

**Ilya Yod**  
Contemporary  
painter



## BIOGRAPHY

The contemporary painter known as Ilya Yod is perhaps one of the most eccentric artists working today. His paintings and drawings combine striking visuals with strong concepts, and are known for their complex creative process based on extensive research. Marked by captivating colours, original shapes, and connection to art history, much of his artwork has been published in art magazines, including *Creative Boom* and *Aesthetica*, and have garnered increasing acclaim from art lovers worldwide.

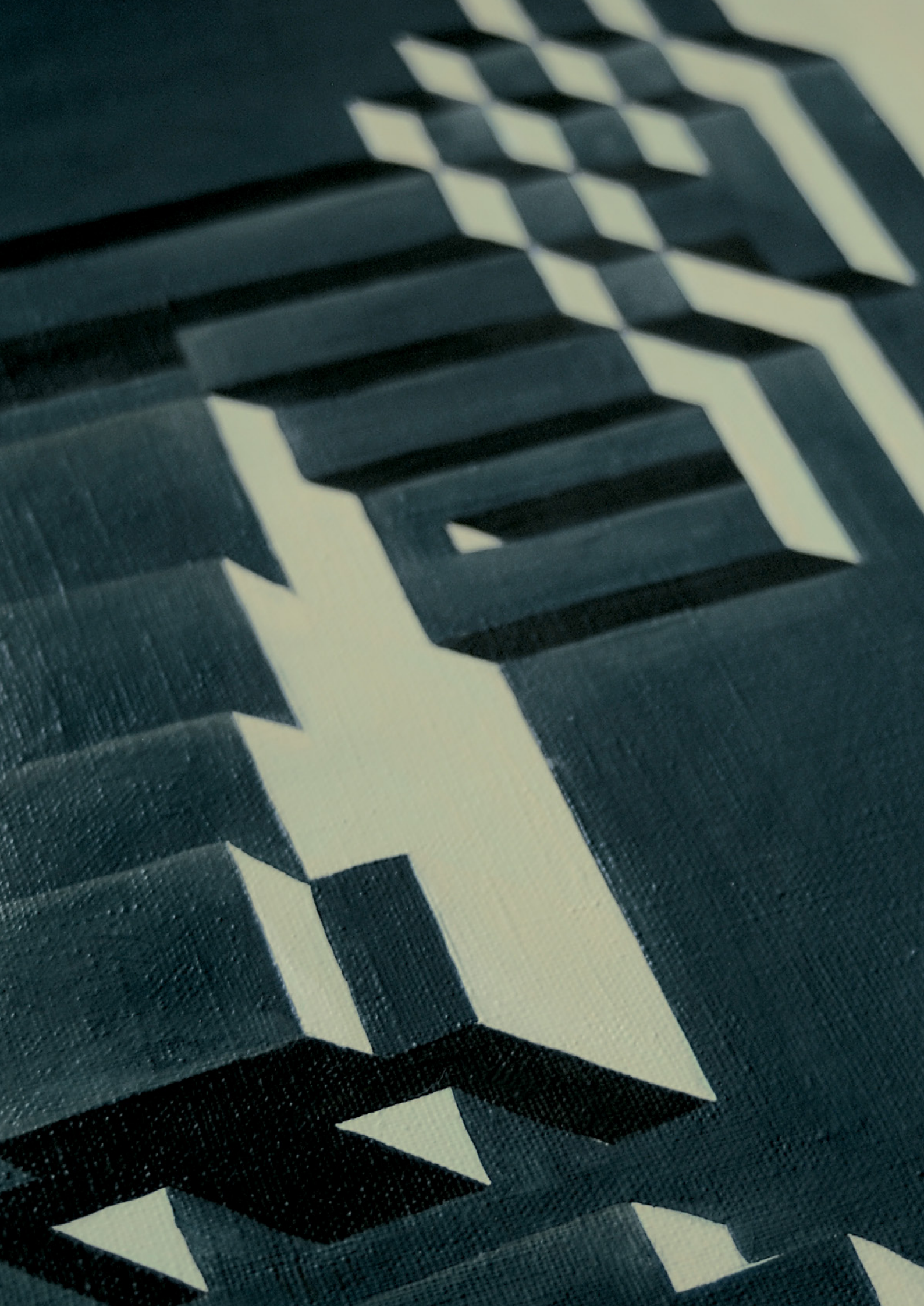
The private artist, Ilya Yod, does not want his identity or history to be known to the wider public, and has released very lit-

tle information about himself. After receiving his Bachelor of *Emerging Practices* from the *École Européenne Supérieure de l'Image* in Poitiers, France, in 2010, Ilya Yod has exhibited his paintings in more than fifteen international exhibitions, including the *Skur-ril* exhibition in 2018 at Marler Kunststern in Marl, Germany, the *Sacred Art* exhibition in 2019 at Saint-Pierre Cathedral in Senlis, France, and the *Hide and Seek* exhibition in 2022 at Skolkovo Innovation Centre in Moscow, Russia. In 2018, Yod's work was one of 100 selected for the prestigious *Contemporary Visions* international juried exhibition, hosted by the BEERS London gallery.

## THE ARTIST'S STATEMENT

"In my paintings and drawings, I explore the boundaries between visual and conceptual, figurative and abstract, real and imaginary, and traditional and contemporary. My complex creative process involves extensive research and blends traditional and digital tools to give my artist's vision a visual form, characterised by vibrant colours and straight lines.

Drawing on my own experiences and observations, I create art that reflects my perceptions of the world and explores the universal themes of cognition, humanity, and the nature of reality. My work invites viewers to engage in critical reflection and challenge their assumptions, expanding their ideas about the world and their place within it." —Ilya Yod.

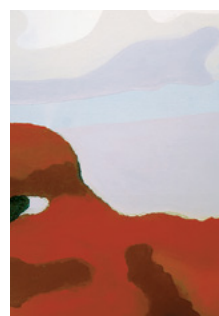
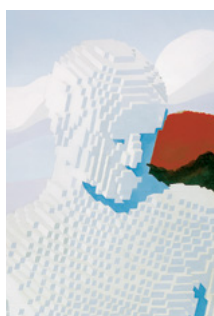
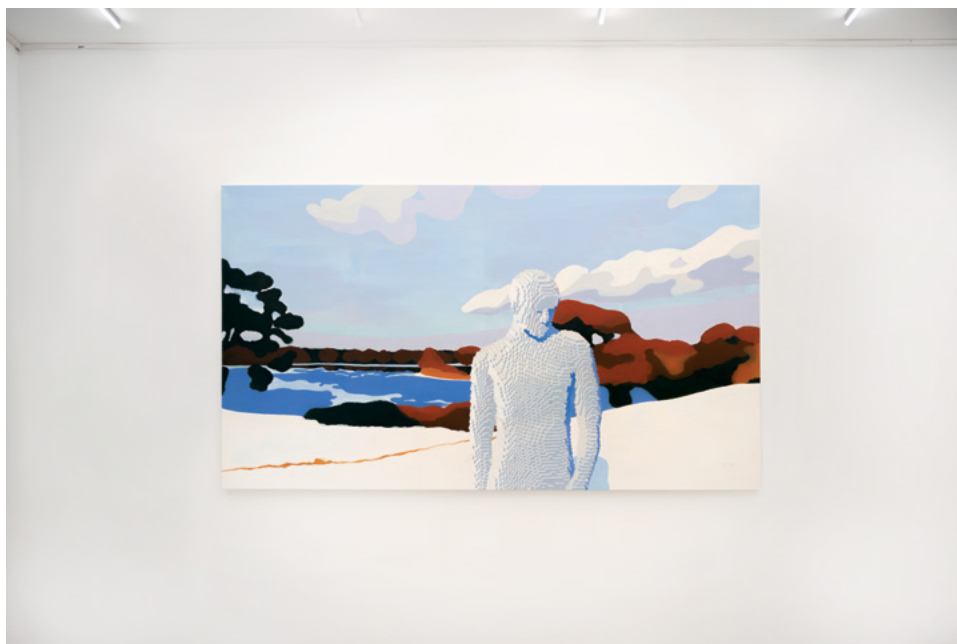


"I was around twenty when I stopped drawing people. I realized that the countless paintings and photographs of people we create are just fragments of our inflated ego. We live in a vast world, yet we only look at ourselves, at images that portray us better than we are.

One day, I thought I wanted to create an image of a person that would correspond to our inner essence and show viewers all the falseness of the images they're accustomed to seeing. I pondered and experimented for a long time, and finally, an idea struck me.

I crafted an image of a person that was simultaneously simple and complex. It resembled a human but at the same time was something else. It was a figure assembled from cubes, reminiscent of a character from the game Minecraft, where players create their worlds from blocks.

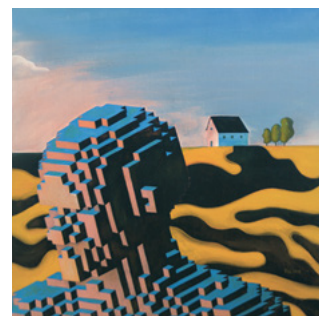
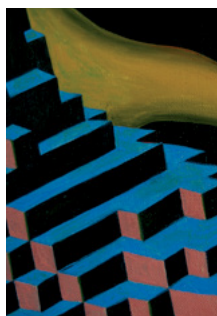
The image turned out to be truly powerful, and I began depicting it in my paintings. I wanted people, upon looking at it, to reflect on themselves. To see that they are much simpler, and simultaneously much more complex, than they are accustomed to thinking about themselves." —Ilya Yod.



**Figure 023 Part 1\_2020**

Medium: acrylic on canvases  
Size: 2 canvases 135X240X4CM  
N 056

Ilya Yod



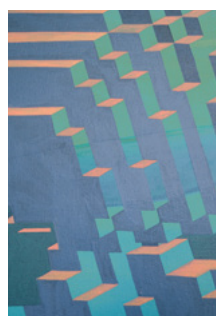
**Figure 015\_2018**

Medium: tempera on canvas

Size: 60X60X4CM

N 048

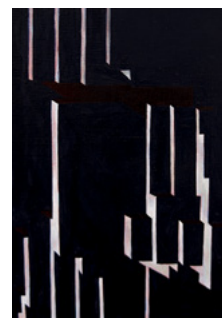
Ilya Yod



**Figure 018**\_2019

Medium: acrylic on canvas  
Size: 4 canvases (80X80X4CM each),  
160X160X4CM overall.  
N 051

Ilya Yod

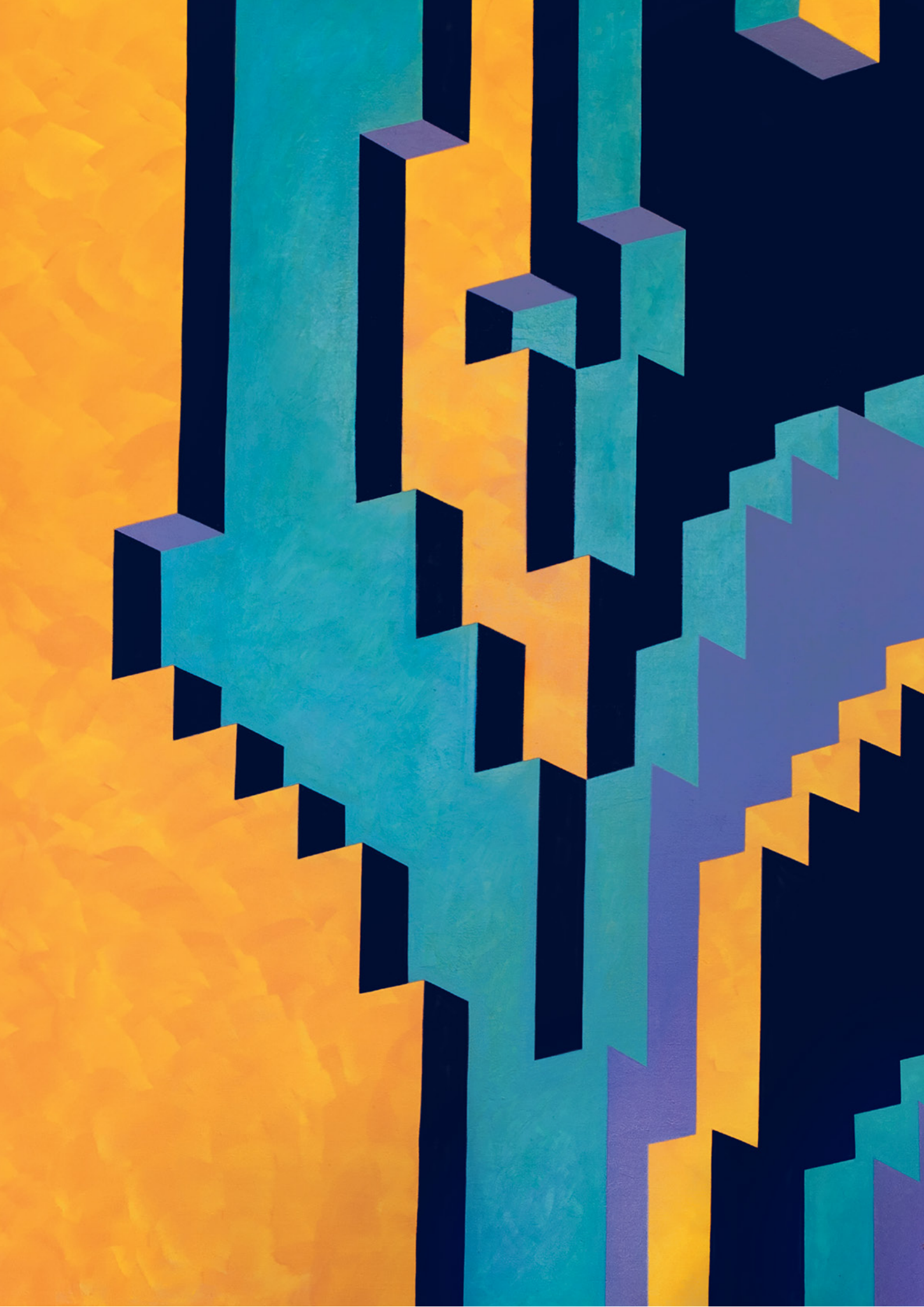


**Figure 014**\_2018

Medium: tempera on canvas

Size: 80X80X4CM

N 047



"In March 2020, returning from an art residency, I saw that the streets of my city had emptied. The coronavirus pandemic had begun. People, in a panic, were hiding in their homes, fearing to contract the unknown virus. Then the government declared a lockdown, and we all found ourselves confined to our flats indefinitely.

During the lockdown, I felt an emptiness that I hadn't experienced since childhood. Time stretched into an endless "now." Everything lost its meaning. I no longer had goals, tasks, or desires. It was as if the future had been extracted from my mind. Suddenly, I realised that the world was meaningless because the meanings were within me.

This frightening realisation compelled me to look at the world anew. Staring into the senseless world, I saw a kaleidoscope with colourful glass pieces. They shimmered with endless patterns.

I looked at the cube figure, on which I had been working for the past few years. Its surface also had endless patterns. I magnified them and began to draw.

After finishing several paintings, I laid them out in front of me. The geometric patterns on them were beautiful. There was a certain special magic in them. It truly captivated. Perhaps, I thought, this is the magic of the world, where everything that exists, exists just because, without a reason." —Ilya Yod.

Ilya Yod



***Detail 014\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on canvas

Size: 150X200X4CM

N 176

Ilya Yod



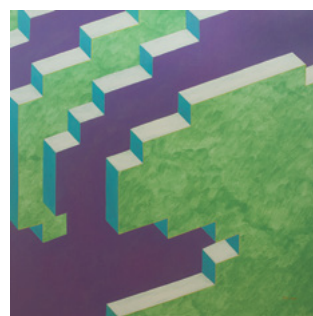
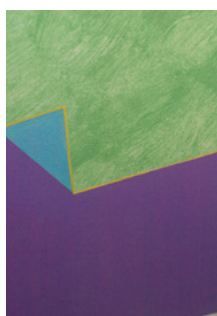
***Detail 012\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on canvas

Size: 80X80X2CM

N 174

Ilya Yod



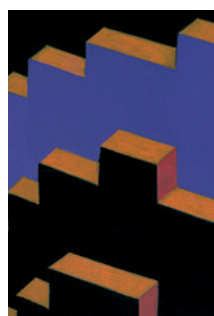
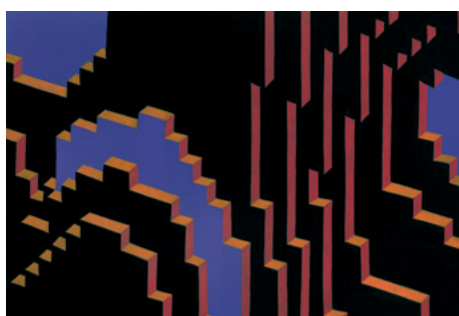
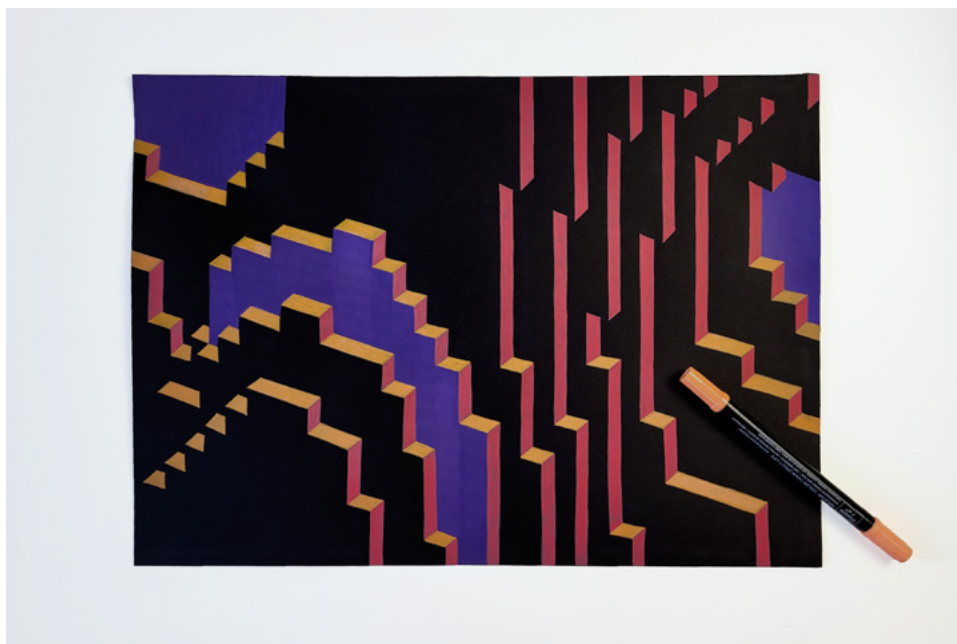
***Detail 013\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on canvas

Size: 80X80X4CM

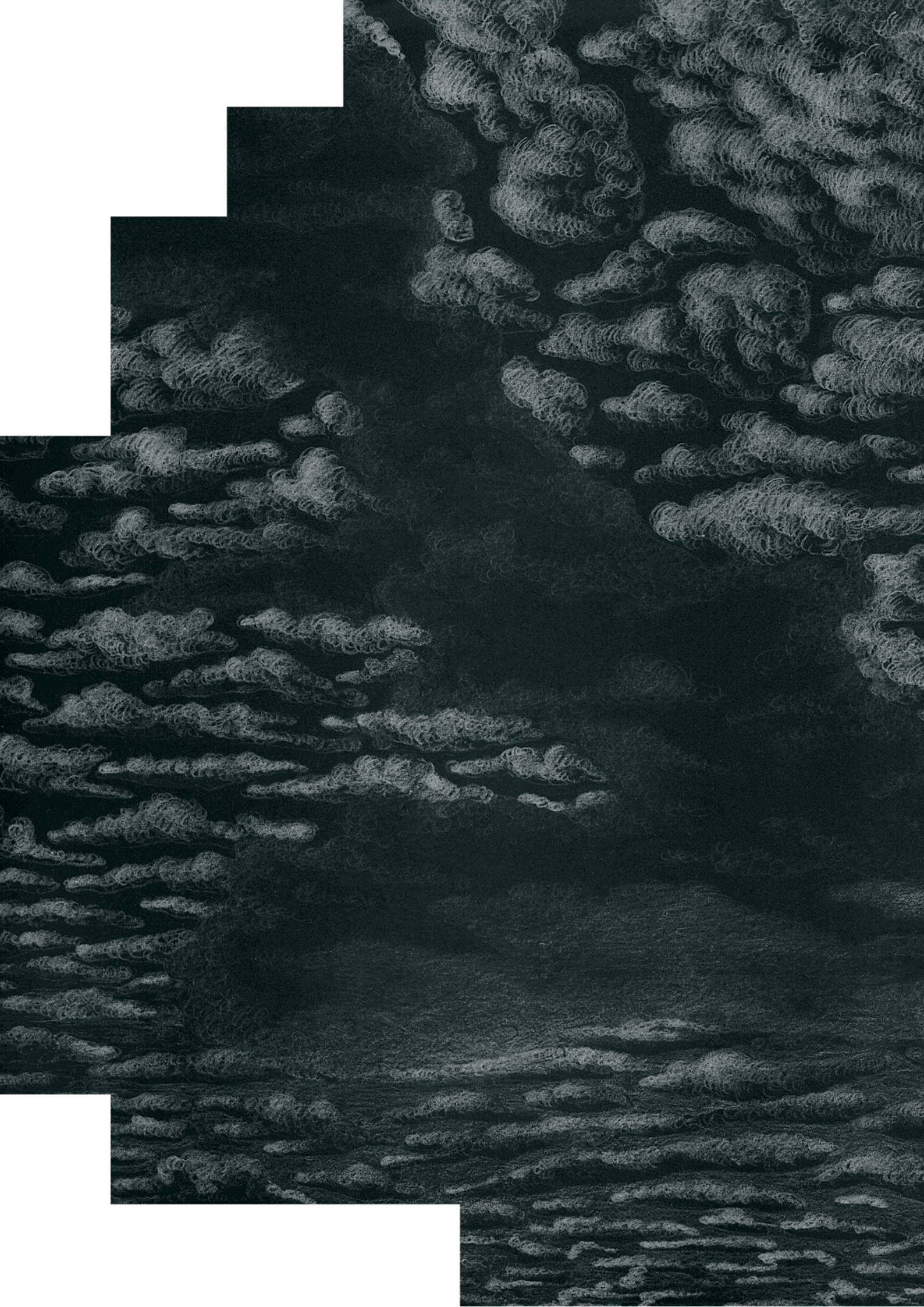
N 175

Ilya Yod



***Detail 005\_2022***

Medium: acrylic markers on acid-free  
black paper with 40% cotton and  
weighing 160 g/m<sup>2</sup>,  
Size: 29,7X42X0,2CM  
N 151



"The sky reminds me of a television screen flickering with images. As if someone is clicking the remote, and the pattern created by the clouds instantly changes to a new one. These patterns are as beautiful as they are fleeting.

One day, the idea of preserving these images came to me. Without much thought, I took a white pencil, placed black paper on the table, and started drawing.

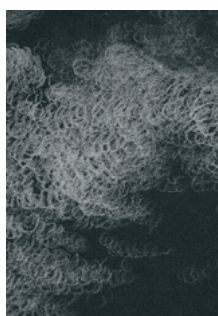
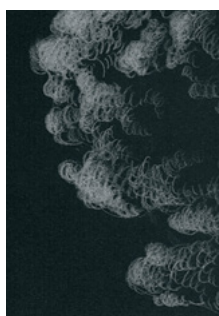
I created several drawings and spread them out in front of me. These images were like moments in time that ceased to exist in time. They lay in space. I found this intriguing. I recalled various hypotheses

about nonlinear time and the idea that our perception of time is likely an illusion.

Next, another curious philosophical concept came to mind. It asserts that we live in a computer simulation. I decided to incorporate this idea into my drawings. By cutting off parts from their corners, somewhat resembling Tetris shapes, I made the drawings look like clouds made up of large pixels.

I looked at my works again and was very pleased with them. Because they not only depict the forms of the skies I saw but also tell something very important about our illusory world." —Ilya Yod.

Ilya Yod



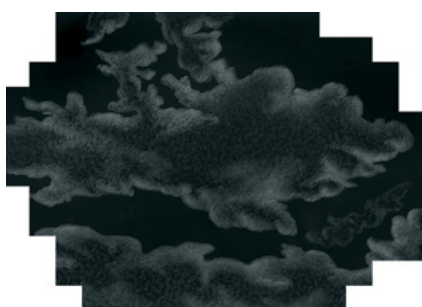
***Clouds 9\_2021***

Medium: white pencil on black paper

Size: 29,7X42X0,2CM

N 111

Ilya Yod



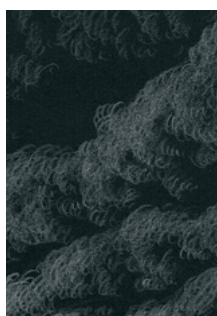
***Clouds 1\_2021***

Medium: white pencil on black paper

Size: 29,7X42X0,2CM

N 103

Ilya Yod



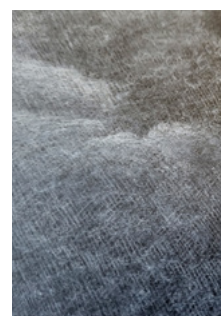
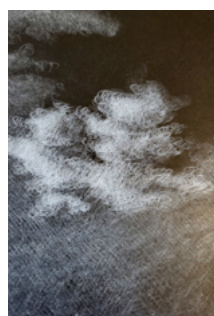
***Clouds 9\_2021***

Medium: white pencil on black paper

Size: 29,7X42X0,2CM

N 111

Ilya Yod

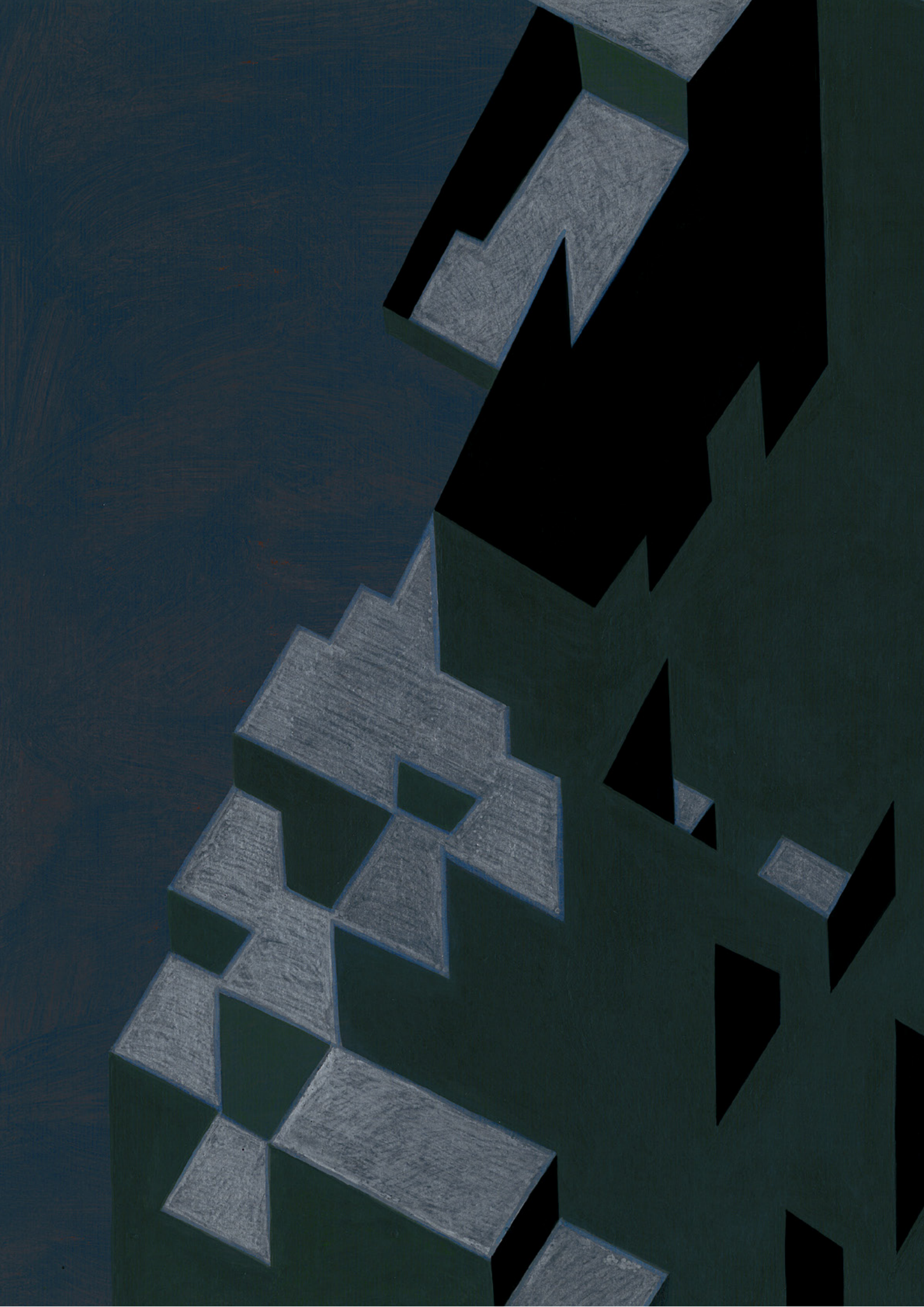


***Clouds 10\_2021***

Medium: white pencil on black paper

Size: 29,7X42X0,2CM

N 119



"In 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine. To keep abreast of the events, I subscribed to several Ukrainian Telegram channels. In addition to information about the war, they also published photos depicting dead bodies. More precisely, fragments of bodies that more closely resembled pieces of meat scattered on the ground. These were the bodies of Russian soldiers. Apparently, the images were intended to encourage Russians to speak out against the war. Be that as it may, the pictures were truly shocking.

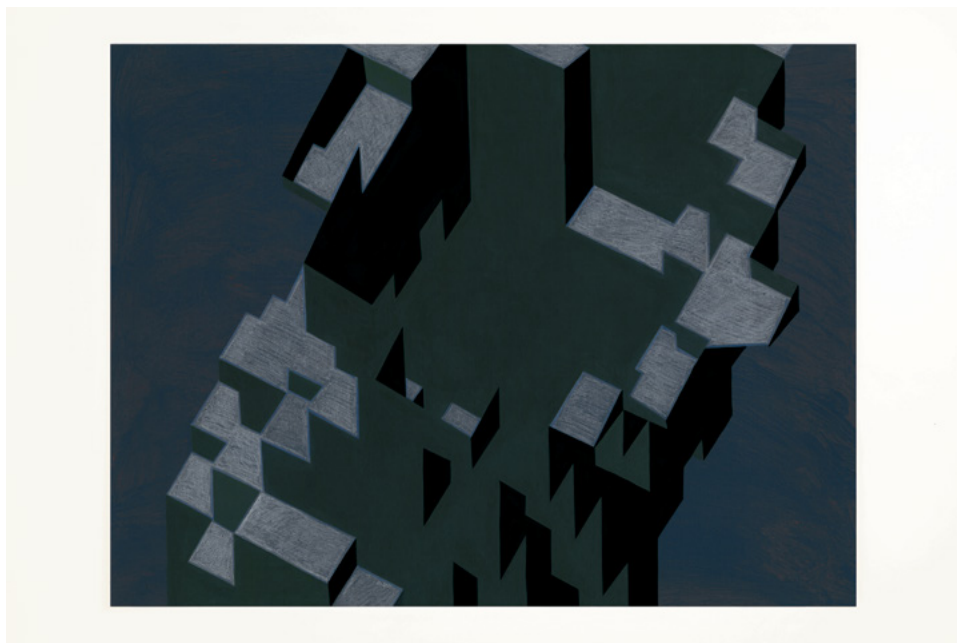
These photos made a very strong impression on me. I decided to create paintings based on them, which became a series called *Artefacts*.

I didn't want the images to be too realistic, so I based them on the form of a person made up of cubes. I had been working on

this concept even before the war. In a computer program, I added artefacts, or computer glitches, to the cubist figure. Defects, resembling holes, appeared on its body. I then transferred these images to paper and painted them with acrylic. I used a colour palette inspired by military equipment: khaki, grey, black, and metallic colours. Sometimes, I filled in the holes on the body with red.

The result was abstract paintings where one can discern a pierced shoulder, knee, or even a person's head. However, they do not evoke horror like the photos I saw on Ukrainian Telegram channels. My paintings help people feel the war on a visceral level. Hopefully, next time, people will put in more effort to prevent a new war." —Ilya Yod.

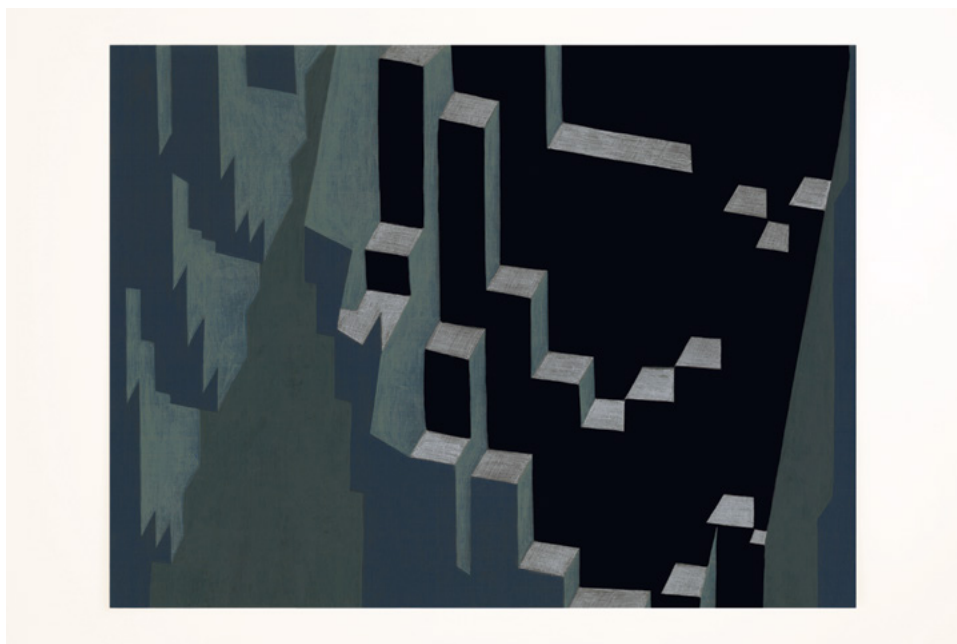
Ilya Yod



***Artefact 001\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on Hahnemühle bamboo mixed media paper 265 g/m2  
Size: 30X40X0,3CM  
N 156

Ilya Yod



***Artefact 003\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on Hahnemühle bamboo mixed media paper 265 g/m<sup>2</sup>  
Size: 30X40X0,3CM  
N 158

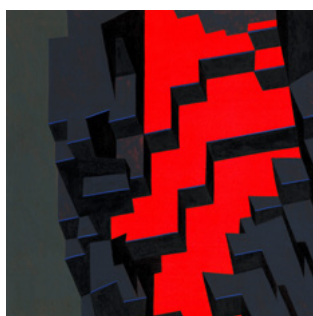
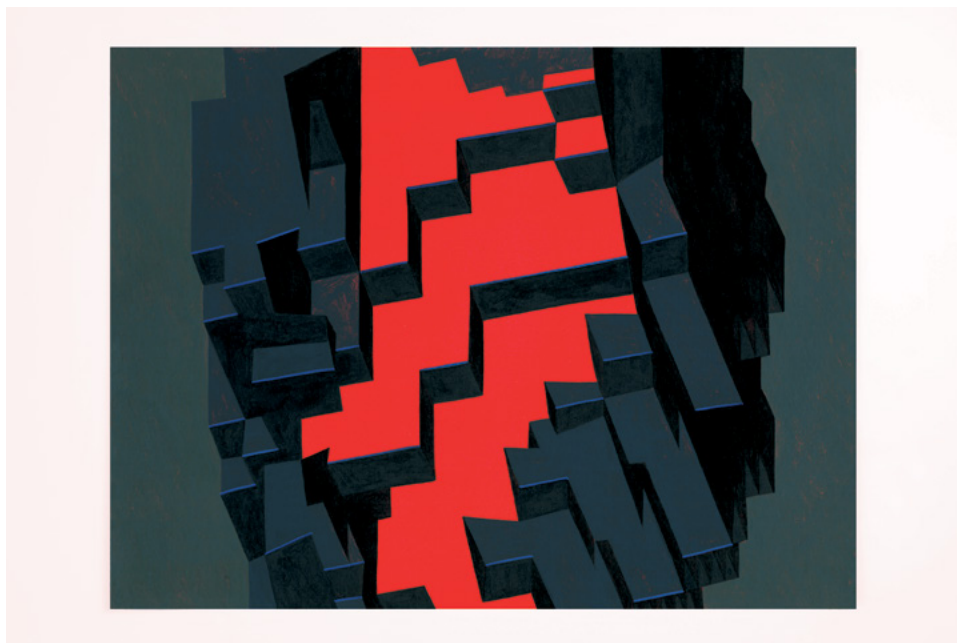
Ilya Yod



***Artefact 005\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on Hahnemühle bam-  
boo mixed media paper 265 g/m2  
Size: 30X40X0,3CM  
N 162

Ilya Yod



***Artefact 006\_2022***

Medium: acrylic on Hahnemühle bamboo mixed media paper 265 g/m2  
Size: 30X40X0,3CM  
N 163