

Miya Ando *Waiting for the Moon*  
Traveling from Bolinas Museum

Nancy Toomey Fine Art | 1275 Minnesota Street, San Francisco

Exhibition Catalog | May 17 to July 1, 2023





Miya Ando's artworks are a visual meditation on the cycles of nature and the passage of time; concept, image, and material are inextricably linked. The layered, refractive surfaces of Ando's sculptures and paintings on metal or wood are a physical articulation of contemplation of the impermanent, temporal nature of their subjects, including seasons, tides, skylscapes, and elements rendered in ink, pigment, micronized silver, gold, mica, or resin. Her frequent choice of multilingual titles for her artworks—a Japanese word and its approximate English translation—reveals the variations in thought and perception between the two cultures that inform her identity and experience; the Japanese literary words naming and describing the varied qualities of the natural world express a philosophy of existence not often present in Western cultures.

The title of this exhibition is inspired by a series of 1,347 daily drawings created during the Covid lockdowns and in the intervening time. These drawings were made with natural indigo dye and micronized pure silver on Washi and Hahnemühle paper and recorded the night sky between March 17, 2020, and September 7, 2022. The project, named *Nanayo*, was inspired by an esoteric Japanese Buddhist ritual called “Nanayomachi” or “Shichiyamachi,” which translates to “waiting for seven nights,” wherein the faithful await moonrise and offer prayers during the 17th through the 23rd lunar evenings of each month. The moon drawings are presented in ancient Japan and China’s 72 and 24 seasons calendars. Many pieces in this exhibition, including 30 selected moon drawings and across mediums, link directly to Ando’s deep relationship with Bolinas and coastal Northern California environments.





Miya Ando's work has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at The Asia Society Museum, Houston; The Noguchi Museum, New York; Savannah College Of Art and Design Museum, Savannah; The Nassau County Museum, Roslyn Harbor; and The American University Museum, Washington DC. Her work has also been included in recent group exhibitions at The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville; The Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Haus Der Kunst, Munich; The Bronx Museum; and The Queens Museum of Art, NY. Ando's work is included in the public collections of LACMA; The Nassau County Museum; The Corning Museum of Glass; The Detroit Institute of Arts; The Luft Museum; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art; The Santa Barbara Museum of Art; The Museum of Art and History; among other public institutions as well as in numerous private collections.

Ando has been the recipient of several grants and awards, including the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant Award, and has produced numerous public commissions, most notably a thirty-foot-tall sculpture built from World Trade Center steel installed in Olympic Park in London to mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11, for which she was nominated for a DARC Award in Best Light Art Installation. Ando was commissioned to create artwork for the historic Philip Johnson Glass House, New Canaan, CT. The artist holds a bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, studied East Asian Studies at Yale University and Stanford University, and apprenticed with a Master metalsmith in Japan.





Miya Ando

*Unkai (A Sea of Clouds)*

*7/26/2022 7:17 AM Hour of  
the Dragon Bolinas, CA, 2022*

Ink on aluminum composite

48 x 96 inches



Miya Ando

*Unkai (A Sea Of Clouds)*

*8/1/2021 5:00 AM Hour of  
the Tiger Bolinas, CA, 2022*

Ink on aluminum composite

48 x 96 inches



Miya Ando

*Unkai (A Sea of Clouds) 12/30/2021*

*7:20 PM Bolinas, CA, 2021*

Ink on aluminum composite

45.75 inches diameter





Miya Ando

*Muzuki (No Moon) December 18, 2020, 2020*

Natural indigo, micronized pure silver, Kozo paper

42 x 42 inches (framed in Optium)



Miya Ando

*Sui Getsu Water Moon (Mochizuki Full Moon  
Reflected in Water) December 30, 2020*

Natural indigo, micronized pure silver, Kozo paper  
42 x 42 inches (framed in Optium)



Miya Ando

*January 5, 2021 Matsu Pine Shou Sugi Ban*

*Silver, 2021*

Reclaimed, charred pine, silver nitrate

11 x 11 x 11 inches



Miya Ando

*January 4, 2021 Matsu Pine Shou Sugi Ban*

*Silver, 2021*

Reclaimed charred pine, silver nitrate

11 x 11 x 11 inches



Miya Ando

*Alchemy (Shou Sugi Ban) Cube 3.19.8.7, 2019*

Charred reclaimed redwood, silver nitrate

12 x 12 x 12 inches



Miya Ando

*Kuu (Sky/Void/Mirror) Shou Sugi Ban 1.1.3, 2022*

Charred reclaimed redwood, silver nitrate

12 x 12 x 2 inches



Miya Ando

*Shou Sugi Ban Pale Gold*, 2019

Charred reclaimed redwood, silver nitrate, pigment

12 x 12 x 1.5 inches



Miya Ando

*Kuu (Sky/Void/Mirror) Shou Sugi Ban 1.1.4, 2022*

Charred reclaimed redwood, silver nitrate

12 x 12 x 2 inches





Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Alpha Centaurids Meteor  
Shower February 2, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



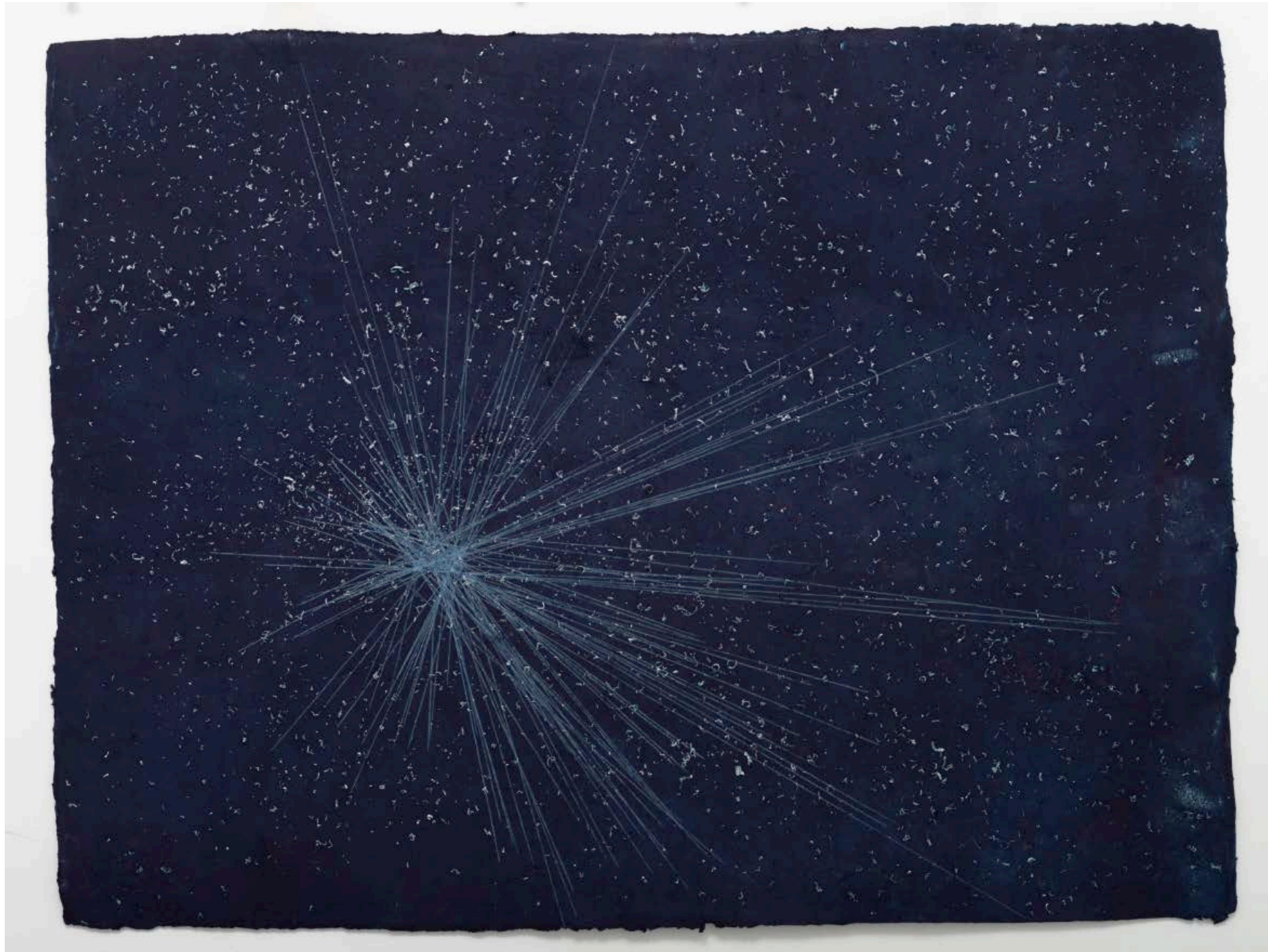
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Leonids Meteor Shower*

*November 2, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



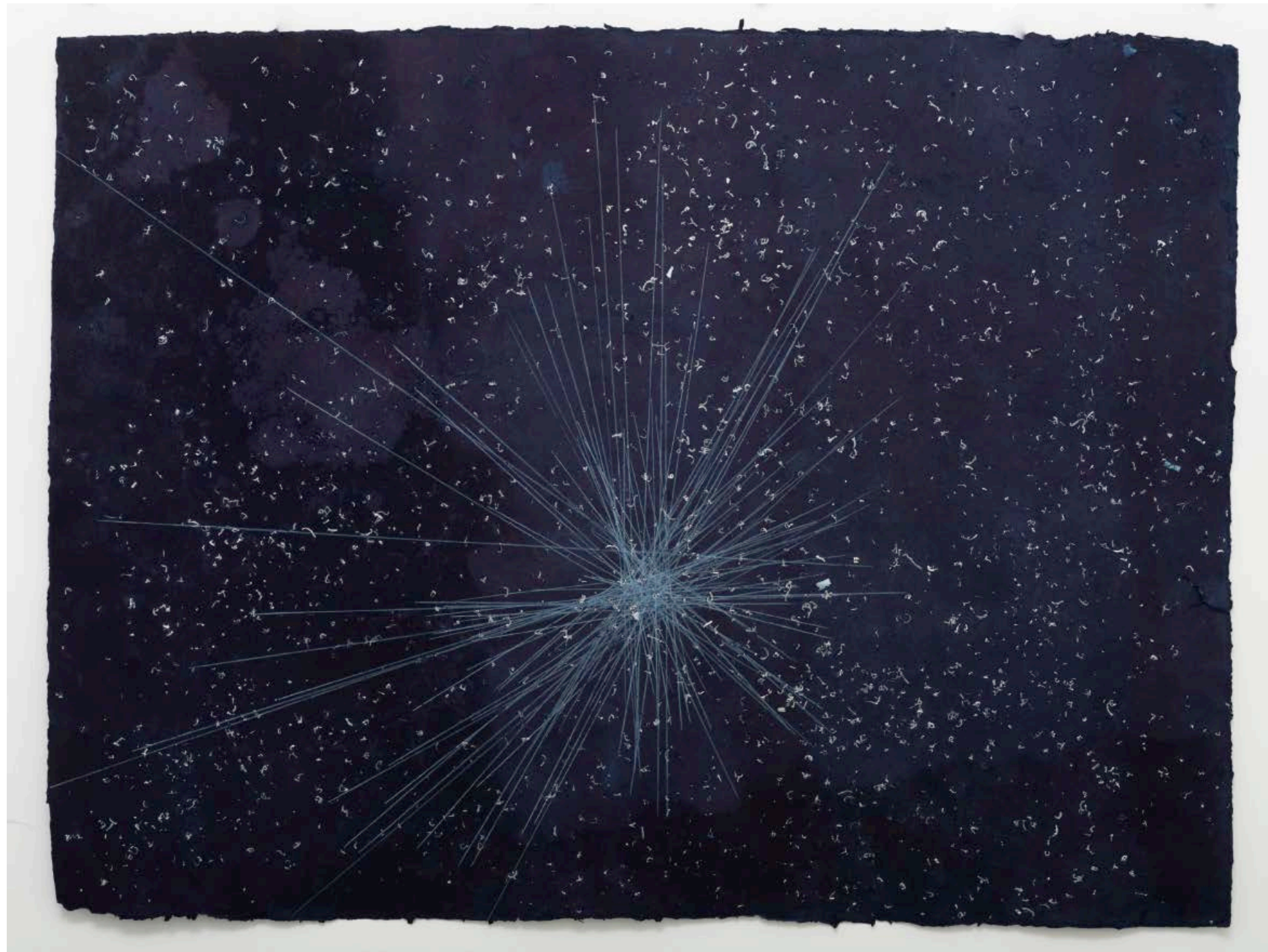
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Lyrids Meteor Shower*

*April 15, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Perseids Meteor Shower*

*June 17, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



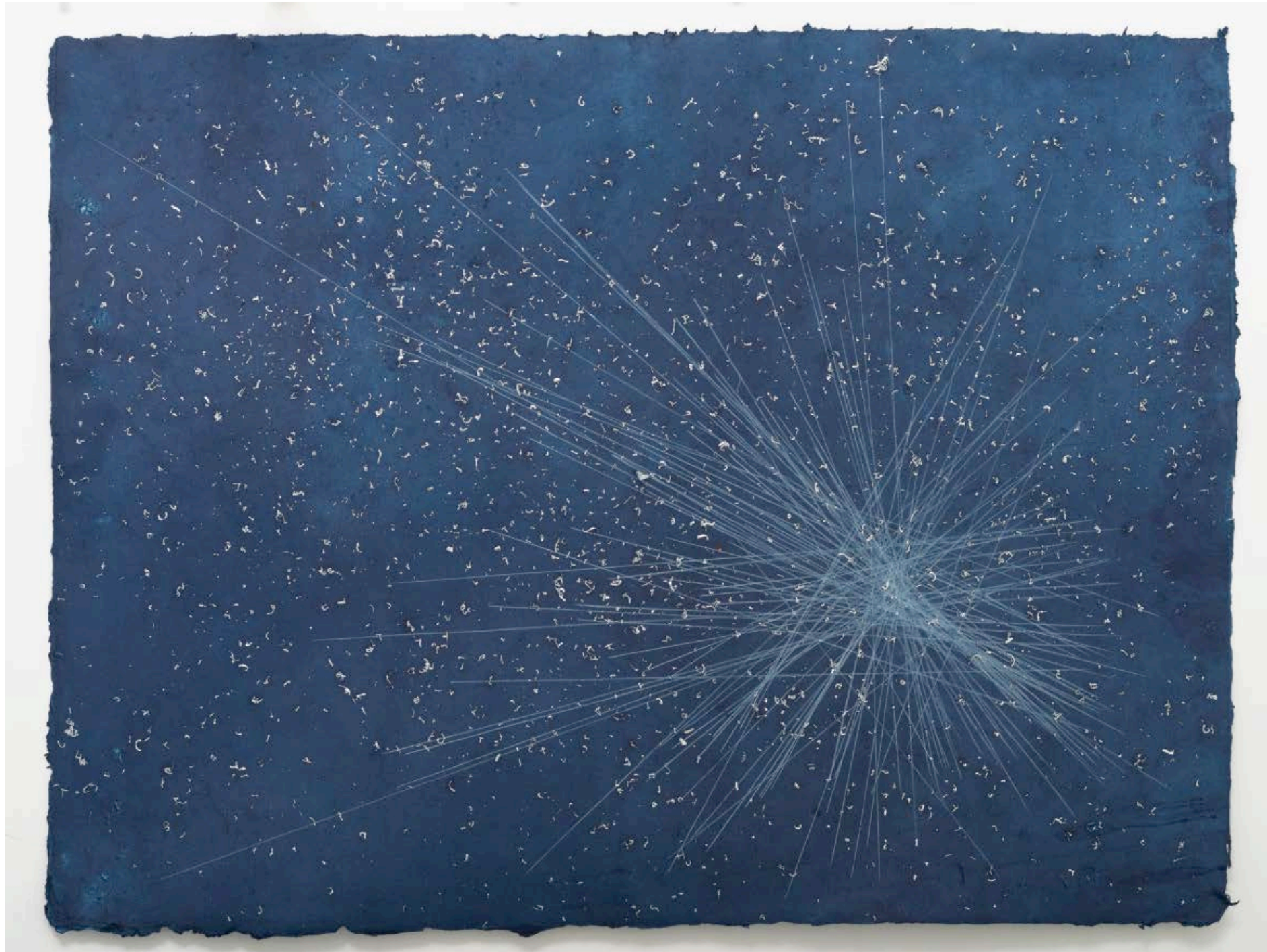
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Southern Delta Aquarids*

*Meteor Shower July 21, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



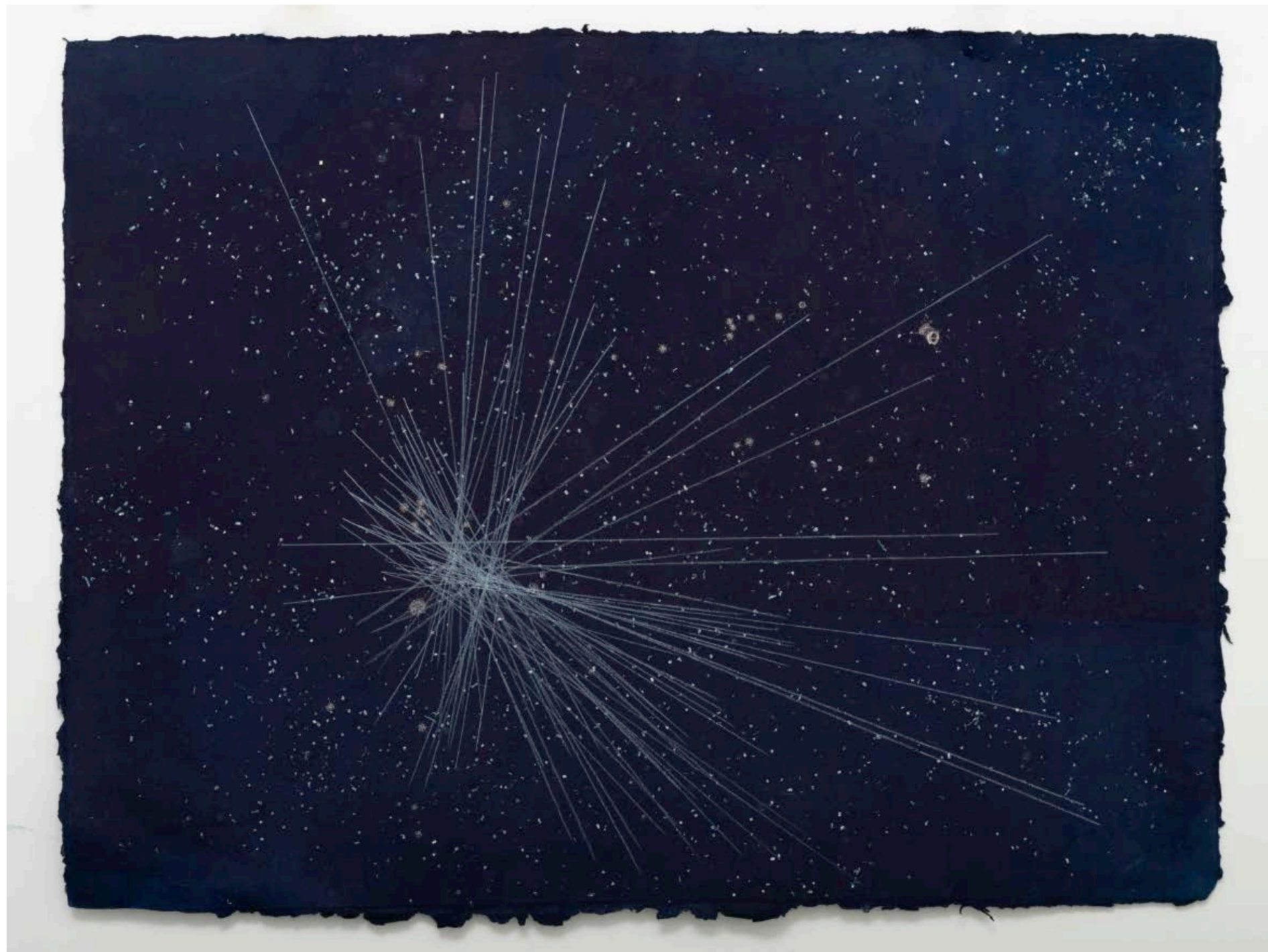
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Ursids Meteor Shower*

*December 19, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



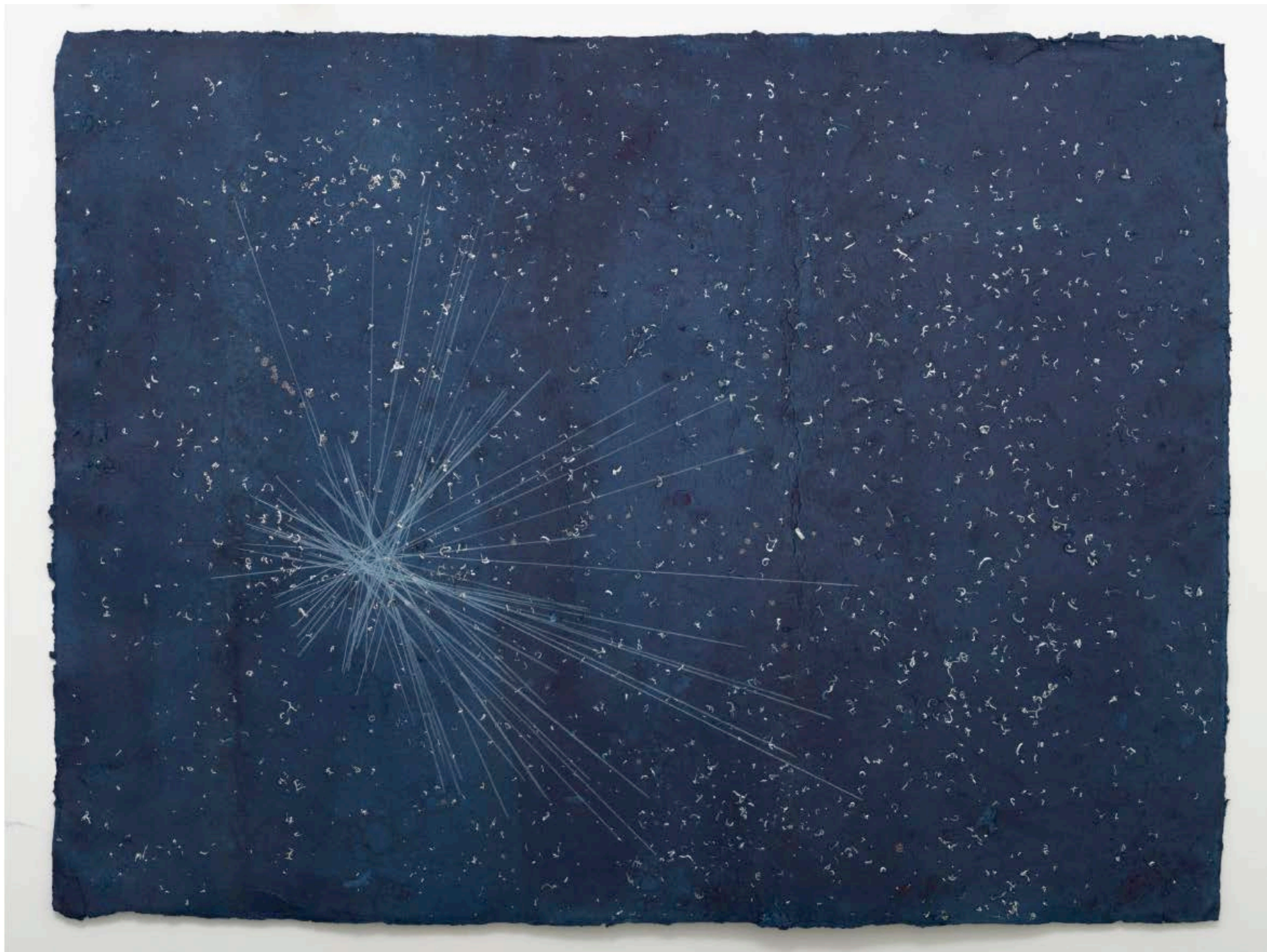
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Eta Aquarids Meteor*

*Shower April 17, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Eta Lyrids Meteor Shower*

*May 6, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)





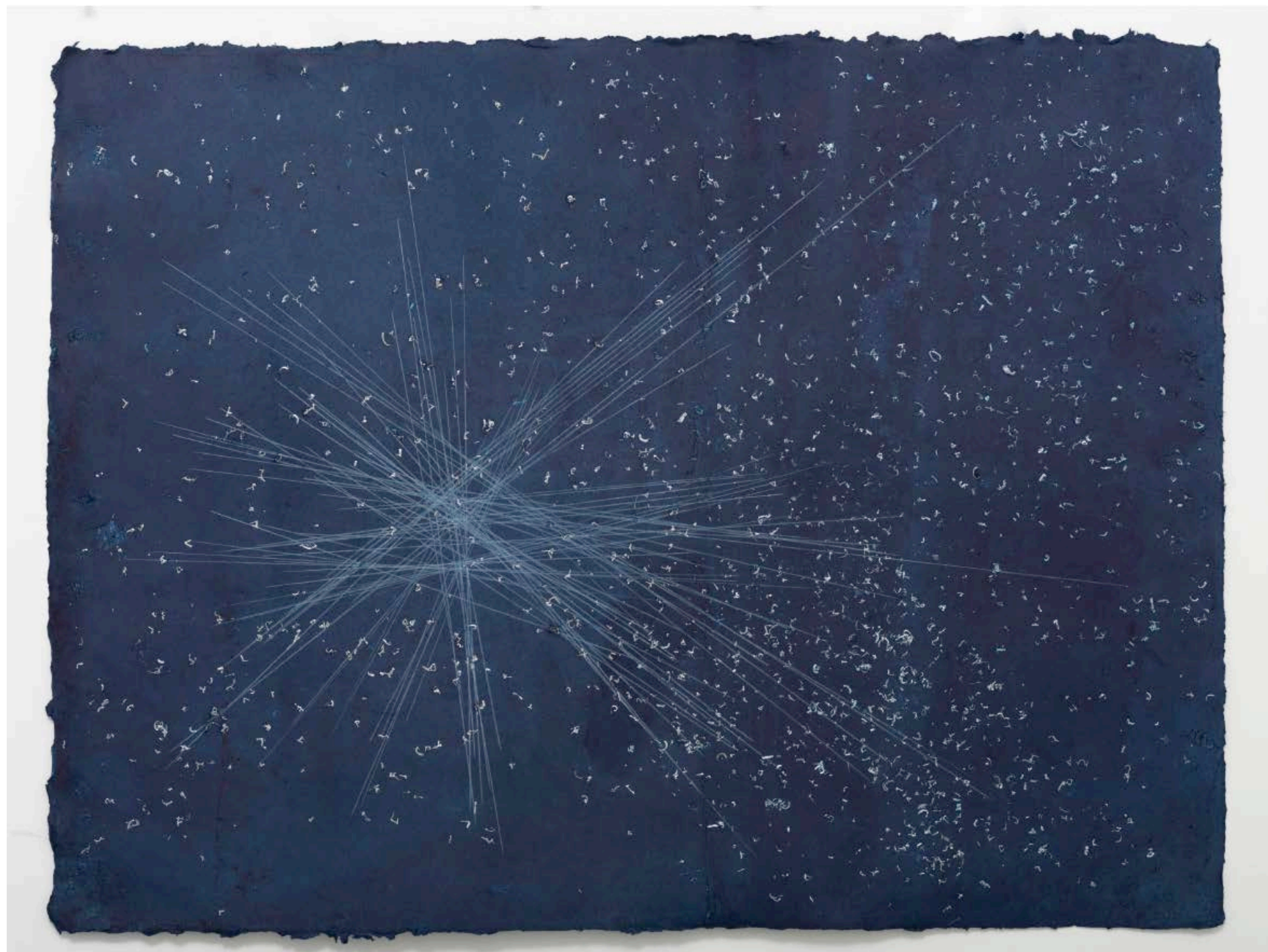
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Geminids Meteor Shower*

*December 4, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Leonids Meteor Shower*

*November 6, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



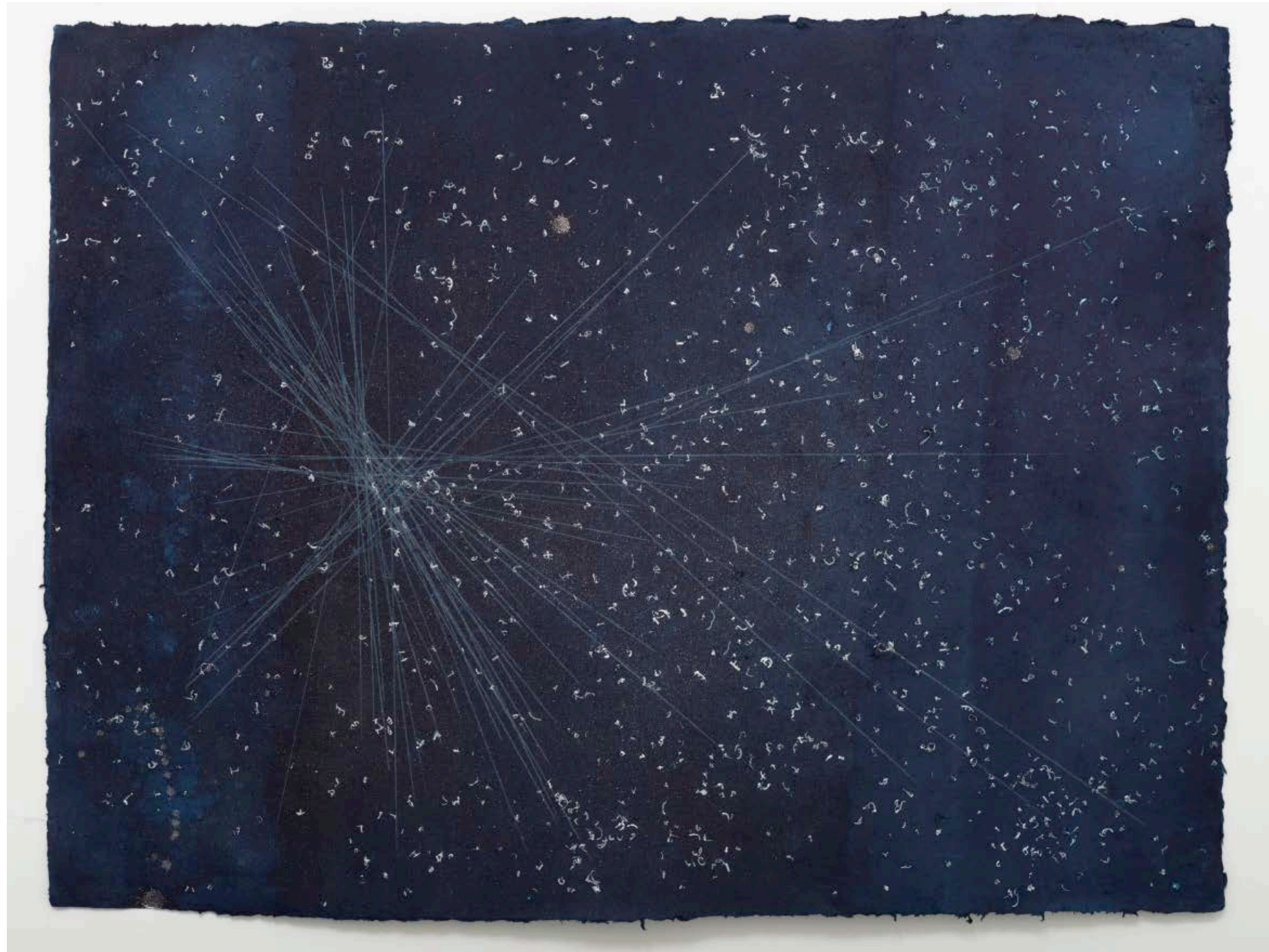
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Lyrids Meteor Shower*

*April 14, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Northern Taurids Meteor*

*Shower October 20, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



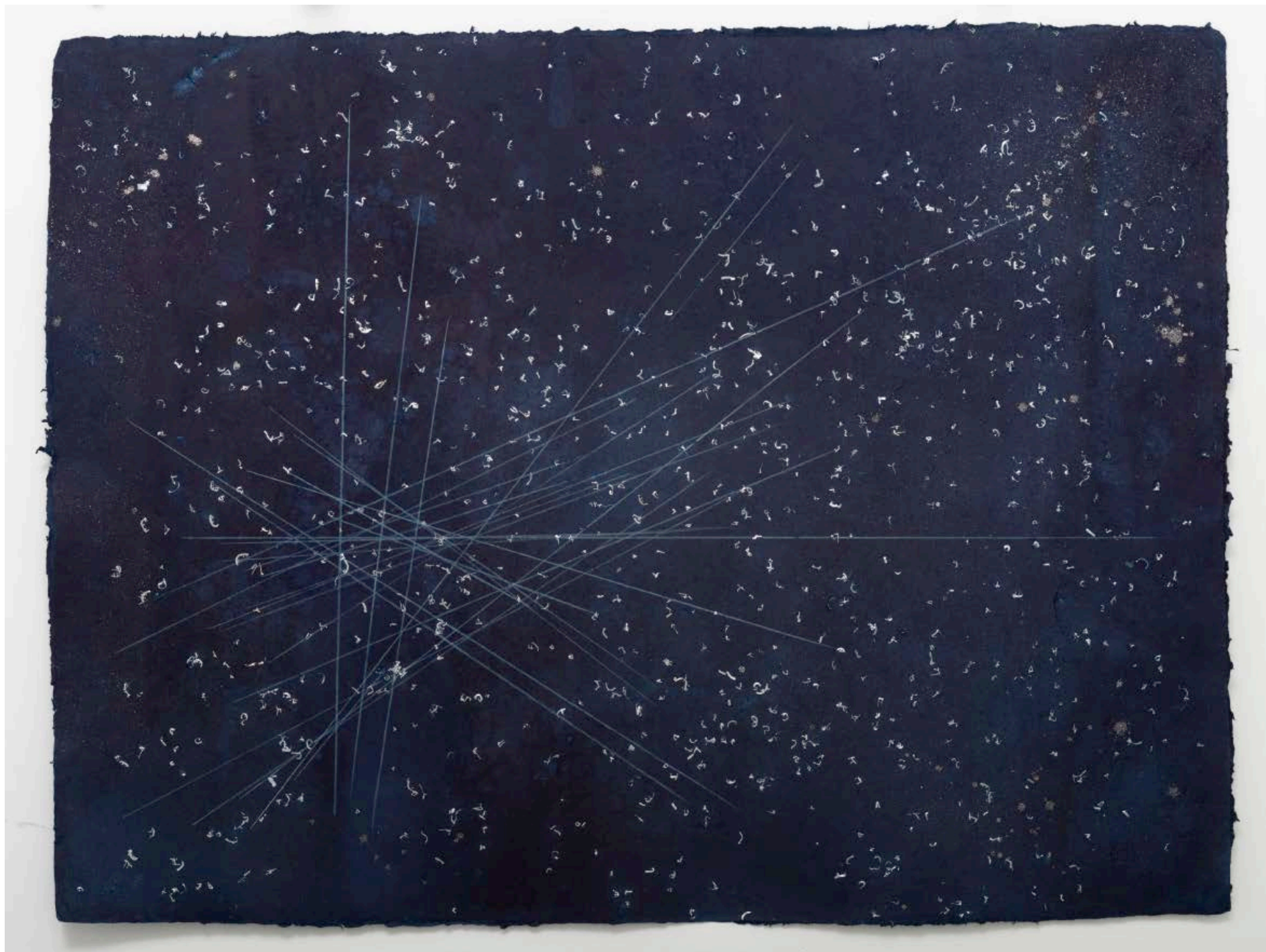
Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Orionoids Meteor Shower*

*September 23, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)



Miya Ando

*Radiant of the Ursids Meteor Shower*

*December 17, 2020, 2020*

Graphite, natural indigo dye, micronized pure  
silver, aluminum embedded paper

23.5 x 31 inches (unframed)

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