

AOI YAMAGUCHI **WORKS**
2010 - 2016

K A N G E N

還源

Reunited
with
Nature

November 2010, San Francisco

還源

薄弱な光明の中
薄れて行く意識とともに増して行くのは
不確かな暗闇

穏やかな鼓動を聴きながら
薄れて行く光とともに鮮やかになっていくのは
肌に染みていく熱

土の中へと沈んで行く
深く、深く

大地とひとつになる
果てなく、果てなく

大地の鼓動を聴く
大地の鼓動と自分の鼓動をゆっくりと重ねる

大地の呼吸を聴く
大地の呼吸と自分の呼吸をゆっくりと合わせる

生命の生まれた源へ還っていく

それは退化や消滅ではなく
それは私たちが息づくところ

生命が生まれる場所から
生命が還っていく場所へ

新たないのちがそこで生まれる。

KANGEN

Reunited with Nature

Within the dim ray of light
As consciousness gradually fades away
Enveloped in hazy darkness

Hearing the heart calmly pulse
As the light grows dimmer and dimmer
Senses sharpen, feeling the warmth vividly on my skin

Sinking into the soil
Deeper, deeper

United with the Earth
Infinitely, infinitely

Listening to the Earth's heart beating
Slowly syncing the Earth's rhythm with mine

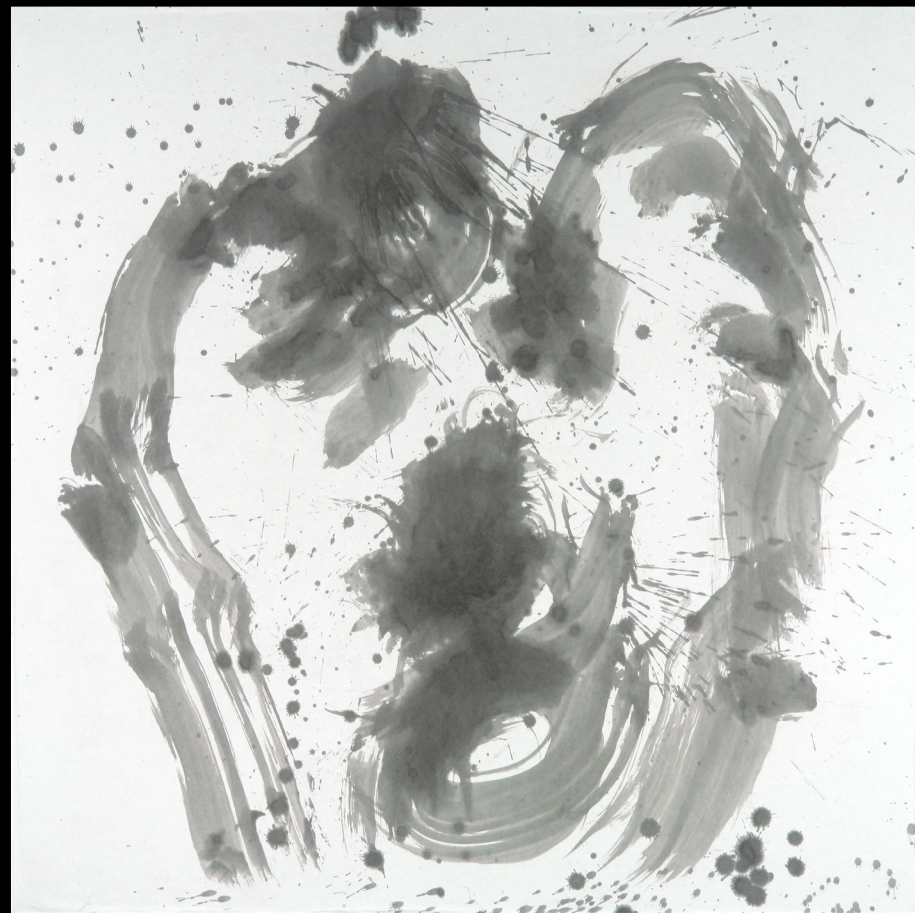
Listening to the Earth breathing
Syncing the Earth's breathing with mine

Returning to the origin of life
A spiral of reincarnation

This is not decomposition or disappearance
This is where all lives rejuvenate

From the place where a life is born
To the place where a life has returned

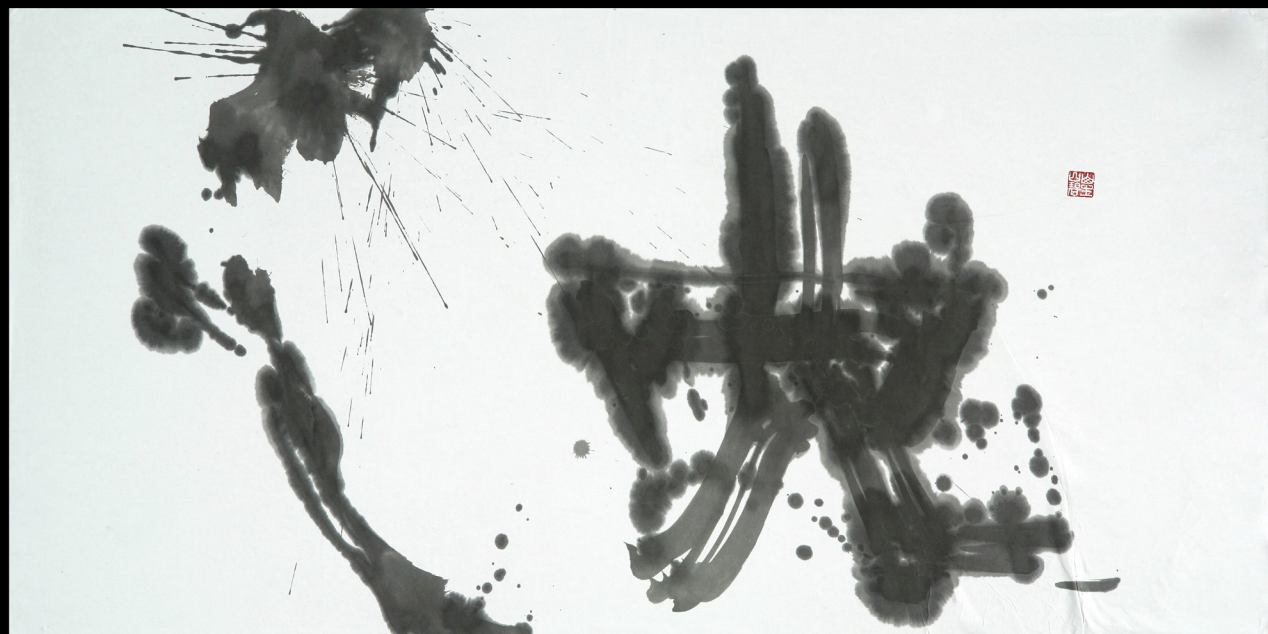
A place where new lives are born to witness the world



闇
Darkness, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
48" x 48"



熱
Heat, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
48" x 48"



沈
Sink, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
24" x 48"



融
Unite, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
24" x 48"



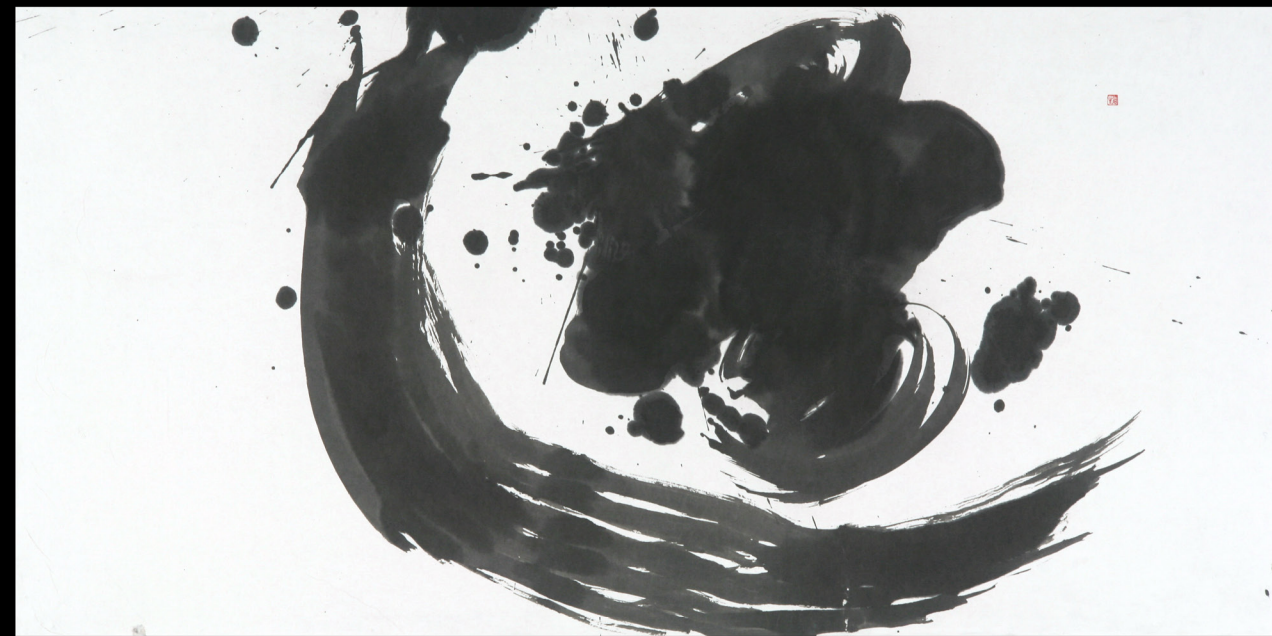
鼓
Heartbeat, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
24" x 48"



呼
Breathe, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
24" x 48"



源
Origin, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
24" x 48"



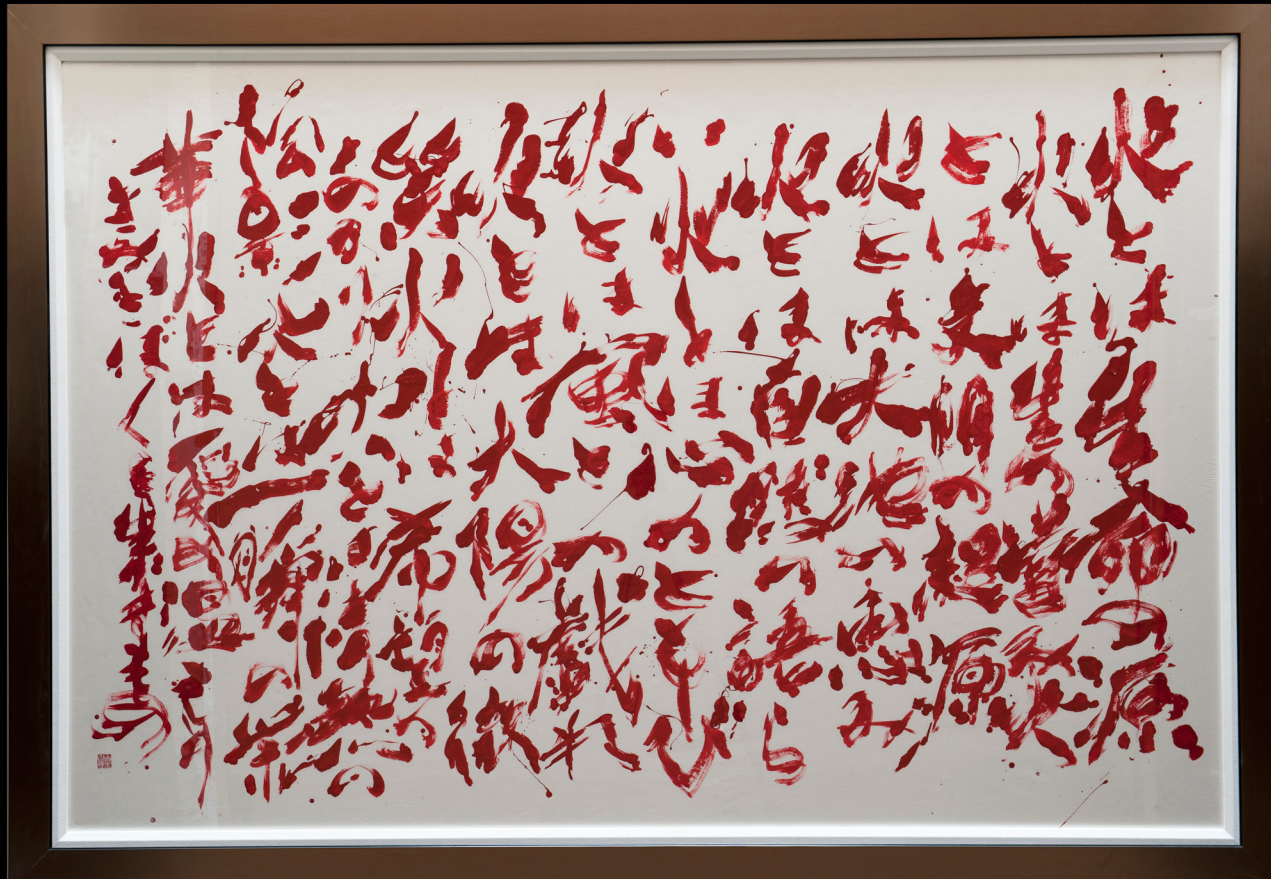
還
Return, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
24" x 48"



生
Life, 2010
Sumi-ink on paper mounted on wood panel
48" x 48"

「還源」
詩:山口碧生 槌本 紘子
英訳:山口碧生 Andrew Capistrano

"KANGEN"
Words by Aoi Yamaguchi & Hiroko Tsuchimoto
English translation by Aoi Yamaguchi & Andrew Capistrano



火とは
Fire, 2012
Acrylic paint on paper
60" x 84"



Healing Moon, 2013
Sumi-ink on paper
42" x 90"

Soundscape: Symbolic Abstractions

June 2013, San Francisco

Soundscape is a series of abstract paintings of the interpretation of sounds in musical compositions. Growing up practicing calligraphy introduced by my mother, and learning literature from my father who's a Japanese literature teacher, it has been natural for me to interpret musical experiences into words and poetry, and express them in calligraphy paintings. Soundscape series is my challenge to set my mind apart from interpreting sounds in a format of words or poetry, and let my mind explore visual imagination in response to the sounds. In this experimental art form, I aim to break free from traditional calligraphic rules and structures, and let my calligraphy brushes paint what I saw in my mind - leaving brush marks on the wood canvas as the sound resonates with my mind and body. I see the inks dance and strokes run freely in the rhythm of sounds. Each artwork is painted inspired by the sounds of both classical and neo-classical / electronic music composers I admire.



Soundscape: Symbolic Abstractions

Inspired by Liebestraume #1 - 3

(from the left)

- 1 *Holding Hands* 掌
- 2 *Embrace (Two Arms)* 抱擁
- 3 *Seeing you behind your closed eyes tonight (Love Dream)* 逢臉

Sumi ink, acrylic paint, Japanese washi paper on canvas



Inspired by
pu ert jördin / Olafur Arnalds
Sumi ink, acrylic paint on wood canvas
48" x 48"



Inspired by
Floating / Sinking by Peter Broderick
Sumi ink, acrylic paint on wood canvas
48" x 48"



*Inspired by
Theme / Johann Johansson
Sumi ink, acrylic paint on wood canvas
48" x 48"*



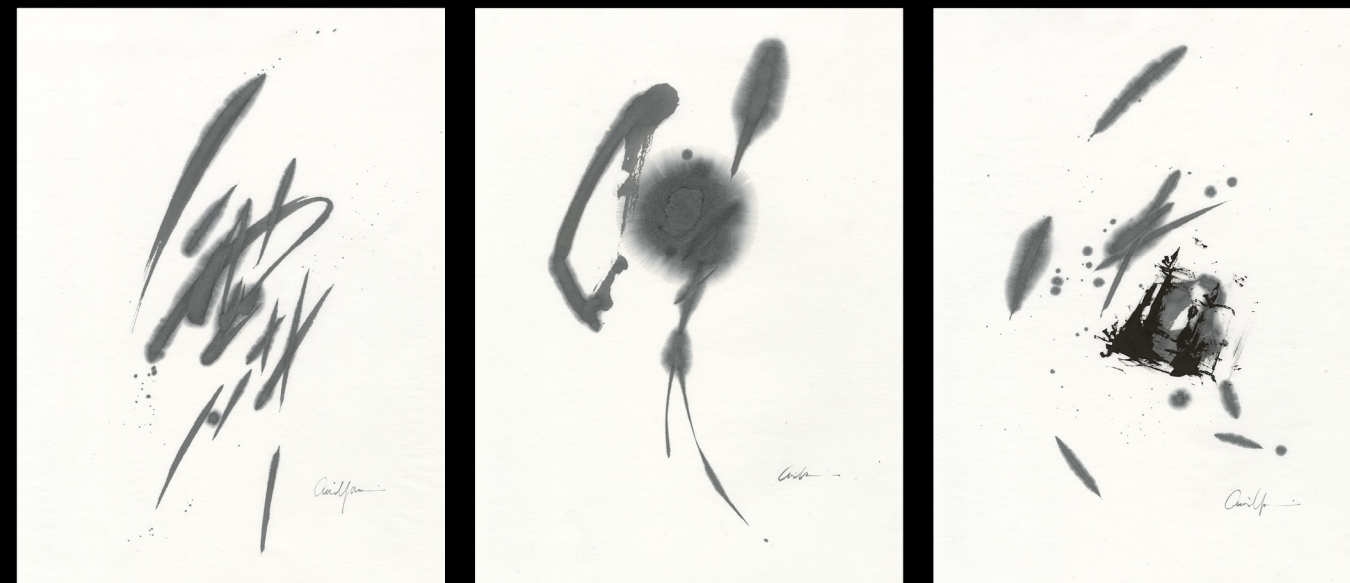
*Inspired by
Liebesträume No 3 / Franz Liszt played by Evgeny Kissin
Sumi ink, acrylic paint on wood canvas
48" x 48"*

Momentum: Movements in Nature

2015, Berkeley, CA

Momentum is a series of abstract calligraphy artworks inspired by fragmented images of movements found in nature. In this series, I focused on observing the motion of natural environment and lives and express in abstract writing, rather than simply focusing on the names themselves. For example, the motion of “blooming” is observed and expressed in writing, rather than the “flower” itself. “Streaming” is focused, not the “river” itself. This is my close observation on the relationship between the visible forms of natural environment and the formation of Kanji characters in an artistic method.

川は瀬ぎ	『瀬』	Streaming River
鳥は舞い	『舞』	Dancing Birds
華は咲き	『咲』	Blooming Flower
空は澄み	『澄』	Clear Sky
雲は流れ	『流』	Drifting Clouds
霧立ち籠め	『霧』	Fog Envelops



Momentum: Movements in Nature

(from the left)

- 1 *Dancing Birds* 舞
- 2 *Blooming Flower* 咲
- 3 *Clear Sky* 澄

Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
13.15" x 9.5"



Soundscape: Symbolic Abstractions

(from the left)

4 流 *Drifting Clouds*

5 霧 *Fog Envelops*

6 瀬 *Streaming River*

Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
13.15" x 9.5"



色

ふたつ みつと 色彩が

ゆつくりと白い面の上で混じり合い

やわらかな滲みのなかにあらわれる枯淡の趣

濃い と 淡い との間に生まれる、初恋のような

儂く、脆く、それでいて跡を残す、失戀のような

つめたさが引き立てる ぬくもりのような

色の陰翳。

音

ひとつ そしてまた ひとつ

静寂の中に 響き渡る音色

強い音は息長く、弱い音はひそやかに息短く

低い音は礎を築き、高い音はその上を軽やかに舞い

その音色が混じり合っては消えゆく 余韻 の間に

浮かぶ、 形のない景色のような

その振動が重なって 宙を駆けていく刹那に

描かれる、 塗り替えられていく記憶 のような

音の陰翳。

感情

ひとりと ひとりが ふれあったとき

生まれる心の 「いろは」

静謐なこころの空間に

じわりと静かに燃える感情、それがふわりと落とす

それは、わたしたちの

行間 を読むようなこころなかもしれない

言葉にならなかった 沈黙の間に見えてくる

喜びや悲しみや、 かすかなこころの動き

それを波み取り 頷く 優しさのような

そこで ふと見つめる

己の奥底に潜んでいた

聲 のような

感情の陰翳。

影

陰翳

IN-EI THE RESONANCE of SHADOWS

2016, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

Solo exhibition “陰翳 IN-EI: The Resonance of Shadows” was installed on the walls of Cross Hotel Sapporo in Hokkaido, Japan from February 20th to April 30th in 2016. “陰翳 (in-ei)” in Japanese is defined as “shadows”, as well as “a sense of beauty that we capture in shadows and nuances in colors, sound, and emotions”. As I was composing a short poem inspired by the concept of "In-Ei", in an attempt to define the moments I find "陰翳 (in-ei)" within colors, sounds and emotions, as well as in the shades of Japanese calligraphy, I came to realize that this artistic sensibility of 陰翳 (in-ei) is what makes traditional Japanese art and culture unique, and make your senses capture the fragments of unforgettable moments out of our monotonous everyday scenery. Based on the poem, I created a series of abstract calligraphy artworks in three categories: I. Colors, II. Soundscape, III. Emotions.

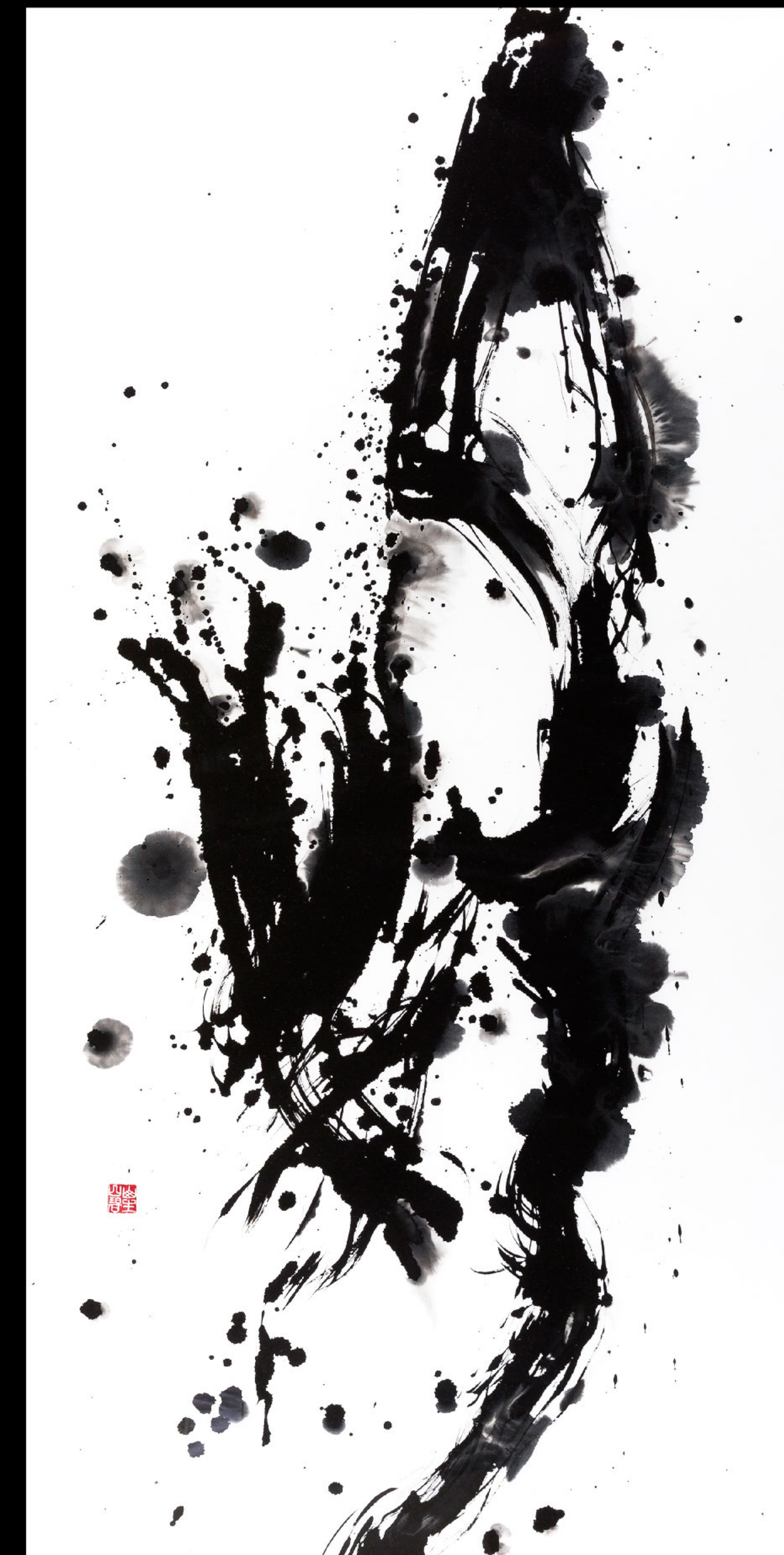
I find this In-ei in calligraphy — I feel drawn to the world of black and white, light and shadow — visually minimal, but its world depicted is infinite. As we see in Japanese words like “侘び寂び Wabi-sabi” or “もののあはれ Monono-aware,” the concept of “陰翳 In-ei” cherishes the beauty of simplicity and evanescence in our ordinary lives. In the darkness, we see the presence of light. The light makes our lives possible: we see shapes in the world because of shadows. In the dull shadows, we find silence — where our senses calm, time has slowed, you will find your inner 'self' in that very moment in a space, which is only limited by your mind. This sensibility is the foundation of Japanese traditional aesthetics, which makes what we see, hear and feel in everyday lives more meaningful and flavorful.

白と黒とがゆっくりと交わってゆく時間の中に
光と影の濃淡がもたらす陰翳という美の小宇宙をみる

無の中に生まれた空間に
滲み広がる鈍色が深みを増していき
しんしんと降り積もる
真白い雪のように重みを増していくのを

やがて陽がもたらす温みが翳りを解かし
永い時の流れが古雅の風韻を湛えていくのを

ただただ沈黙のうちに見つめながらここに刻み
静かに味わってみたいと思い、ここに筆をおろす。



陰翳 IN-EI: The Resonance of Shadows

(from the left)

- 1 陰 *shadows*
- 2 翳 *shades*

Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
27' x 53.5"



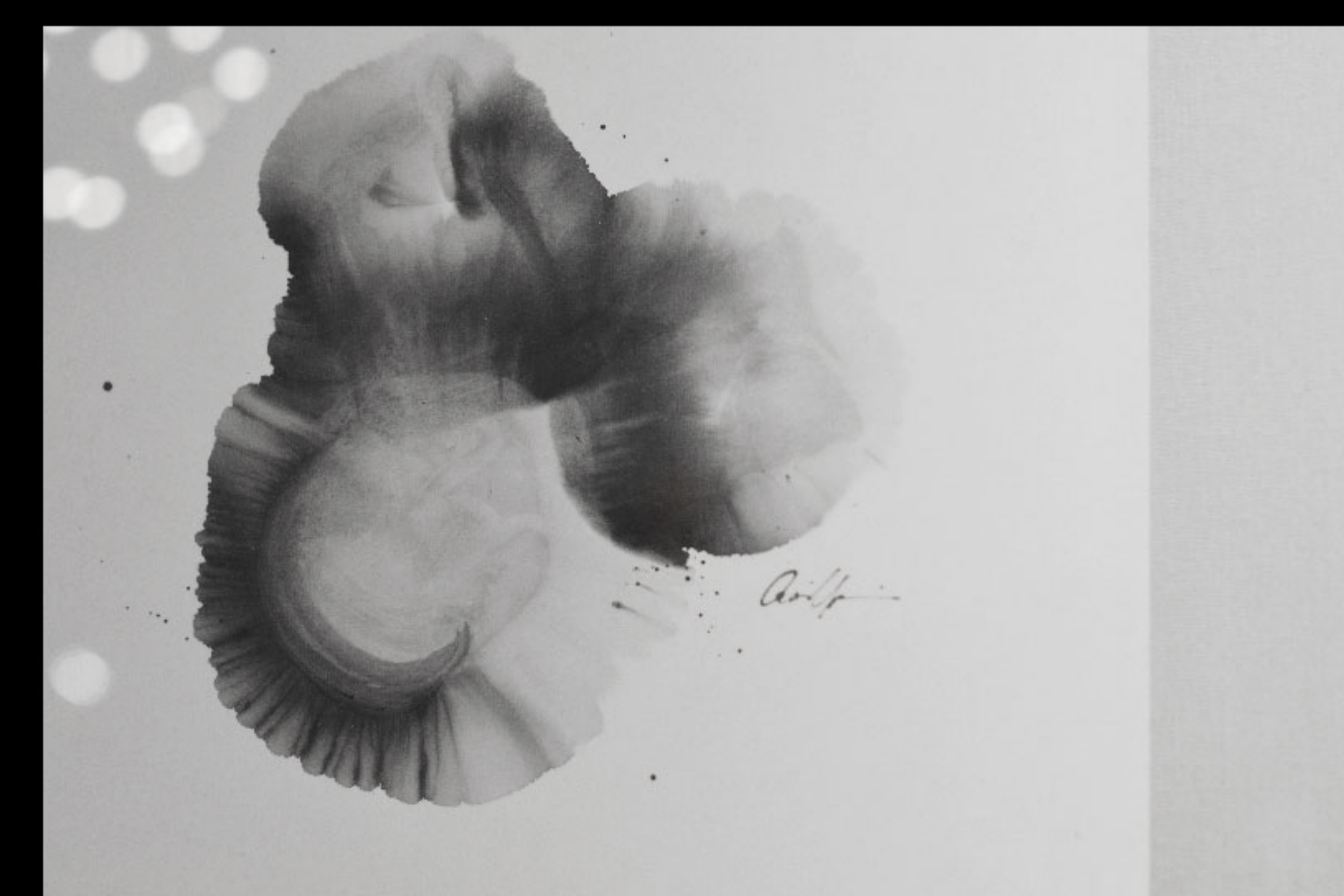


陰翳 IN-EI: The Resonance of Shadows

(from the left)

- 3 聲: 己の奥底に潜んでいた聲 *voice*
- 4 彩: ふたつ みつと 色彩 *colors*
- 5 響: 静寂の中に響き渡る音色 *resonance*

Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
32.8"x32.8"

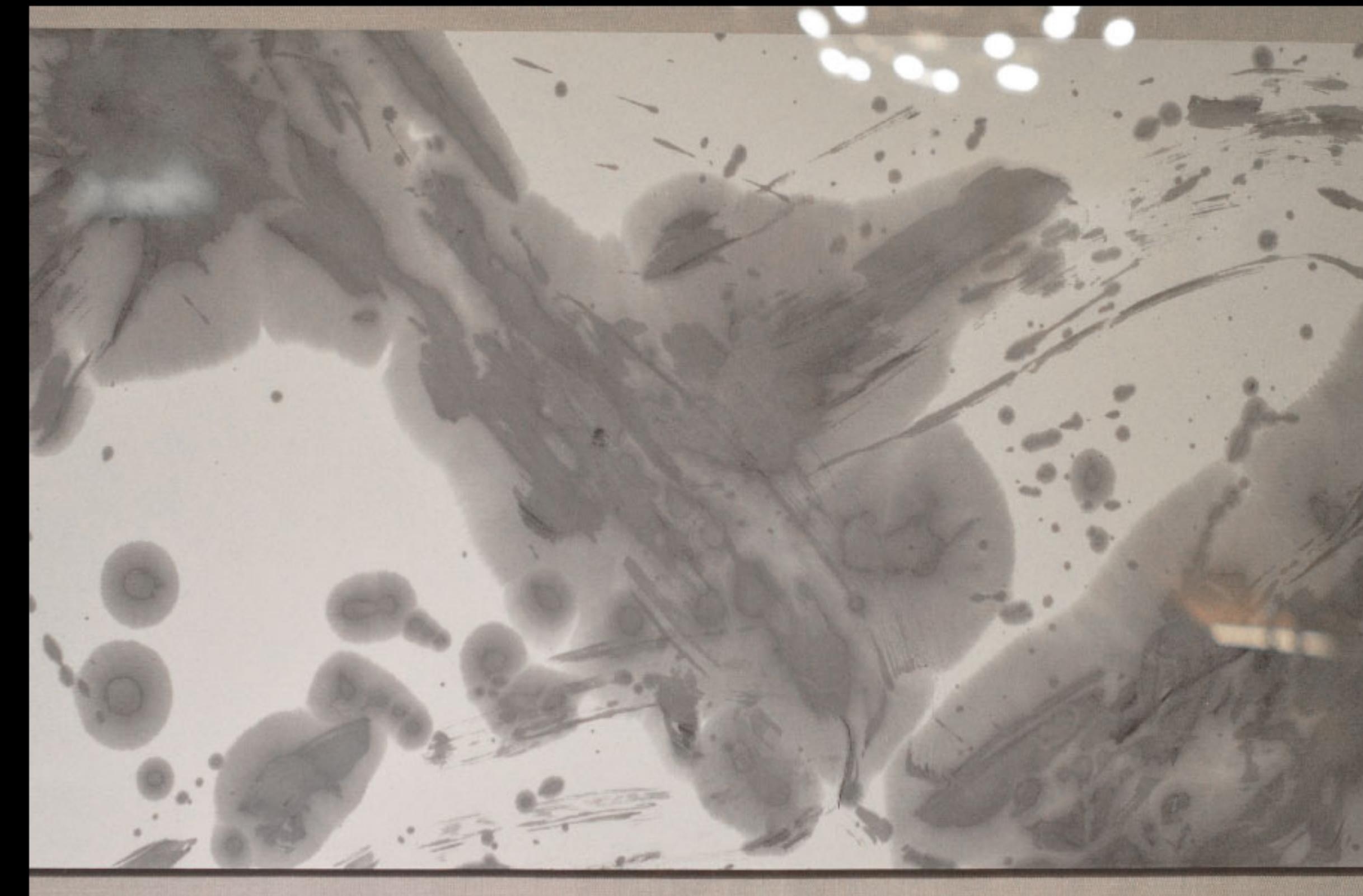


陰翳 IN-EI: The Resonance of Shadows

(from the left)

- 6 Colors I: やわらかな滲みのなかに *In the gentle haze*
- 7 Colors II: 濃いと淡いとの間に *In between dark and light*
- 8 Colors III: 儚く 脆く *Ephemeral, fragile*

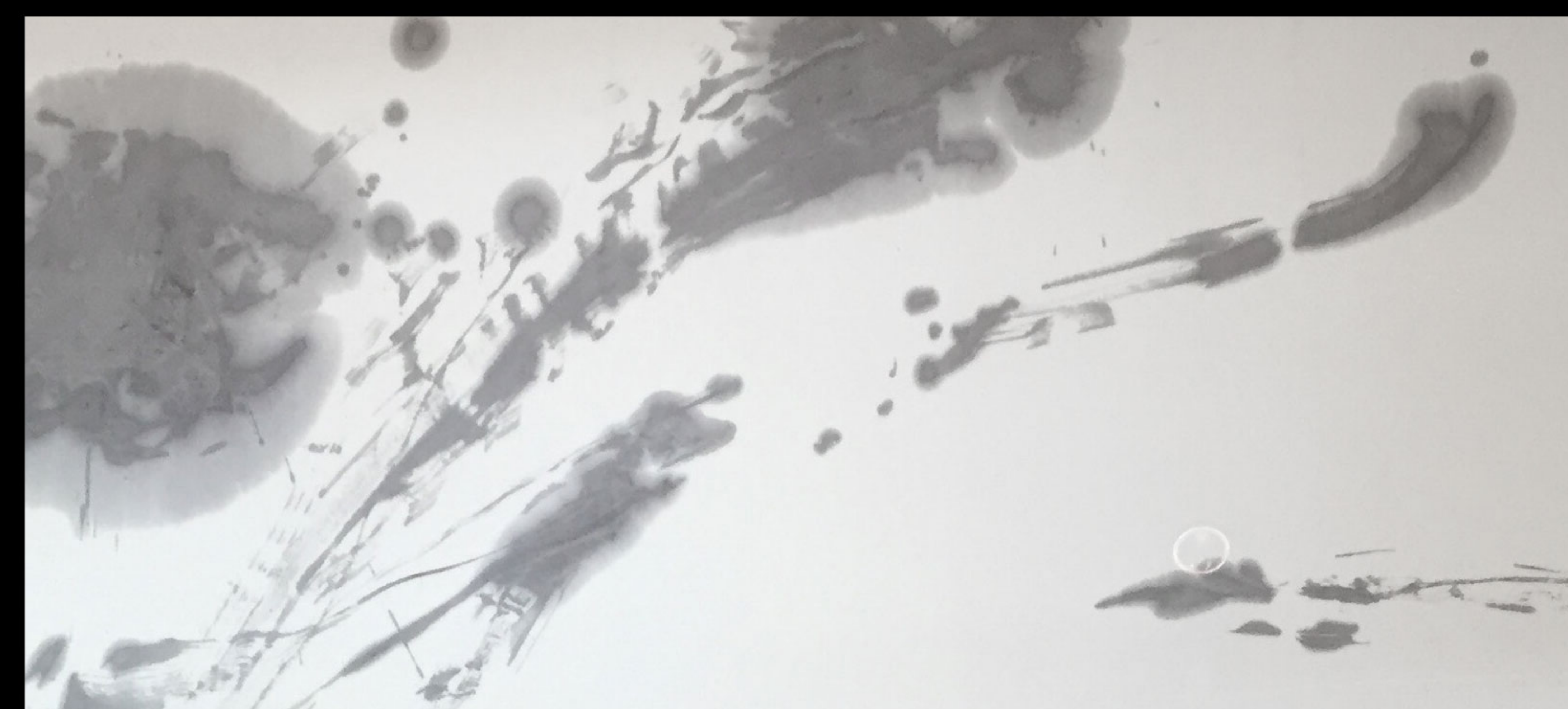
Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
19.9" x 19.6"



陰翳 IN-EI: The Resonance of Shadows

(from the left)
9 闇: 陰翳という美の小宇宙 *darkness: beauty within the cosmos of shadows*

Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
13.6" x 53.5"



陰翳 IN-EI: The Resonance of Shadows

10 光: やがて *Light: At Last*

Sumi ink, Japanese gasen paper
13.6" x 53.5"

