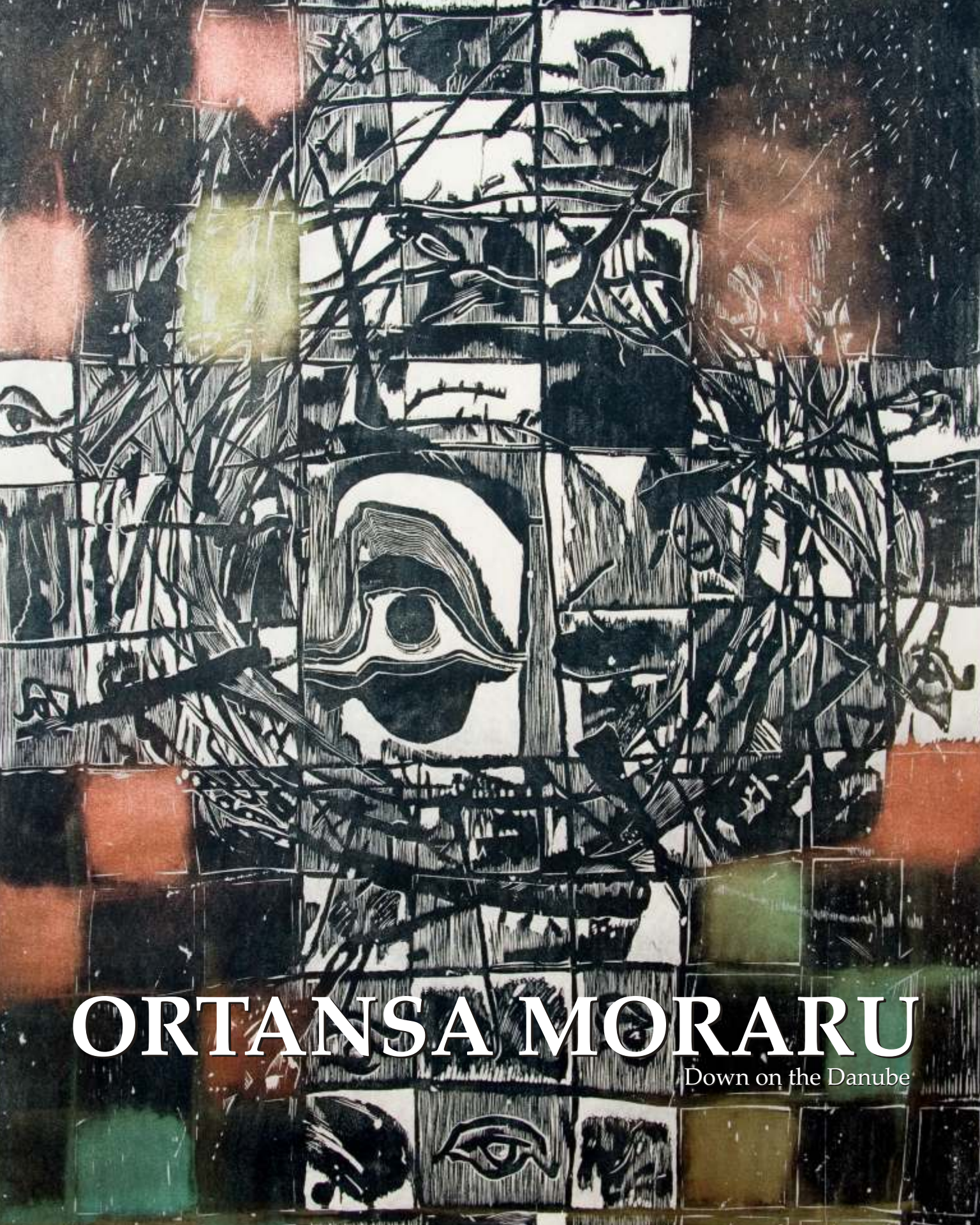

ORTANSA MORARU

Down on the Danube

The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Ortansa Moraru

Down on the Danube

March 20 - April 21, 2012

HEADBONES GALLERY

Artist Catalog: Ortansa Moraru - Down on the Danube
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This catalog was created for the exhibition titled “Doug Alcock and Ortansa Moraru - Hammer & Spoon”
at Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC Canada, March 20 - April 21, 2012

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Commentary by Julie Oakes
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Rich Fog Micro Publishing, printed in Vernon, 2012
Layout and Design, Richard Fogarty

Printed on the Ricoh SPC 811DN

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www.headbonesgallery.com

Front and back covers: Detail images from Down on the Danube

ISBN: 978-1-926605-49-4

RICH FOG
Micro Publishing
Toronto Canada

Ortansa Moraru
Down on the Danube

Commentary by Julie Oakes

Ortansa Moraru and Doug Alcock - *Hammer & Spoon* exhibition
Headbones Gallery - 2012

Ortansa Moraru
Down on the Danube

In 2006, Ortansa Moraru was a recent immigrant to Canada when she was included in the exhibition *Aligning with Beauty* at The Varley Museum, Ontario. Her expertise is printmaking, lithography, intaglio, xylography, linocut, mezzotint, and monotype. Three works were presented. They were a large scale for wood block prints for she had sourced wooden panels, vertical rectangles with rounded corners, which she used in multiples to create grids, thus enabling the large formats. The inked wood blocks were rubbed with a spoon to print. The commentary in the catalogue stated:

"Ortansa Moraru's descriptive spaces are not worlds of complete freedom, but tangled and embroidered flights of fancy that imply existences other than those from which we have learned to escape. We are confronted by a maze-like frequency of turns and barriers that interrupts our expectations with a jag in an unexpected direction.

Consider the grain. When a perfect curve is unfolding and it hits the grain, the intrinsic path of the wood - the life lines and indications of history trip the wandering line and shift the pathway. It is similar to building a nest when the grasses and branches are woven into place by an intelligence that is unaware of mathematics and engineering, like a bird's, yet understands how to build the nest from the inside of it's being. The nest building gene is a part of their make-up. So it is with Ortansa Moraru's detailed woodcuts. They map an inner dimension that translates into marks familiar yet unique."

Images of nests and boats, relational reminders of her uprooted-ness occupied Moraru's work as she settled into her Canadian studio, gradually acquiring equipment. With the acquisition of a 12x18 inch Jack Richeson & Co., etching press, she

began a series of small dry points and etchings. She was the master printmaker for the 2009 Ink Bonds portfolio, working with the ten selected artists to create the limited edition prints. She then acquired a Praga etching press and zinc plates and soon the larger press was rolling.

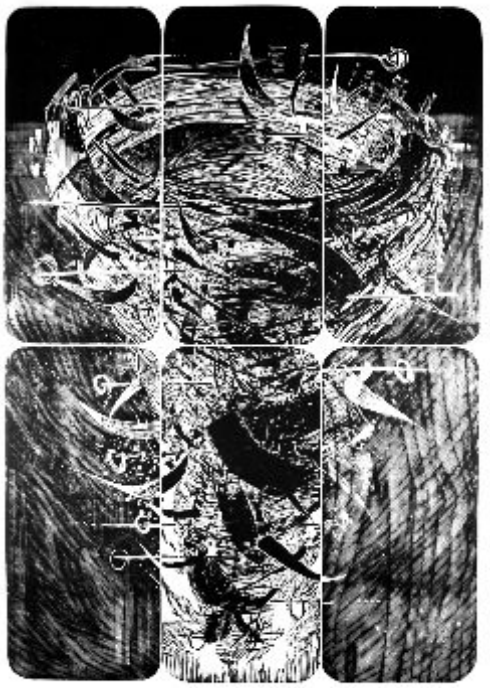
Whereas the work up until 2010 gave indications of her immigration with the boats and nests, the new work reveals the complexity of the journey she has undertaken as well as where she has arrived. In 2010 as a Canadian landed immigrant able to travel back to her home land, she embarked upon a doctorate from the Western University of Timisoara. Her thesis supervisor is the master printmaker Suzana Fantanariu. Timsoara, called “Little Vienna” is a center of culture. It is the largest city in Western Romania and the official tourism site boasts that it was the first city in Europe to have electric lights, second in the world to New York.

Moraru's large wall installation *Down on the Danube* with its multiple references draws visual information from the Danube River. She interprets her subject within a format that imitates the flow of the river, punctuated by points of interest that have clear and complete identities on their own as well as contributing to the whole. The greatest part of the Danube River roughly forms the southern border of Romania and the list of points of interest on this 670 mile

leg of the river, from the famous Iron Gate to the delta where it empties into the Black Sea is varied. There are the ruins of a Roman bridge, Tolponita Cave and historical cities including Bucharest along the banks. The Danube River Delta is 2100 square miles of wildlife sanctuary.

Much as each city along the Danube has its own unique identity, so the individual paper pieces retain autonomy while participating in the whole. Using a variety of print making techniques with woodcut and metallic powders she captures visual moments in time as we travel the route of imagery. The Danube River is a favourite tourist destination and the pleasure of such an experience is recreated within Moraru's *Down on the Danube.* This is a wondrous piece that enhances rather than challenges. It possesses a classical purity with architectonic overtones in the over-all presentation. The proportions are as harmonious as a Roman building yet with a modern overlay through the use of abstracted imagery. Both the empty spaces and the lustrous coloring add elegance.

Ortansa Moraru has a quiet personal demeanour that belies the punch that she packs. She is much like her materials for she has a naturally refined background (and her material is Shoji Natural Japanese paper) upon which is applied a strong image (the striking contrast of black ink on white) with a subtle nuance of character (the golds silvers and lusters). Both Moraru and her work leave an impression. Whether as a single image or in the multiple prints, Ortansa Moraru's work is striking and



complicated. Printmaking is a specialist's realm that requires not only the sparks of inclination and vision but also dedication for it is an art that is perfected over time. Moraru brings the charm and courage of her birthplace to her imagery while displaying the maturity of her expanded expertise and life experience.

Julie Oakes, 2012

Down on the Danube, 2012
woodcut instalation 2.5 X 6 m long(7 pieces)

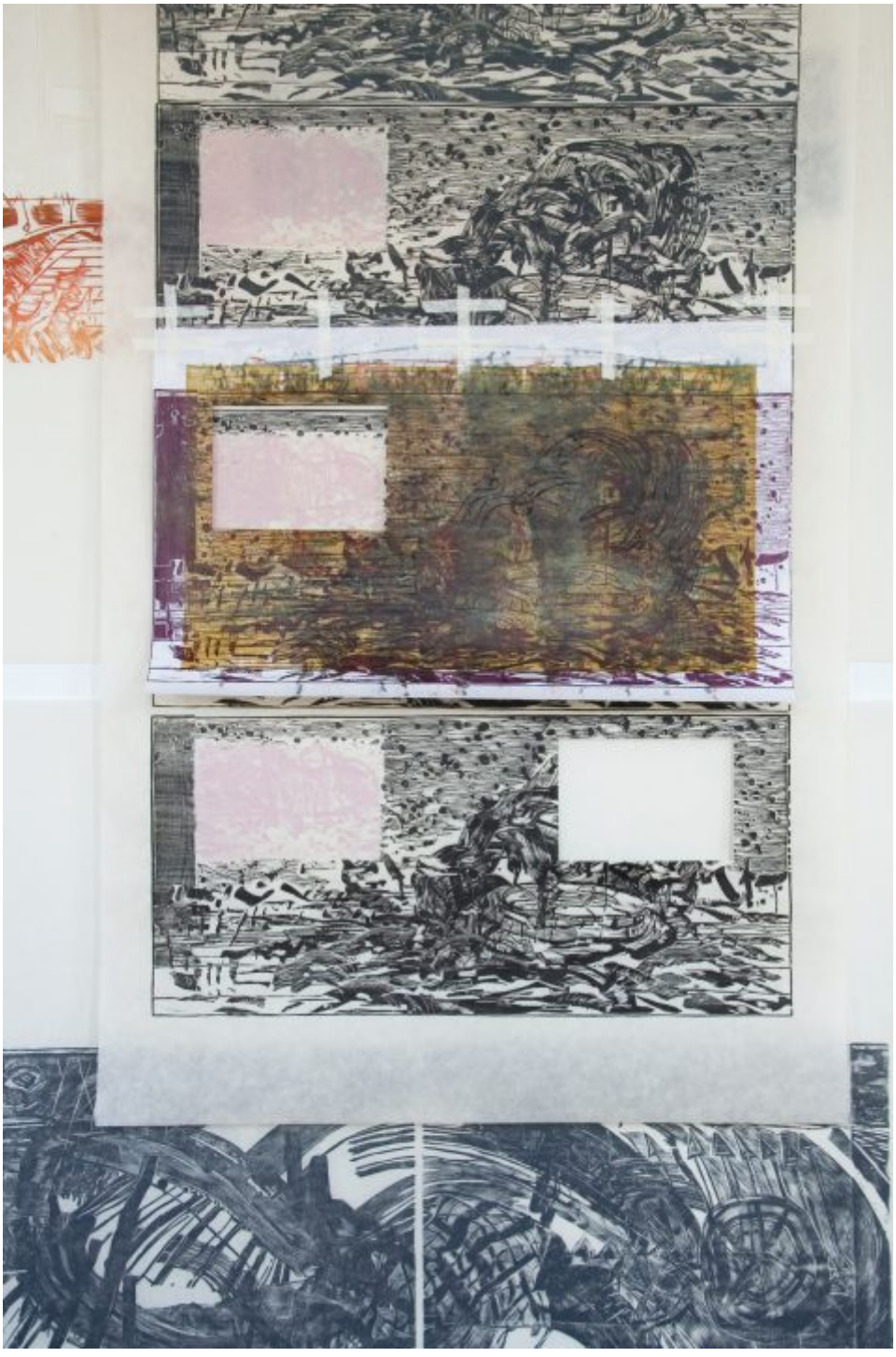
Down on the Danube, 2012 - (detail)

Down on the Danube, 2012 - (detail)

Down on the Danube, 2012 - (detail)

Down on the Danube, 2012 - (detail)

Down on the Danube, 2012 - (detail)



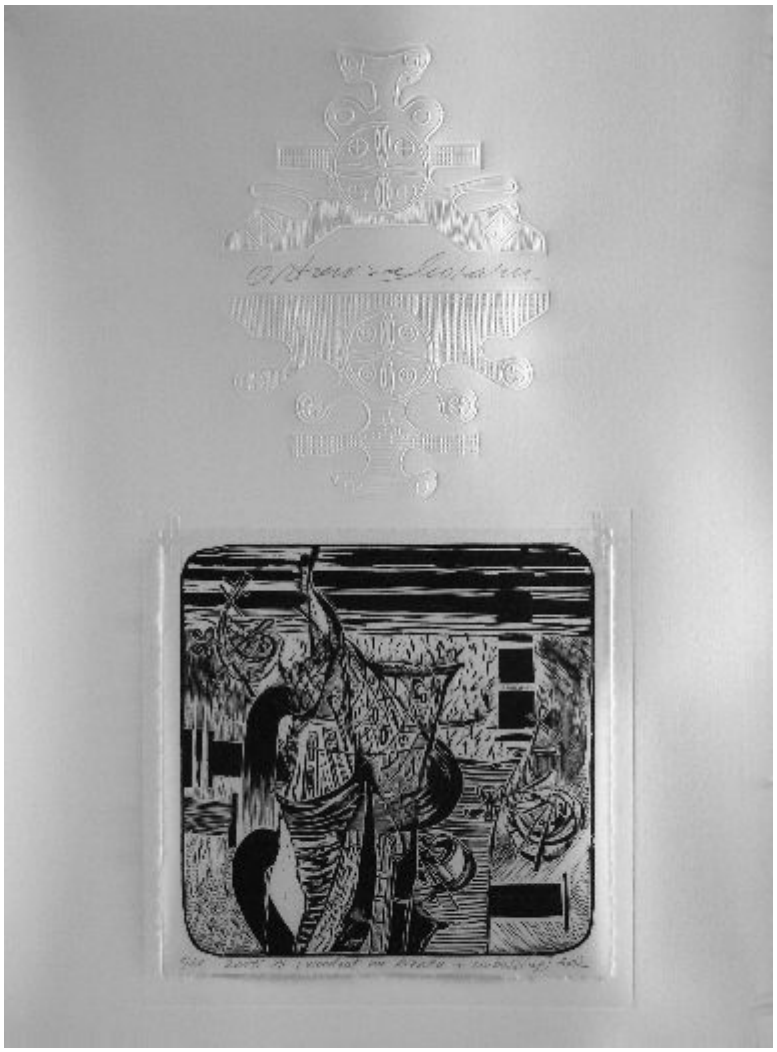
Roots VII, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

Roots VIII, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

Roots IX, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

Roots X, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

Roots XI, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

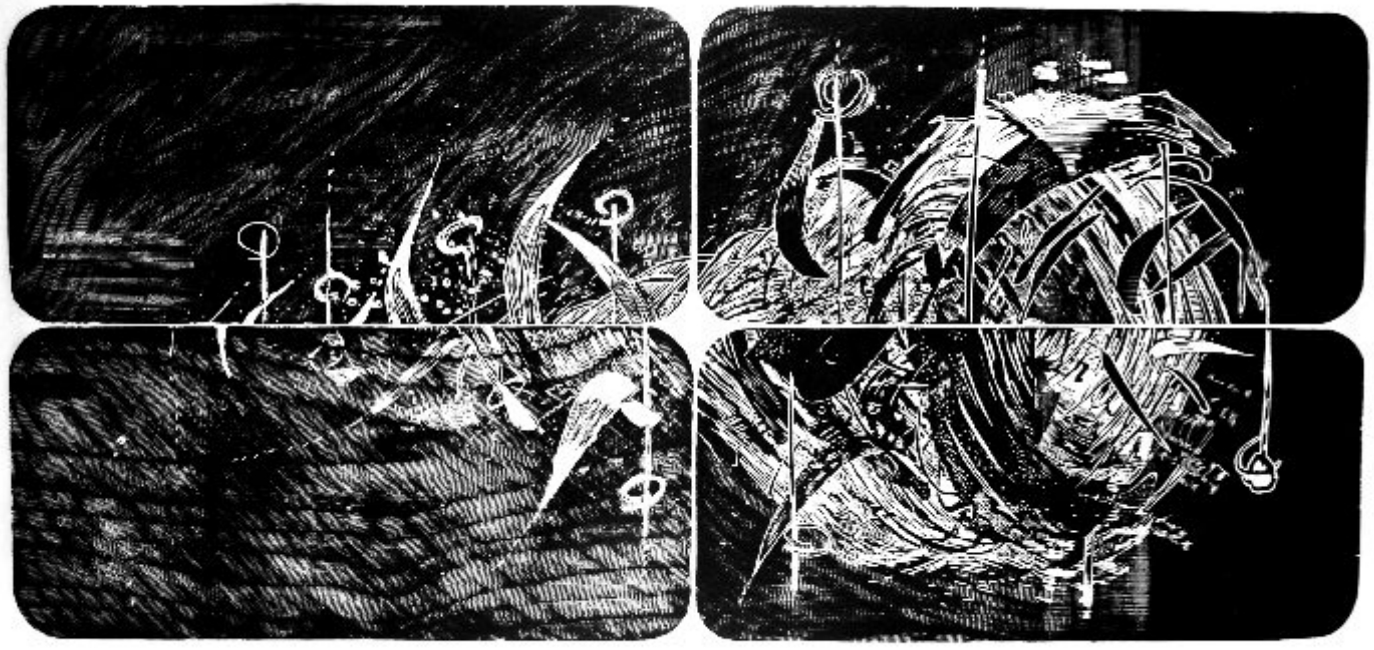


Roots XII, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

Roots XIII, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

Roots XIV, 2012
Woodcut on Kiraku /embossing, 22x30 in, Edition 1/20

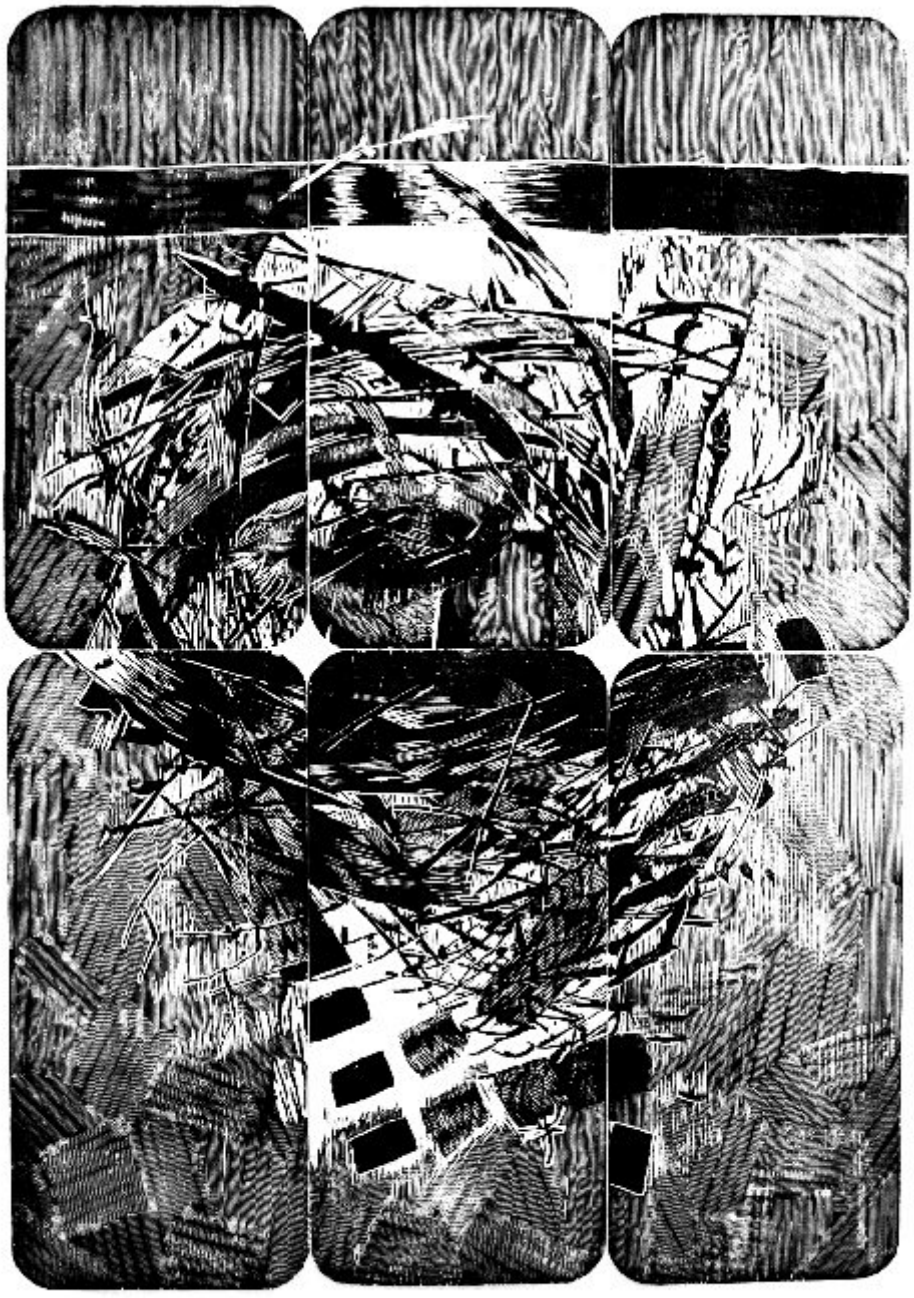
Nest II, 2006
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 29.5x47 cm, Edition 3/20



Nest III, 2006
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 29.5x47 in, Edition 2/20

Nest IV, 2006
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 27x37 in, Edition 2/20

Nest V, 2006
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 27x37 in, Edition 14/20



Nest VI, 2006
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 35x47 in, Edition 4/20

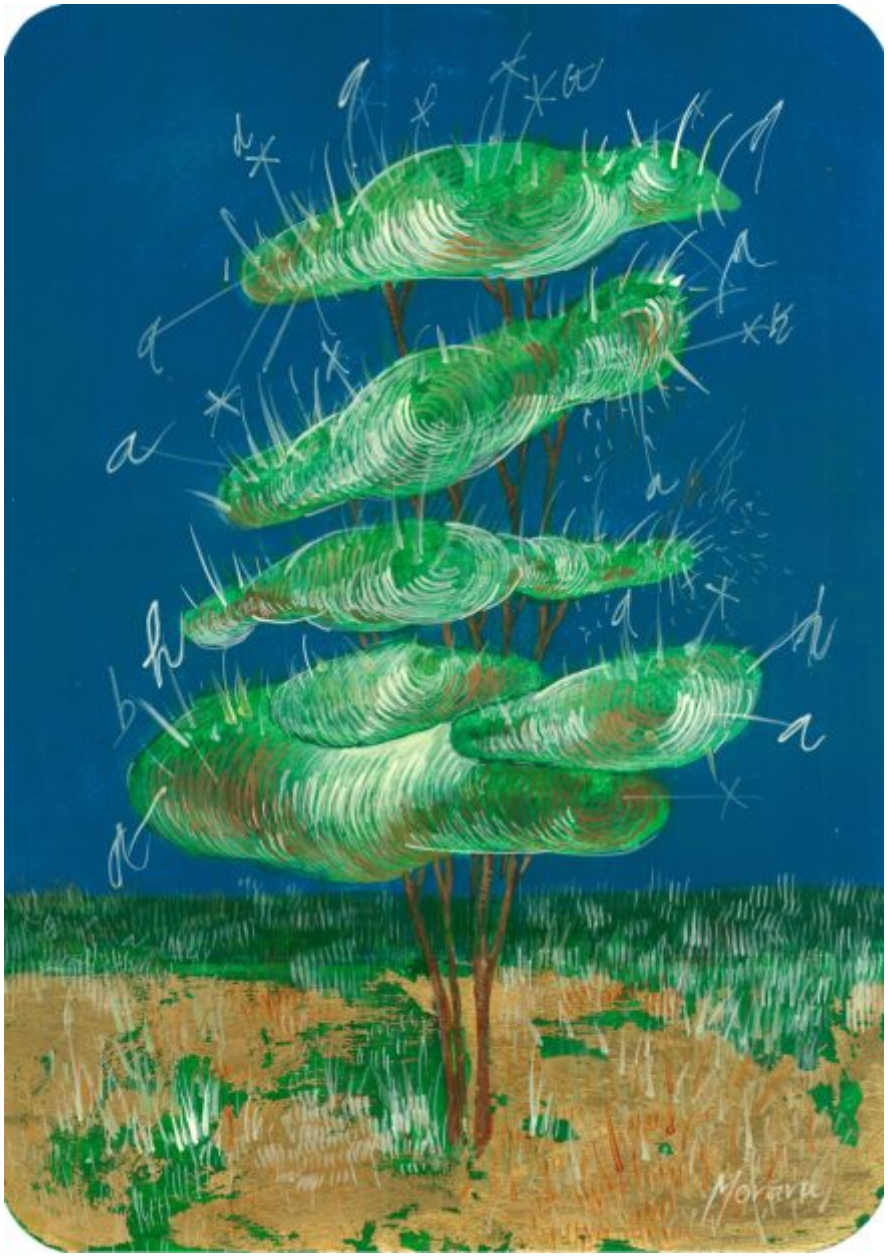
Roots I, 2009
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 61 x 32 in

Roots II, 2009
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 61 x 32 in

Roots III, 2009
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 61 x 32 in

Roots IV, 2009
Woodcut on Japanese paper, 61 x 32 in

The Alphabet Tree I, 2009
Egg Tempera/embossing 22x30 in



The Alphabet Tree II, 2009
Egg Tempera/embossing 22x30 in

The Alphabet Tree III, 2009
Egg Tempera/embossing 22x30 in

Morara

The Alphabet Tree IV, 2009
Egg Tempera/embossing 22x30 in

The Alphabet Tree V, 2009
Egg Tempera/embossing 22x30 in

The Alphabet Tree VI, 2009
Egg Tempera/embossing 22x30 in

Morava

ORTANSA MORARU

1968 Born in Corabia, Olt, Romania

Education

2010-2013 PhD Candidate, Western University of Timisoara, Fine Arts Department, Timisoara, Romania
1991-1997 MFA, B.Ed., Western University of Timisoara, Fine Arts Department, Timisoara, Romania
1985-1988 Cornetti School of Arts, Craiova, Romania

Scholarships

1998 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Rome, Italy
Italian Language and Culture Study.
1996 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Rome, Italy
Italian Language and Culture Study.
1993 The 4-th Biennial of Fine Arts Academies, Maastricht, Holland
Master class section - Prof. Luciano Fabro, Milano

Awards

2011 Premio I, Apocalisse Oggi, Galleria d'Arte ARIPA, Turin, Italy
2009 Arts / Social Justice Award of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
2009 Third Prize, Abstract, The 41st Open National Juried Exhibition, Papermill Gallery, Toronto
2009 Nica Petre Prize, The Observatorul Magazine, Toronto, Canada
2007 Juror's Award, Glenhyrst Art Gallery, Juried Drawing Exhibition, Brantford, Canada
2006 Third Prize Award IV International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare, Italy
1996 The Youth Prize Award The Fine Arts Museum, Craiova, Romania
1994 Small Prints Award, Vulcan, Romania
1992 First Prize Award for Graphics "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
1989 "Gheorghe Sincai" Association Award, Oradea, Romania
1988 Third Prize Award (xylography) "Ion Creanga" Exhibit, Bacau, Romania

Solo Exhibitions

2011 Homer Watson Home and Gallery, Kitchener, Curator Sandu Sindile (Video)
2011 Joseph D. Carrier Gallery, Curator Teodoro Dragonieri
2009 Consulate General of Romania, Toronto, Canada
2004 Ontario Club, Toronto, Canada
2003 Time Just Passing By - Out/Aut Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1999 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1998 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1997 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
1996 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1995 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania

Group Exhibitions (selection)

2012 Hammer & Spoon, Doug Alcock and Ortansa Moraru, Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC
2012 Artists of the Gallery 2012, 6th Annual AGO Staff Show, Hang Man Gallery, Toronto, ON
2012 Casualita Mediate, Aripa Art Gallery, Turin, Italy, Curator Mariana Papara and Ivan Fasio
2012 Lonsdale Gallery, Toronto, ON, Curator Stanzie Tooth
2011 I Cavalieri dell' Apocalisse, Aripa Art Gallery, Turin, Italy, Curator Mariana Papara and Ivan Fasio
2011 The National Show of Contemporary Art, Ramnicu-Valcea, Romania
2011 Apocalisse Oggi-Eterno Ritorno, Aripa Gallery, Turin, Italy. Curator Mariana Papara
2011 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
2011 The "Xylography-Stylistic Matrix V" Durango, Mexico. Curator Cristina Sandor
2011 Apocalisse Oggi-Aripa Gallery, Turin, Italy. Curator Mariana Papara & Silvana Nota
2011 Artists of the Gallery 2011, 5th Annual AGO Staff Show, Hang Man Gallery
2010 The "Xylography-Stylistic Matrix IV" Durango, Mexico. Curator Cristina Sandor
2010 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
2010 Fourth International Printmaking Juried Exhibit. Monterrey, Mexico
2010 Artists of the Gallery 2010, 4th Annual AGO Staff Show, Hang Man Gallery
2010 Pulled (A Print Show) Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Curator Julie Oakes
2009 Whodunit, Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto
2009 Paper Salon, Headbones Gallery Toronto. Curator Julie Oakes
2009 DIN A4, Sala del Archivo Municipal, Malaga, Spain. Curator Ernst Kraft
2009 Back to the Garden, Headbones Gallery, Toronto, curator Julie Oakes (Video)
2009 The 41st Open National Juried Exhibition, SCA, Papermill Gallery, Toronto
2009 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
2009 The "Xylography - Stylistic Matrix" Group, Pod Gallery, Timisoara, Romania
2008 Aligning with Beauty, Varley Art Gallery of Markham, curator Julie Oakes
2008 V International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare, Italy
2008 The 1st International Printmaking Biennial, Ankara, Turkey
2008 Artist Proof and Sale Group Exhibition, Open Studio, Toronto
2008 International 400 Prints Exhibition, Engrame, Quebec
2008 Xylography - Stylistic Matrix II, Timisoara, Romania
2008 Second International Mini Print Exhibition, Ottawa School of Art
2008 Naestved International Exhibition of Contemporary Mini Square Prints, Denmark
2008 The Americas Biennial Exhibition
2007 Juried Drawing Exhibition, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford
2007 Abstract (B & W), Headbones Gallery, Toronto,, ON curator Julie Oakes
2007 Home/Acasa Project, London, England
2007 5th International Small Engraving Biennial, Cremona, Italy
2007 5th Kiwa Exhibition, Japan
2007 Acqui Biennale Internazionale dell'Incisione, Acqui Terme, Italy
2007 2nd Interantional Ex-Libris Competition, Ankara, Turkey
2007 Internationale d'Art Miniature, Ville de Levis, Quebec

2007 SCA 50th Anniversary - Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, Toronto
2006 International Triennial of Graphic Art, Macedonia
2006 5th Egyptian International Print Triennial, Egypt
2006 IV International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare, Italy
2006 "Romanian Modern Artist's Exhibition", Koga City Museum, Japan
2006 First International Miniature Print Competition, Ottawa School of Art, Canada
2006 Elected Member's Spring Exhibition, Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg, Canada
2005 Prize Jean Chieze, Paris, France
2005 11th International Biennial of Small Graphics, Ostrow, Poland
2005 3a International Biennial Gravura Douro, Alijo, Portugal
2005 6th "Iosif Iser" International Biennial, Ploiesti, Romania
2005 International Artexpo, New York, USA
2004 General Consulate of Romania, Toronto, Canada
2004 International Miniprint Salon GRAPHIUM, Timisoara, Romania
2004 International Small Engraving Salon, Baia Mare, Romania
2004 Iowa Biennial Exhibition Contemporary Prints, Iowa, U.S.A.
2004 Women's Art Association, Toronto, Canada
2004 Open October Salon Out/Aut Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
2004 International Artexpo, New York, USA
2004 4th Printmaking Festival, Évora, Portugal
2004 SCA Show - Heliconian Club, Toronto, Canada
2004 3rd International Miniature Exhibition "little m", Vilnius, Lithuania
2003 4th International Exhibition Ex-Libris, Rijeka, Croatia
2003 SCA Show - Hummingbird Centre, Toronto, Canada
2003 Open October Salon - Out/Aut Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 Still Life - Praxis Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 4th International Graphic Trieenial, Bitola, Macedonia
2003 Museo Civico di Grafica, Brunico, Italy
2003 Small Prints - State Museum of Fine Arts, Ankara, Turkey
2000 Groupe Art '999 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
2000 The Fine Arts Museum (Jean Mihail Palace), Craiova, Romania
2000 "Oltenia" Museum, Craiova, Romania
2000 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
2000 Group 6872 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1999 Cranach und Dürer in Ex-Libris Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
1999 The Small Printings Biennial, Cluj, Romania
1999 Groupe Art '999 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1999 Fine Arts Teachers Group "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1998 C.I.A.C Pallazo del Espozitioni, Rome, Italy
1998 The First Small Printings Works Exhibition, Beijing, China
1998 First Art Addiction Annual, Venice, Italy

1998 Group 6872 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1998 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1998 The Southern Exhibit, Rm. Vilcea, Romania
1997 The 19th International Independent Exhibition of Prints Prefectural Art Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan
1997 C.I.A.C. Bramante Hall (Piazza del Popolo), Rome, Italy
1997 Professional Artists Annual Exhibit - The Fine Arts Museum, Timisoara, Romania
1997 "Oltenia" Annual Exhibit The Fine Arts Museum, Craiova, Romania
1997 "Iosif Iser" - Contemporary Printmaking Biennial, Ploiesti, Romania
1997 National Fine Arts Exhibit, Resita, Romania
1997 Drawings Biennial, Arad, Romania
1996 Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
1996 F.I.S.A.E. Congress, Prague, Czech Republic
1996 "Paul Verlaine" Ex-Libris Exhibit, Metz, France
1996 "Oltenia" Annual Exhibit The Fine Arts Museum, Craiova, Romania
1996 "Color Print" Biennial Exhibit, Iasi, Romania
1996 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1996 "Tristan Tzara" Ex-Libris Exhibit,Bacau, Romania
1995 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
1995 The 18th International Independent Exhibition of Prints Prefectural Art Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan
1995 The Small Prints Triennial, Vilnius, Lithuania
1995 The Annual Exhibition of Miniature Art, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1995 KIWANIS Club Auction, Maastricht, Holland
1995 Annual Prints Exhibit The National Theatre, Bucuresti, Romania
1995 The Fine Arts Museum, Constanta, Romania
1995 "Graphium" Biennial Prints Exhibit, Timisoara, Romania
1995 The Fine Arts Museum, Tulcea, Romania
1995 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1994 The Annual Exhibition of Miniature Art, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1994 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
1994 "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
1993 International Exlibriscentrum Stedelijke Musea, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium
1993 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
1993 The 4th Biennial of Fine Arts Academies from, Europe MECC Congress Palace, Maastricht, Holland
1993 The Annual Exhibition of Miniature Art, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1993 The Watercolour Biennial for Youth Fondazione SINAIDE GHI, Rome, Italy
1992 Small Prints Exhibit - Heffner Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
1991 "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
1990 International Exlibriscentrum Stedelijke Musea, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium
1990 The Watercolour Biennial for Youth Fondazione SINAIDE GHI, Rome, Italy
1990 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
1989 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
1989 "Gabriele D'Annunzio" International Museum, of Ex Libris and Prints, Pescara, Italy

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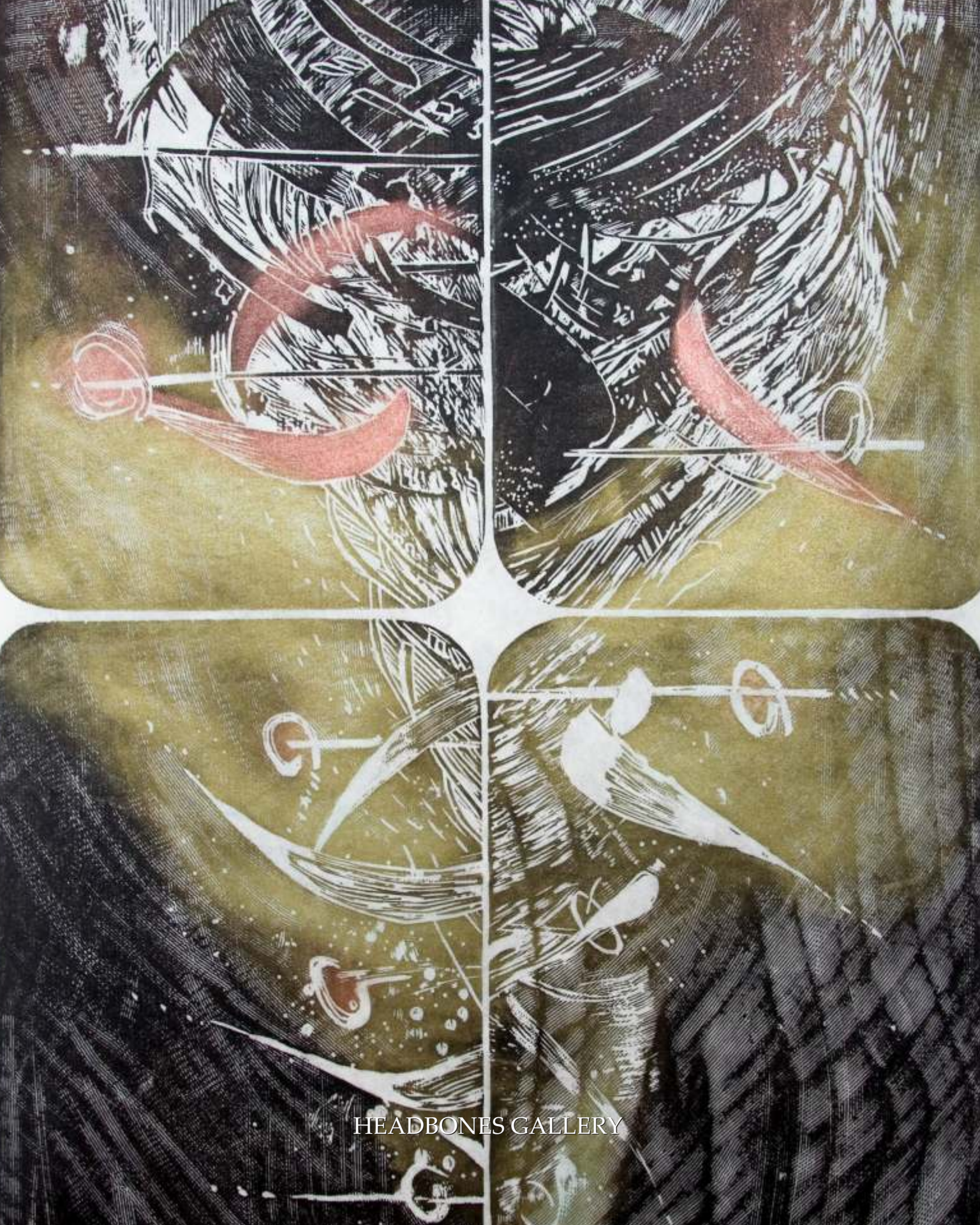
Toronto Canada



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