



**Culture Research Project - Hemp Research Project**

**Artist: Ya-chu Kang**

# Global Cultural Research : Hemp, Cotton, Silk, Wool, Dirt Carpet, Contemporary Archaeology



## ***Hemp Research Project***

**Chapters II – Ganjon Ganja: The Path of Hemp, In Present of Cannabis (2022- 2025)**

**Chapter III - The Enduring Witness: Linen, Labor, and the Inner Choreography (2024 - ongoing)**



# Hemp Research Project

## Chapters I – - As Dream and Fantasy: Ramie and Hemp (Taiwan/ Thailand) (2021)



EEG headset: EG device uses sensors placed on your scalp to detect and record the electrical activity of your brain

EEG headset during the Weaving process: meditation and focus tracking

Ramie (苧麻) is a fibre crop native to eastern Asia ( *Boehmeria nivea* )



Thriving in Taiwan's warm, humid climate, ramie has been cultivated for centuries, particularly among Indigenous communities such as the Amis 阿美 and Atayal 泰雅 tribe.

# Ramin Farm - Fakong Tribe in Fengbin Township, Hualien County, Taiwan



**They traditionally grew, harvested, and processed the plant by hand.**

**The fiber is extracted from the plant's bast (outer stem layer)**

**In Taiwan, ramie fiber was historically spun and woven into textiles for everyday clothing, ritual garments, fishing nets, and carrying cloths.**



harvesting was traditionally done several times a year due to the plant's rapid regrowth.

The outer bark of the stem is manually stripped from the woody core.

fresh stems allow cleaner separation and longer fibers.



Traditionally in Taiwan, fibers were soaked in water, sometimes fermented (Removing Pectins and Gums) 脫膠（去除果膠和樹膠）

The fibers were repeatedly washed and beaten to soften them.



After degumming, fibers are rinsed thoroughly and sun-dried.

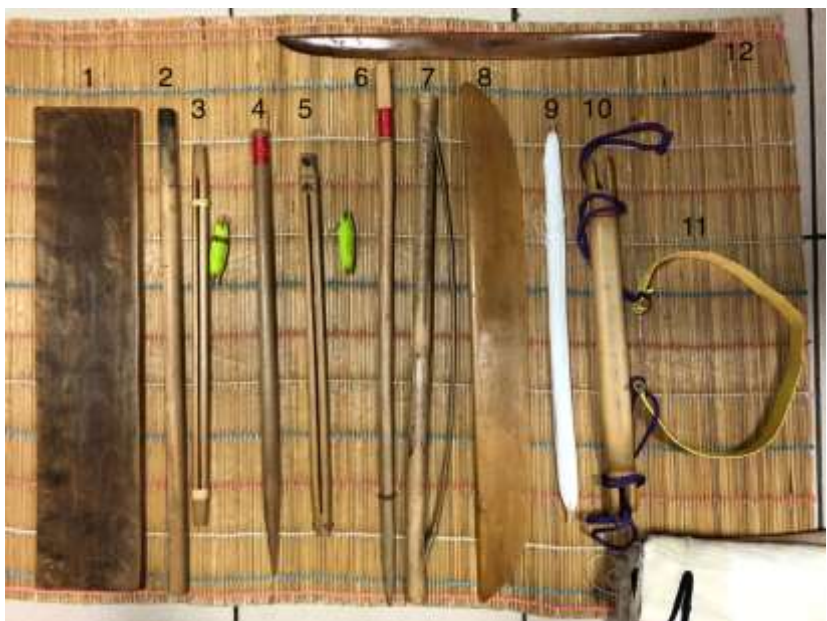


Traditionally, ramie fibers were hand-spun on the legs, sometimes using spindles.





Ramie yarn is woven on backstrap or floor looms into plain or patterned cloth.





# Making backstrap loom with bamboo and wood







On the shallow surface of Fengbin Township—a historically significant site where four ceramic spindle parts were previously discovered—I visited local farmers' land with permission and encountered additional excavated artifacts.





Production process: Three days and three nights of simmering/ kiln in the wild



## ***Spinning and Imitating the (In)tangible***

Singal-channel video installation, wild firing technique, clay, bamboo, cotton threads, video, digital C-print, chopsticks, wax 2021



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### ***The Waves Create Between Loom and Fibers***

Tree bark fiber from Hibiscus Taiwanensis, bamboo, ramie, nylon rope, rattan, cotton yarns, Shoulang Yam dye, plastic wrapping straps, photo printed 2021



***Between Consciousness and Heartbeats***

Ramie, hemp, jute yarn, sisal rope, rattan, bamboo, pottery clay, nylon yarn, fishing yarn, metal buckle, wire, loom heddles 2022



***The Thought and Fiber of Ramie and Hemp - Three pieces of drawing/photo collage***  
Ramie, hemp, jute yarns, watercolor paper, watercolor, carbon, printed PVC photo,  
wooden frame 2022

*Hemp* belongs to the family **Cannabaceae**, genus **Cannabis**, species **Cannabis sativa L. subsp. sativa**.

*Marijuana* belongs to the family **Cannabaceae**, genus **Cannabis**, species **Cannabis sativa L. subsp. indica**.

Plant Specimen: Hemp



Marijuana



Highland 420 Weed Festival –  
“Thailand 420 : Legalaw ! ?”  
2022



# Cannabis Farm -2022 June

Ideal conditions: Well-drained soil, rain, strong sunlight  
→ shorter, bushier





**Cannabis Farm**

**Eco-printing (leaf pounding)**

# Hmong village- hemp workshop in Chiang Rai -2022



## Hmong traditional outfits

Hmong clothing is traditionally handmade, with skills passed down through generations of women. Techniques include **hemp cultivation and spinning**, hand-weaving, embroidery and batik.



**Growing:** around **90–120 days** after planting, depending on the variety and end use (fiber, seeds, or flowers) Fiber hemp → **tall (2–4 m), few branches**



stalks are air-dried (prevents mold and fiber damage. Moisture content must be reduced before processing)

**Harvesting:** Harvested before flowering, Earlier harvest = finer, softer fibers  
Long stalks containing bast fibers (outer) and woody core (hurds) (about one week....)



**Sunny dry** →  
make the fiber  
**stronger**,  
otherwise might  
break



**Breaking (Crushing the Stalk) :** break the woody core (hurds) into small pieces  
→ Fibers remain long but mixed with debris



**Scutching (踏麻)** : Cleaning, soften the Fiber → **Improving flexibility**  
(stepping on hemp by foot)



**Finger spinning (績紗) :**  
connecting the fibers by twisting  
them together, using only the  
fingers.



**Spinning (Fiber → Yarn) (紡紗) : (increasing the thread count → 4 bamboo thread counts of fiber) → spinning wheel**

Hemp fibers are often moistened during spinning to reduce stiffness

→ Resulting yarn is: Strong, Breathable





**Stretching the fiber (張紗) → Winding into a skein (繞紗成絞):**  
It converts long, fragile single yarn into a manageable loop that won't tangle.  
Stretch out and dry



**Bleaching & Washing & beating (煮、洗、捶紗):** boiled many times (water + ash + bee wax) → washed to remove plant residues, dyed evenly, mordanted or



**Yarn rolling / flattening/ burnishing (滾紗):** Rolling and burnishing the hemp yarn on a wooden log → softens, strengthens, and polishes hemp yarn before weaving.



**Warping (making the warp) (整經) :**  
measuring and laying out warp threads



**Reeding (穿筊):** drawing each warp yarn through the dents of the reed



**Hedding (穿綜)** : Creates the shed heddle for plain weave  
for plain weave



## Weaving begins (織布):

**Opening** the warp shed → **Pass weft** with shuttle → **Beating** the weft with the reed



**Batik (Wax-Resist)** : Beeswax is applied to the fabric created geometric motifs. (These patterns are not merely decorative; they encode stories, migration histories, and cosmological beliefs.)





**Indigo Dye: several times → darker blue**







## Embroidery and Appliqué:

These motifs can signify protection, ancestry, fertility, or paths of migration.











**Ebony dye**





Eco-printing (leaf pounding)



《Shuttle Voyage – Hemp》  
《การเดินทางของกัญชง》



Traditional Hmong weaving shuttle, various hemp fibers, wood, traditional Hmong cloth, resin clay, various fabrics, wax, glue, mixed media

2025



《Edges and Flow– Mekong River》

《เขตแดน สายธาร - แม่น้ำโขง》









《The Interwoven Tension of Symbiosis》

《Ganjon Ganja》

《เส้นทางของเส้นใยกัญชง & สถานการณ์ปัจจุบันของกัญชา》 2022 – 2025





Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab  
(C-LAB), *Taipei, Taiwan*



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# Hemp Research Project (Cite' International des Arts, Paris, French)

## Chapter III - The Enduring Witness: Linen, Labor, and the Inner Choreography (2024 - ongoing)



Chanvre, Cannabis sativa  
Famille des urticacées. Plante annuelle, dressée. 3 tiges prostrées. Elle croît dans un espace de 1,5 à 2 m.

Lin, Linum catharticum  
Famille des linacées. Plante annuelle à tige unique de 0,70 à 1 m de hauteur, à cœur prostrée.





**Flax seeds**    **Green flax straw with seed pods**    **Broken flax**    **Scutched flax**    **Combed flax**    **Linen fabric**



# Flax → Linen Textile (Simplified Process)

## 1.Cultivation

Flax is grown for its long, strong bast fibers in the stem.

## 2.Harvesting

Plants are pulled up by the roots to preserve fiber length.

## 3.Retting

Stems are soaked (in water or dew) to loosen fibers from the woody core.

## 4.Drying

Retting stops and stalks are dried.

## 5.Breaking

Dried stems are crushed to break the woody parts.

## 6.Scutching

Broken woody fragments are removed, leaving clean fibers.

## 7.Hackling (Combing)

Fibers are combed to align them and remove short fibers.

## 8.Spinning

Long flax fibers are spun into linen yarn.

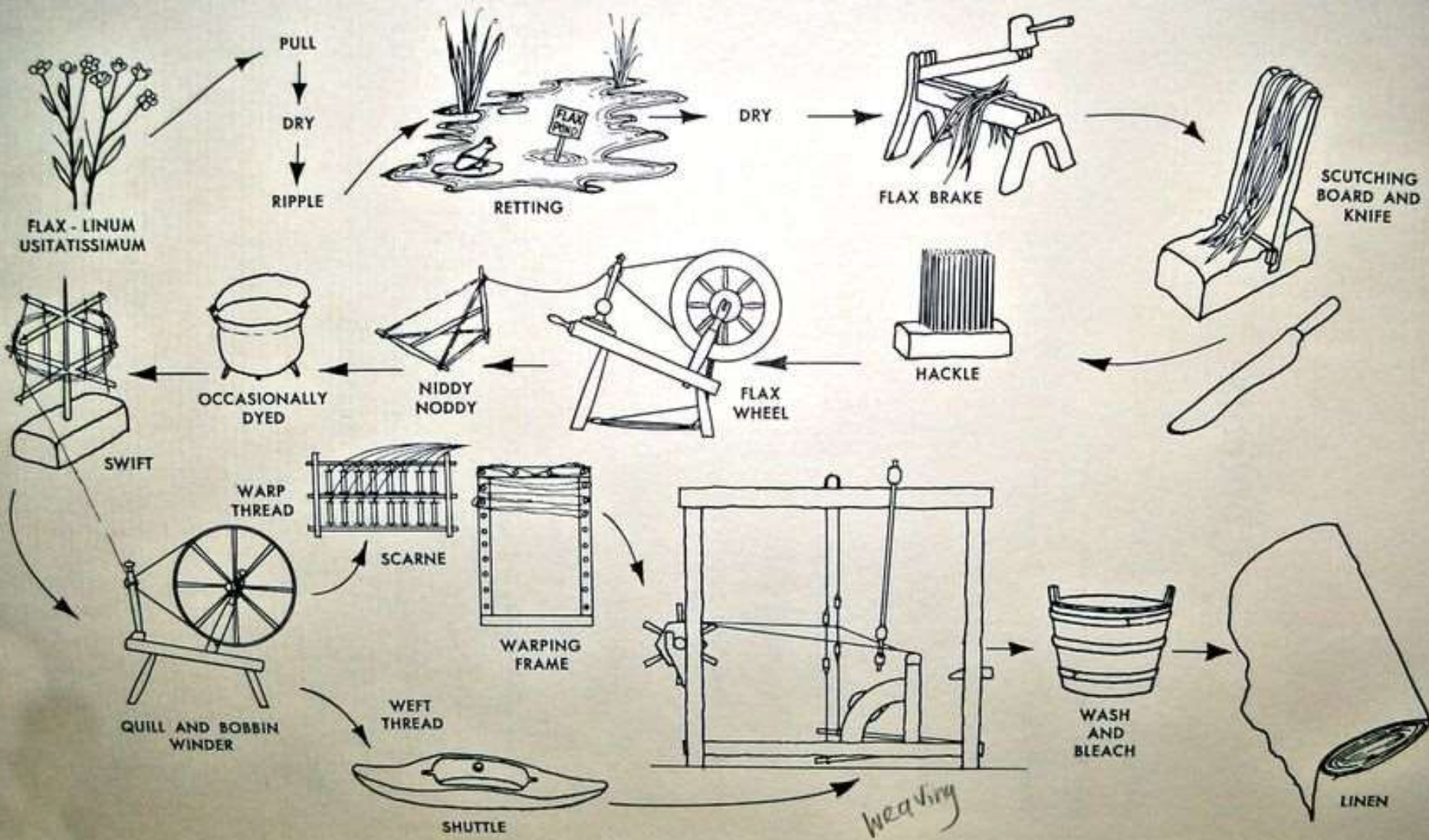
## 9.Weaving or Knitting

Linen yarn is woven or knitted into fabric.

## 10.Finishing

Fabric is washed, bleached or dyed, and softened for use.





Process Chart for Flax - Linen



View of the Port of Rochefort  
Joseph Vernet (1762)









Open Studio





French corset



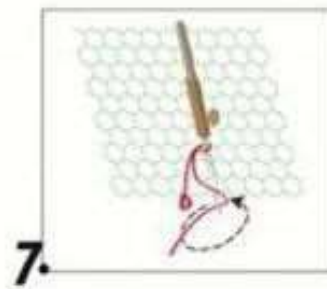


《Weight Under Restraint》

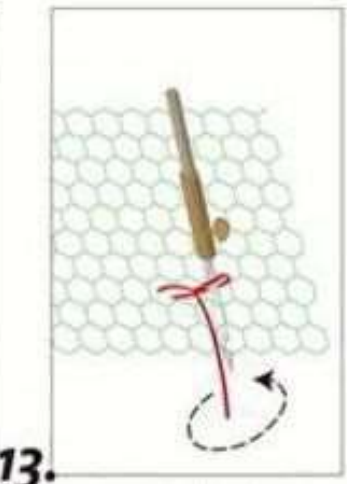
《น้ำหนักภายใต้การควบคุม》







### Lunéville Crochet embroidery





《Supported in Motion - 1.2》  
《การเคลื่อนไหวและสายรัง  
- 1.2》





《Dirt Carpet No.19》



《Dirt Carpet No.19》







**Dirt Carpet - 1 - The Loop (Khon Kaen, Thailand), 2014**





Ban Pa Son 松女士之家



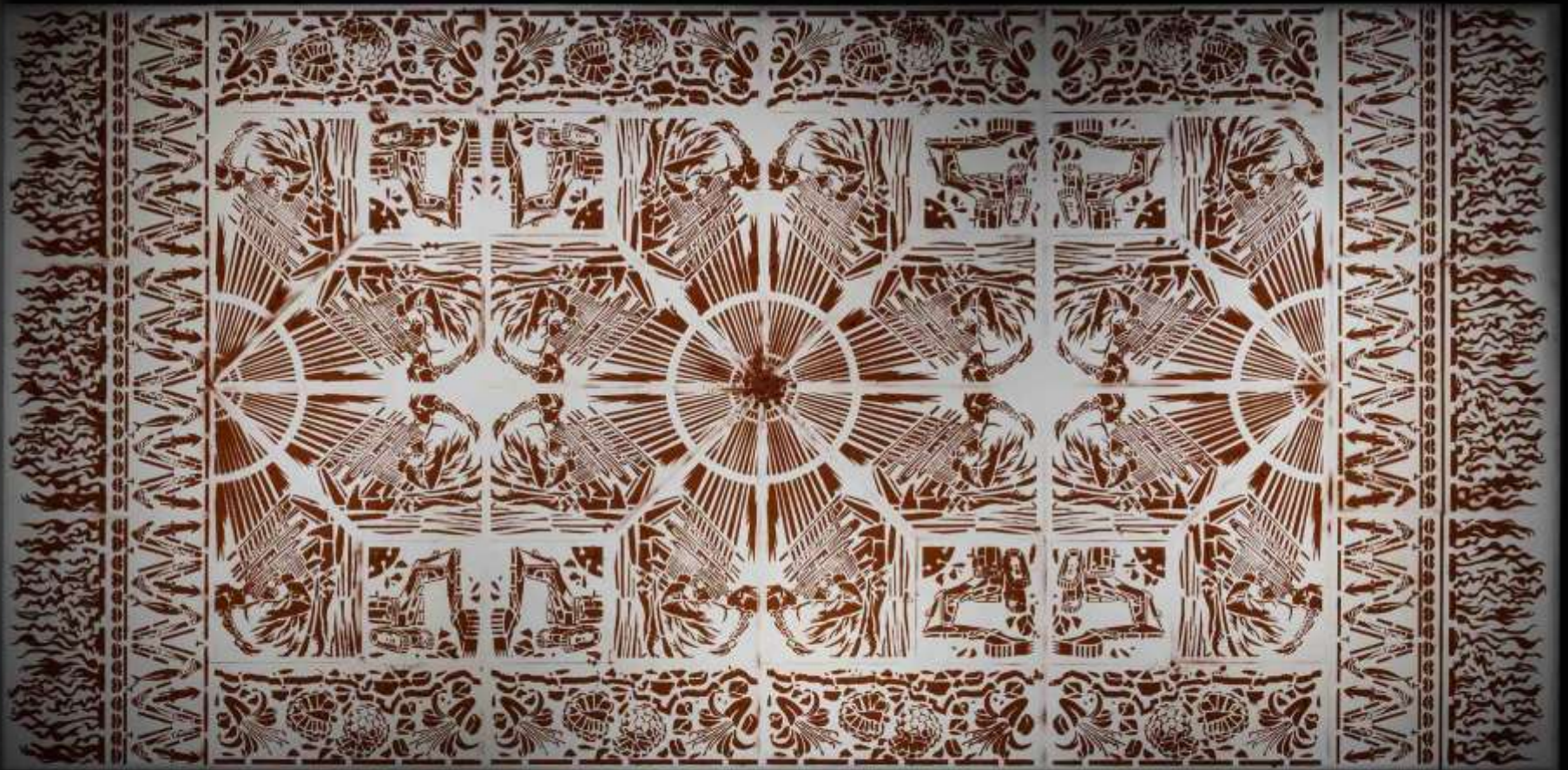


Pha Teen Jok

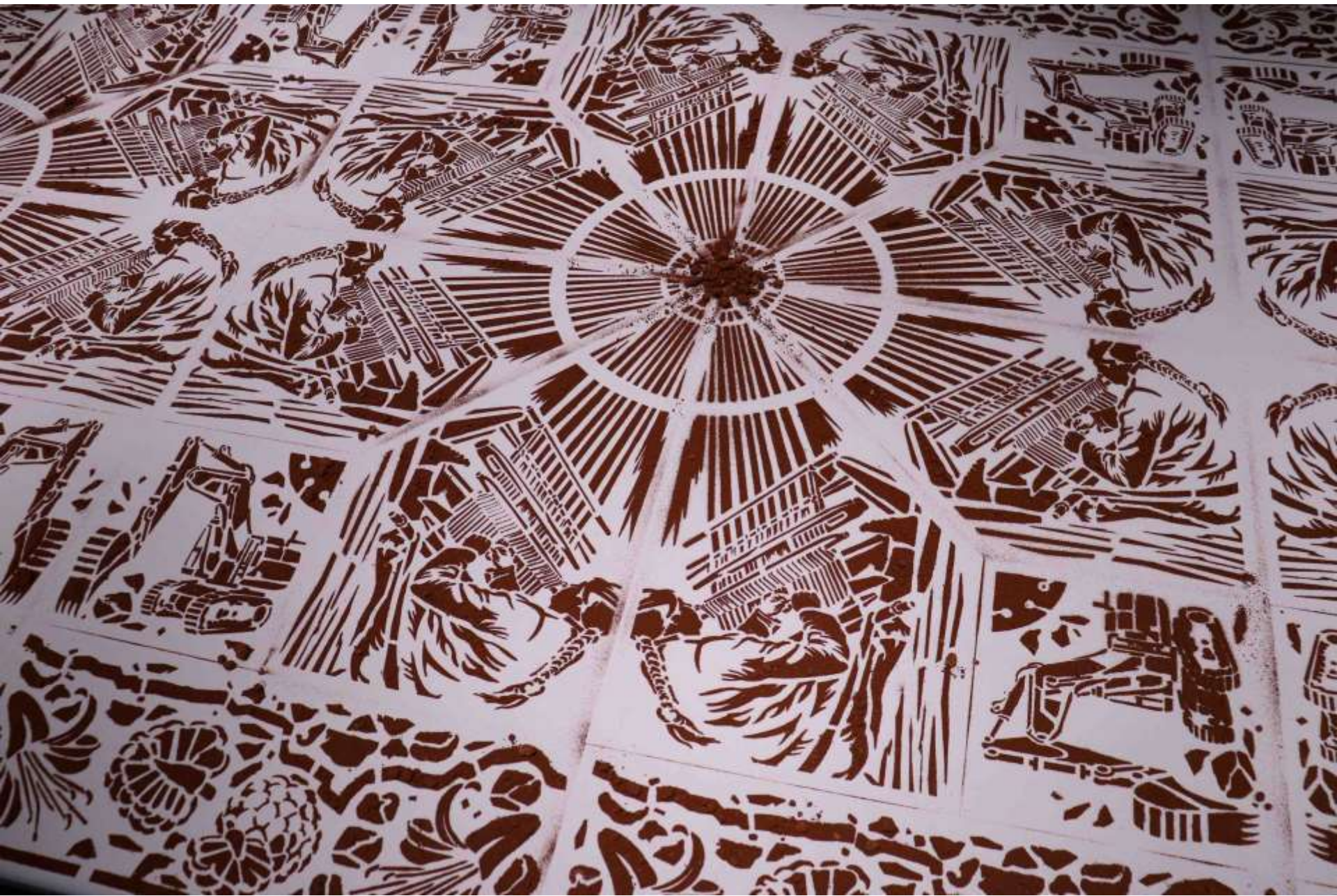


Khon Kean University International artist workshop, Thailand 2014





**Dirt Carpet - 9 (Taitung, Taiwan), 2020**





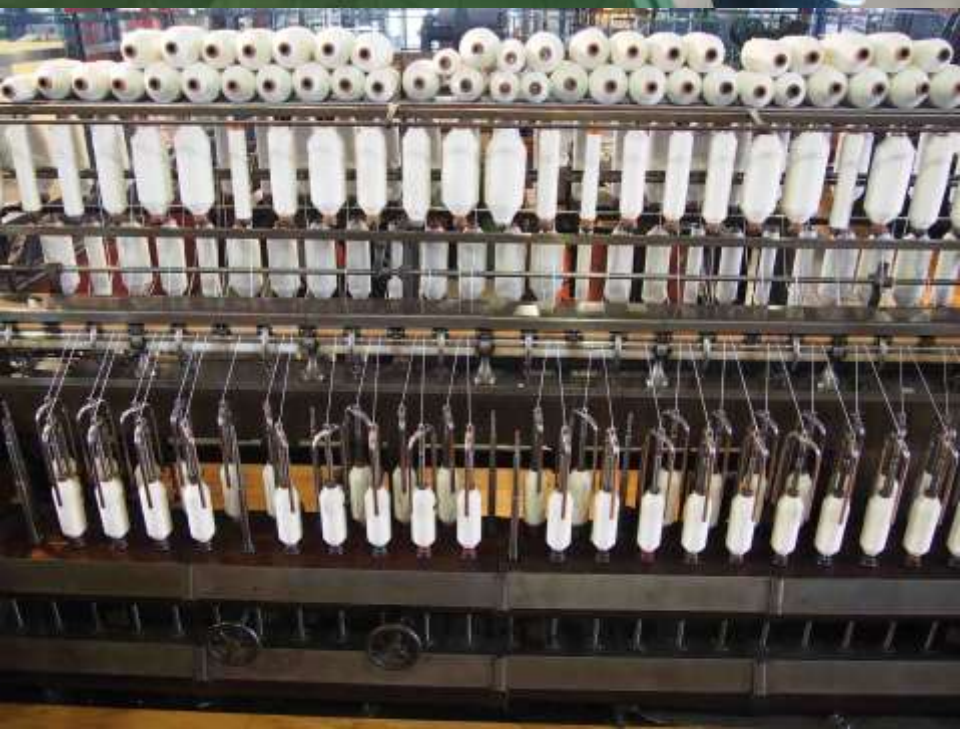
# 泥毯 #9







**Dirt Carpet - 8 (Hong Kong),  
2019**









# 2

M 6 ST-4



**Dirt Carpet - 5 - Wash**  
(Guimarães, Portugal), 2018



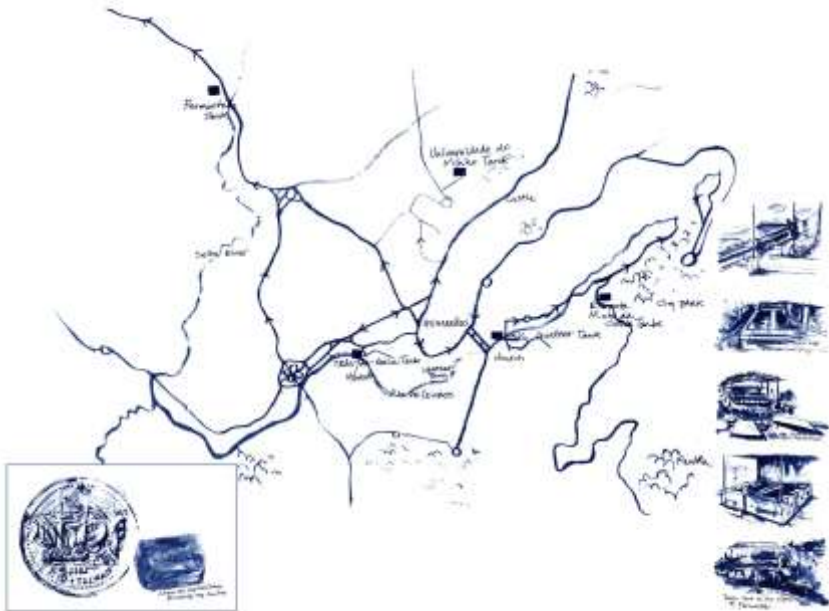
Leftover leather power 2018







Jaquard weaving textile company –  
TEXTEIS PENEDO, S.A.



## Cartilage

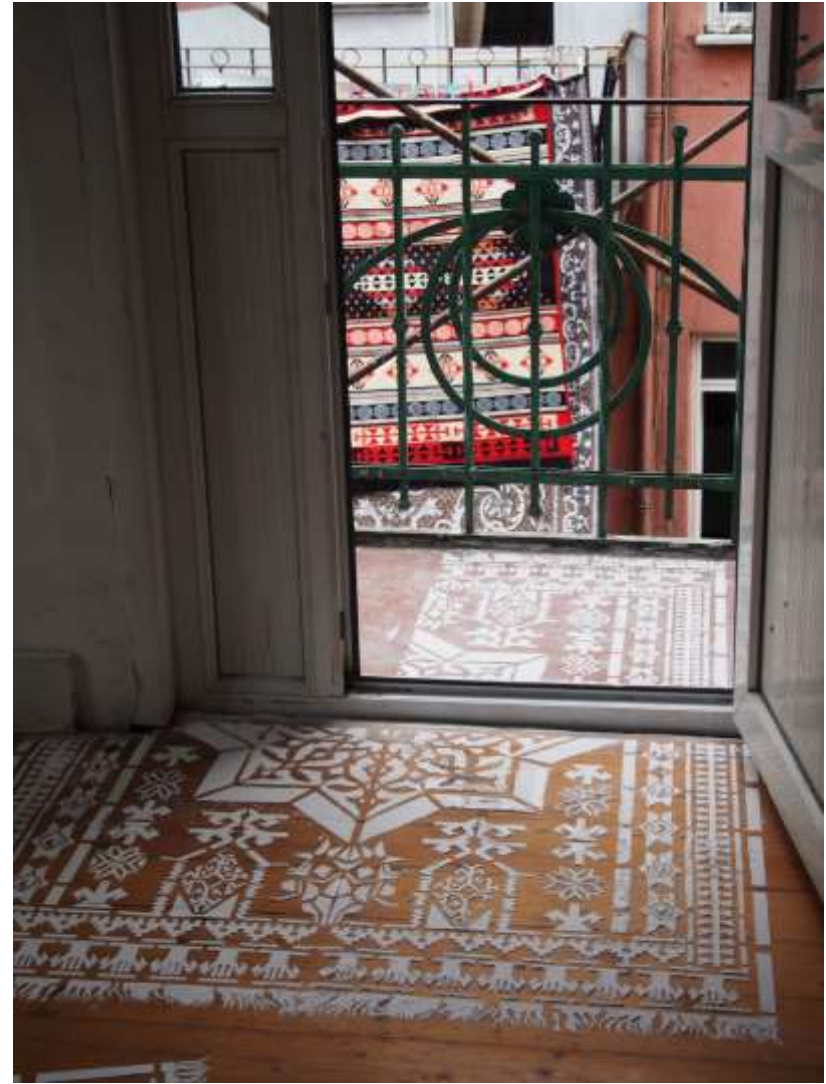
Site-Specific Installation  
at the Capucho 2018



The leftover leather scraps are the metaphor of the water which is never sitting still and connecting countries and places, life and death, people and environment, past and present.



Dirt Carpet - 3 (Turkey), 2018













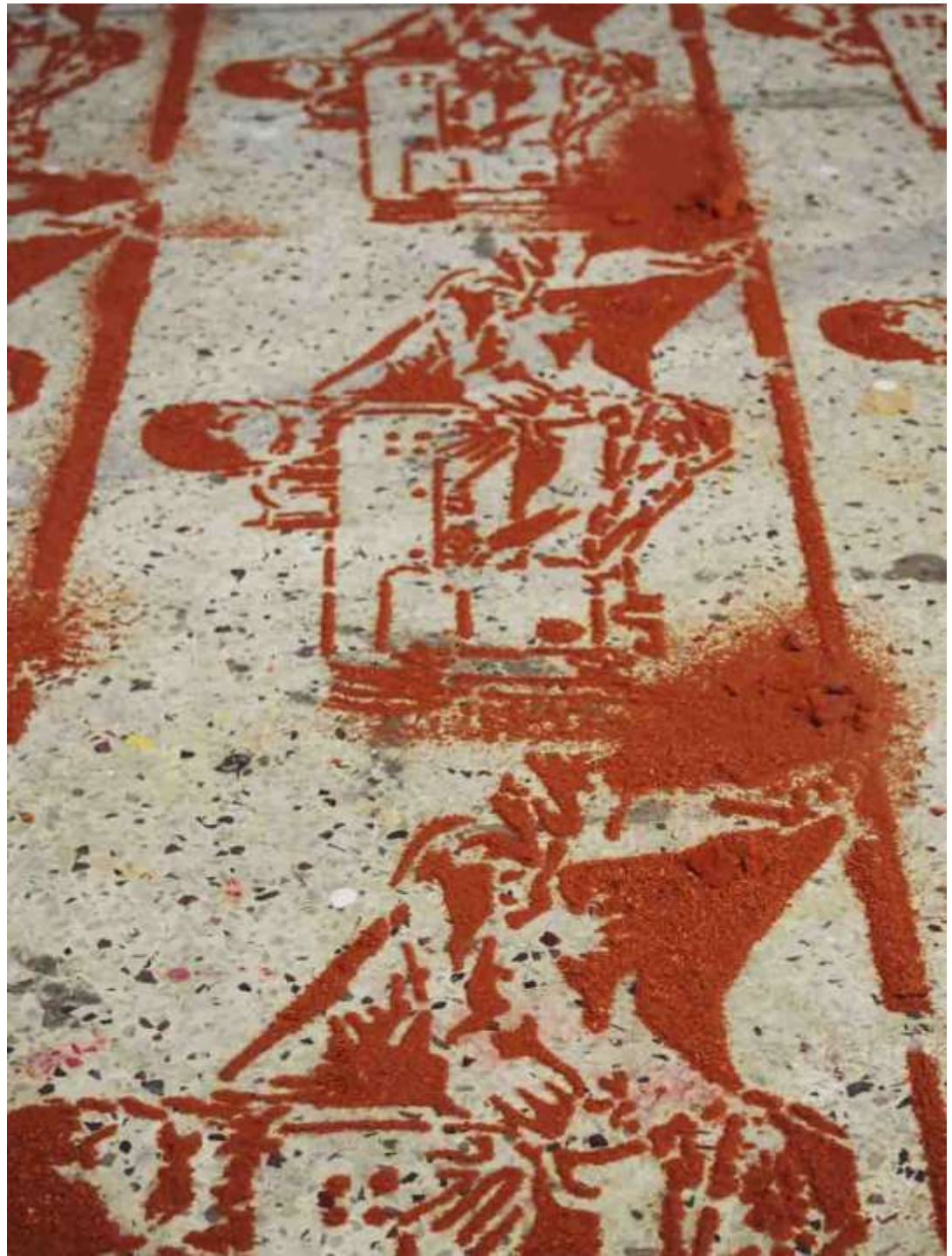


**Dirt Carpet - 4 - Massive Manufacturing (Chittagong, Bangladesh), 2017**

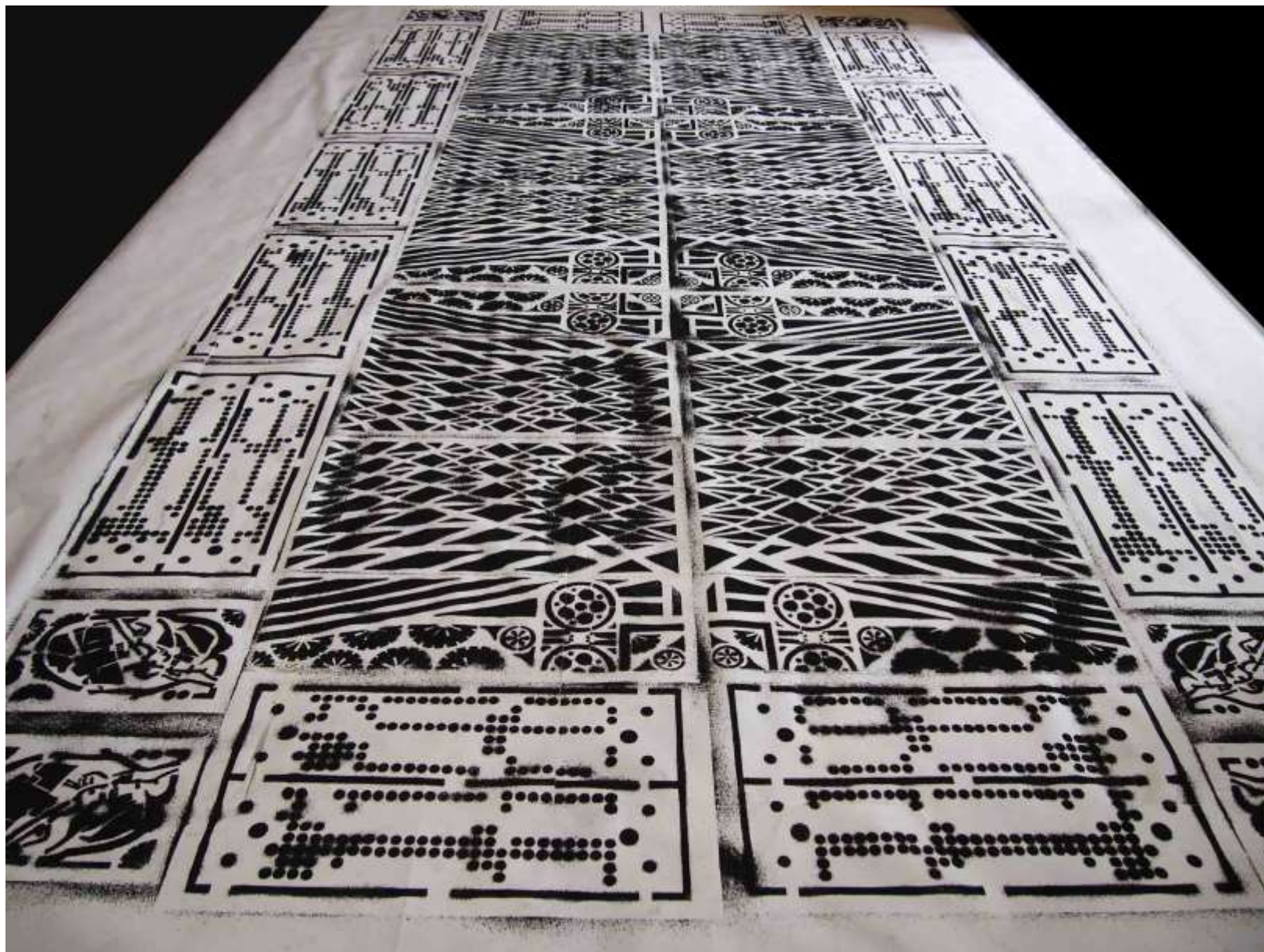




2013 Dhaka garment factory collapse



Dirt Carpet - 7 (Manchester, UK), 2018









走錠精紡機：將粗紗拉成更細的細紗線 1779





Dirt Carpet - 10 - Mian-bei (Tainan, Taiwan), 2020





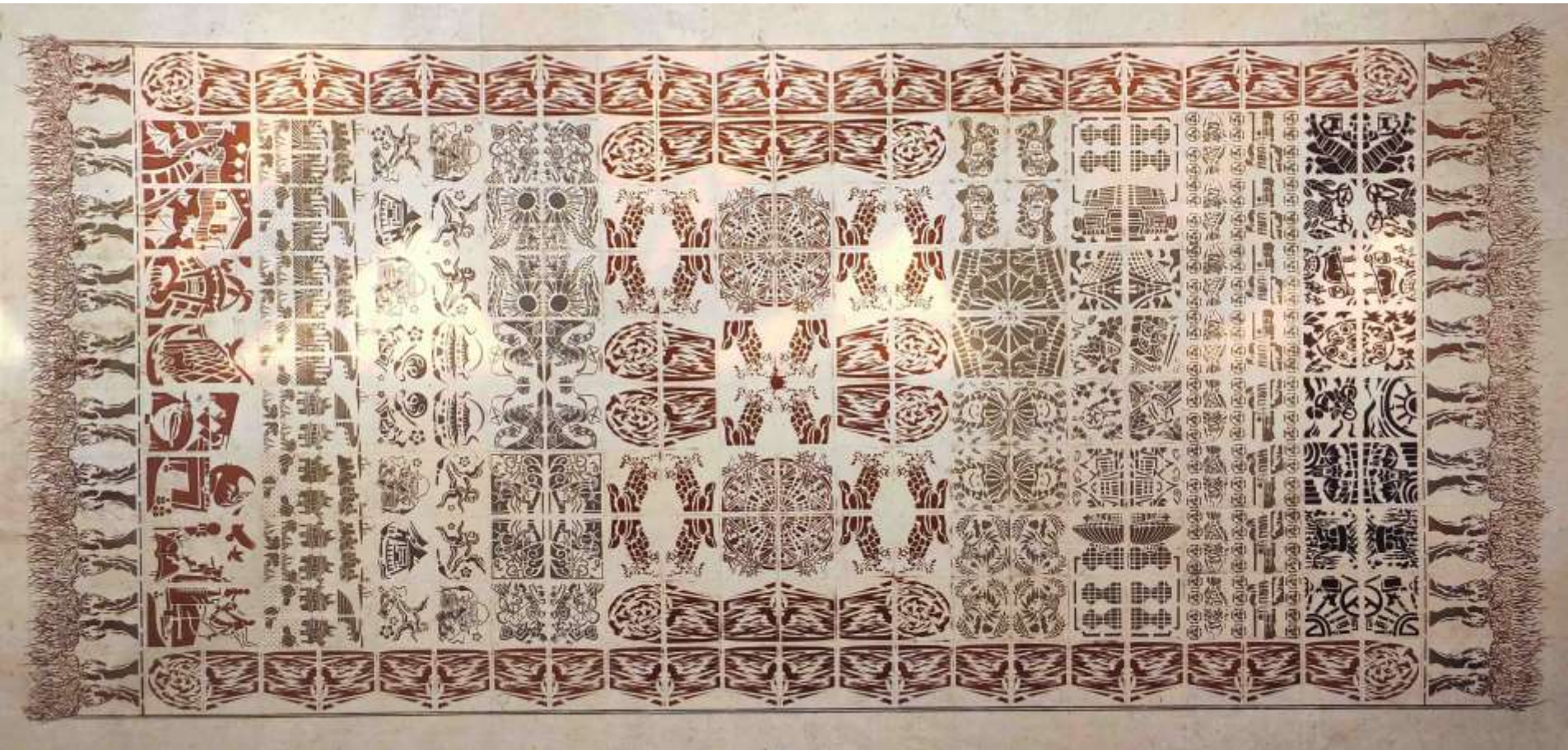








# Dirt Carpet Project



Dirt Carpet - 17 (Taichung, Taiwan), 2024