

Simon Lewty

Works for The London Art Fair,

Business Design Centre, Upper St, Islington N1 OGH.

21 – 26 January 2020

Approaches to an Ancient Fair, 1995, has not been seen since it was exhibited that year in Simon Lewty's solo exhibition *Voices From Lost Fields* at Art First's Cork Street gallery. The tall slim drawing (245.7 x 39.4cm) is a Midlands palimpsest of sorts with various scenes showing urban brickwork walls, industrial chimneys, a raised motorway and mysterious arches, carefully drawn in black ink and set within lined margins. There are suburban scenes too, with bungalows and a kneeling reindeer in a field, then a cluster of bathing huts with raindrops and stylised sea scrolls, below which we are presented with four puppets, waiting perhaps for a coconut to come hurtling towards them.

These vignettes float over passages of text, some of which are illegible, so that we only have hints of the comings and goings within the broken narrative – *"when we return home you can tell us all that happened. I am sure you did all that was expected of you...."*

From another section, *"there is a moon and a diamond and a sun and a flash of lightning, a name and a stupidly gazing head.....there is Venus and a door and a window and another door which has been barred....I have seen these, I have seen them all."*

The work has something of an ancient manuscript about it yet it is familiar, with references to the everyday, to approaches to a fair, an ancient fair full of mystery. Shades of Joyce, Beckett and Tolkien, but in the end, uniquely Lewty with his own stream of consciousness and countless references to Middle England, his home and source of inspiration over a life time.



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www.artfirst.co.uk

Simon Lewty

ART FIRST



Approaches to an Ancient Fair
1995
Acrylic and ink on paper
245.5 x 39.5 cm
£25,000

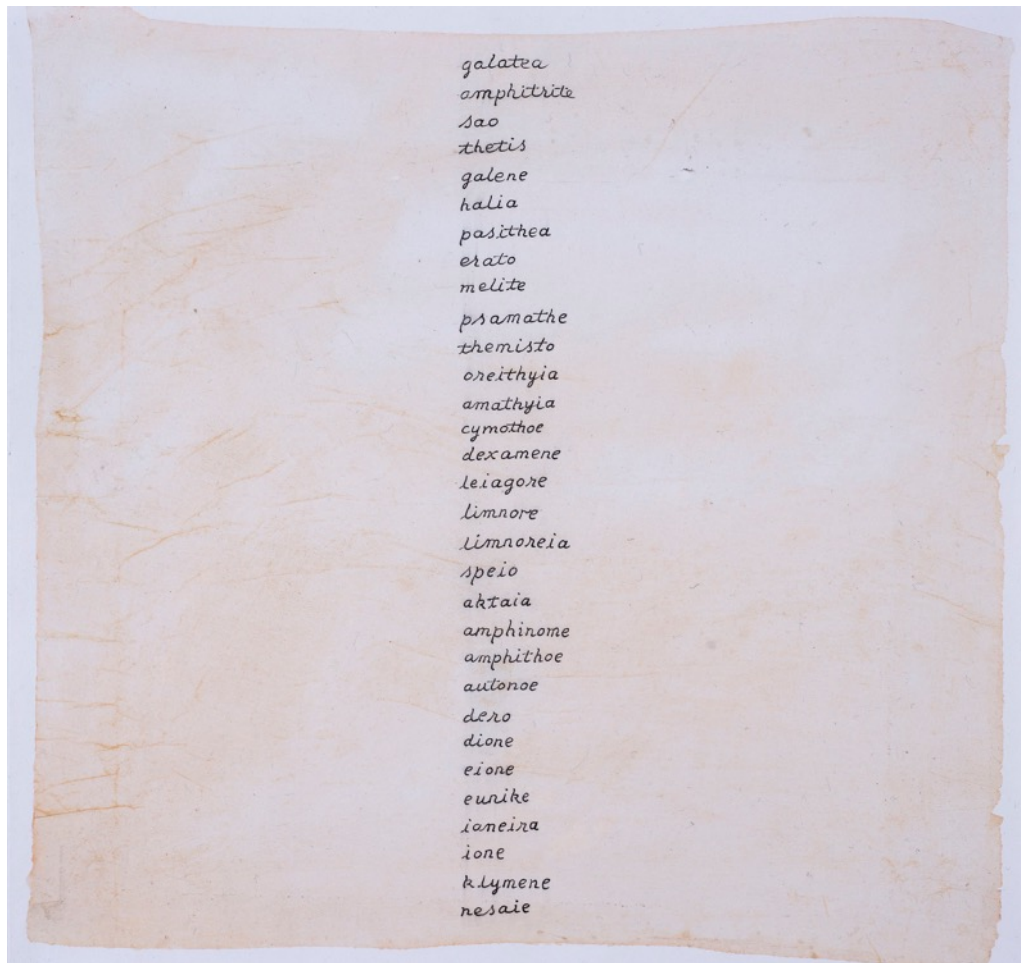


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Around 2000 Lewty abandoned his use of figurative imagery, deploying instead his mastery of calligraphy in many different hands to create exquisite text based drawings. The poetic narratives are all his own, some of them published separately. The small, beautiful recent drawings focus on the Nereids, those lovely, helpful sea nymphs in Greek mythology, the 50 daughters of Nereus and Doris, who often accompany Poseidon, the god of the sea. To accompany them we have published *Pencilings*, an artist's book of coded text drawings, some of which, Lewty tells us, are "invocations of a beach: the secrets of the Nereids, whose voices may cry in the murmurs of the waves. A kind of wordless sea-language."



List, Nereid: Galatea – Nesaie

2019

Acrylic and ink on tissue on paper

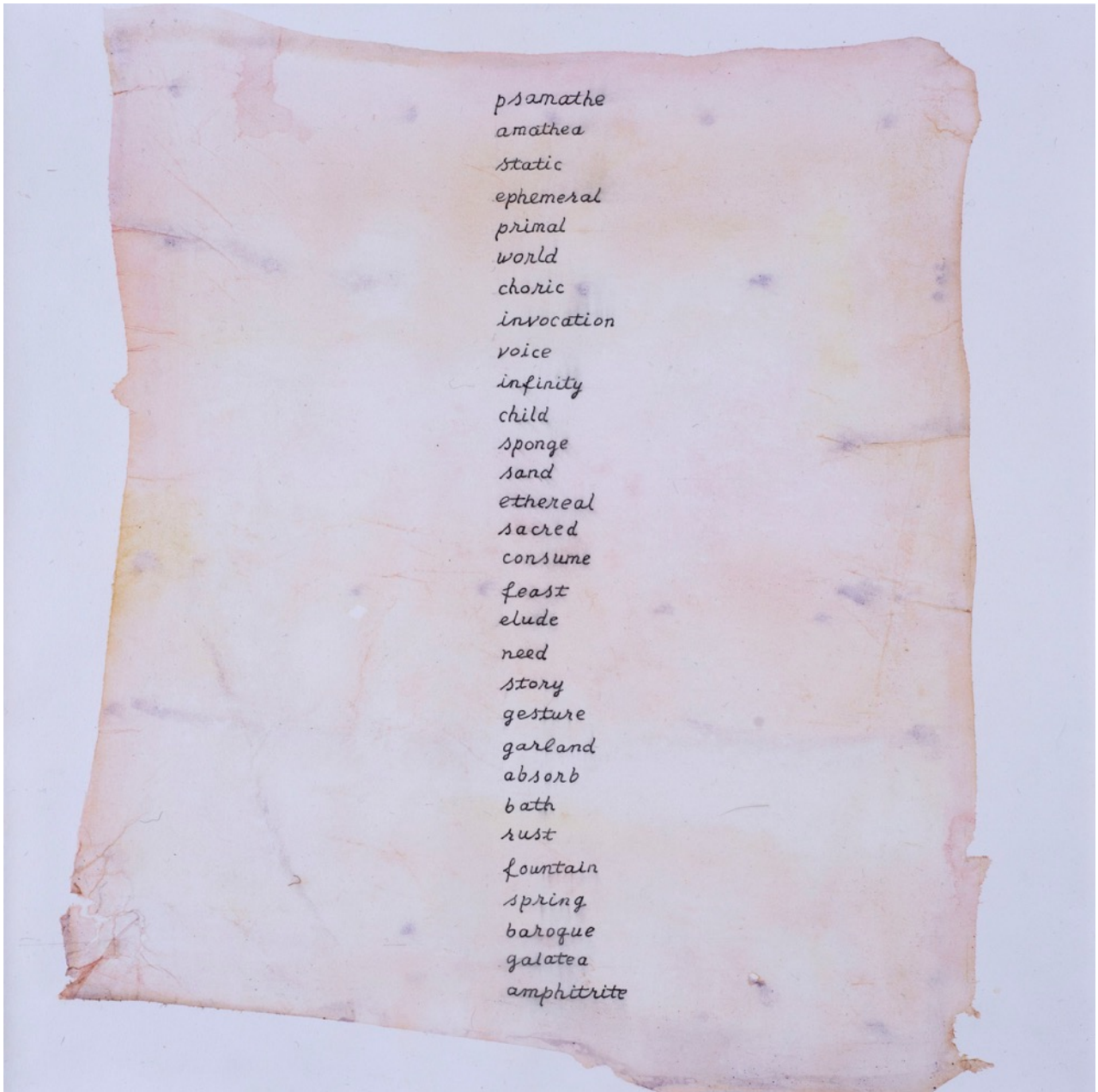
35 x 37 cm

£2,400

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List :Psamathe – Amphitrite

2019

Acrylic and ink on tissue on paper

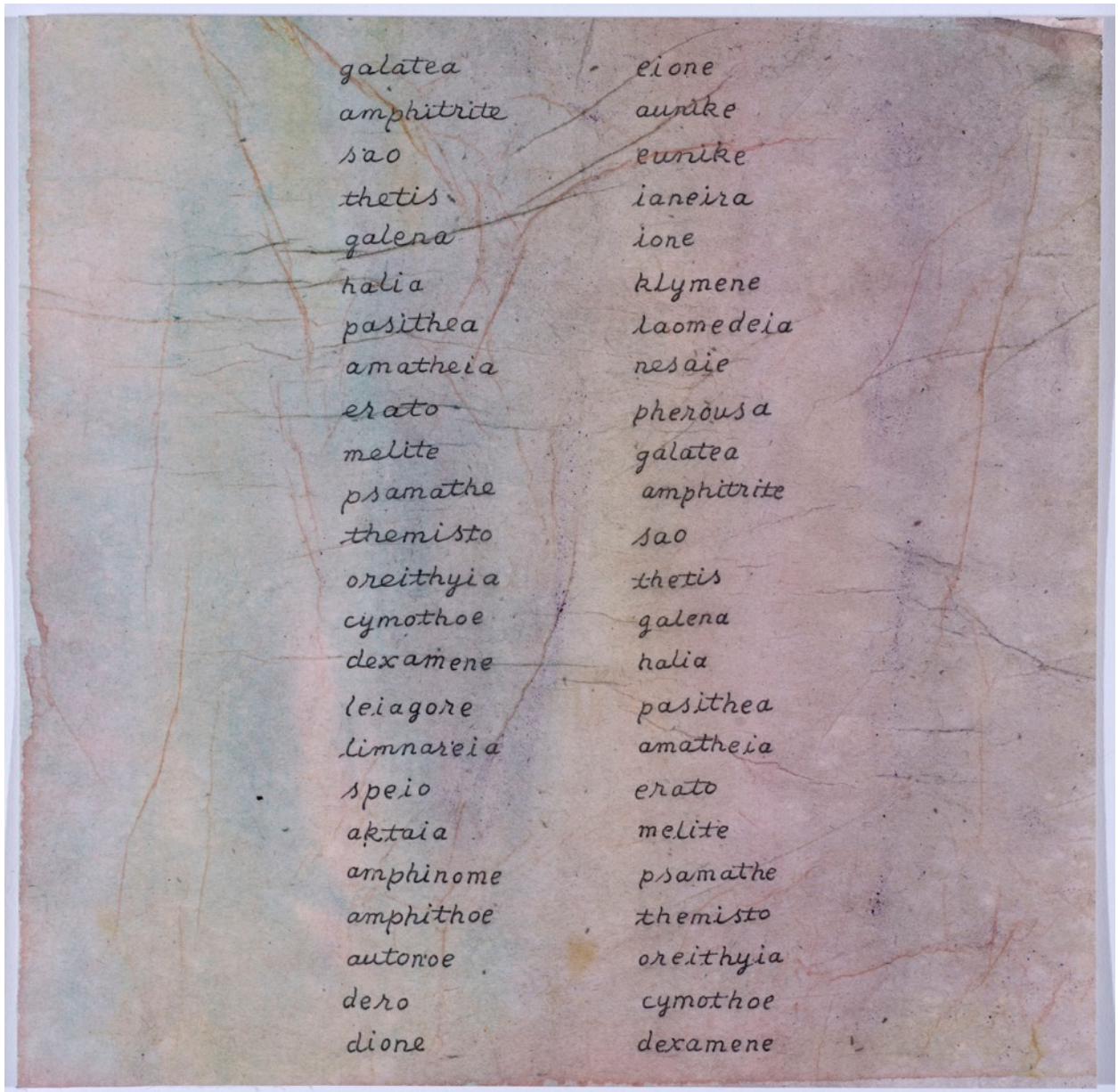
35 x 35.5 cm

£2,400

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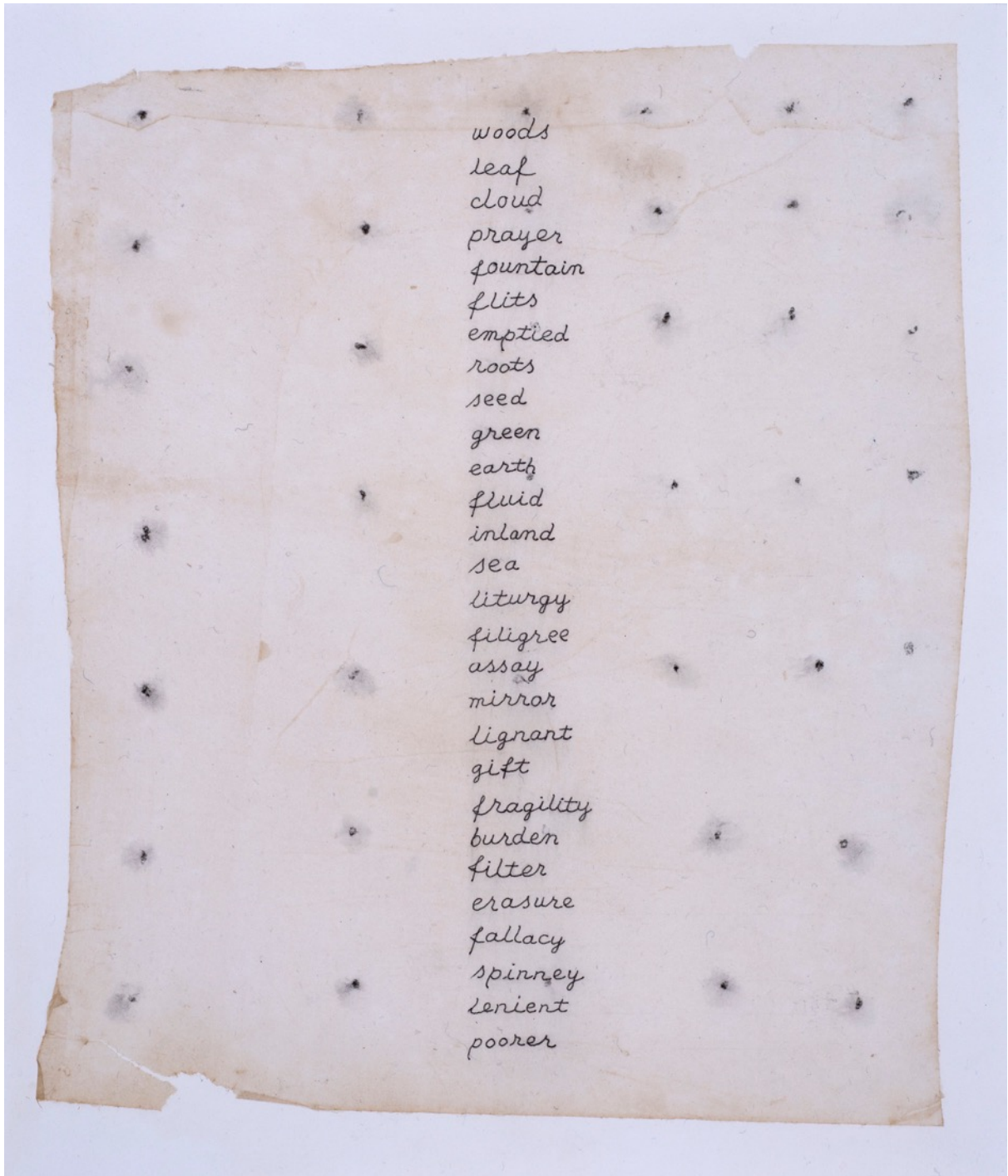


List, Nereid: Galatea – Dexamene
 2019
 Acrylic and ink on tissue on paper
 25.2 x 25.4 cm
 £2,000

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List: Woods - Leaf

2019

Acrylic and ink on tissue on paper

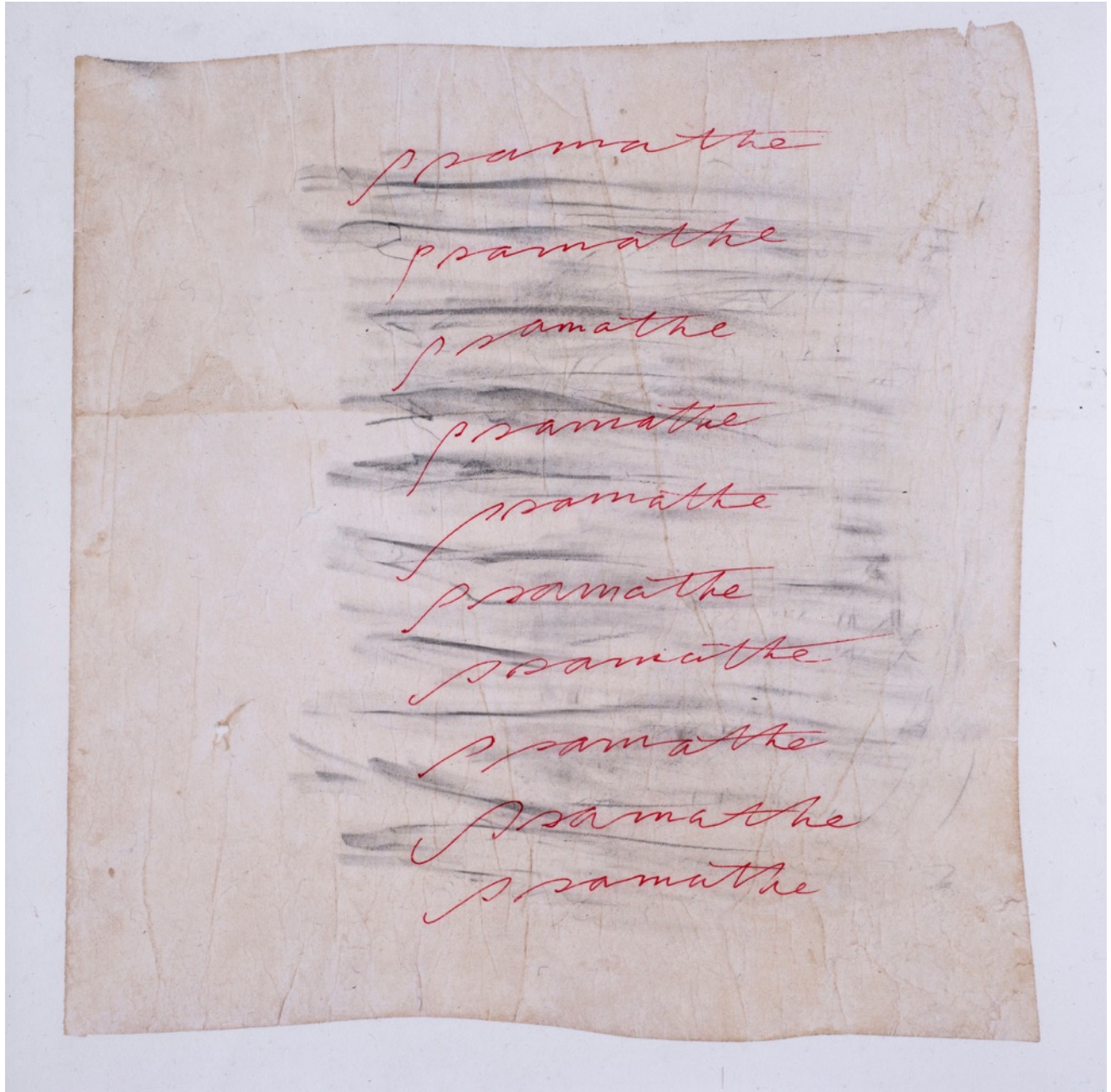
35.5 x 30.6 cm

£2,200

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Psamathe

2019

Acrylic and ink on tissue on paper

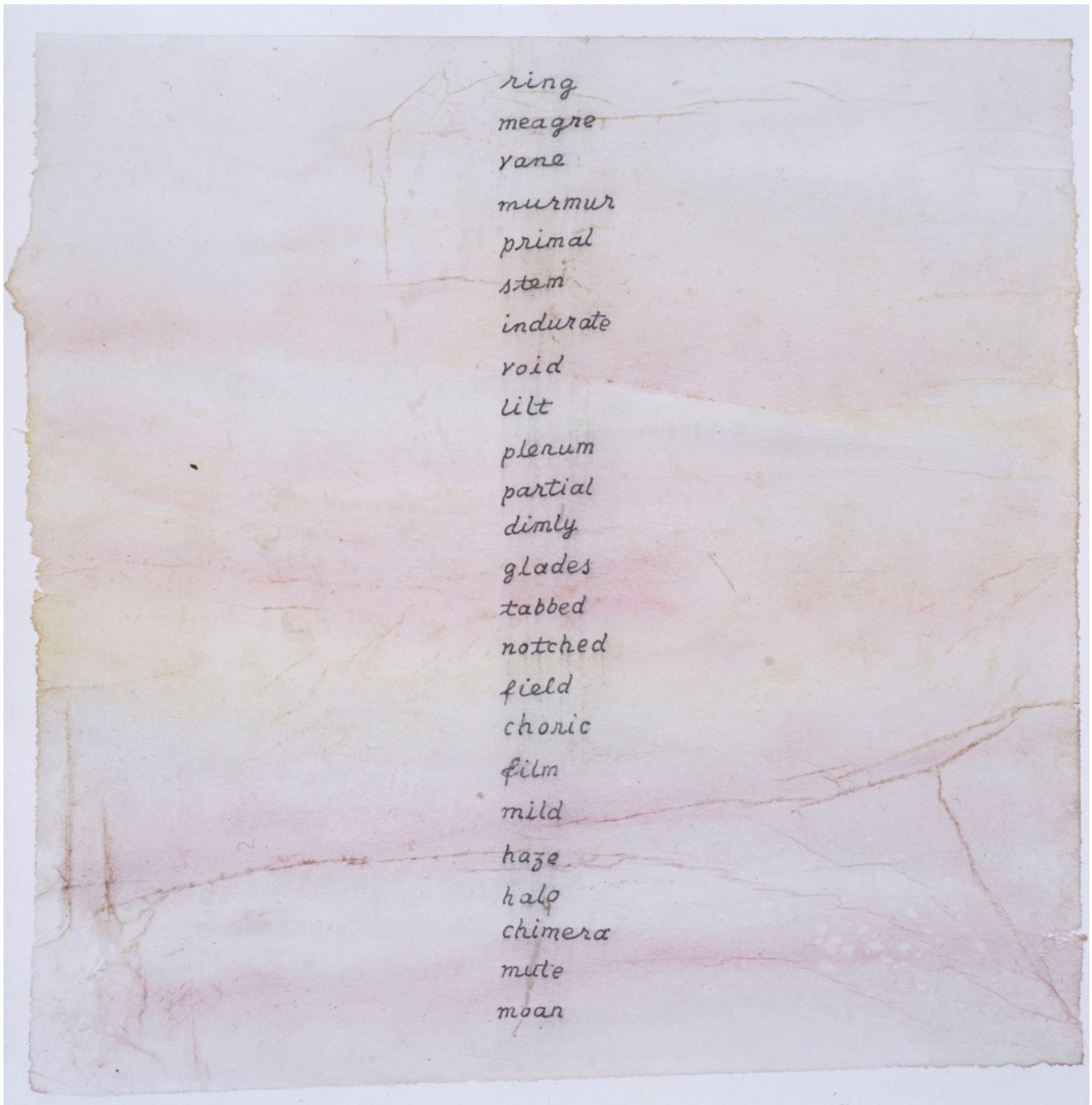
28 x 28 cm

£2,000

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List: ring - moan

2019

Acrylic and ink on tissue on paper

35 x 37 cm

£2,400

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