



SAMANTHA CLARK
portfolio

Samantha Clark is a visual artist and writer based in the Orkney islands and working internationally.

Originally trained as a tapestry weaver, her practice has evolved over thirty years through writing, drawing, installation, video and permanent works in the public realm, seeking a poetic alchemy of art, science and contemplative practice. Her current work is focused on drawing and painting, shaped by Orkney's deeply layered human histories and its dynamic natural environment of wind, sky and particularly water.

Inspired by James Joyce's claim that in the particular is contained the universal, Clark's work invites a recalibration towards slowness, stillness and attentiveness, proposing these as a means to connect us more deeply to our own awareness and our place, and sensitise us to the web of interdependency and water-borne kinship that supports us.

Water permeates everything. We all move between varying degrees of wetness in a world of water: sea, lake, stream, aquifer, cloud, mist, rain, fog, vapour, tears, sweat, piss, in a liquid reality that interpenetrates our own bodies and minds. Water is the element most visibly disrupted by the climate and environmental crisis. Increasing floods and persistent droughts, pollution, over-extraction, ocean acidification and melting glaciers all bring into question our exploitative relationship with this most vital of elements.

In contrast to the quick mutability of water, Clark's drawing process is a slow and meditative practice, a patient accretion of simple marks that results in intricate forms resembling sea foam, cloud forms or wave patterns. Mark-making takes the brief moment of the hand's movement and holds it still, recorded in the mark that remains. The slow, repetitive method she employs makes each drawing a receptacle of time, a net that gathers up these moments so they are visible in a single instant that shows the timespan of the drawing's own making. She often uses reflective and iridescent media such as silver leaf and chrome ink in combination with acrylic and gouache to build up surfaces that change, as water does, with each shift of light and angle of view.

The counterintuitive truth that Joyce expresses is that by going deep into our own experience we are able to meet others in theirs. If water can be understood as the connective tissue of the natural world, art can be seen as the connective tissue of the human spirit. By connecting us more deeply to ourselves, and to each other across time and space, art helps us realise how much we share with each other and the natural world we're all immersed in.

This then, is the paradoxical aspiration of a practice that is quiet, repetitive, often solitary, that bears the hallmarks of an introvert nature, and that responds to an island location many would consider 'remote': to connect.



Installation at Royal Scottish Academy, 2022

BIOGRAPHY: Awarded the inaugural RSA MacRobert Art Award for Painting 2023

Previous exhibitions include the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh (2022), Devonport Regional Art Gallery, Australia (2015), Northern Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sunderland (2011), Kunstnernes Hus Oslo, Norway (2010), CAST, Tasmania (2007), Kasakadenkondensator, Basel (2005) and West Space, Melbourne (2001). Residencies include Banff Center for the Arts (2021), Cove Park (2020), Wysing Arts (2005), IAAB Basel (2004), Tasmanian School of Art at Hobart (2000), Grizedale Arts (2000), Oxford University and the British School at Rome (1999). Public art commissions include The Balfour Hospital (2019), Great Ormond Street Hospital (2005), Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (2005) and Auchterarder High School (2004). Her work has been supported by The Scottish Arts Council, The National Library of Scotland, The Royal Scottish Academy, The British Council, The Carnegie Trust, and The Royal Society for the Arts. Her first book, 'The Clearing,' was published by Little, Brown in March 2020. Public collections include the Royal Scottish Academy, the National Library of Scotland, University College London, NHS Lothians, and NHS Orkney.



selected public art

'FLOW', 30 METRE MURAL IN BALFOUR HOSPITAL, KIRKWALL
Completed 2019







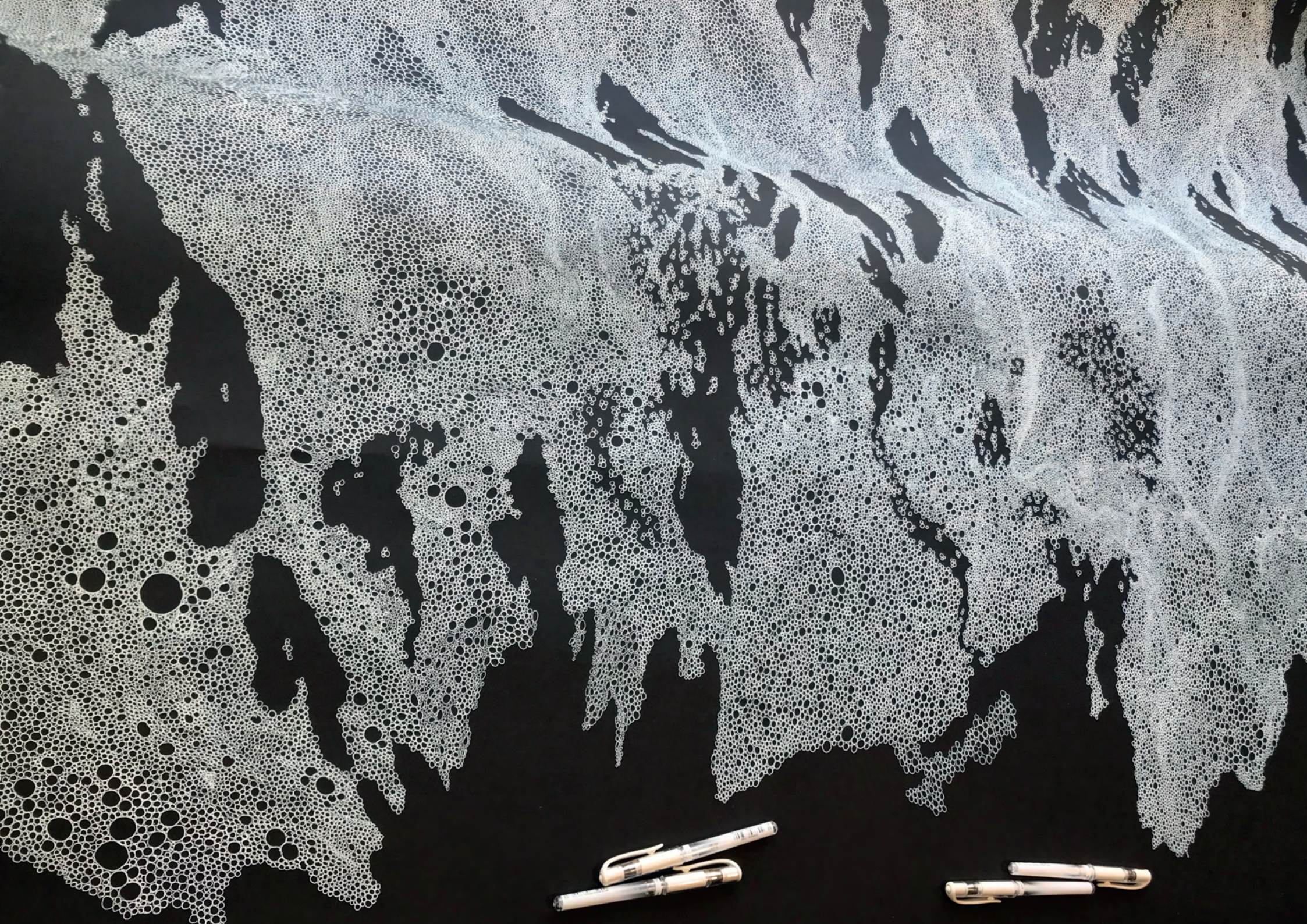


selected exhibitions

CONFLUENCE AT NORTHLIGHT GALLERY, STROMNESS
9 - 20 September 2023









RESEARCH + PRACTICE AT THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY, EDINBURGH
3 September - 2 October 2022



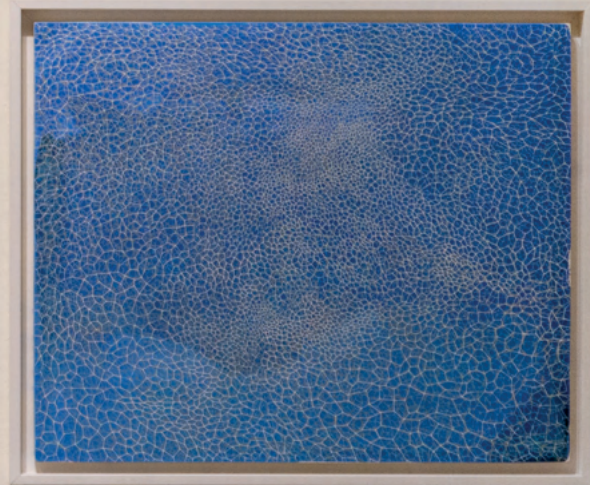




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selected drawings and paintings



EDGELESSNESS

2022, Gouache, pigment
ink and chrome ink on
aluminium panel,
90cm x 110cm



ADRIFT

2022, Gouache, pigment
ink and aluminium leaf on
aluminium panel,
90cm x 110cm



FLOATING EDGES

2020, Gouache, gesso
and pigment ink on
cradled board
41cm x 51 cm



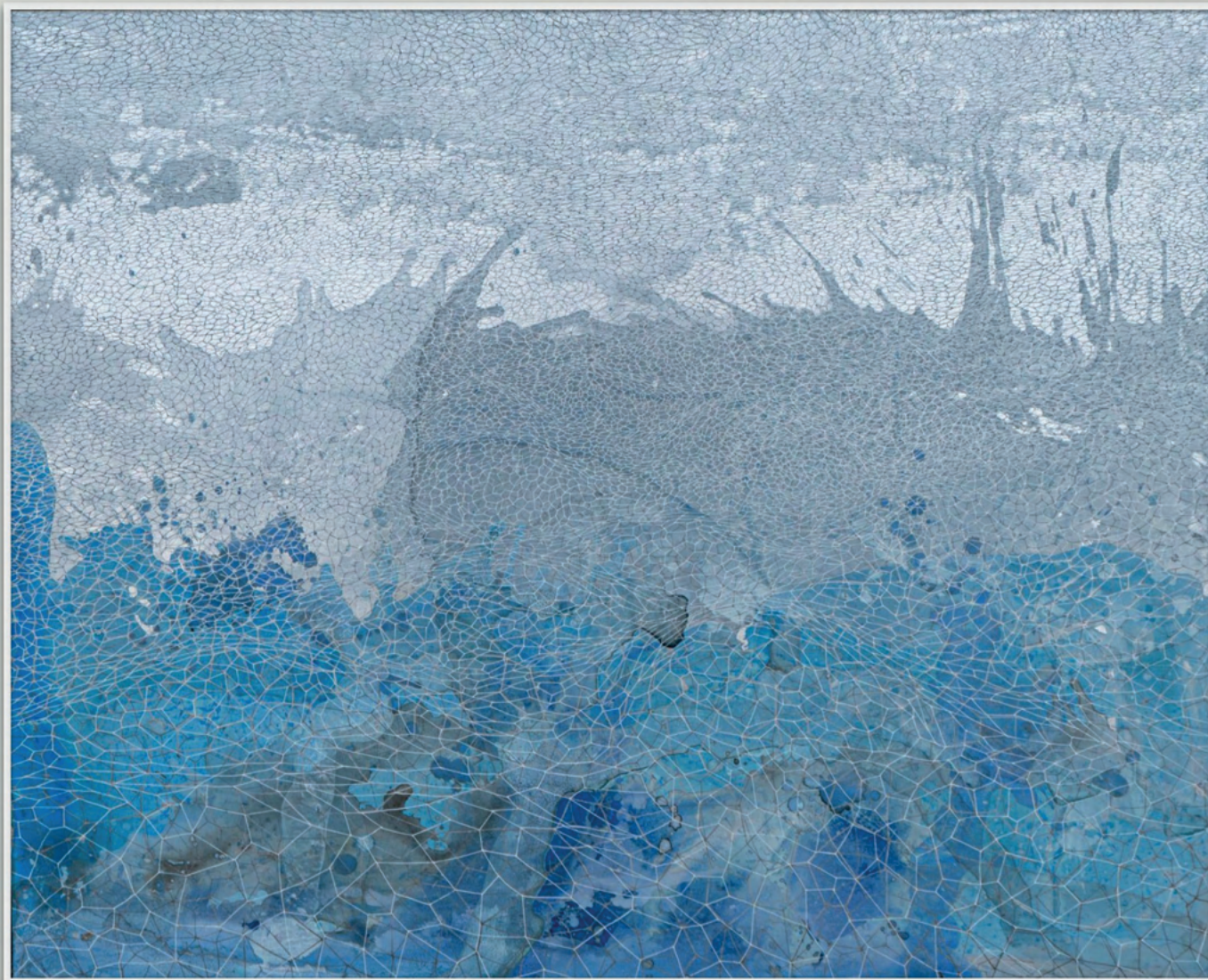
FROM YESNABY

2022, Gouache, pigment
ink and aluminium leaf on
aluminium panel,
90cm x 110cm



HARD FROST

2021, aluminium leaf, pigment ink, silver ink, acrylic, mica on cradled board, 41cm x 41cm



IMMERSE

2022, Gouache, pigment
ink and aluminium leaf on
aluminium panel,
90cm x 110cm



SHIMMERING

2023, Gouache and
pigment ink on paper
27cm x 40cm



SEA FRET

2022, Gouache, pigment
ink and aluminium leaf on
cradled board
41cm x 51cm



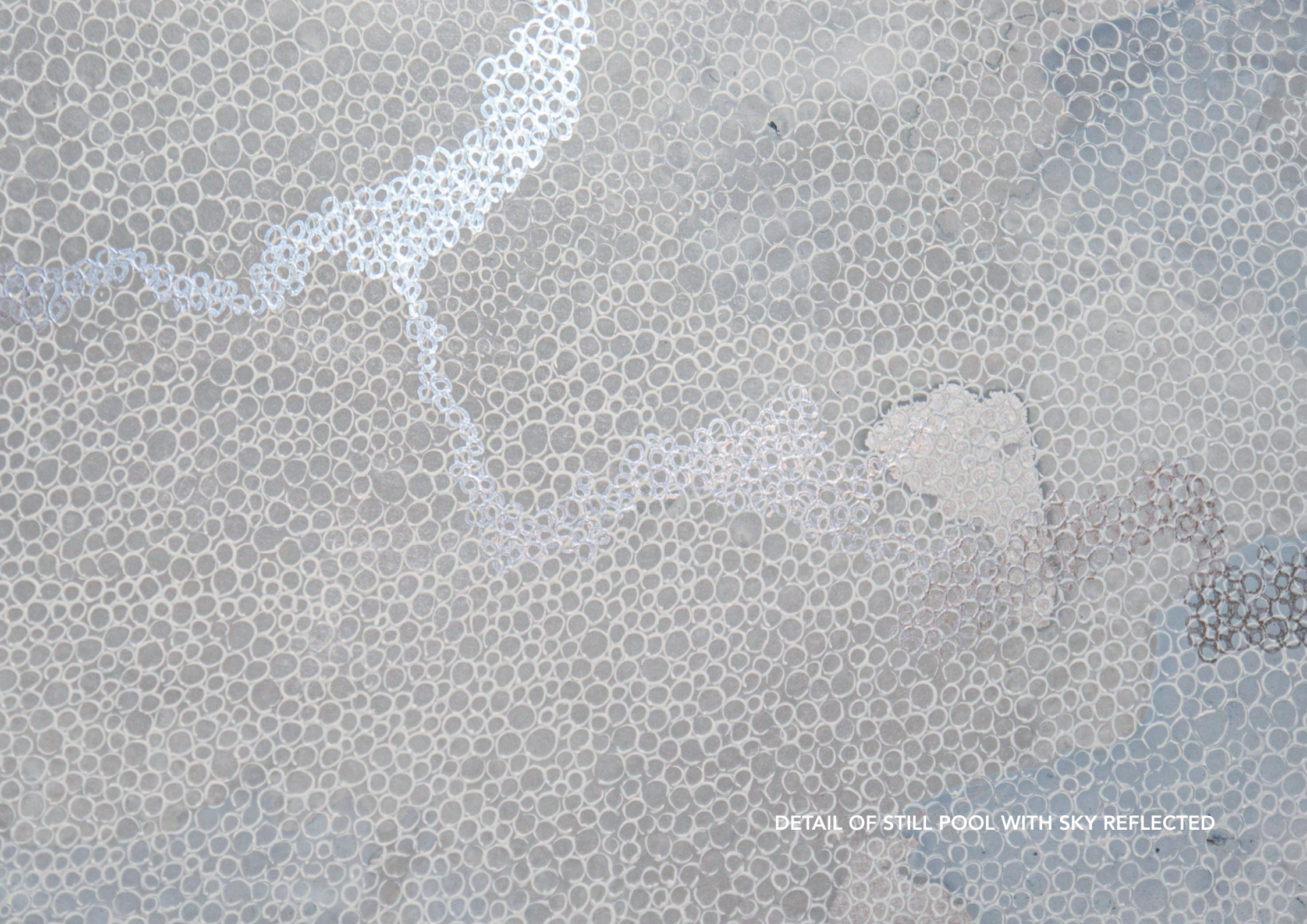
OCEAN OF RAIN

2023, Gouache and
pigment ink on paper
34cm x 53cm



STILL POOL WITH SKY
REFLECTED

2022, Gouache, pigment
ink and chrome ink on
aluminium panel,
90cm x 110cm



DETAIL OF STILL POOL WITH SKY REFLECTED

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Confluence, Northlight Gallery, Stromness
Undulations, Birch Tree Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2020 The Clearing, Pier Arts Centre, Stromness
- 2010 Coalesce: Drawing from the Natural History Collections, Edinburgh University
- 2007 The Subtle Ether, CAST Gallery, Hobart, Australia
- 2005 The Subtle Ether, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire, UK
- 2004 Reach, Oriel Davies Gallery, Newtown, Powys, Wales
- 2003 Enchanté, Villa Olga, Montpellier, France
- 2001 Staring Out to Sea, West Space, Melbourne, Australia
- 2000 Remote Sensing, Plimsoll Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Research + Practice, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
- 2021 Cutlog | Essential Travel, Society of Scottish Artists, Royal Scottish Academy,
- 2020 Changing Tides | Tides Changing, Society of Scottish Artists, online exhibition
- 2013-15 Felt Presence Devonport Regional Gallery, Tasmania. Touring Australia nationally
- 2015 5%...As Far As the Eye Can See, Allenheads Contemporary Art, Northumberland, UK
- 2012 Poetry Loops, short video screenings, StAnza Poetry Festival, St Andrews, Scotland
- 2011 Wonders of the Invisible World, Northern Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sunderland
Environmental Dialogues, Scottish Poetry Library, Edinburgh
- 2010 Gentle Actions: Art Ecology Action, Kunstnernes Hus Oslo, Norway
- 2009 Rising Tide, The Arts and Ecological Ethics, Stanford University
Natural Balance: Art & Ecology, Girona International Land Art Meet, Catalonia
Everything Must Go, The Royal Standard, Liverpool
Stockholm Art Fair, presented by Echo, Stockholm, Sweden
Echo Presents: Pudding, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2008 ET4U Contemporary Visual Arts Centre Vestjylland, Denmark, exhibition and symposium
Echo Presents: All Can screening, Edinburgh
Pilot Archive, Cockpit Arts, Deptford X, London
Perth Visual Arts Forum, Dunkeld, Scotland, Commissioned artist and keynote speaker
Contemporary Visual Arts Centre Vestjylland, Denmark, exhibition and international symposium
'Slow Time', Tasmanian School of Visual and Performing Arts, Launceston, Australia
- 2007 SURVEY, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
Radiance 07: Festival of Light, Glasgow
- 2006 Into the Light of Things, Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham
Projektor 06, Café Gallery Projects, Southwark Park, London
Magazine 06, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop
ArtFutures Scotland 06, Glasgow Art Fair
BBC 37 Seconds Artists Film and Video Programme, Big Screen Liverpool
- 2005 15th Mostyn Open Exhibition, Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno, Wales
Forest, Wolverhampton Art Gallery touring exhibition, touring to Aberdeen Art Gallery, York Art Gallery, Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery, and Oriel Davies Gallery, Wales.
Invisible Fields, Street Level, Glasgow International, touring to An Tuireann, Isle of Skye, KU Gallery, Tallinn, Estonia, and Yokohama Art Museum, Japan.

- 2004 Venti Giorni in Europa, Galleria Cesare Manzo, Pescara, Italy
 Pilot:1 International Art Forum, Old Limehouse Town Hall, London
 Inside Out:1, Stills Gallery, Edinburgh
 TGOZ, Travelling Gallery, Touring Scotland
 Feast of Silenus, The Embassy, Edinburgh
 Forest, Wolverhampton Art Gallery
- 2003 Artists from Nimes Biennale, Oporto, Portugal
 3rd European Biennale of Contemporary Art, Nimes, France
 E-Space, Ann Tuireann Gallery, Portree, Isle of Skye
 Fluid, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, exhibition tour venues: Howard Gardens Gallery, UWIC, Cardiff, Bonnington Gallery, Nottingham Trent University and Middlesborough Art Gallery

AWARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 2023 MacRobert Trust Art Award for Painting
 2021 Royal Scottish Academy William Littlejohn Award for excellence and innovation in water-based media
 2021 Fresh Ink: National Library of Scotland, commissioned writer
 2020 Society of Authors Grant
 2019 Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall, artwork for internal glazing and wall in hub of new build hospital
 2018 Scottish Book Trust New Writer Award
 2017 Arts Foundation Award, shortlisted
 2017 Samuel Rutherford Thesis Prize for most distinguished thesis in English Literature
 2014 Scottish Education Trust Award, to attend Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference
 2011-17 George Buchanan Scholarship, University of St Andrews, PhD scholarship
 2010 Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, research grant
 2009 Scottish Arts Council, Creative and Professional Development Award
 2008 Perth Visual Arts Forum, Dunkeld, Perthshire, commissioned artist
 2005 Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, 'Sky Flowers' video installation
 2001-5 New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, permanent sculptural installation in new building
 2000-4 Auchterarder Community School, architectural collaboration for secondary school, received special mention in Saltire Society Arts and Crafts in Architecture Awards, A Civic Trust mention, used as a Movement for Innovation demo project, included in OECD World Exemplary Schools Compendium, featured in Scottish Executive's 'School Design-Building Our Future' programme and short listed for GIA Award and Dynamic Place Award.
- 2004 SAC Artists Award, Hope Scott Trust Award
 2003 Stills Gallery Research and Training Award
 2002 SAC National Lottery Capital Grant Award for architectural project with Anderson Bell
 Christie and PACE, designs for Auchterarder Community School, Perthshire
 2001 RSA Art for Architecture Award, with Anderson Bell Christie architects

ARTWORK IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

National Library of Scotland
 Royal Scottish Academy
 University College London
 NHS Lothians
 NHS Orkney