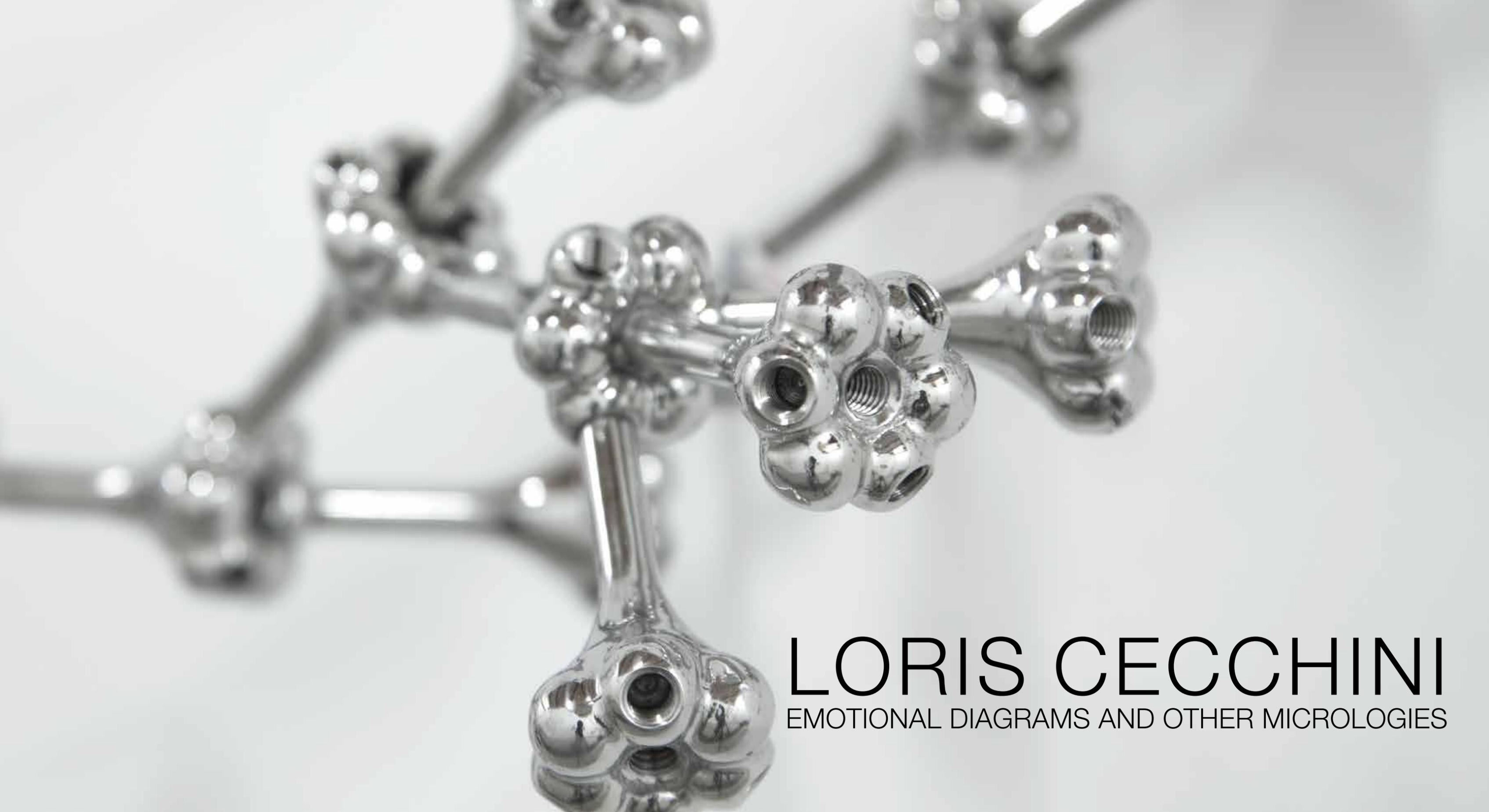




LORIS CECCHINI

EMOTIONAL DIAGRAMS AND OTHER MICROLOGIES



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LIMINALITY

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Can you hear the wall? Do you sense the vibrations? – The wall ripples and resonates, as if agitated by a gigantic sub woofer, fed by an obscured energy source. Thud, thud, ... Thud.

The effect on me as a viewer is visceral and shifts the framework through which I used to look at art. It goes beyond that even – it makes me question reality. What could possibly be hidden behind the wall that effects such optical noise?! It appears to be of great powers, as it is not an easy task to visually liquify a wall. Seeing only the effect of an intangible force is a delimiting experience in its own right, sending our reassuring everyday-notion of cause and effect into a spin. Moreover there is noticeable absence of sound, a strange quietness, as if the energy causing Cecchini's "wallwave" was broadcast on a frequency outside the human range of perception. While looking at the large wallwaves I find myself tingling with the fine hair on my skin lightly raised...

What a stark contrast to the limp objects with which it all began. The series 'Stage Evidence' begun just before the new millennium is comprised of everyday objects, like doors, radiators, bicycles, etc. cast in urethane rubber. These life-size objects appeared as if, well, life had been sucked out of them, becoming objects that were standing in for their counterparts in reality. Rather dull grey in color, they also seemed to remove themselves visually from their very own existence. However there was always something very touching about them. As these objects retained just enough tension within, I always wanted to come to the rescue, help them up, and make them stand properly again. It seemed feasible with just a bit of my attention...

As we can see, these two bodies of work (and others of course) by Loris Cecchini do not exist in an abstract world. They can only live with us as the audience. Their visual rhetoric is directly geared toward their audience and the ensuing interaction between them and one individual.

They strongly relate to our bodily experiences with objects, weight, space and time, before, we even perceive the object. Brian Massumi, the cultural theorist, calls this mesoperceptionⁱ – a knowledge of things that precedes our actually touching or handling them. Gauging weight, dimension and other properties of objects relies on previously acquired body experience. Tactility has a large part in that. So the artist toys with what is basically not allowed in an art gallery today. He also pushes his objects towards manifestations that are ever so slightly off of what our expectation of them would have been and disrupts the establishment of something that we would accept as proper reality. Walls just are not supposed to ripple and objects should not be limp. This is the artist's way to open a rift in the fabric of things and to let in another kind of reality, one that conveys unspoken powers.

Loris Cecchini developed his aesthetics of engagement of the audience right around the same time when Nicolas Bourriaud started speaking about relational aestheticsⁱⁱ at the end of the 90s. In recent years Bourriaud's ideas of micro-utopias, derived from relational aesthetics, have been widely criticized as making activism commensurable to the status quo as well as utilizing seemingly "inclusive" artistic strategies in a highly exclusive environment called art world. The fact that these ideas have come under so much pressure frees the perspective on other notions of utopia. Going back to real utopian times Jacob Taubes, a Jewish philosopher of religion, and one of the most fervent supporters of the students revolt in Berlin developed a notion of Utopiaⁱⁱⁱ in the 1980s in which it is not on human terms that it will be attained. It will not be a gradual process and not one that can be crafted. Instead once the messiah comes, according to Taubes, he will not add or remove anything. He will just move everything over ever so slightly and all will be in the right order.^{iv}

That appears to be a notion that applies to Cecchini's work. Slight shifts are abundant in his work. From the limp to-size objects in the series "Stage Evidence", to the *Wallwaves* in the



series “Extruding Bodies”, “Splinter’s of Architectures” and the “Photo Assemblages” that by conflating different scale objects in one image have opened the paths of the artist’s research into the microscopic world. In his latest works *Stratashades*, he has discovered color as a new energy source. Derived from microscopic images the reliefs made from synthetic felt visually transform into planetary surfaces of some sort, contradicting scale and shrinking or expanding the viewer almost at will. With some of them it is a bit like looking at a Chinese ink drawing of a vast landscape. One can get lost in them for a long time just visually wandering about. Much quieter in their energy output, those digitally enhanced relief works vibrate an energy that is reminiscent of Chinese Taihu or philosopher’s stones that are highly prized appreciations of enhanced natural lime stones.

Utopian, not having a fixed identity, not being firmly at home, are one of the traits of Cecchini’s work and maybe also personality. As many Italian artists he now lives in Berlin and frequently travels to China to have his works produced there. Or more precisely, to have the modules for his works produced there.

Meticulously crafted and manufactured only in small numbers for the artist, those objects represent biological matter of some sort. They are inter-connectable by predetermined threads. They grow in forms reminiscent of bacterial or fungal growth. The ensuing geometry mimics nature’s pattern. Put together in numerous instances they seem to grow out of themselves and occupy not only the space of the gallery. Loris Cecchini also let’s them virtually supersede entire cityscapes.

With those works he is very close to current discussion about art and urbanism in Berlin, yet addresses those with his own particular approach. So far we have been witnessing Cecchini’s ability to culturally connect to many different environments, Western Utopian ideas, Asian

notions of art and philosophy as well as scientific methodologies. The latest modular works may be the most literal reference to what the artist really deals with – organizational forms of microbial life. We see a huge force absent in quite a few of his series. Absence is a philosophical term. In a world that is obsessed with everything that can be measured, quantified, qualified, where everything can be accounted for and everything can be tallied and cataloged: absence is not a category, it is a threat. This is the critical part of his work: he crosses out the notion that everything has to function according to plan and is always accountable for. Instead he let’s us see a secret dynamic behind the existence of things which crosses out a capitalist command of all things.

In the practice of Loris Cecchini, absence is present in most works. Seemingly lifeless early objects that have paled to grey, speak of the same force that can also transubstantiate walls – just in absentia. His work is not about lack or loss or simple voids, instead one senses a huge transformation of energies that is going on behind the surfaces of his work. They are many manifestations of this previously unspoken force. Whichever name one wants to give this force depends one one’s denomination – it is the force that gives life to all things.

Thomas W. Eller

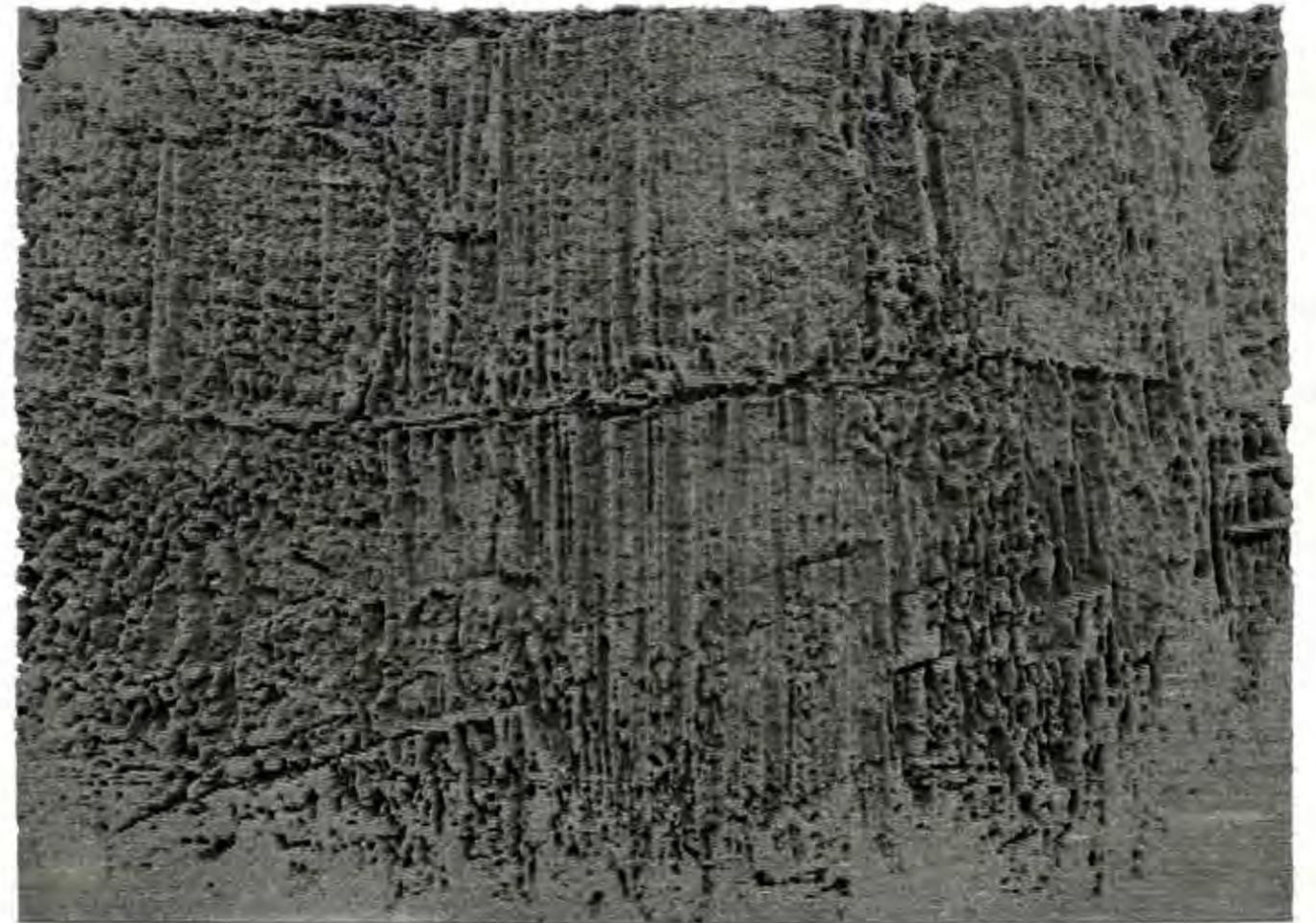
ⁱ “The object has an excess of affect over perception. Here a modern tendency to identify perception with vision trips us up. It is not the surface that affects us imperceptibly but engages what the cultural theorist Brian Massumi has called the mesoperceptual apparatus of the flesh—bodily perception—is itself differentiated. The skin perceives differently from the muscles and ligaments and from the viscerae. The skin registers tactility; the proprioception of muscles and ligaments is keyed to movement and spatial orientation; our insides register intensity, viscerally. Mesoperception partly comes into play through handling.” Jonathan Hay: *Sensuous Surfaces. The Decorative Object in Early Modern China*, London 2010., pp. 79–80.

ⁱⁱ Nicolas Bourriaud, *Relational Aesthetics (Les Presse Du Reel, Franc, 1998)*.

ⁱⁱⁱ Utopia is derived from Greek: U-topos – without location/space.

^{iv} Quoted from memory





Stratashades (grey), 2014
Laser cut synthetic felt and iron, epoxy resins, velvet
55.1 x 78.7 x 3.5 in / 140 x 200 x 9 cm

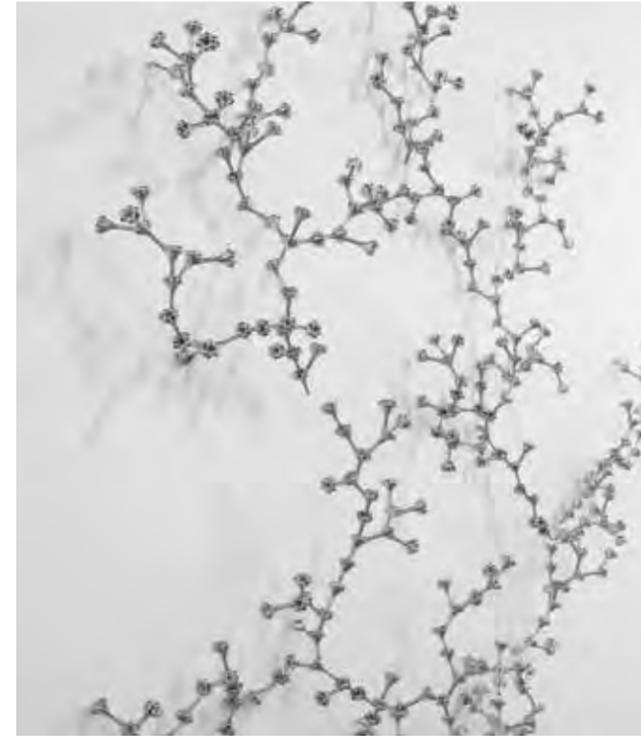


Stratashades (yellow), 2014
Laser cut synthetic felt and iron, epoxy resins, velvet
55.1 x 78.7 x 3.5 in / 140 x 200 x 9 cm



Stratashades (red), 2014
Laser cut synthetic felt and iron, epoxy resins, velvet
55.1 x 78.7 x 3.5 in / 140 x 200 x 9 cm

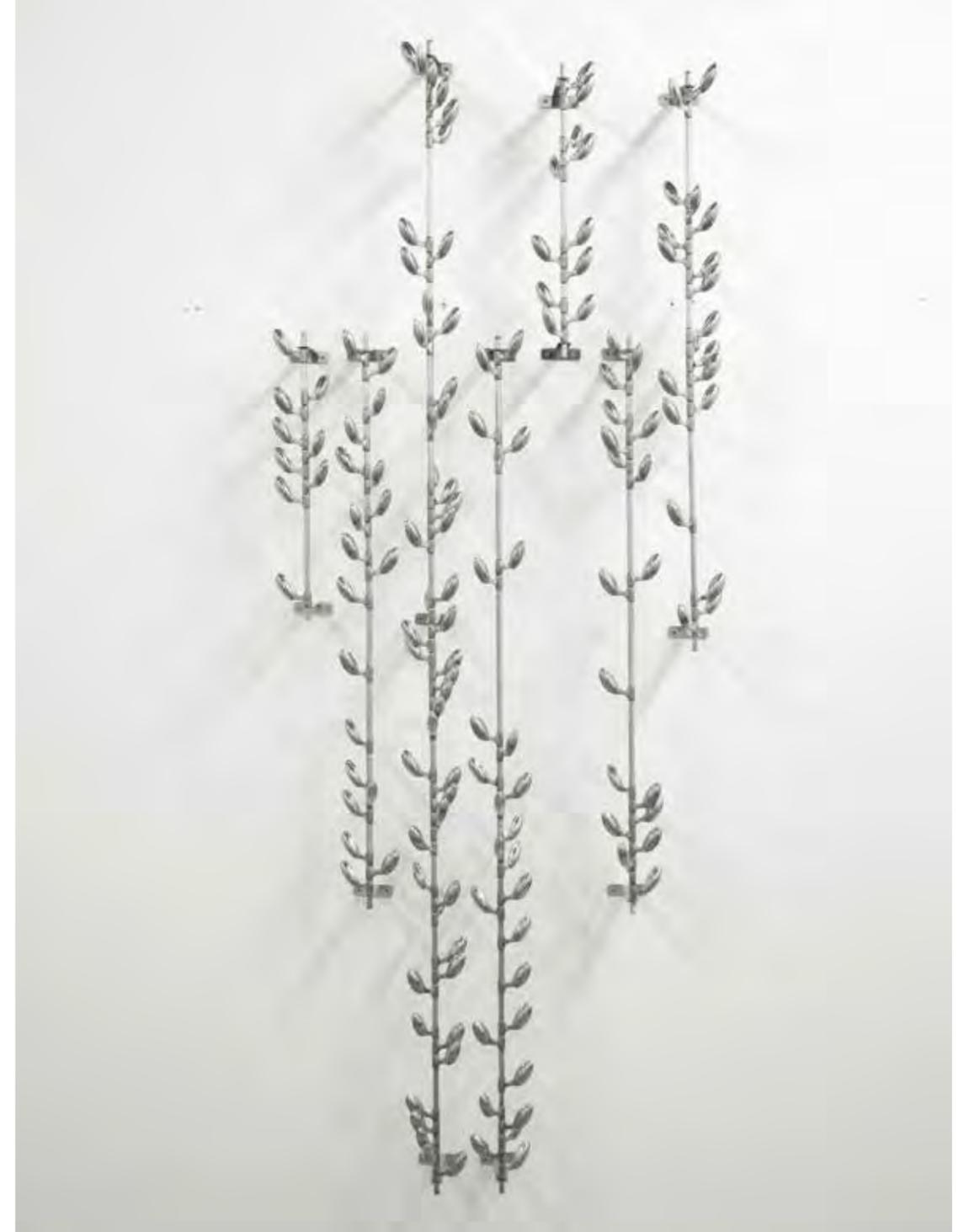




Germination rates on four poles, 2015
Stainless steel 316
90.6 x 78.7 x 9.8 in / 230 x 200 x 25 cm



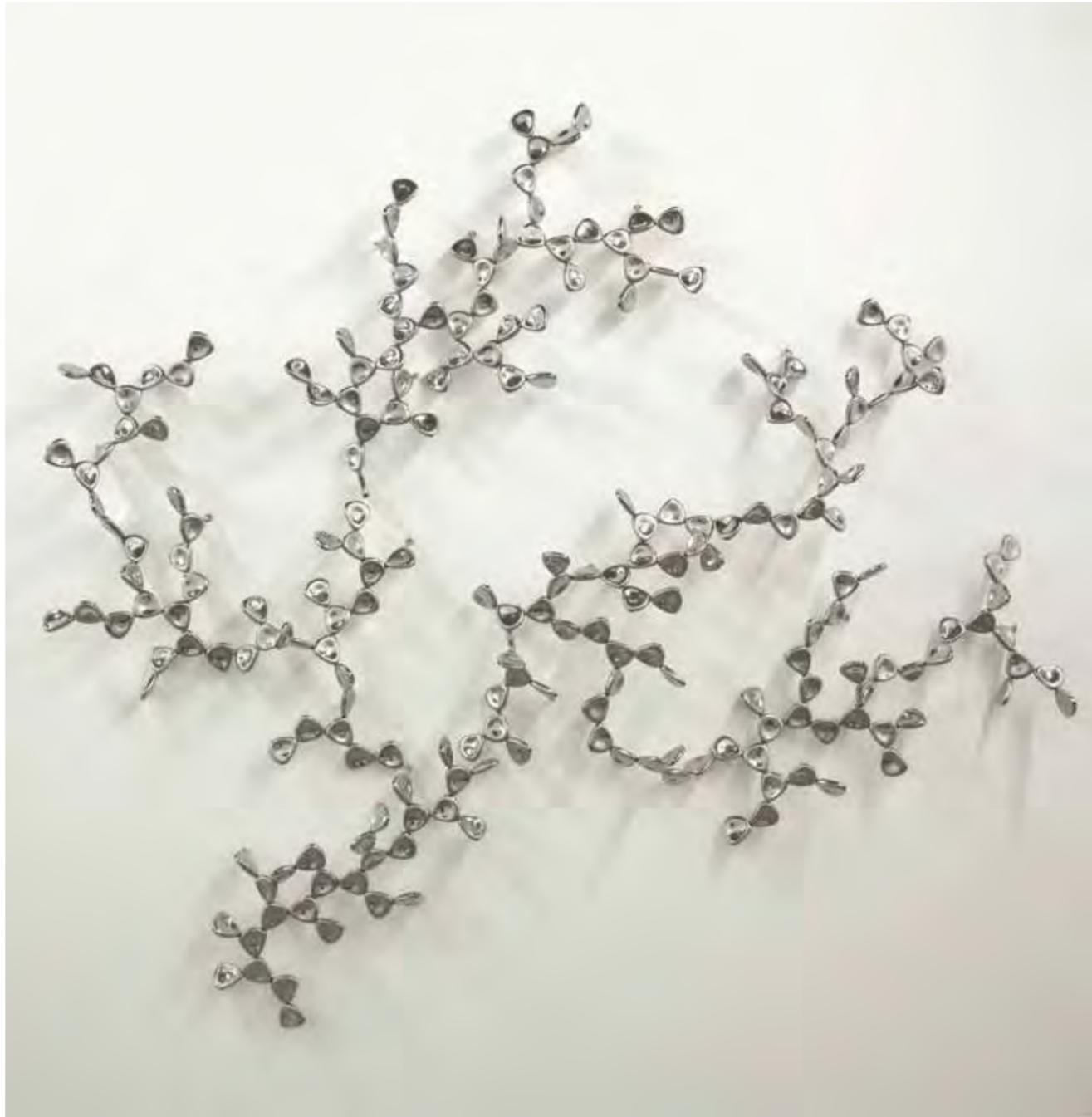
Hypermeasures for a vertical orchestra, 2015
Stainless steel 316
82.7 x 33.5 x 5.9 in / 210 x 85 x 15 cm



Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door,

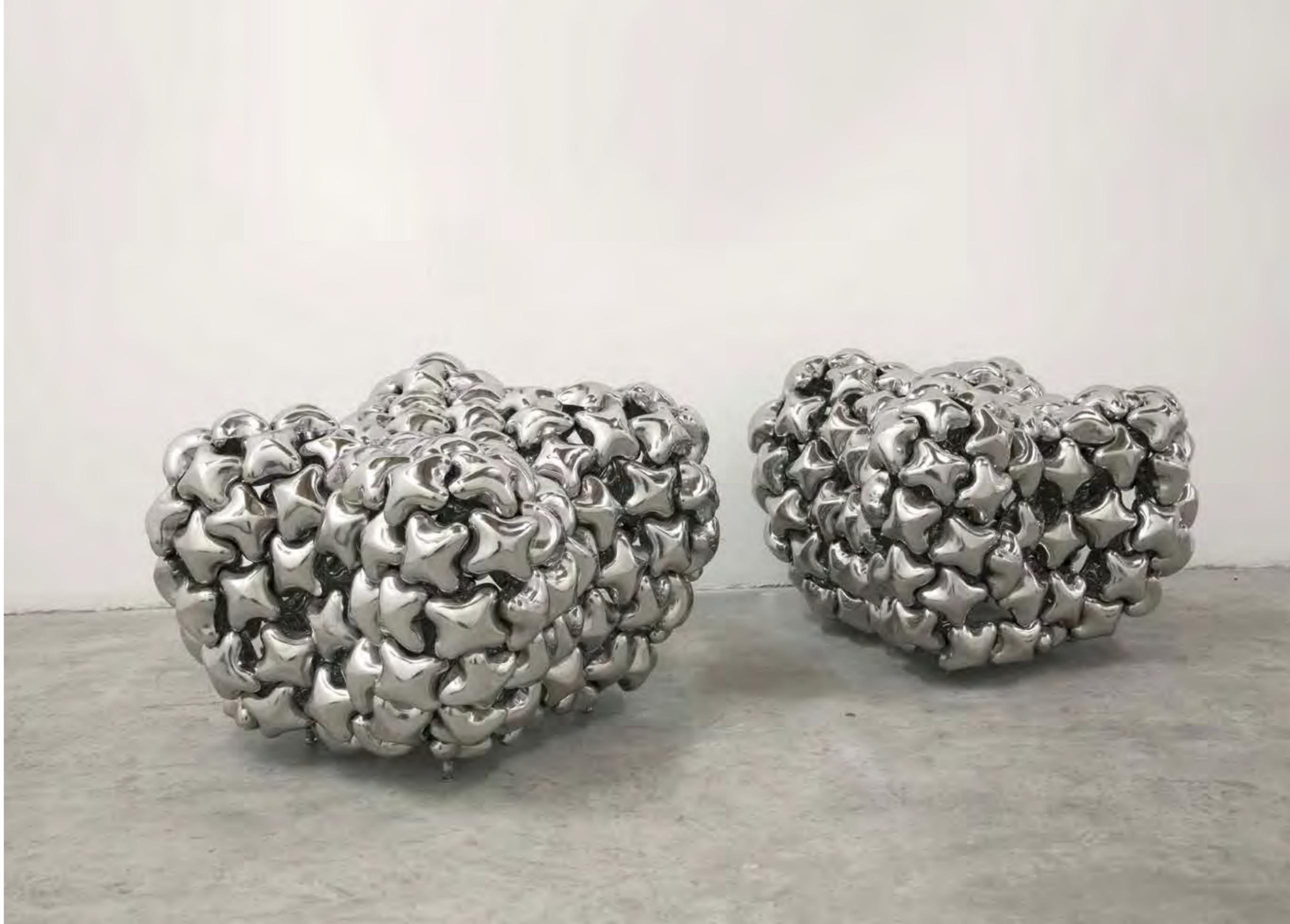


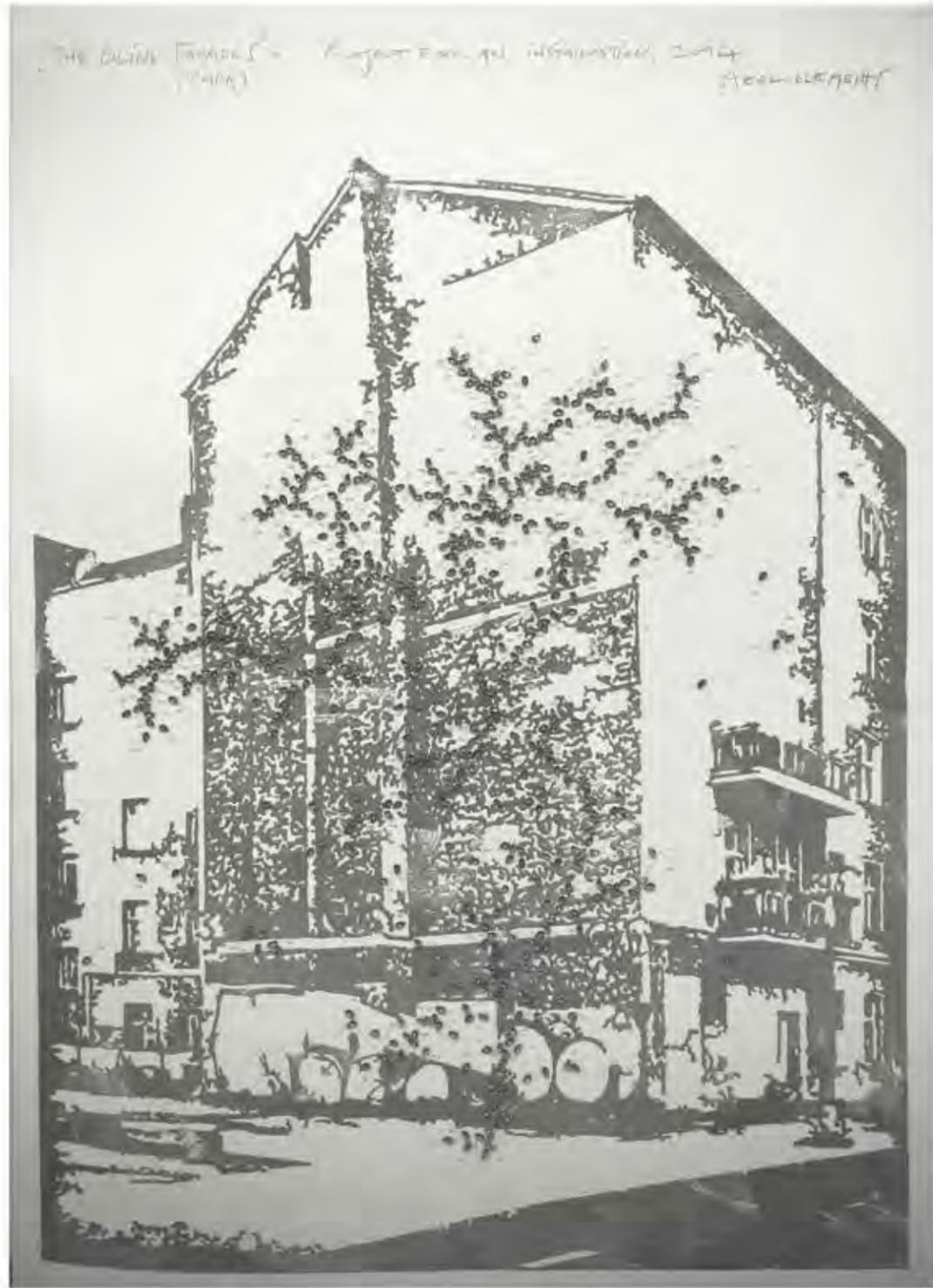
Sentimental seismographies (E. Dickinson), 2014
Lasercut syntetic felt, velvet, watercut steel
41.3 x 68.9 x 11 in / 105 x 175 x 28 cm



Sequential interactions in alfalfa chorus, 2014
Stainless steel 316
88.6 x 102.4 x 9.8 in / 225 x 260 x 25 cm

Sporopollenins, 2015
Stainless steel 316
21.7 x 33.5 x 34.6 in / 55 x 85 x 88 cm



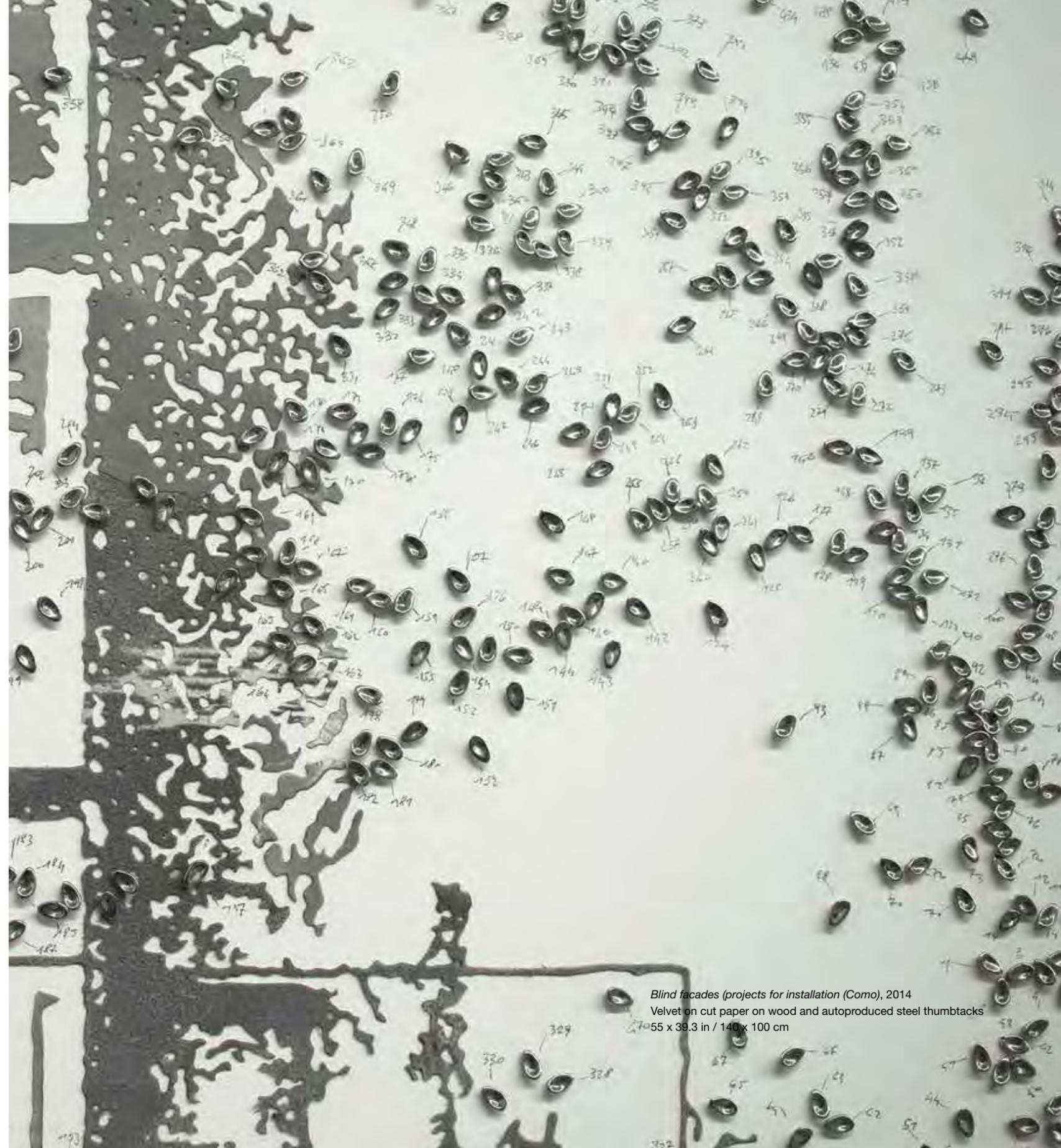


Blind facades (projects for installation (Paris), 2014
Velvet on cut paper on wood and autoproduced steel thumbtacks
55 x 39.3 in / 140 x 100 cm

Blind facades (projects for installation (Berlin), 2014
Velvet on cut paper on wood and autoproduced steel thumbtacks
55 x 39.3 in / 140 x 100 cm



THE BLIND FACADES - PROJECT FOR AN INSTALLATION, 2014 - COMO, ITALY



Blind facades (projects for installation (Como), 2014
Velvet on cut paper on wood and autoproduced steel thumbtacks
55 x 39.3 in / 140 x 100 cm

Trisphere Ultrastructure (Heart), 2015
Stainless steel 316
25.6 x 25.6 x 12.2 in / 65 x 65 x 31 cm



Trisphere Ultrastructure (Amaoeba), 2015
Stainless steel 316
25.6 x 46.5 x 12.2 in / 118 x 65 x 31 cm





Wallwave vibration (ears particle tingles), 2012
Polyester resin, paint
39.4 in / 100 cm (diameter)

Wallvave vibration (momentum wavevector chorus), 2012
Polyester resin, paint
86.6 in / 220 cm (diameter)





The Ineffable gardener and inherent transience, 2013
Welded steel modules
Dimensions variable

LORIS CECCHINI

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 **Bushwalking**, CAP Centro Arti Plastiche, Carrara, Italy
Modulo e modello, curated by M. Meneguzzo, Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, Milano, Italy (cat.)
- 2013 **Loris Cecchini**, Galleria Continua, Beijing, China (cat.)
- 2012 **Aerial Boundaries**, site-specific installation, Palazzo Strozzi, CCC Strozzi, Firenze, Italy
Diana Lowenstein Gallery, Miami (FL), USA
The Hand, the Creatures, and the Singing Garden, permanent installation, Villa Celle, Pistoia, Italy (cat.)
- 2011 Palazzo Ducale, Fondazione Edoardo Garrone, Genova, Italy
The rainbow trusses, Galleria Continua / Le Moulin, Boissy-le-Châtel, France
- 2010 Château des Adhémar, Centre d'art contemporain, Montélimar, France
Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint-Étienne Métropole, Saint-Étienne, France
Solidisky, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy
- 2009 **Dotsandloops**, Centro Pecci per l'arte contemporanea, curated by M. Bazzini e S. Pezzato, Prato, Italy
- 2008 Laure Genillard, London, England
- 2007 **Morphing wave**, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy
Empty walls, just doors, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Blaublobbing, Palazzo Fendi, Roma, Italy
- 2006 **Cloudless**, P.S.1 MoMA, New York - Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France - Shanghai Duolun MoMA, Shanghai - Galleria Continua, Beijing, China
- 2005 **Spice powders and other spaces**, Photology, Milano, Italy
Gaps and other works, Galleria Max Estrella, Madrid, Spain
- 2004 Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Blaublobbing Outside, curated by G. Curto, Palazzo Bricherasio, Torino, Italy
Estructura de monólogo, Casal Solleric, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- 2003 **Monologue Patterns**, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy
- 2002 **Terraforming**, Fondazione Teseco, Pisa, Italy
- 2001 **Loris Cecchini**, Galerie Ghislaine Hussenot, Paris, Francia
Places for the show, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany
- 2000 **Loris Cecchini**, Fondazione Bandera, Busto Arsizio, Italy
Cargo, Museo di Castel Nuovo, Naples, Italy
Waste, Galleria Max Estrella, Madrid, Spain
Loris Cecchini, Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- 1999 **Loris Cecchini**, Galleria Claudia Gian Ferrari Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 **Natura Naturata**, BMW Stiftung, Berlino, Germany
Highly Recommended: Emerging Sculptors, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids Michigan, USA
- 2013 **Artisti nello spazio. Da Lucio Fontana a oggi: gli ambienti nell'arte italiana**, curated by M. Meneguzzo, B. di Marino, A. La Porta, Fondazione Rocco Guglielmo, Catanzaro, Italy (cat.)

Glasstress: White Light/White Heat, curated by J. Putnam, A. Berengo, collateral event of the 55th Biennale Internazionale d'Arte di Venezia, Venezia, Italy (cat.)

Les nouvelles folies françaises, curated by P. Amine, Musée d'Archéologie nationale et Domaine national de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France (cat.)

Turbulences II, curated by D. Rosenberg, P. Sterckx, Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium (cat.)

2012 **9th Shanghai Biennale**, Shanghai Contemporary Art Museum, Shanghai, China (cat.)

Turbulences, curated by D. Rosenberg, P. Sterckx, Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris, France (cat.)

2011 **Italiens. Arte giovane in ambasciata**, Ambasciata Italiana a Berlino, Berlin, Germany

Premio Moroso per l'arte contemporanea, GC.AC - Galleria Comunale d'Arte Contemporanea, Monfalcone, Italy

Spaceship Earth, CoCA - Centre of Contemporary Art, Torun, Poland (cat.)

2010 **Italian Genius Now - Casa dolce casa**, curated by M. Bazzini, Italian Pavillion, Expo 2010 Shanghai - Better City, Better Life, Shanghai, China

La scultura italiana del XXI secolo, curated by M. Meneguzzo, Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, Milano, Italy (cat.)

The New Décor, Hayward Gallery, London, UK, The Garage Centre for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, Russia

2009 **Fragile, Fields of empathy**, curated by L. Hegyi, Musée d'Art Moderne Saint-Etienne Métropole, Saint-Etienne, France

2008 **XV Quadriennale d'arte di Roma**, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma, Italy

Mobile Art - Chanel Contemporary Art Container by Zaha Haid, curated by F. Busteau, Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, London, Moscow, Paris

2007 **The Freak Show**, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, France

Timer 01, Intimita'/Intimacy, curated by D. Paparoni, Triennale Bovisa, Milano, Italy

Artempo, curated by J.H. Martin, G. Romanelli, M. Visser, D. Ferretti, Palazzo Fortuny, Venezia, Italy

Expérience Pommery, curated by D. Buren, Domaine Pommery, Reims, France

2006 **Hyper design**, 6th Shanghai Biennial, curated by Z. Qing, S. Lin, W.Rhee, G.Maraniello, J.Watkins, Shanghai, China

2005 **Space - Now and Then. Art and architecture**, curated by C. Driessen, Fundament Foundation, AaBe Fabrieken, Tilburg, the Netherlands

Price for the Young Italian Art 2004-2005, 51 Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy

2004 **Spazi atti - Fitting Spaces**, curated by PAC- Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy

2003 **Orizzonti**, curated by A. Bonito Oliva, Forte Belvedere, Firenze, Italy

Moltitudini - Solitudini, curated by S. Risaliti, Museion, Bolzano, Italia

2002 **Nuovo Spazio Italiano** curated by F. Cavallucci, G. Nicoletti, G. Verzotti, Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea e MART Palazzo delle Albere, Trento, Italy

Pianos année zero, Musée de la Musique, Cité de la Musique, Paris, Italy

2001 **Leggerezza**, Lenbachhaus Kunstbau, Munchen, Germany

Platea dell'Umanità, curated by H. Szeemann, 49 Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy

Body & Sin, curated by A. Bonito Oliva, Il Valencia Biennial, Valencia, Spain

2000 **The sky is the limit**, curated by J. Sans, M. Hsu, 2nd Taiwan Biennial, Taipei, China

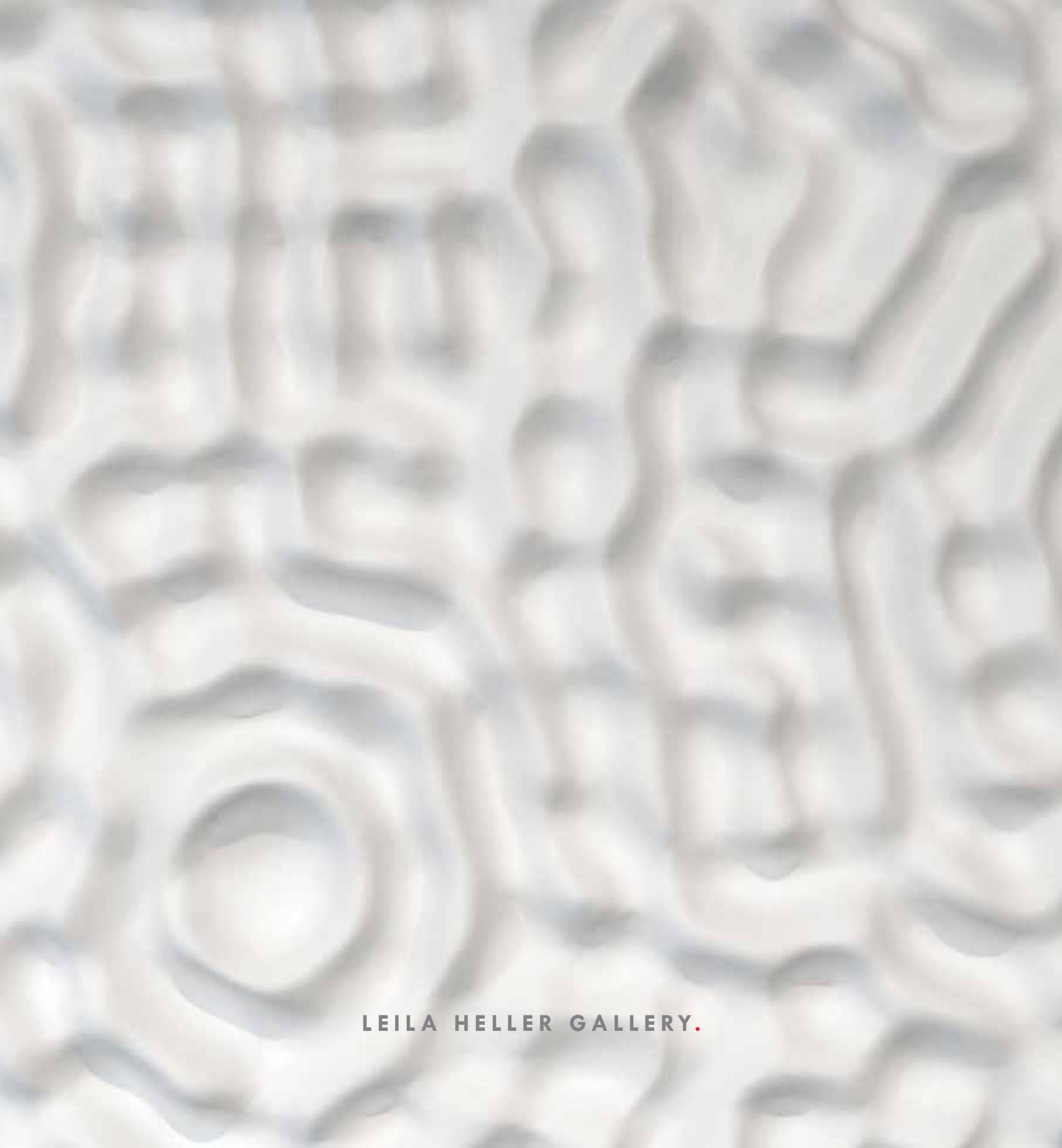


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