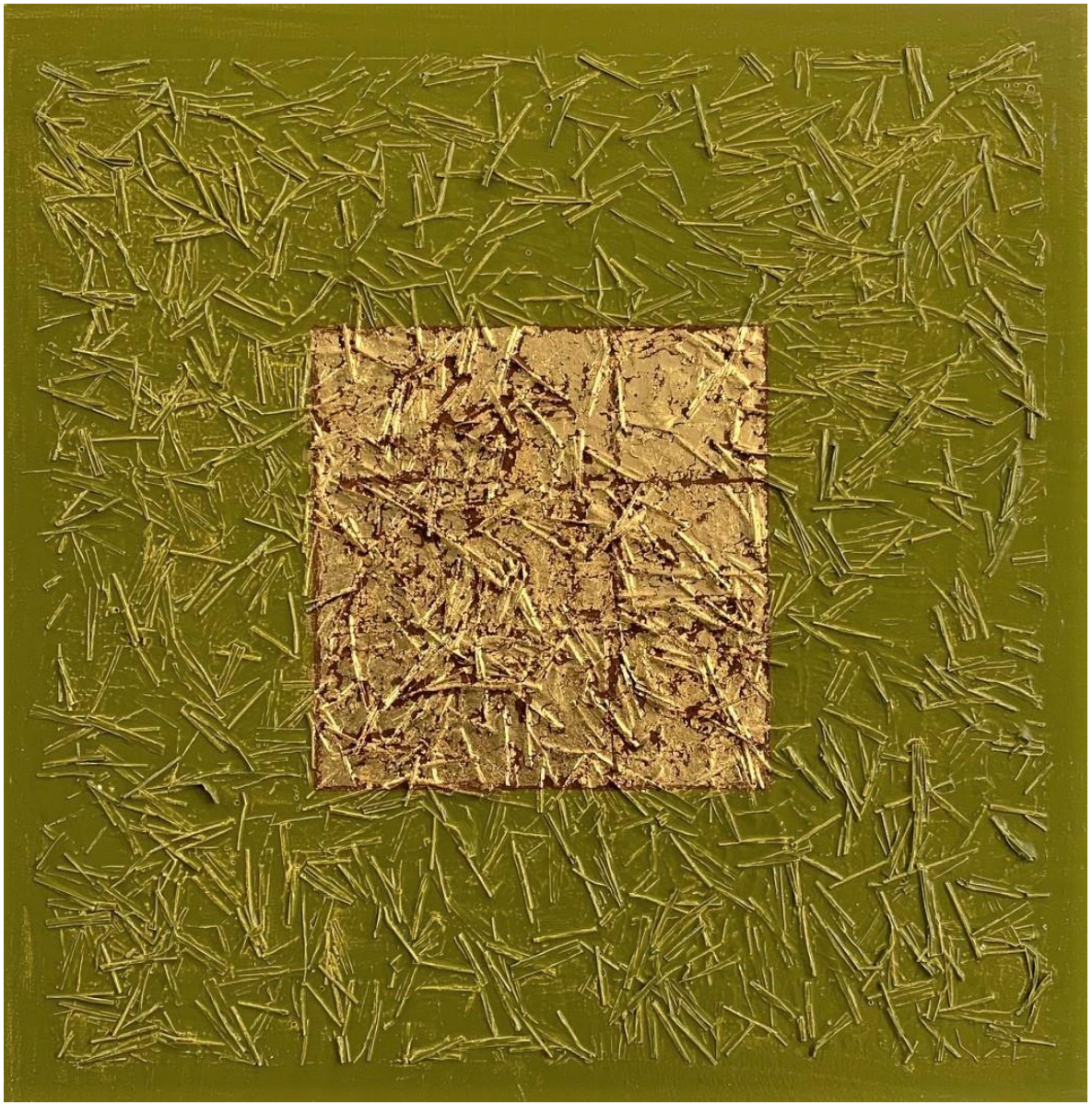
ISAO MIURA



RICE PADDY

RICE PADDY

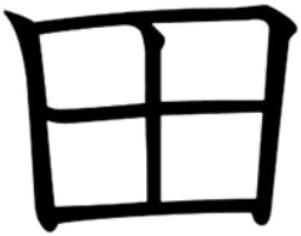
ISAO MIURA

New multi-media paintings
2020/21

I am a painter and scultor, born in a small village in Akita, north Japan. My family have been rice farmers for many generations and I used to help with sowing and tending the paddies from about the age of six.

The old house we lived in, with its central fire pit and ladders hooked to the rafters, has long gone. So have a lot of the back-breaking routines, replaced by ingenious machines. But clean water is still as important now as ever. Maybe more so, because it is under sustained attack from acid rain and all sorts of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides applied during the land preparation, seeding and harvesting cycles (roughly April to October).

Rice is Japan's staple food and the character for a rice paddy is one of the most basic: a square box, divided into four segments.



This simple window-like shape which pervades Japanese culture is the template for a new series of paintings which take me back to my roots in the glittering countryside of north Japan, the play of light on watery soil, dichotomies of earth and sky, day and night.

Isao Miura, London, 2021

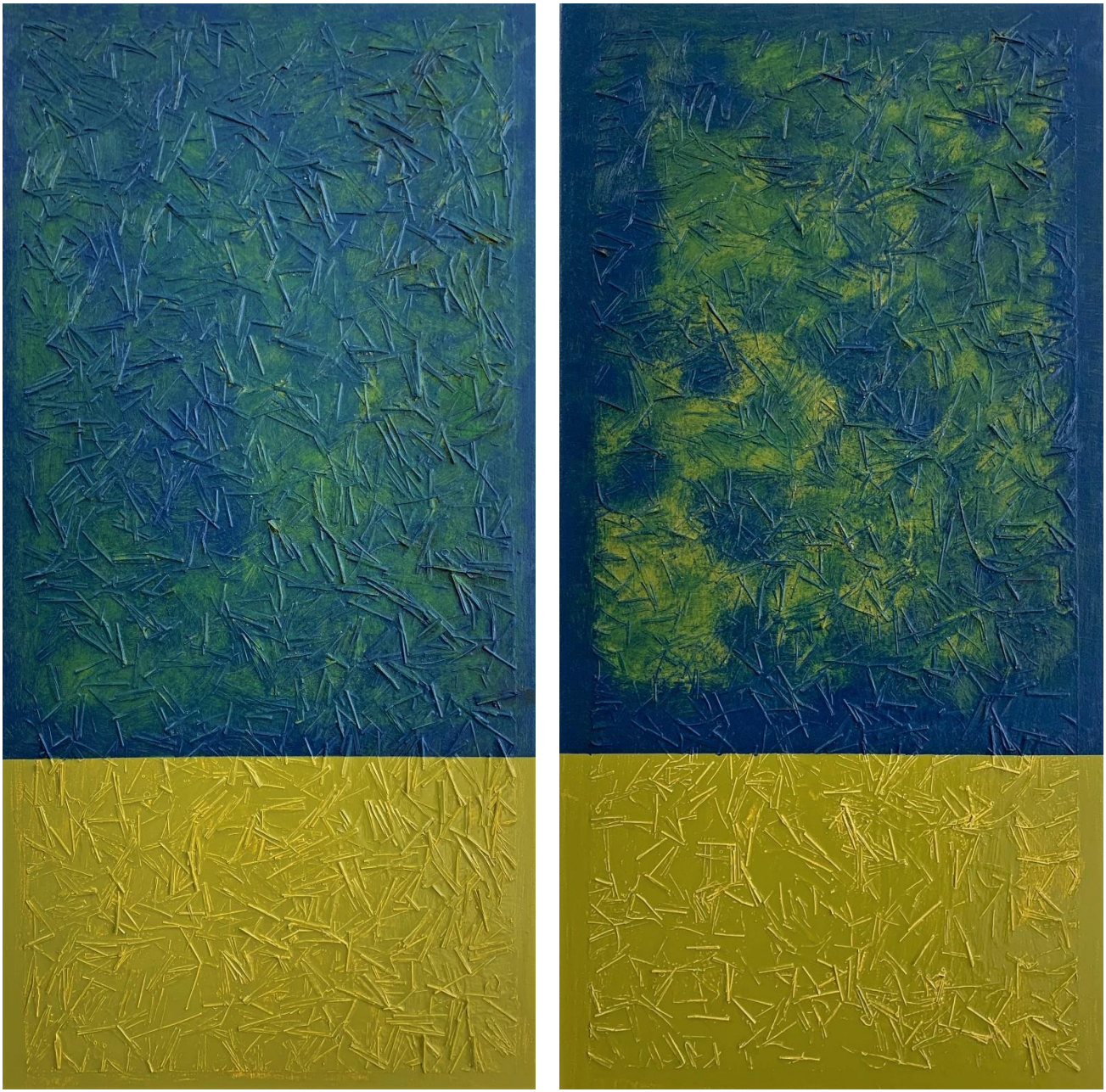
Nursery (seeds and oil on canvas, 44 x 44 cms)

Deep Snow brings Nitrogen to the Paddy (stalks, oil & gold leaf on canvas, 44x44 cms)

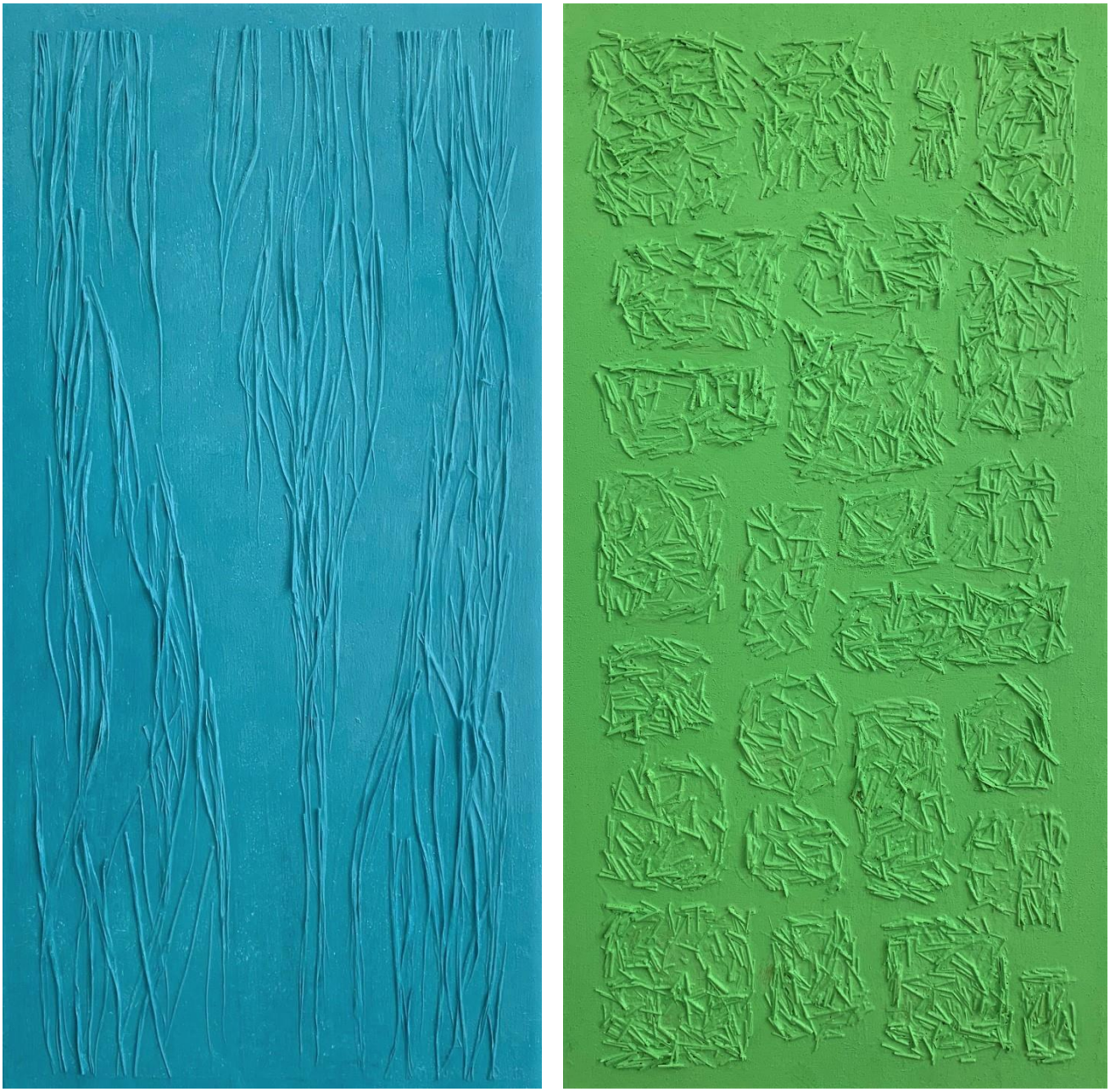
Winter (stalks and oil paint on canvas, 44 x 44 cms)

Warm Rain (stalks and oil paint on canvas, 44 x 44 cms)

Sunrise (stalks, oil & gold leaf on canvas, 44 x 44 cms)

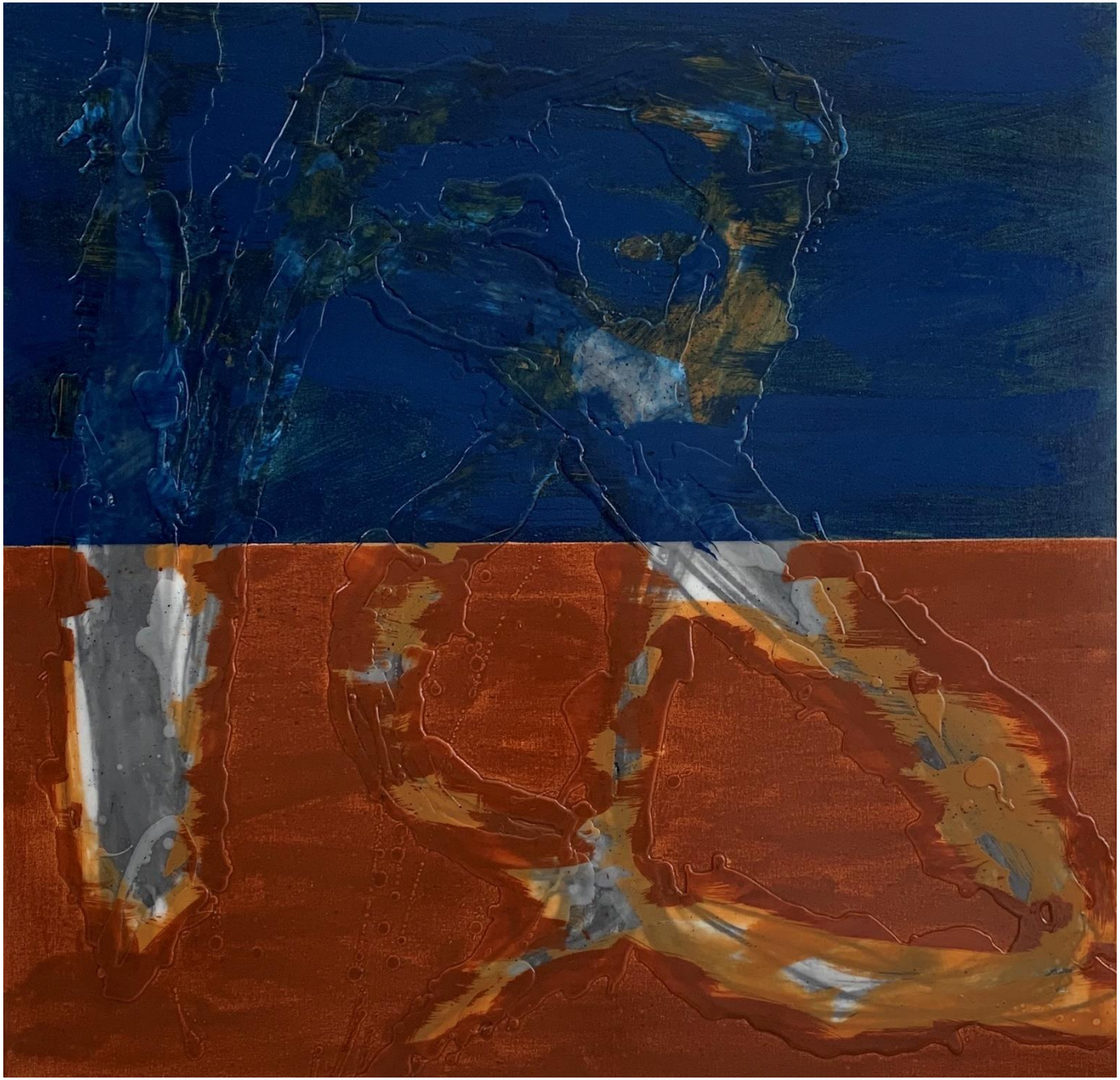


Fireflies 1 & 2 (stalks and oil paint on canvas, 40 x 80 cms)

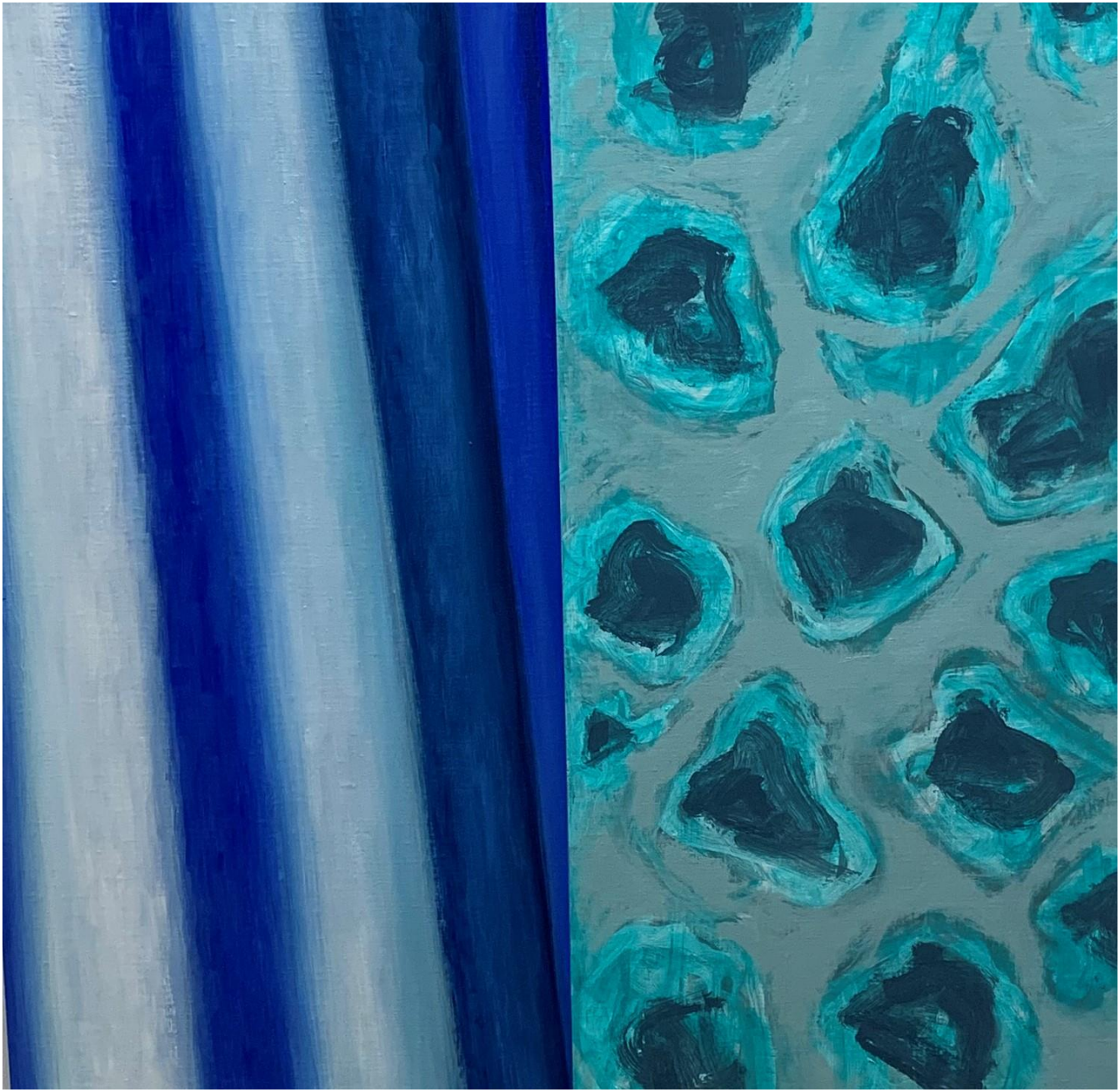


Warm Rain 2 & Nursery Shoots (stalks & oil on canvas, 40 x 80 cms)

KUMO/ CLOUD (wax calligraphy with oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm)

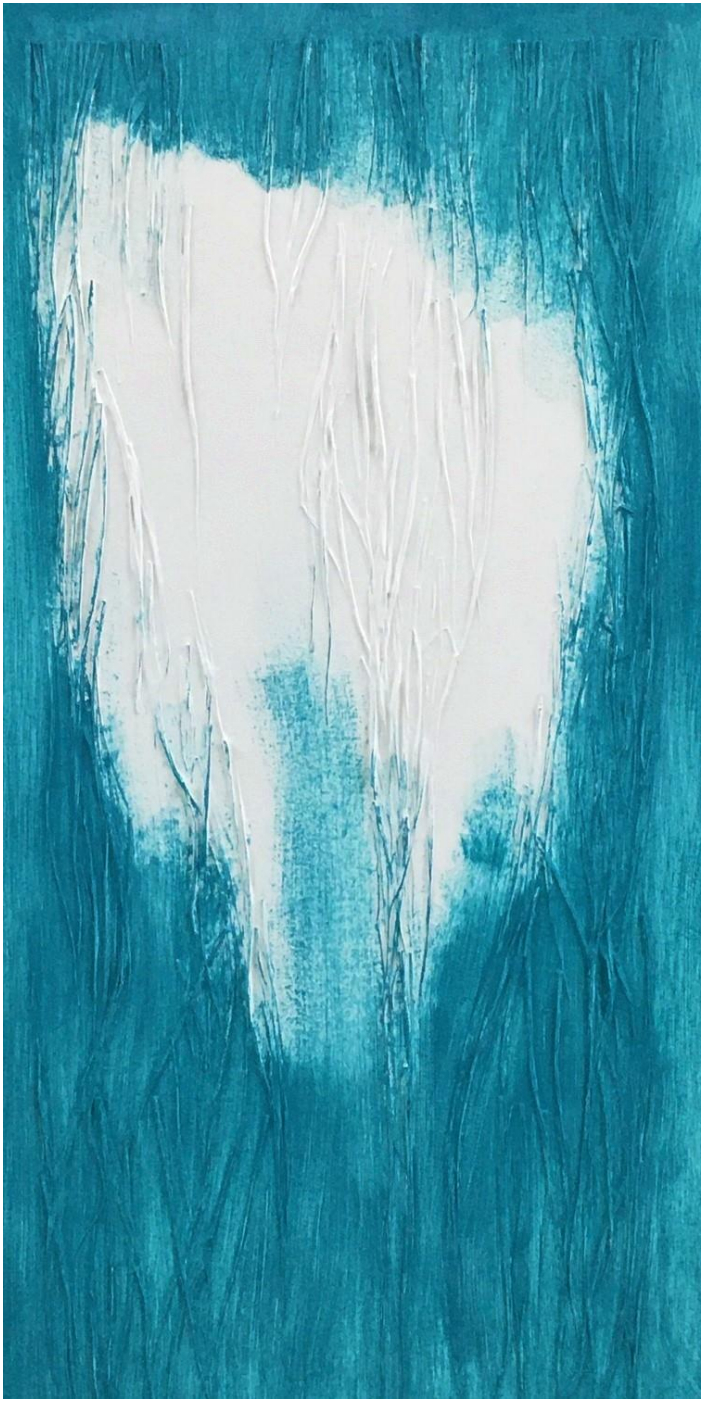


KAZE / WIND (wax calligraphy with oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm)



Warm Water, Cold Water (oil on canvas, 80 x 80 cm)

Isao Miura is a Japanese Zen painter and sculptor, born in Akita in north Japan, now living in London. His website is www.isaomiura.com



RICE PADDY: ISAO MIURA

New paintings
in oil, rice stalks,
seeds, gold leaf
& wax

JAPAN: WATER
GROUNDWORK
GALLERY,
KINGS LYNN
March/July 2021