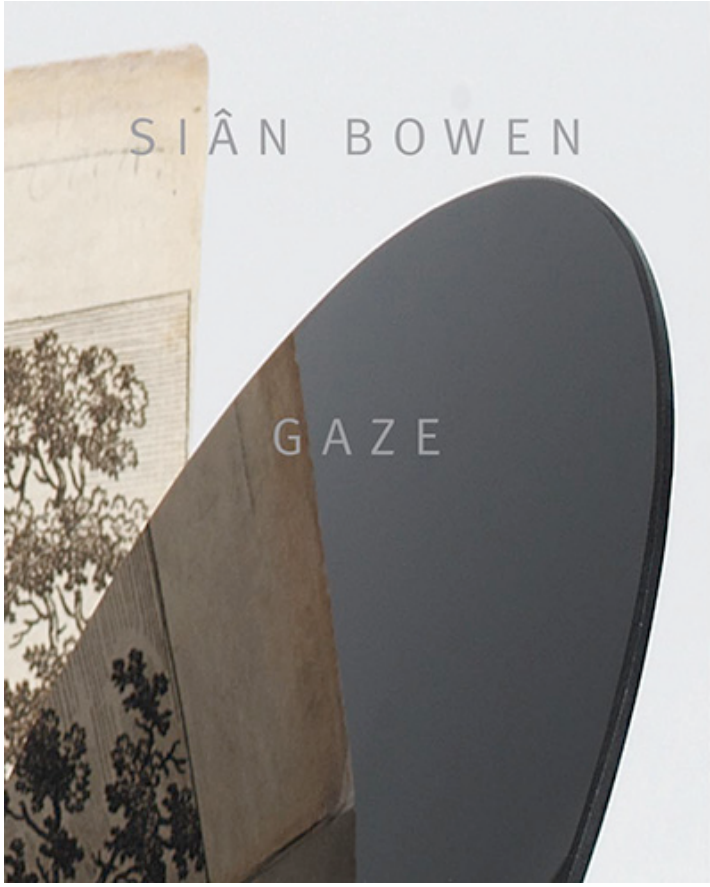
Gaze

Gaze, a series of works on paper were the result of Part 1 of Siân Bowen's period of time at the V&A, London as Resident Artist in Drawing. Hosted by the Word & Image Department and Paper Conservation, she spent eighteen months exploring an eclectic group of paper objects from the collections and the construction and use of a replica of an 18th century Claude Glass. By contrast she also began to employ contemporary laser cutters as drawing aids.

During this period she also took up an invitation to spend two months as Guest Artist at Kyoto Art Centre, Japan. An interest in the extraordinary one hundred and fifty year-old Harry Parkes' collection of Japanese papers held by the V&A, led her to visit craft-workers and papermakers throughout Japan, such as indigo dyers and kimono stencil cutters.

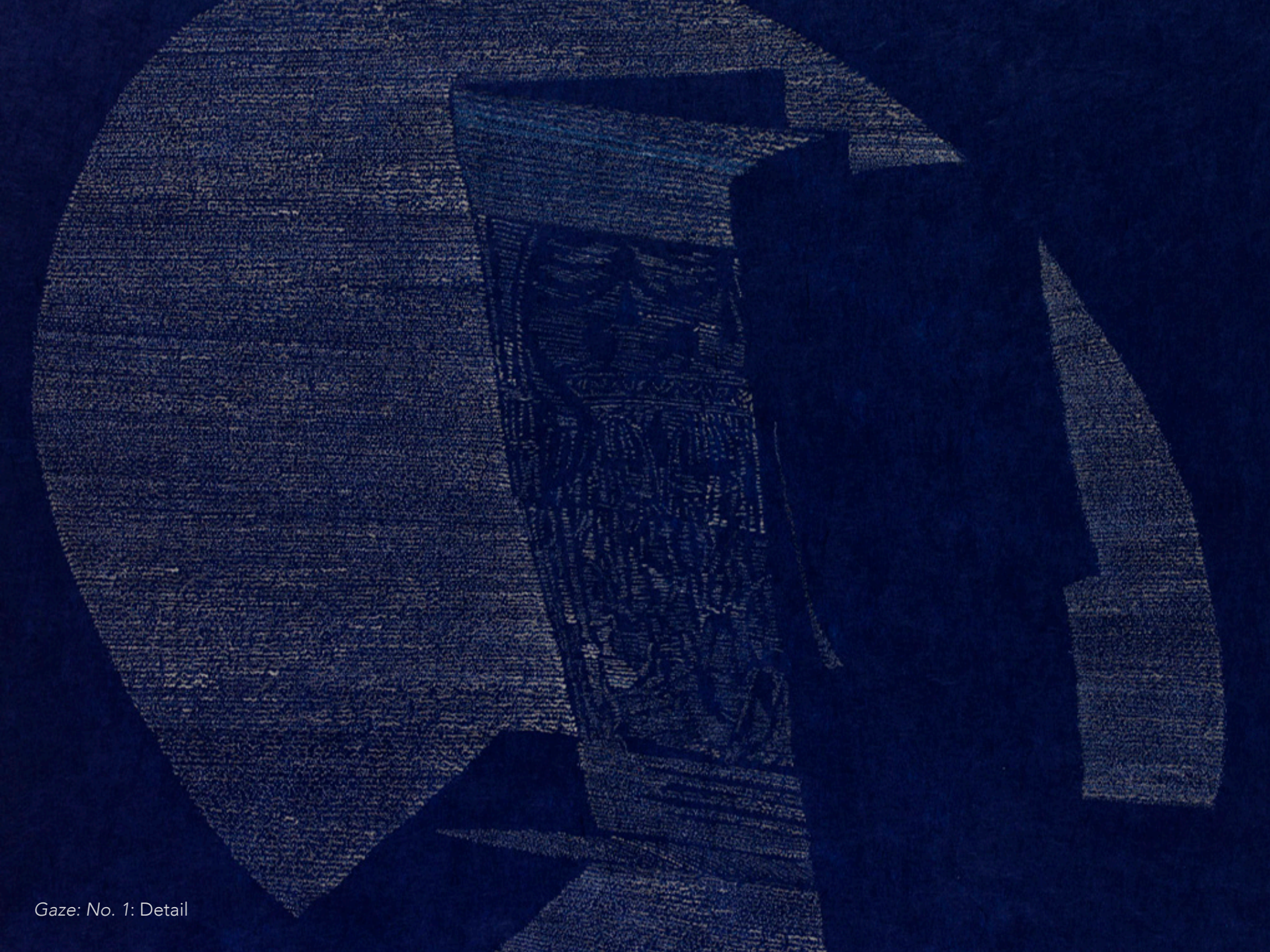
She collaborated with V&A curators and conservators to create a series of works, *Gaze*, which were shown alongside her personal selection of objects from the stores to form a solo exhibition of at the V&A: *Drawing, Context & the Collection* that examined light, touch and materiality.

The Exhibition was accompanied by a publication documenting and contextualising the project with essays by Richard Cork, Tony Godfrey, Gill Saunders and Pauline Webber.

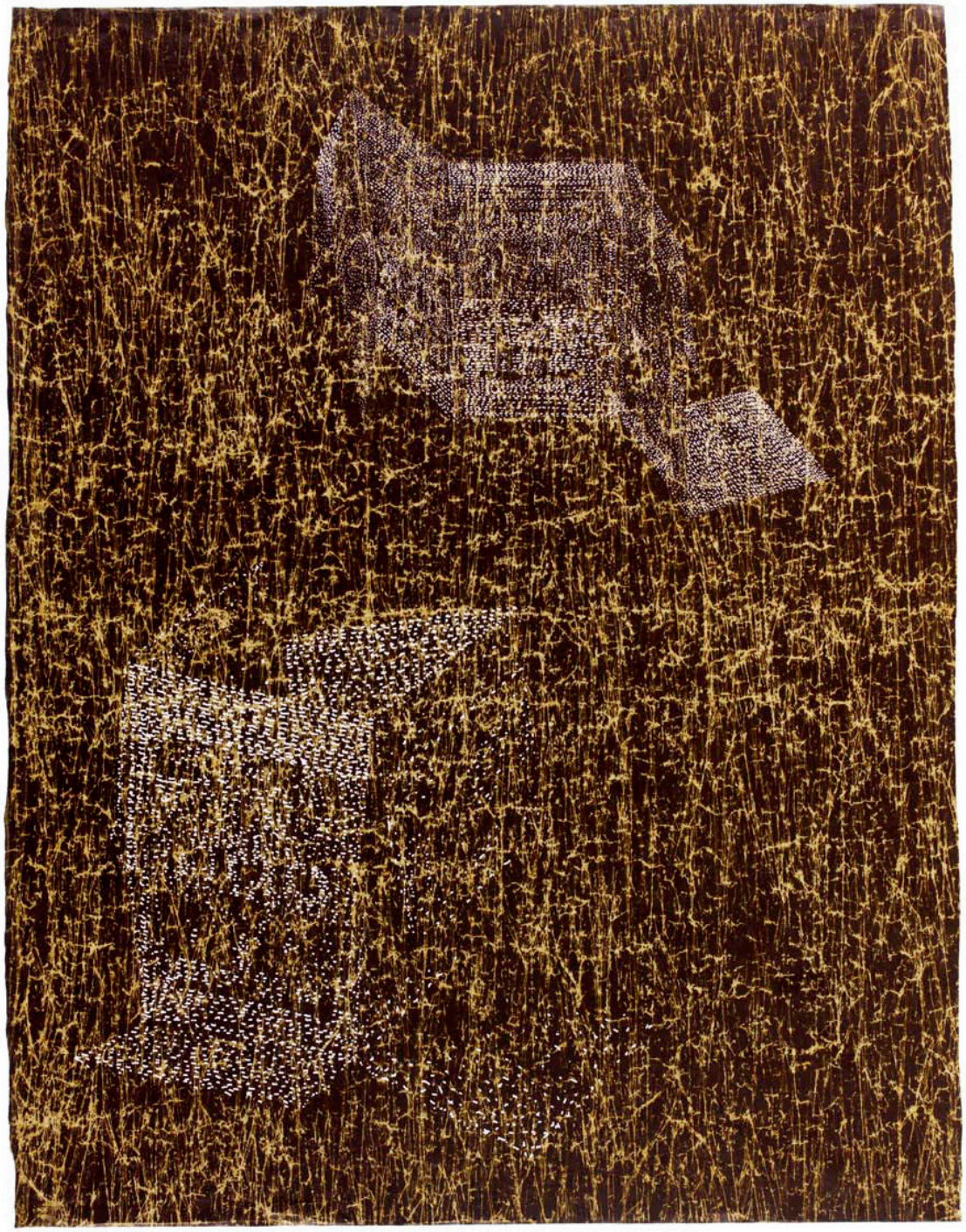


Drawing, Context & the Collection, 2007
The Victoria & Albert Museum
12 drawings: each approx. 65 x 48 cm

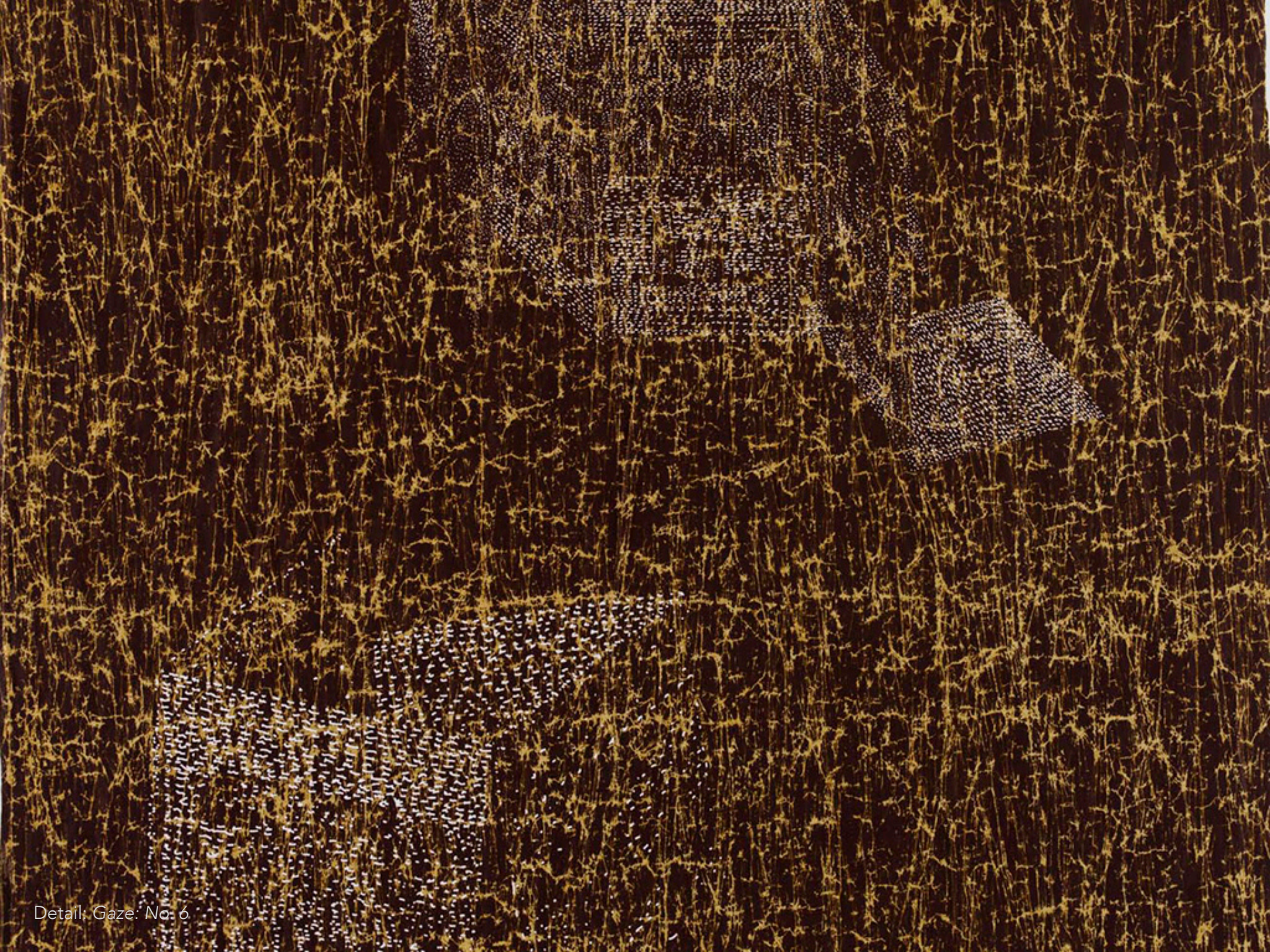
Gaze: No. 1, 2007
Palladium, pinpricks & silver on 9-times-dyed indigo paper, 66 x 48.5 cm



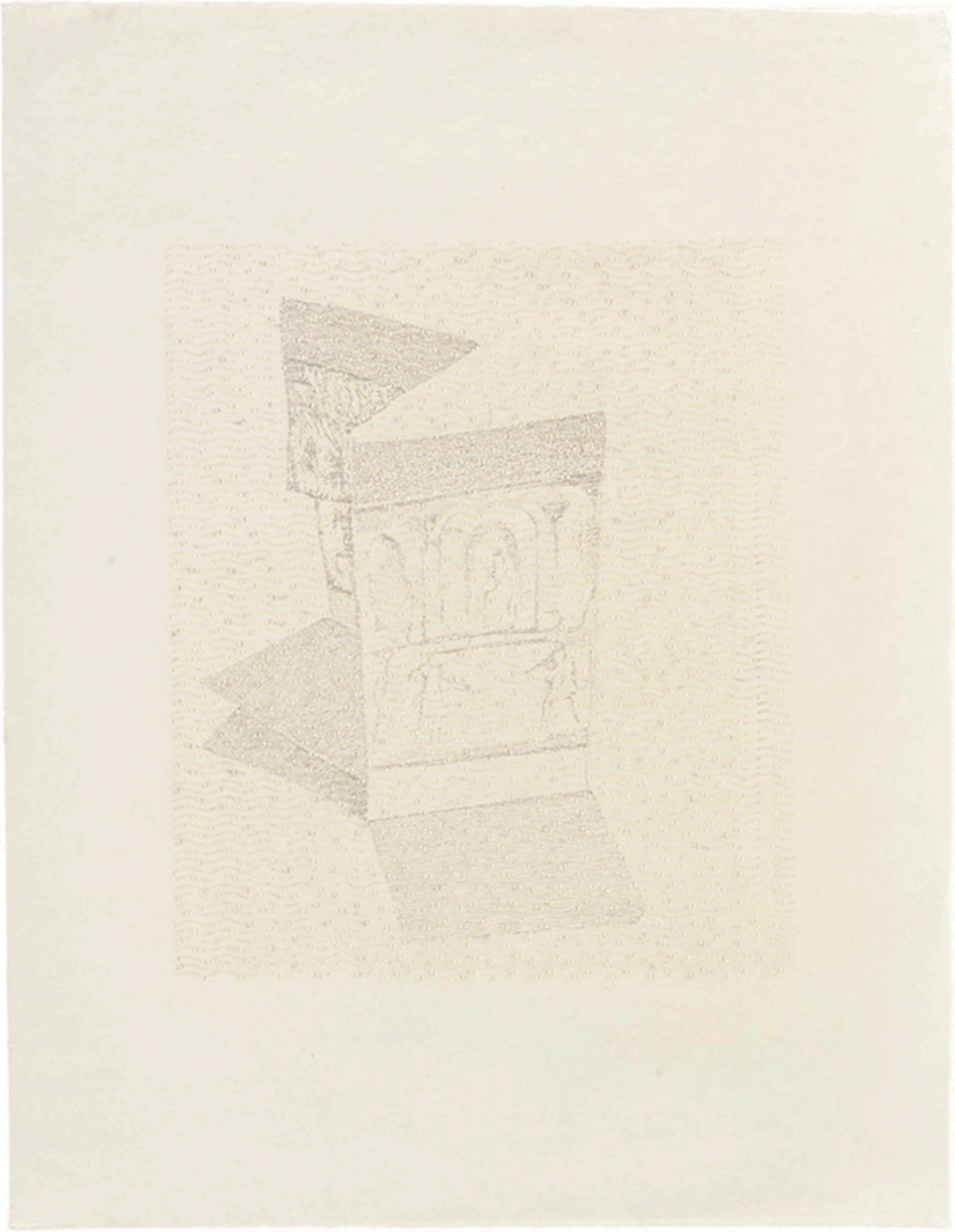
Gaze: No. 1: Detail



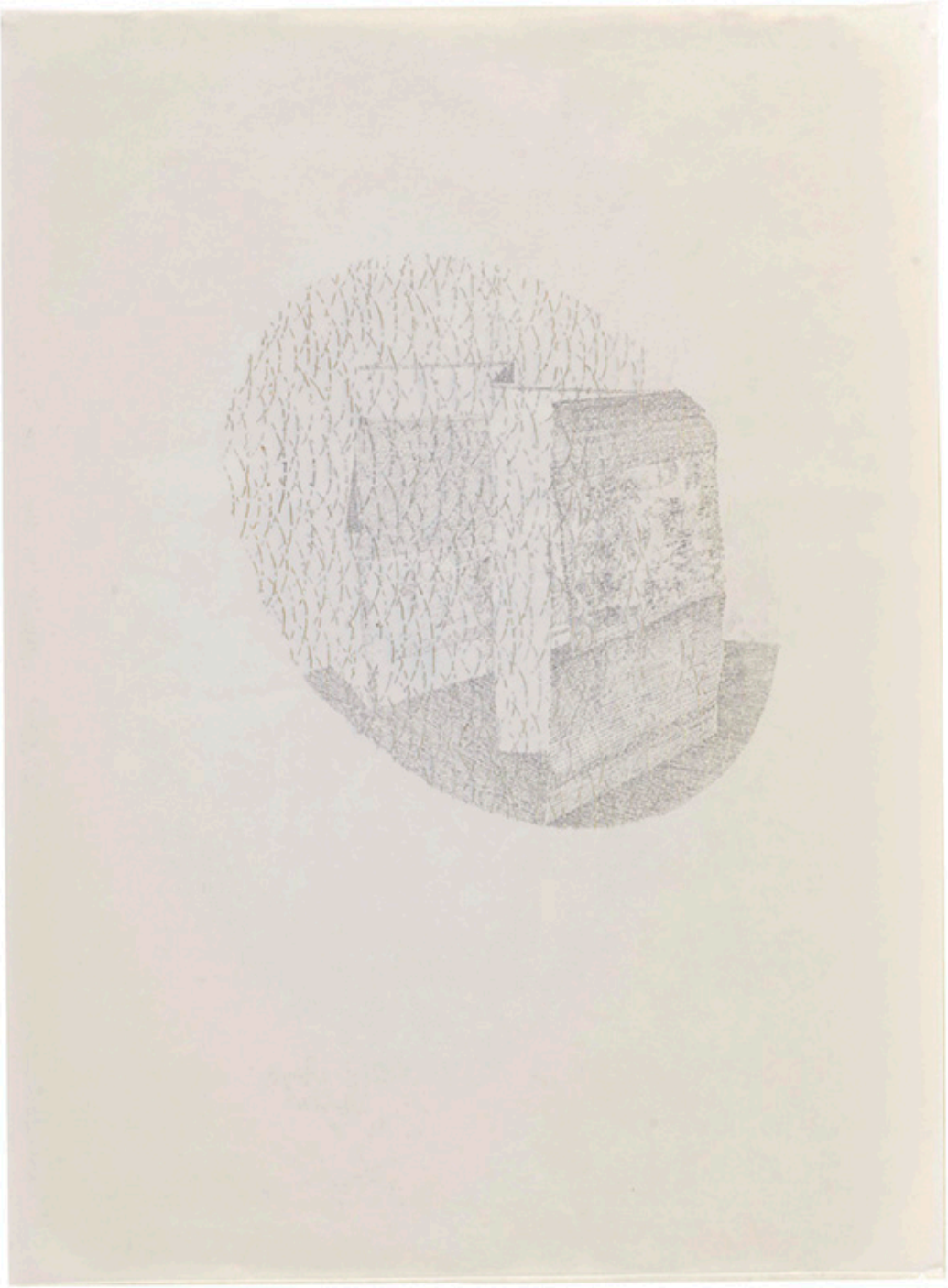
Gaze: No. 6, 2006
Laser cut on pigment-covered
Paper, 63 x 49 cm



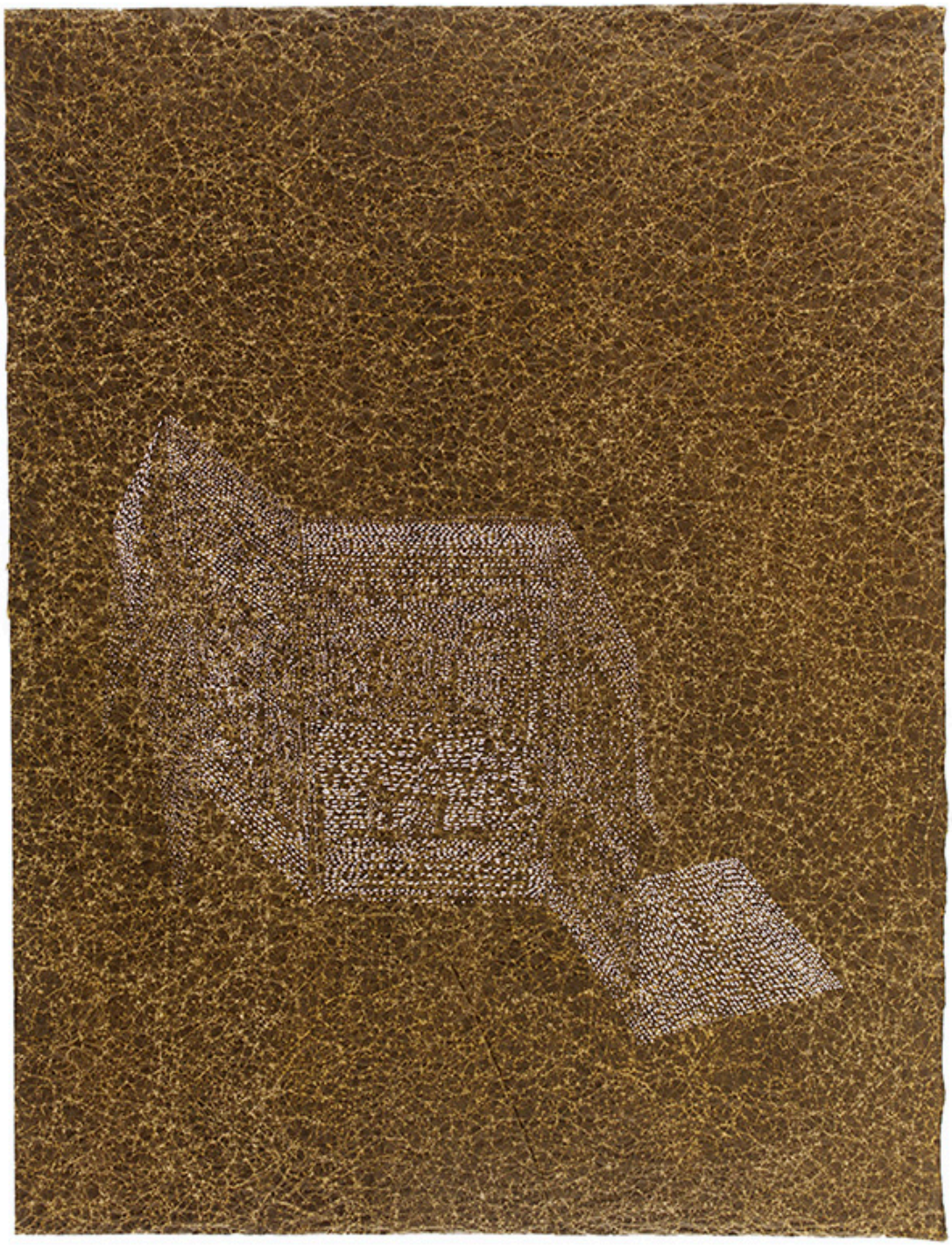
Detail: Gaze: No. 6



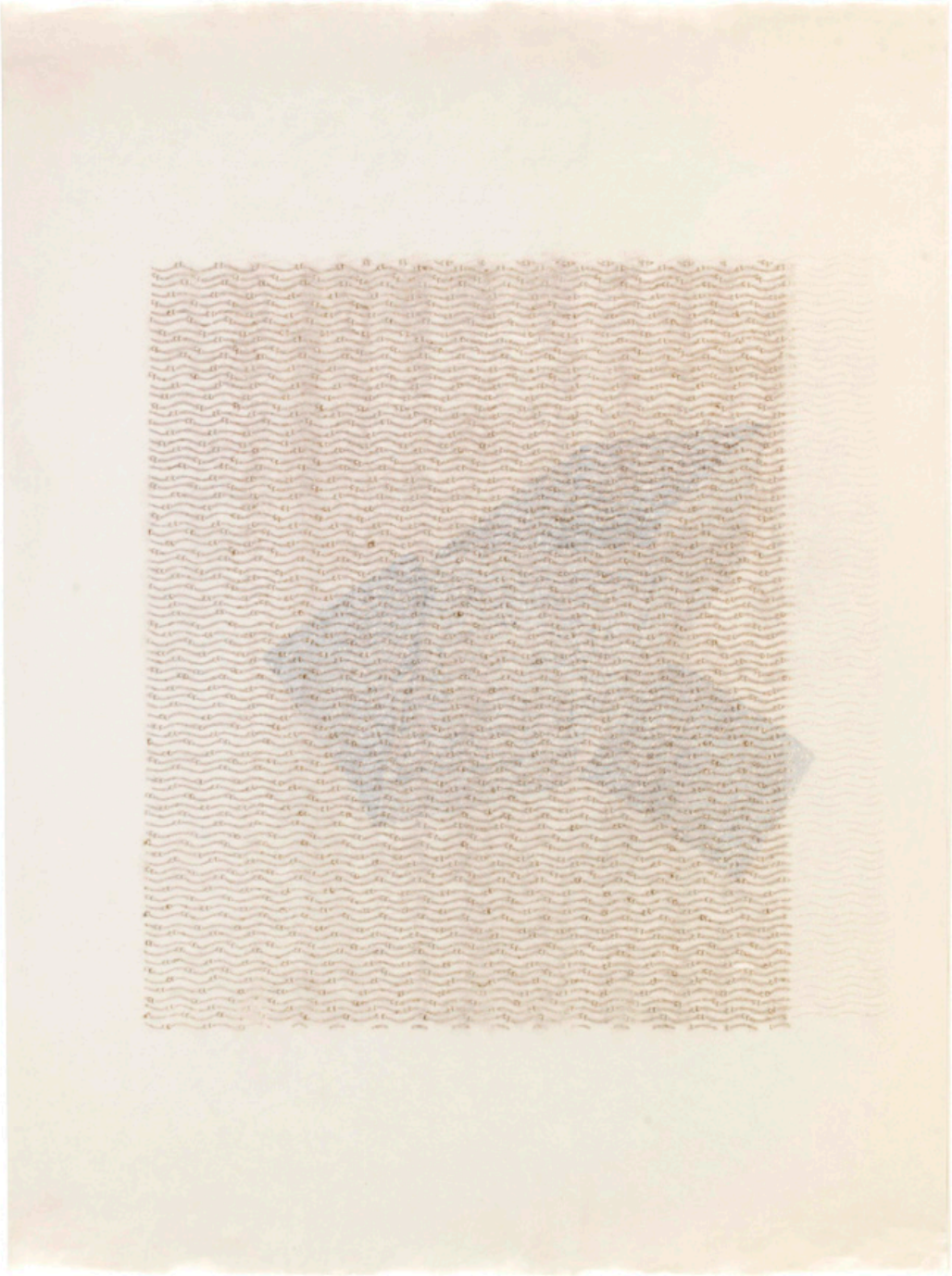
Gaze: No. 2, 2006
Laser cut & palladium on paper
63 x 48.5 cm



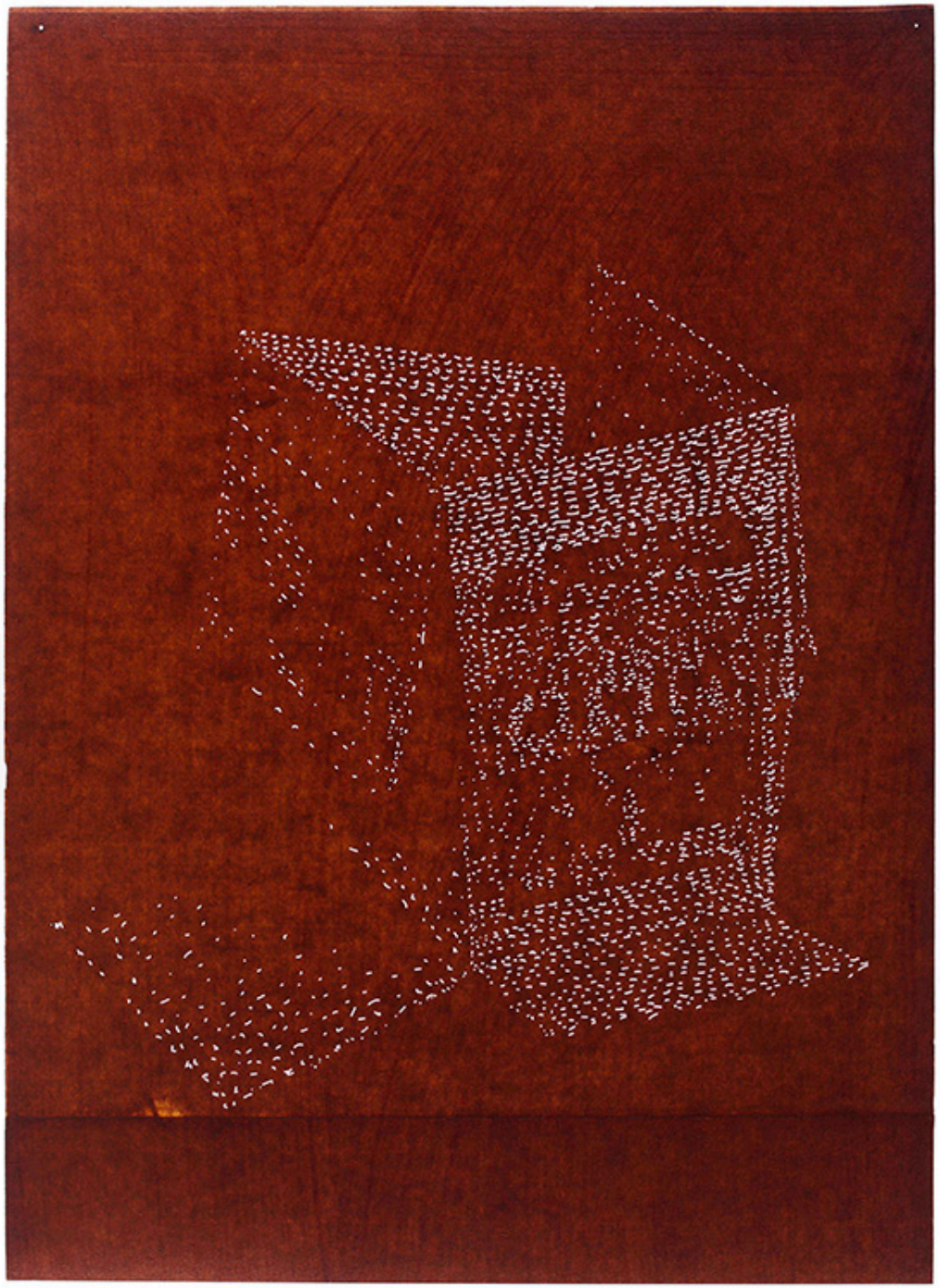
Gaze: No. 7, 2006
Laser cut & palladium on paper
63 x 49 cm



Gaze: No. 5, 2006
Laser cut on pigment-covered paper
62 x 49 cm



Gaze: No.11, 2006
Laser cut & palladium on paper
63 x 48.5 cm



Gaze: No. 9, 2006
Laser cut on persimmon-coated &
smoked paper, 63 x 46 cm

Drawing, Context & the Collection, 2007
The Victoria & Albert Museum
12 drawings: each approx. 65 x 48 cm

Drawing, Context & the Collection, 2007
The Victoria & Albert Museum