

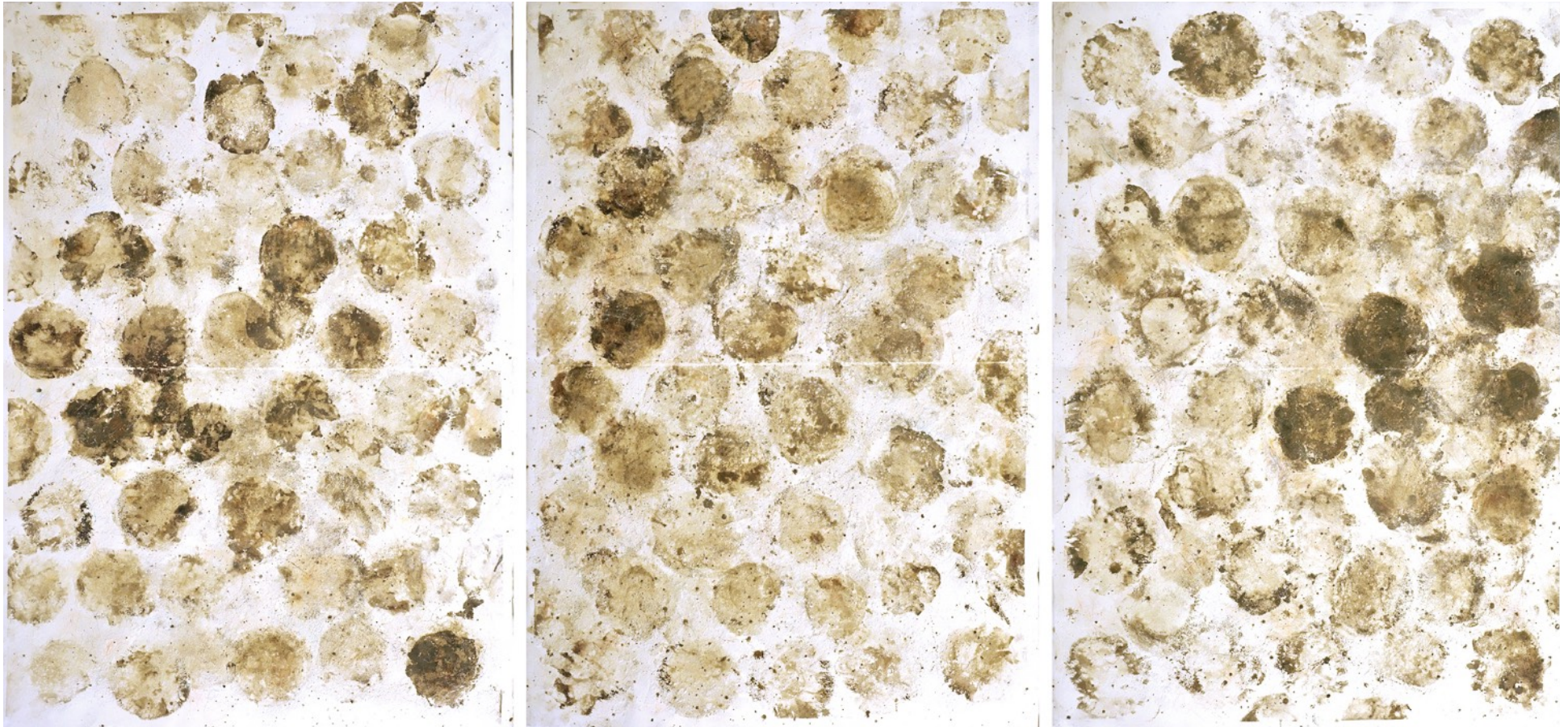


Drawing Materials

Selected recent clay and mixed medium drawings
by Johan Thom

2024/5

i. Drawings	2
ii. List of Figures	22
iii. Artist Biography	23



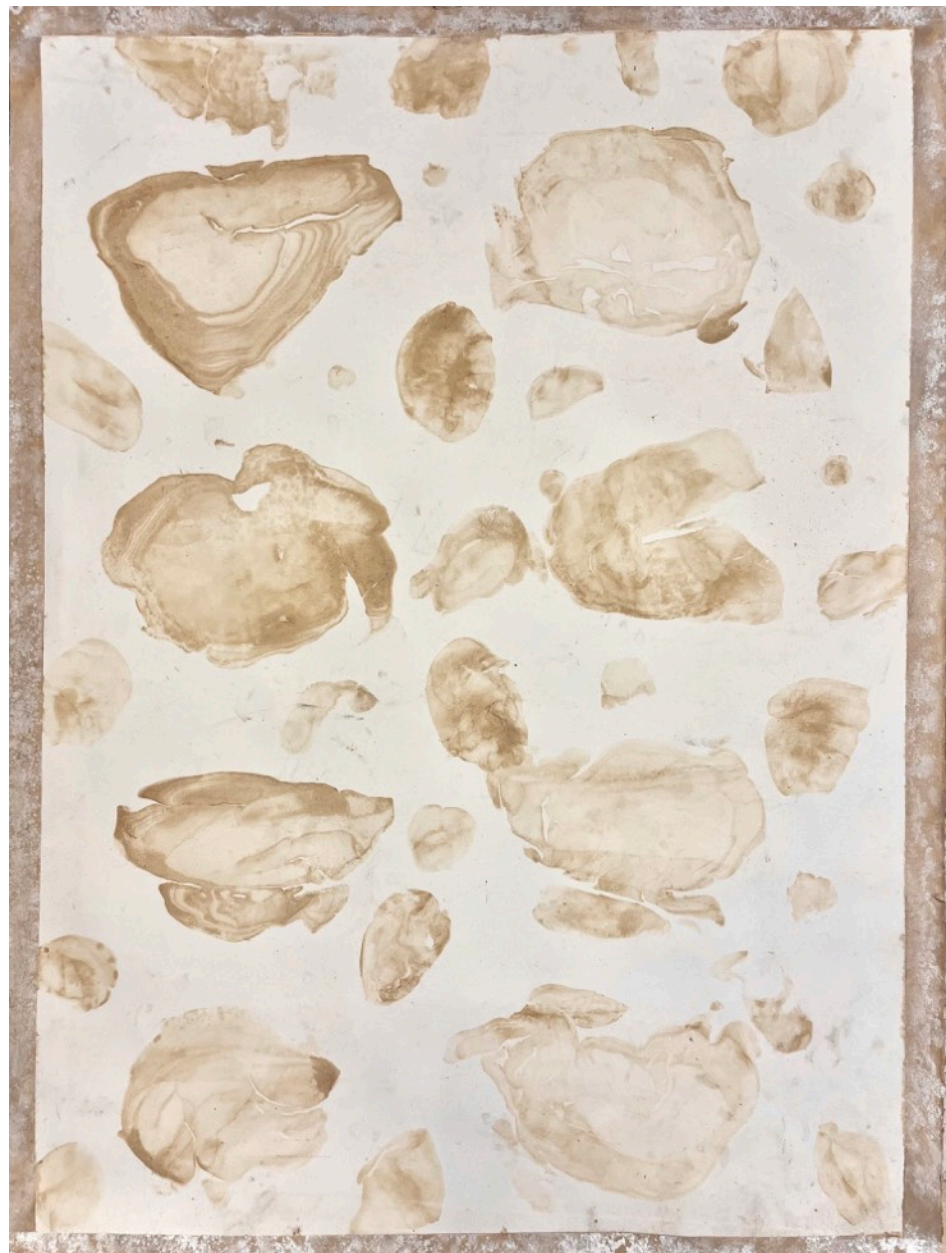
All the works in this series of layered, abstract drawings combine the use of clay, mixed mediums and a variety of gestural marks to generate abstract material surfaces. The works all start as tracings of the movement of three-dimensional wet clay forms on paper. These tracings are sometimes left raw or worked upon further by methodically adding more layers (including more clay prints, white chalk powder, black pigment and a variety of marks in charcoal). In this way the artworks all serve to extend the force and presence of the body onto the surface of the paper.

This series began with the triptych 'Weight' shown above, completed whilst the artist was on residency in Mexico in 2024. In brief these are imprints of clay made by the weight of the artist's heel. Here Thom first began to work extensively with clay as medium creating large-scale installations of hundreds even thousands of clay shapes that have since been exhibited to critical acclaim. Overall there are two series of works that form part of the clay drawings: the tonally lighter, raw works and their darker, denser, more layered counterparts.



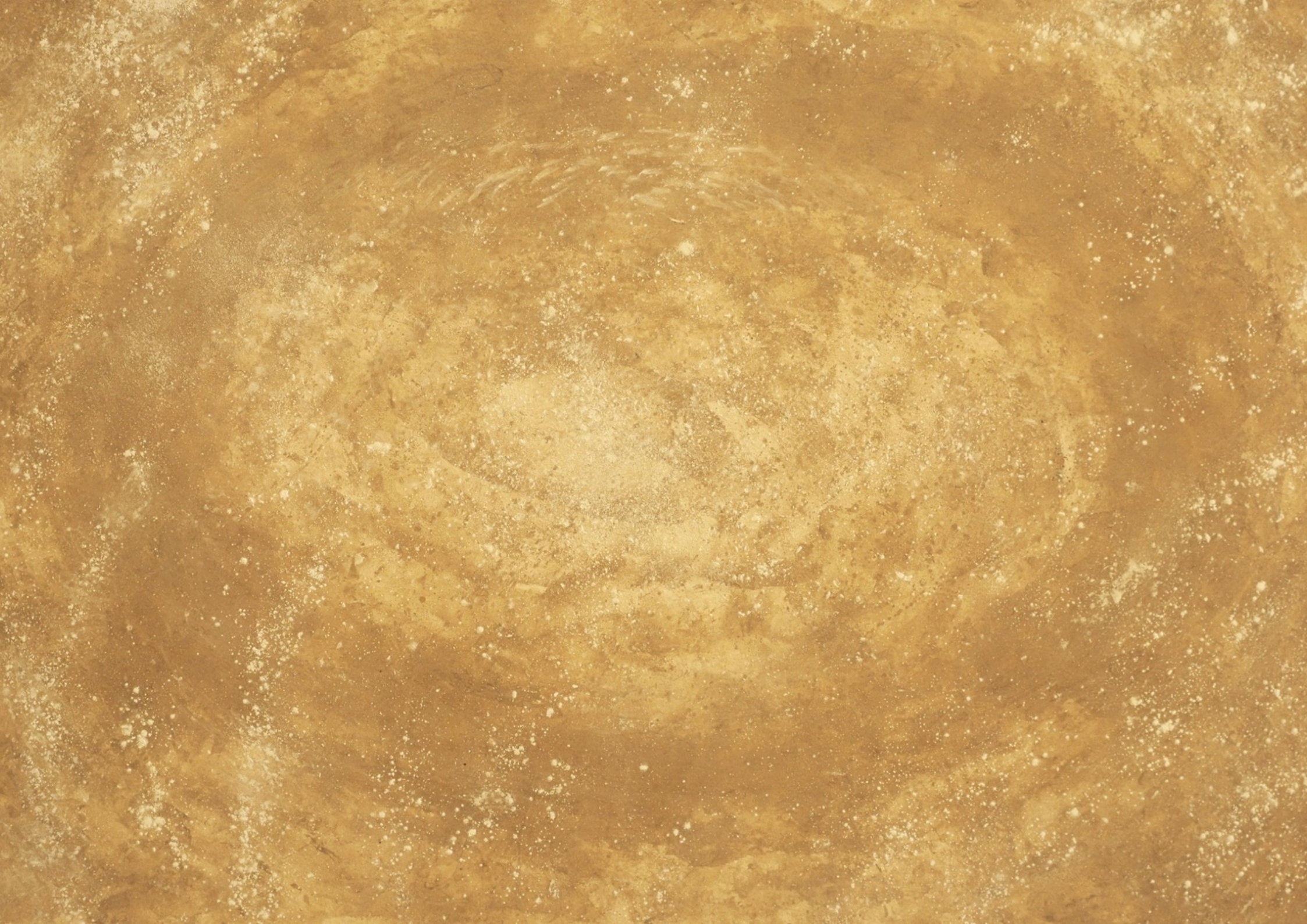








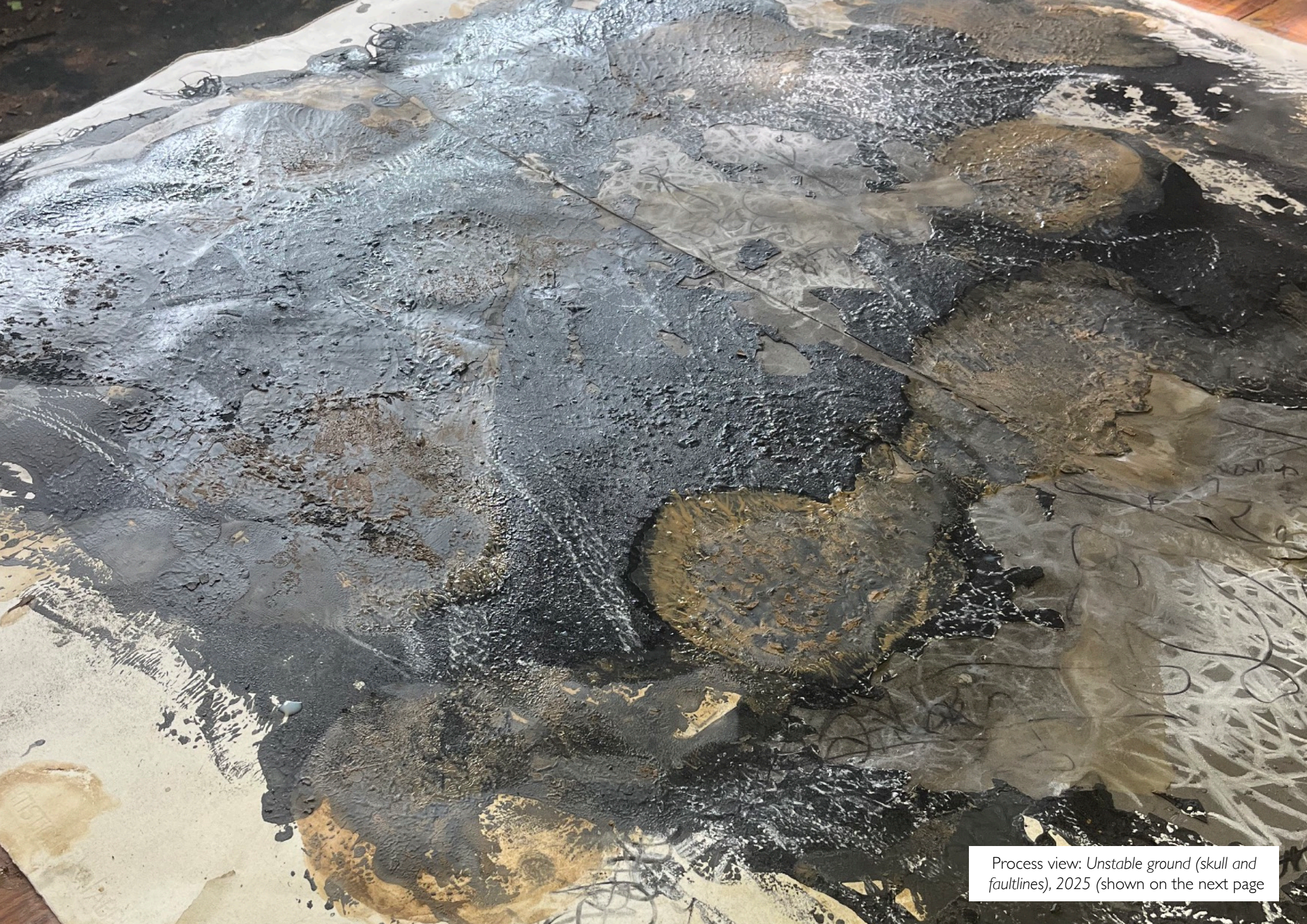






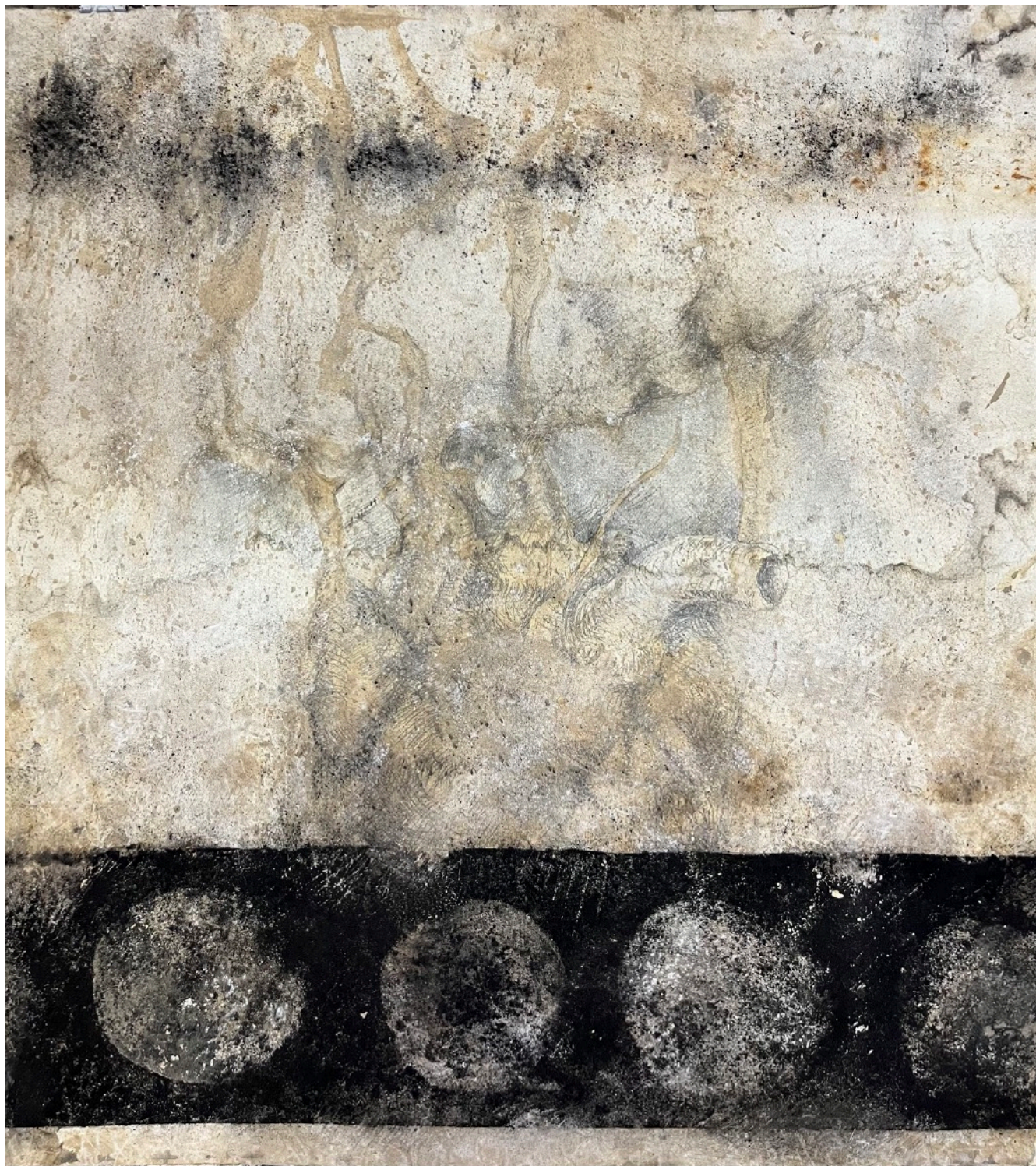






Process view: *Unstable ground (skull and faultlines)*, 2025 (shown on the next page)







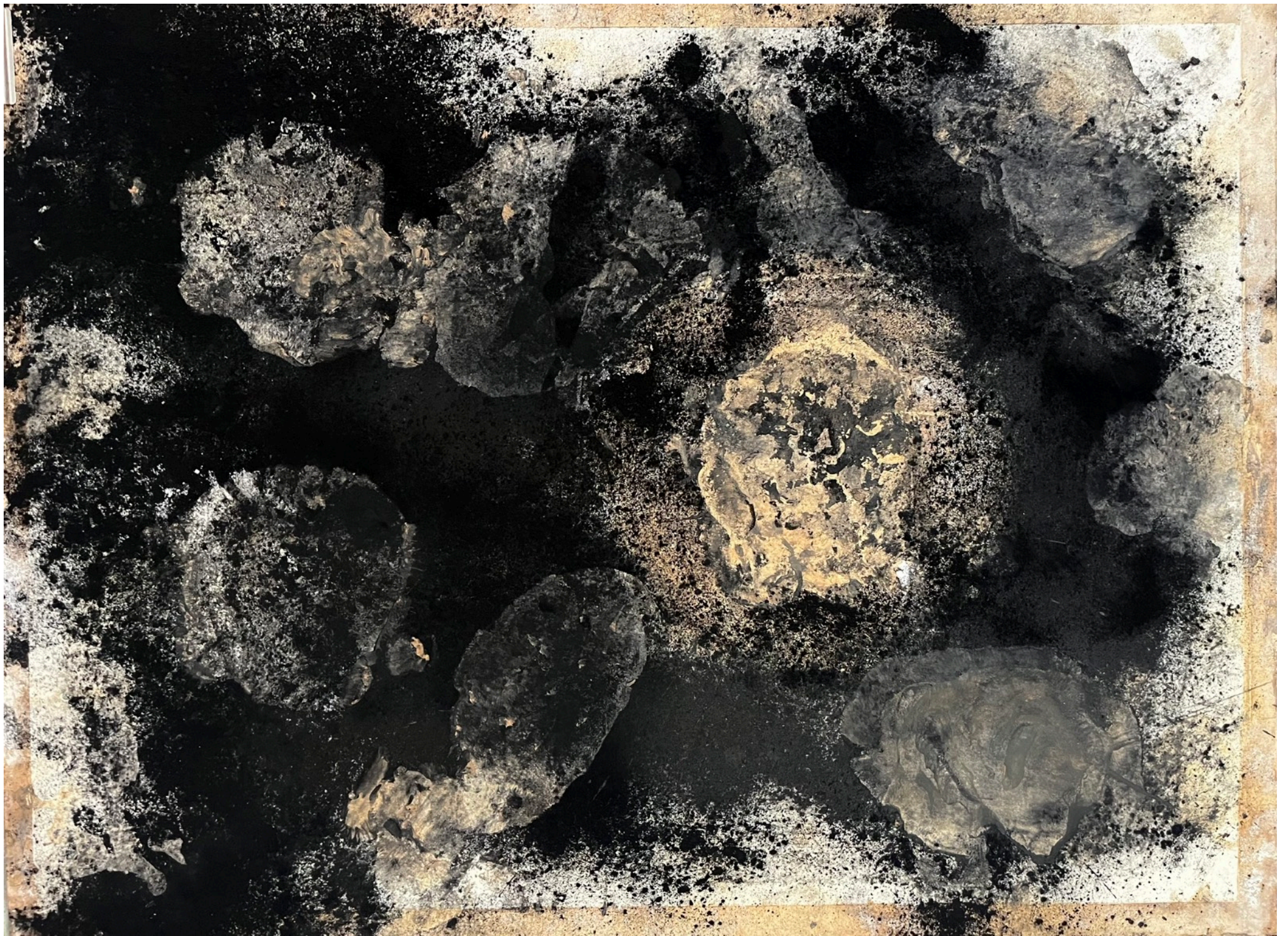












List of Figures

	Page
1 <i>Weight</i> , 2024, clay, white chalk, pigment and mixed mediums on Fabriano, triptych, each 71 x 100cm	2
2 <i>Clay drawings i-iv</i> , 2024-2025, clay and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 78 x 107cm	4
3 <i>Clay drawing vi (night)</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, black pigment and mixed mediums on Fabriano, 97 x 70cm	6
4 <i>Clay print (various forms)</i> , 2025, clay and mixed mediums on Fabriano, 97 x 70cm	6
5 <i>Clay print (12 round forms)</i> , 2025, clay, chalk, pencil and mixed mediums on Fabriano, 53 x 39 cm	7
6 <i>Spiral I</i> , 2024, clay, white chalk and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 78 x 53cm	9
7 <i>Spiral ii</i> , 2024, clay, white chalk and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 52 x 39cm	10
8 <i>Spiral iii</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, pencil and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 78 x 96cm	11
9 <i>Quiet ground</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, charcoal and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 71 x 53cm	12
10 <i>Unstable ground (skull and faultlines)</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, pencil, blackboard paint, charcoal and mixed mediums on Fabriano, 140 x 140cm	14
11 <i>Heart/Soil</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, pencil, charcoal and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 78 x 70cm	15
12 <i>Faultlines</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, charcoal, pencil and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 35 x 40,2 cm	16
13 <i>Force ii & ii</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, charcoal and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 16.5 x 35.5cm	19
14 <i>From this horizon</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, charcoal and mixed mediums on Fabriano, each 21 x 35cm	20
15 <i>Best laid plans</i> , 2025, clay, white chalk, charcoal and mixed mediums on Fabriano, 70 x 80cm	21
16 <i>Excavation</i> , 2025, clay, black pigment, chalk and mixed mediums on Fabriano 78 x 96cm	22

iii. Artist Biography: Johan Thom

Johan Thom (b.1976, Johannesburg) lives and works in Pretoria, South Africa as a visual artist. From a broader focus on the body in his earlier work Thom's interests have gradually shifted to a more specific exploration of the performative, material relationship between the body, found objects, specific sites and natural materials. Conceptually speaking his work is gestural, performative and minimalist in approach. He is a key figure in the development of performance art in South Africa.

Solo exhibitions by Thom include the Johannesburg Art Gallery (2008), the Bag Factory (2008), Iwalewa Haus in Bayreuth (2010), Nirox Project Space (2014), the Goodman Gallery (Jhb. 2015), Kalashnikov Gallery (2023) and the Nirox Sculpture Park (2024). Group exhibitions include the Venice Biennale (2003), the Canary Islands Biennale (2006), the Palazzo delle Papesse (2008), 1:54 Art Fair Somerset House, London and many more.

Thom has participated in conferences workshops and artistic programmes at at the Venice Biennale (2003/5), the University of Cambridge (2009), the Slade School of Fine Art (2010/11/12), Documenta 13 (2012), the University of Pretoria (2013/14/15 & 21), 'The Octopus Programme' (2020-2022, University of Applied Arts Vienna), the African Centre for the Study of the United States (2022, IDSVA, Wits, UP, Nirox), 'A Research of Doing' (2021-2023, University of Applied Arts Vienna, The Centre For the Less Good Idea and UP), 'Listening at The Edge' (2022-2023, Pro Helvetia), and elsewhere.

Thom holds a PhD in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art (UCL) on a Cannon-Collins Trust Commonwealth Scholarship and is an Associate Professor in Fine Art at the University of Pretoria. He has received numerous grants, fellowships and residencies including the Ampersand Foundation Fellowship (SA/ NY), Clair and Eduardo Villa Trust, Casa Wabi Residency (Mexico 2024), Britto Arts Trust residency (Dhaka), NIROX Foundation and Sculpture Park (SA) residency and is nationally rated artistic researcher by the National Research Foundation (SA).

Website www.johanthom.com

Tel: +27 (0)81 5955 975

Email: johan.thom@up.ac.za

