

RESOLUTION NO. 25-54

Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Approving Artists Robert Ortbal, Stella Kalaw, Carrie Hott, Mila Moldenhawer, Ceci Bowman, Jennifer Mazzucco, Teresa Kalnoskas, Torrey Cummings, And Alla Agafonov; And First Alternate Therese Lahaie, Second Alternate Ana Lisa Hedstrom, And Third Alternate Robin Bernstein; For The *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program – Phase VIII* And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute Agreements With The Approved Artists For Final Design Of The Art Works In Amounts Not To Exceed \$5,000 For Each Artist

WHEREAS, Article 4 of Chapter 2 of Title 3 of the Emeryville Municipal Code establishes the Contributions for the Art in Public Places Program; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-2.404 of the Emeryville Municipal Code establishes the Emeryville Public Art Fund to implement the Art in Public Places Program; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the Public Art Program is to locate public art in distinct neighborhoods throughout the City and thereby introduce the City's public art to a larger audience; and

WHEREAS, as part of its 2025 project priorities, the Public Art Committee ("PAC") included Phase VIII of the *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program* with the intent to continue building the City's Art in Public Places Program through the installation of temporary works of art at transit locations; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Phase VIII of the *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program* was issued and distributed to artists working in a wide range of media including painting, photography, printmaking, textiles, sculpture, metalwork, and digital media; and

WHEREAS, the RFP requested that artists submit art for this program to respond to a theme of "*Fertile Ground – Art and Innovation*" to inspire compelling imagery as well as to encourage broad ranging possibilities for creative interpretation; and

WHEREAS, in December 2024, the City Manager appointed a five-member selection panel for Phase VIII of the *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program*, comprised of Mike Haggerty and Dr. Laura Rifkin, representing the PAC; Kristen Zaremba, as outside art professional; Erica Enriquez, representing the community; and Lois Porter, representing the City (the "Selection Panel"); and

WHEREAS, 17 responses to the RFP were received by the application deadline of February 25, 2025, of which 16 were deemed eligible; and

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WHEREAS, on March 5, 2025, the Selection Panel, with Ellen Han serving in Lois Porter's place, recommended the artists and alternates be selected for Phase VIII of the *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program* including Robert Ortbal, Stella Kalaw, Carrie Hott, Mila Moldenhawer, Ceci Bowman, and Jennifer Mazzucco, and alternate artists Teresa Kalnoskas And Torreya Cummings; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2025, the PAC reviewed the Selection Panel's recommendations and recommended that the City Council approve the six finalists and two alternates, and authorize the City Manager to enter into agreements with the approved artists for final design of the submitted art work in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for each artist; and

WHEREAS, due to technical issues, five additional responses to the RFP were not initially reviewed by staff and the Selection Panel, of which four were eligible; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2025, the Selection Panel reconvened, with Alyssa Chung in Lois Porter's place to review the four additional responses and the two previously recommended alternates and recommended additional artists and alternates be selected for the third year of an expanded Phase VIII of the *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program including*: Teresa Kalnoskas, Torreya Cummings, Alla Agafonov as the additional artists to be contracted in the third year and first alternate Therese Lahaie; second alternate Ana Lisa Hedstrom, and third alternate Robin Bernstein; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2025, the PAC reviewed the Selection Panel's recommendations and recommended that the City Council approve the nine finalists and three alternates, and authorize the City Manager to enter into agreements with the approved artists for final design of the submitted art work in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for each artist; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby approves artists Robert Ortbal, Stella Kalaw, Carrie Hott, Mila Moldenhawer, Ceci Bowman, Jennifer Mazzucco, Teresa Kalnoskas, Torreya Cummings and Alla Agafonov (the "Approved Artists") and first alternate Therese Lahaie, second alternate Ana Lisa Hedstrom, and third alternate Robin Bernstein (the "Alternate Artists"); for the *Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program – Phase VIII*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute Agreements with the Approved Artists for final design of the submitted artwork in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for each artist, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event one or more of the Approved Artists is unable or unwilling to execute an Agreement with the City, the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute Agreements with the Alternate Artists for final design of the submitted artwork in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for each artist.

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ADOPTED, by the City Council of the City of Emeryville at a regular meeting held Tuesday, June 17, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	<u>5</u>	Mayor Mourra, Vice Mayor Kaur and Council Members Priforce, Solomon and Welch
NOES:	<u>0</u>	
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>	
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>	

Signed by:

DEB2006803FA400...
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Signed by:

9AF9F67CE0284D8...
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:

2C934D02DB55467...
CITY ATTORNEY

About the Selected Artists

1. Robert Ortbal

"I am working on an ongoing series of tiny, masked figures collectively titled Samaritans. They are part of a more expansive practice that involves creating custom traveling cases for them and wearable sculptures used in performative works that are exhibited in installations and portrayed in video, photography and drawing."

2. Stella Kalaw

"Stella's collage work draws from photography-based imagery, incorporating found materials, historical ephemera, and contemporary elements to construct layered visual narratives. Embracing an improvisational approach akin to jazz composition, she assembles disparate elements into cohesive, whimsical compositions that evoke nostalgia while offering a fresh perspective."

About the Selected Artists Cont.

3. Carrie Hott

“I propose a series of four posters that depict speculative underground infrastructure and geological diagrams in the location of the bus shelters in Emeryville. These images will blend schematic, architectural, and organic forms to visualize layered histories. Rooted in research on Emeryville’s industrial past, ecological transformations, and contemporary urban infrastructure, each composition will weave together elements of reality and speculation, encouraging viewers to reconsider the unseen forces underground that mediate their daily lives.”

4. Mila Moldenhawer

“I have created four sketches of high contrast and high visual impact cellular structures, meant to be representations of biotechnology and renewal, speaking to how Emeryville has become a hub for contemporary creativity and biotechnology. I aim to integrate both graphic and natural forms in my work—symbolizing microscopic biological structures and the merging of art and biological advancements. The use of vibrant, organic colors point to themes of fertility and renewal to life in aesthetic and visually impactful ways that will catch the eye of anyone passing by. Incorporating fun and bright molecular structures evokes the technological and scientific aspects of the district’s biotech influence.”

About the Selected Artists Cont.

5. Ceci Bowman

"I've been exploring the idea of organic resistance —how nature refuses to be contained, breaking through layers of cement, bursting past barriers, demanding to be seen. I've been playing with gouache, pen and ink, and collage materials , layering them digitally to bring out textures and color in new, vibrant ways . My collages capture those spontaneous moments in urban spaces—where color, energy, and life find a way to shine through the density of the city. This "fertile resistance" is the heartbeat of my work—an explosion of vibrancy, movement, and human spirit."

6. Jennifer Mazzucco

"My work explores color, light, and texture, using the wheel and placement of color into concentric circles or radiant spokes as a grounding symbol of stability. With the circle, chart, or graph as the foundation of each piece, I then can allow the layered hues and shifting tones of watercolor to do what they do best. Watercolor's natural flow, blossom, overlay, and bleed juxtaposed with the under-layered outline creates an interplay between control and surrender, process and product."

About the Selected Artists (Continued)

7. Terese Kalnoskas

“The concept I am proposing for City of Emeryville’s 2025 Bus Shelter Art Program is four portraits that honor and recognize local individuals who have become a part of local history. The original paintings, known as Portrait Project: Living Tributes, were begun in 2017 to celebrate the lives of individuals who have participated in the Emeryville Senior Center. The bus shelter portrait reproductions would be accompanied by a brief life story of the individuals, which was the culmination of casual interviews, sketching, and photographic sessions.”

8. Torrey Cummings

“My proposal is to tell the story of this small patch of earth at bus stops around the city — spaces that are undoubtedly very close to other small, interstitial wild spaces around Emeryville. I’ve included a selection of images of native and non-native plants that reflect the local landscape — California poppy, wild onion, coyote mint, mixed bouquets of various weed species, wild oat grass, nasturtium, and bedstraw. They have varying deep blue backgrounds and the leaves and flowers are seen in shades of light blue and white, a reverse shadow.”

About the Selected Artists (Continued)

9. Alla Agafonov

“For the last few years, I have been working primarily in watercolor medium and would like to propose a set of 4 watercolors that reflect the theme of Fertile Ground. I spend quite a bit of time walking and running around the Marina and this connection of Emeryville to the edge of the water and the bay is just absolutely stunning. I want to highlight this relationship of the city on the water through 4 large scale pieces that I would paint from a series of photographs that I have taken throughout the years at the Emeryville Marina. This relationship of the aquatic activity, from the flora and fauna to the boats and people give rise to the literal interpretation of Fertile Ground that the city is so deeply rooted in.”

Robert Ortbal, Samaritians



Media: Sculpture
– plastic, mixed
media



Prior Submittal: Yes
featured



Resident



Affiliation: 45th Street
Artist's
Cooperative/RCCD

















Stella Kalaw, Emeryville Retrospect Reimagined



Media: Digital Collage



Prior Submittal: No



Resident



Affiliation: RCCD

Project: Emeryville Retrospect Reimagined

Artist: Stella Kalaw

Medium: Digital Collage



*Factory Employees from the The Paraffine Companies Inc and The Public Market
Archival images from The Emeryville Historical Society Online Photo Archive.*

Stella Kalaw
35 Loop 22 Emeryville, CA 94608
photo@kalaw.com
415-894-5785

Project: Emeryville Retrospect Reimagined

Artist: Stella Kalaw

Medium: Digital Collage



*Roy Anton, Oakland Oaks in front of Home Depot where the baseball stadium once stood.
Archival images from The Emeryville Historical Society Online Photo Archive.*

Stella Kalaw
35 Loop 22 Emeryville, CA 94608
photo@kalaw.com
415-894-5785

Project: Emeryville Retrospect Reimagined

Artist: Stella Kalaw

Medium: Digital Collage



*Employees from the Merchant Calculating Machine Company sitting on Foundry 31 Building.
Archival images from The Emeryville Historical Society Online Photo Archive.*

Stella Kalaw
35 Loop 22 Emeryville, CA 94608
photo@kalaw.com
415-894-5785

Project: Emeryville Retrospect Reimagined

Artist: Stella Kalaw

Medium: Digital Collage



*Charlie Klinkner and Friends in front of Gazzali's where the vicinity of Klinkner town was once located.
Archival images from The Emeryville Historical Society Online Photo Archive.*

Stella Kalaw
35 Loop 22 Emeryville, CA 94608
photo@kalaw.com
415-894-5785

Project: Emeryville Retrospect Reimagined
Artist: Stella Kalaw
Medium: Digital Collage



*Doble in Car in front of The Besler Lofts.
Archival images from The Emeryville Historical Society Online Photo Archive.*

Stella Kalaw
35 Loop 22 Emeryville, CA 94608
photo@kalaw.com
415-894-5785

Carrie Hott, Unseen Infrastructure



Media: depicts speculative underground infrastructure and geological diagrams digitally



Prior Submittal: No



Resident



Affiliation: 45th Street Artists' Cooperative



late shift

a walk

a ride



streaming
hoping
shopping
reading
scrolling
posting
voting
reading

yesterday
last year





Mila Moldenhawer, Micro Worlds, Macro Visions



Media: Abstract Paintings



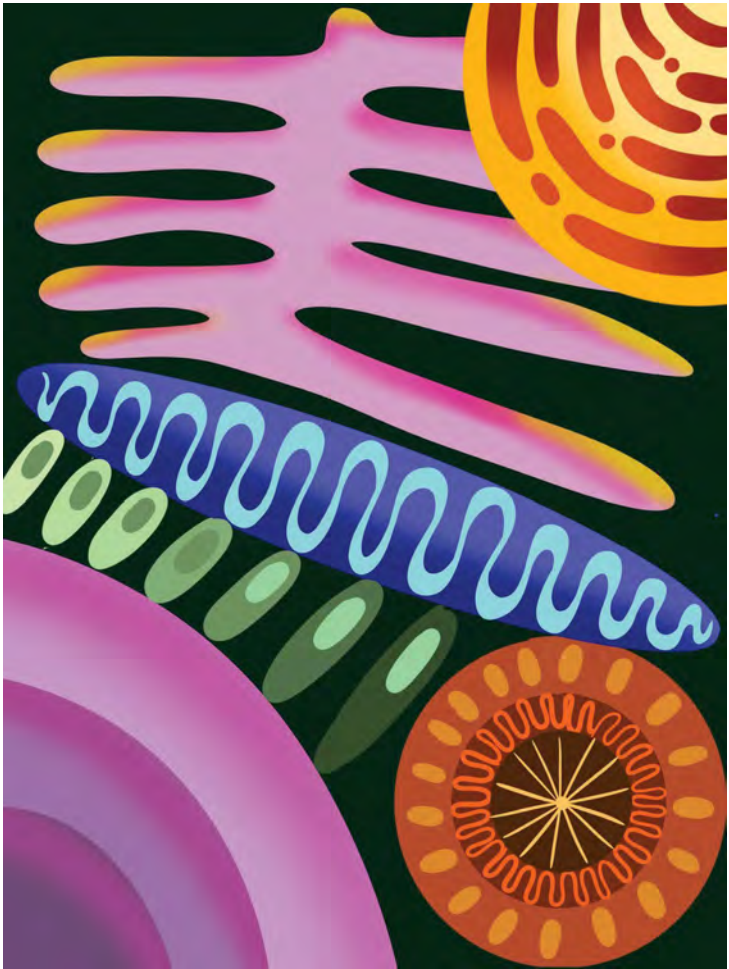
Prior Submittal: No



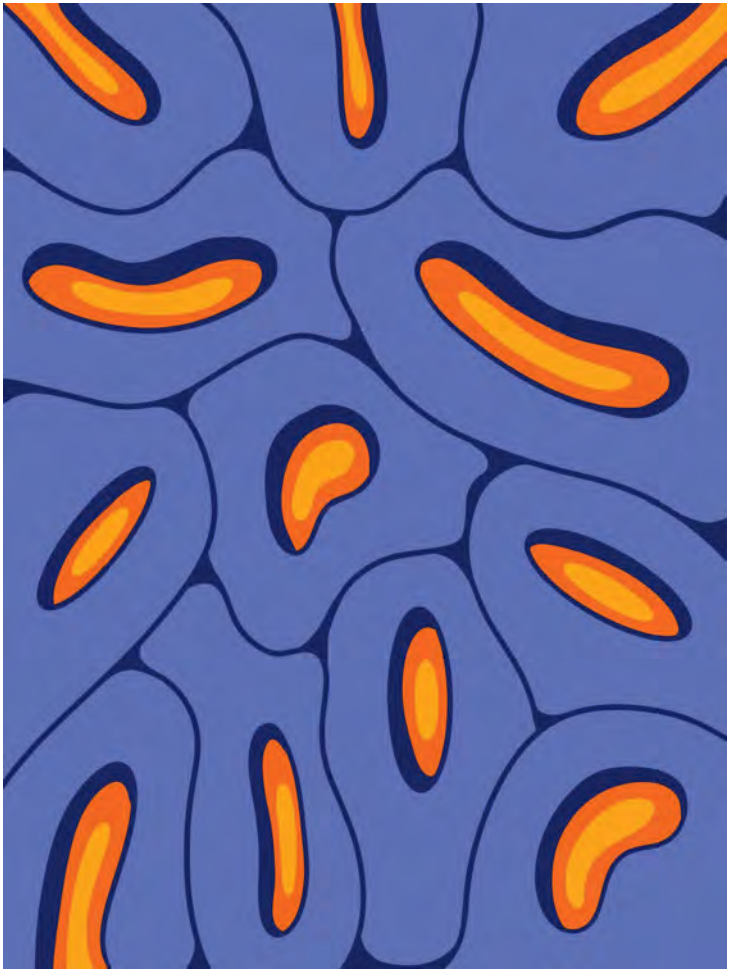
Resident



Affiliation: Compound Gallery /RCCD









Ceci Bowman, Sharon Wilchar Bus Shelter Art Program



Media: Collage/Paint



Prior Submittal: No



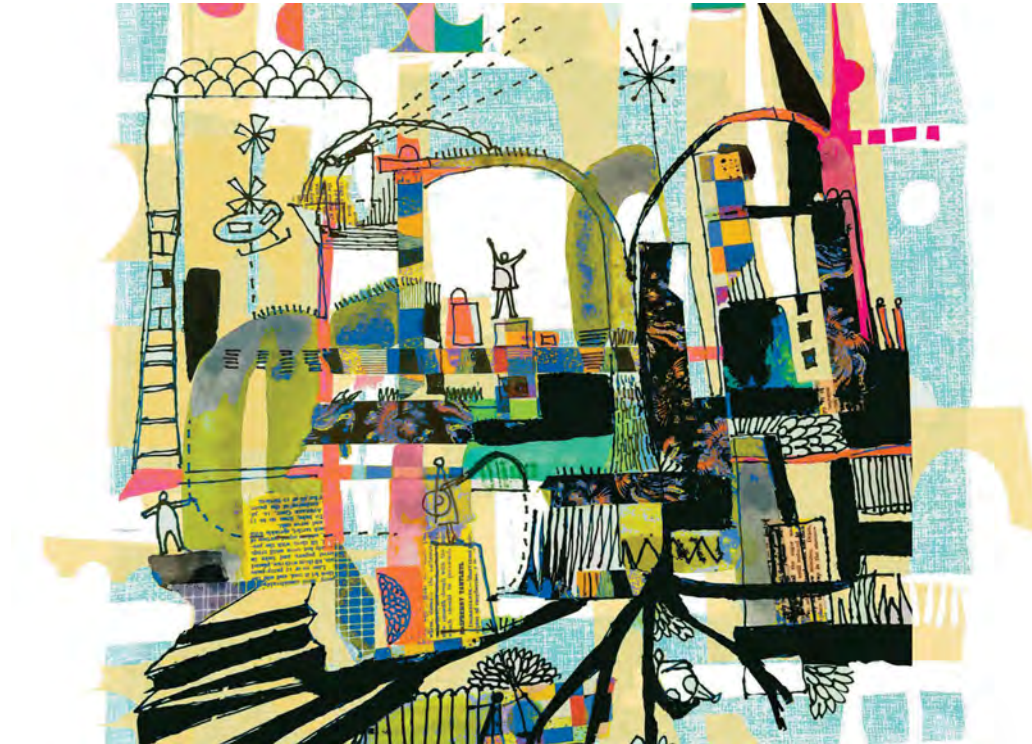
Employment



Affiliation: Business Contract









Jennifer Mazzucco, Finding Sanctuary in Color



Media: Color Wheels



Prior Submittal: No



Resident



Affiliation: Compound
Gallery/RCCD

EXPERIMENTAL COLOR WHEELS















Teresa Kalnoskas, Portrait Project Living Tributes



Media: Portraits



Prior Submittal: YES and the works are Community Promotion Grant



Resident



Affiliation: 45th Street Artists' Cooperative

B. 1950

Shirley Chunn



A story-teller teacher who takes the listener right to the edge with her tales, Shirley can't hold her Coca Cola but she can hold a tune and pack a room as karaoke queen belting out a mean Gladys Knight "I've Gotta Use My Imagination". This cruise-loving, eldest of eight children loves to learn what makes children tick, encouraging them to think independently -- and use their imagination. "Shirley trains them well," they say, and she's been turning lives around for countless students over her decades-long teaching career and beyond. Story telling has been her personal therapy as an adult, too, and a pleasure and pastime that this generous soul can call her own. Observant of herself as much as of others, Shirley moves through life with the help of a simple saying of her Mama's: "When your hand is in the lion's mouth, you always ease it out slowly and go on about your business."



As comfortable in Paris, Burma, Morocco, Cuba, the Sahara Desert—wherever her three dozen overseas trips have taken her—as she was growing up in Oakland's Chinatown, this first-generation American octogenarian and grandmother of ten was taught early on from her parents the value of education. Simultaneously attending both Chinese and non-Chinese schools was a big event, and a cultural immersion Mary Soo-Hoo still nurtures today during her global travels highlighted by speaking to the locals. AUC Berkeley student and SFSU graduate, Mary learned as much from the foreign-born adults in the ESL classes she taught for as they learned from her. The experience was one of her many eye-opening life moments and diversity seems embedded into Mary's very being who saw firsthand the breath of life immigrants gave to a dying Oakland Chinatown. And to do anything bad to anyone, say Chinese wisdom, would bring shame to three generations back. Mary Soo-Hoo is making good and is making life a good trip.

B. 1925
Marilyn Murray-Fulrath



Born on a farm in a small Illinois community in 1925, Marilyn Murray-Fulrath looks at the last 92-plus years and is amazed at the inventions and achievements that have taken place in her lifetime. Farm life was not easy through the depression years, and she remembers the fortitude and determination displayed by her mother – traits she inherited and passed on to her three capable daughters. Marilyn finds it easy to be alone now, even after the passing of her husband in '77 when she suddenly had to do many things herself. She majored and worked in writing and advertising and has been a volunteer for decades, an activity she wishes more people shared. It's good to be busy, she maintains, and a pleasure when you enjoy your work and your friends.

The Portrait Project: Living Tributes



B. 1945

Barry Gentt

A renaissance septuagenarian who feels it's a whole different terrain when you turn 50. In many respects, he says, you become invisible. But Barry Gentt's life is anything but. A next-generation Holocaust survivor born near Buchenwald, Germany, Barry left his family home in upstate New York for grad school in California. After earning a master's in American literature, he began teaching and freelance writing, meeting and interviewing painters, writers, and cartoonists from Nan Wood Graham to Charles Schultz to Art Spiegelman. A humorist and cartoon writer, Barry fantasizes about writing a novel and playing bass guitar – in between dancing and biking. Maybe his funky old rubboard will get him closer to his Zydeco space in this whole different terrain.

Living Tributes is a celebration of individuals' lives who have participated in the Emeryville Senior Center. Begun in 2017, the painted portraits accompanied by a brief life story, is the culmination of casual interviews, sketching and photographic sessions. The purpose has been to honor and recognize local individuals who have become a part of local history in the City of Emeryville.

B. 1939

Darshan Anant



Leaving India (now Pakistan) at age seven with her parents and younger sister, Darshan Anant also left a childhood filled with the trauma of a partitioning country beset with anger and death. With no house and no electricity, Darshan would sit under the street lights to study, eventually getting her masters in English and leaving India for Canada with her new husband in 1964. The soon-to-be single mother of three boys crisscrossed the country with teaching gigs from Oklahoma to Texas to New Jersey, finally settling in California. Darshan keeps her own inner light on despite personal tragedies through her faith and her faith in the light inside everyone. Financially independent and fiercely family-oriented, Darshan lives for the living – her children, grandchildren, and the God in the people she has blessed with her friendship.

B. 1943

John Suter



Hearing that the ski team needed to fill their bottom rung, he learned how to ski. Hearing that electronics was cool, John Suter agreed and he became an electronics engineer. Inspired by a submarine movie he watched as a kid, John Suter entered the service thinking sonar and then spent five tours of duty in problematic areas like Russia and China in weapons fire control. At 45, realizing he exceeded his personal expectations of what he could do, John retired from the electronics industry but never from life. He took his peace and his piece of heaven and set sail for seven years cruising the Pacific with his best friend – his wife, Nancy. Raising the bar is a lifelong habit for John and “maybe I should have...” is not a phrase he ever intends to utter because looking back takes precious time away from looking forward.

B. 1944

Roberta Aron



She spent her Boston childhood in a segregated neighborhood with a large, loving Jewish family, but Roberta Aron grew into a color-blind, bacon-loving, self-taught, deliberate woman who can speak as easily with friends and acquaintances as she can with strangers. After moving to San Francisco with fellow nurses at age 26, Roberta traveled to Europe for three months dramatically ending the last month with severe pneumonia. Back in San Francisco, she met her future husband at a party while stirring up Ramos Fizzes, and marks the birth of first of her two sons when she was 32 as one of the most amazing moments of a life that feels ageless. Whether it's a hike in the redwoods or reading a good book, Roberta endeavors to find a way to balance the frightening uncertainty of the world today with the love that life has given her.

B. 1947

Doty Weiland



Moving from the iron ore mining and US Steel country of Virginia, Minnesota to San Francisco as a newlywed at age 19 certainly gave Doty Weiland a change of culture along with a change in weather. In 1972, Doty and her late husband moved from 5th and Market to Oakland. Today, she proudly and lovingly points to her family of pets composed of a canary and a cockatiel named Prize and Chance, and cats Distance and Runaway. Doty's features have changed little over the years despite a hard-working life that is now spent reading or knitting and crocheting. She's a regular at the senior center where she attends the exercise club and the Friday night club where she can play games or simply sit and talk. The senior center-sponsored trips to the state fair or the Gilroy Garlic Festival or maybe a casino once in a blue moon offer Doty a few more opportunities for a change in place.

Torrey Cummings, Marginalia



Media: Cyanotypes



Prior Submittal: No



Resident



Affiliation: 45th Street
Artists' Cooperative

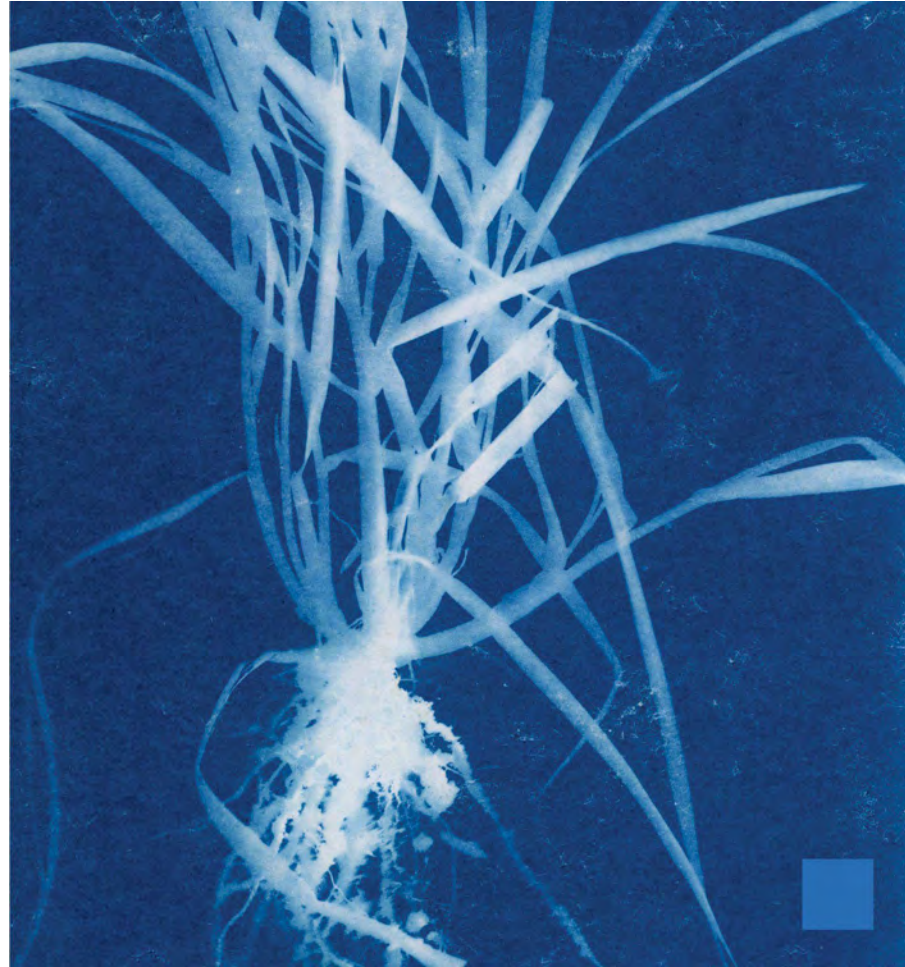




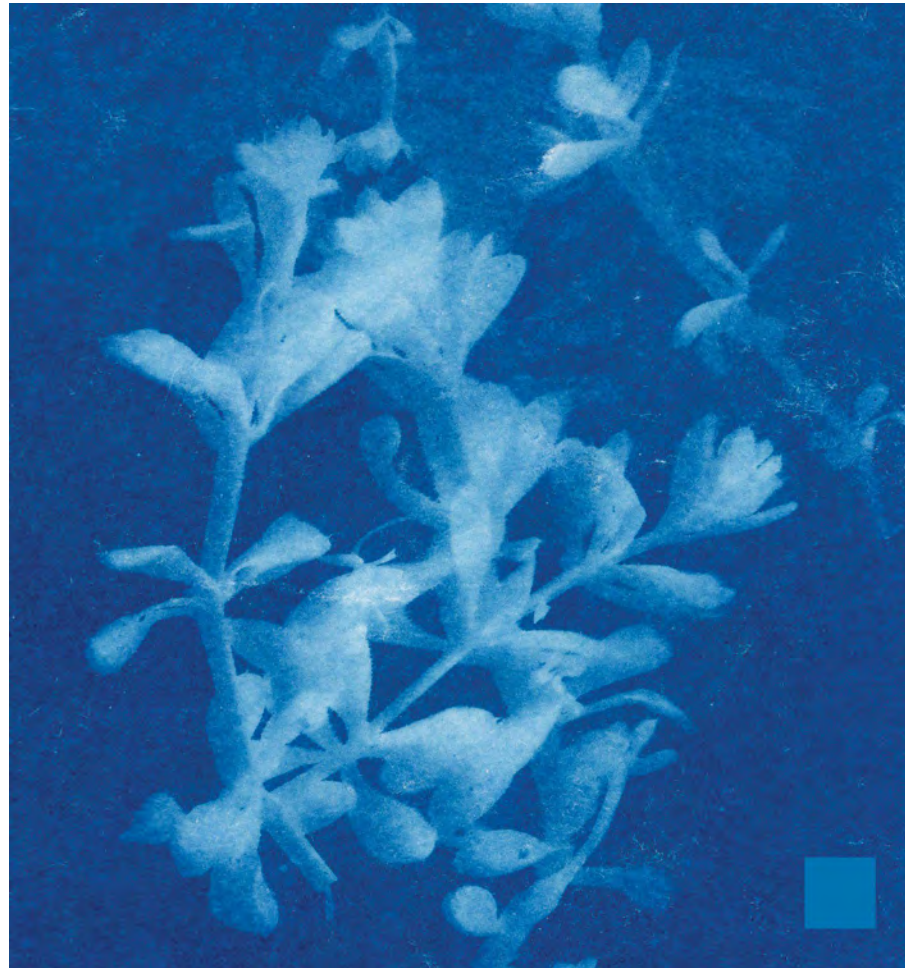












Alla Agafonov, An Aquatic Perspective



Media: watercolor
paintings of
naturescapes



Prior Submittal:
None

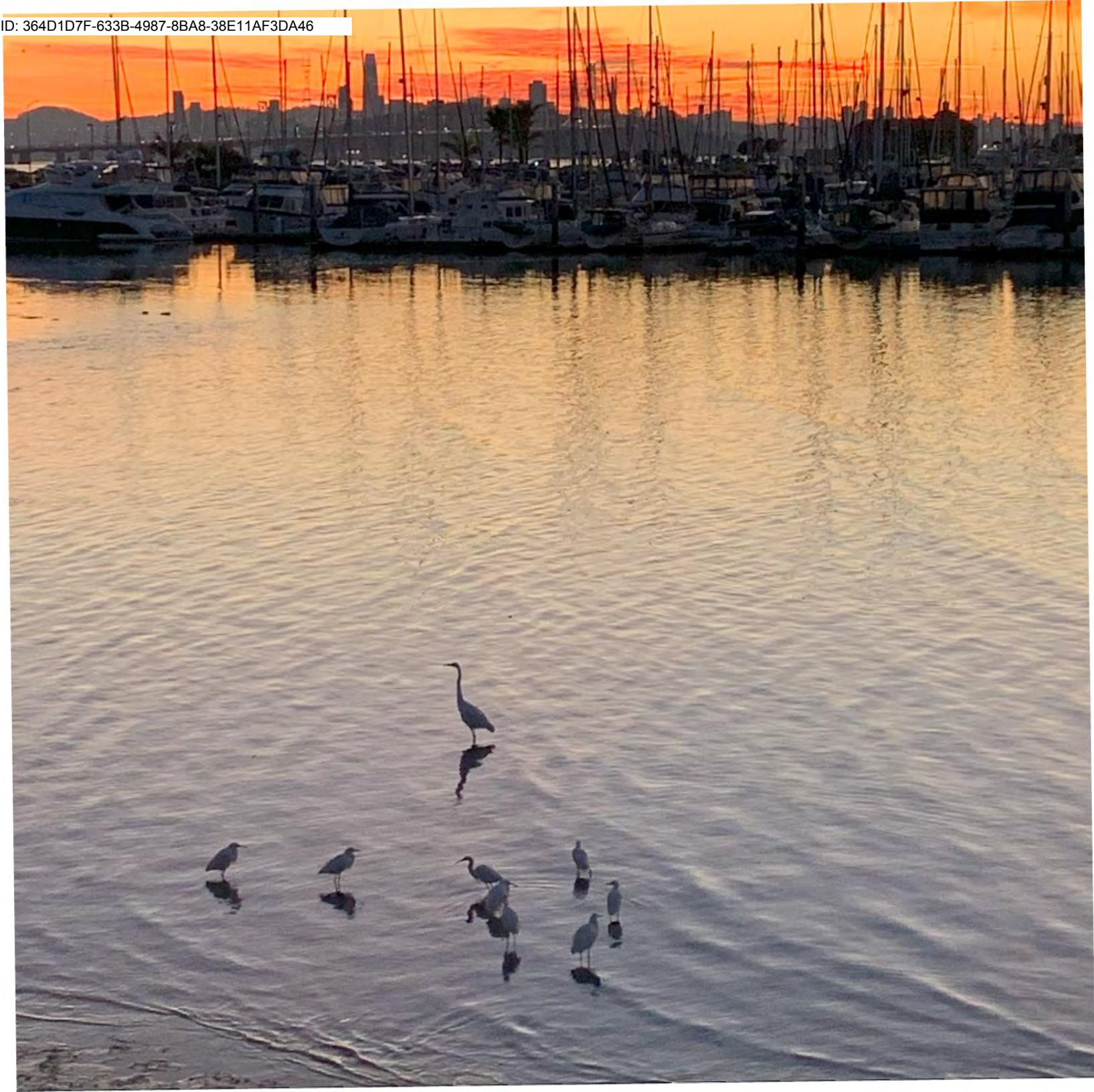


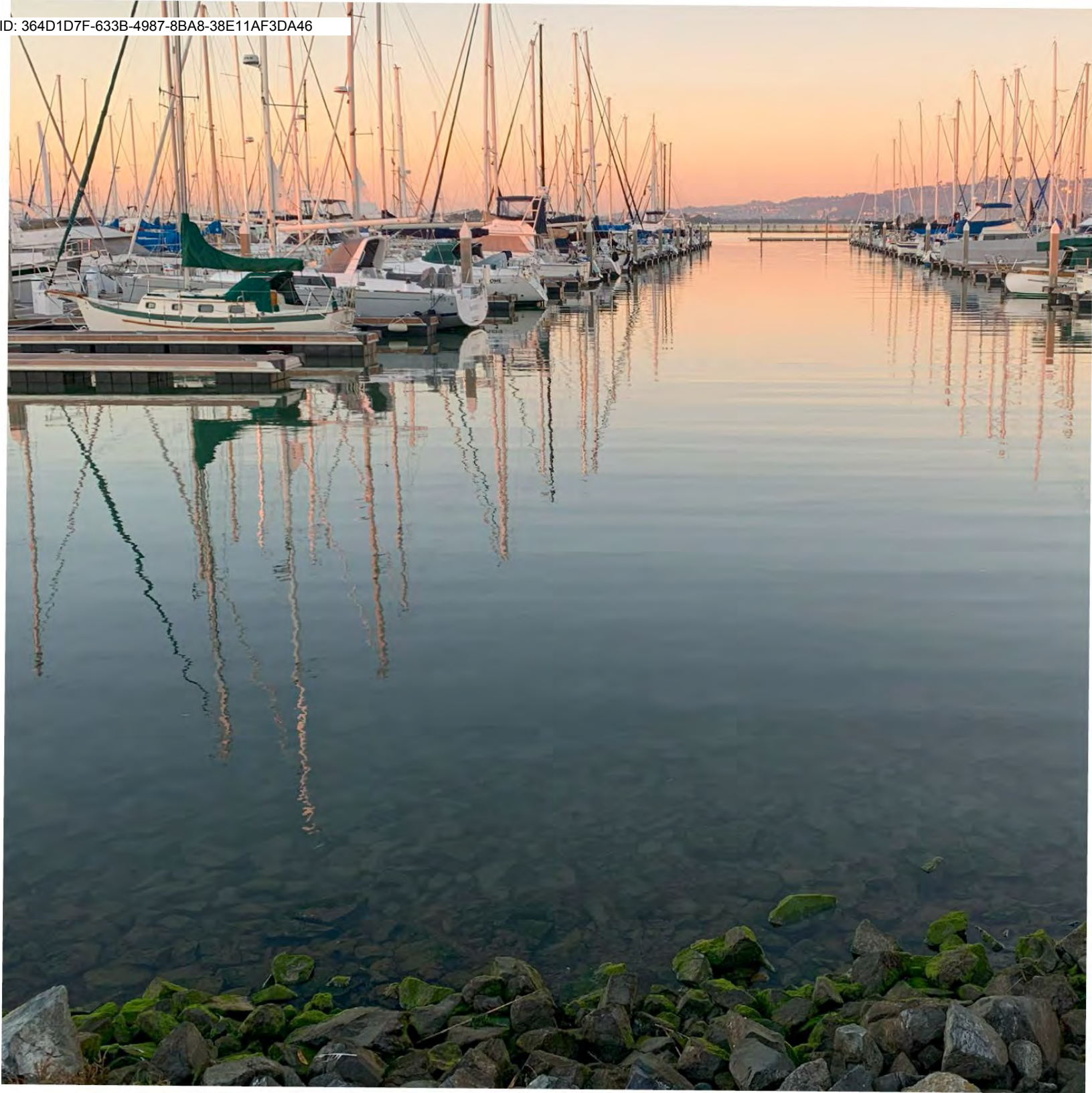
Resident or
Employment: Resident

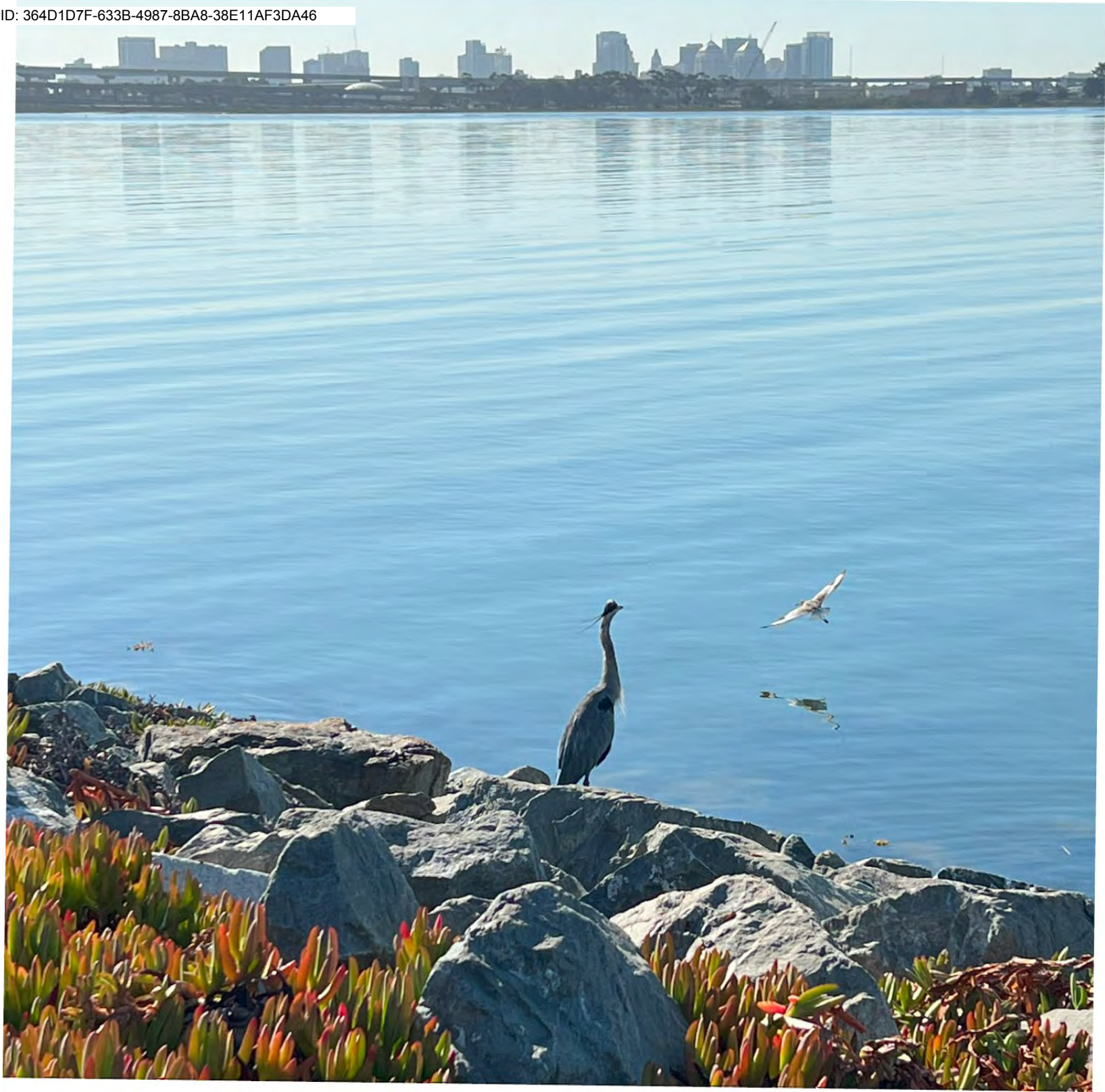


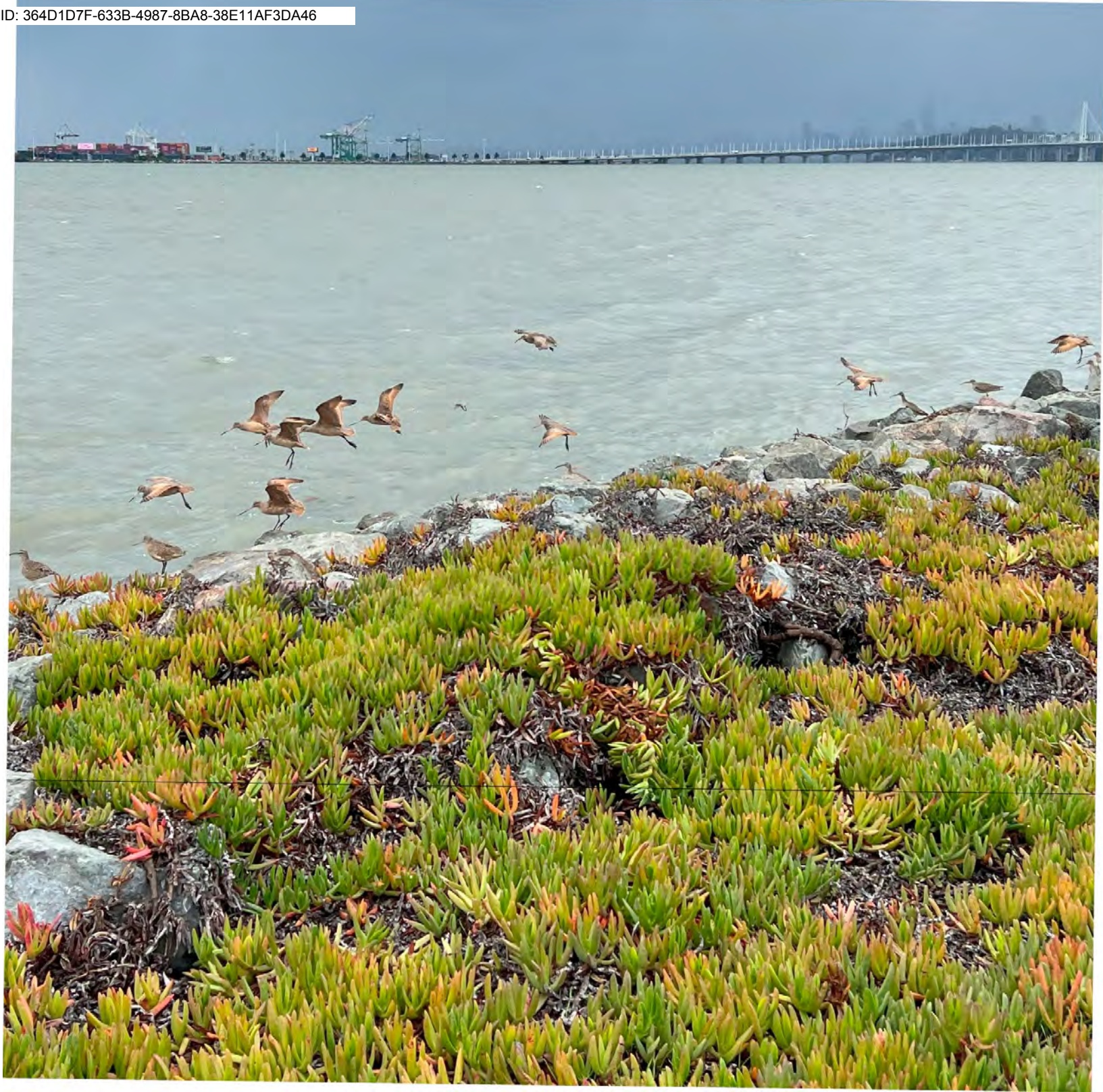
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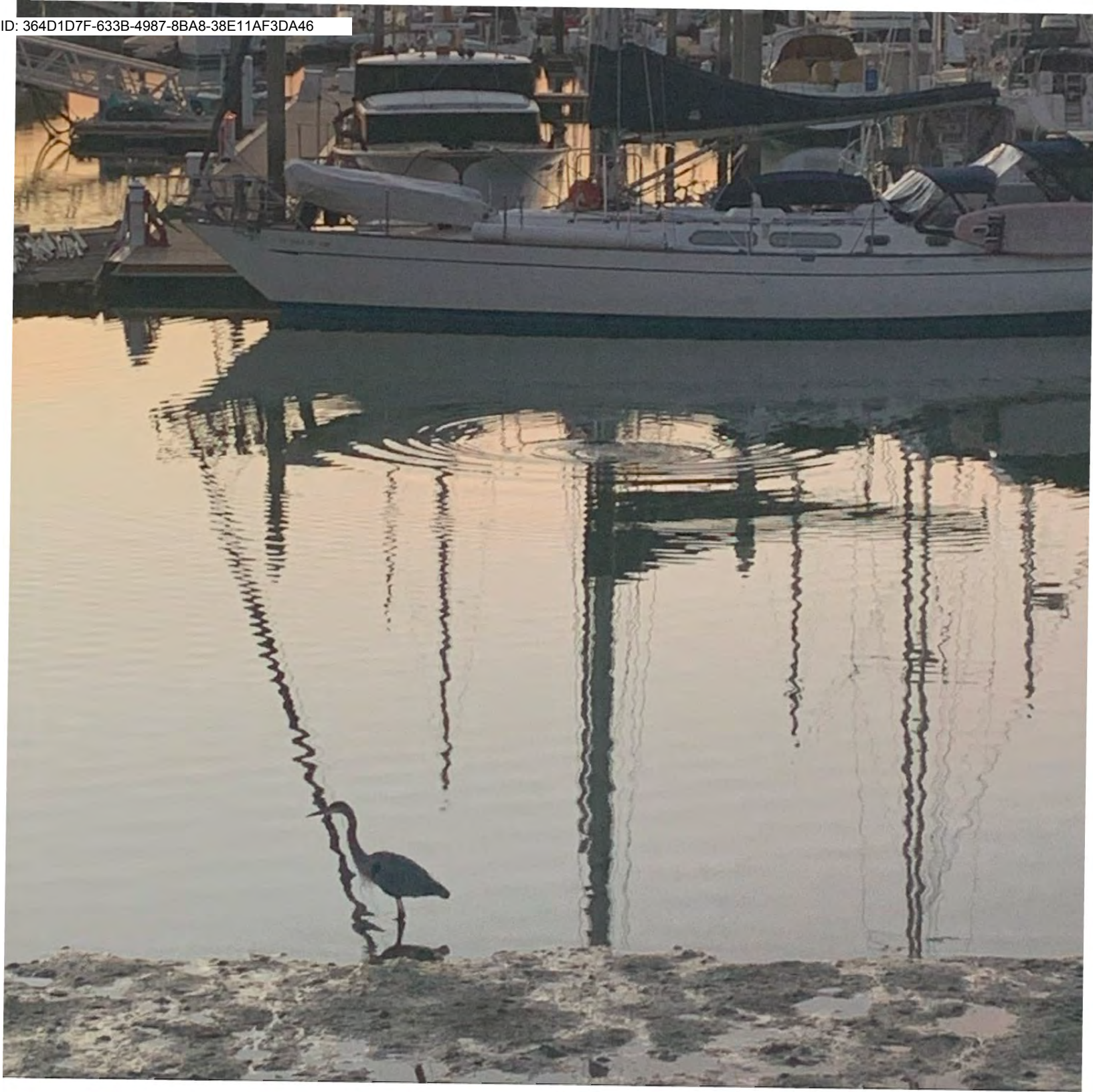


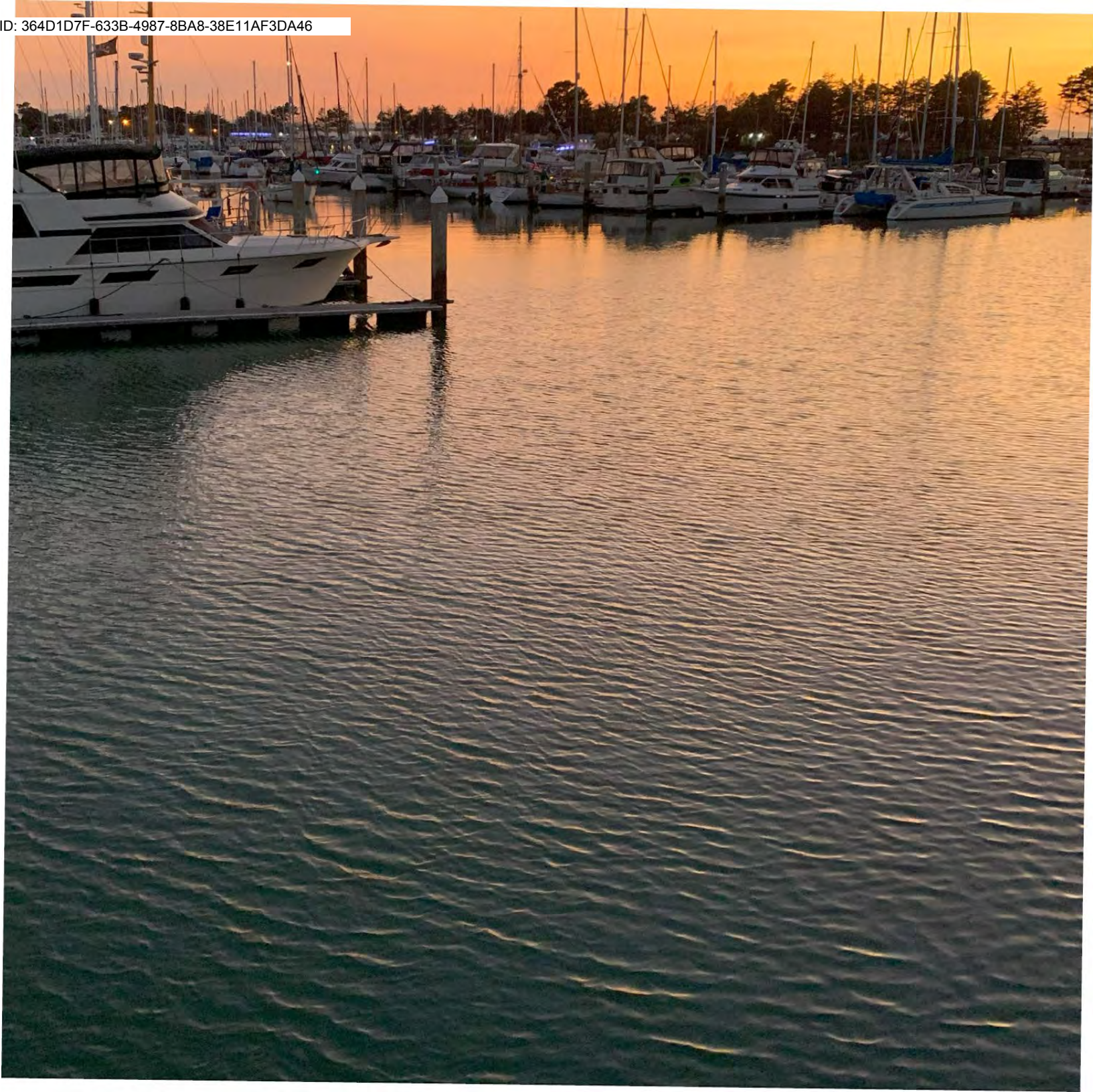












Alternates

Threse Lahaie, Spinning Dervishes (Opt 1) Lightbirds (Opt 2)



Media: Video stills
of reflected lights



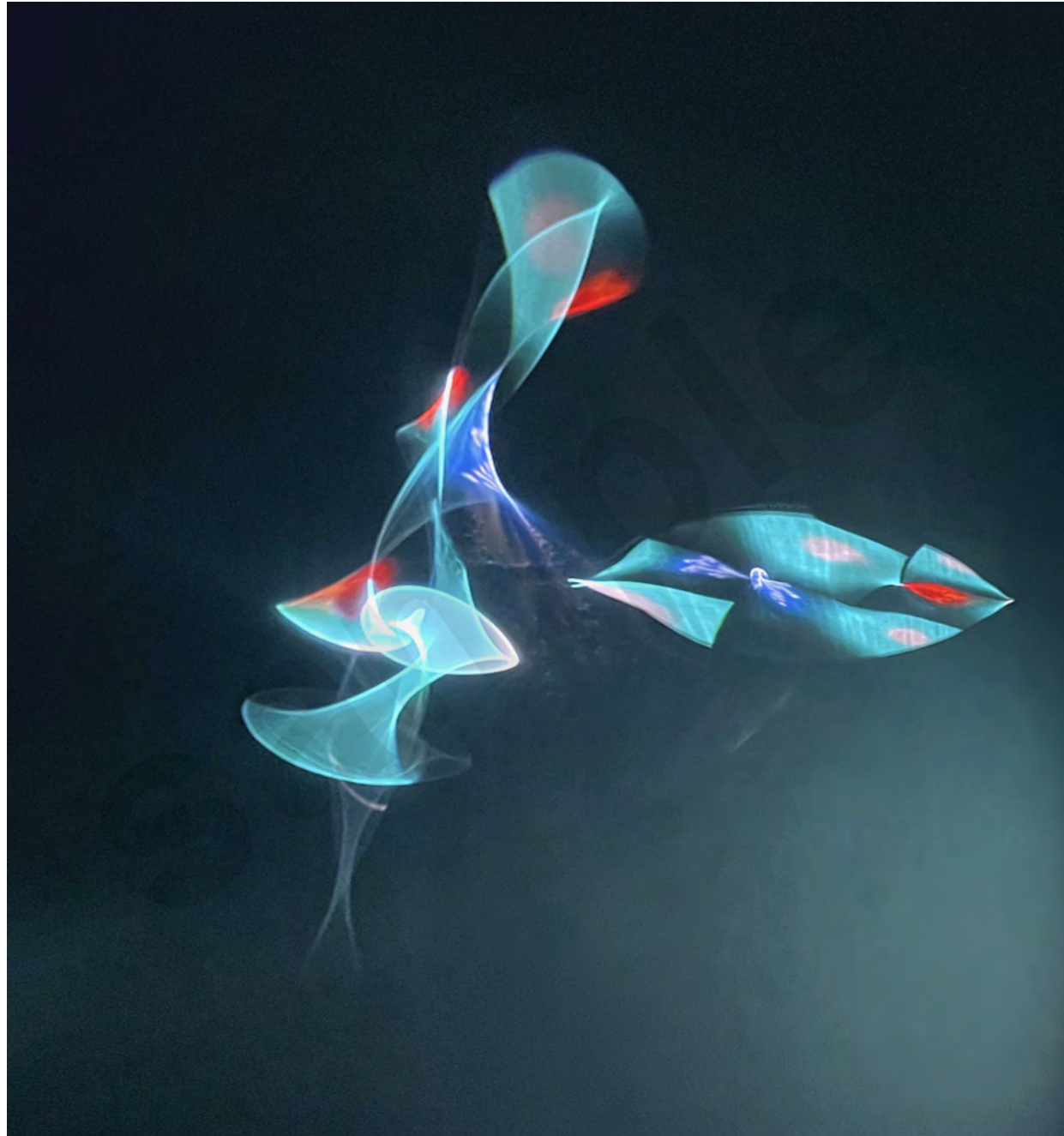
Prior Submittal: Yes

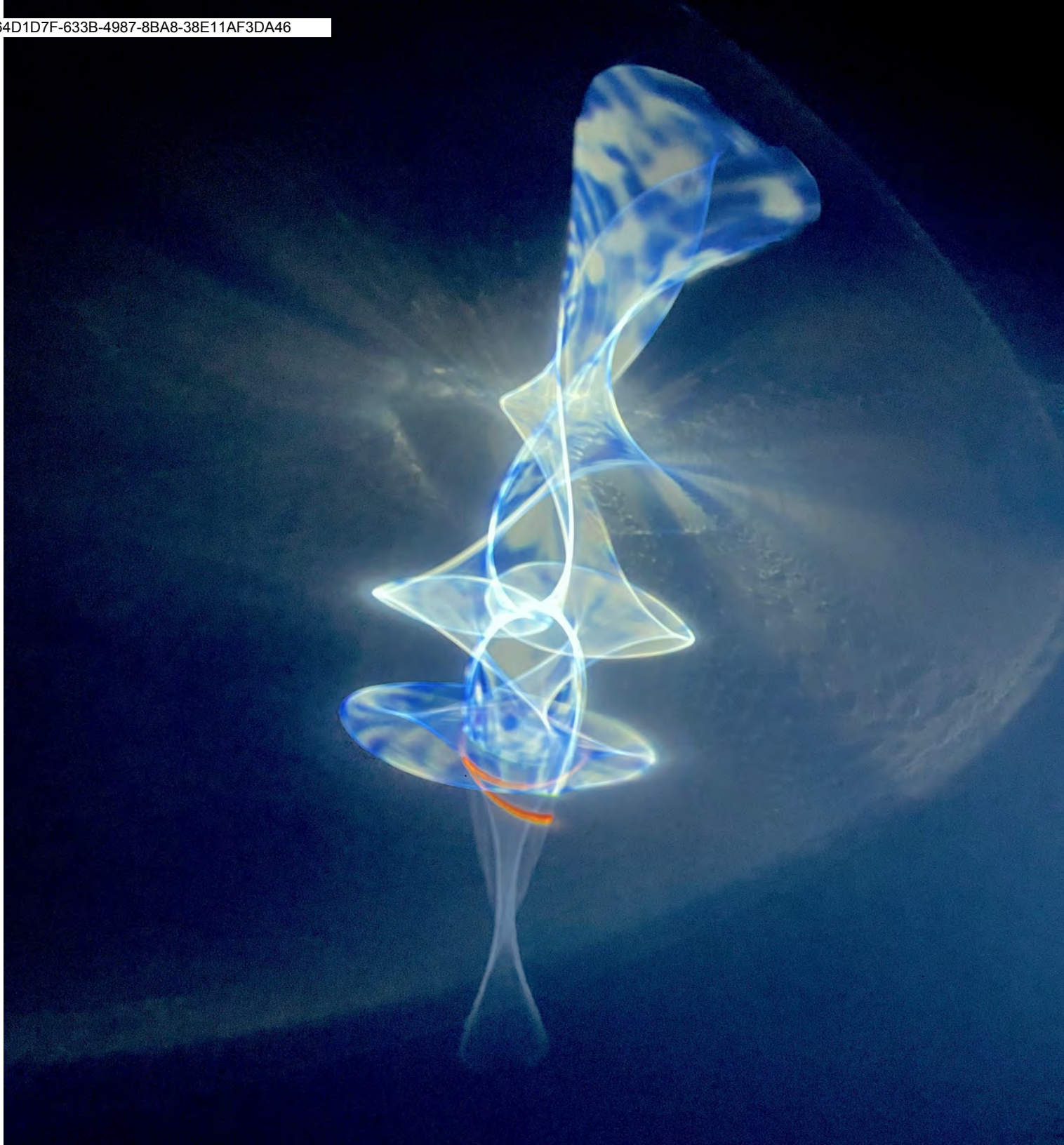


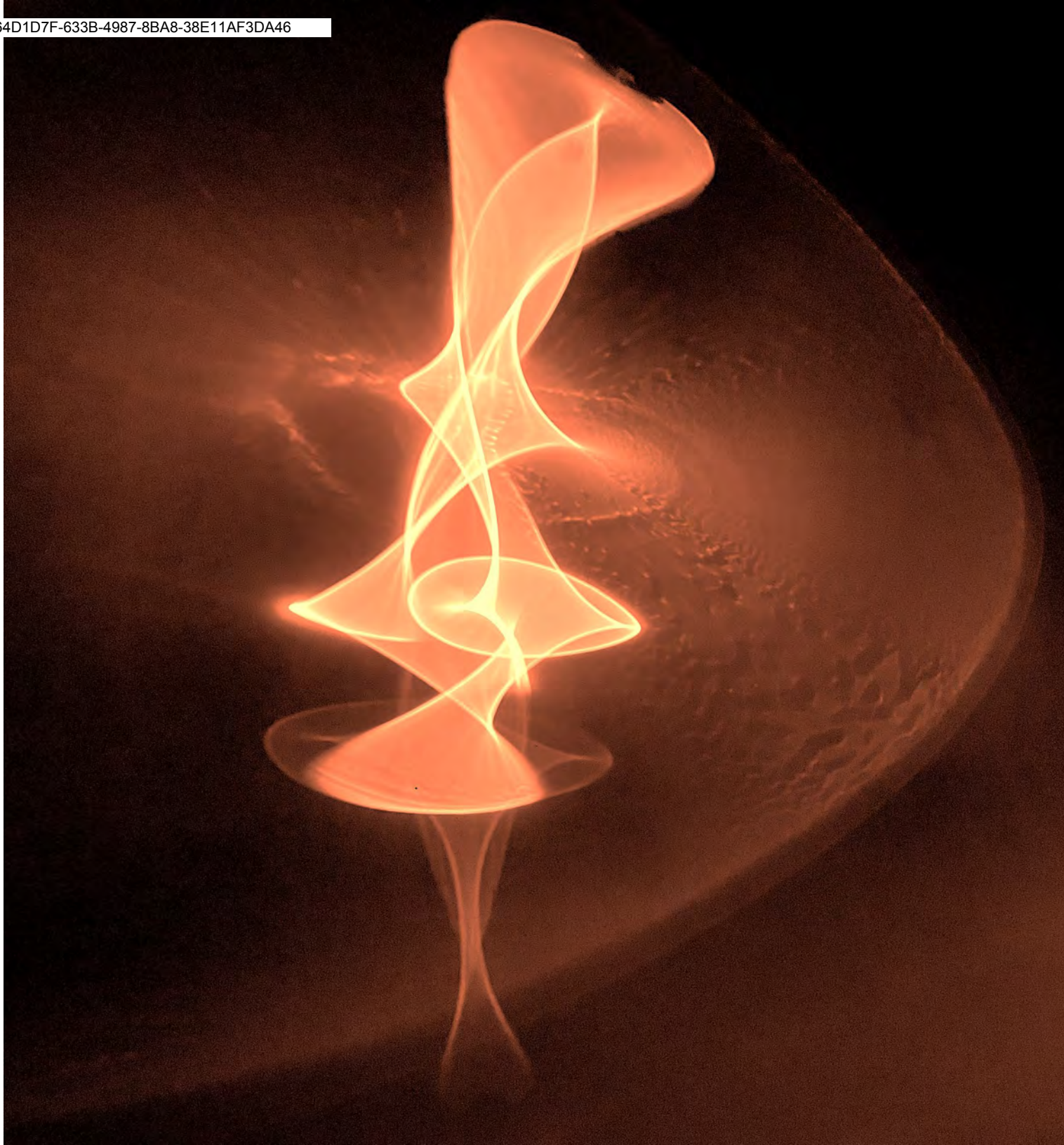
Resident or
Employment: Resident

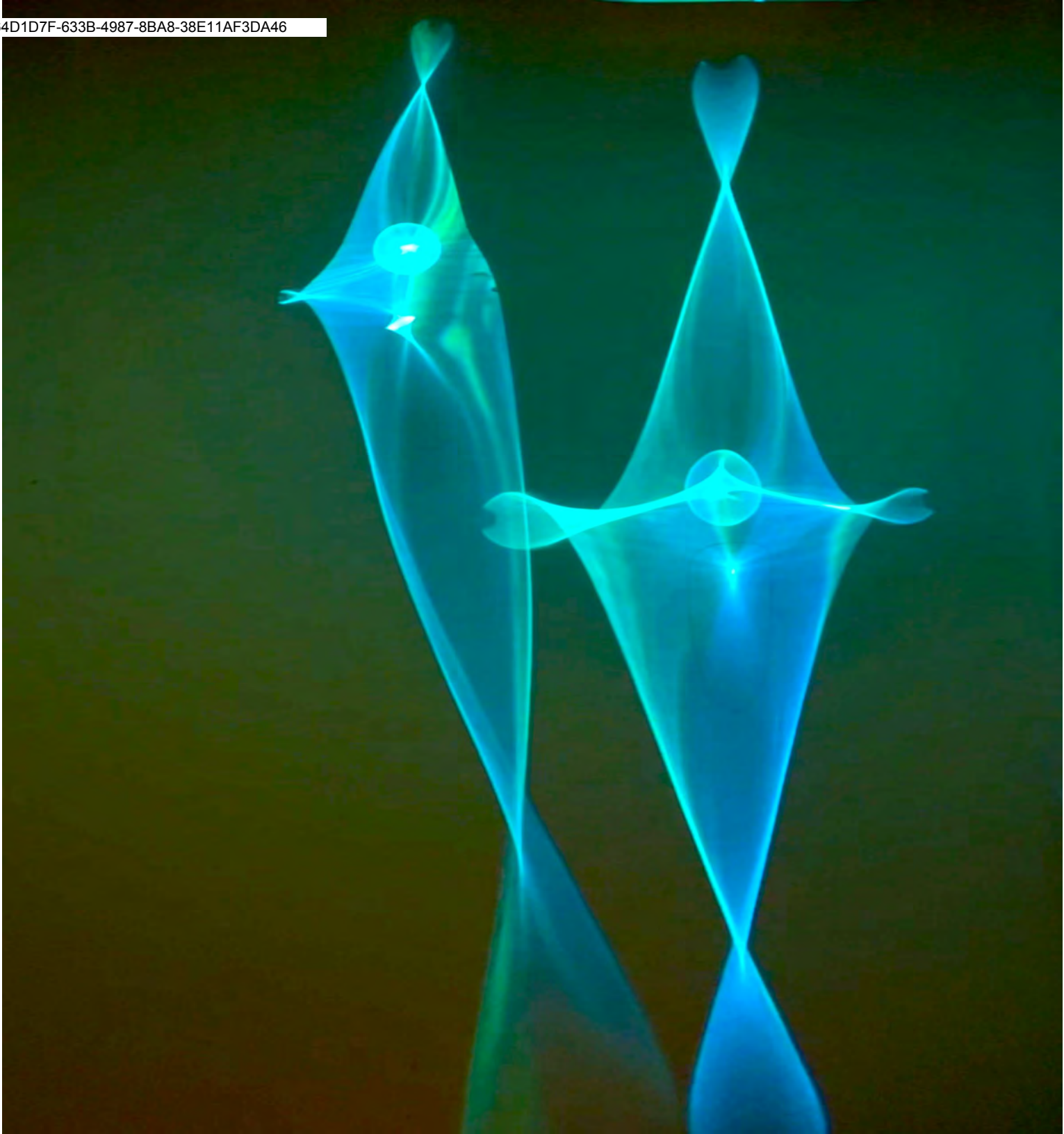


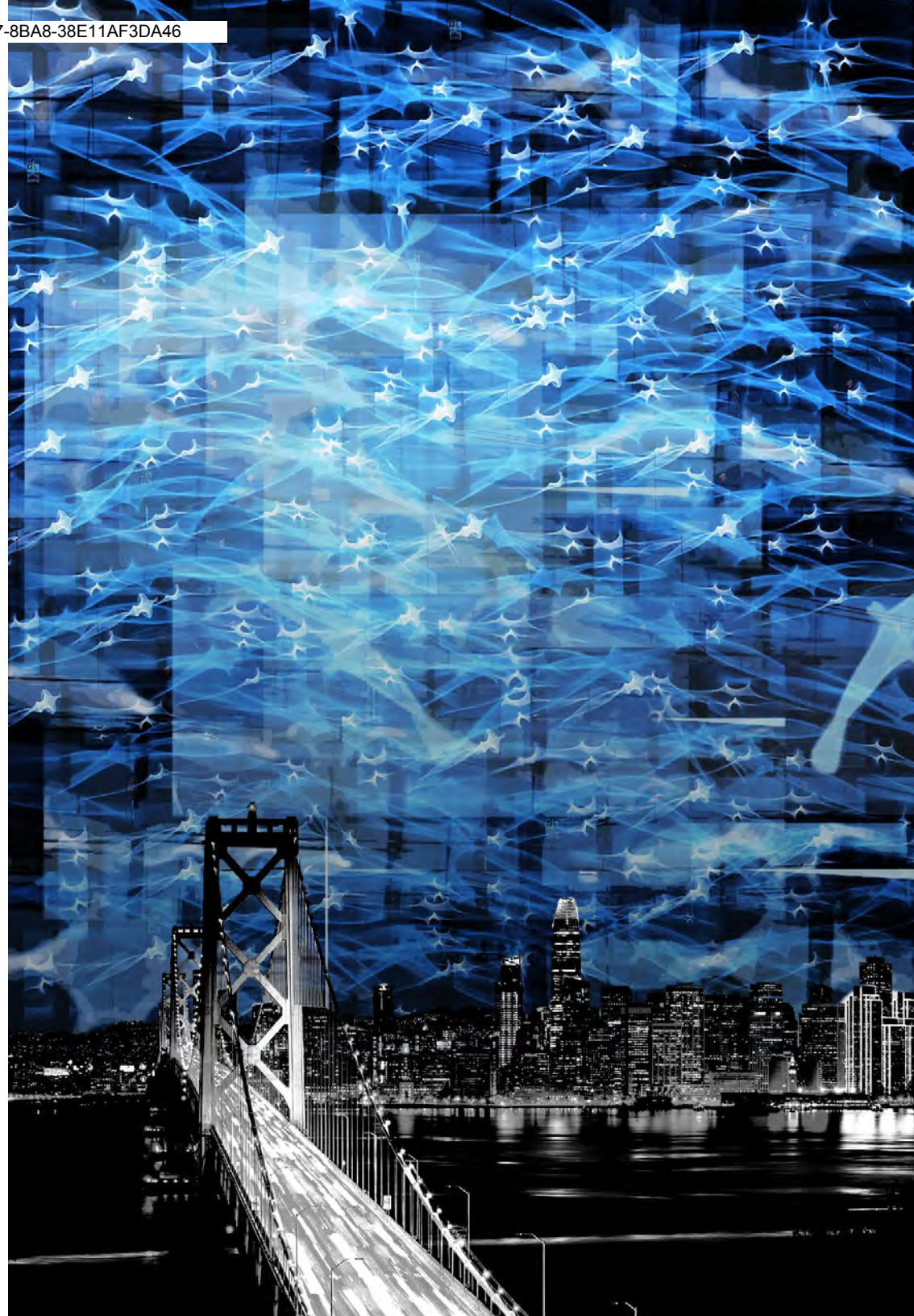
Affiliation: 45th Street
Artist's Cooperative,
ECA

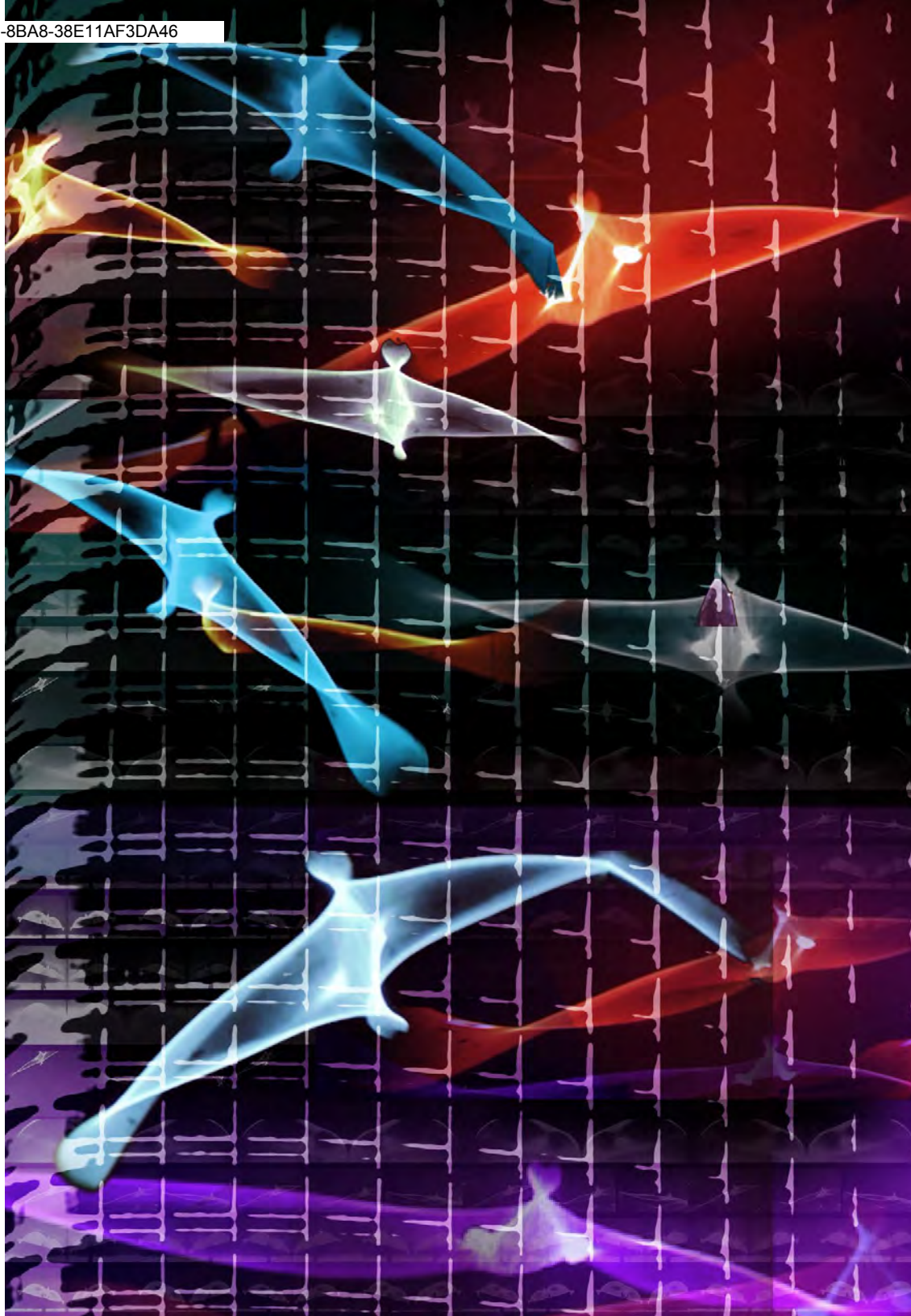














Ana Lisa Hedstrom



Media: Dyed Wool
Felt



Prior Submittal: Yes
in program in 2019

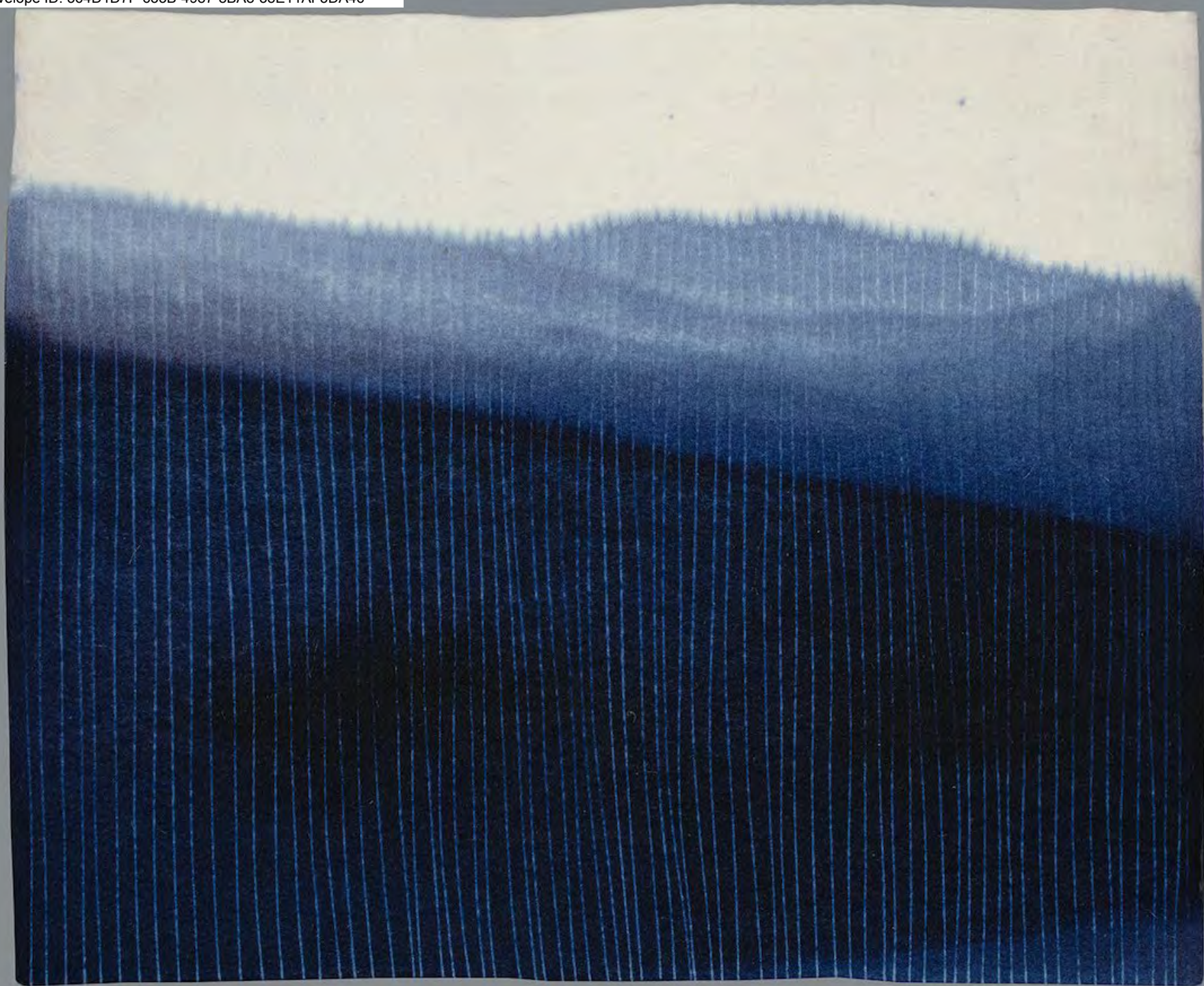


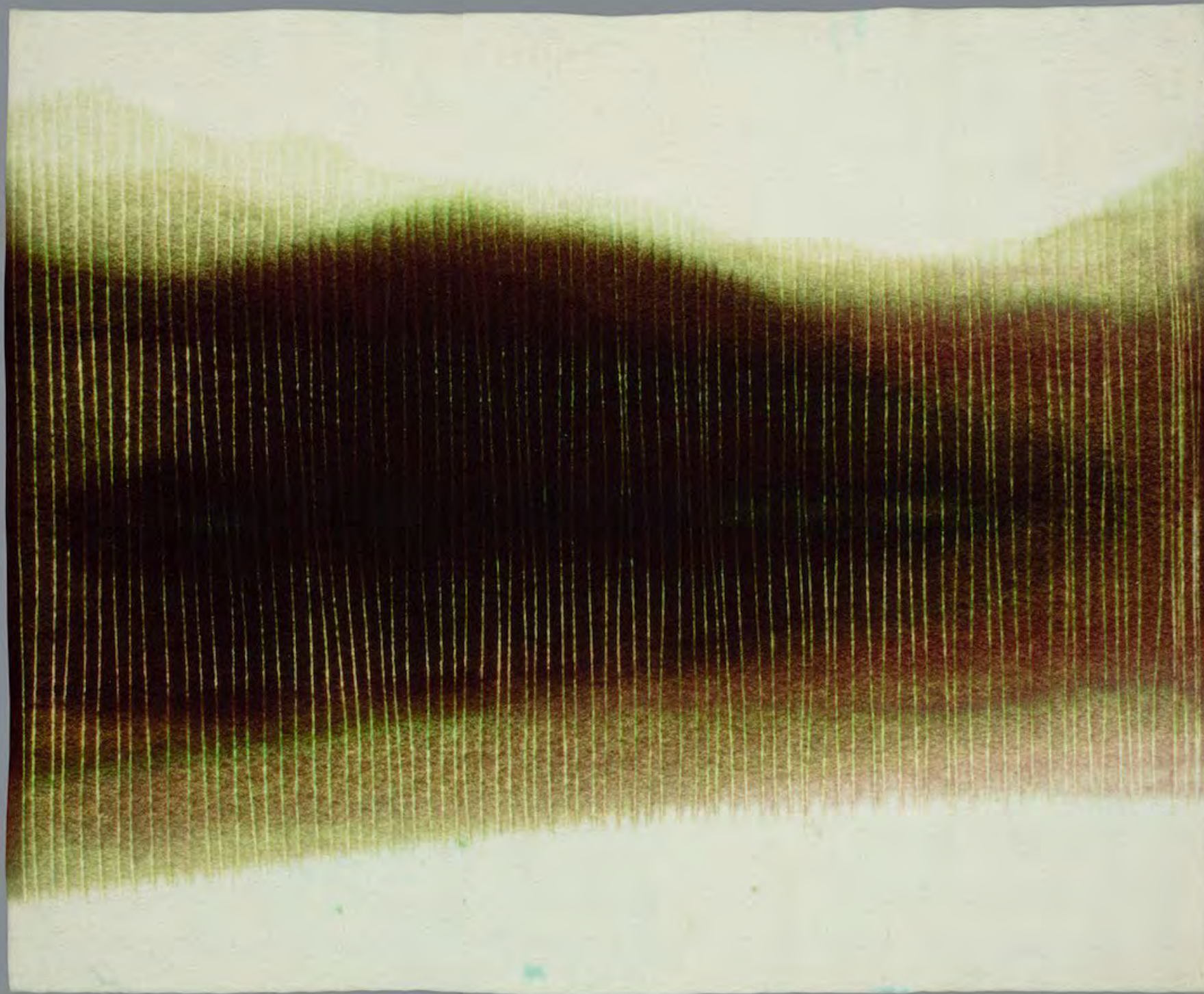
Resident or
Employment: Resident



Affiliation: 45th Street
Artist's Cooperative,
ECA



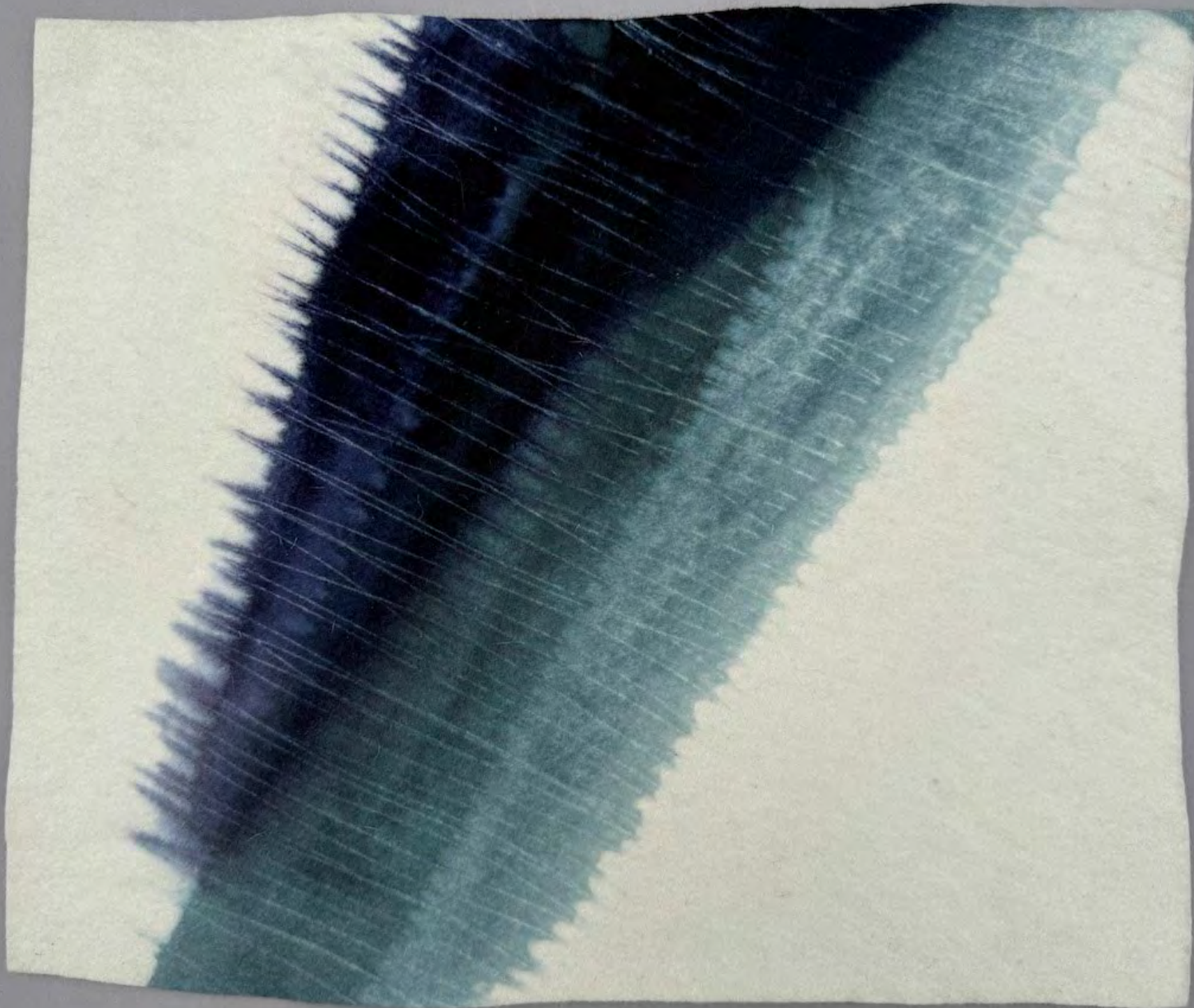


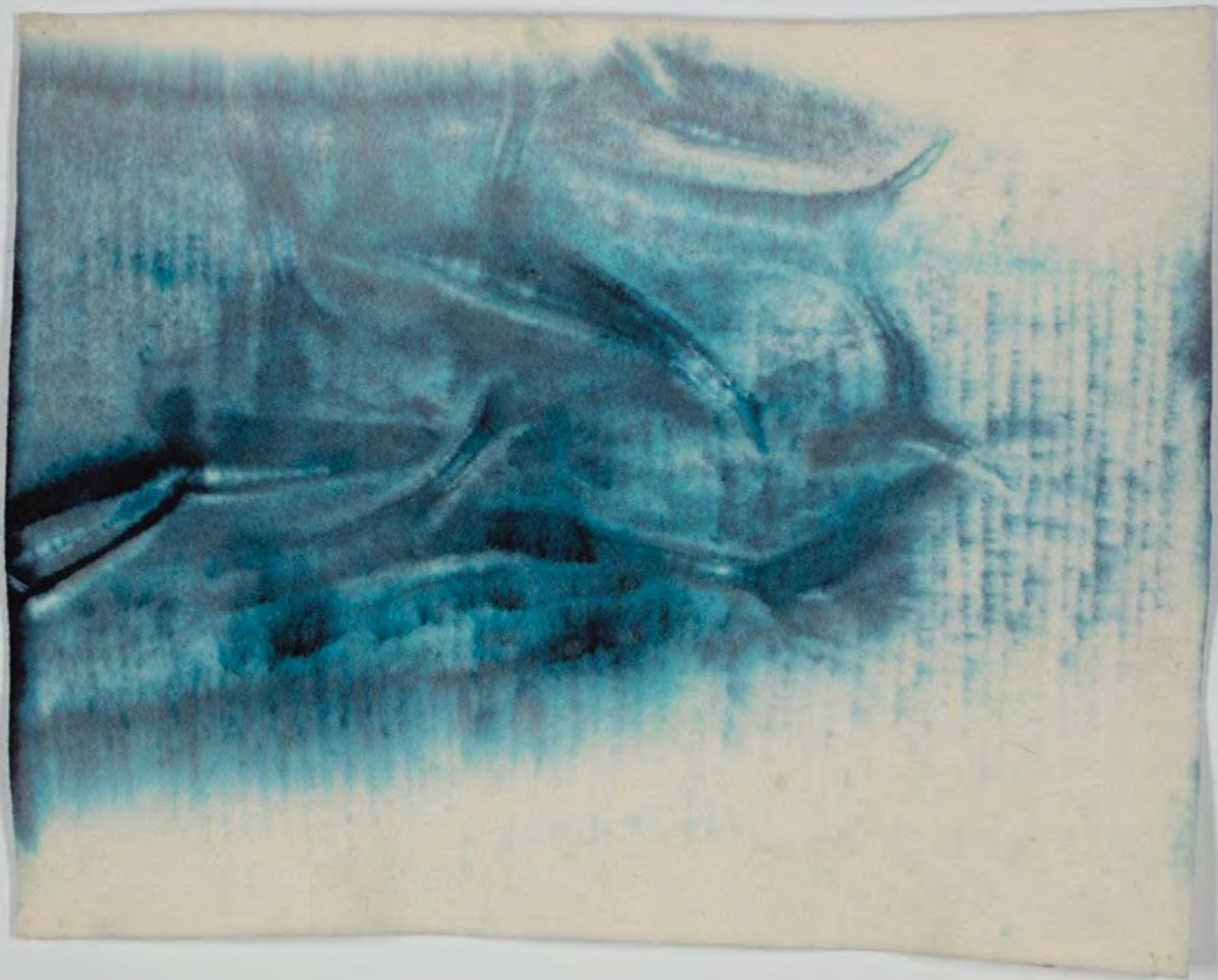












Robin Bernstein

Contemporary Concerns



Media: Yarn
impressed in wax



Prior Submittal: No



Resident or
Employment: Resident



Affiliation: 45th Street
Artist's Cooperative,
ECA



