

In February 2022, I had a vision during a meditation in the Matrimandir inner chamber and then... I found the Galaxy on the bark of a large tree nearby.

To create the Galaxy from the bark of a tree is my contribution to unity within the Auroville community.

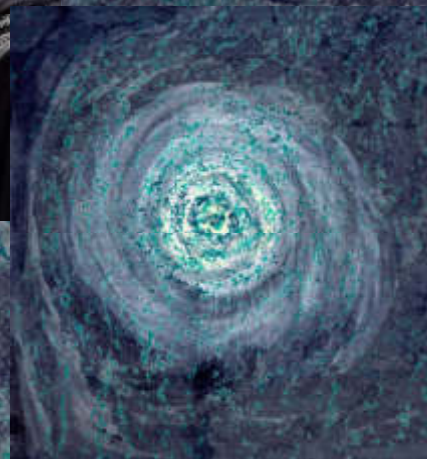
I am thankful to Devashish Dhiman, Kalyan, Uma Prajapati, Jayram, Chetana Deorah, Karthik, the team from the Matrimandir nursery and the Matrimandir office team for their collaboration with me on this project.

© Birgitta Volz 2022

**Birgitta Volz**

# Manifesting the Galaxy

**from the bark of a tree**







The Matrimandir is the largest golden building in the world.

One of the first settlements in Auroville in the 60s, surrounded by barren, eroded land.

50 years later the lush and beautiful green environment today.



The Matrimandir is situated in the centre of the international community of Auroville in South India. The plan for building the city is based on the shape of a Galaxy (*right page*). In a span of 50 years (starting 1968), Aurovilians built a healthy, green environment on what was once completely barren land. Toward the end of 2021, Auroville has felt a divide with two different positions regarding the development of the city. This split within our community made me quite sad.

One of the main purposes of Auroville is to be an experiment for human unity on earth. With people from 50 different nations, and rich, diverse backgrounds, we continue to learn and grow in this ideal.

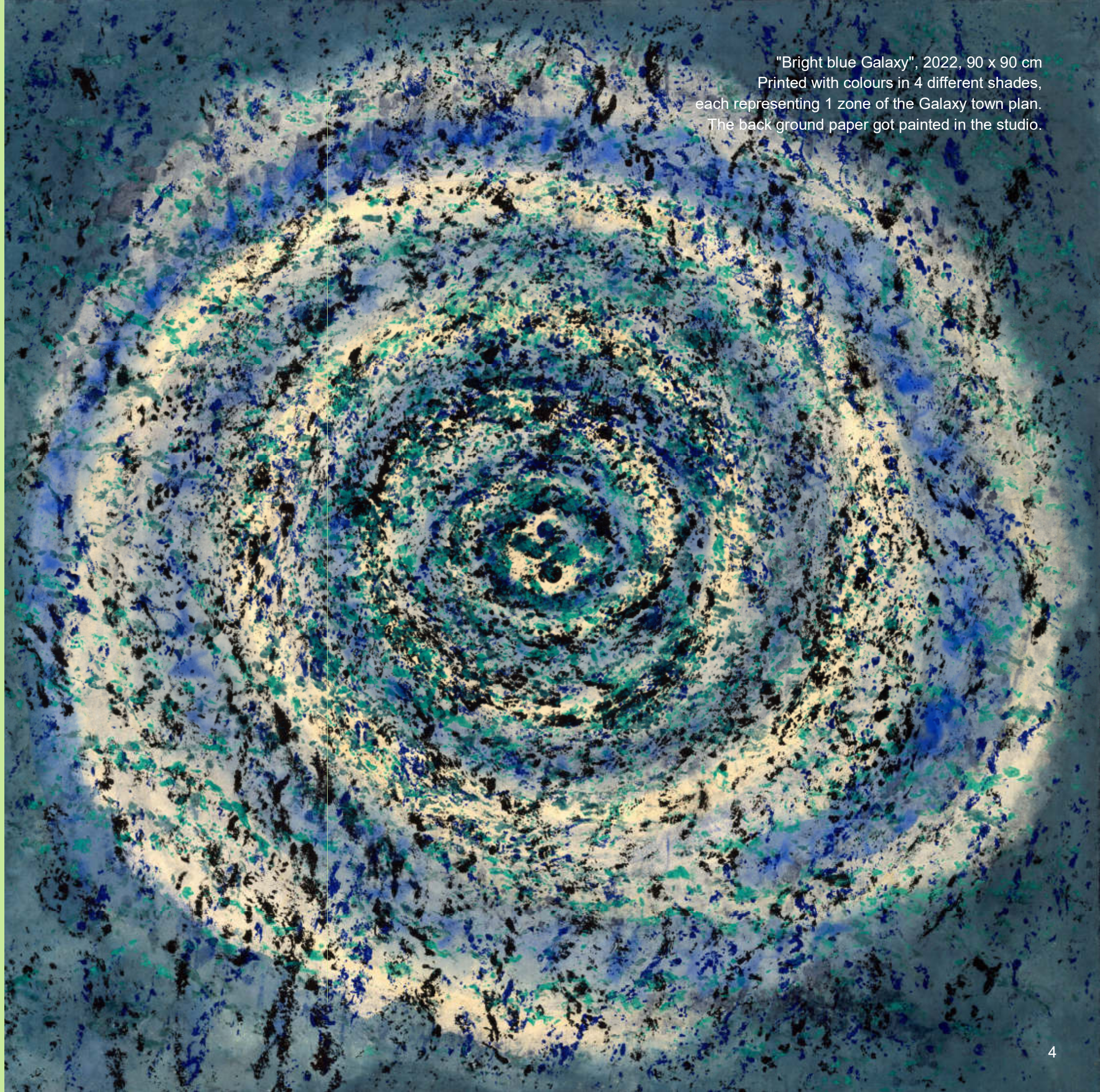
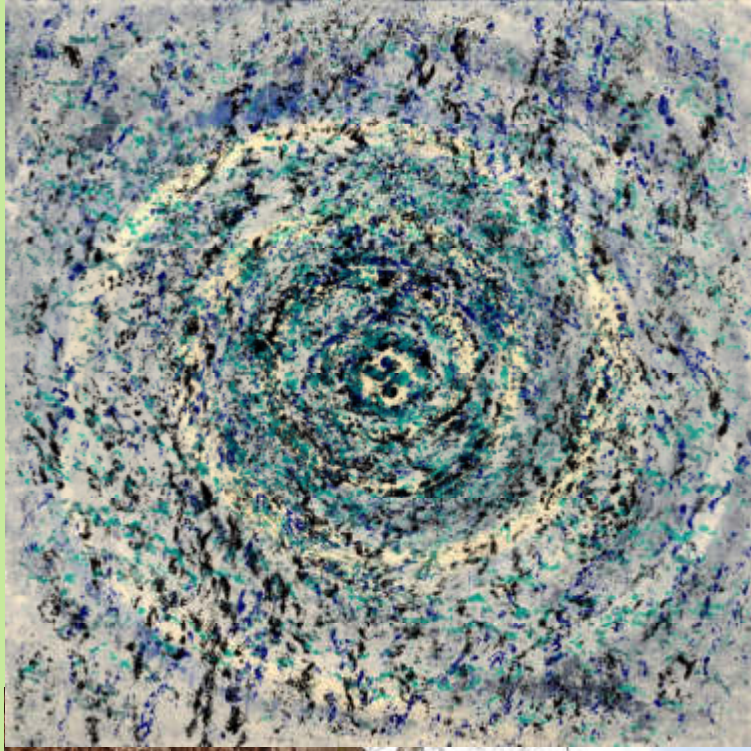
During a meditation in the Matrimandir inner chamber, I had a vision of the Galaxy on the bark of the large Elephant Ear tree (at the crossing next to Matrimandir's entrance).

**To manifest the Galaxy with my artwork from the bark of a tree is my contribution to unity within Auroville.**

[www.auroville.org.in](http://www.auroville.org.in)

Galaxy plan by architect Roger Anger

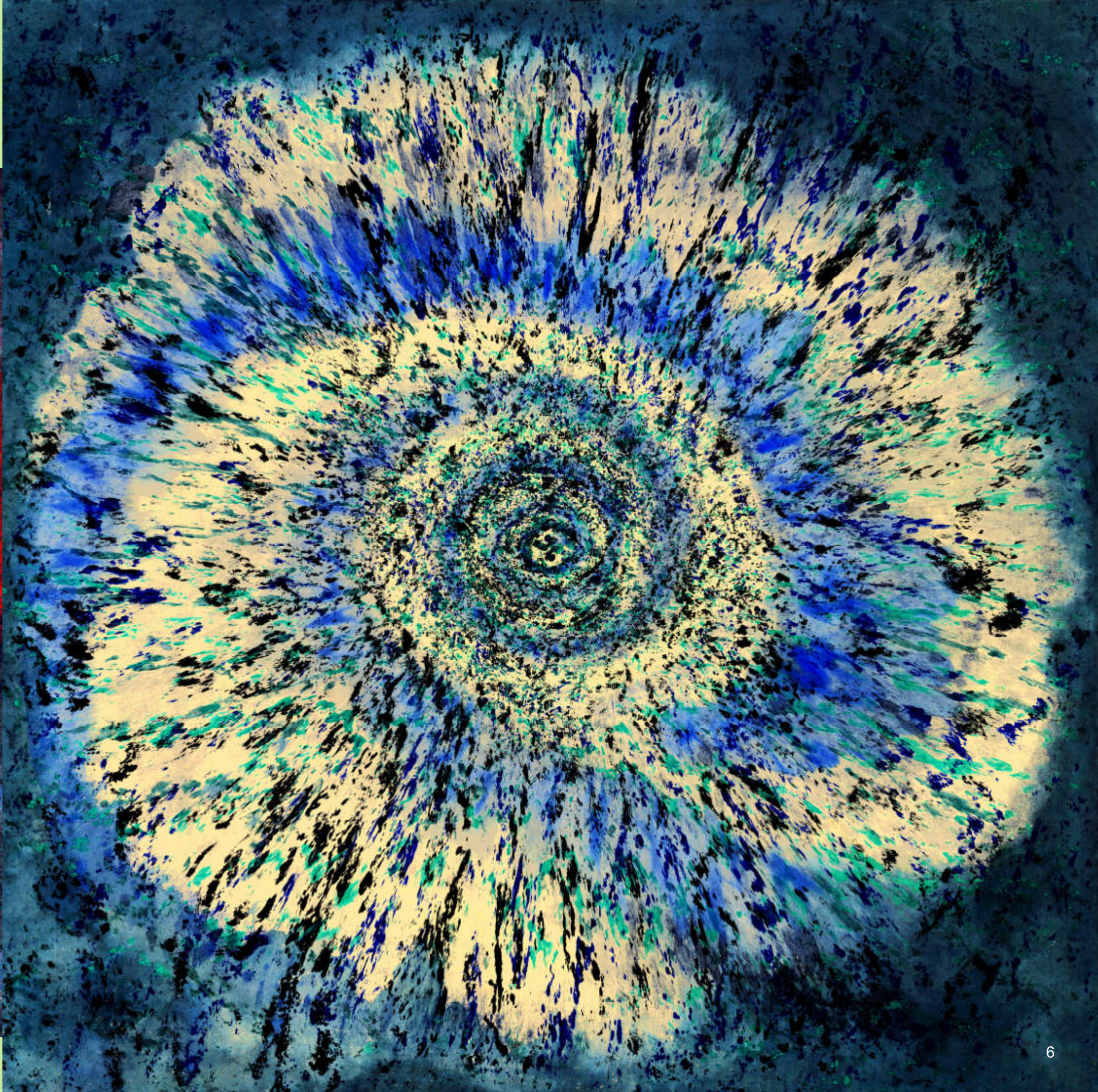
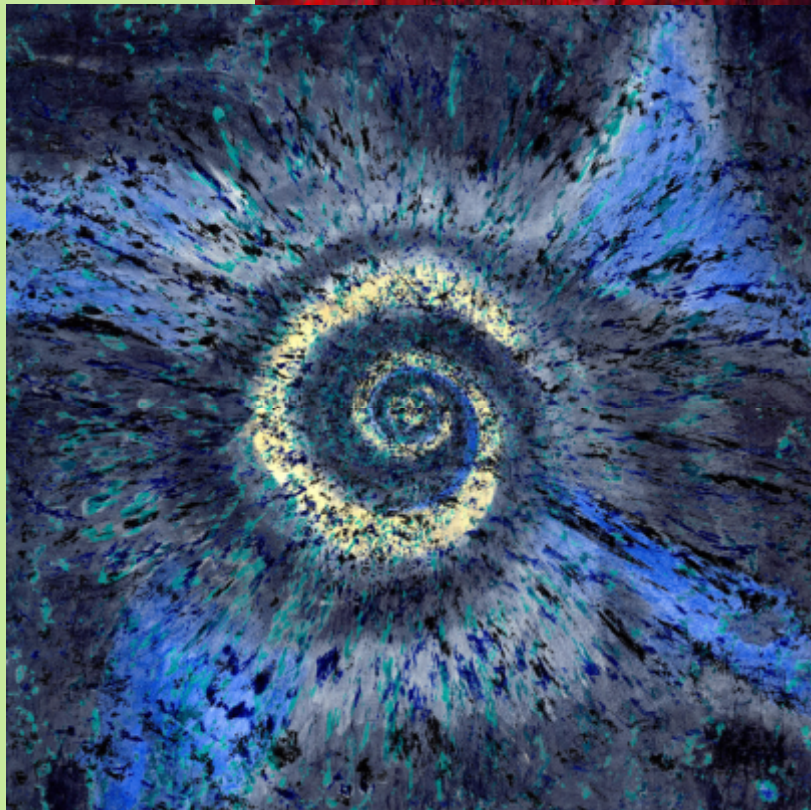
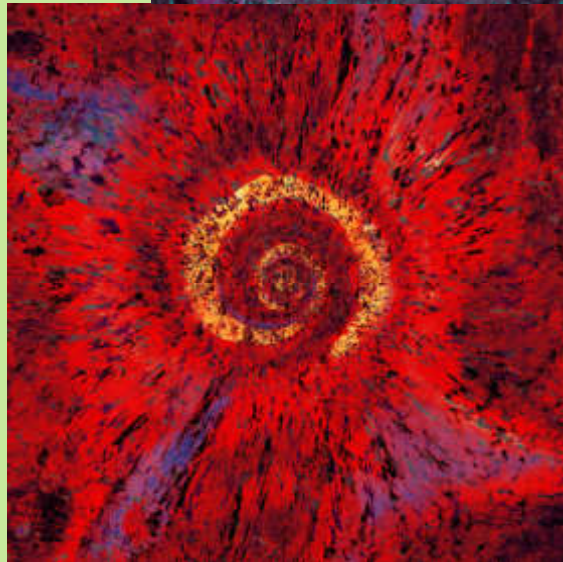
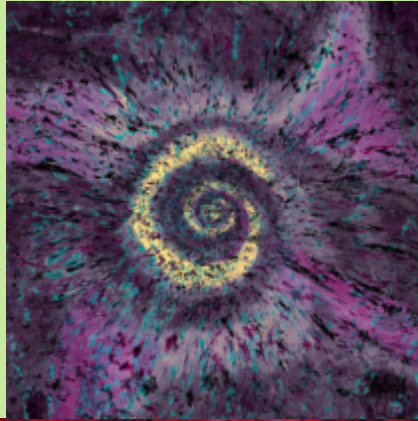




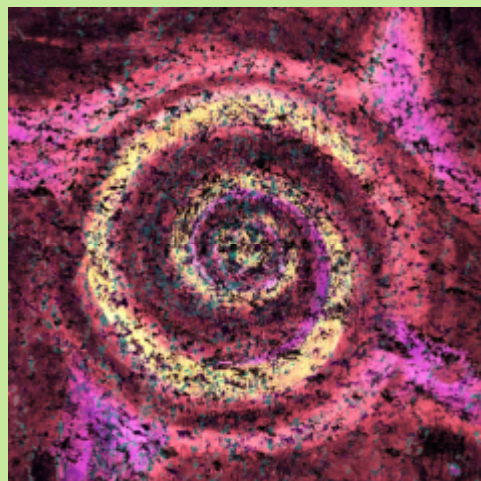
"Bright blue Galaxy", 2022, 90 x 90 cm  
Printed with colours in 4 different shades,  
each representing 1 zone of the Galaxy town plan.  
The back ground paper got painted in the studio.



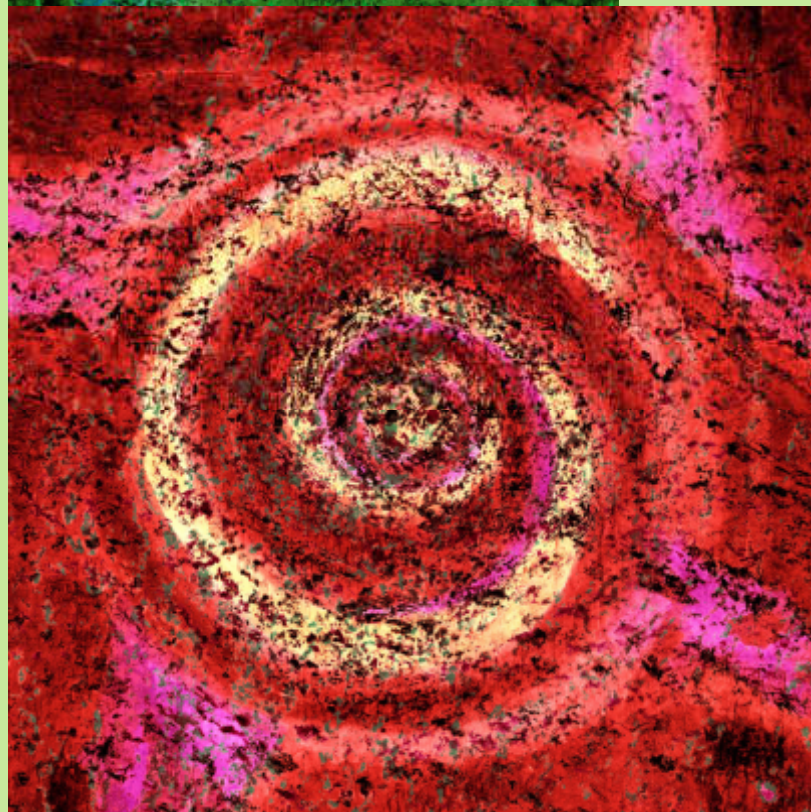
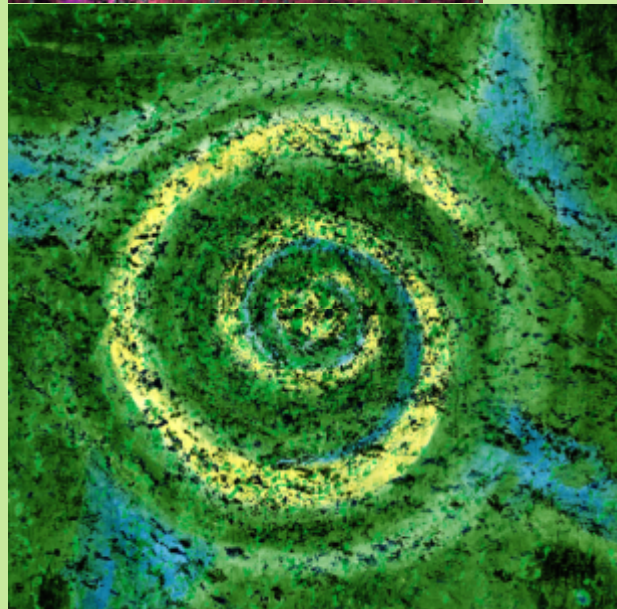
Digitally modified version of the "Bright Blue Galaxy", 2022 (*right side*) and 3 versions of the "Blue Galaxy" (*next double page*).



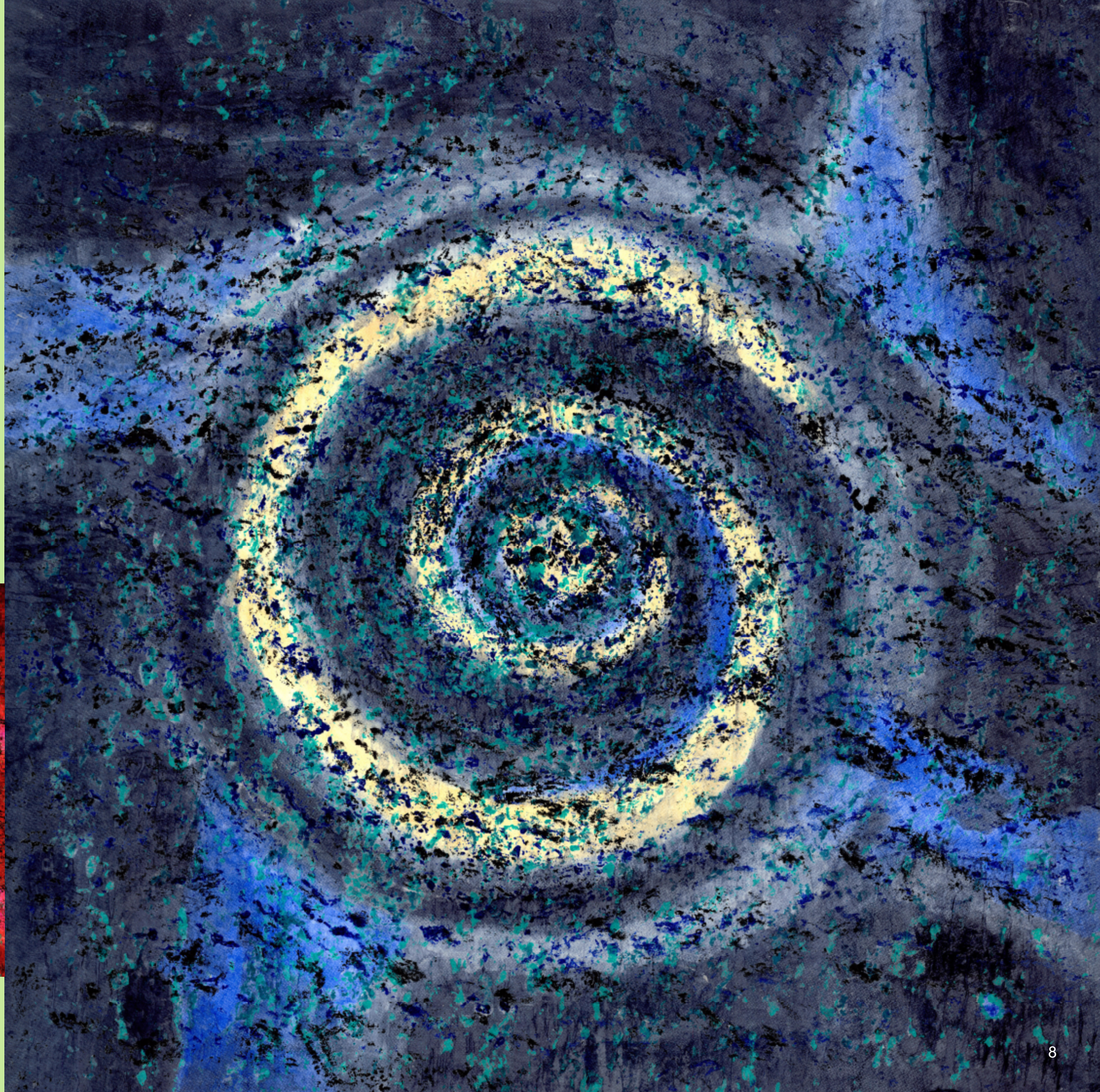




3 more  
digitally  
modified  
versions  
*(only colour)*  
of the "Blue  
Galaxy".



"Blue Galaxy", 2022  
97 x 97 cm, oil colour on Chinese paper,  
back ground painted with acrylic colours.





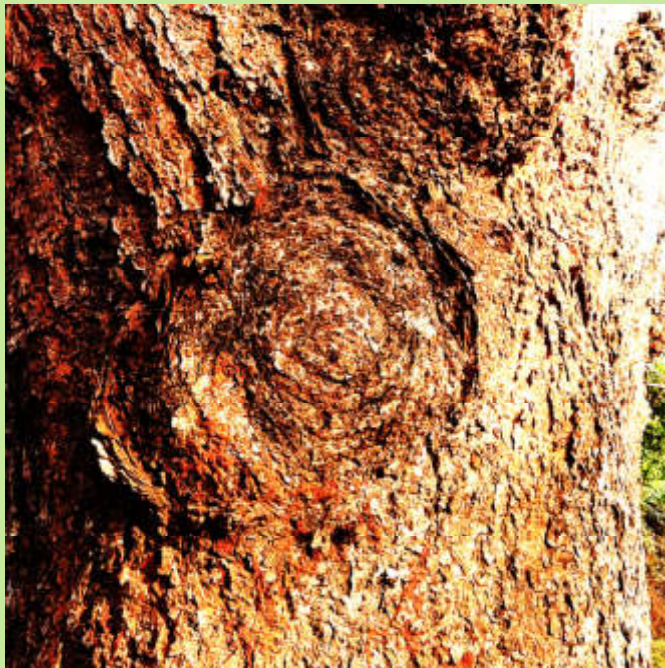
"Auroville Earth Galaxy", 2022, 97 x 97 cm  
Printed with Auroville earth pigments in 4 different shades. The back ground paper got painted with Auroville earth shades dissolved in acrylic binder.

**A little bit on the technique of how I print from nature...**

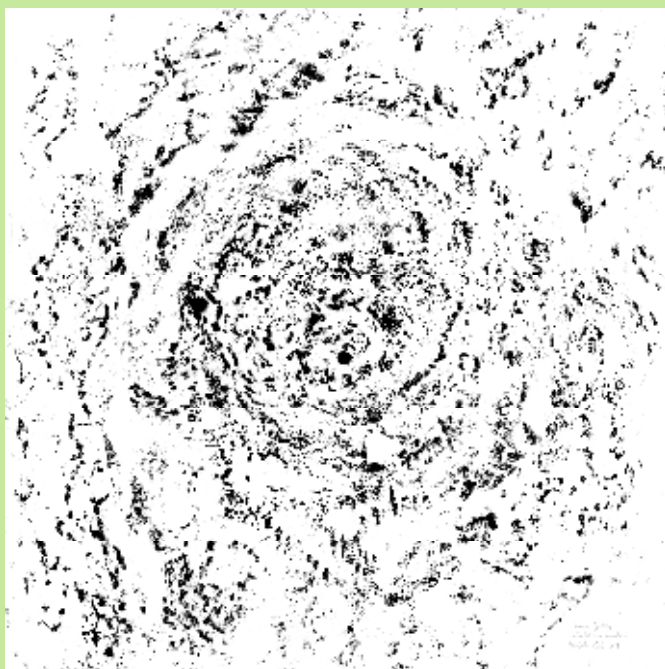
The process of printing starts with cleaning the tree surface thoroughly. I then apply a thin layer of oil colour with a roller on the bark. Following this, I place the paper or fabric and using soft pressure capture the impressions. My work is created without the use of any chemicals and solvents and the technique I use does not harm the trees. The colour that stays visible on the bark enhances the texture, making the tree look like a beautiful sculpture.





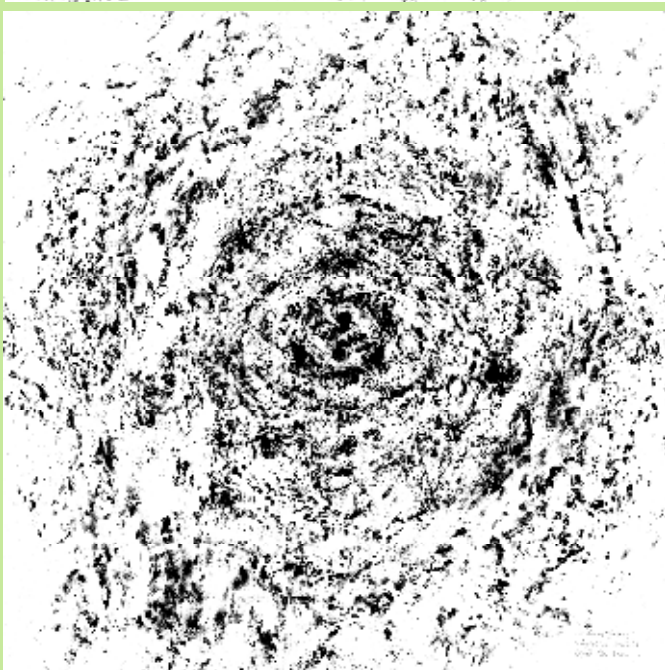


The unprinted Galaxy on the bark of the Elephant ear tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*)



"Emerging Galaxy"  
69 x 69 cm

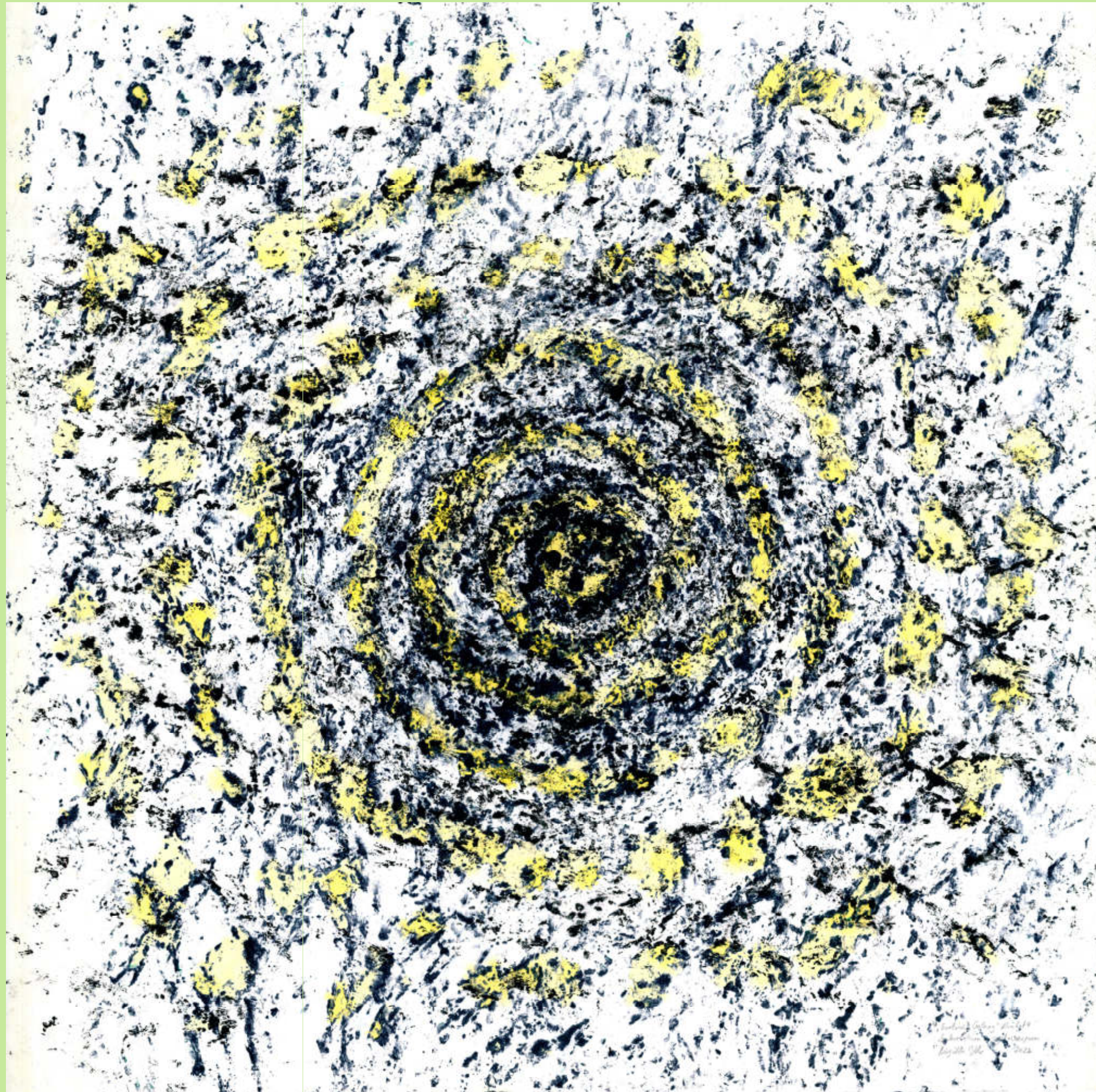
The first impression I took is the simple bark print



"Manifesting Galaxy"  
69 x 69 cm  
(below)

The second impression is a double print overlaid.

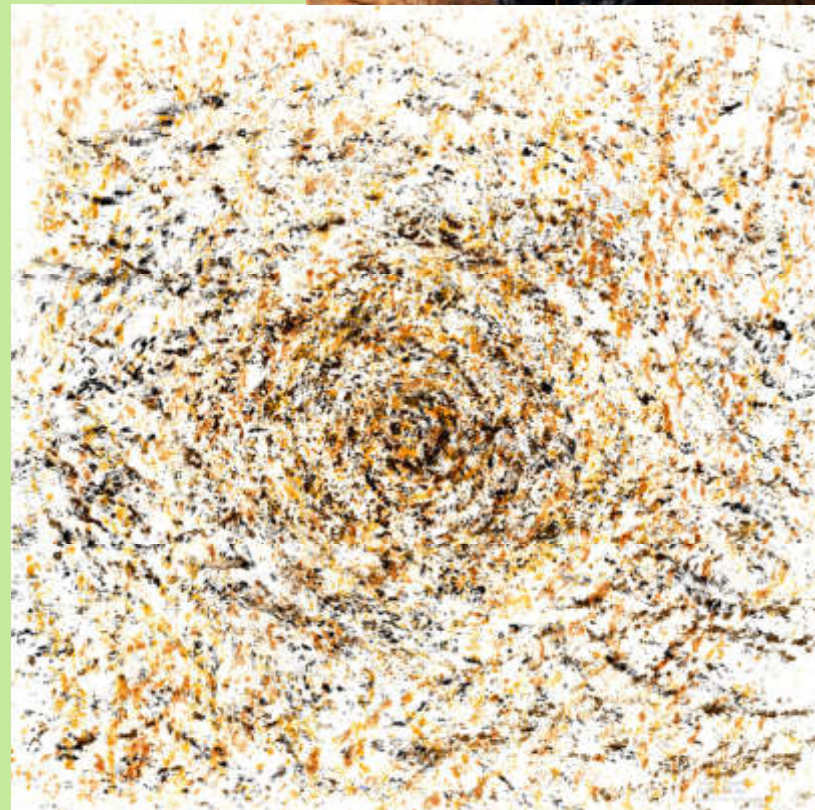
*Right side:*  
"Bright Galaxy"  
2022,  
97 x 97 cm,  
4 impressions from the bark and a play of water colour within the Galaxy





"Art Camp Galaxy", 2022, 120 x 120 cm

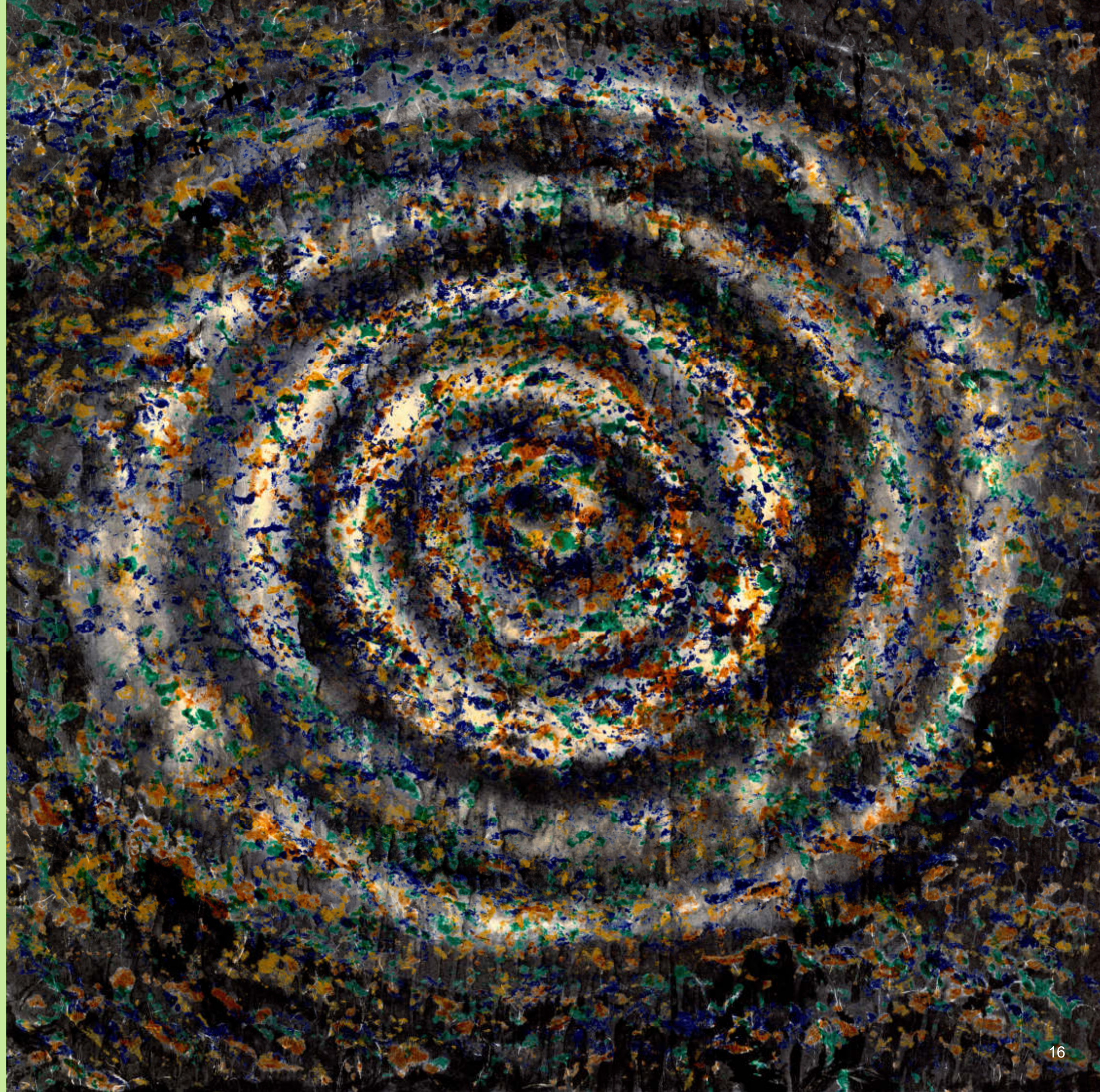
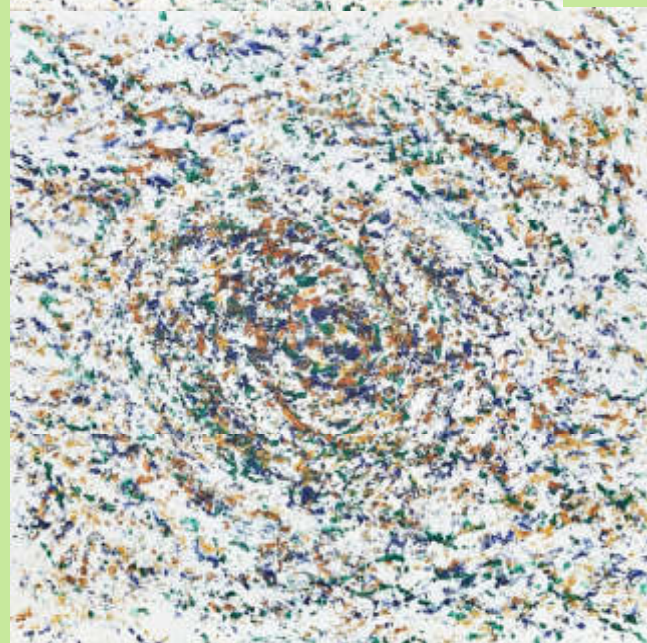
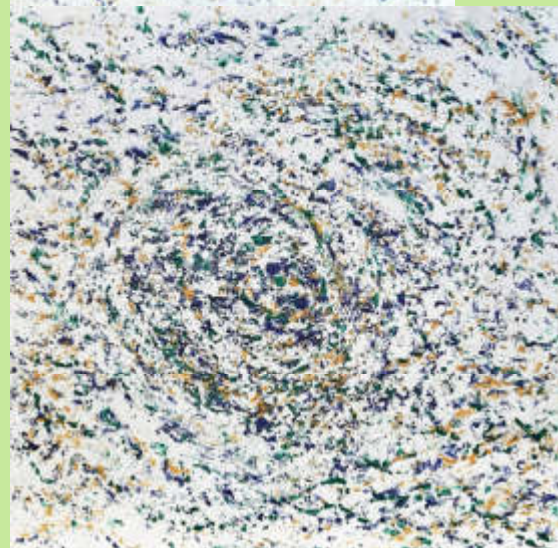
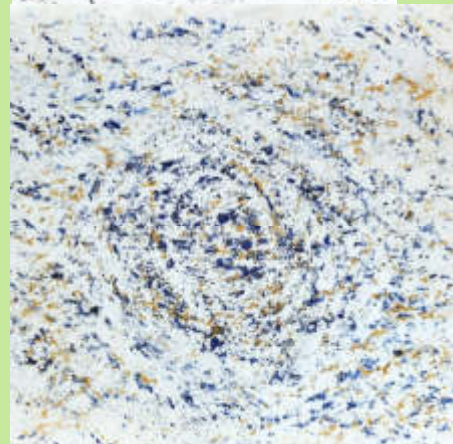
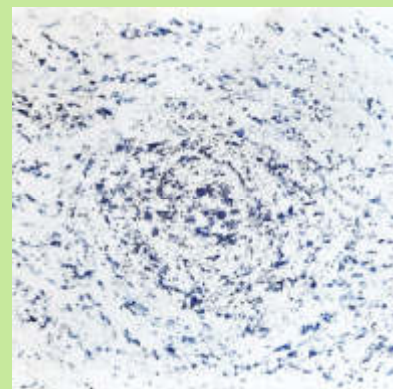
Bark print with oil colour on Japanese paper, pasted on canvas and painted with mixed media. This work was finished on canvas during the Auroville Art Camp in March 2022.





"Deep Space Galaxy", 2022,  
69 x 69 cm,  
bark print with  
oil colour on  
Chinese paper,  
then painted  
with acrylic  
colours.

Evolving of the  
"Deep Space  
Galaxy", which  
got printed in 4  
different colours  
off the bark.  
Each of the  
4 colours  
represents  
one zone  
of the town  
planning.

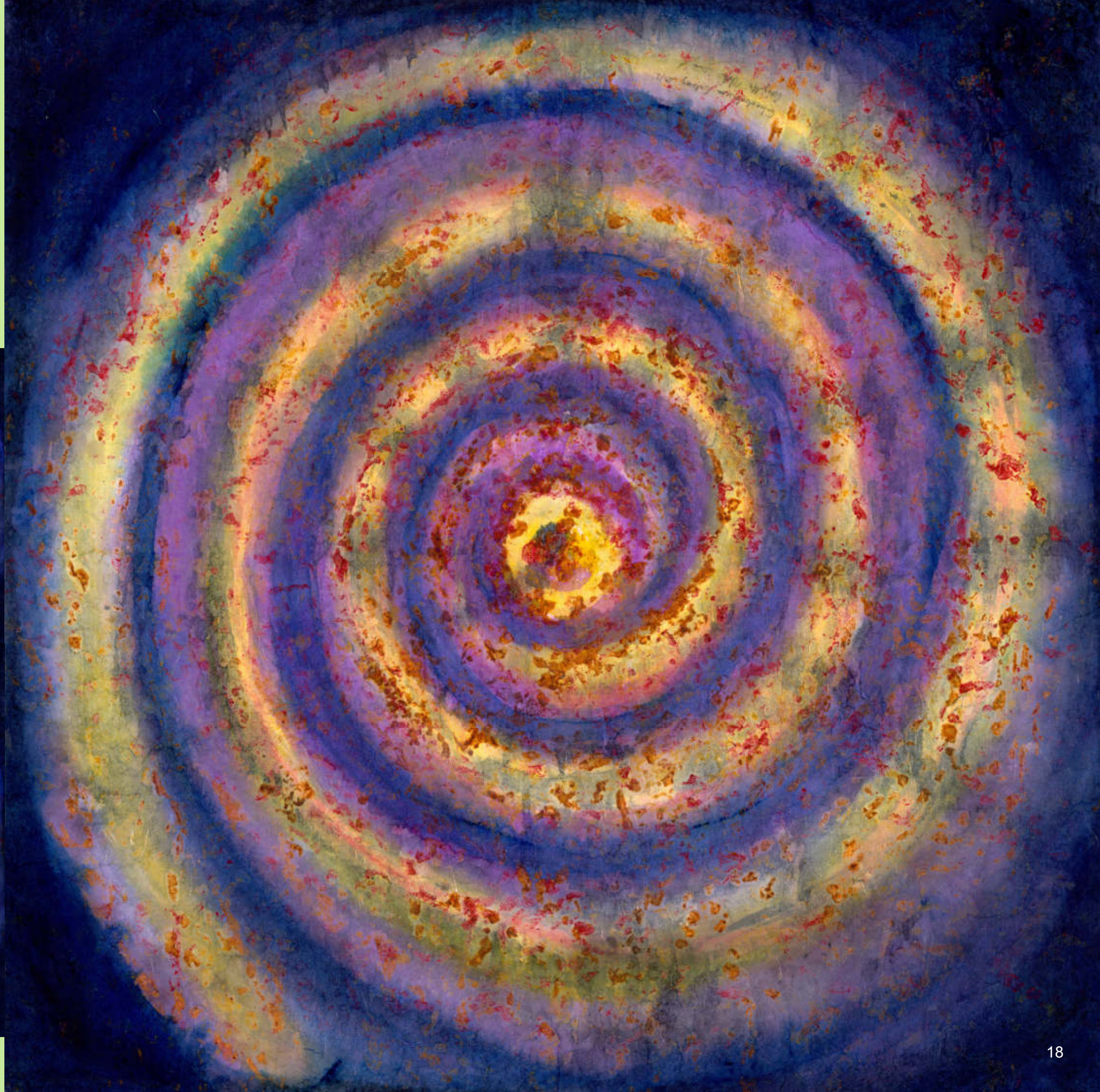
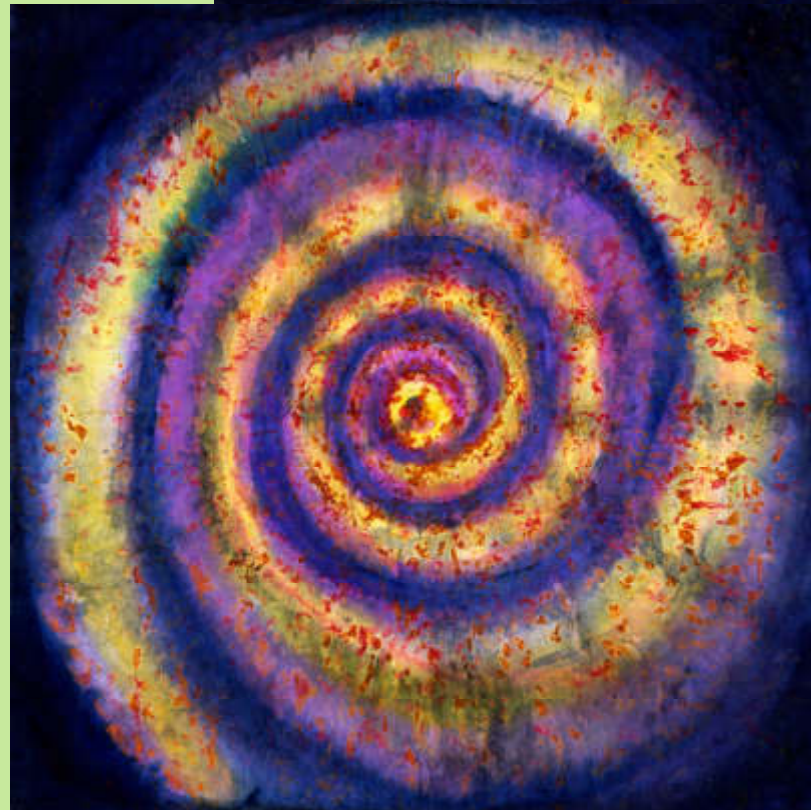
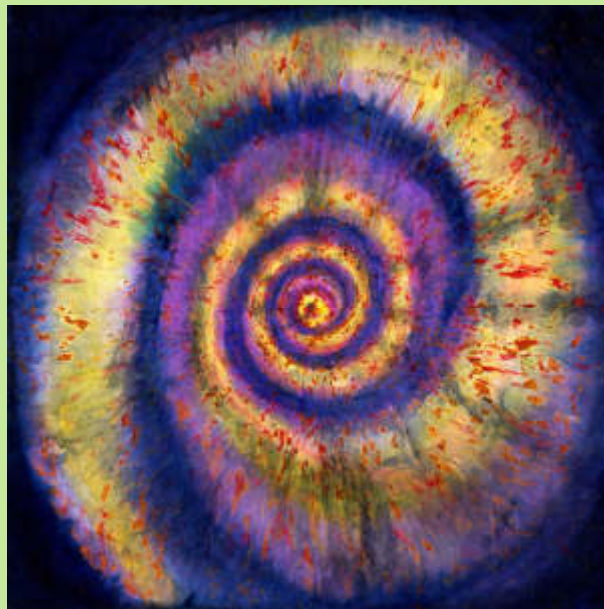




"Purple Galaxy" , 2022

69 x 69 cm,  
Bark print with oil colour on  
Japanese paper,  
then painted with mixed  
media.

2 Galaxy variations modified  
digitally from the original bark  
prints.

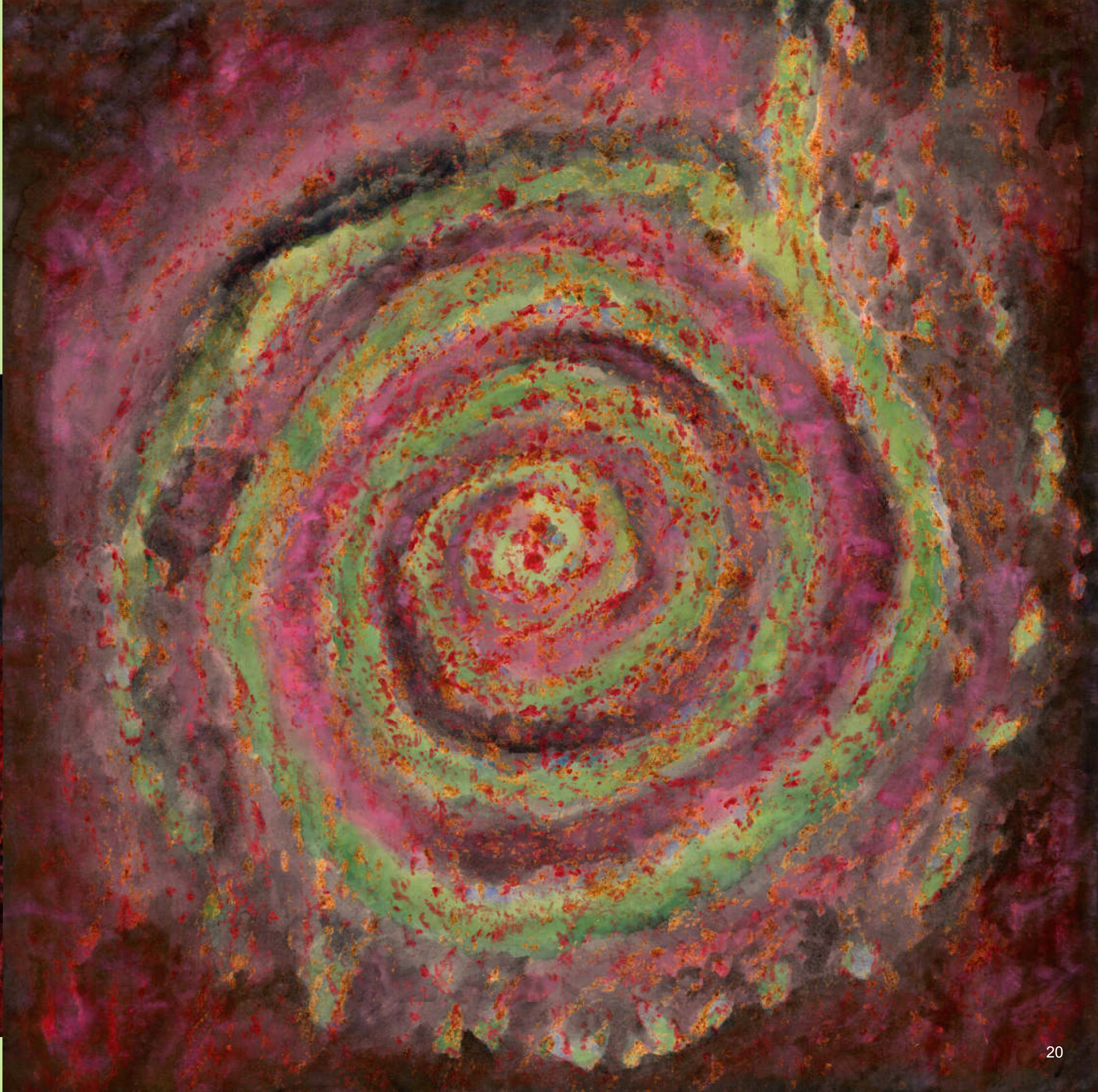
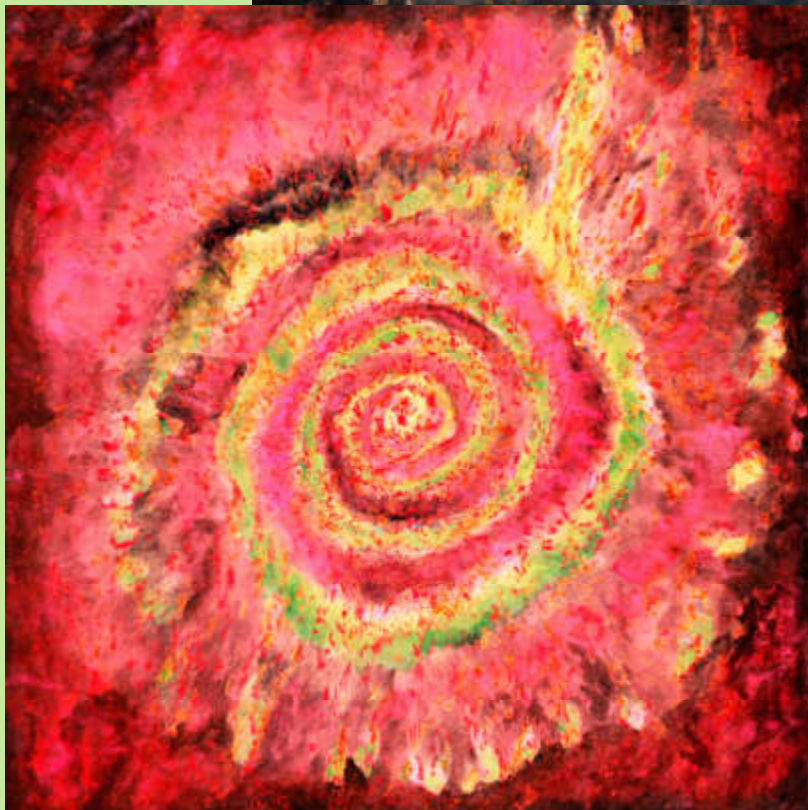




"Red Galaxy", 2022

90 x 90 cm,  
Bark print with oil colour on  
Japanese paper,  
then painted with mixed  
media.

Work in progress image of the  
"Red Galaxy" and a digitally  
modified version.

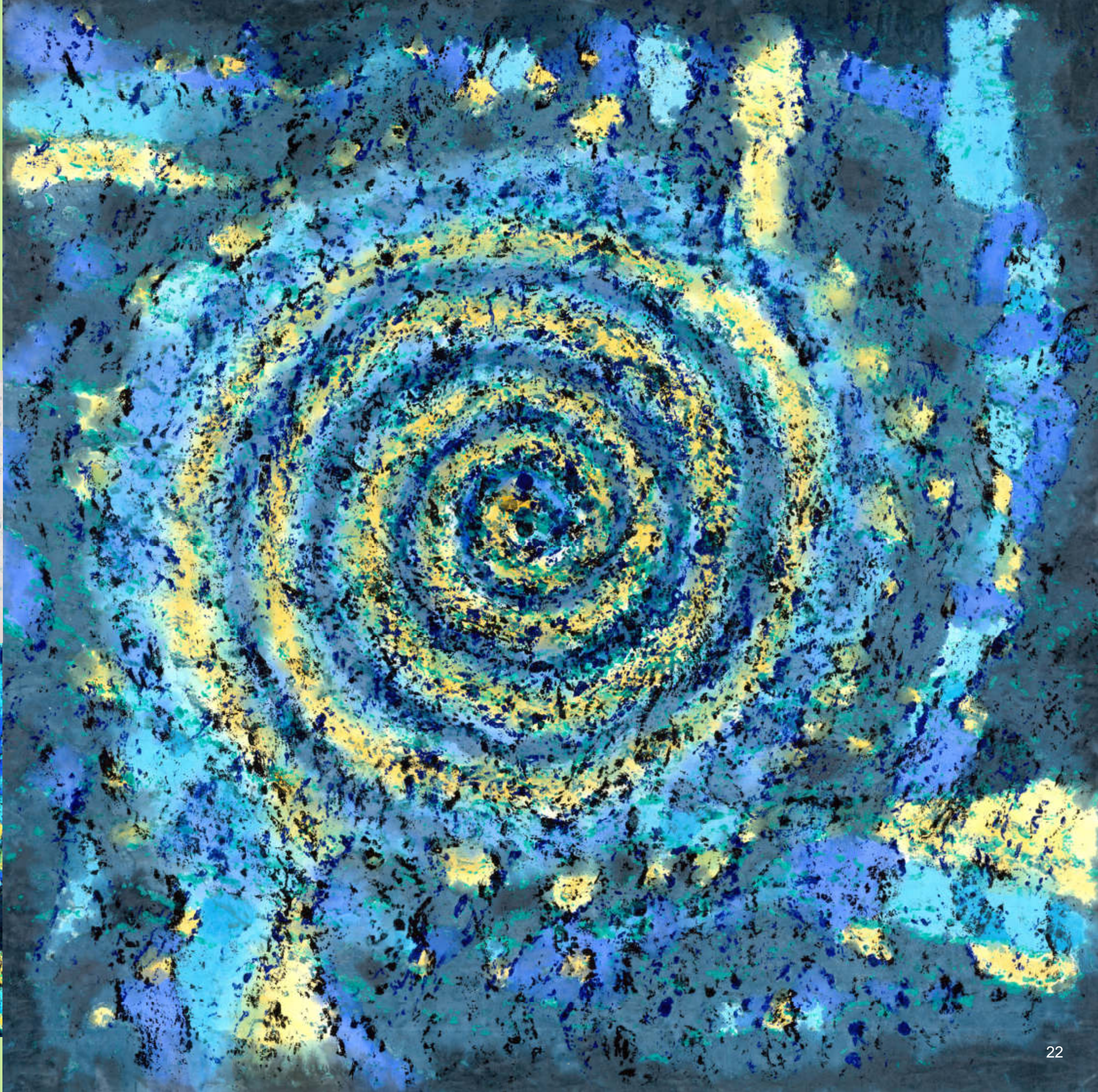
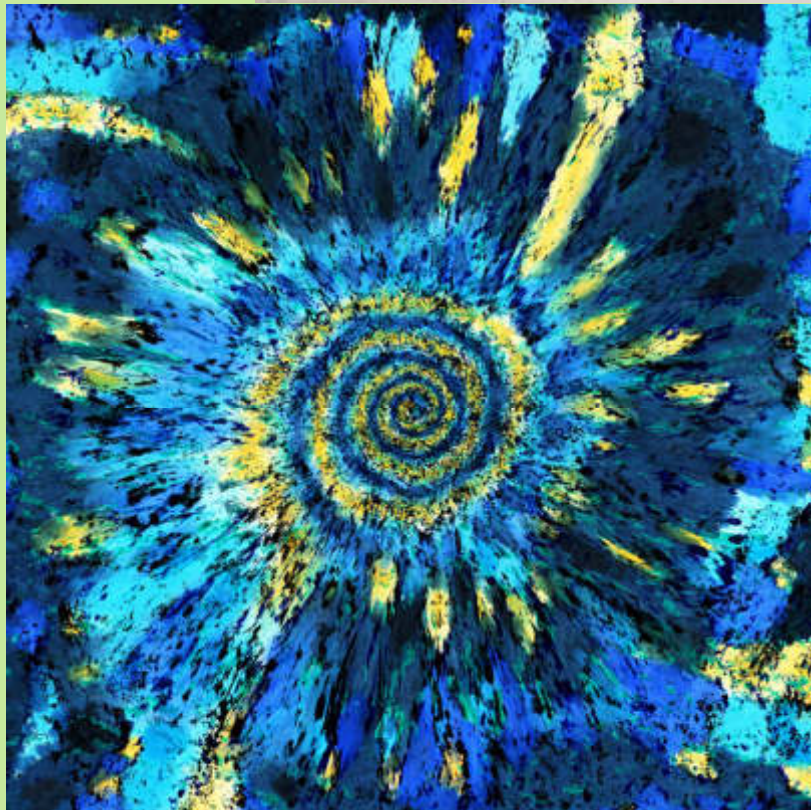
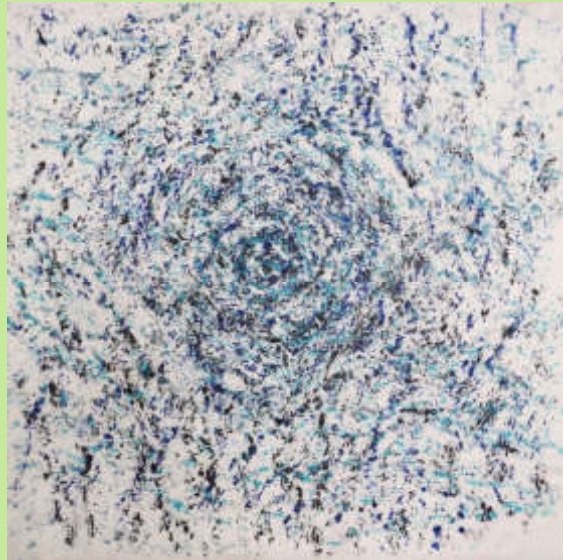




"Turquoise Galaxy", 2022

95 x 95 cm,  
Bark print with oil colour on  
Japanese paper,  
then painted with mixed  
media.

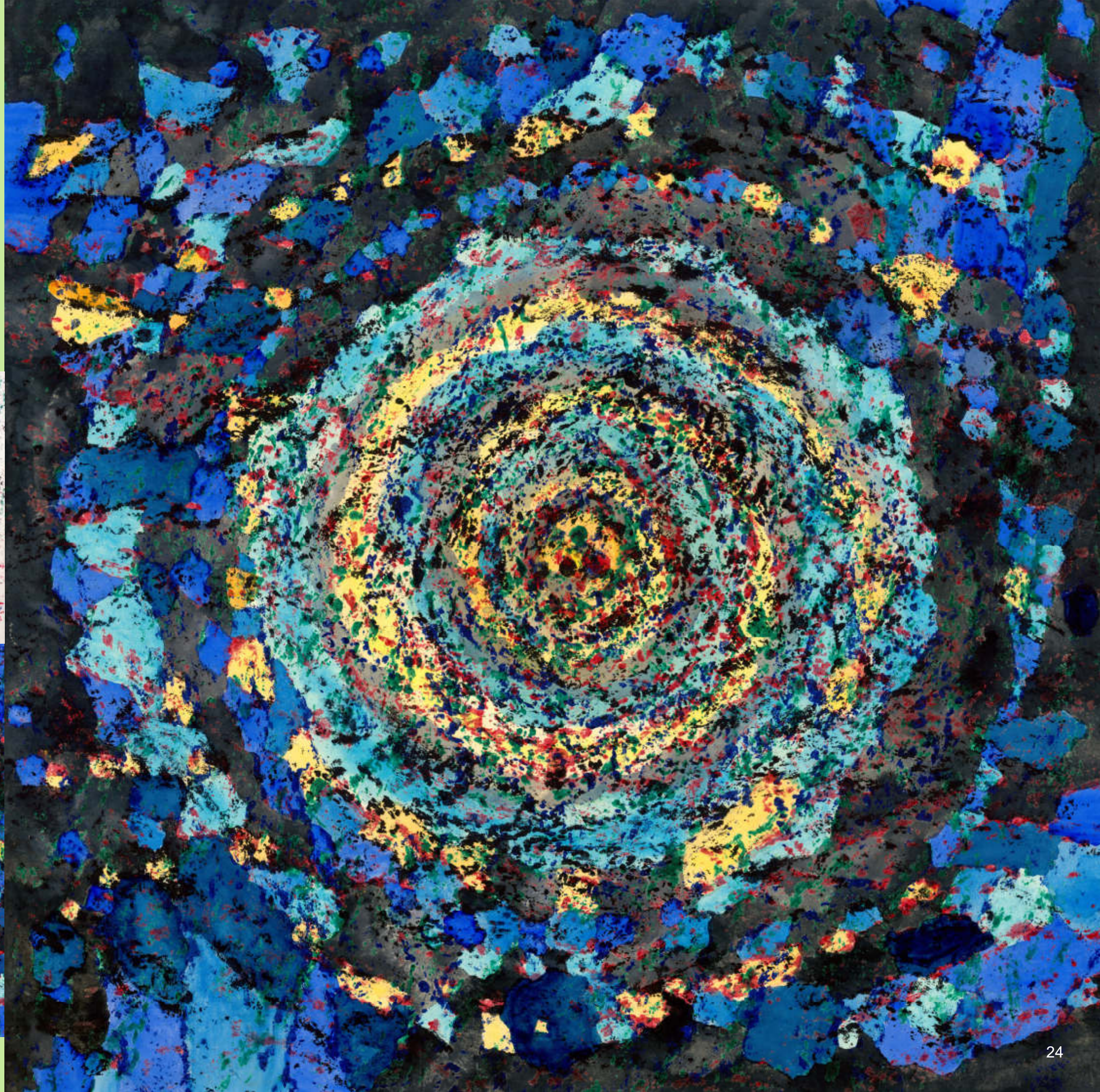
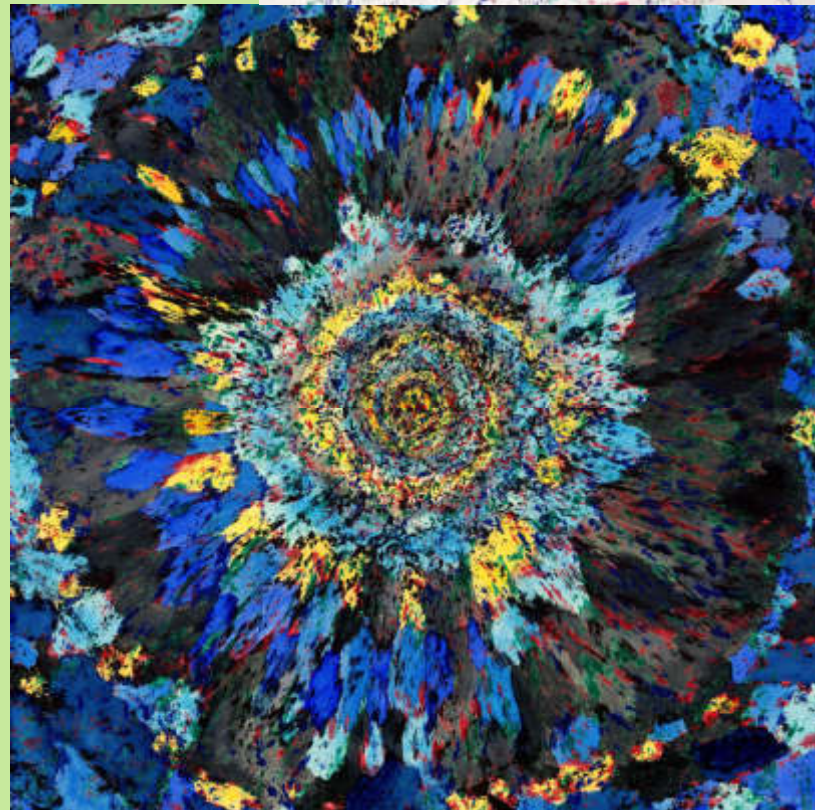
4 colour bark print before the  
back ground painting and below  
a digitally modified version.





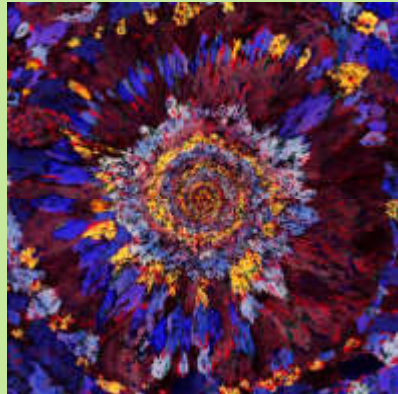
"Colourful Galaxy", 2022  
90 x 90 cm,  
Bark print with oil colour on  
Japanese paper,  
then painted with mixed  
media.

4 colour bark print before the  
back ground painting and a  
digitally modified version.

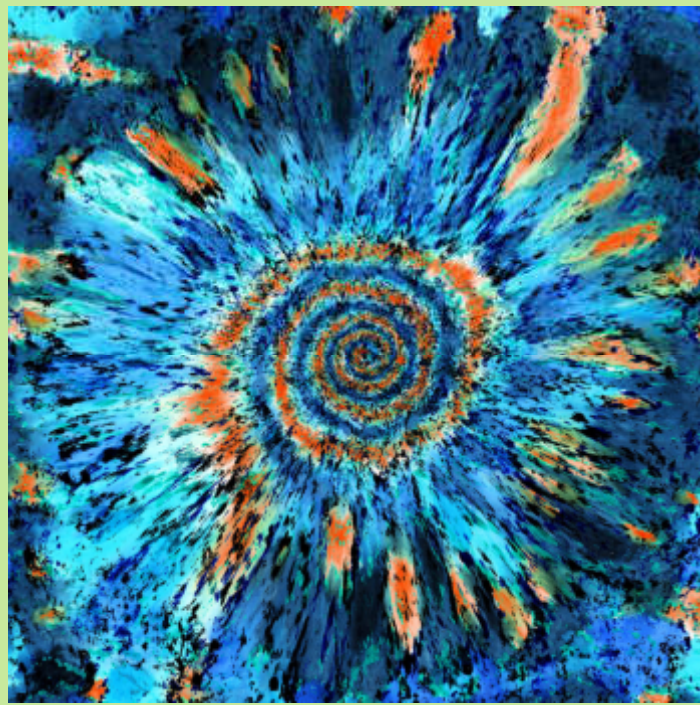




4 more digitally modified  
versions of the  
"Colourful Galaxy", 2022  
*(double page before)*







A series of Galaxy variations modified digitally from the original bark prints.

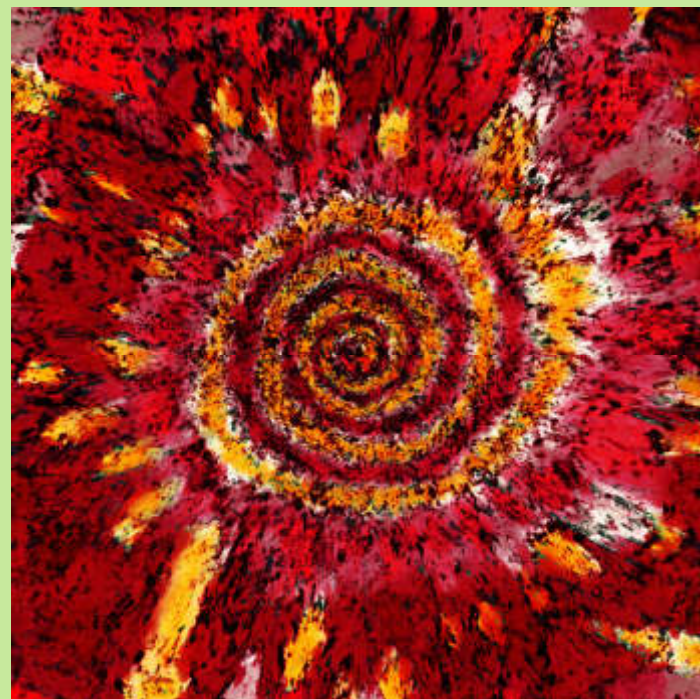
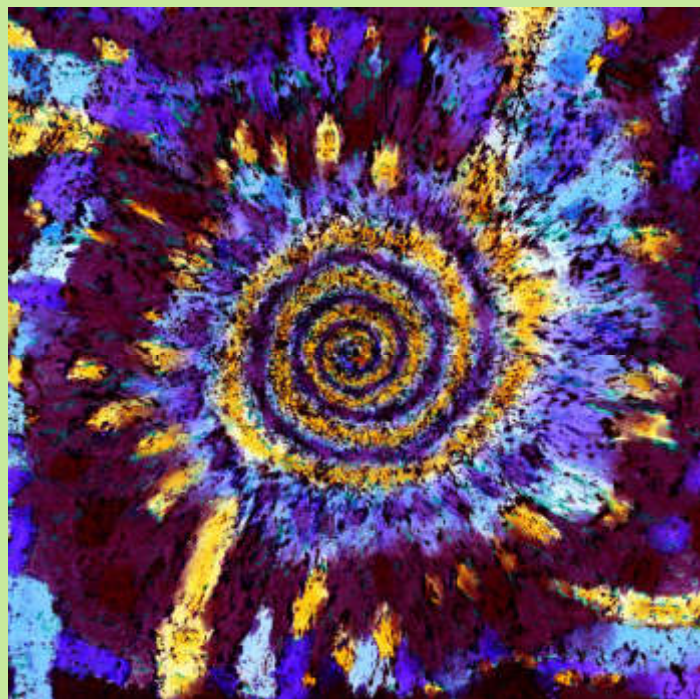
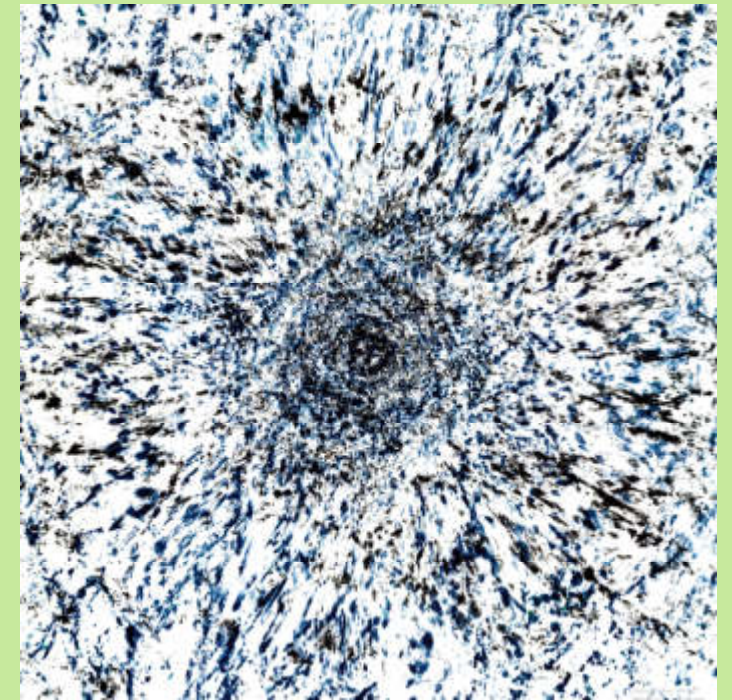
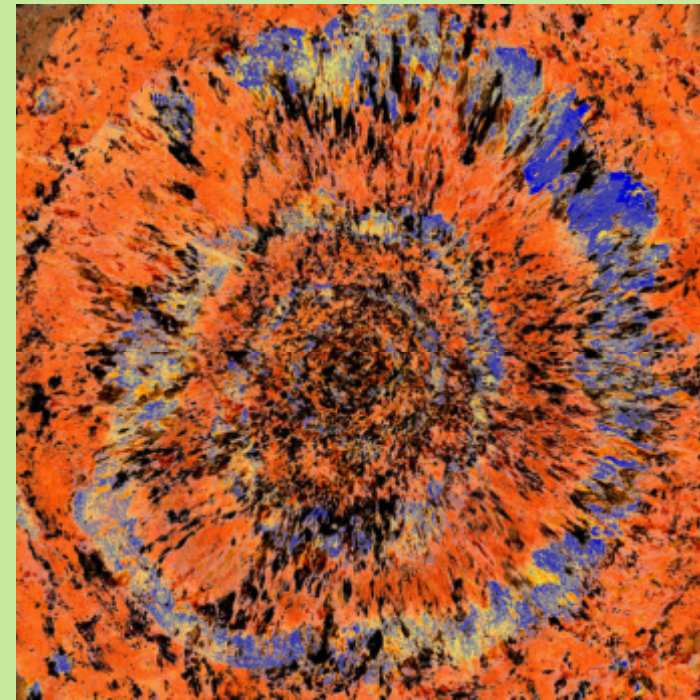
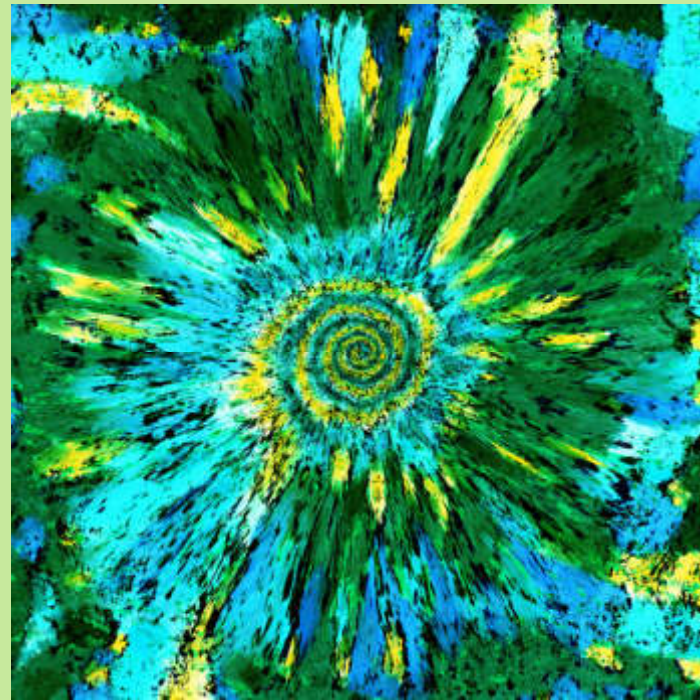
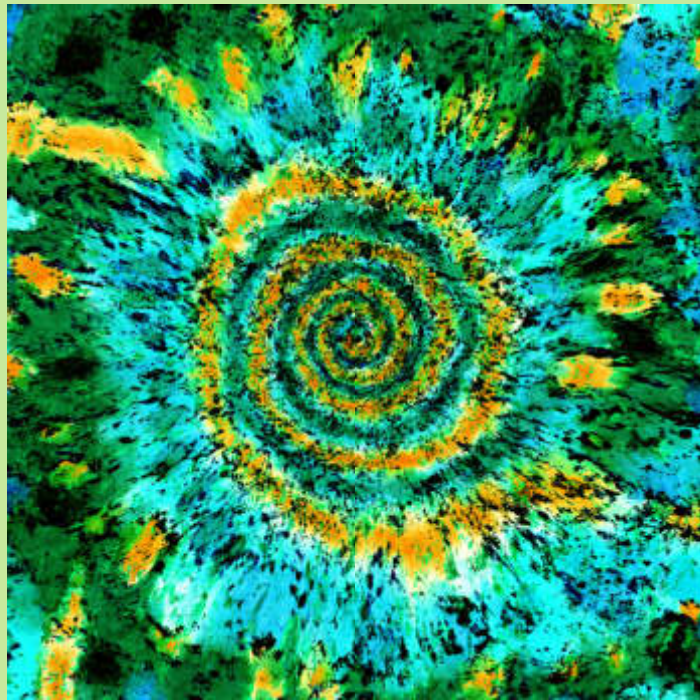
All artworks in this booklet can be purchased as digital prints on ceramic tiles, framed on request.  
(2 x 2 feet or 61 x 61 cm)  
For a larger wall space, a composition of tiles can be created on order.  
You can view samples in the art studio in Matrigold.

[www.matrigold.in](http://www.matrigold.in)



3 more digitally modified versions of the "Auroville Earth Galaxy" and 1 version of the "Bright Galaxy" (*below*) and a black & white version of the "Purple Galaxy".

*Right side:*  
5 more digitally modified versions of the "Turquoise Galaxy".





## Birgitta Volz: Curriculum Vitae

- 1964 Born in Nuremberg, Germany
- 1982 Begins artistic works with woodcuts
- 1985 Youngest member of the Association of Professional Artists in Nuremberg
- 1984-88 Studies at the Würzburg College (Commercial Art), BA
- 1987 Guest student at the "Academia de Bellas Artes", Madrid
- 1988-91 MA-Programme for graphic arts at the University of Modern Arts in Kassel
  
- 1996-97 Invitation to lecture at the College of Art, New Delhi, India, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute and at the University for Modern Arts in Porto, Portugal
- 1993-98 Fellowship in the House of Fine Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 1998 Rewarded the "HAP Grieshaber Prize" for wood print
- 1999-00 Awarded by the Bavarian Government with a 1 year fellowship at the "International House of Artists Villa Concordia" in Bamberg for artistic life achievements
- 2000 Awarded by the "New Saxonian Gallery" Invitation to lecture at the College of Art in Kumasi, Ghana, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute and Alliance Française
- 2001 Fellowship of the German-Italian Institute "Villa Vigoni", Italy
- 2003 "Brenner's Artists in Residence" Fellowship, Baden-Baden, Germany Fellowship "Le Centre Est-Nord-Est", St-Jean-Port-Joli, Québec, Canada
- 2004 Artist in residence "Engramme", Quebec, Canada
- 2005 joining the international community of Auroville in the south of India
- 2006 founding "Matrigold", Birgitta's Indian jewellery label, design and art brand ([www.matrigold.in](http://www.matrigold.in))
- 2014 International Narrative Art Residency, Goa Chitra Museum, Goa, India
- 2018 International Chittorgarh Art Festival, Medan, India "The Baobab Project": Expedition with the author Konny von Schmettau into the bush of Namibia to print a 3000 year old Baobab tree
- 2019 Auroville International Art Camp, India 15. International Art Residency, "Werkstattwoche Lüben", Germany "Uronto" International Art Exchange Program, Bangladesh
- 2021 Auroville International Art Camp, India International art residency in "Pedvale Art Park", Latvia
- 2022 Artist in residence at "Golf Parc Winnerod", Germany International art residency in "Gorna Lipnitsa", Bulgaria



Katalog / Video download: [www.birgittavolz.de/katalog.htm](http://www.birgittavolz.de/katalog.htm)

### "Lineamenta arborum" – "The Features of Trees"

Catalogue in English, German and Spanish about the early bark prints of Birgitta Volz (1994 - 99), 84 pages, size: 30 x 22 cm, 1000 pieces, published in 2000

### "Holzschnitte und Holzdrucke"

Catalogue in German about the wood prints of Birgitta Volz between 1994 and 2000 28 pages, size: 25 x 21 cm, 1000 pieces, published in 2000, ISBN: 3-935094-06-X

### "Exotic Botanical Prints"

Catalogue in English or German about the botanical prints of Birgitta Volz 46 pages, size: 28 x 21 cm, mini edition, published in 2010

### "Research of the Invisible" – Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz

Catalogue in English about the magic bark prints and the "Namibia Project" 56 pages, size: 24 x 17 cm, 100 pieces, published in 2018

### "The Magic Drawingbook" – Varied Levels of Perception by Birgitta Volz

Drawing book for adults in English or German with motifs of magic bark prints 80 pages, size: 22 x 16 cm, 300 pieces, published in 2019

### "Bangla Time Travel" – Magical Prints by Birgitta Volz

Catalogue in English about the magic prints during the "Uronto Residency" in Bangladesh 44 pages, size: 30 x 21 cm, mini edition, published in 2020

### "Temple Tree" – Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz

Catalogue in English about the "Temple Tree Project" in the Auroville Art Camp 28 pages, size: 30 x 21 cm, mini edition, published in 2021



**Birgitta Volz, an artist with major international recognition, can be credited with more than 110 solo exhibitions, 230 group exhibitions, and work in 22 different countries. Her artwork is found in many public and private collections, and in public buildings.**

**Temple Tree (2021)**

<https://youtu.be/EnW5OSW29YE>

**Art and Crisis (2020)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4fD30FsWAY&app=desktop>

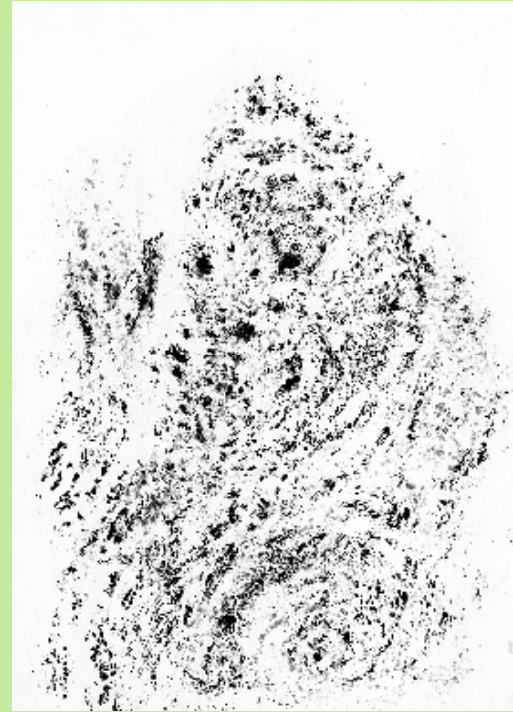
**Tree art by Birgitta Volz (2018)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEWm0F0MOqc>



# "Fractal" Ganeshas

Not only beautiful Galaxies manifested while I was working on this Enterolobium tree, but also some quite incredible Ganeshas. To manifest the Galaxy from a tree bark is a beautiful paradox, bringing the two opposing positions in Auroville together. And to find Ganesha - the remover of obstacles - on the same place is quite a sign! Miraculously these Ganeshas are all fractal, which means that they are forming out of dozens of small elephants.

Magic is unfolding, as soon as I do my printing work. My "models" gift me with different archetypes and stories, depending on their cultural environment. It seems as if the trees, stones or our environment in general record the history of their place and of its "clandestine" inhabitants. I try to unveil the inner aspect, the very soul of nature, which has been well known and venerated in most ancient cultures.



On top:  
The original print before drawing inside.

Right side:  
"Multiple Ganesha", 2022,  
119 x 84 cm, bark print with  
black oil colour and Auroville  
earth pigment on Japanese  
paper, then worked out with  
colour pencils

Left side:  
Birgitta with a fresh print.

Enterolobium cyclocarpum =  
Elephant Ear Tree)





**This catalogue was published on the occasion of the exhibition "Manifesting the Galaxy" in the exhibition hall of the Unity Pavilion, Auroville 605101, India from 3rd of December 2022 until 11th January 2023.**



Left side:  
"Playful Baby Ganesha", 2022, 119 x 84 cm, bark print with black oil colour on Chinese paper, then worked out with colour pencils

On top:  
"Fractal Ganesha",  
2022, 119 x 84 cm

Below left:  
"Ganesha with 5 Rats",  
2022, 119 x 84 cm

Below right:  
"Ganesha with big Mouse",  
2022, 100 x 70 cm

