

Material Clusters

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This material is part of a research project funded by the Start-up Grant from SUSTech, Southern University of Science and Technology.



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Enza Migliore

is a researcher and educator in design, focusing on materials exploration through interdisciplinary and experimental design practices. She is currently an Assistant Professor at SUSTech School of Design. Ph.D. in Design and Innovation from the Second University of Naples, Post-Doc by Japan Society for Promotion of Science at the Metropolitan University of Tokyo. Through her research, she informs scientific laboratories with systemic knowledge, creative practices, and opportunities by design. Her current research explores materiality through the lenses of a post-anthropocentric perspective at different scales.

Amedeo Martines

MA Contemporary Design at Aalto University, is an interdisciplinary practitioner working in the interfaces of art, design and craft. With a deep focus on ceramic materials as well as heritage investigation, Martines is currently a research assistant at SUSTech, Shenzhen School of Design, to further explore the relationship between design and contemporary archeology.

intro- duction

Material Clusters. How fragmented materiality unveils imminent archeology to redesign the past and imagine the future.

Material Clusters is an exploration initiated during the ninth Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism \ Architecture of Shenzhen and Hong Kong (UABB), hosted by the Pingshan sub-venue at Dawan, an architectural heritage of Hakka village in Shenzhen. It is part of a research project on material culture, urban ecology, and technology at Shenzhen's SUSTech School of Design. During the Biennale, staff and students at the School of Design conducted field research and ethnographic activities at the historical site and with the local Hakka community. The Hakka people are an ethnic group with a distinct cultural identity, known for their migration history and unique customs. They are a Han Chinese subgroup believed to have originated from the Central Plains of China. Over the centuries, the Hakka people have migrated to different regions of China and other parts of the world, including Southeast Asia and Taiwan.

We have collected samples of materials from the ground of Dawan village in Shenzhen, one of the biggest urban agglomerates in China, and created a tangible and digital archive of objects, pictures, and 3D models used during this exploration as frames and tools to facilitate conversation and speculation. We use found "things" as interfaces for temporal, cultural, and natural encounters. The objects, mainly fragments of materials for the building construction, natural rocks, and industrial artifacts, have been 3D scanned to create a digital archive of unnoticed, hybrid interfaces. The idea is to produce new opportunities to merge past, present, and future through design, humanistic thought, science, and technology and to use these materials as catalytic objects of reflection. We held a workshop where we asked the participants to use this collection to discuss and produce thoughts and visions about the meaning and future of the built environment and its transformations with time. We are reinterpreting and reusing fragments of materials through digital representation and manipulation to prompt the vision of an entangled present. The Clusters series are metaphors of post-industrial, post-human, hybrid scenarios and artifacts where human and non-human, digital and material, merge in life's ephemeral and amorphous shape. Here, we present partial working material as part of a more comprehensive research project, which includes a collection of 35 objects, a map of walls and ground textures, photographic documentation, material experiments and phygital crafting.



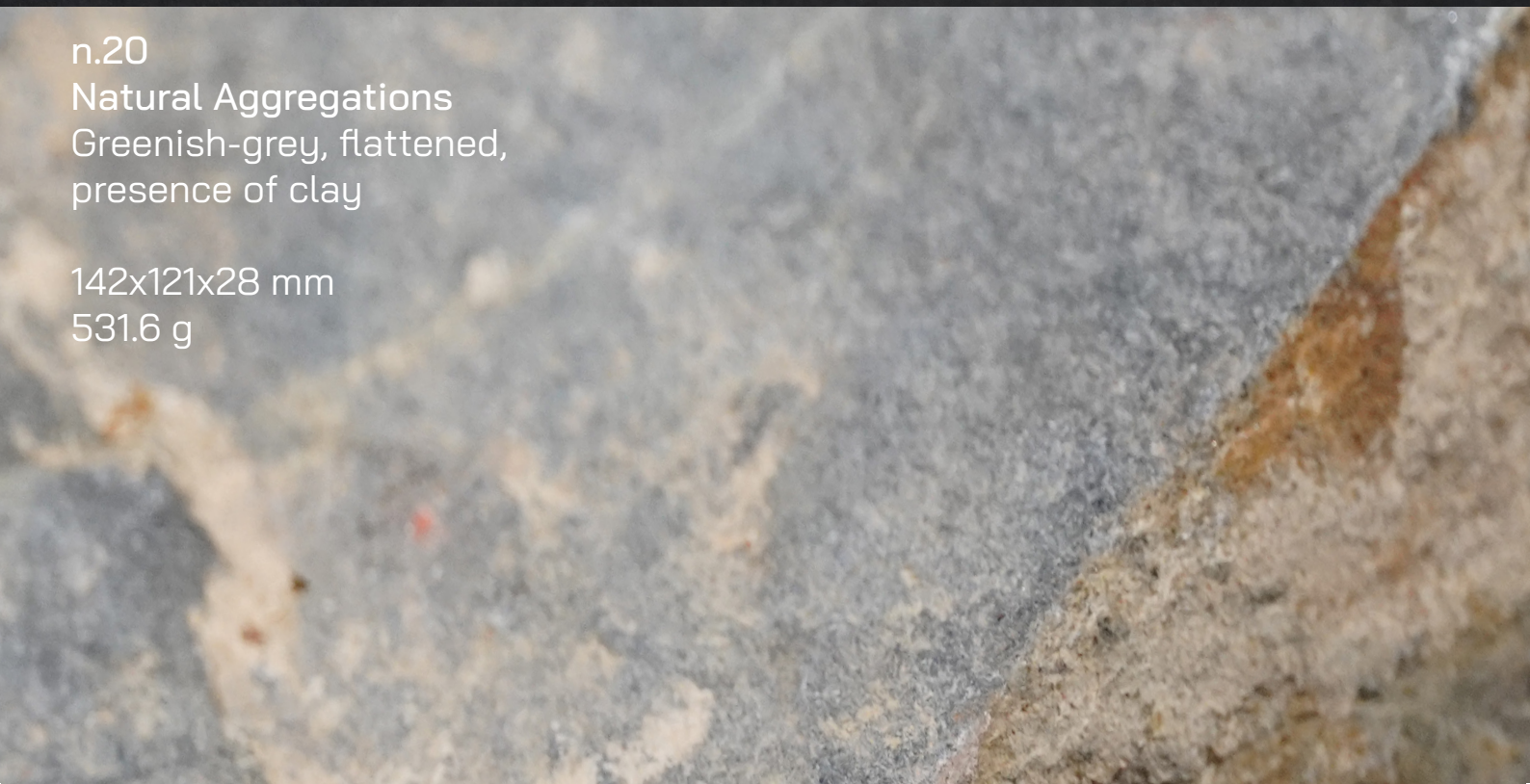
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S
Off-site with grey sandy soil
76x51x26mm
30.7 g

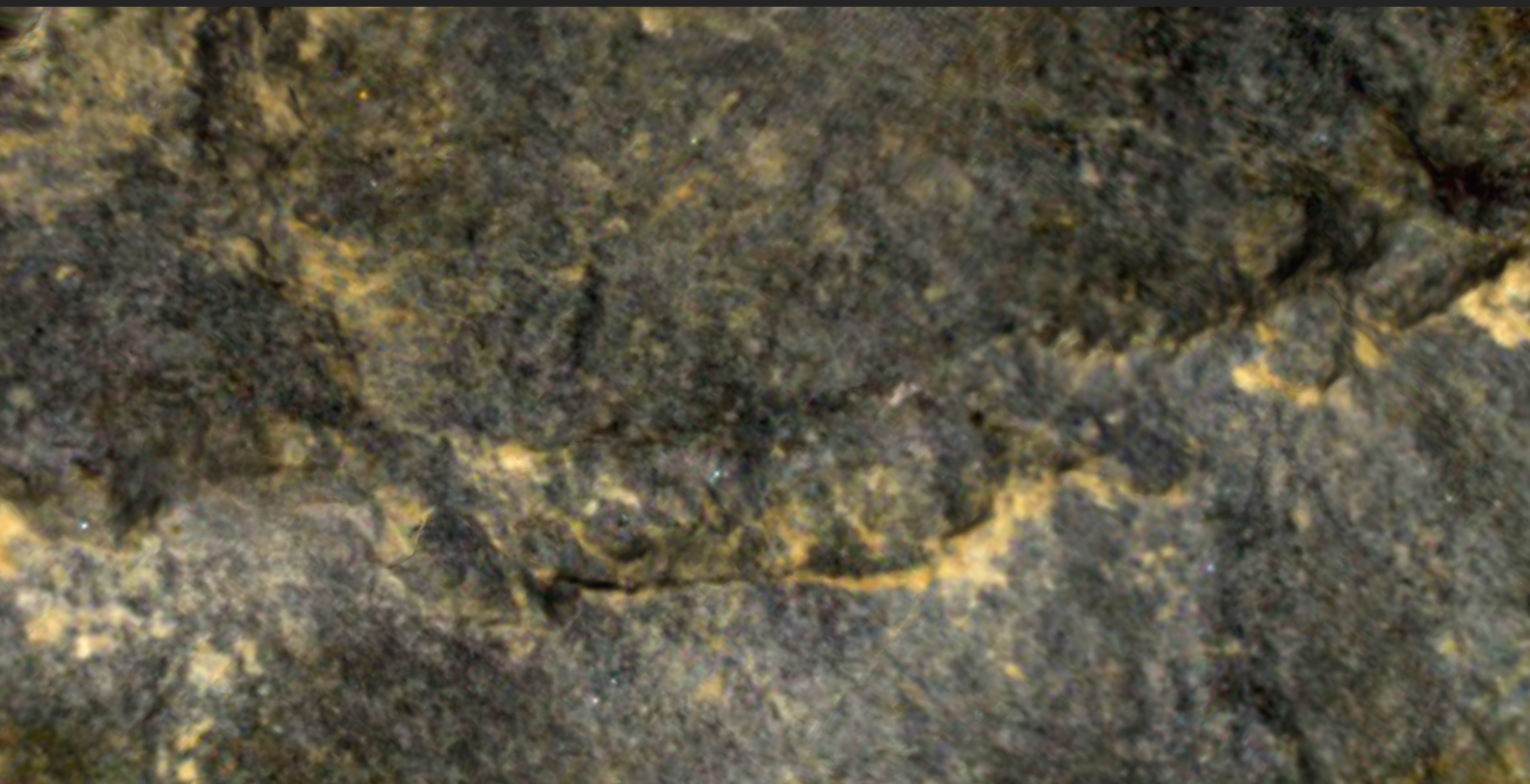
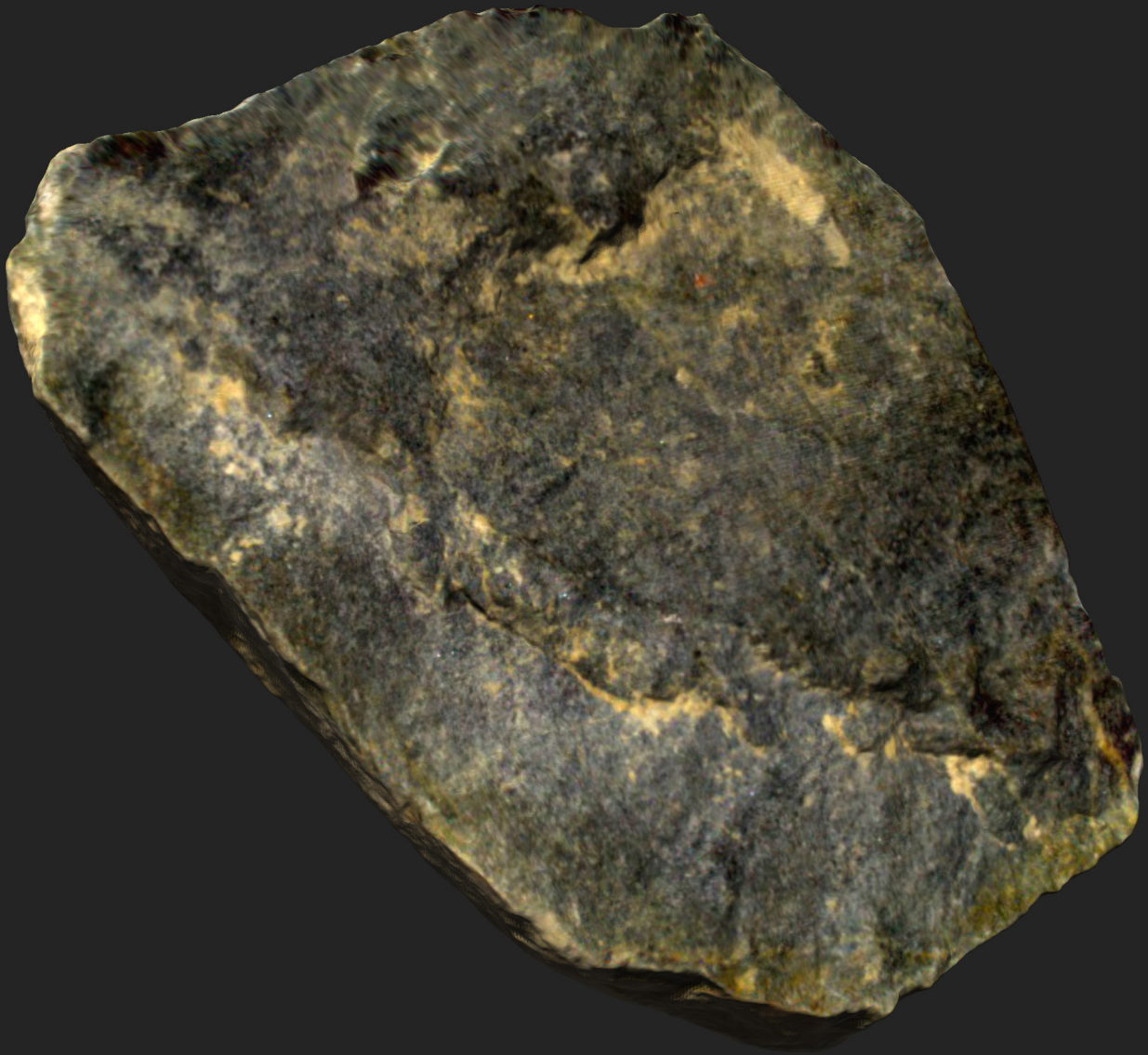




n.20
Natural Aggregations
Greenish-grey, flattened,
presence of clay

142x121x28 mm
531.6 g







n.10
Scattered Debris
Off-white with
grey, sandy soil

76x52x26 mm
30.7 g

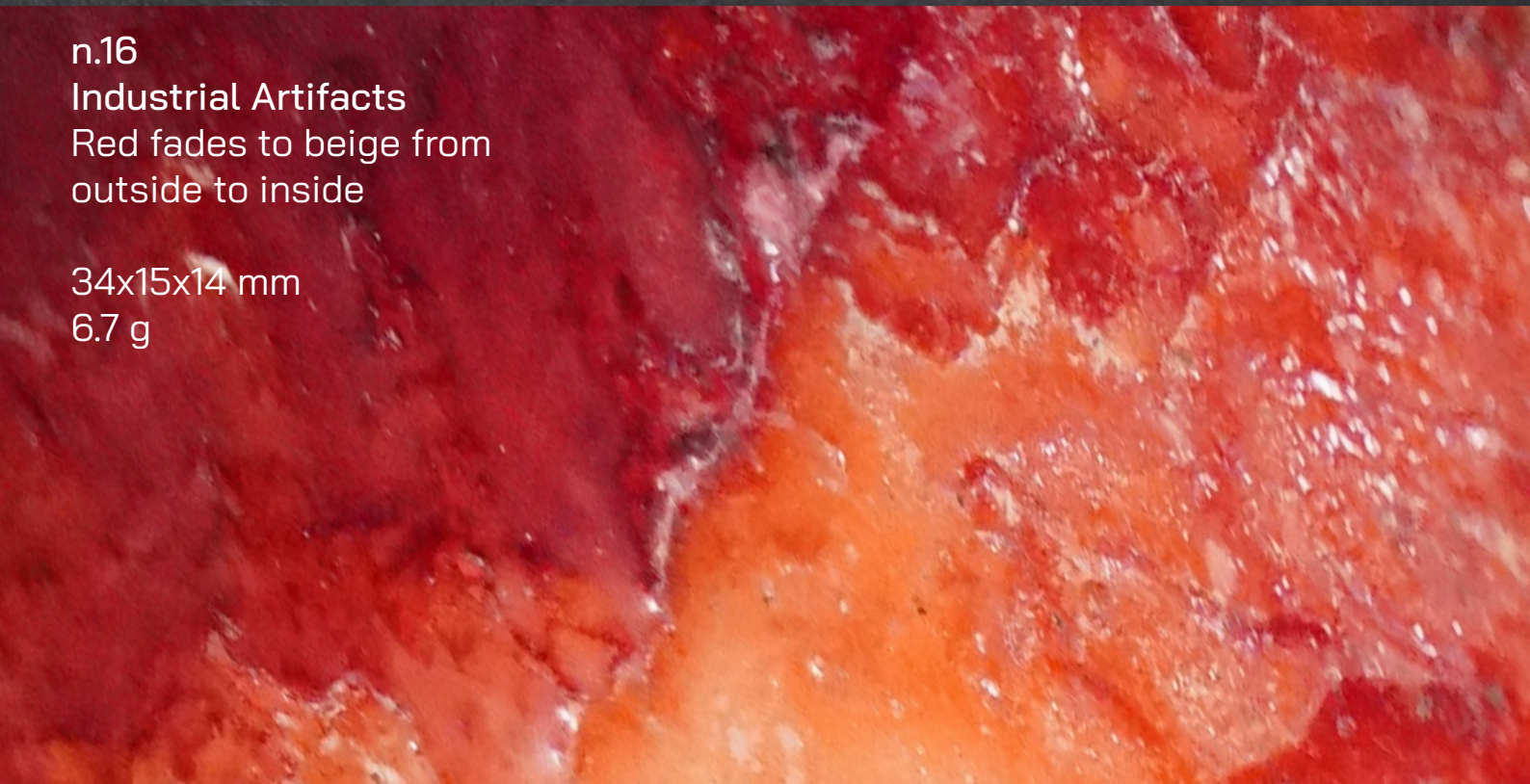


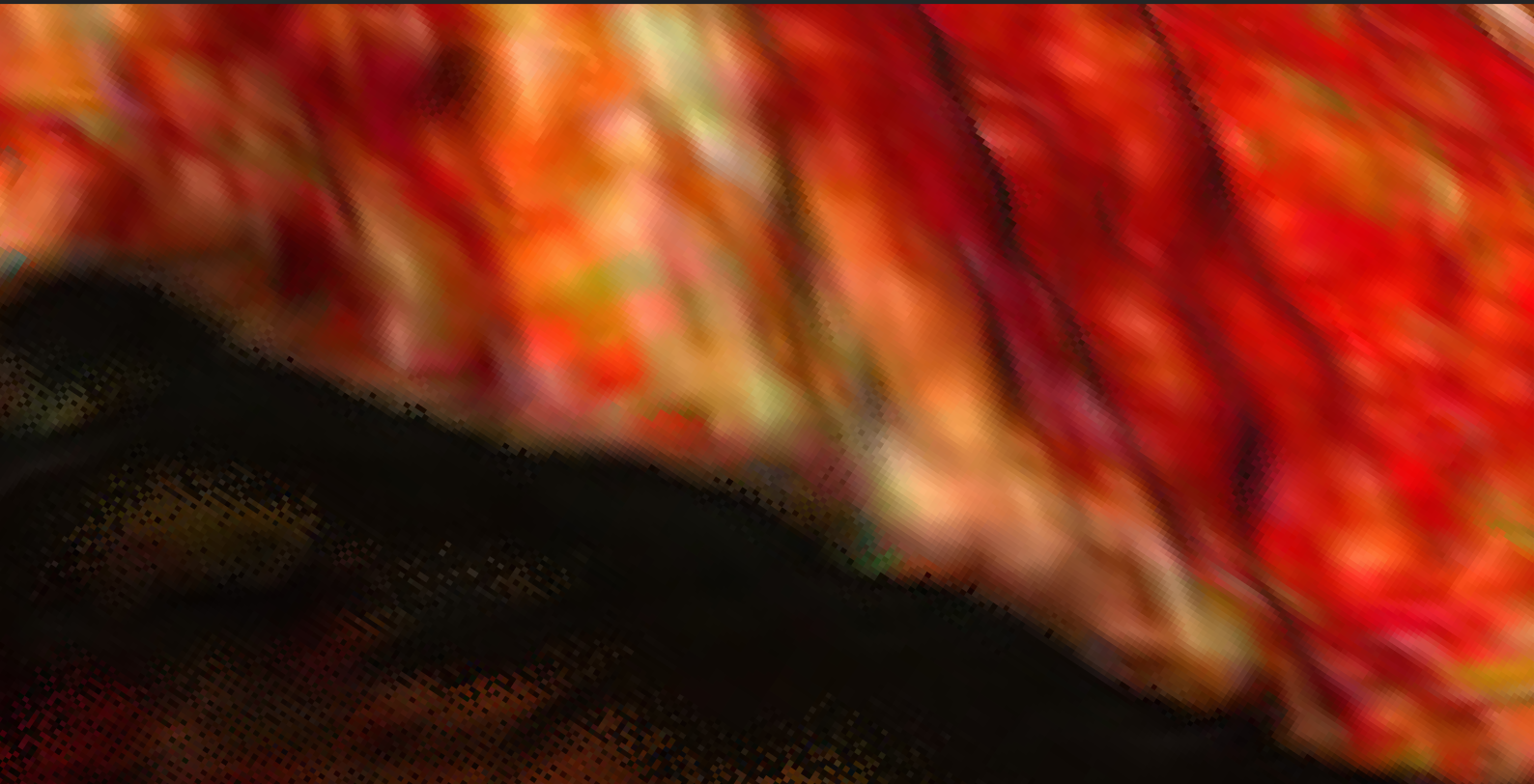


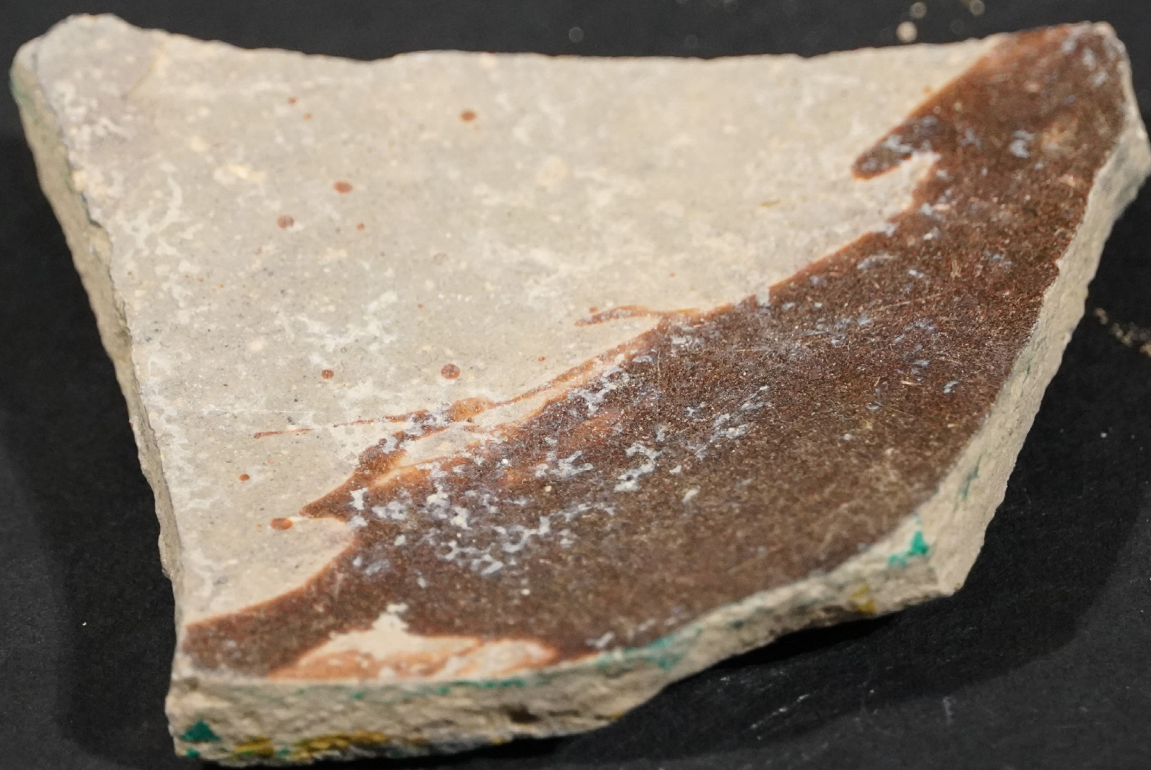


n.16
Industrial Artifacts
Red fades to beige from
outside to inside

34x15x14 mm
6.7 g



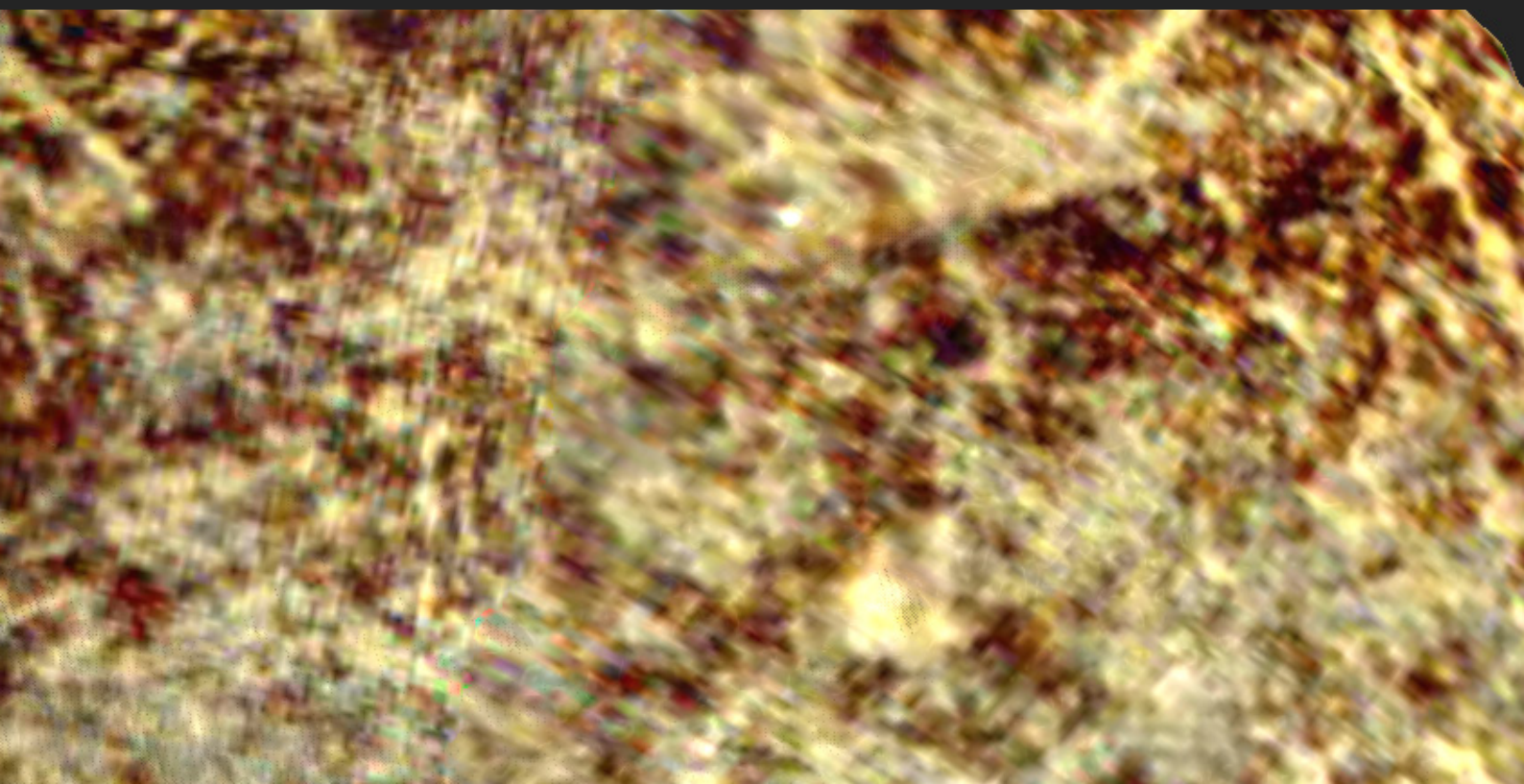
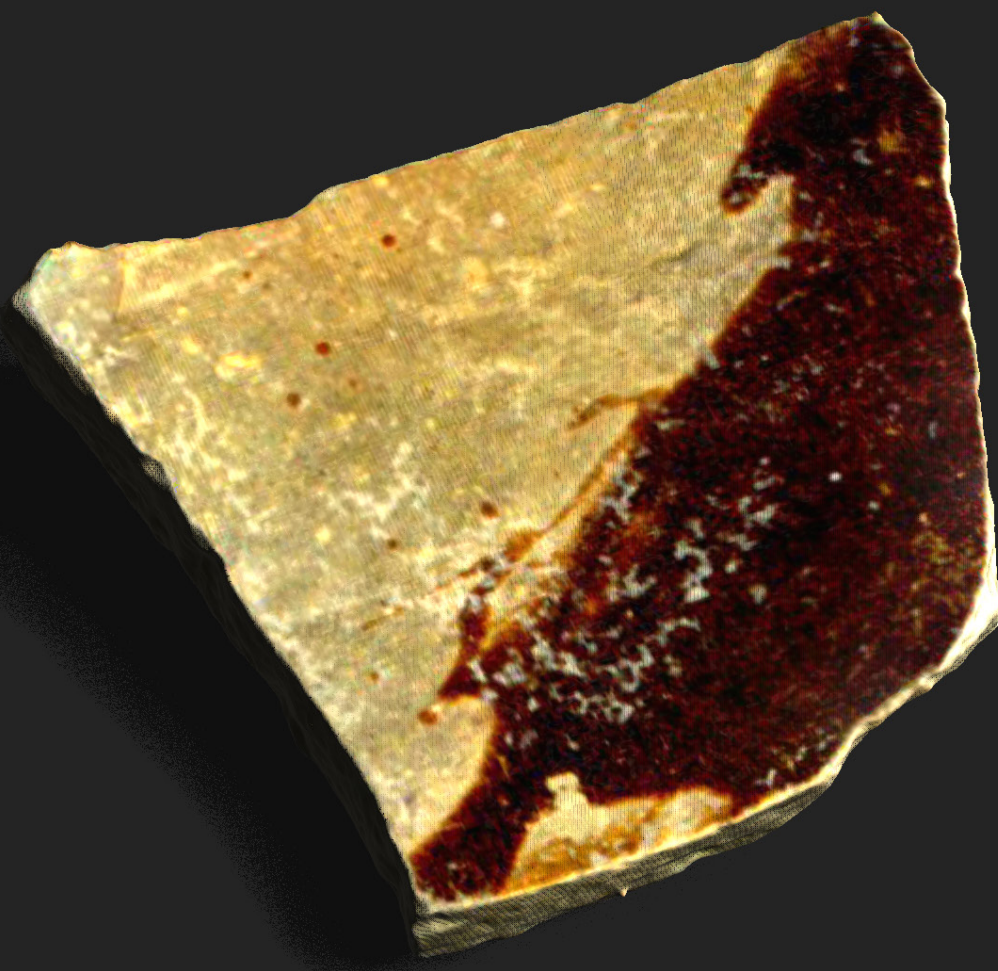




n.13
Scattered Debris
Alternating green and
brown glazes

66x32x15 mm
62.4 g



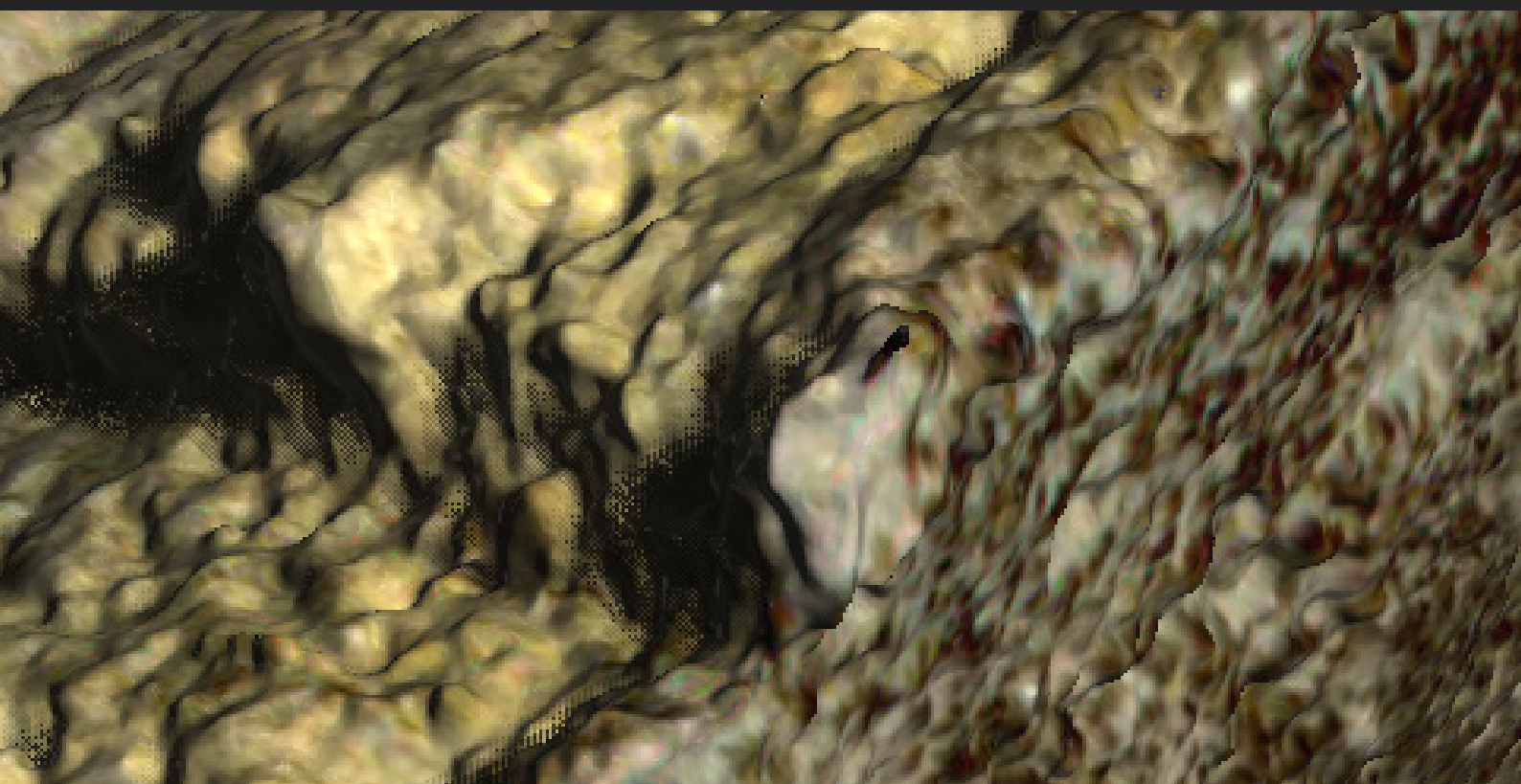
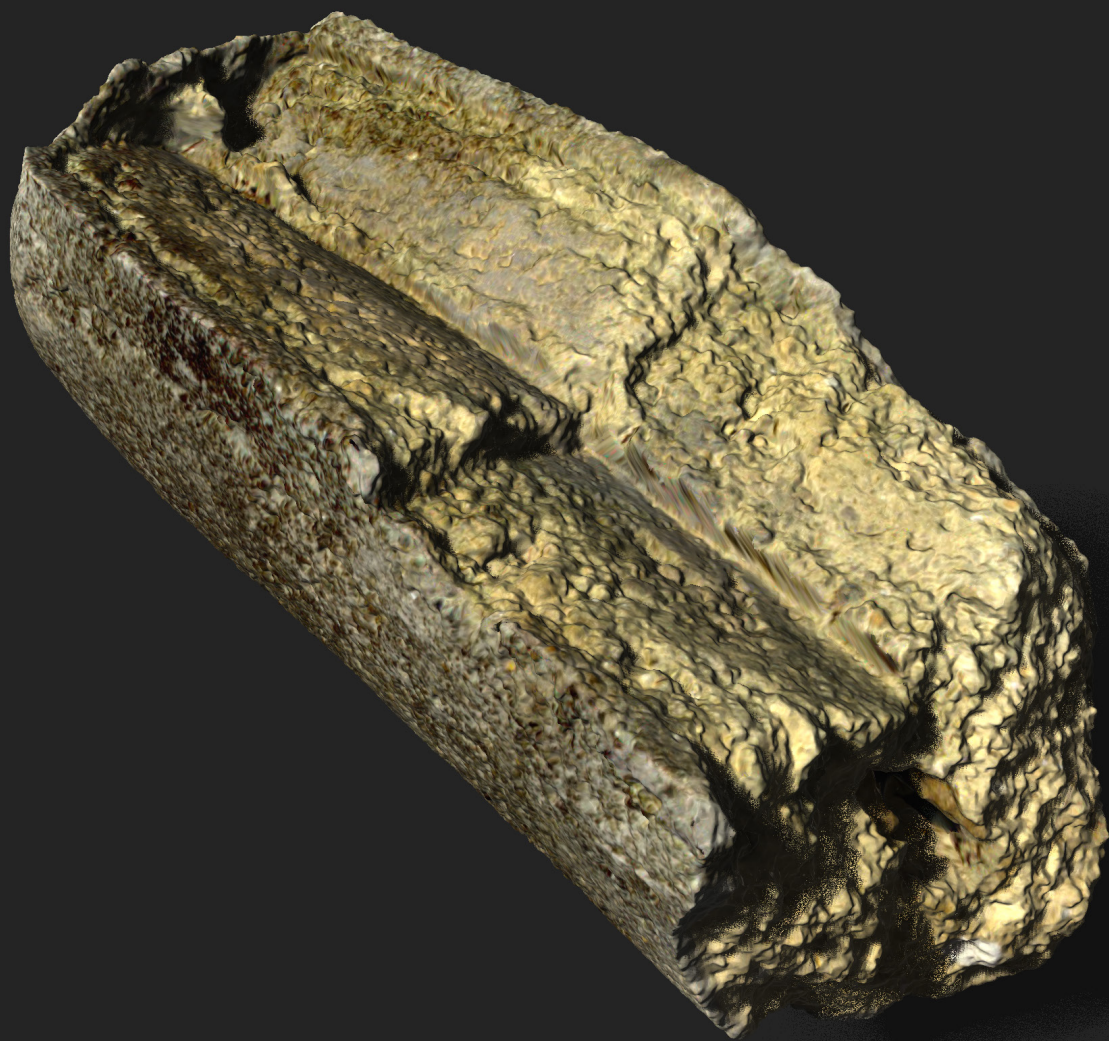




n.17
Building materials
Concrete outer layer,
clay and sand inside

192x94x74
1097 g







n.12
Scattered debris
Greyish-white with blue
pattern, smooth

45x32x14
14.1 g



