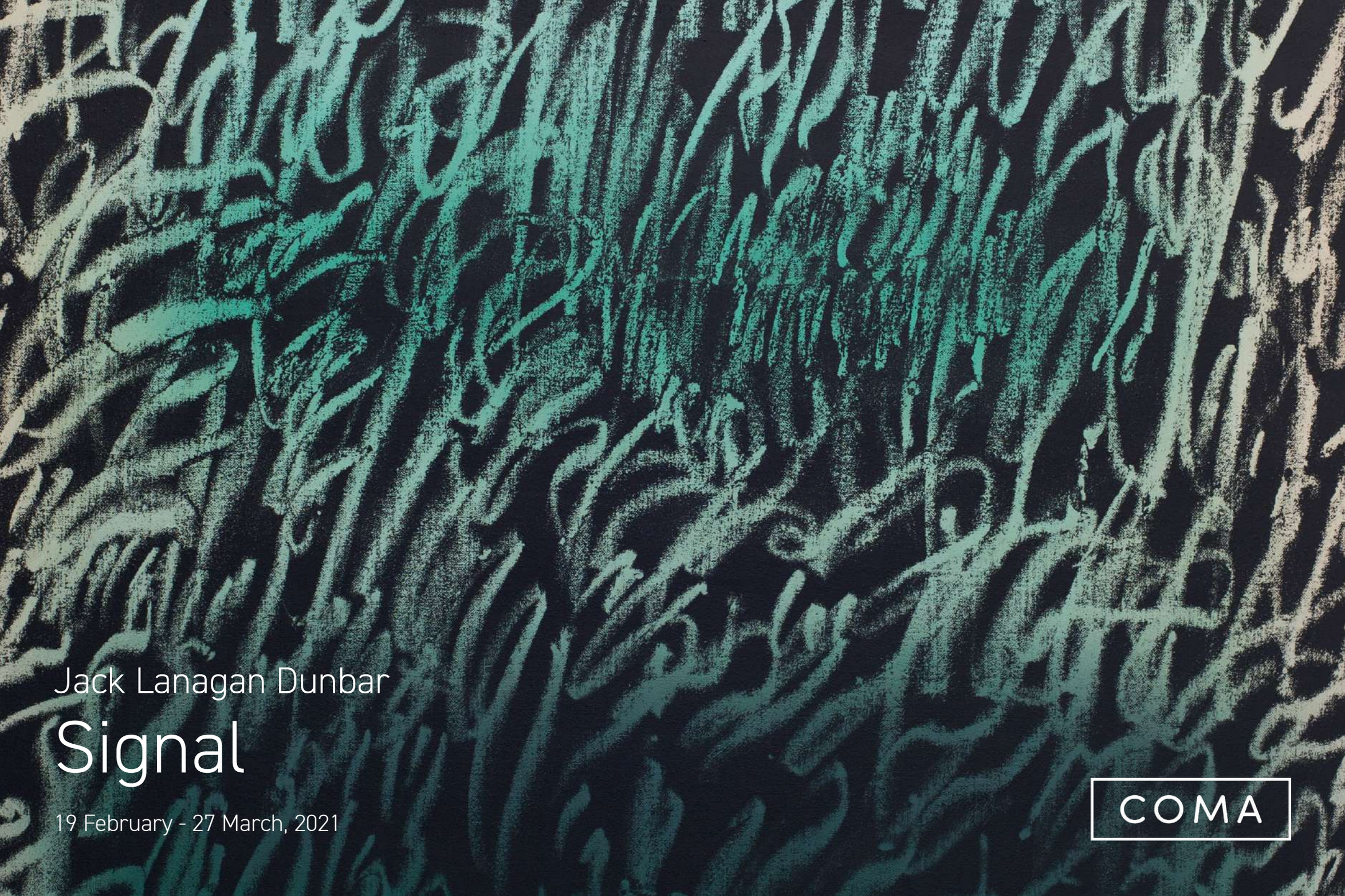


Jack Lanagan Dunbar

Signal

19 February - 27 March, 2021

COMA

Signal presents two complementary suites of work produced in very different locations: a set of electrotypes formed on the island of Gran Canaria in the Canary Islands—a Spanish archipelago off the coast of northern Africa, during a residency enabled by an Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant and a series of paintings completed in Leipzig, Germany, where the artist lived during 2020.

Where one of these bodies of work speaks of the rush and swirl of powerful ocean waves, the other recalls the frenetic energy of a firework display. Where one ponders timeless hours spent exploring the intertidal zone, the other whispers of the confines of dark, underground tunnels.

These two collections branch out in different directions, yet they remain connected by a shared element in their creation: copper. In their final forms both collections rely on this element. As with much of Jack Lanagan Dunbar's work to date, it is the attention given to production and the relationship between the materials used that builds the weight of the pieces.

The electrotypes are produced in a lengthy process of moulding and impression making. First, a fine terracotta clay is rolled flat. Into this, using objects scavenged from the sea shore, the artist records a series of gestures and impressions. Partial forms of shells, pebbles, plastics, driftwood twigs, coloured glass ground to a milky translucence all make appearances. Over this delicate base is poured molten beeswax. Once cooled and hardened, the wax is removed and the clay washed from it with water and a fine brush, like an archaeological relic being unearthed. This wax negative is dusted down with graphite powder and submerged in an intensely blue solution of copper sulphate. The wax mould is electrified and the final pieces begin their lengthy birthing process, literally being grown as a slowly thickening skin of copper metal that conforms to the mould.

A similar back-to-front, inside-out set of steps produces the paintings. Layers of colour are built up on the linen surface using raw ochres and pigments produced from copper. The dominant green is a basic copper carbonate known as malachite when found in nature, purchased in powdered form from a German fireworks manufacturer. The lesser greens are those of the phthalocyanines, a more modern set of pigments well known for their staining power.

This underpainting is overwritten with giant-sized artist-made crayons. The marks made are supercharged expressions, performed at speed and reminiscent of fireworks, rhythmic explosions or the light trails captured in long-exposure photographs. These are 'timepieces', recordings of movements over the surface. The works are then coated in a layer of carbon black—a very fine and ultra-opaque powder scraped from the inside of industrial furnaces. This effectively redacts all the work done before. Once this layer is dry, the painting is washed, the crayon dissolving and revealing the coloured pigments buried beneath it, the line now inverted, light instead of dark, reminiscent of retinal after-images.

As the works develop, as they record more and more information, evidence physically building up, they are also imbued with the thoughts and sentiments of the artist, at times turbulent, at others serene, and all shades in between.

At its core *Signal* celebrates the stream of consciousness, our aptitude for producing mental associations, our ability to perpetually recycle networks of meaning, and the possibility of finding beauty within these constellations as they evolve, whether it be of a profound or everyday nature.

Jack Lanagan Dunbar's (b. 1988) work explores the tension between materiality and time with an eye on history, whimsy, archaeology, the classical, Romantisicm, humour and tragedy.

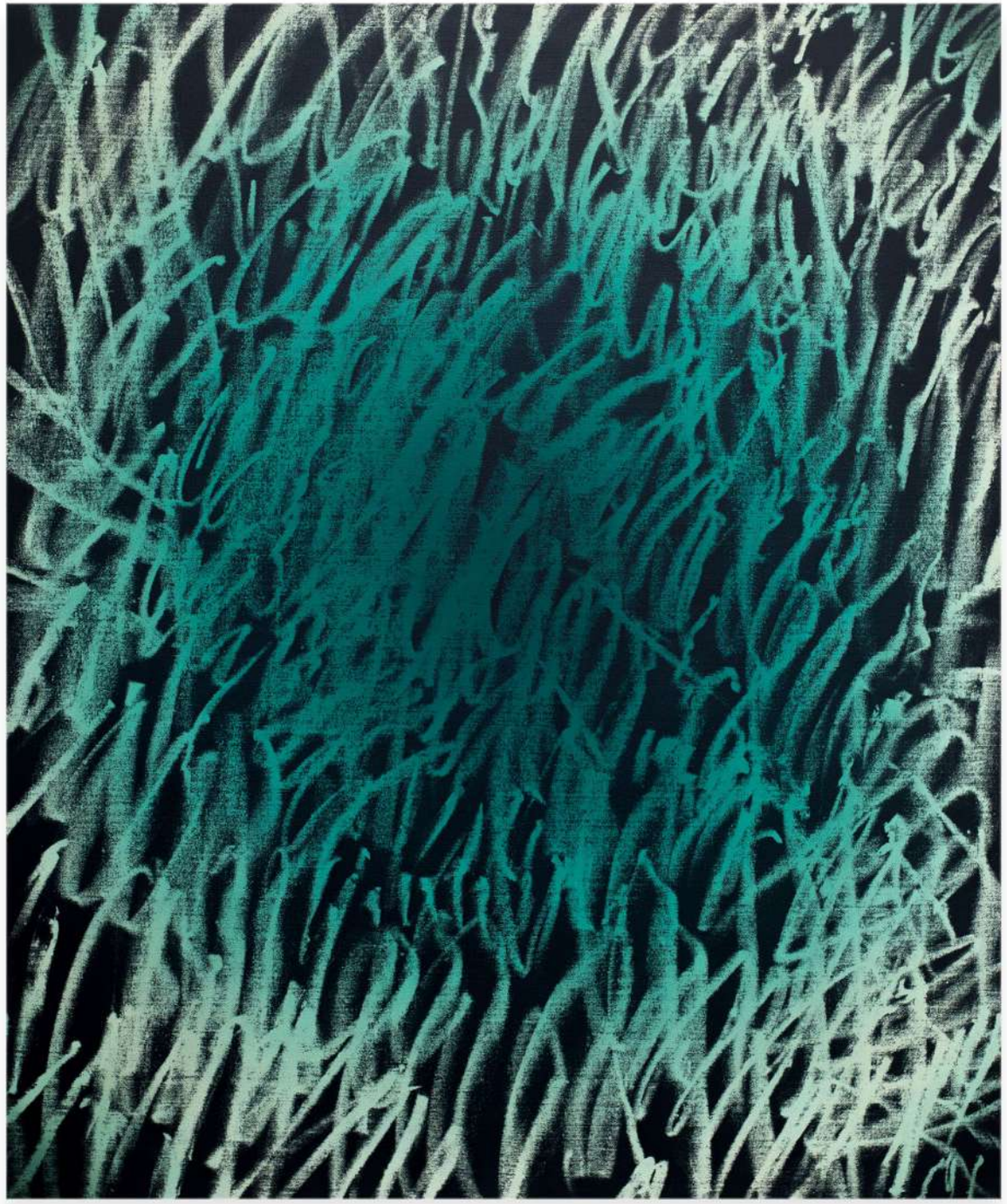
Jack Lanagan Dunbar has shown extensively in Australia and abroad, held positions at the University of Technology, Sydney, and University of New South Wales, was the recipient of the 2019 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship and the 2016 Redlands Art Prize (emerging artist) and continues to exhibit both locally and internationally. He recently completed a studio residency in the Canary Islands and is currently living in Berlin in the lead up to a mid-2021 residency with the Cité d'Arts, Paris.

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting I, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
123.2 x 102.8 cm framed
48 1/2 x 40 15/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting II, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
102.8 x 85 cm framed
40 15/32 x 33 15/32 inches framed

COMA

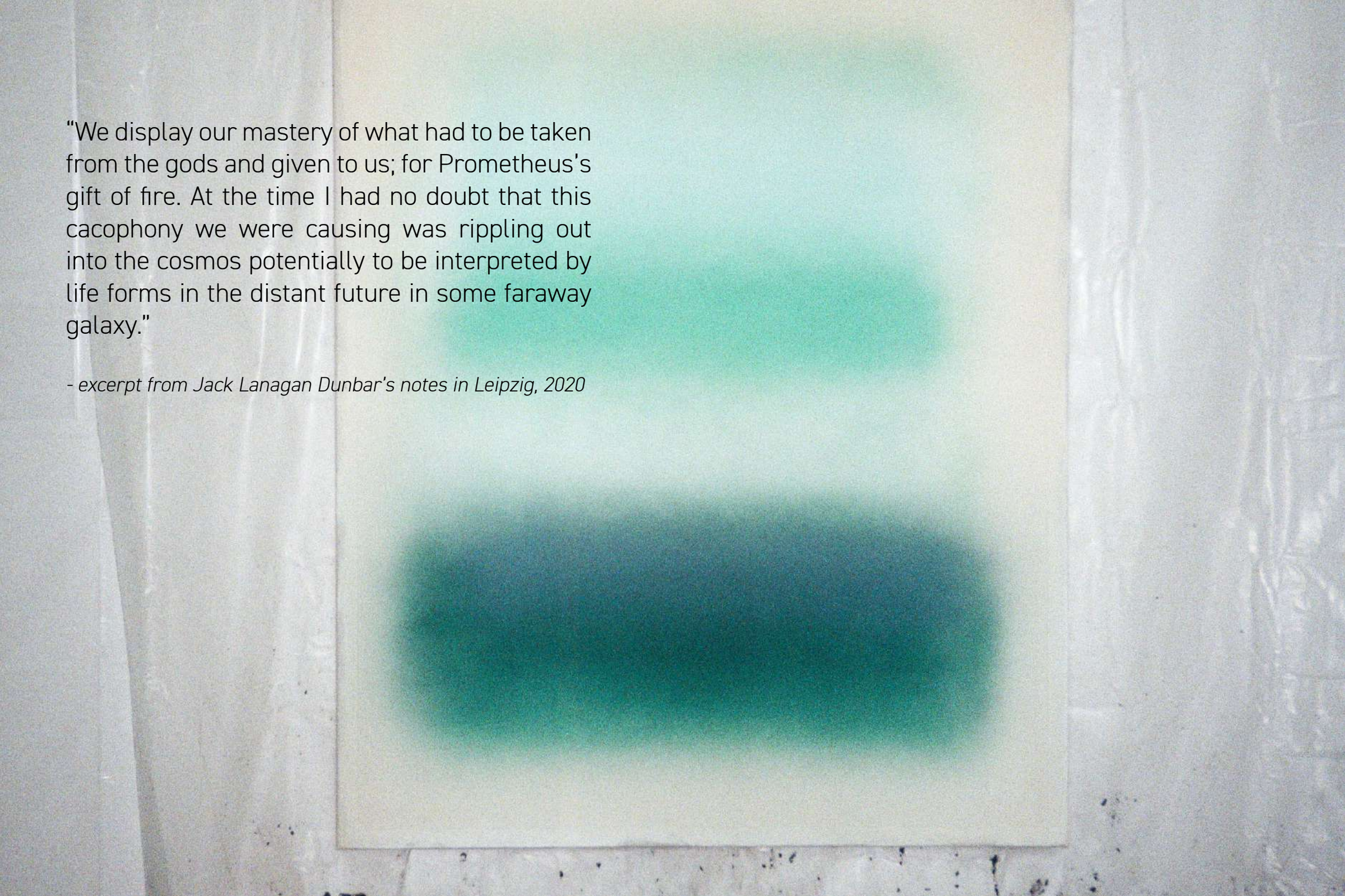


Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting III, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
123.2 x 102.8 cm framed
48 1/2 x 40 15/32 inches framed

COMA

“We display our mastery of what had to be taken from the gods and given to us; for Prometheus’s gift of fire. At the time I had no doubt that this cacophony we were causing was rippling out into the cosmos potentially to be interpreted by life forms in the distant future in some faraway galaxy.”

- excerpt from Jack Lanagan Dunbar’s notes in Leipzig, 2020



Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting IV, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
102.8 x 85 cm framed
40 15/32 x 33 15/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting V, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen, steel frame
61.6 x 51.4 cm framed
24 1/4 x 20 7/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting VI, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen, steel frame
61.6 x 51.4 cm framed
24 1/4 x 20 7/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting VII, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
123.2 x 102.8 cm framed
48 1/2 x 40 15/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting VIII, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
102.8 x 85 cm framed
40 15/32 x 33 15/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting IX, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen, steel frame
61.6 x 51.4 cm framed
24 1/4 x 20 7/32 inches framed

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Jack Lanagan Dunbar, Signal–A Part of the Malachite Painting Process, 2020
video by Alex Perry & music by Ivor Perry

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpV-qKl_eWw&feature=youtu.be

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting X, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen, steel frame
61.6 x 51.4 cm framed
24 1/4 x 20 7/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Malachite Painting XI, 2020
artist-formulated acrylic on linen,
steel frame
102.8 x 85 cm framed
40 15/32 x 33 15/32 inches framed

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype I, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
38 x 32 cm / 14 31/32 x 12 19/32 inches framed
(work 24 x 18 cm / 9 15/32 x 7 3/32 inches)

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype II, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
38 x 32 cm / 14 31/32 x 12 19/32 inches framed
(work 24 x 18 cm / 9 15/32 x 7 3/32 inches)

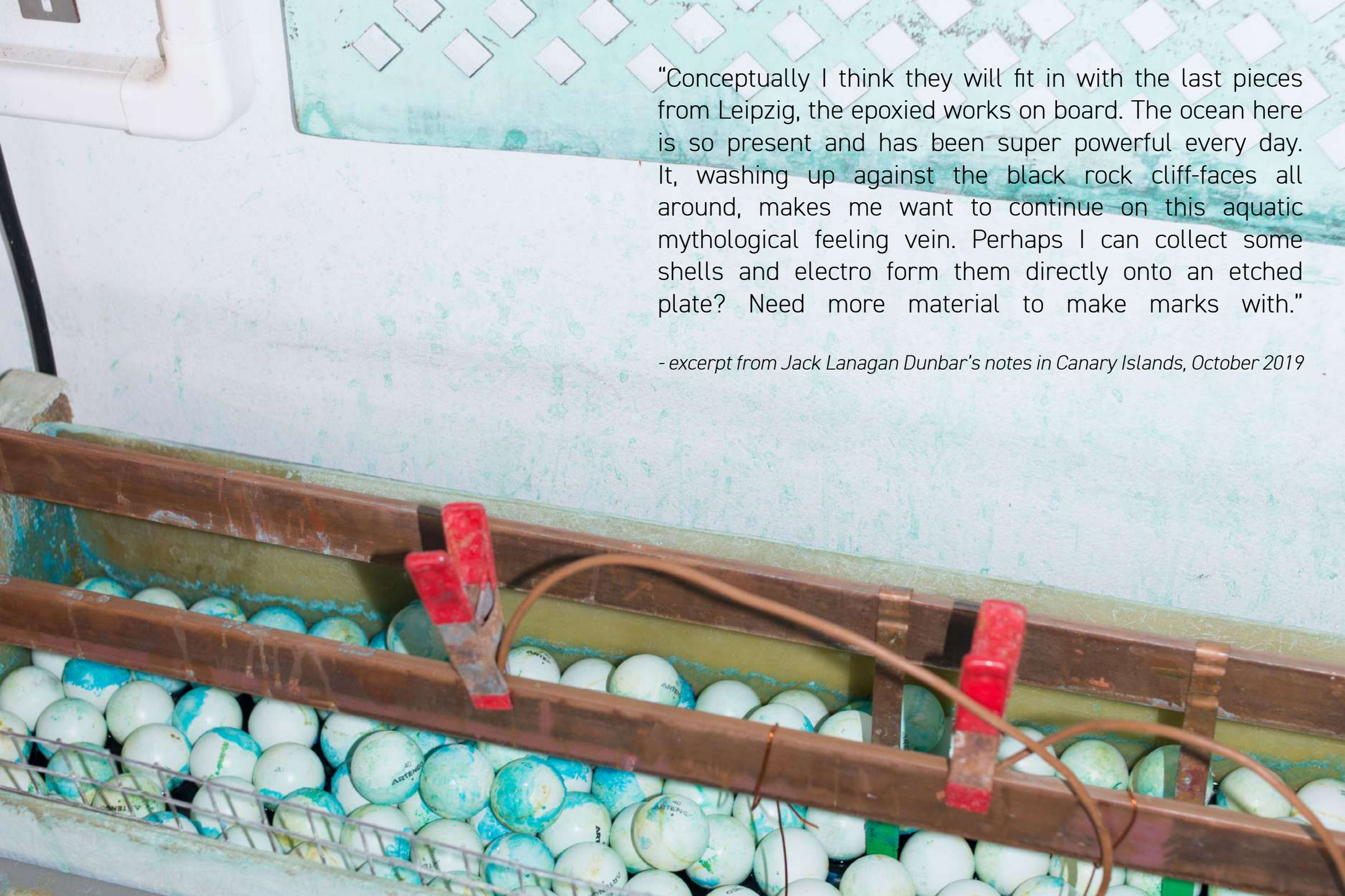
COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype III, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
38 x 32 cm / 14 31/32 x 12 19/32 inches framed
(work 24 x 18 cm / 9 15/32 x 7 3/32 inches)

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype IV, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 21 cm / 11 13/16 x 8 4/16 inches)

COMA



"Conceptually I think they will fit in with the last pieces from Leipzig, the epoxied works on board. The ocean here is so present and has been super powerful every day. It, washing up against the black rock cliff-faces all around, makes me want to continue on this aquatic mythological feeling vein. Perhaps I can collect some shells and electro form them directly onto an etched plate? Need more material to make marks with."

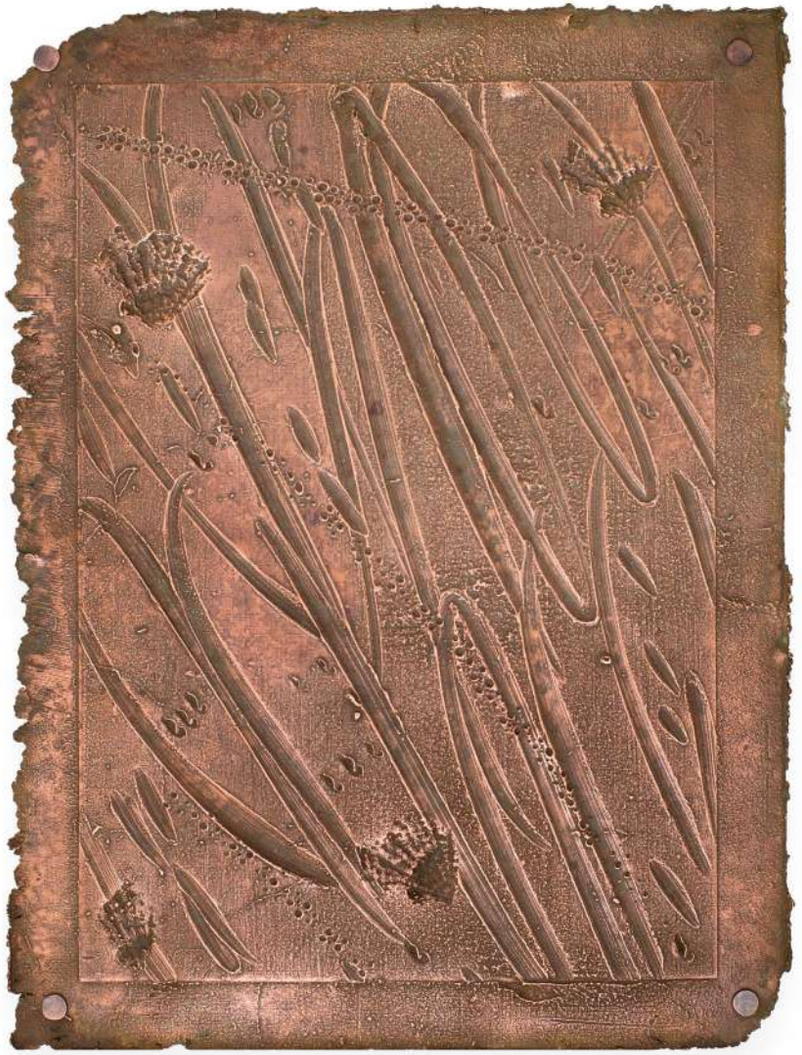
- excerpt from Jack Lanagan Dunbar's notes in Canary Islands, October 2019

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype V, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 21 cm / 11 13/16 x 8 4/16 inches)

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype VI, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 21 cm / 11 13/16 x 8 4/16 inches)

COMA



Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype VII, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
38 x 32 cm / 14 31/32 x 12 19/32 inches framed
(work 24 x 18 cm / 9 15/32 x 7 3/32 inches)

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype VIII, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
38 x 32 cm / 14 31/32 x 12 19/32 inches framed
(work 24 x 18 cm / 9 15/32 x 7 3/32 inches)

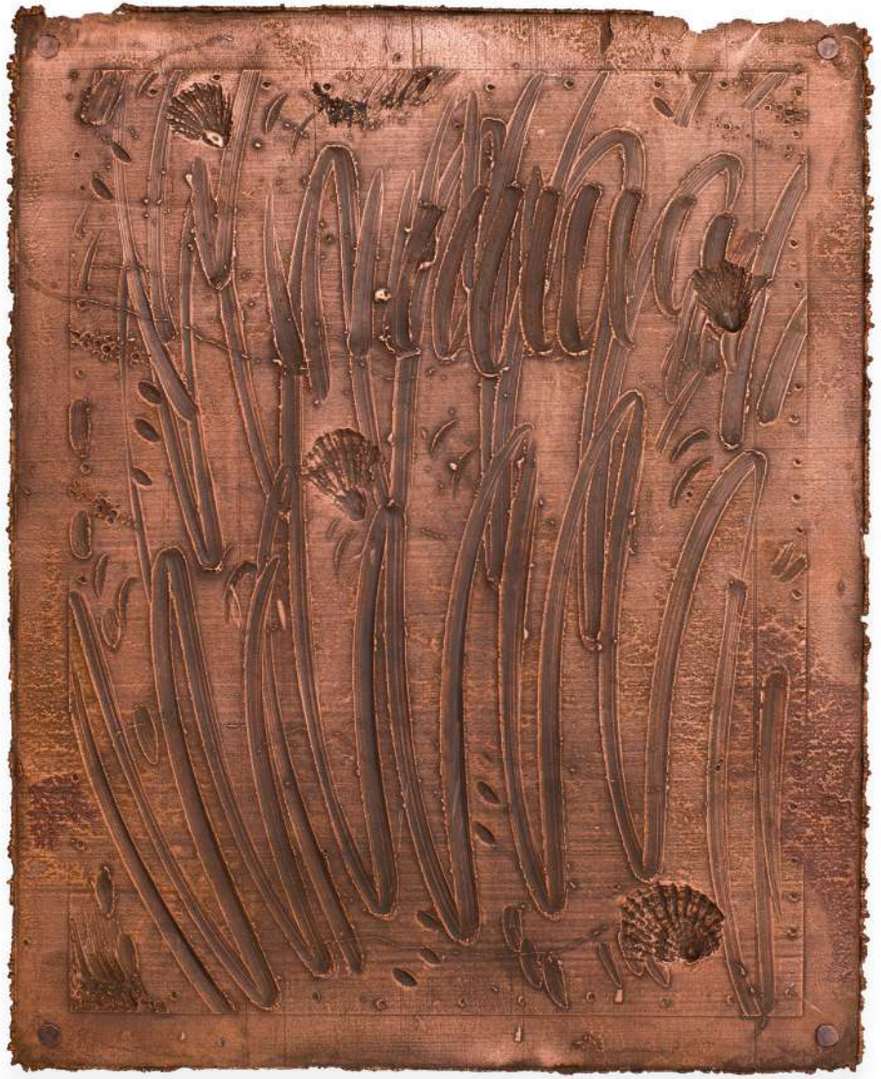
COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype IX, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 24 cm / 11 13/16 x 9 15/32 inches)

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype X, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 24 cm / 11 13/16 x 9 15/32 inches)

COMA



Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype XI, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 24 cm / 11 13/16 x 9 15/32 inches)

COMA

Jack Lanagan Dunbar
Electrotype XII, 2019
electroformed copper panel, acrylic display box
44 x 38 cm / 17 11/32 x 14 15/16 inches framed
(work 30 x 24 cm / 11 13/16 x 9 15/32 inches)

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