



Emily Pfanstiel

FALL 2023

Capstone - Drawing

Department of Art and Art History

**Artist Statement:**

I create illustrations based on altered realities. My latest series tackles a long-term experience in one's mental fog, due to grief. This concept was then split into bodies of work dissecting the recognition, recollection, and relinquishing of grief. I find great significance in the use of memories and their deterioration over time. Whether caused by physical displacement, a migration, or a grief of loss, I use these moments to visually demonstrate how individual realities are impacted by psychological pain. Often those in bereavement carry the collision of past and present to their experience of everyday life. This projection is where I feel most compelled to approach the corrosion of a memory.

When we hold nostalgia for moments of time, this is often attached intrinsically to an item symbolic of those memories. With memory, my images contain personal references to objects of attachment, or the social life of objects. This could be compared to the vision of an old notebook, a well loved blanket, a torn photograph, or the fences of a home you won't return to. There are connections to our environments that continue to bring us fulfillment after they have served their purpose. It is emotional to recall the past and have it fade unconsciously, but it goes nonetheless.

My media works to demonstrate the context of erasure and disintegration. Alongside the medium, I work with fading a recollection of memory, adding graphite in layers as a rendering technique that disorients the viewer. I am drawn towards ink, watercolor, and graphite-based tools. Textures of paper and its application to the narrative play an important role, as my erasure techniques connect with ideas of loss or the absence of something important. Text is also used to quietly support this idea of the finite construct of time. Working with limited material keeps my process evolving deeper into experimentation. Some pieces are fused together as a storytelling element, with a variety of color palettes, materials, and textures to connect into a singular moment of expression. These media allow each composition to evoke the impression of events fading into the fog of memory, or the loss of a moment altogether.

**Title****Original Format**

---

Figure 1: The Curtain

40 x 30 in, ink on paper

Figure 2: The Tree Line

80 x 30 in, ink on paper

Figure 3: Recollection

18 x 20 in, graphite on paper, foamcore

Figure 4: Dissonance

14 x 22 in, graphite on paper

Figure 5: Transpose

10 x 8 in, graphite on paper, foamcore

Figure 6: The Tree Line

15 x 20 in, graphite, watercolor, ink on paper

Figure 7: Repentance

22 x 15 in, graphite paper, paper pulp on paper

Figure 8: Oil Capital

6 x 8 in, watercolor, ink on paper

Figure 9: 01.22.18

30 x 15 in, graphite, watercolor, ink on paper

Figure 10: Migration

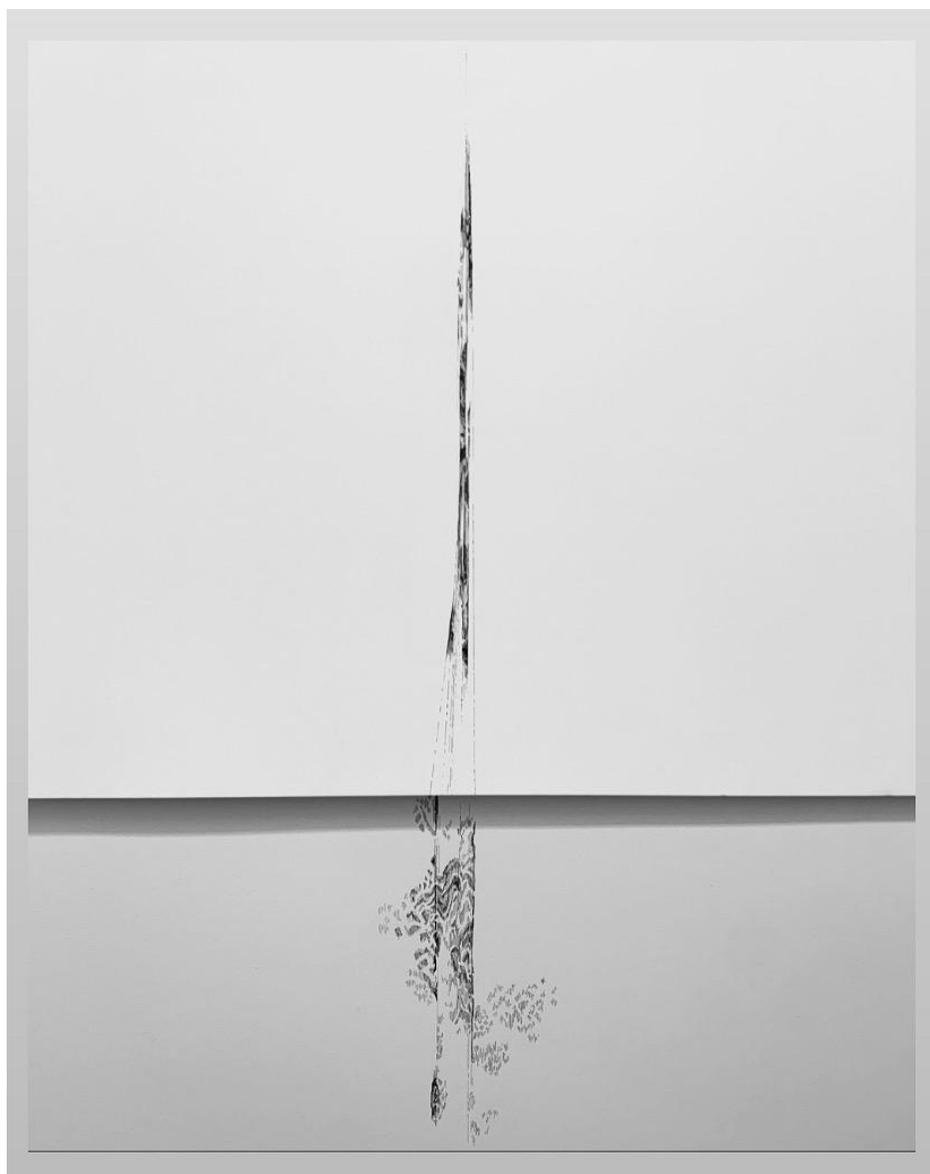
20 x 15 in, Illustrator, Photoshop

Figure 11: Creation of Self

30 x 40 in, graphite on paper

Figure 12: Flown the Nest

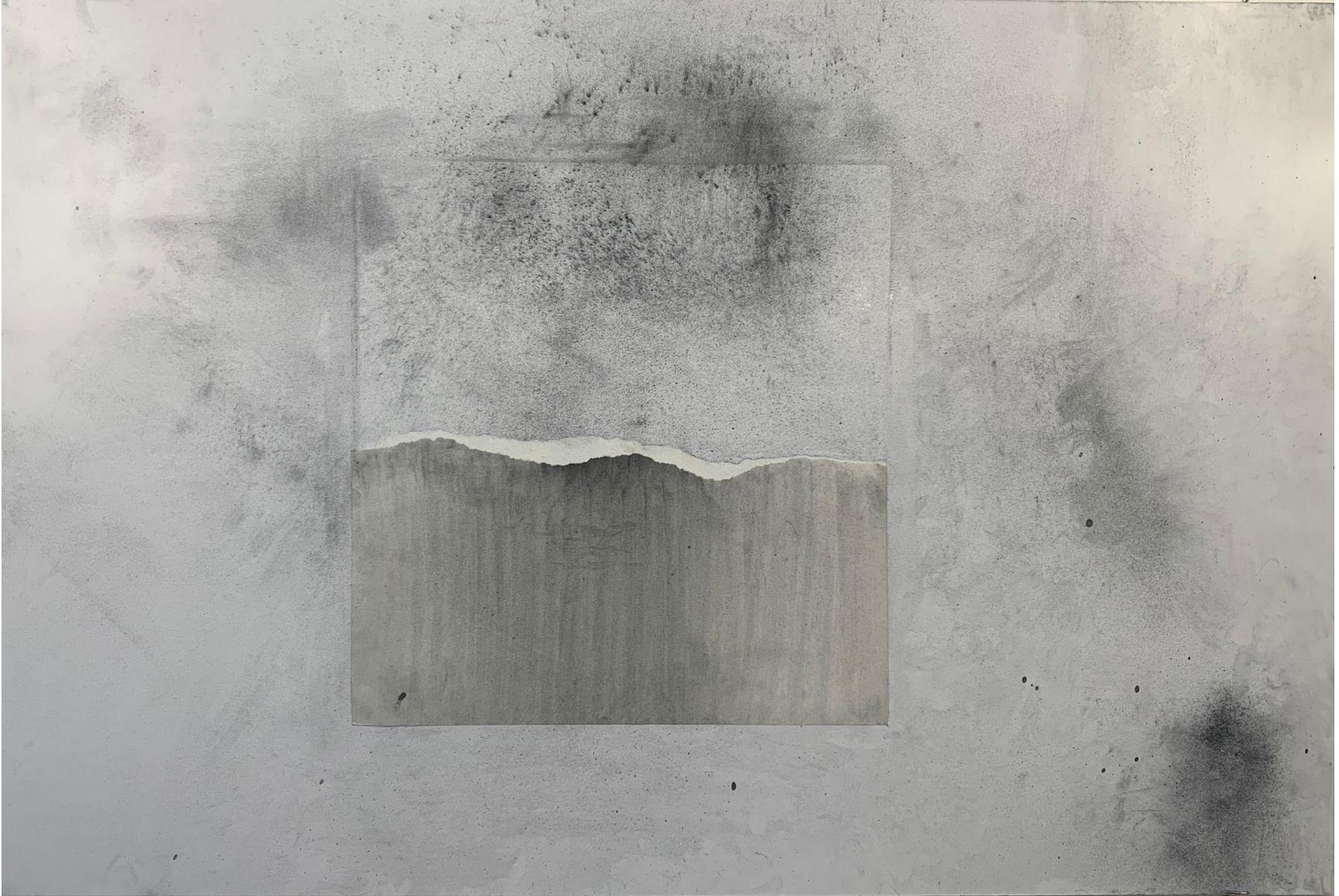
15 x 21 in, graphite, ink on glass



**Figure 1:**



**Figure 2:**



**Figure 3:**



**Figure 4:**

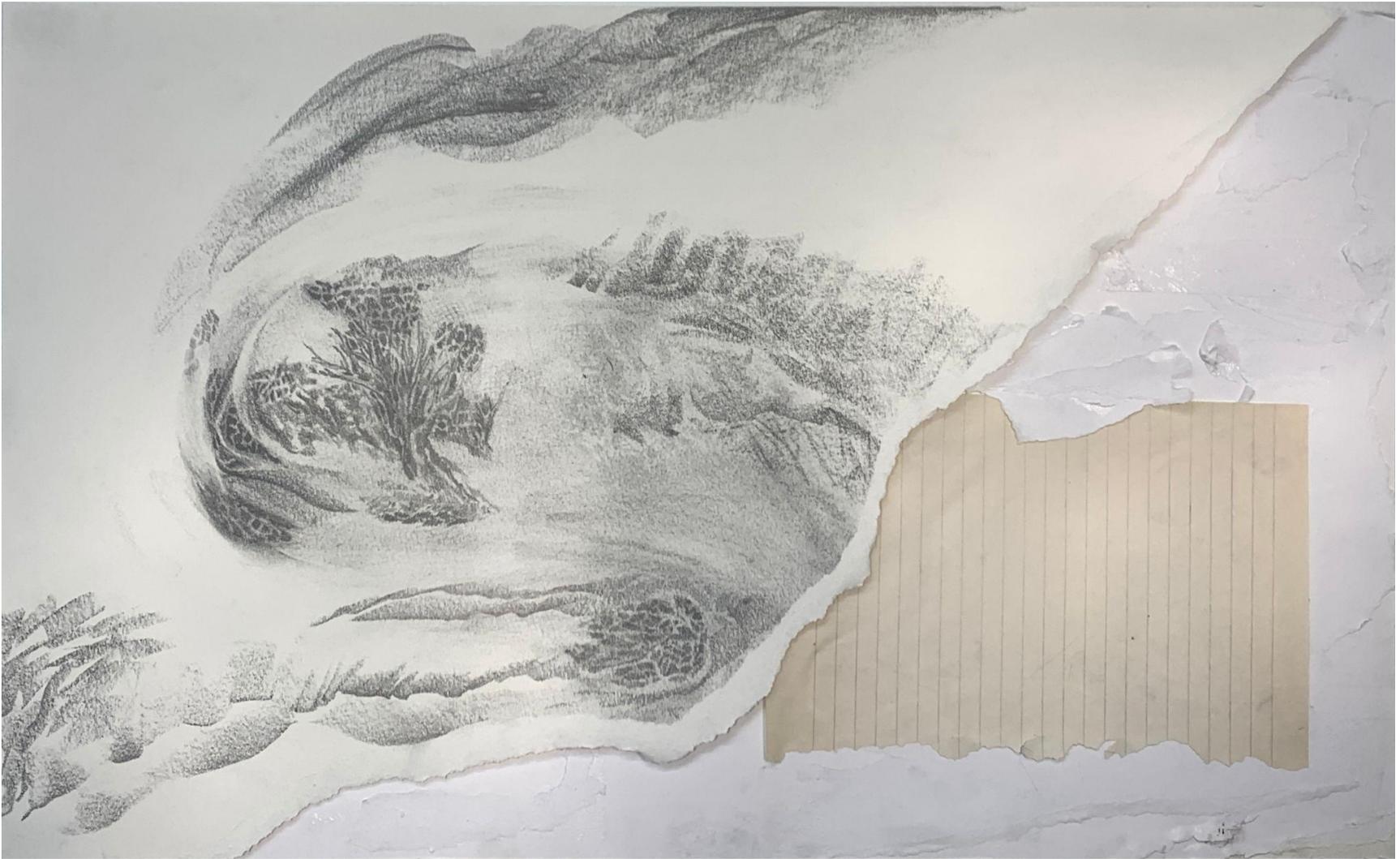


Figure 5:



**Figure 6:**



Figure 7:

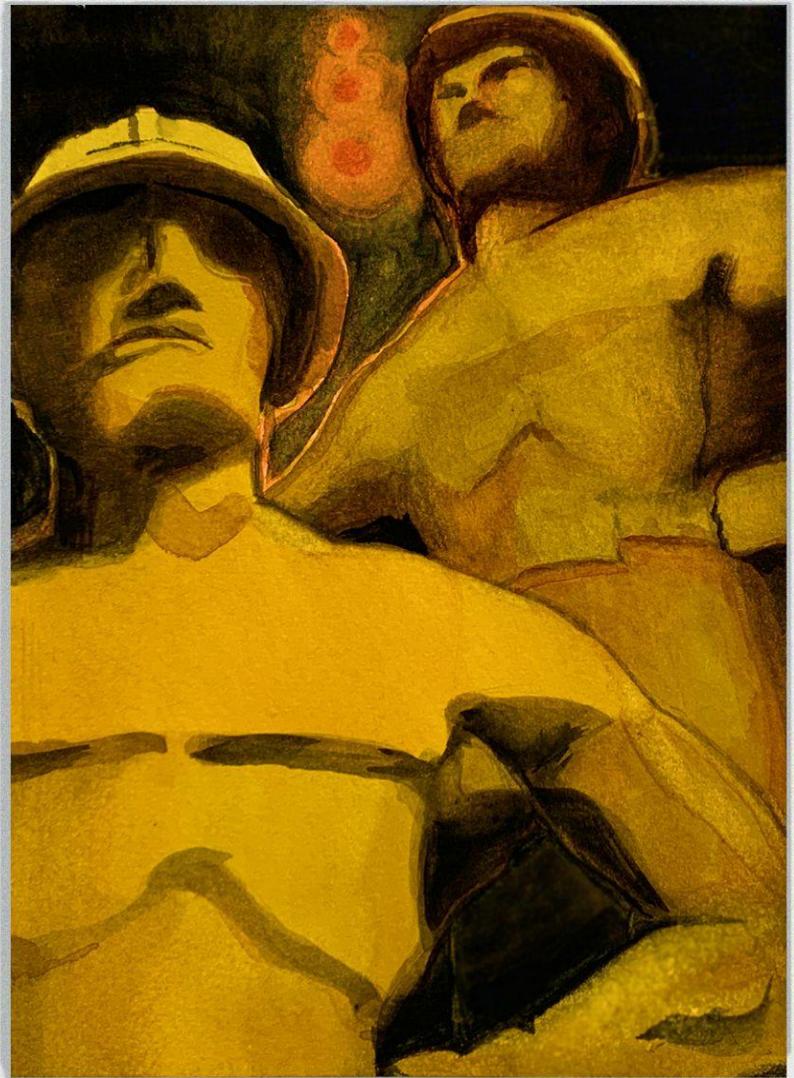


Figure 8:



Figure 9:



**Figure 10:**

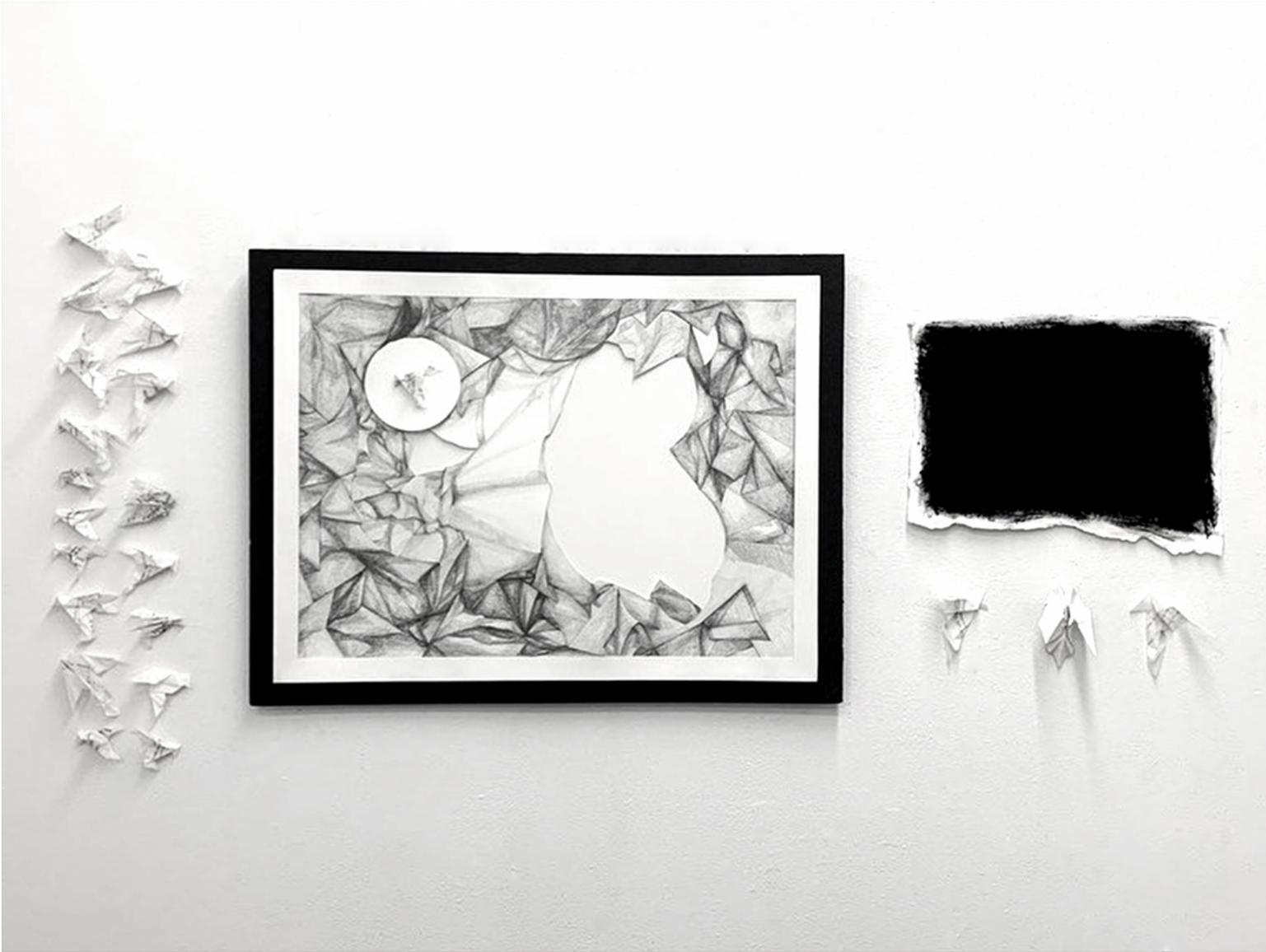


Figure 11:



Figure 12: