

## **Vis Helland**

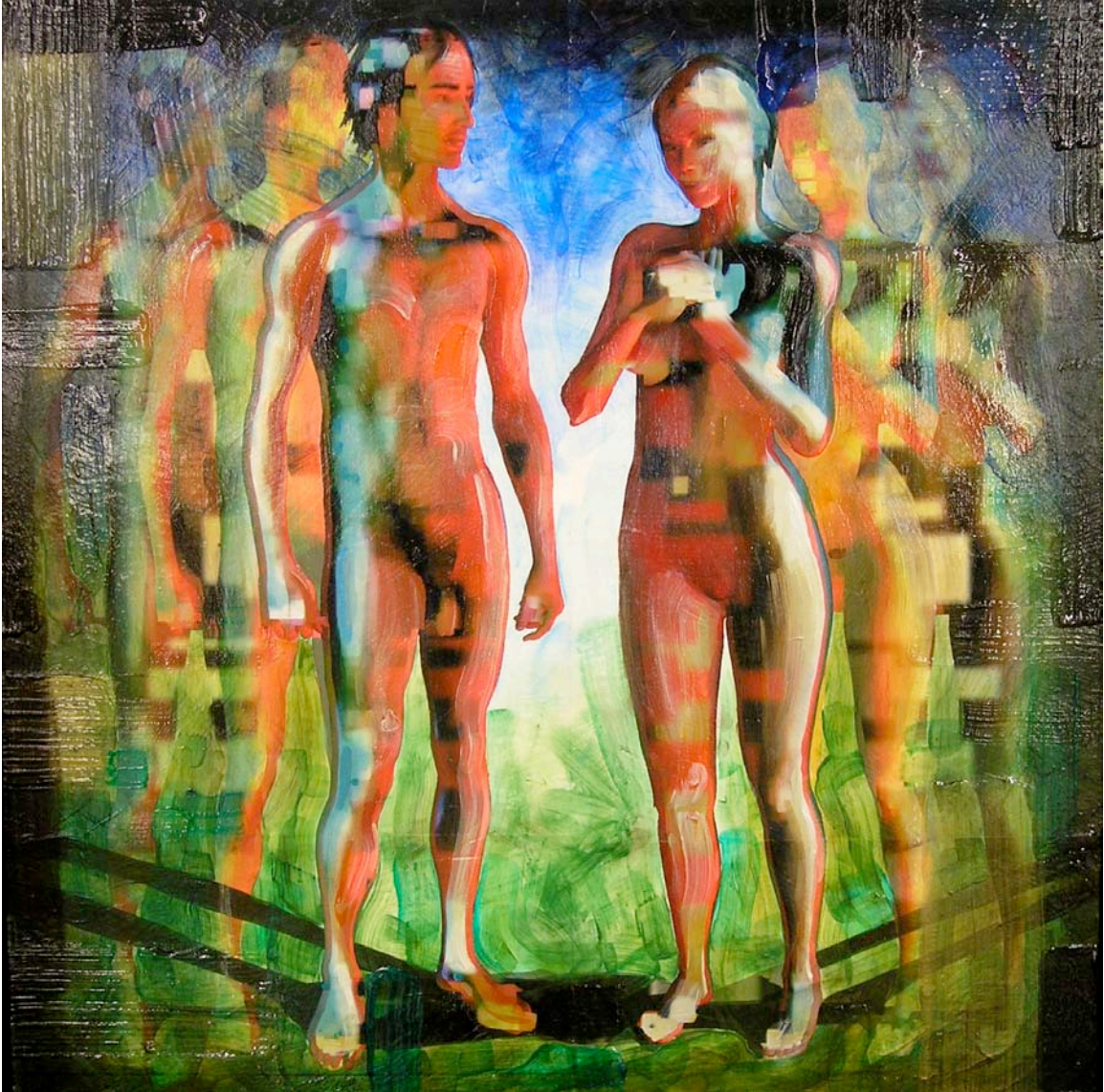
[www.vishelland.com](http://www.vishelland.com)

[vhelland@live.com](mailto:vhelland@live.com)

In this recent series of paintings couples appear that are reminiscent of works depicting Adam and Eve. While the two are referenced to initiate some of the original topics of the story (like loss of innocence and the responsibility inherent in the possession of newly acquired knowledge) they are deliberately distanced from the original time and setting to touch upon the apparently more secular topics of modern psychology and relationship issues as they manifest in our present day and perhaps the future as well. From painting to painting the couples are shown in varying qualitative states of interaction or lack thereof. Simultaneously there is a deliberate cross fertilization of the digital medium and/or aesthetic and more traditional painting. It is through the relationship of these that I seek to address the effects of the technology and artificiality in our environment and on individuals in relation to themselves and each other.

The original beauty of the romantic relationship is challenged, threatened, encroached upon by artifice (the distraction of media, artificial nutritionless foods, pharmaceutical "cures," personal entertainment etc.). Today much of a person's life exists in the digital domain and in fact people even meet and interact with one another through network cable.

While this artifice is not necessarily bad it is here depicted as "profane" and is to be more effectively navigated to preserve that which is "sacred" in our relationships with ourselves and each other. In other words we are now saddled with the responsibility of having to conduct a careful relation to our environment *as it has come to be* in order to maintain clarity or spiritual perspective in our interpersonal relationships.



*Couple 4*, acrylic and digital prints on wood panel 24" x 24"

2007

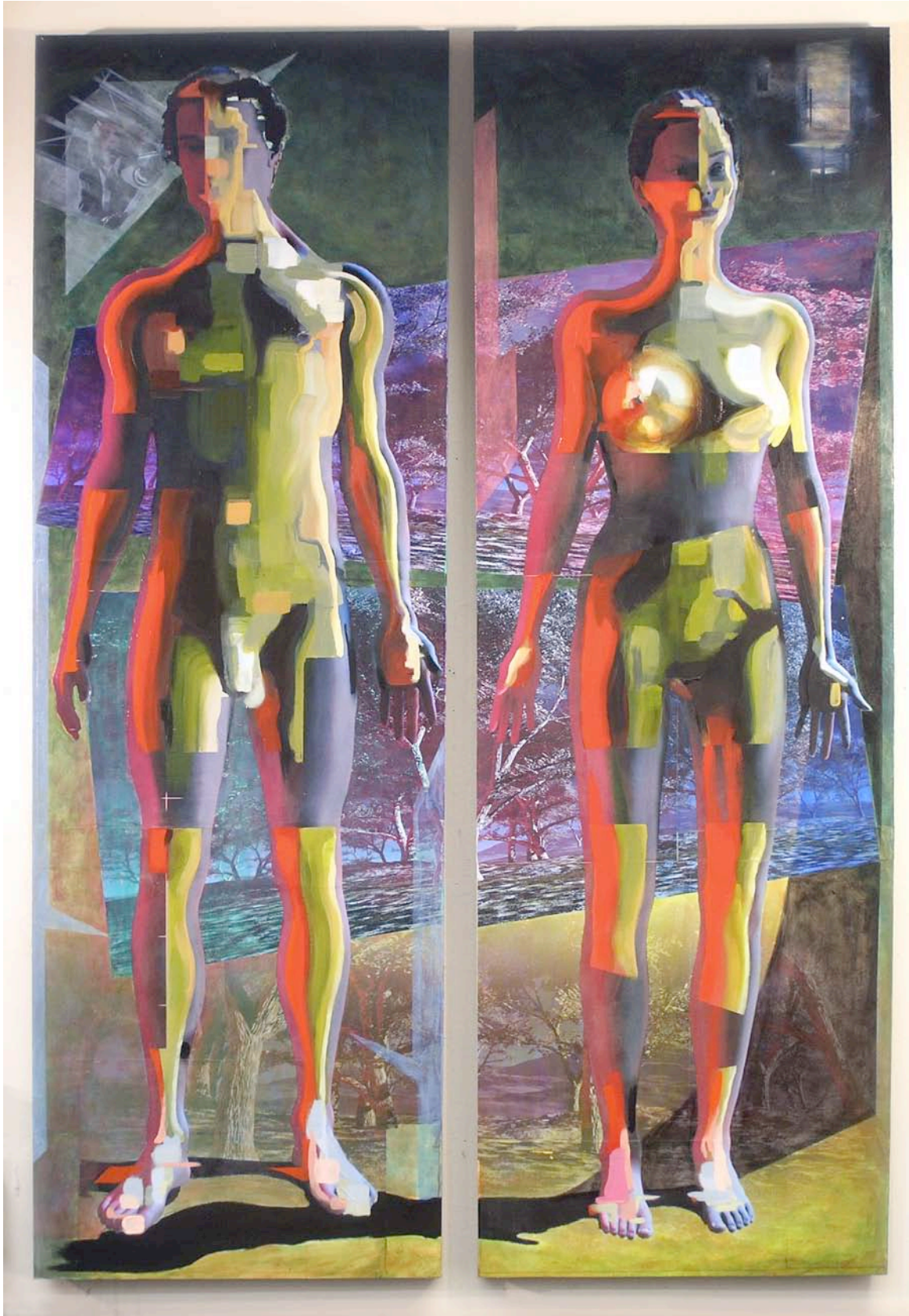


*Couple 3* Diptych, acrylic and digital prints on wood panels, 75" x 66"  
2007- 2008



*Couple 2*, acrylic, oil and digital prints on wood panel, 34" x 69"

2006



*Couple 1* Diptych, acrylic, oil and digital prints on wood panels 2006, 72" h.

## **Relevant Bibliography:**

Paul Tillich

- *Dynamics of Faith*, (1957)

Robert Pirsig

- *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. (1971)

Rudolf Otto

- *The Idea of the Holy*. (1917)

Abraham Maslow

- *Religions, Values and Peak Experiences*. (1964)

Carl Gustav Jung

- *Psychology and Religion*. (1961)
- *Man and His Symbols*. (1964)

Erich Fromm

- *The Art of Loving*. (1957)
- *Escape from Freedom* (1941)

Mircea Eliade

- *The Sacred and the Profane*. (1957)

Carlos Castaneda

- *The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge* (1968)
- *A Separate Reality: Further Conversations with Don Juan* (1971)
- *Journey to Ixtlan: The Lessons of Don Juan* (1972)
- *Tales of Power* (1975)

Additional Readings include but are not limited to works by:

Sigmund Freud, Aldous Huxley, Richard Bach, Hermann Hesse, Kurt Vonnegut, Martin Buber, Émile Durkheim, Jean Paul Sartre, Plato