

Babi Badalov

To Walk, to Work, to Die

Solo Show

Friday, February 9th – Saturday, March 9th, 2024



Contents

PRESENTATION _____ pp. 3 - 5

BIOGRAPHY _____ pp. 6 - 9

EXHIBITED ARTWORKS _____ pp. 10 - 24

CONTACT AND INFORMATION _____ pp. 25

Galerie Poggi is delighted to announce Babi Badalov's third solo exhibition in its new space. Showcasing almost a hundred of his most recent paintings on fabric, this particularly dense and abundant exhibition multiplies the ways in which these works are displayed, notably through an immersive installation that invites the public to take the time to sit on cushions decorated by the artist and engulf themselves in the paintings that cover the entire walls of the exhibition. The gallery's reception area features drawings by the artist, as well as a limited-edition T-shirt designed with the artist.

Alongside this exhibition, Babi Badalov will be taking part in a number of other major exhibitions, including his first solo show in Switzerland at the MCBA of Lausanne from 2 February to 28 April 2024, as well as with a 15-metre-long fresco at the Centre d'Art Transpalette in Bourges from 17 February to 5 May 2024 (group show "Salut à toi"), and the group show "L'art et le mot" at Les Abattoirs – Frac Occitanie in Toulouse from 5 February to 20 May 2024.

This February's programme sadly coincides with the anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine, on 24 February 2022. The gallery has naturally chosen to offer its Project Space to Ukrainian artist Nikita Kadan, who is presenting several works from the *Universal Ruins* series, testifying to the universal dimension of the drama unfolding on Europe's doorstep. A particularly poignant sound work by the artist will be broadcast on Saturday afternoon, 24th February.

HORS-LES-MURS

Babi Badalov's first major exhibition in Switzerland

The **Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne** devotes a monographic exhibition to Babi Badalov, bringing together drawings, collages, and notebooks, as well as a selection of previously unseen historical paintings from the late 1980s from a private Swiss collection. To mark the occasion, the artist will be creating a mural installation in situ. The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication with texts by Pierre-Henri Foulon and Julie Abbou (FR/ENG).

—> **"Xenopoetri", solo exhibition by Babi Badalov at the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne from 2 February to 28 April 2024**
Curator : Pierre-Henri Foulon, curator of contemporary art, MCBA

A monumental fresco in Bourges

Babi Badalov will be creating a 15-metre-long fresco at the **Transpalette centre d'art, Bourges** from 17 February to 5 May 2024 as part of the "Salut à toi" group exhibition.

—> **"Salut à toi ", Group exhibition at the centre d'art Transpalette, Bourges from 17 February to 5 May 2024**
Curator : Julie Crenn

Thematic exhibition in Toulouse

Les Abattoirs - Frac Occitanie Toulouse will present the artworks acquired between 2015 and 2018 as part of the collective exhibition "L'Art et le mot".

—> **"L'Art et le mot", Group exhibition at the Abattoirs - Frac Occitanie in Toulouse from 5 February to 20 May 2024**
Curators : Paule Géry and Emmanuelle Hamon

“Babi Badalov’s generous, fertile oeuvre is a concrete exploration – through drawings, collages, publications, wall painting, textiles and objects – of the connection between words and pictures. It delves into the ways in which the non-mastery of a language can reinvent our relationship not only to knowledge, but also to others and the wider world, through a practice of alienation, alterity and poetry”

Guillaume Désanges, 2019

Biography





Babi Badalov, artist and poet, was born in 1959 in Lerik, a village in Azerbaijan, to a mother of Iranian origin and an Azeri father. Although his native language is Azeri Talysh, Babi Badalov has spoken many different languages, nearly seven of which he speaks imperfectly. He made his debut on the artistic scene of Saint Petersburg. In the 1990s, he became a member of an artists' squat on Pushkin Street, before emigrating to the United States and Cardiff, England. When his application for asylum was rejected, he was sent back to Azerbaijan, where he was threatened because of his homosexuality. After living illegally in France, he was granted political refugee status in 2011 and, since 2018, French nationality.

Through his visual poetry, Babi Badalov confronts us with language barriers, leading to both linguistic confusion and conflicts of cultural identity. In his writing, he explores the form of words and texts, mixing the languages and thoughts of Western and Eastern cultures. He combines Cyrillic, Latin, Persian and Russian letters with different languages, creating unexpected links and free associations of ideas, as well as puns composed of sometimes ironic political commentary.

Today, several of Babi Badalov's works can be found in the collections of major French and international institutions, including:

- **Museo Reina Sofia** (Spain)
- **Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris** (France)
- **Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam** (The Netherlands)
- **Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris** (France)
- **Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough** (UK)
- **Musée National de l'Histoire de l'Immigration - Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris** (France)
- **FRAC Ile-de-France et le FRAC Midi-Pyrénées** (France)
- **Abattoirs, Toulouse** (France)
- **Russian Museum, St. Petersburg** (Russia)
- **MuHKA Museum Contemporary Art Antwerp** (Belgium)
- **Azerbaijan State Museum of Art, Baku** (Azerbaijan)
- **Kunstmuseum, Emden** (Germany)
- **Martigny Art Museum** (Switzerland)
- **Oetcker Collection, Bielefeld** (Germany)
- **Arina Kowner Collection, Zurich** (Switzerland)
- **Zimmerli Art Museum** (New Jersey, USA)





1959 : Babakan Badalov, known as Babi, is born in L rik in the Talych Mountains on the border between Azerbaijan and Iran. He grows up in a poverty-stricken Shiite Muslim family and later studies Fine Arts in Baku.

1978 : Babi Badalov is drafted into the Soviet army. He suffers both moral and physical persecution due to his homosexuality and affiliation with the Talych minority community. Additionally, he faces discrimination based on his dialect and adherence to local customs. He later moves to St Petersburg, where he discovers an unusual artistic community that rejects Socialist Realism. He joined the “10 rue Pouchkine” squat, an alternative art space tolerated by the totalitarian regime, where he develops an artistic practice based on the recovery of urban materials.

1980 - 1990 : He leaves Saint Petersburg for the United States, where he spends three years in hiding. He was to experience a long period of clandestinity, marked by rejection in every country that he traversed. From facing expulsion from England five times, to being rejected by Russia, Turkey and even by his own homeland, Babi Badalov soon became culturally “stateless”.

2008 : Babi Badalov develops a new artistic practice during his travels between the Middle East and France. He crafts a fresh formal language by engaging in linguistic experiments morphing, at once, semantics and semiotics, and which he describes as “visual poetry”.

2011 : He obtains political refugee status in Paris, then French nationality. Babi Badalov meets Guillaume Desanges and Fran ois Piron, who will play a decisive role in the dissemination of his work in France.

2016 : He takes over the Grand Staircase at the Palais de Tokyo for a year.

2019 : The Fondation Herm s - La Verri re in Brussels devotes a solo exhibition to him.

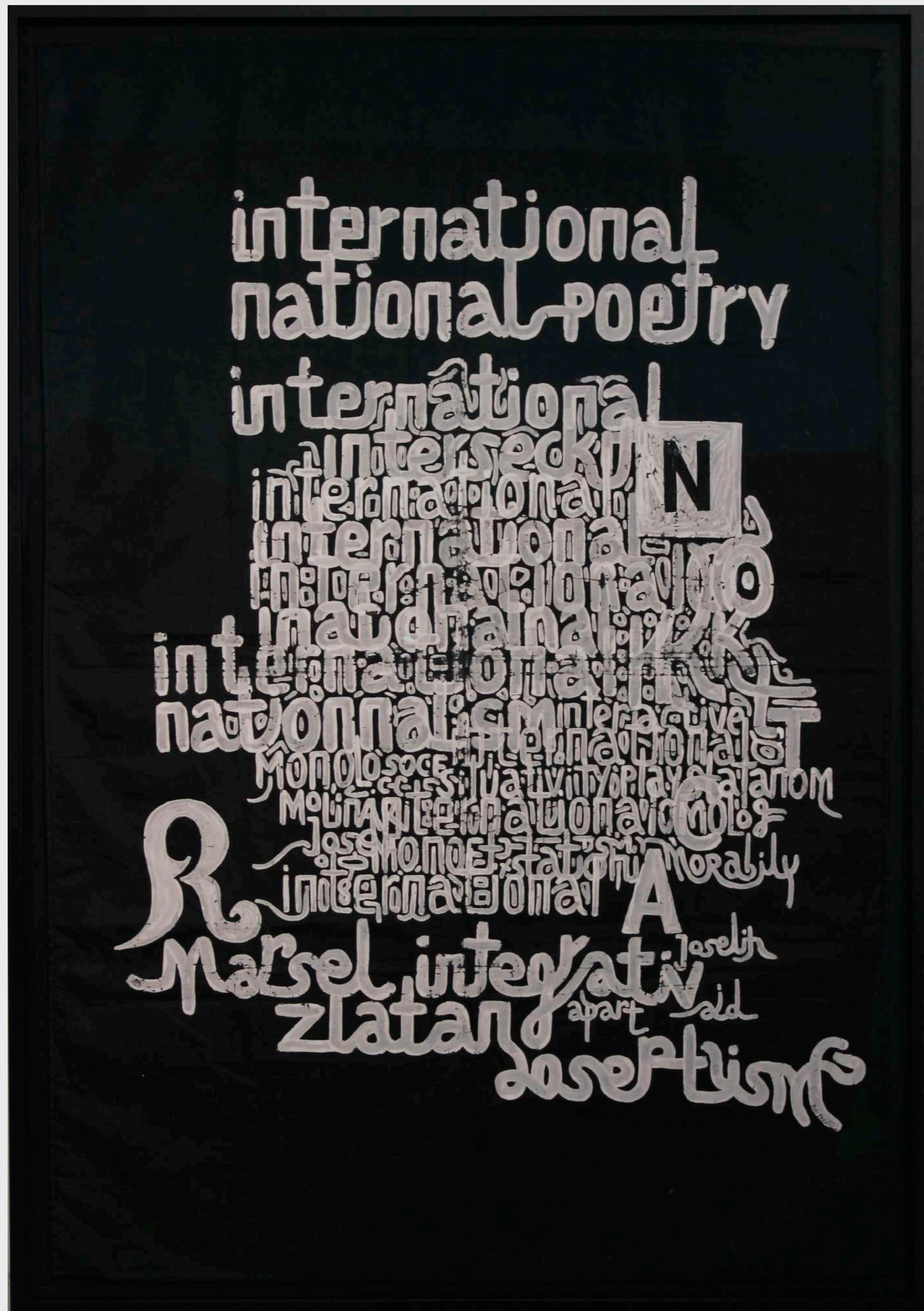
2021 : The Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid buys several works by Babi Badalov at the same time as the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam presents his painting alongside an artwork by Kasimir Malevitch.

2022 : His work becomes a subject of research for students at the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art, which devotes a solo exhibition to him.

2023 - 2024 : Arte devotes a portrait to him. Solo exhibition at the Mus e Cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne and in Bourges. Third solo exhibition at the Galerie Poggi in Paris.

Featured Artworks Selection





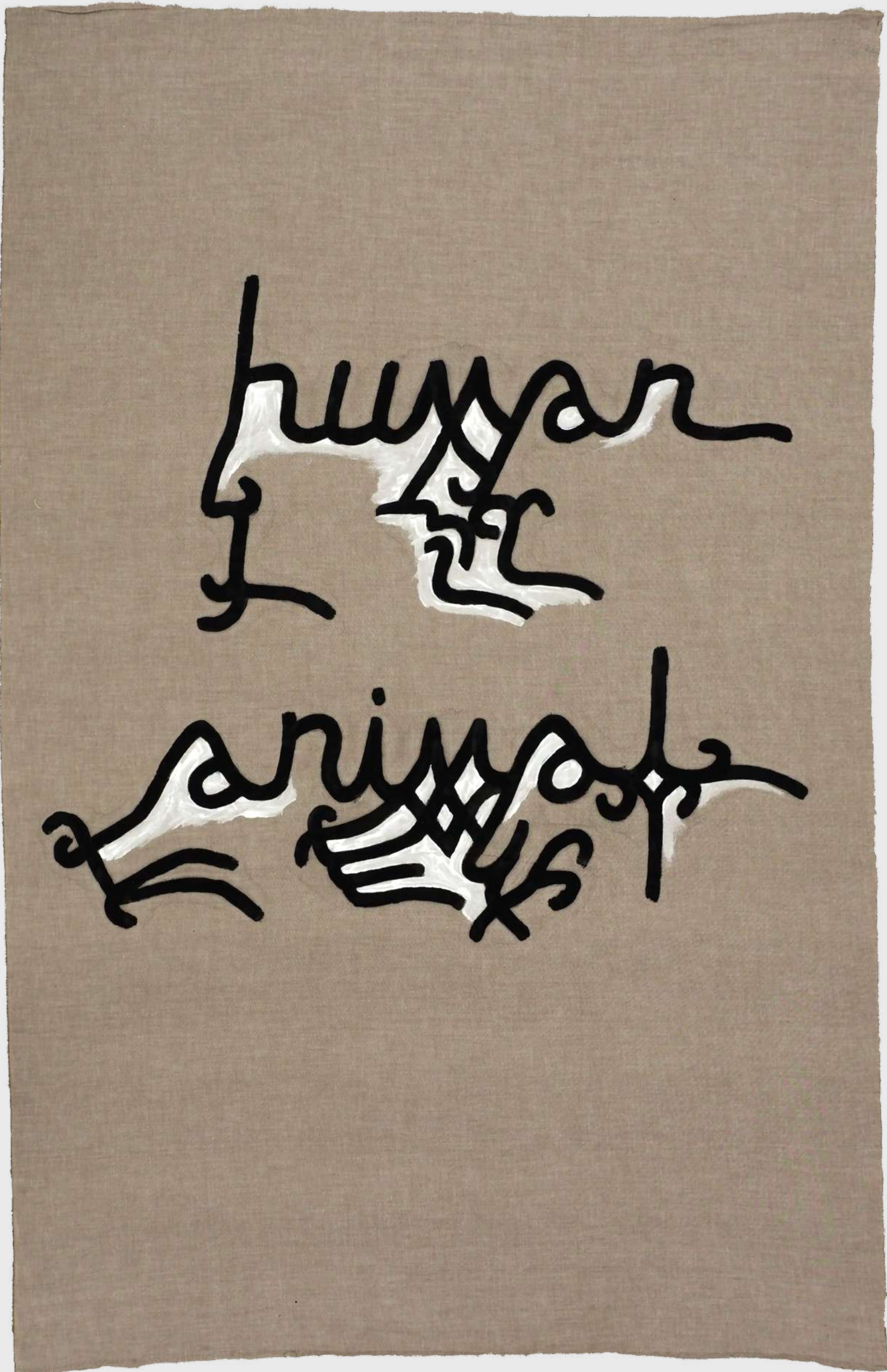
Babi Badalov
International, 2016

Signed and dated
Painting on fabric
Framed
160 x 115 cm



Babi Badalov
Book, 2021

Painting on fabric
210 x 140 cm



Babi Badalov
Where You Come From ?, 2019

Painting on fabric
123 x 108 cm



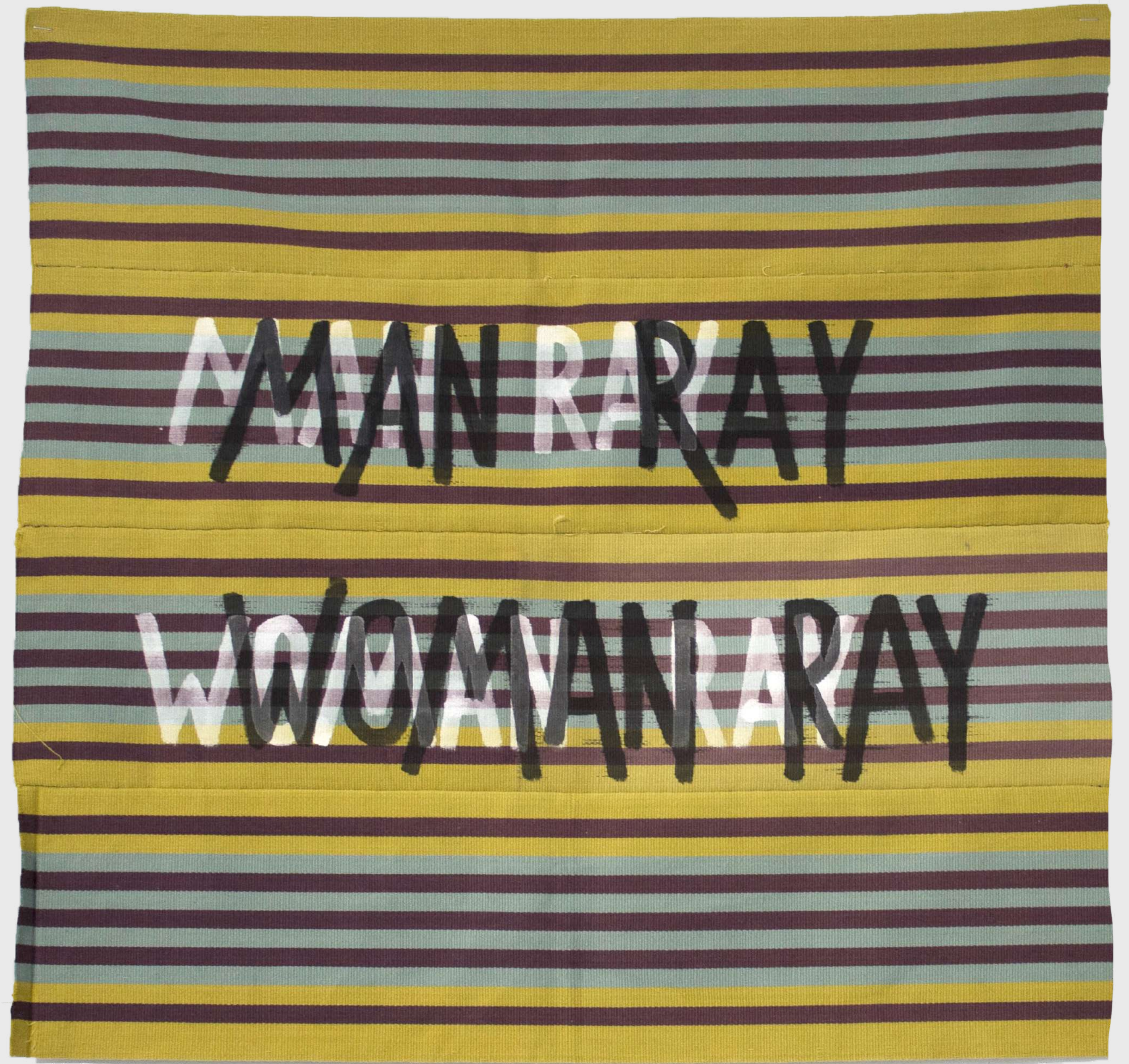
Babi Badalov
Human Animal, 2021

Painting on fabric
132 x 87 cm

I Know I Knew I Know I Knew
I Know I Knew I Know I Knew
I Know I Knew I Know I Knew
I Knew I Know I Know I Know
I Know I Knew I Knew I Knew
I Know I Know I Know I Know
I Know I Knew I Know I Know

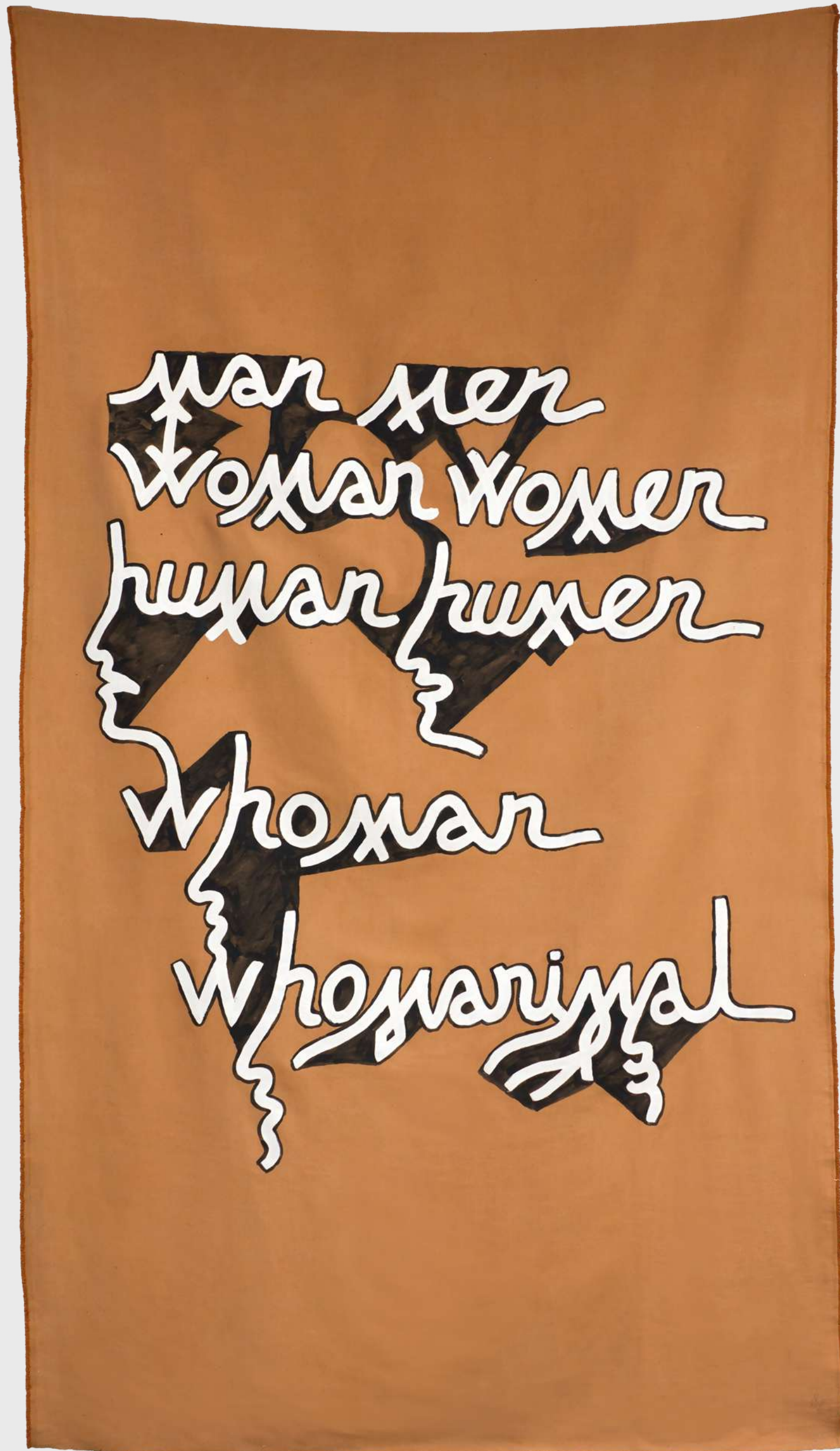
Babi Badalov
I Know I Knew, 2022

Painting on fabric
190 x 186 cm



Babi Badalov
Man Ray, 2016

Painting on fabric
58 x 60 cm

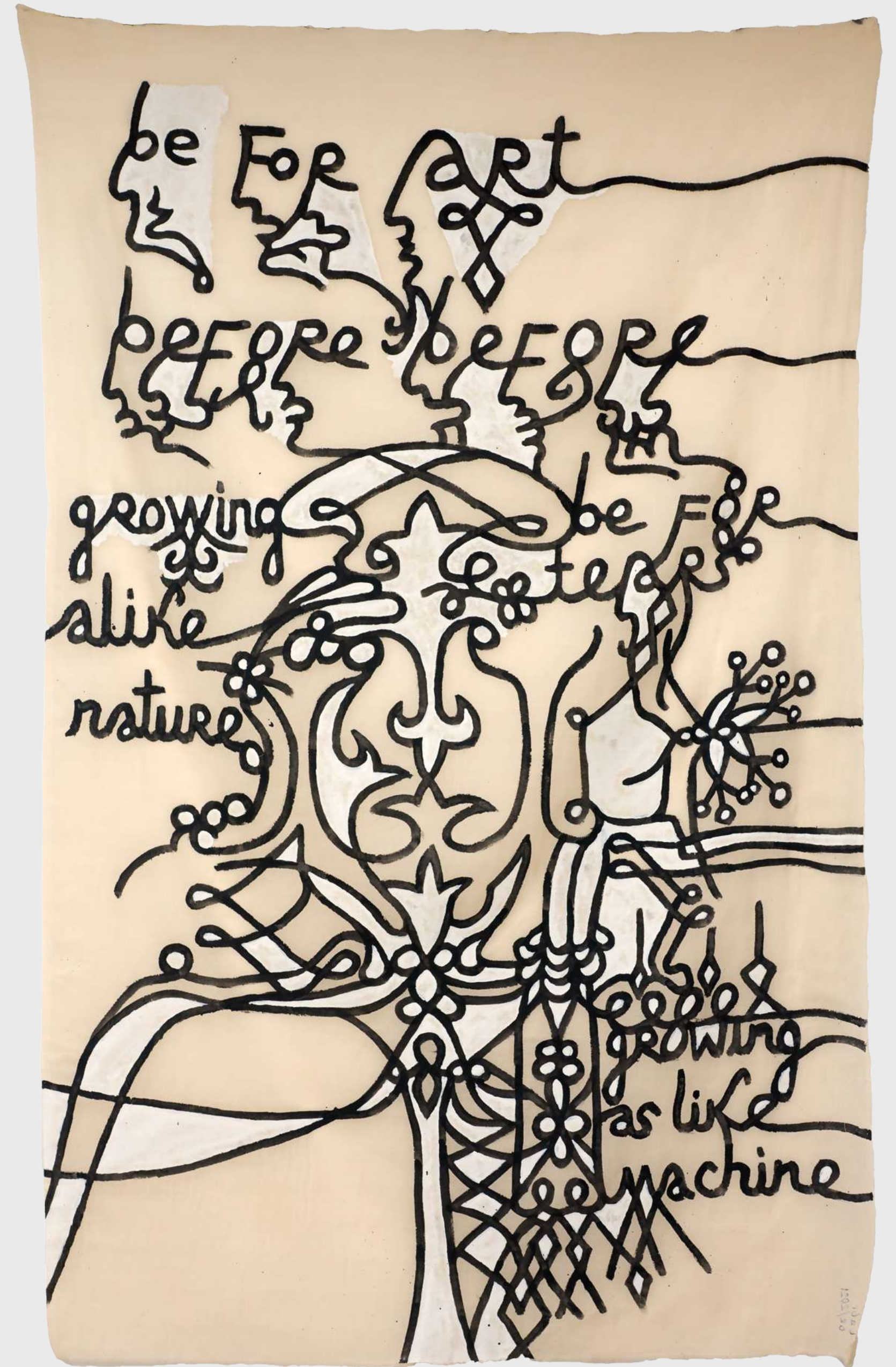


Babi Badalov
Man Men Woman Women, 2021

Painting on fabric
266 x 154 cm

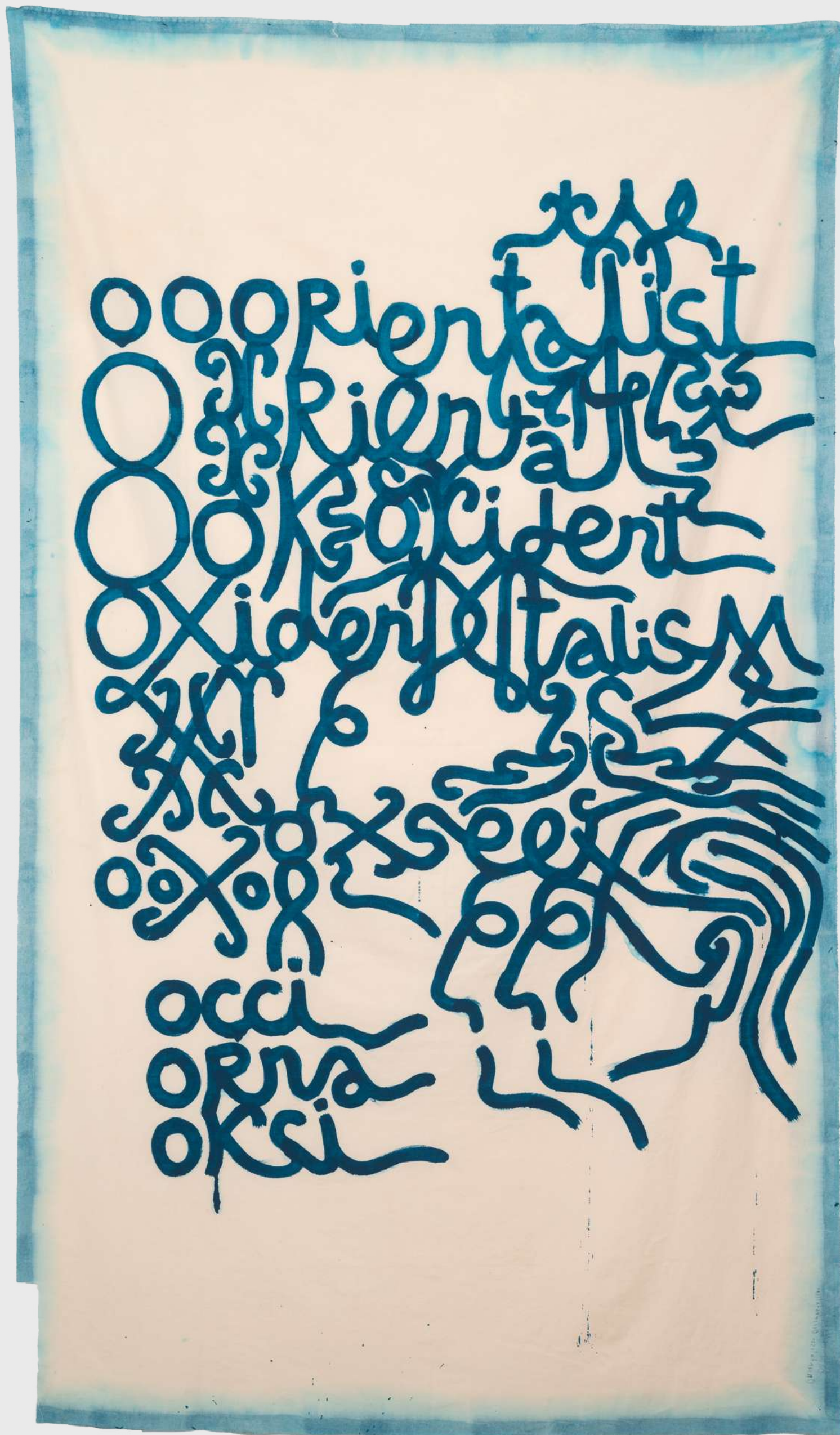
Babi Badalov
Be for art, 2021

Painting on fabric
220 x 135 cm





Babi Badalov
Wargina, 2020
Painting on fabric
79 x 92 cm



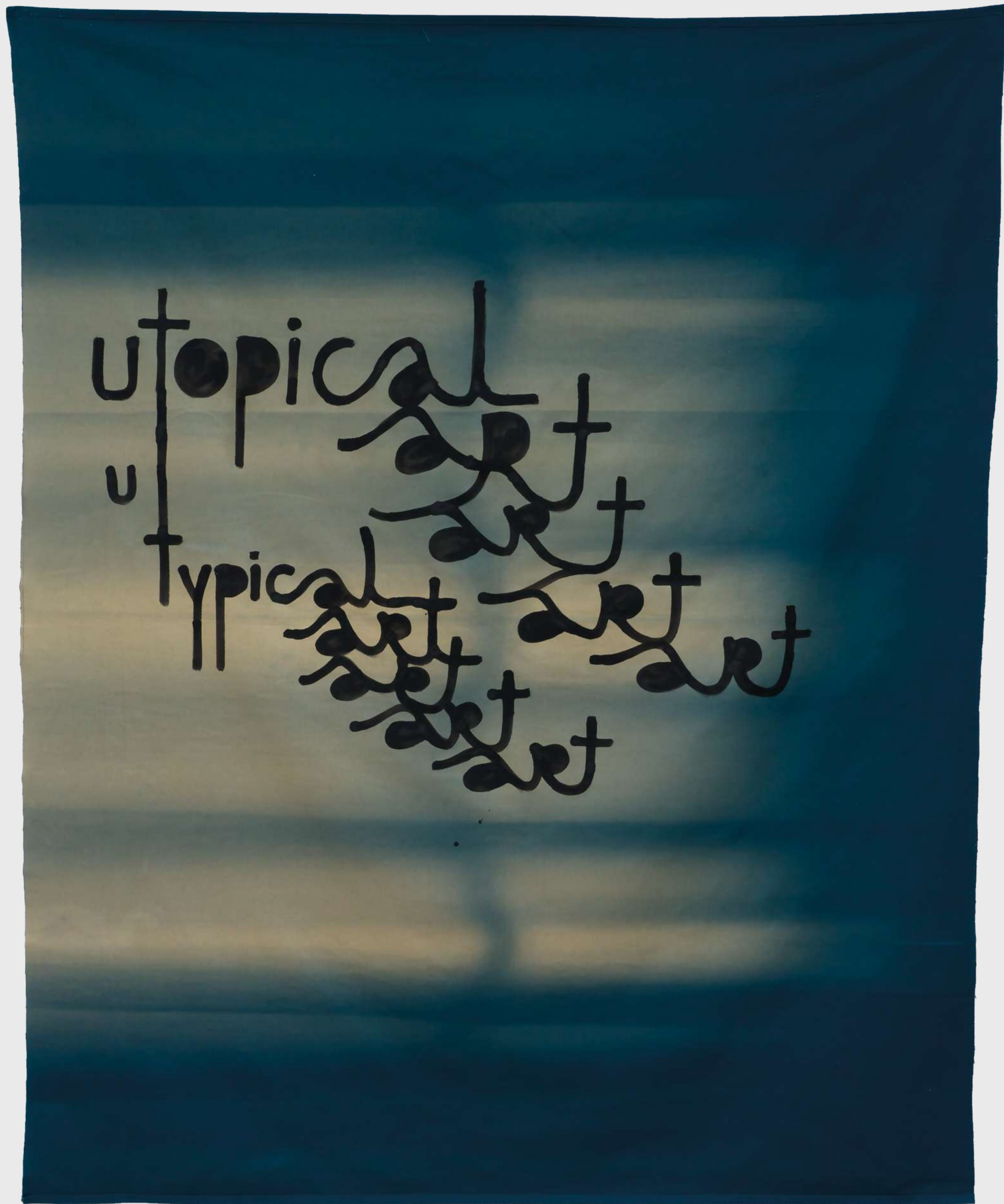
Babi Badalov
Orientalism Occidentalism, 2023

Painting on fabric
182 x 107 cm

Babi Badalov
Which Wich, 2023

Painting on fabric
224 x 136 cm



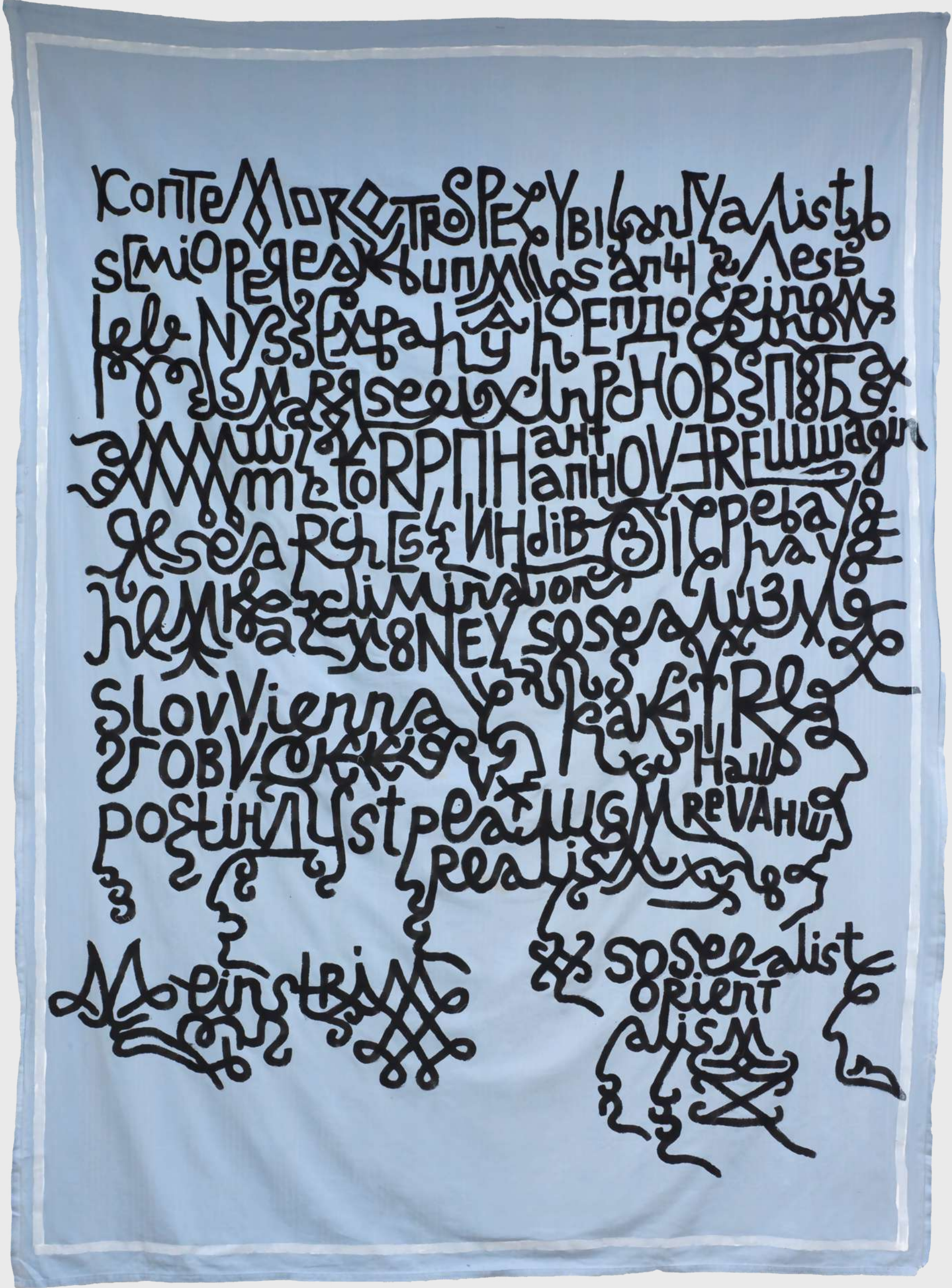


Babi Badalov
Utopical Art, 2016

Painting on fabric
Framed
155 x 125 cm

Babi Badalov
Moretrospe, 2020

Painting on fabric
276 x 147 cm





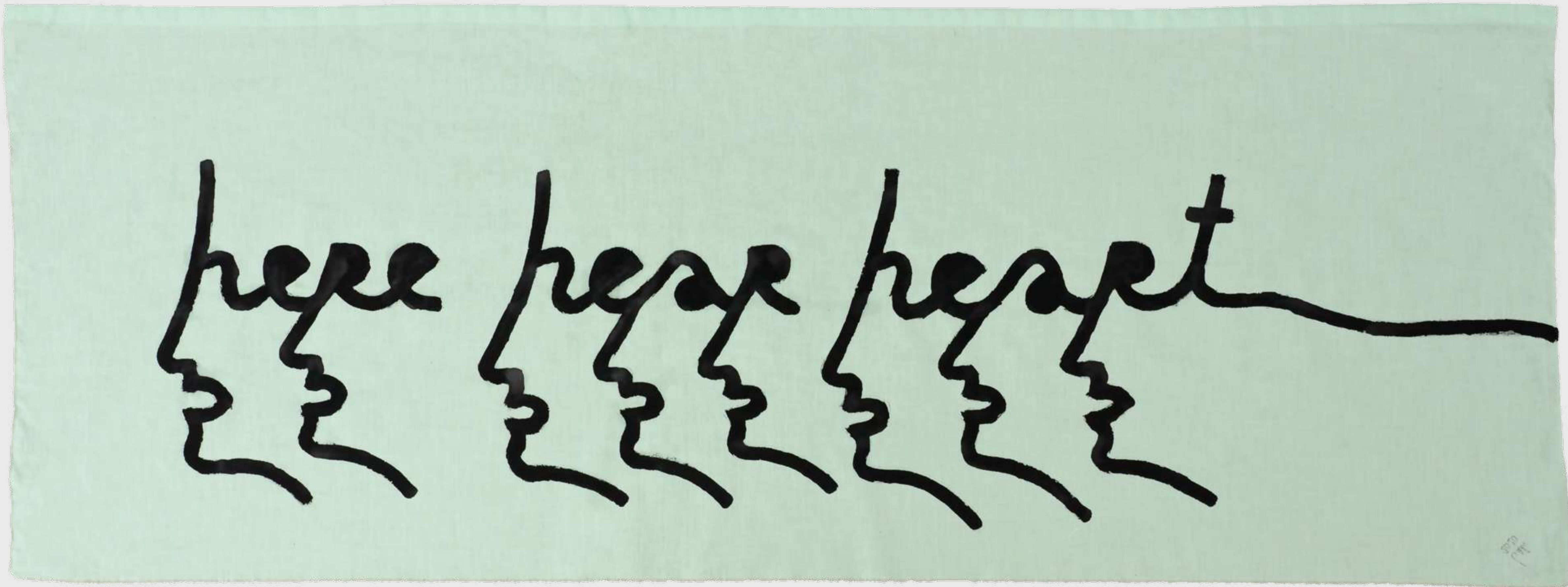
Babi Badalov
My Left Is Your Right, 2022

Painting on fabric
177 x 89 cm

Babi Badalov
Melankolia, 2021

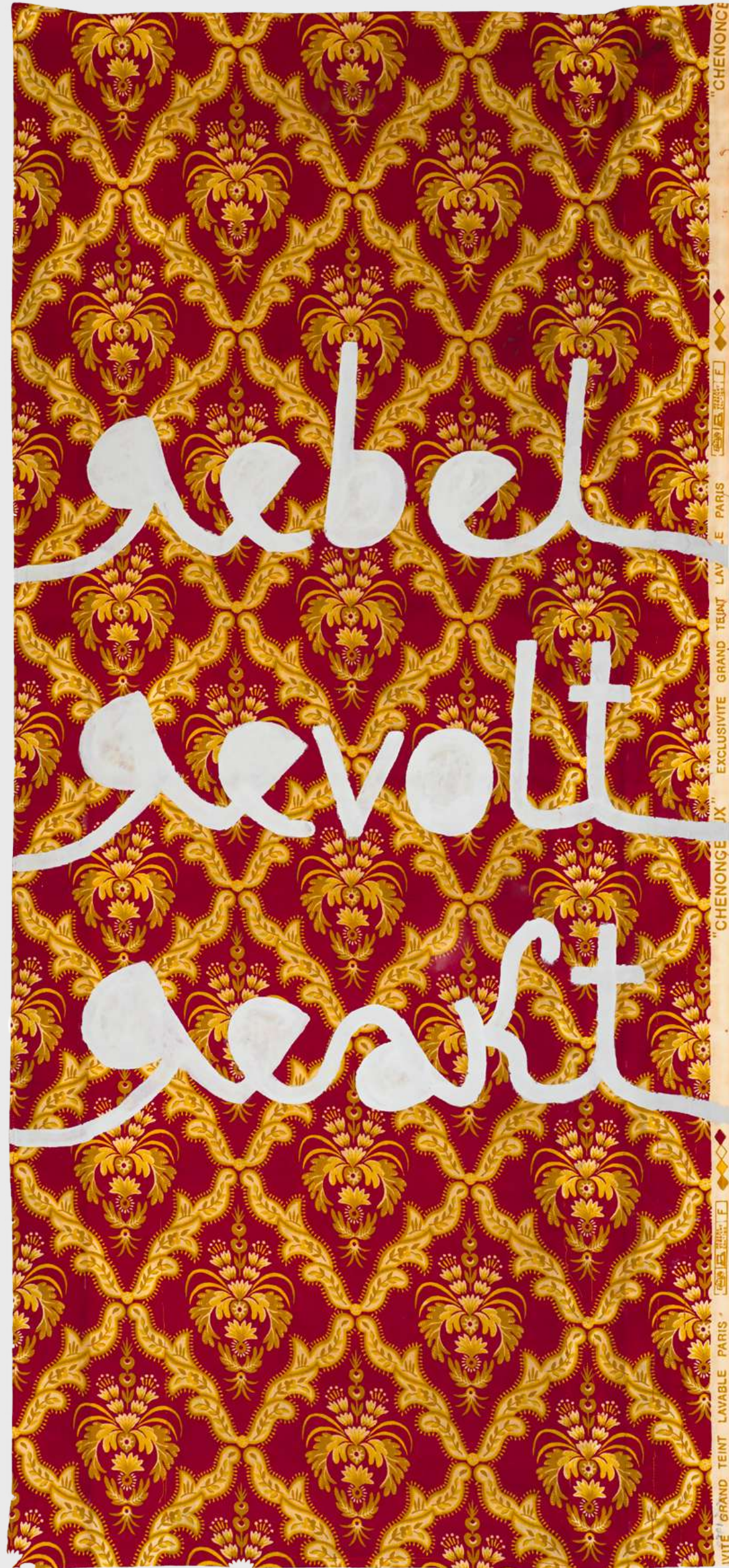
Painting on fabric
Framed
239 x 160 cm





Babi Badalov
Here Hear Heart, 2020

Painting on fabric
40 x 111 cm



Babi Badalov
Culture Powerpeople, 2020

Painting on fabric
201 x 175 cm



Babi Badalov
Culture Powerpeople, 2020

Painting on fabric
201 x 175 cm

PREVIEW

Thursday, February 8th 2024
From 5pm to 9pm
By invitation only

PUBLIC OPENING

Friday, February 9th, 2023
From 2pm to 8pm

VIEWING ROOM

[Click Here](#)

CONTACT

Sales and Inquiries

Agathe Schneider
a.schneider@galeriepoggi.com

Jérôme Poggi
j.poggi@galeriepoggi.com

Press

Anne-Sophie Bocquier
as.bocquier@galeriepoggi.com

GG