

Maria Kontis

'And I would say these things to no one but you'

Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

6 September 2025 - 23 February 2026



Maria Kontis: *'And I would say these things to no one but you'*

Working in pastel on paper, Maria Kontis creates intricate, finely detailed drawings of fragments of miscellanea such as found photographs, discarded crumpled papers and forms of correspondence. At first glance the drawings appear to be faithful, straightforward reproductions, however, upon closer inspection they have been subjected to slight changes and subtractions.

For this exhibition, Kontis has made a new suite of work that subtly redraws modernist artist Albert Tucker's intriguing photographic recordings of the intimacies of his daily life in the 1940s. Exaggerating irregularities such as blurred focus and existing folds in the paper support, her work poignantly registers aspects of the original chemical prints and physical documents that may otherwise remain unnoticed. Kontis has said that her aim is to create works that 'do not stand apart from Albert Tucker's images as commentary but instead operate alongside them, extending their inner workings and drawing them out of themselves'.

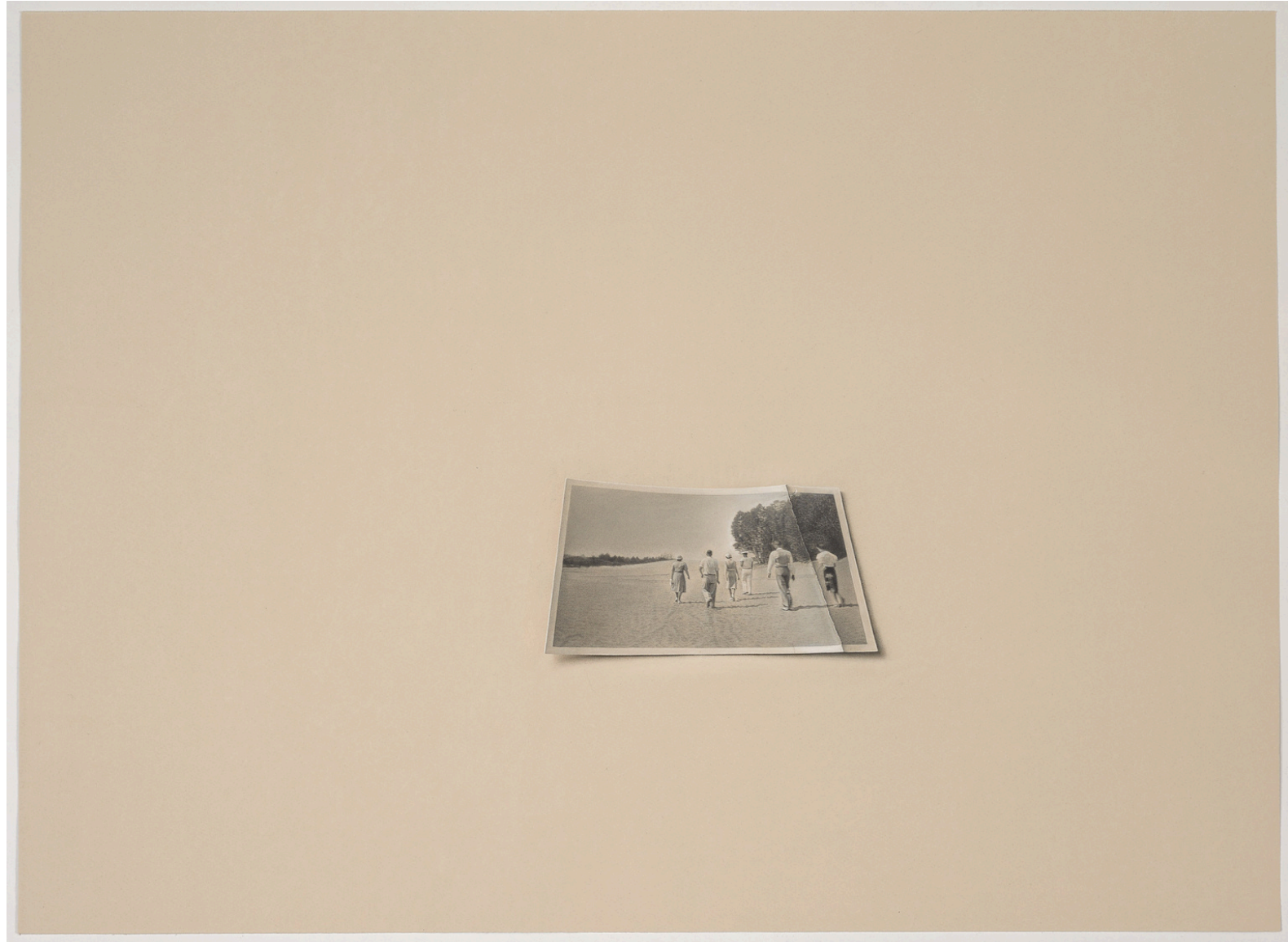
In addition to the suite of drawings, the artist has modified furniture referencing pieces we see in the background of Tucker's photographs—sculpting, erasing and reworking chairs and a side table by planing, rasping and un-making the items that were once part of every-day life at Heide. Various indexing and refracting one another, the drawings and the sculpted objects work in concert, creating an immersive environment that moves the viewer into the lived experience of an intensely creative artists' collective. Presented in-situ, Kontis' installation creates a space where visitors can experience the Heide circle anew.

This project was supported by Creative Australia.





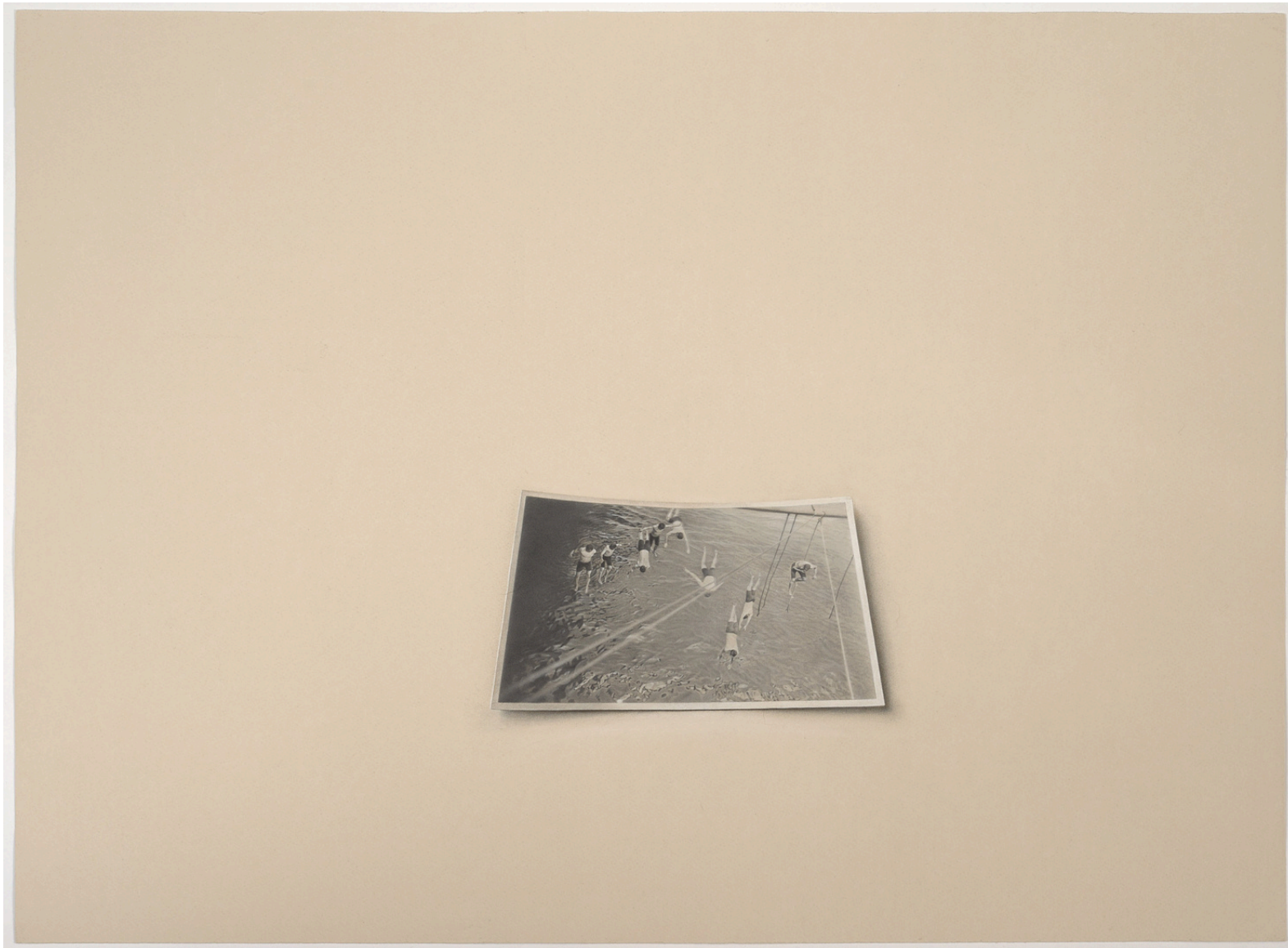
He could feel those things I feel 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)



I think it's better we wait until after the war 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 65 x 76.5 cm, \$7,500.00 (framed)



21 flying fortresses came over here very low yesterday 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)



I feel happy now and love everything 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)



The Spanish Web 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)



At the Tivoli 1940, 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)



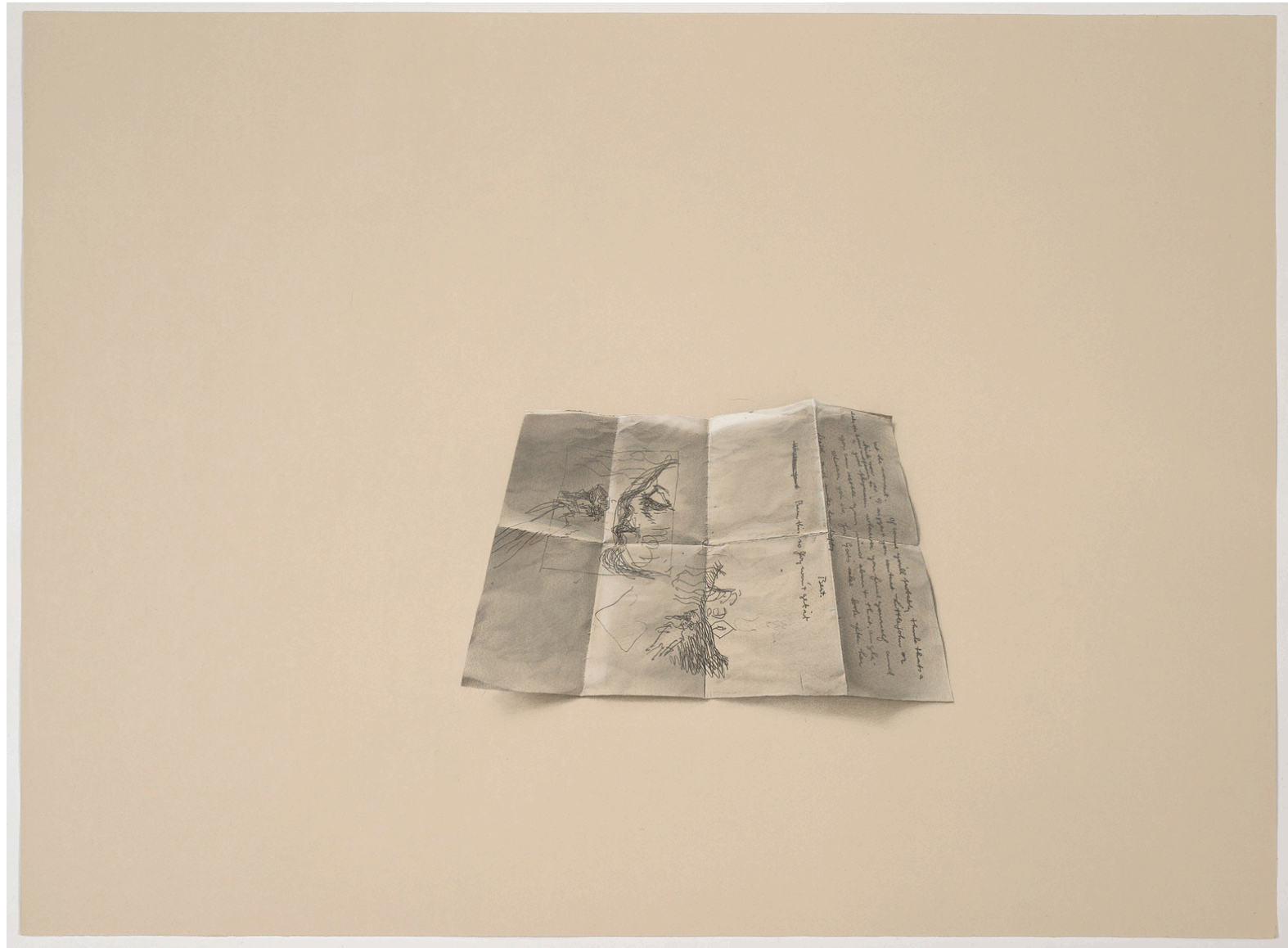
Establishing the Three Little Aussie Painters 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)



There is nothing in the world I couldn't do 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 76.5 x 87.5 cm, \$8,500.00 (framed)

Joy's list 2025
pastel on velvet paper
76.5 x 56 cm
\$6,950.00 (framed)

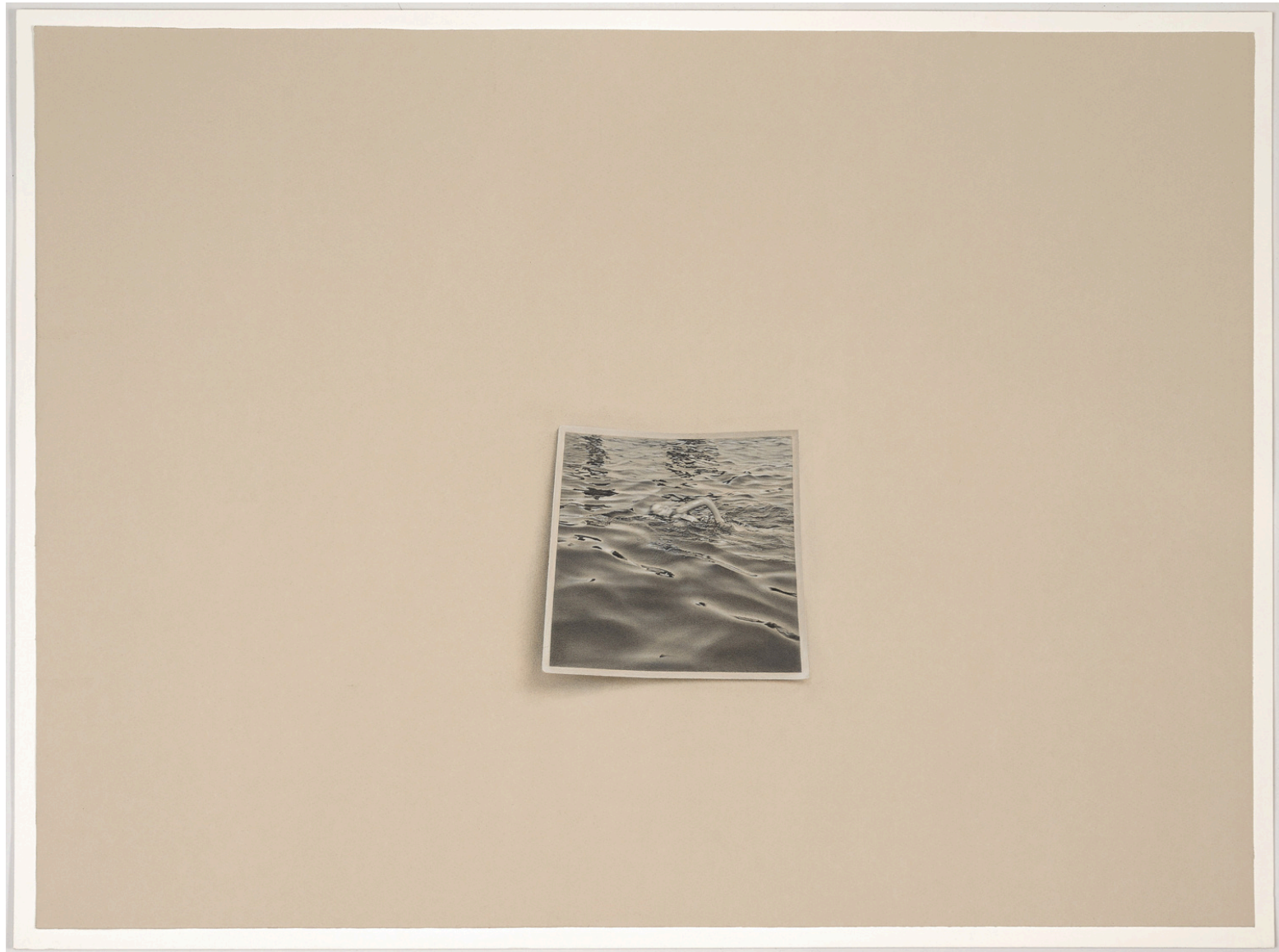




Bert to Grey 2025, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76.5 cm, \$6,950.00 (framed)

Everything right now 2017
pastel on velvet paper
2 panels (each 56 x 76 cm)
\$12,500.00 (framed)





More or less alone in the world 2024, pastel on velvet paper, 56 x 76 cm, NFS



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