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# TALISMAN

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fried contemporary is proud to present a solo exhibition by sareel petrus

# TALISMAN | SAREL PETRUS

27 october - 26 november 2016

Talisman is defined as, "an object held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune"

Sculptor, Sarel Petrus (b. 1977) lives and works in Pretoria. He has exhibited in many exhibitions across South Africa since obtaining a Fine Art degree at the Tshwane University of Technology in 2002. Petrus was a top 10 finalist in the 2007 ABSA La'telier and was awarded the Sculpture Merit Award at the 2014 Thami Mnyele Fine Art Awards.

For Sarel Petrus, his works are trophies dedicated to others: their lives and their histories reflected in his own. This is why he is intrigued by and often works with salvaged material. There are existing obscure histories found in empty tortoise shells, the feather of an eagle, pieces of wood cut for other purposes, scraps of metal, rain gauges or mile stones next to a road that make for great tales. However, what is important to Petrus, is rather the space inside the tortoise shell, bringing awareness of a life that had been lived and at the same time providing space for a new reality.

In creating a bird, for example, nothing is cut or reworked, even the dowels for putting

it together are implemented as they were found. The story of the wood used for the bird (which might later be cast in bronze) regains the mystery of unknown stories. Birds are ambiguously symbolic and a frequent object of his sculptures, perched on objects to take the imagination over unknowable distances.

- Reneé Conradie, 2016.

## SAREL PETRUS

Sarel Petrus lives and works in Pretoria and has exhibited in many group exhibitions across South-Africa in the last twelve years.

He frequently travels to cities and to isolated places. In addition, he allows himself journeys of the mind into the strange relationship between traditional and throw-away-culture and what is left of nature as humans and other species fight for existence. City and town dwellers, largely cut off from natural continuity and natural spaces, are mostly unaware of what they leave behind wherever they go. But human existence and the natural environment are linked through timeless, hidden convergences of what we lack and what we have in surfeit. In his work, Sarel refers to an obscure past to imagine a new voice for the abstract realities of objects.



SAREL PETRUS



*Leaving,*  
Installation – Wood and pencils,  
Approx. 400 x 200 x 70 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.



SAREL PETRUS



*Skulduggery*,  
Butchers block, wood, rhino skull and nails.  
Approx. 135 x 88 x 168 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.



*Skulduggery (detail and sideview)*,  
Butchers block, wood, rhino skull and nails.  
Approx. 135 x 88 x 168 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.

SAREL PETRUS



*Reverie*,  
Wood, wire and tortoise shell,  
Approx.  
50 x 50 x 200 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.



*Reverie (detail)*,  
Wood, wire and tortoise shell,  
Approx.  
50 x 50 x 200 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.





SAREL PETRUS



*Totem,*  
Wood, cement and ribs.  
Approx. 110 x 230 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.



*Totem (detail and front view),*  
Wood, cement and ribs.  
Approx. 110 x 230 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.

SAREL PETRUS

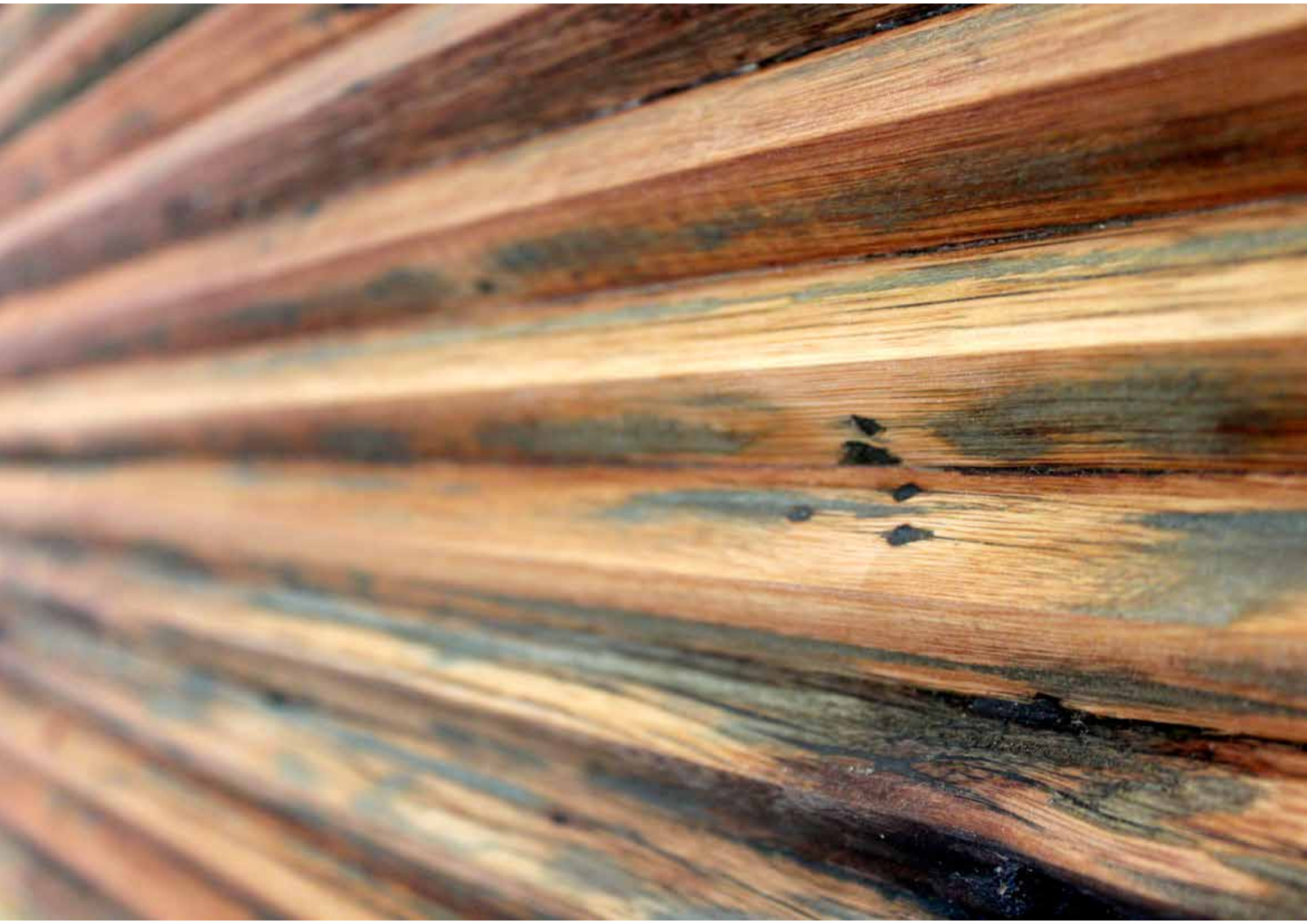


*Shield.*  
Wood.  
Approx. 43 x 169 x 212 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.



*Shield (detail).*  
Wood.  
Approx. 43 x 169 x 212 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.

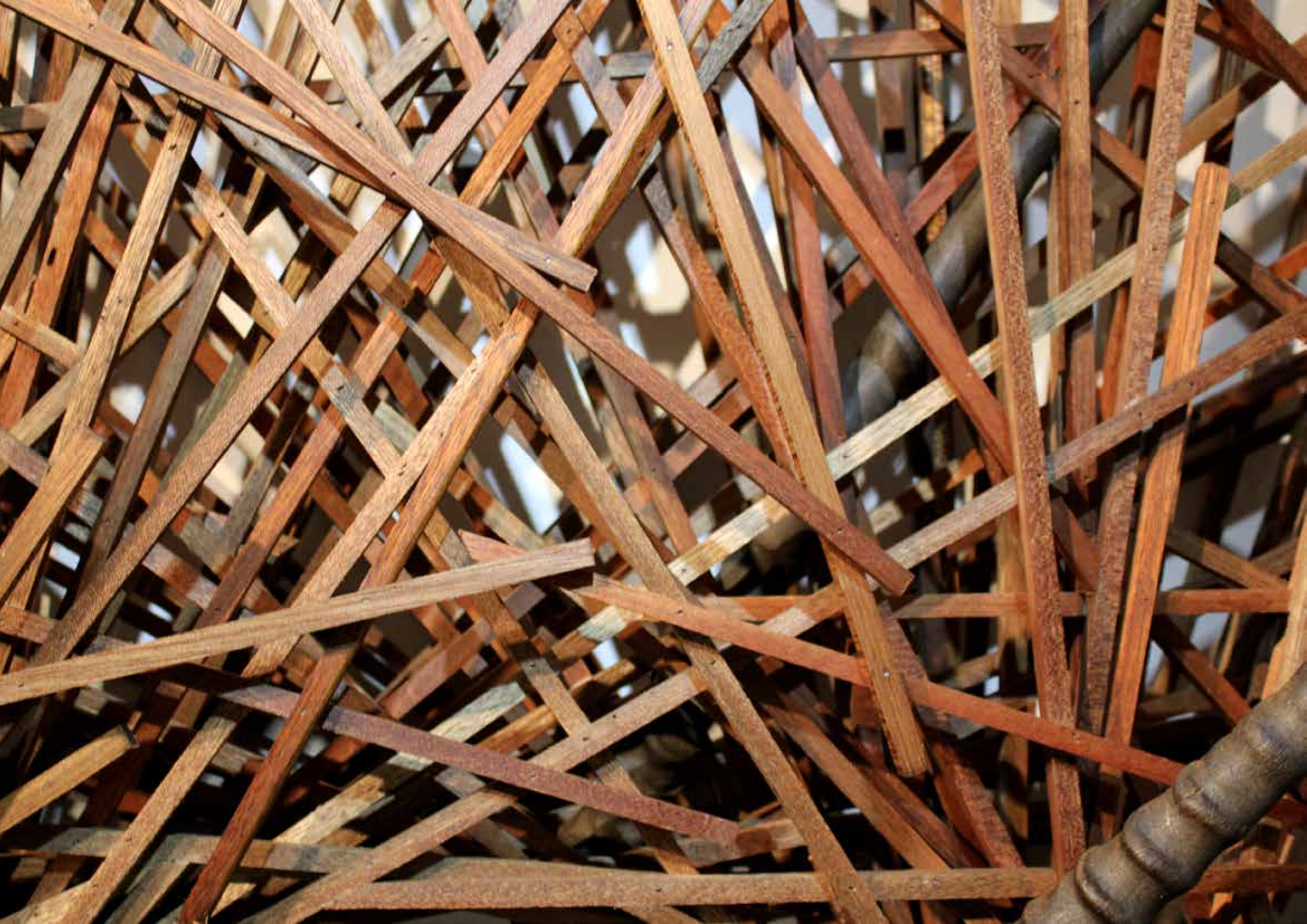




SAREL PETRUS



*Study for Collapse.*  
Wood, gembok skull and envelope.  
Approx. 28 x 180 x 200 cm.  
Unique.  
2016.



SAREL PETRUS



*Bird,*  
Wood.  
Approx. 28 x 29 x 89 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.





SAREL PETRUS



*Untitled,*  
Wood.  
Approx. 28 x 28 x 89 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.

SAREL PETRUS



*Oar,*  
Wood and pencils.  
Approx. 60 x 150 x 158 cm,  
Unique,  
2016.



f r i e d  
c o n t e m p o r a r y

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