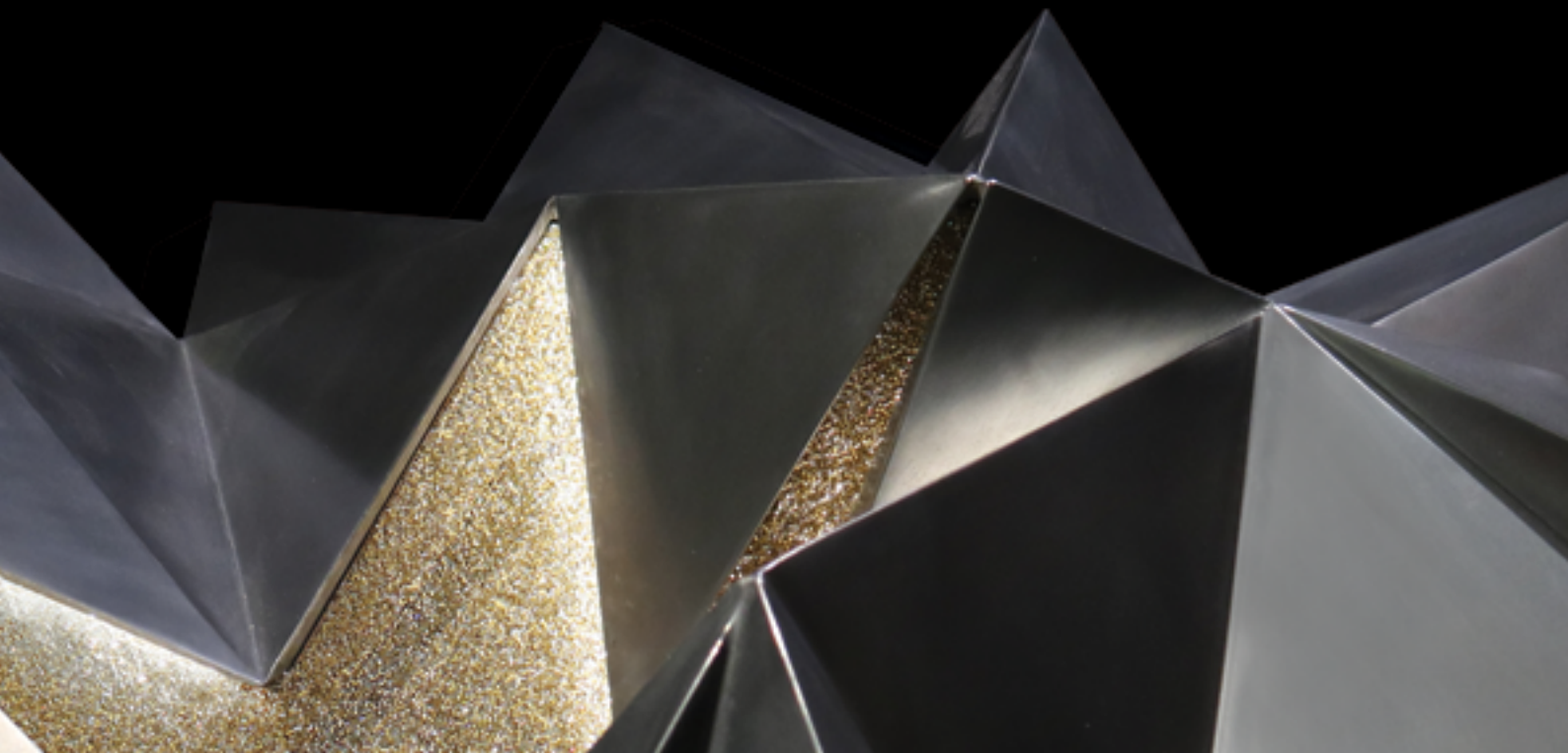



LONDONGEODES

the beauty inside

Matt Marga





*"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things,
but their inward significance."*

Aristotle

INSPIRED BY THE BEAUTY FOUND IN NATURE

As a child growing up in the Italian alps, Matt Marga went out hunting for crystals. Drawn by the idea of finding something precious that no one else had ever seen, he would struggle down from the mountainside with a knapsack filled with stones. Once home he would carefully hammer them apart, eager for a glint in the dark rock; his personal discovery of the beauty hidden away by nature.

What we experience in the London Geodes event is the recreation of that sense of secret wonder, revealed by the complex geometric planes of Marga's pieces. He draws from a fascination with geodes: stones which appear non-descript on the outside, but inside contain fairytale hollows lined with quartz crystals, like agate or amethyst. In a natural geode, hollows are created by bubbles of air and gas which gradually solidify when

under pressure in lava. These hollows then fill with a slow deposit of minerals, encrusting the surface of the cavity with crystals. The London Geodes capture both the characteristic profile of a crystal – flat faces with sharp angles – and its highly ordered atomic structure. This severity plays out against scintillating crystal interiors, which pull the viewer towards the wall-hung sculptural works. Informed by his architectural background, Marga utilises a range of techniques: combining the precision of laser cutting with cold metal casting, along with LED technology and hand finishing.

While natural geodes are typically found scattered across a desert," the artist explains, "these works are statements for our urban habitat, with their polished metal surfaces and high-spec construction.





They are built and made in London, where I live and work. I am drawn to the way that different metals work in our modern environment. The light that I place within the geodes creates endless possibilities, like great cities which are full of surprises and moments of unexpected beauty.

When building his pieces, Marga's process first involves sketching angles and facets on paper at random. But the movement from sketch to sculpture is achieved through absolute precision, since the inner geometry of the geode must be exact. Beneath the peaks and valleys of the outer structure lies a strictly organised architecture: of perpendicular supports cut by laser to within a fraction of a millimetre. There is no space for error. The mathematics of nature are recruited to bring

harmony and balance to the finished work.

Slashed across this landscape is a lightning bolt of shimmering crystals. As the viewer approaches, the gallery darkens and the shell of the work falls back into shadow - leaving only a glowing streak in a split rock. Light and colour glisten from the fracture, revealing the internal mystery of the geode to the observer.

What we see here on the surface is only a partial manifestation, leaving us to imagine the treasure that continues within" says Margaroli.

The perception of light changes as it falls across the countless surfaces, meaning no two viewers will experience these unique and complex works in the same way.

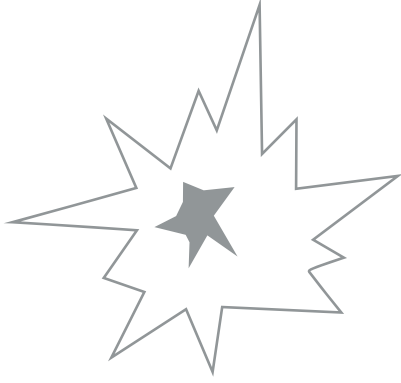
31

Knightbridge Green



35

Hyde Park Corner



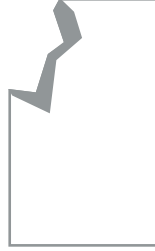
39

Walton Street



43

New Bond Street



47

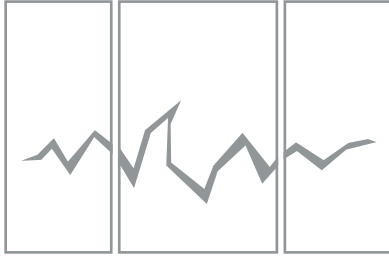
Mount Street



51

Brompton Road





55

Queen's Gate

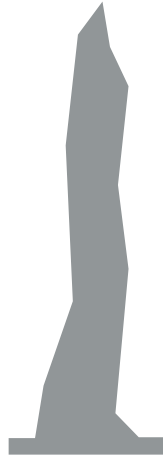
59

Adam and Eve Mews



63

Venus Road



67

Adam and Eve Mews S



69

Venus Road SM



71

Venus Road SB



LONDONGEODES

the beauty inside

Matt Marga







Regent Street



London Geodes - Regent Street
Material: Crystals, Aluminium alloy
Dimension: w85 x h140 x d17 cm
2017



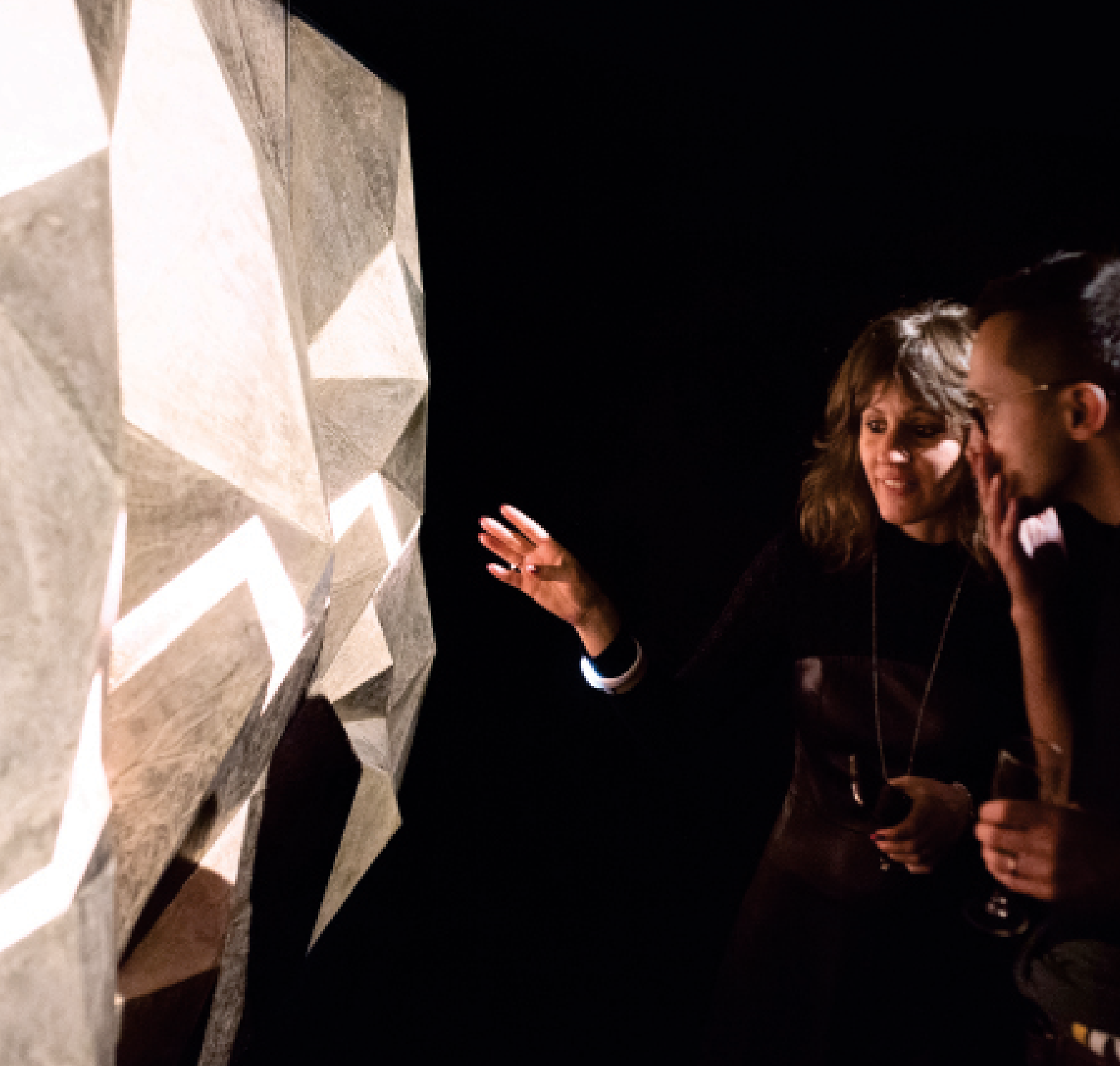


Brook Street

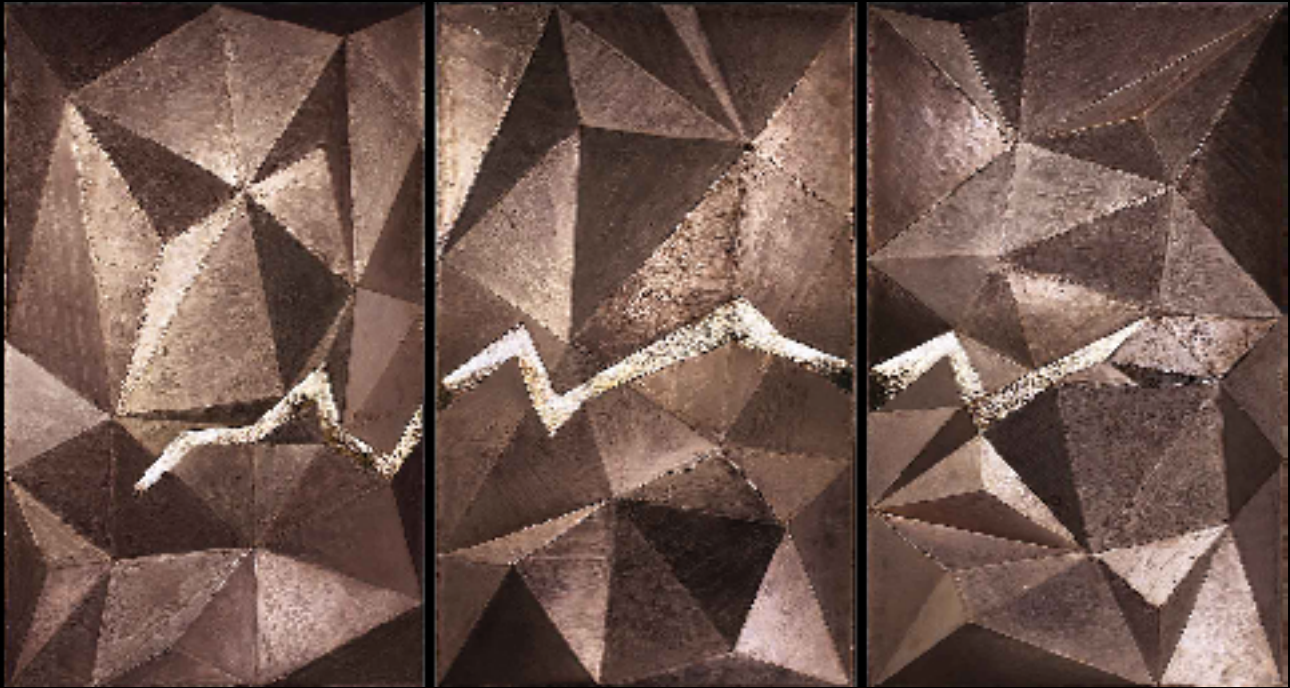


London Geodes - Brook Street
Material: Crystals, Bronze alloy
Dimension: w40 x h67 x d10 cm
2015

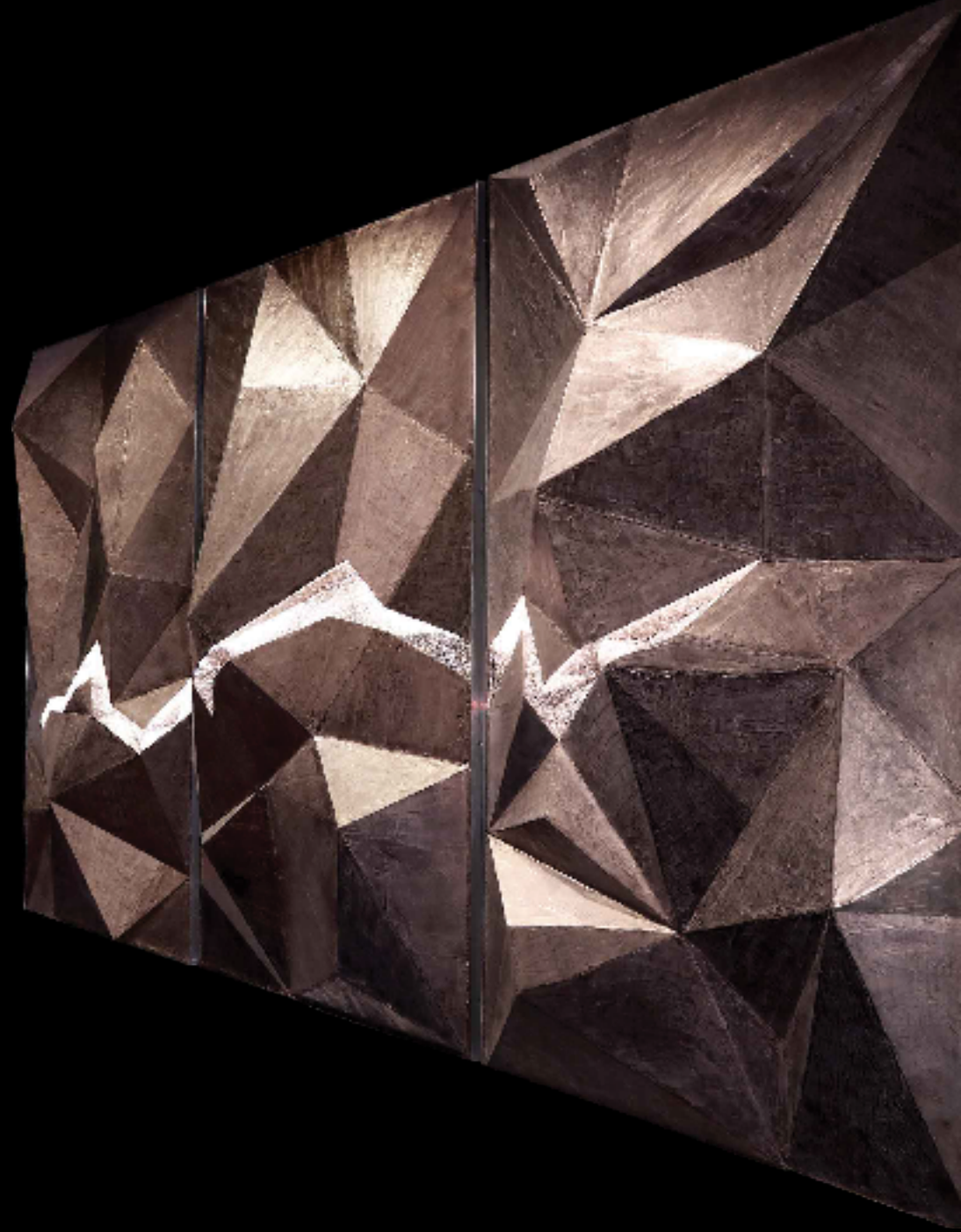




Old Church Street



London Geodes - Old Church Street
Material: Crystals, Bronze alloy
Dimension: w267 x h142 x d23 cm
2015



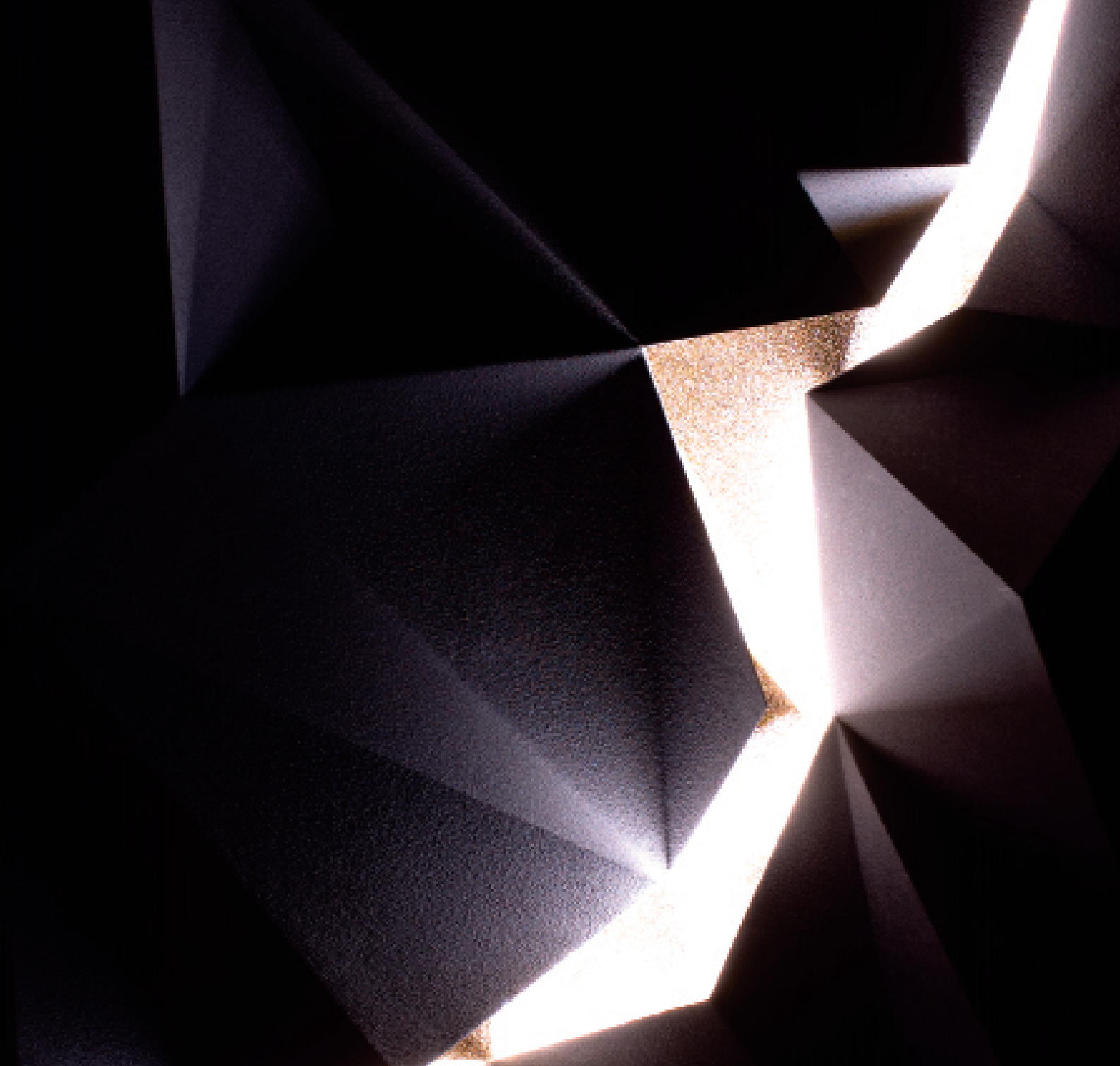


Sloane Street



London Geodes - Sloane Street
Material: Crystals, Copper alloy
Dimension: w94 x h149 x d17 cm
2017





Curzon Street



London Geodes - Curzon Street
Material: Crystals, Aluminium alloy
Dimension: w85 x h140 x d20 cm
2016





Knightsbridge Green

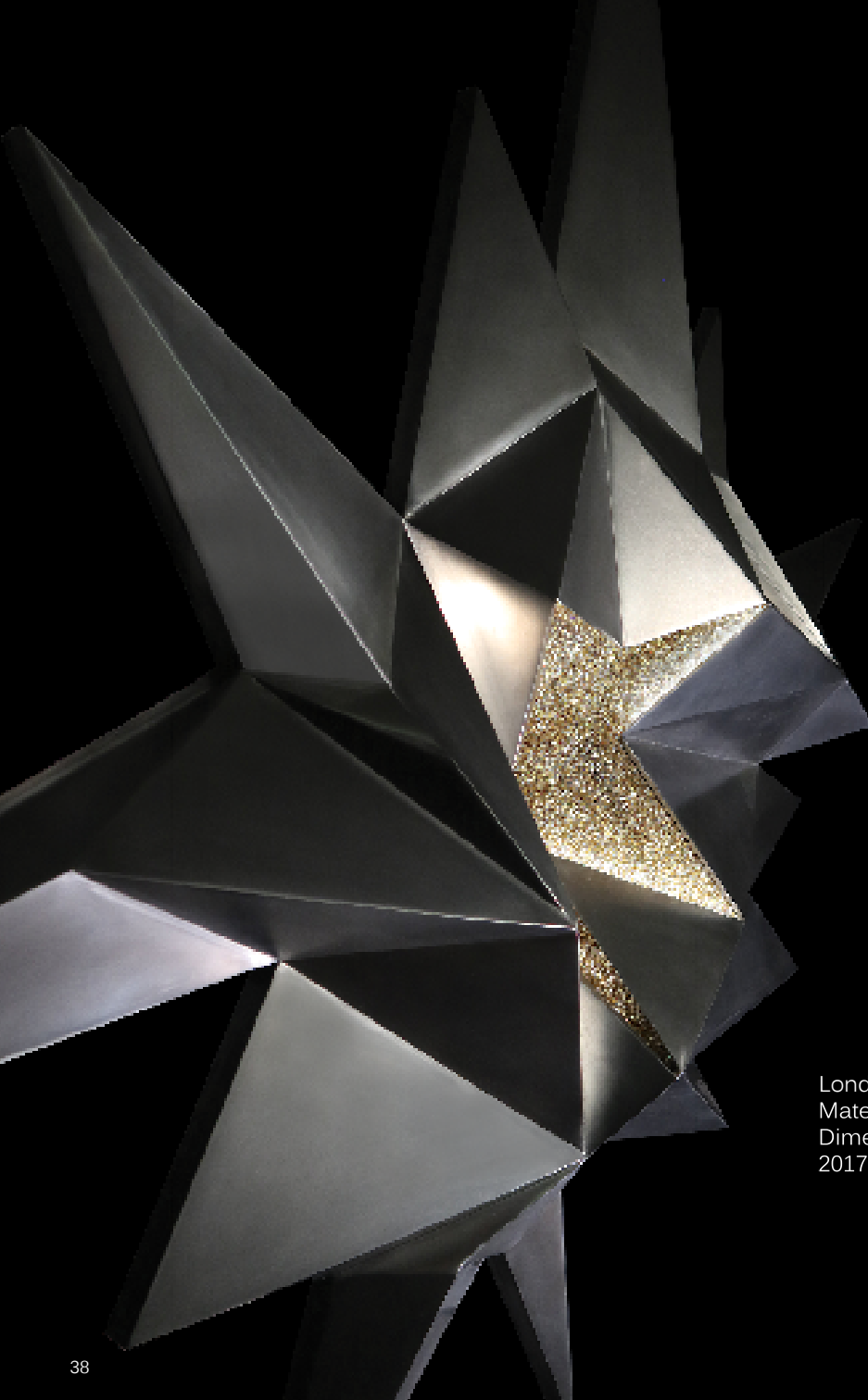


London Geodes - Knightsbridge Green
Material: Crystals, Bronze alloy
Dimension: w140 x h85 x d18 cm
2016

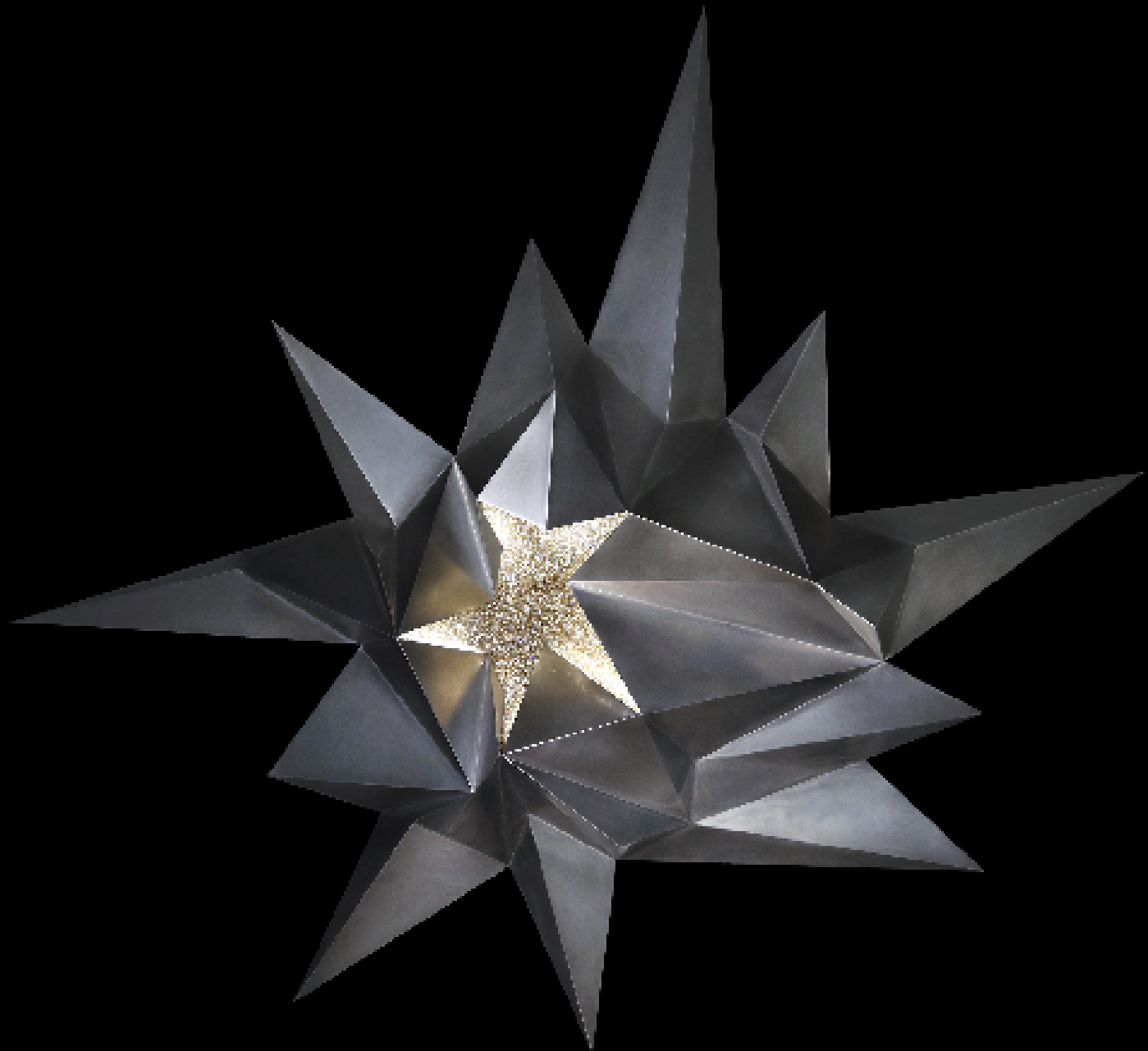




Hyde Park Corner



London Geodes - Hyde Park Corner
Material: Crystals, Aluminium alloy
Dimension: w211 x h195 x d24 cm
2017





Walton Street



London Geodes - Walton Street
Material: Crystals, Bronze alloy
Dimension: w94 x h149 x d19 cm
2017





New Bond Street



London Geodes - New Bond Street
Material: Crystals, Aluminium alloy
Dimension: w85 x h140 x d22 cm
2016





Mount Street



London Geodes - Mount Street
Material: Crystals, Bronze alloy
Dimension: w40 x h67 x d10 cm
2016





Brompton Road



London Geodes - Brompton Road
Material: Crystals, Aluminium alloy
Dimension: w85 x h140 x d20 cm
2017





Queen's Gate





London Geodes - Queen's Gate
Material: Crystals, Brass alloy
Dimension: w257 x h158 x d20 cm
2017



Adam and Eve Mews



Adam and Eve Mews takes inspiration from the first man and woman. Built in the shape of a cathedral, the piece takes the form of a shell with crystals inside – resembling a typical geode formation stone.

A geode is normally cut into two specular halves to reveal the crystals inside: the inner beauty. However, the two halves of this sculpture are not specular but complementary, like a man and a woman.

Adam is taller and straighter both outside and in; Eve is shorter, her sides more curved. Their heads are tilted slightly towards each other as a sign of love. This is the very point where the space between them is at its closest, overlapping their profiles.

Our outer shell is shaped by the society we live in. We put up an armour to protect ourselves from people around us, as a way of self-defence. *Adam and Eve Mews* is a bronze multifaceted structure with sharp lines and angles, making it seem impenetrable. Its shape symbolises the different faces we show to others – like the many different surfaces of a large crystal.

At first glance, the sculpture would seem like an impenetrable shield. If we see it from this perspective, we would probably find it inaccessible and perhaps even hostile. But looking inside the geode from a different angle we see colour, rich-

we find soul and feeling, as it discloses a sense of friendliness and ease.

In *Adam and Eve Mews*, the crystals within one half of the sculpture reflect their light onto the polished bronzed surface of the other half. In this sense the piece mimics a real couple, with each side absorbing aspects of the other.

Only the two protagonists can see in full perspective the other half's beauty: everyone else only sees through the gap.

London Geodes - Adam and Eve Mews
Material: Crystals, Bronze alloy
Dimension: w73 x h200 x d55 cm
2017





Venus Road



London Geodes - Venus Road
Material: Crystals, Magnetite alloy
Dimension: w50 x h240 x d40 cm
2017





Adam and Eve Mews S

London Geodes - Adam and Eve Mews S
Material: Crystals, Brass alloy
Dimension: w26 x h66 x d18 cm
2017





Venus Road SM



London Geodes - Venus Road SM
Material: Crystals, Magnetite alloy
Dimension: w17 x h80 x d13 cm
2017





Venus Road SB

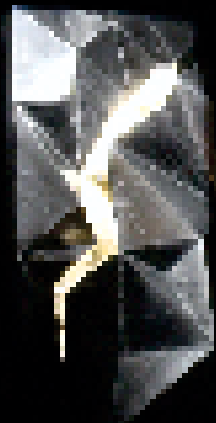


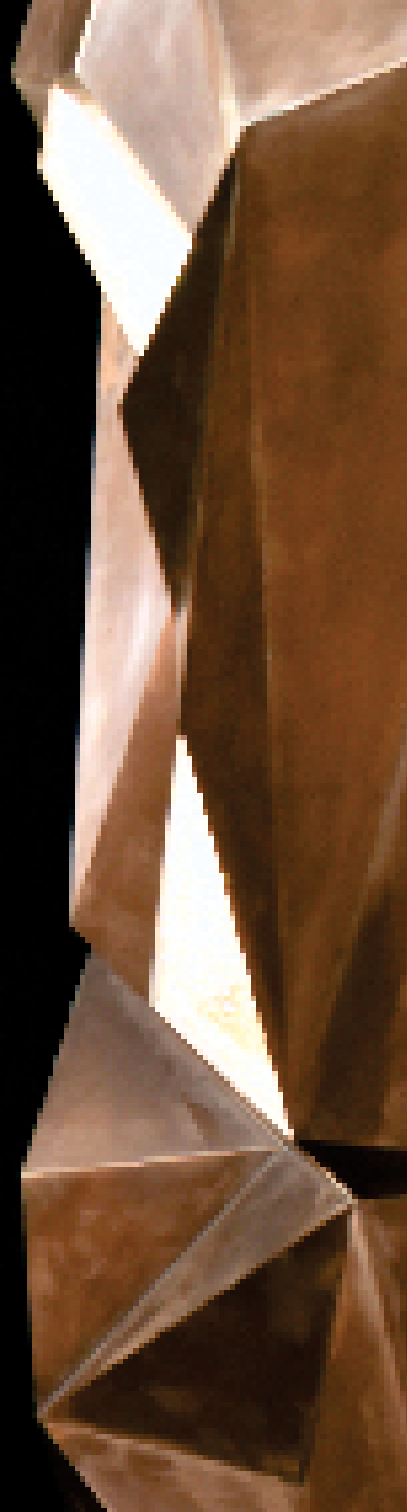
London Geodes - Venus Road SB
Material: Crystals, Magnetite and Brass alloy
Dimension: w17 x h80 x d13 cm
2017

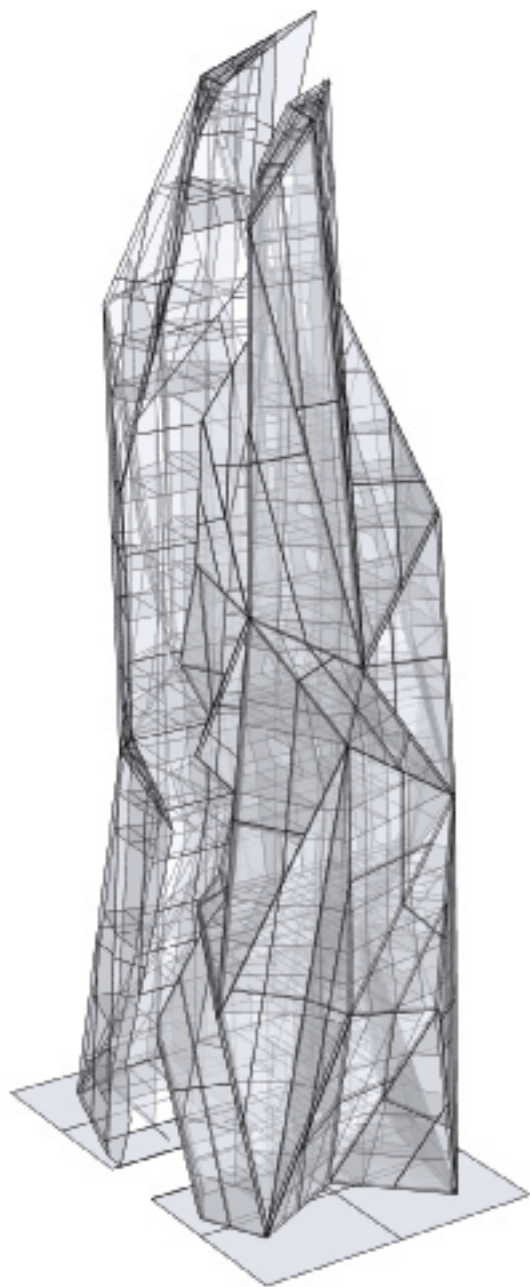


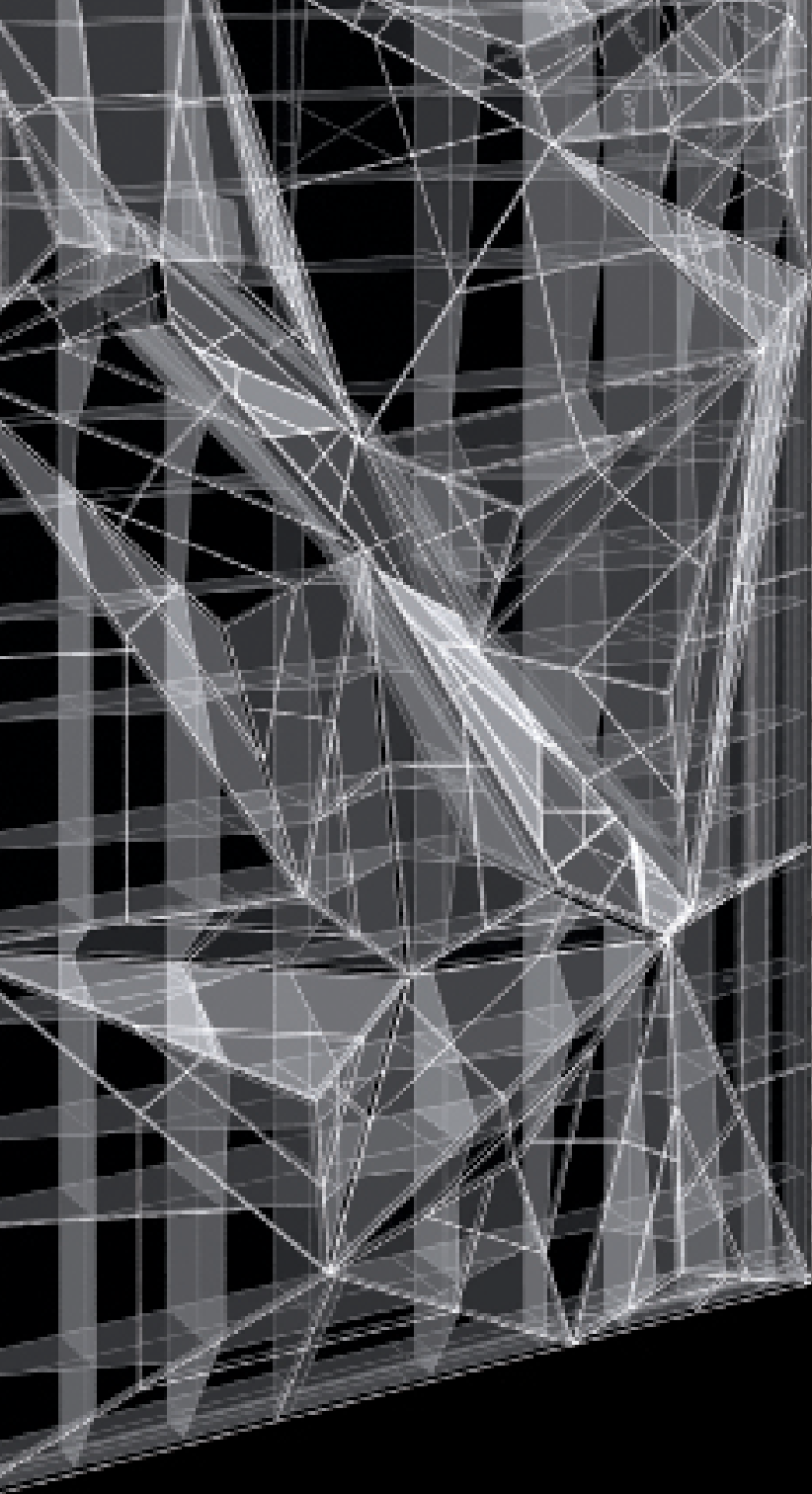




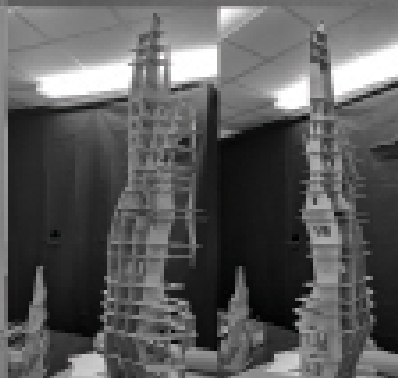
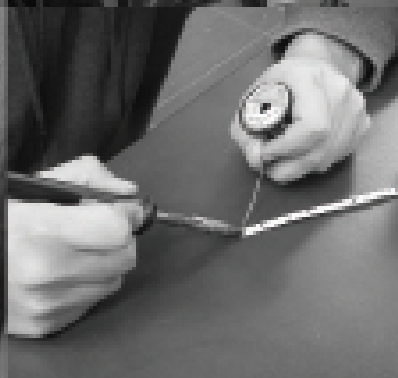
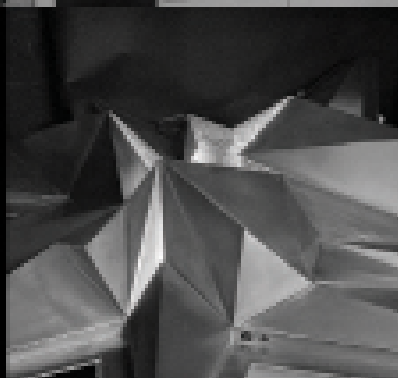
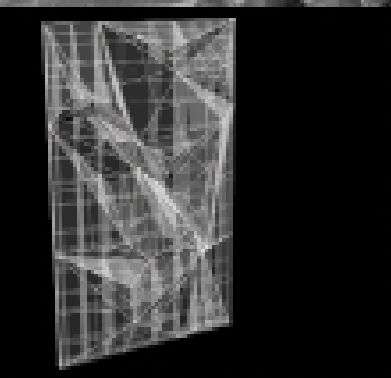
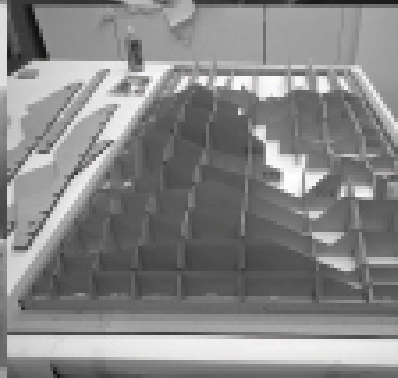
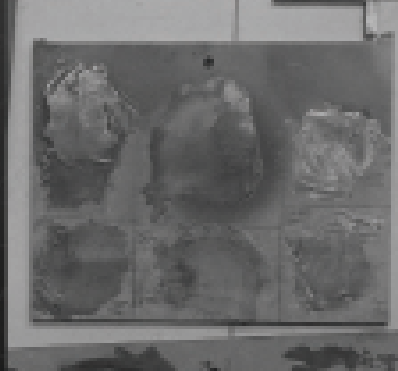
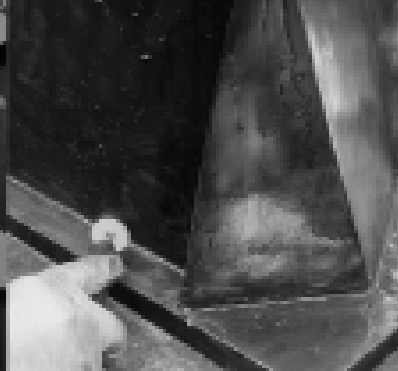
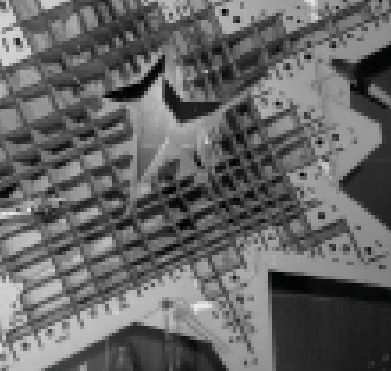


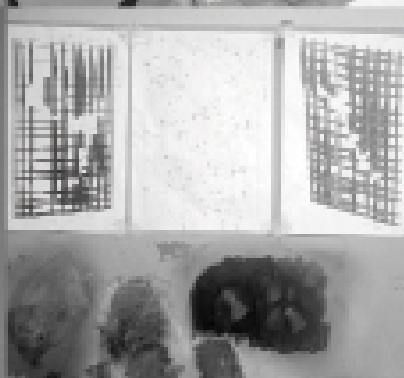
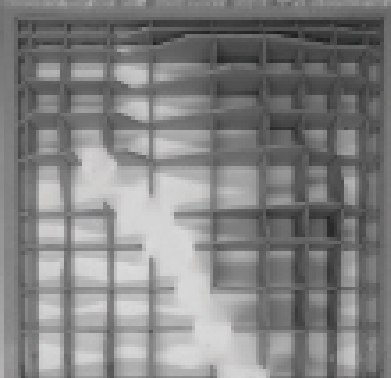
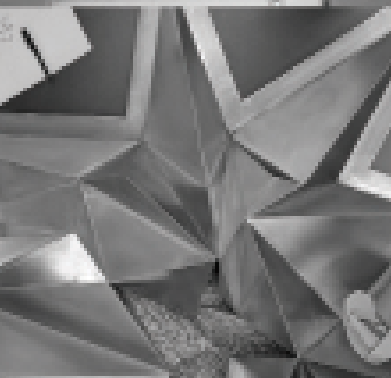
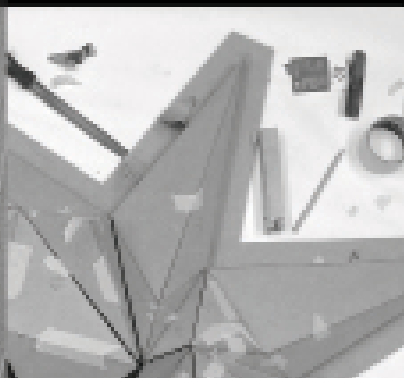
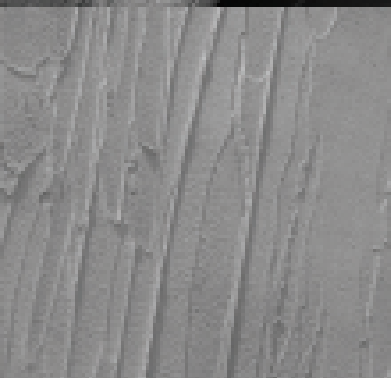
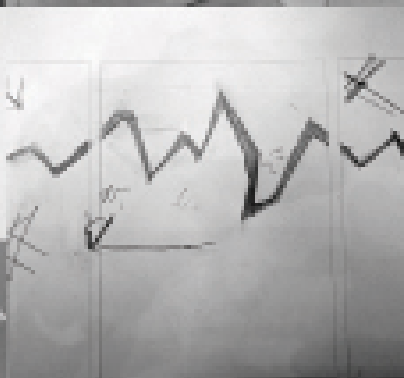
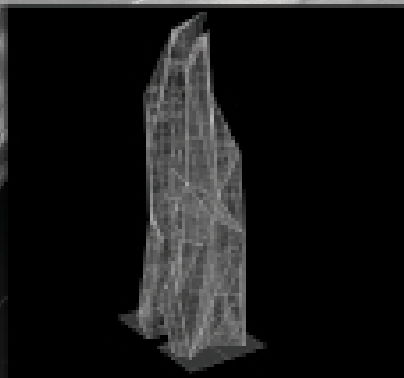
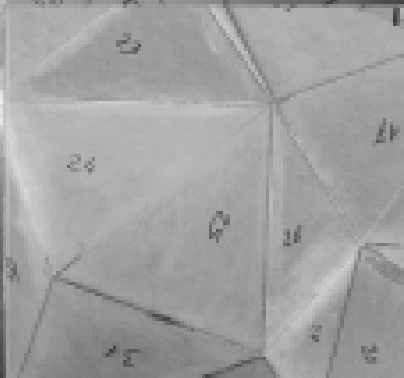
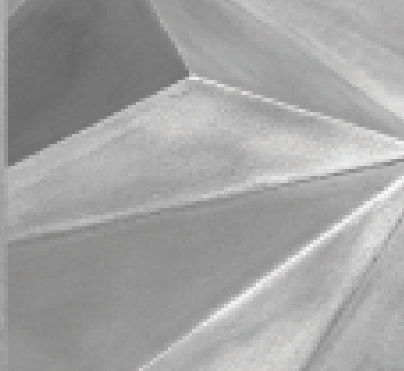
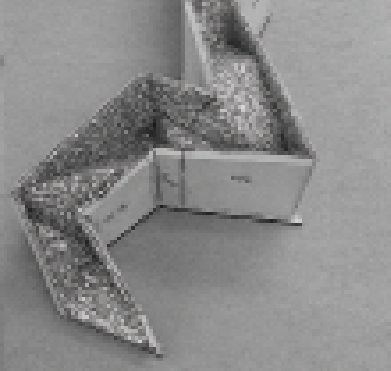






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