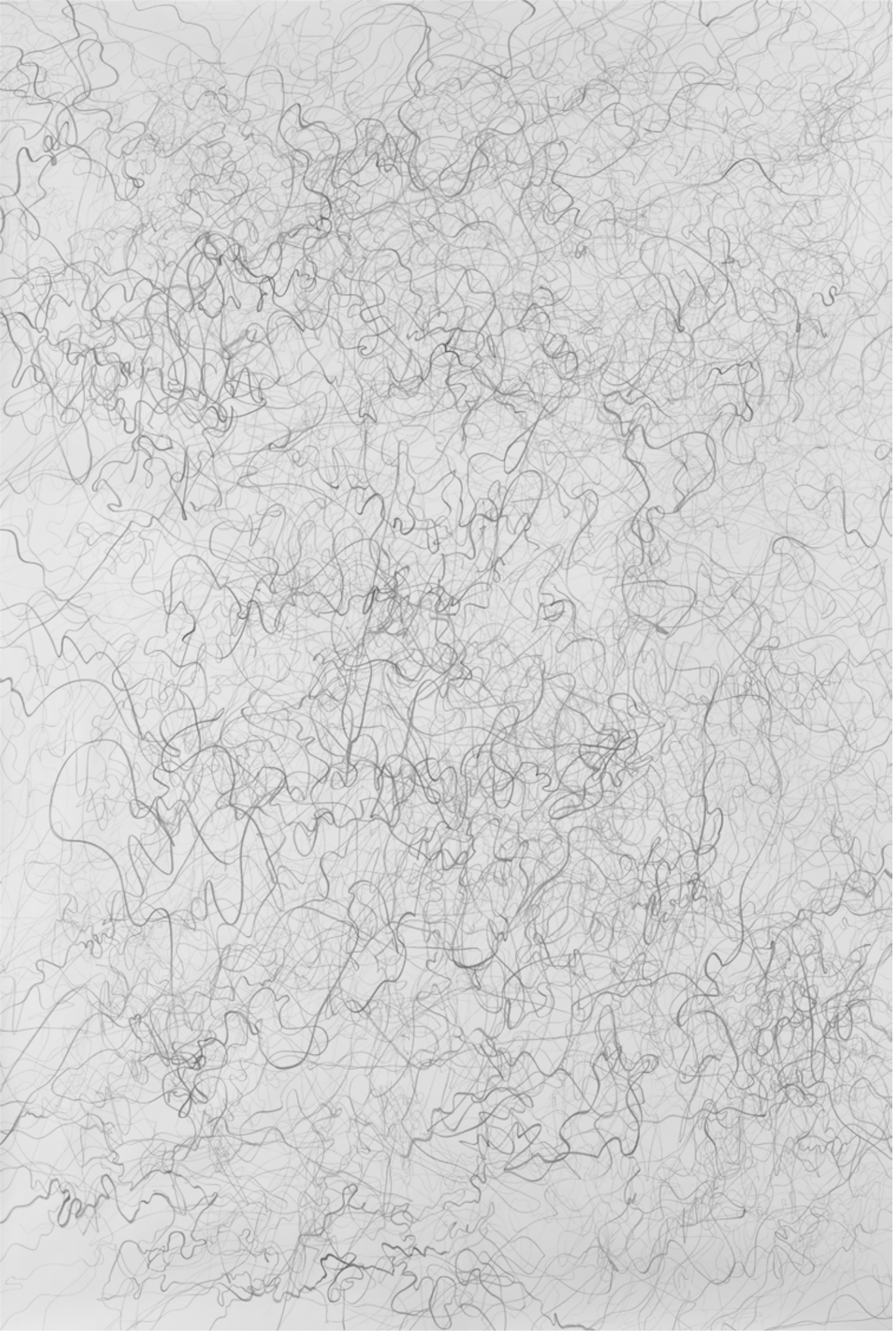


THE SEEING OF CLOUDS - DOMGASSE Visus Signatus drawings created on a roof top in Domgasse in Vienna, close to St. Stephan`s Cathedral, from 22 to 29 October 2023 A selection of works and an essay by C. N.

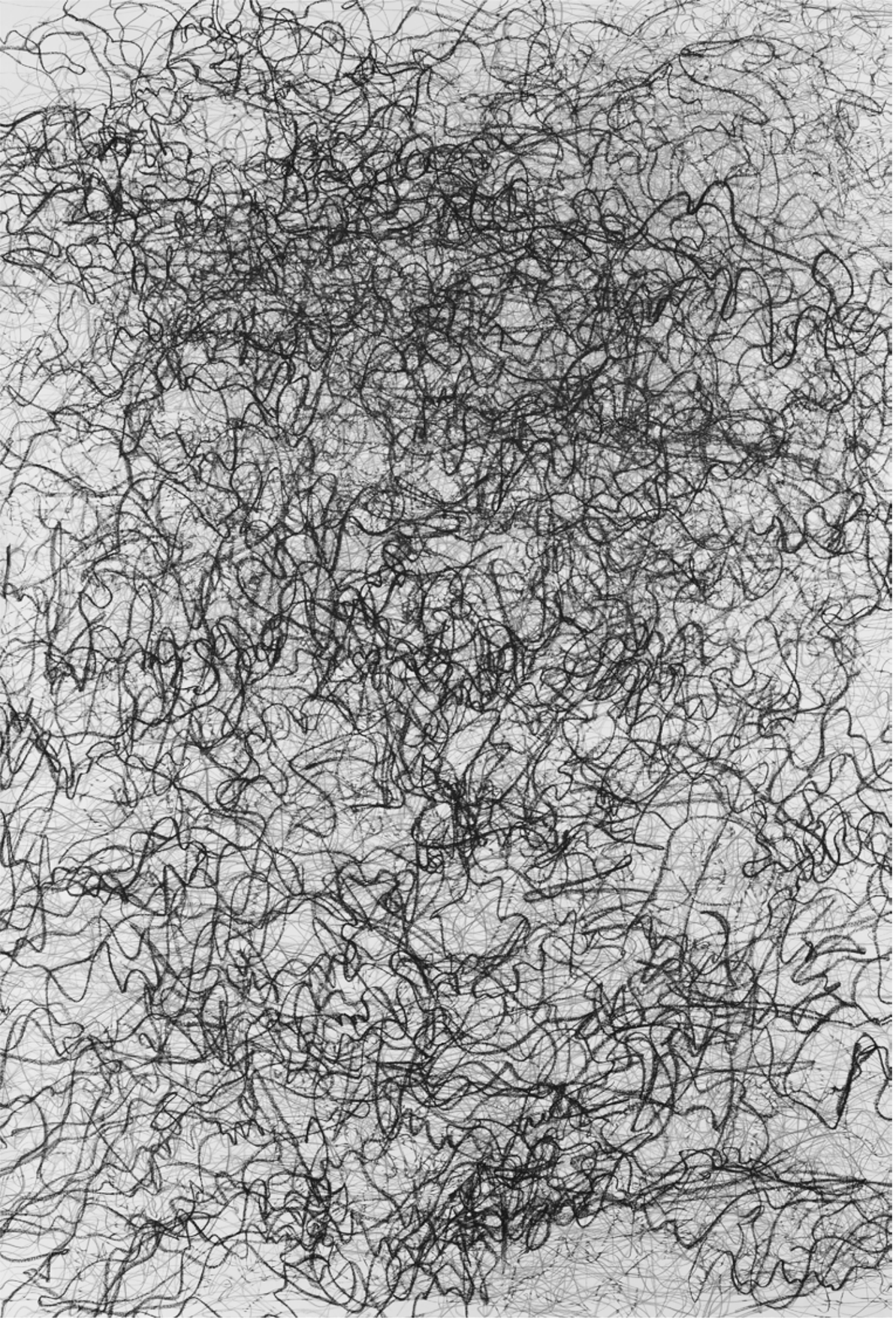


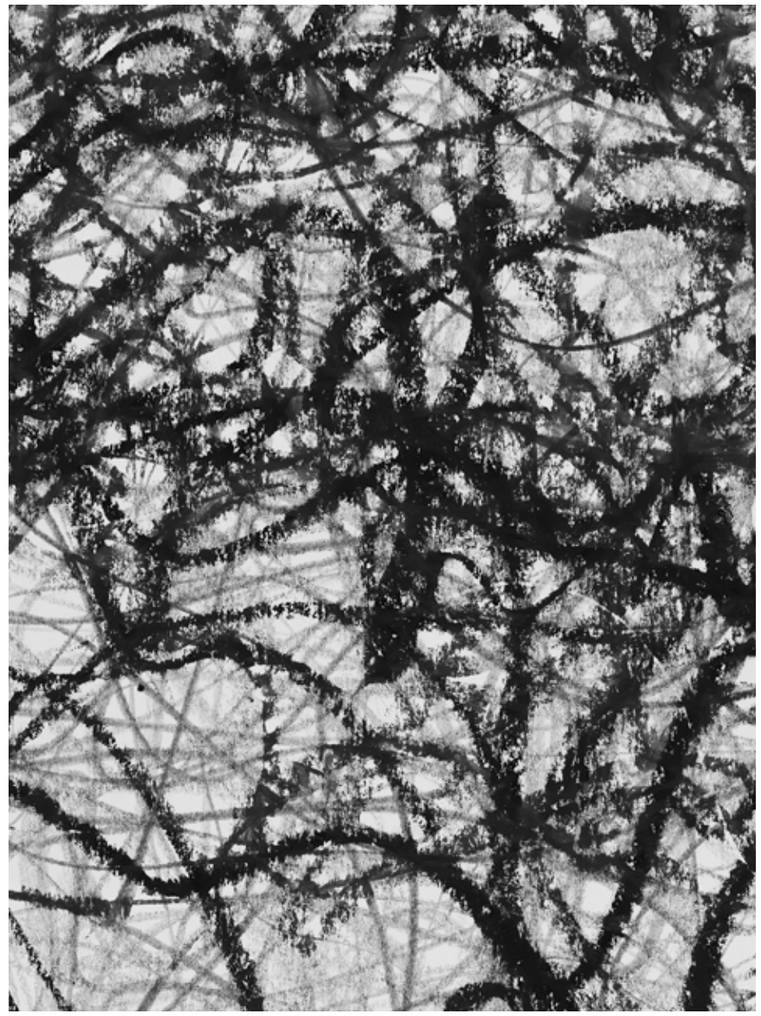


LEFT: The Seeing of Clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, graphite on paper, 24 October 2023, 220 x 150 cm | RIGHT: Detail



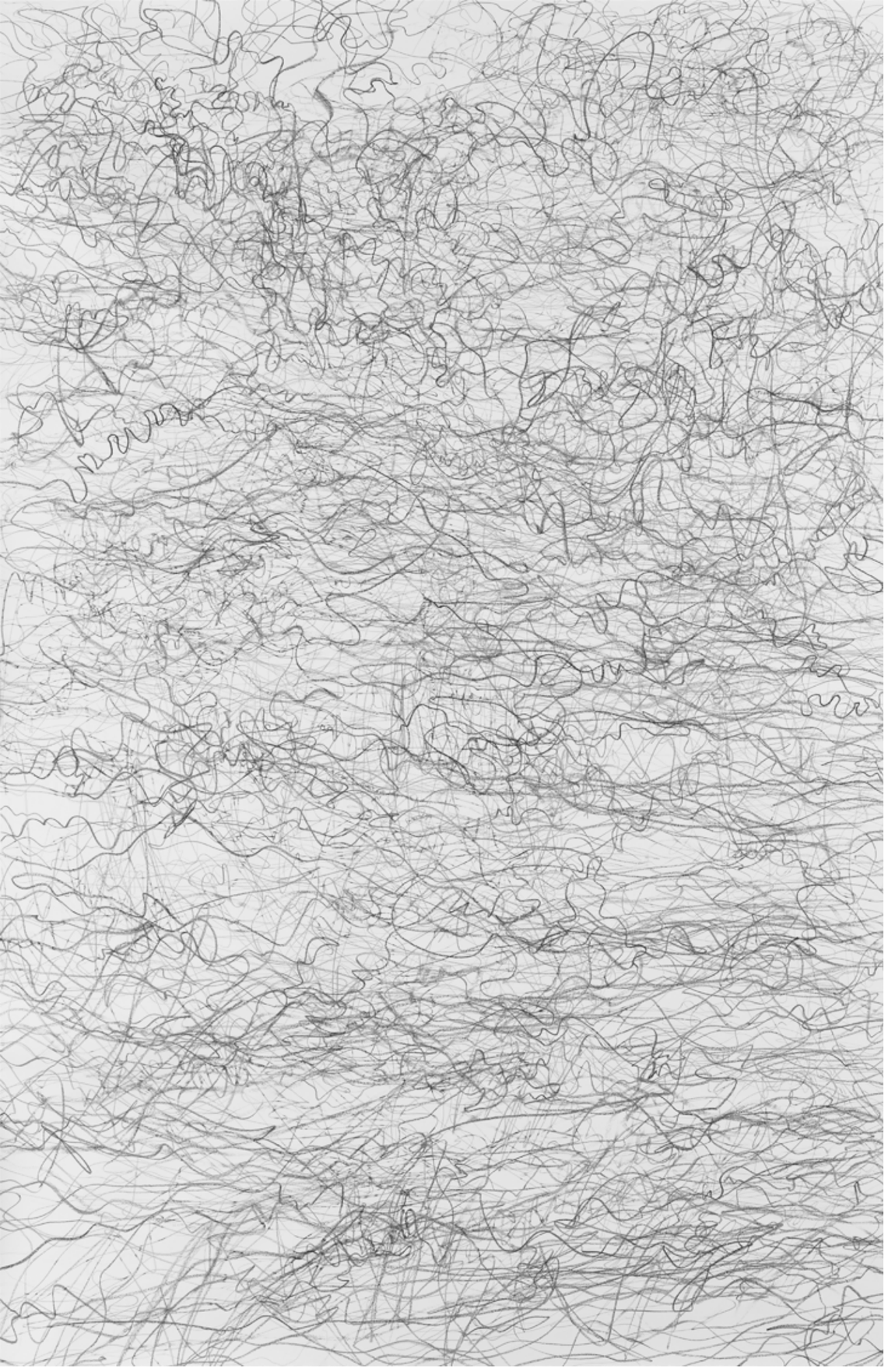
Gerhard Lang drawing The Seeing of Clouds, in the background, St. Stephan‘s Cathedral





LEFT: The Seeing of Clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, graphite and pastel on paper, 25 October 2023, 223 x 150 cm | RIGHT: Detail

Detail of drawing work on page 6



THE SEEING OF CLOUDS

Domgasse*

In late October 2023, Gerhard Lang spent a week working on a rooftop terrace in the Domgasse, a street in the First District in the centre of Vienna, very close to St. Stephen's Cathedral. On large sheets of paper he drew "the seeing of clouds". As the drawing developed, his eyes were fixed continually on the clouds. The approach to drawing he employed is generally known as blind drawing, but in Lang's practice it is referred to as visus signatus, "drawn seeing". [...]

[...] Gerhard Lang's landscape work embraces both spheres of life, town and country. We experience town and country differently, but in terms of history, politics and nature both are tightly intertwined. It might seem paradoxical that since the 17th century as far as is known, the artists in the history of Western landscape painting did not themselves work on the land. Landscape artists brought their experience of urban life with them when they began working: Claude Lorrain, John Constable or the painters of the Hudson River School in the US. Each one of them saw cloud above the city or the countryside and saw that clouds changed appearance depending on the topographical character of the region they were in. This aspect struck above all the painters of the Hudson River School after they had spent considerable time studying clouds in skies over Europe, only then to experience the immeasurably broader landscape forms in North America. When Gerhard Lang was drawing the seeing of passing clouds over Vienna, he located the landscape issue in that realm of life that was central to the origin of landscape painting: the city. C. N.

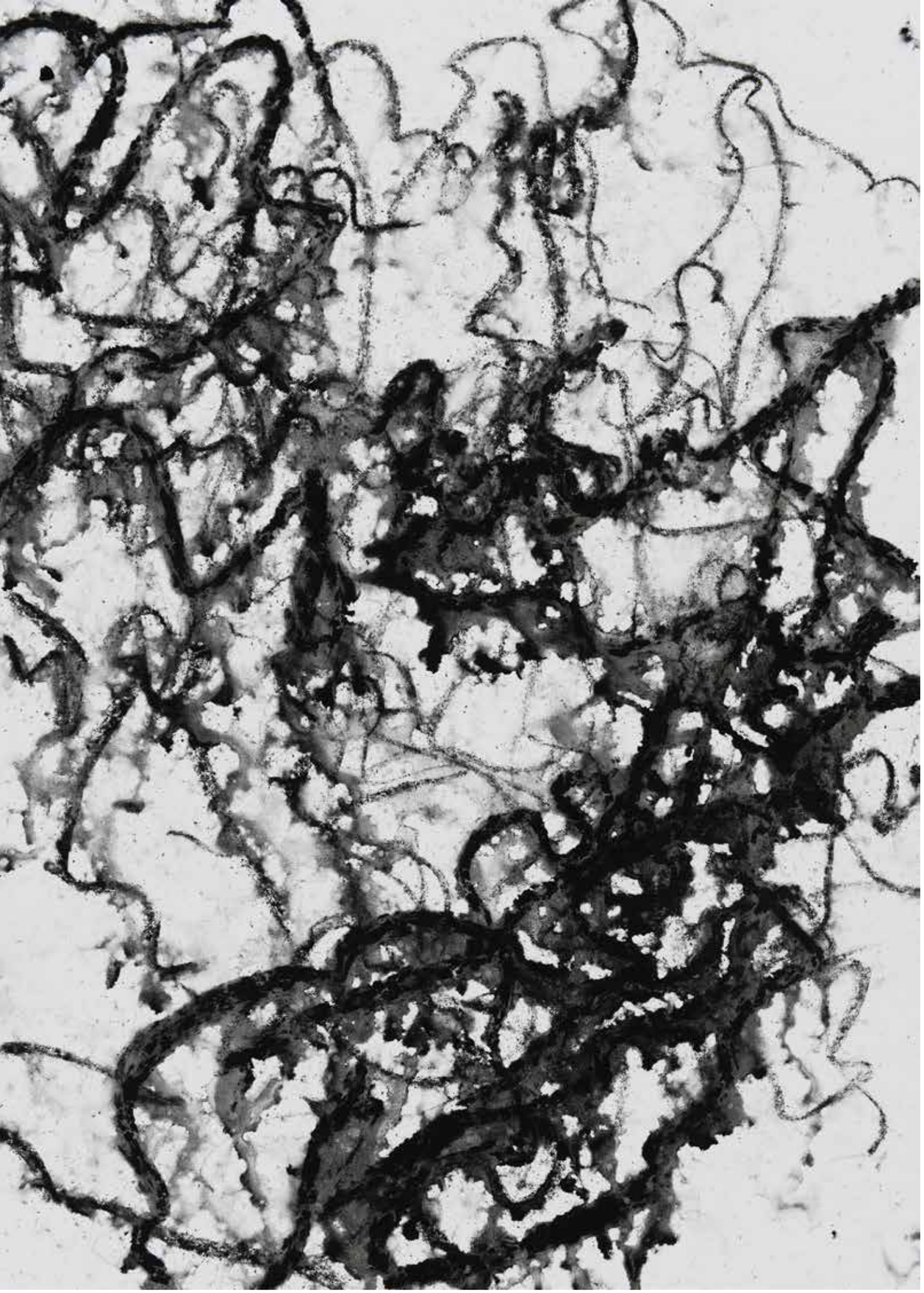
The excerpts are taken from the essay *The Seeing of Clouds. Domgasse*, by C. N., London, 2024

* Dom means Cathedral. Domgasse translates as Cathedral Lane

The Seeing of Clouds, Visus Signatus drawing work, graphite and pastel on paper, 26 October 2023, 224 x 150 cm

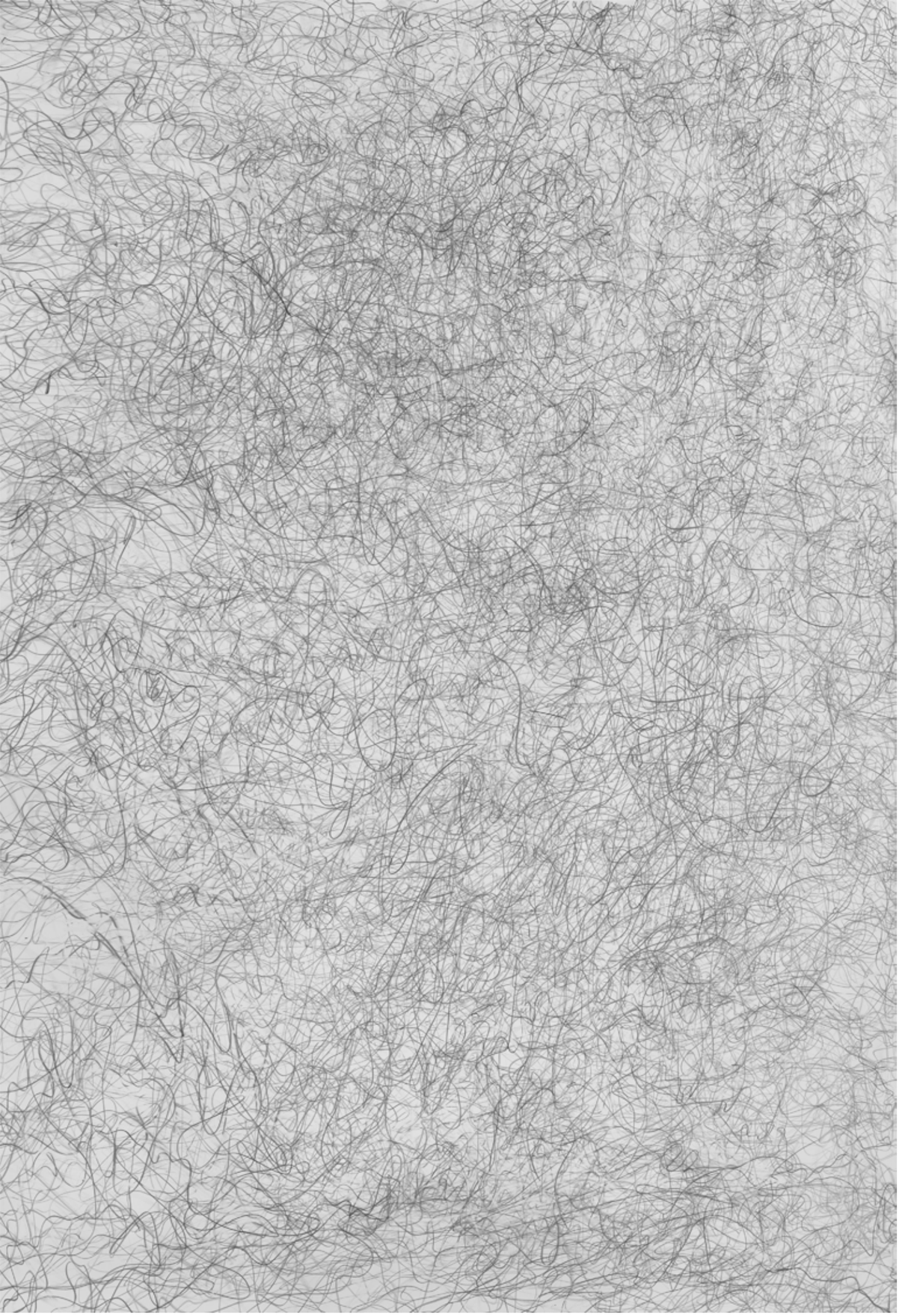


Looking southeastwards



The Seeing of Clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, pastel and gentle rain on paper, the work is part IV of a series of four drawings with rain, which were created on 27 October 2023, 34,8 x 24,9 cm

Detail of drawing work on page 10



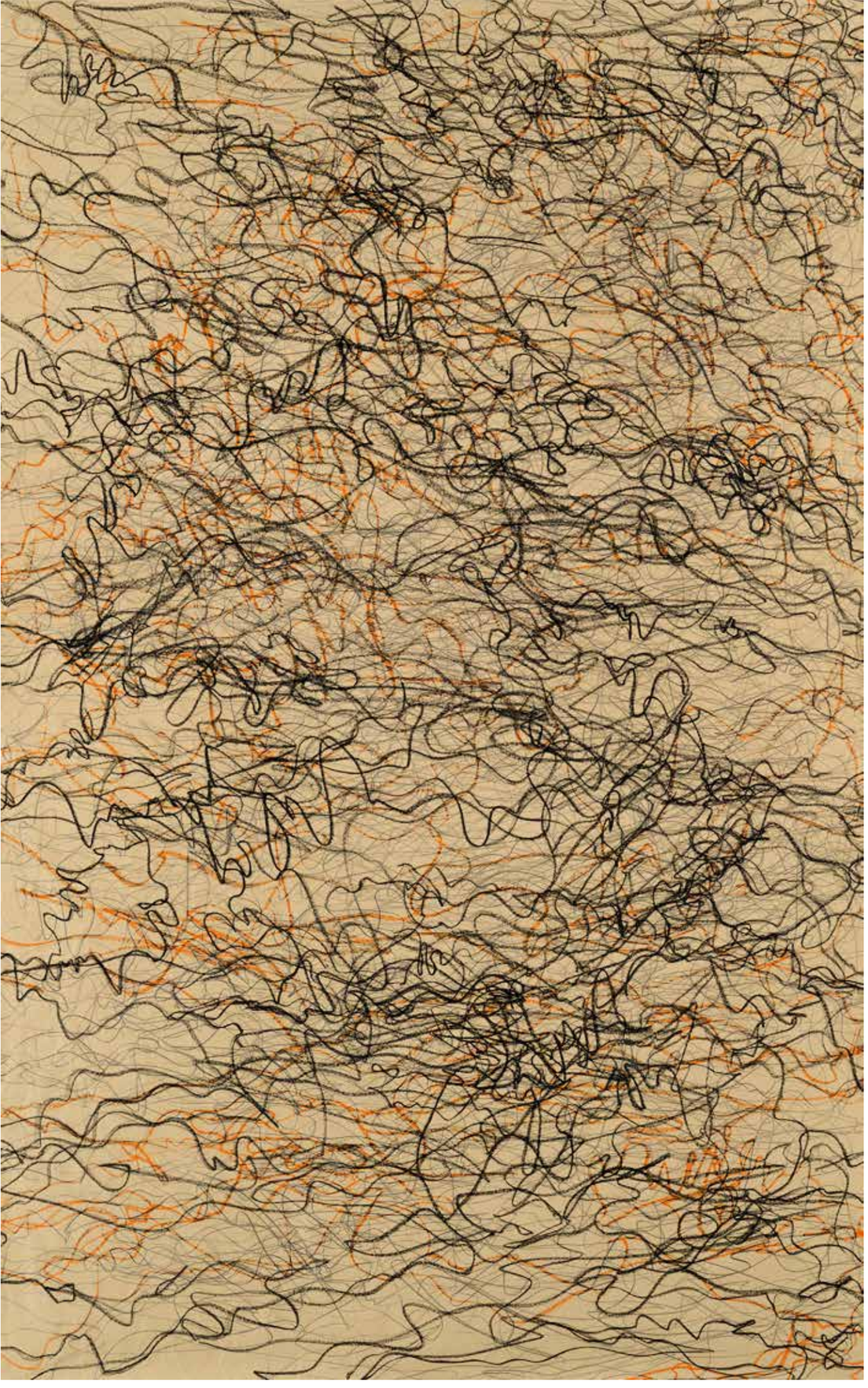
The Seeing of Clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, graphite on paper, in the night from 28 to 29 October 2023, 223 x 153 cm



The clouds were illuminated by the city lights, allowing Gerhard Lang to draw The Seeing of Clouds on the roof top in the night from 28 to 29 October 2023



Detail of drawing work on page 13



Impressum: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Domgasse-series was made possible by the generous support of the Austrian Science Funds (FWF) via the PEEK project *radical matter* and by Dominika Li. The work was supported by many others too: Edith and Hans-Fritz Lang, Helmut Aebischer, Domo Baal, Gabriele Brötzner, Philipp Hartmann, Daniel Kalkhofer, Johann Lurf, Werner Meyerdrees, Ursula Panhans-Bühler, Martin Putz, Martin Reinhardt, Mag. Tamas Steigerwald, Tom Westerdale, Stephan Weyer-Menkhoff and the Volkstheater which provided the wrapping paper, at this size not available anywhere else in Vienna at the time. PHOTOS: Martin Putz's photos are on the pages 1 (from the North Tower of St. Stephan's Cathedral), 3 and 7. Page 14 shows Daniel Kalkhofer's photo, looking from the North Tower of St. Stephan's Cathedral. All other photos are by Gerhard Lang. TRANSLATION: Matthew Partridge
WWW.GERHARDLANG.COM © C. N. and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2024

The Seeing of Clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, graphite and pastel on wrapping paper, 29 October 2023, 220 x 140 cm

Looking eastwards. Photo taken from the North Tower of St. Stephan‘s Cathedral.