



Sònia Toneu

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# Statement

Following a personal interpretation of space through the concept of entropy, I abstractly confront Geography and Geometry. My research is focused on expressing the emotional responses produced on me by those disciplines through the mediums of Painting, Installation and Digital Creation.

My interest in complexity, chaos, opposed elements and the primaevael relation between these elements, the Individuals and the Cosmos subsidise the aesthetic and conceptual making of the artworks. The process is based on tacit and practical knowledge, acquired from direct contact and experience. That is, by physically walking throw the territory and integrating maps, sensations and sound captured in this prospection by a sharpened intuition and imagination.

Built from the analogies established between my perception of site- and time-specific experiences and the form, my constructs aim to create a personal universe (stage, environment) for analysis, reflection and study of these relations. In my work, saturation and superposition of elements in an environment with a constant need for stimuli lead to an accumulation of relations, observations and thoughts that necessarily crack the surface of the medium to show a deep and visceral component of the subject.





# Biography

Sonia Toneu (Aiguaviva, 1988) lives and works between Barcelona and Berlin. Her artistic research is focused on abstraction, through painting, installation and digital media, as a way of proposing different realities to those we perceive. She completed the Visual Arts and Design program at the Escola Massana in Barcelona and moved on to the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya to complete her arts degree. She has also spent time studying Art History, Artistic Management, as well as Music.

Growing up in a country house within a creative family environment, she was surrounded by nature and from a young age, found interest in art and science. In her adolescence she was a musician in various bands. Upon arriving in Barcelona, she worked in fashion and advertising as both a model and photographer, surrounded by designers, photographers and set designers. This relationship with fashion accentuated her aesthetic and formal view of art. After graduating, her passion for, and curiosity to explore different societies and customs, led her to travel through Europe. Through her travels, geography became a focal point, increasing in her the concept of the place, the relationship with emotions, and synesthesia.



She was selected as a finalist in several international painting competitions, such as the Iluro Foundation Biennial (2015), the Ibercaja Prize (2015), and the Ricard Camí Prize (2015). She was also selected for several art residences, such as Art Circle (Slovenia, 2019), Nautilus (Lanzarote, 2019), and Glogauair (Berlin, 2020). Her works have been presented in group exhibitions at contemporary art galleries throughout Spain as well as international art fairs. Sonia has had solo exhibitions at the EspaiB Gallery (Barcelona, 2014 and 2018), Antoni Pinyol (Reus, 2016 and 2017) and Juan Manuel Lumbreras (Bilbao, 2019). In recent years, she has worked on various artistic installations, large murals and performed live painting sessions for festivals such as Poblenou Urban District (Barcelona). Currently, Sonia is researching and continuing to develop her artistic practice in Berlin.



**SONIA TONEU**

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Barcelona - Berlin

**EDUCATION****Art Degree**

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). Currently.

**Painting Degree**

Escola Massana, Barcelona. 2011.

**SOLO SHOWS****2019**

Introspecciones en el paisaje. Galeria Lumbreras, Bilbao.

**2018**

Sònia Toneu. Galeria Espai B, Barcelona.

**2017**

Defensar la cultura (two artists solo). Galeria Antoni Pinyol, Reus.  
Cartografia imaginaria. Convent de les Arts, Alcover.

**2016**

Sound scapes. Galeria Antoni Pinyol, Reus.

**2014**

Sound maps. Galeria Espai B, Barcelona.

**2013**

Impuls orgànic (two artists solo). Galeria Espai B, Barcelona.

**SELECTED GROUP SHOWS****2019**

Winter group show. Galeria Espai B, Barcelona.  
Poblenou Open Night, interior mural, La Plataforma art gallery, Barcelona. Tzompaltli, Group show, Galeria 18, Playa del Carmen, México.  
Poblenou Open Day, horizontal outdoor mural rooftop Playground, Barcelona. Affordable Art Fair Milano, with Galeria Espiral.

**2018**

Poblenou Open Night, exterior mural for Hotel The Gates, Barcelona. Festival Llambordes Street Art, exterior mural, Reus. Impulsarte - Hybrid Festival. Petit Palace Savoy, Madrid.  
X Premi Salou de recerca pictòrica. Torre Vella, Salou.  
STRIPART XXIII, outdoor mural. CC Guinardó, Barcelona.  
Poblenou Open Day, live interior mural on the festival. Poblenou, Barcelona.

**2017**

Reus Urban Art. Street murals in collaboration with Galeria Antoni Pinyol, Reus.

**2016**

Group show Arteles Creative Centre. Haukijarvi, Finlandia.  
Group show Farran 23, Barcelona.

**2015**

100x100Photo. Galeria Espai B, Barcelona.  
Winter group show. Galeria Espai B, Barcelona.  
Telax 2015. Galeria Antoni Pinyol, Reus.  
Bienal de arte joven. Sabadell.  
BBVA Ricard Camí premio de pintura. Terrassa.  
Premio de pintura joven. Fundació Iluro Mataró.  
Premio internacional de pintura joven. Ibercaja, Zaragoza.

**2014**

Kölner Liste Contemporary Art Fair. Alemania.  
De la paraula a la música. Setba, Barcelona.  
Més enllà de la Massana. Jim Contemporani, Barcelona.

**2013**

SWAB Contemporary Art Fair, Barcelona.

**2012**

SETBA Jove 2012. Setba, Barcelona.  
STRIPART, XVII mostra d'art jove. CCG, Barcelona.  
Col·lectiu El Fresc. La Carbonea. Girona.  
Open Studio. Satoko Nagashima and Sònia Toneu. ArtFunkl, Manchester, Inglaterra. Col·lectiu 13. Palau de Congressos. St Julià de Lòria, Andorra.  
FIGRAMU. Sala Blava Escola Massana, Barcelona.

**RESIDENCES & AWARDS****2020**

Artist in residence GlogauAIR, Berlin.

**2019**

Artist in residence grant, Casa del artista Nautilus, Lanzarote.  
Artist in residence grant Art Circle, Slovenja.

**2018**

Interior rooms mural for The Gates Hotel, Barcelona.

**2017**

Convent de les Arts d'Alcover. Award for the project Cartografies Imaginaries.

**2016**

Artist in Residence, Arteles Creative Centre, Finland.

**2015**

Artist in Residence, Nordanbal, Iceland.  
Finalist in Telax award. Galeria Antoni Pinyol, Reus, Spain.  
Finalist in young art biennale. Sabadell, Spain.  
Finalist in BBVA Ricard Camí painting prize. Terrassa, Spain.  
Finalist in Young painters grant. Fundació Iluro Mataró, Spain.  
Finalist in internacional Young painters grant. Ibercaja, Zaragoza, Spain.

**2014**

Artist in Residence, Cerdeira Village Arts&crafts, Portugal.

**2013**

Finalist in Why I love BCN, Generator Barcelona Art Competition, Spain.

**2012**

Artist in Residence, ArtFunkl, Manchester, Inglaterra.  
Select for Art Kudos International Competition.



Work selection

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Space intervention



HAUKIJÄRVI - TAMPERE - SUOMI  
Vierailija - Visitante - Visitor  
2016







HAUKIJÄRVI - TAMPERE - SUOMI  
Arkkitehtuurit - Arquitecturas - Architectures  
2016

CONVENT DE LES ARTS - ALCOVER - TARRAGONA  
Cartografia imaginaria - Imaginary cartography  
2017



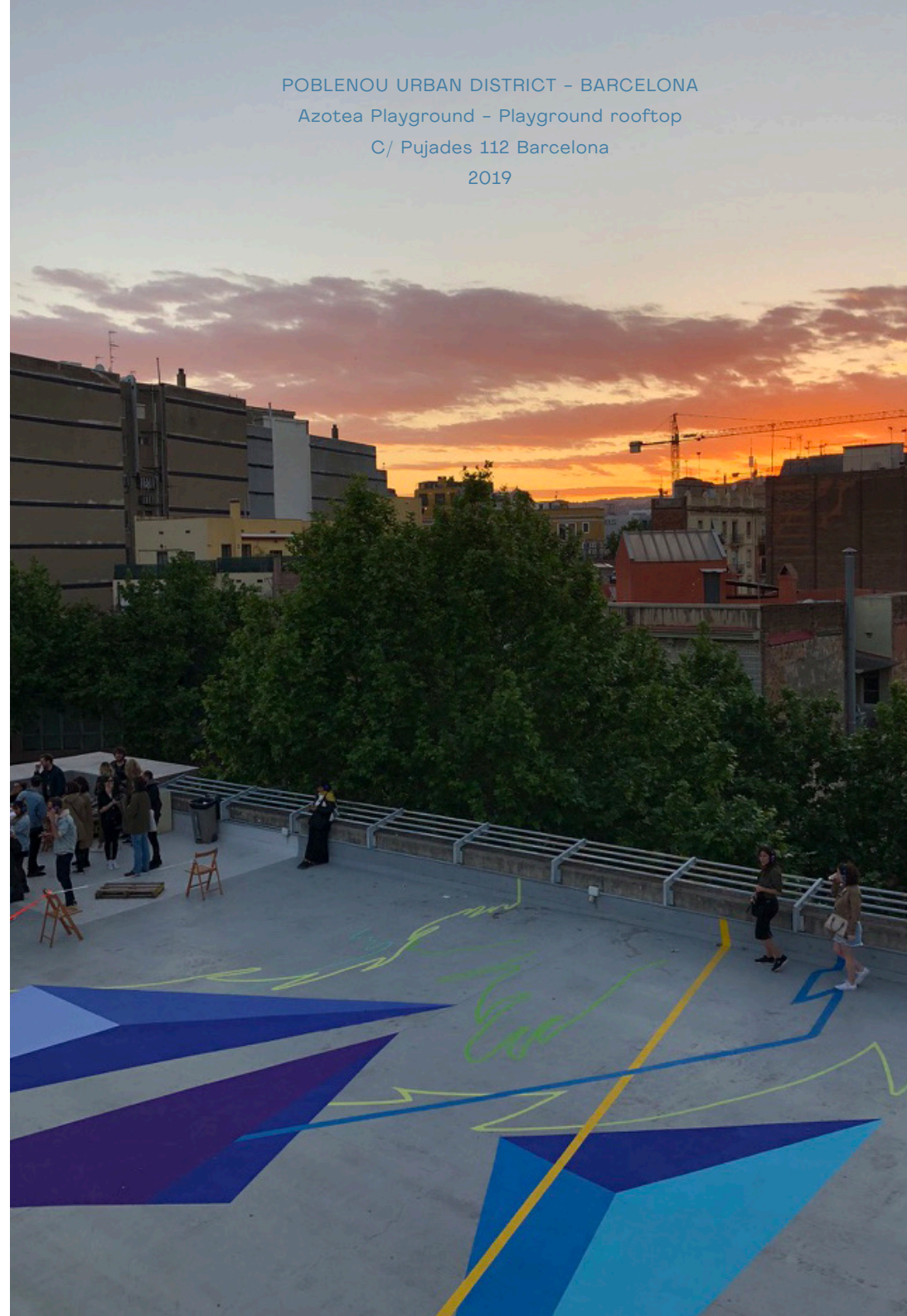
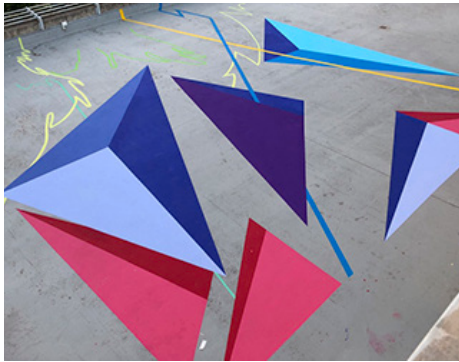
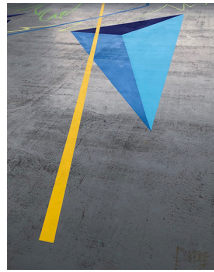


POBLENOU URBAN DISTRICT - BARCELONA

Azotea Playground - Playground rooftop

C/ Pujades 112 Barcelona

2019



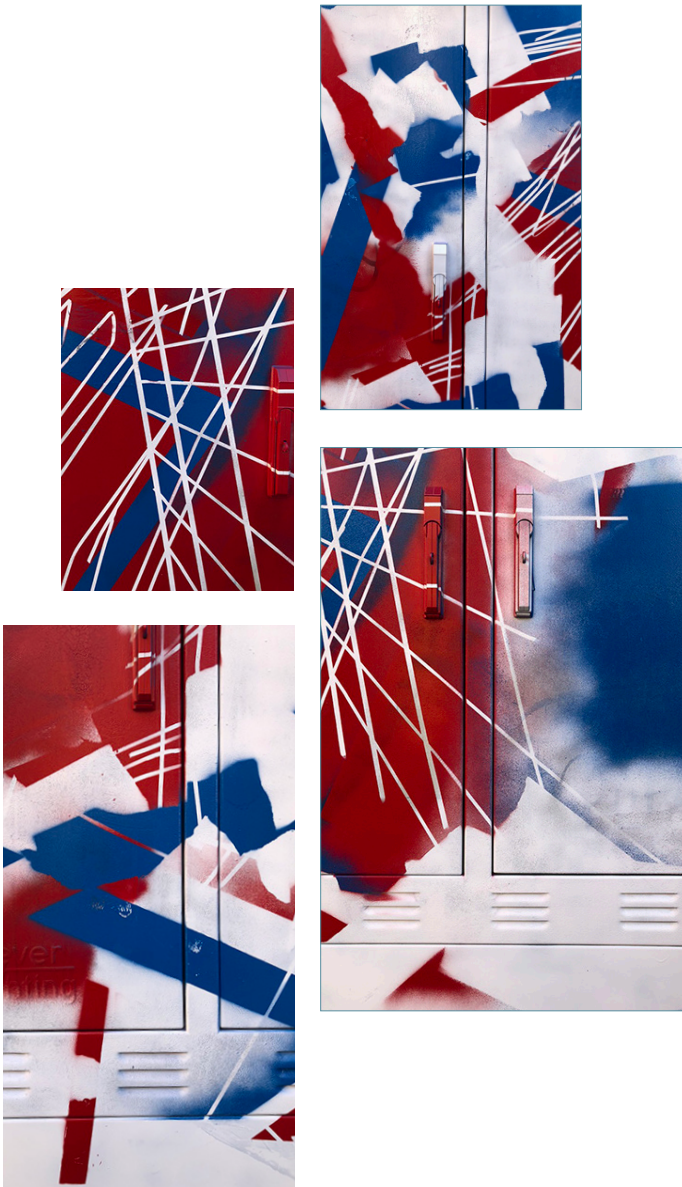




URBAN HUB  
2018

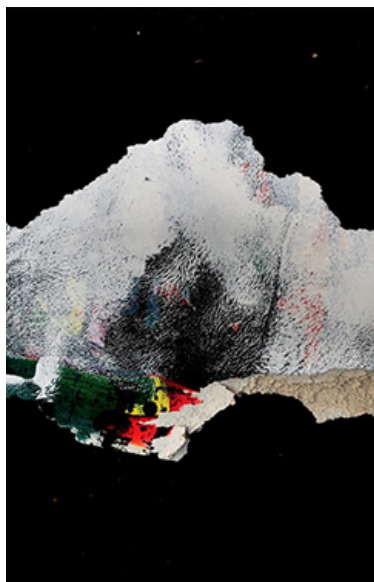
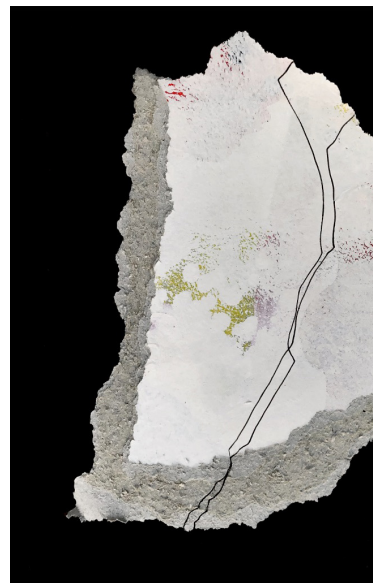
HOTEL THE GATES DIAGONAL, BARCELONA  
2018





REUS - TARRAGONA  
Electr Urb  
2018





PUERTO DEL CARMEN - LANZAROTE - ISLAS CANARIAS

Islas

2019





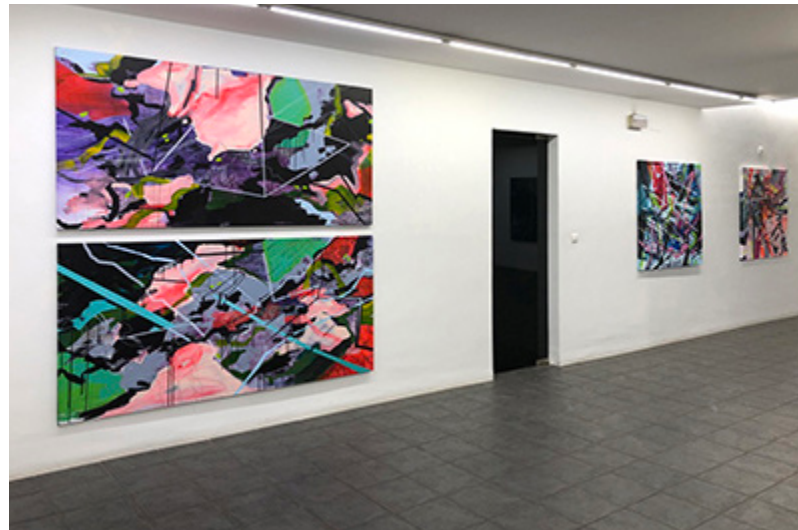
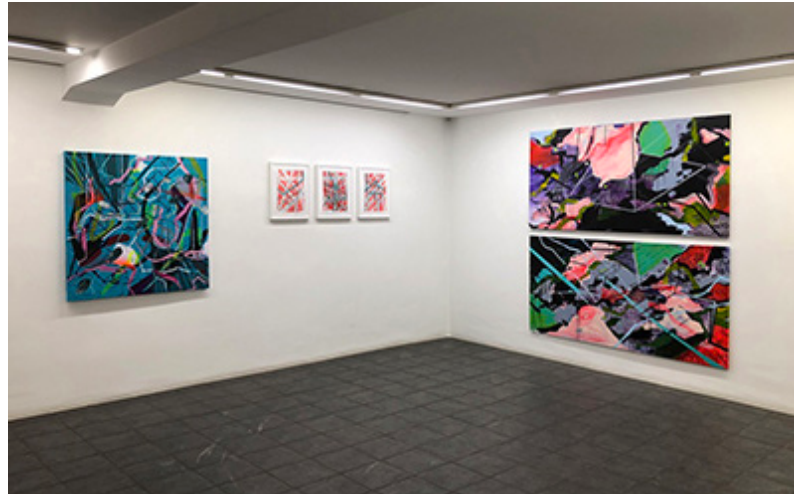
Exhibition

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Landscape introspections

BILBAO - GALLERY JUAN MANUEL LUMBRERAS

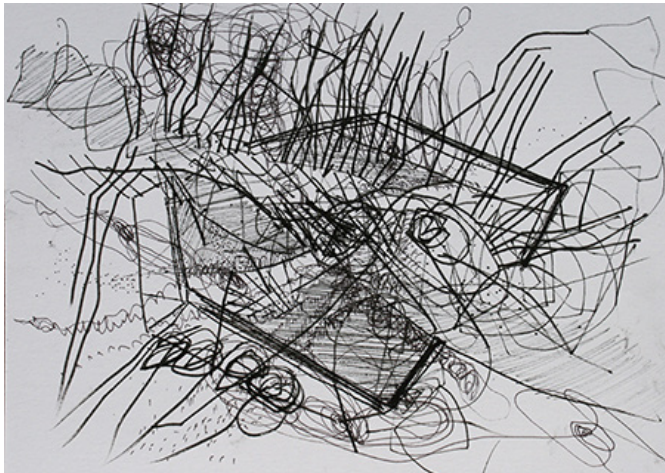
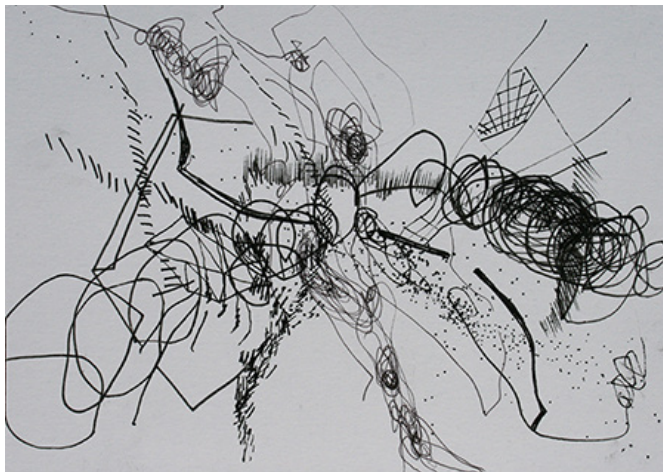
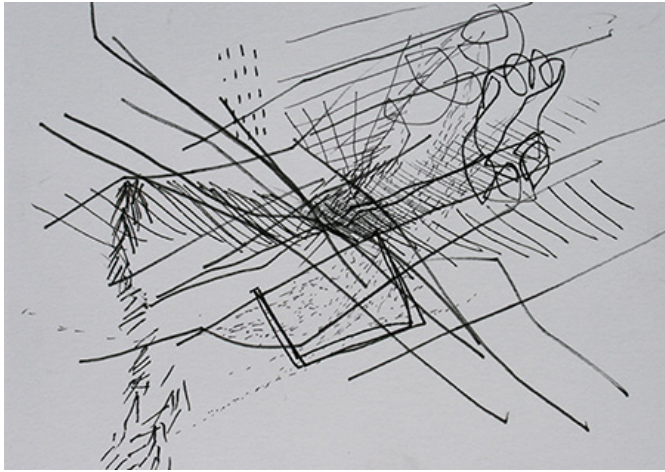
10 January - 15 February 2019













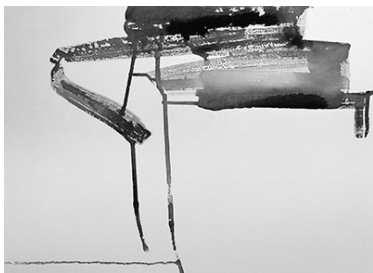


Work selection

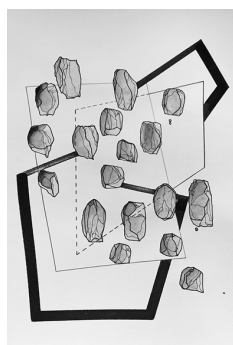
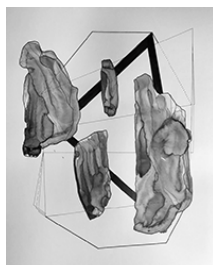
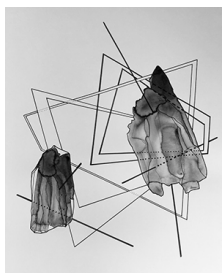
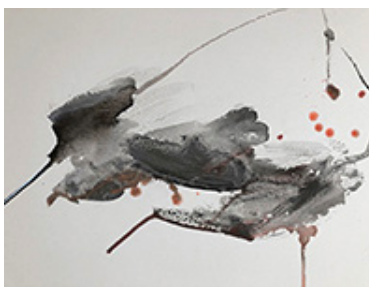
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2019 - 2020



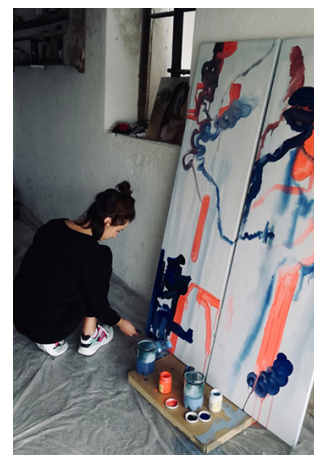
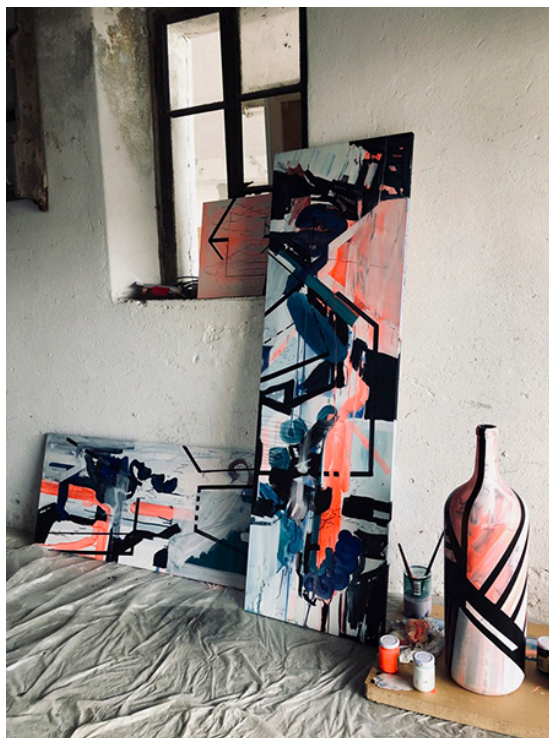


ISO-MNTSRRT  
2019

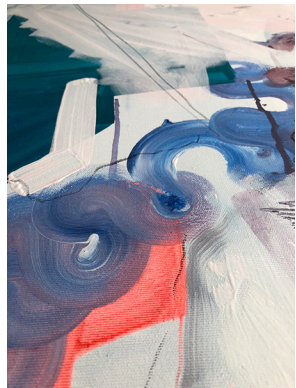
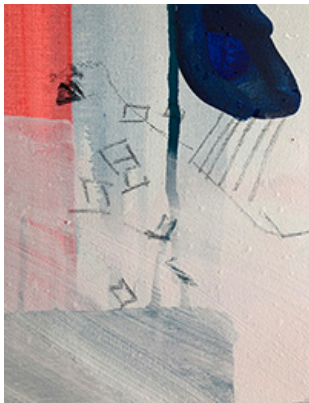




Vipolze - Dobrovo - Slovenija  
2019



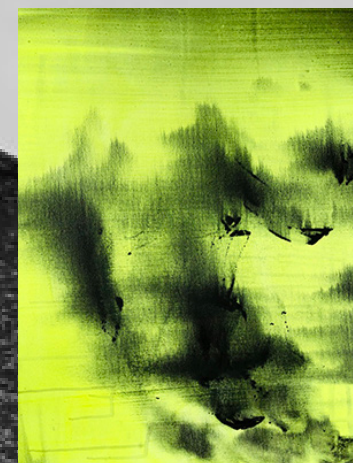




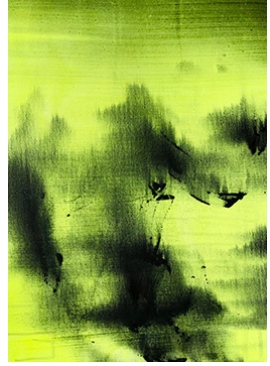
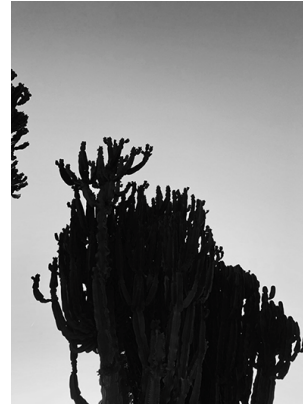
LANZAROTE – ISLAS CANARIAS

How sea drags you to the shore

2019







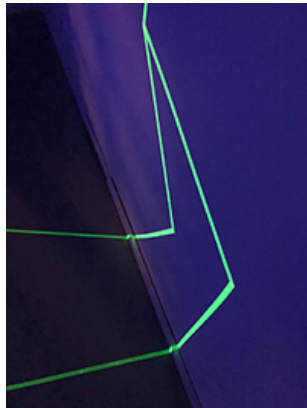
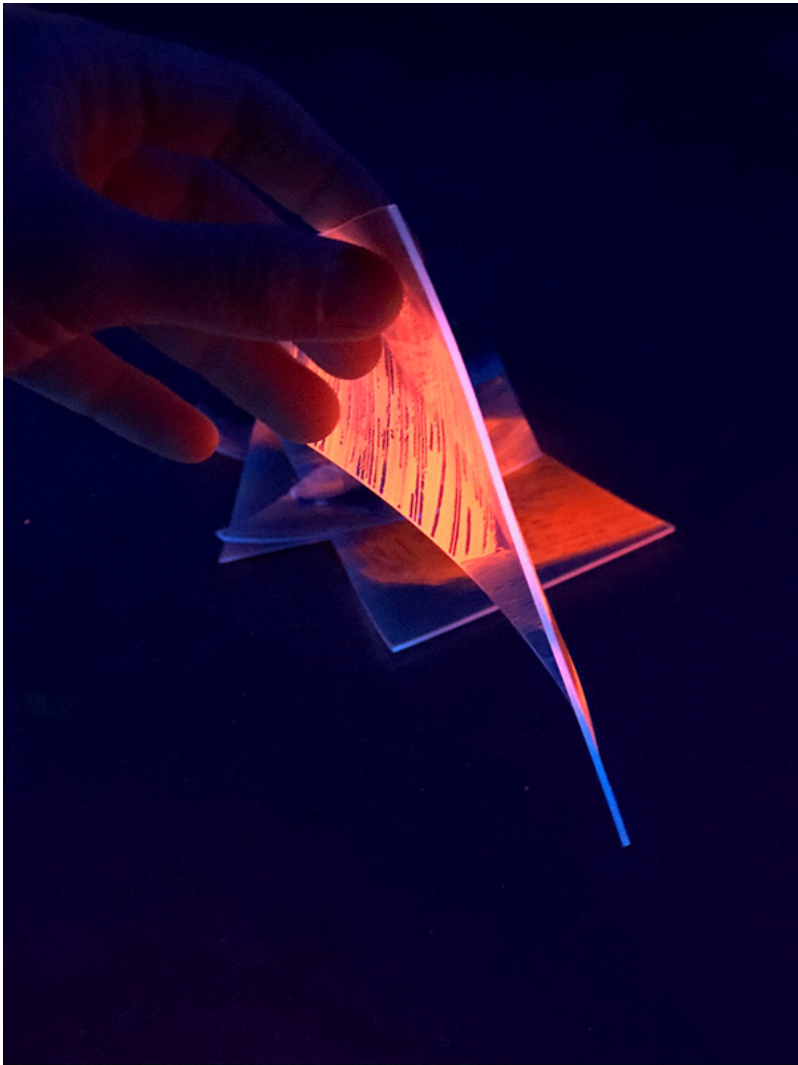
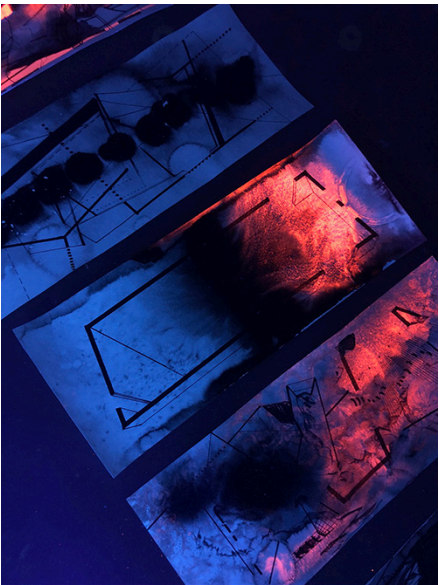






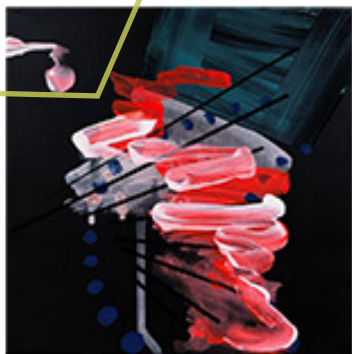




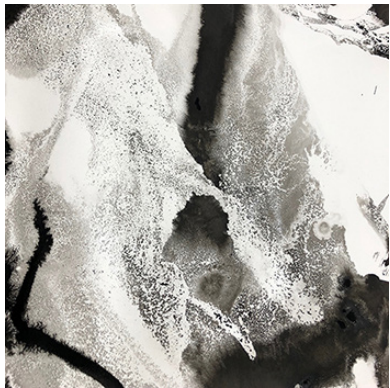
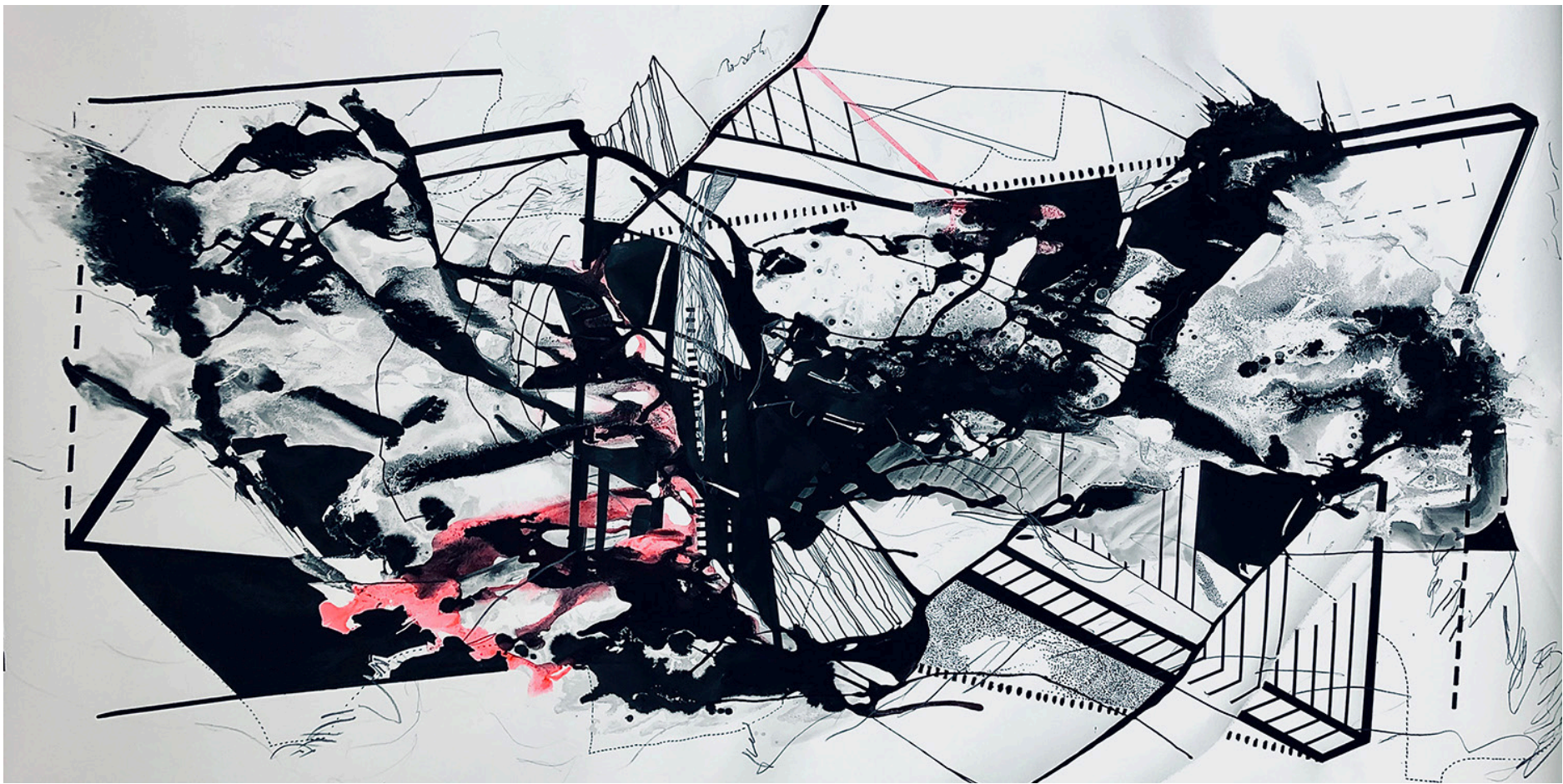


KREUZBERG - BERLIN - DEUTSCHLAND  
Neon  
2020

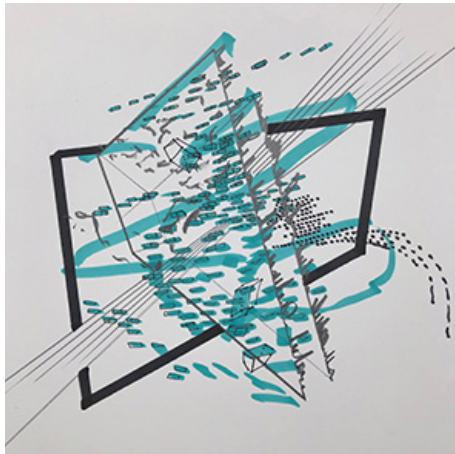












## BERLIN SELF ISO 2020 Von Januar bis Mai 2020

The concept of wall has become an obsession full of questions and possible answers. A physical wall can prevent the passage of our body from one place to another and limit our movements, but this limitation can also be executed through a simple line drawn on the ground that can freeze you in a space. The same is true of a mark on a map, a personal identification document, an ideology, or a virus like Covid-19 - the most recent mark to fortify our borders.

My research at Glogau focused on this concept of wall from the beginning because of its deep connection to the city, however, now it is out of an immediate necessity. Bitter emotions vibrate in many corners of Berlin, reverberations of voices caught in a time and space that take over my attention and echo in my guts.

This project began on the street, freely roaming the city and crossing its borders without restriction, from one side to the other of the former wall and the iron curtain. It continued past war memorials and along streets, where not so long ago, soldiers were watching and waiting to shoot anyone who dared to cross. From the photographs, maps and concepts, the work continued in the studio. An intervention was created throughout the space, playing with the affinity between aesthetic concepts and their application to emotional psychology.

Suddenly, the wall in which we are now surrounded by was built. Covid-19 has prevented us from opening the studios as planned, but we have continued working. I have intentionally pursued a certain feeling of isolation as a way to search in my thoughts for what's important, reconnect with nature and maintain a strong position in difficult situations. We can feel like a non-moving point drawn on a map or an idea caught in the mind. I take this idea wanting to go through it, experience all its corners that are going to be mine, its borders, limits, energies and forces. So this project started from the outdoor exploration of the city and will continue in self-knowledge and isolation.

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FRONT PAGE  
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Mixed media on paper, 200x300cm, 2015  
Photography: Illa Bonany