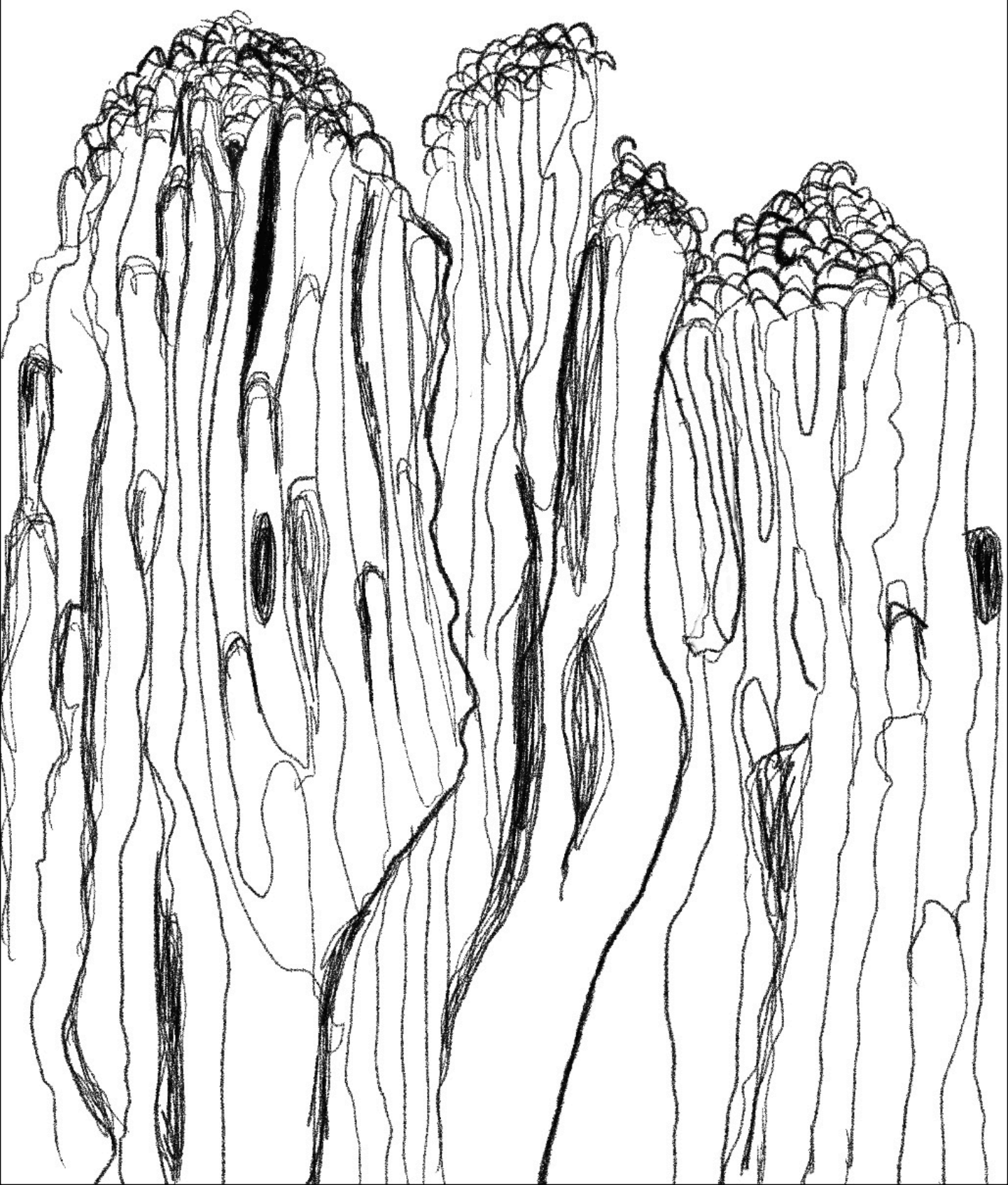


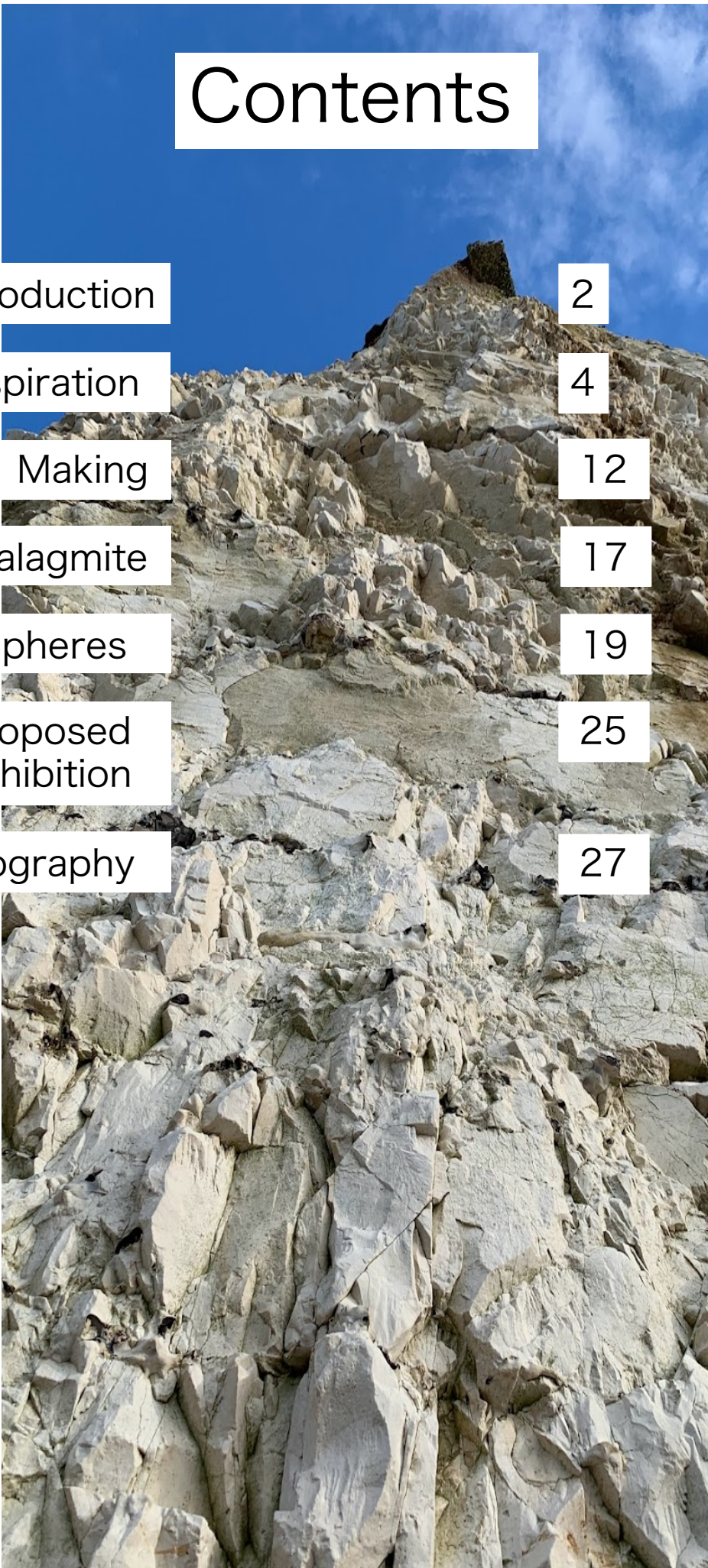
Rock Story

Emily Powling



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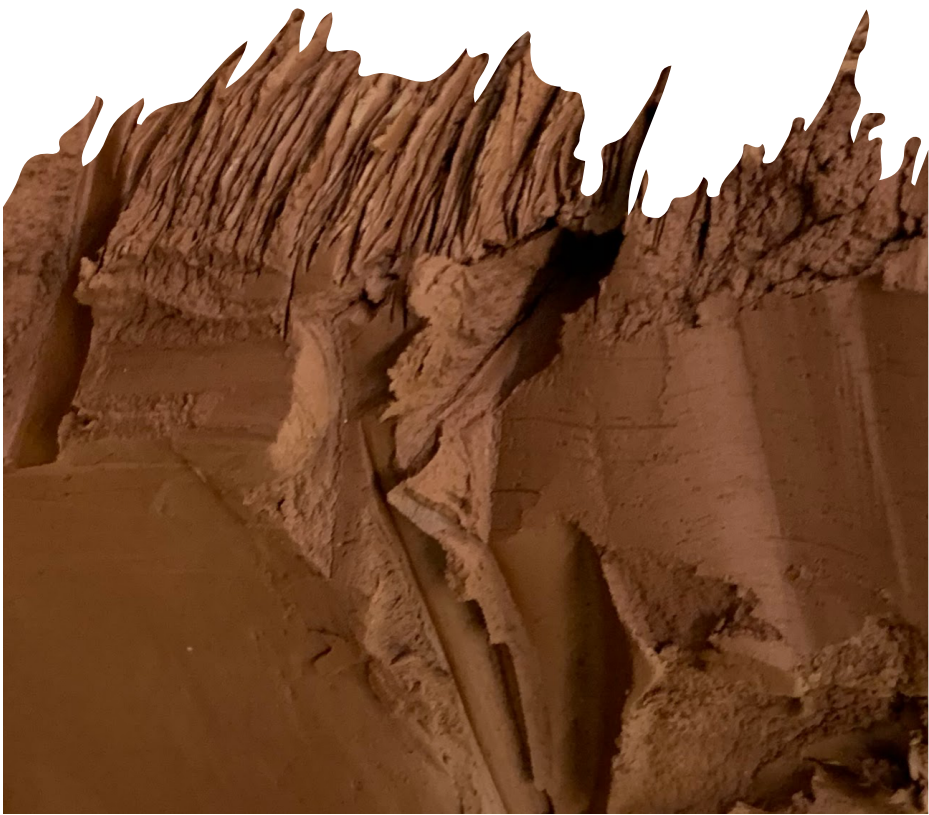
Introduction

My project is about my personal fascination and investigation into geology, the exploration into the textures found in rocks and how they are created. I am producing a collection of ceramic pieces translating the rock-like textures into the clay. Heavily textured objects often have significant depth to them, adding dimension and perspective. Creating a geologically inspired environment to display the wonders of the world of geology. Exhibiting the works in a way which depicts the gradual rock erosion over time in order to engage the viewer and create a storyline.





This project is also about reinforcing my technical skills, attempting replicating textures I have not worked with before using unfamiliar techniques.



Inspiration



I am inspired by and drawn to interesting rocks, and I am attracted to professional ceramic works which incorporate these surface patterns into their designs whilst maintaining a constant aesthetic.

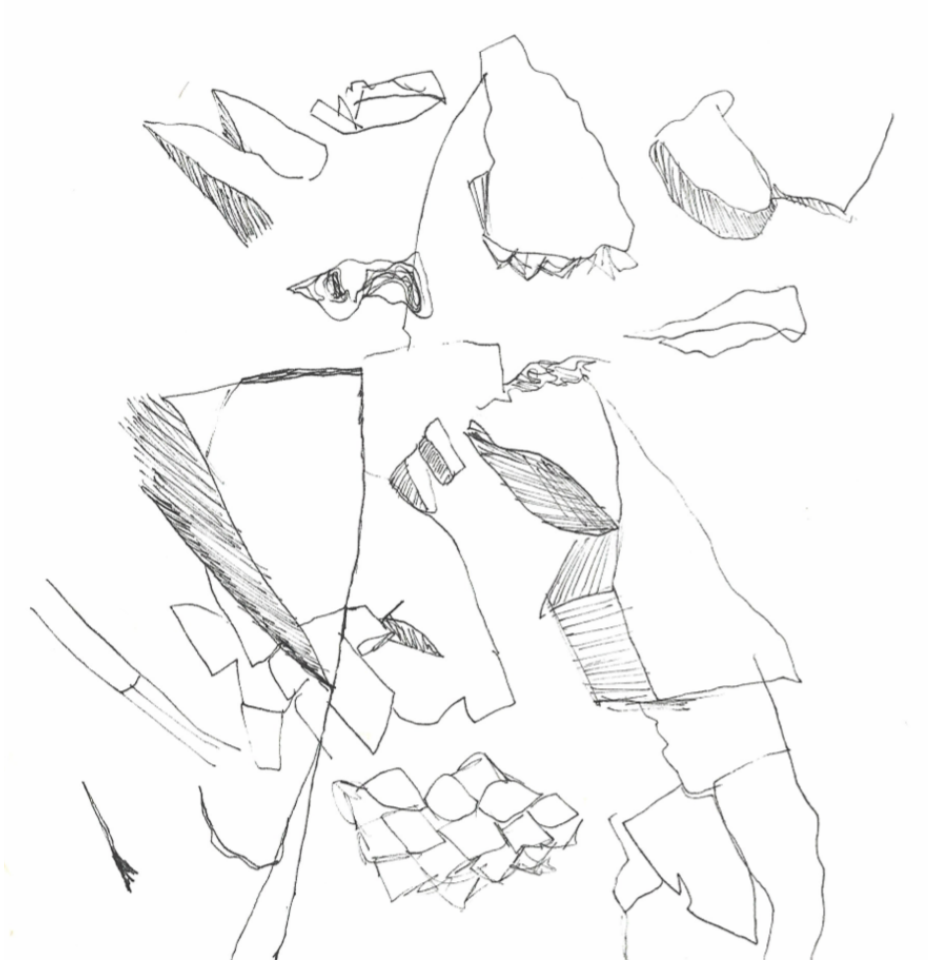
The Seven Sisters

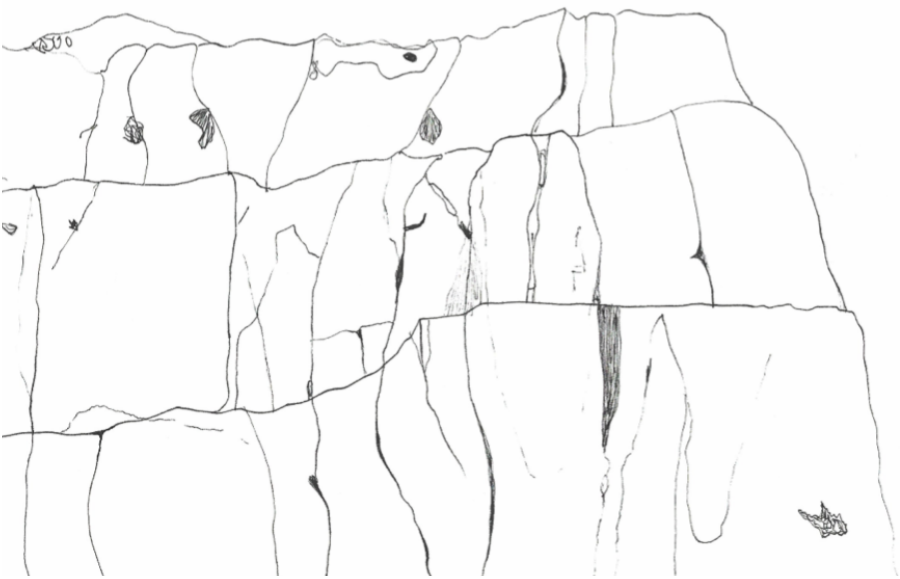


I visited Birling Gap in Eastbourne, an enclosed beach along the Seven Sisters cliffs. I went with the intention of gaining primary research to aid my project development.



I became immersed in the surrounding geology and felt fascinated by the processes of erosion.

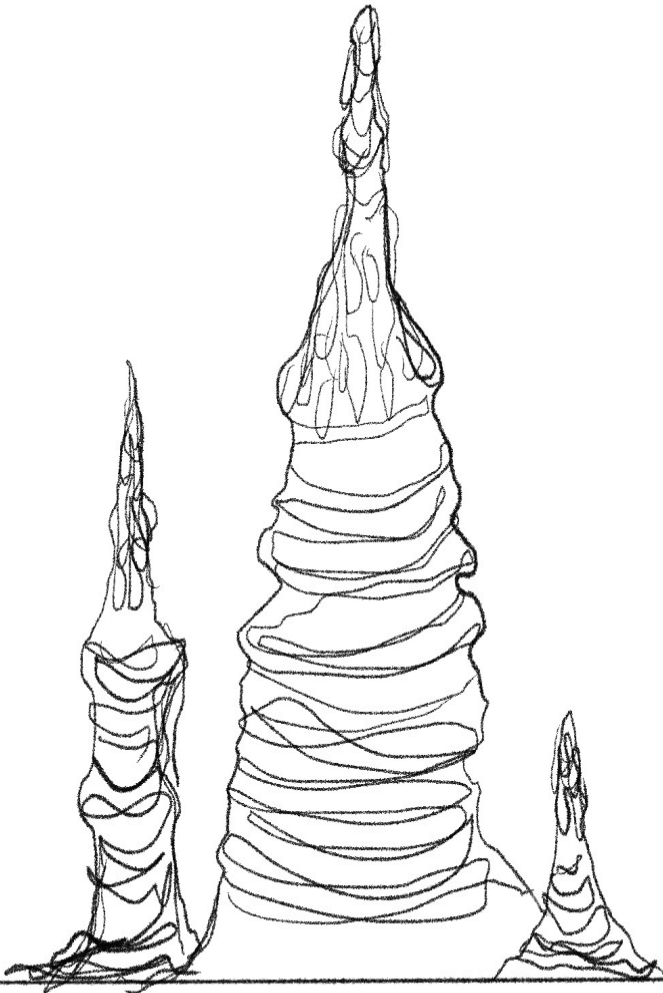
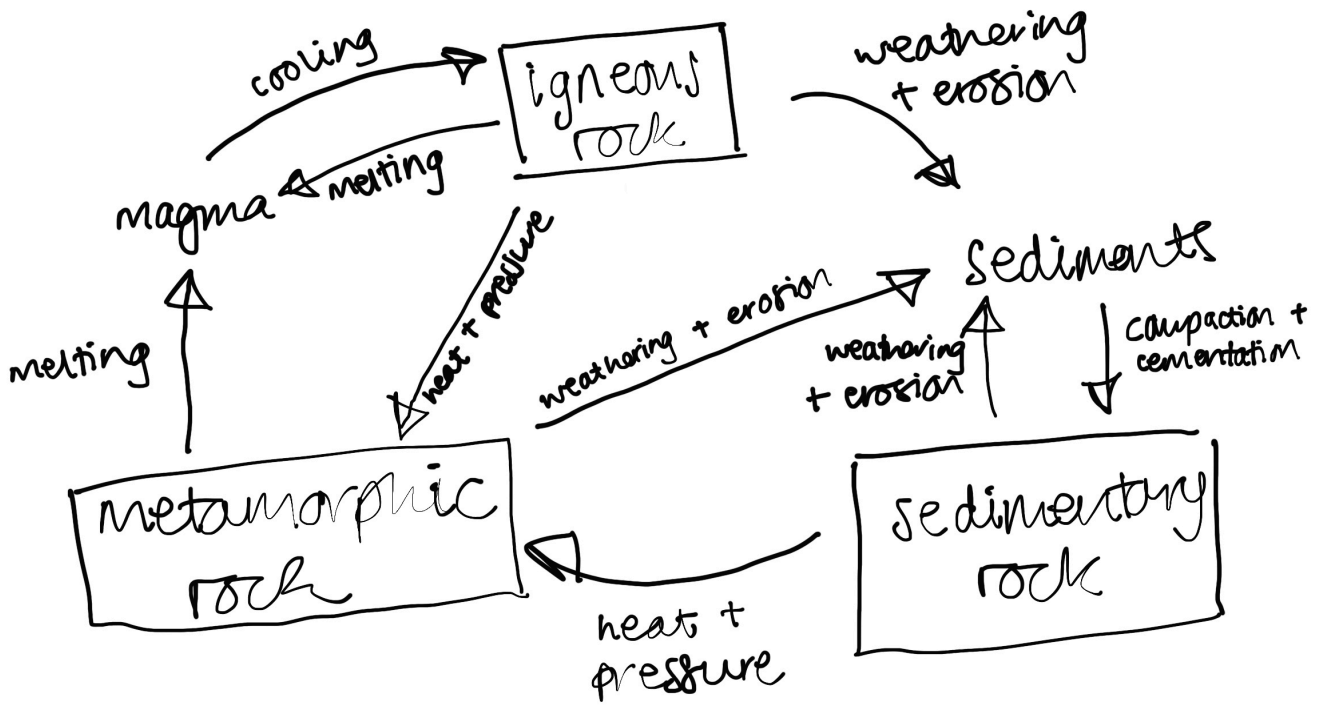






My trip to the caves in Nerja, Malaga. Here I was exposed to a number of fascinating rock formations such as stalagmites and stalactites.

The Rock Cycle

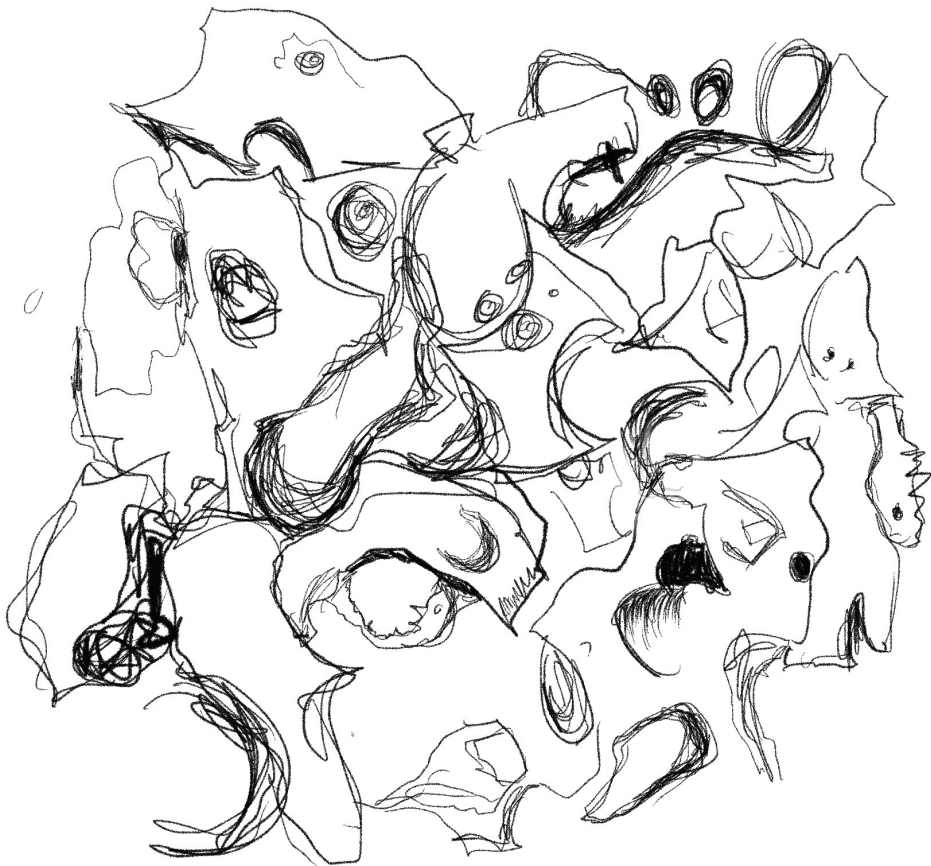


A wise person is like a smoothly polished rock: it takes time to become either."

Vera Nazarian, 'The Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration'

"We are often unaware of the gradual decline and the erosion in our lives but not unaware of the gnawing feeling it brings."

Eric Samuel Timm, 'Static Jedi: The Art Of Hearing God Through The Noise'



An agate test using a combination of terracotta and white clay.





I began creating ceramic forms incorporating the geological textures, translating the visual patterns into the surface texture of the clay using a variety of techniques, including the Japanese process 'Kurinuki'.

Kurinuki



Kurinuki is a traditional Japanese pottery art, which involves hand-building followed by carving from a single block of clay. This technique is often used to make domestic pieces such as teacups and vases, but can also be used to sculpt the clay to create more abstract forms.

'Another fascinating thing about Kurinuki pottery is that there is a diversity of options for its finish. Therefore, each item will be unique and exclusive, and the final result depends only on the ceramicist imagination.'

Francesca Torres, 'What is Kurinuki Pottery?'



Three forms I created under the inspiration of my primary and secondary research, printing in plaster moulds I had previously made taking samples from the cliff.



Parts of a failed slab piece, I left the clay to dry for too long before manipulating the clay further. I am now left with cracked slabs which create a rocky landscape when photographed together.

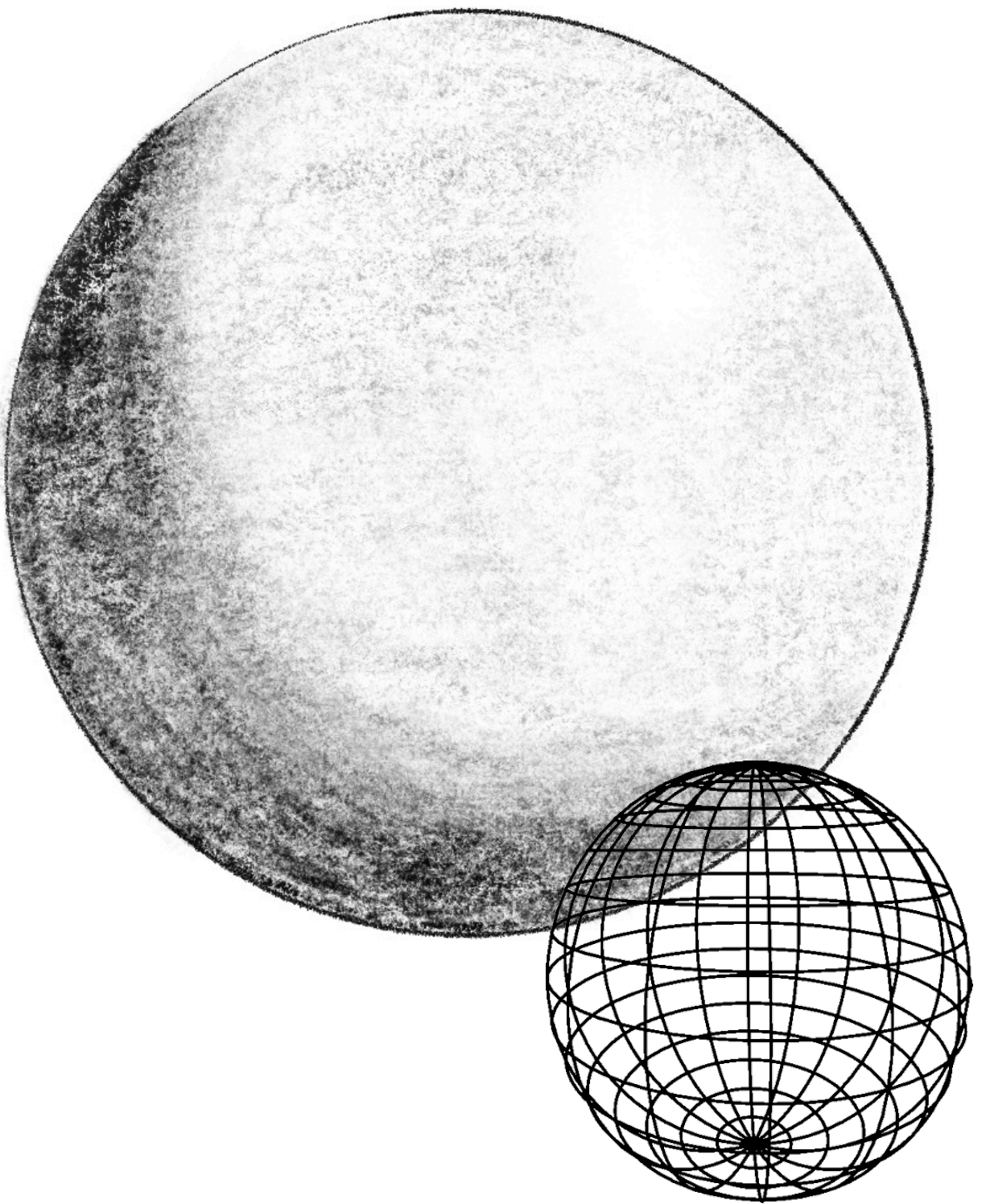
Making



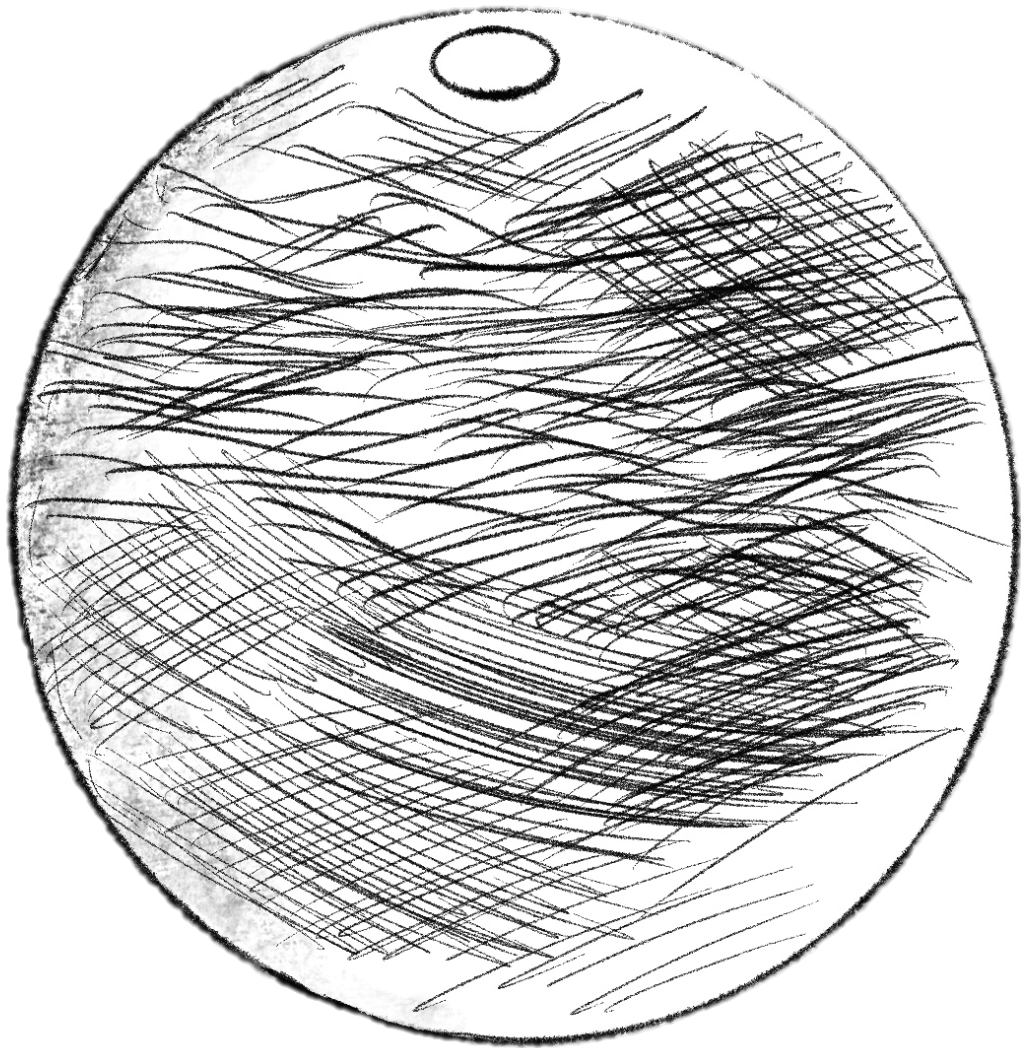
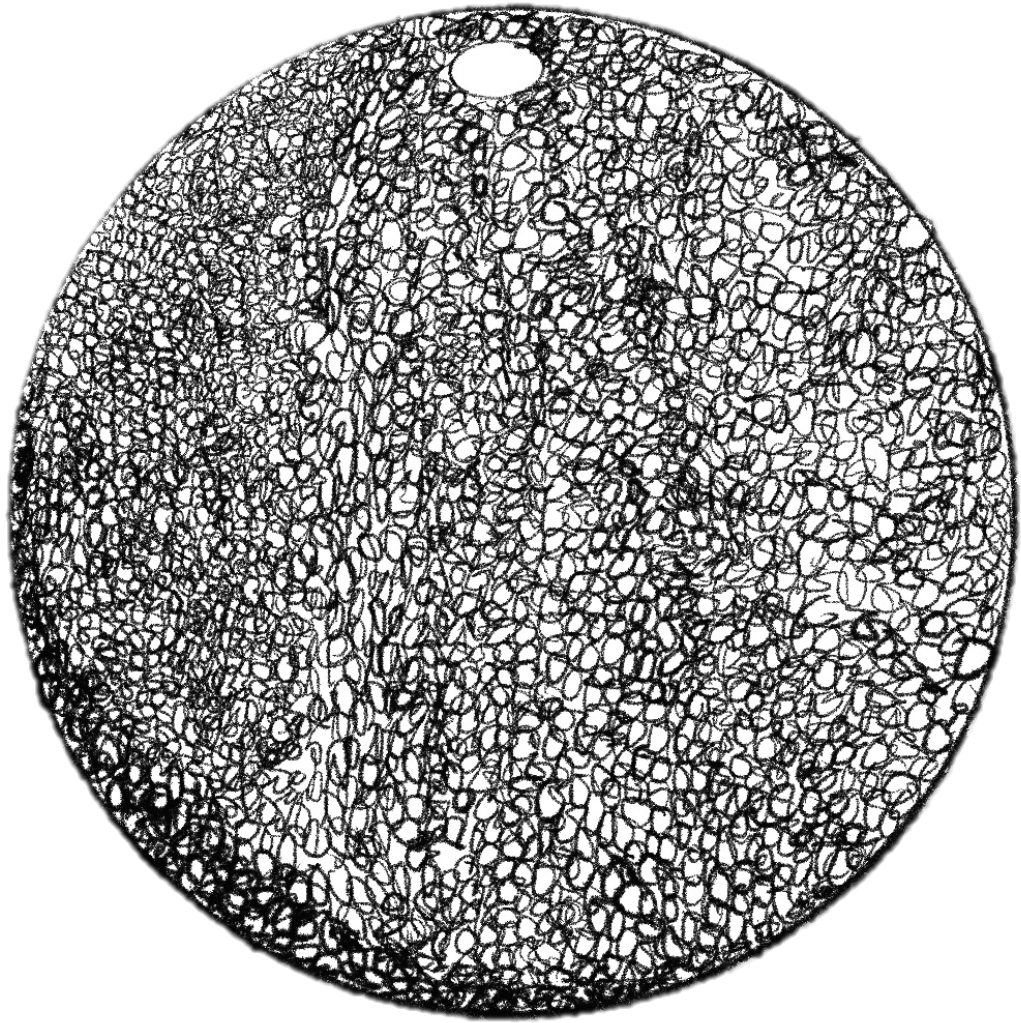
To make my stalagmite, I coiled a large rough cone form in terracotta clay. I then dripped slurry over the entire form to create the dripped effect. After bisque, I glazed it in a clear glaze, with the intention to create the illusion that it's wet.



Spheres



Spheres remind me of the earth and its geology, which is why I then went on to design ceramic spheres, all with a different erosional texture.

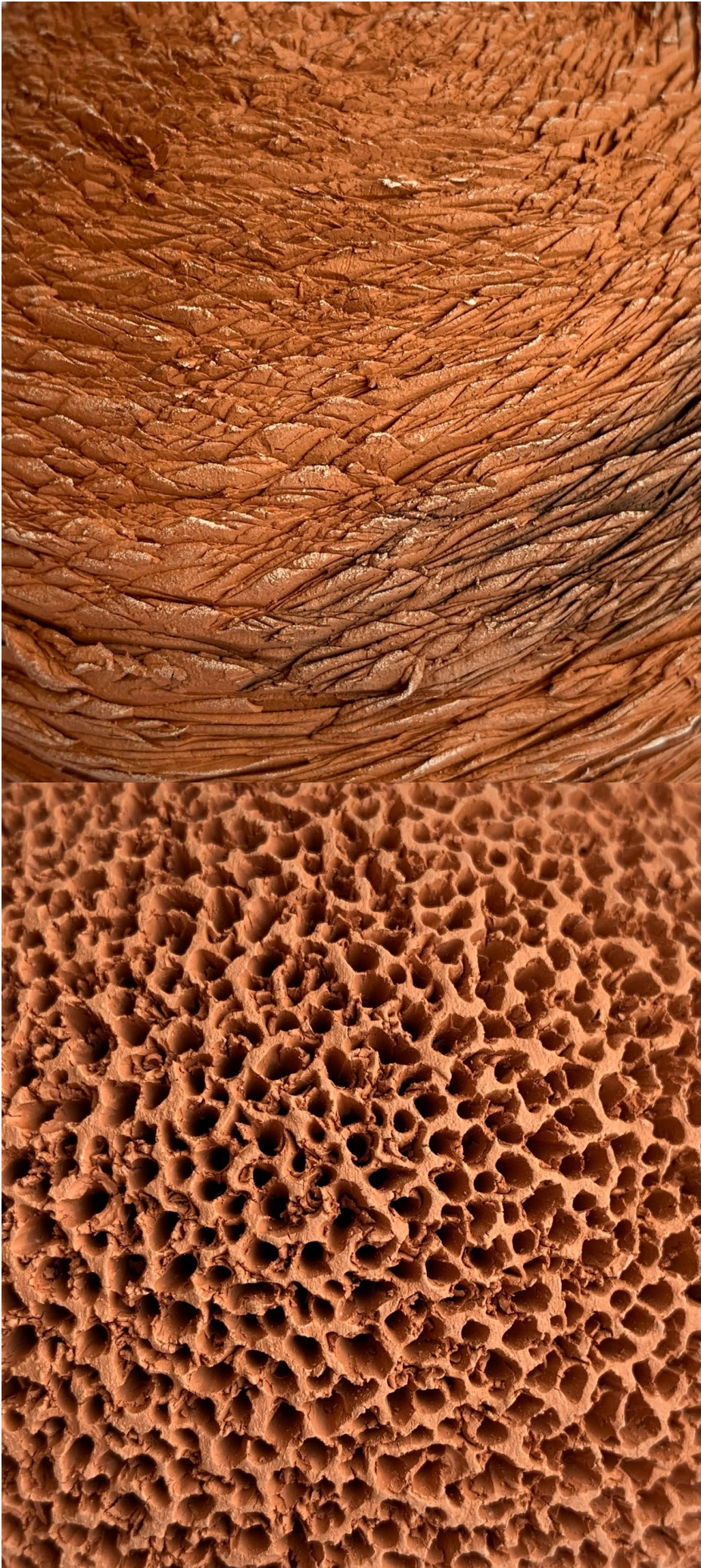


Making

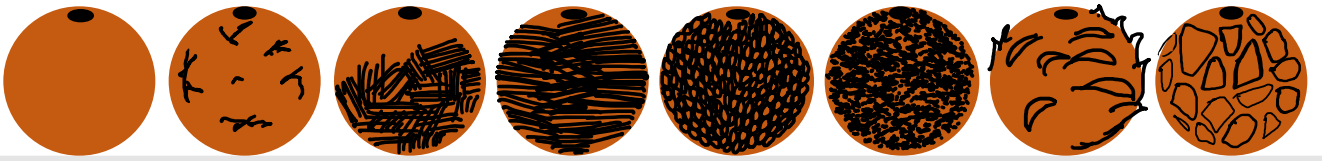


I made the spheres using a press mould and joining the two halves together. I then textured them using various tools to create the rock-like textures.









A digital plan of how I intend to exhibit my work.



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