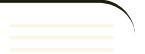


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“Eruption Series No. 78” (2025), hand-cut silk fabric, acrylic paint and canvas, mounted on wall, 80 x 100 x 12 inches. All images courtesy of the artist, shared with permission

Thousands of Strips of Silk Undulate in Kenny Nguyen’s ‘Deconstructed Paintings’

April 23, 2026

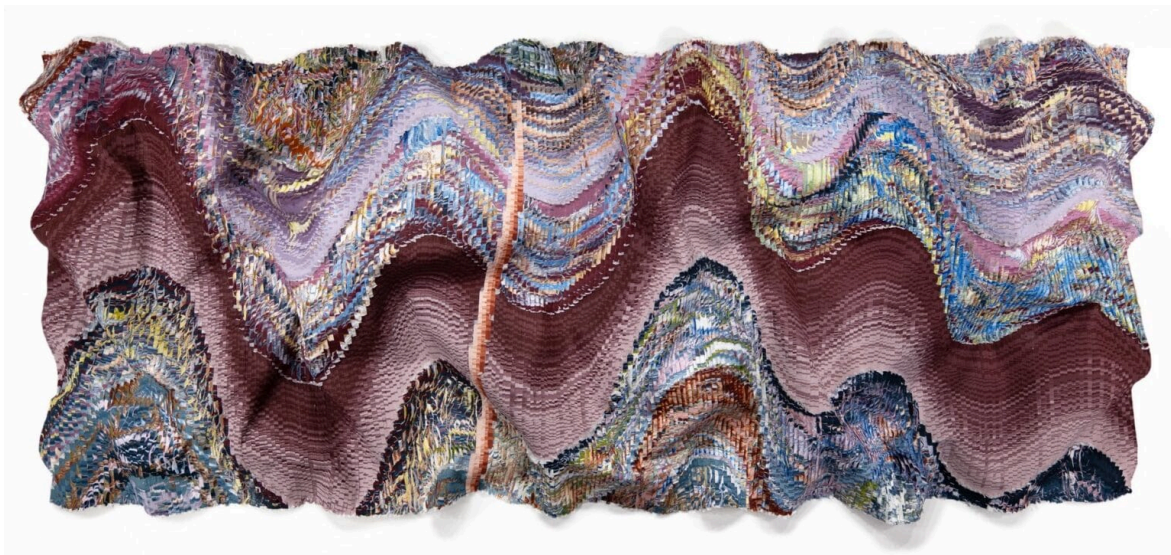
Art

Kate Mothes

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Silk has been crafted in Vietnam for centuries, where it's treasured as a lightweight, luxurious fabric used in traditional garments and art. For Kenny Nguyen, who was born in Ben Tre Province and is currently based in Charlotte, North Carolina, the material provides the foundation for vibrant, large-scale wall works that combine elements of weaving and tapestries, garment production, painting, and sculpture.

Using thousands of hand-cut strips of silk, Nguyen draws on his background in fashion design, employing techniques such as pinning, weaving, sewing, and layering to create what he describes as “deconstructed paintings.” Each work is created around a kind of imaginary body, its creases and undulating forms evoking movement and versatility.

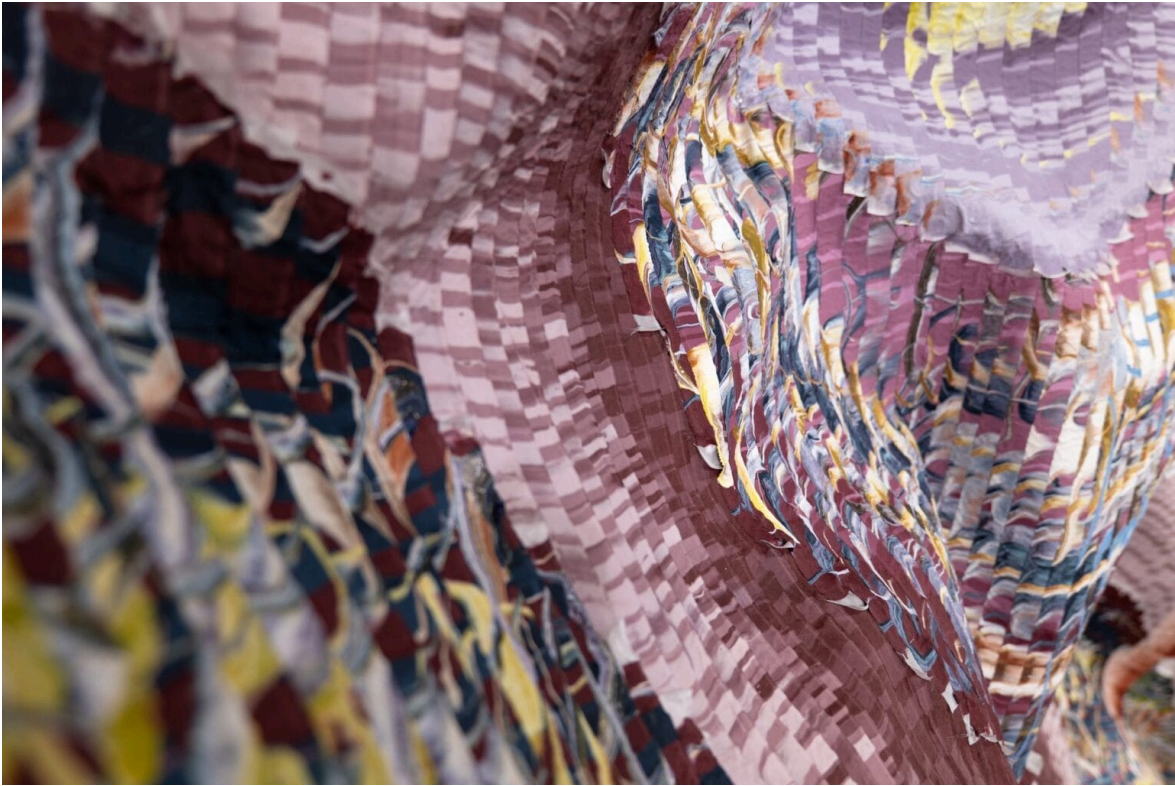


“Undercurrent Series No. 10” (2026), hand-cut silk fabric, acrylic paint, and canvas, mounted on wall, 64 x 158 x 8 inches

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Even though the works appear fixed, they are actually very malleable. Every time a piece is installed, its undulations are determined by where the pins are placed, and it assumes something of a new version. This complements Nguyen's approach to silk as a kind of "second skin," he says, which adapts to its environment, represents memories and heritage, and serves as a metaphor for his personal identity.

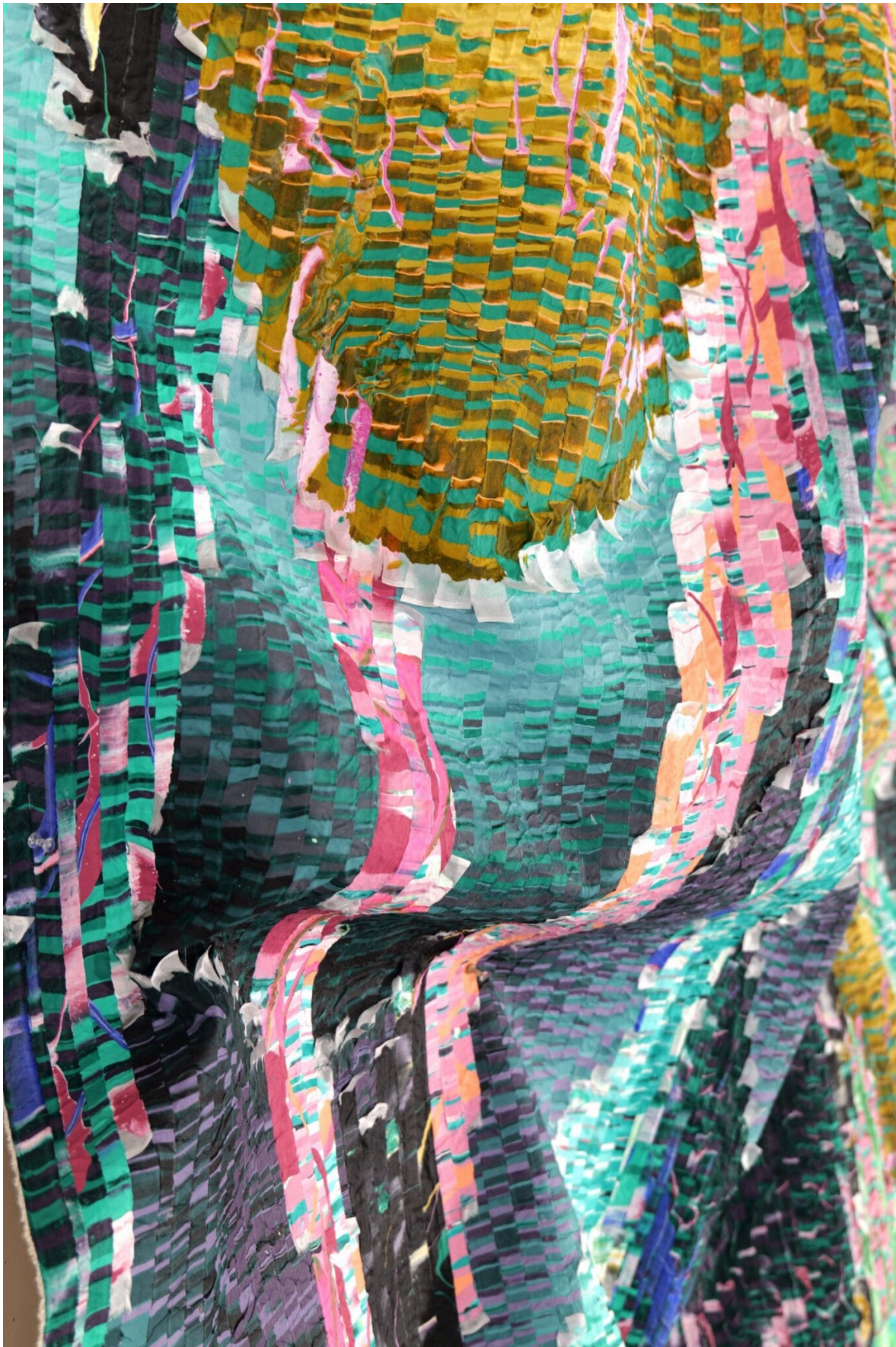
Nguyen's work is currently on view in *Textile Art Redefined* at Saatchi Gallery in London and *Earth to Sky* at [Sundaram Tagore Gallery](#) in Singapore. His work will also be included in the exhibition *Iris van Herpen: Sculpting the Senses* at the [Brooklyn Museum](#), which opens on May 16, and a forthcoming group exhibition at Sundaram Tagore's London location. See more on the artist's [Instagram](#). ♦



Detail of "Undercurrent Series No. 10"



“Eruption Series No. 86” (2025), hand-cut silk fabric, acrylic paint, and canvas, mounted on wall, 69 x 53 x 8 inches



Detail of "Eruption Series No. 86"

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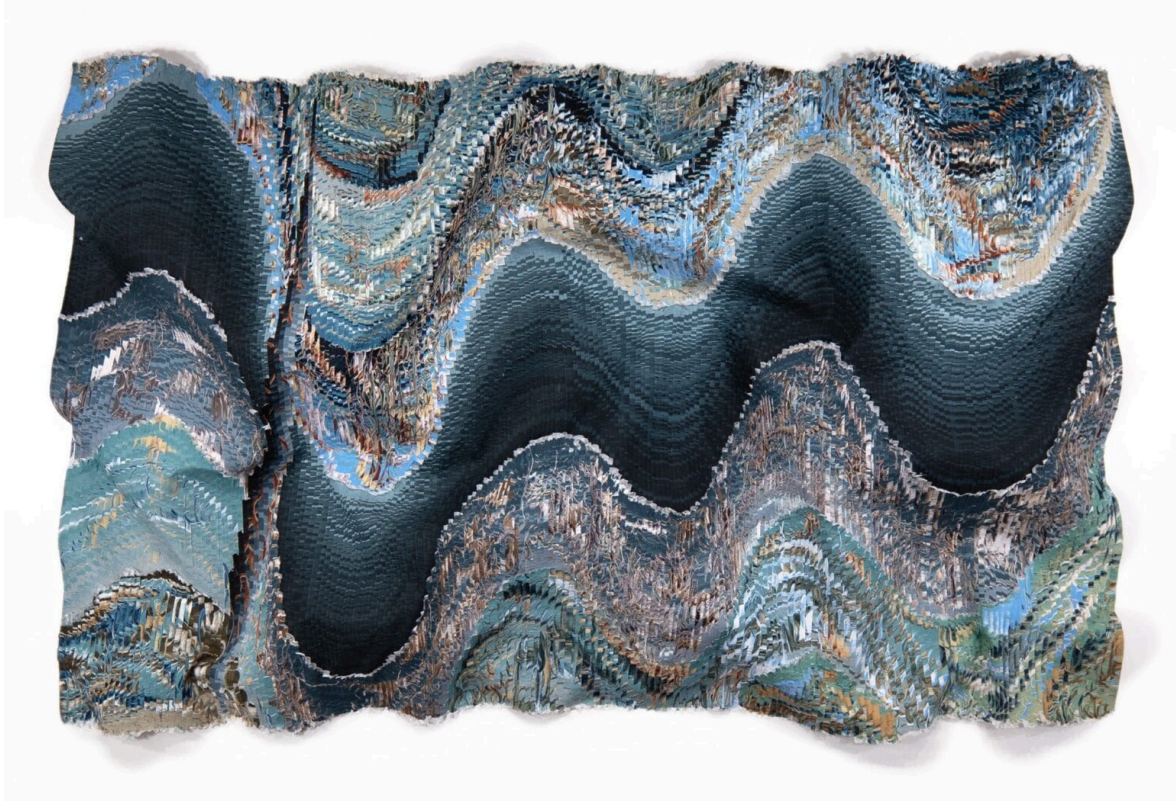
“Encounter Series No. 62” (2025), hand-cut silk fabric, acrylic paint, and canvas, mounted on wall, 62 x 115 x 4 inches



Detail of “Encounter Series No. 62”



“Eruption Series No. 45” (2024), hand-cut silk fabric, acrylic paint, and canvas, mounted on wall, 83 x 113 inches (flat dimensions)



“Undercurrent Series No. 5” (2026), hand-cut silk fabric, acrylic paint, and canvas, mounted on wall, 67 x 112 x 7 inches



Detail of “Undercurrent Series No. 5”

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Alternate view of "Eruption Series No. 78"



Alternate view of “Undercurrent Series No. 10”

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