

LYUBOMIR KRASTEV

Portfolio

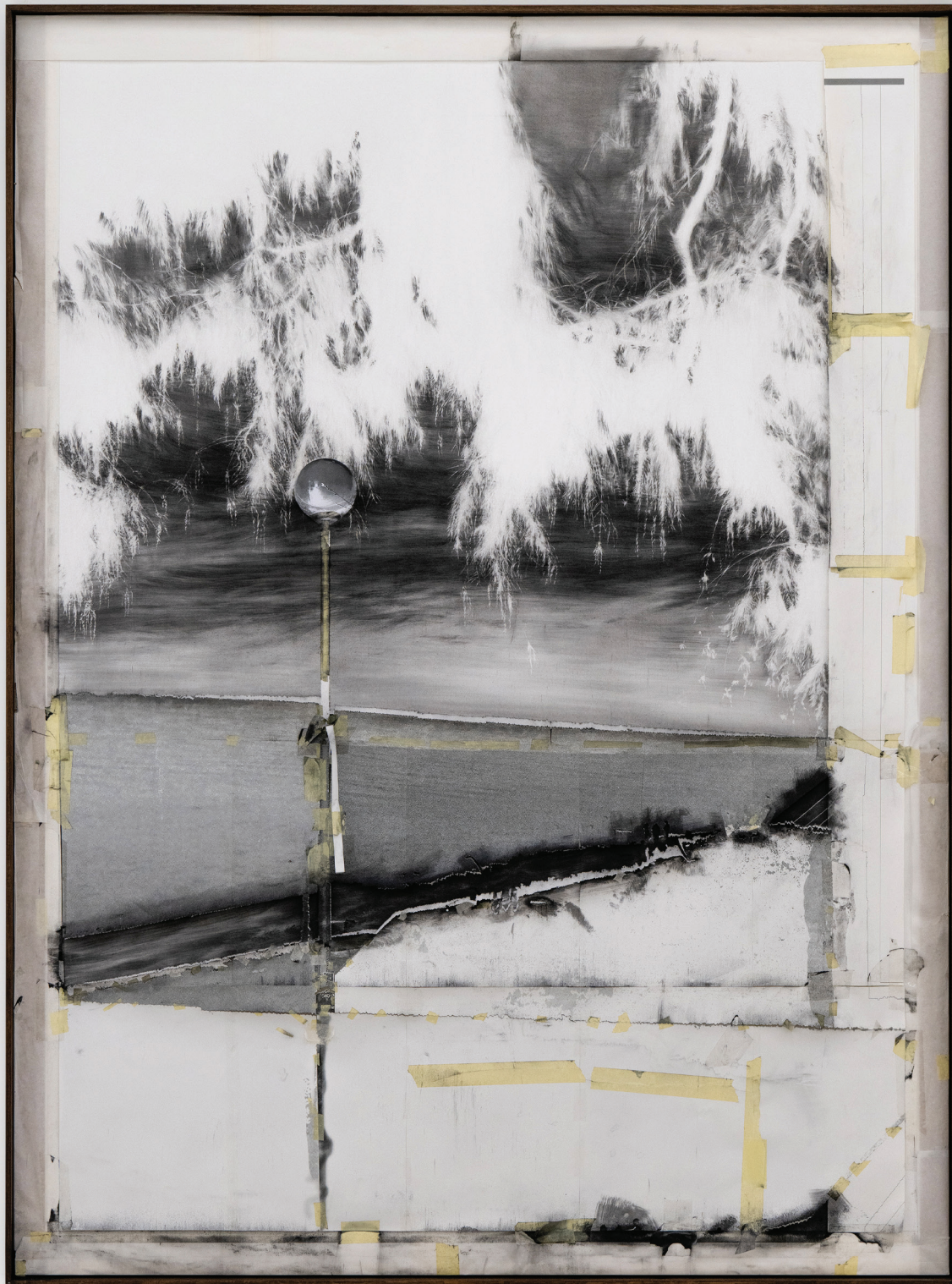




UNTITLED
2020-2021
Charcoal on paper
144 x 205 cm







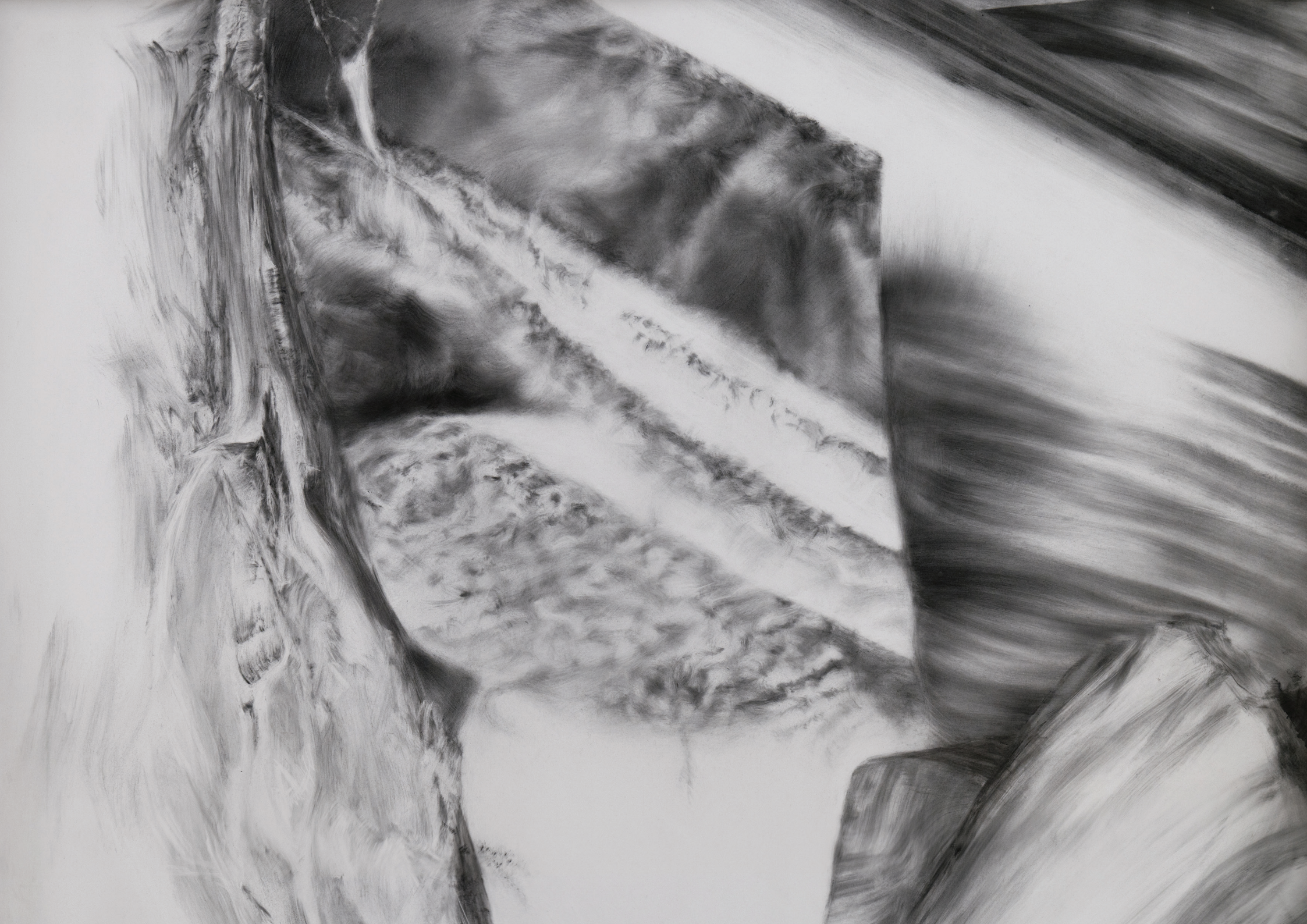
TULPA
2020-2022
Charcoal on paper
160 x 215 cm

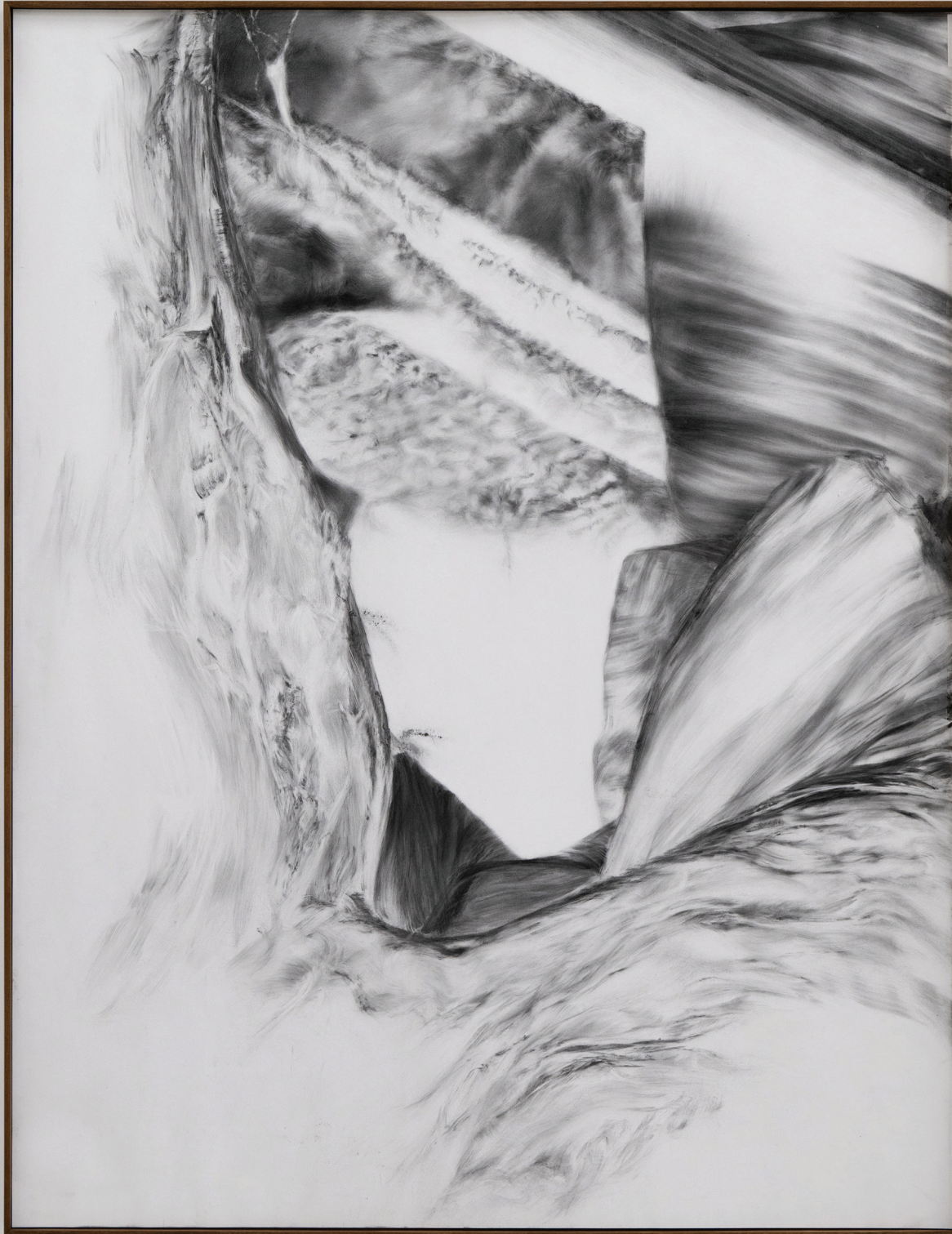




UNTITLED
2022
Charcoal and graphite on aluminium panel
145 x 200 cm



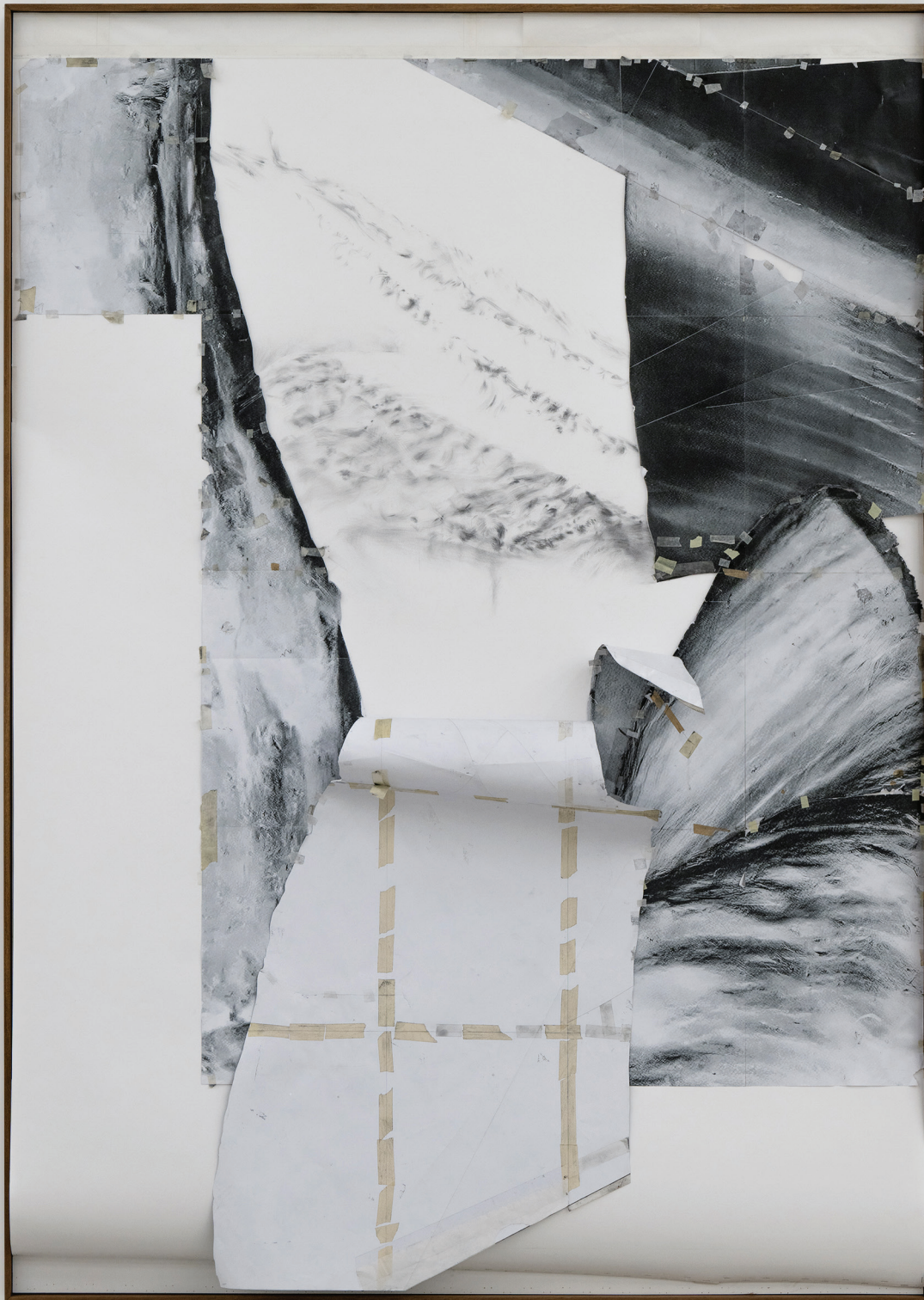




UNTITLED
2024
Charcoal and graphite on paper
150 x 195 cm

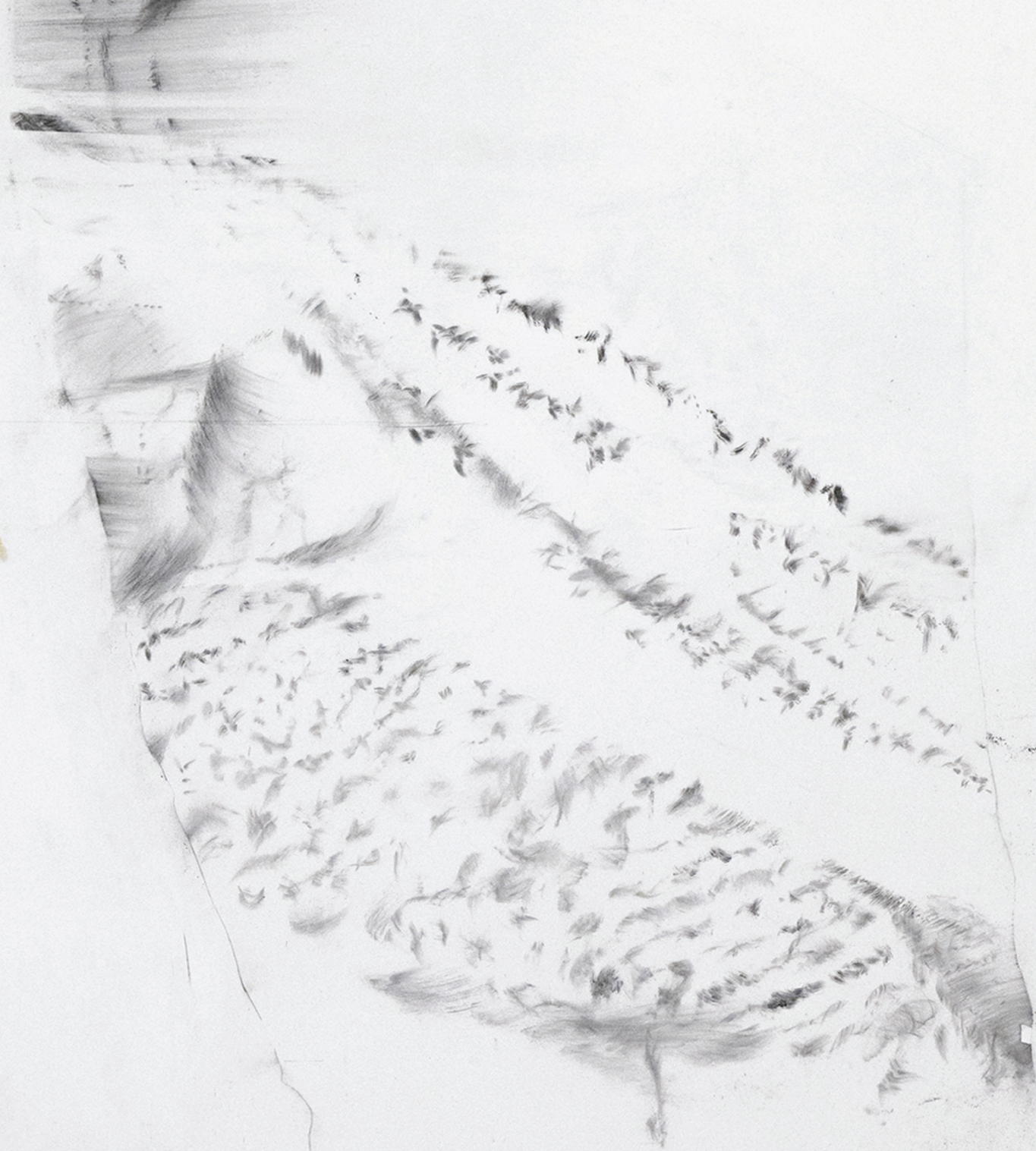






UNTITLED
2024
Collage, charcoal and graphite on paper
150 x 210 cm







UNTITLED
2024
Charcoal and graphite on paper
150 x 195 cm



Exhibition: Inconsistent Spaces, Structura Gallery Sofia, 2024

INCONSISTENT SPACES

curated by Maria Vassileva

22.10.2024 - 16.11.2024

Structura Gallery

Lyubomir Krastev has worked on this series of large-format drawings for almost four years. The length of the process is determined not only by the complexity and specificity of the technique but also by the search for an image that captures the essence of our problematic world with a minimum of expressive means.

Although inspired by specific landscapes, places, and situations, in the process of research and recreation on the paper, Krastev creates utopias whose connection to reality is almost lost. The clash between industries and urbanization on the one hand and the resistance of nature on the other, creates desert spaces in which only traces are left. Geographical, political, and cultural differences are unified and transformed into images with an abstract sound. Images-metaphors, images-predictions of possible future cataclysms, disturbing, depopulated landscapes, only hinting at past dynamics.

Krastev's process usually begins with a photograph taken by the artist or found, reversed in black and white. He starts a kind of game by transforming individual areas from positive to negative, shifting them, and enlarging them. This enables him to move away from the concrete and enter the abstract fields of emotions.

He transfers the intended image onto the paper with a highly complex, slow, and demanding immense concentration technique that uses charcoal and graphite powder. The included collage highlights the fluidity and instability of experience, often remaining on the spectrum of the superficial and transitory. In the project, individual realities, objects, and spaces from the natural, architectural, or urban environment bleed into one another, mutually altering each other. Lyubomir Krastev's work relies on oppositions such as visible-invisible, conscious-unconscious, metaphysical-real.

“The desire to be close to nature is increasingly palpable. But only in the form of escape...”, says the author. The exhibition is dedicated to the impossibility of finding harmony between what we have created and the surrounding nature. Somewhere, the connection has broken, and restoring it seems almost impossible.

Maria Vassileva

Photography by Yana Lozeva.

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