



CAROLINE BESSE

Awarded the **Grand Prize for Creation** in Arts & Crafts from the City of Paris, 2022.





GEMS & MINERALS: VIBRANT ECO-FRIENDLY COLORS

Caroline offers a hybrid art form between **gallery pieces and bespoke creations**, producing unique pieces entirely handmade.

Painting on washi paper or textile with magnificent colors derived from **gems and minerals** (lapis lazuli, malachite, tiger's eye, jade...), she creates deep textures that interact with light in ever-changing ways.

She has integrated **environmental concerns** into her approach for over twenty years, using only traditional methods and natural materials. Her colors, binders, glues, and washi paper ensure an unparalleled and enduring chromatic quality.

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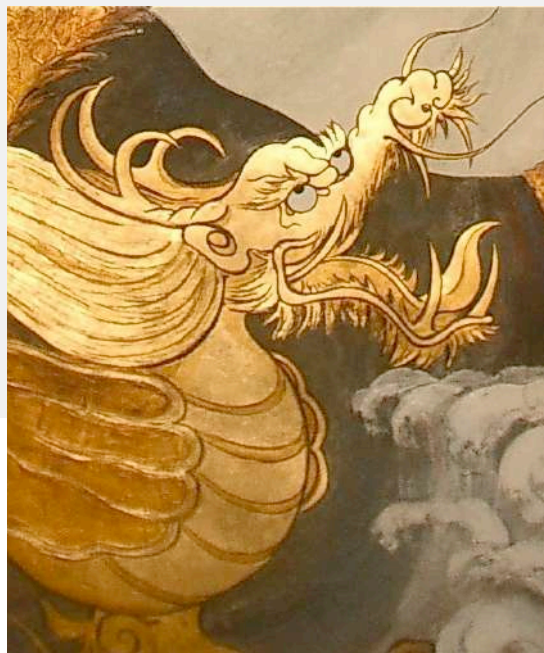


INITIATIONS IN BODHGAYA CHINESE TEMPLE

Trained in the art of decorative painting with the prestigious Vanderkelen techniques, Caroline has evolved her skills from traditional painted decors through learning Asian pictorial techniques. Studying traditional Chinese medicine and the Chan Buddhist tradition, she has made numerous retreats in Bodhgaya, the site of Buddha's enlightenment in Northern India. There, she experiments with **monastic calligraphy, ink painting, and Buddhist sacred painting**.

In this context, she discovered the pictorial material of crushed minerals. Fascinated by the depth and strength of these mineral nuances, she then trained in the **Japanese technique of nihonga**, which traditionally uses these colors, and continued her study of the **symbolism of colors** and sacred geometry.

She responded to Buddhist temples commissions as well as to private commissions.



COLORS AND PERCEPTION

Caroline directed her research towards the perception of color and enriched it with the Western approaches of **Goethe and Rudolf Steiner**. This radically changed her artistic expression, and she **invented her own technique** that blends Asian and Western methods to create large formats studded with minerals.

Her intention is to facilitate **immersion** in the power of color and to amplify perception using vibrant colors. The **geological memories** and the forces contained within the minerals, as well as their brilliance and iridescence, make these colored powders an **extraordinary and captivating medium**.

SUR-MESURE

Her experience with large formats and her experiments on the **effects of light and space on color** make Caroline Besse an expert in bespoke creations. She produces unique projects for architects and decorators, **enveloping spaces with the poetry of mineral colors**. Her works on paper and textile are **mounted on various supports**: walls, furniture, or presented in large-format compositions.



COLORS FROM TERRITORIES

In 2022, driven by a passion for mineral pigments and local resources, Caroline embarked on a **chromatic survey of minerals across the French territory** in collaboration with the geology department of **Sorbonne University**.

This hands-on research—harvesting and grinding raw minerals—has deepened her expertise, allowing her to create bespoke mural paintings that authentically reflect the geological identity of different regions and countries. Among her recent commissions is a project for **Domaine Leflaive**, the prestigious Burgundy wine estate, where her work captures the essence of the terroir through naturally sourced pigments.





P O R T F O L I O

2024 *Living mists*, panoramic 2,5 x 5,5 m in the salons of **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS** Madison Avenue New York. **Azurite, jade, malachite, opale, sand from the Hamptons** as a tribute to the local environment, iridescent waves of **mica** cross the space.



2024 Salons of **CARTIER** Aventura MIAMI.

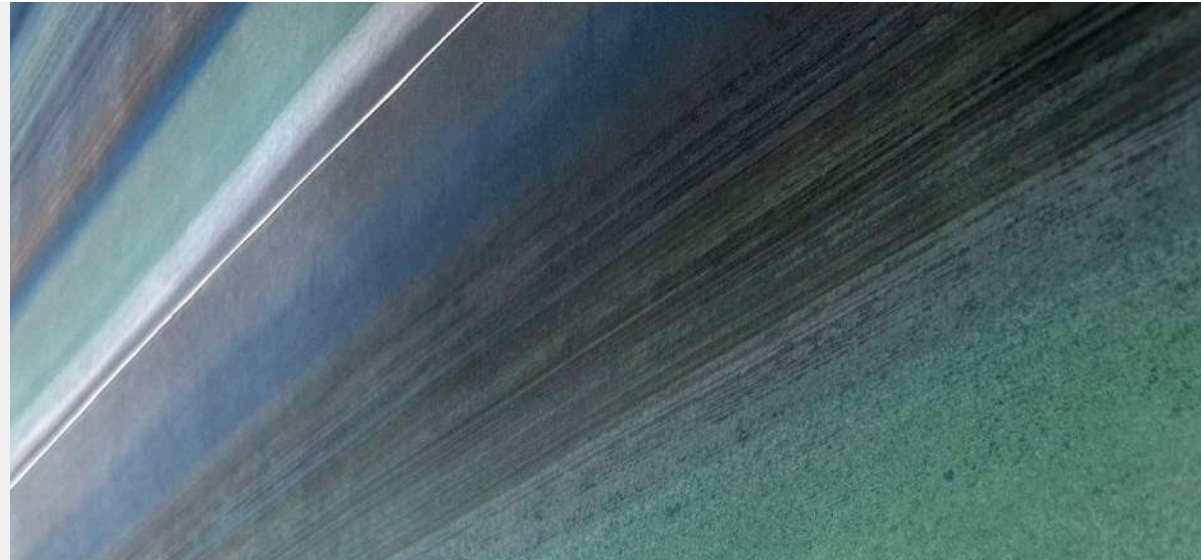
Green-blue panoramic 2,50 x 4,5 m

Malachite and azurite, serpentine, jade and mica.

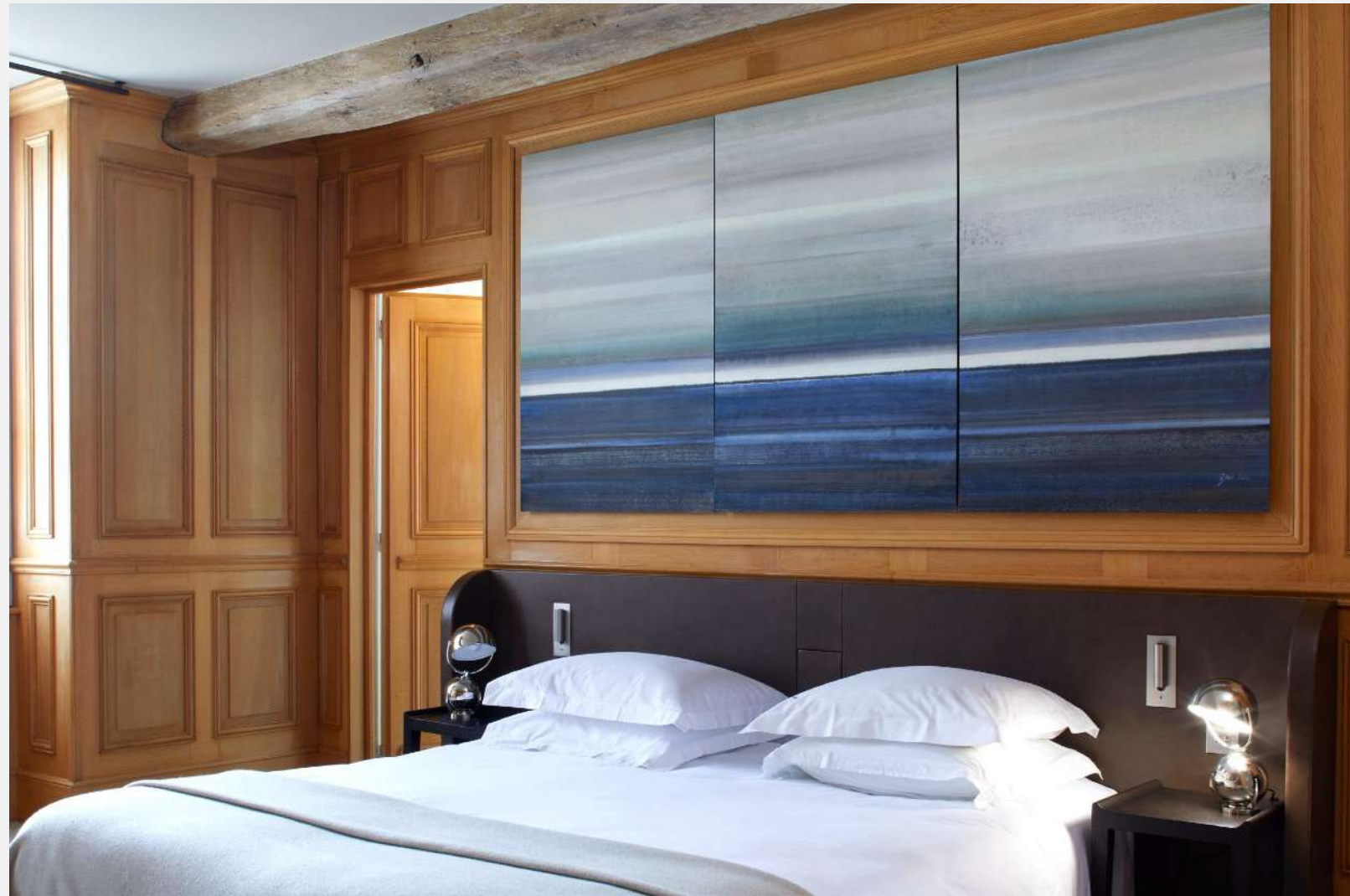
Yellow panoramic 2,70 x 3,50

Tiger eye, jasper, golden garnet, indigo, lapis-lazuli.

Architect **Charles Zana.**



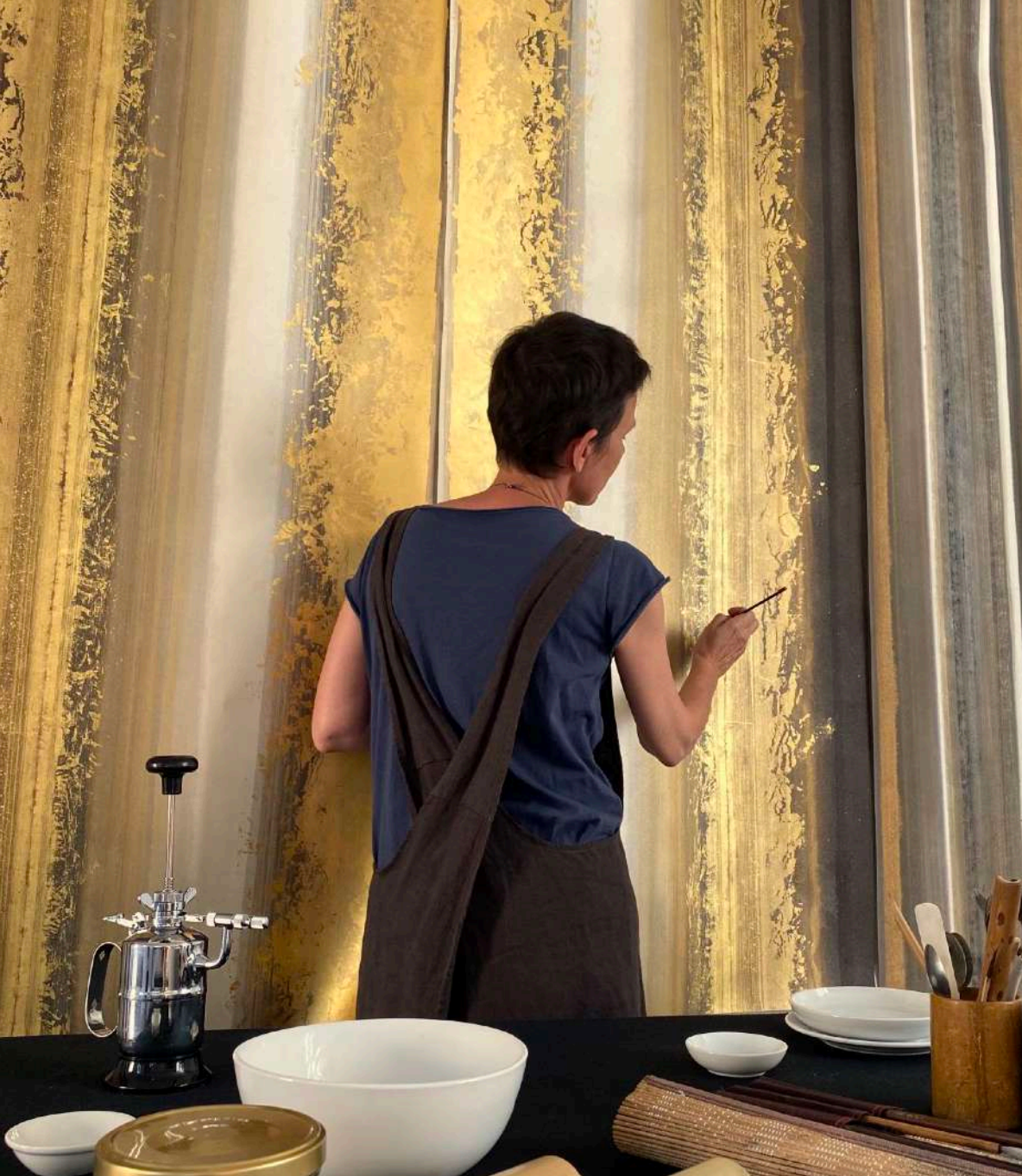
2020 *Blue and yellow triptych* for
Champagne's maison **BILLECART-
SALMON**. Lapis-lazuli, azurite,
malachite, mica.
Elliott Barnes Interiors agency.



2020 *Brumes*, panoramic 2 x 5 m in the salons of **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS** place Vendôme, Paris. **Malachite and calcite, iridescent waves of mica** cross the space. Architect Jouin-Manku.



Van Cleef & Arpels / Jouin Manku © Éric Laignel

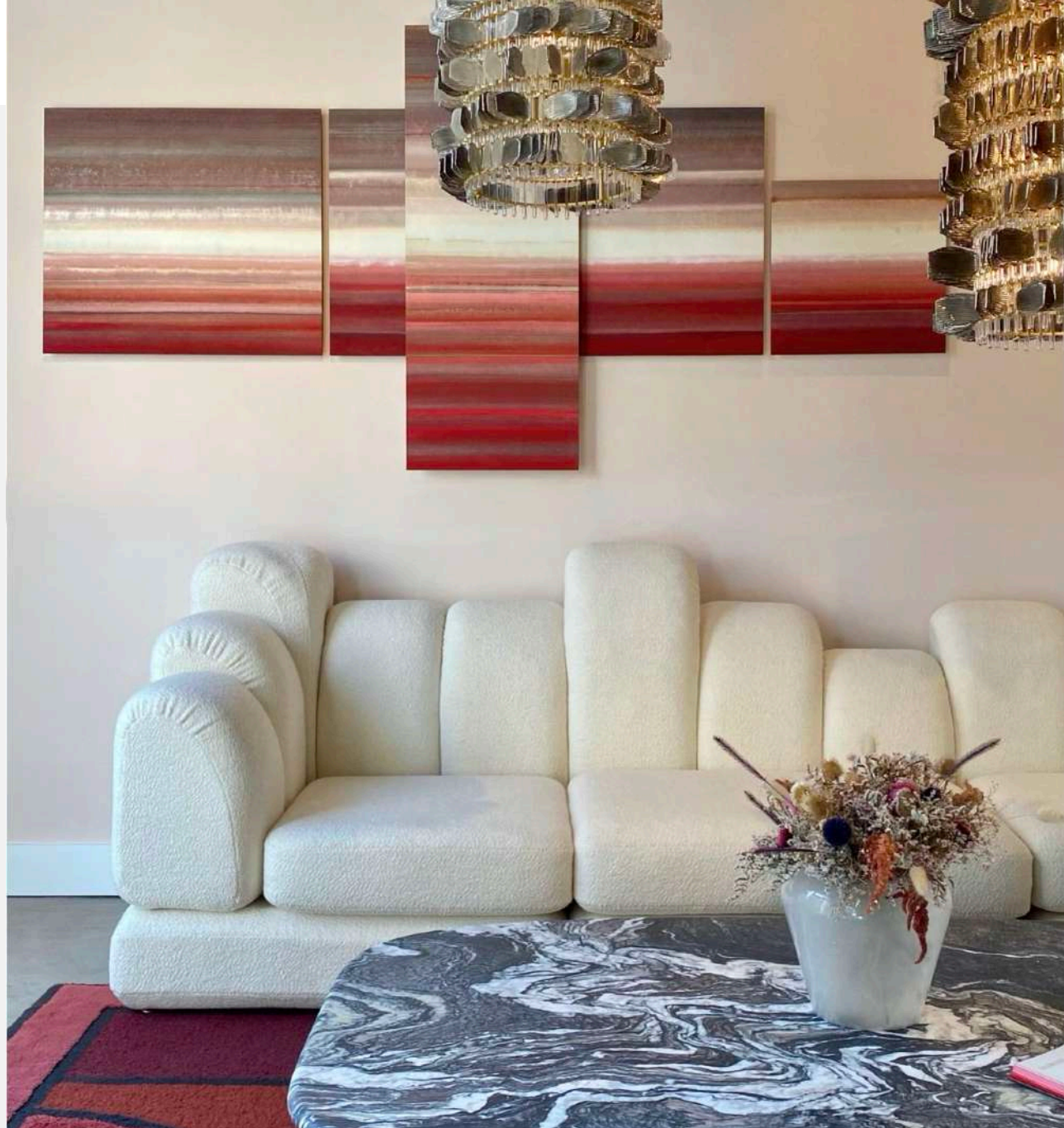


2021 Light emerges from the leaf-gilded sliding doors.
Gold leaf, bronzite, tiger's eye and jasper to the
deepest black of the **tourmaline**. La Clusaz, private
commission.



2022 *Composition, reds* 250 x 114 cm.

Grains of **ruby, jasper, hematite, coral and mica** to dialogue with the transparency of Murano glass in the **Veronese** Parisian showroom.





2017 *Density*, composition of 27 panels along the staircase's walls. Ink and **tiger's eye, jasper and golden garnet**, Paris tour Eiffel, **Mandala Architecture Agency**.



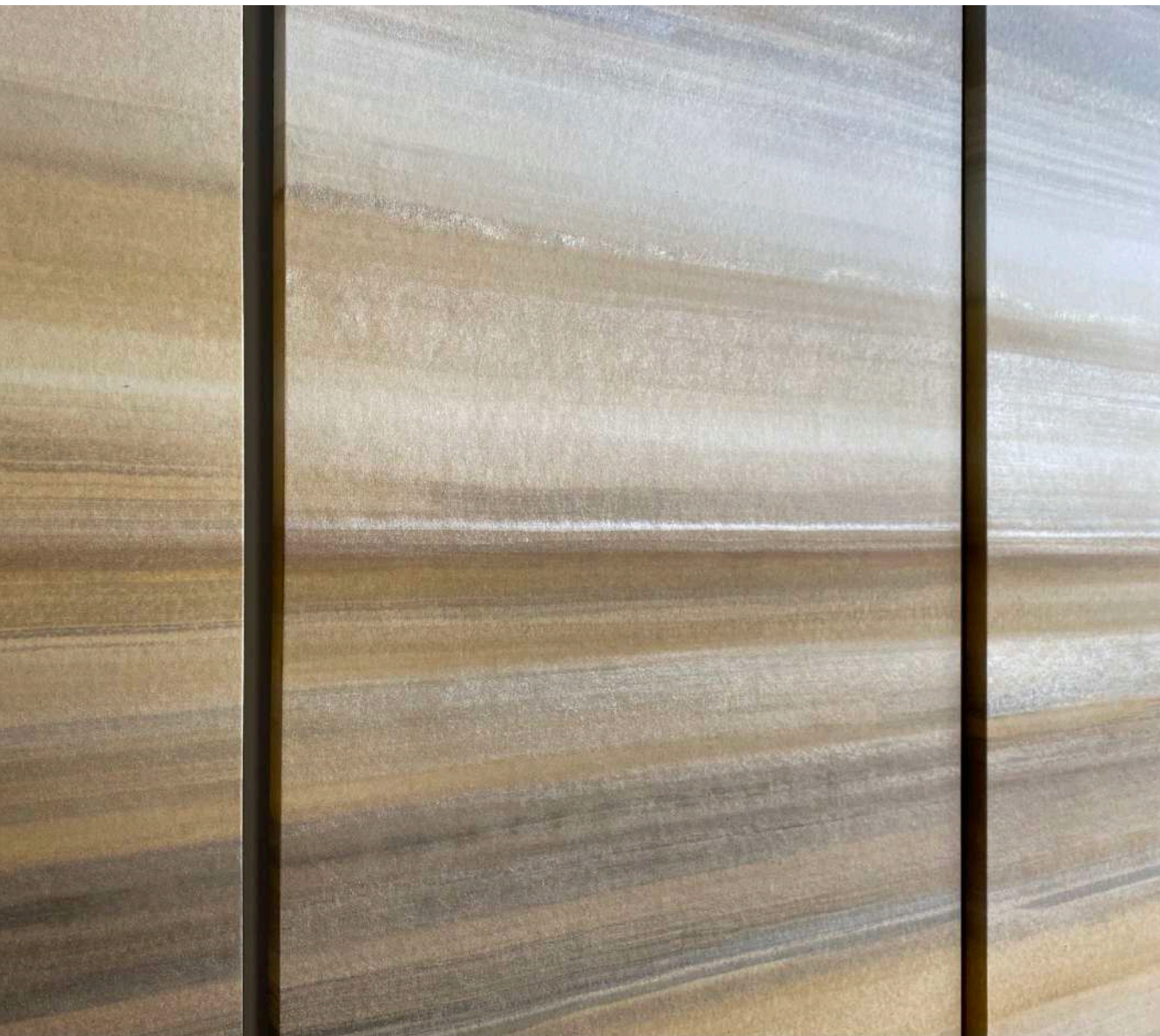


2018 Azur 250 x 70 cm, **azurite and lapis-lazuli** to accompany the statue of the Virgin and Child. Chapel in Paris 6th arrondissement. **LO Architectes** agency.



2019 *Gold leaves sun*, 140 cm **diameter**
et sideboard 4 portes. **Magnetite,**
calcite, hematite, mica. French
embassy in Bangui, **Ministry of Foreign**
Affairs.

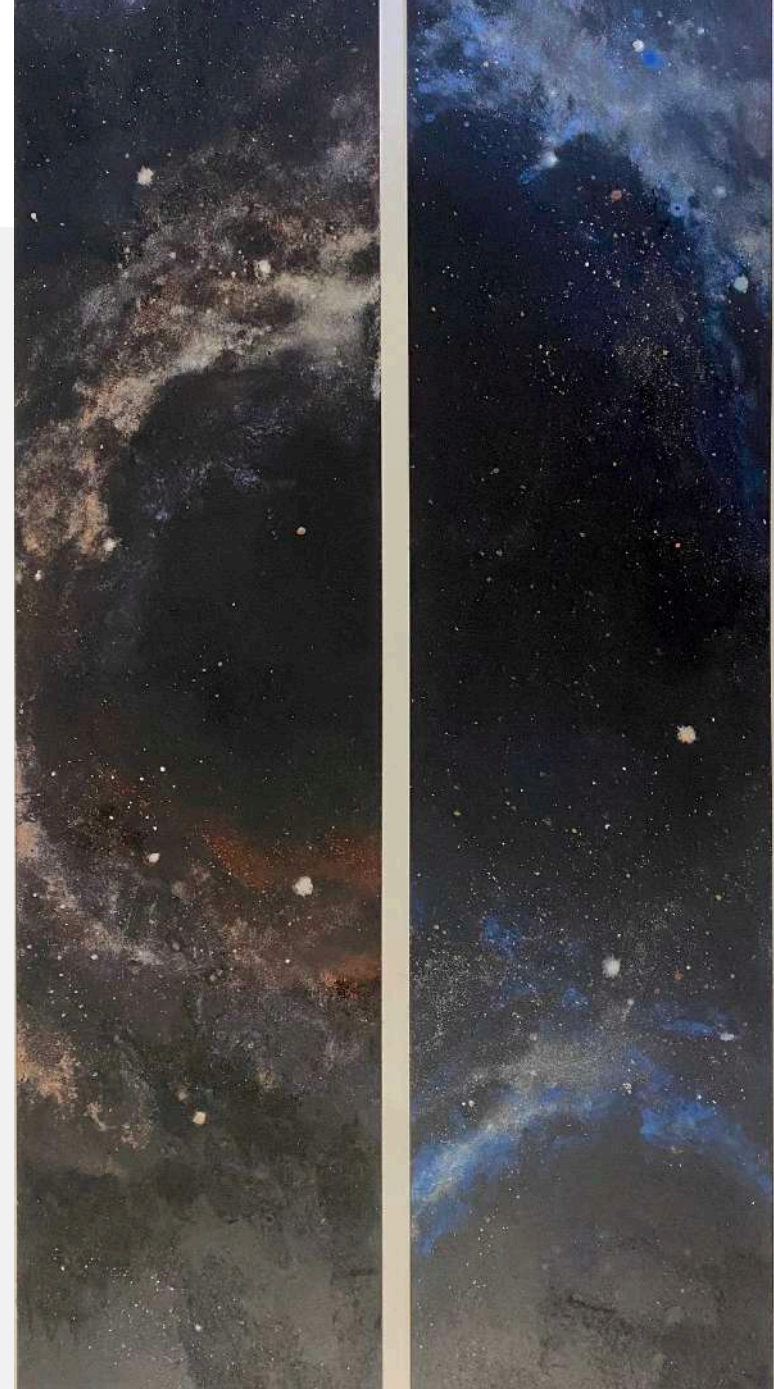




2021 *Folding screen*, 7 panels, 210 x 50 cm.
Bronzite, tiger's eye, jasper, golden garnet and micas. Paris, private commission.



2023 Cabinet of curiosities as a chromatic repertoire of minerals from French subsoils. Color chart on the front, a cosmos and secret niches to be explored according to the mineral hues and iridescences...: **azurite, hematite, baryte, charbon, galene...** Mobilier national for « the Aliénés » exhibition.





2022 *Flamme* 3 x 1m.

Calciferous wood, bronzite, tiger's eye, jasper.

Paris, private commission.



2024 **Minerals on textile**: a new approach applying pigments to textiles like silk, organza, and linen. Integrating minerals of various granularities into fibers creates exceptional depth and radiance, unlocking unique decorative and architectural possibilities.

Silk panel: **coral, sugilite, lapis-lazuli, yellow opale**



IMPLEMENTATION for CUSTOM DESIGN:

Custom colors thanks to superimposed layers
Creation in studio and on-site paper application
Production of scale models
Production of samples

Upstream option: local mineral collection and production of mineral pigments

DIMENSIONS of JAPANESE PAPER:

- Traditional rolls: width 93 cm or 113 cm, available within 8 days.
- Oversize sheets made in Japan available within 4 months:
212×272 cm, 182×244cm, 150×210cm, 125×187cm