## Abigail Villaroel

'Tonada de Orquídea Sangrante / Song of the Bleeding Orchid' (2025), Acrylic on canvas

Abigail Villarroel is a Venezuelan-born artist whose work explores themes of queerness, identity, and diaspora. Self-taught and shaped by the Midlands and Black Country's artistic communities, Abigail left corporate confines to embrace his passion for art.

Working fluidly in wet and dry mediums, his art is a reclamation of self and story.

In Tonada de Orquídea Sangrante / Song of the Bleeding Orchid, Abigail draws from Surrealist influences like Frida Kahlo, Salvador Dalí, and Emmy Bridgwater's A Red, Red Rose (1942). The piece

reflects the painful work of self-actualisation, confronting the traumas of queerness and immigration.

Its bleeding figure also evokes Venezuela's national flower, the orchid, and the longing of leaving a nation 17 years ago — a home, both loved and lost to authoritarian politics. From this orchidial purge, art leaps and ripples, a tree grows in the distance, a new life.

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