



Bugs and Botanicals - The Interconnectedness of Nature

Artwork by Shannon Amidon

Bugs and Botanicals - The Interconnectedness of Nature

A Note from the Artist - Creating 50 pieces of artwork in 50 days.

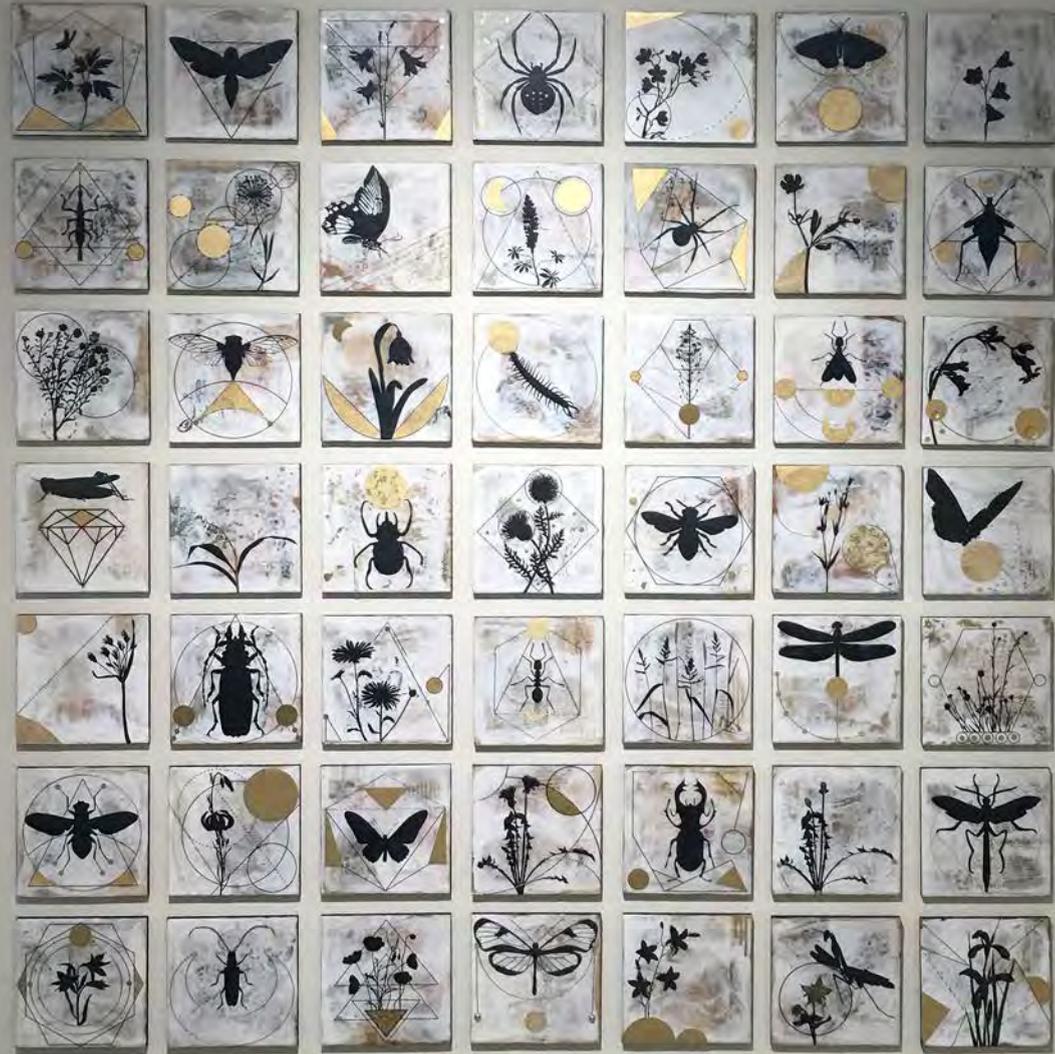
When a friend encouraged me to apply for the 8th Annual 50 | 50 Juried Show hosted by Sanchez Art Center, it sounded simple enough: create 50 pieces of art work in 50 days around a specific theme. I was thrilled when I was one of the artists selected by juror Brian Gross of Brian Gross Fine Art in San Francisco to participate in the exhibition. Little did I know how much this project would push me creatively.

My theme was Bugs and Botanicals - The Interconnectedness of Nature. The first couple of weeks were great; everything was new and exciting. Then the beginning of week three came and I realized that I had only completed 15 pieces out of 50. I began to panic. What did I get myself into? That was when I realized how much art 50 pieces actually is. My theme was fighting back, challenging me to come up with new ways to make each piece unique yet cohesive within the series. At times I was in the flow and ideas and pieces seemed to magically appear. Other days they had to be dragged kicking and screaming out of my head and through my hands. Somewhere along the way I just stopped thinking and kept creating. I didn't have time to think or plan, I just had to make art. It was a wonderful feeling to surrender to the process.

In the end, I did it - I created 50 pieces of artwork in 50 days! These little treasures took on a life of their own and let me explore subject matter, technique, materials and new ways of creating. Each piece is a 6x6-inch mixed media encaustic painting. I used a variety of materials including vintage book pages, letters, maps, 23K gold leaf, gold thread, oil paint and micro beads. The paintings are titled after botanists, naturalists or entomologists. I encourage the viewer to look up the names and learn more about the wonders these scientists contributed to the world.

This was a remarkable art making experience for me. I hope you enjoy discovering these pieces as much as I did creating them.

Shannon Amidon



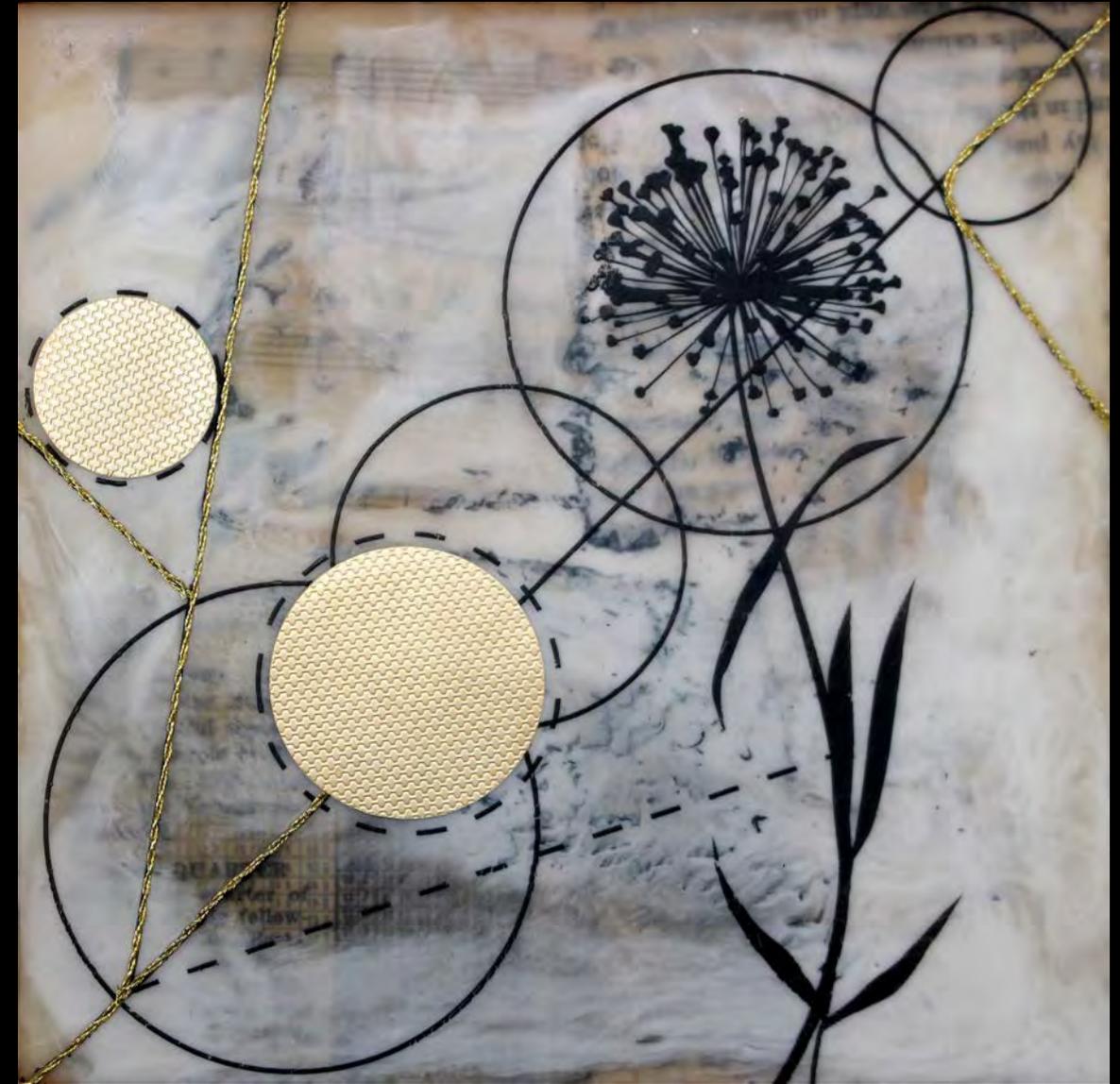
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By Shannon Amidon

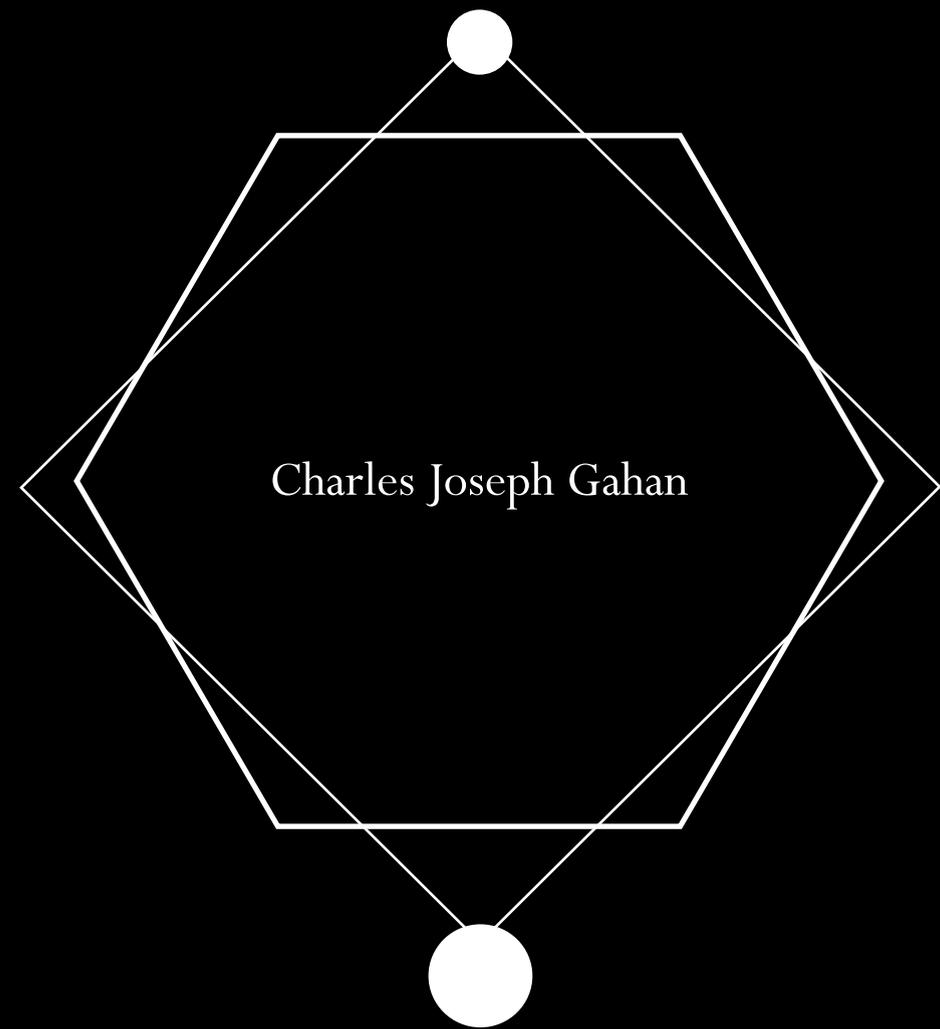
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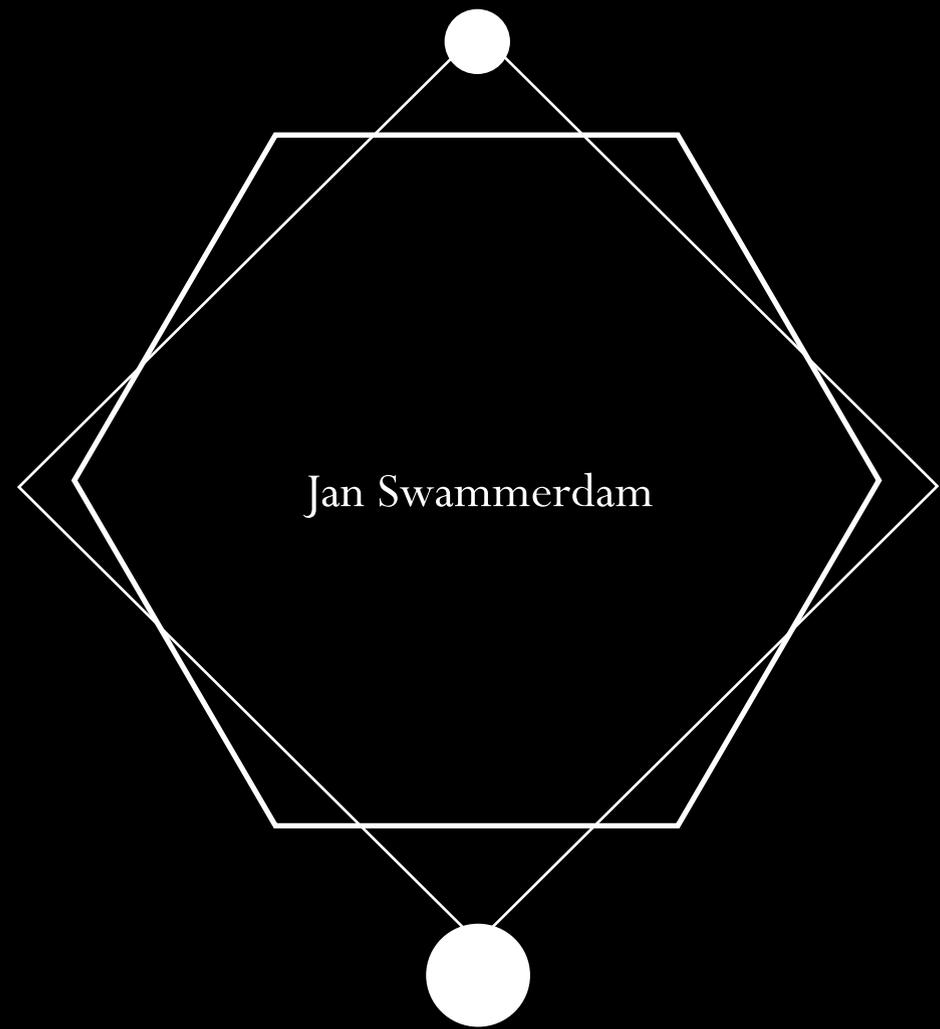
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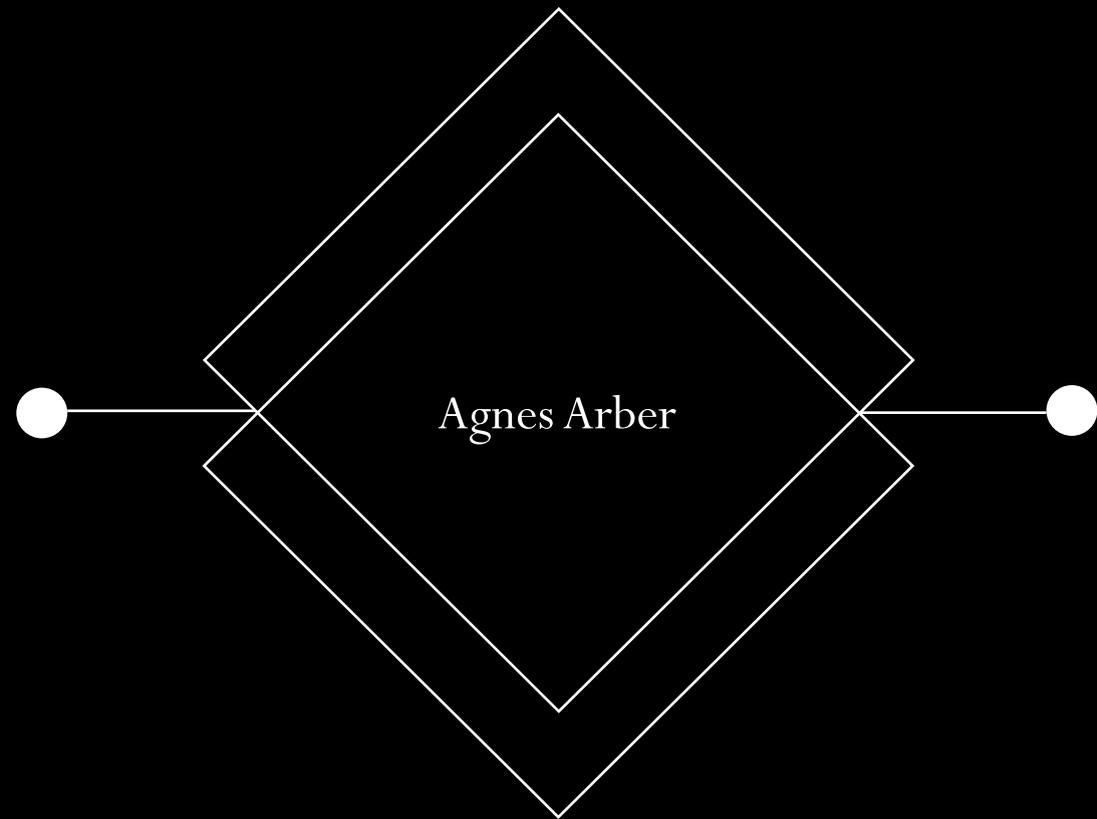
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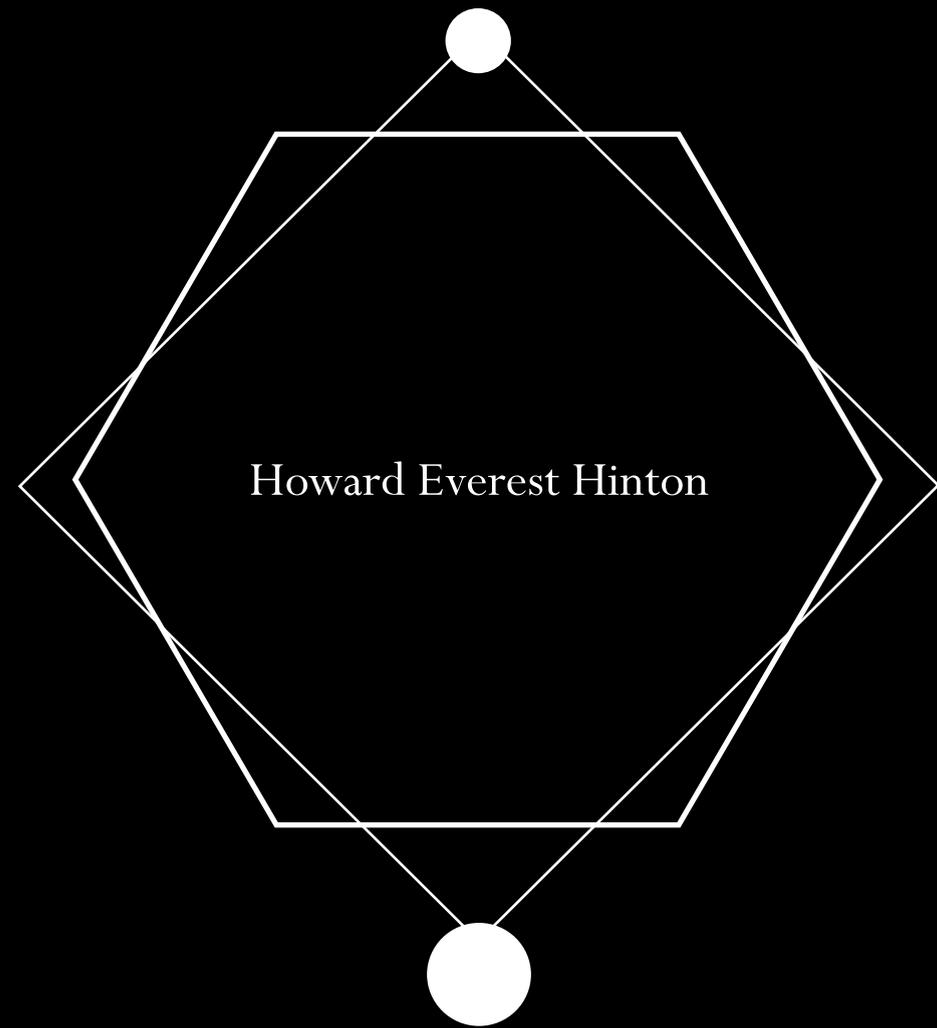






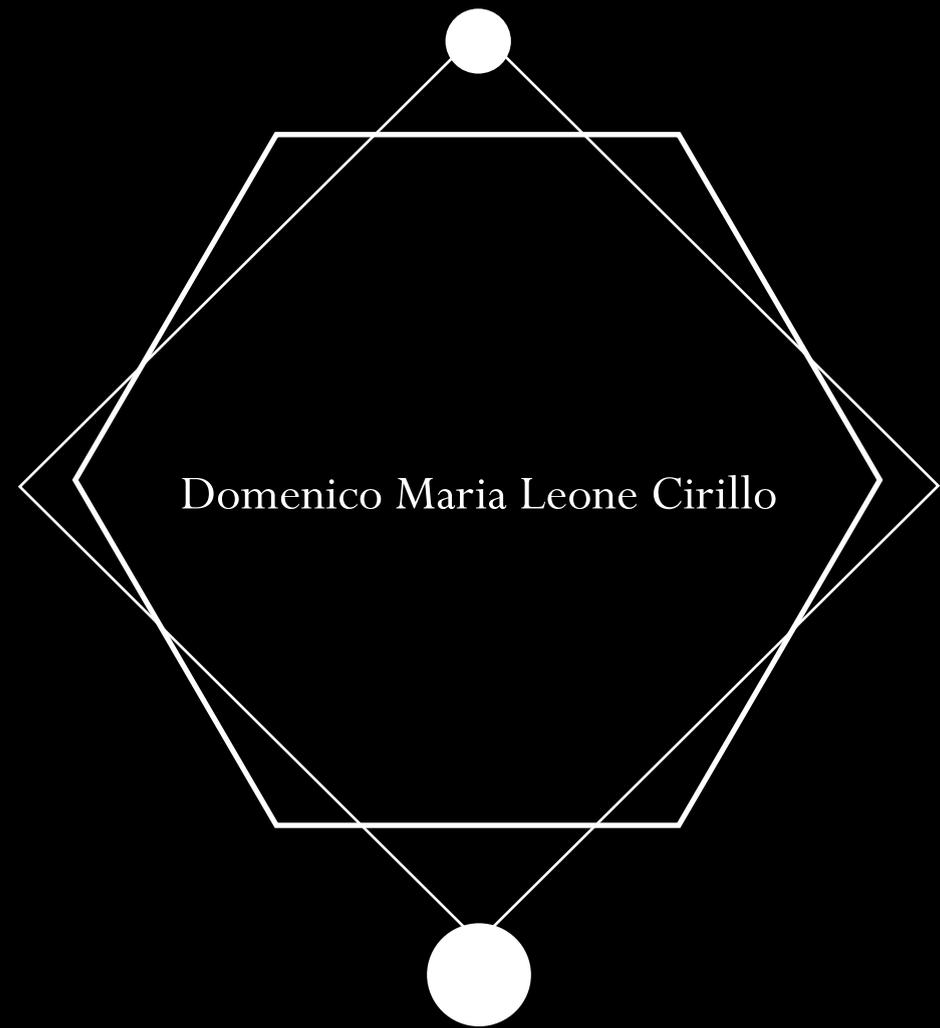






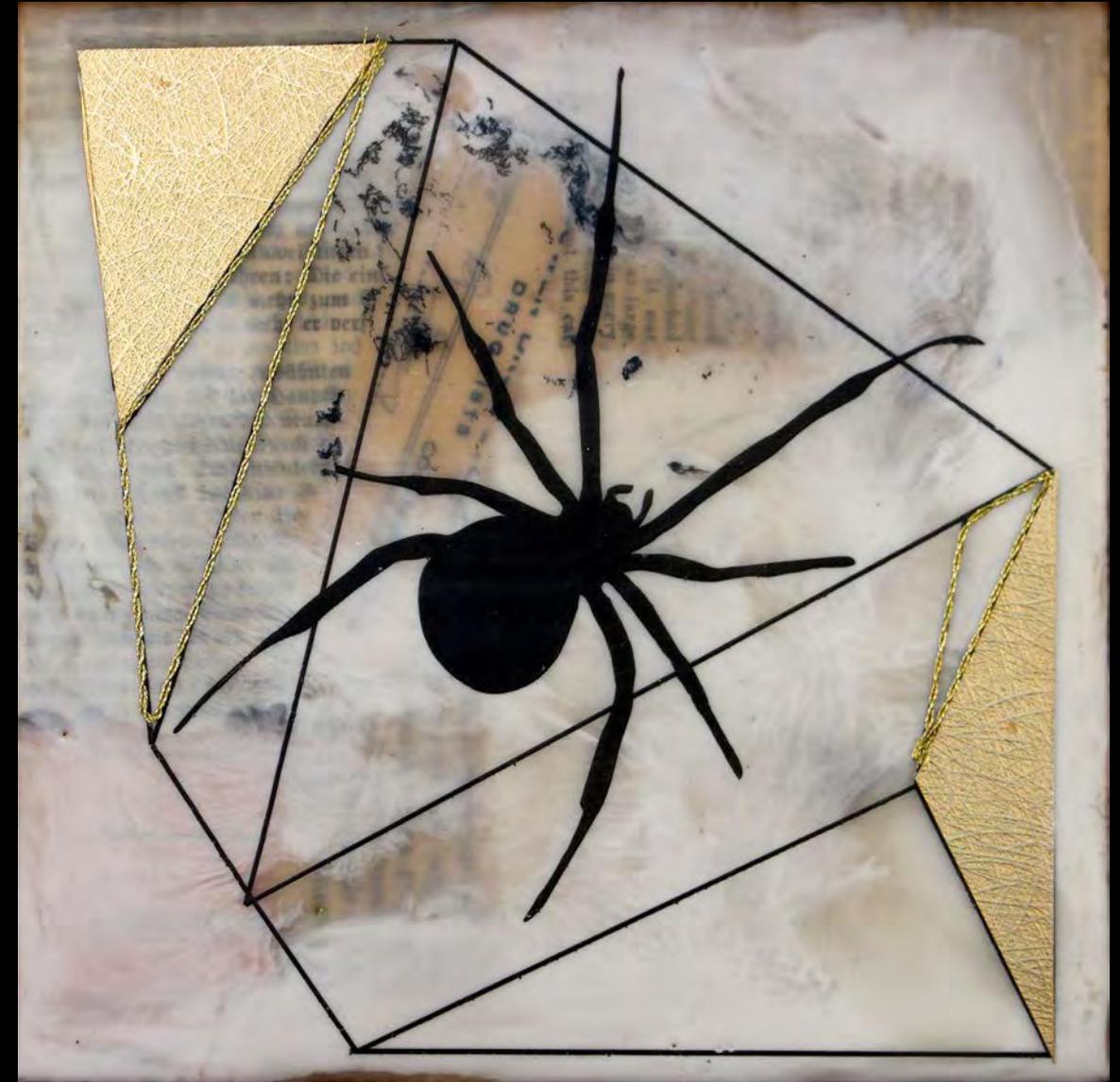
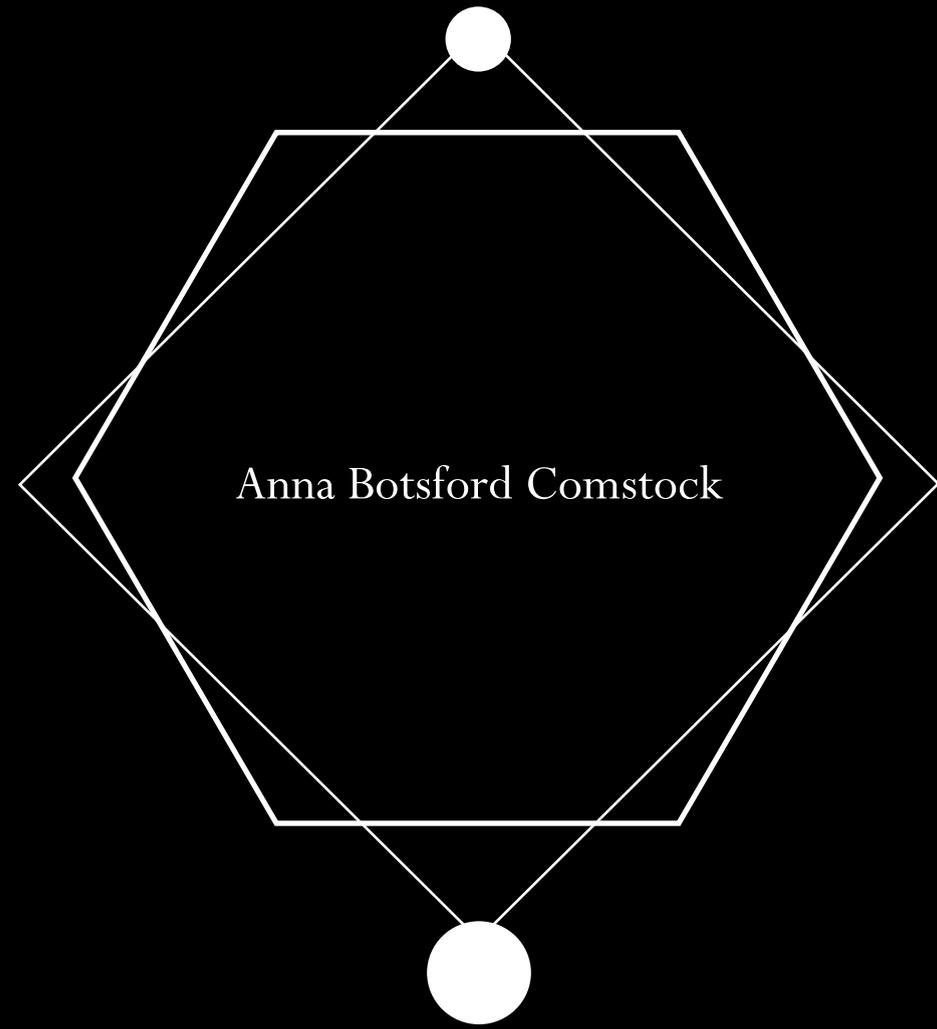
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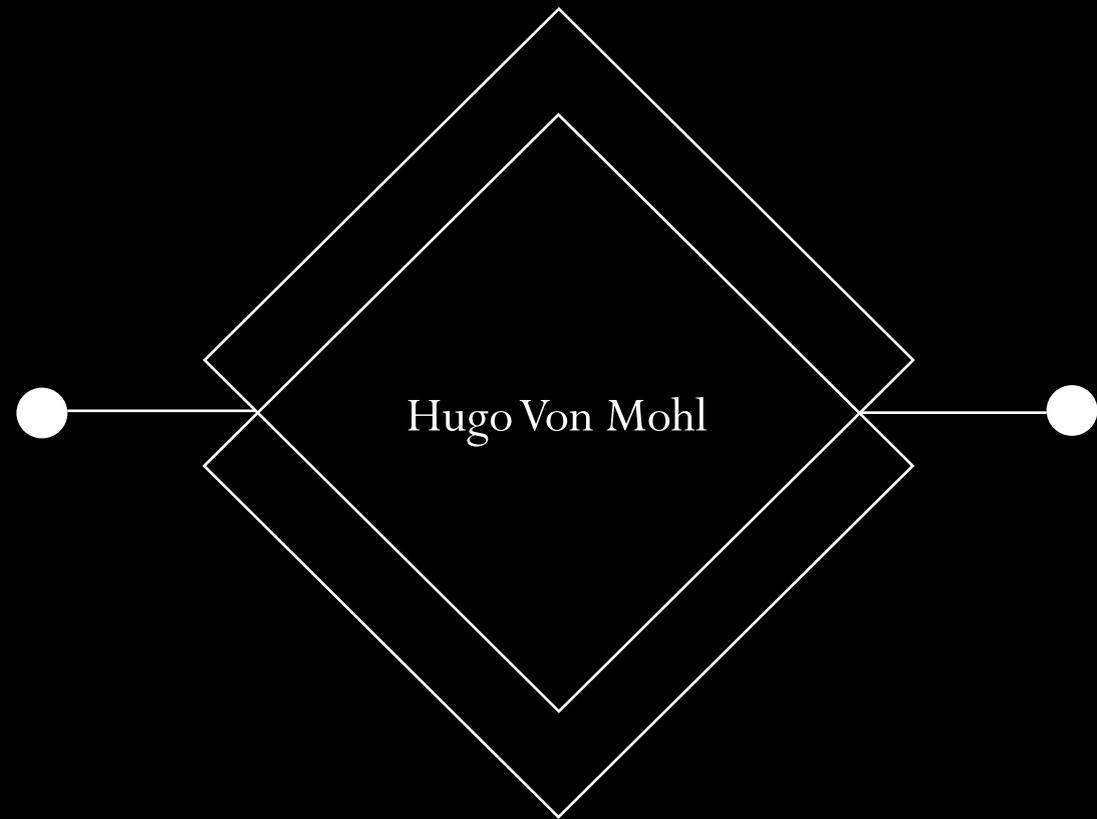


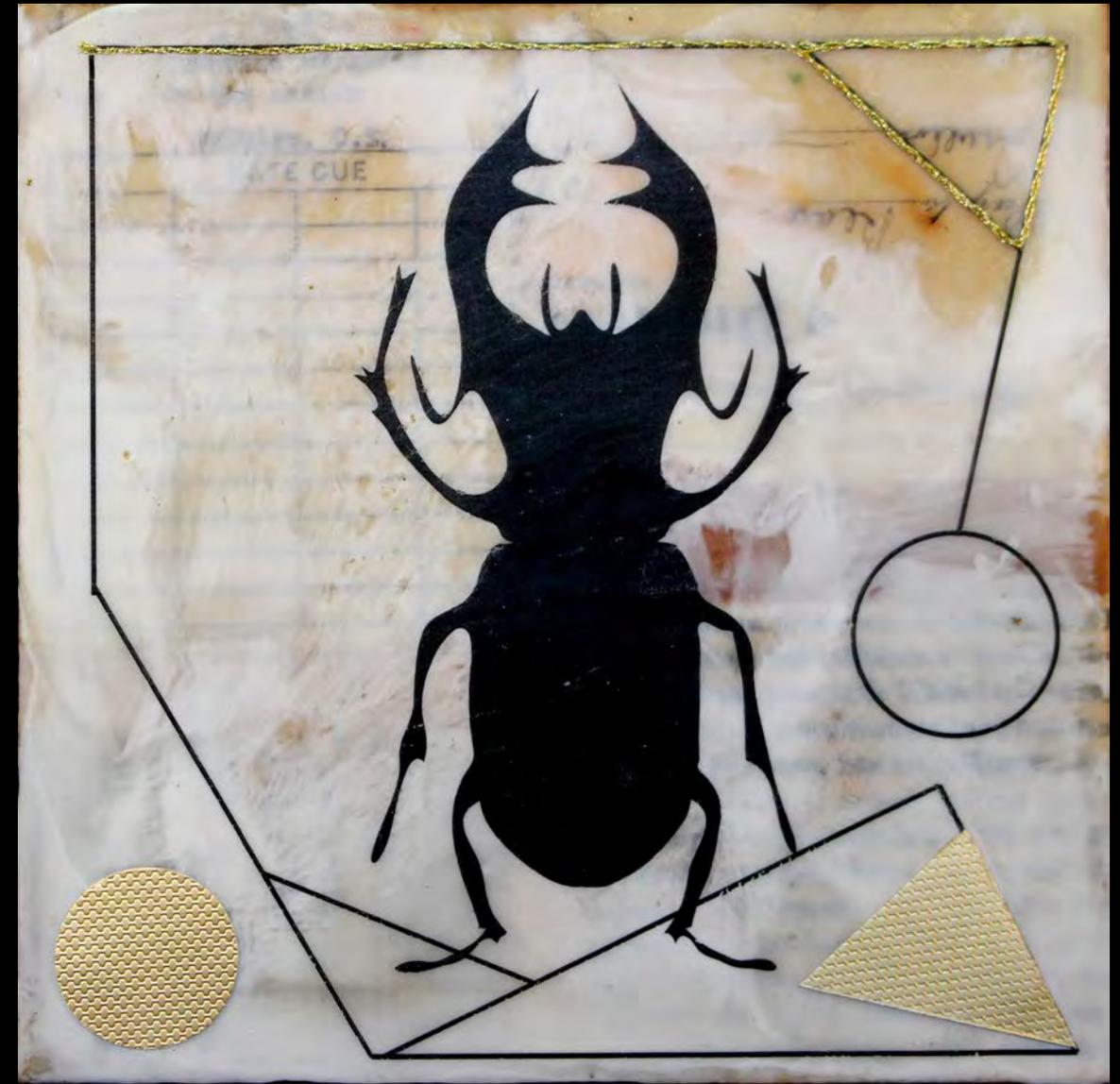
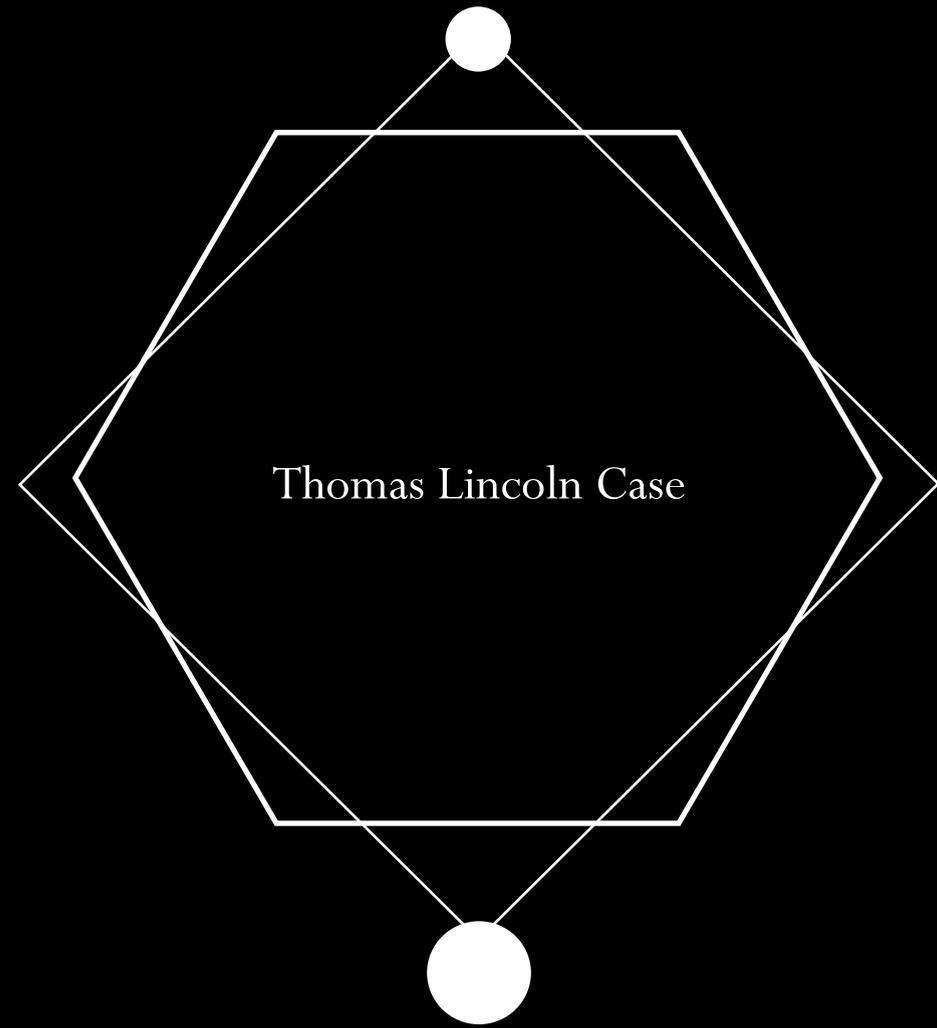


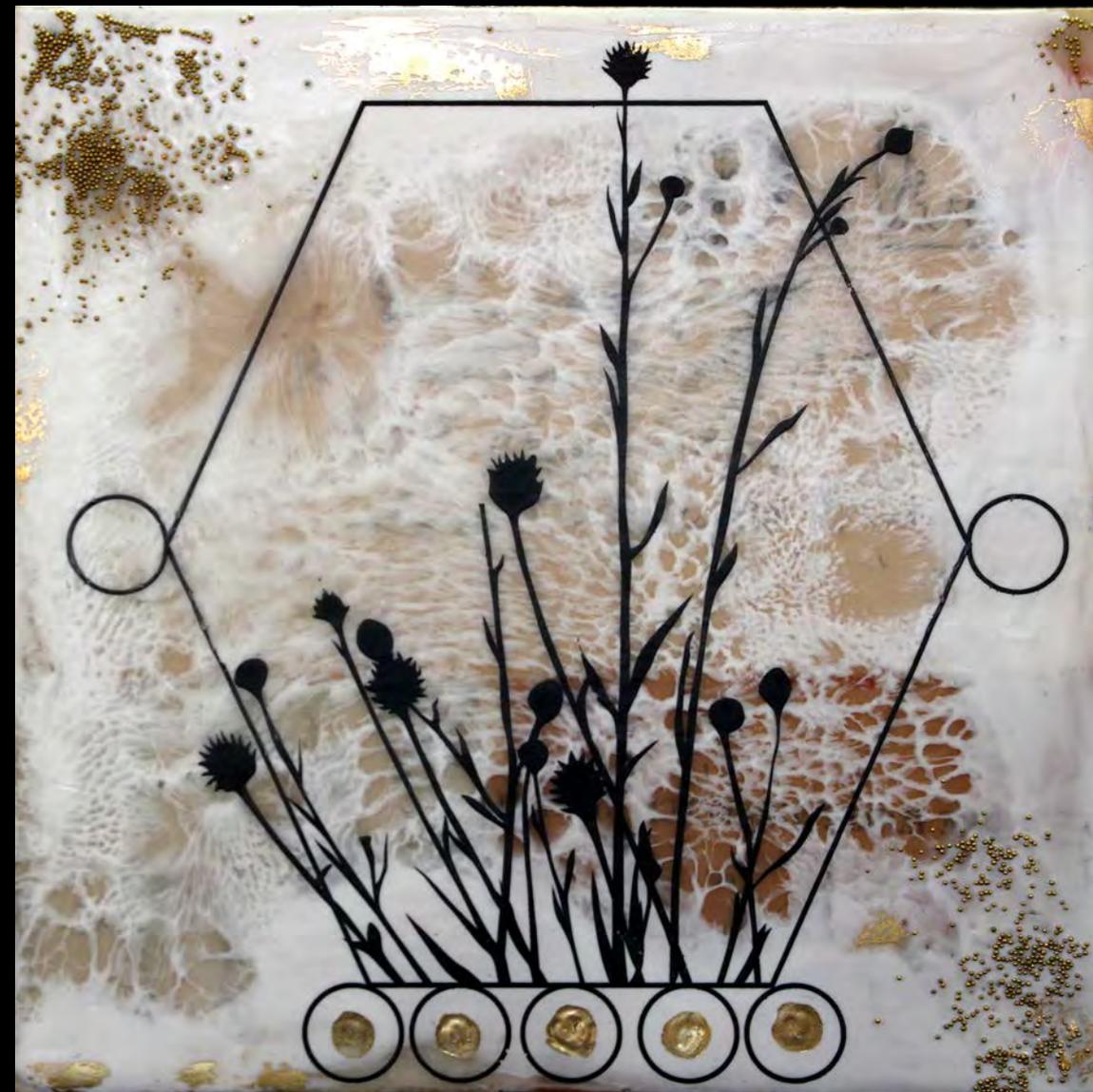
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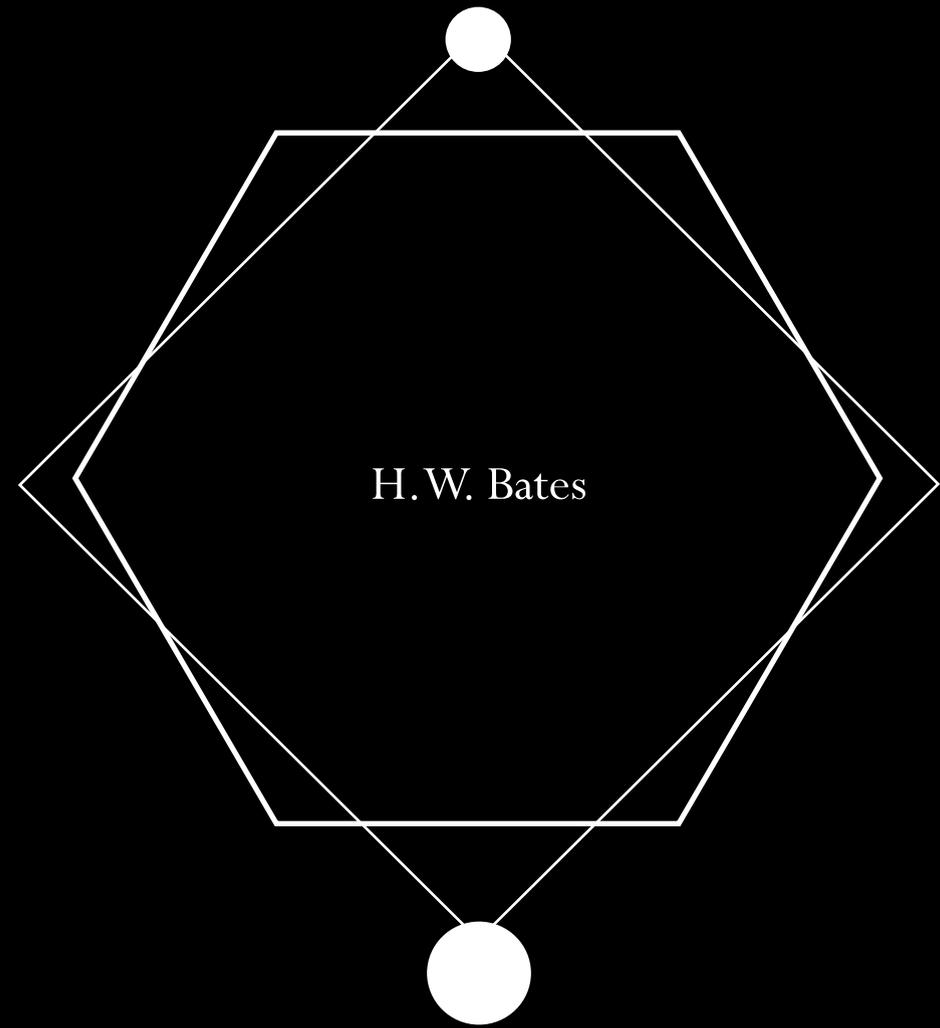


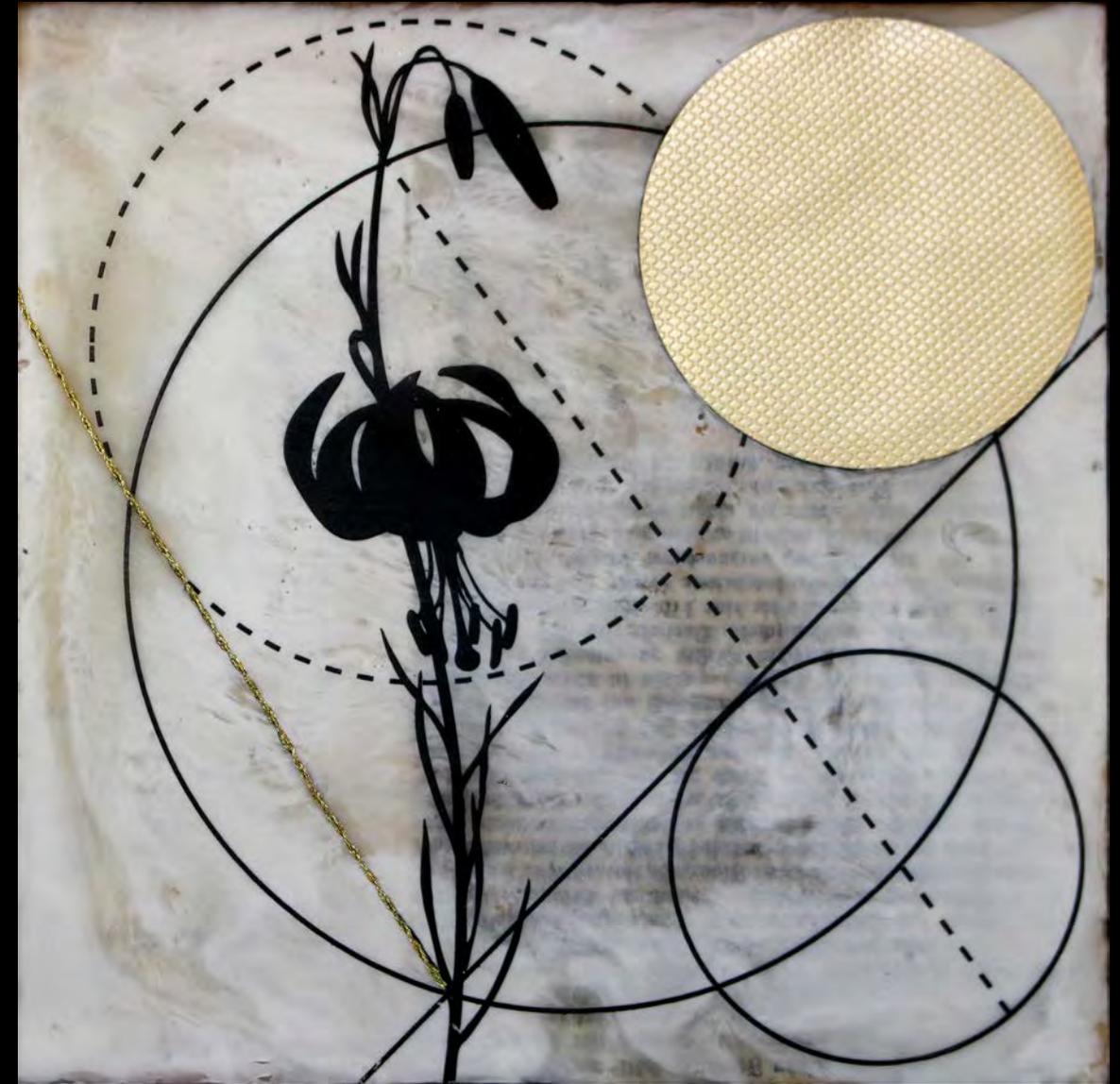
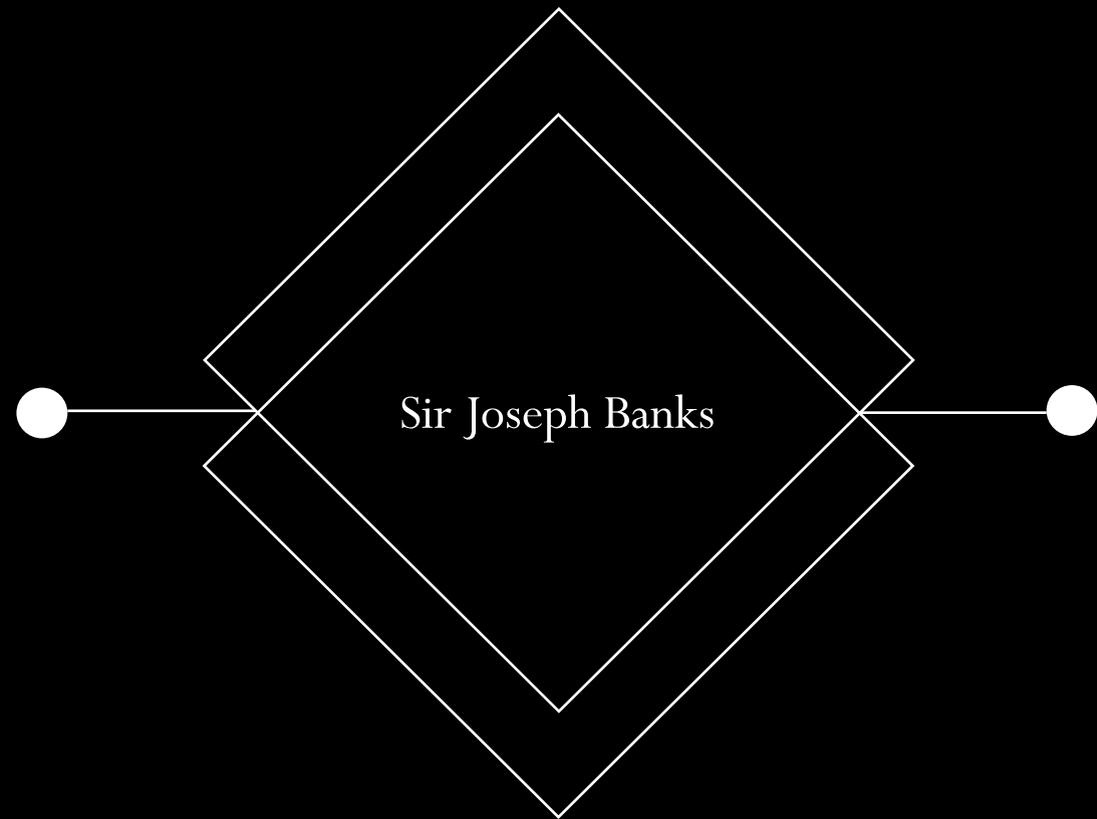


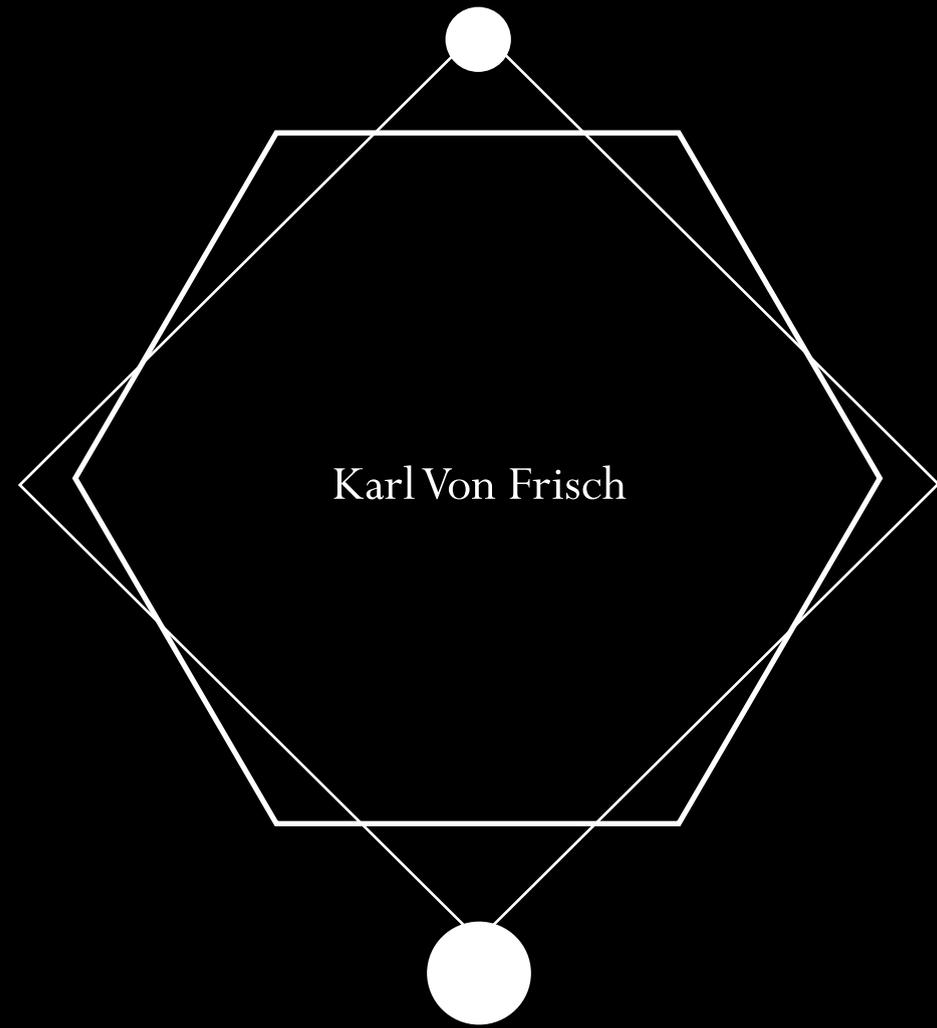






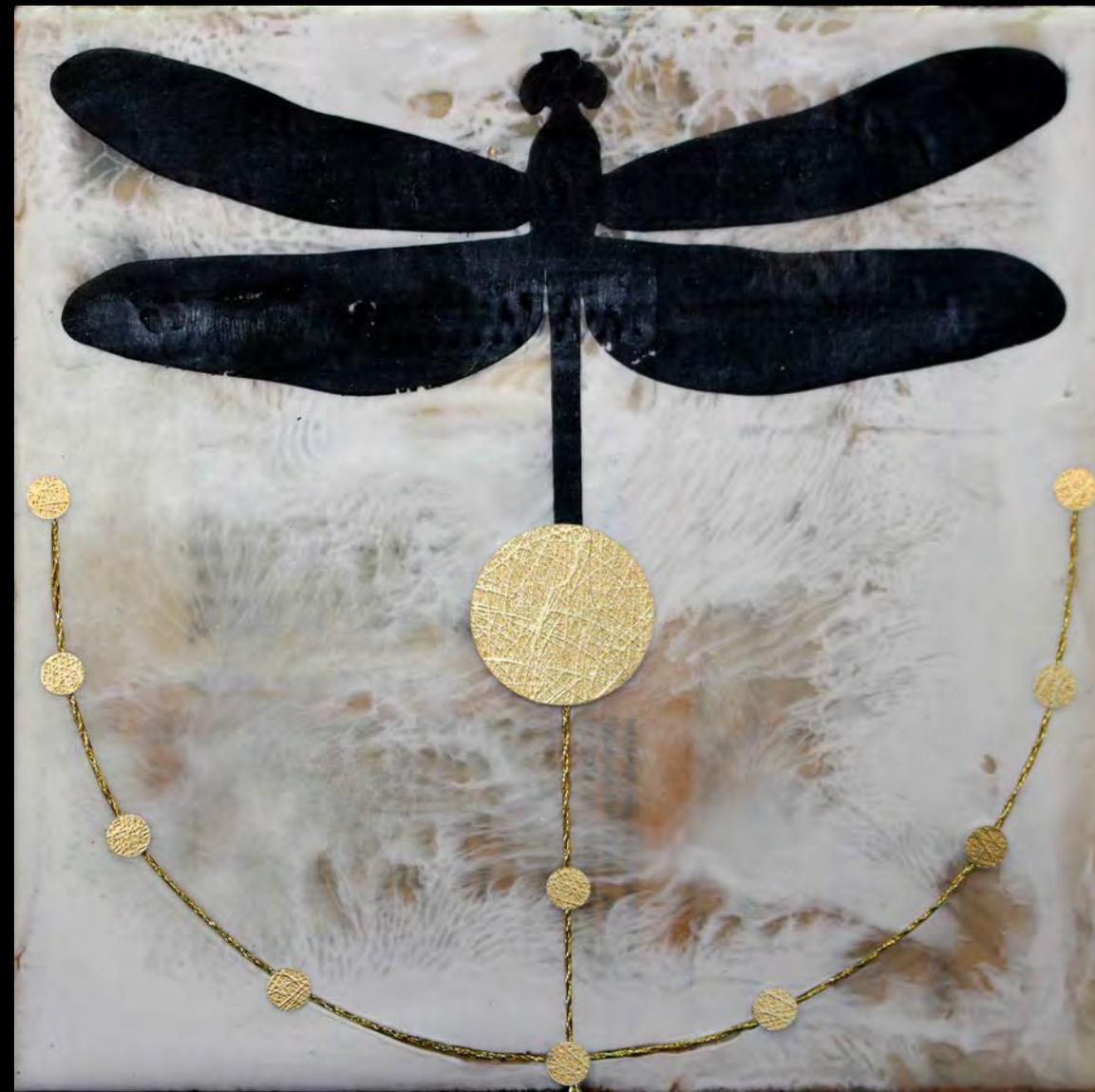
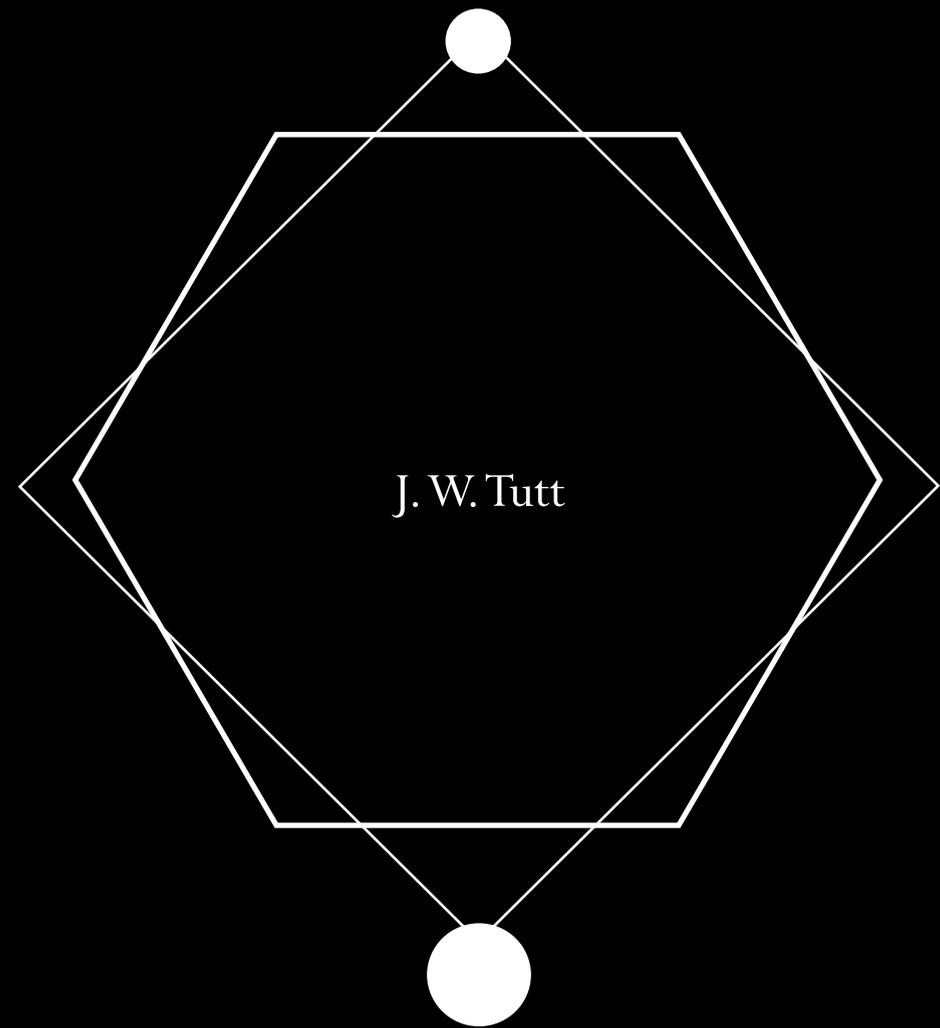


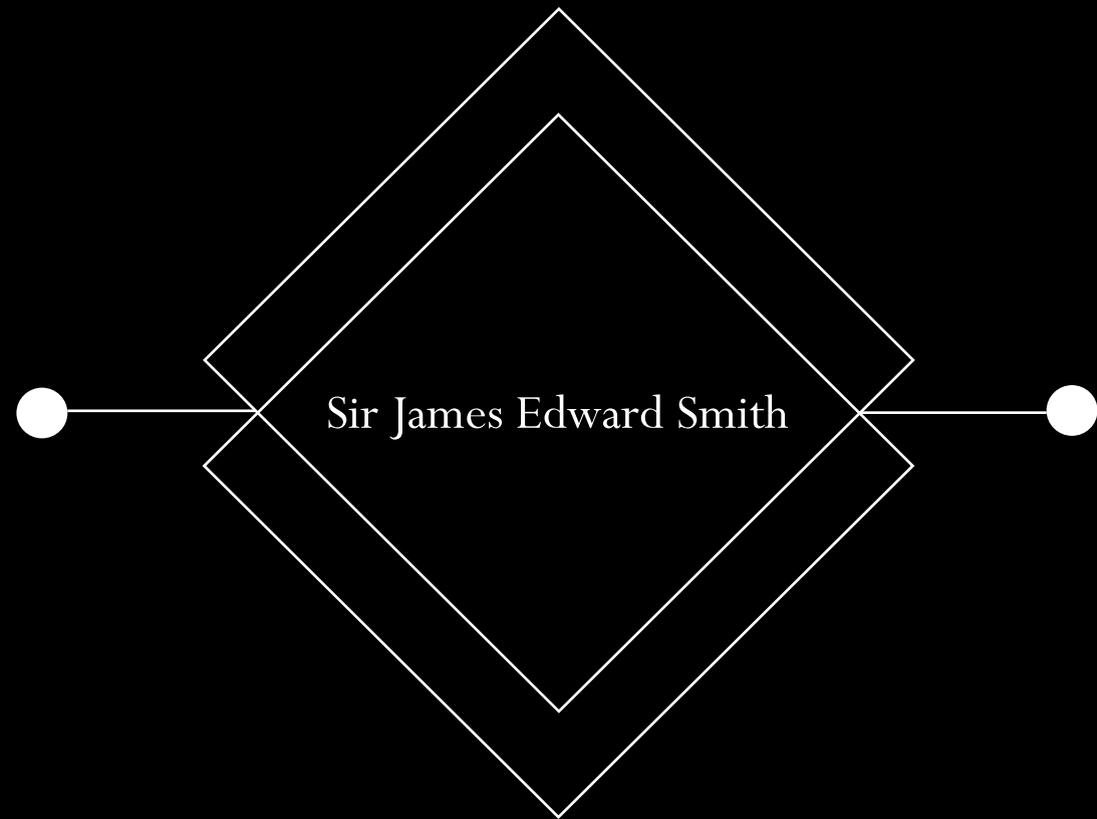


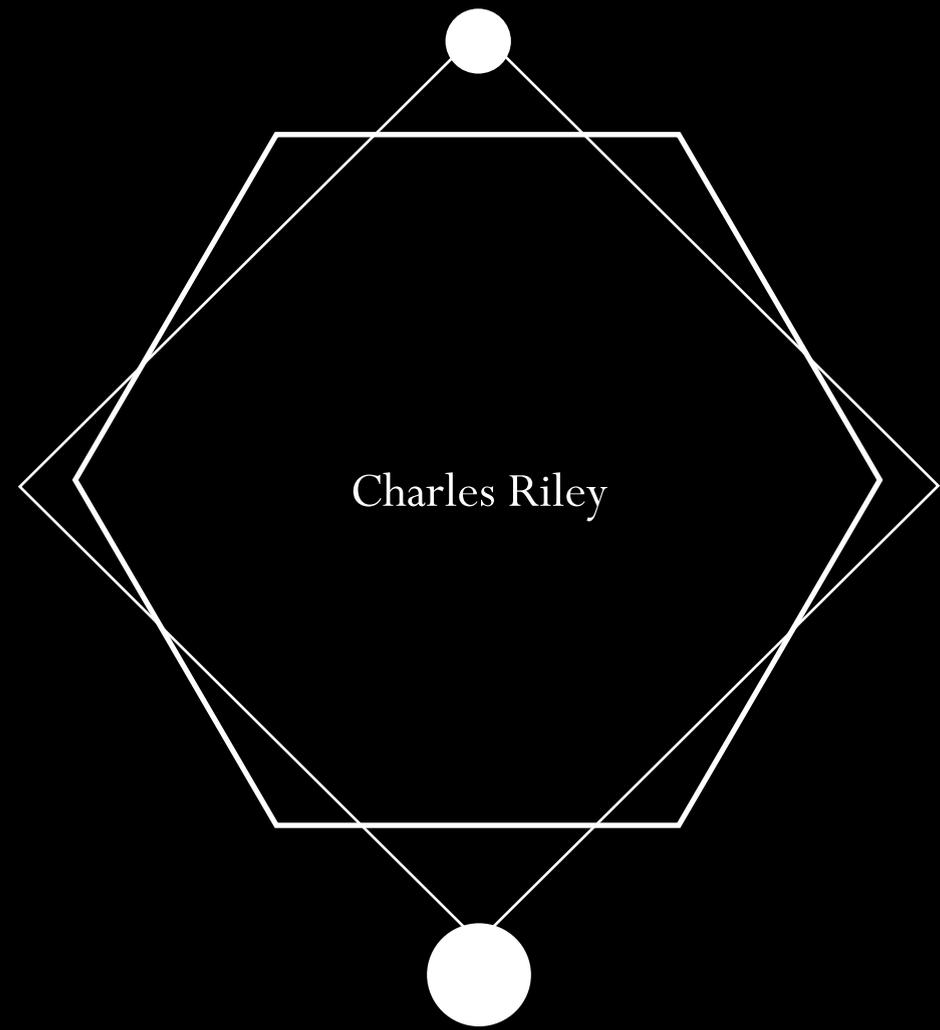


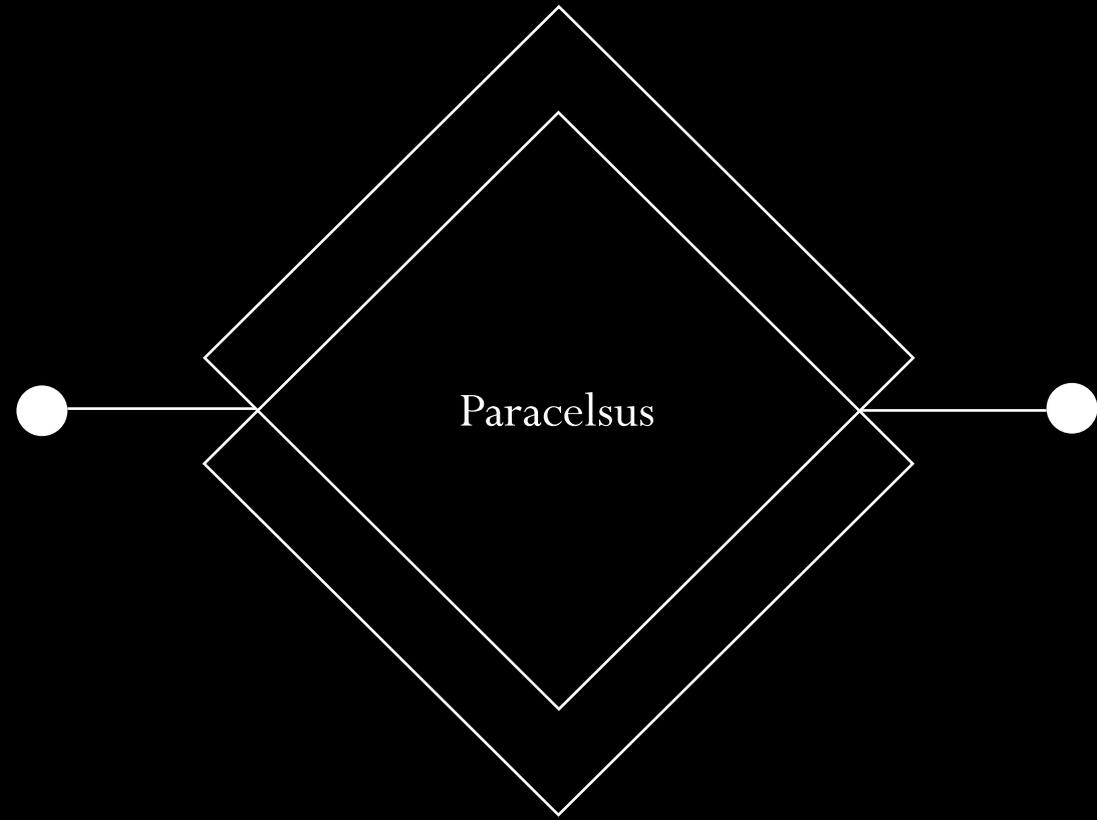
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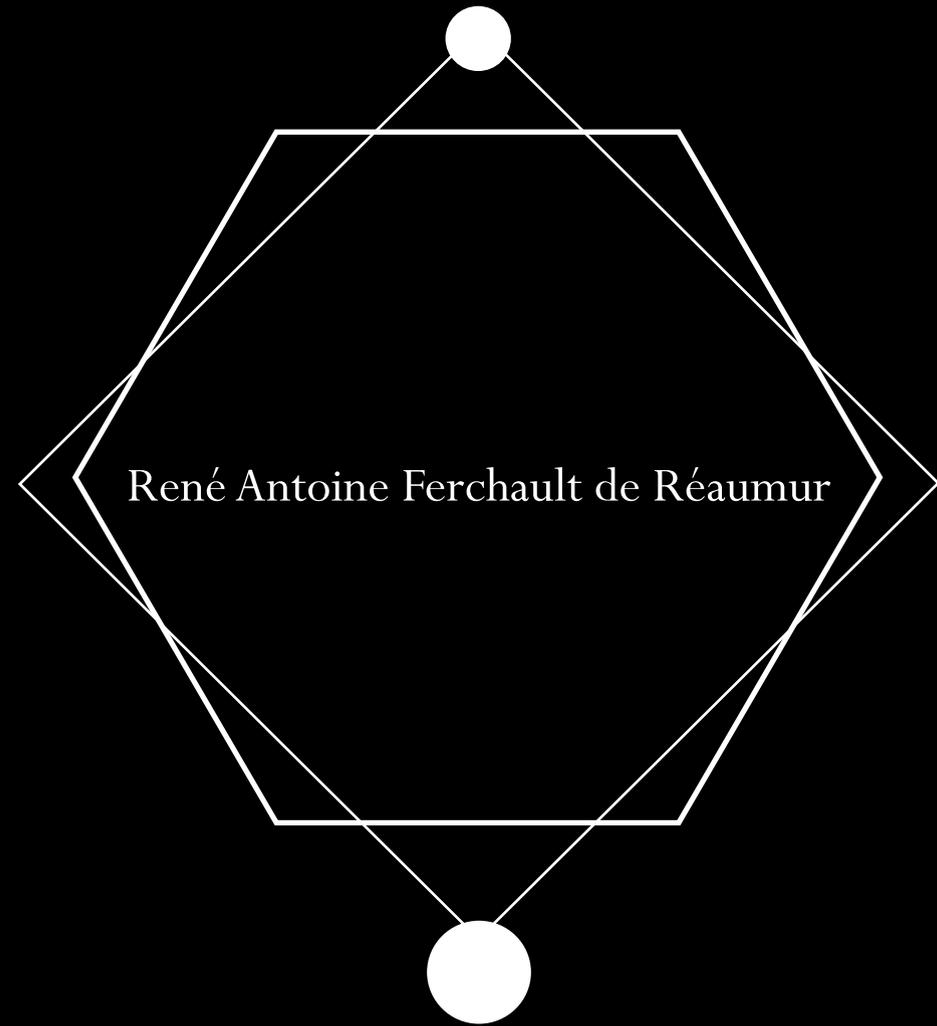






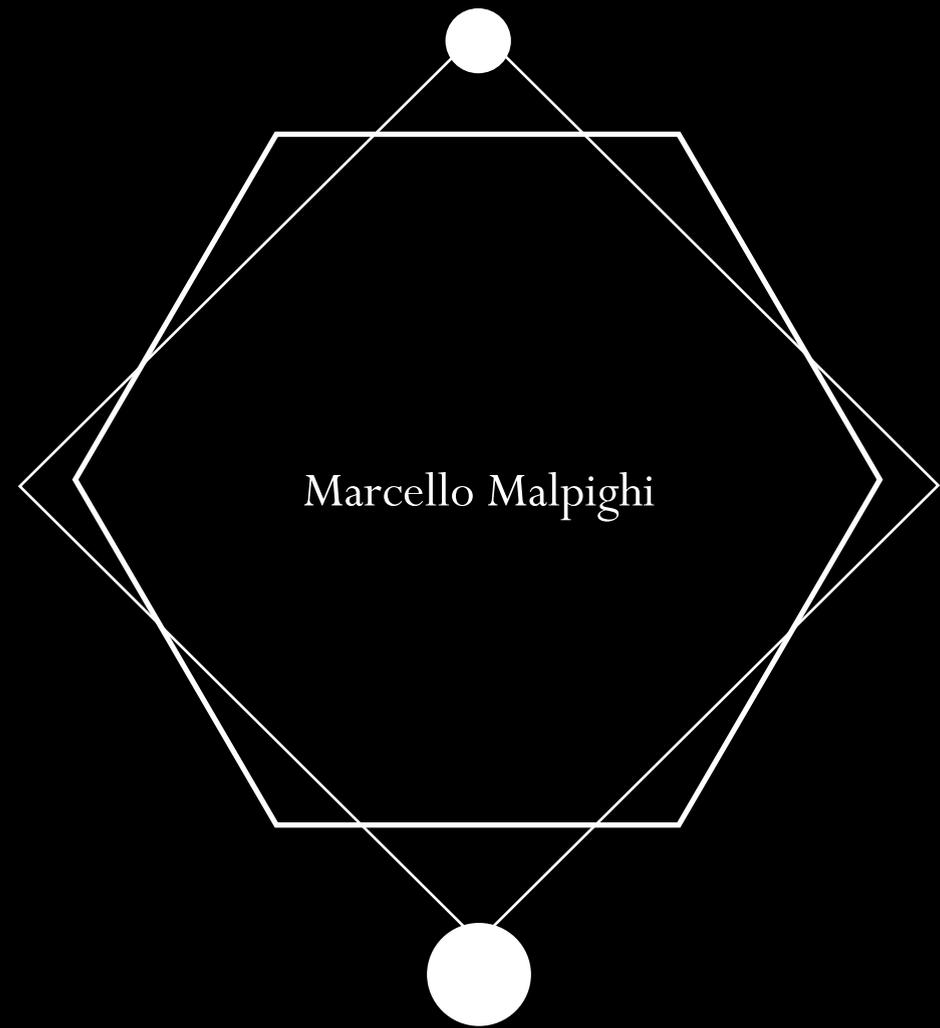


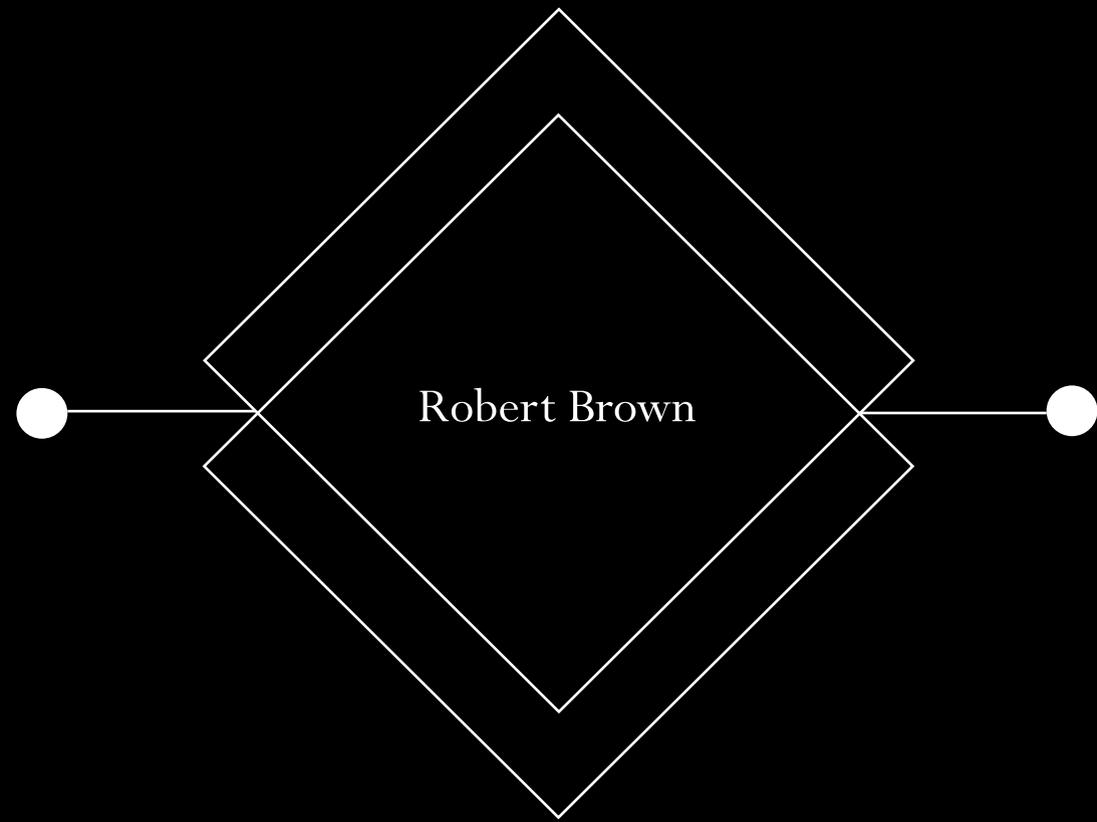


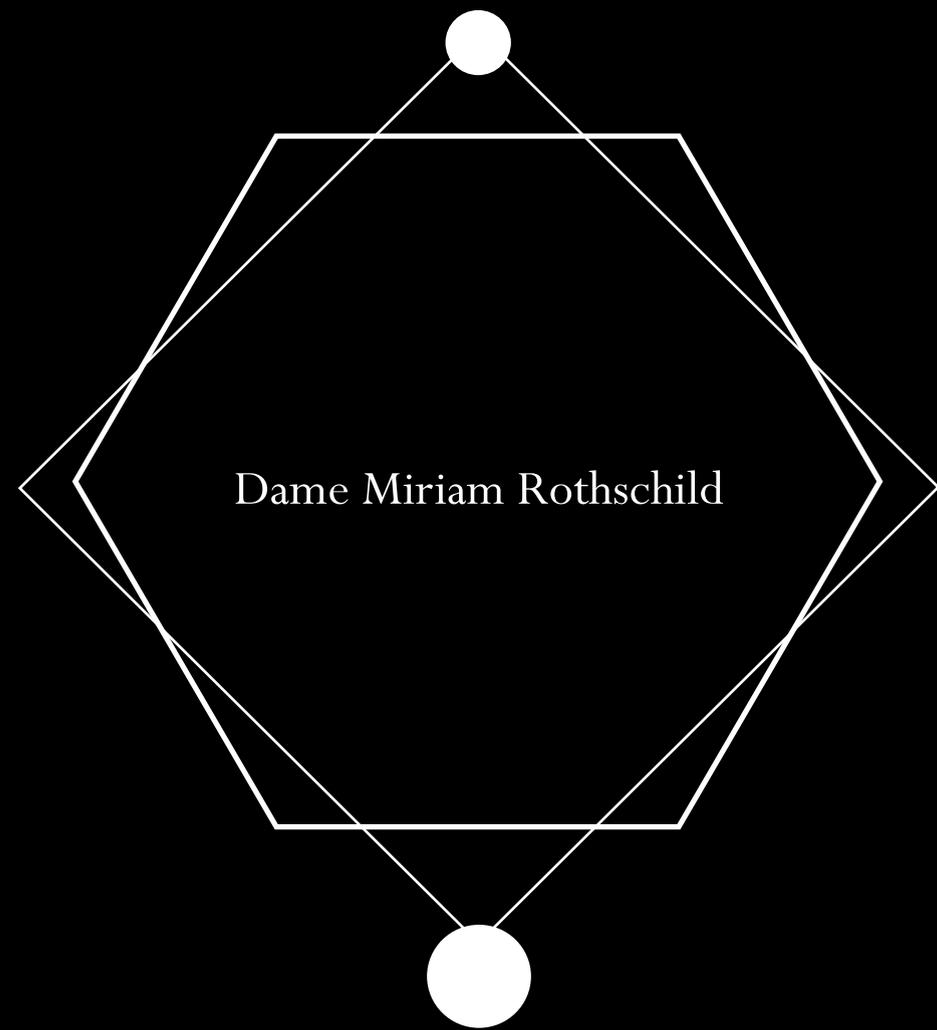


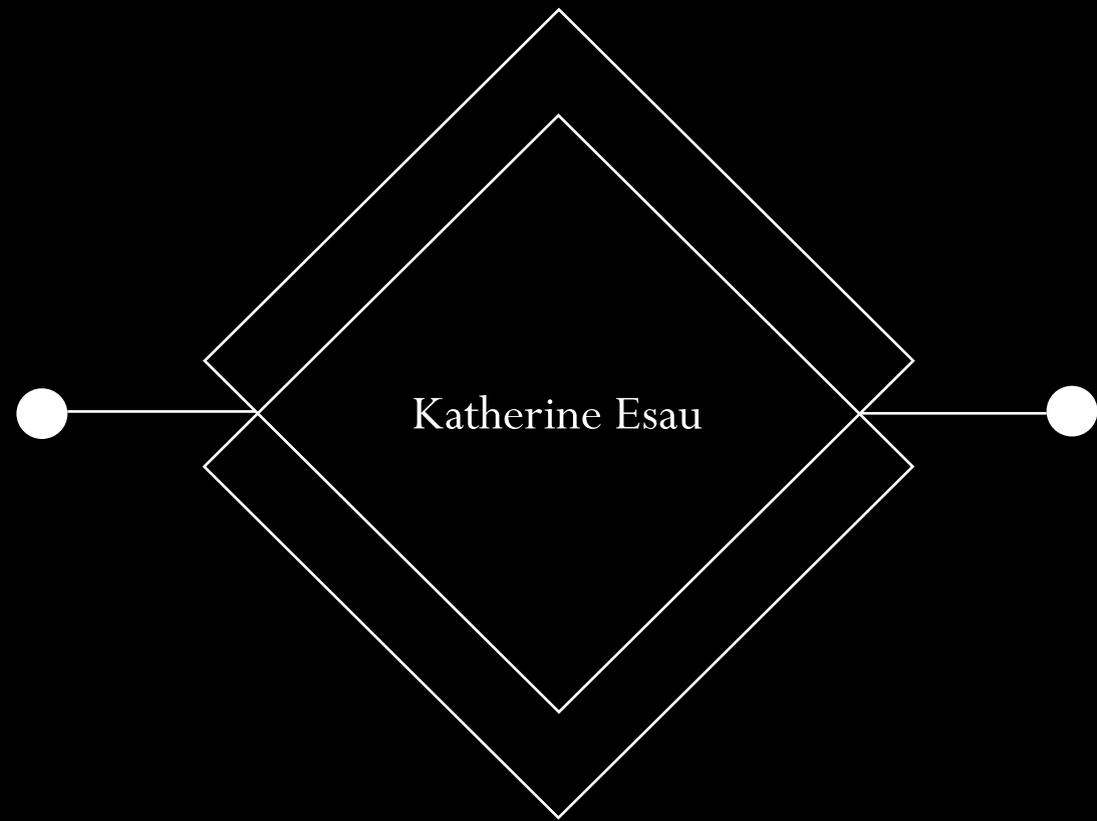
Liberty Hyde Bailey

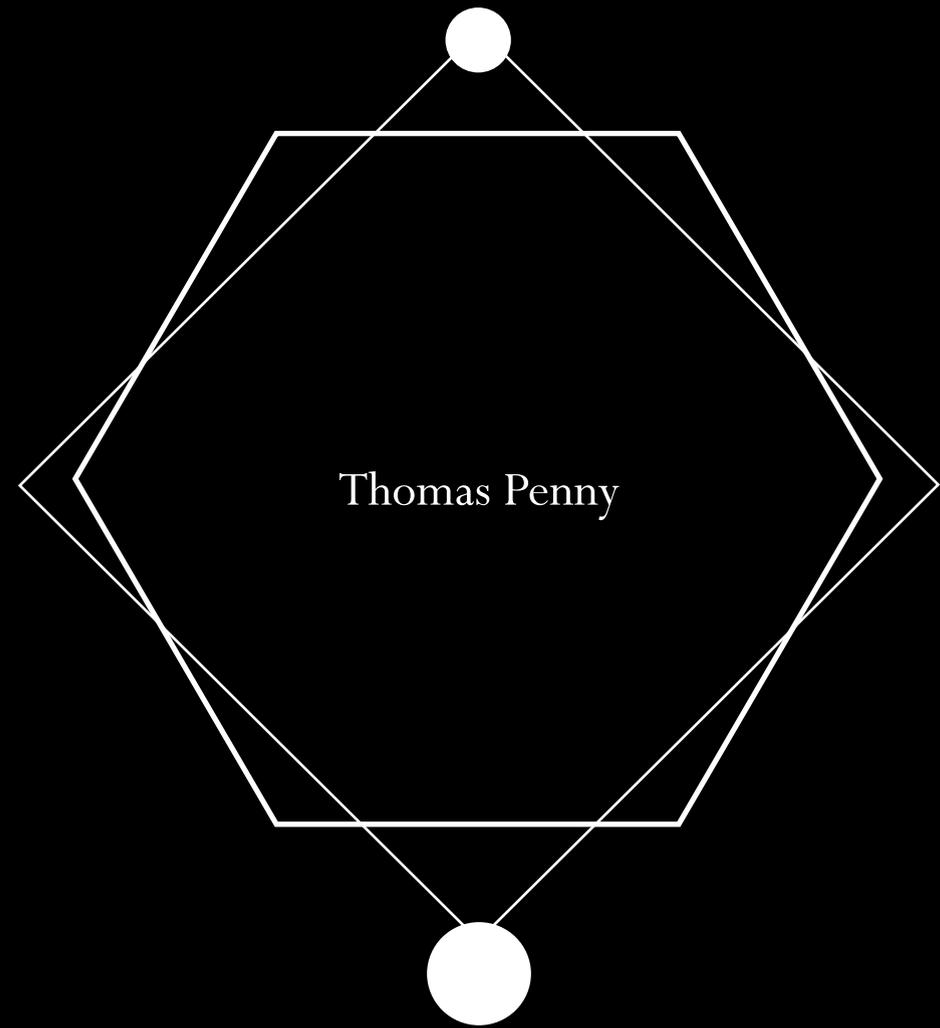


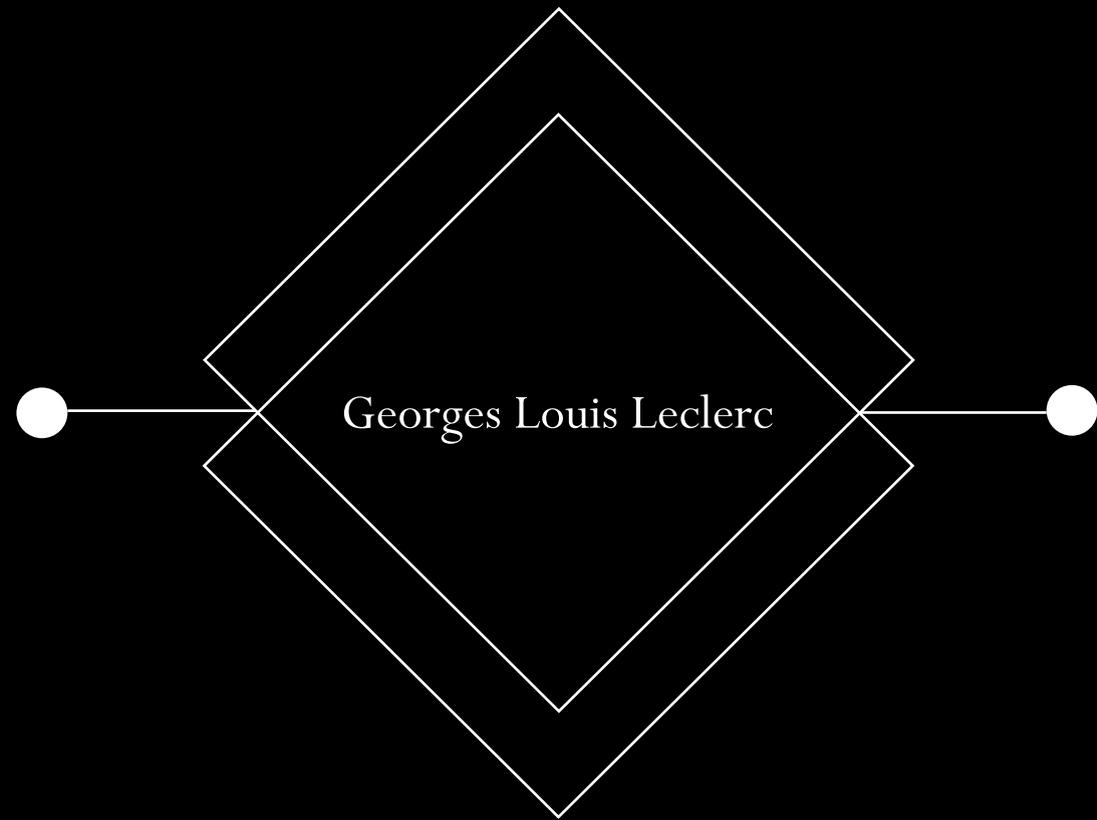


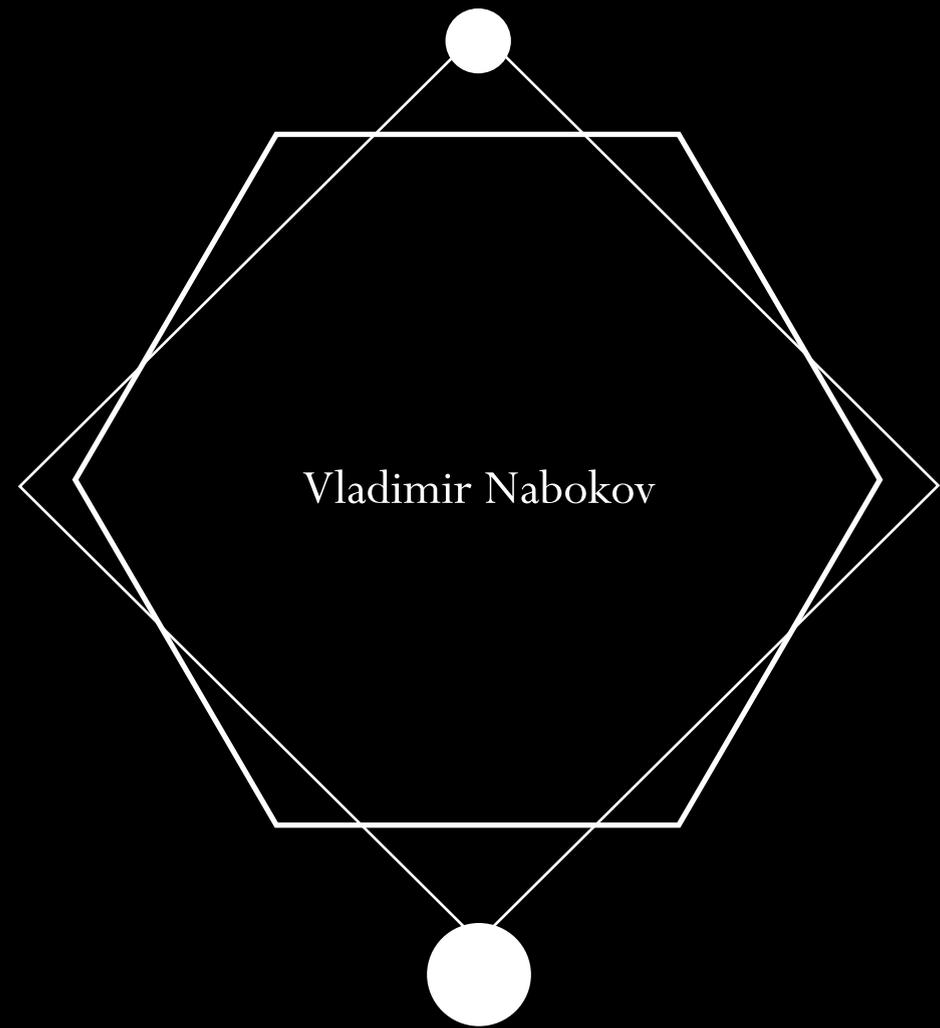






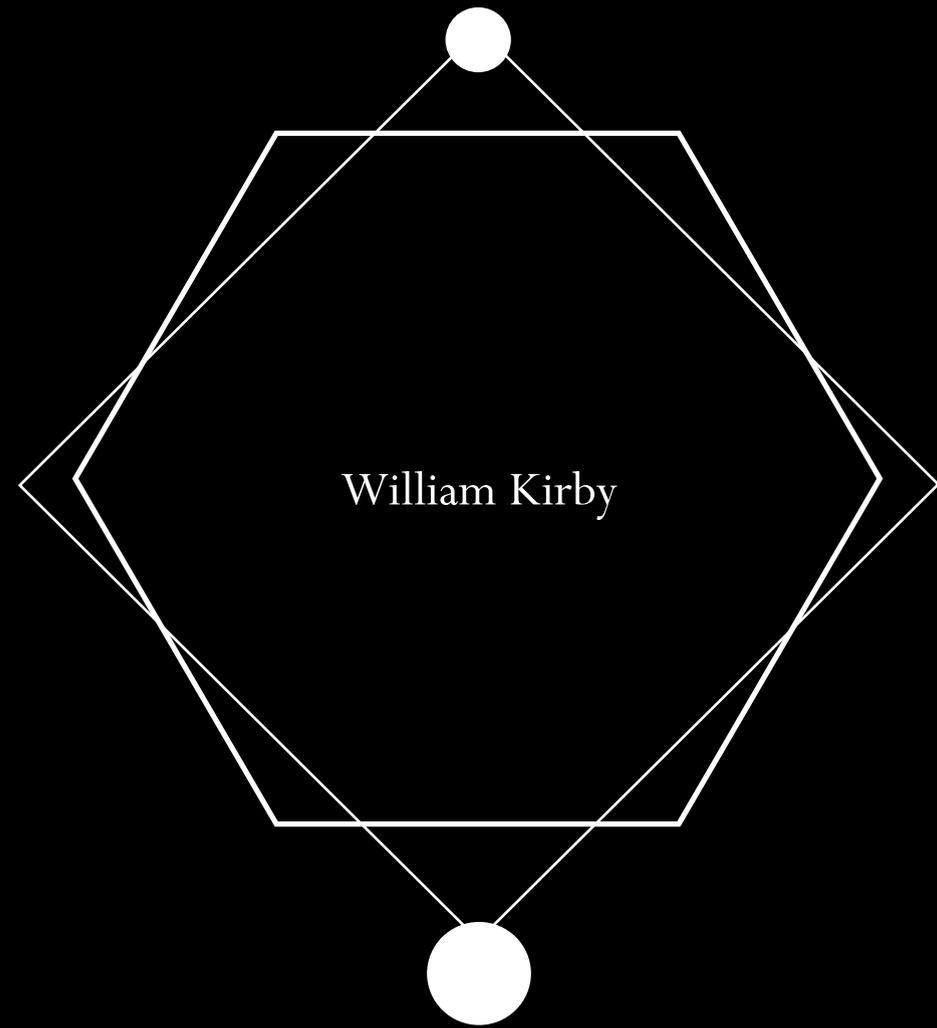


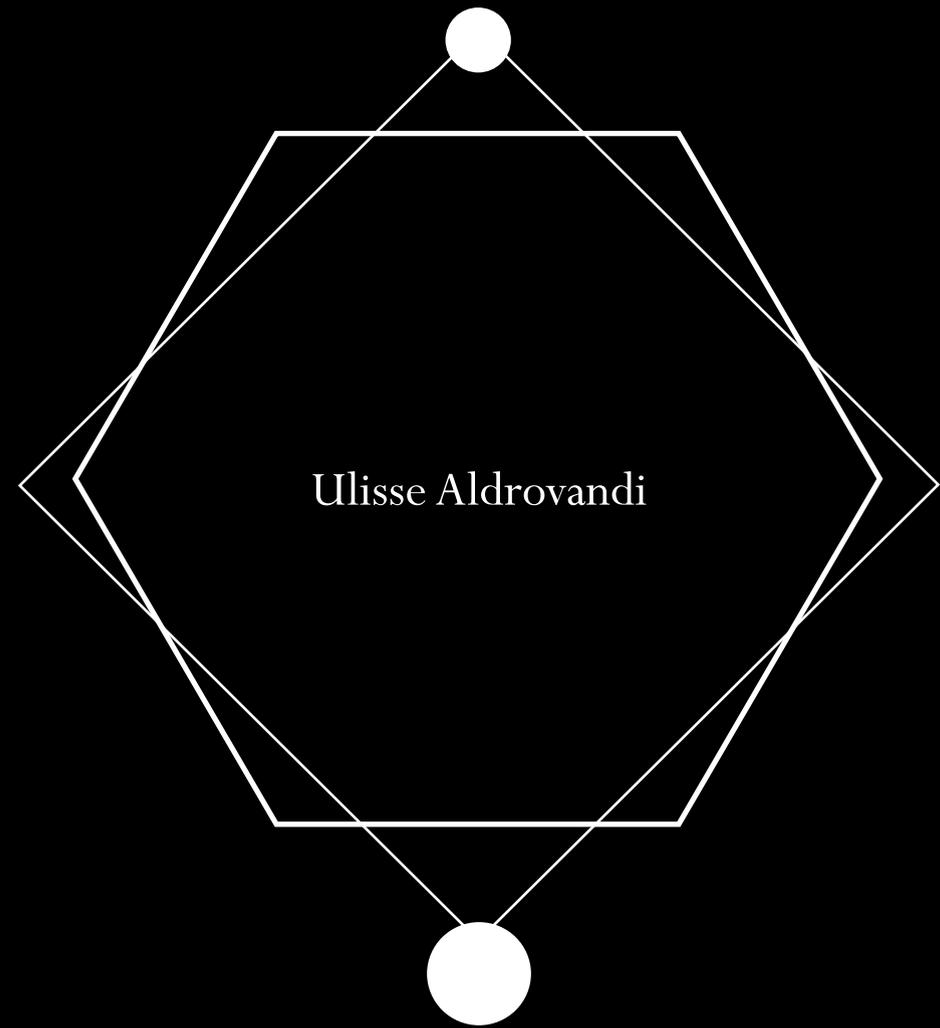


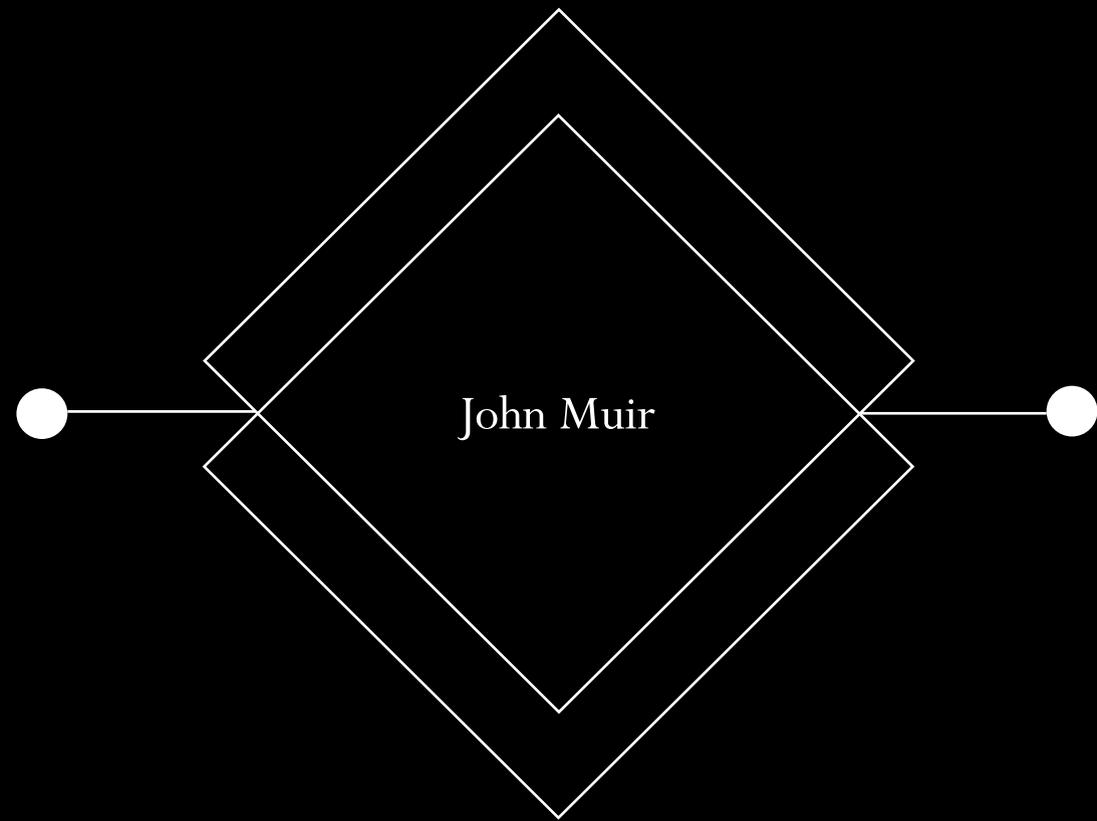


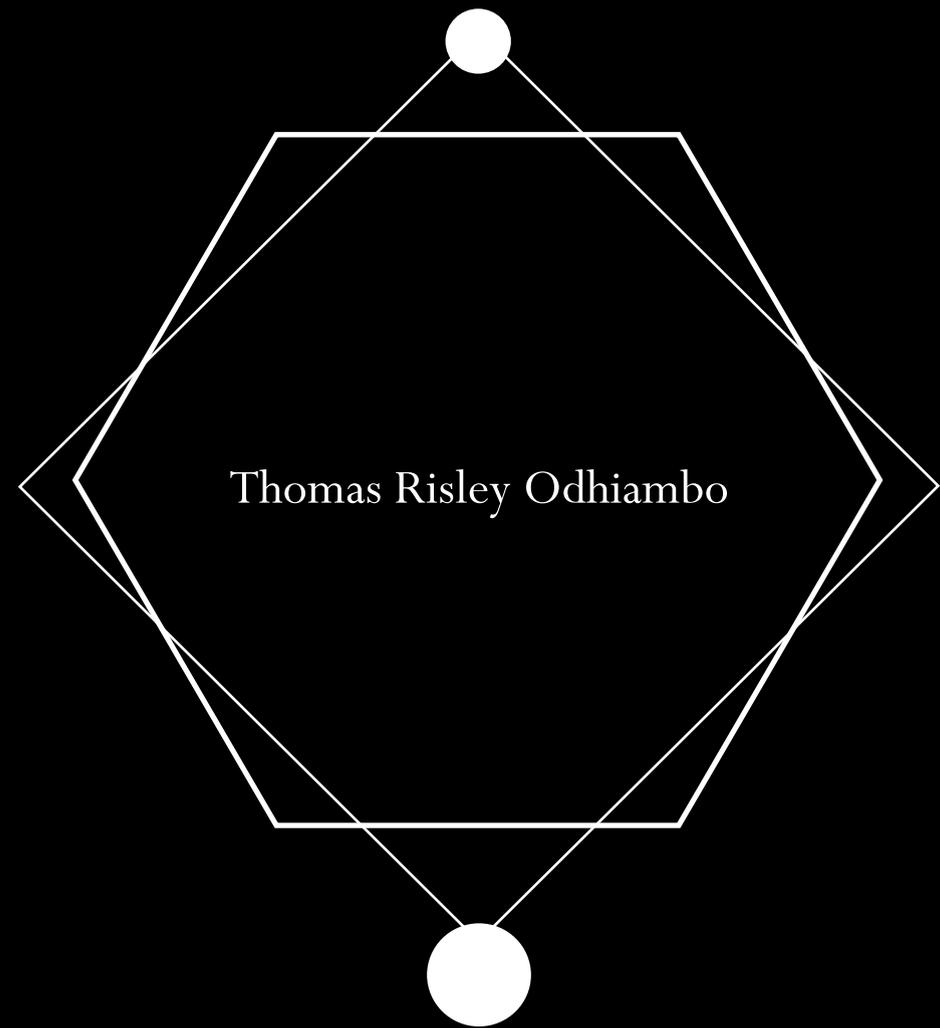
Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker

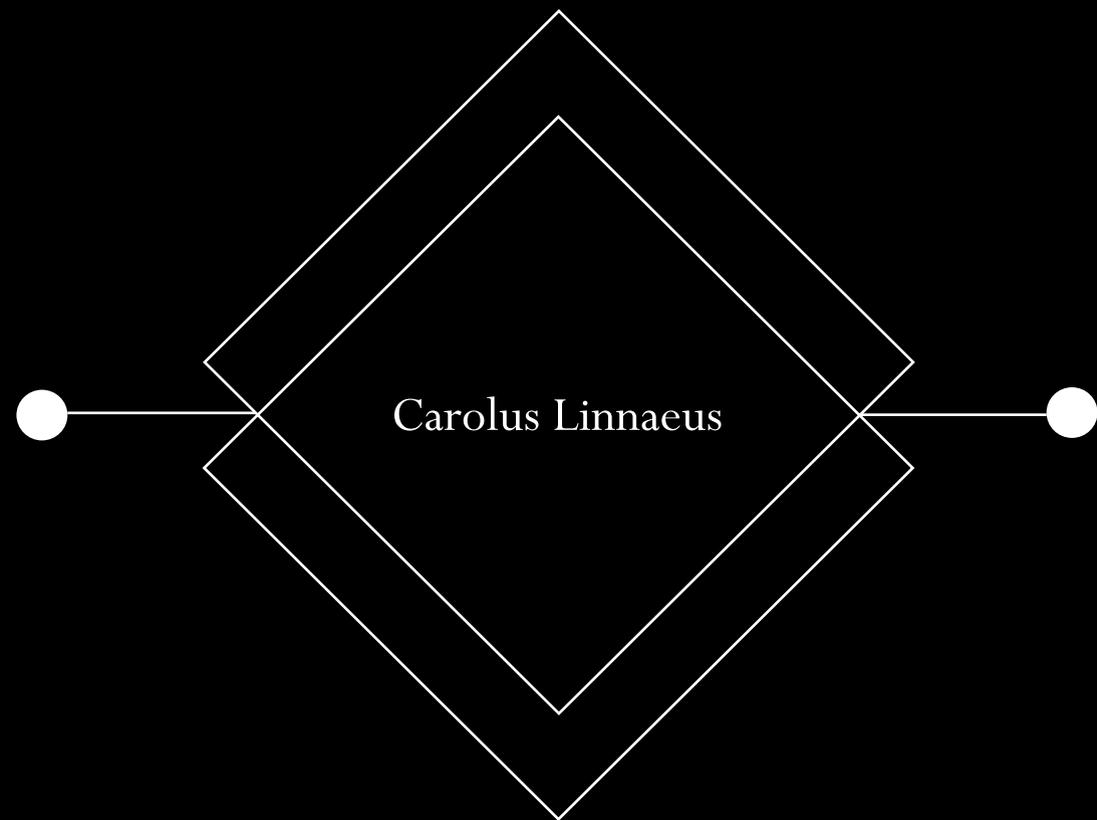


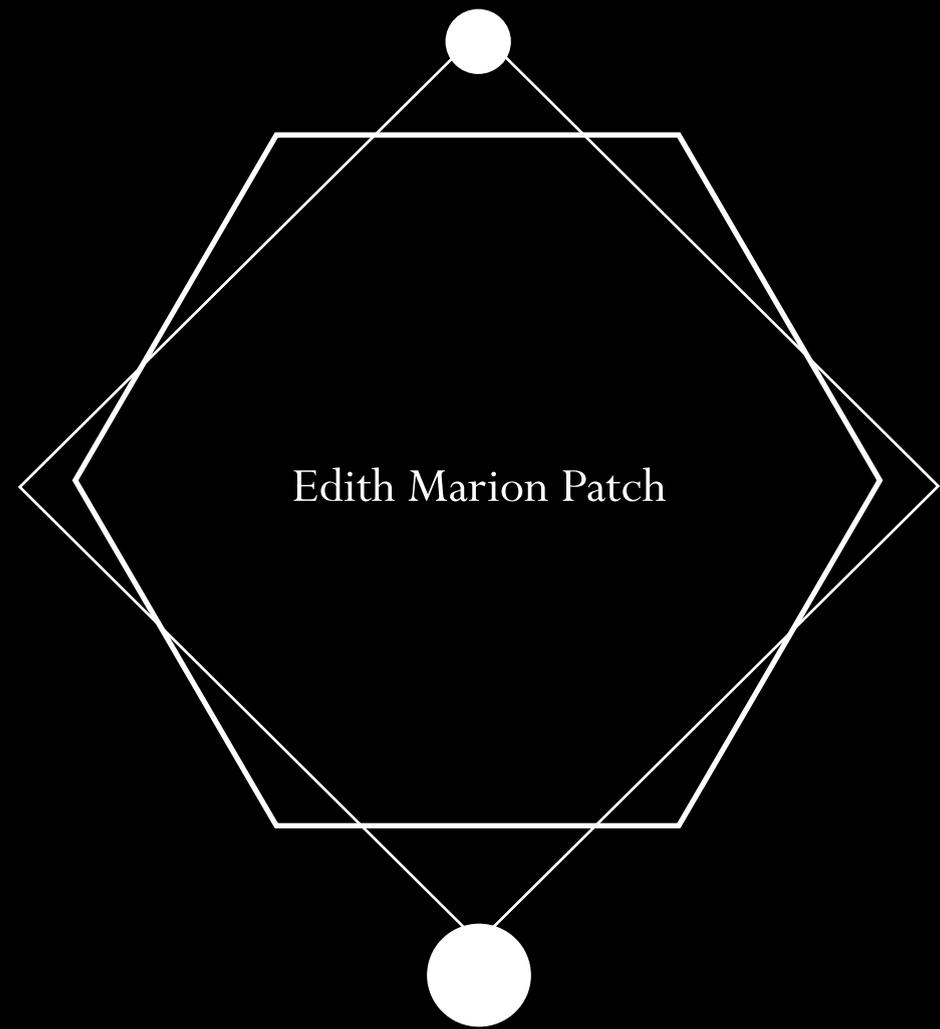






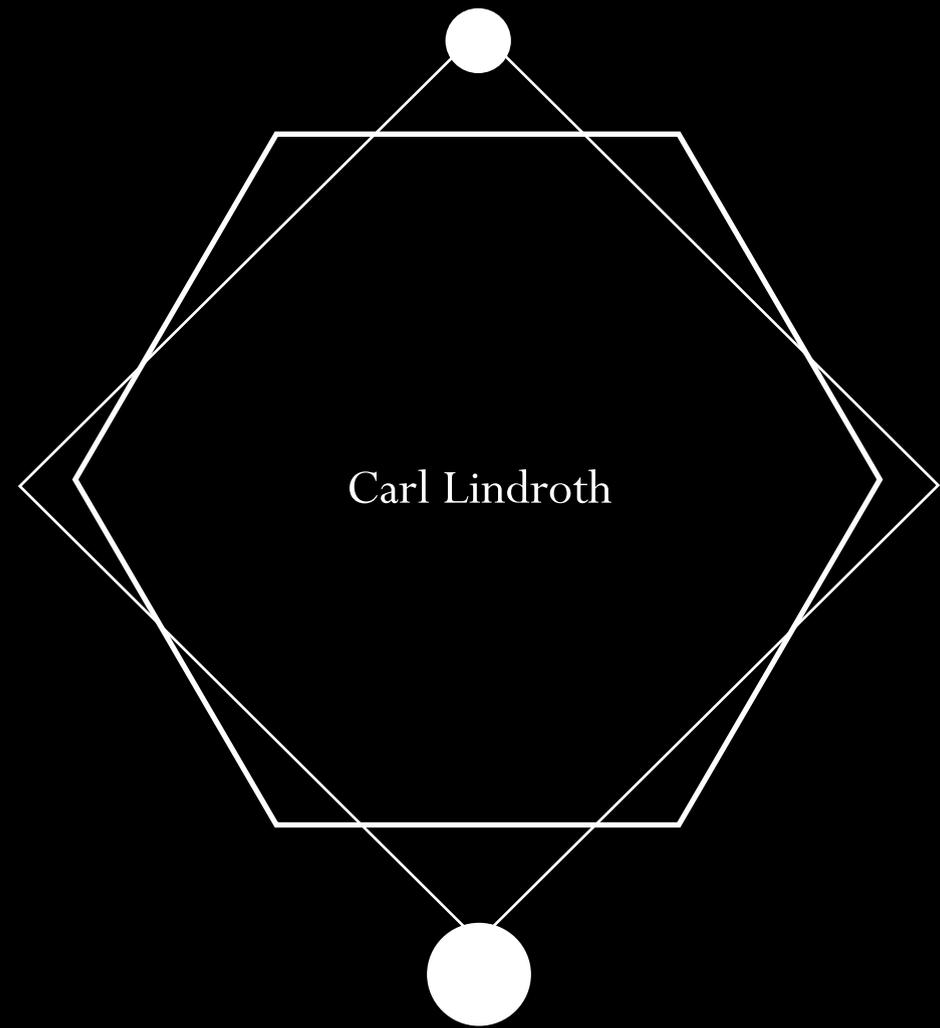






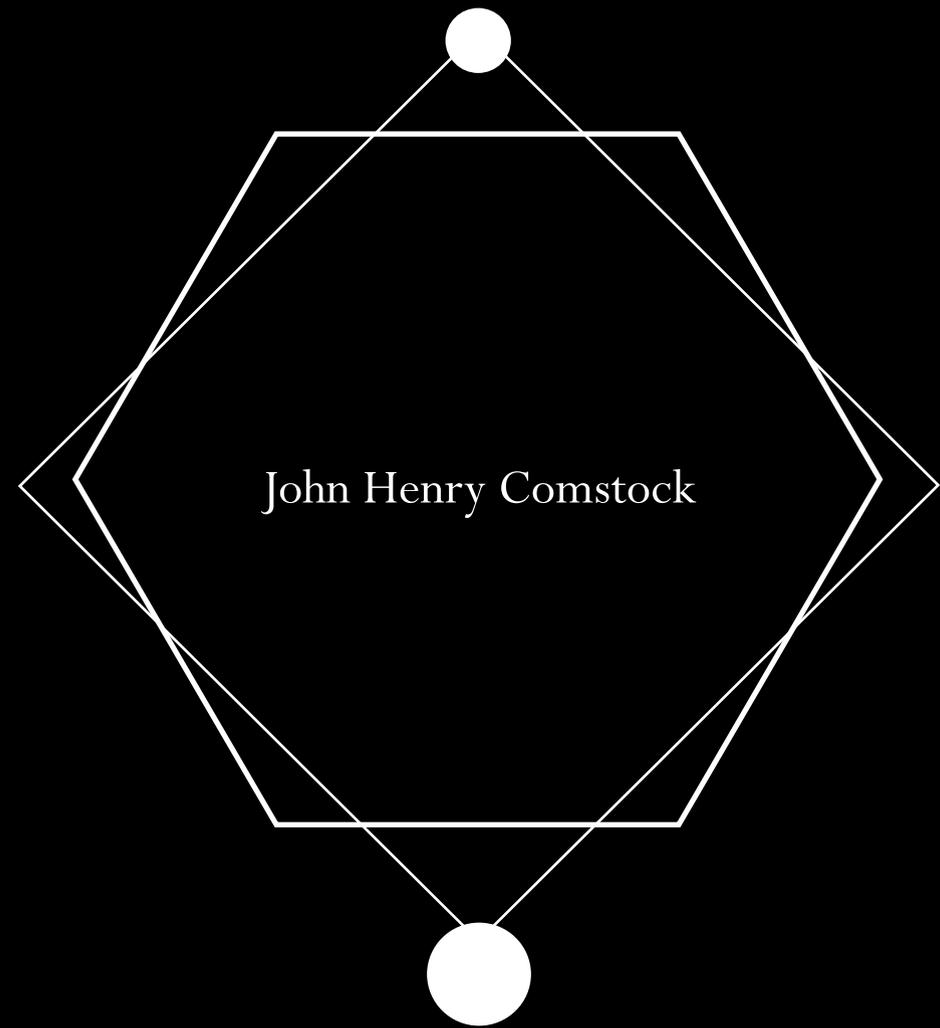
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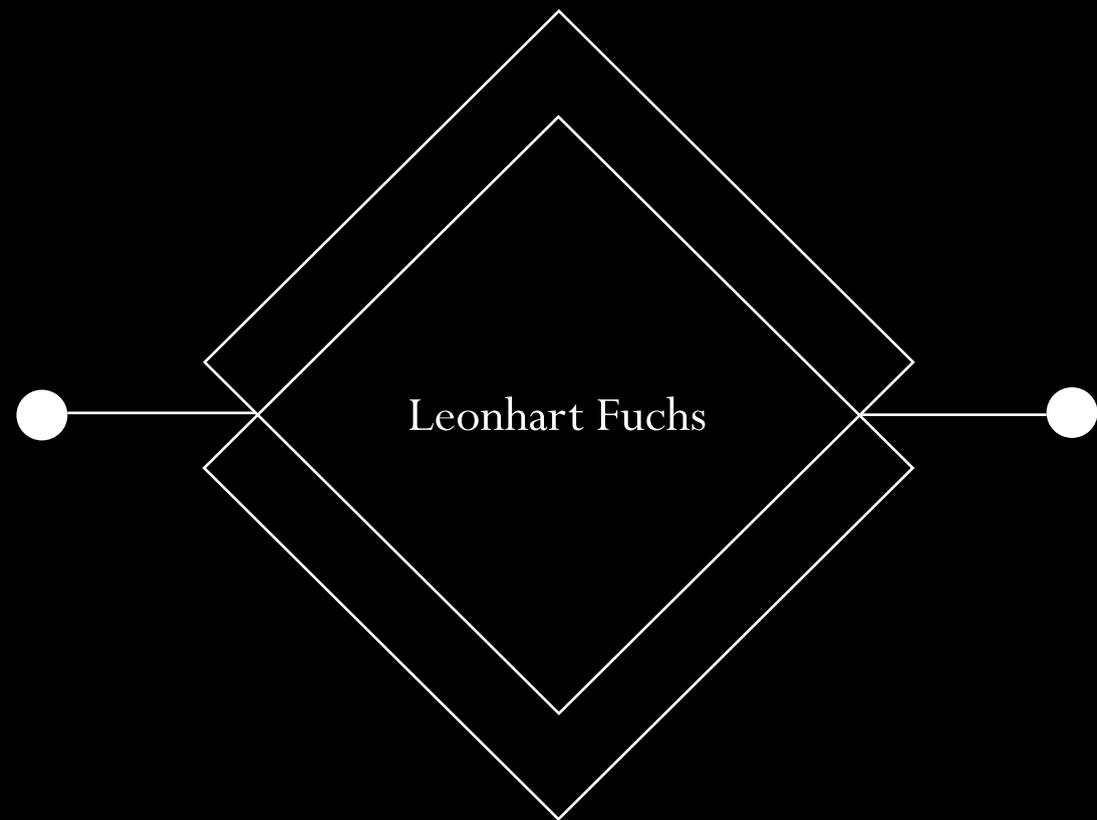


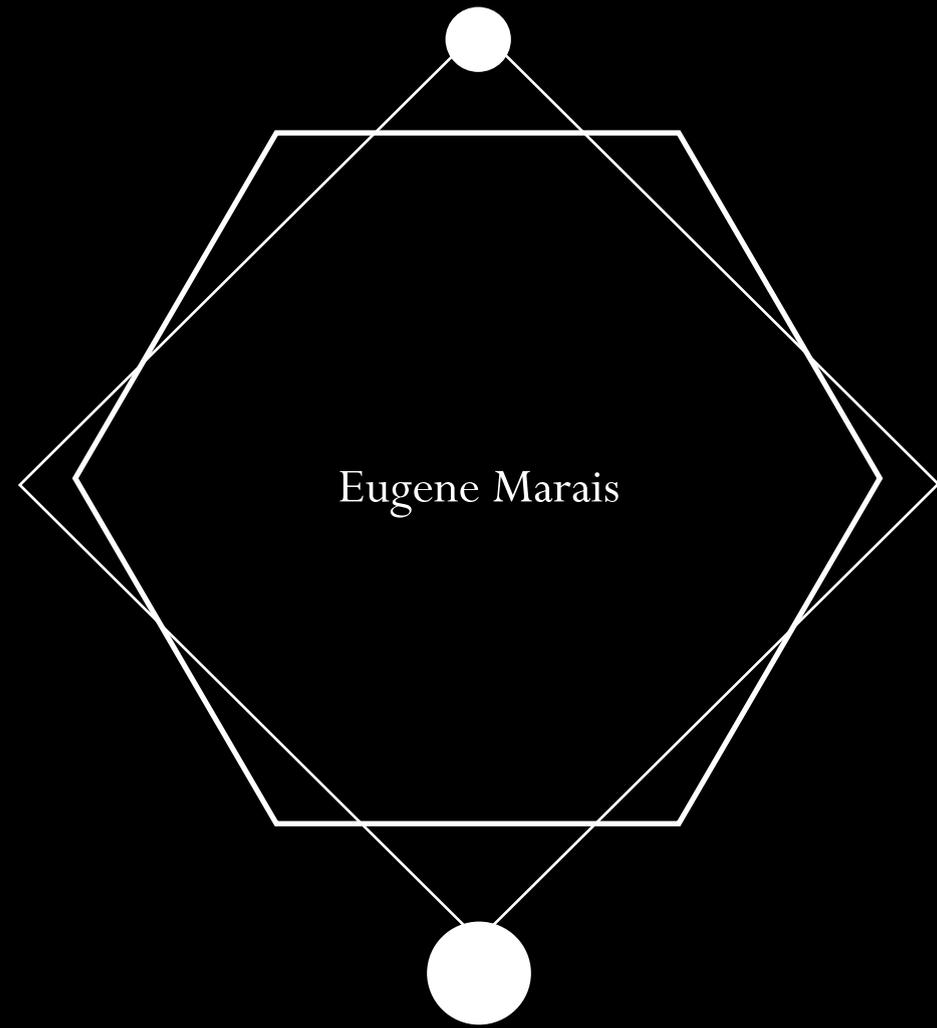


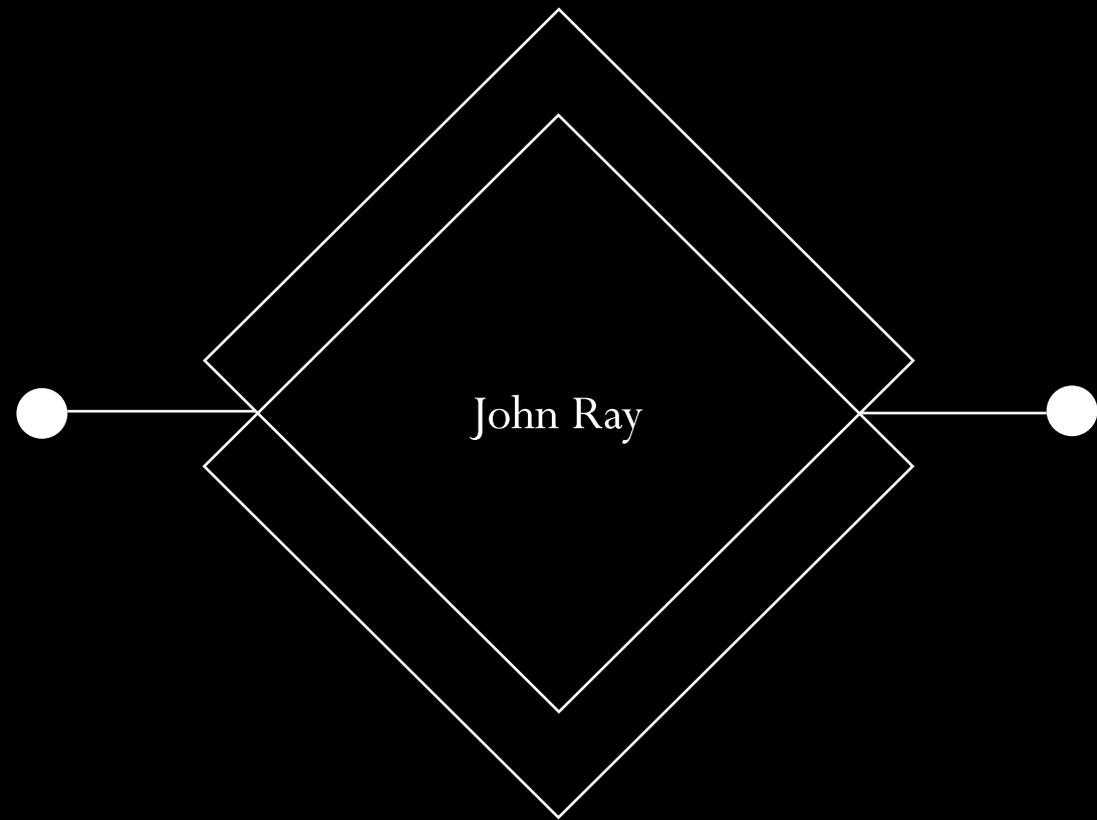
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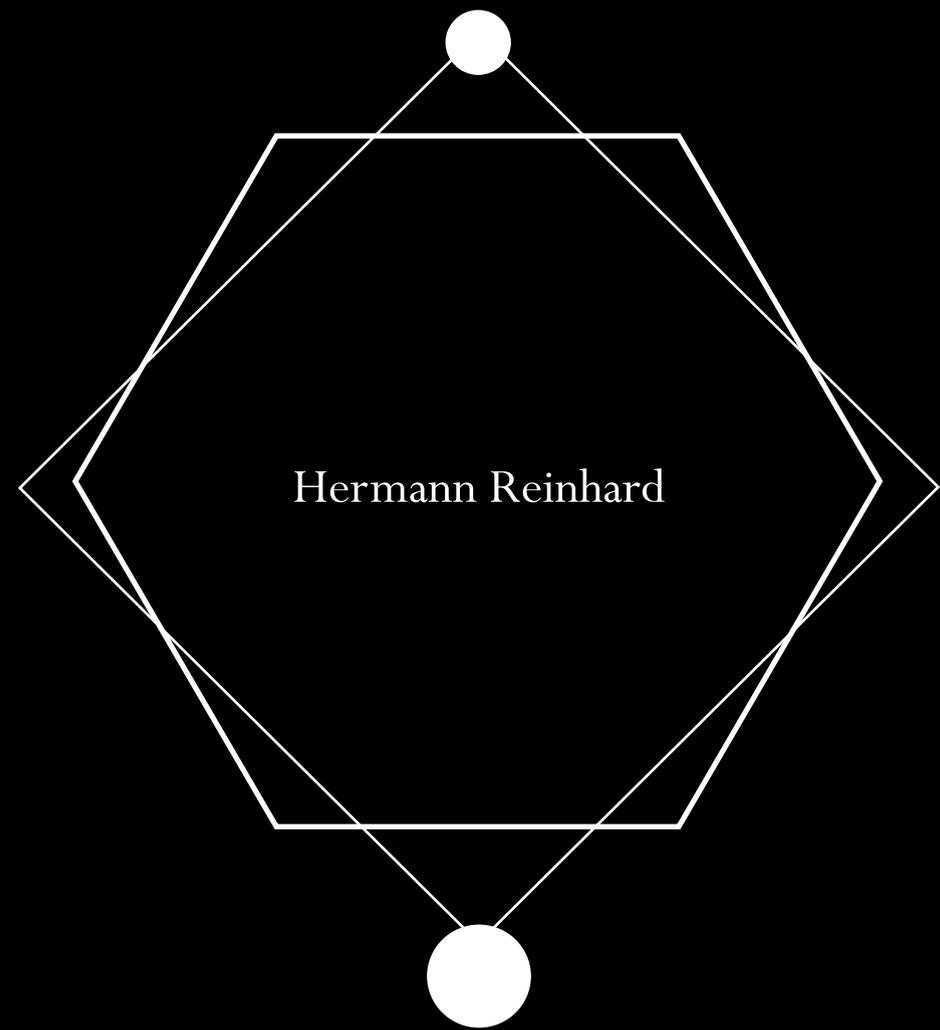


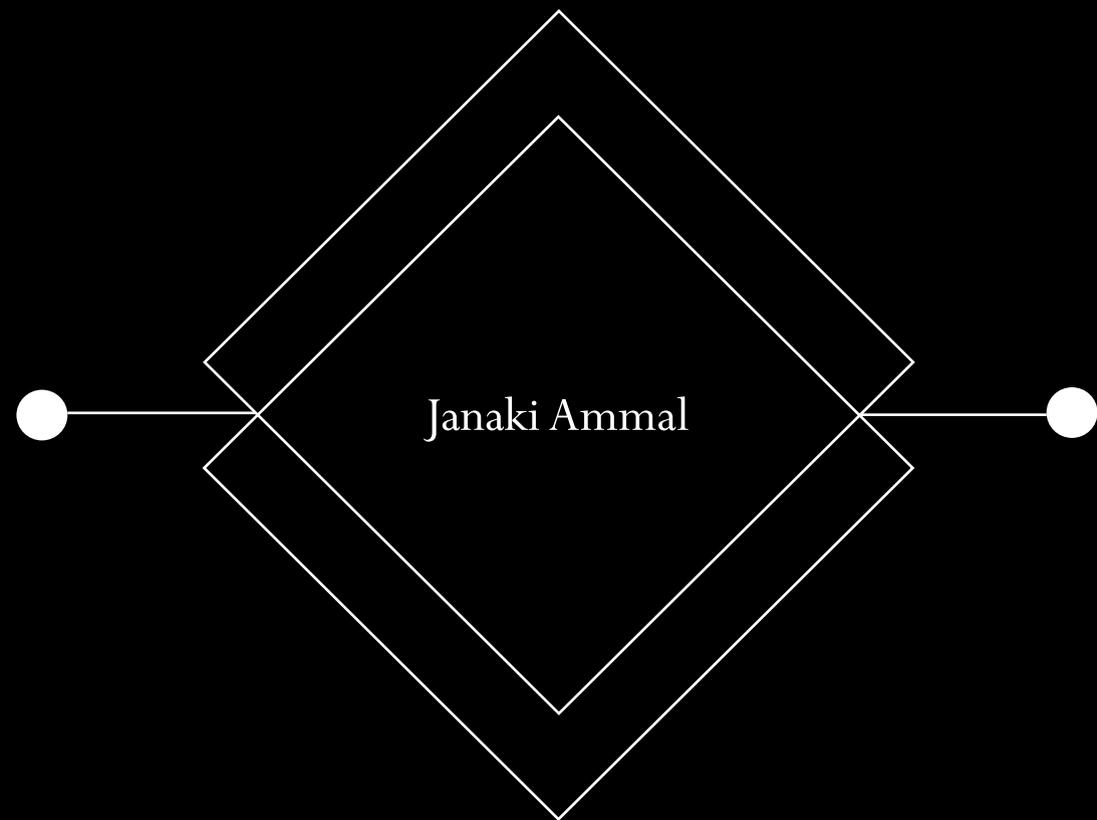


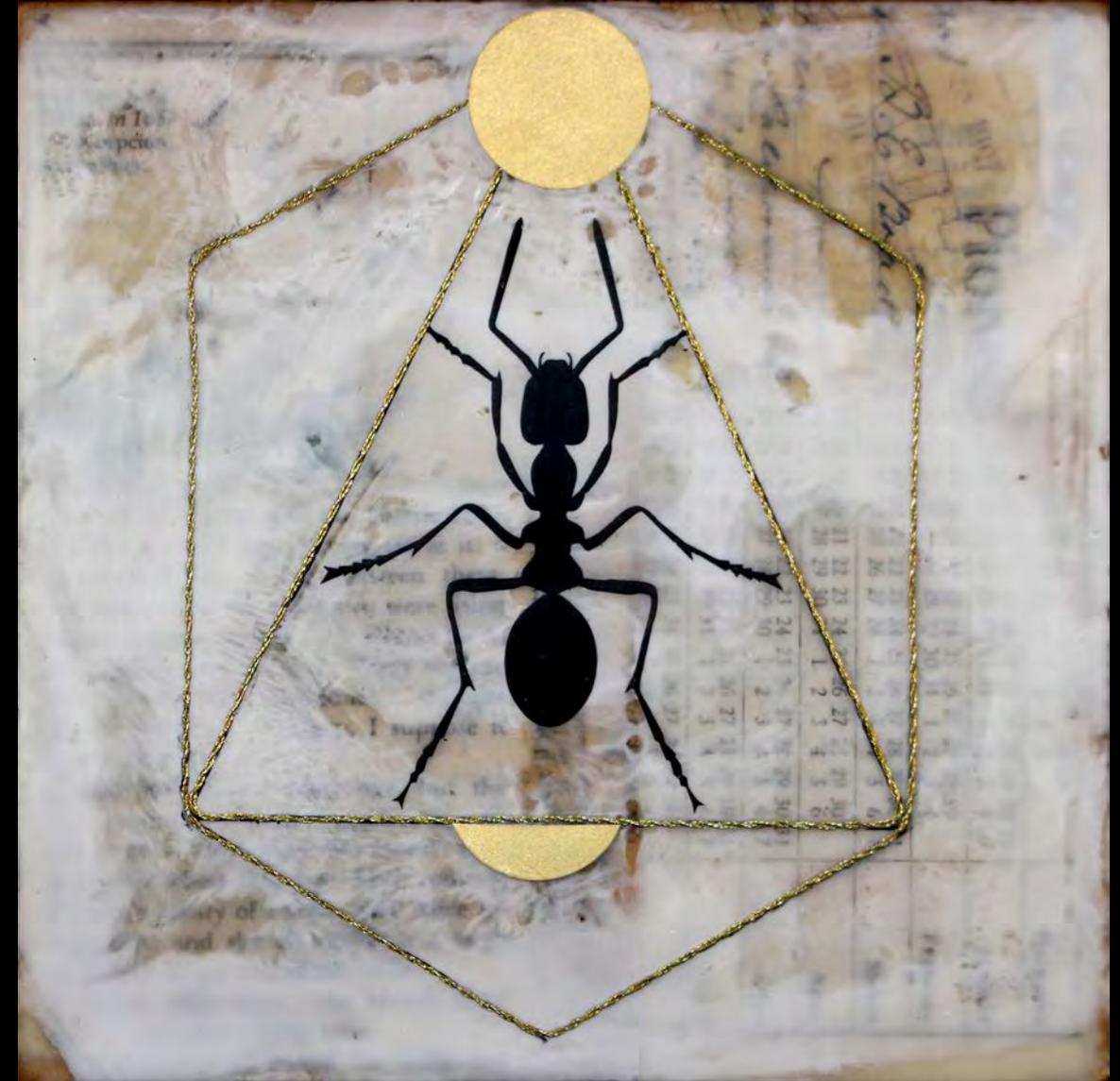
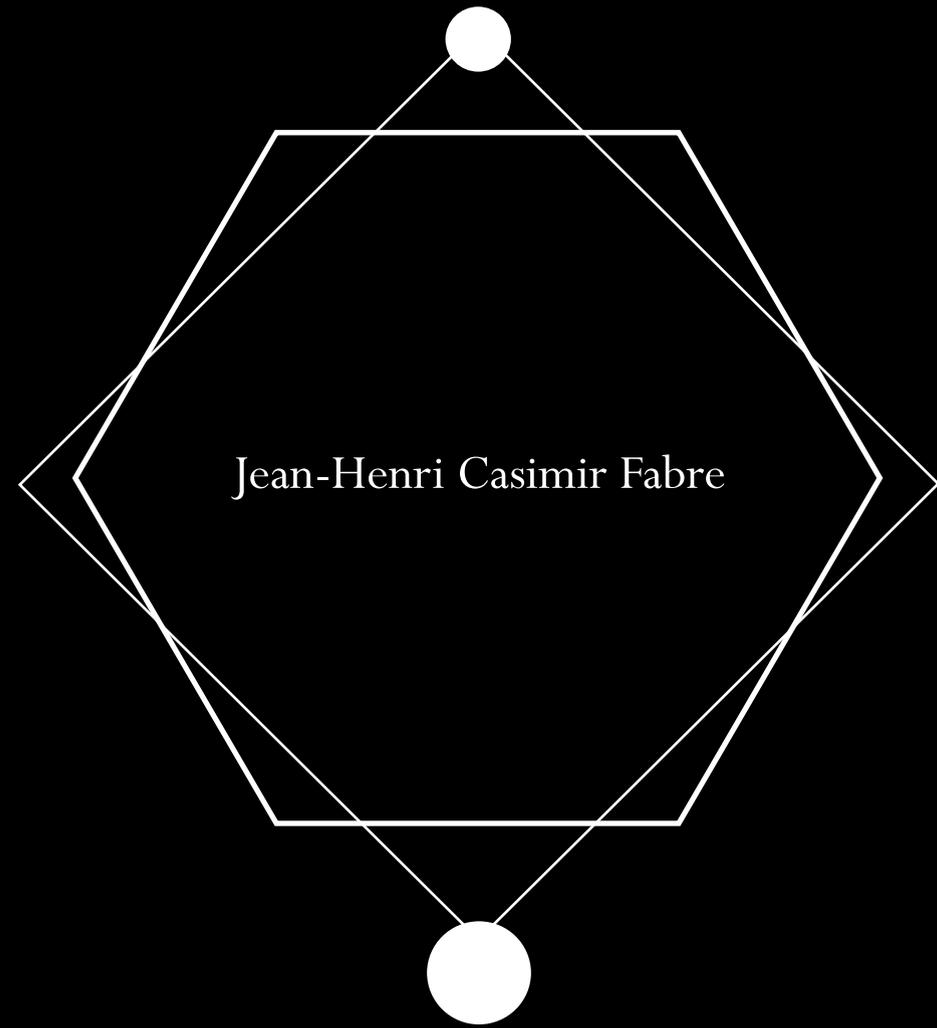


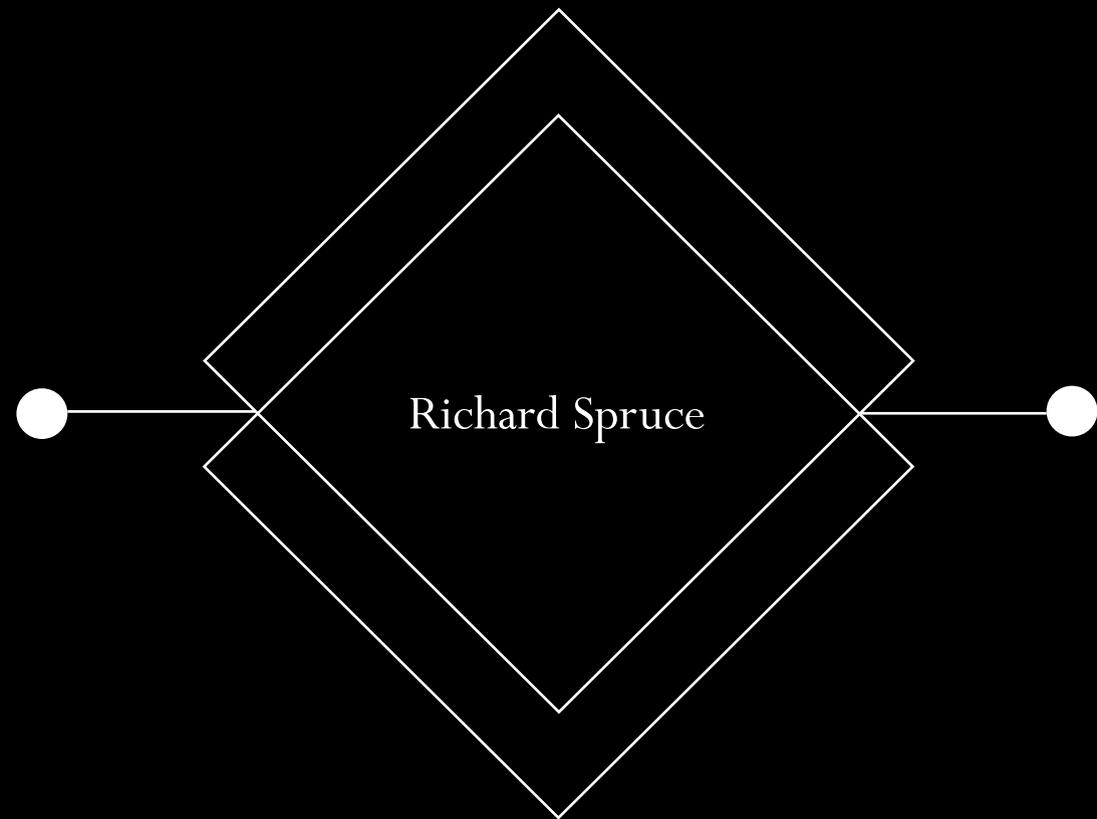


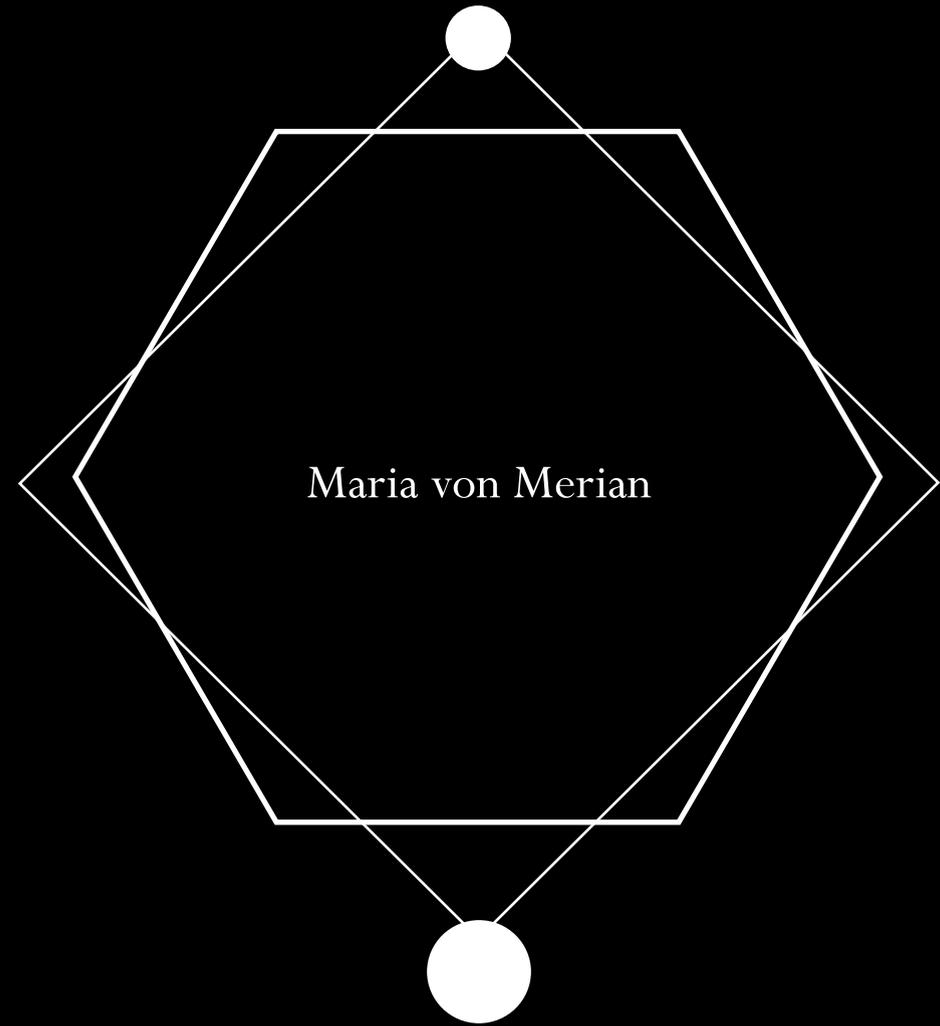






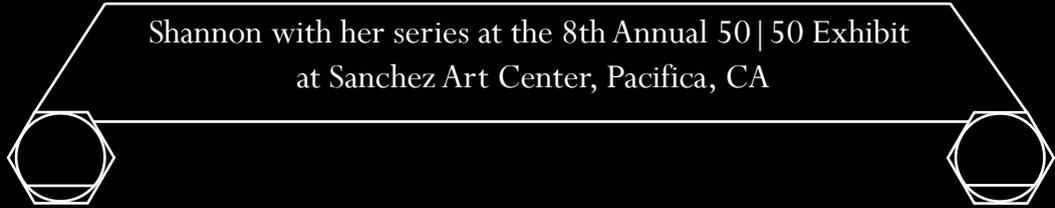








Studio shots of
work-in-process



Shannon with her series at the 8th Annual 50 | 50 Exhibit
at Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica, CA

Shannon Amidon is an award winning artist from San Jose, CA. She creates mixed media artwork primarily concentrating on the ancient medium of encaustic painting. She incorporates natural, upcycled and repurposed materials into her artwork, breathing new life into objects that would otherwise be destined for a landfill. Using environmentally safe and sustainable practices is very important to her. In addition to upcycling discarded objects and materials she also makes her own paints using natural earth pigments and binders.

Shannon's artwork has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions worldwide. Her art has been exhibited at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, CA, the San Jose Museum of Art in San Jose, CA and the San Louis Obispo Museum of Art, in San Louis Obispo, CA. In 2015 she received the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award. In 2011 she was named the SV Creates Artist Laureate, receiving a Fellowship Grant. She was also the recipient of an Eco Art Grant and studio make-over from the Art Inspector part of the Zero One Art and Technology Network.

Shannon has been an artist in residence at The Ayatana Artistic Research Program in Quebec Canada, TechShop San Jose, Herhusid House Artist Residency in Iceland as well as the David and Julia White Artist Colony in Costa Rica. In 2016, 2015 and 2013 she was chosen to create a large, 400lb, 5ft x 6ft public art heart for San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.

She is active in her local arts community contributing her time, knowledge and art whenever possible. She is also involved in arts education outreach for teens and young artist mentoring.

www.shannonamidon.com

