

The background of the entire image is a complex, abstract pattern of dense, wavy, grey lines. These lines are closely packed and flow in various directions, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is reminiscent of a textured surface or a microscopic view of a material.

# Martin Berger

## Artbook





## ***A tale of light, movement and materials***

Martin Berger is a Franco-Swiss artist living and working in Grenoble. Curves and lines punctuate his work, as much through the grandeur and freedom of their expressions as through his meticulous, disciplined control.

Using the dynamics of the body to imprint and engrave each movement within its foundation, Martin Berger is the choreographer of his own material, where structured surfaces and superimpositions suspend the passage of time within each piece.

Working in series, he develops and refines his own pigments - the appropriately named 'Blue' the most emblematic - combining a multitude of processes with his work; photography, oil, organic matter, mechanical apparatus and even bronze. This quest for refinement, rooted in his insatiable curiosity to stride into the unknown, is as human as it is universal.

The decorative arts has had great influence over Martin Berger's immense body of work, evident from a conflicting and often paradoxical perspective of our dual existence in both interior and exterior worlds. His balance of tension in each piece exposes the urgency of our consideration for the spaces around us.



# *Flow series*

No more than ten seconds of physical contact are permitted for this procedure, during which a battle takes place between the space of the material and the movement frozen within it.



*Flow S1 # 4*, 2018  
Mixed Media  
Tondo 116/80 cm







*Flow S1 # 5*, 2018  
Mixed Media  
140 x 103 cm

*Flow S1 # 7*, 2018  
Mixed Media  
124 x 103 cm



# ***Blue series***

Inspired by the element of water and the abyss of the deep, Martin Berger fabricates his own aquatic blue colors to flood the space with marine monochrome.







*Mare Nostrum*, 2015  
Acrylic on canvas  
450 x 230 cm



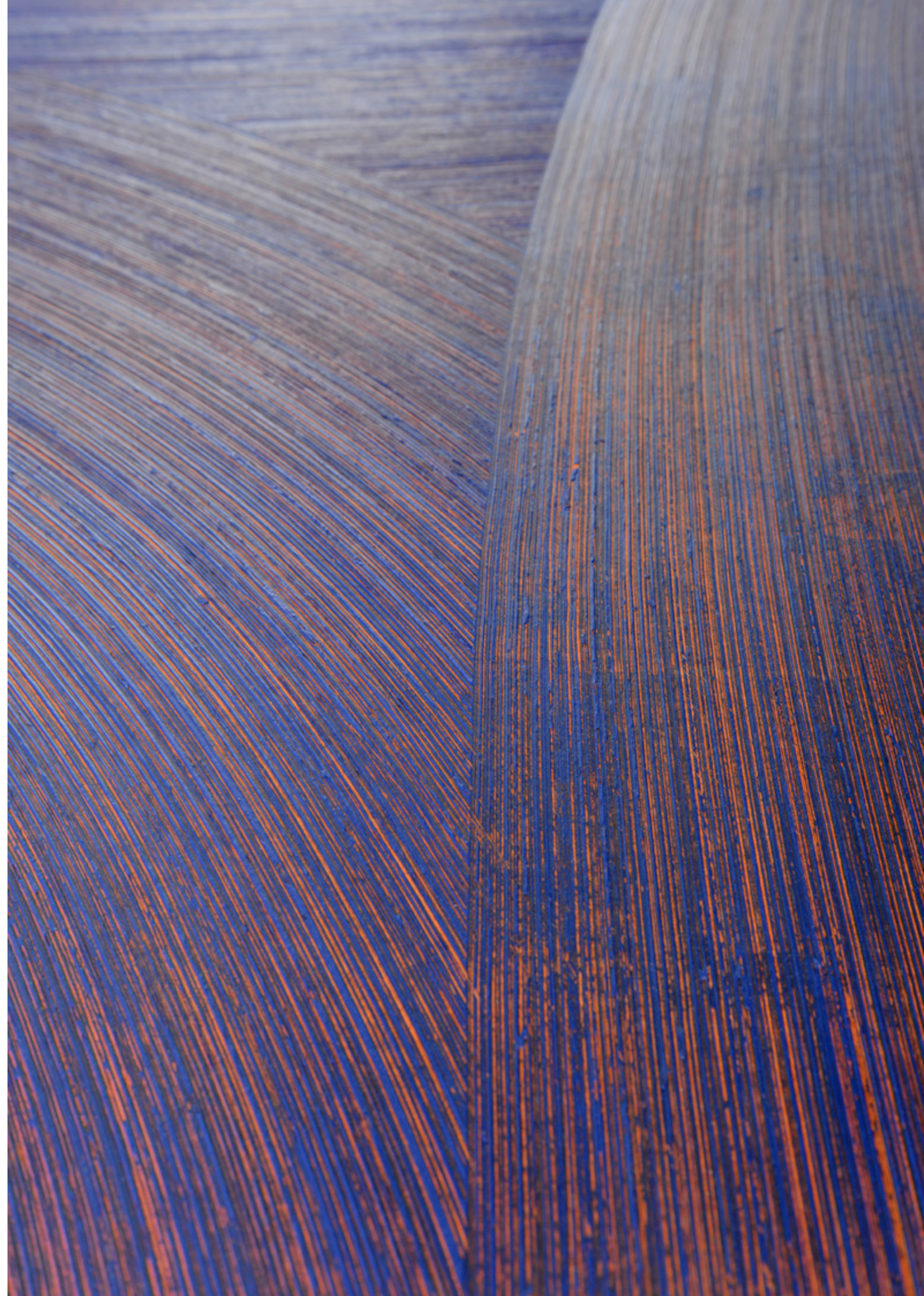


*Deep Blue*, 2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
270 x 170 cm

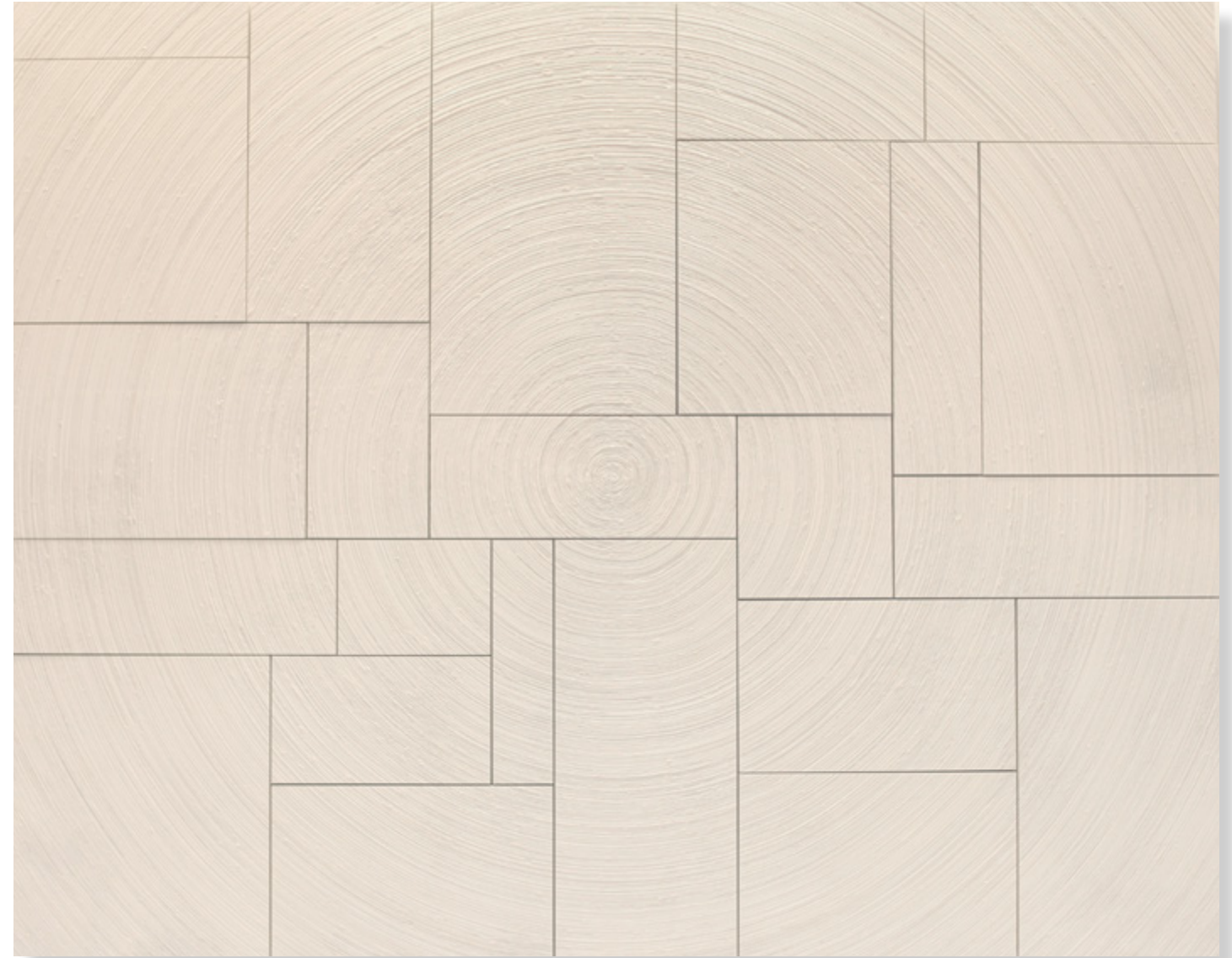
*Blue Therapy*, 2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
130 x 130 cm



*Orange Mécanique*, 2015  
Mixed media and acrylic  
90 x 115 cm







*MLM*, 2015  
Mechanical piece and acrylic on canvas  
24 panels with a 60 second cycle of movement  
200 x 160 cm





*Bourrasque*, 2015  
Mixed media and acrylic  
130 x 130 cm





# *Or Blanc*

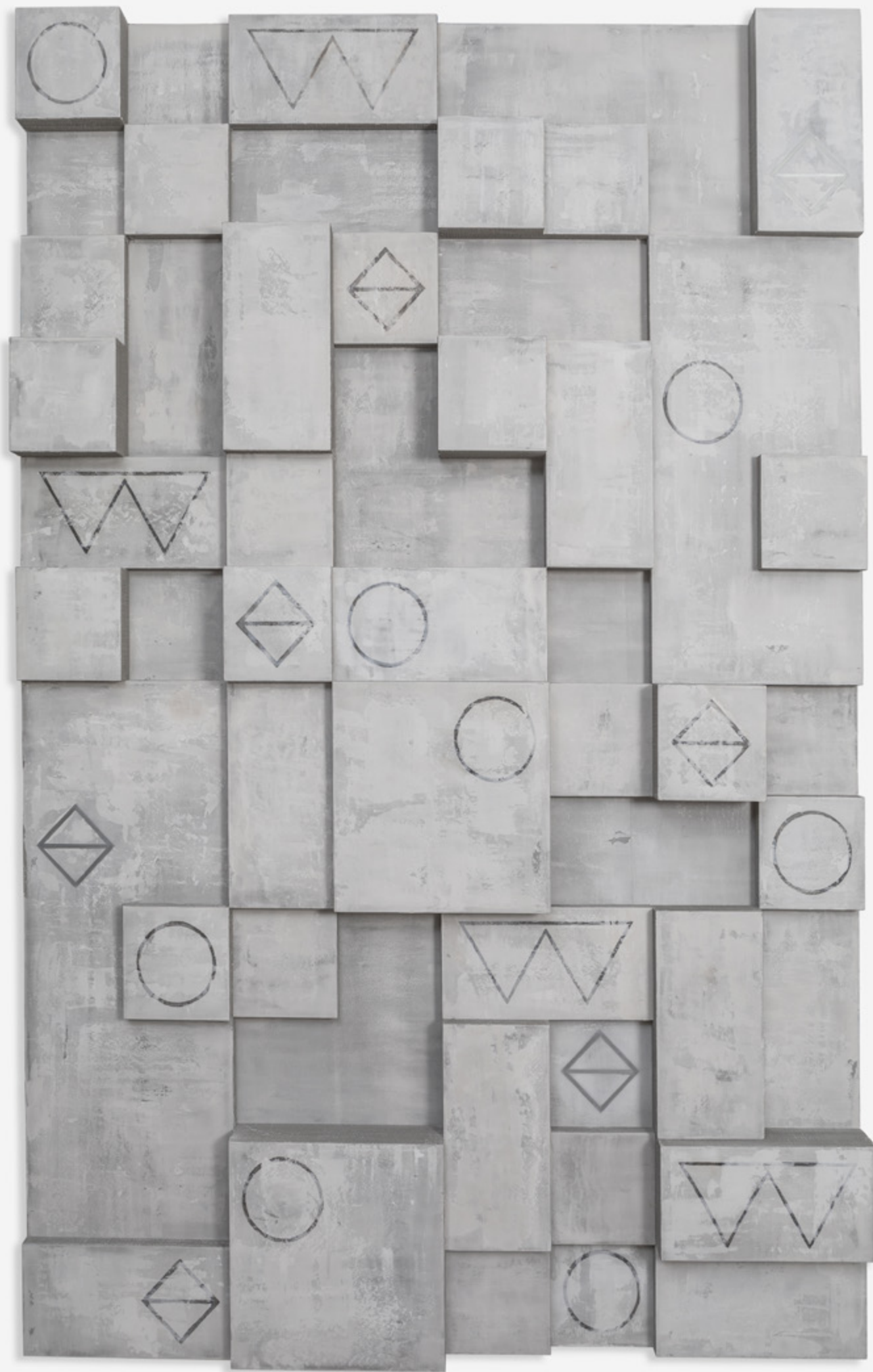
*Or Blanc* is a 'marqueterie', or assembly, of materials circling a heart of crystal. Across its surface, the state of the piece is in continuous transformation, moving from liquid to mineral and from powder to moisture, completing a physical organisation of matter that is as tangible as it is astounding.

*Or Blanc* invites us into the whiteness of nature. Snow, water and ice lie within this execution, where time itself is modifier for the elements.



*Or Blanc*, 2018  
Silica, limestone, pigments, genuine crystal  
140 x 140 cm

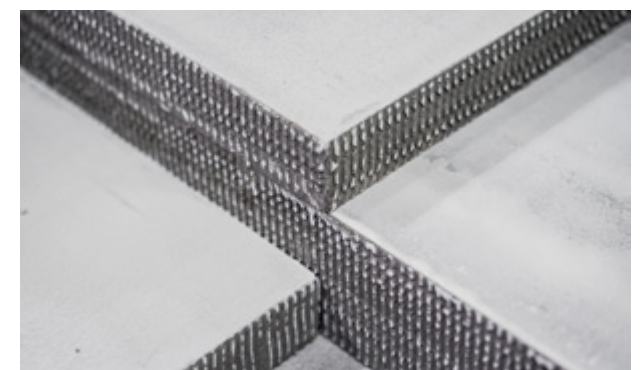




# Or Gris

Martin has been building on his relationship with concrete since his debut. A raw and logical material, it demands any process to meet its own capacity for strength and control.

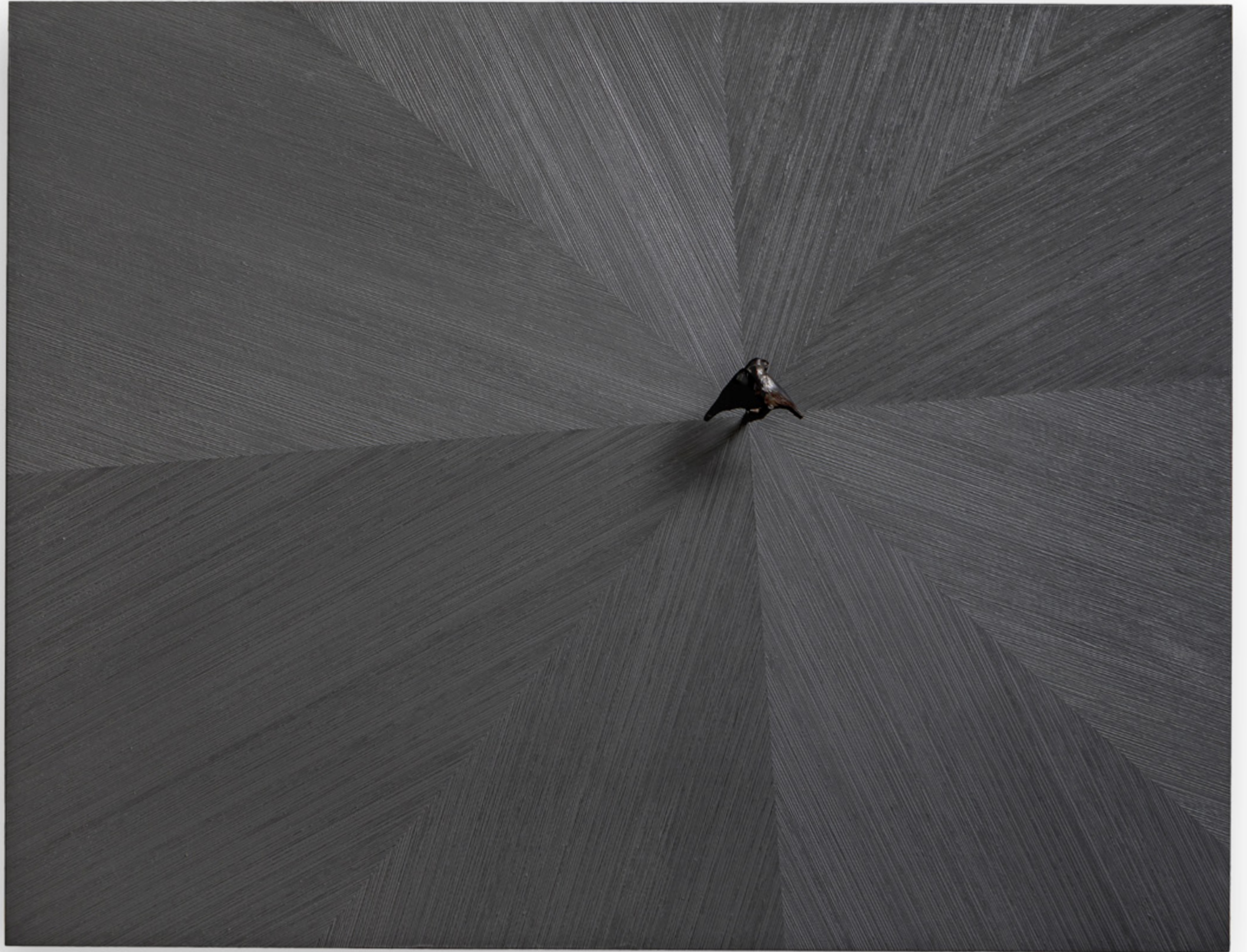
*Or Gris*, geometric composition, explores the versatility of such a brutal material. The piece is constructed in micro cement with relief in ink and metallics and was first exhibited at the Palace of Iéna, Paris. The architect responsible for this construction was Auguste Perret. His eponymous tower stands in the same city as Martin Berger's studio : Grenoble, the heart of the Alps. Cement and concrete have strong ties to this Isère region and the historical cement company 'Vicat', honoured here through the artist's choice of both material and design.



*Or Gris*, 2018  
Micro cement, metal, ink, oil and pigments  
210 x 140 cm



# *Bird series*



*Nightcall*, 2017  
Mixed media and bronze sculpture  
140 x 200 cm



*«The bird, as an independent observer,  
as an innocent witness to the passage of time»*



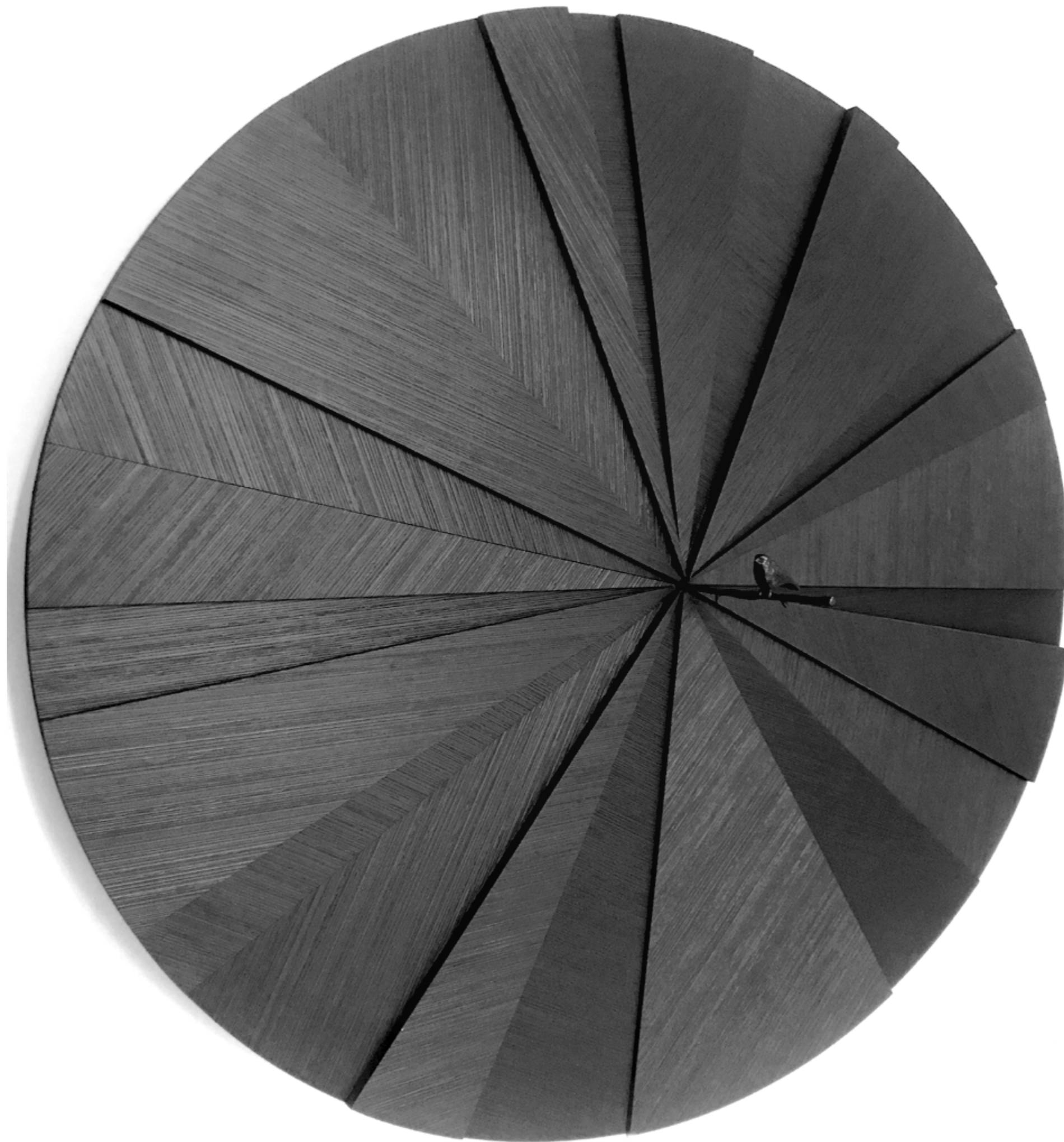
*Witnesses*, 2017  
Mixed media and bronze nickle-plated  
130 x 130 cm





*Time Keeper*, 2017  
Mixed media and bronze carving  
130 x 130 cm





*Panorama*, 2017  
Mechanical pieces  
Mixed media and bronze sculpture  
150 cm (diameter)



# Body series

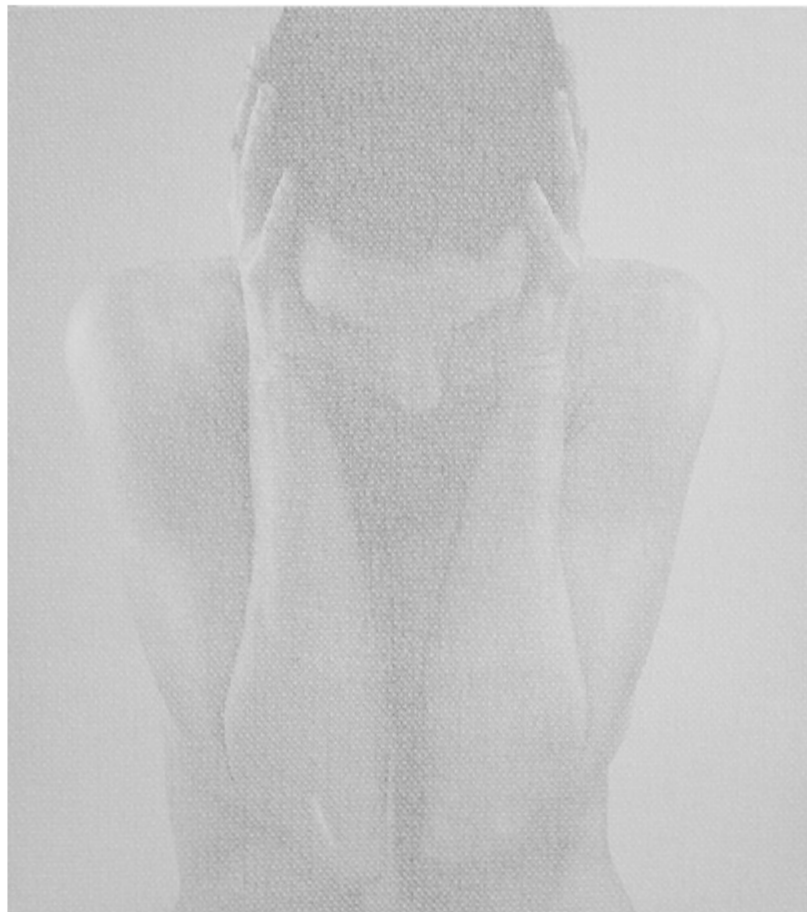
The most recent photographic series of Martin Berger delicately reveals the modesty of the body across a veil of material.



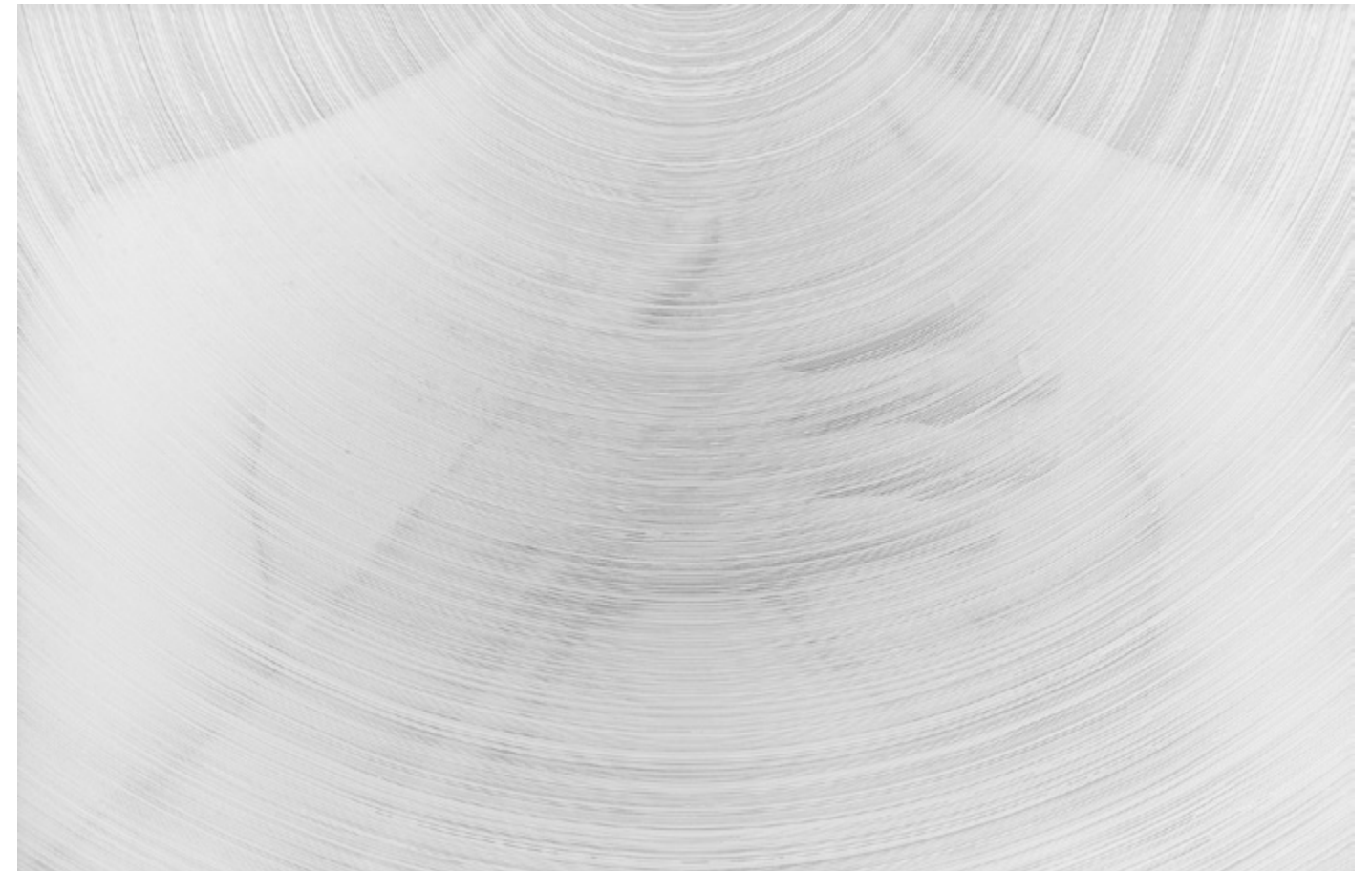
Body series detail







*Body series*, 2017  
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas  
45 x 50 cm



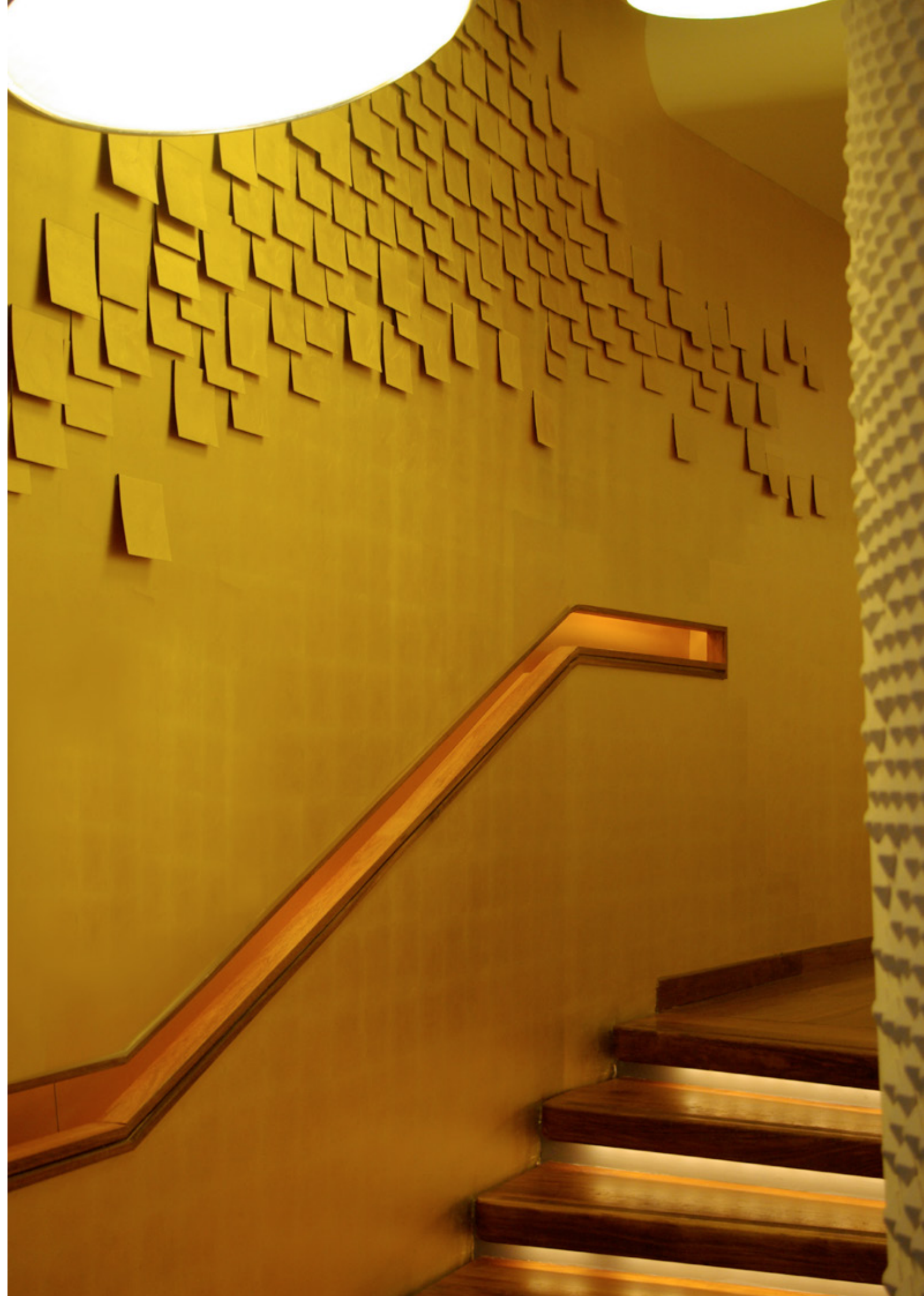
*Pudeur*, 2015  
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas  
130 x 85 cm



# *In situ*



Oth Sombath, Paris, 2012  
Golden scales





*Grand souffle*, Paris, 2012  
800 aluminium scales  
Each scale is 14 x 14 cm and 8/10 mm





# *Imprudence series*

An out of frame serie !

The classic lines escape, the movement destabilizes the framework.



*Imprudence N°9*, 2017  
Oil on canvas  
75 x 68 cm



*Imprudence N°11*, 2017  
Oil on canvas  
86 x 72 cm



# Artworks

- 2019** Maison Hurel, Paris, France  
Monaco Yacht Show, Monaco  
18 Davies Street Gallery, London, England  
The Edit, Seoul, Korea
- 2018** AD Intérieurs 2018, Paris, France  
Virtuous, Xavier Lavergne Showroom, Paris Design Week 2018, France  
18 Davies Street Gallery, London, England  
AD Matières d'Art, Paris, France
- 2017** 18 Davies Street, London, England  
Holiday House, London, England
- 2016** Prana, Grenoble, France  
Diffusion, Euronews, Lyon, France  
Mare Nostrum, Hôtel le Castellet, France
- 2015** Salon Révélations, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2014** Point Reyes, Marseille, France
- 2013** Artnova, Echirolles, France
- 2012** Grand Souffle & Respiro, Arche des Art, Paris, France  
Salon d'Automne, Pékin, Lialoling et Hainan, China  
Girlfriend, Paris Design Week, Paris, France
- 2011** Inner city, Médiamax exhibition, Grenoble, France  
Swing, Galery MHD, Lyon, France  
La Danseuse, Gallery l'Ange et l'Eléphant, St Rémy de Provence, France  
Ondulations, Paris Design Week, Paris, France  
La Sucrière, Borderline, Zen Gallery, Saint Tropez, France

# Timeline

- 1999** Launch of Atelier Martin Berger, Grenoble
- 1996** Shares a studio with a sculptor in Phoenix, Arizona
- 1992** Collaboration with a French artist, Paris
- 1990** Gallery director in the Village Suisse, Paris
- 1986** First american residency
- 1982** École du Louvre, Paris
- 1964** Born in Chambéry, France

Martin Berger is a plastic artist working around light, material and movement. His works can be viewed publicly and private in collections in Paris, London, Hong-Kong, Shenzhen, Dubaï, Moscow, Los Angeles, and Geneva.

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