

KHEN SHISH

ONCE I BREATHED THE HONEY ROSE

FIFTEEN ETCHINGS

G

Gottesman Publication

To Dov
With love and longing

In her etchings of black and gold Khen Shish tells the story of the ancient and holy city of Safed, shrouded in secrecy. It is the Safed where Rabbi Yosef Caro conceived and wrote the Shulchan Arukh (Code of Laws); the Safed where the grave of the holy Ha'ari (the Kabbalist Rabbi Yitzhak Luria) is found, and where other rabbis, scholars and teachers of Judaism from every ethnic origin and diaspora are buried; and the Safed that is the source of tales and legends lovingly recorded by the writer Yehoshua Bar-Yosef.

Khen's black is not simply a basic color. It is as dark and deep as the pupils of the eyes of many Galilee women. Her gold is not a jeweled decoration. It is a color that begins with the rise of the sun in the mountains of Judea and Jerusalem, grows brighter and stronger, lighting the earth in its entirety, fields and cities, until at sunset it sinks into the depths of the Mediterranean from Rosh Hanikra until the Gaza shore. And as it passes over Safed and Mount Meron it adorns itself and draws in the curls of the little children in all their shades, from black to gold.

Khen has given us grandeur, and Ofra, Sharon and Ravit have worked wonders with their talent and knowledge. They are a credit to the workshop and to us.

In esteem and gratitude,

Dov Gottesman
February 21, 2011

Benjamin Shvili

Once I breathed the honey rose

Once I glanced at the pears concealed in leaves
Once I saw blood dripping from the sheathed pomegranate seeds
Once I breathed the honey rose
Once I reeled from the juice of boiled grapes
Once the sayings of my aged teachers caressed me
Once and once after and after
I returned to wait for my love

Kurdish Nomadic Song

A loose drift of opal clouds holds the heavens up and the stars
Gaze down like a woman's eyes behind her bridal veil

The day lengthened and its longings have ended tell me who you are mountain
Lily and when will you be my bride

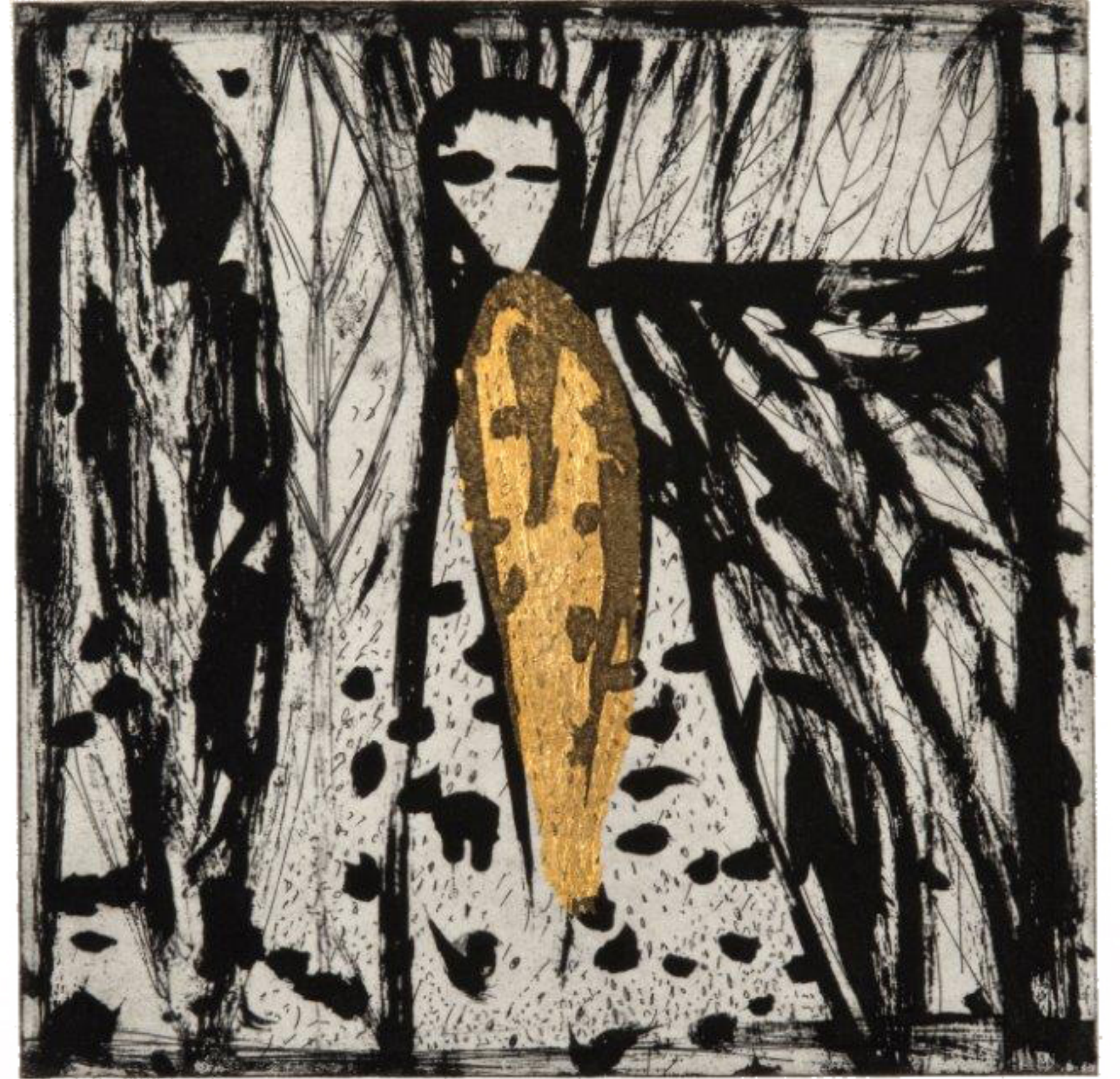
I am she who comes to the ones who yearn I am dust
As a woman as an earth-borne bride
I am the lily of flame

My love I am dumb from faintness behold thou art fair
As you'll find in the dream we'll wander pining away intoxicated
The oars of illusion will keep us adrift tonight by the lamp of longing



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2011

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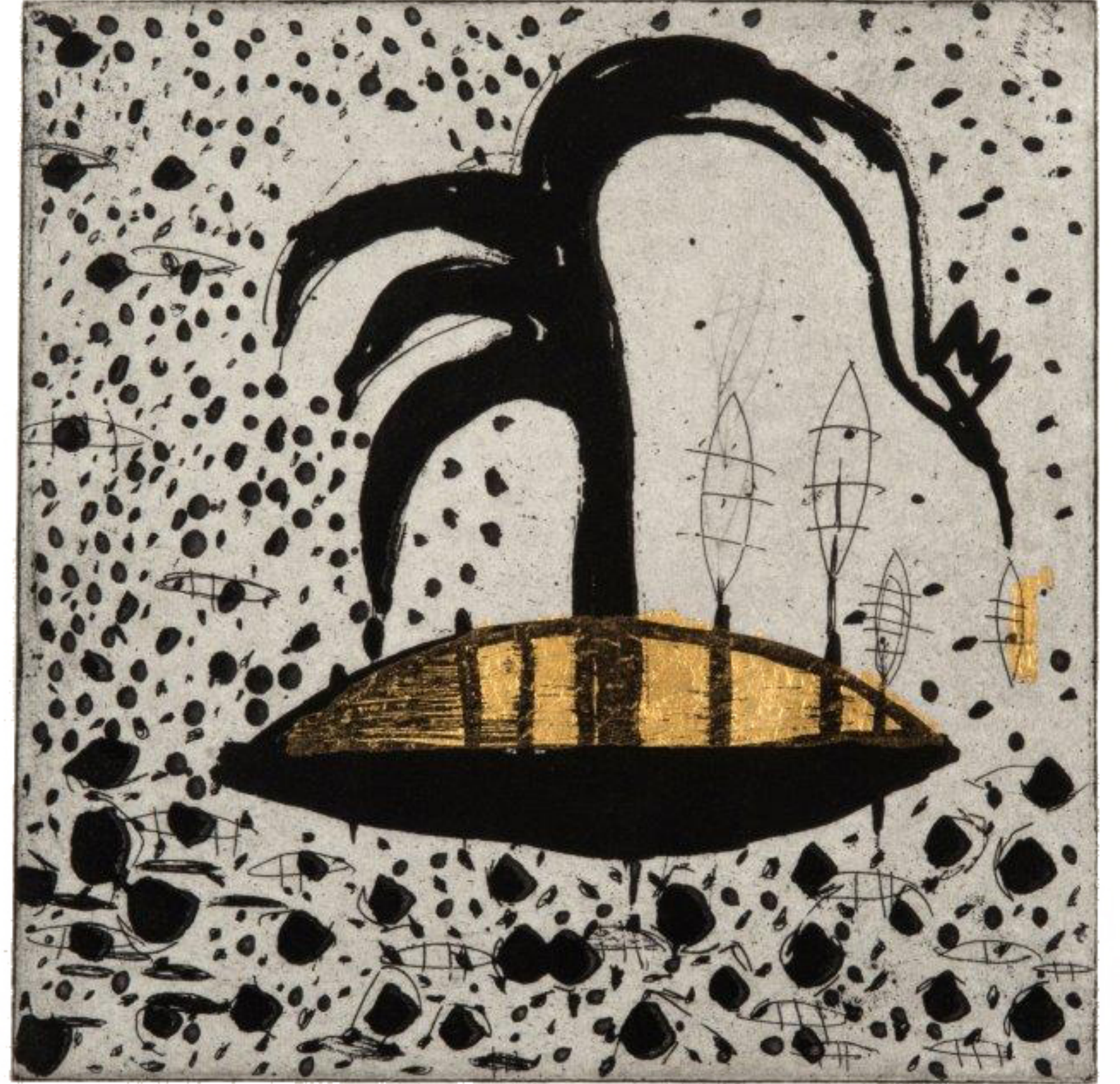
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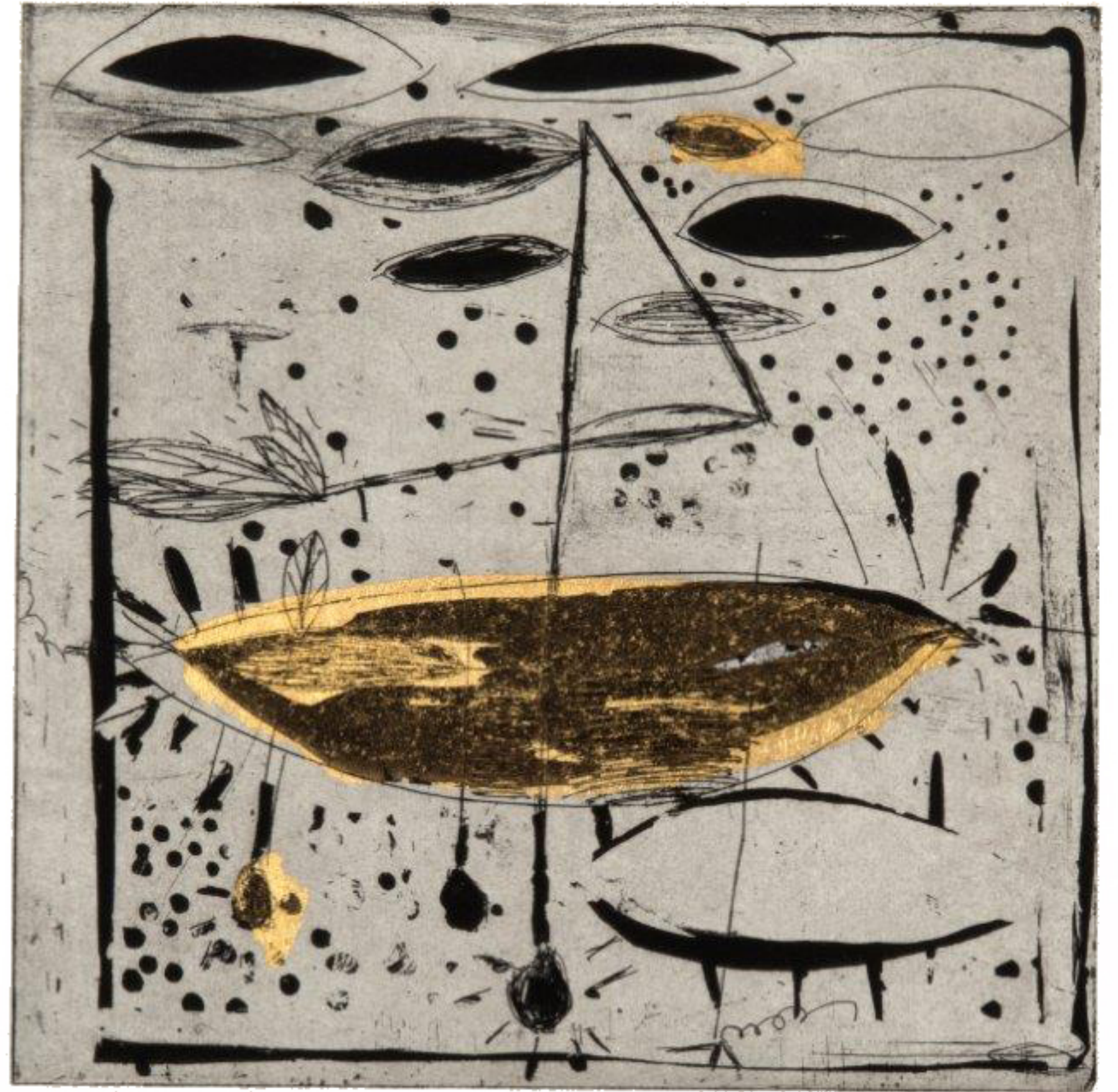
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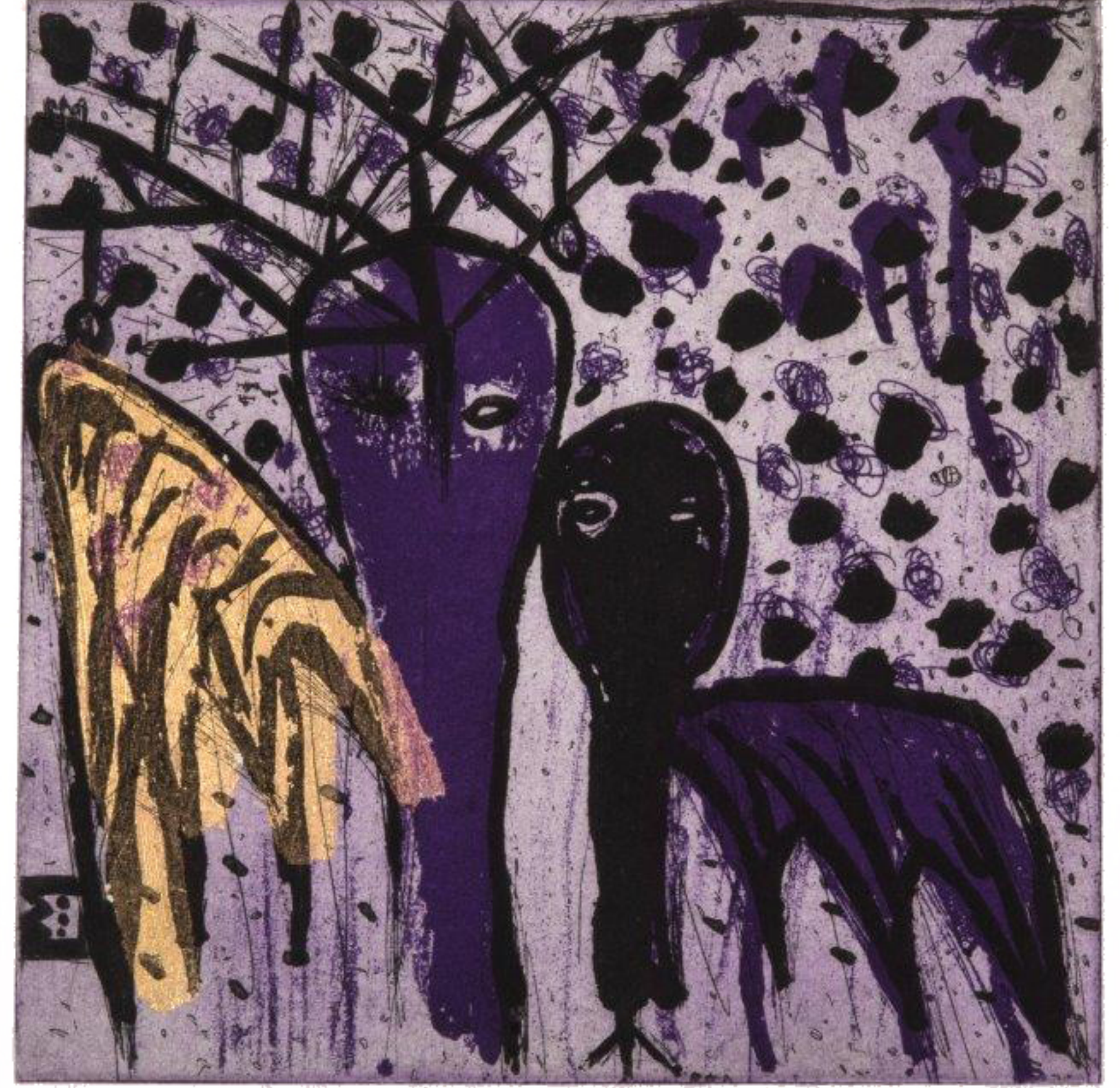
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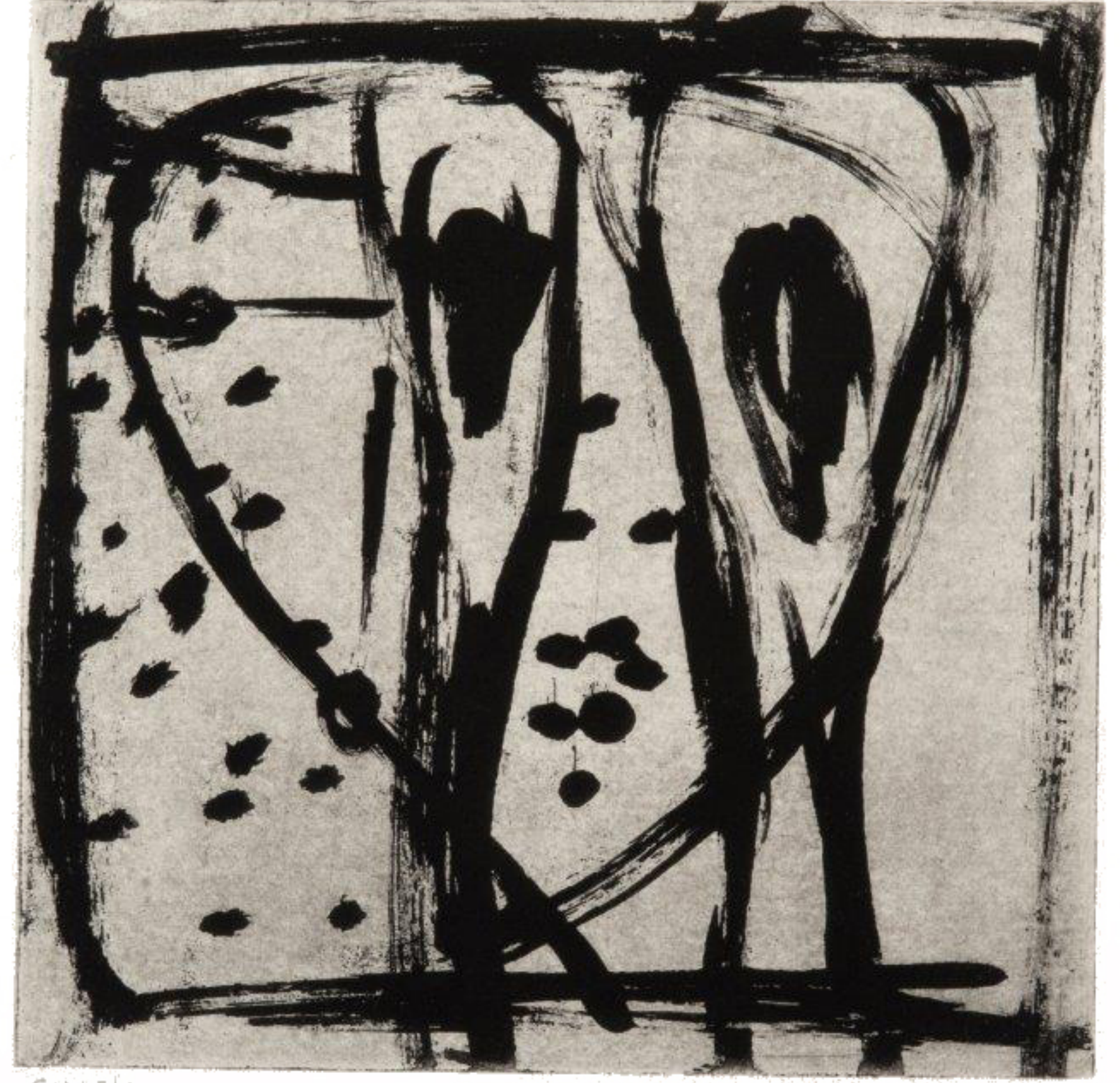
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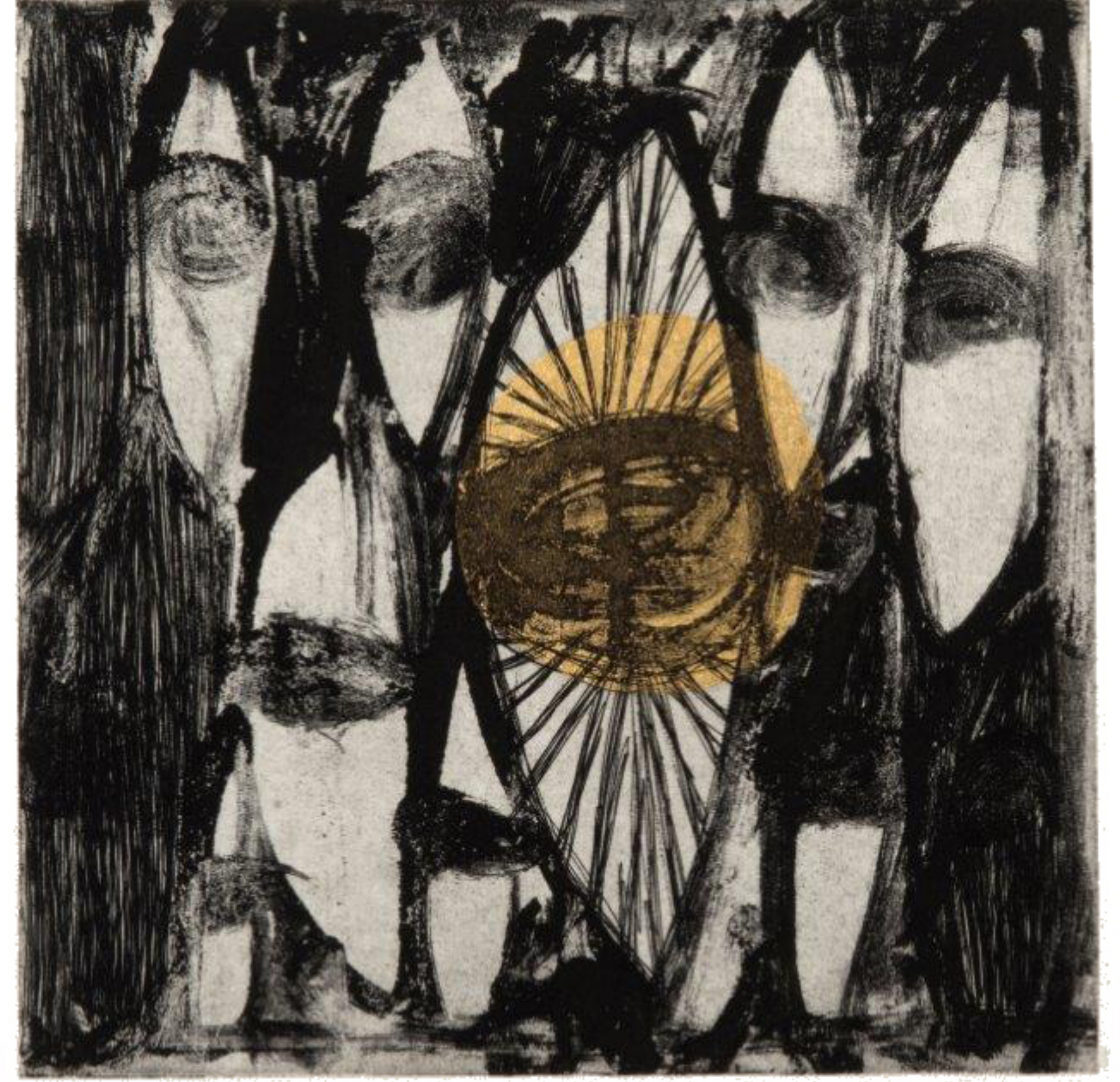
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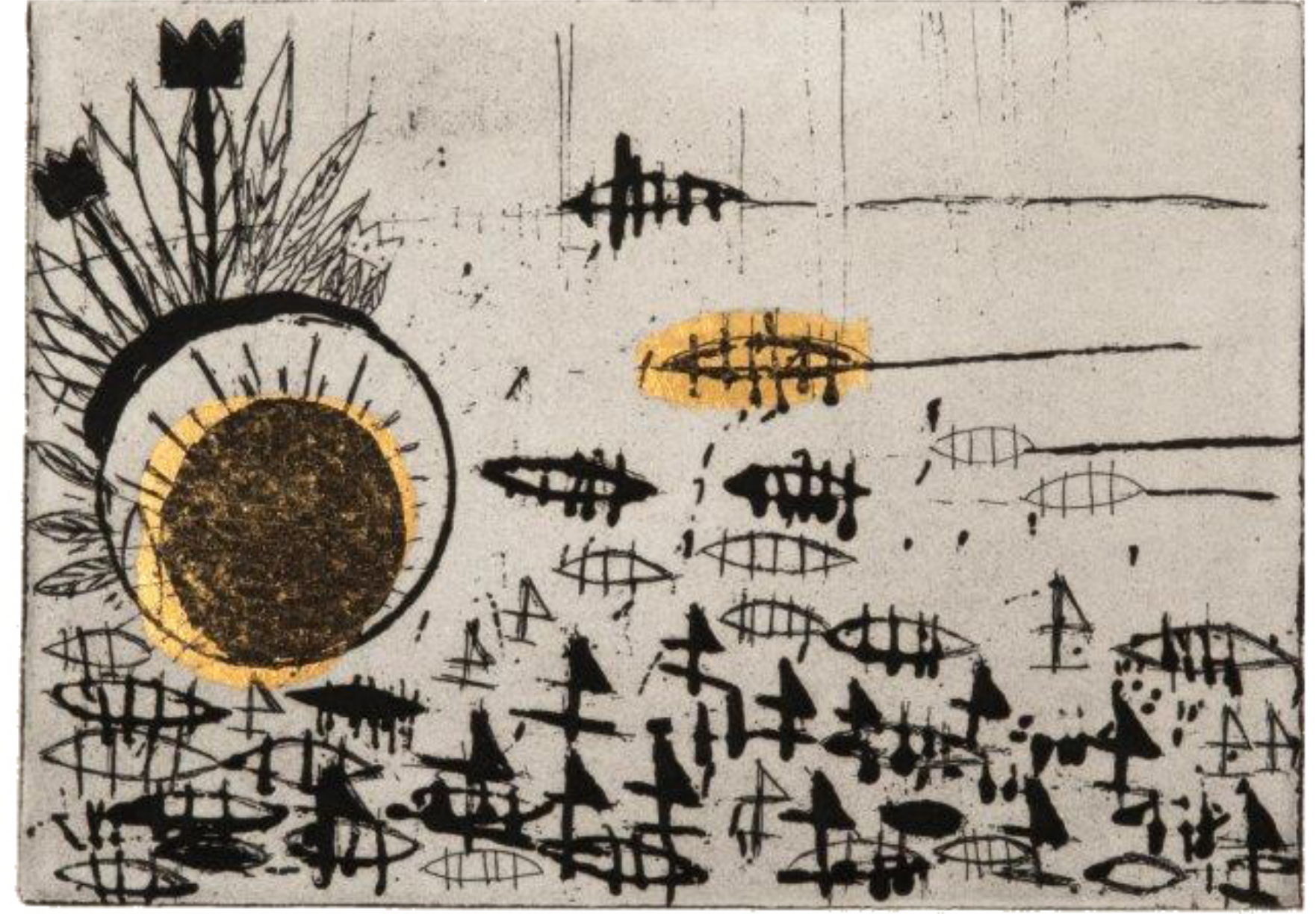
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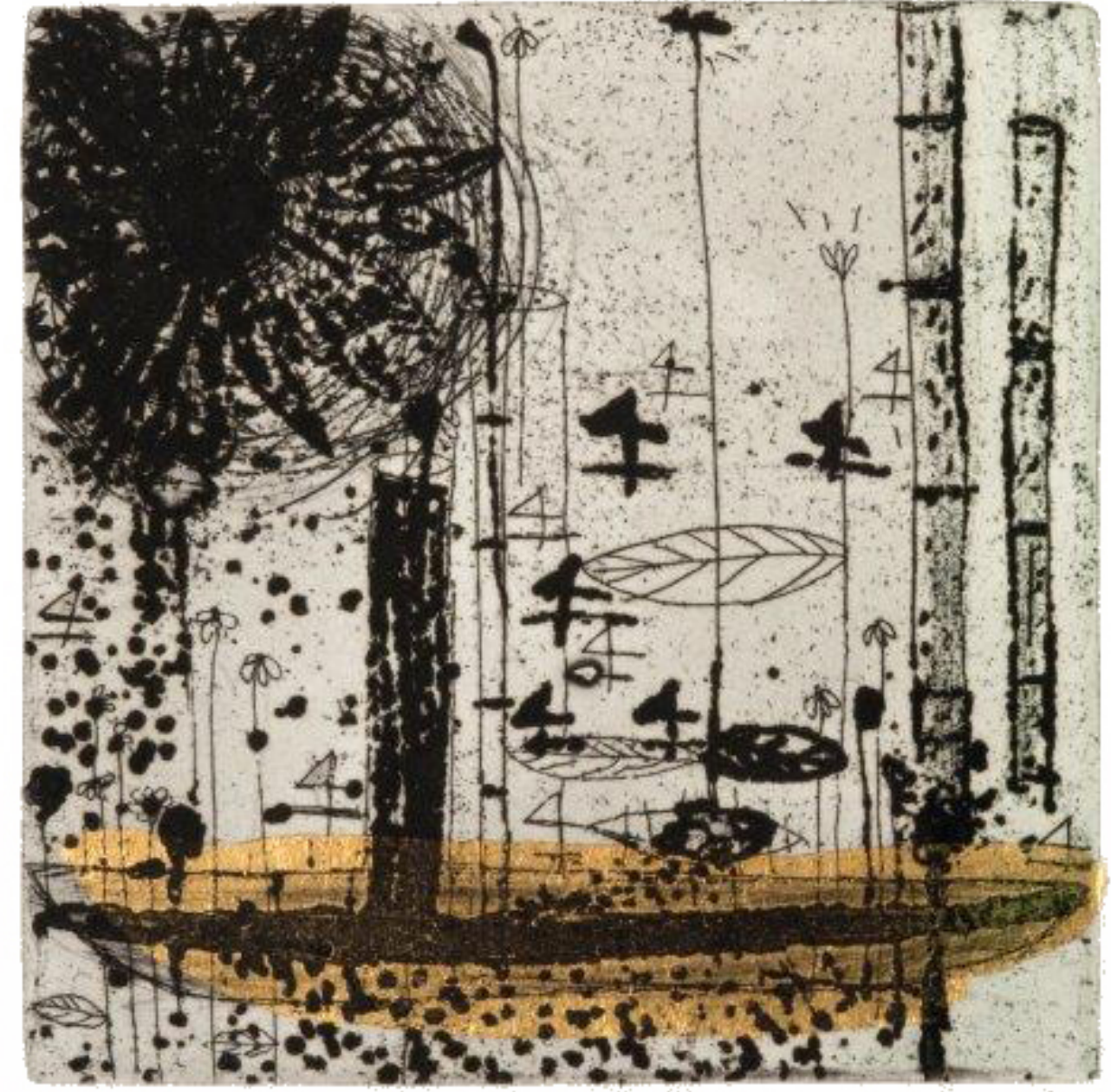
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Once I Breathed the Honey Rose

The Etchings

1.

Once I Breathed the Honey Rose
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
2.

Aviva the Pirate
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
3.

Whale in the Sun
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
4.

The True One Thousand and One Nights
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
5.

White Emorite Stork
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
6.

Song of the Sea
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
7.

A Wreath of Fruits and Weeds
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×15 cm.
8.

The Peacock and the Black Holes
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×24 cm.
9.

Berries and Rockets
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
10.

That His Glance is Full of Dew
Sugar lift
20×20 cm.
11.

Unclear Head
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×20 cm.
12.

The Sails Must be Black
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
14×20 cm.
13.

Decorated Sea
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
14×14 cm.
14.

All the Flowers are Taller than Me
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
19.5×20 cm.
15.

An Occasion for Beauty
Etching, sugar lift, gold leaf collage
20×15 cm.

Khen Shish, Once I breathed the honey rose - 15 Etchings

The album was printed at the Gottesman Etching Center, Kibbutz Cabri, Israel

by Ofra Raif, Sharon Lifschuetz-Dabas and Ravit Sheffer

The etchings were printed on Hahnemuehle 300 gr. cotton paper

Layout: Yaron Levi; Binding: Ido Agassi

Translation of text: Judy Krausz; Translation of poems: Gabriel Levin



The album was printed in an edition of 35 copies numbered as follows:

30 prints numbered 1-30

5 prints numbered 1-5 A.P.

This copy is No.

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