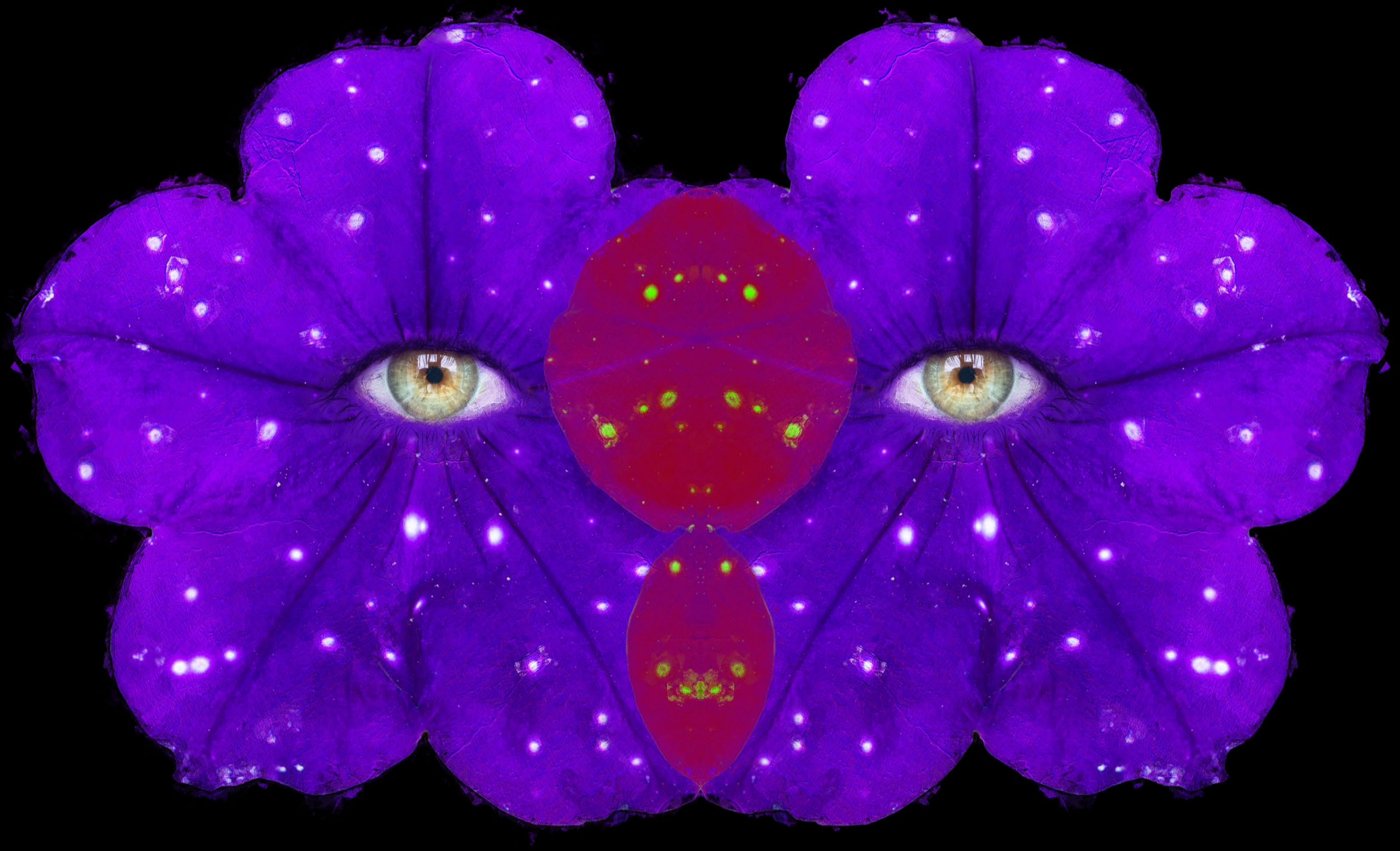


Alireza Mohtashami

*What is the definition of art?  
Who is the artist?*

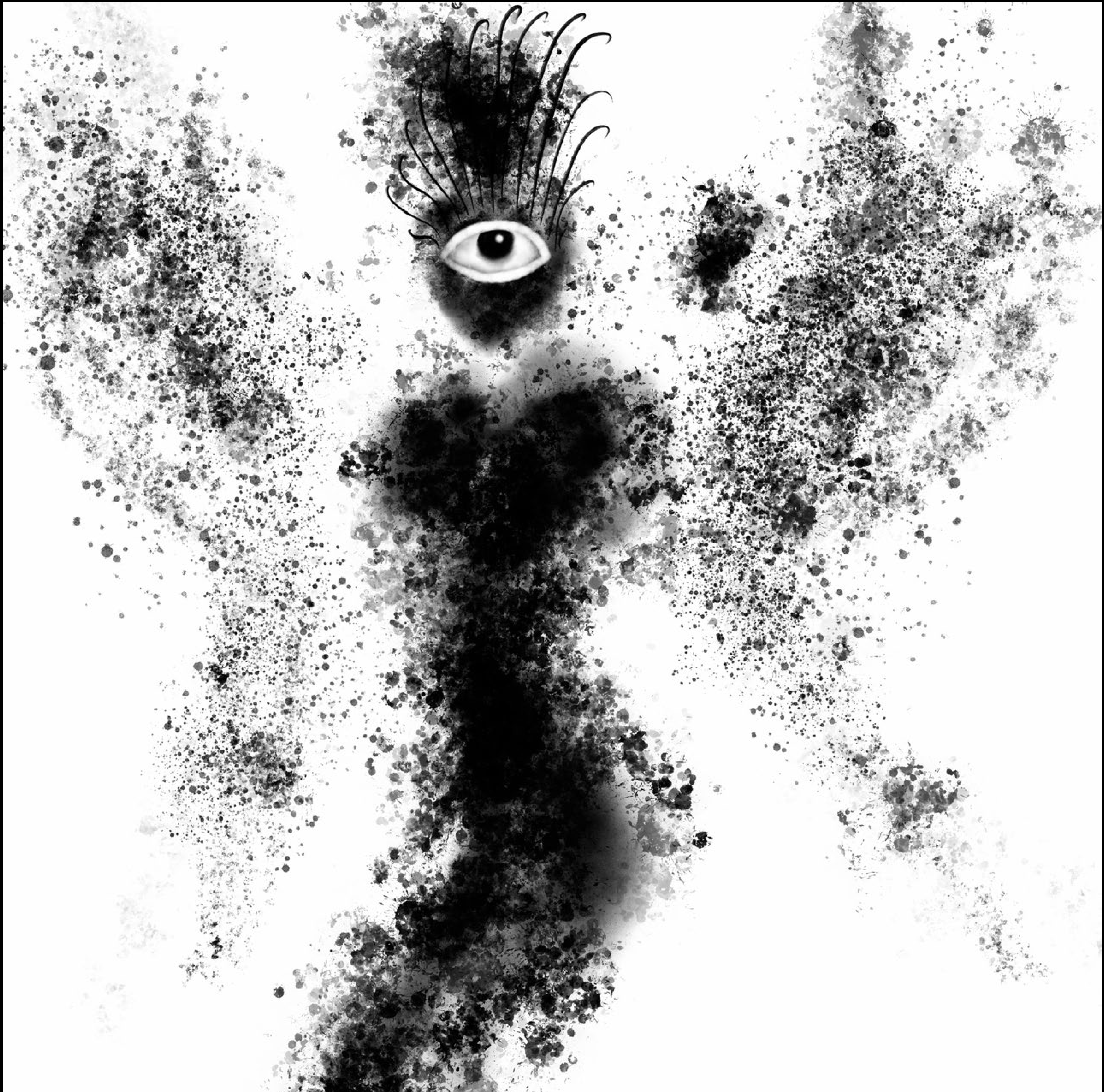
*There's no simple answer.  
It's not about what you see on the wall but about the  
journey and the story behind it – sometimes a big story,  
sometimes a small one.*

*Alireza Mohtashami*



*I think the artist is a thinker, and art is an expression of emotions, a testimony to life in some way. I love to share my journey through different art series, each representing a period of my life.*

*I create for the sake of art and what I feel to express; the rest doesn't matter – like a child drawing freely.*



*My art is sometimes ...*

*dark,*





*ironic,*

*conceptual,*



*emotional,*



*technical and naive  
at the same time,*



*with a touch of kitsch,  
which adds just the right amount of playfulness.*



*My art is a reflection of myself  
[self-portraits] ...*

*sometimes directly  
through my identity ...*



*and sometimes  
through others.*

*I truly believe empathy  
is key to being human  
and creating art.*



*Art must be authentic to the artist.*

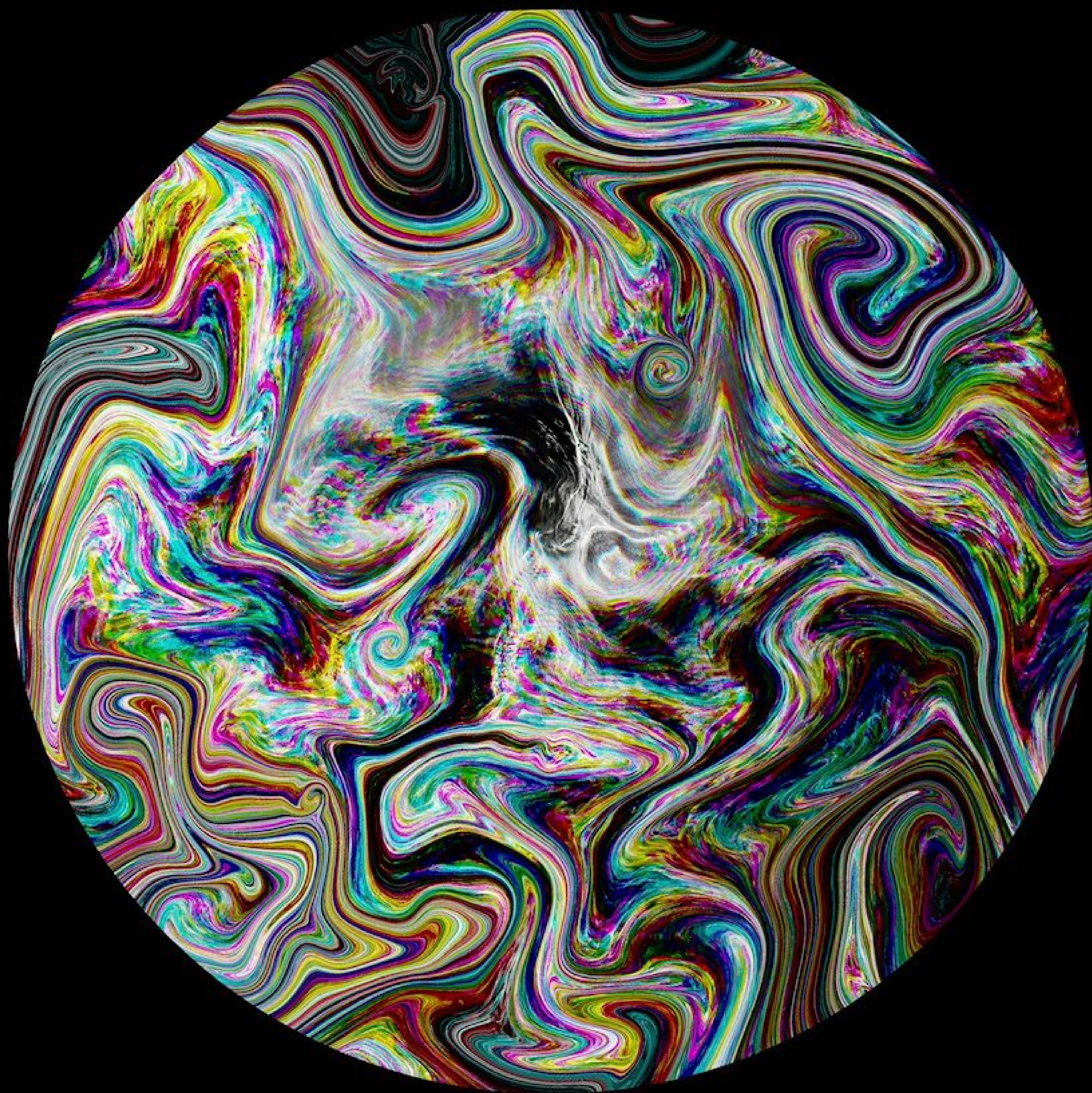
*A work of art isn't simply beautiful or ugly;  
it's the result of a journey manifested in reality by the  
creator. It has a grace that provokes thought and stirs  
emotion, regardless of its visual appeal, which today is  
often, and blindly, seen as the most important aspect.*



*I love using **fine art printing** to create my art. It feels authentic to my personal artistic journey and is one of the most contemporary mediums. I enjoy **giving it value**, as it's sadly overused by large companies. So, I digitize my paintings, photography, and digital works and print them on plexiglass or aluminum panels. These prints can be **customized** in size, material, and quantity, inspired by one of my favorite artists, Dan Flavin.*

*This all started because I play piano and believe **classical music** represents the highest state of art.  
**Each music piece is essentially a reproduction of the composition, ironically, an unlimited print copy!***

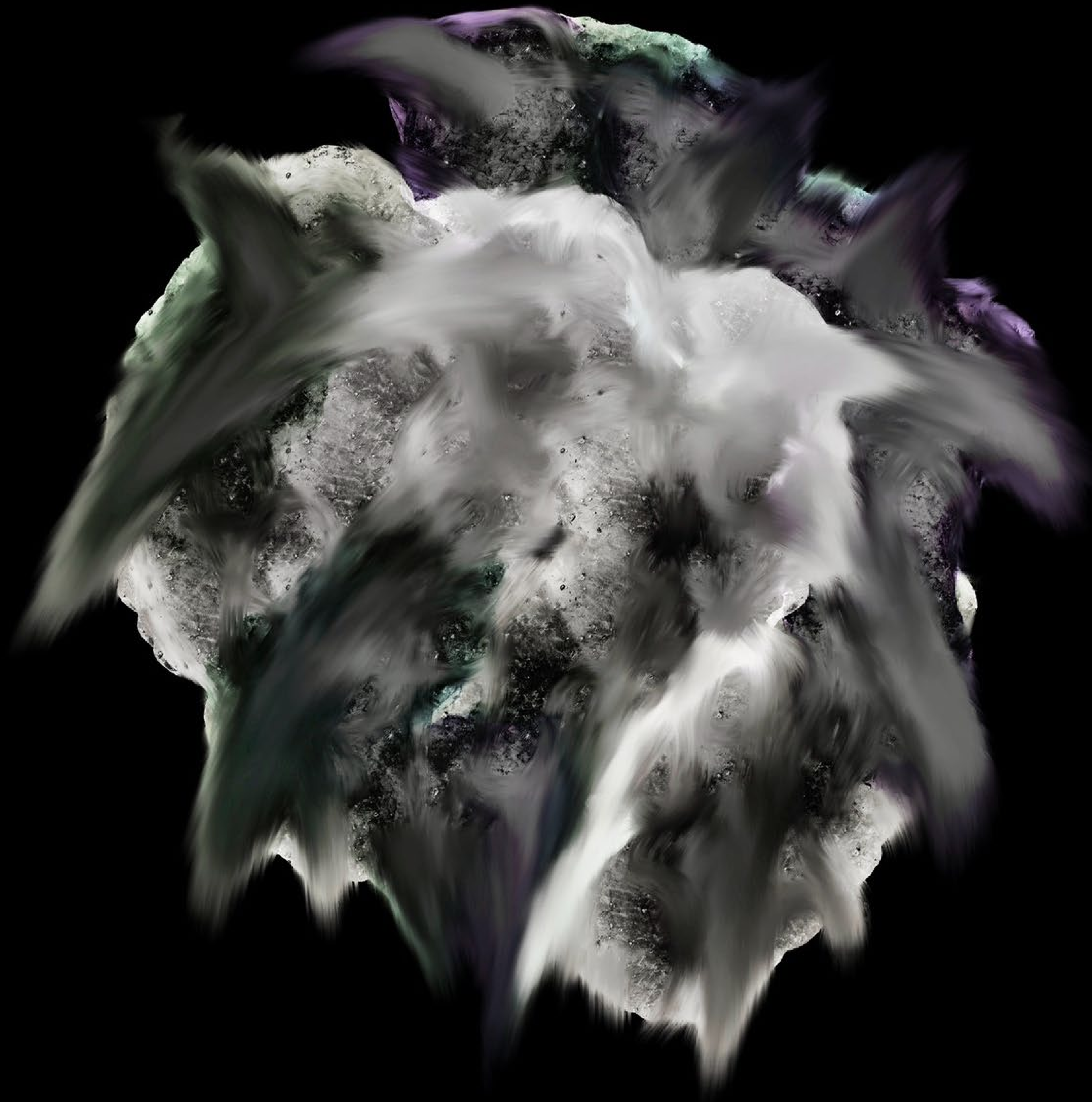
*I did extensive research into why people are so obsessed with owning something unique and rare—it's a long story!*



# Art Series

*"A Big Big Bright Sun!" is about painting the sun, as I used to draw it as a child, but now as an adult. A sun created somewhere undefined, between infinitely big and infinitely small.*

\*Each series includes many artworks, but in this presentation, you'll find only 1-3 examples from each, along with the full statement.



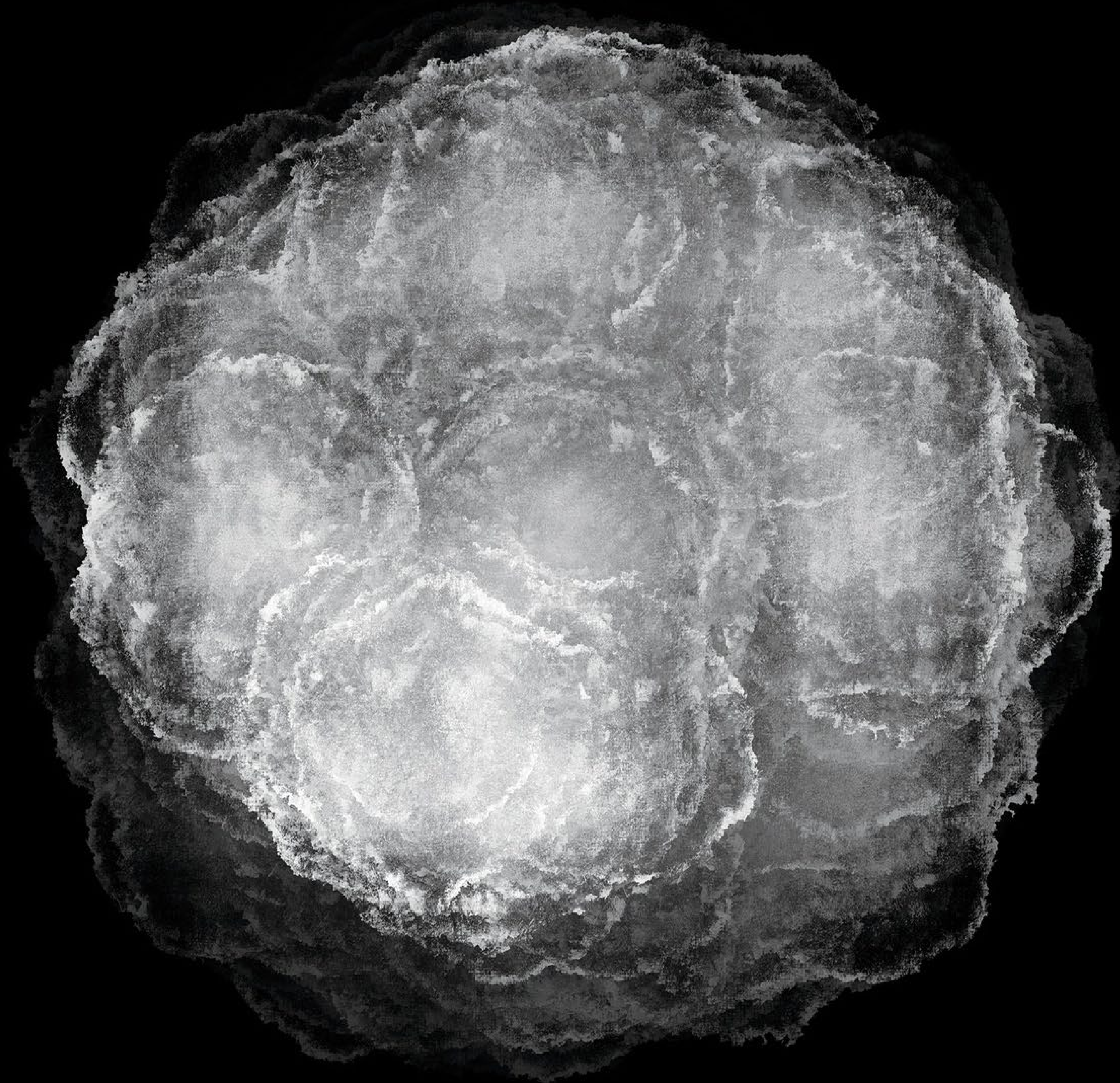


# *Full Statement*

## A Big Big Bright Sun!

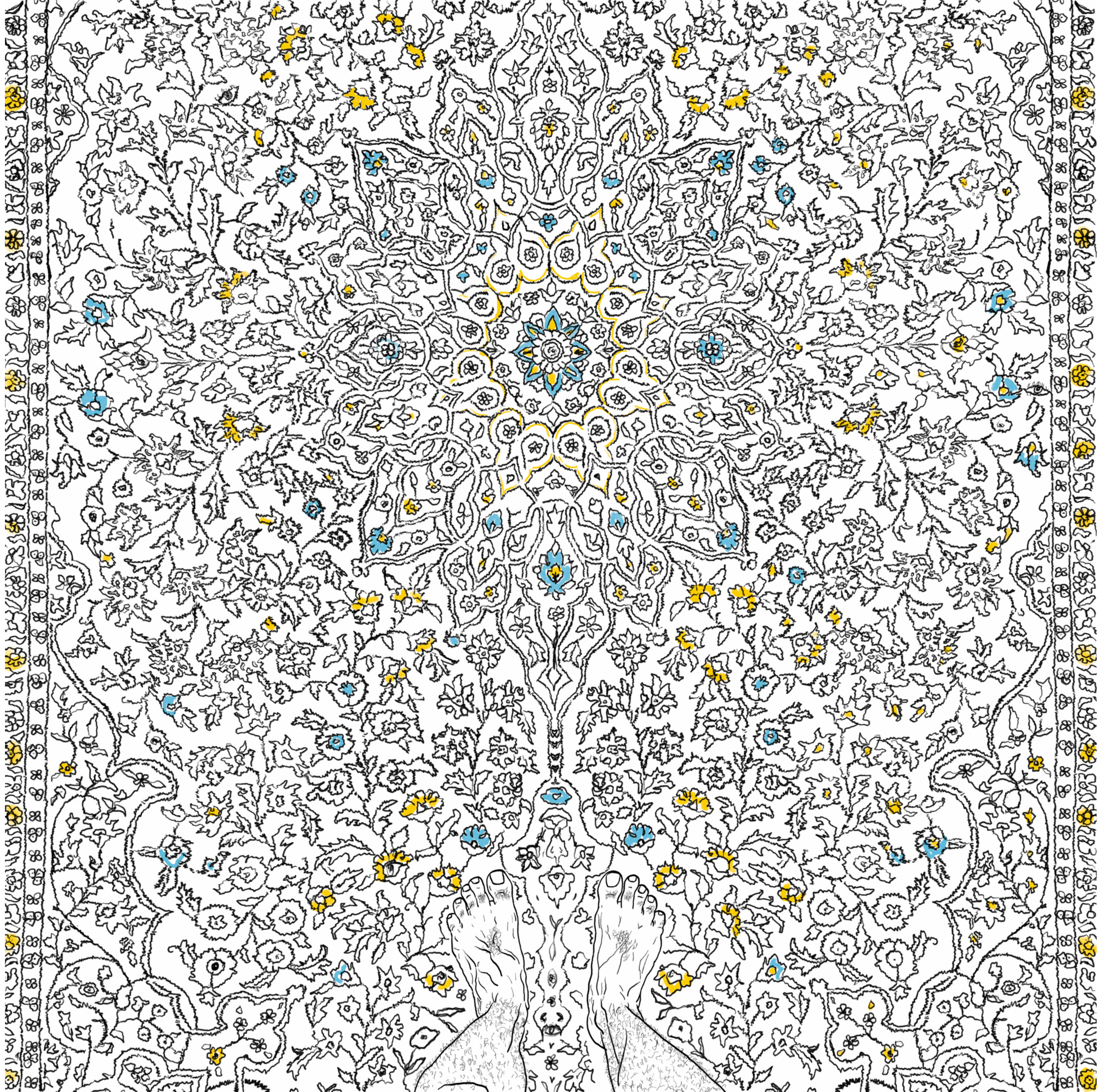
*I love when grown-ups suggest to children what to paint. "Paint me a huge, very big sea with high waves and blue water!" or "a big, bright yellow sun in a blue sky!" For a moment, it's as if they, too, become children. Children take colors and paint freely and with emotion, not overthinking but instead using boundless imagination. We adults have too many limits; our reality is full of social constraints. We humans love to "play" in this world we created with calendars, clocks, schools, work, contracts, money, passports, and many other things. Every child is born an artist without needing art school, knowledge of the art market, or imitating famous artists. Children paint what they see around them or what they imagine with their own authenticity.*

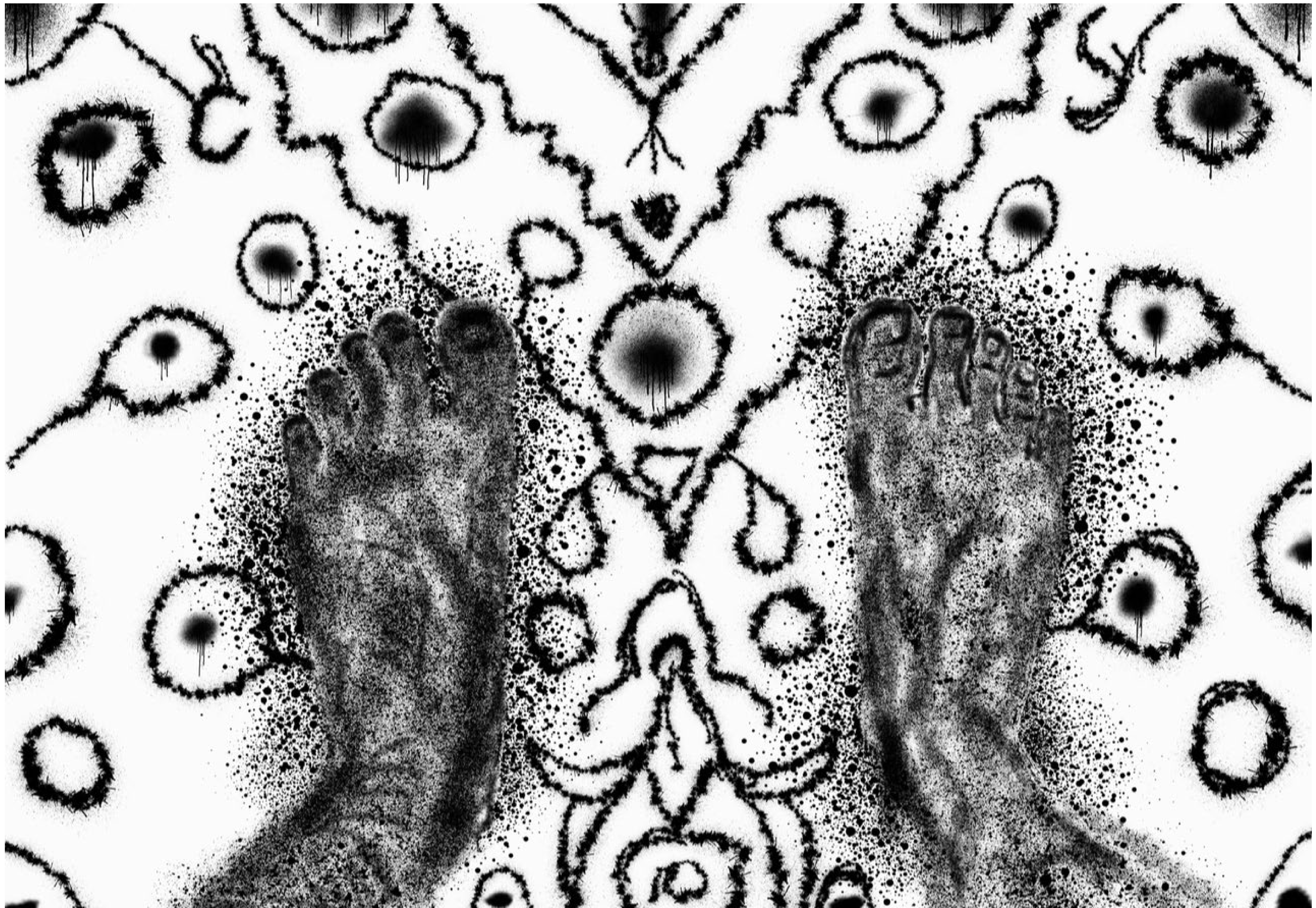
*My suns are quite round and immersed in an infinite cosmos, where they dance forward through time and space, toward dark matter and nothingness. A harmonic chaos with unique similarities. My suns are bright and yellow, and if you don't see them that way, maybe you haven't opened your eyes yet!*



***"Reminiscences"** is dedicated to my beloved mother, who passed away a few months ago. It's about memories—remembering them, telling them, preserving them, or letting them fade. In this rug - filled with flowers representing memories - there is an imperfect symmetry that symbolizes the duality of memory.*

2024





# Full Statement

## Reminiscences

*In this difficult period of my life, marked by the grief of losing my beloved mother, I have found comfort and refuge in drawing flowers, both those in the garden and those on Persian rugs.*

*The rug is a silent companion, wrapping us in its embrace and welcoming us every time we step on it. It has witnessed many events with us that turn into memories, both beautiful and painful, and somehow, in its trampled floral designs, it preserves those memories. I take these floral patterns from the rug, which for me are like my memories: sometimes vivid, sometimes blurred, some wonderful, others bitter. It is a kind of therapy between me and the image of that rug.*

*Art is strange, but perhaps we humans are even stranger. We are subjective beings when it comes to preserving and recounting memories, shaping them to our liking. I, too, sometimes stick faithfully to the shapes of the flowers, other times I don't. Sometimes we tread on memories, other times memories tread on us, humbling or uplifting us.*

*Life is like a colorful rug, full of flowers (memories), and it is nice, every now and then, to observe it from afar to grasp the entire pattern.*

*In this rug, halfway through, there is a symmetry that represents memory. Memory is a duality: between me and another person, between me and another thing, between me and nature, and sometimes between me and myself; perhaps even the self is a dualism. The symmetry can be very faithful to the other side, sometimes less so, and at times not at all.*

***"The Magic Carpet"** envisions a world without borders, floating in midair. It expresses my mixed Persian-Italian culture through a Persian carpet pattern, while the details are Florentine grotesque elements – a blend of both worlds.*



# Art Series

*"**Intimo**" is about empathy and defining myself through the people I love.*





# Full Statement

## Intimo

*When we look into someone's eyes, we actually only look at one of their eyes. The eye is intimate, even more so than the genitals. The eye is a universe with a black hole in the center. The eye is delicate, shielded by an even more delicate eyelid. Eyelashes are intimate.*

*The flower is intimate, too. It's delicate, complex, and smells softly sweet. Each flower is a universe unto itself, like an eye - parallel universes existing together. The flower is elegantly vulgar, using its colors to attract reproduction as much as possible. Its scent is like a song that enchants. The bee samples one flower, then the next, perhaps returning again. It's all so perverse, enjoyable, and poetic - a poetic orgy!*

*Kissing someone's eyes. Brushing the eyelid with your lips. Entangling eyelashes with someone you've just kissed.*

*Kissing with open eyes. Absorbing the other's energy by pressing foreheads together.*

*The feeling of sonder!*

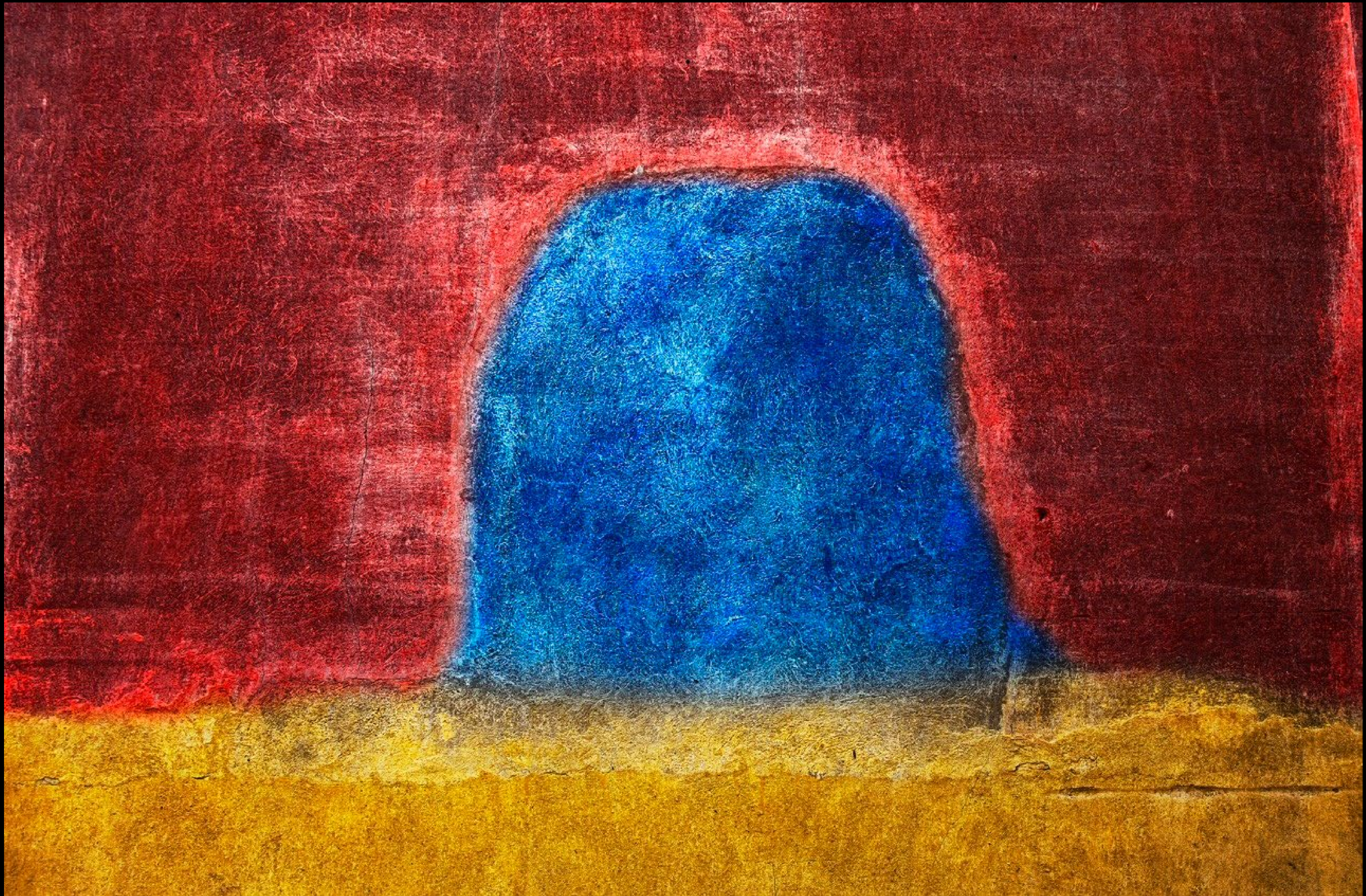
*Watching an eye cry is intimate. Seeing someone smile with their eyes is intimate. "Intimate" is a word that expresses the depth within people - the interior of souls, a profound inner space. It is as deep and mysterious as the pupil. The pupil is intimate.*

*Eyes are intimate.*

# Art Series

**"The Walls Cry Out Too!"** is about urban walls as forgotten art, shaped by the lives that interact with them. These photographs from my travels capture city walls with vibrant colors, bringing the outside walls into interior spaces—a 'wall' hanging on the wall.





# *Full Statement*

## The Walls Cry Out Too!

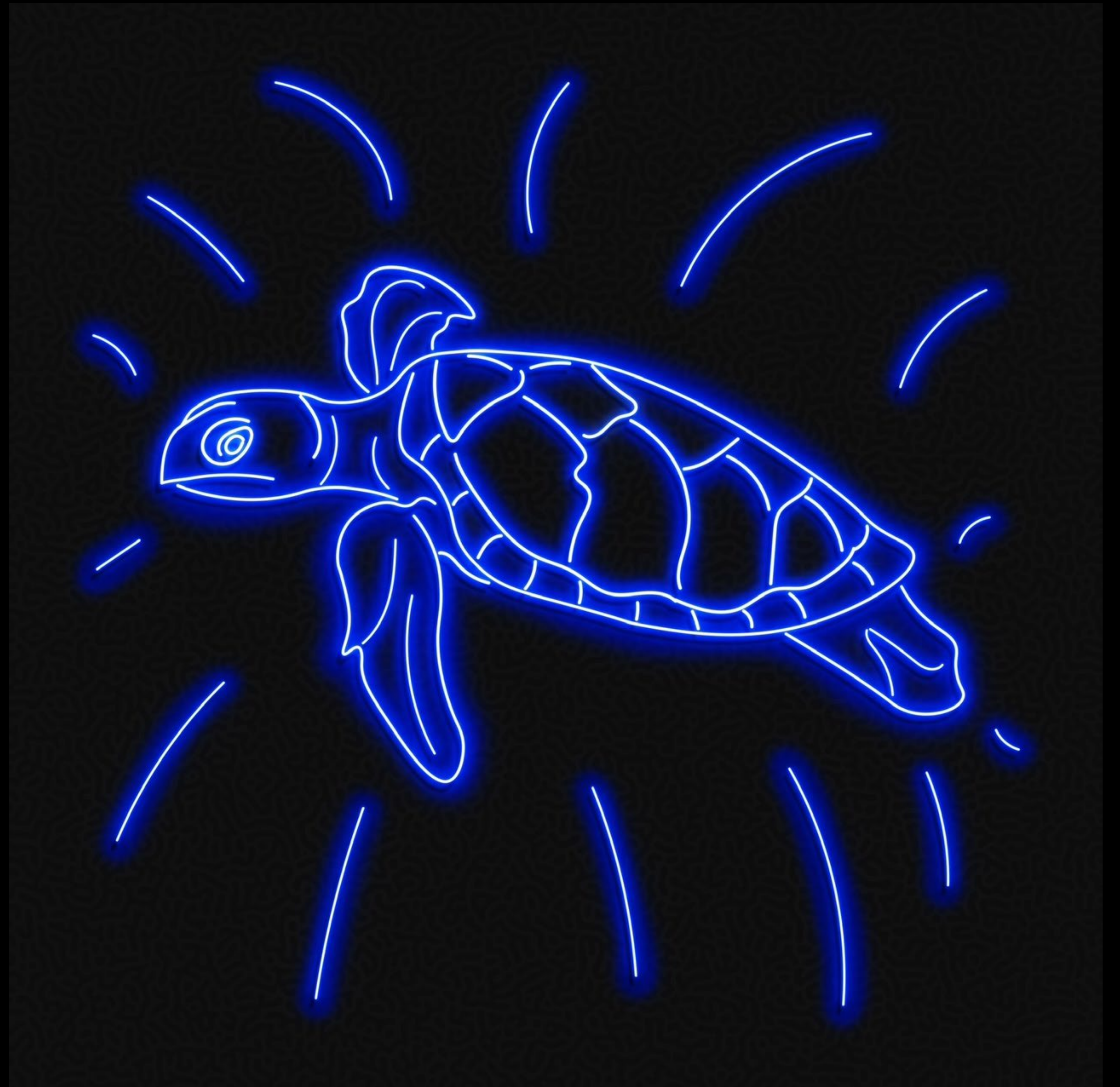
*Architecture and humanity always share a direct connection. This relationship, rich in emotion, gives life to an architectural creation, where energy dances within. Not only through its creator but also through the people who pass by, live near, and touch it. Walls are the vertical ground, holding traces of people on their surfaces. They are treasure troves of memories and secrets collected over the years. Walls listen, but they don't speak—they shout!*

*It's interesting that the project "The Walls Cry Out Too" seems like an artwork that already exists on the city walls. Everyone passes by, influences, and changes them without noticing, and then moves on. It's as if, when I pass by, these walls shout at me—no, they scream at me! Then I look through my camera and take a photo, capturing a document of that moment—of the day or night, the season, my mood, and the wall's current state. Once I take the photo, it no longer screams; it just follows me silently with its gaze. The fate of this wall is bittersweet; from the wall itself, it moves to my camera, then to my computer, to the printer, and finally, it will be hung on another wall! A living wall and a dead wall! I'm unsure which wall is truly alive—the one installed on the gallery wall or the one in the city... but I do know that only a few walls scream, and some have nothing to cry out about—yet.*



# Art Series

***"Evergreen me"** includes paintings that resemble neon lights without actually using light – thanks to the technique and color quality of fine art printing! This series addresses global warming, with eyes that observe and protect, creating their own territory.*



“Lick the Earth!”

*Pallazo Portinari, Florence  
Atto by Vito Mollica*





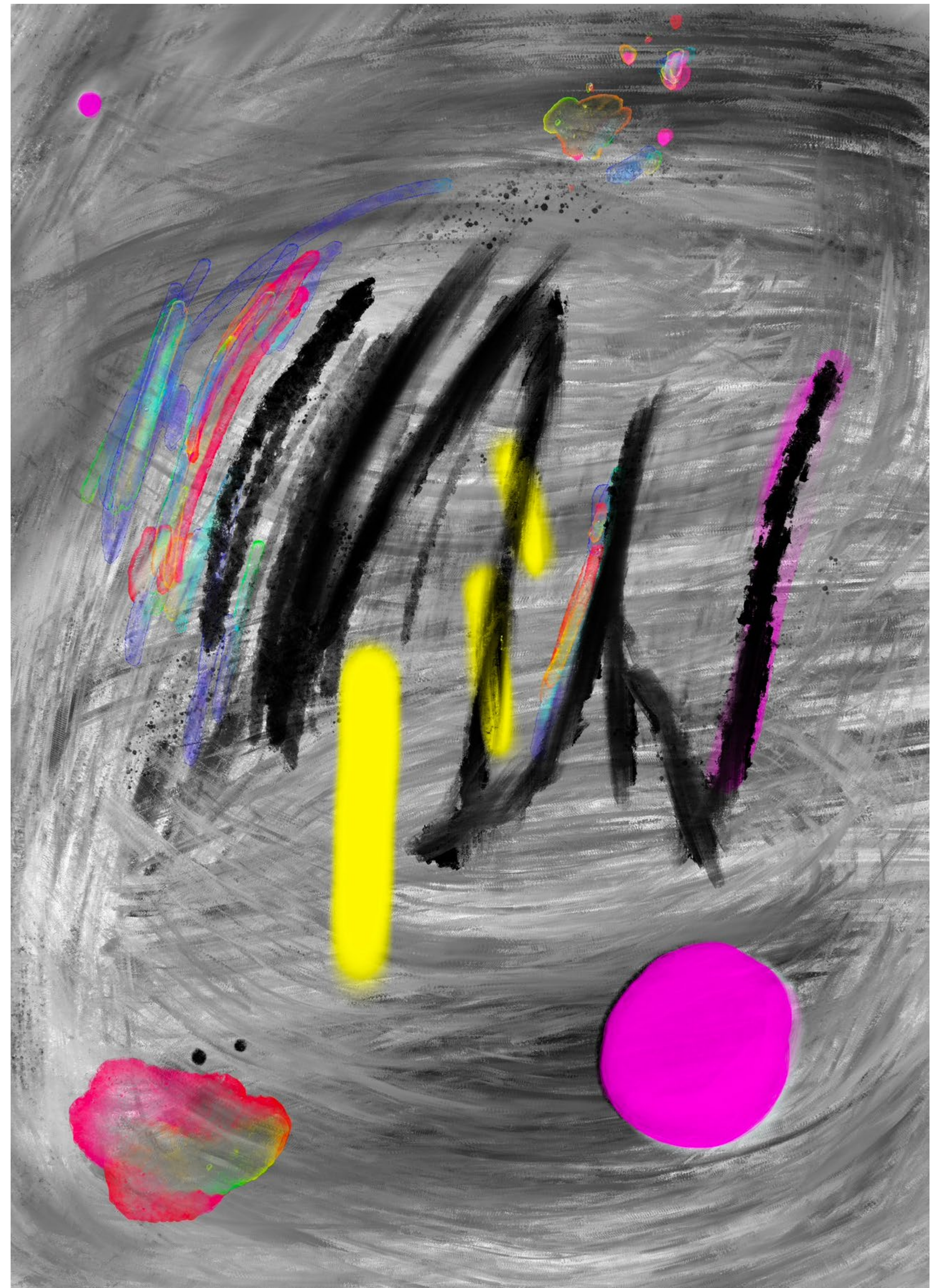
“Our Eyes!”

*La Ménagère, Florence*

*Alireza Mohtashami*

*Visual and Conceptual Artist*

*Alireza Mohtashami was born in Tehran, Iran, on September 13, 1993. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, specializing in Visual Arts and New Expressive Languages (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees). After finishing high school in Mathematics and Physics, he began a new artistic path at the Academy in Florence in 2013, focusing on Sculpture and Installation. He has played the piano since age eight, with a deep knowledge of music and technology, which have supported his artistic projects. His works often reflect his life philosophy, exploring psychology and current issues like Women's Rights, LGBTQ+, Peace, Media, Global Warming, Cancer, and Identity.*



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