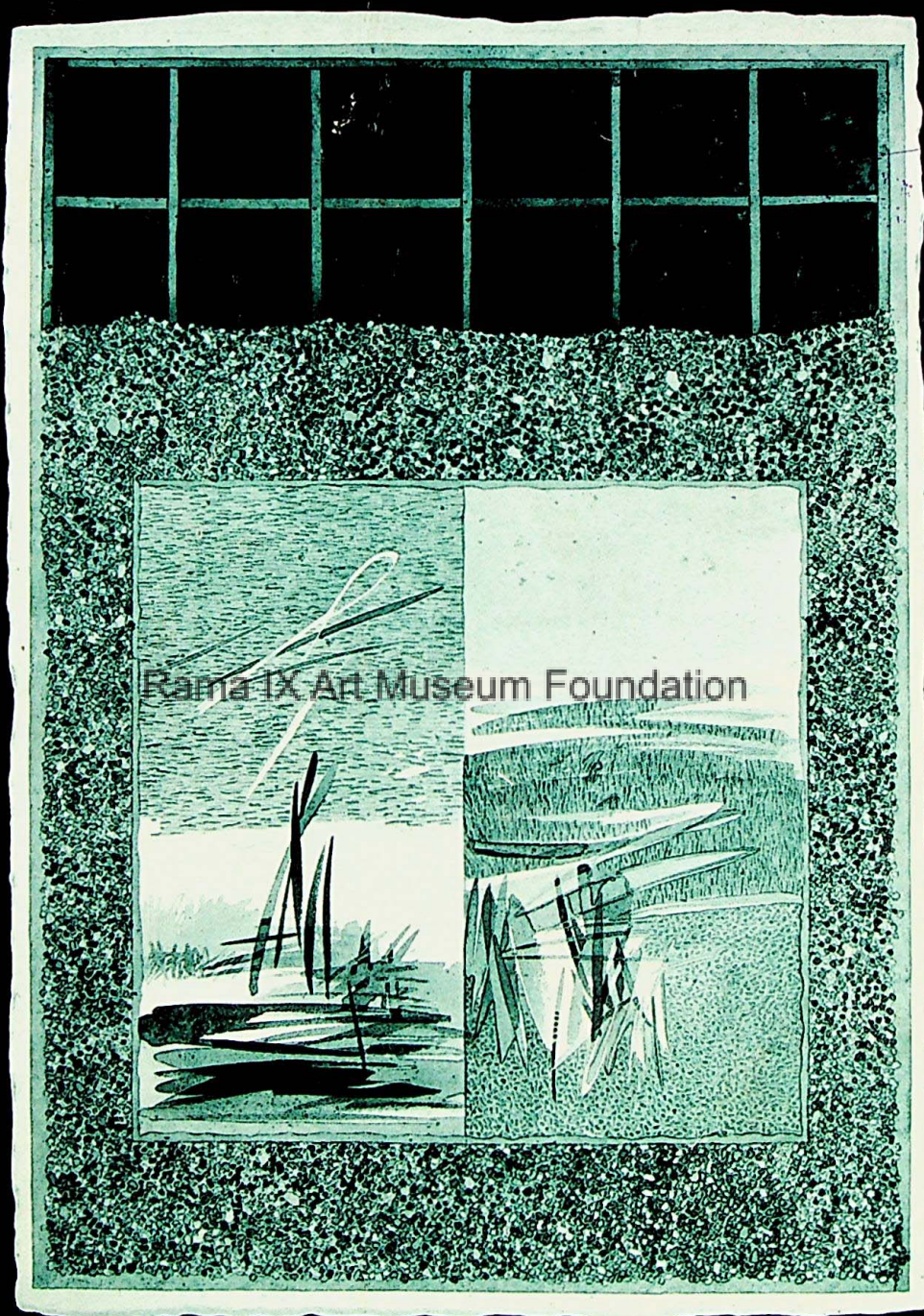


Somsak Chantabong.



POETIC GARDEN

POETIC GARDEN
SOMSAK CHOWTADAPONG

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

JULY 15 - AUGUST 15, 1987 ๒๕ ๓๐

The Artist's Gallery

60 Pan Road, Silom, Bangkok





At Ryoan-ji Temple, Kyoto, 1984

seum Foundation

Introduction to the Poetic Garden Exhibition

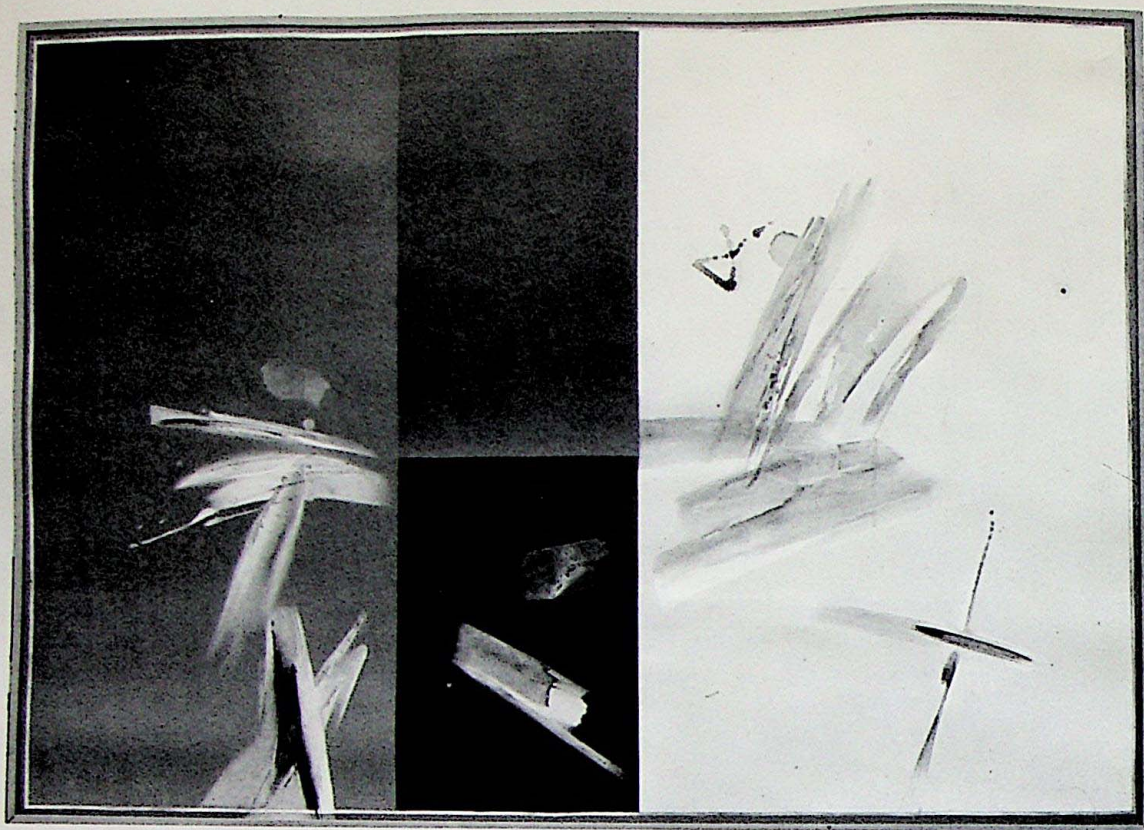
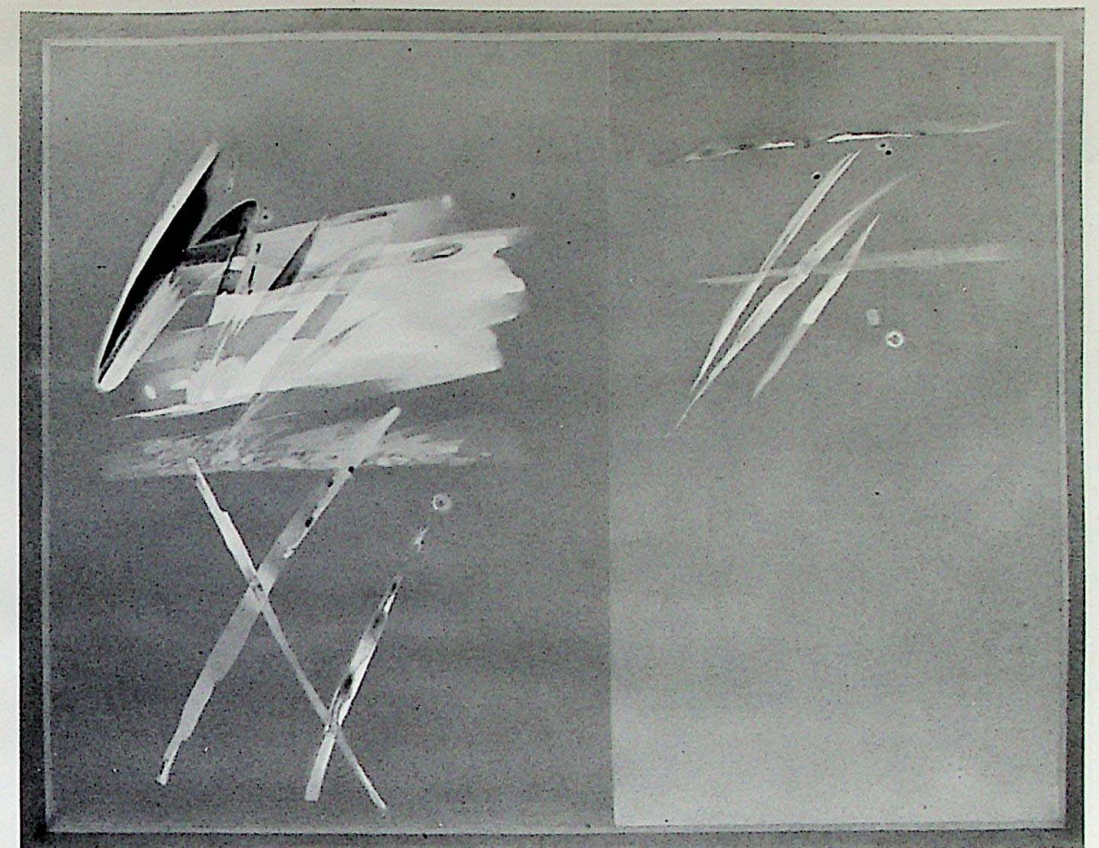
Somsak Chowtadapong is among Asia's finest colorists.

In his Atmosphere Series, Somsak explores the mystery of the cosmos. Each brushstroke and drop of color is applied deliberately to express some aspect of space. Sometimes a single drop of color shines out like a brilliant star in the firmament. In some works the sky is captured at dawn, in others at midday or dusk. As a Buddhist artist, Somsak accepts the paradox of fixing an image, a version of reality, on canvas while knowing that reality is always characterized by impermanence. While this dilemma is often recognized in Thai contemporary art, Somsak handles it brilliantly through his use of abstract expressionism. His lines and colors evoke at the same time a feeling of peace and an understanding of the reality of movement and change.

While studying in Japan in 1983-1985, Somsak was impressed that the world recreated symbolically in a Zen garden is still another expression of space and serenity. Inspired by the gardens of Kyoto and the seasons of a temperate climate, Somsak returned to Thailand to create his Poetic Gardens. These are fantasy landscapes with textures symbolizing elements of nature -- stone, gravel, moss, foliage and water. At once you sense that these are not tropical gardens: the colors are cooler and more varied, reflecting foliage and seasons not found in Thailand. Somsak has created his own special world.

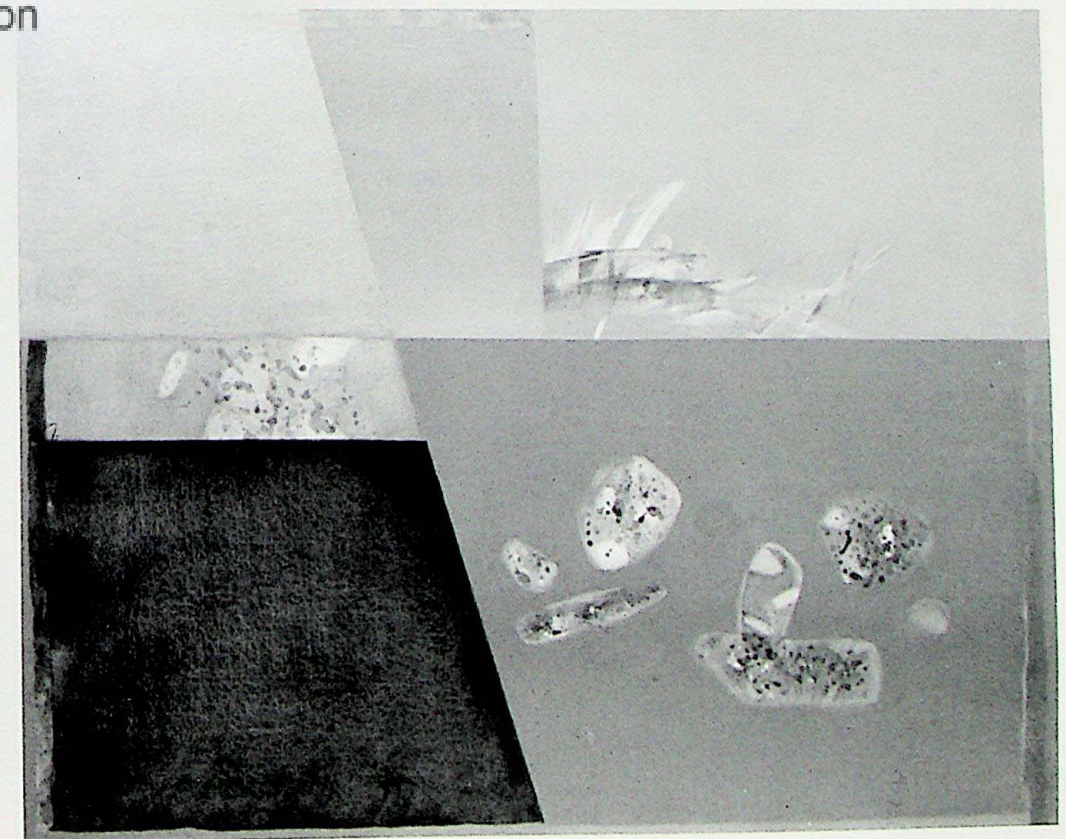
The subtle use of color and texture gives his new series freshness. While at its core it is an expression of Buddhism -- in his world, even stone is subject to change -- Somsak's work avoids the superficiality of mere illustration. He aims toward the viewer's emotions and ideas. His work is at one time abstract, intellectual and superbly esthetic.

B.H. Phillips
University of California, Berkeley
1987



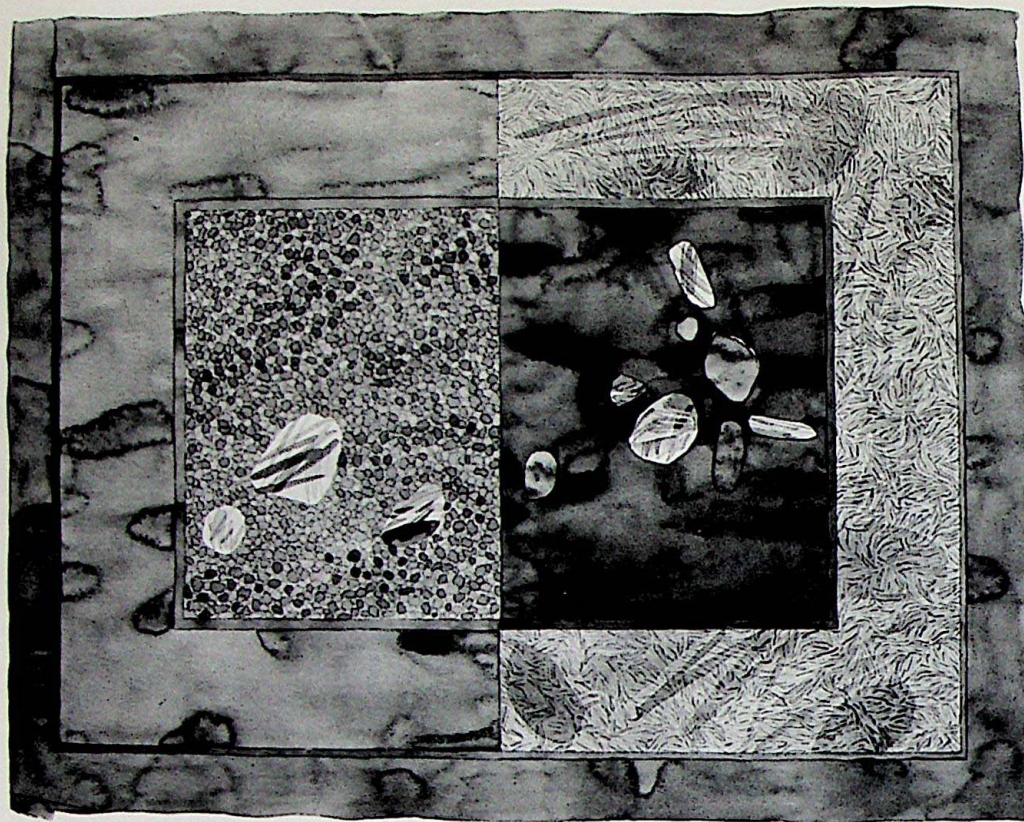
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LIGHT AND DARKNESS oil and acrylic on canvas 112 cm. x 162 cm. 1984



DAY AND NIGHT oil and acrylic on canvas 91 cm. x 117 cm. 1984

MEDITATION ON STONE NO 1 oil and acrylic on canvas 80 cm. x 100 cm. 1986

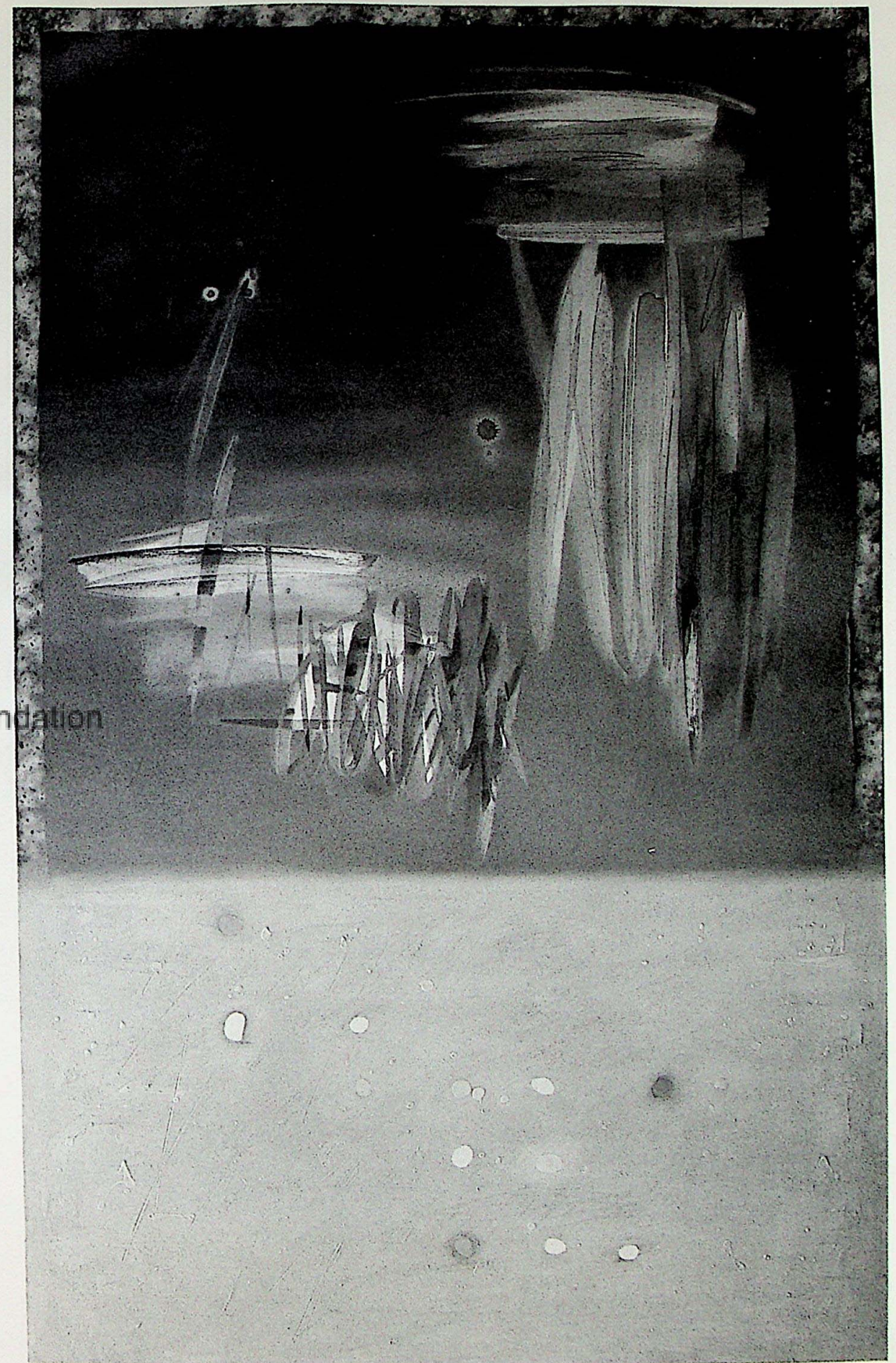


MEDITATION ON STONE NO 3 water colour on paper 42 cm. x 54 cm. 1987

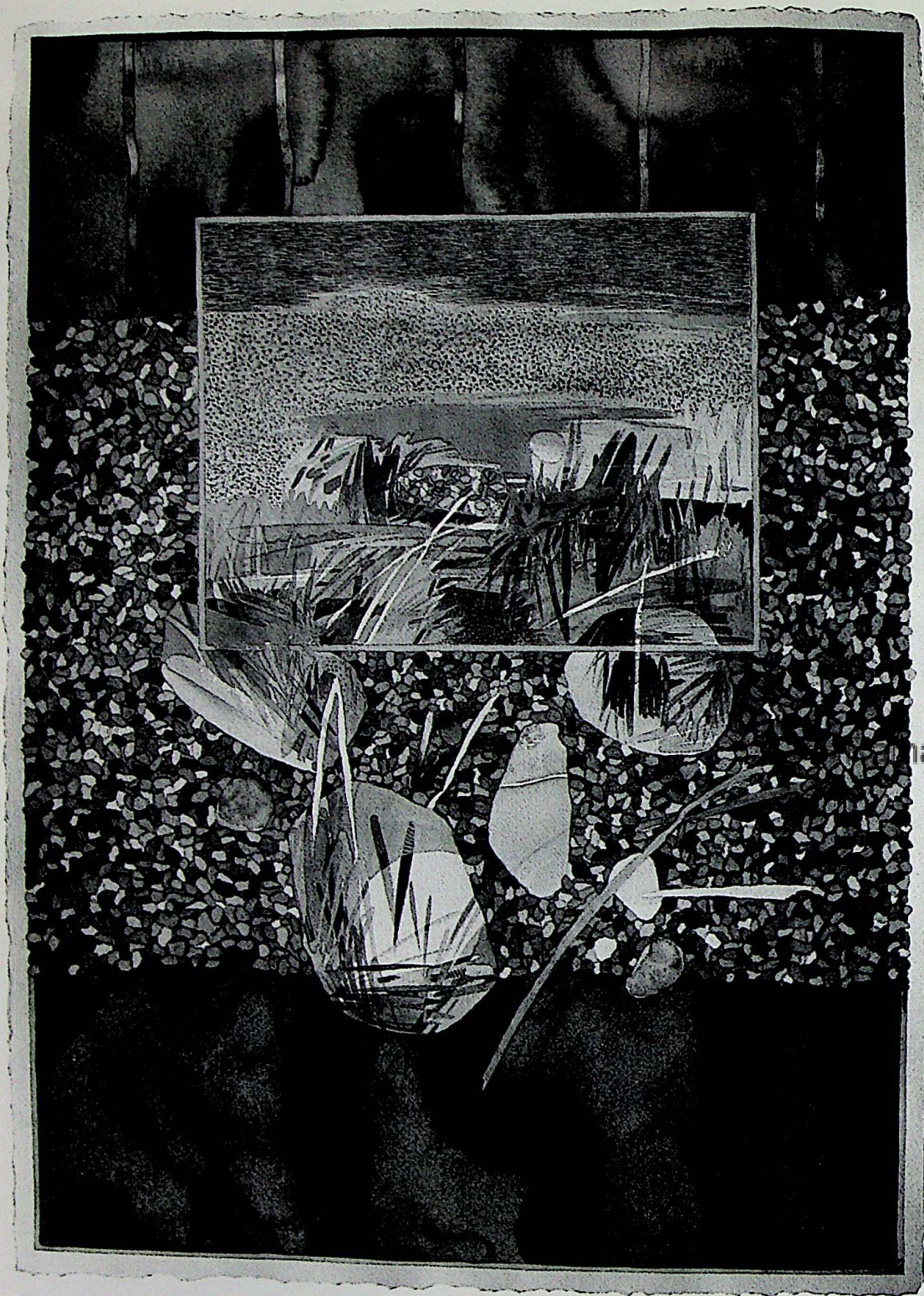
STONE - SCAPE water colour on paper 39 cm. x 57 cm. 1987



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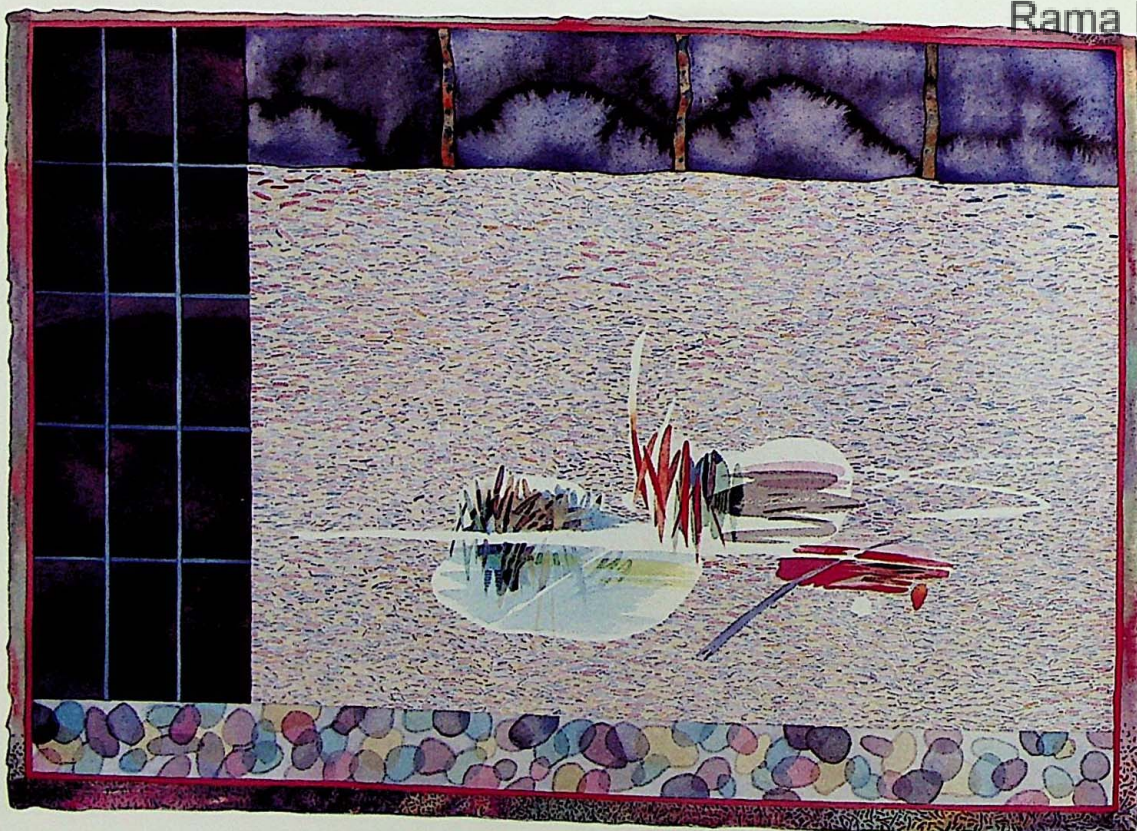
EVENTIDE oil and acrylic on canvas 128 cm. x 80 cm. 1987



ROCK GARDEN NO 1 water colour on paper 76 cm. x 56 cm. 1987



MIND - SCAPE oil and acrylic on canvas 112 cm. x 162 cm. 1984



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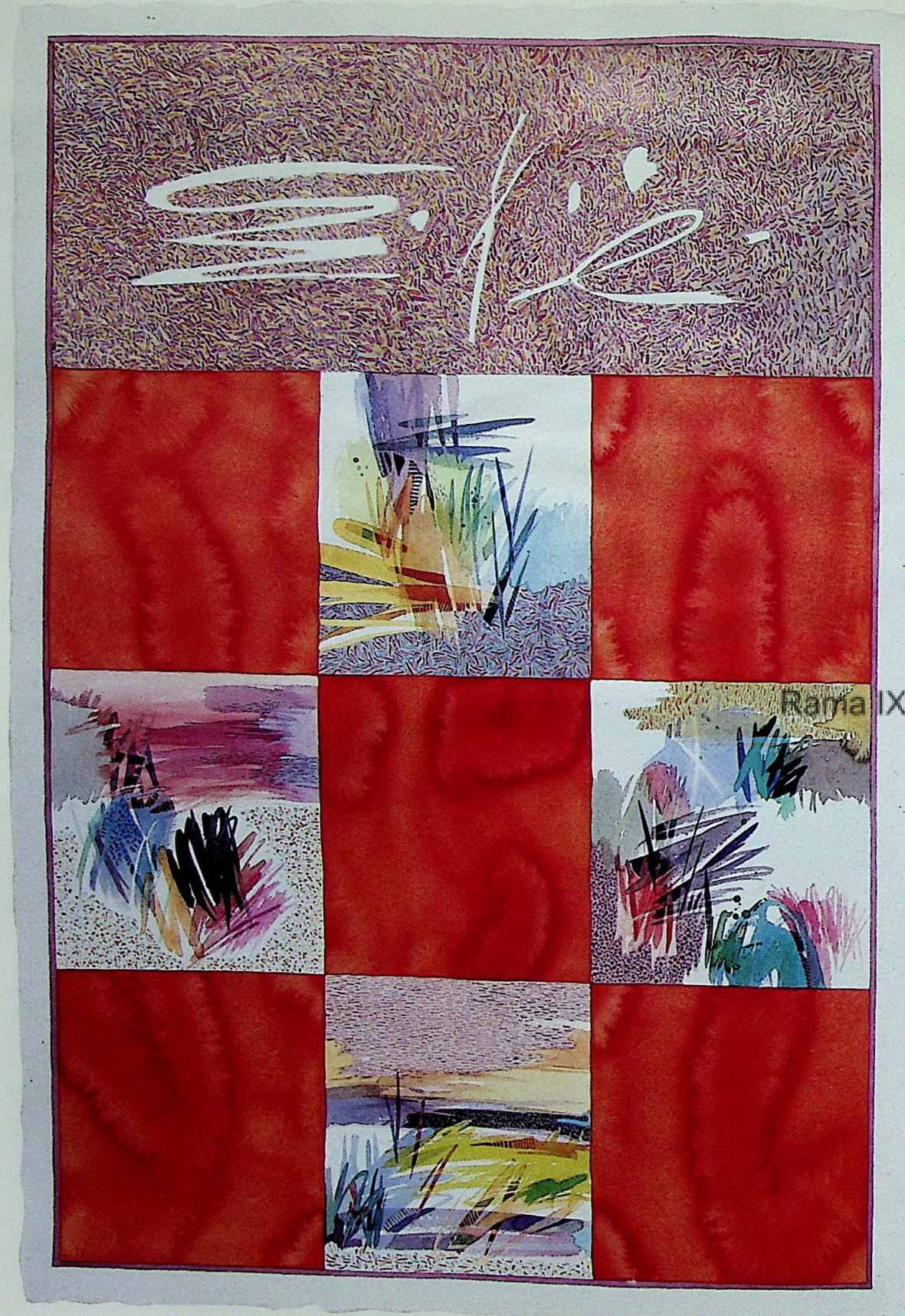


THE COLOURS OF DAY - BREAK oil and acrylic on canvas 45 cm. x 60 cm. 1986

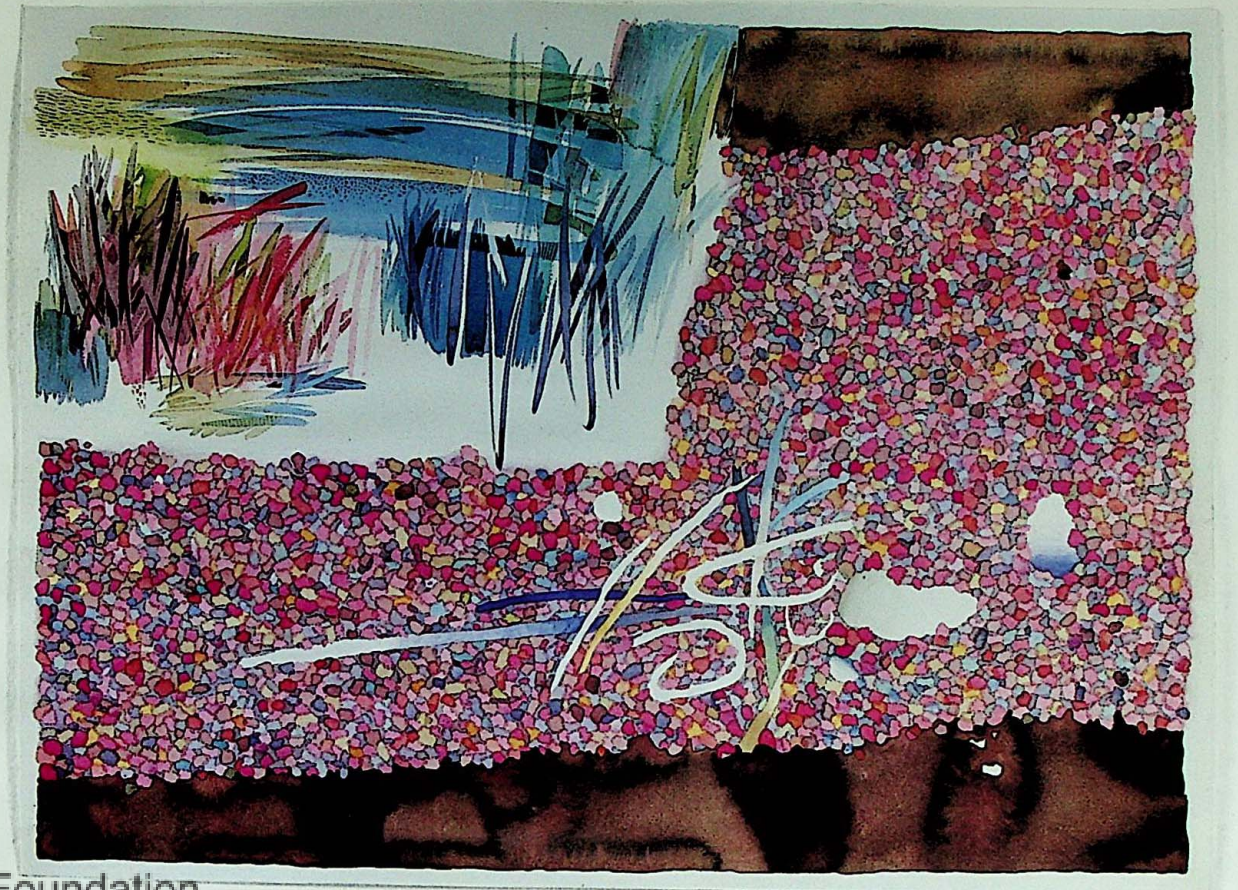
SERENITY water colour on paper 55 cm. x 76 cm. 1987

GARDEN TEXTURES oil and acrylic on canvas 60 cm. x 80 cm. 1987

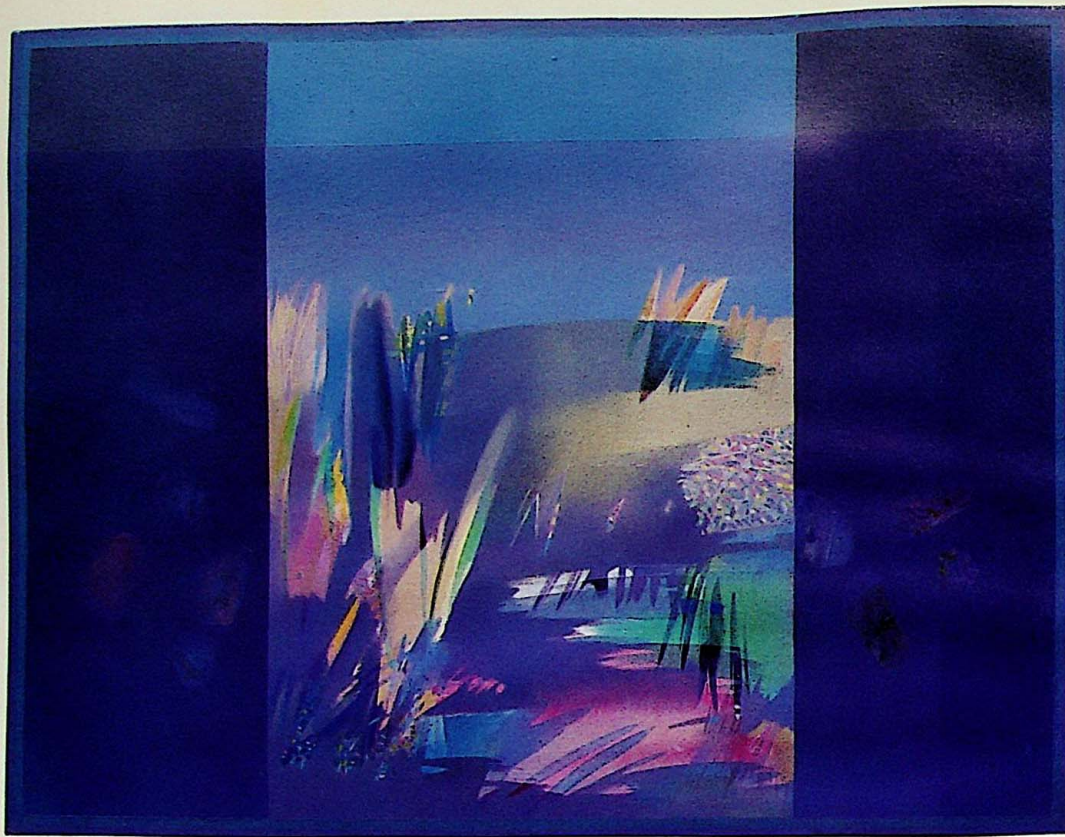
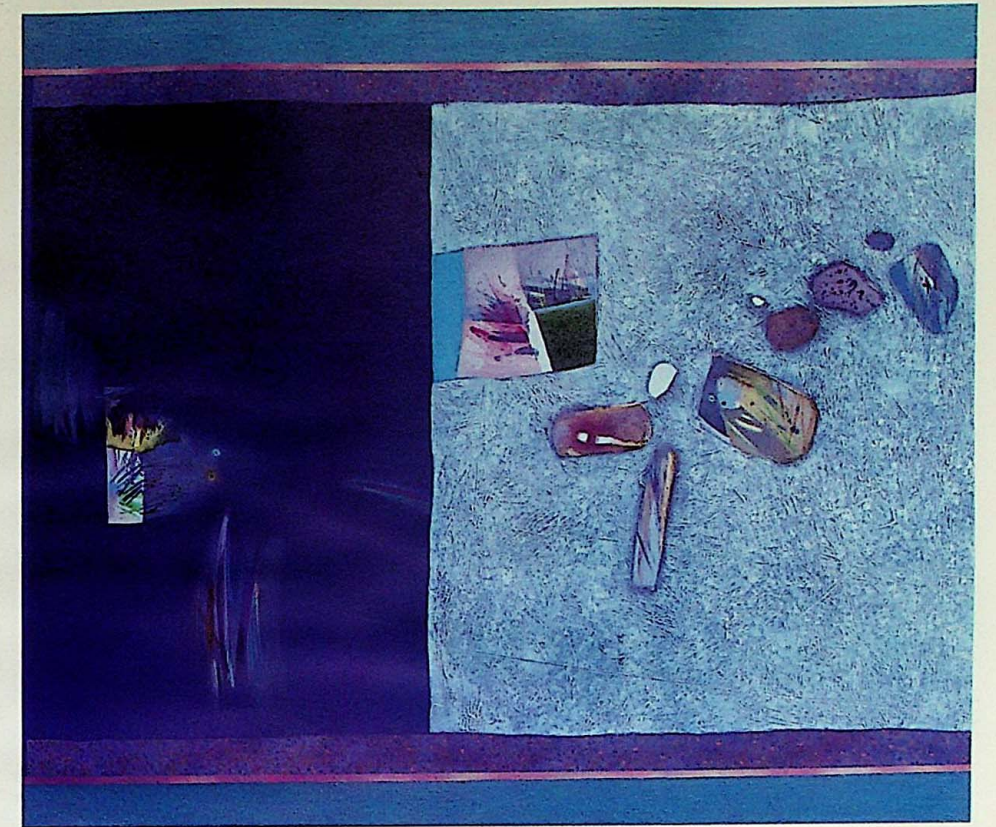
POETRY OF COLOUR oil and acrylic on canvas 45 cm. x 60 cm. 1986



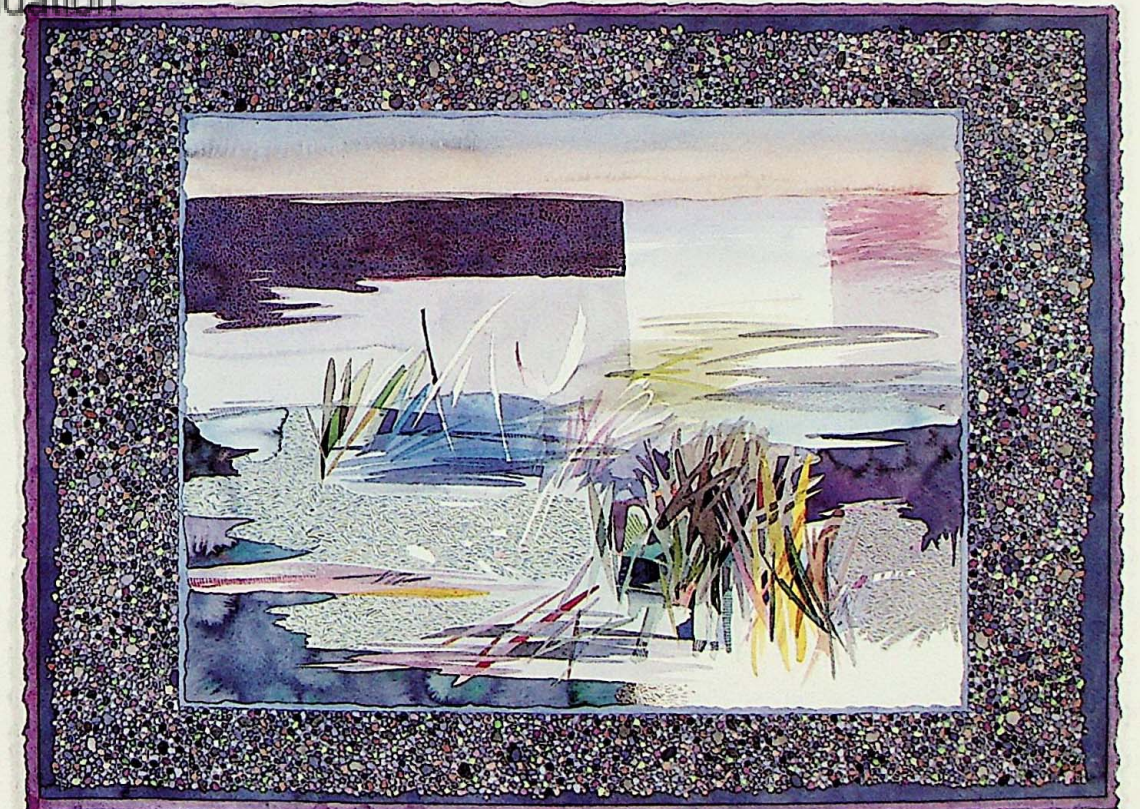
SUMMER SCENERIES water colour on paper 79 cm. x 54 cm. 1987



GARDEN OF COLOUR water colour on paper 55 cm. x 76 cm. 1987



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POETIC GARDEN 1986 oil and acrylic on canvas 60 cm. x 80 cm. 1986

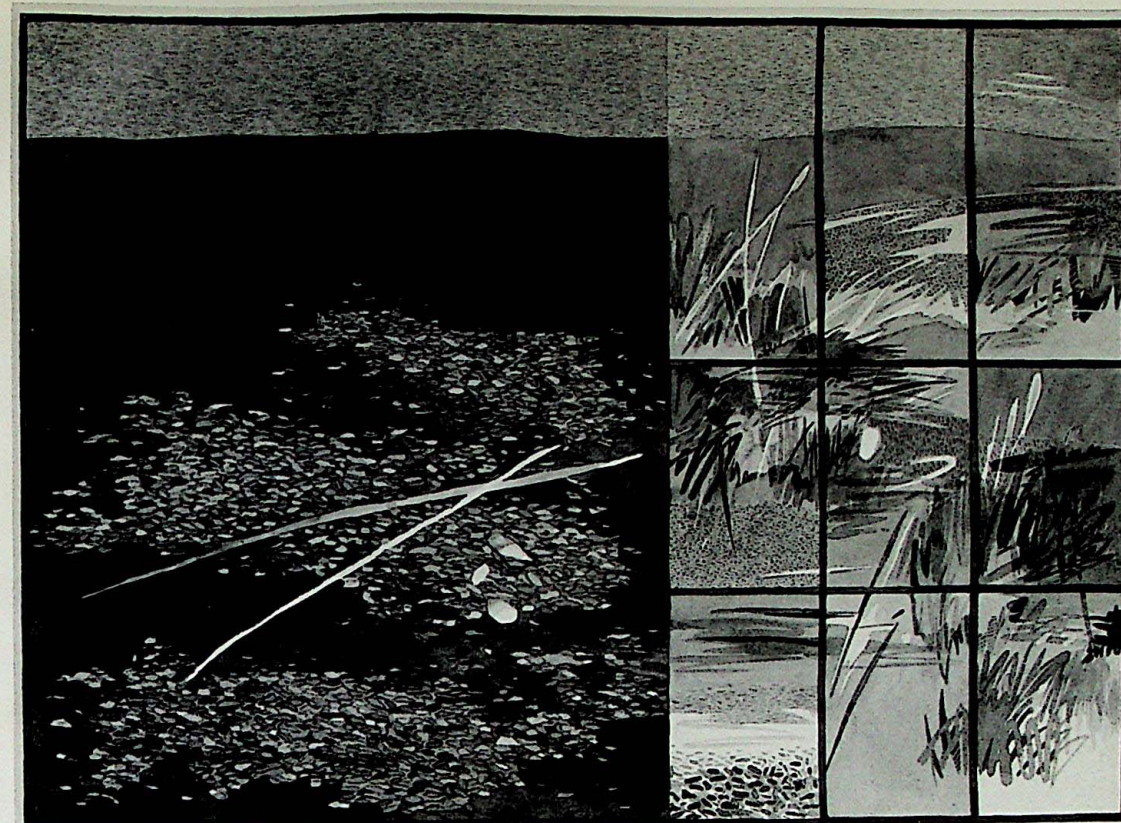
FOUR VIEWS IN AUTUMN water colour on paper 55 cm. x 76 cm. 1987

MEDITATION ON STONE NO 2 oil and acrylic on canvas 120 cm. x 140 cm. 1987

WATERY BLUE water colour on paper 55 cm. x 76 cm. 1987



GARDEN OF NOTHINGNESS water colour on paper 38 cm. x 53 cm. 1987



AUTUMN LEAVES water colour on paper 56 cm. x 76 cm. 1987