

Lea Sblandano

Portfolio



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01. *Bodies of Water*

Exploring the eternal cycle of water, *Bodies of Water* is an installation consisting of three fountain pieces, where the interior of a hollow digital avatar's body has been printed on the surface. By speculatively infusing these avatars with the life-giving flow of water, the work confronts the transcendental experience of artificial bodies exposed to natural elements, perpetually transforming in a symbolic hydroelectric performance.

This project is part of a developing group exhibition organized by the SABL collective, focusing on hydroelectric energy in Switzerland and taking place at various locations across the country. The work was installed atop a dam, directly interacting with its surroundings.

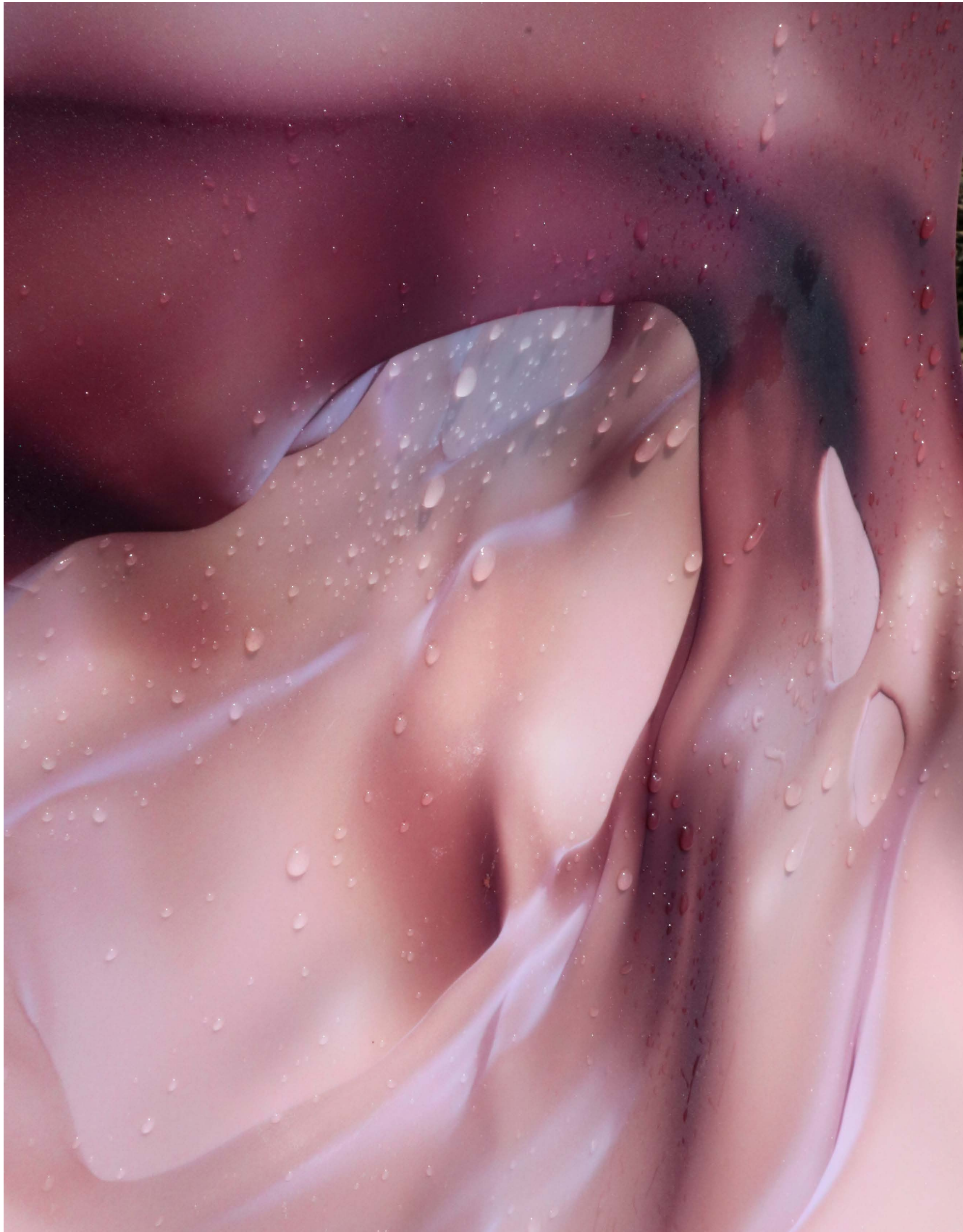
Dimensions and Materials : Various formats. Plexiglass prints, thermoformed and printed, metal, natural ground.

Location : Switzerland

Date : 2023 - ongoing



The Emission Hydroelectric Dam, Switzerland, 2023



The Emission Hydroelectric Dam, Switzerland, 2023

02. *Albedo Gaze*

Albedo Gaze is a research project on the scientific reproduction of endangered organisms. The project is grounded in the principles of biologic, which suggests that synthetic materials can form a biosphere if they are based on systems of natural coexistence and self-regulation.

Starting with photograms, I digitally manipulate them according to their scientific alterations and then reassemble these new organisms. The resulting pieces are a hypothetical visual proposal exploring the possibility of a synthetic ecosystem. In this new biosphere, different species work in symbiosis to support the survival of their ecosystem, represented as visual sculptures. Stripped of their original appearance, these forms appear fragile, statuesque, and suspended in a state of stillness.

Dimensions and Materials : 150x200x50(cm). Thermoformed plexiglass sculptures, LED lights.

Location : Switzerland

Date : 2023 - ongoing





Individual pieces view, ECAL, Switzerland, 2023



Close-up view, ECAL, Switzerland, 2023



The Earth is Dying, Usine Kugler, Geneva, Switzerland, 2022

03. *Neo-Belize*

Neo-Belize is a project examining the environmental impacts on the ecosystems of the Amazon rainforest. It focuses on endangered plant species and organisms, questioning how Western societies perceive them, oscillating between admiration and appropriation. Beginning with the Papiliorama in Kerzers, a recreated bubble of the Belizean rainforest near Bern, I navigated between photography and digital hybridization to create a multi-piece experimental laboratory. This project explores the concept of a synthetic, exotic paradise. When placed in an exhibition context, these works return to being objects of contemplation.

Dimensions and Materials : Various formats. Installation work, sculptures, framed prints, video.

Location : Switzerland

Date : 2022



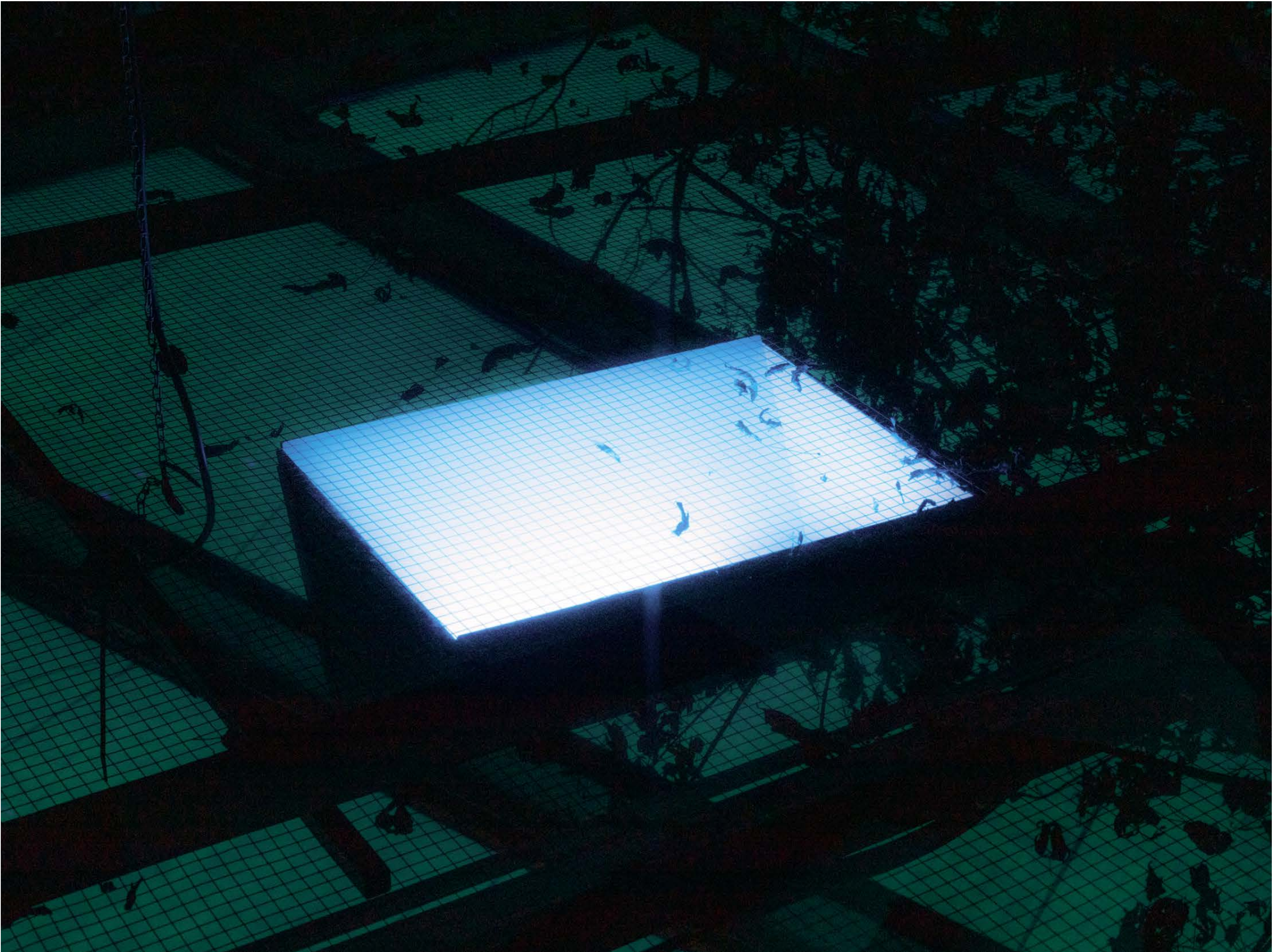
Display view, ECAL, Switzerland, 2022



Display view, ECAL, Switzerland, 2022







Photograph, Papillorama of Kerzers, Bern, Switzerland, 2022





04. *Abloom*

Created in collaboration with designer Luis Rodrigues, *Abloom* is a multimedia exhibition project developed for the Prix de Renens 2022. The project explores the reproduction of artificially generated organisms through sculptural creations. As nature continually evolves and mutates, speculating on new species through 3D software allows us to envision a future where endangered plants thrive in virtual spaces as they gradually disappear from their natural habitats. By exploring natural principles such as cloning and crossbreeding, the project raises questions about the limits of our influence on the environments we inhabit.

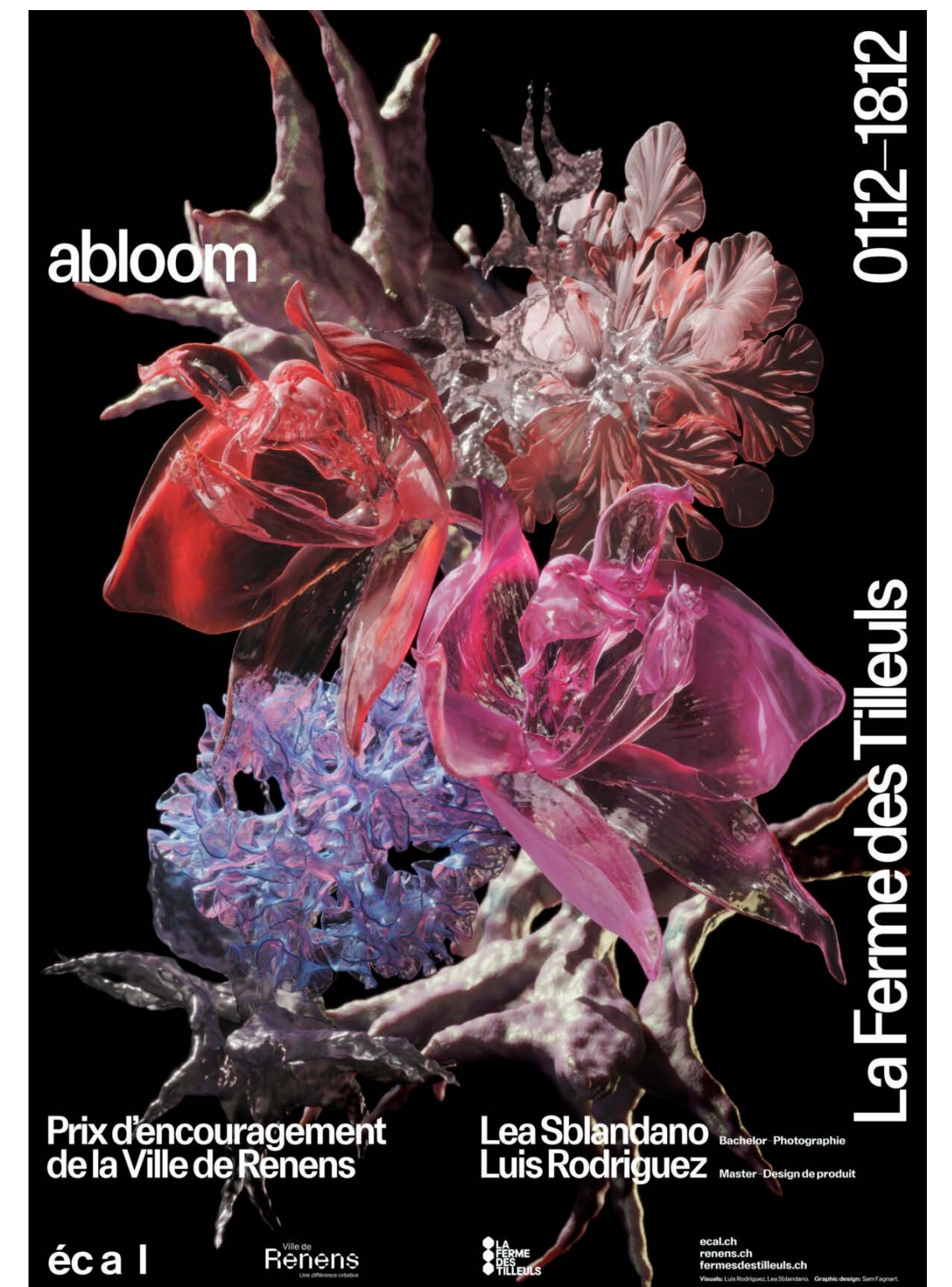
All artificial hybrid flowers and organic forms are generated through AI-driven procedural cloning nodes and computational morphing.

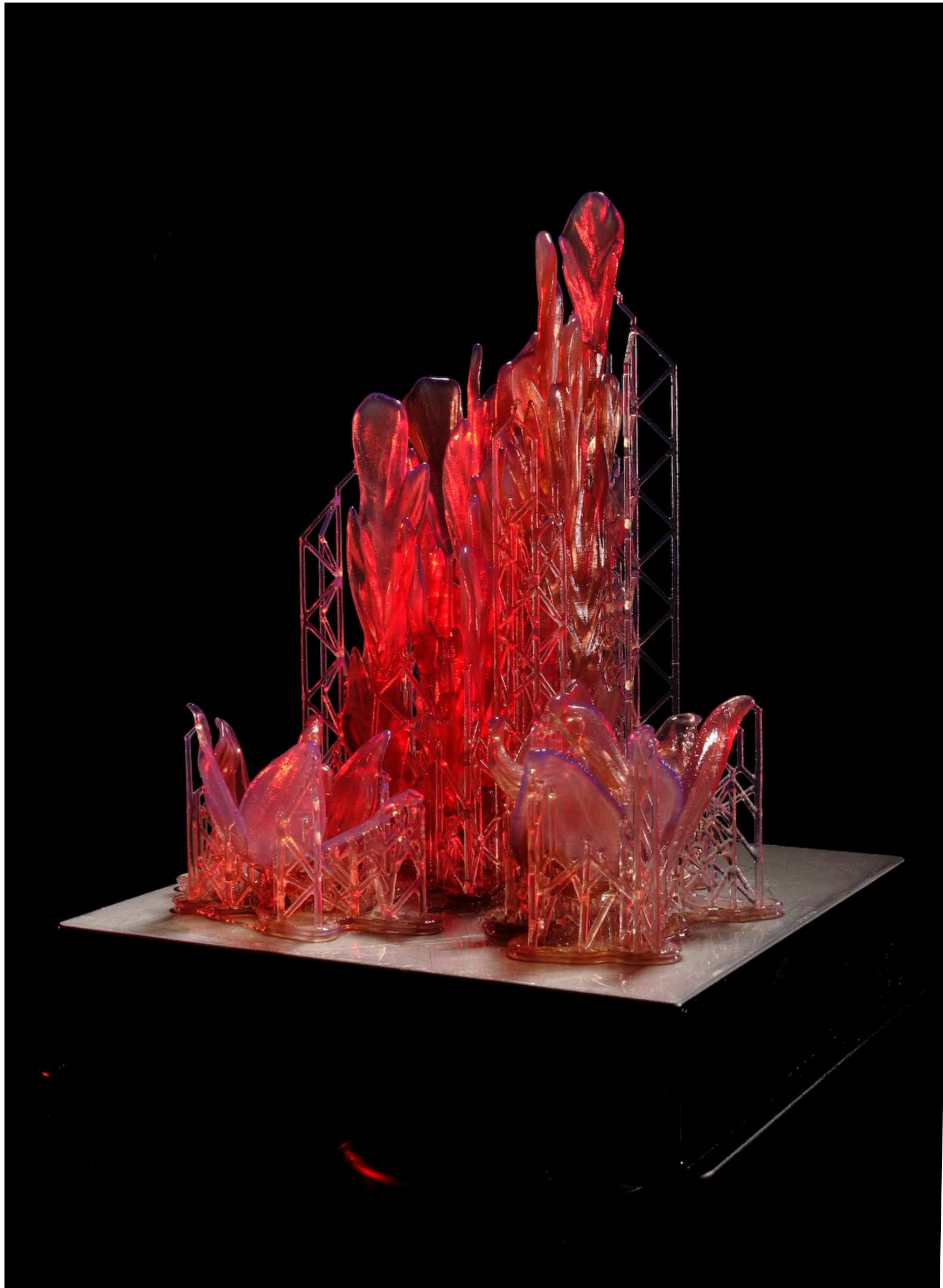
Digital creations, 3D-printed and hand-painted resin sculptures, blue-back prints, video.

Dimensions and Materials : 25x10x10(cm), hand-painted resin 3d sculptures, 210x150(cm) paper prints, video projection.

Location : La Ferme des Tilleuls, Renens, Switzerland

Date : 2022





3D prints photographs, La Ferme des Tilleuls, Renens, Switzerland, 2022





Process and video render, La Ferme des Tilleuls, Renens, Switzerland, 2022



Process and exhibition view, La Ferme des Tilleuls, Renens, Switzerland, 2022



Process and exhibition view, La Ferme des Tilleuls, Renens, Switzerland, 2022



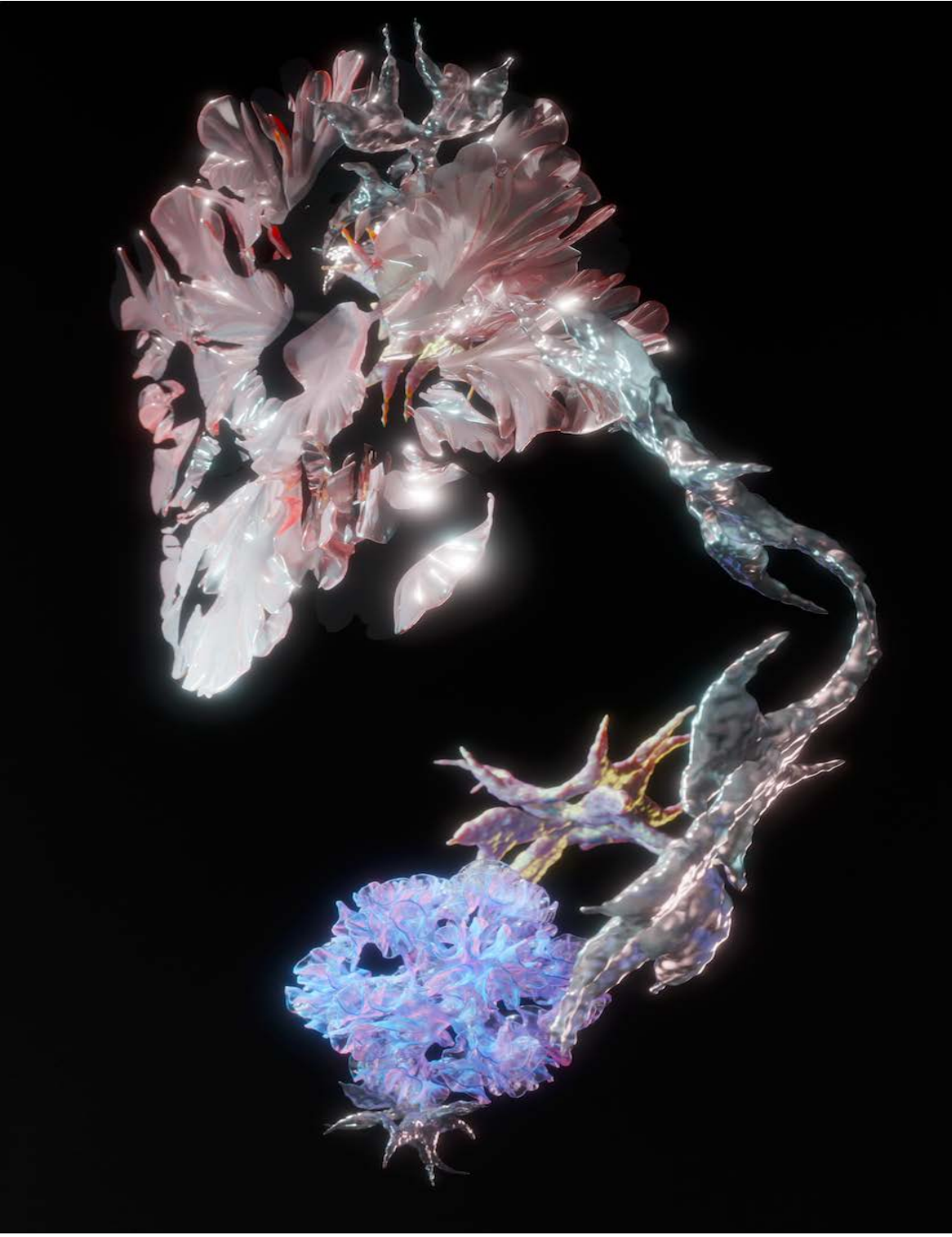
Exhibition view, La Ferme des Tilleuls, Renens, Switzerland, 2022

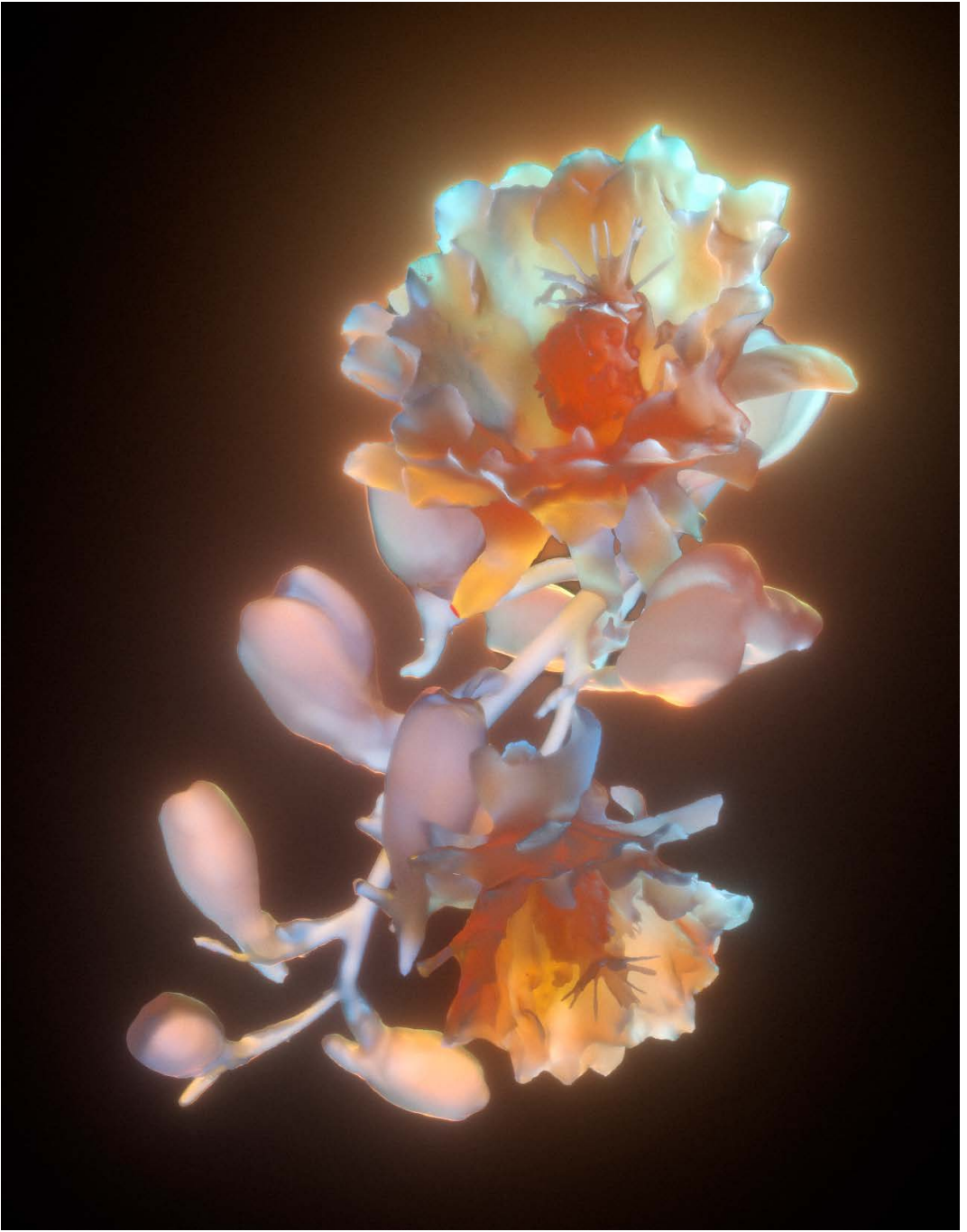
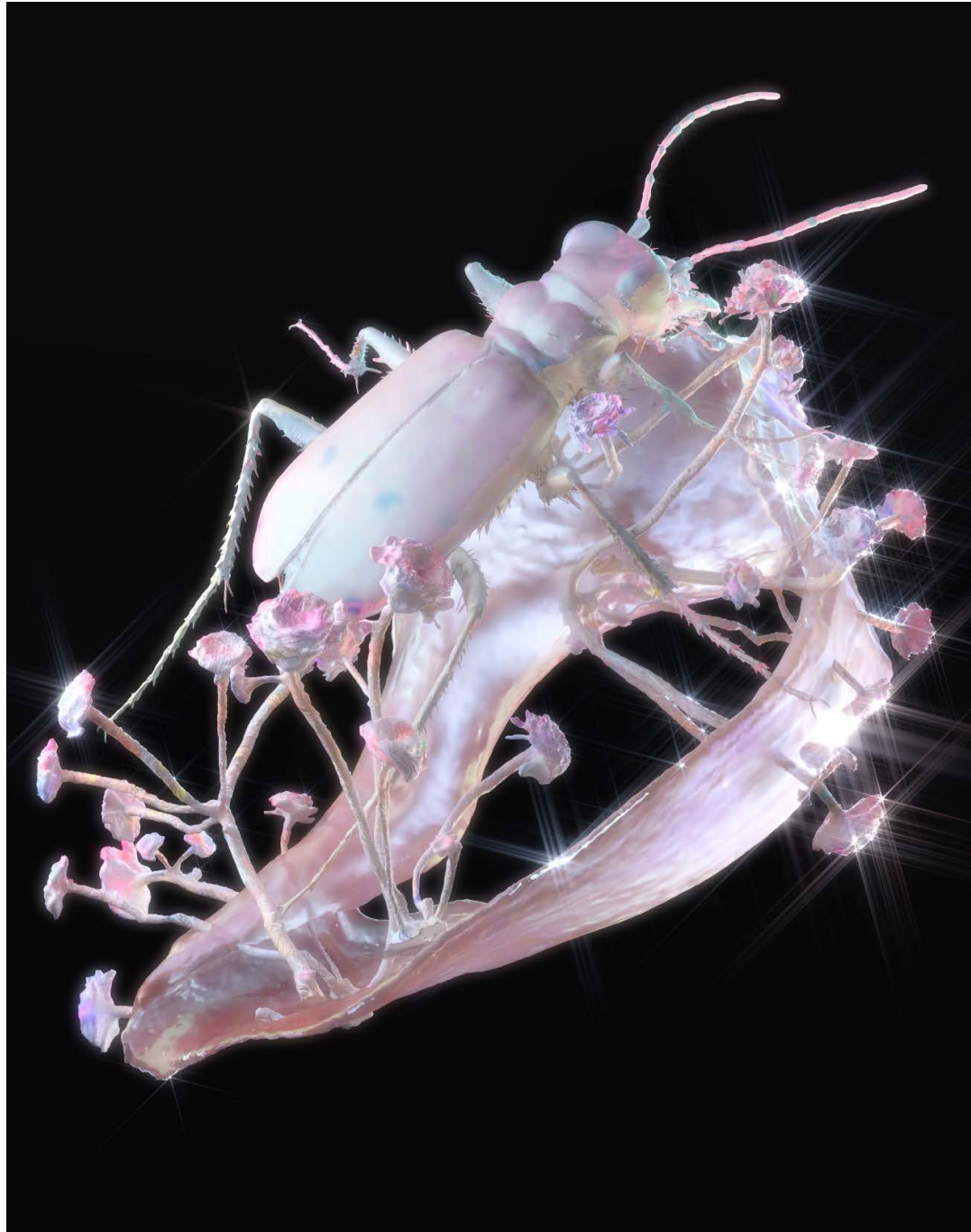
05. The flowers will keep on flourishing

The flowers will keep on flourishing is a speculative series composed of 3D-scanned flowers, digitally modified and hand-painted. While flowers and plants are among the most common 3D files and images found online, many species are simultaneously disappearing in the real world. This series emerges from the contemplation that these virtual images of flowers might be all that remains once the real ones are gone.

Dimensions and Materials : 3D Images, photogrammetry. Virtual.

Date : 2022





06. *Neijuan*

Neijuan was born from a personal experience of navigating a hyper-connected world, where identity is shaped by virtual spaces. It explores how technology—empowering yet isolating—fractures the self, blurring the line between who we are and who we project to be.

Taking its name from the Chinese term « Involution » *Neijuan* reflects on generational fatigue due to an ever-faster and competitive society. While large metropolises are often seen as symbols of success and innovation, the project explores a different narrative—one that addresses a broader post-pandemic phenomenon, where individuals, particularly the young, experience a sense of stagnation, a refusal or inability to fully re-enter society. At its heart, the project seeks to celebrate difference by shedding light on individuals who live on the margins of society—often misunderstood or stigmatized. The project bridges the gap between these invisible lives and the underground cultures flourishing in virtual communities, which have formed not through geographical or historical connections but through globalized ones. It aims to reveal a different side of technology, not cold and distant, but sensitive and vulnerable.

The photographer adopted a documentary and collaborative approach for the project, having spent years following a small group of people both online and offline met through forums and video games. Her online presence, rooted in her rural upbringing, stemmed from a desire to explore the world. The vastness of big cities once seemed to promise limitless possibilities, but she realized over time that these urban envi-

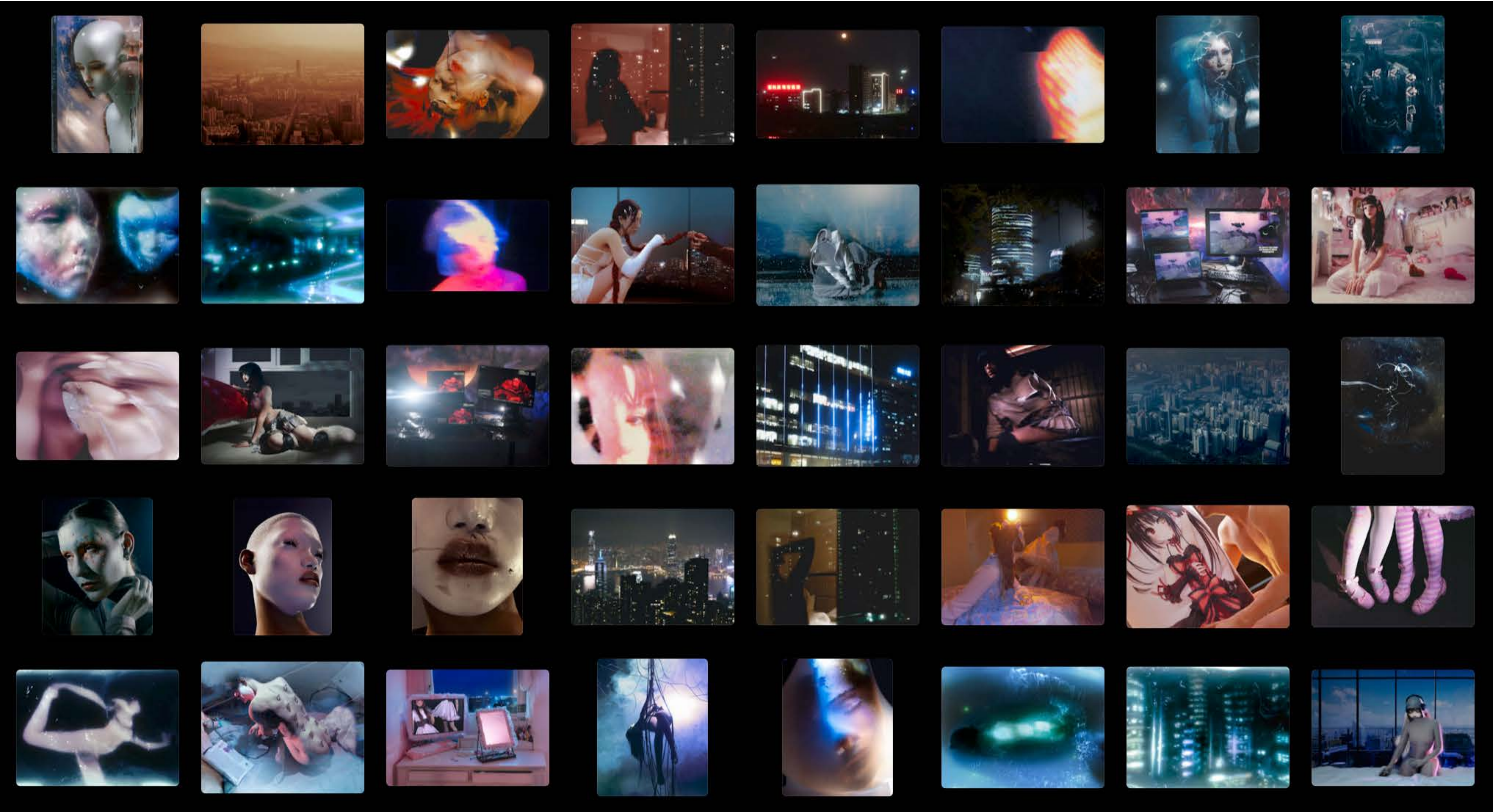
ronments were, in fact, deepening the emotional distance between individuals. Virtual worlds and video games offered a kind of freedom—an escape from physical appearance, a chance to experiment with identity, to project a new version of oneself. But as she navigated these spaces as a young woman, she realized that this freedom also invited negative energy. Predatory encounters, fetishization, and objectification of the female body were present all throughout those cultures. Taking place in the architectural landscapes of hyper-connected Chinese megacities, *Neijuan* highlights the disorientation and sensory overload of these cybernetic, neon-lit environments. The boundaries between the tangible and the virtual merge in the series. These spaces feel fluid, suspended in time—the virtual bodies are often in motion, but never arriving—constantly shifting, in a state that feels on the verge of transformation but never fully realized.

Dimensions and Materials : 210x150(cm) Plexiglas wall piece, thermophorming, 22x30(cm). Book of 164 pages.

Date : 2024









07. *Under your Smell*

Under Your Smell is an immersive exhibition exploring beauty, identity, and gender. As a collective exhibition in collaboration with the house of Jean-Paul-Gaultier, the project presents contrasting textures—liquid, dry, organic, and inert—through still lifes and staged photography. The images create a narrative space where transgression and whimsical projections redefine beauty and body expression.

The immersive installation, with monumental fabric prints and giant cushions, invites viewers to celebrate gender diversity and rethink traditional notions of beauty.

Supervised and curated by Florence Tétier, Nicolas Coulomb, Milo Keller, ECAL, Natalie Herschdorfer.

The project has been presented in various forms across exhibitions in Switzerland, France, the UK, Japan, and the USA.

Dimensions and Materials : Various Formats and materials.

Date : 2022-2024







Photo Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland, 2023











08. *A Muntagna Scassau*

A Muntagna Scassau centers around the relationship between family history, a Sicilian village, and Mount Etna, the volcano that both protects and threatens the land. This project explores the complex dynamic of fear and fascination that the volcano evokes, serving as a powerful force of nature. Over generations, this looming presence has prevented the family from fully settling, ultimately leading to the abandonment of the land.

The images and stories were printed on fabric, and sewing was used as a way to symbolically reclaim ancestral connections. The act of sewing, a practice traditionally passed down by the women in the family, became a key element in this meditative process. The intergenerational transmission of this craft, from mother to daughter, reflects the continuity and resilience of memory, weaving together heritage and history through an intimate, laborious process.

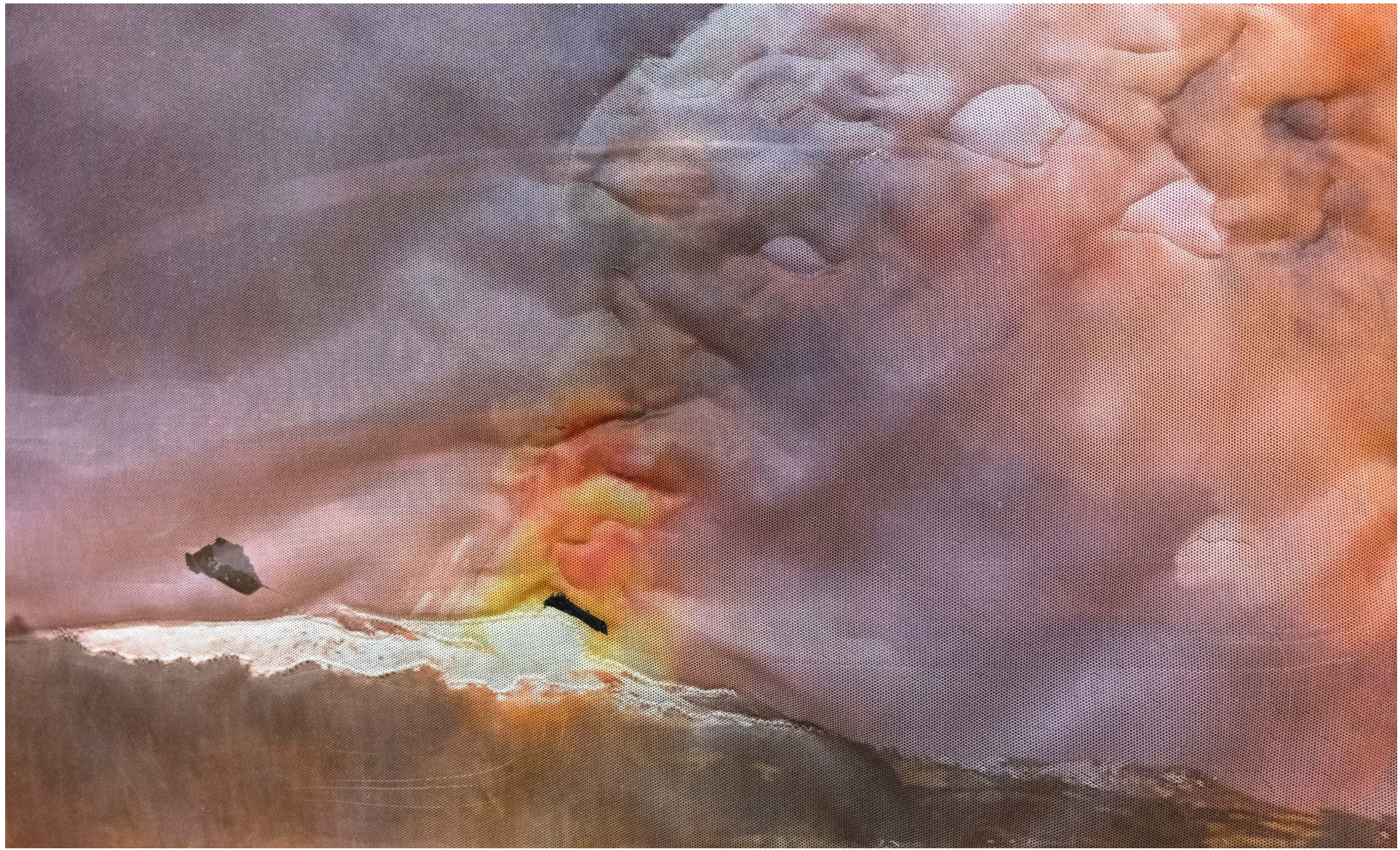
A reproduced glass sword is set in the center of the piece, locked in organic ground that echoes the soil of the volcano, serving as an invitation to resilience and remembrance.

Dimensions and Materials : Various Formats. Fabrics, threads, glass, organic materials (ground rocks).

Date : 2023







09. Video Projects

This project is a 3D video created in collaboration with sculptor Luca Rizzo. The artworks appear lost in natural environments, resembling future relics of our modern world.

Video shown on LED screen



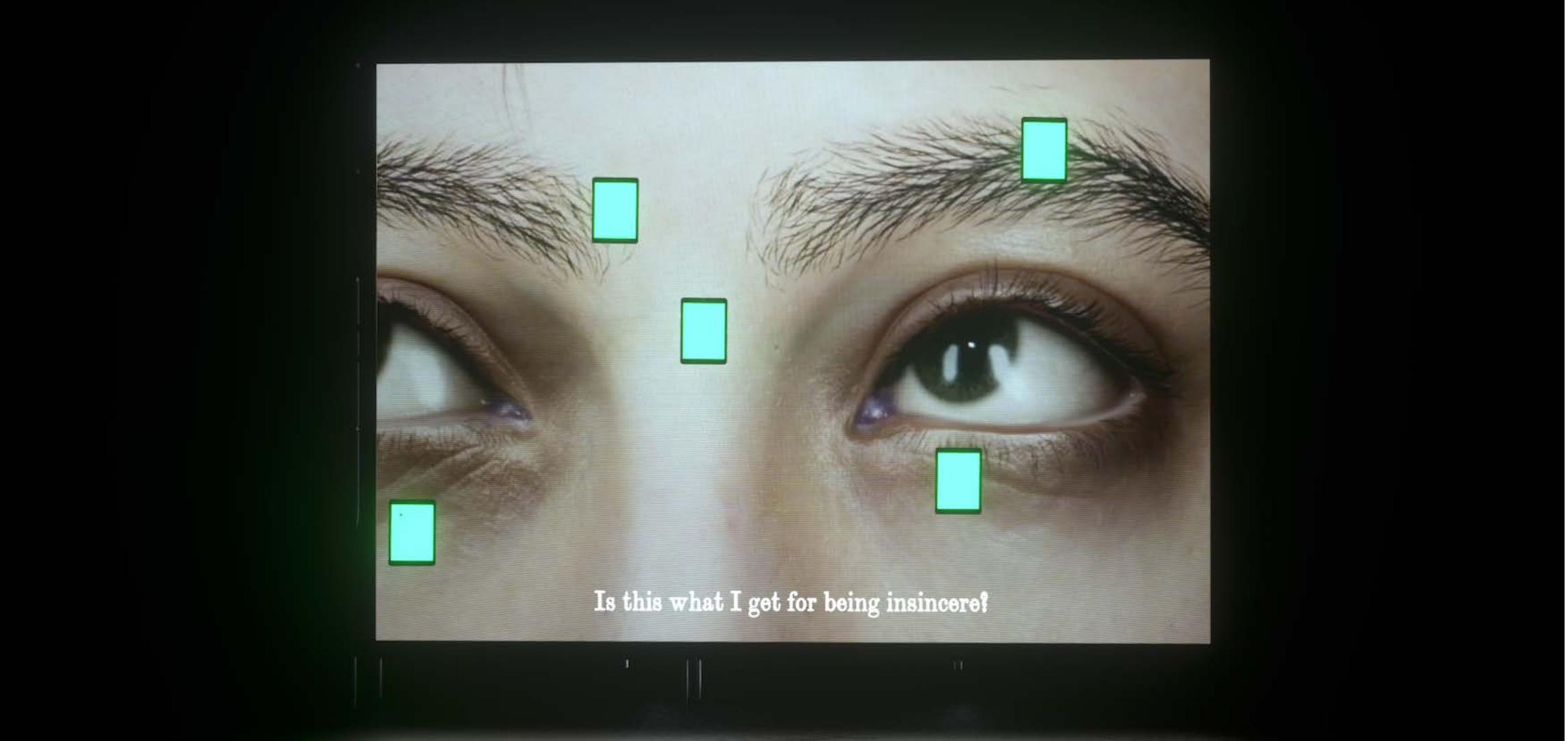
Un millier de mains invisibles is a project researching the potential creation of emotional response from artificial intelligence in the pursuit of heartfelt confession. Taking the form of a dialogue, I experimented connecting computer generated texts to the Amazon Mechanical Turk platform, where real people (workers) are paid to perform a series of tasks deemed too complex for AIs, requiring human judgment.

In this form, the project features a young virtual woman, reciting a monologue created by machine learning based on confessions she has judged to be emotionally scere and vulnerable.

Reacting on her speech, the Amazon Mechanical turk workers are here to analyze and interfere with her monologue, depending on what they judge to be sincere or through screens that light up around her image. They become in this way the invisible audience that she does not see.

Dimensions and Materials : 210x300(cm). Video Installation : Screen, brushed metal screen structure, ipads/metal plates.

Date : 2021



A reflection on Ultra Fast Fashion. The project features a wall of clothes and a collection on unboxing videos shown in the center of the piece.

Dimensions and Materials : 310x250(cm). Installation. Fabric, metal wires, monitor.

Date : 2021



Thank you