

The hand and the arm slice, impress, and subtract from slabs of wheat, barley, rice, millet, and maize. In the ancient world, the large-scale production of grain was physically demanding, as separating grain from the chaff, then grinding, powderizing, and kneading the dough had to be performed manually. These grains, according to the anthropologist James C. Scott, provided “The subsistence bases of all the earliest, major agrarian states of antiquity—Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Yellow River... The key to the nexus between grains and states lies,” he argued, “in the fact that only the cereal grains can serve as a basis for taxation: visible, divisible, assessable, storable, transportable, and ‘rationable’” (*Against The Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States*, 2017). Grain remains a necessary medium circulating through states, in fact undergirding them, just as here it serves as a ground for the artwork.

*Granular Subject*, 2022

Whole grain brown rice

12 ½ × 15 × 4 inches (31.75 × 38.10 × 10.16 cm)

*grit scale*, 2022

Bulgur wheat

18 × 10 ¾ × 3 ⅞ inches (45.72 × 27.31 × 9.84 cm)

*Sedition*, 2022

Barley

11 ½ × 5 ¼ × 4 ¼ inches (29.21 × 13.34 × 10.80 cm)

*Sacked*, 2022

Corn

13 ¾ × 11 ¾ × 3 ½ inches (34.93 × 29.85 × 8.89 cm)

*germ Silo*, 2022

Barley

22 ¾ × 6 ⅝ × 4 inches (57.79 × 16.83 × 10.16 cm)

*hole-and-corner*, 2022

Unenriched white rice

7 × 12 ¾ × 4 ¼ inches (17.78 × 32.39 × 10.80 cm)

*In the Raw*, 2022

Bulgur wheat

15 ¾ × 14 ¾ × 4 ⅜ inches (40.01 × 37.47 × 11.11 cm)

An iPhone lens is repeatedly placed in the flame of a gas burner. The heat and light of the flame test the camera’s operating procedure. There is a threshold at which the very status of the camera is threatened as the state of its images degrade.

*The Raw and the Cooked*, 2022

iPhone X, Universal Propane Bunsen Burner, 16oz Propane Gas Cylinder