

Statement

The work of Maria Saygua André takes the form of installations in which she explores textile structures in relation to sculpture. She develops a ritual practice around natural or reused materials with which she begins a quest for gestures. With this protocol, she seeks to give substance to these fertile projects, to anchor them, to give them roots.

In constructing her ritual, she shapes her plural identity, between the West and the Andes, by questioning the know-how and epistemic resources available to her, from historical archives to oral stories, in order to create new imaginaries. Vestiges of a time that does not exist. In this way, she questions the hierarchical dissociations between craft and contemporary art, between North and South.

From fibre to stoneware, from mental projection to object, the material becomes the subject. Porous, it evokes identities that don't merge, but articulate each other. Between constituted reality and fictional world.

Biography

Maria Saygua André (Bolivia, 1996) is a Franco-Bolivian pluridisciplinary artist based in Brussels. Graduated in 2020 from the Académie Royale des Beaux-arts in Brussels, she has had the opportunity to present her work at various exhibitions in Belgium, including The Constant Now x S.M.A.K (Antwerp) in 2022, as part of POCPOC, a mentoring programme linking artists from diverse backgrounds with professionals from the Belgian art world. At C-mine (Genk) in 2022, in collaboration with Stormopkomst and Please Add Color for the creation of several performative works. At BOZAR (Brussels), at the invitation of «Les Vieux en Colère» as part of Next Generation Please. At Transplantation Gallery (Paris), a curatorial project proposed by Amandine Nana. At the Musée de la Manufacture (Roubaix), invited by Japanese textile artist Akane Yorita. And at the Wild Gallery (Brussels). She has taken part in international residencies at the Espronceda Institute x Art Nou (Barcelona) after winning the Espronceda-ARBA-ESA prize, and more recently at the Brakke Grond theater (Amsterdam) in collaboration with Sandra Delgado, a Belgian-Bolivian choreographer.

In 2023, she was awarded the SOFAM prize to continue her research into textile and ceramic techniques in her native Bolivia. In 2024, she has also been part of the Advanced Textile Programme mentored by Otobong Nkanga at the Textiel Museum in Tilburg, Netherlands, to further her theoretical and practical research into textiles.

In 2024-2025, she is currently in residency at the Fondation Carrefour des Arts in Brussels. During 2025, she will develop an artistic project through research residencies at cultural centres in Belgium such as Kunsthall Gent and Kunsten Centrum KAAP in Bruges.

Committed to creating social links, she has also been involved in a number of artistic and socio-cultural projects, such as the ASBL L'Accroche (Forest and Ixelles, 2021-2023), a social and cultural centre run on a voluntary basis and hosting a range of cultural events, workshops and free know-how-sharing activities. She also took part in the 'Bodies of knowledge' semi-nomadic class project devised by Sarah Vanhee (Brussels, 2022), which invited a diverse group of people to share their knowledge of their life experiences. She has also run workshops on her artistic practice in various cultural centres, including C-mine (Genk), Warande (Turnhout) and CC Factorij (Zaventem).

Maria Saygua André

Born in 1996, Sucre, Bolivia.

Lives and works at Brussels, Belgium.

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Education

- Royal Academy of Fine Arts / BA & MA in Textile art - Tapestry & Sculpture, 2017/2020, Brussels, BE : Laureate

- Atelier Chardon Savard / Fashion Stylist lev.VIII, 2014/2016, Paris, FR

- ESAAT / Baccalauréat Sciences and Technology of Design and Applied Art, 2012/2014, Roubaix, FR

Awards

2024 // SOFAM Bourse - Laureate - Sofam, Brussels, BE

2023 // SOFAM Prize - Laureate - Sofam, Brussels, BE

2021 // Minister of Higher Education Prize - Laureate - Becraft, Mons, BE

// Espronceda Prize - Laureate - Espronceda residency, Barcelona, ES

2020 // Laurent Moonens Prize - Selection - Moonens Foundation, Brussels, BE

Talks & publications

« Inhearts 3 » / [Publication](#), Museu Textil, Sao Paulo, BRA

« Mujeres de trenzas: ropa e identidades de las cholos paceñas » / Talk, june 2024, Centro Cultural de España en La Paz, BO

« SOFAM prize » / Publication, jan. 2023

« Bodies of knowledge » / Talk at the initiative of Sarah Vanhee project, déc./Jan. 2022, Brussels

Residencies

- Stormopkomst residency program / 2025, Kunsthal Gent, C-mine, Genk, KAAP Brugge, CC Westrand Dilbeek, BE (**ongoing**)

- Fondation Carrefour des Arts / Artistic residency, oct. 2024- jui. 2025 (**ongoing**)

- Investigations Museo del traje supported by Sofam, sept. 2024, Madrid, ES

- Textile & ceramic research in Chuquisaca's & Chochabambas communities, supported by Sofam, jan. - feb. 2024, Potolo & Huayculi, BO

« ATP advanced program » / Textile research program, nov. - dec. 2023, Tilburg, NL

« ASBL L'Accroche » / Artistic residency, september 2022 - april 2023, Brussels, BE

« Brakke Grond » / Movement research residency with S.Delgadillo Porcel / December 2023, Amsterdam, NL

« Espronceda Institute of Art & Culture » / Artistic residency, july - august 2021, Barcelone, ES

« Knust Festival » / Artistic residency, april - may 2019, Brussels, BE

Individual exhibitions

« Archeology of the futur » / Nov. 2022, Wild Gallery, Brussels, BE

Collective exhibitions

« Mythic thread » / March 2025, Royal Overseas League, London, UK (*ongoing*)

« Vestigios remains » / March 2025, SECONDrOOM, Antwerp, BE

« Biennale de Arte Textil Contemporânea » / Sept. 2024, Contextile, Porto, PO

« Guild » / Août 2024, Filet Gallery, London, UK

« What a time to be alive » / Jui. 2024, Mino art Space, Antwerp, BE

« Welcome to the Age of Chaos, Welcome to Entropia » / May 2024, LaVallée, Brussels, BE

« Maison de fumée » / Apr. 2024, Fondation Moonens, Brussels, BE

« A matter of life » / Mar. 2024, Textiel Museum, Tilburg, NL

« No images » / Curated by Magali Elali, dec. 2022, The Constant Now, Antwerp, BE

« FREETOWN » / Curated by Magali Elali x S.M.A.K Museum, Gent, BE, oct. 2022, The Constant Now, Antwerp, BE & Sept. 2022, Fire is Gold x S.M.A.K Museum, Antwerp, BE

« Archaic map » / Mar. 22, Le Lac, Bruxelles, BE

« Dirty games » / Curated by Kevin Kotahunyi, Stormopkomst, March 2022, C-mine, Genk, BE
April 2022, De Warande, Turnout, BE, May 2022, cc Westrand, Dilbeek, BE

« Archeology of the futur » / Curated by Kevin Kotahunyi, nov. 2021, CC de Factorij, Zaventem, BE

« Conversation » / During Art Nou Contemporary Circuit of Emerging Artist
Aug. 2021, Espronceda Institute of Art & Culture, Barcelone, ES

« Symbolisme Contemporain » / Sept. 2021, Buen Vivir, Ixelles, BE

« L.Y.F.E » / Jun 2021, Espace Vanderborcht, Bruxelles, BE

« The mirror and the lamp » / Curated by Pauline Hatzigeorgiou, Jan. 2021, Private space, Ixelles, BE

« Tremplin » / Feb. 2021, Abbatoirs de Mons, Mons, BE

« Next Generation Please » / Sept. 2020, BOZAR, Brussels, BE

« Hot Spots » / September 2020, Autonomie Art'S Center, Brussels, BE

« (In-) process » / Curated by Margaux Minodier, Oct. 2020, Abbaye de Forest, Forest, BE

« Ecole Paris-BXL » / Curated by Amandine Nana, Sept. 2020, Transplantation Gallery, Paris, FR

« Correspondance textile » / Feb. 2020, La Tour à Plomb, Brussels, BE

« Pointe, papier, fuseau » / Feb. 2020, MAAC, Brussels, BE

« Programme Délicat » / 2019, La Vallée, Brussels, BE

« Lignes » / 2019, La Manufacture - Museum of Memory and Textile Creation, Roubaix, FR

« Carte de Visite » / 2017, Vanderborcht Space, Brussels, BE



**Le fourreau (The sheath),
2025**

Textile & ceramic, jute yarn, ceramic beads, pigment
90 x variable dimension diameter





**Adornos (ornaments),
2024**

In-situ installation, handshaped clay beads, dyed knotted cotton yarn
Variable dimensions, 650 x 120 x 350 cm at Lavallée, Brussels



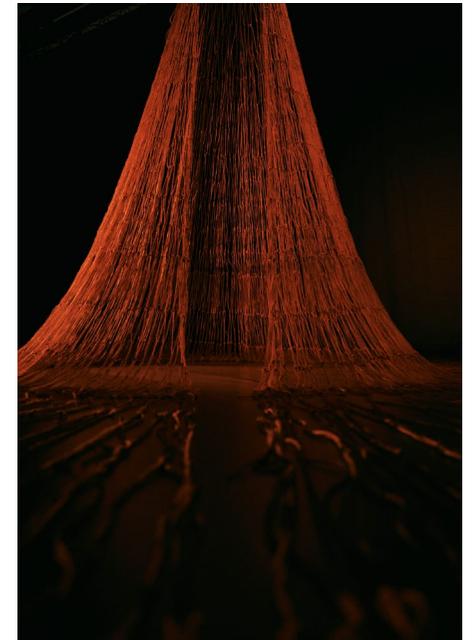




**Ashes walks,
2022**

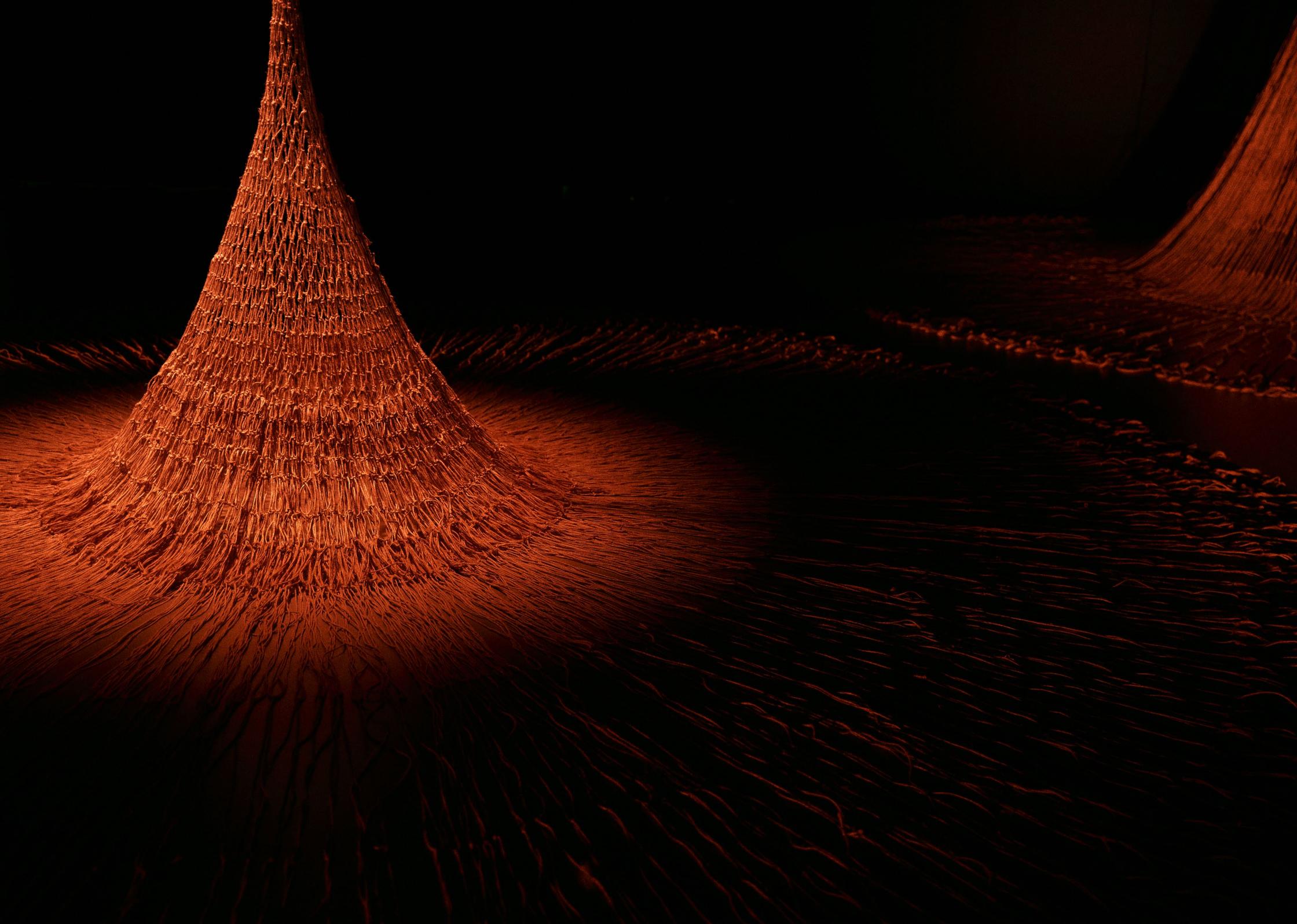
Performing installation, multiples of charcoal spheres,
8 x 8 cm, wood charcoal, ash, cley, 15 mm, video recording





**Grounding of gestures I, II,
2021**

900 cm x variable diameter, 1000 cm x variable
diameter, knotted net, linen, jute





Gestures of roams,
2020
Tapestry,
360 x 130 x 50 cm, sisal, cotton





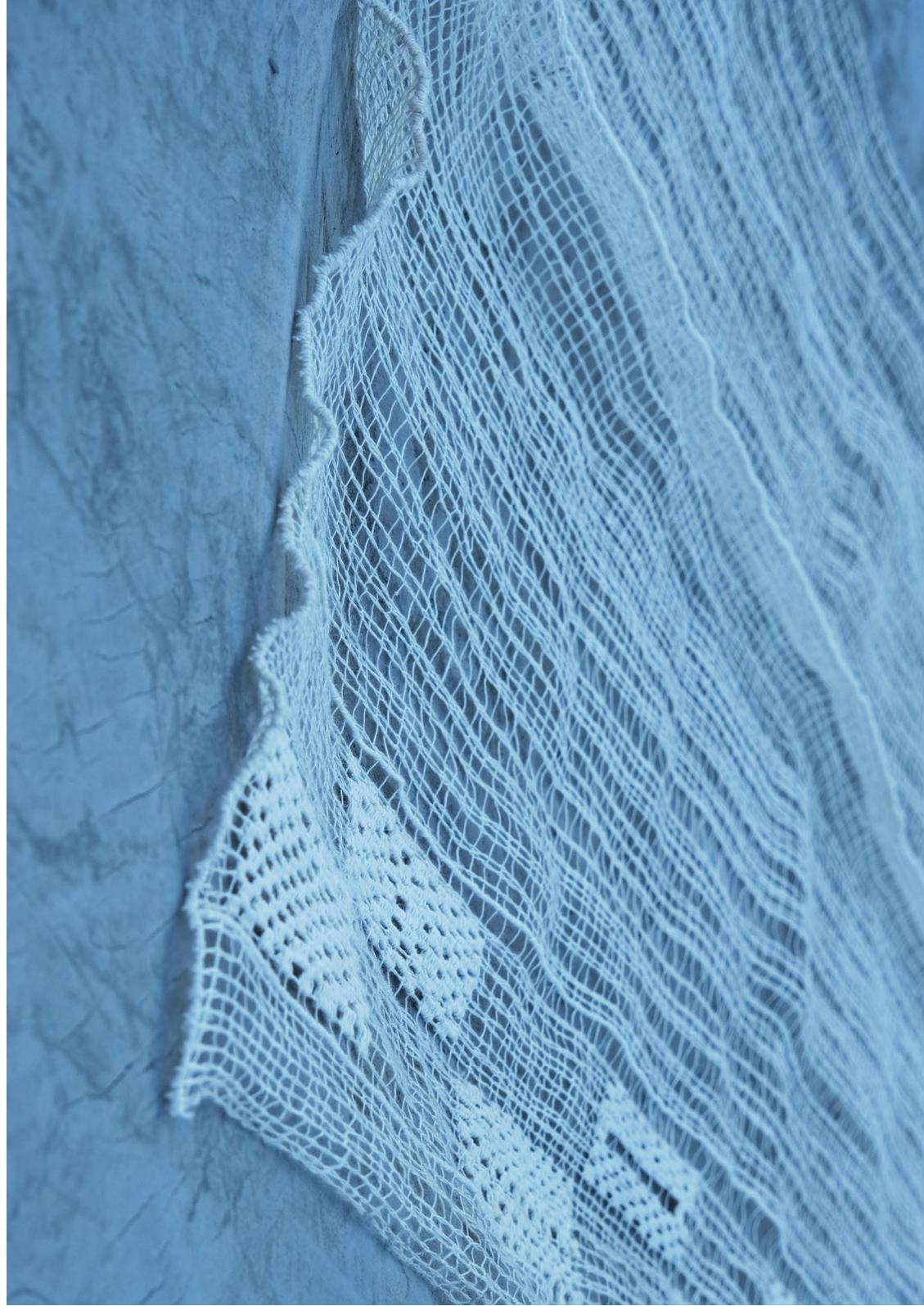
**Maintain / Bury the fire,
2022**

Installation

Woven gauze, linen, 104 x 74 cm

Ash Discs de cendres sculptées (33 pieces), 10cm diameter, x 0,8cm

Structure, ash and ciment 147 x 115 x 45 cm





**The bowl,
2021**

Metal disc and wooden structure
14 x 14 x 1 cm, carved steel
45 x 20 x 20 cm, burnt wood







**Atrapando el agua (catch the water),
2021**

Various dimensions, mixed technics
380 x 220 x 230 cm, filet, linen, silk, paper yarn
150 x 45 x 20 cm, sculpture, salt, water
14 x 14 x 1 cm, sculpture, steel
3'15 mm, video recording





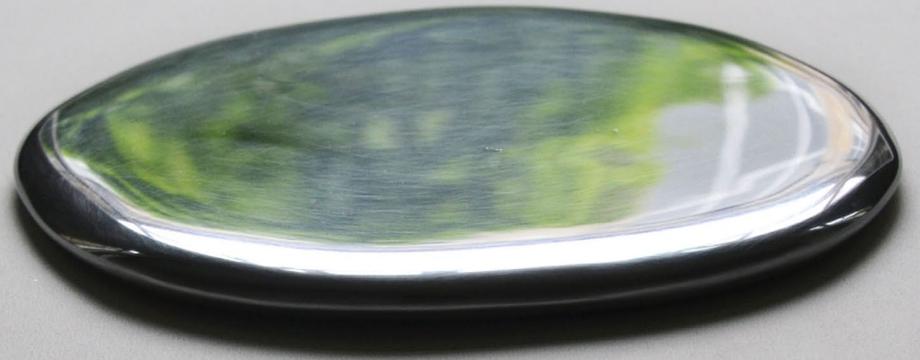
**Blow,
2020**

40 x 18 x 10 cm

9 x 9 cm, beech wood carving, charcoal carving



Disc I,
2020
16 x 16 x 1 cm, carved steel





Negative I,
2019
18 x 13 x 13 cm, beech wood carving



**Objet of reflection,
2020**
17 x 5 x 4 cm, carved cast iron





Negative II,
2020
30 x 28 x 13 cm, Carved beech wood





**Red,
2019**

Tapestry on a steel structure
305 x 170 x 30 cm, cotton, polish, steel





**Autonomous volume I,
2018**

30 x 17 x 15 cm, Split woven sculpture, front
Tapestry, cotton





**The door,
2018**

215 x 100 x 2 cm, tapestry, cotton, wool



