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# MESSAGE WITH(OUT) A CODE



■ IN SITU  
FABIENNE LECLERC

# Message With(out) a Code

A few years ago, by a combination of circumstances, we plunged into the vertigo of archaeological and geological time. Our project UNCONFORMITIES/DISCORDANCES, started in 2016, shows the temporal ruptures, geological disorders, natural disasters but also the lasting impact of human actions on our world. History appears not as layers but as actions, a palimpsest combining eras and civilisations.

MESSAGE WITH(OUT) A CODE is a new chapter in this project based on a practice discovered on an archaeological site. Caught up in the urgency of the situation, archaeologists have invented their own methodology, their code. Using sieves of different sizes, they search for historical strata and traces of human occupation and spread them out on gauze cloths. With the help of archaeologists, we discover the excavated areas and photographically document the sieves observed. The sensation is that of an autopsy, of entrails in the open air offered to our eyes, messages without codes, which need the expertise of others to be read. Diving into the vertigo of time helps us in such time of collapse and chaos.

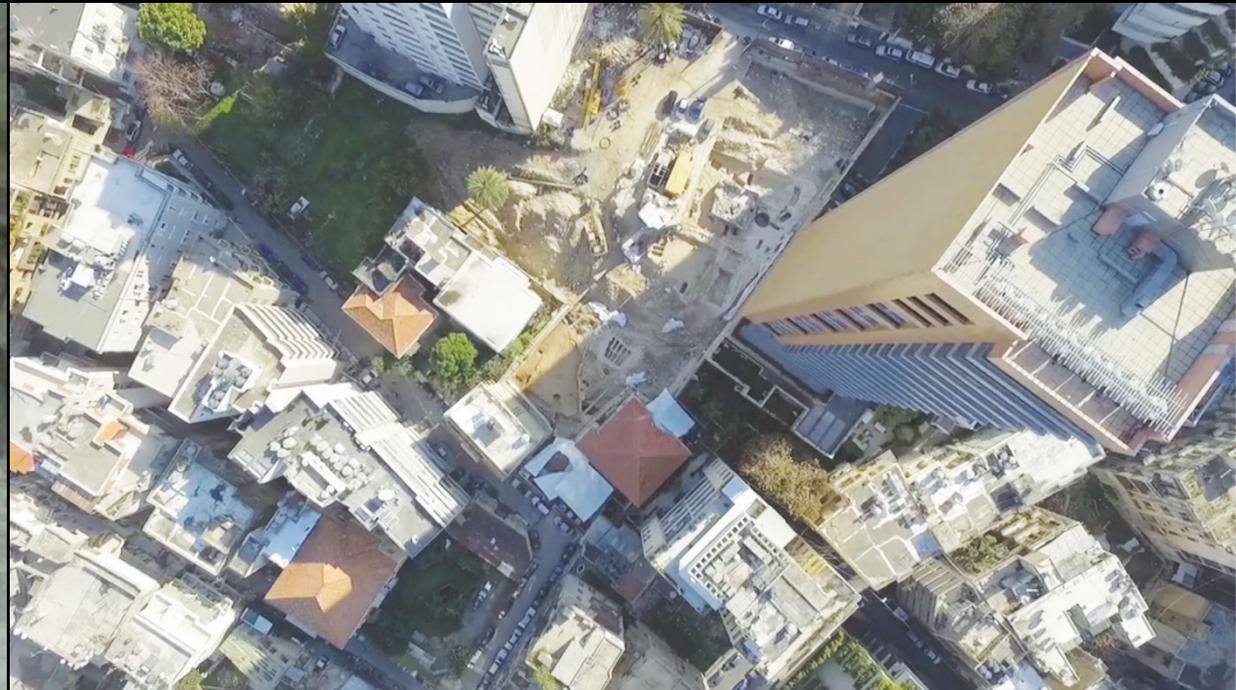
MESSAGE WITH(OUT) A CODE is a series of tapestries.

The tapestries were produced in conjunction with the Textil Lab Museum (in the Netherlands) to develop new techniques (use of different yarns, materials, methods, perspectives...) and give the sensation of a juxtaposition and sedimentation of several layers, strata and materials. Tapestry imposes itself on us as a medium because it supposes a weaving, a mesh, an ancestral technique, a tradition, which can give an account of the density and the complexities of the layers and colours, offering a multitude of possibilities. Weaving is also a way of restoring something that we have lost, a loss that we all feel now and perhaps even more painfully, given the recent events that have devastated Lebanon, our country of origin. Weaving what has been undone, recovering the texture, the transparency, the different layers and perspectives, and transforming seems to be a way of talking about time, trauma and also finding meaning. It is also a way of immersing oneself in infinite and long time in the face of the shorter temporality of which we are prisoners. Archaeology teaches us that everything is a cycle, and that after any catastrophe or disaster, regeneration may come.

## **Images from the video Palimpsests**

This excerpt shows the work of archaeologists on a site that is being destroyed by the construction of a building by a property developer. Archaeologists whom are short on time invent methodologies and codes to study sites and contexts before they disappear forever.

VIDEO STILLS of PALIMPSESTS



VIDEO STILLS of PALIMPSESTS  
"Messages With(out) a Code" process



SELECTION OF IMAGES  
OF  
**MESSAGE WITH(OUT) A CODE**  
(To be transformed into tapestry)



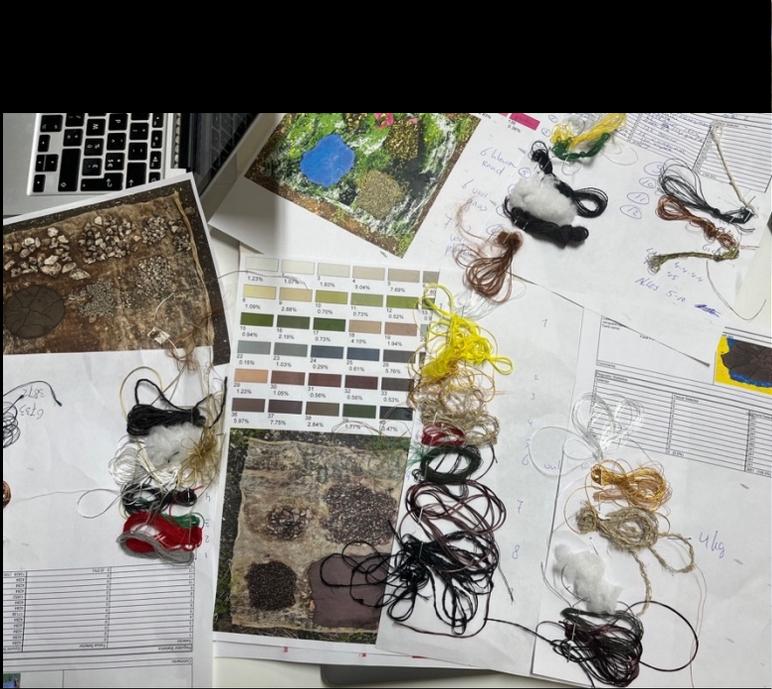




# **Work process**

(At TextilLab, Textil Museum)

SELECTION of the yarns (colors and textures)

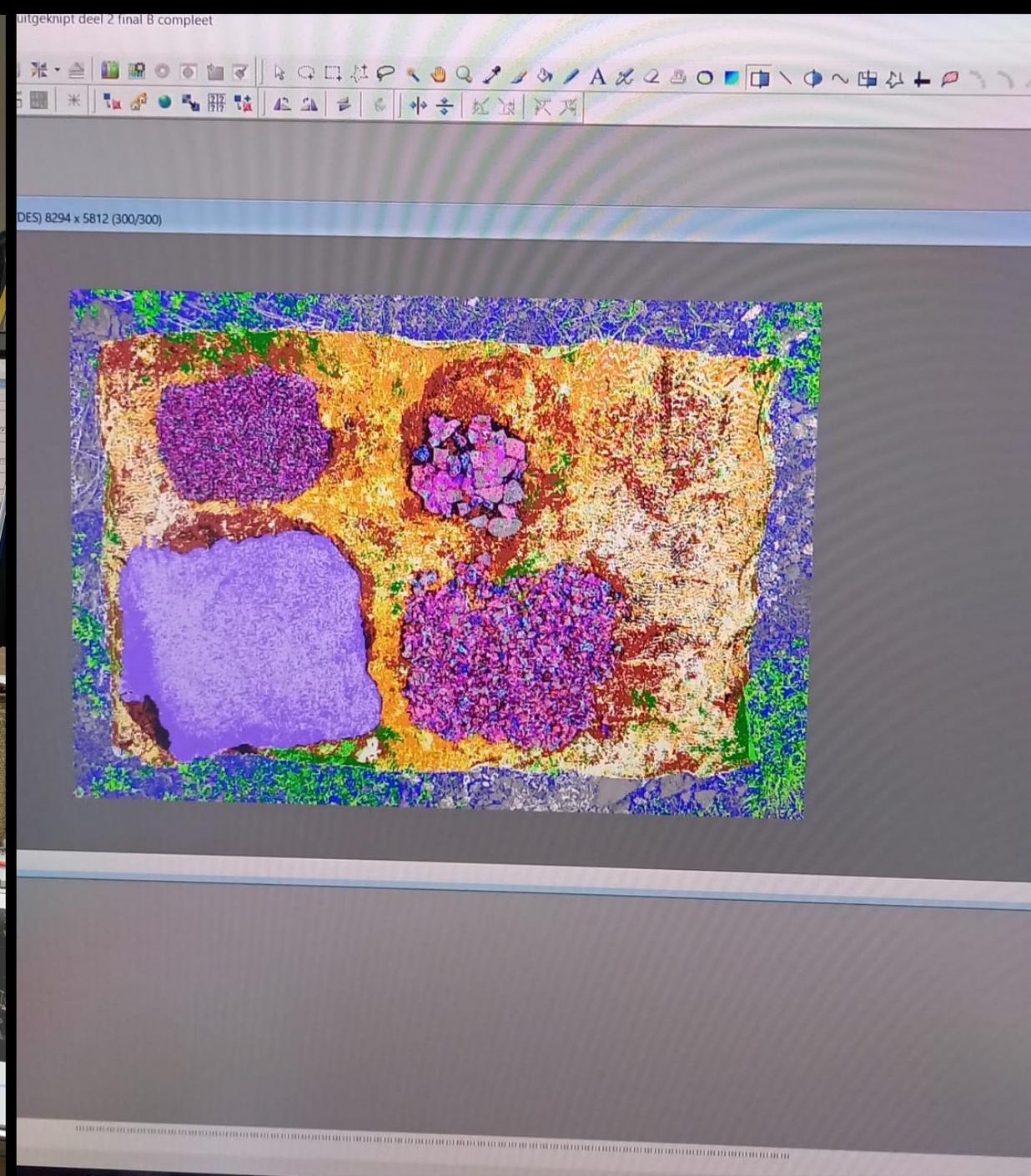
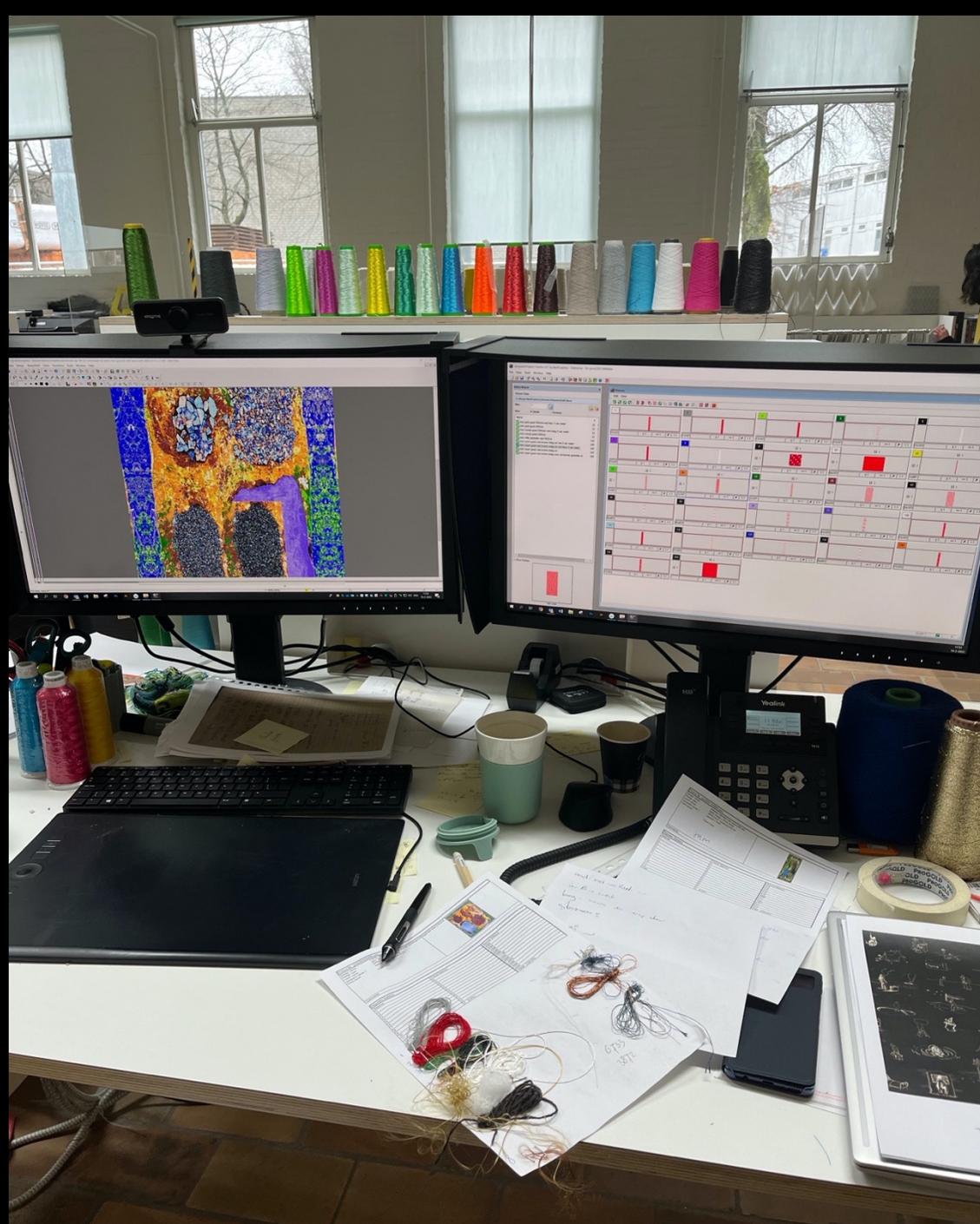


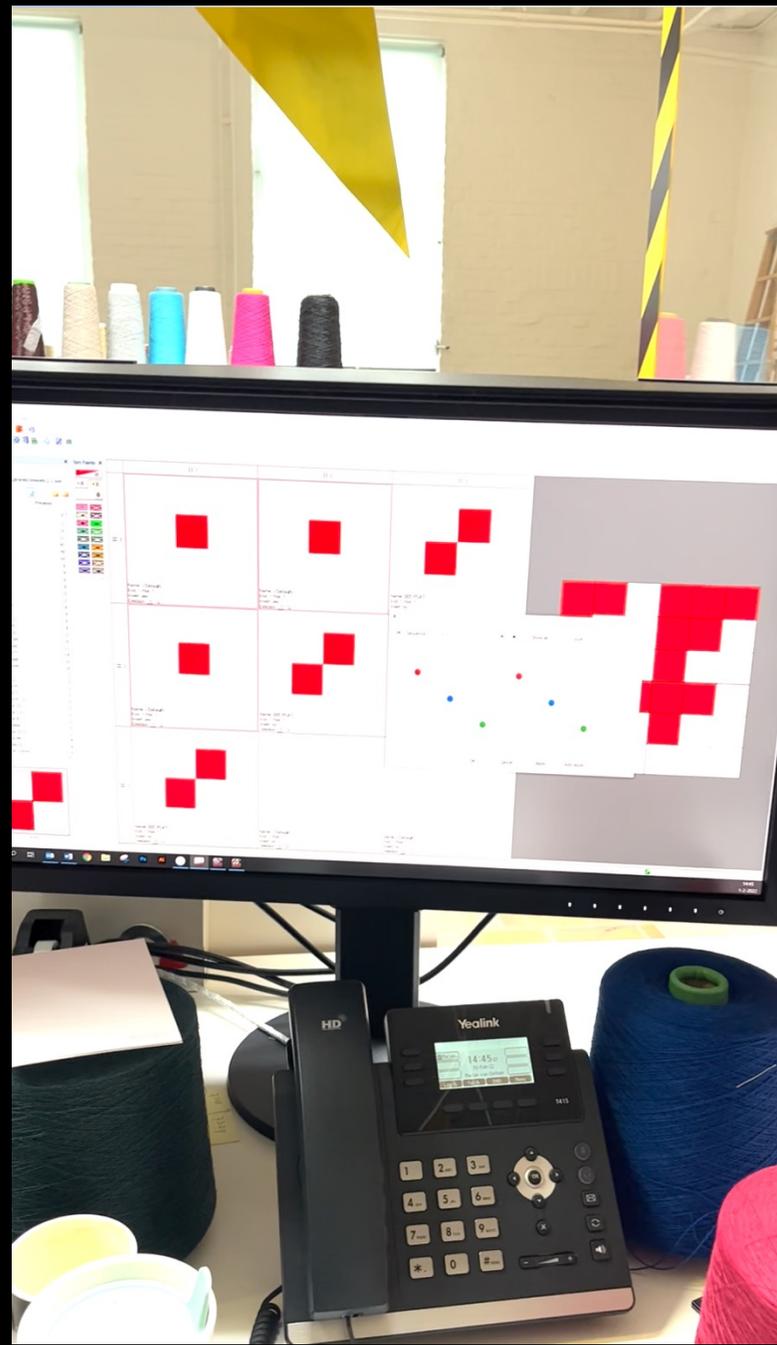
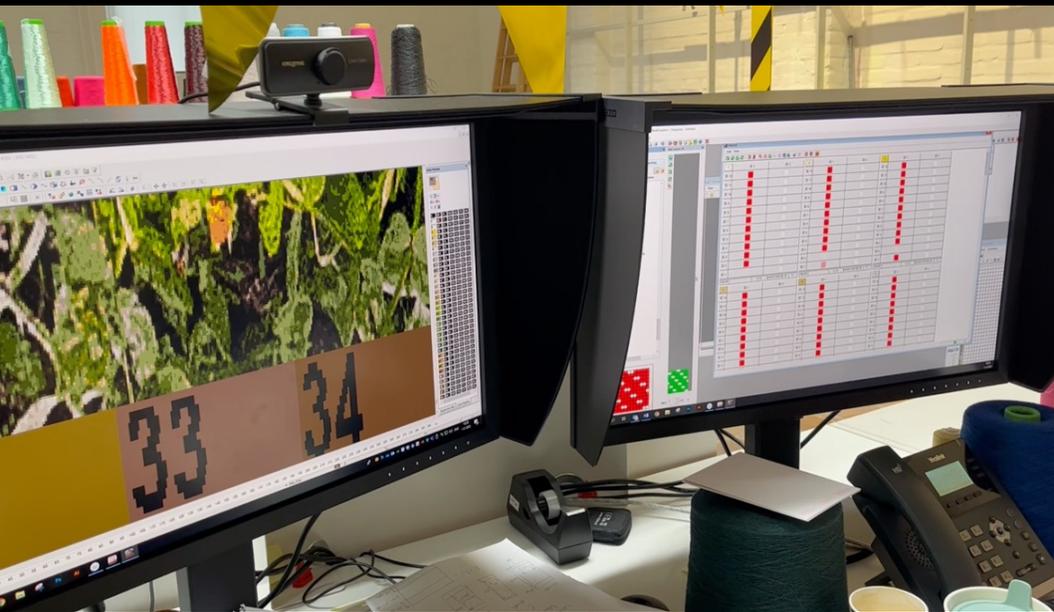
SELECTION of the yarns (colors and textures)



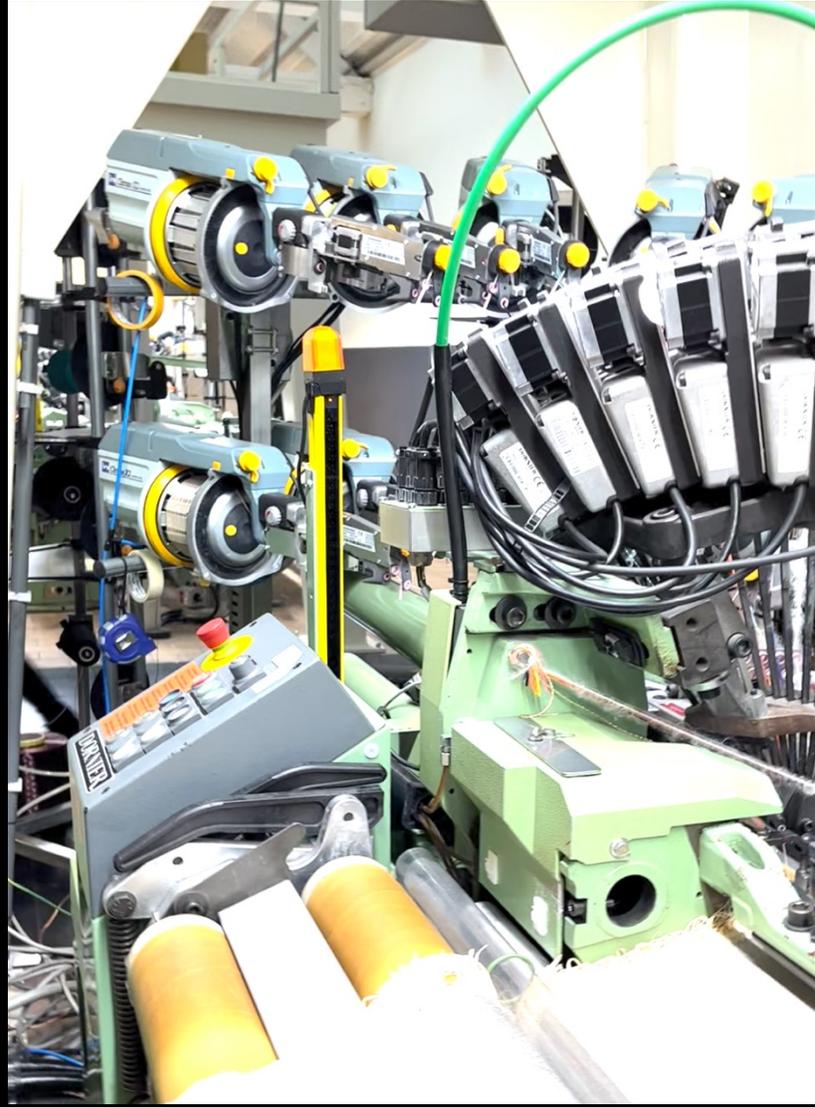


Process of layering and reduction of colours



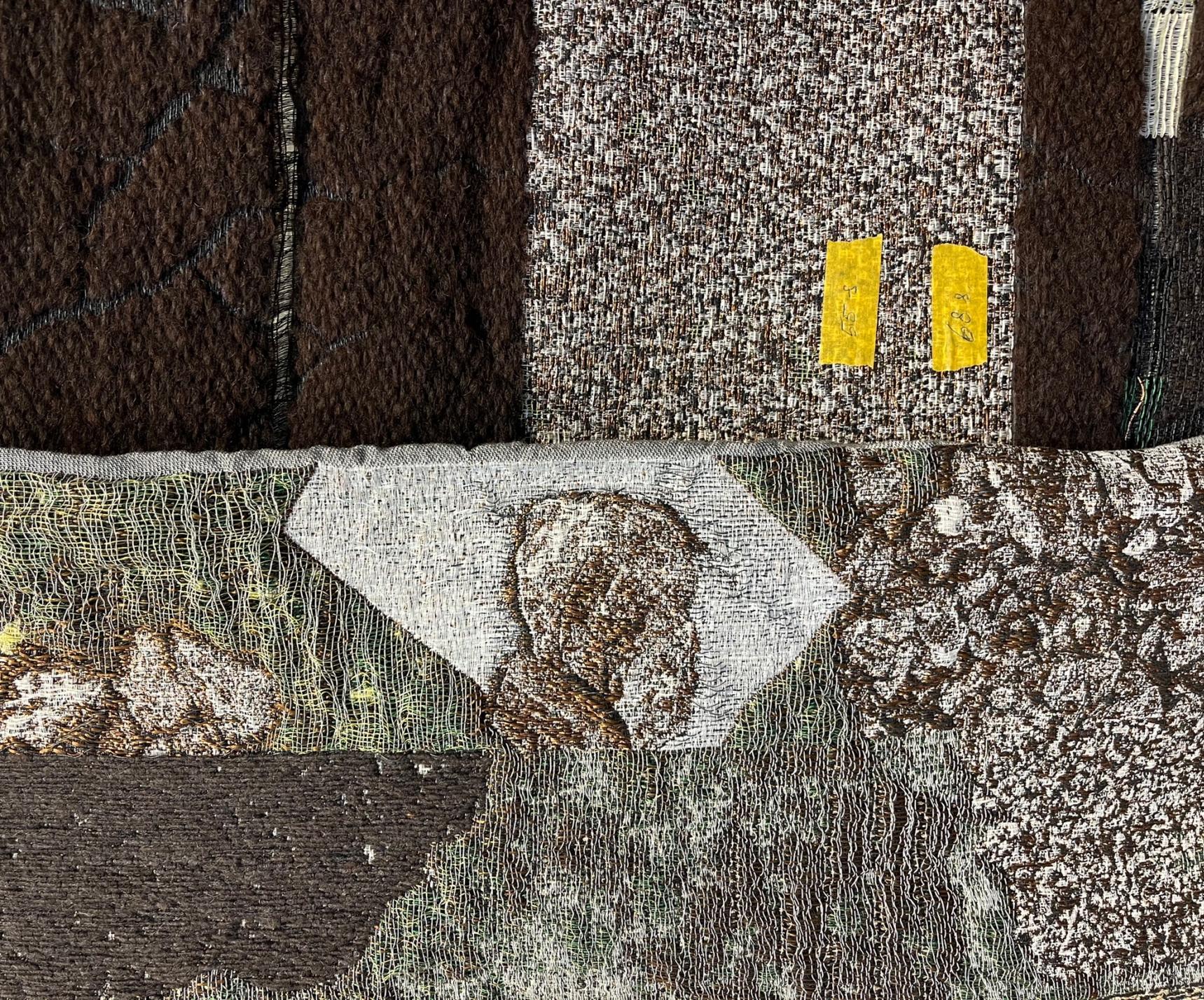


WEAVING MACHINE



TAPESTRIES IN PROGRESS







## **The works**

Series of tapestry

Edition of 5 + 2AP

Size 130 x 170 cm (approx.).

Message with out a code  
N°1



Message with out a code  
N°2

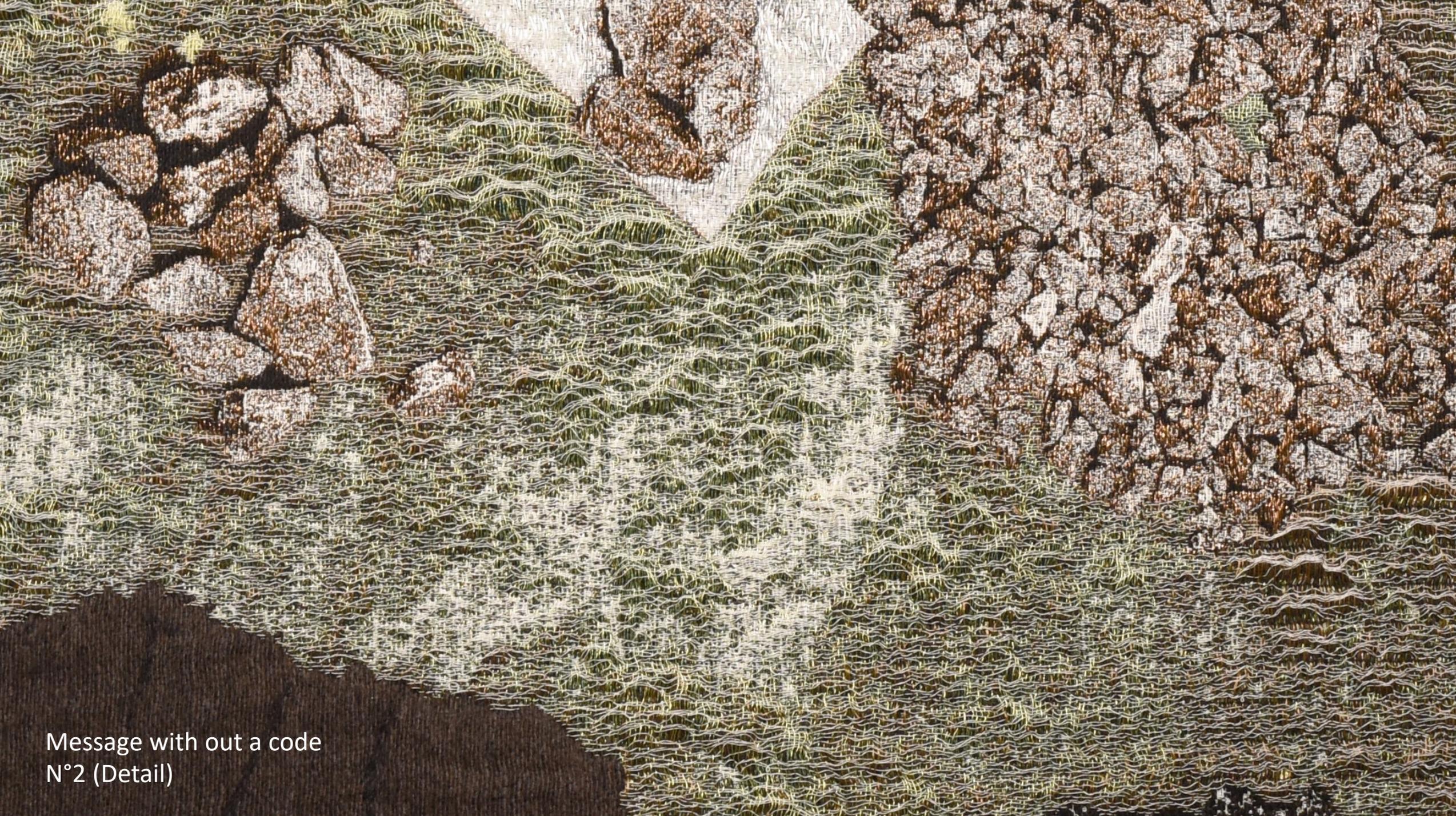


Message with out a code  
N°3

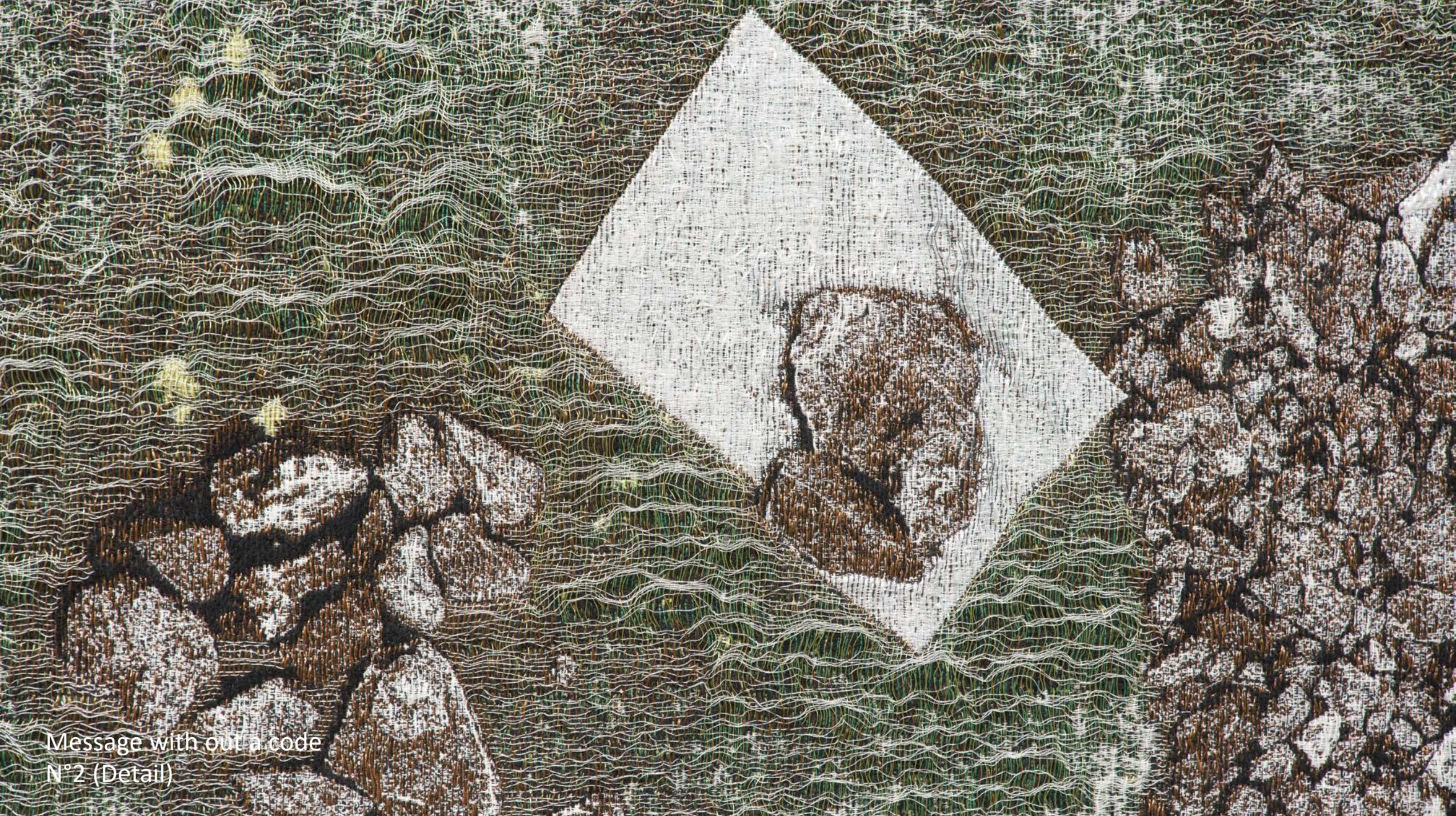




Message with out a code  
N°3 (Detail)



Message with out a code  
N°2 (Detail)



Message with out a code  
N°2 (Detail)



Message with out a code  
N°2 ((Detail))



Message with out a code  
N°2 (Detail)



Message with out a code  
N°1 (Detail)



Message with out a code  
N°1 (Detail)