

**MICHAEL
JANSSEN**

GULNUR MUKAZHANOVA

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TUE—SAT 11 AM—6 PM



Gulnur Mukazhanova was born in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, shortly before the end of the USSR. She has done her studies at the Art Academy in Almaty and the Kunsthochschule in Berlin Weißensee. Still living in Berlin, she has been working for years mainly with textiles. Her work is influenced by Kazakh textile traditions, with felt as her most important material. She addresses identity problems and the transformations of traditional values of her culture in the age of globalization. In her art, she processes her Kazakh origins and the actual state of society there with an international perspective.

GULNUR MUKAZHANOVA

Born in 1984, Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Berlin, Germany

EDUCATION

Kazakh National Academy of Arts named after T.K. Zhurgenov, Almaty, Kazakhstan
Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin, Germany

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Öliara: The dark Moon, SOMA, Berlin, DE
- 2022 The Dark Moon, Mimosa House, London, UK
- 2021 The Space of Silence. Aspan Gallery, KZ
- 2021 Un-Concious. Gallery Michael Janssen, Berlin, DE
- 2017 Yellow Matters. SOMA Art Gallery, Berlin, DE
- 2016 Postnomadic Reality. Artwin Gallery, Moscow, RU
- 2010 Iron Women. Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty, KZ
Wertlosigkeit der Tradition. The German-Kazakh Society, Berlin, DE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 La Makan, Cosmic Corporeality, Ainalaiyn Space and Three Highgate Gallery London, UK
LET'S MIX!, Galerie Michael Janssen Berlin, DE
Clouds, Power & Ornament – Roving Central Asia, Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles, Hong Kong, HK
- 2021 Trecento Workshop, Galerie Italienne, Paris, FR
ART from ELSWHERE, Kulturforum Ansbach, Ansbach, DE
Points of Resistance, Momentum Berlin, DE
The female side of the moon, Galerie Z22 Berlin, DE
Did You Know...?. WILD PROJECT GALLERY, LU

2019 Racing the Galaxy. Palace of Independence, Nur Sultan, KZ
Astana Art Show. Astana, KZ

2018 BROT & ROSEN: Vier Generationen Kasichischer Künstlerinnen. Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin, DE
Focus Kazakhstan. The Wapping Project: 37 Wapping Wall, St Katharine's & Wapping, London, GB
Whole Life is a Collage!. Villa Boutiques & Restaurants, Almaty, KZ
Astana Art Show. Astana, KZ
Strukturveränderungen. Kostbar Gallery, Berlin, DE
Blue Container on the New Silk Road: Interlocal. Duisburg, DE

2017 Time & Astana: After Future. National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana, KZ
The Story Retells. Daegu Art Factory Daegu, KOR
Energy of the Future. Expo 2017, Astana, KZ

2016 METAMORPHOSES. Pörnbach Contermporary, Pörnbach, DE

2015 Practice of Touch. The 11th Krasnoyarsk museum biennale, Krasnoyarsk, RU
The Nomads. Artwin Gallery, Moscow, RU

2014 Dissimination Sity. Gallery Brixen, South Tyrol, IT
A TIME FOR DREAMS. The 4th Moscow International Biennale for young art, Moscow, RU

2013 Viennafair. Vienna, AT
Felt Festival in Felletin. FR (Journées Nationales de la Laine à Felletin)
Recycling. HWK, Leipzig, DE
Hochzeiten. Schloss Belvedere, Pfingstenberg, Potsdam, DE
A BIG SCHOW. Freies Museum, Berlin, DE

2012 ... E BELLEZZA SIA!. Turin, IT

2011 Refugium. DIE ARBEIT, Berlin, DE

2010 IN DEFENCE: Artists from Africa, Asia, Europe, Russia, USA and Middle East. Fondazione 107, Turin, IT

2009 STILLS-Attraction. Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty, KZ
East of Nowhere: Contemporary Art from Post-Soviet Central Asia. Fondazione 107, Turin, IT

2007 52nd Venice Biennale. Central Asia Pavilion, Venice, IT

ART FAIRS

2023 EXPO Chicago, Chicago, IL, US

2022 POSITIONS. Berlin, DE
Art Brussels. Brussels, BE

2020 Art Dubai Art Fair Online Version

2019 Asia Now. Paris Asian Art Fair, Paris, FR

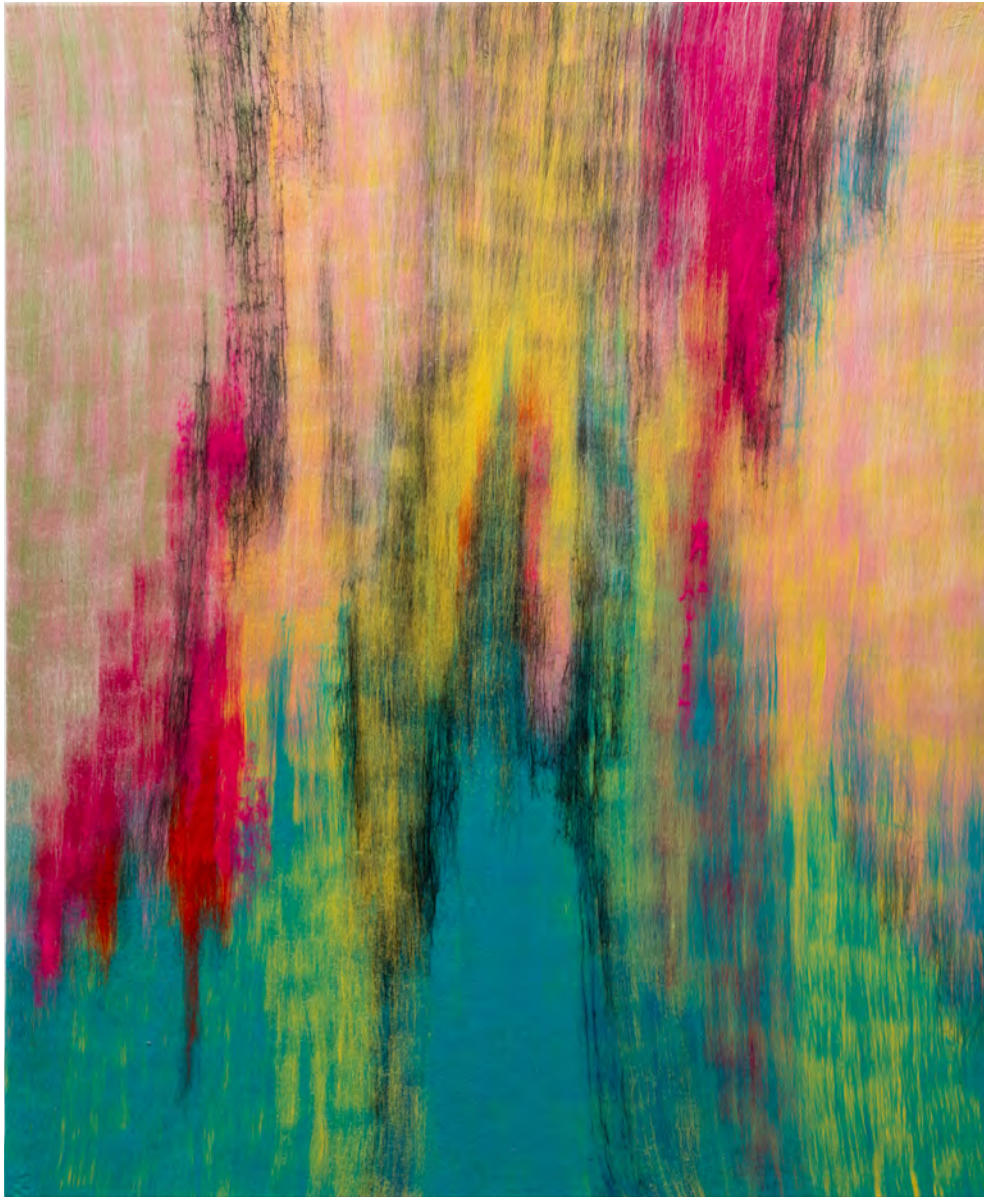
2018 Cosmospow. Moscow, RU

2015 Cosmospow. Moscow, RU

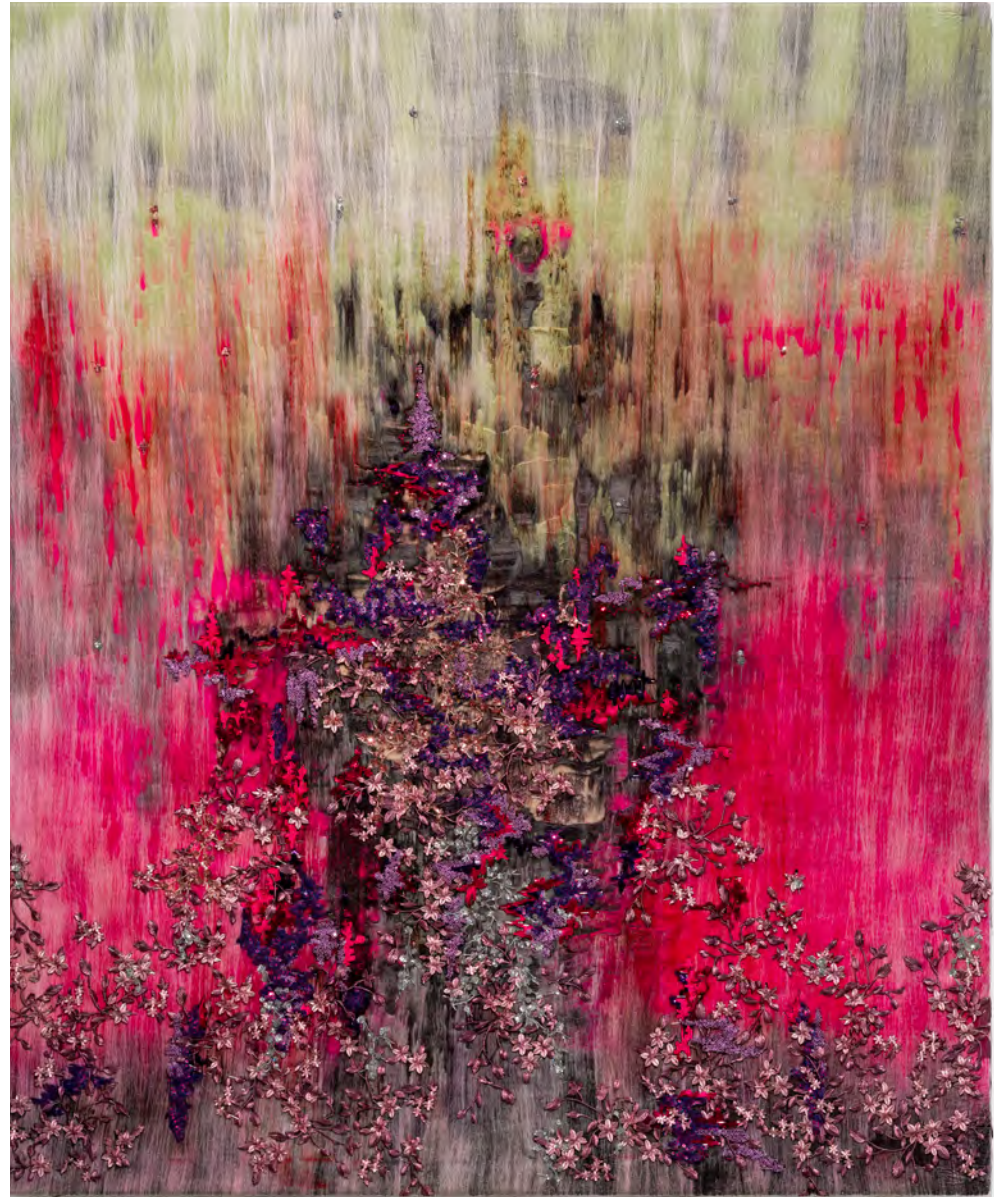
2013 Viennafair. Vienna, AT

COLLECTIONS

Fondazione 107, Turin, IT
Momentum Worldwide, Berlin, DE



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Untitled #1, 2023, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 170 x 140 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Untitled, 2023, Fine merino wool, paillette, pins, felted by hand, 170 x 140 cm

Gulnur Mukazhanova — Un-Conscious

Fabrics of silk and velour stretch tautly over canvases, luring the viewer into Gulnur Mukazhanova's solo show with Galerie Michael Janssen. Titled "Un-Conscious," the exhibition will be the artist's first showing with the gallery to date where the artist will present a series of felt paintings and collages, both of which are produced exclusively for the exhibition. "Un-Conscious" offers a survey into the artist's almost decade long inquiry into post-nomadic identities. The works together explore how felt and collage can become a conduit to subvert ancient practices and visuals that remain in circulation and likewise to meditate on cultures in flux through employing the language of abstraction.

Central to the artist's practice is a research into and a processing of Kazakh society as a whole, where the artist experienced the Soviet collapse and subsequent capitalist embrace as two abrupt transitions and migrating orders. Since emigrating to Berlin, the artist has honed her observation on post-nomadic identities. Though this term today is often used in reference to the digital-nomad living in alienation or isolation from rooted culture, the artist's oeuvre grasps the tension between the rooted and unrooted by observing visual practices developed in nomadic communities in Kazakhstan. Here, the digital and the traditional are held in tight balance within the artist's works, where she takes up ancestral felting techniques that are practiced within the region. Mukazhanova instead ushers these techniques into the language of minimalism where large-scale, monochrome oranges and mustards point to a period that sought to throw-off the archaic and elude figuration.

The series Post-Nomadic Reality that features in "Un-Conscious" is informed by the traditional tus-kyiz, hand embroidered wall carpets that typically are ornamentally patterned. Mukazhanova breaks apart this word to get at its essential meaning: tus to dream and kyiz to felt. Like portals or screens, Mukazhanova's works in this series invite the viewer to dream of another world where hopes and desires can be sublimated into the unconscious, but also create a space where new identities can be assumed. This is further punctuated in Mukazhanova's triptych, Untitled (2021), where three large-scale felted paintings contain curved windows. The felted materials of gray, red, and yellow, however, give the image plane a surreal quality where reality and fantasy can merge. Though the tryptic might be reminiscent of the celestial and historically used to narrate linearly, it is transformed beyond recognition while retaining its referent to the divine.

Where Post-Nomadic Reality features fields of color emptied of pattern and ornamentation, the series Moment of the Present focuses exclusively on isolating that pattern with pins and needle work through the practice of collage. The artist uses lurex, brocade, and velour to deconstruct traditional print. This practice of cutting, isolating, and collage unravels modes of superficial conviviality.

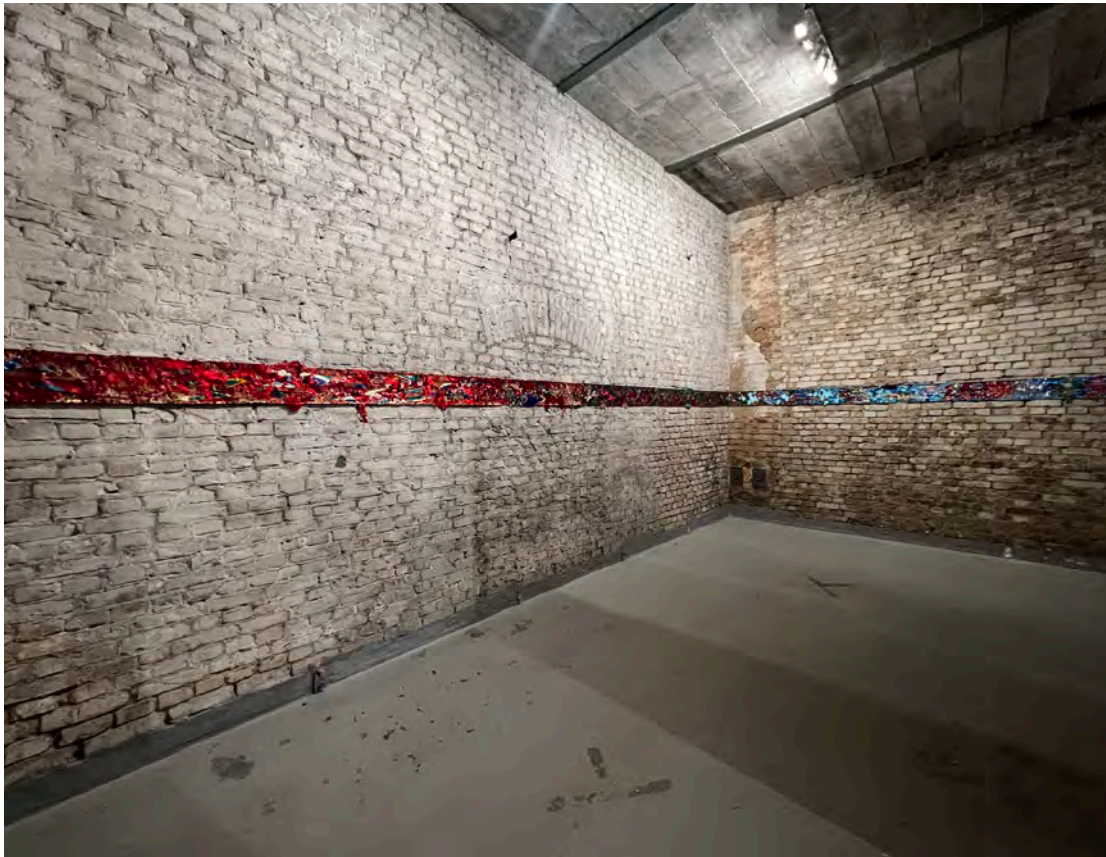
Originally, these fabrics are exchanged during weddings or celebrations. The artist isolates the precarity evidenced in the fabric's superficial ritualistic function that might cover over darker cultural norms. For example, in *Moment of the Present #25*, (2021), hundreds of pins hold together golden petals. From afar, the shape appears to be lush and ornamental, though peering closely, one can see how it might collapse at any moment. Stability, and likewise beauty, are held together by fragile threads.

Text: Vanessa Gravenor





Gulnur Mukazhanova, Installation view, Öliara: The Dark Moon, 2023, SOMA Berlin, DE



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Installation view, *Öliara: The Dark Moon*, 2023, SOMA Berlin, DE



Installation View, *Clouds, Power & Ornament*, 2023, Roving Central Asia, Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles, Hong Kong, HK - courtesy of: Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles



Installation View, Clouds, Power & Ornament, 2023, Roving Central Asia, Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles, Hong Kong, HK - courtesy of: Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles



Installation View, Clouds, Power & Ornament, 2023, Roving Central Asia, Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles, Hong Kong, HK - courtesy of: Center for Heritage Arts & Textiles



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Installation view, Öliara: The Dark Moon, 2022, Mimosa House x Ainalaiyn Space, London, GB



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Őliara: The Dark Moon, 2022, Installation View, Mimosa House x Ainalaiyn Space, London, GB



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Syrmak, 2022, Open performance at Documenta XV



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Residency, Hongkong 2022



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Un-Conscious, 2021, Installation View, Galerie Michael Janssen



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Un-Conscious, 2021, Installation View, Galerie Michael Janssen



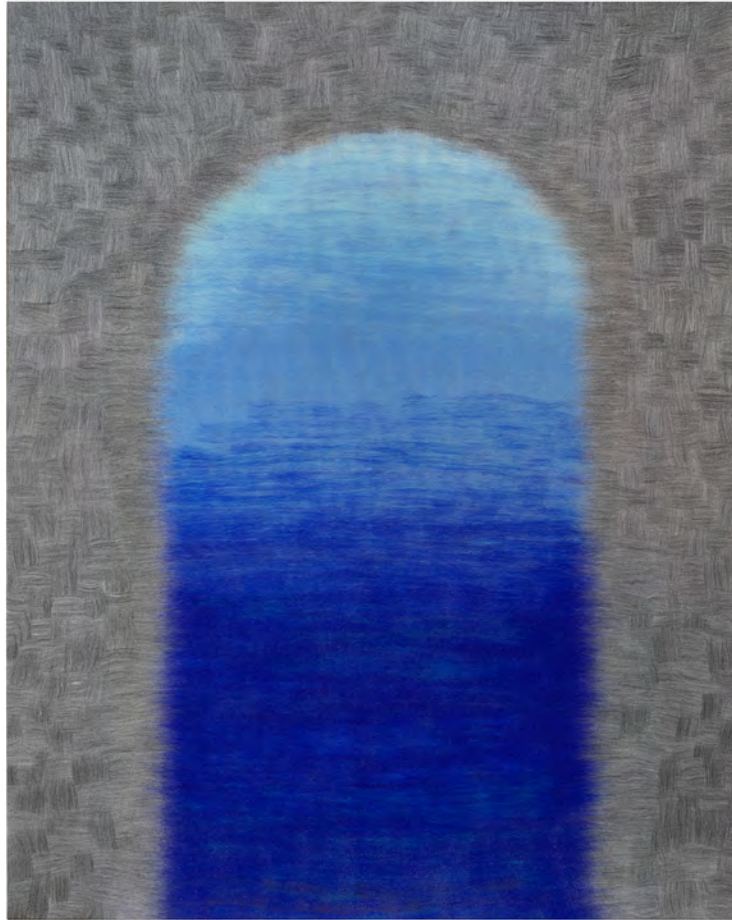
Gulnur Mukazhanova, Un-Conscious, 2021, Installation View, Galerie Michael Janssen



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Un-Conscious, 2021, Installation View, Galerie Michael Janssen



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Un-Conscious, 2021, Installation View, Galerie Michael Janssen



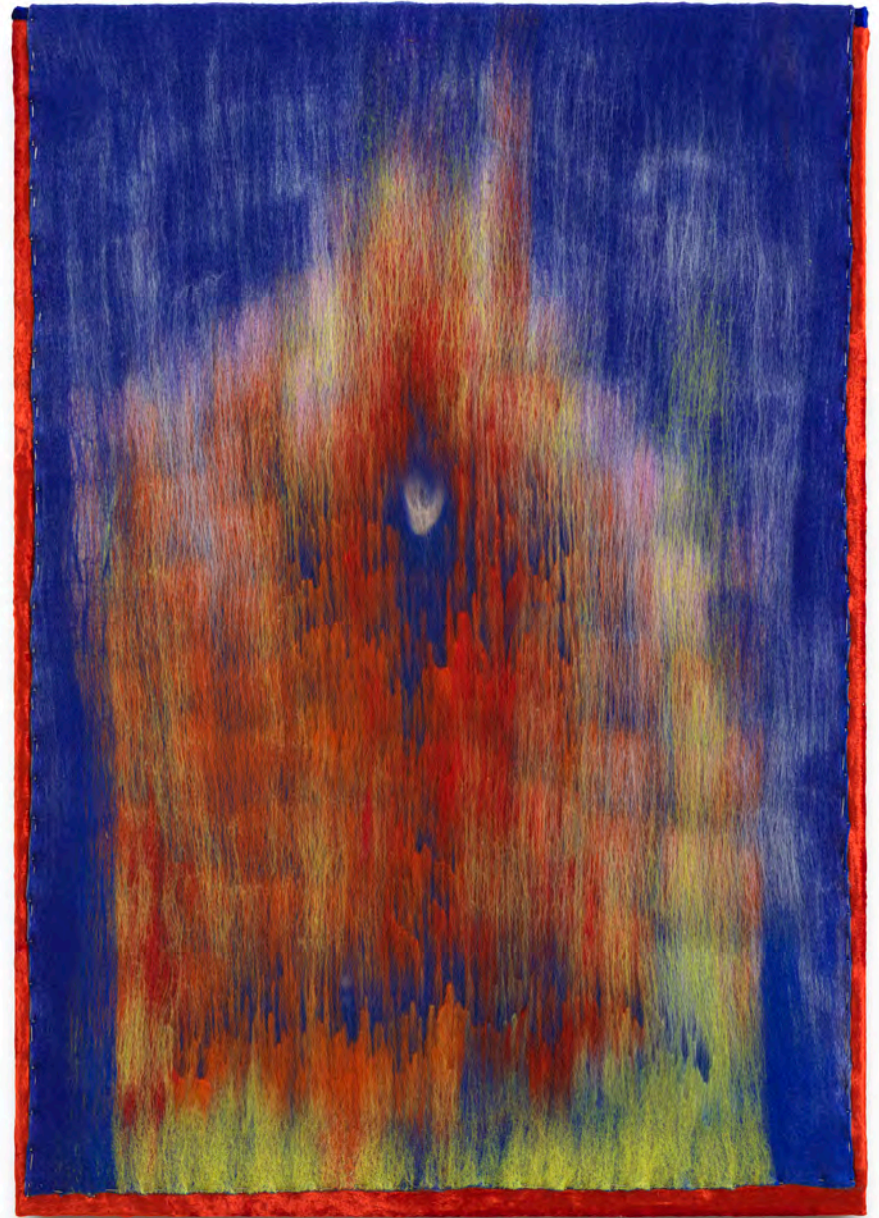
Gulnur Mukazhanova, Untitled, 2021, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, Triptych, 250 x 150 (yellow), 250 x 200 (blue), 250 x 150 (red)



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Post Nomadic Reality #0-41, 2021, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 260 x 400 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, From the series ,Self Portraits', 2023, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 100 x 70 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, From the series ,Self Portraits', 2023, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 100 x 70 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, From the series ,Self Portaits', 2023, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 100 x 70 cm



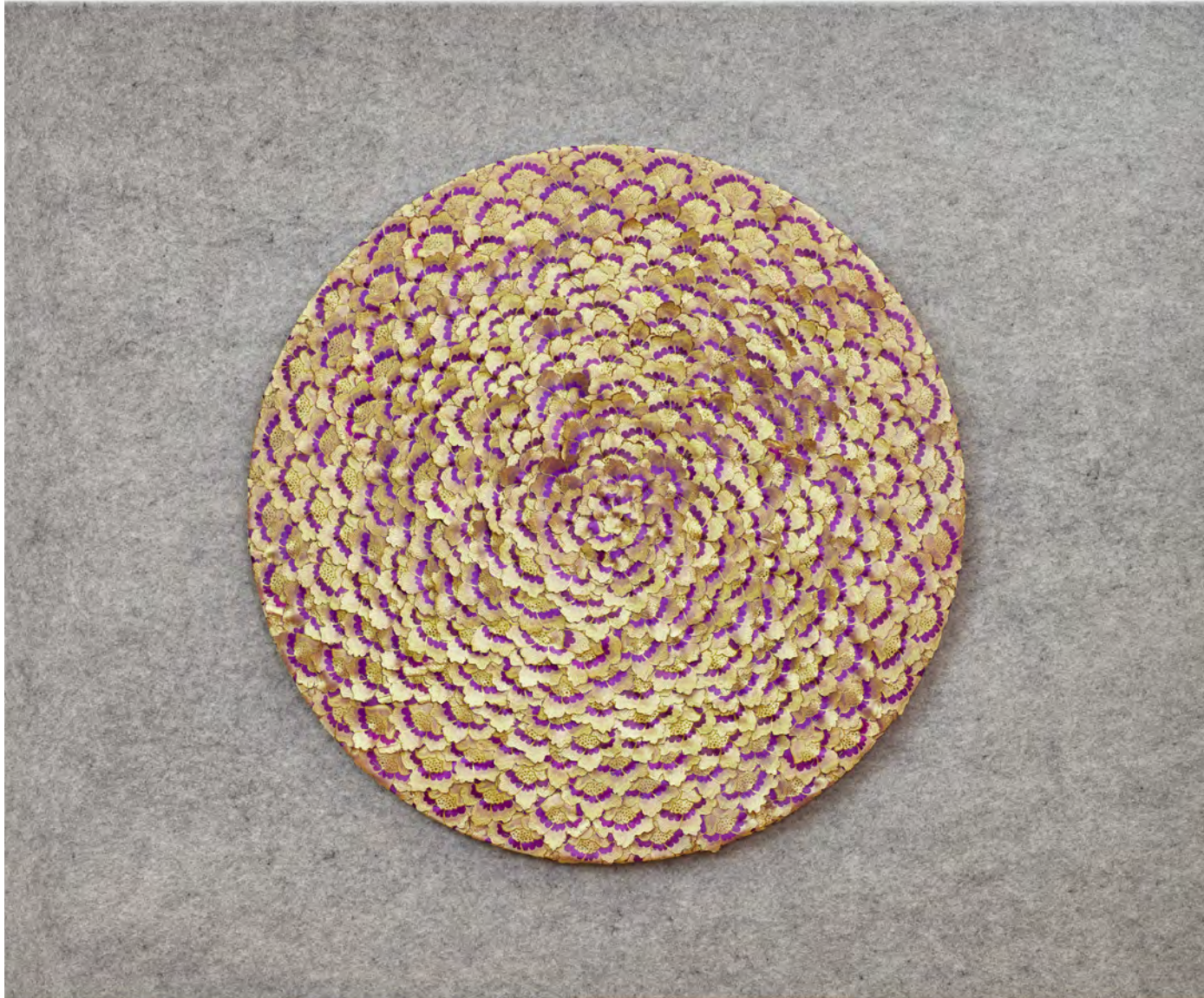
Gulnur Mukazhanova, From the series ,Self Portaits', 2023, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 100 x 70 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, From the series ,Self Portraits', 2023, Fine merino wool, felted by hand, 100 x 70 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Moment of the Present #27, 2021, Velour, Brocade, Lurex, Pins, Collage, 140 x 170 cm



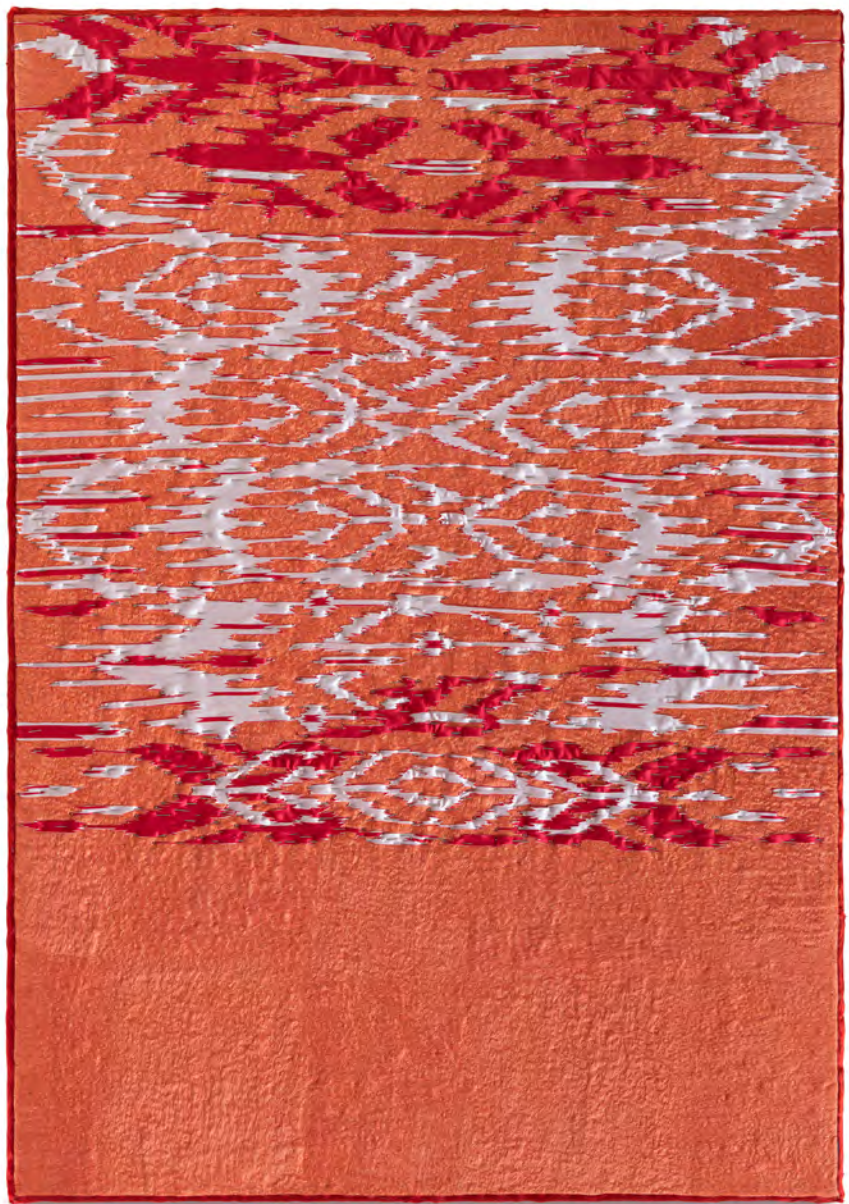
Gulnur Mukazhanova, Moment of the Present #25, 2021, Felt, Brocade, Lurex, Pins, Collage, 140 x 170 cm



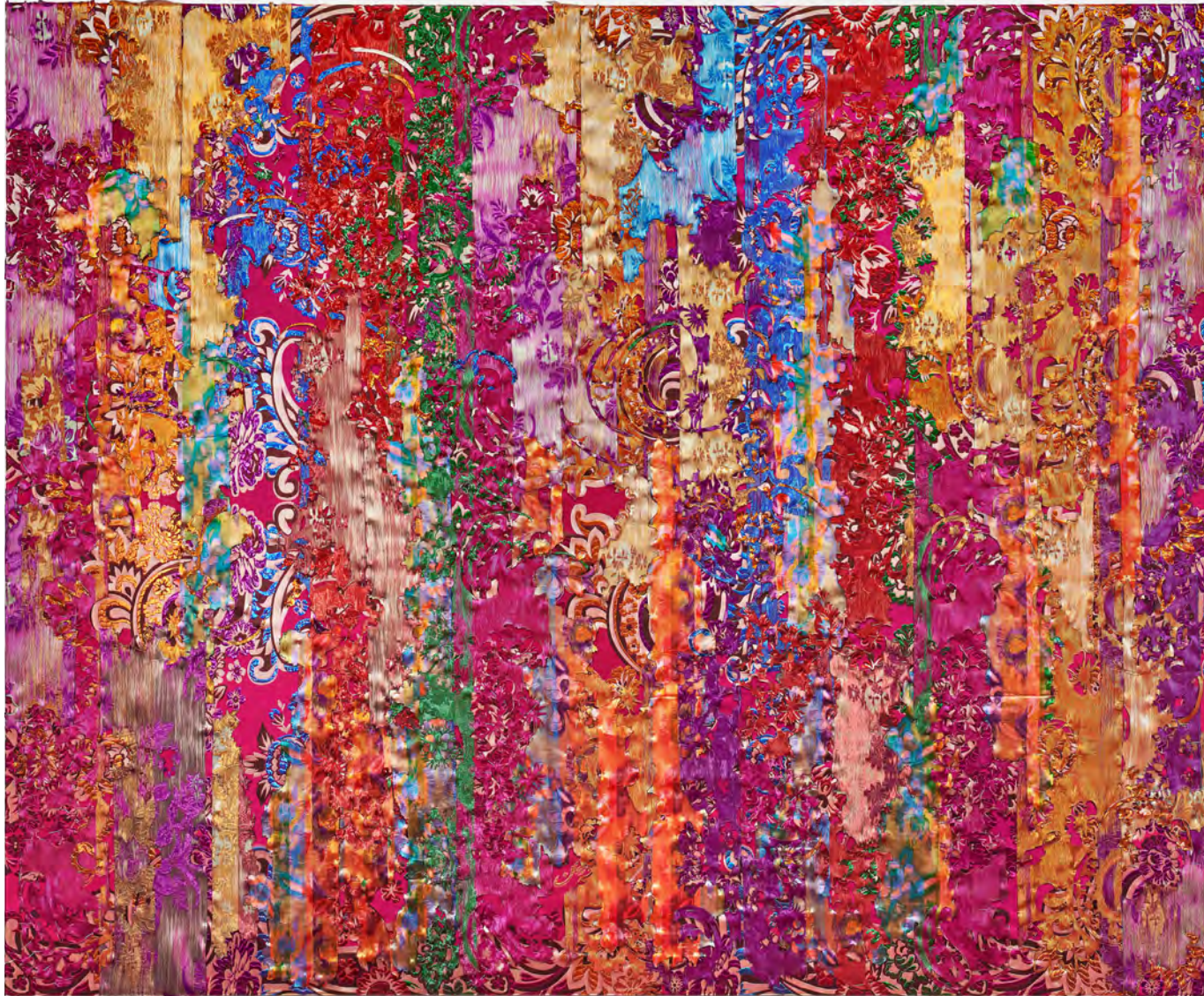
Gulnur Mukazhanova, Moment of the Present #26, 2021, Velour, Brocade, Lurex, Pins, Collage, 170 x 140 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Post Nomadic Reality #31, 2021, Fine merino wool and silk fibers, felted by hand, 170 x 210 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Post Nomadic Reality #1, 2021, Fine merino wool, silk fibres, fabric, pins, felted by hand, collage technique, 100 x 70 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Moment of the Present #24, 2021, Velour, Brocade, Lurex, Pins, Collage, 140 x 170 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Post Nomadic Reality #33, 2021, Fine merino wool and silk fibres, felted by hand, 140 x 170 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Moment of the Present #22, 2019, Velour, Brocade, Lurex, Mixed Technique, Collage, 140 x 170 cm



Gulnur Mukazhanova, False Hope, 2018, Lurex, Velour, Nails, Metal Grid, Mixed Technique



Gulnur Mukazhanova, Installation view of Untitled Blue (2023) & Untitled Red (2023), 250 x 150cm each.