

C

Nicolas Darrot
Iomante

14.03 -
04.05.2024

Opening :

Thursday 14 march
17h

Nicolas Darrot

Iomante

« Men do not know how that which varies agrees with itself. There is a harmony of opposing tensions like that of the bow and the lyre.»

Heraclitus, *fragments*.

He looks asleep. With his head resting on the ground, a bear lies in the Gallery. All that can be seen of its body are its paws - carved on wood with a gouge by the artist - and the closed eyes on its face give it an air of calm. As you approach, the question arises: is he really asleep? And what has happened to the rest of his body, whose absence leaves room for other objects? Surrounding the gallery column, his limbs - like points of the compass - serve as landmarks for our gaze, stages in the understanding of Nicolas Darrot's work. Like the illustrious asterism, this great bear acts as an orientation table: in the space opened up by the dispersal of its limbs, a constellation of animated sculptures flourishes. Some follow a cyclical rhythm (Kachina 1 and Kachina 2), while others precisely follow the course of a star, one solar, the other stellar, which is pointed at the step of Alioth, the brightest star in the great chariot. The bear's body has suddenly become an astronomical observatory.

This central geography is echoed on the walls by a series of drawings evoking moments in Ainu culture. This people, native to Hokkaido, the northern island of the Japanese archipelago, are evoked here at the edge of the imaginary register through the stages of the Iomante, their cardinal ritual, which has now disappeared. Beginning with the capture of a bear cub that was raised for several years by the community, the Iomante culminated in a ceremony in which the animal was shot with arrows soaked in a narcotic preparation, while the spirit imprisoned in the bear's

body was accompanied in its liberation by a group of songs and dances. The swirling sounds of this ceremony are echoed in the complex interlacing of Aïnous decorative motifs - found in particular on their clothing - which have a semantic function, allowing each person to «dress themselves with the text of their life». Nicolas Darrot takes up these arrangements in a large wall piece (Aïnu moon) where these motifs - braided by the artist - orbit, orient and move according to the lunar calendar.

Alongside this revolution, in the gallery, four arrows (Kushiro, Kutchan, Hiroo and Wakkanai) refer to the four cardinal points of Hokkaido. Their tips are formally inspired by the traditional kabuto-ya and kabura-ya arrows fired during Shinto rituals to ward off demons from a new architecture. These arrows are combined with anemometric data (wind records) from the four sites mentioned - and collected by the artist - to give each arrow the orientation corresponding to the variations in the winds over the course of a year.

These arrows are constantly tracing and pointing towards the body of the Great Bear. Just inflected by the earth's winds, they are vectors that define and mark out the exhibition space. The space then becomes a whole, a cosmos in the manner of the Iomante ritual. Within this grand whole, the constellation of sculptures in the exhibition follows a pattern of motionless movement, similar to the drift of the stars.

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Flèche des vents (Kushiro)
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
33 x 113 x 33 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Flèche des vents (Hiroo)
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
33 x 113 x 33 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Flèche des vents (Kutchan)
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
33 x 113 x 33 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

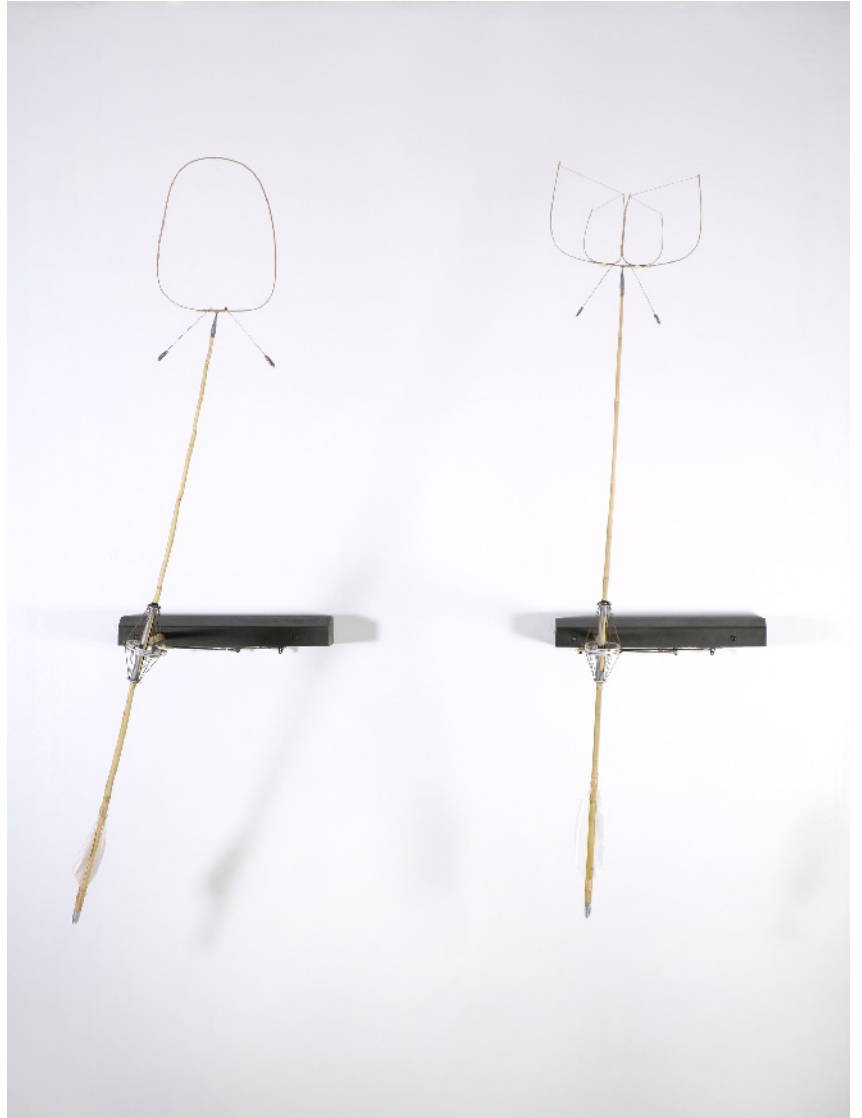
Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Flèche des vents (Wakkanai)
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
33 x 113 x 33 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot, view *Flèche des vents (Hiroo et Kushiro)*

Nicolas Darrot

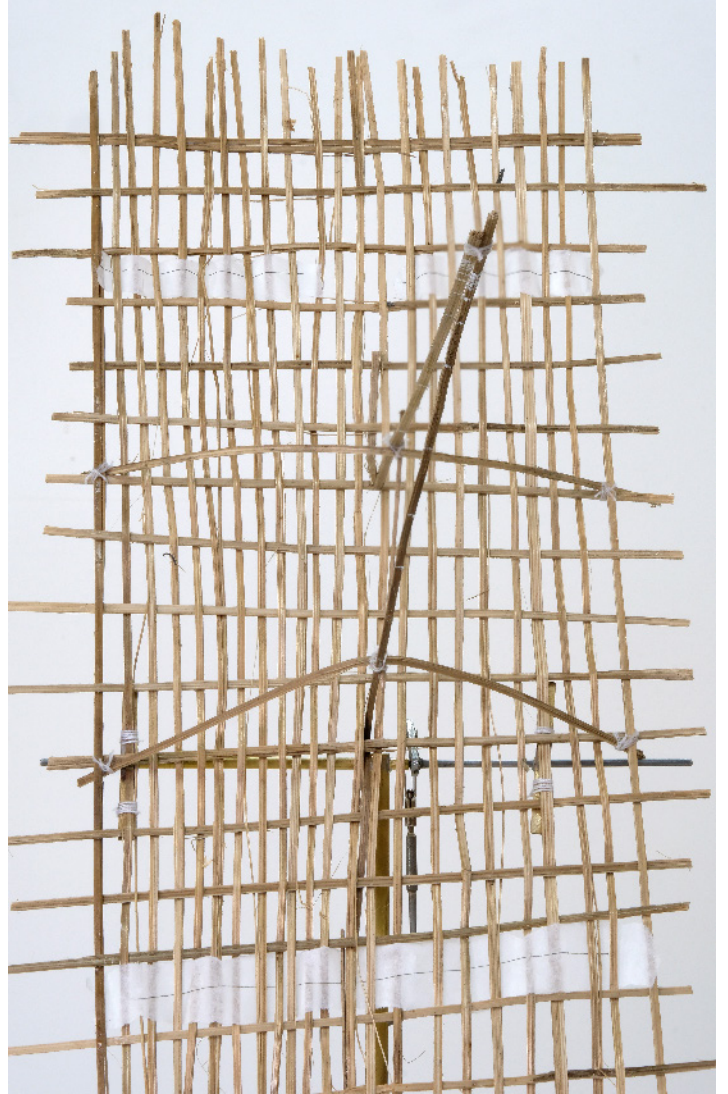
Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Alioth
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
2024

Nicolas Darrot

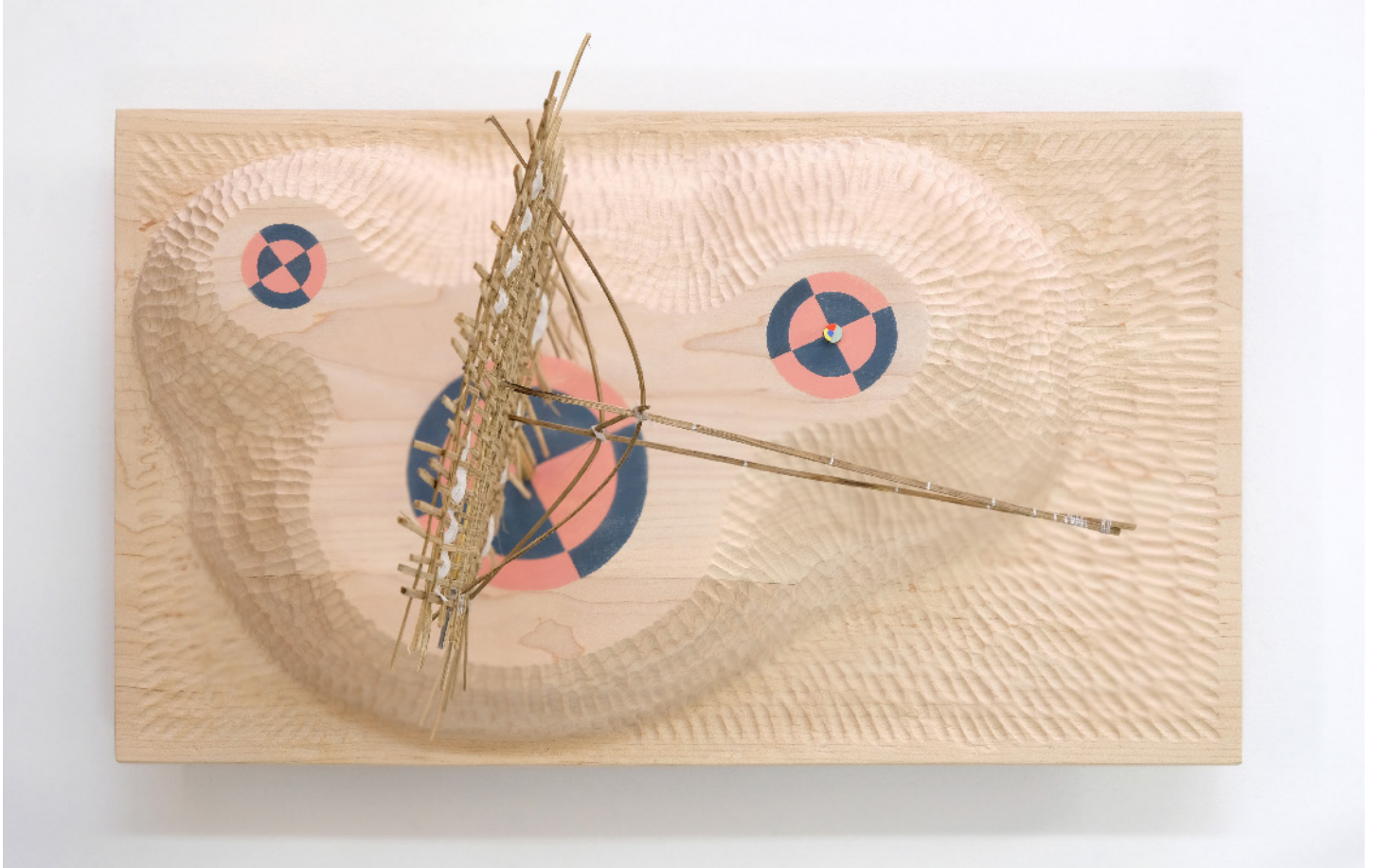
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Nicolas Darrot, detail of the artwork Alioth

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot, detail of the artwork Alioth

Nicolas Darrot

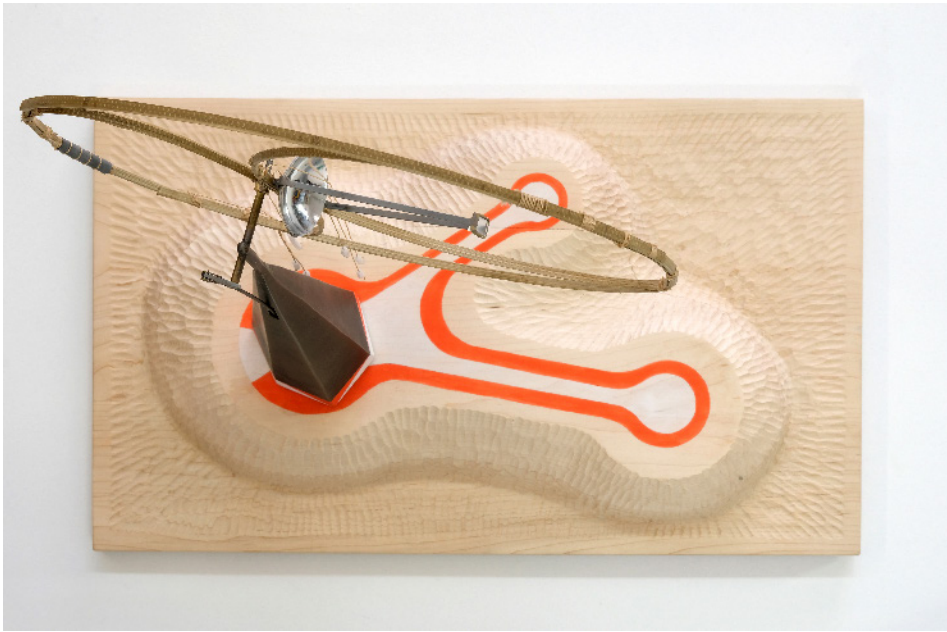
Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Heliophore
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
Around : 30 x 50 x 56 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot, view of the artwork Heliophore

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Kachina I
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
Around : 30 x 50 x 56 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot, detail of the artwork Kachina I

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Kachina II
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors
Around : 30 x 50 x 56 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot, detail of the artwork Kachina II

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot
Kibori Kuma
Wood sculpture
35 x 16 x 23 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot, detail of the artwork Kibori Kuma

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Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
Grande Ourse
Wood sculpture
35 X 38 x 70 cm
2024

©

Nicolas Darrot Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot, detail of the artwork Grande Ourse

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot
AntD-El Koprak
Wood sculpture
33 x 20 X 12 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot
AntG-Talitha
Wood sculpture
33 x 20 X 12 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot
PostD-Alula
Wood sculpture
34 x 20 x 12 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot
PostG-Tania
Wood sculpture
34 x 22 x 11 cm
2024

Nicolas Darrot

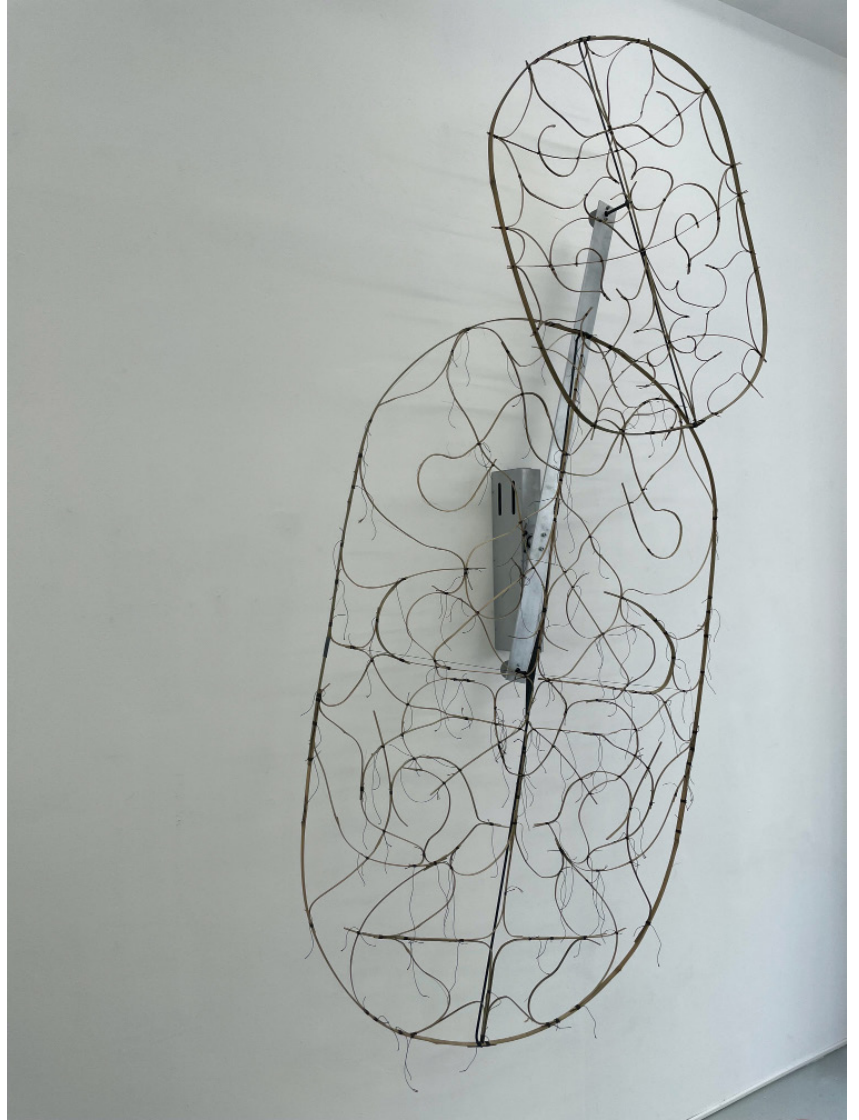
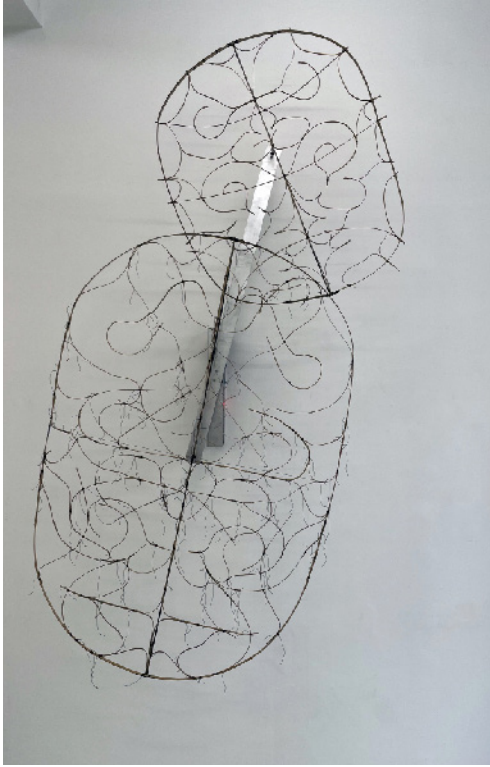
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Nicolas Darrot
Krok
Wood sculpture, acrylic paint
26x155x26cm
2023

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Nicolas Darrot

Ainu Moon

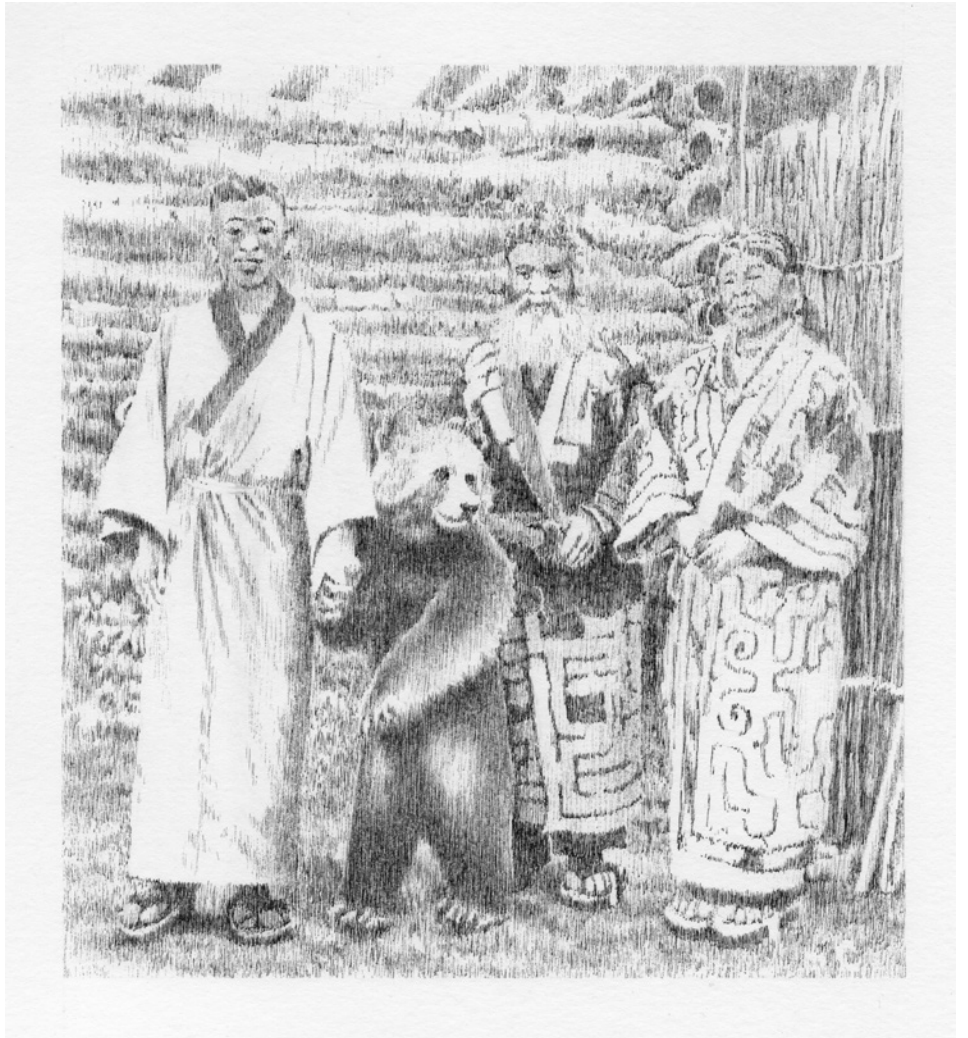
Miscellaneous materials and servomotors

Around : 230 x 125 x 25 cm

2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot

Iomante I

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom1

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante II

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom2

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante III

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom3

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante VI

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom4

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante V

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom5

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

Liste des œuvres



Nicolas Darrot

Iomante VI

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom6

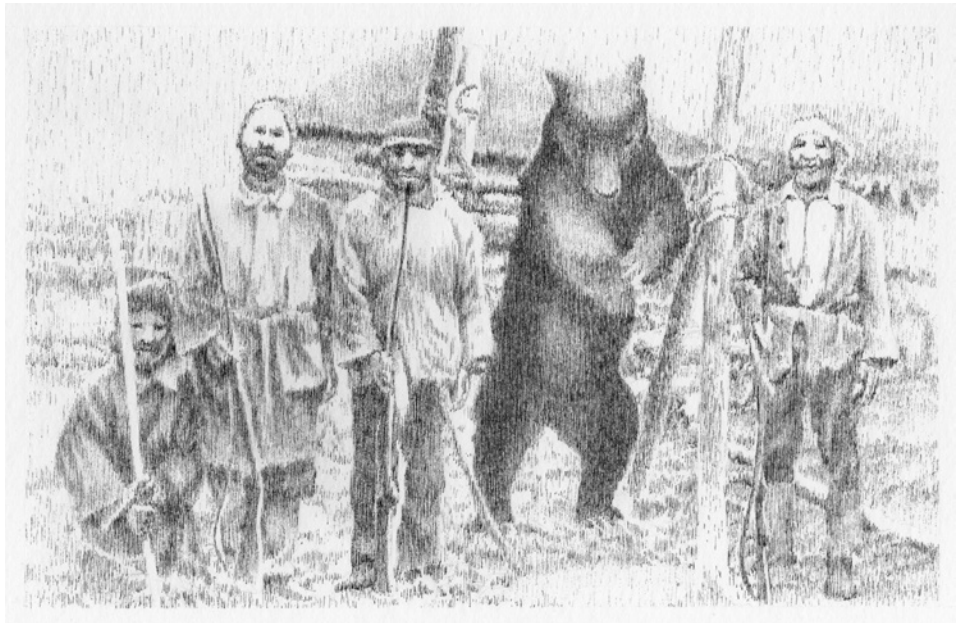
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante VII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom7

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante VIII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom8

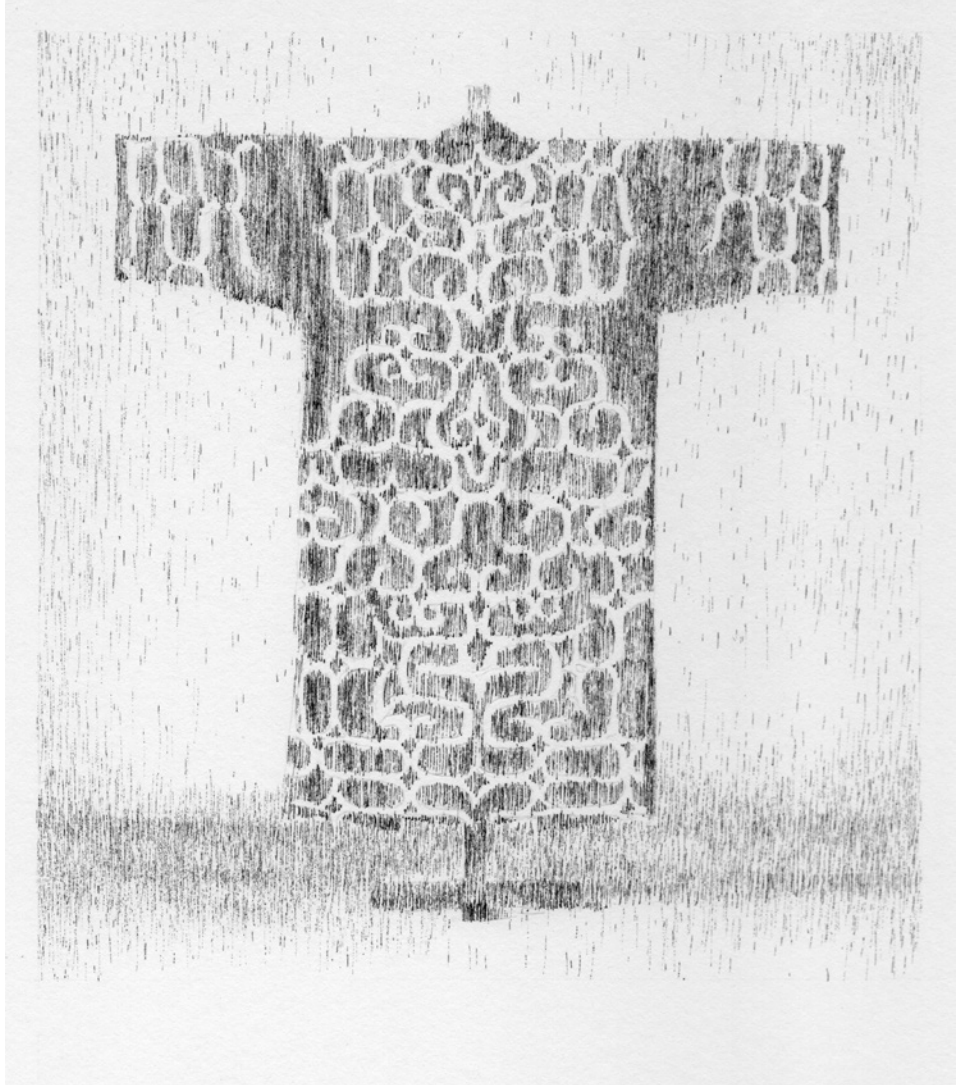
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XI

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom9

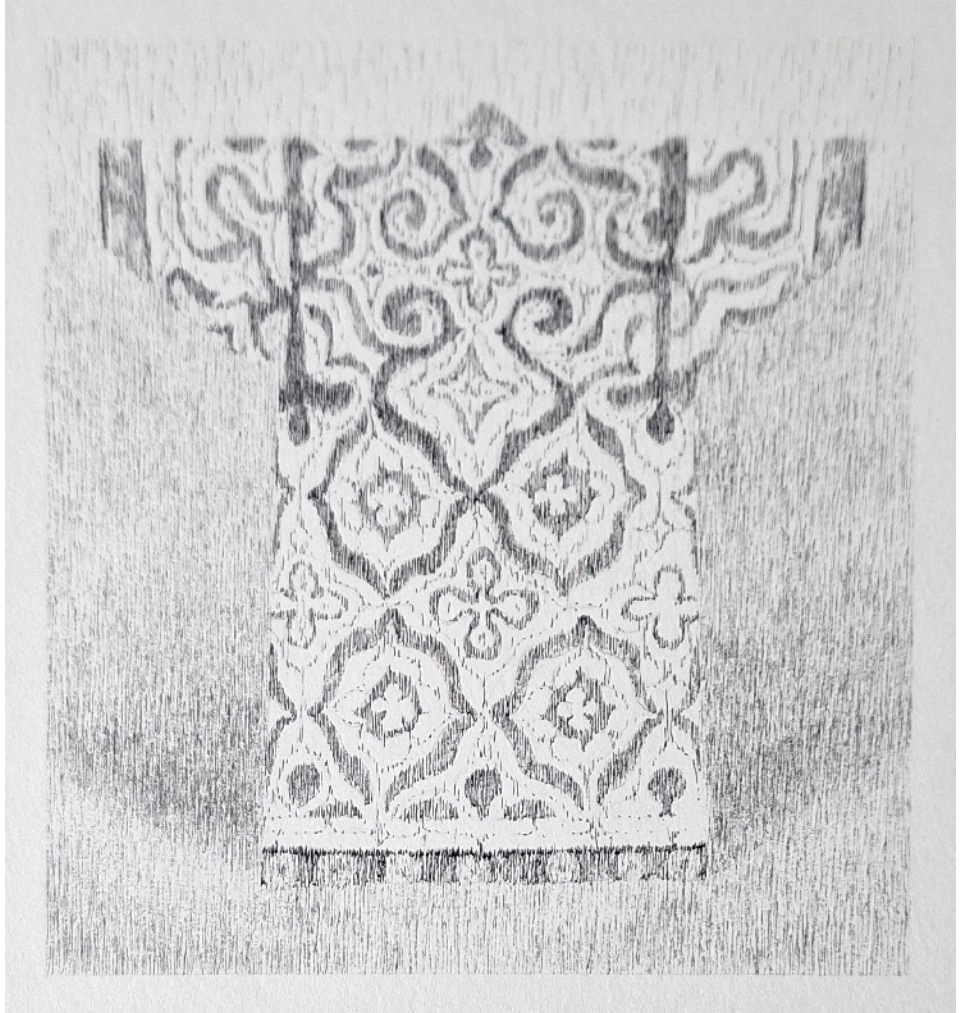
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante X

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom10

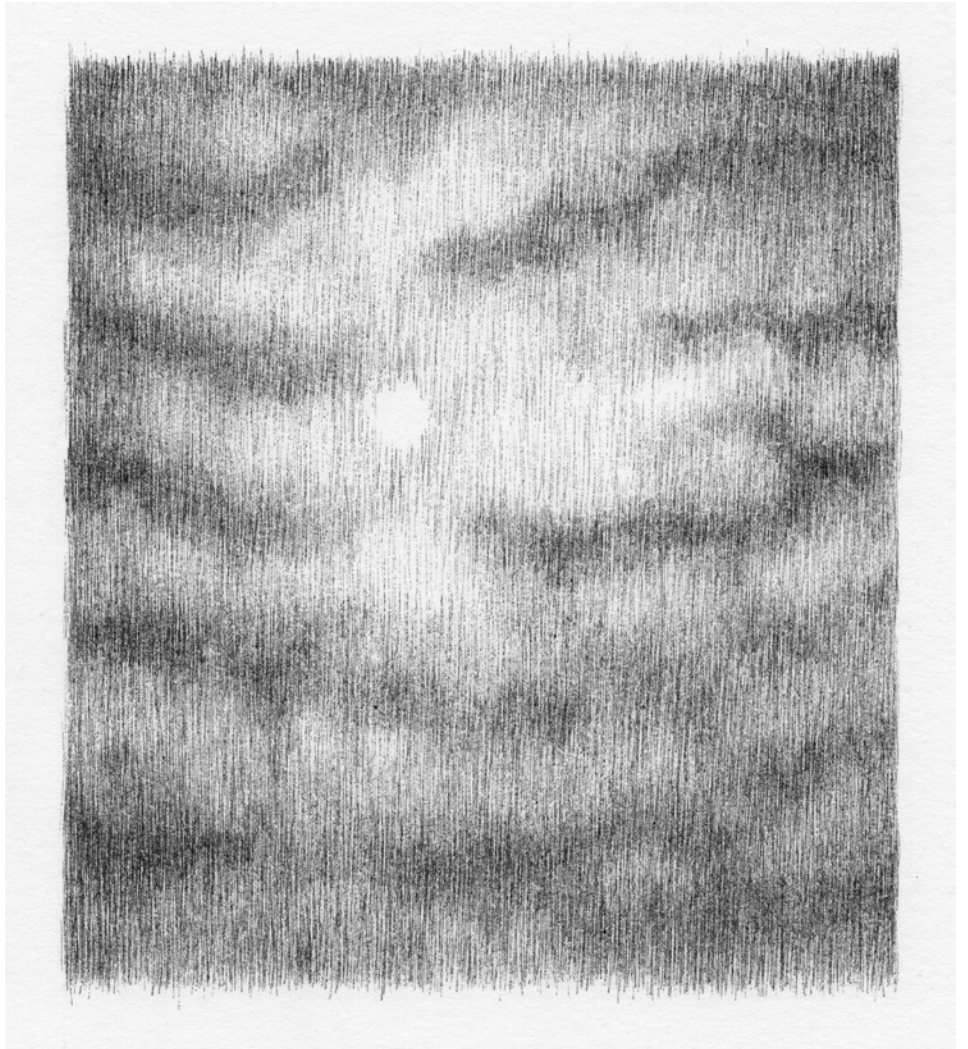
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XI

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom11

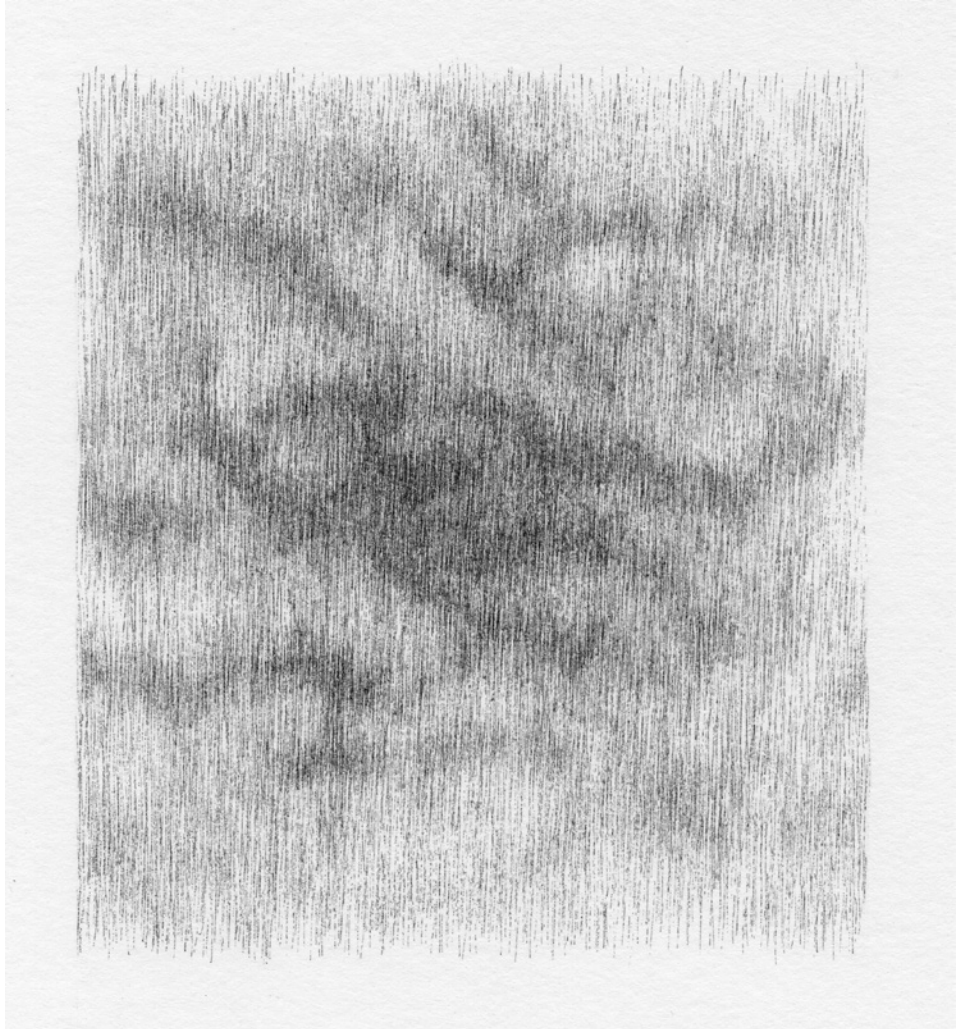
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom12

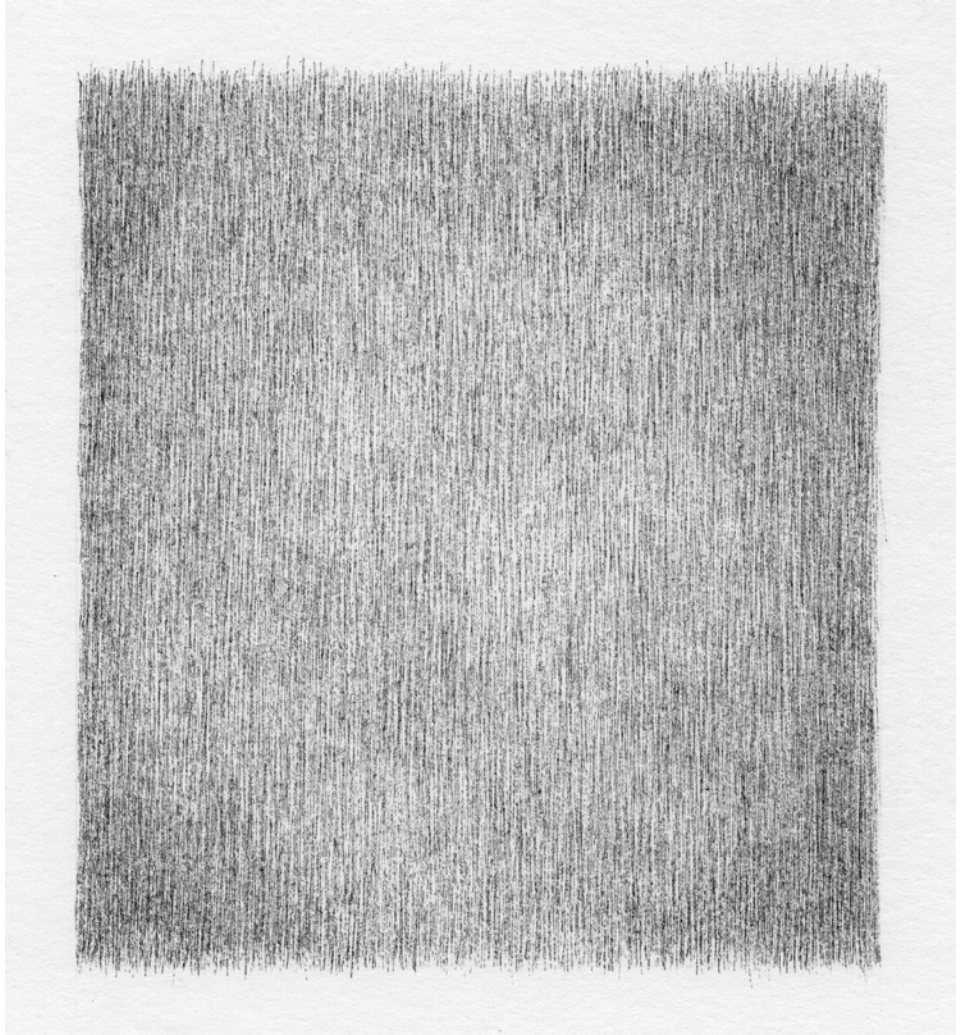
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XIII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom13

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XIV

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom14

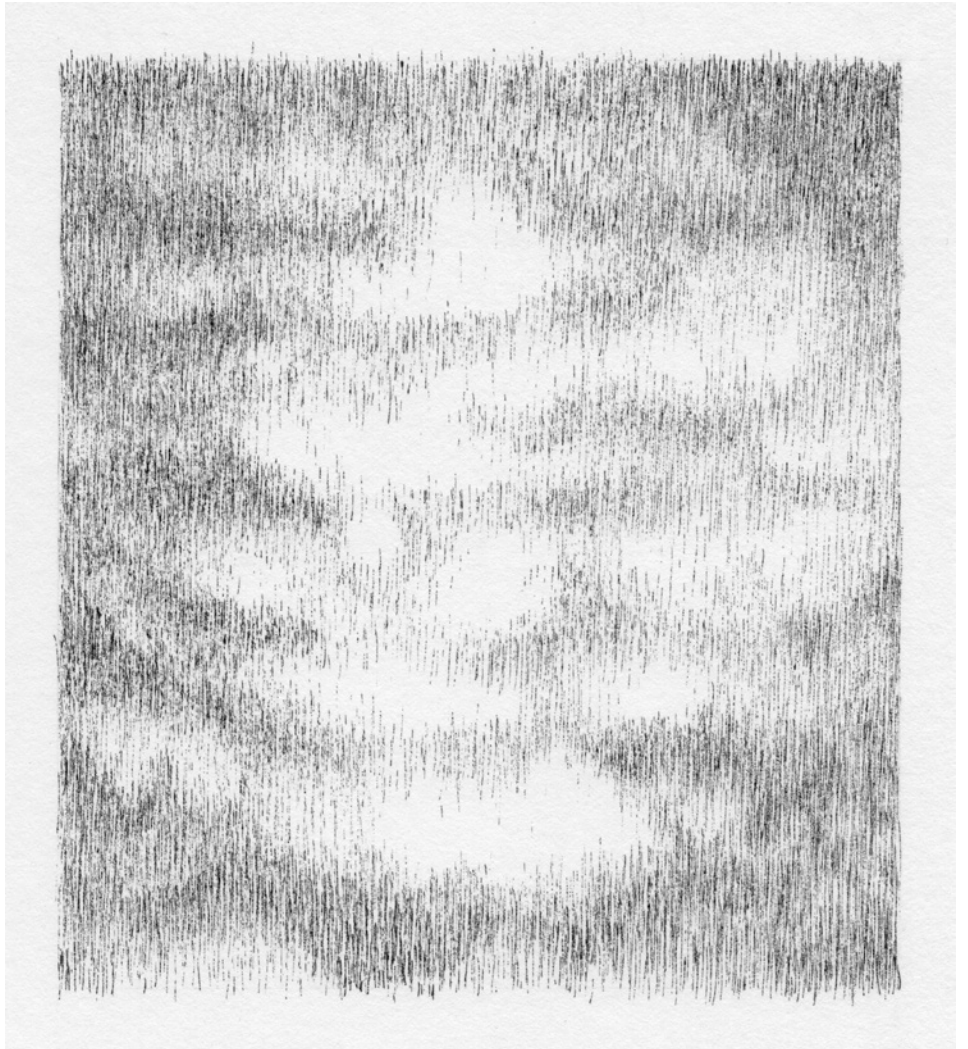
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XV

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom15

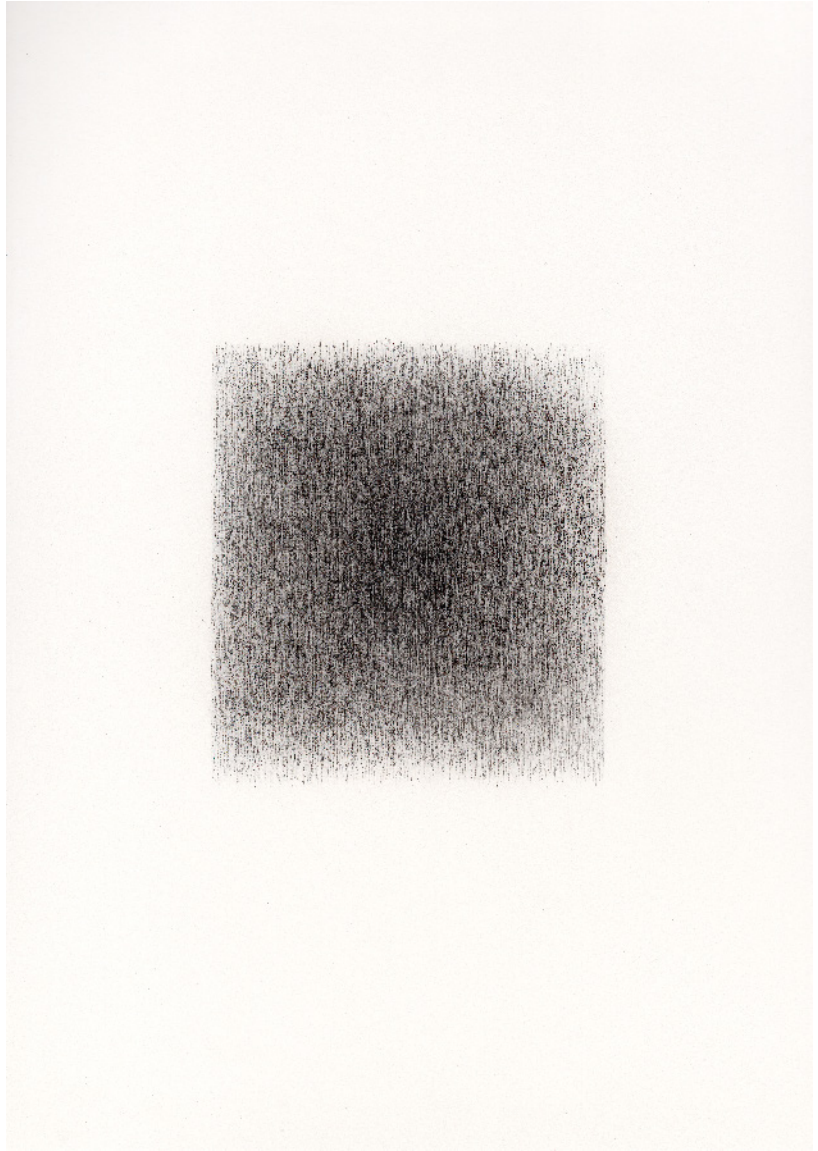
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XVI

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom16

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XVII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom17

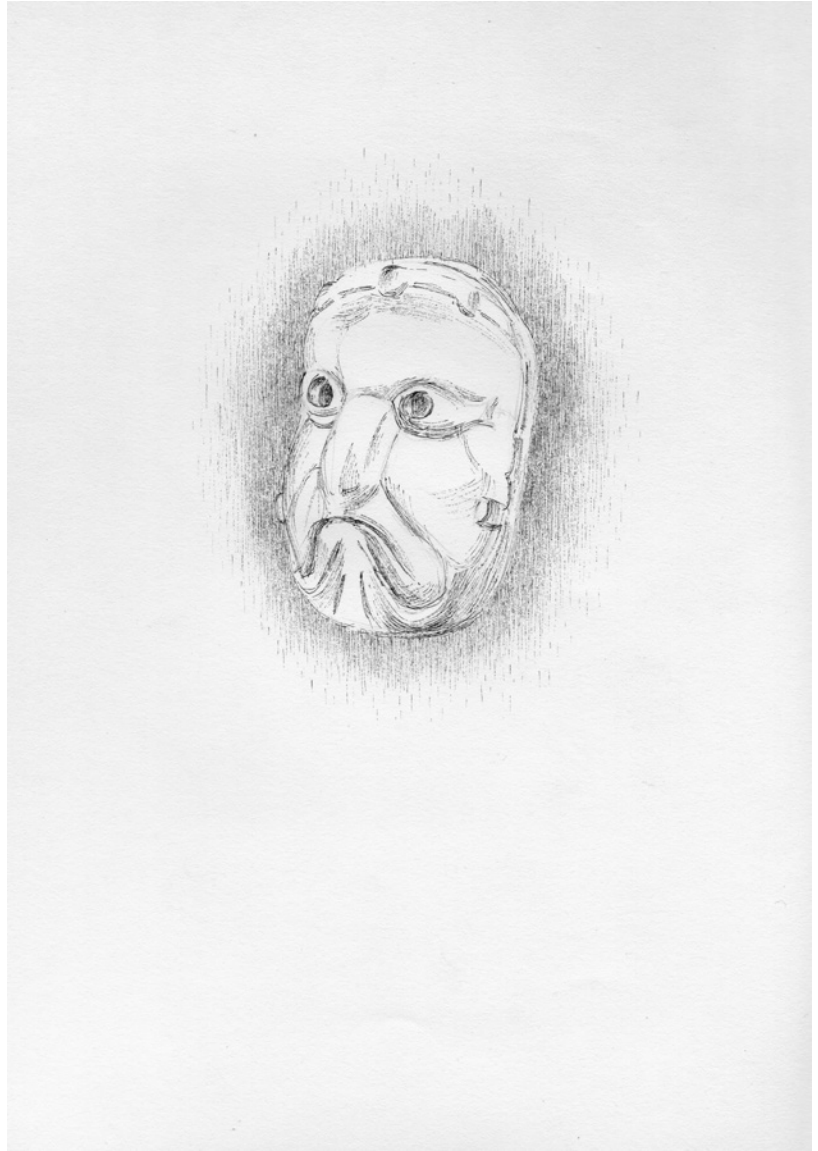
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XVIII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom18

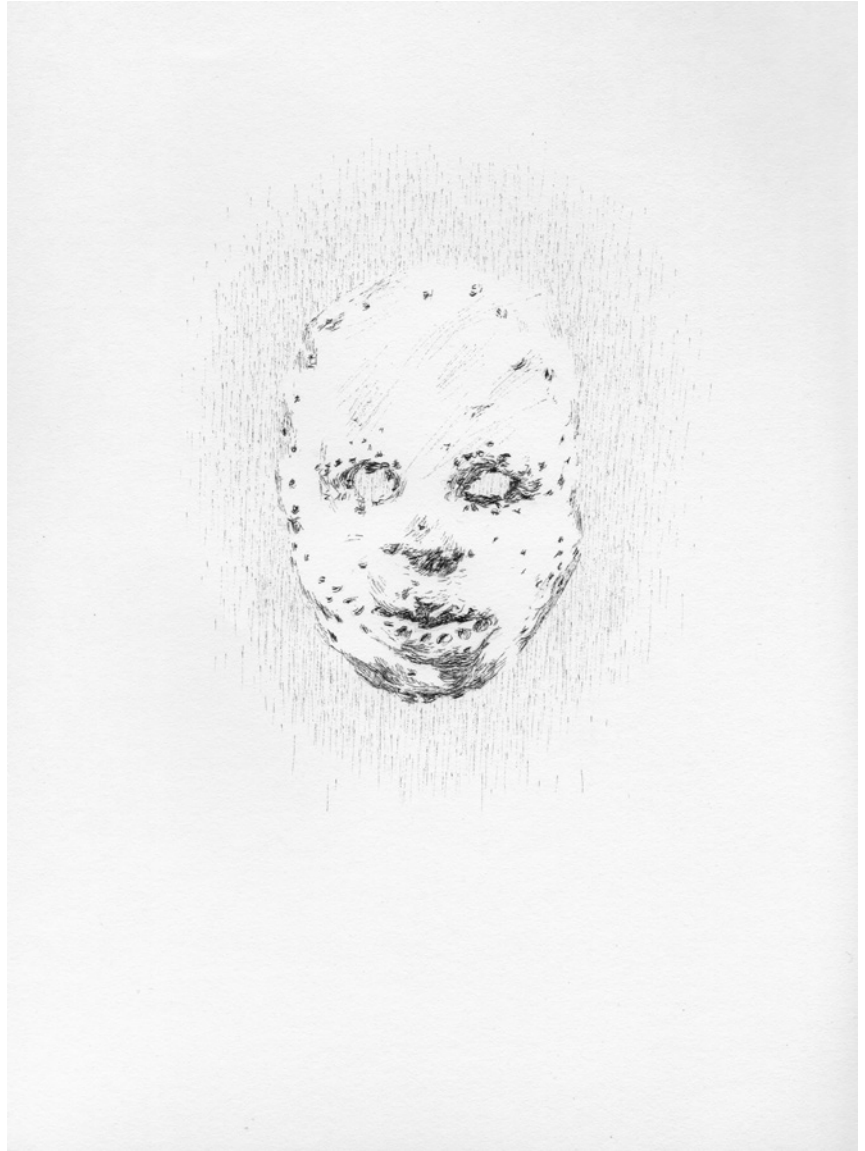
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XIX

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom19

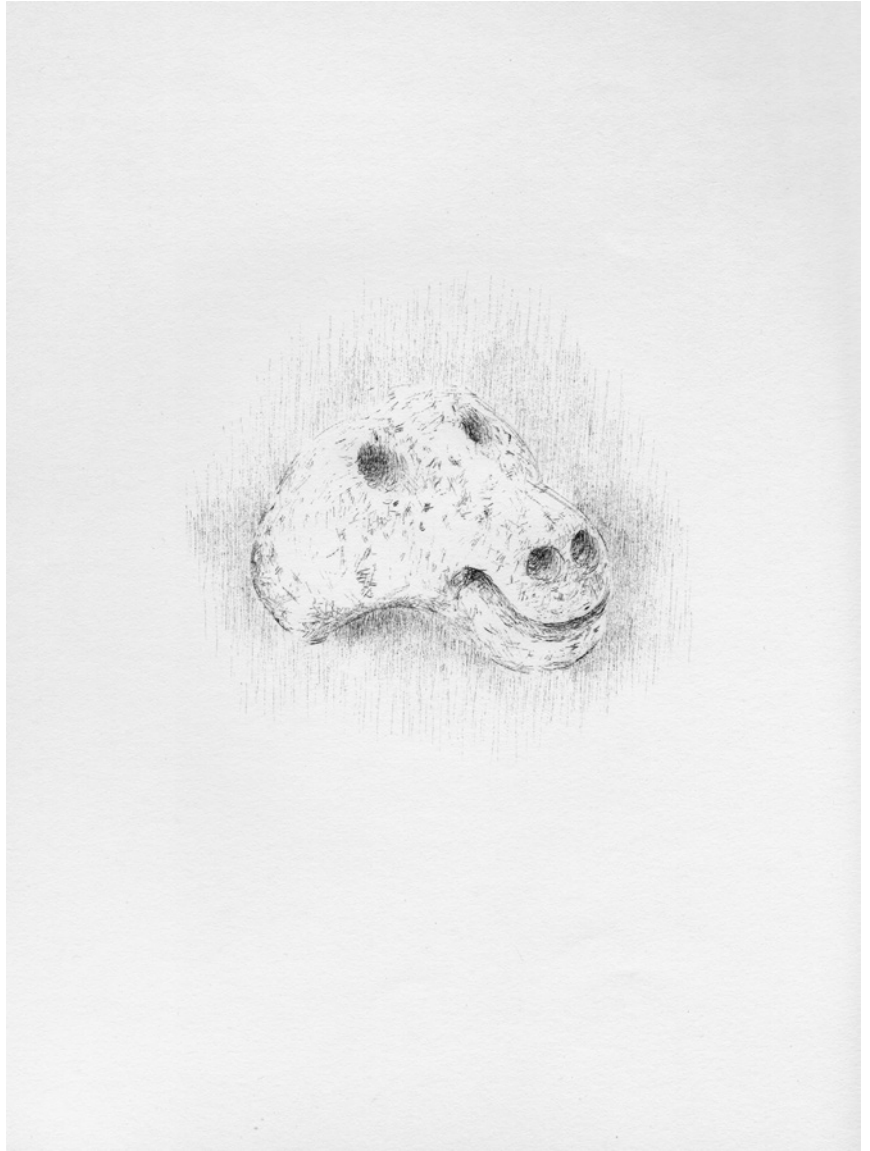
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XX

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom20

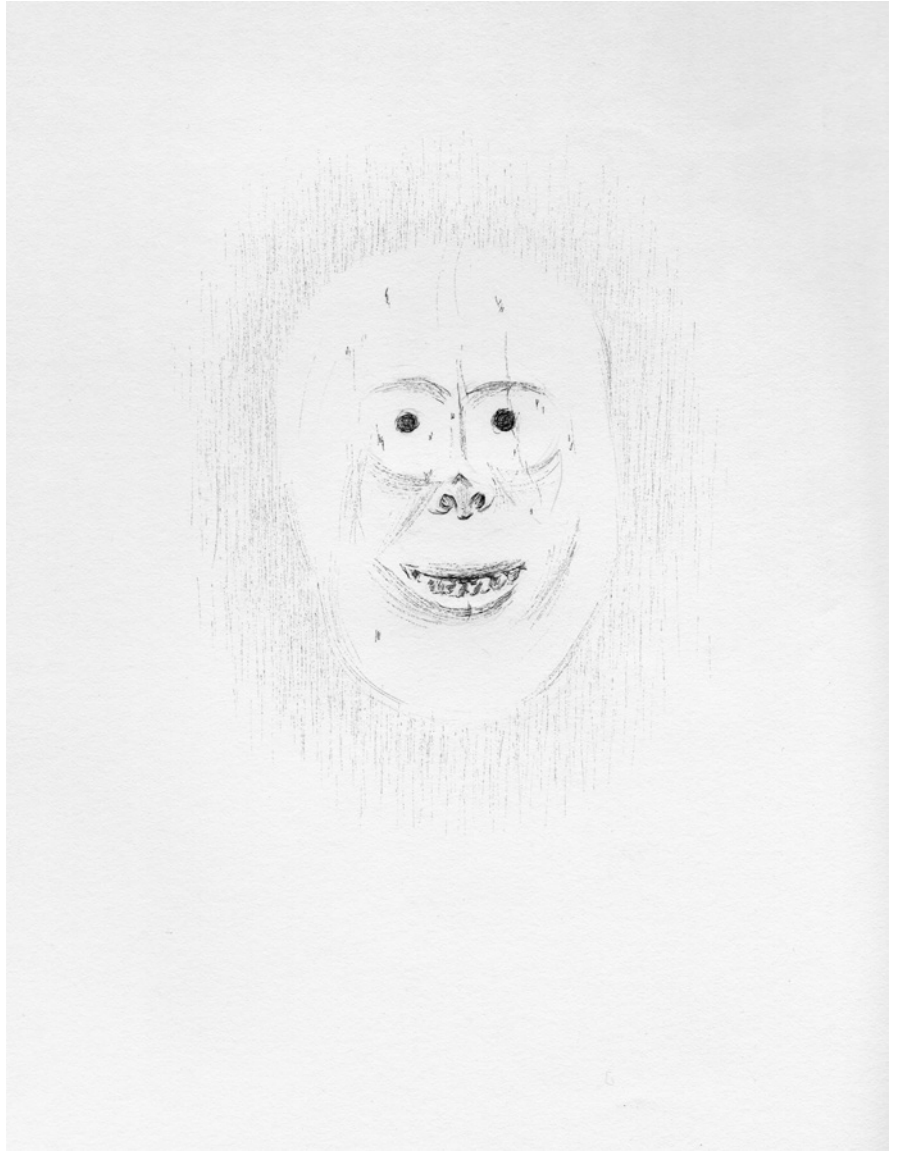
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XXI

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom21

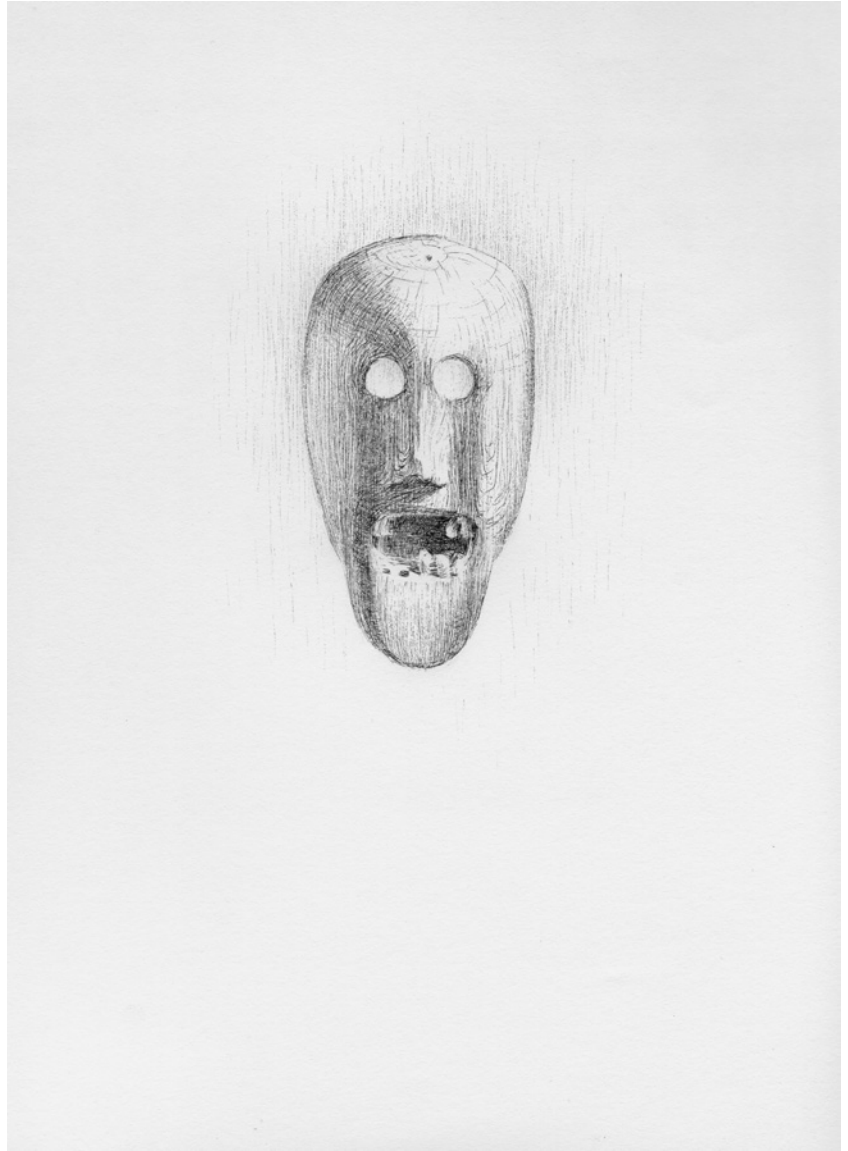
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XXII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom22

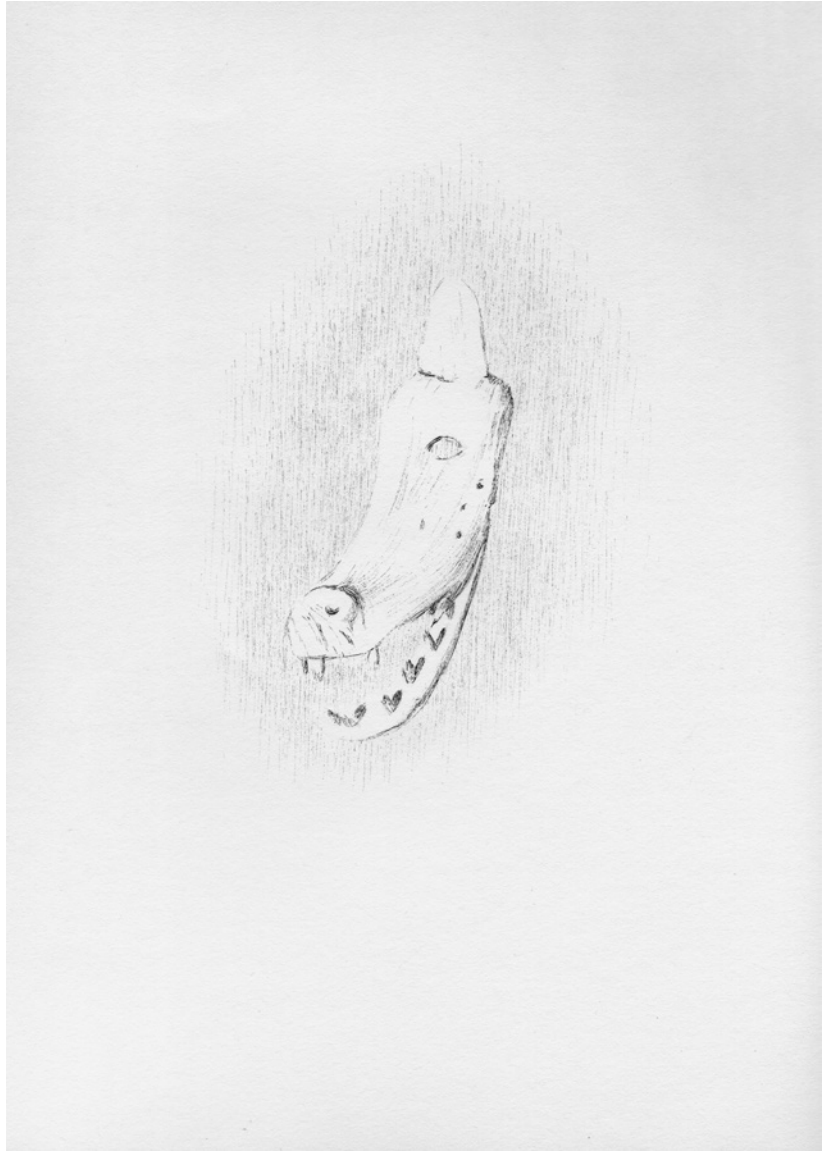
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XXIII

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom23

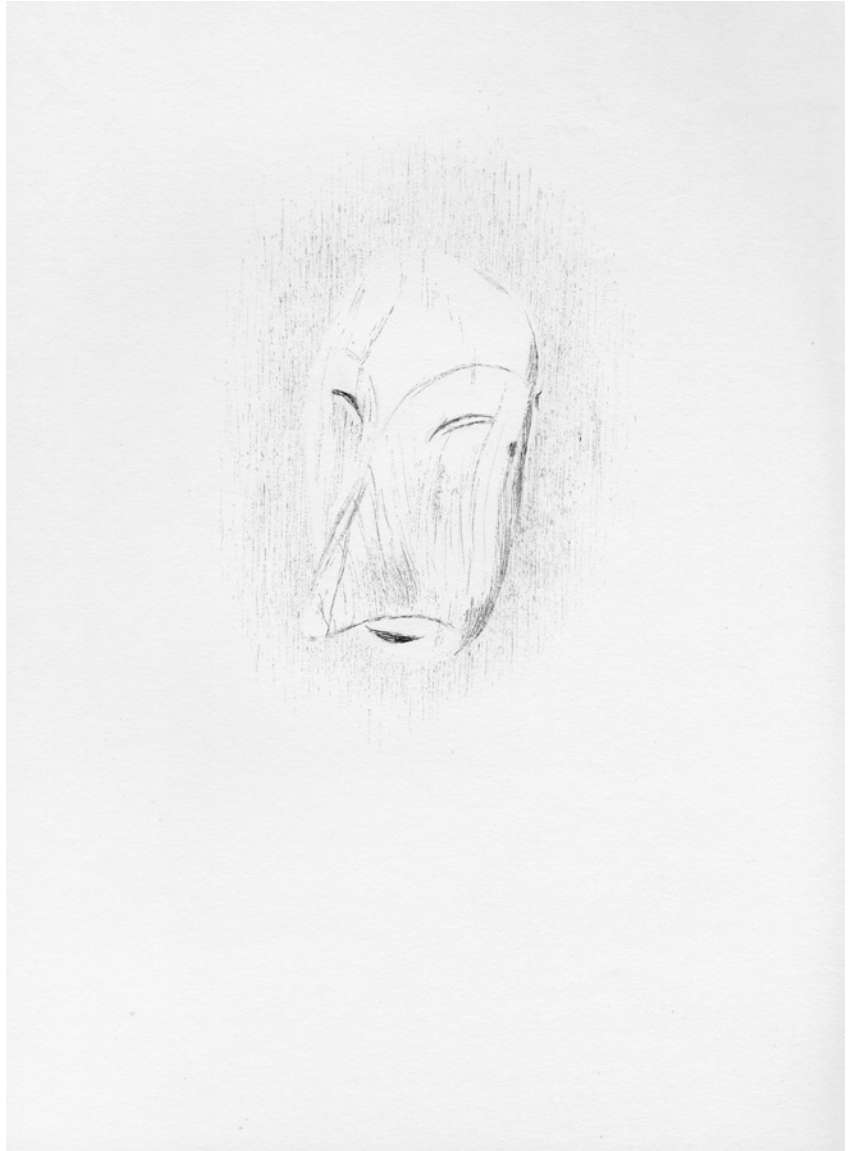
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XXIV

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom24

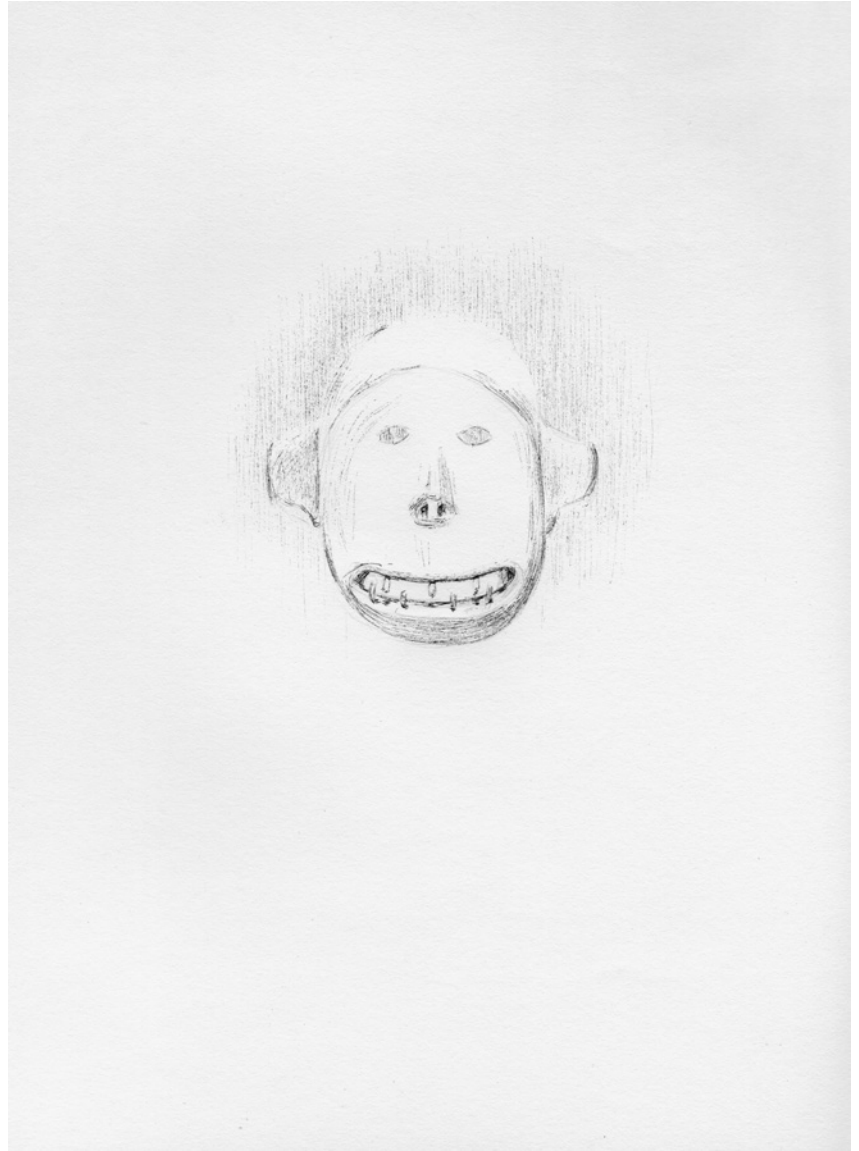
Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Nicolas Darrot

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Nicolas Darrot

Iomante XXV

Drawing from the «Iomante» series, number Iom25

Ink on framed paper

Variable dimensions

2024

Born in 1972 in Le Havre, Nicolas Darrot lives and works in and works in Paris. He entered the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts fr Paris after initial training at the Grenoble School of Architecture. He graduated in 1988, the same year that Darrot worked for a period in the film industry as part of a special effects team. In this environment, he learned to transform a body or an object into animatronics, or, to put it another way, to animate it remotely and robotise it.

His multi-faceted practice takes the form of sculptures, hybrid and automated objects and installations. His work is full of curiosity and theatre, with a particular love of puppets. Using a fabulous language, he takes us into a new universe, drawing our gaze into a utopian fable where a mechanical dance is played out.

He made his mark on the contemporary art scene in the in the early 2000s. In 2006, Nicolas Darrot became one of the first artists to take over the patio of La Maison Rouge - Fondation Antoine de Galbert, in Paris presenting his monumental installation «Passage au noir»

This was followed by numerous solo and group exhibitions both in France and internationally, including such as «Bêtes et hommes», Grande halle de la Villette la Villette (2007); Félicien Marboeuf, Fondation Ricard, Paris (2009); «Bêtes off», La conciergerie, Paris (2012); «Histoires d'automates», Théâtre des Sablons, Neuilly sur Seine (2013); Être étonné, c'est un bonheur, Chapelle de la visitation, Thonons-les-Bains (2015); «Constructeurs d'absurde, d'utopies», Centre d'Art Contemporain, Meymac (2015); «Être et à voir», Collection C+J Mairet, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Strasbourg (2016); Règne analogue», La maison rouge, Paris (2016);

«Nuage parallèle», Fondation Claudine et Jean-Marc Salomon, Annecy-le-Vieux (2017); «Le Voyage à Nantes», Opéra, place Graslin et Temple du Goût, Nantes (2017); «A night of philosophy», Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki (2017); «Loup y es-tu? Bestiaire et métamorphoses», Château de Maisons, Maisons-Laffitte (2018); «Fête de l'Ours», Musée de la chasse et de la nature, Paris (2018); «The Kamigo Band - Songs for the seasons», Echigo Tsumari Triennale, Japan (2018); «Artists and Robots» at the Grand Palais, Paris (2018); «Cabinets of Curiosities» Fond Hélène et Edouard Leclerc pour la culture, Landernau (2019); «Tribute to Leonardo da Vinci», Château du Rivau (2019); «De leur temps», Collection Lambert, Avignon (2020); «The Crystal House», Northern Alps Art Festival, Omachi, Japan (2021); «Ariel», Satoyama Museum of Contemporary Art Kinare, Tokamachi, Japan (2021).

In 2022, his work will be presented on several occasions: at the Setouchi triennial in Megijima, Japan; at the Musée du Louvre in the group exhibition entitled «Les Choses»; and at the Centre Pompidou in Metz in «Les portes du possible». In 2023, Galerie C - Neuchâtel organised a solo show by the artist entitled «De la nature des choses».