

aicon CONTEMPORARY

SKIES BENEATH THE FEET

35 Great Jones Street, New York, NY, 10012

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Cover: Dhara Mehrotra, *Laminae V*, 2026, acrylic and inks on canvas
Inner Cover: (Detail) Dhara Mehrotra, *Resonance III*, 2026, Jute fiber, gold
and inks on archival paper
Back: (Detail) Dhara Mehrotra, *Resonance IV*, Jute fiber, gold and inks on
archival paper, 2026

Dhara Mehrotra | SKIES BENEATH THE FEET

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ABOUT US

Aicon Contemporary was founded in 2019, building on the two-decade legacy of Aicon Gallery. Based in New York, the gallery is dedicated to presenting ambitious contemporary practices that expand the geography of local art.

Working with artists from historically under-represented and diasporic contexts, Aicon Contemporary foregrounds perspectives shaped by migration, distance, and layered cultural histories. The program emphasizes material experimentation and conceptually rigorous practices that challenge dominant narratives within contemporary art.

Through exhibitions in New York, participation in leading international art fairs, and placements in major institutional collections, the gallery fosters meaningful connections between artists and a local audience. In doing so, Aicon Contemporary operates as a critical conduit between local and transnational art discourses.

At its core, the gallery's mission is to reconsider the frameworks through which modernity and contemporaneity are understood, advocating for a more expansive, plural, and locally rooted perspective that resists a singular, western-centered canon.

SKIES BENEATH THE FEET

Dhara Mehrotra

On View July 30- September 5, 2026**Opening Reception** July 30, 6:00pm- 8:00pm

35 Great Jones Street, New York, NY

Aicon Contemporary is pleased to present *Skies Beneath the Feet*, Dhara Mehrotra's second solo exhibition at the gallery. What lies beneath our feet is often imagined as silent, inert ground—a stable foundation upon which life unfolds. Yet beneath every step exists an intricate world of exchange: a living architecture of roots, fungal networks, minerals, microbes, moisture, and memory. *Skies Beneath the Feet* turns our attention toward this hidden cosmos, proposing that the earth below us possesses the same immeasurable depth, complexity, and mystery that we instinctively associate with the sky above.

Across a new body of paintings and works on paper, Dhara Mehrotra continues her exploration of ecological intelligence, inviting us to consider landscapes not as fixed terrains but as dynamic fields of relation. Her practice draws from the invisible systems that sustain life—those delicate networks through which matter, energy, and information circulate across organisms and environments. Rather than depicting these systems literally, the works evoke them through abstraction, where gesture, material, and layered surfaces become metaphors for unseen processes of becoming.

At the heart of the exhibition is *Laminae*, a series of large circular canvases whose forms suggest both geological cross-sections and celestial bodies. The title refers to the thin layers that compose living and mineral structures—fragile membranes through which nutrients, signals, and histories pass. Built through translucent accumulations of acrylic and ink, these paintings emerge slowly, allowing one layer to settle into another until depth is generated not through illusion but through sedimentation. They become visual meditations on the quiet intelligence embedded within soil: a place where roots sense, fungi communicate, bacteria negotiate, and countless forms of life participate in an ongoing choreography of exchange.

The circular format further unsettles distinctions between the terrestrial and the cosmic. What appears as an aerial view of the earth may also resemble an astronomical body, collapsing scales of perception and suggesting that the microscopic and the planetary are governed by similar principles of rhythm, pattern, and interdependence. The paintings ask us to linger, to read surfaces attentively, and to recognize that every visible landscape is held together by innumerable invisible strata.

Complementing the canvases is *Resonance*, a series of works on archival paper constructed from jute fibre, ink, and gold leaf. Here, fibre becomes both material and metaphor, tracing delicate networks that evoke pathways of transmission, regeneration, and connection. Gold is employed not as ornament but as a subtle register of encounter—a luminous residue marking moments where invisible exchanges briefly become perceptible. These works exist in a state of quiet emergence, balancing fragility with endurance, openness with cohesion. They suggest that continuity is never static, but continually woven through acts of contact and transformation.

Throughout *Skies Beneath the Feet*, Mehrotra offers an expanded understanding of landscape—one that extends beyond the visible surface to encompass the hidden infrastructures that sustain ecological life. Her works resist spectacle in favour of sustained attention, inviting viewers into a slower mode of looking where abstraction becomes a means of sensing relationships that evade direct observation.

The exhibition ultimately proposes a shift in perspective: that wonder need not be sought only in distant horizons or celestial expanses, but may also be found beneath us, within the layered worlds that quietly uphold existence. The ground itself becomes a cosmos—one composed of innumerable acts of exchange, memory, and resilience. In recognising these hidden terrains, *Skies Beneath the Feet* asks us to reconsider our place within an ecology where every surface conceals another sky.

DHARA MEHROTRA

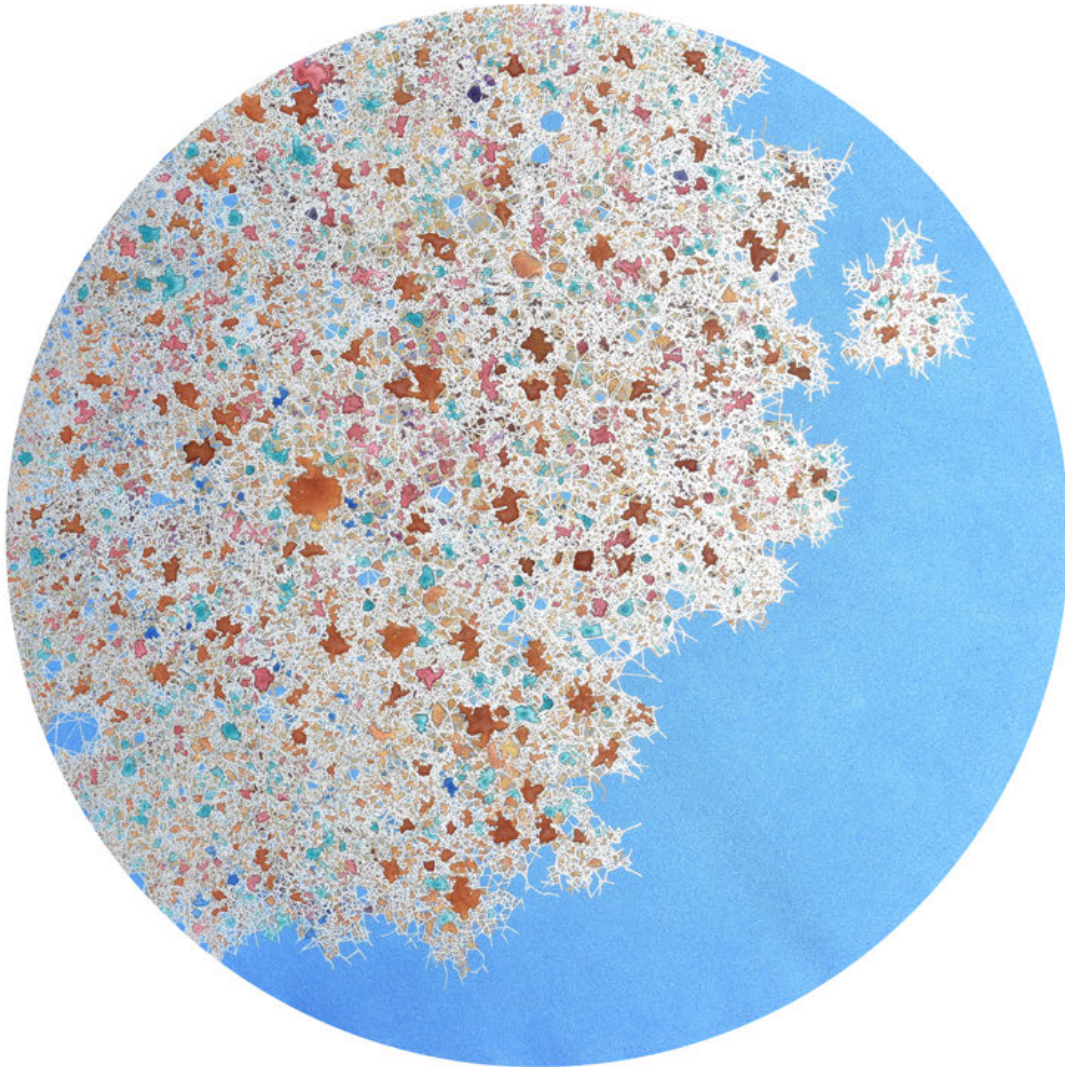
Born 1979, New Delhi, India



Dhara Mehrotra is a visual artist with an M.F.A in Painting from College of Art, Delhi University, India. Mehrotra's work demonstrates intricate linkages and connections, deeming isolated consciousness a falsehood, and rupturing contemporary individualist tendencies. Once we are willing to acknowledge the relational dynamics of the natural and cultural realms, there are possibilities of understanding complex processes and deeper synergy.

Mehrotra is the recipient of the Swapan Biswas award for academic excellence in India and the junior fellowship award from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. She has been an artist-in-residence at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR-NCBS) Bangalore 2018-19, resulting in an exhibition titled Through Clusters and Networks. The artist has participated in multiple group shows and one solo exhibition with Aicon Contemporary since 2023.

Mehrotra lives and works in Bangalore, India.



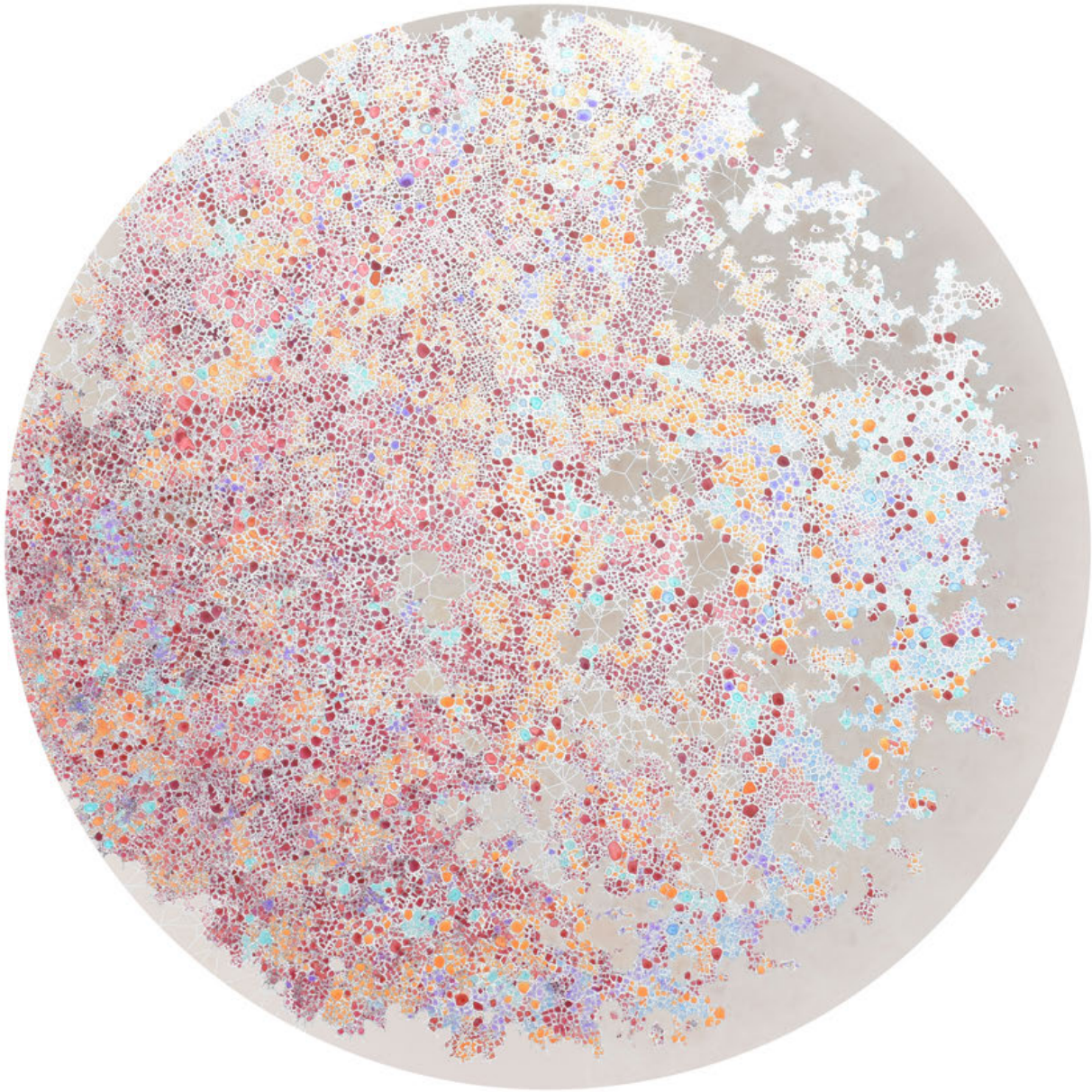
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae II, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
31" Ø



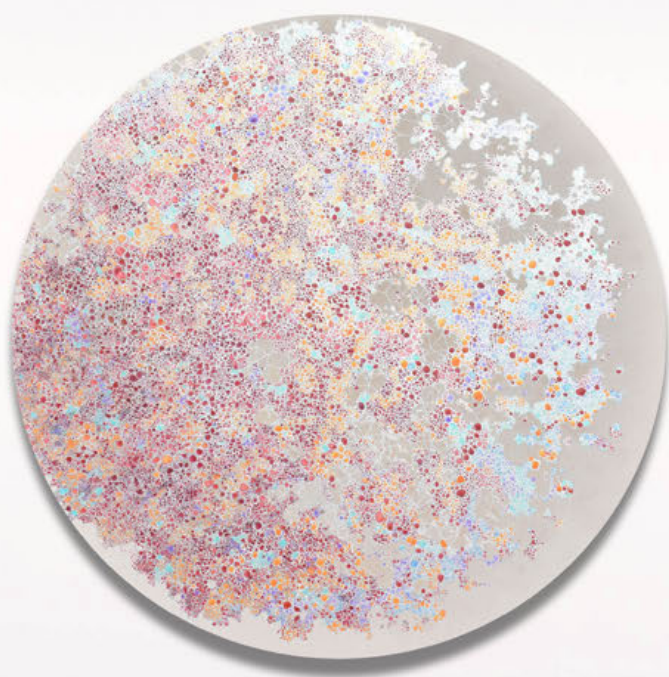


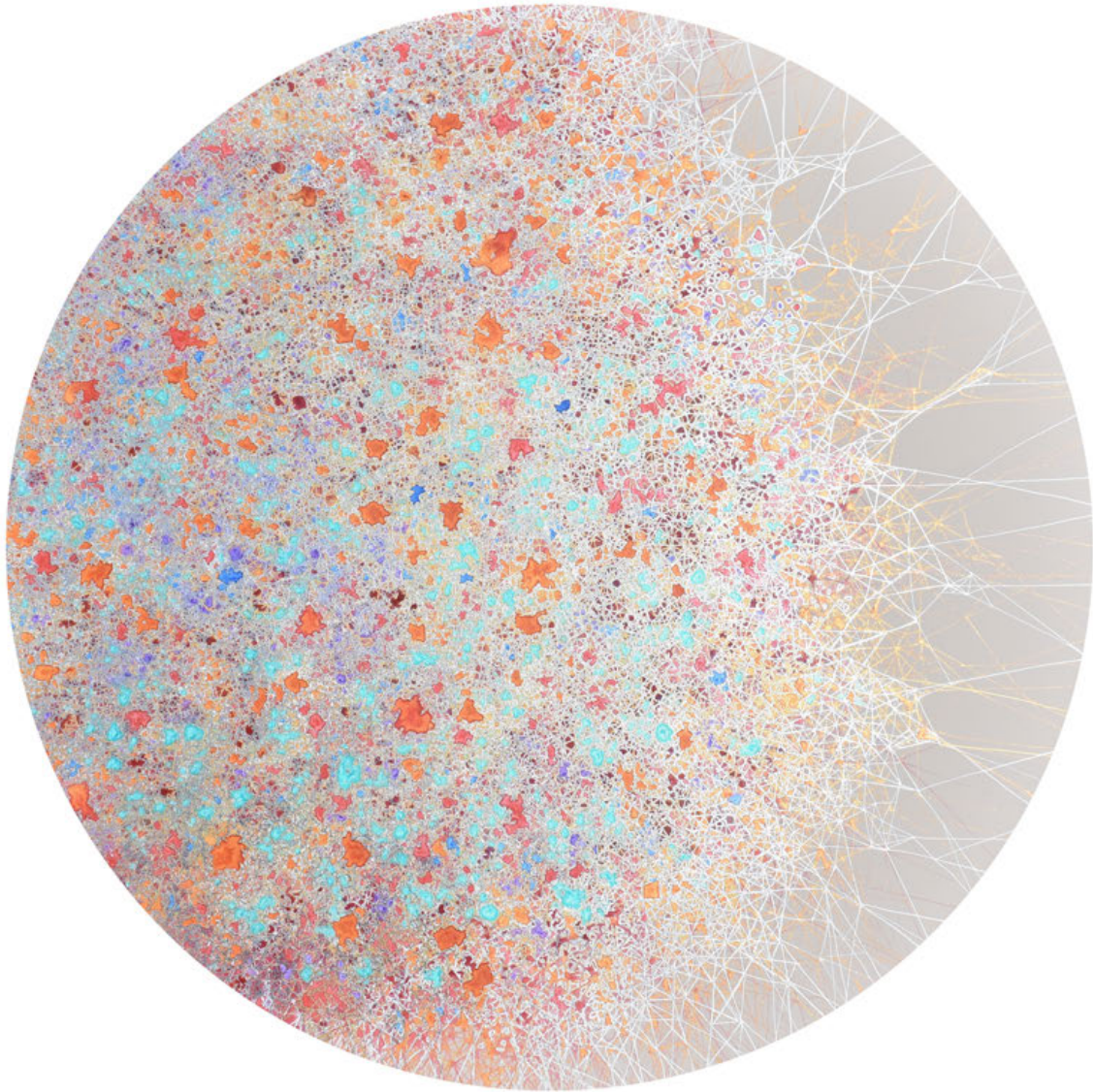
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae III, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
48" Ø





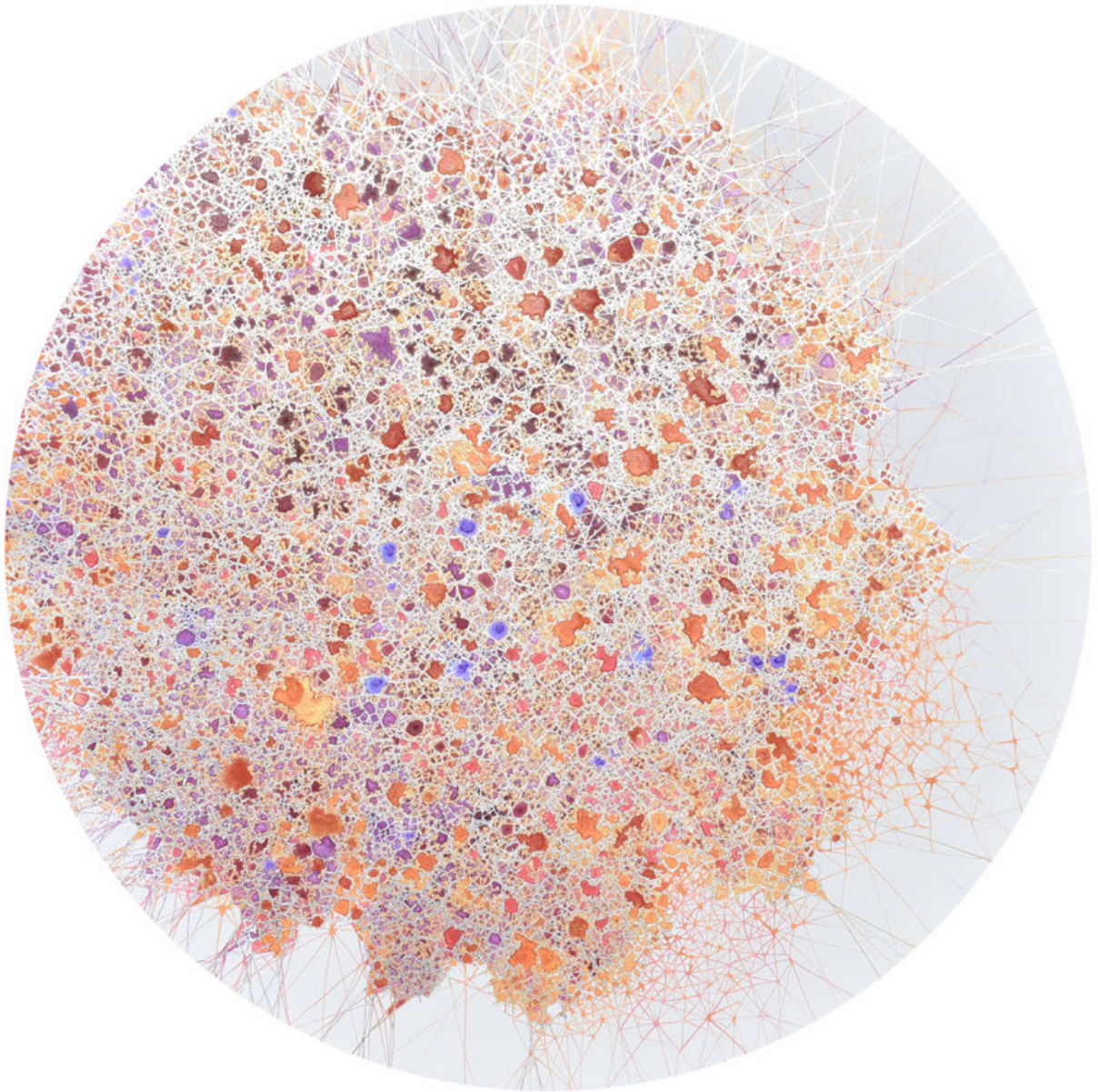
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae IV, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
48" Ø



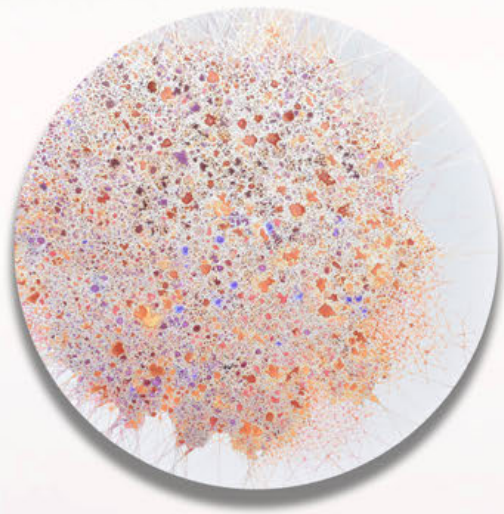


Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae V, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
36" Ø



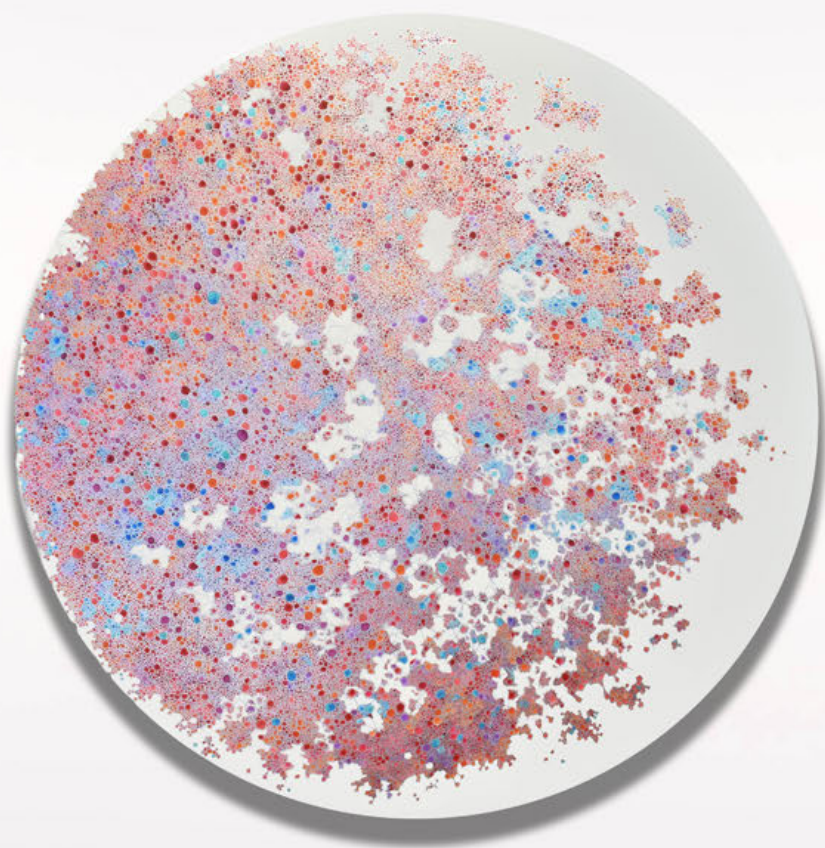


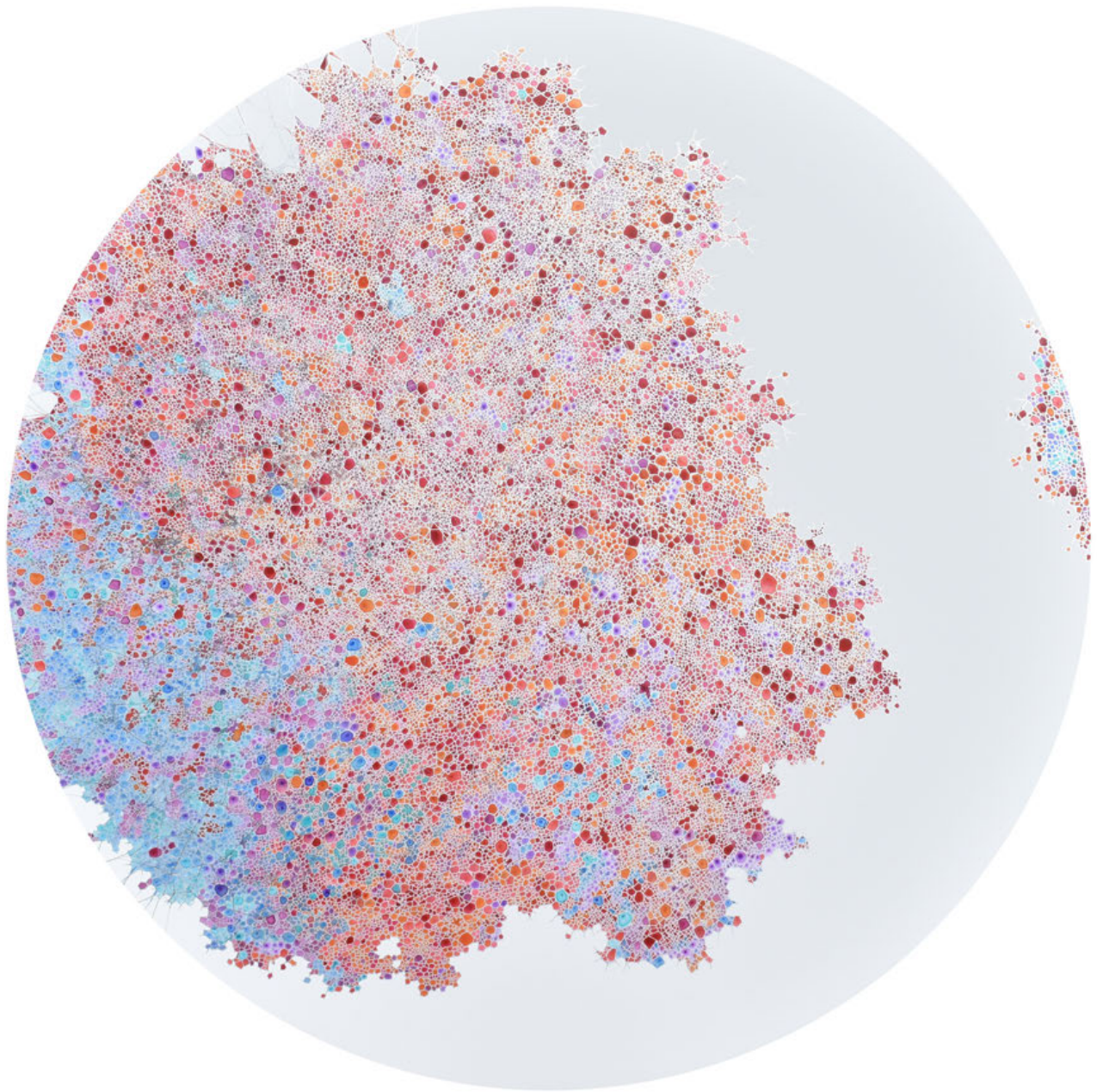
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae VI, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
36" Ø



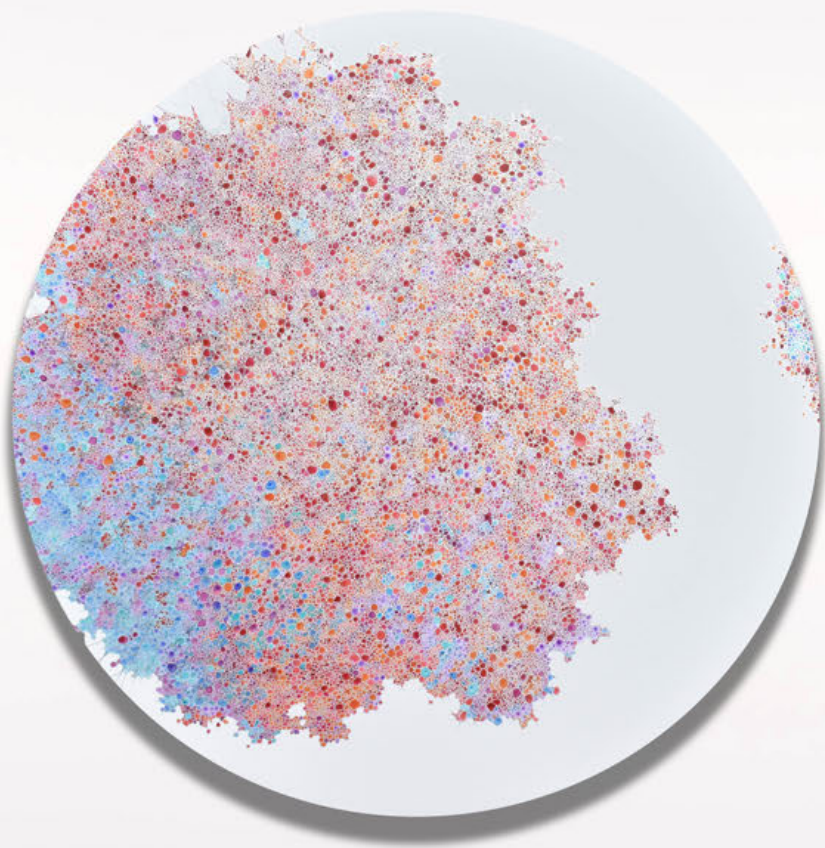


Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae VII, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
60" Ø





Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae VIII, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
60" Ø





Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance I, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance II, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance III, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance IV, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance V, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance VI, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in





Dhara Mehrotra
Entropic, 2025
Acrylic and ink on canvas
60h x 36w in





Dhara Mehrotra
Stochastic, 2024
Acrylic and ink on canvas
30h x 12w in (each panel)





Dhara Mehrotra
Held, 2026
Jute fiber and polymer
adhesive
Size variable



Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae II, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
31" Ø



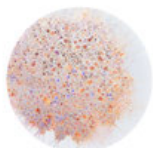
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae III, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
48" Ø



Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae IV, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
48" Ø



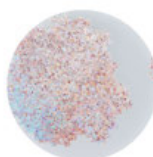
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae V, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
36" Ø



Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae VI, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
36" Ø



Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae VII, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
60" Ø



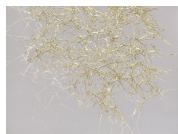
Dhara Mehrotra
Laminae VIII, 2026
Acrylic and ink on canvas
60" Ø



Dhara Mehrotra
Held, 2026
Jute fiber and polymer
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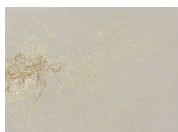
Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance I, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance II, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance III, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Resonance IV, 2026
Jute fiber, gold and ink on archival paper
11h x 15w in



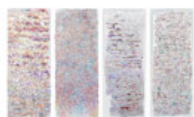
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Dhara Mehrotra
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Dhara Mehrotra
Entropic, 2025
Acrylic and ink on canvas
60h x 36w in



Dhara Mehrotra
Stochastic, 2024
Acrylic and ink on canvas 30h
x 12w in (each panel)

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