



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

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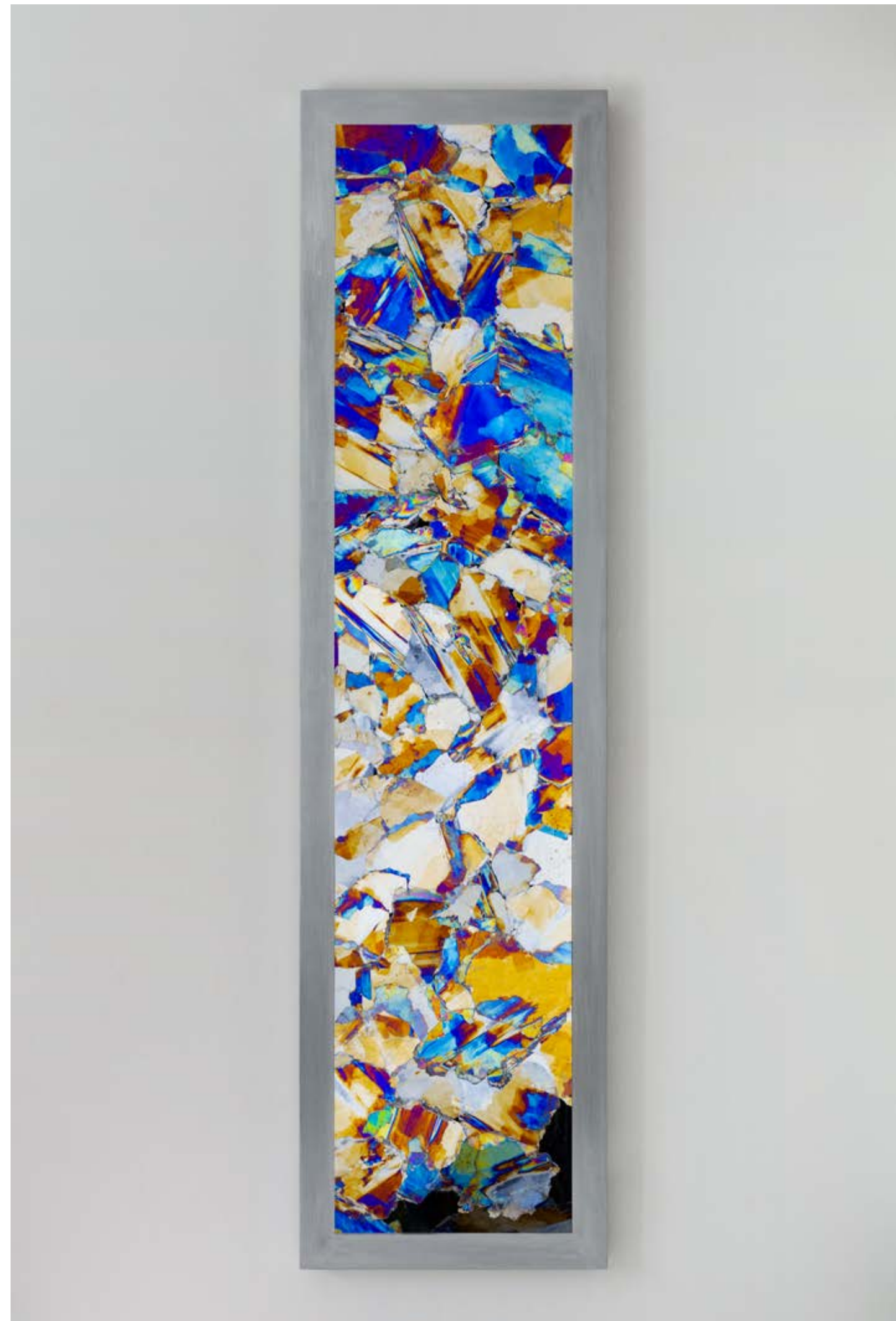
Design graphique
Clémence Michon



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.

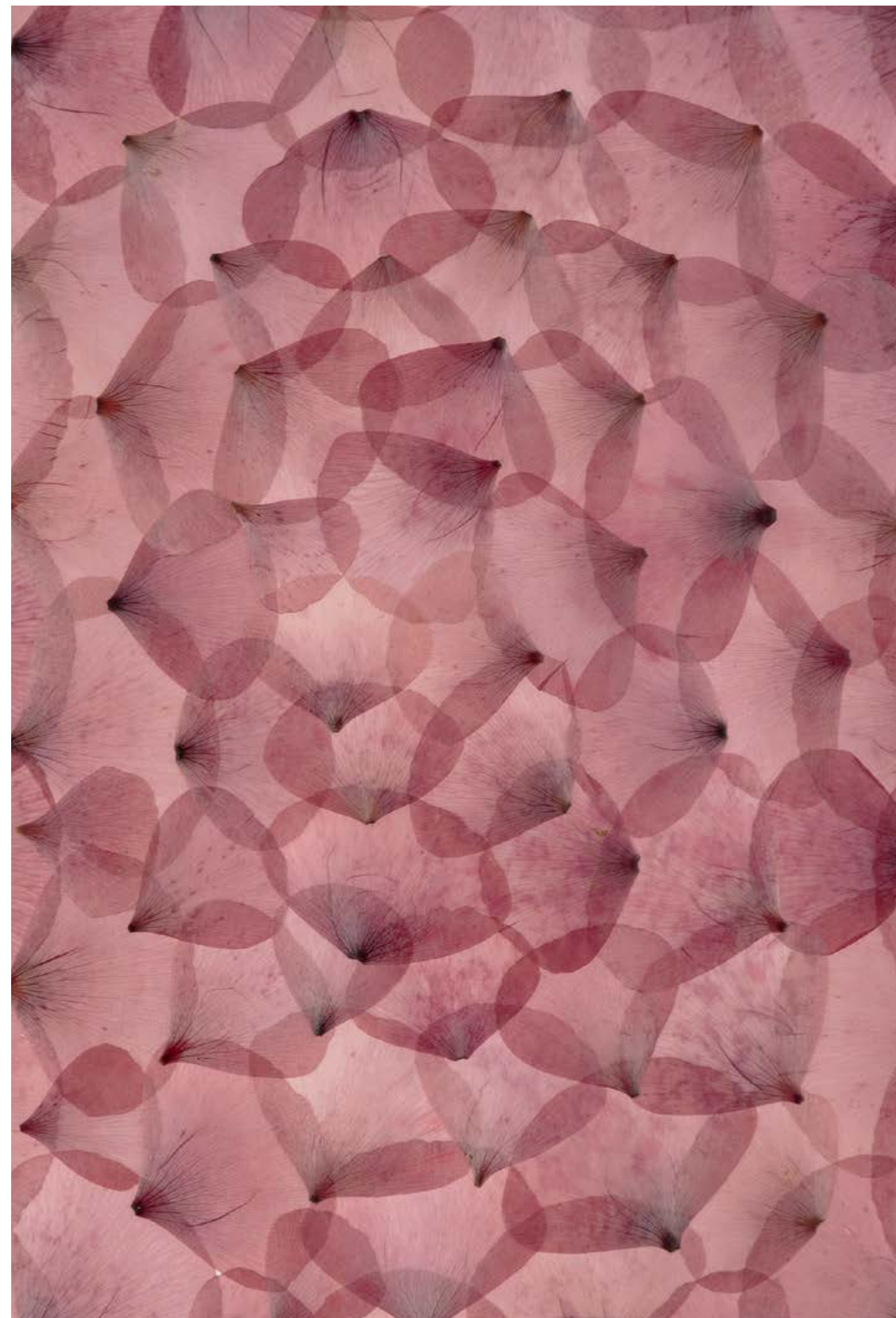




Page of Papaveraceae
2022

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)

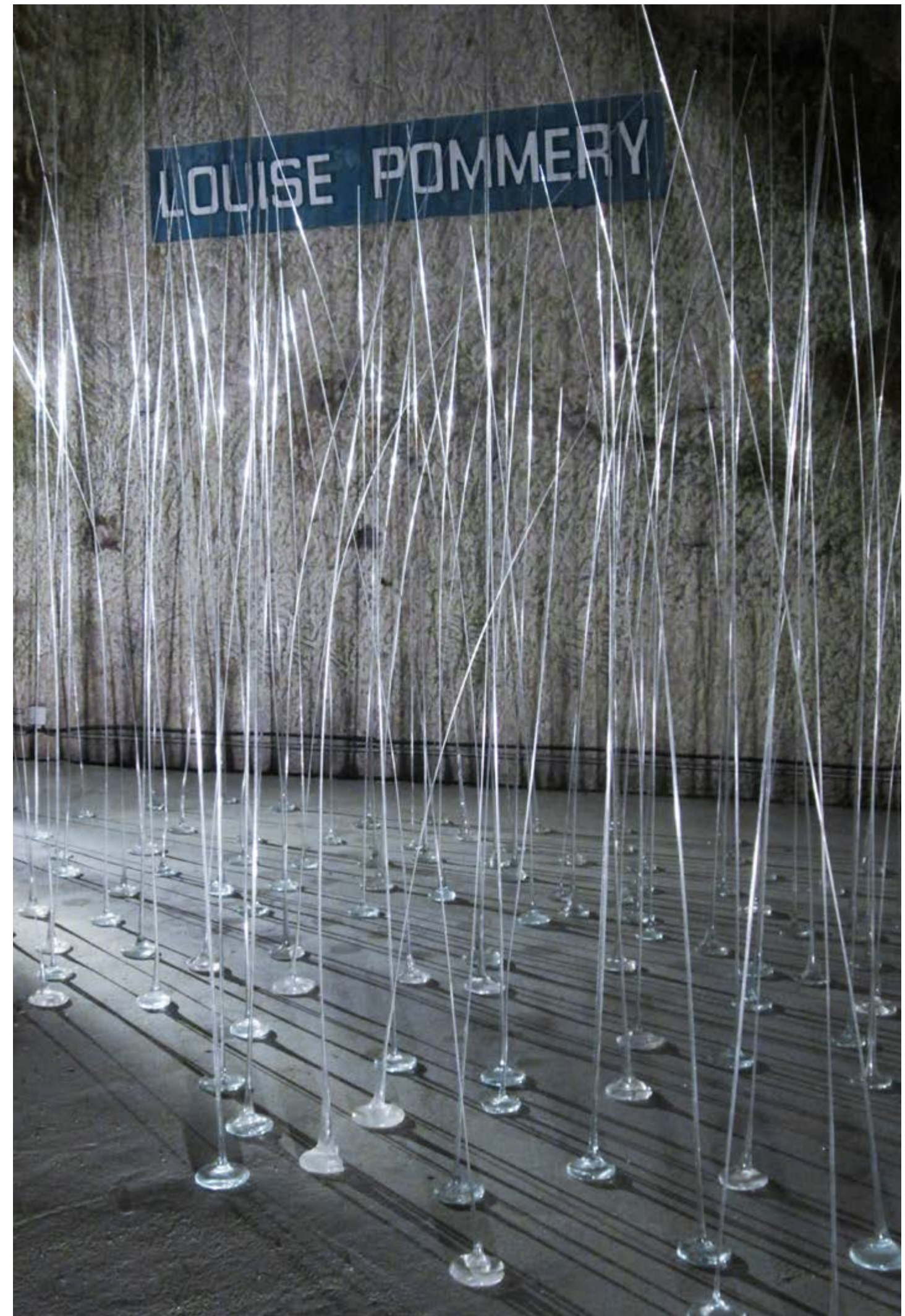
FRAC Alsace collection, Sélestat



140 crystal threads
2008-2014

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

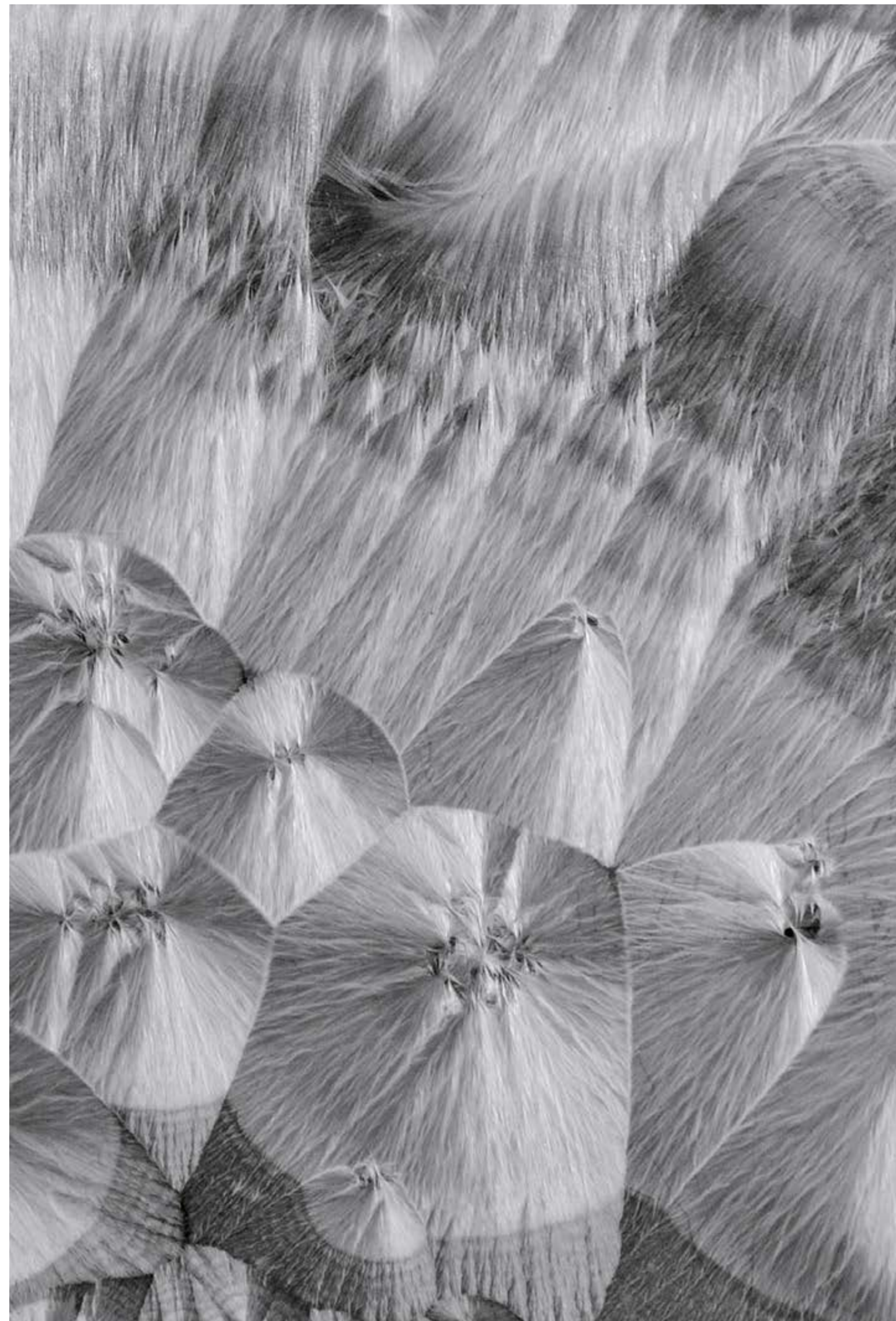
Exhibition view at Domaine Pommery (Reims, 2022)
Vranken-Pommery collection





Crystals
2016

Calcite, glass, aluminum
60 × 60 cm





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)





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

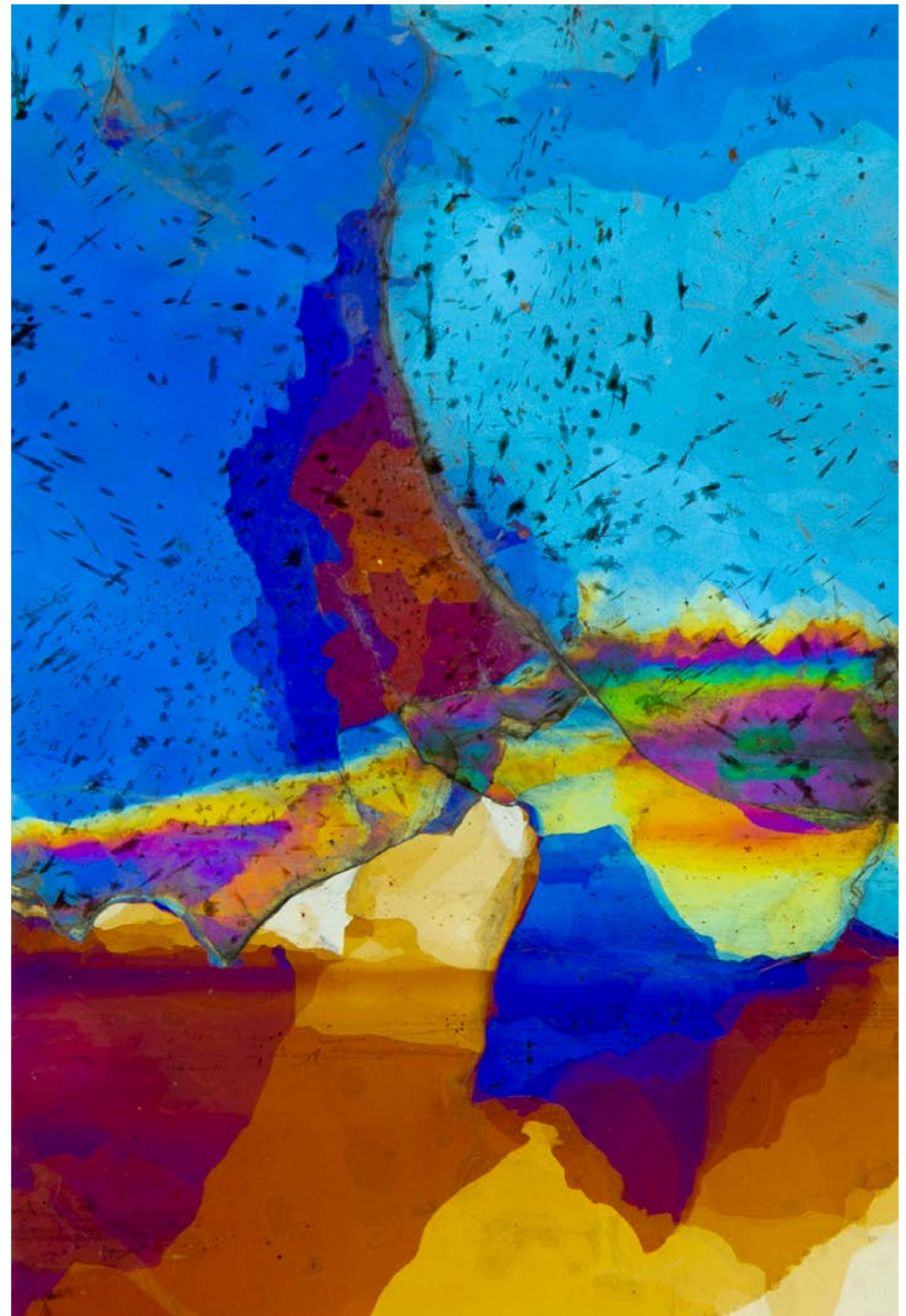
Exhibition view at the Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines (Strasbourg, 2015)





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

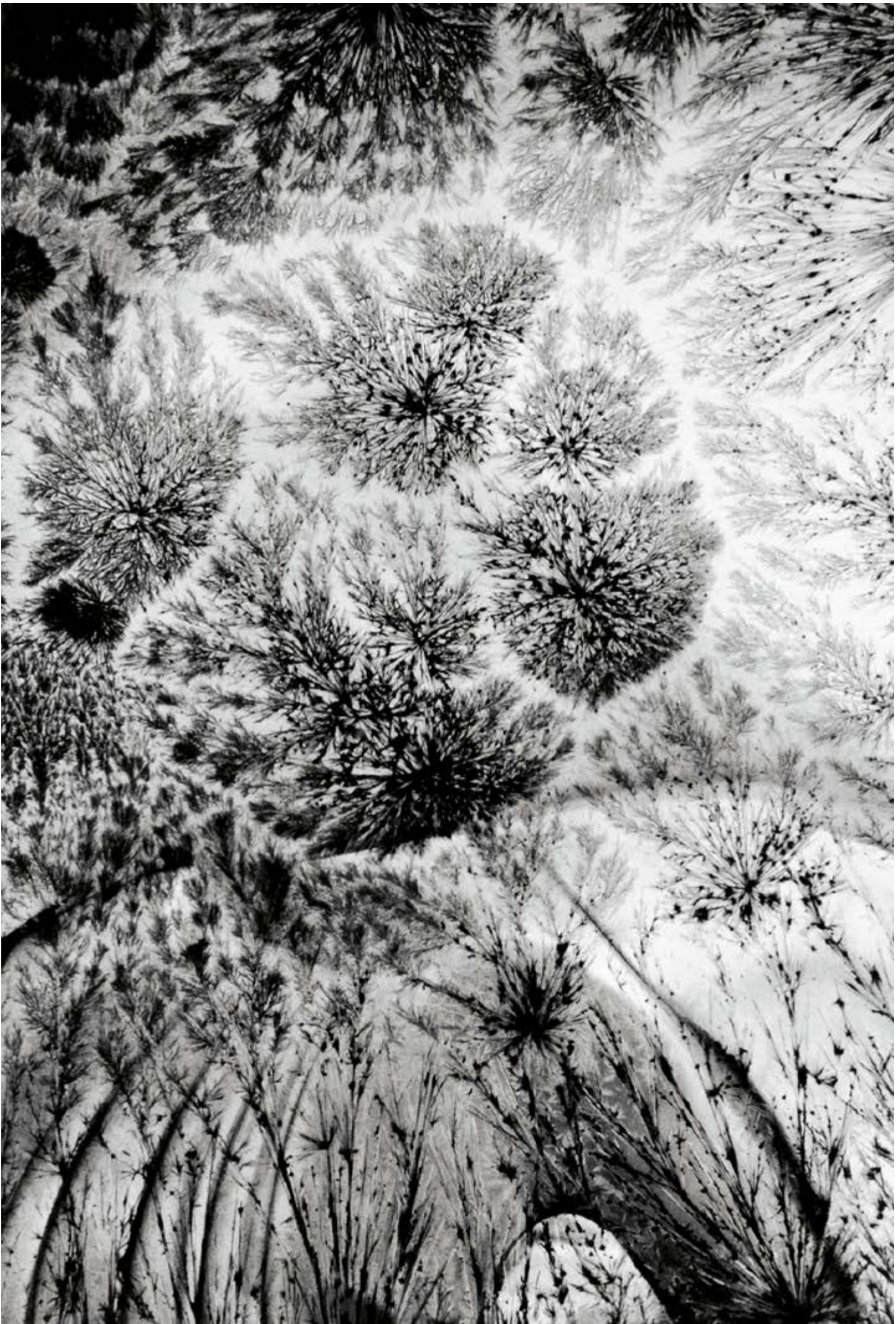




Light-sensitive recordings of crystals
2013

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

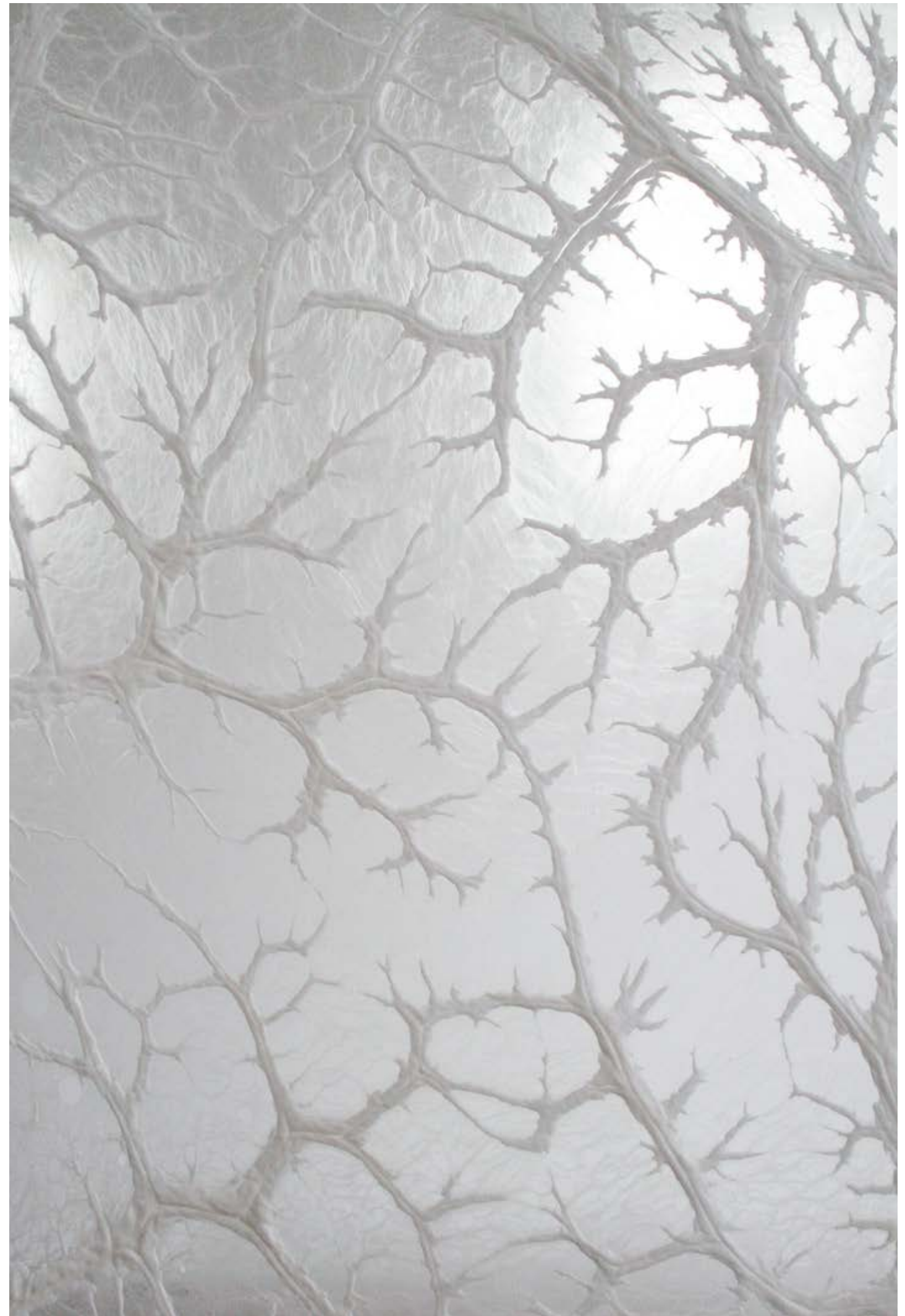




Caul surface
2007

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

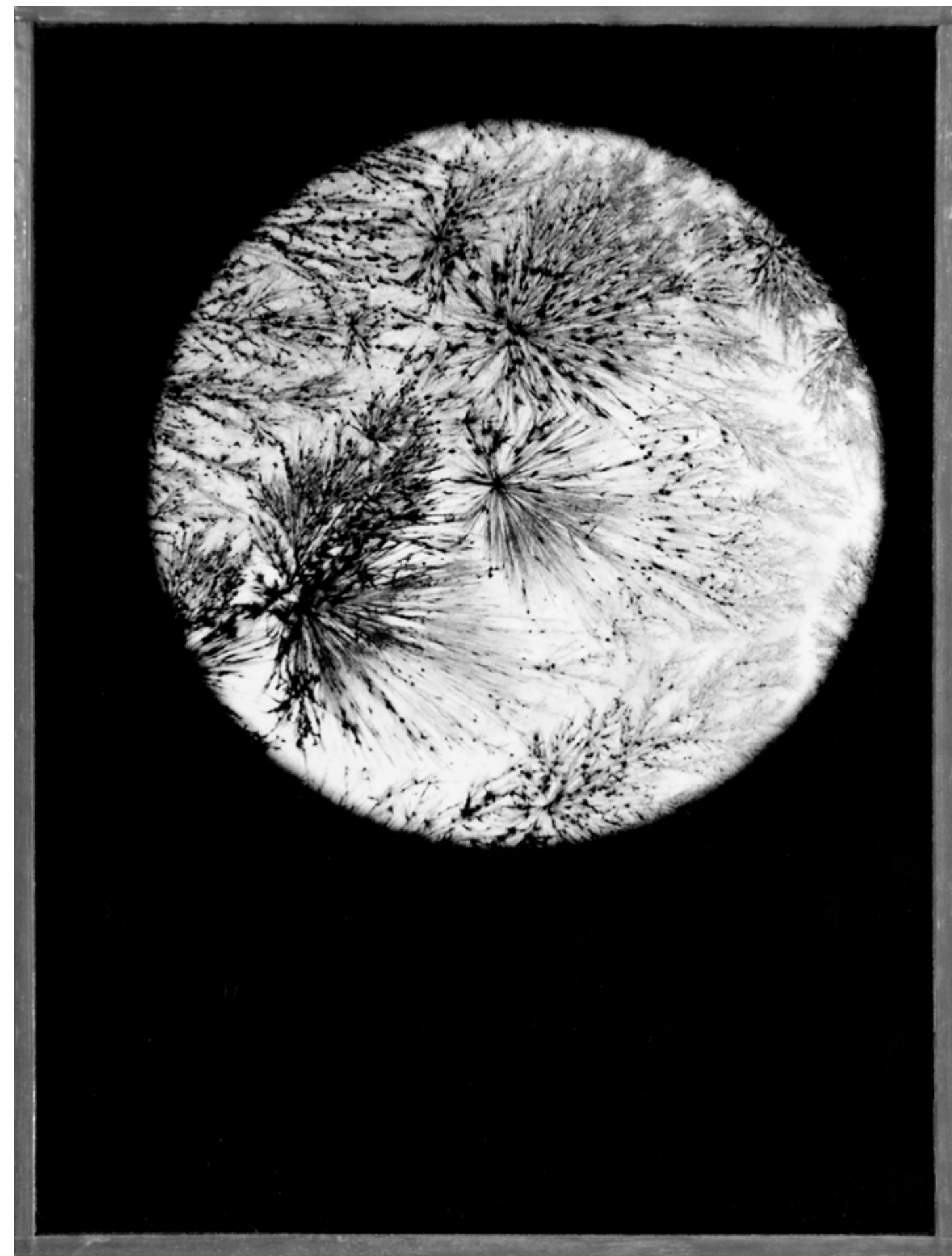


Assemblage (triptych)
2020

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)

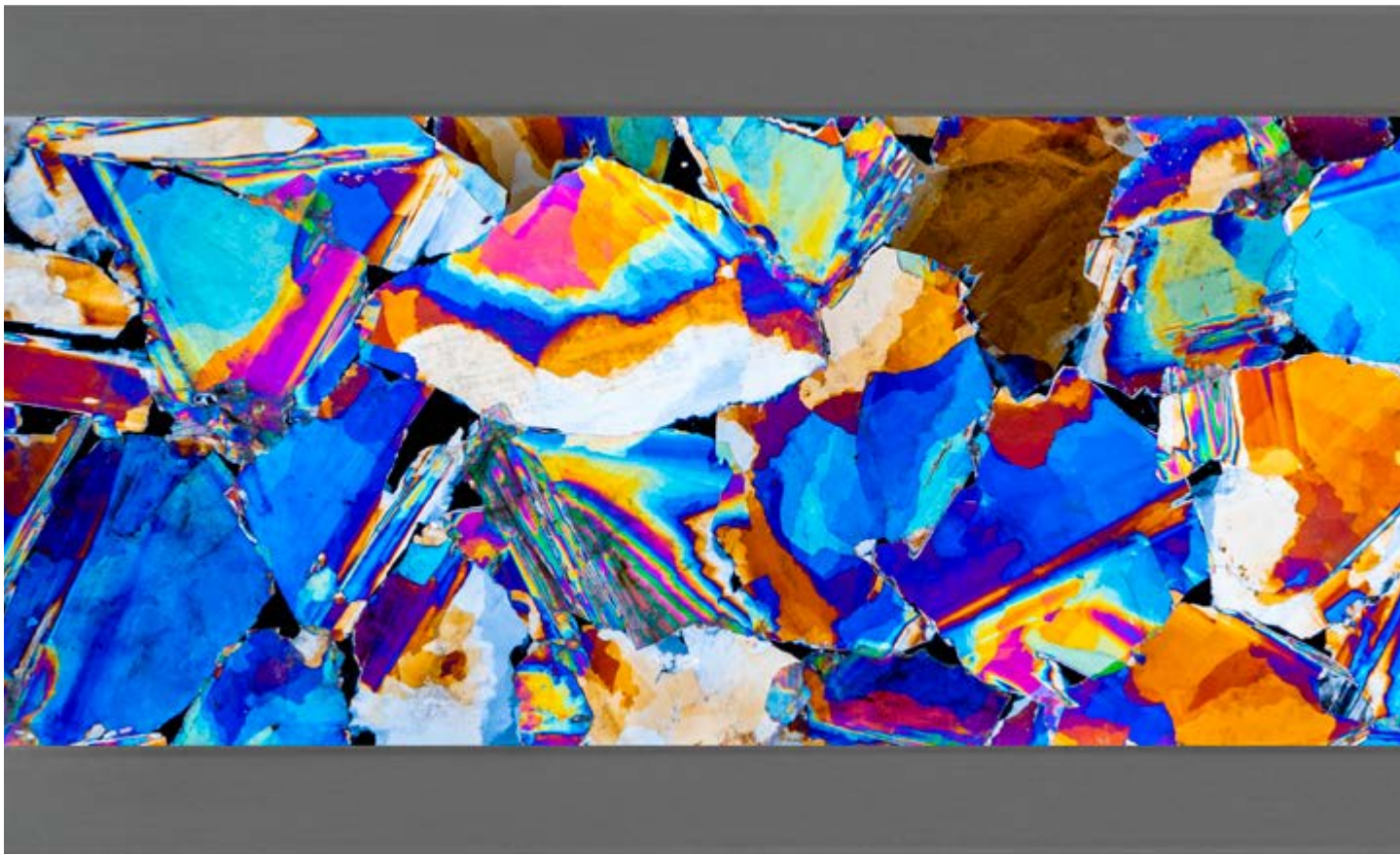
Exhibition view at Dohyang Lee gallery (Paris, 2022)



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

