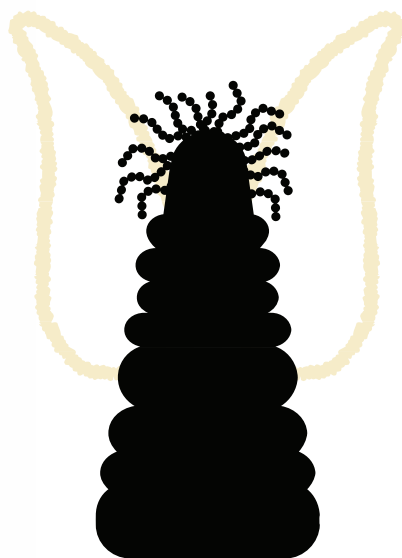


uθδli

A GIFT TO THE INNER CHILD



Jane Bedford

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From her days as a potter, through her many years as the most enterprising and collectable bead jewellery designer with a worldwide reputation, she has been able to wed an incredible and exuberant sense of colour to her deep understanding of craft and crafters. Her large teams of skilled bead workers became a second

JANE BEDFORD'S ART IS JANE BEDFORD.

family to her and took Jane back to her youth growing up on her parents beautiful midlands farm, Blesberg, and her great aunt Killie Campbell where Jane first fell in love with African culture, artefacts and mysteries.

Her fascination with Jung, the influence of van der Post and Peter Ammann and the deep primal rumblings within her, set her off on the journey to becoming a sangoma to there where art starts.

In her artistic endeavours she continued exploring. Amazing textile objects appeared, saturated to excess with colour and texture. She plunged wholeheartedly into photography, travelling with the camera into the object, or wide afield. Her computer explodes these opportunities even further until only the vaguest memories are retained. She started painting again with that same spirit of restlessness and energy.

Her cottage set deep in a jungle on the Berea, is a treasure chest of the most remarkable colours and surprises. It keeps breathing and changing. It is fresher and brighter again... an integral part of who she is. She is at it again. This time all of her African ancestors are talking at once, her beaders have rushed to help

and Jane is making her very own statement on one of the most mysterious yet every day objects of all. The doll. Particularly our southern African dolls which still today retain some of the hidden messages buried deep within them.

Sparkling the mother in the girl, putting the ancestors on notice...and giving abstract form to her wishes...a gift to her inner child.

Jane has looked at them all, from the wispy Swazi doll carried by the man, the Drakensberg doll with its empty tummy that serves as a piggy bank of sorts, to the great variety of dolls specific to areas, all the way from Angola and Namibia through the Eastern Cape up into KwaZulu-Natal, where especially the Msinga area has retained and developed the traditional uDoli.

Other exiting dolls may be found in Mpumalanga up amongst the Venda people, the Tsonga, Shangaan or in the Phansi museums collection of course where Jane has been an ardent supporter and browser for many years.

Jane has had a calling to make her own statement on the uDoli. This creation has been incubating in her very being for many years resulting in the birth of this once off collection of uDoli 2014. Beads are starting to talk again.

Paul Mikula
Paul Mikula.

Her entire unique collection has been bought by a prestigious Gallery in Paris, As'Art, 3 Passage du Grand Cerf 75002. T + 33(0)1-44-88-90-40. www.asart.fr. An exhibition will be held in the As'Art Gallery in Paris. Date to be confirmed.



Jane Bedford

















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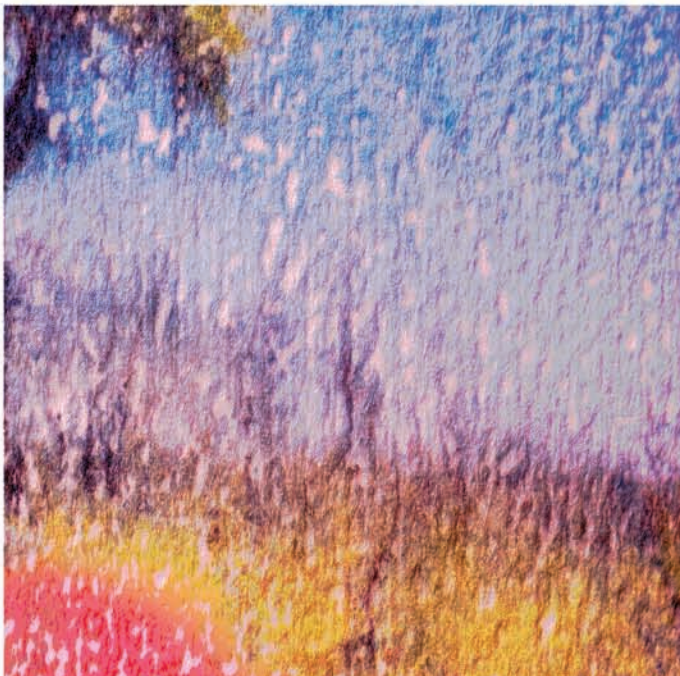
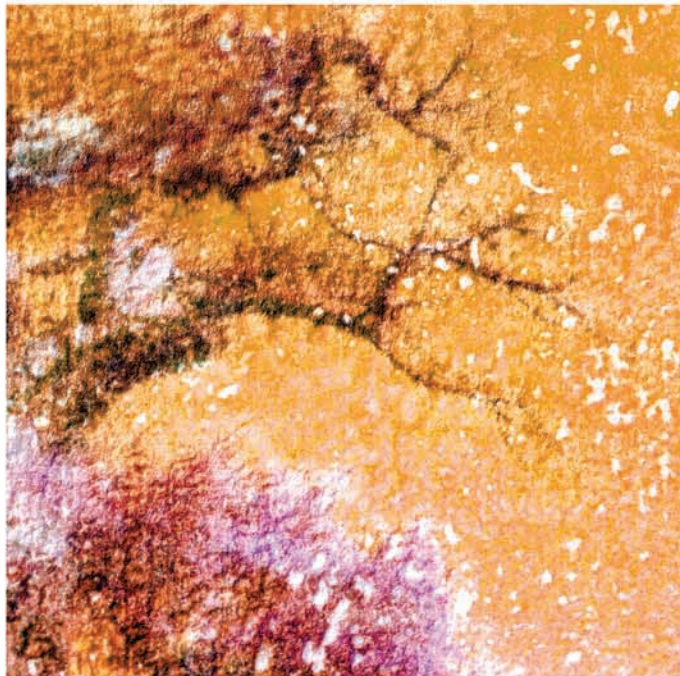
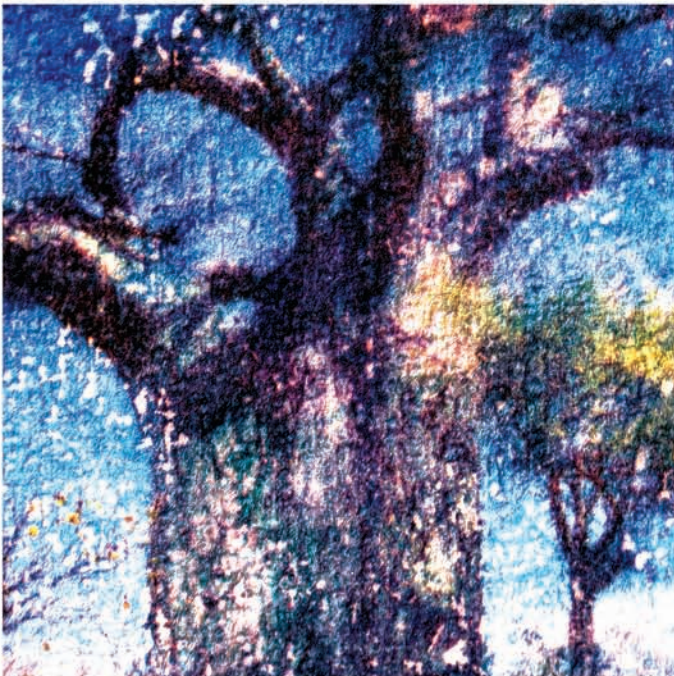
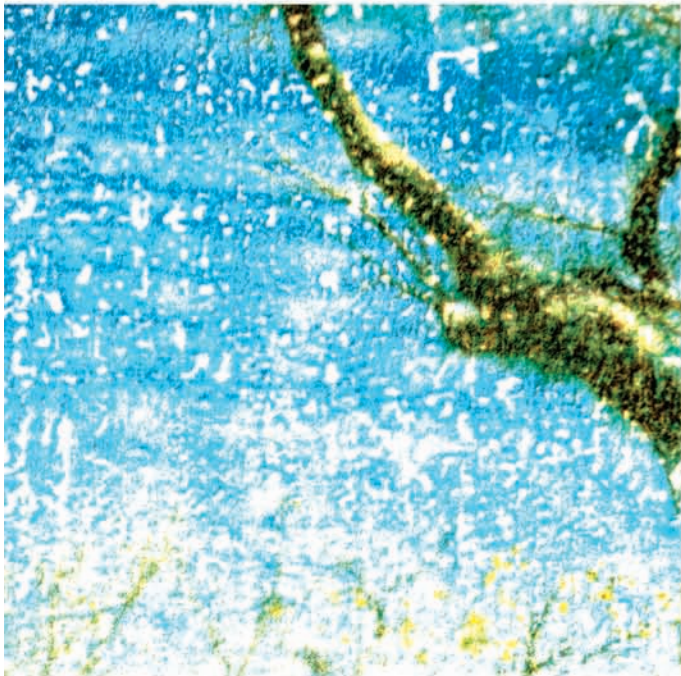
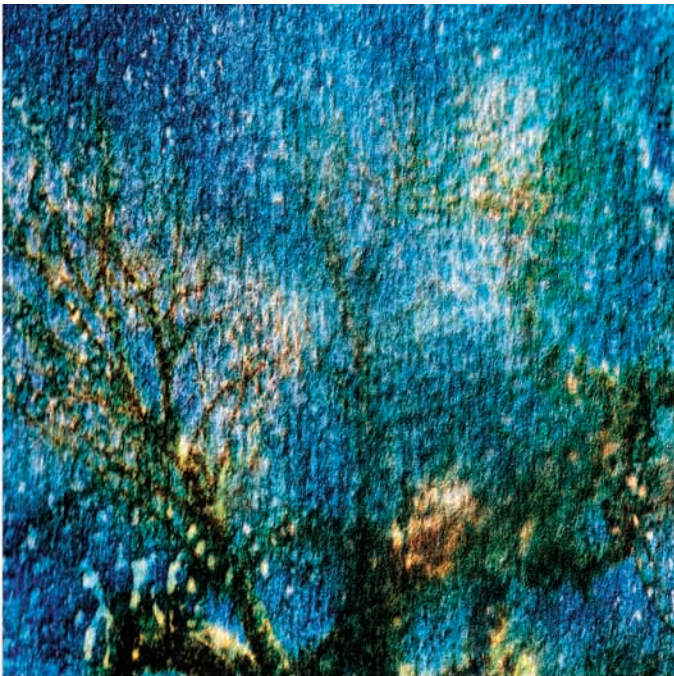
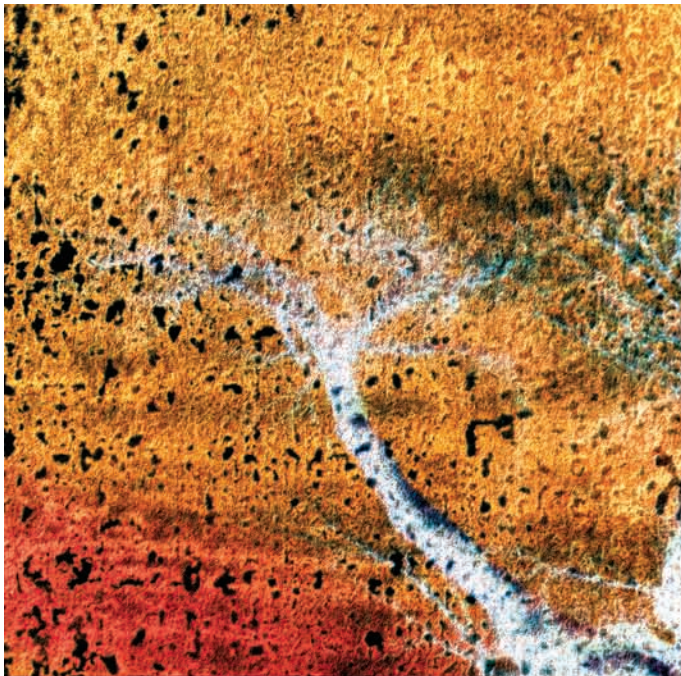


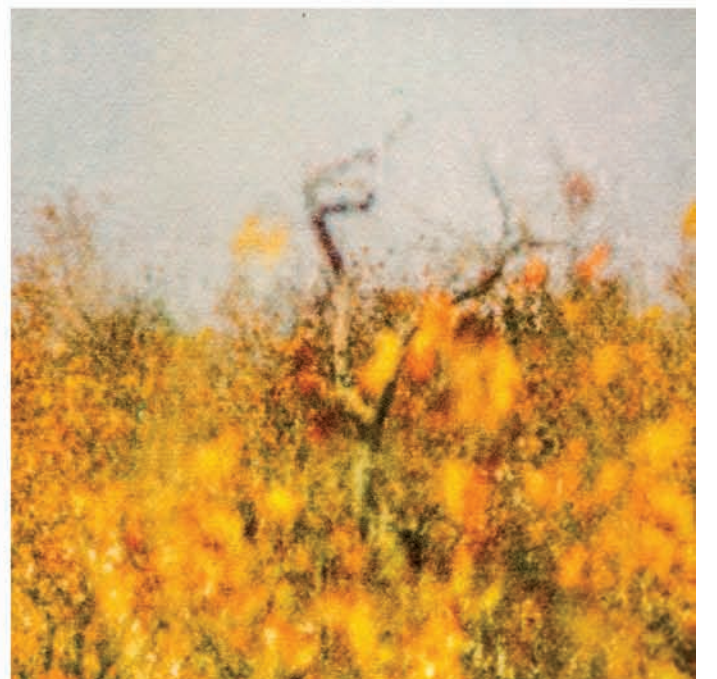
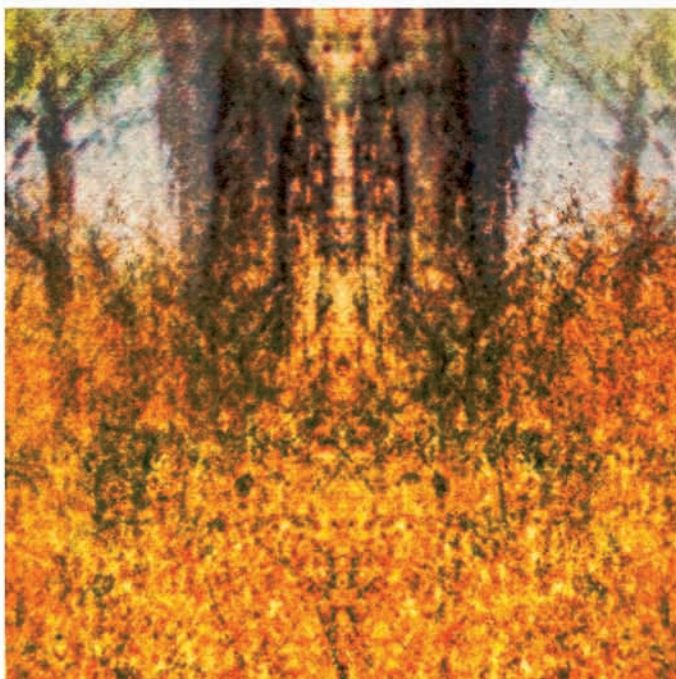
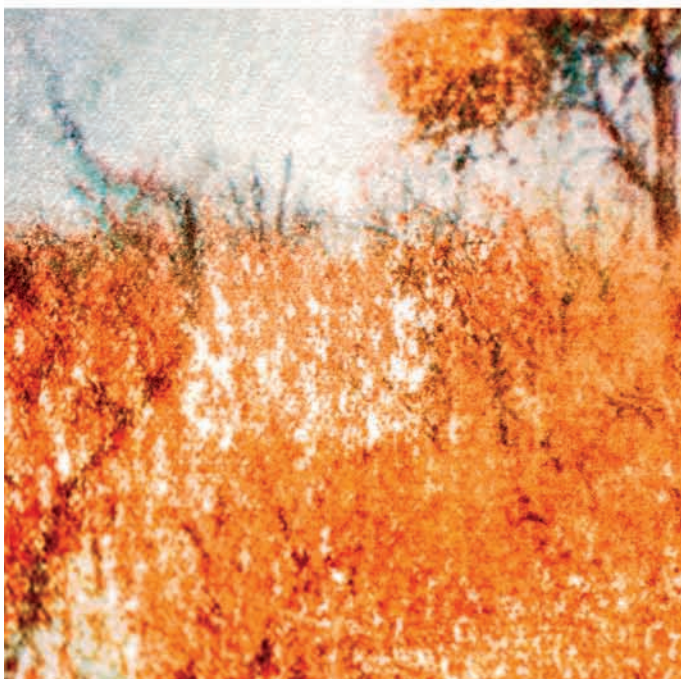
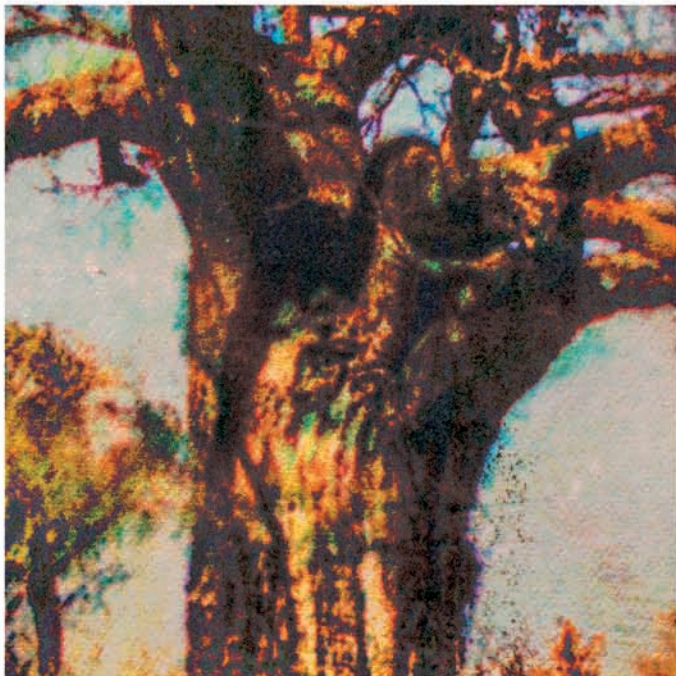
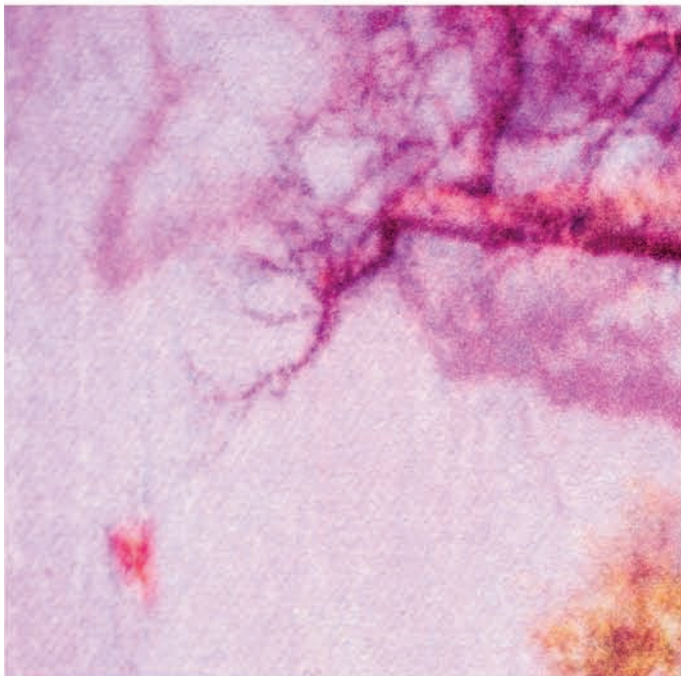
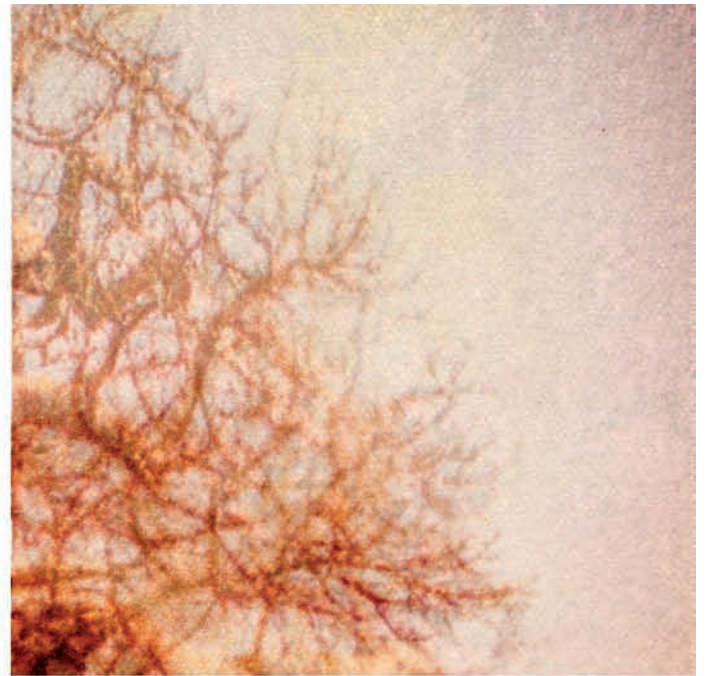
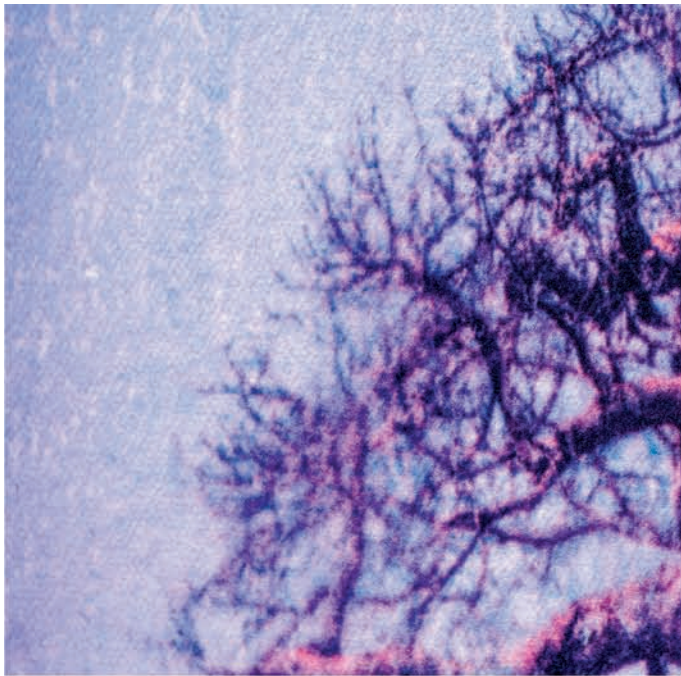




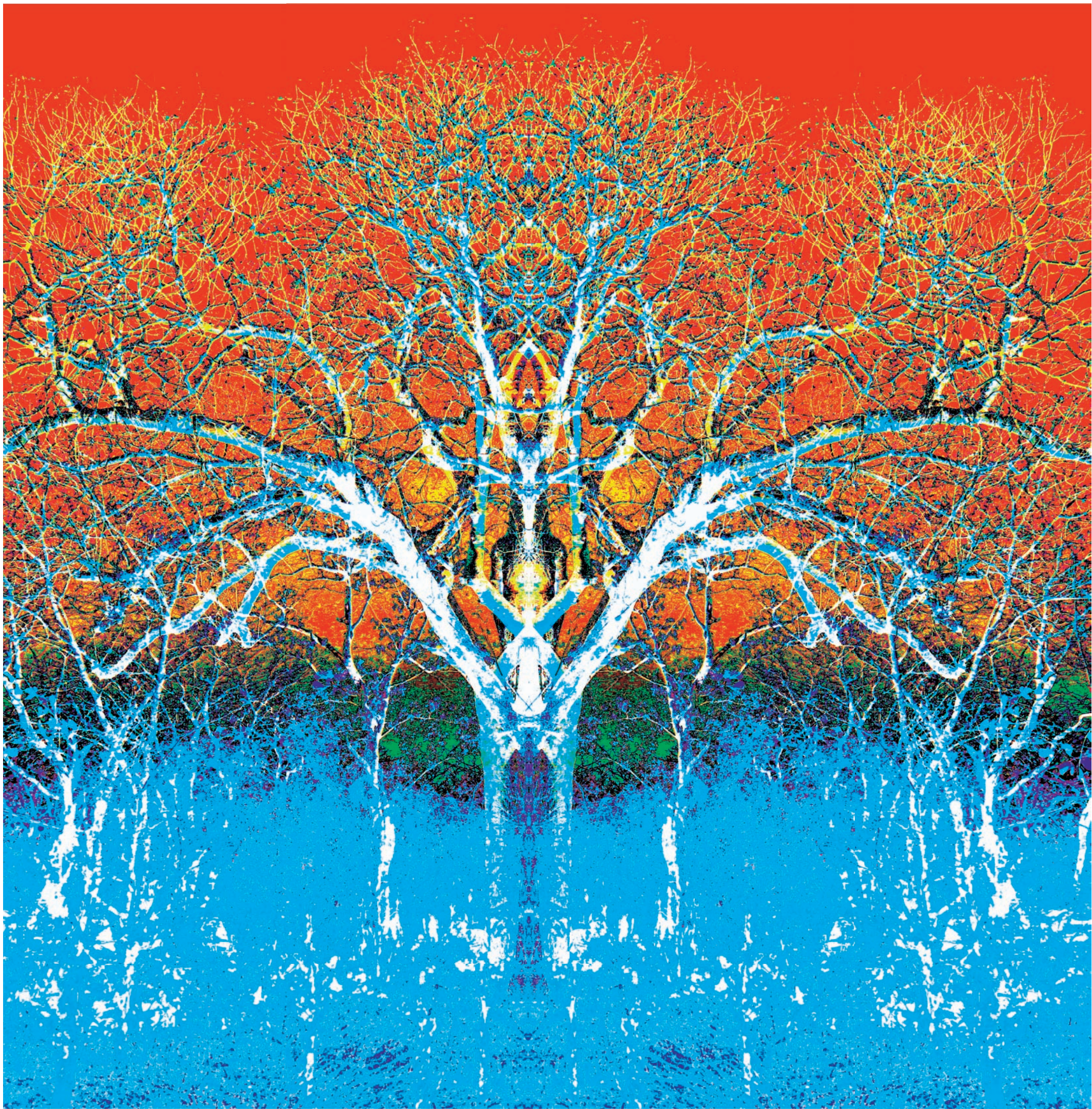
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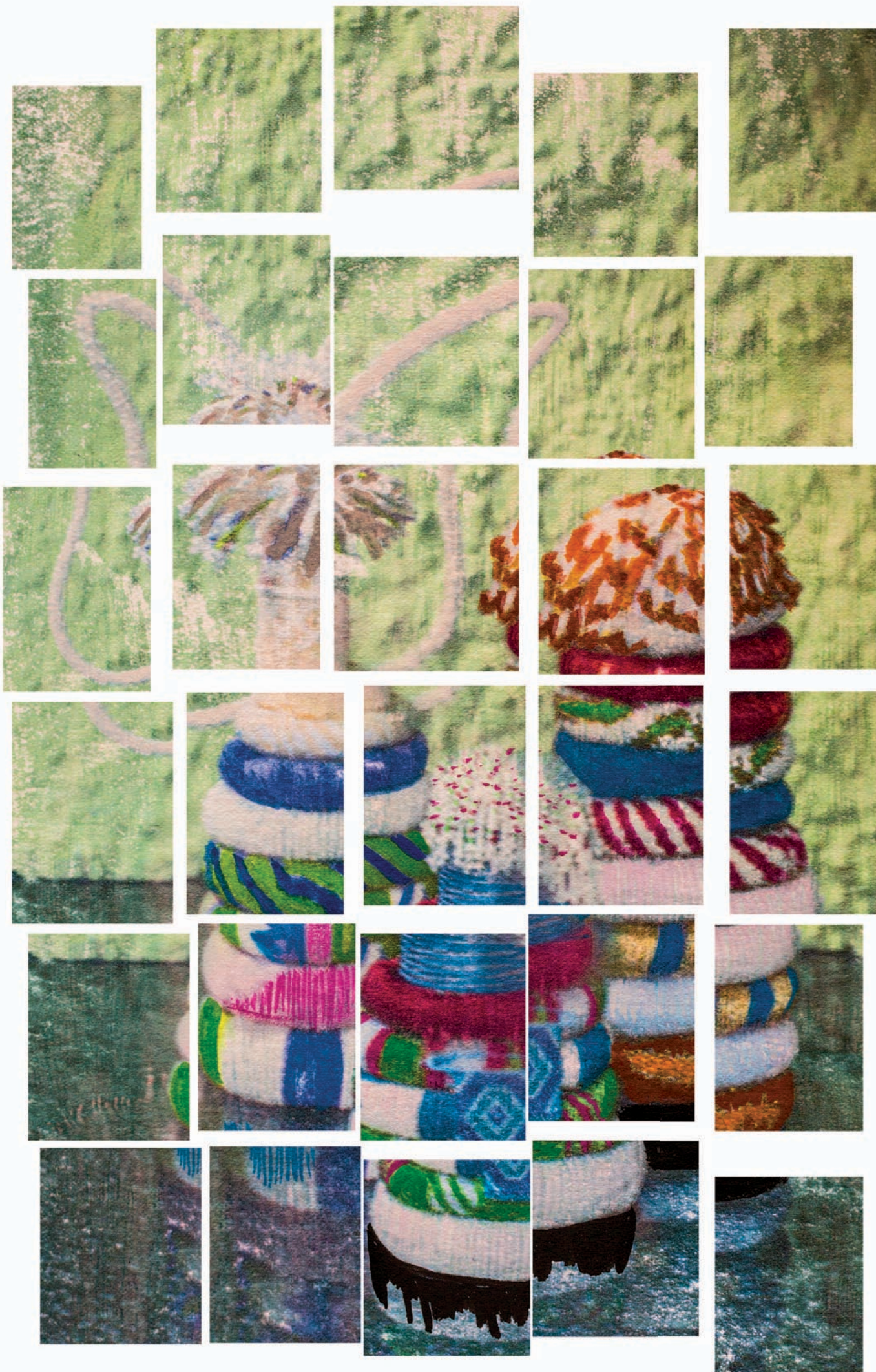


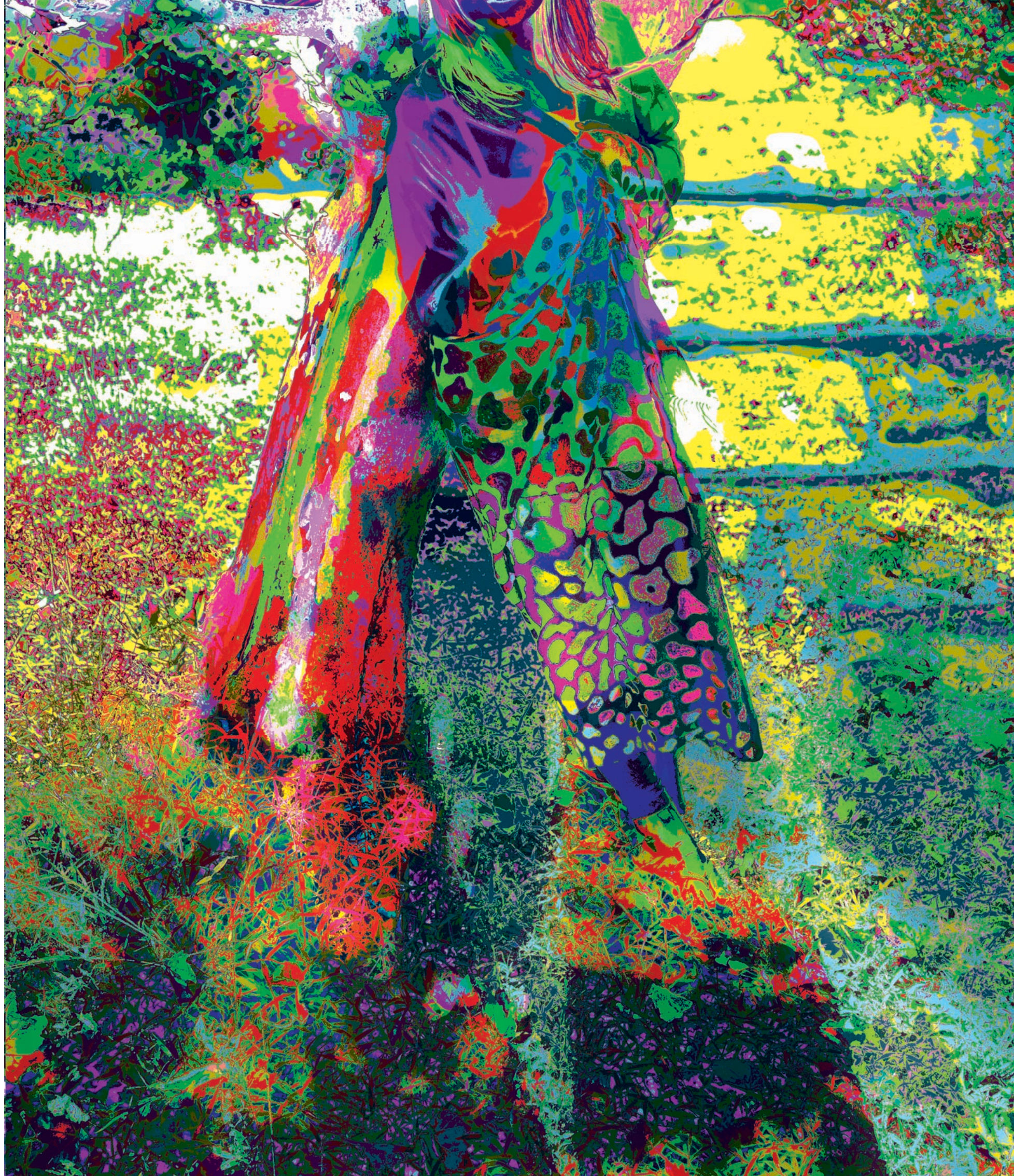








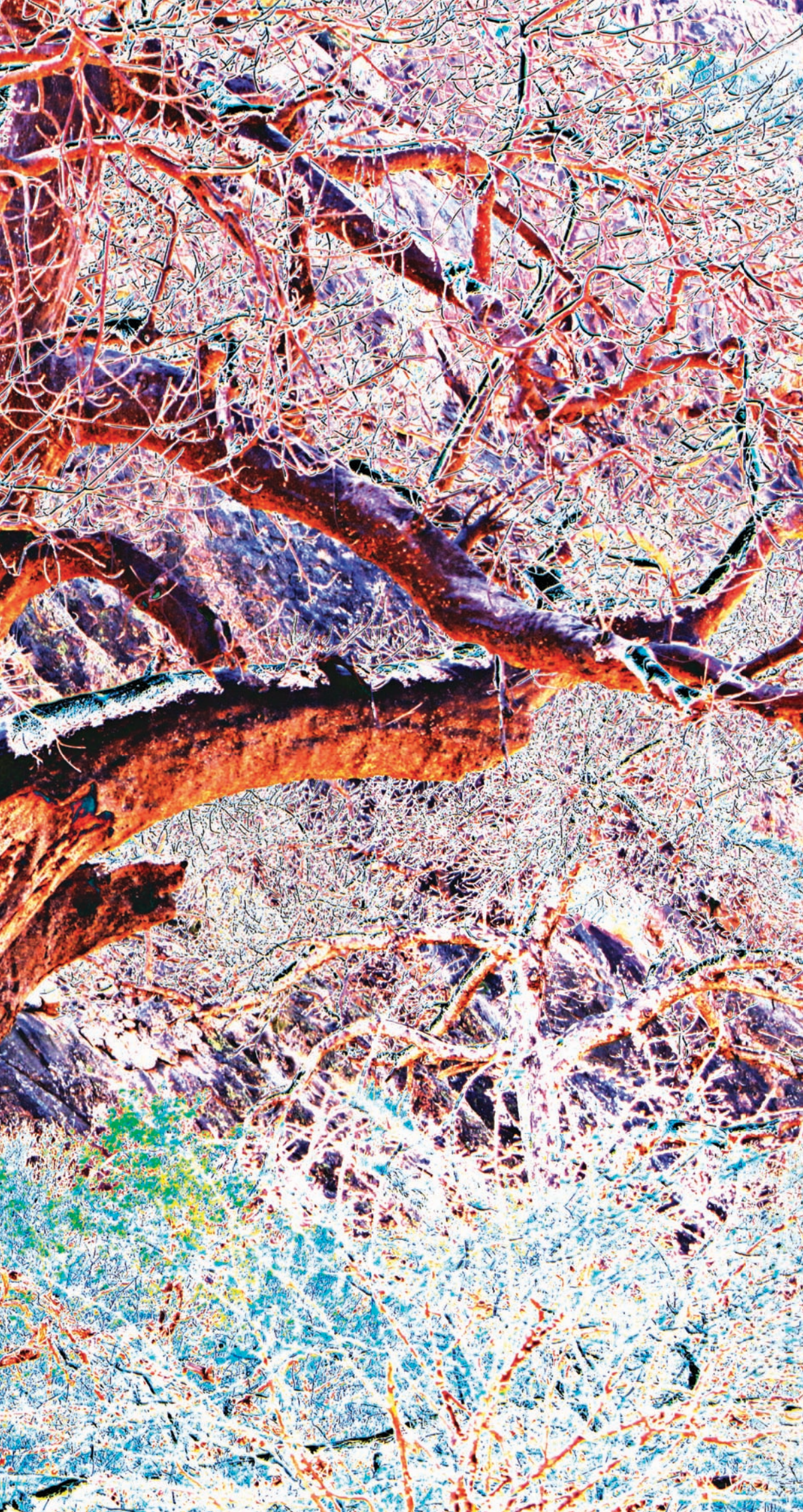












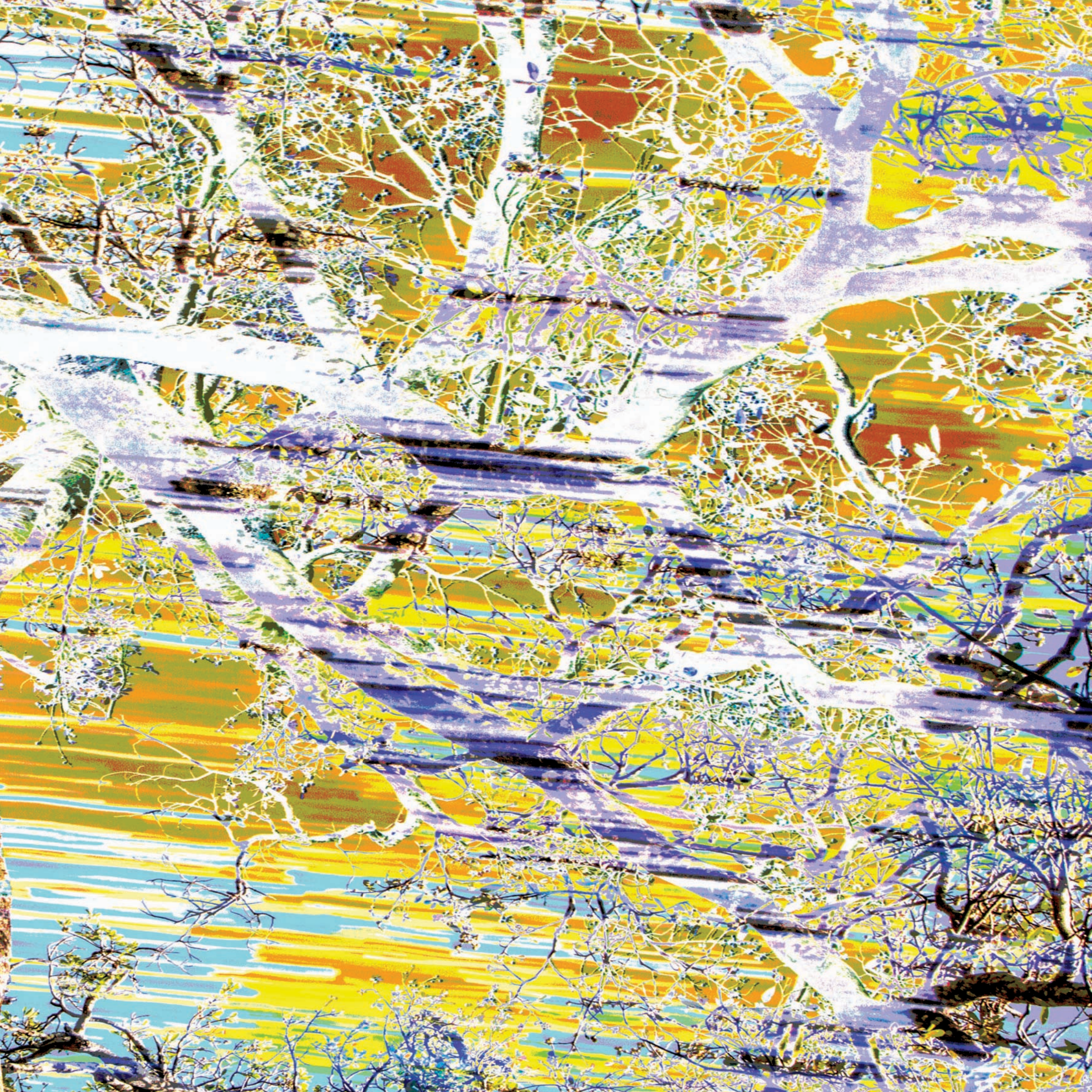


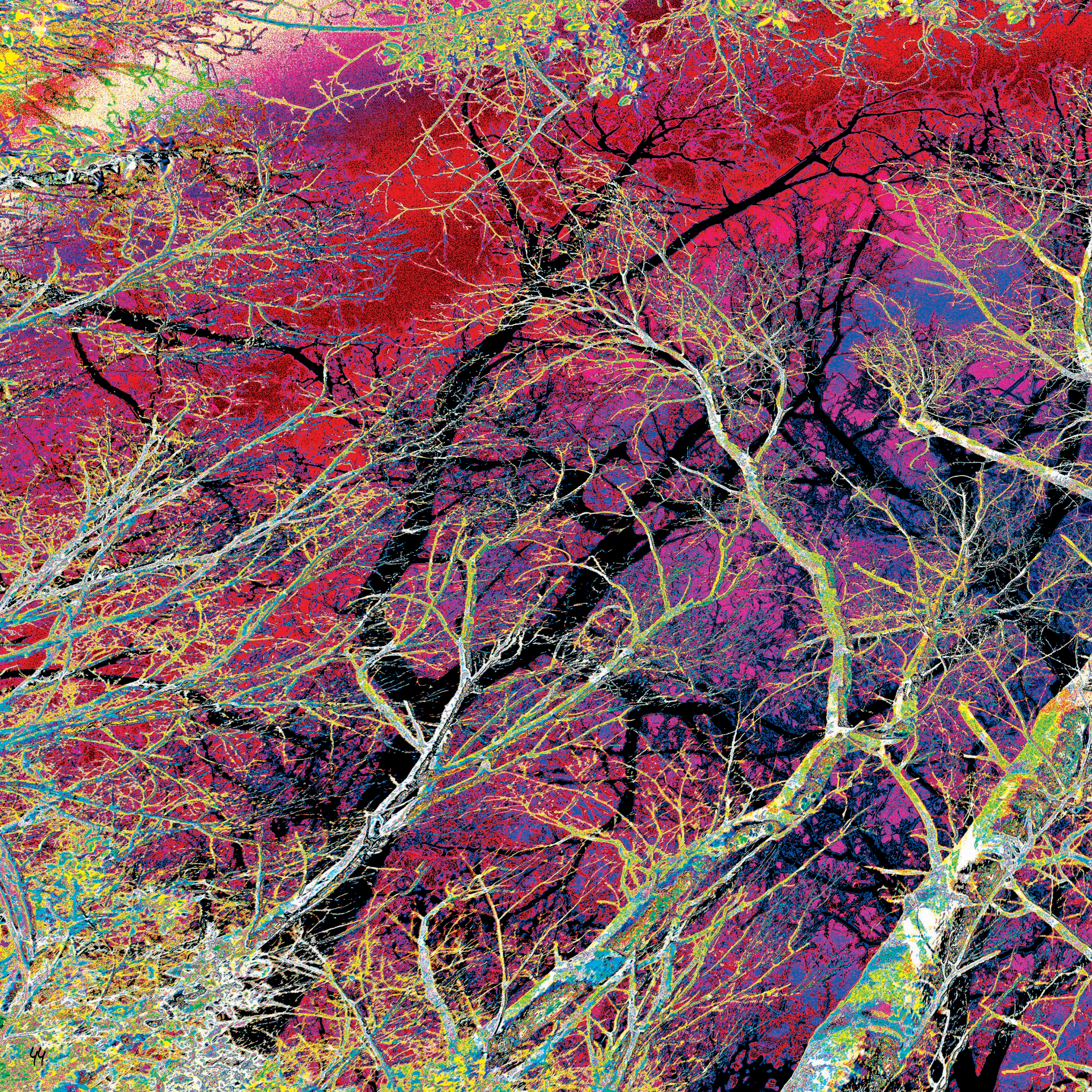


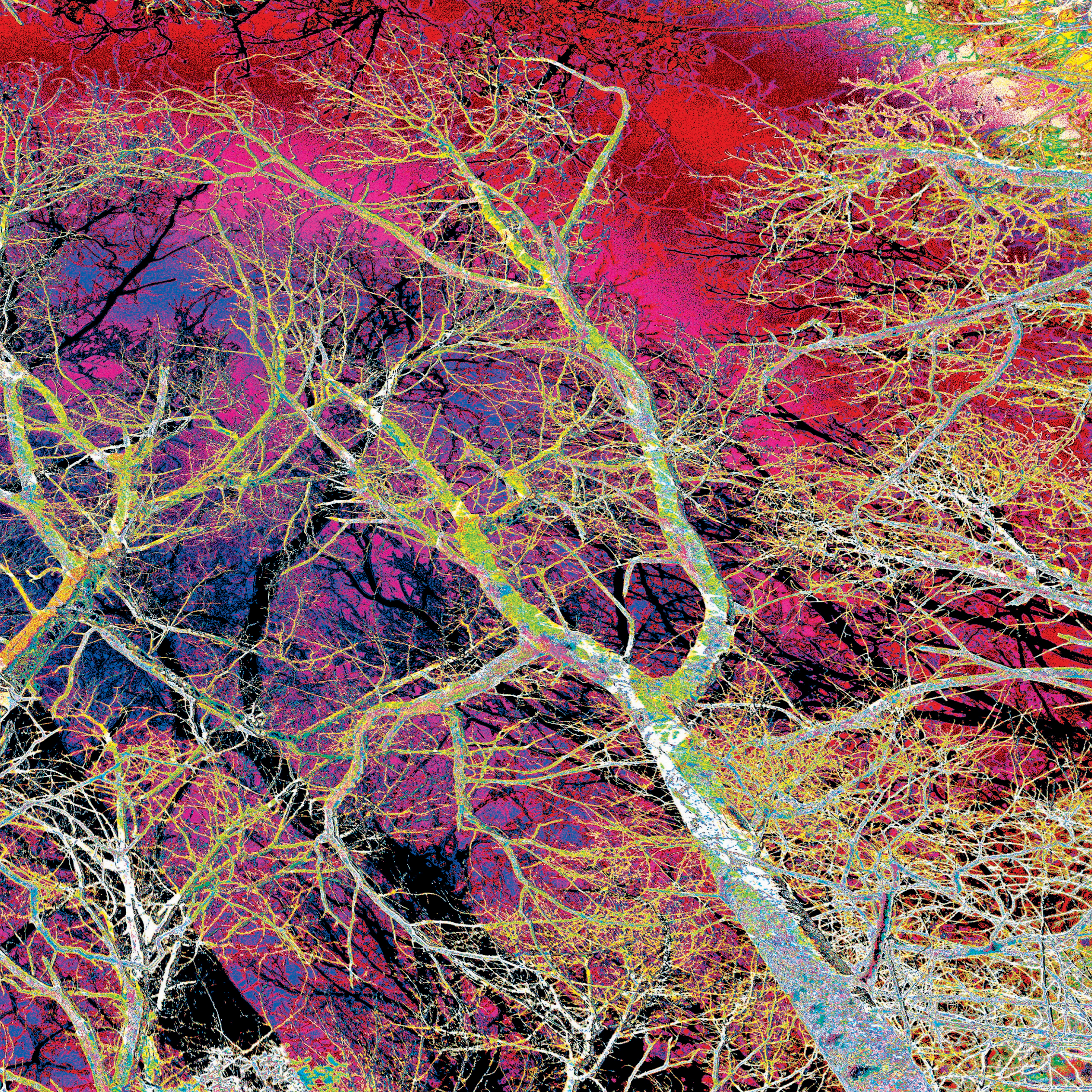






























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A GIFT TO THE INNER CHILD

THE STORY OF THE DOLLS... MY TOTEMS

Looking back, traditionally, it seems that the nguni people of whom the Zulus are a part, limited all their artistic and craft work to geometric patterns and forms which at times are purely decorative and at other times symbolic. Even the colours have a deeper meaning.

The only item which breaks this rule was a cone shaped object, an uDoli, a doll given to young girls as an introduction to motherhood.

The distance to reality was kept by never introducing facial features.

The dolls are often crowned by a big bush of scraggly hair which links it to the iSangoma, the shaman, who has the ability to link the Living to their Dead. It is the Ancestor who controls all life in the community.

The doll strives vertically as a male form, but is supported at all levels with big voluptuous rings of fertility reminiscent of the queen bees and termites who are considered the ultimate bearers of life.

Into this world I have injected my own passion, my own visions, my own creativity and has given me a chance to develop further as an artist.

These are my Totems, my personal way of asking the same questions. Every sculpture we made brought about further solutions, every artist in the group added yet more dimensions.

I believe we all grew during this journey of artistic exploration.

We learnt a lot
We gave a lot
of ourselves and our expressions and added our two distinct cultures into the melting pot...into this unique journey we shared.

If you own one of the dolls, name it. Not Mathilde or Inge... name it from the heart like Zulus do. 'SoSoft, Thankyou, Precious, Beautiful.' Then pass the name onto the first new family member. Traditionally you may remove a few beads and make a small necklace for the newborn.

My little team who worked on this project have risen to the occasion beyond my expectation. They translated my ideas to form unique art pieces....each one a master piece...each one never to be reproduced again.

Something lasting
Something timeless
Something that speaks
to your Inner Child.

Over the last 30 years these women, their families and communities became my life... and I theirs. Being fluent in Zulu enabled us to communicate on many diverse and deeper levels. Strong bonds ensued with understanding and compassion for each other's cultures.

We learnt so much.
I learnt so much.

My beaders mainly hailed from the Valley of the 1000 Hills some 50kms away. Often they would arrive at my house after their grueling bus and taxis ride in full tribal regalia....often we had ceremonies to thank the Ancestors or to ask for guidance. These were very moving....very meaningful.

This exhibition is in a way in their honour, in honour of all women
How we rise again and again
How solid we stand
How high we reach
How bound we are to the Earth and to each other.



uθδli

A GIFT TO THE INNER CHILD











A1
33cm



A2
30cm



A3
42cm



A9
23cm



A10
21cm



A11
24cm



A12
12cm



A4
42cm



A5
26cm



A6
32cm



A7
26cm



A8
26cm



A13
19cm



A14
12 cm



A15
13cm



A16
23cm









C1
26cm



C2
23cm



C4
20cm



C3
26cm









D1
26cm



D2
22cm



D3
22cm



D4
24cm



D5
16cm



D6
16cm



E1
44cm



E2
32cm



E3
19cm



E4
22 cm



E5
33cm







F1
42cm



F2
43cm



F3
32cm



F4
62cm



F5
43cm



F6
28 cm



F7
23cm



F8
22cm



F9
19cm



F10
12cm



F11
12cm



F12
16cm







F13
42cm



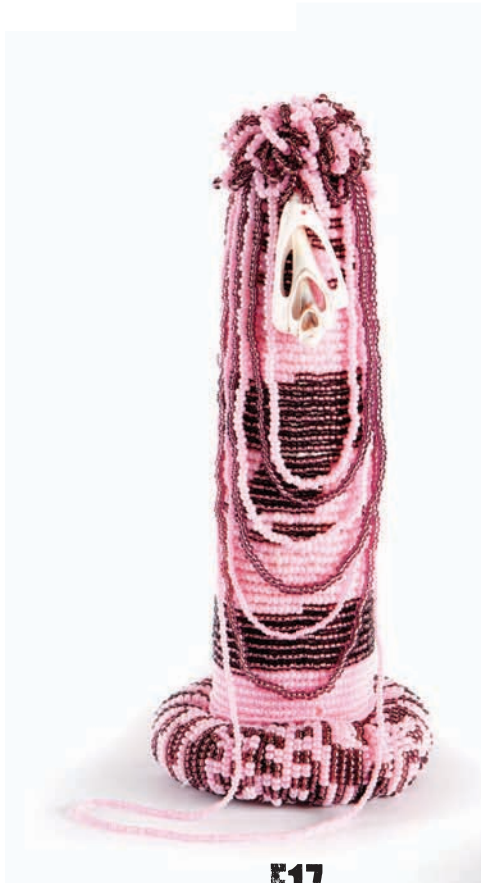
F14
45cm



F15
32cm



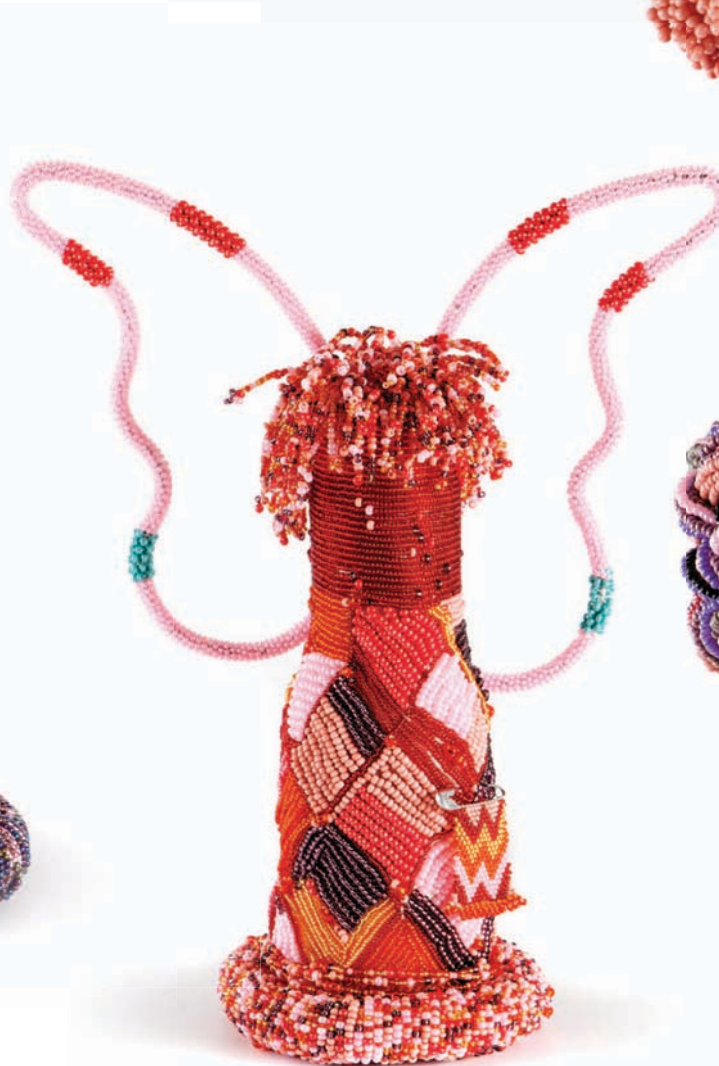
F16
42cm



F17
21cm



F18
25cm



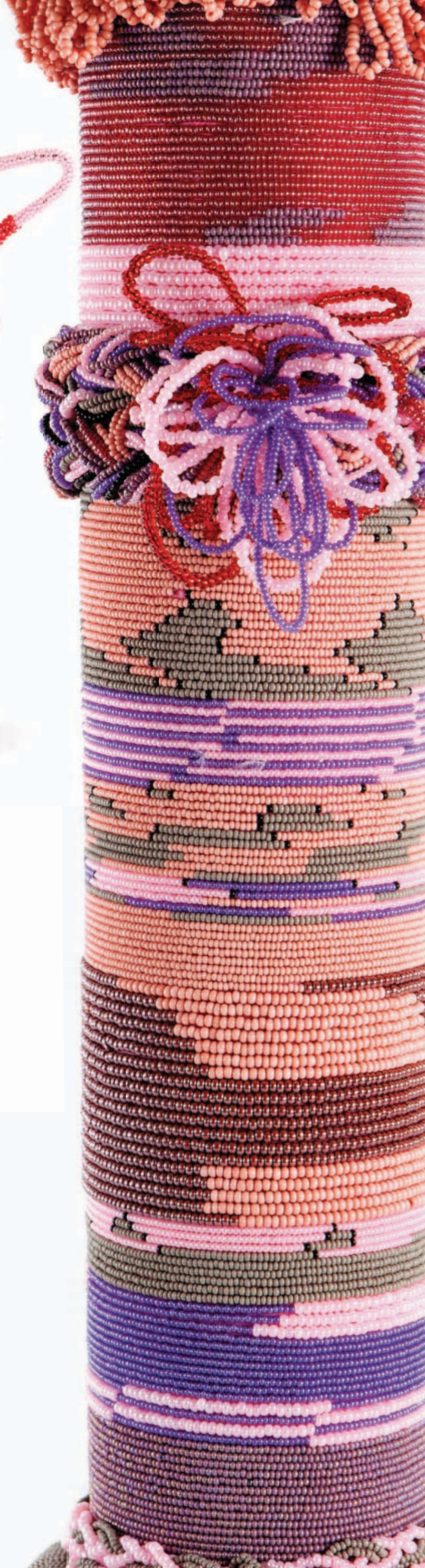
F19
21cm



F20
17cm



F21
12cm







G1
26cm



G2
21cm



G3
42cm



G4
26cm



G5
42cm



G6
32cm



G7
17cm



G8
26cm



G9
23cm



G10
22cm



G11
53cm



G12
41cm



G13
17cm



G14
33cm



G15
33cm



G16
33cm



G17
33cm



G18
33cm



G19
33cm



G20
33cm



G21
43cm



G22
44 cm



G23
30cm







H1
17 cm



H2
12 cm



H3
13 cm



H4
14 cm



H5
11 cm



H6
10 cm



H7
12 cm



H8
12 cm



H9
13 cm



H10
18 cm



H11
27 cm



H12
30 cm



H13
28 cm



H14
28 cm



H15
28 cm



H16
27 cm



H17
17 cm



H18
18 cm



H19
13 cm



H20
9 cm



H21
10 cm



H22
18 cm







J1
27 cm

J2
20 cm

J3
24 cm



J4
17 cm



J5
23 cm



J6
15 cm



J7
29 cm



J8
25 cm



J9
24 cm



J10
21 cm



J11
29 cm



J12
28 cm



J13
24 cm



J14
24 cm



J15
24 cm



J16
21 cm



K1
21 cm



K2
12 cm



K3
10 cm



K4
29 cm



K5
54 cm



K6
21 cm



K7
21 cm



K8
22 cm





L1
28 cm



L2
42 cm



L3
29 cm







M1
12 cm



M5
14 cm



M2
17 cm



M3
9 cm



M4
17 cm



M6
13 cm



M7
13 cm



M8
9 cm



M9
12 cm



M10
12 cm



M11
13 cm



M12
10 cm



M13
18 cm



M14
12 cm



M15
40 cm



M16
30 cm



M17
26 cm



N1
34 cm



N2
63 cm



N3
62 cm



N4
62 cm



N5
43 cm



N6
42 cm



N7
42 cm



P1
17 cm



P2
19 cm



P3
17 cm



P4
23 cm



P5
26 cm



P6
22 cm



P7
27 cm



P8
23 cm



P9
23 cm



P10
24 cm



P11
25 cm



P12
32 cm



P13
28 cm



P14
24 cm



P15
26 cm

THE BEADING TEAM

CHRISTINAH MSOMI



“I started working with Jane in 1985, nearly 30 years ago.

I had a team of 40 men and woman.

I cannot read or write or speak English but that was never a problem. I could do everything that other people did. Jane always said I was her left and right hand. She never had to finish a sentence because I knew what she wanted before she said it.

I have been able to visualize and translate Jane’s ideas into beautiful pieces which I am proud of.

We were a special team.

I have been able to build an eight roomed house and a house for my Mother.

I have water and electricity and an inside toilet. She said it was nonsense that we had to walk miles to collect water from the river every day and use candles at night so she paid and organized that for me.

She taught me the value of my hands, the value of my craft, the value of my talent and how to put a price to all that. Before then I had no idea.

She enabled me to see beyond each day and to make provision for to-morrow. She taught me all I know....all my children know.

We are good friends and she even took me to England and Ireland to show me where my work was displayed. We went to see the Lion King and went on the London Eye. It was such fun but I didn’t like the food the English people eat! I missed my home food.

I was so pleased to do the uDoli project with her as it was so different from our other beadwork and we could work as a small team in her garden again. We learnt new things and how to express ourselves differently. In my Zulu culture dolls are very important and we hand them down from mother to daughter so they are precious to us. They have different meanings. I was responsible for all the pink and mauve dolls. “





BONGILE SITHOLE

“I worked for Jane for over 15 years. I used to come to her house everyday to do sampling.

I thought I was dreaming when she found me. I remember waking up very early to make sure I didn’t lose my way. I didn’t know the city and I had never seen the sea. Once I got to know her I could ask her for anything. She became part of my family. Once I had no money for uniforms so she took me to the school shop in town and bought them all and didn’t take it off my salary.

When my daughter Angel passed matric she gave her a computer. I was so pleased because Angel is going to be my future. She is clever and literate, unlike me so she will provide in my old age.

Jane taught me how to provide for my family. She was always telling us that she is trying to give us the “fishing rod” and not the fish....first we didn’t understand but now we are grateful.

I loved doing the uDoli project because my husband, daughter and I worked together. It stopped him from drinking while we worked and we were happy talking about family things together. It made us think for ourselves and also share ideas. We had a competition each week as to who would bring in the best doll. Sometimes she gave two or three prizes which made it fun. We all had our own style. Sometimes she gave us all a prize so someone wouldn’t feel left out.

We loved working in her garden because it was cool under the shade of the big fig trees and we always had lovely food.

I made all the blue and green dolls and Angel made the African bright colours.”





GLORIA DLADLA

"I have worked for Jane for over 20 years. Even my children during school holidays would help me count the beads....one black two white or one black one white, and they would thread them on a string so that I could use them easily. I loved those times because we could sit together and talk and tell each other our dreams and fairy tales. I am a iSangoma, like Jane, and our dreams are very important to us. Our Ancestors come to us at night to give us guidance. They teach us to respect each other. They are my Higher Power and without them I could not do this work. Jane understands that because she has also been through the training. I attended some of her ceremonies which made us come closer together.

My children now have a craft as they have learnt from me and they can earn their own money when they are older. My children have all gone to school so they can support me when I am older. I remember Hlengi Dube (a master beader and crafter) saying to me, " if you have two hands, can see and are willing to learn to bead you will always be able to earn a living". I tell my children that all the time. They believe me because they see me bringing in the money and food and supporting my family.

I am so grateful that Jane has taught us the value of our hands and can see that I am an artist too. She always gave us praise for good work.....but wow-betide if it was dirty or smokey or not finished properly....she would get very cross!

I did all the dolls in the red and orange group and I loved working with those colours. I did my best work because those colours make me happy. Jane says I should have been a model in Paris....that made me happy too. I don't know where Paris is but it sounds a nice place."

Gloria sadly died of a heart condition just after our project finished. She always rose to every occasion, was charismatic, flamboyant and entered into the spirit of whatever we were doing.

I miss her greatly.





LIMPEPHI AND BABAZILE MCHUNU

“We are two sisters from a very big family living in the Valley of 1000 Hills (which is 50kms from Durban). We have 5 other sisters and one brother. Our whole family have a unique crafting ability which we will not pass onto any other family. It is ours and we want it to stay that way. Many people have tried to copy us but they can’t get it right. We will not share our technique with anyone. We make beaded animals which we do around wire shapes. Jane sells them for us all over the world.

Before we came to work for Jane many years ago we had never seen the sea and had never been to the city. First we were very frightened catching the buses and taxis and traveling so far away from home and having to wear shoes. We always went together incase we go lost.



When we started the uDoli project we were very excited as we had never done anything like this before. She taught us something new and we loved putting the colours together that she gave us. She always said we were so clever. That made us very happy because we cannot read or write and cannot even sign our names but we earn a lot of money. That makes us happy too because our husbands do not work and we are the breadwinners of our families. We only speak high Zulu so we were lucky to find Jane as she speaks our language. We know if she does another project she will call us again because we do good work and we are now her family.”

WIREWORK TEAM



ANGEL SITHOLE

I have been learning the skill of beading ever since I can remember from my Mother. She has given me the opportunity to earn extra money on the side while I do my computer studies.

I love beading and using the bright colours. I think I am good at putting those colours together. I also like neat clean work so I am happy when Jane gives me praise.

At home my Mother, Father and I sit together and it makes me warm inside when I listen to my parents talking about our Zulu traditions and culture and how they grew up on the farms. Life is very different for us now.

I hope we can work together again....it was fun in her garden.



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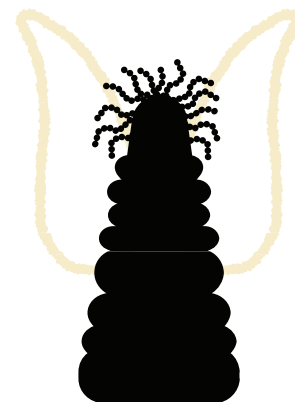


WELCOMING TEAM





OUR STUDIO...
UNDER THE FIG TREE



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A GIFT TO THE INNER CHILD



Images of dolls and beaders by **Jon Ivins** (www.jonivins.com)
Book design by **the Brand Brewery**

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