

ANAMORPHOSIS

Notes from Palestine, Winter in the Kashmir Valley

Praneet Soi

2019

ANAMORPHOSIS

Anamorphosis is Praneet Soi's first solo exhibition in London. The Mosaic Rooms commissioned a new body of work from Soi informed by stays in Palestine this year. *Anamorphosis* also shows work based on the artist's immersions in the workshop of a master craftsman in Kashmir.

The exhibition begins with Yalla Yasmeen!. This single-channel video expands on Soi's recent audio-visual installations which implement a cut and paste aesthetic, stitching together moving image, stills and drawings to generate a polyphonic narrative. In seven chapters, the film relates encounters with people Soi met in Palestine.

On Soi's visits to Palestine he travelled across the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, through the occupied Golan Heights, south to Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah and back north to Haifa and Akka. Soi's aim was to experience the country through facets of its landscapes, and to visit farms, workshops and factories to understand productivity and entrepreneurship in Palestine. This subject has been a focus for Soi in previous exhibitions, such as *Third Factory-From Kashmir to Lisbon via Caldas*, a solo at the Gulbenkian in Lisbon in 2018. Soi's interest in the politics of representation relating to Palestine was sparked by an earlier visit when for the 3rd Riwaq Biennale (2009) he joined artists in a UN organised tour of the region.

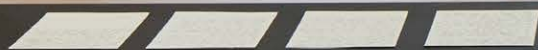
In Room 2, we see notes, drawings and collages on linen canvas generated in the process of making the video. They are placed on a large modular structure with interconnected yet separate partitions, hinting at Soi's experiences in Palestine. Soi has been engaging with the term anamorphosis as a metaphor for distortions caused by a disturbed political climate. An anamorphic image can only be

understood by the viewer from one viewpoint (Holbein's painting *The Ambassadors* (1533) where a skull is so distorted as to appear abstract is a well-known example). Soi experiments with such techniques in drawings of landscapes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, pointing to the fact that any representation of this landscape is a political gesture.

The final room shows Soi's ongoing work with craftsmen in Kashmir and is set in dialogue with the works on Palestine. In August 2019, whilst Soi was working towards this exhibition, the Indian state of Kashmir had its autonomous relationship with India revoked and its statehood terminated. Kashmir has long identified itself with the Palestinian struggle. 1947 marked Indian independence from British rule, and the beginning of Kashmir's quest for autonomy. That same year, the UN voted to end the British Mandate in Palestine, leading to an event called Nakba (Catastrophe) by Palestinians, and the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. For Soi, it became imperative to include his work with craftsmen in Kashmir in the exhibition.

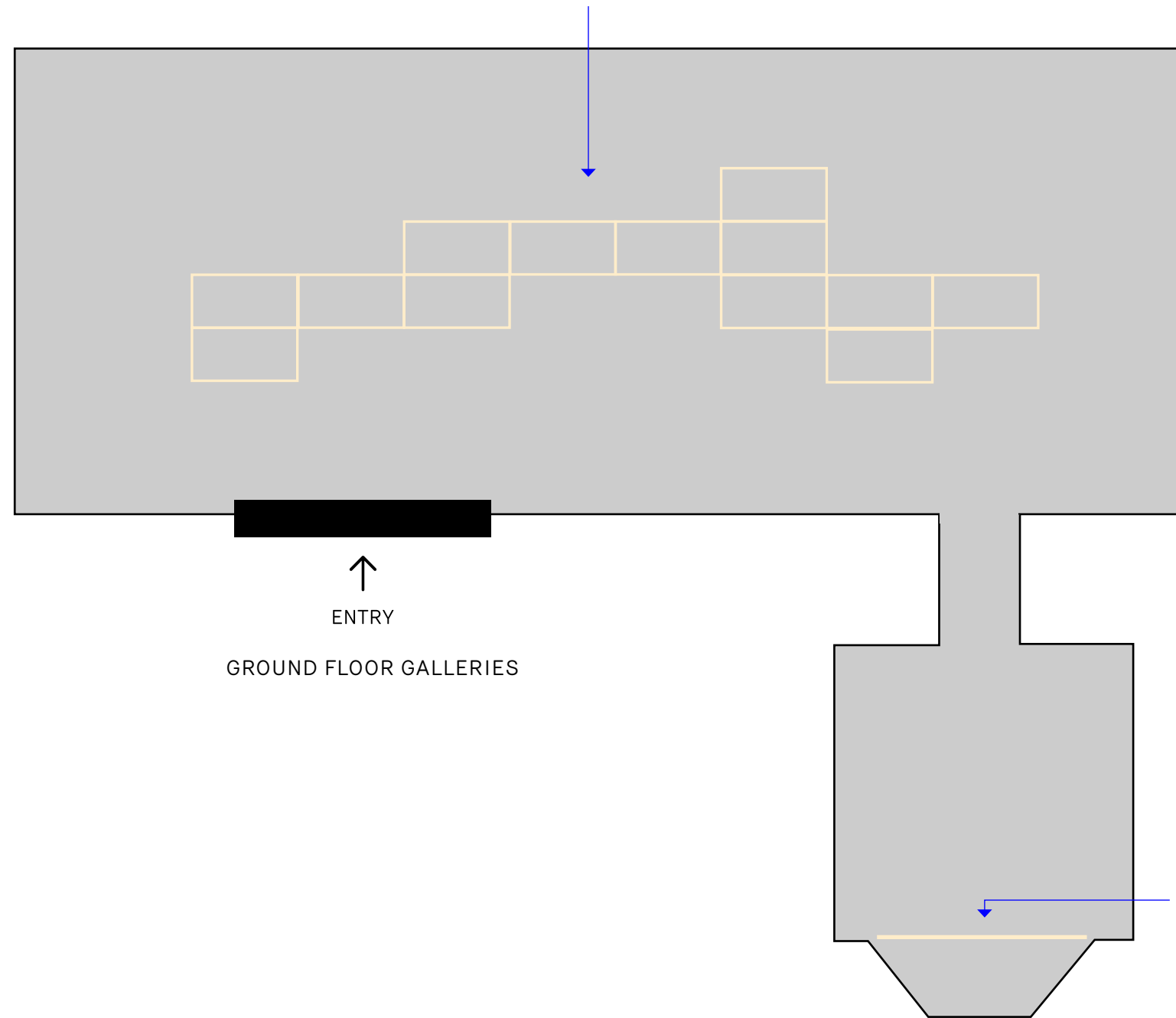
INSTALLATION VIEWS

GROUND FLOOR GALLERIES





ANAMORPHOSIS: NOTES ON PALESTINE
INSTALLATION



↑
ENTRY
GROUND FLOOR GALLERIES

YALLA YASMEEN!, 20 mins, 2019
<https://vimeo.com/391243768>





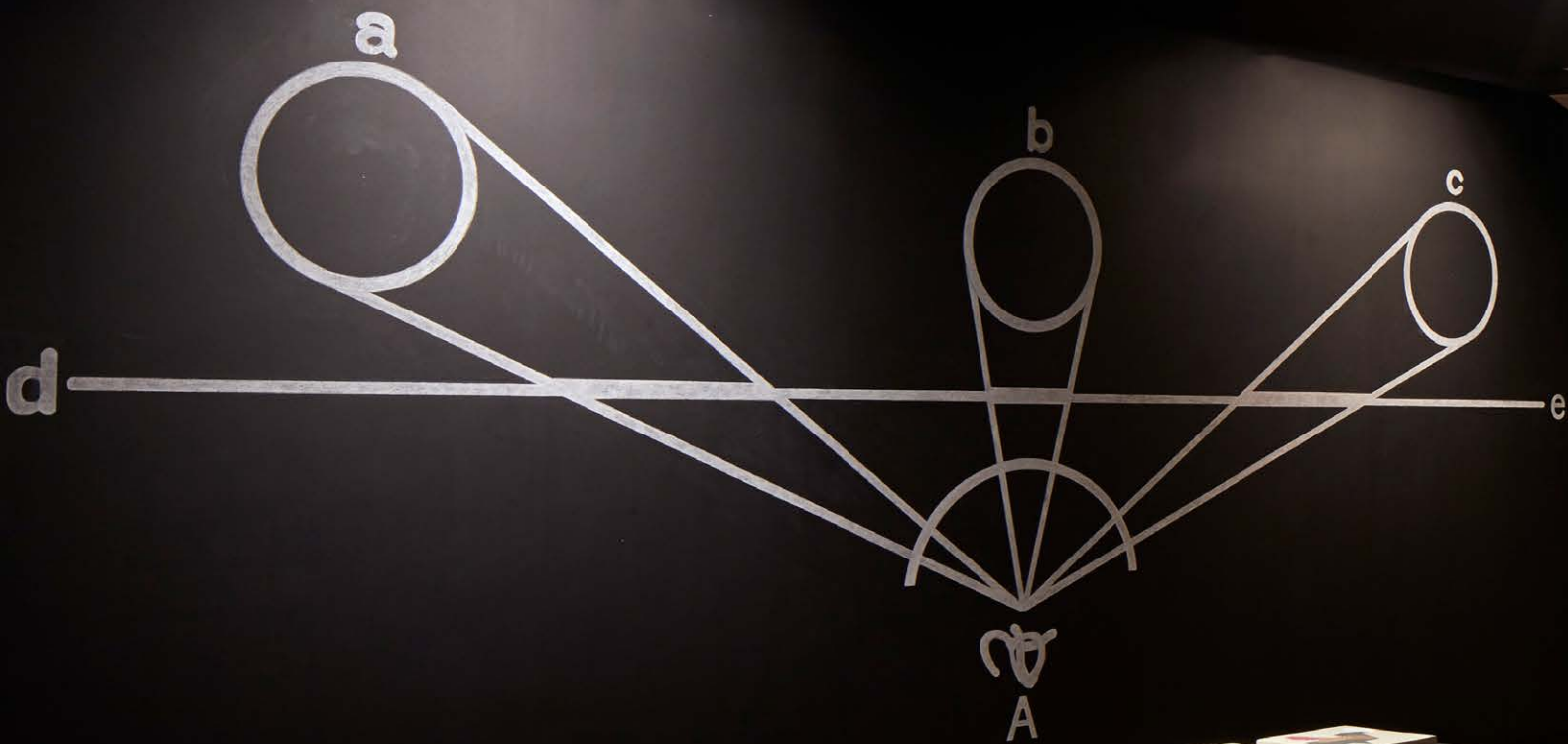
We drive past a stone cutting factory on the outskirts of Salfeet



INSTALLATION VIEWS

BASEMENT GALLERY





...the Government of India, 1951, as a result of the ...
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Shah Museum of Contemporary Art
 (Karakul ad din, Bakzad) 16th Century

23rd May 2016
 Fayaz .. made him stop working on
 the green square. He worked a floral
 detail in green and white, and then
 we worked the pattern from Bul-Bul
 Shah's tomb in an orange monochrome.
 However, before he could complete the
 entire pattern, Durba realised that the
 fame was looking interesting incomplete
 Fayaz was a bit disconcerted.
 "Adhura" he said? Then we
 decided to stop work for the day.
 Durba had arrived that day and
 I was leaving the next. We needed
 to rest and then plan the work
 & be done while I was away.



INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION OF...*JAMMU AND KASHMIR* STATE

WHEREAS the Indian Independence Act, 1947, provides that as from the fifteenth day of August, 1947, there shall be set up an independent Dominion known as INDIA, and that the Government of India Act, 1935, shall, with such omissions, additions, adaptations and modification as the Governor-General may by order specify be applicable to the Dominion of India;

AND WHEREAS the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of India by an Instrument of Accession executed by the Ruler thereof;

NOW THEREFORE

I, *Srinivas Kedar Uchanda Nayafeshwara Mahipaldeva Sri Hanwanti*
Ruler of...*JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE*... *Jammu Kashmir*
in the exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State do hereby execute *Narain Talwar*
this my Instrument of Accession and

1. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the *Tilak ad*
intent that the Governor-General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the *Deshbhojpati*
Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of *JAMMU AND KASHMIR* (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India on the 15th day of August 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

2. I hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provisions of the Act within this State so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession.

3. I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.

4. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor-General and the Ruler of this State whereby any functions in relation to the administration in this State of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be deemed to form part of this Instrument and shall be construed and have effect accordingly.

5. The terms of this my Instrument of Accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 unless such amendment is accepted by me by an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.

6. Nothing in this Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law for this State authorising the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose, but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purposes of a Dominion law which applies in this State deem it necessary to acquire any land, I will at their request acquire the land at their expense or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed, or, in default of agreement, determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of India.

7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of India under any such future constitution.

Tehran museum of Contemporary Art
(Kamal ud din Behzad) 16th Century

23rd May 2014

Fayaz.. made him stop working on the green sequence. He worked a floral detail in green and white, and then we worked the pattern from Bul-Bul shah's tomb in an orange monochrome. However, before he could complete the entire pattern. Durba realised that her frame was looking interesting incomplete. Fayaz was a bit disconcerted.

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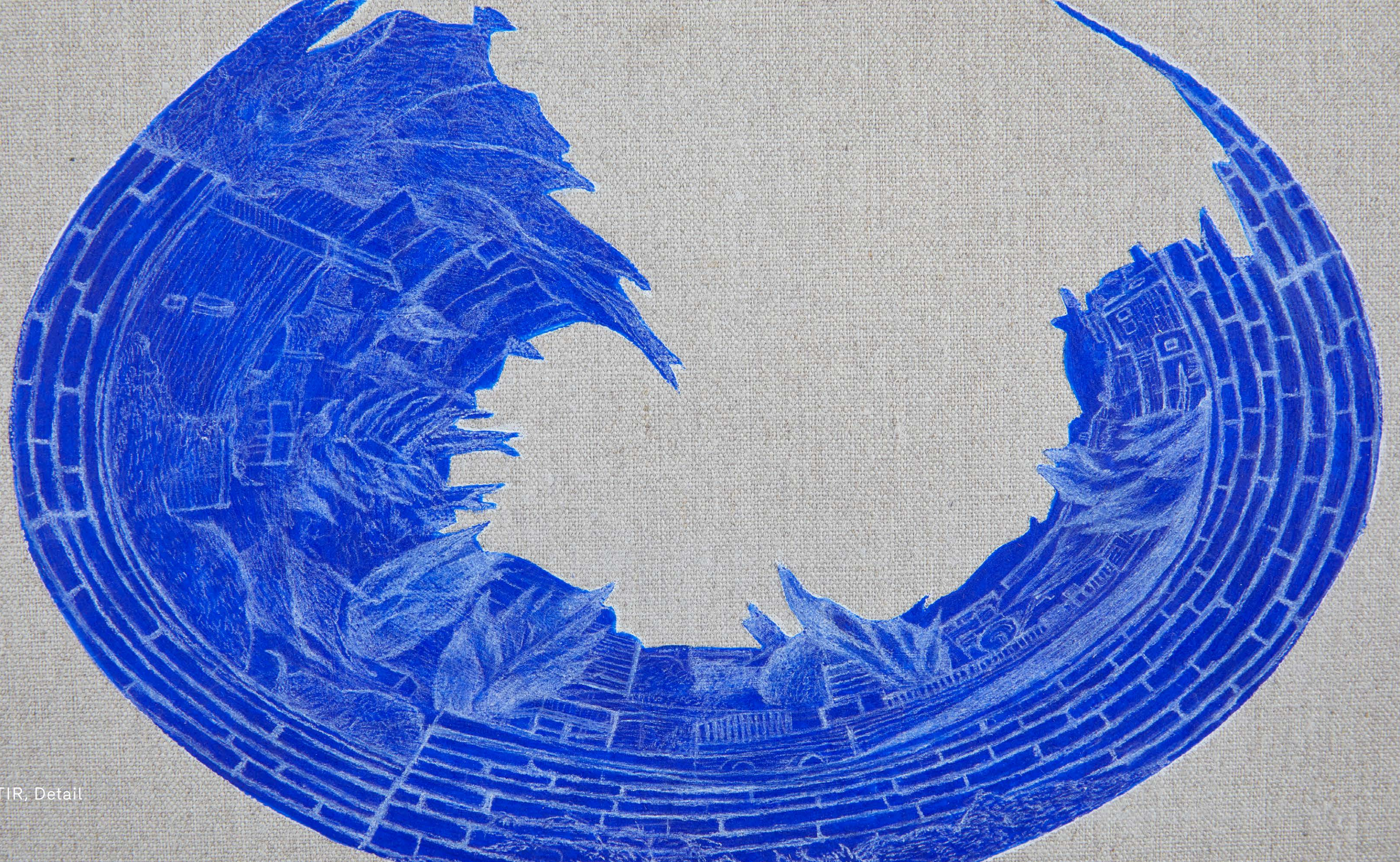


DETAILS

BETTIR, ANAMORPHIC VIEW

Acrylic and chalk-pencil on linen
80 cm x 80 cm, 2019





BETTIR, Detail

OLIVE TREE III

Silverpoint and acrylic on linen
50 cm x 50 cm, 2019



THREE LANDSCAPES

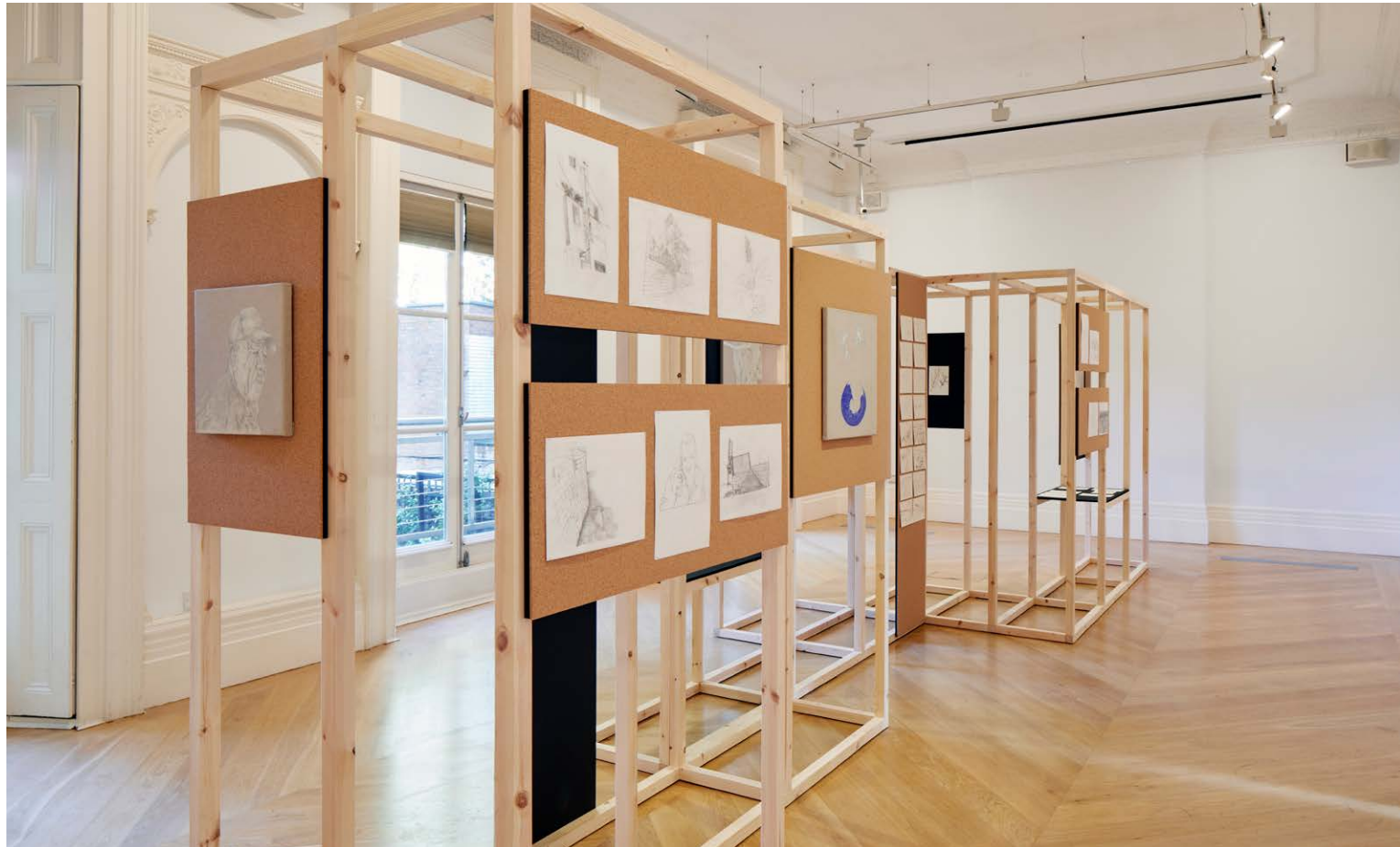
Silverpoint on linen
80 cm x 80 cm, 2019



OLIVE TREE III

Acrylic and pencil on linen
50 cm x 50 cm, 2019





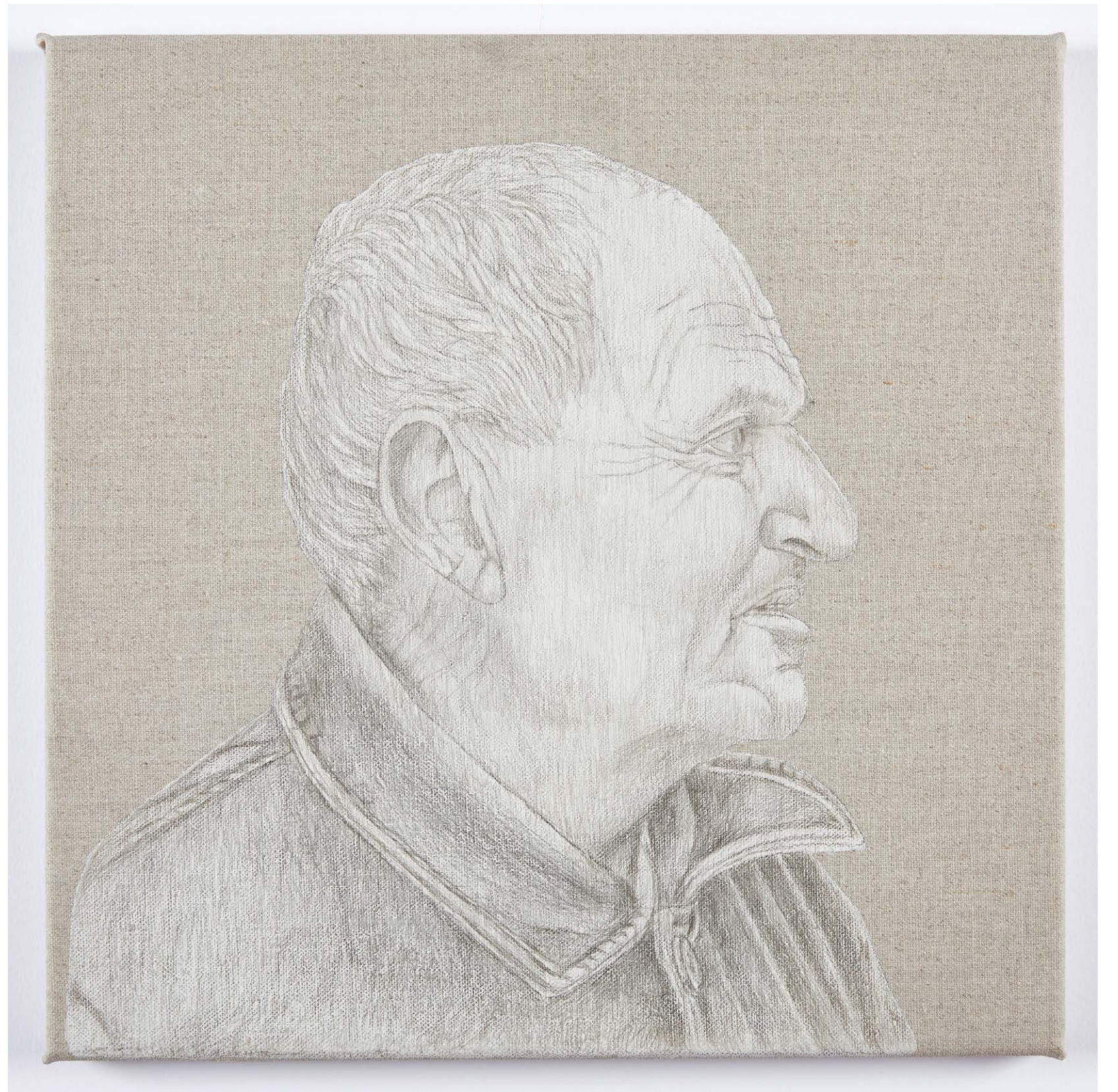
OLIVE TREE I

Silverpoint and acrylic on linen
50 cm x 50 cm, 2019



FARMER IN BEIT UMAR

Silverpoint and acrylic on linen
30.48 cm x 30.48 cm, 2019



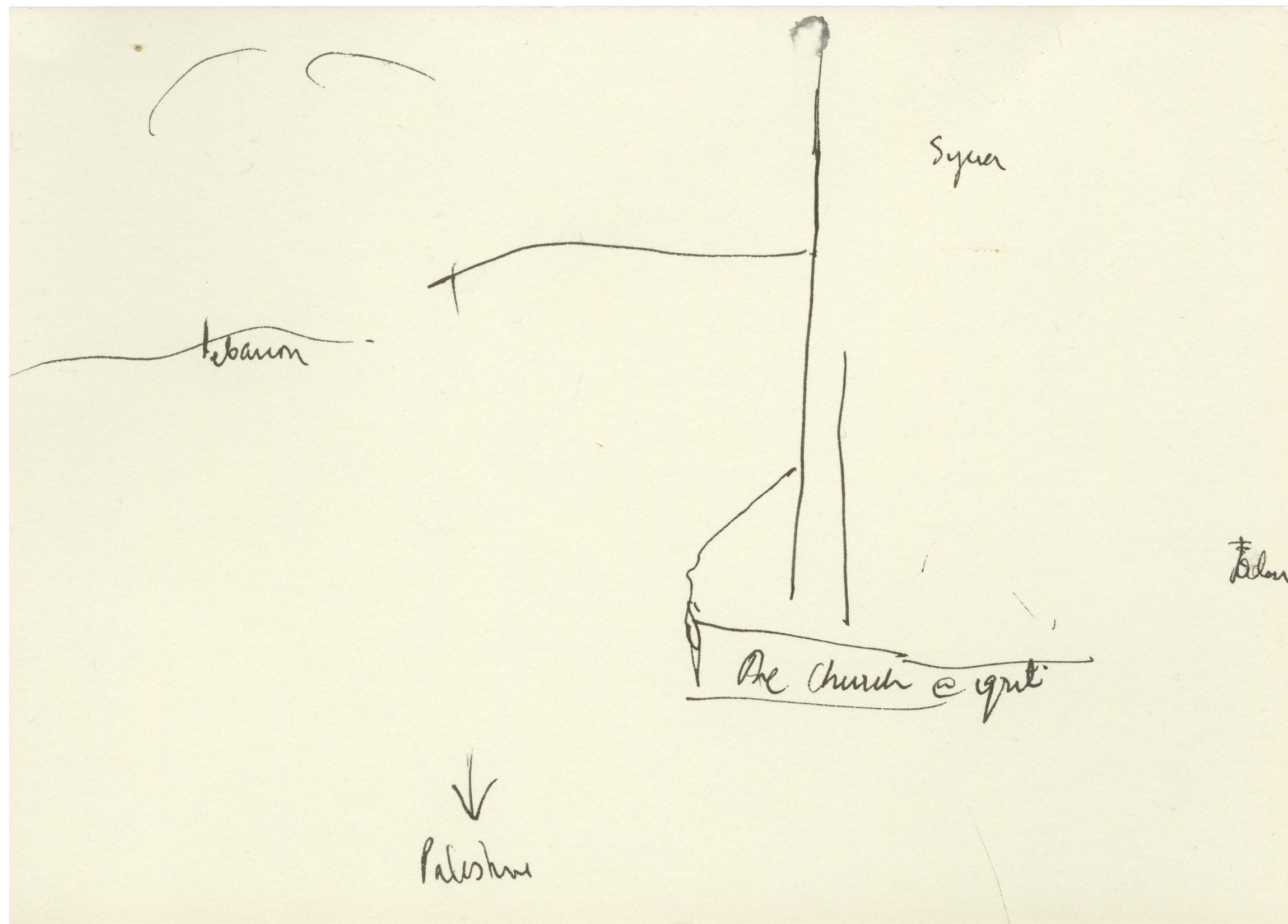
FARMER SEBASTIA

Silverpoint and acrylic on linen
30.48 cm x 30.48 cm, 2019



TRIANGULATIONS:
IQRIT

Marker on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019



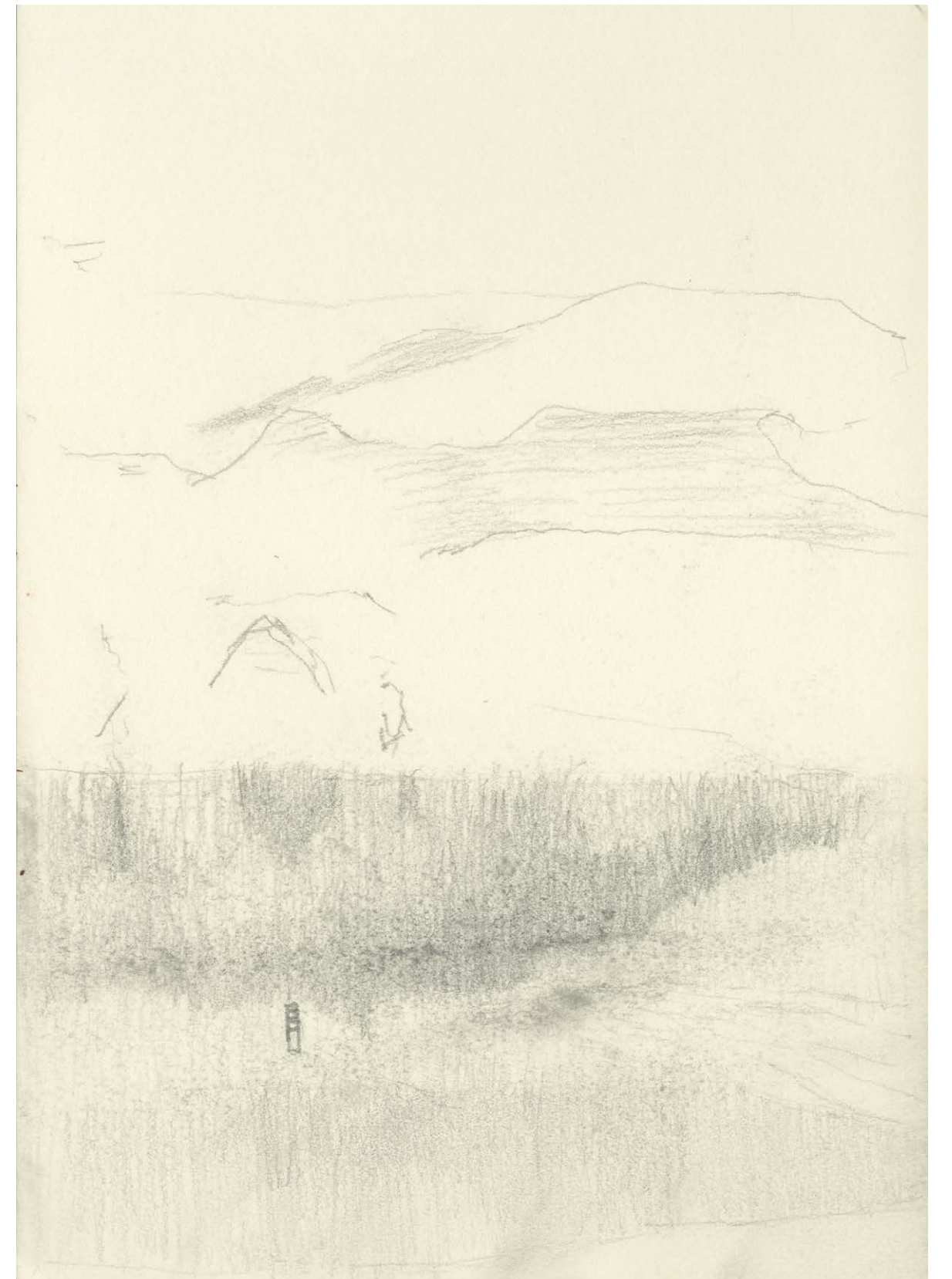
SYRIAN BORDER

Marker on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019



REFLECTION OF THE JORDAN HILLS IN THE DEAD SEA

Pencil on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019



VIEW ONTO
JERUSALEM
FROM BETTIR

Marker on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019



OLIVE TREE, SEBASTIA

Marker on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019





OLIVE BRANCH

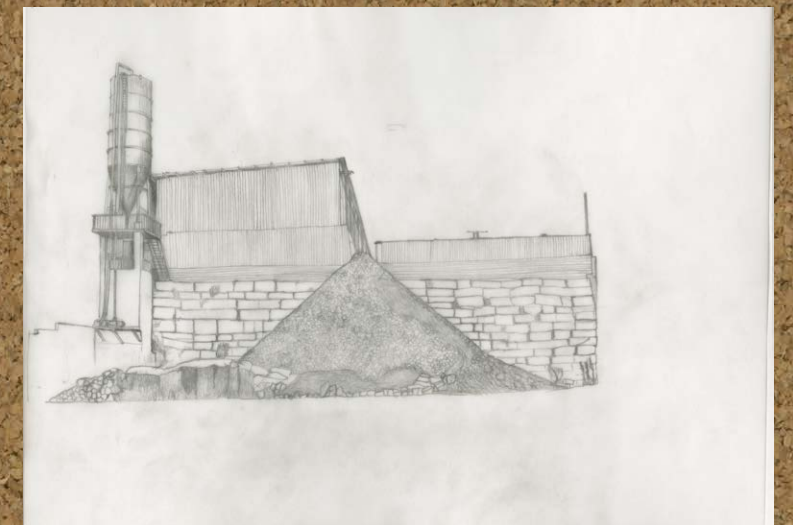
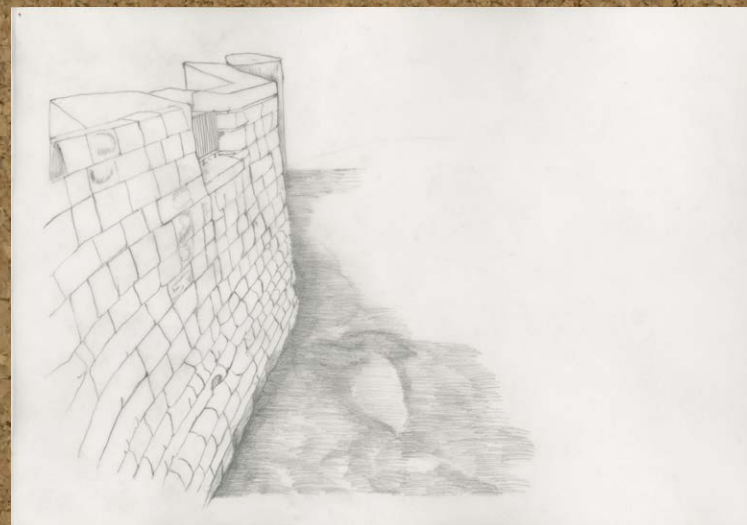
Marker on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019



MANGLED ARCHITECTURE,
GOLAN HEIGHTS

Marker on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm, 2019





DRAWINGS, SUITE III

Pencil on tracing paper
21 cm x 29.7 cm each, 2019

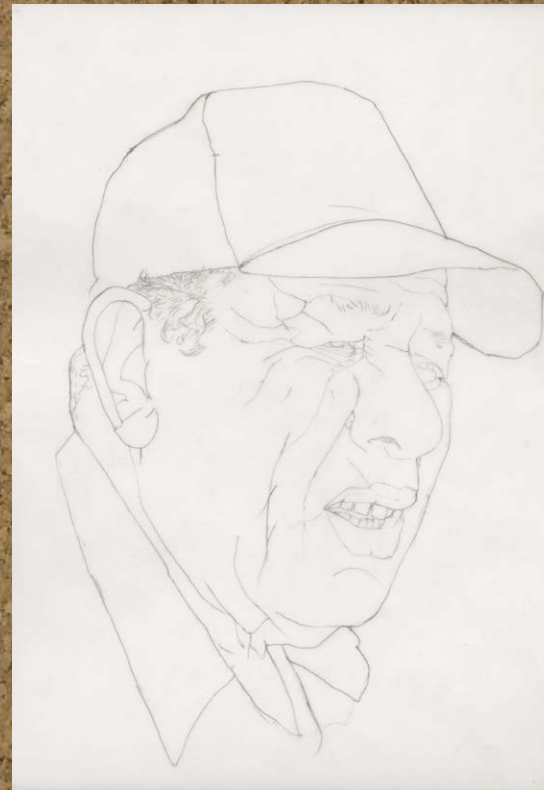
HOUSE,
JENIN REFUGEE CAMP

Pencil on tracing paper
21 cm x 29.7 cm, 2019



DRAWINGS, SUITE IV

Pencil on tracing paper,
21 cm x 29.7 cm each, 2019



GRAPE FARM,
DEIR BALLUT

Pencil on tracing paper
21 cm x 29.7 cm, 2019





DRAWINGS, SUITE V

Pencil on paper
14.81 cm x 21 cm each, 2019



BETTIR

Pencil on tracing paper
21 cm x 29.7 cm, 2019





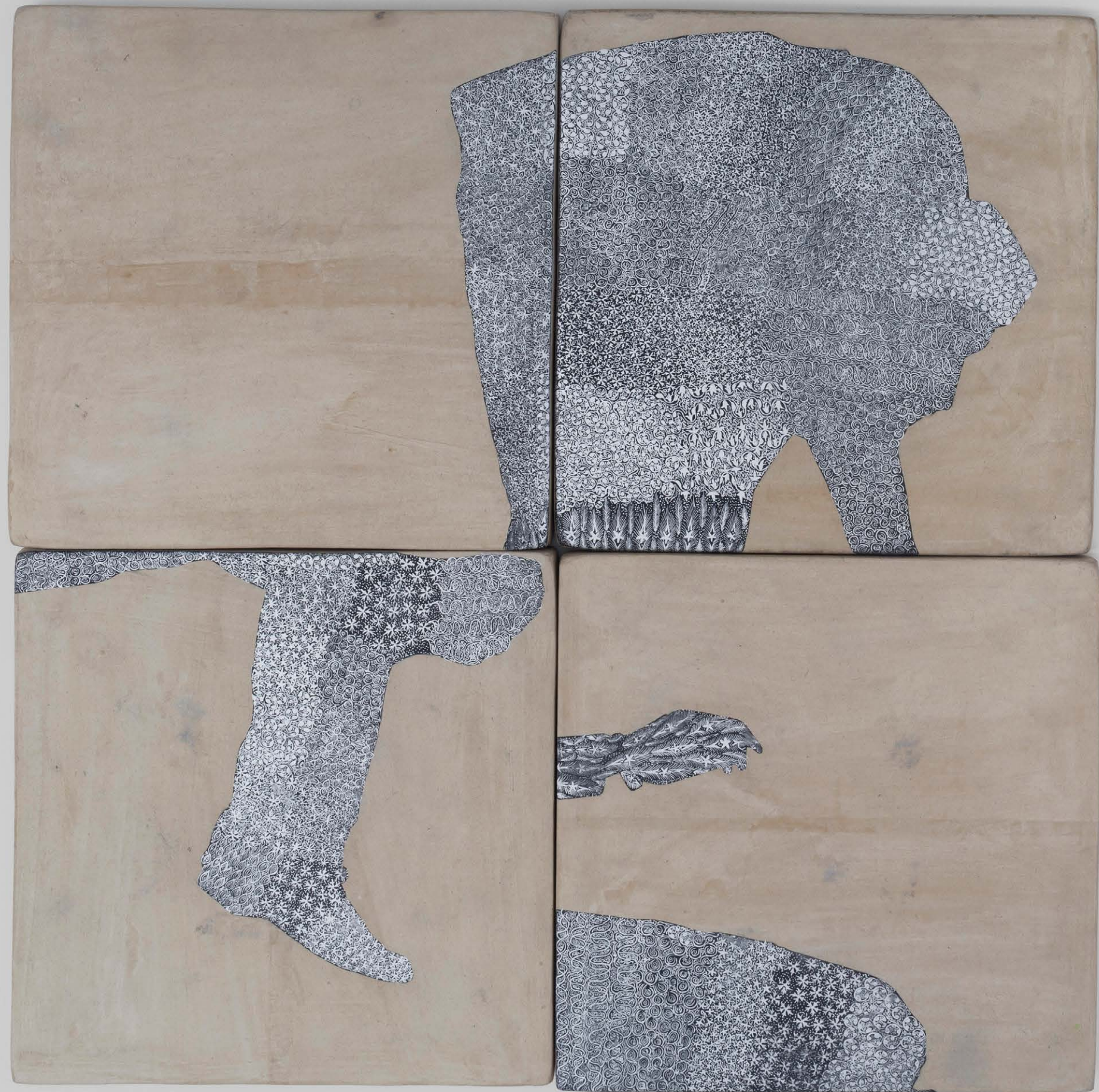
FALLING FIGURE

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
Each square tile measures 25.4 cm x 25.4 cm,
the triangle measures 25.4 cm x 22.1 cm, 2017



PIGGYBACK – ASTATIC COMPOSITION

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm each, 2017



SRINAGAR FLORAL TROPES

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
Each triangle 25.5 cm x 22 cm, 2017



MAN FROM GAZA

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
51 cm x 25.5 cm x 5 cm, 2017





REWORKING OF A FOLIO FROM THE MINTO ALBUM

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
51 cm x 25.5 cm x 5 cm, 2017

REWORKING OF A FOLIO FROM THE MINTO ALBUM

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
51 cm x 25.5 cm x 5 cm, 2017



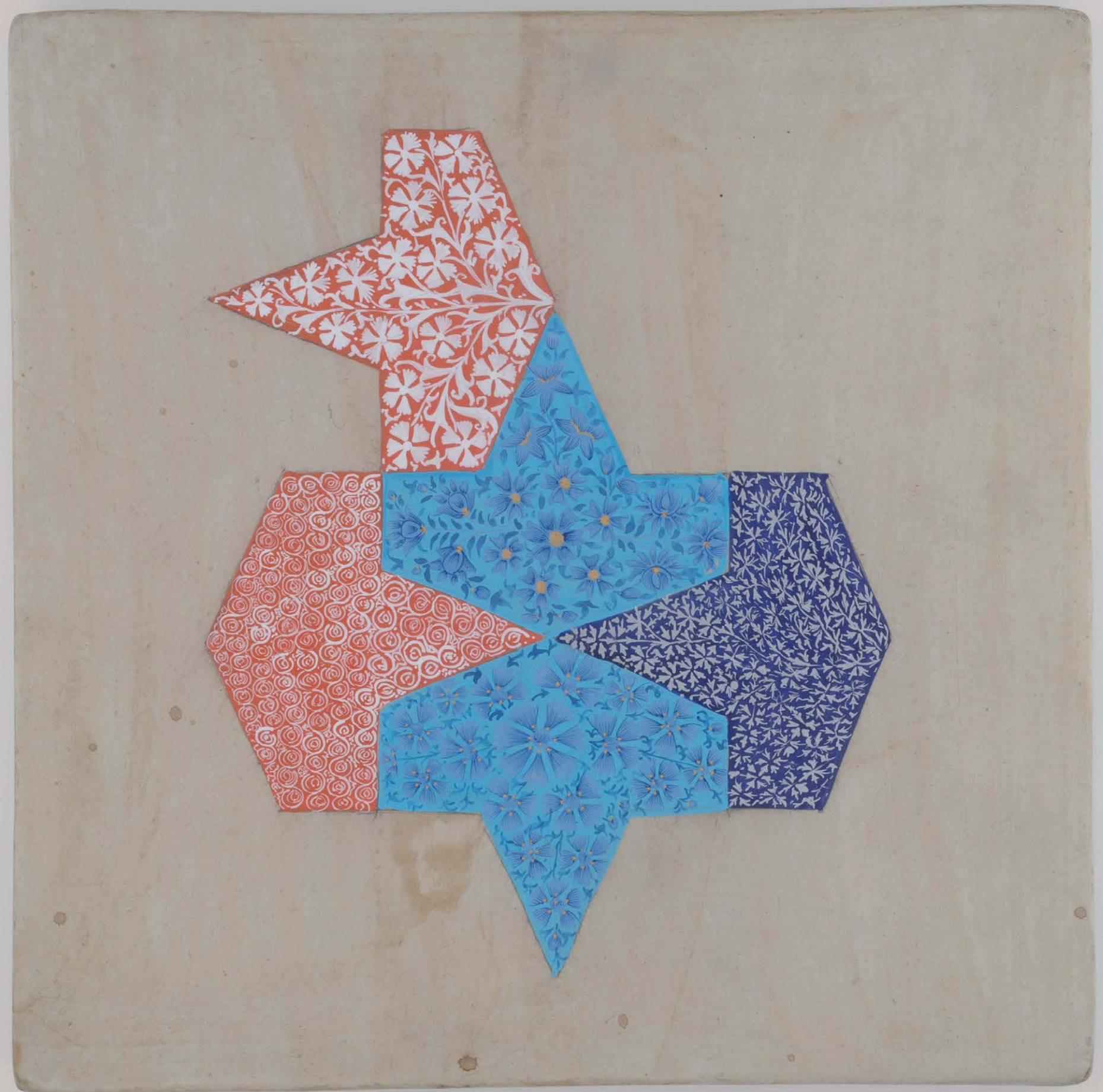
KINGFISHER

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



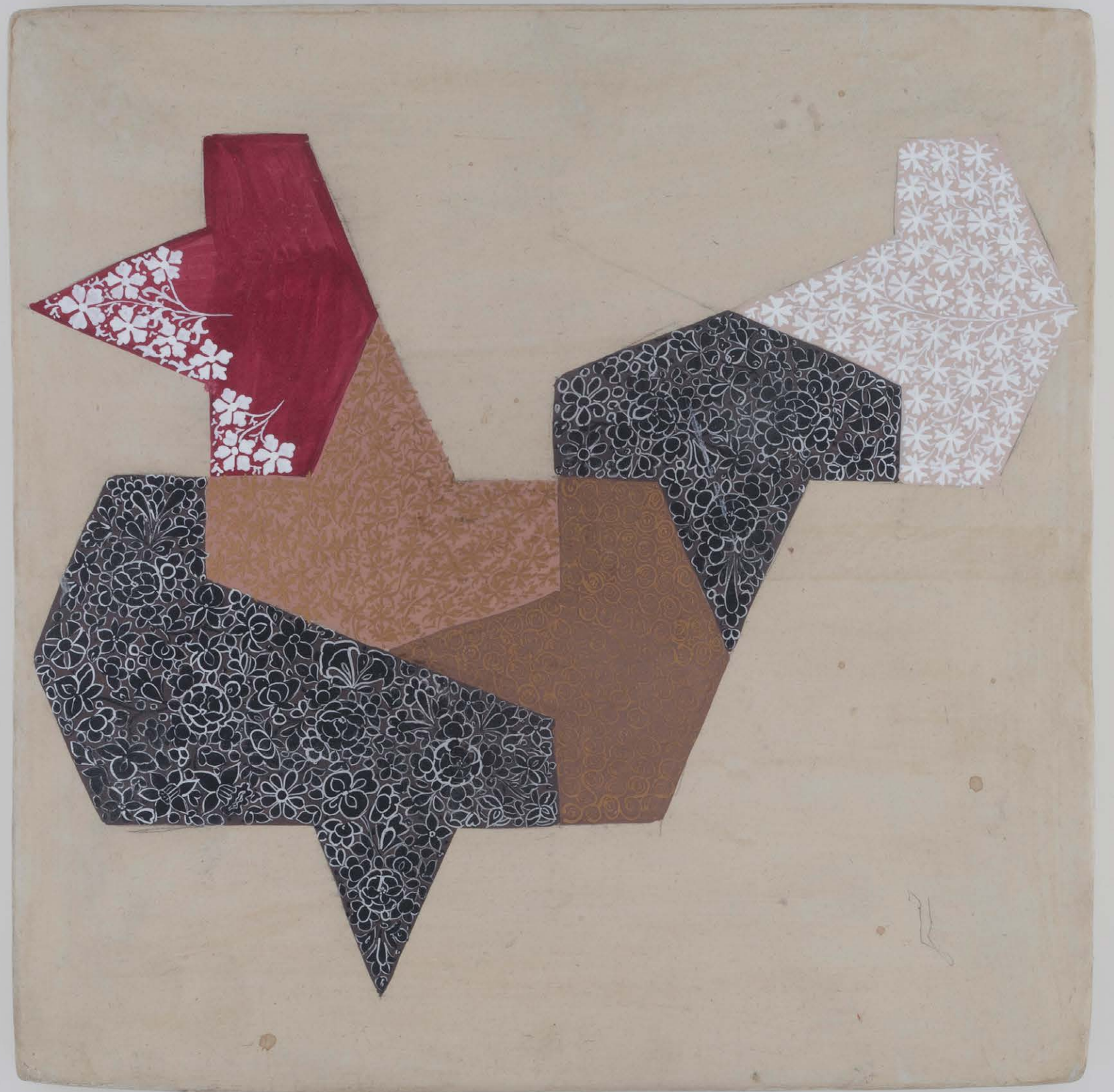
BULBUL

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



ROOSTER

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017





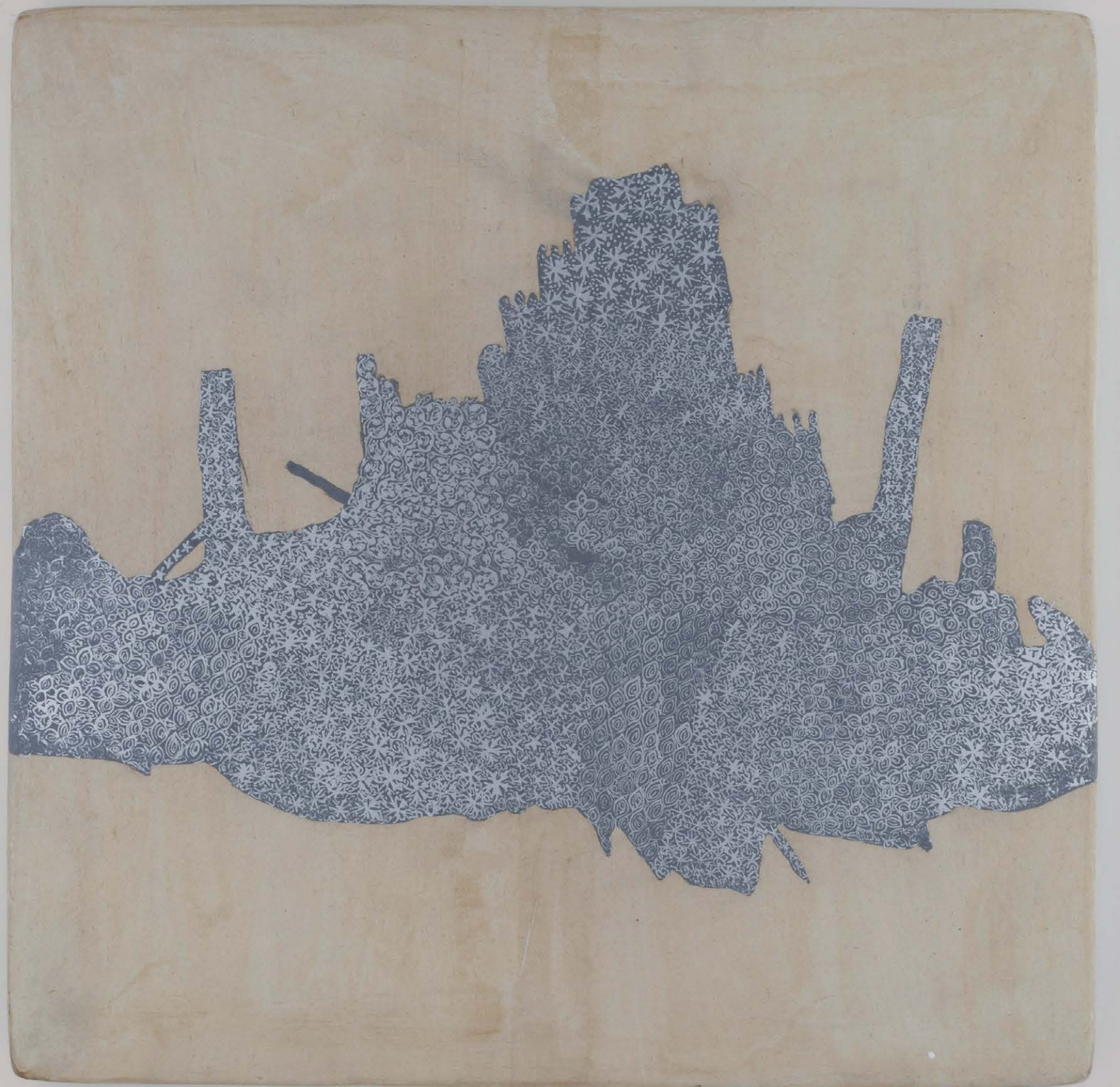
ABU-GHARAIB

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



TOWER OF BABEL /
DEBRIS OF TWIN TOWERS

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



MARIANA

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



INTI

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



IRENE

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



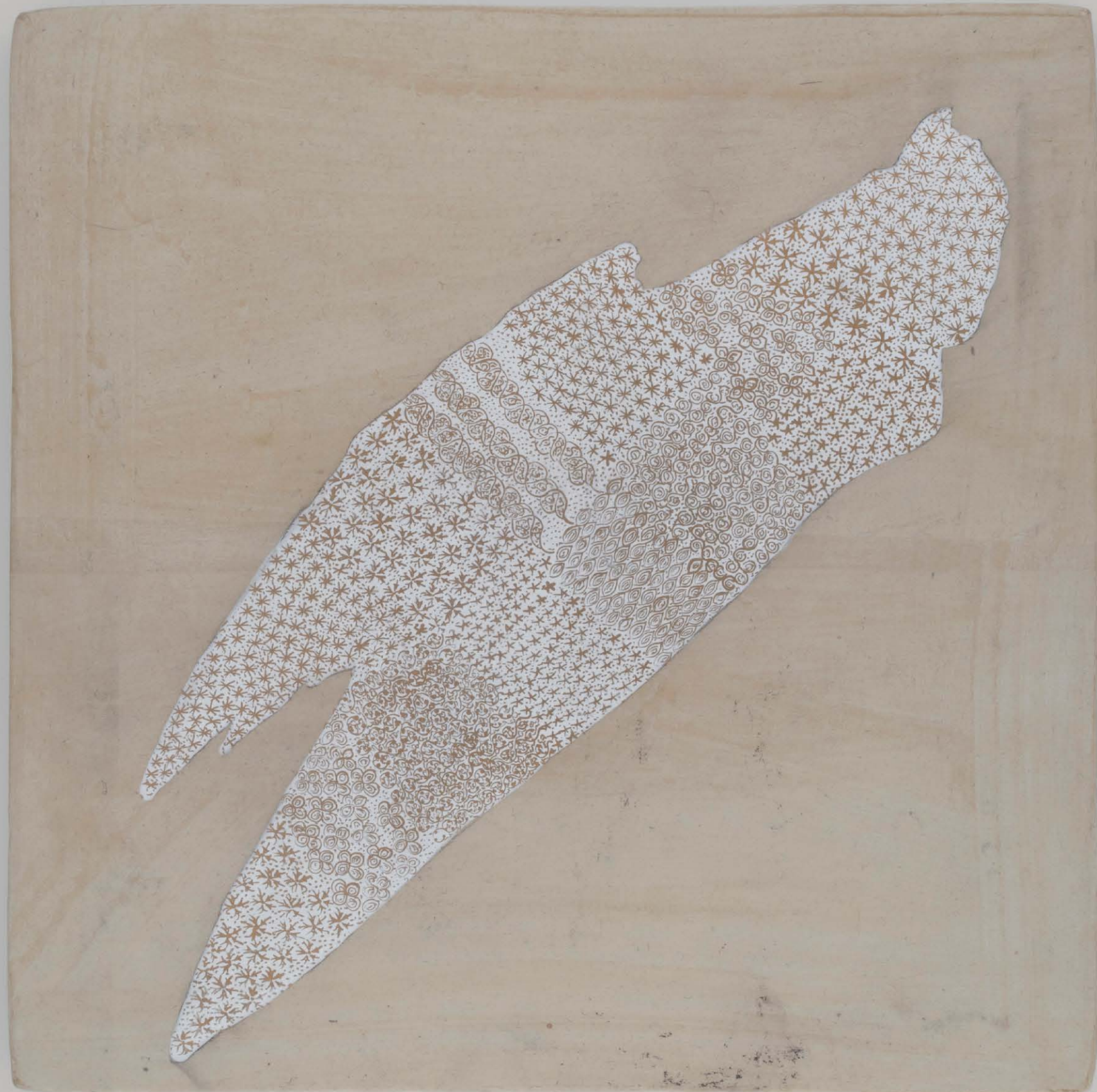
MARIANA – STUDIES IN GREY

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



BOUKJE,
AN ANAMORPHOIC PORTRAIT

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



MAN FROM GAZA

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



PIGGYBACK FRAGMENTED

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



MAN FROM KUMARTULI, KOLKATA

Hand painted acrylic on papier-mâché tile
25.5 cm x 25.5 cm, 2017



ब्रगस दोपुख, “तोंच छय हेंज” ।

दोपनख, “नतु क्या छुम स्योद” ?

*bragas dopukh “tō:th chay hēj”,
dopnakh, “natik’a: chum so’d?”*

They said to the heron, “Your bill is crooked.”

It replied, “Which of my other limbs is straight?”

(L) KASHMIRI PROVERB

(R) SECTION 370,
INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Chalk on blackened wall
Dimensions variable, 2019

with respect to the following matters as if they were enumerated in the Concurrent List, namely:—

- (a) trade and commerce within a State in, and the production, supply and distribution of, cotton and woollen textiles, raw cotton (including ginned cotton and unginced cotton or kapas), cotton seed, paper (including newsprint), foodstuffs (including edible oilseeds and oil), cattle fodder (including oil-cakes and other concentrates), coal (including coke and derivatives of coal), iron, steel and mica;
- (b) offences against laws with respect to any of the matters mentioned in clause (a), jurisdiction and powers of all courts except the Supreme Court with respect to any of those matters, and fees in respect of any of those matters but not including fees taken in any court,

but any law made by Parliament, which Parliament would not but for the provisions of this article have been competent to make, shall, to the extent of the incompetency, cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before the expiration thereof.

370 Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.—

(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution,—

- (a) the provisions of article 238 shall not apply in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) the power of Parliament to make laws for the said State shall be limited to—
 - (i) those matters in the Union List and the Concurrent List which, in consultation with the Government of the State, are declared by the President to correspond to matters specified in the Instrument of Accession governing the accession of the State to the Dominion of India as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for that State; and
 - (ii) such other matters in the said Lists as, with the concurrence of the Government of the State, the President may by order specify.

*Explanation.—*For the purposes of this article, the Government of the State means the person for the time being recognised by the President as the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir acting on the advice of the Council of Ministers for the time being in office under the Maharaja's Proclamation dated the fifth day of March, 1948;

(c) the provisions of article 1 and of this article shall apply in relation to that State:

1. In exercise of the powers conferred by this article the President, on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, declared that as from the 17th day of November, 1952, the said article 370 shall be operative with the modification that for the *Explanation* in clause (1) thereof, the following *Explanation* is substituted namely:—

*Explanation.—*For the purposes of this article, the Government of the State means the person for the time being recognised by the President on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly of the State as the “Sadar-i-Rayasat of Jammu and Kashmir, acting on the advice of the Council of Ministers of the State for the time being in office.”

* Now “Governor” (Ministry of Law Order No. C.O. 44, dated the 15th November, 1952)

(L) UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 47, 1948

(R) INSTRUMENT OF
ACCESSION, INDIAN
INDEPENDENCE ACT, 1947

Chalk on blackened wall
Dimensions variable, 2019

B. Plebiscite

6. The Government of India should undertake to ensure that the Government of the State invite the major political groups to designate responsible representatives to share equitably and fully in the conduct of the administration at the ministerial level while the plebiscite is being prepared and carried out.

7. The Government of India should undertake that there will be established in Jammu and Kashmir a Plebiscite Administration to hold a plebiscite as soon as possible on the question of the accession of the State to India or Pakistan.

8. The Government of India should undertake that there will be delegated by the State to the Plebiscite Administration such powers as the latter considers necessary for holding a fair and impartial plebiscite including, for that purpose only, the direction and supervision of the State forces and police.

9. The Government of India should, at the request of the Plebiscite Administration, make available from the Indian forces such assistance as the Plebiscite Administration may require for the performance of its functions.

10. (a) The Government of India should agree that a nominee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be appointed to be the Plebiscite Administrator.

(b) The Plebiscite Administrator, acting as an officer of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, should have authority to nominate his assistants and other subordinates and to draft regulations governing the plebiscite. Such nominees should be formally appointed and such draft regulations should be formally promulgated by the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) The Government of India should undertake that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will appoint fully qualified persons nominated by the Plebiscite Administrator to act as special magistrates within the State judicial system to hear cases which in the opinion of the Plebiscite Administrator have a serious bearing on the preparation for and the conduct of a free and impartial plebiscite.

(d) The terms of service of the Administrator should form the subject of a separate negotiation between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government of India. The Administrator should fix the terms of service for his assistants and subordinates.

(e) The Administrator should have the right to communicate directly with the Government of the State and with the Commission of the Security Council and, through the Commission, with the Security Council, with the Governments of India and Pakistan and with their representatives with the Commission. It would be his duty to bring to the notice of any or

B. Plébiscite

6. Le Gouvernement de l'Inde devrait s'engager à faire en sorte que le Gouvernement de l'Etat invite les principaux groupes politiques à désigner des représentants responsables pour prendre part, d'une manière équitable et complète, à la direction des affaires administratives à l'échelon ministériel pendant la préparation et la conduite du plébiscite.

7. Le Gouvernement de l'Inde devrait s'engager à établir le plus tôt possible, dans l'Etat de Jammu et Cachemire, une administration chargée du plébiscite sur la question du rattachement de l'Etat à l'Inde ou au Pakistan.

8. Le Gouvernement de l'Inde devrait s'engager à faire déléguer par l'Etat à l'administration chargée du plébiscite tous les pouvoirs que cette dernière jugerait nécessaires pour tenir un plébiscite loyal et impartial, notamment, et exclusivement à cette fin, la direction et le contrôle des forces armées et de la police de l'Etat.

9. Le Gouvernement de l'Inde devrait mettre à la disposition de l'administration chargée du plébiscite, sur la demande de cette dernière, l'assistance des forces armées indiennes dont l'administration chargée du plébiscite pourrait avoir besoin pour remplir ses fonctions.

10. a) Le Gouvernement de l'Inde devrait accepter de nommer une personne présentée par le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies au poste d'administrateur du plébiscite.

b) L'administrateur du plébiscite, agissant en qualité de fonctionnaire de l'Etat de Jammu et Cachemire, devrait avoir pleins pouvoirs pour désigner ses adjoints et autres subordonnés et pour rédiger le règlement régissant le plébiscite. L'Etat de Jammu et Cachemire devrait confirmer en bonne et due forme lesdites nominations et devrait promulguer en bonne et due forme ledit projet de règlement.

c) Le Gouvernement de l'Inde devrait s'engager à faire nommer par le Gouvernement de Jammu et Cachemire des personnes pleinement qualifiées, désignées par l'administrateur du plébiscite, pour exercer les fonctions de juges spéciaux dans le régime judiciaire de l'Etat et pour connaître, en cette qualité, des cas susceptibles d'avoir, de l'avis de l'administrateur du plébiscite, de graves répercussions sur la préparation et la conduite d'un plébiscite libre et impartial.

d) Les conditions d'engagement de l'administrateur devraient faire l'objet de négociations séparées entre le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et le Gouvernement de l'Inde. L'administrateur devrait fixer les conditions d'engagement de ses adjoints et subordonnés.

e) L'administrateur devrait avoir le droit de communiquer directement avec le Gouvernement de l'Etat ainsi qu'avec la Commission du Conseil de sécurité et, par l'entremise de celle-ci, avec le Conseil de sécurité, avec les Gouvernements de l'Inde et du Pakistan et avec leurs représentants auprès de la Commission. Il devrait avoir pour mission de porter à la connaissance

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION OF ^{JAMMU AND KASHMIR} STATE

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AND WHEREAS the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adapted by the Governor-General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of India by an Instrument of Accession executed by the Ruler thereof:

NOW THEREFORE

I ^{Shrima Jidas Bahaudas Nayrakeshwar Bahumadhu ray Shri Hansurgh}
Ruler of ^{JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE} ^{Jammu Kashmir}
in the exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State Do hereby execute ^{Yashu Talwar}
this my Instrument of Accession and ^{Tibbet ade}
^{Deshadhepatte}

1. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the Governor-General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of ^{JAMMU AND KASHMIR} (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of India on the 15th day of August 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

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7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of India under any such future constitution.

NOTEBOOK ENTRY,
23RD MAY 2014

Chalk on blackened wall
Dimensions variable, 2019

Tehran museum of Contemporary Art
(Kamal ud din behzad) 16th Century

23th May 2014

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