

# Frieze London

October 8 – 11, 2020

*Possessions*  
curated by Zoe Whitley



*Painting Outside the Safe Space, Will Heinrich,  
The New York Times, May 8, 2020.*

[see article further down]



wet technique, Cloud reveals the range of significations connected to shapes, surfaces and symbols in an infinitely malleable, direct and forcefully abstract mode.

In his most recent exhibition, *Tears in abstraction* (Thomas Erben Gallery, fall 2019), Cloud uses abstraction to offer the viewer an aesthetic account of individuality, death and the empathic space of communion in absence of the political mechanisms of personal, racial, cultural and gendered identification.

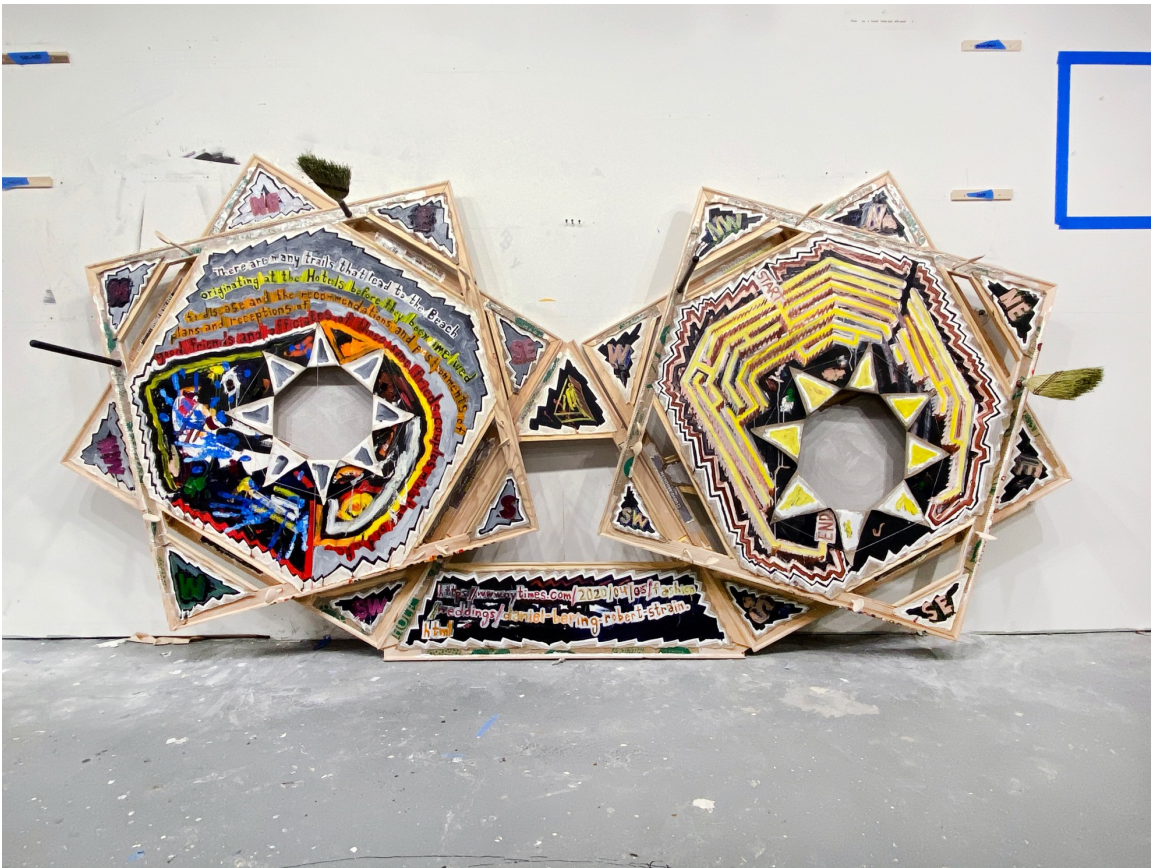
As to this project for Frieze London, Cloud wrote in a recent email to the gallery:

"This is a continuation of my investigation into abstract approaches to portraiture and the subject of bodily suffering in the victims of chance, crime and the state.

Through shattered constructions, bold color and painterly surfaces, I attune the aesthetics of my expressionistic painterly treatment to the particular key of collective consciousness and mourning.

I feel this is an important project because the most radical challenge to the modernist conception of 'personal' or expressive art making is the contemporary conception of 'identity' where in all subjects are considered as primarily a set of intersectional political coordinates larger than themselves. Likewise the greatest provocation to the concept of Western liberal democracy is the seaming impossibility of meeting the demands of the victims of chance, crime and political injustice."





*Mixed Marriage Bering/Strain, 2020.*  
Oil on linen with mixed media, 66 x 136 x 12 in/ 167.6 x 345 x 30.5

"*Mixed Marriage Bering/Strain* is about a couple whose wedding announcement was featured in the New York times the day I started the painting. It is my congratulations and well-wishes to them. It features a maze, a compass, some brooms, my hand prints and a poem I distilled from the text of their announcement."

[Detail images on the following page]









*Untitled (Marriage), 2020.*  
Oil on linen with mixed media, 70 x 70 x 12 in/ 177.8 x 177.8 x 30.5 cm.





*Untitled (Marriage)*, 2020 [detail].  
Oil on linen with mixed media, 70 x 70 x 12 in/ 177.8 x 177.8 x 30.5 cm



In an email from September 6, Cloud further clarifies:

"The world is an unlimited field of all sorts of things: mere objects like stones or dust, geographic phenomena like mountains or crevasses, pieces of equipment like hammers or airplanes, significant objects like gardens or letters, living beings, atmospheric effects, words, thoughts, events and on and on. I create paintings in discrete series as I have bounced from a desire to represent one sort of thing or another.

This group of paintings is fragmented across its length and height like a piece of stained glass, and through the layers of its depth like a work of collage, to give me multiple surfaces to delineate and combine gestures, surfaces and modes of depictions. People and atmospheres and events and geographies all have their space away from and connected to one another.

*Mixed Marriage, Beheading, and Shopping List* are paintings that encompass people, places and things with histories and identities that project from the present place and moment I share with you into other places, pasts or futures.

I do not embody identical lived experiences relative to the subjects of my work. I see the lives of others, objects and events outside of myself from the outside and I am moved by what I see to act (in my case to paint) in response to these things necessarily outside of my tiny set of lived experiences."



*Beheading James Slemp, 2020.*

Oil on linen with mixed media, 68 x 132 x 4 in/ 172.7 x 335.3 x 10 cm.

"*Beheading James Slemp* is about a friend of mine who tragically died recently in Belize. It is an abstract depiction of the destroyed, rearranged, and reimagined anatomy of his head and neck along with a link to further information about his life and the circumstances of his death as depicted by the world wide web."

<https://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/199049>

[Link inscribed on painting]

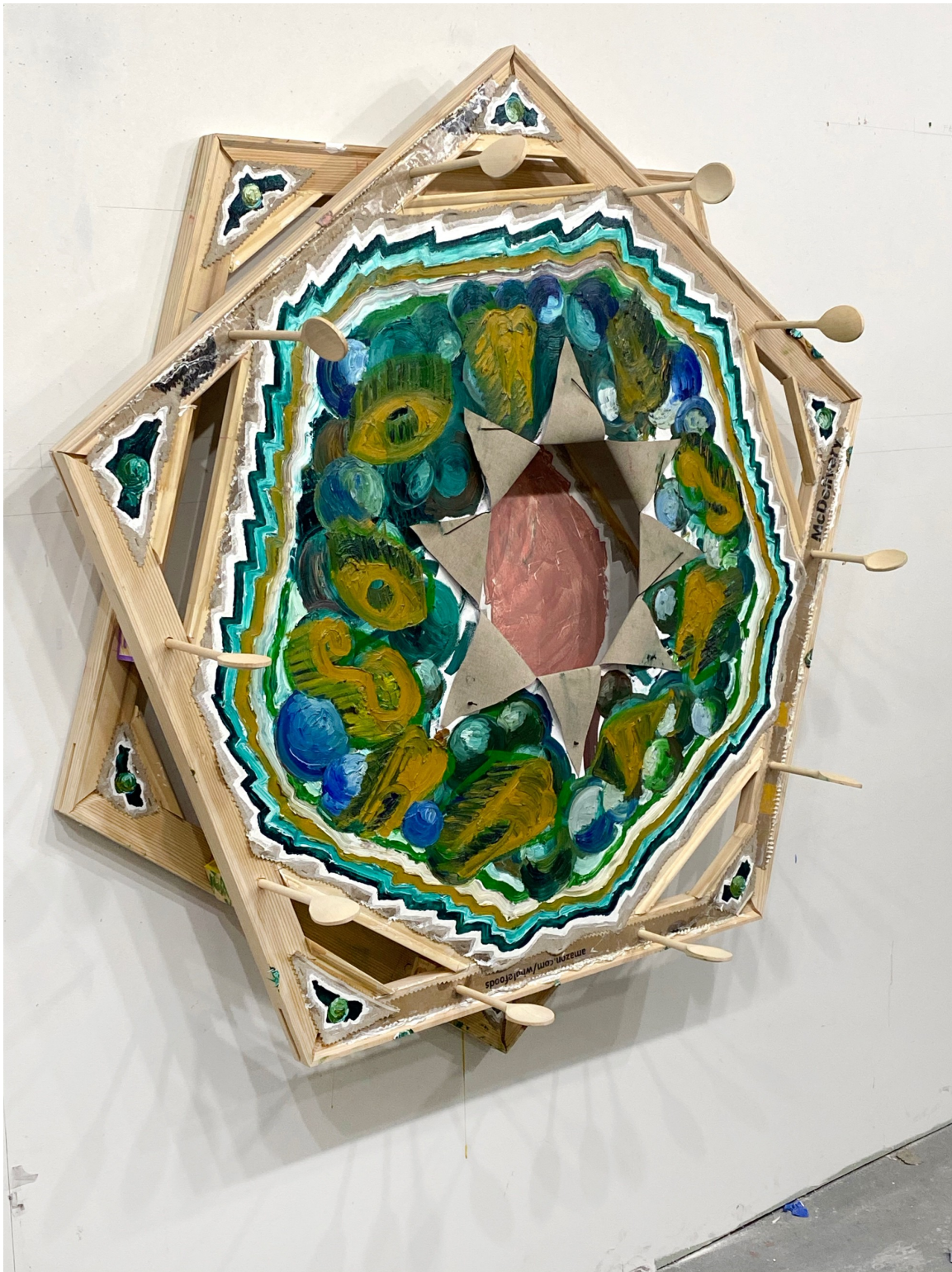
[\[Click to view video detailing, \*Beheading James Slemp\*, 2020\]](#)





*Untitled (Beheading)*, 2020.  
Oil on linen with mixed media, 50 x 52 x 12 in/ 127 x 132 x 30.5





*Untitled (Beheading)*, 2020 [detail].  
Oil on linen with mixed media, 50 x 52 x 12 in/ 127 x 132 x 30.5.