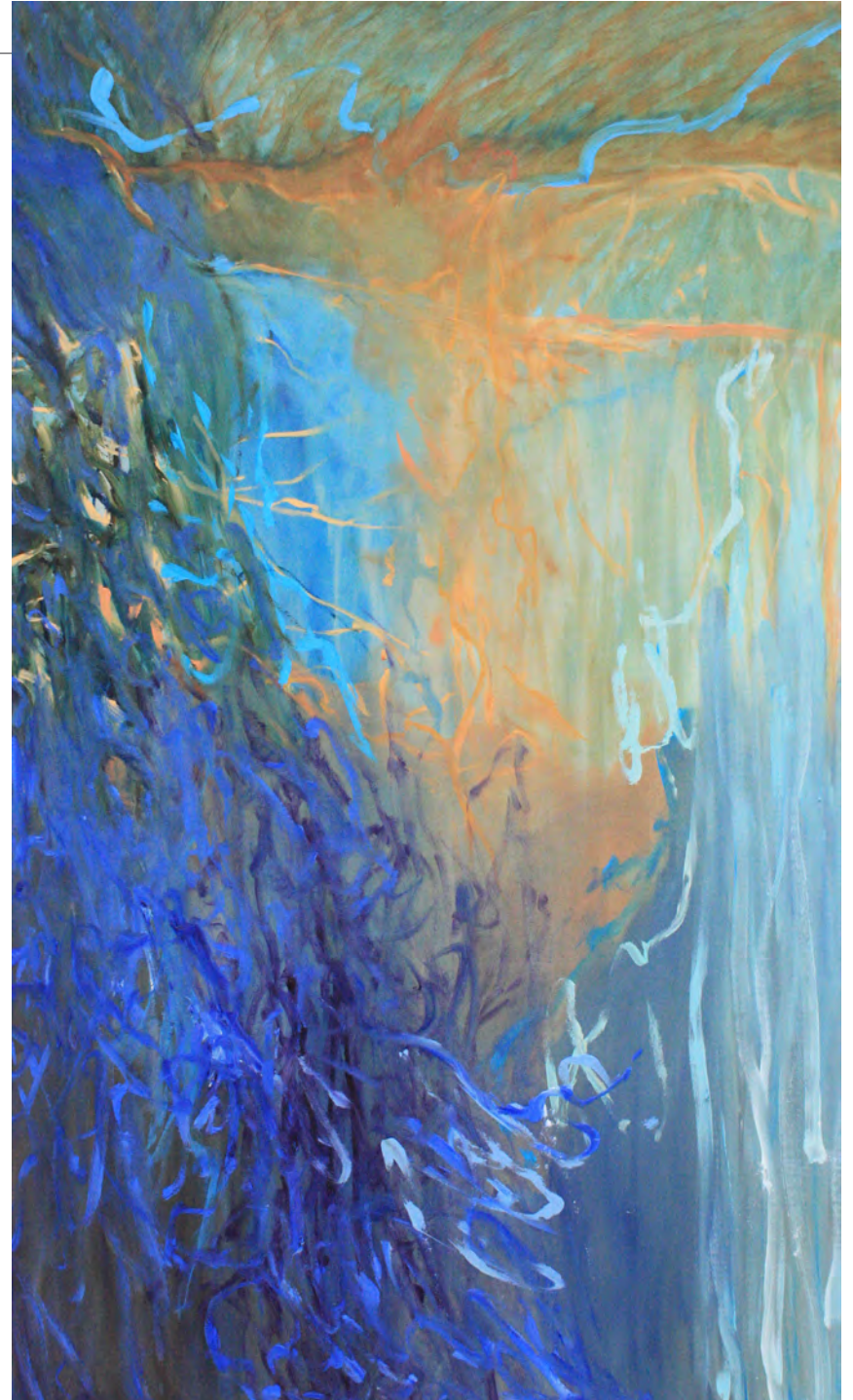
---



*Ice Lines*  
Oil on Canvas  
2011

16 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Breeze Body*  
Oil on Canvas  
2013



17 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Binding*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010



18 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---

*Hike*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009





19 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Between*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



20 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Attachments*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



21 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

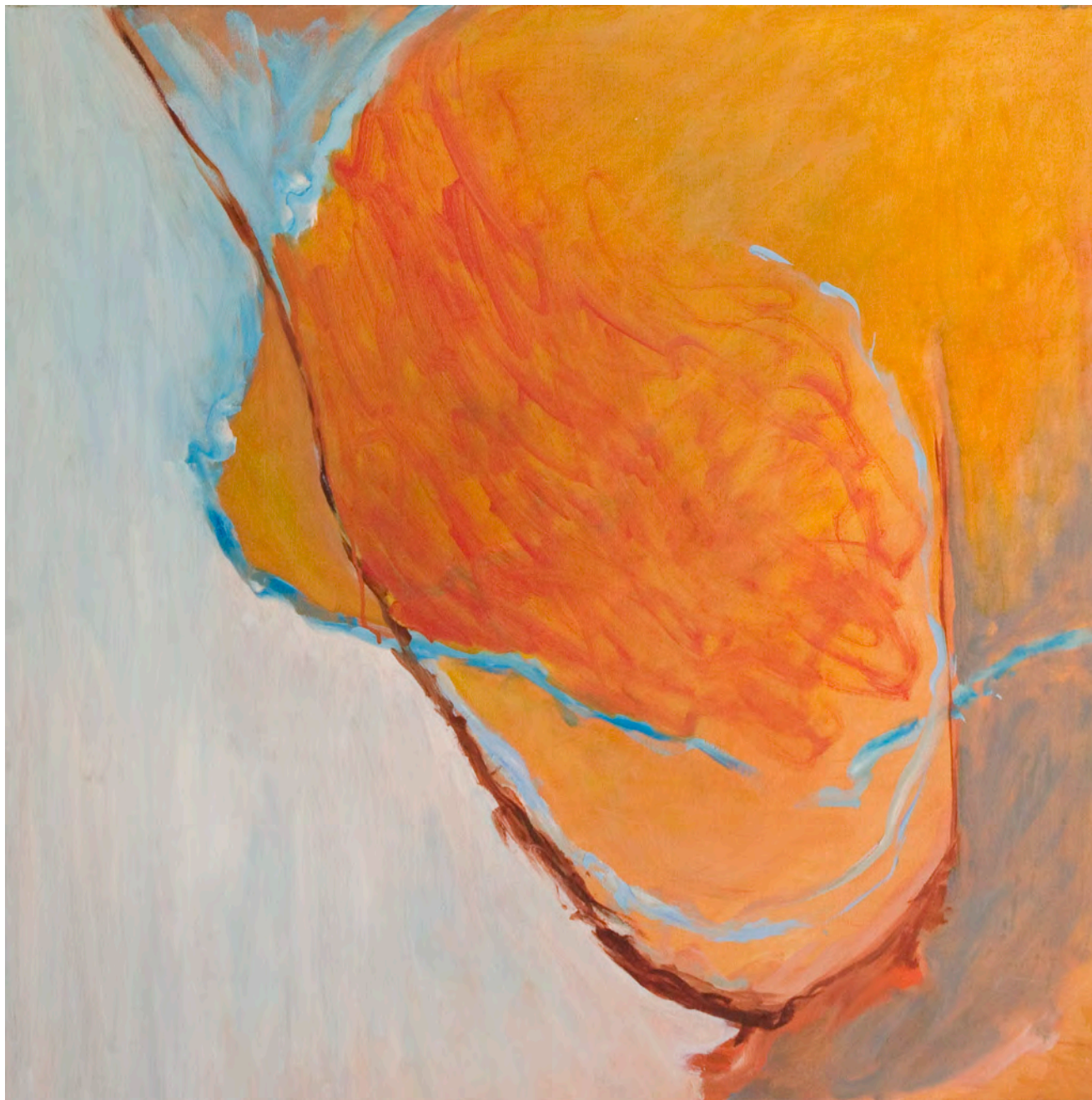
---



*Three Across*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012

22 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Boundaries*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010



23 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---

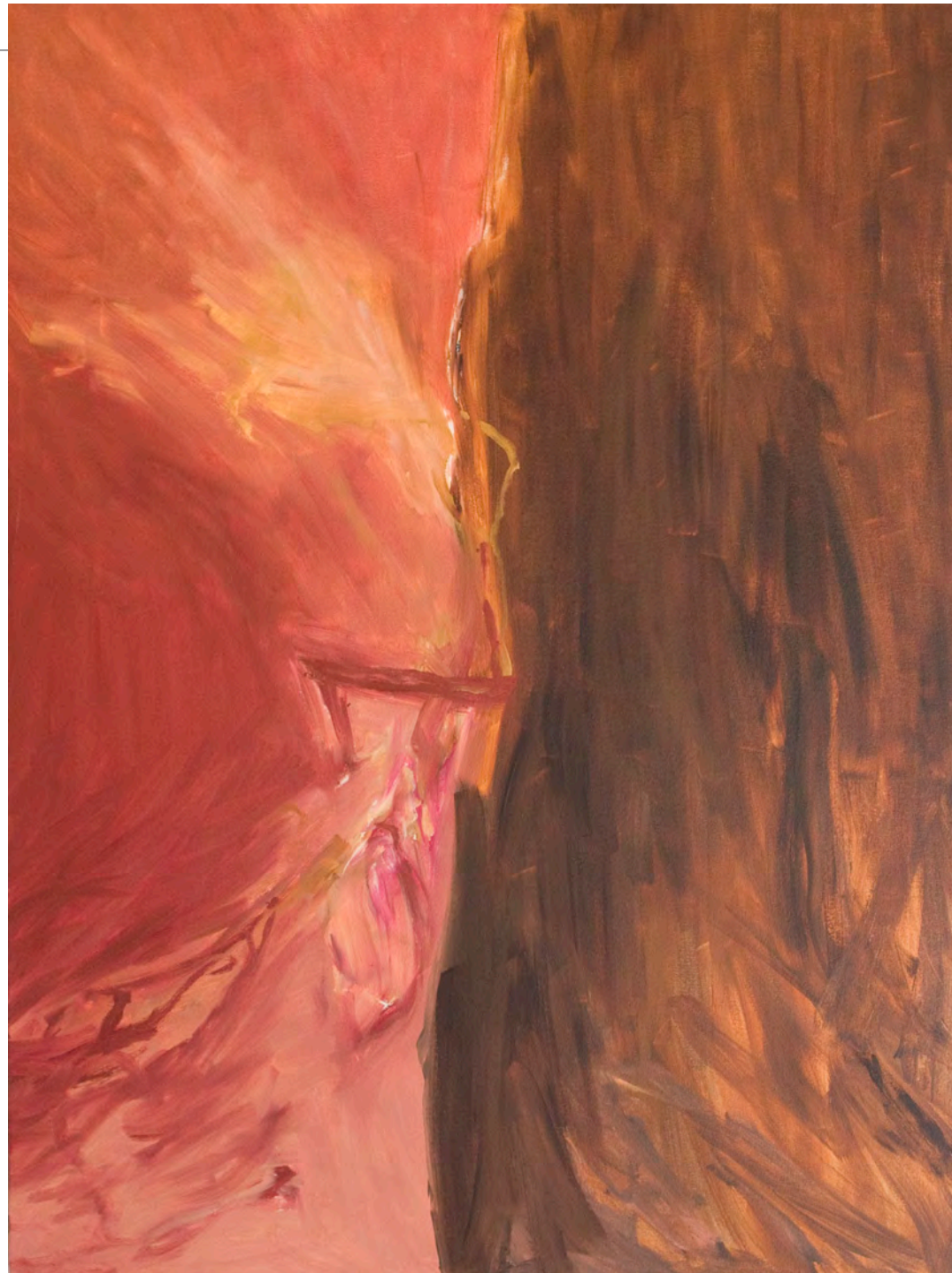


*Red Creases*  
Oil on Canvas  
2011



24 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Pins and Needles*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012



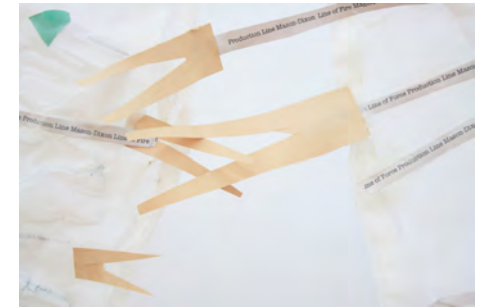
25 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*My Mother/Your Mother /What Color?*  
Mixed Media on Canvas  
2013

26 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman



*My Mother/Your Mother /What Color? #2*  
Ink, Thread and Acrylic on Paper, Vellum and Cloth  
2013

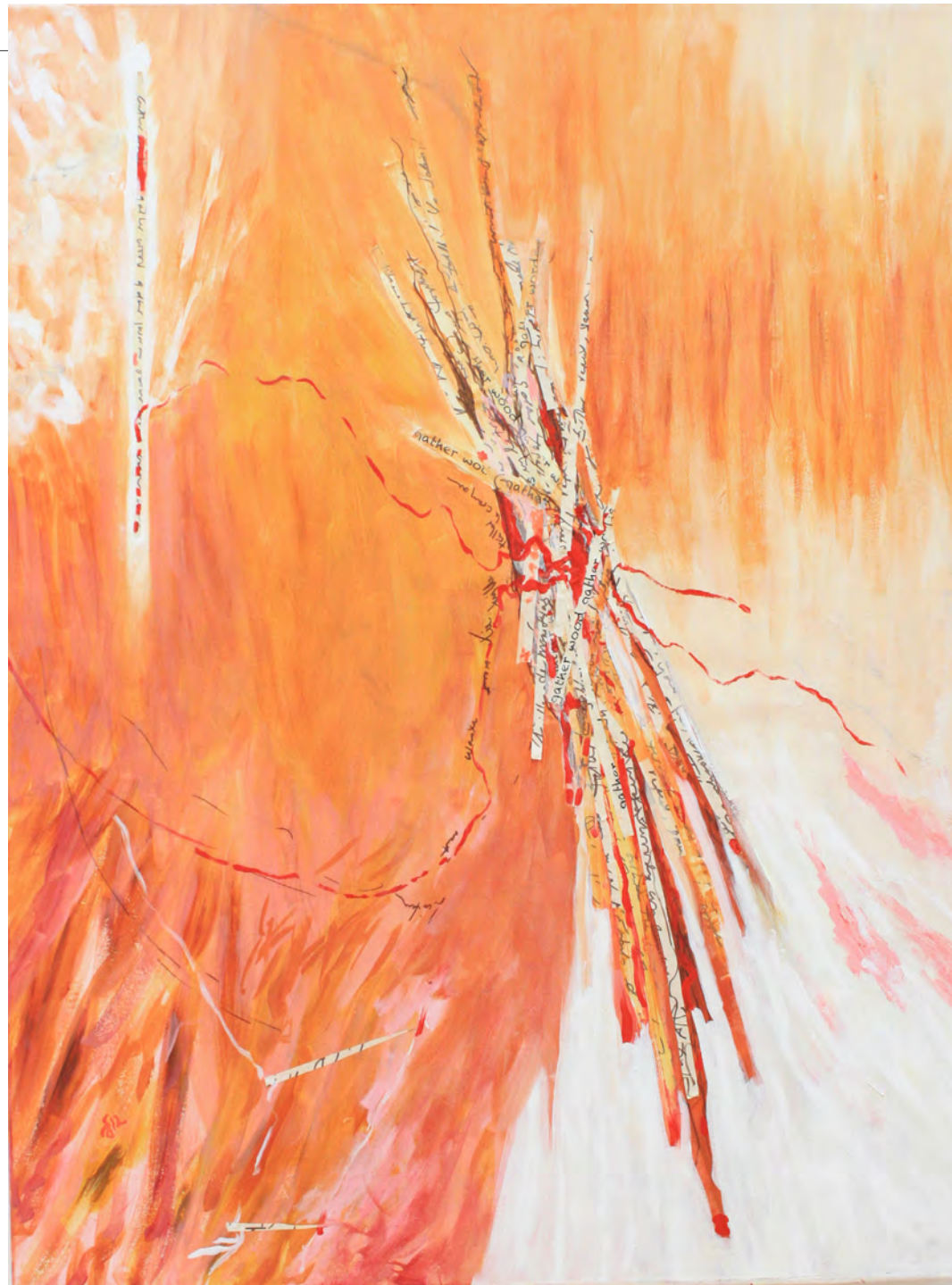


27 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman



*What Goes Unsaid*  
Cloth, Paper, Ink, and Thread  
2010

28 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman



*Gather Wood, Gather Words: Arousa/the Bride*  
Acrylic, Paper and Ink on Canvas  
2012



# 29 ON THE LINE

Susan Ossman

*Lineage*  
Acrylic, Charcoal, Ink and Paper on Canvas  
2013





30 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---

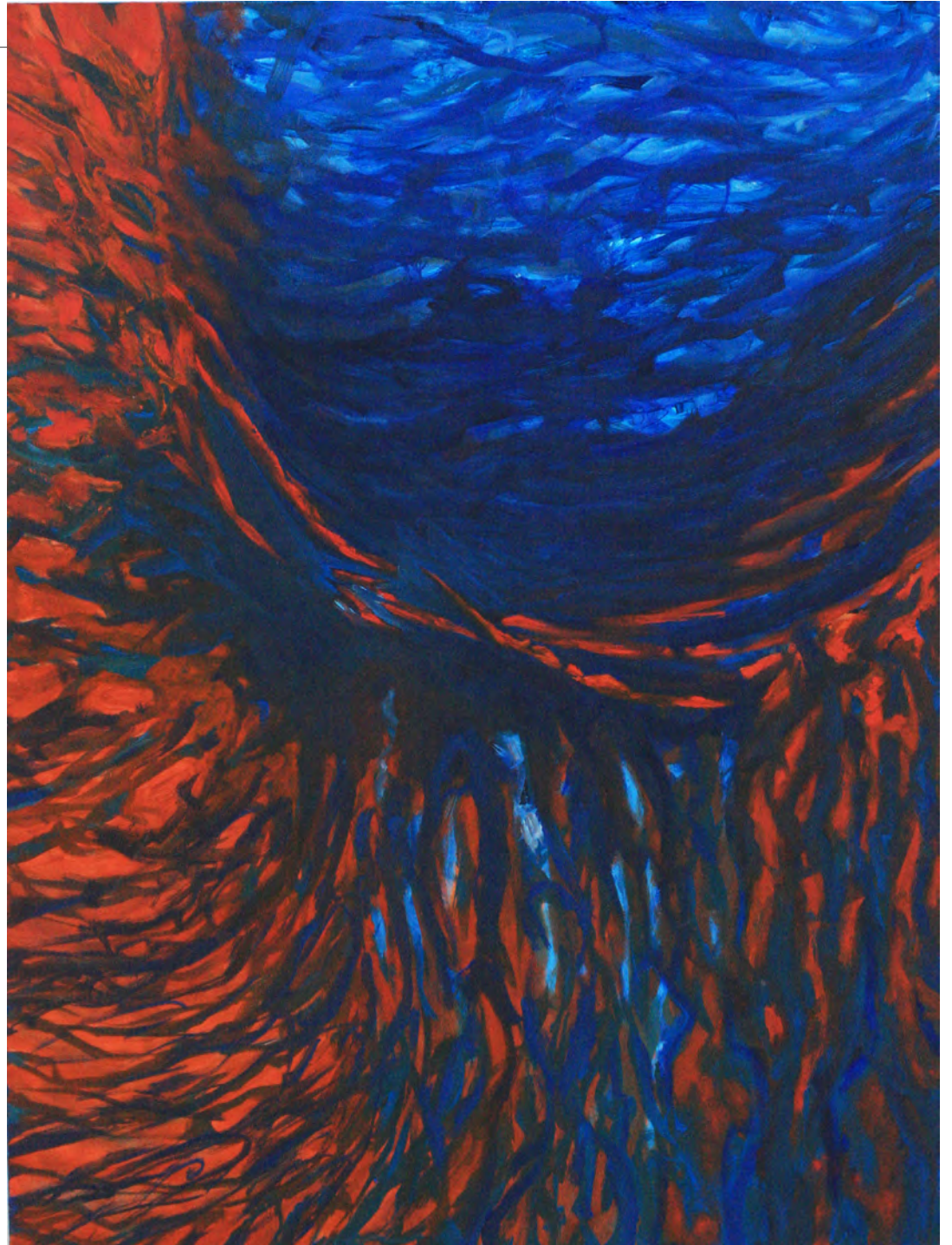
*Dance*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010





31 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Roman Bridges*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



32 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Needle Words*  
Oil on Canvas  
2012



*Blue Connections*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



33 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Night/Light Eternity*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



34 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Expanding Syllables*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010





*Nightlines 2*  
Oil on Canvas  
2011





*Blue Attachment*  
Oil on Canvas  
2011



37 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Lines Gather*  
Oil on Canvas  
2010

38 **ON THE LINE**  
Susan Ossman

---



*Lines on Green*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009



*Lines on Blue*  
Oil on Canvas  
2009