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Alexandre  
Farto AKA

Alexandre Farto  
aka **Vhils**

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2019

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

# VHILS STUDIO

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STUDIO

ALEXANDRE FARTO  
aka  
**VHILS**



Scratching the Surface project  
Hong Kong SAR, 2015

Alexandre Farto aka

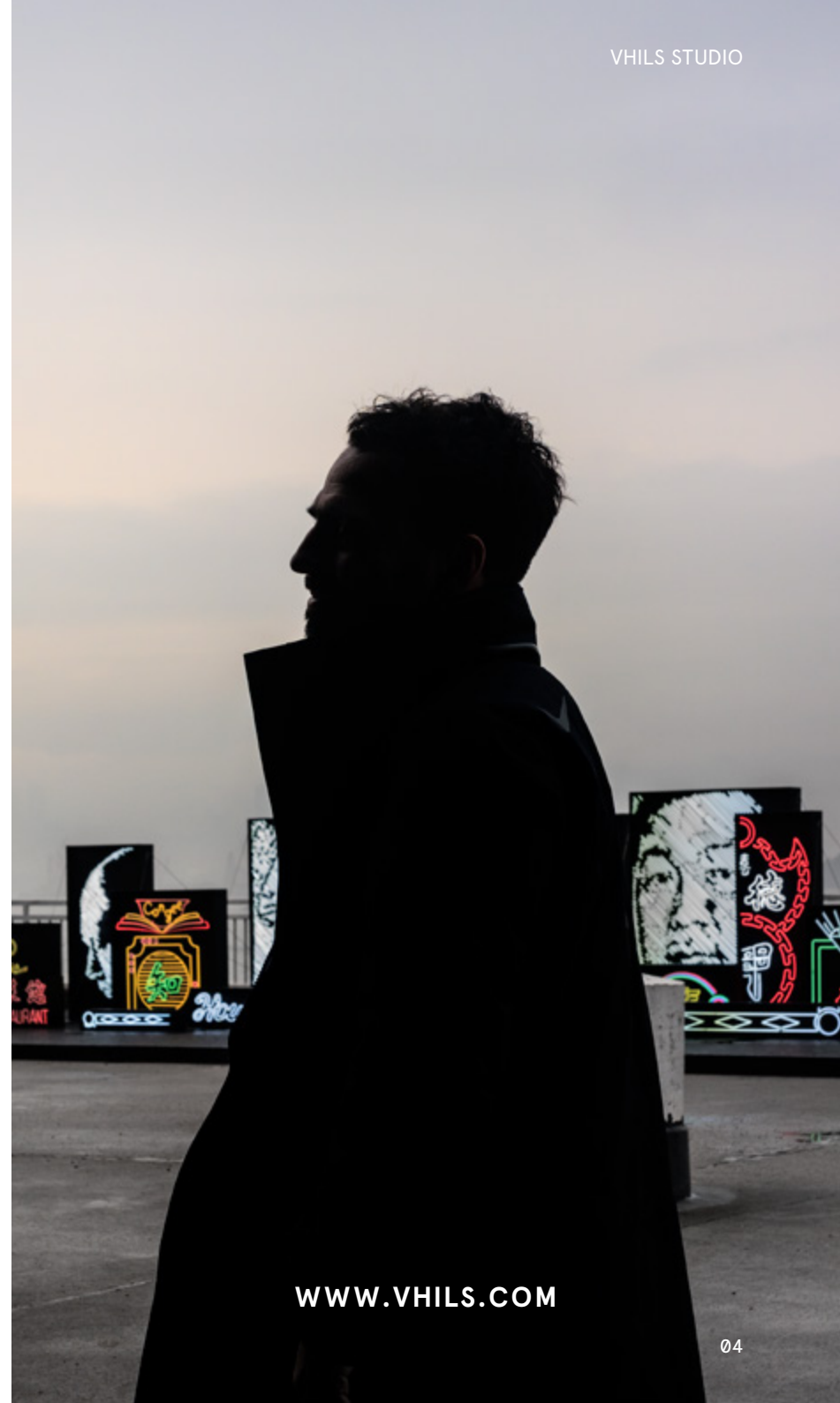
# VHILS

Portuguese visual artist Alexandre Farto aka Vhils (1987) has become renowned for developing a unique visual language based on the removal of the surface layers of walls and other media with non-conventional tools and techniques, establishing symbolic reflections on identity, the relationship of interdependence between people and the surrounding environment, and life in contemporary urban societies, as well as the impact of development, the passage of time, and material transformation. Hailed as one of the most innovative artists of his generation, Vhils has been cutting new ground in the urban and contemporary art scenes since coming into the global public eye in 2008. His poignant, poetic portraits chiselled into flaking walls can be seen adorning city landscapes around the world. Based on his aesthetics of vandalism, Vhils destroys as a means to create. He carves, cuts, drills, etches and blasts his way into the surface layers of materials. Yet, like an archaeologist, he removes in order to expose, bringing to light the beauty that lies trapped beneath the surface of things.

He has presented his work in over 30 countries around the world in solo and group exhibitions, site-specific art interventions, events and projects in various contexts – from working with communities in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro,

to collaborations with reputed artistic institutions such as the EDP Foundation (Lisbon), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Barbican Centre (London), CAFA Art Museum (Beijing), or the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (San Diego), among others. Singled out by leading US business magazine Forbes in 2015 in the “Art and Style” category of their “30 Under 30s” success list, as well as by US news channel CNN in their 2015 series “Ones to Watch”, Vhils has participated in some of the most prestigious urban and contemporary art events around the world, having also placed a site-specific piece aboard the International Space Station in 2015. An avid experimentalist, besides his groundbreaking bas-relief carving technique – which forms the basis of the “Scratching the Surface” project –, Vhils has been developing his personal aesthetics in a plurality of media: from stencil painting to metal etching, from pyrotechnic explosions and video to sculptural installations. He has also directed several music videos, short films, and one stage production.

Vhils works with several leading galleries, including Vera Cortês Gallery (Portugal), Lazarides gallery (United Kingdom), Danysz gallery (France and China), and Over the Influence gallery (Hong Kong and USA). His work is represented in several public and private collections in various countries.



[WWW.VHILS.COM](http://WWW.VHILS.COM)



**“Vhils is a Portuguese artist who constantly innovates with new techniques and approaches to his art. Much of his work is created in situ and focuses on the transitory nature of the city, its history, and the lives of its inhabitants.”**

Tristan Manco, in The Guardian

## Global presence



Vhils' work is present in over 30 countries around the world, where he has worked in solo and group exhibitions, site-specific art interventions, art events and projects in a variety of contexts. He has created some 250 public art pieces in the scope of his Scratching the Surface project.

## Selected solo exhibitions

- 2019 *Incisão*, CAIXA Cultural Brasília, Brasília, Brazil
- 2018 *Ethereal*, Goldman Global Arts Gallery, Miami, USA  
*Fragments Urbains*, Le Centquatre-Paris, Paris, France  
*Décombres*, Danysz Gallery, Paris, France  
*Annihilation*, Over the Influence Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
*Intrinseco*, Vera Cortês Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2017 *Remains*, Over the Influence Gallery, Hong Kong SAR, China  
*Imprint*, CAFA Art Museum – China Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China  
*Debris – Macau*, Contemporary Art Center – Naval Yard No.1, Macau SAR, China
- 2016 *Debris*, Hong Kong Contemporary Art (HOCA) Foundation, Hong Kong SAR, China
- 2015 *Dissonance*, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK
- 2014 *Vestiges*, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France  
*Dissecção / Dissection*, EDP Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2013 *Fragmentos*, Clark Art Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
*Dissolve*, Skalitzers Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2012 *Devoid*, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK  
*Entropy*, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France  
*Diorama*, Vera Cortês Art Agency, Lisbon, Portugal  
*Visceral*, Magda Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2011 *Detritos*, Galeria Presença, Porto, Portugal
- 2009 *Scratching the Surface*, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK



## Selected group exhibitions & projects

- 2018 *Beyond the Streets*, Werkartz, Los Angeles, USA  
*Arte em São Bento – Coleção António Cachola*, Palácio de São Bento, Lisbon, Portugal  
*Art From the Streets*, ArtScience Museum, Singapore
- 2017 *Reflexion of the City*, Speerstra Gallery, Bursins, Switzerland  
*When the Sun Goes Down*, Arcade Art Gallery, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan  
*Street Generation(s)*, La Condition Publique, Roubaix, France
- 2016 *Art from the Streets*, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China  
*Choices Paris 2016 – Collector's Weekend*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
*They Would Be Kings*, Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery, Hong Kong SAR, China
- 2015 *Station to Station*, Barbican Centre, London, UK  
*Iberian Suite – Installation*, The Kennedy Center, Washington, USA  
*Sleeping Beauty*, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
- 2014 *#Street Art*, Espace Fondation EDF, Paris, France  
*Lasco Project #3*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
*Do Valongo à Favela*, Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013 *Wooster Collective 2003–2013*, Jonathan Levine Gallery, New York, USA  
*Hecho en Oaxaca*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Oaxaca, Mexico  
*Ex Situ*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2012 *Au-delà du Street Art*, Musée de la Poste, Paris, France  
*Festival Images*, Vevey, Switzerland  
*Domination*, Hegemony and the Panopticon, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 *Shadows and Reflections*, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France  
*Observadores*, Museu Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal  
*O Museu em Ruínas*, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, Elvas, Portugal



- 2010 *Contemporary Prints From the V&A*, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, UK  
*Viva la Revolución*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA  
*Eurotrash*, Lazarides Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2009 *Outsiders Selection*, The Outsiders Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK  
*Grifters*, Lazarides Gallery, London, UK  
*Tunnel 228*, Curated by Punchdrunk & Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Station Tunnels, London, UK

## Selected commissions & public art projects

- 2018 *Making the Invisible Visible – Hennessy*, New York, Chicago, Johannesburg, Moscow, Ho Chi Minh City, London  
*Intangible – SEAT x Vhils*, Cascais, Portugal  
 Fondation Carmignac, Île de Porquerolles, France  
*Roteiro de Arte em Barragens | Fundação EDP*, Caniçada dam, Parada do Bouro, Portugal
- 2017 Embassy of Portugal in China, Beijing, China  
 Embassy of Portugal in Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2016 Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal  
 GS1 Portugal headquarters, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2015 Heavenly Hundred Garden, Kiev, Ukraine  
 Hyundai Card Music Library, Seoul, South Korea
- 2014 Le Freeport Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
 MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013 *Fragmentos*, Ladeira dos Tabajaras, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2012 *Descascando a Superfície*, Morro da Providência, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



## Selected public & private collections

- APPortfolio Asia Collection, Shenzhen, China  
 China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) Art Museum, Beijing, China  
 Coleção de Arte Contemporânea Portugal Telecom, Lisbon, Portugal  
 Coleção de Arte Fundação EDP, Lisbon, Portugal  
 Coleção António Cachola – Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, Elvas, Portugal  
 Collection l'Adresse Musée de la Poste, Paris, France  
 Hong Kong Contemporary Art (HOCA) Foundation, Hong Kong SAR, China  
 Hyundai Art Collection, Seoul, South Korea  
 MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA



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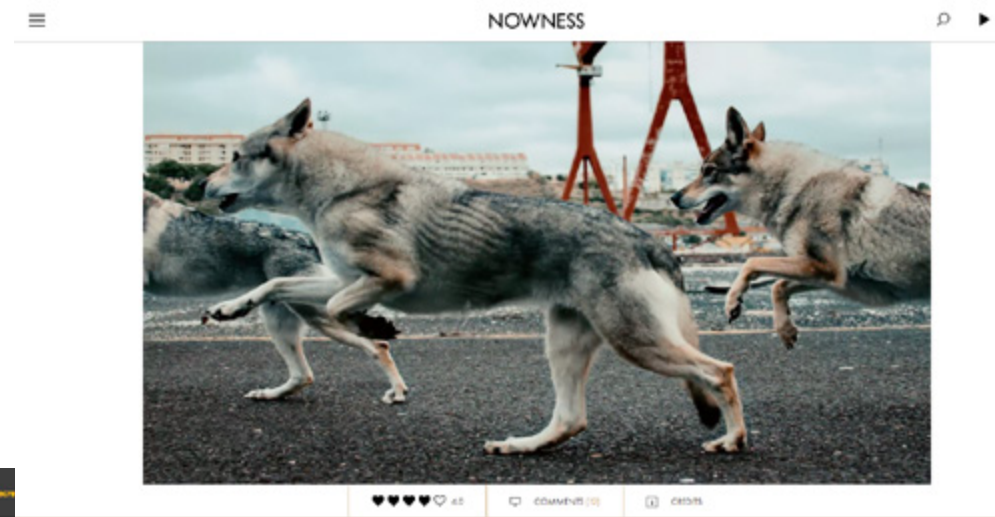
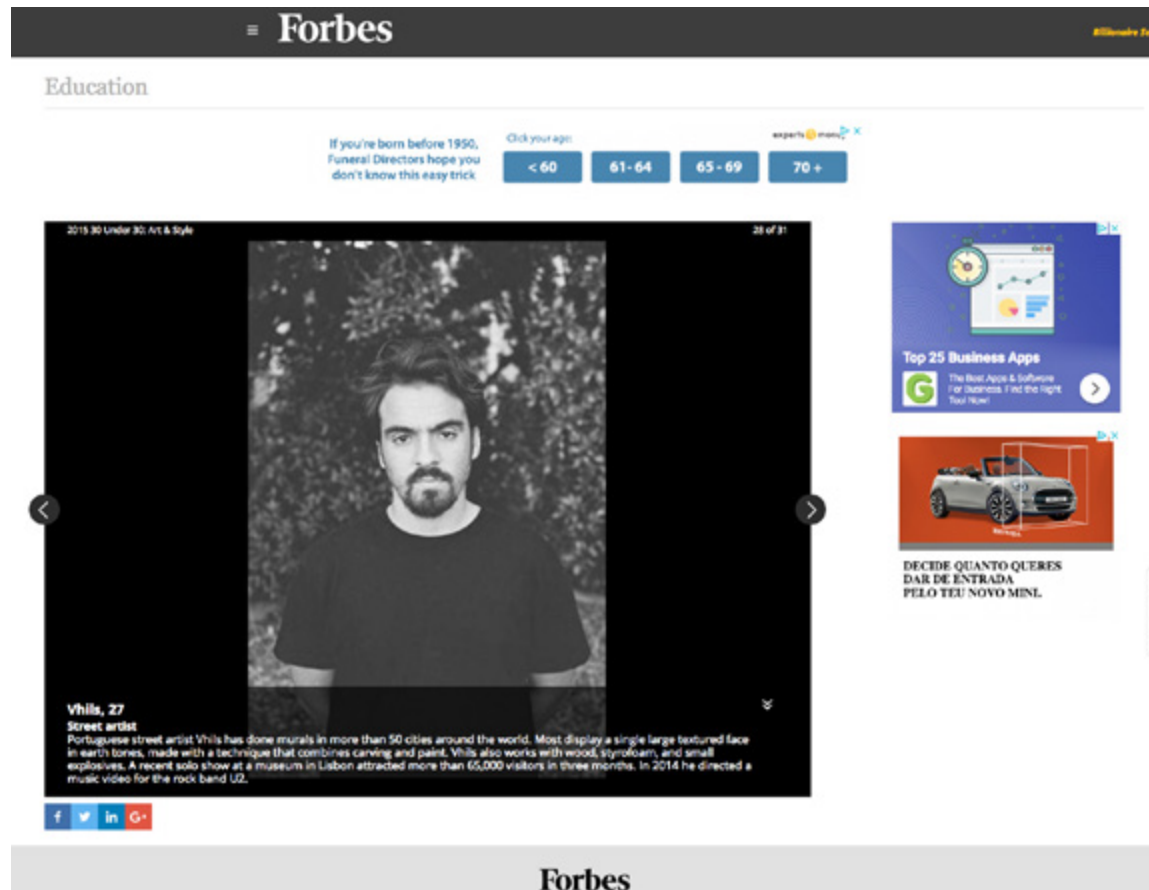
NO STAND...  
民政總

20%  
全場

# PRESS – a selection

“Vhils’ most common theme is urban decay; he uses peeling billboards and crumbling walls as his canvas, carving large-scale faces using scalpels, hammers and pneumatic drills. A recent solo show at a museum in Lisbon attracted more than 65,000 visitors in three months. In 2014 he directed a music video for the rock band U2.”

Forbes Magazine





**“Vhils is definitely an artist to watch. He’s a young guy, I think that he’s got a great vision. He’s given people a new medium in street art. Vhils has charted a new course and he’s the best at it so far.”**

Shepard Fairey in CNN’s “Ones to Watch”



Scratching the Surface project  
Paris, France, 2014

## OUTDOOR WORKS



"His art is often described as destructive, but he considers it no more destructive than poetry is to a clean sheet of paper."

Reuters.com



Scratching the Surface project  
Barreiro, Portugal, 2018



Mural piece in collaboration with Shepard Fairey  
Los Angeles, USA, 2018



Scratching the Surface project  
Macau SAR, 2017



Scratching the Surface project  
Macau SAR, 2017



Scratching the Surface project  
Bucharest, Romania, 2016



Site-specific mural with hand-carved advertising posters  
Hong Kong SAR, 2016



Site-specific piece with hand-carved advertising posters on Hong Kong tram  
Hong Kong SAR, 2016



Scratching the Surface project  
Dubai, UAE, 2016



Scratching the Surface project  
Hong Kong SAR, 2015



Scratching the Surface project  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 2014



Scratching the Surface project  
Almada, Portugal, 2014



Scratching the Surface project  
Lisbon, Portugal, 2014



Site-specific mural with hand-carved advertising posters  
Lisbon, Portugal, 2014



Scratching the Surface project  
Las Vegas, USA, 2013



Scratching the Surface project  
Sydney, Australia, 2013



Scratching the Surface project  
Girona, Spain, 2013



Scratching the Surface project  
Shanghai, China, 2012



Scratching the Surface project  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2012



Mural piece in collaboration with JR  
Los Angeles, USA, 2010

## BILLBOARDS



“With his creative reductive techniques, Vhils helped push the boundaries of outdoor art in Lisbon and internationally.”

The Washington Post



*Camada Series #01-#15, 2018*

Hand-carved and laser-cut advertising posters mounted on metal structure  
Various dimensions



*Diminish Series #03, 2017*  
Hand-carved advertising posters  
307 × 675 cm



*Achromatize Series #05*, 2017  
Hand-carved advertising posters  
193 × 127 cm



*Matter Series #01, 2016*  
Hand-carved advertising posters  
185 × 137 cm



*LOVEHATE*, 2015  
Hand-cut advertising posters  
Love: 45 × 116 × 26 cm  
Hate: 40.5 × 116 × 26 cm



*Vestige Series #01, 2014*

Hand-carved and laser-cut advertising posters, cut and assembled  
203 × 223 cm

# WOOD



"I first saw Alex's work back in 2007 and was totally floored. Here was this crazy Portuguese kid, doing these mad portraits on the street by chopping out bits of walls. It was one of the most innovative techniques I'd ever seen. It has been a pleasure to see how much he has come on from those early days to his most recent museum show in Lisbon. Long may it continue."

Steve Lazarides in [www.blouinartinfo.com](http://www.blouinartinfo.com)



*Babel*, 2018  
Installation with hand-carved old wooden doors and metal scaffolding  
Various dimensions



*Babel*, 2018 (detail)



*Hoarding Series #04, 2017*

Hand-carved old wooden doors and inlaid wooden overlays  
275 × 151 cm



*Still Series #01, #02, #05, 2016*  
Hand-carved old wooden doors  
193 × 158 cm | 187 × 109 cm | 187 × 54 cm



*Lancetar Series #03, 2014*  
Old wooden doors, hand-carved, cut and assembled  
218 × 248 cm



*Desvaecer Series #02, 2014*  
Laser-engraved old wooden doors  
202.5 × 75 cm



*Ataxia Series #04, 2012*  
Old wooden doors, hand-carved, cut and assembled  
210 × 196 cm

# METAL

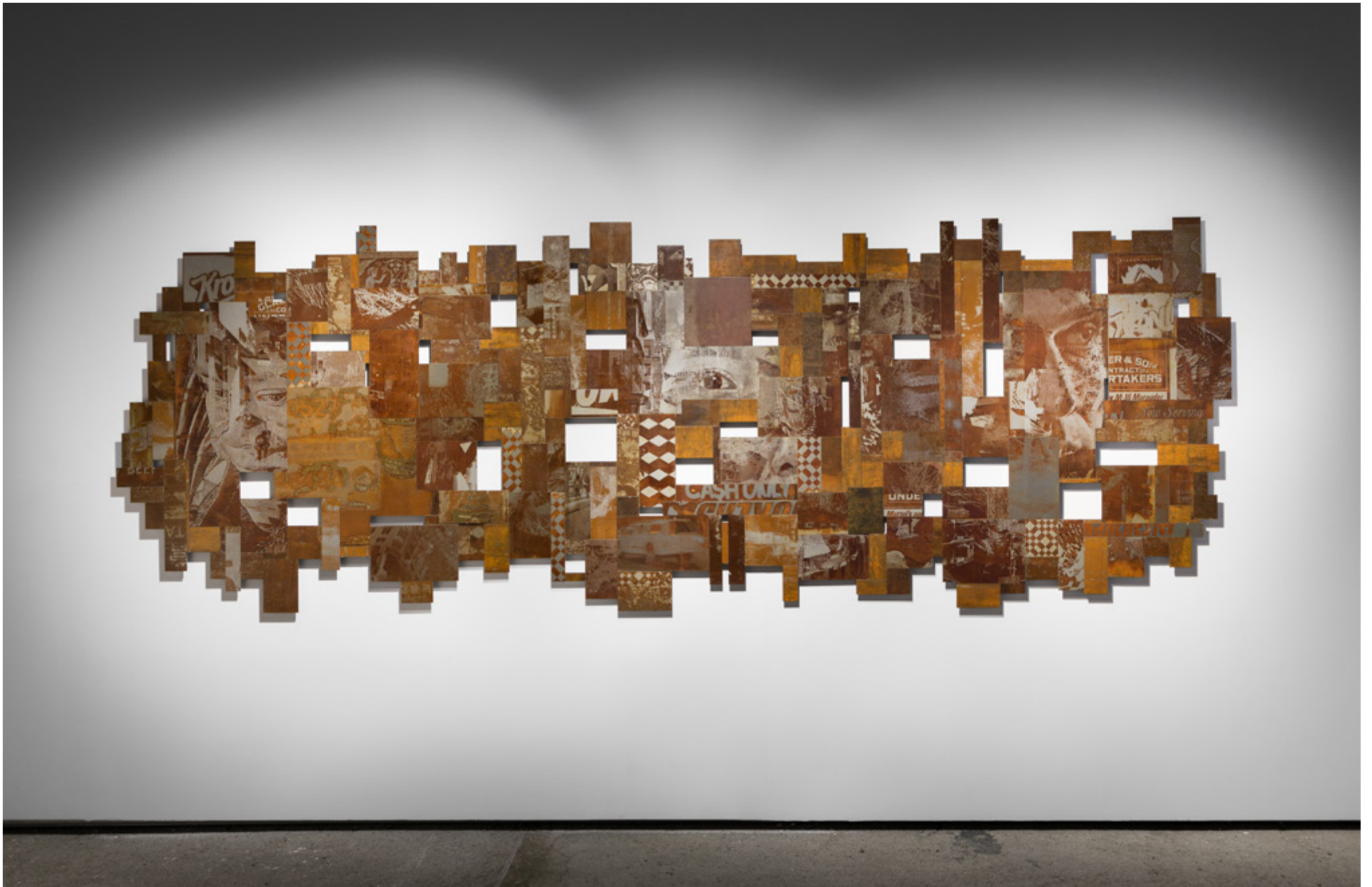




*Rust Series, 2018*  
Acid-etched metal plates, cut and assembled  
Various dimensions



*Rust Series*, 2018  
Acid-etched metal plates, cut and assembled  
Various dimensions



*Untwined Series #02, 2016*  
Acid-etched metal plates, cut and assembled  
140 × 417 cm



*Tempo Series #07*, 2015  
Acid-etched metal plate  
100 × 70 cm



*Anagrama Series #03, 2014*  
Acid-etched metal plates, cut and assembled  
100 × 150 cm



*Anagrama Series #01, 2014*  
Acid-etched metal plates, cut and assembled  
130 × 115 cm

## DIORAMAS



“Presented by the Magda Danysz Gallery as «the new rising star of contemporary art», Alexandre Farto has already exhibited in several countries, including Brazil, USA, Italy and Colombia.”

Público

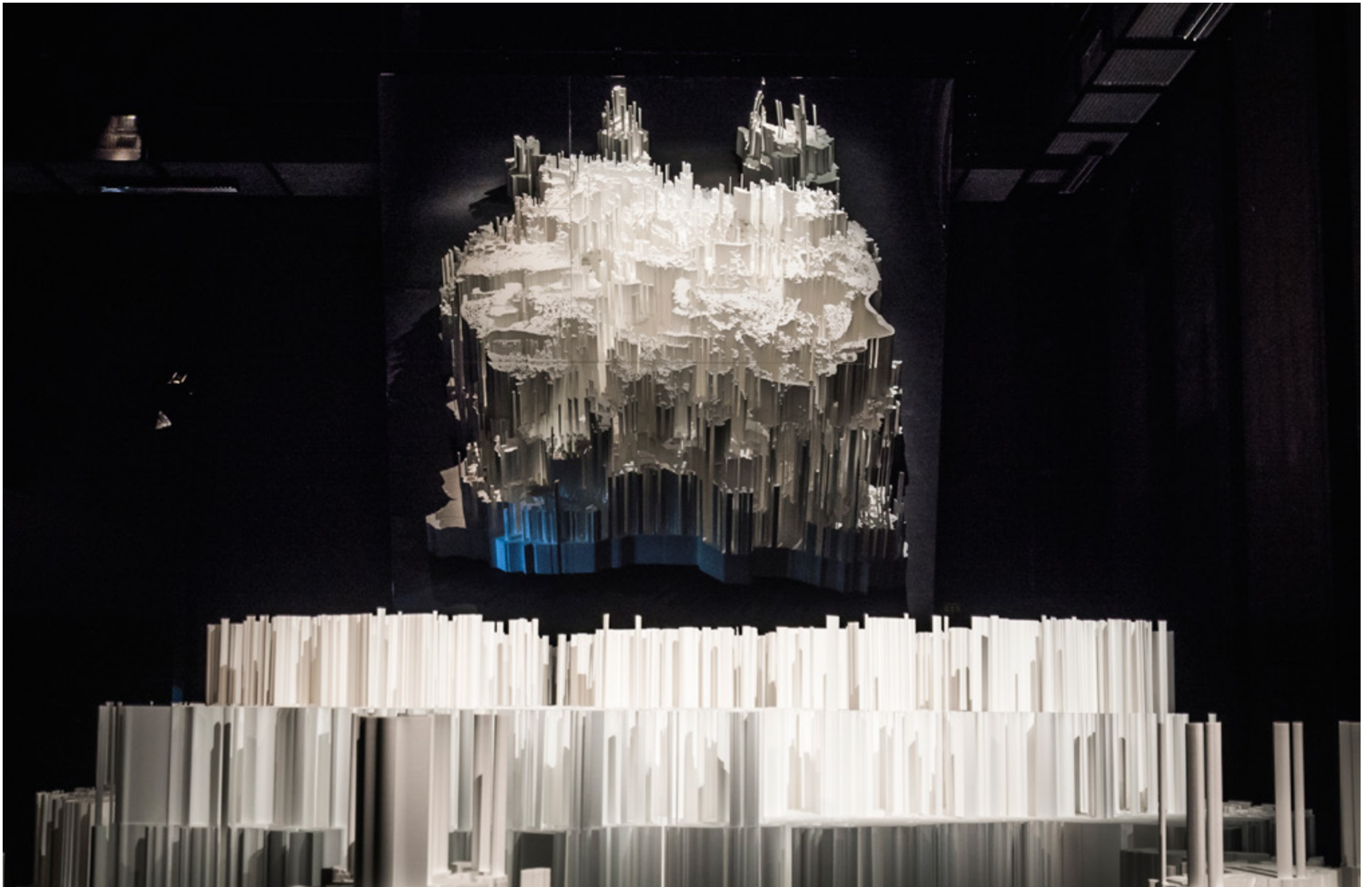


*Monolith Series #01, 2018*  
Cement cast sculpture  
60 × 60 × 32 cm



*Diagrama*, 2014-2018

Styrofoam cut with hot-wire, assembled and glued by hand  
Approx. 300 × 510 × 196 cm



*Diagrama*, 2014-2018  
Styrofoam cut with hot-wire, assembled and glued by hand  
Approx. 300 × 510 × 196 cm



*Concrete*, 2016  
Concrete cast sculpture  
300 × 300 × 31 cm



*Scope*, 2016  
Lost-wax cast white bronze sculpture  
198.68 × 195.13 × 28 cm



*Diorama Series #16*, 2014

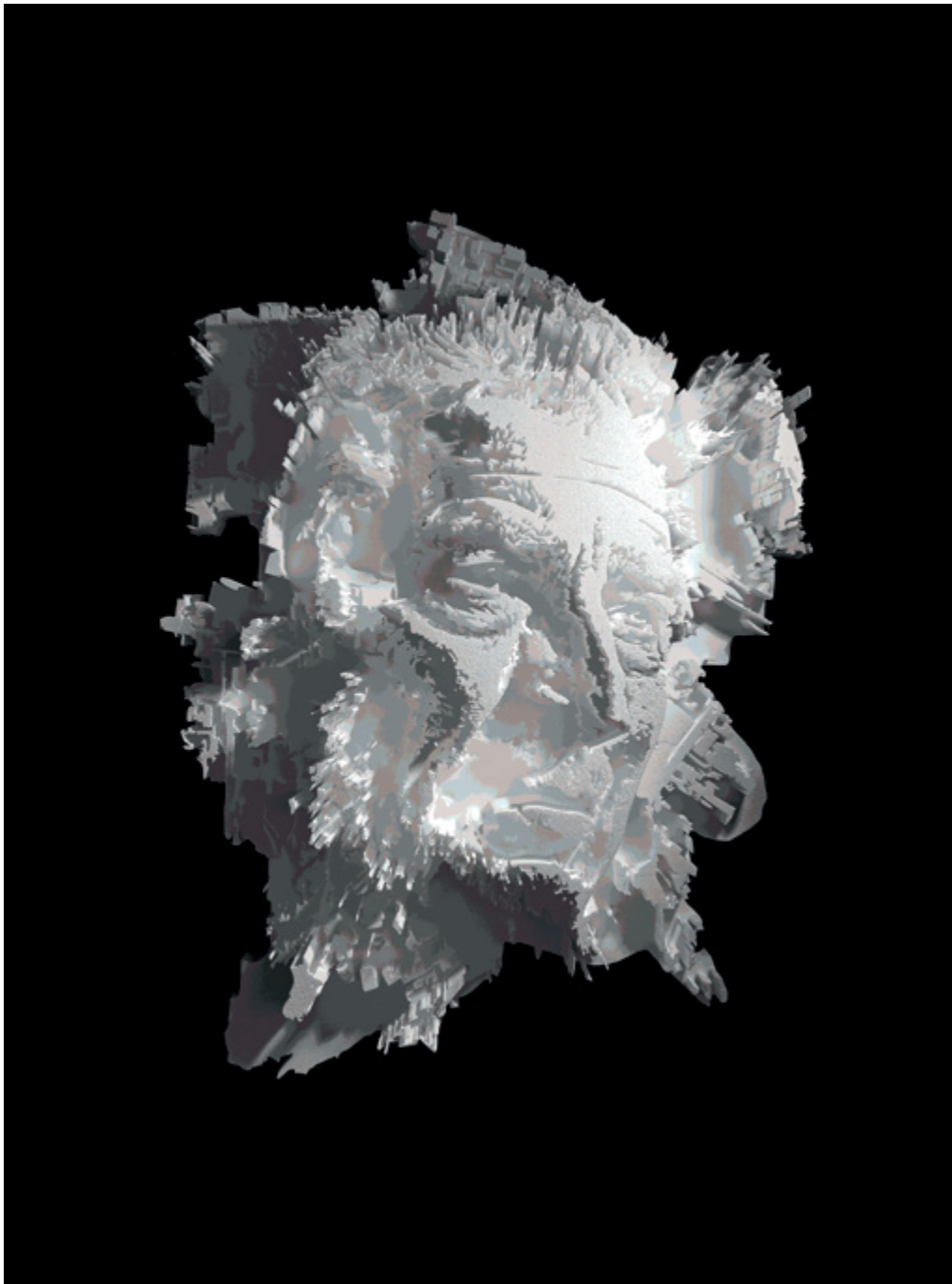
Styrofoam cut with hot-wire, assembled and glued by hand  
197 × 170 × 28 cm



*Contraste*, 2013  
Cork sheet and cork agglomerate on steel structure  
400 × 1700 × 40 cm



*Contraste*, 2013 (detail)



*Diorama Series #05, 2012*  
Styrofoam cut with hot-wire, assembled and glued by hand  
190 × 160 × 28 cm

## SCREEN PRINTS



“Whether it’s blowing up a building façade in Berlin to reveal a carving of a man’s face or drilling portraits into favela walls in Rio de Janeiro, raucous street artist Alexandre Farto, who goes by the tag “Vhils,” has left an imprint on urban landscapes across the globe.”

CNN (Hong Kong)



*Disintegrative Series #05*, 2018  
Quink, screen print ink, and bleach on paper  
185 × 130 cm



*Vanish Series #06, 2017*  
Handmade print on paper; Quink ink and bleach  
180 × 120 cm



***Moment Series #03, 2016***  
Quink, screen print ink, and bleach on paper  
180 × 120 cm



***Moment Series #02, 2016***  
Quink, screen print ink, and bleach on paper  
180 × 120 cm



*Dilacerar Series #08, 2015*  
Quink, screen print ink, and bleach on paper  
205 × 151 cm



*Dilacerar Series #01, 2014*  
Quink, screen print ink, and bleach on paper  
200 × 150 cm

## OTHER MEDIA



[VIEW VIDEO >](#)

Vhils x U2 | "Raised by Wolves", 2014



*Debris*, 2018  
Site-specific installation with assorted materials and CCTV monitors  
Dimensions variable



*Debris*, 2018  
Site-specific installation with assorted materials and CCTV monitors  
Dimensions variable



*Crystallize*, 2018  
Video installation



*Intrinseco Series*, 2018

Piezoelectric inkjet print dried with UV light on transparent crystal film

Spray paint applied with stencil on transparent crystal film

Each layer: 285 × 138



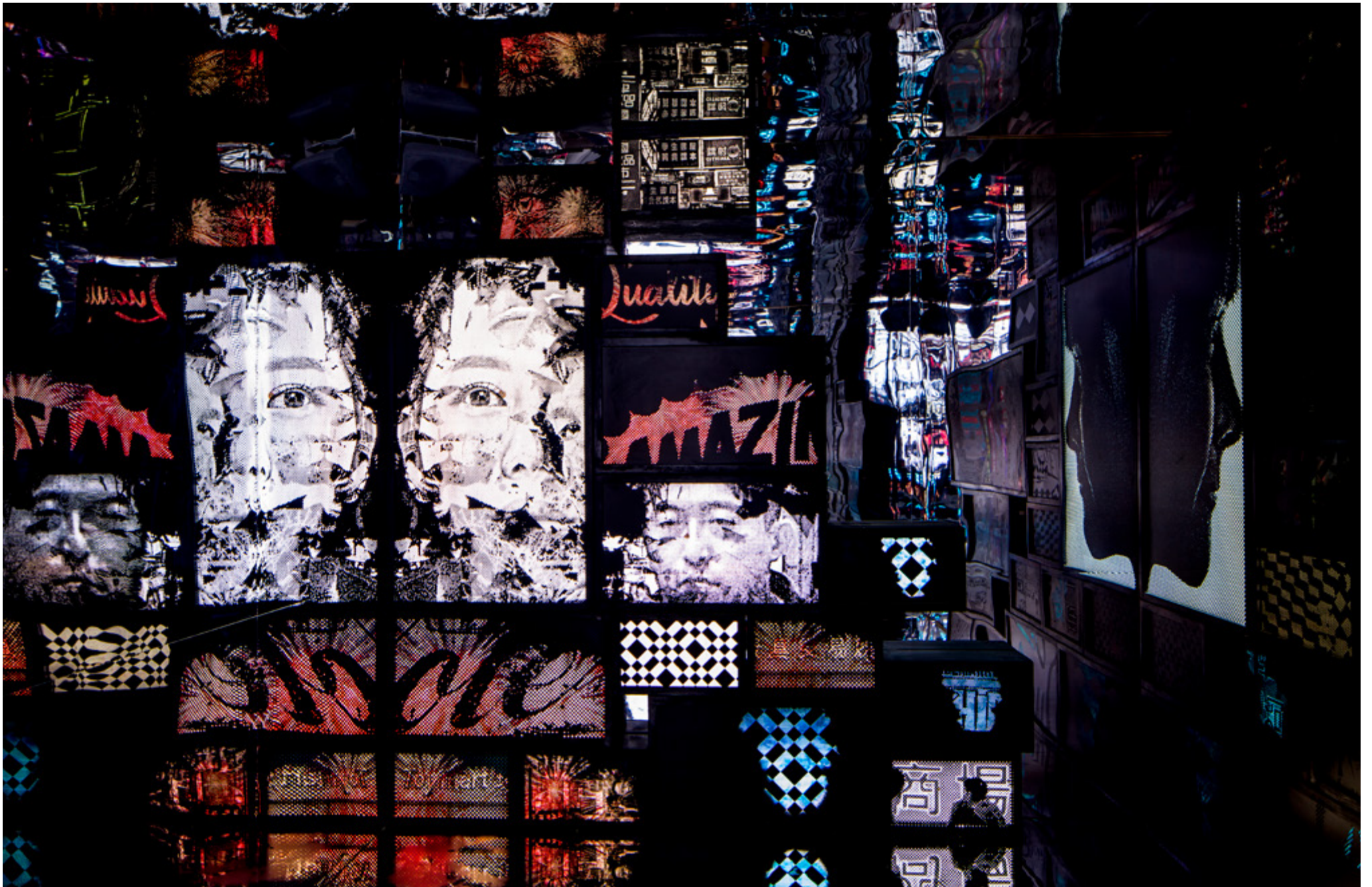
*Residue Series*, 2017

Bas-relief carving on plasterboard mounted on metal structure

Each piece: 200 × 120 × 40 cm



*Gleam Series*, 2016-2017  
Site-specific installation with neon lights  
Approx. 200 × 840 × 360 cm



*Flicker Series*, 2017

Video installation with laser-cut acrylic boards  
Approx. 330 × 610 × 20 cm

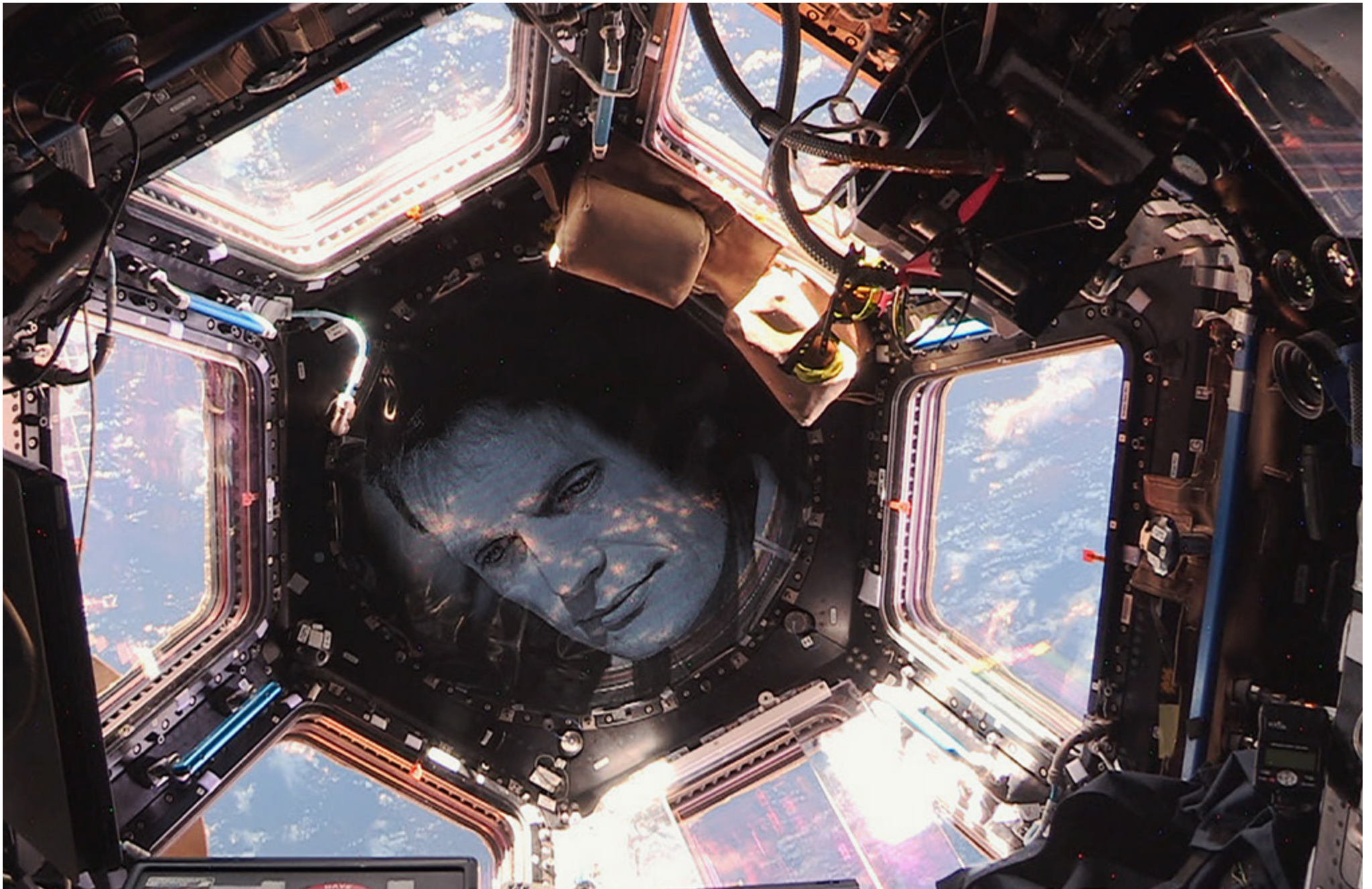


*Untitled*, 2016  
GS1 Portugal headquarters, Lisbon, Portugal  
Precast concrete  
49 panels, each: 778 × 137 × 30 cm



*Olhar*, 2016  
Newspaper cut-outs on superimposed acrylic sheets  
Approx. 200 × 135 × 26 cm

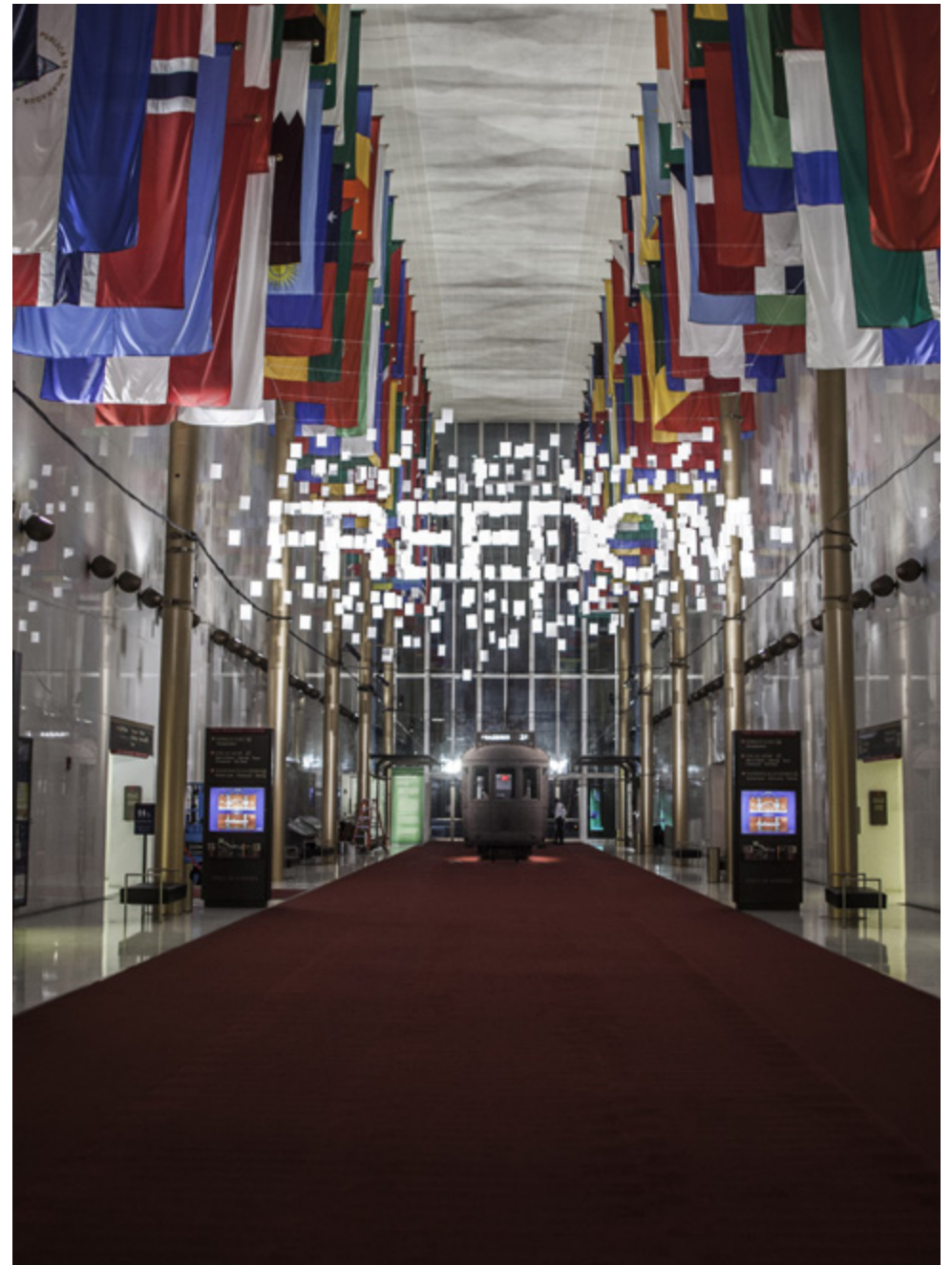




*Portrait of Andreas Mogensen*, 2015  
Site-specific installation  
International Space Station  
70 cm Ø

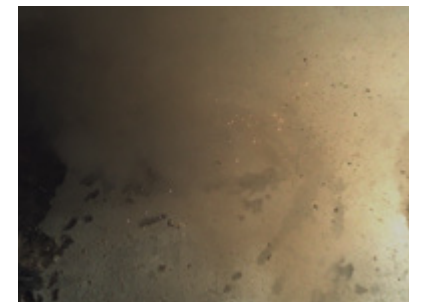


*Calçada*, 2015 (Portrait of Amália Rodrigues)  
Paving stones  
Lisbon, Portugal



*Perspective*, 2015

Site-specific installation with paper sheets and nylon thread  
Approx. 300 × 900 × 1200 cm

**VIEW VIDEO >**

*Detritos Series #02*, 2011  
DVD/PAL, colour, no sound  
Running time: 0'41''

# VHILS

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Farto AKA

**General enquiries:**  
[info@vhilstudio.com](mailto:info@vhilstudio.com)

**Press enquiries:**  
[press@vhilstudio.com](mailto:press@vhilstudio.com)



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**[www.vhils.com](http://www.vhils.com)**