

nara roesler

abraham palatnik
other rhythms
curated by agnaldo farias

nara roesler são paulo
opening november 11, 11am–5pm
exhibition nov 11, 2023 – feb 10, 2024

abraham palatnik other rhythms

Nara Roesler São Paulo is pleased to present *Abraham Palatnik – Outros Ritmos [Other Rhythms]*, a solo show by the artist curated by Agnaldo Farias, which brings together a selection of never-before-shown works created at different points in his career. Abraham Palatnik is a central figure in kinetic and optical art in Brazil. His interest in the creative possibilities of machines and the relationship between art and technology helped him develop investigations focused on experimenting with movement and light through different techniques and materials, creating propositions based on visual phenomena that have made his work known over seven decades of production.

Several works featured in *Abraham Palatnik – Outros Ritmos [Other Rhythms]* will be presented to the public for the first time. 'Abraham Palatnik ended up not showing these works during his lifetime, because he believed they didn't fit in with his body of work. Bringing them back now is to show other facets of his poetics, other rhythms, thus offering new possibilities for looking at and perceiving his work', Farias points out.

One of the highlights of the show is a pair of reliefs from the early 1960s executed on wood, a lesser-known development of his *Progressive Reliefs*, but one that dialogues with a decisive moment

in his career, which was his participation in the ateliers and painting workshops held at the Dom Pedro II Psychiatric Hospital, coordinated by Dr. Nise da Silveira, the psychiatrist responsible for advocating the use of art to maintain mental health. In these workshops, Palatnik came into contact with the pictorial production of the inpatient schizophrenic artists which, fascinated by their creative freedom, gave a new direction to his production. 'It was an impact that demolished my ideas and convictions about art. [...] From then on, I started researching and experimenting in the field of light and movement, aiming for aesthetic results outside the usual standards and established techniques', said the artist in a statement in 2001.

Other unseen works in the exhibition are the paintings he did on glass with synthetic paint in the 1950s and 1960s, examples of the artist's experimental use of different materials. Glass not only accentuates the luminous and sometimes machinic aspect of these compositions, but it was also important for the artist's creations in the field of design, especially furniture, exemplifying how his visual research could dialogue with other forms of artistic creation.

As a large part of Palatnik's production has the viewer and their perception as central aspects,

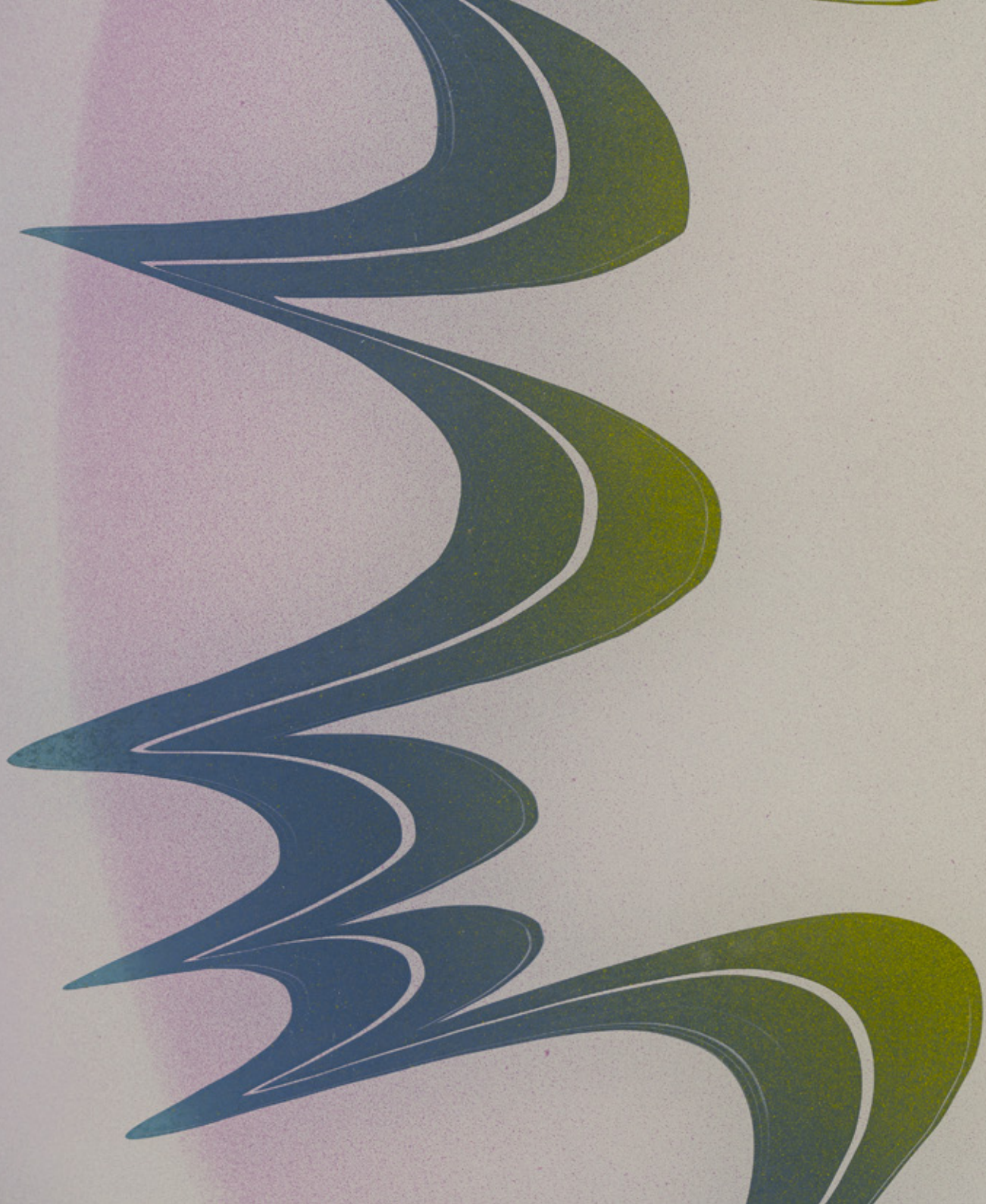
the exhibition also includes works dealing precisely with this relationship, such as *Lúdico L-5* (2006), in which the viewer is invited to intervene in a kind of game, creating new combinations and arrangements of the pieces.

There is also a unique body of work dating from the mid-1990s in which he uses regular shapes in compositions with different shades of the same color or through sequences of colors that accentuate the kinetic character of the works.

Abraham Palatnik – Outros Ritmos [Other Rhythms] seeks to broaden the perception of the artist's poetics, presenting little-known developments in his career that give the public a broader and more complete view of his unique artistic career.

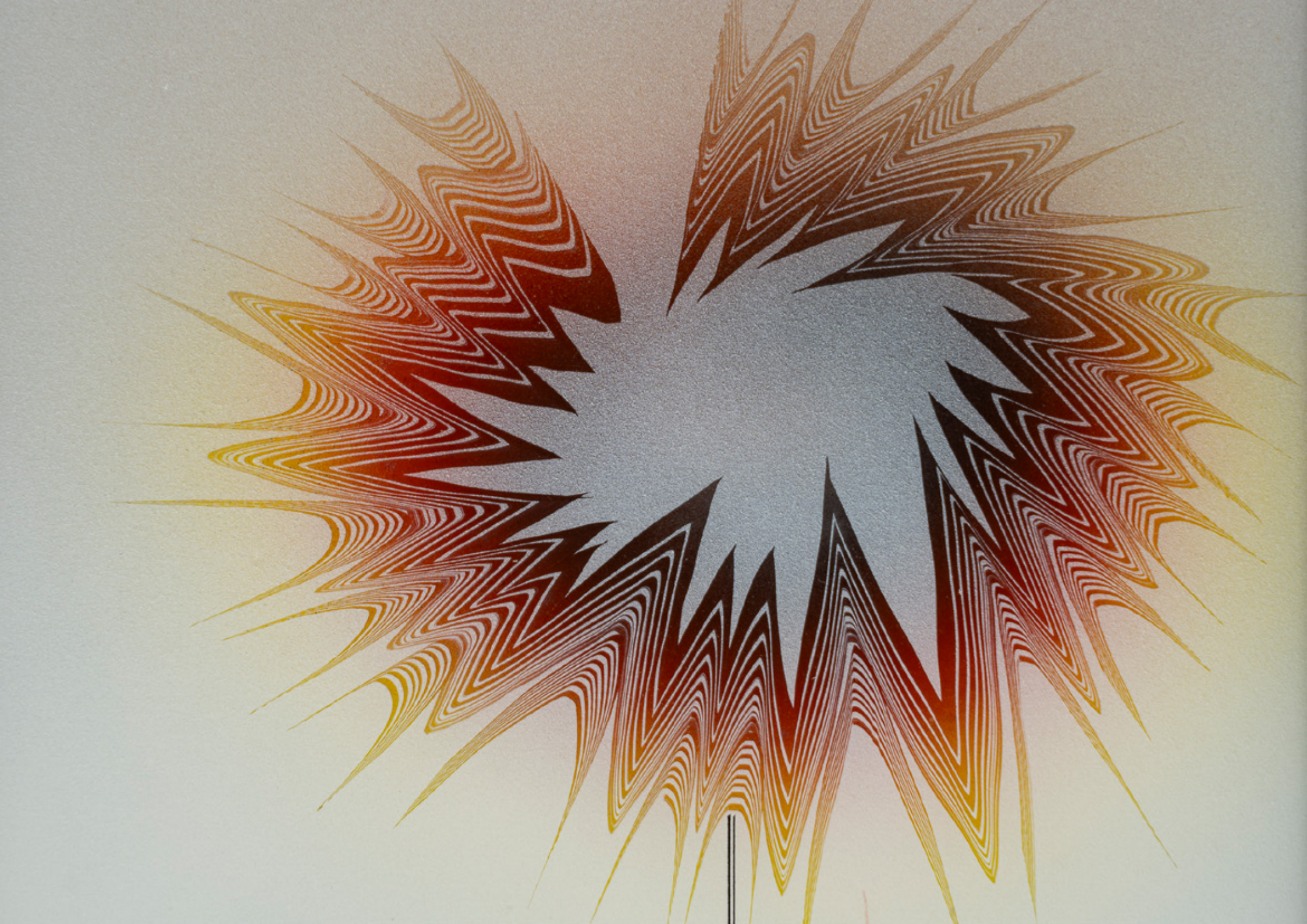


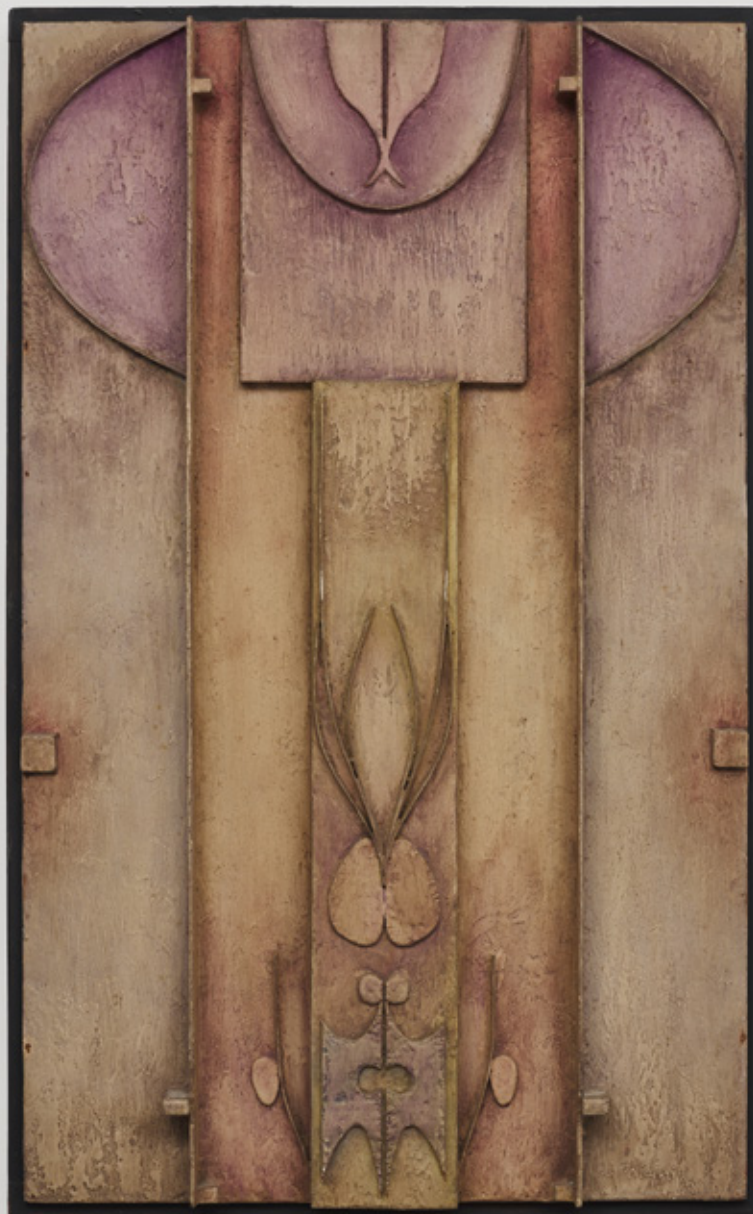
Untitled, 1950's
friable ink on glass
60 Ø cm
23,6 Ø in





Untitled, 1960
friable ink on glass
47,5 x 26 cm
18.7 x 10.2 in





Untitled, 1963
mixed media on wood
73,2 x 45,6 cm
28.8 x 18 in

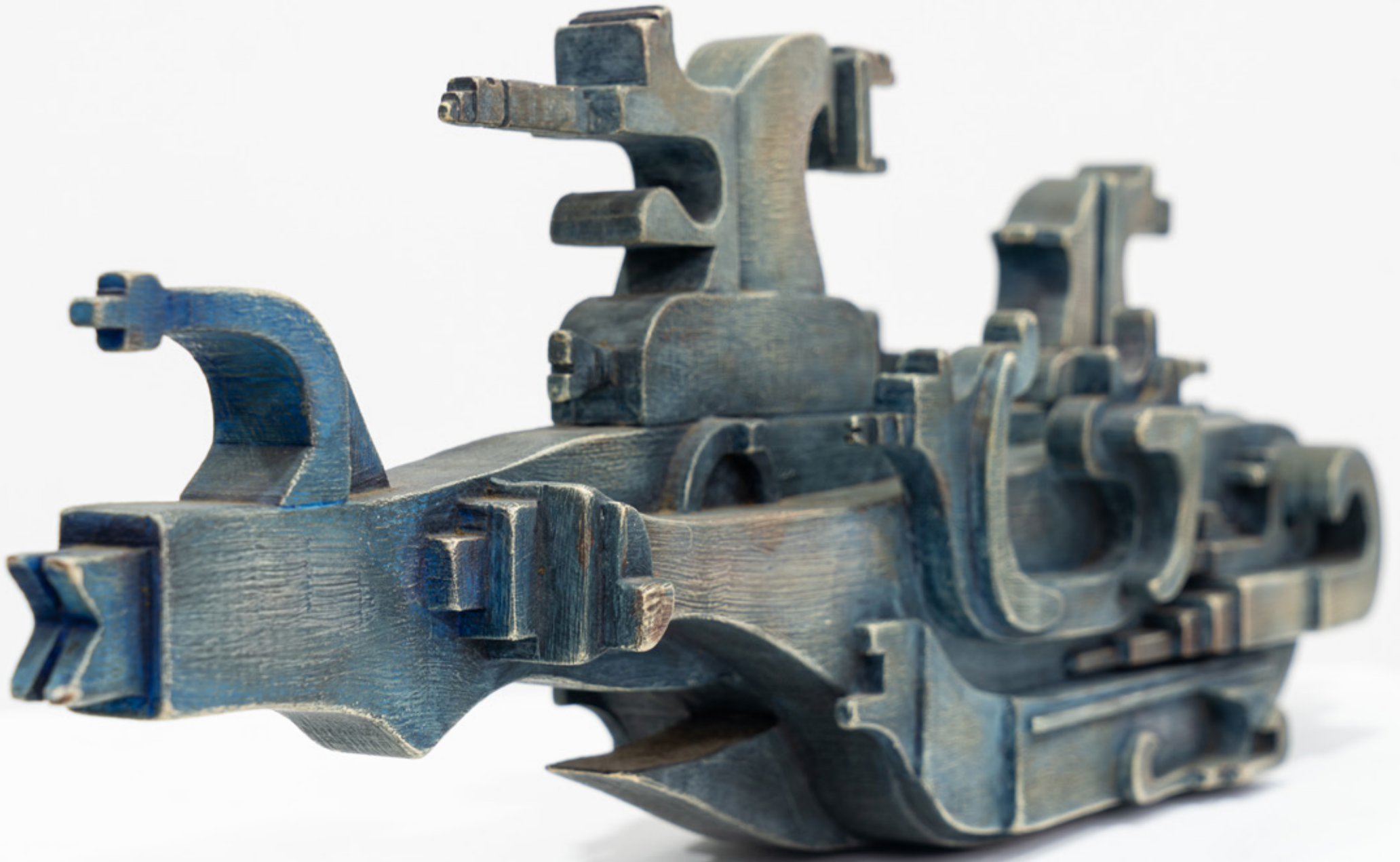


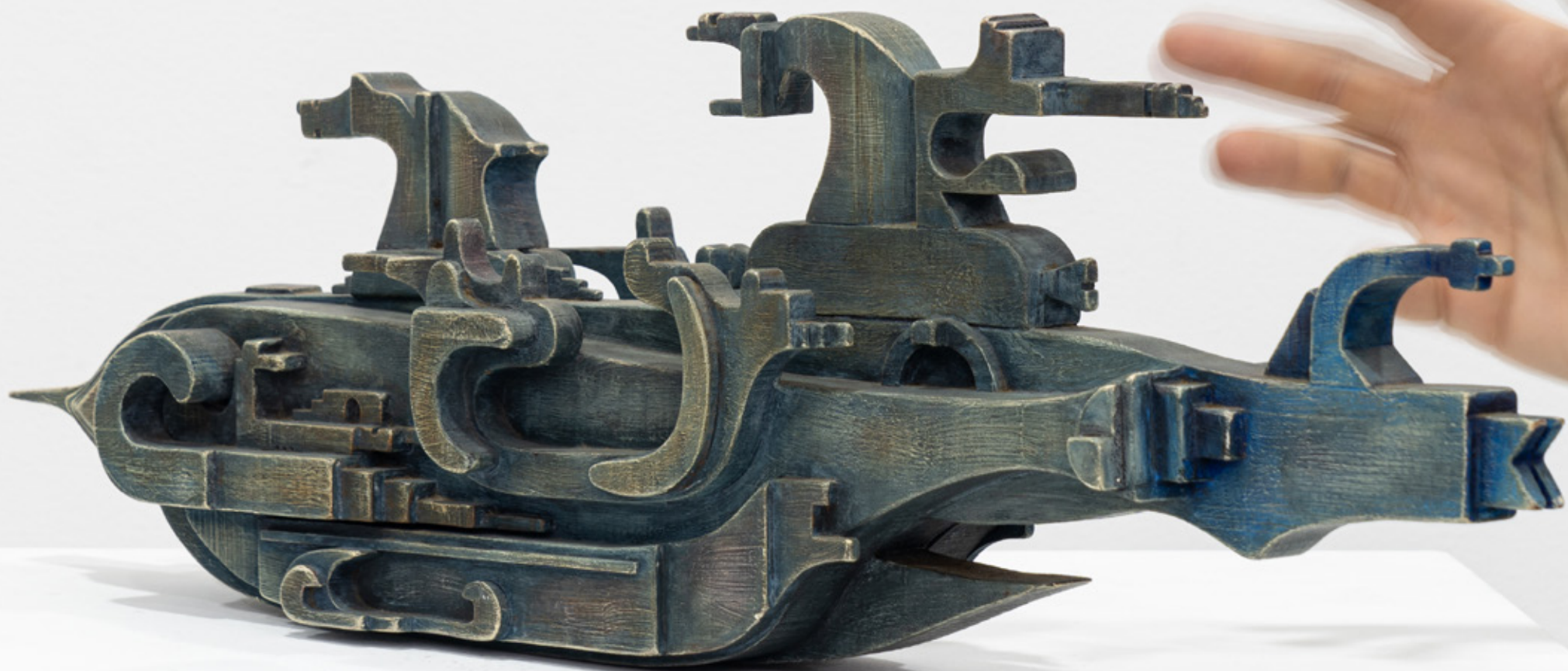


Untitled, 1963
mixed media on wood
70,5 x 43,5 cm
27.8 x 17.1 in



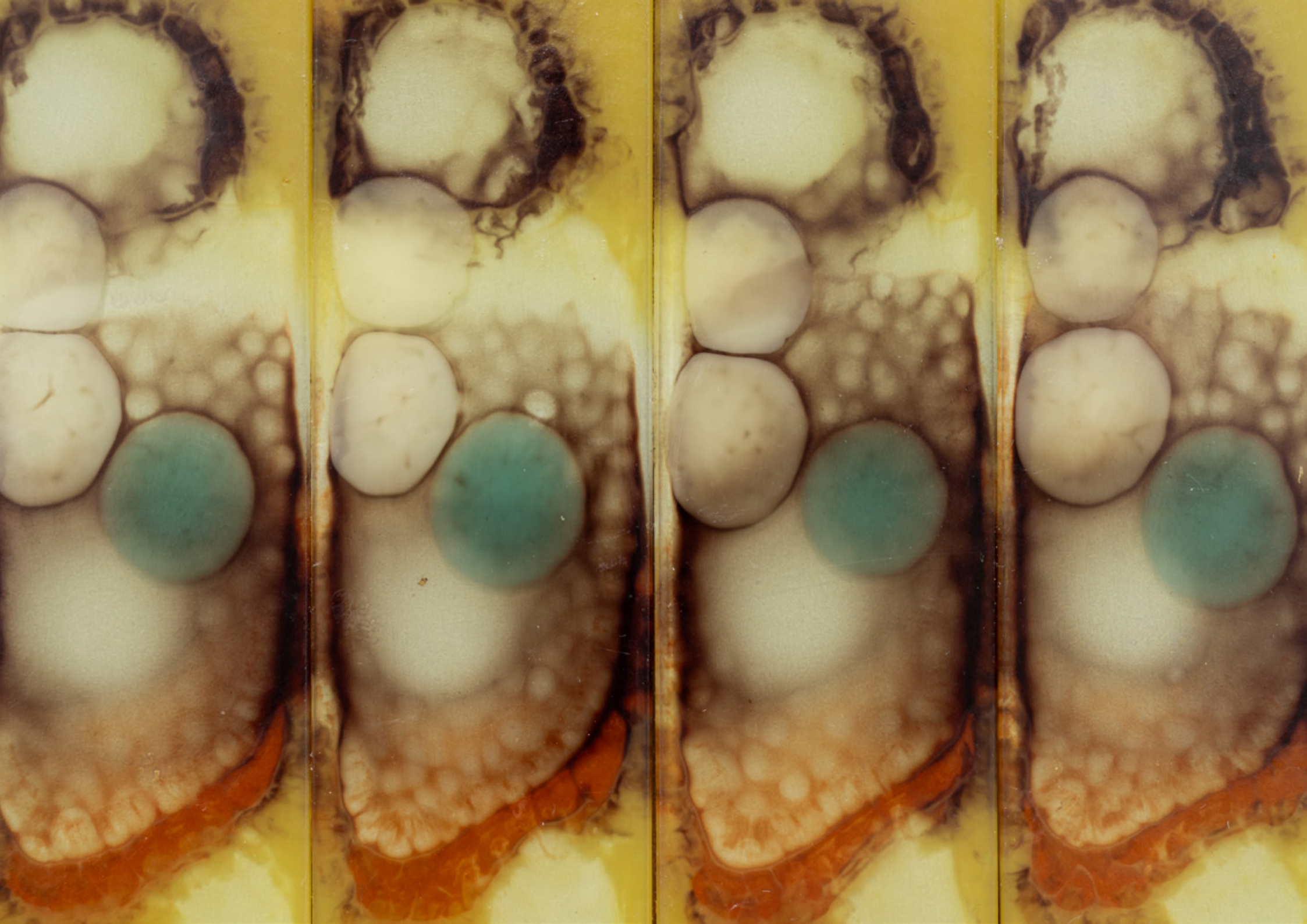
Untitled, 1972
oil paint on wood
18 x 58 x 11,5 cm
7.1 x 22.8 x 4.5 in







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Untitled, 1973
polyester sheets
59,5 x 48,5 cm
23.4 x 19.1 in





RS-7, 1975
polyester sheets
59,5 x 48,4 cm
23.4 x 19.1 in



Untitled, 1977
polyester sheets
59,5 x 39 cm
23.4 x 15.4 in

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Untitled, no date
acrylic, wood and iron
75 x 50 x 65 cm
29.5 x 19.7 x 25.6 in



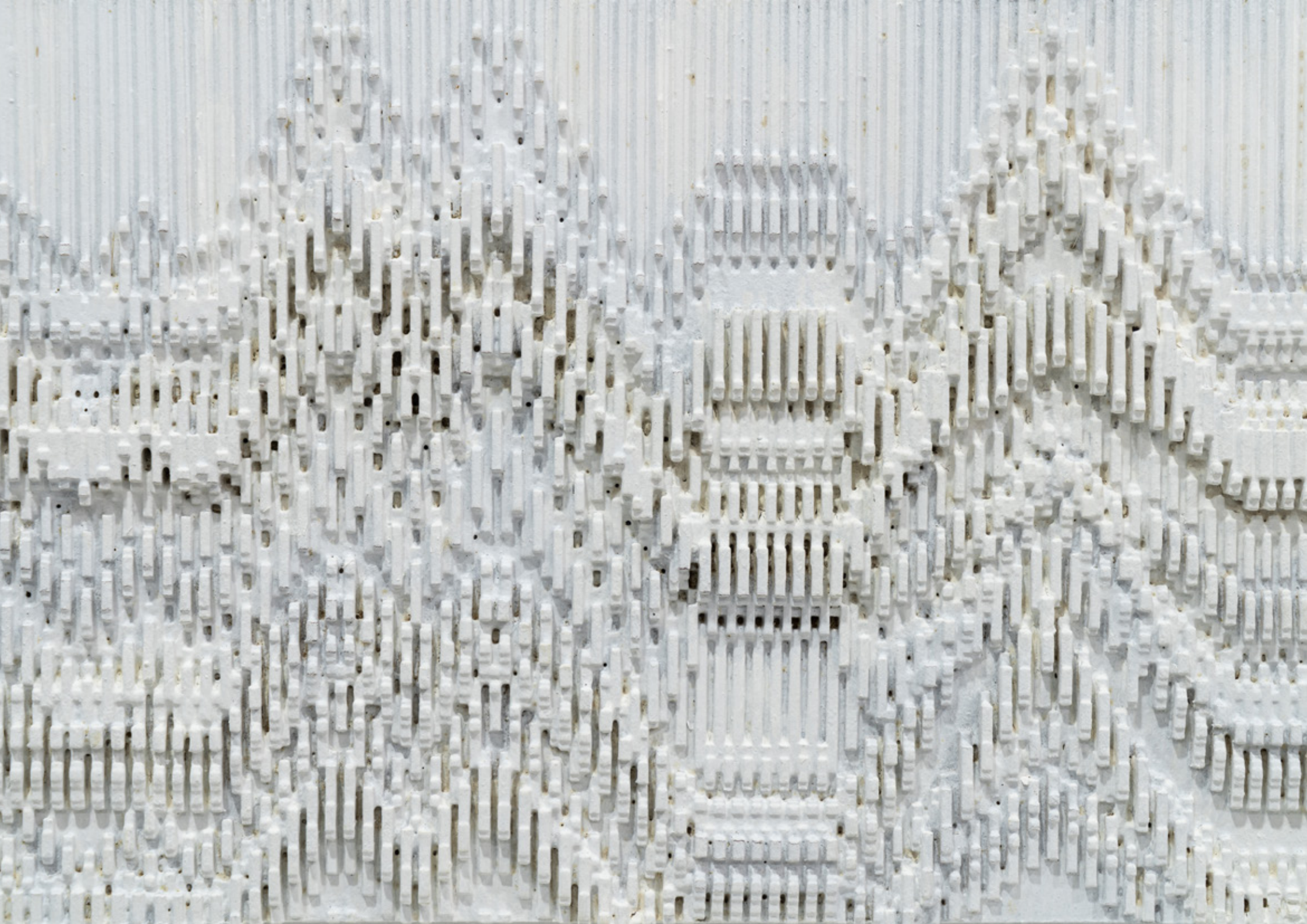


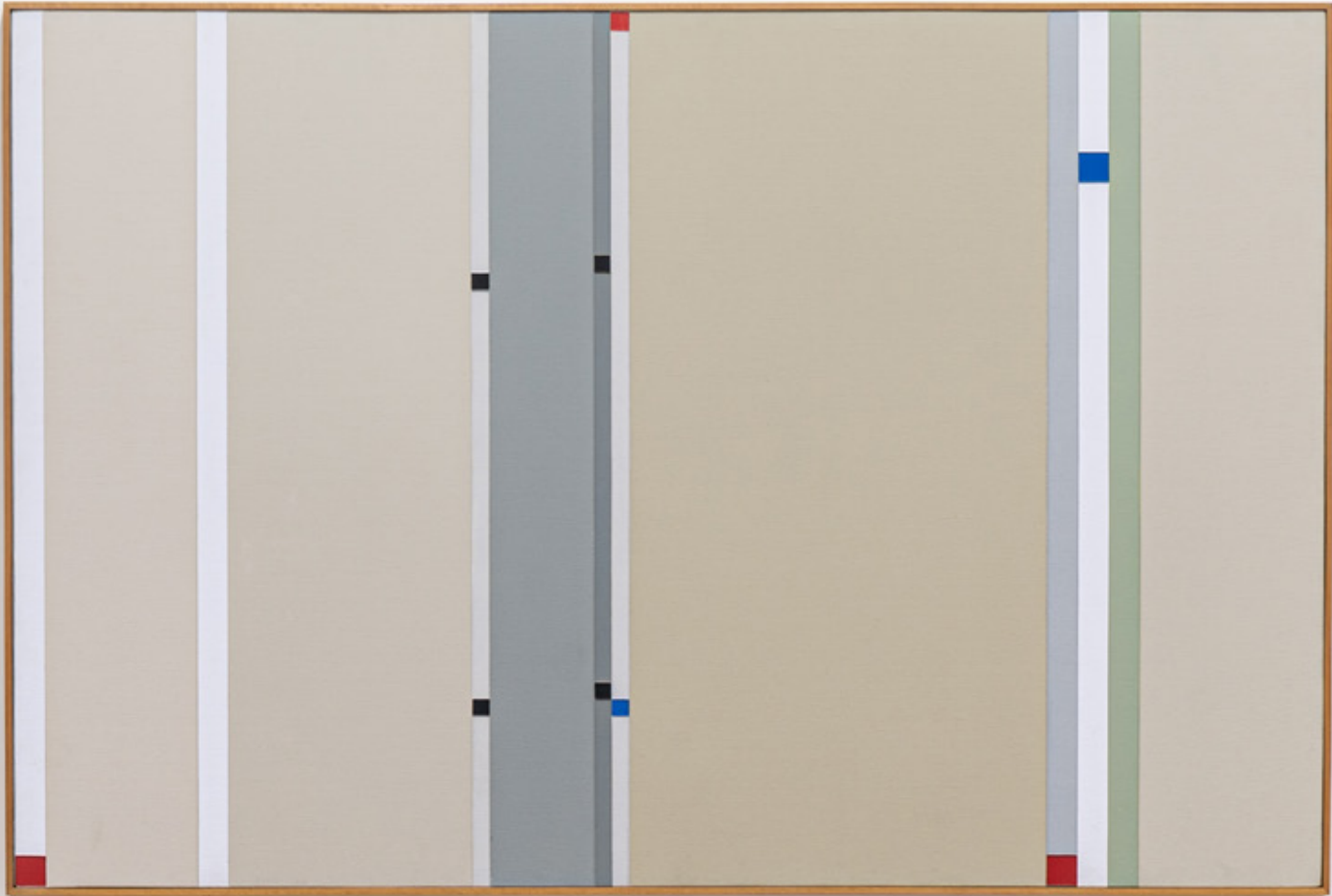
Untitled, 1978
oil paint on wood
43,7 x 46 cm
17.2 x 18.1 in





Untitled, 1982
cut card
23 x 44,5 cm
9.1 x 17.5 in





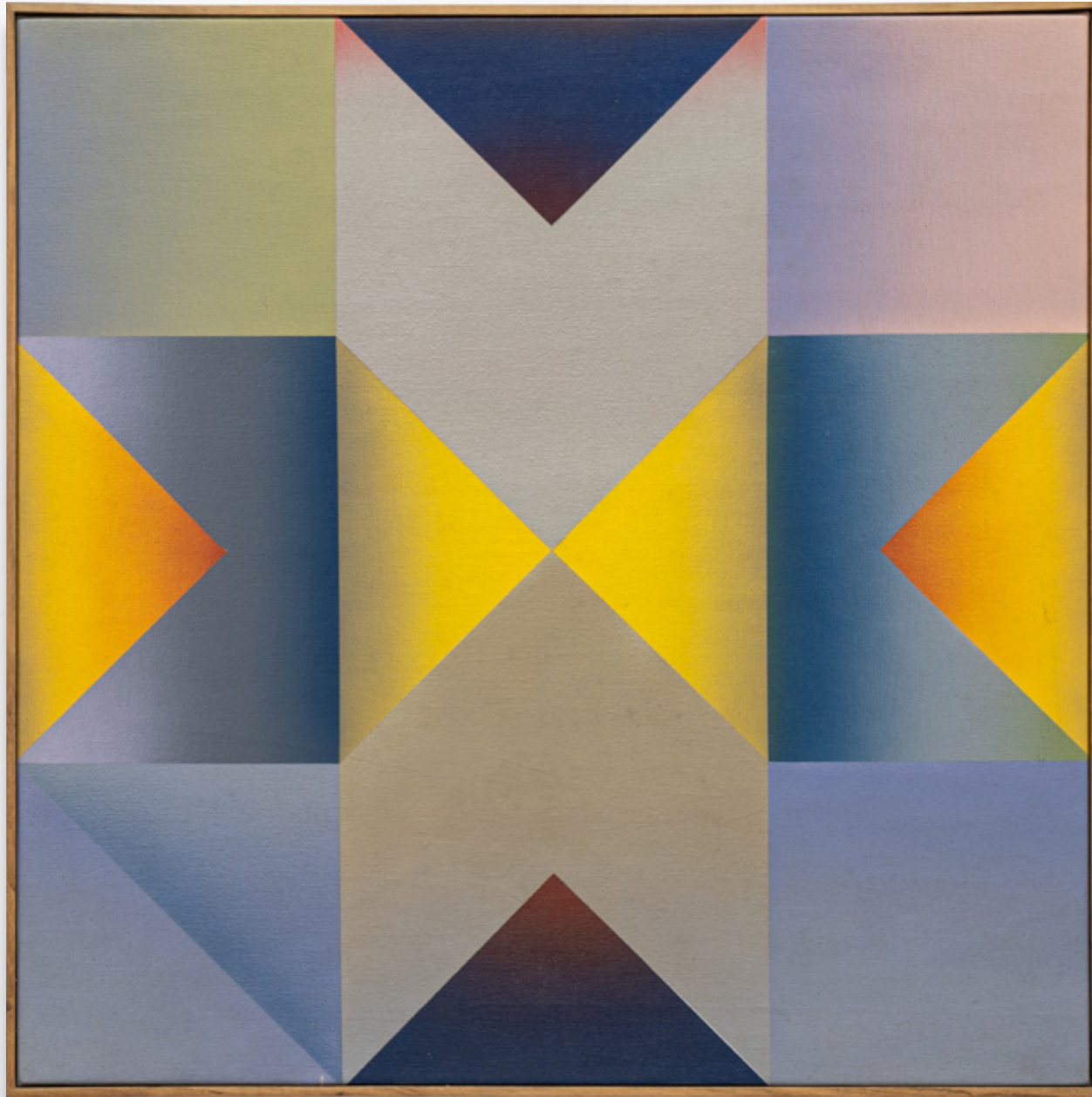
Untitled, 1984
acrylic and ropes on canvas
100,5 x 150,5 cm
39.6 x 59.3 in





Untitled, 1988
acrylic on plywood
36,5 x 36,5 cm
14.4 x 14.4 in





Untitled, 1995
acrylic paint on canvas
70 x 70 cm
27.6 x 27.6 in







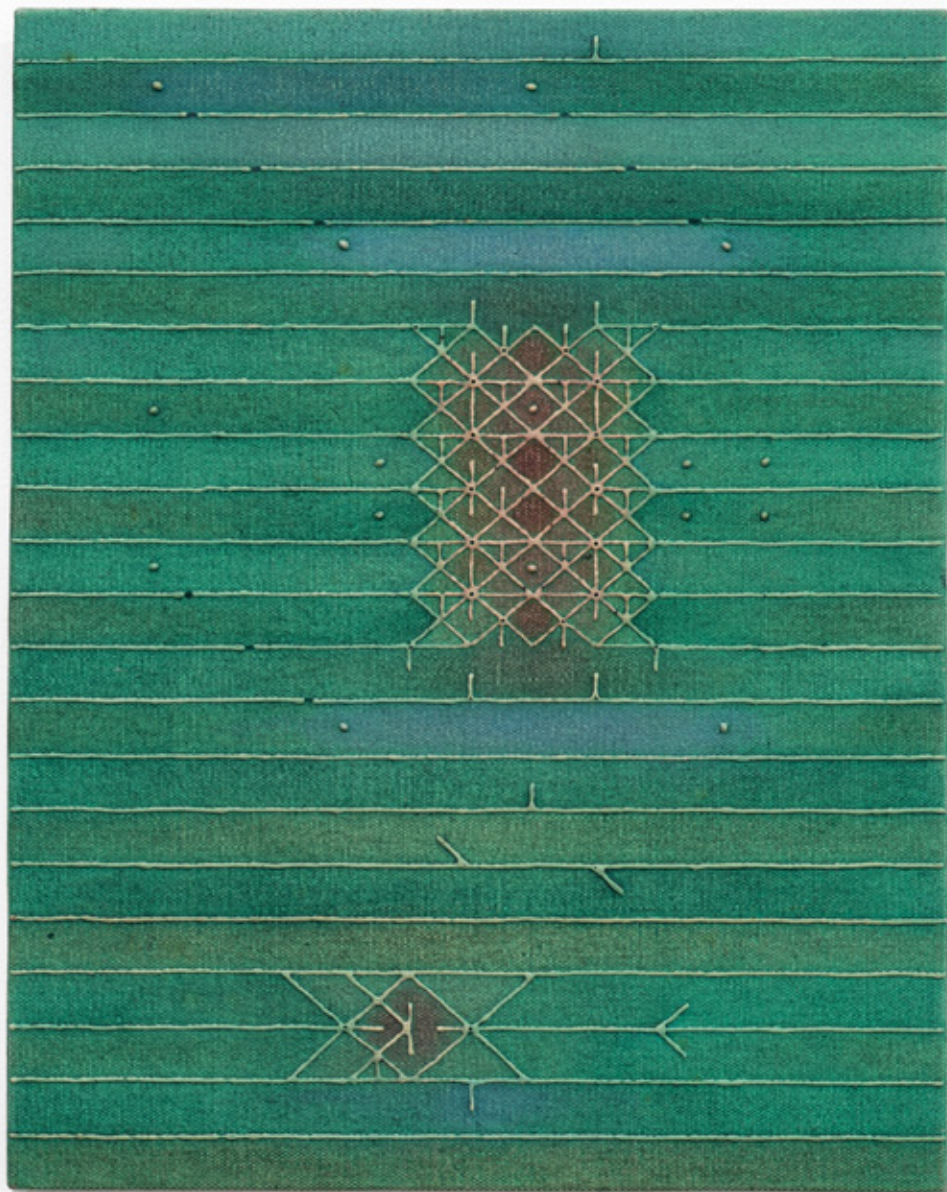
Untitled, 1996
acrylic and ropes on canvas
20,3 x 25,6 cm
8 x 10.1 in



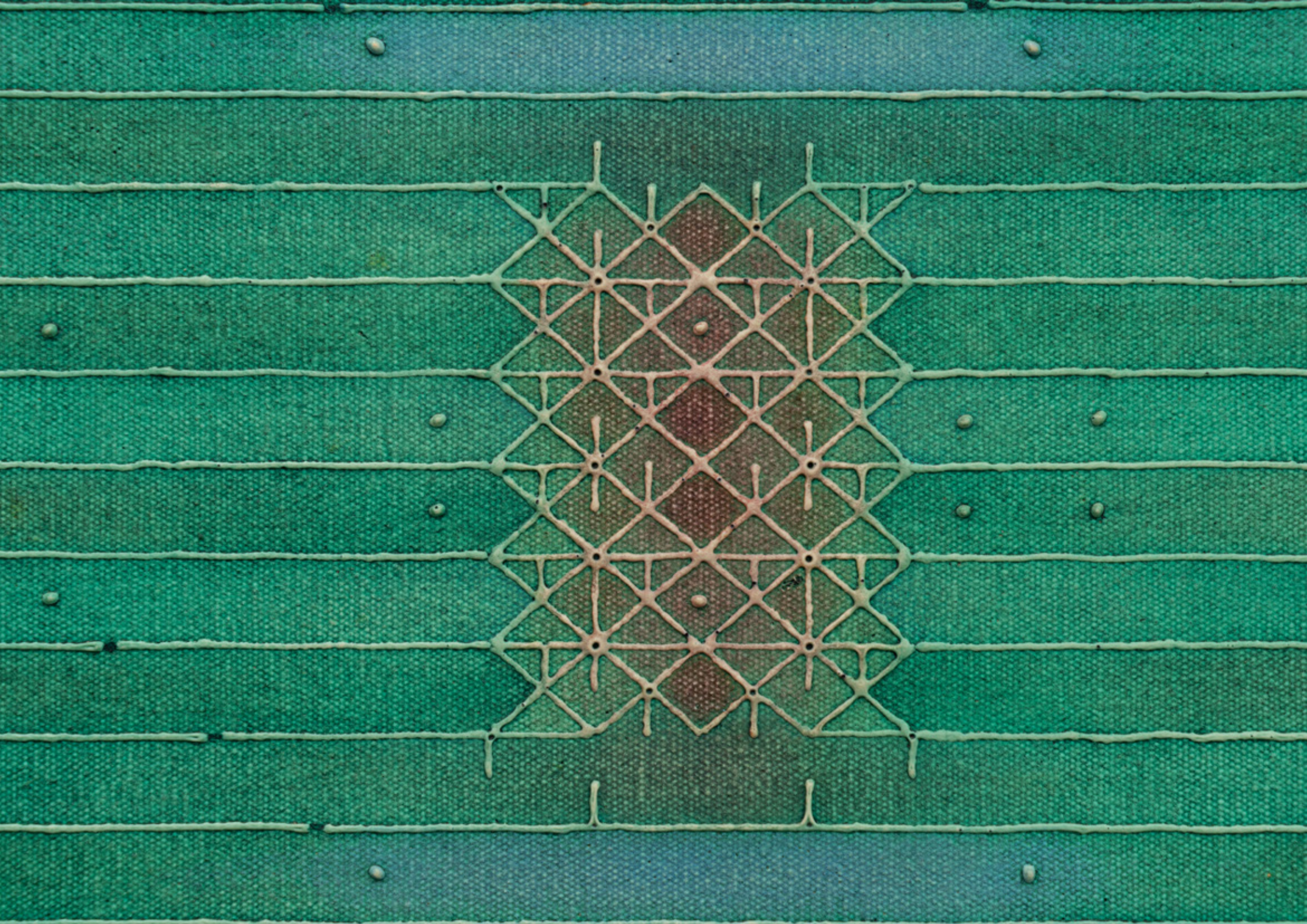


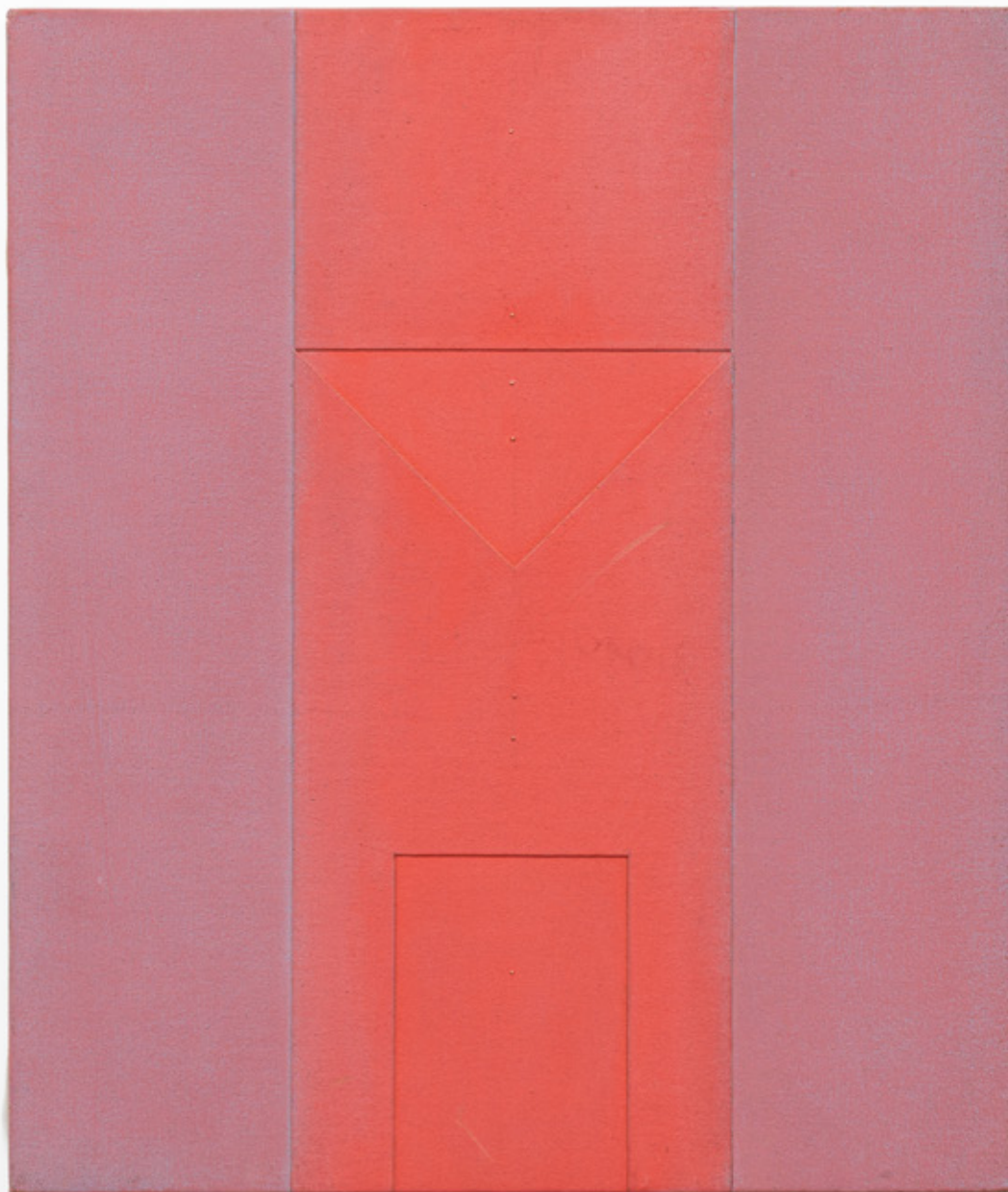
Untitled, 1996
oil paint on canvas
38 x 30,3 cm
15 x 11.9 in



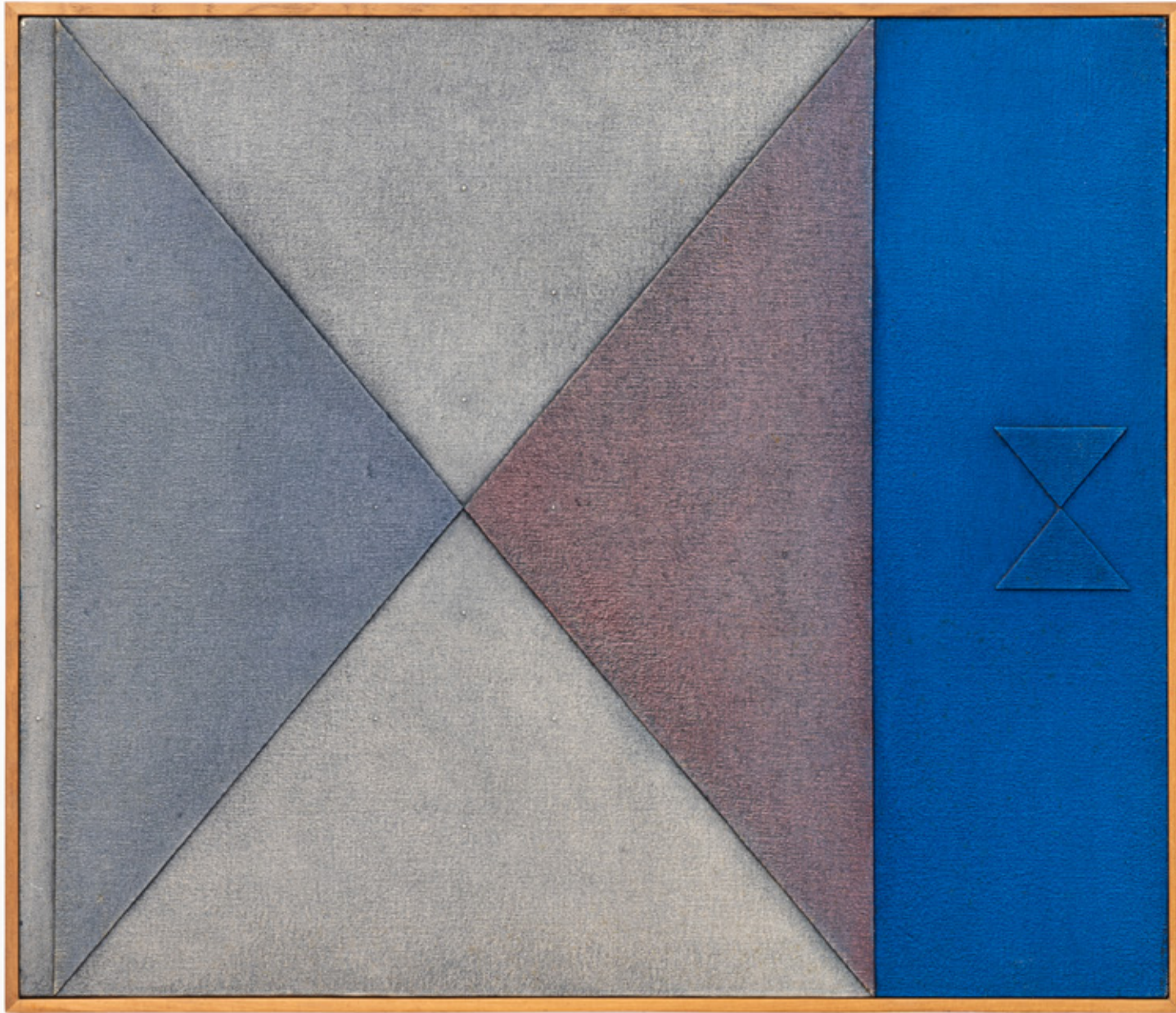


Untitled, 1996
oil paint on canvas
38,2 x 30,5 cm
15 x 12 in

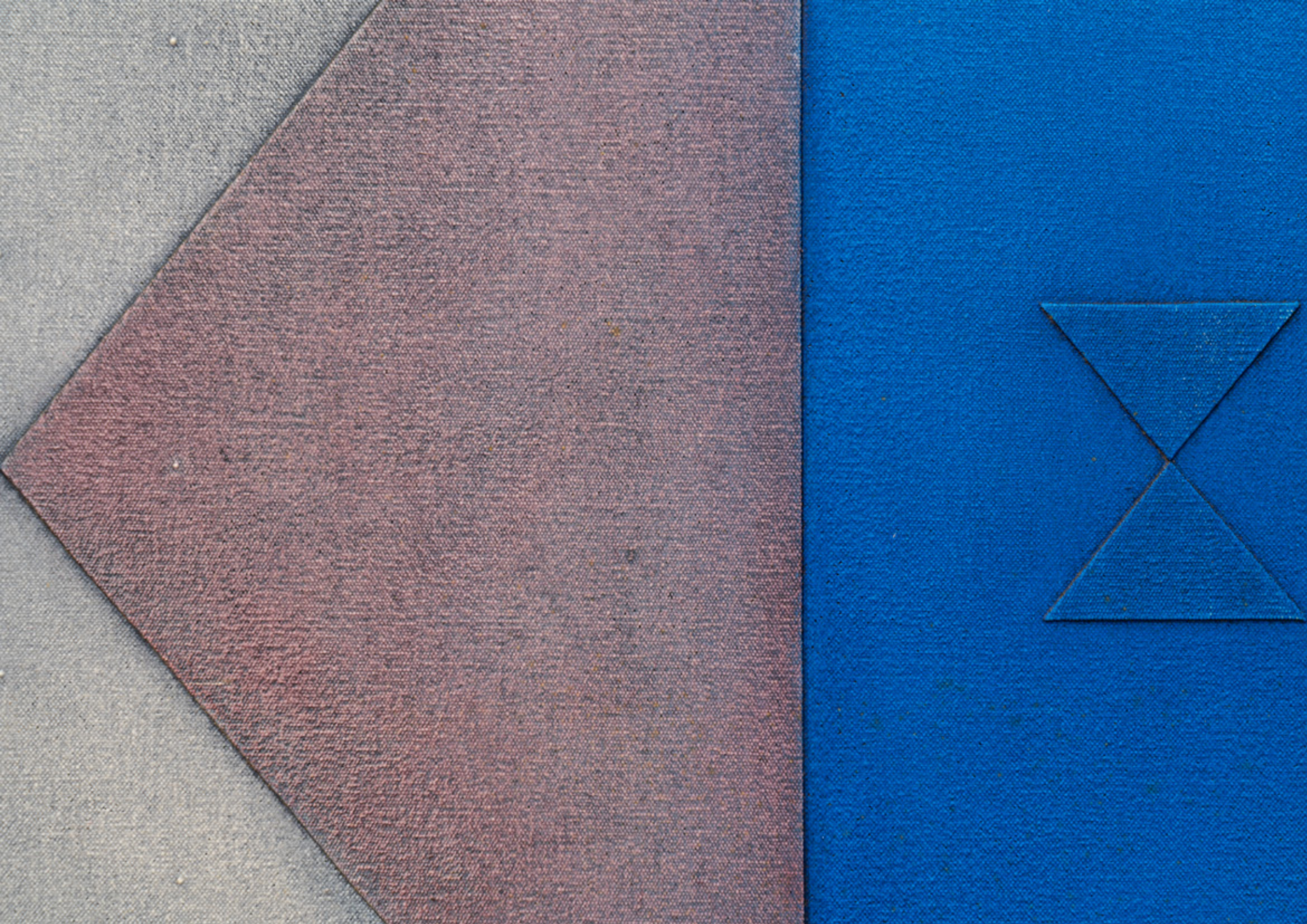




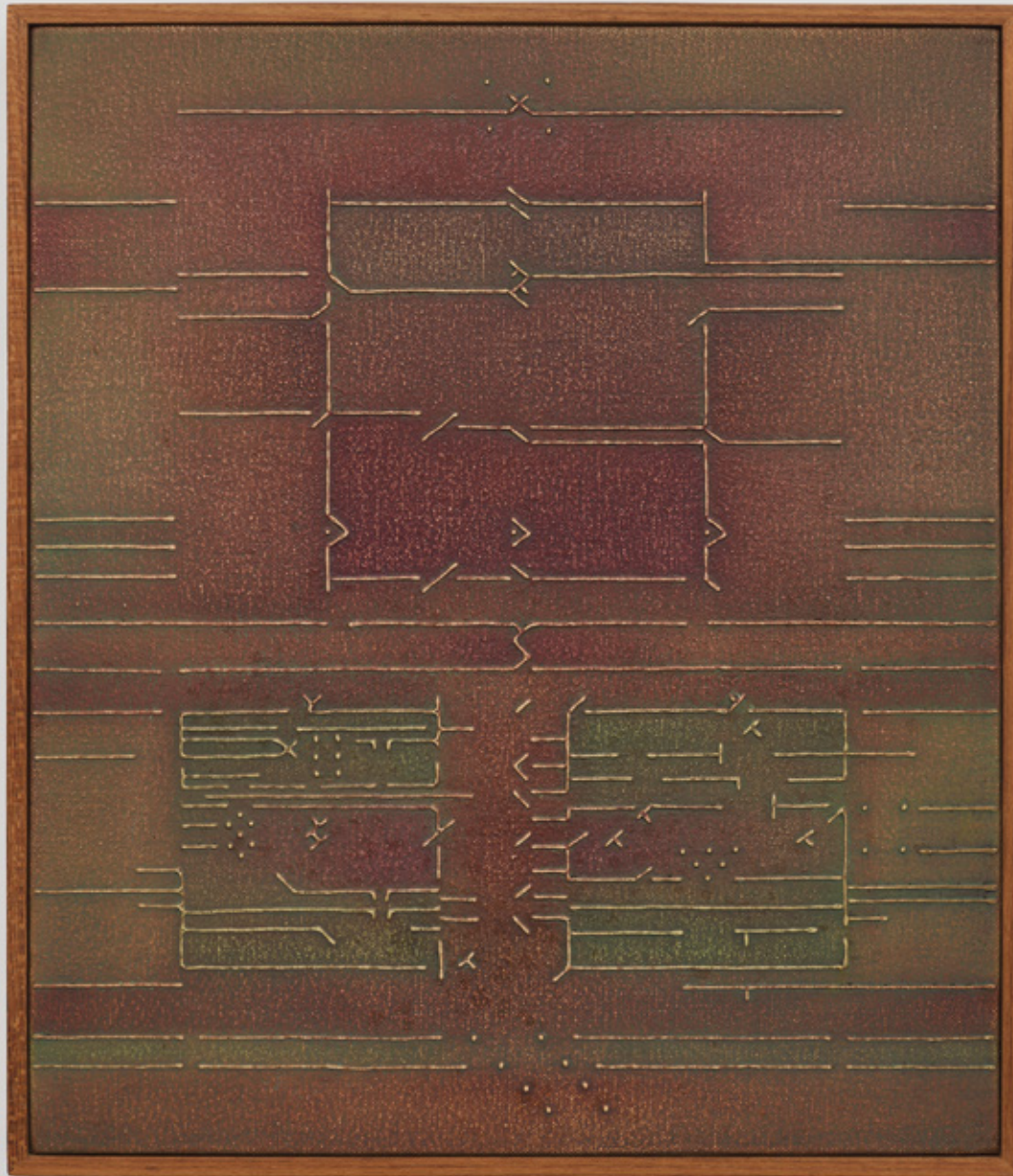
Untitled, 1996
acrylic paint on canvas
70,3 x 59,6 cm
27.7 x 23.5 in



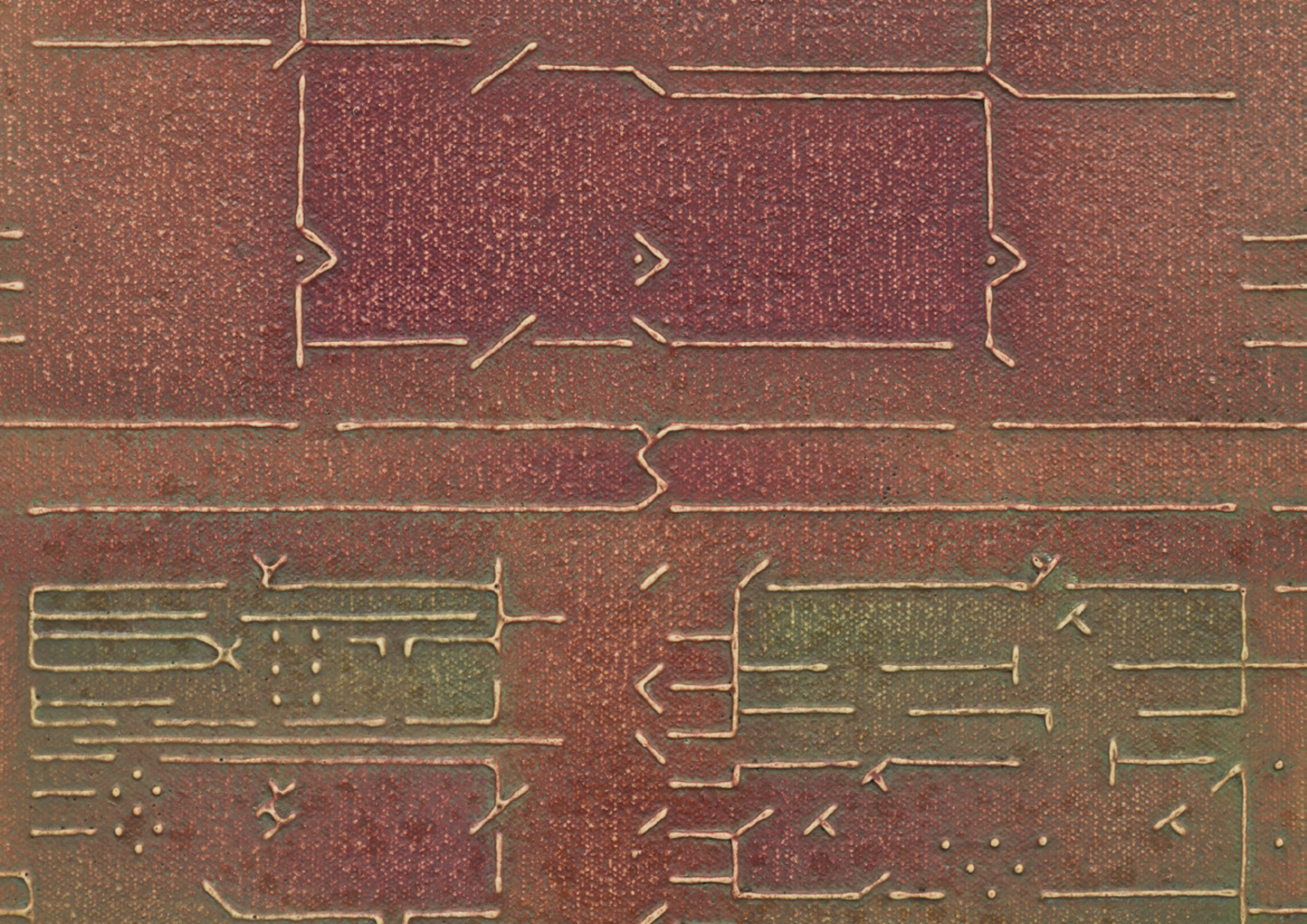
Untitled, 1996
oil paint on canvas
60 x 70,5 cm
23.6 x 27.8 in

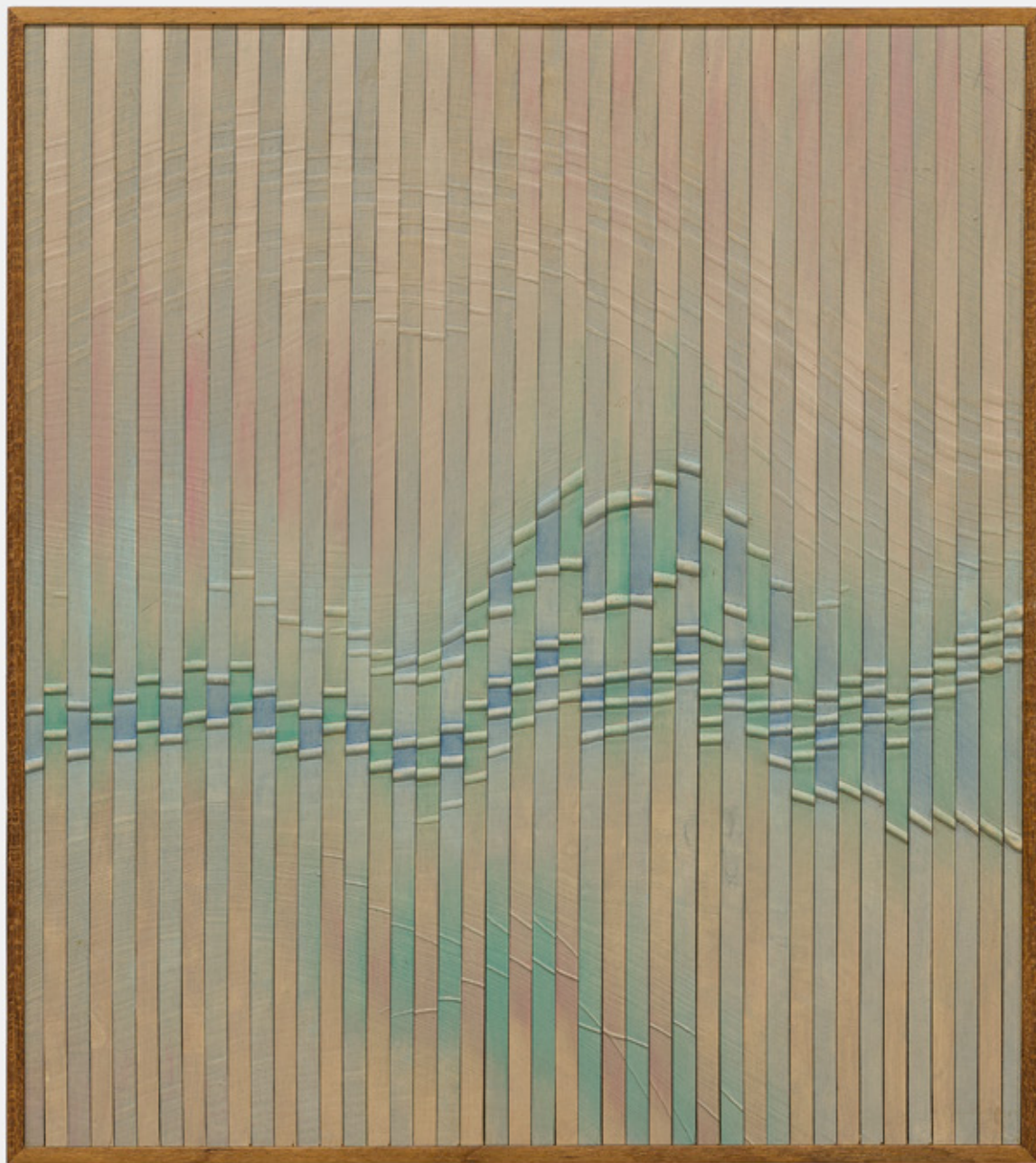




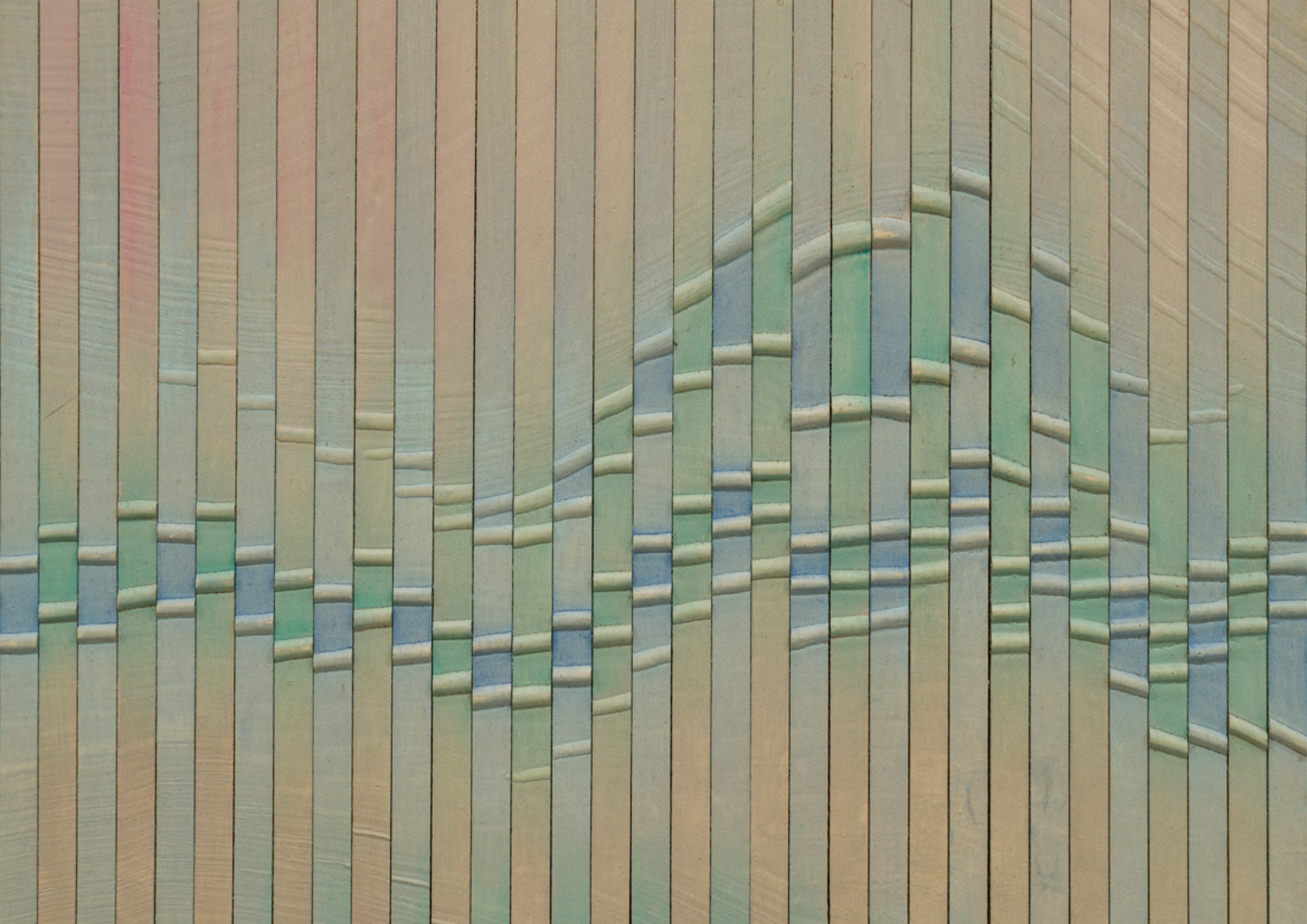


Untitled, 1996
oil paint on canvas
40,5 x 34,6 cm
15.9 x 13.6 in



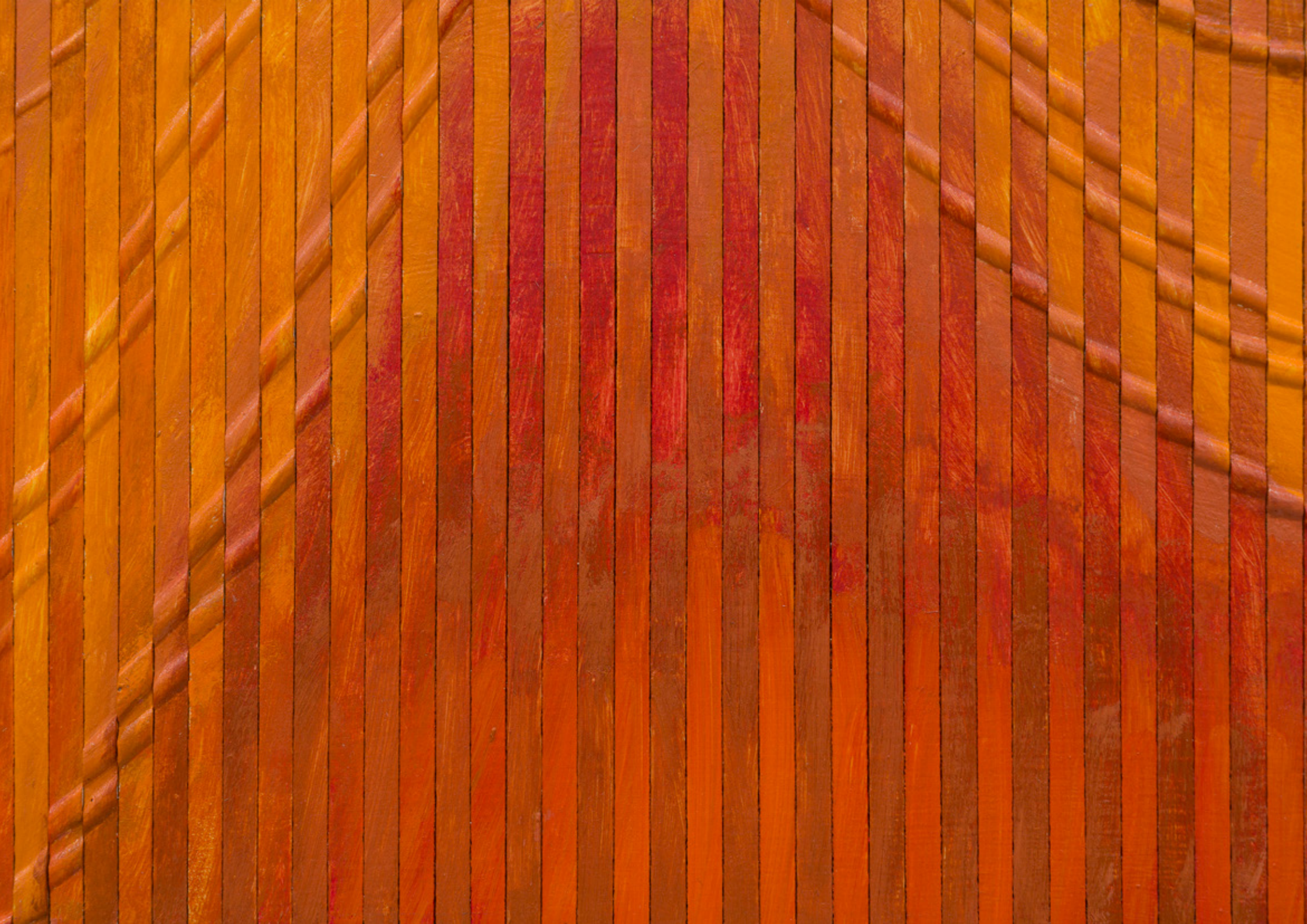


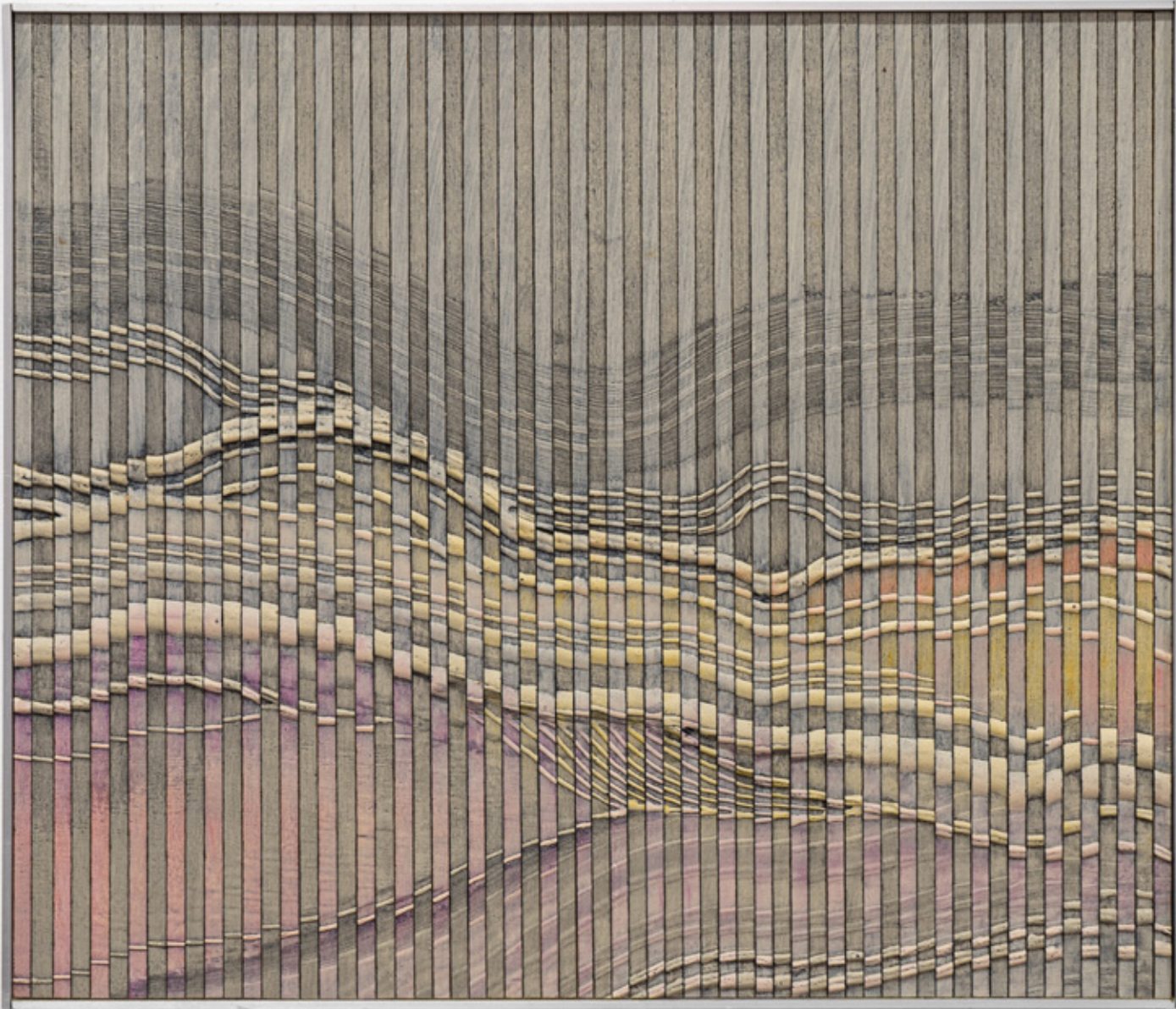
Ripa Relevo S-37, 1998
oil paint on wood
41,5 x 36,6 cm
16.3 x 14.4 in



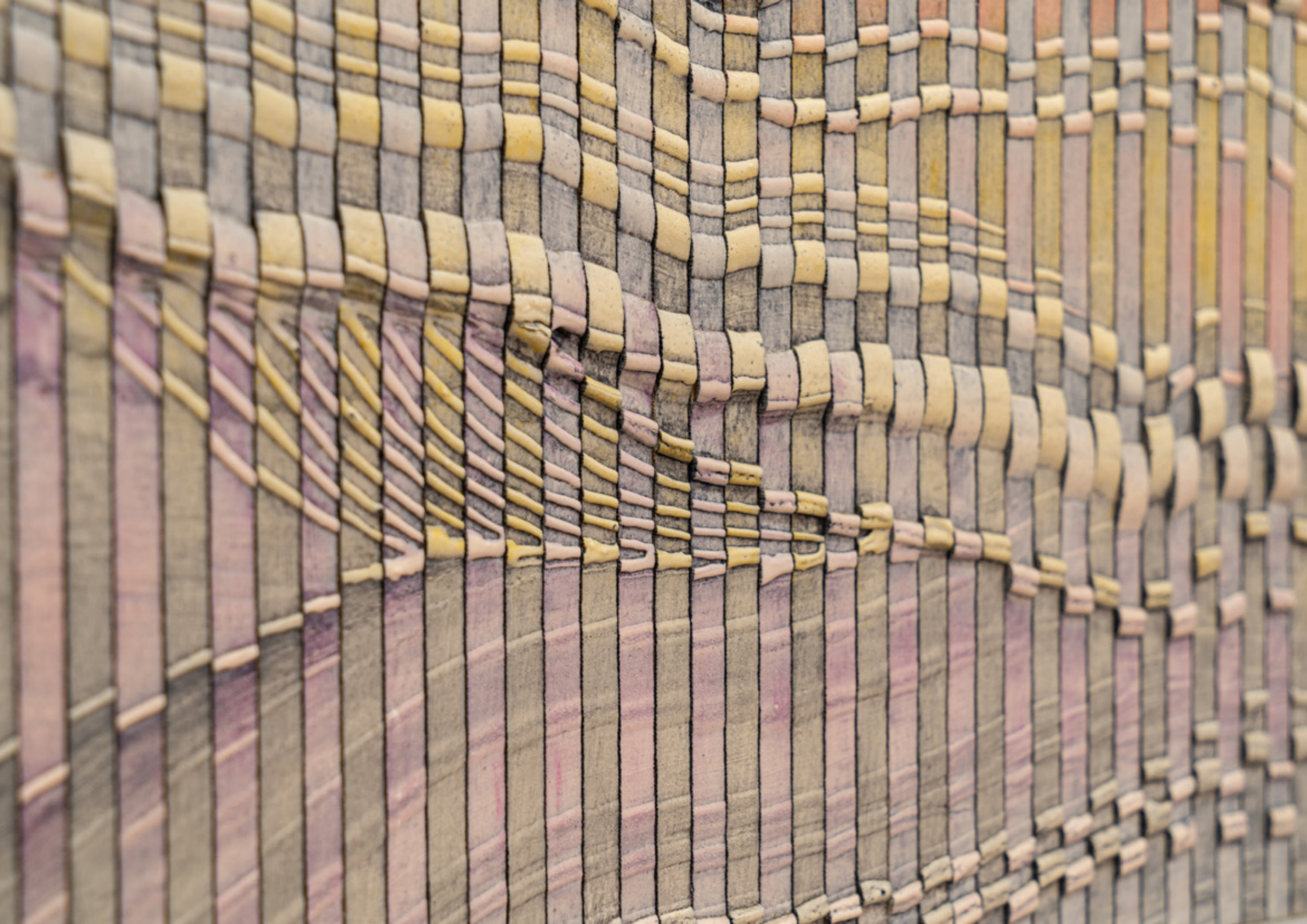


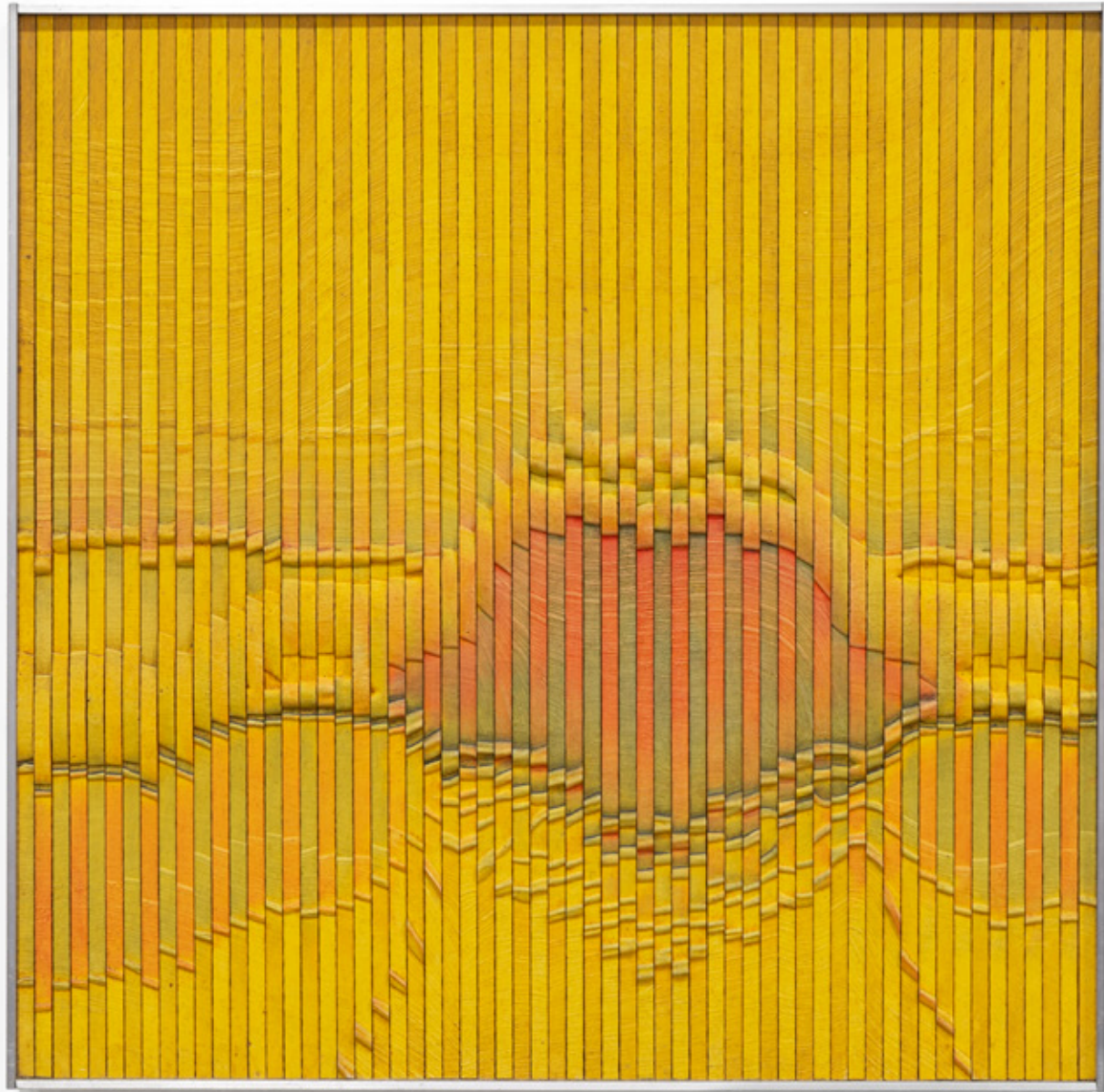
Ripa relevo, 1999
oil paint on wood
30,7 x 30,7 cm
12.1 x 12.1 in



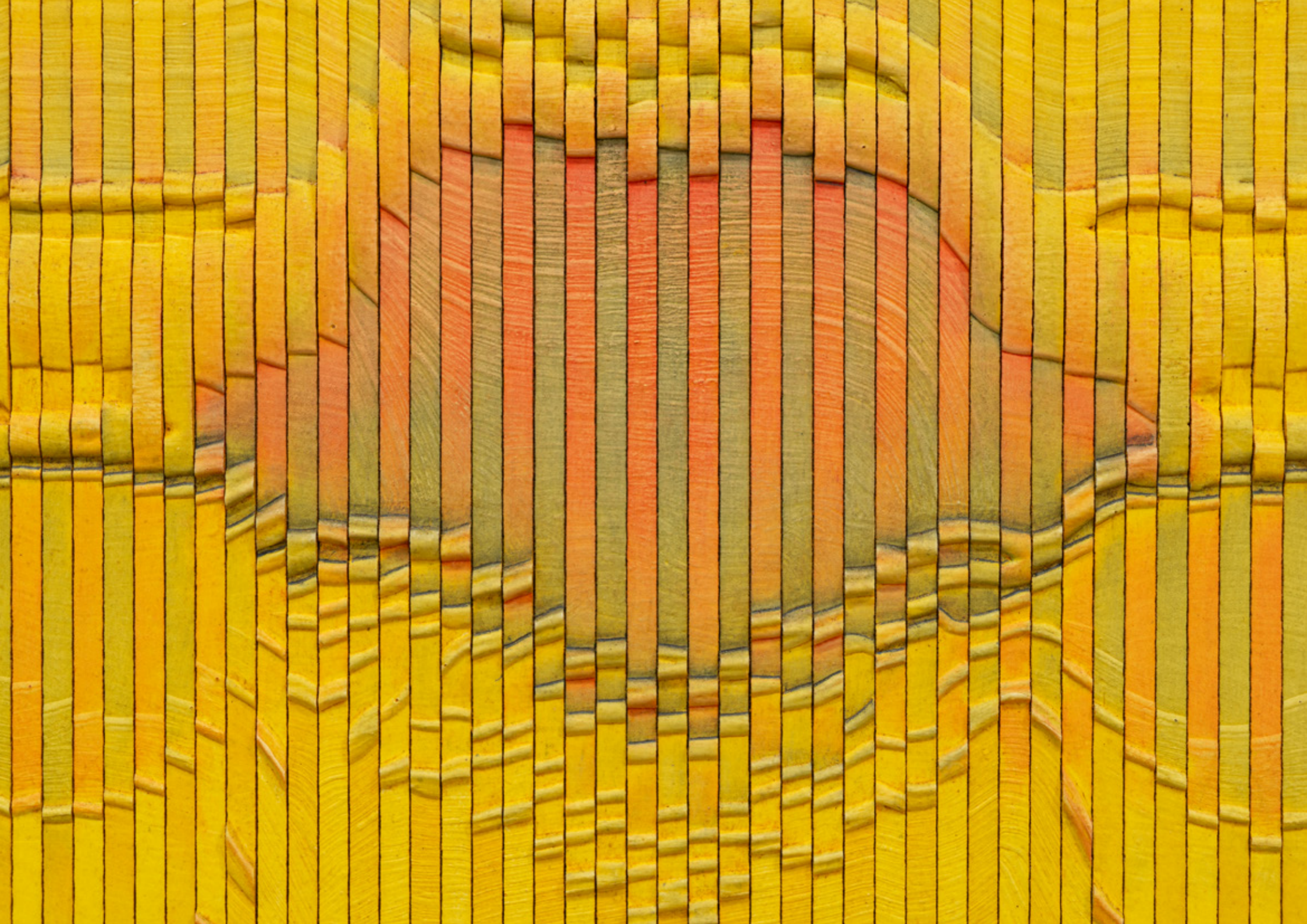


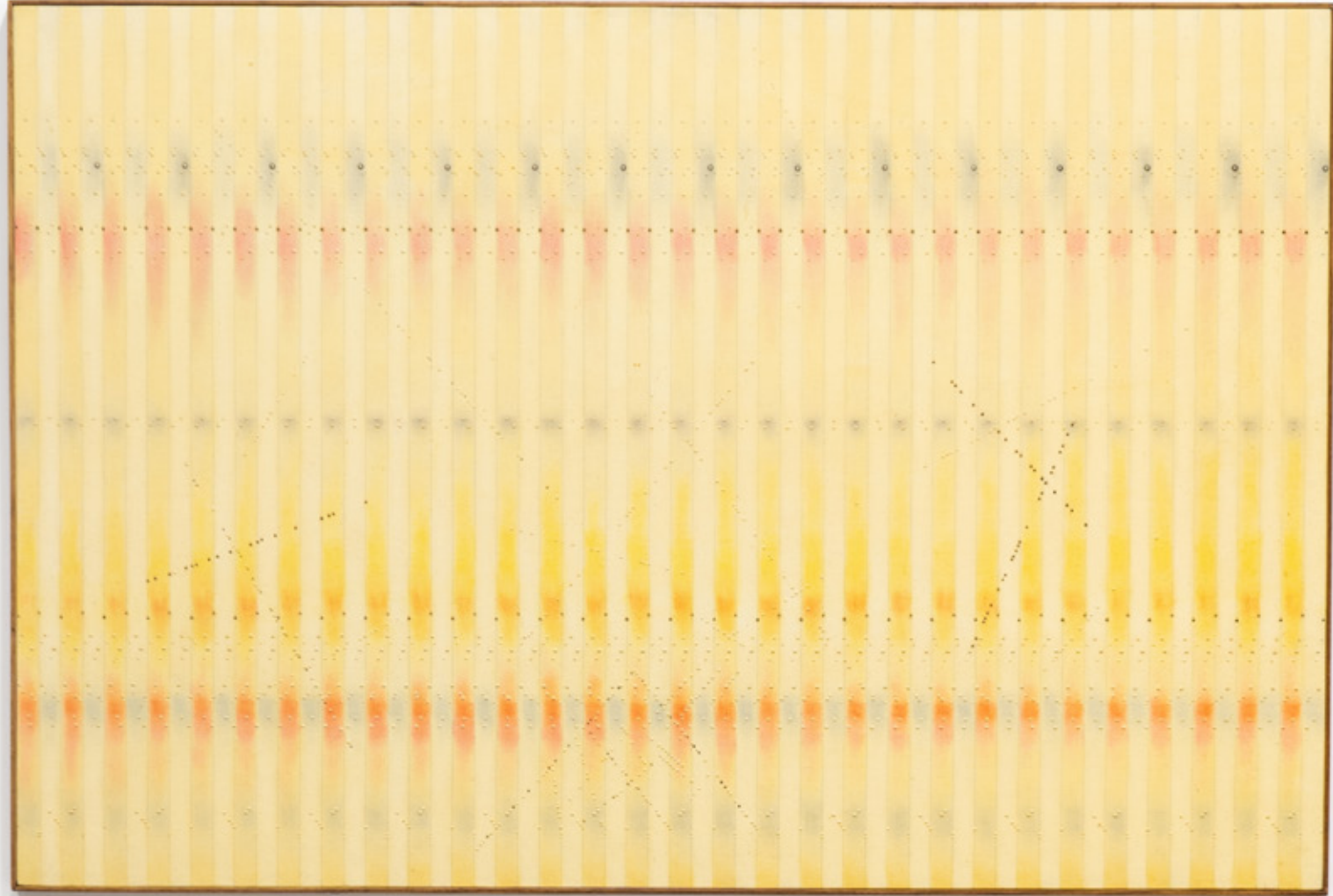
Untitled, 2001
oil paint on wood
32,5 x 38 cm
12.8 x 15 in





Untitled, 2001
oil paint on wood
37,3 x 37,7 cm
14.7 x 14.8 in





Untitled, 2002
acrylic paint on canvas
100,5 x 150,5 cm
39.6 x 59.3 in



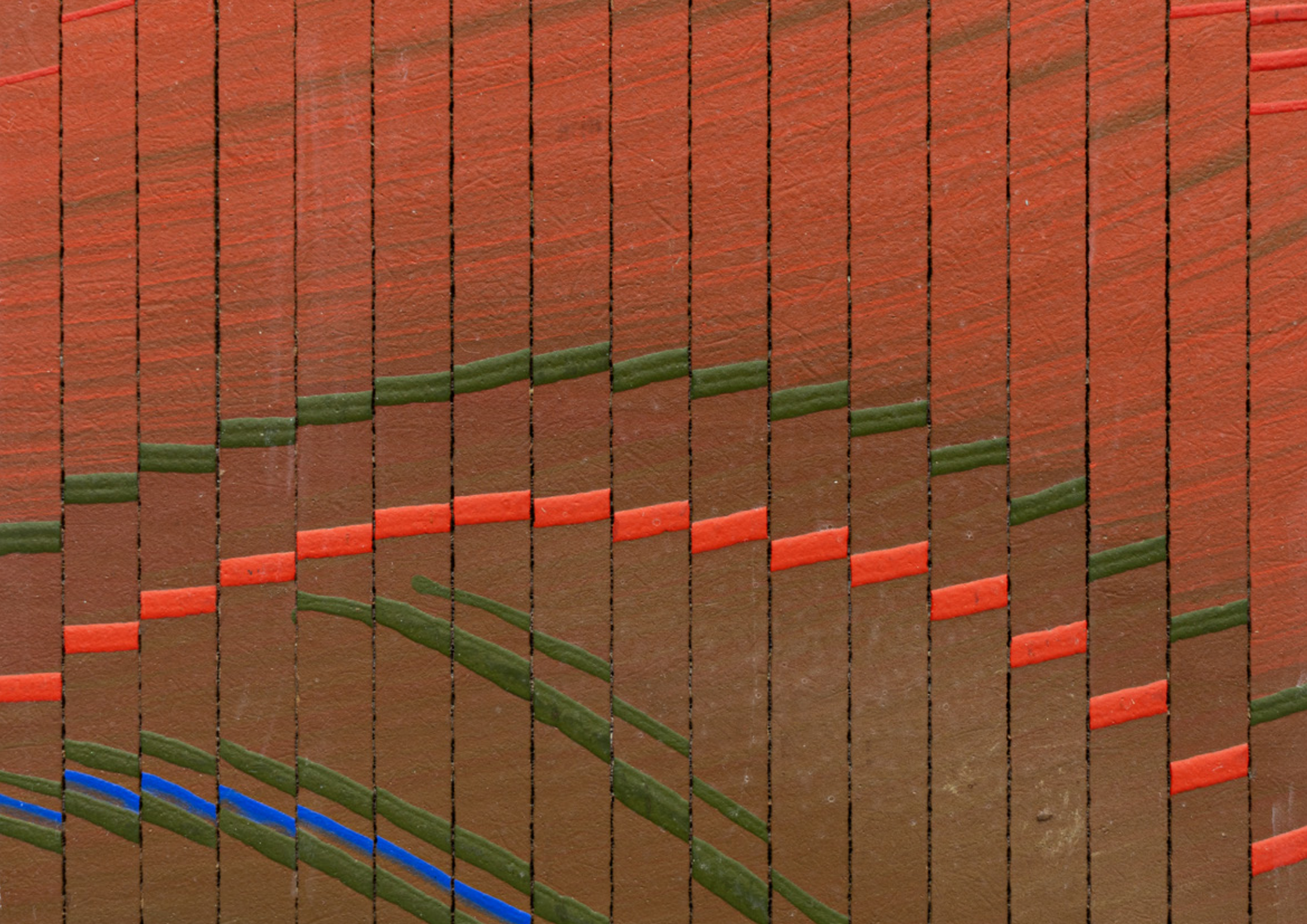


Untitled, 2005
acrylic paint on wood
11 x 10,5 cm
4.3 x 4.1 in

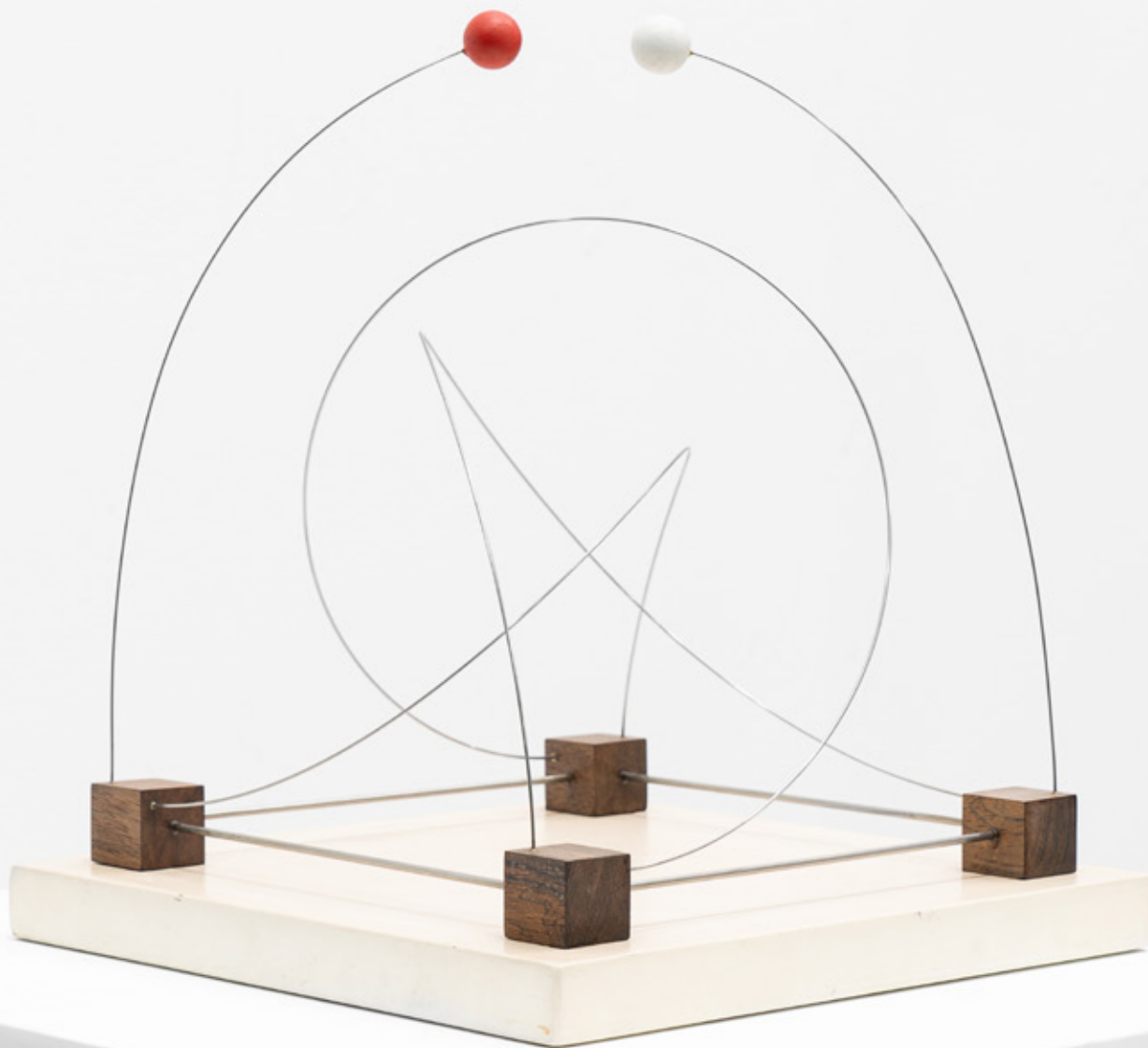


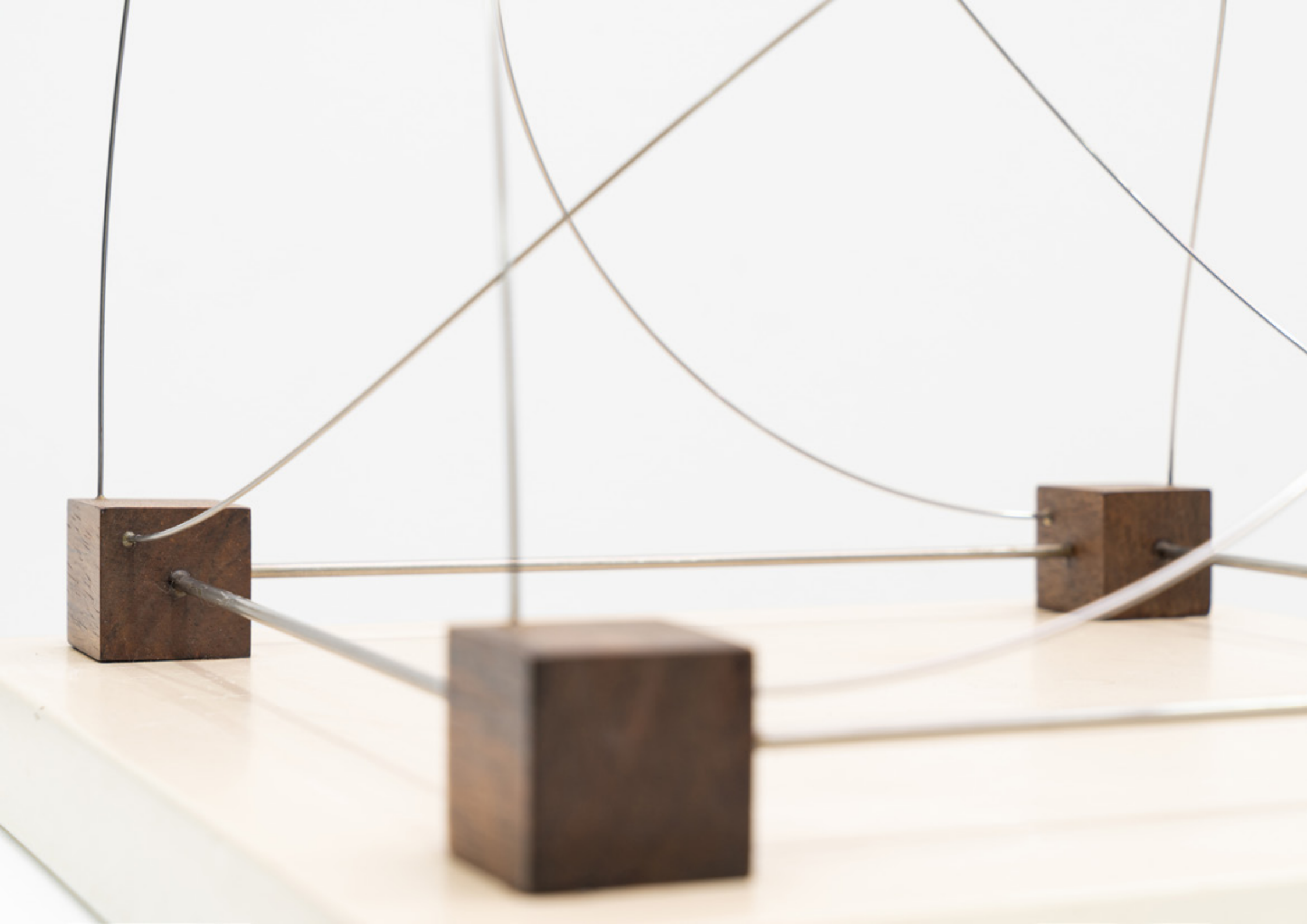


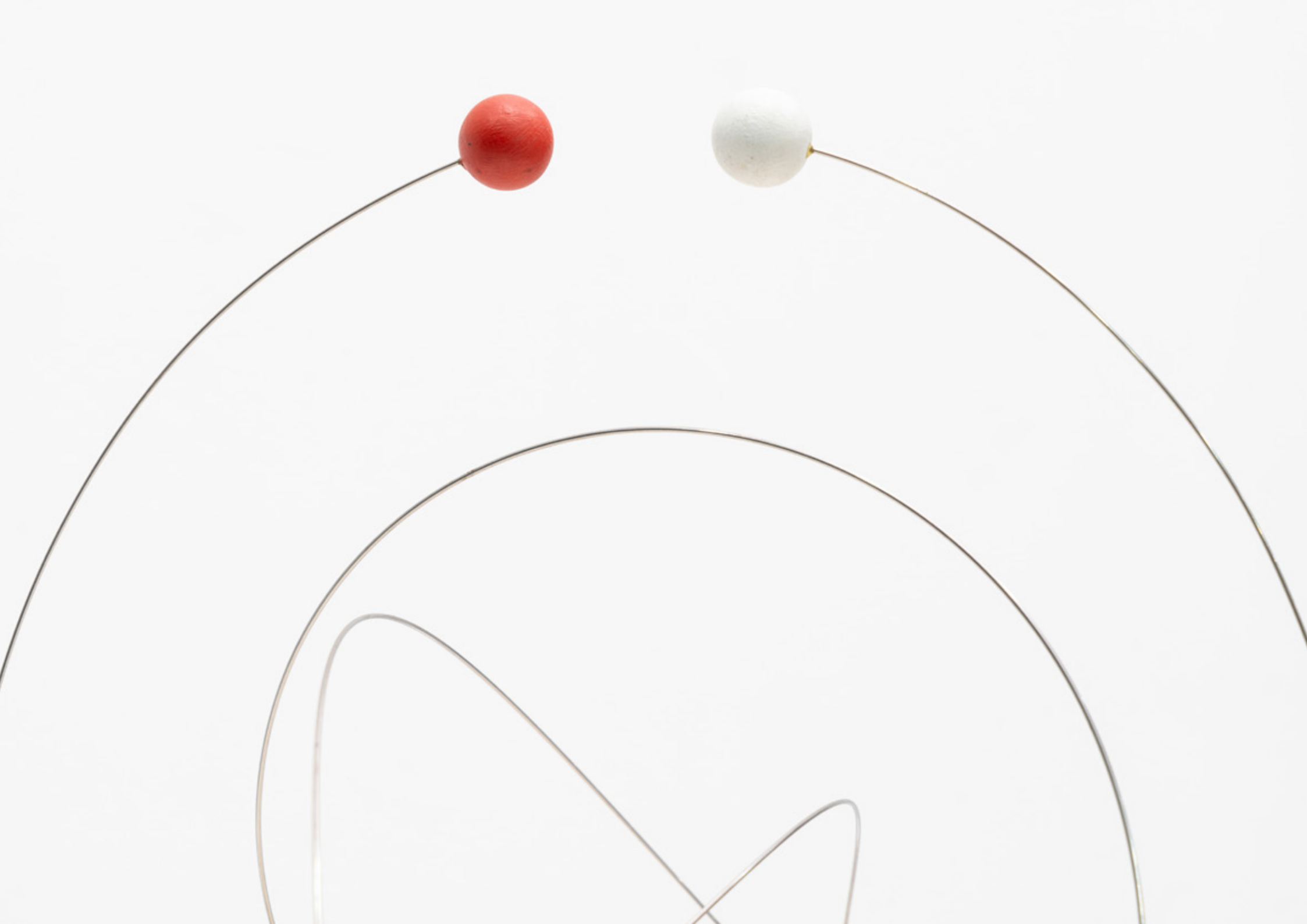
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Untitled, 2005
acrylic paint on wood
10 x 12 cm
3.9 x 4.7 in

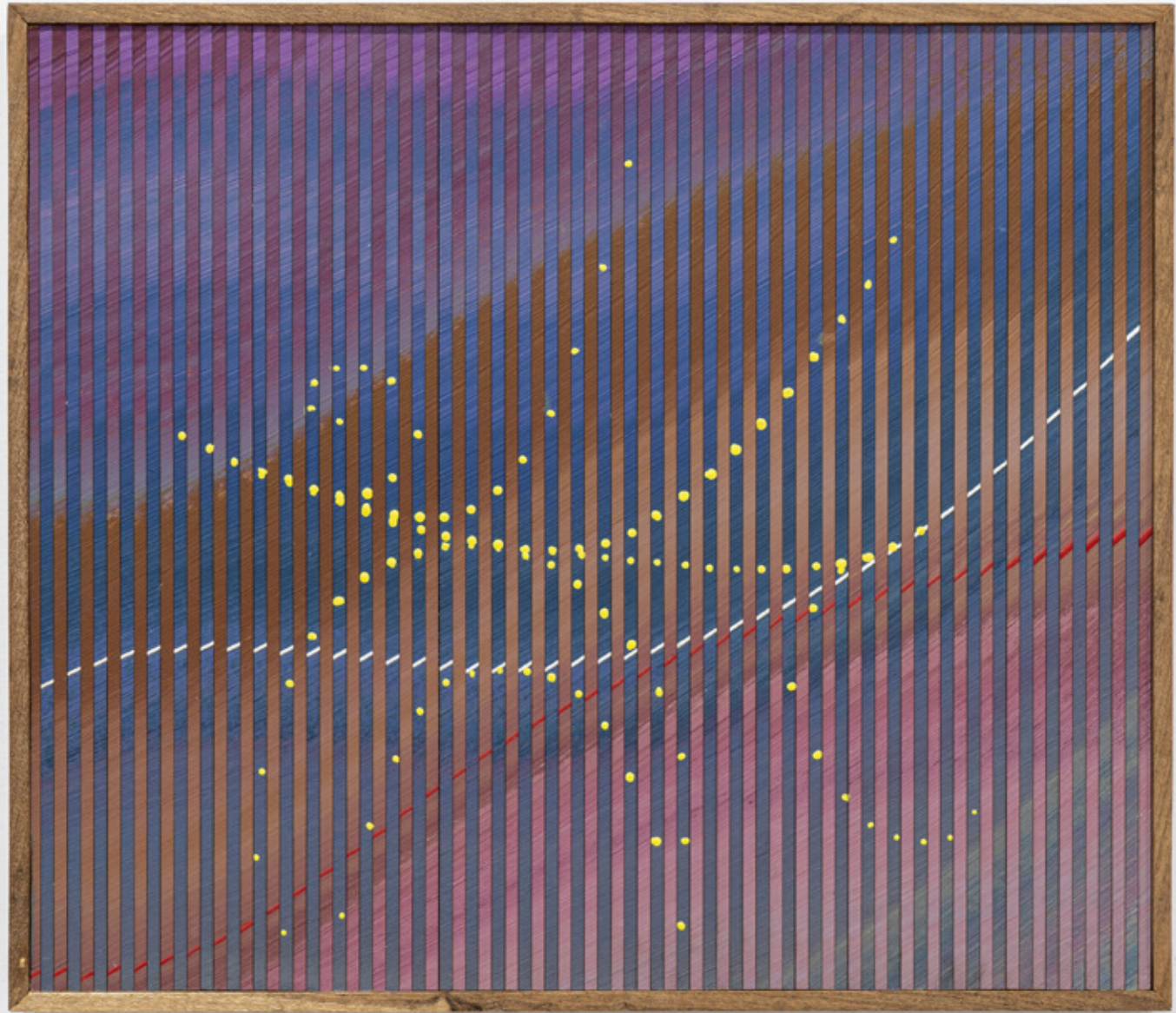


Lúdico L-5, 2006
metal and wood
edition of 10
36 x 30 x 30 cm
14.2 x 11.8 x 11.8 in

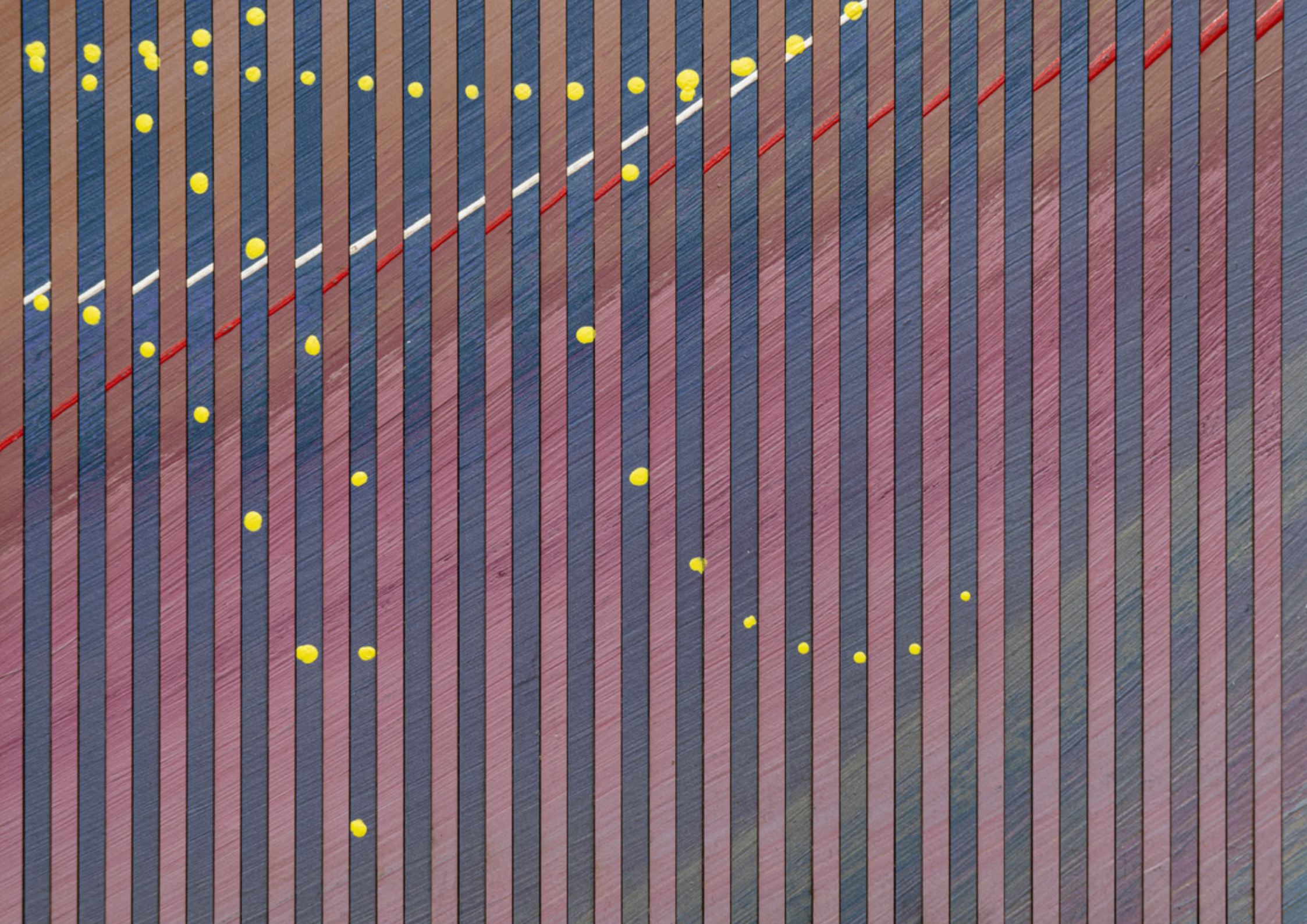


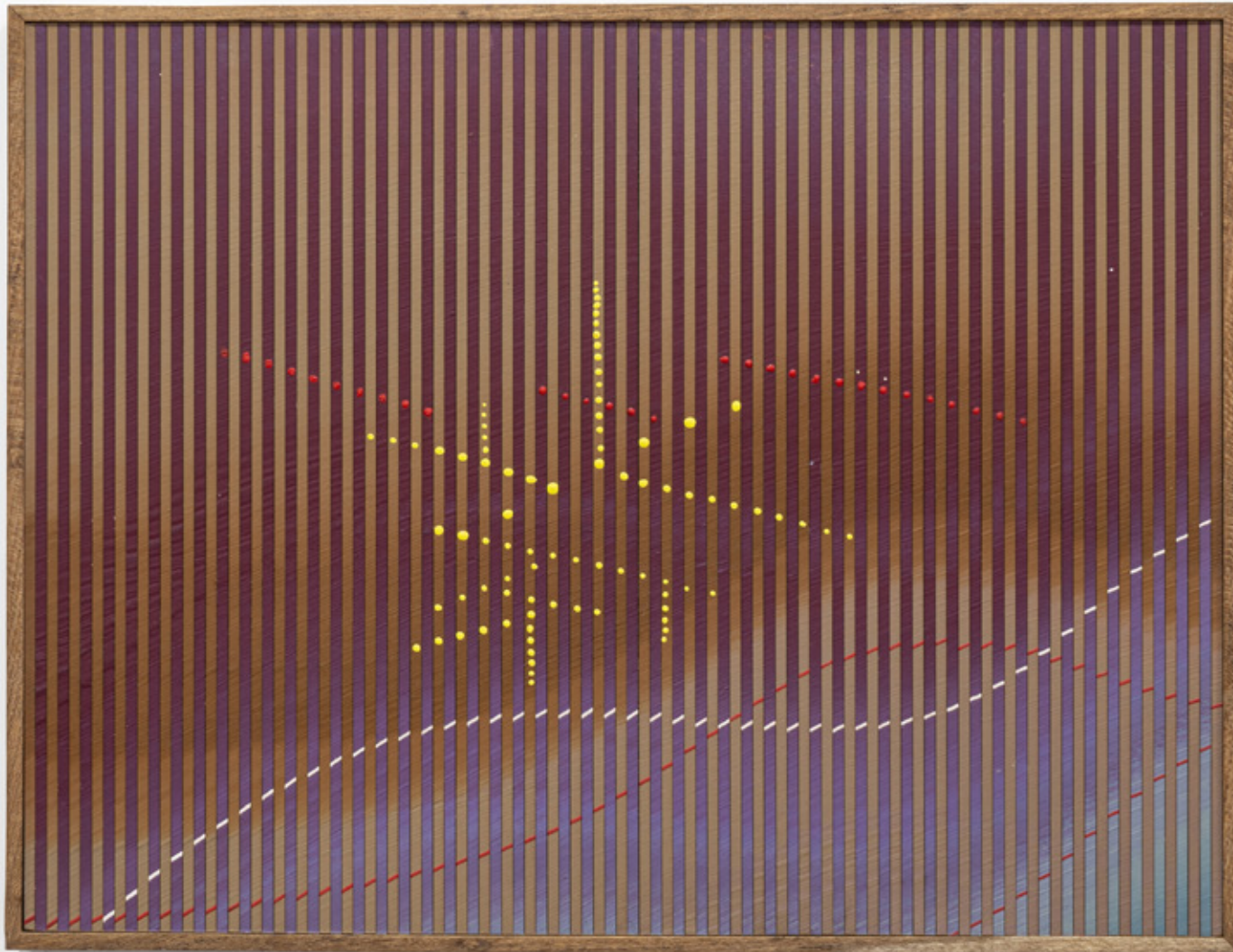






W-E / 51, 2015
acrylic paint on wood
38 x 44 cm
15 x 17.3 in





W-E / 30, 2015
acrylic paint on wood
42 x 55 cm
16.5 x 21.7 in



abraham palatnik

b. 1928, Natal, Brazil

d. 2020, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Abraham Palatnik is an iconic figure in the optical and kinetic art movements of Brazil—a pioneer in his long-standing interest for exploring the creative possibilities embedded in crossings of art and technology. Having studied engineering, the artist became interested in investigating mechanical uses of light and movement. In 1949, he rose to prominence with the creation of his first *Aparelho Cinecromático* [Kinechromatic Device] effectively reinventing the idea of a painting by using different voltage bulbs moving at different speeds and directions to create kaleidoscopic images. The piece was shown at the 1st Bienal de São Paulo (1951) and received an Honorable Mention from the International Jury for its originality.

Abraham Palatnik subsequently initiated his work with reliefs, coined Progressive reliefs, which he made out of various materials (such as wood, duplex cardboard and acrylic), manually cut and intercalated to create a sense of rhythmic undulation. Apart from the series *W*, which has come to incorporate the use of laser-cutting, Palatnik continued to construct and paint every piece by hand, making each work a token of his craftsmanship, until the end of his life.

selected solo exhibitions

- *Abraham Palatnik: Seismograph of Color*, Nara Roesler, New York, USA (2022)
- *Abraham Palatnik – A reinvenção da pintura*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB-BH), Belo Horizonte (2021); Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB-RJ), Rio de Janeiro (2017); Fundação Iberê Camargo (FIC), Porto Alegre (2015); Museu Oscar Niemeyer (MON), Curitiba (2014); Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (MAM-SP), São Paulo (2014); Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil (CCBB-DF), Brasília, Brazil (2013)
- *Abraham Palatnik: Em movimento*, Nara Roesler, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2018)
- *Abraham Palatnik: Progression*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, USA (2017)
- *Palatnik, une discipline du chaos*, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France (2012)

selected group exhibitions

- *Sur moderno: Journeys of Abstraction—The Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Gift*, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA (2019)
- *The Other Trans-Atlantic: Kinetic & Op Art in Central & Eastern Europe and Latin America 1950s–1970s*, Sesc Pinheiros, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2018); Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia (2018); Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland (2017)
- *Delirious: Art at the Limits of Reason, 1950–1980*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA (2018)
- *Kinesthesia: Latin American Kinetic Art 1954–1969*, Palm Springs Art Museum (PSAM), Palm Springs, USA (2017)

selected collections

- Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro (MAM Rio), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH), Houston, USA
- Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA
- Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
- William Keiser Museum, Krefeld, Germany

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