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The Yellow Art Piece

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The Yellow Art Piece (2023)

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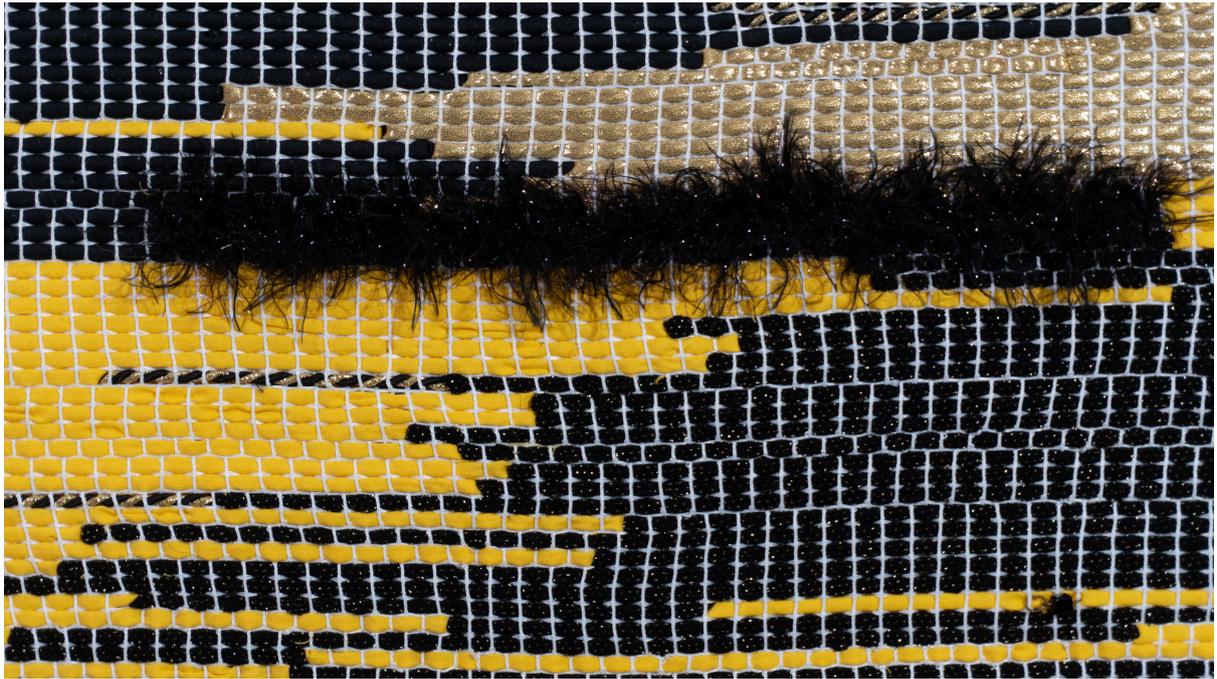
What you are looking at here is *The Yellow Art Piece*, created for this issue of *Volupté*. The title is the only true statement I feel the piece needs from me as the artist, as it will surely resonate with the readers of this journal and others familiar with the 1890s. To the rest of its viewers, otherwise unfamiliar with the milieu it turns to, it is merely a work of art in yellow, black, and gold. Works of art only take on meaning if seen. It is, thus, the familiarity and knowledge of the viewer that lends meaning to the work.

In theory, as an artist whose practice is centred around contemporary issues of identity, feminism, social justice, and memory, I approached this work with one inspiration: art for art's sake! It was meant to be aesthetically pleasing, luxurious for its use of materials, and decadently self-indulgent. In practice, however, it was an embodied experience of the decadent pain one feels in the pleasure of creating something beautiful yet of no use.

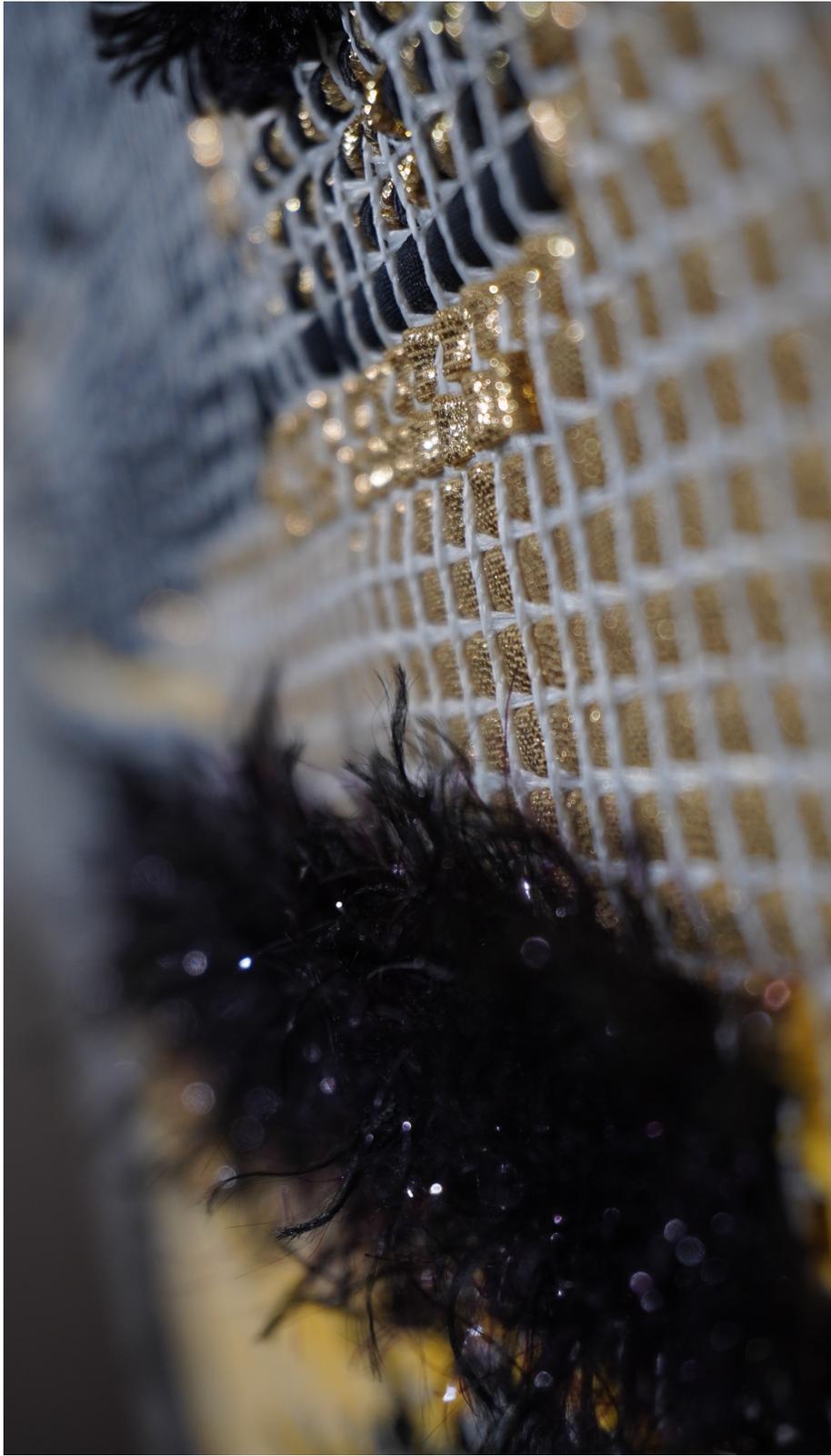
The materials that I had initially been drawn to, such as rich velvets, heavy brocades, and delicate lace, proved useless as they fell apart. The only suitable yellow fabric to use also proved impossible to find on the shelves and in the baskets of charity shops. After a few failed options, finding the right shade of yellow fabric that could be cut into ribbons without falling apart became an occupation of mine. On the surface, the seemingly abundant use of materials without the added value of morals turned out to be a valuable lesson in materiality. Most importantly, given that the materials are upcycled, they are inherently embedded with narratives – purposes and intentions. Whether leftover from a dress made by a mum, a quilt by a grandma, or simply a sewing project abandoned halfway, these materials add their history to the piece. The resulting artwork is the most decadent work I have created to date, a work whose every inch has received equal attention and effort.

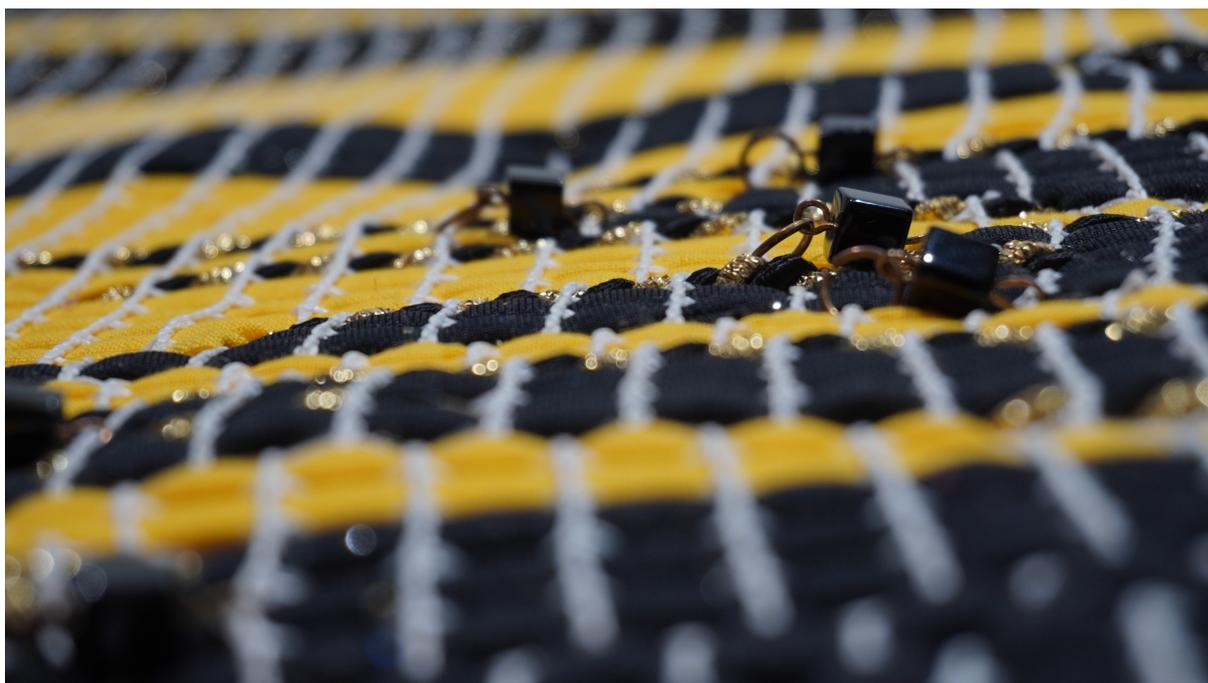


Fig. 1: *The Yellow Art Piece* (2023).
Canvas rug and upcycled materials: various fabrics, knitting yarn, vintage necklace beads.
86 cm x 132 cm.









Figs 2-6: Details from *The Yellow Art Piece* (2023).