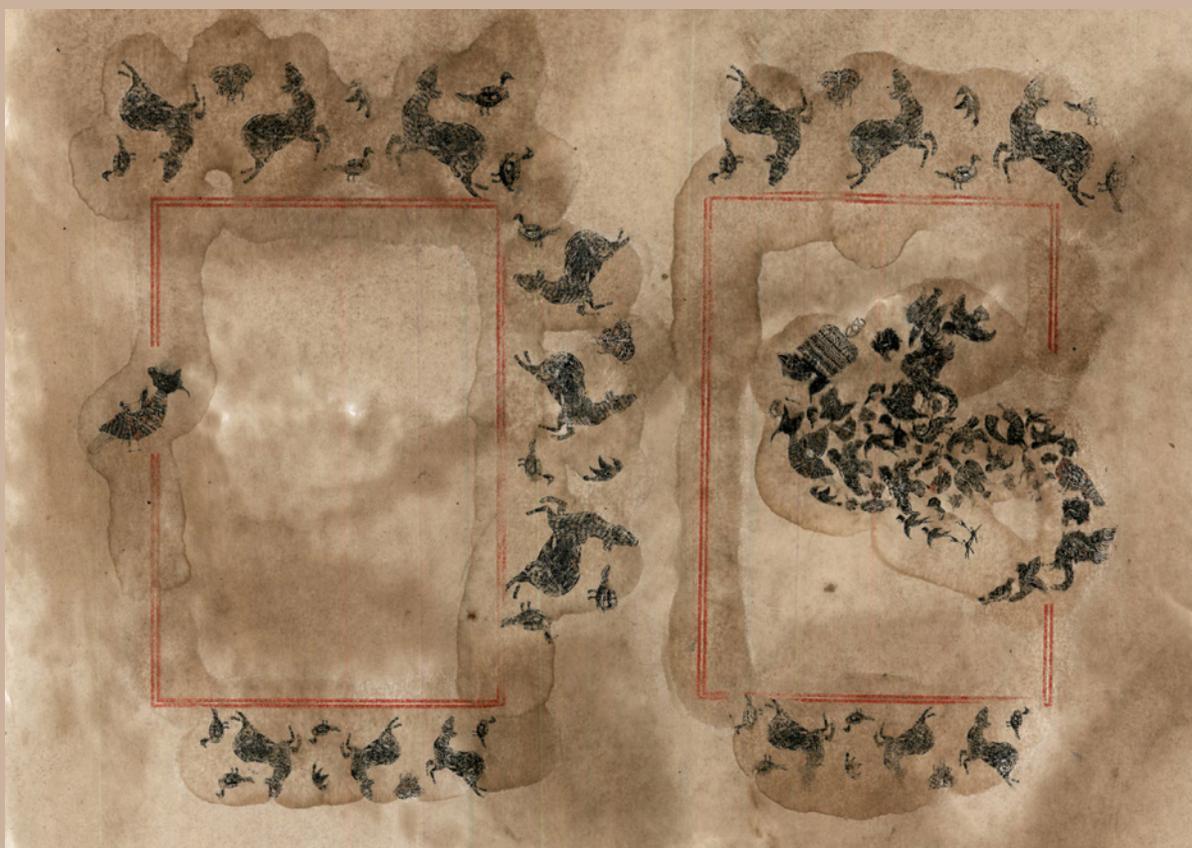


The Valley of Contentment

A Special Collection of Works from Mohammad Barrangi's series

The Conference of the Birds



Mohammad Barrangi

An exclusive collection of works by Mohammad Barrangi
curated by ADVOCARTSY

Artist Biography

Mohammad Barrangi Fashtani is an illustrator and printmaker. Originally from Iran, he currently lives and works in London.

Barrangi's artworks combine elements of Persian calligraphy, storytelling and touches of humour. Using a unique creative process with handmade traditional calligraphy pens and a blend of mark making styles, Barrangi creates small pieces that are often expanded into large-scale murals. This transformation is achieved through an exploration of laser photocopying, collagraph, and collage. Fusing these elements in one process, the artist creates works that encompass a range of disparate visual motifs, each holding separate connotations of specific eras or cultures, but creating a unique cross-cultural style in combination. This otherworldly body of work is often inspired by ancient Persian scholars as well as the Persian Epic 'The Conference of the Birds' by Attar of Nishapur.

Barrangi regularly exhibits in the UK and internationally, and his work has been featured in multiple publications, festivals, and prizes. These include Muestra del IV Premi International, Tragaluz; Pressing Matters; Shape Open 2018: Collective Influence; Illustrate 2018, Portugal; Art TSUM, Kiev; Ratata Festival, Macerata; The 6th International Tokyo Mini-Print Triennial; Bologna Illustrators Exhibition 2018; Story Museum, Oxford; and Hafez Gallery in Saudi Arabia 2019. As of June 2019, two of Barrangi's works have been acquired by the British Museum for their permanent collection.

Artist Statement

The legend of The Conference of the Birds takes the form of an allegorical epic poem where a flock of birds are led by the wisest amongst them to journey through the seven valleys to seek Simorgh, the legendary figure they hope will serve as their sovereign. In the story, each bird represents a human fault which prevents man from reaching enlightenment. The journey is a treacherous one, claiming the lives of many along the way. Despite this, thirty birds make it to the abode of Simorgh, only to realize that they themselves are collectively the Simorgh. In Persian, Simorgh means "thirty" (si) "birds" (morgh). Through this adventure, they eventually come to understand that the majesty of enlightenment is like that of the sun, it can only be observed when reflected in the mirror, meaning that anyone who seeks it will also behold his or her own image.

The story of The Conference of the Birds is a universal one, it is a tale that any individual can find themselves in, but one that especially resonates with artist Mohammad Barrangi. Having left his homeland of Iran nearly 3 years ago, Barrangi feels a deep connection to the concept of migration, "something that birds and sometimes humans must do in order to survive." Through his work, Barrangi reimagines traditional Persian folklore, imbuing each work with a modern energy that expands beyond mythology, echoing across various cultures and generations.

About this Collection

This collection of seven works from Mohammad Barrangi's Conference of the Birds series, a body of work inspired by the famous epic poem of the same name, was curated lovingly by the ADVOCARTSY team and the artist himself. Each of these exclusive collections is named for one of the seven valleys the birds must journey through in their pursuit of enlightenment.

The Valley of Quest, where the Wayfarer begins by casting aside all dogma, belief, and disbelief.

The Valley of Love, where reason is abandoned for the sake of love.

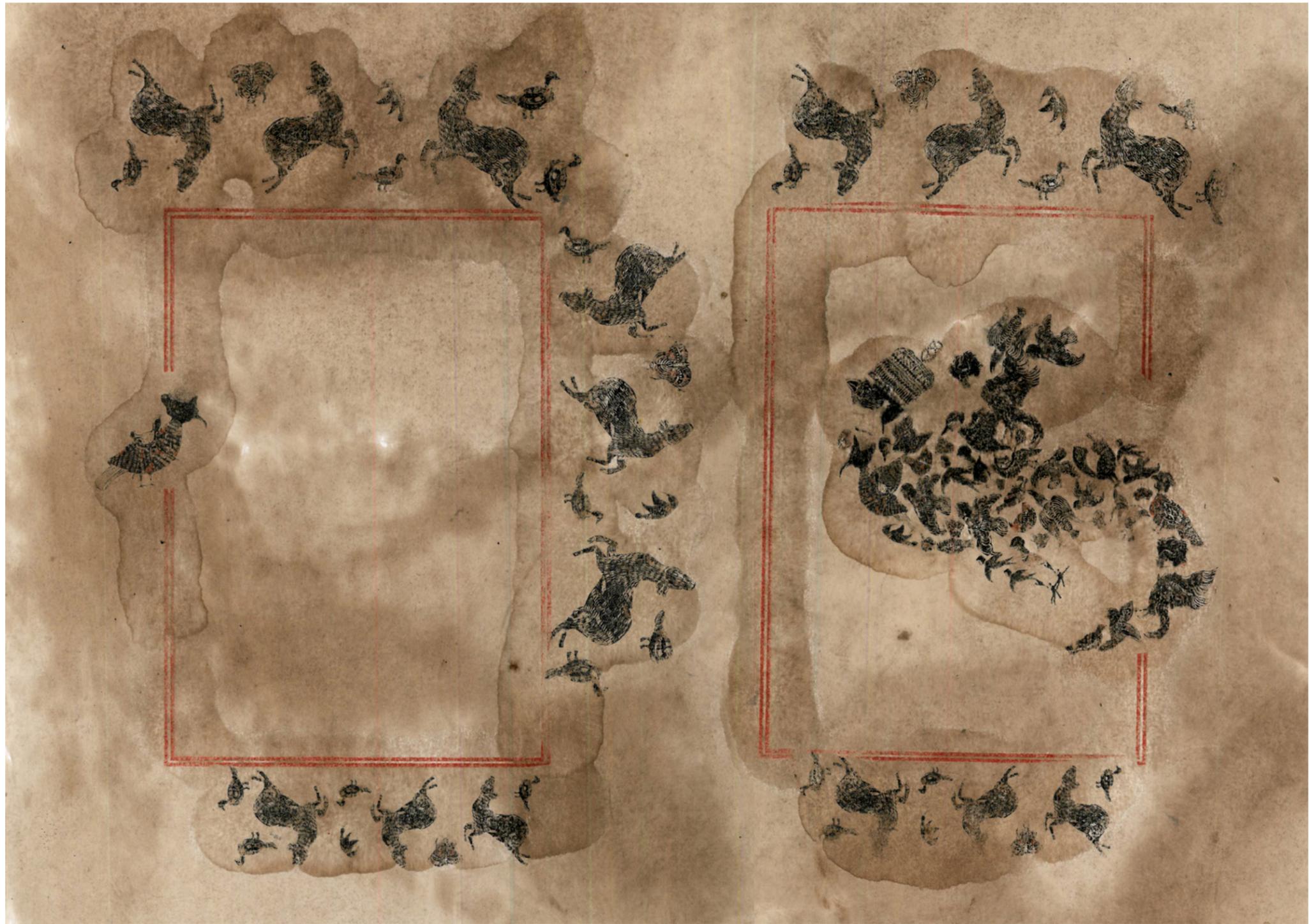
The Valley of Knowledge, where worldly knowledge becomes utterly useless.

The Valley of Unity, where the Wayfarer realizes that everything is connected and that the Beloved is beyond everything, including harmony, multiplicity, and eternity.

The Valley of Contentment, where all desires and attachments to the world are given up. Here, what is assumed to be "reality" vanishes.

The Valley of Wonderment, where, entranced by the beauty of the Beloved, the Wayfarer becomes perplexed and, steeped in awe, finds that he or she has never known or understood anything.

The Valley of Nothingness, where the self disappears into the universe and the Wayfarer becomes timeless, existing in both the past and the future.



Contentment no. 1, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 12x17.5"



Contentment no. 2, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 10x12”



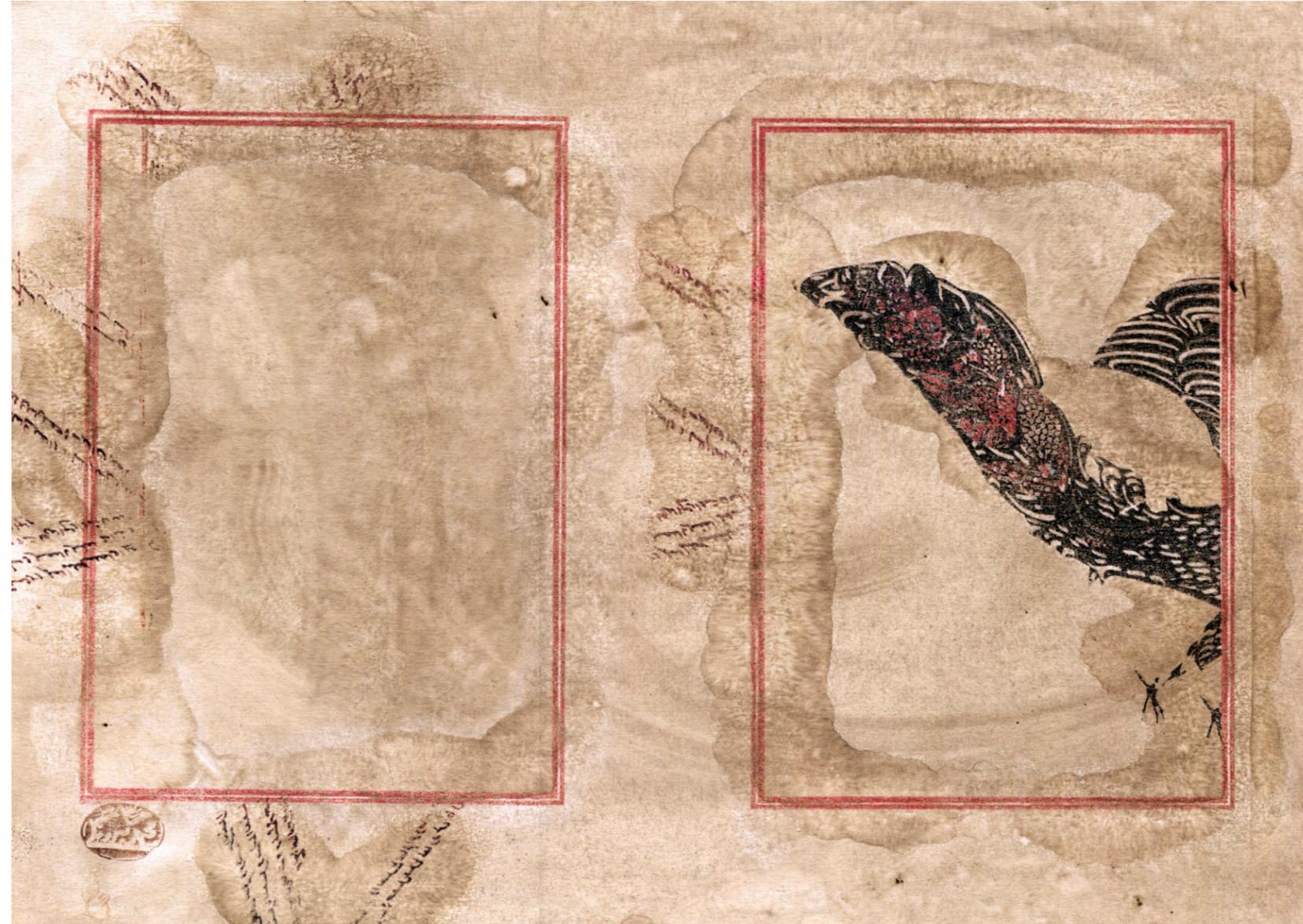
Contentment no. 3, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 12x16.5"



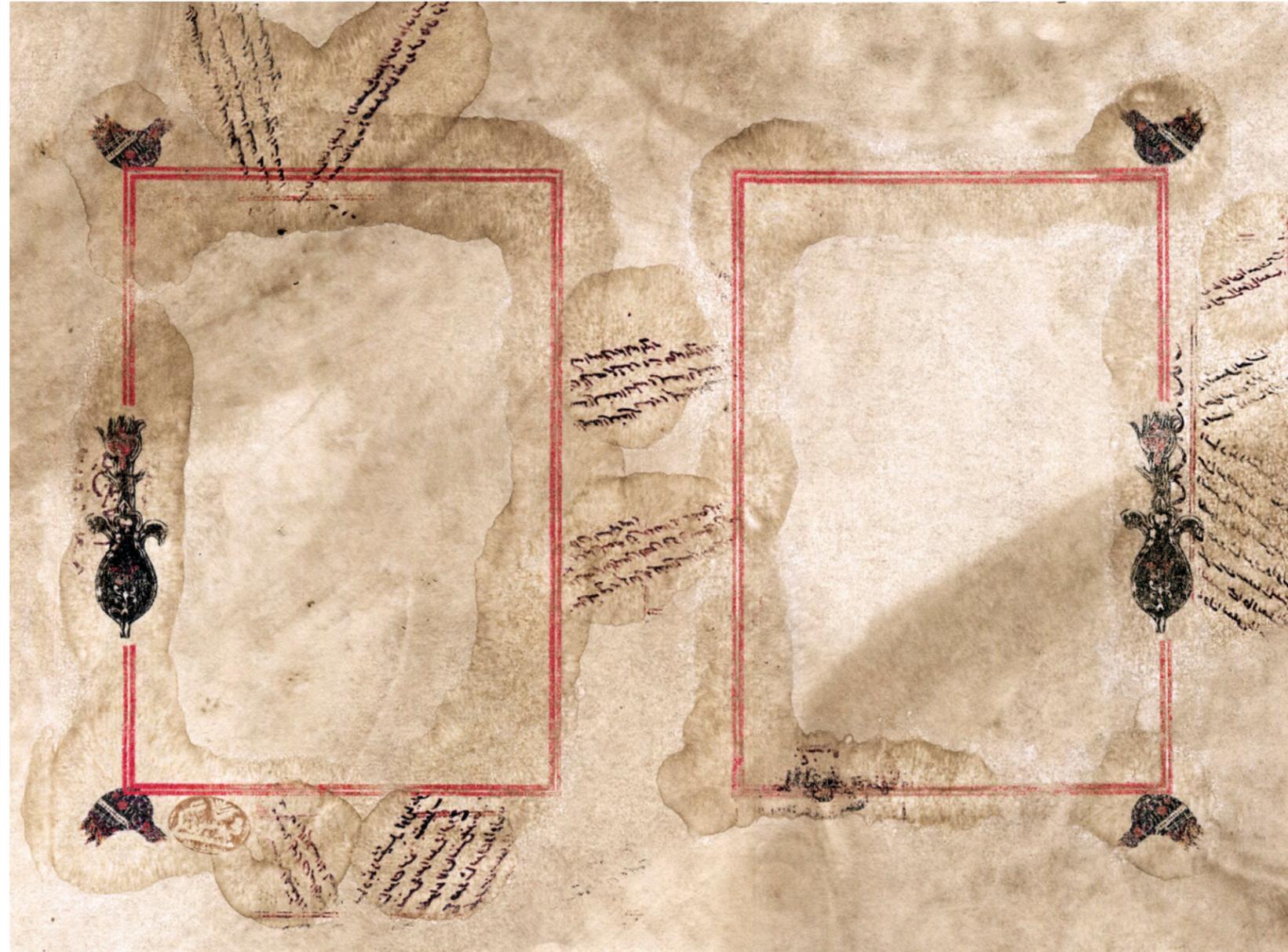
Contentment no. 4, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 12.5x18"



Contentment no. 5, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 11.5x17"



Contentment no. 6, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 9.5x13"



Contentment no. 7, 2020, printmaking on handmade paper, 9.5x13"



