



ELZARA OISEAU

portfolio
selected

elzaraoiseau@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHY

Elzara Oiseau is an Ukrainian contemporary artist with Crimean Tatar origins. Because of the deportation by Stalin she did not grow up in her homeland, but in the Caucasus region of Russia. In 2000 she moved with her parents to Crimea, where she grew up, graduated school and then studied monumental art in Simferopol (2005–2011). In 2014 when Crimea was annexed by Russia she moved to Kyiv and then to Irpin. In April 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine Elzara fled alone to Zurich – with a big roll of her paintings from the studio in Kyiv. These paintings were shown in a solo exhibition at La Galerie Philosophique in Grandson, Switzerland, in August 2022.

Since April 2022 Elzara lives and works in a small atelier at Verein Zitrone in Zurich. Since arriving in Zurich, she has realized eleven exhibitions, including two solo exhibitions and four projects that she developed specifically for open calls and collaborations. Among them:

- a 12-meter painting Fragility for loslassen – loswerden in WASCHRAUM, Werkstatt Zürich-Altstetten / SBB Werkstätte, March 2023. [link](#)/ [link](#)
- a collaboration with Nathalie Diserens, Swiss visual artist based in Zurich, for the project le Racinage, shown in April 2023 in GK3. [link](#)
- the wall painting project Mother.Land for Oerlikon Dream House, June 2023 [link](#) / [link](#)

- the collaboration that continues to this day with Zurich based musician Nik Bärtsch .

The Jazz Lines project dedicated to the music of Nik Bärtsch was shown with paintings and installations on around 300 m2 in a solo exhibition in November 2023. [link](#) / [link](#)

- project *Conversation* big solo installation(around 20sq meters) dedicated to the music, for collective exhibition *Resonanzkörper* in WASCHRAUM in historical building, the WASCHRAUM space, SBB Werkstatte, Zurich, June 2024. [link](#)

In her artistic practice, Elzara usually focuses on abstract calligraphy and interaction with music. The artist blends texts with images and abstract forms, following the rhythms and melodies of certain songs. Elzara's exploration of the shapes, colors, line reflects the perception from the structure of progressive metal and jazz music. Since December 2021, her theme was inevitably changed by the threat of the Russian invasion and the presentiment that her life would be threatened. As she knew it, being under the danger of destruction, Elzara started her Anxiety series using the immense canvases with the texts, as a scream to the world. With the following events, Anxiety series has then been unfortunately transformed into War and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder project, in which Elzara reflects on her experience with mental consequences of the war. In 2023 the main subject of Elzara's works slowly and naturally transformed into the subject of the imaginary physical human's roots and land : stolenland, soreland, homeland, motherland, safeland.

Elzara is a member of association of professional artists Visarte Switzerland.

RESUME

EDUCATION:

2005 –2011 –Crimean Engineering –pedagogical University, Faculty of Arts, speciality: Monumental Art. Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2023 – *Jazz Lines*, collaboration with Nik Bärtsch, personal exhibition + concert, Zentralwäscherei, Halle. Zurich, Switzerland.

2023 – personal exhibition for charity concert for Ukraine, organized by Nik Bärtsch, Exil club. Zurich, Switzerland.

2022 – *Lettres*, curated by Jorge Canete, La Galerie Philosophique. Grandson, Switzerland.

2021 – *Expressions*, Angar. Kyiv, Ukraine.

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2024 – project *Conversation* for collective exhibition *Resonanzkörper* in WASCHRAUM in historical building, the WASCHRAUM space, SBB Wekstatte, Zurich.

2023 - 2024 – *Cosmogony of Senses*, collective exhibition, The Korsak's Museum of Modern Ukrainian Art. Lutsk, Ukraine.

2023 – *Mother.Land*, project for Oerlikon Dream House, collective exhibition, curated by Matteo Kramer & Floyd Bolliger. Zurich, Switzerland.

2023 – *Le Racinage*, project-collaboration with swiss visual artist Nathalie Diserens, GK3 space. Zurich, Switzerland.

2023 – *SORE LAND*, collective exhibition, Zentralwäscherei.space. Zurich, Switzerland.

2023 – *loslassen-loswerden*, wall painting project *Fragile* for WASCHRAUM, Werkstatt Zurich Altstetten. Zurich, Switzerland.

2022–2023 *Wenn die Erde bebt*, curated by Barbora Gerny, Go Green Art Gallery. Erlenbach, Switzerland.

2022 – *KUNST take away*, curated by Maria Baenziger, Stadt Baden, Kunstraum Baden. Baden, Switzerland.

2022 – *Mirror*, international group exhibition, held by Transcarpathian Regional Art Museum named Yosup Bokshay, Uzgorod, Ukraine.

2022 – *Yesterday was the day before today*, curated by Kebikollectiv. Zurich, Switzerland.

2022 – *ARTE UKRAÏNA a Vicenza*, collective exhibition. Vicenza, Veneto, Italy.

2022 – *CHILDREN for UNICEF*, collective auction, Ukraine in XRONOLAB gallery. Zürich, Switzerland.

2022 – *Resistance*, collective exhibition, Baroque App. Kyiv, Ukraine.

2022 – *War time. Reflections*, collective exhibition, the gallery of contemporary art *Dzyga*, Lviv, Ukraine.

2022 – *Stand With Ukraine*, collective exhibition by UART + NYC Art movement group, ONE ART SPACE GALLERY. New York, USA.

2022 – collective auction in Xanadu Gallery. Warsaw, Poland.

2022 – *WAR IS NOT PEACE*, collective exhibition, by Ksi Prostir. Bordeaux, France.

2022 – *MAKE ART NOT WAR*, collective exhibition, CAM Contemporary Art Museum, Naples, Italy.

2022 – *Transit zone. Exit gate 2022*, collective exhibition, organization by art researching platform MOKONSHU. Mitec Gallery, Kyiv, Ukraine.

2021 – **now** *The Way of the Crimea / Yol Qirim*, project at Crimean House., the project is supported by Ukranian Cultural Fondation, Kyiv, Ukraine.

2021 – *Your names, Ukraine*, collective exhibition, The Korsak's Museum of Modern Ukrainian Art. Lutsk, Ukraine.

2021 – Online exhibition *Digital Week of Women in Art 2021*, Georgia.

2021 – *Geography of Ukrainian writing*, International festival of literature of Ukraine Book Arsenal, exhibition. Kyiv, Ukraine.

2019 – International festival of literature of Ukraine Book Arsenal, the corner *Letter*. Kyiv, Ukraine.

PUBLICATIONS:

2023 - Religion & Gesellschaft, Kultur, article *Zwischen Sarkasmus und Mitgefühl. Ukrainische Kunst in der Amplitude des Krieges*, by Vita Susak. RGOW 1-2/2023, 51.Jahrgang, p. 22-27.

2023 – Book *loslassen-loswerden*, by Nadine Jäger, Alicia Olmos Ochoa, Andrea Ramseyer, Pia Simmendinger, Zurich, Switzerland [link](#).

2023 – Book *Cosmogony of Senses*, by Victor Korsak, Lutsk, Ukraine.

2023 – podcast for ЧОБИ/SNOBS in Ukrainian. [link](#)

2023 – ArtHouse, Ukrainian Contemporary Artists, issue 24.02.2022. 4:55. WAR, Lviv, Ukraine.

2022 – Culture, article by Olga Smolnytska, CYPMA, N°13, 07.09.2022, p. 28–29. USA, Ukraine [article link](#)

2022 – *Wo bist du, mein Kind?*, article by Vita Susak; Ukraine Stimmen, 27.08.2022, Germany [link](#)

2022 – Interview for RTS Radio Television Swiss, *A Voix Haute* avec Manuela Salvi in French. [link](#)

2022 – Russia-Ukraine, art and culture. *Où es tu, mon enfant?*, article by Vita Susak, Le Temps, 11 August 2022/N°7392, J.A.1209 Geneva/ [link](#)

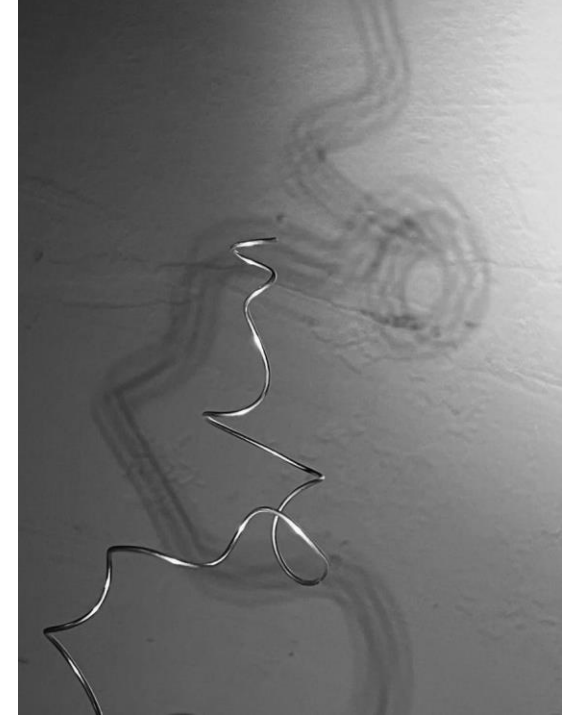
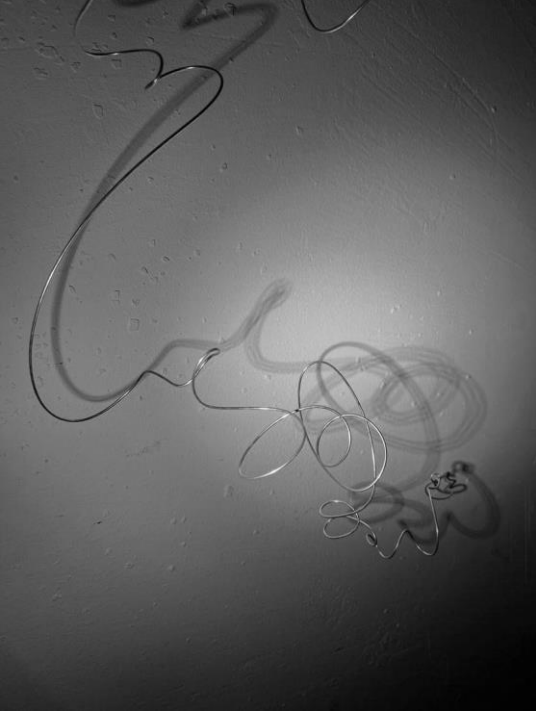
2022 – ArtHouse, Ukrainian Contemporary Artists, issue N°8, 2022, Lviv, Ukraine.

2021 – Book *How to became the Name*, by Victor Korsak, Lutsk, Ukraine.

2021 – *From the studying to experiments*, Catalogue of Ukrainian modern calligraphy, publishing house Artiya,

2021 – Professional Women Artists Catalogue 2021, Georgia.

2021 – Boomer Magazine, The New Artist first edition 2021, London.



Conversation. Project for *Resonanzkörper* in [Waschraum](#)



[video](#)

[video](#)





Jazz Lines. Installations, wire



Modul 59 based on Nik Bärtsch's scores, 2023.
acrylic, canvas, 160*200cm

Jazz Lines: musical and visual dialogues of Nik Bärtsch and Elzara Oiseau, 2023

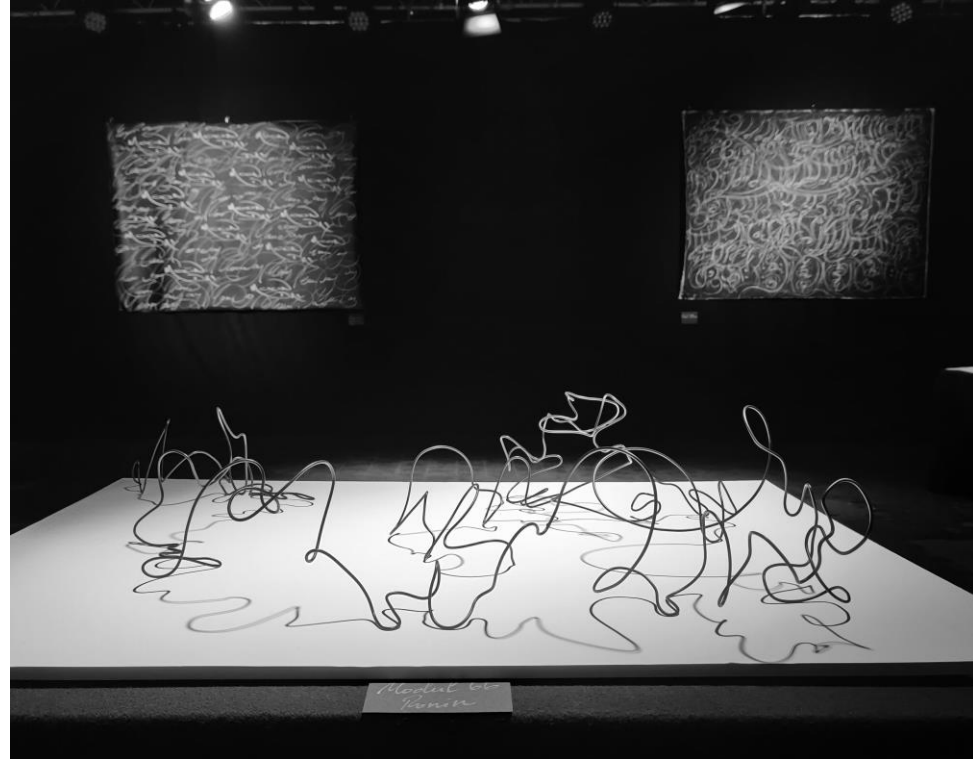
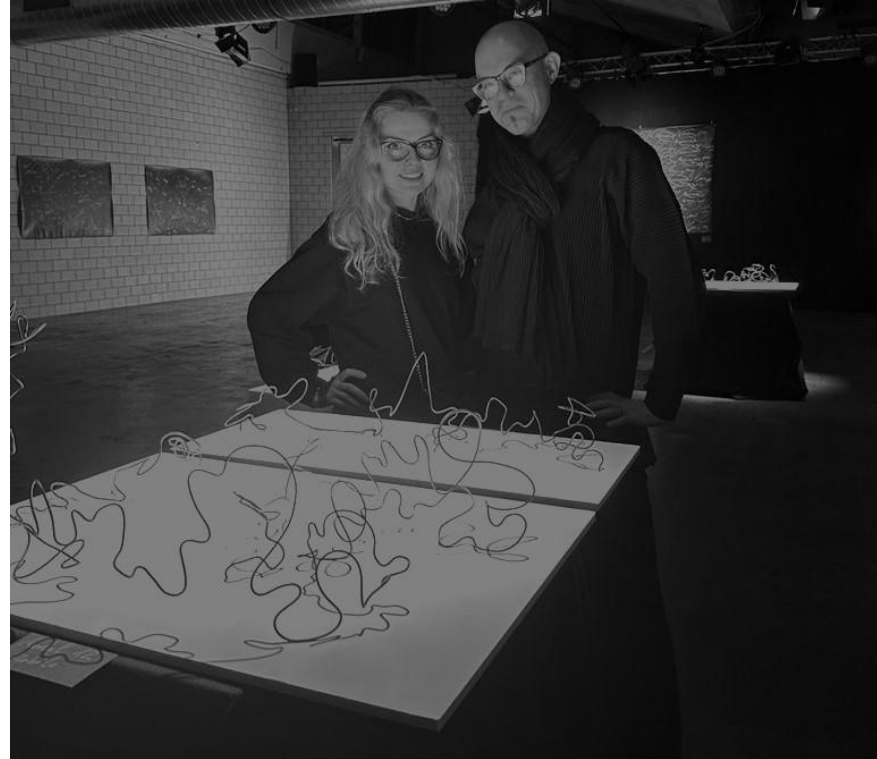
Nik Bärtsch, a visionary composer and pianist, is celebrated for his innovative approach to music. His compositions, often referred to as *Ritual Groove Music* blends elements of jazz, funk, and minimalism, resulting in a hypnotic and meditative sonic experience. Bärtsch's intricate rhythms and repetitive motifs create a sense of fluidity and motion, inviting listeners to embark on a sonic journey that transcends conventional boundaries. Elzara Oiseau, draws inspiration from Bärtsch's compositions to create stunning visual interpretations. Through her unique artistic language, Oiseau captures the essence of Bärtsch's music, translating its intricate rhythms and dynamic energy into captivating visual forms. Her use of monochrome colors, texture, and movement evokes a sense of synesthesia, allowing viewers to experience the music through a visual lens.







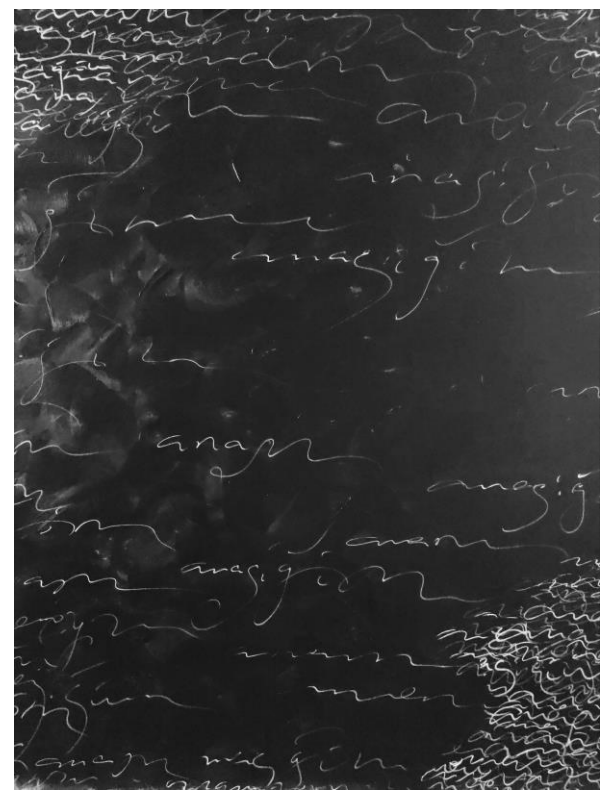
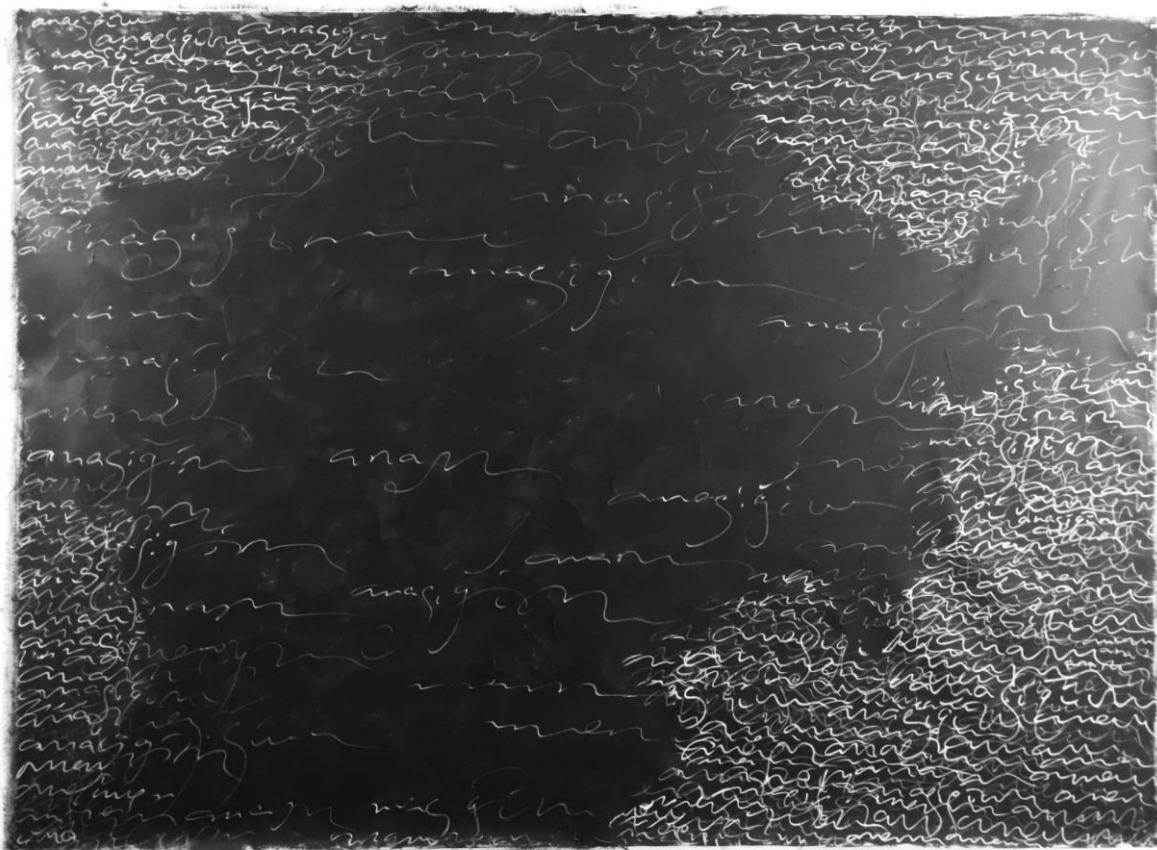
Desert song, based on Nik Bärtsch's song *Modul 61*, 2023. acrylic, canvas, 160*200cm, **Jazz Lines**



Jazz Lines. 30.11-4.12. Paintings & installations by Elzara Oiseau. Zentralwäscherei.space, Zurich [link](#)
curated by Anastasia Yovanovska

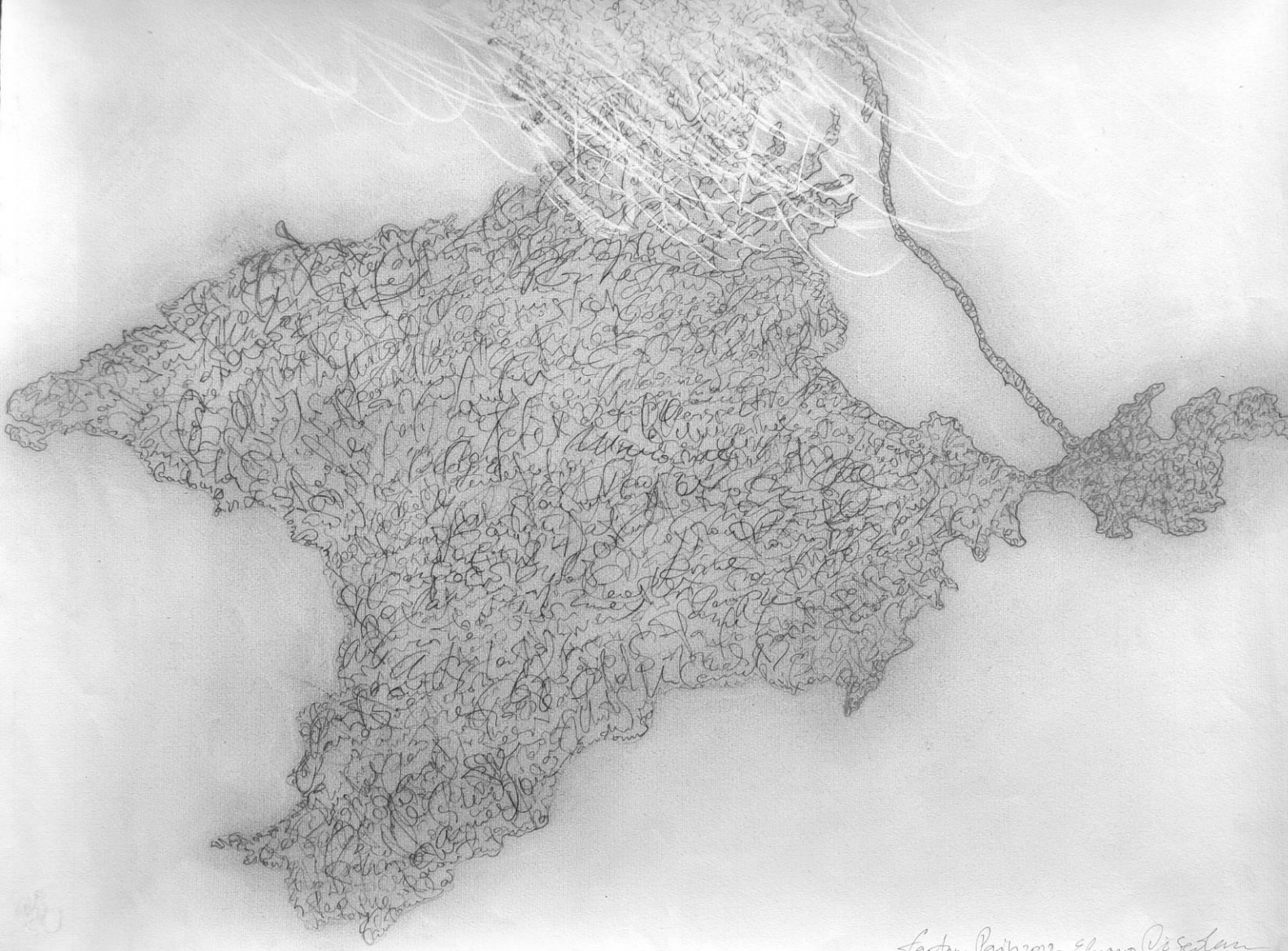


MOTHER.LAND



Anam.Anaçığım 2023. acrylic, canvas, 150*200 cm

My native land, Crimea. Caressed by the waves of the Black Sea, which I filled with the words 'Anaçığım, Anam' from crimean tatar language meaning 'Mother, Mom'. My whole family lives under constant repressions, they are blocked in occupied Crimea for many years. Will I see them again?



Phantom Pain. 2023. Paper, pencil, 48*64cm.

I was invited by [2402forum](https://2402forum.com) for making my artistic reflection for the discussion after the movie screening *Pushing boundaries* by Lesia Kordonets about Ukrainian paralympic athletes. The words used in the discussion.



MOTHER.LAND

Wall painting for Oerlikon Dream House.

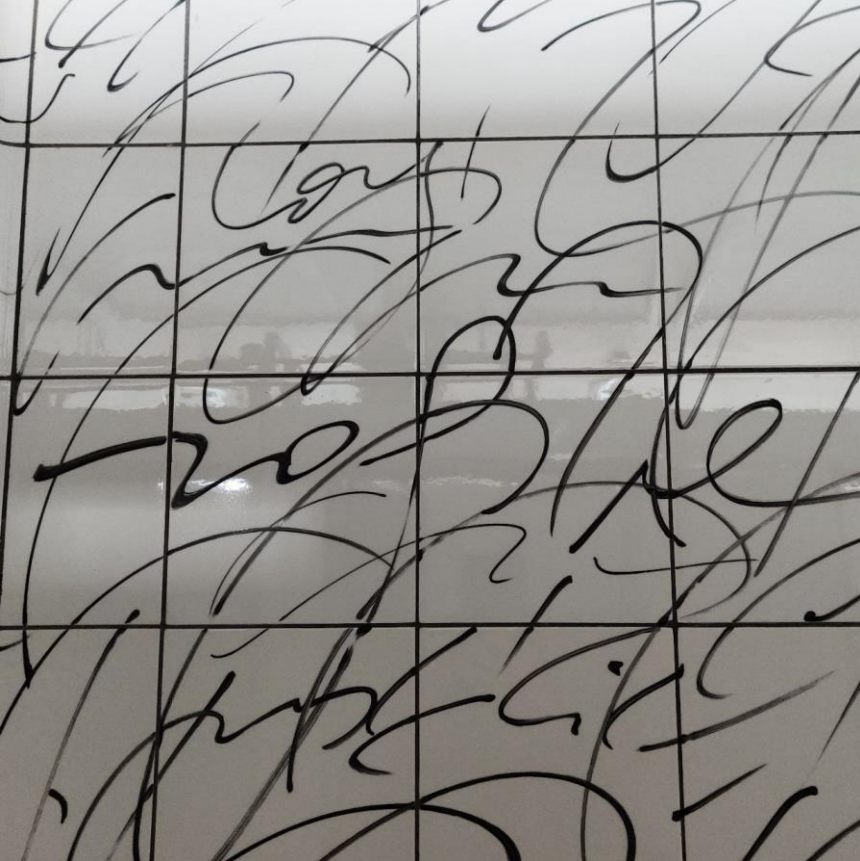


HOME/MOTHER/LAND

This artwork for the Dream House is about my native land: Crimea. The land which was stolen few times in my life. Once before I was born: criminal deportation of Crimean Tatars - indigenous people of Crimea, by Stalin 18.05.1944, because of this I was born not in my homeland. 2nd time in 2014 (annexation of Crimea by Russia). 3rd time - the whole Ukrainian land which is bleeding since February 2022.

Home, Land, Mother, Language, Memories, Family, Hope. As I work with the words, I chose 3 main words which express the meaning of the HOME personally for me, in Crimean Tatar (Qirimli) language: ANAM (Mother) QIRIM (Crimea) VATAN (Homeland). My native language is almost lost (forcibly erased by Russification during the dozens of years). I speak 4 languages, and now I am learning the 5th one, but I still dream about the day when I will have possibility to learn my mother language in free Crimea.

I used the shape of Crimea, the beautiful peninsula full of wonderful historical and archeological heritage, caressed by the waves of the Black Sea. This artwork is dedicated to my mom/home/parents, whom I am not able to see during many years, and don't even know if I will see again in my life. This artwork is dedicated to all people who were forcibly separated with their loved ones. Their homes. Their lands.



«loslassen-loswerden»

FRAGILITY

12 meters wall painting for
WASCHRAUM

[Read more](#)

[Watch the video](#)

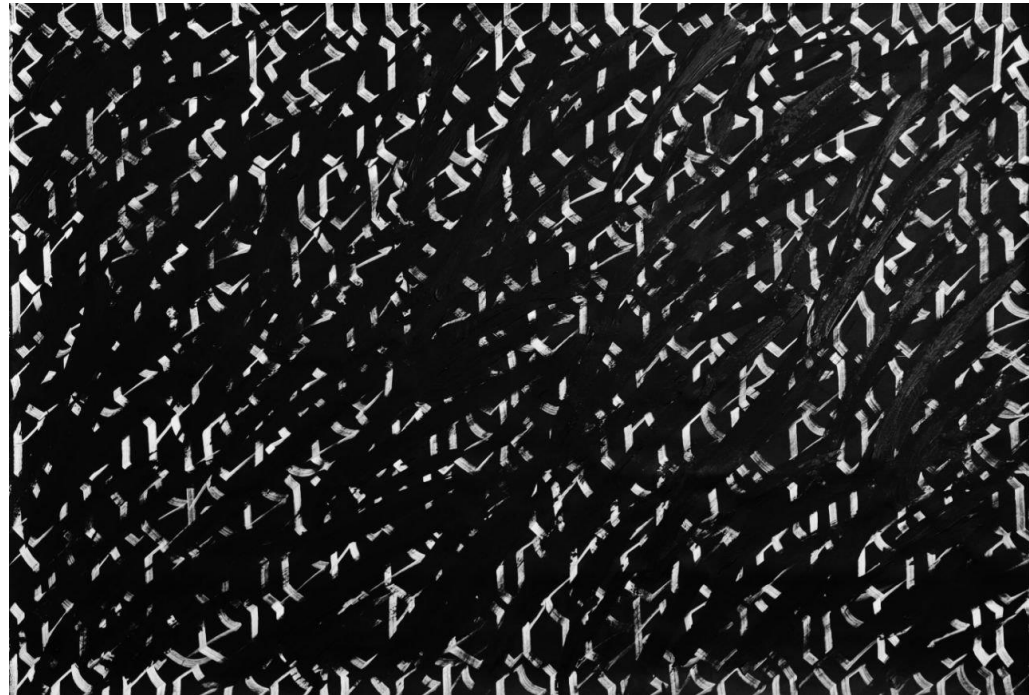




NEIN, 2022
acrylic, canvas
100*160 cm each



KEINE SCHMERZEN, 2023



NIE, 2022



Who I am where, 2022

acrylic, canvas
160*100 cm



Who I am? Why I am here? Where are my roots? Stolen. 2022

acrylic, canvas
160*100 cm



Black birds. Rockets, 2022

acrylic, canvas, 160*200 cm

The birds not of peace, but of anxiety, the heralds of bad news
and air raid warnings.

10.10.2022 russia sent hundreds of missiles against my
homeland..

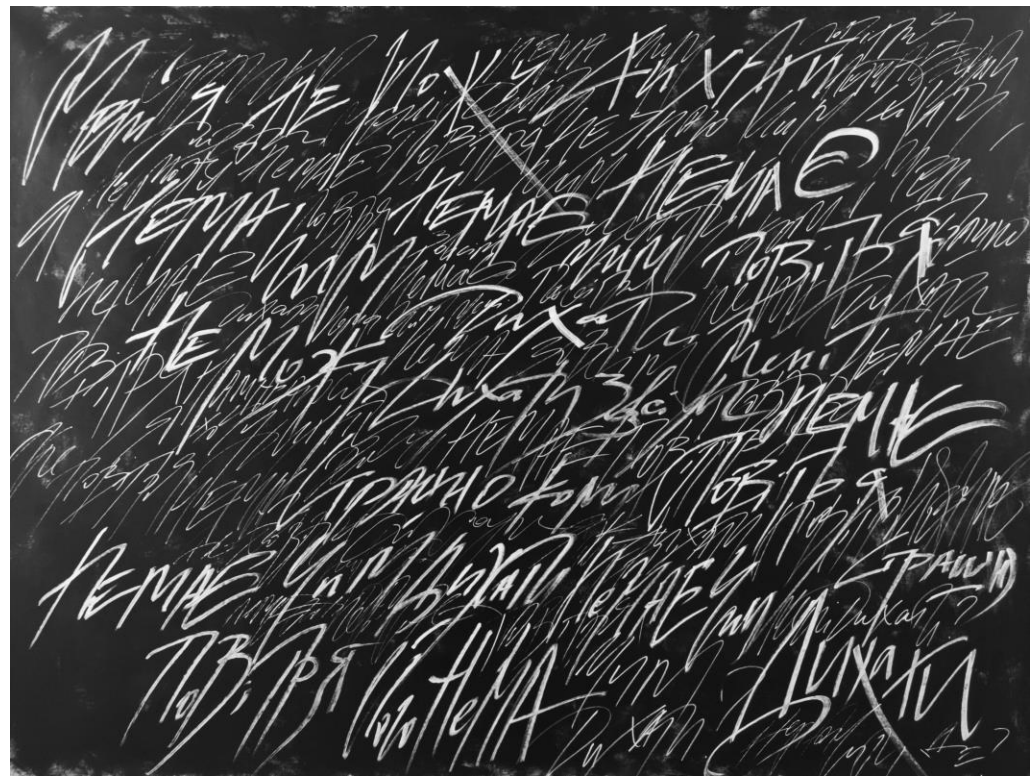
PTSD



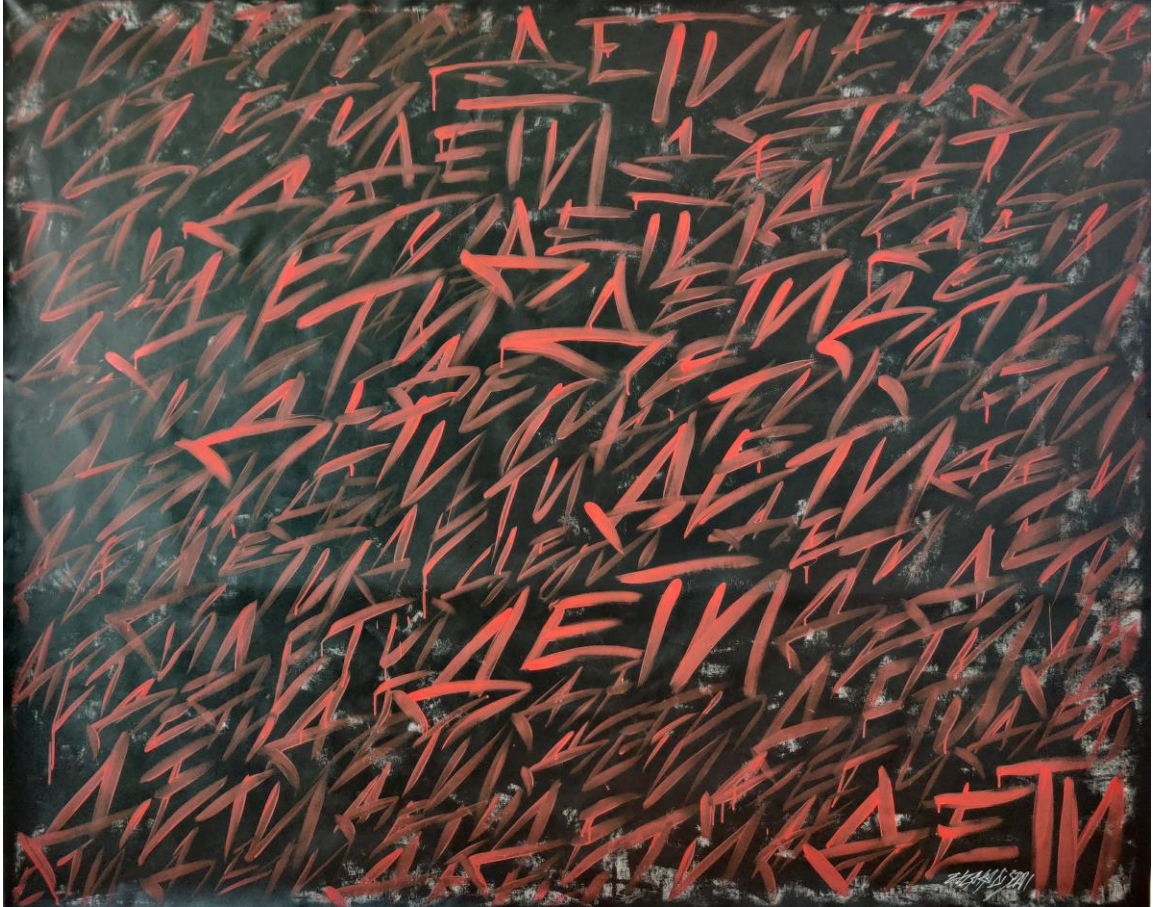
The Bombshelter, 2022
acrylic, canvas, 160*300 cm

I cant breathe. There have no air, 2022
acrylic, canvas, 160*200 cm

Panic attack, chest pain or chest discomfort, shortness of breath, difficulties during the breathing, intense fear, feeling afraid as a common symptom of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)



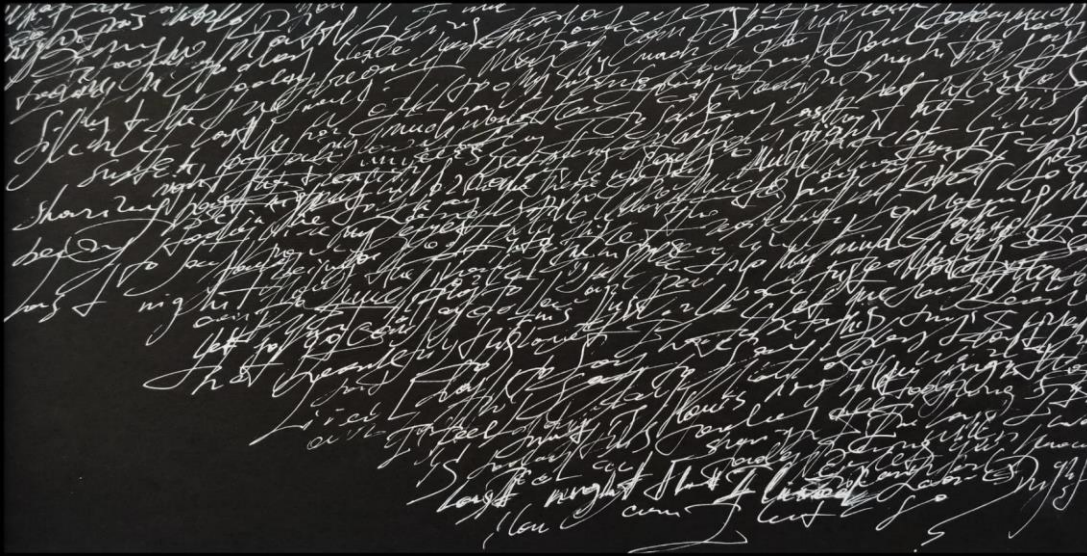
PTSD



ДЕТИ/CHILDREN (rus)/ ДЕ ТИ/ Where are you (ukr) 2022. Acrylic, canvas, 160*200cm

198 children have died, 385 injured. This is the number for 15.04.2022 by official information. But the real number? I multiplied the word ДЕТИ in russian language it means CHILDREN. It's written in places where children stay. But this does not stop russians to shoot directly at cars, send the missiles and throw bombs even at kindergardens.

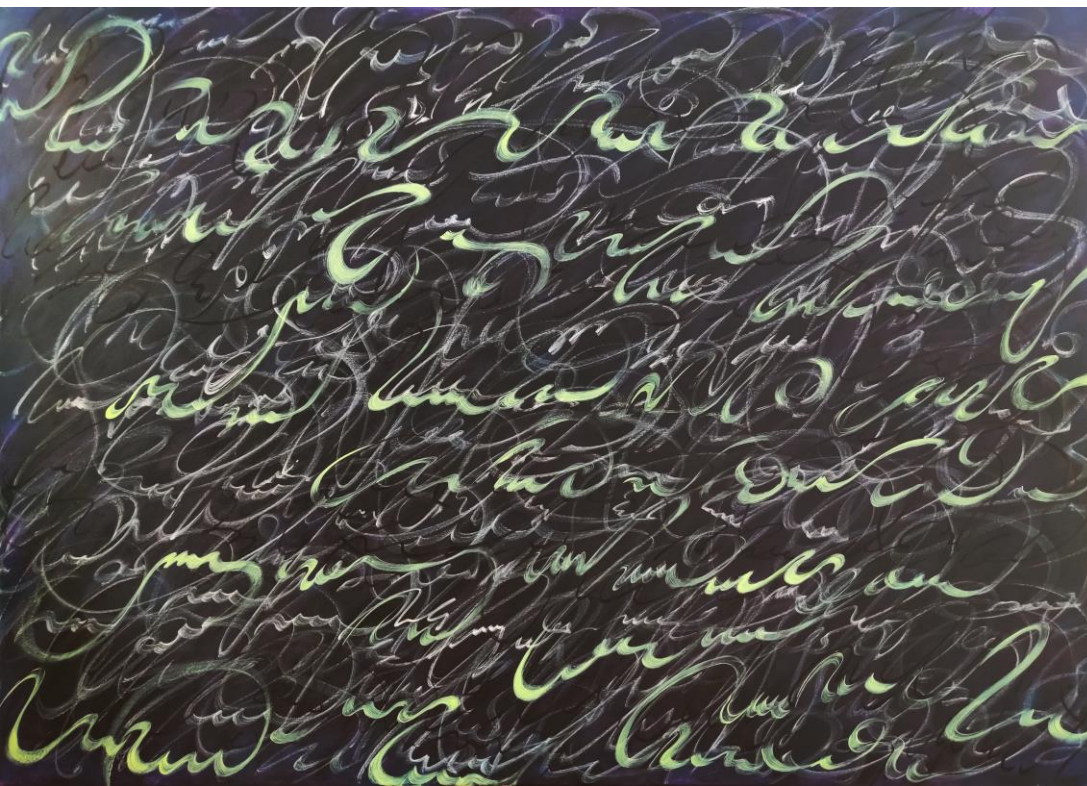
Huge word ДЕТИ was written on the ground in front of Mariupol's dramatic theater, where approximately 600 people died.



MUSIC. CALLIGRAPHIC SERIES ABOUT MUSICAL RESEARCHES AND INFLUENCES

Indeed, music inspires me and has a unique and special place in my life. The works in this series are often texts mixed with images and abstract forms, according to the rhythms and melodies of certain songs. Sometimes they are vibrations, reflections on instrumental music. Deep and sometimes bizarre investigations that are not understandable at first sight. The series has started in period of my admiration by composer and one of the greatest drummers in the world Virgil Donati. Like this, was born the idea transmit the sound into the visual images by the similar mix of calligraphy and abstract art. Besides, the calligraphic technics, give possibility to encode the senses and feelings by networks of visual symbols. The series is going on.

***The Last Night That I Lived*, 2021** (song by Virgil Donati)
cardboard, ink, 20*40cm

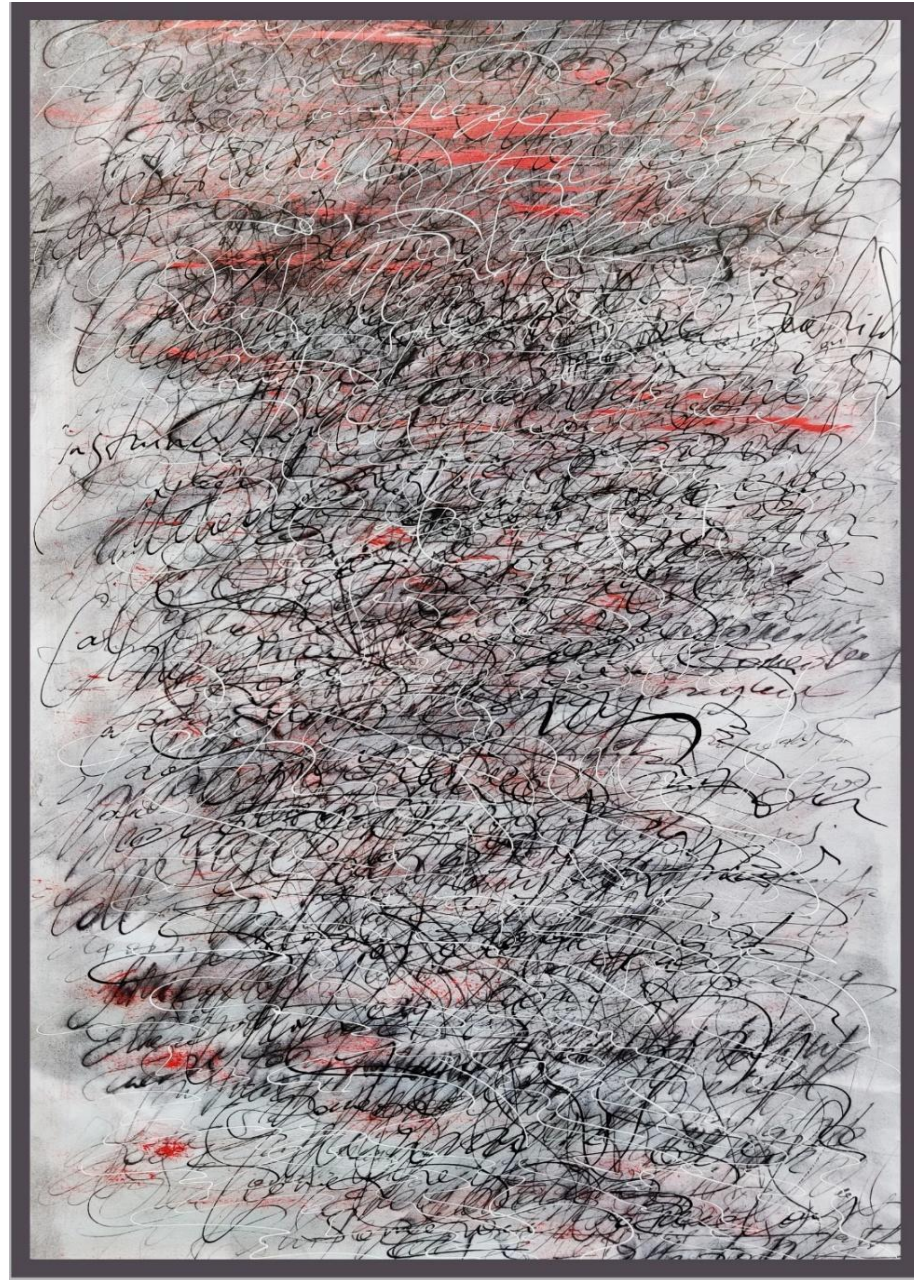


Modul 66, The song by Nik Bärtsch & Ronin, 2022
acrylic, canvas. 100*140 cm. For Nik Bärtsch's collection

MUSIC



Red Air 1, 2021. Paper, ink, acrylic, nib. Instrumental song by Virgil Donati) 50*35 cm .



Red Air 2, 2021. Paper, ink, acrylic, nib Instrumental song by Virgil Donati) 50*35 cm.