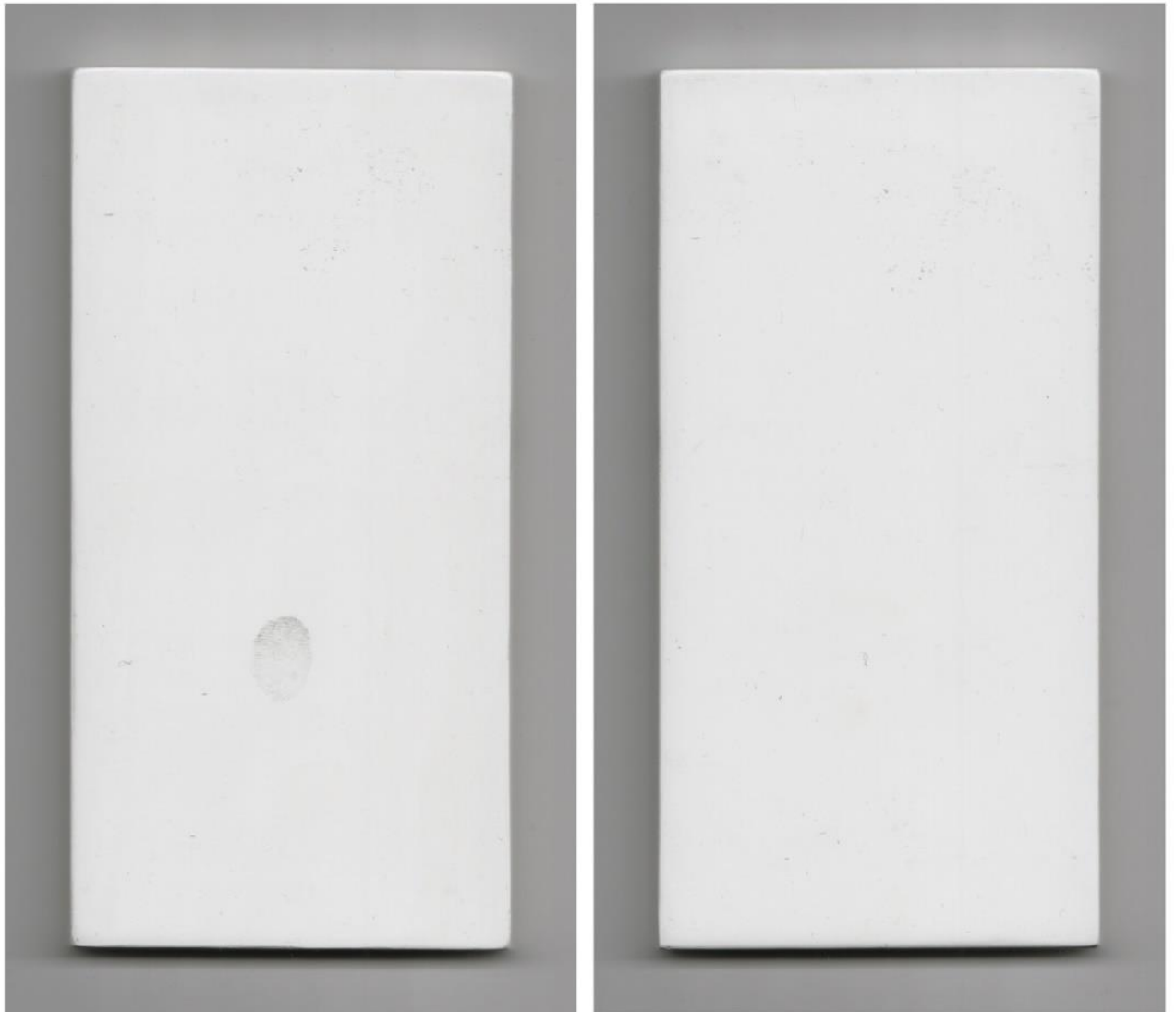


**Hannah Downing**  
**Fingertips and Touchscreens**

In his work *Into the Universe of Technical Images* (1985), Vilém Flusser identifies the gestures of fingertips interacting with apparatuses as a phenomenon worthy of analysis. In recent decades the pressing of buttons and keys has expanded to include a lexicon of swipes and taps performed in concert with the glazed surfaces of touchscreen devices.

The artworks included here arise from a deliberate observation of my own fingertips touching a smartphone over the course of a day, beginning with selecting snooze in response to the alarm clock at 07:30. Each artwork's title indicates the time of day that a gesture was performed - *09:23* corresponds to the typing of a text message, and *16:07* to the setting of a timer. In contrast to the speed at which the hand and finger marks were enacted, the drawings were made slowly; retracing the tiny ridges of fingerprints in a precise and deliberate manner. The artworks were drawn using metalpoint, a method involving the use of metal wire pieces held in a stylus to create marks on a surface. Metals that form component parts of a smartphone - gold, aluminium and nickel - were selected to mark a gesso ground to create drawn objects that share the dimensions of an average mobile phone.



*Picture 1 Hanna Downing, 07:30 (2019), metalpoint on gesso, 14 x 7 x 1 cm. (front and reverse views)*



*Picture 2 Hannah Downing, 09:23 (2019), metalpoint on gesso, 14 x 7 x 1 cm. (front and reverse views)*



*Picture 3 Hannah Downing, 16:07 (2019), metalpoint on gesso, 14 x 7 x 1 cm. (front and reverse views)*