



GALLERY

Mehrali Razaghmanesh

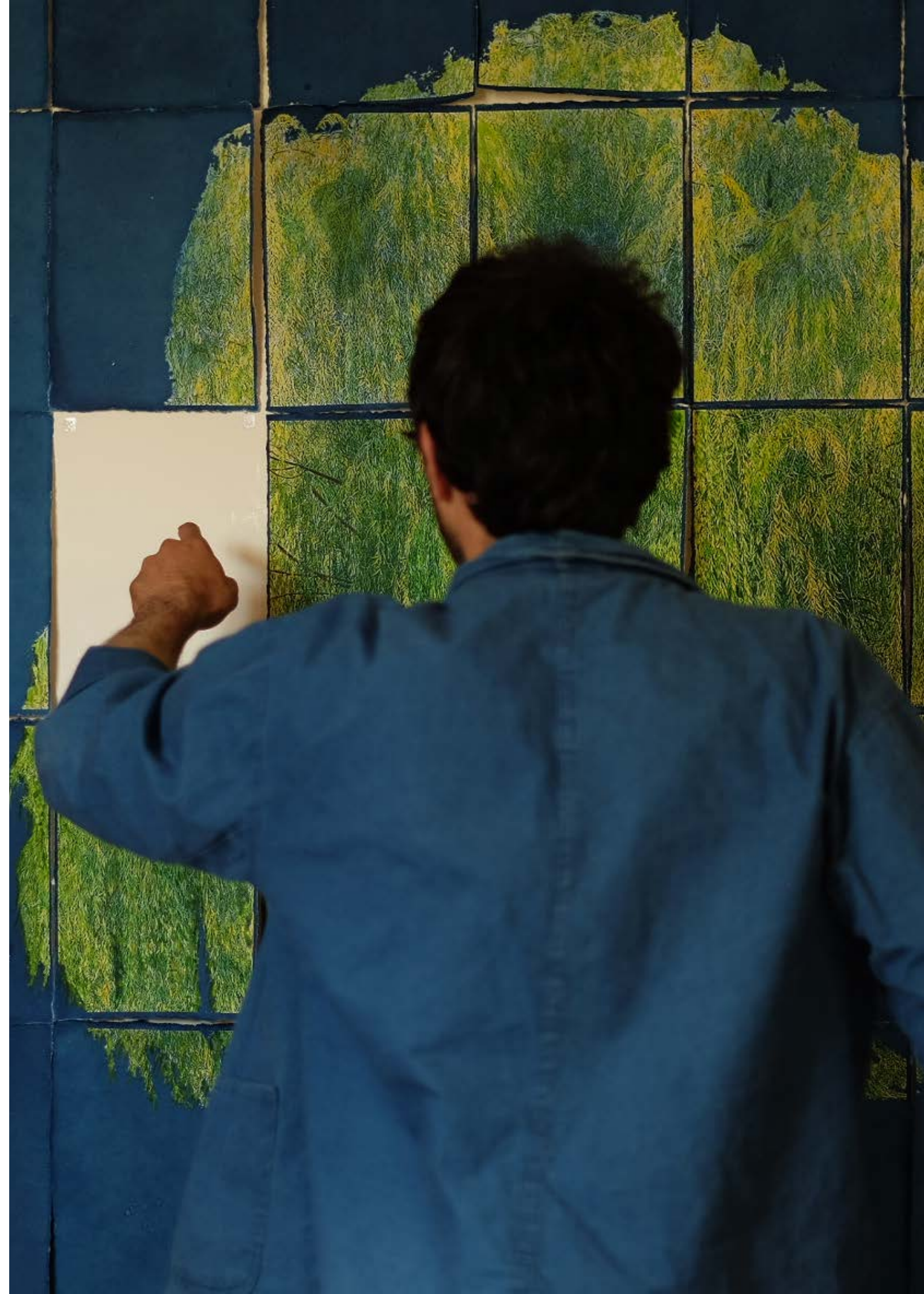
b. 1983 Tehran, Iran

Mehrali Razaghmanesh is a photo-based visual artist based in Paris, France.

Positioned at the threshold between photography and painting, Razaghmanesh challenges the boundaries of these two mediums with a thought-provoking focus on nature. Through a painterly reimagining of landscapes in photography, he seeks to revive a world of imagination. Rather than merely capturing nature, he searches for a visual interpretation—one that moves the image toward imagination itself. In pursuit of realizing the precise vision he holds for each piece, Razaghmanesh employs a variety of printmaking and photographic techniques. This experimental approach to materials and processes enables him to achieve nuanced textures and effects that deepen the conceptual impact of his work.

Razaghmanesh's practice reflects a sustained inquiry into duality, displacement and the fragile relationship between human presence and the natural world. In the "A or I" series, he addresses the contested registration of Iran's northern forests, where political borders blur into questions of representation. Through the use of gum bichromate printing, the series also challenges the boundary between photography and painting. This tension continues in "The Raw Reverie" collection, where the sea becomes both the subject and structure in delving into the transformative character of waves through photography. In his most recent series, created during a residency in Paris, "Sept Pleureurs", Razaghmanesh turns to the solitary weeping willows along the Seine, drawing connections between botanical migration, poetic melancholy and the inner states of exile and reflection. Across these works, the artist's aim is not to resolve contradictions but to inhabit them—to find form in fragmentation and presence in what is fading.

Razaghmanesh's work has been exhibited internationally at **Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles**; **Rencontres d'Arles (2019)**, **Foam Photography Museum**, Netherlands; **On Earth: Imaging, Technology and the Natural World at Lieu Unique, Nantes**; **Photolux Festival**, Italy and **CLB Berlin**. Among his accolades, he was recognized with an award at the 14th edition of the prestigious **Talents Contemporains competition (2025)**, affirming his position as an influential voice in contemporary visual arts.





Education

2017 MA, Photography, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Solo Exhibitions

2022 “A or I”, O Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2019 “Allusions”, O/1 Gallery, Isfahan, Iran

2018 “Allusions”, Ag Galerie, Tehran, Iran

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023 “The Invisible Thread”, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2022 “Weave”, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France

2021 “On Earth: Imaging, Technology and the Natural World”, FOAM Museum, Nantes, France

2020 “On Earth: Imaging, Technology and the Natural World”, Foam Photography Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2019 “On Earth”, The Rencontres d’Arles, Arles, France

2019 “Inertia, Force and a Second Revolution”, Photolux festival, Lucca, Italy

2019 “Small Image, Large Reflection”, Ag Galerie, Tehran, Iran

2018 “Rhythm of Silence, Photography, Sound and Video”, Raf projects, in cooperation with CLB Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2018 “Teheran: A City in the Foothills”, Cinema Galleries, Brussels, Belgium

2017 “Tehran and Beyond”, Silk Road Gallery, Tehran, Iran

2016 “Teheran, A City as a Megapolis”, Mediatheque Andre Marlaux, Strasbourg, France

2016 “Long Shot”, Jorjani Gallery, Tehran, Iran

Art Fairs

2025 The Armory Show, represented by O Gallery, NY, USA

2019 “On Earth”, organized by the Foam Museum, Arles, France

2019 “Photolux” festival, Lucca, Italy

2018 “UNSEEN”, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2018 “2nd Teer Art Fair”, represented by Ag Galerie, Tehran, Iran

Artist Residencies

2025 Fondation FIMINCO, Romainville, France

2024 Cite internationale des arts program, Paris, France

2022 Cite internationale des arts program, Paris, France

2021 “HerMap Artistic Research Residency”, the Goethe Institute, Munich, Germany and Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussel, Belgium

Awards

2025 14th edition of “Talents Contemporains” competition, François Schneider’s Foundation, Wattwiller, France



Leili from the *Seven Weepers* series
Watercolor and cyanotype on handmade paper
polyptych (35 pieces)
148.5x147 cm overall
29.7x21 cm each panel
Unique edition
2025





Untitled from the *Seven Weepers* series
Digital photography
Print and aquarelle on handmade paper
Polyptych (28 pieces)
166x206.5 cm overall
41.5x29.5 cm each panel
Unique edition
2025

“The Seven Weepers” began during a six-month residency at Cité des Arts in Paris in 2021. Initially conceived as a photographic exploration of Parisian gardens, the project shifted when the artist noticed a disconnection: unlike his earlier subjects, these gardens were not endangered or contested, but carefully preserved. Turning instead to the weeping willows along the Seine, long celebrated in Impressionist painting, he discovered that their numbers had drastically declined due to disease—only seven remained in Paris. This discovery opened a new poetic thread, resonating with Persian literary traditions, particularly Nizāmī Ganjavī’s Haft Paykar (“Seven Forms”), and with Gilles Clément’s Manifesto of the Third Landscape, which locates nature not in remote wilderness but within the urban fabric. The solitary, fluid presence of the willows—migrants themselves, brought from China to Europe in the 17th century—echoed both themes of displacement and states of human contemplation. By isolating them in his photographs, the artist emphasized their withdrawn yet expressive forms, embodying a sense of exile and inner reflection. Known by names such as “weeper” or “contemplative,” and described by Victor Hugo as the “Heraclitus of trees,” these willows became both portraits of trees and metaphors for the human condition.





Untitled from the *Terrestrial Chronos* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print in four colors over
cyanotype on Fabriano Artistico paper
60x33 cm each
Edition of 1 + 1 AP
2023



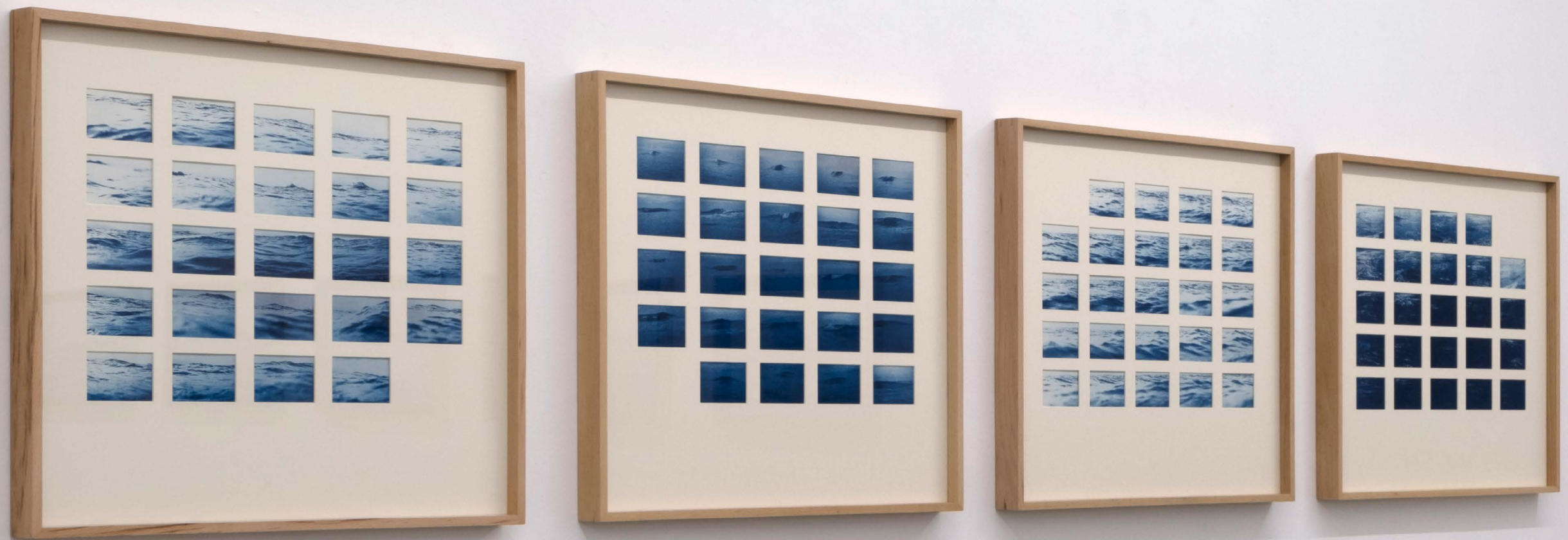
“Raw Reverie”

was created in the Caspian Sea, the world’s largest inland body of water, whose complex history reflects the geological and climatic evolutions of the region.

Rooted in childhood memories of summers spent with his father on the northern coast of Iran, Mehran recalls both the sea’s mystery—shaped by local legends—and his father’s encouragement to overcome fear and embrace its depths. Returning years later, with his father gone and life far from the shore, the artist encounters the waves anew, their turbulence now carrying layered meanings.

The series explores the revolutionary nature of waves: how one gives rise to another, how small movements can lead to transformation. Beyond ecology, the work extends into political, social, and psychological dimensions, viewing the sea as part of an interconnected whole rather than a separate entity.

Visually, the series presents portraits of waves, yet beneath them lies the portrait of a revolution. Building on his longstanding use of alternative printing and the deconstruction of image layers, the artist reinterprets CMYK as a metaphor for the four classical elements. To honor the sea’s poetry, he isolates and prints only the cyan layer through the cyanotype process, preserving its essence in blue.



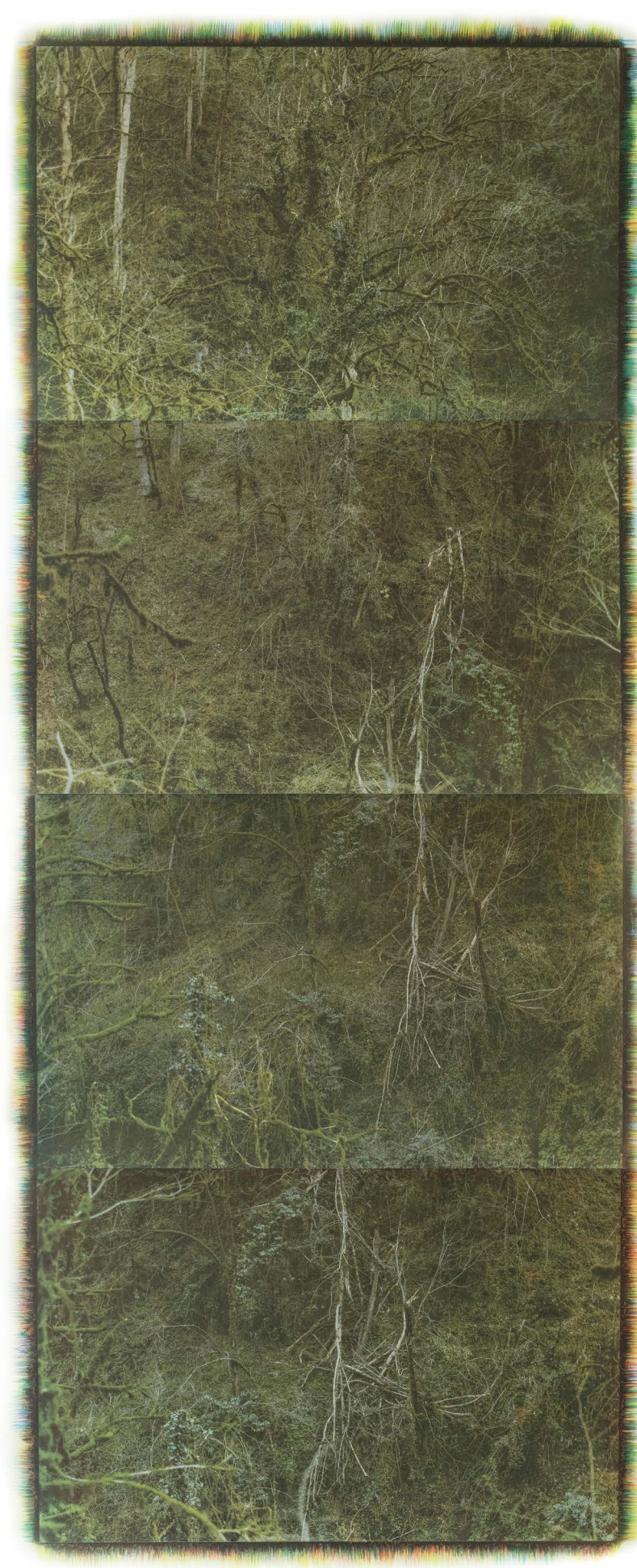
Installation View, from *A or I*, Solo Show, O Gallery, Tehran 2022



Second Wave from the ***Raw Reverie*** series
Digital photography
Cyanotype print on Fabriano 300 gr paper
48x68 cm
Edition of 5 + 1 AP
2020 - 2021

“A or I” is a series developed over three years in the Hyrcanian Forests of northern Iran. The project takes its title from a dispute between Iran and Azerbaijan regarding the alphabetical registration of the forests as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Although Iran holds nearly two million hectares compared to Azerbaijan’s twenty thousand, the alphabetical order placed Azerbaijan first, a detail Iran contested. What begins with a territorial boundary unfolds into a meditation on other frontiers: between photography and painting, where gum bichromate printing creates painterly surfaces, and between photography and Persian poetry, invoking the tension between the foregone and the new. The series culminates in a dual installation titled “The Disordered Order,” expanding into reflections on human contradictions and dualities such as love and reason. The work draws upon Persian visual traditions, especially painting and carpetmaking, where layered spaces and motifs resist Western perspectival norms. In the gum bichromate process, the artist embraces the traces left on the paper’s margins, evoking both painterly brushstrokes and the fringes of Persian carpets. These marks become integral to the work, adding another dimension to its exploration of history, culture, and the shifting boundaries of meaning.





The Disordered Order

Digital photography

Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistico paper

Quadriptych (each)

160x60 cm overall

40x60 cm each panel

Edition of 2 + 2 AP

2017 - 2020



A or I
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistic paper
Diptych
60x90 cm overall
60x45 cm each panel
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2017 - 2020



Installation View, from *A or I*, Solo Show, O Gallery, Tehran 2022



Untitled from the *A or I* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistico paper
28x42 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2017 - 2020



Untitled from the *A or I* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistico paper
28x42 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2017 - 2020

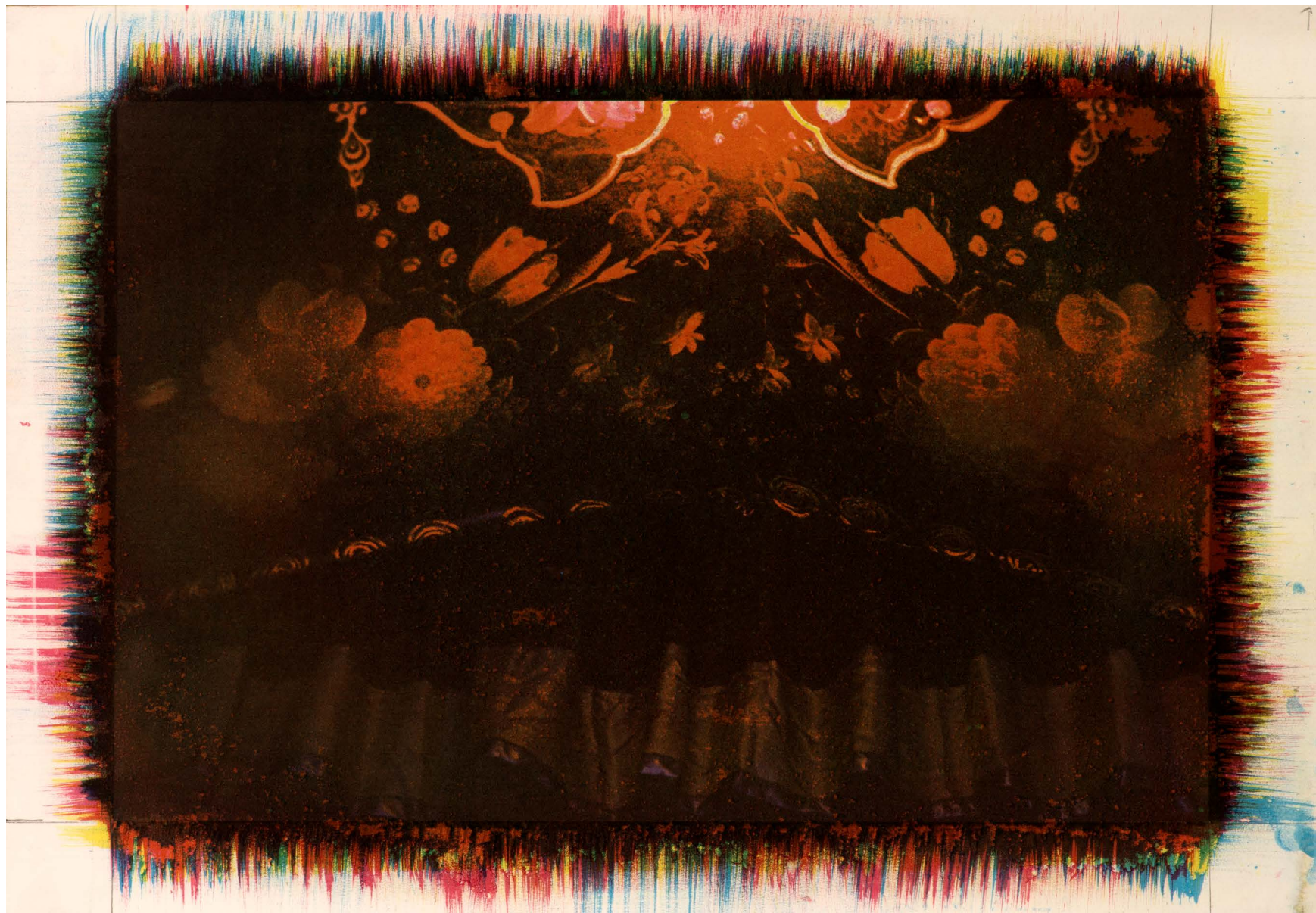




Untitled from the ***The Soul of Tehran*** series
Digital photography
60x100 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP each
2017 - 2019



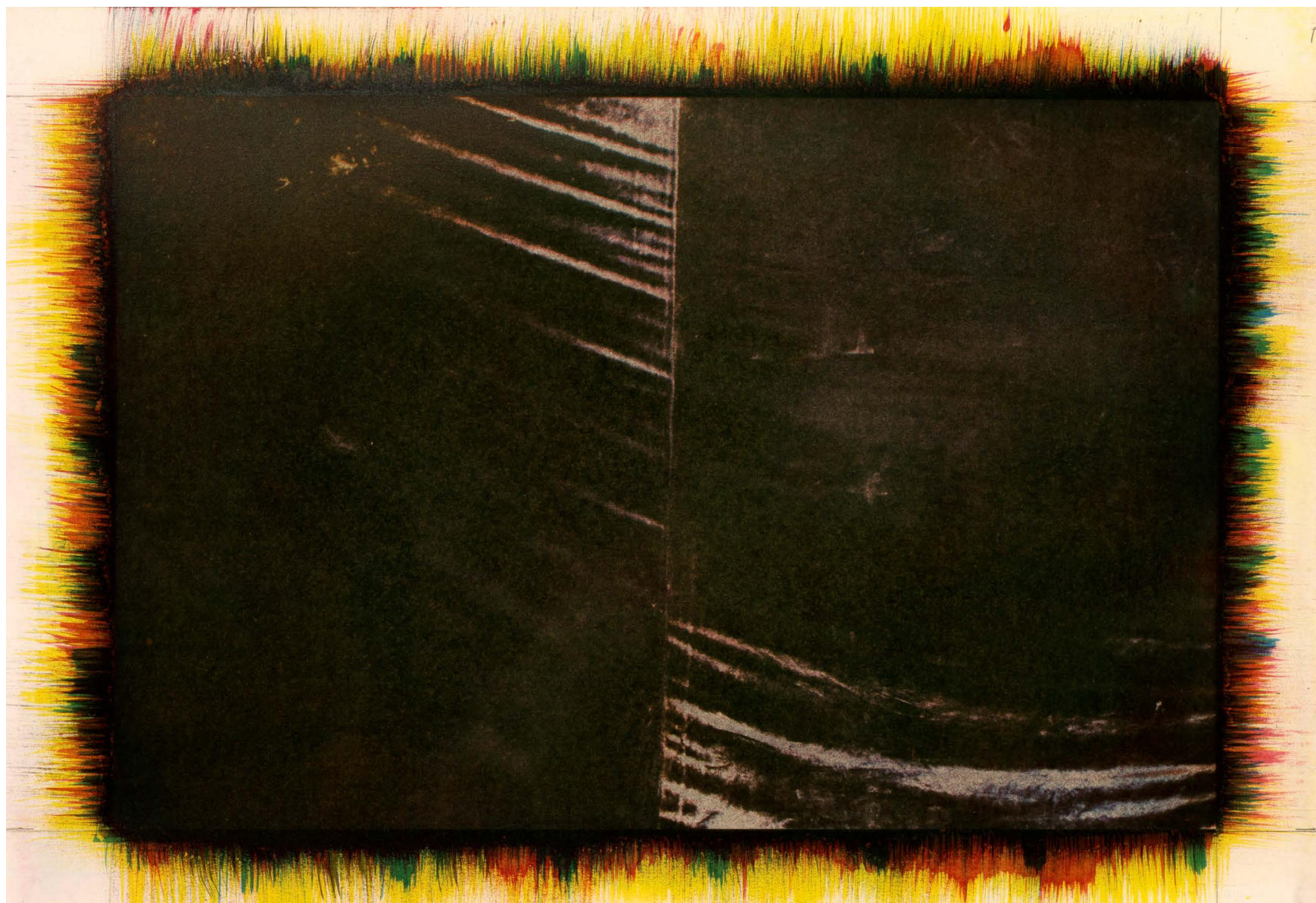
Untitled from the *The Soul of Tehran* series
Digital photography
60x100 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP each
2017 - 2019



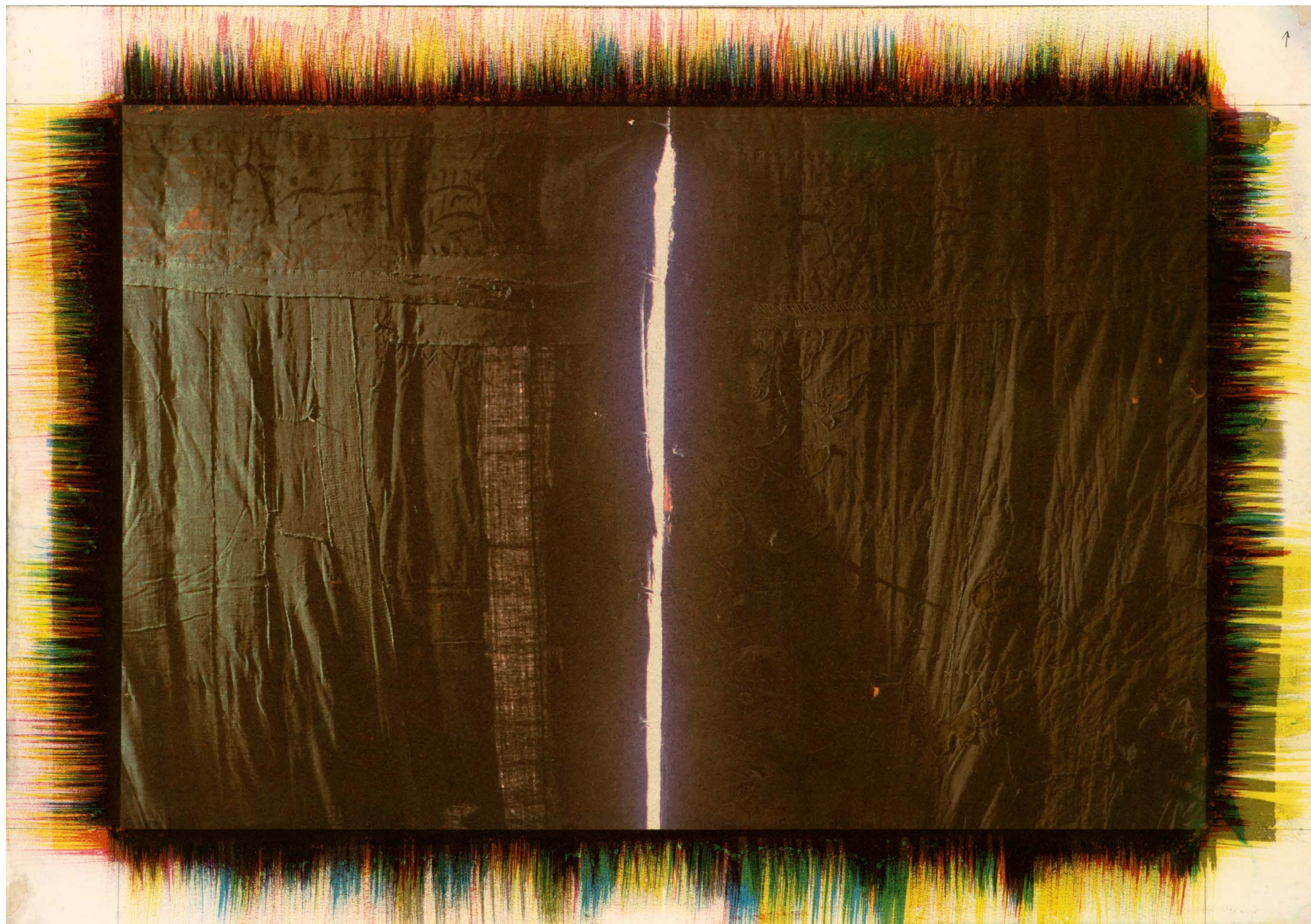
Untitled from the *Allusions* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistic paper
25x37.5 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2015 - 2016



Untitled from the *Allusions* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistico paper
25x37.5 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2015 - 2016



Untitled from the *Allusions* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistico paper
25x37.5 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2015 - 2016



Untitled from the *Allusions* series
Digital photography
Gum bichromate print on Fabriano Artistico paper
25x37.5 cm
Edition of 2 + 2 AP
2015 - 2016

