

Alex Jaehyun Kim

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## Artist' note

The representation of 'humanity' is formed through time, as it is crumpled and unfolded, and scribbles accumulate. Yet, a state where nothing is crumpled or unfolded, where scribbles cease and nothing accumulates, binds the meaning of humanity within fixed time and slowly extinguishes it.

I revisit consciousness of the self's mindful images through performative sketching, using it as a foundation to explore the universal fluidity within humanity. Rather than a finished work converging on a single fixed meaning or purpose, I aim to capture the human texture that exists as a 'moving image'.

Building on a lifelong project begun in 2024, I continue my work across diverse media including sketching, animation, painting, installation, and performance.

### **The Essence of Humanity** Choi, Seo-won | Curator at Gallery DOS

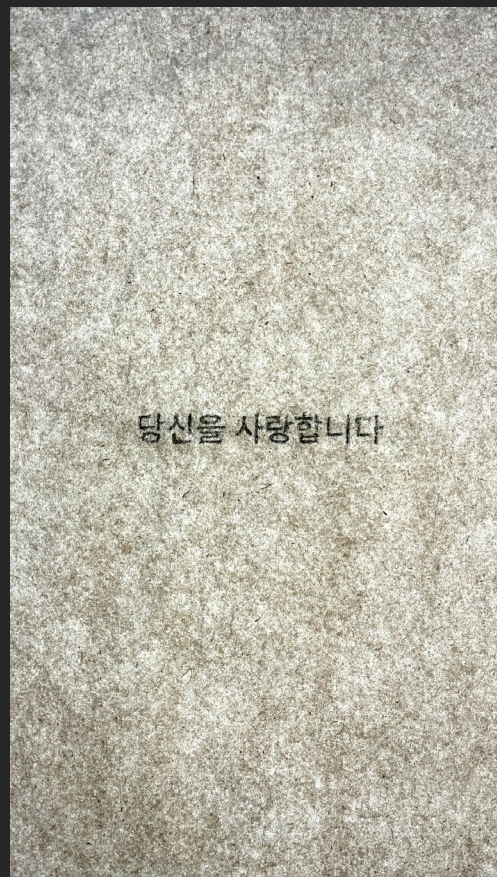
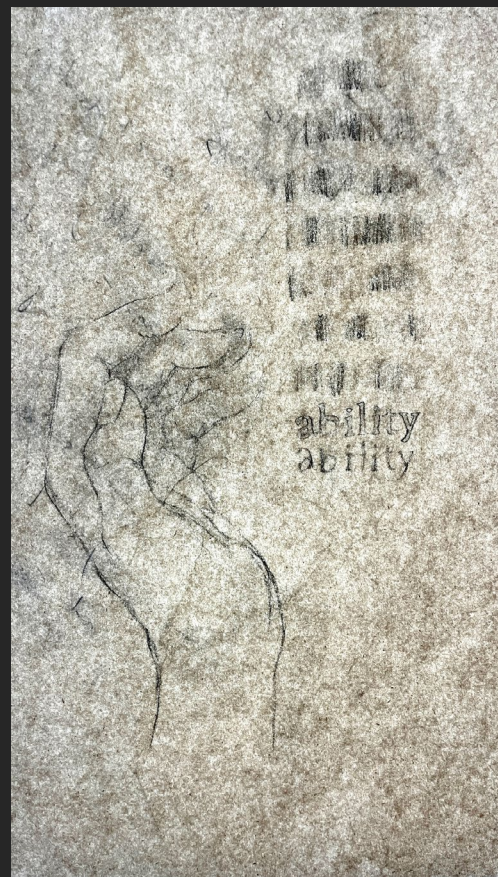
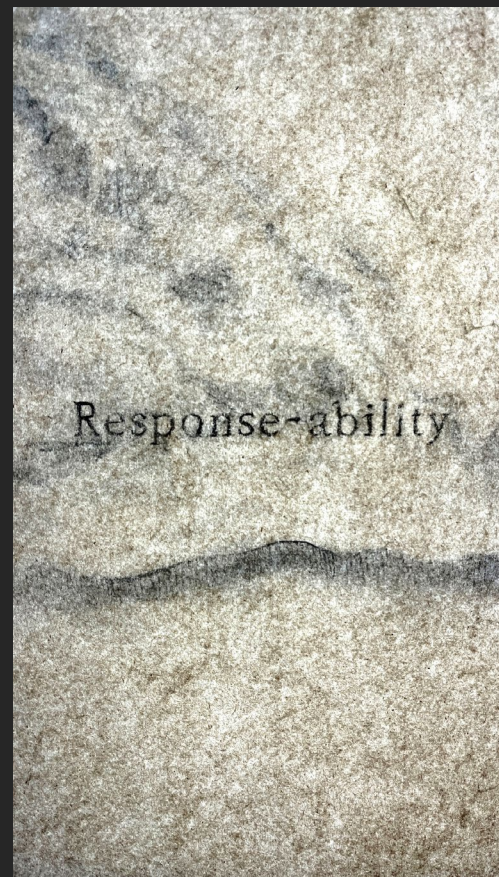
The human inner self is not fixed but constantly changing. Artist Alex Kim seeks fluidity that moves rather than remains stationary in any one place, shifting with time and emotion. The work progresses as an active process of being crumpled, unfolded, and piled up, much like the exhibition title suggests. Anything that appears static and immovable, showing no sign of motion, negates the dynamic nature inherent in human beings. The artist reinterprets the philosophy of what it means to be human within the realm of art, expressing the essence of humanity he has contemplated through diverse genres. Furthermore, he embraces himself as a living being that breathes and continues life, sharing the results of his relentless efforts through ceaseless movement. The works are organized into annual series, revealing the ontological meaning of human existence and the practical acts that make one feel truly alive. Through this process, the artist repeatedly revisits life, reflecting on the traces of lived experience.

The general characteristics commonly acquired in society, the fragility derived from the cracks and frictions large and small that occur in the hustle and bustle of life, function as the artist's sensory experience as a human being. The experience of growing up across both Eastern and Western cultural spheres became the backdrop for a vivid awareness of this plurality of self and led to a fresh perspective on the meaning of existence. Works across genres reveal these sensibilities in increasingly multidimensional forms. The 'Paper-Painting' series, developed from 2023 to 2024, focused on accidental forms created by crumpling and tearing the material's physical properties. The wrinkles and cracks that naturally emerge when touching and damaging the paper seem to symbolize the footprints of the past. The work progressed not by observing paper in its original state, but as an experiment that continuously transformed its form, pursuing the open possibilities of its essence and exploring the diverse potential of outcomes. The 'Mindful Sketch' lifelong project, continuing from 2024 to the present and including recent new works, moves beyond the inherent changes in form to apply the material's properties through scribbling and expression. Intuitions felt throughout the day are recorded through writing and drawing, with parts of these records erased during the final stage. Unlike the common practice of preserving what remains, this relatively unique method attempts to move beyond the most fundamental act of reading and interpreting what is visibly present. The traces left by the artist are preserved as residual materials, installed by accumulating and stacking materials that have served their purpose. The 'Weight of Time' series, begun in 2025, is a work utilizing hemp cloth and oil pastels based on a form of layered, stacked paper, presenting a worldview connected to 'Mindful Sketches'. This work, which analyzes differences in speed, weight, and density through the interplay of folds and layers, evokes synesthetic mental images.

Existence is always like a double-edged sword. It flows continuously and moves without being overwhelmed by the momentum of either the physical or the mental. In other words, it is a free entity that transcends boundaries through its inherently complex nature, where no single thing is the definitive answer. This is why the self and inner world cannot be viewed in isolation, and it serves as proof that individuals must illuminate their own lives through multiple perspectives. The artist presents a blend of diverse materials, using metaphorical expressions to depict the ambivalent inner psychology and multidimensional facets of humanity. The works themselves are the artist's own carved footprints, originating from a spirit of practice that records the essence of humanity in multiple layers. While viewing this exhibition, I hope you sense the countless movements—crumpled, unfolded, and piled up.



Alex began this lifelong project on October 1st, 2024, to document the images of his unconscious mind. Each month, he deconstructs his ego by crumpling and unfolding 30-40 sheets of paper as a ritual practice while expressing his feelings and thoughts about the daily moment through intuitive writing and drawing. Finally, he finishes by erasing the traces of that expression, distancing the image from being read and understood. All the drawings are archived in paper strips, connected by month, and created into an animated sequence based on the sketched order. Furthermore, he collects the residue of used pencils and eraser dust from the sketch and turn them into site-specific installation that transforms in time by time. Through this lifelong process, he tries to reflect and outing his inner-depth as a form of fragmentary residue of its existence.



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches | Animation, 20241001(~)

\* You may check the monthly updated version of the animated sequence on [the artist website.](#)

# Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches

2025-2026



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V.  
Seoul Arts Space Geumcheon  
South Korea 2026



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V.  
Seoul Arts Space Geumcheon  
South Korea 2026



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V.  
Uncommon Gallery  
South Korea 2026



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V.  
Uncommon Gallery 2026



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V., Uncommon Gallery 2026

Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V.  
Uncommon Gallery 2026





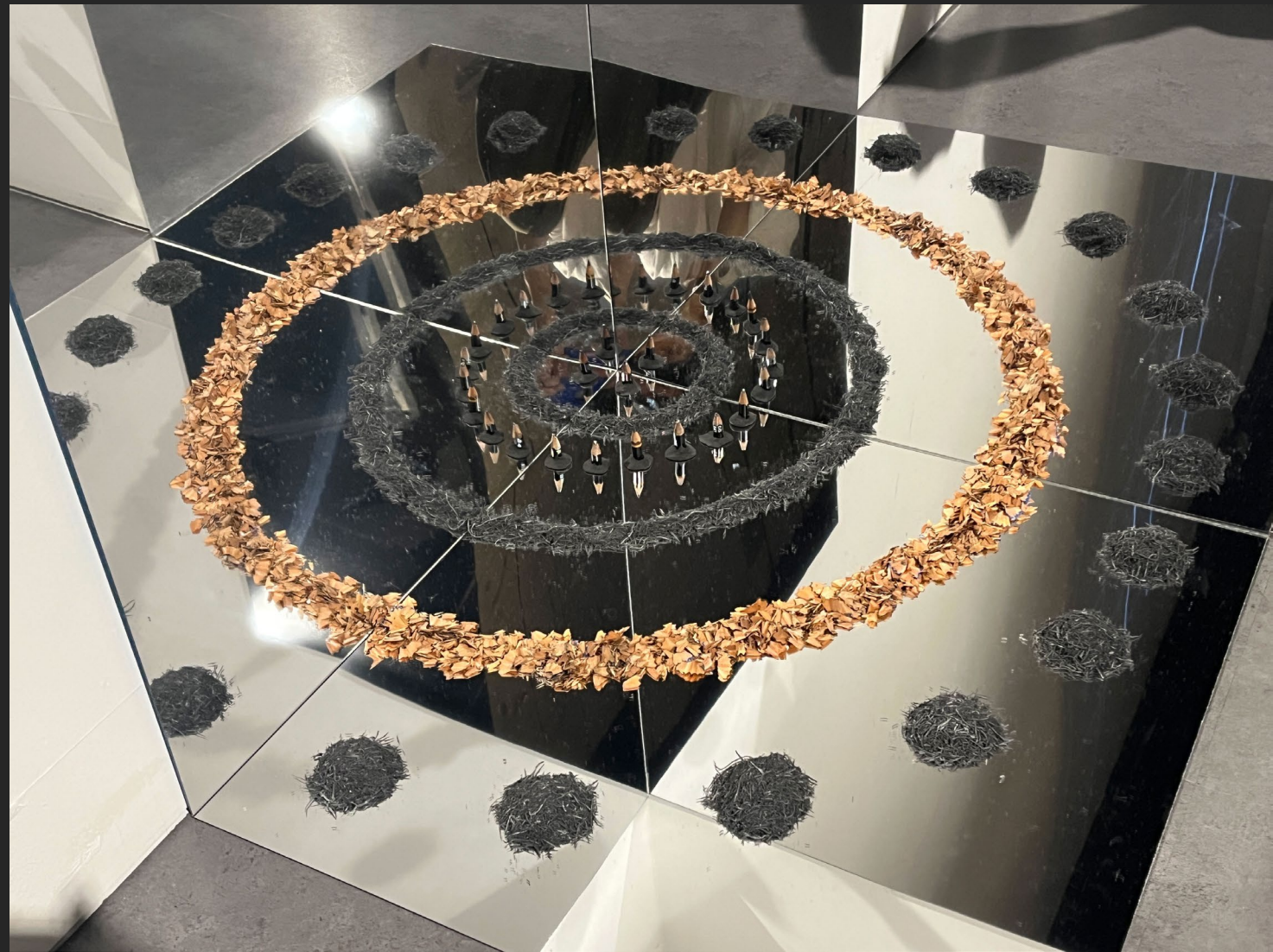
The Residue

Used pencil and eraser dust, etc., D.V.

Uncommon Gallery 2026



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V., AZIT Museum  
South Korea 2025



The Residue

The residue of used pencils and eraser from Mindful Sketches, D.V., AZIT Museum 2025



Folding and Unfolding Life  
Paper strips performance, AIZT Museum 2025



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V., Gallery DOS  
South Korea 2025



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V., Gallery DOS 2025



The Residue

The residue of used pencils and eraser from Mindful Sketches, D.V., Gallery DOS 2025



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V., CICA Museum  
South Korea 2025



Lifelong Project : Mindful Sketches  
Paper strips, etc., D.V., CICA Museum 2025



## The Residue

The residue of used pencils and eraser from Mindful Sketches, D.V., CICA Museum 2025





Folding and Unfolding Life  
Paper strips performance, CICA Museum 2025

Drawings on Crumpled hemp cloth

2025





Nameless being(s)

Crumpled hemp cloth and oil pastel on wood panel, Each 29.7 x 21.0 cm 2025





The Weight of Time I

Oil pastel on crumpled hemp cloth, 150 x 60 cm 2025



The Weight of Time II

Oil pastel on crumpled hemp cloth, 220 x 60 cm 2025



# Torn Paper Drawing

2 0 2 4



Sticking paper, waiting, peeling it off and tearing it.  
In the traces left between intention and coincidence,  
I (re)discover new forms and question the value of  
peripheral existence.



Wings of Desire (LF & RT)  
Torn paper on paper panel, Each 120 x 83 cm 2024



Wings of Desire  
Exhibition View, Gallery DOS, South Korea 2025



Wind, Ox and Fish  
Torn paper on paper, 51.0 x 63.5 cm 2024



Vitality I (LF) & Vitality II (RT)  
Torn paper and pencil on paper  
Each 44 x 32 cm 2024



Wish  
Torn paper on paper, 41 x 29 cm 2024



Mourning

Torn paper on paper, 29 x 41 cm 2024

# Paper painting

2023 - 2024



Solo exhibition view, Gallery DOS 2025

Crumpling, tearing, and gluing paper, fragments of different shapes naturally blend together to form a cohesive body. It explores the order born of aimless action.



The Poet and the Sea

Used paper on paper panel, 105 x 85 cm 2024

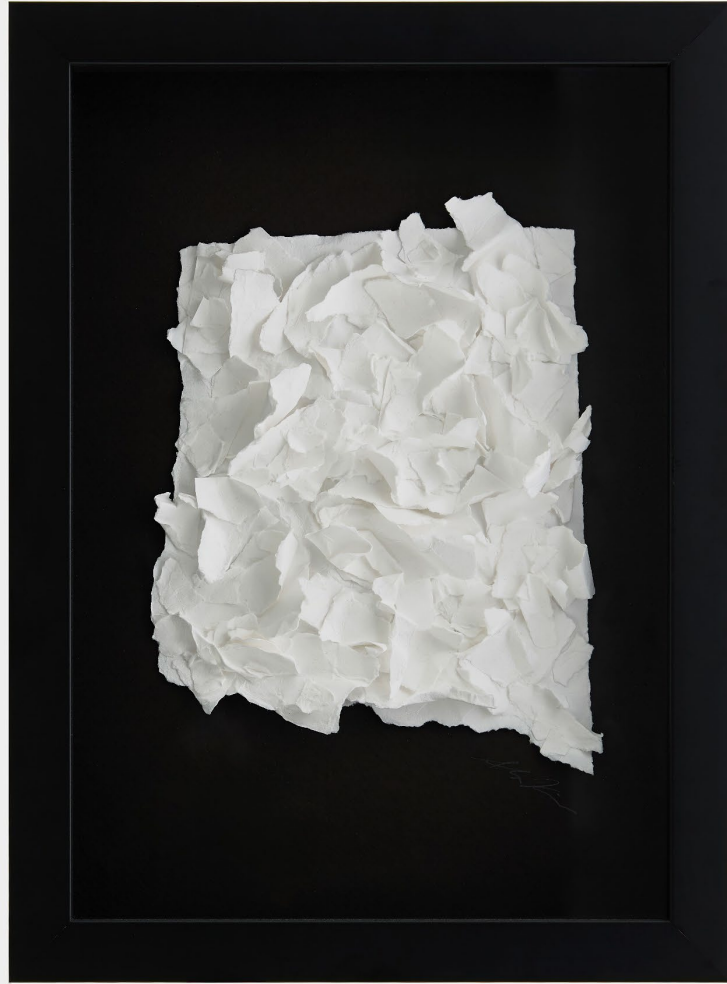


Corpus III

Paper on paper panel, 94.5 x 94.5 cm 2024

Corpus II  
Paper on canvas, 81.0 x 68.5 cm 2023



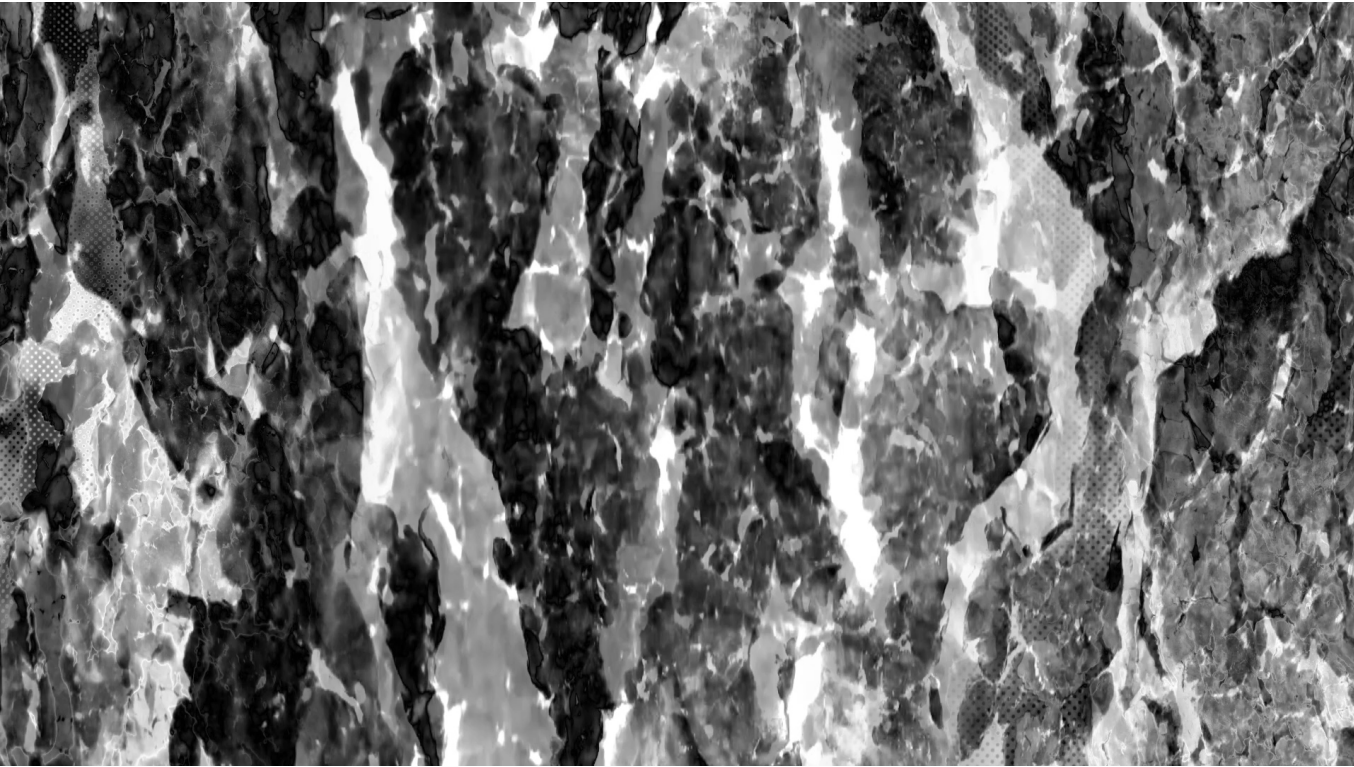


Corpus I

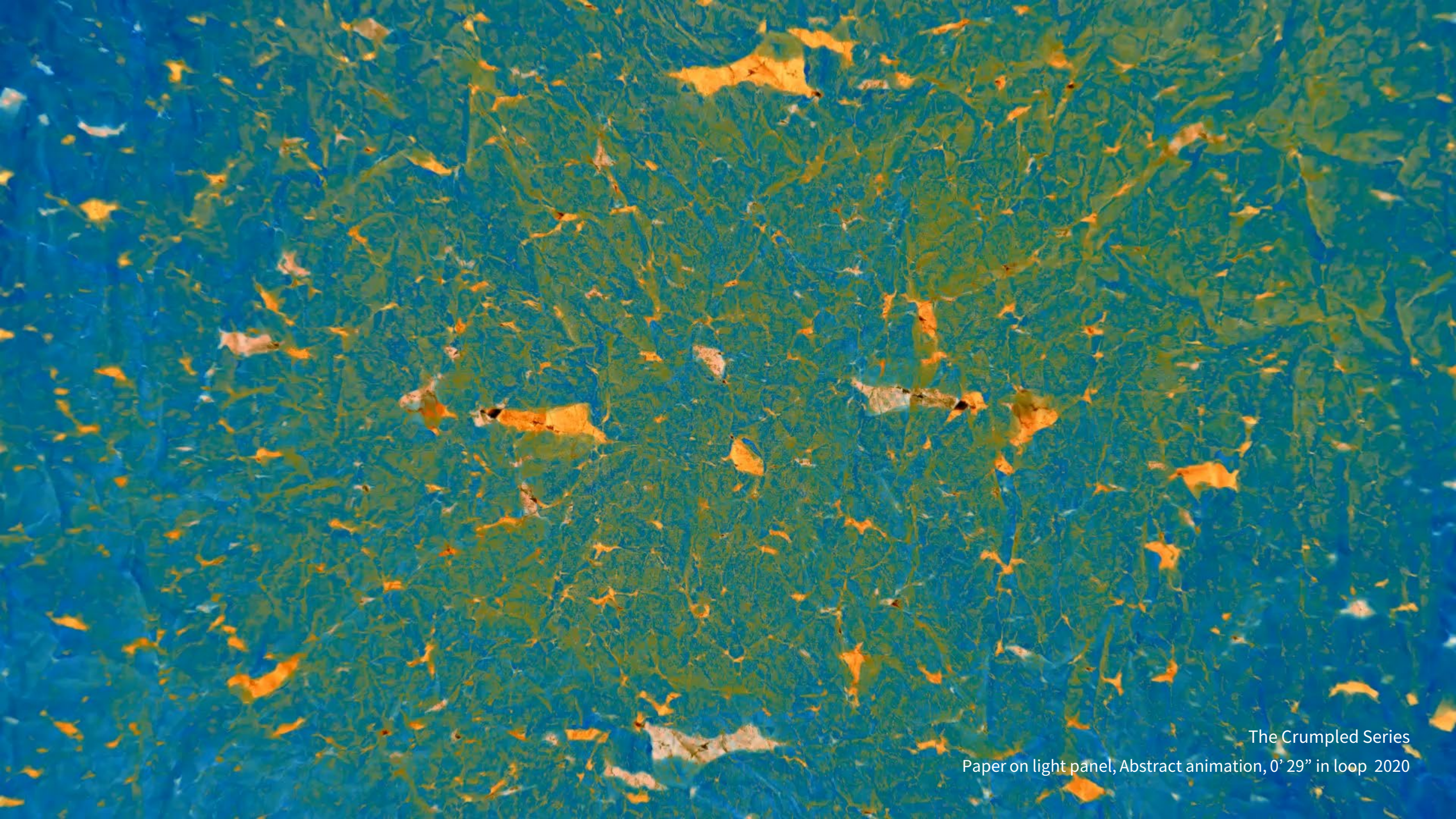
Paper on paper, 32.5 x 24.0 cm 2023

# Abstract Animation

2 0 2 0



The repetitive crumpling and unfolding of paper creates folds and cracks, forming deconstructed shapes. These are photographed within individualized frames, then connected into a single sequence to create a moving image.



The Crumpled Series  
Paper on light panel, Abstract animation, 0' 29" in loop 2020



The Crumpled Series

Paper on light panel, Abstract animation, 0' 15" in loop 2020





