

Rita Vaali

Textile Designer and Visual Artist

ritavaali.com
rita.vaali@gmail.com
Mechelininkatu 2b 50
00100 Helsinki
tel. +358449902688

CV

EDUCATION

- 2023–2025 Aalto University, Master's programme in Fashion, Clothing and Textile Design
- 2019–2021 Raseko - Vocational Qualification in the Textiles and Fashion Industry – Manufacture of Design Textiles, Raisio
- 2014–2018 Turku University of Applied Sciences, Fine Arts
- 2017 Erasmus+, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Fine Arts

COLLABORATION & MEMBERSHIPS

haus de projekt collective formed by me and artist Anni Haunia. Referred to below as "hdp"

Arte Artists' Association Board 2021 (Titanik gallery, Turku)

SELECTED SOLO & GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Näyttely25* - Aalto Fashion, Clothing and Textile Design Graduation Exhibition
- 2023 *Bloom #89*, Group Exhibition, Lokal Gallery, Helsinki
- 2023 *Onkaloissa Soissa*, Group Exhibition, Galleria Koppelo, Tampere
- 2022 *Doyelfins*, Taiteen talo / Art House, Turku (with Antti Jussila)
- 2021 *Yond Life*, Ehkä-production's XS-festival for New Dance and Performance, Titanik, Turku (with Antti Jussila)
- 2021 *Sich horizontal machen, bitte*, FaVU Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno (hdp)
- 2021 *Gutter Feeling*, Rajatila Gallery, Tampere (hdp)
- 2020 *Felt Moon and Lofty Softy*, Kutomo, Turku (with Antti Jussila)
- 2019 *Nielu* - Group Exhibition, Nuuksio National Park (hdp)
- 2019 *Purpuritanssi*, Group Exhibition, SIC, Helsinki
- 2018 *Repose - Group Exhibition*, Titanik, Turku (hdp)
- 2018 *Happy Dirt Bay*, B-Galleria, Turku (hdp)
- 2018 *NYTT* - Fine Arts Graduation Show, Forum Marimum, Turku
- 2017 *Kanava*, Group exhibition and happening, Turku Biennial, Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova, Turku
- 2017 The Turku Artists' Association's 93rd Annual Exhibition, (hdp + Calle 82), Gallery Å, Turku

RESIDENCIES

- 2020 Contemporary Art Space Kutomo, Turku
- 2019 Mustarinda Residency, Hyrynsalmi
- 2019 The Åland Archipelago Guest Artist Residency, Kökar
- 2018 Gjesteatelieret i Vadsø, Norway

SOLO GRANTS

- 2025 Aalto Design Department Grant
- 2023 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2022 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2021 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2021 City of Turku
- 2020 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2019 Arts Promotion Centre Finland

GROUP GRANTS

- 2021 Arts Promotion Centre Finland
- 2019 TOP Foundation
- 2018 Turku Art Society

RESEARCH

- 2024 Research assistant for Wearable Systems Lab at Aalto ELEC (School of Electrical Engineering)
- 2024 Research assistant for a T-REX project at Aalto ARTS (School of Arts, Design and Architecture)

Mittumaari

Description

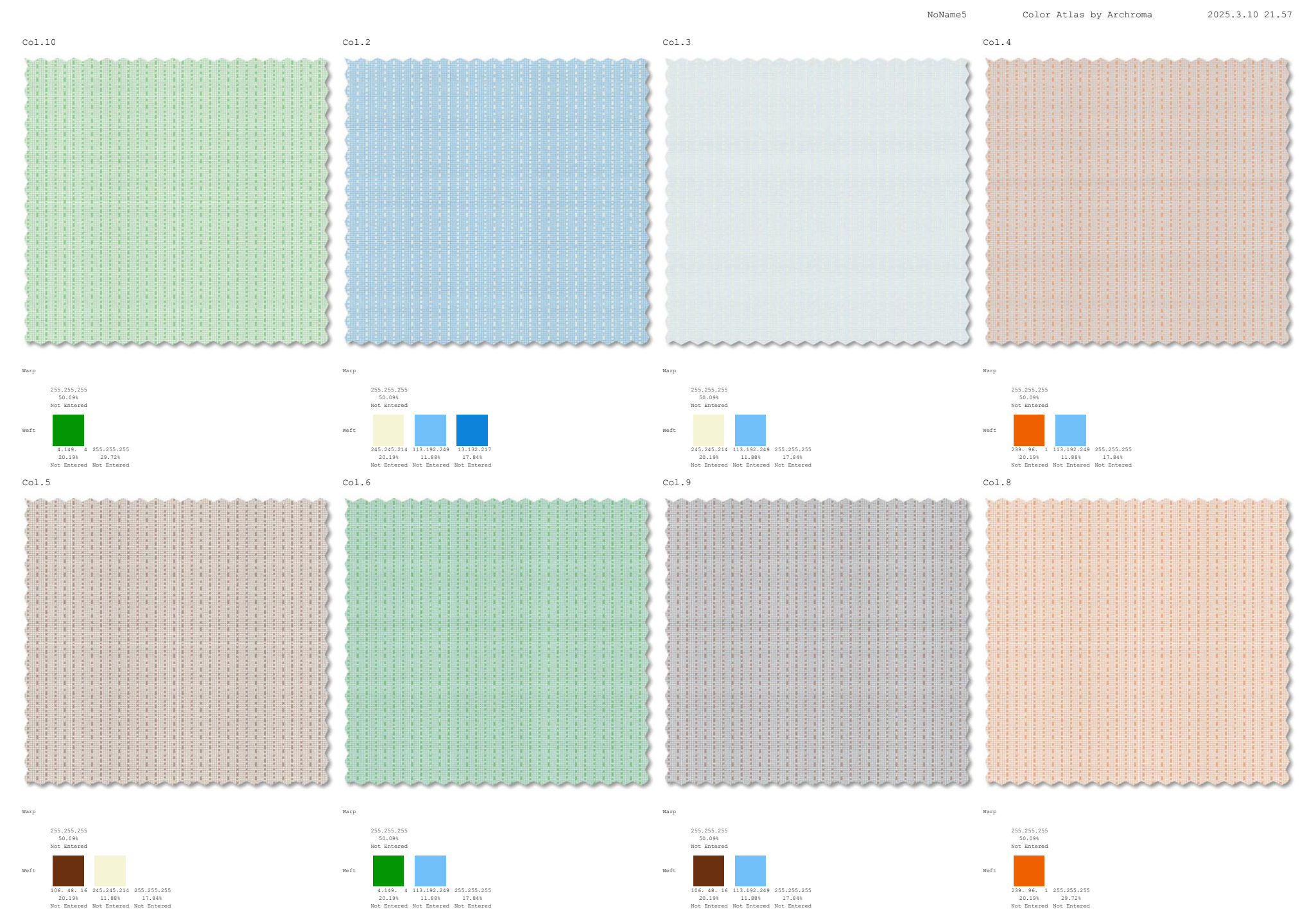
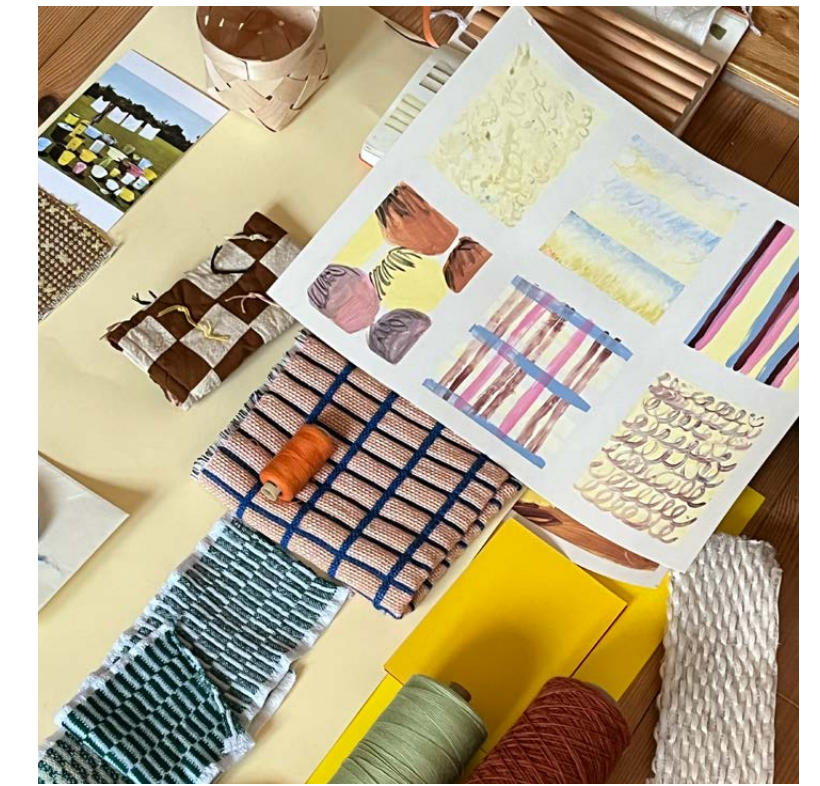
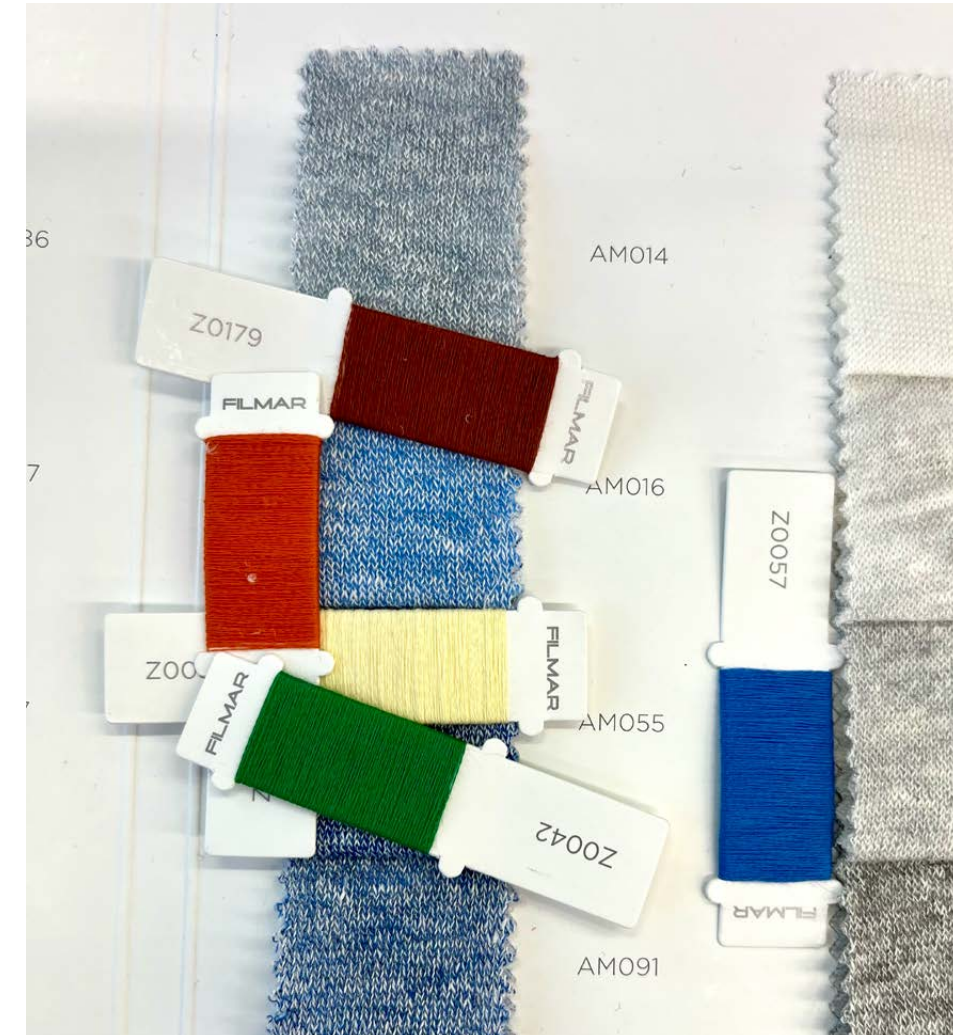
The collection *Mittumaari* draws from observations of nostalgia, Finnish cottage culture, and memories of my family running a cottage village from the 1970's until 2000's. The name *Mittumaari* is a synonym for Juhannus - midsummer in Finnish and it's a name that my grandmother gave to one of the cottages.

Background of the visual research consisted of the distinct visual language of summer cottages, which tend to accumulate objects and memorabilia over time and across generations. The design logic of the collection was shaped by these visual cues, as well as by reflecting on nostalgic sentiments that surfaced while revisiting archives from our family's rental cottage village – old brochures, articles, and photo albums – and spending time dwelling on site.

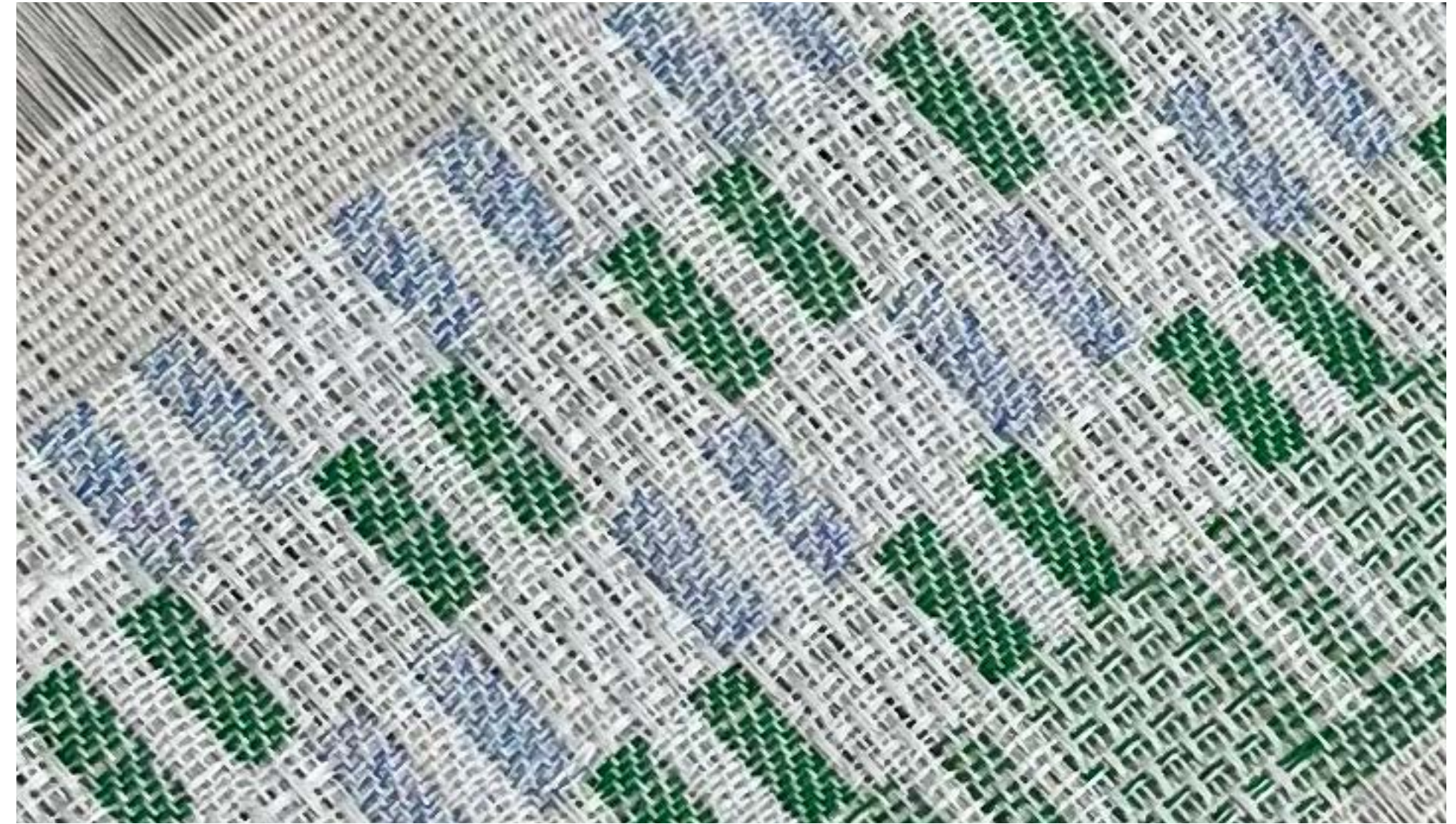
The first two pages show the finished fabrics, while the following two pages offer a glimpse into the design process - weaving samples, creating the color chart, simulating structures and colorways and applying finishes to the fabrics.







Creating the colorway, simulating colorways and realizing the fabric with an industrial weaving machine.



Weaving samples and testing finishes

Together

Info

Together collection

Industrially woven jacquard fabrics and a doobby fabric sample

Fabrics for interior use

2024



Impulse, blanket, jacquard.



Tempo, cushion fabric sample, doobby sample

Description

Together is a collection of three industrially woven jacquard fabrics and one doobby sample. Inspiration for the collection came from mid-century designers' works like Alexander Girard's *Wooden Dolls*, Ray and Charles Eames' playful design objects as well as Sophie Tauber-Arp's abstract compositions. The coloration gives a contemporary twist for the collection. The four fabrics *Impulse*, *Tempo*, *Games* and *Memory* are my interpretation of a situation of overwhelming feelings - love, excitement, anxiety and sorrow come together and merge.



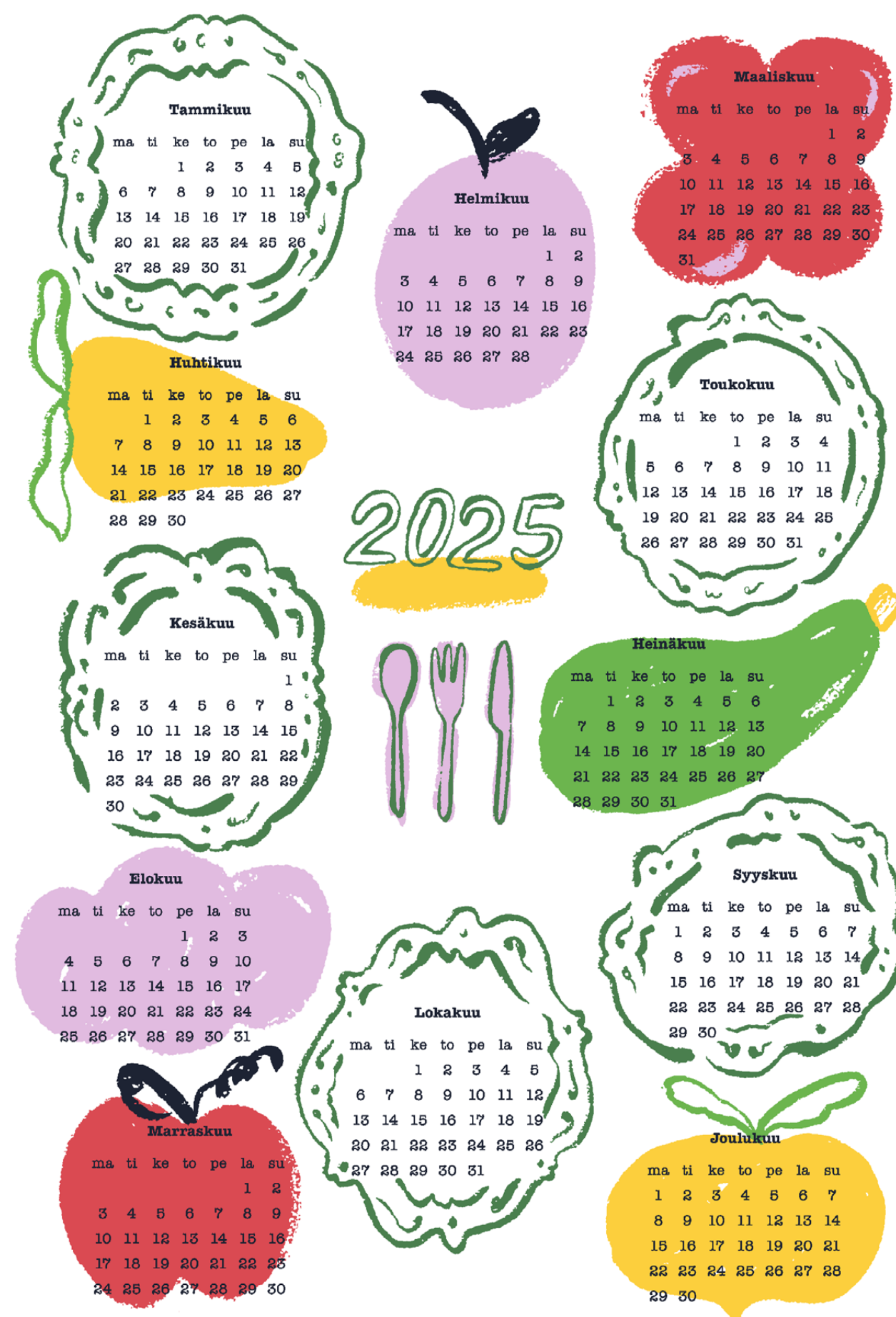
Up: *Memory*, a wall hanging piece, industrially woven. The three dimensional effect is made giving the fabric a lye bath.

Left: *Games*, cushion / light blanket fabric, industrially woven.

Veggie

Info

A calendar towel *Veggie* - a PatternLab production for Prisma
Six color screen print on cotton towel
2024



Description

Veggie towel was inspired by vintage plates and table settings and seasonal fruits and vegetables. The design was made in PatternLab course in 2024 and bought by Prisma / S Group. The towel is currently sold in Prisma hypermarkets.

Seutu & Sija

Description

The SIJA and SEUTU textile sample collections engage with contrasting spatial themes, reflecting the relationship between interior and exterior environments. SIJA focuses on structured, interior landscapes. SEUTU, on the other hand, abstracts the elements of outdoor environments. The collection translates domestic and public, urban spaces into tactile, refined forms. The samples are handwoven on doobby looms and traditional handlooms.



Collection: **SEUTU** (up)

Rita Vaali

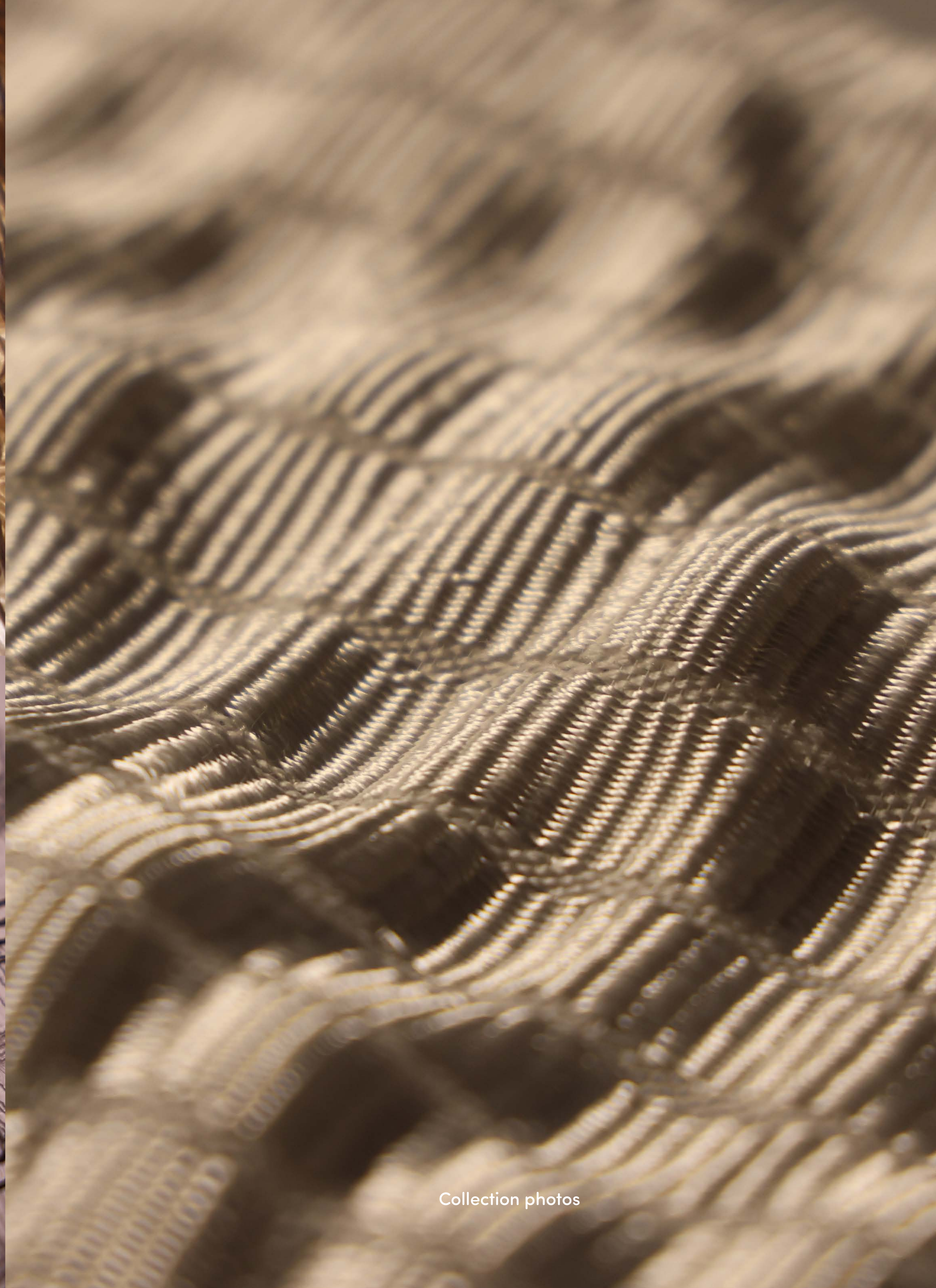
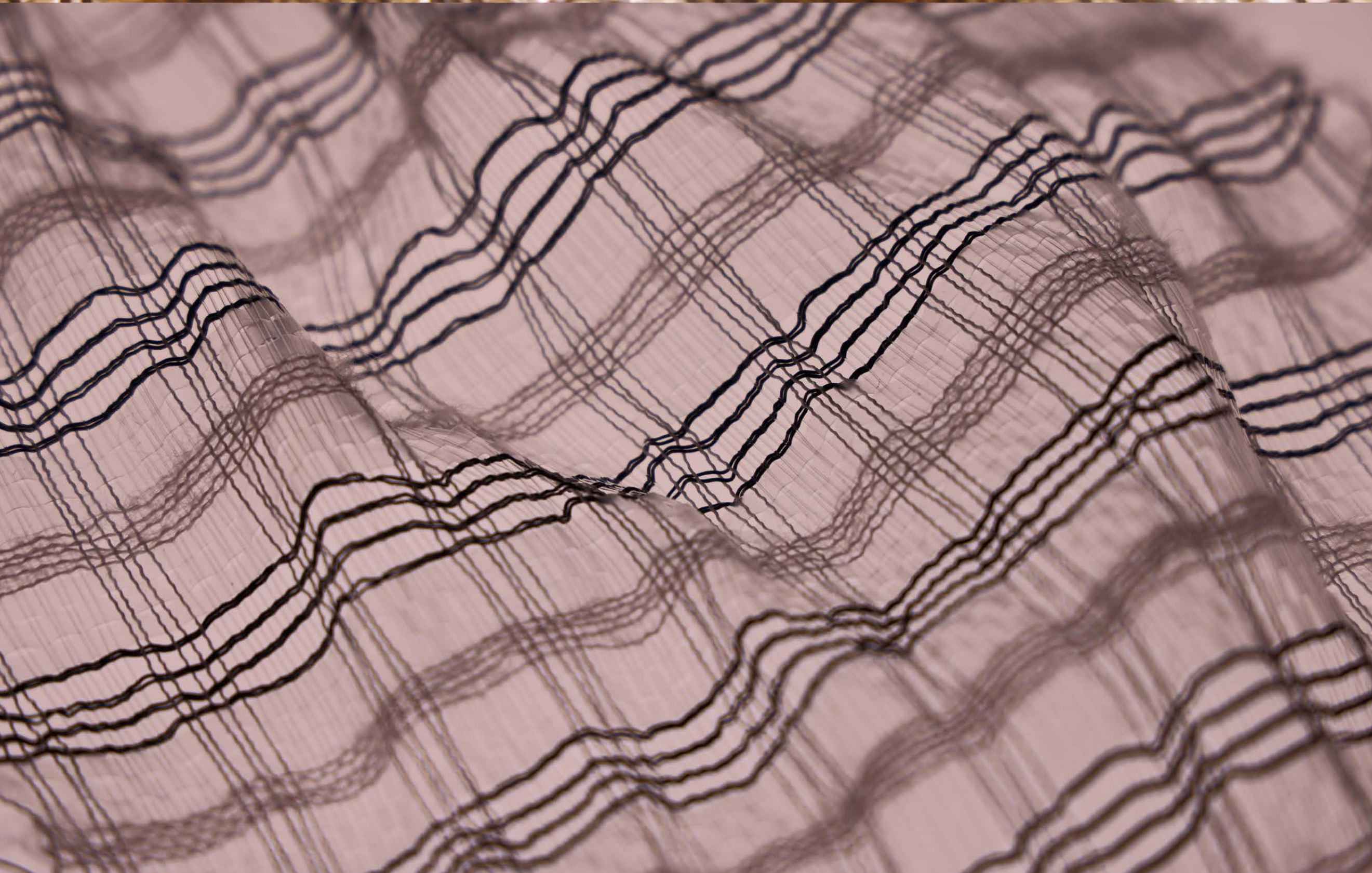
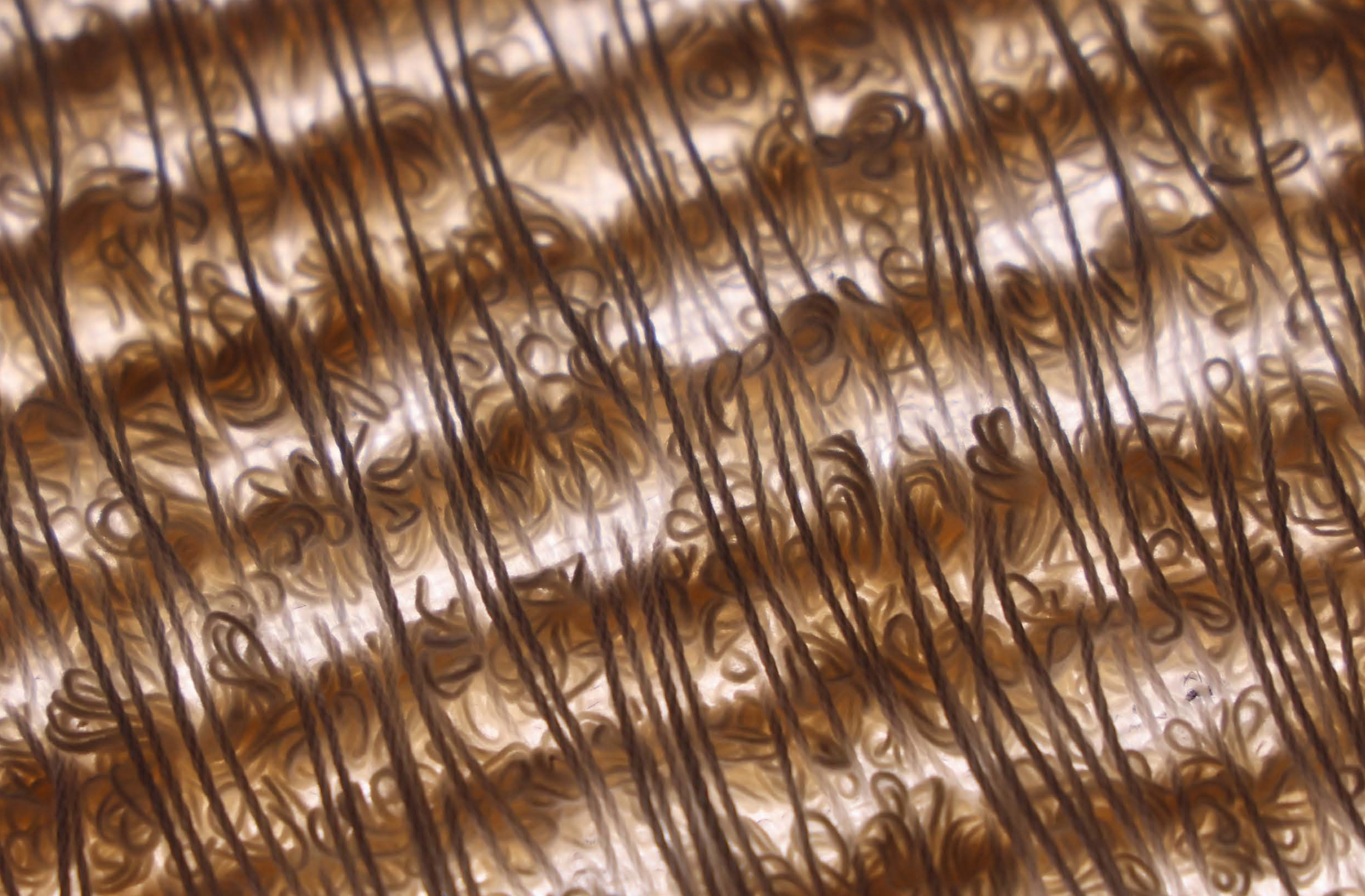
The word seutu refers to an area or scenery in a broad sense. The collection SEUTU is a composition inspired by mundane urban and rural elements that subtly give places and regions their own characteristics.

Collection: **SIJA** (left)

Rita Vaali

The Finnish word sija refers to a specific location or space but also conveys the idea of rest. In the collection SIJA, I aimed to weave fabrics that resemble the feeling of comfort and security.





Collection photos

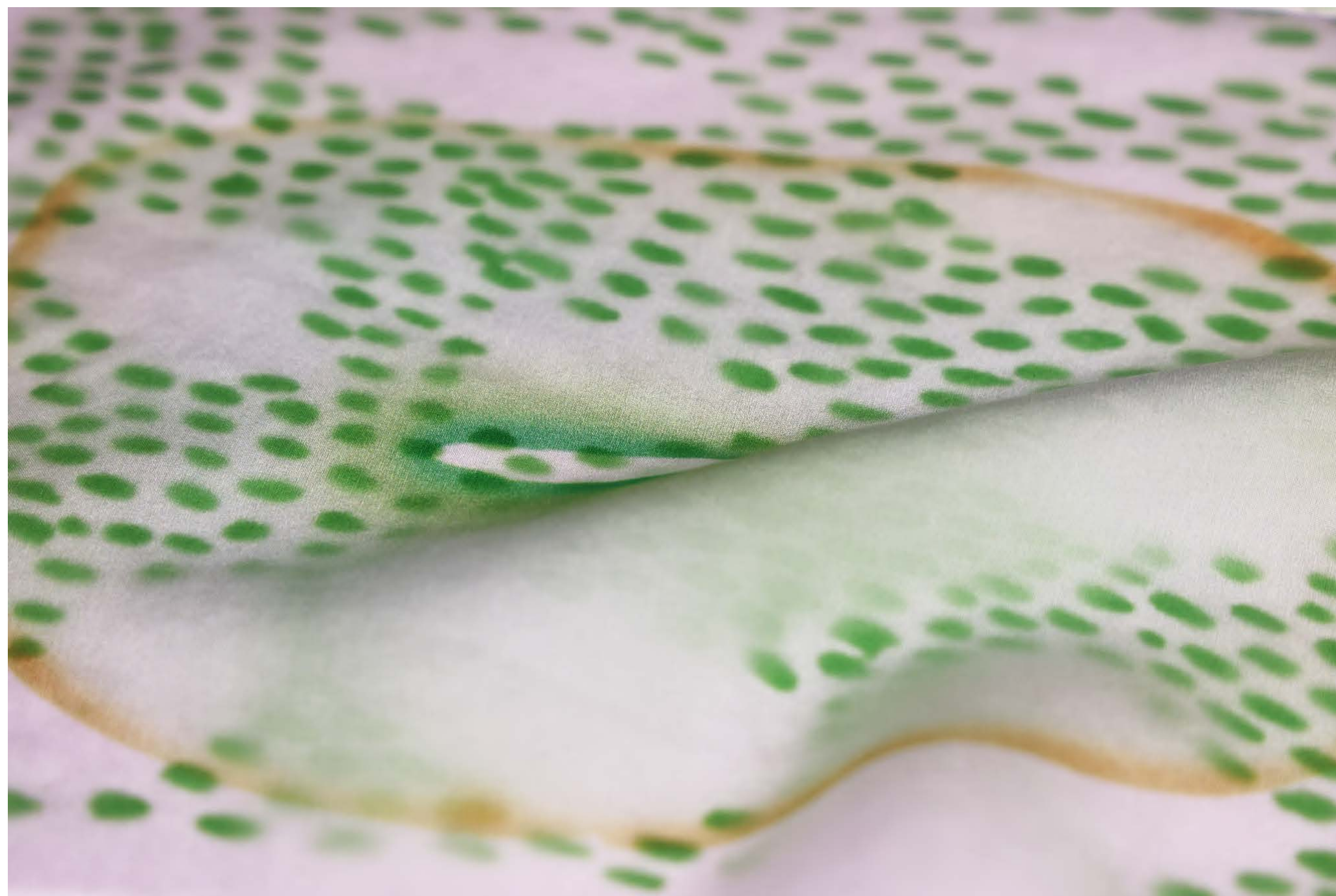
Chlorophyll

Info

Collection of eight textiles with different print techniques: handpainting, printing and dyeing with reactive dyes, printing with pigments and puff paste, digital printing

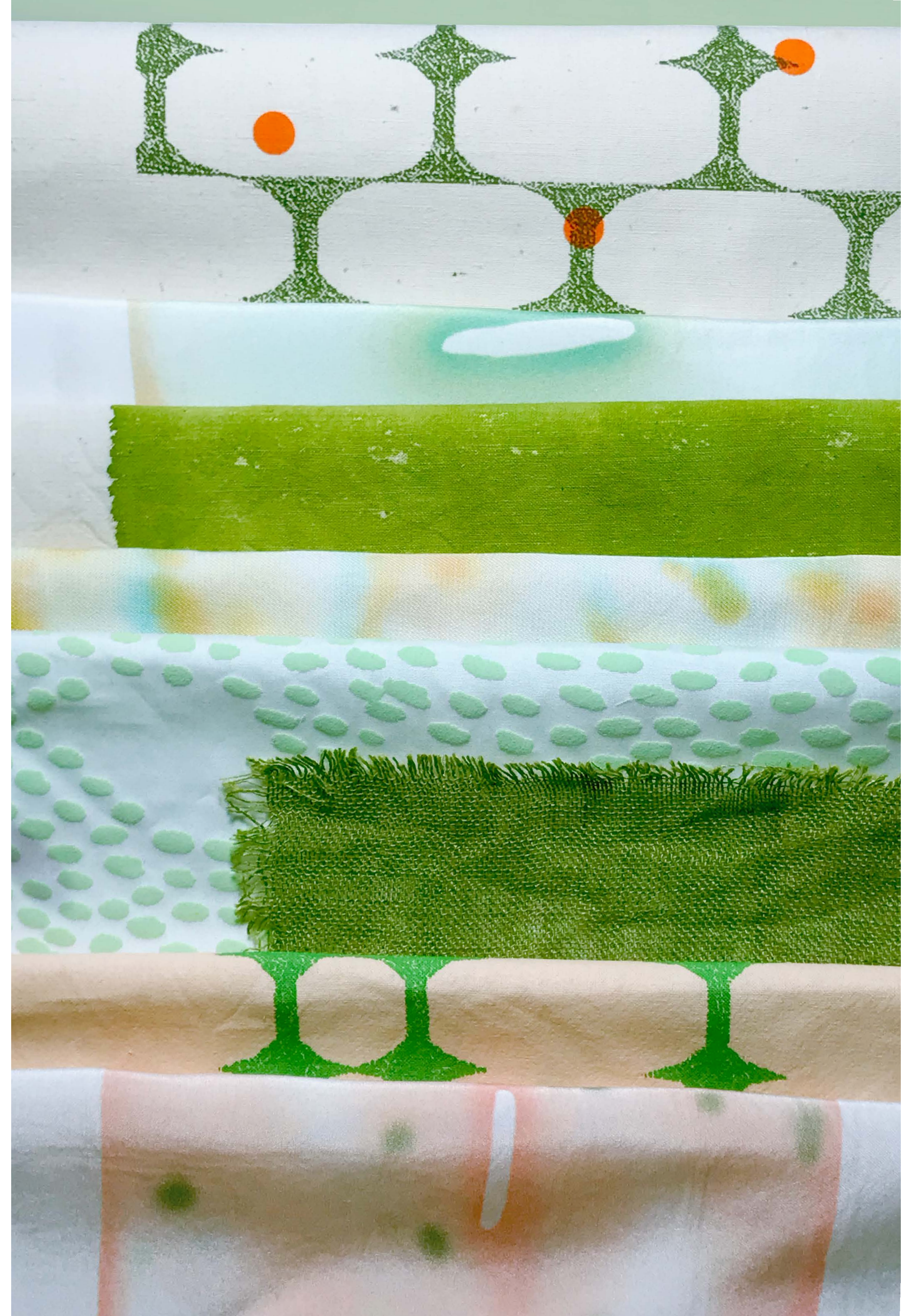
Size: approx. 35 x 50cm

2023

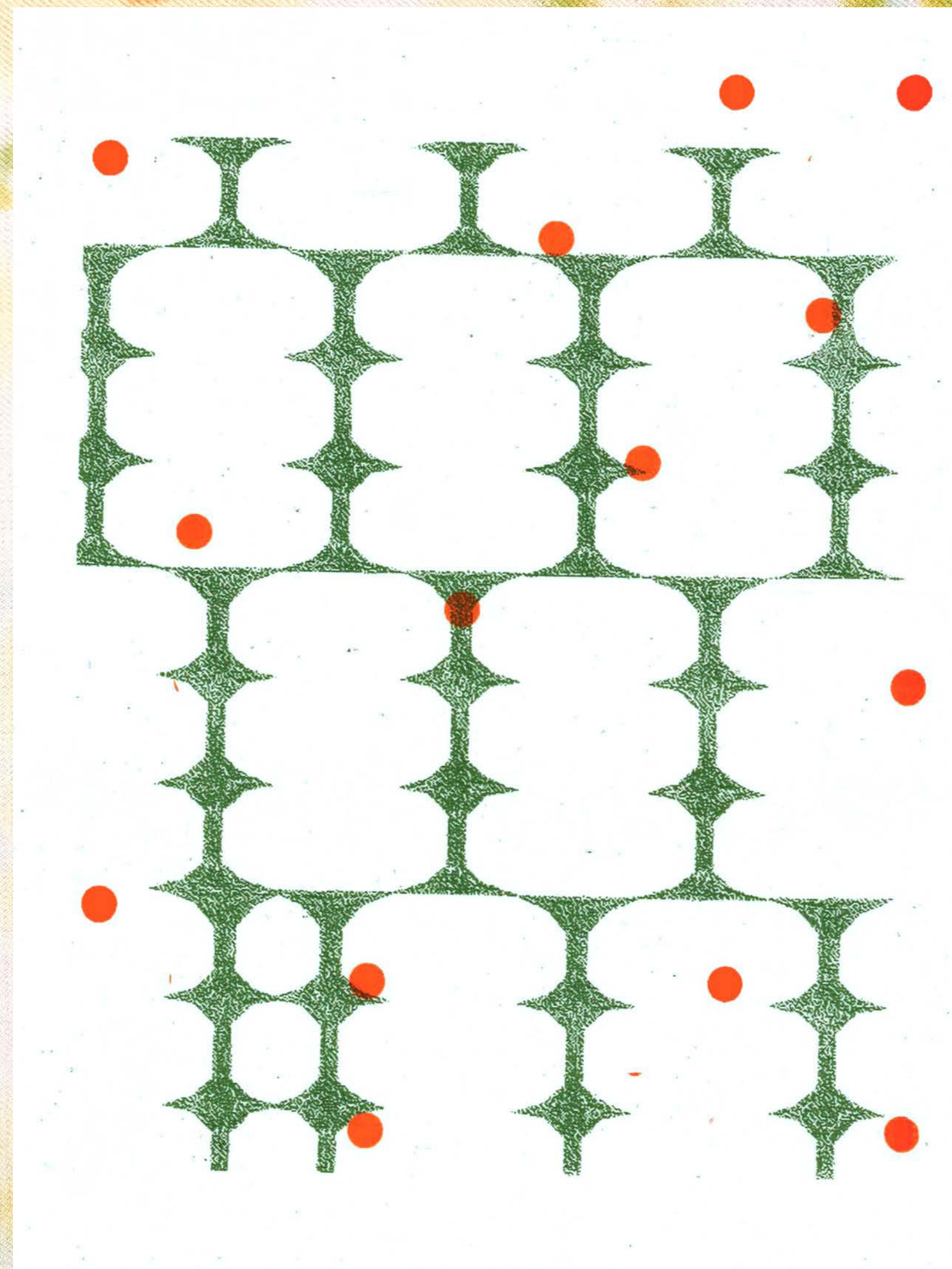
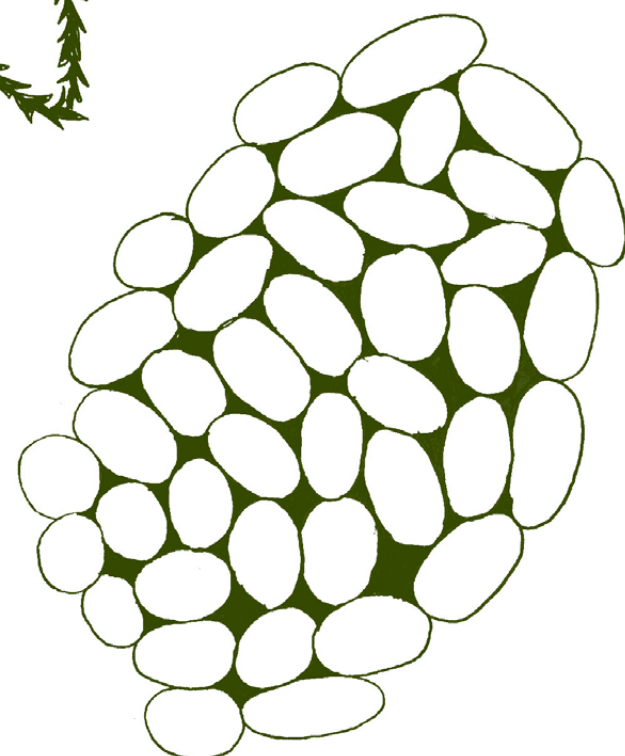
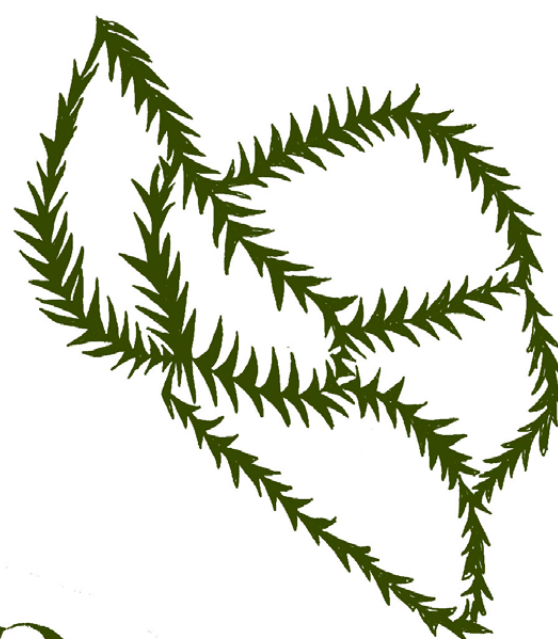
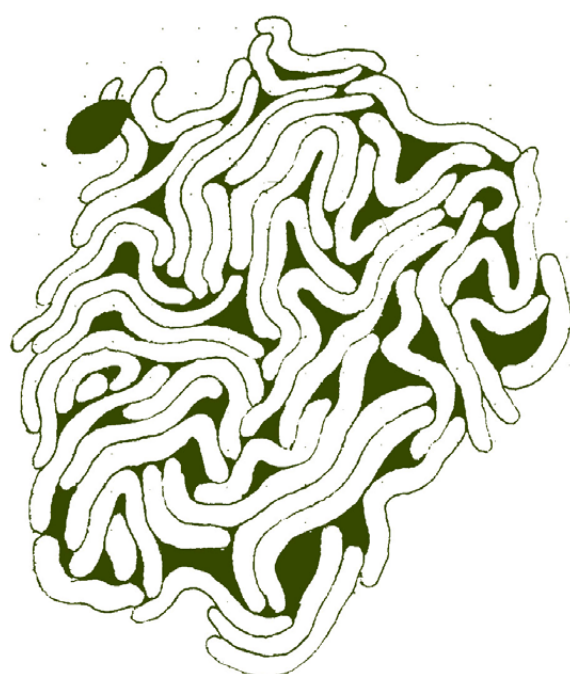
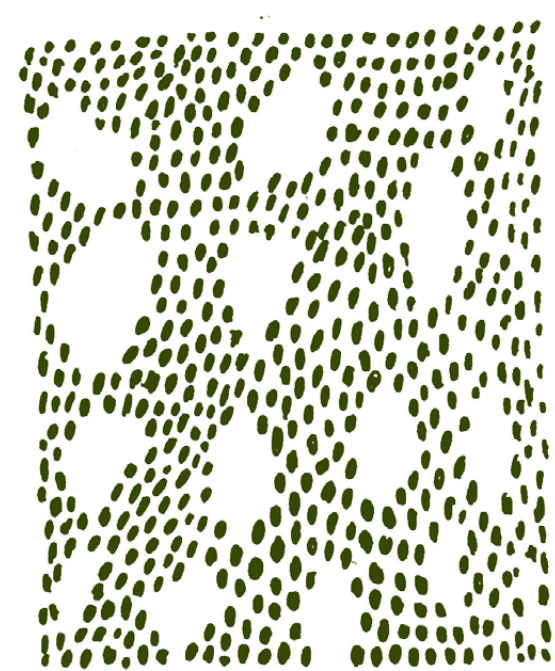
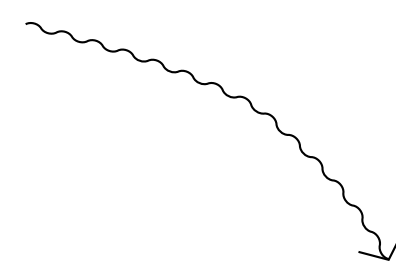


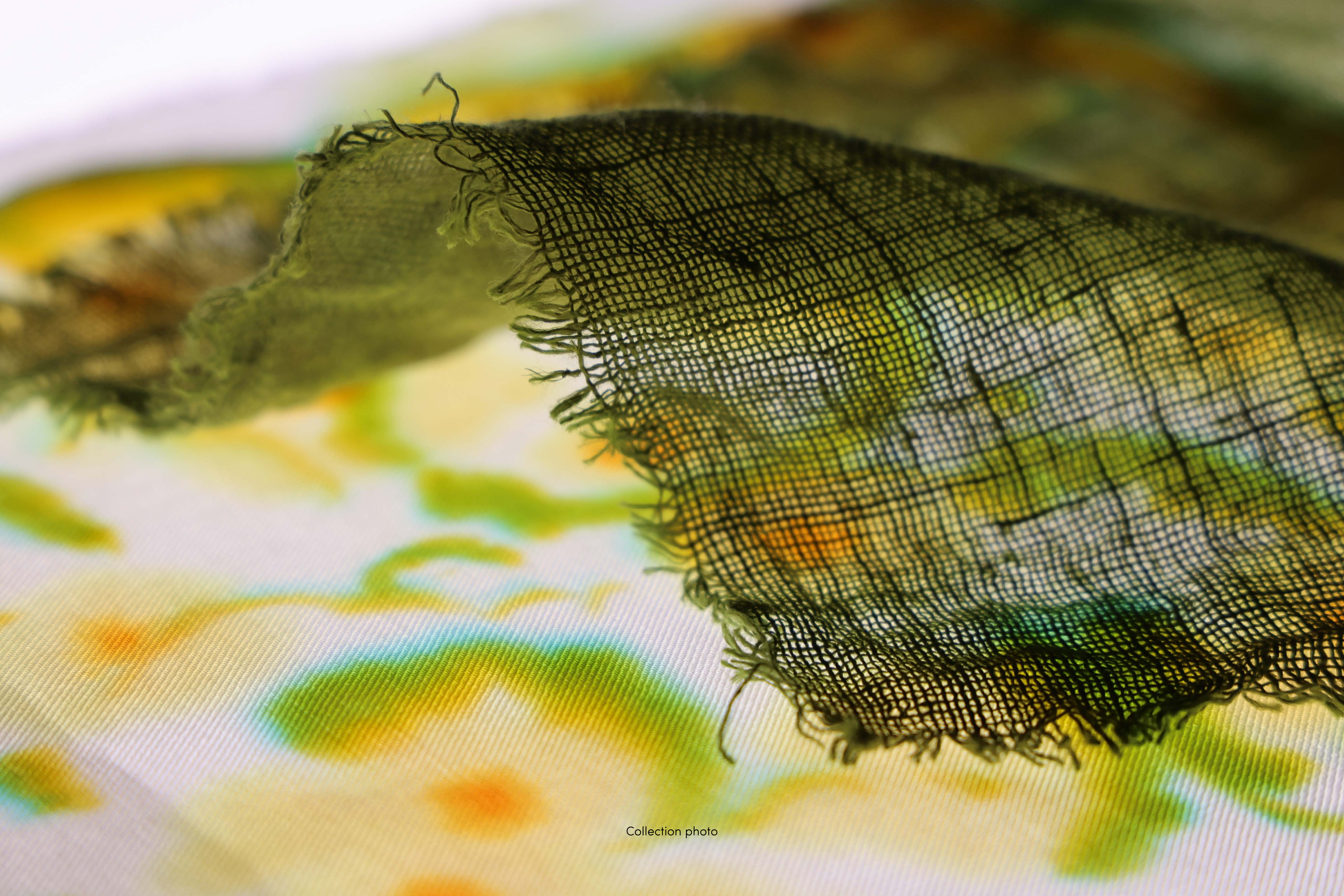
Description

Chlorophyll is a collection using different textile print and dye methods. The inspiration for the project comes from microscopic views of cells, bacteria and chemical patterns; the underlying world invisible to human eye. The projects name Chlorophyll is the green pigment that absorbs sunlight and enables fotosynthesis.



Sketches for prints





Collection photo

Currents

Info

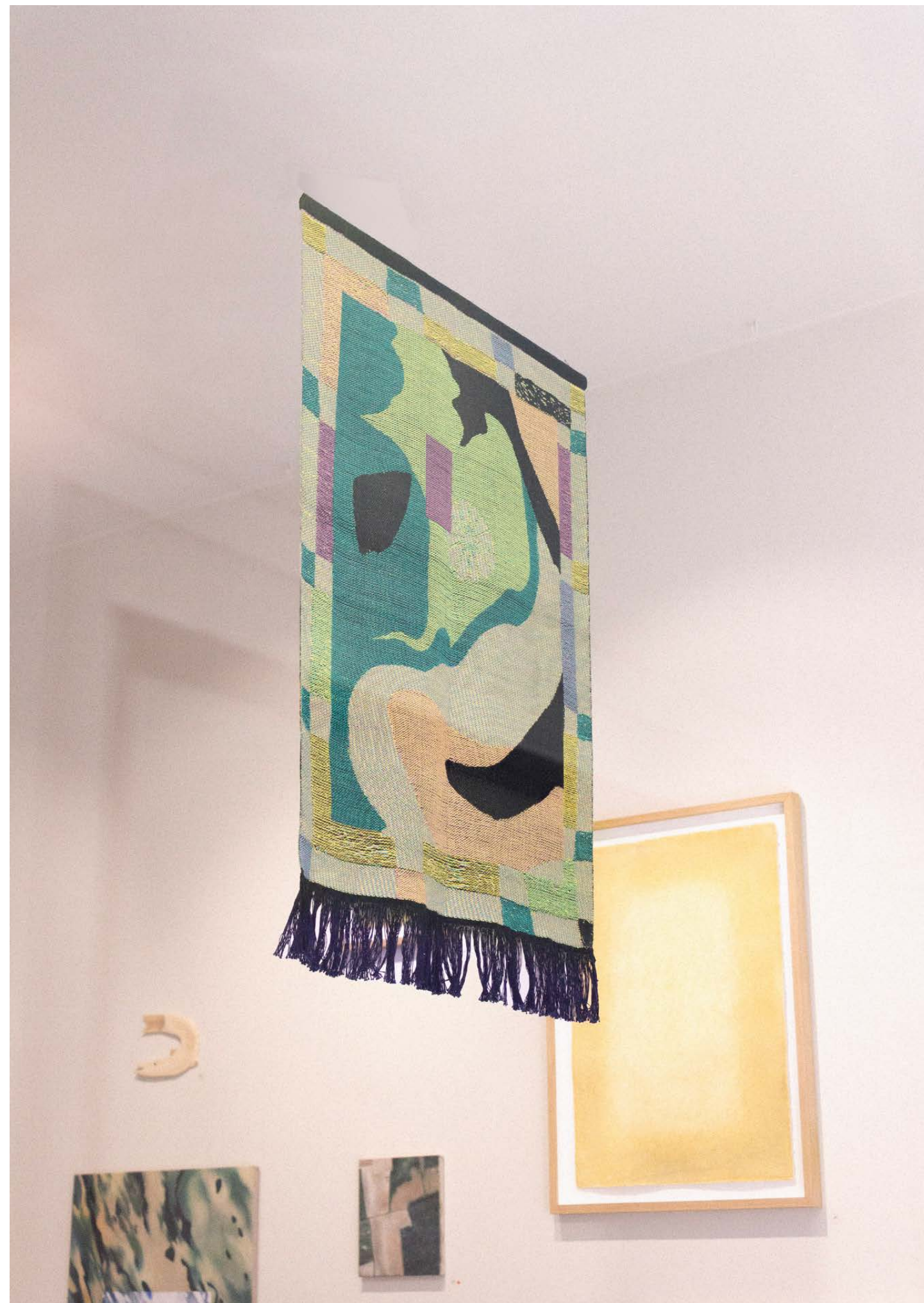
Currents

Hand woven on a digital jacquard loom

90 x 125 cm

2021

Exhibited in Bloom group exhibition in Lokal Gallery 2023



Description

Currents is a digital jacquard wall hanging. Inspiration for this work came from when I was exploring in Google Earth studying the terrains and natural formations. Immersing myself with the two dimensional satellite imagery was both alluring and alienating. Lack of the third dimension simplified and distanced the subjects from their original purpose and origin. The checkered edges that are quite common element in wall hangings subtly resemble maps coordinates.

Cells/Filaments

Info

Cells/Filaments

hand woven on a digital jacquard loom

Woven piece size: 90 x 60 cm

2022



Description

Cells/Filaments is a diptych made with digital jacquard weaving.

Work initiated when I was going through school books of biology and physics from my teenage years. I got fascinated by the terminology of natural science, organisms' functions and the microscopic footage. Etymology of some words both in english and finnish derive from traditional fiber-based handcraft terminology. For example the word filament can refer to many things like various organic structures and shapes.



Installation view

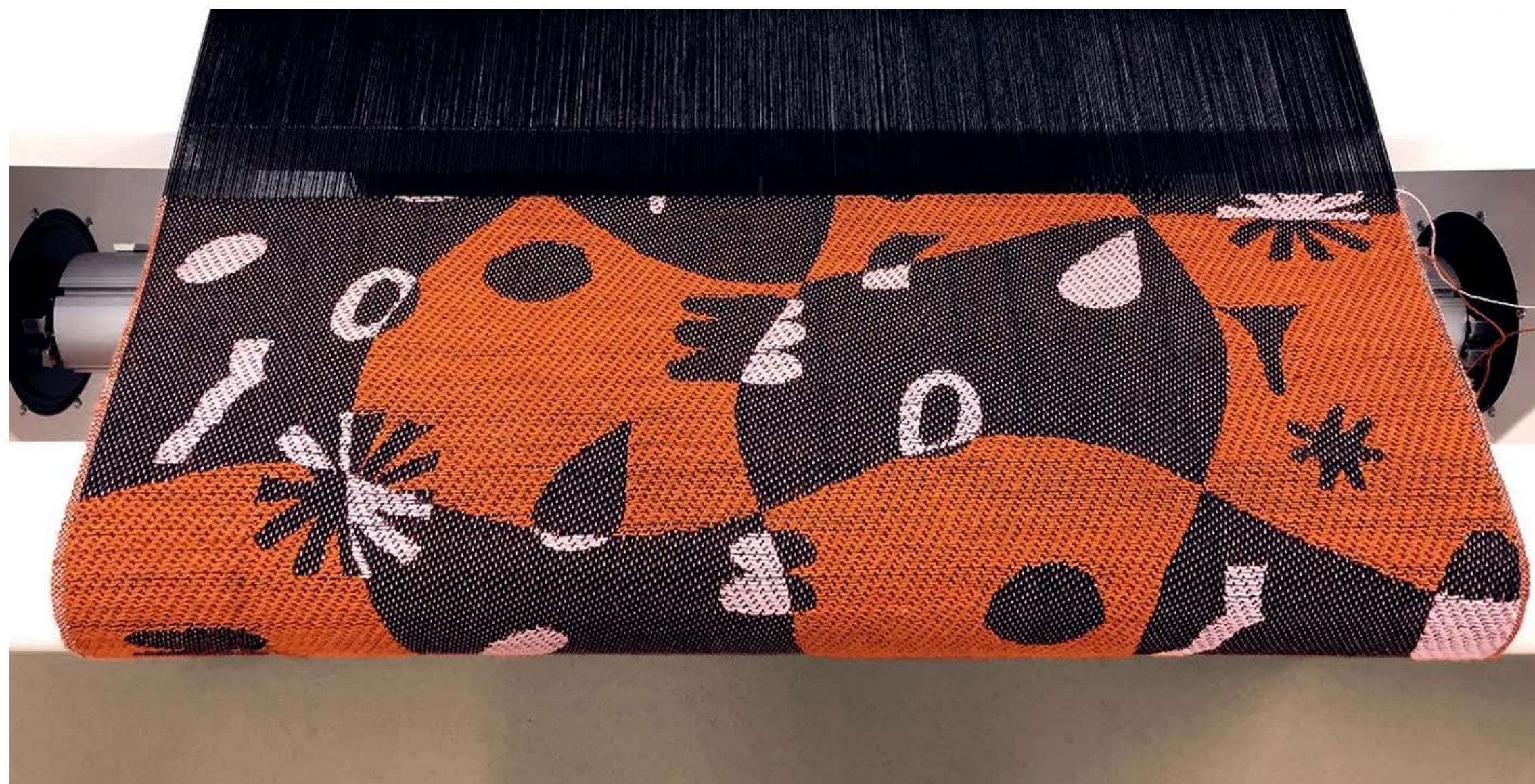
Marras

Info

Marras - Pattern

2021-2022

Infinite pattern for upholstery purpose, digital jacquard woven swatch, digital 3D-modelled visualizations of the fabric



Description

Marras - an old finnish word ominously refering to death, a ghost, a peculiar phenomena as an omen to death or more familiarly - the word for November (in finnish).

Illustration of the pattern came about while I was trying to look for signs of life in nature in midst of the Marras (November in Flnnish). I happened to find bits and pieces - remains of the autumn blooming flowers, flowing water in the form of a river or rain and so on. The colour orange resemble autumn, the light pink the frost and the black - Marras.

The chair models are acquired from a free 3D object website and the fabric sample is digitized and fit to the 3D chairs in Blender.



3D simulation of the upholstery fabric

Yond Life

Info

Yond Life

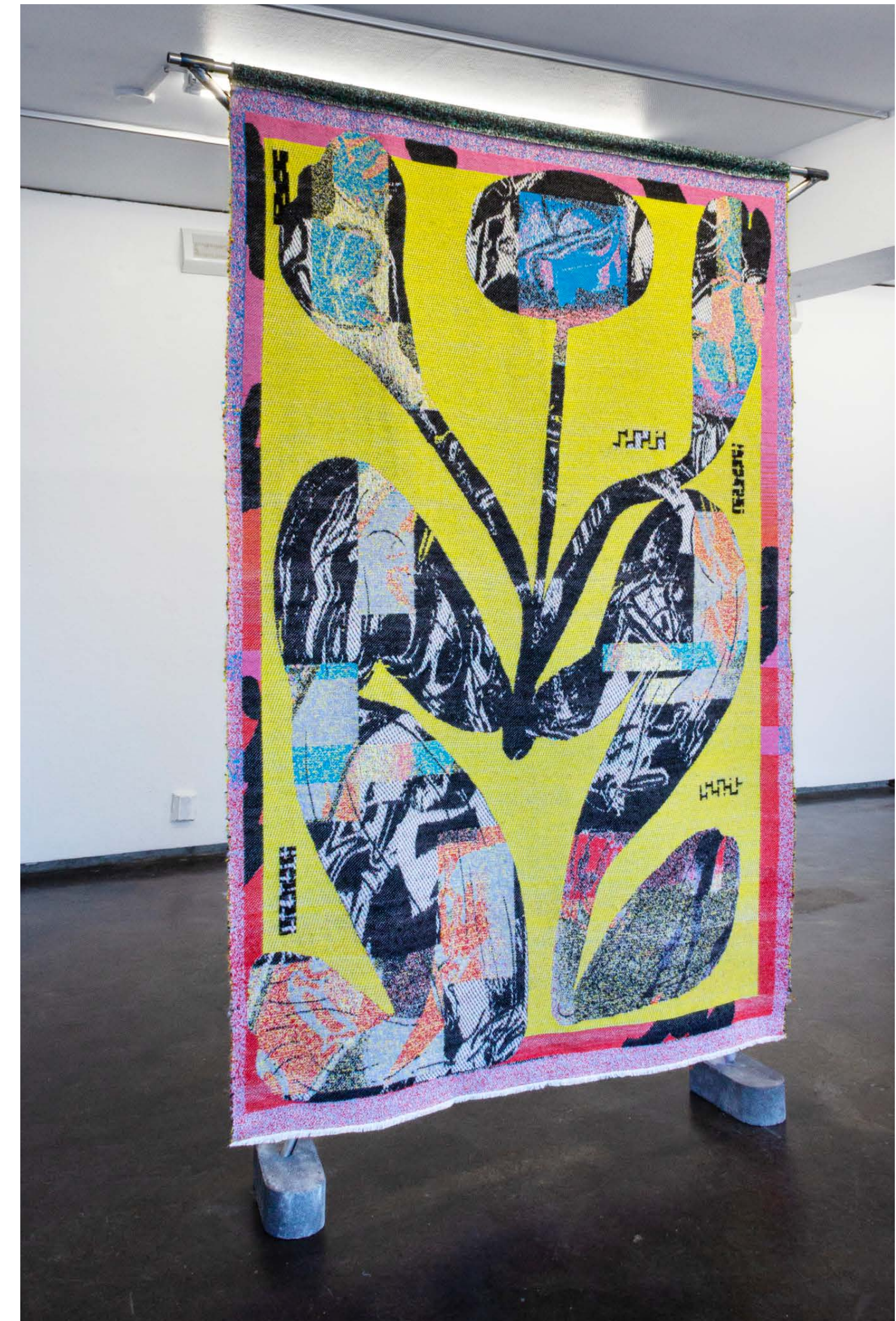
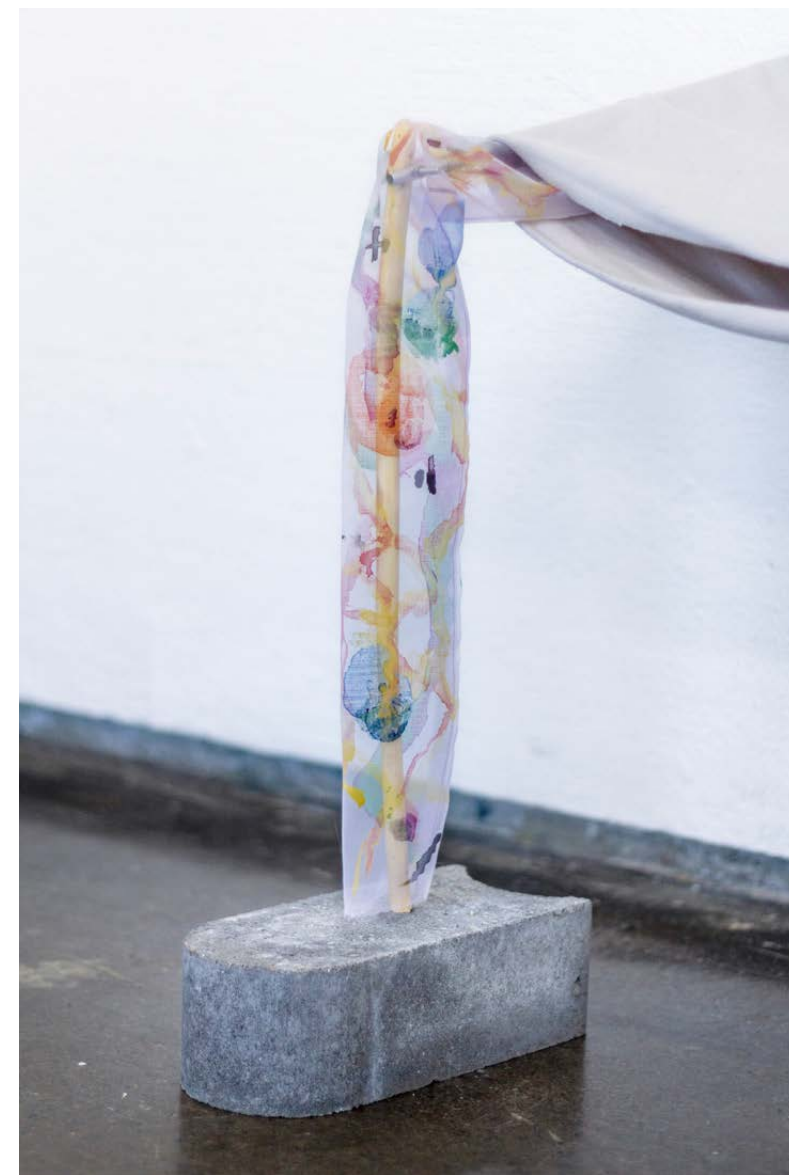
2021

fabric, metal, wood, pine soap, felt, sound, plastic, stone, bluetooth speakers

Dimensions variable

Exhibited in Titanik, Turku December 2021

Part of the annual XS – Festival for New Dance and Performance (Ehkä – production)



Description

Yond Life installation consisted of six sculptural "characters". There were bluetooth speakers inside four characters and they formed a kind of a choir that was chanting a song with AI generated lyrics.

Combining techniques and materials which are not the usual imagery linked to sci-fi related topics is to express the AI's past and heritage: felted totem like column, mask and a head computationally milled out of pine soap, digital jacquard woollen hanging.

Sich horizontal machen, bitte

Info

Sich horizontal machen, bitte

Installation

Recycled fabric, tent sticks, stones, lamps, recycled pillow fillings, yarn, rope

Dimensions Variable

2021

Exhibited in Galerie FaVU, Brno, September 2021

Curators: Jozef Mrva and Tomáš Plachky

Photos: Polina Davydenko



Description

Sich horizontal machen, bitte was an installation by haus de projekt collective formed by me and artist Anni Haunia.

Sich horizontal machen, bitte was a soft and haptic installation that invited the viewer to touch and dwell in the gallery space. Elements of the exhibitions resembled a kind of imaginary organism that had it's own lingering perception of time.



Installation view



Info

:->

2018

Recycled fabric, wool and cotton yarn, backbag clips, PP bands, found material

Dimension Variable

Exhibited in Purpuritanssi group exhibition, SIC, Helsinki May-June 2019

and TUAS Fine Arts Graduation Show NYTT, Forum Marinum May 2018



Description

:-> is an installation consisting of three textile works, two textile hangings with weights and a small rya mounted with backbag clips. The sewn works are made with upcycled fabrics with the support of Nextiili, operating in Tampere.

The idea for the work came from the combination of the Finnish words for tapestry "seinävaate" and a wall hanging "seinäruusu" (a wall rose). The angular smiley as a name and the taut, stretched fabrics refer to the idea of pleasing others and seeking approval by stretching to the extreme, to the extent of almost bursting at the seams.



Installation view