

STEFAN BERTALAN

IN TUNE WITH THE WORLD

Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara

April 3 – June 29, 2025



Esther Schipper

Stefan Bertalan



Stefan Bertalan was born in 1930 in Răcăștie, Romania and passed away in 2014 in Timișoara, Romania.

Stefan Bertalan studied at the Institute of Fine Arts "Ion Andreescu" in Klausenburg. Beginning in 1962 he was Professor at the School of Fine Arts in Timișoara. From 1970 to 1981 he was lecturing at the Faculty of Engineering in Timișoara (Department of Architecture).

In 1966 Bertalan co-founded Group 111, the first artist collective for experimental art in Romania. Followed by his membership in the famous experimental art group Sigma starting in 1970. From 1964 to 2014 he was also a member of Timișoara's Department of the Union of Artists.

On occasion of the 46th Venice Biennale in 1995, Bertalan's work was included in the exhibition **Brancusi's Heritage in Romania**, taking place both in the Romanian Pavilion (Giardini) and in the Romanian Institute for Culture and Research in Humanities (Palazzo Correr). In 2013 his work was included in the exhibition **The Encyclopedic**

Palace at La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Massimiliano Gioni in Venice.

Initially a driving force of the Romanian neo-constructivist avant-garde, Ștefan Bertalan's research into cybernetics and system theory informed his search for overarching patterns and systems in natural forms. Close observation of organic processes and systematic studies of shapes found in organic, vegetal, and mineral forms eventually led to the artist's development of an interconnected cosmology of all things.

The artist's 1981 move from Timișoara where he had originally developed his art, engaged with other artists and taught at university to the much smaller town of Sibiu initiated what Erwin Kessler has called an "inner emigration" that began long before the actual departure from Romania to Germany in 1986.

The loss of his artistic context and the isolation of the new environment intensified the artist's retreat to observation of the natural world and even to an identification with nature. Initiated by a series of intense dreams, to which the artist referred as apparitions, Bertalan began a series of emotionally charged drawings that insert the artist's body into those of plants, creating hybrid formations.

Bertalan's solo exhibitions include: **Ștefan Bertalan**, Muzeul de Artă, Timișoara (2012); **The Self-Punishing One**, Mogosoia Palace, traveling to Muzeul de Artă, Timișoara/ The Bánffy Palace, Cluj and Neuklosterburg (2009).

Comprehensive monographic publications include **Ștefan Bertalan: inner emigration** by Erwin Kessler and **Ștefan Bertalan: Überlagerungen/Suprapuneri/Overlappings** by Ileana Pintilie.

His works are held in the following public collections: Centre Pompidou, Paris; mumok - Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna; and MARE/Muzeul de Artă Recentă, Bucharest.

1+1+1 & SIGMA GROUP
REDEFINING ARTISTIC PRACTICES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE SYNERGIES AND
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE IN EAST EUROPE OF THE 1970S

The Sigma group was pivotal in redefining artistic practice through an interdisciplinary approach that merged art, science, and technology. Their pedagogical innovations at the Timișoara High-School of Art introduced large scale collective land-art projects, happenings and video art into artistic education, challenging rigid ideological frameworks of that time. In contemporary art discourse, Sigma's work serves as both a precedent and a framework for underappreciated practices that blur boundaries between disciplines, emphasizing process over object. Revisiting their contributions not only catalyses new perspectives on east European art but also underscores the role of experimental pedagogy in shaping alternative artistic trajectories. Recognized both in Romania and internationally, works by Stefan Bertalan, Constantin Flondor, Roman Cotoșman and Doru Tulcan are part of prestigious collections, including Tate Modern, Centre Pompidou and MUMOK Vienna.

The 1+1+1 Group of Stefan Bertalan, Constantin Flondor and Roman Cotoșman was dedicated to the concept of Cybernetic Art and Op Art, inspired by theories of information, mathematics and bionics. The group's principles of honoring individuality shed light on the meaning behind the group's name. According to Bertalan and Flondor, artists who follow the modernist spirit should treat art not just as a medium for subjective expression, but also as a tool for the visual analysis of new forms of experiencing the world. This, however, changed as the group evolved into SIGMA, which functioned as a collective in the traditional sense. The group was established in 1969, following 1+1+1's representing Romania during the Constructivist Biennial in Nuremberg. Cotoșman remained in Germany, returning to Romania, Bertalan and Flondor subsequently founded the Sigma group with Doru Tulcan and with several other artists.

The Sigma program was both artistic and pedagogical; The group emphasized teamwork and interdisciplinarity (integrating mathematics, cybernetics, bionics, psychology and architecture into the arts), used a variety of media (paper, cardboard, wood, aluminum, glass, synthetics, photography, film), and was influenced by Bauhaus, constructivism and new trends in art and architecture. The Sigma group, whose importance would be recognized played a major role on the European artistic scene of these years. The artists use to put the world into equations, in search of laws and systems that reflect their passion for optics and mechanics, botany and geology, astronomy and all forms of systems capable of translating their obstinate desire to understand the world through observation.



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **111 & SIGMA**, Muzeul Național de Artă Timișoara, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **111 & SIGMA**, Muzeul Național de Artă Timișoara, Timișoara (2025)

EXHIBITION TEXT

The most comprehensive retrospective dedicated to the work of Romanian artist Stefan Bertalan (1930–2014) will be presented by the Art Encounters Foundation between April 3 and June 29, 2025. Titled **In Tune With The World**, the exhibition is conceived and curated by Bernard Blistène, Honorary Director of the National Museum of Modern Art – Centre Pompidou, Paris.

Spanning an area 1,000 square meters, the exhibition brings together over 250 works by the artist, including paintings, works on paper, photographs, films, and a significant volume of documents, aiming to present Bertalan's neo-avant-garde art in a thorough and updated manner, both as a national and international premiere.

Diverse and hybrid, Bertalan's work combines ongoing research through paintings, drawings, installations, photographs, and performances with an endless inquiry—much like a logbook—into the nature of creation and humanity's place in the universe. In its variations and metamorphoses, Bertalan's art reflects a researcher aware of the laws of the universe, one in which he confronts the extreme tensions that animate and disturb his existence.

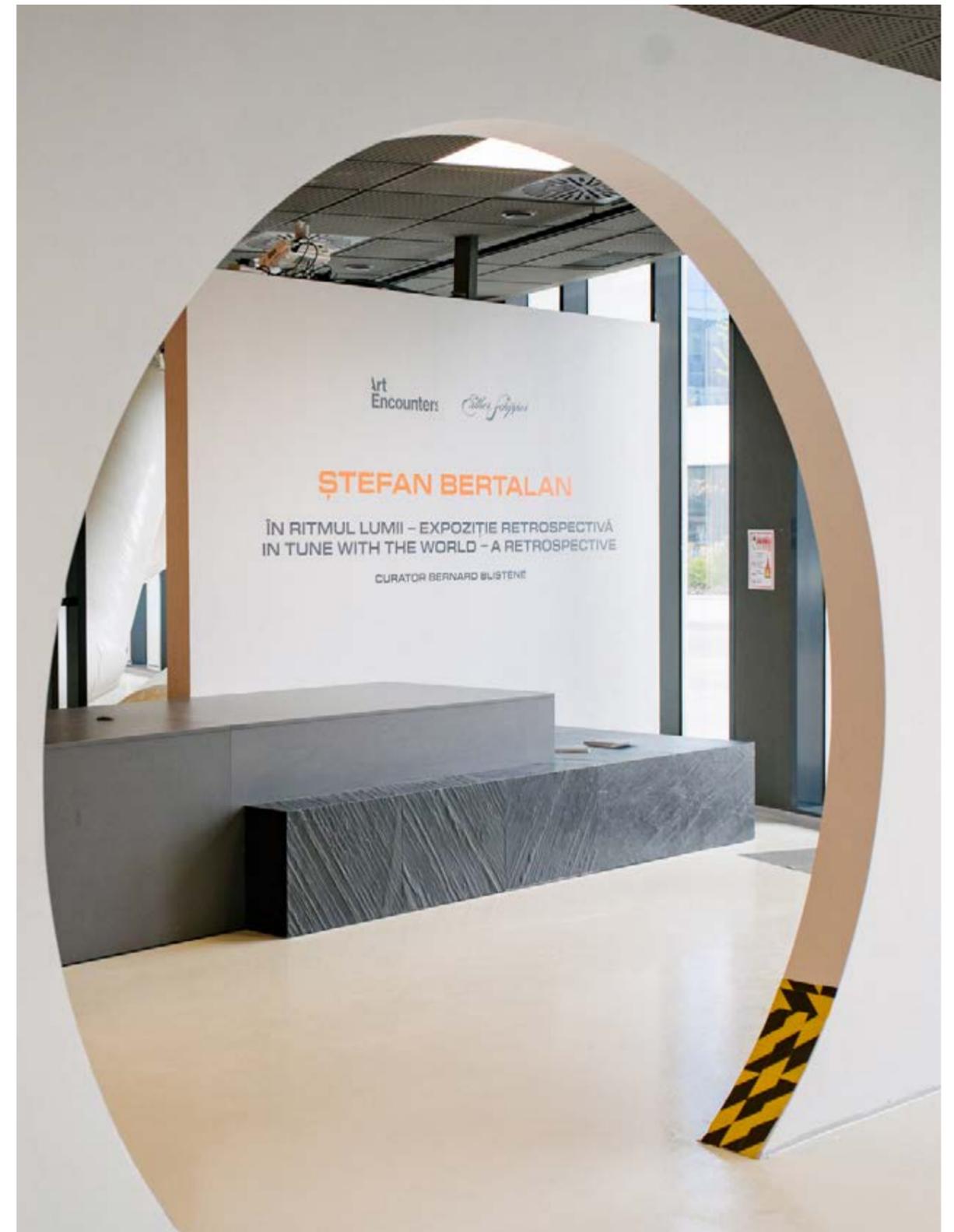
The multiplicity of his approaches, the extreme diversity of disciplines and tools he employs, as well as the profoundly hybrid dimension of a practice blending the most descriptive language with the invention of graphic and geometric schemes, in which abstraction and figuration are inseparable, attest to an original and remarkable investigation. It is an exceptional material, a retrospective meant to shed light on this unique body of work.

Born in the village of Răcăștia (Hunedoara County) in 1930 and passing away in Timișoara in 2014, Stefan Bertalan studied at the "Ion Andreescu" Academy of Fine Arts in Cluj-Napoca between 1956 and 1962. After graduating, he was appointed as a professor at the Timișoara Art High School. From 1970 to 1981, he taught at the Polytechnic University of Timișoara in the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, which he was forced to leave when he decided to emigrate. He settled in 1986 in Öhringen, near Stuttgart, Germany, where he lived until 2012.

He regularly returned to Timișoara from 1990, the city he cherished, where he also passed away in 2014.

In 1965, Bertalan co-founded Group 111 with Roman Cotoșman and Constantin Flondor, probably the first experimental art collective in Communist Romania, followed shortly by the renowned experimental and interdisciplinary Sigma group (1969–1980), which he founded alongside Constantin Flondor and Doru Tulcan, and which attracted artists, thinkers, and researchers from various disciplines. From 1964 to 2014, Bertalan was also a member of the Union of Visual Artists of Timișoara.

A prominent figure of the Romanian neo-constructivist avant-garde of the late 1950s and 1960s, Stefan Bertalan deepened his research in cybernetics and systems in the 1970s, based on natural forms and organic, mineral, and vegetal processes, which led him, around ten years later, to develop a genuine cosmology in which humans and nature are interdependent.



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timișoara Art Foundation, Timișoara (2025)

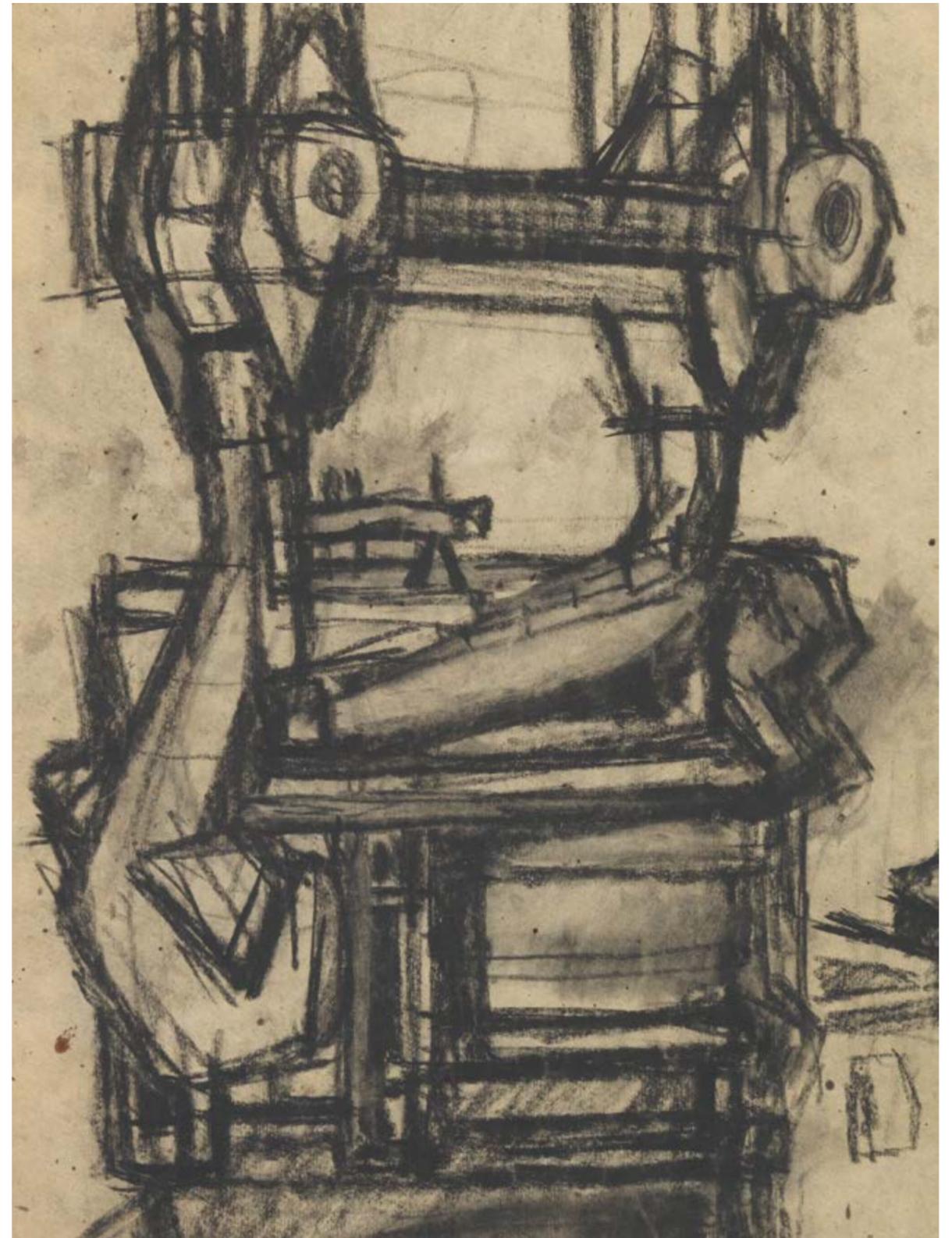


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED, 1956-1961



Untitled, 1956-1961, charcoal on paper, 49 x 34,5 cm (19 1/4 x 13 5/8 in) (unframed), 70,7 x 56,2 cm (27 7/8 x 22 1/8 x 13 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 021)



Detail: **Untitled**, 1956-1961, charcoal on paper, 49 x 34,5 cm (19 1/4 x 13 5/8 in) (unframed), 70,7 x 56,2 cm (27 7/8 x 22 1/8 x 13 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 021)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

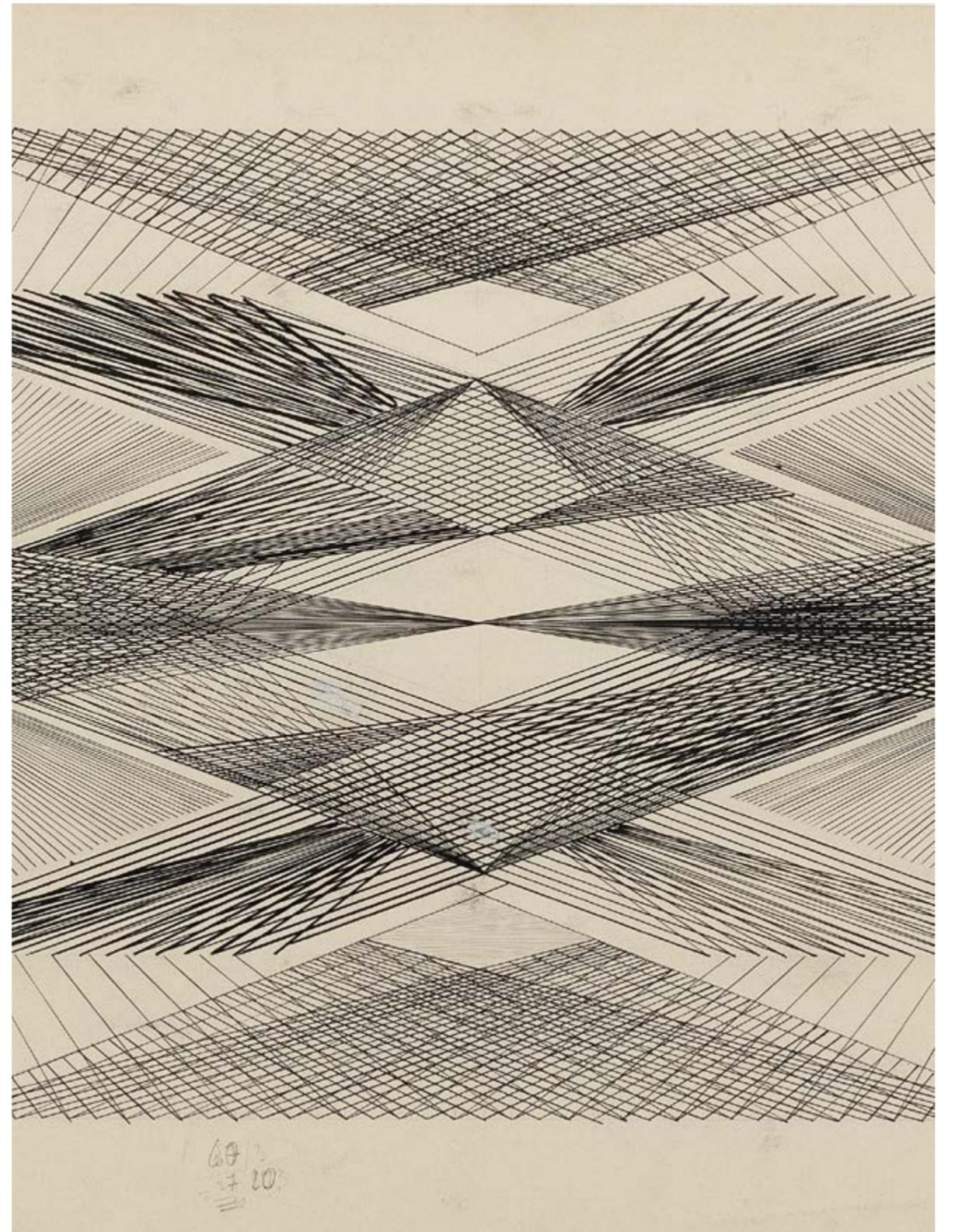


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED, NOT DATED

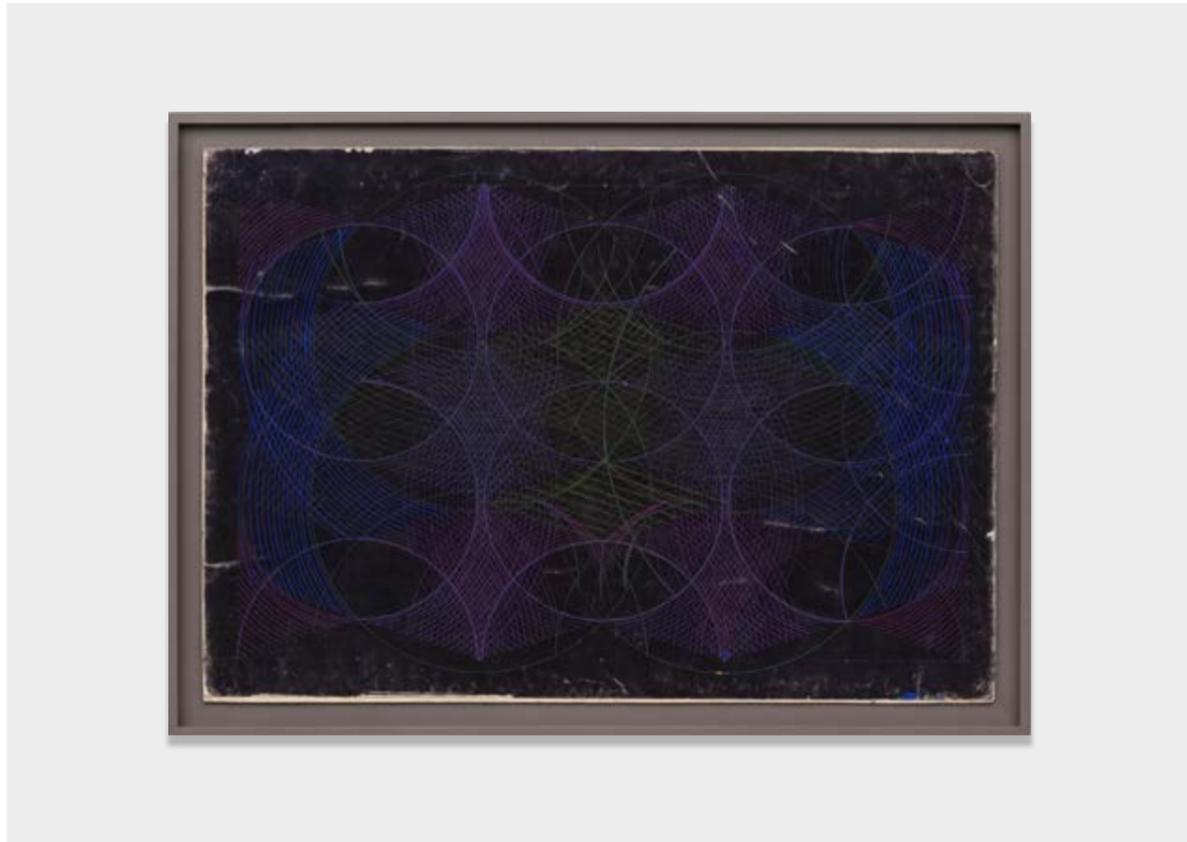


Untitled, not dated, pencil and India ink on paper, 44,9 x 62,5 cm (17 5/8 x 24 5/8 in) (unframed), 67,5 x 85,1 x 4,2 cm (26 5/8 x 33 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 241)

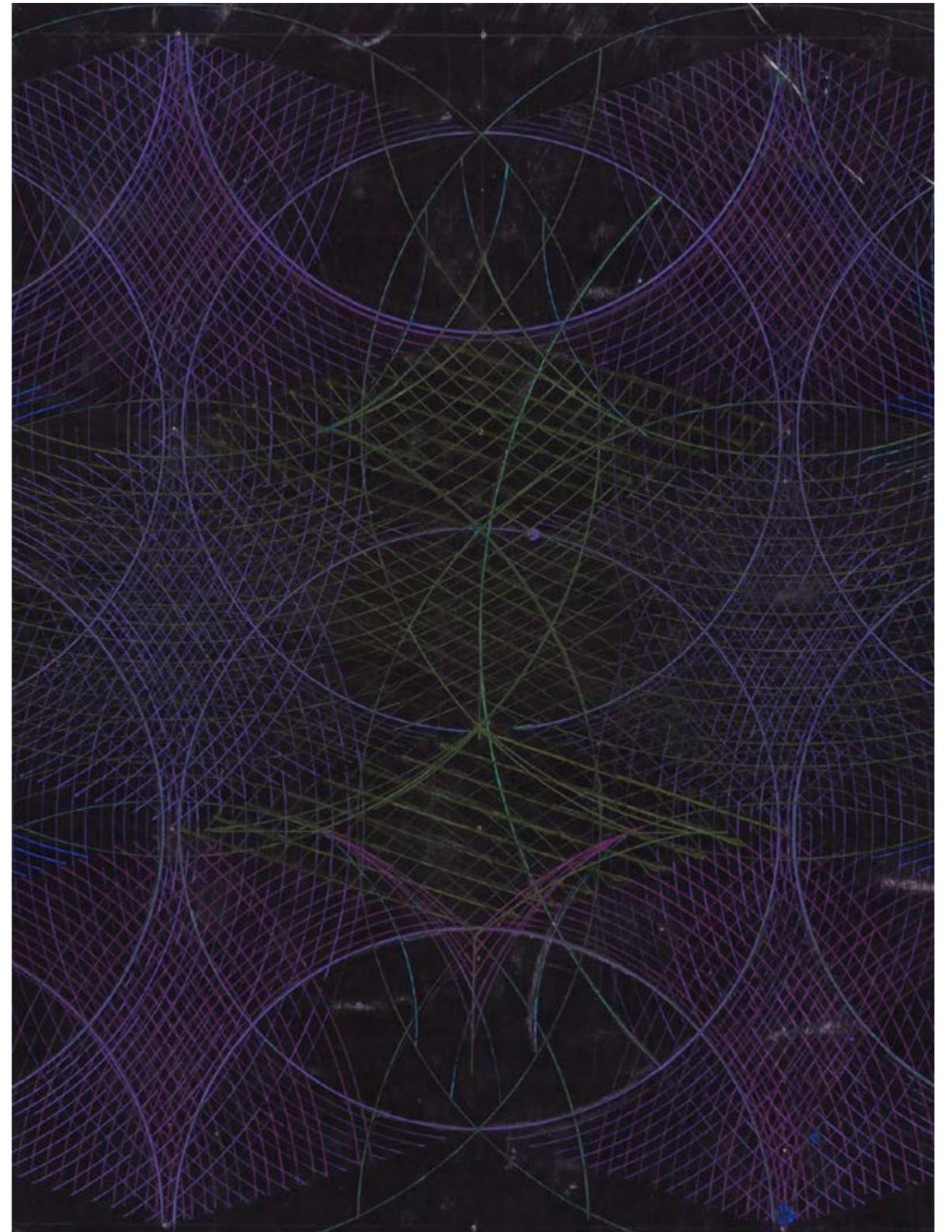


Detail: **Untitled**, not dated, pencil and India ink on paper, 44,9 x 62,5 cm (17 5/8 x 24 5/8 in) (unframed), 67,5 x 85,1 x 4,2 cm (26 5/8 x 33 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 241)

UNTITLED, 1967-1970



Untitled, 1967-1970, indian ink on primed cardboard, 70 x 100,5 cm (27 1/2 x 39 5/8 in) (unframed), 79 x 109,5 cm (31 1/8 x 43 1/8 in) (framed) (STB 116)



Detail: **Untitled**, 1967-1970, indian ink on primed cardboard, 70 x 100,5 cm (27 1/2 x 39 5/8 in) (unframed), 79 x 109,5 cm (31 1/8 x 43 1/8 in) (framed) (STB 116)

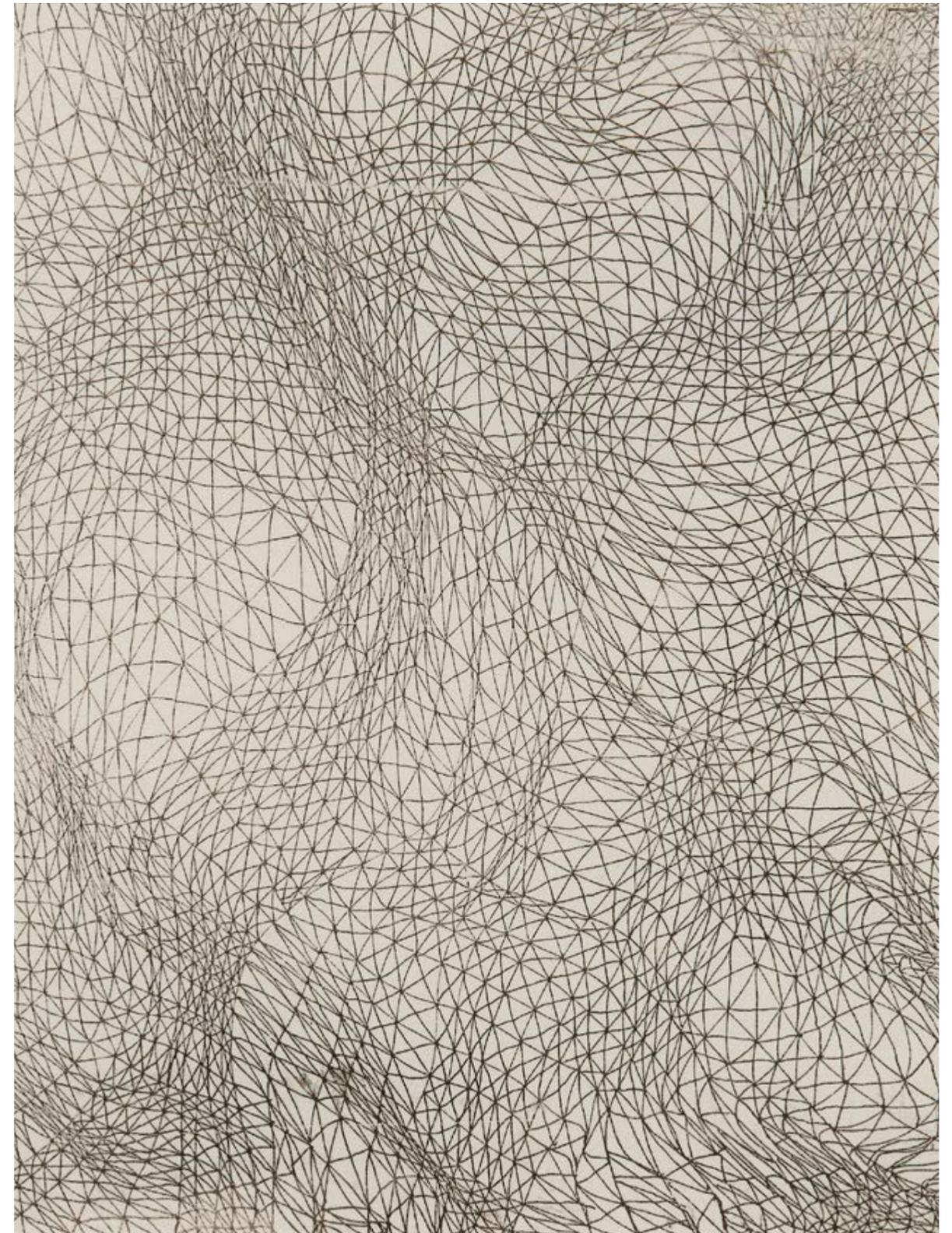


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

NETWORK, 1973-1975



Network, 1973-1975, fineliner pen on Polyethylene, 32,5 x 47 cm (12 3/4 x 18 1/2 in) (unframed), 37,5 x 51,8 x 3,9 cm (14 3/4 x 20 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2701)

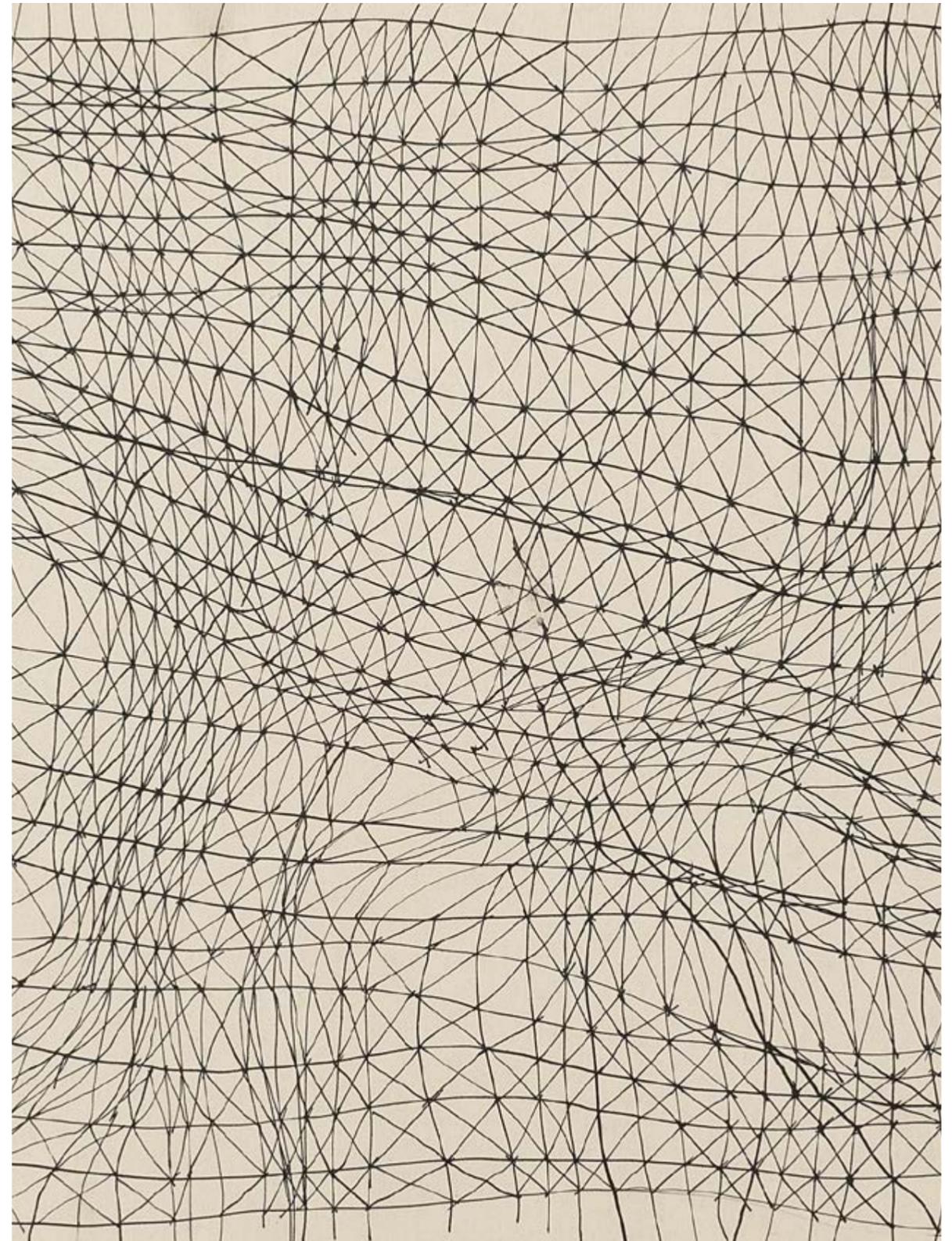


Detail: **Network**, 1973-1975, fineliner pen on Polyethylene, 32,5 x 47 cm (12 3/4 x 18 1/2 in) (unframed), 37,5 x 51,8 x 3,9 cm (14 3/4 x 20 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2701)

UNTITLED (NETWORK), UNDATED



Untitled (Network), undated, india ink on paper, 30 x 42 cm (11 3/4 x 16 1/2 in) (unframed), 48,6 x 60,5 x 4,2 cm (19 1/8 x 23 7/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 1625)

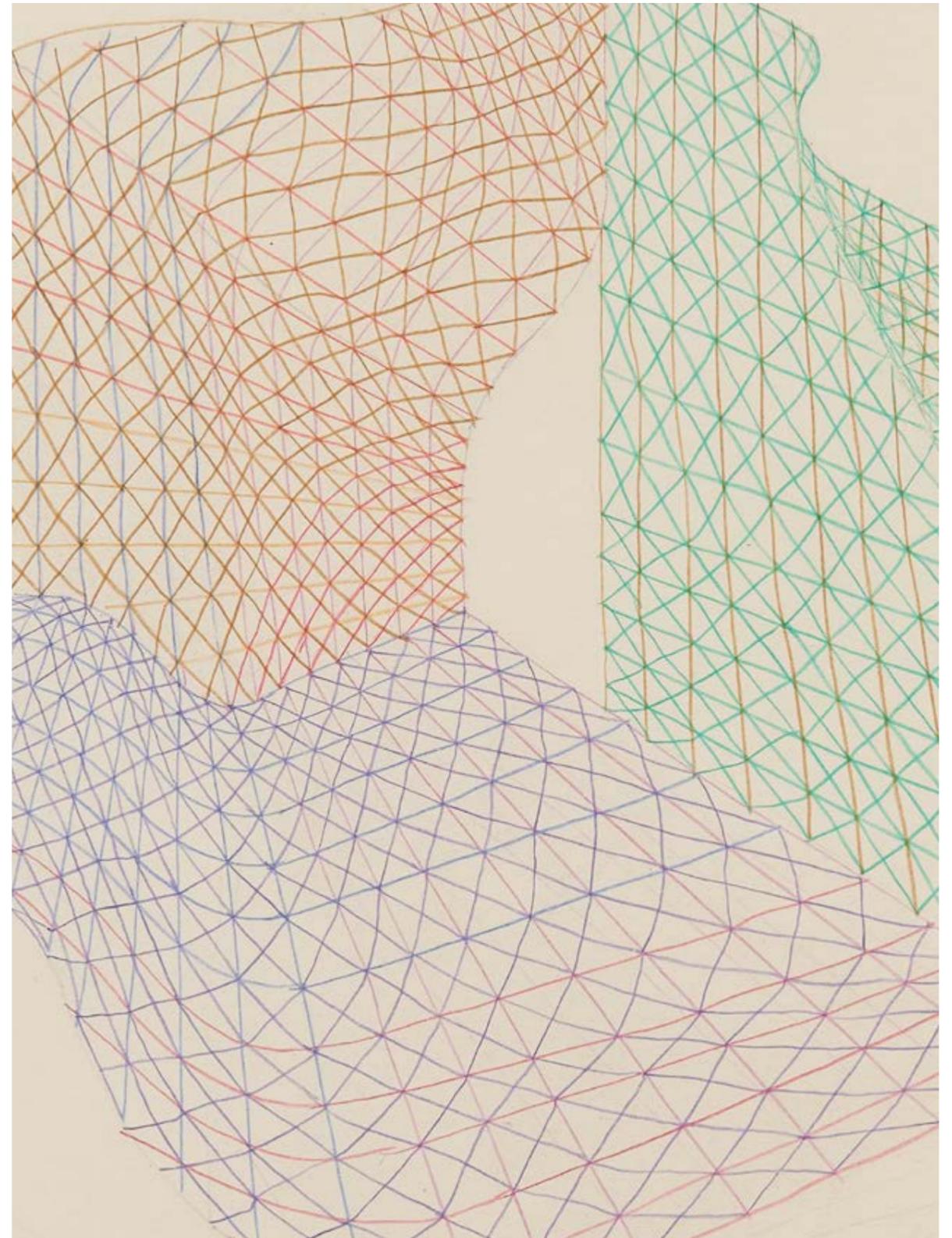


Detail: **Untitled (Network)**, undated, india ink on paper, 30 x 42 cm (11 3/4 x 16 1/2 in) (unframed), 48,6 x 60,5 x 4,2 cm (19 1/8 x 23 7/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 1624)

NETWORK, 1973-1975



Network, 1973-1975, crayon on paper, 35 x 50 cm (13 3/4 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 46,5 x 61,5 x 3,9 cm (18 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2693)



Detail: **Network**, 1973-1975, crayon on paper, 35 x 50 cm (13 3/4 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 46,5 x 61,5 x 3,9 cm (18 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2693)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



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UNTITLED (STUDY OF SHELLS), NOT DATED



Untitled (Study of Shells), not dated, pencil on paper, 46 x 65 cm (18 1/8 x 25 5/8 in) (unframed), 51 x 70 x 4 cm (20 1/8 x 27 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 087)



Detail: Untitled (Study of Shells), not dated, pencil on paper, 46 x 65 cm (18 1/8 x 25 5/8 in) (unframed), 51 x 70 x 4 cm (20 1/8 x 27 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 087)



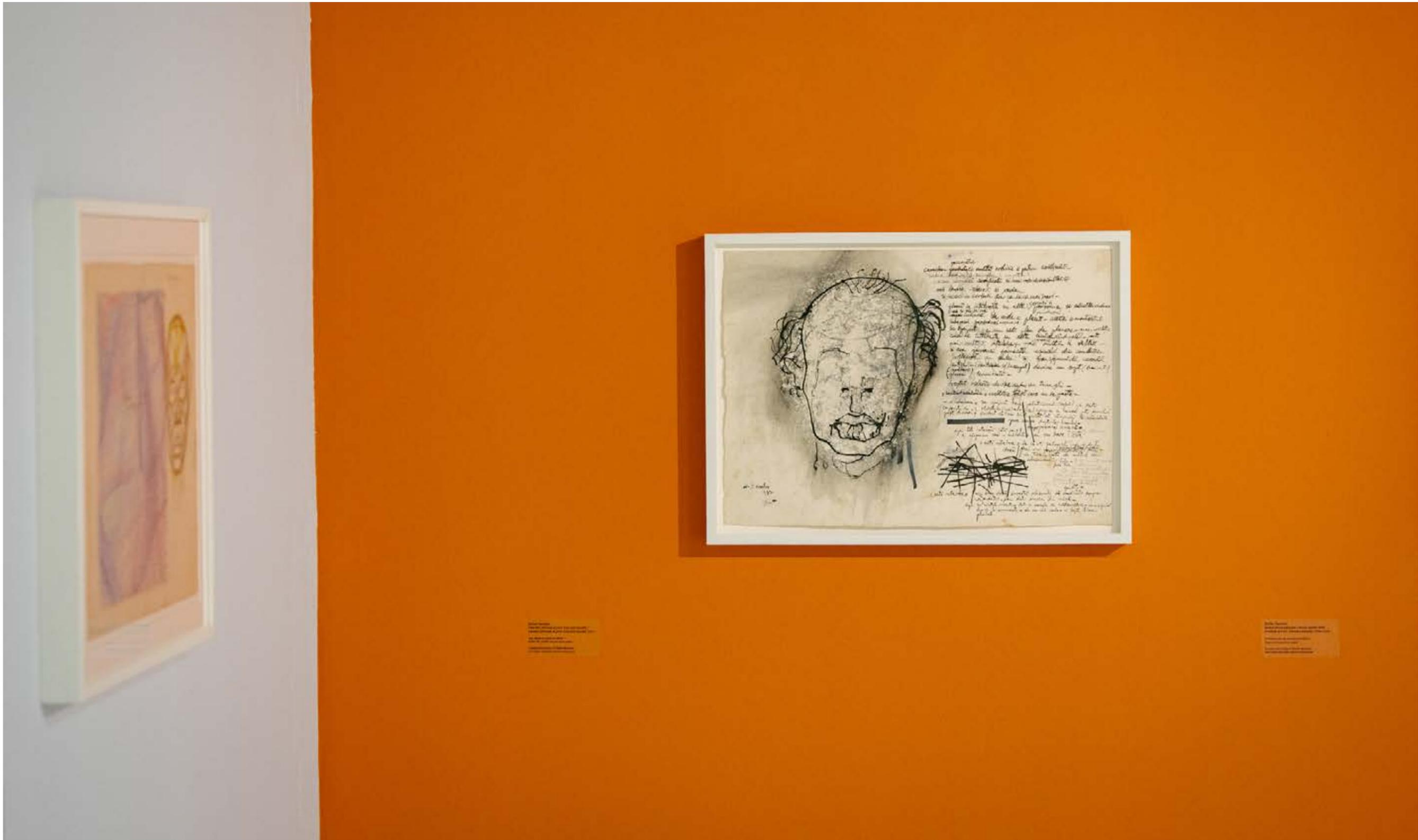
Snails and Spirals, 1972-1981, x-ray, 17,2 x 22,2 cm (6 3/4 x 8 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,1 x 43,6 x 4 cm (15 3/8 x 17 1/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 038)



Detail: **Snails and Spirals**, 1972-1981, x-ray, 17,2 x 22,2 cm (6 3/4 x 8 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,1 x 43,6 x 4 cm (15 3/8 x 17 1/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 038)



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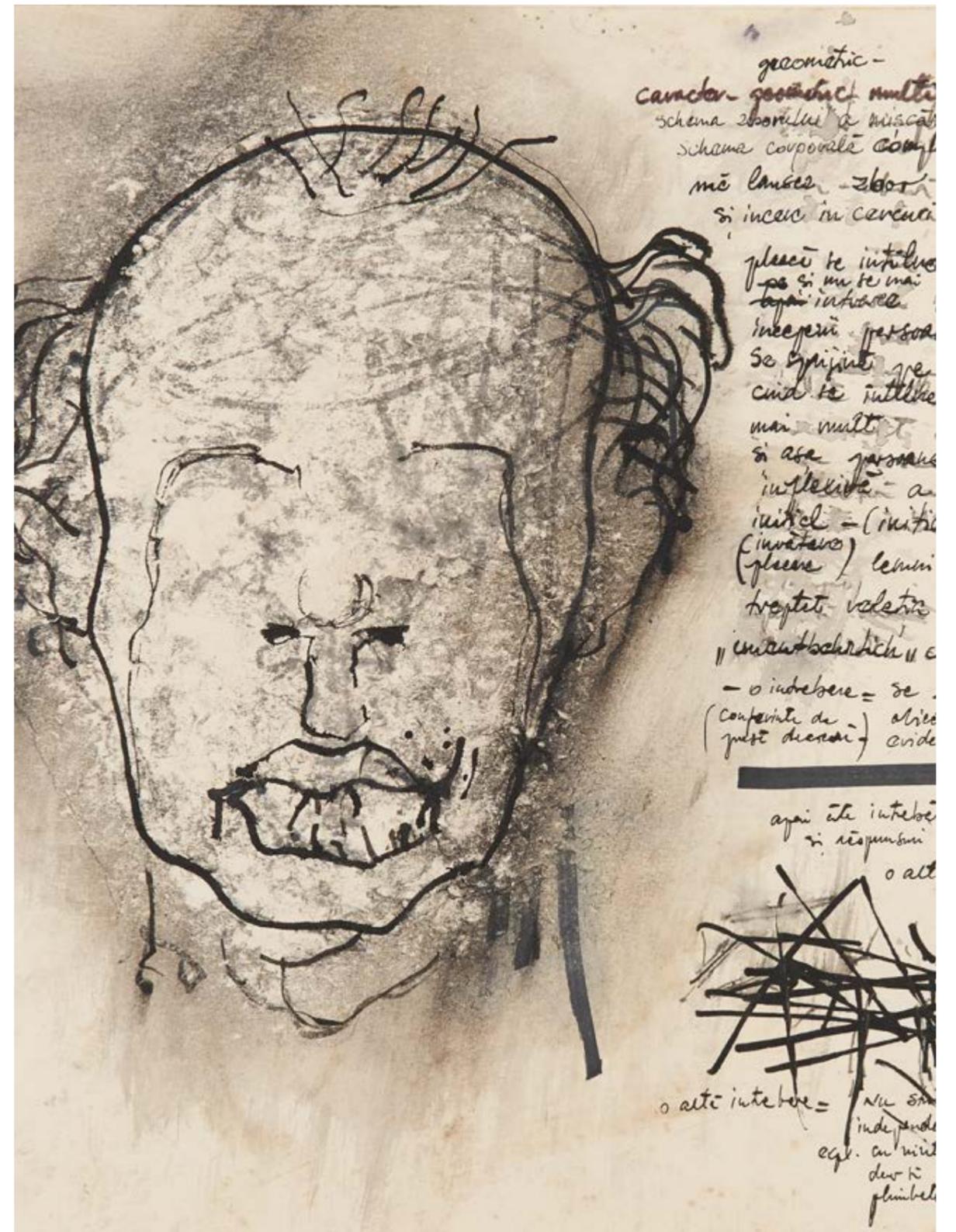


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED (PORTRAIT OF PROF. EDOUARD PAMFIL), 1977



Untitled (Portrait of Prof. Edouard Pamfil), 1977, indian ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 35,5 x 50 cm (14 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 40 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (15 3/4 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2862)



Detail: Untitled (Portrait of Prof. Edouard Pamfil), 1977, indian ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 35,5 x 50 cm (14 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 40 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (15 3/4 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2862)

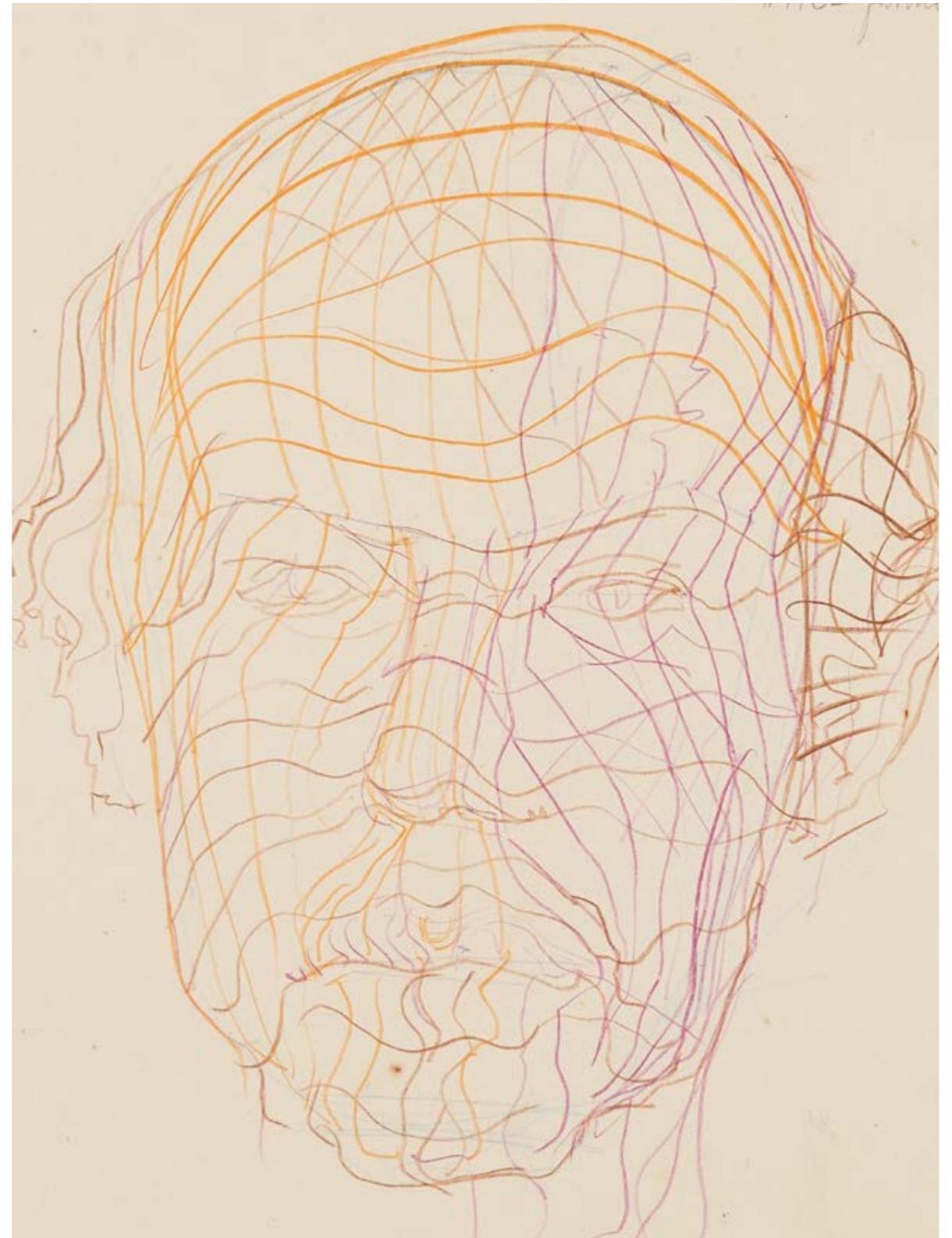


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

**NODURI PLASĂ PĂIANJEN / NODES SPIDER WEB (PORTRAIT OF PROF. EDOUARD PAMFIL),
1976-1978**



Noduri plasă păianjen / Nodes Spider Web (Portrait of Prof. Edouard Pamfil), 1976-1978, crayon and pencil on paper, 35,5 x 50 cm (14 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,4 x 54,9 x 3,9 cm (15 1/2 x 21 5/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2864)

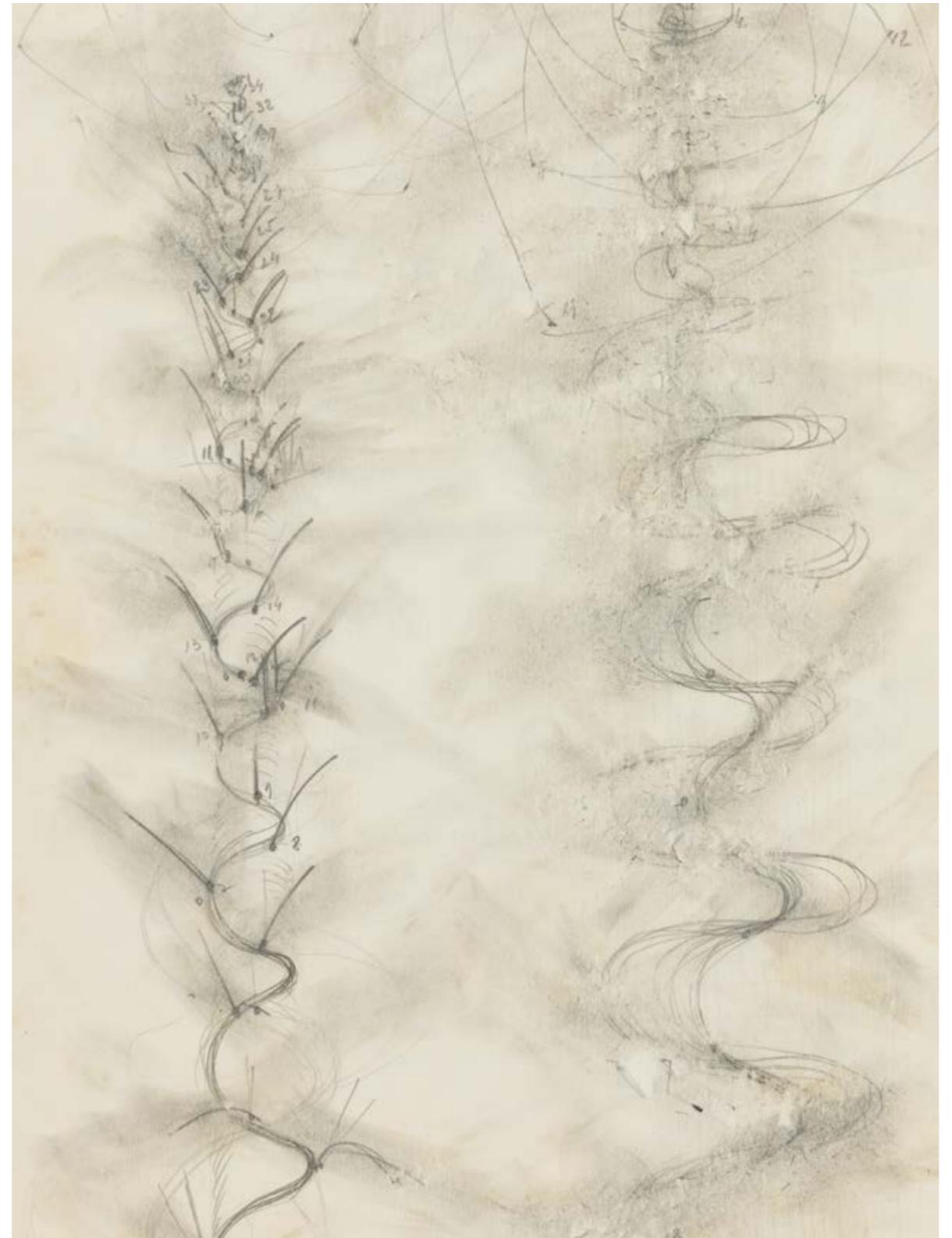


Detail: **Noduri plasă păianjen / Nodes Spider Web (Portrait of Prof. Edouard Pamfil)**, 1976-1978, crayon and pencil on paper, 35,5 x 50 cm (14 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,4 x 54,9 x 3,9 cm (15 1/2 x 21 5/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2864)

UNTITLED, NOT DATED



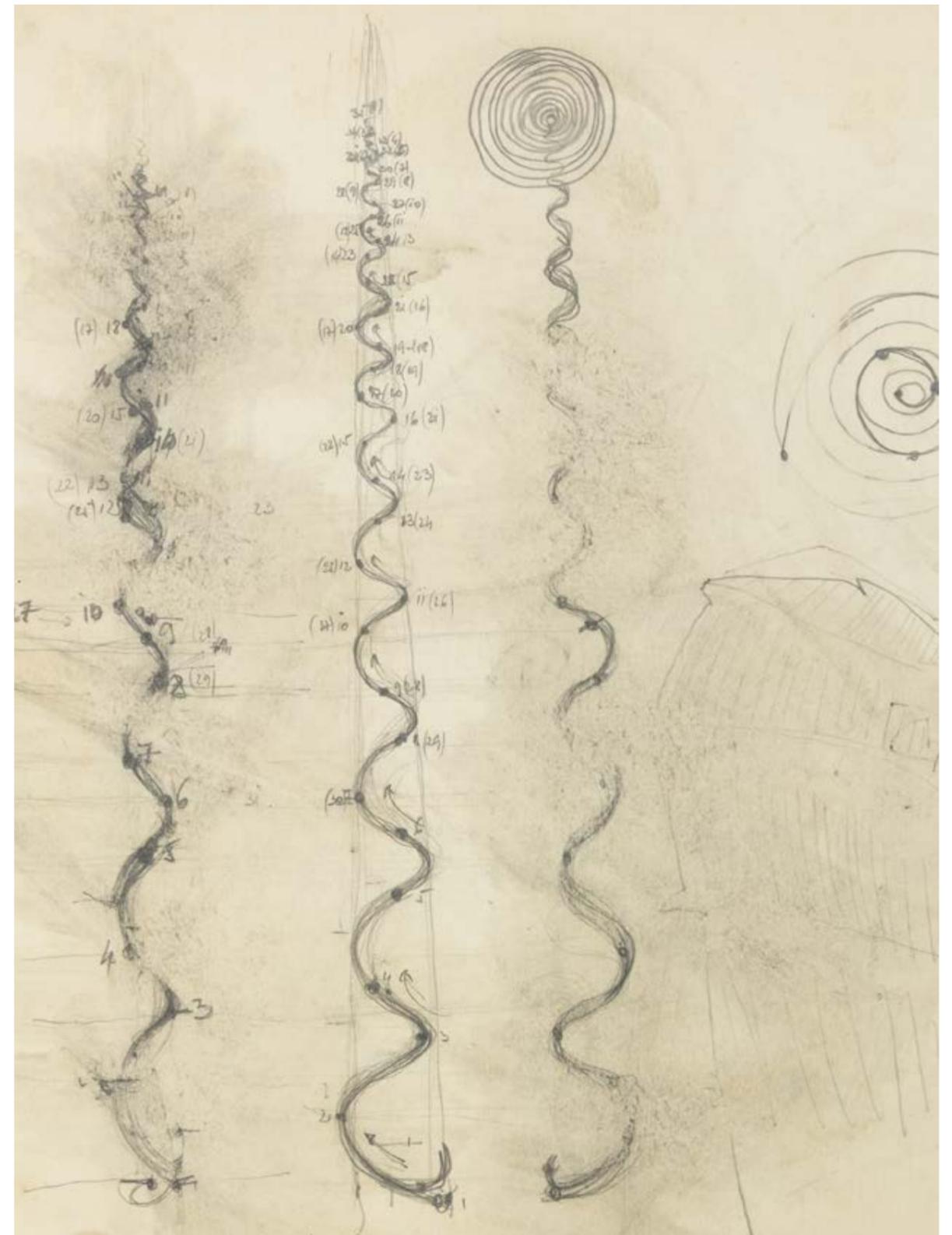
Untitled, not dated, pencil on paper, 50 x 35,5 cm (19 3/4 x 14 in) (unframed), 55,2 x 40,2 x 4 cm (21 3/4 x 15 7/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 047)



Detail: Untitled, not dated, pencil on paper, 50 x 35,5 cm (19 3/4 x 14 in) (unframed), 55,2 x 40,2 x 4 cm (21 3/4 x 15 7/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 047)



Untitled, 1976, pencil on paper, 30 x 42 cm (11 3/4 x 16 1/2 in) (unframed), 35 x 47 x 4 cm (13 3/4 x 18 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 037)



Detail: Untitled, 1976, pencil on paper, 30 x 42 cm (11 3/4 x 16 1/2 in) (unframed), 35 x 47 x 4 cm (13 3/4 x 18 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 037)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



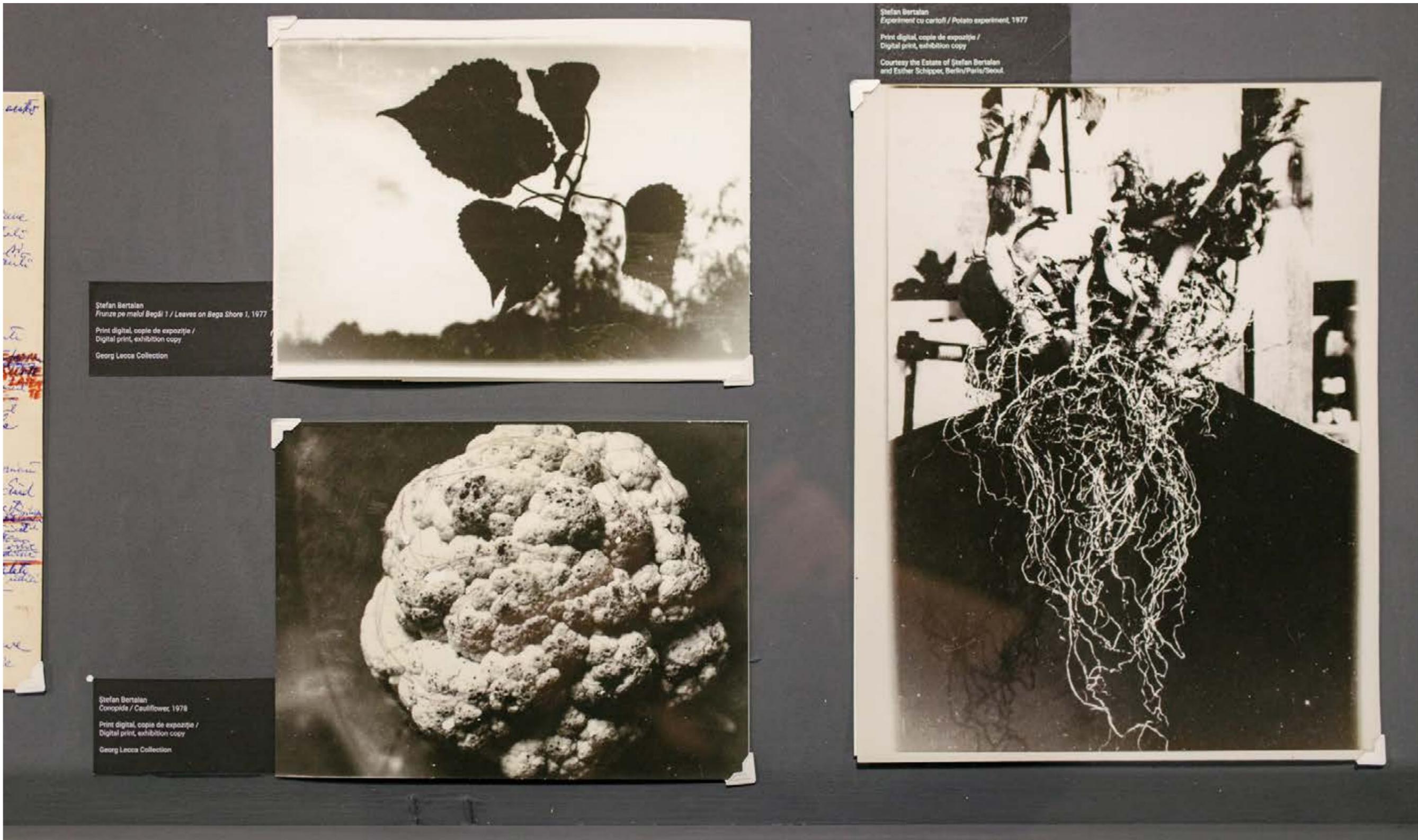
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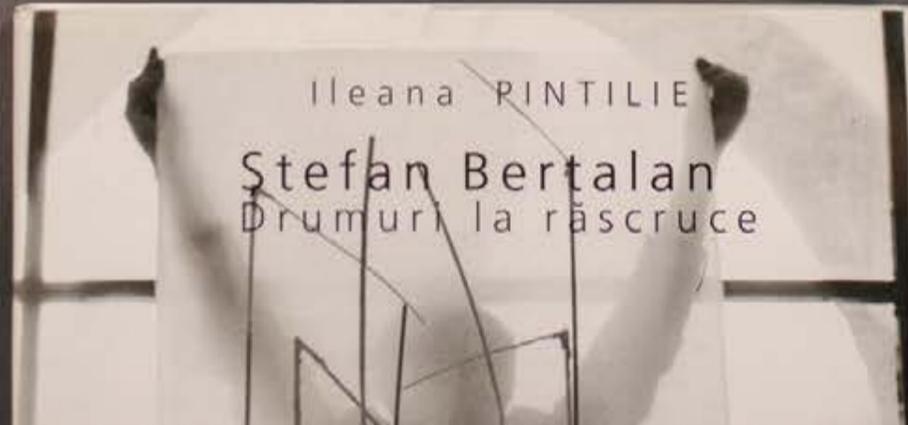
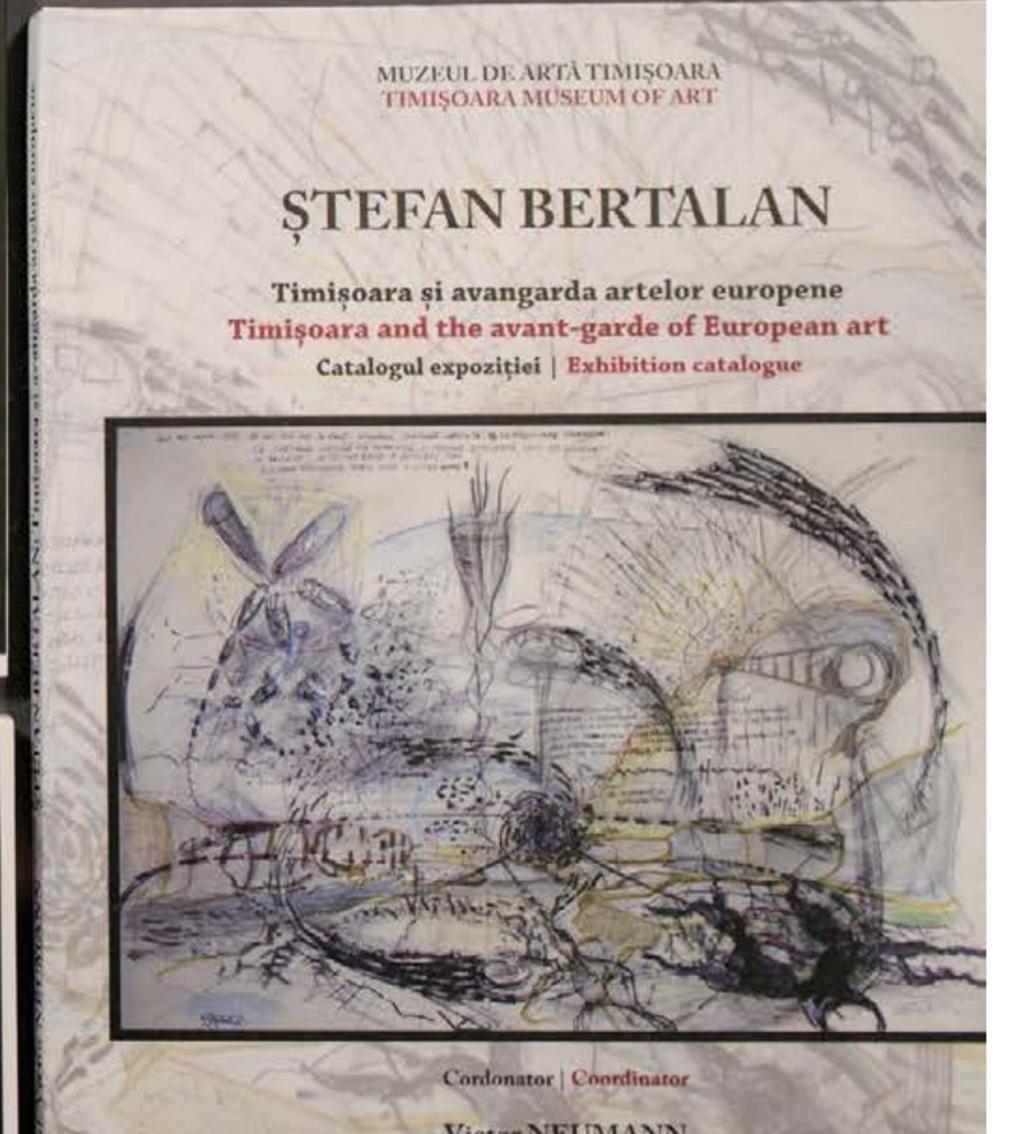
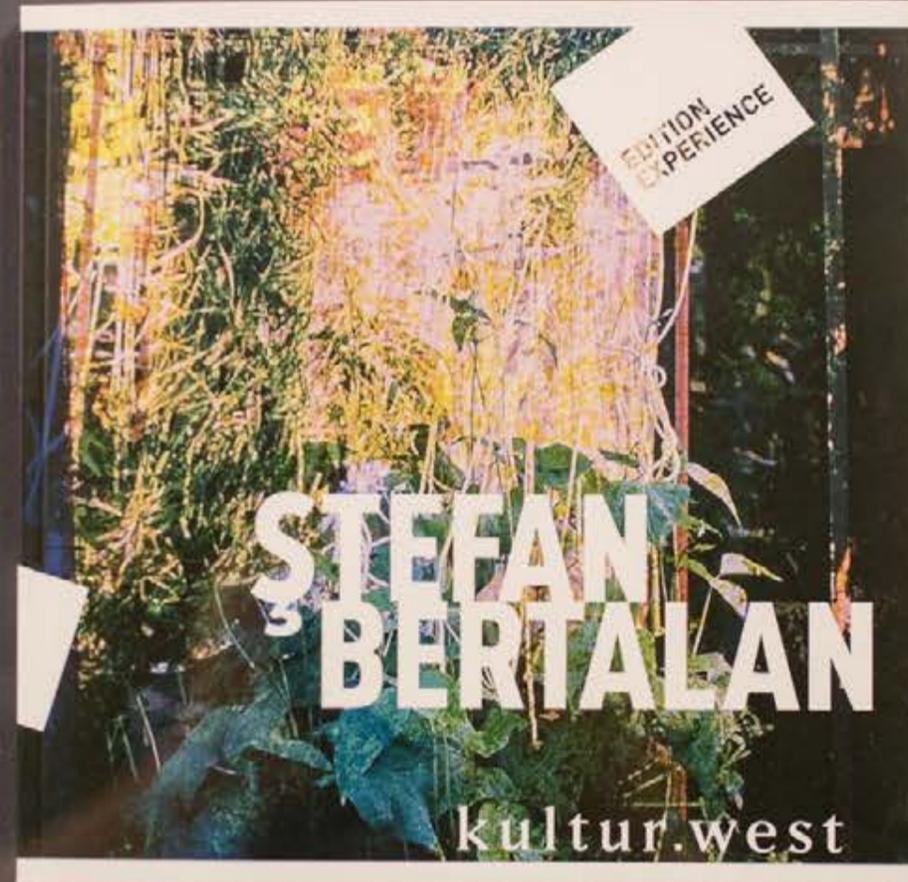
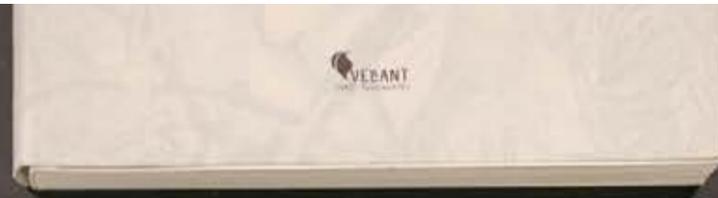


Ștefan Bertalan
Frunze pe malul Beșei 1 / Leaves on Beșei Shore 1, 1977
Print digital, copie de expoziție /
Digital print, exhibition copy
Georg Lecca Collection

Ștefan Bertalan
Coropida / Cauliflower, 1978
Print digital, copie de expoziție /
Digital print, exhibition copy
Georg Lecca Collection

Ștefan Bertalan
Experiment cu cartofi / Potato experiment, 1977
Print digital, copie de expoziție /
Digital print, exhibition copy
Courtesy the Estate of Ștefan Bertalan
and Esther Schipper, Berlin/Paris/Seoul.

Exhibition view: Ștefan Bertalan, *In Tune With The World*, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



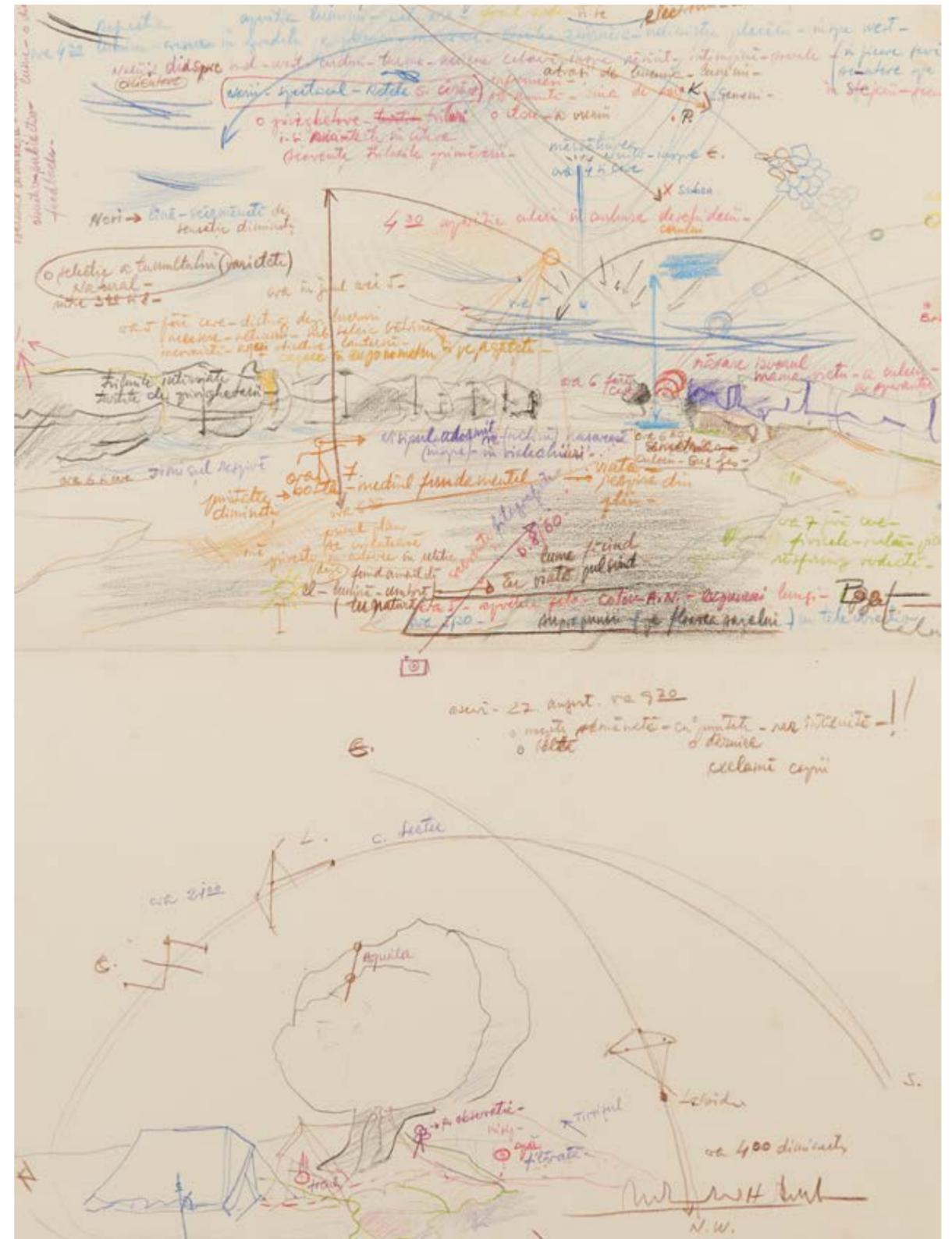
Exhibition view: Ștefan Bertalan, *In Tune With The World*, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



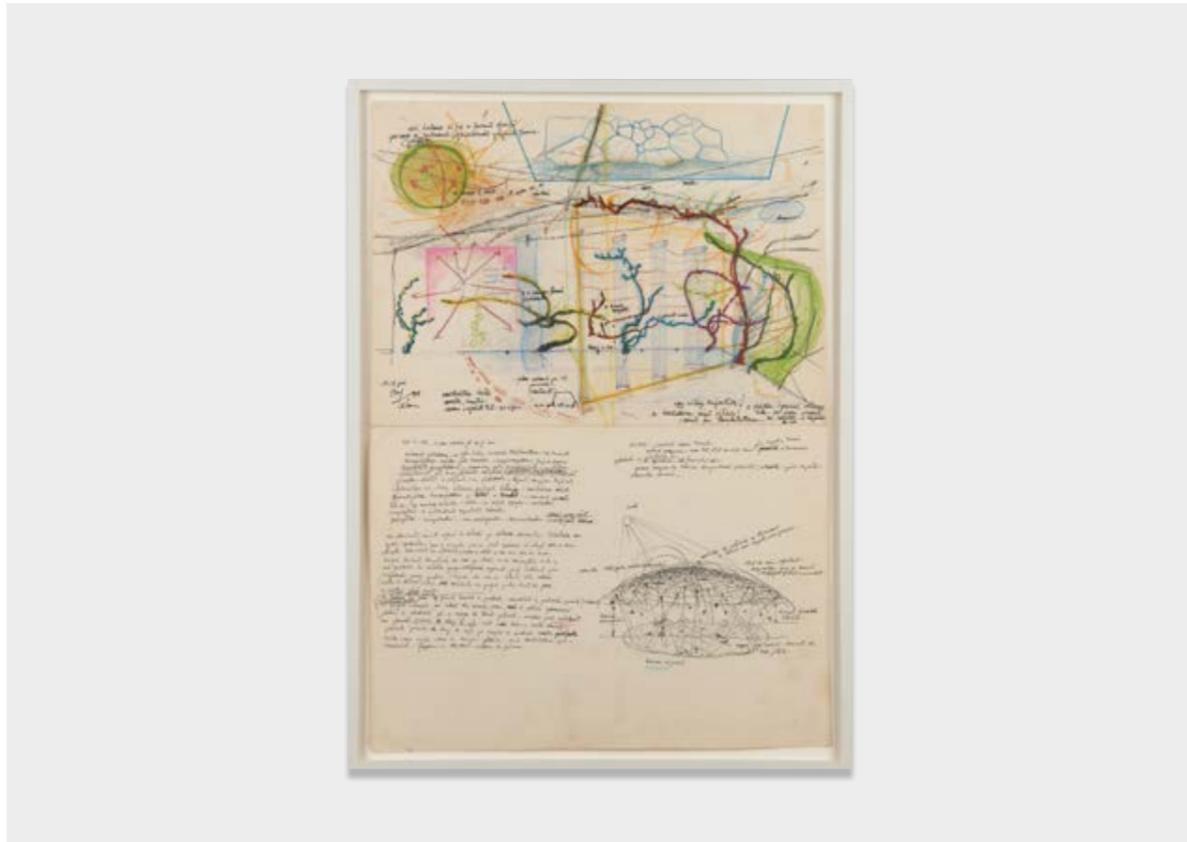
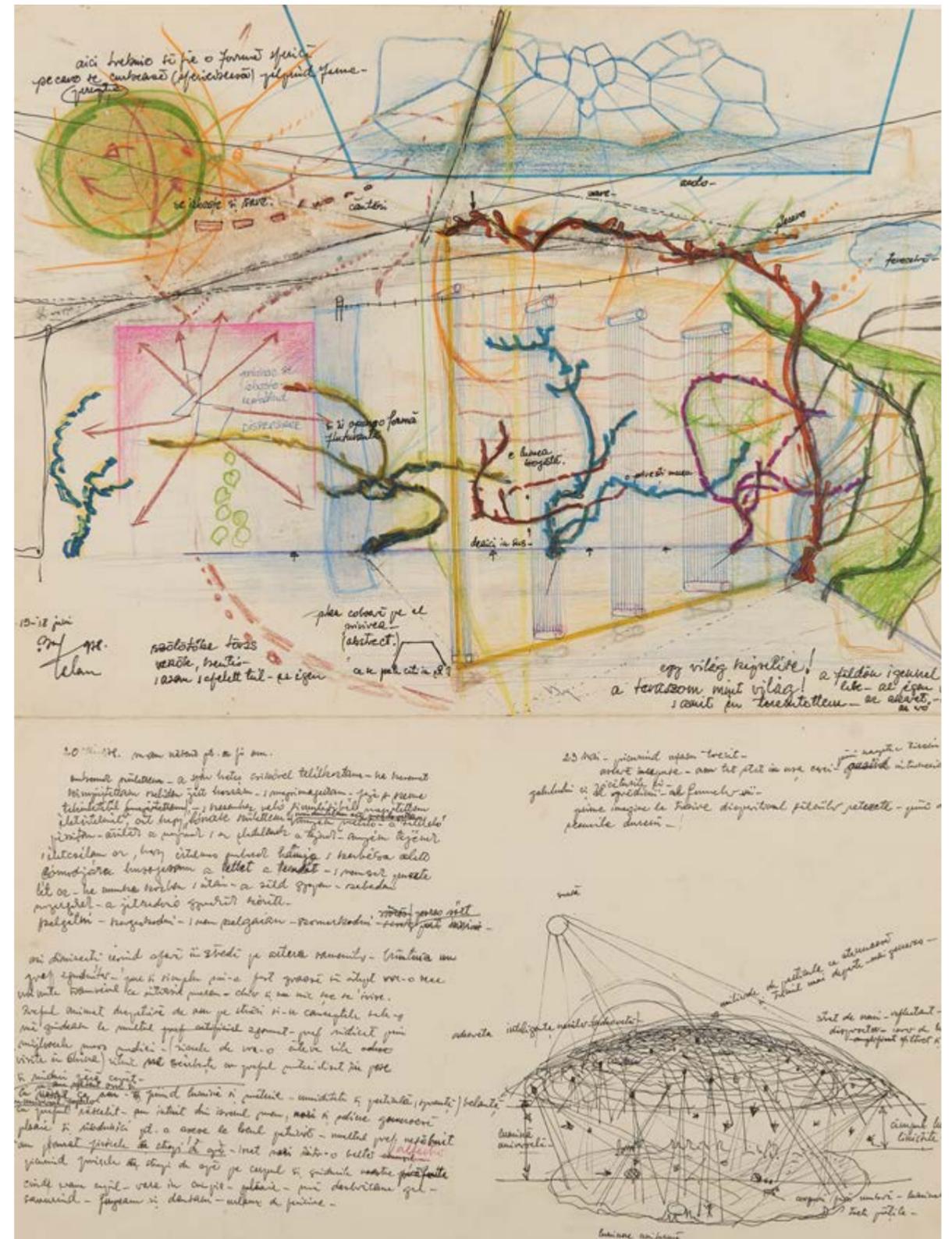
Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Untitled, 1978, crayon on paper, 65 x 46 cm (25 5/8 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed) ,69,5 x 50,5 x 3,9 cm (27 3/8 x 19 7/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 253)



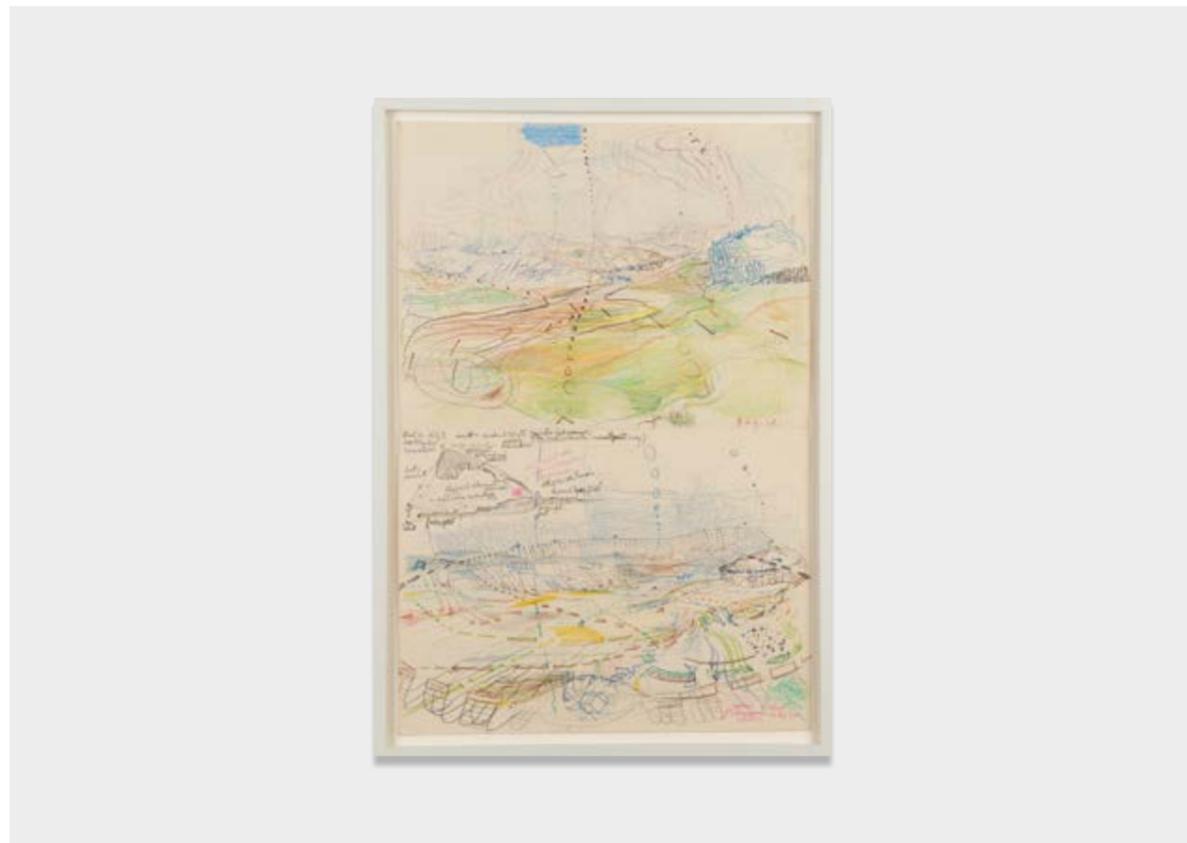
Detail: Untitled, 1978, crayon on paper, 65 x 46 cm (25 5/8 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed) ,69,5 x 50,5 x 3,9 cm (27 3/8 x 19 7/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 253)



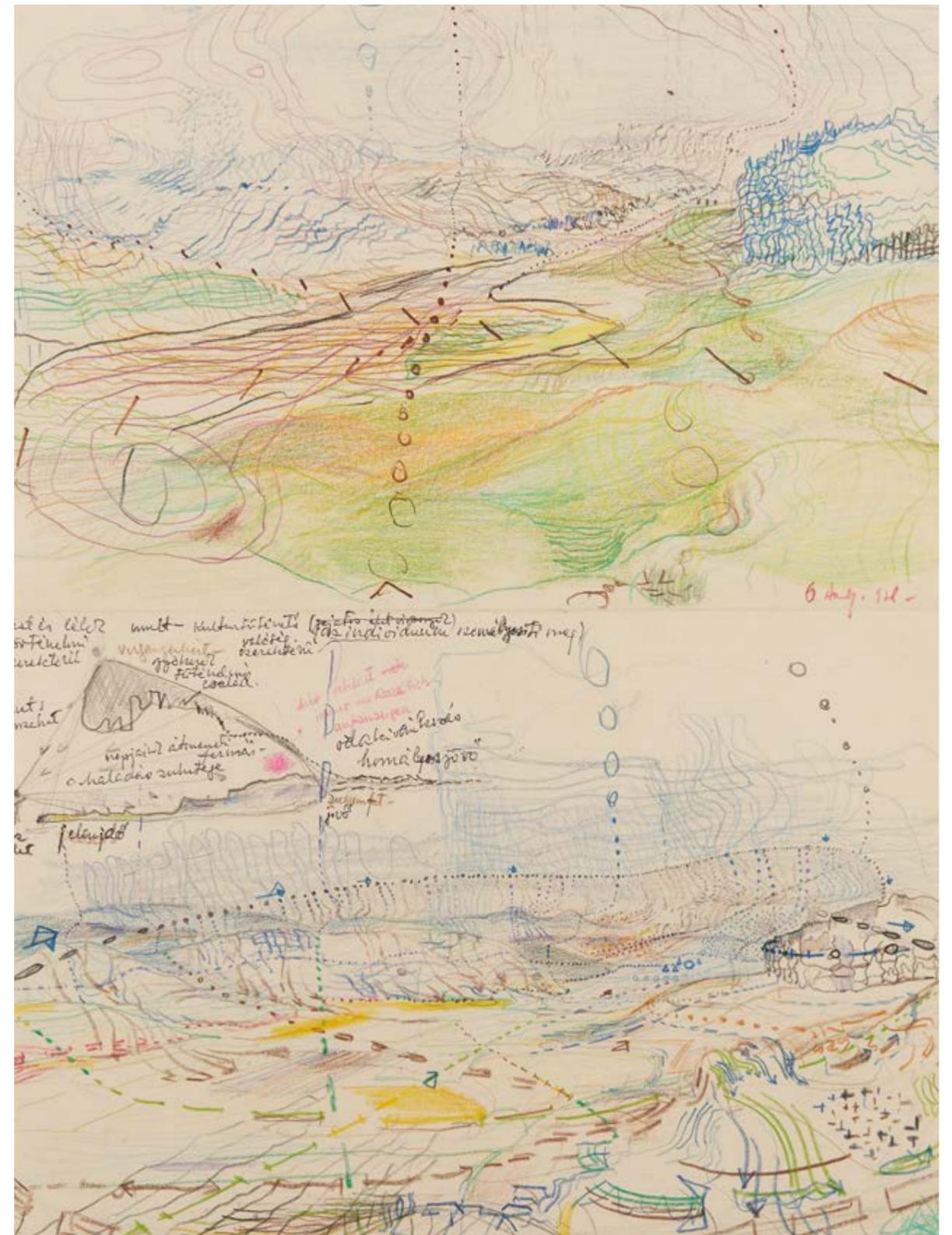
Untitled, 1978, india ink, felt-tip pen and colored crayon on paper, 70 x 50,5 cm (27 1/2 x 19 7/8 in) (unframed), 74,5 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (29 3/8 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 126)

Detail: Untitled, 1978, india ink, felt-tip pen and colored crayon on paper, 70 x 50,5 cm (27 1/2 x 19 7/8 in) (unframed), 74,5 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (29 3/8 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 126)

UNTITLED (LANDSCAPE), 1978



Untitled (Landscape), 1978, crayon and ballpoint pen on paper, 60 x 41 cm (23 5/8 x 16 1/8 in) (unframed), 65 x 45,5 x 3,9 cm (25 5/8 x 17 7/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 405)



Detail: Untitled (Landscape), 1978, crayon and ballpoint pen on paper, 60 x 41 cm (23 5/8 x 16 1/8 in) (unframed), 65 x 45,5 x 3,9 cm (25 5/8 x 17 7/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 405)

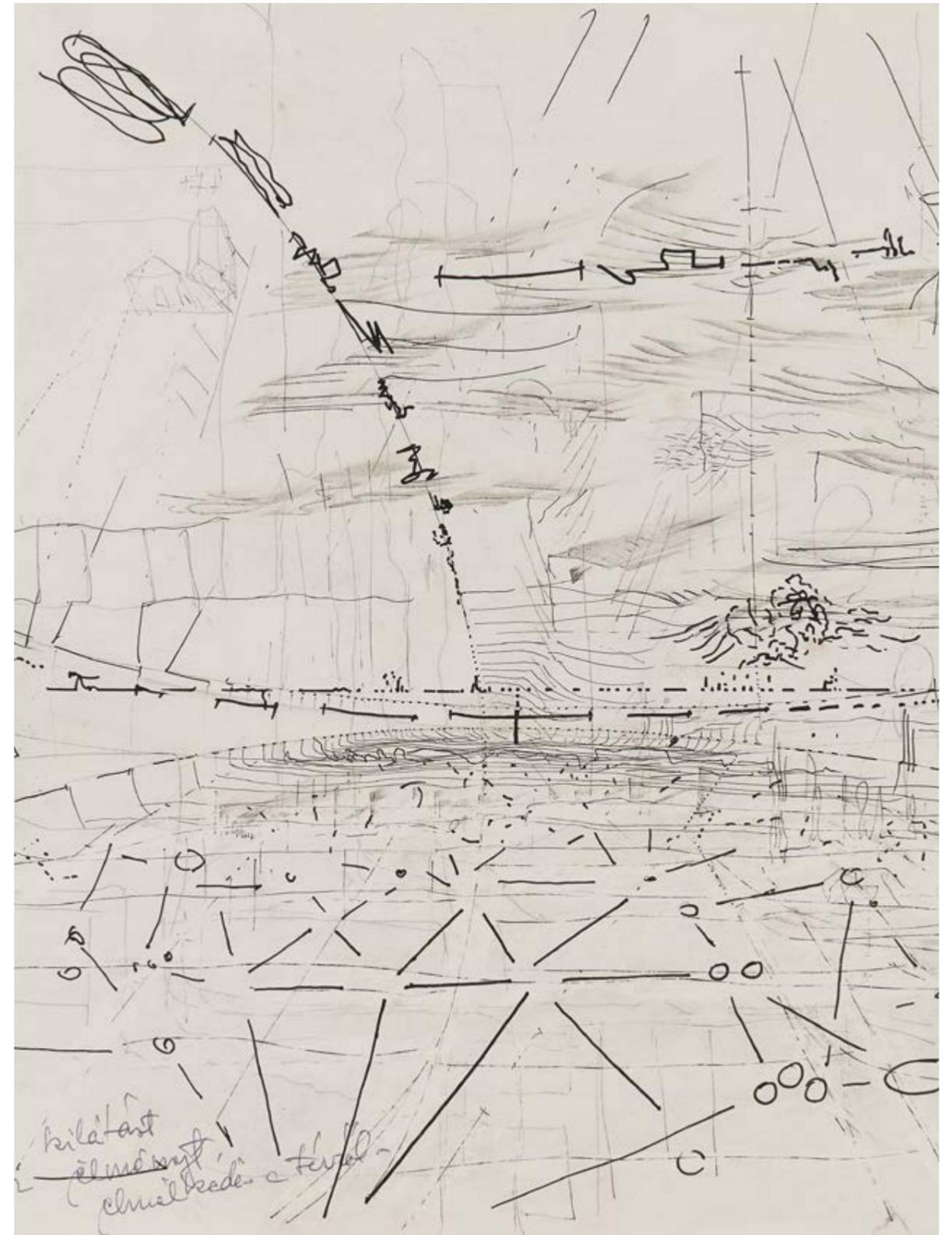


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

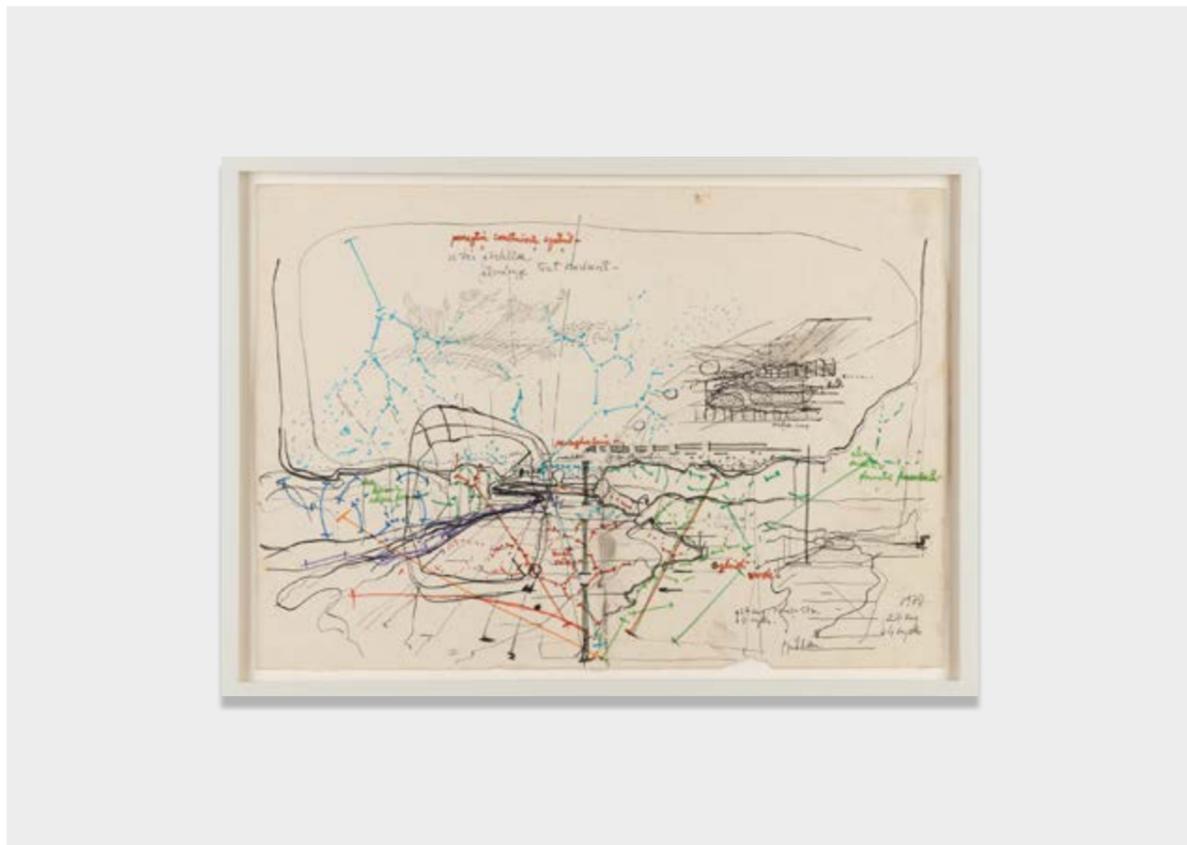
KILÁTÁST / PANORAMA, 1977



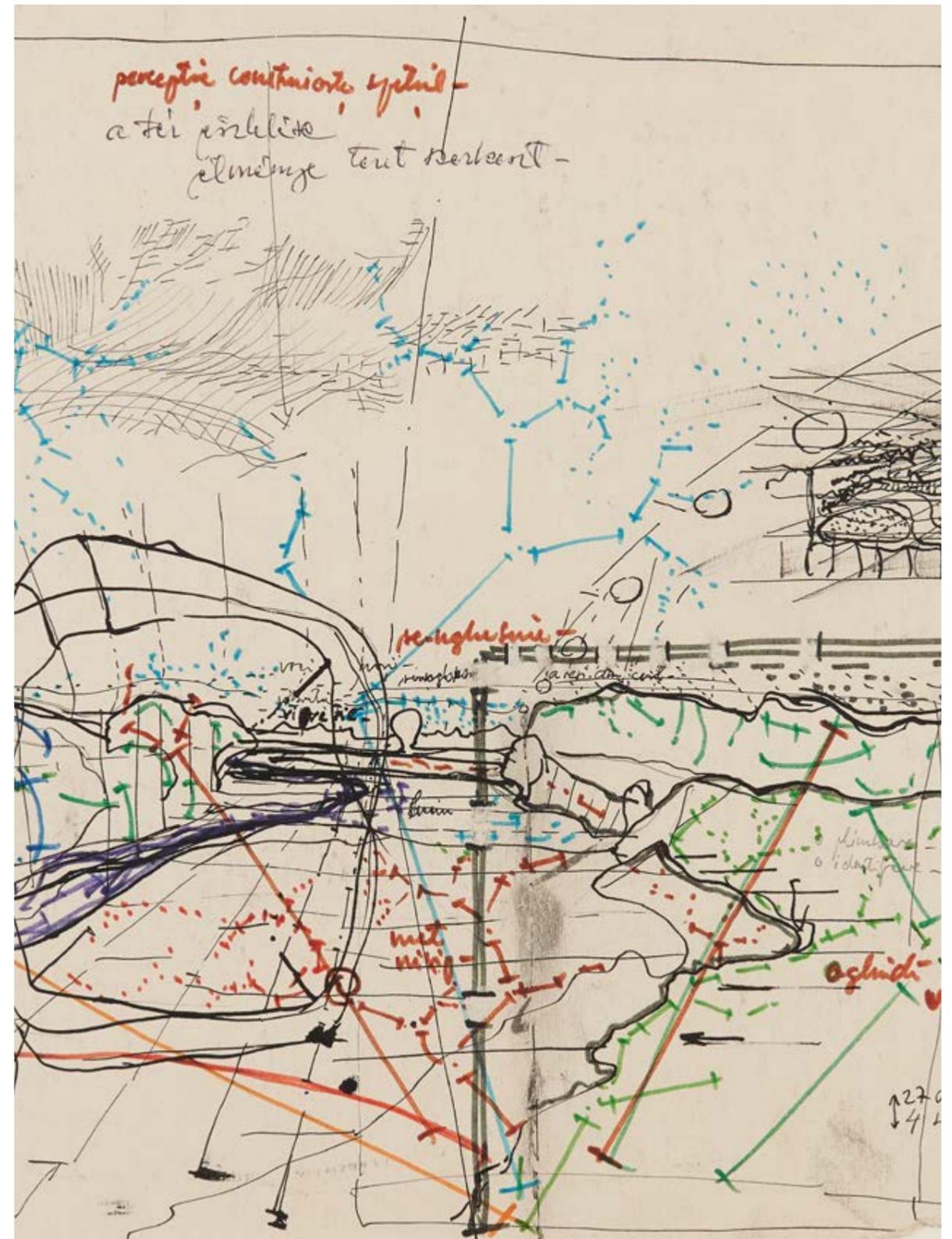
Kilátást / Panorama, 1977, fineliner pen and pencil on paper, 35 x 50 cm (13 3/4 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,5 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (15 1/2 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 925)



Detail: Kilátást / Panorama, 1977, fineliner pen and pencil on paper, 35 x 50 cm (13 3/4 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,5 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (15 1/2 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 925)



Percepție construcție spațiul / Perception Construction The Space, 1977, felt tip pen, Indian ink and ballpoint pen on paper, 35,2 x 50,2 cm (13 7/8 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,5 x 55 x 3,9 cm (15 1/2 x 21 5/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 928)



Detail: Percepție construcție spațiul / Perception Construction The Space, 1977, felt tip pen, Indian ink and ballpoint pen on paper, 35,2 x 50,2 cm (13 7/8 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 39,5 x 55 x 3,9 cm (15 1/2 x 21 5/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 928)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



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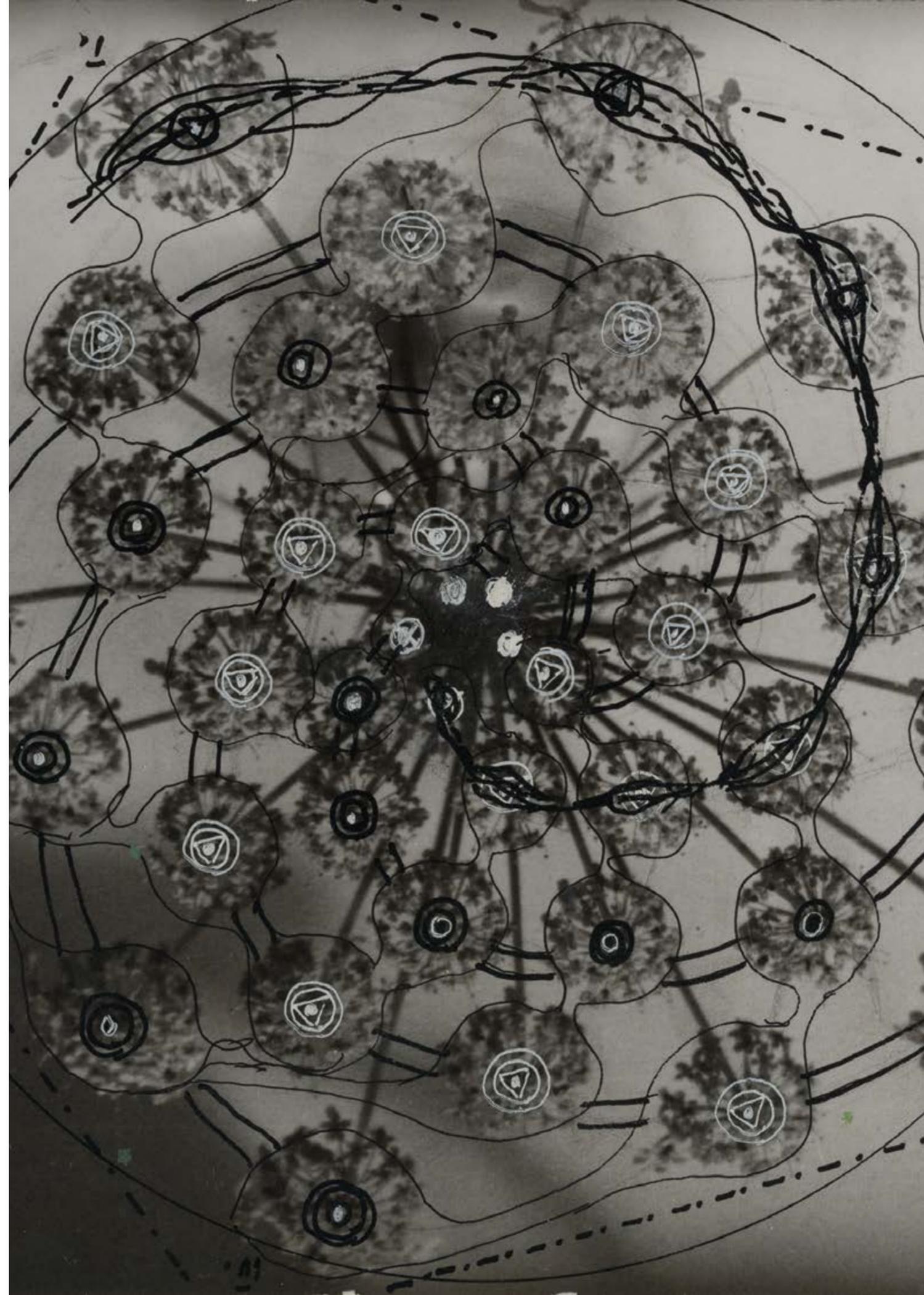
ORGANIC SYSTEMS

In the 1970s Bertalan combined elements from the early geometric, neo-constructivist motifs, with close observations of organic processes and systematic studies of shapes found in organic, vegetal, and mineral forms. Part of his early research into nature's archetypal models and shapes, the artist employed a standard botanical survey and monitoring methodology of white strings system of connections placed among the leaves, branches and stems in order to observe the plant's status and distribution in space and time.

Ecological mysticism made its way into his experiments of the late '70s. The universal order which he perceived underneath the wide-ranging correspondences between the mind's procedures and the natural processes induced the belief in an overreaching, transcendental communication and harmony.



Archive Material



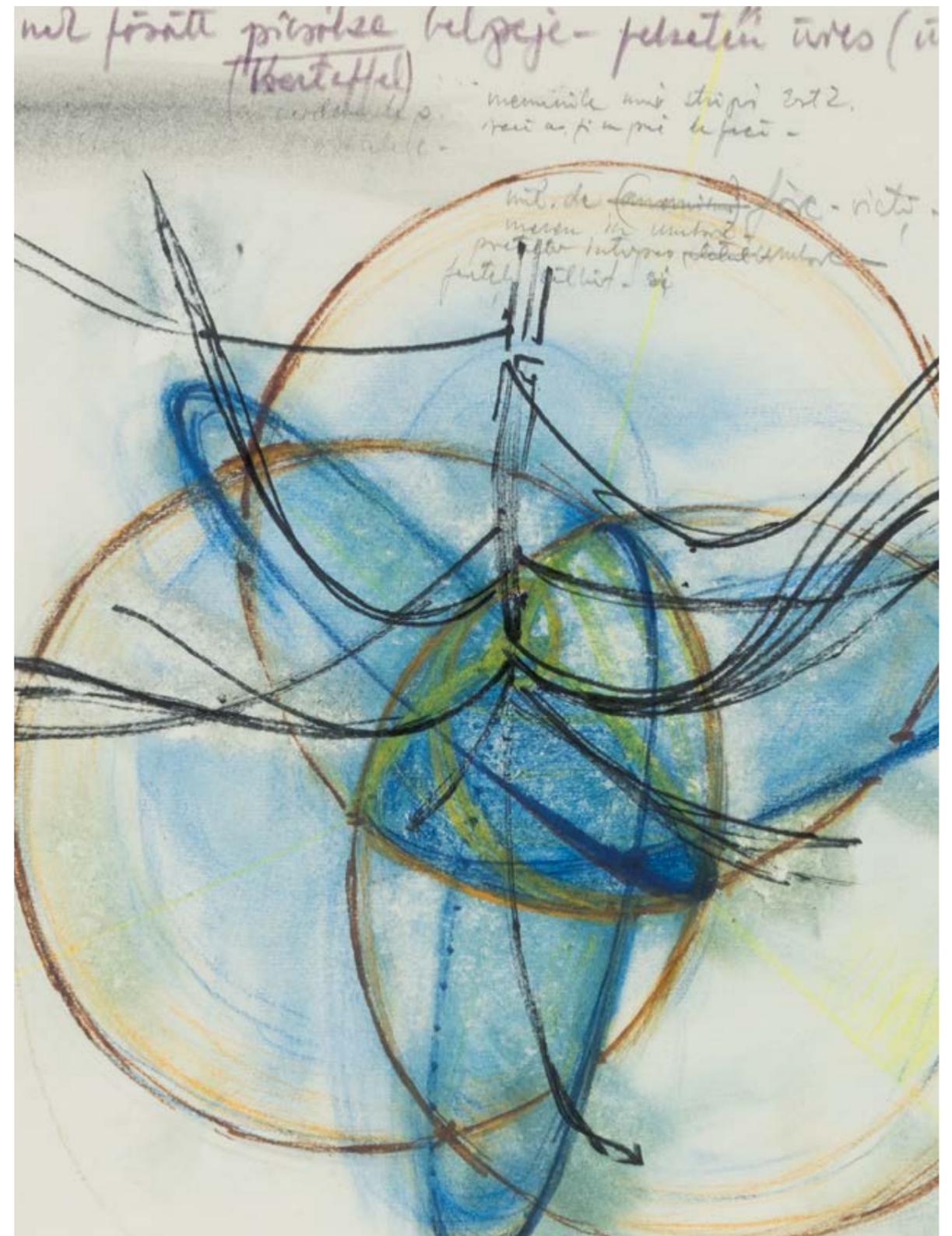


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

GUNOI - COȘ DE GUNOI + ICOSAEDRU / GARBAGE - GARBAGE BIN + ICOSAHEDRON, 1979



gunoi - coș de gunoi + icosaedru / garbage - garbage bin + icosahedron, 1979, colored crayon, felt-tip pen and pencil on paper 32,5 x 46 cm (12 3/4 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed), 54,4 x 67,8 cm x 4,2 (21 3/8 x 26 3/4 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 014)



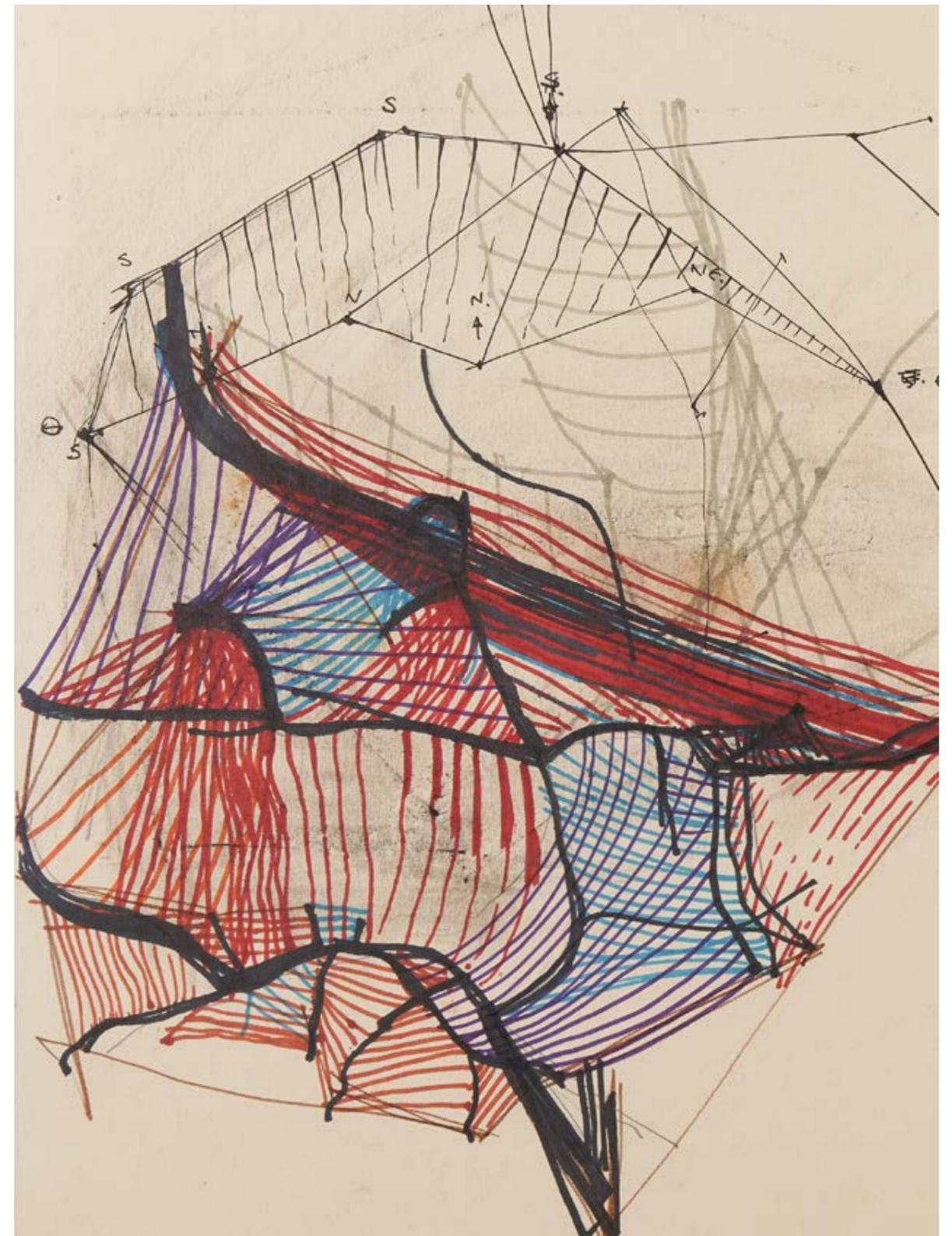
Detail: gunoi - coș de gunoi + icosaedru / garbage - garbage bin + icosahedron, 1979, colored crayon, felt-tip pen and pencil on paper 32,5 x 46 cm (12 3/4 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed), 54,4 x 67,8 cm x 4,2 (21 3/8 x 26 3/4 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 014)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Cais / Apricot Tree, 1977, felt-tip pen, fineliner pen and pencil on paper, 50 x 70 cm (19 3/4 x 27 1/2 in) (unframed), 61,5 x 82 x 3,9 cm (24 1/4 x 32 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 696)



Detail: **Cais / Apricot Tree**, 1977, felt-tip pen, fineliner pen and pencil on paper, 50 x 70 cm (19 3/4 x 27 1/2 in) (unframed), 61,5 x 82 x 3,9 cm (24 1/4 x 32 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 696)

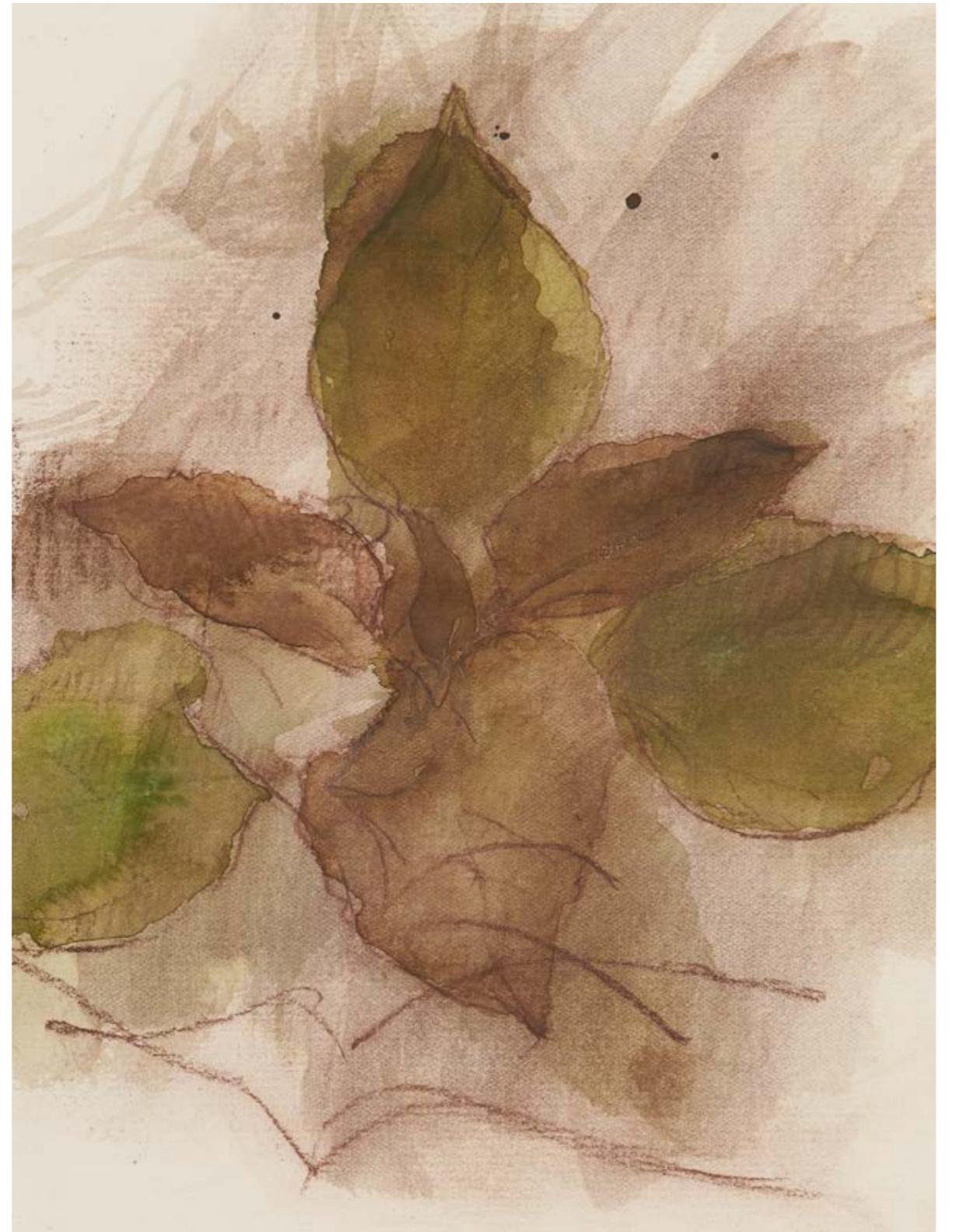


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED, 1981



Untitled, 1981, chalk and watercolor on paper, 32,5 x 46 cm (12 3/4 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed), 43,9 x 57,5 x 3,9 cm (17 1/4 x 22 5/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 741)



Detail: **Untitled**, 1981, chalk and watercolor on paper, 32,5 x 46 cm (12 3/4 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed), 43,9 x 57,5 x 3,9 cm (17 1/4 x 22 5/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 741)

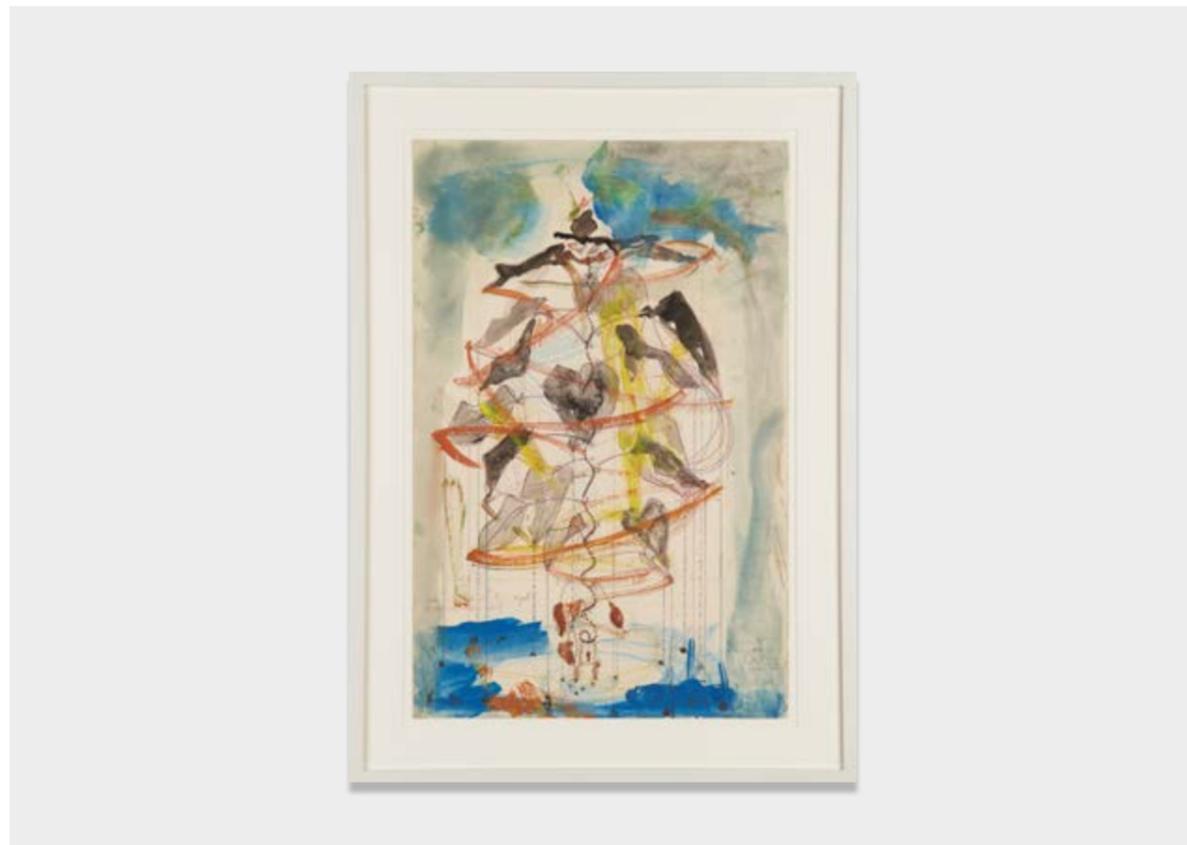


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED (SUNFLOWER), 1979



Untitled (Sunflower), 1979, gouache, crayon and pencil on paper, 50 x 32,5 cm (19 3/4 x 12 3/4 in) (unframed), 61,6 x 44,1 x 3,9 cm (24 1/4 x 17 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 736)



Detail: **Untitled (Sunflower)**, 1979, gouache, crayon and pencil on paper, 50 x 32,5 cm (19 3/4 x 12 3/4 in) (unframed), 61,6 x 44,1 x 3,9 cm (24 1/4 x 17 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 736)

UNTITLED (SUNFLOWER), 1979



Untitled (Sunflower), 1979, crayon and charcoal on paper, 50 x 32 cm (19 3/4 x 12 5/8 in) (unframed), 61,5 x 43,9 x 3,9 cm (24 1/4 x 17 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 719)



Detail: Untitled (Sunflower), 1979, crayon and charcoal on paper, 50 x 32 cm (19 3/4 x 12 5/8 in) (unframed), 61,5 x 43,9 x 3,9 cm (24 1/4 x 17 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 719)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

DAUCUS CAROTA, 1992

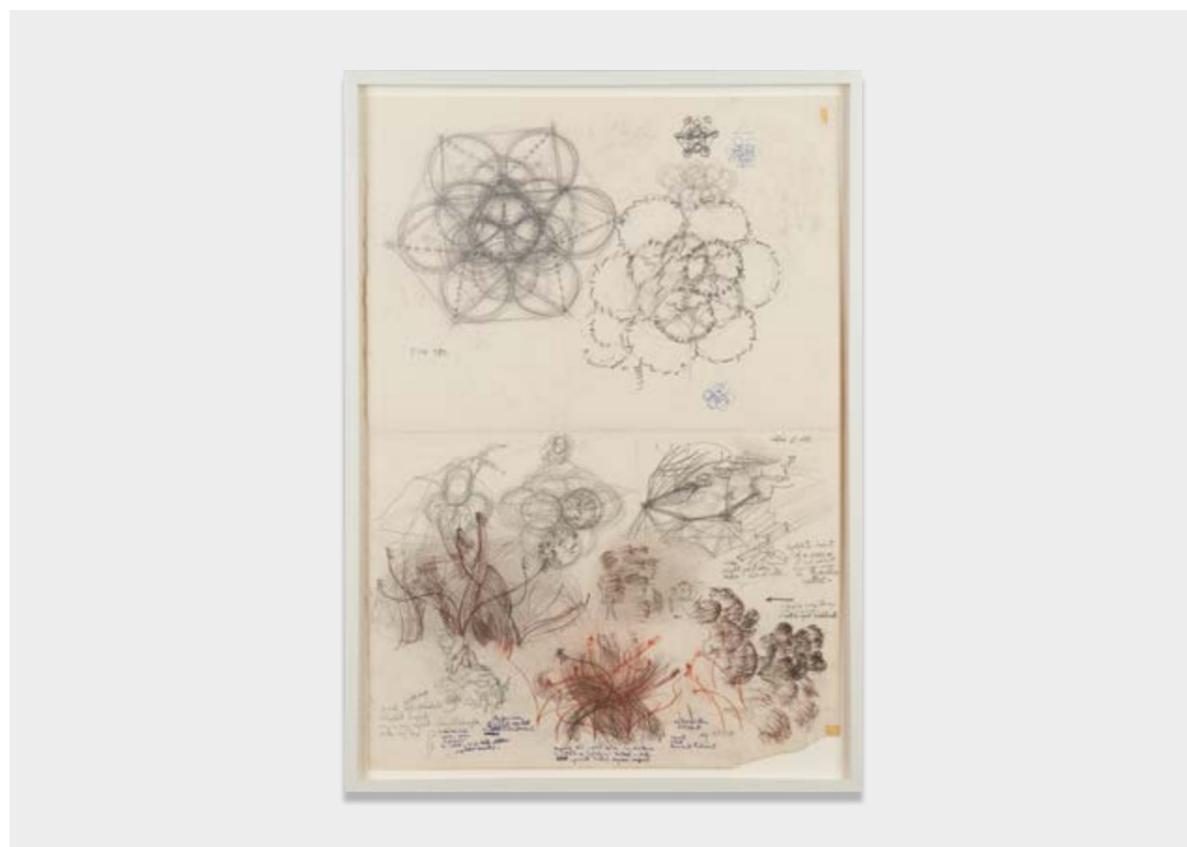
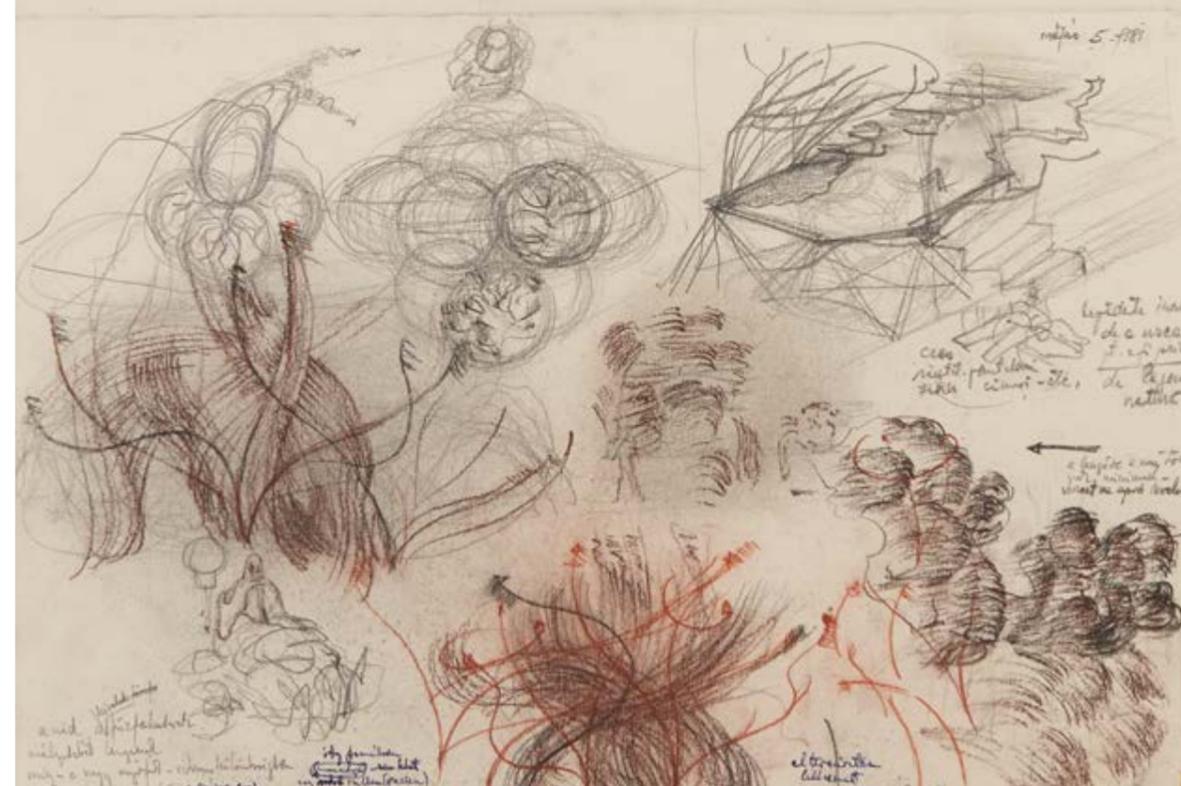
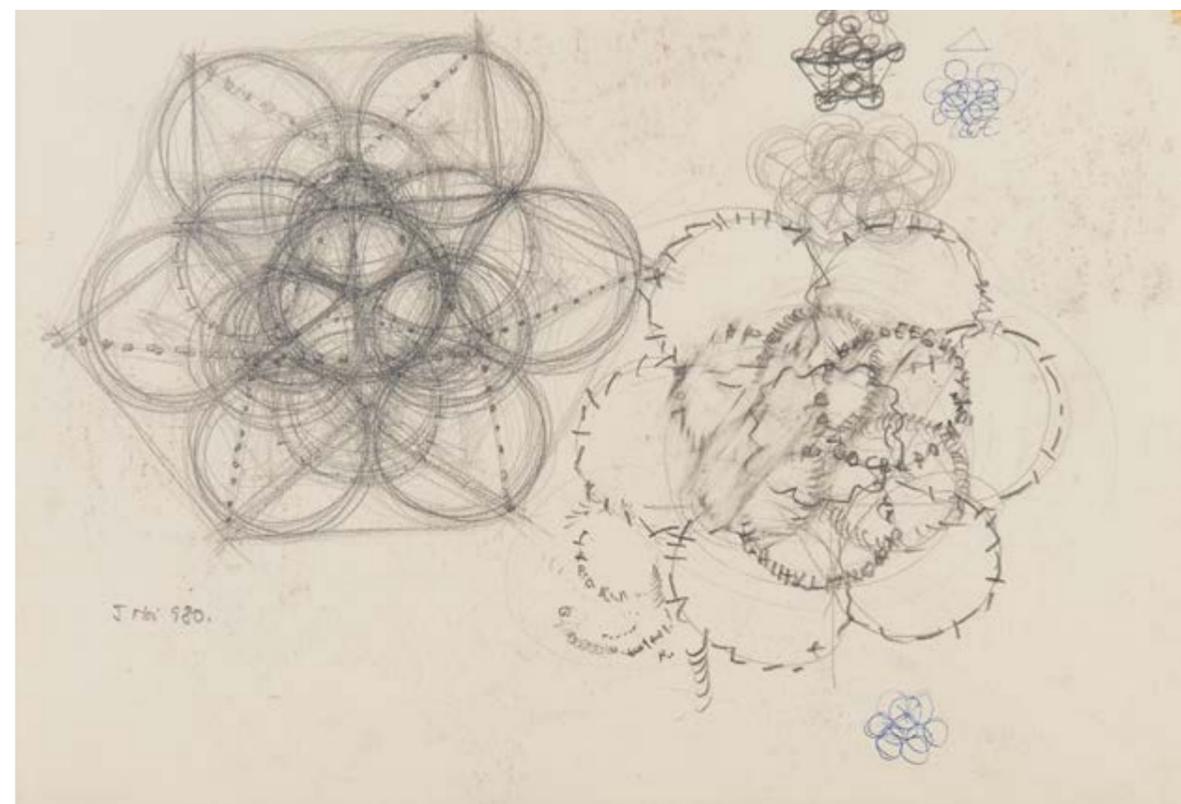


Daucus carota, 1992, watercolor and ballpoint pen on paper, 46 x 32 cm (18 1/8 x 12 5/8 in) (unframed), 57,5 x 44 x 3,9 cm (22 5/8 x 17 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 180)



Detail: **Daucus carota**, 1992, watercolor and ballpoint pen on paper, 46 x 32 cm (18 1/8 x 12 5/8 in) (unframed), 57,5 x 44 x 3,9 cm (22 5/8 x 17 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 180)

UNTITLED, 1980-1981



Untitled, 1980-1981, red chalk, pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, 65 x 46 cm (25 5/8 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed), 69,5 x 50 x 3,9 cm (27 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 226)

Detail: Untitled, 1980-1981, red chalk, pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, 65 x 46 cm (25 5/8 x 18 1/8 in) (unframed), 69,5 x 50 x 3,9 cm (27 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 226)

UNTITLED, NOT DATED



Untitled, not dated, gouache, watercolor, felt-tip pen, ballpoint pen and pencil on paper, 43 x 30,5 cm (16 7/8 x 12 in) (unframed), 54,5 x 42 x 3,9 cm (21 1/2 x 16 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 153)



Detail: Untitled, not dated, gouache, watercolor, felt-tip pen, ballpoint pen and pencil on paper, 43 x 30,5 cm (16 7/8 x 12 in) (unframed), 54,5 x 42 x 3,9 cm (21 1/2 x 16 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 153)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

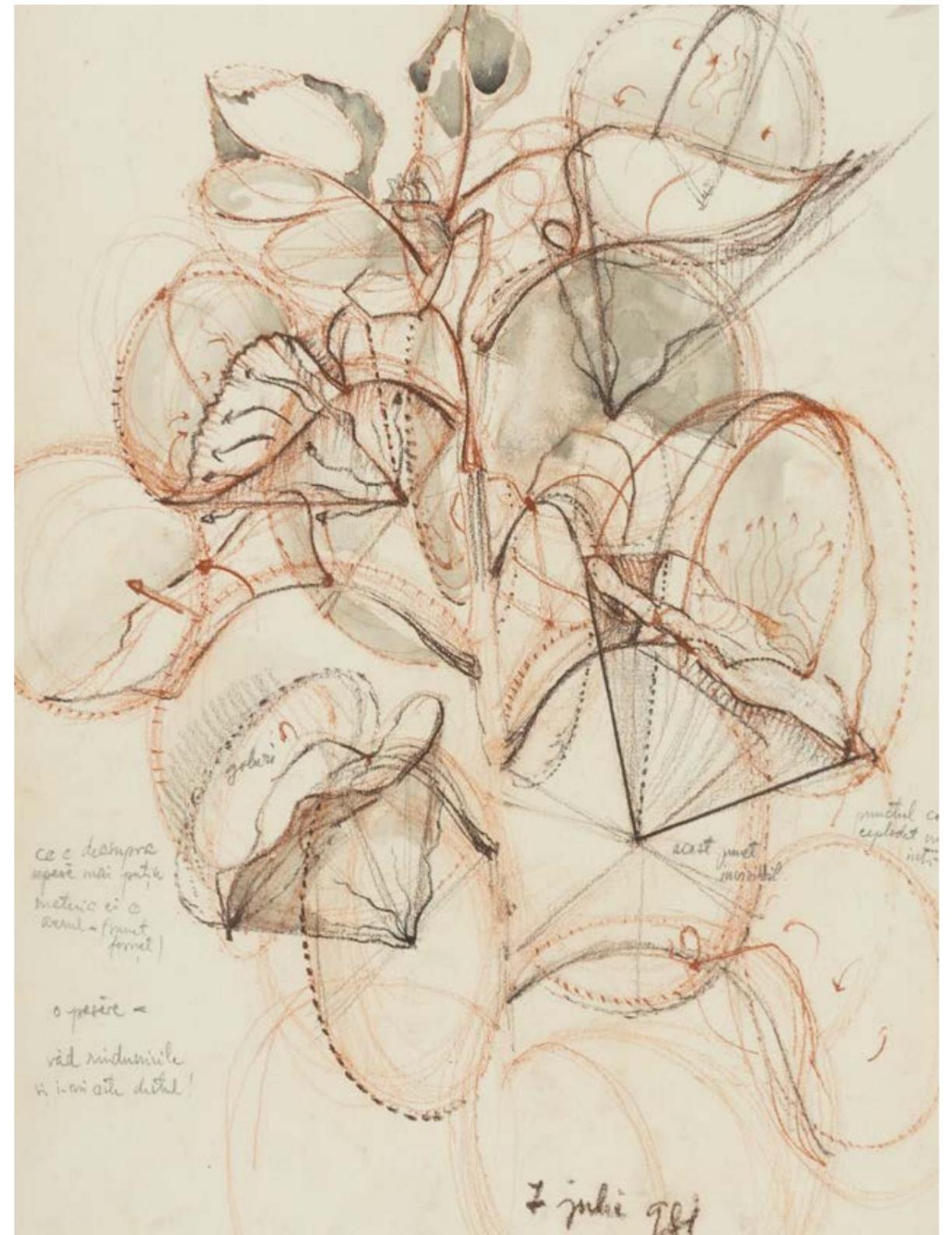


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

BLÜTEN, 1981



Blüten, 1981, red chalk, crayon and pencil on paper, 46 x 65 cm (18 1/8 x 25 5/8 in) (unframed), 67,5 x 86,5 x 4,5 cm (26 5/8 x 34 x 1 3/4 in) (framed) (STB 717)



Detail: **Blüten**, 1981, red chalk, crayon and pencil on paper, 46 x 65 cm (18 1/8 x 25 5/8 in) (unframed), 67,5 x 86,5 x 4,5 cm (26 5/8 x 34 x 1 3/4 in) (framed) (STB 717)

SUNFLOWER, 1979



Sunflower, 1979, felt-tip pen, crayon and pencil on paper, 50 x 70 cm (19 3/4 x 27 1/2 in) (unframed), 71,6 x 91,4 x 4,2 cm (28 x 35 7/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 083)



Detail: **Sunflower**, 1979, felt-tip pen, crayon and pencil on paper, 50 x 70 cm (19 3/4 x 27 1/2 in) (unframed), 71,6 x 91,4 x 4,2 cm (28 x 35 7/8 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 083)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED (PIGEON), 1996



Untitled (Pigeon), 1996, gouache and pencil on paper, 34 x 49,5 cm (13 3/8 x 19 1/2 in) (unframed), 39 x 54 x 3,9 cm (15 3/8 x 21 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2057)



Detail: **Untitled (Pigeon)**, 1996, gouache and pencil on paper, 34 x 49,5 cm (13 3/8 x 19 1/2 in) (unframed), 39 x 54 x 3,9 cm (15 3/8 x 21 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2057)

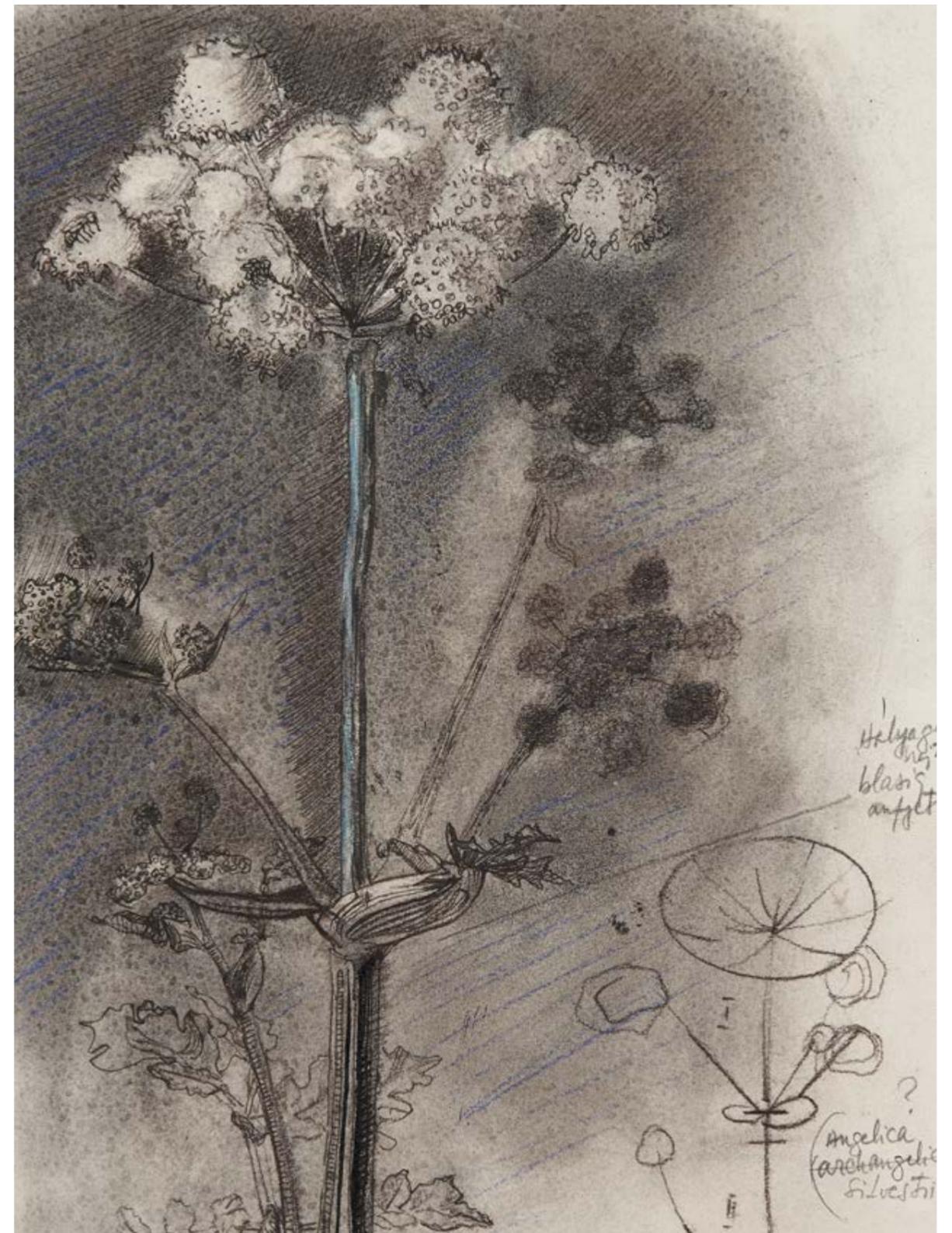


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

ANGELICA SILVESTRIS, 1986



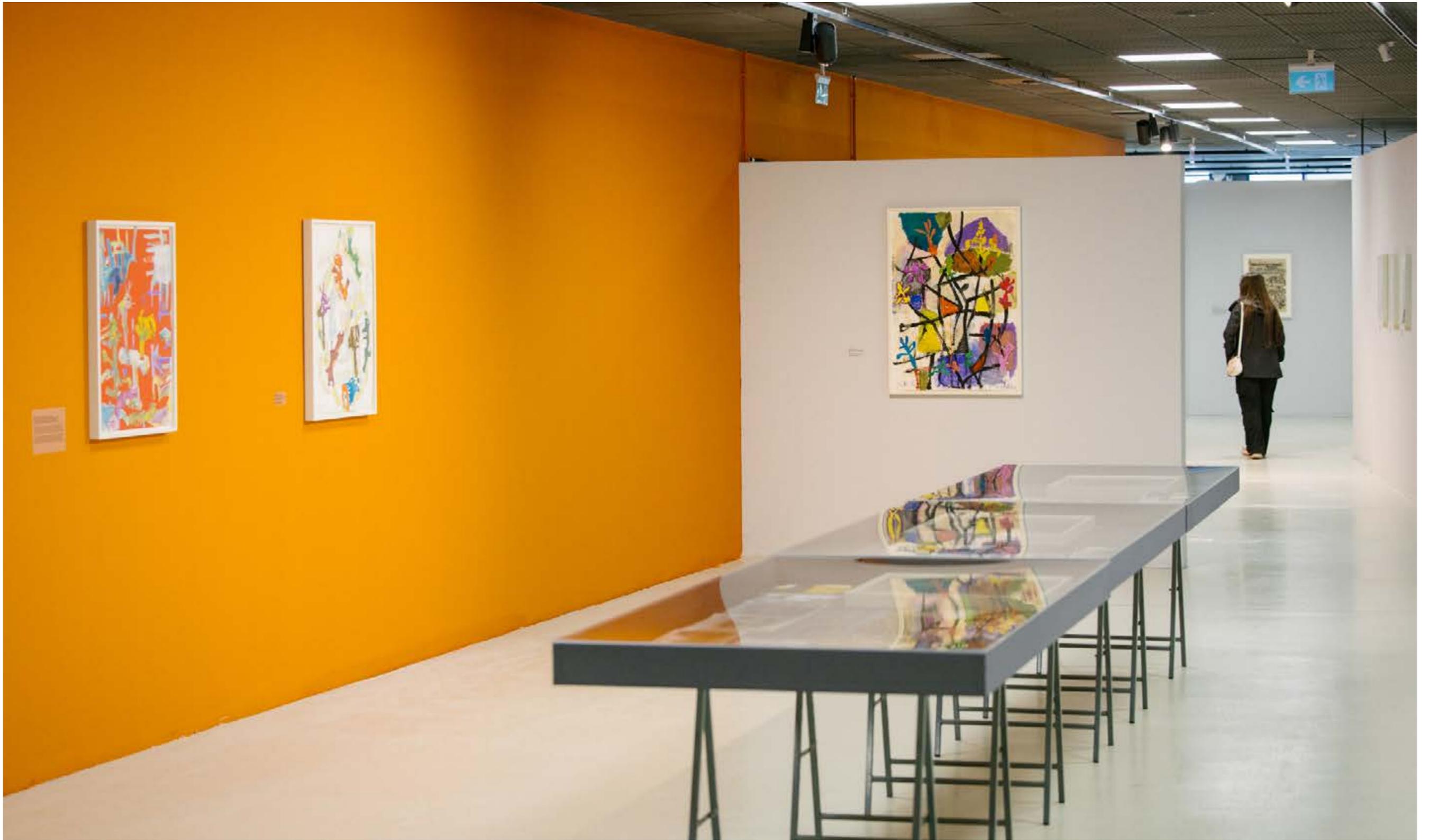
Angelica silvestris, 1986, charcoal, fineliner pen, crayon, pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, 42 x 29,5 cm (16 1/2 x 11 5/8 in) (unframed), 53,4 x 40,9 x 3,9 cm (21 x 16 1/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2617)



Detail: **Angelica silvestris**, 1986, charcoal, fineliner pen, crayon, pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, 42 x 29,5 cm (16 1/2 x 11 5/8 in) (unframed), 53,4 x 40,9 x 3,9 cm (21 x 16 1/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2617)

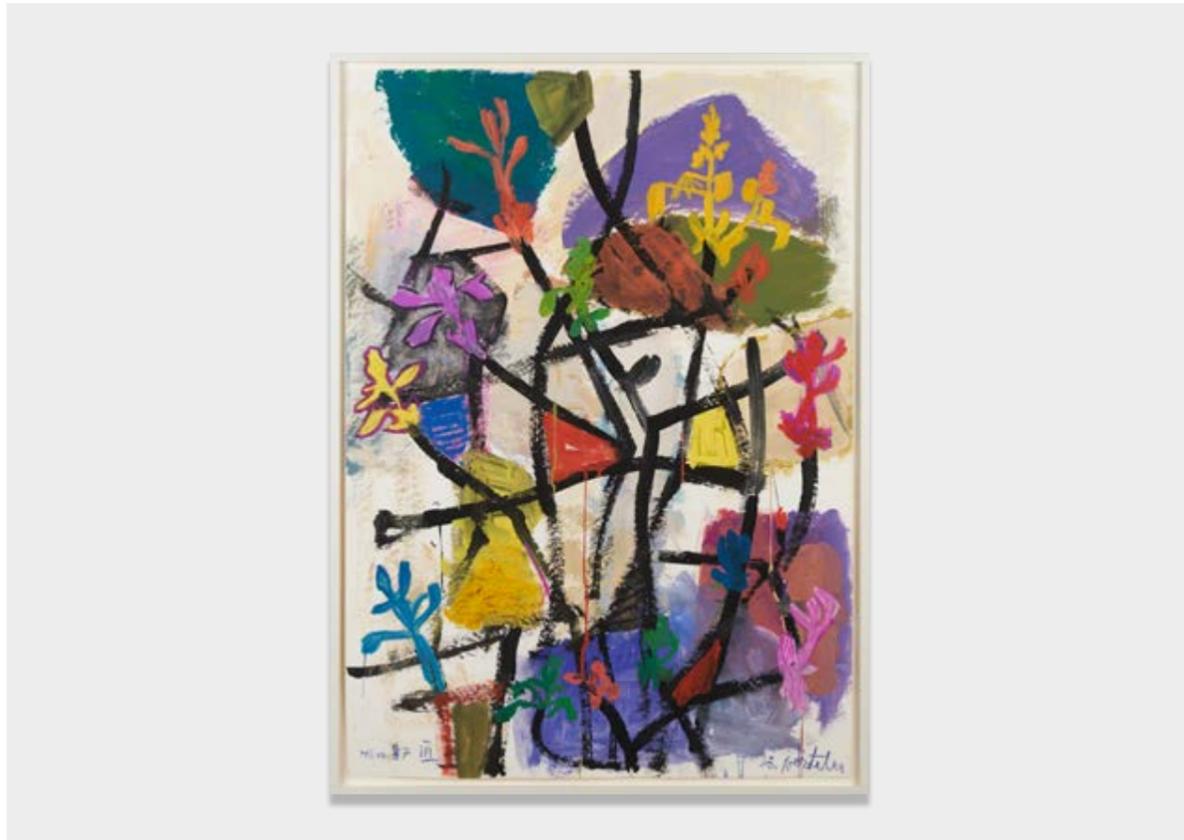


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

SCHWARZES GEÄST, FARBIG KNOSPEND UND BLÜHEND, 1987



Schwarzes Geäst, farbig knospend und blühend, 1987, gouache and ballpoint pen on paper, 102 x 73 cm (40 1/8 x 28 3/4 in) (unframed), 106,5 x 77,5 x 3,9 cm (41 7/8 x 30 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 675)



Detail: Schwarzes Geäst, farbig knospend und blühend, 1987, gouache and ballpoint pen on paper, 102 x 73 cm (40 1/8 x 28 3/4 in) (unframed), 106,5 x 77,5 x 3,9 cm (41 7/8 x 30 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 675)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED (PLANTS), 1995

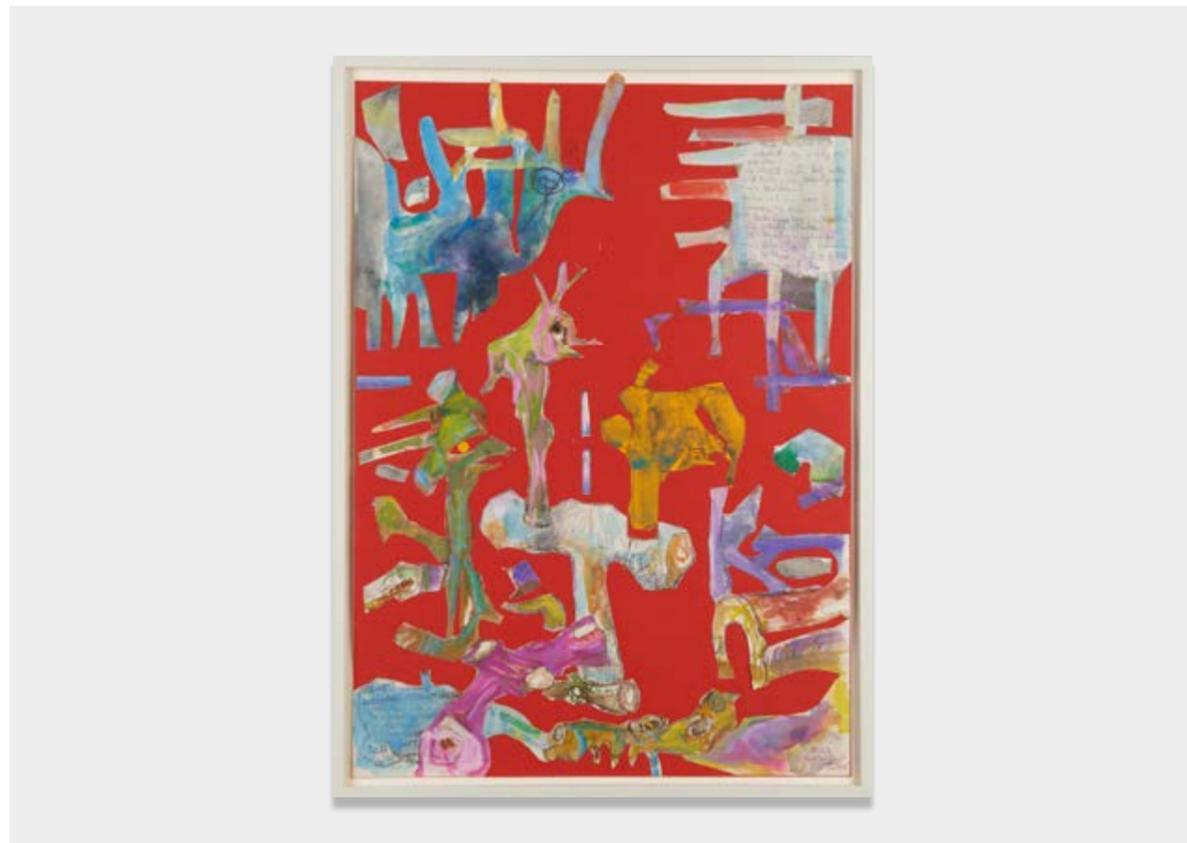


Untitled (Plants), 1995, collage of cardboard cutouts, gouache and pastel crayon on cardboard, 74,5 x 52 cm (29 3/8 x 20 1/2 in) (unframed), 79 x 56,5 x 3,9 cm (31 1/8 x 22 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1964)



Detail: **Untitled (Plants)**, 1995, collage of cardboard cutouts, gouache and pastel crayon on cardboard, 74,5 x 52 cm (29 3/8 x 20 1/2 in) (unframed), 79 x 56,5 x 3,9 cm (31 1/8 x 22 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1964)

MEINE HOCHZEIT MIT D. DEUTSCHEN/MY WEDDING WITH THE GERMANS, 1995



Meine Hochzeit mit d. Deutschen/My Wedding with the Germans, 1995, collage of paper cutouts, gouache, crayon and pencil on colored paper, 70 x 50 cm (27 1/2 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 74,5 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (29 3/8 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1967)



Detail: **Meine Hochzeit mit d. Deutschen/My Wedding with the Germans**, 1995, collage of paper cutouts, gouache, crayon and pencil on colored paper, 70 x 50 cm (27 1/2 x 19 3/4 in) (unframed), 74,5 x 54,5 x 3,9 cm (29 3/8 x 21 1/2 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1967)

KOSMISCHER TANZ/COSMIC DANCE, 1995



Kosmischer Tanz/Cosmic Dance, 1995, cutouts, gouache and pencil on paper mounted on paper, 75 x 54,5 cm (29 1/2 x 21 1/2 in) (unframed), 79,5 x 59 x 3,9 cm (31 1/4 x 23 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1968)



Detail: **Kosmischer Tanz/Cosmic Dance**, 1995, cutouts, gouache and pencil on paper mounted on paper, 75 x 54,5 cm (29 1/2 x 21 1/2 in) (unframed), 79,5 x 59 x 3,9 cm (31 1/4 x 23 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1968)



SELF-PORTRAITS / APPARITIONS

Stefan Bertalan's 1981 move from Timisoara where he had originally developed his art, engaged with other artists and taught at University to the much smaller town of Sibiu initiated what Erwin Kessler has called an "inner emigration" that began long before the actual departure from Romania to Germany in 1986. The loss of his artistic context and the isolation of the new environment intensified the artist's retreat to observation of the natural world and even to an identification with nature. Initiated by a series of intense dreams, to which the artist referred as apparitions, Bertalan began a series of emotionally charged drawings charged that insert the artist's body into those of plants, creating hybrid formations.





Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, *In Tune With The World*, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED (SELF PORTRAIT), 1996



Untitled (Self Portrait), 1996, pencil on paper, 55 x 37,5 cm (21 5/8 x 14 3/4 in) (unframed), 66,5 x 48,9 x 3,9 cm (26 1/8 x 19 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 802)

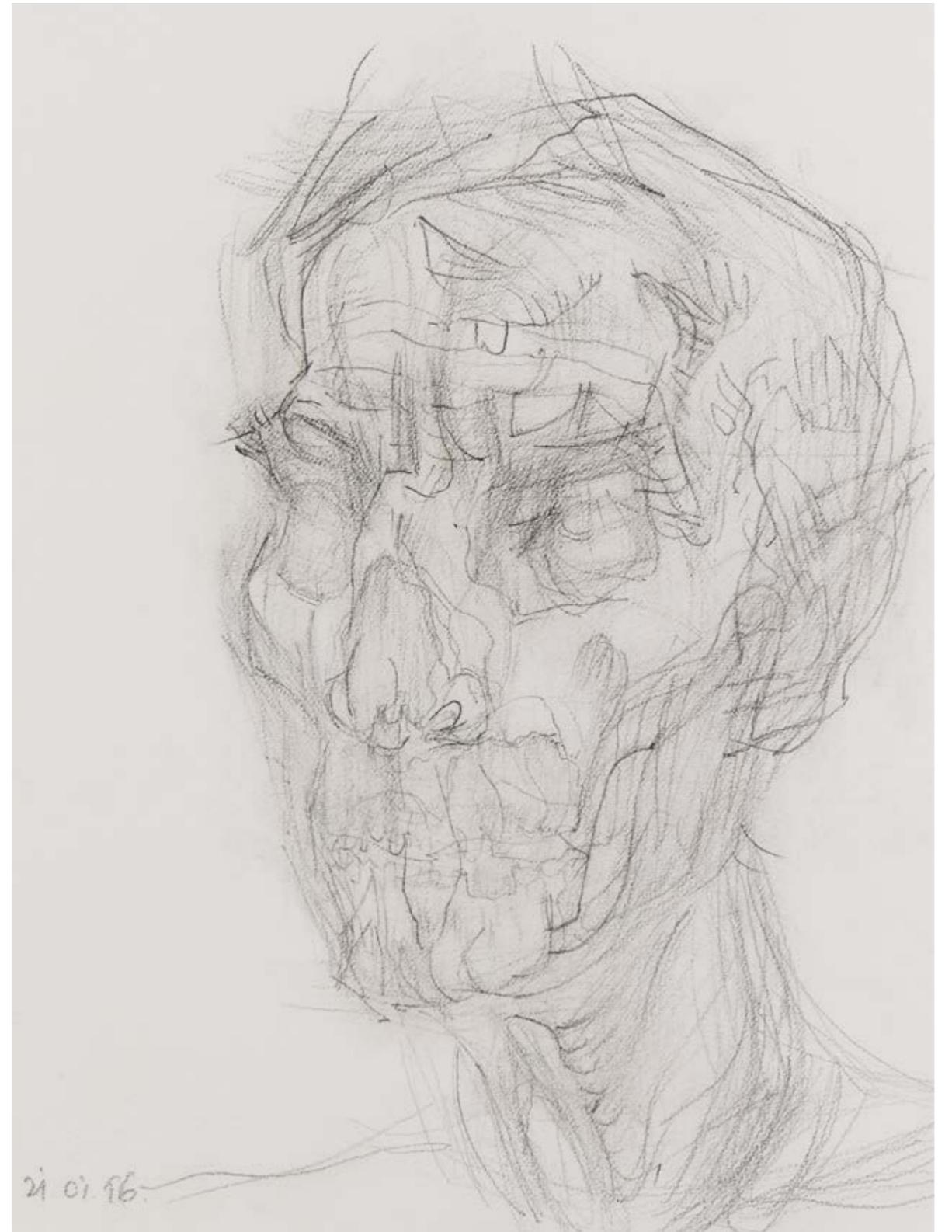


Detail: Untitled (Self Portrait), 1996, pencil on paper, 55 x 37,5 cm (21 5/8 x 14 3/4 in) (unframed), 66,5 x 48,9 x 3,9 cm (26 1/8 x 19 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 802)

UNTITLED (SELF PORTRAIT), 1996



Untitled (Self Portrait), 1996, pencil on paper, 46 x 36 cm (18 1/8 x 14 1/8 in) (unframed), 57,5 x 47,5 x 3,9 cm (22 5/8 x 18 3/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 803)



Detail: Untitled (Self Portrait), 1996, pencil on paper, 46 x 36 cm (18 1/8 x 14 1/8 in) (unframed), 57,5 x 47,5 x 3,9 cm (22 5/8 x 18 3/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 803)

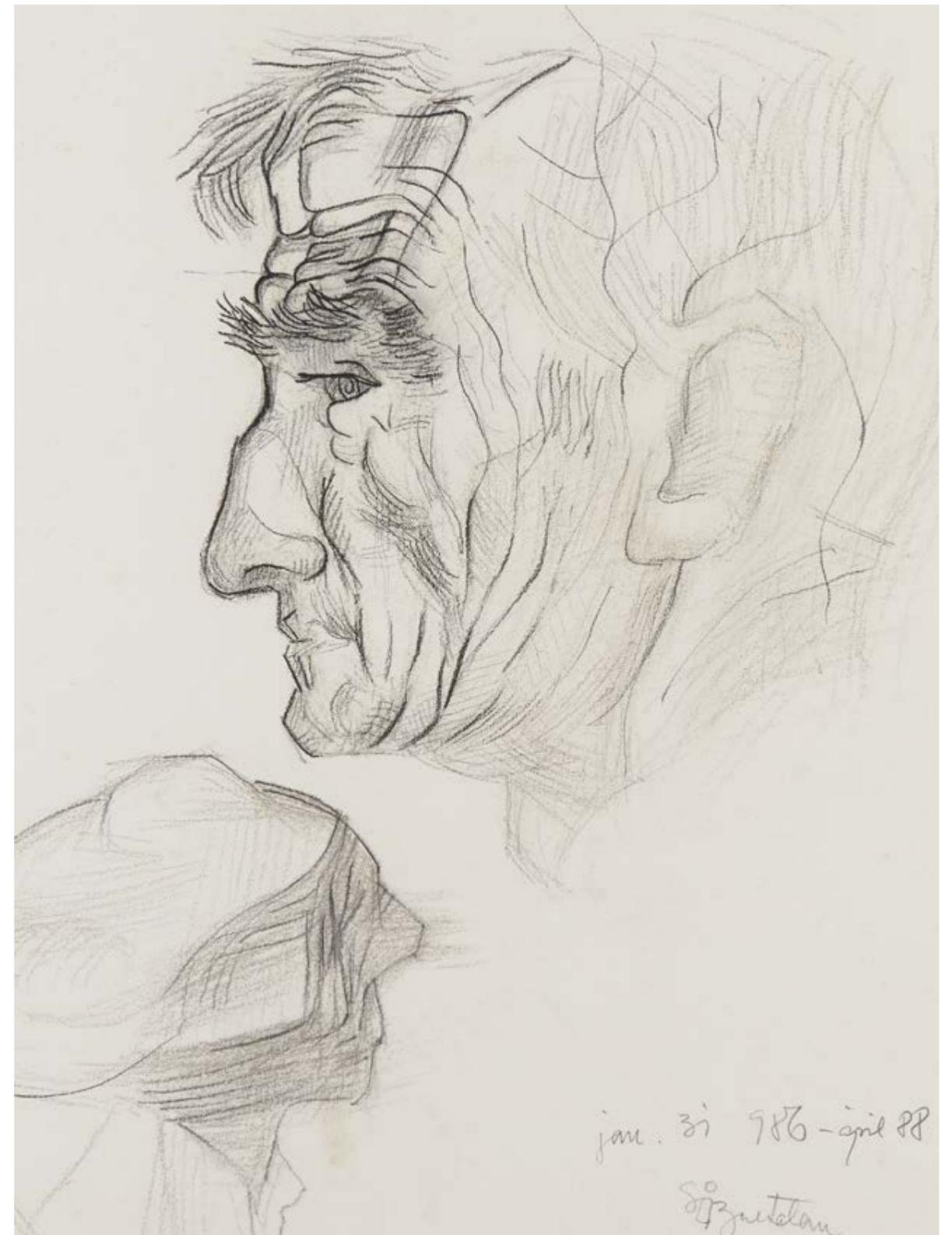


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED, 1986-1988



Untitled, 1986-1988, chalk on paper on cardboard, 65 x 49,8 cm (25 5/8 x 19 5/8 in) (unframed), 66,5 x 51,5 x 3,9 cm (26 1/8 x 20 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1693)



Detail: **Untitled**, 1986-1988, chalk on paper on cardboard, 65 x 49,8 cm (25 5/8 x 19 5/8 in) (unframed), 66,5 x 51,5 x 3,9 cm (26 1/8 x 20 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1693)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

IN DER FRÜH, 1981-1987

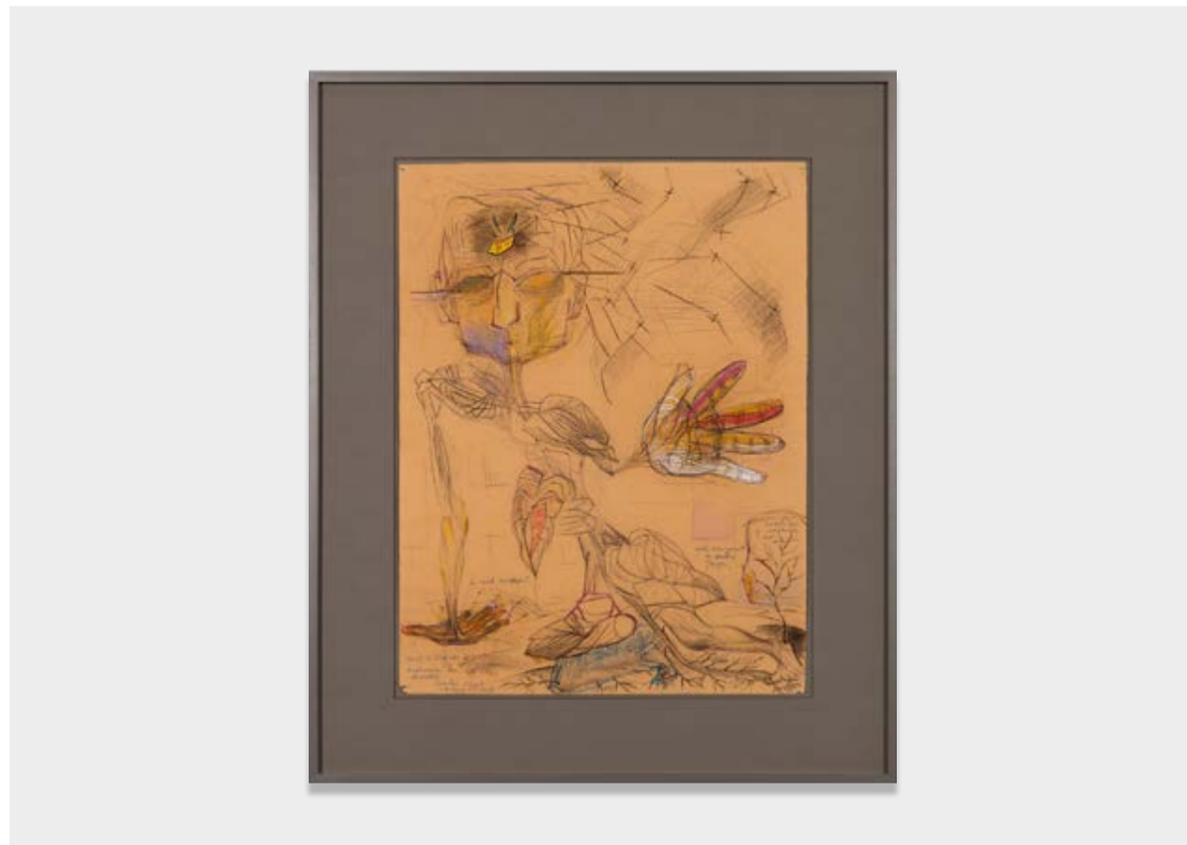


In der Früh, 1981-1987, charcoal, red chalk, watercolor and Indian ink on paper, 34 x 52 cm (13 3/8 x 20 1/2 in) (unframed), 38,5 x 56,4 x 3,9 cm (15 1/8 x 22 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 734)

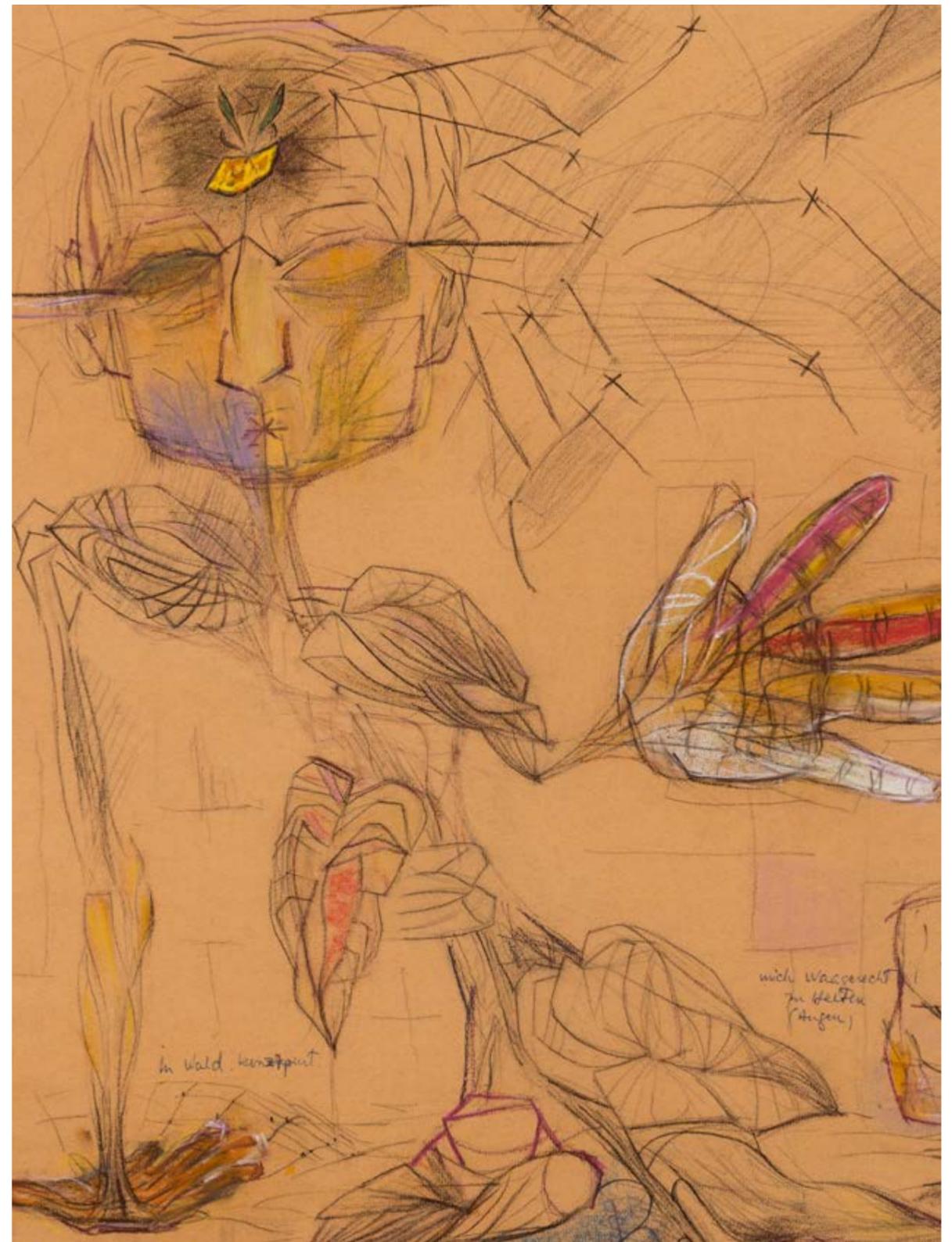


Detail: **In der Früh**, 1981-1987, charcoal, red chalk, watercolor and Indian ink on paper, 34 x 52 cm (13 3/8 x 20 1/2 in) (unframed), 38,5 x 56,4 x 3,9 cm (15 1/8 x 22 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 734)

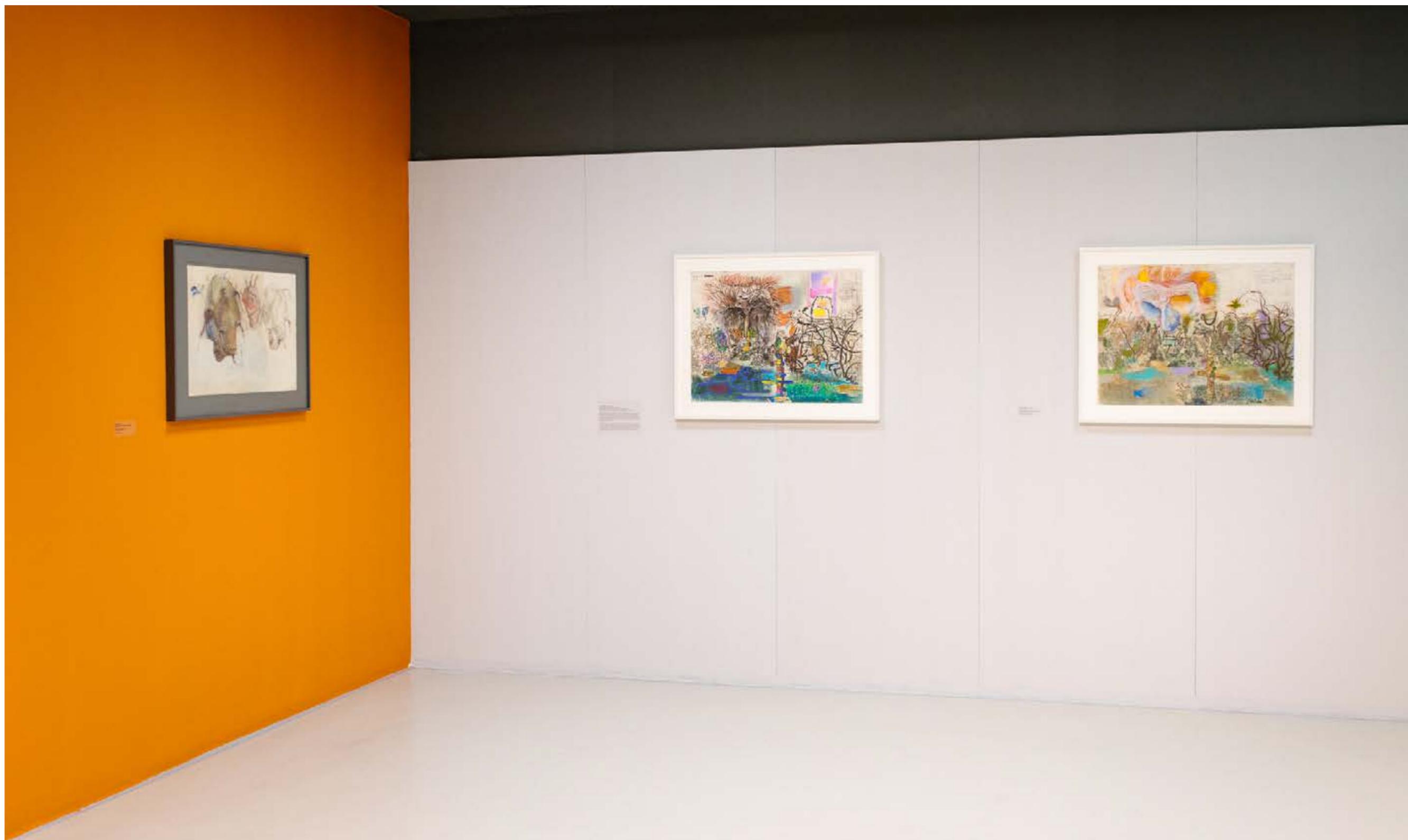
ALS ICH EIN KIND WAR, 1986-1987



Als ich ein Kind war, 1986-1987, gouache, oil crayon, pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, 62,8 x 48 cm (24 3/4 x 18 7/8 in) (unframed), 84,3 x 70 x 4,2 cm (33 1/4 x 27 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 084)



Detail: **Als ich ein Kind war**, 1986-1987, gouache, oil crayon, pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, 62,8 x 48 cm (24 3/4 x 18 7/8 in) (unframed), 84,3 x 70 x 4,2 cm (33 1/4 x 27 1/2 x 1 5/8 in) (framed) (STB 084)

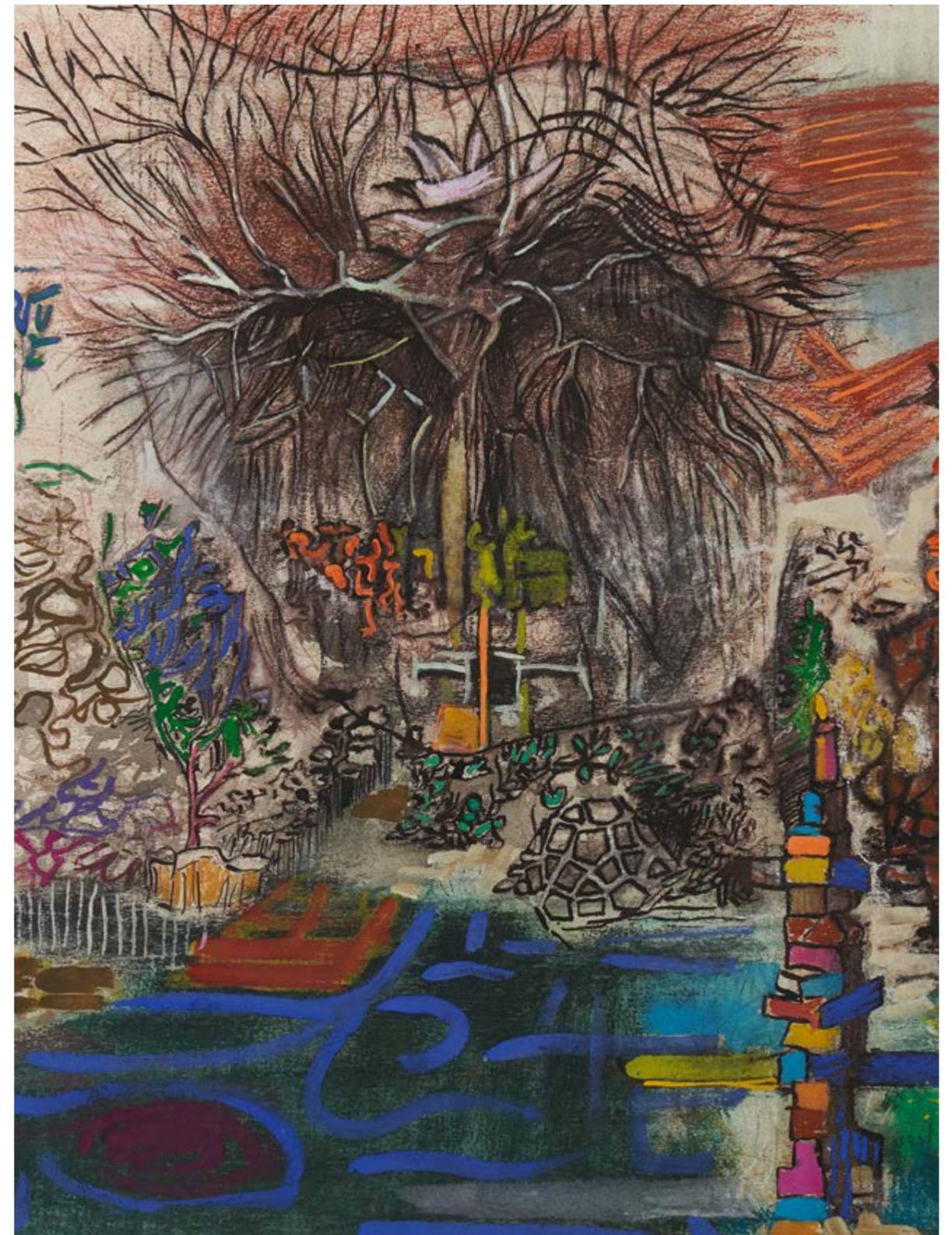


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

MEIN GEIST, 1981



Mein Geist, 1981, chalk, watercolor and gouache on paper with cardboard frame, 55,5 x 75,5 cm (21 7/8 x 29 3/4 in) (unframed), 70,5 x 89,6 x 3,9 cm (27 3/4 x 35 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1435)



Detail: **Mein Geist**, 1981, chalk, watercolor and gouache on paper with cardboard frame, 55,5 x 75,5 cm (21 7/8 x 29 3/4 in) (unframed), 70,5 x 89,6 x 3,9 cm (27 3/4 x 35 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1435)

UNTITLED, 1981-1985



Untitled, 1981-1985, chalk, colored crayon and opaque white on paper with cardboard frame, 55,5 x 75,5 cm (21 7/8 x 29 3/4 in) (unframed), 70,5 x 89,6 x 3,9 cm (27 3/4 x 35 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1436)



Detail: **Untitled**, 1981-1985, chalk, colored crayon and opaque white on paper with cardboard frame, 55,5 x 75,5 cm (21 7/8 x 29 3/4 in) (unframed), 70,5 x 89,6 x 3,9 cm (27 3/4 x 35 1/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 1436)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

LAST YEARS

Bertalan produced these drawings several years after suffering a stroke. Because of his subsequent cognitive impairment, his drawing made with colored pencil and ball point and fineliner pens focuses mainly on the right side of the sheet.

A new investigation unfolded in the artist's final years: the only remaining task was to explore even his own proper end. This ultimate research leaks out in numberless, traumatic notebook drawings produced after the stroke Bertalan suffered in 2000. Often mainly the right side of these sheets of paper is covered, corresponding to the still functional portion of his brain. Bertalan's unrelenting research work, his artistic perseverance until his very end as a human, through the ordeal of the dreadful condition of his body and mind, remains a striking witness of the expressive power of cognitive-artistic dedication, comprising the difficult task to conceive that one's own end could turn into the end of one's research.



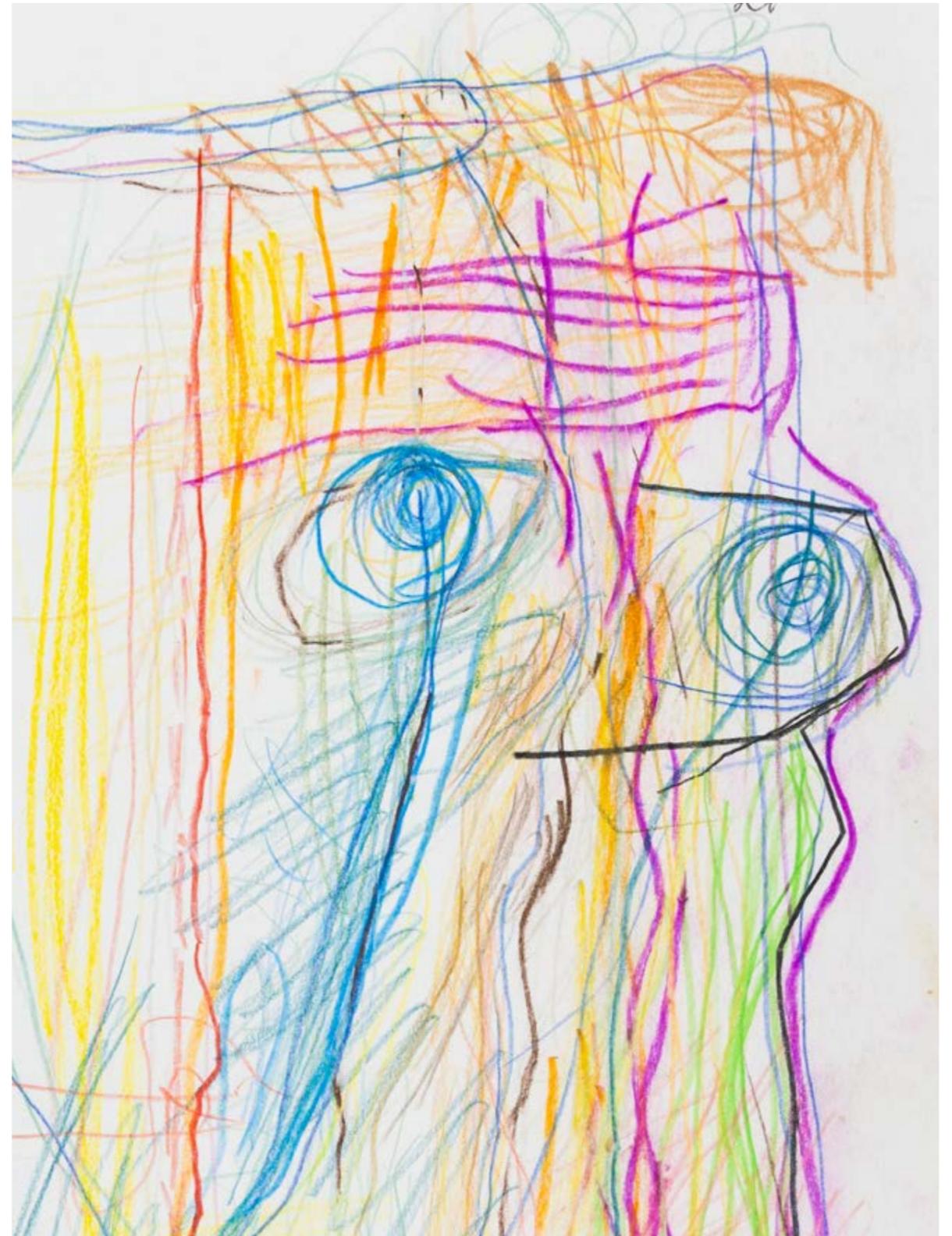


Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, **In Tune With The World**, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)

UNTITLED, 2008



Untitled, 2008, pastel, crayon and ballpoint pen on paper, 40 x 30 cm (15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in) (unframed), 51,5 x 41,5 x 3,9 cm (20 1/4 x 16 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2954)

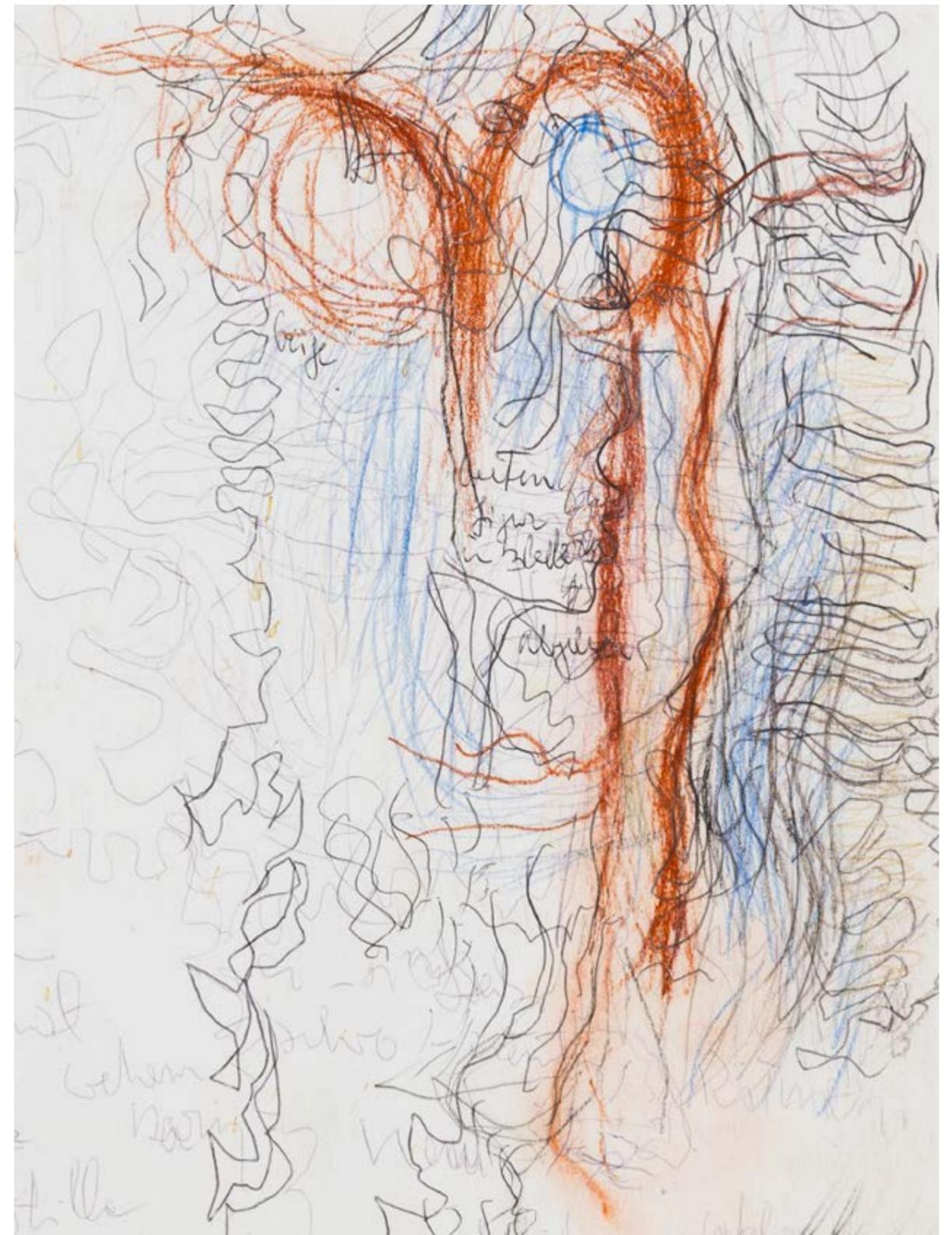


Detail: **Untitled**, 2008, pastel, crayon and ballpoint pen on paper, 40 x 30 cm (15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in) (unframed), 51,5 x 41,5 x 3,9 cm (20 1/4 x 16 3/8 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2954)

UNTITLED, 2007



Untitled. 2007, pastel, crayon and ballpoint pen on paper, 48 x 36 cm (18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in) (unframed), 59,6 x 47,5 x 3,9 cm (23 1/2 x 18 3/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2969)

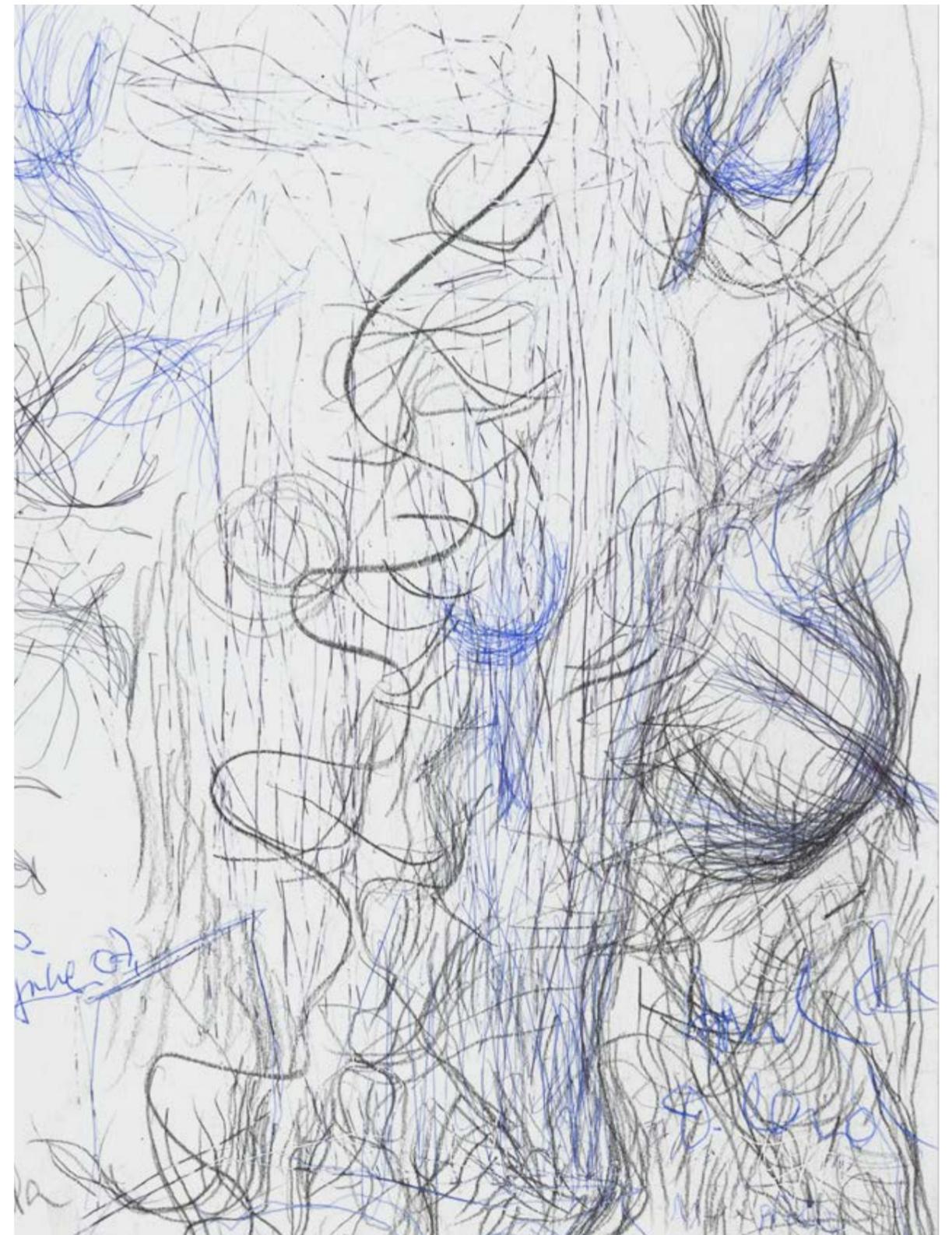


Detail: **Untitled.** 2007, pastel, crayon and ballpoint pen on paper, 48 x 36 cm (18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in) (unframed), 59,6 x 47,5 x 3,9 cm (23 1/2 x 18 3/4 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2969)

UNTITLED, 2007



Untitled. 2007, ballpoint pen, pencil and crayon on paper, 48 x 36 cm (18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in) (unframed), 52,5 x 40,5 x 3,9 cm (20 5/8 x 16 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2984)



Detail: **Untitled.** 2007, ballpoint pen, pencil and crayon on paper, 48 x 36 cm (18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in) (unframed), 52,5 x 40,5 x 3,9 cm (20 5/8 x 16 x 1 1/2 in) (framed) (STB 2984)



Exhibition view: Stefan Bertalan, *In Tune With The World*, Timisoara Art Foundation, Timisoara (2025)



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ESTHER SCHIPPER GMBH
POTSDAMER STRASSE 81E
D-10785 BERLIN
TEL: +49 (0)30 374433133
WWW.ESTHERSCHIPPER.COM
OFFICE@ESTHERSCHIPPER.COM