

DA MESSINA *

art project by Emese Kazár

&

artist book with contributions

by

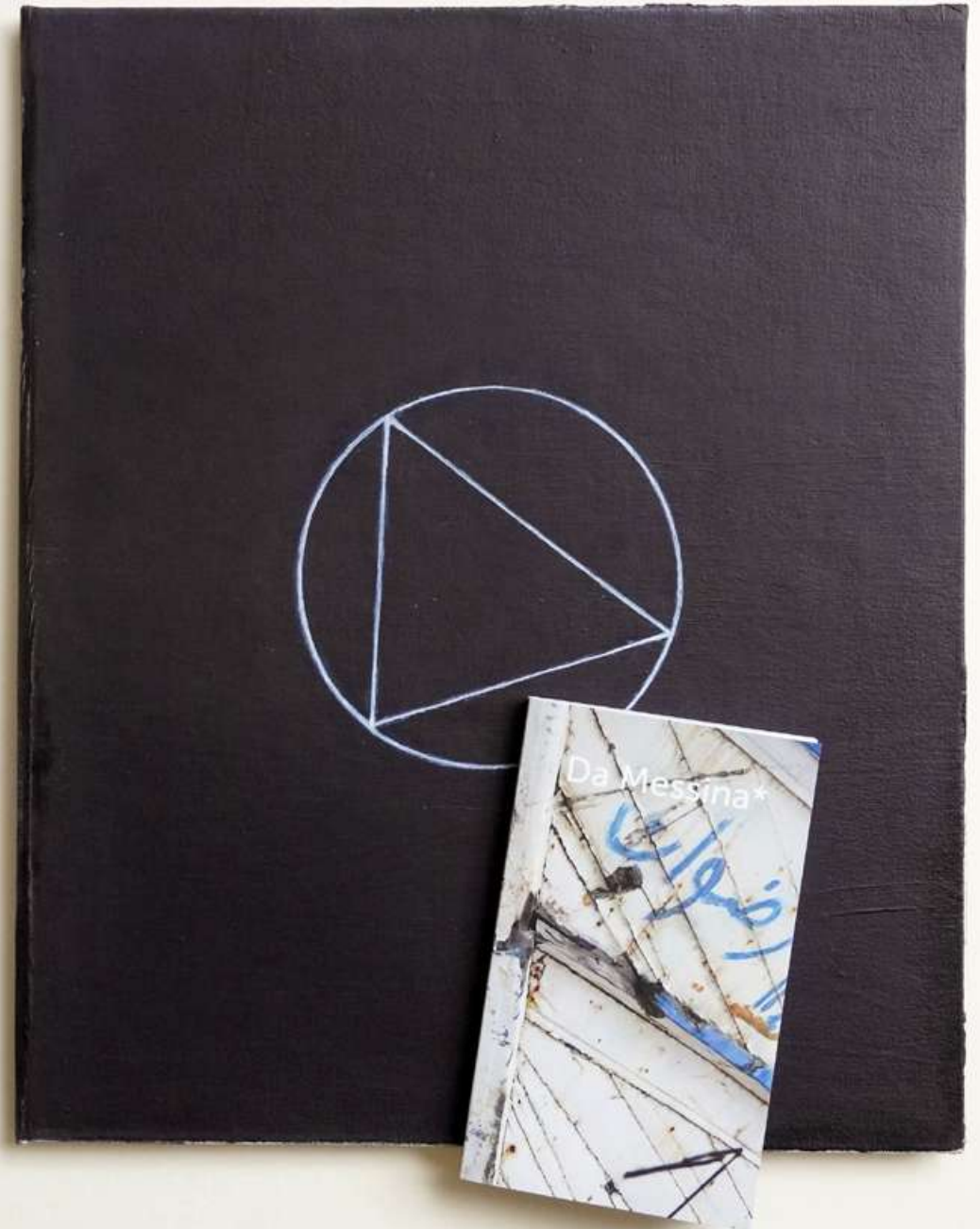
Viktoria Kurnicki

Emese Kazár

Andrea Fajgerné Dudás

What is artistic exchange and how does it take place? What makes personal encounters special in the digital age? Drawing on the work of Renaissance artist Antonello da Messina, Emese Kazár explored these questions in her art project.

Following in the painter's footsteps, Kazár undertook a trip to Italy. She also invited two artists to reflect on the subject of exchange. The result of the collaboration and the experiences of the journey resulted in two artist books.



Artist's exchange

Participating artists Andrea Fajgerné Dudás (Gyöngyös, Hungary), Viktoria Kurnicki (Milan, Italy), and Emese Kazár (Bremen, Germany) prepared artworks dealing with the subject of artistic exchange.

The original artworks were bound to an artist book, which is a unique piece of art.

Artist book with contributions by Viktoria Kurnicki, Emese Kazár, Andrea Fajgerné Dudás, 2024, hard-cover, approx. 47 x 40 cm, signed by the artists

From left to right: Andrea Fajgerné Dudás, Emese Kazár, Viktoria Kurnicki holding the artist book.
Photo by Cosima Hanebeck



Viktoria Kurnicki

"The starting point of the series is the question of how one and the same impulse can be perceived by different people. It is based on the idea that the process of making art is in itself a very subjective process, which - regardless of its potential accuracy - cannot only be perceived as it was originally intended. When viewing a work, the viewer processes the impulses received in their own way, based on their personal associations, which creates a multiplicity of valid meanings.

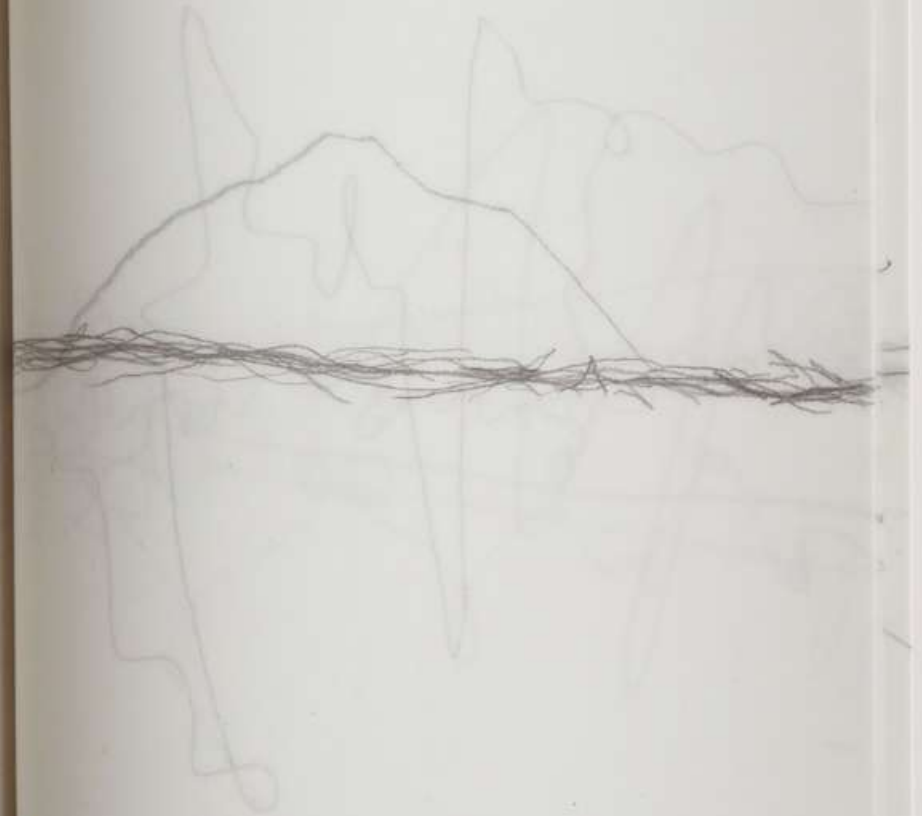
In this series, participants were given the same audio stimulus and the only constraint was that they had to draw a line from point a to point b, without limiting aspects such as speed or the understanding of what a line is." — *Viktoria Kurnicki*

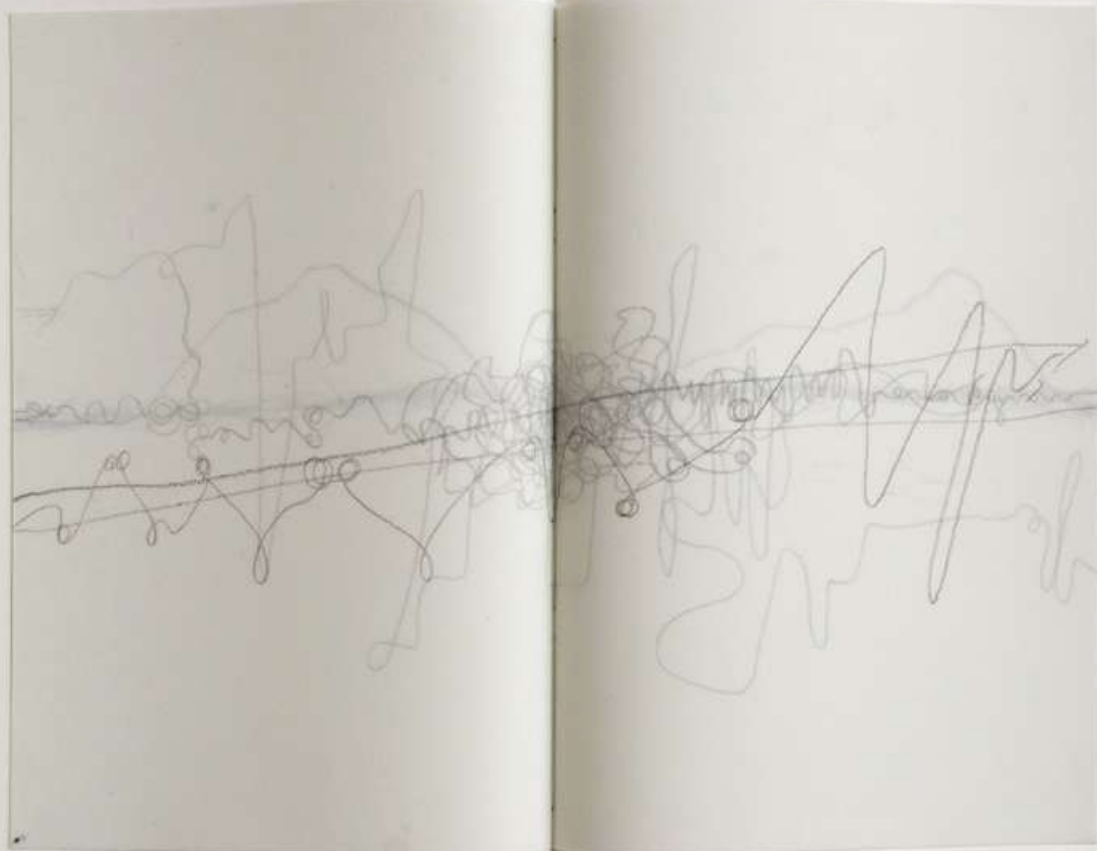
viktoriakurnicki.com

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Ausgabe (ongoing series)

2024, Graphit on polyester drawing
paper, each approx. 30 x 42 cm





Emese Kazár

“The starting point of my works are two famous paintings by Antonello da Messina, both entitled ‘Annunciata’ (Palazzo Abatellis, Palermo and Alte Pinakothek, Munich). The Virgin Mary is portrayed with a book, that is, with the Bible. She is about to read her own story in the Book of Books.

The dimensions of my paintings are identical with those of the paintings by da Messina to enhance the connection between the classical and the contemporary artworks. While in the Renaissance paintings the book is an element of the picture, in my version the pictures become part of a book.

I translated the scene as a view into her womb - the very place where the conception takes place. My intention is political: the portrait of Mary is reduced to her reproductive organ.” — *Emese Kazár*

emesekazar.de

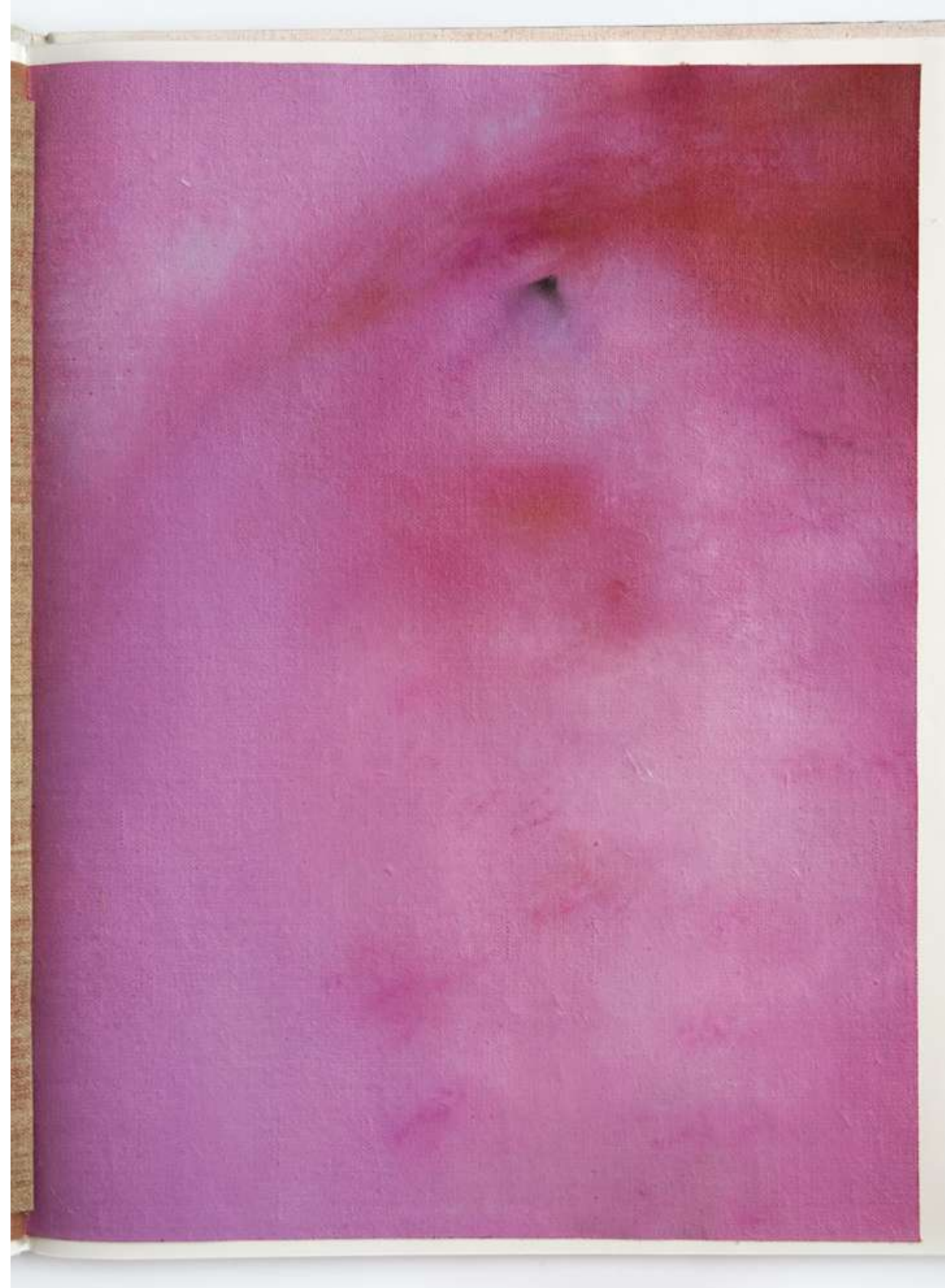
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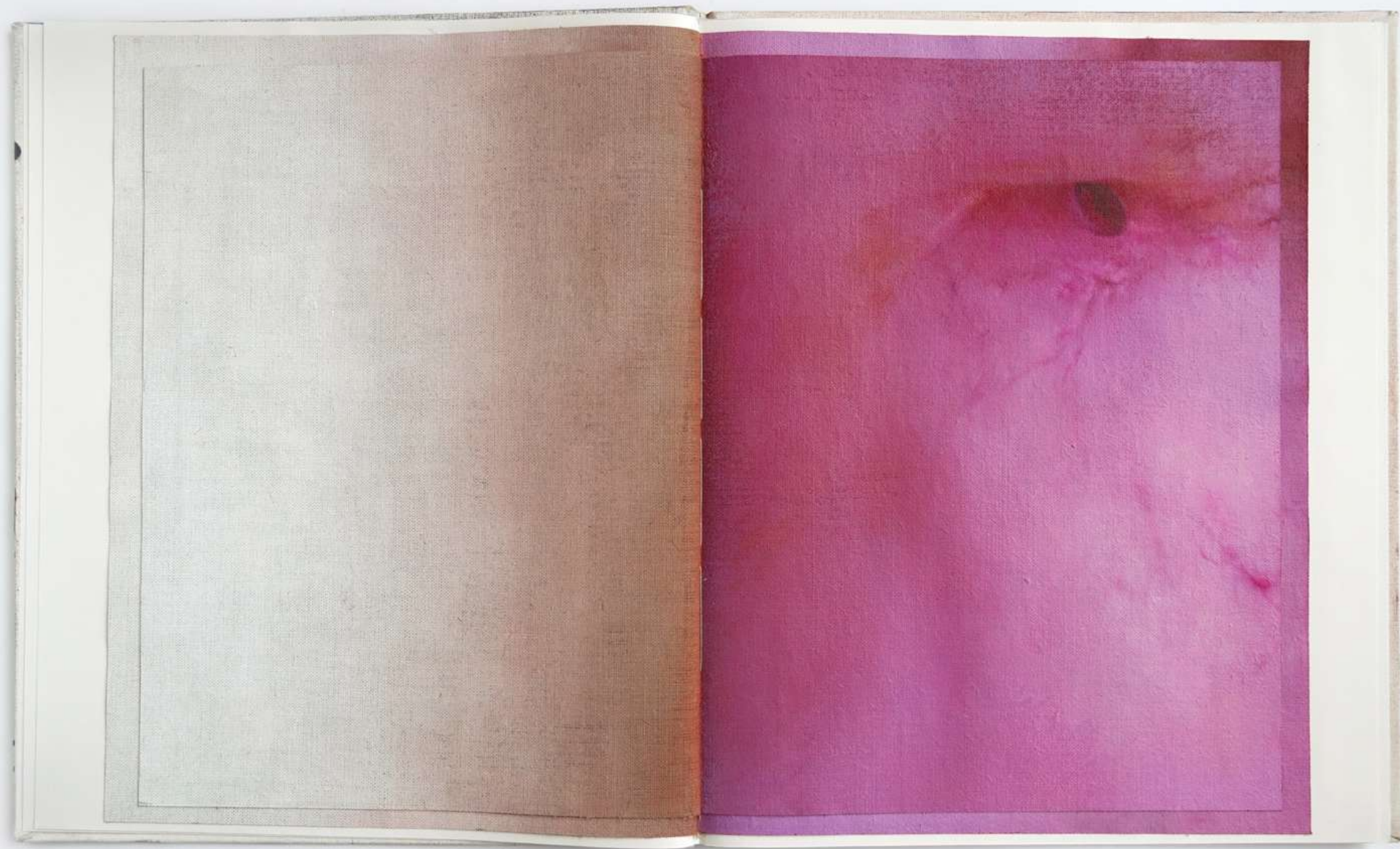
Annunciata 1

2024, oil on canvas, 45 × 34,5 cm

Annunciata 2 (next page)

2024, oil on canvas, 42,5 × 32,8 cm





Andrea Fajgerné

Dudás

“The etchings of Zsuzsa Weisz would have been thrown into trash by an art dealer and would have become rubbish if I had not purchased them and brought them home.

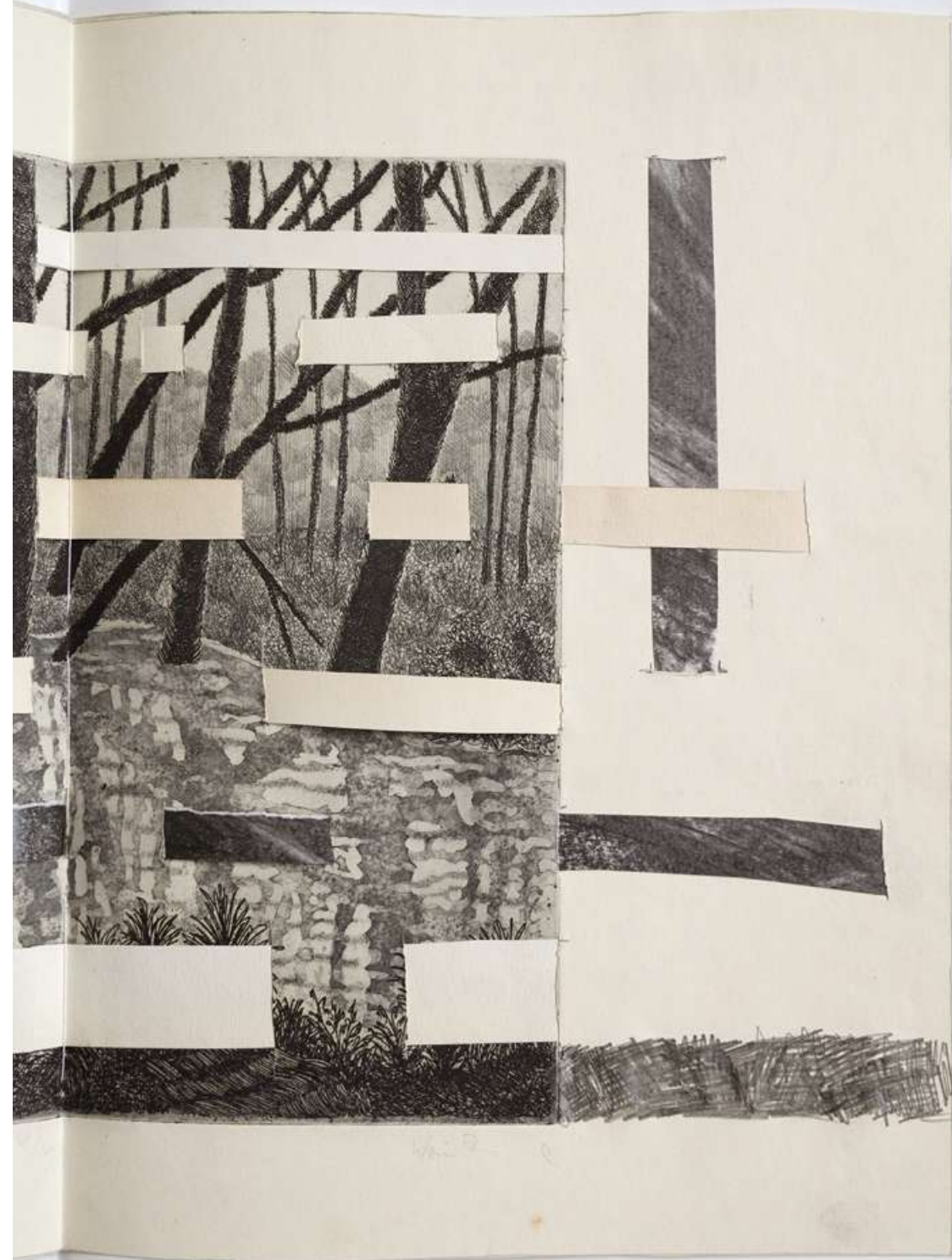
I became the owner of the prints that I have used freely, knowing that I would deconstruct them. I have turned them into a new piece of art, thereby bringing them back into the contemporary art market and increasing their material value. I use the original artwork as raw material, even if I infringe copyright.” — *Andrea Fajgerné Dudás*

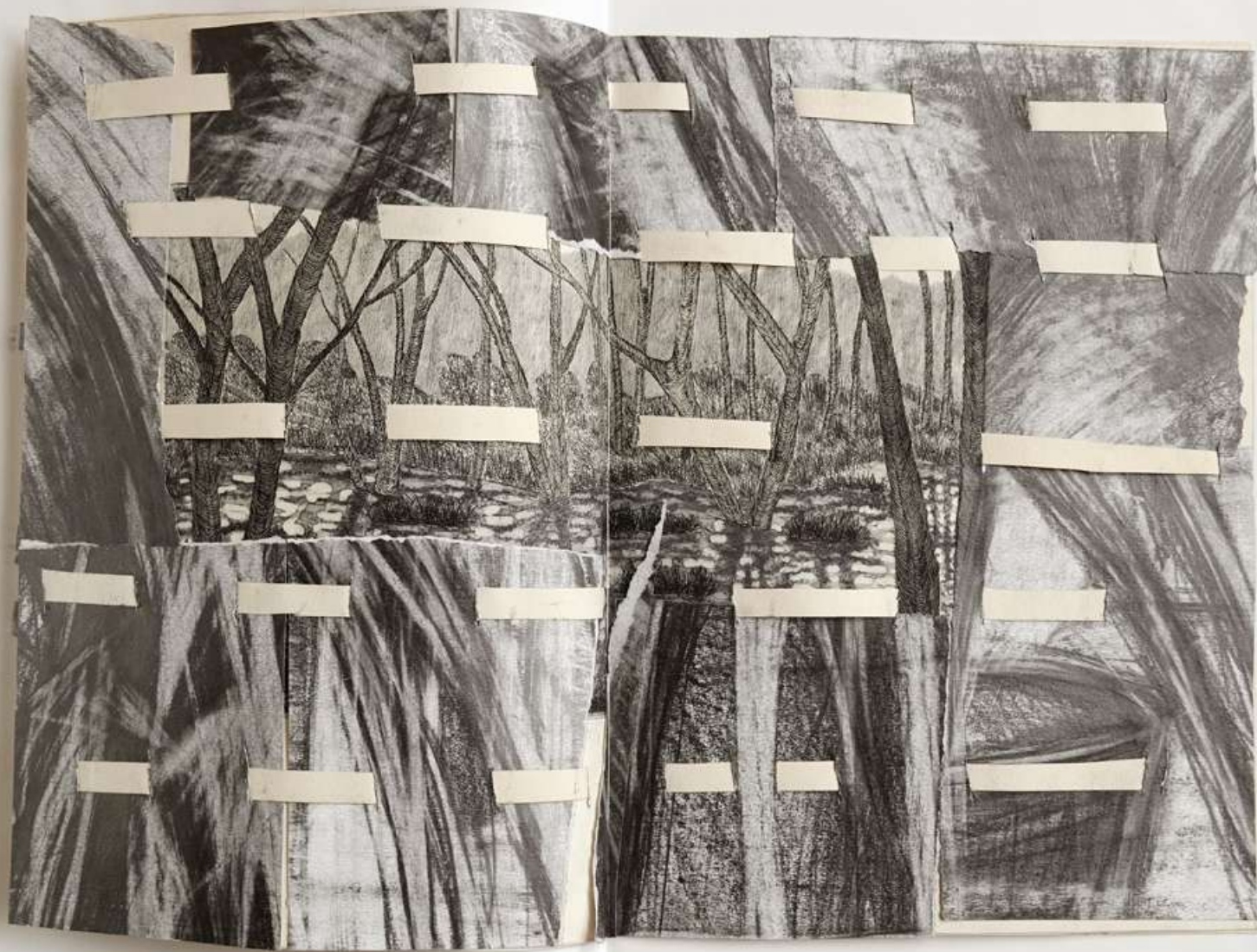
fajgerne.com

@fajgernedudasandrea

Journey into the Landscape (3-part series)

2024, etching by Zsuzsa Weisz (1925
- 2017), pencil, collage, paper, each 36
× 52 cm

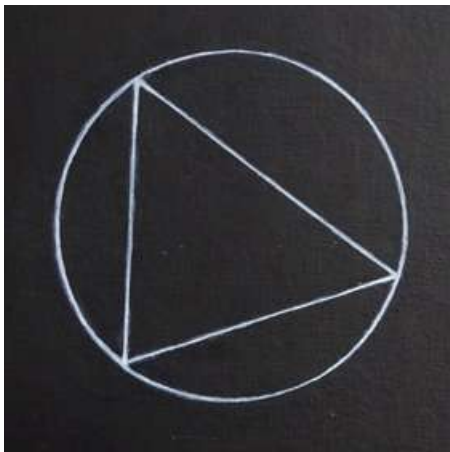




Cover Design

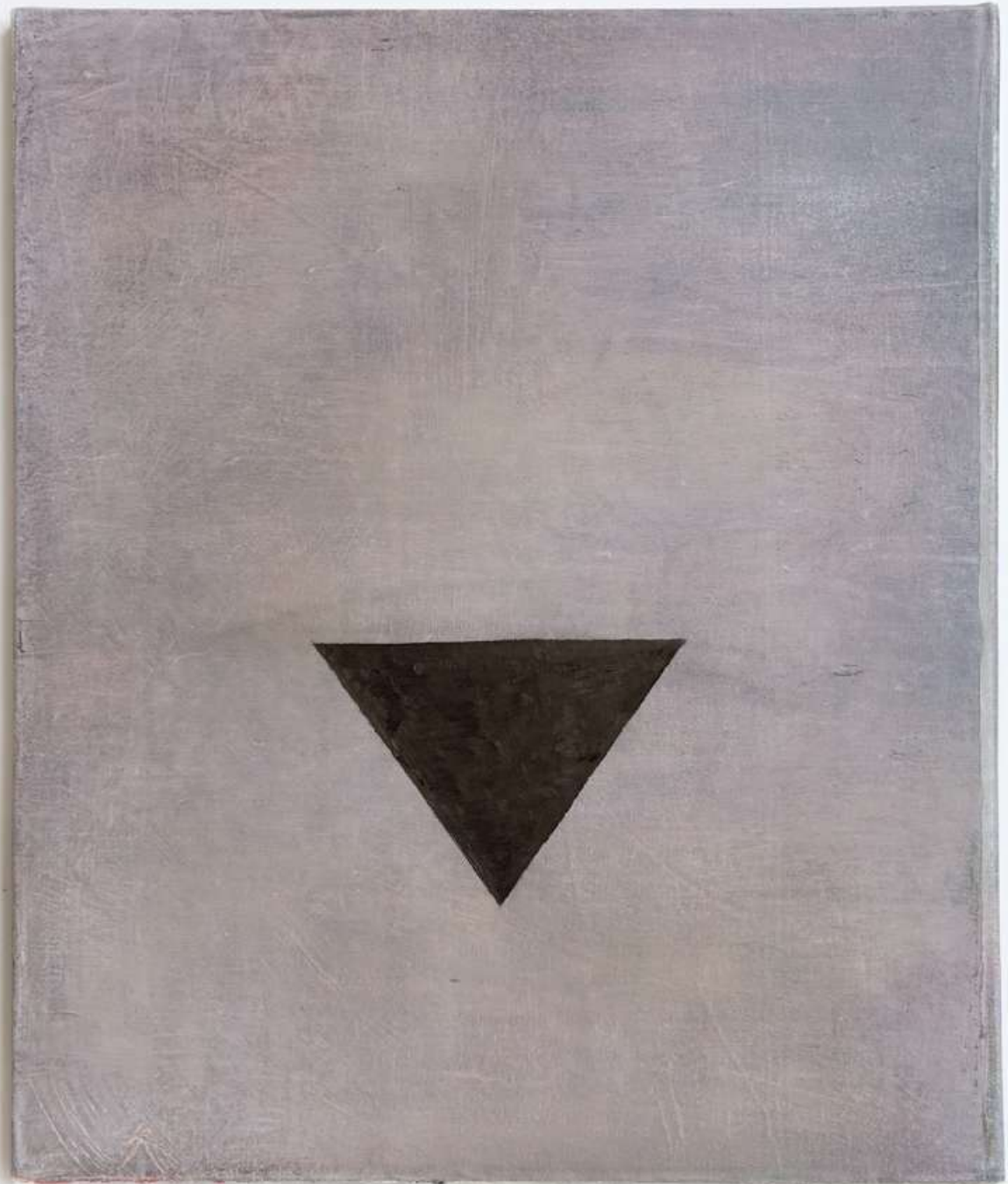
“The cover design takes its inspiration from the multiple meanings of the triangle in Medieval and Renaissance theology and art.

For the front cover, I connected the cities Bremen, Gyöngyös, and Milan on a map and placed the resulting triangle in a circle, symbolizing the globe. For the back cover, I rotated the same triangle and filled it with black. The reference here is the classical Greek letter Delta, which stands for the mons pubis.” — *Emese Kazár*



The Magical Triangle (front and back cover)

2024, oil on canvas, approx. 47 × 80 cm



The Journey

"From April 17th to May 10th, 2024, I traveled in the footsteps of the Renaissance painter Antonello da Messina (c. 1430-1479), who was born in Messina, received his training in Naples and lived and worked in Amantea, Reggio Calabria, Palermo, and Messina. His stay in Venice is known to art history as an outstanding example of artist's exchange.

During my trip through the Italian peninsula to Sicily I was searching for traces of cultural and artistic exchange. In the resulting artist book I merge aspects of traveling, migration/exile, and cultural/artistic exchange - today as well as during Medieval times.

The book is formally reminiscent of a guide book for travelers. Eight chapters repeat a.o. quotations by Muslim poet Ibn Hamdis (1055-1133), a fictional narrative explaining the story of a dove couple as inspired by Medieval depictions of the life of St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231), as well as brief biographies of persons who I met during my travel. At the end of each chapter there is a picture documenting artistic exchange: artworks by the three participating artists of the project DA MESSINA* and details taken from the Arabo-Norman court art, which is famous for the diversity of its artistic origins (Arabian, Greek, Christian)." — *Emese Kazár*

Da Messina*

Artist Book by Emese Kazár

2024, Soft-cover, 20 x 12 cm, 80 pages, 200 Ex., English, Italian



Acknowledgment

Financial support for the travel and book project DA MESSINA* was granted to Ms. Kazár by the Senator für Kultur Bremen and the Künstlerinnenverband Bremen, GEDOK.

The artist books were launched in the Städtische Galerie Bremen on October 29th, 2024. Thanks are due to Dr. Ingmar Lähnemann and the Städtische Galerie Bremen for financially supporting the visit of Ms. Fajgerné Dudás and Ms. Kurnicki to Bremen.

Photos by Cosima Hanebeck, Emese Kazár

Der Senator für Kultur  Freie
Hansestadt
Bremen

Künstlerinnenverband Bremen
Gemeinschaft der Künstlerinnen und Kunstfördernden e.V., GEDOK



Andrea Fajgerné Dudás, Viktoria Kurnicki, and Emese Kazár with Dr. Ingmar Lähnemann during the artist talk, Städtische Galerie Bremen, October 29th, 2024. Photo: Cosima Hanebeck