

# **Seminal and Non-Seminal Works**

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Matthew Schiavello

**Seminal and Non-Seminal works**

**Exhibition details: Balkon Art Incubator**

**635 Plenty Rd, Preston**

**Opening: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 , 6.30pm- 8.30pm**

**Additional Viewing: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, 10am-1pm**

**This catalogue presents the works from the exhibition.**

**It was particularly made for those who could not attend the event.**

**Regards,**

**Matthew Schiavello**

***Thank you to Monique and Sarah from Balkon Art Incubator for inviting me to exhibit in their gallery. Thank you to Monique for her support and guidance. Thank you also to Christine Georgiou, my friend and teacher, for all of her help as I created the work, put the exhibition together, and especially for her help with all the unglamorous behind the scenes work.***

## Artist Statement

Matthew Schiavello (b.1972) is a Melbourne photographer and mixed media artist. Over the last two years he has been exploring bricolage through the manipulation of translucent materials. The works in this exhibition have been created using this technique.

Much of Matthew's work is centred on finding beauty in spaces or items which are unwanted or discarded. The series 'Seminal and non-seminal works' sees him shifting from passive observer of beauty to active participant in its creation.

What started as a personal contemplation on mortality and misremembered recollections of past glory, was discarded as Matthew chose to instead use items to hand, to create joyful representations of life, or of the creation of life. These range from universal and obvious items to the more personal, such as the cotton thread symbolising his dressmaker mother, who toiled in order to create a life of choice and freedom for him.

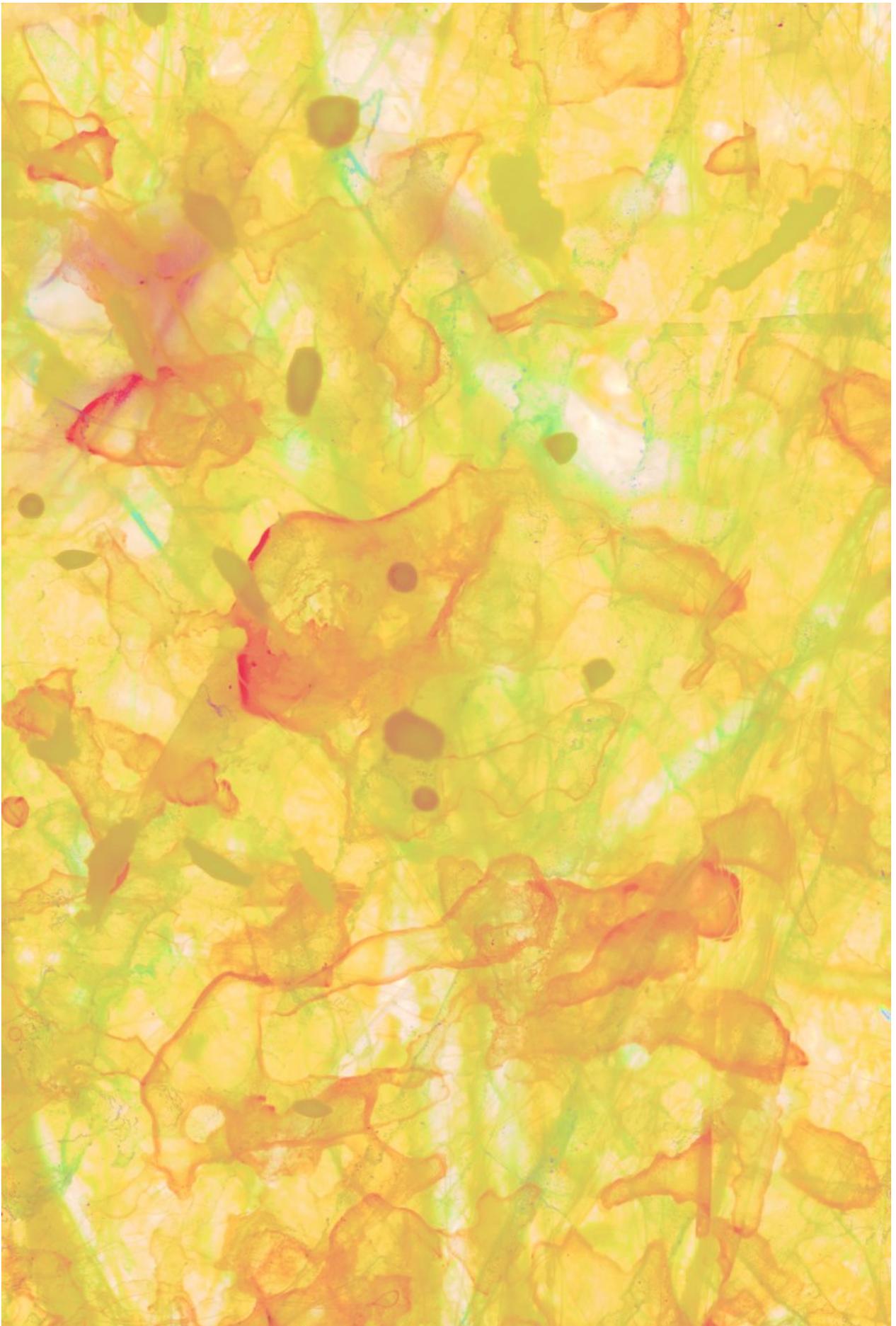
Each item used in the artworks, alongside the more traditional mediums, has an emotionally charged meaning for the artist. These items were also intentionally chosen to provoke reactions in each viewer. In doing so, the artist hopes to bring from the viewers' periphery their awareness of the emotional meaning they may have attached to the items used.

Though the art works can be enjoyed any way that the viewer pleases, to experience the exhibition at its fullest, it is suggested that the art works initially be viewed with an innocence of not knowing which items are used in the piece. You are then encouraged to revisit the artwork as you become aware of the items/materials used. The aim of viewing the artworks this way is to bring to the forefront how the emotional value we attach to words and items can affect our experiences. Have you reacted differently to the artworks because of this? Matthew invites you to consider, in a broader sense, how the emotional meaning that you attach to (imbue in) items or words, affects your everyday interactions and experiences .

# Seminal Works

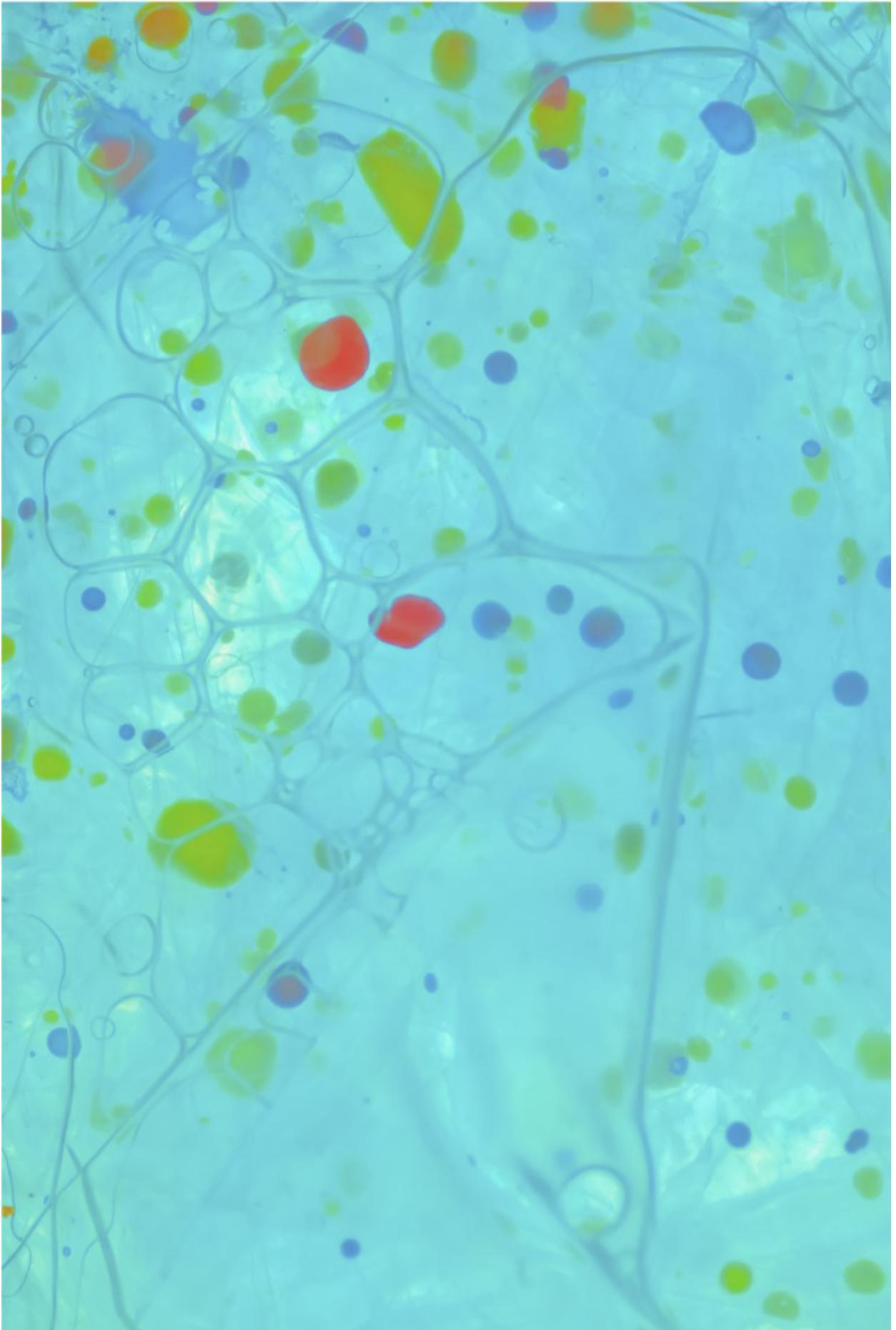
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Joyful explorations of life and the creation of life.



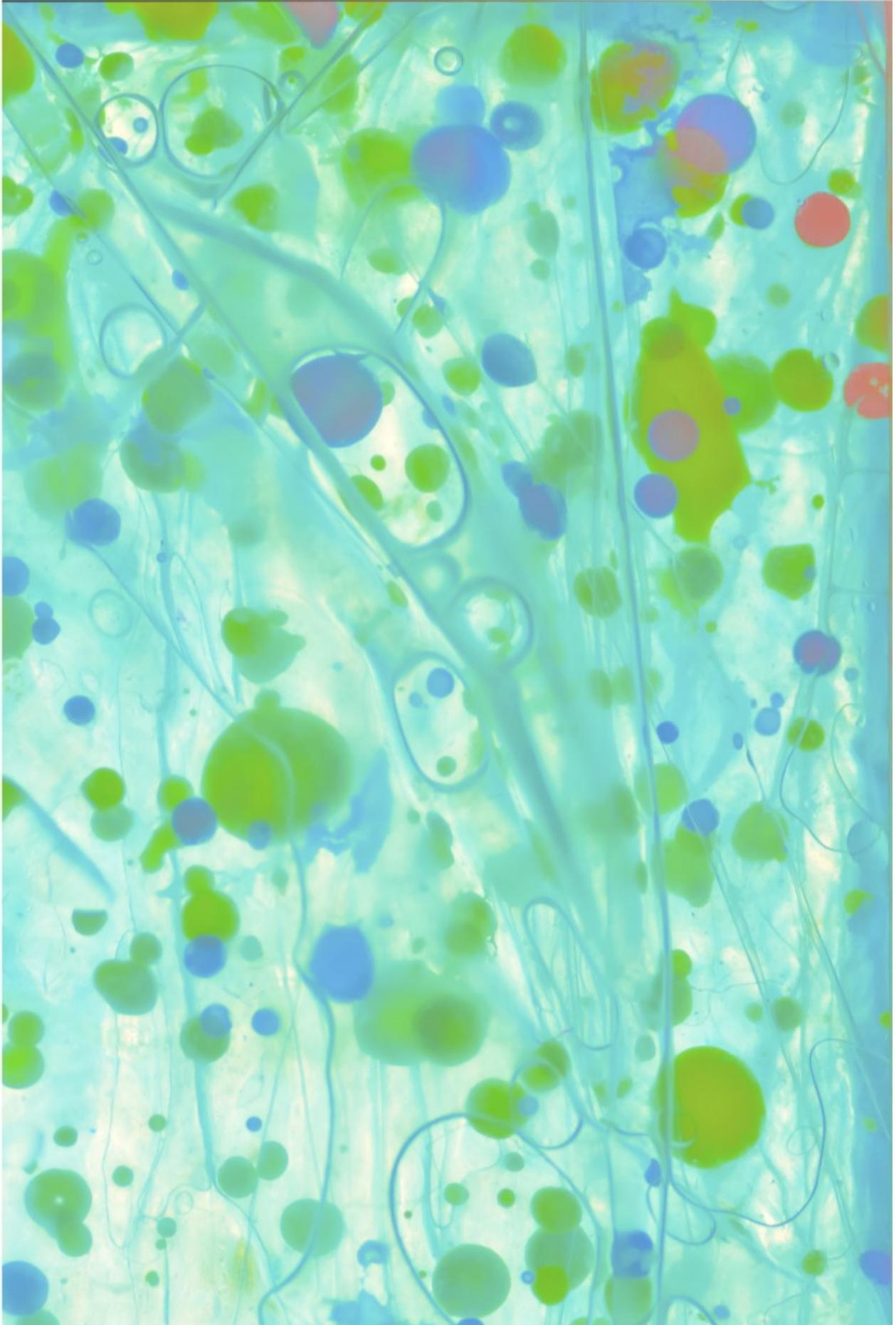
**“Seminal works #07 030116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Fuji archival photographic paper



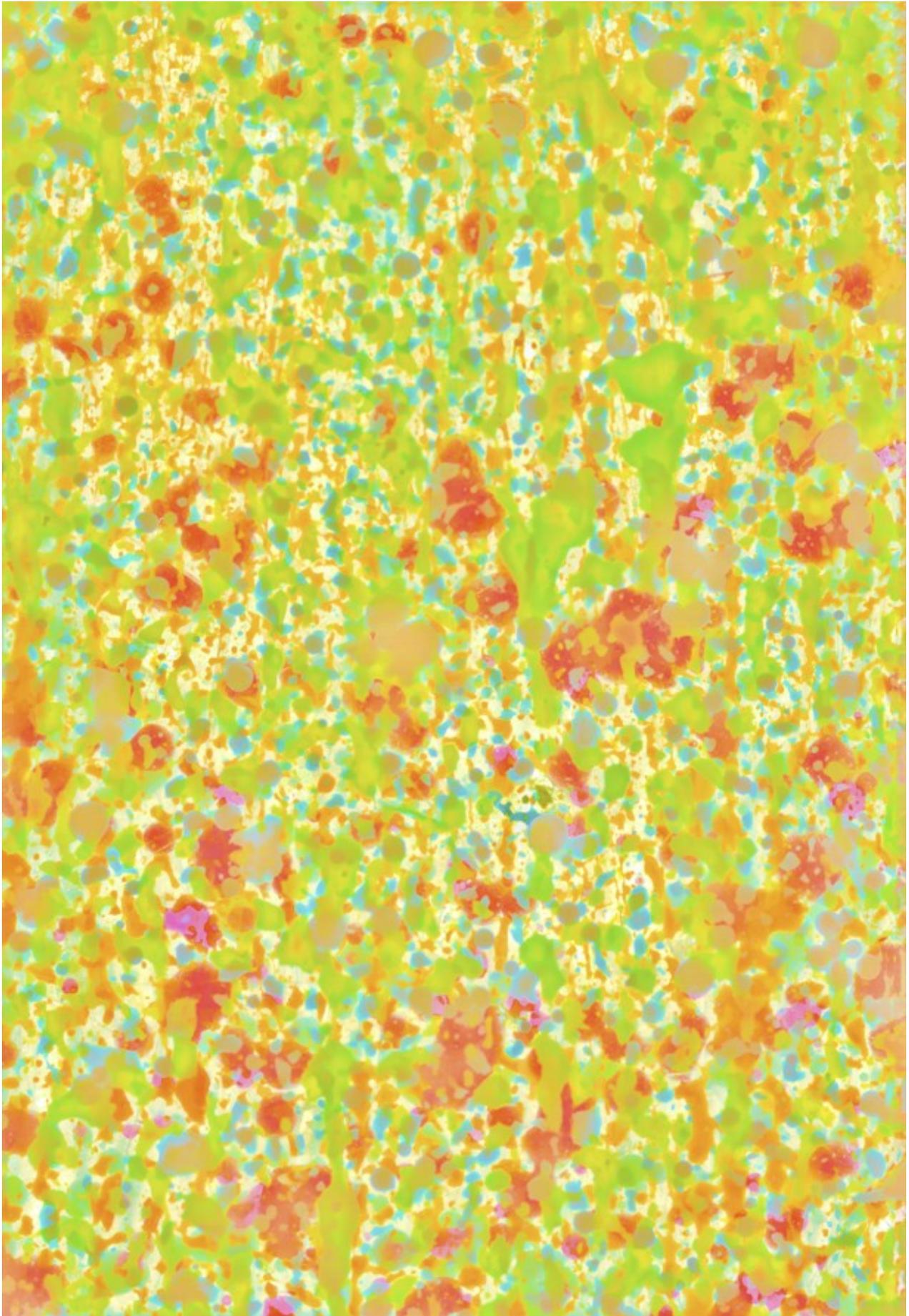
**“Seminal works #16 110116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 12 x 18 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.



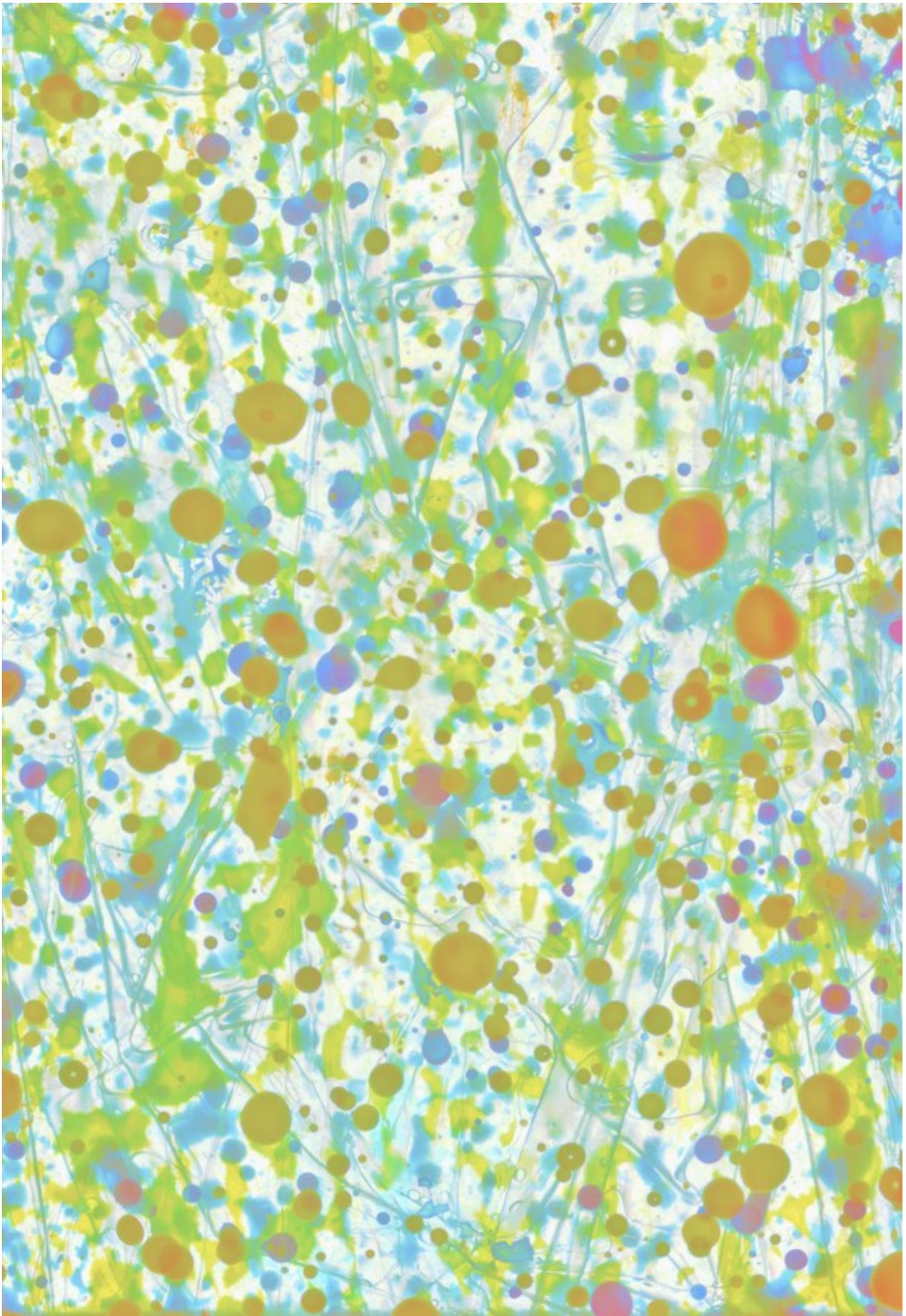
**“Seminal works #23 110116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 12 x 18 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.



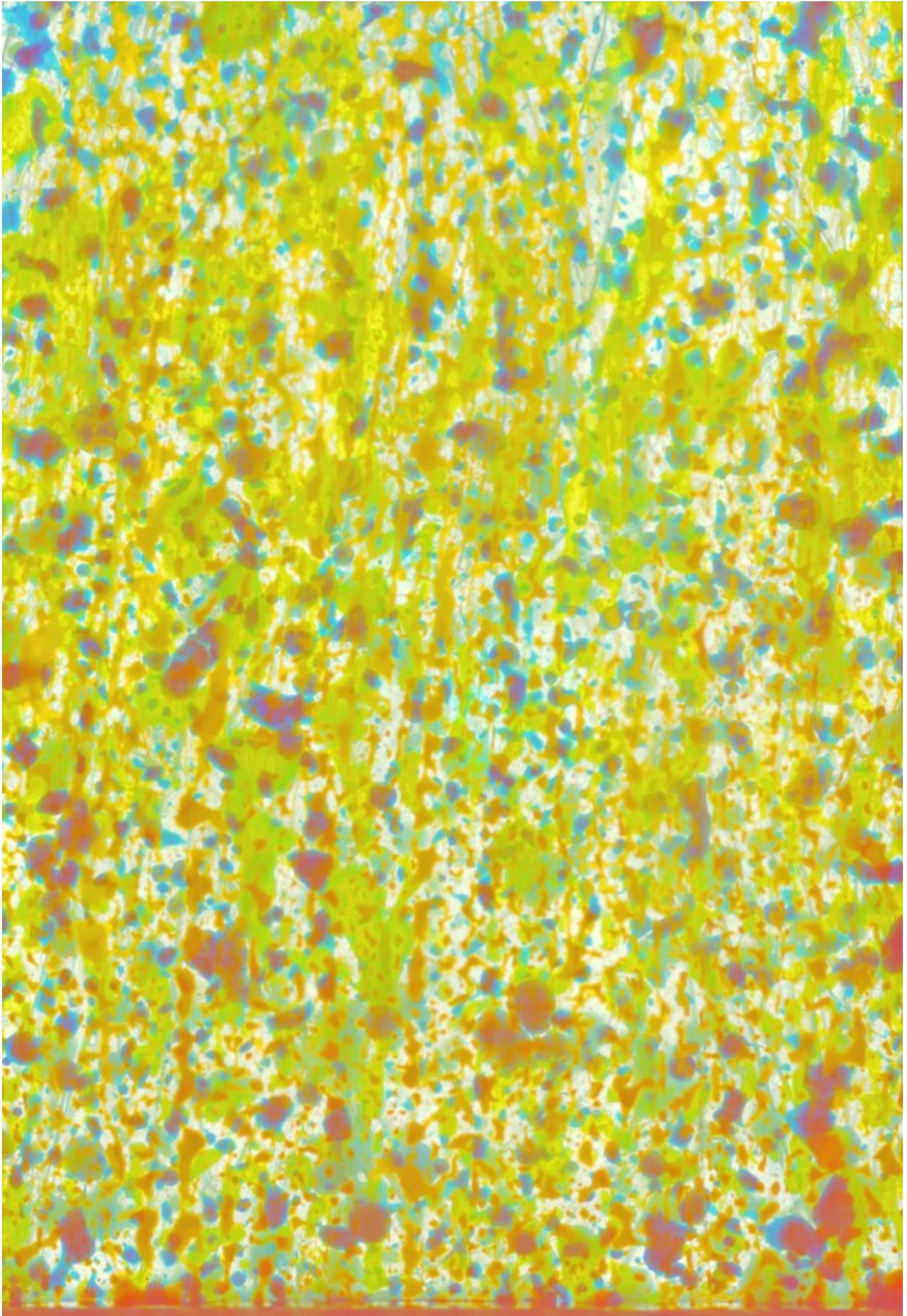
**“Seminal works #10 110116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.



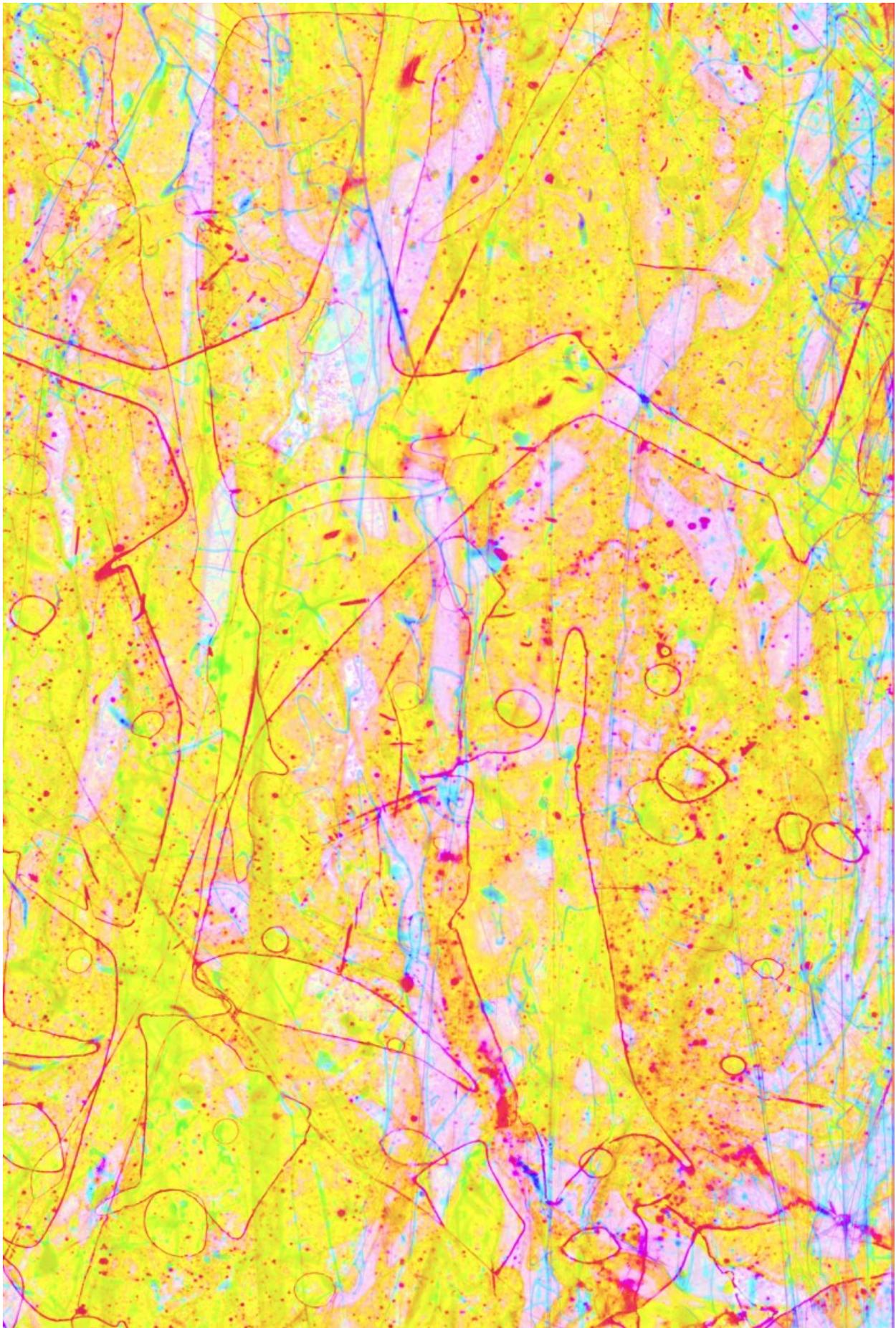
**“Seminal works #28 080116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Fuji archival photographic paper



**“Seminal works #30 090116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.



**“Seminal works #08 211215”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Fuji archival photographic paper



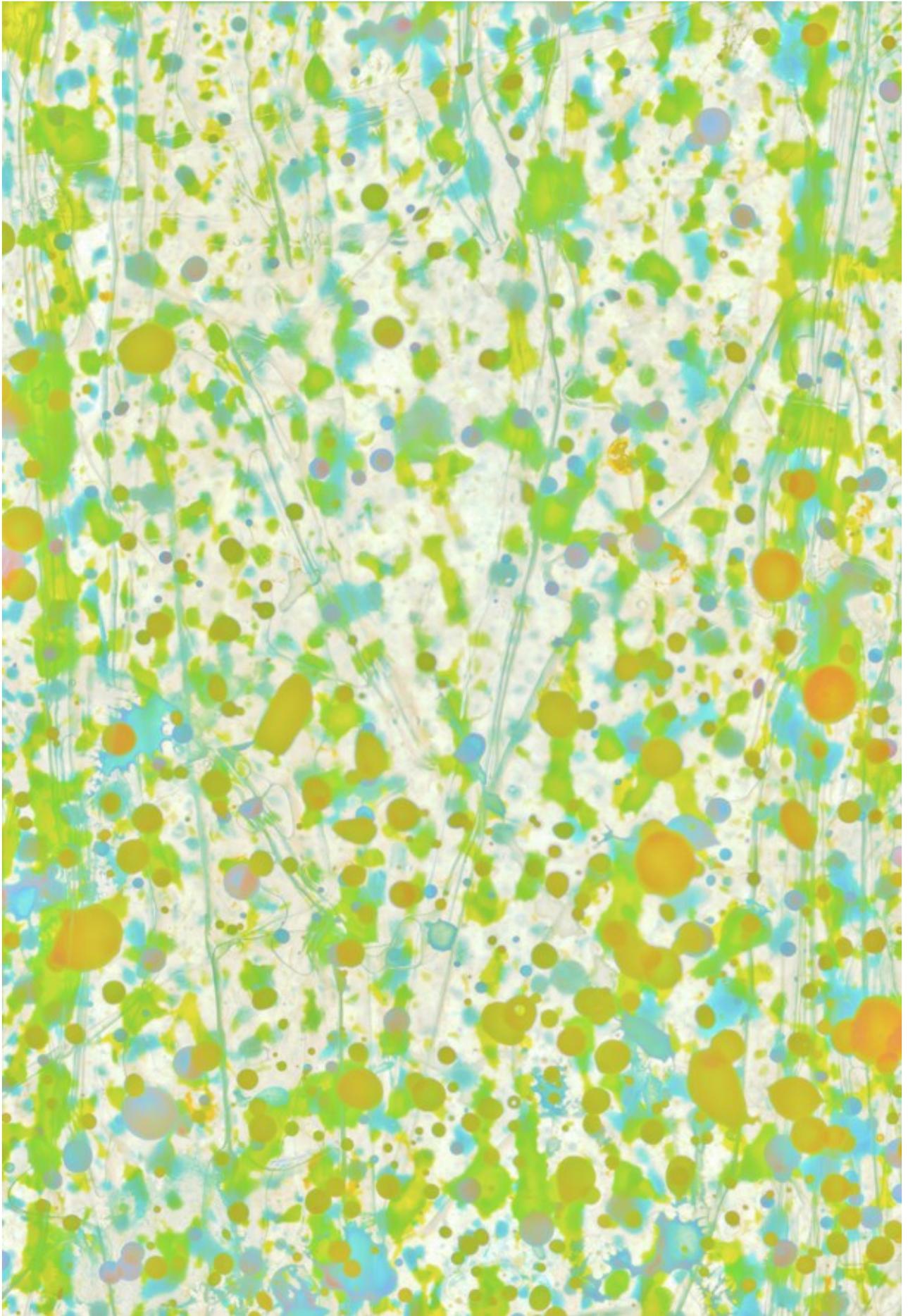
**“Seminal works #04 080116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Fuji archival photographic paper



**“Seminal works #12 030116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.



**“Seminal works #27 080116”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Fuji archival photographic paper.



**“Seminal works #03 151115”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Toothpaste, Semen). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.

## Non- Seminal Works

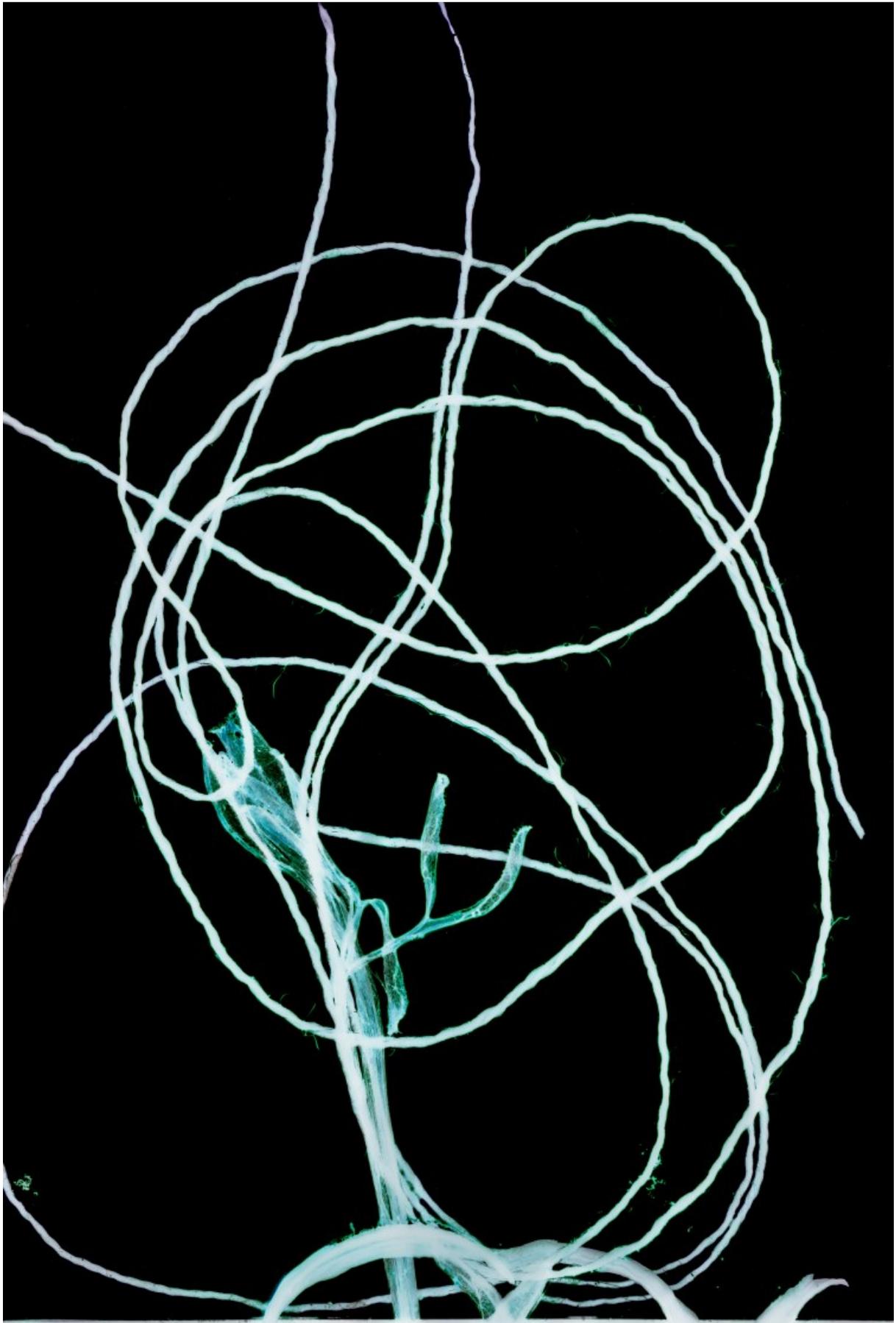
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The items used in each of these pieces represent the dream of new life, from the view point of the artist's formative years. The cotton thread represents his mother, a dressmaker, working hard in order to create for him a life of choice and opportunity. The use of felt-tip pen, which were used to fill books with cursive lines, writing and wishing for something more fulfilling. The short repetitive line work, reminiscent of the artist's early factory working life, of the tasks and machinery used. Yet, in spite of the darkness that seemed to be all around the him at the time, there were hopeful moments of colour and beauty.



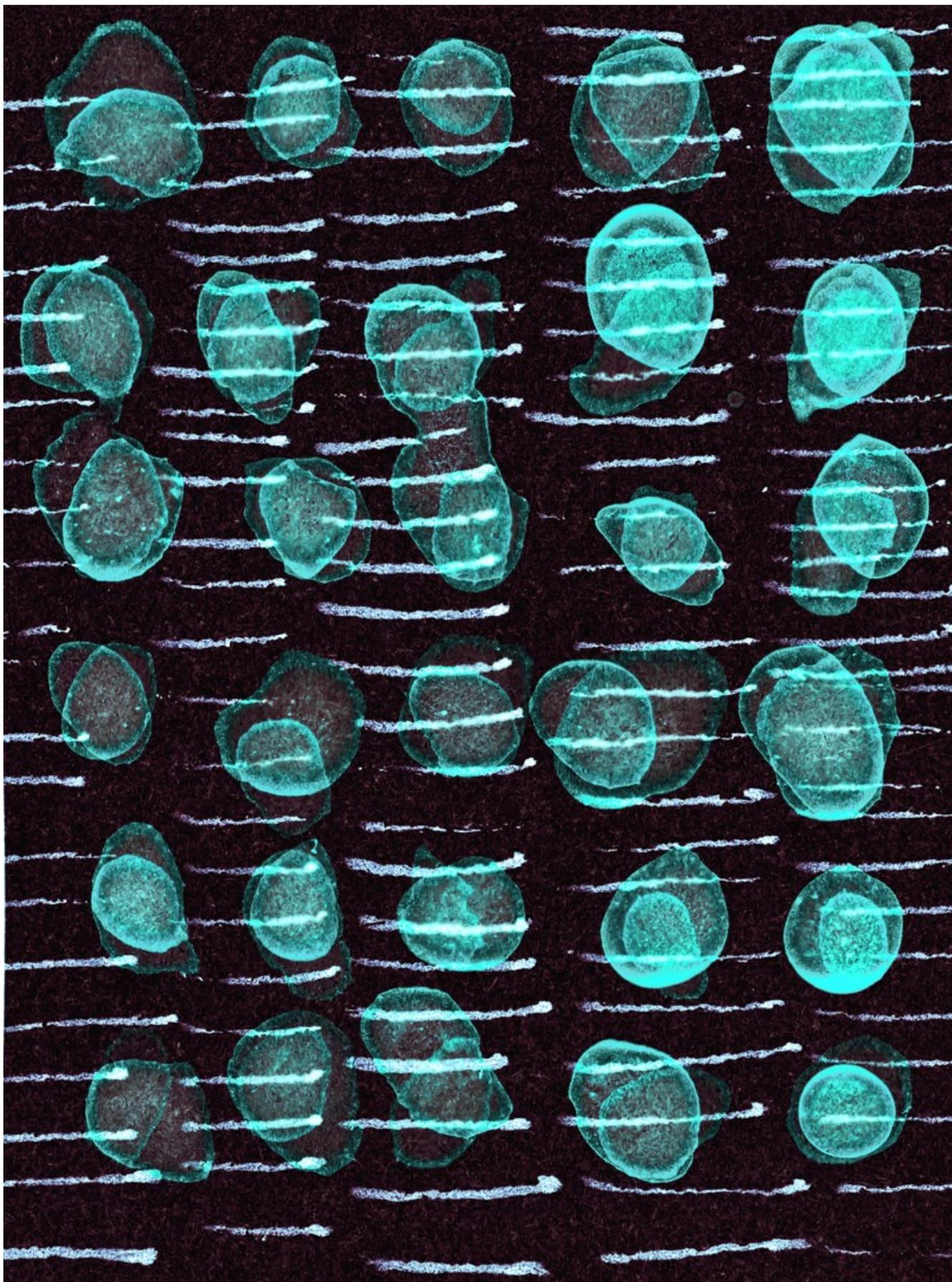
**“All my dark thoughts #03 151115”**

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Ink, Polyethylene, Toothpaste). 20 x 30 inches. Printed on Museo Silver Rag.



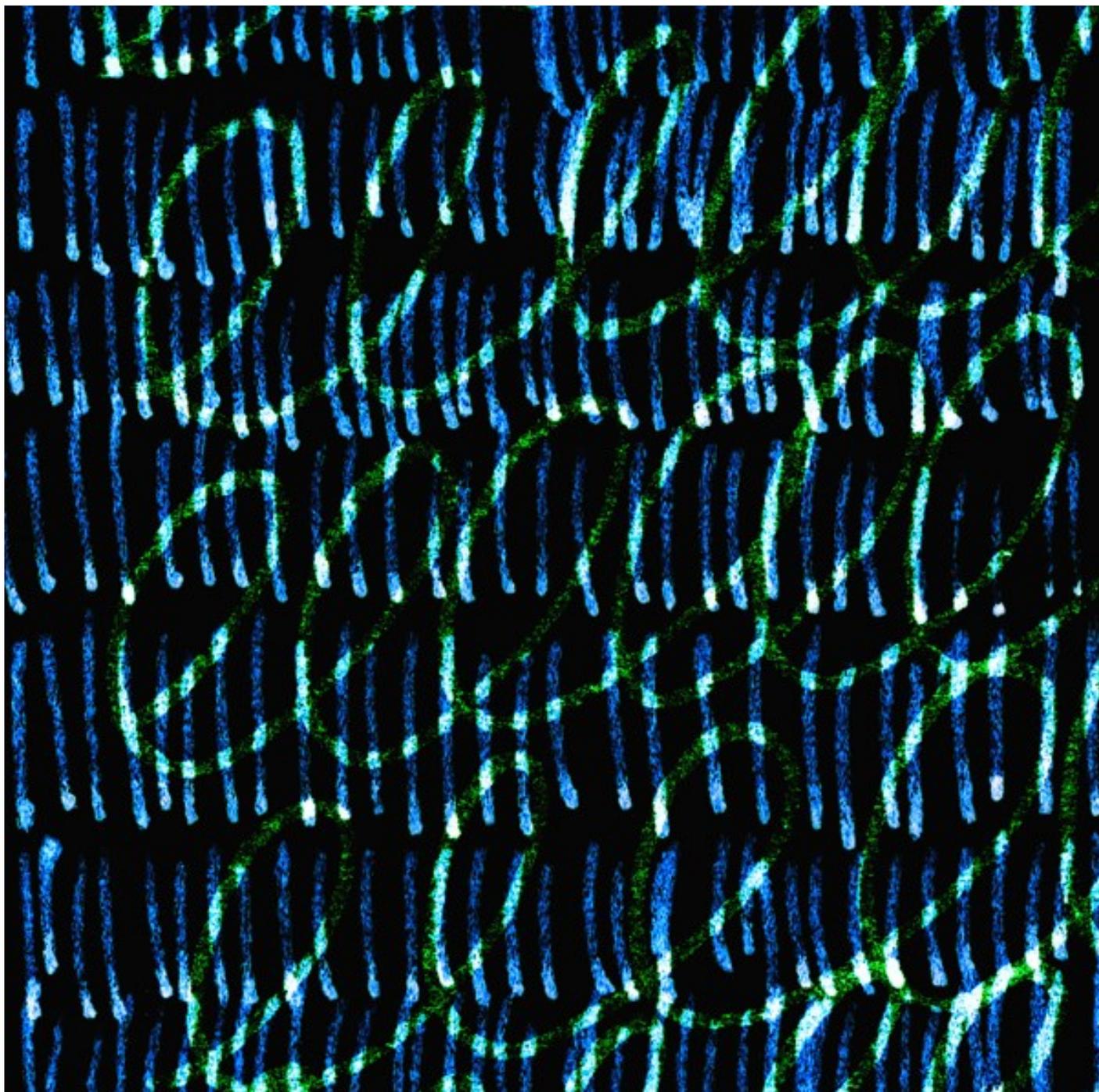
**“Jumbled (a.k.a Flora #22 150915) ”**

Mixed Media (Cotton, Organic plant material, Ink, Acetate ). 12x 18 inches. Printed on Sihl Masterclass Satin Baryta Paper .



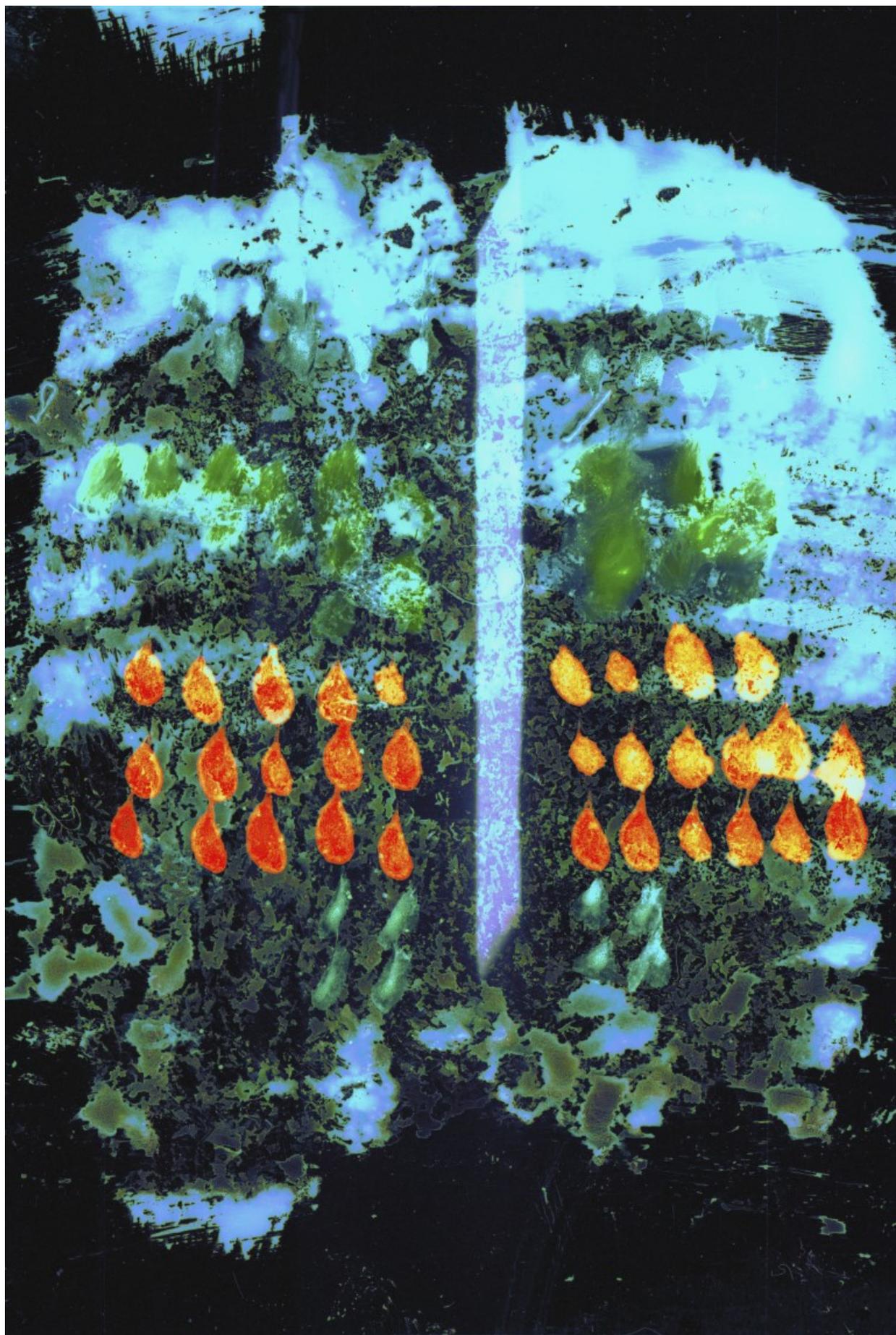
“010 110815”

Mixed Media (Watercolour, Felt-tip pen, Acetate, Paper ). 14 x 19 inches. Printed on Sihl Masterclass Satin Baryta Paper.



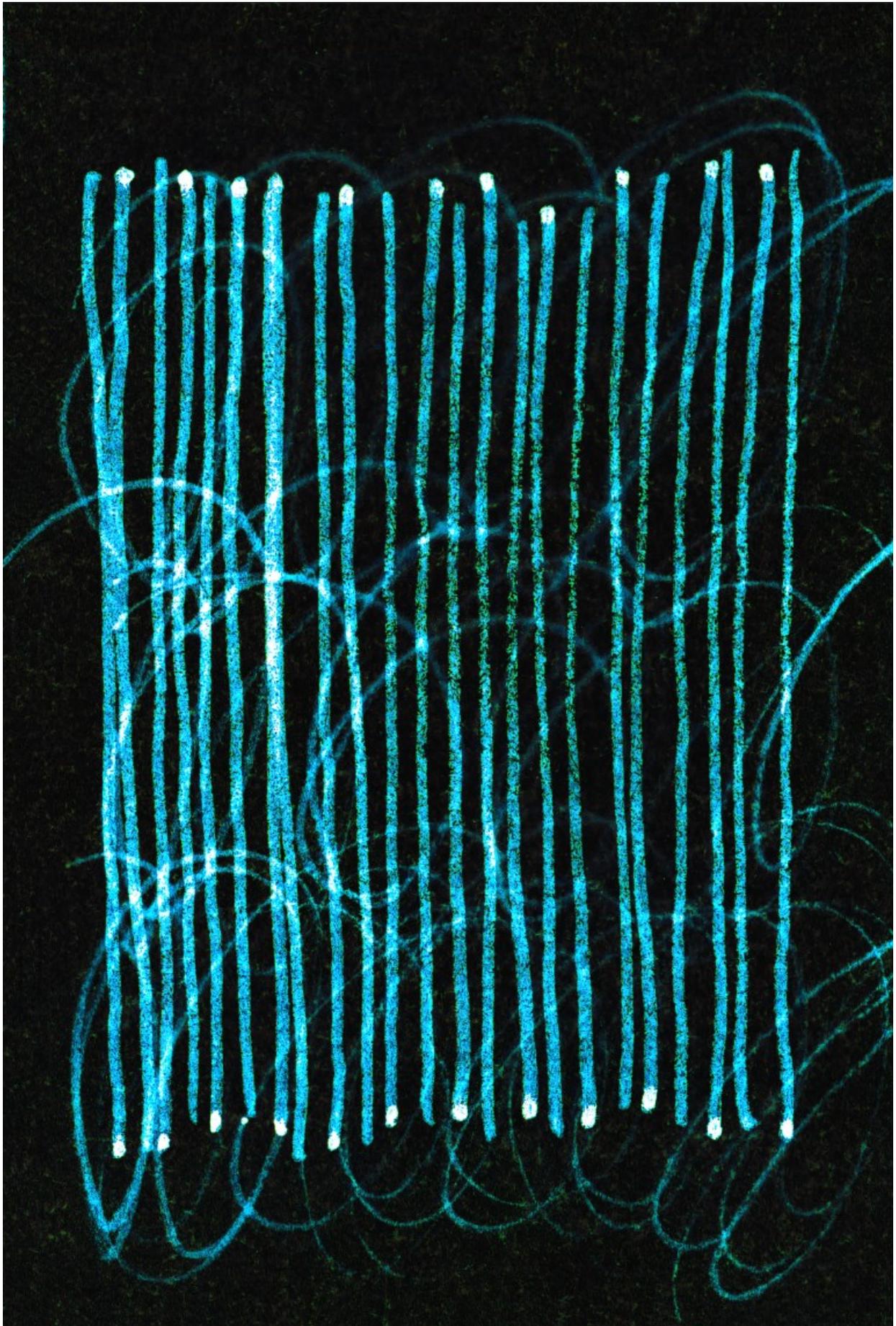
**“lines #25 110815”**

Mixed Media (Felt-tip pen, Acetate, Paper). 16 x 16 inches. Printed on Sihl Masterclass Satin Baryta Paper .



“Untitled #13 270415 (a.k.a il pianto) ”

Mixed Media (Film negative, Watercolour, Gouache). 12 x 18 inches. Printed on Sihl Masterclass Satin Baryta Paper .



**“Untitled lines #36 250815 ”**

Mixed Media (Felt-tip pen, Ink, Acetate, Paper). 12 x 18 inches. Printed on Sihl Masterclass Satin Baryta Paper .

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[www.matthewschiavello.com](http://www.matthewschiavello.com)