

NELIO RIGA / PORTFOLIO

Selection of ongoing series :

Buff Expressionism, Architectural Dialogue, Assemblages, Erased Structures & Emergent Landscapes

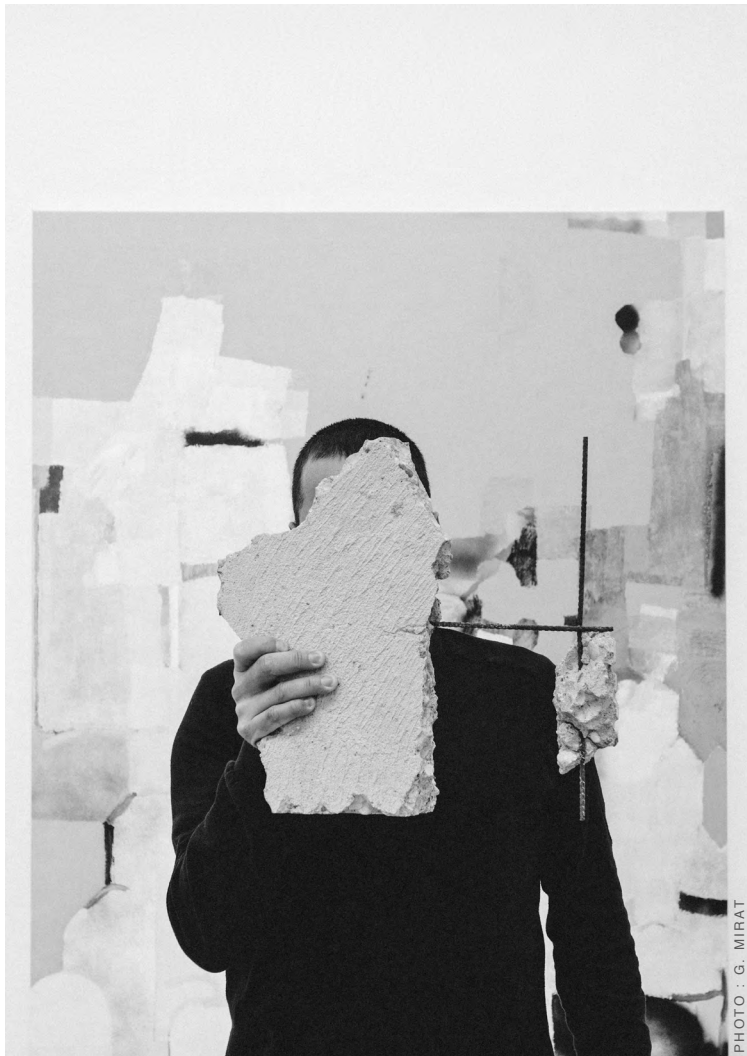


PHOTO : G. MIRAT

Nelio Riga's practice spans painting, installation, and assemblage. Working both in public space and in the studio, he places experimentation at the core of his artistic research. Reclaimed materials, diverse tools, and a wide range of techniques intersect freely throughout his practice, while painting remains its primary focus.

His work oscillates between Minimalism and Abstract Expressionism, occasionally allowing evocations of landscape to emerge. Combining restraint and density, structural rigour and spontaneous gesture, his works explore intermediate states characterised by shifting balances.

His practice is deeply influenced by the ephemeral nature of paintings created in public space, particularly by the tension between graffiti and *buff*, as well as by the ongoing transformations of urban, peripheral, and natural landscapes. Here, the image emerges as an unstable territory, shaped by opposing forces and cycles of alteration, overlaying, and disappearance. These concerns are explored in series such as *Erased Structures* and *Buff Expressionism*, in which erasure becomes as much an act of destruction as of recomposition.

His site-specific interventions engage with the architectural, chromatic, and spatial rhythms of the places they inhabit, at times extending the lines of existing structures into more open and immersive environments, in direct interaction with their surroundings.

In the studio, his paintings develop through successive layers, alternating transparency, opacity, and the removal of material. Spatial and atmospheric depths gradually emerge, where forms remain suspended between appearance and dissolution.

Alongside his painting practice, Nelio Riga creates assemblages, sculptures, and installations using reclaimed materials. These works extend his investigation into the relationships between matter, image, and structure while incorporating principles of reuse and repurposing.

His practice is grounded in a constant exchange between mediums. Each mode of production informs the others, giving rise to hybrid works that continually redefine their own boundaries.

BUFF EXPRESSIONISM

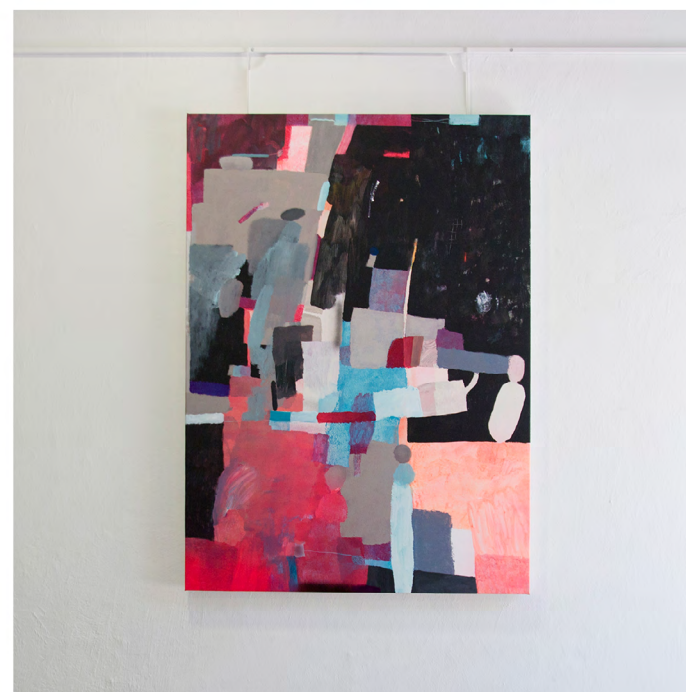
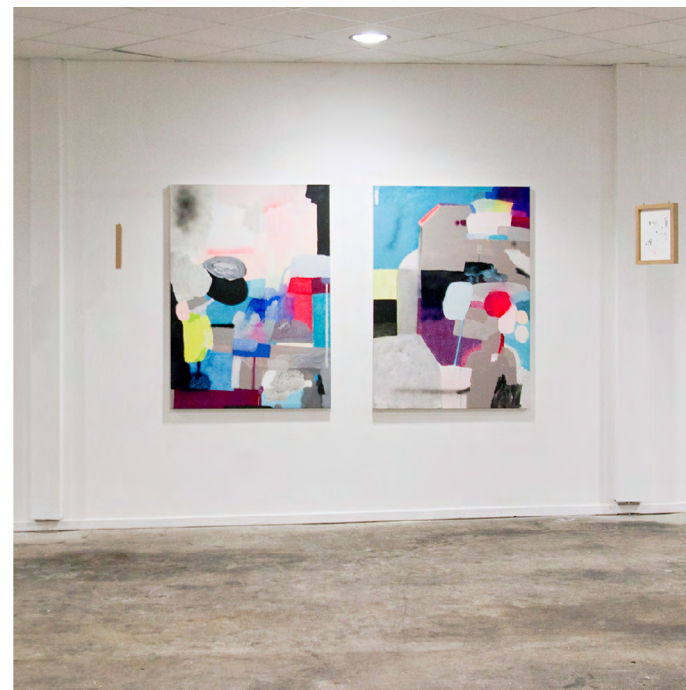
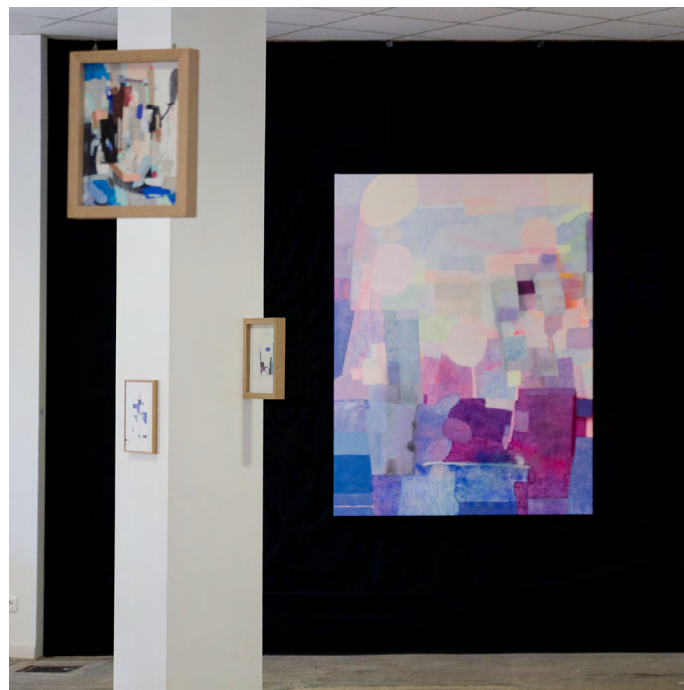
Buff Expressionism grew out of my reflections on the unstable life cycle of images in public space, specifically the dialogue between graffiti and the *buff* (the act of graffiti removal), which embodies the tension between inscription and erasure, expression and control. Rather than setting these forces against one another, this series considers them as complementary stages within a single visual ecosystem.

In a sense, I reclaim restrictive codes and subvert them through an act of liberation. Here, the *buff* functions as an autonomous gesture, almost like graffiti itself. It breaks free from its destructive role to become a fully creative act: a language capable of generating new forms, unexpected compositions, and unintentional abstractions.

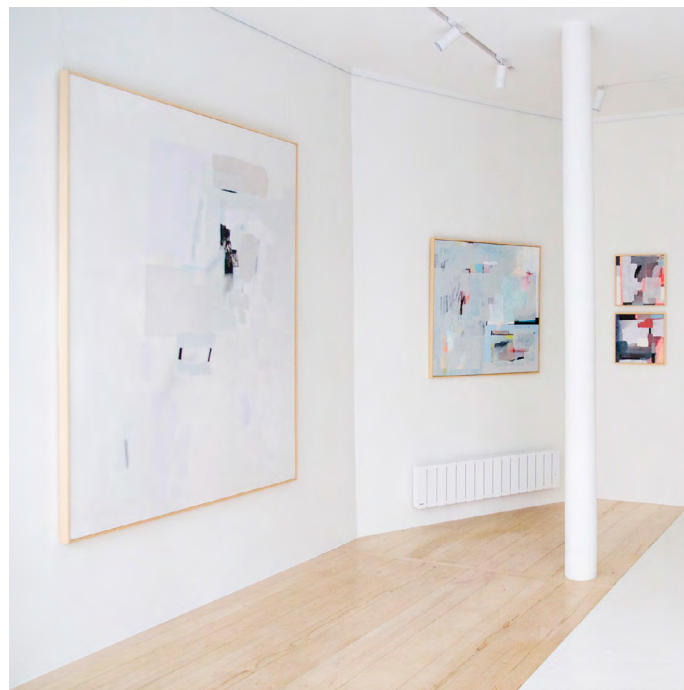
While the series is rooted in the experience of graffiti and its associated urban dynamics, it also engages with the history of *Abstract Expressionism* and *Color Field painting*, recontextualizing them within the contemporary realities of the city.

Buff Expressionism series
Murals
Rabat, Matino, Le Creusot, Paris
2017 - 2023

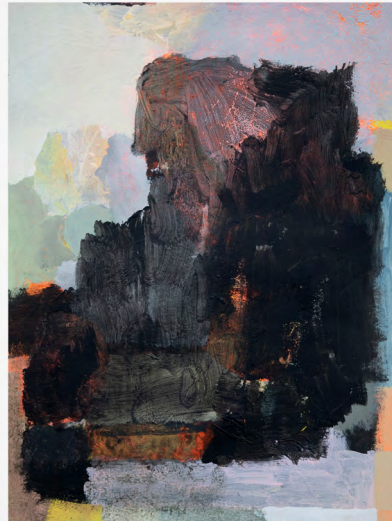




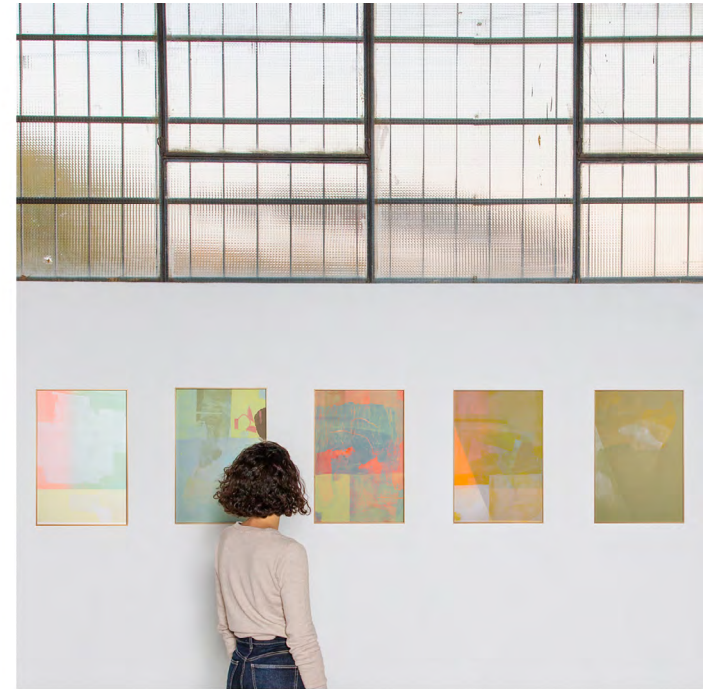
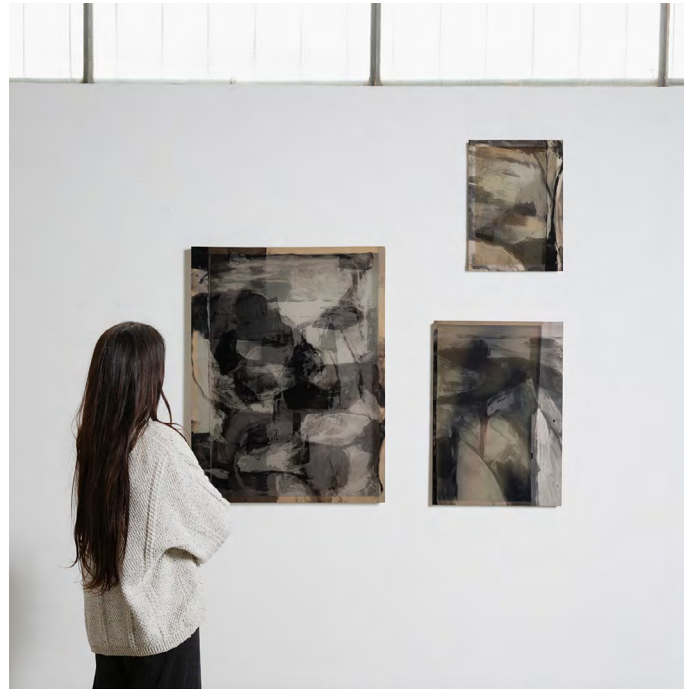
Exhibition *De l'autre côté*
Paintings, drawings
Halle aux Arts, Saint-Vit, FR
2019



Exhibition *All of a Sudden*
Paintings
Galerie 42B, Paris, FR
2018



Buff Expressionism series
Acrylic on canvas, paper and wood
Paris, FR
2018 - 2023



Residency / Exhibition *Images fantômes*
Screenprints, paintings
Galeria Varsi, Rome, IT
2022

ARCHITECTURAL DIALOGUE

Initiated in abandoned spaces through interventions combining found materials, three-dimensional forms, and painting, this series gradually developed around one essential principle: integrating the characteristics of each site into the composition itself.

Architectural Dialogue considers architecture not as a mere support, but as an active partner in the creative process. At the intersection of abstraction and site-specific art, the work engages in dialogue with the building and its surroundings; it follows, extends, or disrupts existing rhythms in order to transform the perception of space.

Through a geometric approach grounded in my personal visual language, each intervention explores the tension between structure and spontaneity. Architectural forms are sometimes confronted with more fluid and atmospheric textures, where material and color challenge the stability of the composition.

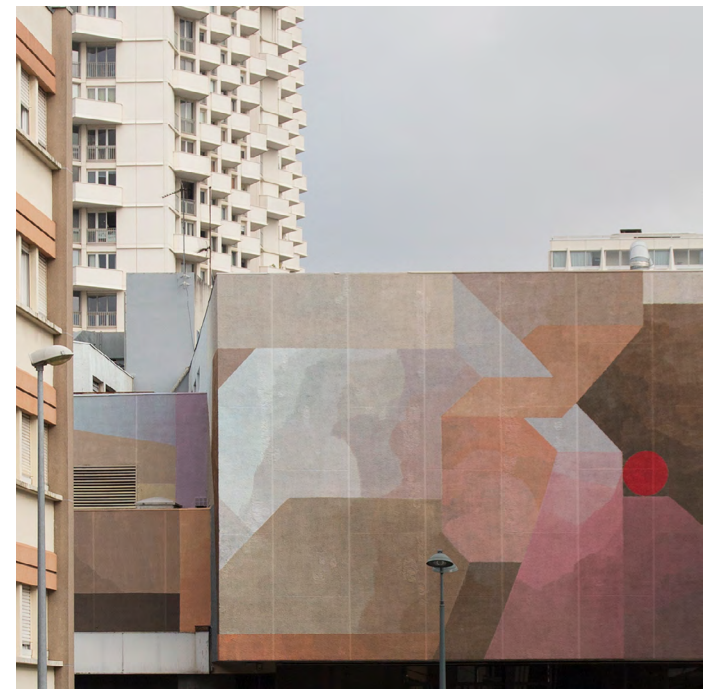
Each work thus seeks a balance between autonomy and dependence on context, between order and transformation, between the existing structure of the site and a new, sensory perception of its space.

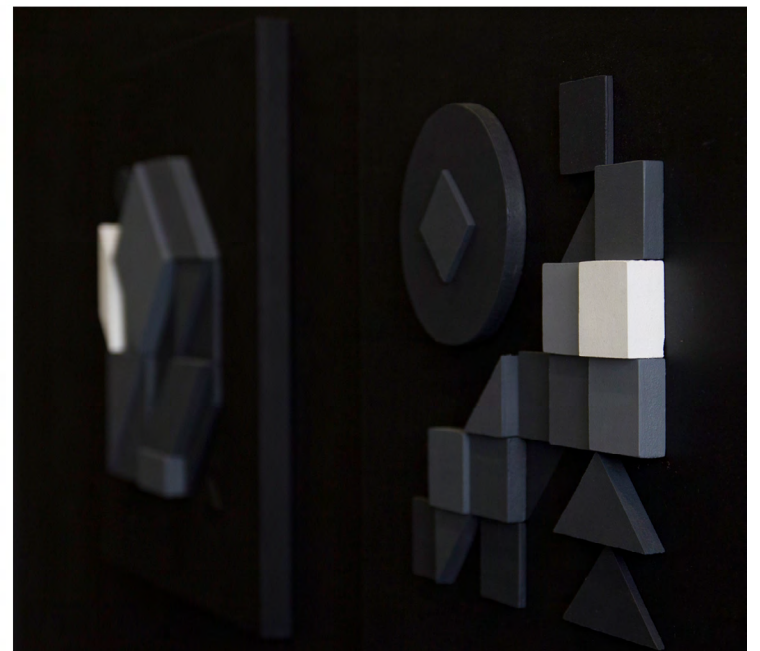
Architectural Dialogue series

Murals

Kyiv, Besançon, Salento, Rennes

2017 - 2021





Exhibition *Knotenpunkt*
 Wall painting, bas-reliefs, drawings
 Affenfaust Gallery, Hambourg, DE
 2014



Exhibition *Collapsus*
Installation, sculptures, bas-relief, drawings
886 Geary Gallery, San Francisco, US
2015

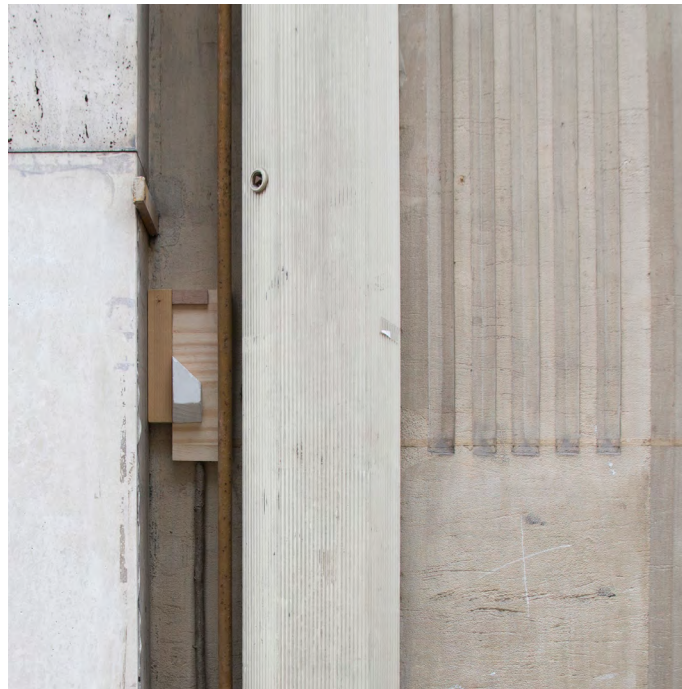
ASSEMBLAGES

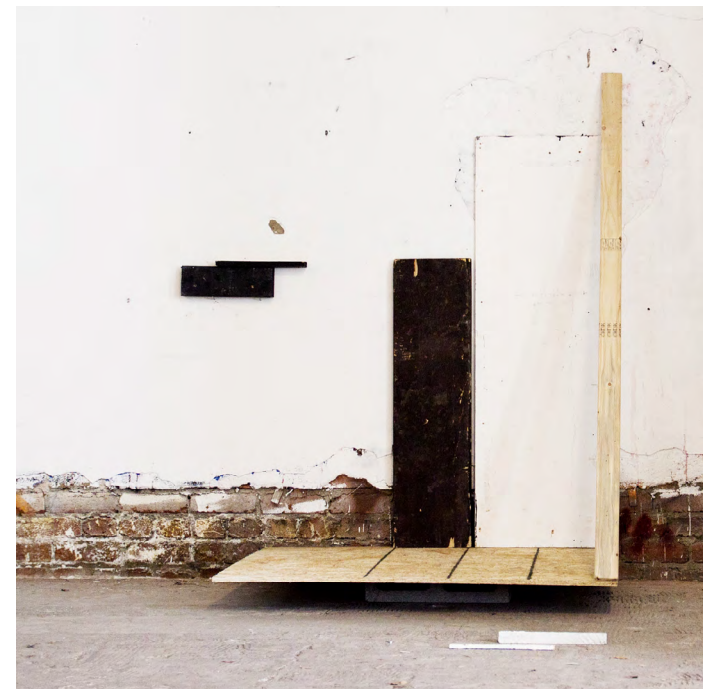
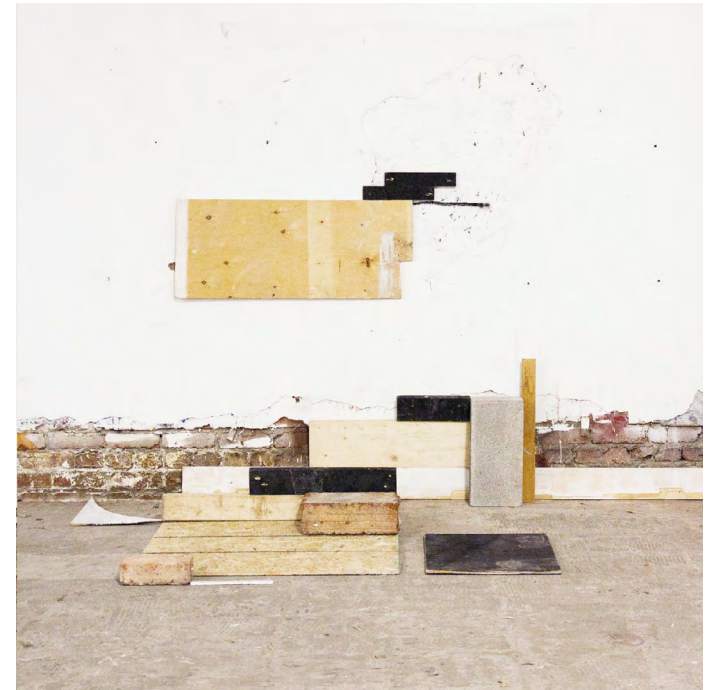
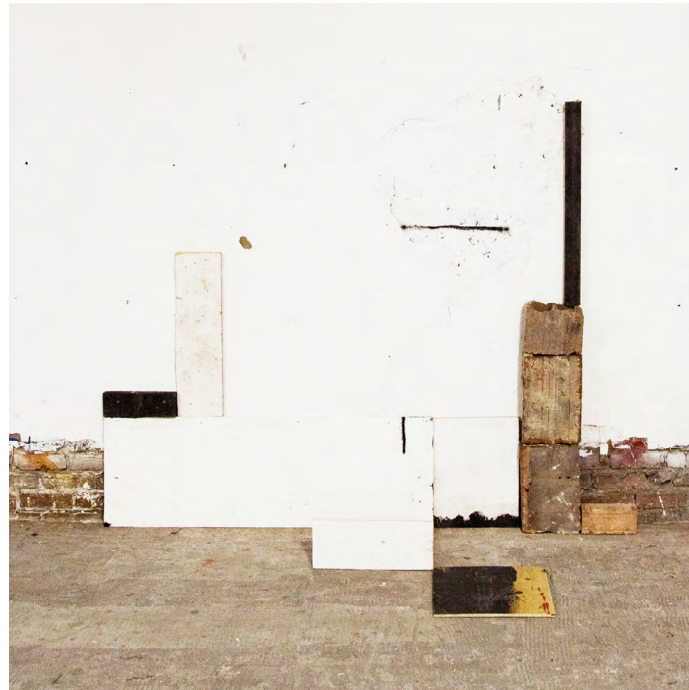
Assemblages explores the transition from painting to three-dimensional form through the reuse and reconfiguration of existing materials. Combining natural materials such as wood and stone, construction remnants such as concrete and copper, and found objects left raw or transformed, this series extends my research into structure and the capacity of forms to evolve.

The elements are rearranged according to a personal compositional logic, with each retaining traces of its history while contributing to a new, autonomous structure. The act of assembling thus becomes a process of transformation: revealing invisible relationships, creating tensions between heterogeneous materials, and allowing new forms of balance to emerge.

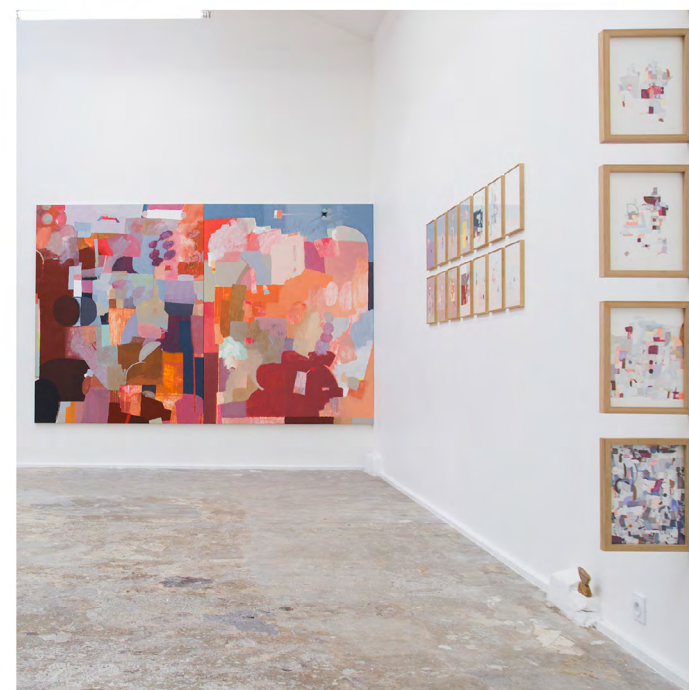
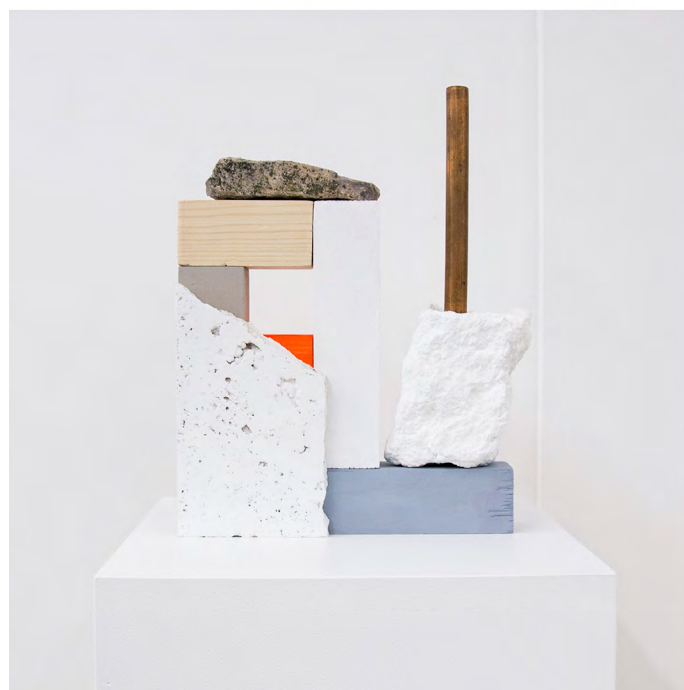
Influenced, among others, by *Minimalism*, *Arte Povera*, and the *Supports/Surfaces* movement, this series explores the cycles of production, use, and abandonment that shape our built environment. Through reuse and transformation, it offers an alternative reading of materials, grounded in continuity rather than extraction and replacement.

Assemblages series
Assemblages of wood, stone and steel on walls
Paris, FR
2021

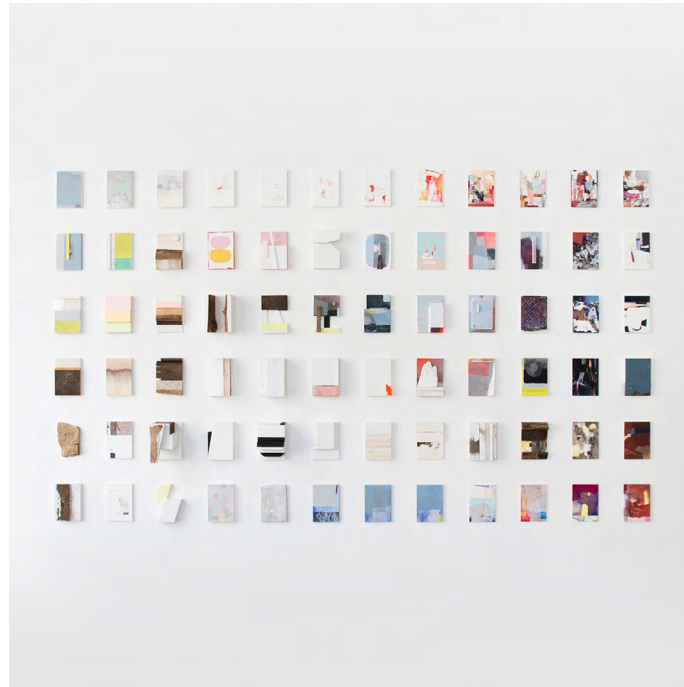




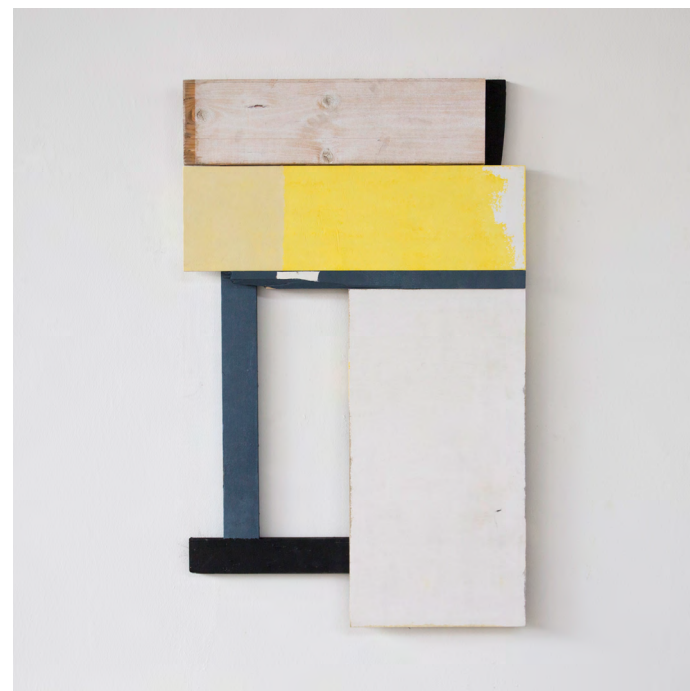
Residency / Exhibition *Dérive...*
Evolving assemblages of found objects in an abandoned building
Montréal, CA
2015



Exhibition *Ici est ailleurs*
Sculptures, assemblages, paintings, drawings
Galerie Slika, Lyon, FR
2020



Exhibition *Microcosmes*
Sculptures, assemblages, paintings, drawings
Espace LVL, Nantes, FR
2022



Assemblages series
Wood sculptures with acrylic
Ardèche, FR
2022



Assemblages series
Sculptures in wood, stone, and copper
Ardèche, FR
2020

ERASED STRUCTURES

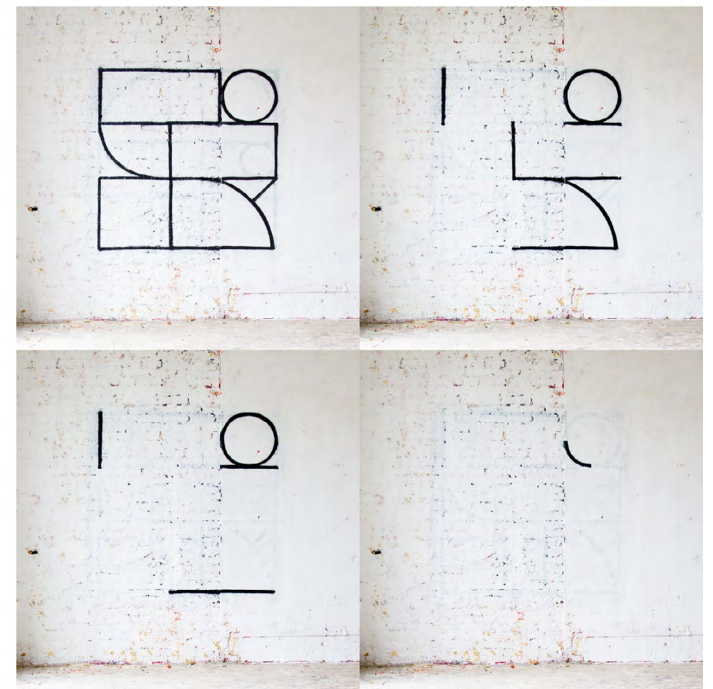
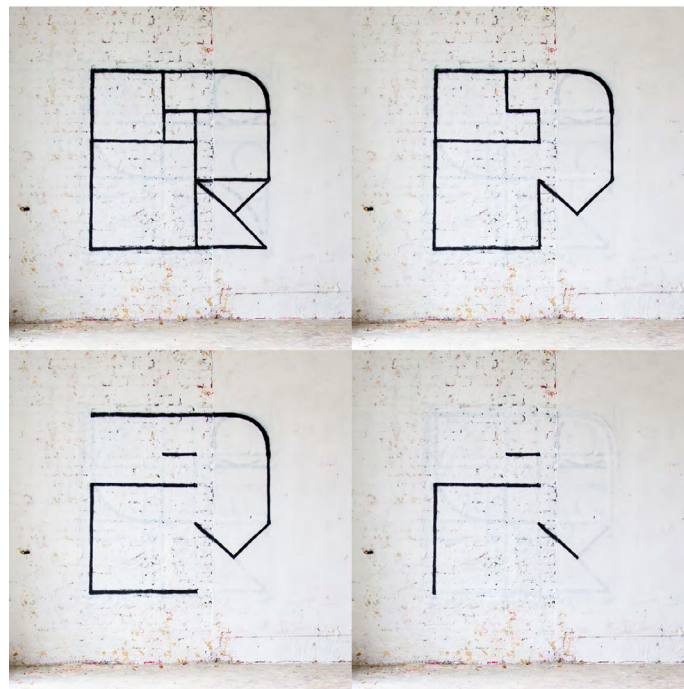
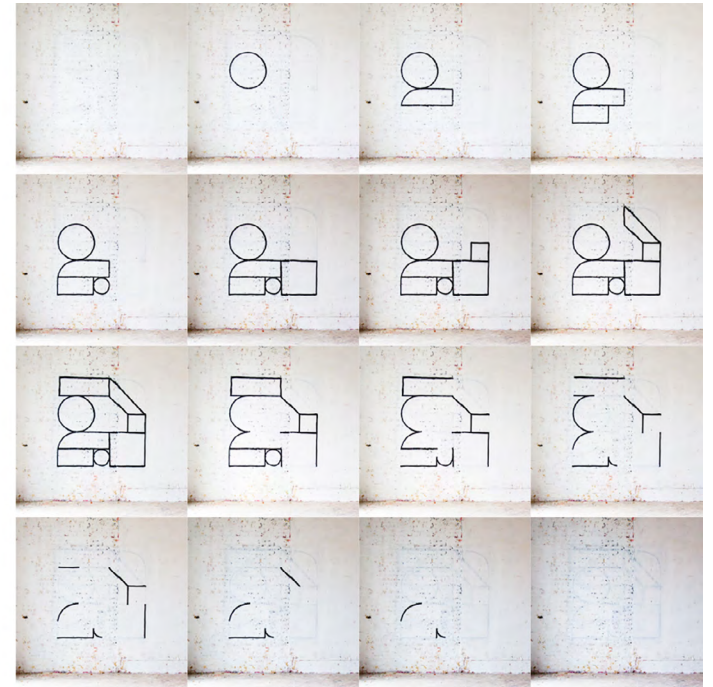
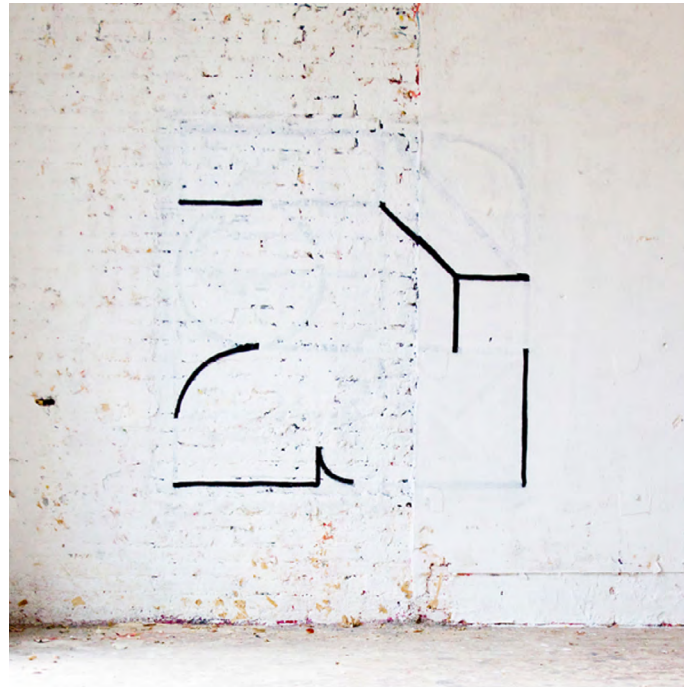
Erased Structures explores erasure as a tool for construction rather than an act of suppression. Based on an economy of means and minimal interventions, this series considers the disappearance of forms as an active stage in the creation of new images.

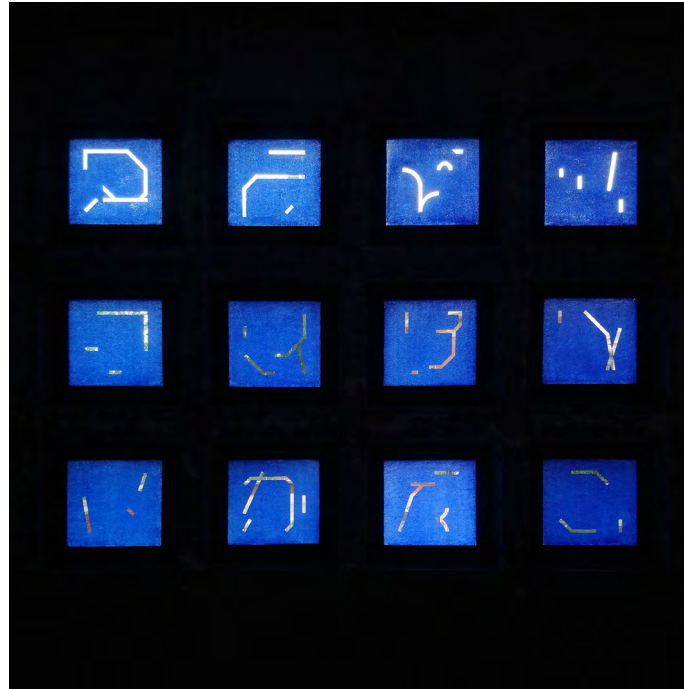
The works develop through successive operations of simplification, covering, and removal, where each intervention alters the balance of the composition while preserving traces of its previous states. Erasure thus becomes a generator of forms, revealing more essential structures and unexpected relationships between elements.

Some works result from actual acts of erasure, while others emerge from a form of “anticipated erasure,” in which compositions appear suspended in an intermediate state, deliberately unfinished, between appearance and disappearance, construction and dissolution.

Informed by the experience of painting in public space and by the observation of transformations within urban and natural environments, the series questions the stability of the image and the possibility of an abstraction based on reduction rather than accumulation. Here, painting emerges as an open-ended process in which removal becomes a way of constructing.

Residency / Exhibition *Dérive...*
Evolving painting in an abandoned building
Montréal, CA
2015

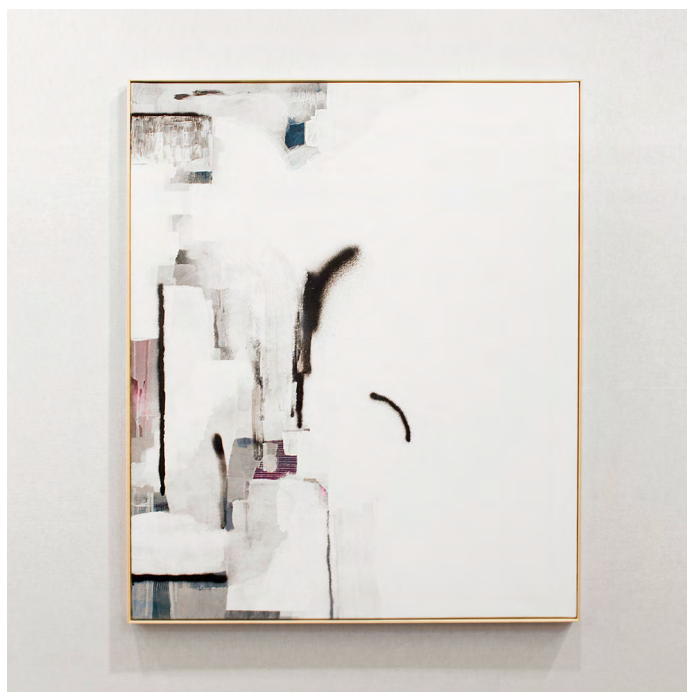




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 Painting on Glass
 Work created for the exhibition *L'Essentiel*
 Paris, FR
 2021



Erased Structures series
Spontaneous paintings
Italy
2024



Erased structures series
Acrylic on canvas
Galerie Slika, Lyon, FR
2017 - 2019

EMERGENT LANDSCAPES

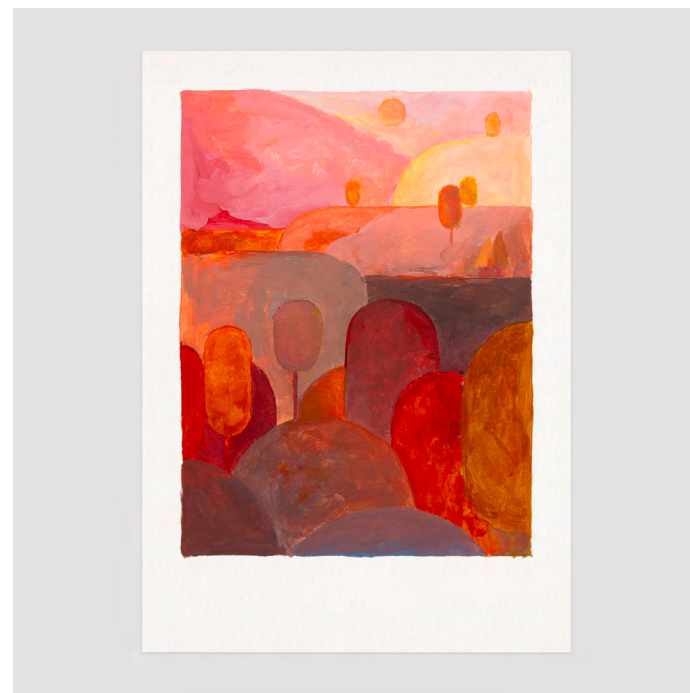
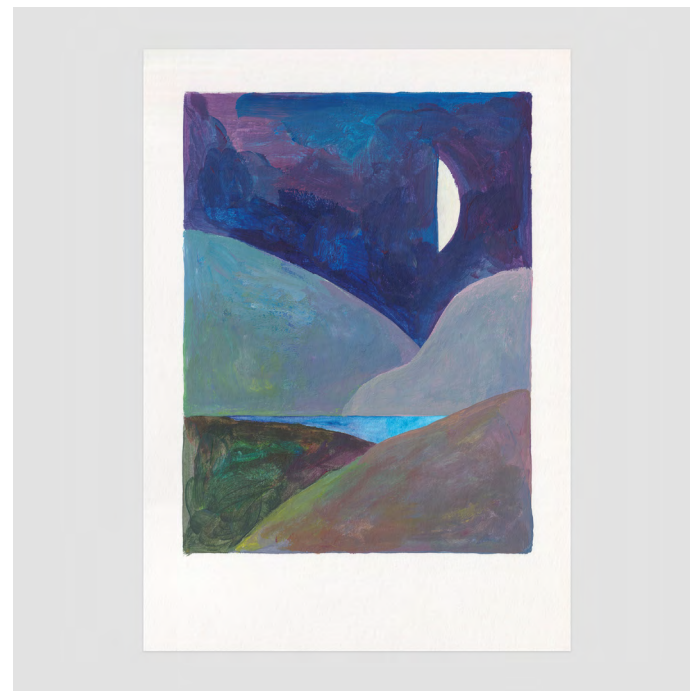
Emergent Landscapes explores landscape as a presence rather than a representation. The series grew out of forms that, over the course of my research, gradually emerged from abstract compositions, seeming to reveal horizons, landforms, aerial views, or atmospheric phenomena.

I gradually developed this direction, particularly through a more attentive approach to observation. However, these paintings do not seek descriptive fidelity, but instead attempt to convey an experience of landscape: its depth, its shifting light, slow transformations, and the way it is inscribed in our perception. Forms emerge through layering, transparencies, and erasure, revealing ambiguous spaces where abstraction meets evocation.

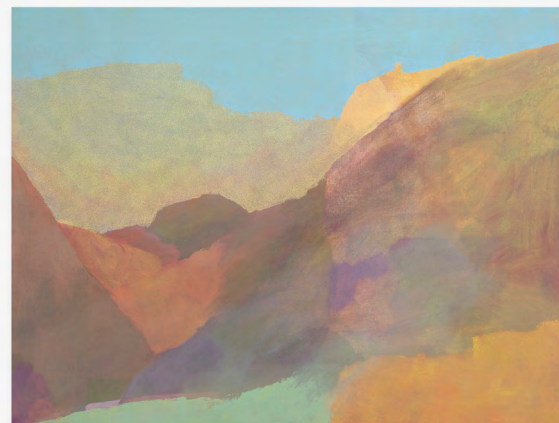
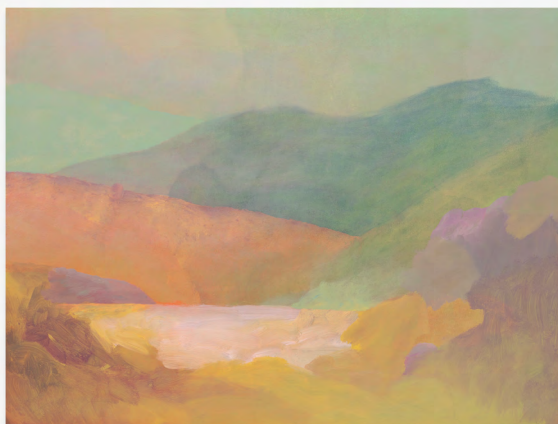
Between architecture and nature, presence and disappearance, *Emergent Landscapes* considers landscape as a living structure: a constantly evolving space that explores the balance and tension between human activity, geological time, and natural dynamics.

Emergent Landscapes series
Murals
Rouen, Zaragoza, Comiso, Sète
2020 - 2025





Emergent Landscapes series
 Wall paintings and paintings on paper
 Italie et Ardèche
 2022 - 2024



Emergent Landscapes series
Acrylic on canvas
Ardèche, FR
2025 - 2026



Emergent Landscapes series
Acrylic on canvas
Ardèche, FR
2022 - 2026



Emergent Landscapes series
Acrylic on wood assemblages
Ardèche, FR
2022 - 2024