

NETTLE GRELLIER

# Amalgam

COMA - Darlinghurst

5 September - 7 October, 2023

COMA



COMA is pleased to present a solo exhibition, titled *Amalgam*, by Cornwall-based artist Nettle Grellier (b.1993), on view 5 September – 7 October in the Darlinghurst gallery. This is the artist's first presentation with COMA.

Often scratching at their gums, gnashing their teeth, or biting their fingernails, the suite of women that occupy Grellier's *Amalgam* overshare, are over comfortable and often overbearing. They pull us in close enough to smell their breath. *Amalgam* (the material used for dental fillings) visually and theoretically examines teeth; their symbolism historically throughout popular culture, religion and folklore, and the age-old stereotype that British people have bad teeth and how this popular belief points towards more complicated issues of government policy, wealth distribution and inaccessibility to health care.

Having grown up in Gloucestershire, Grellier's practice looks at the intricacies of local fables, ritual, storytelling, and gossip that are woven into the fabric of a small-town communities. The cropped and intimate portraits draw us towards the mouths of these women, as if we are about to become a kink in their chain of salacious small-town whispers.

Teeth have been the subject of gossip and tradition since the middle-ages, passing and peddling stories of the enamel stones throughout history became a game of superstition and caution. The burning of milk teeth was a precaution taken to protect oneself in death, for those who didn't correctly dispose of their baby teeth would search for them in the afterlife for all eternity. Grellier hints at such fables in the work *Should I just wait here*, whereby a young woman delicately balances a small tooth in the palm of her hand, gesturing, offering, and letting go of a part of herself to ease her superstitions.

As children we are told to brush and look after our teeth, otherwise a fairy like figure, a hag, or a witch would pay a visit. Whatever truth lies in this fable, Grellier's work make us believe in these fairy tales, as their rawness, messiness and enigmatic nature instils in the viewer the belief that a visit from a menacing crone must imminent.

Despite the British's reputation for bad teeth – with crooked, discoloured, unaligned, yellow smiles- their desire for good teeth can be traced throughout history and linked to medieval grave robbing practices. In Britain in the 18th century, experimentation began with tooth implants, an expensive procedure even for the wealthy, people turned to more cost-efficient methods- extracting teeth from the mouths of the dead. The characters in Grellier's suite of work perform extractions, robberies, and implants of their own – their fingers like dentistry apparatus they use to pull back their lips to ready themselves for a removal or operation.



Nettle Grellier in her studio in 2021. Photo by Brynley Odu Davis.

Nettle Grellier (b. 1993) graduated with a BA in Fine Art Painting from the University of Brighton in 2015, before completing the Turps Banana Correspondence Course in 2020. Her work has been exhibited in the UK, US, Europe and Australia. Nettle Grellier's work is characterised by her use of soft fleshy pinks and reds, coupled with earthy browns and greens. Grellier explores the notion of touch in her work, seeking to make us more comfortable and aware of bodily presence. Predominantly figurative, her work focuses on the relationship between her subjects and their own awareness of self. Her figures interact and touch in unexpected ways, challenging our notions of intimacy and established social behaviours. Grellier aims to draw connections between British rural tradition and folklore and contemporary themes and popular culture.

Grellier's recent solo includes 'At Knees, at shame, at Belly', Soho Revue/Artsy Foundations, 2023; 'She Always Does Have a Good Time', Huxley Parlour Gallery, London, 2022; 'Come to Good', Delphian Gallery, London, 2021; 'Easy Peelers', That Art Gallery, Bristol, 2019; 'Nettle Grellier', Line Gallery, Stroud, 2015. Grellier's work has also been included in group presentations including, 'Flowers and Thorns', Eve Lieve Gallery, Turin, Italy, 2023; 'Bodies, Gluttony & Me', Pictorum Gallery, London, 2023; 'An Arcadian Kind of Love', Soho Revue, London, 2022; 'Touch Wood', Eve Leibe Gallery, Berlin, 2022.



Nettle Gellier

*I told strangers personal things, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

21 x 14.8 cm (unframed)

35 x 29 cm (framed)

8 1/4 x 5 7/8 in (unframed)

13 3/4 x 11 3/8 in (framed)

\$700.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

COMA



Nettle Gellier

*It's all been said now, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

28 x 35.5 cm (unframed)

44 x 49 cm framed

11 x 14 inches (unframed)

17 3/8 x 19 1/4 in (framed)

\$850.00

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*Her unlovely face, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*Tree stumps, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*I give up then*, 2023

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

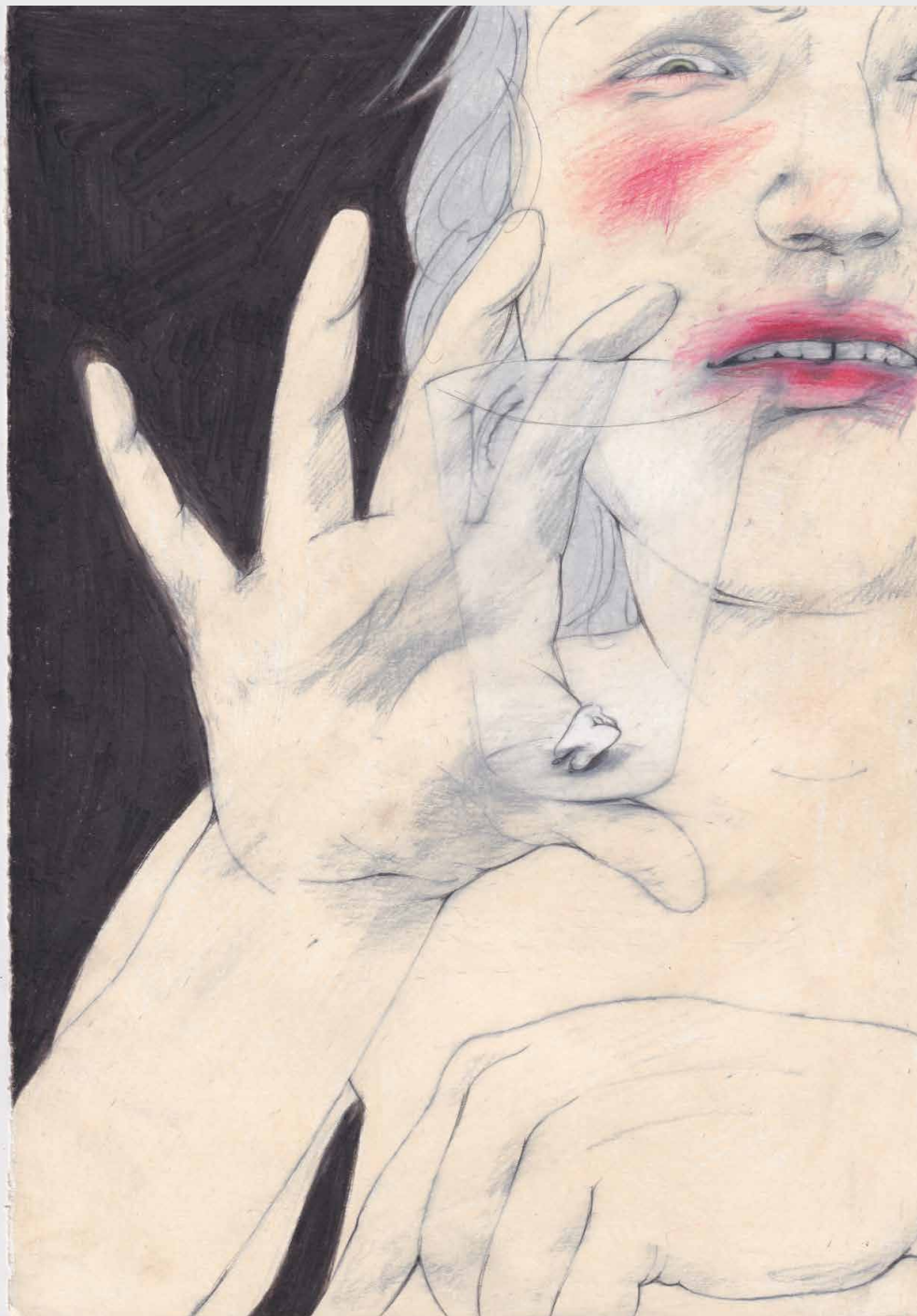
11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*Her uncertain future, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$700.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

COMA



Nettle Gellier

*Here I come, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*I only wanted one, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*Over and over and well  
well what do you and what  
do you think about it  
now, 2023*

colour pencil on acid  
free paper

29 x 41 cm (unframed)

44 x 56 cm (framed)

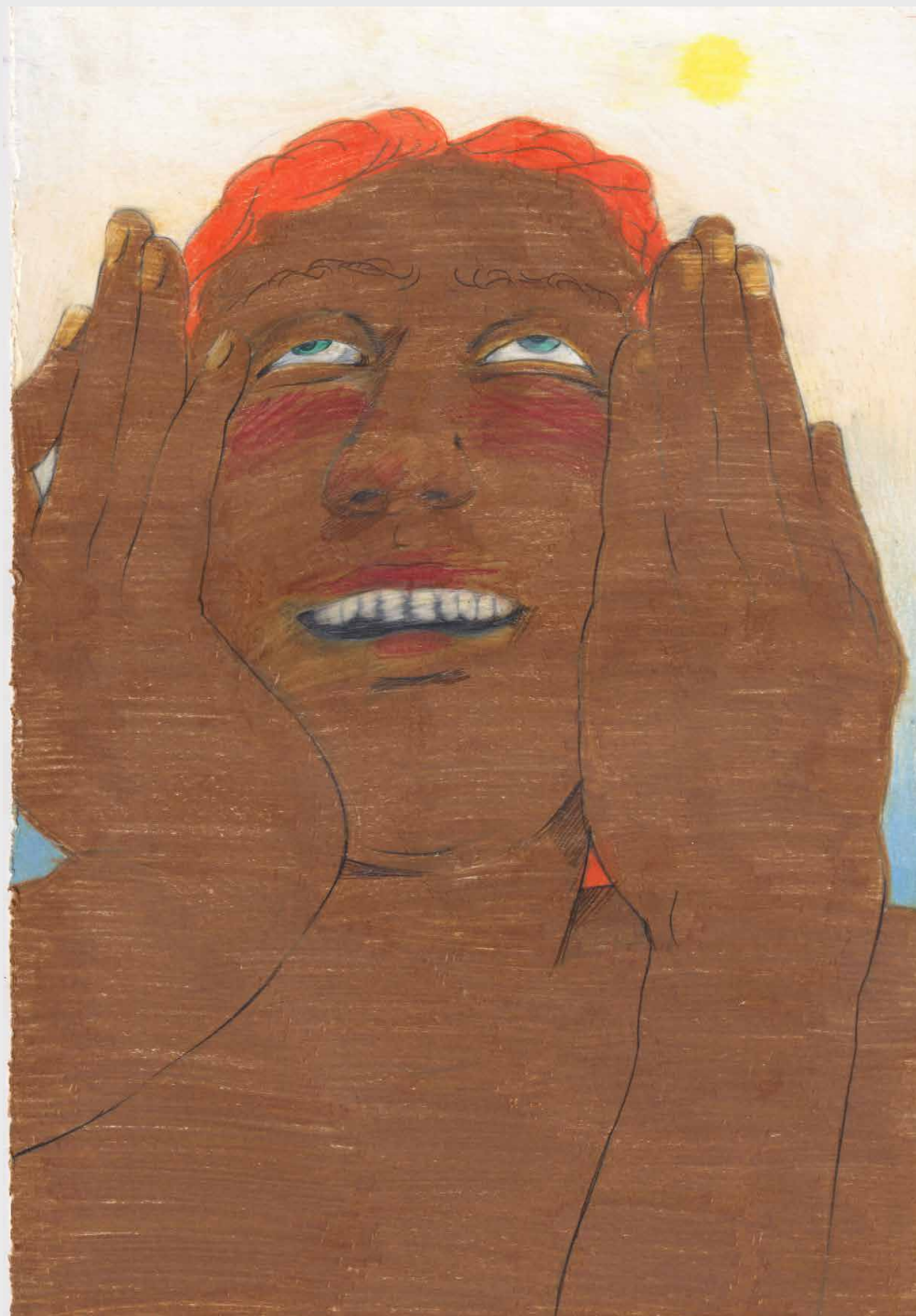
11 3/8 x 16 1/8 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 22 in (framed)

\$850.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*I know this picture, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

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Nettle Gellier

*Laden with things, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

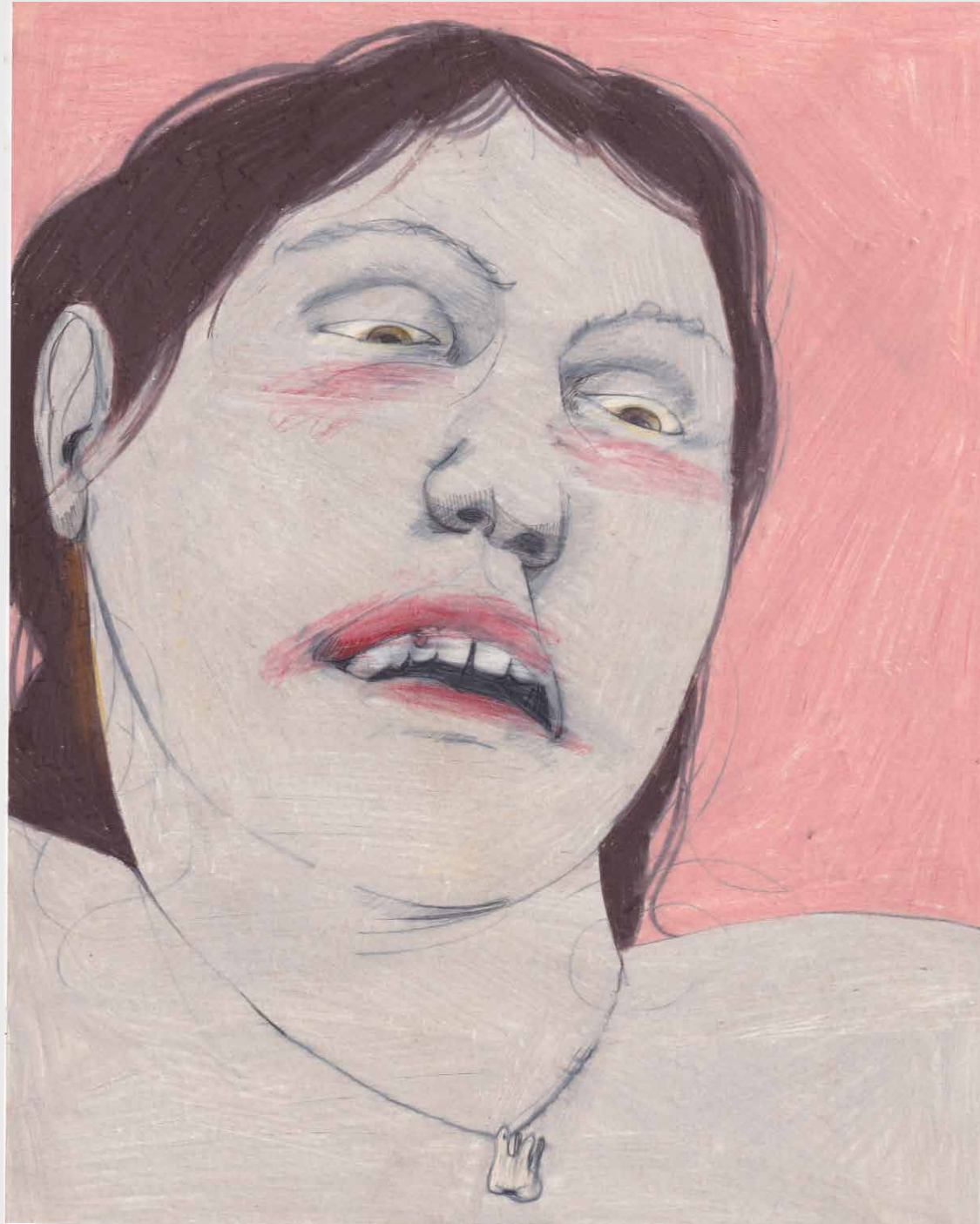
11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*She came to look through me, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

25 x 21 cm (unframed)

34.5 x 35 cm (framed)

9 7/8 x 8 1/4 inches (unframed)

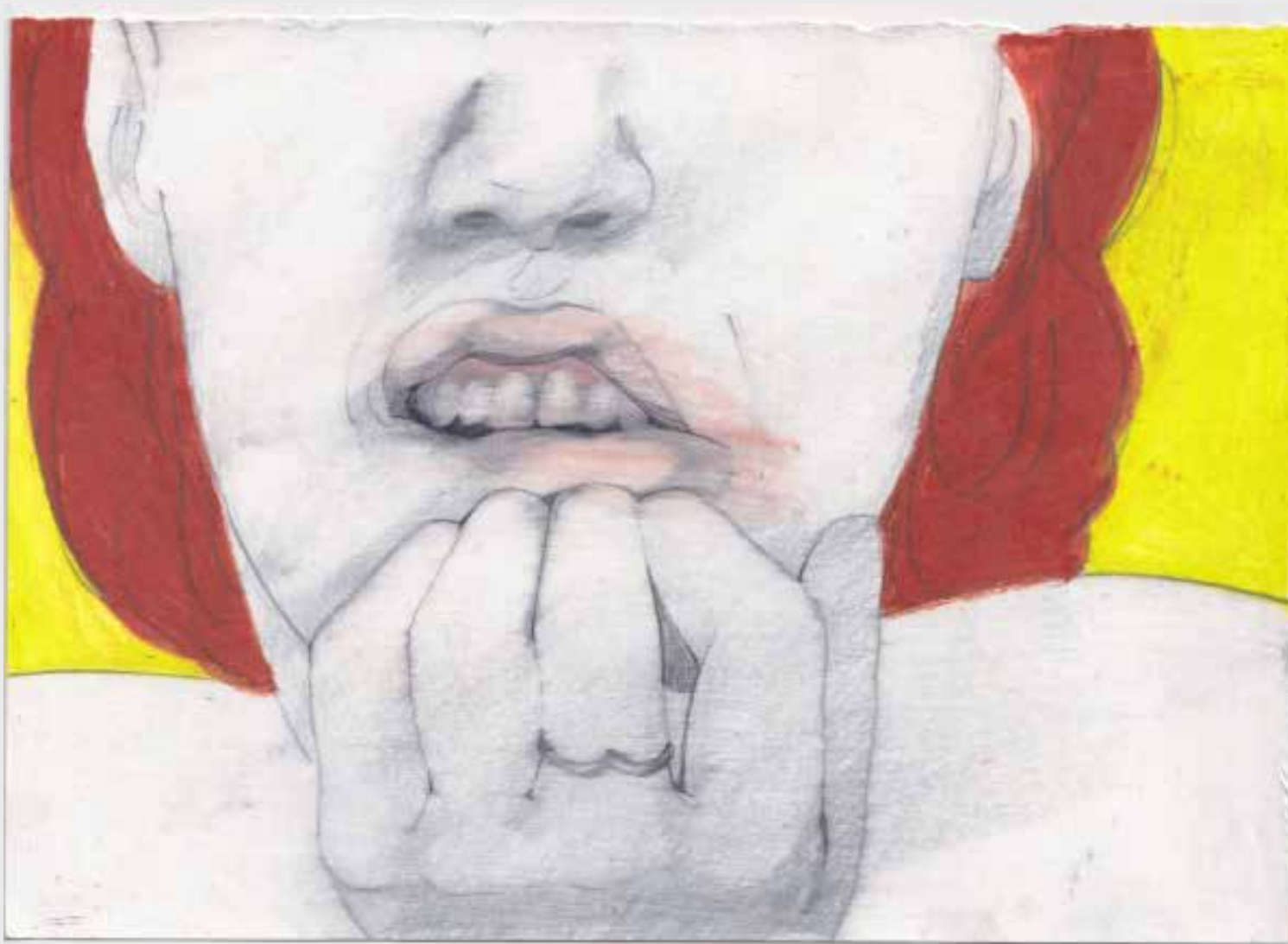
13 5/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$750.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*The town where nothing  
happened 1, 2023*

colour pencil on acid

free paper

21 x 14.8 cm (unframed)

29 x 35 cm (framed)

8 1/4 x 5 7/8 in (unframed)

13 3/4 x 11 3/8 in (framed)

\$700.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*The town where nothing  
happened 2, 2023*

colour pencil on acid  
free paper

21 x 14.8 cm (unframed)

29 x 35 cm (framed)

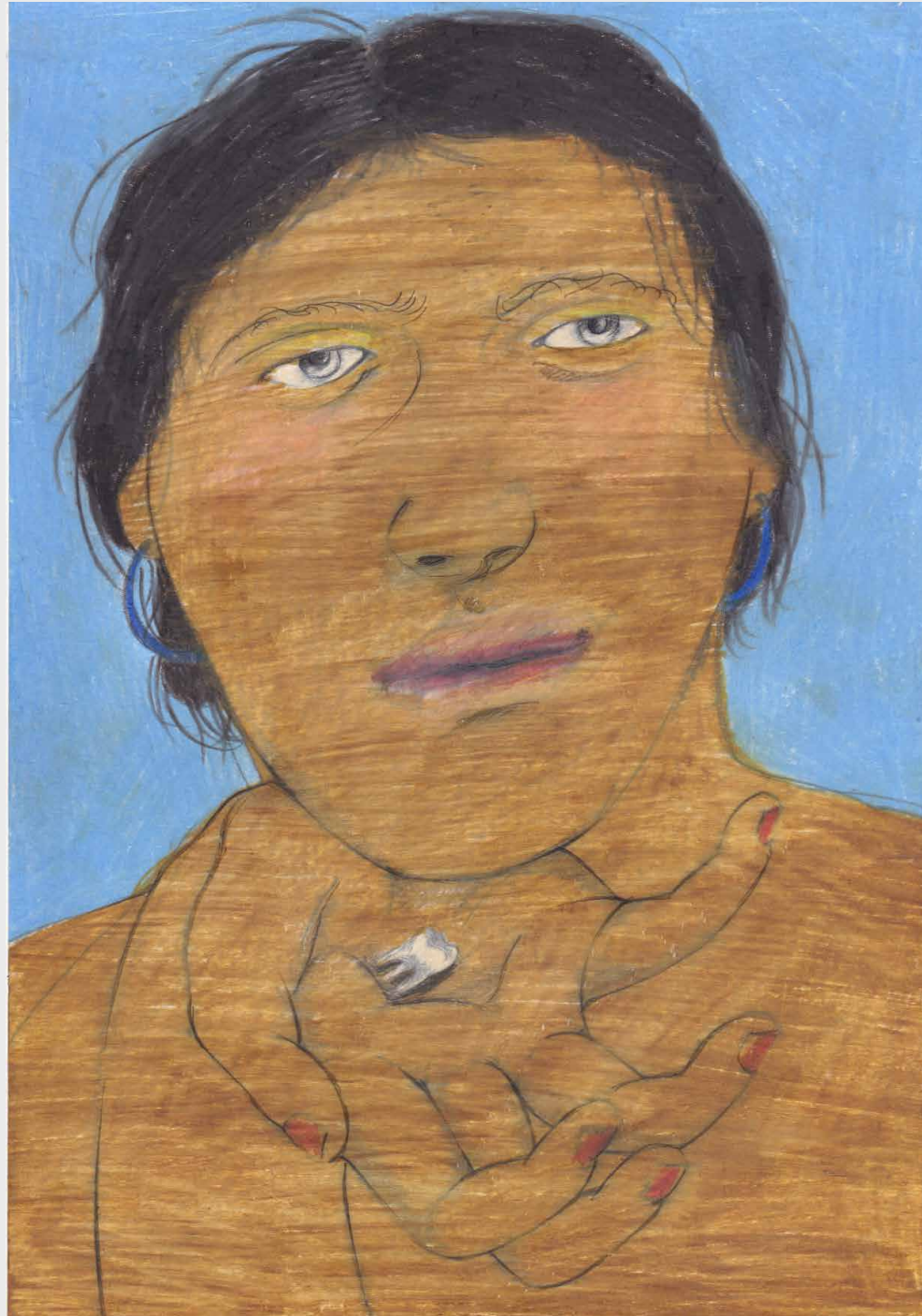
8 1/4 x 5 7/8 in (unframed)

13 3/4 x 11 3/8 in (framed)

\$700.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*Should I just wait here, 2023*

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

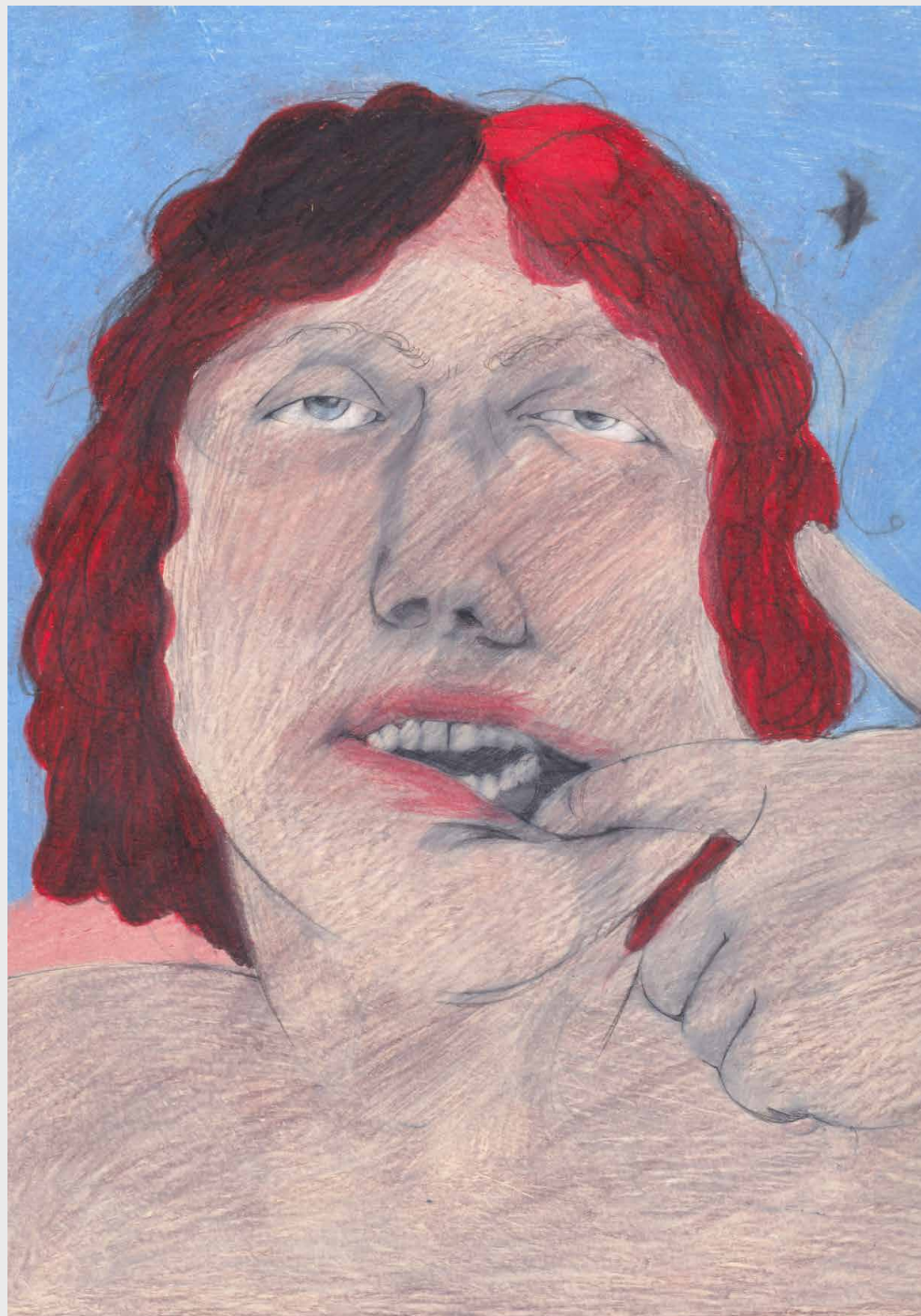
11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

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Nettle Gellier

*it's all been said now*, 2023

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44 x 49 cm framed

11 x 14 inches (unframed)

17 3/8 x 19 1/4 in (framed)

\$850.00 USD

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Nettle Gellier

*untitled*, 2023

colour pencil on acid free paper

29.7 x 21 cm (unframed)

44 x 35 cm framed

11 3/4 x 8 1/4 in (unframed)

17 3/8 x 13 3/4 in (framed)

\$800.00 USD

*plus applicable tax or GST*

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Nettle Gellier

*untitled*, 2023

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44 x 35 cm framed

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*untitled, 2023*

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