



MIKE HOBBS & PAULINE BORTON  
MIXED MEDIA ARTISTS / CREATIVE PROJECTS



## Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton

Since 2021, Mike Hobbs and Pauline Borton have been workshoping together, investigating new methods of mark making and developing a visual language together.

In their personal capacities, Pauline has been exploring the intricate map of mycelial networks through photography, etching, and drawing; and Mike has been working primarily in photoshop to create abstract digital artworks that are sometimes delicate, sometimes filled with intensity - but always filled with movement and beauty, influenced by the magic of clouds, trees rustling in the wind, and the reflective surfaces of water.



Through this collaborative process they have been working with ever-morphing, abstracted, images- both digital and handmade, and seeing how these can be further manipulated through layering and experimenting with various materials.

They embrace not being restricted by space, and having a space where mess is the process, and the mess is the outcome. They work with fluid, moving and melting materials; that merge, repel each other and make each other disappear – the experience is tactile and engages with the senses in real-time. Some of the materials combined produce reactions that mimic how dangerous they can be under certain circumstances. One has to move quickly when working with these art materials and really be present the moment of making.



Mike sums up the experience well saying that its really about “what is in your head and heart, being expressed on paper”. More than anything their process has no set outcomes, but rather a focus on materiality and process.

The result is an intense multi layered collection of work, always retaining a combination of natural symbols with man made pattern. These works have the potential to spill off the page, out of the computer screen and onto swathes of fabric that engulf a person, trying to capture the feeling of plunging into a copper version of a black hole, a swirling rainbow of colours and movement.





Mike Hobbs





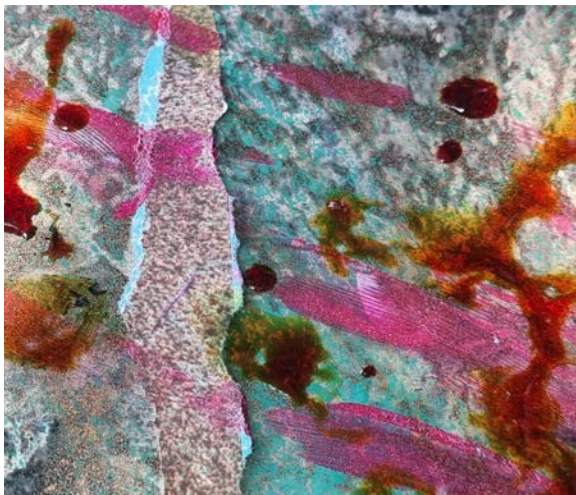
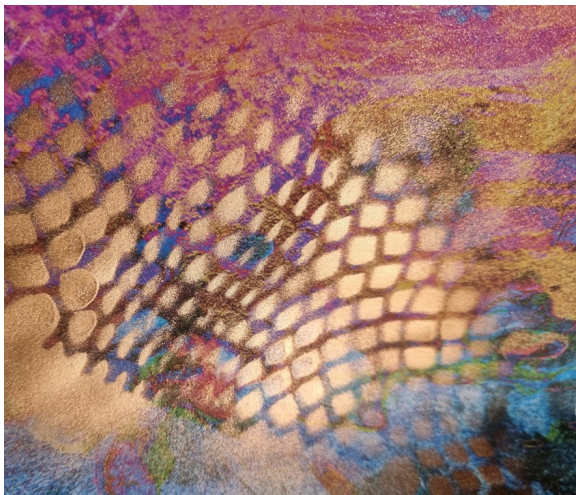
## Mike Hobbs

Mike Hobbs has a decades long career in the advertising industry as an art director/conceptualiser, which has taken him between the UK, South Africa, and Italy. After years abroad, he returned to South Africa with his family and eventually started his own agency, which lasted for 18 years.

Since then, he has found the time to indulge his passion for drawing, painting, and photography which was developed during his years at art school in the UK, often under the tutorship of Pop Artist- Peter Blake. During these more recent years, he has re-worked many of his older artworks while developing completely new works, through the interplay of analogue and digital processes. These processes of digitising and manipulating images through editing software has completely captivated Mike, as old pieces become almost unrecognisable, and others retained their visual integrity but took on different meanings and associations.

Mike loves to watch an image grow, morph and transform at his fingertips and feels empowered by the process of digital image-making as the possibilities are literally endless. He has read copious amounts of literature about various movements and artists and the journey from modern art-making to contemporary art-making

This process has assisted Hobbs in achieving a more mature exploration of the abstract art genre. Presently, he has no set agenda or mission, but is rather focusing on his personal development across these various new media, while creating new works that are visually intriguing and accessible to wider audiences.







Pauline Borton

## Pauline Borton

Pauline was born in 1985 and lives in Johannesburg. She obtained her Honours in Visual Arts from UNISA, with her research founded in concepts that explore construction of social space, including the role of the imagination in defining and affirming a sense of belonging and identity. She enjoys problem solving and developing creative strategies.

She feels that you can't work in Joburg and not be open to working with diverse people. Pauline believes that creativity has the power to change the world, in that it's a different mode of communication that should be explored more as it breaks down barriers and boundaries.

Recently she has started courses in Community Arts Counselling and Biomimicry and is exploring the ways in which art and growing have the potential to overlap and serve as safe spaces for nurturing, and collective care.

Given her background in connecting people and spaces, and her new research into growing and greening; her recent artworks focus on fungi and mycelial networks, and how these become metaphors for social, and often hidden, connections between people and all living things. There are very practical reasons to develop a reverence for mycelia & mushrooms which include their place in our ecosystem, in the soil food web, as powerful natural forces that can create conditions for decay, decomposition, dissolving and regeneration, which are vital actions for all life.





A composition of a working collage in the Hobbs and Borton studio. A glimpse of our creative cycle. A beginning, a middle and an end, that produces a new artwork for us to start the creative process all over again – a looping system of image making and material exploration. The end is really the beginning of the next chapter







HERB

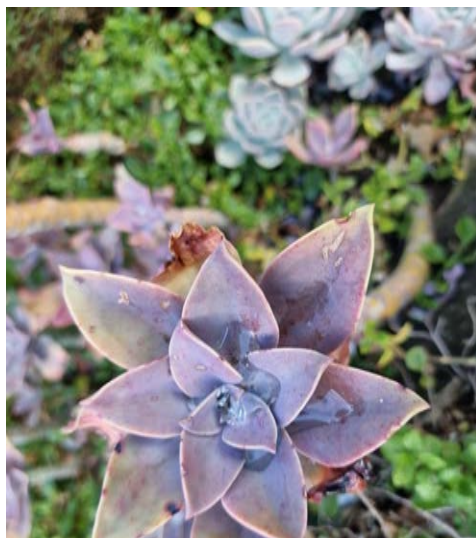
# RADIANCE

Inspired by our beautiful world



















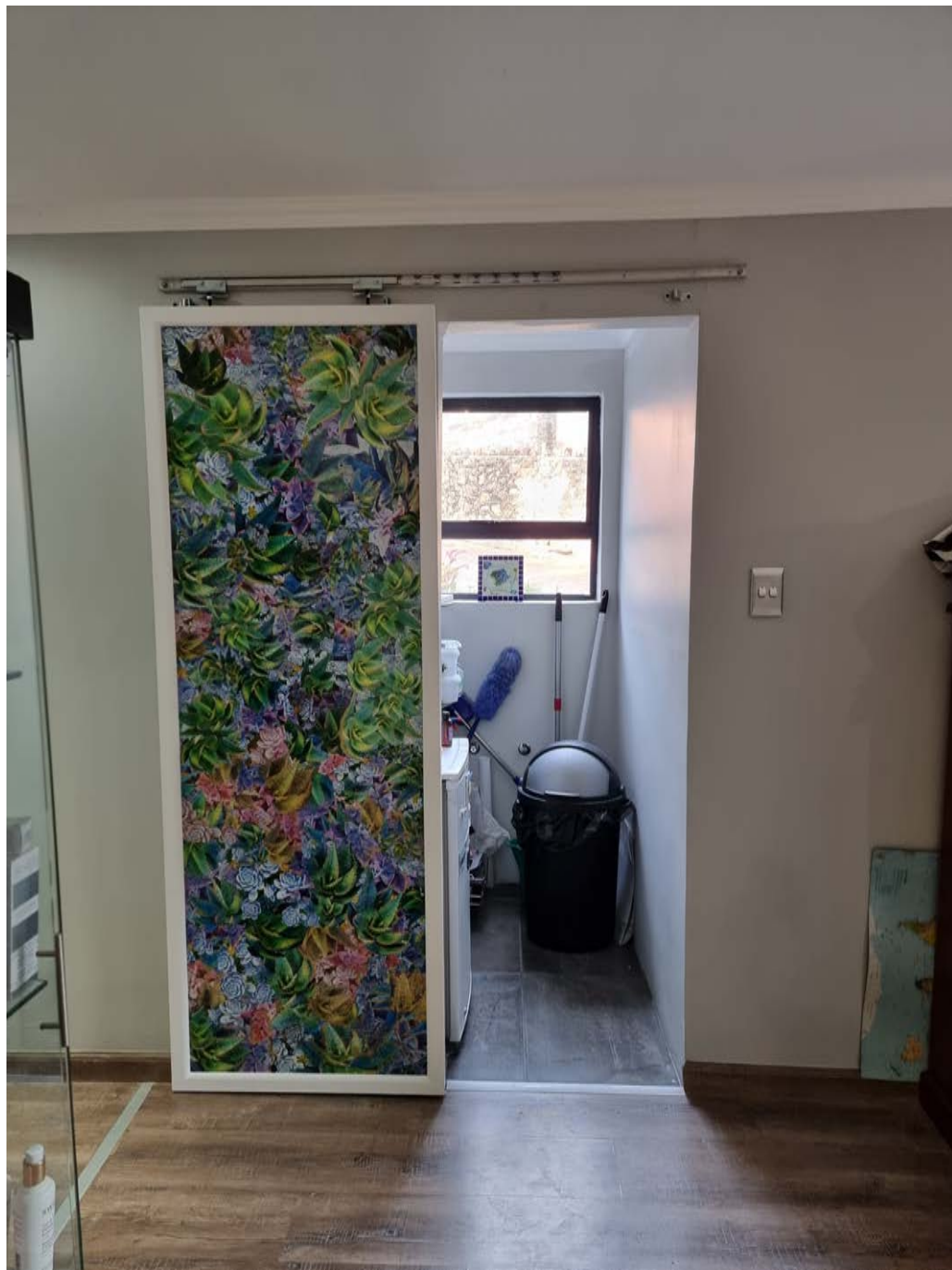


























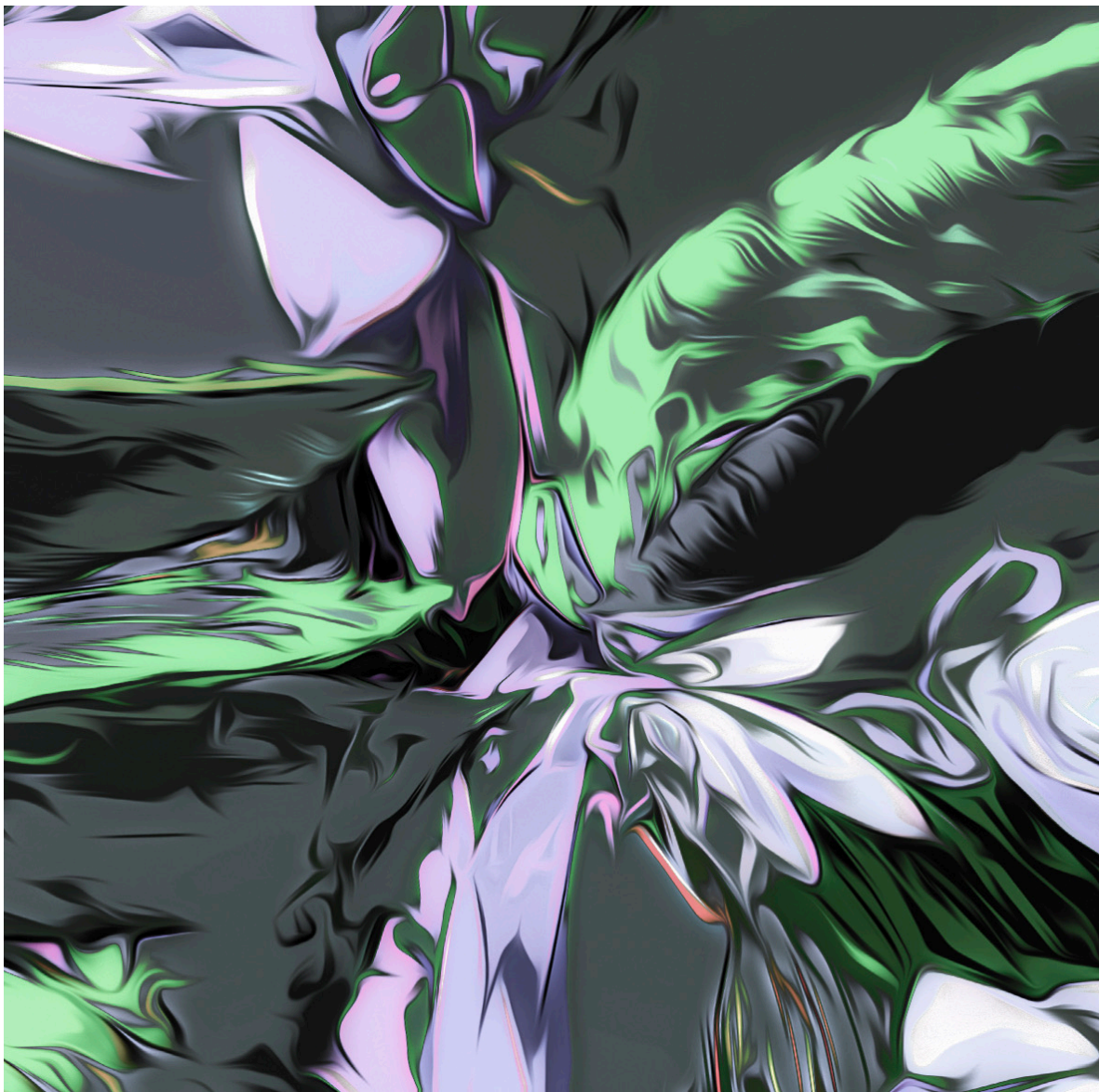




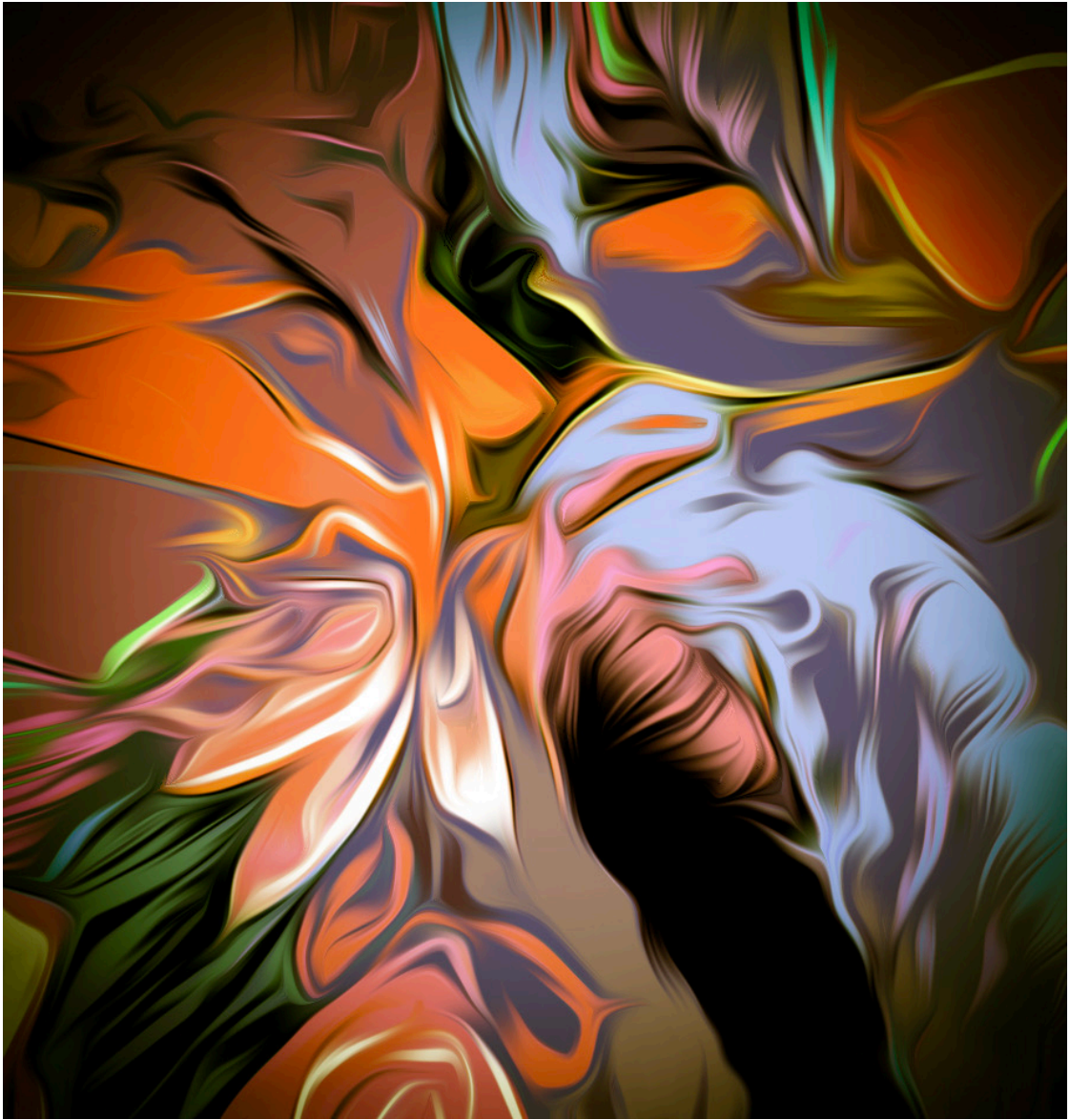




















# OFF THE FLOOR

Inspired by being a little off the wall



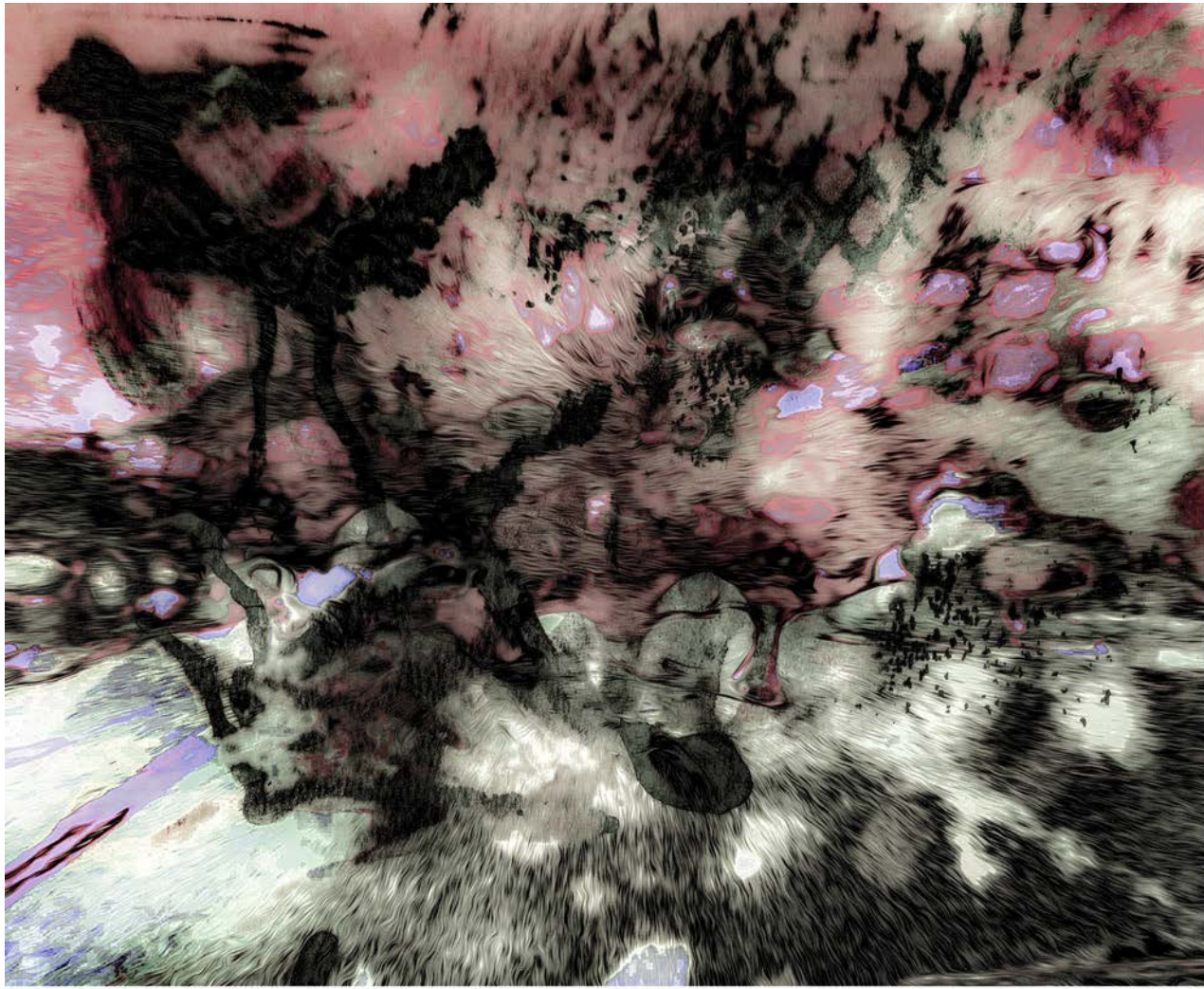


Over The Top & Off The Grid.

Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022

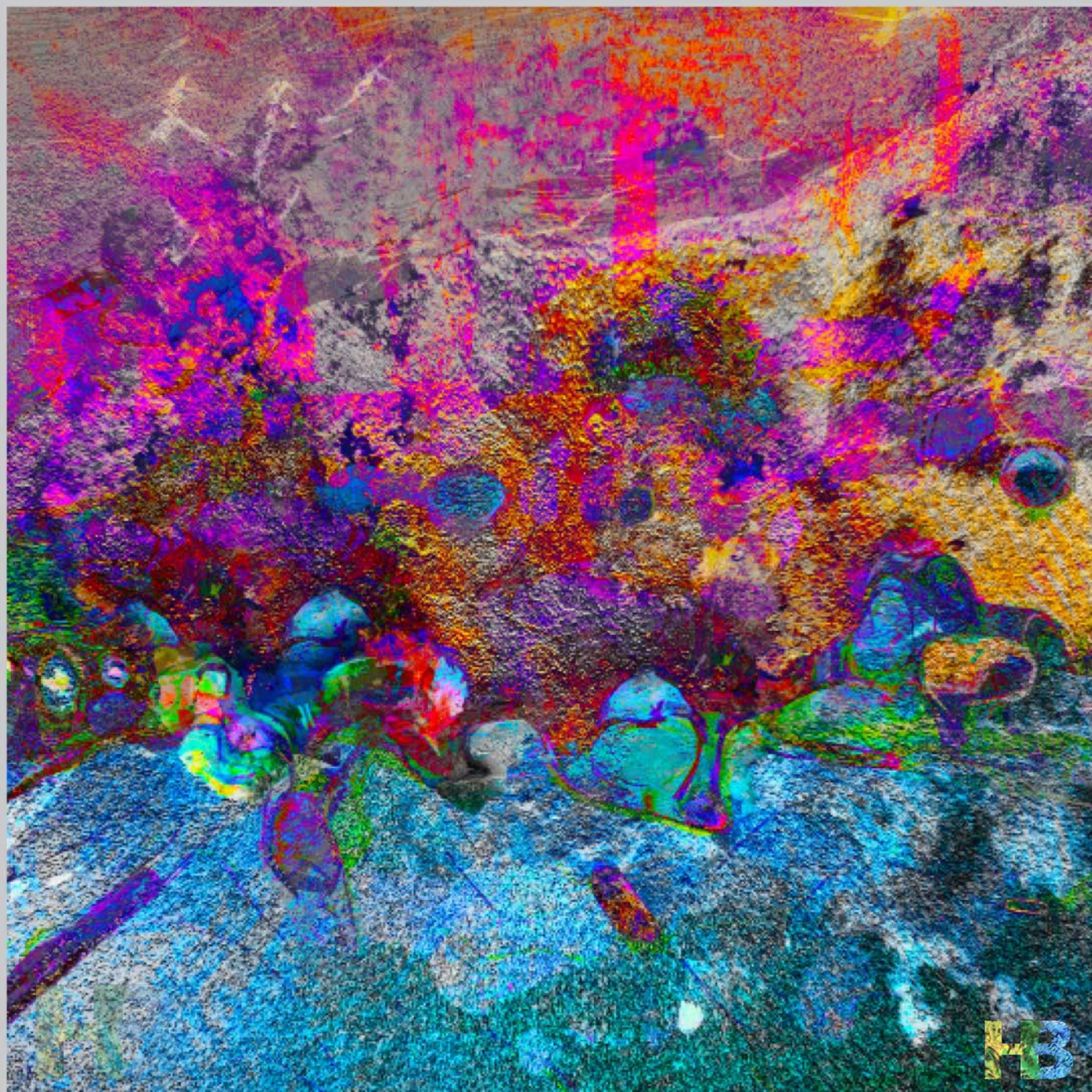




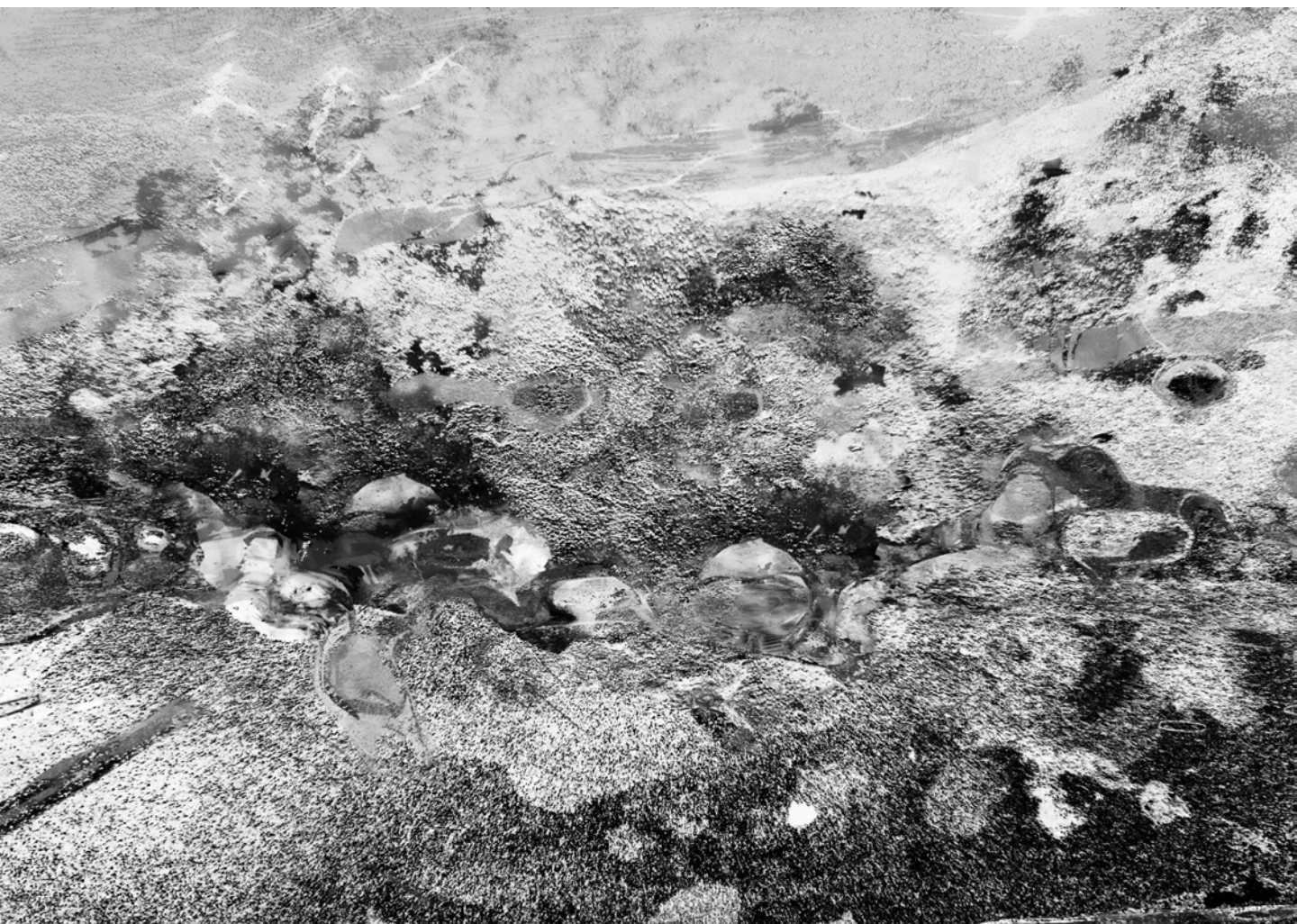


Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton, 2022

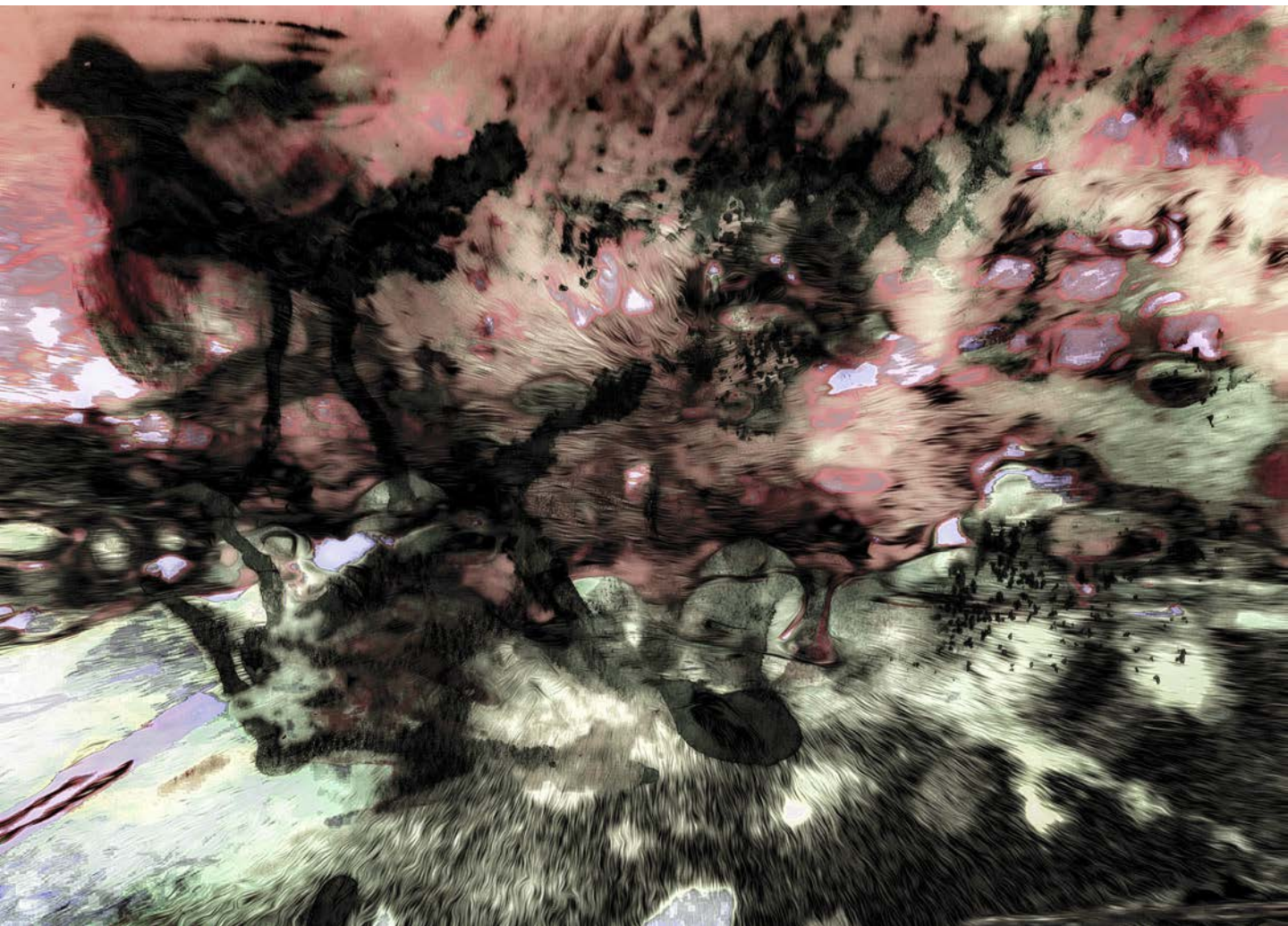




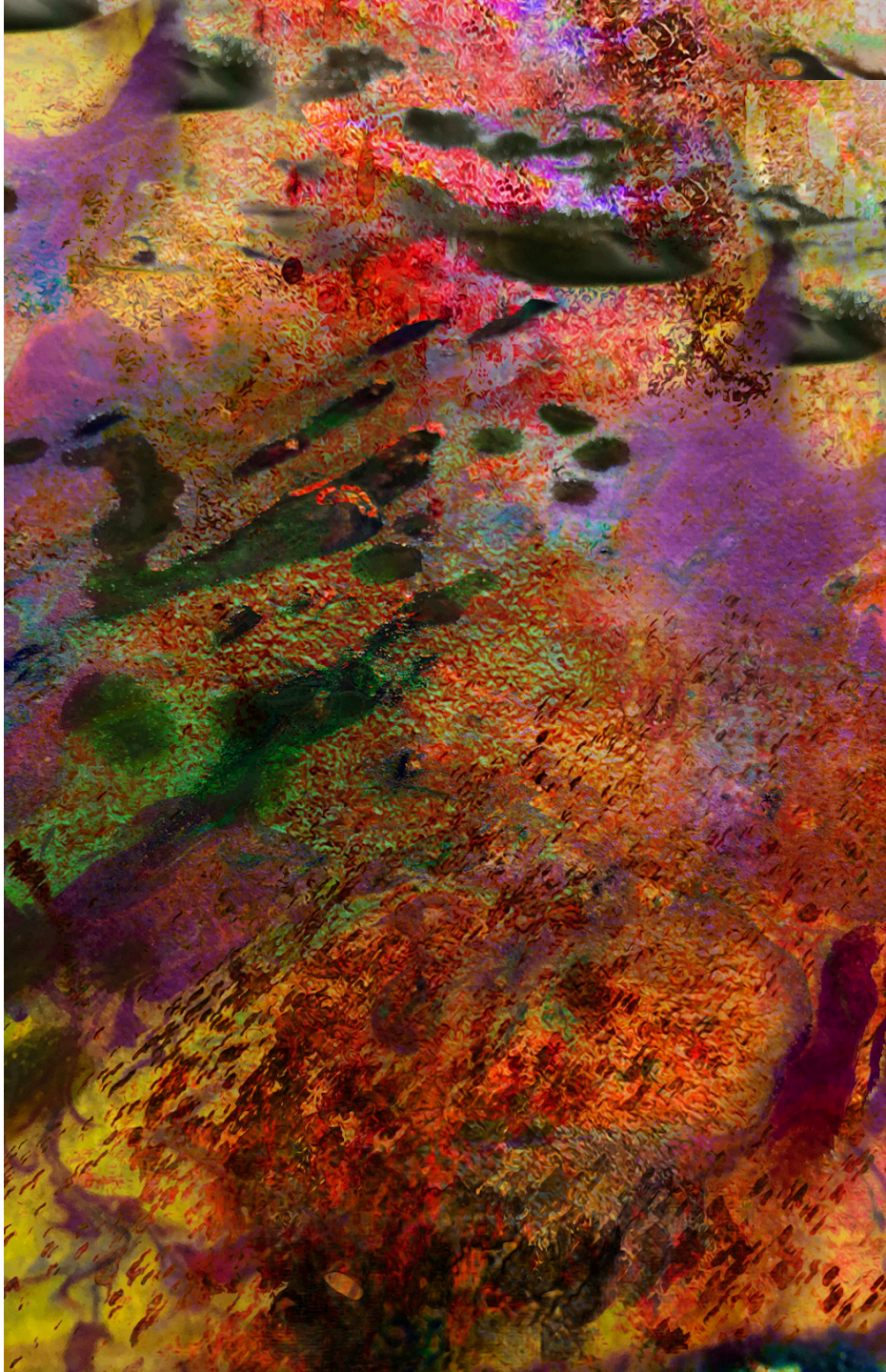




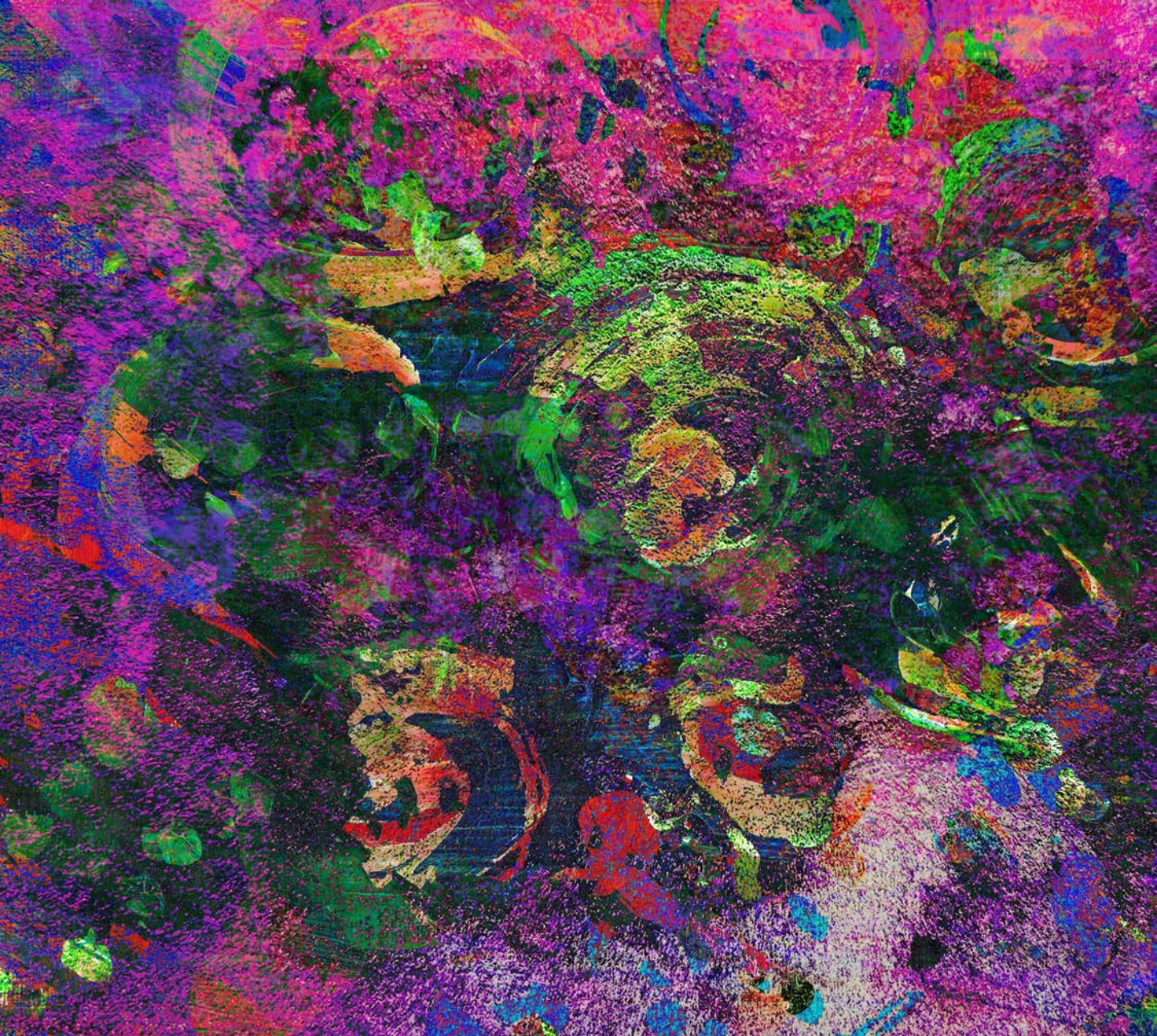
















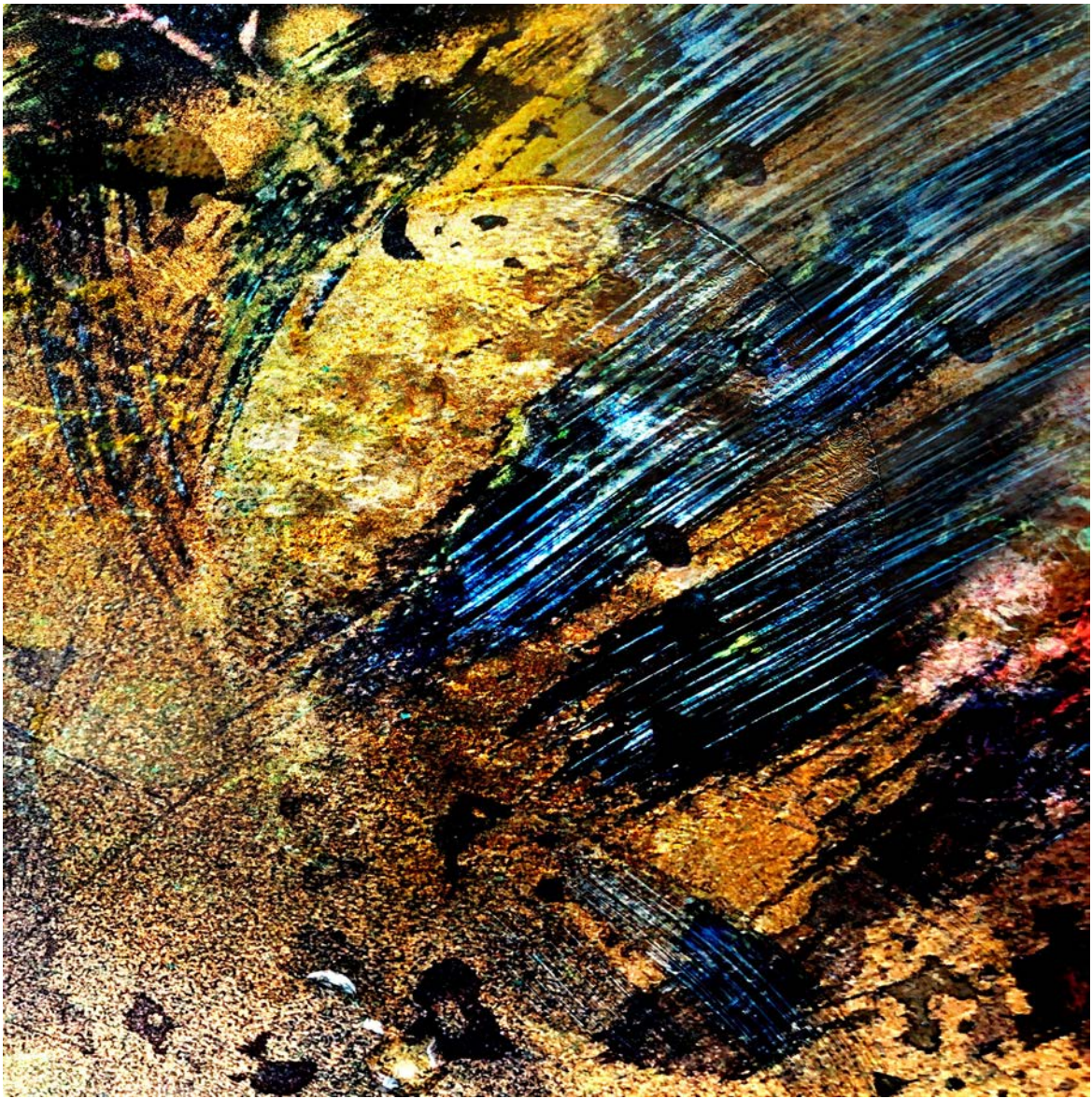




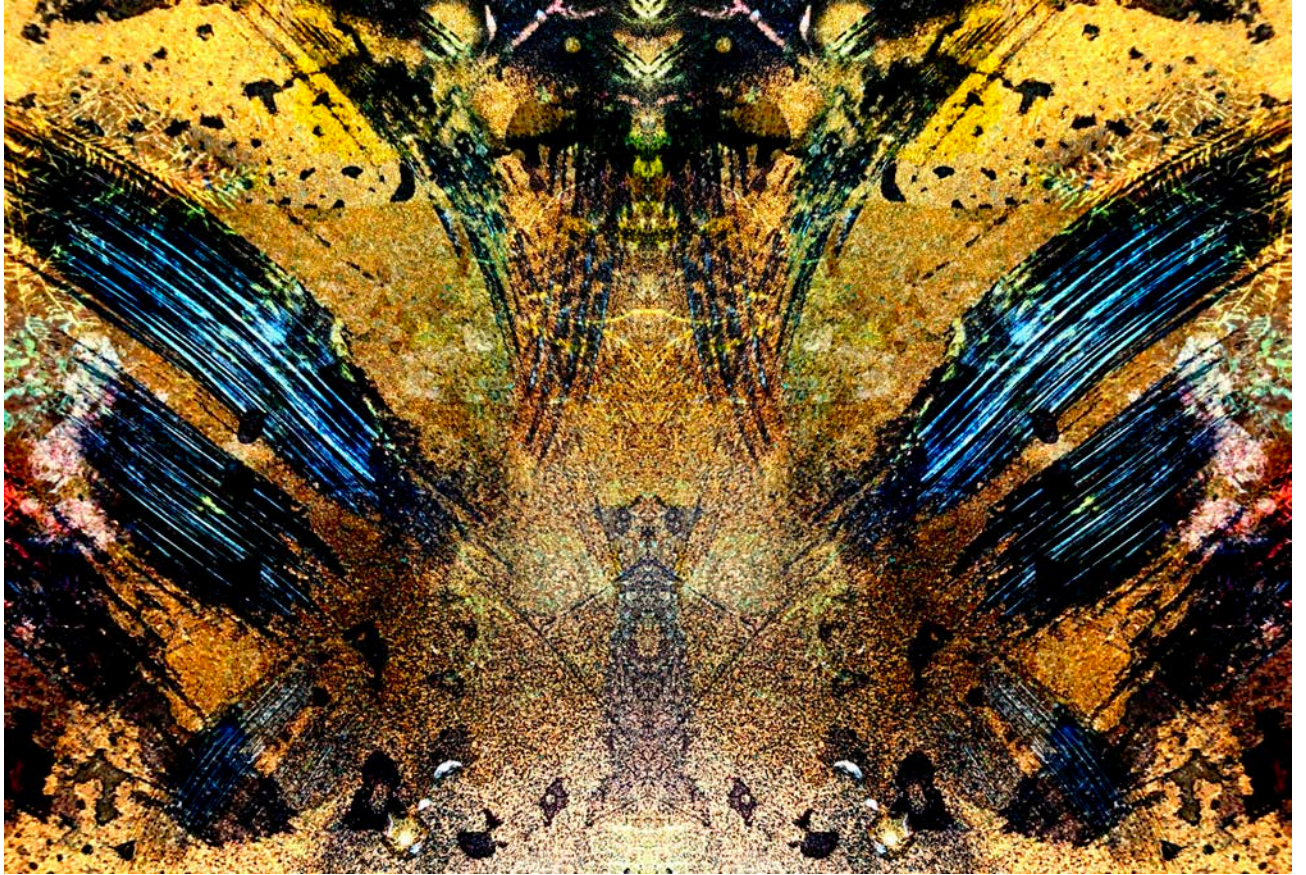
Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022

*An African Tree.*

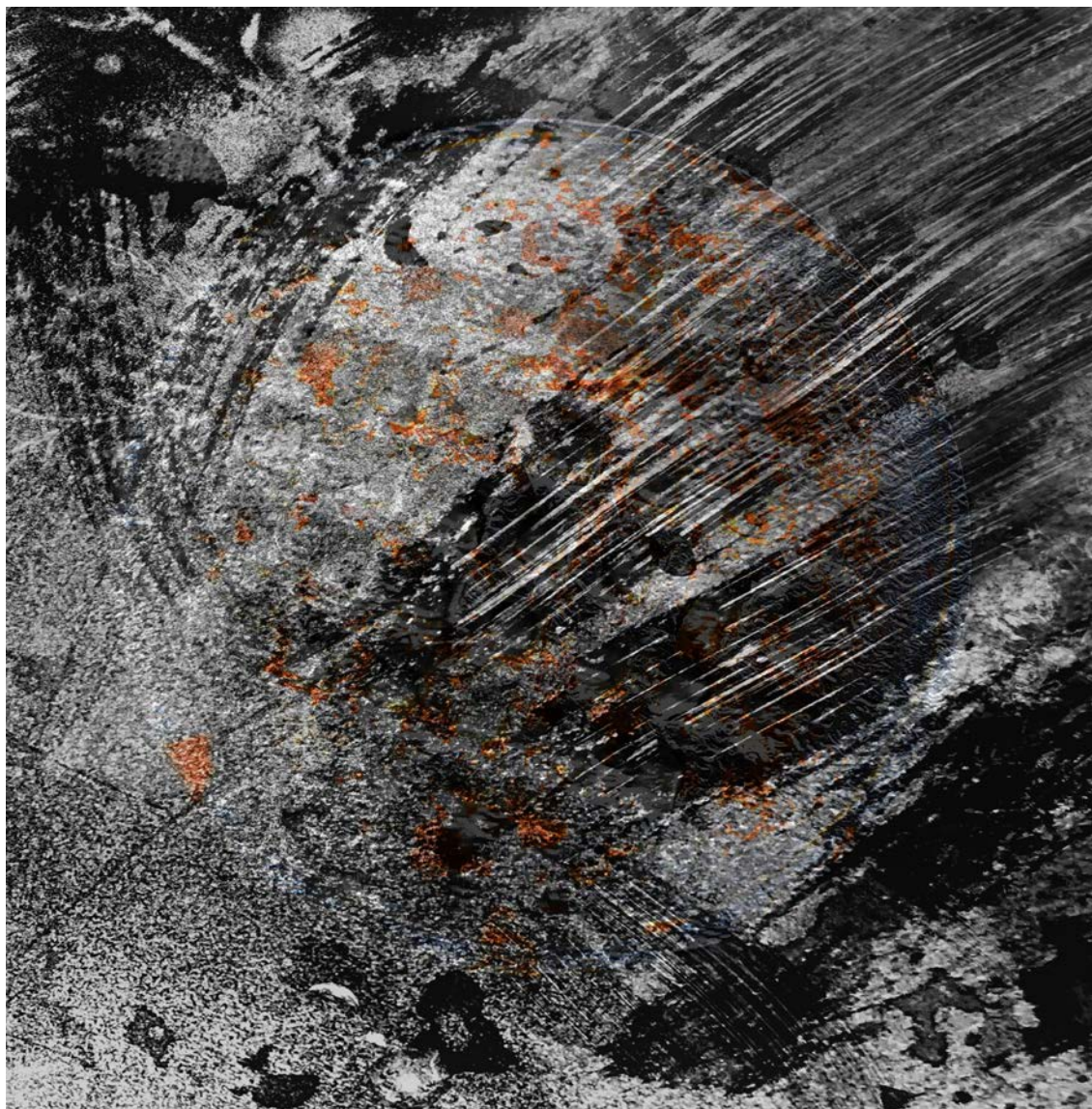












Black Coffee.

Mikez Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2002









*Dazzling in Silver.*

Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022





*Dispossessed.*

*Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022*

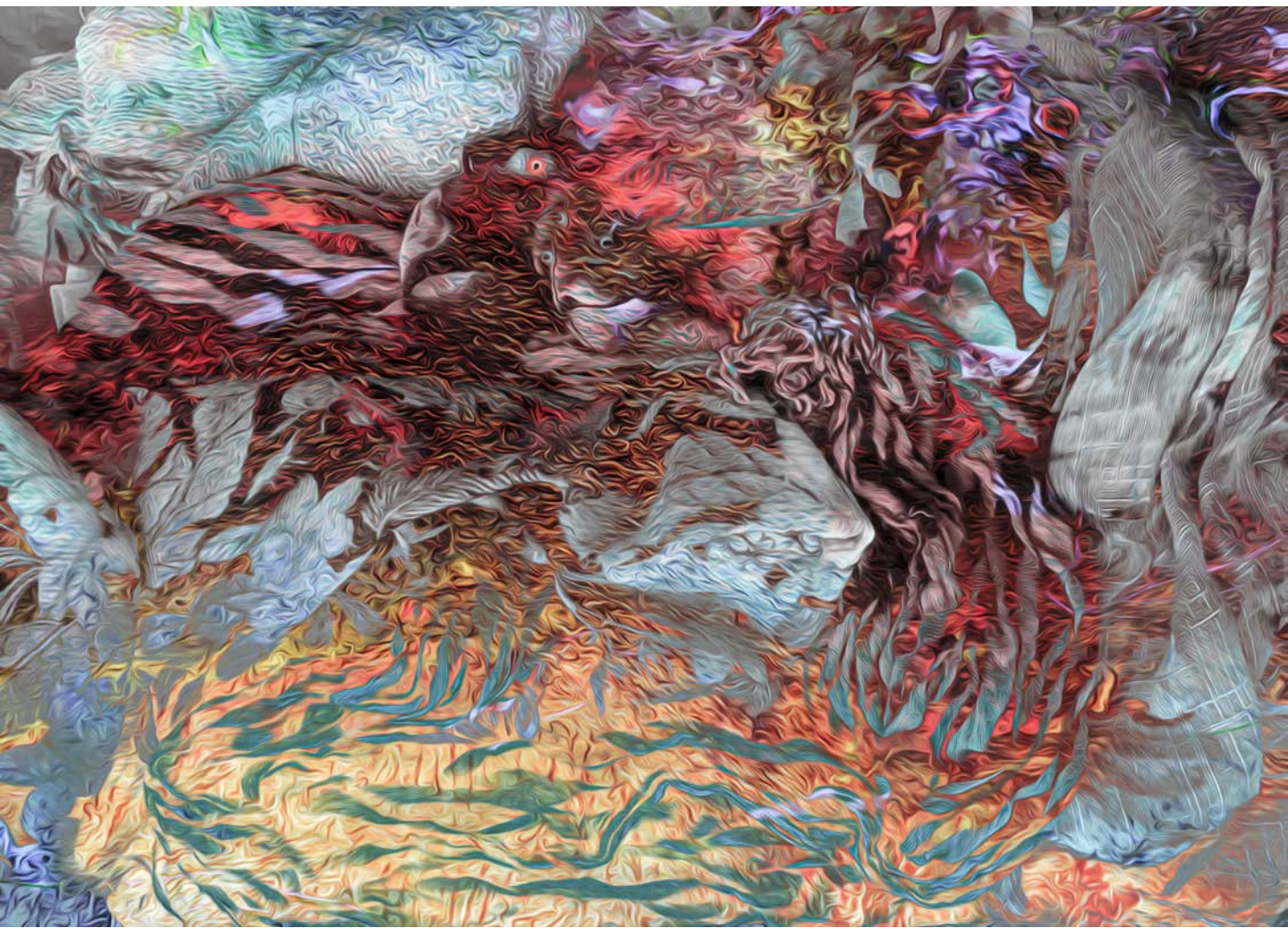




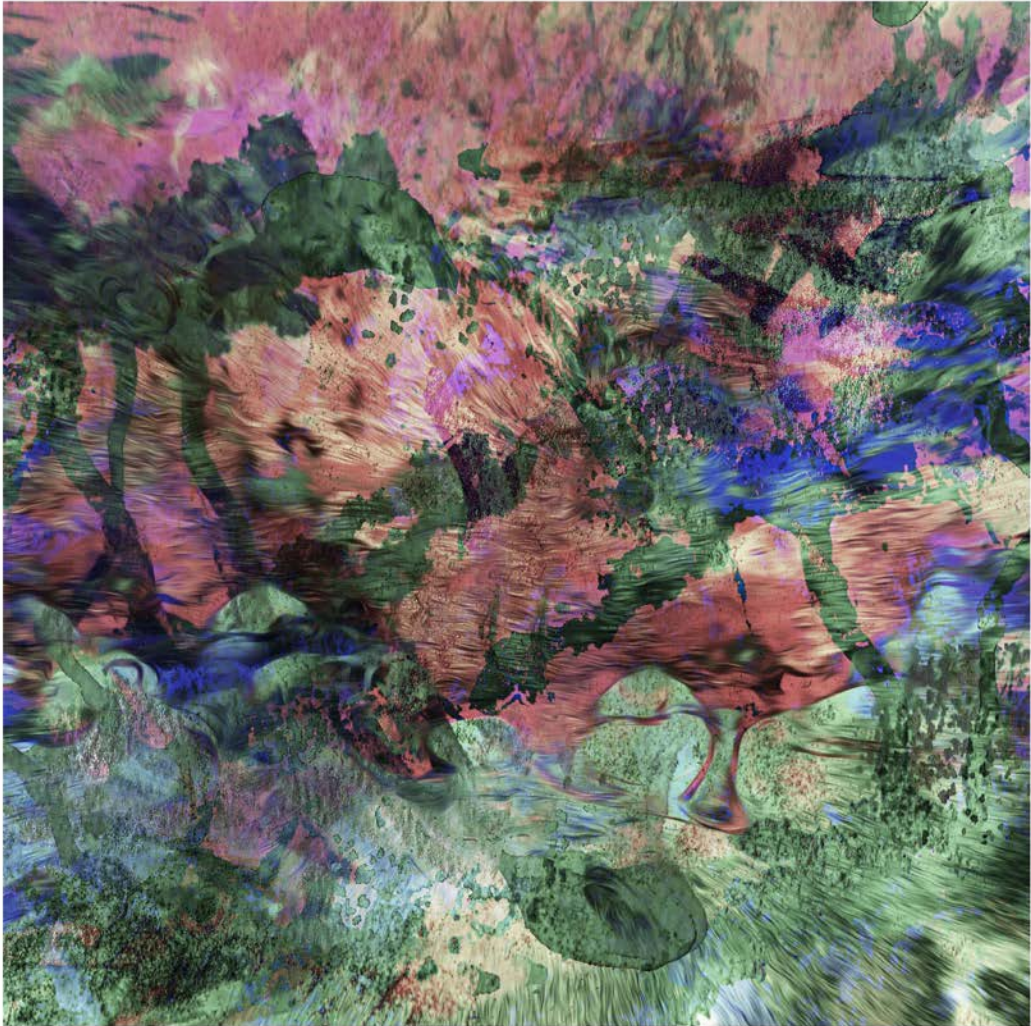




























# NIRVANA

Inspired by the mountains





















Stonehill Feeling.

Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022





Stonehill Collage

Miraz Hobbs & Pauline Barton / 2002

































Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022

*The Stonehill Feeling.*







*Stonehill Feeling 3.*

Mike Hobbs & Pauline Borton / 2022



























Stonehill Feeling

Mike Hobbes & Pauline Borton / 2022



















# NOUVEAU UNIVERSE

Inspired by nature's theatre













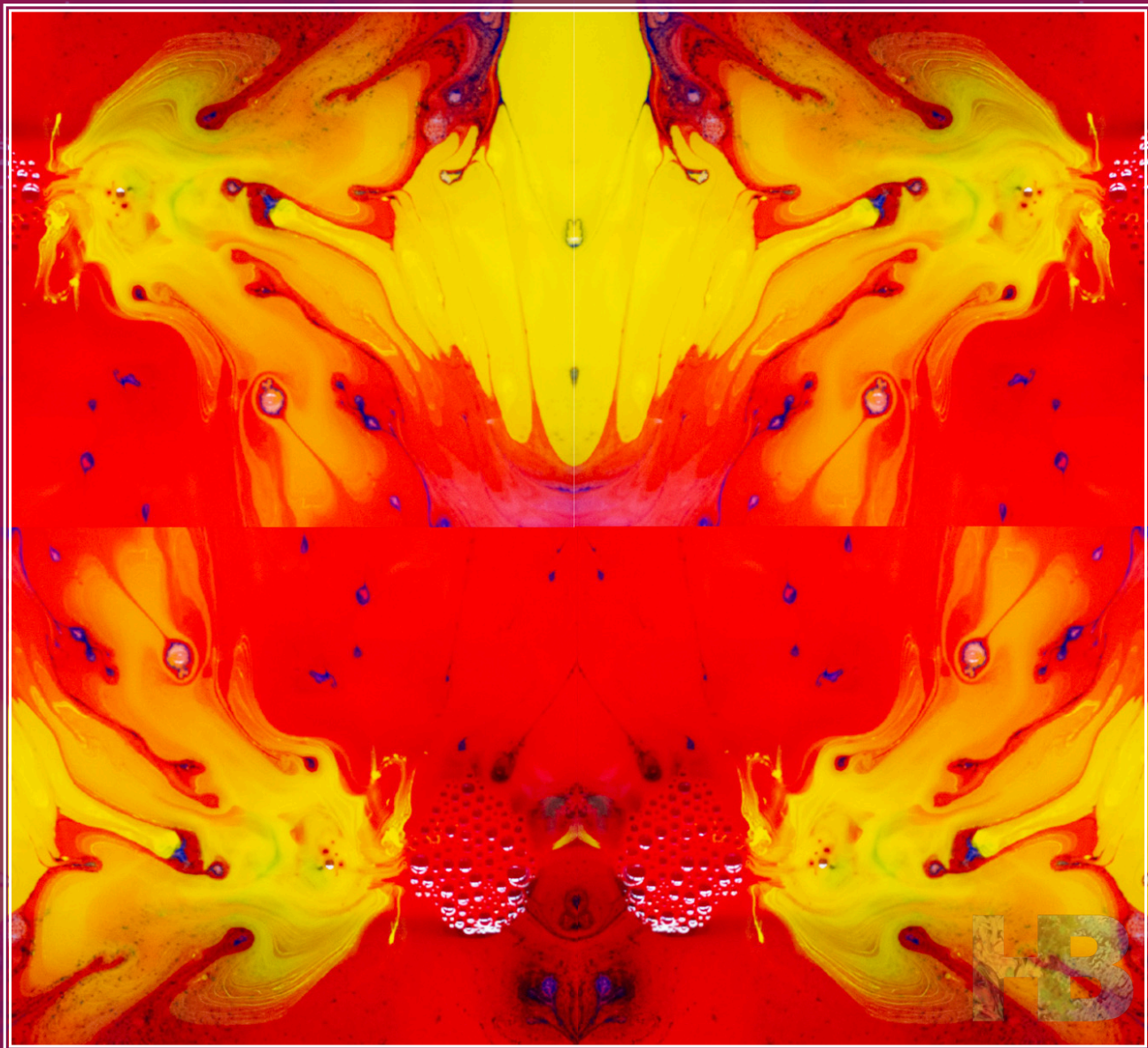




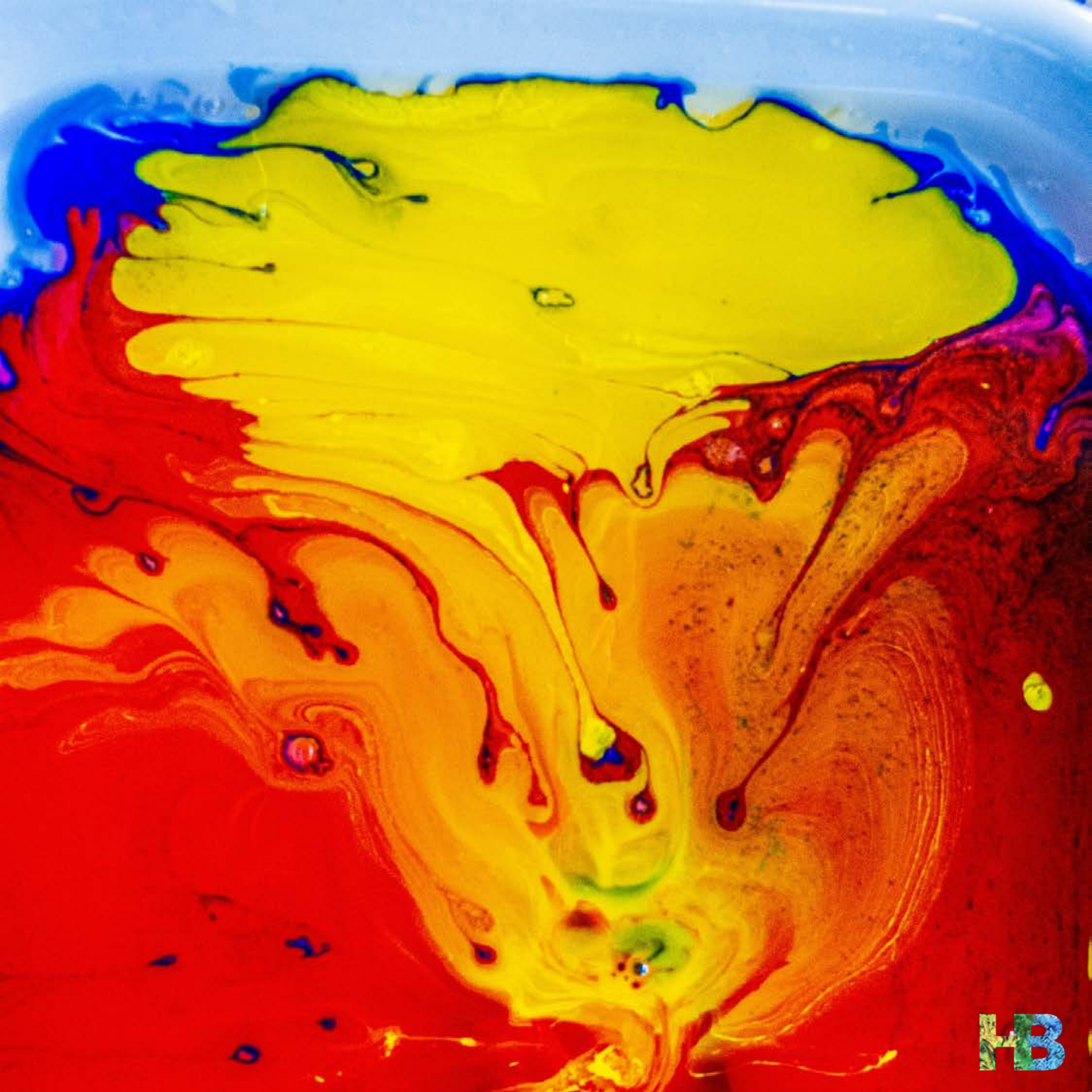
















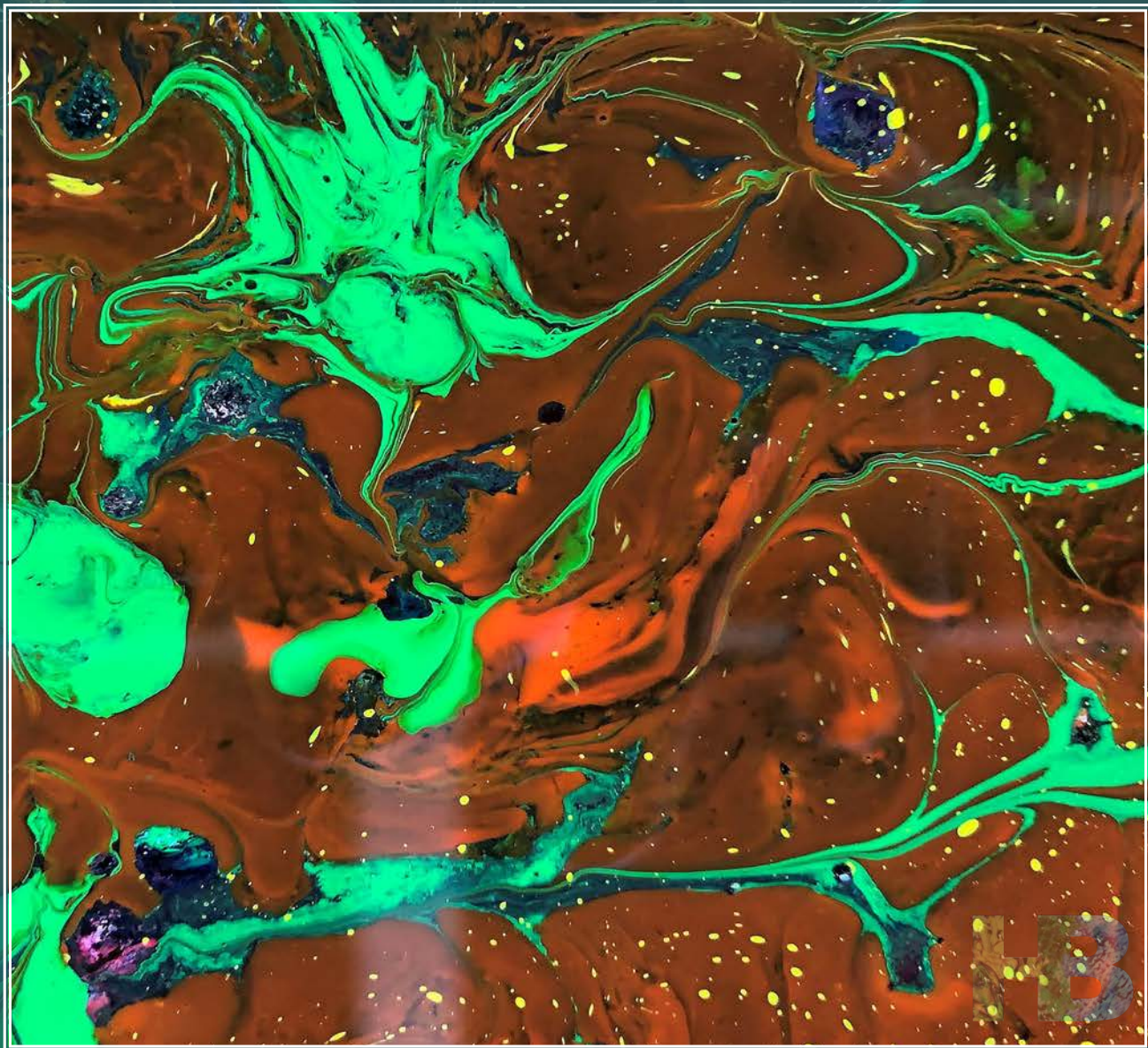




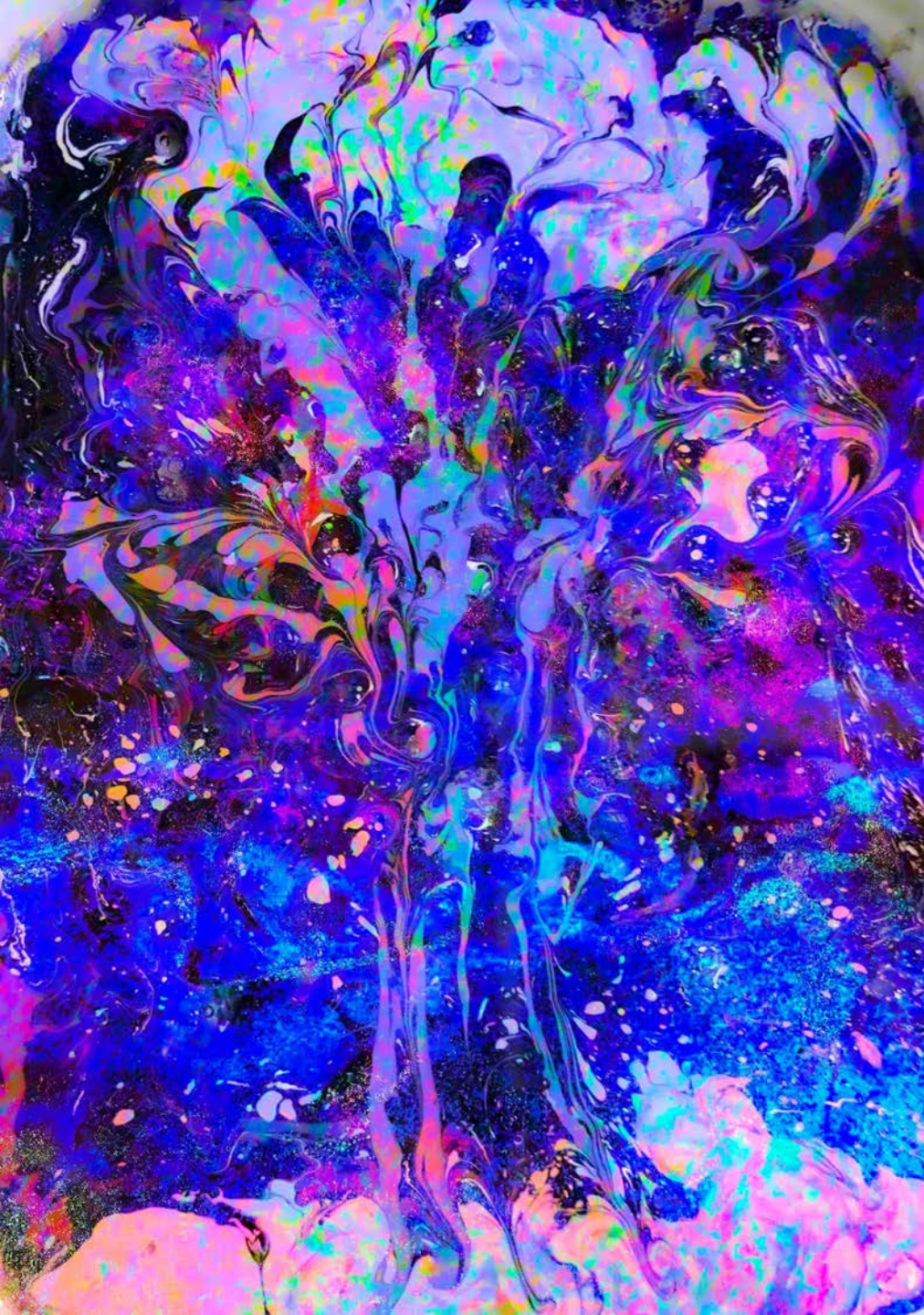




































# VARNISH

The finishing touch













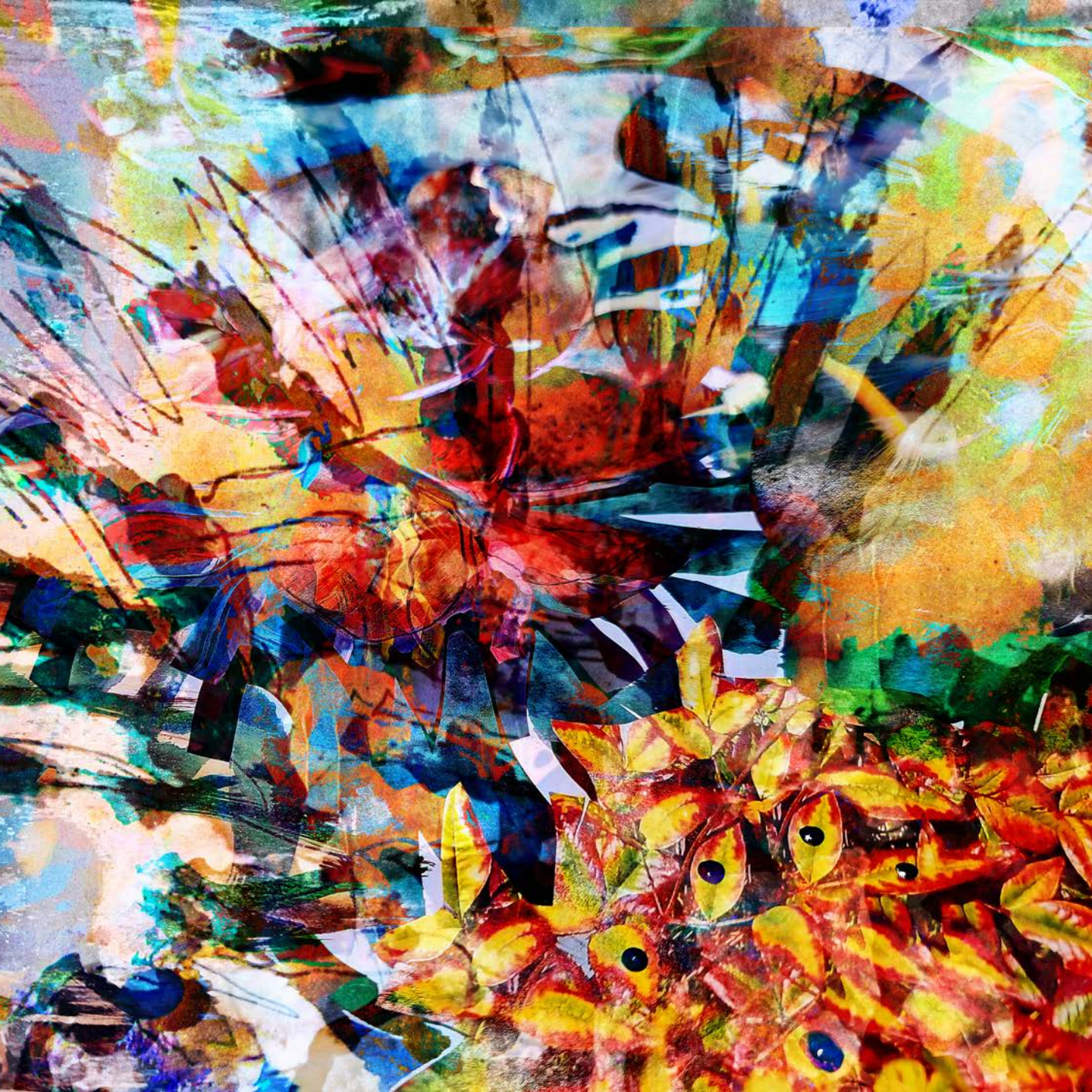
















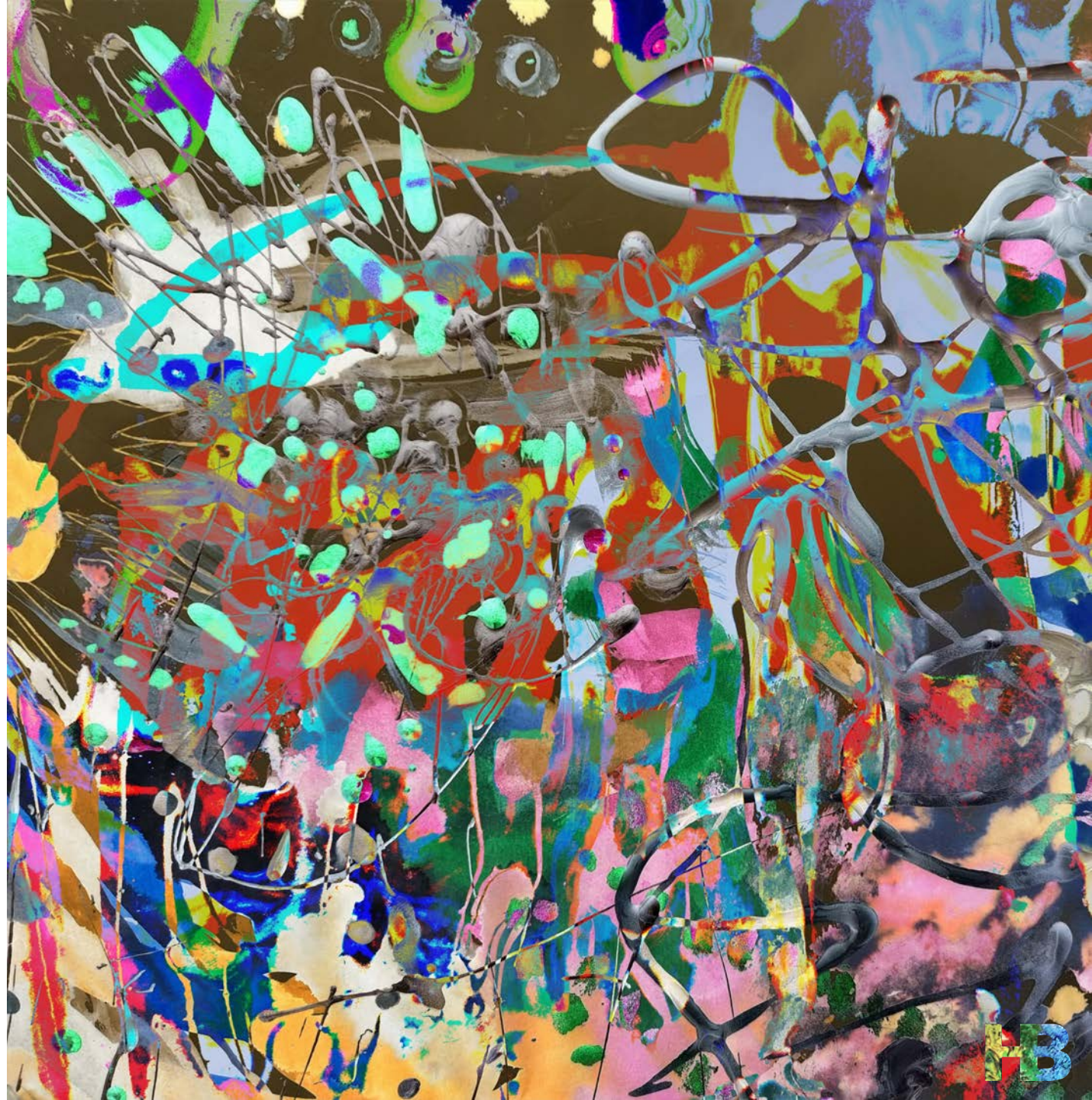












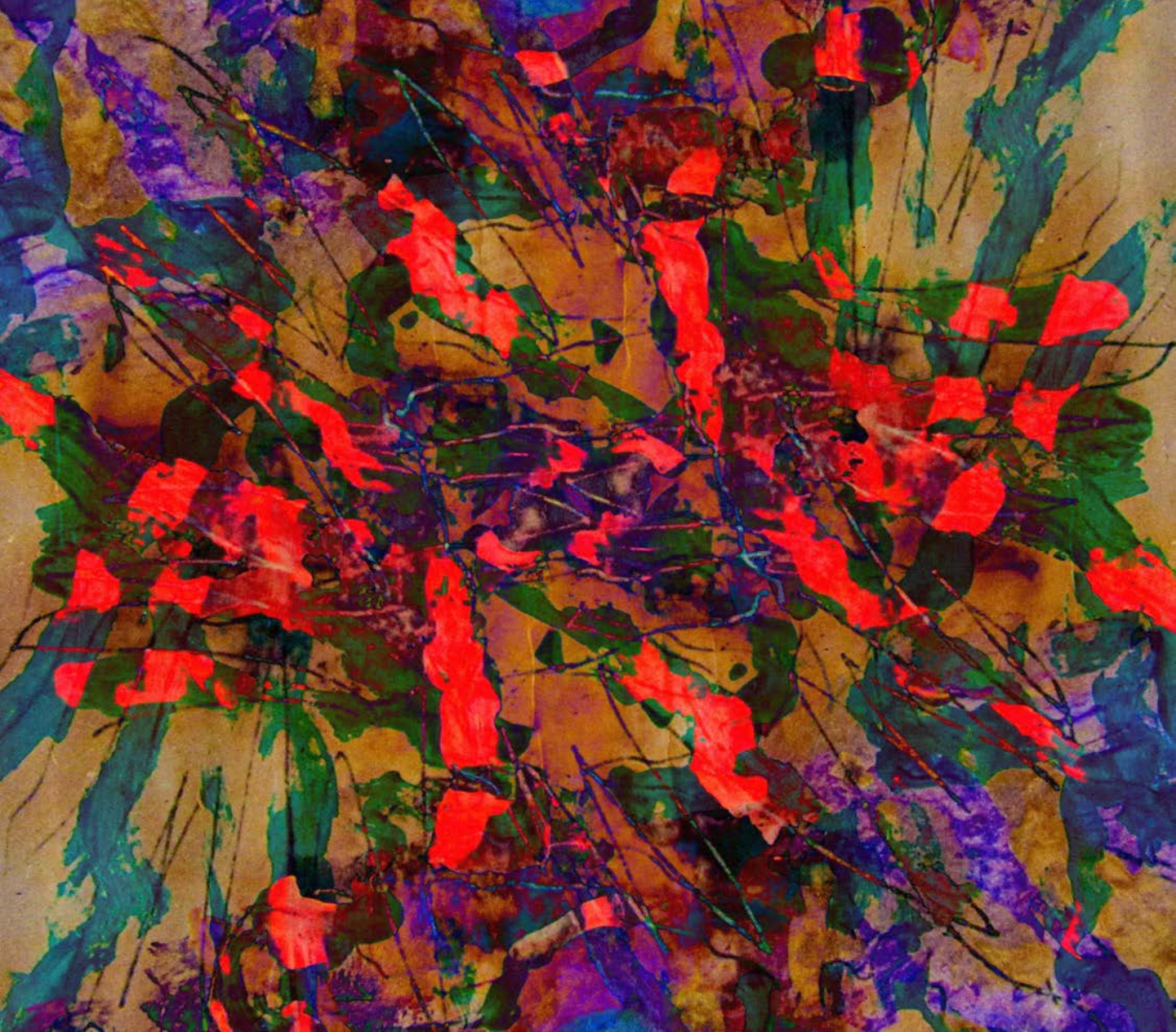














































The image is a complex abstract collage. A large, semi-transparent circular frame is centered over a background of layered, torn paper and various ink washes. The colors are predominantly earthy and muted, including shades of brown, tan, and grey, with vibrant splashes of teal, green, and blue. The collage includes various textures, some resembling ink splatters, others like torn paper edges, and some with faint, illegible text or patterns. The overall effect is one of depth and artistic layering.

# INK SERIES





























# LIQUID TEXTILES





















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