The bold paintings of Naudline Pierre offer portals to another world. Fields of alizarin crimson and quinacridone magenta embrace and expel figures that are at once mythological, religious, and even celestial, while still relating to viewers through their human scale. In I, A Terror Loosed Upon Your Heels, the main figure blazes into the scene as a crimson-colored female form ready to unleash a burst of energy, upheld in her fiery chariot by a trio of celestial beings. Pierre has described this character as her avatar, her twin in an alternate universe. And for Pierre, these intertwined characters and realities exemplify the power of imagination. Likewise, the crimson-colored female form is seen in Assuredly, the Sun Shall Rise, but here she seems caught in a struggle with a female-headed serpent. Yet as the title suggests, the protagonist has the upper hand with a strong yellow sunburst permeating the scene, extending beyond the canvas and offering an optimistic outlook for what lies ahead.

Evocative of the allegorical imagery in the work of Cuban printmaker Belkis Ayón but supercharged with brilliant and impactful color, the works here exemplify New York-based Pierre’s version of fantastical alternate realities. Within these worlds, the women characters embody a power and fierce determination that is exactly what is needed back on Earth.

-Jennifer McCabe, Director and Chief Curator
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art