

# Journey to Alpha Selona



DANA WIGDOR



## Journey to Alpha Selona

*Journey to Alpha Selona* is a series of eight paintings completed over 25 months (3/2017 - 4/2019). They are a self portrait in the form of an interstellar journey to the imaginary planet, *Alpha Selona*. They are my first departure from traditional oil technique in my 40 years of painting.

Each canvas embodies a specific life event of mine – an extraordinary personal transformation, separation and loss, surrender to the unknown, and gaining new perspective. The planet *Alpha Selona* represents a deep feeling of resolution, thought of as “home” or a state of oneness.

How does a story become embedded in the skin of an oil painting? For me, it’s not enough to create a likeness or illustrate a picture. There must be a reenactment of the events themselves, in the turbulence of painting: pouring liquids to create the hazy particulate of space, gas and dust – scraping the paint skin with scrub brushes, barber combs, plastic wrap, and sandpaper folded into blunt shapes. In the two years I worked on this series, I scarcely used a paint brush.

*More Than You Know*

oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, 2017

cover: *Arrival to Alpha Selona*, detail







*The Comic, The Poet, The Exile*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 60 inches, 2017  
next page: *detail*







*Here, in the Solar Wind*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, 2017  
next page: *detail*







*Torn Asunder*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, 2017  
next page: *detail*







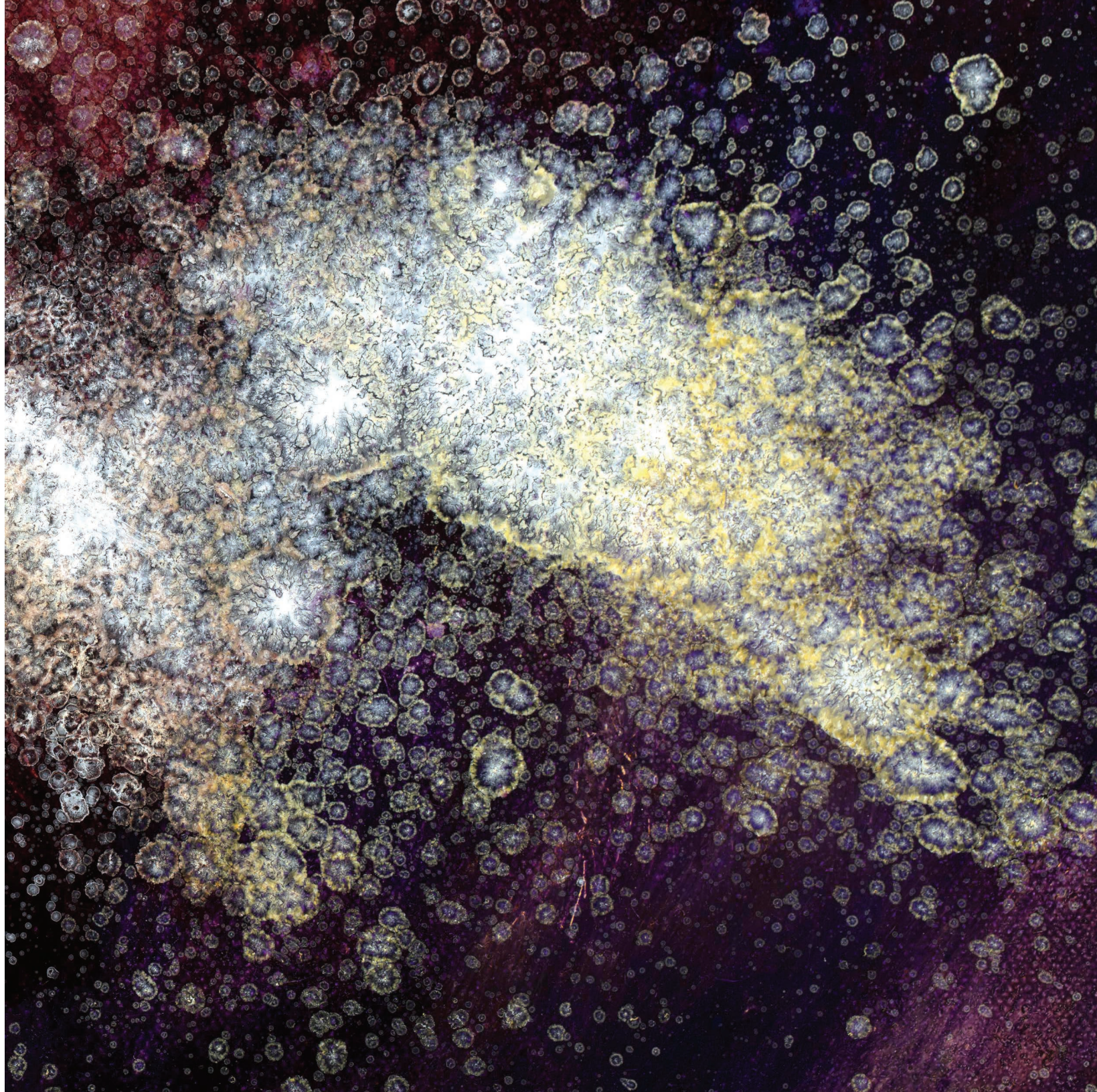
*Breakthrough*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, 2017  
Oposite: *detail*



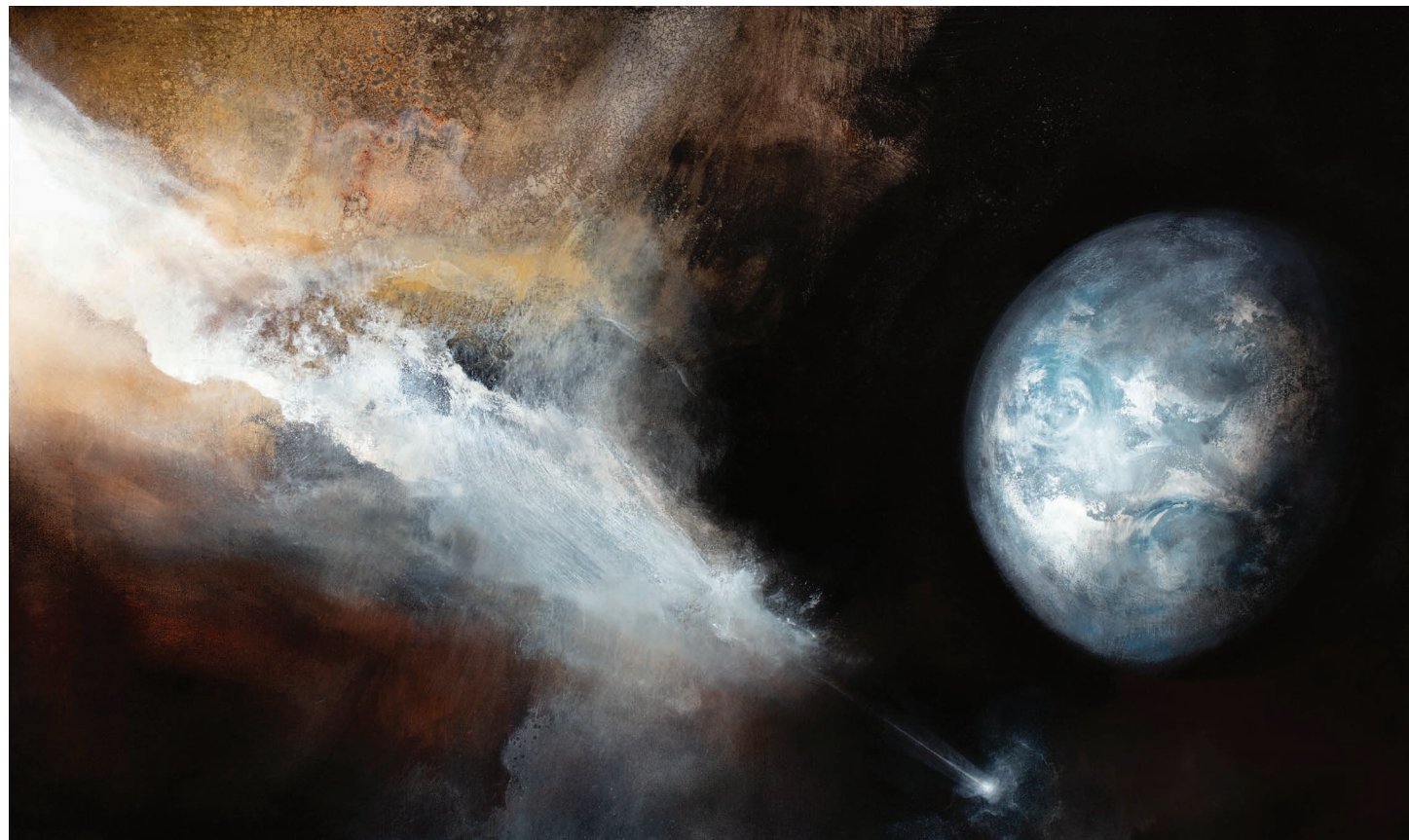




*The Interior of One*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 27.5 inches, 2017  
Next page: *detail*







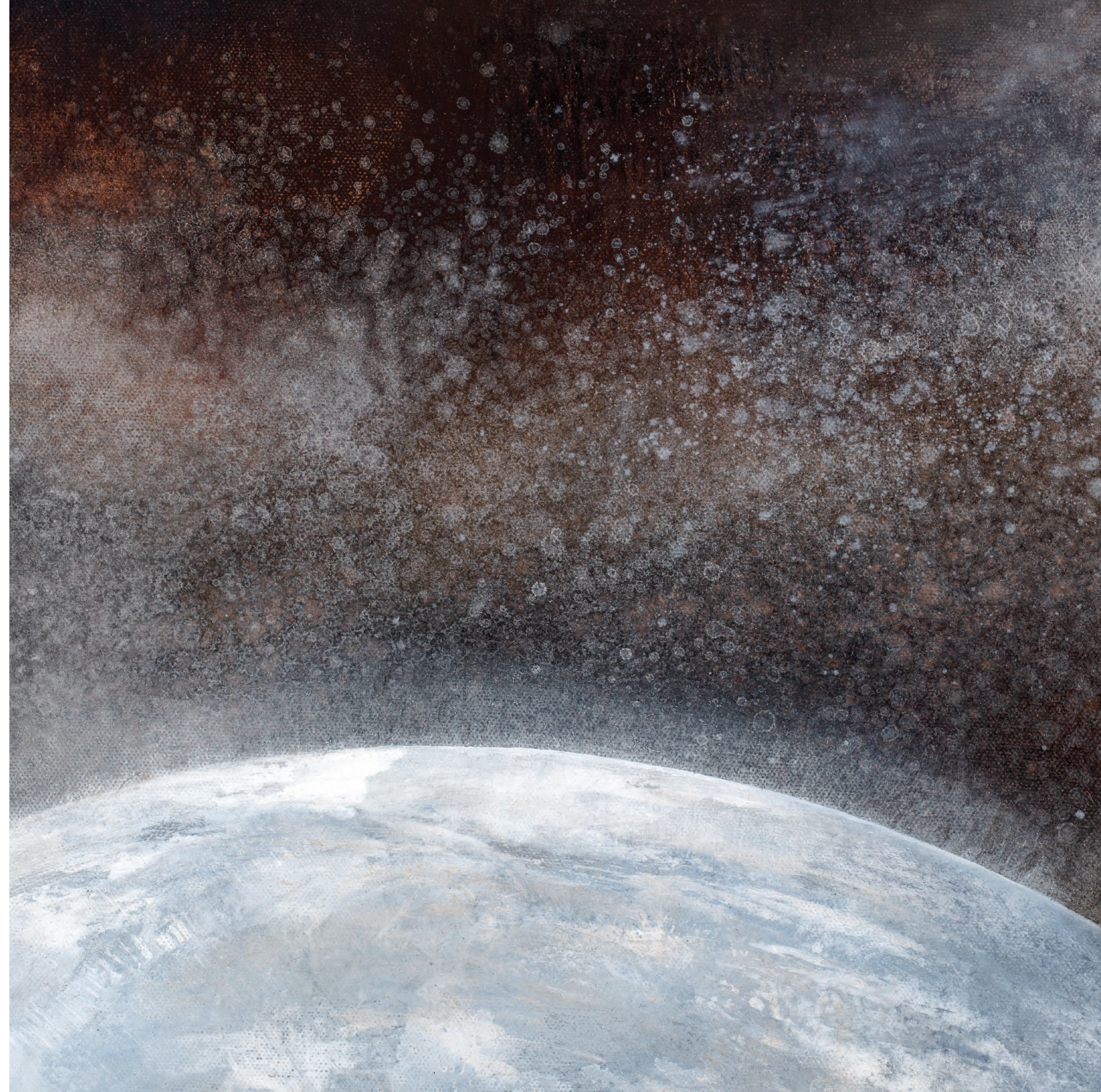
*Arrival to Alpha Selona*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 60 inches, 2018  
Next page: *detail*







*Incarnation*  
oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, 2019  
Next page: *detail*





## Artist Statement

There is an entire world in the luxe surface of an oil painting. I could work on one canvas for the rest of my life and never truly be finished, adding layer after layer of thick texture, and then sanding it down into a hazy blur. With each layer that is added, paradoxically, life is uncovered. Floating characters appear, complex relationships play out before me, and I feel an ardent devotion to their well-being. Each encounter feels extraordinary and unique.

The act of painting is a repeated exercise of unearthing these floating creatures – separating them from an entanglement of thick texture – sanding, scraping, extracting them one by one. For me, there is a point when a painting ceases to be a project or an academic endeavor – when materials become ‘someone’.

### *Incarnation*

oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, 2019

Next page: *detail*





## Image list

1. *More Than You Know*, 36 x 36 inches, oil on canvas, 2017
2. *The Comic, The Poet, The Exile*, 36 x 60 inches, oil on canvas, 2017
3. *Here in the Solar Wind*, 36 x 36 inches, oil on canvas, 2017
4. *Torn Asunder*, 36 x 36 inches, oil on canvas, 2017
5. *Breakthrough*, 36 x 36 inches, 2017
6. *The Interior of One*, 36 x 27.5 inches, oil on canvas, 2017
7. *Arrival to Alpha Selona*, 36 x 60, oil on canvas, 2018
8. *Incarnation*, 36 x 36 inches, oil on canvas, 2019

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Photography by John Polak