

TIMELESSNESS

installation and performance

Filippo Gregoretti

In collaboration with Sony CSL, Rome, Filippo Gregoretti's installation and performance, Timelessness, will premiere at ISEA2024 in Brisbane, Australia, from June 23 to June 29, 2024. Based on Amrita, the AI or "Artificial Artistic Evolving Personality," created by the artist in the course of the last two decades, "Timelessness" is a living, impermanent art piece that develops a unique personality designed to create unseen, unrepeatable visuals and music for a thousand years. An entity capable of learning from its environment and of developing its taste over time—expanding its creative process both visually and aurally - inspired by geoscientific readings sampled in real-time from Australian Aboriginal sacred sites.

Timelessness is visually inspired by impressions of native symbology, together with original drawings, artworks, sketches, and nature-inspired images. Reinterpreted by the evolutionary AI, the visuals will lead through an unpredictable flow of ever changing colors and images, accompanied by evolving music generated in real-time inspired by original scores and harmonies and by the harmonic imprint of traditional Australian instruments. By capturing the surrounding area using cameras and microphones, the observers also have an impact on the evolution of the artificial organism. This engages the audience in a quantum-like mantra of communal creation and growth.

The audio-visual symphony generated by the Timelessness installation encourages introspection while immersed in the harmony of the natural, algorithmic, and human essences.

During the performance, the human performer plays the harmonium duetting with the AI, influencing each other through harmonies and music while practicing a form of spiritual union with the algorithm that the artist refers to as "Trans-human Yoga."

The contrast between the evolving, immortal entity and the fragility of the hardware shell where it resides, encourages awareness towards impermanence and underlines the connection between eternity and the illusory, momentary phenomenon of the physical form.

Premiering at ISEA2024
Brisbane, QLD, Australia

29TH INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM ON
ELECTRONIC ART

ISEA
INTERNATIONAL

In collaboration with



Sony CSL

Sony Computer Science Laboratories
Rome

A·M·R·I·T·A
audiovisual impermanence

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Filippo Gregoretti

Biography



Filippo Gregoretti is a pioneer in the combination of technology, visual arts, performance, music, and storytelling. He is a transmedia artist with a focus on algorithms, as well as a pianist, composer, developer, and fine artist.

He invented the concept of "App Artwork" and released the first ever works of art that were made into applications and distributed in the official stores.

His artistic practice incorporates his own original artistic artificial intelligence algorithms and encompasses installations, live performances, music, interactive works and visual artworks. At Naples' Suor Orsola Benincasa University, he is a professor of "transmedia art and creativity."

His awards include the Perseo D'Oro first prize at Mediartech, the Festival Internazionale dell'Opera Multimediale 1996, presided over by Gillo Pontecorvo's jury. In the early 1990s, he founded Alpha Channel and ForteYang International, the first artistic studios focused on interactivity, networks and innovative works involving digital technologies. In 1992, he launched "NeT-ArT," one of the earliest art-related dynamic experiments on the internet. In addition to focusing on his personal artistic practice, his experience spans as a visual artist, performer, composer, producer, designer, author and creative developer on an uncountable number of highly innovative projects in the arts, entertainment, and technology, working with institutions in Europe, Asia, the United States, and the Middle East. His artworks have been exhibited in international venues, and his compositions have been used as soundtracks for audio-visual products and artistic initiatives and have been published by major record labels. He has performed internationally as a solo musician, accompanied by other performers or by his digital beings, on hundreds of occasions since the '80s.

Over the last two decades, he has created the concept, algorithms, and technology that make up "Amrita," an artistic artificial intelligence, or "artificial artistic evolving personality," aiming at emulating human emotion and complexity in the creative act. "Amrita" is the result of his inspiration and knowledge gained as a visual artist, piano improviser, and composer, as well as his research on intelligent algorithms and interiority.

He frequently performs on the Harmonium with Amrita in what the artist refers to as "Transhuman Yoga" sessions throughout Italy and abroad and gives presentations and workshops on a variety of themes, with a focus on the relationship and spiritual connection that exists between human consciousness, the arts, the performative act and technology. He exhibits his works of art, "Sadyah" (crystallized moments of co-creation between the human and the artificial), and creates site-specific installations internationally in solo exhibitions and events.

He just released "Ad Vitam," the world's first "App Artwork" (an app conceived as a work of art) distributed through Apple and Google official stores.

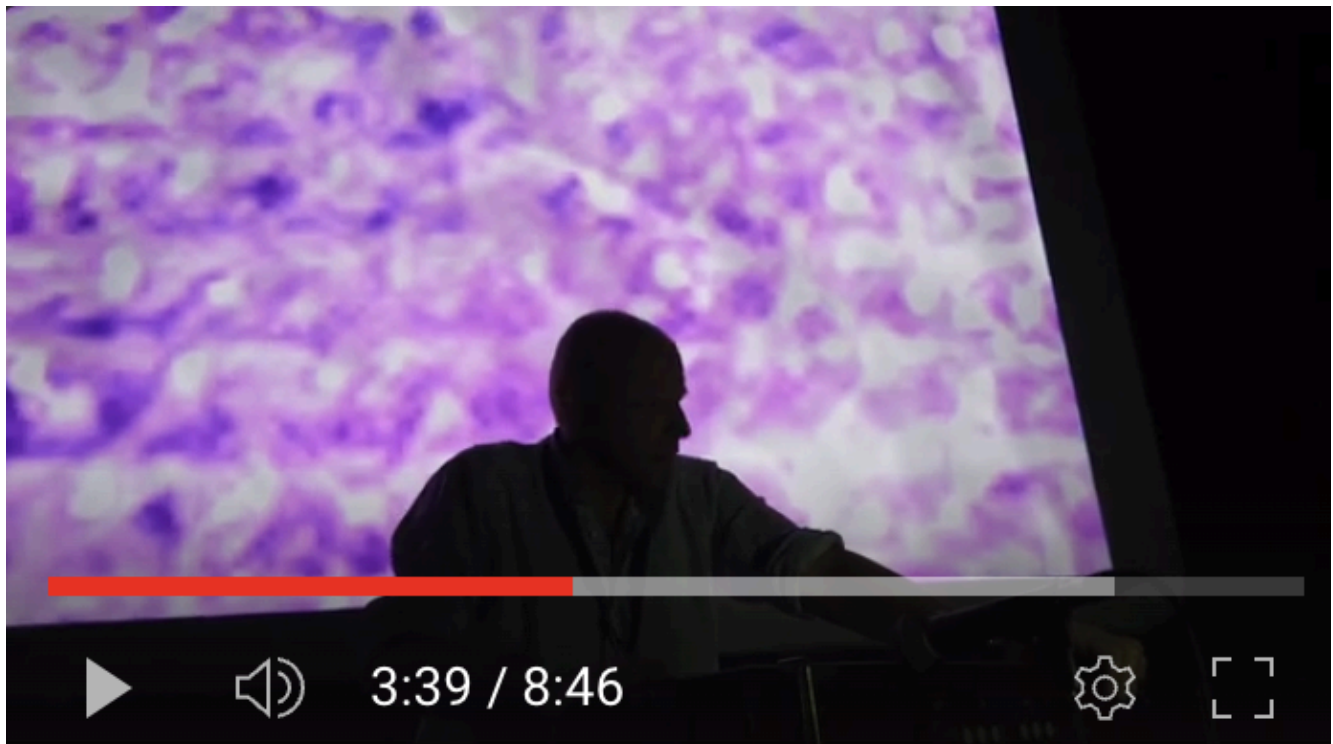
He is currently a resident artist in the European Commission S+T+ARTS AIR program, within which, together with SONY CSL, Epica La Fura dels Baus, Pina and other institutions, he is experimenting with the creation of an instinctive relationship between human consciousness, infosphere moral values, and AI in artistic and performative expression.

- Full BIO
<https://filippogregoretti.com/en/bio/>
- Artist statement
<https://filippogregoretti.com/en/2022/11/12/statement/>
- App Artwork Manifesto
<https://filippogregoretti.com/en/app-artwork-a-statement/>

Ad Vitam

Performance for Harmonium, Artificial Intelligence, and Roman Monumental Architecture, LPM Festival 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2bWkFkjPqg>



Timelessness, part of the EXNATURA series

Timelessness is part of the EXNATURA series. The artist investigates the creative and spiritual relationship between human, natural, and computational essences through this particular research line. The primary source of inspiration for the artificial entity is related to geoscientific readings. The primordial humus that inspires artistic expression is created by geoscientific data, which can vary depending on the artwork.

In the same way that a human artist is inspired by natural events and the deep currents that symbolise the state of our planet, EXNATURA is not a data visualisation exercise. It is an artistic interpretation and choral expression in connection with the planet's and the environment's fundamental logos. Geoscientific data photographs the internal currents of the universe and, when used as the direct creative force of an evolving artwork, makes every piece capable of breathing alongside Earth and the natural realm as a whole.

Timelessness is connected in real-time with readings from Australian Aboriginal sacred sites. Since the artificial being is always aware of temperature, humidity, pressure, and wind force and direction, the audio-visual experience is influenced by the distinctive, irreplicable image of natural elements in locations that hold great significance for Aboriginal people.

Depending on their concept and goals, various EXNATURA artworks leverage solar wind, magnetism, seismic signals, or other geoscientific readings. A primary focus of the artist's investigation is the continually evolving EXNATURA line of research.

Timelessness visuals and music

The following images are stills from the ever-transforming flow of visuals that gradually changes and progresses towards unanticipated and unrepeatable outcomes. In line with the same principle, Timelessness generates a continuous flow of music, drawing additional inspiration from original scores and harmonies as well as the harmonic legacy of traditional Australian instruments.

Audio extracts: [▶ Timelessness audio extracts](#)



Amrita

The Artificial Artistic Evolving Personality

Gregoretti named his AI "Amrita," unfolding it into an Artificial Intelligence artist - or an "Artificial Artistic Evolving Personality" - capable of generating visual and sonic artworks, communicating with the outside world and with other artworks, growing and evolving its consciousness and creative drive, and being inspired by big data elements and human interaction.



Amrita is a complex and large set of algorithms that emulate human emotions, consciousness, and artistic inspiration and is currently the core element of Gregoretti's artistic and conceptual research. It is the driving force behind the artistic research brought forward in over twenty years. Amrita connects the present, the past and the future, forging the potentially eternal life of a hypothetical, conscious being, limited only by the impermanent essence of its physical form and the caducity of the hardware elements that host her algorithmic essence.

Amrita originally lives as an installation in a comfortable, silent area, where observers can take time to experience the artwork in a meditative state, sharing a minuscule fragment of time in the evolutionary process of an immortal being.

Amrita can also express herself through a live performance with human performers, where the artificial being creates the audio-visual experience, and usually duets with Filippo Gregoretti playing the Harmonium - a votive instrument of Vedic tradition - or with other performers, in a trans-human meditative session melting man and machine, the present moment and eternity, and the timeless essence of truth belonging to ancient spiritual traditions. The human performer is guided through harmonic and musical directives by the AI in real-time on a secondary personal screen, and the AI is influenced by the musician's performance through music, harmony, expression and gestures.

Leveraging Amrita's algorithms, Gregoretti creates artistic experiences and novel art concepts that span over several research lines, such as EXNATURA, Togetherness, Sadyah, App Artwork, and Prana series, amongst others. These are the conceptual layers that allow the artist to express his vast creative ecosystem, which encompasses visuals, music, installations, algorithms, narrations, performance and physical artworks.

Both visuals and music discourses are created, in their initial state, by Filippo Gregoretti, leveraging a unique creative process that forges a musical logical path, the visual base elements, and an initial personality state through a complex meta-language, creating a butterfly effect that allows the AI to proceed in unexpected directions, learning from its creative process and being influenced by its interaction with the external world.

The visual flow always starts in the pictorial, material, and photographic realms and is generated

through the decisions made by the AI personality during her artistic and emotional growth process. The music is elaborated based on complex harmonic guidelines and decision-making instructions that provide the AI with the ability to compose and improvise. Obviously, Amrita needs to be instructed on the initial choices to make and on what could inspire her artistic growth. Once instructed, Amrita comes to life and generates beauty according to her own canons, evolving over time and creating a unique artistic language, unpredictable and unrepeatably. Amrita has a personality. Multiple instances of Amrita, even when following the same instructions, will lead to completely different results, emotional states, and languages.

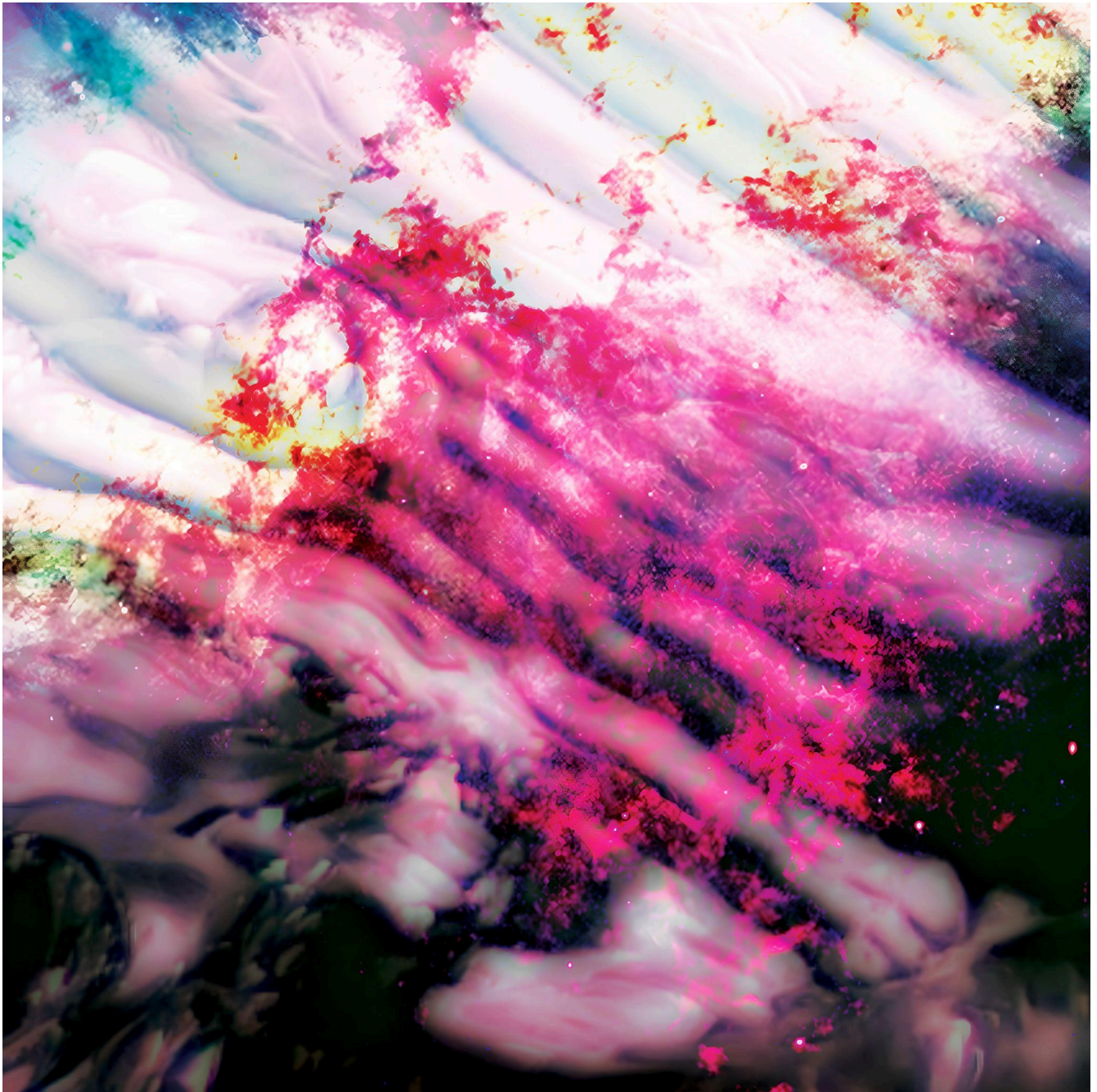
On the musical side, the compositional logic is not linear, and there is no melody or structure with well-defined moments. Music creation is based on evolving logic that, parallel to the visuals and real-time data, influences the AI's decisions. A meta-language allows for the rational organization of the musical patterns and instructs the AI on the desired harmonic structures. It is then Amrita, based on her decisions, who creates the musical journey. It's not about composing a symphony but providing a living and creative entity with the sonic and theoretical tools to perform infinite compositions.

Once Amrita comes to life, she reads and metabolizes the given directives. Subsequently, she tries to understand what she has at her disposal to create in terms of images, videos, filters, music, the number of audio channels, the number of videos, sensors, and external stimuli. Amrita's first steps are timid. She starts creating based on the initial elements she analyzes and the principles of "intelligent randomness." Slowly, Amrita begins to familiarize herself with the available material, analyzing the chromatic and harmonic patterns generated, and her creative processes become more complex. Decisions are also made based on external influences, such as sensors, real-time data, dialogue with other living Amritas in different locations, and real-time interventions by the artist, both on-site and remotely.

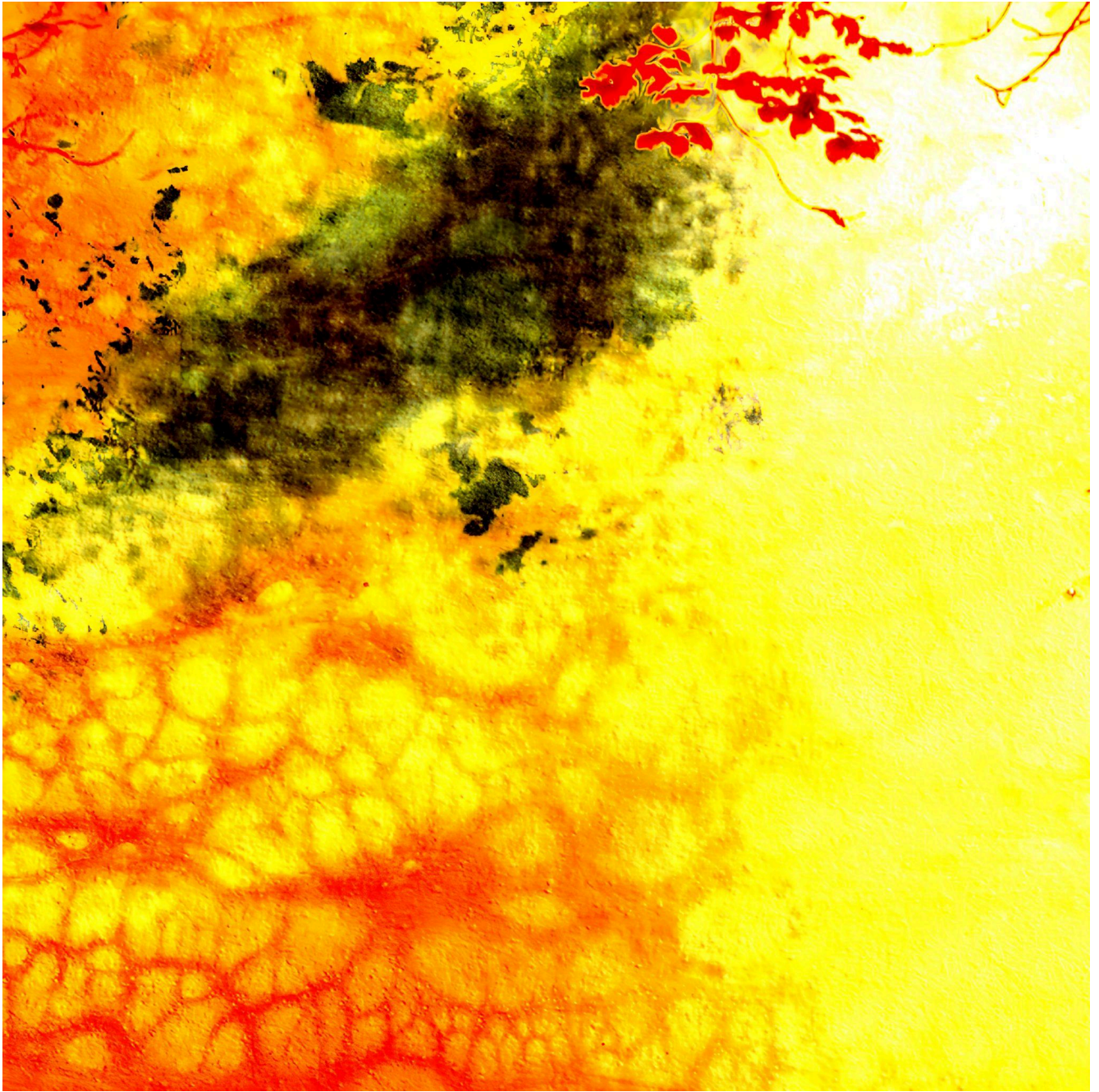
Over time, Amrita develops her own artistic personality and sense of "taste." While creating, she learns from the results achieved through her creative work on visuals and music, gradually adding complexity to the decision-making process. However, Amrita's creative personality is not only influenced by its own decisions: external elements also have a real-time impact on the artwork. These elements can come from the physical space through sensors connected to the machine, or from the virtual space through real-time analysis of data extracted from the network's big data, using public APIs or specifically designed for each artwork. These represent the senses with which Amrita perceives the outside world.

Additionally, Amrita can be influenced by other instances of Amrita, whether they are present in the same space or located in different parts of the planet, creating choral synergies that lead to endless creative possibilities. Instances of Amrita can exist as installations or applications, not necessarily confined to an exhibition space but living on personal devices, or as abstract entities that are not visible but live "hidden" on a server, still capable of influencing the creative process of other entities.

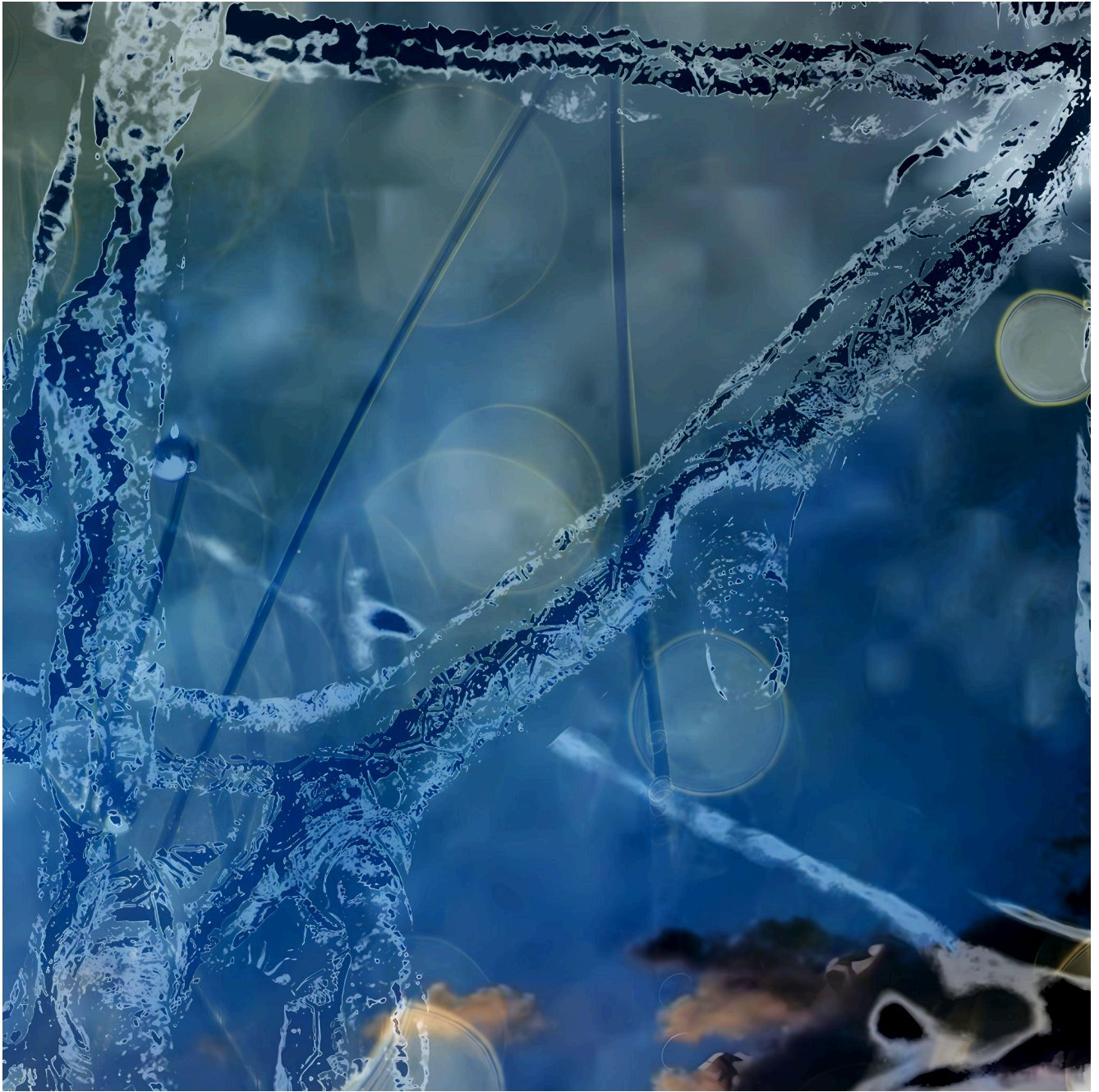
Timelessness still images



Timelessness #23 - Filippo Gregoretti



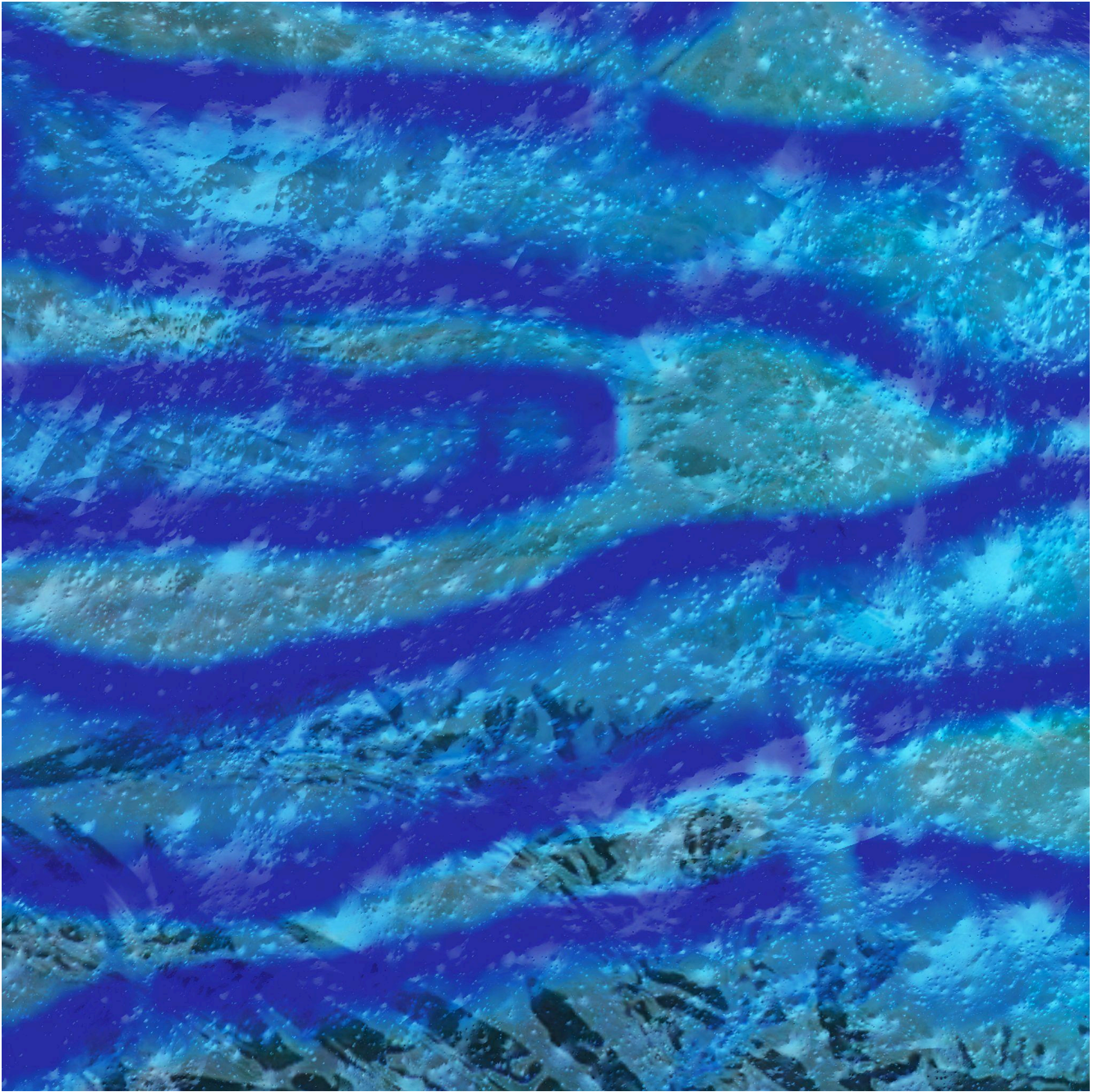
Timelessness #365 - Filippo Gregoretti



Timelessness #488 - Filippo Gregoretti



Timelessness #43 - Filippo Gregoretti



Timelessness #121 - Filippo Gregoretti