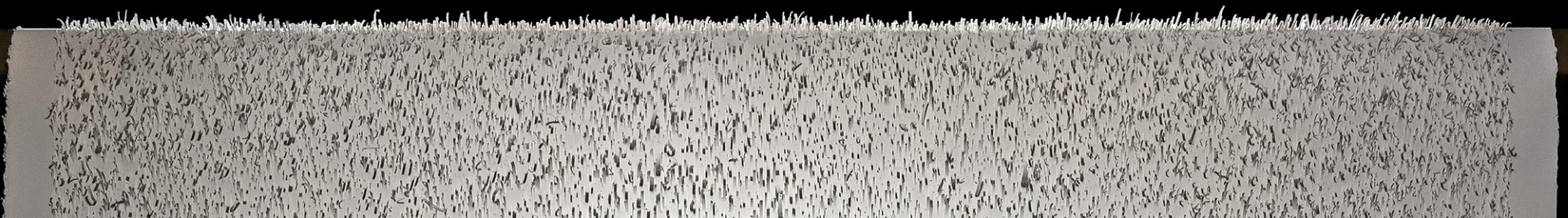


'One by one to one million'



One by one to one million

This series of work is an exploration of the meaningless things we do in order to have a meaningful life.

Each piece is inspired by a different occasion in Mau's childhood where he was directed into carrying out repetitive and oppressive tasks. The apparent aim of which were to make him a more rounded and conforming individual.

Indeed, the show's title, 'One by One to a Million' takes its inspiration from one particular event. During an Easter break, the nuns who taught at the Catholic school which Mau attended, instructed him to write out all the numbers, one by one, from zero to a million, by hand.

The obsessive, clinical and time-consuming construction of the pieces in the show - which relies on hand-cutting thousands of lines and painstakingly peeling away individual strips of paper – is a reflection upon this and other similar experiences.

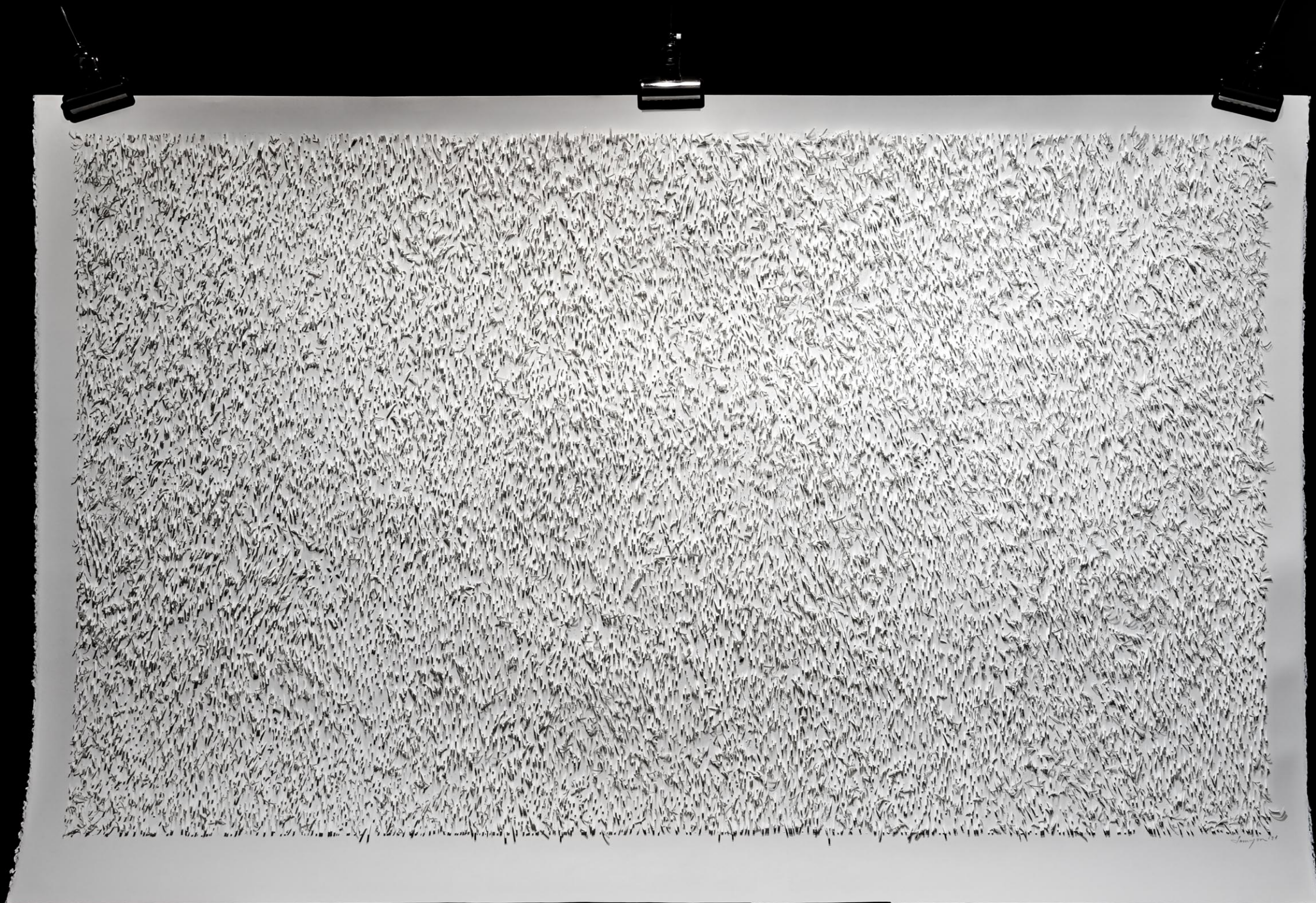
However, they aren't solely a means of addressing these trials from his own upbringing; but they also aim to bring into question more generally our relationship with time, and how we seek to create and find meaning in our lives.

Text by John Sewell

“Tarea: escribir los números de uno en uno hasta el millón”

[“Homework: to write the numbers one by one to one million”]

Third grade Easter assignment

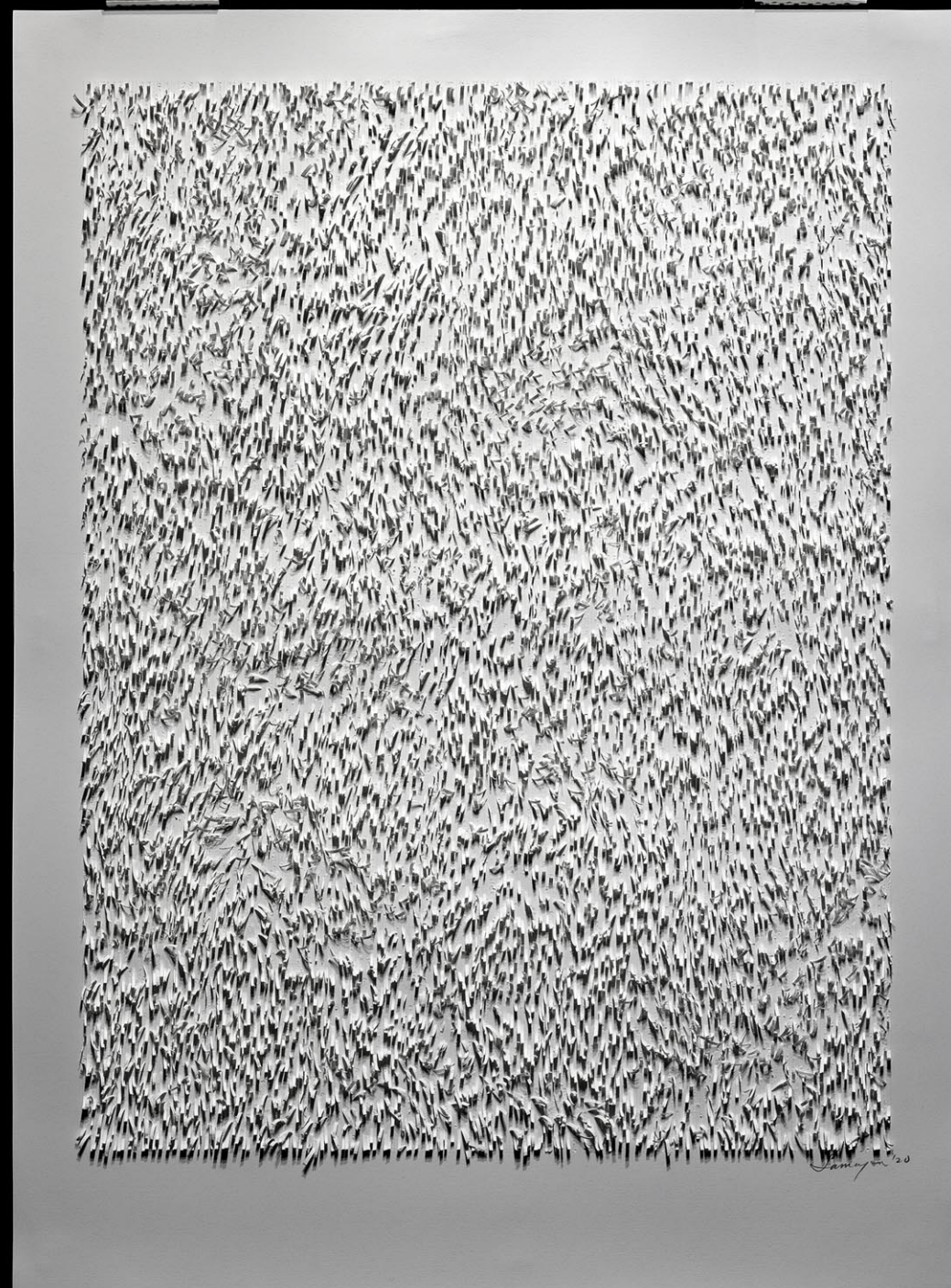


'One by one to one million'
Sculpture with cotton paper
140 x 90 cm
2021

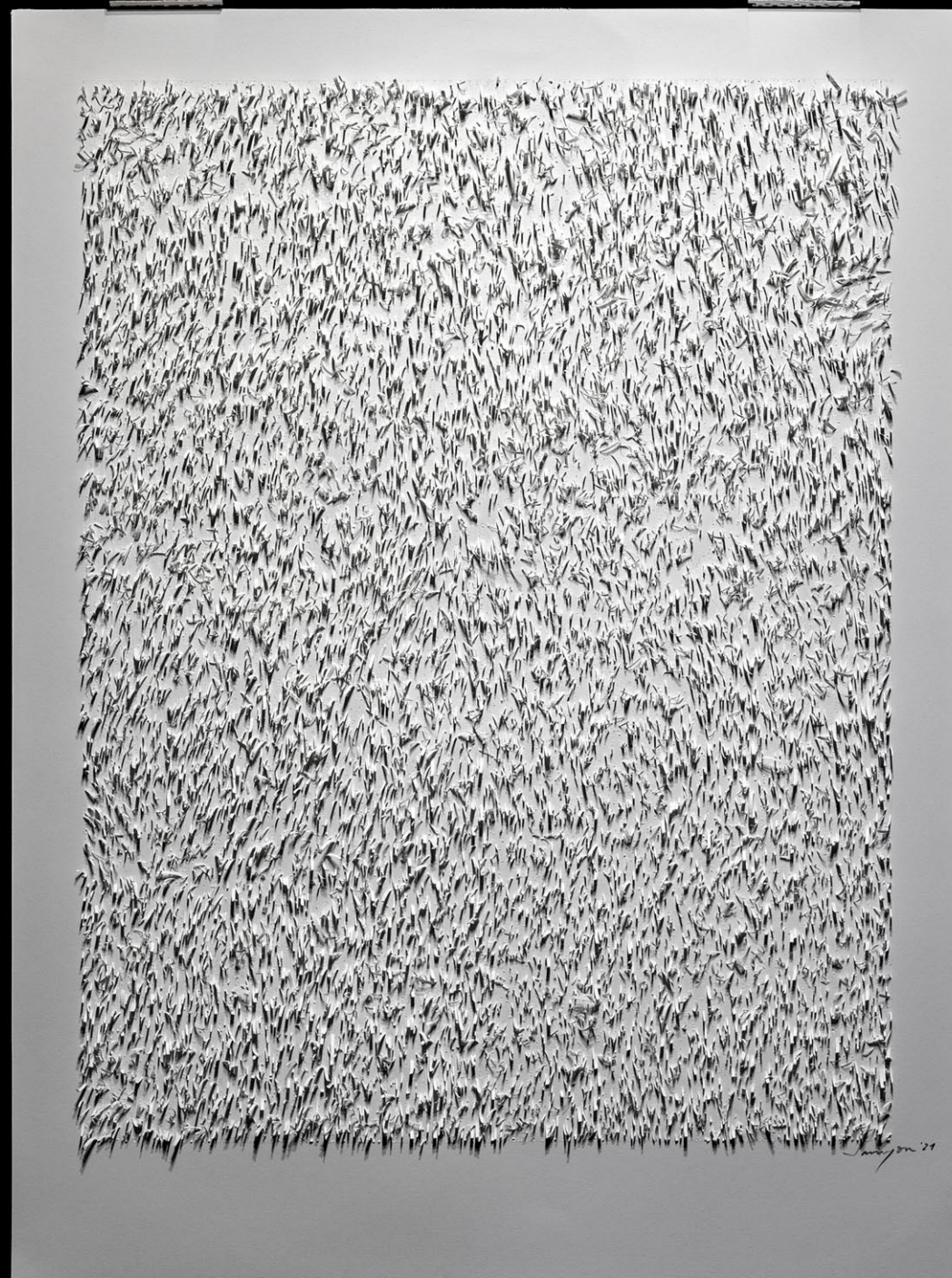


'One by one to one million' (Detail)
Sculpture with cotton paper
140 x 90 cm
2021

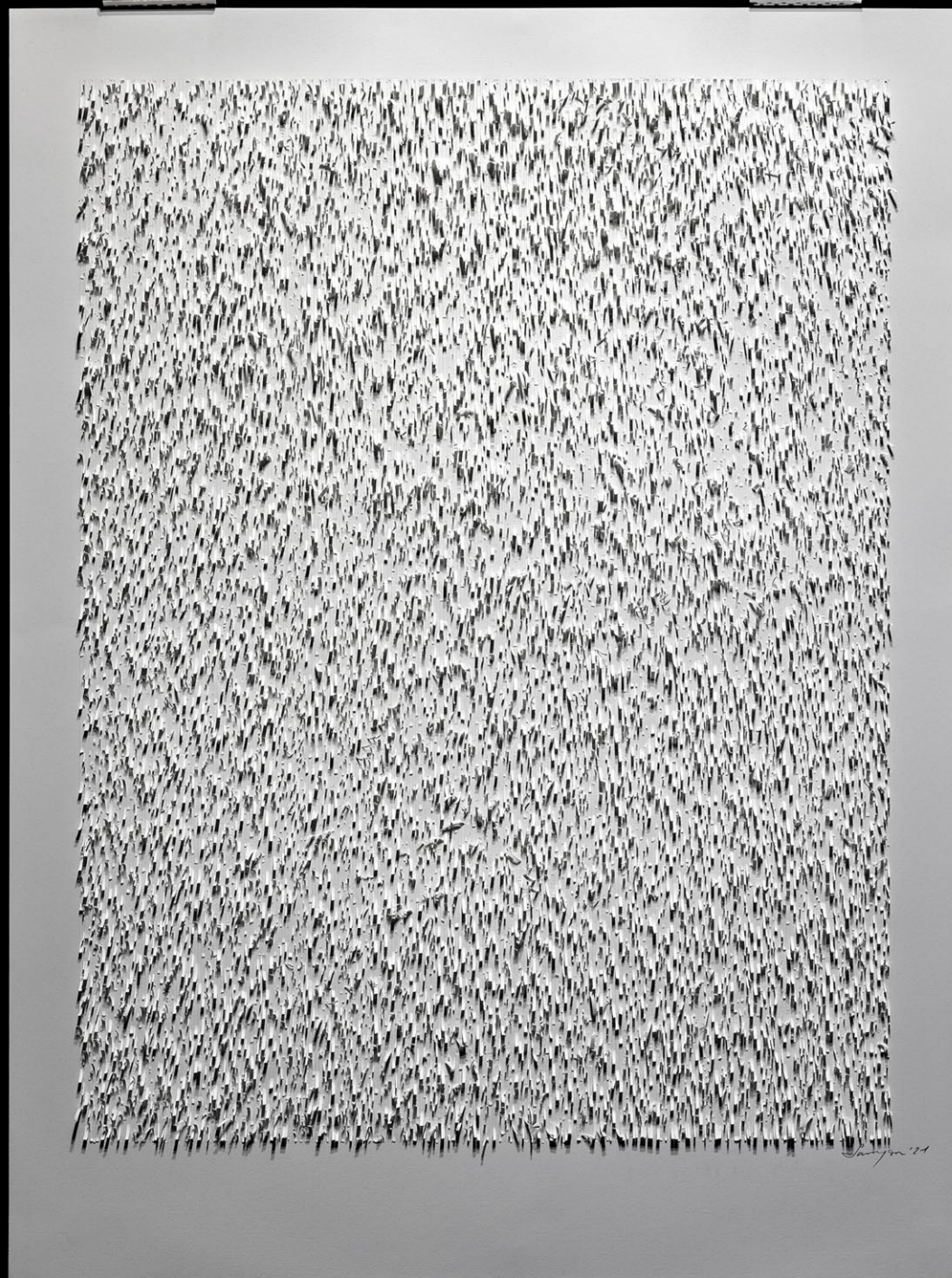
'Extreme Emotions'



'Extreme Emotions: Happiness'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2020



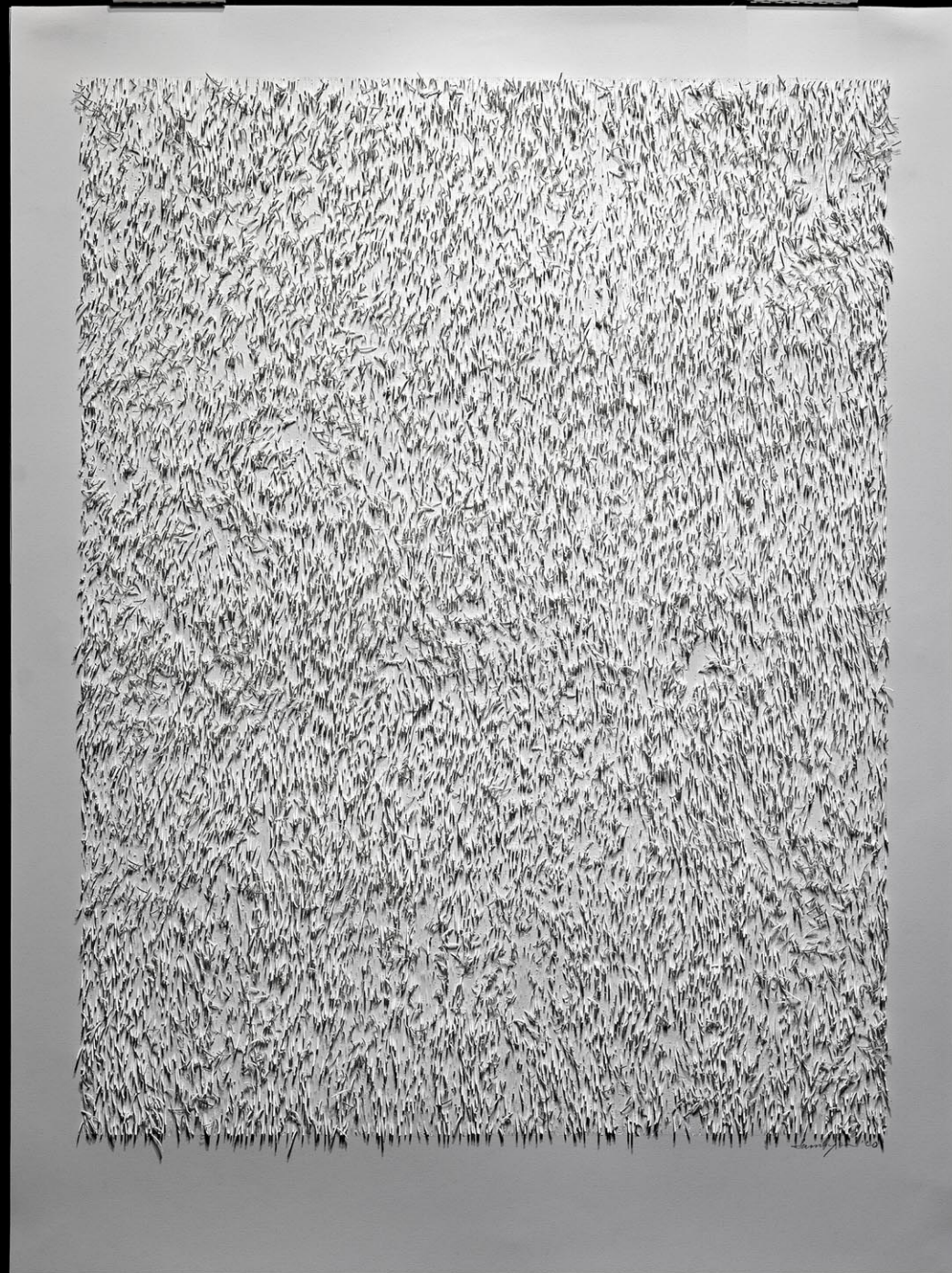
'Extreme Emotions: Sadness'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2021



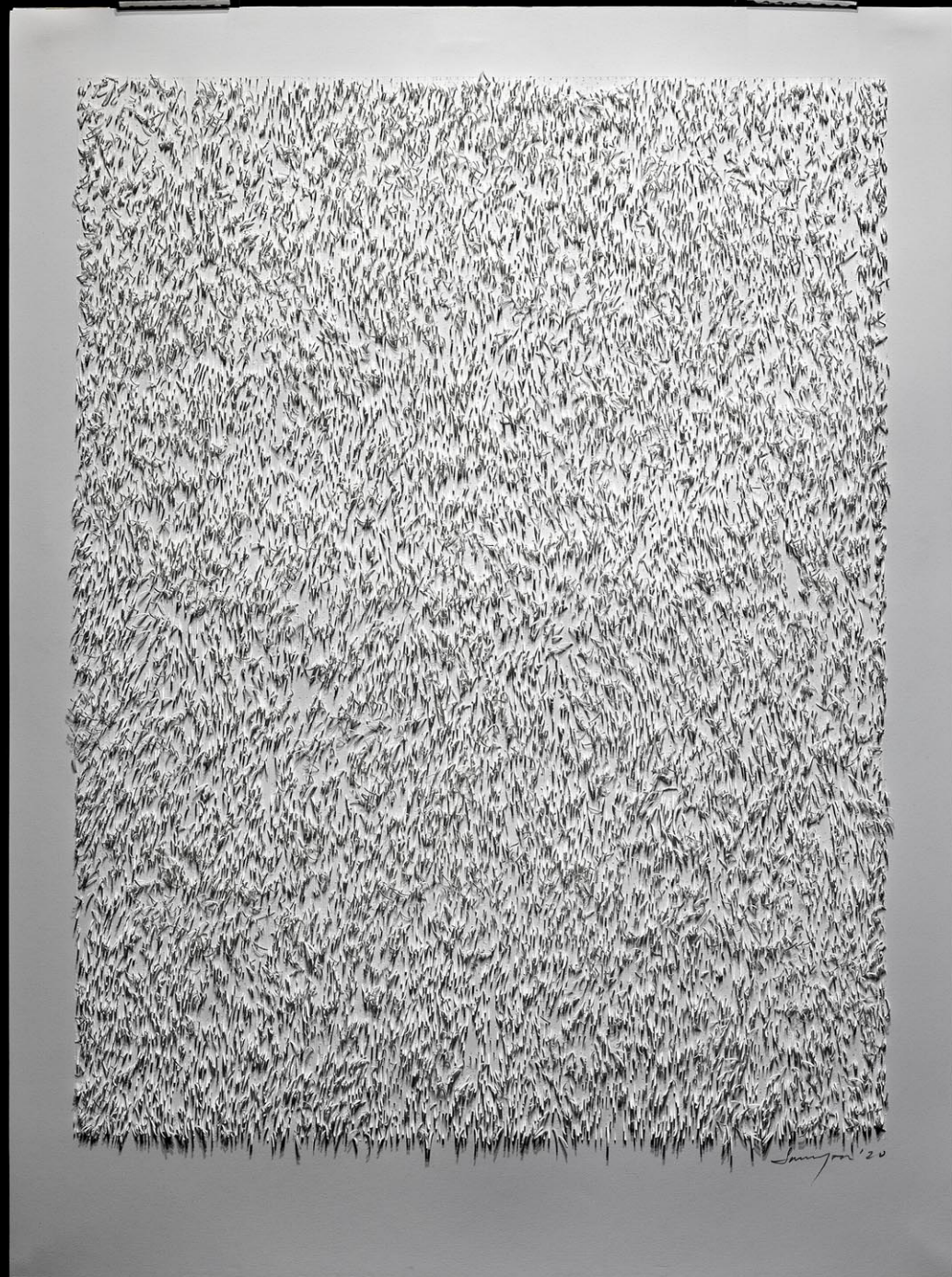
'Extreme Emotions: Fear'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2021



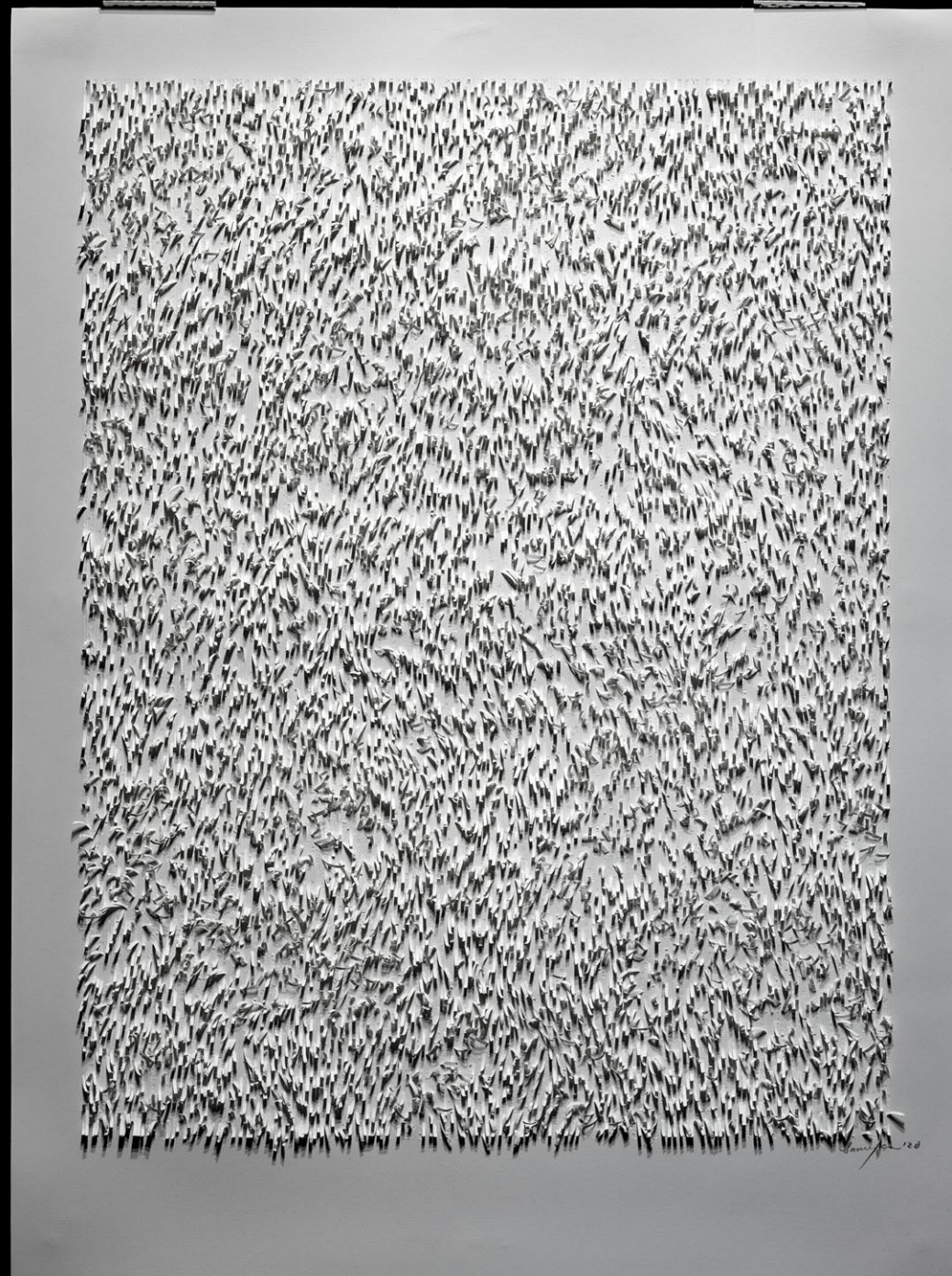
Side B: back drawings generated by the lights coming through the paper.



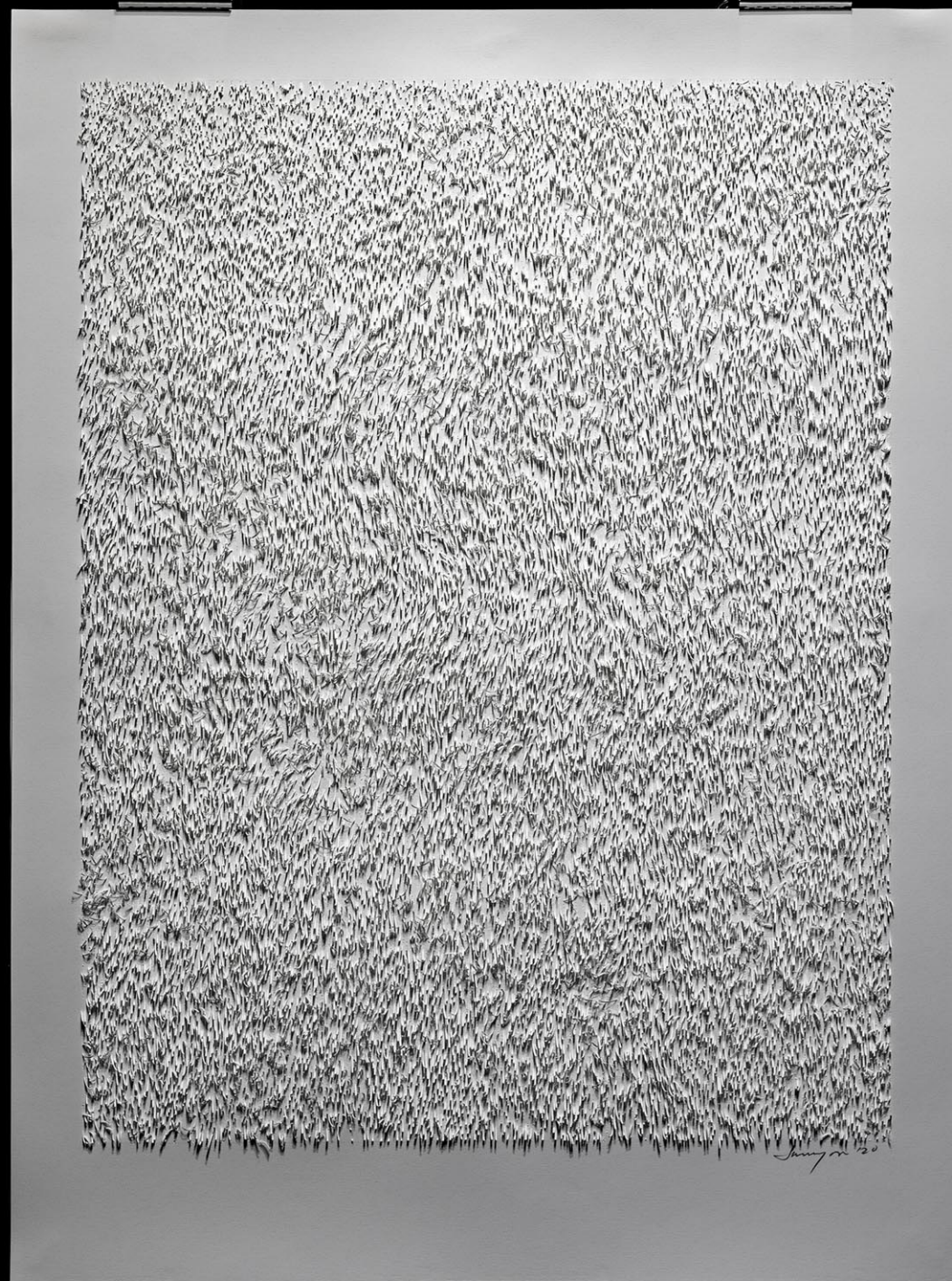
'Extreme Emotions: Disgust'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2020



'Extreme Emotions: Anger'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2020



'Extreme Emotions: Contempt'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2020



'Extreme Emotions: Surprise'
Sculpture with cotton paper
54 x 74 cm
2020

Counting rice grains with chopsticks

(Punishment)



'Counting rice grains with chopsticks' (Detail)
Sculpture with cotton paper
140 x 90 cm
2021



'Counting rice grains with chopsticks'
Sculpture with cotton paper
140 x 90 cm
2021

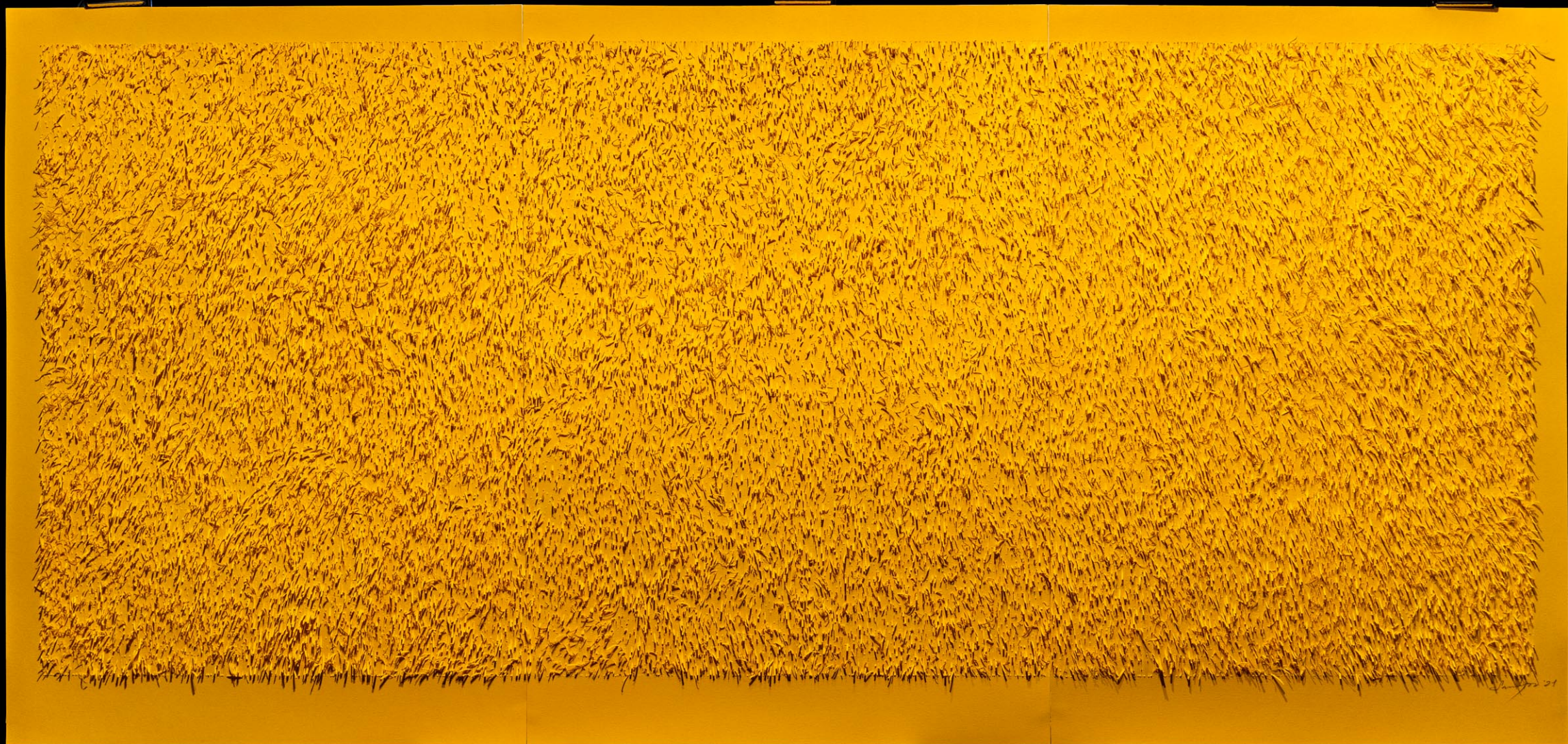


'Counting rice grains with chopsticks' (Back detail)
Sculpture with cotton paper
140 x 90 cm
2021

'The meaningless things we do to have a meaningful life'
Sculpture with cotton paper
140 x 257 cm
2021







'The Purest of Joys'
Sculpture with card
178.2 x 84.1 cm (Triptych)
2021



Mau Samayoa (El Salvador, 1989) is a visual artist working primarily with paper. He studied Visual Arts and Art Restoration at the National University of Arts in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 2020, he opened his studio in Birmingham, where he applies surgical-like techniques used in art restoration to develop intricate abstract sculptures on the surface of the paper.

Every piece is made with one single sheet of heavy paper, usually 100% cotton, which is scored many times with a scalpel creating thousands of individual lines. Then he makes cuts in the opposite direction and peels the surface of the paper with tweezers, the different lengths and the direction of the pulling create the actual drawing. It takes countless hours of obsessive and intense work to produce each piece.

Contact:

+4407932664166

art@mausamayoa.com

www.mausamayoa.com

171 Great Hampton Row
Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham
B19 3JP