

Visual Language

by
Paul Rider

Visual Language

A series of imagery dealing with the use of visual symbols as communication. The series is in three sections, dealing with territory, mapping, and origins. The ways of the communication are rather unorthodox and expand the notion of what a written symbol can be along with how much information can be bestowed upon these symbols.

Tagging

a collaboration in three parts

Tagging - a collaboration in three parts

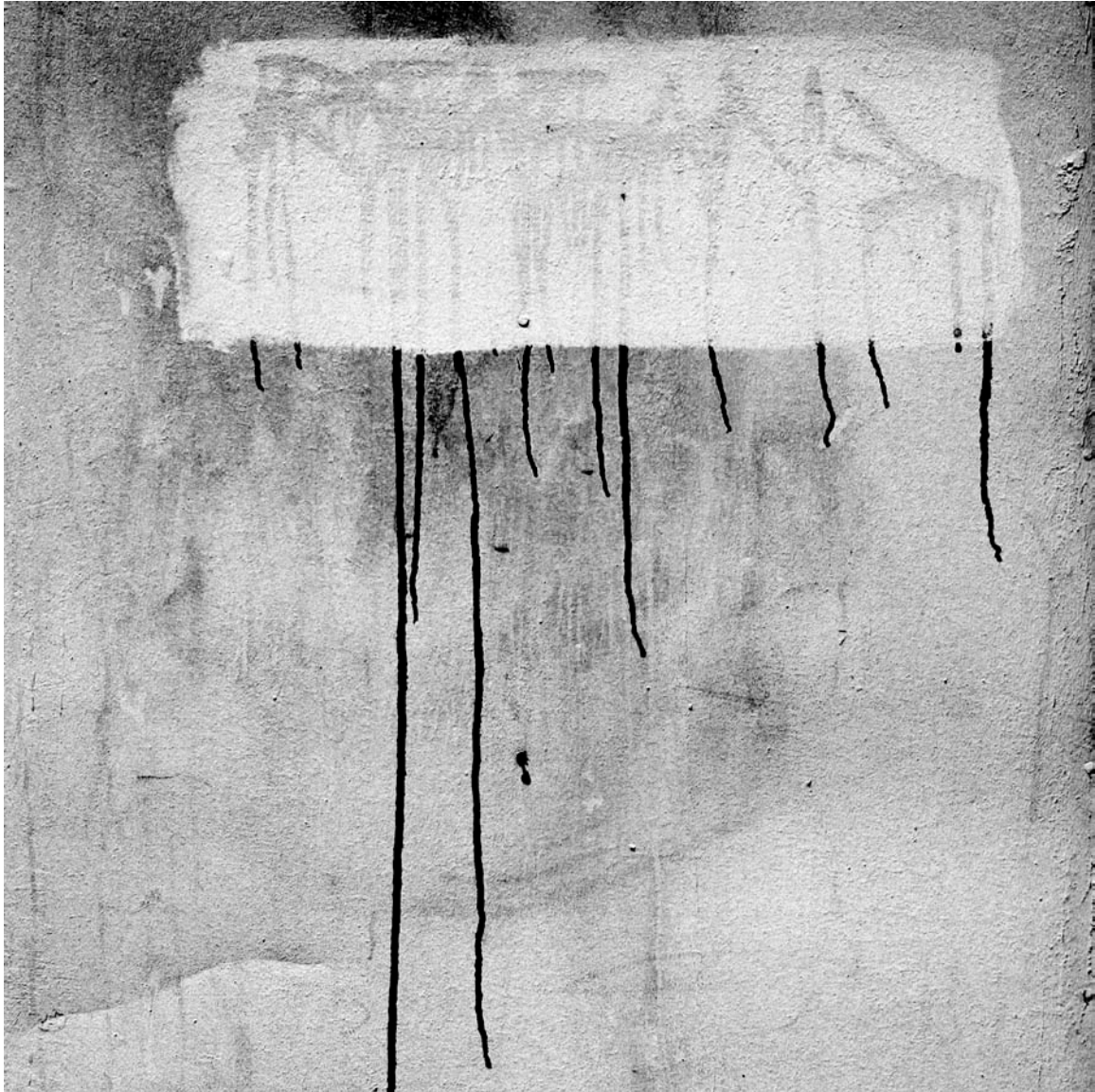
The collaboration begins with a person tagging the site with their unique signature.

The actual owner of the property is the second participant in the collaboration. Their part is created by their attempts to erase the “tag”. This is done sometimes with paint, or the scrubbing of the surface to remove the “tag”.

The tagging artist tends to return to the site to reestablish their signature once the property owner has tried to erase the “tag”. There can be several layers of signature and erasing which then creates the insight for the third participant.

The third participant is the photographer who “finds” the battle and instead of bringing the actual physical wall back to be displayed, the artist photographs the interaction.

This organic, unorganized, collaborative interaction has morphed into found art, not the type that is sculptural but more conceptual, one that is transformed by the participants.

















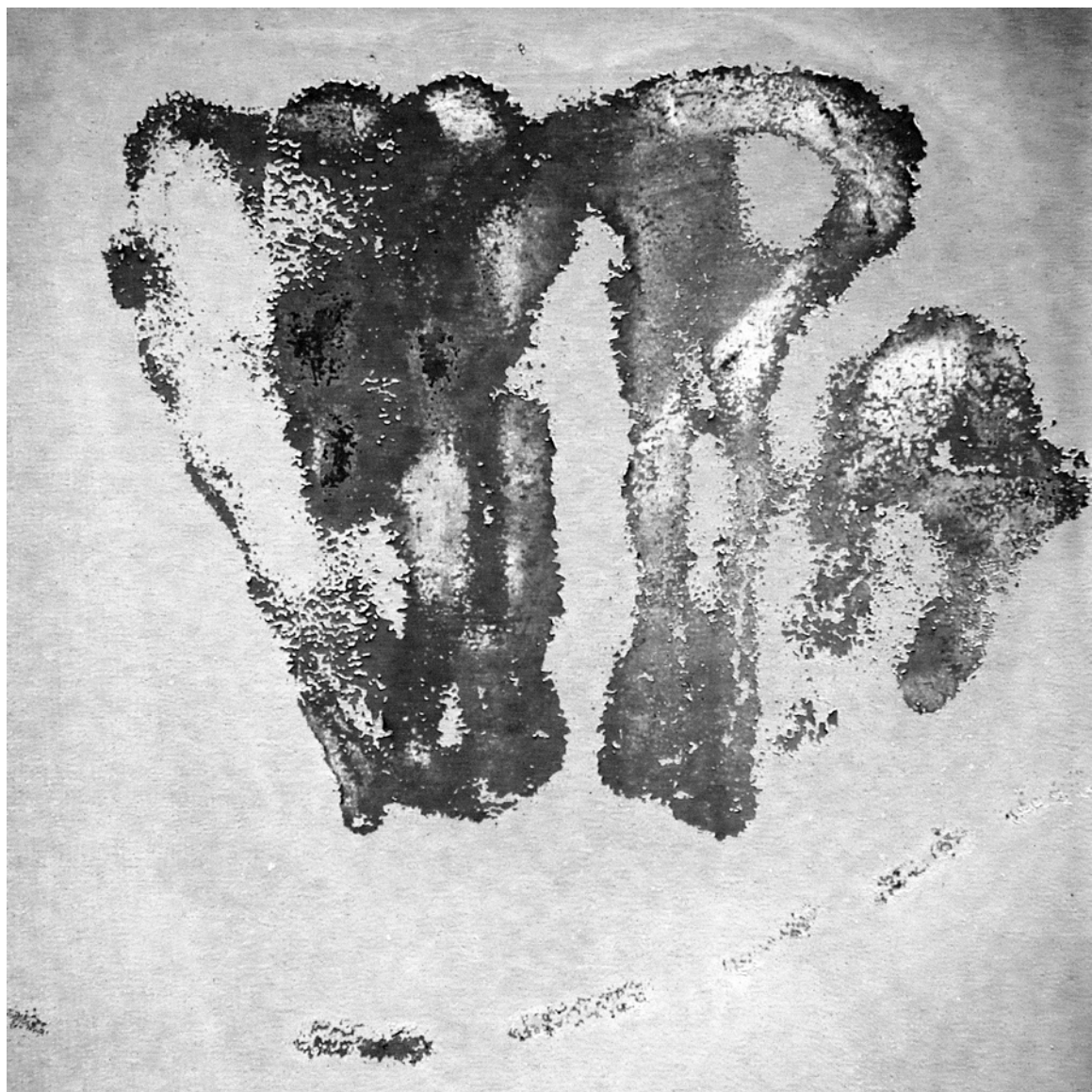












Cryptic Infrastructure

literal rebuilding?

Cryptic Infrastructure

The infrastructure of America is noticeably starting to fall apart, literally. Utilities buried under the streets by earlier generations, have now turned into major excavations.

The images I've created are from the observation of the cryptic markings recently found on the streets throughout the country.

For now, the markings have the look of higher significance from a previous civilization, but in actuality they are giving reference to the utilities that may be buried under the streets.

















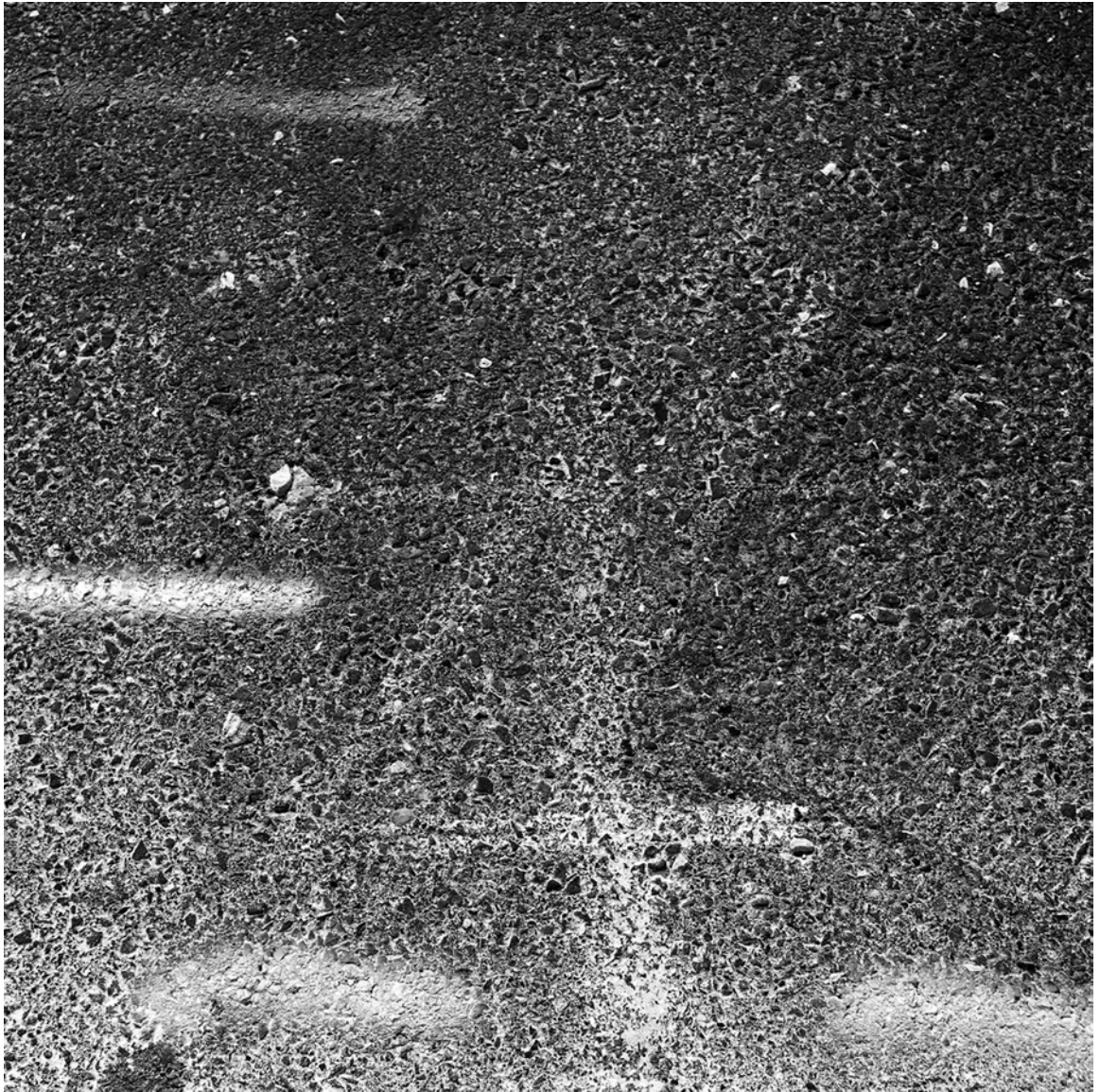




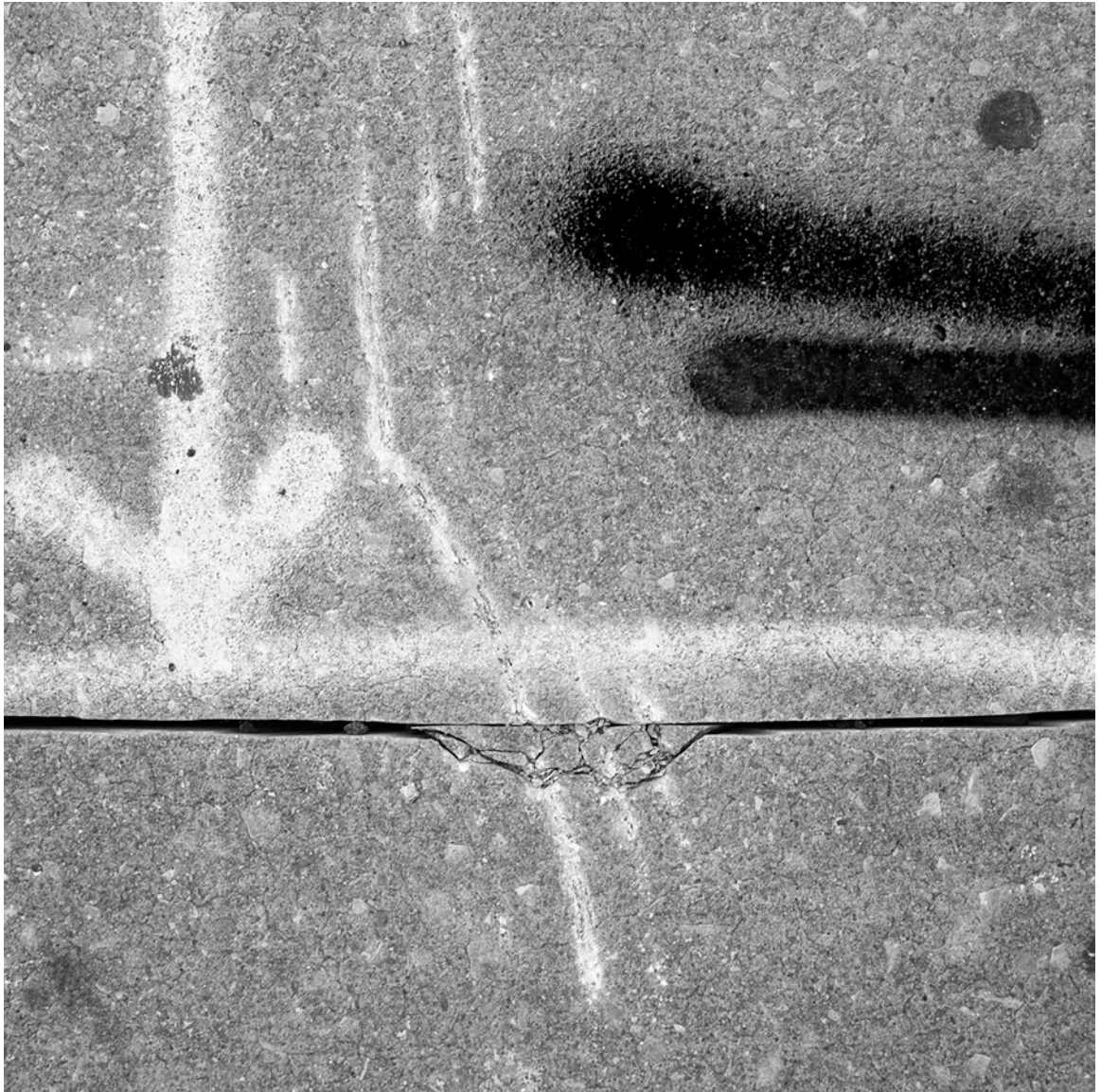






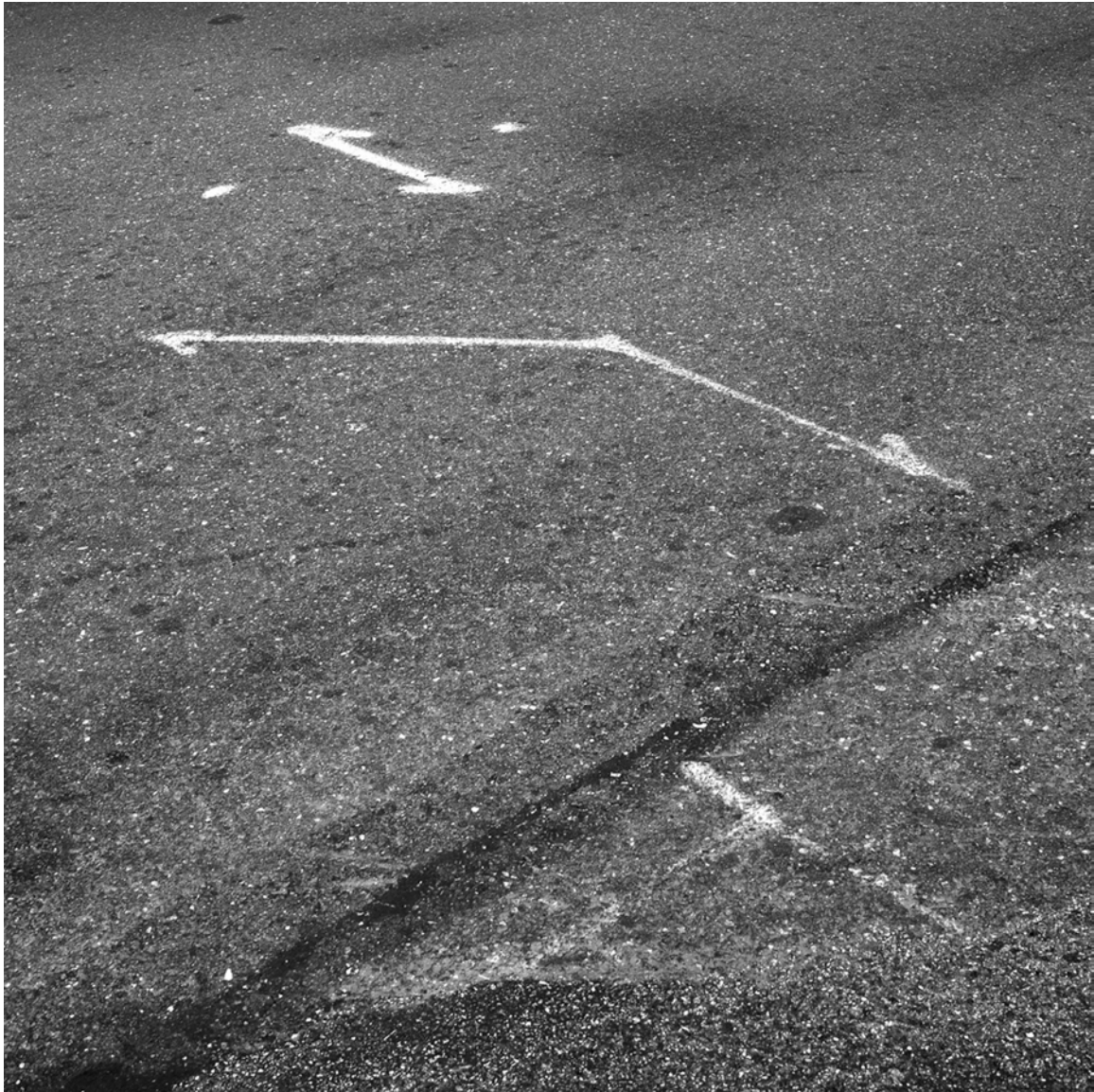


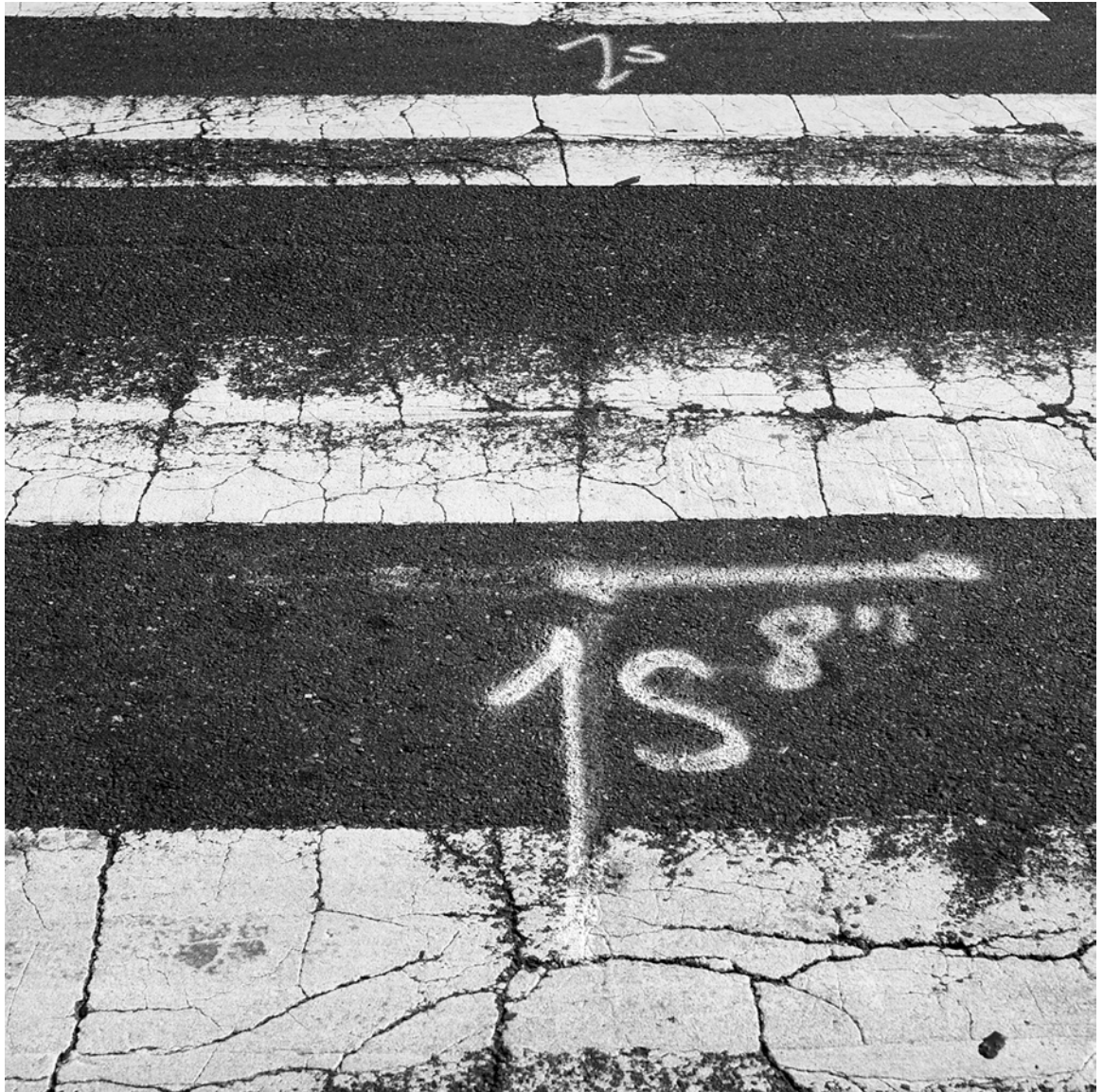












Alphabetum

Creation, Transformation, Obscurity.

Alphabetum

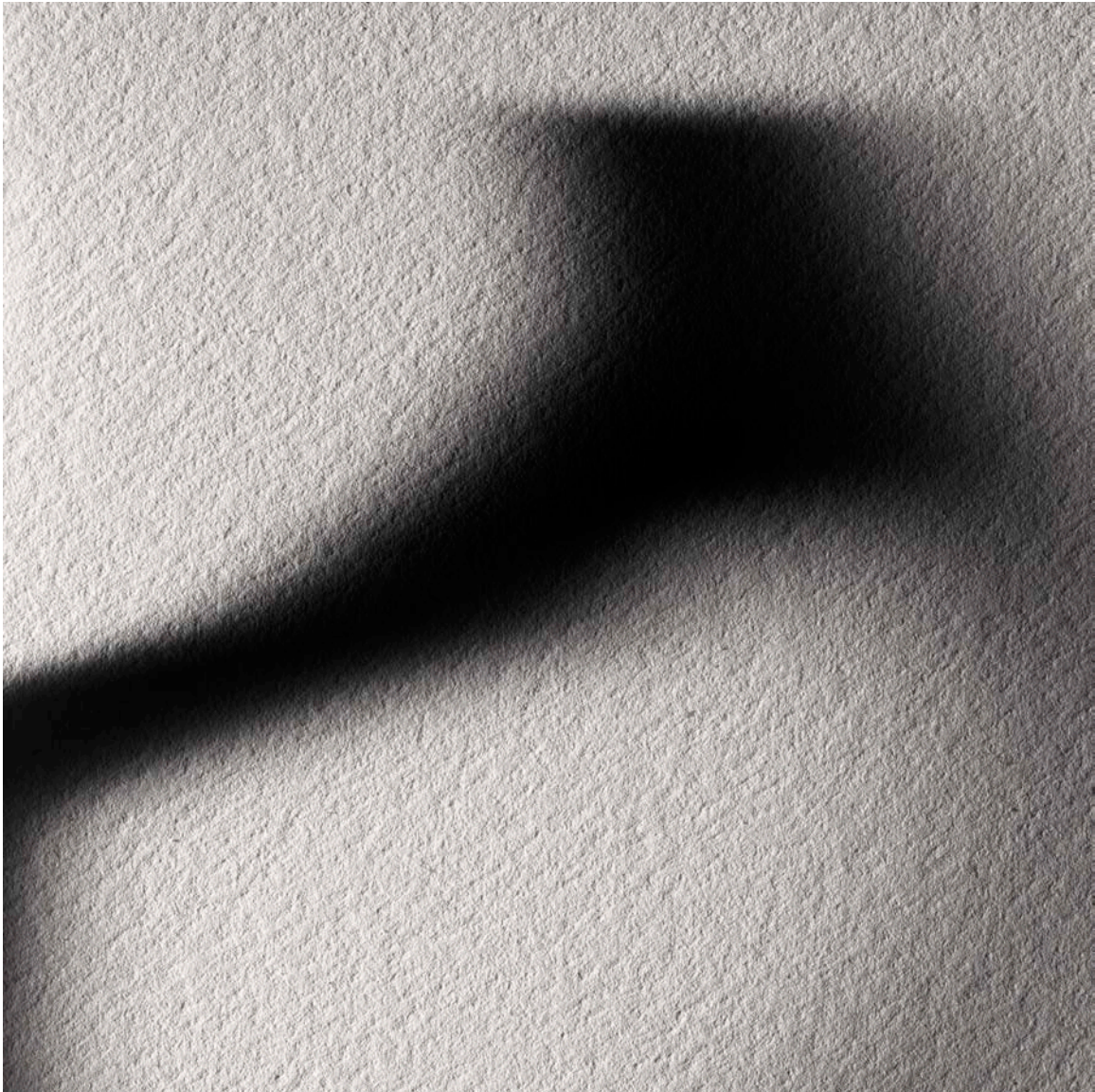
Shapes, created by man over the centuries, either on the walls of caves, rocks or on some other surface such as paper, evolved into symbols or letters to create a way of communication between other humans within their culture. Eventually they formed the basis of an alphabet. However, when viewed alone as a shape without context, a character has an abstract visual quality which could be interpreted in many different ways, especially by people from different cultures.

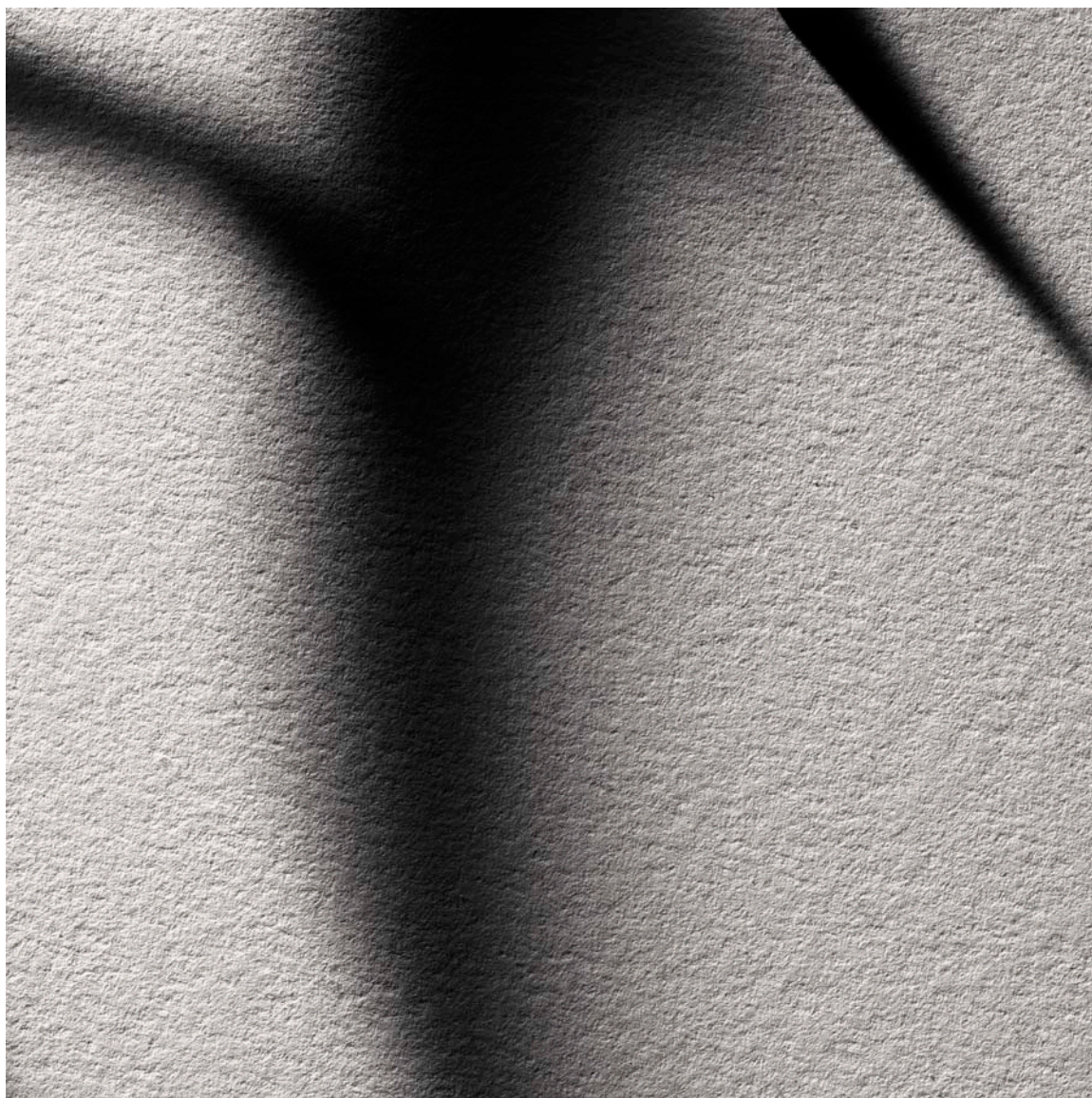
I've become fascinated with the idea of how these unique shapes, or symbols, could become a way of communication. The shapes that create a traditional alphabet usually are physically drawn onto a surface, with a material transferred from a stick, brush or a pen. The material I am working with to create my shapes is light, which suggests the temporariness of the markings on the paper, and thus alluding to the temporariness of a culture's way of communication.

There are many cultures whose writings have vanished, along with those which are starting to die out within this increasingly smaller but connected world. Their form of communication was given birth at the dawn of the day, and as light of the day changes, they are slowly disappearing. The remnants of their visual communication, when their culture has died out, will become abstract markings on a surface.

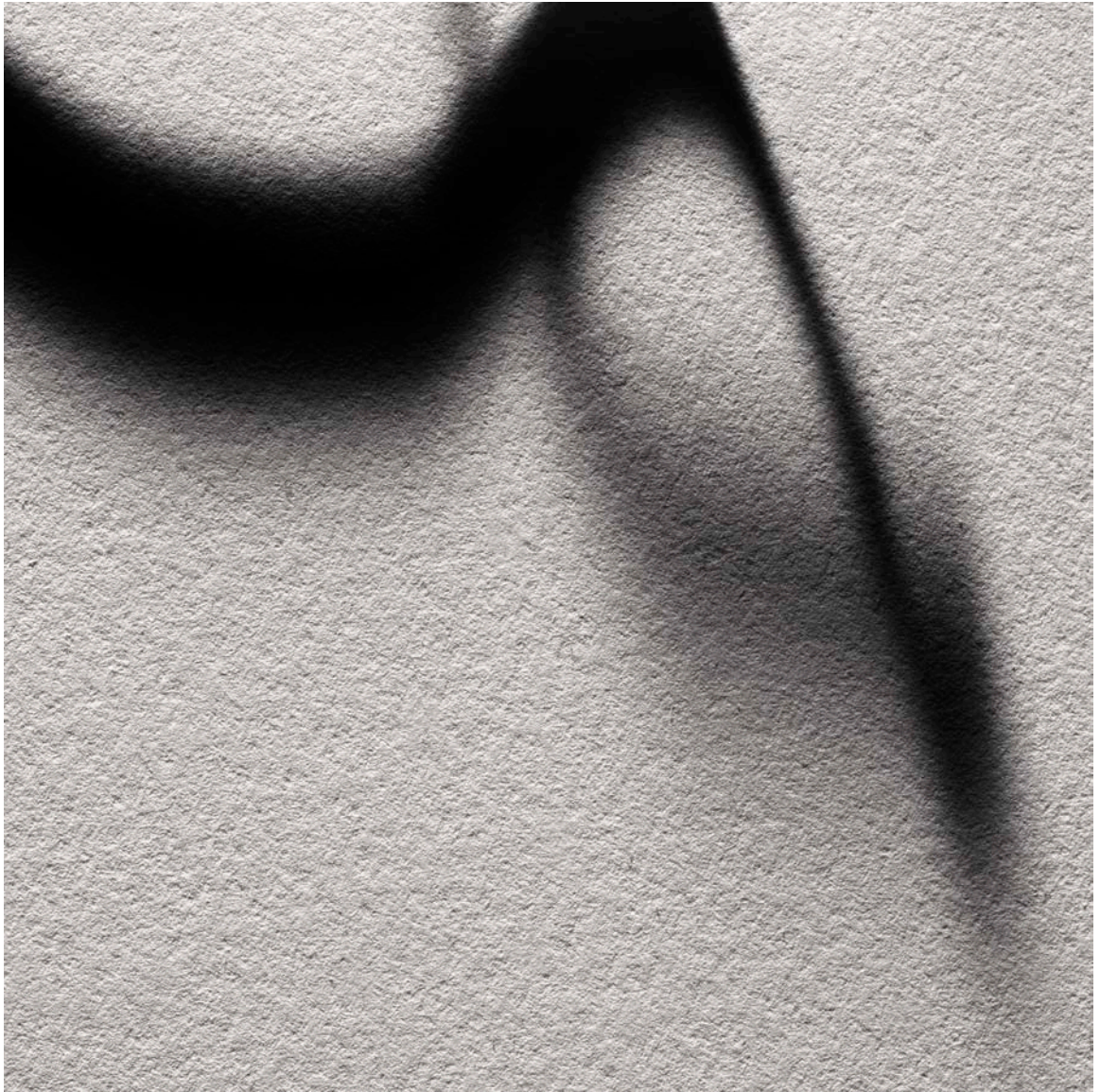


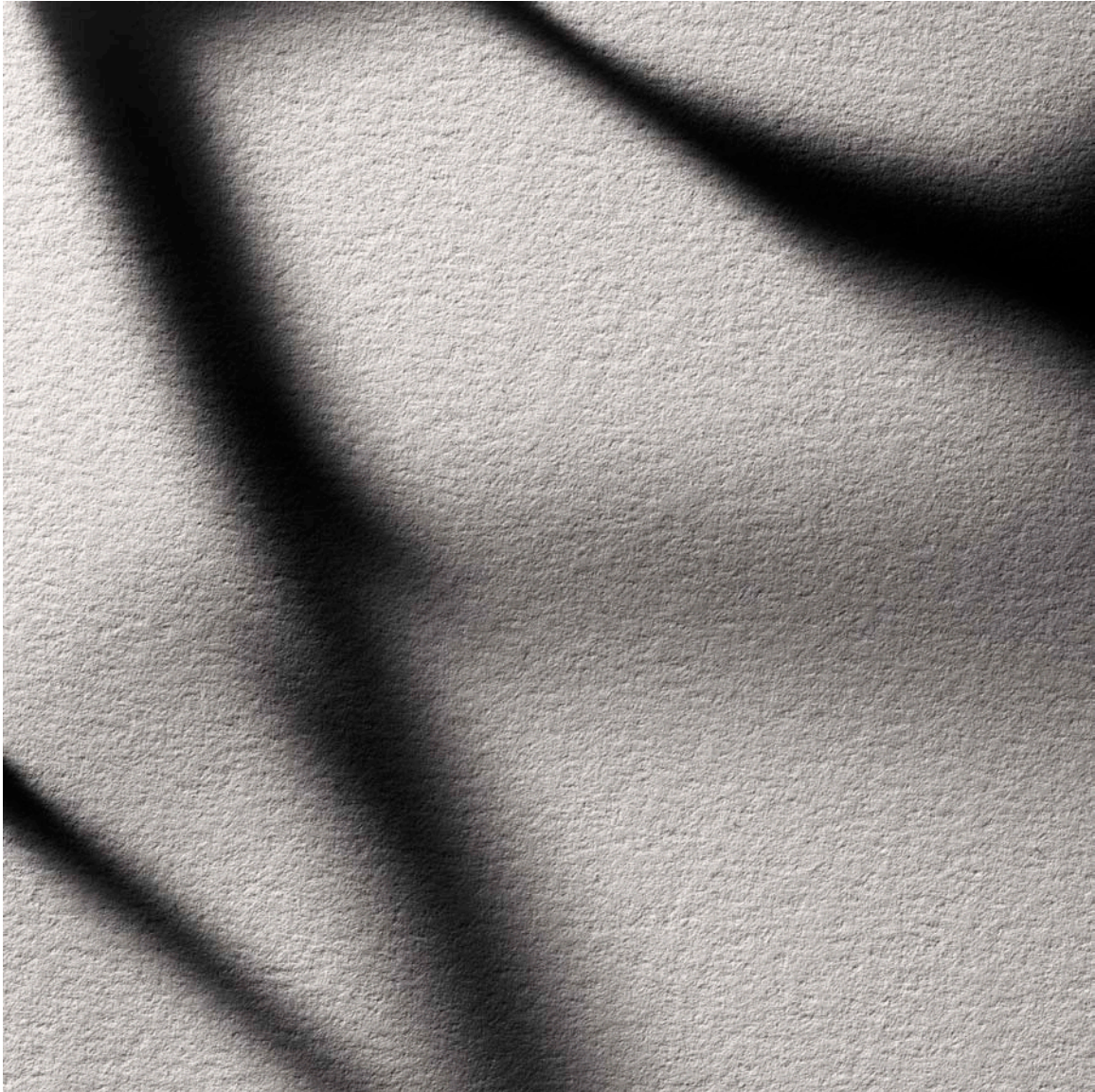


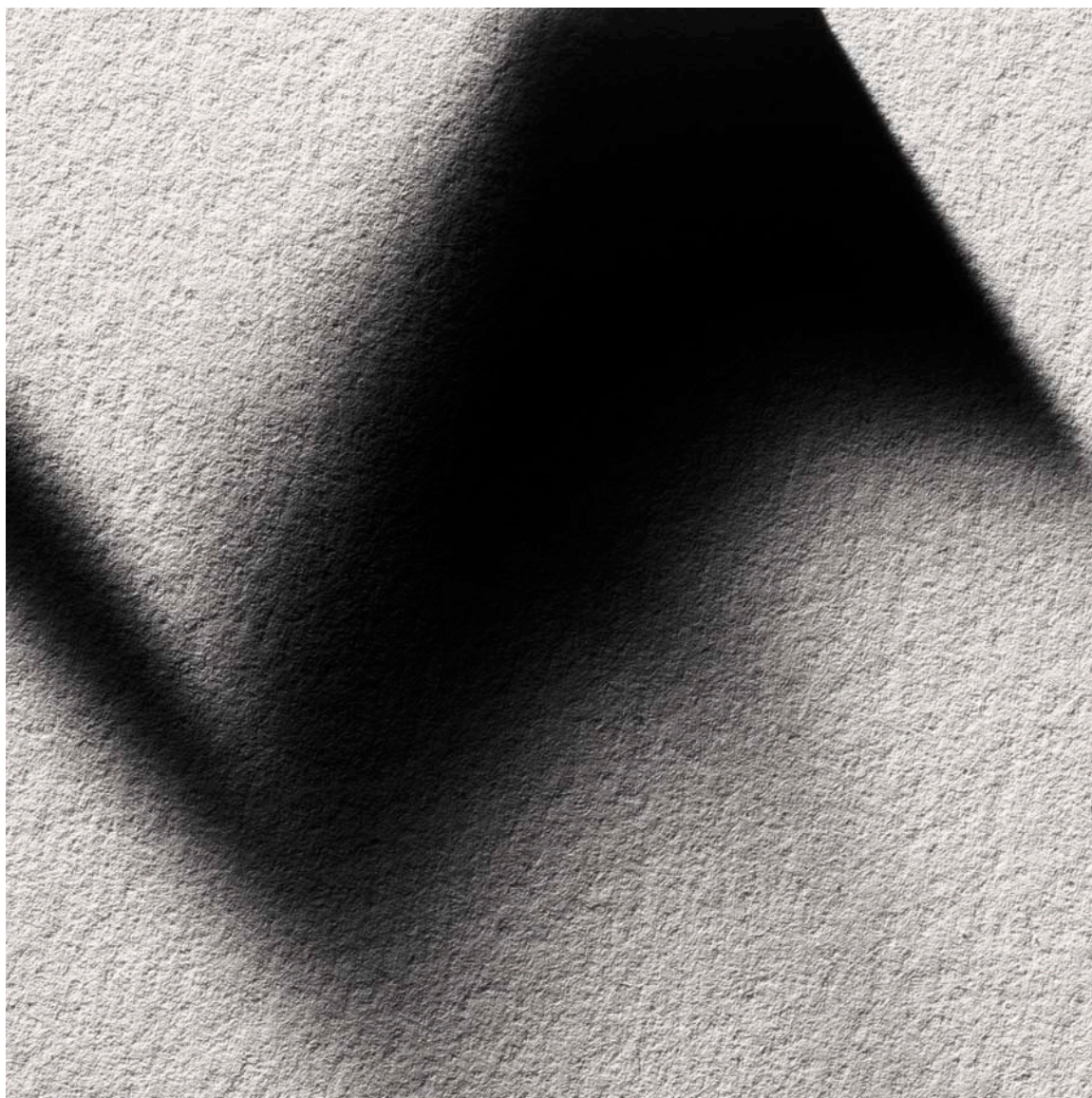












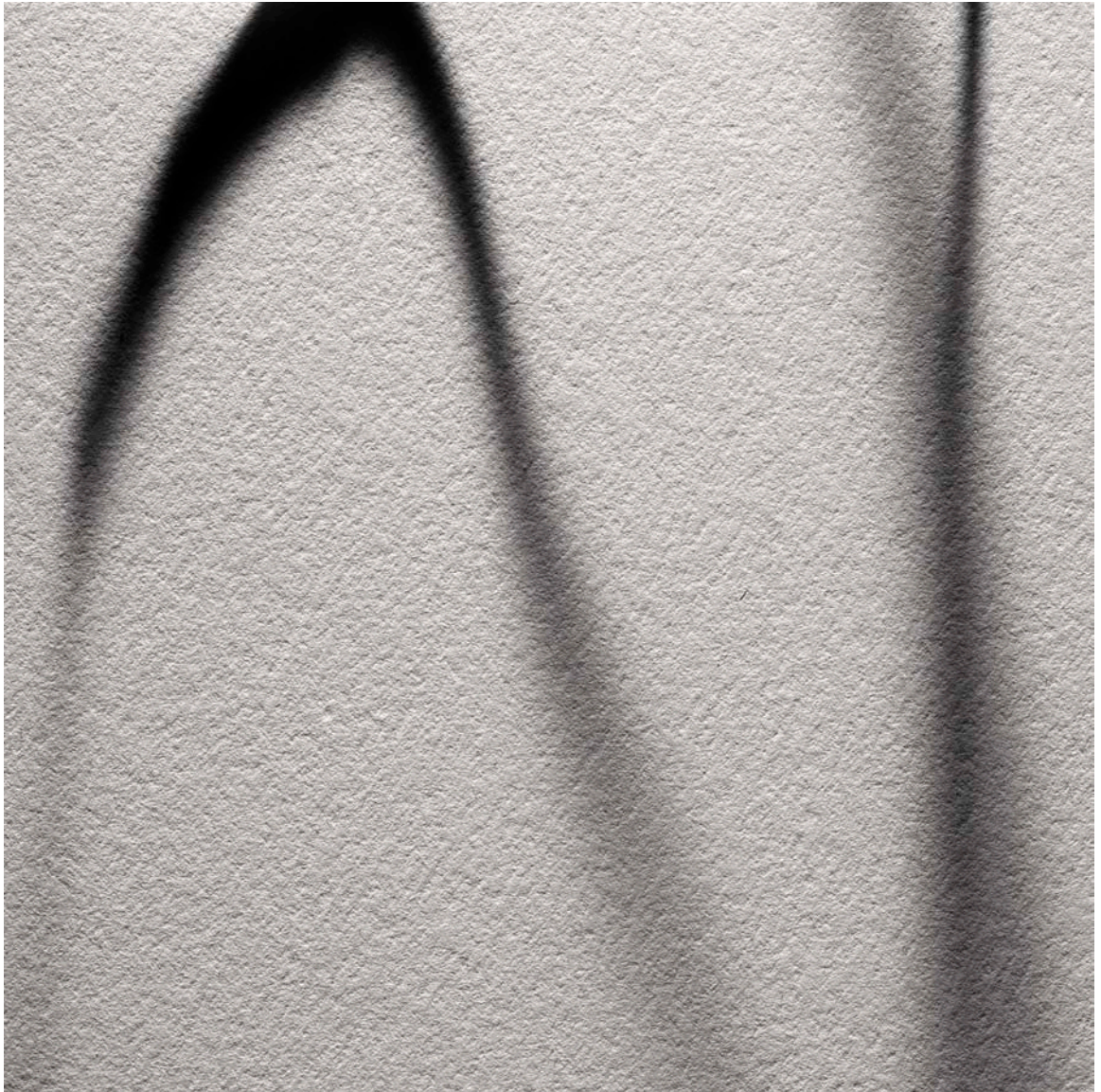




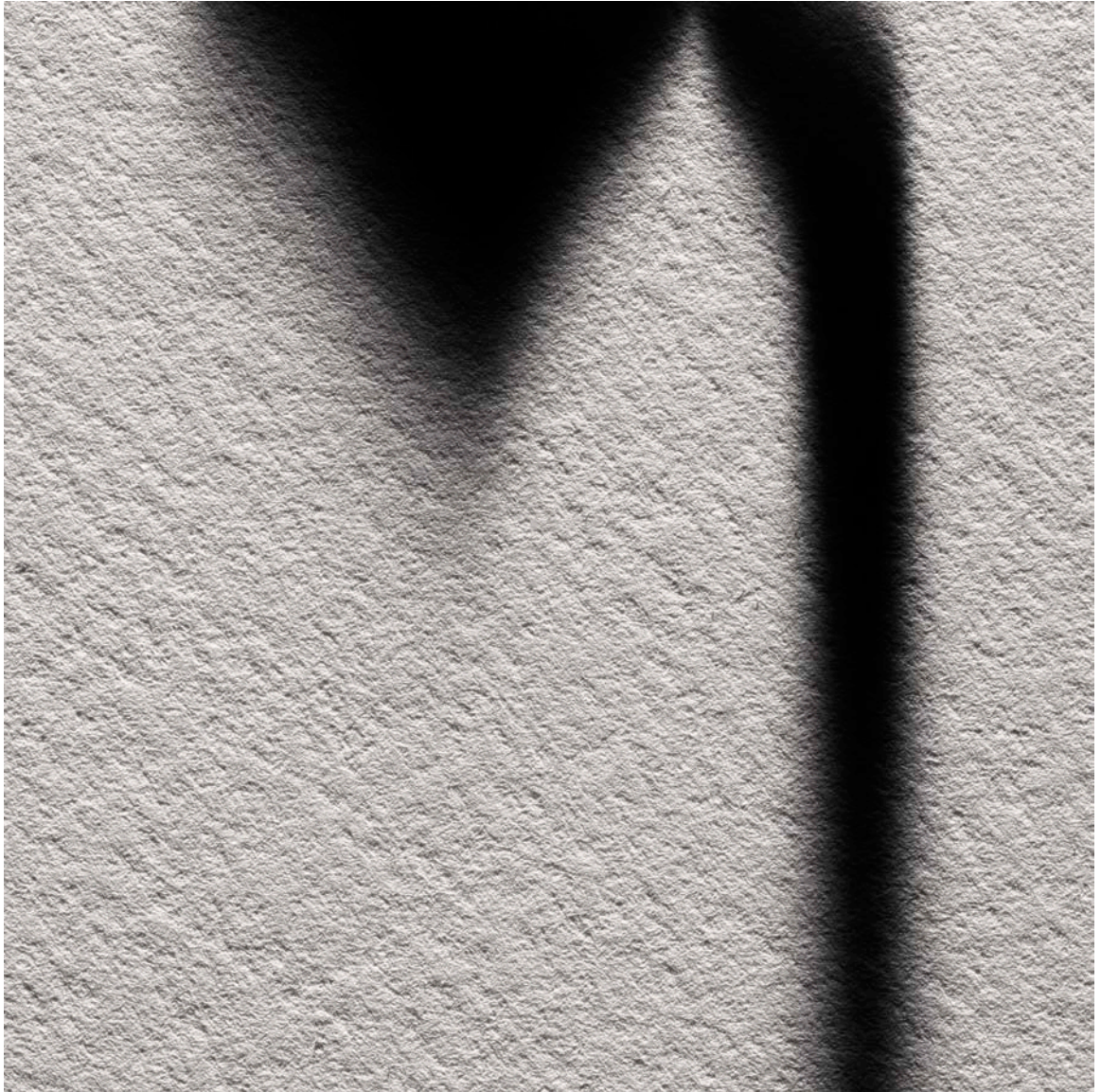








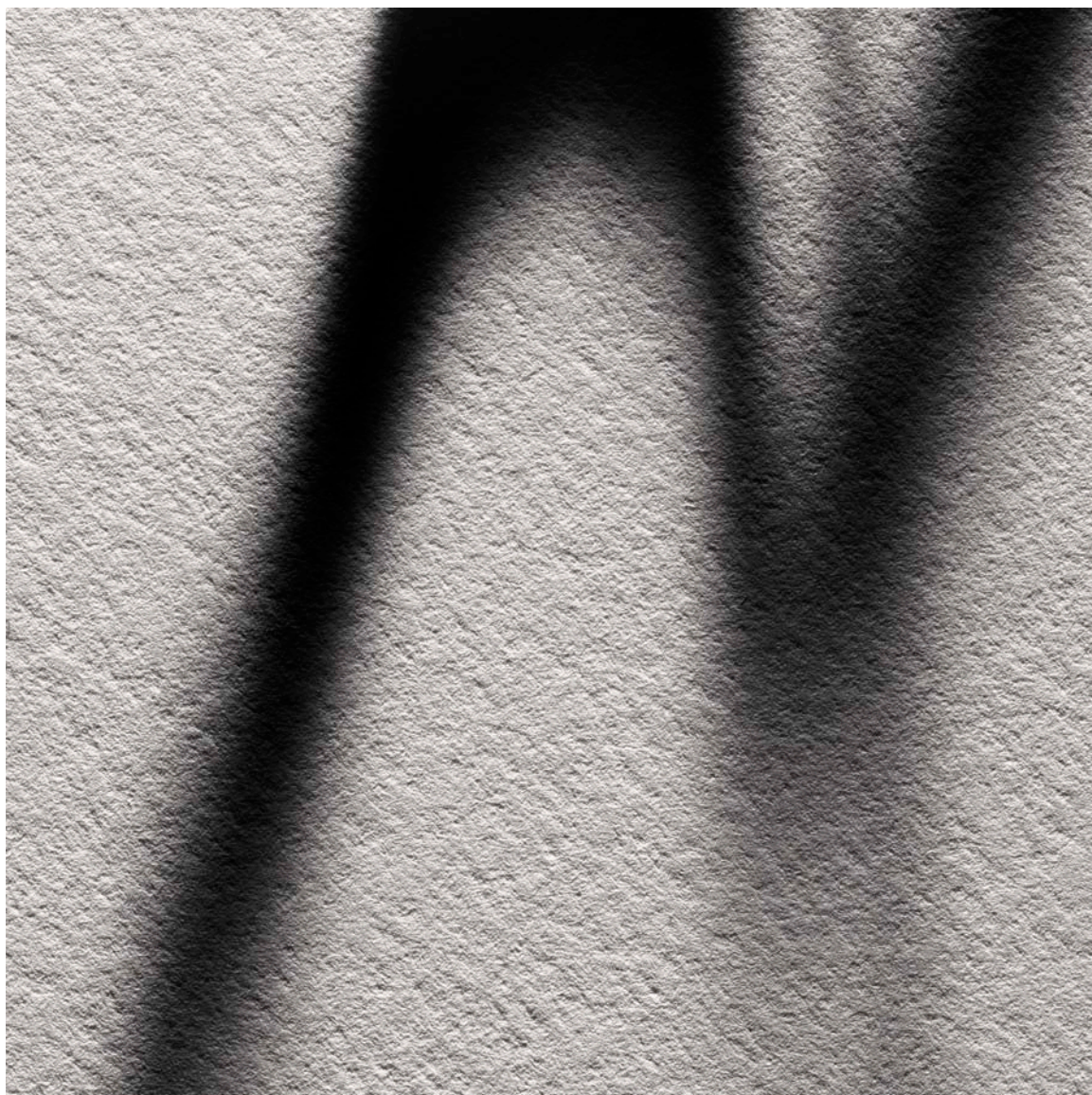












print information

image sizes

36" x 36" on 40" x 40" paper - edition of 5
16" x 16" on 17" x 17" paper - edition of 15
printed with archival pigment inks
on fine art museum white rag paper - 260g

7" x 7" on 8" x 8" paper- edition of 15
Toned Silver Gelatin Contact Prints

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