

# Chaos

Dancing on the Edge

# What is Chaos Theory?

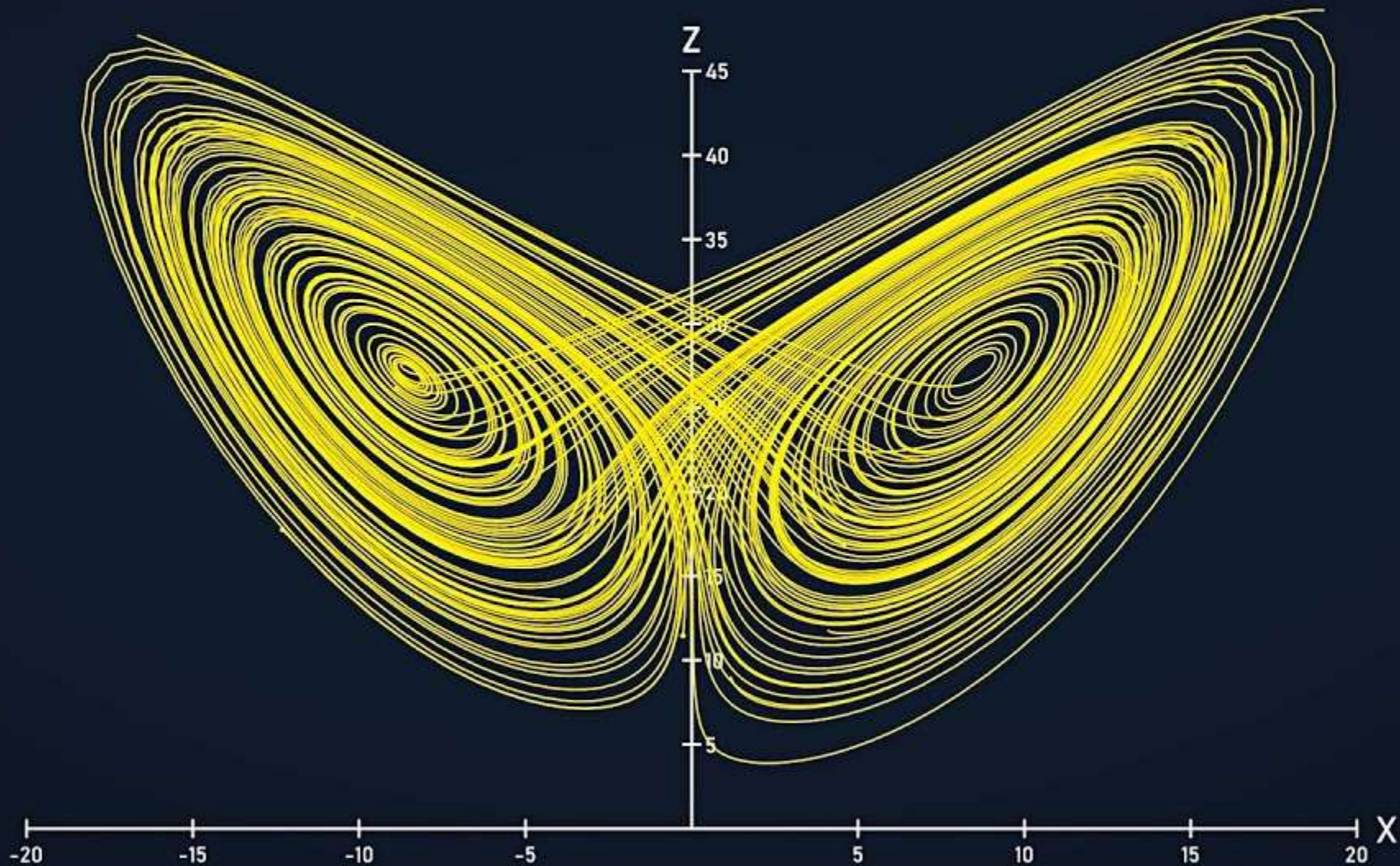
Chaos theory, in mechanics and mathematics, the study of apparently random or unpredictable behavior in systems governed by deterministic laws. A more accurate term, deterministic chaos, suggests a paradox because it connects two notions that are familiar and commonly regarded as incompatible.

**The butterfly effect** is the idea that small things can have non-linear impacts on a complex system. The concept is imagined with a butterfly flapping its wings and causing a typhoon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDek6cYijxl&t=44s> (butterfly effect)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrJNBIS6Okchhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp8wGQW-Y48>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wps2vtzi1TU&t=83s>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_7bbpvRp6I&t=71s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_7bbpvRp6I&t=71s)

# Chaos Theory



# Chaos Theory of Careers

*What you can control*



*Know yourself*



*Set goals*



*Watch the job market*



*Upskill*

*Learn to live at The Edge of Chaos*

*Accept change*



*Learn from mistakes*



*Welcome uncertainty*



*Take planned risks*





# Artists Exploring Order and Chaos

In the chaos of the contemporary world, increasingly uncertain and hardly classifiable, shaken by conflicts and [pandemics](#), we are still looking for firm points. We strive to understand the overall structure of events and, at the same time, the ramification of its details. The organization of parts is the necessary condition for a system to function, and when one part is misaligned -in machines, in a work team, in the human body- the whole mechanism suffers. The human inclination to order is, therefore, an indispensable condition for functionality and survival.

The human eye is cognitively trained to detect ordered patterns and underlying laws, to break down images into simple forms. Our eye strives to measure the degree of disorder in a system, looking for the linear laws that govern it. This is the scientific concept of entropy, which is essential in mathematical chaos theories, but it does not involve only scientists. This investigation is also common to [artists](#), who have been questioning the concepts of order, chaos, and entropy for generations, albeit through visual and not strictly mathematical tools.

<https://perfectpicturelights.com/blog/chaos-and-order-in-art-history-a-story-of-balance-first-chaos>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmqkF6wrpok> (good)

# Surrealism and Chaos

If traditional nonsense plays with the unexpected disorder of the universe Surrealism makes a much more serious attempt to economize it. Surrealism seeks an epistemological identity through the marriage of conscious and unconscious realities. By inhabiting the 'underground' both Surrealism and nonsense occupy a vertiginous place in time and space. The liminal consciousness of the subject, revered in Surrealism, is a much more troubled concept in nonsense literature. Although parallels can be drawn between the two styles nonsense does not share the Surrealist confidence of subjective 'transcendence,' explicitly the reintegration of man and nature, subject and object and conscious and unconscious.

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/videos/chaos-meets-beauty-surrealism-and-its-legacy>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYS8xZ4-xQQ&t=10s>





# Pablo Picasso--Guernica

- <https://www.openculture.com/2019/09/what-makes-guernica-so-shocking.html>



# Pollock--Explosive

Pollock's paintings are considered to be the first manifestations of Action Painting, where the subject of the art piece becomes the fundamental and conscious choice of the artist. He executed his vision without initial drawings and through using choreography – like a dancing ritual around the altar of a white canvas flattened out on the ground. In a perfect symbiosis with the paint, the painter's movements and the laws of gravity worked in unison to create revolutionary art.

- <https://artmonacomagazine.com/jackson-pollock-a-master-of-chaos-and-order/>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2015/6/29/admiring-jackson-pollocks-controlled-chaos>







# Hannah Hoch

Hannah Höch was a German Dada artist. She is best known for her work of the Weimar period, when she was one of the originators of photomontage.

<https://wilderutopia.com/performance/film/dada-as-the-antidote-to-war-and-capitalism/>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7gdqwtA3jM&t=75s>













Why did the abstract art of Mexico's ancient Mezcala civilisation so fascinate the Nobel Prize-winning scientist Ilya Prigogine? Christie's Pre-Columbian Art specialist Fatma Turkkan-Wille admires his superb collection and offers some theories of her own.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TBg\\_EheoUU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TBg_EheoUU)

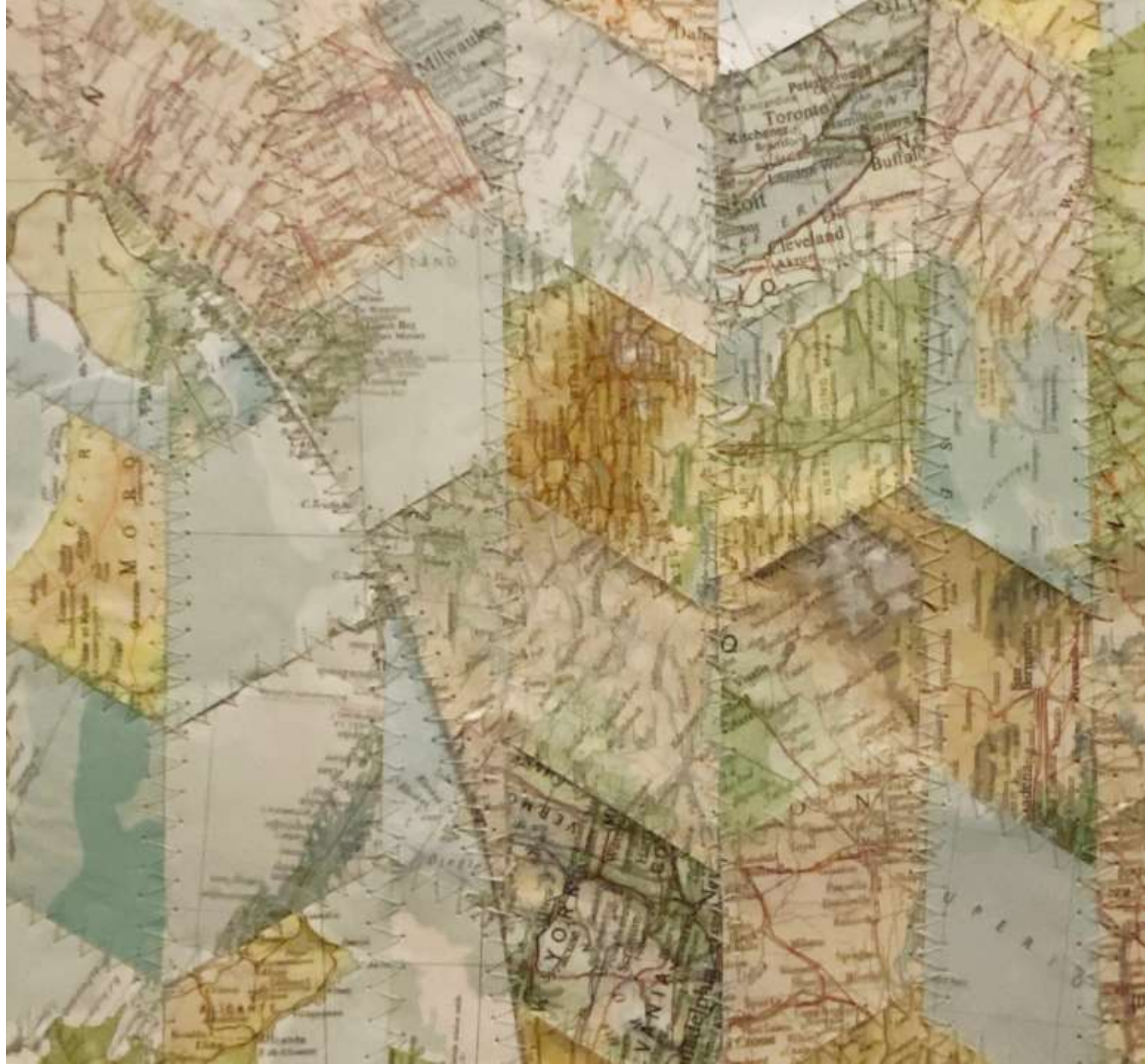
# Faith XLVI

Faith47 / Faith XLVII is a South African interdisciplinary artist who has held solo exhibitions in Miami, New York City, London and Johannesburg. As both a notable South African and woman artist, Faith speaks to issues of human rights, spiritual endurance and social issues.









# Will Day

William Day is an American painter known for his large-scale compositions of colorful shapes and energetic marks. Now living in Boulder, Colorado, Day can often be found in his studio working on multiple pieces at the same time. **His process leads him to create paintings in series, each focusing on different nuances of the human experience.** His works are comprised of textures and complex layers demonstrating his interaction with a canvas in a moment. These series of paintings all nod to certain periods of Day's life that bring years of intensity, joy, spirituality, conflict and resolution to the canvas.

Day begins each new work by rolling unprimed raw canvas out on the floor. Primarily working with oil and acrylics, he creates textures and layers with various tools, discovering relationships between the colors and the unexpected structures. **His paintings, which tower above their viewers, are monoliths of creative freedom projecting to the world Day's belief in the sublime powers of color and form. Inspired by hope and beauty, burgeoned by his own personal struggles, Day is an artist whose eyes are fixed firmly on the horizon.** After September 11th 2001, when Day's wife Aimee, survived the collapse of the World Trade Towers, Day left a career in finance and studied architecture at PRATT Institute, which ultimately lead him to becoming a painter.

**His architectural impulsivity carried over into his style of painting with expressive actions of manipulating his implements,** often those associated with construction. Day's work has been published in **LUXE Magazine, FORBES.com, WHITEHOT Magazine, STIR WORLD Magazine, TAINTED Magazine, 5280 Magazine** and has been a **TEDx Speaker**. His art is featured in both private and public collections throughout the United States, Europe and North Africa. He exhibits at galleries in Boulder, CO, Los Angeles, CA and New York City.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnVV1nG6zes>

















# Gary Eyster

Gary Eyster was an innovative, abstract expressionist artist with studios in Wilmington, North Carolina and York, Pennsylvania. Working until his death in July 2013, Gary never ceased exploring ways to express and fine tune his artistic vision. You can see more of Gary Eyster's work on his website: <http://www.garyeyster.com> Gary Eyster's work is represented exclusively by Webster Fine Art Gallery in Luling, Texas. For more information, please visit

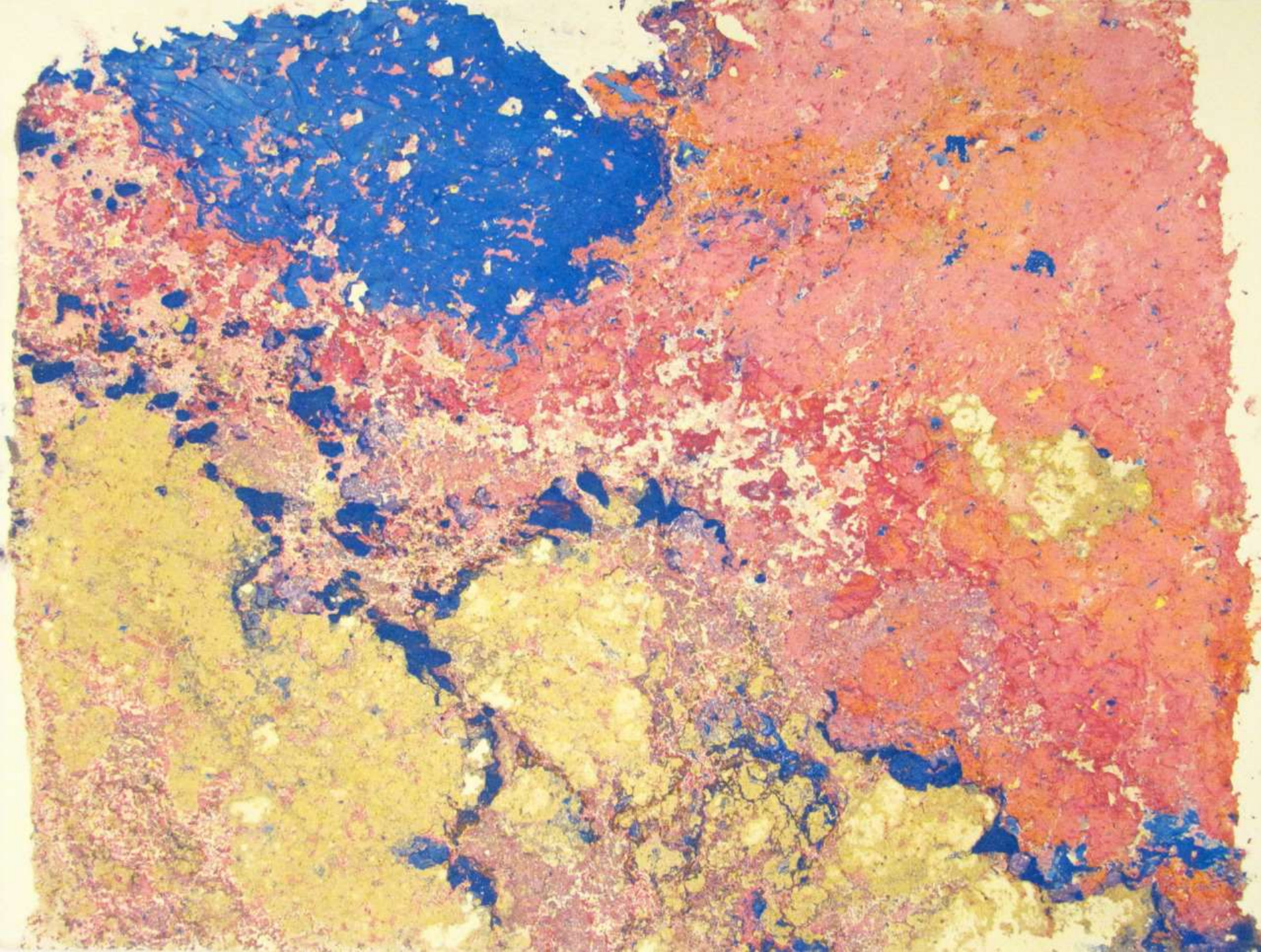
<http://www.garyeyster.com/links.php?3....>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ua5MDi4px9A>















# Bernard Cohen

[Bernard Cohen](#) is a British artist whose paintings tell stories about everyday existence and experience. Often described as an abstract artist, he explains why he does not consider his paintings to be [abstract](#). At his home in London, he shows us his sketchbooks and talks about the importance of drawing as a lifelong activity.

[Cohen](#) explains how he uses his drawings as a way of going back in time, often using a drawing from an old sketchbook as the starting point for a new painting.

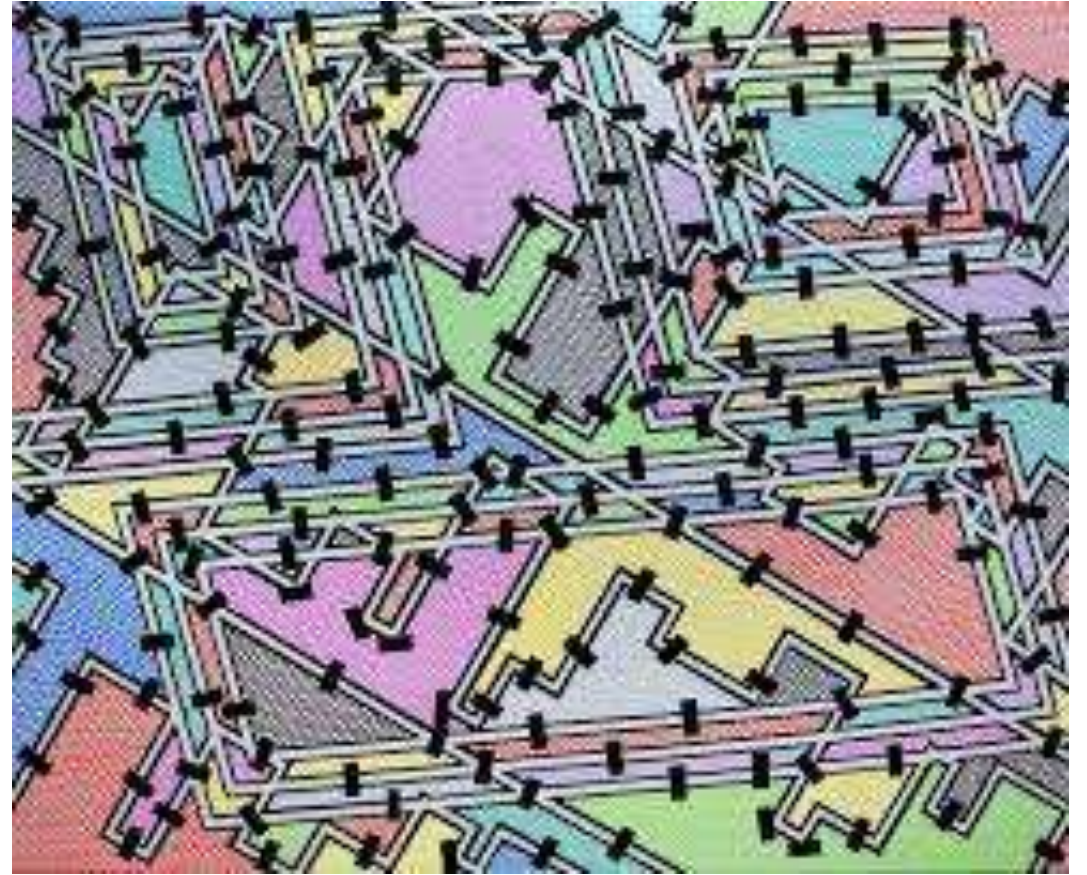
He takes us around his Spotlight display in Tate Britain talking through the stories behind a few key works.

- <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/bernard-cohen-924/bernard-cohen-matter-dancing-chaos>

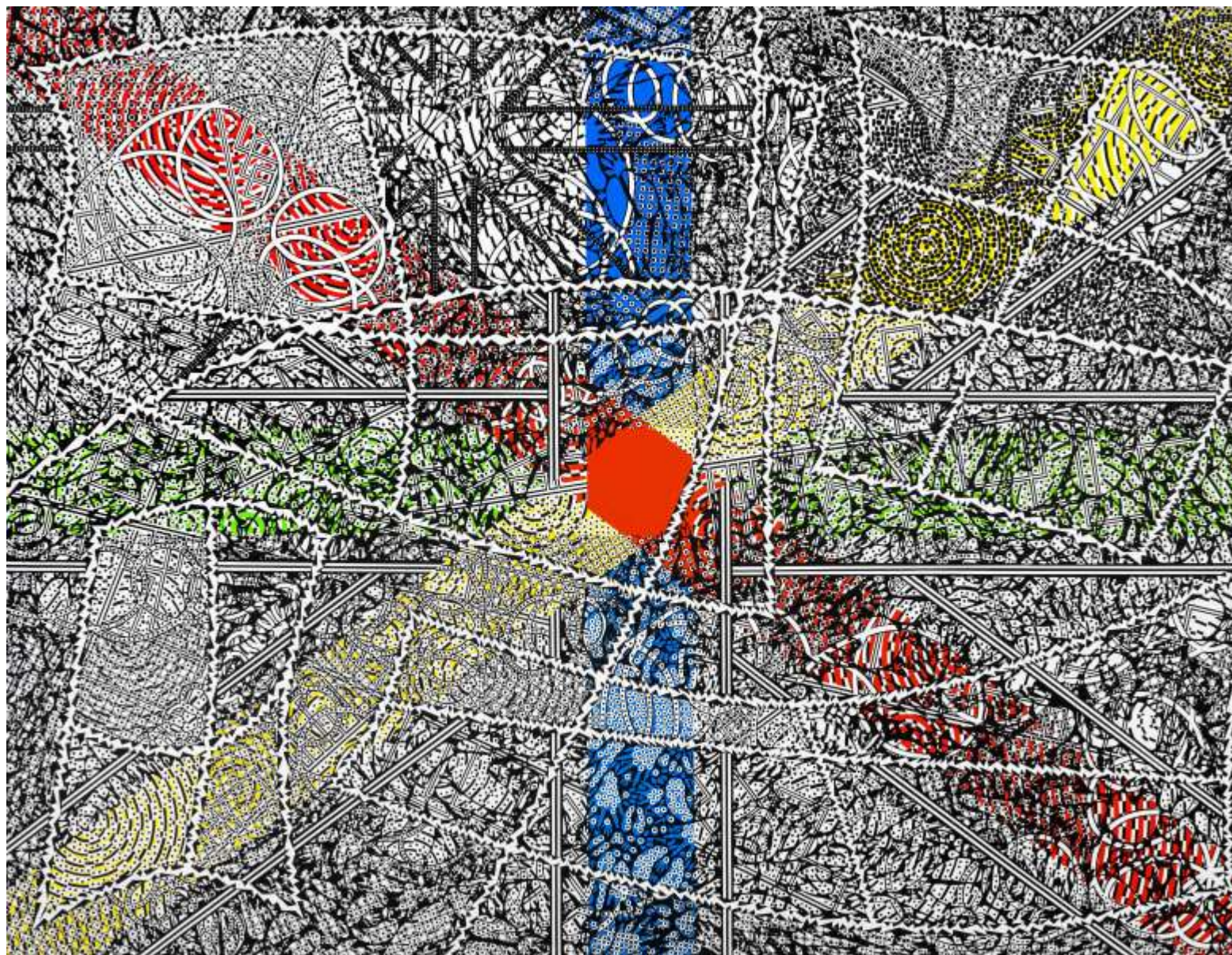






















# Tomoko Takahashi

Tomoko Takahashi is a Japanese artist. She was born in Tokyo in 1966 and has based in London since the early 1990s. She studied at Tama Art University, Goldsmiths College and the Slade School of Fine Art. Takahashi's main medium is installation art, often made of found objects, and is generally site-specific.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=outwVZZFy2Q&t=18s>



















# Shara Hughes

Brooklyn-based painter and printmaker Shara Hughes talks about her process in forming her paintings - getting lost in different areas and stepping back to find the right balance in the colors and compositions. As she puts it, there's excitement in how she never knows how the paintings will turn out. Shara Hughes will show 11 recent paintings at her first solo exhibition, "Unmanageable," with Pilar Corrias Gallery in London.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlkXExxQ1qA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LKr0jE3h0w>















# Rain Szeto

In [Rain Szeto](#)'s intricately rendered fictional universe, people partake in work and pastimes surrounded by stacks of books, snacks, merchandise, and mementos. Her detailed illustrations ([previously](#)) portray the organized chaos of everyday activities in domestic spaces and in shops, cafes, and outdoor areas. Typically centered around a single character like a baker behind a counter or a figure carrying a pot of flowers, the scenes are filled with quotidian objects, providing a lived-in feeling that brims with colorful energy.

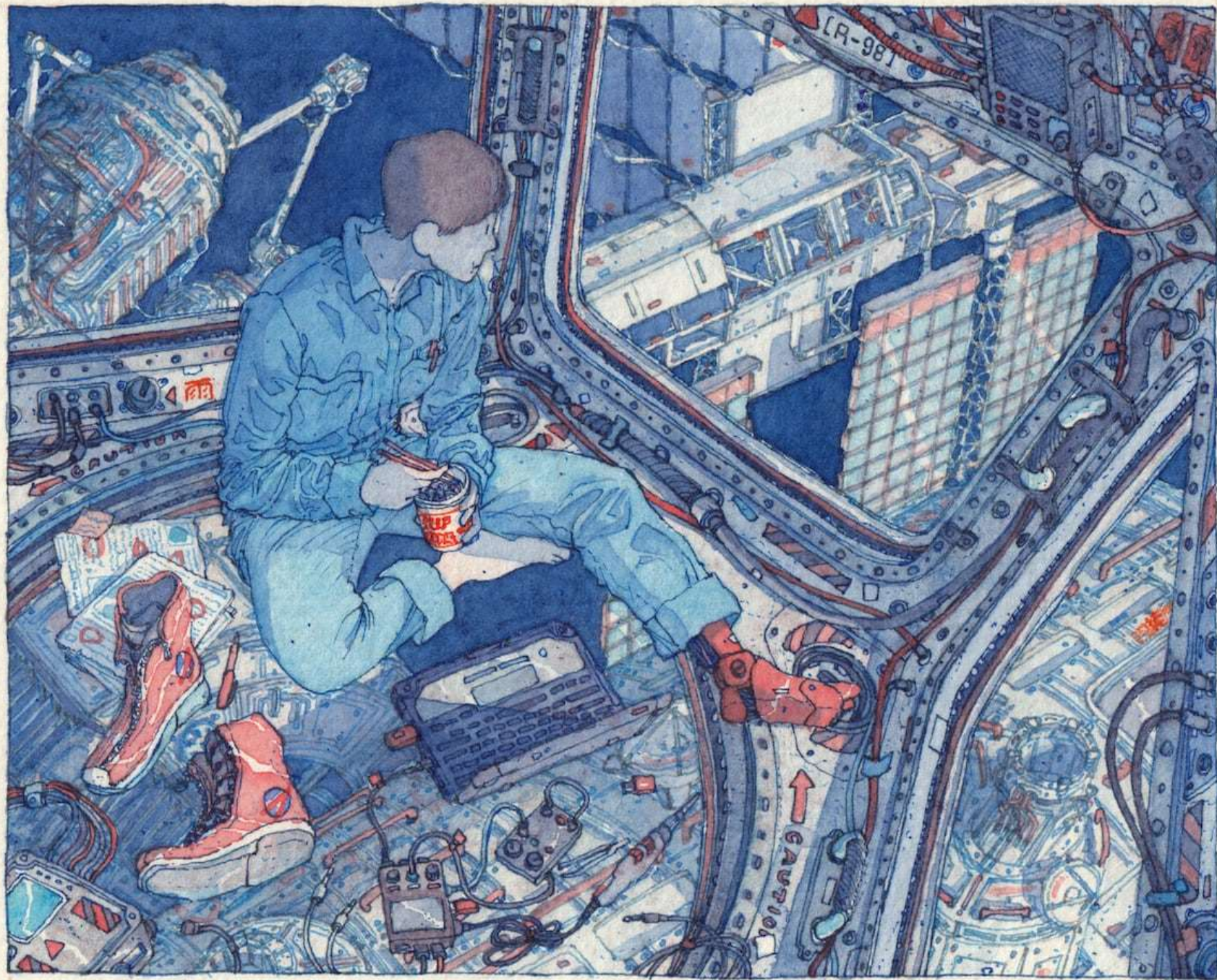
Based in San Francisco, Szeto began working in comics during art school, which cemented her interest in narrative drawings. Specific details like the design of food packaging, an elaborate audio mixer setup, or pastries in a glass case suggest individual hobbies, jobs, and personalities distinctive enough that they could be mistaken for real places. Many of her recent pieces also feature feline friends that stride by confidently or curl up on cushions, including an orange tabby that could just as well be making the rounds to all of the inviting spaces.

<https://soonness.com/collections/rain-szeto>



















# Holly Hendry

In a new five-part series of films, we examine how the art of breaking rules is critical to artistic practice. For our fourth film in the series, we joined Holly Hendry in her studio and on the Thames foreshore. With the help of artists featured in our exhibition Beano: The Art of Breaking the Rules, we wanted to explore how creatives are harnessing that rebellion. Here we study the fine art of chaos with Holly Hendry, an artist whose sculptures and installations are concerned with what lies beneath the surface, from hidden underground spaces to the interior workings of the body. Working with bright colours, sometimes sickly sweet, Hendry's work awakes a need to touch and understand the glossiness or rough surfaces of her work. Chaotically toeing the line between seduction and disgust, her works often address digestion, decomposition and skin as a 'container' of the body. On making work, Hendry says 'you're thinking with your hands before you think with your head', and it's these moments of the unknown, a suspended instance of upheaval, that helps guide her work.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvQYA0D2\\_n0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvQYA0D2_n0)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwNRbaPtP9k>











# Jo Messer

We take a behind-the-scenes look into the studio of artist Jo Messer. Different shades of color, seafood obsession, and nude female figures are all part of the organized chaos that forms her work.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmJlq4DVRs4>











# Zach Harris

LA-based artist Zach Harris discusses the visionary in his work while showing us his studio practice through drawing, painting, and carving wood. Bosch-like figures, Last Judgment scenes, and a variety of colors all fill his intricately-designed pieces. In his own words: “I'm just like an adolescent kid who's depicting his world.”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ0Us8ezddl>



















# Amalia Pica

Amalia Pica is a London-based Argentine artist who explores metaphor, communication, and civic participation through sculptures, installations, photographs, projections, live performances, and drawings.

Argentinian artist Amalia Pica uses everyday objects to explore how joy and happiness can be a form of resistance. Now based in East London, the artist talks about growing up in Patagonia under dictatorship and how that experience has influenced her work.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmuW53P-WqE>



















# Kiki Smith

'I don't question my impetus...I just do it and see what happens,' says artist Kiki Smith. From her home in New York, which also serves as her studio, Kiki Smith talks about the ongoing experimentation that drives her art, from the provocative sculptures of the female body that made her a leading feminist artist in the 1980s, to her more recent work that draws inspiration from the nature. 'I don't try to set my work on any path or any direction. I really try to follow it,' she says. 'As much as possible I don't question my impetus or motive for doing something. I just do it and then see what happens.'

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AT7jKNlgbBI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVKdSuNdk8g>











# Rose Wylie

Artist Rose Wylie takes inspiration for her paintings from film, literature and even the scraps of newspaper articles on her studio floor. Often arranging her large-scale paintings in book formation, so that they take on the angles found at the corner of a room, Wylie's use of familiar imagery allows her to tell stories and explore themes of representation in narratives already in the public domain.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMWSe0Mkzjg>







Dark-haired Miranda mostly hidden in  
her favourite chair. Miranda used as a ticki-  
ng clock device for passing time, 15 when the play  
starts. 3 in the painting 9 ... to it comes in.

# MIRANDA

Twice

AGED 3



FILM

THE WHITE CHAPEL











# Caragh Thuring

'How can you make something that is flat against the wall take up space?' Artist Caragh Thuring talks about her new paintings and the representation of space in two dimensions. Focusing on architectural elements or landmarks, Thuring's paintings begin with extensive visual research - research which leads straight to paintings directly on to unprimed linen canvas. In this film she discusses where her inspiration comes from, how she knows when a painting is finished, and the 'act of generosity' it takes for a viewer to spend time with a painting.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDHIV7-tamI>















# Cai Quo Qiang

Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang (b. 1957) is best-known for his gunpowder explosion events staged in public spaces worldwide and, in particular, for his firework display for the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. This exhibition focused on the artist's smaller-scale works, exploring the presence of Chinese culture in his art through the mediums of painting, drawing, and gunpowder on canvas, paper and silk. Learn about the significance behind the materials Cai Guo-Qiang chooses to work with, as well as the ways he adapts them to explore his own central themes of creation, destruction and chance.

- <https://www.ashmolean.org/event/cai-guo-qiang-gunpowder-art>































# Cameron Taylor-Brown

**My artwork reflects a passion to shape order out of chaos - to start with bits of thread and create something complex and satisfying where nothing existed before. As I create, I embrace and celebrate the ancient heritage and language of woven cloth. The rhythms and interplay of pattern, color and texture fascinate me, and the tactile quality of the actual fiber is extremely satisfying. I thrive on the challenges and opportunities presented to me as I move forward to explore new and interesting possibilities."**

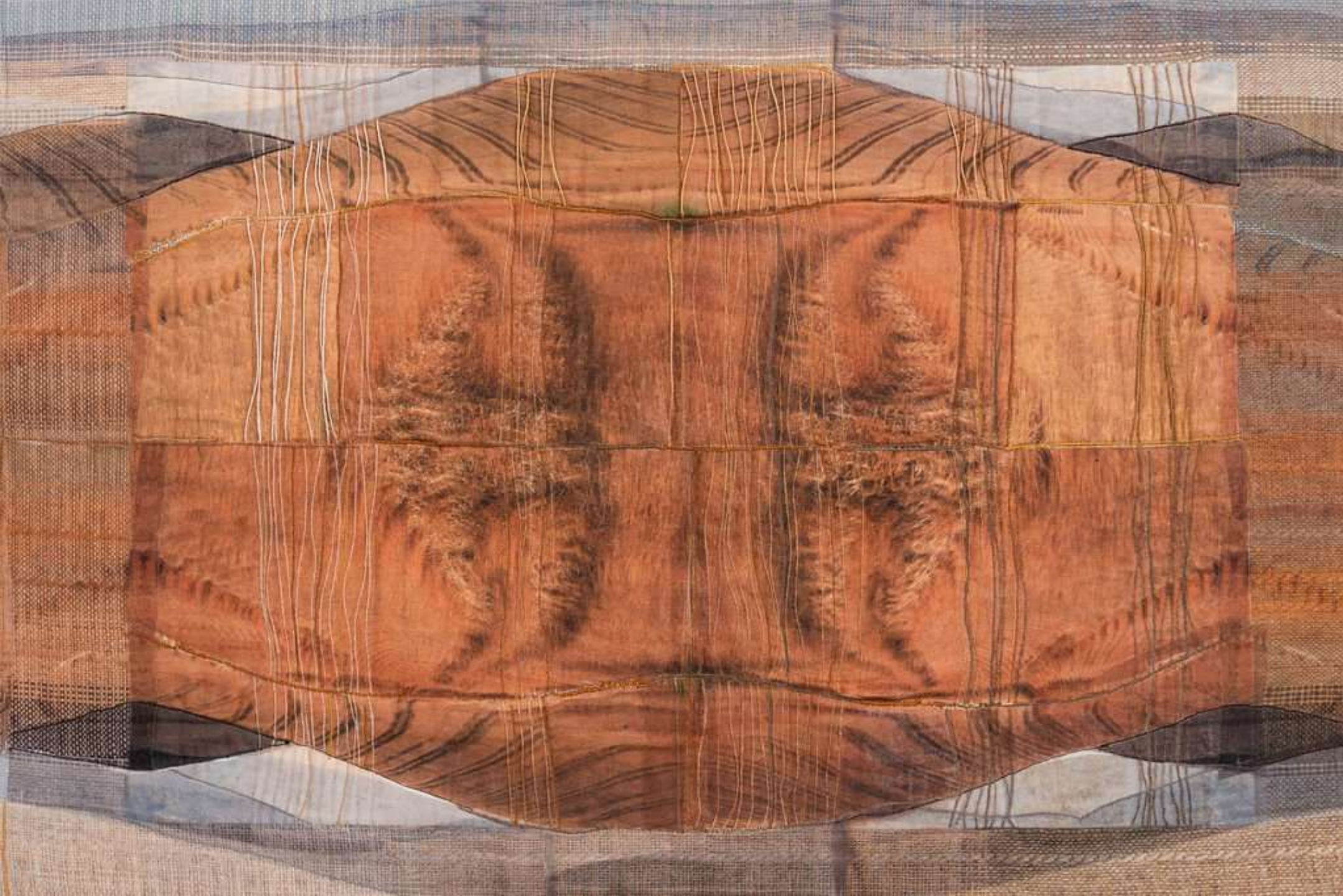
**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Jl3th\\_p6o&t=66s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Jl3th_p6o&t=66s)**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZOtNNvDV9k>**





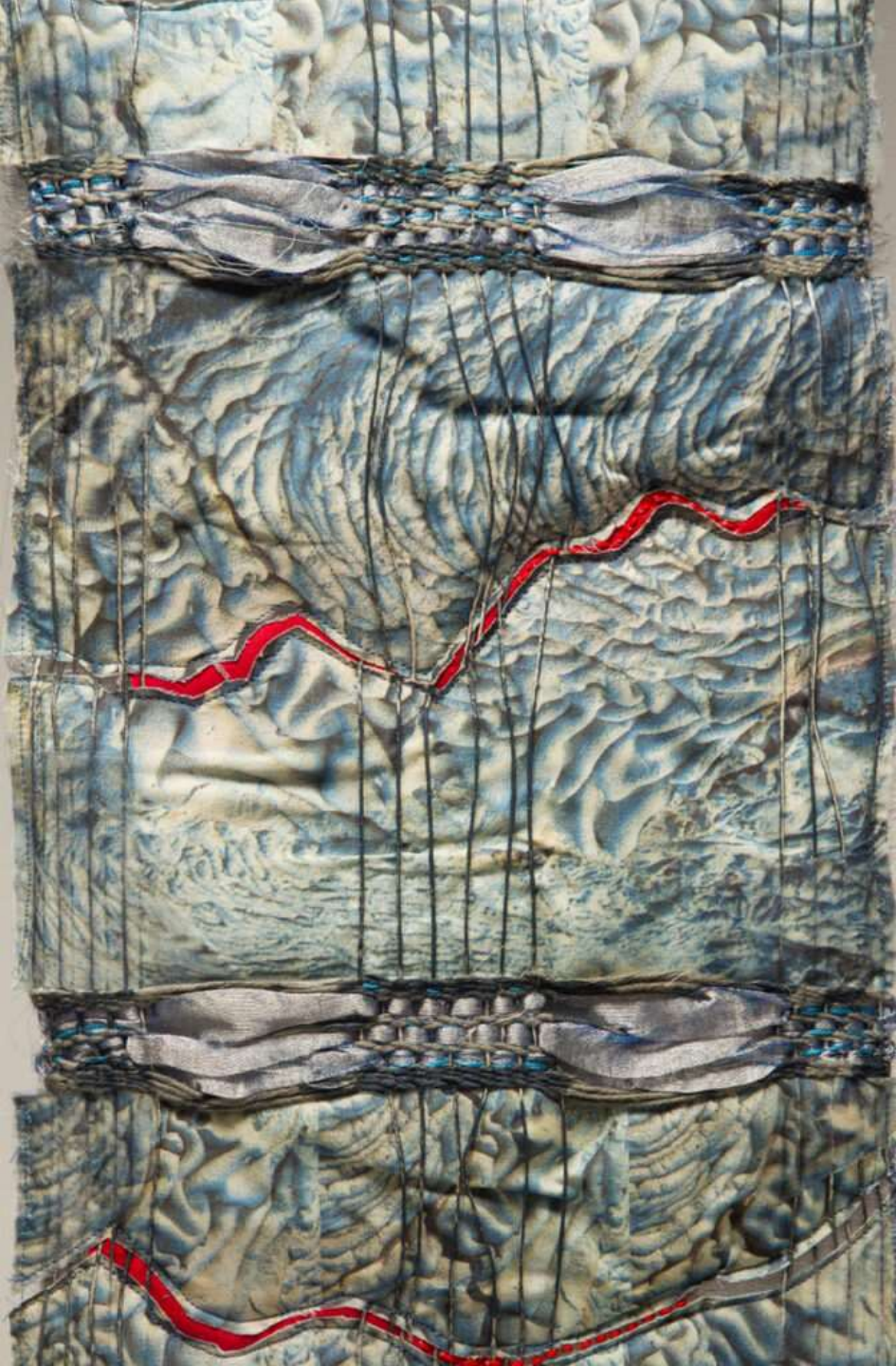














# Tamiko Kawata

The humble safety pin finds itself at the center of [Tamiko Kawata](#)'s meditative practice as its assembled into metallic wall hangings and sculptures that bulge and protrude from their bases. Accentuating the interplay of light and shadow, the Japan-born New York-based artist, who is almost 90 years old and still working, capitalizes on the simplicity of the thin wire and clasps. She groups and links the fasteners into sprawling forms or textures pieces that evoke tapestries woven with different colored threads.

Exploring the tension between lively disarray and a more meditative quality, Kawata prefers to begin with unassuming objects. She says in [a statement](#):

Discarded materials are important to me because of environmental issues and also as a reflection of my current life. My choice of materials and interpretation are influenced by the differences that I experience between life in America and in Japan, where I grew up. I often use repetition and aim to create energy and chaos, within quiet stillness.

- <https://www.garveysimon.com/videos/inside-tamiko-kawata-s-studio>















# Leonardo Drew

Using a variety of materials—wood, cotton, canvas, paper, steel, aluminum, sand—Drew makes dynamic sculptures that explode and expand into their spaces. These gravity-defying sculptures convey a feeling of barely contained or restrained energy and chaos. “I think of it as making chaos legible,” he says.

<https://www.huntermuseum.org/leonardo-drew>

<https://ysp.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/leonardo-drew>



















# Sabrina Bockler

Two small dogs with long, silky hair stand atop an elegant table, one pawing at a basket of fruit and the other retrieving a fish from a platter. A bowl of strawberries has already been upturned, flowers pulled from their arrangement, a thickly piped slice of cake squashed by careless gluttony. Rendered in acrylic on linen, the still life (shown below) is titled “Decadence and Disaster,” an apt phrase to describe much of [Sabrina Bockler](#)’s body of work.

The Brooklyn-based artist relishes in mischief and disruption, painting scenes of opulence destroyed by pets or unsettled by an uncanny, foreboding feeling. Her works often imply a painstaking labor visible only through the resulting decorations, the crustacean towers, perfectly sliced melon, and floral bouquets cascading from their vases. Given the domestic nature of the settings, those preparations are coded feminine and part of Bockler’s broader inquiry into the value of women’s work.















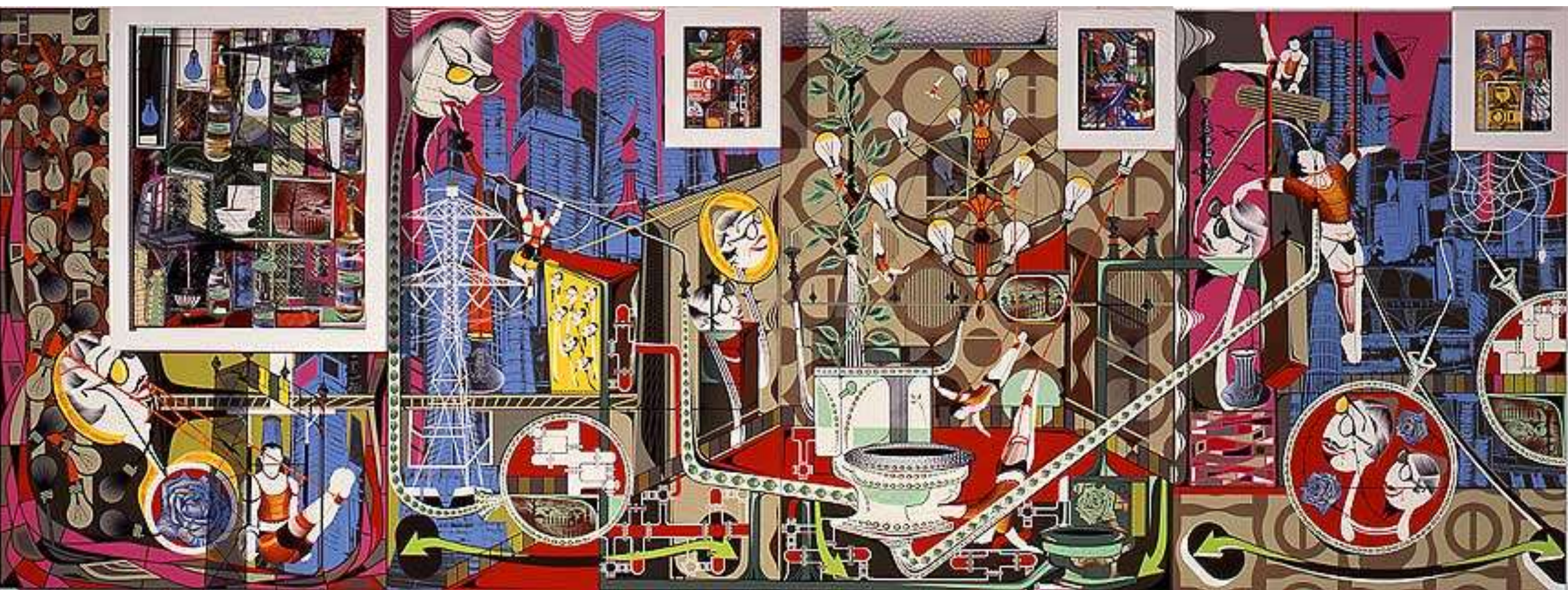
# Lari Pittman

Lari Pittman's references and background which inspire his paintings and drawings include the freedom and chaos of the city, his memories of growing up in Colombia and his "very, very strong Mediterranean core."

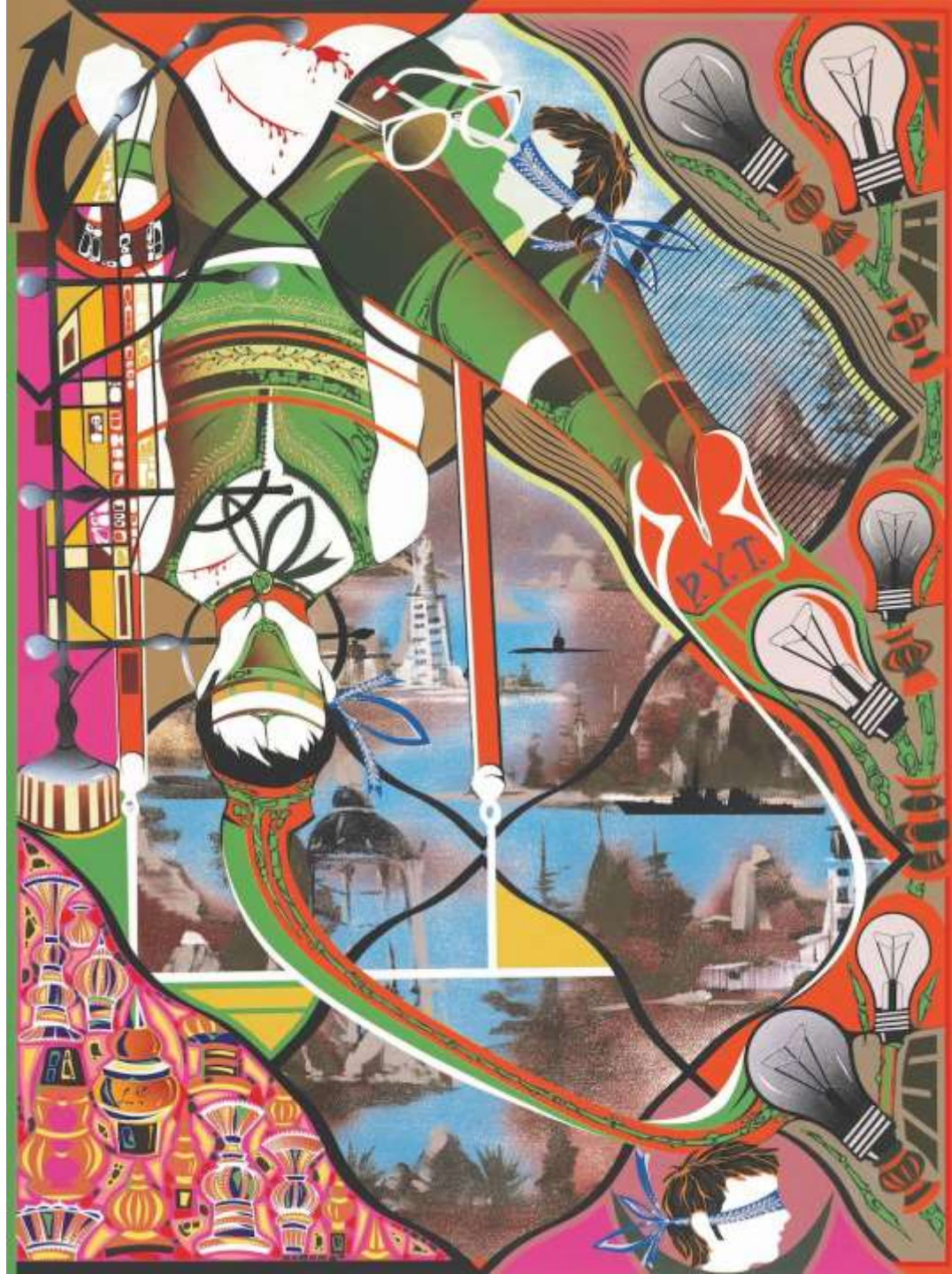
Despite a charmed childhood, Pittman explains that what keeps him "radicalized" is an awareness of this country's attitude towards the gay community. He also explains how he draws inspiration from religious images and retablos as well as gardening and landscaping. "I don't respond to the idea of nature at large. I prefer landscaping," says Pittman, "...landscaping as a way to push back, a little bit, the chaos of nature...the kind of violence of it."

- <https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s4/lari-pittman-in-romance-segment/>











# V.S. Gaitonde

Vasudeo S. Gaitonde, also known as V. S. Gaitonde, was regarded as one of India's foremost abstract painters. He received the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1971.

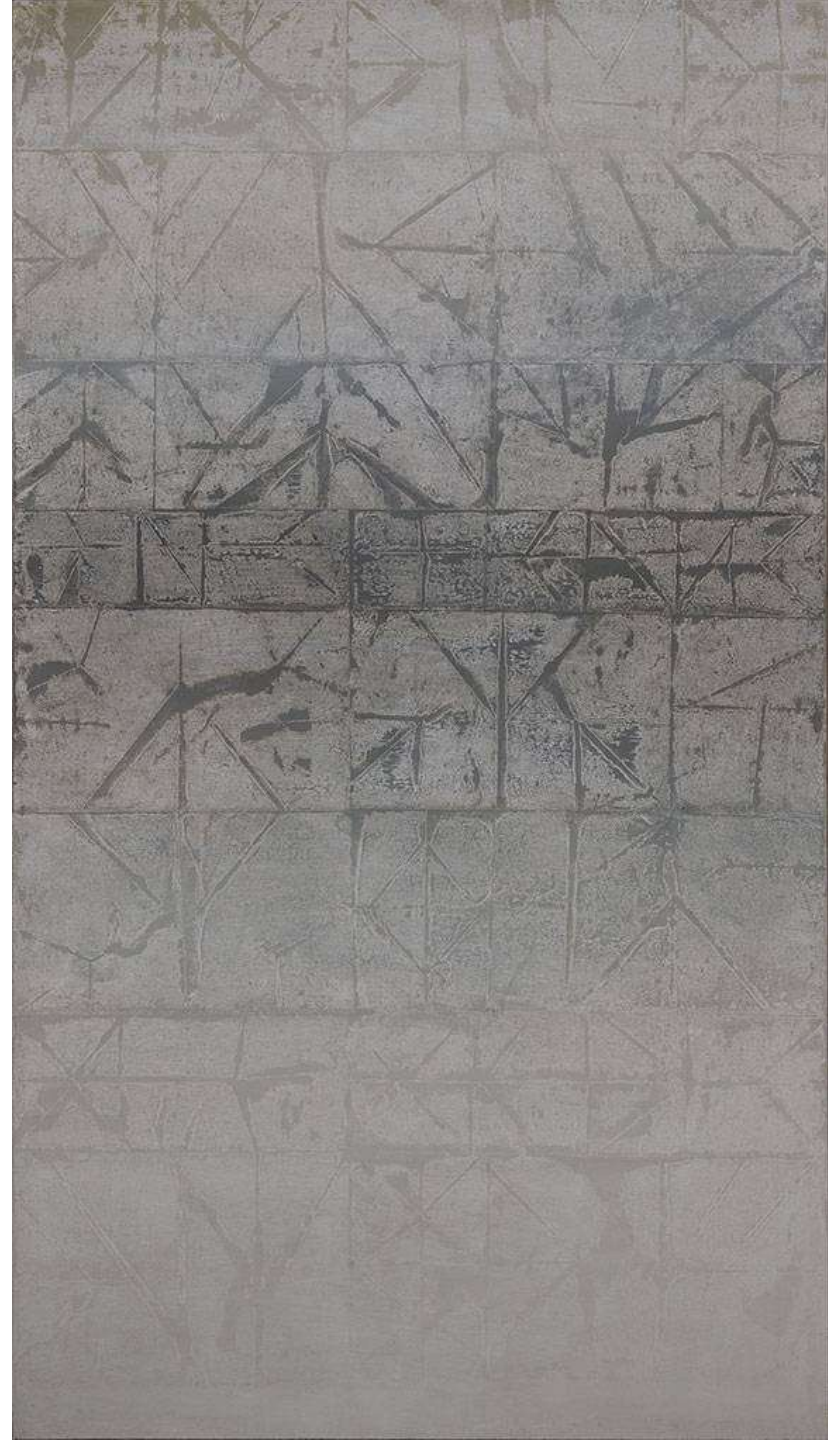
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycHNwwbTQZo&t=27s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHFGN3pxYcM> (use this)

Cara Manes, Associate Curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, discovers a haven from the chaos of the everyday amid the “silence” and imperfection of Vasudeo S. Gaitonde’s "Painting, 4."

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJIHPTS\\_wrs&t=44s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJIHPTS_wrs&t=44s)















# Assignment Suggestions...

- Start off with an “accident” or uncontrolled event—spilled coffee, wine or paint, for example—work with it to create an artwork.
- Spray or spill water or another liquid on an artwork and work with it.