

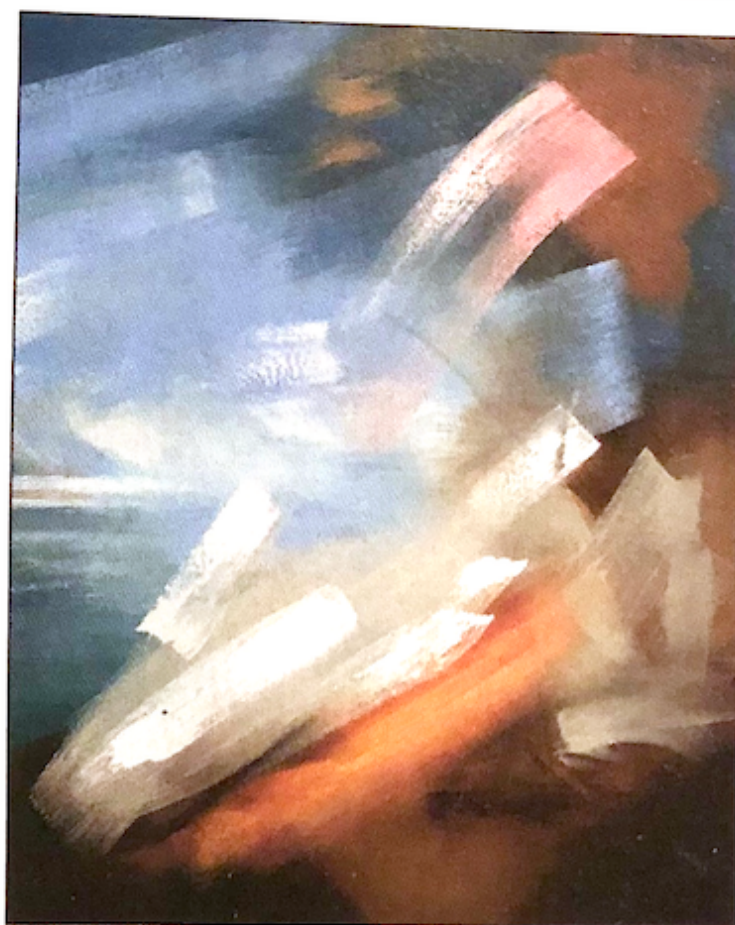
Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Elise Ansel

at Cadogan Contemporary

This new series of paintings, entitled *yes I said Yes*, by the American artist Elise Ansel (b.1961) mines and reinterprets the history of art. Ansel has based her canvases on works by the likes of Rembrandt, Boucher and Rubens, breaking the original compositions down to the broadest interpretation of technique and colour, until they become almost complete abstractions. Once you've identified the paintings that informed them – Titian's *Rape of Europa* or Delacroix's *The Death of Sardanapalus* – a common theme becomes clear: all feature scenes of violence against women. Yet far from creating a gloomy body of work, Ansel's intent was to make a joyous series, even going so far as to turn the basic structure of the source paintings upside down – thus “inverting” the



Europa Consensual (2019), oil on linen

horrific imagery of the originals. Powerful strokes of pink, vivid green, white and celestial blue collide in amorphous masses of brilliant colour, creating an effect reminiscent of de Kooning at his most exuberant. Prices range from £8,500 to £24,000.

87 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (020-7581 5451). Until 23 October.