

Kevork Mourad
THE ECHOES OF SILENT BELLS

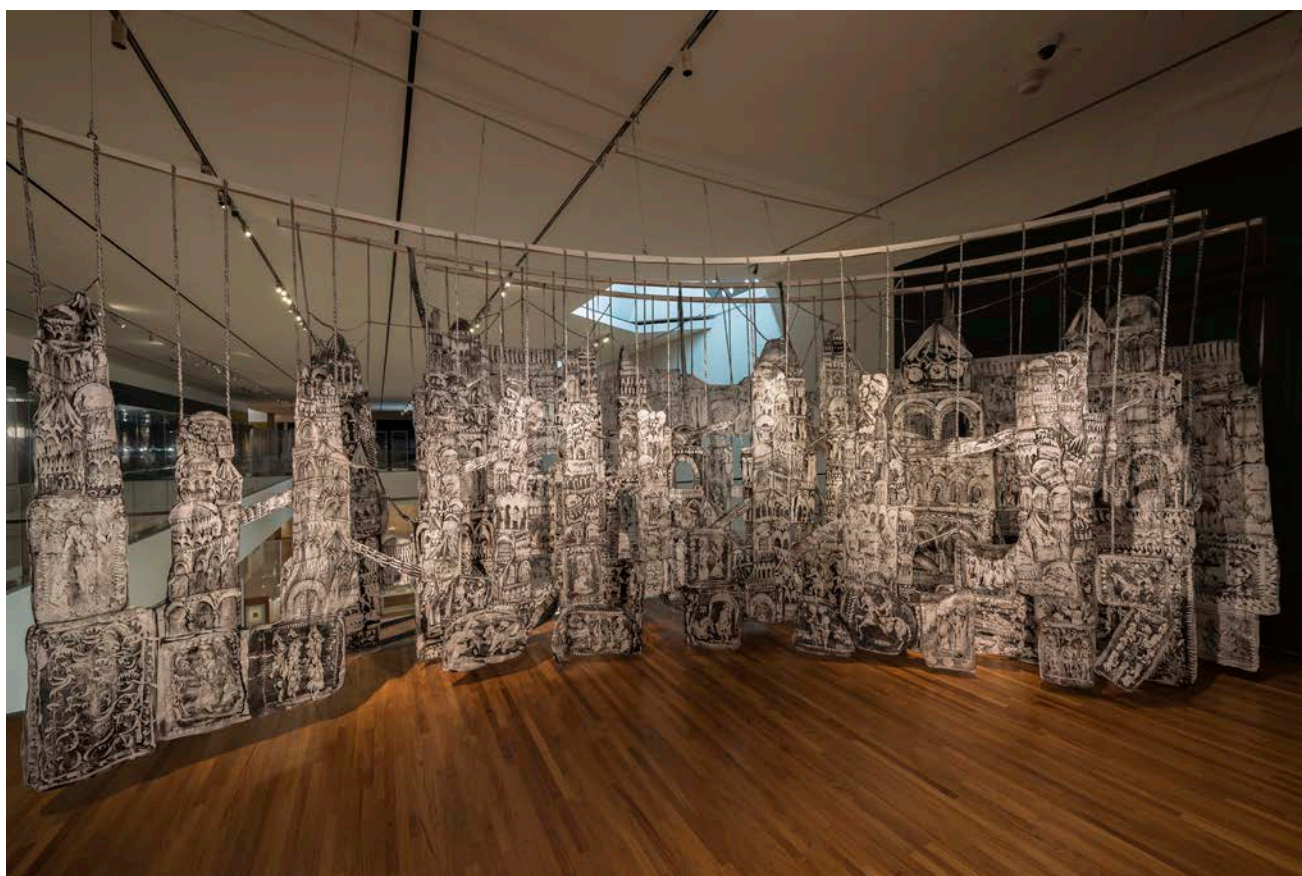


Kevork Mourad

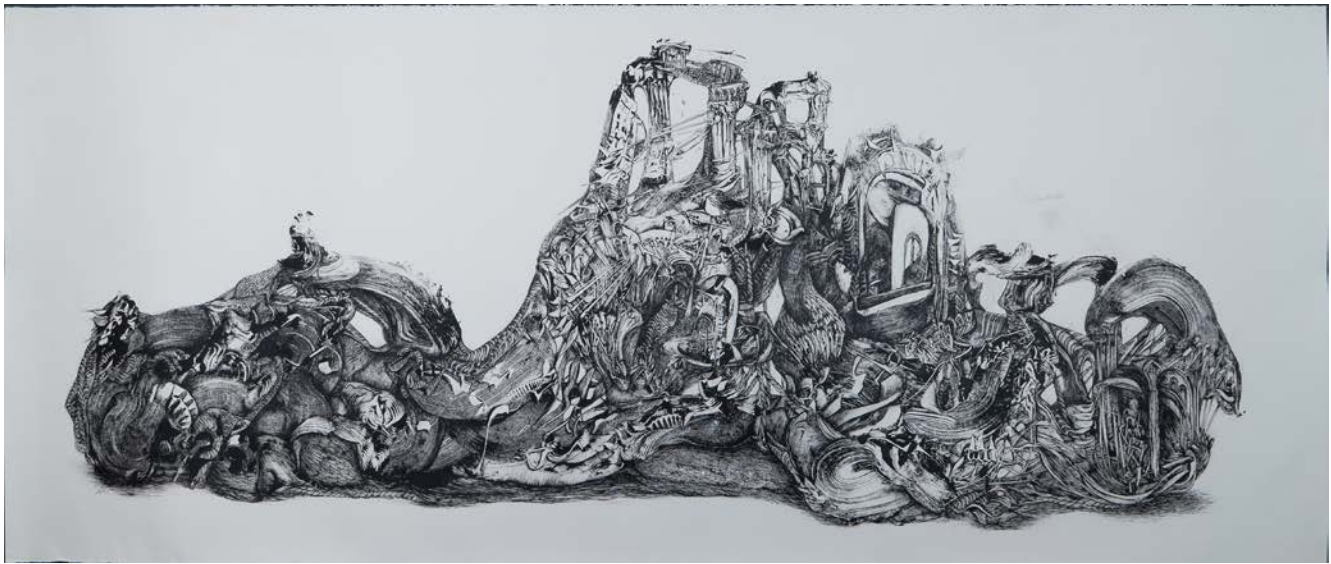
Kevork Mourad was born in Kameshli Syria, received his degree from the Yerevan institute of Fine Art, and now lives in New York. A painter and video artist, he has had his animated and live visuals performed around the world--at the Spoleto Festival in SC (2022), Korea National Opera in Seoul (2020), National Cathedral in DC (2020), Dutch Royal Palace for the Prince Claus Foundation (2016), Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC (2018, 2012, 2010), Aga Khan Museum in Toronto (2018), Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA (2018), ElbPhilharmonie in Hamburg (2017), and MuCEM in Marseille (2015, 2013), among many others. His work is in the permanent collection of Paris's Institut du Monde Arabe, the Spurlock Museum, and his towering *Seeing Through Babel* was added to the permanent collection of the Aga Khan Museum run Toronto in 2023. The 2016 recipient of the Robert Bosch Stiftung prize, he created the short film *Four Acts for Syria*. A member for two decades of the Silkroad ensemble, he is one of the artists featured in the documentary *The Music of Strangers*, directed by Morgan Neville. He has exhibited in galleries around the US, Europe and the Middle East, including the Asia Society Triennial in 2020, the Spurlock Museum, Illinois, (2020), the Paris Art Fair, (2019), the Rose Art Gallery, Boston (2017), the Claude Lemand Gallery, Paris (2016), Kuchling Galerie in Berlin (2019), and Tabari Art Space, Dubai, (2019). He recently completed a commission for the Institut du Monde Arabe, 2026, and has been commissioned for a performance by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2019. He is the recipient of a 2023 New York State Council of the Arts grant and was a fellow at the Fountainhead residency in Miami in 2024. His large-scale piece in the Meridian Section of Miami Art Basel, December 2025, garnered world-wide attention. His galleries include Galerie Tanit, Beirut, Studio La Città, Verona, Galerie Dominique Fiat, Paris, and Leila Heller Gallery, New York.

Artist Statement

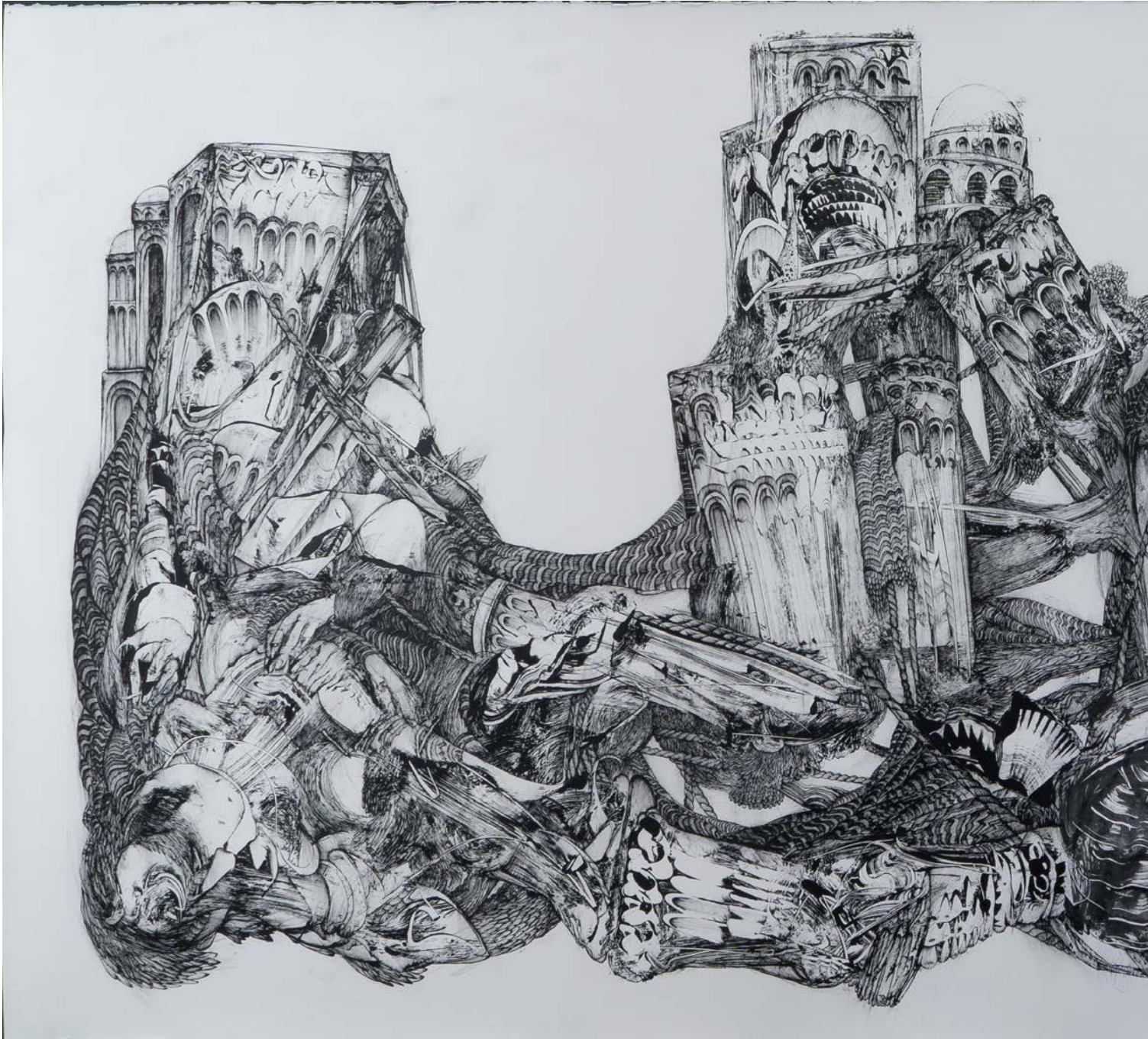
I grew up in a place where ancient civilizations collided to create layers of culture that produced the art, artifacts, music, and architecture that inform my own art. The descendant of Armenian Genocide survivors, raised in the cultural wealth of Aleppo, Syria, I feel it is my duty to preserve culture and history through my art. I strive to give voice to places that no longer exist, to give my interpretation of what has been lost in order to figure out how that history and culture can be recovered, at least in our emotional memory. I worry that in the drive for modernism and lives lived more and more in the virtual realm, we forget that the future can only be built solidly on the foundations established by our mastery of the past, of its lessons, both good and bad. And so much of that past has been conserved through the sensory--the tangible, the aural, the visual. Within the limits of my own art, I seek to replicate the richness of culture conveyed through different senses--making paintings sculptural, the lines inspired by the curvaceous lines of the melodies I grew up with. I seek to embed the lessons of the past into pieces that not only represent visual testimony, but through my layered pieces and their exploration of negative space, I try to allude to the passing of time and the necessity to stand both within time and apart from it, staring into and through it, in order to better perceive what asks for our attention



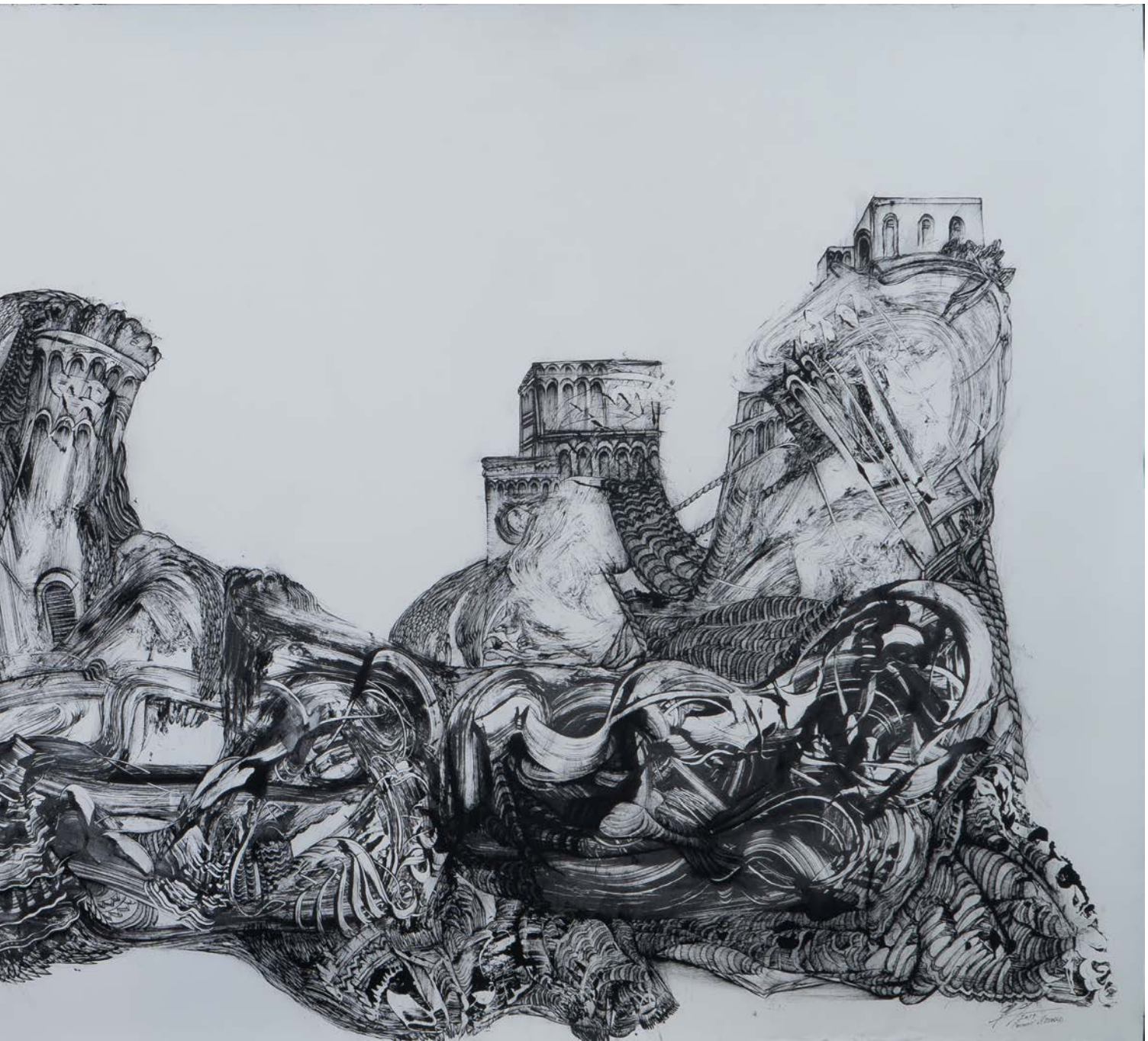
Memories of the Stones,
2019
Installation, Diptych
600 x 280 x 70 cm
(each piece)



The Wave
2025
Acrylic and ink on paper
270 x 140 cm



After the Quake
2019
Acrylic and ink on paper
250 x 140 cm

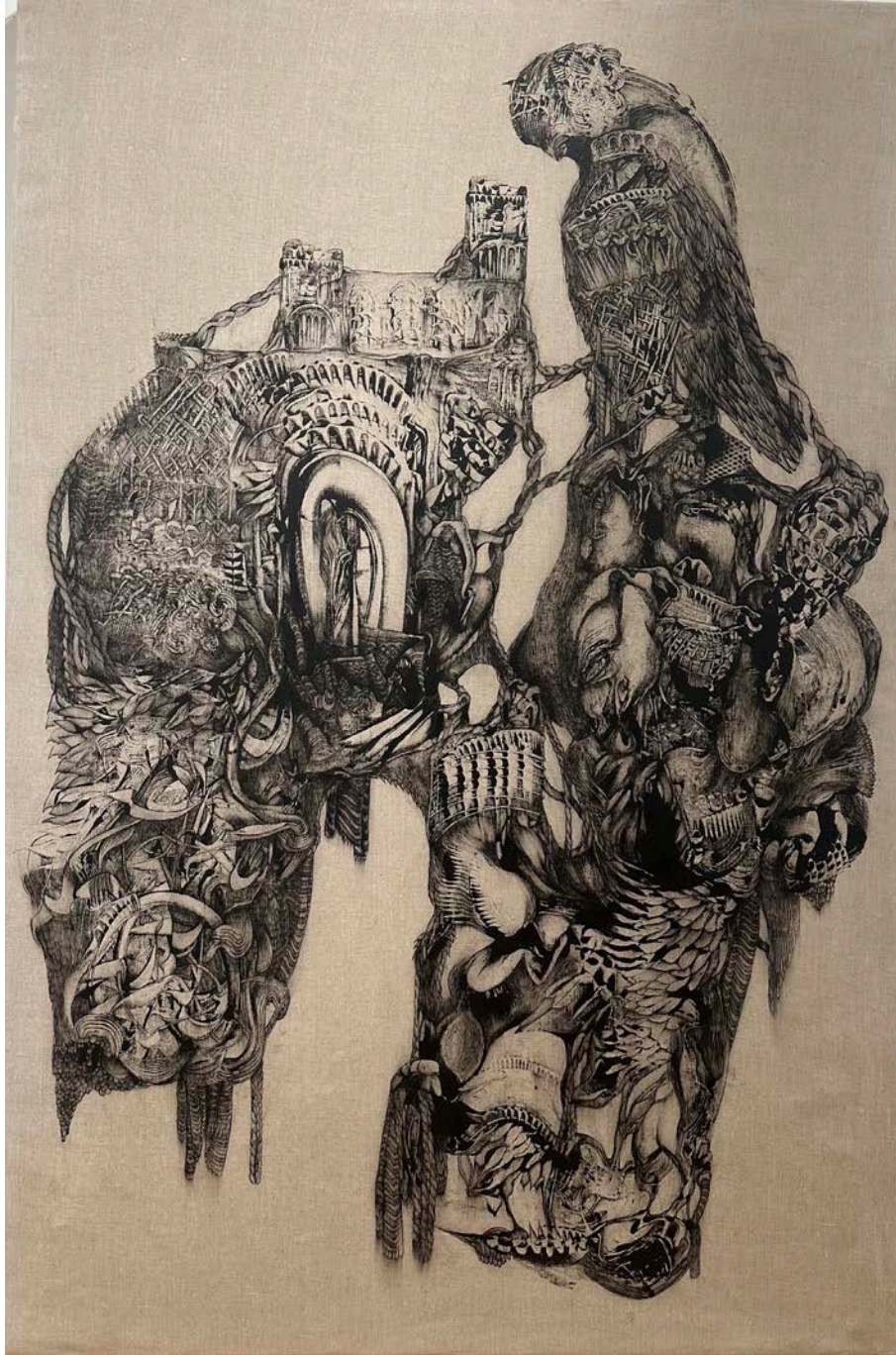




When Time Was Like a River
2024
Acrylic on cotton and handcut
134.5 x 218.5 x 10 cm



The Silent Bells
2025
Acrylic and Ink on Denim
127 x 155 cm



Contemplation
2024
Acrylic on linen
123 x 183 cm



Resurrection
2016
Acrylic and Ink on linen
137 x 181 cm







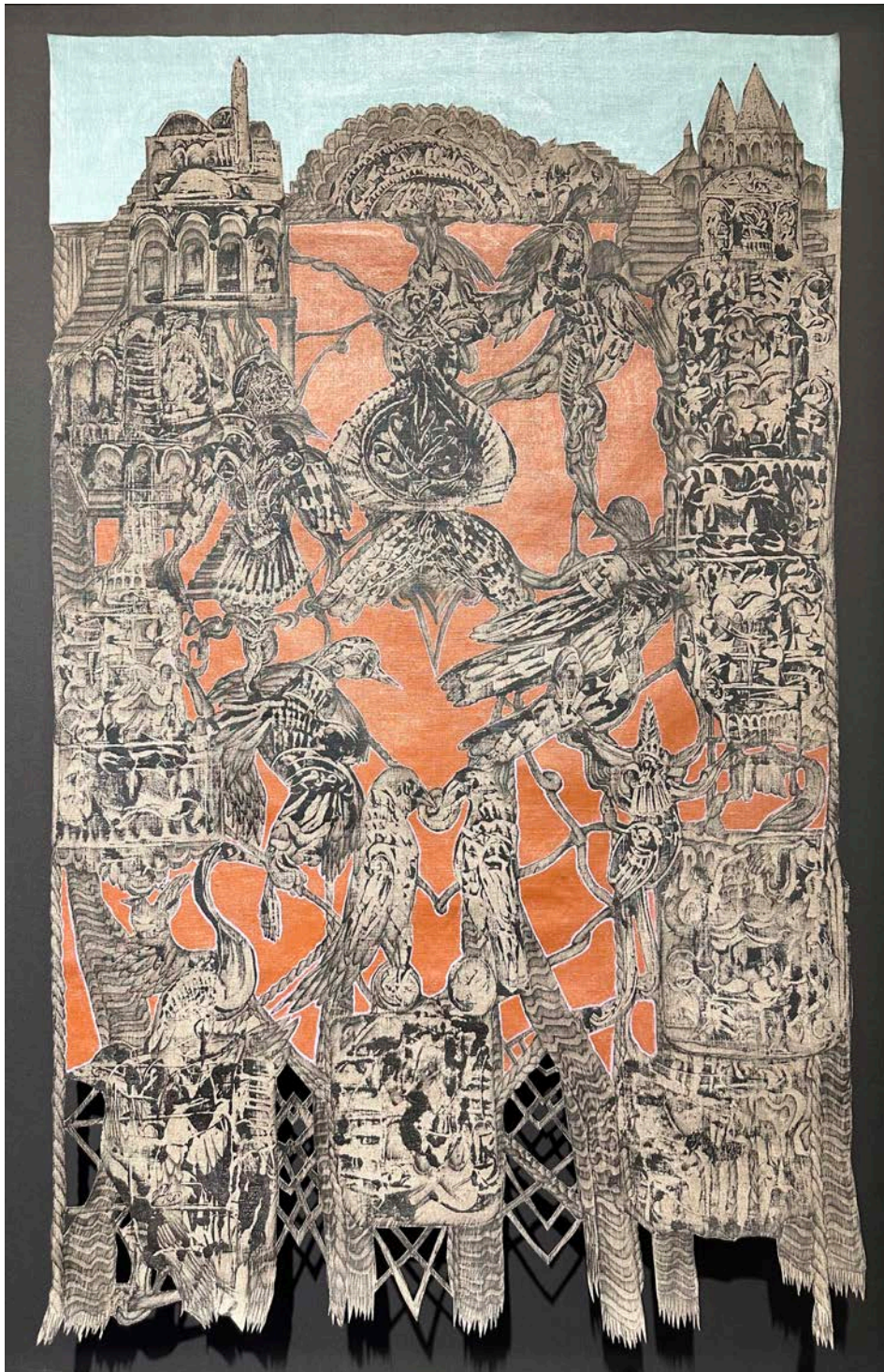
The Last prayer
2025
Acrylic and ink on linen
53 x 56cm



Kalila wa Dimnah
2026
Acrylic on linen
63 x 103 cm



Tapestry of Memory
2024
Acrylic on cotton and hand-cut
60 x 120 cm



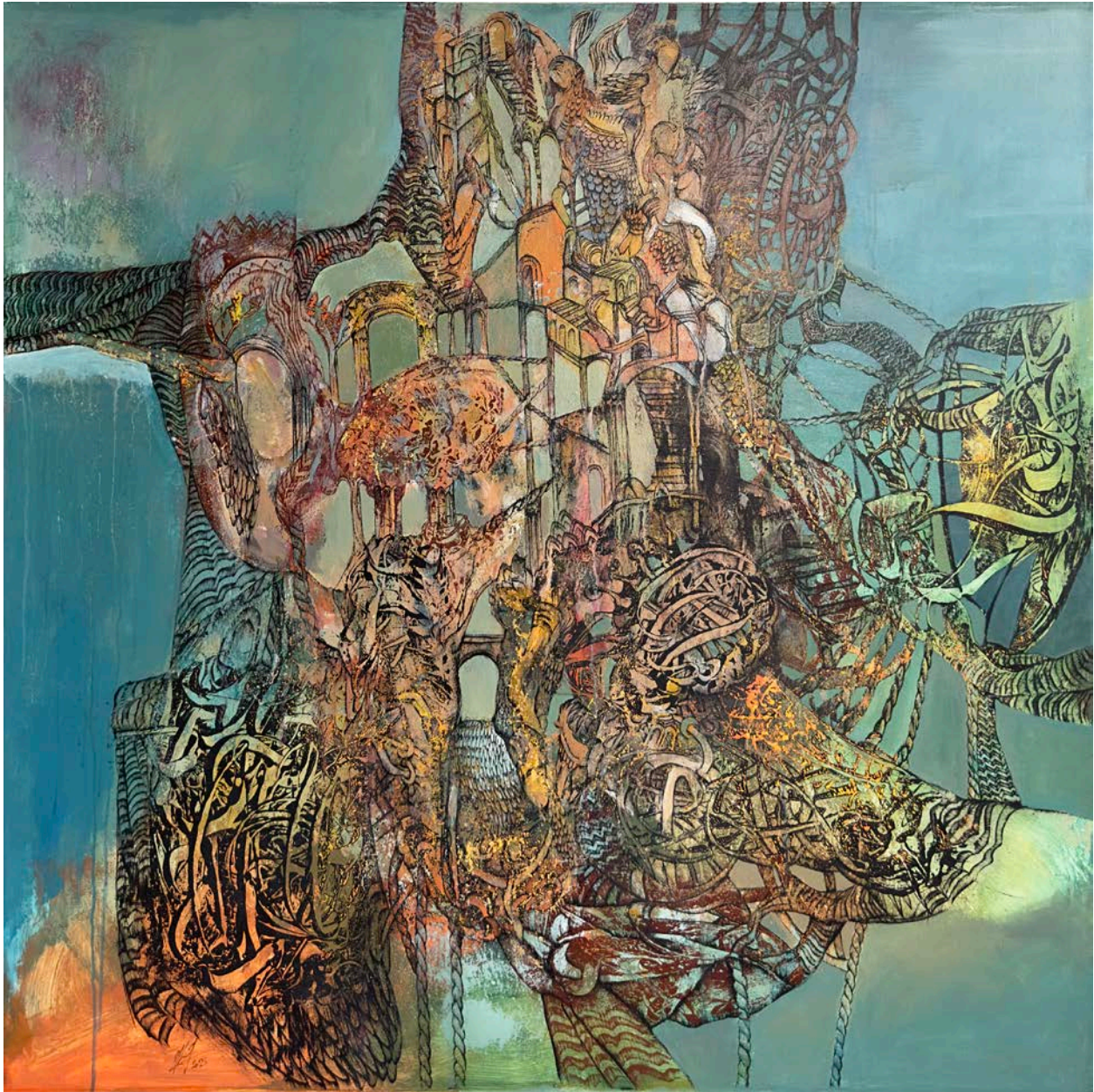
The Conference of the Birds
2026
Acrylic on linen
63 x 103 cm







Into The Woods
2024
Acrylic on cotton and hand-cut
47 x 48 cm



Afterlife I
2024
Acrylic on canvas
110 x 110 cm



Afterlife II
2024
Acrylic on canvas
110 x 110 cm



The Waterfall
2016
Acrylic on canvas
91 x 91 cm







The Stitched Paths
2025
Acrylic on recycled denim
73.66 cm

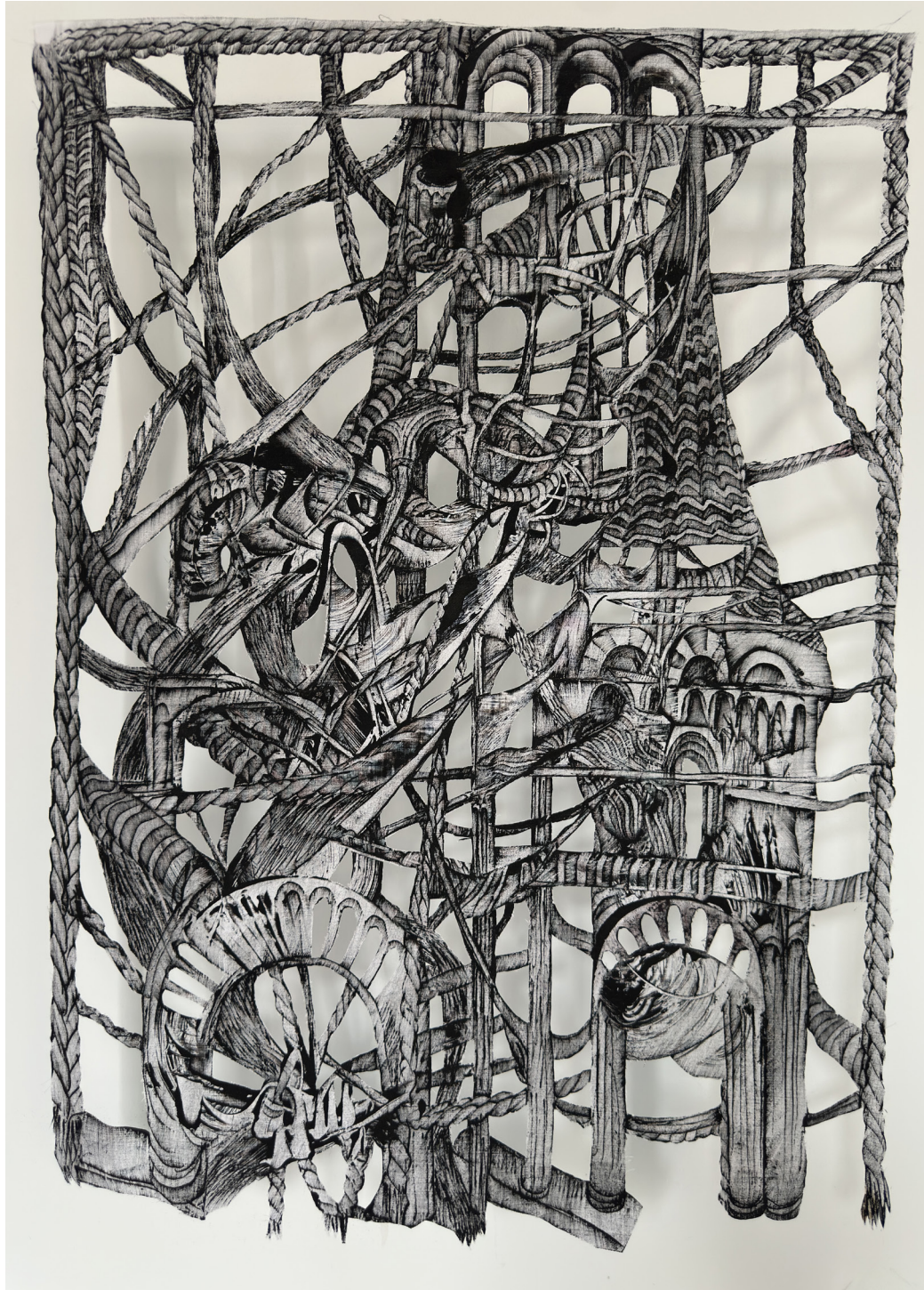


Branching Out
2022
Acrylic on linen and hand cut
60.96 × 60.96 × 6.35 cm

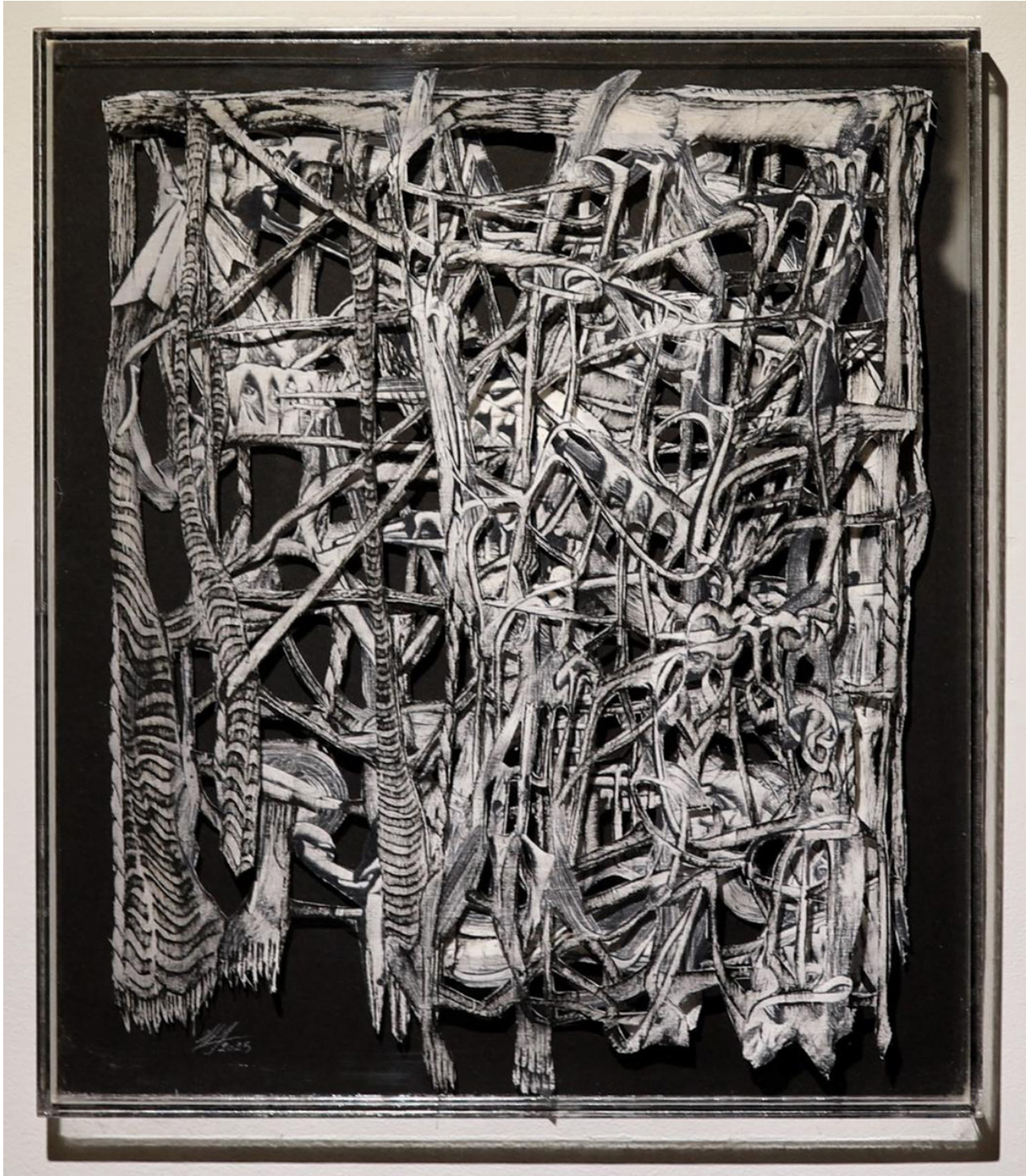


Tower
2019
Acrylic on cotton fabric
250 x 160 x 160 cm

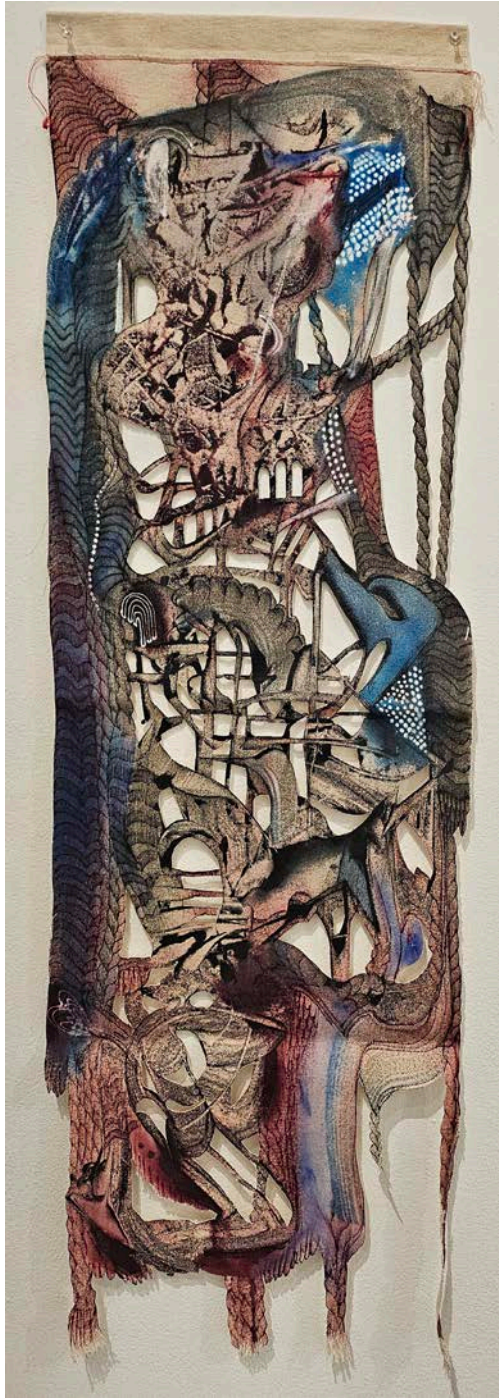




The Alchemists's Gate,
2026
Ink and acrylic on cotton fabric and hand cut
42.5 x 60 cm



Echoes in Stone
2025
Acrylic on Cotton Fabric, Hand cut
38.42 x 33.34 x 1.91 cm



The Mist
2025
Acrylic and ink on cotton fabric and hand-cut
63 x 103 cm on linen

Specialization: Painting Performance and Animation

Born: Qameshli, Syria, 1970

Degree: M.F.A. in Book Illustration and Painting, Yerevan Institute of Fine Art, Armenia, 1996

Residence: New York since 1999

Individual Shows:

- 2026 Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai
- 2026 Galerie Dominique Fiat, Paris
- 2025 Tanit Galerie, Imaginary Homeland
- 2025 Perrottin, Shanghai
- 2021 Studio La Città, Verona
- 2019 Kuchling Galerie, Berlin
- 2019 Tabari Art Space, Dubai
- 2018 Galerie Tanit, Beirut, The Space Between
- 2018 Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
- 2017 Rose Art Museum, Boston
- 2016 Claude Lemand Gallery
- 2014 Creative Syria, with Tamman Azzam, Milan, Italy
- 2014 Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait
- 2012 Courtyard Gallery, Dubai, U.A.E.
- 2010 Courtyard Gallery, Dubai, U.A.E.
- 2009 Rafia Gallery, Damascus, Syria

Art Fairs:

- 2026 Paris Art Fair
- 2026 Art Basel Qatar, Public program, with Art Bridger and AlBahie Auction House
- 2025 Miami Art Basel, Meridian Section, with Laila Heller Gallery
- 2025 MENA Art Fair, Tanit Galerie
- 2029 Karlsruhe Art Fair, Germany

Group Shows:

- 2026 Institut du Monde Arabe, as part of the exhibit, Esclaves en Méditerranée
- 2020 Asia Society Triennial
- 2019 Paris Art Fair
- 2019 Institut du Monde Arabe, Au Pinceau, A la plume, au pinceau, au crayon: dessins du monde arabe
- 2017 Agha Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
- 2014 Art Moment, Budapest, Hungary
- 2013 World Bank, Washington, DC
- 2013 Beyond the Cloth: The Kafiye Project, White Box Gallery, NYC
- 2013 African, Asian and Latin American Film Festival, Milan, Italy
- 2010 Liverpool Biennial

2006 Rhode Island School of Design Museum

Works in Permanent Collections:

Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
Spurlock Museum, Illinois
Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
Boston Public Library
Pergamonmuseum, Berlin
World Bank Art Collection
Contemporary Museum of Naples (video: The Wall)
Boorj Khalife (painting: 1970)
Armenian Library and Museum of America

Performances:

in which the artist performs both live and animated painting in tandem with live music

2026 The Wound Where Light Enters, Kaye Playhouse, Hunter College, NYC
2025 Lullabies with Isabel Bayrakdarian, RCM, Toronto
2024 Four Seasons by Sahba Aminikia, with Kronos Quartet, San Francisco
2023 Invisible Cities with Ragamalla Dance Company, Cowell Performance Center, MN
2023 Triptych with the Kronos Quartet, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
2023 Paper Pianos with Alarm Will Sound, EMPAC, NY
2023 Shams, with Verdigris Ensemble, Dallas
2022 Spoleto Festival, South Carolina, Unholy Wars with Kareem Suleyman
2022 Bing Center, CA, Home Within, with Silkroad Ensemble
2022 The Soraya Nazarian Center, CA, Home Within, with Silkroad Ensemble
2021 Lied Center, Lincoln, NE with Silkroad Ensemble
2021 Loeb Drama Center, Boston, with Silkroad Ensemble and Rhiannon Giddens
2020 Korea National Opera, Seoul, Fidelio
2020 National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.
2020 Oxford University, UK
2020 Pablo Center, Eau Claire, IL
2019 OYO dance troupe, Windhoek, Namibia
2018 Metropolitan Museum of Art
2018 Orlando Philharmonic, FL
2018 American University of Beirut, with Kinan Azmeh
2018 Aga Khan Museum, Toronto
2018 Walt Disney Concert Hall, with the LA Master Chorale
2017 ElbPhilharmonie, Germany, with Kinan Azmeh
2016 Agha Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada, with Kinan Azmeh
2016 Dutch Royal Palace for the Prince Klaus Foundation, with Kinan Azmeh
2016 Tanglewood, MA, Manuel De Falla's Master Peter's Puppet Show with the Knights
2016 National Sawdust, NYC, with Anaïs Tekerian

- 2015 Mucem, Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, Marseilles
2013 Mucem, Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, Marseilles

Videos:

- 2017 Orison, music by Layale Chaker
2017 Hints on Memory, music by Layale Chaker
2016 Even When He is Silent, music by Kim Andre Arnesen, with Manhattan Girls Chorus
2015 Lembit Beecher's chamber opera I Have No Stories to Tell You at Opera Philadelphia
2015 Barbed Wire, music by Issam Rafea, commissioned by The Space, UK
2012 Sad Morning Every Morning, music by Kinan Azmeh
2010 The Map of Future Movements, 2010 Liverpool Biennial

Residencies:

- Fountainhead, 2024
Doris Duke's Shangri La | Artists in Residence, 2017
Thessaloniki, Greece, 2015
Art Residence Aley, Lebanon, 2014

Awards:

- Robert Bosch Stiftung prize for short animation, 2016

Documentary:

- The Music of Strangers, dir. Morgan Neville

Commission:

- 2020 Spurlock Museum, Champaign, IL
2019 Aga Khan Museum/Ismaili Center, London
2018 Performance, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Film:

- Four Acts for Syria, short animation, to be released in 2018

Galleries:

- Galerie Tanit, Beirut
Studio La Città, Verona

Published on the occasion of the exhibition: Kevork Mourad, The Echoes Of Silent Bells
May 2026

Catalogue design by: SD Creatives Studio L.L.C.

Photography credit by: Mark Gurevich

Front Cover image
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Back cover image
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Conceptual statement by
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