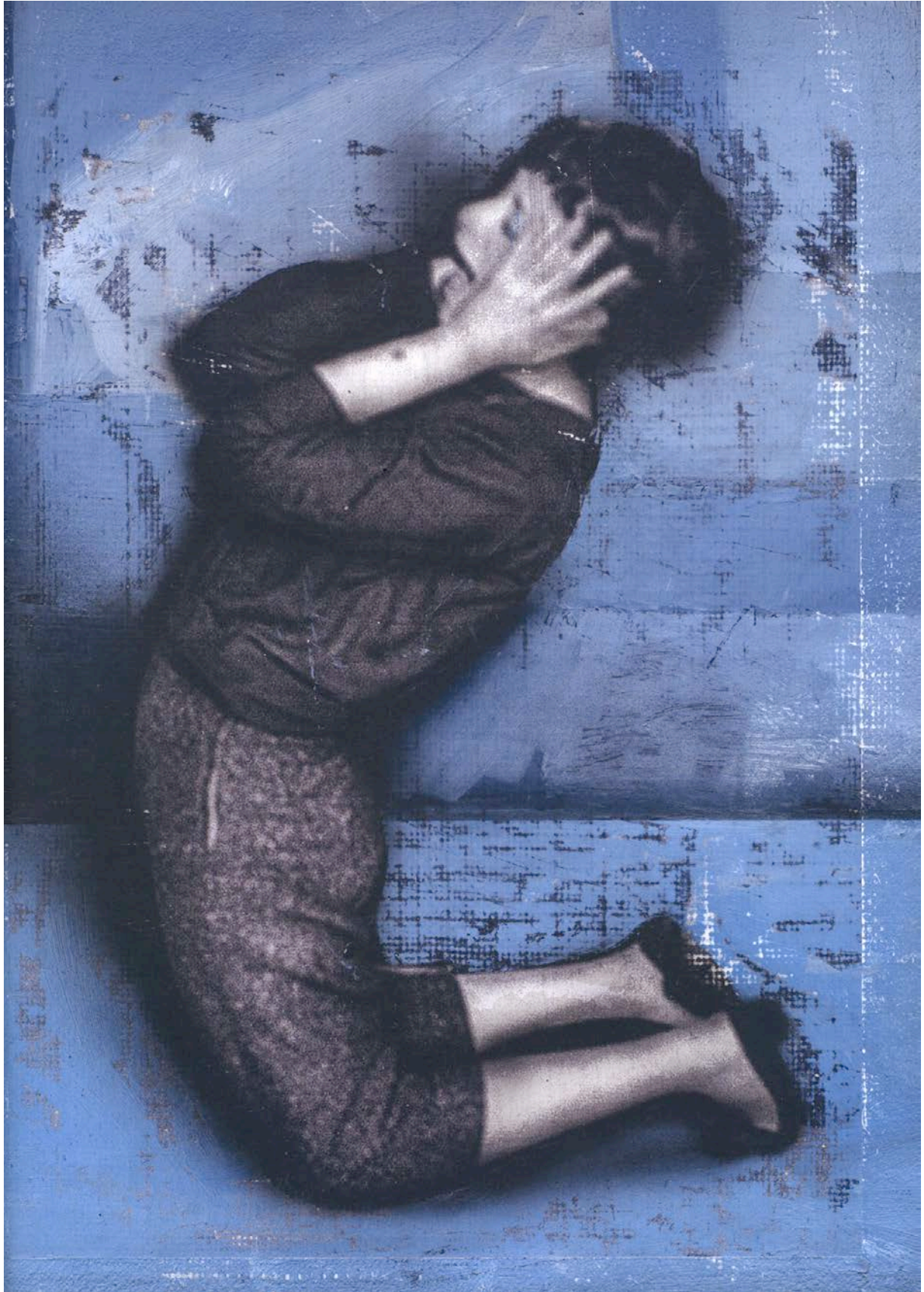


Yigit Tuna, 'Mircea Suci - Besieged By Fear - Romanian artist Mircea Suci makes portraits of a humanity that is struggling to escape, to break out of confinement, to withstand the burden of worries and guilt...'. 212 Guilt Issue, nr.8, Autumn/Winter 2019, p.100 – 111.

MIRCEA SUCIU

B E S I E G E D  
B Y F E A R

*Romanian artist Mircea Suci  
makes portraits of a humanity  
that is struggling to escape,  
to break out of confinement,  
to withstand the burden of worries  
and guilt...*









212  
BESIEGED BY FEAR

A sense of tension dominates Mircea Suci's works, which uniquely fuse photography and painting. His paintings focus on our reactions to our experiences of the past and the present, our daily fears, our weaknesses and other existential problems.

By casting light on these emotions, the artist attempts to expose our psychological struggles through bodies, hands and faces which have been convulsed by anxiety.

Suci takes us to terrifying and suffocating moments that make you want to shut your eyes. He feeds on conflict and different cultures. In a way, he forces us to face up to the realities of the world we live in. Incorporating elements from '40s and '50s advertisements campaigns, symbolism and black comedy, the artist's approach is ultimately sculpted by his past. Growing up in Communist Romania, witnessing the fall of the Iron Curtain and observing people's attempts at healing or normalising their wounded personal and cultural identities, developed his fascination with freedom and the different cultures of the world. This element is reflected directly in his work, shaping his technique and augmenting his determination.

As a young man heavily exposed to Soviet influence, America came to him as a desirable, new and different world. He learnt about New York from films. Martin Scorsese and Clint Eastwood were two main figures who shaped his fantasy world. Their films were guides for Suci to get insight into New York and its culture, even before setting foot in the city. But on arrival, the artist was exposed to the hidden realities and grave contradictions of the metropolis: "New York's reputation as the 'city that never sleeps' sounds interesting on the onset, but the moniker originates from the fact that most people have to work at more than one job to make a living, not because they party all the time. The majority have to suffer poverty for a selected few to enjoy a life of luxury." These observations led the artists to focus on invisible pressures and dilemmas with references to American culture. "I am trying to find a global perspective to what I do. My work is about a clash of cultures. Like the convergence of Europe and America."

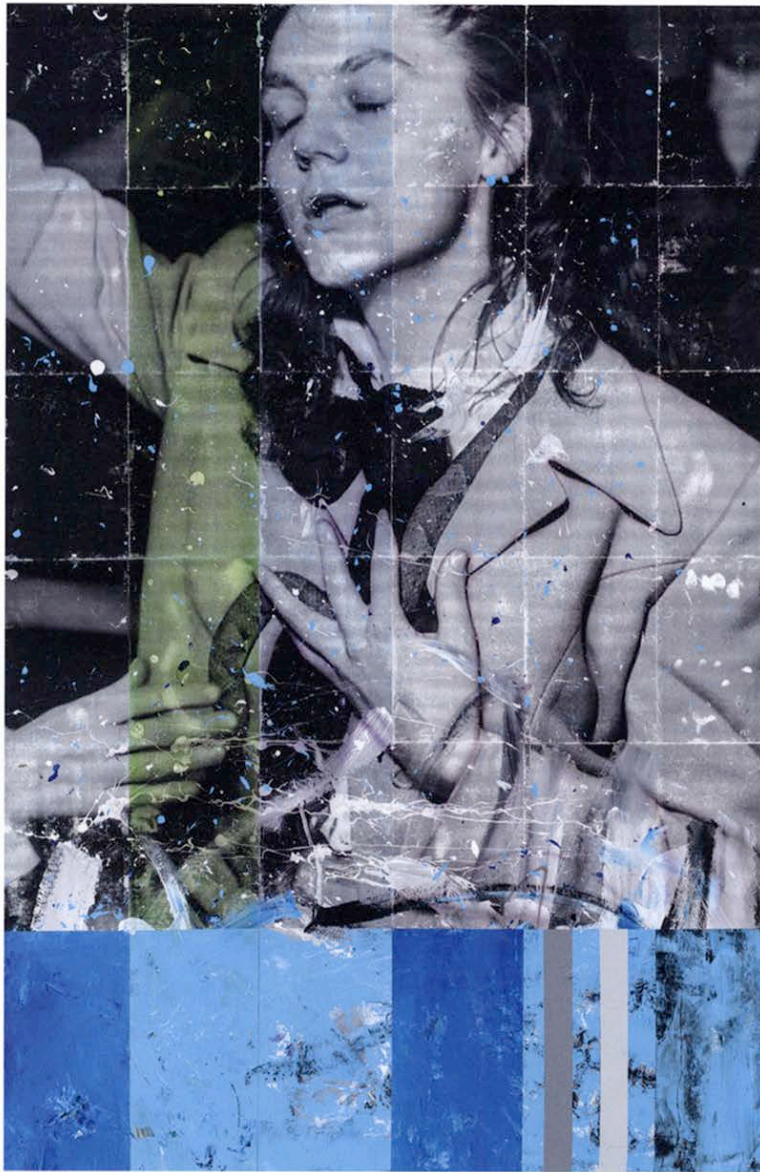
Suci's creative process starts with the paint he applies on canvas. This is followed by phases of destruction and reconstruction, which leave marks on the surface, adding depth to the narration. According to Suci, the key to creating a powerful and penetrating image is the effective merging of meaning and material. "A connection was established between photography and hyperreal painting, after a certain point in the history of art. So, I decided to merge these two realms. My concern is to create a better image," argues the artist, who uses a combination of techniques, ranging from painting, collage and photography to prints. There are occasions when he sees painting as a means of correcting or intensifying the impact of a photograph. He strengthens his compositions with historic references. Through his characters, the artist points to the emotional burden we try to sustain on our own.

Unlike the past, today we collectively bear and share this burden Suci points to. Our fears are no longer limited to the calamities suffered by ourselves or our loved ones, they are beyond the geography we live in. It takes tremendous effort to continue everyday life, in the face of the reality of the chilling images we see on our screens. Besides terrifying news about fundamentalism, nationalism and wars, we now feel anxiety about the future, as school-age children are taking to the streets to protest against issues like climate change. In short, modern life requires us to be braver and more determined in ways that Suci tries to demonstrate. We cannot hide from our fears, but there are always means of diversifying the resistance. ● ●

*Humanity (homage to Meredith Framton), 2018.*





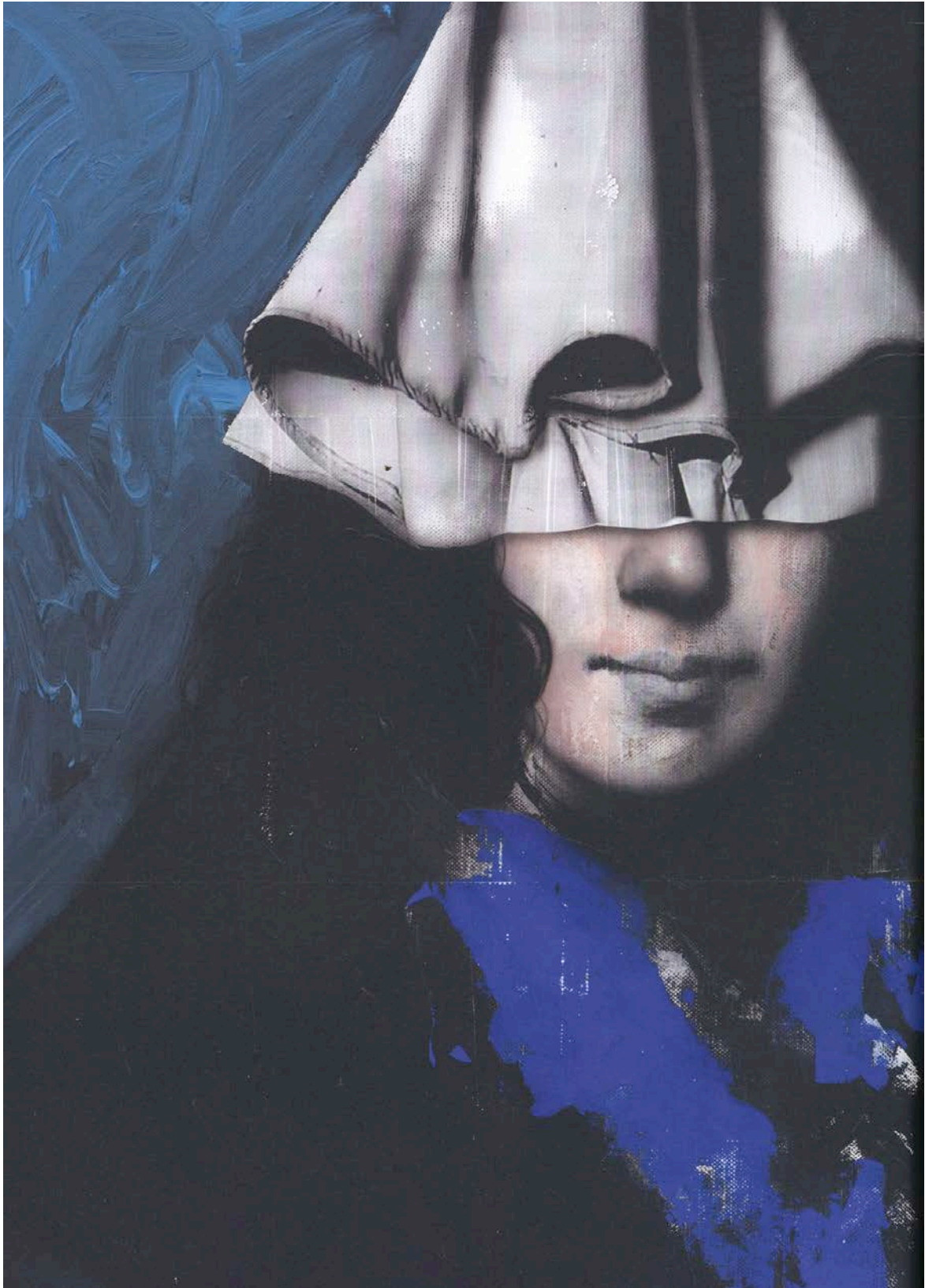


*On the left: Disintegration (Noumena series), 2016.*

*Above: Color palette (2), 2017.*







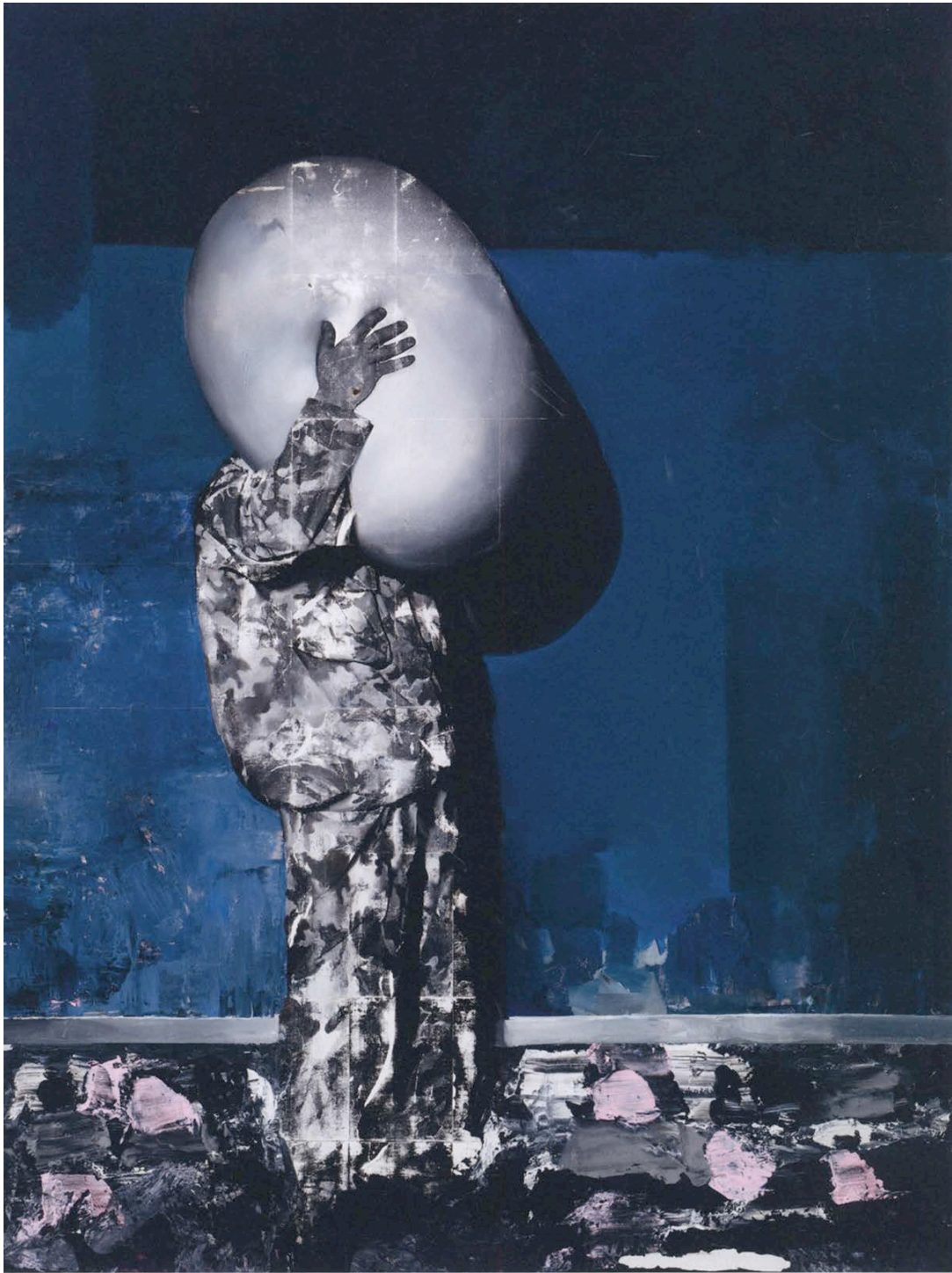




312  
BESIEGED BY FEAR

*The constant feeling of guilt (after Delacroix), 2018.*

108 + 109



*Above: Nostalgia (2), 2014.  
On the right: Mirroring (I), 2016.*



