

DANCING

in the
LIGHT

solo exhibition by
Niam Mawornkanong

18.05 -- 22.06.2025
at Joyman Gallery

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation



"Dancing in the Light"

solo exhibition by Niam Mawornkanong

When an artist opens a space in the heart to become a stage of light and color, a polar bear dances to the rhythm of spirit and breath ...

"... I like watching polar bears. I like imagining a polar bear rolling around in a vast snowy field, living a simple and peaceful life—no phone notifications, no tax forms to file, no PM 2.5 dust, no sweltering heat.

When I search for polar bears online, the top images are usually popular ones. You'll find heartwarming polar bear families in the snow, or funny poses turned into memes. Sometimes, I need to dig deeper to find images that truly resonate with me. I save those in a separate, organized folder—like a fan collecting celebrity photos.

I draw polar bears based on those images I've collected. But the problem is, I don't know exactly what shade of white their fur is. Is it like dog fur or sheep wool? Is it soft or coarse? That's when I realized—I've never actually seen a polar bear in real life.

Looking back, all the polar bears I've seen come from photography, filtered through tools and devices. Those images were chosen by complex algorithms, transmitted as electrical signals that activate millions of tiny light bulbs under a screen to emit light—green, red, and blue pixels flashing together to create white. But there is no soul in that light. There is no polar bear. It's our own spirit that dances and cries out in the glow..."

Artist Statement
Niam Mawornkanong, 2025

Dancing in the Light, the 10th solo exhibition by artist Niam Mawornkanong, aligns with his life experiences and the spirit of the times. In an era where images move rapidly and information overwhelms, the artist seeks to slow the heart, to gently sharpen the inner vision. It's not about whether the image is perfect—but rather realizing that the image is the truth of the heart.

In this exhibition, the artist boldly employs a range of painting techniques to evoke diverse perceptions—demonstrating his active engagement with evolving knowledge. He does not stagnate. He explores with primary colors and luminous overlays, casting the polar bear in astonishing atmospheres of light and shadow. He subtly uses digital primaries—RGB—to craft images that are soft, elusive, and misty, with no extraneous symbols cluttering the composition. This minimalism reflects the artist's courage in letting go of what is unnecessary, preserving only the essence he wishes to convey.

Also featured in *Dancing in the Light* is a special series titled "White Dust," created during a time when the artist began to question the hyper-real clarity of screen-based information. For him, that perfection felt empty. What he truly longed for were the remembered images of the past—rich with imagination and joy.

If *Dancing in the Light* is a stage for timeless dances of light and color, then *White Dust* is a rhythm of awakening—stirring with vitality and urgency, evoking the intrigue of distant memories and inner reflections.

As always, Niam's work invites viewers to ascend the staircase of perception. The beauty of his paintings is the first step—a lure leading through the gateway of consciousness to search for images within one's own inner world. The polar bear, and other animals, become symbols of an unspoken truth: that the empty spaces in our hearts are vast, and we endlessly seek something to fill them. Nature, dreams, and imagination become boundless realms of healing.



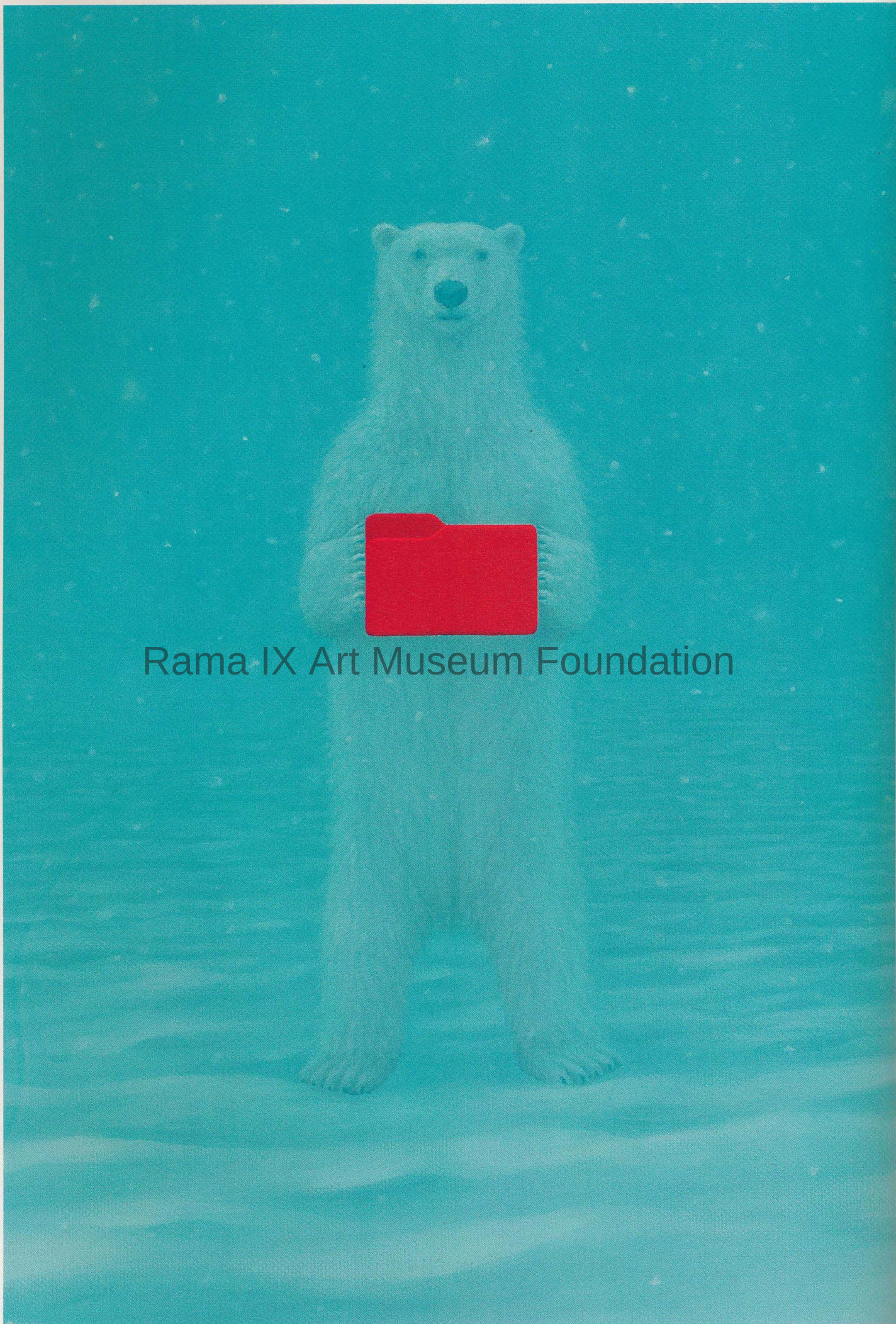
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Secret Folder, No. 1
2024

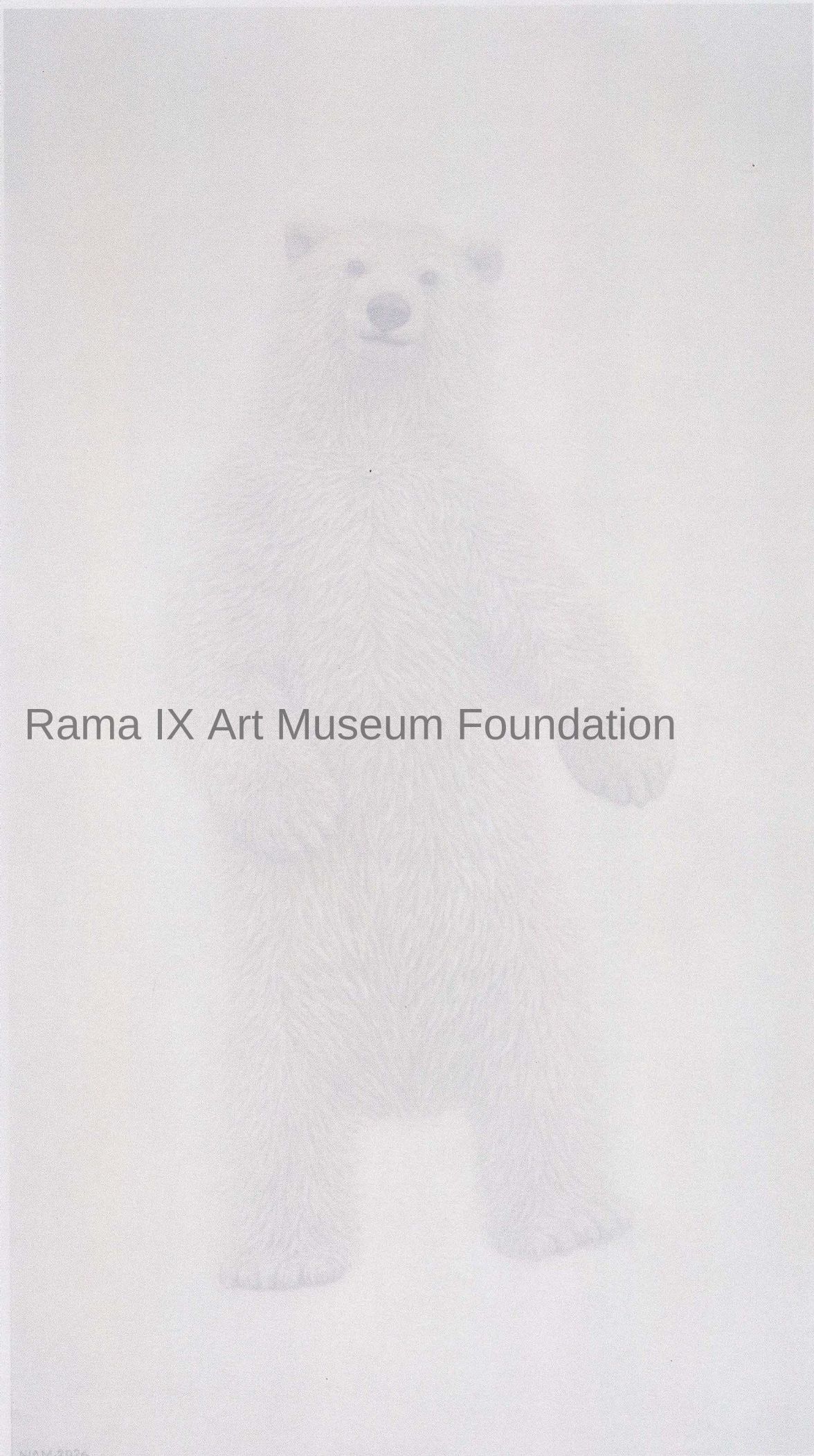
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 170 cm



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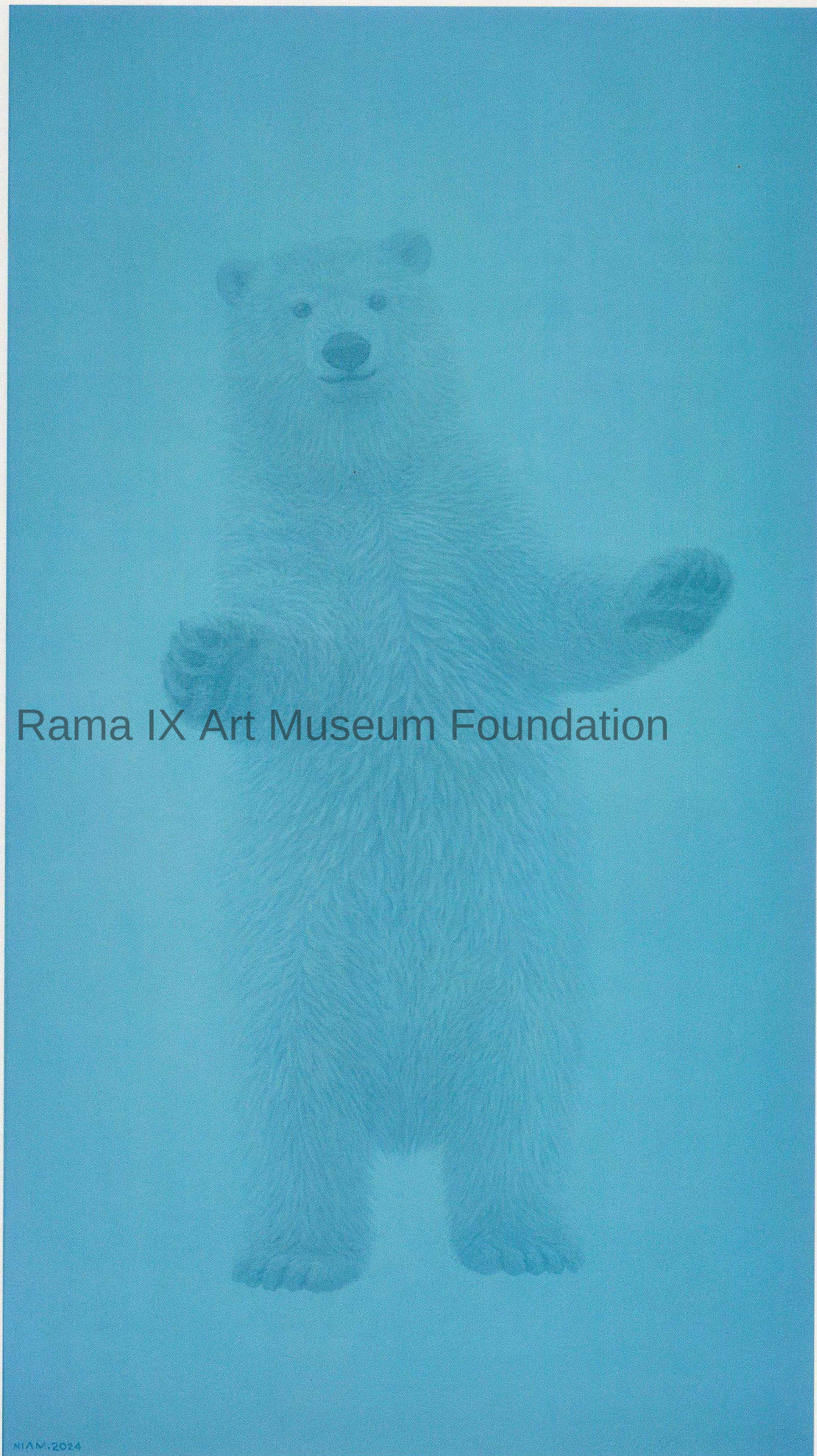


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7 steps to know yourself, No. 1, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 160 cm

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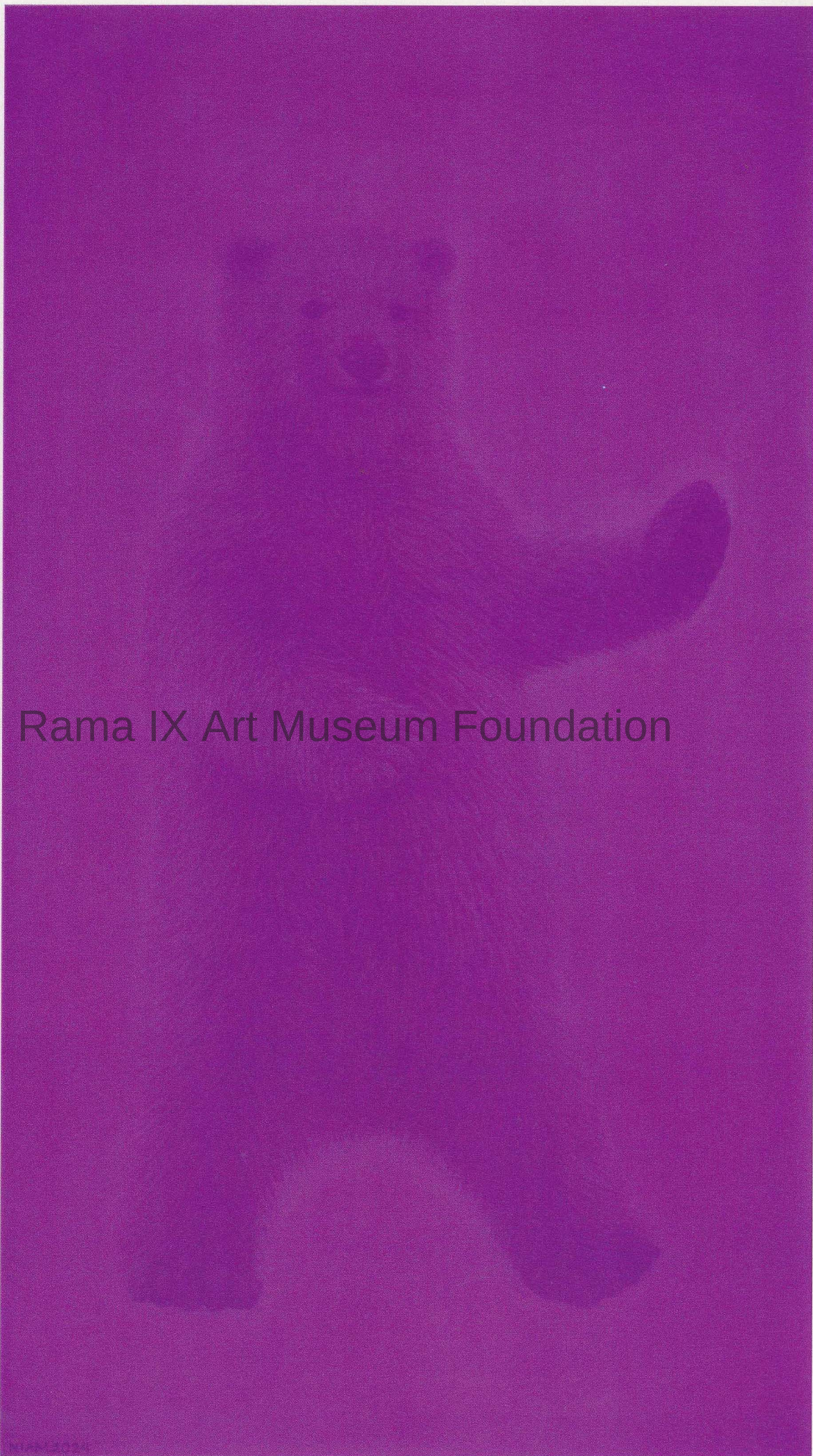
7 steps to know yourself, No. 2, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 160 cm



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NIAM, 2024

7 steps to know yourself, No. 3, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 160 cm



7 steps to know yourself, No. 5, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 160 cm

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7 steps to know yourself, No. 6, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 160 cm