



Edgar Calel

*Kutenten - kutenten -
kutenten*

22 Jun — 11 Aug 2024

[click here for more info](#)

Mendes Wood DM Archipelago

Archipelago presents *Kutenten - kutenten - kutenten*, an exhibition of new works by Edgar Calel created in Comalapa, Guatemala in collaboration with his family and Mayan-Kaqchikel community. The title of the exhibition is derived from the sound of a drum played in the streets of Comalapa, spreading news and information to the local population.

Edgar Calel (b. 1987 Chi Xot, San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala) lives and works in Chi Xot.

Visual artist and poet Edgar Calel engages with topics related to ritual and the rich cultural heritage of Guatemala's midwestern highlands, where he resides. Hailing from a family of Maya-Kaqchikel artists and artisans, Calel works across drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, and performance, often engaging with sites and traditions in and around his hometown of Chi Xot (San Juan Comalapa) as creative touchstones for works that meticulously interconnect localities, at home and internationally. The artist's primary concerns include exploring the complexities of Indigenous experiences and representing the Maya-Kaqchikel worldview to new publics. Through these processes, Calel, who is considered a leading voice of institutional critique among a broad generation of Latin American artists, frequently addresses power dynamics and historical shifts while raising the profile of Indigenous peoples through an anticolonial transmission of living beliefs and customs.

Calel's works are often grounded in attentive relationships with the earth, its elements, and animal-vegetal motifs and are known to playfully challenge Western conventions and perspectives of permanence. The artist's use of the Kaqchikel language, transpositional awareness, and reflexivity of his presence in the places he travels belong to a practice celebratory of the daily role of spirituality among his people and vigilant of daily threats of exclusion and cultural erasure, particularly in relation to the violence and aftermath of the Guatemalan Civil War.

Calel's major solo exhibitions include *Kaqchikikit pa Copán, Desanexo do Desapê, Brazil B'alab'aj (Jaguar Stone)*, **Sculpture Center**, New York, NY, USA (2023) and *Pa ru tun che' (From the Treetop)*, **Proyectos Ultravioleta**, Guatemala City, Guatemala (2021). His group exhibitions include *Aventar la piedra y enseñar la mano*, **Armada Galería**, Mexico City, Mexico (2024); *En la casa de mi hermano (At My Brother's House)*, **Proyectos Ultravioleta**, Guatemala City, Guatemala (2023); *Choreographies of the Impossible*, **35th São Paulo Biennial**, São Paulo, Brazil (2023); *B'ey*, **Galeria de artistas**, São Paulo, Brazil (2023); *Plural Perspectives*, **Soft Power**, Berlin, Germany (2023); *uMoya: The Sacred*

Return of Lost Things, **12th Liverpool Biennial**, Liverpool, UK (2023); *Soft and Weak Like Water*, **14th Gwangju Biennale**, Gwangju, South Korea (2023); *El suceso es en la Casa de Hierro, a la par de las Estrellas, enfrente de la Playa, del otro lado del Chino Pobre (The Event Is at the Iron House, Next to the Stars, in Front of The Beach, on the Other Side of the Poor Chinese)*, **Casa de Hierro**, Guatemala City, Guatemala (2023); *The Night Dies by the Day, the Day Dies by the Night*, **Proyectos Ultravioleta**, Guatemala City, Guatemala (2023); *A Parábola do Progresso*, **Sesc Pompéia**, São Paulo, Brazil (2022); *Is It Morning for You Yet?*, **58th Carnegie International**, Pittsburgh (2022); **11th Berlin Biennale**, Berlin, Germany (2020), among others.

Collections that house Calel's work include Tate, London, UK; Rijkscollectie – National Collection of the Netherlands, Amersfoort; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada; Fundación TEOR/ética, San José, Costa Rica; MADC Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, San José, Costa Rica; Kadist Foundation, San Francisco, CA, USA; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA; and Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA, USA (2014); CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA, USA (2011); Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK (2010); Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2010); Glasgow Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, UK (2010); Plymouth Arts Centre, Plymouth, UK (2010); and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2008).



Edgar Calel, Ru Tzubial Jun Xar Paruwi Qa Tikon (mirada de un pajaro sobre nuestra siembra), 2024, oil on canvas, 12.7 cm (each), 5 in (each), MW.ECA.006





Edgar Calel

Ru Setelen Ri Kechelaj (la redondez del bosque), 2024

oil on canvas

53.3 x 104.1 cm

21 x 41 in

MW.ECA.002





Edgar Calel, *Volcan (volcan)*, 2024, oil on canvas, 15.2 x 20.3 cm, 6 x 8 in, MW.ECA.014



Edgar Calel, *Tikonel (sembradores)*, 2024, oil on canvas, 10.2 x 15.2 cm, 4 x 6 in, MW.ECA.012





Edgar Calel, *Ru Mujb'al Nu Tz'ub'al #2 (sombra para mis ojos #2)*, 2024, oil on canvas, 15.2 x 20.3 cm, 6 x 8 in, MW.ECA.017



Edgar Calel, *Ru Mujb'al Nu Tz'ub'al #3 (sombra para mis ojos #3)*, 2024, oil on canvas, 15.2 x 20.3 cm, 6 x 8 in, MW.ECA.018



Edgar Calel

*Mama' Uxlanik (gran
descanso), 2024*

oil on canvas

10.2 x 15.2 cm (each)

43 x 6 in (each)

MW.ECA.016



Edgar Calel

*Ru Chi Juyu (labios del
bosque), 2024*

oil on canvas

27.9 x 22.9 cm

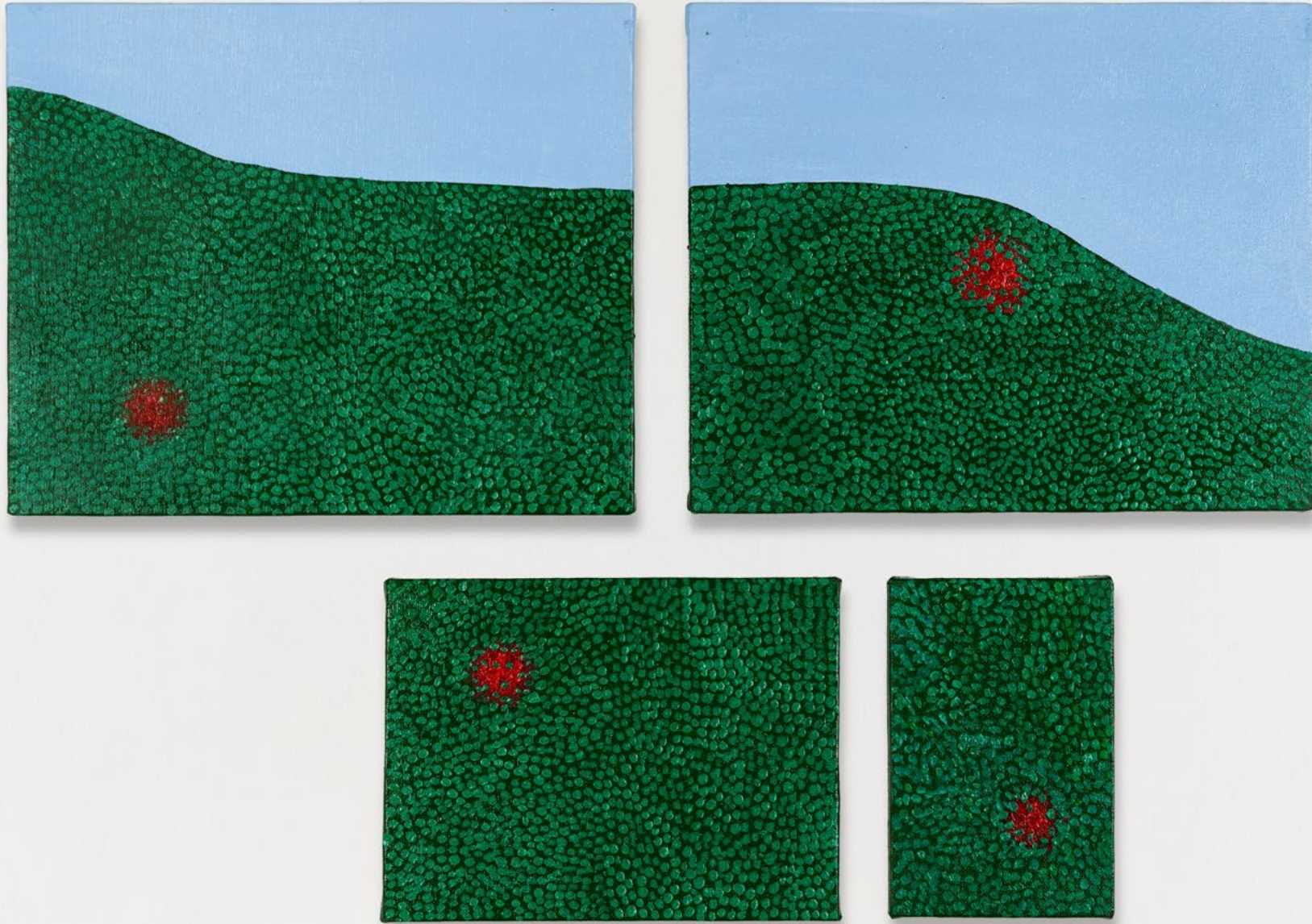
11 x 9 in

MW.ECA.013

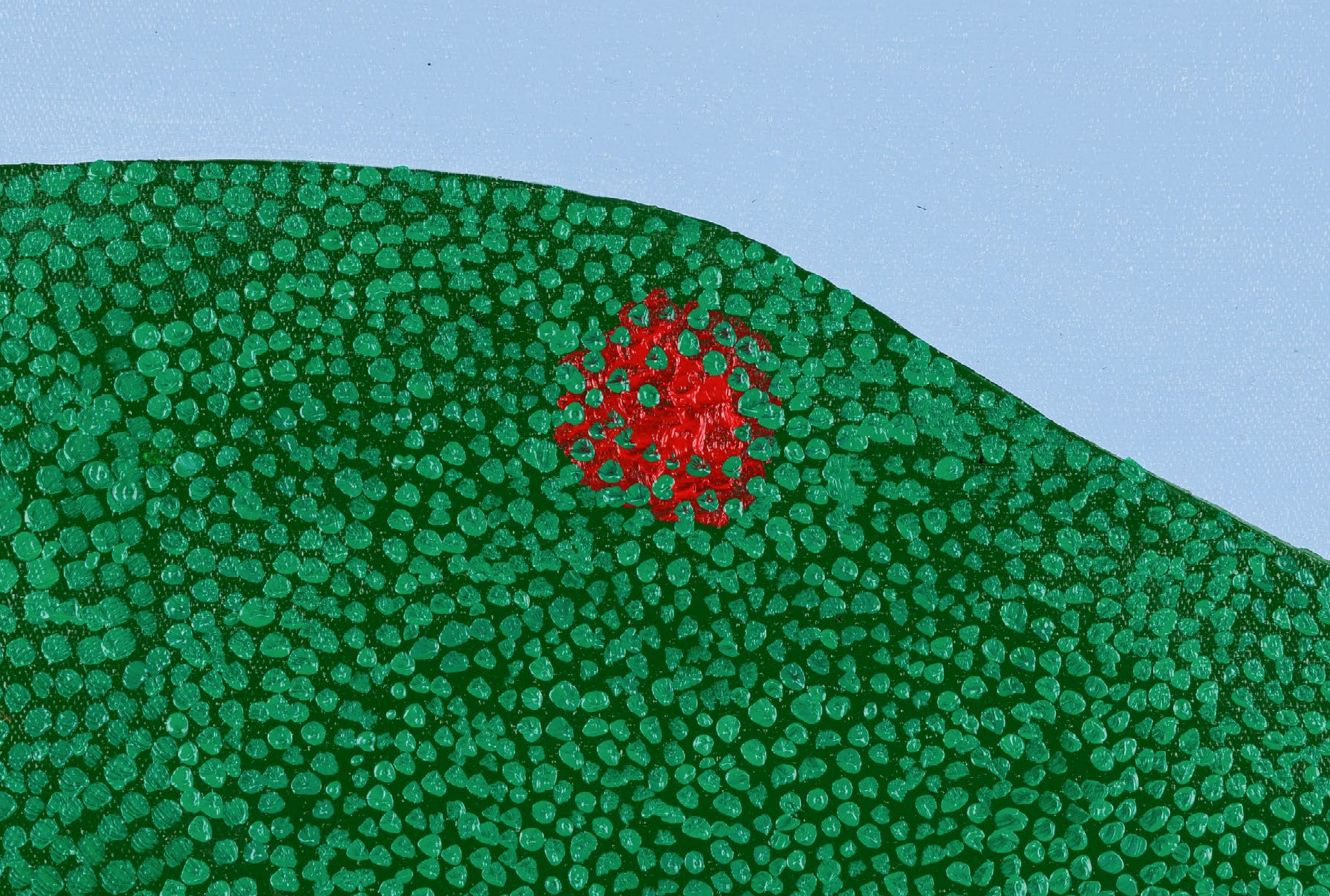


Edgar Calel, *Rua Wachoch (rostro de mi casa)*, 2024, oil on canvas, dimensions variable, MW.ECA.004





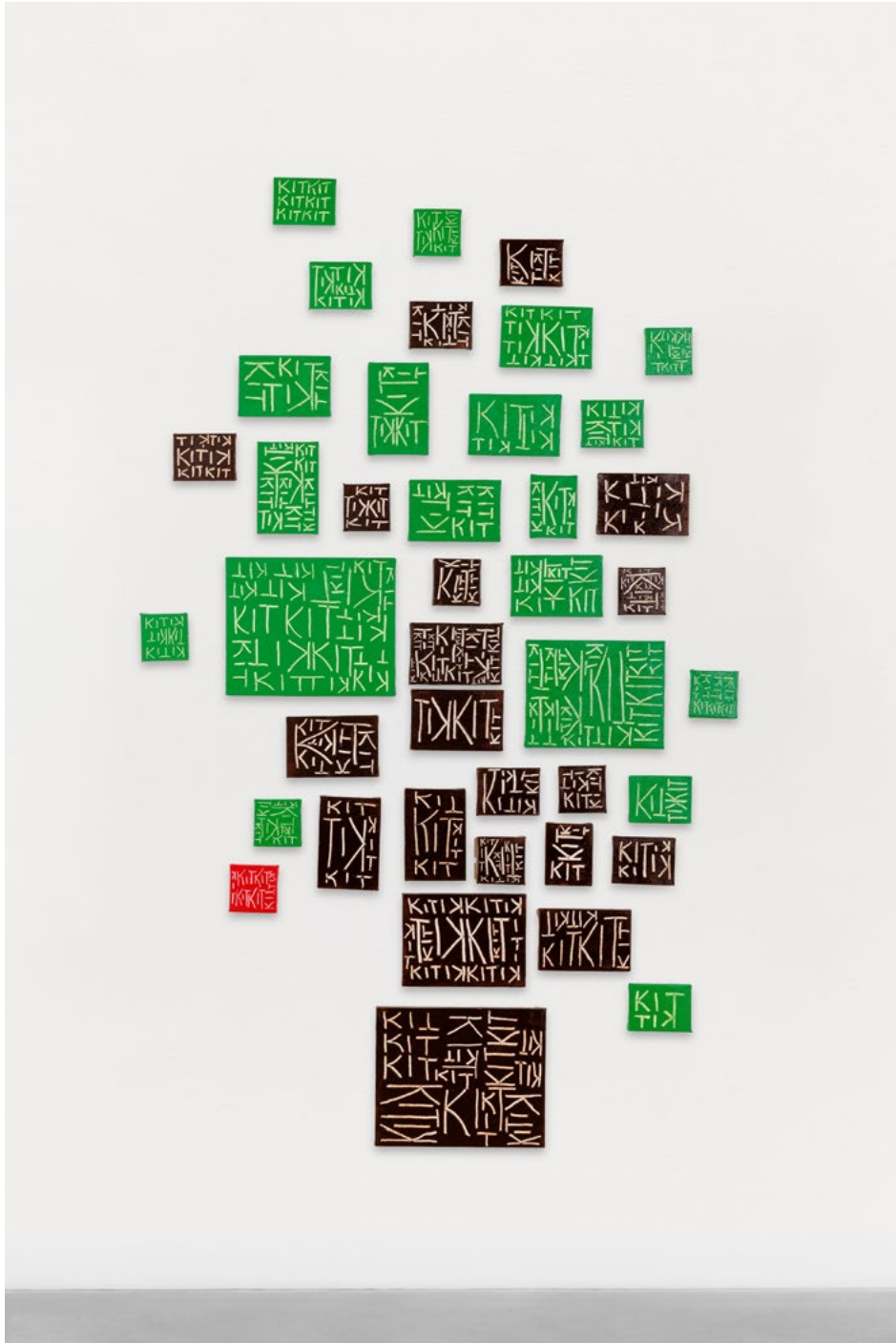
Edgar Calel, *Ru Chi Juyo (portales del cerro)*, 2024, oil on canvas, dimensions variable, MW.ECA.019





Edgar Calel, *Awan Achik' (sueño de maíz)*, 2024, fabric, embroidery thread, ink on paper, embroidery: 12 x 16" (each), paper: 8.5 x 10" (each), MW.ECA.001





Edgar Calel

Kit Kit Che (kit kit arbol),
2024

oil on canvas

154.9 x 99.1 cm

61 x 39 in

MW.ECA.003





Edgar Calel

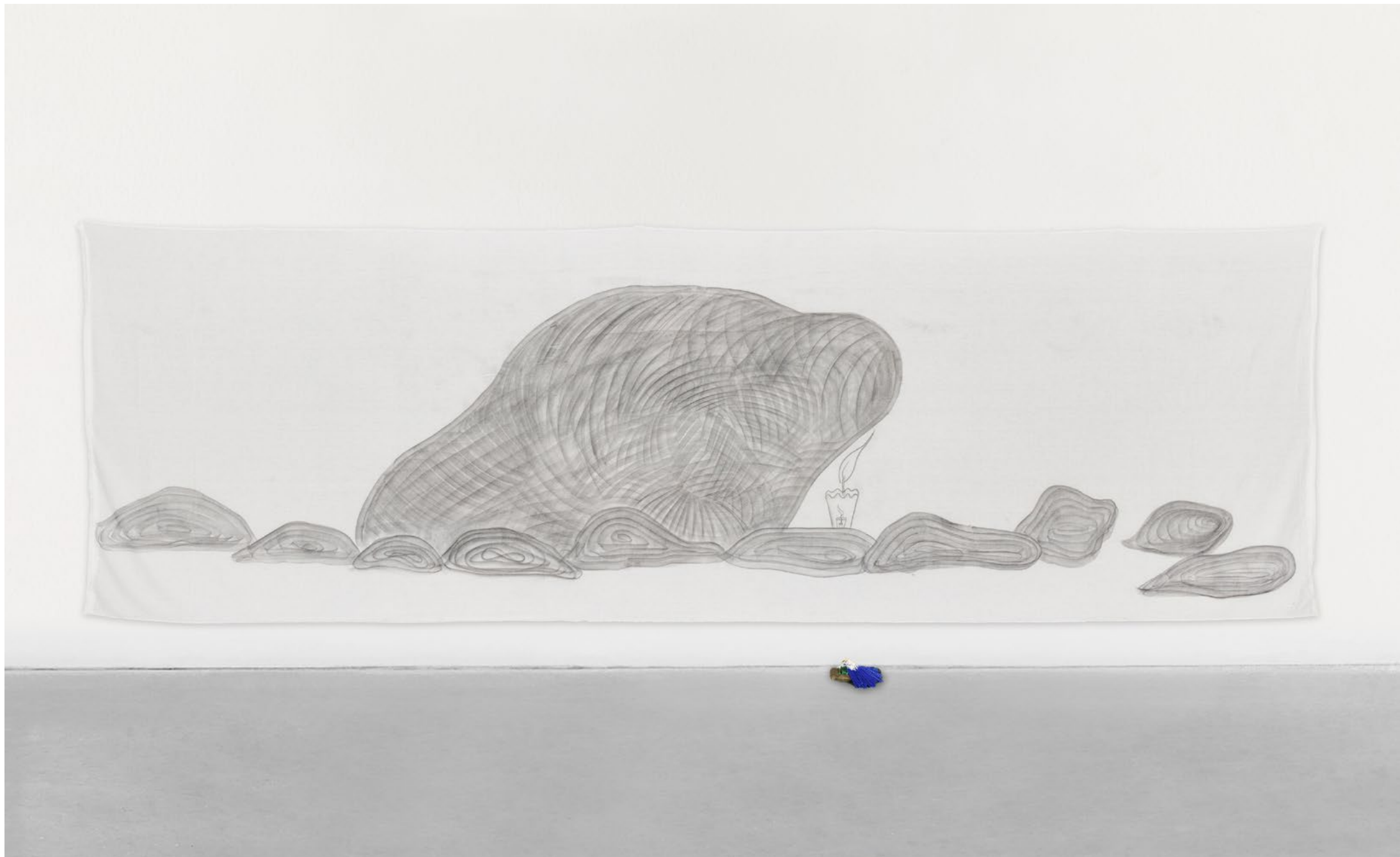
Retain Balalb (el peso de mi ser),
2024

wax candle on clay

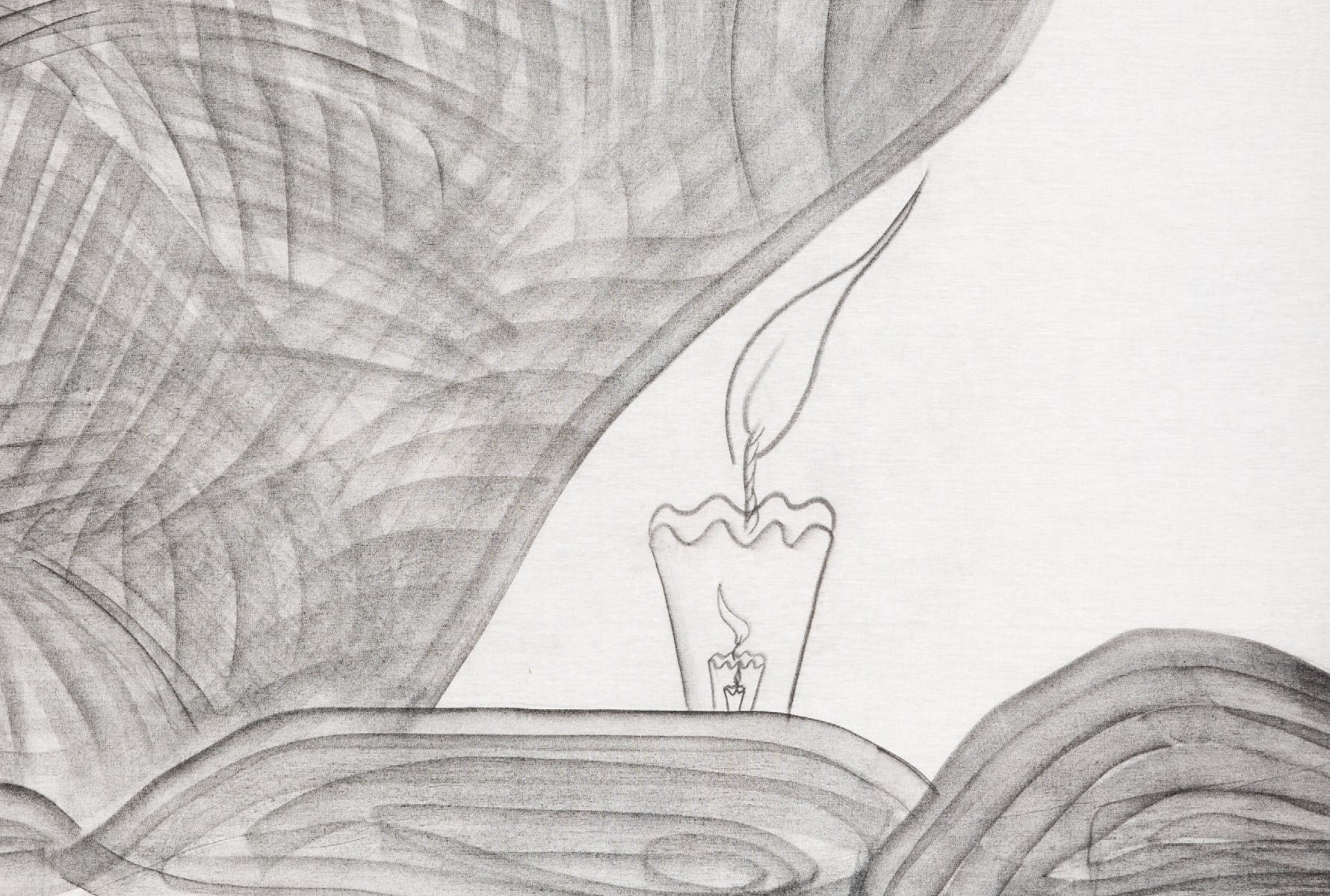
40.6 x 35.6 cm

16 x 14 in

MW.ECA.020



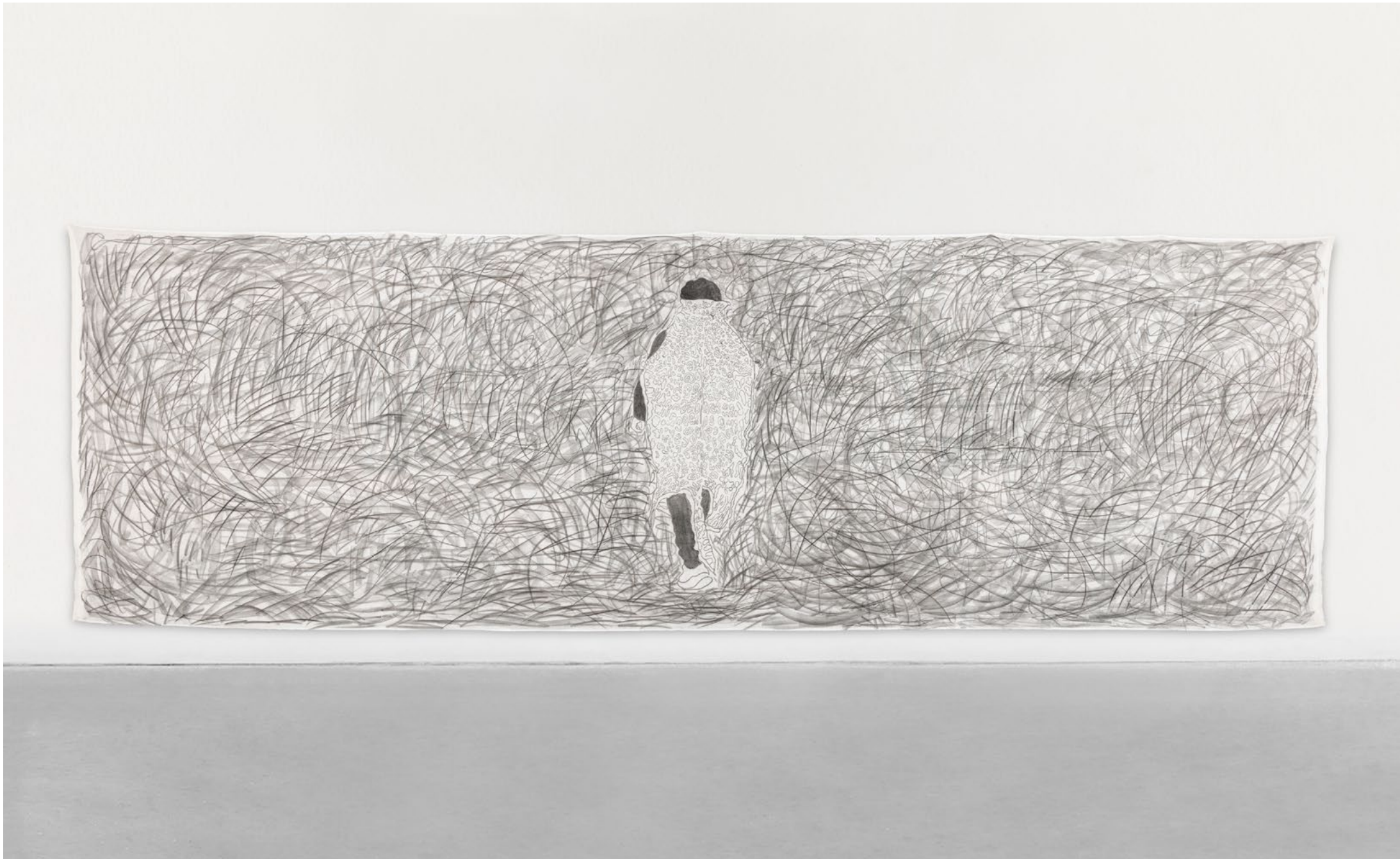
Edgar Calel, *Q'ojom Ab'ej (musica de piedra)*, 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 185 x 600 cm, 72 7/8 x 236 1/4 in, MW.ECA.008





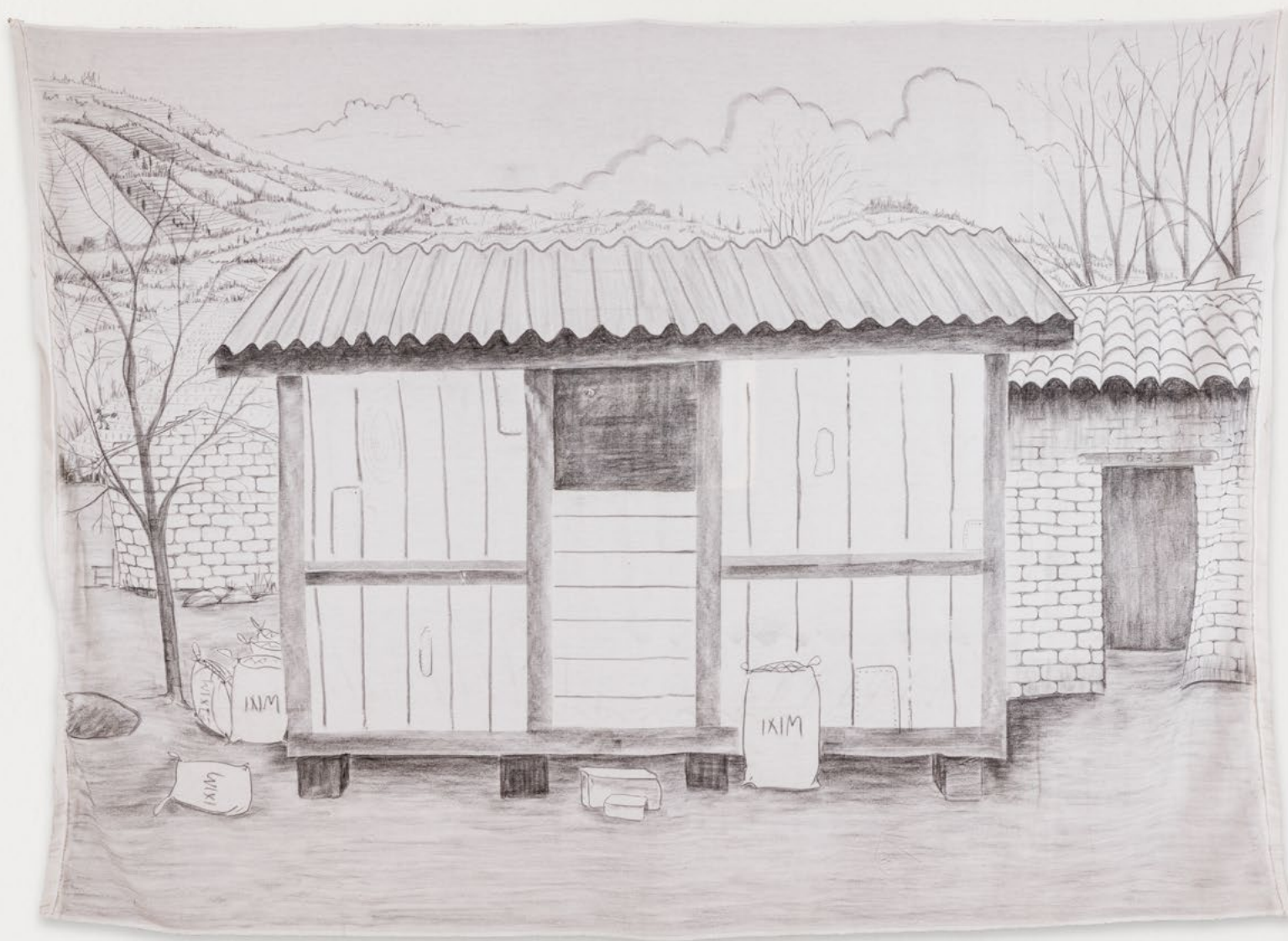
Edgar Calel, *Tuktukit*, 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 185 x 600 cm, 72 7/8 x 236 1/4 in, MW.ECA.005





Edgar Calel, *Juxuj Panu Béy (trazos en mi camino)*, 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 185 x 600 cm, 72 7/8 x 236 1/4 in, MW.ECA.007





Edgar Calel, *K'o Jay Kit Kit (hay casa kit kit)*, 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 180.3 x 248.9 cm, 71 x 98 in, MW.ECA.011



Mendes
Wood
DM

São Paulo
Brussels
Paris
New York

www.mendeswooddm.com
[@mendeswooddm](https://www.instagram.com/mendeswooddm)