

Galeria Foco

Arco Madrid 23
Memory Breaks
Maria Appleton

Rua Antero de Quental 55A
1250-041 Lisboa





PROJECT ARCO MADRID 23 | Opening Section by Allianz
Curated by Julia Morandeira and Yina Jiménez

For its second participation to Arco Madrid, Foco Gallery proposes *Memory Breaks*, a solo show by the Portuguese artist Maria Appleton.

The body of works "*Memory Breaks*" presented at Arco Madrid 2023, integrates an exploration that begun in 2020 of partially woven images, that compose pieces of fabric-like structure, but using a variety of materials found and manipulated by the artist. Born of the loom, the threads are the canvas for whatever holds the body (i.e the fabric). Maria has been working with deconstructing images from old newspapers, papers and posters as well as intimate memories of her own.

The artist calls this series *Memory Breaks*, as the passages of the threads that support the construction of the fabric inevitably interrupt the images deconstructing the content they represent.

Like memory deteriorates, or becomes selective over time, these images fade, and become part of a system of identifiable forms, that enter collective recognition. Drawing a parallel with digital data and the way in which cross-linked information is influencing the perception of reality, Maria's fabric pieces become an allusion to the inter-network. The fabric is in itself a world of 'cross influences' where the transit from one thread to the other is a continuous rhythm of construction and sequencing.

This group of weavings and several different printing, dyeing and drawing techniques that explore layering, rendering and 'visual-virtual' impressions, allowing the ever-changing substance of the pieces to relate directly to the human body, rather than offering a static viewpoint to the viewer.

Almost like stages of perception, these works, whether mounted on metal boxes, or subtly landing on metal rods, investigate a world of references torn by the action of a blade and rebuilt on the loom in an assumed gesture of questioning the information systems from which all humans in modern times depart from and navigate within.

BIOGRAPHY

Maria Appleton (b.1997) is a textile artist based in Lisbon.

Questioning the subjectivity present in urban systems, Maria Appleton's practice finds its material form an ongoing research of colour and form developed through multiple techniques of dyeing, weaving and printmaking. Her pieces unravel as chromatic in-prints onto a juxtaposition of layered cotton, silk and other industrial fabrics, defining a series of vibrant abstract transparencies.

Probing architectural conceptions of space, she defies human perception by translating optic perspectives and tracking bodily movements. Appleton delves into the dialogue established through the interaction of bodies in space, two elements that endure in a constant symbiotic relationship of metamorphosis with light. She sees the viewer as an active participant in the conception of the object itself, involved in a progressive sensorial experience open to interpretation.

Speculating on the nature of liminal spaces, a stage of emotional or physical alienation, her production merges multiple layers of geometric codes that together create cartographic compositions connected to conscious spaces of collective memory. Traversed by subversive political tensions dealing with climate awareness, social injustices, current economic systems and technological evolution the artist includes urban elements such as posters, logos and statements complemented by critical symbolisms such as a woven thick black stripe which interrupts the work itself, as a moment of pause or grief. The artist negotiates tangible presence and symbolic absence in her compositions, meaning to trigger memories, dreams or physical sensations. Appleton chains, through these methods, a set of pulsing experiences, meant to trigger a part of an universe where the architecture of public and private meet.

Maria Appleton's work has been featured in institutional and artist-led exhibitions, as well as international residencies. She was selected for a residence in Kyoto Institute of Technology (2018, Kyoto, Japan), at EMMA Institute where she developed "*Nicht eine Stadt, die war; stadt bad*" (2020, Pforzheim, Germany) and invited by the Institut Français to be a resident in Cité internationale des Arts (2022 in Paris, France; funded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation). Appleton has premiered in 2021 with an individual exhibition at Foco Gallery in Lisbon with the solo show "*Gaze to see, Gauze to perceive*", and more recently presented a new body of works "*Is There Yet Space for Light*" with HATCH Paris in February of 2023.

SOLO SHOW

- 2023
Is there yet space for light, Hatch Gallery, Paris, FR
- 2022
Open Studio: Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, FR
- 2021
Gaze to see, Gauze to perceive; Foco Gallery, Lisbon, PT
- 2020
A System of Thing-Shapes; sound installation collaboration with Miguel Alves (slowmo.mike), Cosmos Campolide, Lisbon, PT
- 2015
[Woven textiles piece]; MU.SA - Museu das Artes de Sintra, Sintra, PT

GROUP SHOW

- 2022
Garage Band, Hatch, Paris, FR
If Only; MONO Lisboa, Lisbon, PT
Active Activism Act; IDEAL, Barcelona, ES
- 2021
Amuse-Bouche; Foco Gallery, Lisbon, PT
Reflexions upon Space; Útero, Lisbon, PT
- 2020
Nicht eine Stadt, die war; stadt bad virtual reality exhibition (part of EMMA Kreativencentrum Residencia), Pforzheim, DE
Showcase of Portuguese Young Artists; Pousio – Arte e Cultura, online
- 2019
Places in Between Nowhere and Everywhere; Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK
Paper and Objects; Triangle Space, Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK
- 2018
Showcase at Première Vision Paris (Chelsea College of Arts stand), Paris, FR

RESIDENCIES

- 2022
Cité Internationale des Arts, with the special support from Institut Français and Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Paris, FR
- 2020
Designers in Residence, EMMA Kreativencentrum, Pforzheim, DE
- 2018
Textiles Summer School, Research Programme Scholarship; Kyoto Institute of Technology, Kyoto, JP

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2019
Old Soles New Souls, award-winning project for Nike's Material Innovation Competition
Award-winning project for Zara VIEW.S

- 2014
2nd Prize, drawing competition Vasco Descobertas, FIL, Lisbon, PT

PRESS

- 2022
Les nouveaux talents de l'art envahissent un garage désaffecté sur l'initiative du duo Hatch. Numéro, FR
Folie À Plusieurs. Maria Appleton; Windows Cry Neon, an Olfactive Journal
Institut Français. Résidences à la Cité internationale des arts;
- 2021
Site-specific dances of synthesised weaving; DATEAGLE ART
Fresh laundry of hypnotising hues; DATEAGLE ART
Amuse-Bouche, na Galeria Foco; Umbigo

- 2020
Virtual Presentation. Designers in Residence in Pforzheim 2020; Klimt02;
Maria Appleton; auprès Journal (Tête-à-tête); Prática e Luminosa; Urbana (Magazine), November Issue
Designers in Residence, Scholarship Holders
Project: Vogue Union | João Magalhães, o autodidata, Vogue Portugal

- 2019
Nike
Chelsea BA Textile Design students collaborate with Zara Kids
Zara X Chelsea

- 2018
BA Textile Design Research Trip to Kyoto Institute of Technology

PUBLICATION

- 2021
All I WANT, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian; exhibition review, Brotéria, September 2021

- 2020
O Tecido, O Trato, A Trepadeira; Legómena, Brotéria, April 2020

- 2019
Appleton, Maria. Places in Between Nowhere and Everywhere, Splash Books

EDUCATION

- 2016
BA (Hons) Textile Design, Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK
- 2015
Graphic Design Foundation Course, Camberwell College of Arts, London, UK
- 2014
Painting Short Course, Ar.Co, Lisbon, PT
- 2012
Escola Artística António Arroio (Artistic School), Lisbon, PT



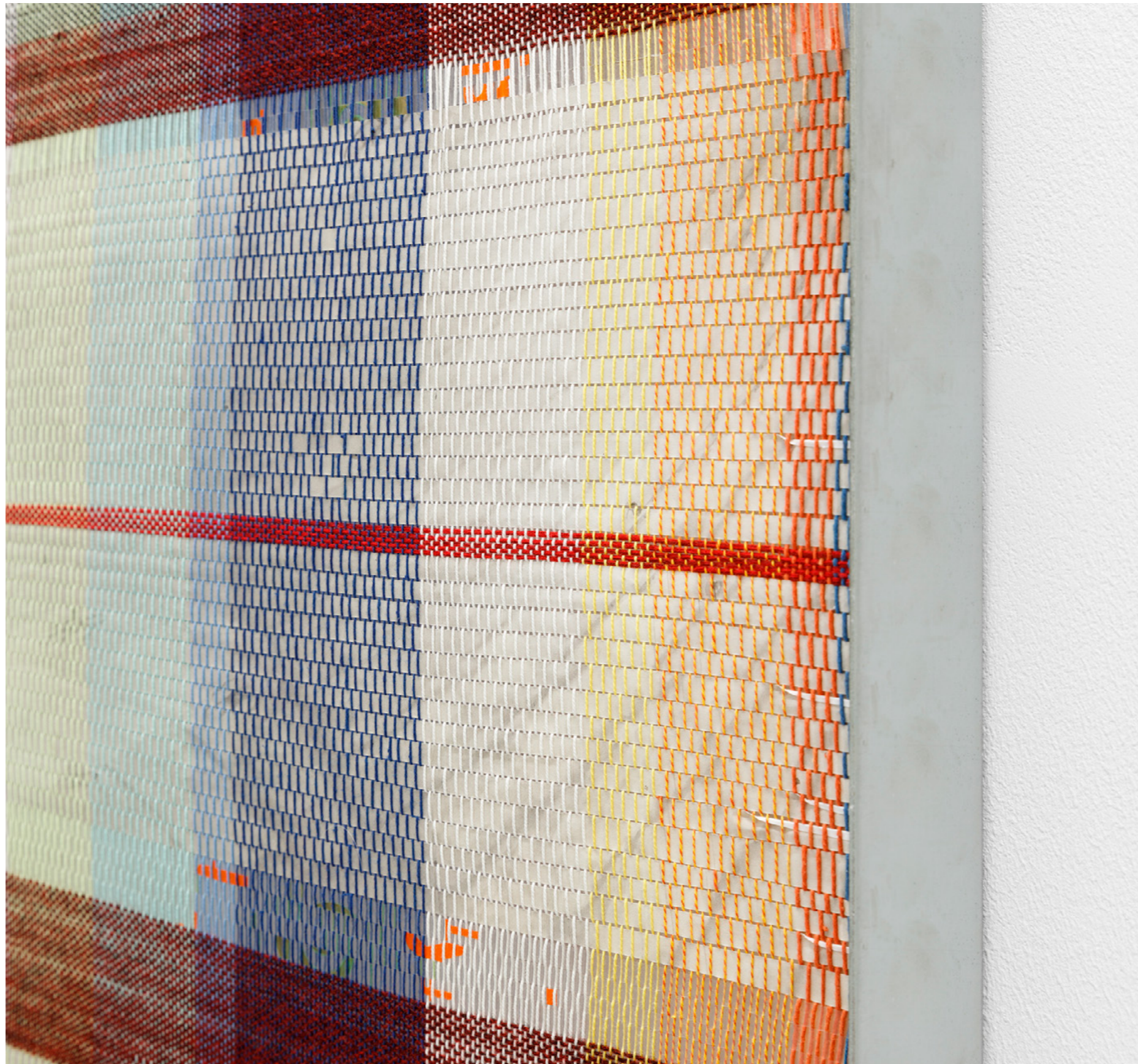
05

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Virtual Tapume, 2023
Dyed silk, wool and linen threads woven in the loom,
Screen printed silk organza, Metal rod and hanging system
200x100x04 cm
3 600 Euros | Sold



Coding III, 2021/2023
Printed photograph in paper and plastic bags trimmed and woven in the loom with cotton, wool and linen threads,
Wood and Metal frame
140x98x06 cm
5 000 Euros



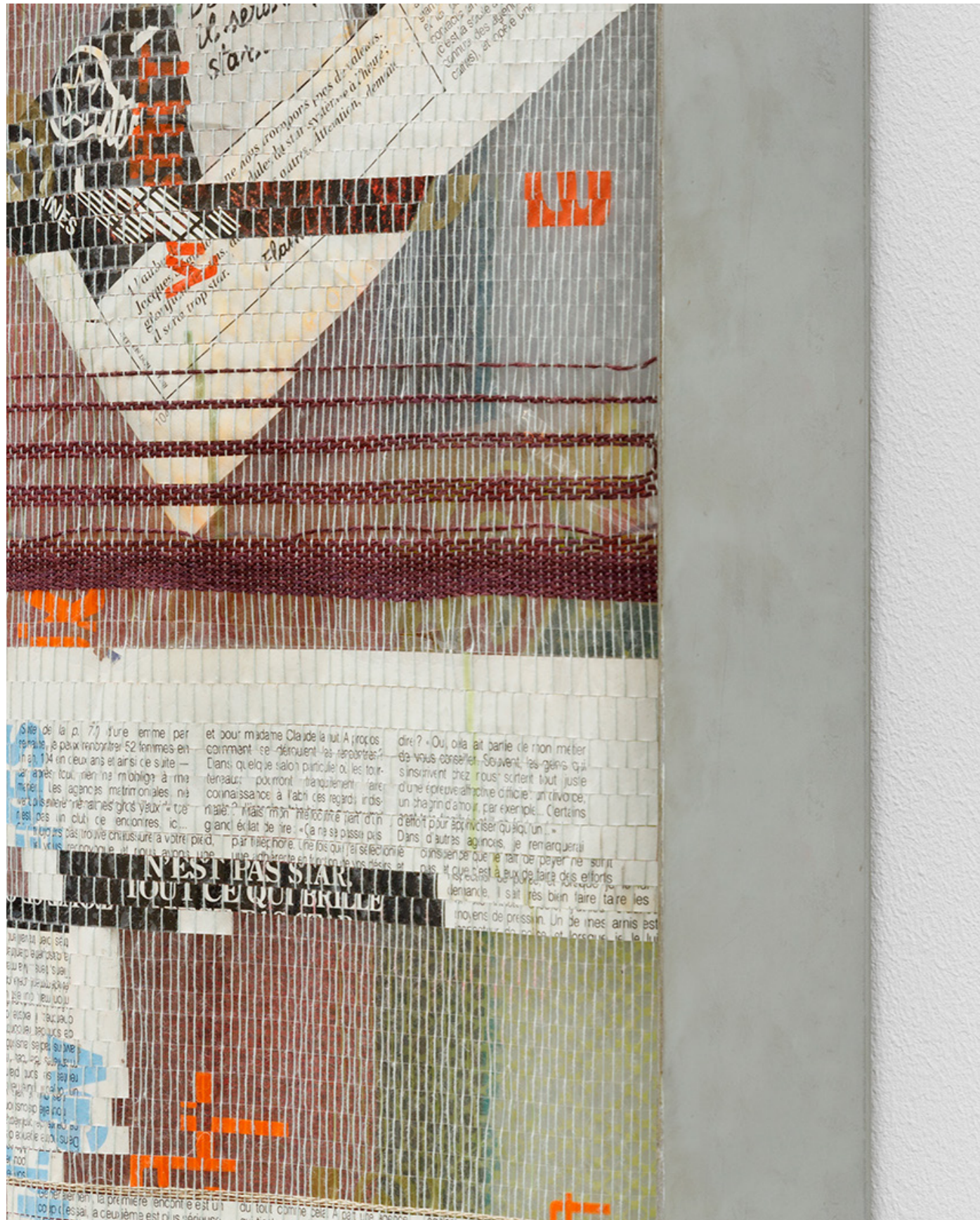
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10

Detail of *Coding III*, 2021/2023
Printed photograph in paper and plastic bags trimmed and
woven in the loom with cotton, wool and linen threads,
Wood and Metal frame
140x98x06 cm
5 000 Euros



Tout L'Amerique (from the series *Please see the table below*), 2023
Mixed media collage and embroidery onto polyester and reflective fabric, Old newspaper adverts and plastic bag cut and woven in cotton and linen threads, Metal box and rods welded
60x40x10 cm
3 000 Euros | Sold



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14

Detail of *Tout L'Amerique* (from the series Please see the table below), 2023
 Mixed media collage and embroidery onto polyester and reflective fabric,
 Old newspaper adverts and plastic bag cut and woven in cotton and linen
 threads, Metal box and rods welded
 60x40x10 cm
 3 000 Euros | Sold

O Banho perfeito? (from the series *Please see the table below*), 2023
 Mixed media collage and embroidery onto polyester and reflective fabric, Screen printed and dyed cotton fabric, Old newspaper adverts, plastic bag and printed photograph cut and woven in cotton and linen threads, Metal box and rods welded
 60x40x10 cm
 3 000 Euros | Sold





17

18

Detail of *O Banho perfeito?* (from the series *Please see the table below*), 2023
 Mixed media collage and embroidery onto polyester and reflective fabric,
 Screen printed and dyed cotton fabric, Old newspaper adverts, plastic bag and
 printed photograph cut and woven in cotton and linen threads,
 Metal box and rods welded
 60x40x10 cm
 3 000 Euros | Sold

I lost my heart in Olympia Stadium, 2021/2023
Printed photograph in paper and plastic bag trimmed
and woven in the loom with cotton and linen threads,
Metal frame and welded rods
118x58x11 cm
4 200 Euros | Sold





21

22

Detail of *I lost my heart in Olympia Stadium*, 2021/2023
Printed photograph in paper and plastic bag trimmed
and woven in the loom with cotton and linen threads,
Metal frame and welded rods
118x58x11 cm
4 200 Euros | Sold

The sky is not one color I, 2021/2023
Printed photograph in paper and plastic bag
trimmed and woven in the loom with cotton and
linen threads, Metal frame and welded rods
107x53x11 cm
4 000 Euros | Sold





Detail of *The sky is not one color I*, 2021/2023
Printed photograph in paper and plastic bag
trimmed and woven in the loom with cotton and
linen threads, Metal frame and welded rods
107x53x11 cm
4 000 Euros | Sold

Reconstruction of loss, 2023
Old newspaper adverts in gauze cotton fabric cut
and woven in cotton and linen threads, Screen
printing and collage in wool fabric, Metal rods
59x41x08 cm
2 500 Euros | Sold





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30

Detail of *Reconstruction of loss, 2022*
 Old newspaper adverts in gauze cotton fabric cut
 and woven in cotton and linen threads, Screen
 printing and collage in wool fabric, Metal rods
 59x41x08 cm
 2 500 Euros | Sold

Landscape of the grey region, 2023
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric cut and woven
in cotton, wool and linen threads, Old newspaper
adverts collage in cotton fabric, Metal rods
52x41x08 cm
2 500 Euros | Sold





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34

Detail of *Landscape of the grey region, 2023*
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric cut and woven
in cotton, wool and linen threads, Old newspaper
adverts collage in cotton fabric, Metal rods
52x41x08 cm
2 500 Euros | Sold

I lost my memory, my thought got blurred II, 2022
Old newspaper adverts in gauze cotton fabric cut
and woven in cotton and linen threads, Screen
printing and dyed in cotton fabric, Metal rods
60x44x08 cm
2 500 Euros | Sold





Reactive poem flag, 2023
Paint brushed gauze cotton fabric cut and woven in
cotton and linen threads, Old newspaper adverts and
screen printed reflective fabric collage
on cotton fabric, Metal rods
59x75x08 cm
2 500 Euros | Sold

Detail of *Reactive poem flag*, 2023
Paint brushed gauze cotton fabric cut and woven in
cotton and linen threads, Old newspaper adverts
and screen printed reflective fabric collage
on cotton fabric, Metal rods
59x75x08 cm
2 500 Euros | Sold





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42

Systems of Information I (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold

Systems of Information II (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold





45

46

Systems of Information III (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold

Systems of Information IV (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold





Systems of Information V (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold

Systems of Information VI (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold





Systems of Information VII (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold

Systems of Information VIII (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold





57

58

Systems of Information IX (from the series *Systems of Information*), 2023
Mixed media collage with old newspaper adverts and embroidery onto linen,
Screen printed gauze cotton fabric, Aluminium framed
50x42 cm
1 400 Euros | Sold

Other Available Artworks



61

62

Glimpse on a box III, 2021
Silk and cotton an polyester dyed and printed, welded metal
130x70x23 cm
5 500 Euros | Sold



Glimpse on a box III, 2021
Silk and cotton an polyester dyed and printed, welded metal
130x70x23 cm
5 500 Euros | Sold



65

66

Awning at night, Seville, 2021
Wool, cotton, viscose and linen threads dyed and woven
Variable Dimensions
5 500 Euros



Awning at night, Seville, 2021
Wool, cotton, viscose and linen threads dyed and woven
Variable Dimensions
5 500 Euros



69

70

Glimpse on a box IV, 2021
Silk and cotton and polyester dyed and printed, welded metal
100x60x20 cm
3 500 Euros | Sold

Glimpse on a box IV, 2021
Silk and cotton an polyester dyed and printed, welded metal
100x60x20 cm
3 500 Euros | Sold



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