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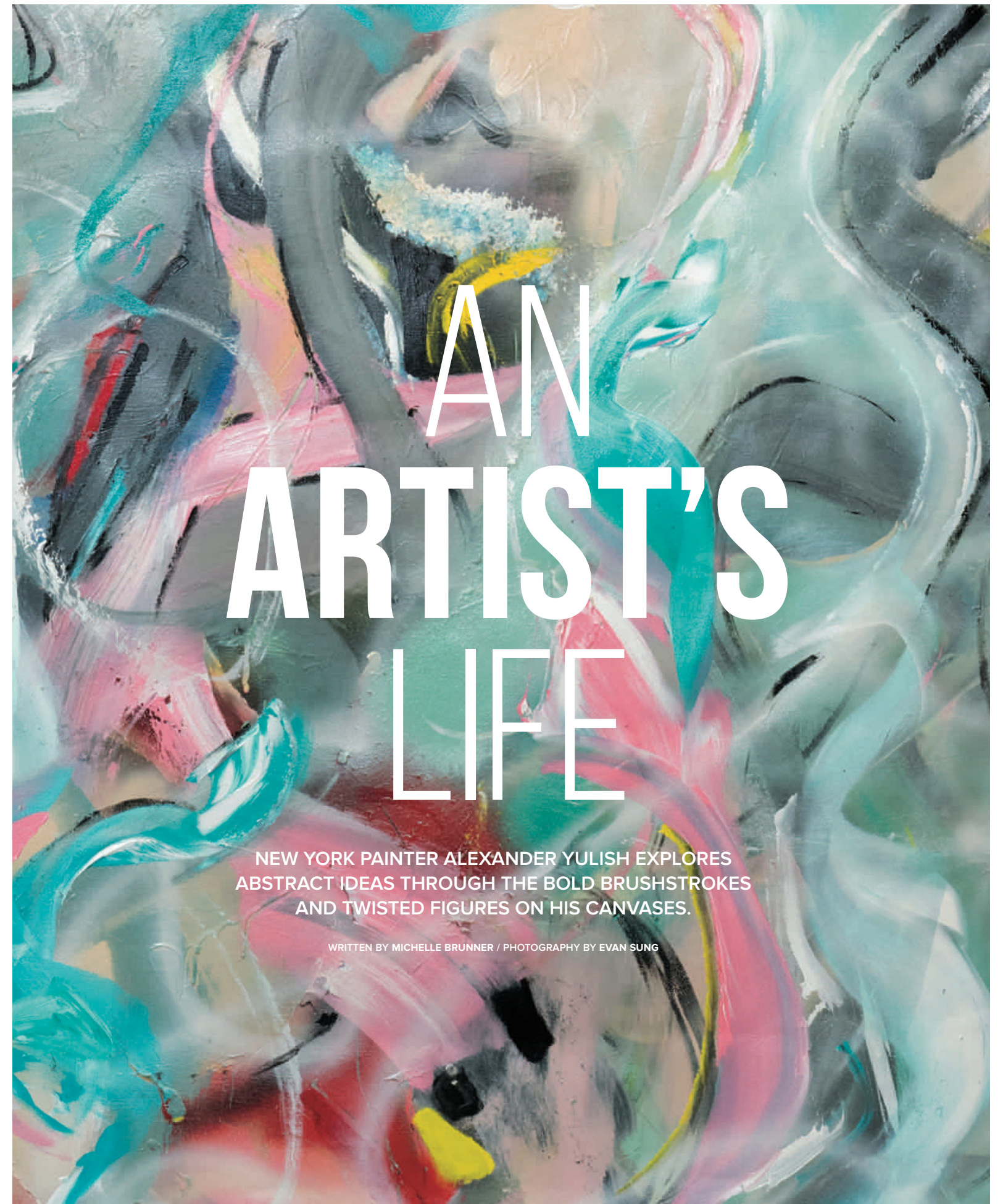
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AN ARTIST'S LIFE

NEW YORK PAINTER ALEXANDER YULISH EXPLORES
ABSTRACT IDEAS THROUGH THE BOLD BRUSHSTROKES
AND TWISTED FIGURES ON HIS CANVASES.

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE BRUNNER / PHOTOGRAPHY BY EVAN SUNG

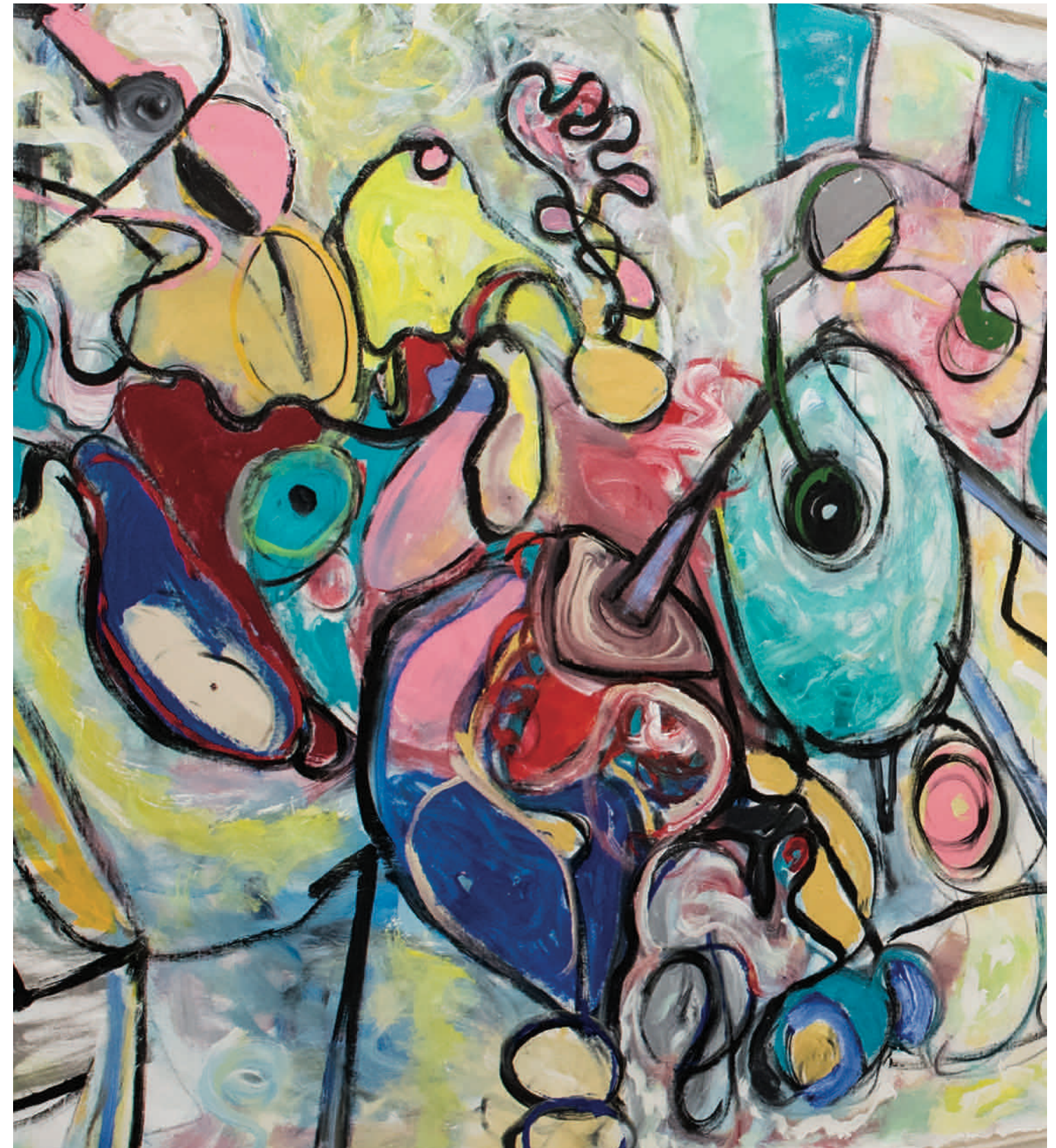
Painter Alexander Yulish (shown on previous spread) finds inspiration for his bold, colorful works in his everyday surroundings. Shown opposite is one of his pieces, *Dining Alone*.



It shouldn't come as a surprise that passion and purposefulness are both hallmarks of painter Alexander Yulish's work. The New York-based artist doesn't do anything in half measures, a quality he attributes to his mother, famed illustrator and sculptor Barbara Pearlman. "She used to say, 'Whatever you do, fully commit to the first line. If you put your heart into it, something will happen,'" says Yulish. So, for him, every brushstroke is there for a reason.

That same intensity and commitment was on view in his most recent exhibition, "Out of Order," which took place at the Ace Gallery Los Angeles. In the series, intricate color arrangements create both harmony and discord, revealing swirling abstract figurative forms that impart an air of tension on the canvases. Even the title is open to multiple interpretations. "The phrase 'out of order' could mean something that is broken, or out of place, or even off-base," says Yulish. "The universe is filled with such beauty and chaos, so what does that mean for something to be out of order—that question intrigues me." The series also represents a move away from the more straightforward figurative paintings that were indicative of the artist's earlier work. "My journey at this moment has taken me to a place where I want to experiment with more abstract thoughts and forms," he says.

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Yulish at work in his Manhattan studio on an unfinished piece yet to be titled. Another of his paintings, *Midnight*, is shown opposite, right.



“HAVING AN ARTIST AS A MOTHER HAD AN IMMEASURABLE IMPACT ON ME.”

Yulish’s journey began when he started painting as a young child; by the time he was a teenager, he grew more serious about art. “That’s when my mother started to teach me about color and how to render things like hands—all the fundamentals you need to learn before you can find your own voice,” he says. Even so, he was apprehensive about pursuing a career in fine art, choosing instead to major in English at Connecticut College before eventually coming back to painting years later. “Having an artist as a mother had an immeasurable impact on me,” he says. “Deciding to follow this path was intimidating because of the fear of taking on a legacy. Inevitably, I think when your voice is loud enough, that’s all that matters. I’ve been painting since the very beginning; I just decided I had to own it.”

Among his influences, Yulish cites artists Jackson Pollock, Willem De Kooning and

Francis Bacon, as well as architect John Lautner, but even the work of such modern icons doesn’t compare to the sheer wonder of the material world, which holds endless allure for Yulish. “In every moment, I find myself looking at things like the color of the floor and the red hue of the coffee table, how the sun’s hitting the room a certain way,” he says.

Though the native New Yorker is bicoastal these days, calling both New York City and Los Angeles home with his wife and muse, interior designer Nicole Fuller, he still finds inspiration in his hometown. “It just feels different from any other place in the world,” he says. “You look at the concrete and realize there’s a whole world underneath it.” For Yulish, the key is to remain constantly open to his surroundings. “There’s just so much to take in if you’re open to it,” he says. “You’re filled to the brim every second of the day. Painting is just a way to release it.”