



Léa Barbazanges  
2023  
Portfolio



## Artistic approach

My work explores the living in order to incite the viewer to reflect on the duality of life and of matter. I am interested in raw materials, that which makes up nature, in impermanence, and in the interdependence of the mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms. I seek to create moments where the viewer sees this perpetual cycle of renewal in my work.

The sculptures integrate natural materials that can go unnoticed—the wings of a fly, the pith of a mandarin orange, spider silk. I give them pride of place to allow the viewer to observe their specificities: the transparency of caul fat, the reflection of crystals.

For each work, I develop appropriate processes, exploring ways of transforming the material without deforming it, of making it durable without distorting it. To go as far as possible, I need to understand the natural material's properties, always respecting its specificities. This research sometimes involves exchanges with scientists.

As I go along, a gesture takes shape, imposing itself. One that is perfected through repetition: thus the memory of the gesture is born and becomes technical. The beauty of the material must be more perceptible than the work of shaping it.

*Ligne de mica* is a work made with a natural material: mica, the mineral that shines in sand. This work is a backlit mineral marquetry, and mica has an optical property: it is birefringent. Here, its colour depends on the thickness of the material through which the light passes. Depending on the position of the viewer, frontal or side-on, the path of the light within the material is more or less long, causing the change in colour.

By proposing a moment of wonder, of fascination, I seek to recreate the pure emotion provoked by the beauty of nature—that moment when we become aware of our finiteness. My intention is to create works that resonate with the beauty of the world and of human complexity.

Courtesy  
Léa Barbazanges

Crédits photographiques  
© Emilie Vialet  
© Wei Xing  
© Anne Ponsin  
© Frédéric Lanternier  
© Guillaume Greff  
© Pauline Roset  
© Klaus Stöber  
© Olivier Hamery  
© Jonathan Barbot

Design graphique  
Clémence Michon



*Mica line (wall/ground)*  
2023

Backlit mica, glass, wood  
122 × 32 × 5 cm

The colors change according to the movement of the viewer.  
Right page: front view. Left page: side view.



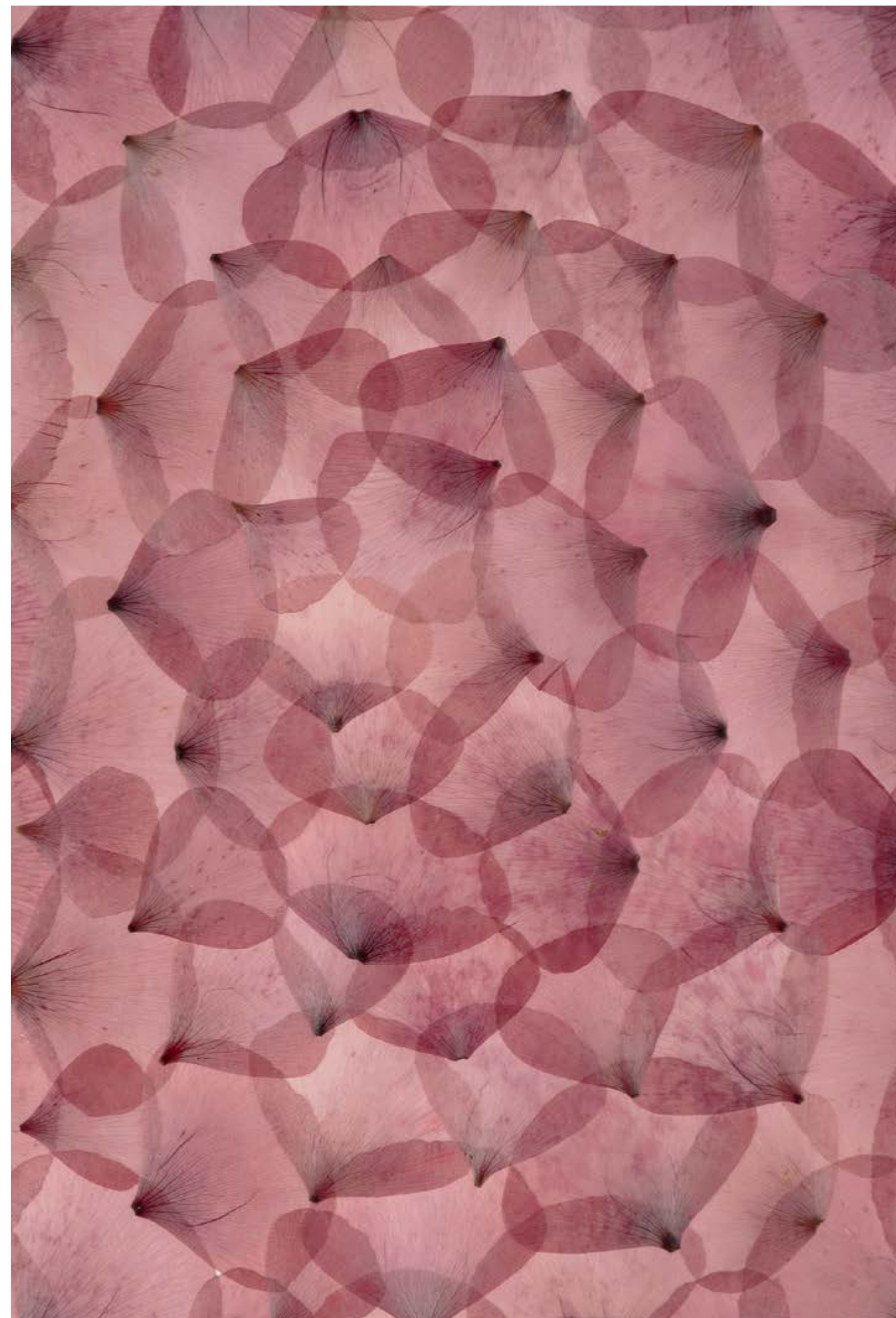




*Page of Papaveraceae*  
2022

Assemblage of poppy petals  
20.5 × 28.5 cm (36.5 × 45.5 cm with frame)

FRAC Alsace collection, Sélestat







*Drawings of a mandarin (diptych)*  
2010

Filaments from a mandarin orange and Indian ink drawing on paper  
38 × 28 cm (each element) / 44.5 × 34.5 × 3 cm (with frame)

FRAC Alsace collection, Sélestat

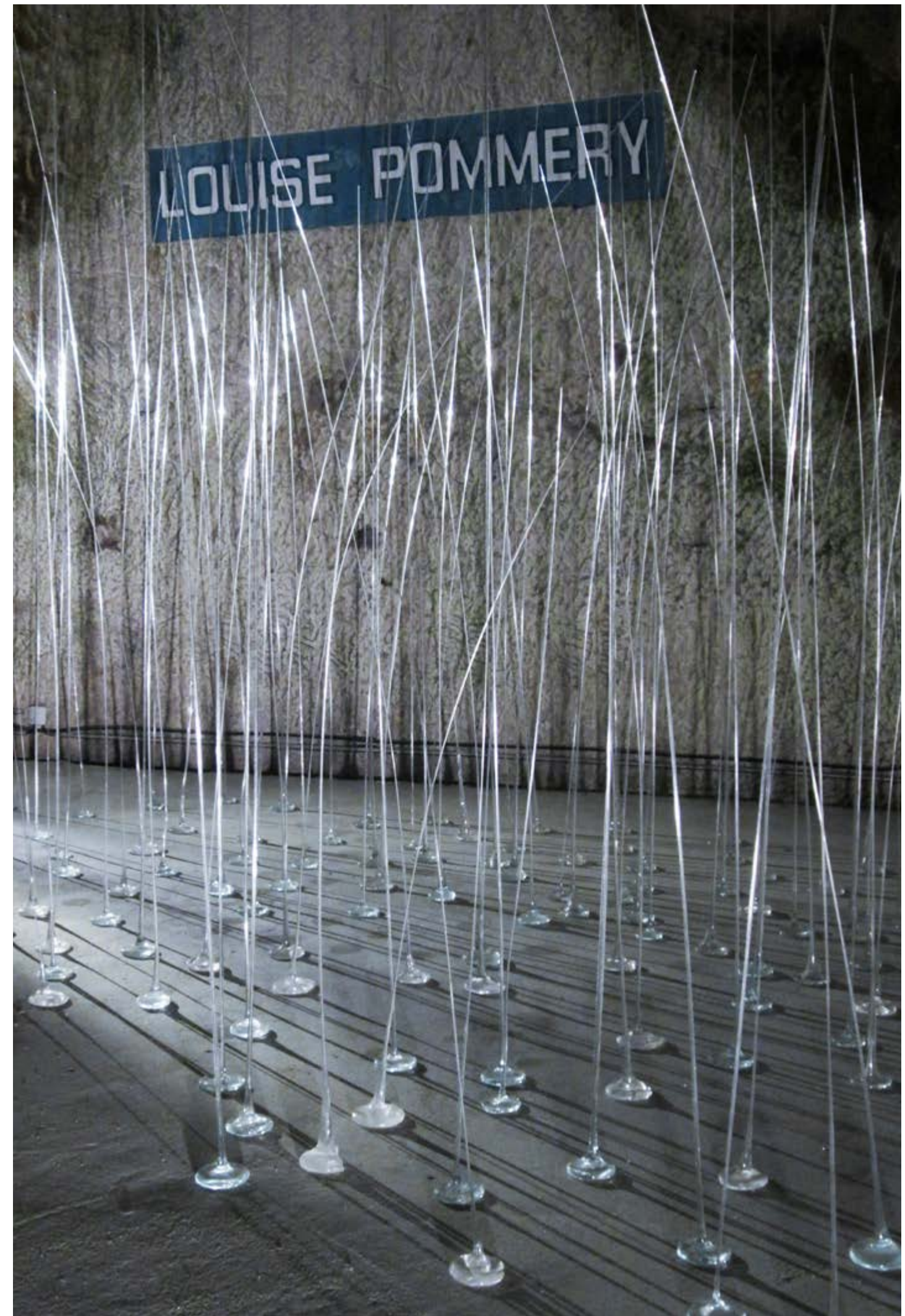




*140 crystal threads*  
2008-2014

Crystal whose height is determined by the threads' capacity to stand upright  
300 × 600 × 400 cm

Exhibition view at Domaine Pommery (Reims, 2022)  
Vranken-Pommery collection

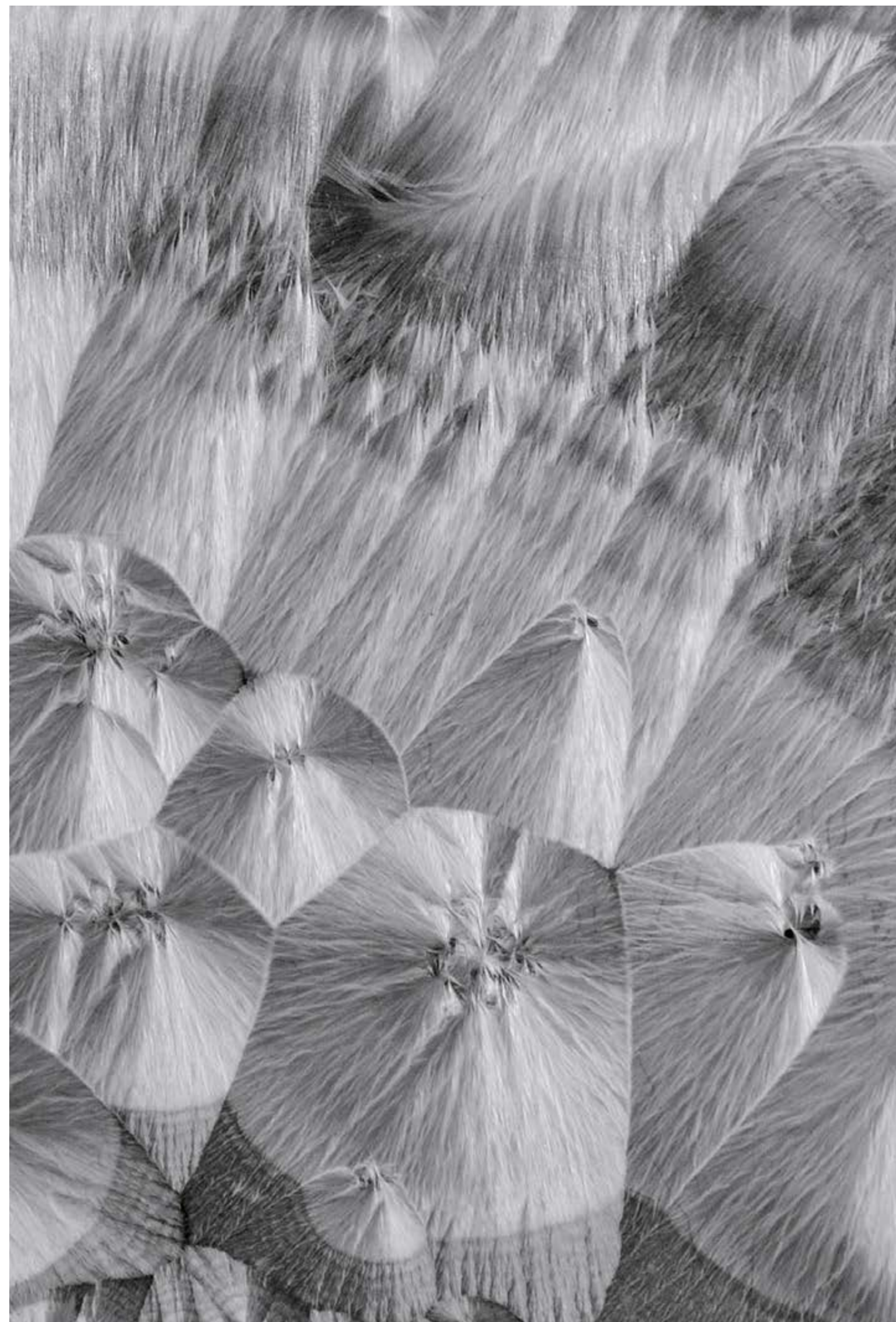






*Crystals*  
2016

Calcite, glass, aluminum  
60 × 60 cm







*Aluminum leaf*  
2021

Aluminum sheet stamped with a *Monstera deliciosa* leaf  
100 × 192 cm

Work produced in collaboration with the HH Services classic car restorer (Strasbourg),  
with the support of the botanical garden of the University of Strasbourg  
Ziem Museum collection, Martigues







*Algae surface*  
2014

Assemblage of seaweed whose colors vary according to the amount  
of exposure to light  
240 × 230 cm

Exhibition view at the Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines (Strasbourg, 2015)

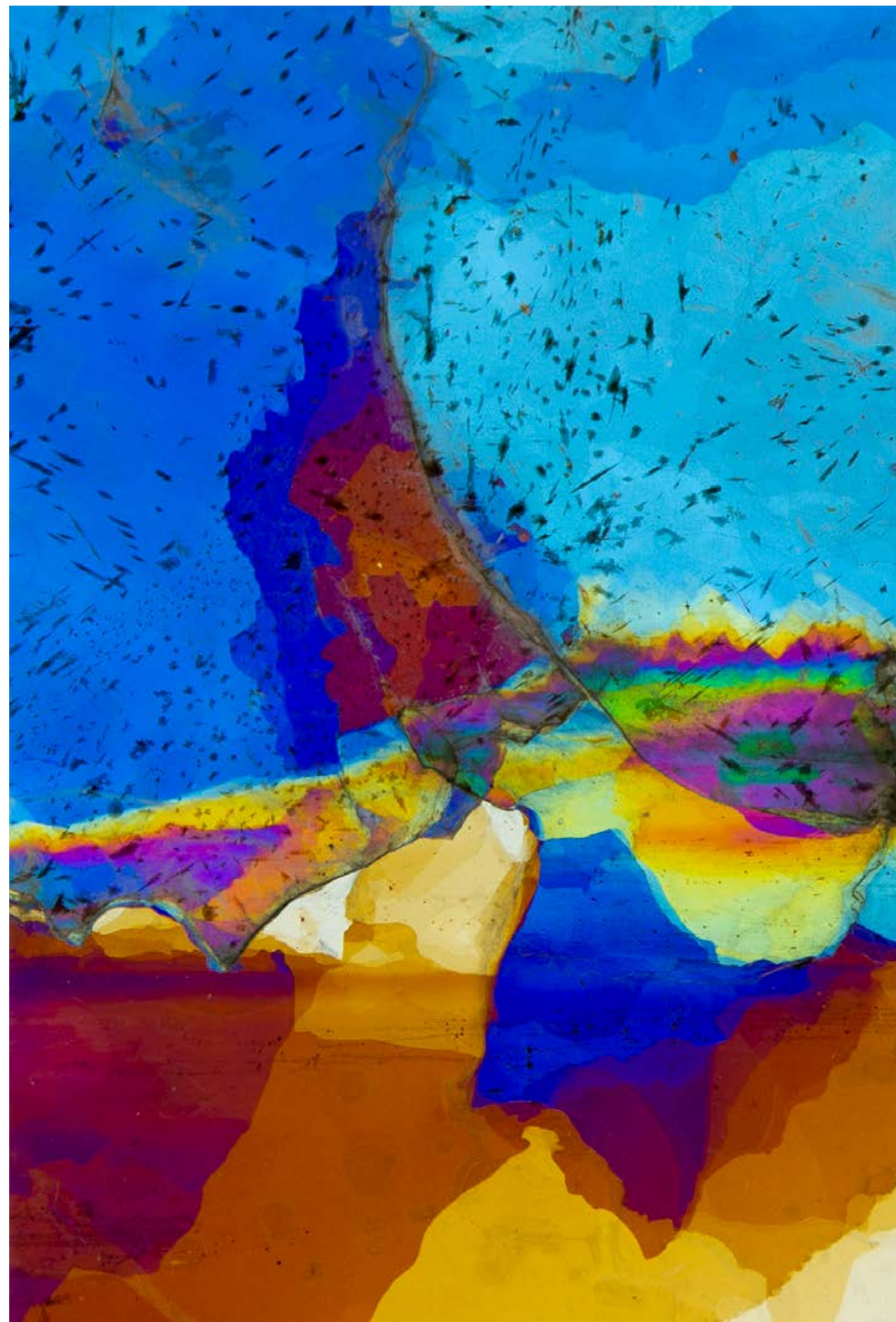






*Lair*  
2019

Backlit mica, glass, aluminum alloy  
131.5 × 35 × 3.5 cm







*Crystals – Enneagon*  
2010–20

Crystal, glass, aluminum  
210 × 290 × 290 cm

Exhibition view at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, 2020







***Panoramic flock***  
2015

Paper strips, linseed oil, shellac (cochineal secretion)  
244 × 244 × 244 cm

Exhibition view at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (Paris, 2015)  
Work produced in collaboration with Atelier d'Offard, a workshop for the manufacture and creation of wallpaper (Tours), on the occasion of the exhibition Mutations, conceived and organized by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and the Institut National des Métiers d'Art (Paris), with the support of Vacheron Constantin, 2015.  
Vacheron Constantin collection



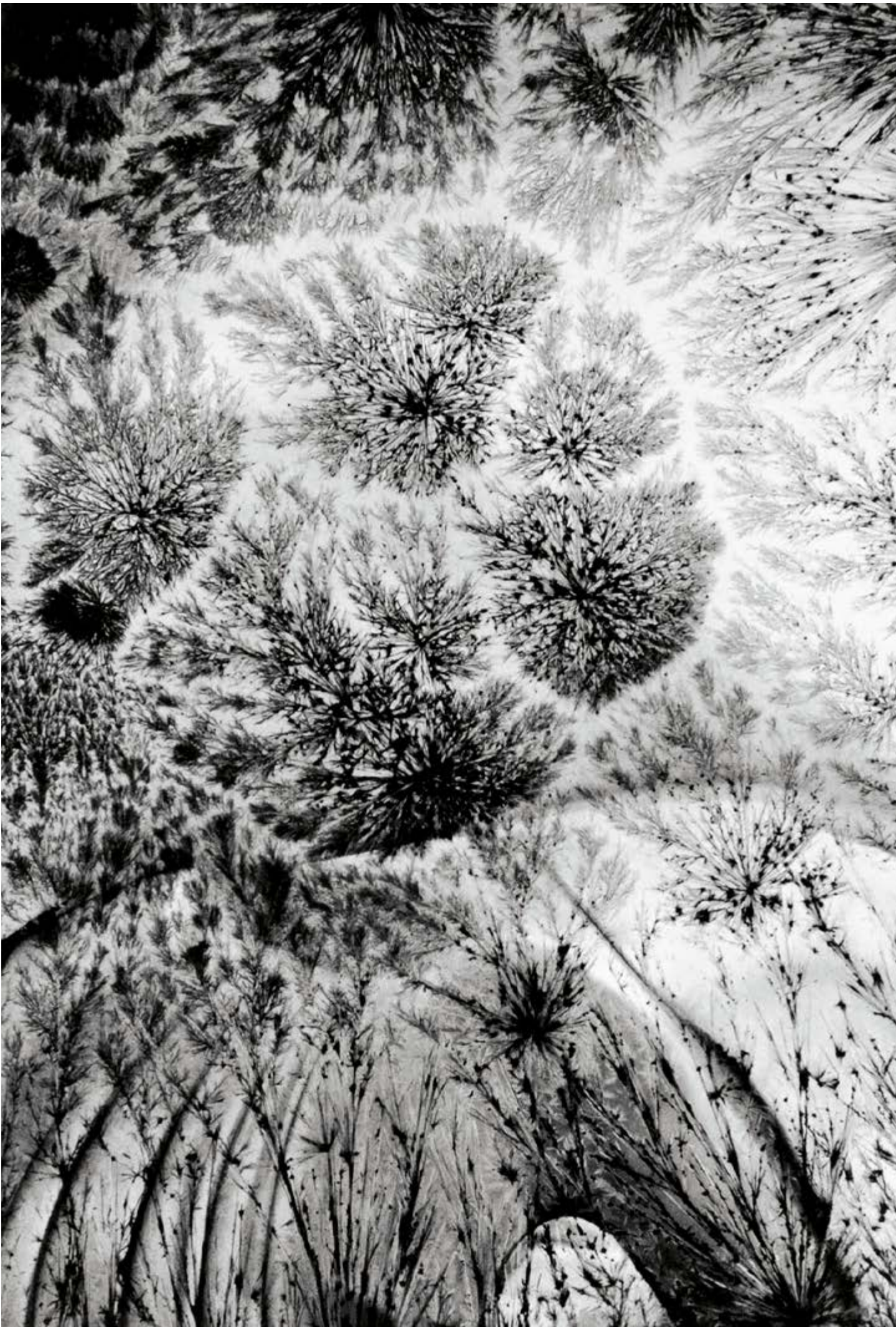




*Light-sensitive recordings of crystals*  
2013

Image resulting from a camera obscura device, gelatin silver print  
on fiber-based paper  
80 × 80 cm (each element)

Work made with the support of the DRAC Alsace, individual creative assistance (AIC) 2013



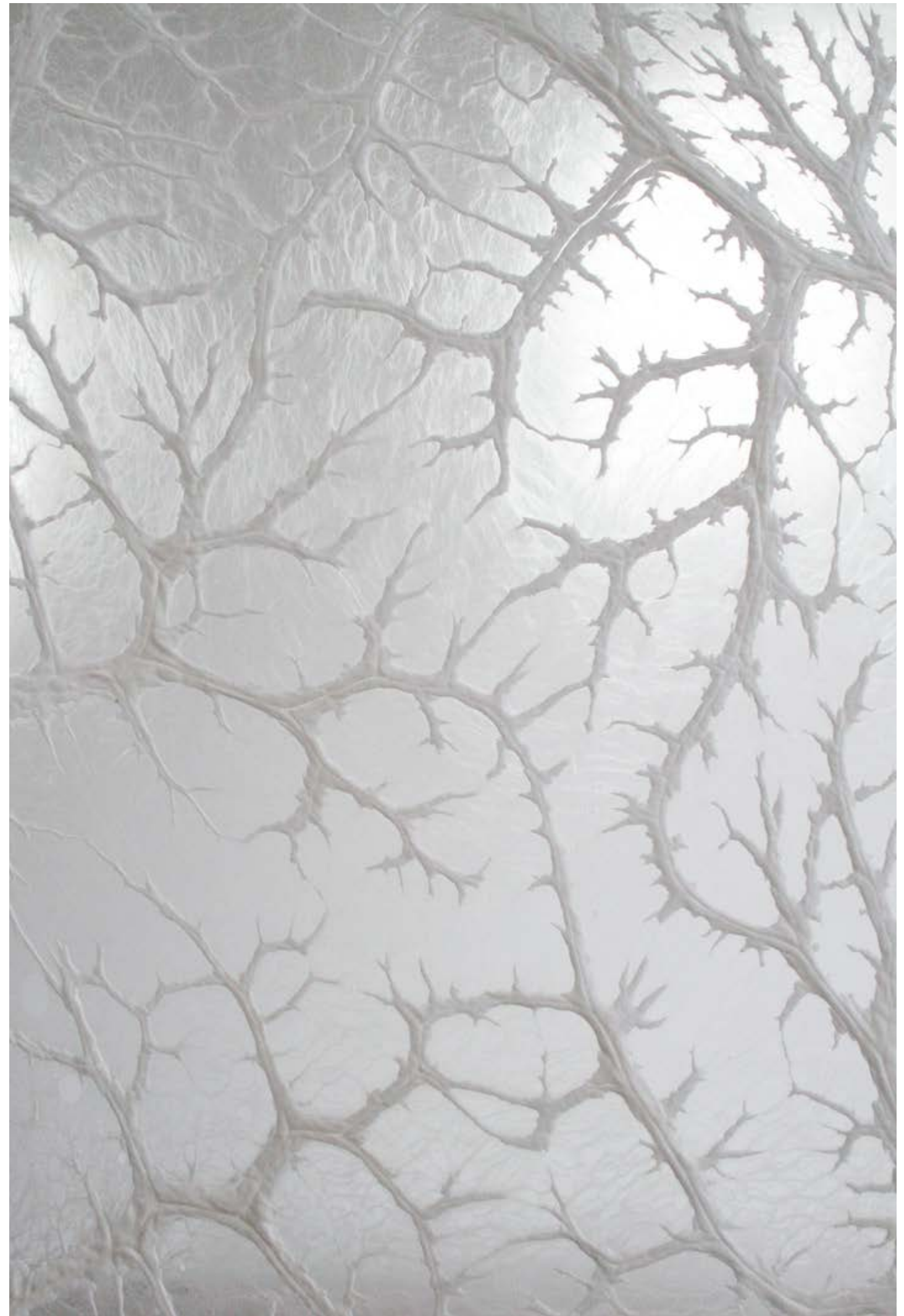




*Caul surface*  
2007

Assemblage of caul fat  
280 × 280 cm

Exhibition view at Xippas Gallery (Paris, 2014)







*Drawing on metal sheet*  
2021

Steel, *Stylommatophora mucus*

Exhibition view at Domaine de Kerguéhennec (Bignan, 2022)







*Page of wings*  
2005

Wings of *Calliphora vicina* flies assembled on an A4 page, edge to edge  
7 pages of wings, one per year  
29.7 × 21 cm / 60 × 49.5 × 7.5 cm (with frame)







*Asymmetry (diptych)*  
2016

Assemblage of skins from the underside of asymmetrical flat fish  
101 × 67 cm (each element)







*MicaPenrose*  
2019

Backlit mica, glass, aluminum alloy  
62 × 62 cm (each element)

Project developed with Sylvain Ravy, CNRS researcher and director of research at the solid state physics laboratory of the University of Paris-Saclay, with the support of the Diagonale Paris-Saclay, the Grand Est Region, and the expertise of Denis Gratias, researcher at the CNRS, co-discoverer of quasicrystals and member of the French Academy of Sciences  
Exhibition view at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, 2020







*MicaPenrose*  
2019

Backlit mica, glass, aluminum alloy  
61.8 × 61.8 cm

Project developed with Sylvain Ravy, CNRS researcher and director of research at the solid state physics laboratory of the University of Paris-Saclay, with the support of the Diagonale Paris-Saclay, the Grand Est Region, and the expertise of Denis Gratias, researcher at the CNRS, co-discoverer of quasicrystals and member of the French Academy of Sciences





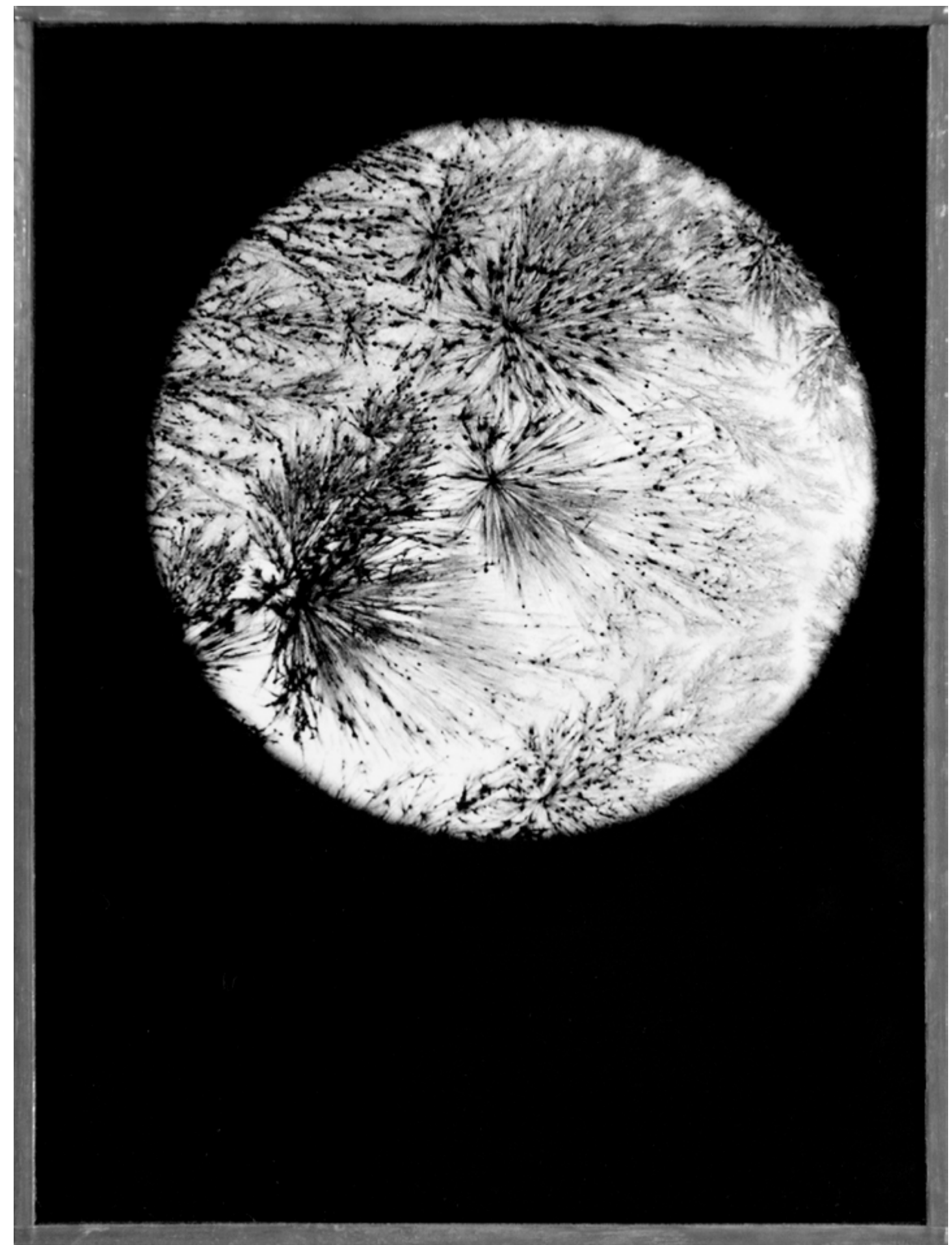
*Assemblage (triptych)*  
2020

Aluminum stamped with the 3 constituent grape varieties of Monbazillac wine  
50 × 33 cm (each element)

Work produced in collaboration with the HH Services classic car restorer (Strasbourg),  
with the support of the Dordogne-Périgord cultural agency (Périgueux),  
Les Rives de l'art (Bergerac), and the cooperative cellar of Château de Monbazillac







*Optics*  
2015

12 photographs of crystals seen through a lens, print on Hahnemühle fibre-based paper, lead frames with anti-reflective glass  
18.5 × 13.5 cm (each element)

Exhibition view at Dohyang Lee gallery (Paris, 2022)



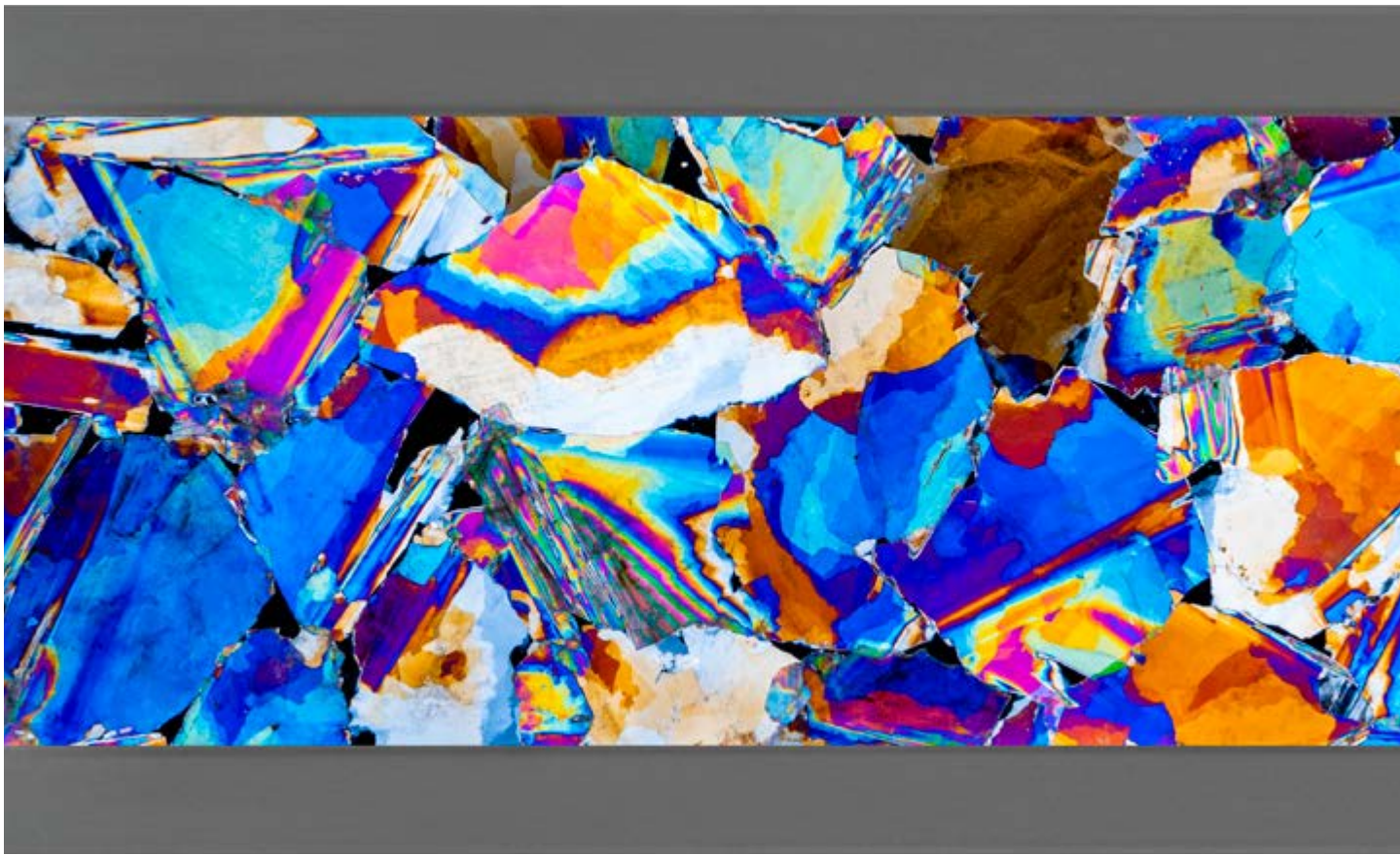


*Mica line*  
2021

Backlit assembly of mica blocks cleaved into 12 sequences  
32 × 1.404 cm

Work produced for the exhibition at the Musée Ziem (Martigues)





*Mica line*  
2021

Backlit assembly of mica blocks cleaved into 12 sequences  
32 × 1.404 cm

Detail, front view

