

CODED POETRY



GILDO MEDINA

VISUAL ARTIST

NYC • CDMX

CODED POETRY

CODED POETRY is a series of hand-painted homoerotic male portraits inspired by the fleeting, collective erotic language found in profile titles on contemporary dating apps used by gay men. Each work is based on a self-portrait constructed by an app user, shaped by desire and by the wish to be desired—and chosen. Composed of fifteen works arranged in a 3×5 grid, the installation echoes the layout of a smartphone screen.

The visual language of the series draws on the legacy of seventeenth-century portraiture, where heraldic symbols and biographies articulated identity, lineage, and power. **CODED POETRY** reimagines this tradition within the contemporary world of digital cruising, replacing noble titles and biographical text with sources of power specific to gay male encounters—endowment, sexual role, body type, and time or location—each a criterion for selection and a means of asserting desire.





“CODED POETRY TRANSFORMS
COLLECTIONS OF CAPTIONS USED IN
CONTEMPORARY DATING PROFILES
INTO MODERN HAIKU, REIMAGINING
EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE THROUGH HAND
PAINTED EROTIC MALE ARTWORKS”

Gildo Medina





On these apps, profile titles such as **BigFatNow, Pig, IntoDaddies, XLTop, and UncutThick** employ an extreme economy of language to convey layered meaning, condensing fantasies, roles, or physical descriptions into a few charged words. These raw titles—together with the visual language of profile images and the accumulation of many profiles—form the source material from which Medina develops the series. From this fleeting digital material, Medina makes a deliberate transformation. Profiles designed to disappear are translated into hand-painted portraits, allowing what was meant to last only moments to gain permanence. Removed from their original function as tools of immediate attraction, the selected titles are hand-painted and integrated into the works, becoming part of a shared poetic structure. Paired with idealized “profile pics,” they acquire new symbolic weight.

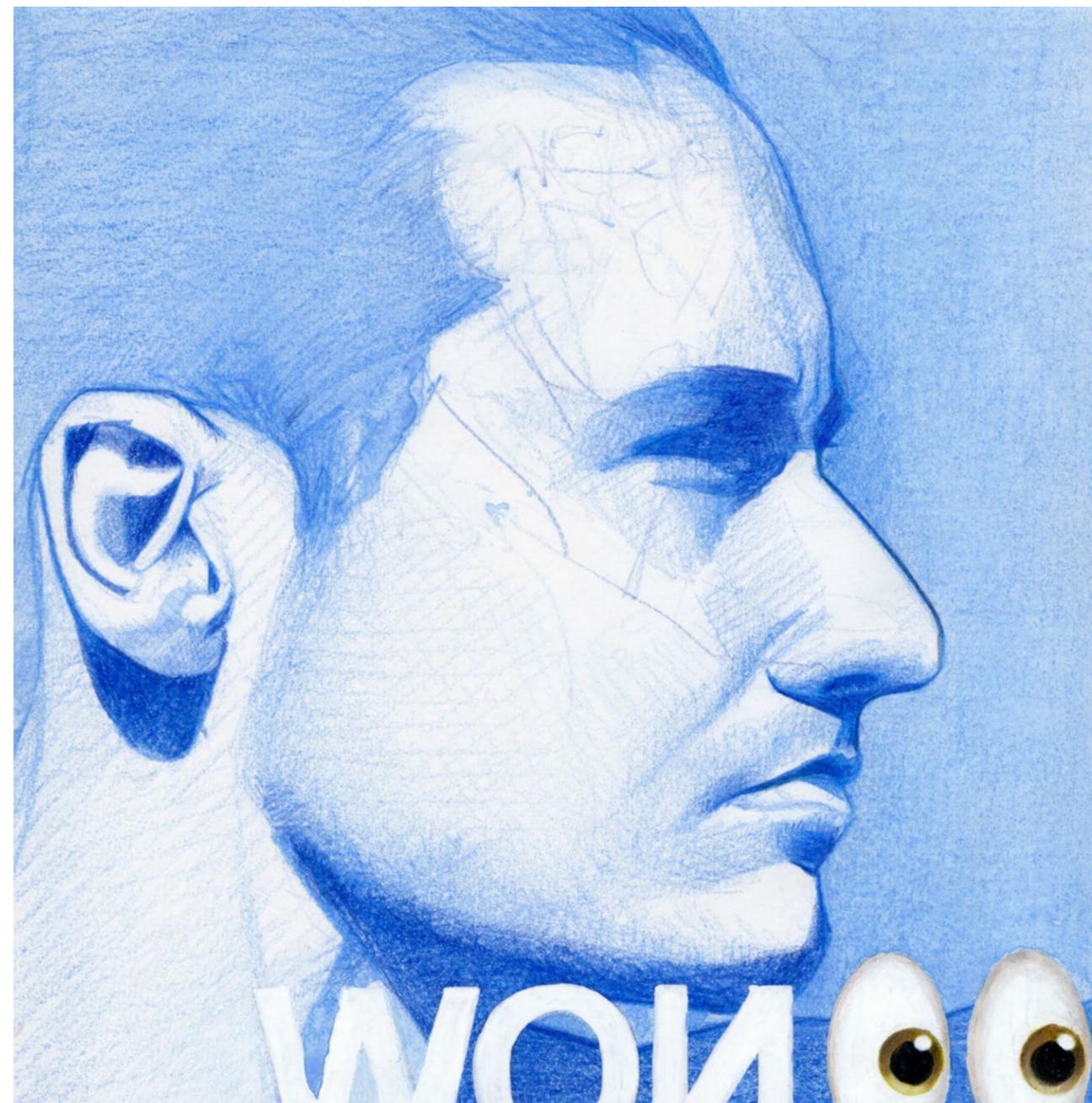
Within an endlessly shifting digital grid, these profiles appear and quickly move or vanish. Yet in their brief visibility, each image and profile title expresses something direct: sexual impulses, explicit fantasies, the need for affection, or the assertion of one’s own allure. Read together, these fragments move beyond individual self-presentation and, for Medina, form a collective erotic poetry. This contemporary erotic parlance is brief, coded, and compressed, not unlike a **Japanese haiku.**





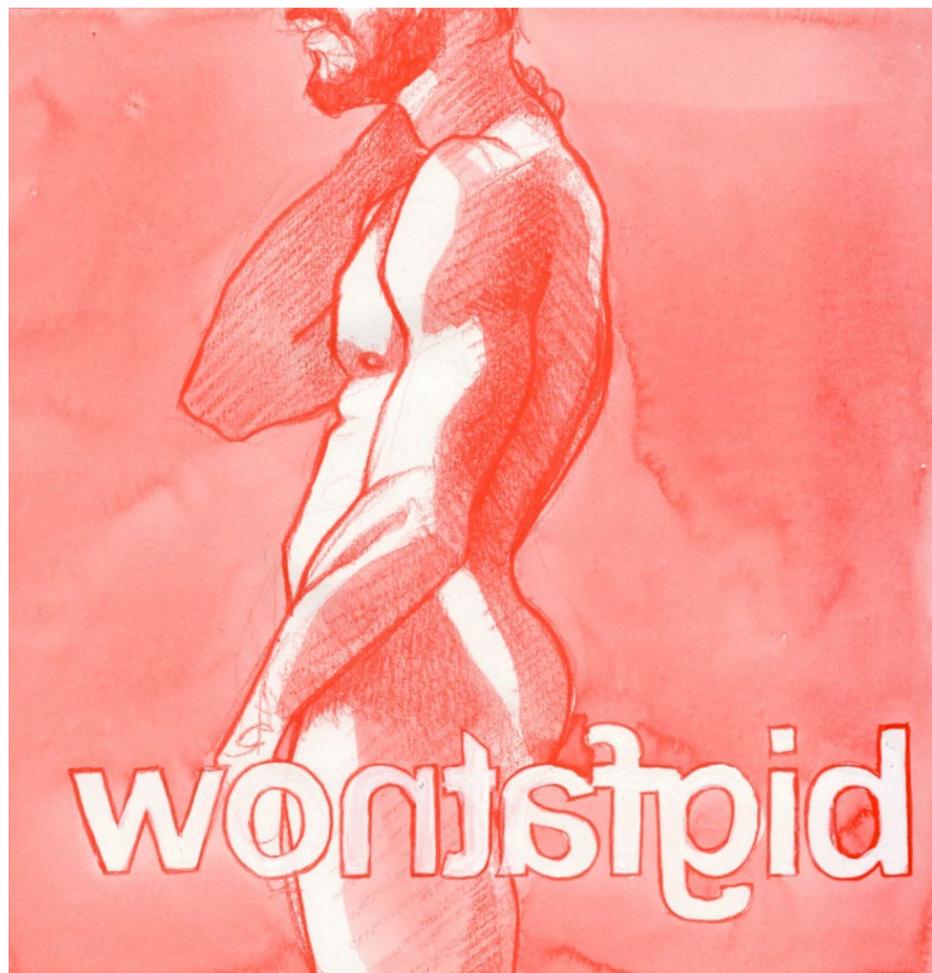
HUNG

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



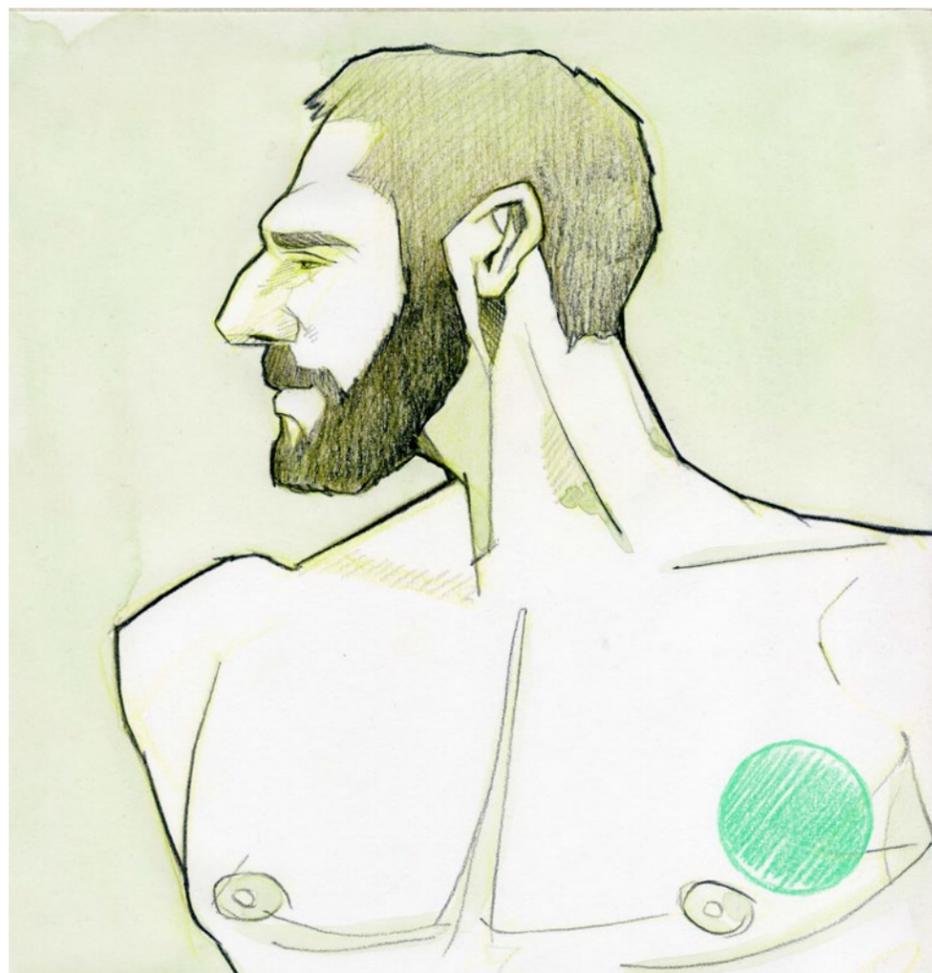
NOW

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



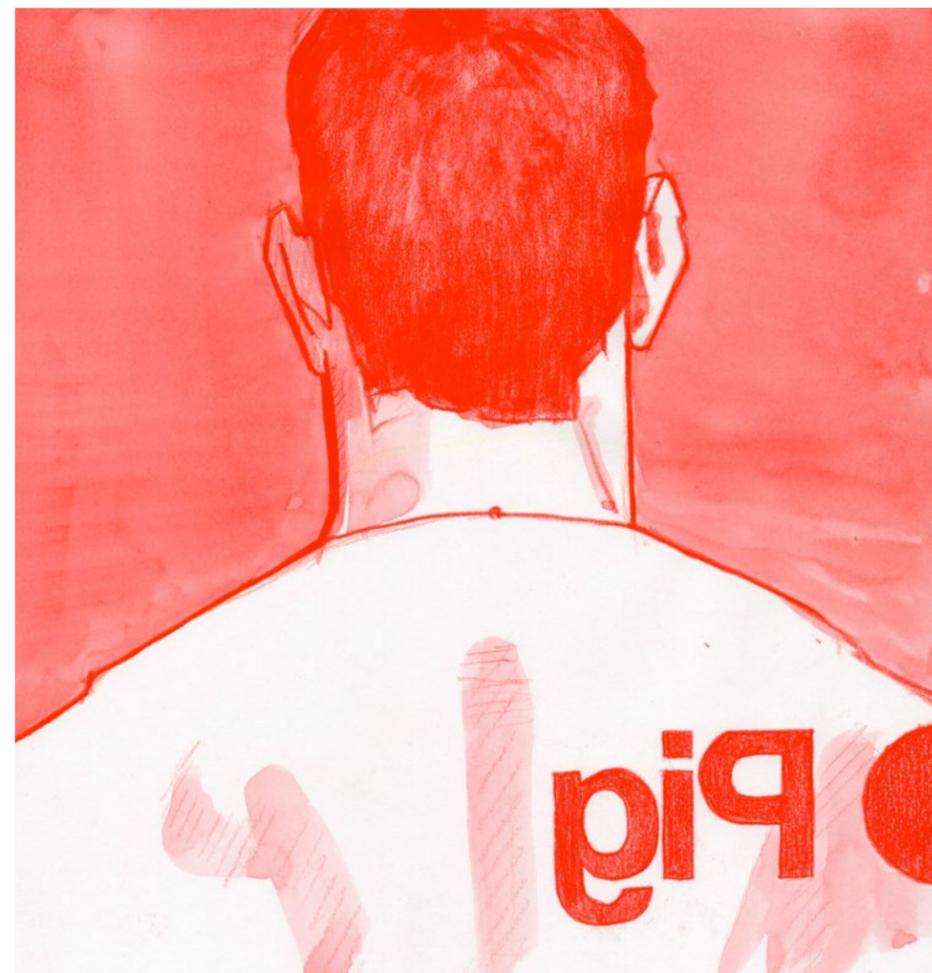
BIGFATNOW

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



ONLINE

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



PIG

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



UNCUTTHICK

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper

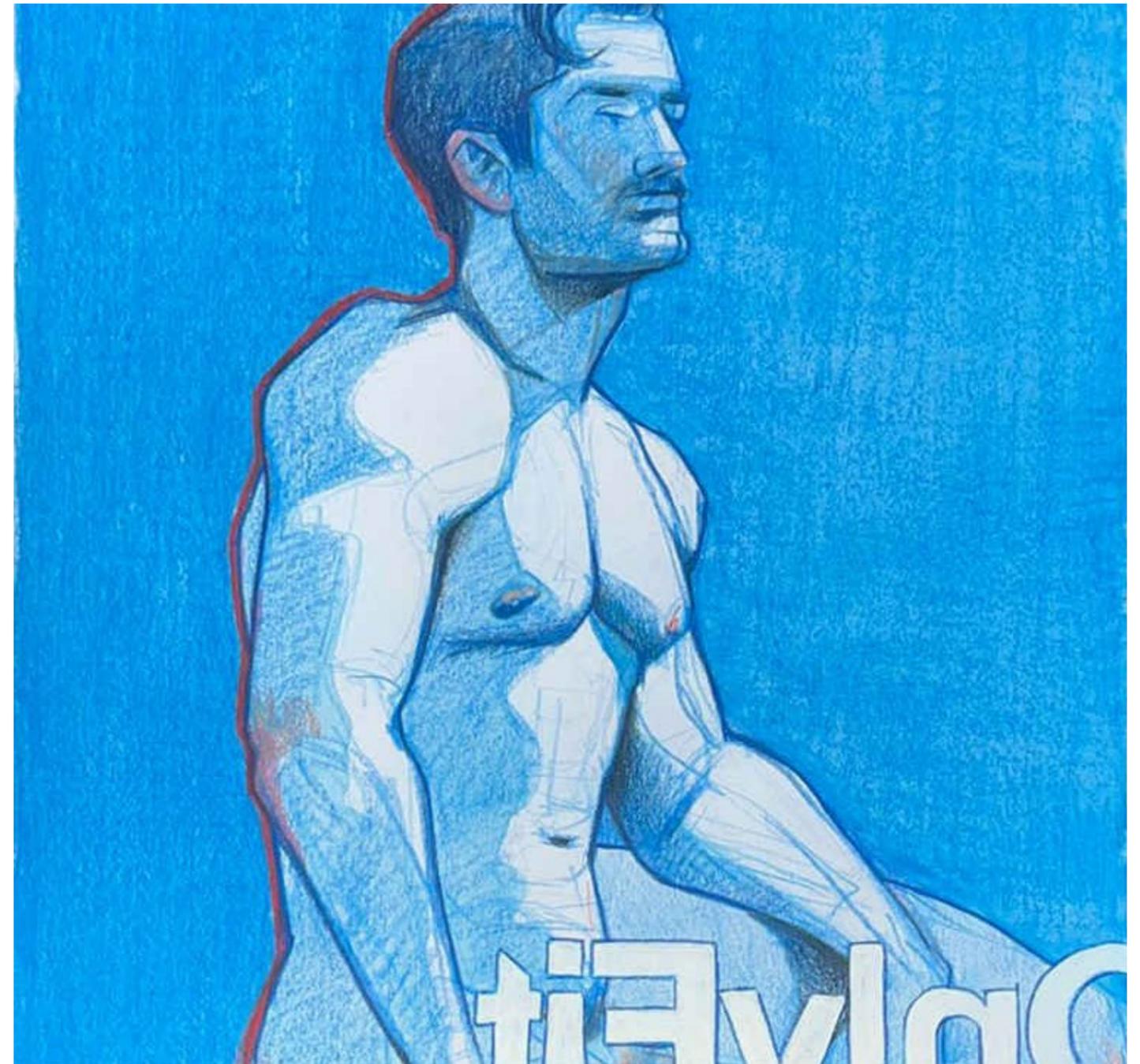
8.6" x 8.6"

New York 2024



MASCBTM

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



ONLYFIT

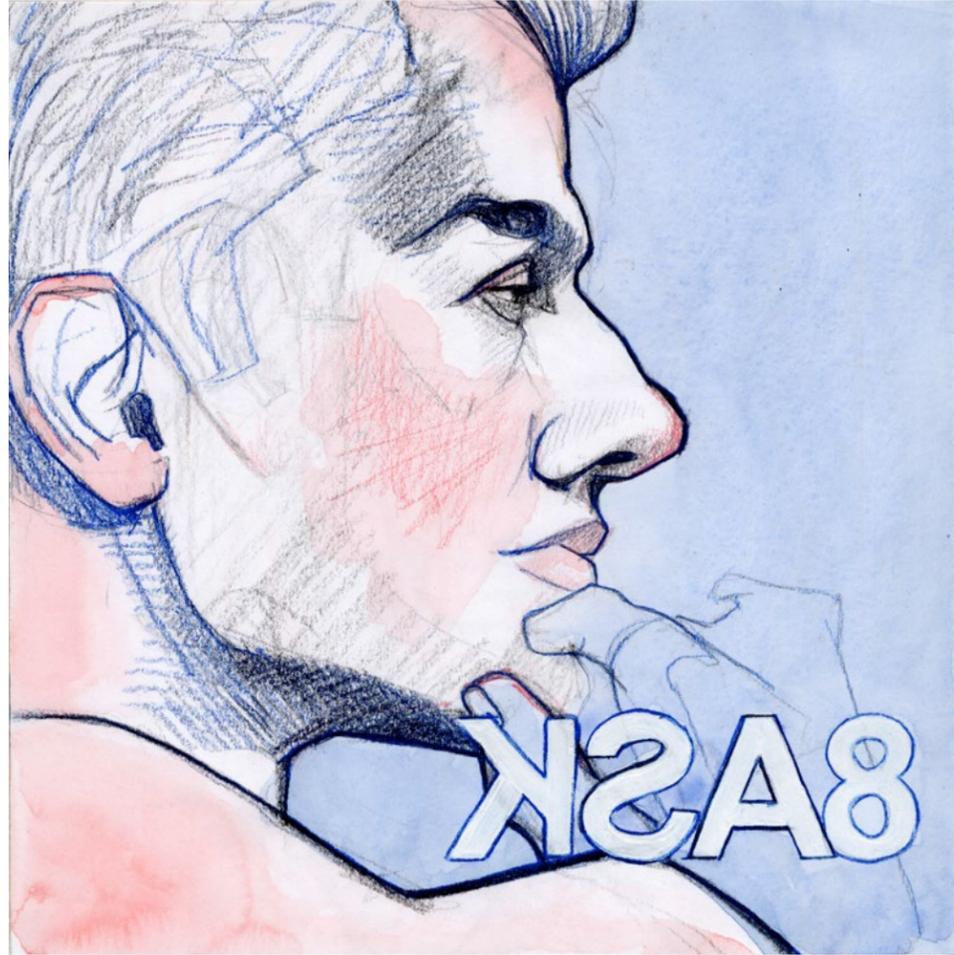
Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



XL TOP

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper

New York 2024
8.6" x 8.6"



8ASK

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



9FFUN

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



WHO'SNEXT

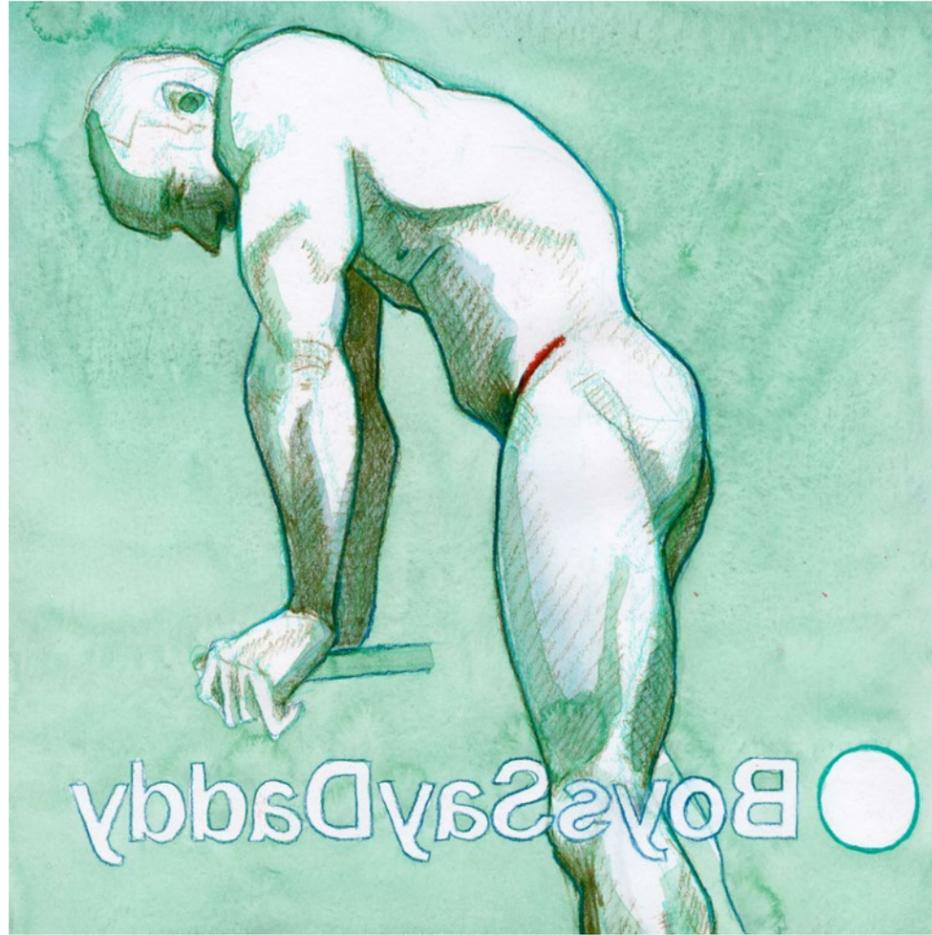
Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024





COUPLE

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



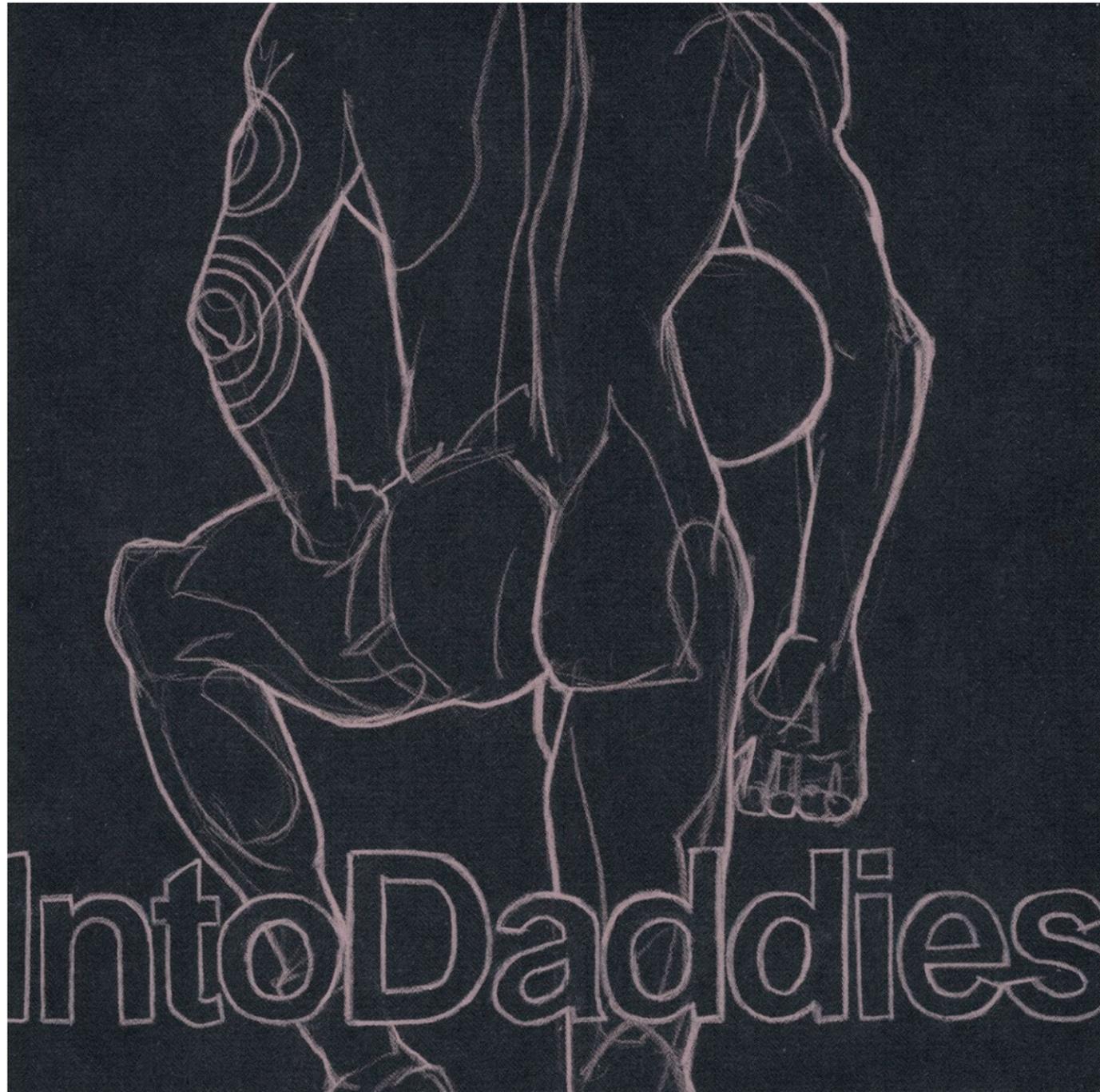
BOYSSAYDADDY

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



9NOW

Acrylic and colored pencil on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



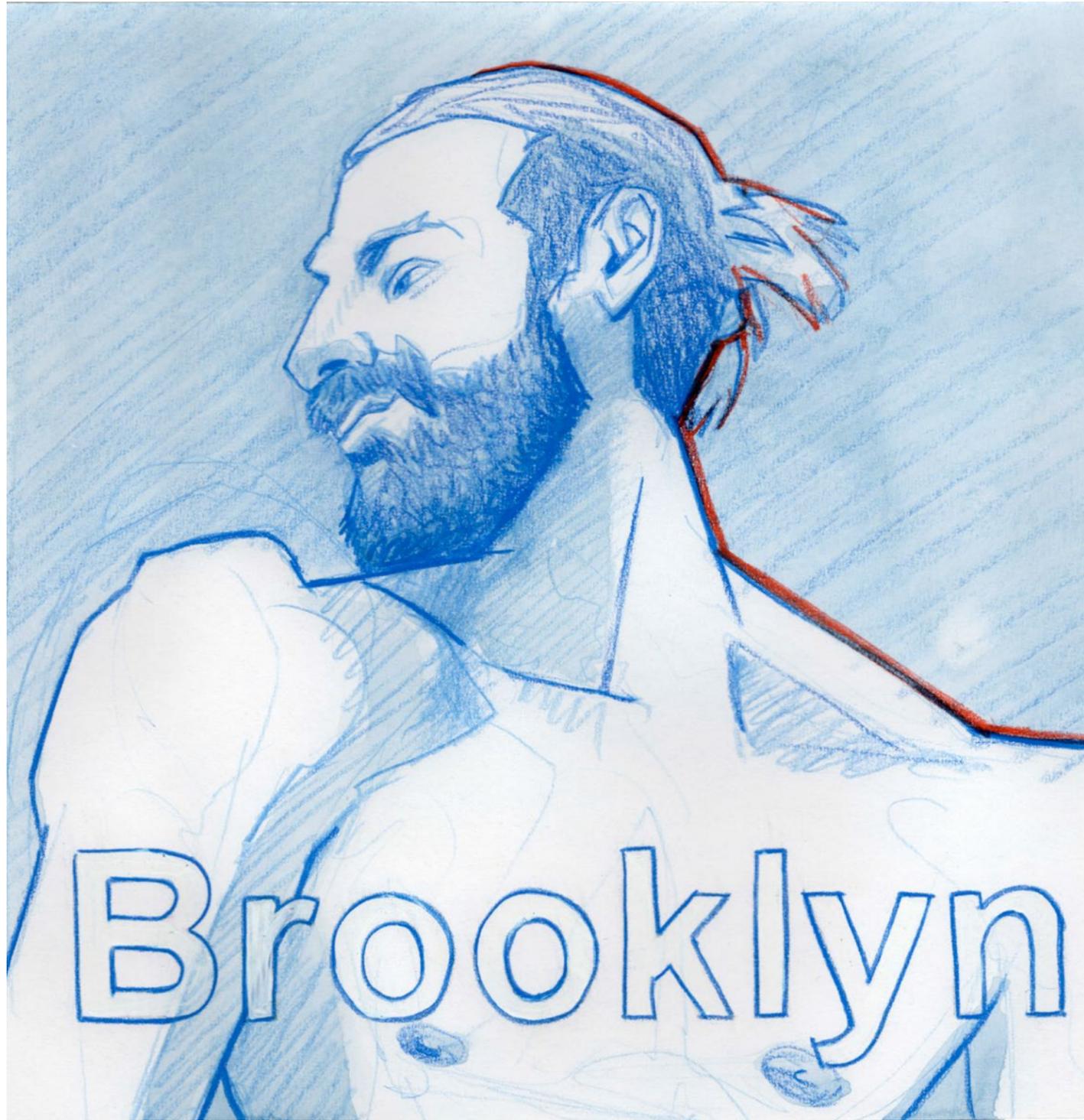
INTODADDIES

Colored pencil on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



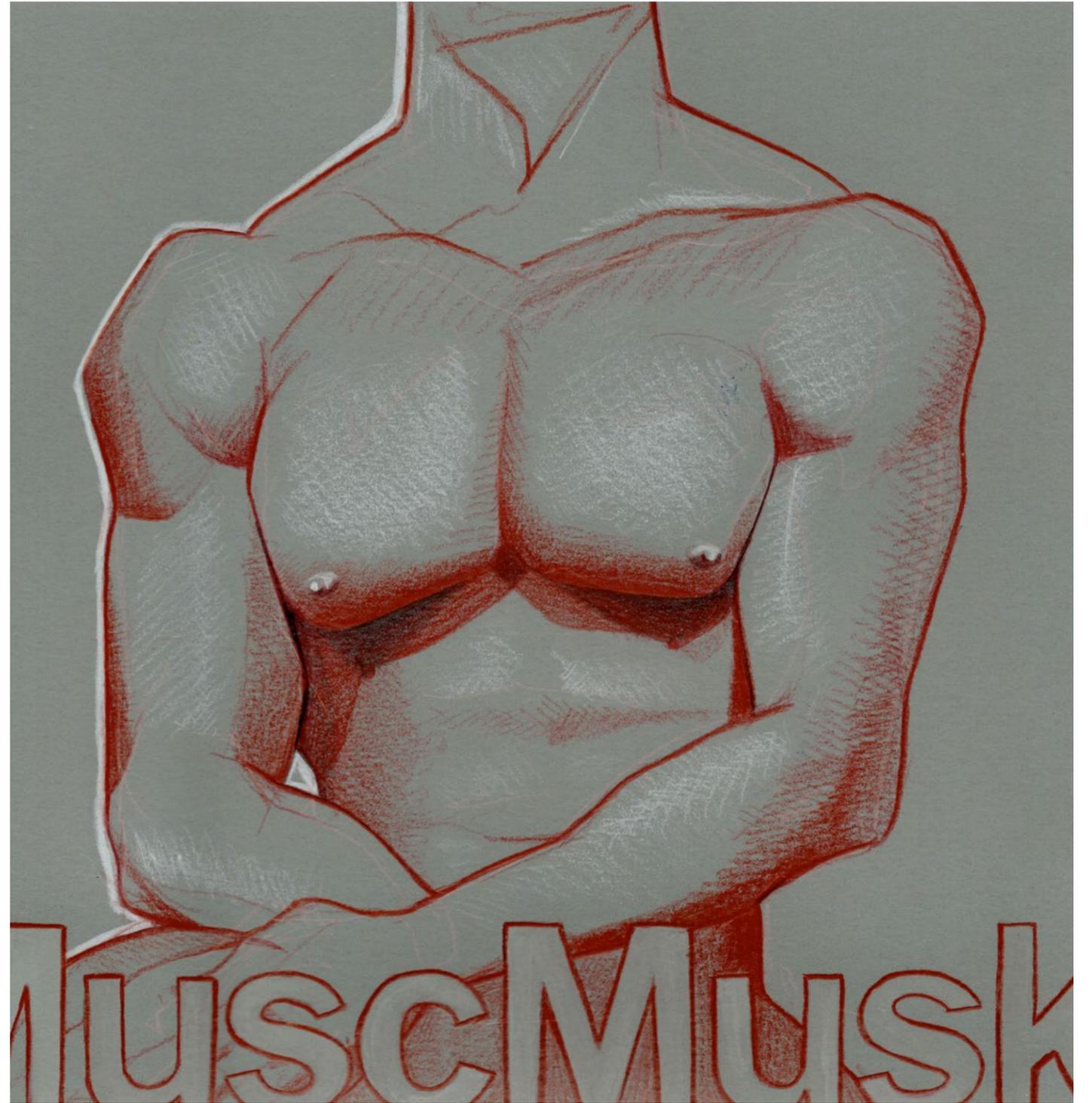
NOW

Acrylic and colored pencil on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



BROOKLYN

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



MuscMus

Colored pencil on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024

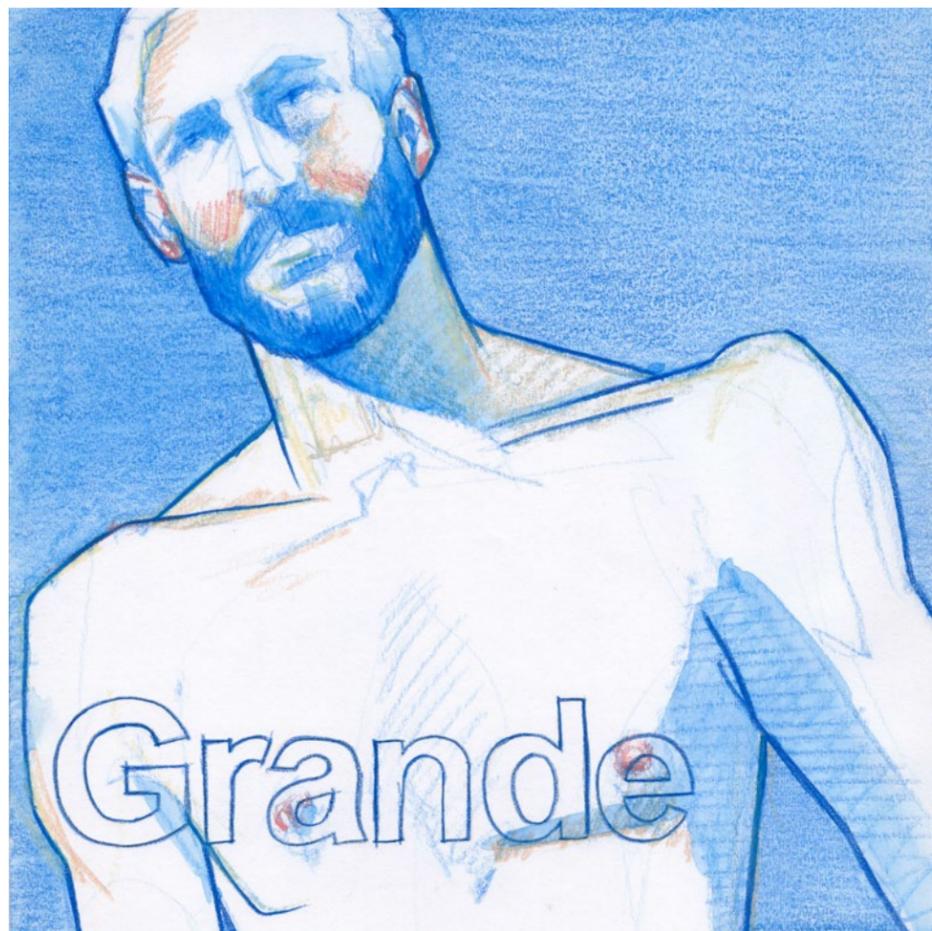


OFFLINE

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper

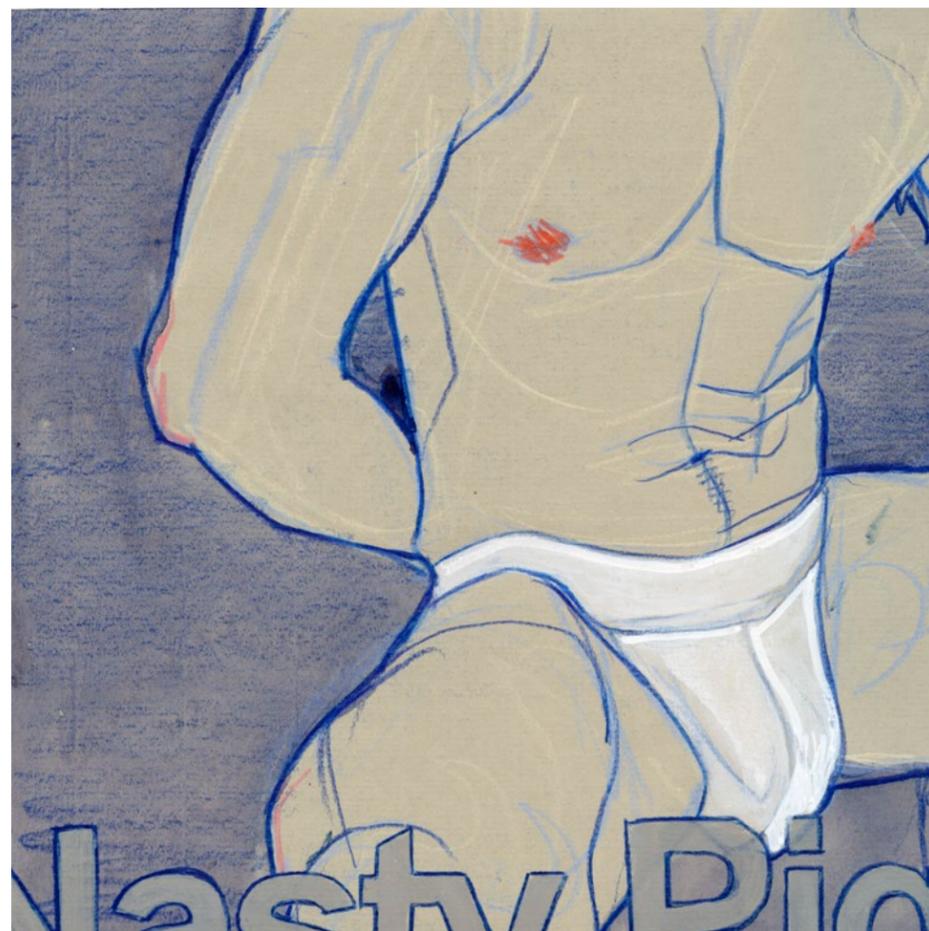
8.6" x 8.6"

New York 2024



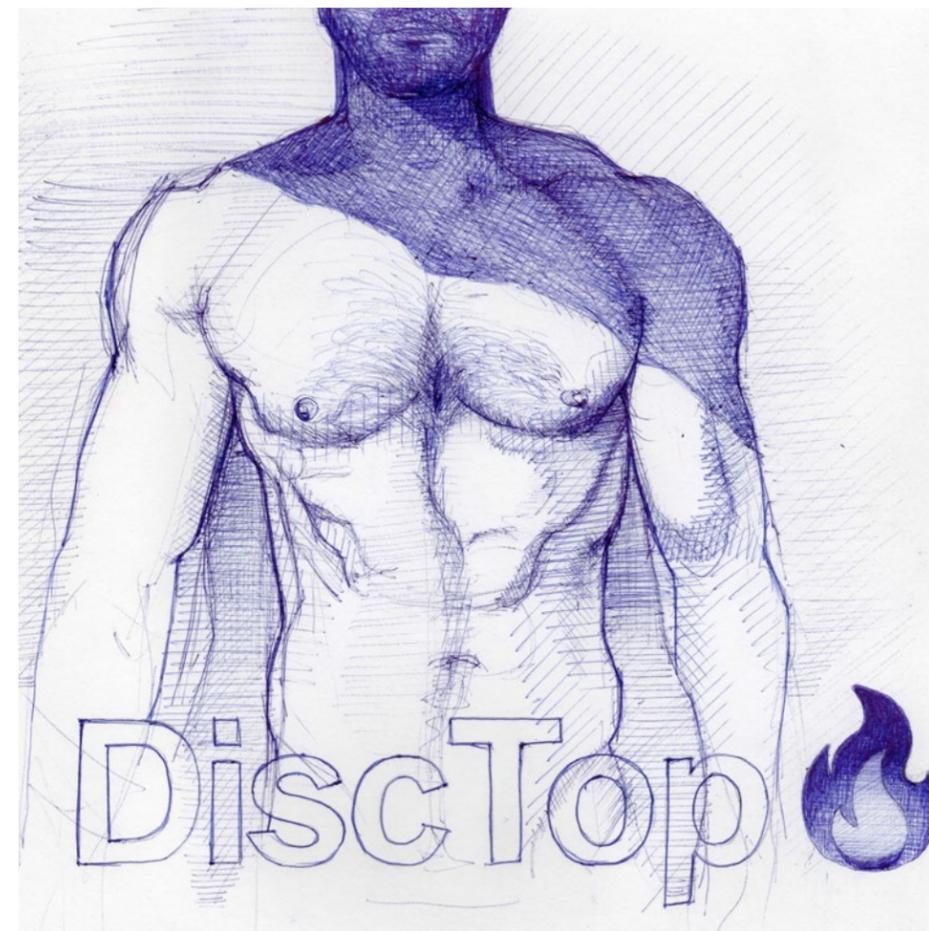
GRANDE

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



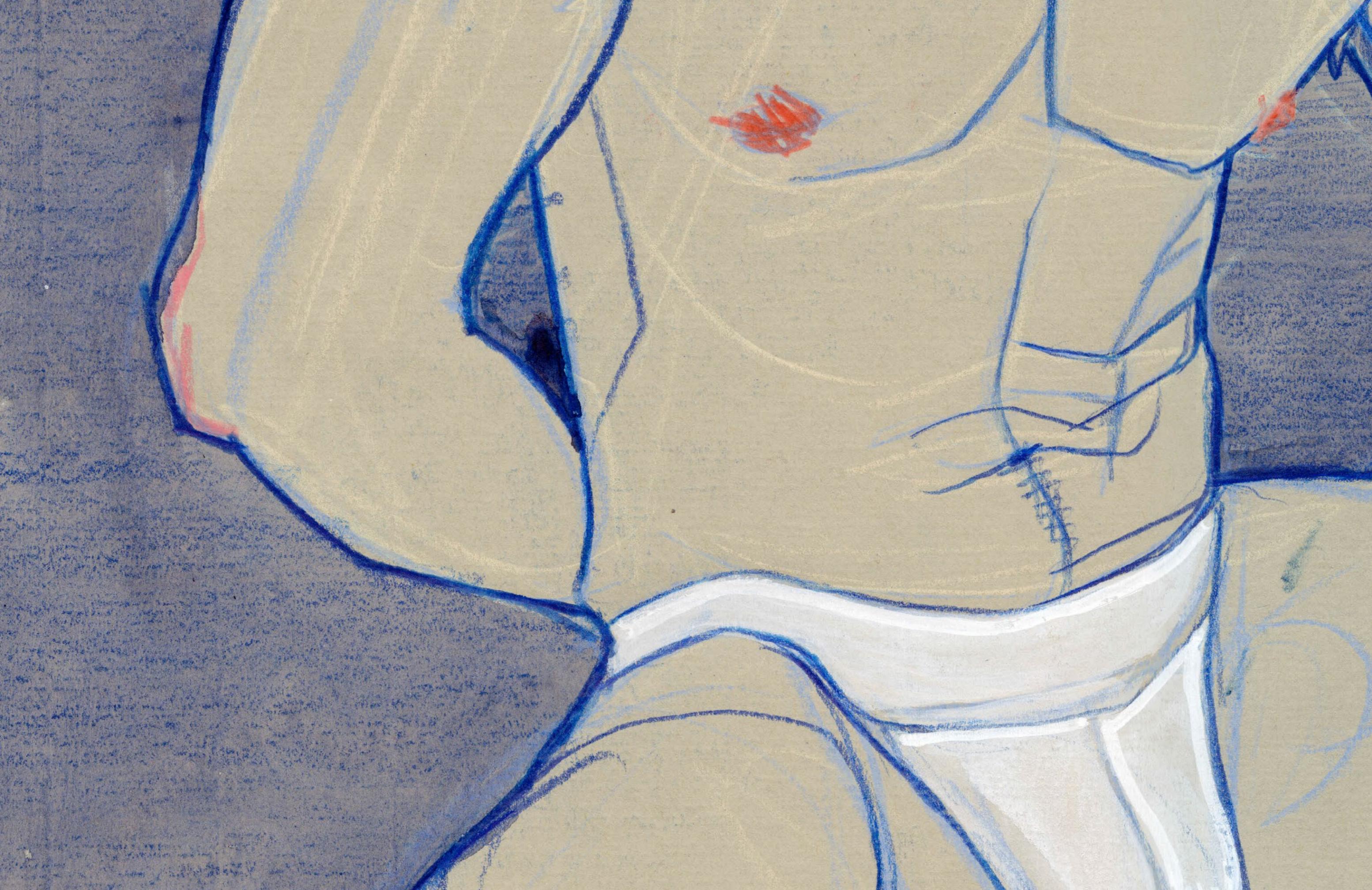
NASTY PIG

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



DISCTOP

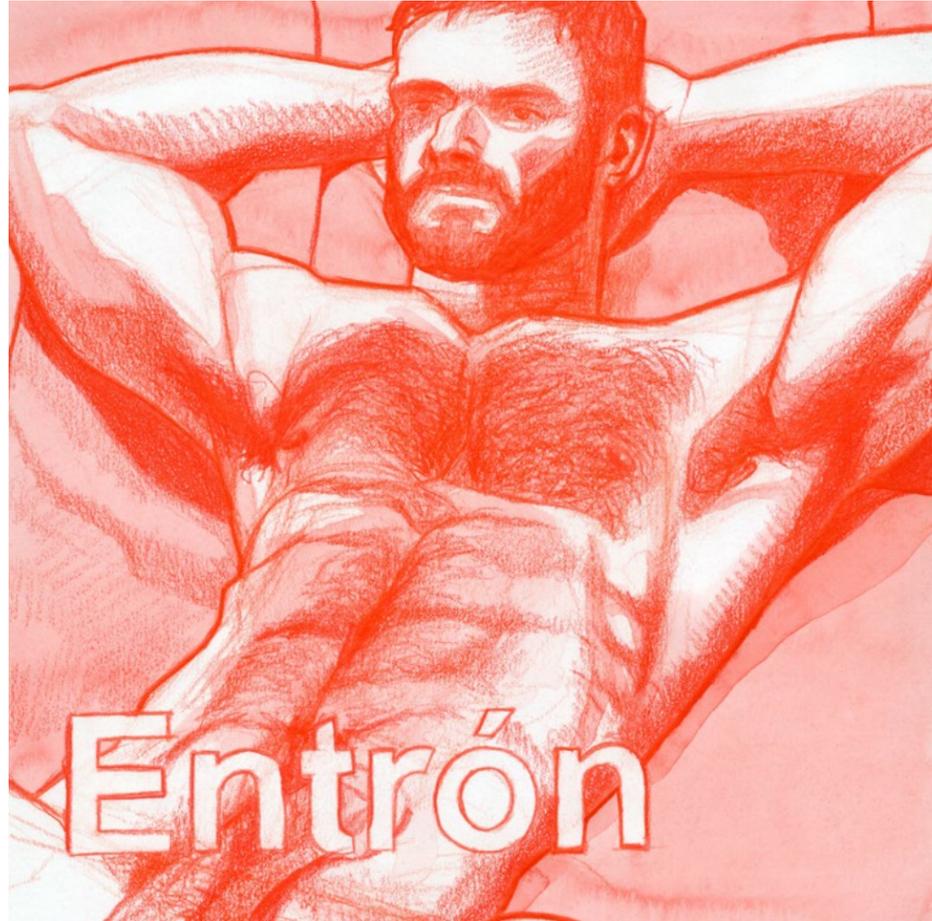
Ballpoint pen on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024





FIRE ISLAND

Acrylic and colored pencil on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



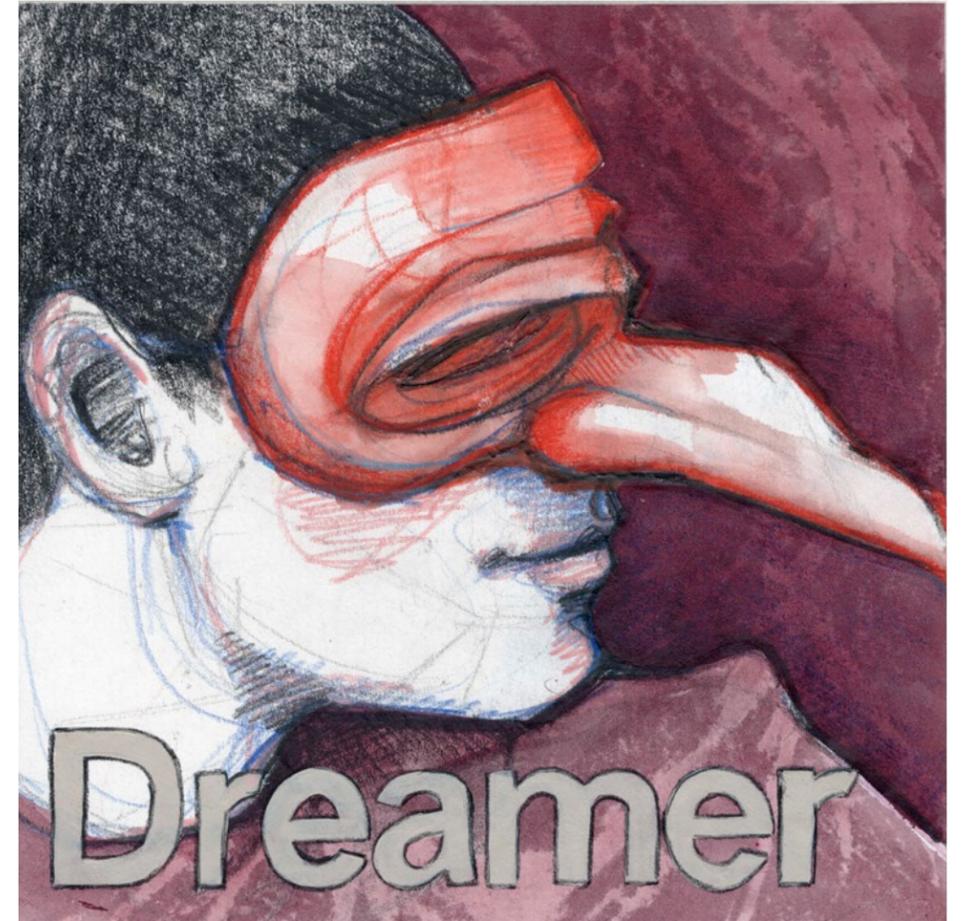
ENTRÓN

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



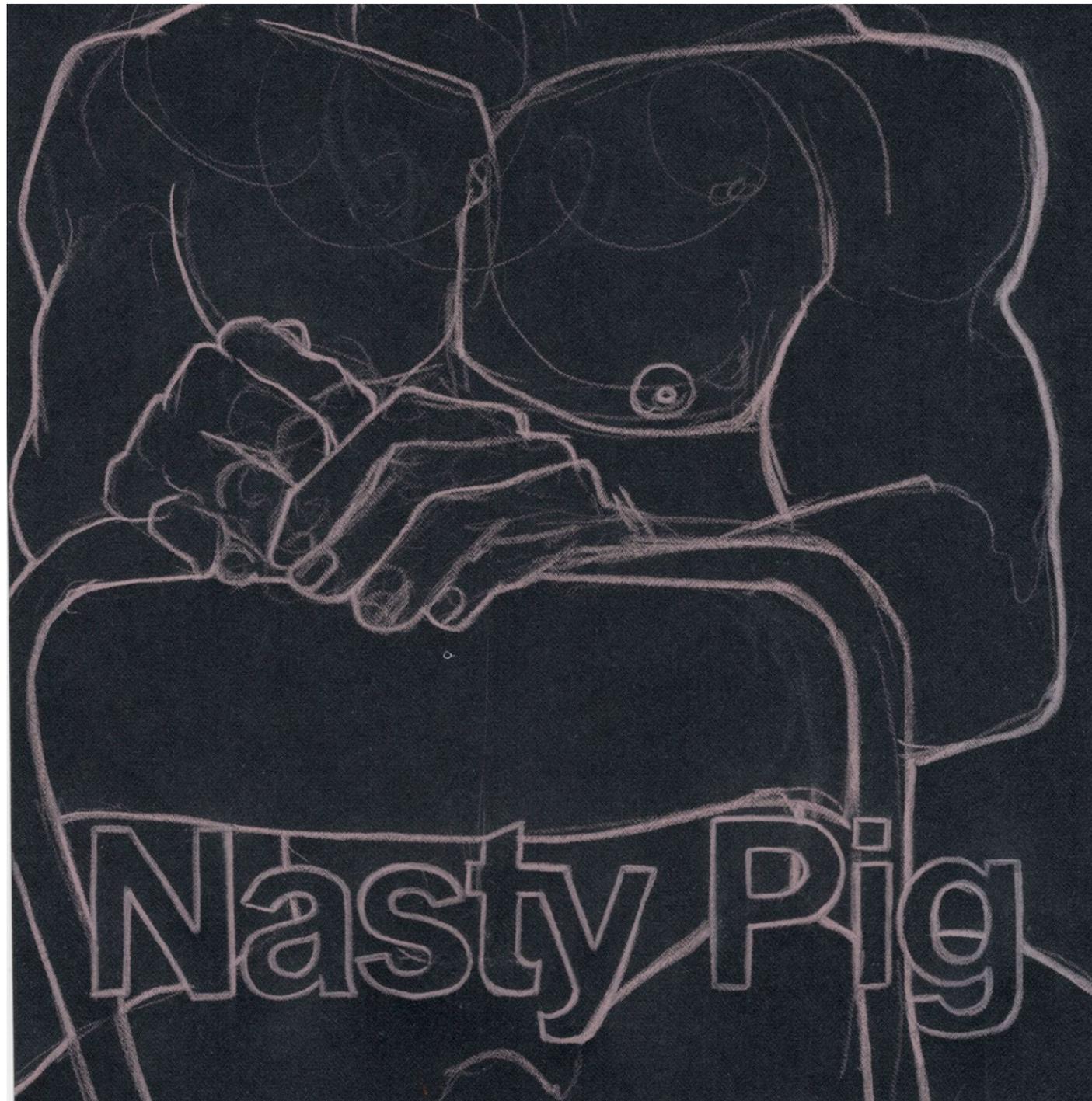
DADDY

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024

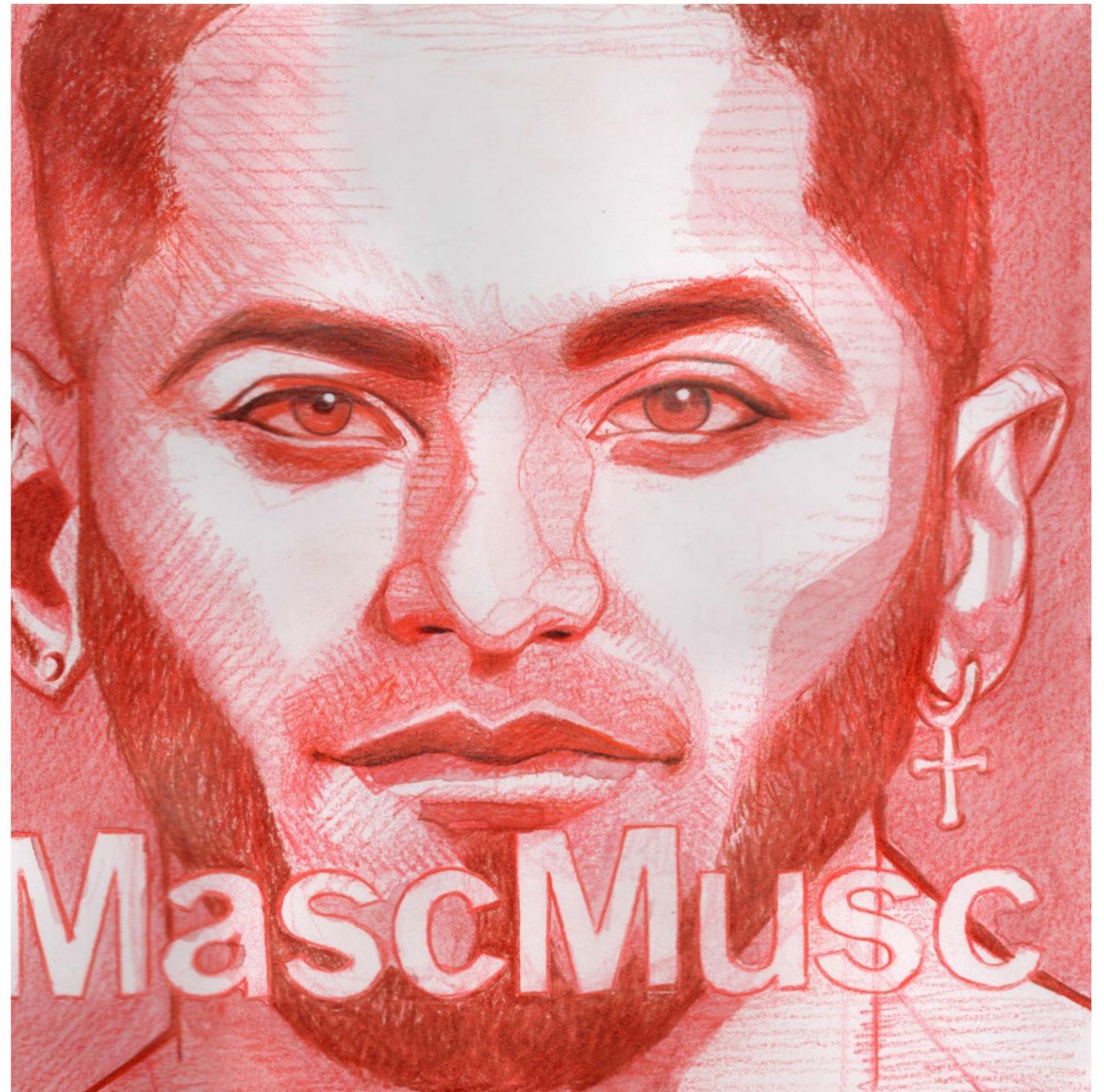


DREAMER

Acrylic, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



NASTY PIG
Colored pencil on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024



MASCMUSC
Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024





BIGFAT

Colored pencil and watercolor on paper
8.6" x 8.6"
New York 2024

BIO

Gildo Medina is a New York–based multidisciplinary artist whose career spans more than 25 years and reflects a rich cultural journey through many of the world’s artistic capitals—Paris, Rome, Florence, Madrid, Mexico City, and now New York. This global experience, combined with his Mexican roots, has shaped a singular creative language in which art, fashion, and innovative design intersect with depth, elegance, and passionate, masterful storytelling.

Medina has earned significant international recognition, including being featured in Taschen’s 100 Best Illustrators for four consecutive editions. His work has been profiled in Robb Report, Monocle, Forbes, L’Officiel, Vogue, Harper’s Bazaar, and renowned publishing houses, Assouline and Gestalten. His pieces have been exhibited worldwide in museums, galleries, embassies, foundations, and cultural institutions, garnering more than 30 awards throughout his career.

He has been commissioned to create special projects and collaborations for leading luxury houses such as Chanel, Moncler, Louis Vuitton, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Salvatore Ferragamo, and L’Objet.

Grounded in rigorous academic training in fine arts in Italy, design studies in London, and artistic foundations in Mexico, Medina is deeply committed to continually advancing his techniques and his passion for mastering powerful visual storytelling through his innovative artistic work.

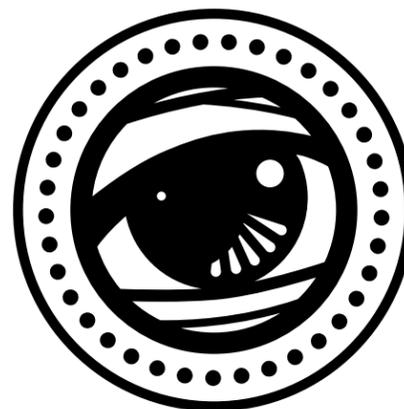






“WITH MY BRUSH, I
CONNECT MY MIND,
VISION, HEART AND HAND,
AND MY PASSION AND
STORIES COME ALIVE”

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VISUAL ARTIST

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