

Seeking Paradise

Curated by Humayun Memon

Ayesha Shariff & Faizan Riedinger

TUESDAY, 5th October 2021

5 — 8 PM

Continues till 20th October 2021



KOEL | GALLERY

Curator's Note

"Paradise is too perfect for humanity" – Dario Argento

A two-person show by Ayesha Shariff and Faizan Riedinger, Seeking Paradise explores both the artist's disparate trajectories.

Moving away from the subtle and monochromatic palette of her previous show, Shariff uses the image of a pomegranate in her works to symbolize a luxurious and luminous paradise. The opulent red and gold are the artist's interpretation of a boundless heaven.

Riedinger's works on the other hand are mostly black & white and muted, with just a select few containing color. Taking his successful experiments on glass forward from his last solo, Faizan has created his Shadows series where he has worked directly on layers of clarity glass to obtain the desired effect. The works on pine wood and canvas open up a new direction for him to explore while reiterating the artist's meditative style.

The exhibition of the two artists together is pivotal in pointing out two varied and unique techniques. Ayesha's allegorical works evoke feelings of abundance and expansion whereas Faizan's work convey a sense of constriction and control.

Humayun Memon

Ayesha Shariff



Of late, I have been craving red; an unusual craving indeed that eventually found expression in a subject both profound and powerful.

The sight of a sliced pomegranate begs a second glance, then another, and another, till the gaze is transfixed. Its scarlet, scandalous richness & ornamental arils stir an unearthly desire for beauty & bliss.

The pomegranate has been celebrated as a symbol of love, vitality, fertility & eternity. To me, it is an invitation to spiritual splendour.

Ladies & gentlemen, I hereby present to you my vision of paradise in the form of a pomegranate on a plate.

Ayesha Shariff is a visual artist and art teacher. Her work relies on a language of personal symbolism that merges realism with surrealism. Humour is key to the mix and employed cleverly to comment on serious situations. Shariff's spiritual themes express her interest in the relationship between the divine and the mundane. Shariff works in oil, acrylic and egg tempera on a variety of painting surfaces.

Shariff has exhibited primarily in Pakistan, USA and Europe and taught at the ACES Centre of Arts, Connecticut, and the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture, Karachi, among other prestigious institutes. She is the founder of The Canvas Courtyard, an onsite and online studio for adults and children.

Born, lives and works in Karachi.



Ayesha Shariff

Fire in Paradise I, II, III, (triptych), 2021, Oil & Acrylic on Canvas, 42x 54 inches





Ayesha Shariff

The Pink Secret, 2021

Coffee, Acrylic & Oil on Canvas

18 x 30 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Prayers in Pink, 2021

Coffee, Acrylic & Oil on Canvas

18 x 30 inches



Ayesha Shariff

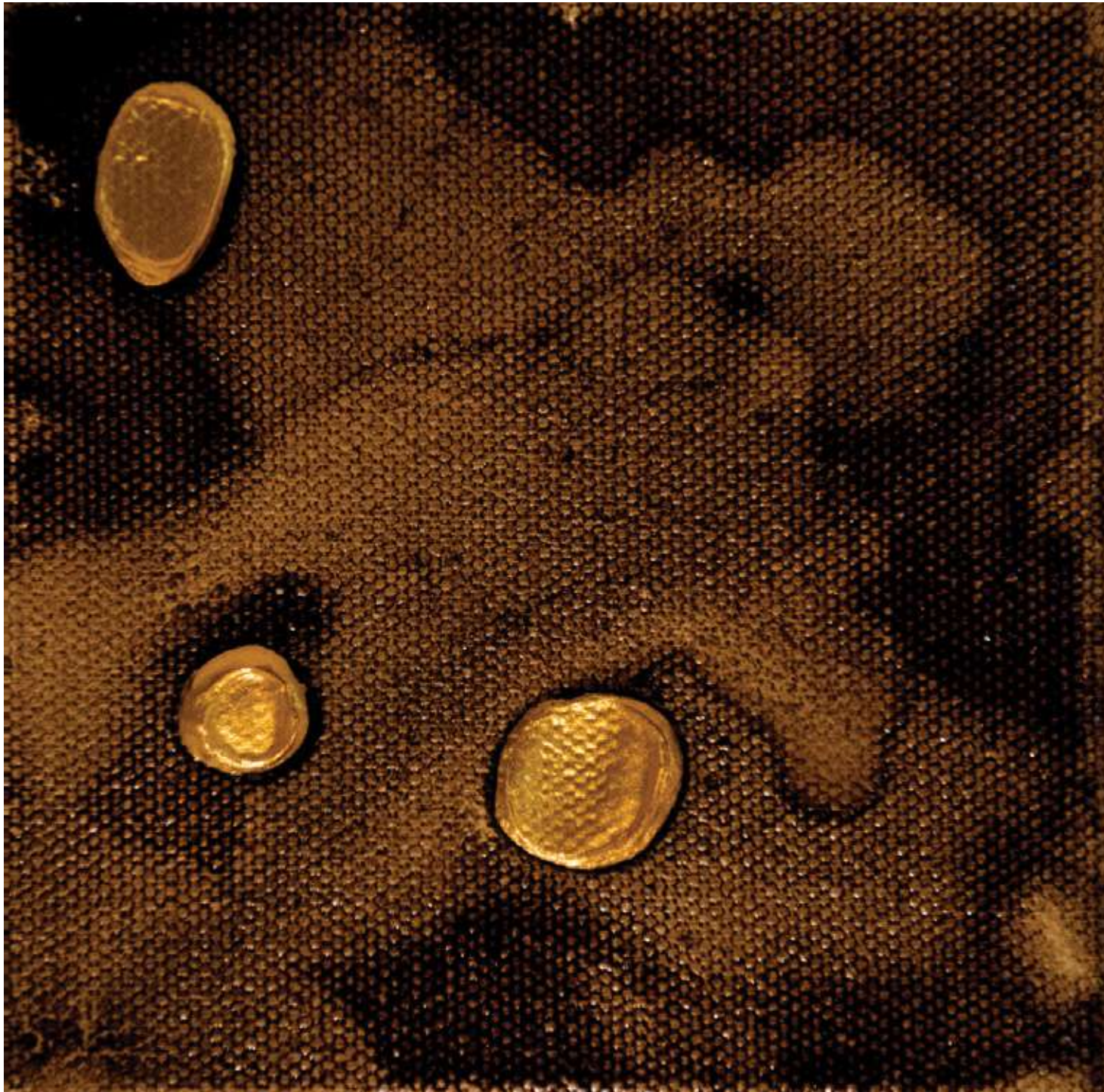
Scarlet Desire, 2021
Coffee & Oil on Canvas
24 x 24 inches





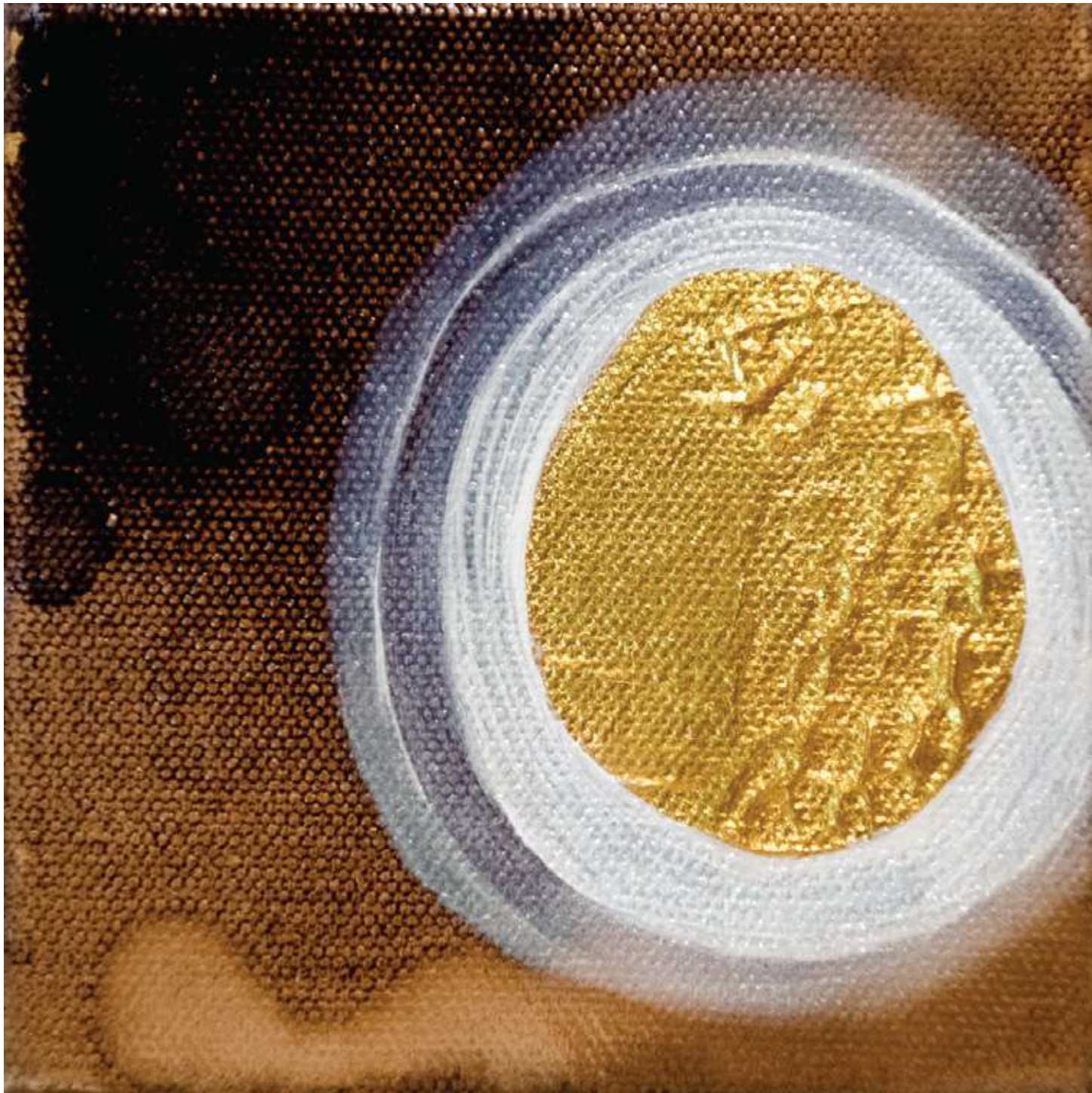
Ayesha Shariff

Cobwebs of the Soul, 2021
Coffee, Acrylic & Oil on Canvas
4 x 4 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Nuggets of Wisdom, 2021
Coffee & Acrylic on Canvas
4 x 4 inches



Ayesha Shariff

The Kohinoor, 2021
Coffee & Acrylic on Canvas
4 x 4 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Craving the Crown, 2021

Coffee, Acrylic & Oil on Canvas

4 x 12 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Mount of Uhad, 2021

Coffee & Oil on Canvas

4 x 12 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Hajr-e-Aswad & the Sea, 2021

Acrylic & Oil on Canvas

4 x 12 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Stain of Sin, 2021

Coffee & Oil on Canvas

5 x 7 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Story in Red, 2021

Coffee & Oil on Canvas

5 x 7 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Crimson Stirrings, 2021

Coffee & Oil on Canvas

8 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Crossing the Line, 2021
Coffee, Acrylic & Oil on Canvas
8 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

The Red Curtain, 2021, Oil & Acrylic on Canvas, 6 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Every Curtain has a Gold Lining, 2021

Oil & Acrylic on Canvas

6 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Tahajjud at 3 am, 2021

Oil on Canvas

14 x 18 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Sunny Sunday, 2021
Acrylic & Oil on Canvas
4 x 12 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Pomegranate on a Hot Day, 2021

Acrylic on Canvas

8 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Sticky Nectar, 2021

Acrylic on Canvas

8 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

The Brick Wall, 2021

Acrylic on Canvas

8 x 8 inches

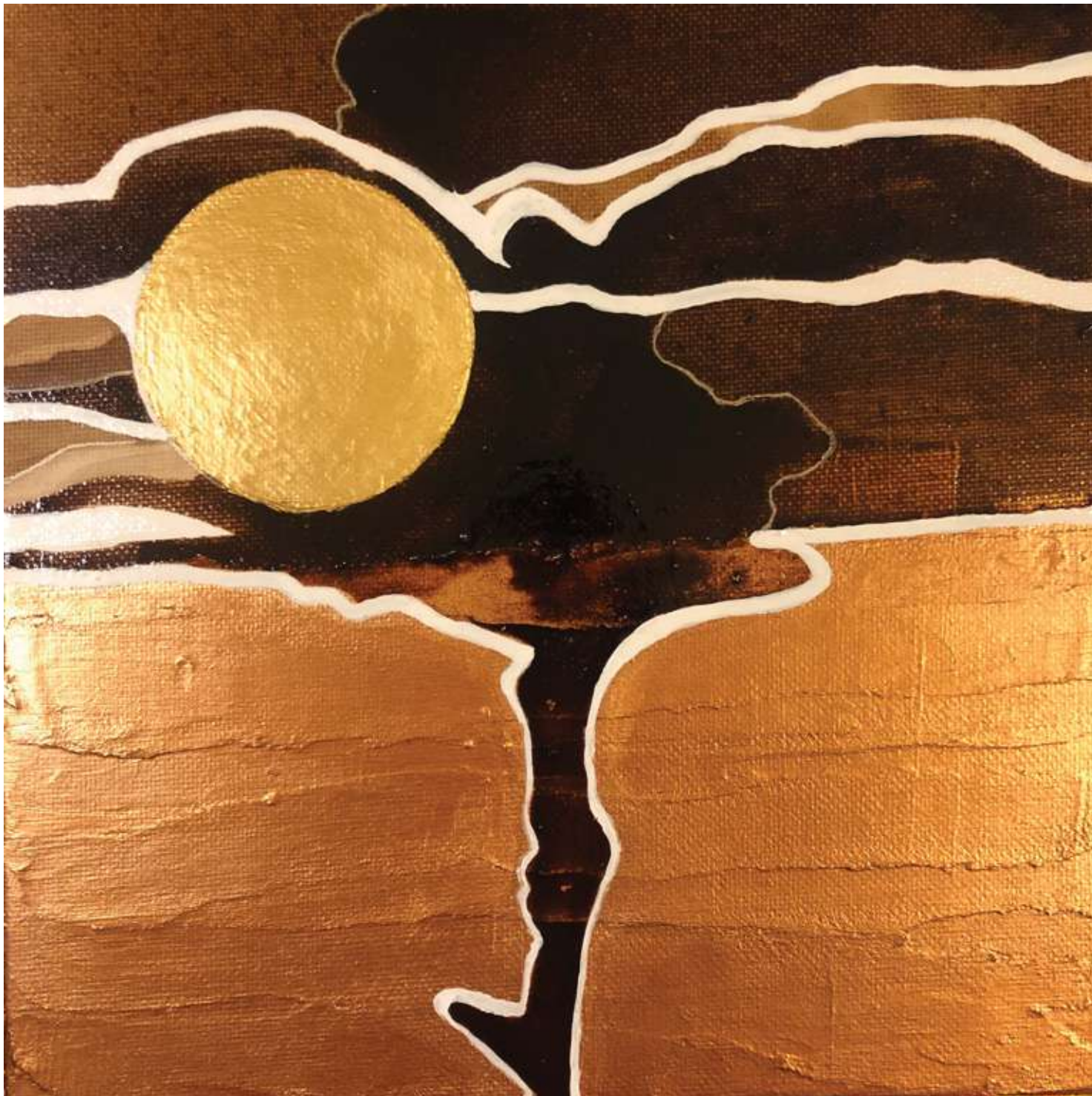


Ayesha Shariff

Solar Calendar, 2021

Coffee & Acrylic on Canvas

8 x 8 inches



Lunar Months, 2021
Coffee & Acrylic on Canvas
8 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Farah's Flow, 2021

Oil on Canvas

24 x 24 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Map of her Heart on June 8th, 2021

Oil on Canvas

24 x 24 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Blood Cloud I, 2021

Oil on Canvas

12 x 12 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Blood Cloud II, 2021

Oil on Canvas

12 x 12 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Midnight Lava, 2021

Oil on Canvas

8 x 8 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Kryptonite I, 2021

Oil on Canvas

4 x 4 inches



Ayesha Shariff

Kryptonite II, 2021

Oil on Canvas

4 x 4 inches

Faizan Riedinger

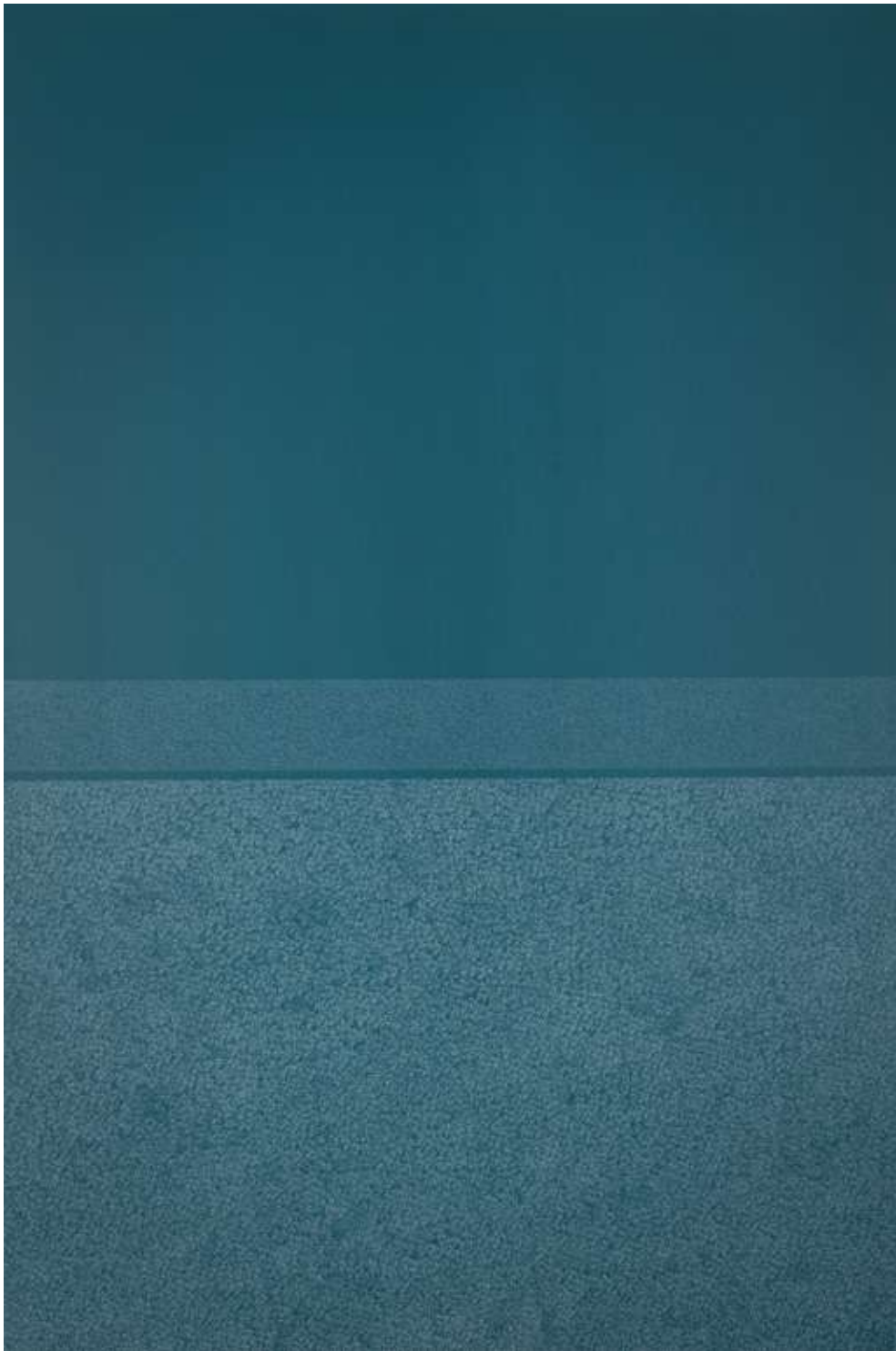


We as a society have had to adapt exponentially through multiple changes and restrictions in recent times. The word "confinement" struck a chord with me regarding this specific body of work.

Through muted colors, rudimentary shapes, precise lines and geometric shapes. I attempt to explore working with forced restrictions and honing my gestural script, which can act as a form of meditation to find contentment. This can be perceived as an adaptation to the various day to day struggles.

Faizan Riedinger was born in 1988 in Karachi. He is a self-taught artist. He was raised in a family of artists and art enthusiasts. As an artist, it is important for him to capture and encapsulate movement, rhythm and vibrations. He is fascinated and curious about natural formations, growth in nature, fractals and ancient scriptures.

Most of his inspiration derives from abstraction within nature, organic structures and the presence of fluidity within scripts. The process can be painstaking with lots of repetition. It induces a meditative state of mind, which is a very crucial element of his work. It is subjective and open to interpretation as it focuses on abstraction and how it makes one feel rather than telling a logical story.

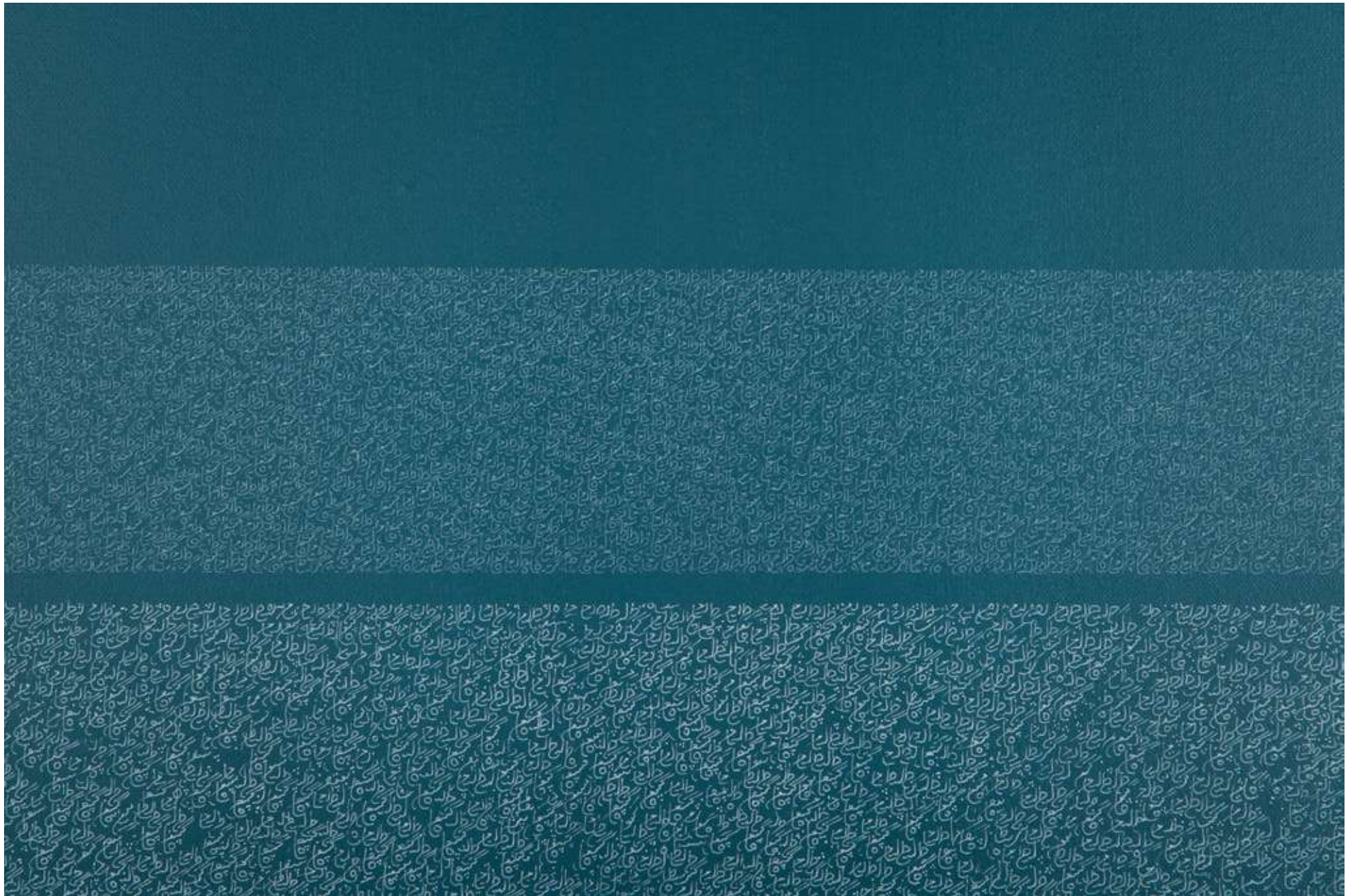


Faizan Riedinger

Wasser, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic on canvas

40 x 60 inches



Detail of *Wasser*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

Blut, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic on canvas

40 x 60 inches



Detail of *Blut*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

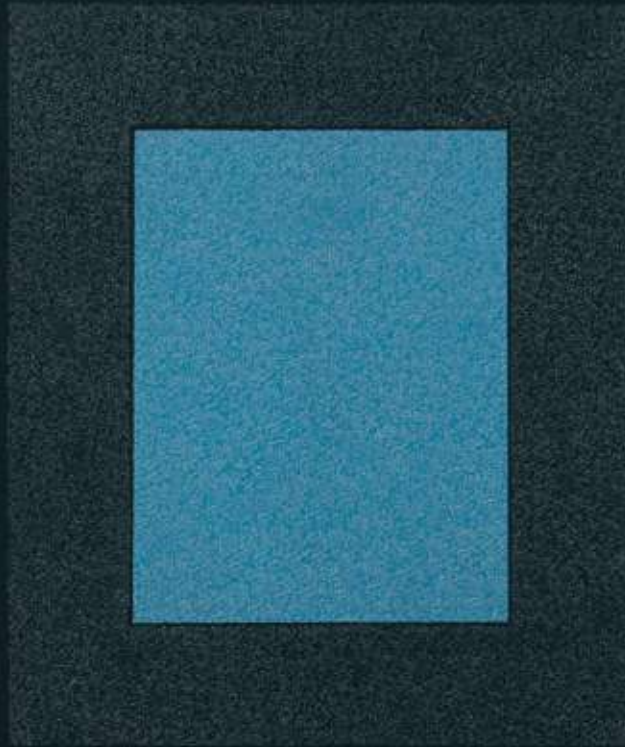
Hybridisation, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic on canvas

30 x 40 inches



Detail of *Hybridisation*, 2021

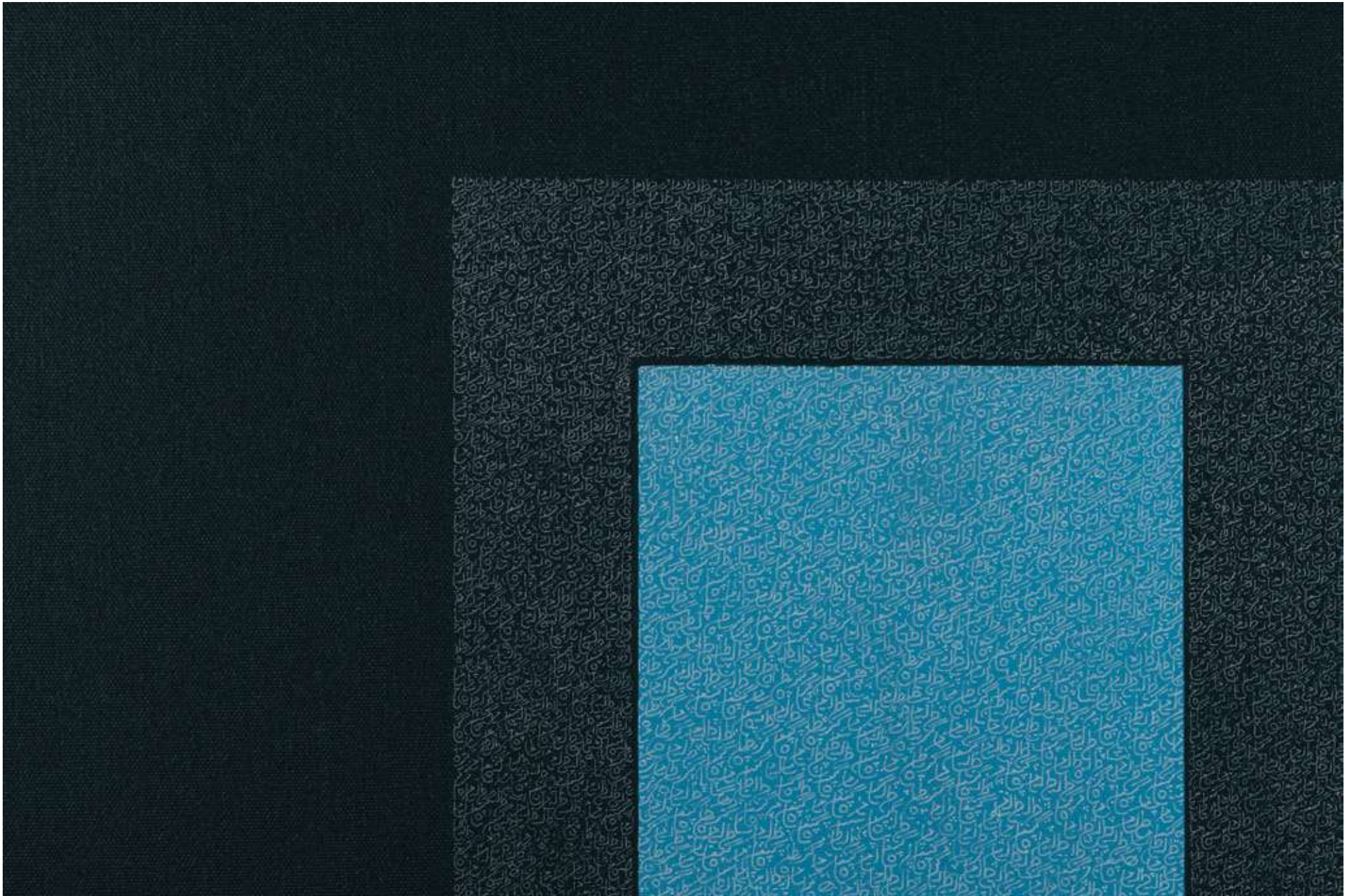


Faizan Riedinger

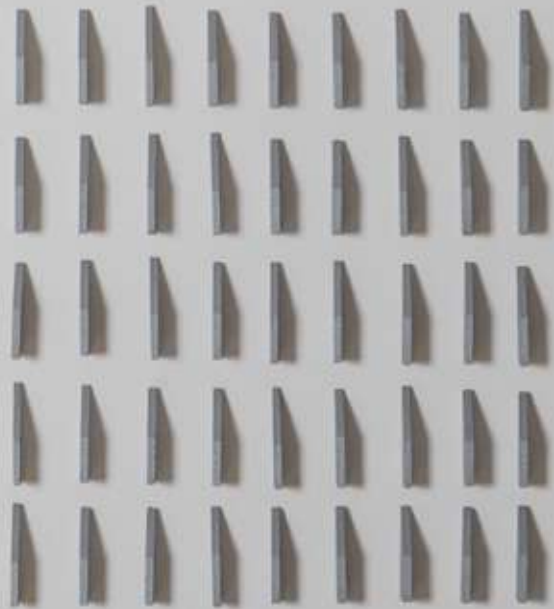
Serenity, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic on canvas

24 x 24 inches



Detail of *Serenity*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

The order, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic, pine wood,

German glue on canvas

35.5 x 35.5 inches



Detail of *The order*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

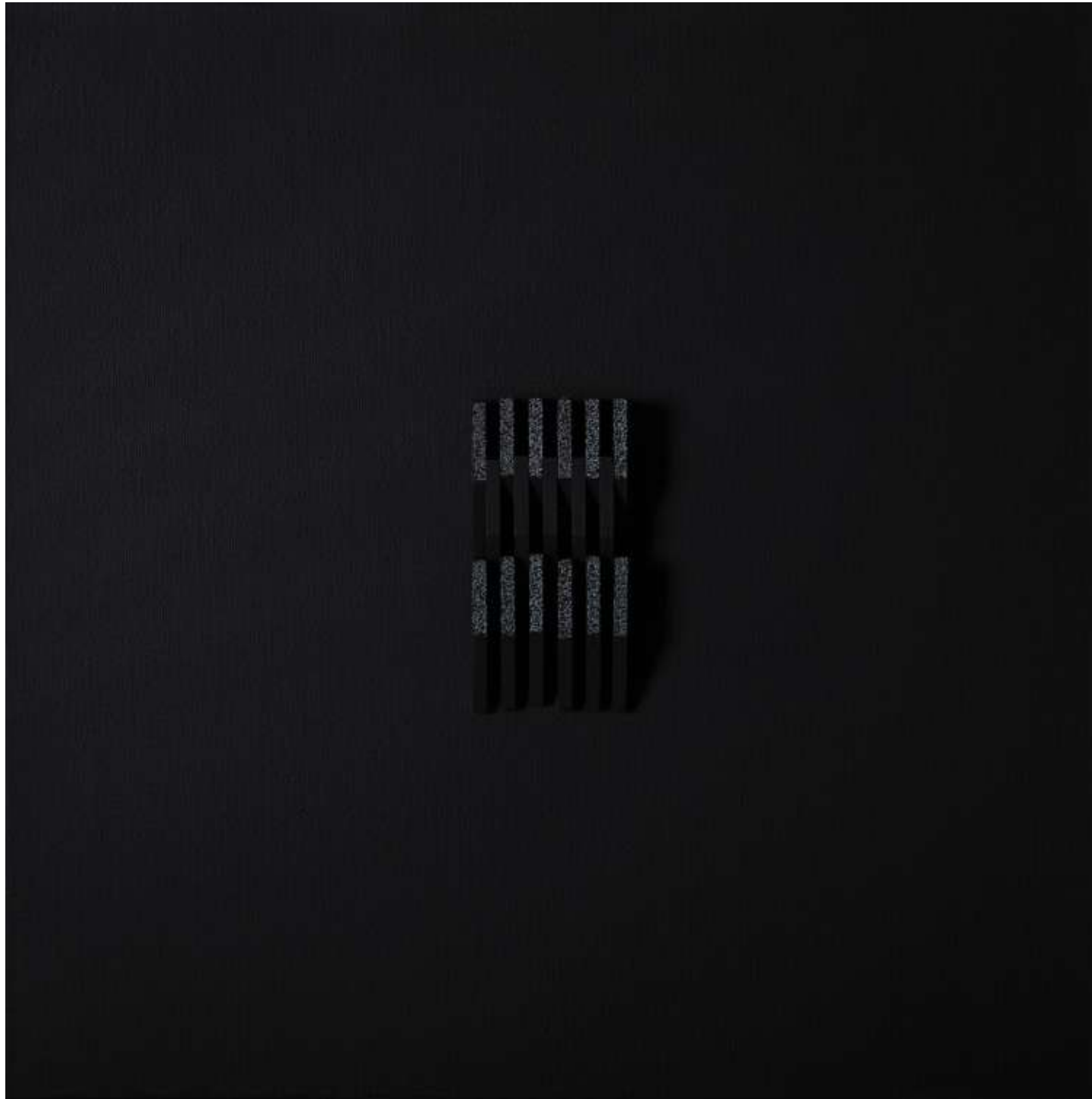
The Bridge, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic, pine wood,
German glue on canvas

16 x 16 inches



Detail of *The Bridge*, 2021



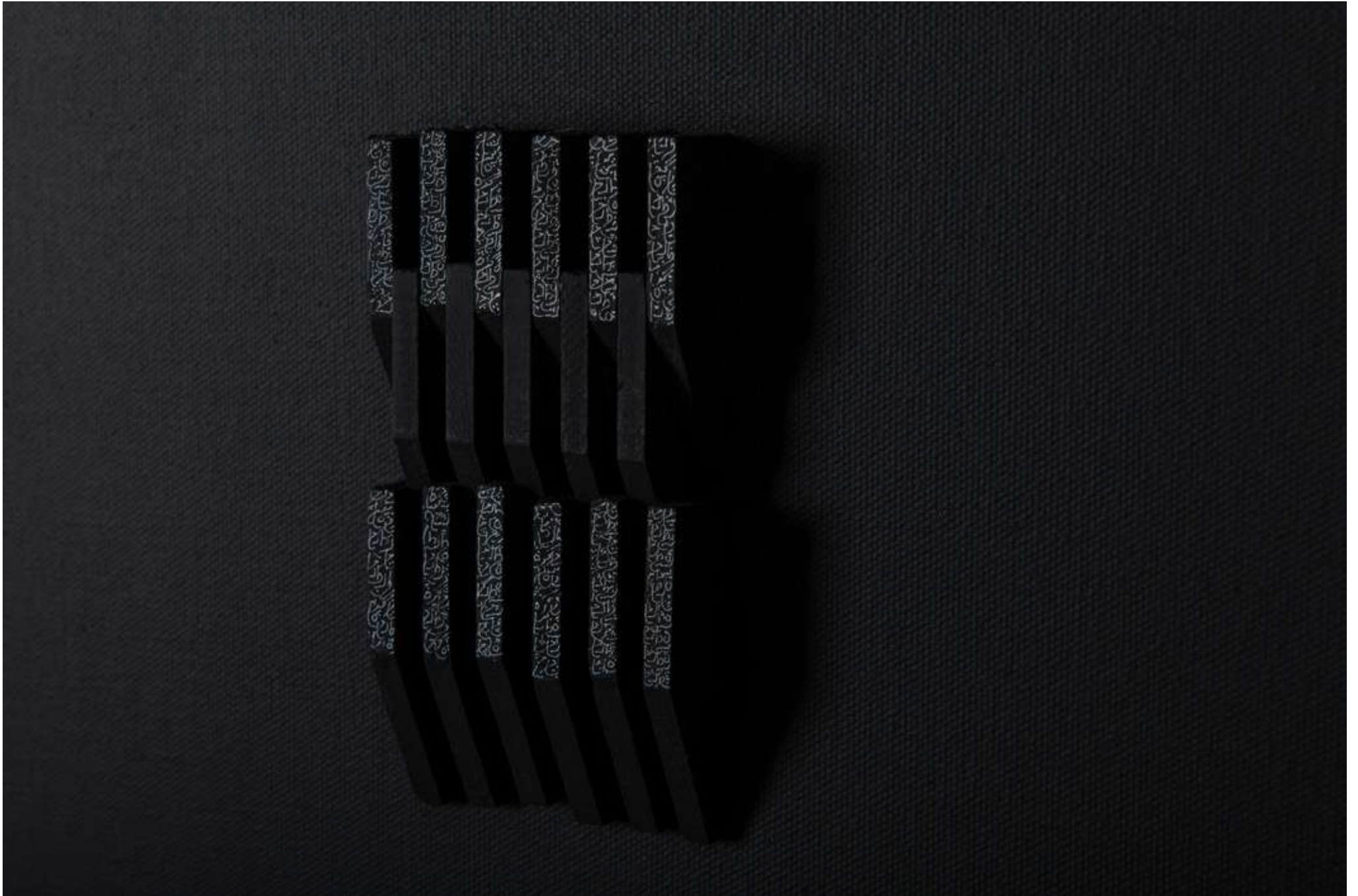
Faizan Riedinger

The Bridge II, 2021

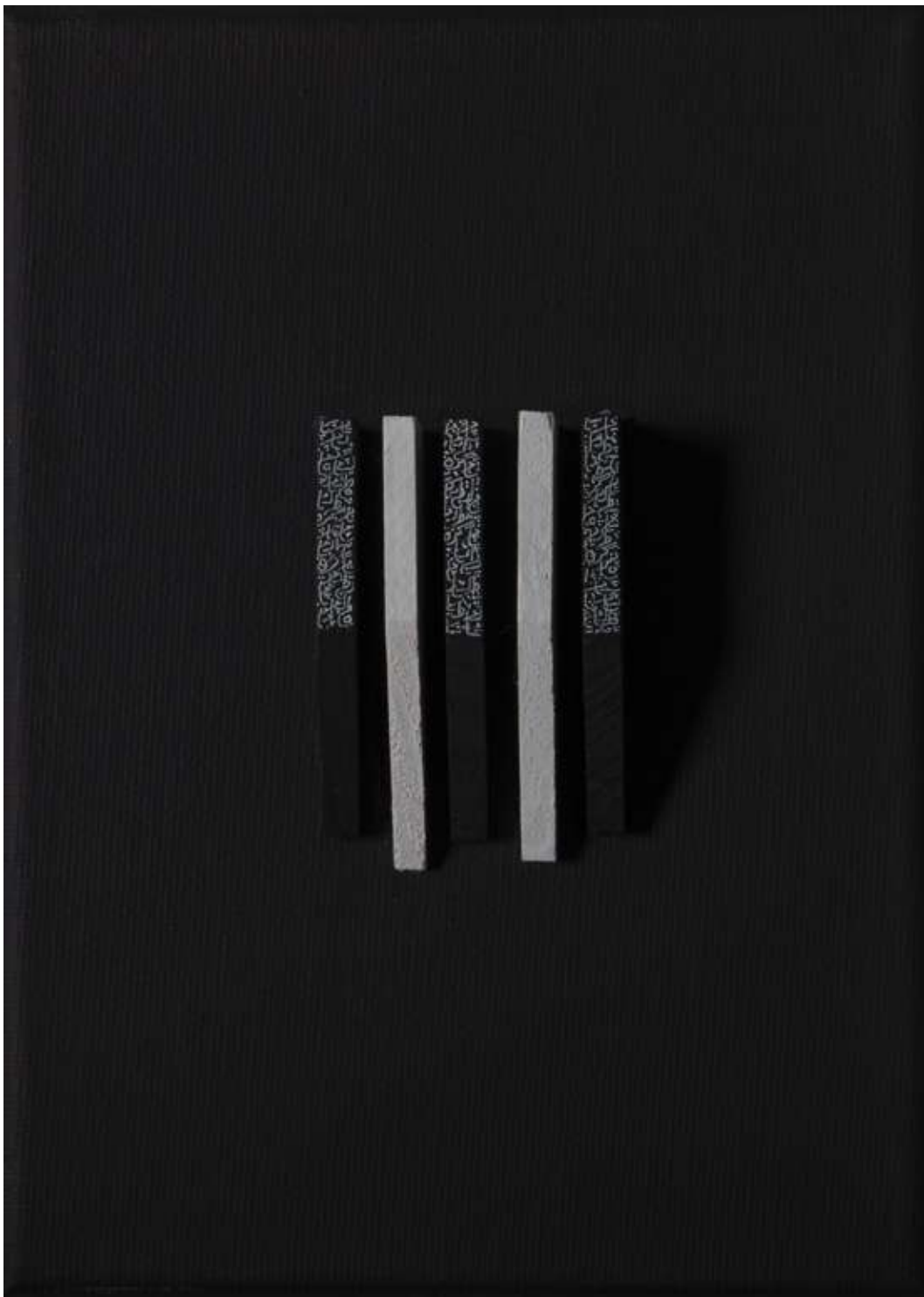
Archival ink, acrylic, pine wood,

German glue on canvas

16 x 16 inches



Detail of *The Bridge II*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

The Bridge III, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic, pine wood,
German glue on canvas

7.1 x 5.1 inches



Detail of *The Bridge III*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

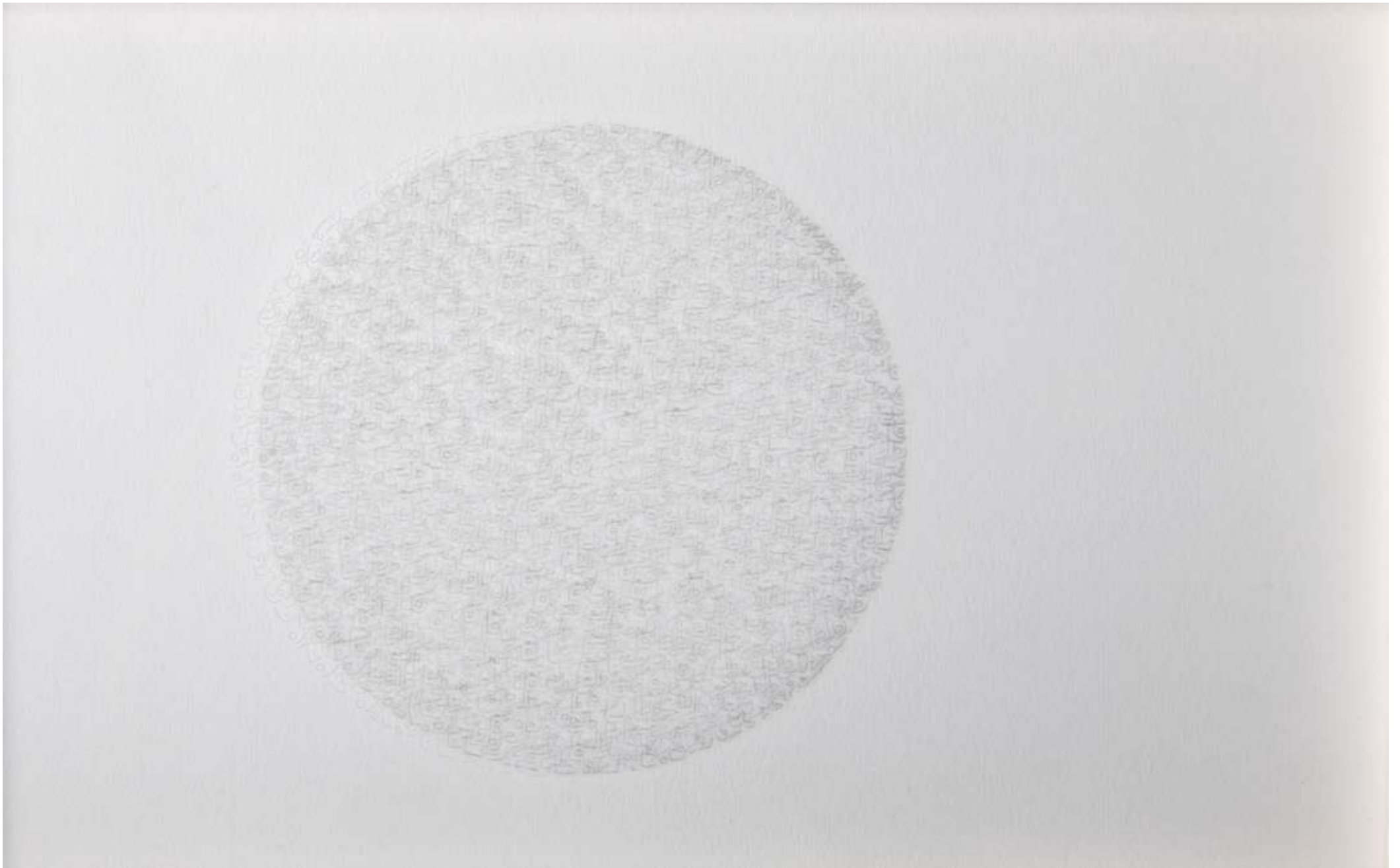
Grau, 2021

Archival ink, acrylic, pine wood,
German glue on canvas

24 x 24 inches

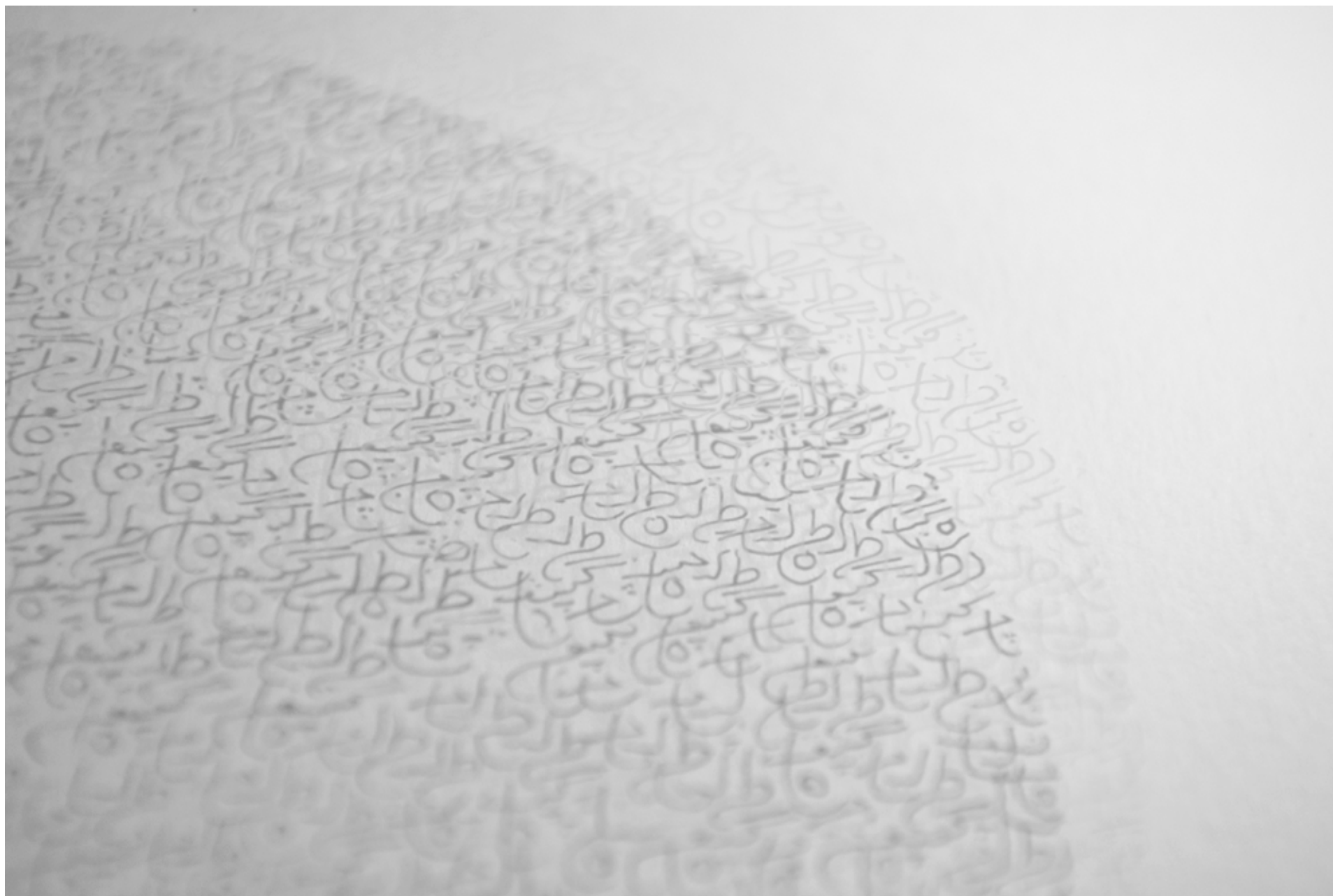


Detail of *Grau*, 2021

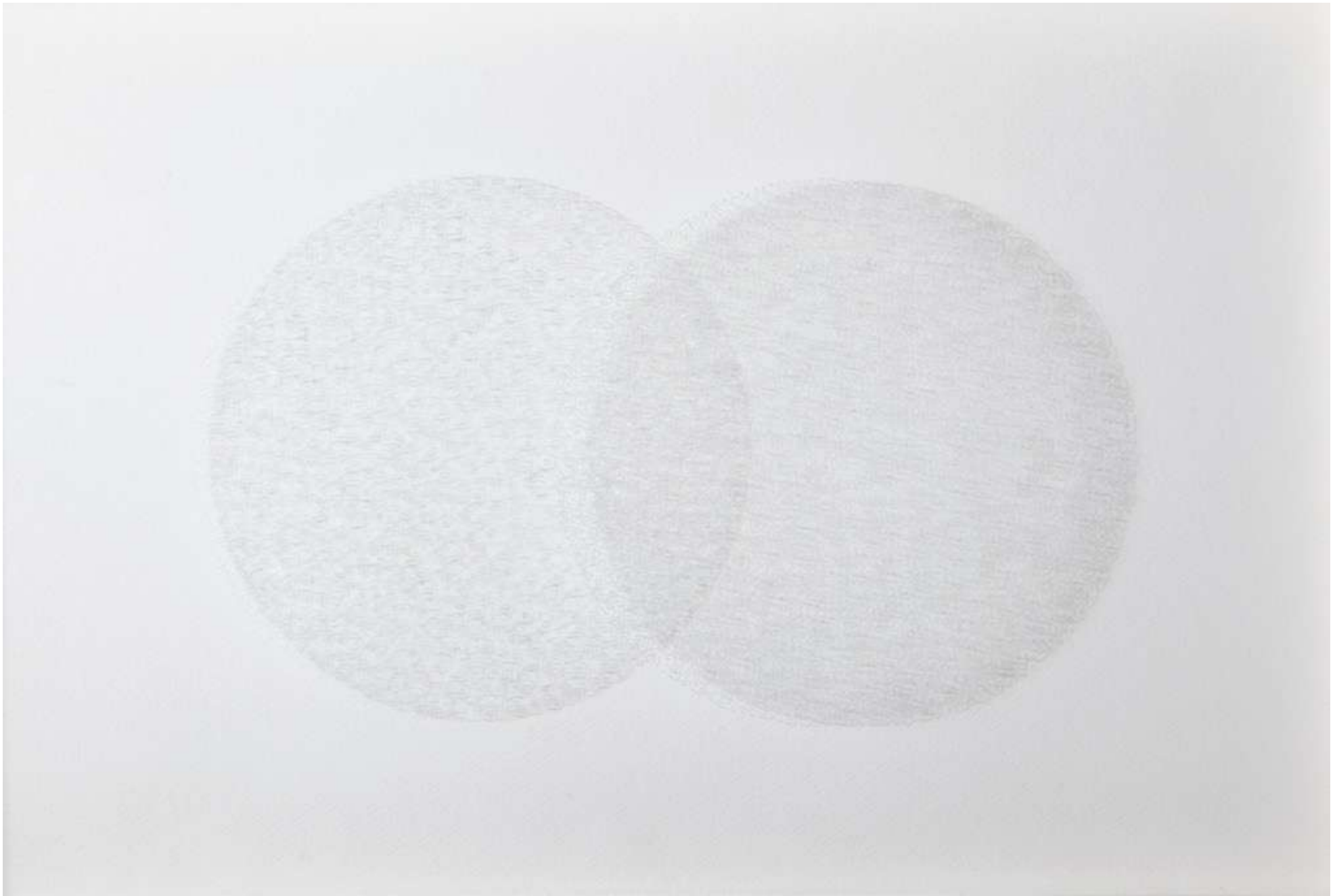


Faizan Riedinger

Shadows, 2021, Archival ink on Clarity glass, 15.1 x 9.8 inches



Detail of *Shadows*, 2021

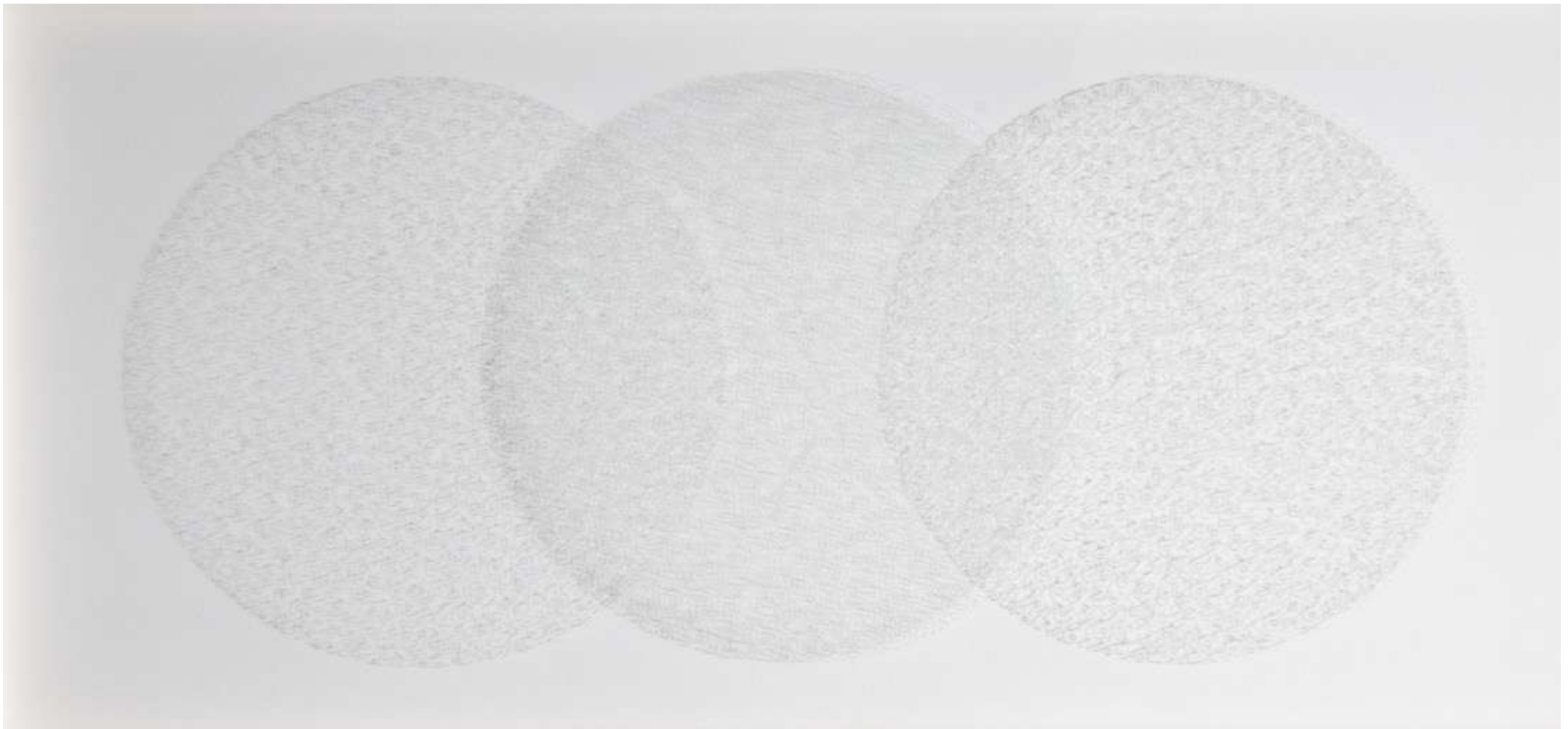


Faizan Riedinger

Shadows II, 2021, Archival ink on Clarity glass, 17.8 x 12 inches



Detail of *Shadows II*, 2021

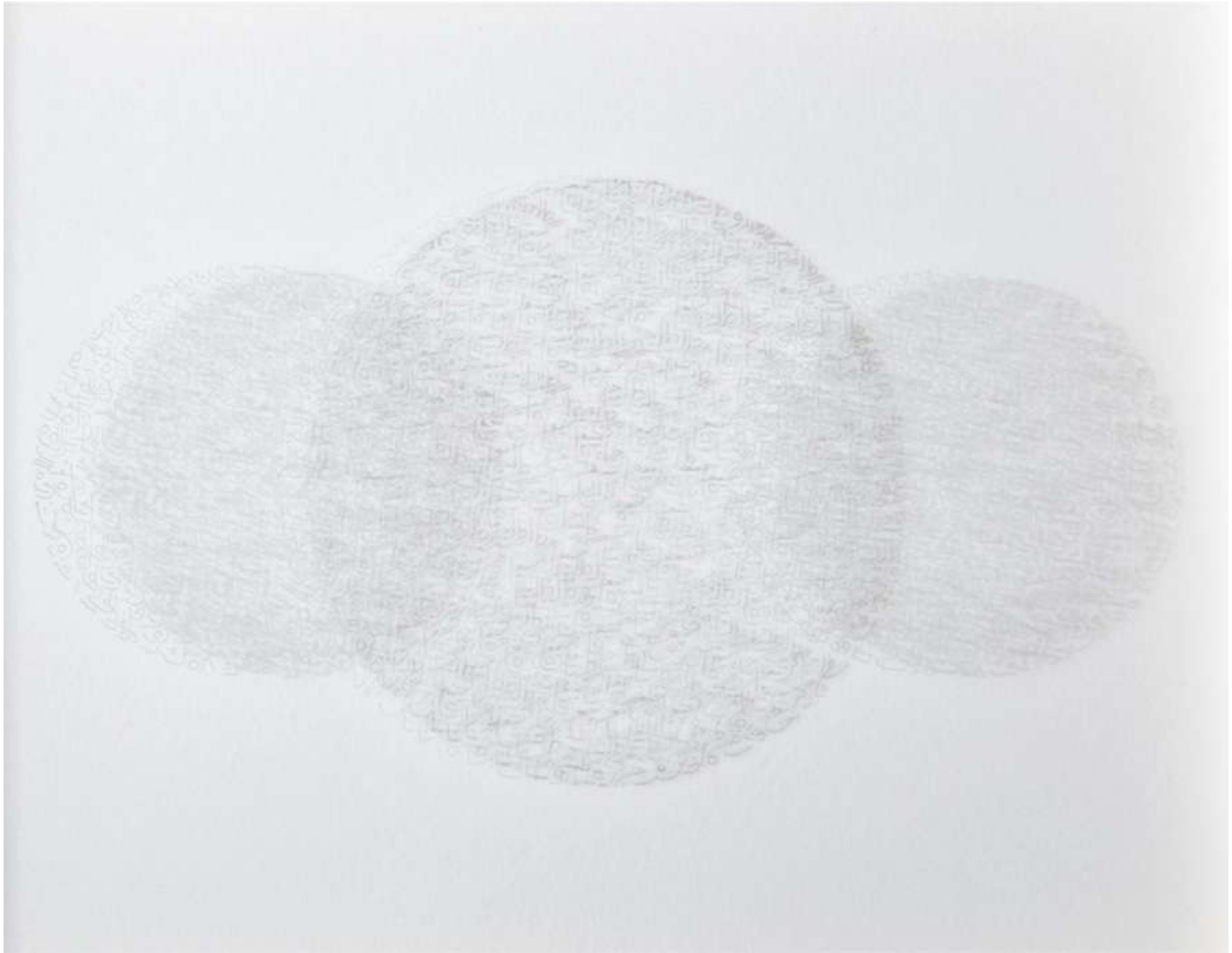


Faizan Riedinger

Shadows III, 2021, Archival ink on Clarity glass, 11.2 x 24.5 inches



Detail of *Shadows III*, 2021

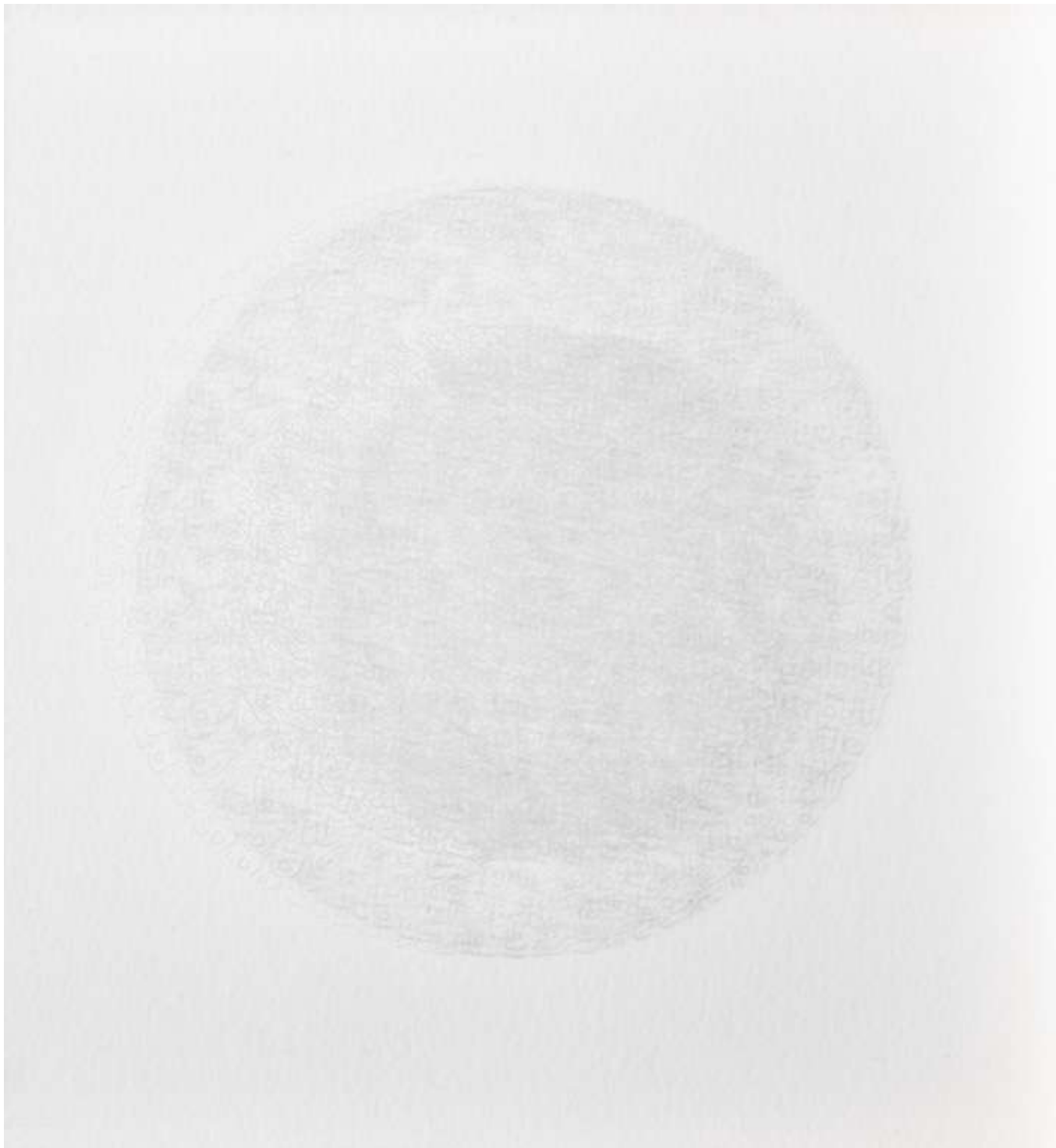


Faizan Riedinger

Shadows IV, 2021 Archival ink on Clarity glass, 11.2 x 9.2 inches



Detail of *Shadows IV*, 2021



Faizan Riedinger

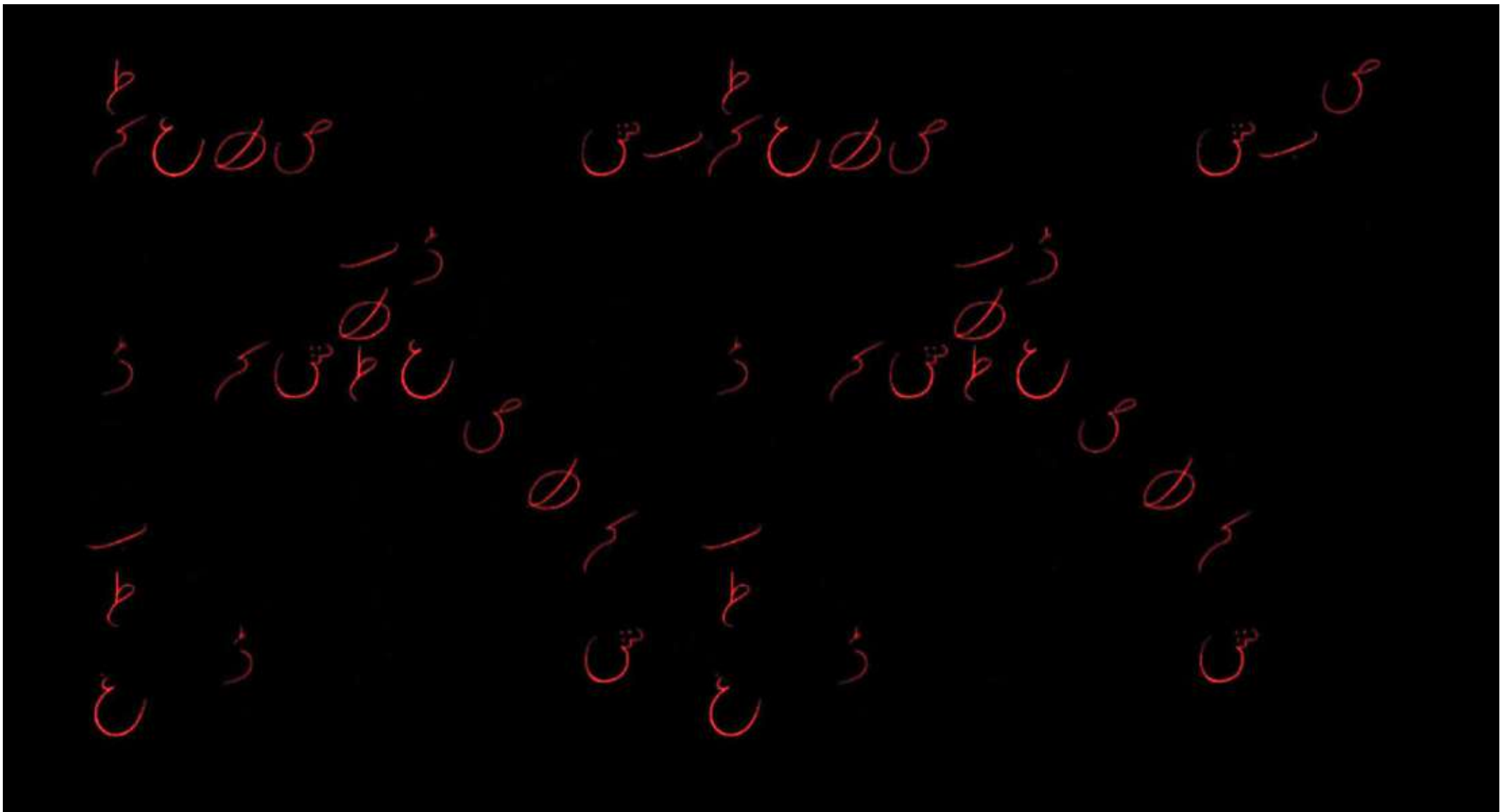
Shadows V, 2021

Archival ink on Clarity glass

8.8 x 8.8 inches



Detail of *Shadows V*, 2021





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