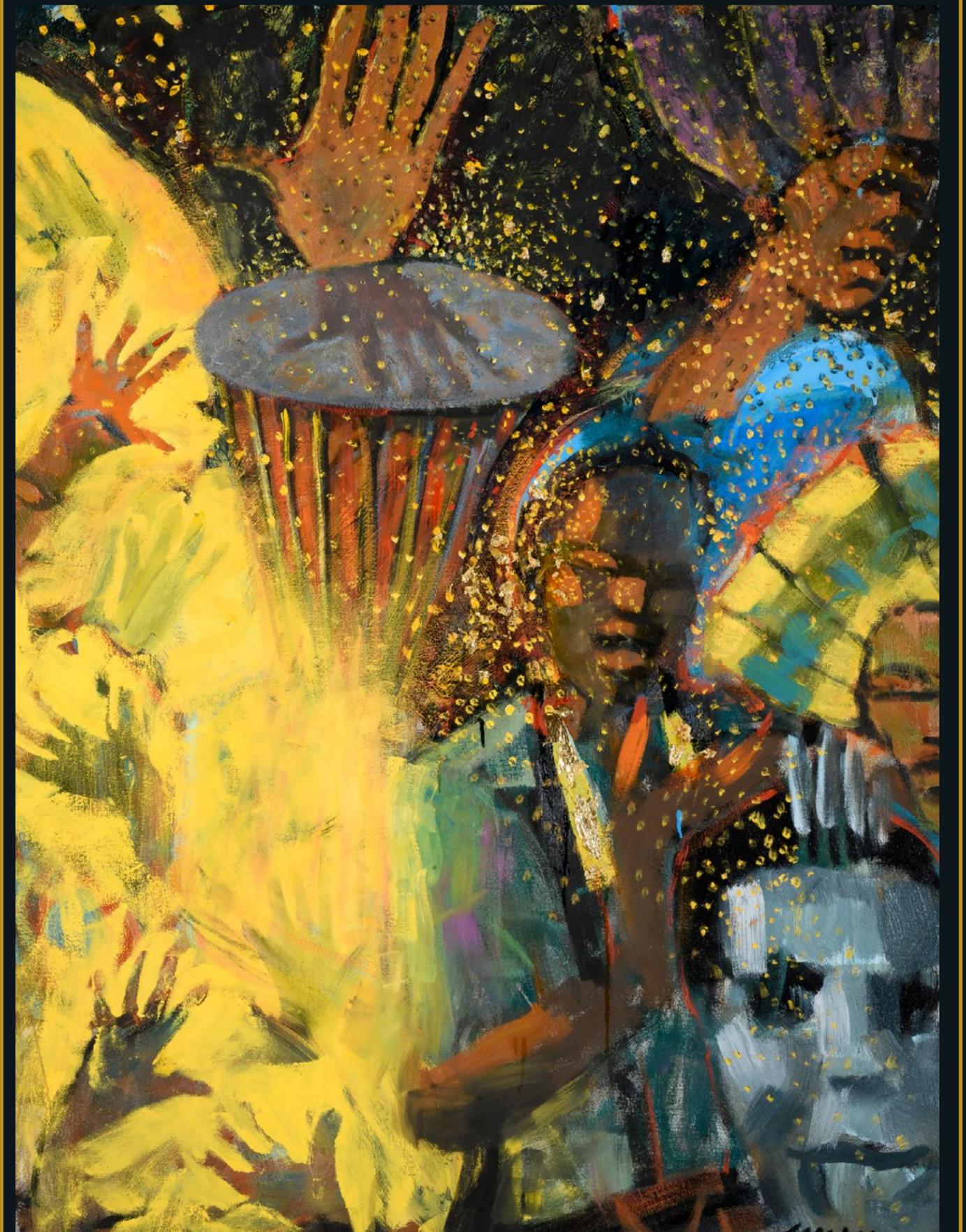


MARDI GRAS INDIANS



ROBERT FREEMAN AND MAX STERN







MARDI GRAS IN BOSTON ROBERT FREEMAN AND MAX STERN

Upon walking into Robert Freeman's studio for the first time since our last exhibition, I was stunned to see the evolution of his work, which was inspired by his recent trip to visit his friend, Max Stern, in New Orleans. The two encountered a parade of locals referred to as Mardi Gras Indians, familiar to Max, but completely foreign to Robert. The origin of these people started after the Civil War, when African American ex-slaves were taken in by Indigenous Americans.

The group melded African and Native American rituals, and have evolved into a community that is unique to New Orleans. Individuals in these local tribes will spend an entire year creating their elaborate outfits, which are rarely worn more than once. These locals emitted a passion that Robert and Max could not help but record.

The canvases are bursting with color and the figures seem to dance off the edges of the canvas. Freeman has taken a bold

Max Stern

MAN WITH WHITE AND PINK FEATHERS

2017, Digital photography, 15 x 16 1/2 inches, 1/15

new approach to his painting by adding ostrich feathers as well as gold leaf to represent the elaborate "suits" worn by the Mardi Gras Indians. Looking at Freeman's new paintings transports me to a place I have never been, yet as with his other series, these anonymous figures seem to invite me to participate. The loud and energetic paintings appear fictional until they are put into context with the photography of Max Stern.

The photographs are more than documentation. Each image carefully captures the emotional expression of these subjects. Stern expertly focuses his lens towards plumes of feathers, beads, and a cacophony of assembled decorations that make up the elaborate garb worn by the Mardi Gras Indians of New Orleans. The figures are larger-than-life, and Stern makes it clear that the people he snapshots are just as important as the suits they inhabit. Freeman's paintings illustrate movement and energy while Stern's photography reveals the individuals that are responsible for this ritual and the intricacy of craftsmanship in their suits. Both paintings and photography are integral to understanding this distinctive sect of North American culture.

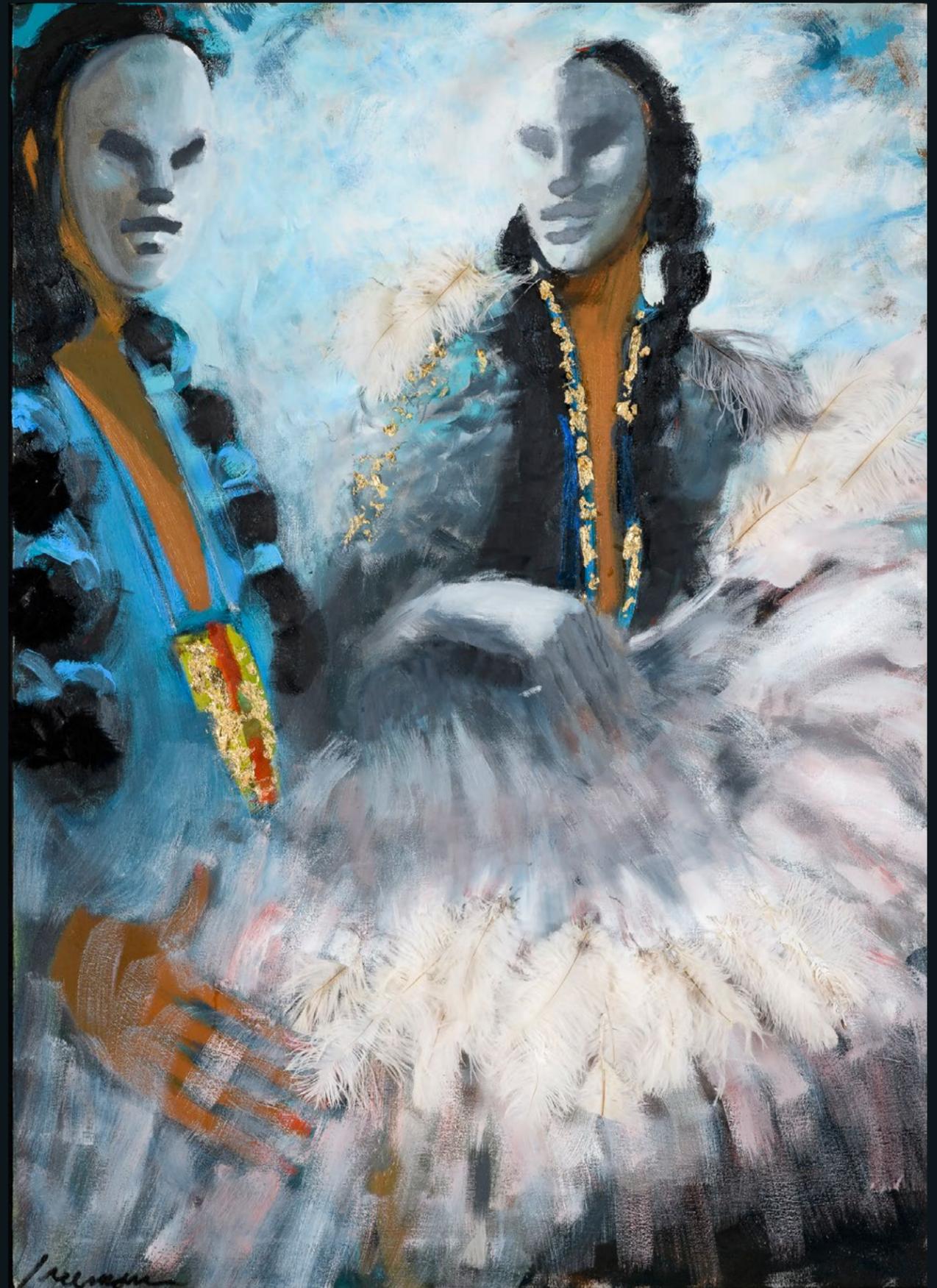
I have curated the exhibition of these two artists to bring New Orleans and Mardi Gras to Boston this March.

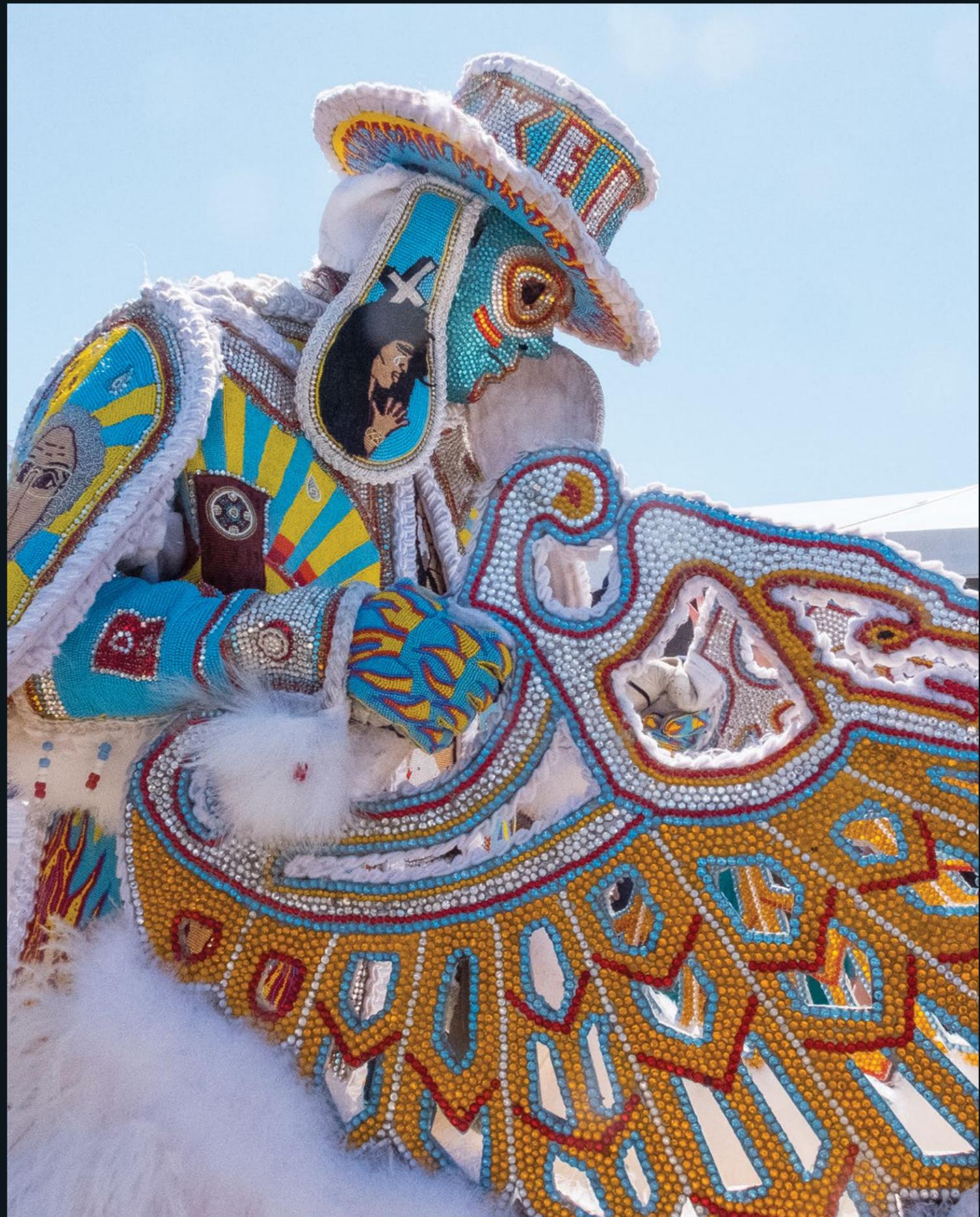
MARDI GRAS INDIANS
Robert Freeman & Max Stern
Adelson Galleries Boston
March 2 – April 29, 2018

From March 2 – April 29, 2018 Adelson Galleries Boston presents MARDI GRAS INDIANS an exhibition of new works by painter Robert Freeman and photographer Max Stern that celebrates a history of New Orleans parades coinciding with the City's 300th anniversary.

Robert Freeman
GOLDEN PENDANT

2017
Oil and gold leaf on canvas
56 x 40 inches





Max Stern
BEADED SUIT
2017
Digital photography
19 1/2 x 16 inches
1/15



Max Stern
MAN WITH YELLOW FEATHERS
2017
Digital photography
19 3/4 x 14 inches
1/15



Max Stern
MAN WITH PISTOL HEADDRESS
2017
Digital photography
39 3/4 x 26 1/2 inches
1/8



Max Stern
MAN WITH PURPLE FEATHERS
2017
Digital photography
19 1/2 x 16 inches
1/15



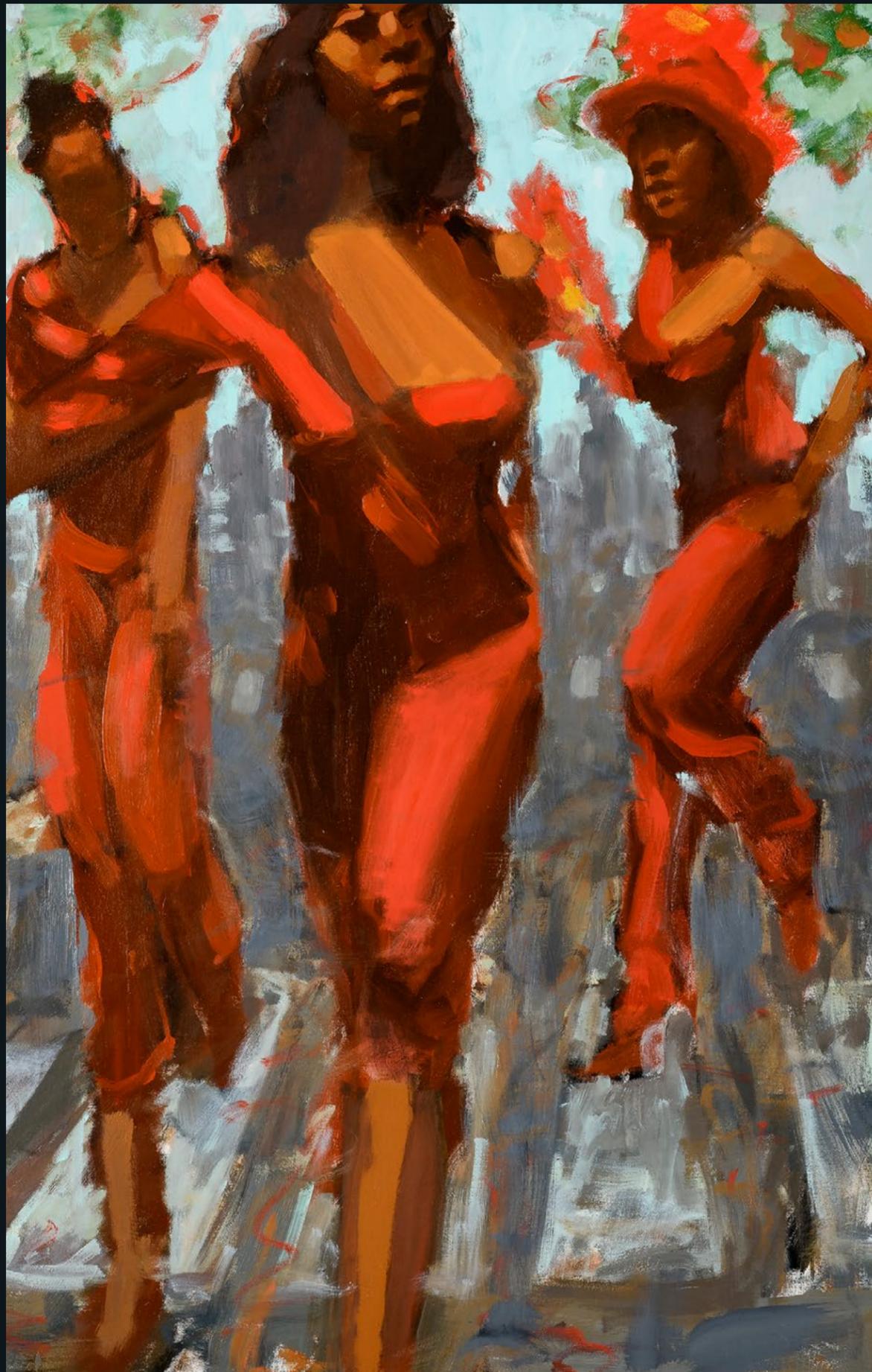
Max Stern
WOMAN WITH WHITE AND GOLD HEADDRESS
2017
Digital photography
16 x 14 inches
1/15



Max Stern
MAN WITH YELLOW
AND GREEN HEADDRESS
2017
Digital photography
15 x 19 3/4 inches
1/15

Max Stern
MAN WITH GREEN FEATHERS
2017
Digital photography
19 3/4 x 13 1/2 inches
1/15





Robert Freeman
RED DRESSES
2017
Oil on canvas
60 x 40 inches



Robert Freeman

FLIGHT

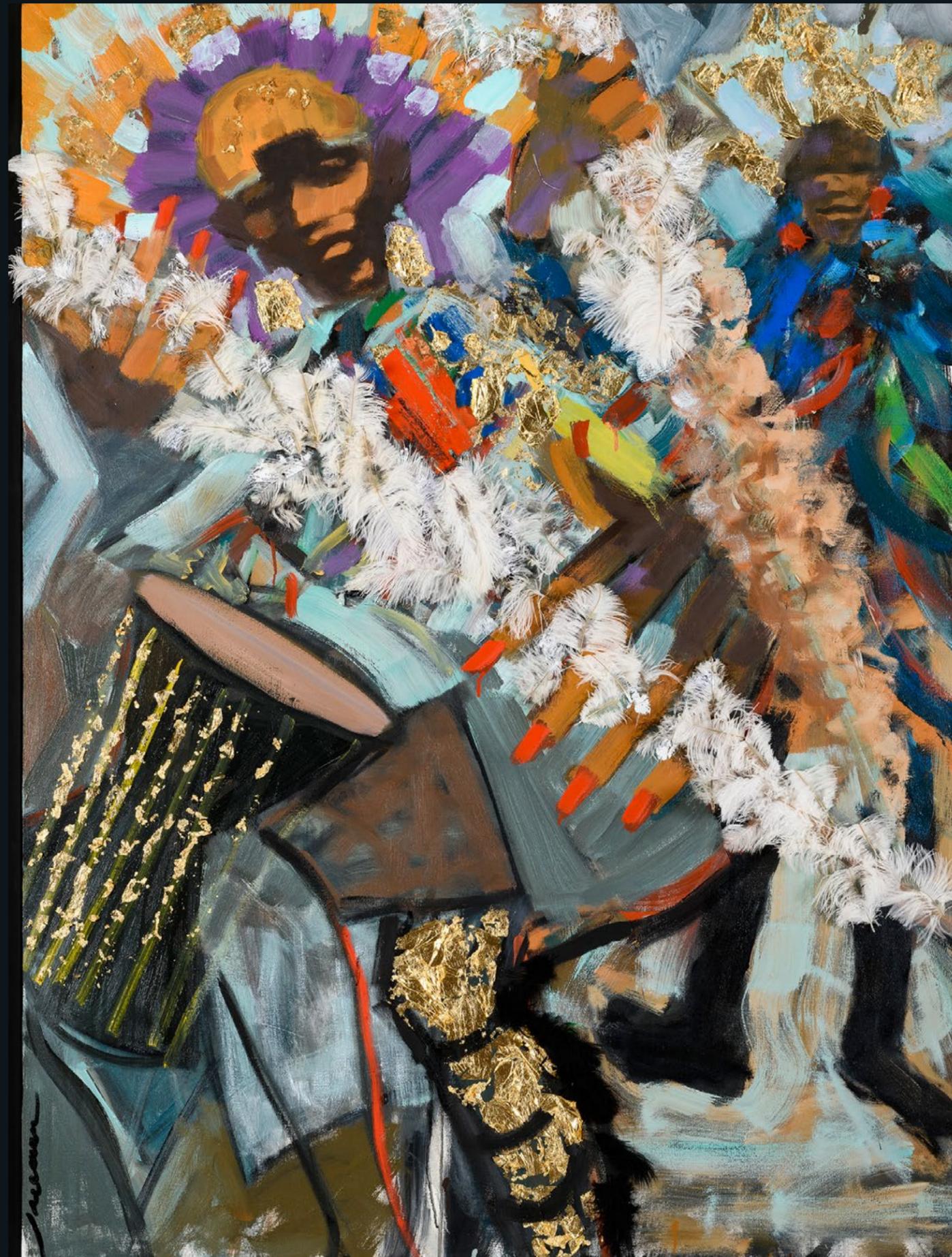
2017

Oil, gold leaf, and ostrich feathers on canvas

36 x 24 inches



Robert Freeman
CELESTIAL DRUMS
2017
Oil and gold leaf on canvas
36 x 26 inches



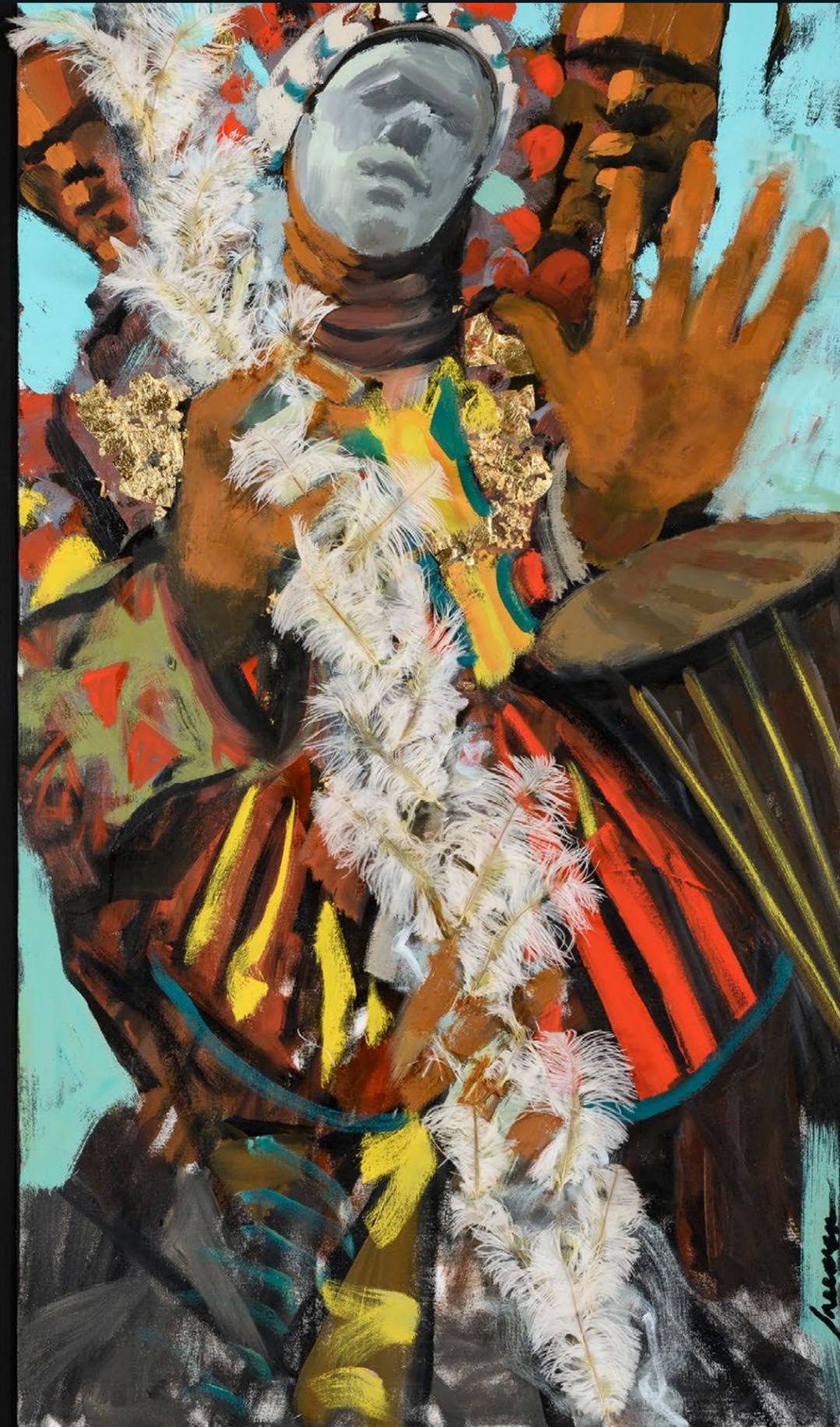
Robert Freeman

GOLDEN LEG

2017

Oil, gold leaf, and ostrich feathers on canvas

68 x 50 inches



Robert Freeman
SPIRIT FIGURE

2017

Oil, gold leaf, and ostrich feathers on canvas

58 x 34 inches



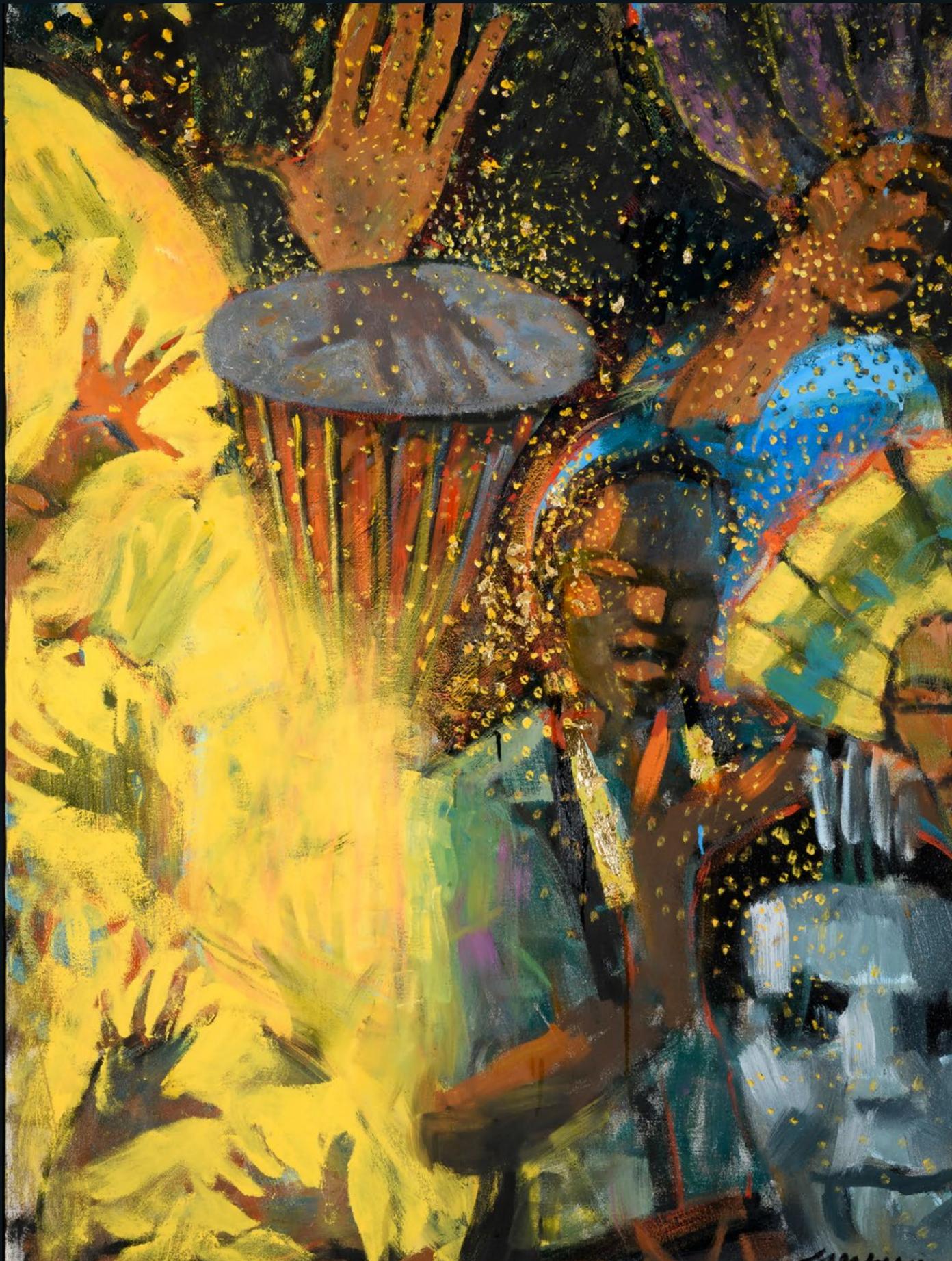
Robert Freeman

MARDI GRAS INDIANS

2017

Oil, gold leaf, and ostrich feathers on canvas

60 x 46 inches



Robert Freeman
ABUNDANT LIFE
2017
Oil, gold leaf, on canvas
58 x 44 inches

Robert Freeman

36.	ABUNDANT LIFE —————	\$18,000
	BABY DOLLS, DIPTYCH*	\$9,000 <small>each</small>
28.	CELESTIAL DRUMS	\$9,000
26.	FLIGHT	\$9,000
30.	GOLDEN LEG	\$22,000
9.	GOLDEN PENDANT HEADRESS*	\$18,000 \$9,000
34.	MARDI GRAS INDIANS	\$20,000
24.	RED DRESS	\$18,000
32.	SPIRIT FIGURE	\$16,000

Max Stern

11.	MAN WITH BEADED SUIT —————	\$1,500
23.	MAN WITH GREEN FEATHERS	\$1,500
15.	MAN WITH PISTOL HEADDRESS	\$5,000
17.	MAN WITH PURPLE FEATHERS	\$5,000
6.	MAN WITH WHITE AND PINK FEATHERS	\$1,500
21.	MAN WITH YELLOW AND GREEN HEADDRESS	\$1,500
13.	MAN WITH YELLOW FEATHERS	\$1,500
19.	WOMAN WITH WHITE AND GOLD HEADDRESS	\$1,500

*Not shown in catalog

