

WHEN THE SKY WAS MINE

The background is a dark, starry night sky filled with various constellations and a glowing nebula. A large, blue, ethereal hand reaches down from the top left. In the top right corner, a small globe of Earth is visible. In the bottom right, a three-masted sailing ship with white sails is shown sailing on a sea of green and yellow clouds.

SOLO SHOW BY MOHSIN SHAIKH

OPENING
6:00 PM

4TH NOVEMBER 2025



Mohsin Shaikh

Mohsin Shaikh, is a multidisciplinary artist based in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Holding a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Shaikh's practice extends far beyond the traditional boundaries of the painted surface. While his formal training lies in painting, his relentless curiosity and desire to expand the language of visual expression have led him to explore diverse mediums such as sculpture, miniature, and printmaking. Each discipline becomes a vessel through which his ideas morph, merge, and re-emerge in new material forms.

For Shaikh, art is not confined by universal rules or aesthetic hierarchies; it is a living language – fluid, unpredictable, and profoundly human. His process embraces experimentation, accident, and transformation, allowing materials themselves to dictate the rhythm and evolution of a work. Gold, chrome, pigment, and organic textures often become metaphors for emotion, power, and transience, reflecting the tension between human desire and natural beauty. Through this dialogue between substance and spirit, Shaikh's works evoke both material seduction and conceptual depth.

Since 2016, Shaikh has been exhibiting professionally with galleries in Pakistan and abroad, presenting his work in solo and group exhibitions across major art centers such as Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Dubai, New York, and Washington. His artistic vision resonates through an evolving body of work that challenges conventional perceptions of surface, form, and value. Beyond the gallery context, Shaikh continues to receive personal commissions, demonstrating the accessibility and universality of his visual language. In 2016, Shaikh was awarded First Prize at VM Art Gallery, Karachi, in the Emerging Artists of Pakistan exhibition – an early recognition of his innovative and fearless approach to contemporary art-making. Today, working from his Rawalpindi-based studio, Shaikh continues to expand his visual vocabulary, merging technical mastery with conceptual inquiry. His practice stands as a testament to an artist's unending pursuit of transformation – where emotion meets material, and thought transcends form.



Artist's Statement

When The Sky Was Mine:

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

— Albert Einstein

As a child I learned to read the night sky the way others read a book. Lying with my head on my mother's arm in the cool grass, I would trace constellations and spin them into stories: dragons breathing fire, pirate ships at war, dancing mice, and impossible friendships. My mother fed that habit—encouraging the games of make-believe that later became the language I use in the studio. My Cosmic series is an attempt to return to that unguarded way of seeing. Using oil paint and glitter dust on large canvases, I build molten clouds of colour and scatter shimmering stars that join and disconnect like memories. Shapes emerge and dissolve into abstraction; dots become constellations of private scenes and public myths. The brush moves freely—sometimes wildly—so the works read like the interior life of a child now grown, refusing the dulling bounds of adult realism. These paintings are not an escape but an insistence: imagination is a vital mode of knowledge. By foregrounding playful narratives and fantastical elements I invite the viewer to suspend disbelief and re-enter a space where a stick is a lightsaber, a blanket a spaceship, and ordinary things become extraordinary again. My work asks for the permission to dream openly, to honor memory, and to celebrate the irrepressible logic of childhood. What I make springs directly from lived experience—an imaginative childhood that some called eccentric, others misunderstood. Those fragments of laughter, admonition and wonder are what I stitch across the canvas. In the end my practice is an act of reclamation: painting stars to reconnect the dots of the past, and keeping childhood wonder alive in the face of an often indifferent reality.



Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

48 x 84 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:

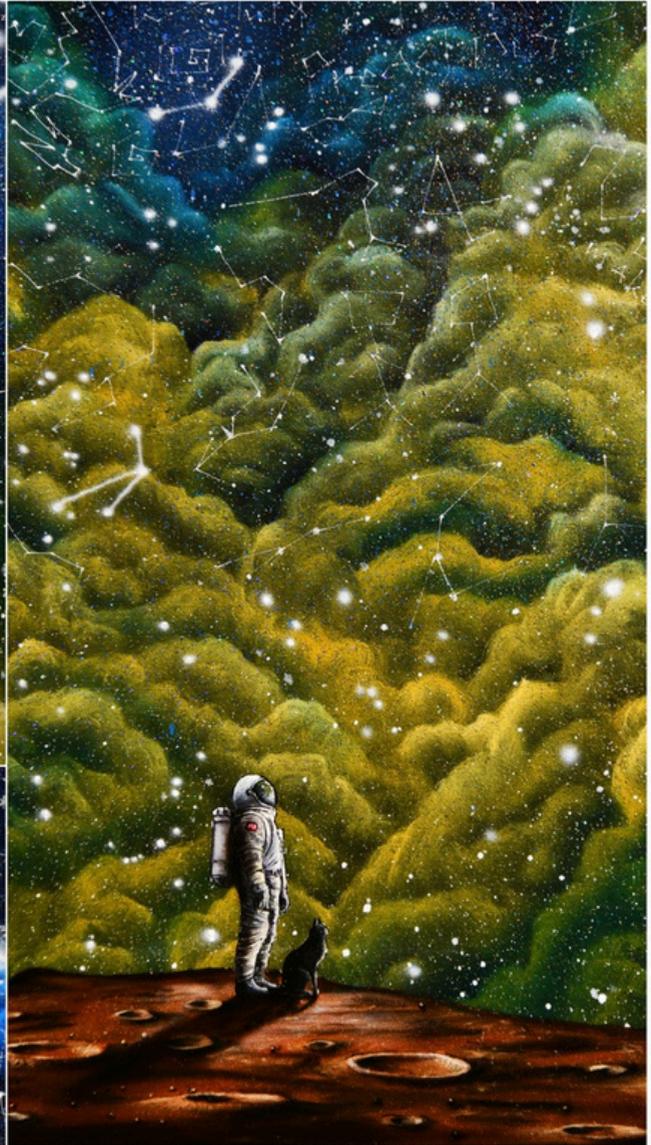




Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

72 x 48 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:

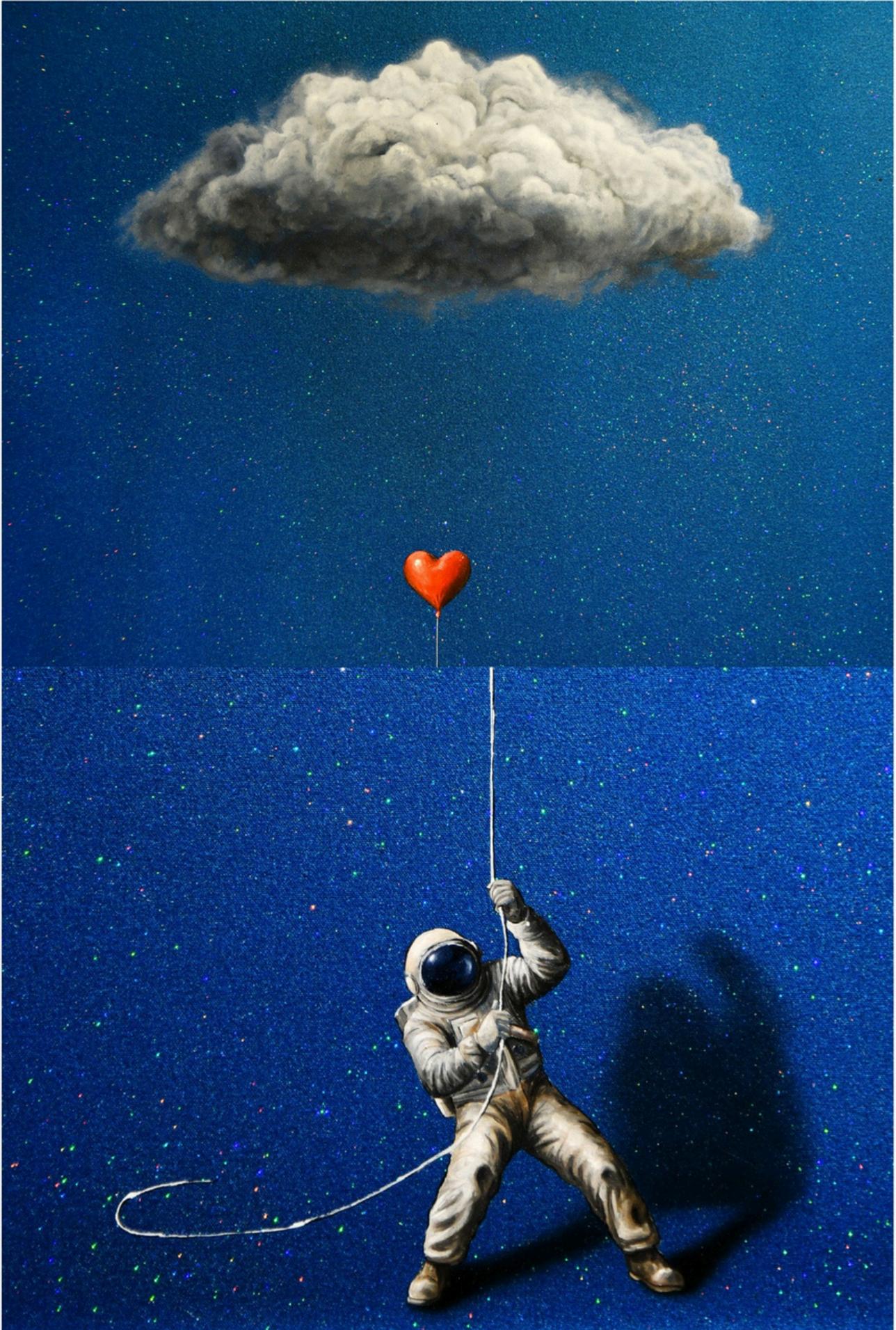




It's not that Easy (Series)

49 x 34 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

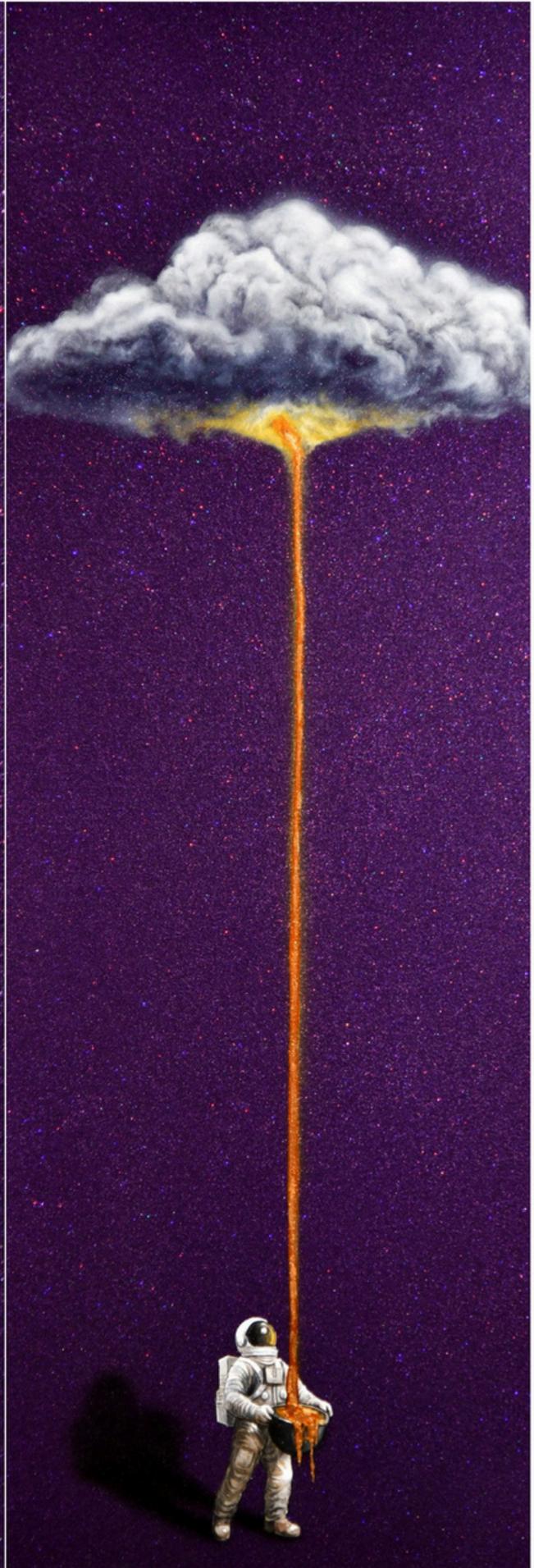
Detail Images:





Where Dreams Drip Gold (Series)
36 x 24 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

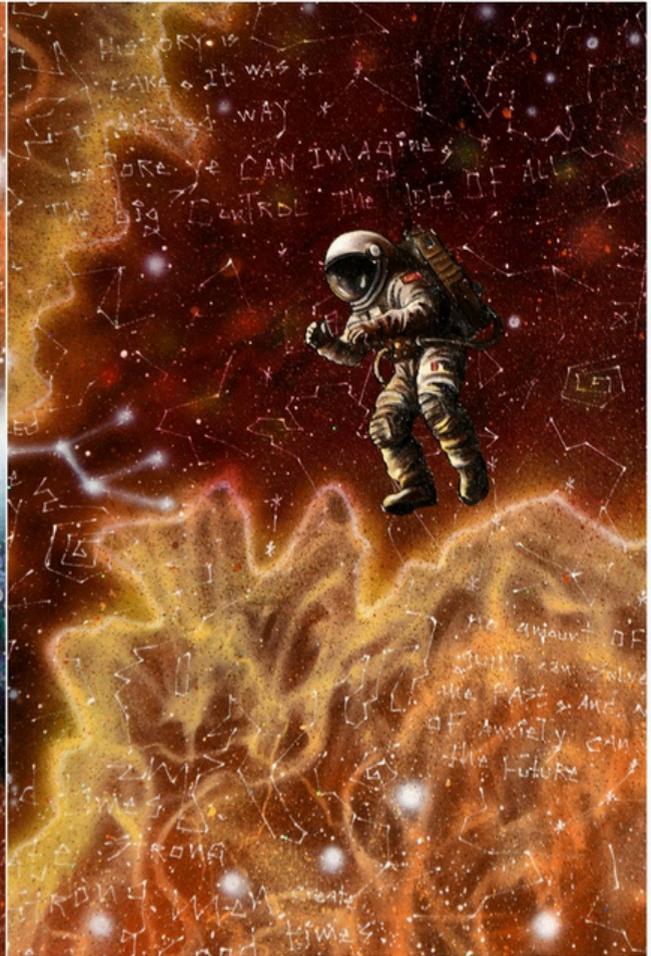
Detail Images:





Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)
36 x 36 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:

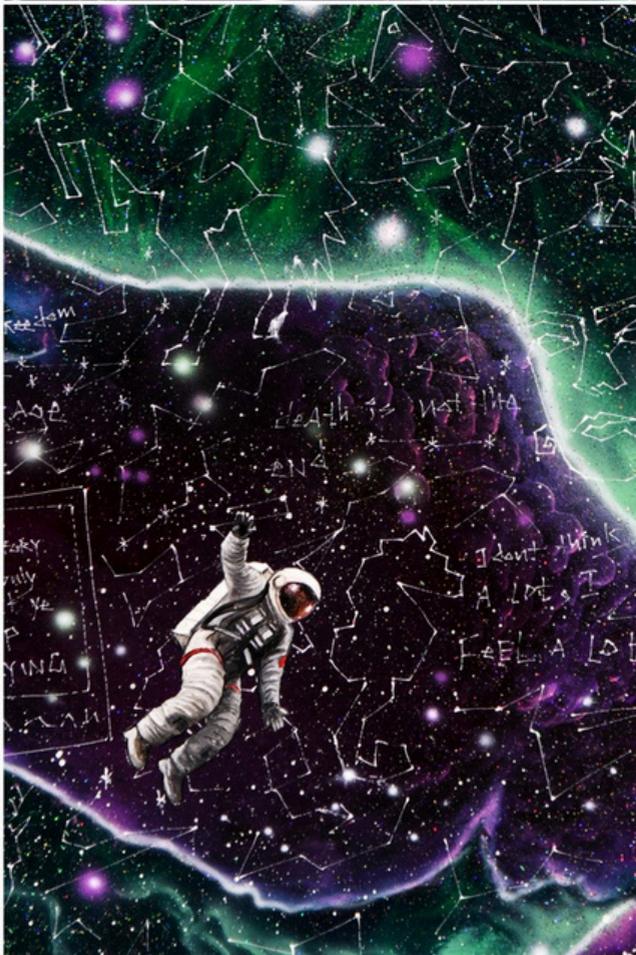
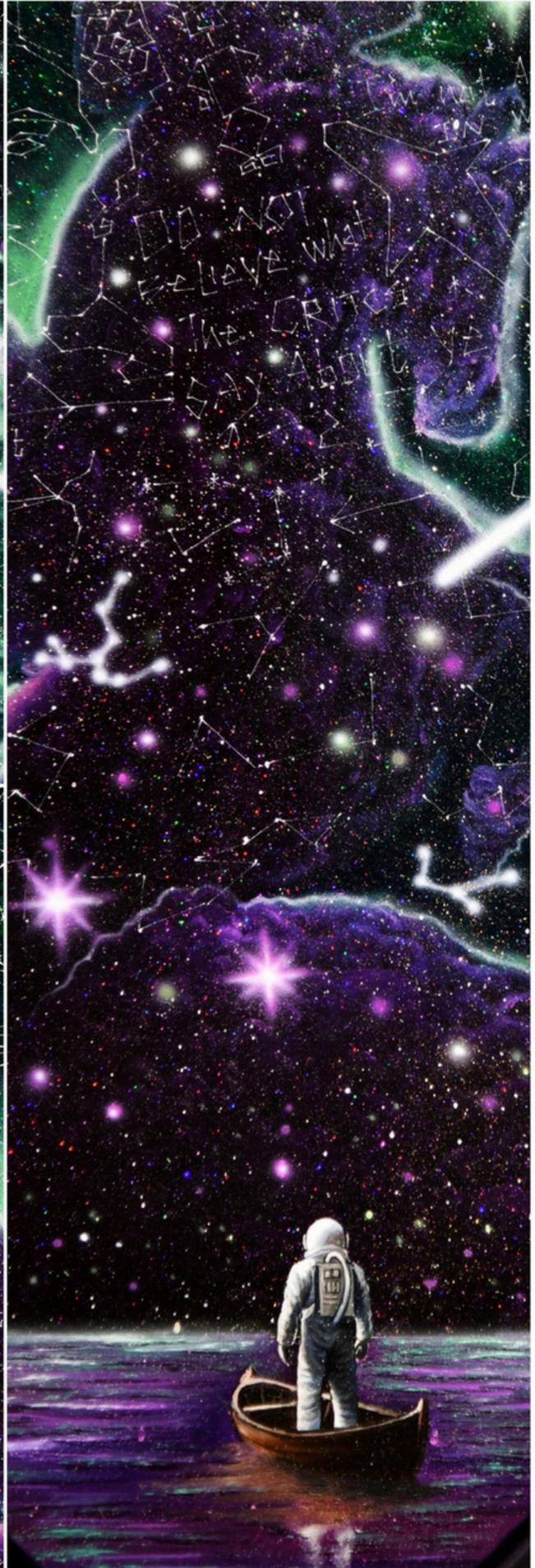




Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

36 x 36 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:

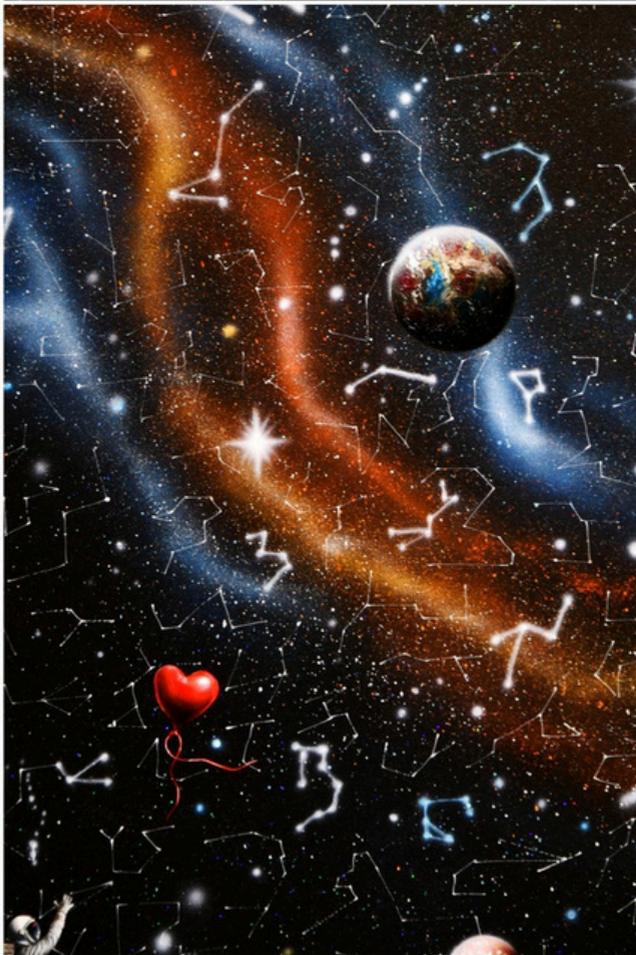
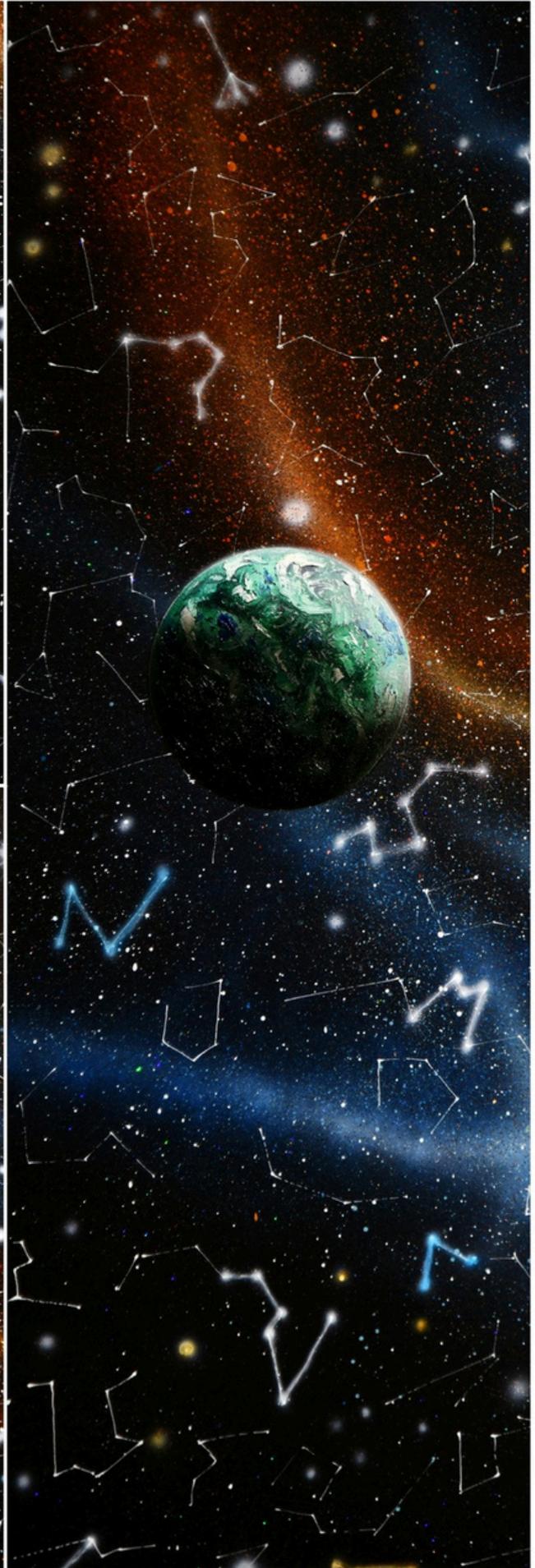
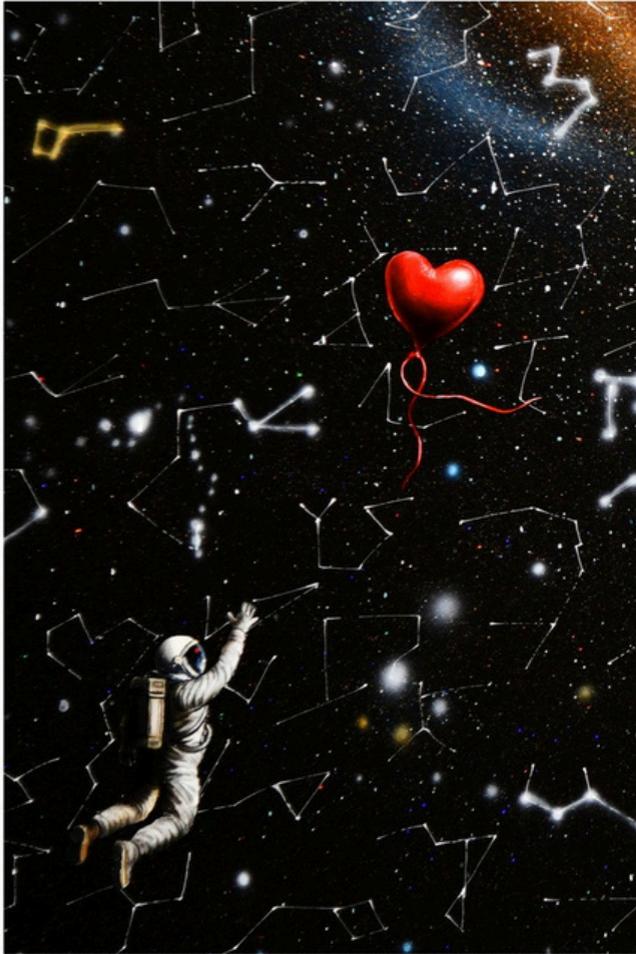


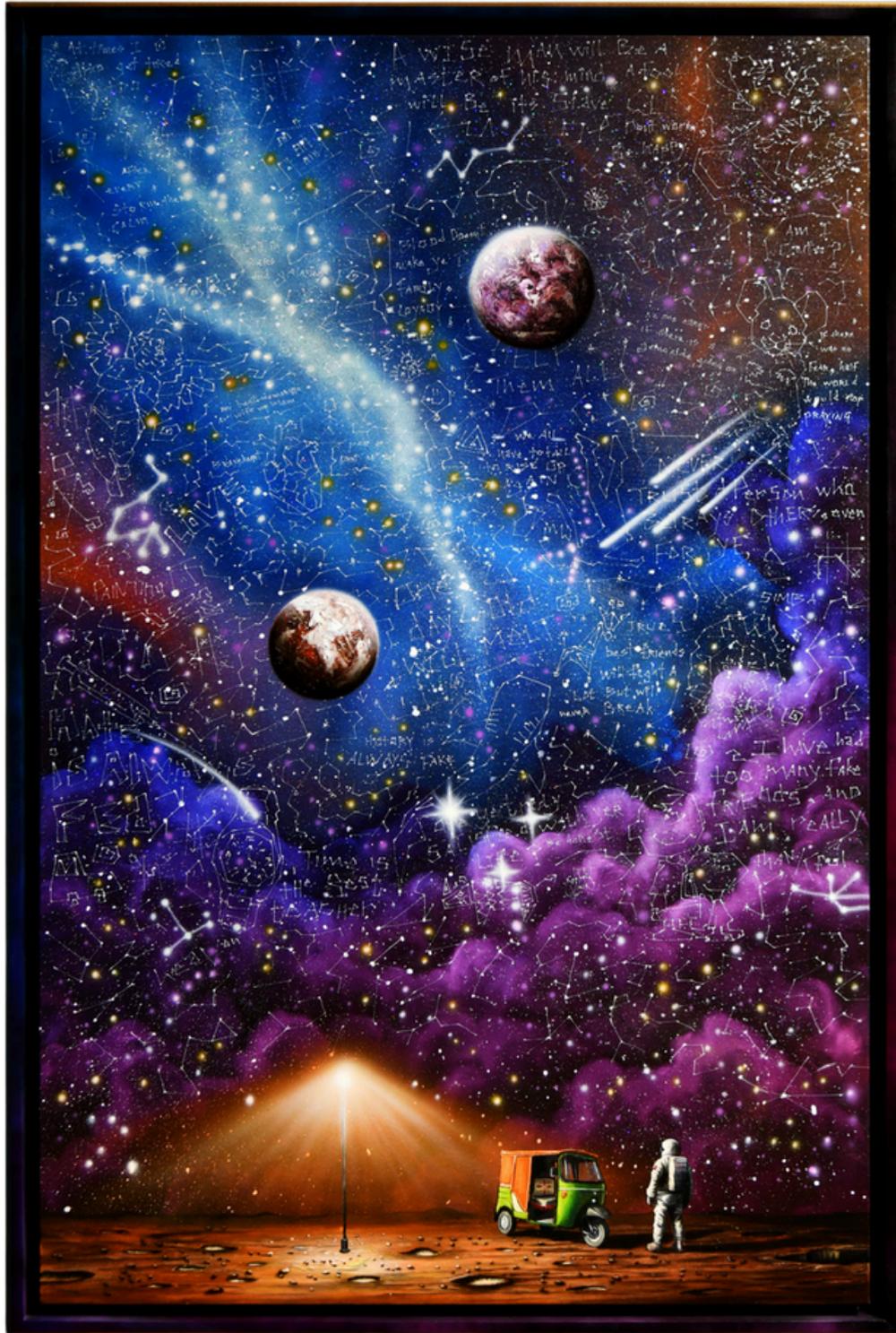


Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

42 x 27 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:





Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

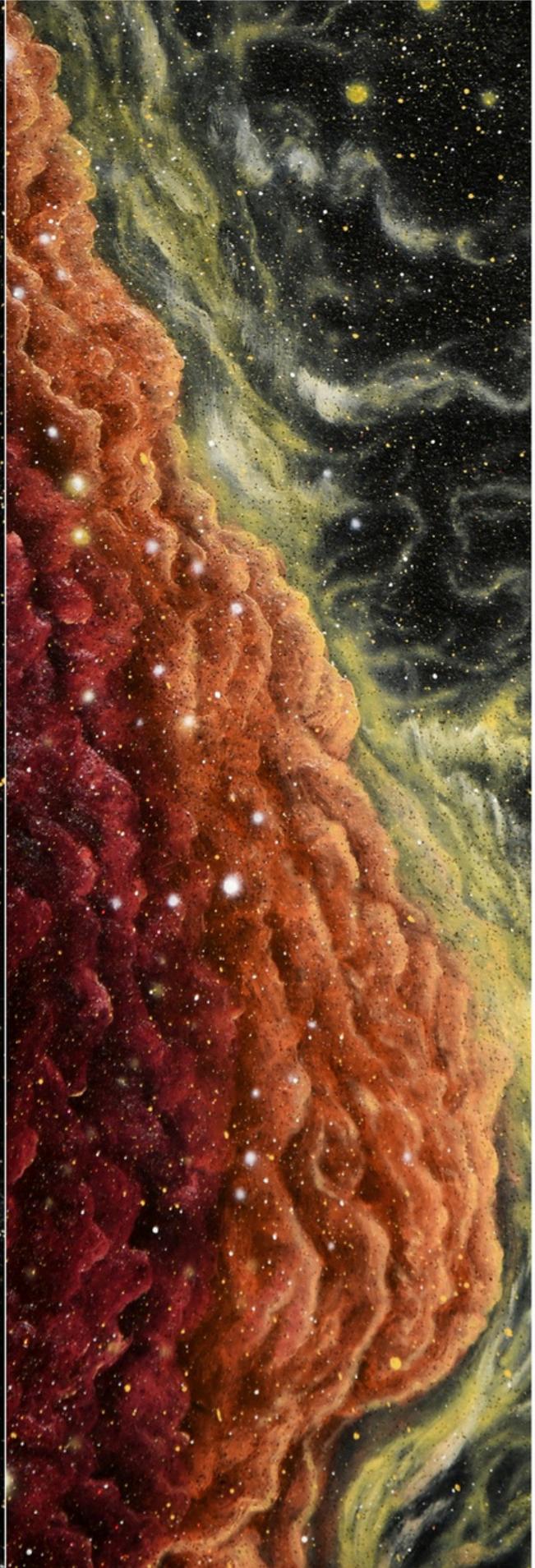
42 x 27 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas



Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

24 x 19 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:





Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

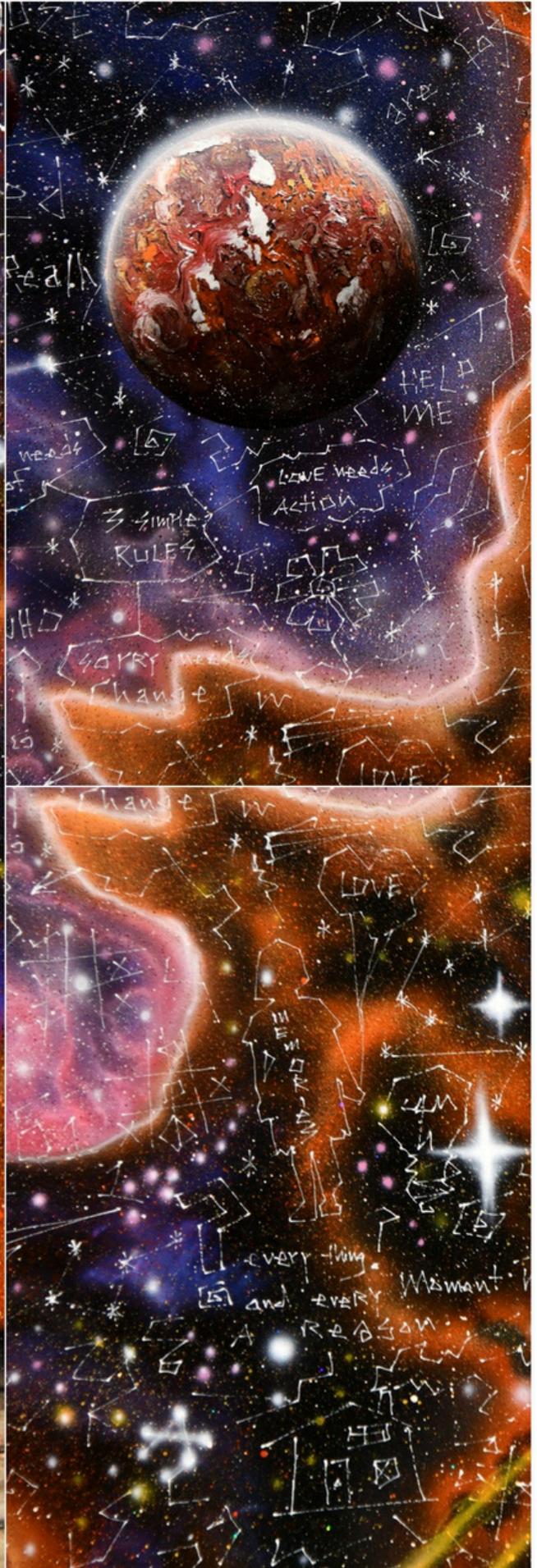
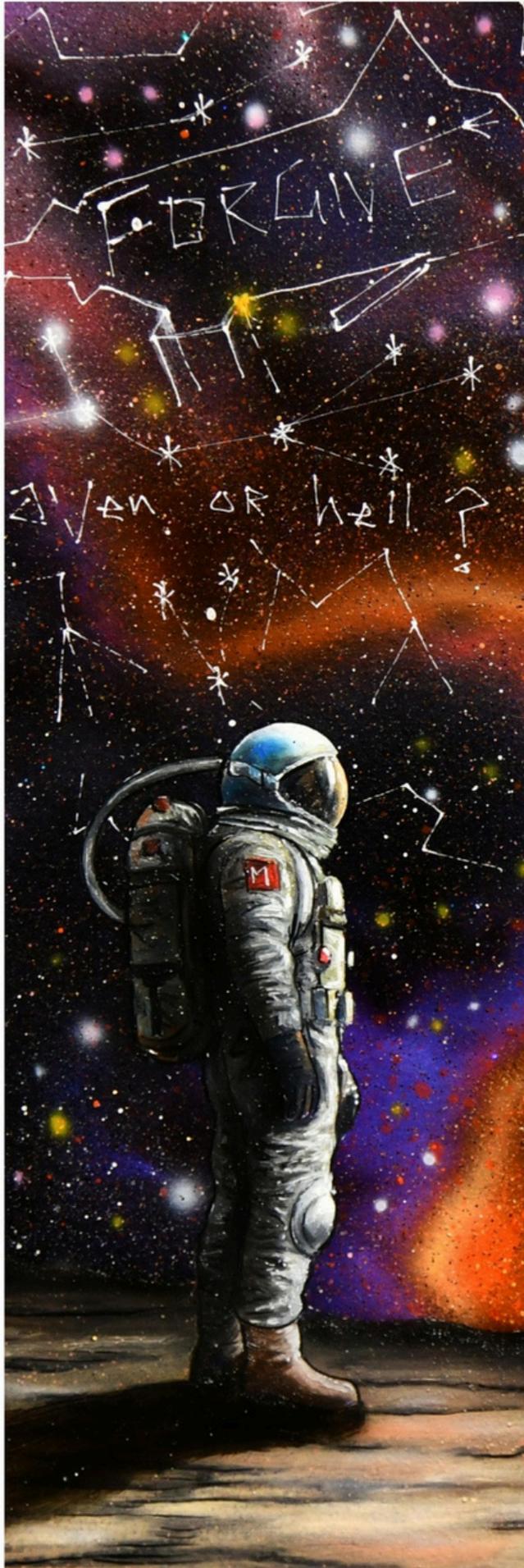
27 x 18 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas



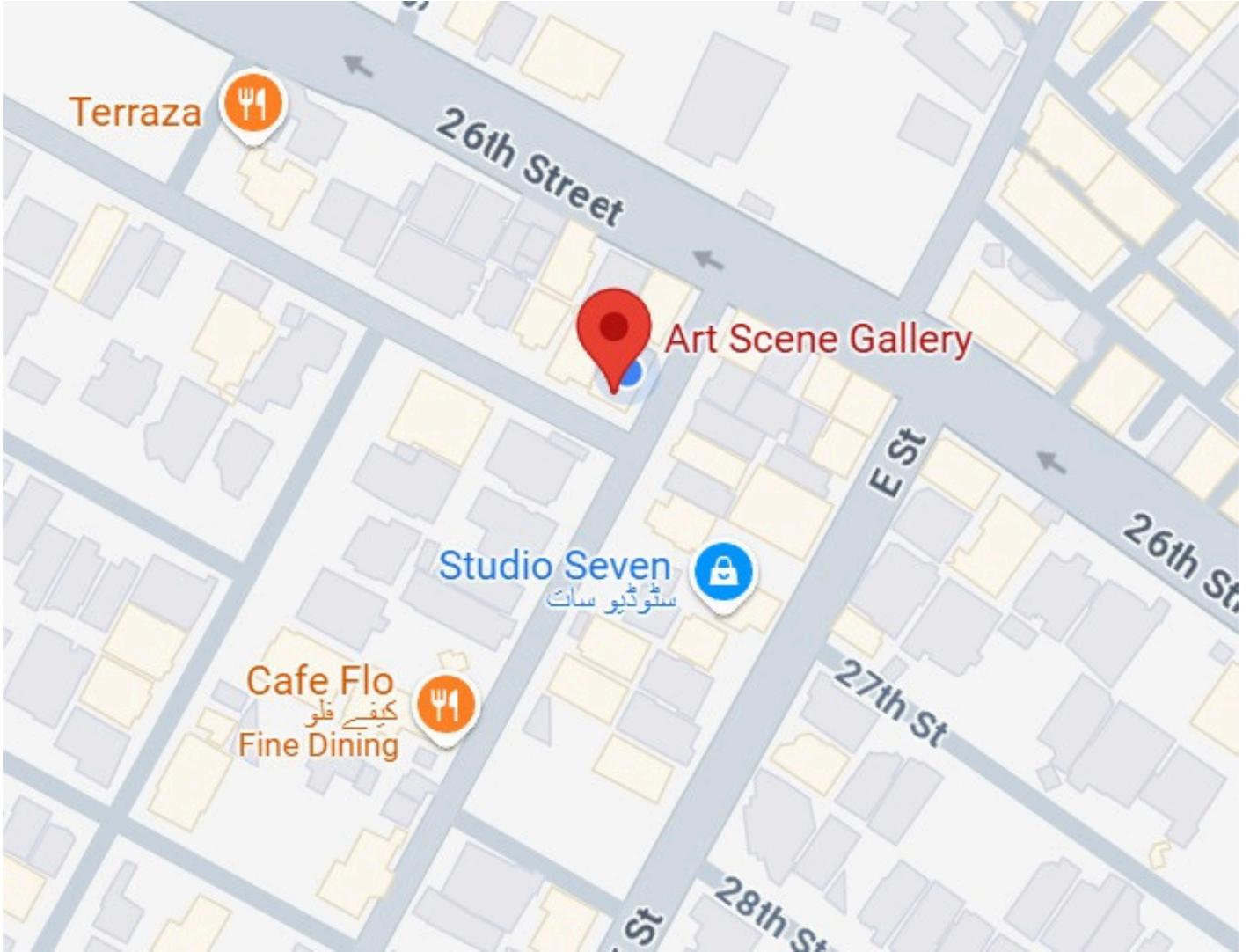
Cosmic Clouds Into The Space (Series)

27 x 18 inches - Giltter Dust & Oil on Canvas

Detail Images:



artscene gallery



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