

ZHANINA MARINOVA

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ARTIST STATEMENT

When it comes to life or art, I have never believed in concrete plans and precise concepts. The most realistic and workable plan would be a combination of vision and knowledge; decisions being made during the process; coincidences and mistakes. The paradoxical aspect about my practice is perhaps the fact that I never draw up a coherent plan about it, but I always strive to have control over many aspects of it, remaining guided by my intuition as well. This oxymoron I call a natural habitat.

Indeed, the beginning of a project or a body of work is always a blend between freedom and chaos combined with rules and order. Many of the projects begin with analogue ink large format drawings. Line by line, the chaos is taking a shape and the order is beginning to look abstract. These drawings are transformed into unique screenprints in which repetition is often used as a tool. This personal action is a deep-diving act in my own imagination, being unclear how long I will spend "underwater". Sometimes these starting points are marked by memories-like of certain things, places or images which I have never experienced before, but paradoxically define enough so they can be used as a base of my projects and concepts. Last but not least is the process of installing the works where the two dimensional pieces transform into rooms, creatures or just becoming a separate space. Exploring the unknown corners of my own imagination, I am wrapping a given place (space) with my own thoughts, feelings and concepts where everyone is invited to step into.

In the past few years I am questioning the idea of the space and time between events and moments in life where nothing is happening and our in-between state. The gaps and cracks which fulfill our experience.

BIO

Born in 1994 in Varna, Bulgaria, Zhanina Marinova studied Graphics and Printmaking at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria where she currently lives and works as a Visual artist and Printmaker.

By rendering imagination as a sort of materialized fiction, which for her is strongly connected with the idea of the relation between presence and absence, Marinova invents her own reality and explores the deep constellations of perception, thoughts, feelings and memories. The paradoxical aspect about her practice is perhaps the fact that she never draws up a coherent plan about it, but always strive to have control over many aspects of it, remaining guided by her intuition as well. Working primarily in the field of screen printing, drawing, installation and book arts, Marinova uses such diverse materials as fabrics, paper, transparent foils, mesh and plexiglass as canvases for her screen prints.

Marinova's works have been exhibited at different institutions and art fairs such as mumok - Museum of Modern Art Ludwig (A), St. Michael's Church Vienna (A), Künstlerhaus Wien (A), PARALLEL Vienna (A), PARALLEL Editions (A), ART Vienna Art Fair (A), Wittgenstein Haus (A), International Print Biennial Varna (BG), Sofia Art Week (BG).

In the past 8 years she participated in more than 60 exhibitions, 9 of which solo ones. She is a member of the Austrian Association of Artists (Künstlerhaus Wien) since 2018. Marinova is represented by Galerie Rudolf Leeb (A) since 2019. and works with the platform for young artists KAH (A). Since 2022 the artist is developing and working on her personal project called "INTERSTICE".

Site-specific installations & Public interventions

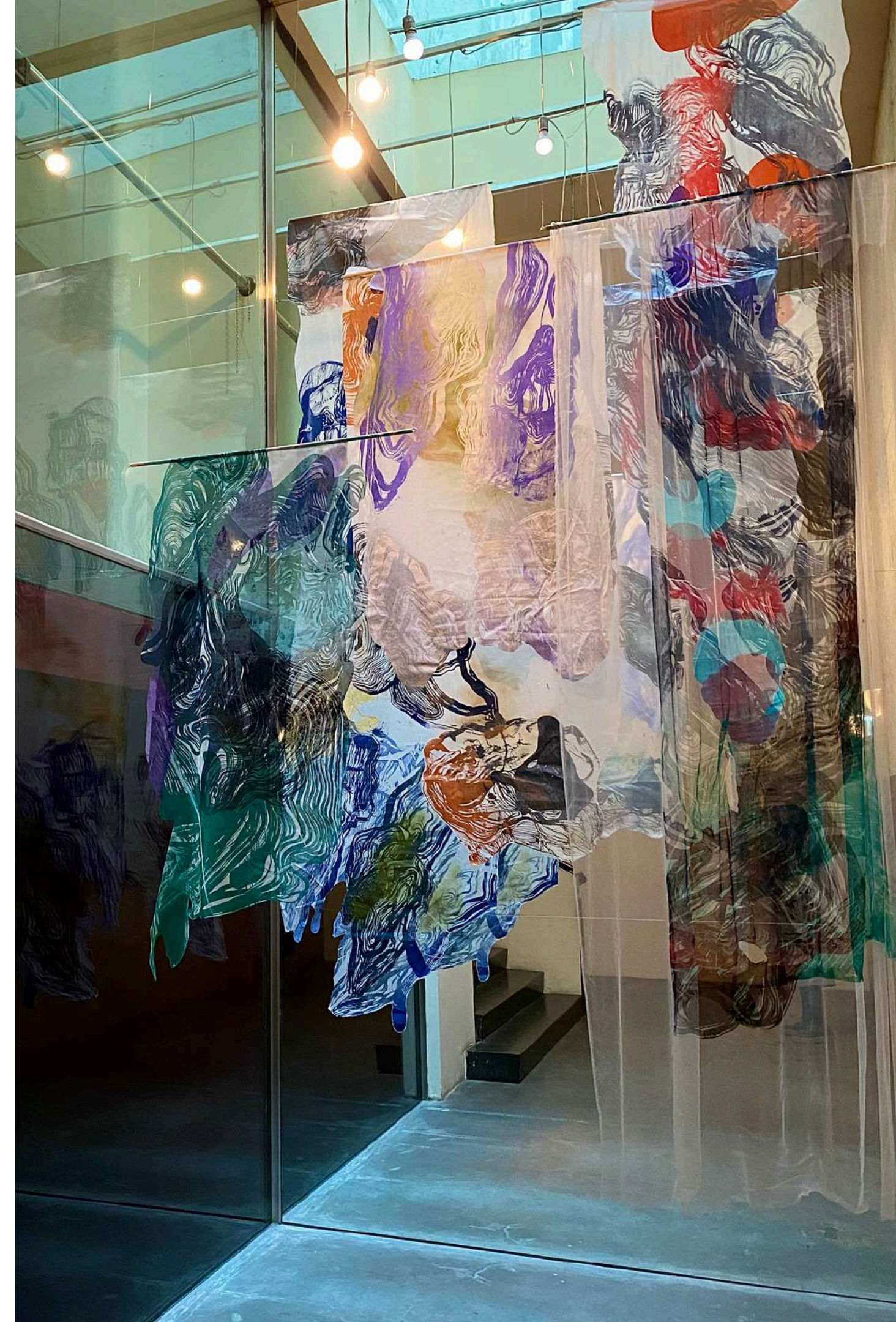
2018 - 2024

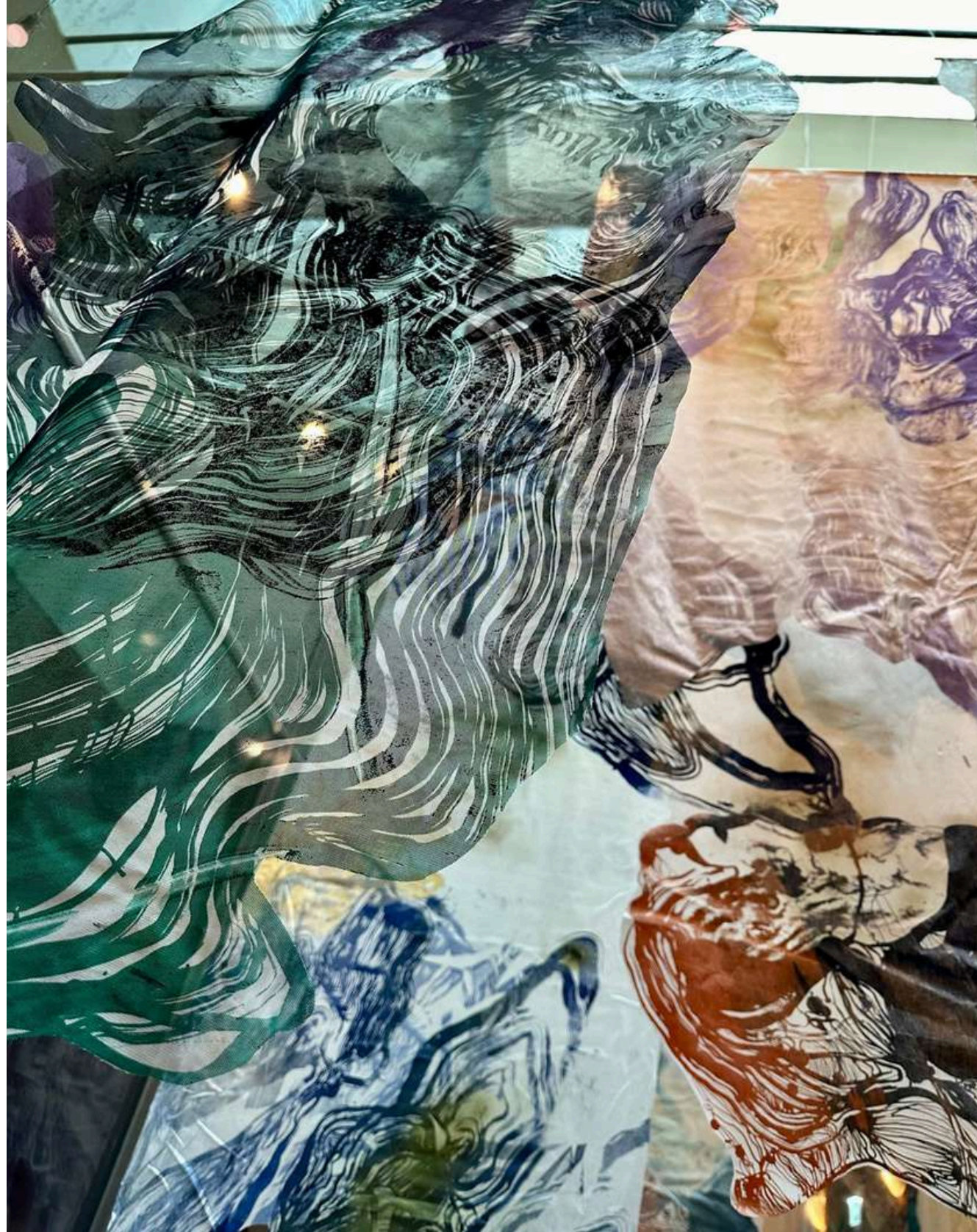
"Transparent bodies, mirroring shadows" is the fourth chapter of my project INTERSTICE (a space or a place between things and events.)The project represents the space and time, the gaps and cracks which ultimately connect our lives by being part of our identity. Transparent bodies is a metaphor of certain memories and thoughts one can have which are materialized in an interstitial place - indeed the mind and the heart. They can be about people, places, happenings, words one had experienced, shaping our perception about life. How is it possible a shadow to mirror something? Maybe it is not. Or maybe the transparent bodies have shadows which are reflecting the dreams, thoughts and feeling a person can carry.

The works which are part of the installation are unique screen prints which are based on analog ink drawings. Each piece is one of a kind and yet has a repetitive character as the memories, thought process and feeling we as individuals can experience on a daily basis.

Transparent bodies, mirroring shadows
(Part of INTERSTICE - Project by Zhanina Marinova)

Solo exhibition / Art intervention
Curated by Galerie Rudolf Leeb
ca. 400 x 250 x 200 cm
Porgy & Bess, Vienna
2024





Transparent bodies, mirroring shadows
Solo exhibition / Art intervention
Curated by Galerie Rudolf Leeb
ca. 400 x 250 x 200 cm
Porgy & Bess, Vienna
2024



Even though we often forget about it... "human trafficking" is a 'creature' living and growing quietly all around us.
The victims: Invisible people, hidden from the eyes of society.
Hidden behind bars and walls, the body is becoming a currency.
The infinity black lines, symbolize the constant whirlpool of hopelessness in which these people are drowning.
The "bars" that imprison them. The chains which lock their 'existence'.

The veils which cover our eyes...

Lenten Veil "Human trafficking"
Zhanina Marinova
Acrylic color on canvas
5m x 11m
St. Michael's church, Vienna, Austria
2018





Corridor Gap
(Part of INTERSTICE Project by Zhanina Marinova)

Site-specific installation, Silk screen on textiles
Group show - Fragile, handle with care
Bundesatelier Wattgasse
Vienna, Austria 2024
Credit: Sophie Wurmig





Corridor Gap
Site-specific installation, Silk screen on textiles
Group show - Fragile, handle with care
Bundesatelier Wattgasse
Vienna, Austria 2024
Credit: Sophie Wurmig





(no) Room for doubt
Site-specific installation
Screen Print on semi-transparent textile (unicum)
BUNA 2 Forum for contemporary art
Varna, Bulgaria
2024
Photo Credit: Mihaela Aroyo





Weightlessness

Part of INTERSTICE - Project by Zhanina Marinova

Screen print, ink, pastel, spray on mesh

Public Intervention

Aracena, Spain

2023



Silkscreen mesh, screen print,
Acrylic Ink, Spray
180x350cm
Aracena, Spain
2023

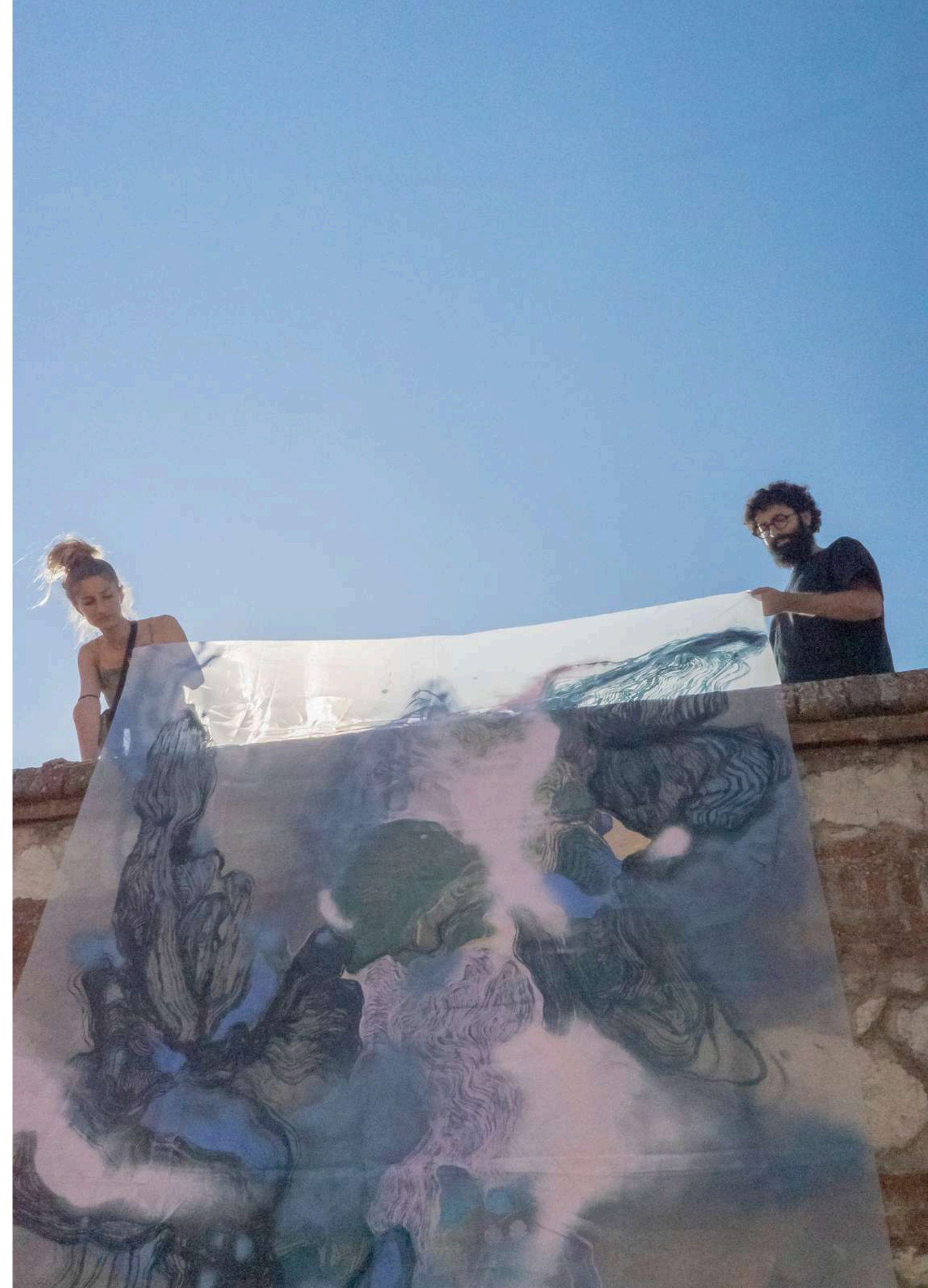
Photo Credits: Maria Alcaide





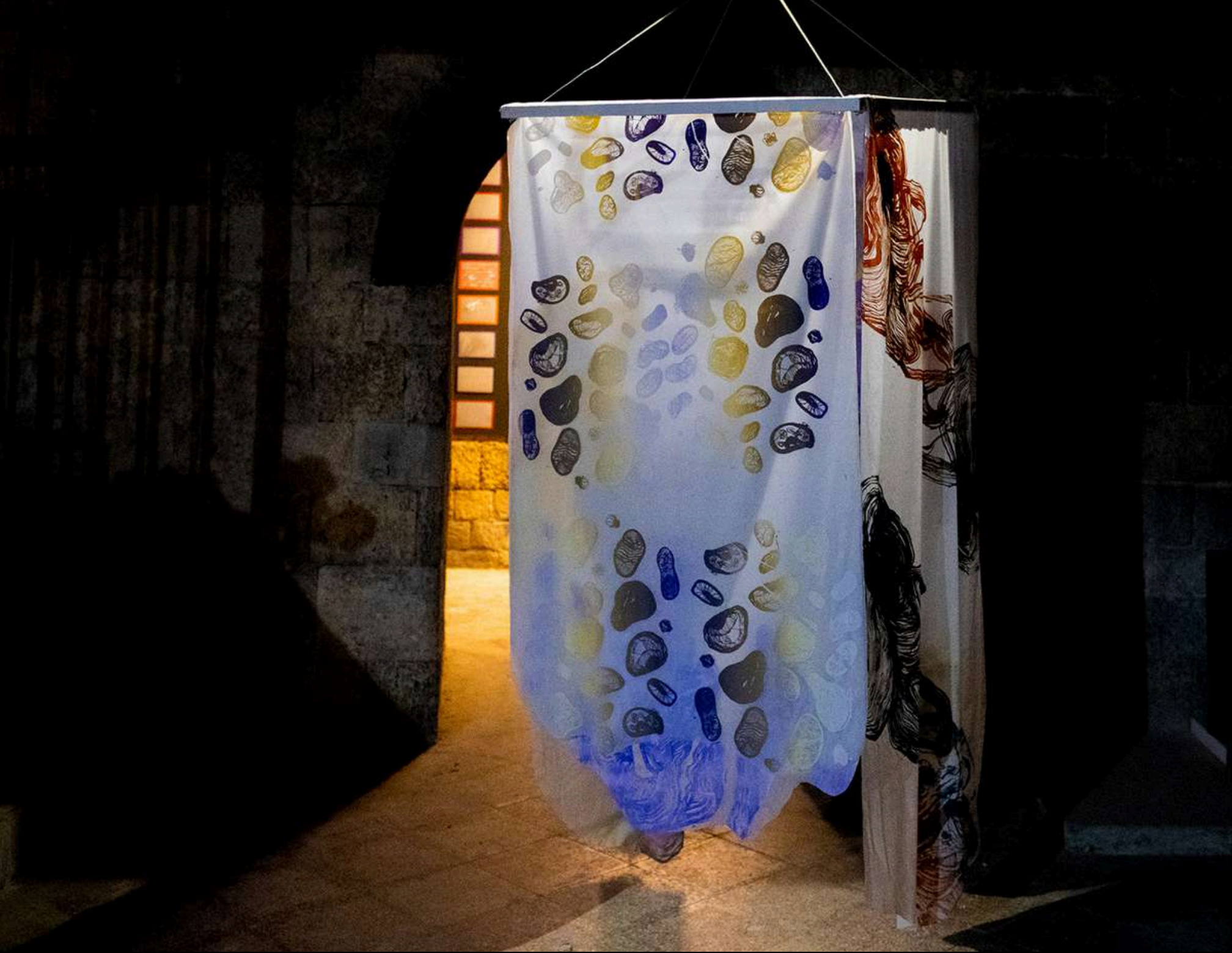
Weightlessness
Part of INTERSTICE - Project by Zhanina Marinova
Source of the Council - Public Laundry (Aracena, Spain)

Created during the art residency at GROTTA in Aracena, Spain.
Water is a significant part of the folklore of that region and thematically fit with Martinova's ideas about weightlessness experienced in water.





Public intervention,
part of
La noche blanca de Aracena
Aracena, Spain
2023



Memorydiving is my favorite hobby
Site-specific installation - Screen print on Vliseline
Sofia Art Week 5 / Rebonkers, Varna, Bulgaria
2022

repeat. unique. attitude.

Solo Exhibition

2016





Previous page:

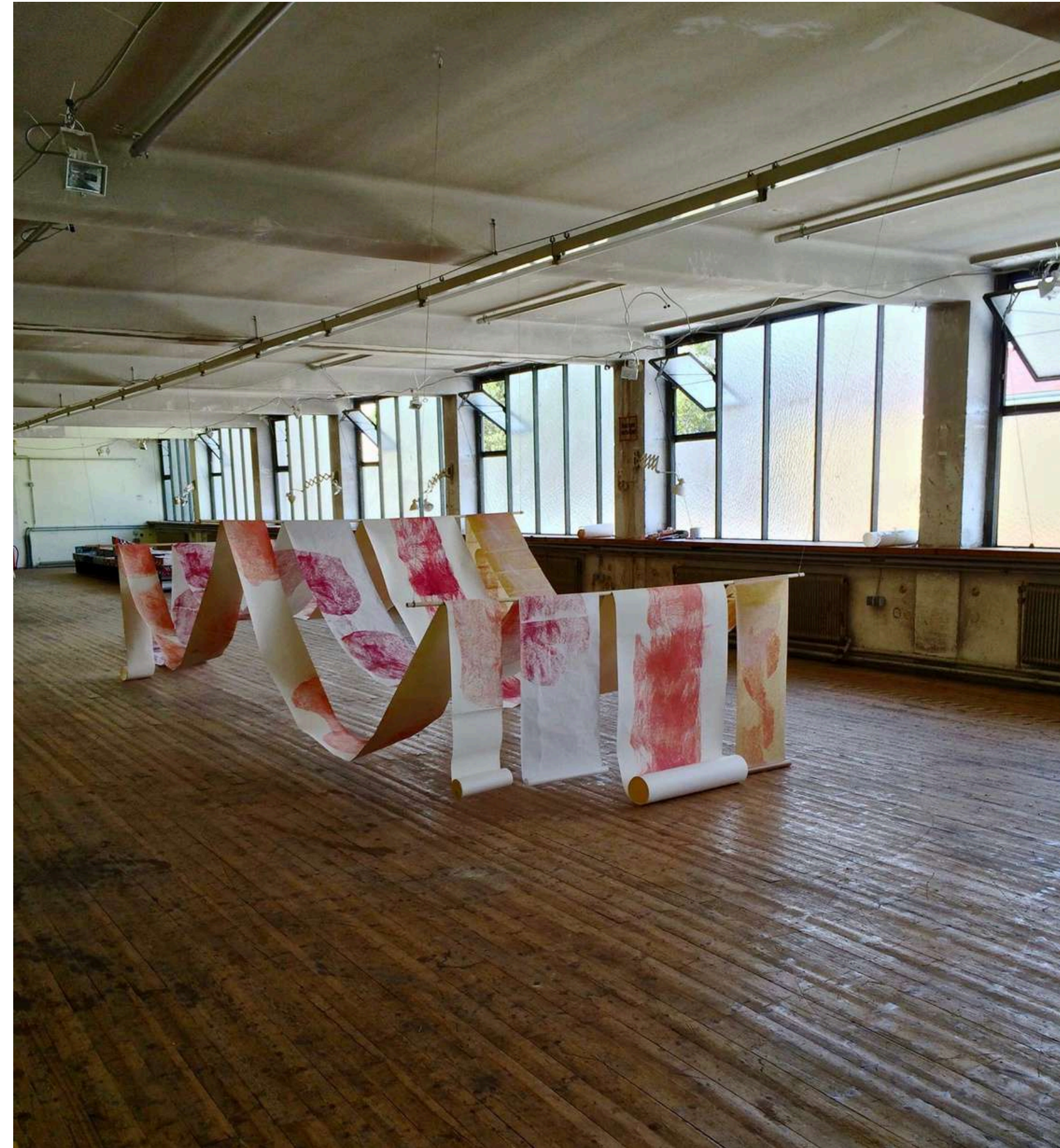
repeat - Screen print on transparent foil, 250x130cm

repeat 2 - Screen print on transparent foil, 200x130cm

Current page:

Repeat, pause, repeat - Screen print on paper, spray, wooden stands, 40x350cm

Again and again - Site-specific installation - Screen print on paper, spray, wood
2016



Ca

Carefully planned coincidence

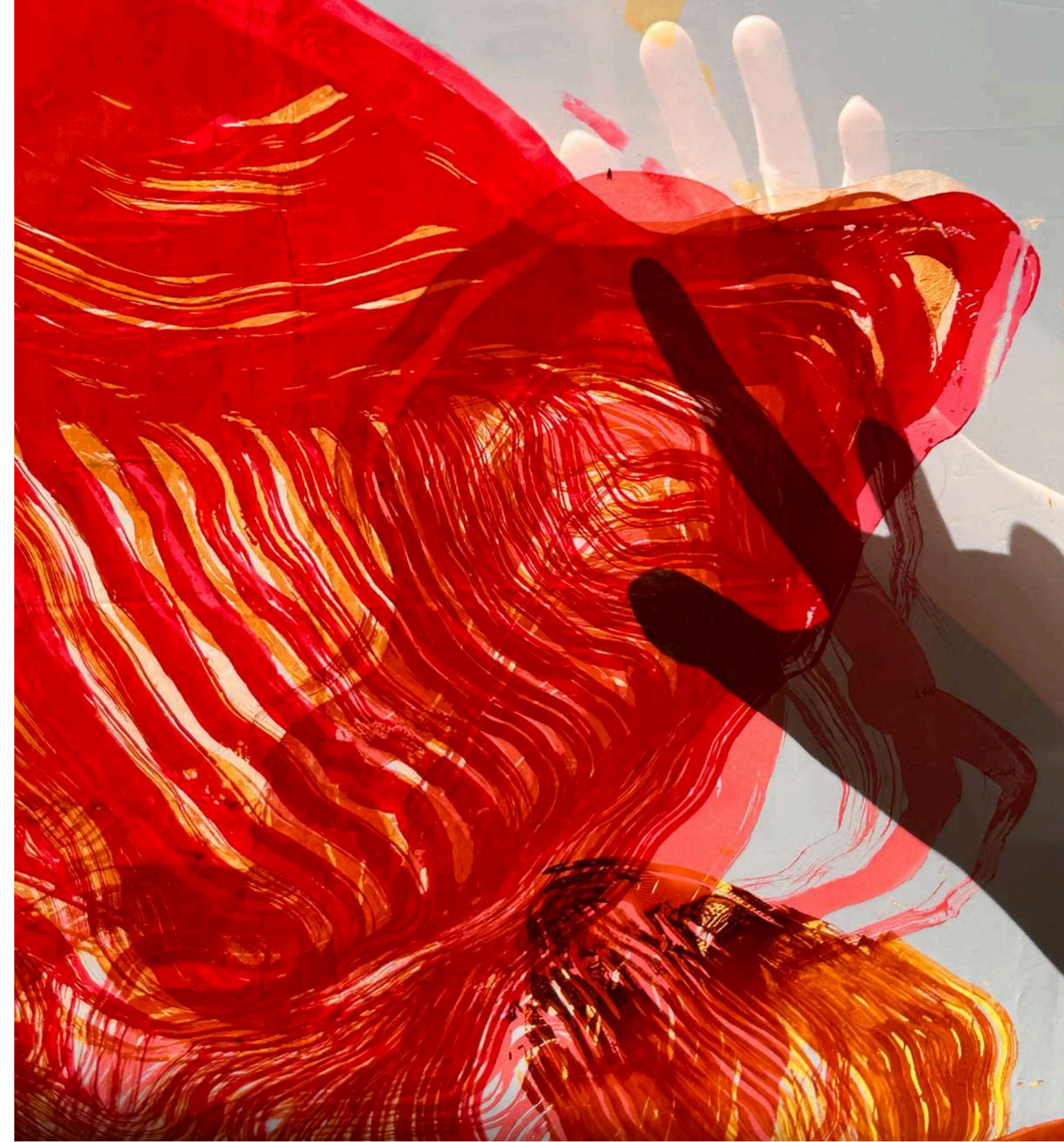
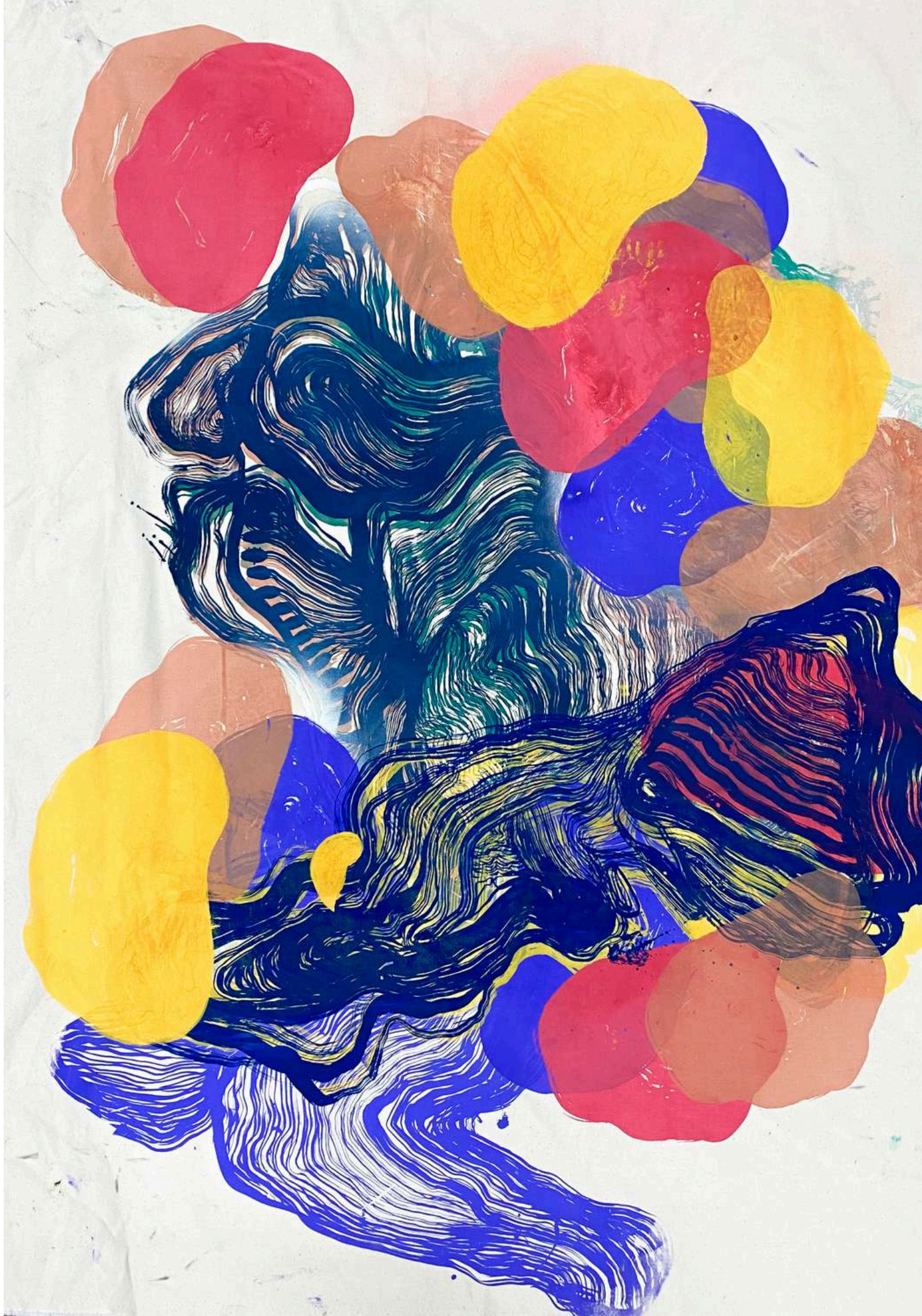
Solo exhibition

Part of INTERSTICE Project

2023







Running thoughts (left)
Screen print on canvas, acrylic marker, spray
120x95cm
2023

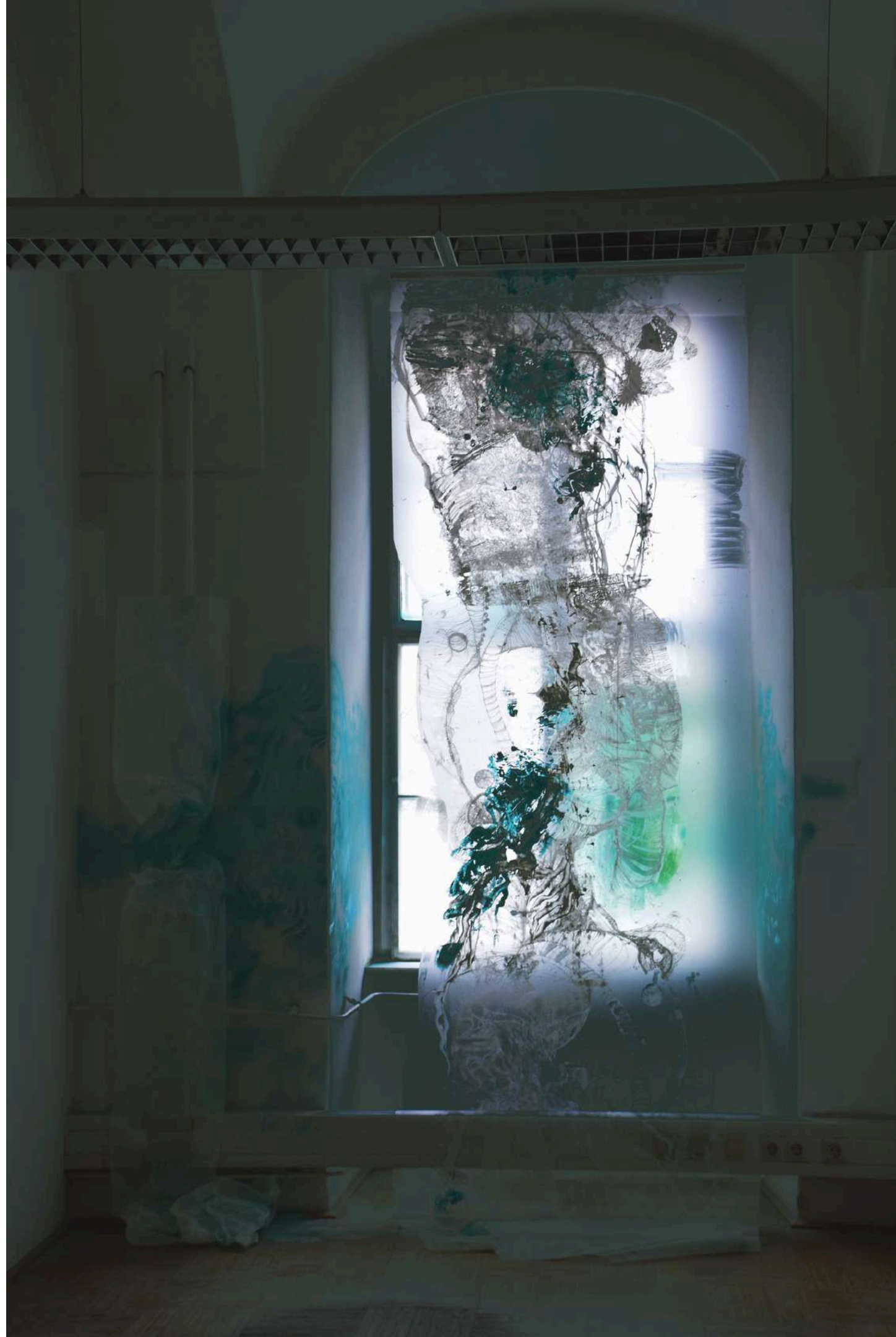
Carefully planned coincidence
Installation Cube (Detail)
Screen Print on mesh
110x90cm
2023

a b s e n t i a

Site-specific installation

2017

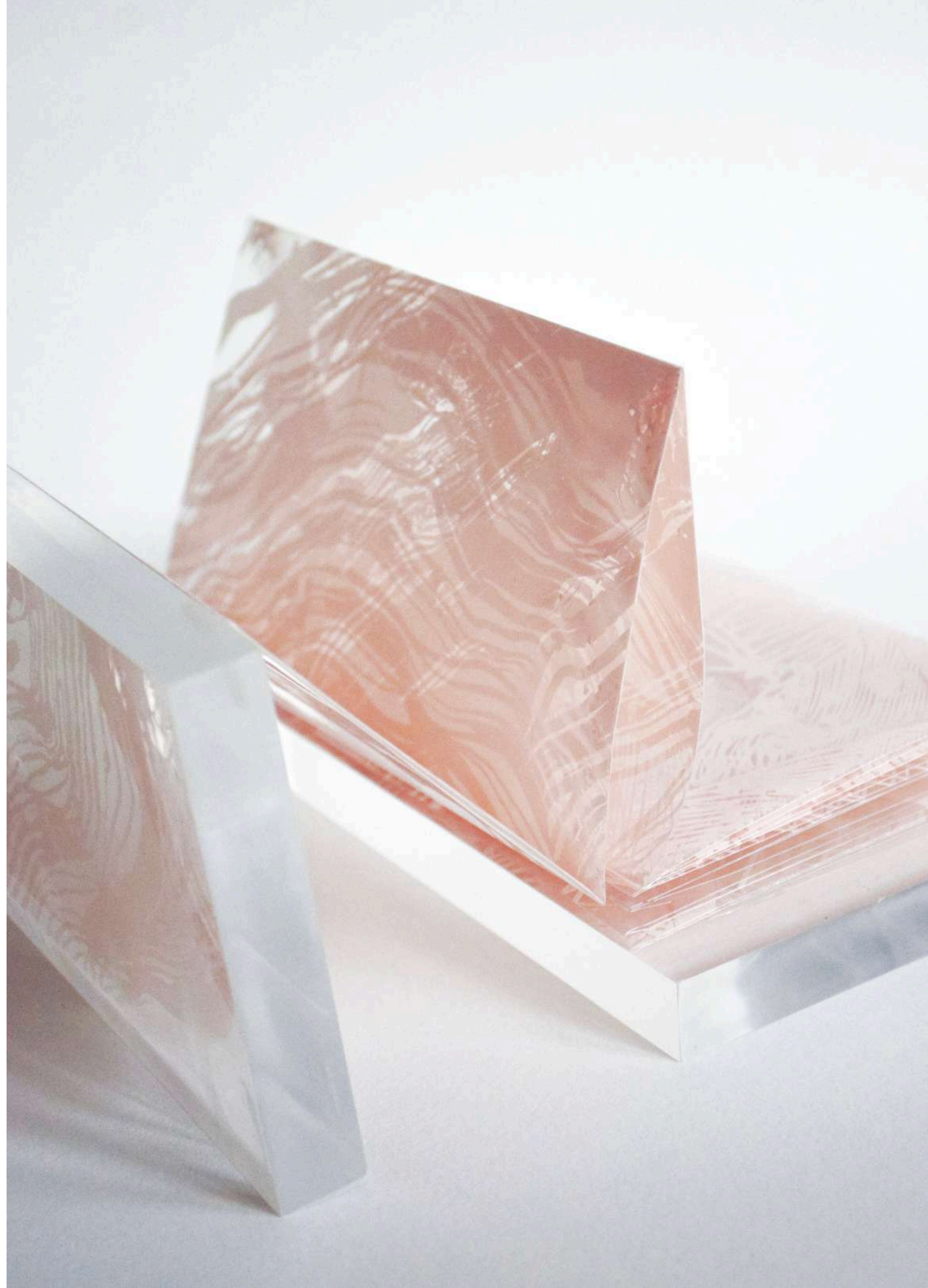
Screen print on foil,
spray, paper
135x250cm

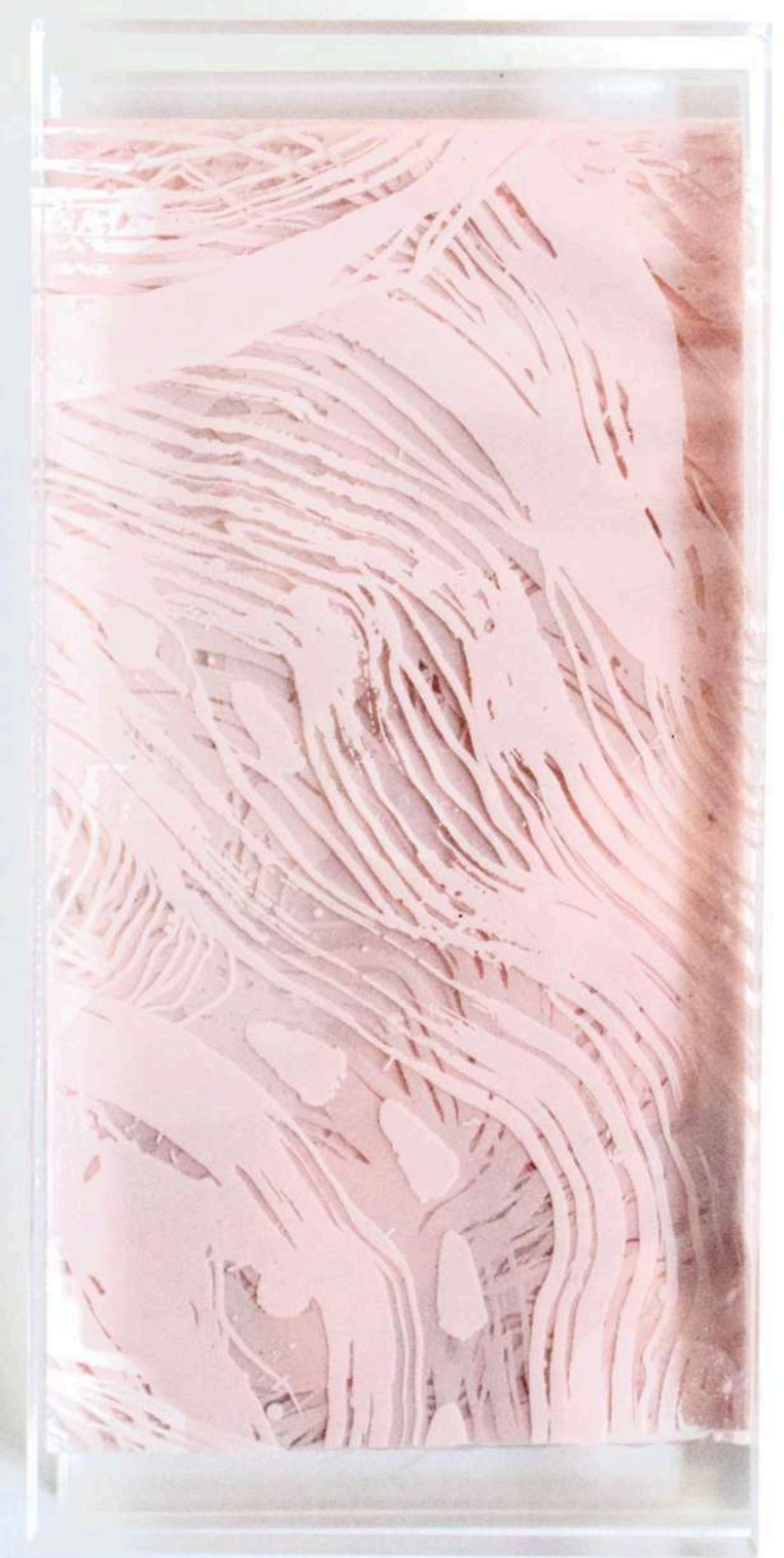
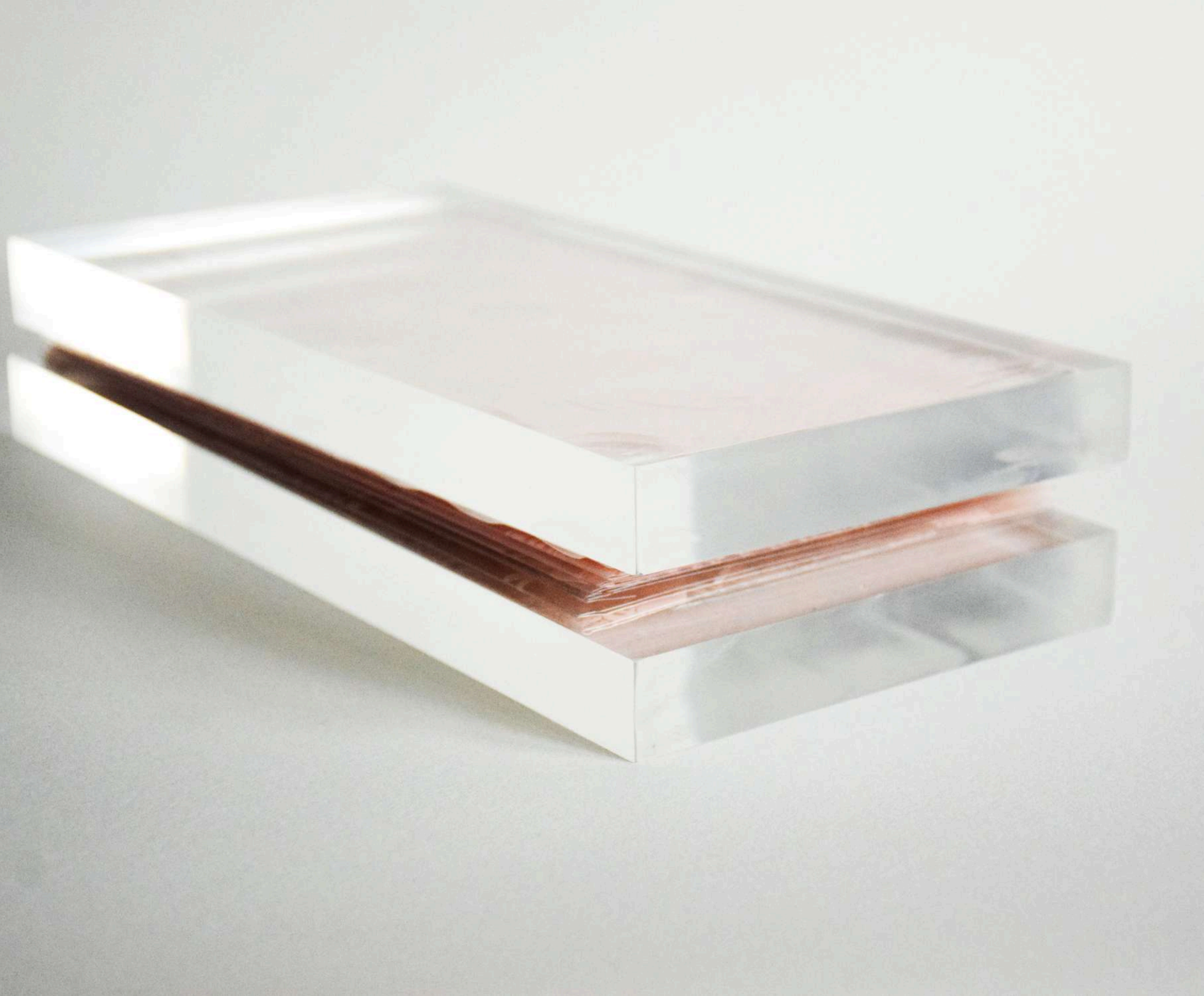




Don't judge a book by its cover

Leporello book
Silkscreen on transparent foil, Plexiglass
25x12cm (183 x 22,3cm)
2019





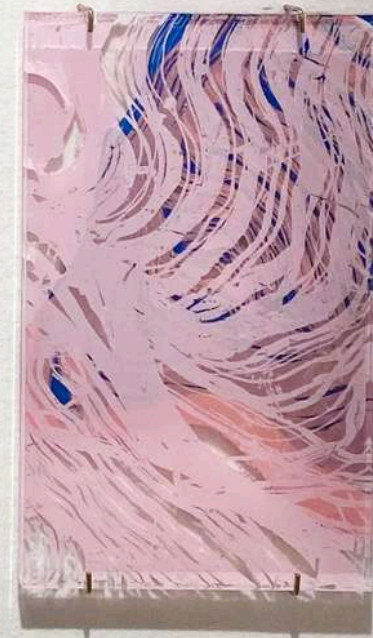
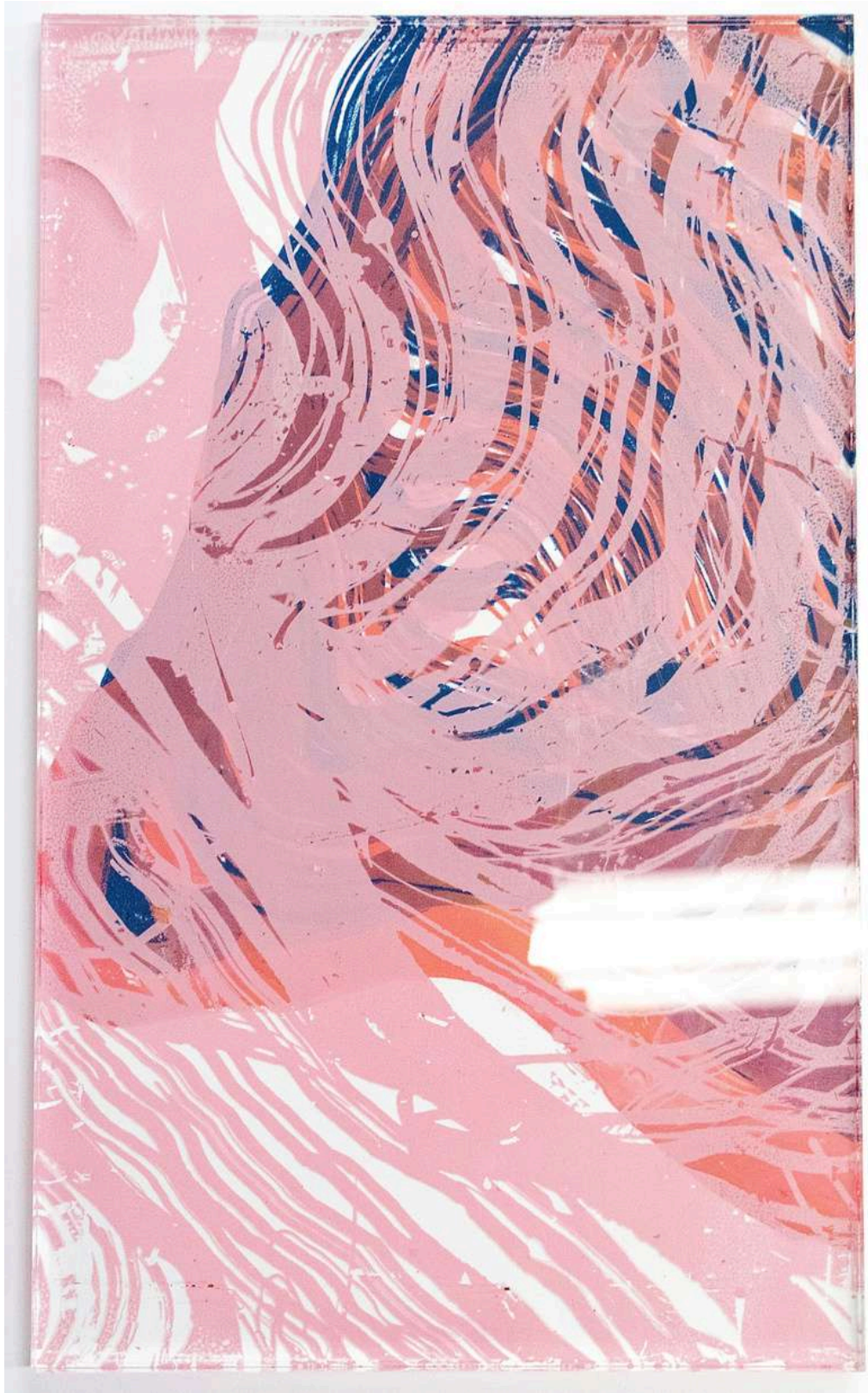
Same but different

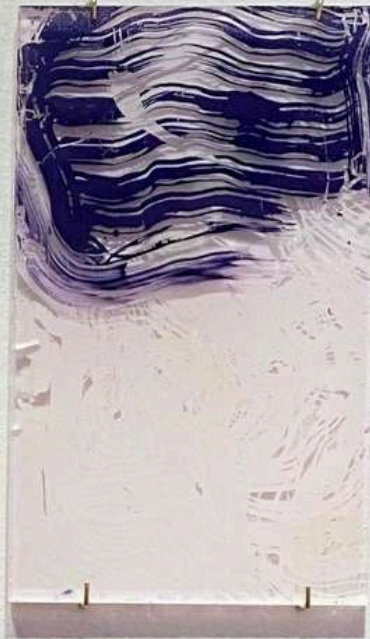
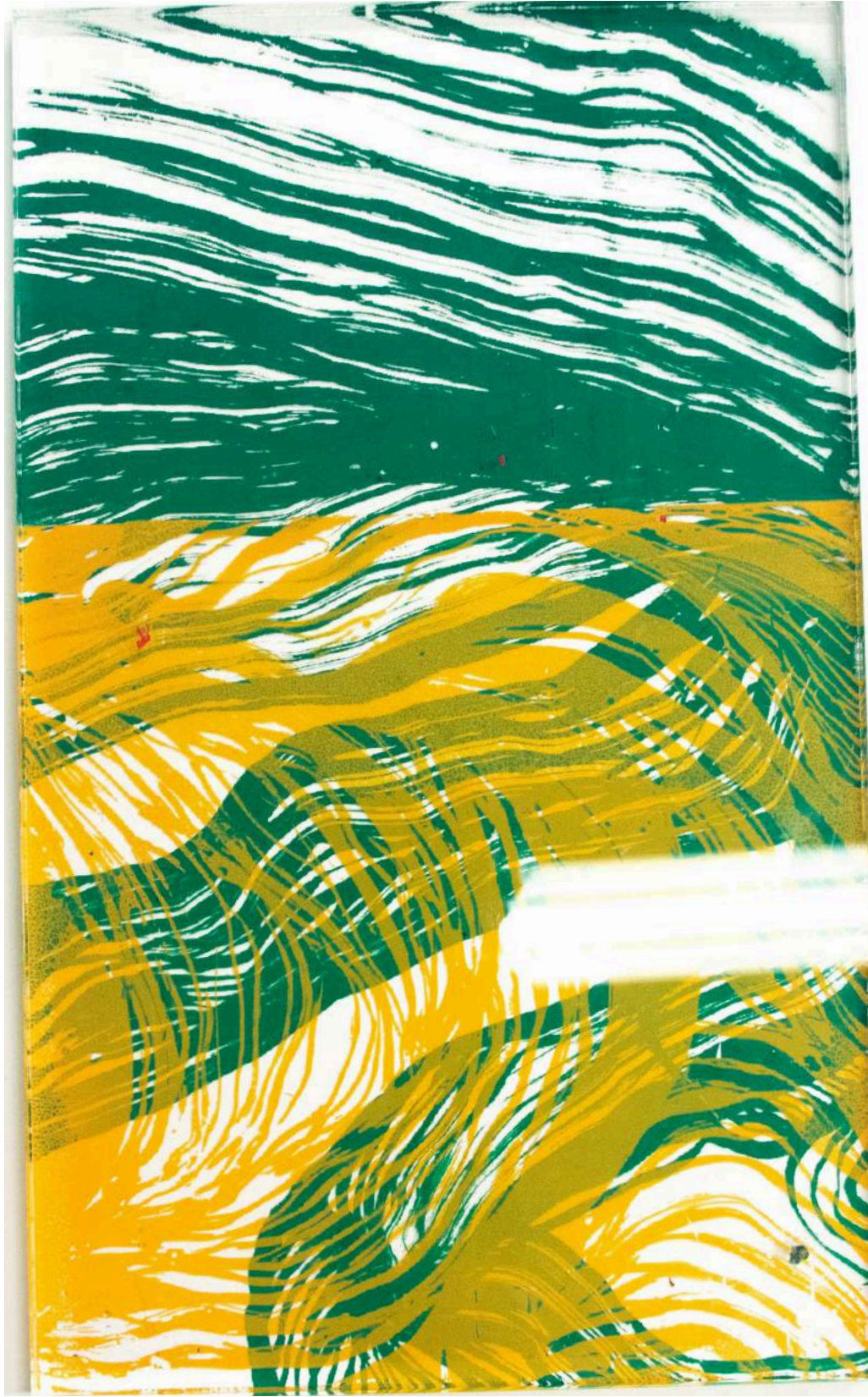
Edition of 30 Double-sided unique prints on plexiglass

22x30cm

2024

*Each work is unique and can be exhibited or hung on both sides.





a material fiction, an object from my imagination

Unique leporello book
45x55cm / lenght 400cm
2018

As an object of imagination, quasi materialized fiction, it occupies the space between what is missing and what is present. In order to "really see" the books, the artist proposes a step-by-step approach: first see to perceive, then touch to comprehend, and finally close your eyes.

Simone Moaser



Credit: Nico Havranek

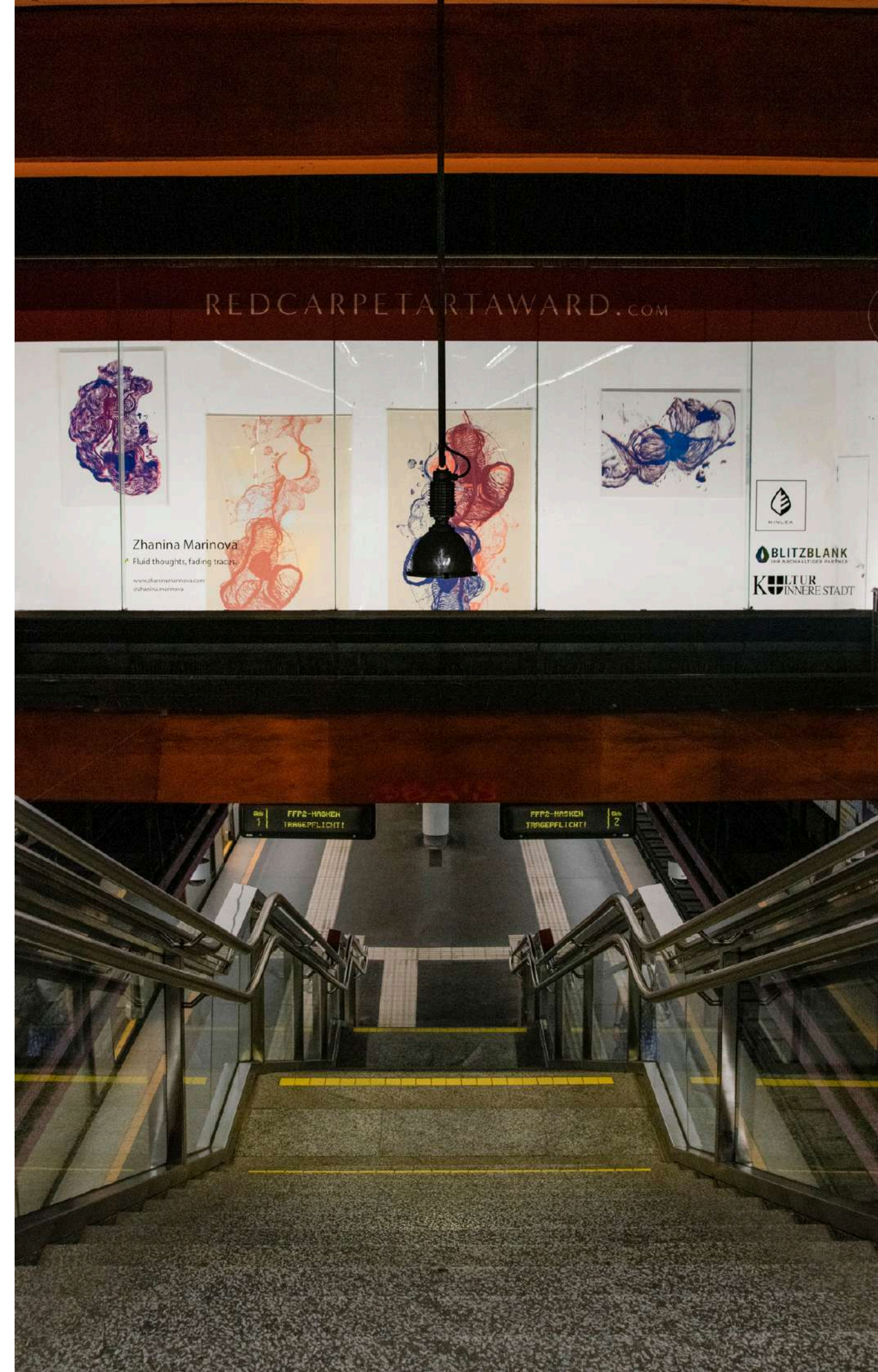


Fluid thought, fading traces

Solo Exhibition

2022

Showroom RED Carpet Art Award
Schottentor U2 / Vienna Austria
2022

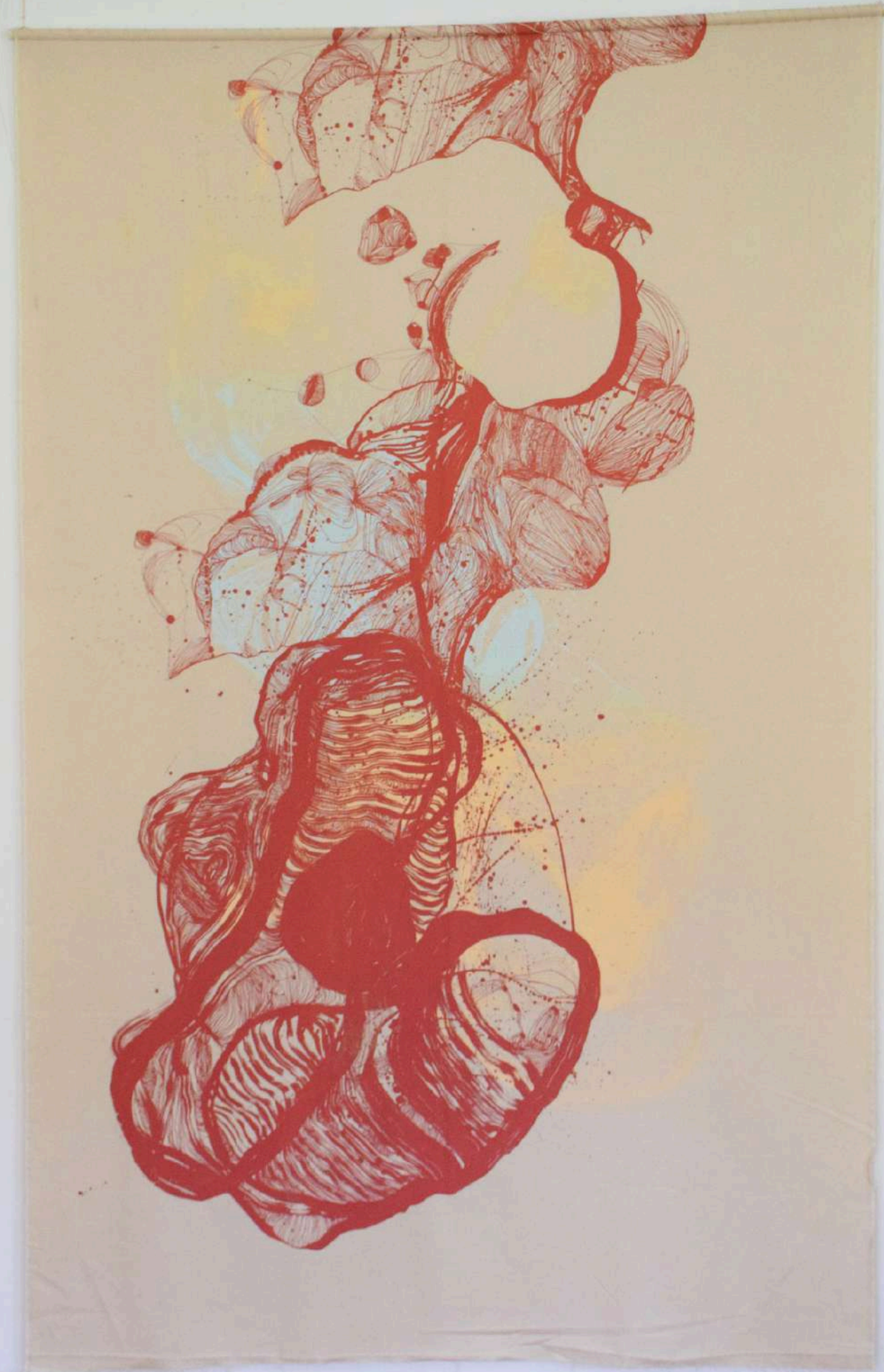
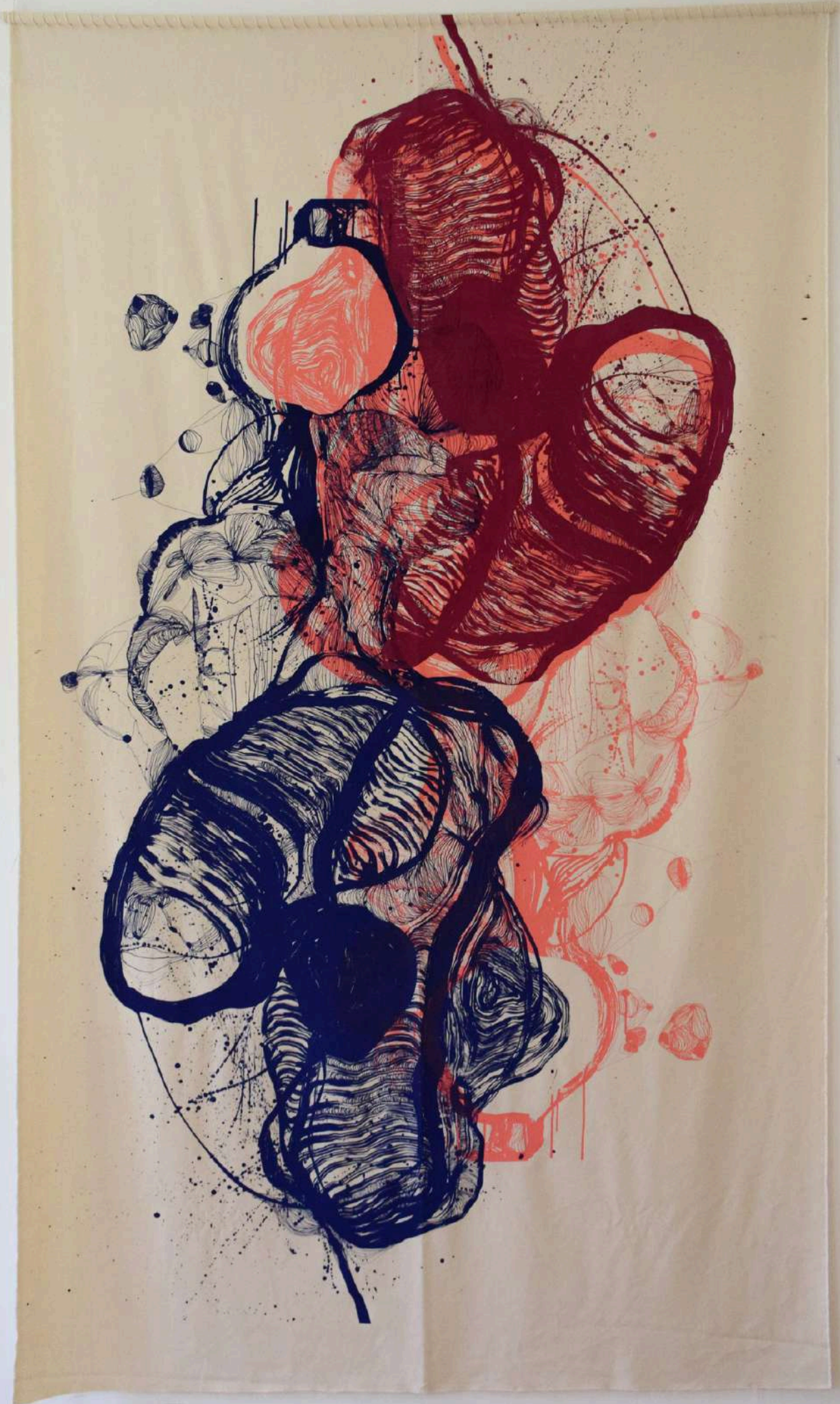


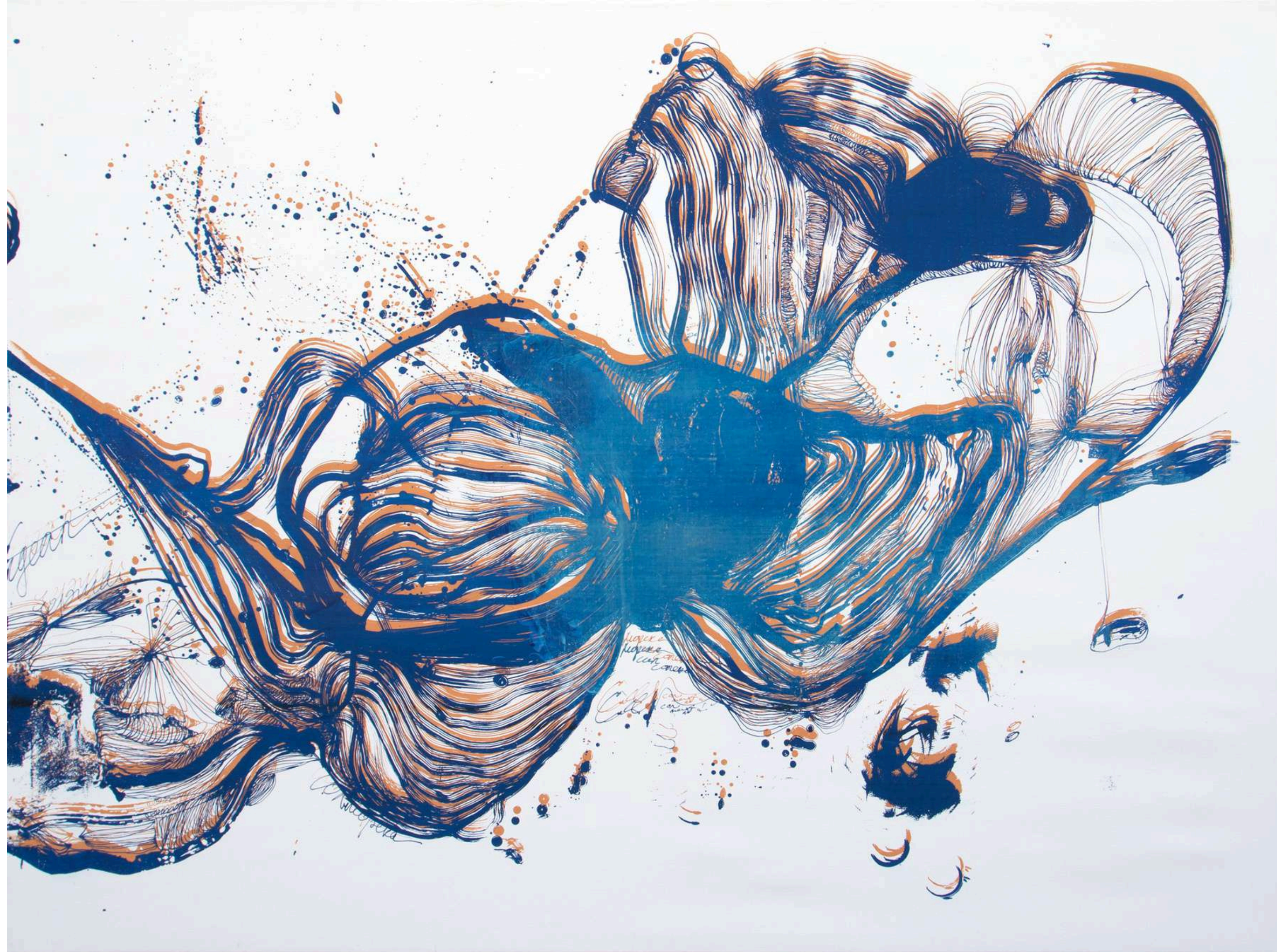
Liquid thoughts
Silkscreen on canvass (Unique)
120x175cm
2022

Memories (next page, left)
Screen print on canvas
165x260cm
2019

OOO (next page, right)
Sceen print on canvas (Unique)
165x240cm
2019







Free fall
Screen print on canvas (Unique)
120x160cm
2022

SWIMMING MISSION

Diploma exhibition
Künstlerhaus Wien 1050 / Vienna
2019





Swimming Mission (The Book)
Edition: 13
Screen print, digital print on paper
2019



But you can never have a strong relationship with the sea if you cannot swim. No one is born being able to swim. Therefore, it is the first lesson. Get in the water and walk around, put your face in the water and blow bubbles, then turn back up and breathe normally. Breathe in, breathe out. Learn to float. Begin. Suddenly you notice you swam a few meters. And a few more... I can clearly remember that feeling when I was a child, having my own »swimming mission«, my target and the satisfaction after I reached it.

Basic lesson:

- having a certain direction and following it, and even if you lost it or you are having problems reaching it, you are supposed to be flexible enough and reach new options or opportunities;
- there is not always a life vest that you can rely on to continue swimming;

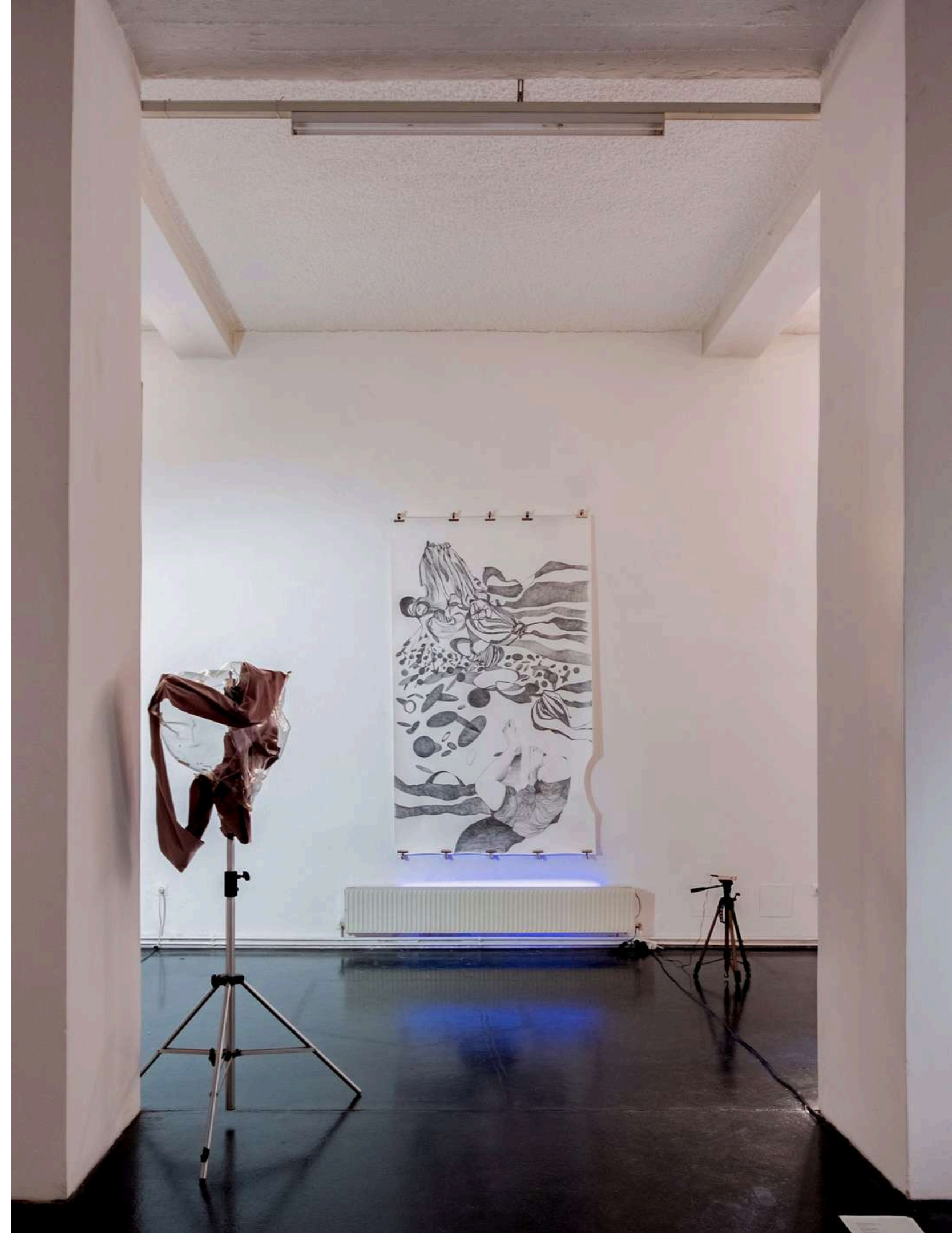
... and please never forget about the stream. The choice is yours: swimming with or against the tide.

Part of "Swimming mission"
(The book) Zhanina Marinova
2019



Linking bubbles
Cycle
2021 - 2022

Living in a bubble
QM&A Collective Group Exhibition
SOHO Studios / Vienna
2022





ART START
Göthe Institut
Bulgaria
Sofia BG

Linked - pencil on paper - 150x135cm - Group Exhibition ART START Göthe Institut Bulgaria - Sofia BG

Image overload: one side of the mattress printed with already existing motifs that I have developed for previous exhibitions. The mixture and accumulation of motifs is symbolic of the images that put us to sleep every day in the digital world. The visitor is "invited" to sit/lie alone or with someone else on the side of the mattress in question for 10 minutes, having previously hidden their phone inside the mattress (via the zip of the cover) and having set an alarm as a „10 minutes count down“. In this way it is certain that the visitor will spend at least 10 minutes without a phone during the show.

Information overload: If this side of the mattress is not satisfying, the observer can turn the mattress to the other side and choose one of the practical ideas written on that side. Each activity can be done without a phone (or digital tool) within 10 minutes, but outside the exhibition space.

The pale pink side of the mattress filled with text is symbolic of the information and ideas that flood the digital space every day, which more often can create a sense of anxiety and imbalance rather than a sense of being informed, creative or calm.

10 minutes per day keep the digital madness away

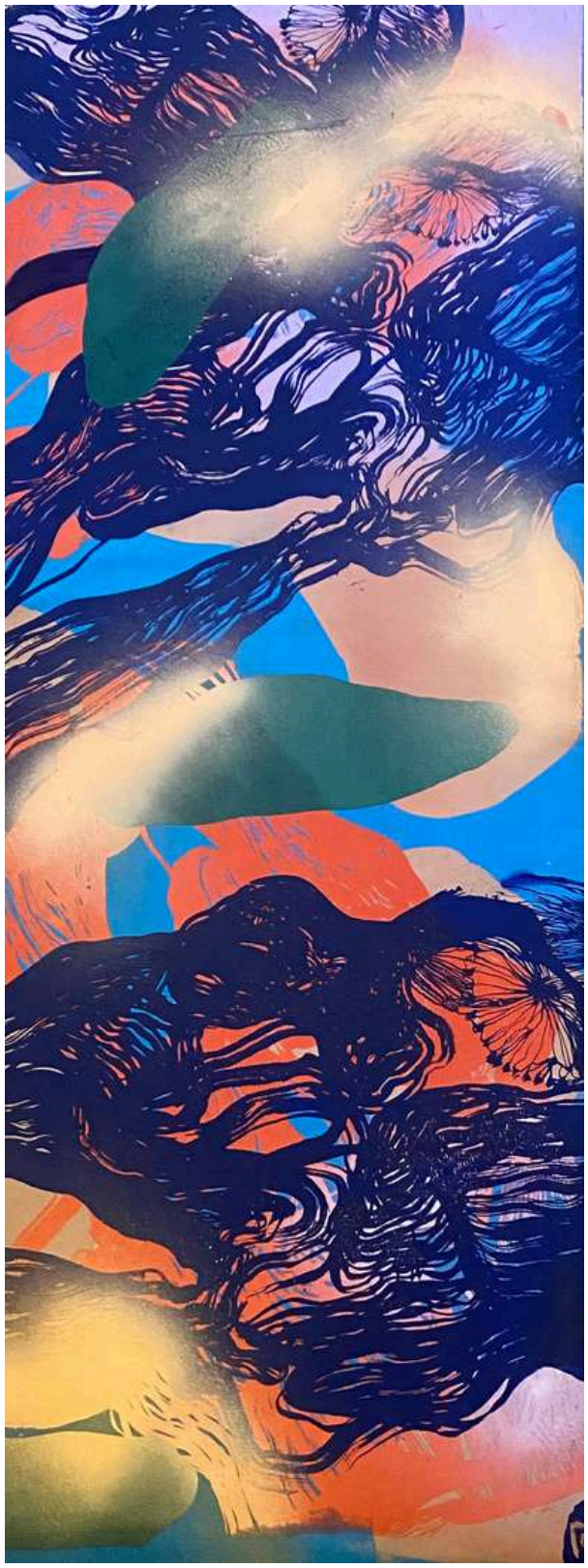
Interactive Screen-printed upcycled object

130x45cm

Sofia Art Week 7 - Campo Verita

Sofia, Bulgaria

2024



Selected exhibitions

*1994 in Varna, Bulgaria

Lives and works in Vienna, Austria since 2013

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2024 Upcycling and Entrepreneurship Workshop (Participant), Villette Makerz / Paris, France (Upcoming)

2024 Viadukt Screen Prints, Internship as a printmaking assistant / Vienna, Austria

2022 Mentor Visual Arts at the Amorpha Academy / Varna, Bulgaria

2019 University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria / Graphics and Printmaking,

Class Prof. Jan Svenungsson, Diploma with honours

2018 Member of the Künstlerhaus Wien (Society of Austrian Artists) / Vienna, Austria

2013 National School of Arts Dobri Hristov Varna, Bulgaria / Fine Arts; Graphics and Printmaking,

Matura with honours

2011 Lifelong learning programme Leonardo da Vinci / Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, Sicily, Italy

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

2025 IATRUS AIR / Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria

2023 GROTTA AIR / Aracena, Spain

2020 KAH Atelier / Vienna, Austria

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2024 Transparent bodies mirroring shadows Artist Talk with Paula Marschalek

2024 Transparent bodies, mirroring shadows - Porgy&Bess / Vienna, Austria

2023 A carefully planned coincidence - Largo Gallery - BUNA Festival / Varna, Bulgaria

2022 Fluid thoughts, fading traces - RED Carpet Showroom Schottentor / Vienna, Austria

2020 SOFT BOUND - Gallery Rudolf Leeb / Vienna, Austria

2019 FATA MORGANA - Produzenten Galerie / Vienna, Austria

2019 Swimming mission - diploma exhibition, Künstlerhaus Wien / Vienna, Austria

2018 mumok Library: Zhanina Marinova - presentation of artists' books /

mumok - Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien / Vienna, Austria

2017 to mess with you(r) ordinary mind - KUSHTA Creative Hub / Sofia, Bulgaria

2016 Repeat.Unique.Attitude - Die Schöne / Vienna, Austria

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

upcoming

2024 PARALLEL Vienna Editions / Galerie Rudolf Leeb/ Vienna, Austria

2024-2025 Immersing into the toxicity spectrum (duo w/ Ana Loureiro) FRAU*Schaft Raum / Vienna

2024 Pannel Discussion w/ Ana Loureiro. DEPOT / Viennna, Austria

2025 CHAC Erasmus+ Group exhibition

2024

- Sofia Art Week 7, DOZA Gallery / Sofia, Bulgaria
- Fair for Art Vienna, Galerie Rudolf Leeb / Vienna, Austria
- FRAGILE, handle with care - Bundesateliers Wattgasse / Vienna, Austria
- SPORNO Festival / Sofia, Bulgaria
- BUNA Forum for Contemporary Art / Varna, Bulgaria

2023

- FAIR FOR ART Vienna - Gallery Rudolf Leeb / Vienna, Austria
- ART VIENNA Art Fair - Gallery Rudolf Leeb / Vienna, Austria
- Guest at Wiespach Castle x Gallery Rudolf Leeb / Hallein, Austria
- La Noche Blanca de la Cultura, Public Intervention / Aracena, Spain
- GROTTA AIR Summer Programme / Aracena, Spain
- PARALLEL Editions - Gallery Rudolf Leeb / Vienna, Austria
- DEMEDARTS - Group exhibition, Künstlerhaus Wien / Vienna, Austria

2022

- Sofia Art Week 5 - Rebonkers / Varna, Bulgaria
- Sofia Art Week 5 - Aether Art Space / Sofia, Bulgaria
- PARALLEL Editions - KAH / Vienna, Austria
- Intagible spaces - Duo with Ana Loureiro - KAH Kitchen / Vienna, Austria
- Precarious circumstances - SOHO Studios / Vienna, Austria

2021

- OPAK - KAH x Galerie Leerstand / Vienna, Austria
- time4artist Open Studio / Vienna, Austria
- Closer - Closure, duo with Kristina Cyan - Improper Walls / Vienna, Austria
- PARALLEL Editions - Gallery Rudolf Leeb; Kunst ab Hinterhof / Vienna, Austria
- ART START 21: Leap into the void - Credo Bonum Gallery / Sofia, Bulgaria
- As before - Orpheum / Graz, Austria

2020

- Blood, sweat and soy sauce (screen print performance) Die Schöne x KAH / Vienna, Austria
- SIAF Salzburg International Art fair, KAH / Salzburg, Austria
- 180 ° - Die Schöne / Vienna, Austria
- EDITIONALE Vienna - University of Applied Arts Vienna / Vienna, Austria

2019

- Vienna Art Book Fair 1 - University of Applied Arts Vienna / Vienna, Austria
- PARALLEL Vienna - KAH/ Vienna, Austria
- FEMALE - lives and works in Vienna - Gallery Rudolf Leeb / Vienna, Austria
- ROOTS - Produzenten Galerie / Vienna, Austria

2018

- mumok Art book day - mumok - Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien / Vienna, Austria
- The Essence '18 / Vienna, Austria
- Benefit Auction - Salvatorianer & Dorotheum / Vienna, Austria
- Boundaries - LATARKA Gallery / Budapest, Hungary
- Human Trafficking (Lenten Veil) - St Michael's Church / Vienna, Austria

2017

- Melange Remix - Gallery Hochdruck / Vienna, Austria
- TRACTATUS LOCUS - Wittgenstein House / Vienna, Austria
- 19th International Print Biennale Varna / Varna, Bulgaria
- The Essence '17 / Vienna, Austria
- RAUM MACHT MUSIK - ORF Radio Kulturhaus / Vienna, Austria
- Wie n verwoben - Wien Museum / Vienna, Austria
- Graphics Open 2 / Budapest, Hungary

2016

- K&K - Die Schöne / Vienna, Austria
- Artists as independent publishers - Heiligenkreuzerhof / Vienna, Austria
- The Essence '16 / Vienna, Austria
- Moment - EDUCULT Museums Quartier / Vienna, Austria

2015

- 18th International Print Biennale Varna / Varna, Bulgaria

CONTACT

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