

GYPSUM

HUDA LUTFI

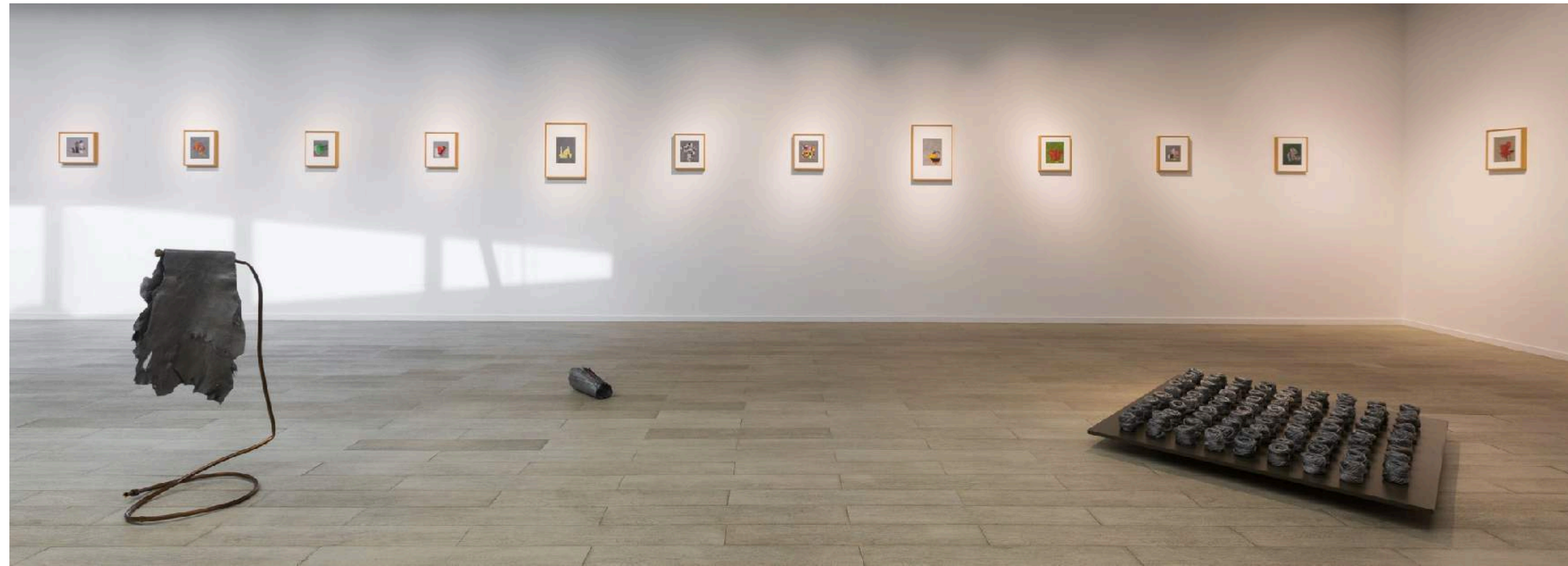
Our Black Thread

INTRODUCING THE WORK OF HUDA LUTFI



Gypsum is pleased to present Huda Lutfi's second solo show at the gallery, "Our Black Thread". In this exhibition, Lutfi presents a new body of work comprised of minimalist compositions embroidered and sewn by hand. The artist started improvising with thread on used organza teabags as a quiet domestic exercise that eventually took on a much larger scale and sense of urgency. She creates compositions out of the smaller elements and uses a gentle palette of black, white, grey and off-white. The delicacy of her materials results in silent notes of movement and lines, and the geometric shapes that seem deliberate are part of a meditative trajectory of chance.

Lutfi's practice has always been in conversation with a larger political context. She traditionally incorporated strong elements of popular culture, political insignia, and a play on slogans and language. The human figure has been an essential part of her language; it came in the form of deconstructed Cairo mannequins, in repetition and as reflections of excess, waste, and the value of bodies in the urban context that engulfs her oeuvre. Her use of pop icons has been confrontational and direct while also abstracted to create sharp statements on social and political conditions. Her work took a more self-reflexive and inward turn in the recent years. While some of the work remained figurative, it would be set in surrealistic domestic scenes, exploring silence and other metaphors for death, reflecting on personal questions and familial concerns, while later work examined historical notions of healing in times of political crisis.



Most recently, Lutfi has been experimenting with abstraction and exploring meditation as a powerful response to larger calamities. In this series, Lutfi's reactions to her environment takes on an even quieter discourse from her previous work. She invokes feminine traditions of craftsmanship and dedicates days of labor to create hundreds of miniature embroideries, a practice that moves between her own home and her studio. In abstracting a process of a historically predetermined craft, she creates trajectories and lines without planning an end result. Leaving in all the irregularities and glitches, one can track the entanglements and material relationships between the elements and their points of juncture with her own mind. The labor also implores a physicality that is much more demanding and persistent, a mode of work that can only be transcended by economic privilege, paying homage to the meticulous feminine labor that hardens the skin and pains the back. Lutfi however reverts to solitariness as opposed to the communal spirit that is traditional of these older practices, as they take on a different meaning within her own context and exercise of reflection.



Formally, the series takes reference from and questions the aesthetics and conceptual logic of a canon of minimalism. Lutfi is deeply influenced by the free and organic lines of Louise Bourgeois –a formative figure within any narrative on feminine/feminist art— invoking emotion with gestures and color. She refers to Agnes Martin's grids, fine lines and intoxicant repetition, a voluminous practice shaped by a discreet and steady disciplined temperament. Lutfi is also influenced by post-war artists such as Cy Twombly and Sol Lewitt, in isolating formal elements from their socio-political context, and abstracting experiences through process. Challenging mainstream aesthetic ideas of the monumental, these small scale drawings opt for an economy of material, gesture and form.

In "Our Black Thread," Lutfi's practice is distilled through a different voice. Her artistic concerns are channeled through labor, and she asks what form of intentionality separates craft from art. She takes note of generations of silent hands and continues to use repetition as a formal statement on endurance and resistance.

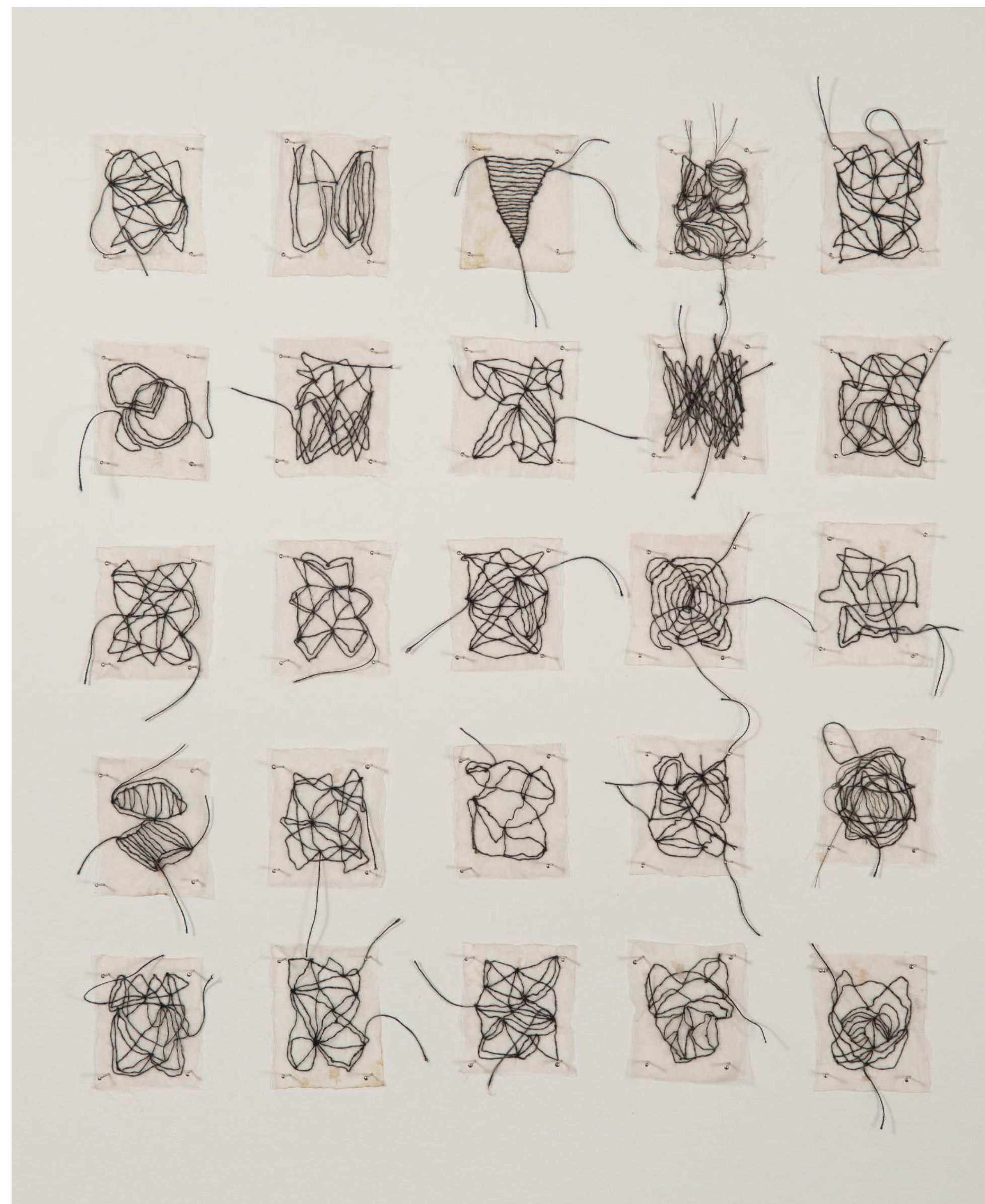
Image courtesy of The Third Line Gallery, Dubai

Biography

Huda Lutfi's solo shows include: Healing Devices, Dallas Museum of Art, Texas (2021); When Dreams Call for Silence, The American University in Cairo, Tahrir Cultural Center, Cairo, Egypt (2019); Still, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2018); Magnetic Bodies, Imaging the Urban, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2016); Magnetic Bodies, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2015); Cut and Paste, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2013); Huda Lutfi: Twenty Years of Art, Tache Art, Cairo, Egypt (2011); Making a Man out of Him, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2010); Zan'it al-Sittat, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2008); From Egypt with Love, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE (2008). Her group shows include: Cairo Photo Week, downtown Cairo, Egypt (2021); Occupational Hazards, Apexarts, New York, USA (2019); Feedback: Art, Africa and the 80's, Iwalewahaus Museum, Beyruth University, Germany (2018); Tell me the story of all these things, Villa Vassilieff, Paris (2017); The Turn: Art Practices in Post-Spring Societies, Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Vienna (2016); La Bienal del Sur, Caracas, Venezuela (2015); Fotofest: View from Inside Contemporary Arab Photography, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2015); Homage to Moustapha Hasnaoui, Frederic Moison Gallery, Paris, France (2013); I am not there, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2012); Dak'Art-African Contemporary Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal (2010); Icons Reloaded, Elysee Arts Gallery, Liege, Belgium (2009).

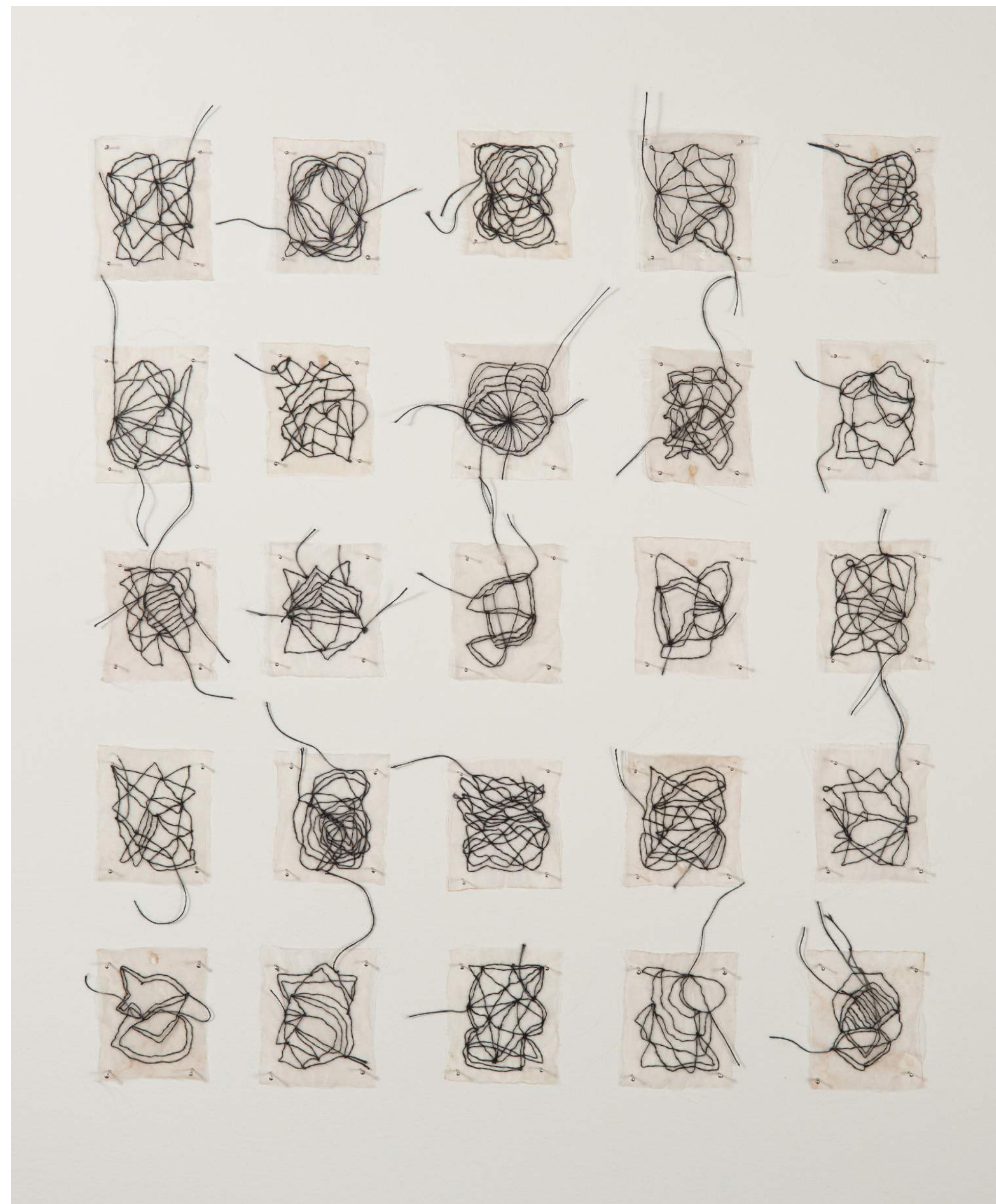
Her work is part of major collections including: Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan; Museum of Modern Art, Hague, Netherlands; The American University in Cairo; Egypt and The British Museum, London, UK.





Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza
teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 67 x 62 cm
Value: 6,500 USD





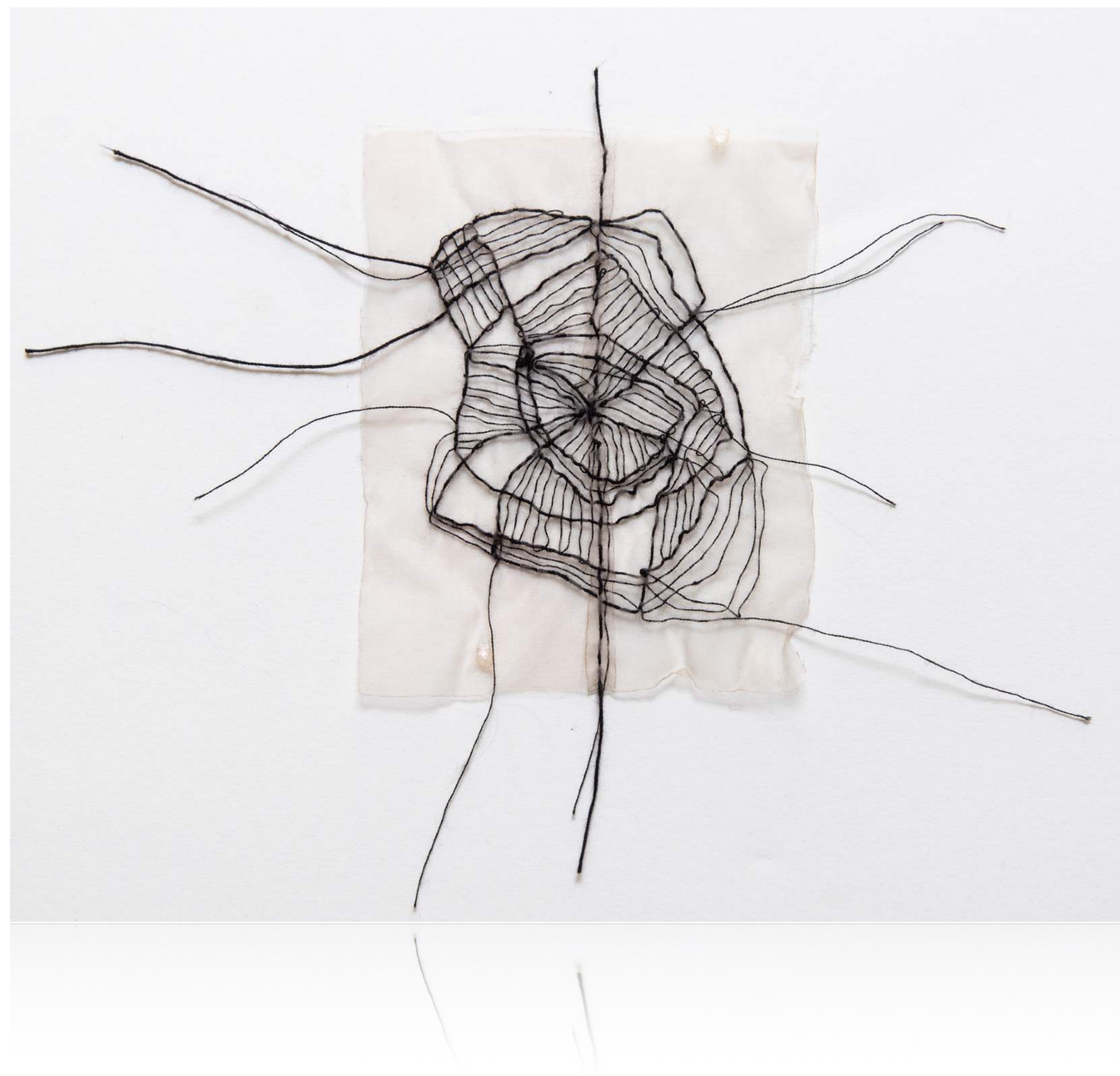
Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza
teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 67 x 62 cm
Value: 6,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 62 x 62 cm
Value: 6,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD

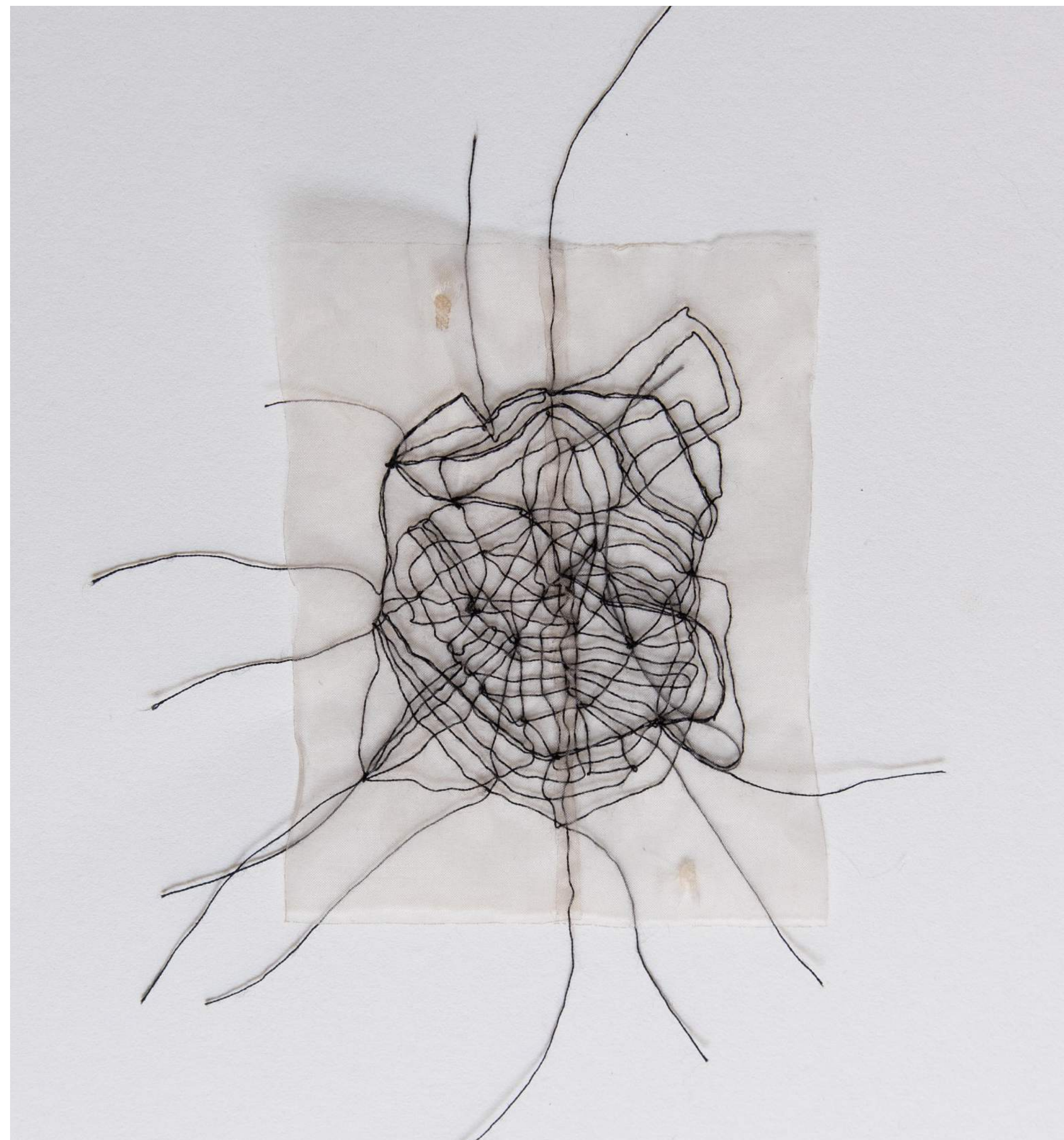


Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabag in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



GYPSUM

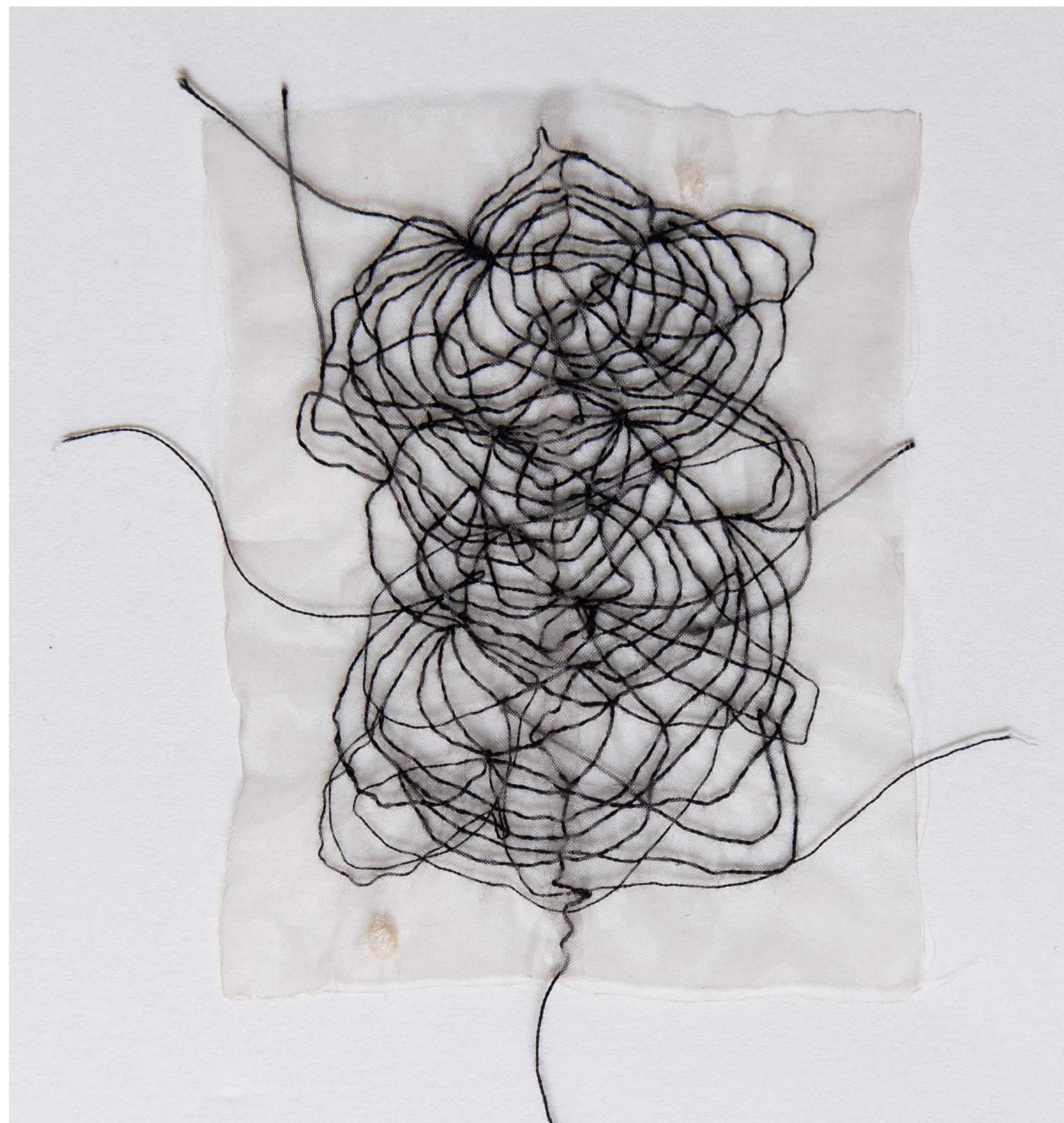
Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



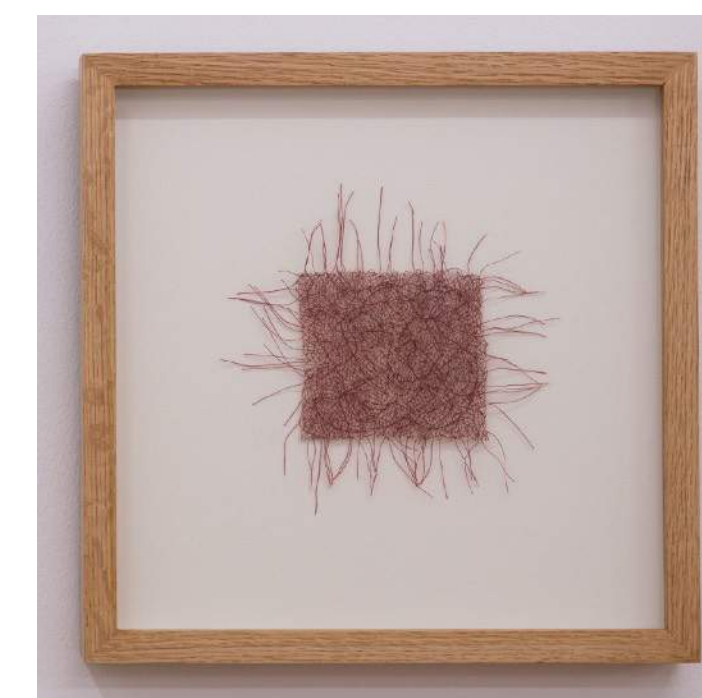
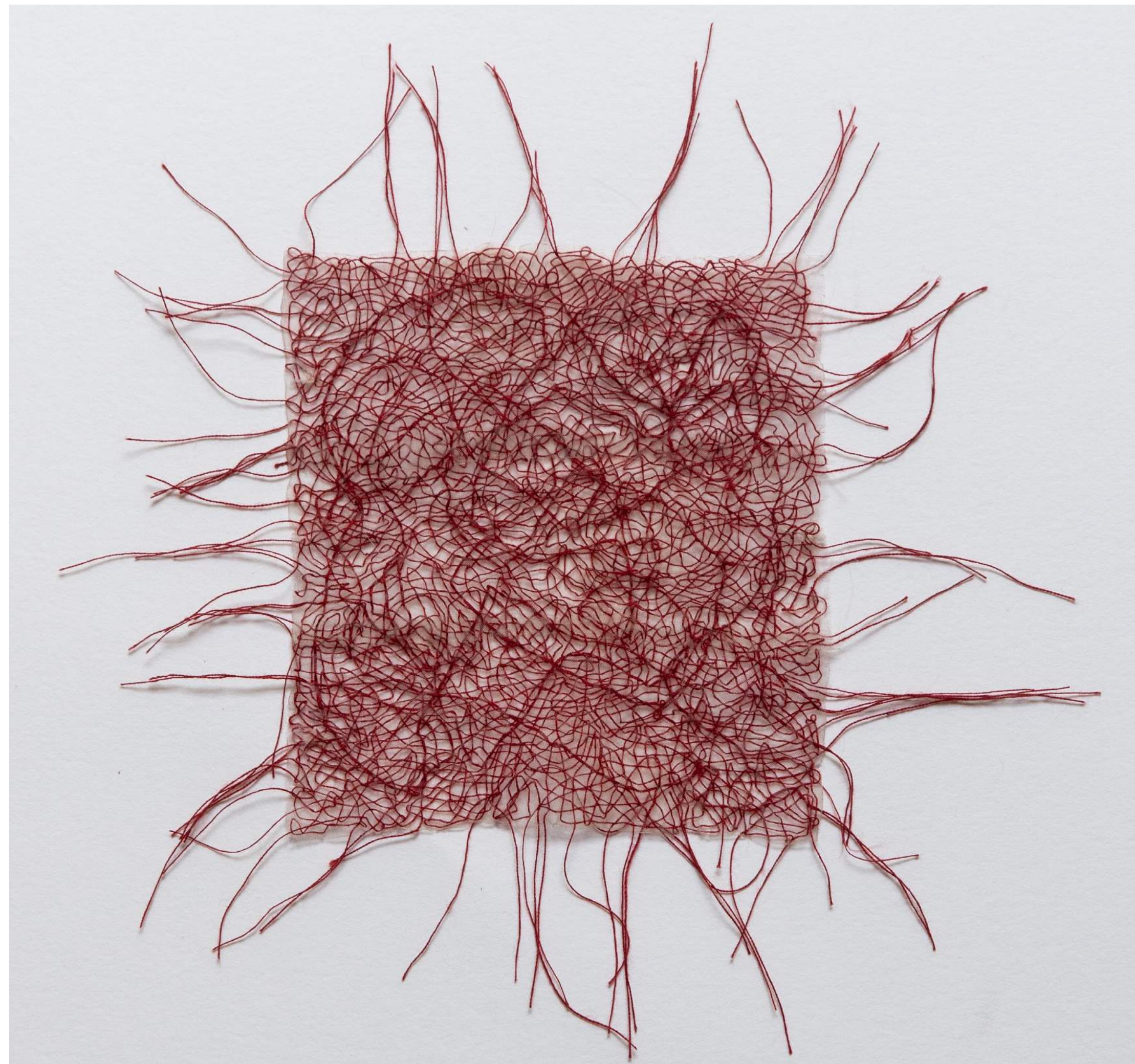
Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD



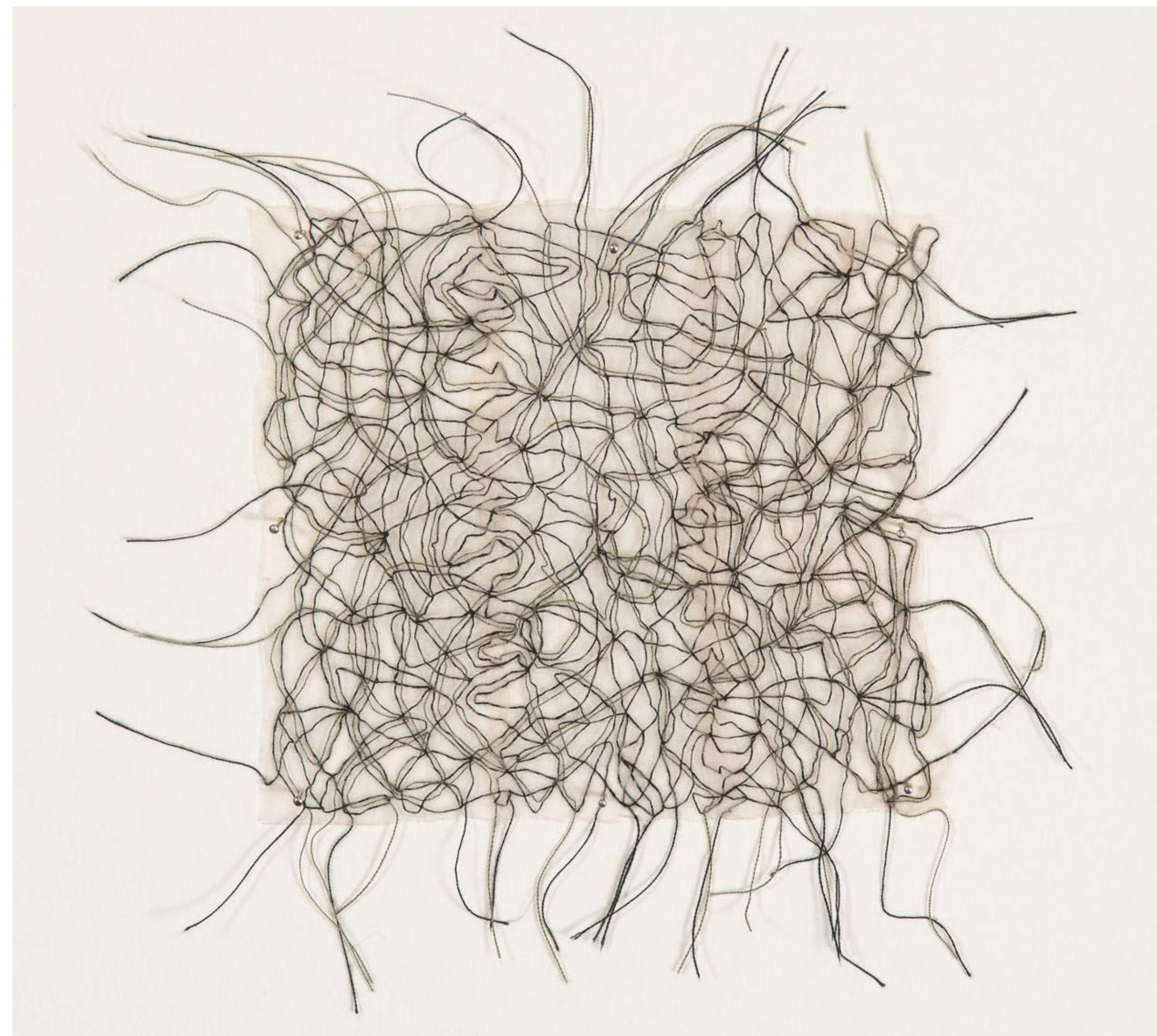
Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 38 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD

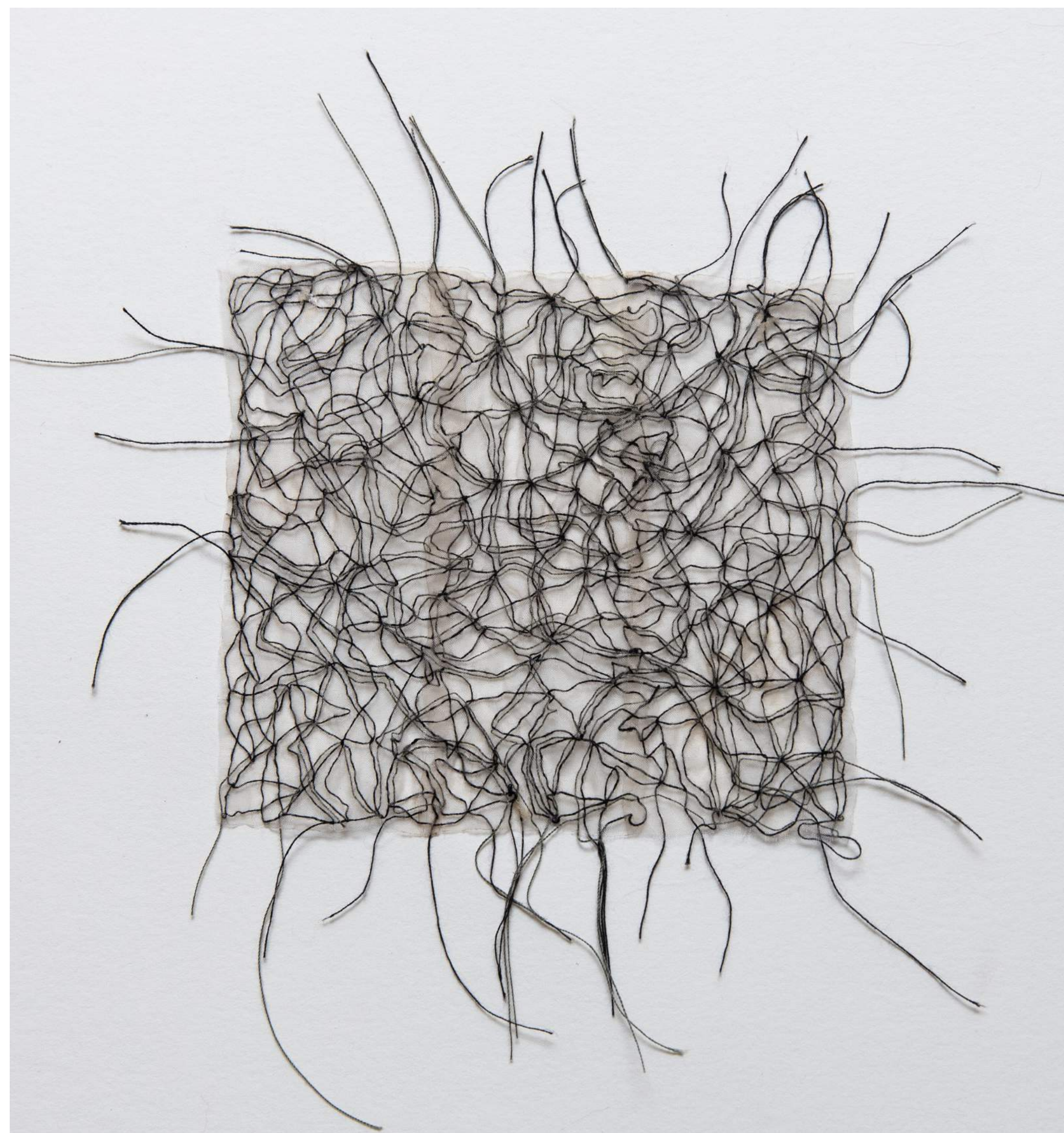


Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 38 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD

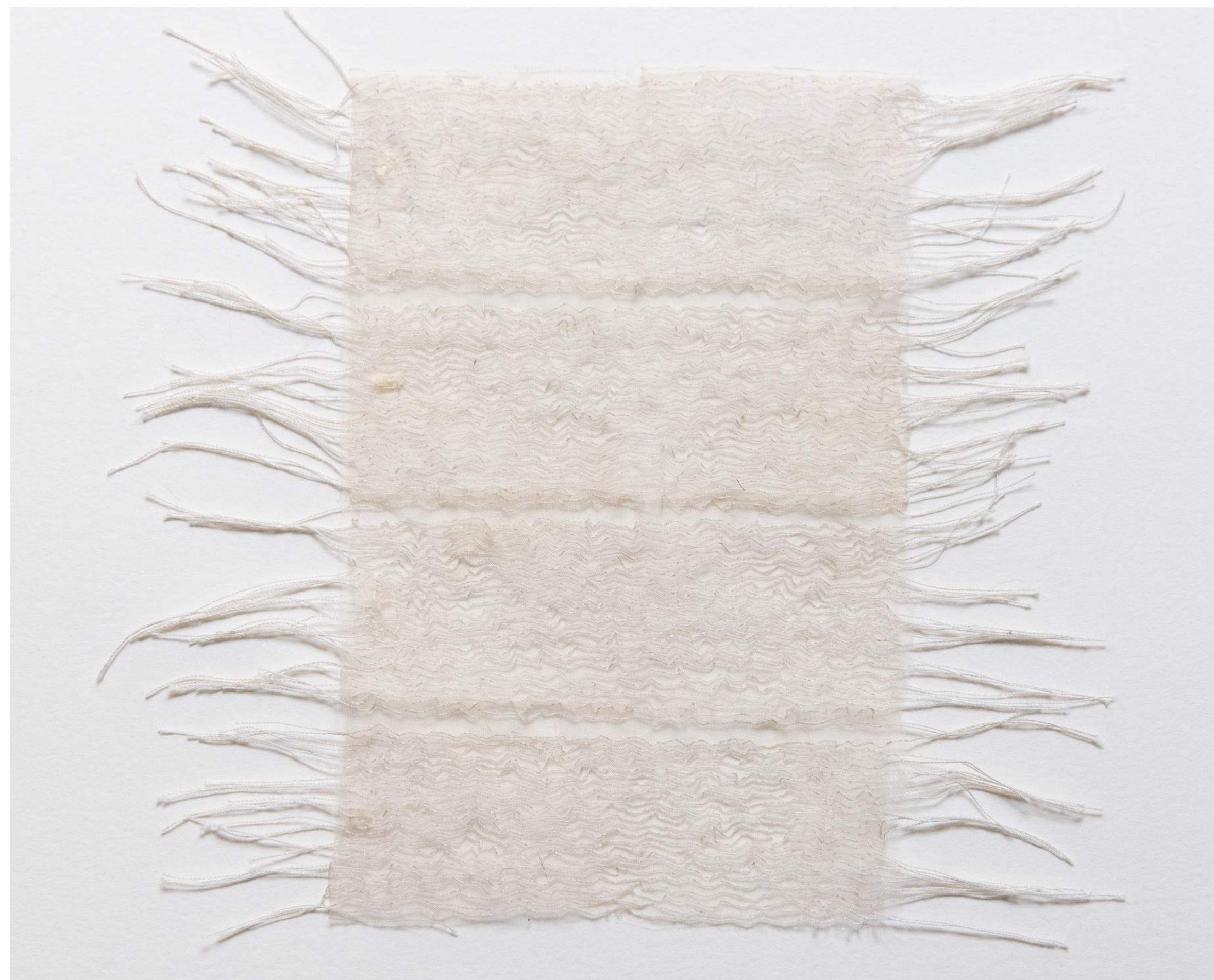




Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabag in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 44 cm
Value: 2,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD

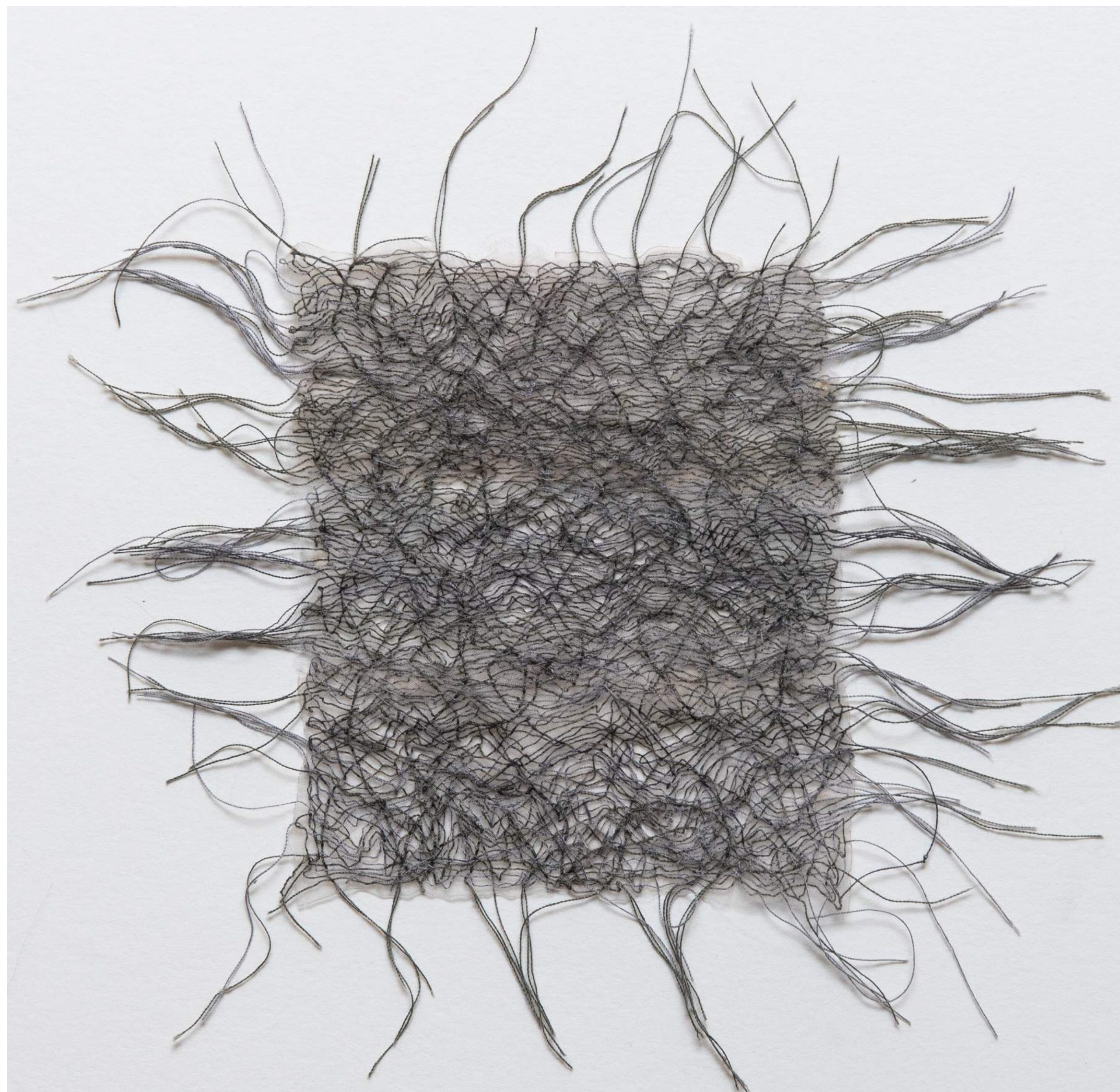


Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 32 x 32 cm
Value: 1,500 USD

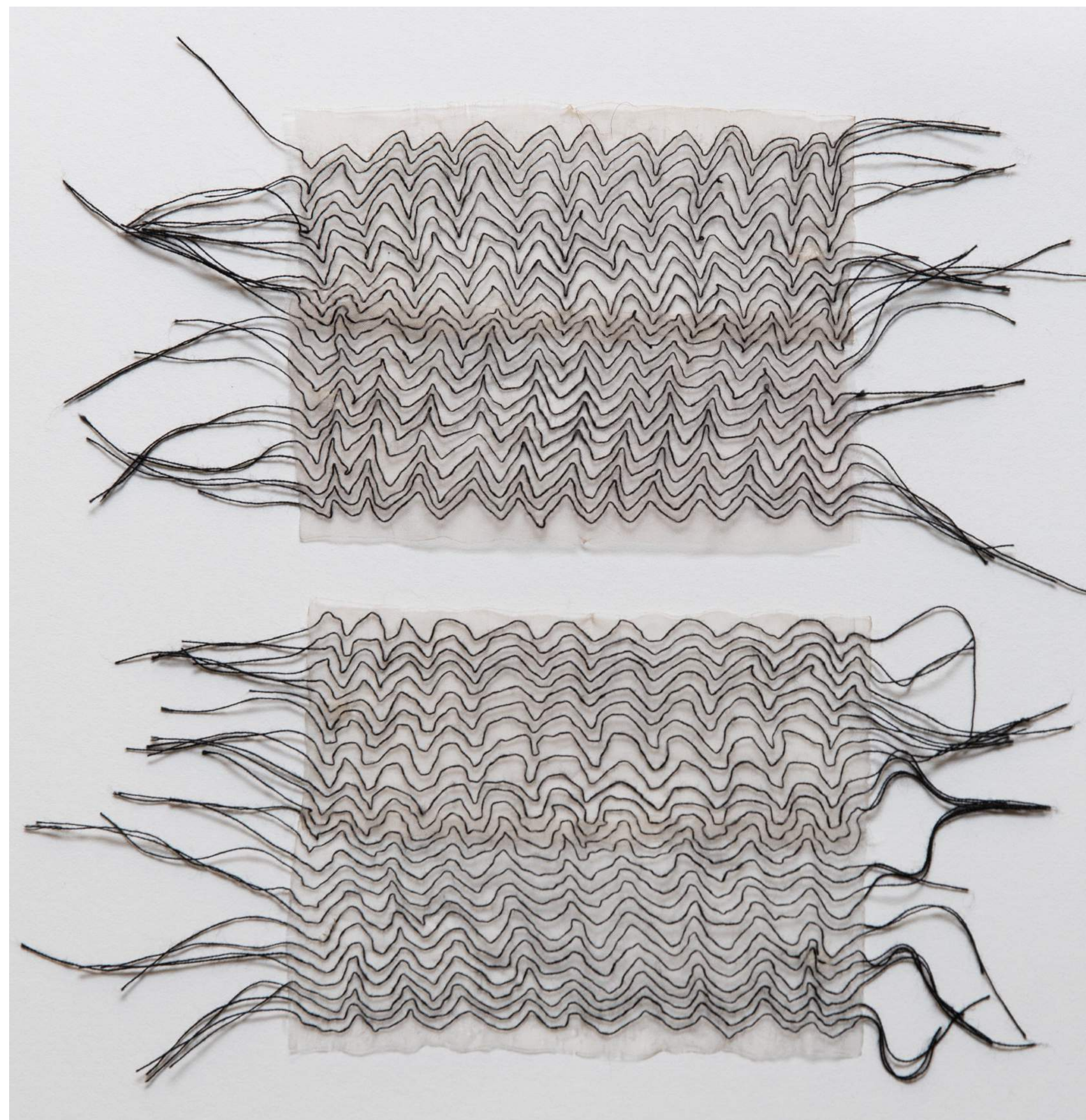


GYPSUM

Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 38 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD

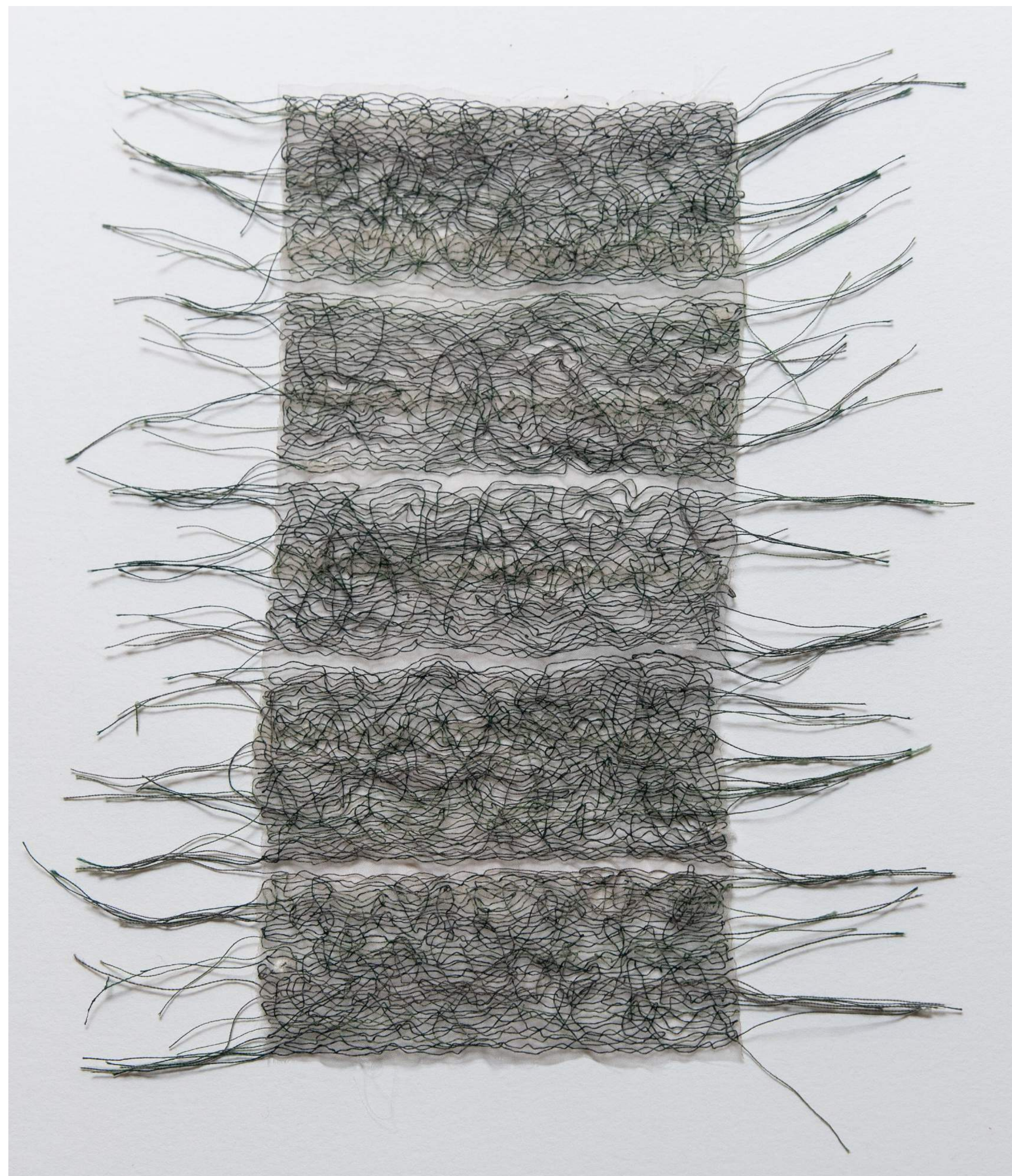


Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 2,500 USD



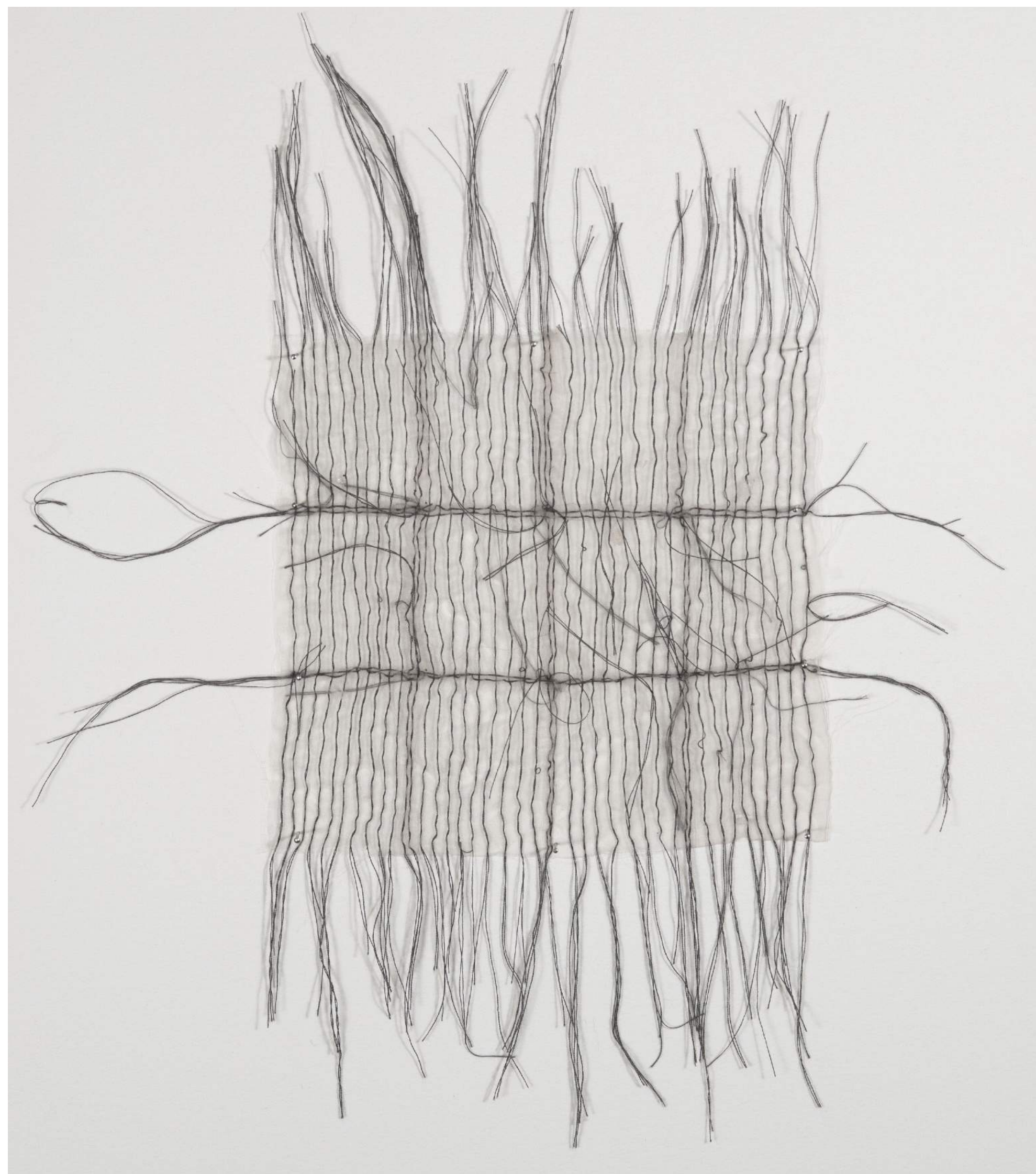
GYPSUM

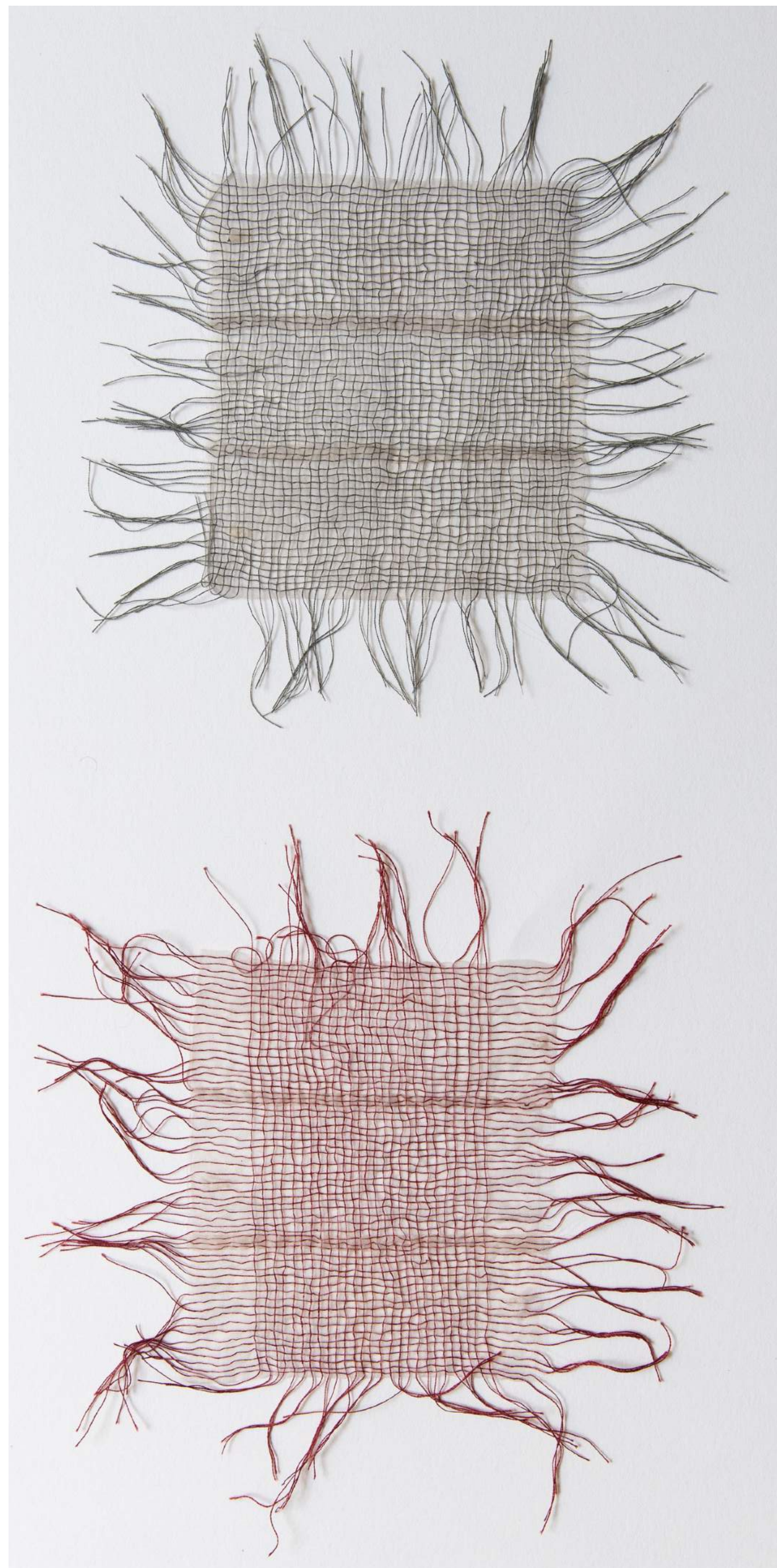
Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabags in oak frame
Dimensions: 44 x 38 cm
Value: 3,000 USD



GYPSUM

Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza teabag in oak frame
Dimensions: 52 x 46 cm
Value: 3,200 USD





Title: Untitled

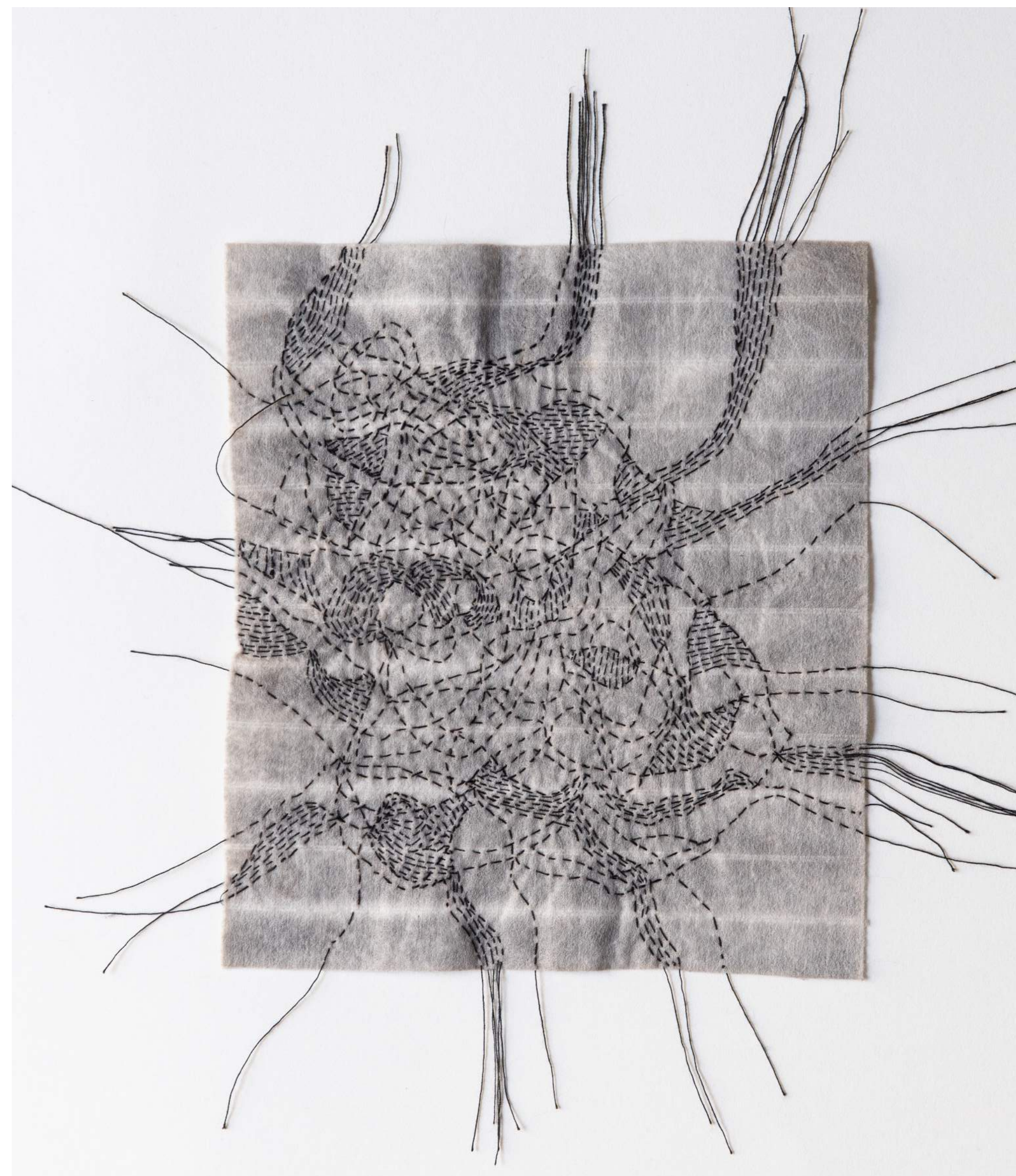
Year: 2021

Medium: Embroidery on organza teabag in oak frame

Dimensions: 40 x 66 cm

Value: 3,500 USD

Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 45 x 39 cm
Value: 3,000 USD

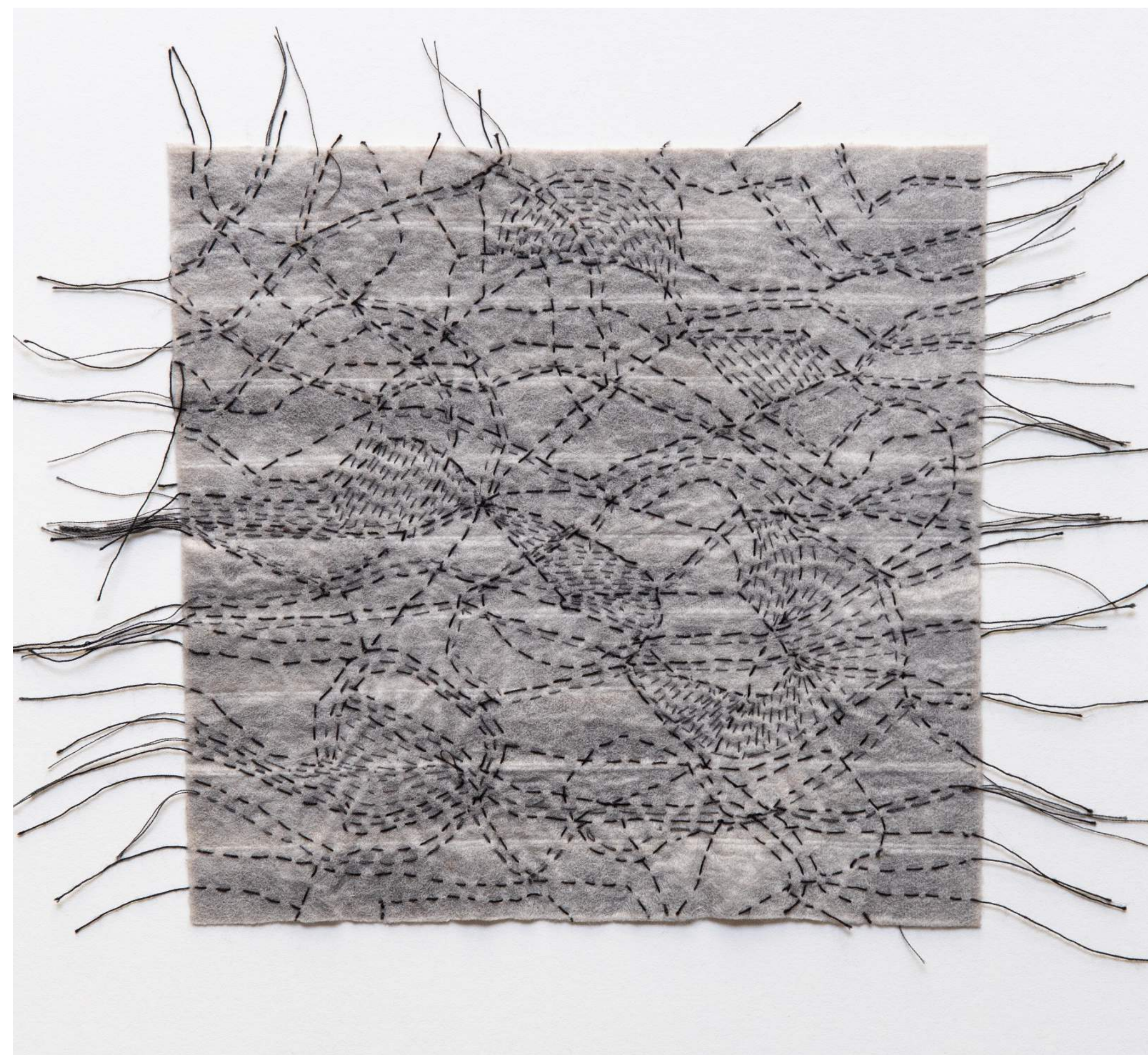




Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 4,500 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 45 x 39 cm
Value: 3,000 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 47 x 41 cm
Value: 3,200 USD





Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 3,000 USD





Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 4,000 USD



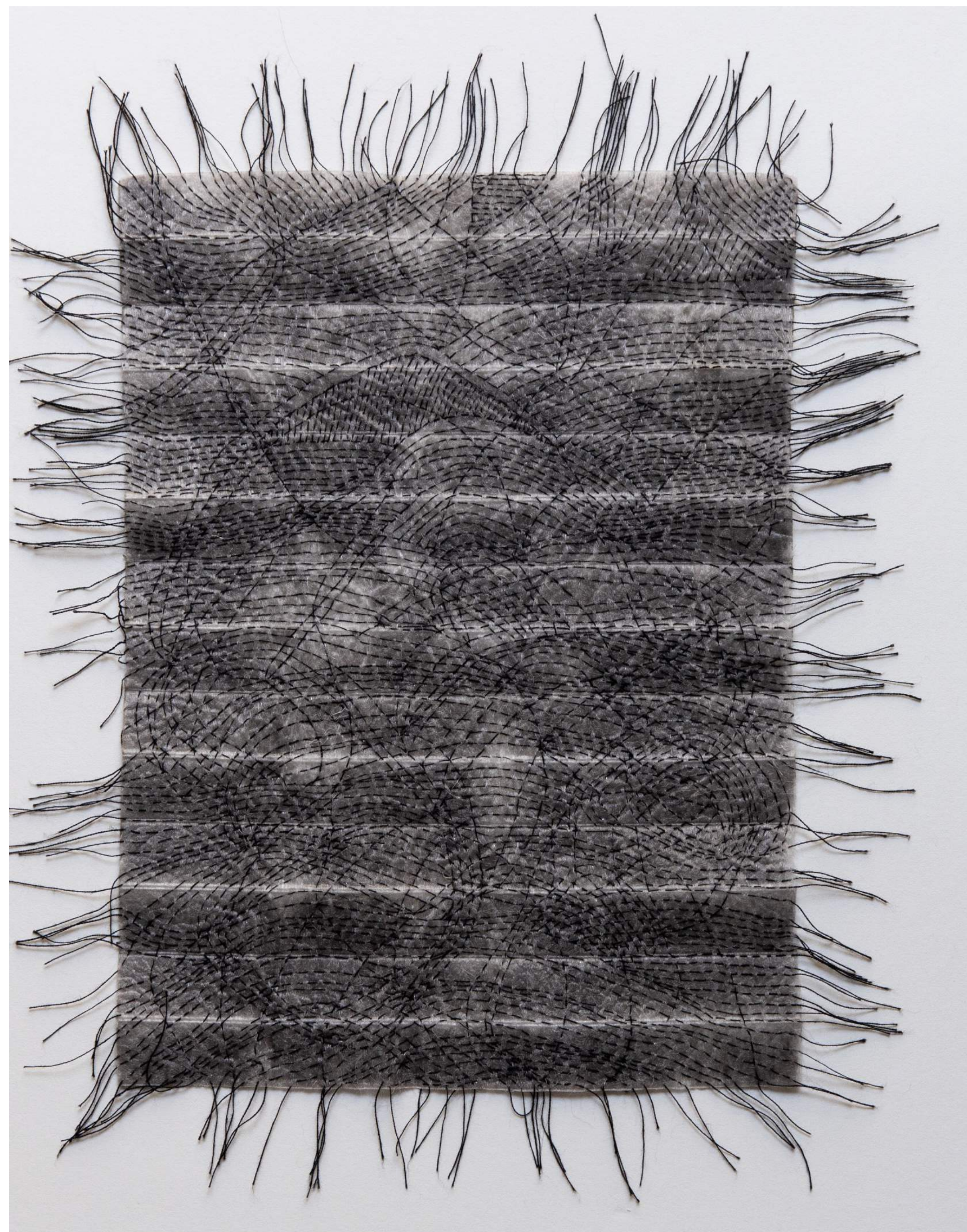
Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 45 x 39 cm
Value: 3,000 USD





Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 42 x 23 cm
Value: 2,200 USD

GYPSUM

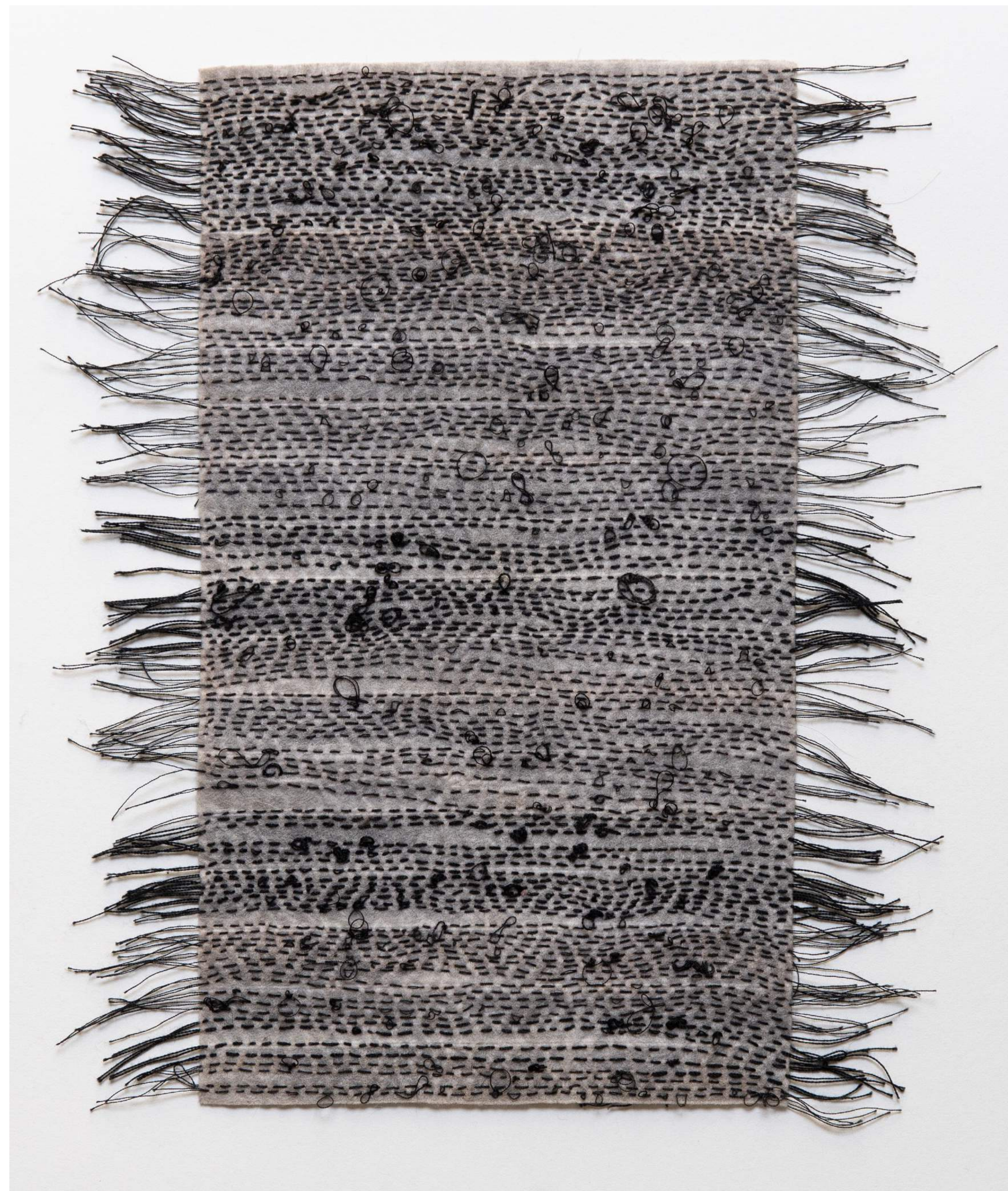


Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 4,000 USD



GYPSUM

Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 4,000 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 4,500 USD



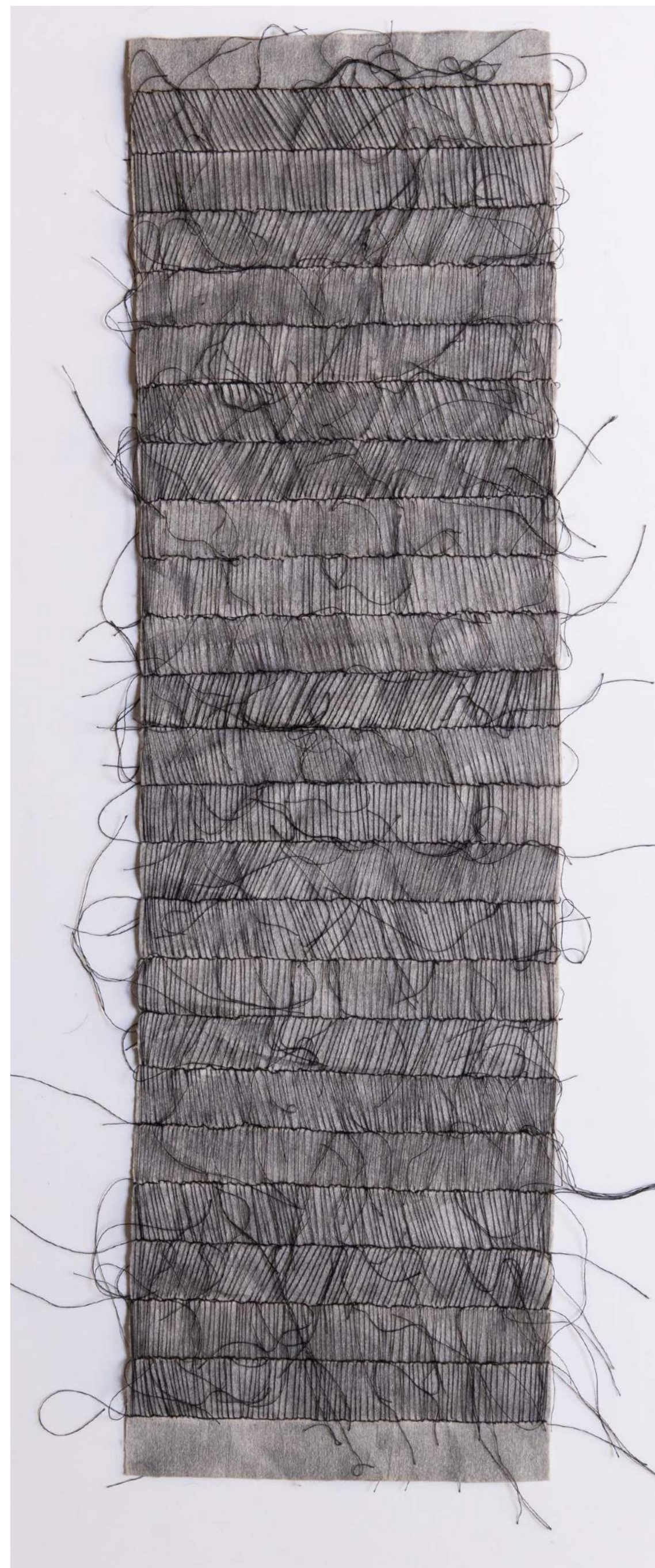
GYP SUM



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 57 x 65 cm
Value: 4,000 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 85 x 45 cm
Value: 5,000 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 63 x 38 cm
Value: 3,000 USD



Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on car filter fabric in white frame
Dimensions: 53 x 42 cm
Value: 3,000 USD





Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on organza with metal rod
Dimensions: 70 x 54 cm
Value: 12,000 USD



Title: Untitled

Year: 2020-2021

Medium: Embroidery on mannequin bust

Dimensions: 25 x 13 x 8 cm

Value: 4,000 USD

Title: Untitled
Year: 2020-2021
Medium: Embroidery on mannequin bust
Dimensions: 49 x 39 x 12 cm
Value: 6,000 USD

