

## **Blood Lilies Series (from 2018 onwards)**

The *Blood Lilies* series is an exercise in capturing raw emotion through painting. The initial sketch works for this intuitively took on plant like forms. The intention was to distance the result as much as possible from any specific physical entity, therefore the shapes have no detail to anchor them in reality.

The series has developed through repetition; constant experimentation with colour, scale, texture and layering. As each painting develops the previous layer suggests the starting point for the next, and each move is kept as fluid and undirected as possible. The act of painting this series is emotionally demanding, an attempt to reveal hidden feeling that even the artist may be unaware of. A method of creating a type of automatic painting, referencing the automatic writing practiced by spiritualists and intellectuals, Charles Dickens and W.B Yeats among them, in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The title Blood Lilies, refers to the visceral nature of the painting act. The lily is an abstract symbol, not a flower. It emanates from inside the body and the mind, which is why it is of blood.