

# UNVEILED SERENDIPITY

Curated by  
Vinod Solanki & Jalpa H vithalani



**KISMAT ART**  
GALLERY



cosmicheartgallery

# TONGJI PHILIP QIAN

Tongji Philip Qian is a multidisciplinary artist and the co-founder of TPQ Studio. As artist, he is interested in capturing the edge of an artistic practice through his idiosyncratic definitions of speed, labor, internationalism, and immigration. His art writing, on the other hand, studies movements commonly associated with Minimalism, Post-Minimalism, and Conceptual art. Recent projects include “Art Beside a Single Handshake” from 2020, “Questionnairing Reailty” from 2021, and a forthcoming artist book titled “Neighborly Passport Keep Right Except to Pass.” Phil’s work is housed in a number of public collections, such as the Asia Art Archive in America, Center for Book Arts in New York, and Berlin Art Library. Phil received his BAs in art history and mathematics from Carleton College, and his MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.



Tongji Philip Qian is an artist and professor who hails from Shanghai, China and currently resides and works in New York. His artistic journey has been greatly influenced by his extensive travels, where he finds inspiration in diverse environments and cultures. Qian's chosen medium of expression is woodblock printing, a traditional craft that he passionately practices by hand.

Qian's work revolves around the concept of chance and its significance in artistic creation. He is deeply devoted to exploring the presence of chance in the "here" and "now." Through his woodblock prints, he seeks to capture the essence of chance and harness its creative potential. Qian firmly believes that chance is an inherent part of our existence, and by embracing it, he uncovers hidden possibilities and connections.

Having received grants and fellowships from esteemed institutions such as the OSUN Center for Human Rights and the Arts at Bard College and Schloss Plüschow in Germany, Qian has established himself as an accomplished artist. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design and a Bachelor of Arts in art history and mathematics from Carleton College.

Qian's works have been showcased in numerous solo and group exhibitions, both nationally and internationally. Notable among these are his three solo shows in India, held at the Cosmic Heart Gallery, Kriti Gallery, and the Jaipur Art Summit in 2016. During his residency at Kriti Gallery in Varanasi, Qian had the opportunity to delve deeper into his artistic practice.

Critics and art enthusiasts appreciate Qian's work for its seamless fusion of art and craft. His woodblock prints are not only visually stunning but also represent a rare dedication to a traditional craft that is increasingly rare in the modern age. The intricate process of chiseling and creating these prints resonates deeply with viewers and highlights the artist's unwavering commitment to his craft.

Jalpa H. Vithalani, the Creative Head and Director of the Cosmic Heart Gallery, has expressed her admiration for Qian's work. She sees his woodblocks as magnificent works of art, and hosting his exhibition at her gallery has been an intriguing prospect. Witnessing Qian's dedication and the creative process behind his woodblock prints has left a lasting impact on her. Vithalani recognizes the symbiotic relationship between Qian's artistic vision and the cosmic elements, resulting in a truly unique and compelling body of work.

In his artist statement, Qian emphasizes the historical and cultural significance of woodblock prints as a craft medium. He draws inspiration from early woodblock printed books discovered in rural regions of China, where they were used for religious purposes such as printing sutras. Qian's prints pay homage to this heritage while incorporating the element of chance into his artistic practice. His prints are a testament to the meticulous algorithms he has developed, which showcase the unpredictable nature of chance.

Qian allows chance to take center stage, highlighting the infinite possibilities that emerge from its unfathomable algorithms. Despite the inherent instability associated with chance, Qian firmly believes in the deep connection between humans and the universe. He sees nature as a constant source of inspiration and believes that remaining open-minded to the signals it offers is essential.

The act of carving woodblocks and engaging directly with the material allows Qian to contemplate his place within the vast cosmic environment. His exploration of the element of chance through woodblock printmaking serves as a means to understand and interpret the cosmic forces at play. Qian's prints invite viewers to contemplate the boundless possibilities that the cosmic environment holds.

Qian's artistic process involves collaborating with chance, granting it a degree of autonomy in his prints. He designs a system that guides chance through the carving process, utilizing devices like game dice to determine the outcome. The rolled numbers dictate the reconstruction of a new grid system on the block, influencing the carving action. Qian repeats this process through numerous iterations until his algorithm reaches its conclusion.

Printmaking becomes the final stage of Qian's artistic process. Chance determines the carving on the woodblock, positioning Qian as a craftsman faithfully following the systems he has designed. In some prints, he accentuates the materiality of woodblock printing by employing a technique of printing the same block twice. By re-inking the block and rotating it 180 degrees, the resulting print exhibits diagonal symmetry. This approach brings out the inherent characteristics of the woodblock and the paper, emphasizing their texture and grain.

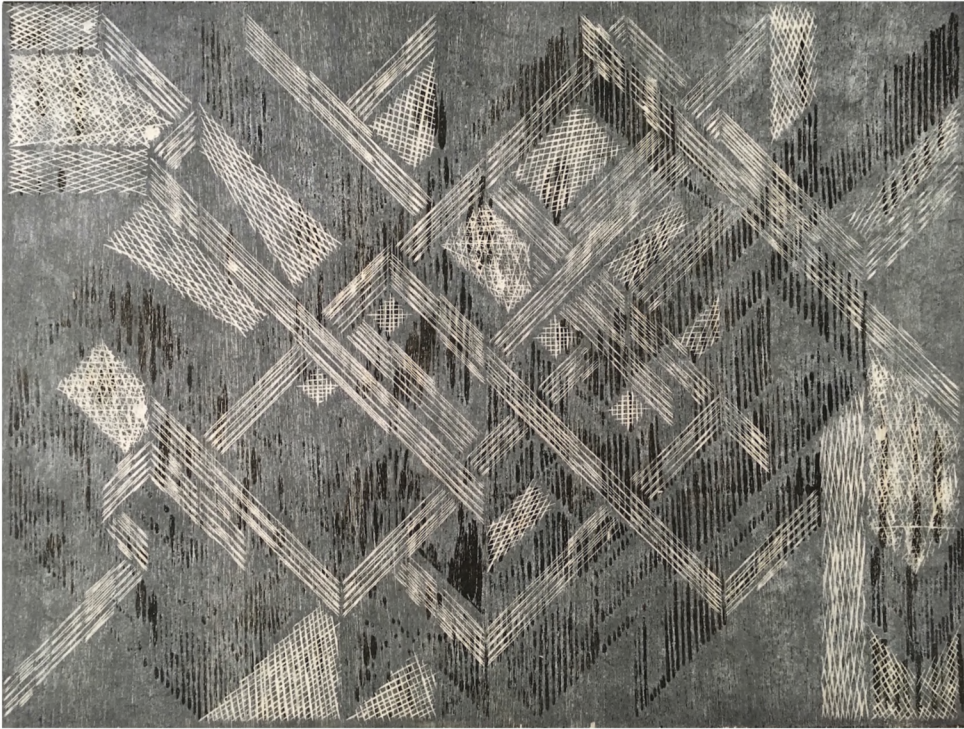
While Qian strives to adhere to his system, he embraces and acknowledges accidents and human errors as an additional dimension of chance within craftsmanship. Such serendipitous occurrences contribute to the overall narrative of chance in his prints.

Qian's commitment to the craft is evident in his decision to print all of his works by hand, regardless of their size. This dedication aligns with his belief in the importance of preserving and promoting the art of handcrafted forms. Qian's works serve as a testament to the power of chance in art, underscoring his deep interest in exploring, systematizing, and ultimately liberating chance within the context of nature.

Overall, Tongji Philip Qian's artistic practice stands as a tribute to the element of chance. His woodblock prints masterfully integrate the principles of craft with the exploration of chance, creating a body of work that captivates viewers and provides insights into the vast potential of the cosmic environment. Through his art, Qian invites us to embrace chance, appreciate the interconnectedness of the universe, and contemplate the endless possibilities it holds.

# I Ching III

18" x 24"



**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**

# Diagonal Architecture

24" x 18"

**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on**  
**handmade paper**







# Chance Painting I

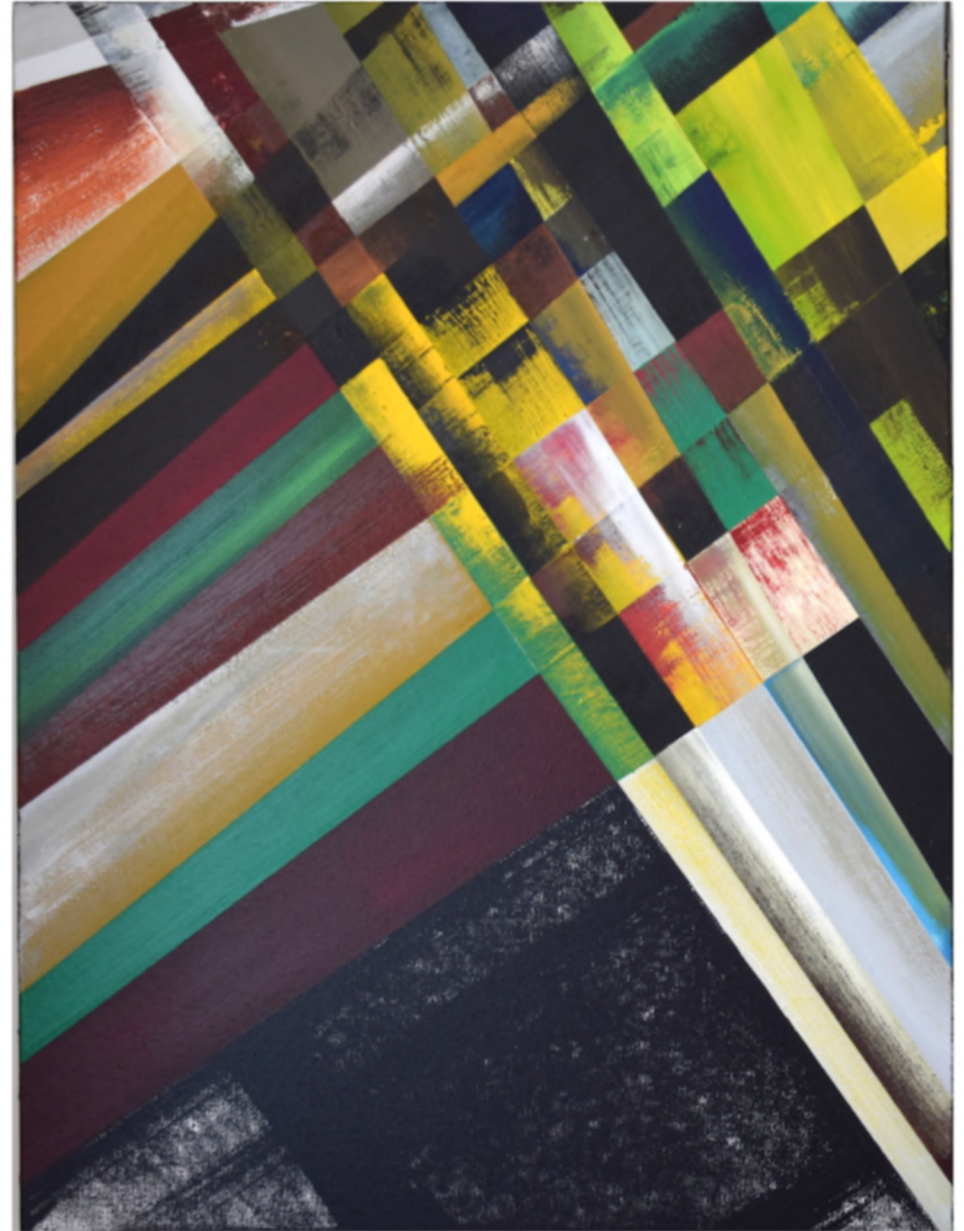
31" x 24"

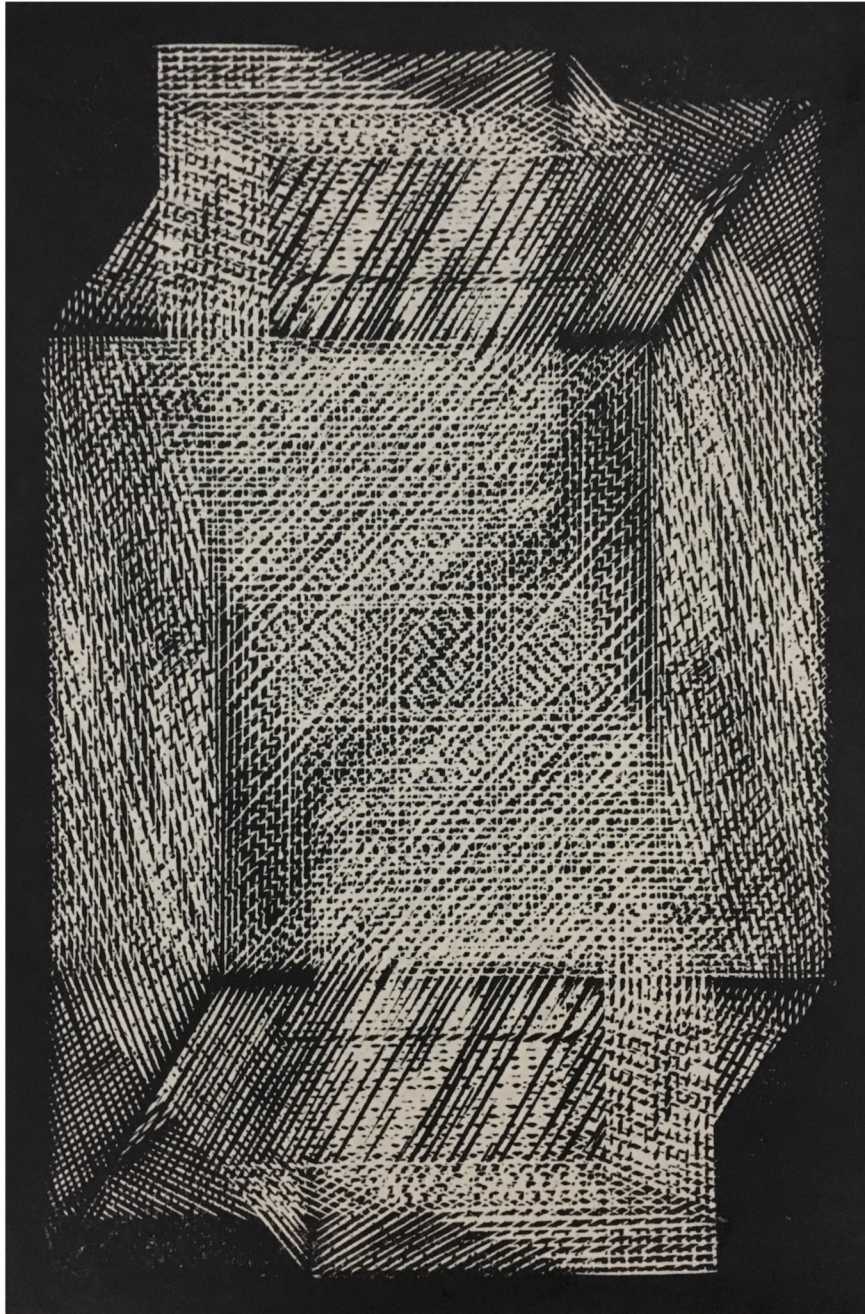
**Medium:**  
**Acrylic and relief  
printmaking ink on canvas**

# Chance Painting II

31" x 24"

**Medium:**  
**Acrylic and relief**  
**printmaking ink on canvas**





# Three-dimensional Chance

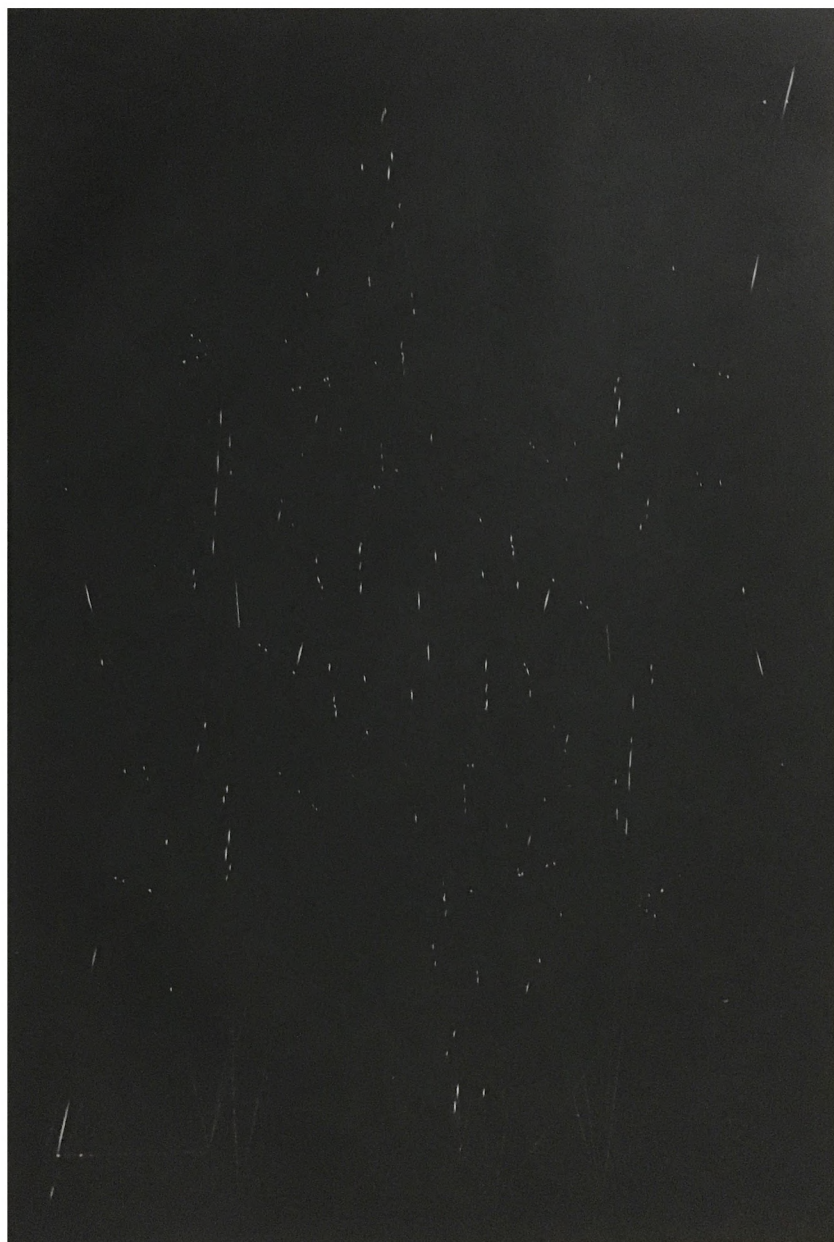
18" x 12"

**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**

**Doubled  
21" x 14"**

**Medium:  
Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**





# One-dimensional Chance

Available in:

**18" X 12"**

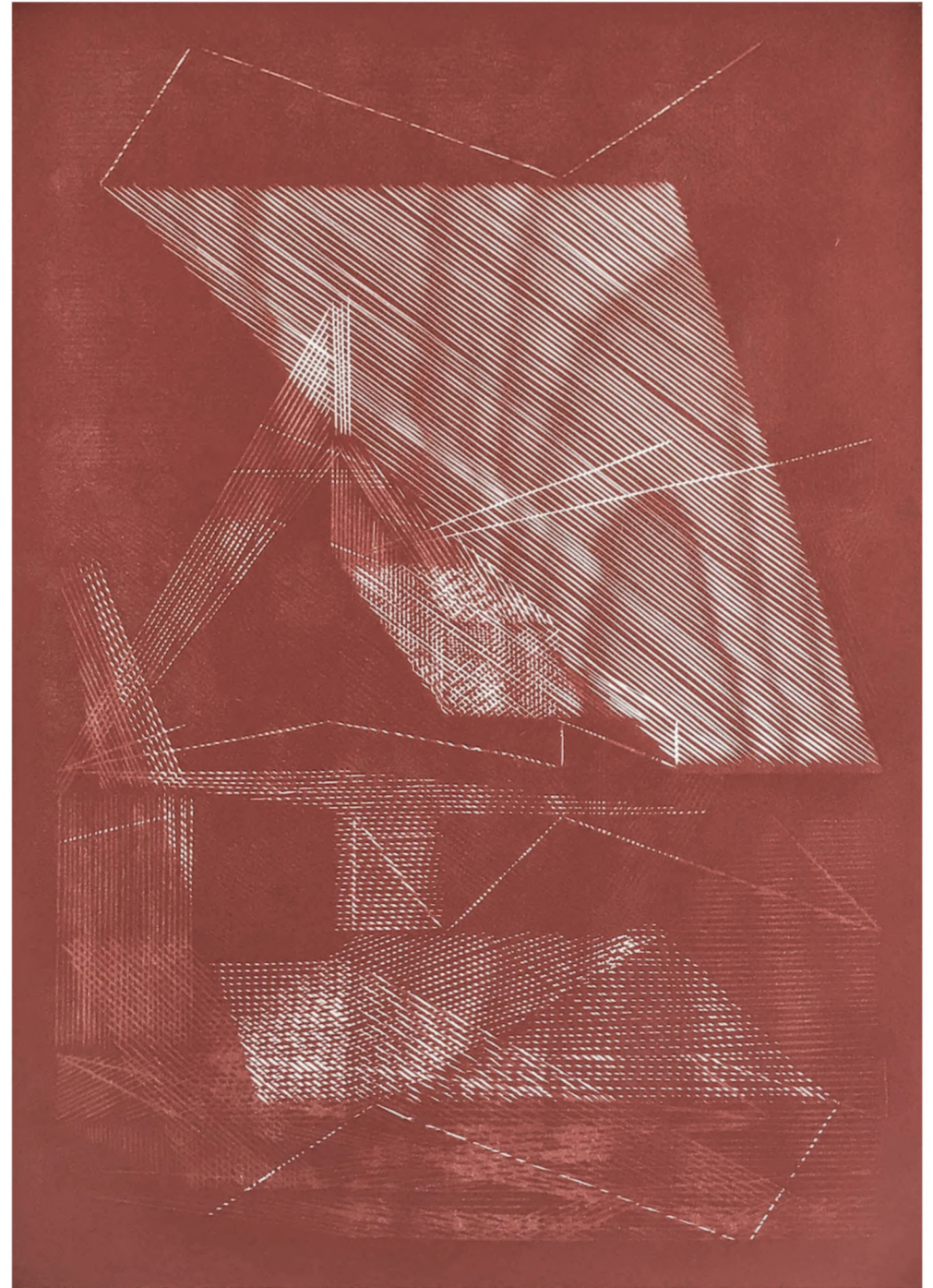
**18" x 12"**

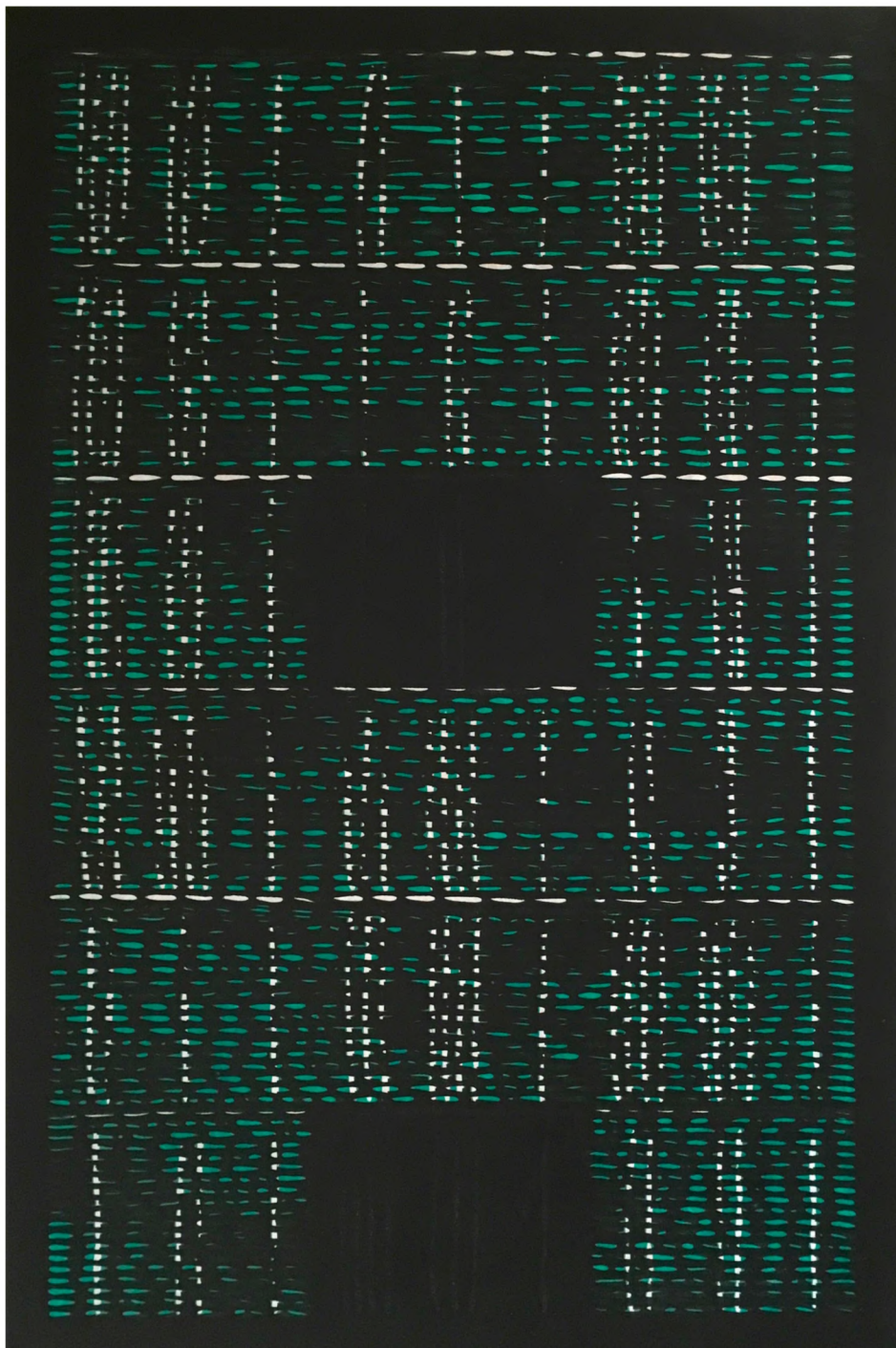
**Medium:  
Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**

# Three Dimensions Of Lines

22" x 16"

**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**





## From 57 To 57

Available in:

**36" x 24"**

**36" x 24"**

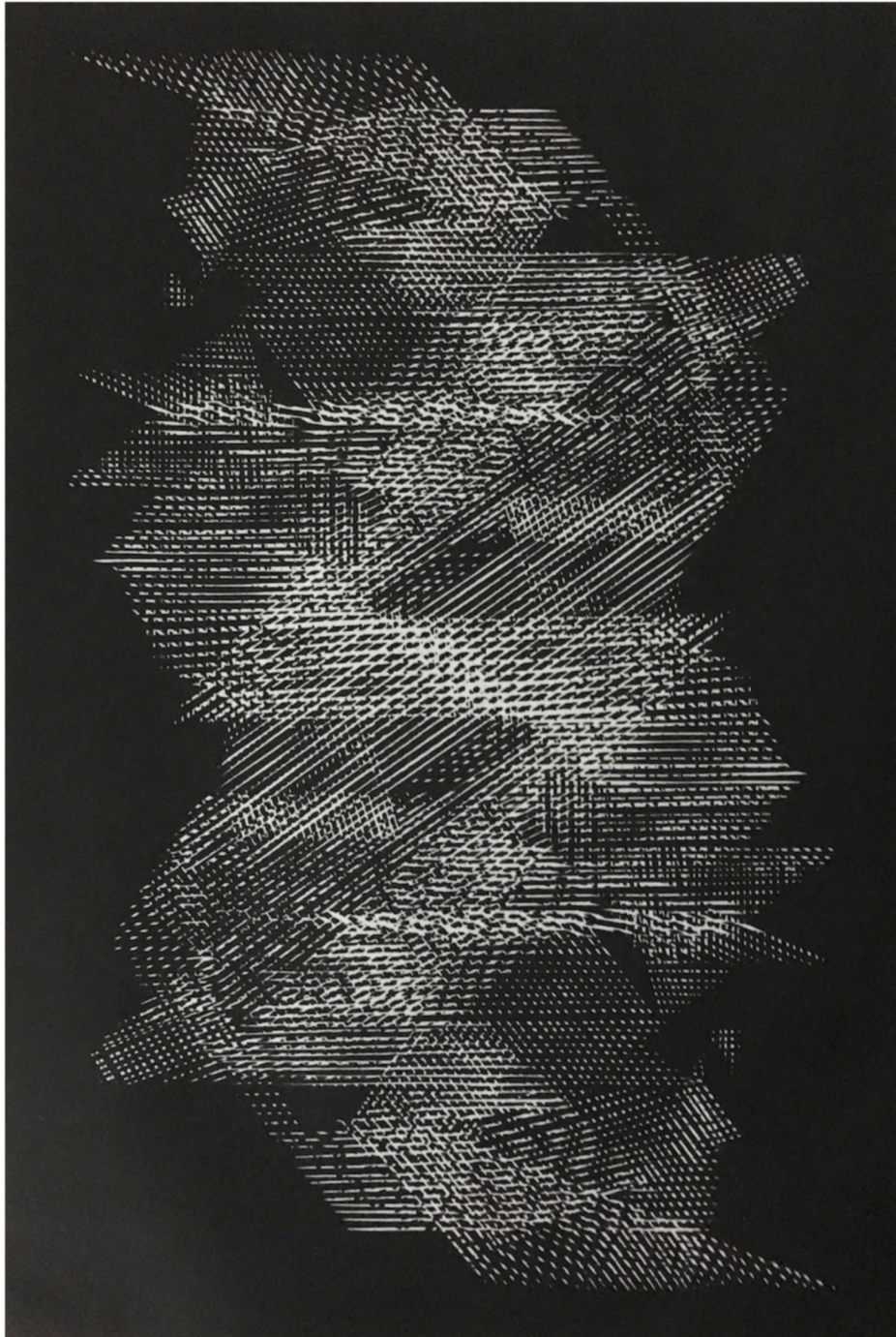
**Medium:  
Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**

**From 23 To 64**  
**36" x 24"**

**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on**  
**handmade paper**







# Two-dimensional Chance

**18" x 12"**

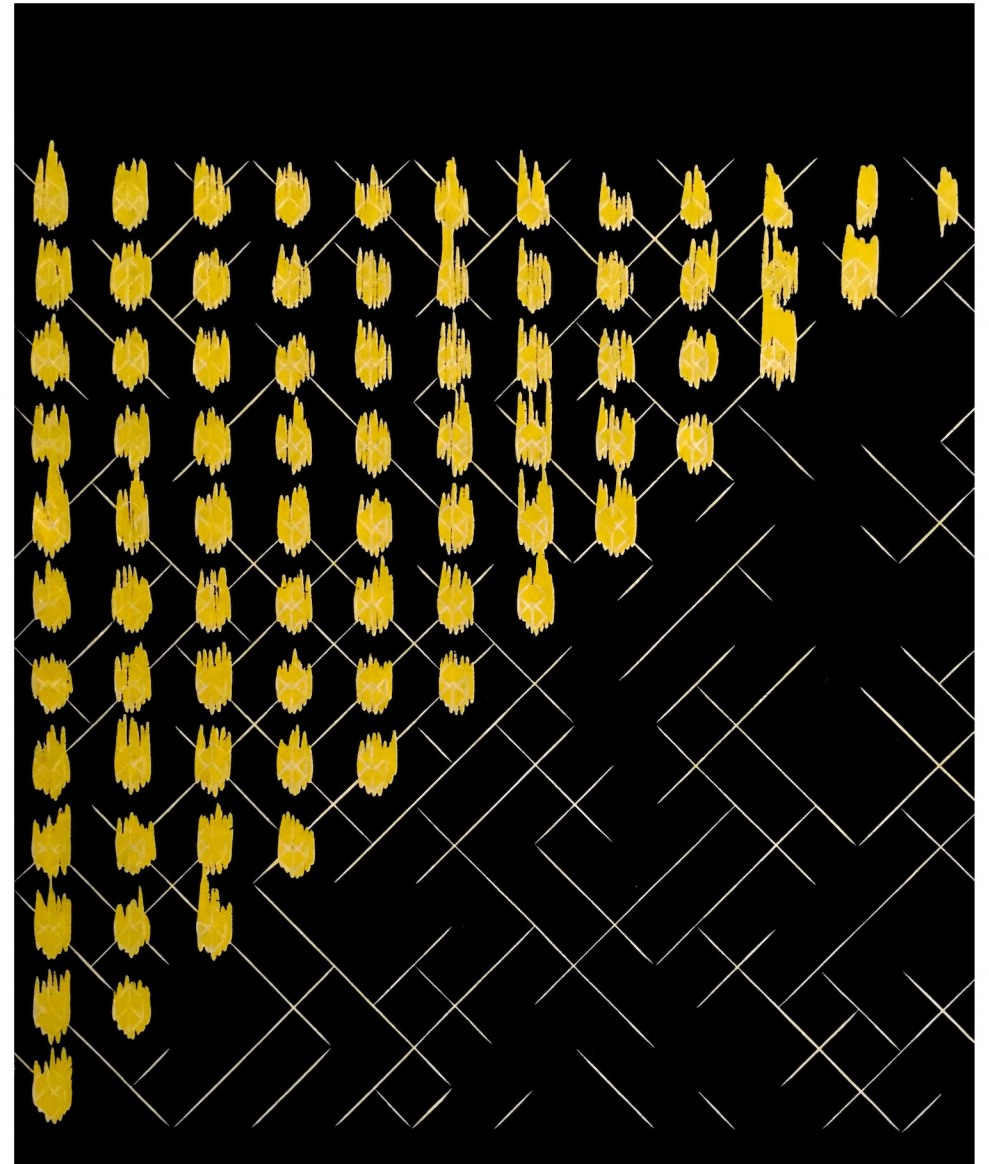
**Medium:  
Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**

# Minus Two Lines

24" x 18"

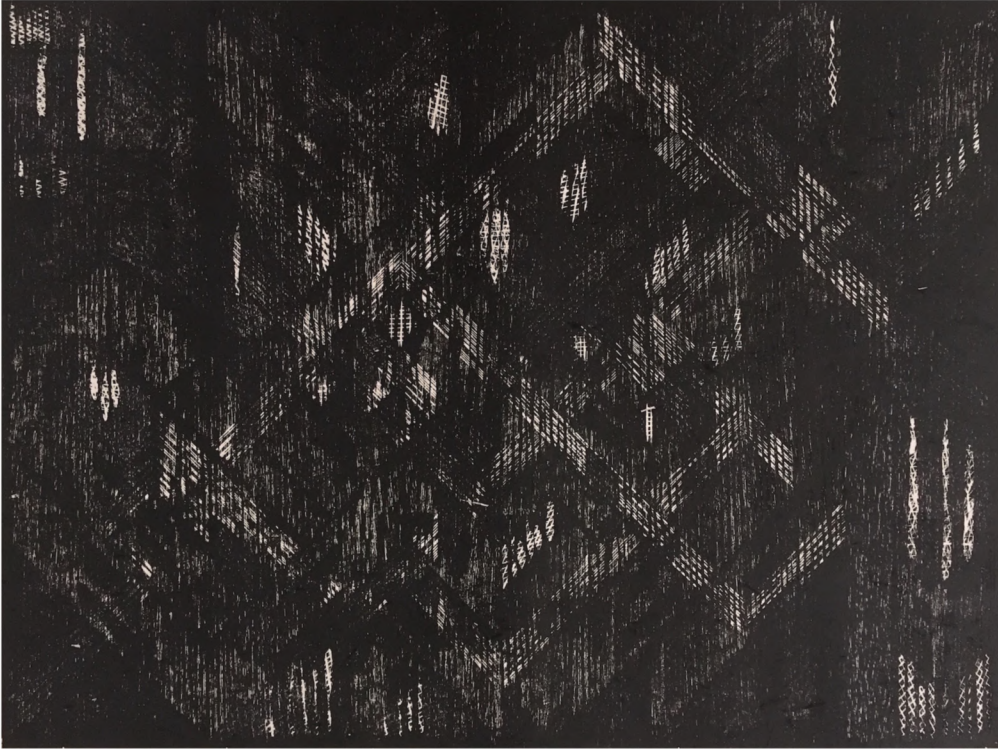
**Medium:**

**Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**



# I Ching IV

24" x 18"



**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on  
handmade paper**

# Varanasi I

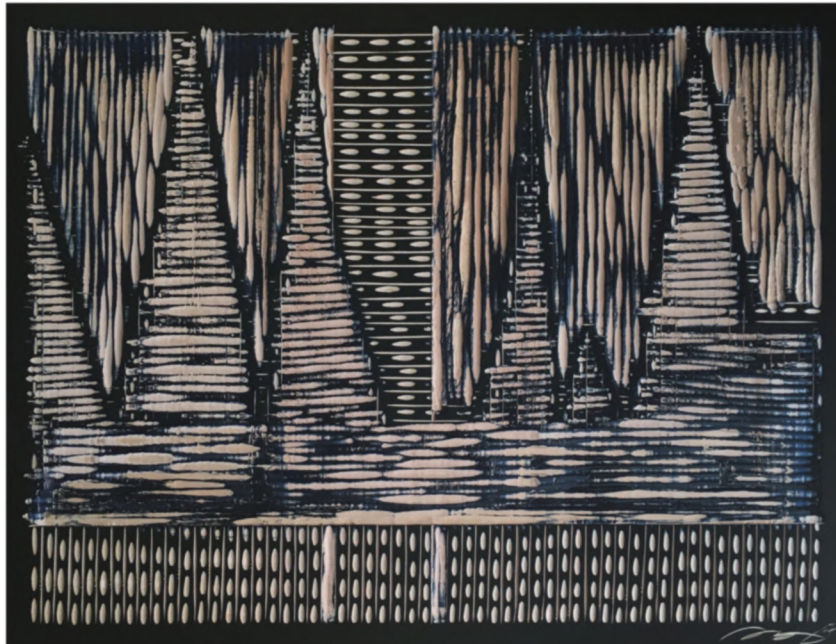
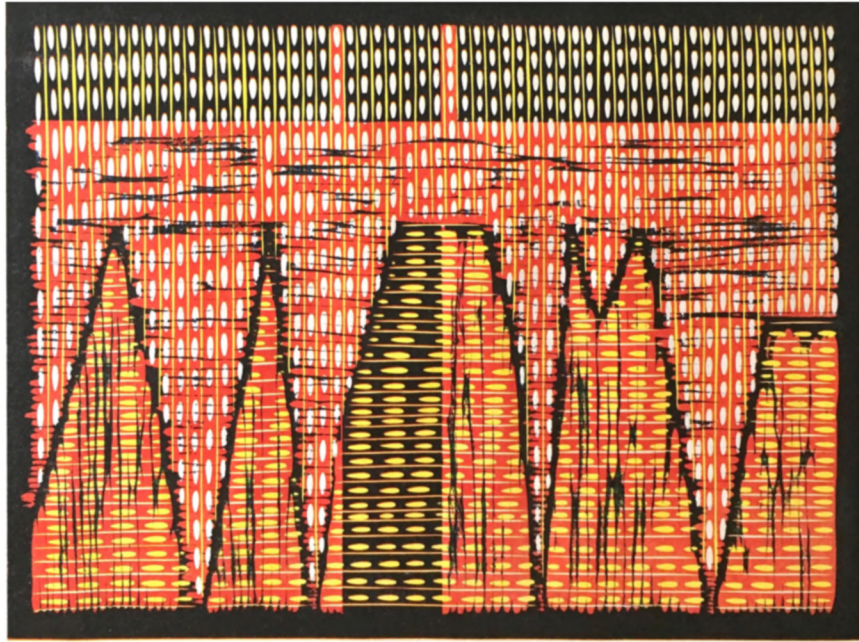
22"x 13"

**Medium:**  
**Woodblock prints on**  
**handmade paper**



To Exhaust

18" x 24"



Medium:

Print + woodblock set

Kismat Arts & Frame Maker is a family-owned business that has been providing quality framing services for over a decade. Our founder, Mr. Mohanlal Solanki, began his journey in the art framing industry nearly 30 years ago. After gaining valuable experience working for various companies, he decided to establish his own business in 2011, to provide exceptional framing services to artists and galleries.

Over the years, Kismat Arts & Frame Maker has built a reputation for reliability and professionalism. We have had the pleasure of working with countless artists and galleries, and have amassed a collection of over 1,000 paintings and artworks. At Kismat Arts & Frame Maker, we take pride in our work and are committed to providing exceptional customer service to all our clients.

Vinod Solanki, son of Mr. Mohanlal Solanki, has been involved in the business from a young age. With a passion for art that developed during his childhood, Vinod has learned the ropes and gained valuable experience in the industry. Now, he is proud to continue the family tradition by opening his art gallery - KISMAT ART GALLERY.


At our art gallery, we aim to showcase the work of talented artists and provide a platform for them to reach a wider audience. With Vinod's knowledge and experience in the art industry, we are committed to upholding the values and standards set by our founder. We believe in providing exceptional customer service to all our clients and are dedicated to making every interaction with our business a positive and memorable experience



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# Thank You

## CONTACT DETAILS

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