

At the heart of Tobias Gutmann's artistic practice lies a deep exploration of encounters – between people, cultures, and environments, but also between what we see on the outside and what we feel within. Tobias Gutmann's visual language reveals a distinctive approach to figure and form, oscillating between the abstract and the pictorial, the known and the unknown. Through repetition and flow, drawing becomes a meditative, healing act—an embodied practice that reconnects us with ourselves and the present moment. His contemplative line drawings evoke spiritual depth, while figurative works explore our connection to nature, the body, and the unseen. The word drawings capture core values and invite reflection, serving as poetic prompts for life. Gutmann's drawings are paths—toward presence, transformation, and meaning.

Through his Face-o-mat performance, Gutmann portrays people by distilling their essence into abstract drawings. Rather than seeking photorealism, he aims to capture the sound of a person – their presence and inner qualities. Sai Bot on the other hand is Gutmann's digital artist twin. In a poetic gesture, he has taught an AI to draw portraits infused with the Face-o-mat DNA, distilling over a decade of experience into a new form of creative expression.

This portfolio presents a selection of Tobias Gutmann's evolving archive of drawings.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!  
TOBIAS GUTMANN



## CV – TOBIAS GUTMANN

Swiss, b. 1987, Wewak, Papua New Guinea, based in Zürich, Switzerland

2018–2020 Master of Fine Arts, ZHdK, Zürich

2012–2014 Master of Fine Arts in storytelling, Konstfack, Stockholm

2008–2011 Bachelor of Arts in visual communication, HKB, Berne, CH

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

2024 Tobias Gutmann and Sai Bot, solo show, MISK Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

*Face-o-mat Atelier and Performance*, Ithra Museum, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

2023 «I can do that too!» says the AI, Solo exhibition with Sai Bot,

Underdogs Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2022–2023 *Tobias Gutmann und Sai Bot*, Mobiliar Kunstsammlung, Berne, Switzerland

2022 *Face-o-mat – Tobias Gutmann & Sai Bot*, Barbara Seiler Gallery, Zurich, CH

2020 *How the Wild Flowers Grow*, Oncurating Project Space, Zurich, Switzerland

2017/2018 *Face-o-mat Performance*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Art Central, Hong Kong

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Mindpark, XiChong and Shenzhen, China

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Kunsthau Langenthal, Langenthal, Switzerland

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Cartoon Museum Basel, Basel, Switzerland

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Kunsthau Grenchen, Grenchen, Switzerland

2015 *Face-o-mat Performance*, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Supergraph, Contemporary Art Fair, Melbourne, AU

*Face-o-mat Performance*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Luxembourg

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Constellations*, Werkbeiträge des Kantons Zürich, Haus Konstruktiv

2019 *Polyphonic Drawings*, Performance at Plattform L, Seoul

2016 *Form Poems*, Kunsthau Langenthal, Cantonale Berne Jura, Switzerland

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2021 *Constellations*, 24 pages, edition of 100, published with Nieves

2014 *Let's Make Language*, 32 pages, riso printed edition of 300

### AWARDS / GRANTS

2022 Face-o-mat Sai Bot is supported by Z-Kubator, ZHdK during 2022

2021 Selection Werkbeiträge Kanton Zürich

2014-2022 Nomination for the Swiss Design Award 2014, 2015, 2018 and 2022

2016 / 2017 Selection Cantonale Berne Jura

2014 Konstfack University of Arts, Stockholm, Rektors stipendium, Jubelfonden

### ARTWORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

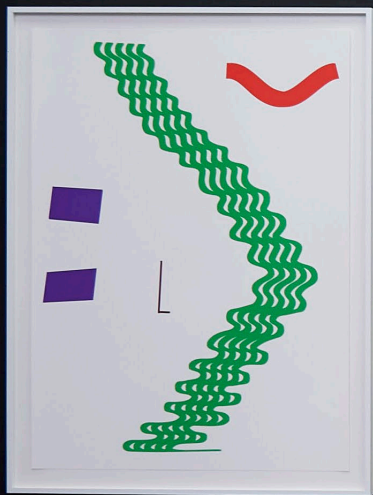
Die Mobiliar Art Collection, Switzerland





Contemplative Drawings, Tobias Gutmann, visualisation for an upcoming exhibition, 2026





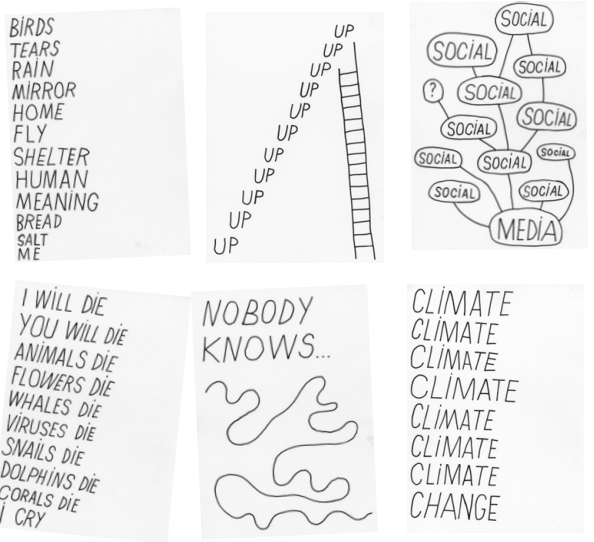
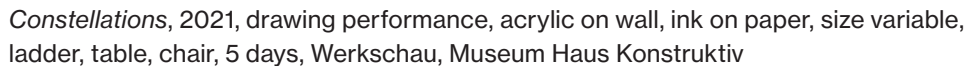
Face-o-mat Sai Bot Collection – Self, Ancestor, Mama, Ally, 110 x 80, fine art print, framed, unique, Barbara Seiler at schwarzescafé, Zurich, 2022





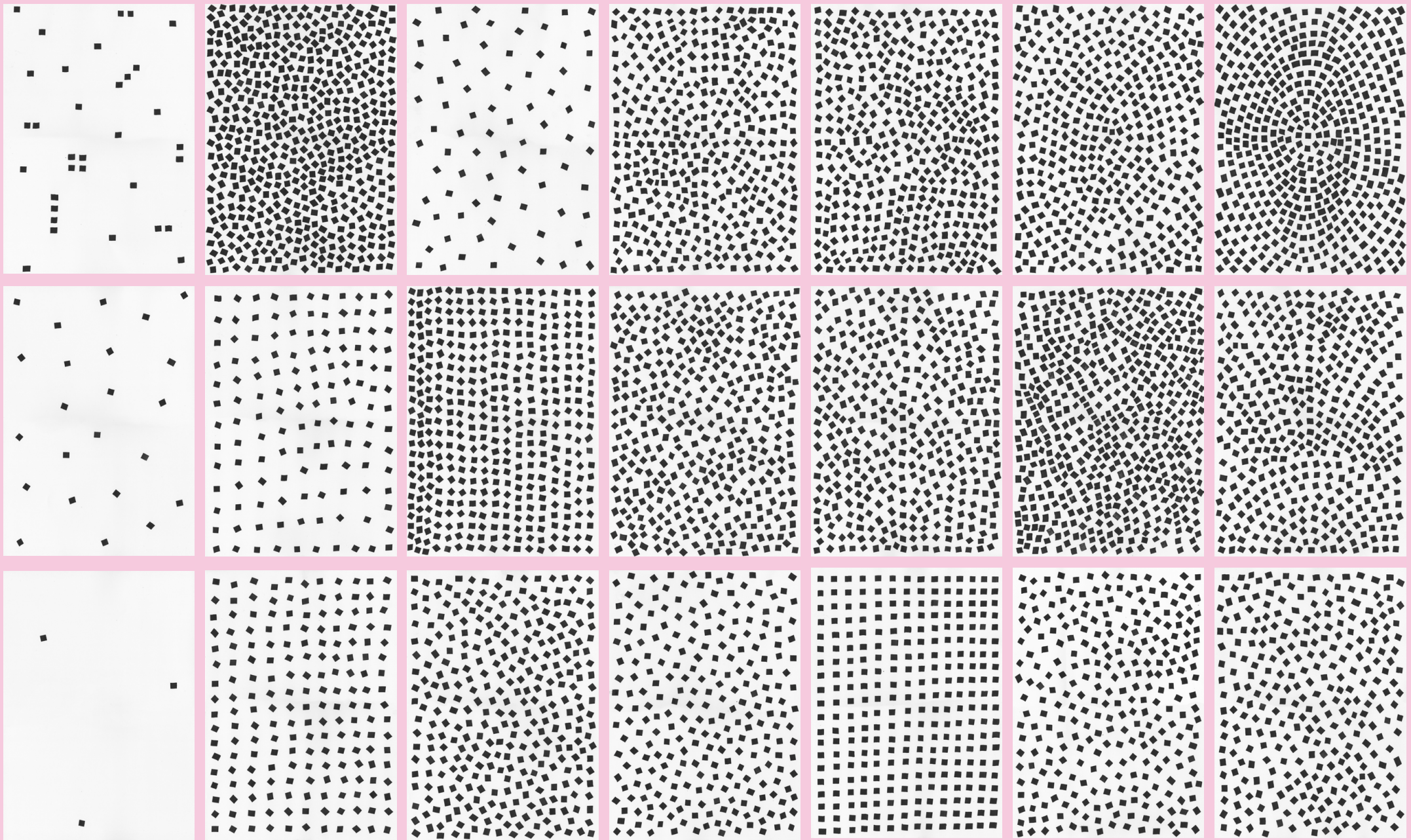
A selection of the over 1800 portraits by Sai Bot were shown within the exhibition, 22 x 16, fine art print, Mobilier Kunstsammlung, Berne, 2022-2023





«Ceci n'est pas une pipe», wrote René Magritte. It is not about the rectangular dots on the wall, but about the in-between. Drawing becomes a ritual, a snapshot, a language. The stroke is life, rhythm, pause, play and movement. movement. Slow - fast. «Everything is music», said John Cage - so is my brushstroke. The space, the light, the time. After each point I breathe. What do I perceive? Noise, odours, silence, people. Life, life, life. I see the sky and look for lightness. The drawing has a beginning and an end. It lives while it is being created.



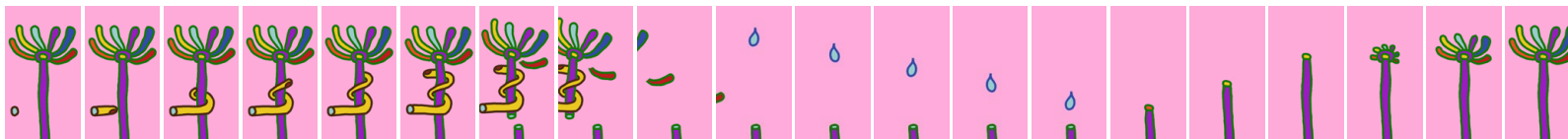


*Constellations*, 2021, drawing performance, ink on paper, each 60 x 42 cm





*How the Wild Flowers Grow*, installation view, 2020, ink on paper, 42x30cm, acrylic on wood, LCD screen



*Wild Flower 1*, 2020, 8 color animation loop, 7 sec (stills)

Text: Gozde Filinta, assistant curator documenta fifteen

Flowers are given to loved ones, on unusual days to convey love, affection, sorrow, apology, and empathy. Associated with various emotions, alongside their frequent representation of human desires, flowers are turned into mere objects of consumption that conquered all homes, streets, parks, and public spaces. Trapped into endless connotations, flowers are rarely considered beyond these aesthetic symbolic meanings.

*How the Wild Flowers Grow* is a brief moment for pausing in an artist-made garden to think about flowers, their self-sufficient existence and harmony. The garden wishes to remind the cycle of nature, by asking 'how it grows', and to recall the shared nature of all living beings. It tries to reflect on the infinite forms of flowers in nature as it takes shape in vast species on earth. The imaginary drawings of flowers illustrate the wildness within each flower's crooked and unexpected shape. This totally imagined flower garden invites us to enter a meditative state where we, for a moment, open ourselves to the teaching of flowers; in their wise being, surrendered nature and harmony in plurality, as they cover all the mountains, hills, and valleys.



Guided drawing meditation by artist, 30 min, charcoal on paper 42x30cm





Ithra Museum, Doha, 2024



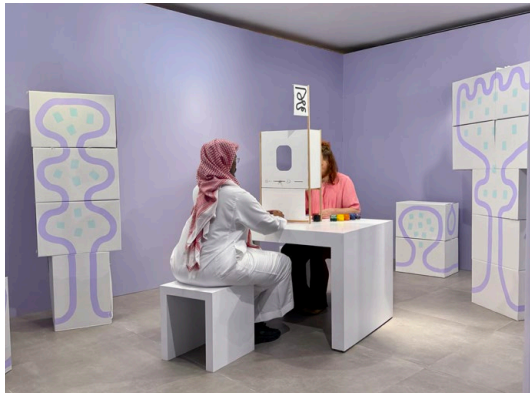
Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2017



Kunsthhaus Grenchen, 2018



Supergraph, Melbourne, 2015



Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, 2024



Mindpark Shenzhen, 2018



Hermès Palo Alto, 2018



Wamangu, Papua New Guinea, 2015



Mobiliar Art Collection, Bern, 2023



XiChong Festival, Shenzhen, 2018



Art Central, Hong Kong, 2017



Museum Haus Konstruktiv, 2015





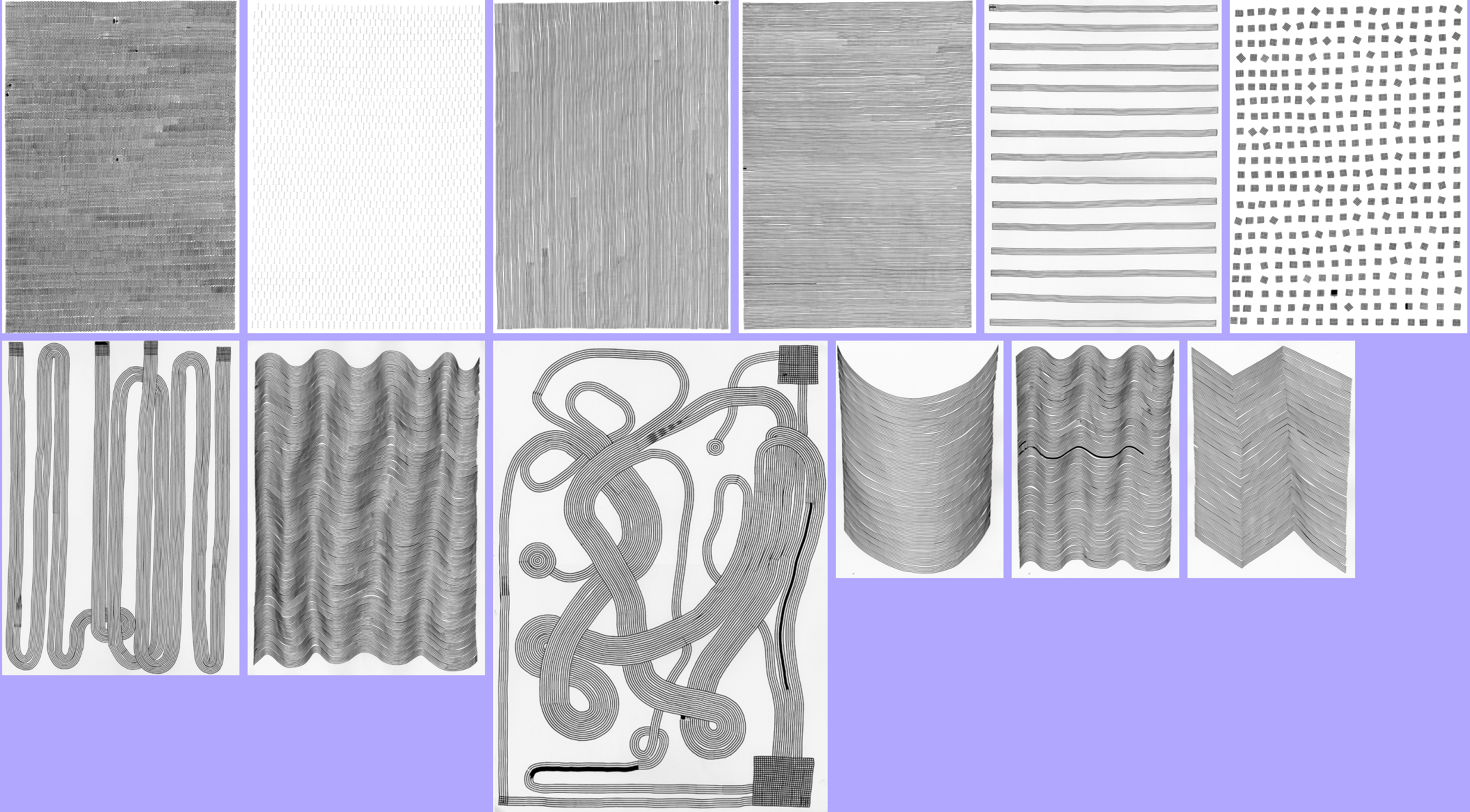
Face-o-mat portraits, 2018-2024, ink on paper, each 22x16 cm, Centre Pompidou, Kunsthau Grenchen, Mindpark Shenzhen, Ithra Museum, Misk Art Institute, Saudi Arabia

TOBIAS GUTMANN

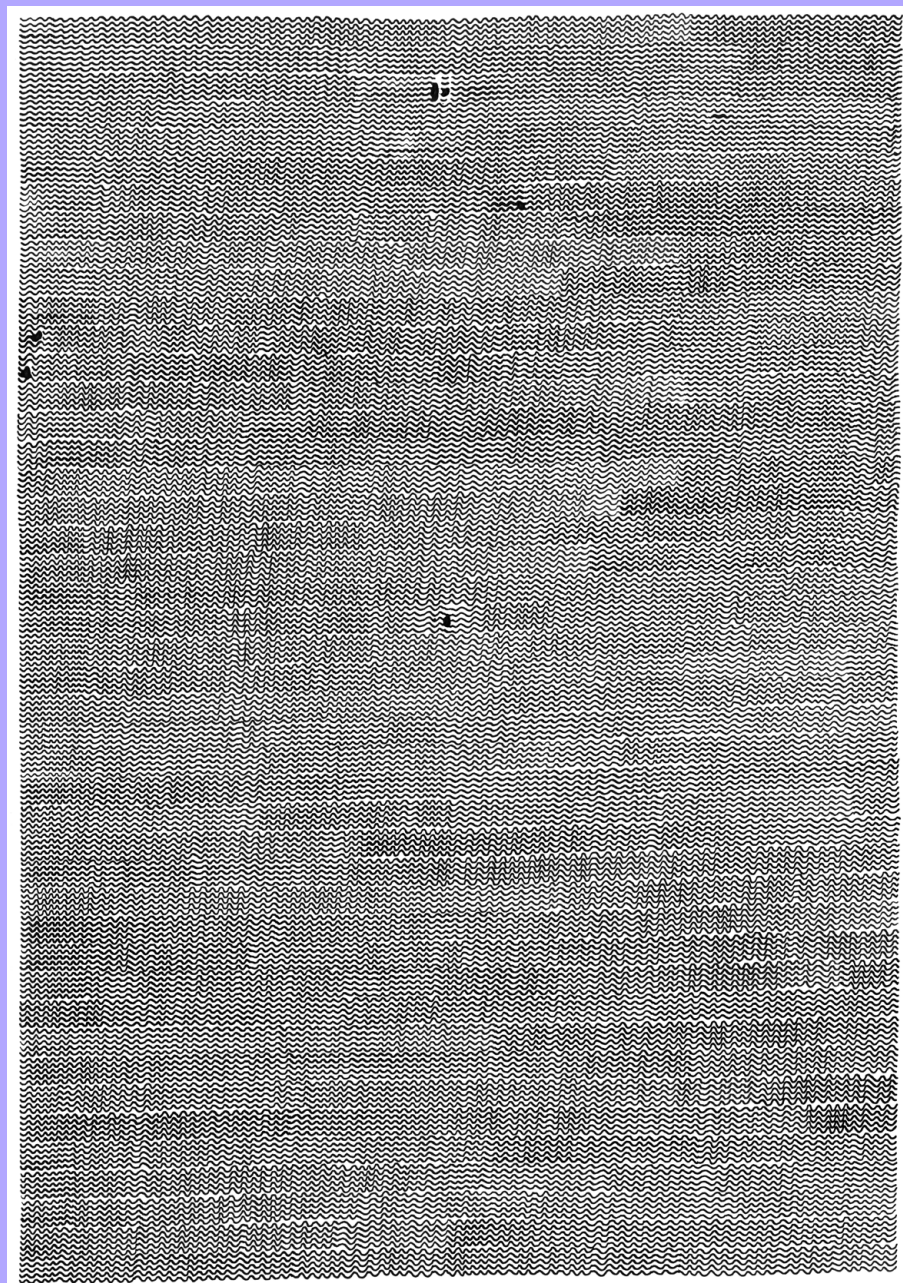
Available works



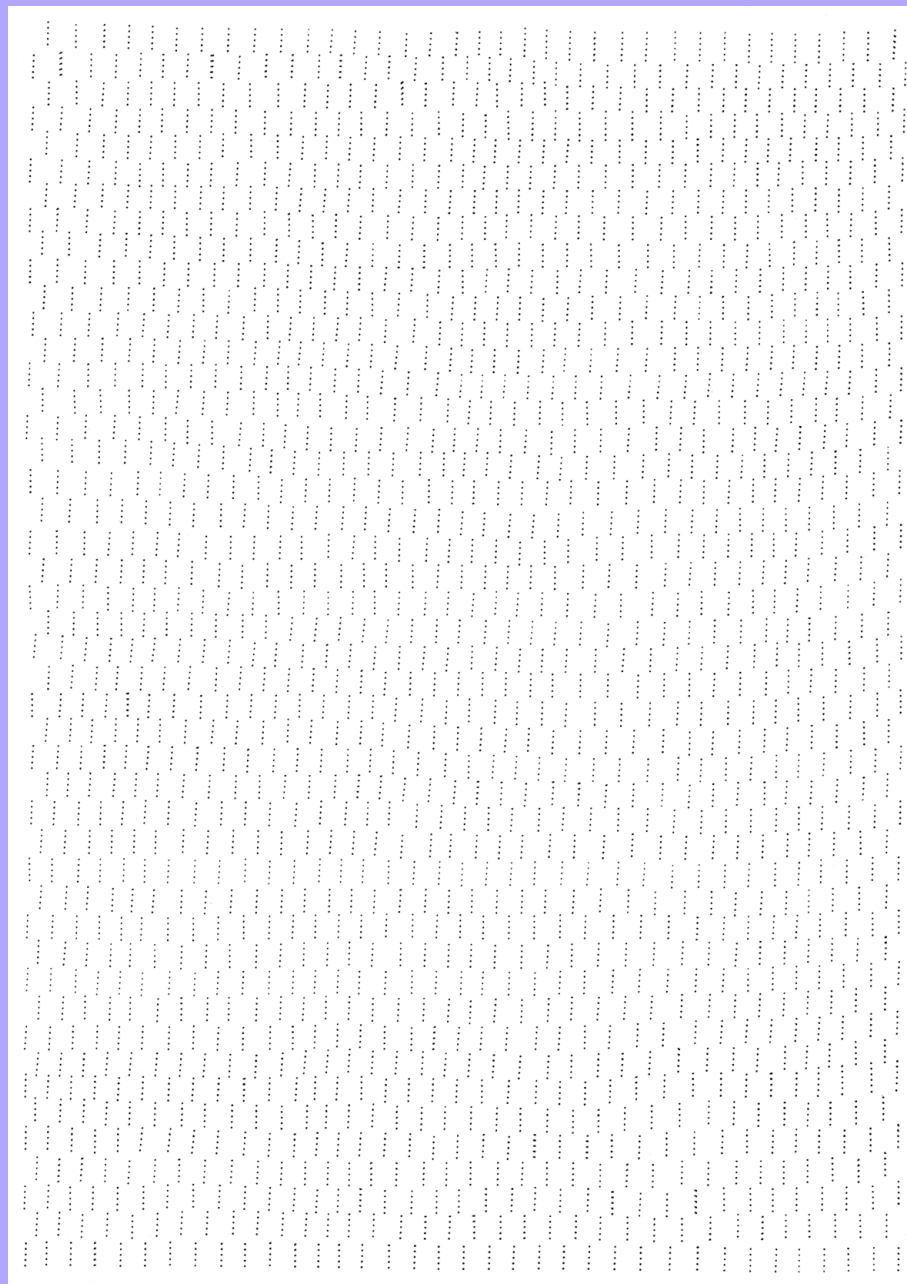
Contemplative drawings 1      Through repetitive drawing of lines, the act of drawing becomes a transformative process—where body and mind enter a flow state, slowing down time and creating space for healing. The lines can be seen as paths leading toward an embodied spiritual experience. At the same time, these drawings can also be understood as generative art—not created by an algorithm, but by a human hand. They serve as a means to reconnect with our body, our deeper self, and the experience beyond what can be seen.





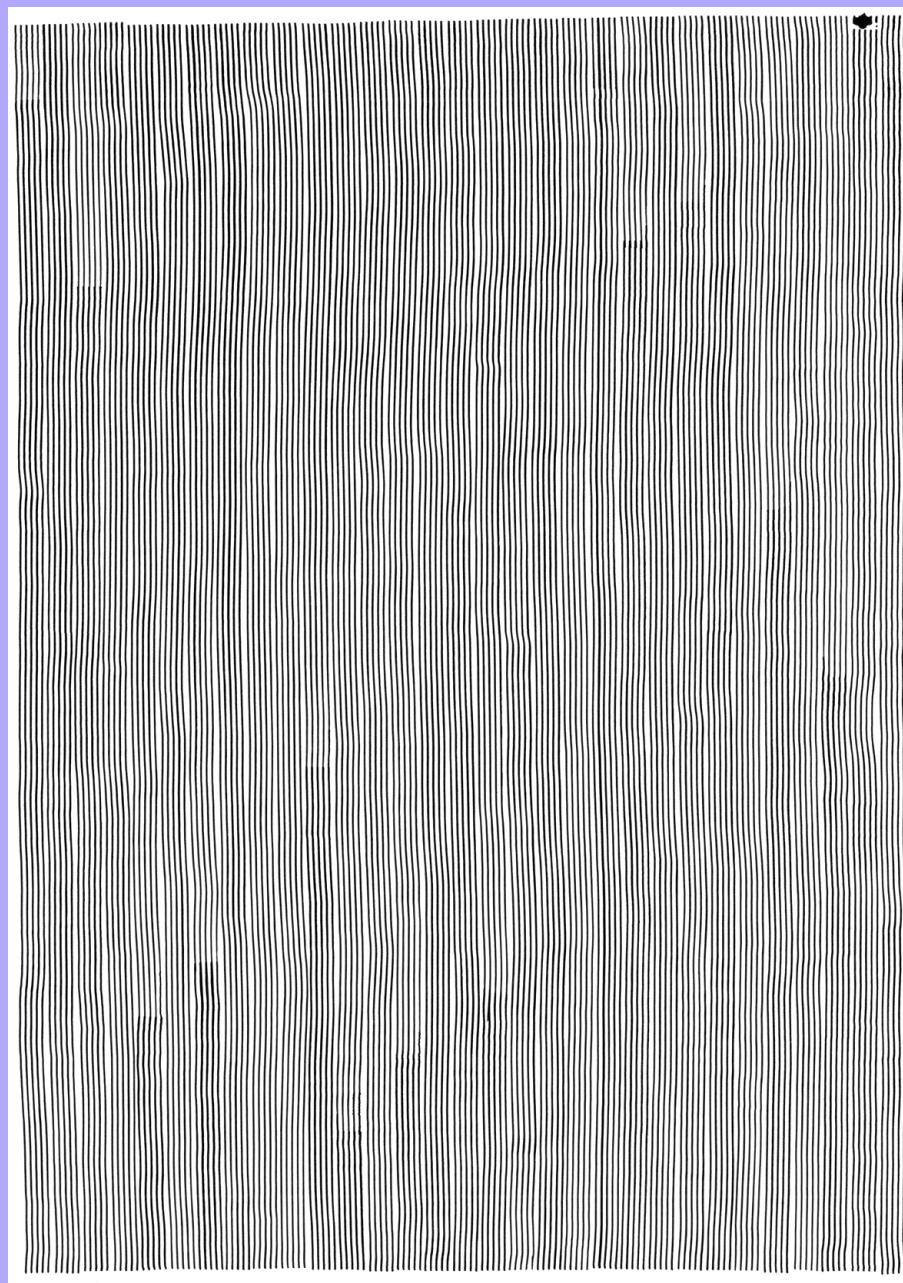


*Contemplative Drawing 3, 2016*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm

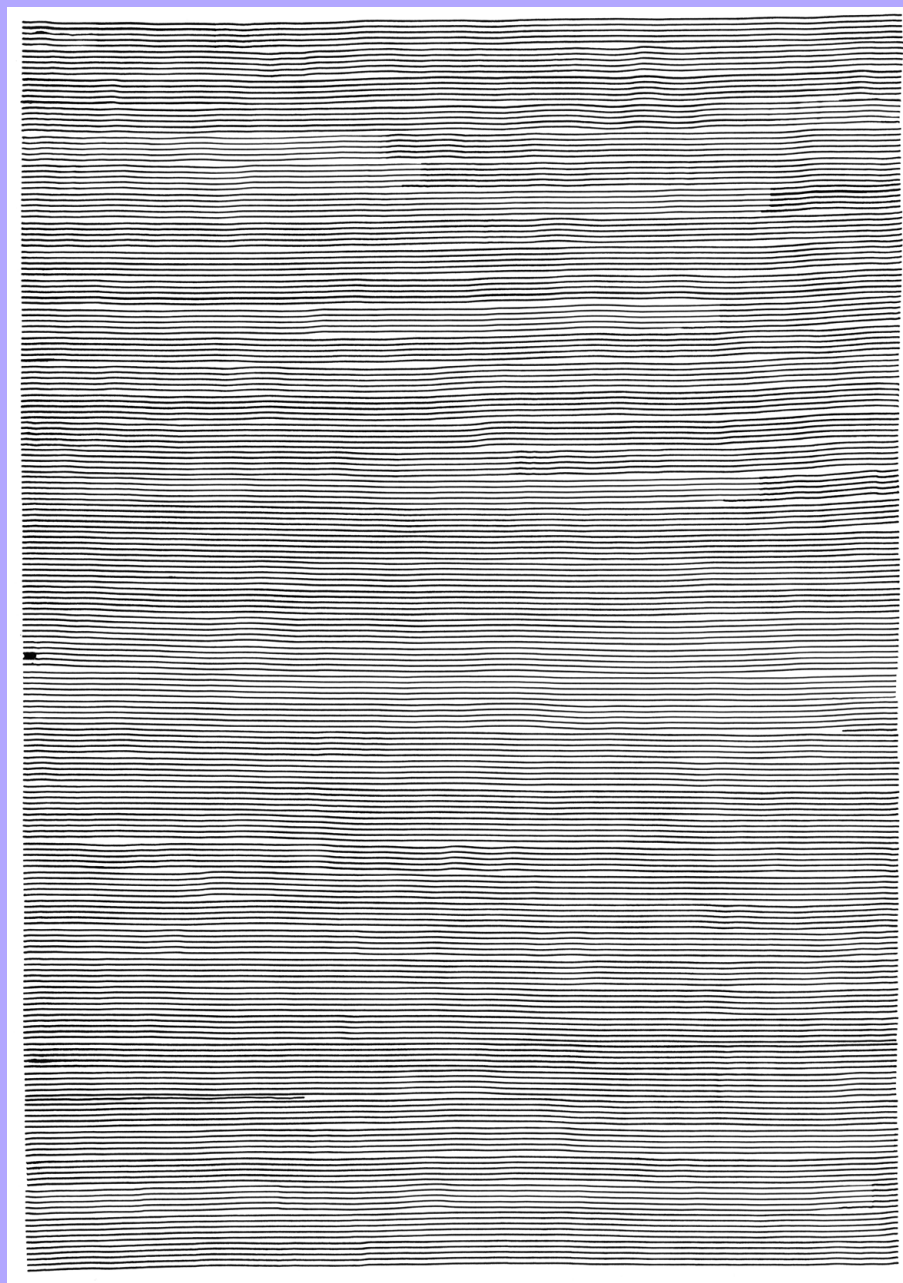


*Contemplative Drawing 6*, 2016  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm

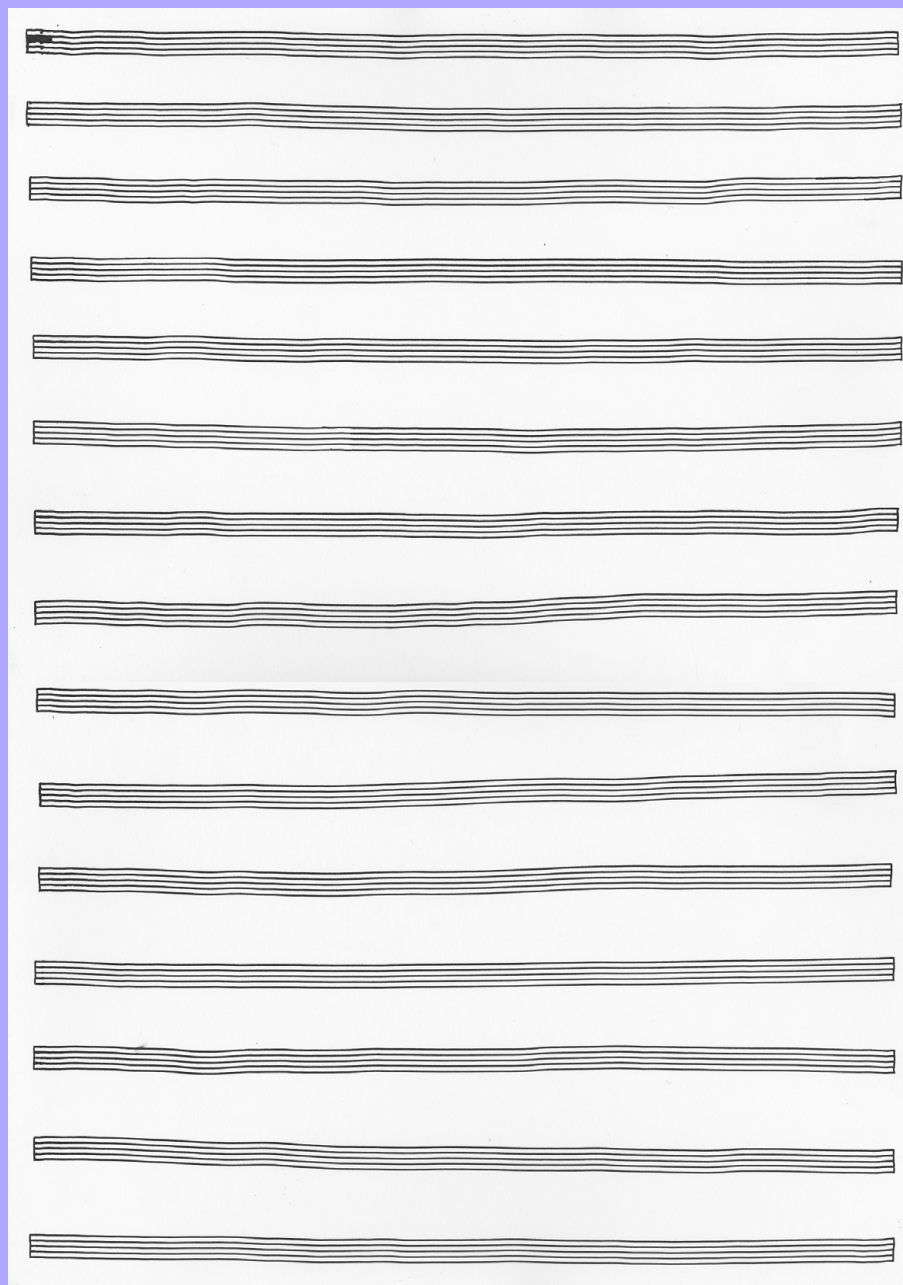




*Contemplative Drawing 2*, 2016  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm

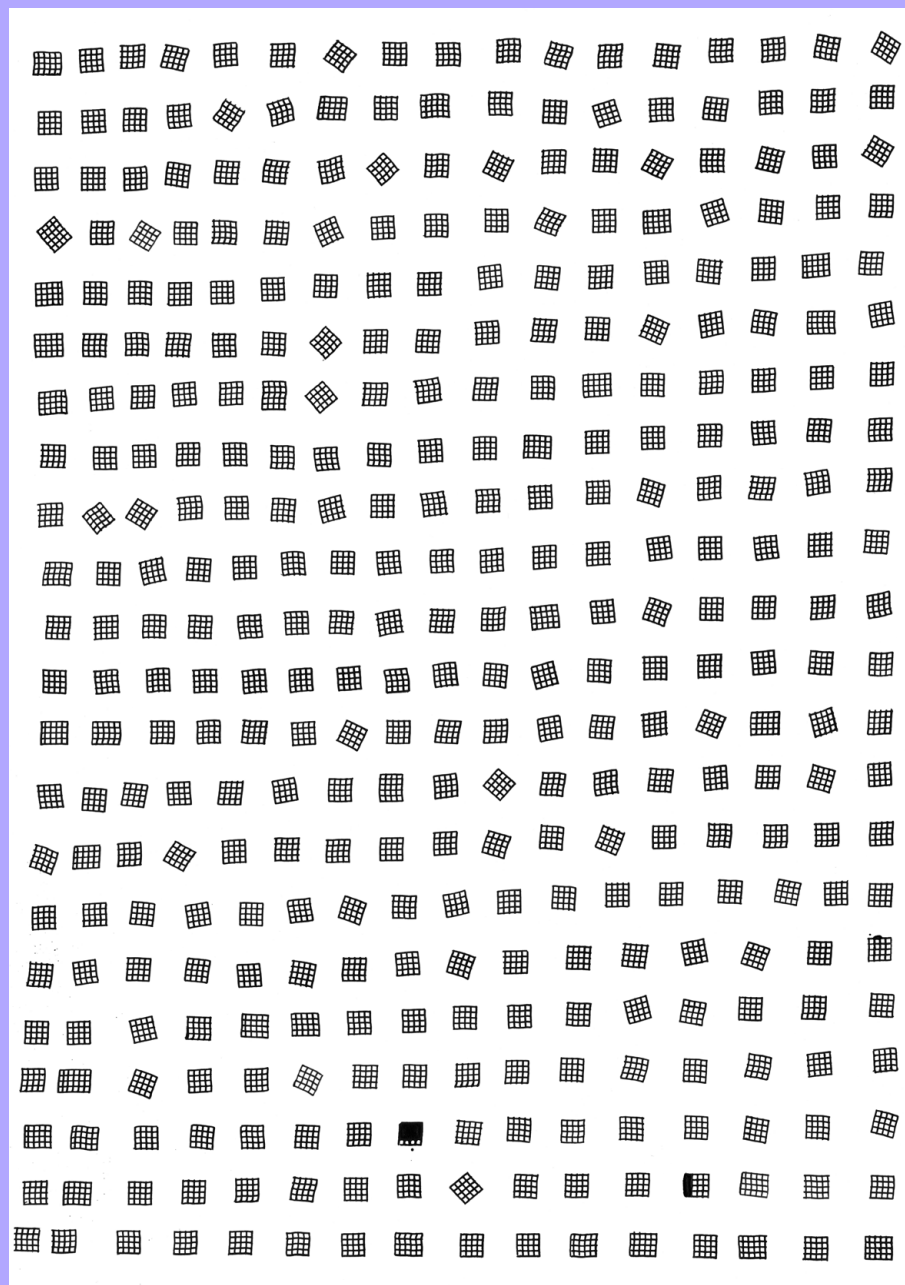


*Contemplative Drawing 4*, 2016  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm

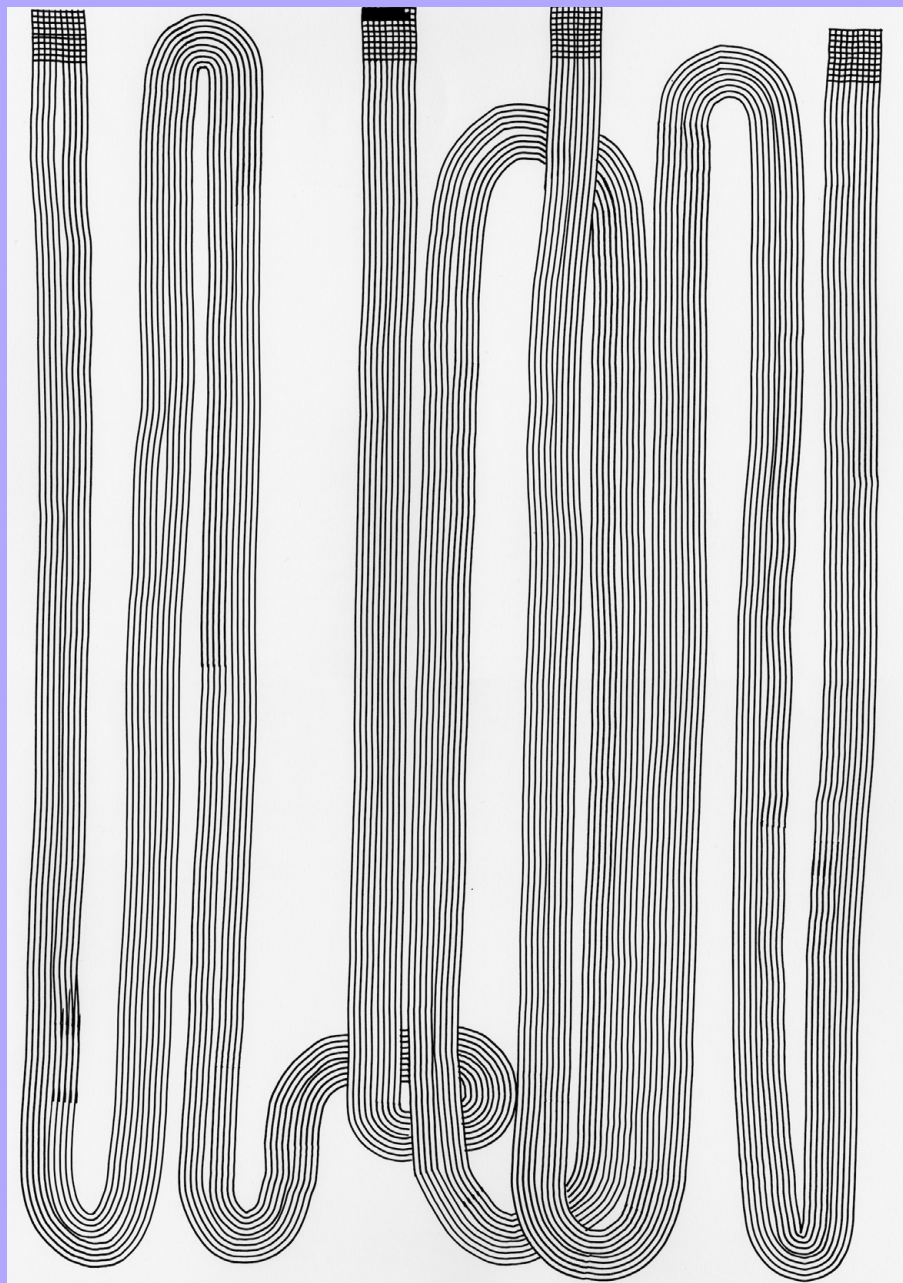


*Contemplative Drawing 13*, 2016  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



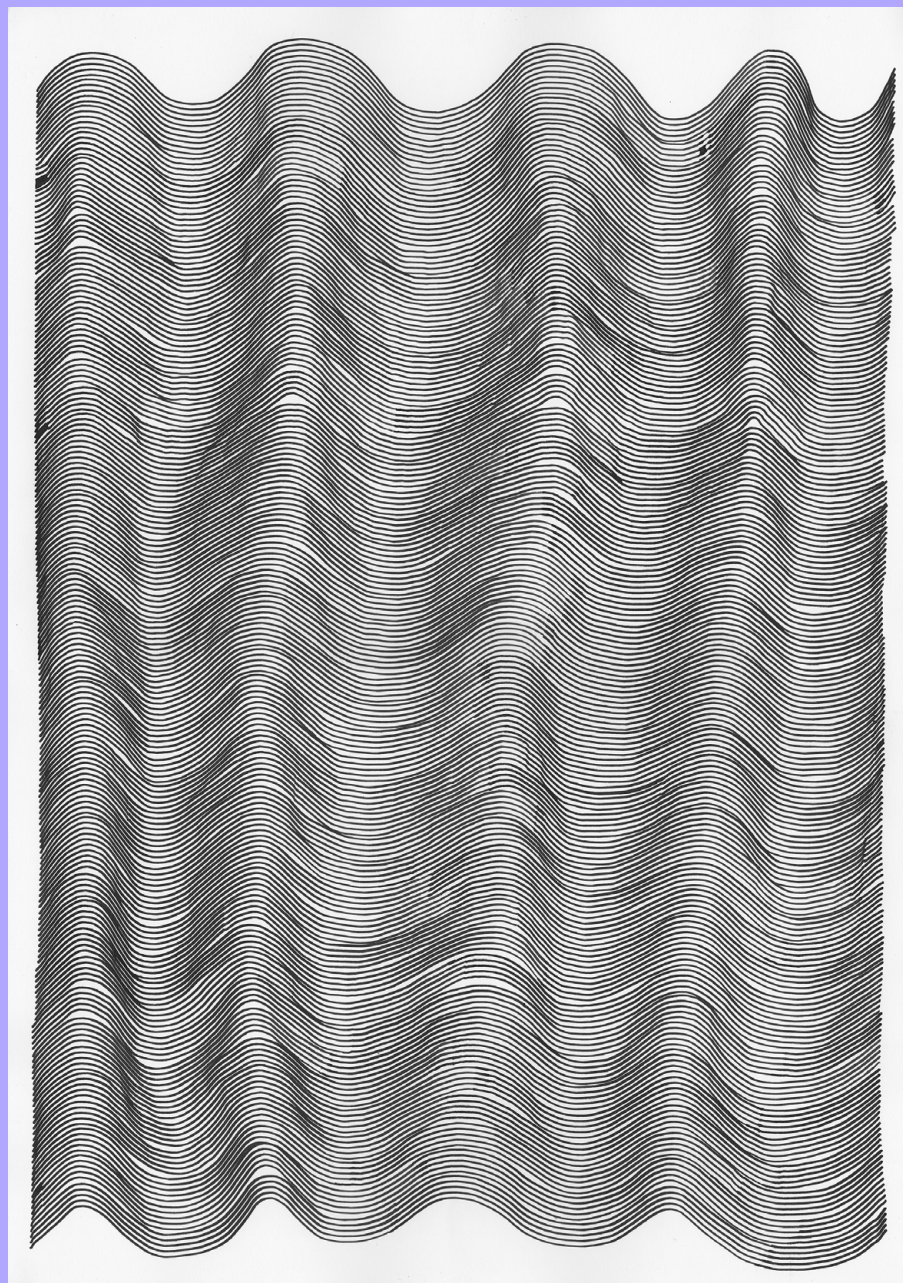


*Contemplative Drawing 5*, 2016  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



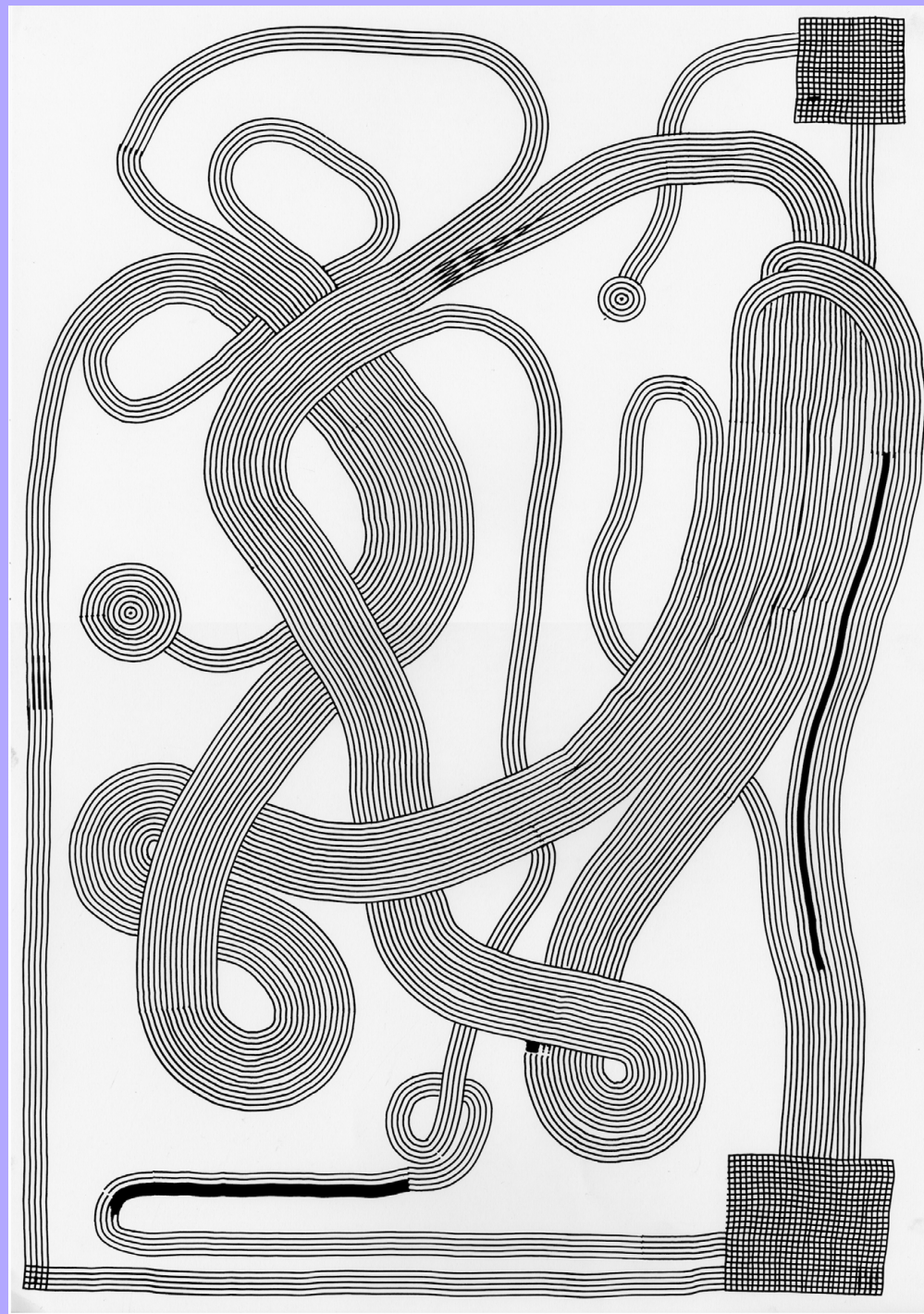
*Contemplative Drawing 11, 2017*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



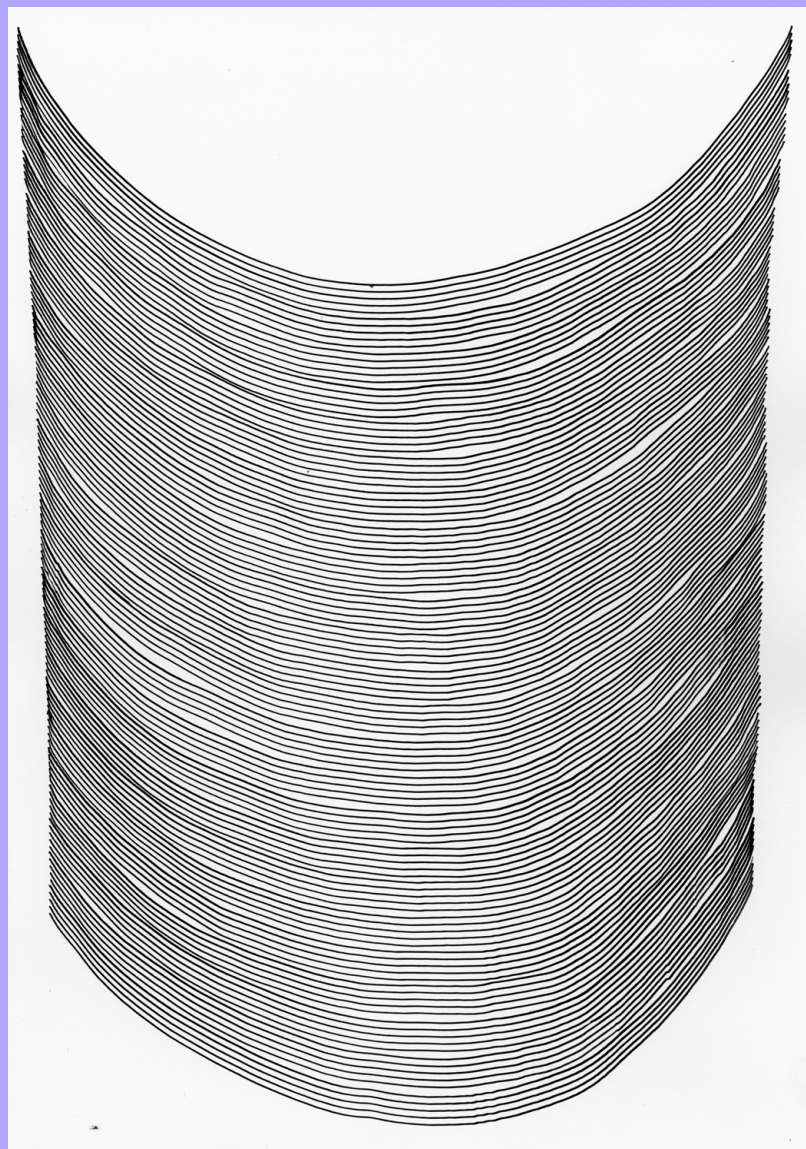


*Contemplative Drawing 12, 2016*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



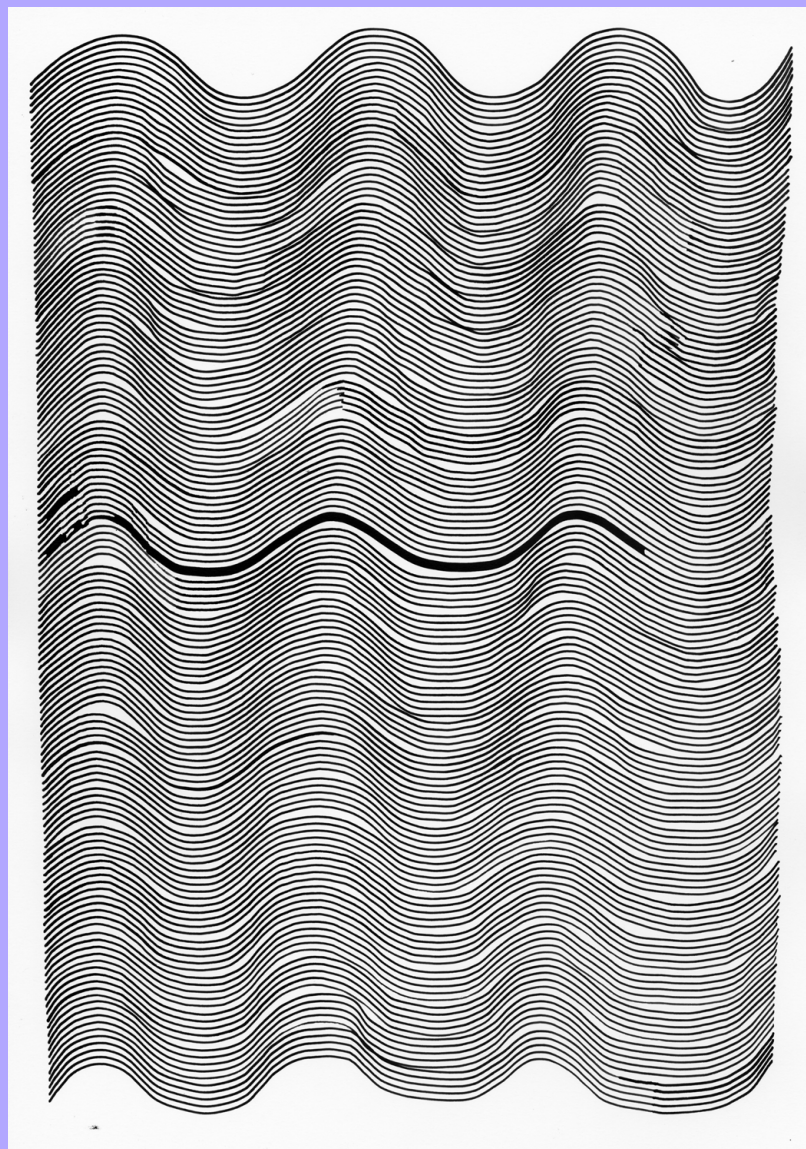


*Contemplative Drawing 14, 2017*  
Ink on paper  
84 x 60 cm

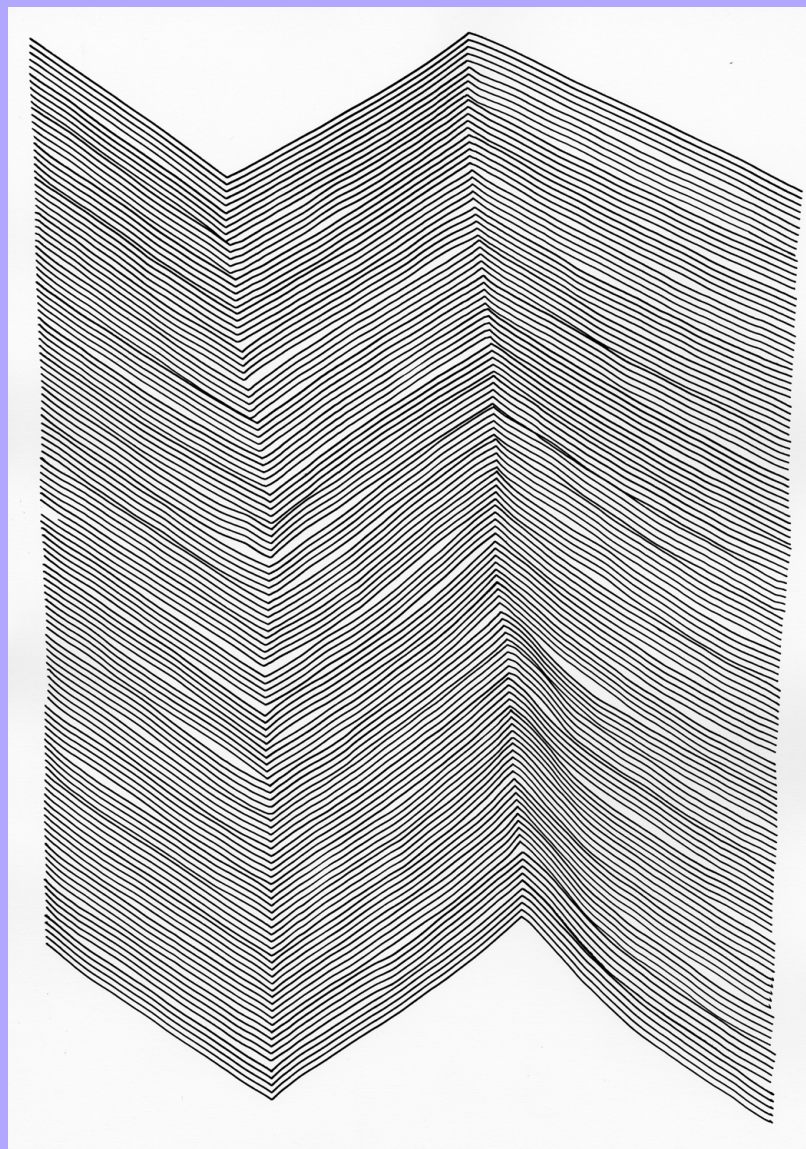


*Contemplative Drawing 29, 2018*  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





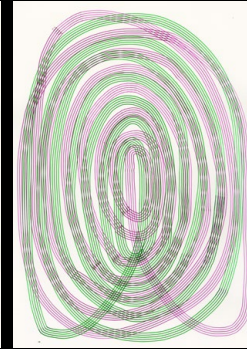
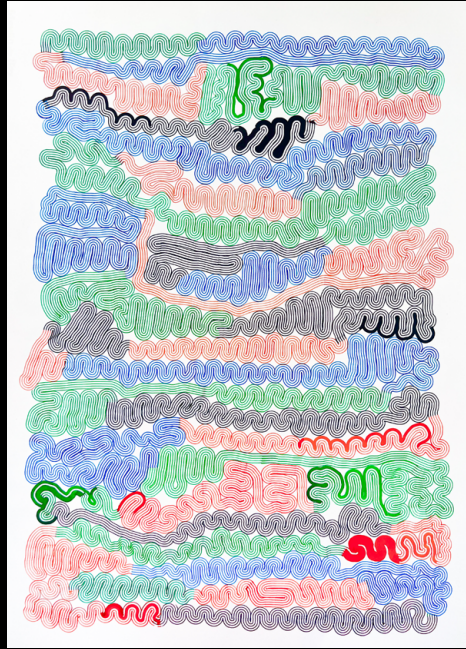
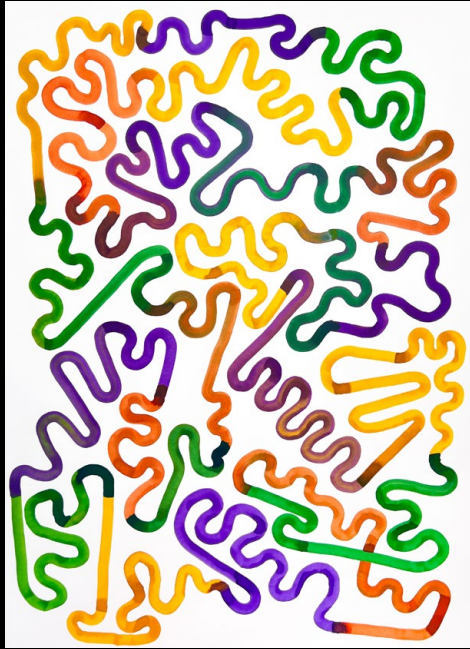
*Contemplative Drawing 28*, 2018  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



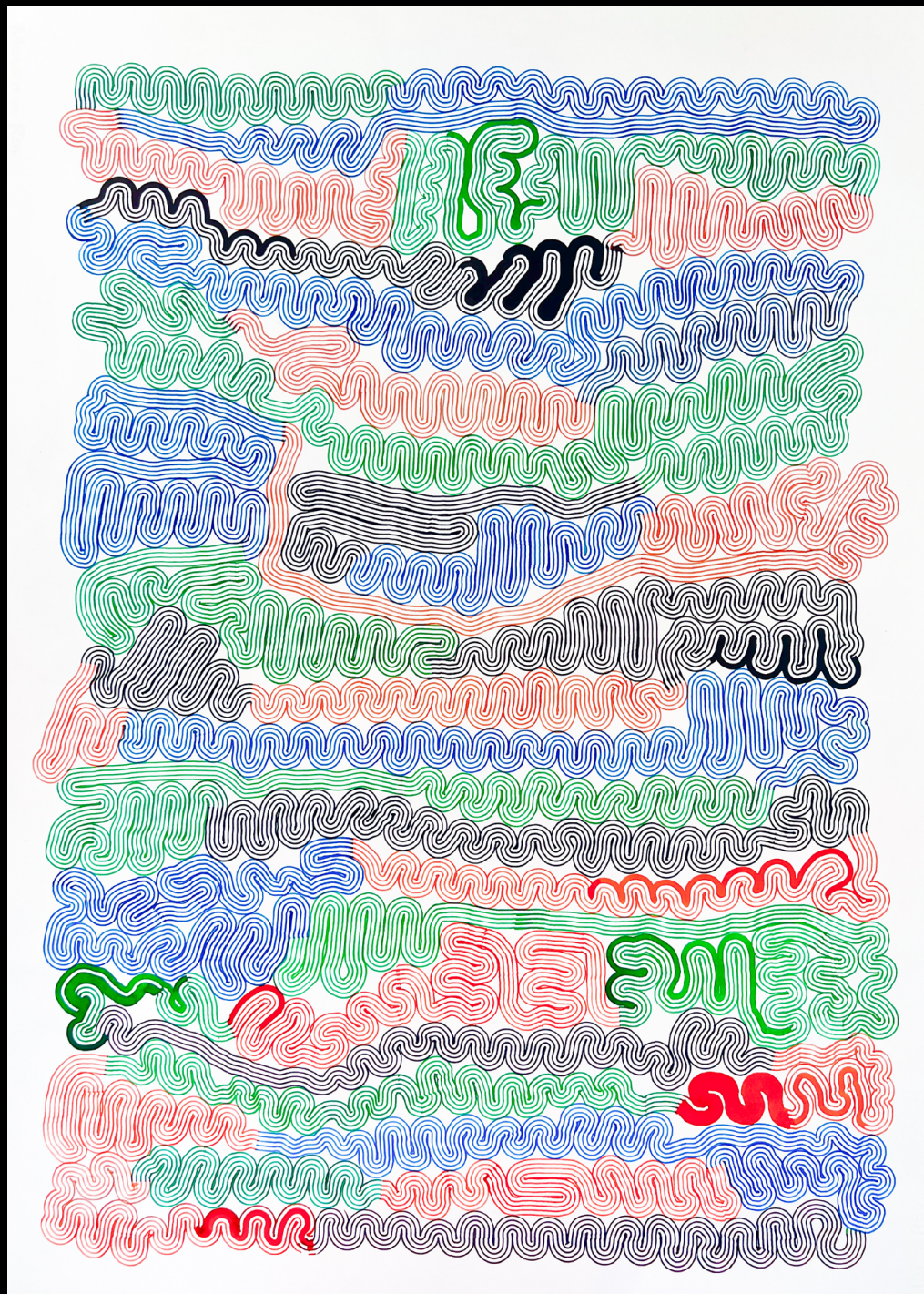
*Contemplative Drawing 30*, 2018  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



## Contemplative drawings 2







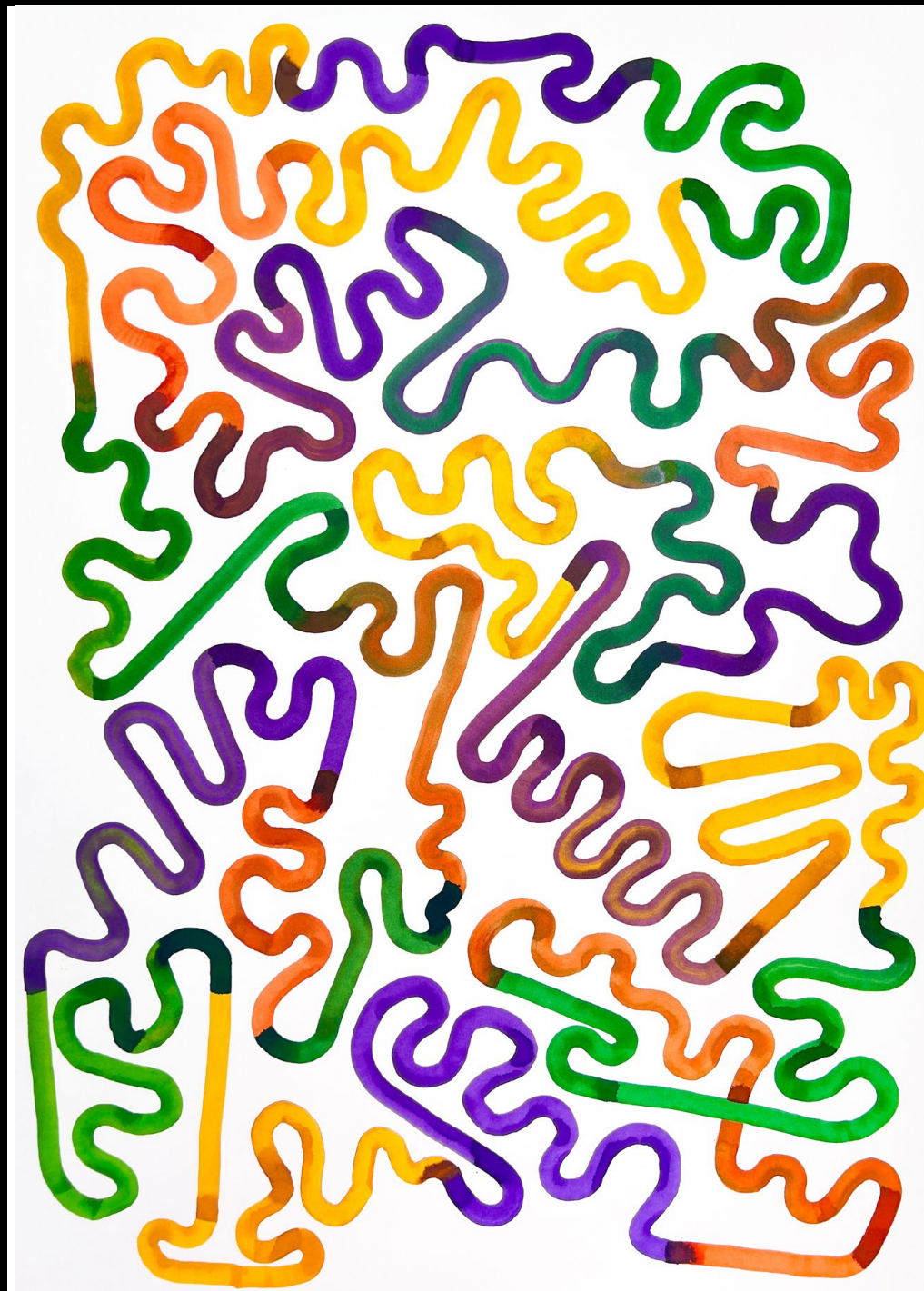
*Contemplative Drawing 15, 2016*

Ink on paper

76 x 56 cm

Generative Drawings, analog, color





*Contemplative Drawing 63, 2025*  
Ink on paper  
76 x 56 cm  
Generative Drawings, analog, color



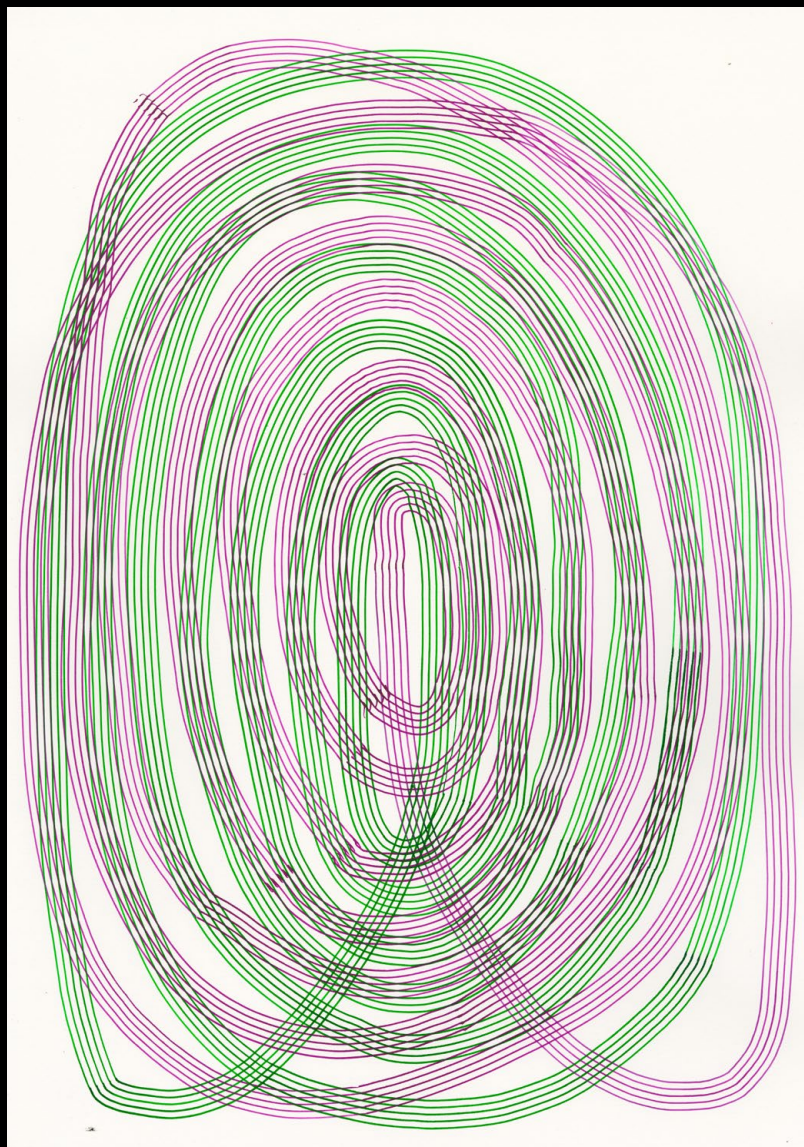


*Contemplative Drawing 56, 2021*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



*Contemplative Drawing 41, 2018*  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





*Contemplative Drawing 40*, 2018  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



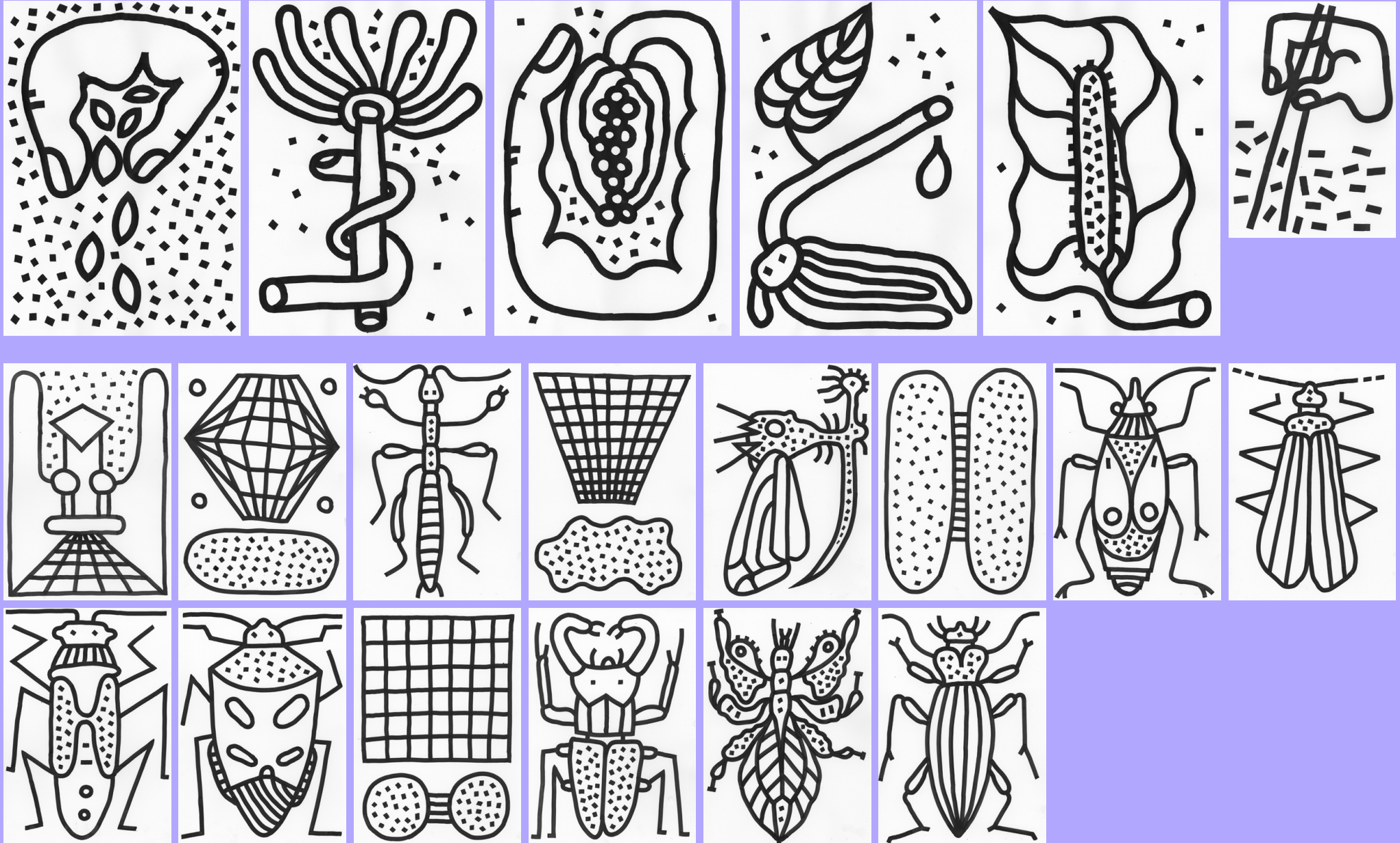
*Contemplative Drawing 39, 2018*

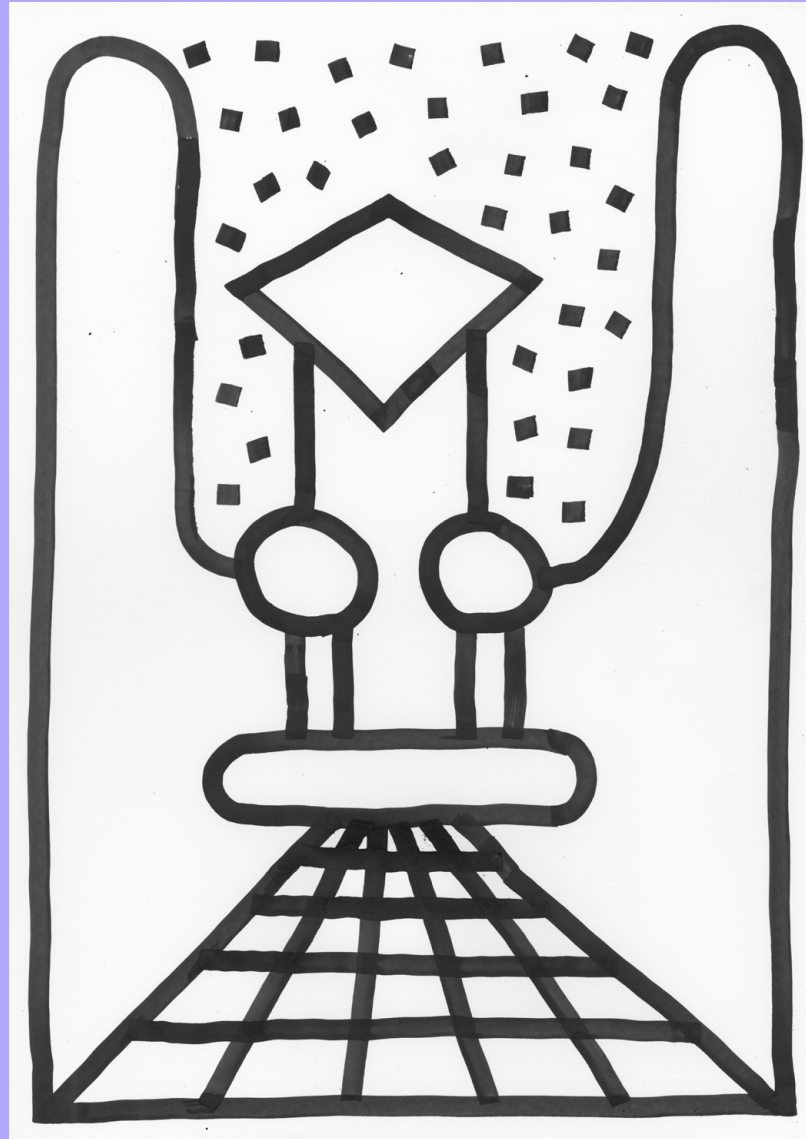
Ink on paper

42 x 30 cm



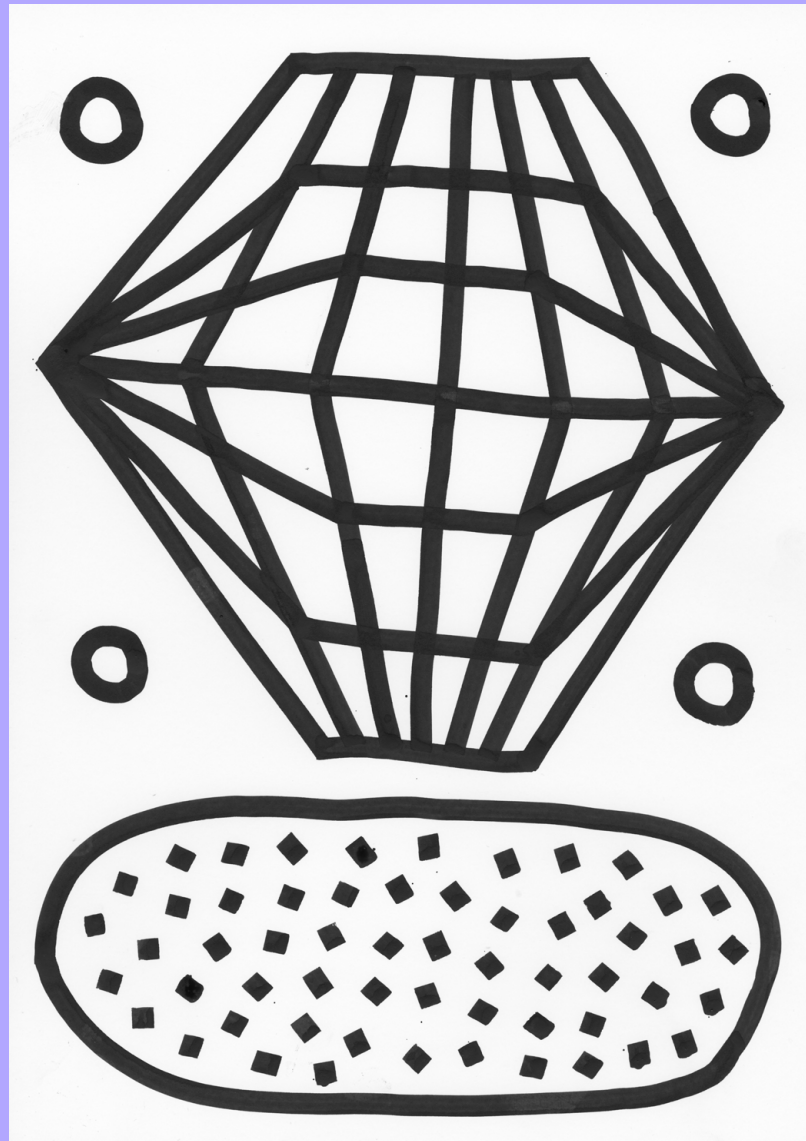
Figurative drawings Tobias Gutmann processes the realities he observes in the world around him. How can we live in balance with nature? Seeds are planted—a flower is severed from its roots by a cut off finger. Are we disconnected from our bodies, our true selves, from nature? What are the bugs teaching us? Are they still alive? Abstract geometric shapes stand in contrast to the delicate series of bugs, which reflect the endless beauty, diversity, and intelligence found in nature.



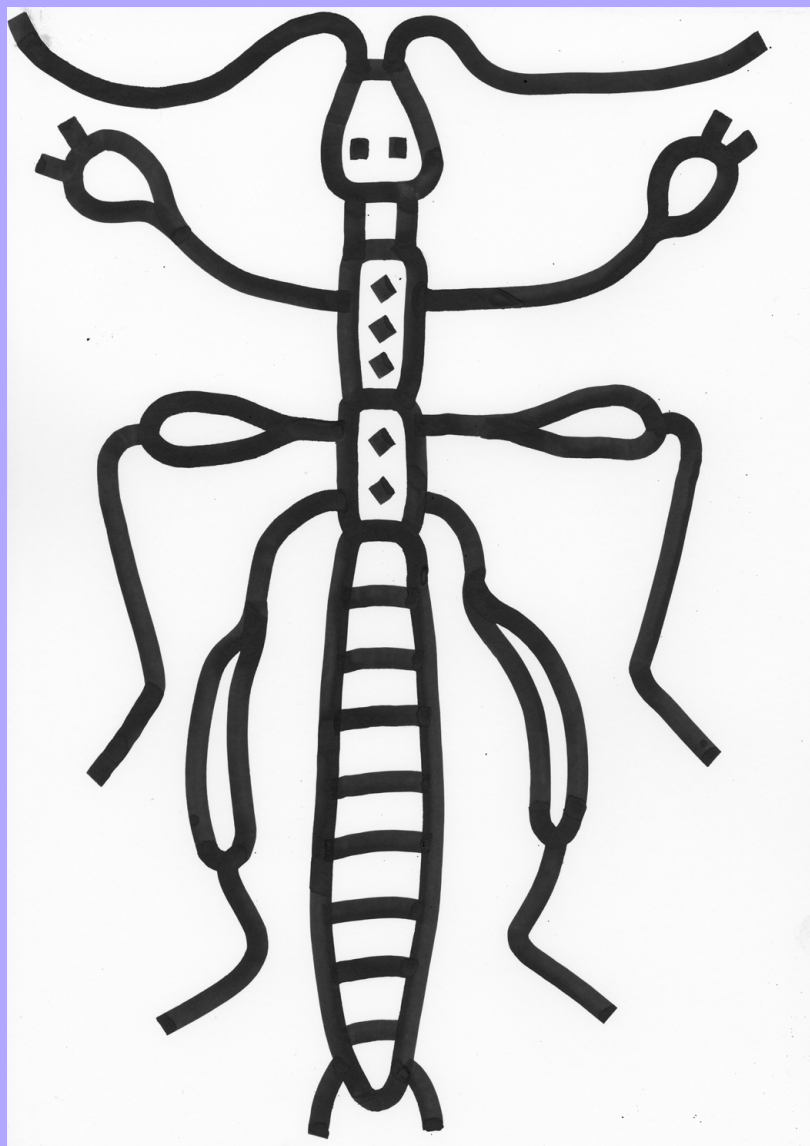


*Thing 113*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





*Thing 108*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



*Bug 5*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



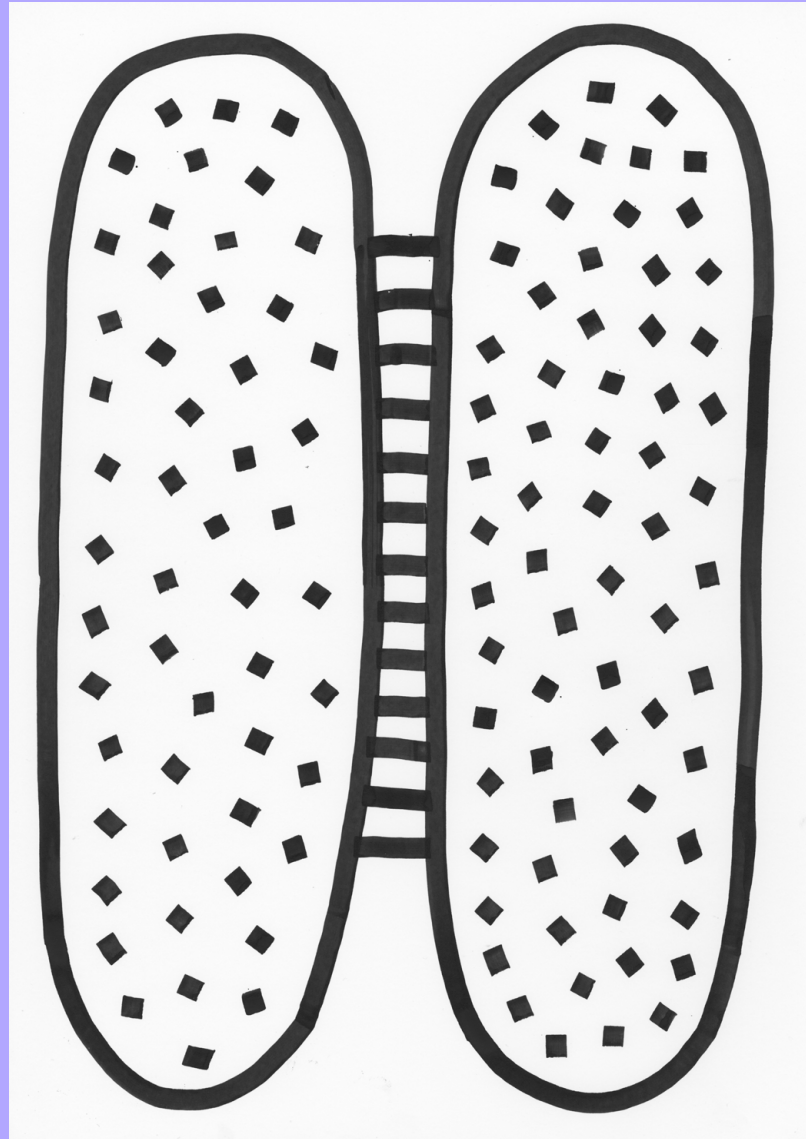


*Thing 104*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

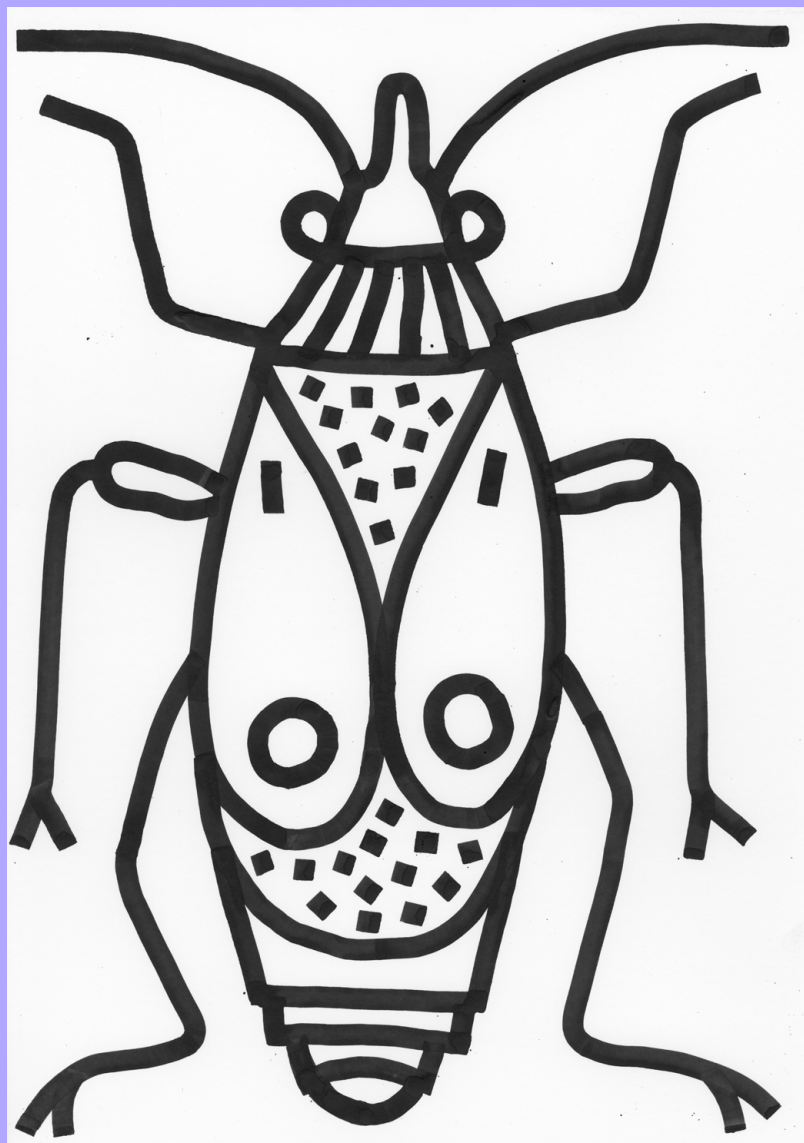


*Bug 2*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





*Thing 106, 2021*  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

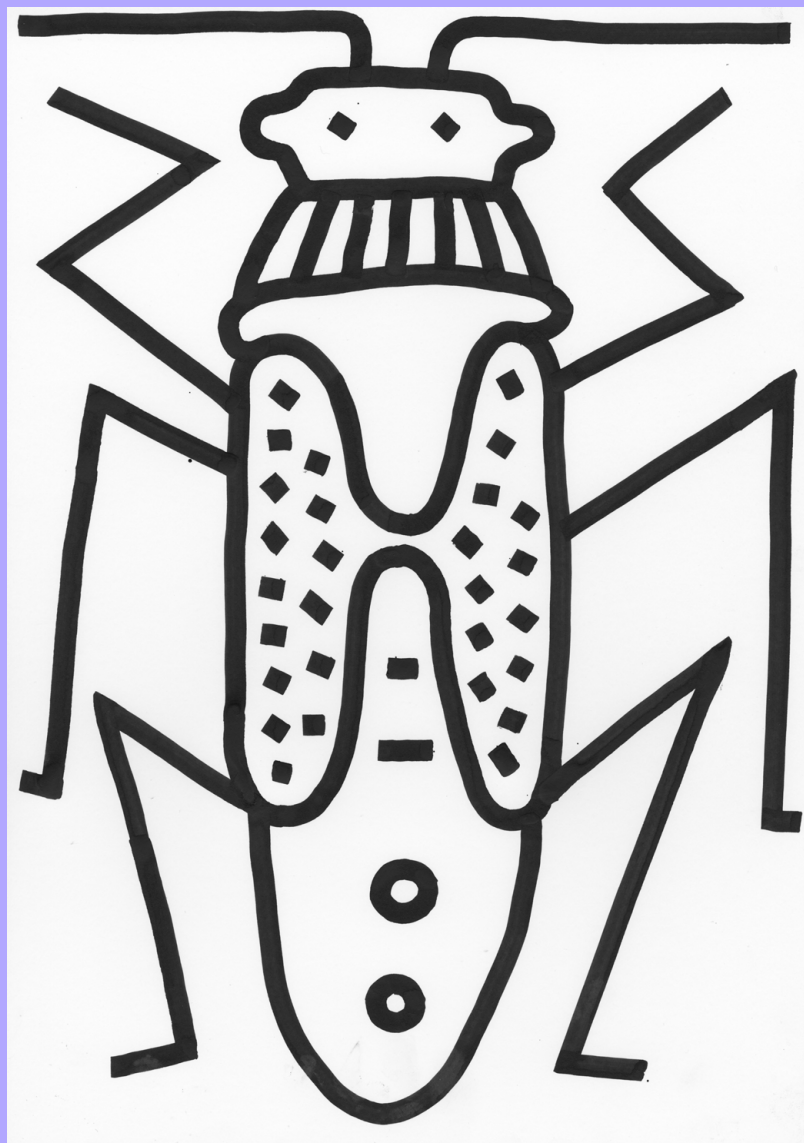


*Bug 3*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



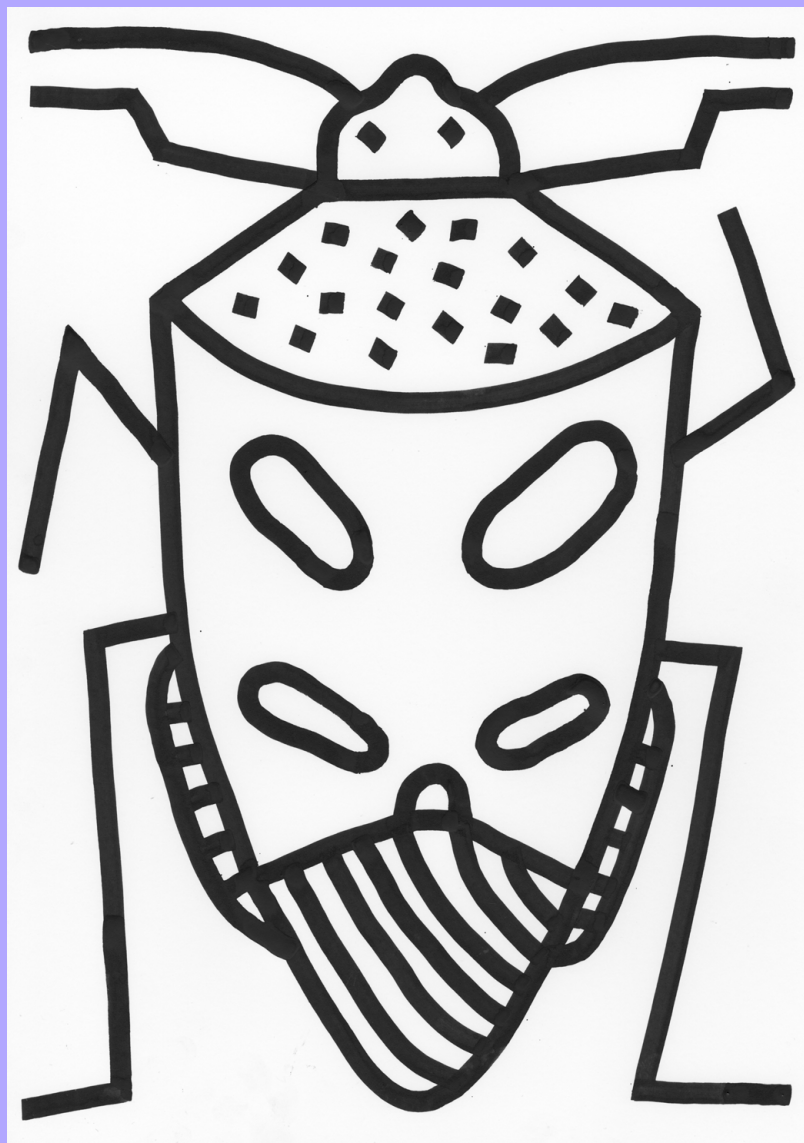


*Bug 11*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

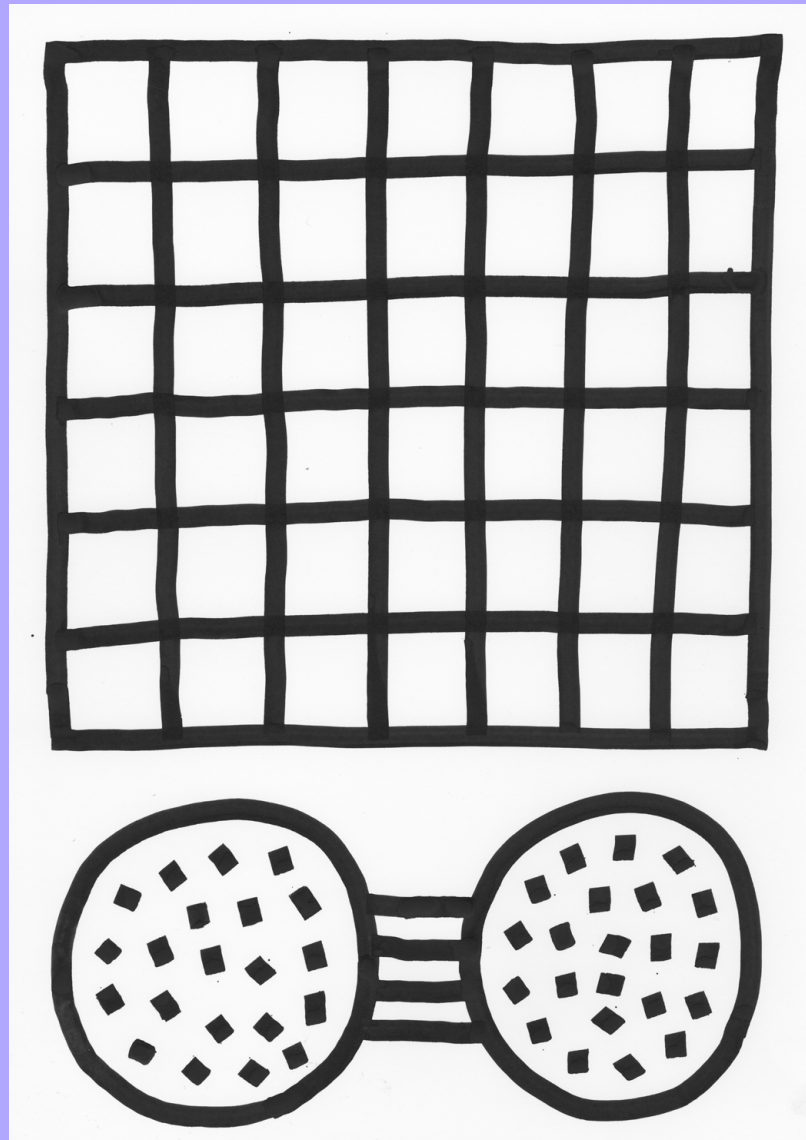


*Bug 8*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





*Bug 9*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



*Thing 107, 2021*  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





*Bug 1*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

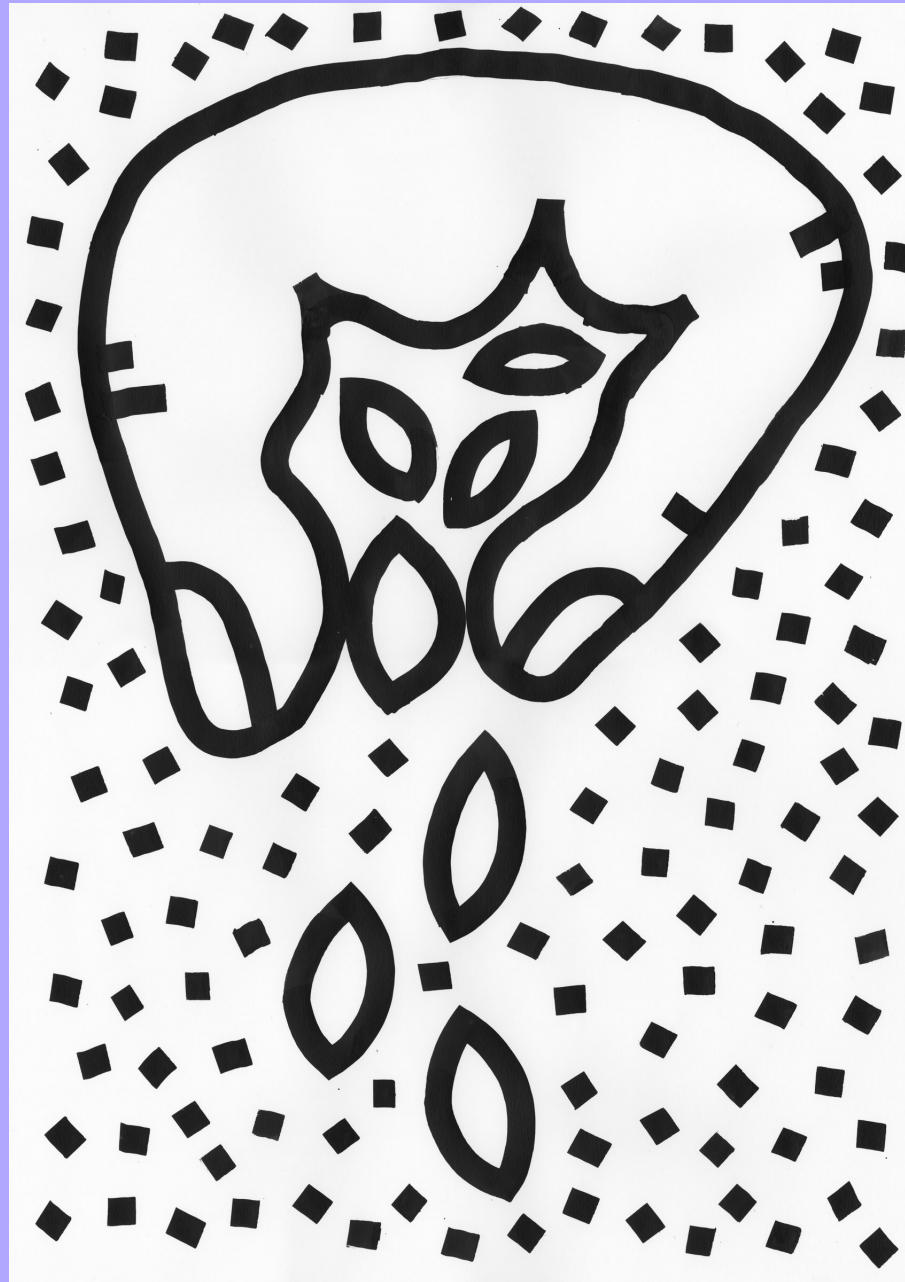


*Bug 10*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



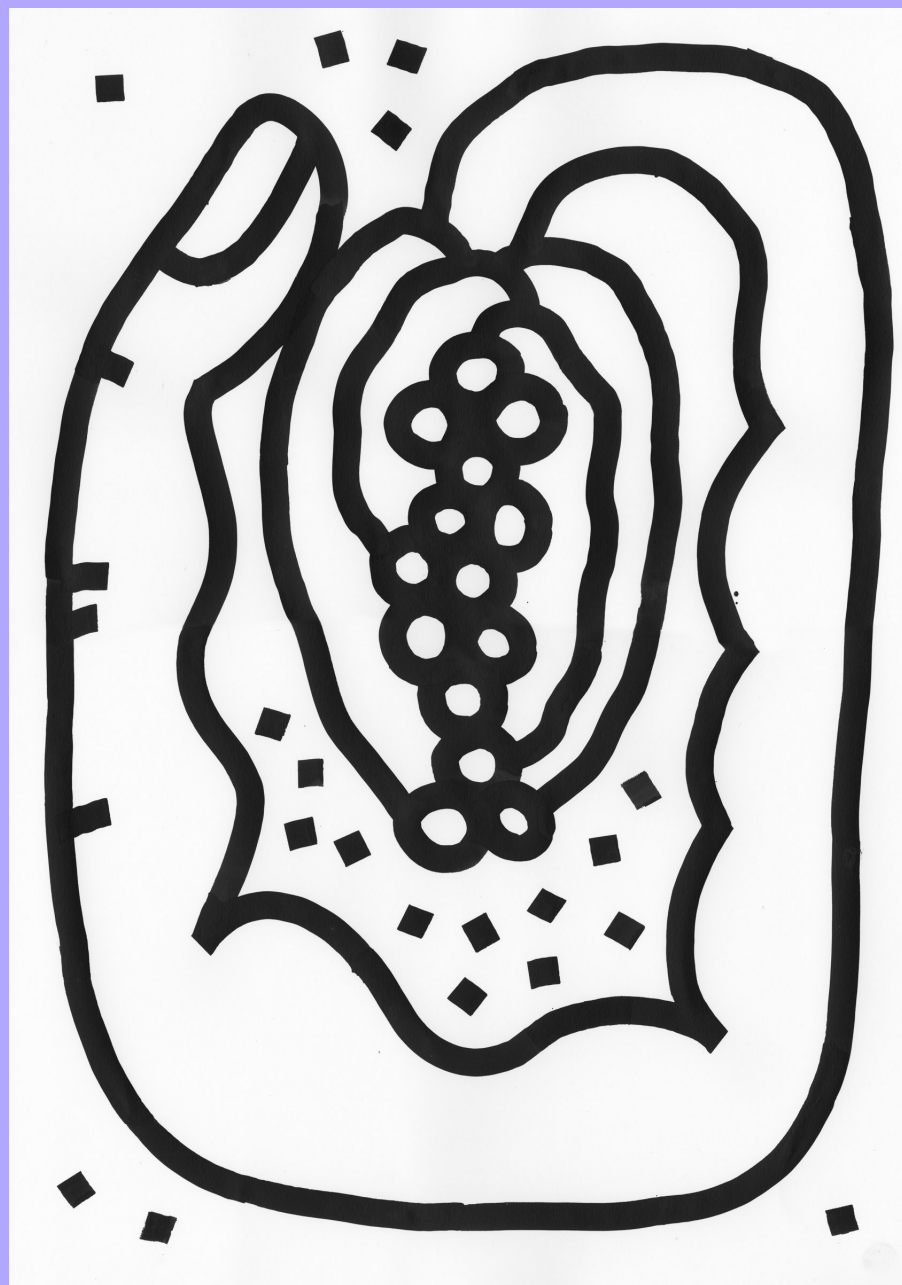


*Bug 6*, 2021  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



*Flower 51, 2020*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



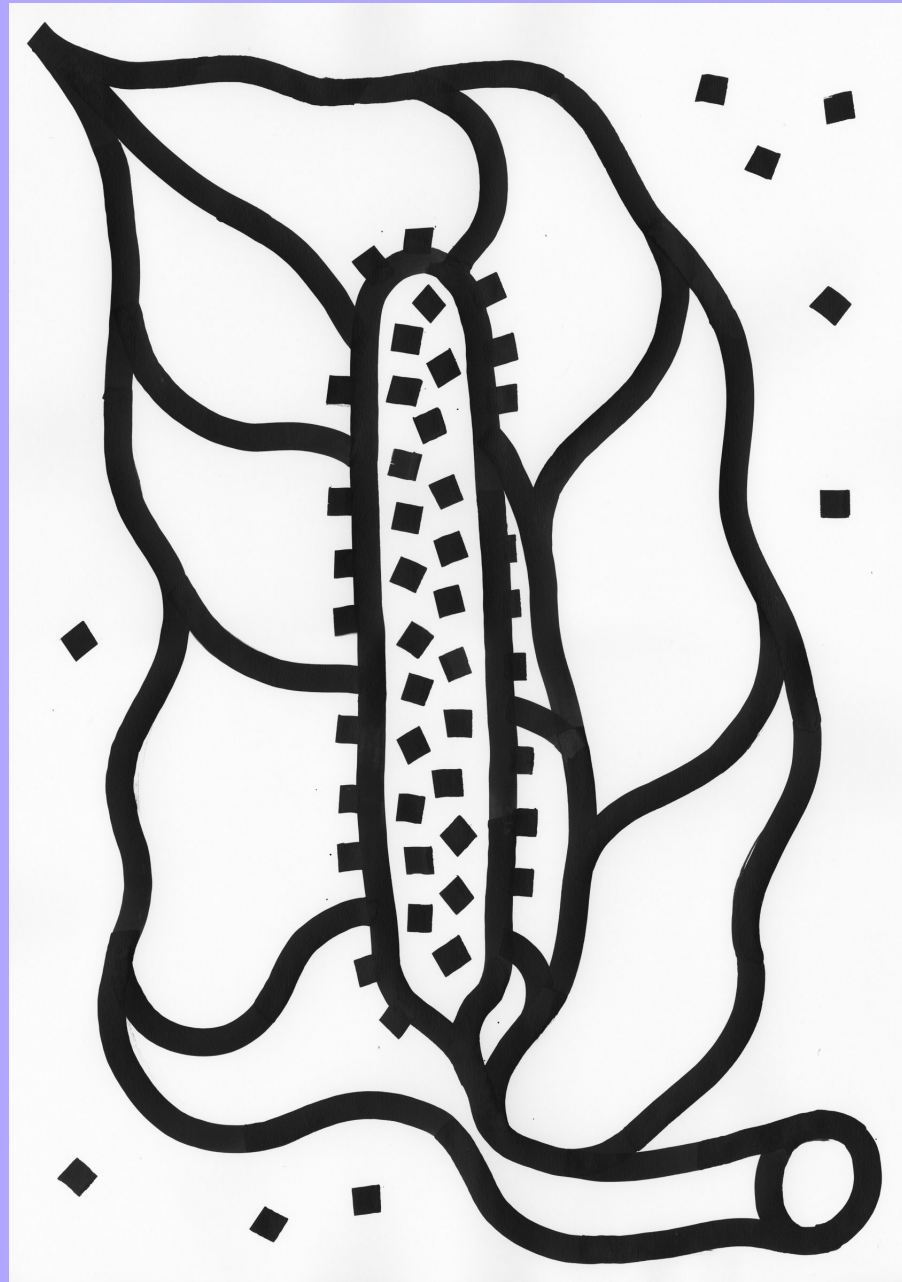


*Flower 49*, 2020  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



*Flower 46, 2020*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm





*Flower 47, 2020*  
Ink on paper  
60 x 42 cm



*Thing 75*, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



Manifesto word drawings      The Manifesto series consists of word drawings that reflect the artist's motives and beliefs—embodying beauty, challenges, and the essence of life. These works serve as lenses through which all other drawings can be viewed or as guiding principles for life itself. Though primarily addressed to the artist, the Manifesto word drawings invite anyone to transform them into action. In this spirit: Flow. Enter heaven. Take what is useful and let go of what is toxic. Now is the time. Dream!





*Dream* - Word Drawing 116, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



*Life is a Miracle* - Word Drawing 109, 2020

Ink on paper

42 x 30 cm





*Believe* - Word Drawing 131, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

ART  
*is NOT*  
ETERNAL

*Art is not Eternal* - Word Drawing 127, 2020

Ink on paper

42 x 30 cm

FLOW  
FLOW  
FLOW  
FLOW

*Flow flow flow* - Word Drawing 105, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm





*Enter Heaven* - Word Drawing 150, 2020

Ink on paper

42 x 30 cm

**NOW**  
**is THE**  
**TIME**

*Now is the Time* - Word Drawing 140, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



*Listen* - Word Drawing 128, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



**TAKE  
YOUR  
TIME**

*Take your Time* - Word Drawing 129, 2020

Ink on paper

42 x 30 cm

**THINK  
WITH  
YOUR  
HANDS**

*Think with your Hands* - Word Drawing 139, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

THROW  
GO AWAY

*Throw Away* - Word Drawing 145, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm



LESS  
SCREEN  
TIME

*Less Screen Time* - Word Drawing 159, 2020

Ink on paper

42 x 30 cm

MORE  
FLOW  
ERS

*More Flowers* - Word Drawing 61, 2020  
Ink on paper  
42 x 30 cm

TOBIAS GUTMANN  
Drawing Portfolio 2025

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tobiasgutmann.com