

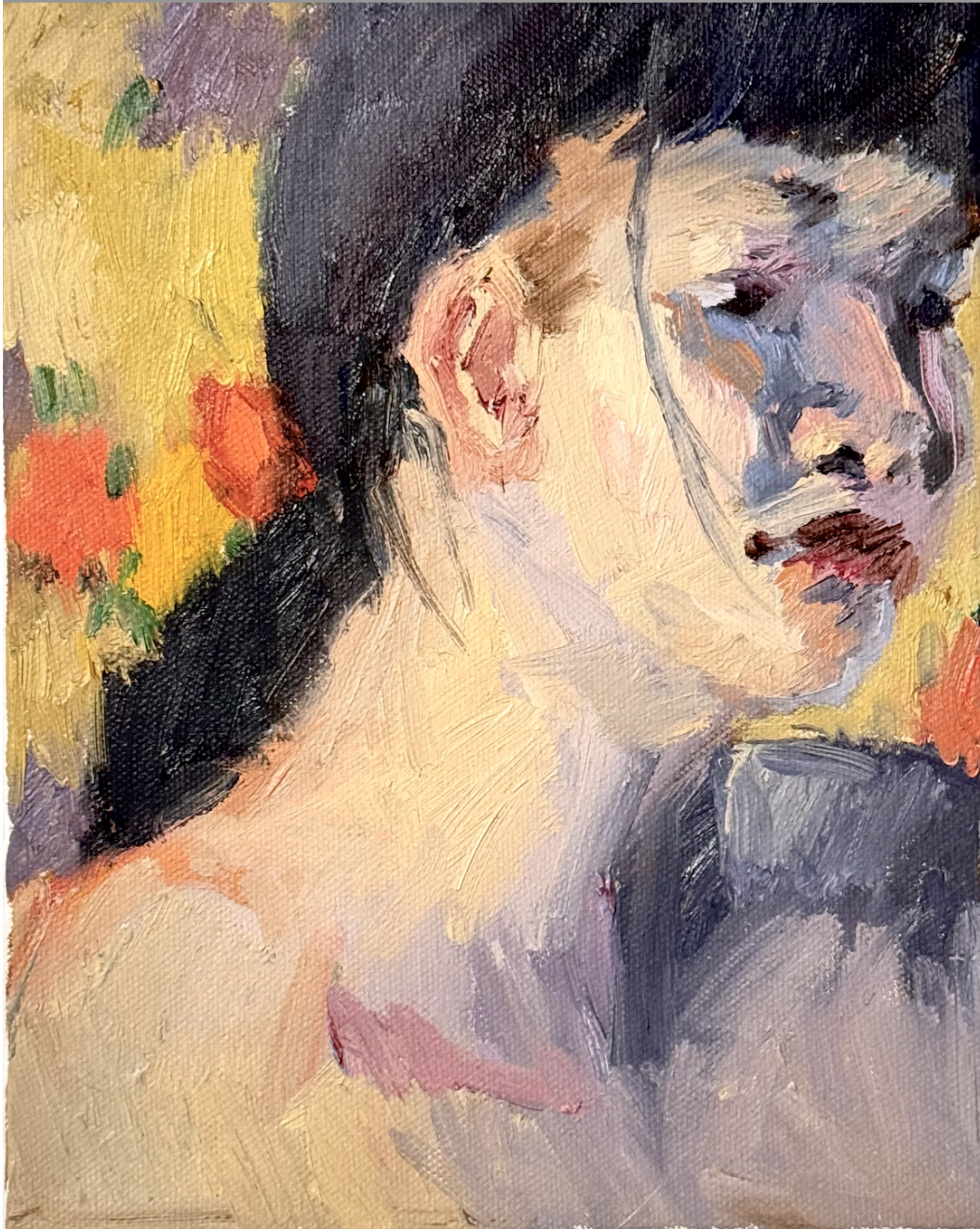
UNITITLED (PORTRAITS OF AN ASIAN WOMAN)

VIELA HU

B.A. Candidate in Art History & Visual Arts
Columbia University, Class of 2027

Artist Statement

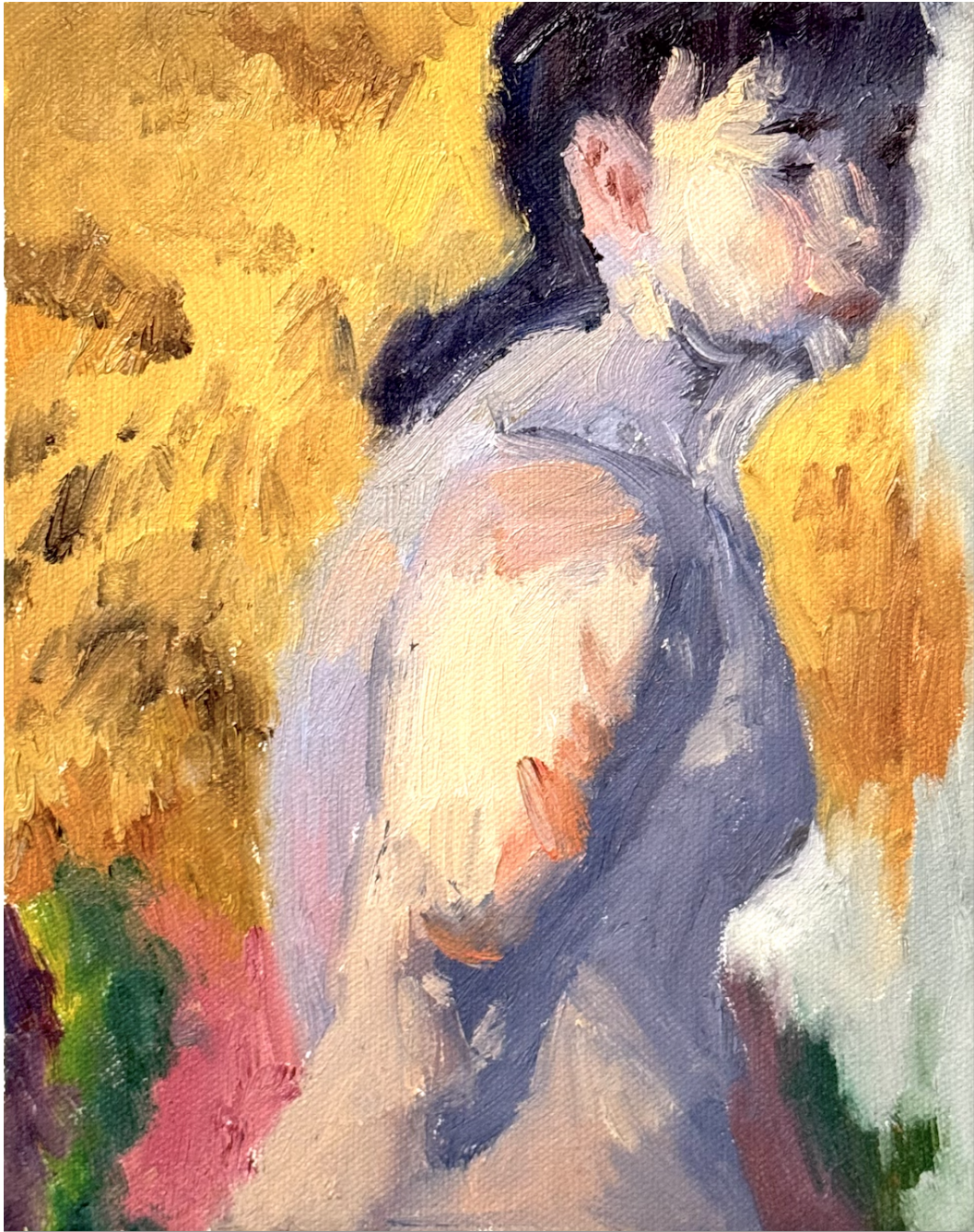
How to portray an Asian woman with a Western medium, imbued with its history of japonisme and orientalism: the stereotypes and fantasies of coy, petite female bodies? These questions were in the artist's mind after a visit to Boston to see impressionist and Manet's paintings that exhibited the fascination, stereotyping, and appropriation of Japanese art and culture. Painted during a live-modeling session, these two portraits have gestural brushstrokes that blur the nameless model's face, prioritizing presence over form and achieving a sense of undefinability of the woman's being. She appears in a state of flux, between motion and stillness, culture to culture, embodying the diasporic experience of creating an entirely new people through voyage, a people who are no longer defined by others in the West but are taking the brush to constantly redefine themselves.



Viela Hu, *Untitled (Portraits of an Asian Woman)* (2025)

Oil on Canvas

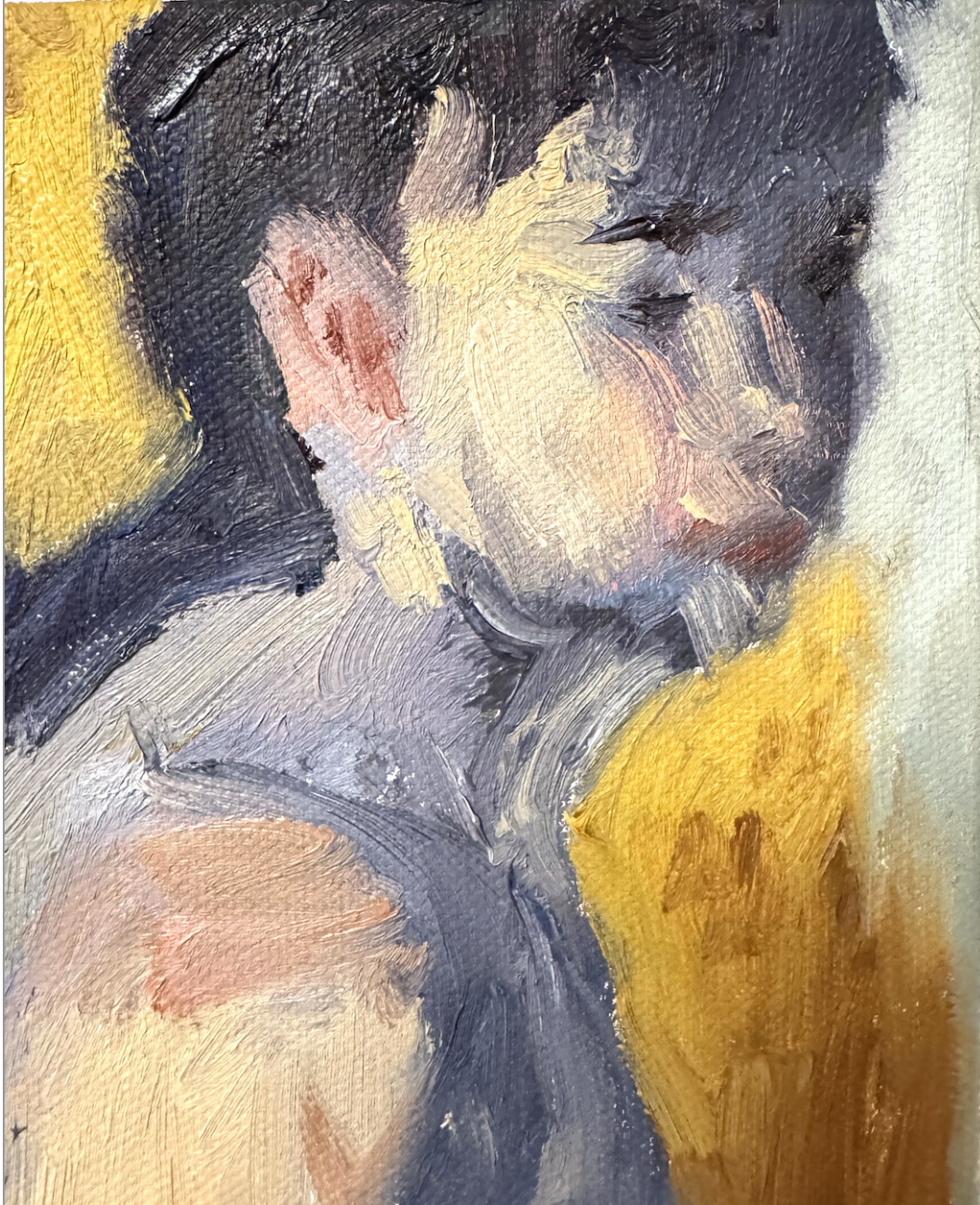
7 × 11 in.



Viela Hu, *Untitled (Portraits of an Asian Woman)* (2025)

Oil on Canvas

7 × 11 in.



Viela Hu, Close-up of *Untitled (Portraits of an Asian Woman)* (2025)

Oil on Canvas

7 × 11 in.