

# *African Urban Performance: Paths of Connection and Creolisation*

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*African Urban Performance: Paths of Connection and Creolisation. Toward an Africa Without Borders 3rd International Conference, Durban, 5-8 July, 2007.*

HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS

5002

***“Extraordinary new things are happening in  
our cities – its our collective  
responsibility to address them”***

**(Mabin, 2007)**

***“We assert the centrality of people’s  
creative attempts to construct, contest  
and maintain a material and emotionally  
secure sense of place and identity”***

**(Field, Meyer & Swanson, 2007:7)**

# Theoretical Imperatives

Conversation between literatures

- Postcolonialism
- Creolisation
- Culture-led urbanisation
- Inclusive cities



Creative activities transform space

# Durban Context

Elaborate alternative urban tradition

- Iconic → organic
- Durban as cultural archive
- Concrete, visual and physical strategies transform material and representational Durban
- Focus: African identity and how the city is sculpted (co-constituting relationship)
- Landscaping Durban as a creolised, African city
- Re-appropriate physical space & identity
- Attuned to cultural stories which shape urban life & form
- Engage with the performed, imagined, lived fabric of cities



## Sounds Like Here 🗣️

- **URBAN NOISE and scraps WORKS**
  - Jürgen Bräuninger
- **Forges beyond stereotypes**
- **Forces juxtaposition & integration**
- **Creolised soundscape**
- **Invokes a sense of present & past creolisation**
- **New senses of Durban's representational space**
- **Warwick Δ**



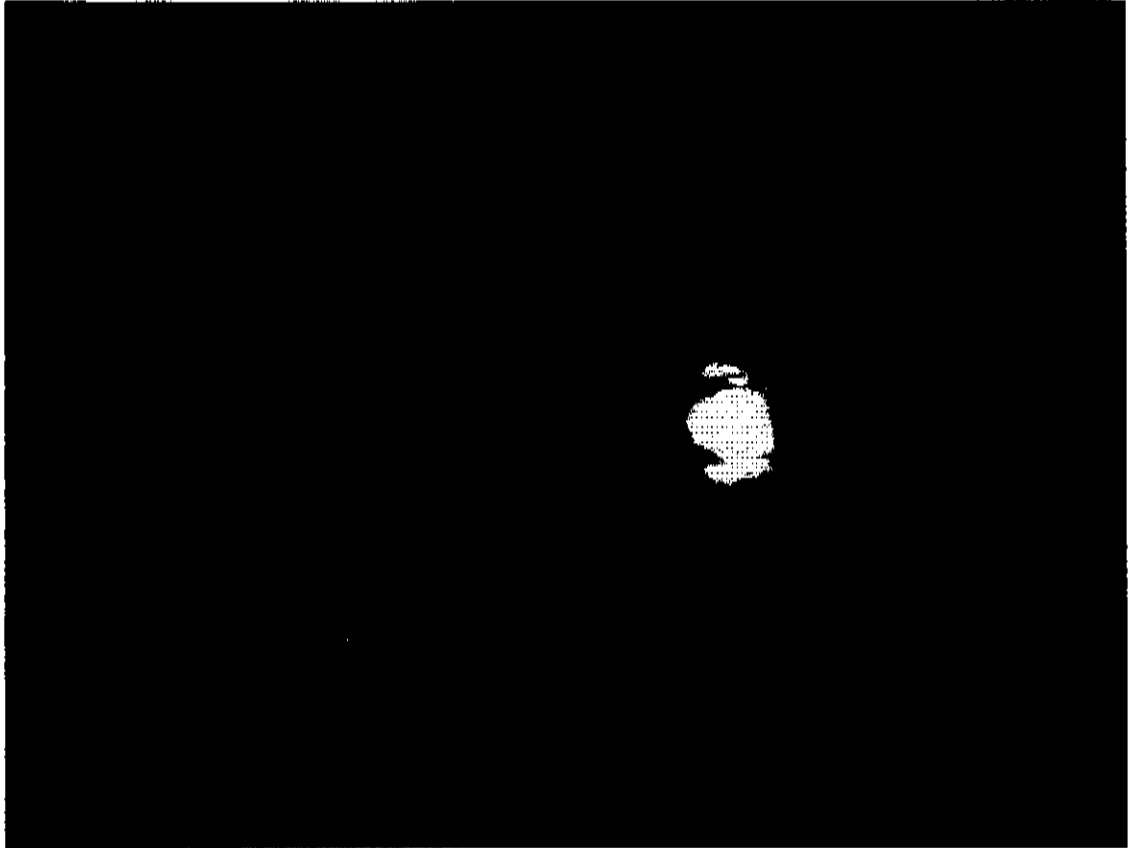
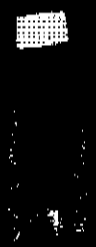
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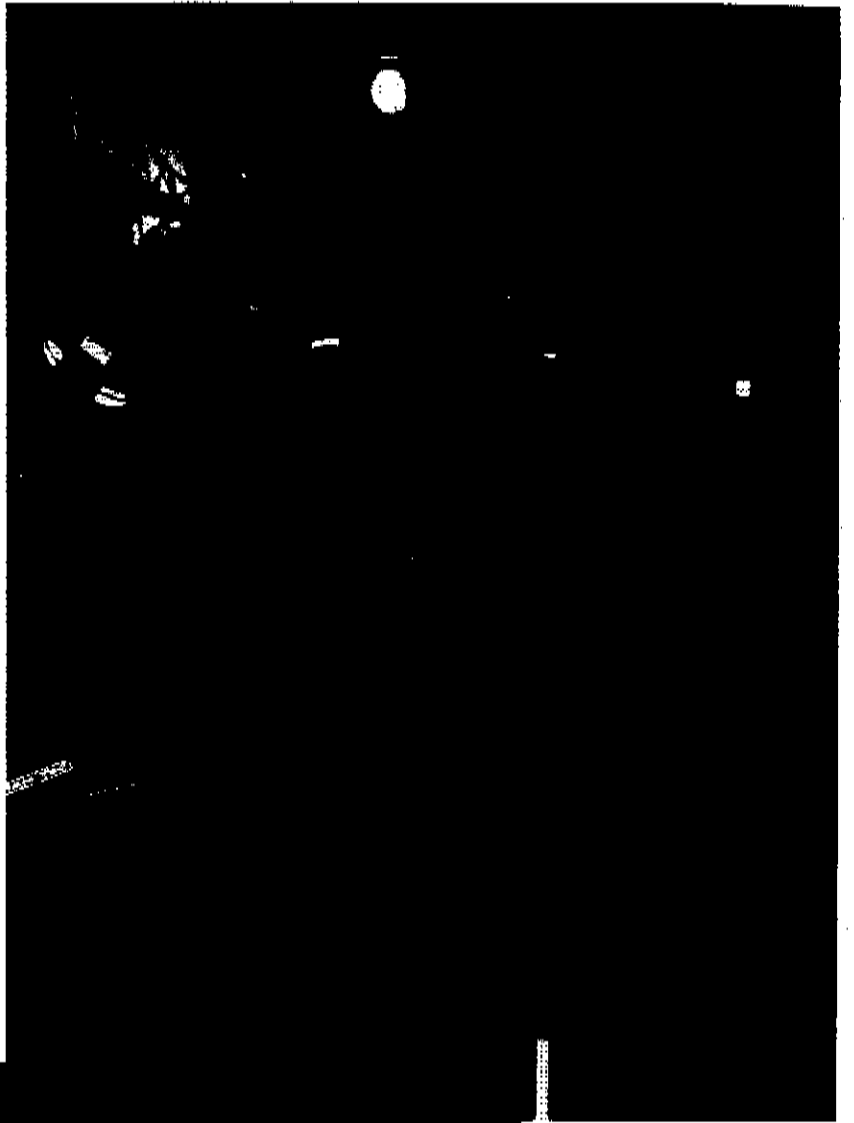
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RED  
ART

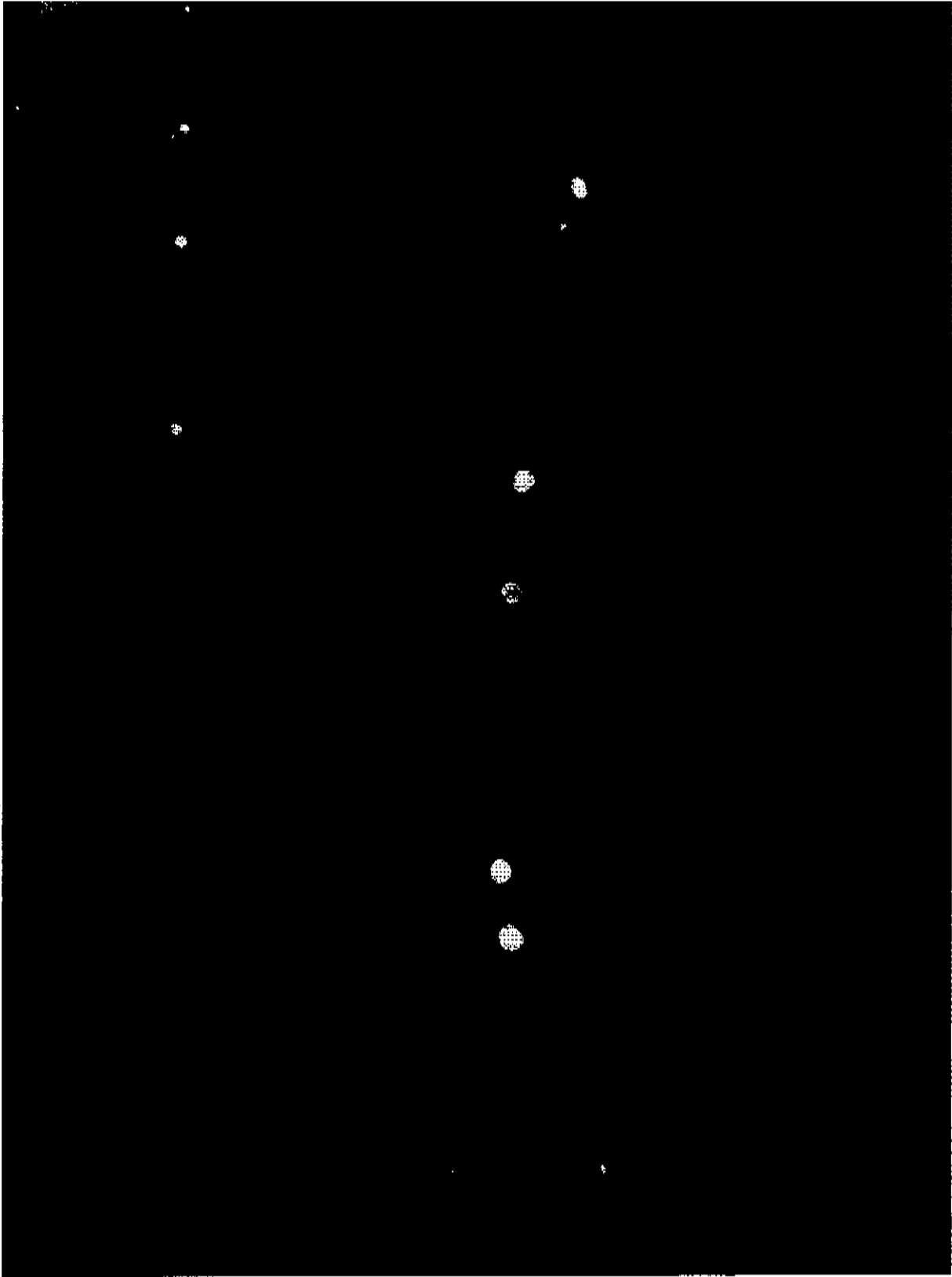
INTERSECTION

20 SEP 2005  
MORGAN ART GALLERY  
2005

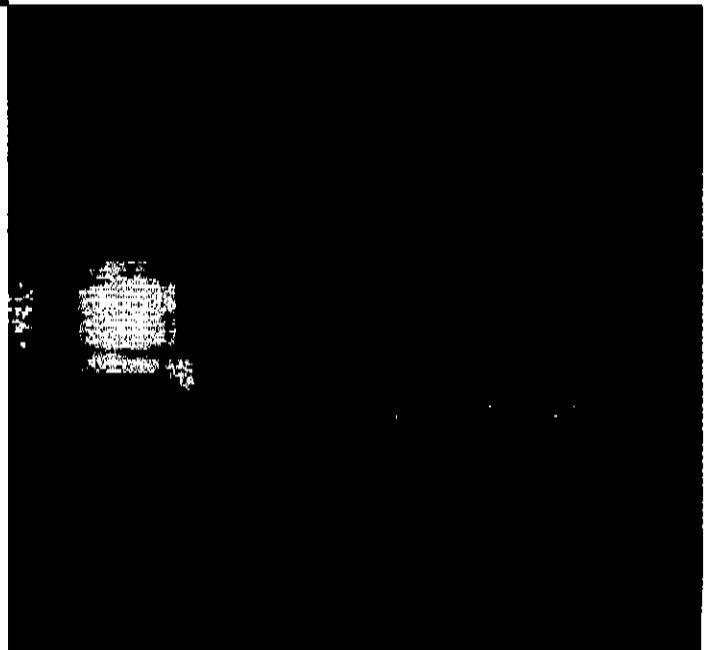
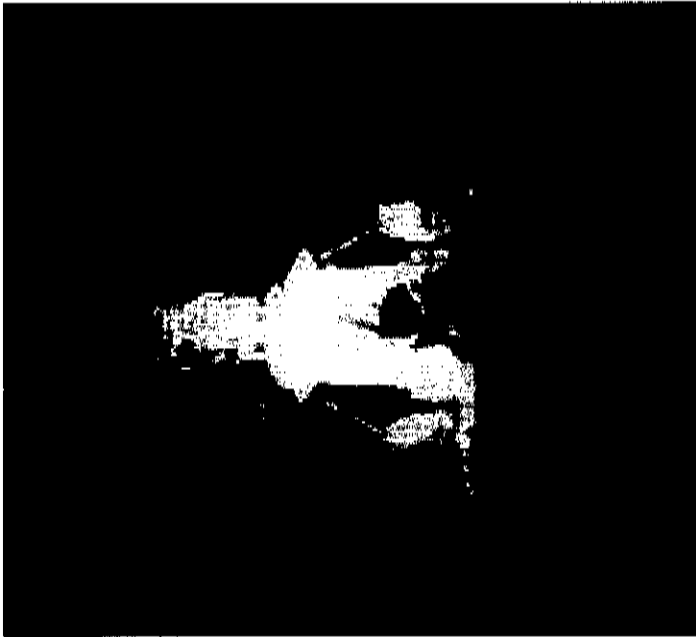


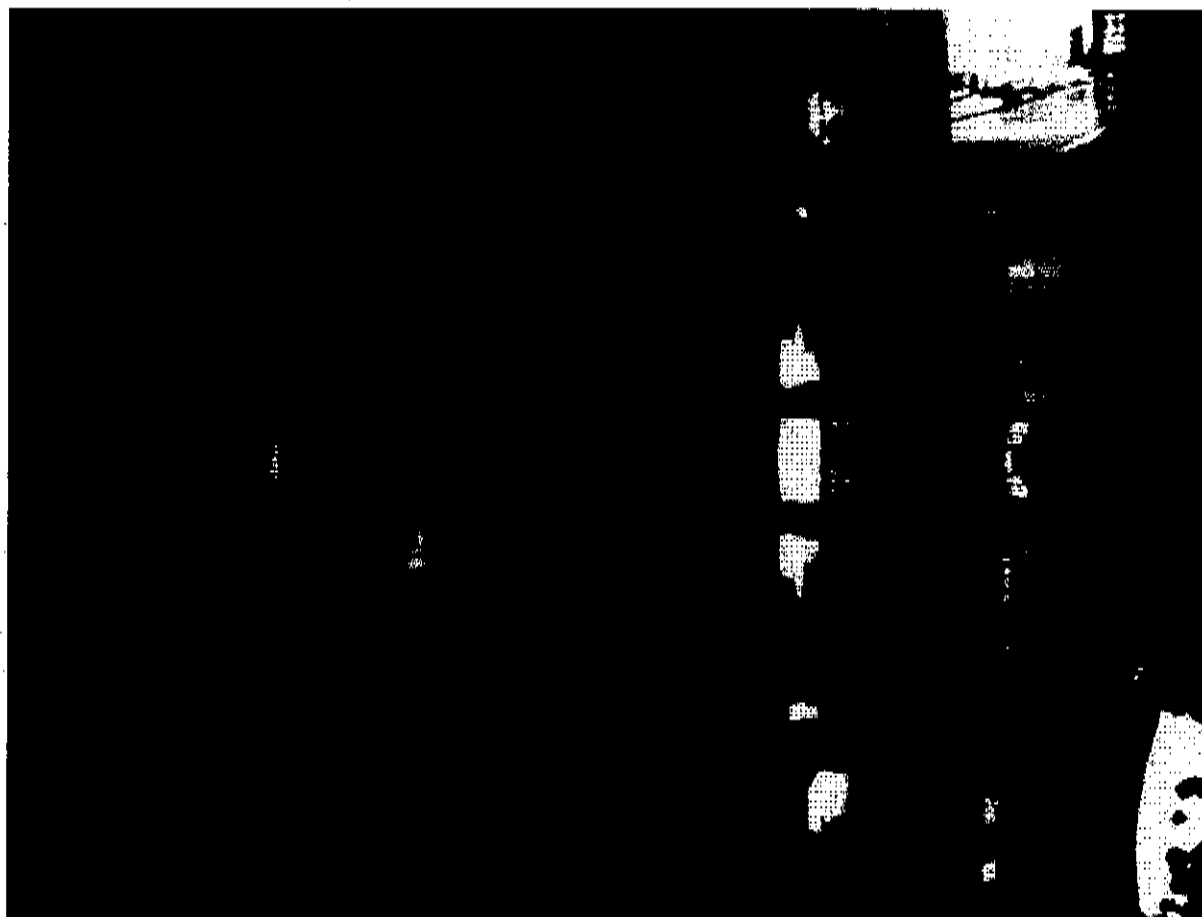


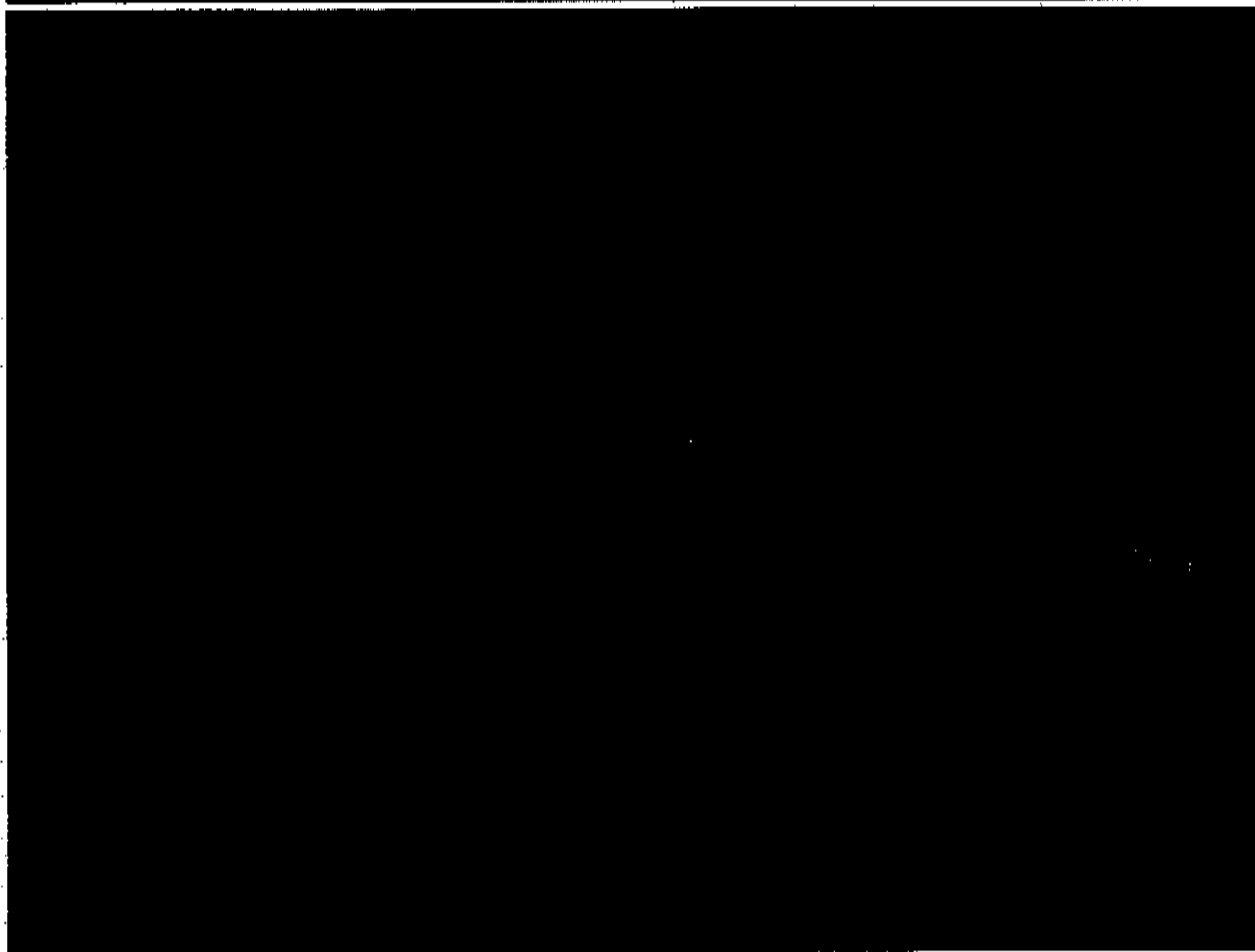


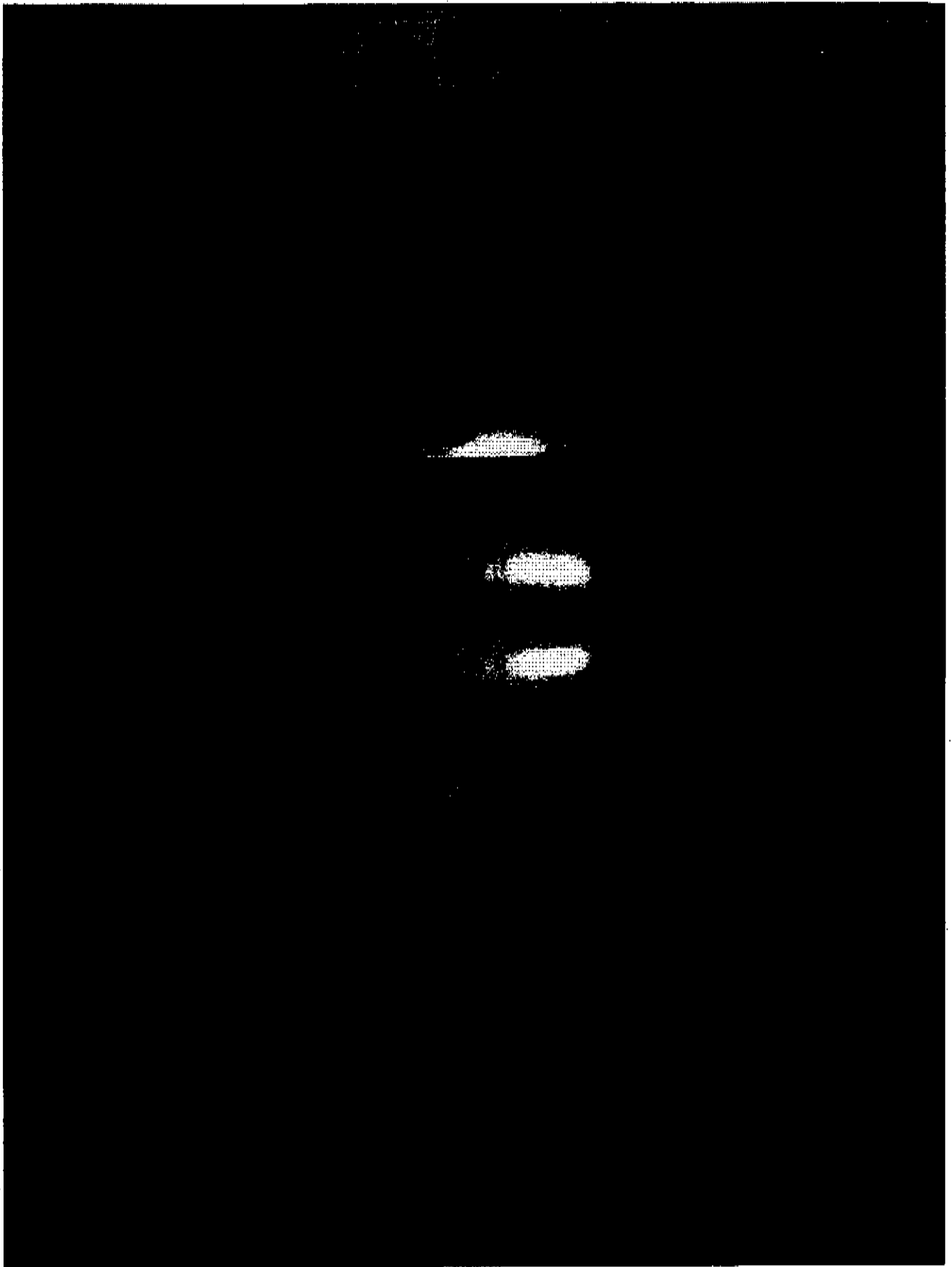


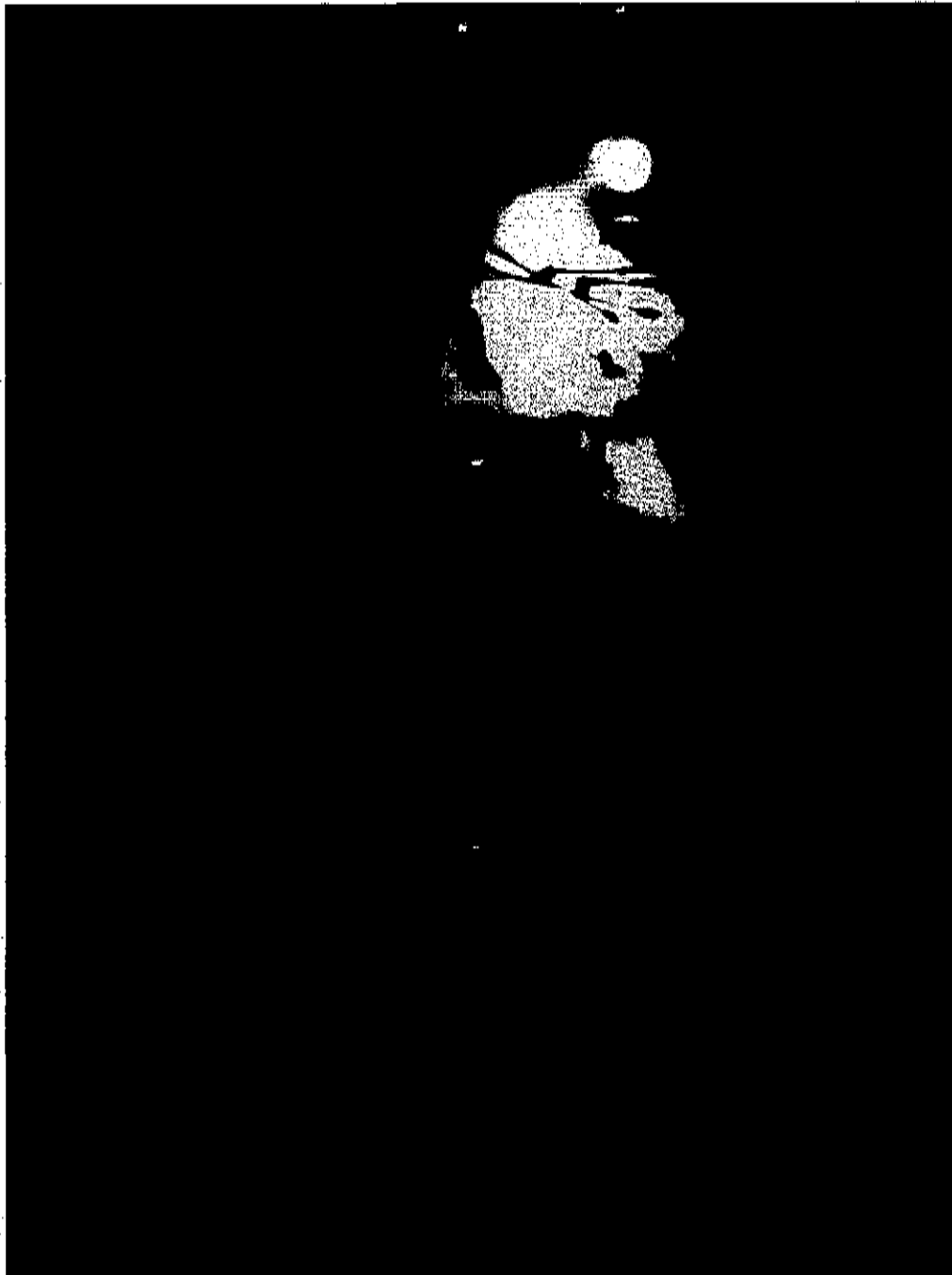


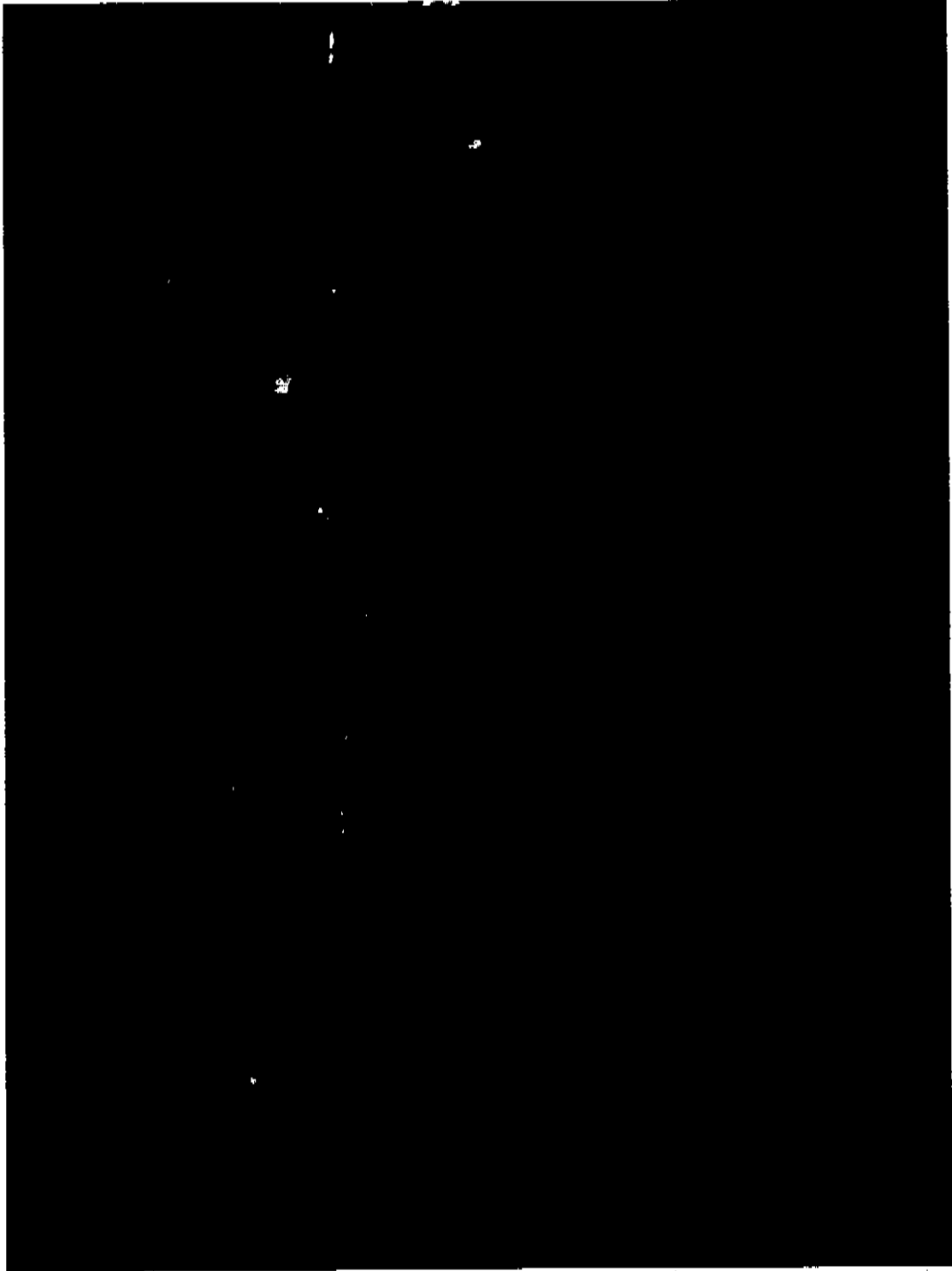




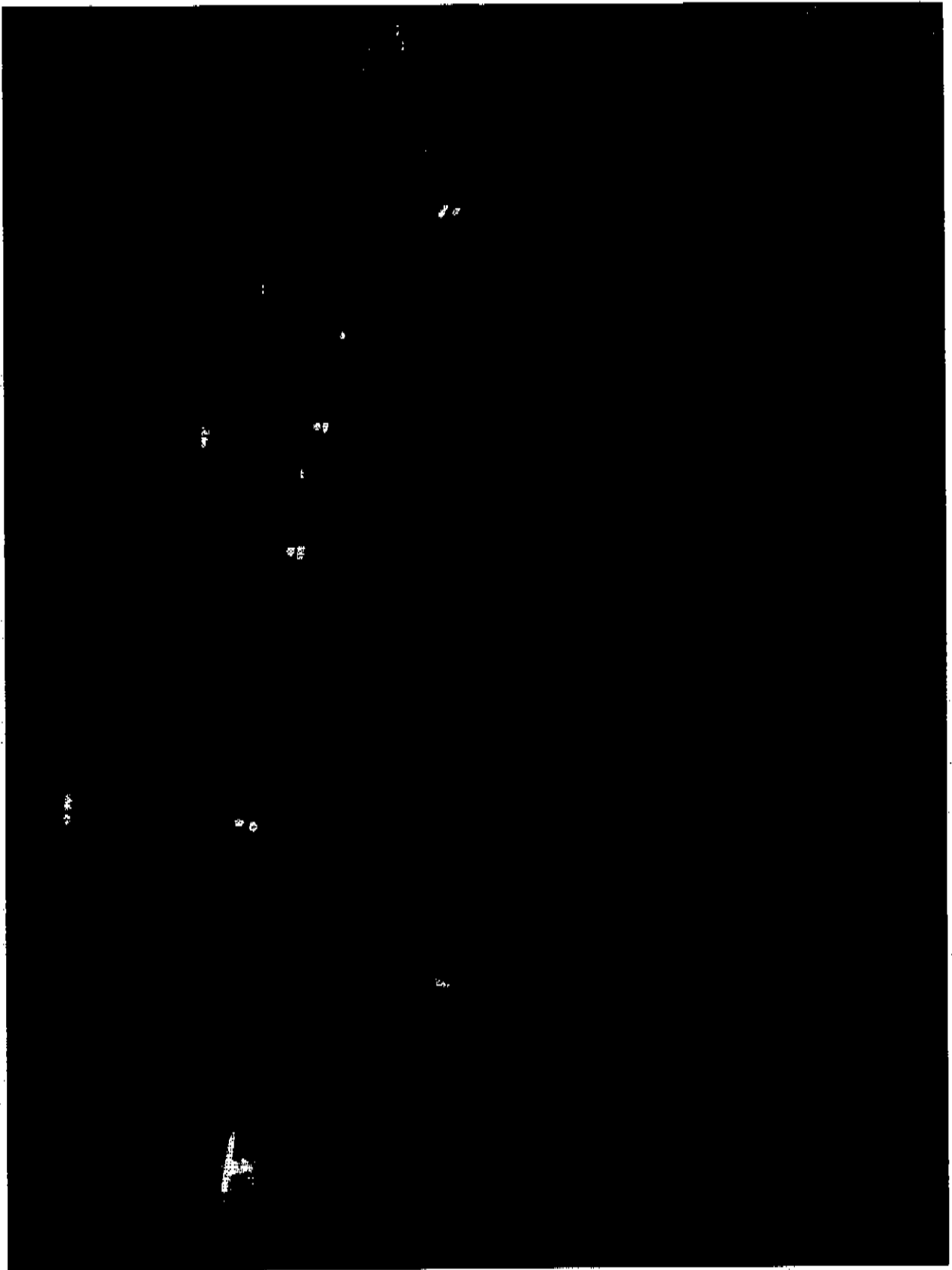


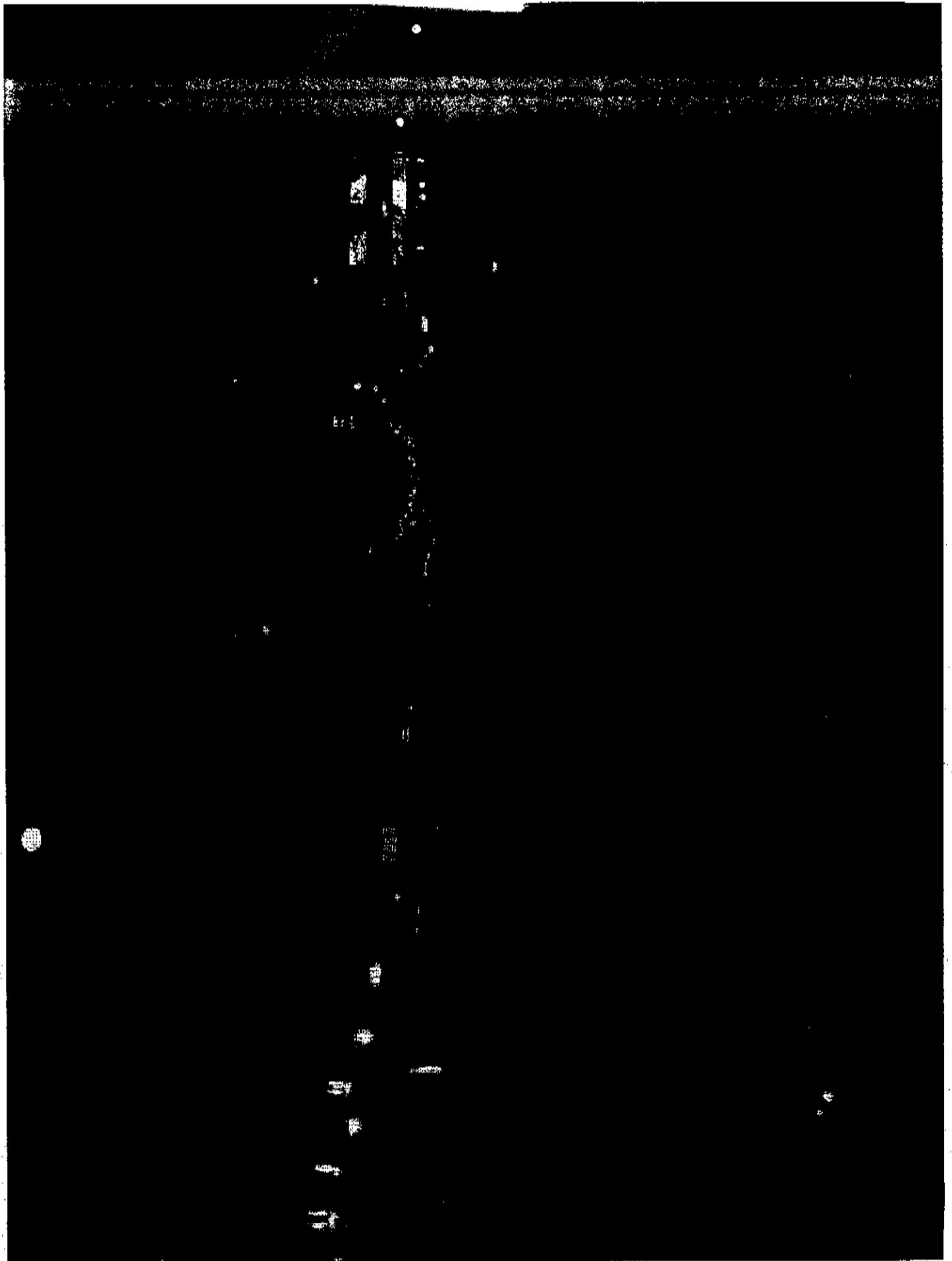






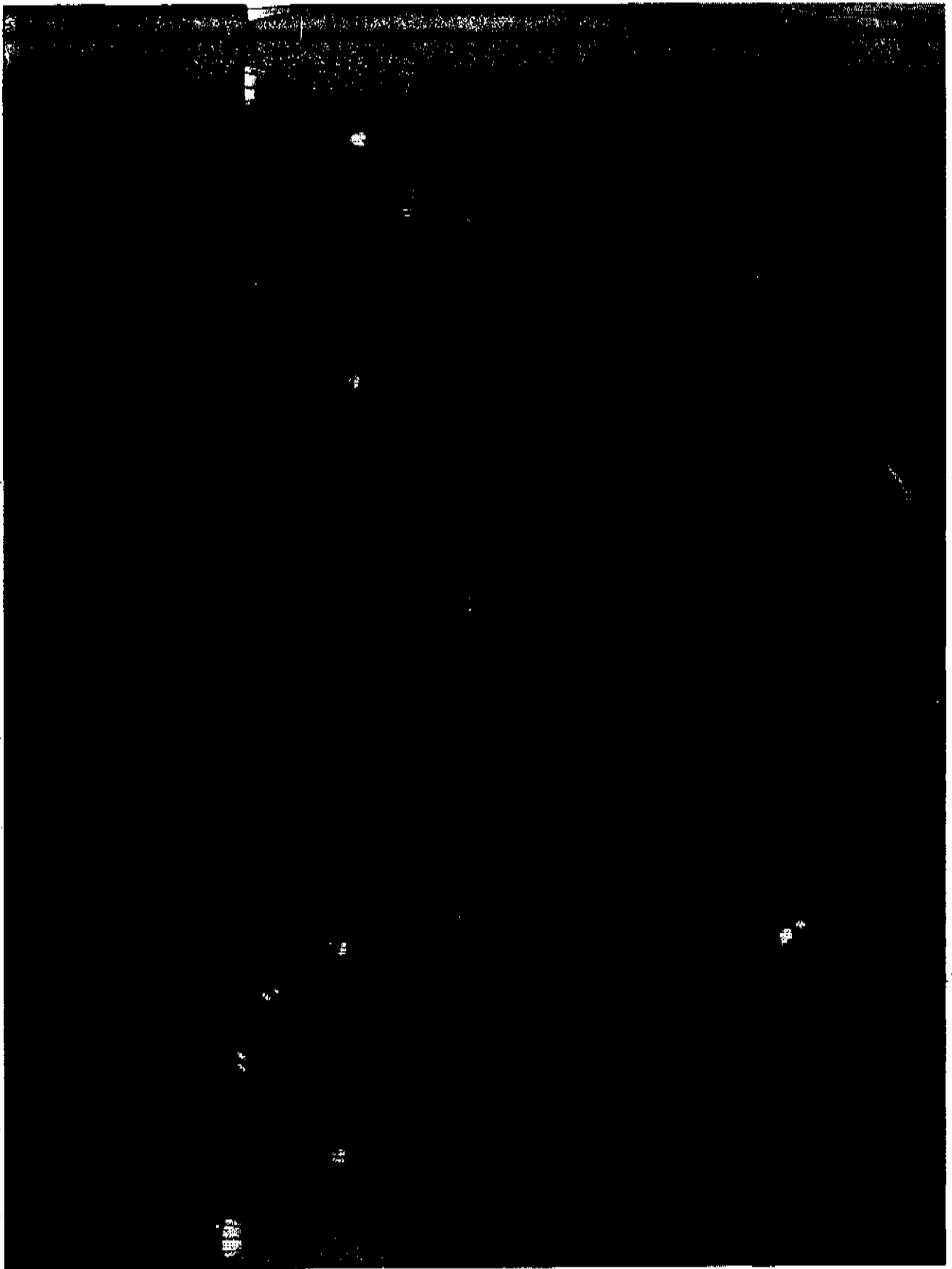


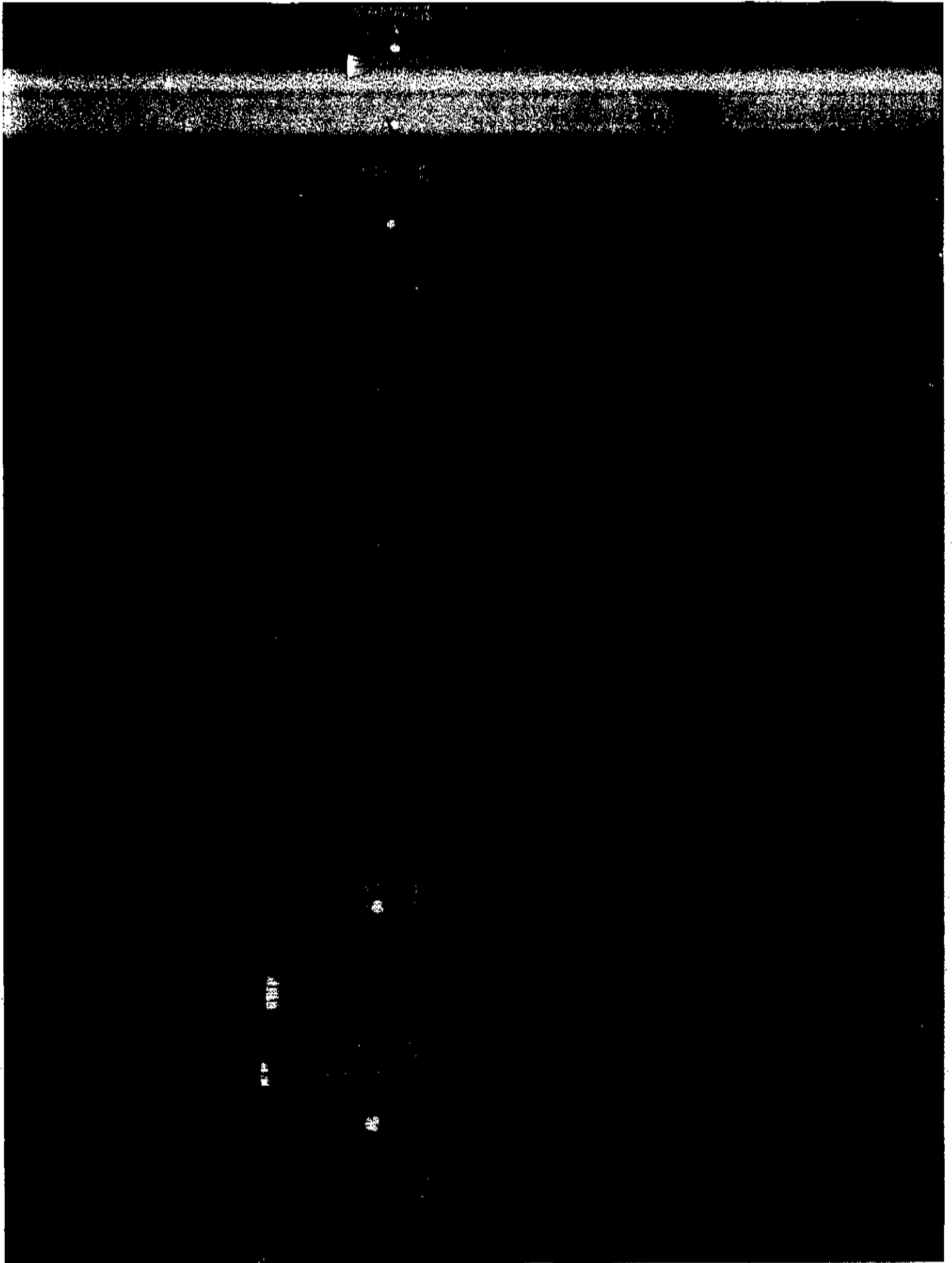


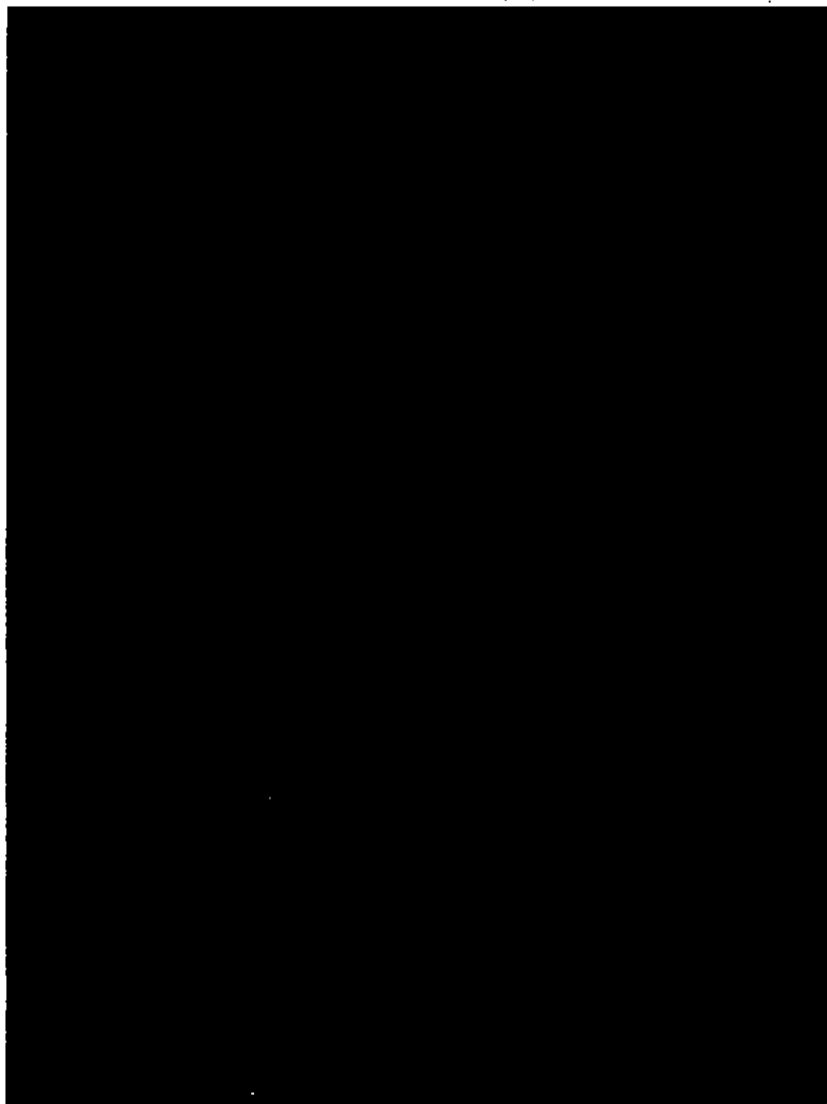


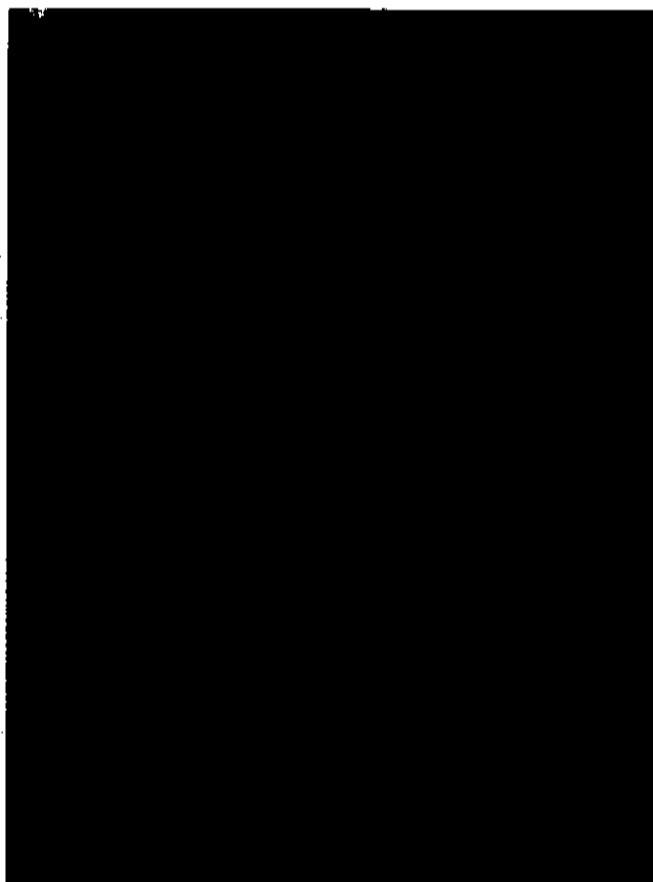
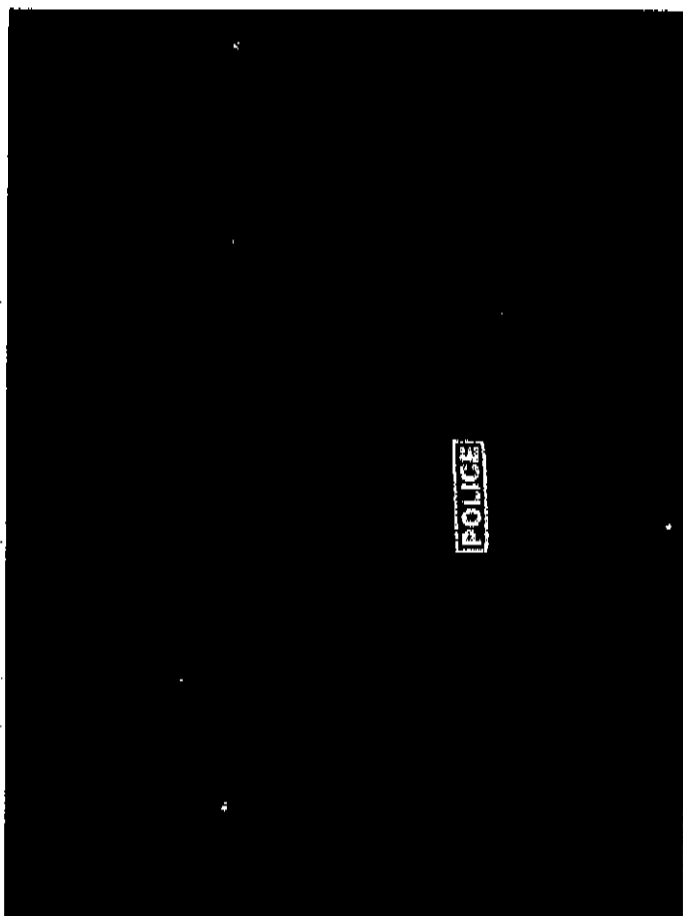
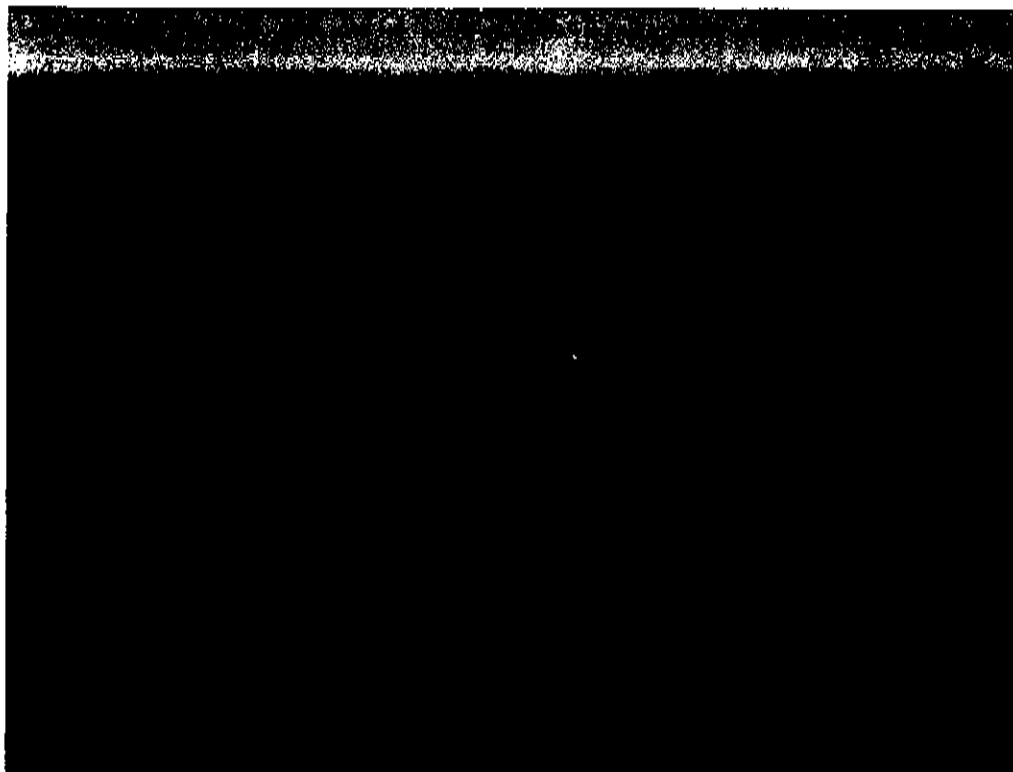
# Organic Cultural Moments


- Recontextualise/ Invest with new meaning:
  - Urban space
  - Architecture
  - Statues
  - Art
- Constructs cultural path
- Encountering, moving, dancing, playing = new paths of connection
- City experience = fluid, suggestive, inclusive, accessible
- Conveys possibilities of urban, African future







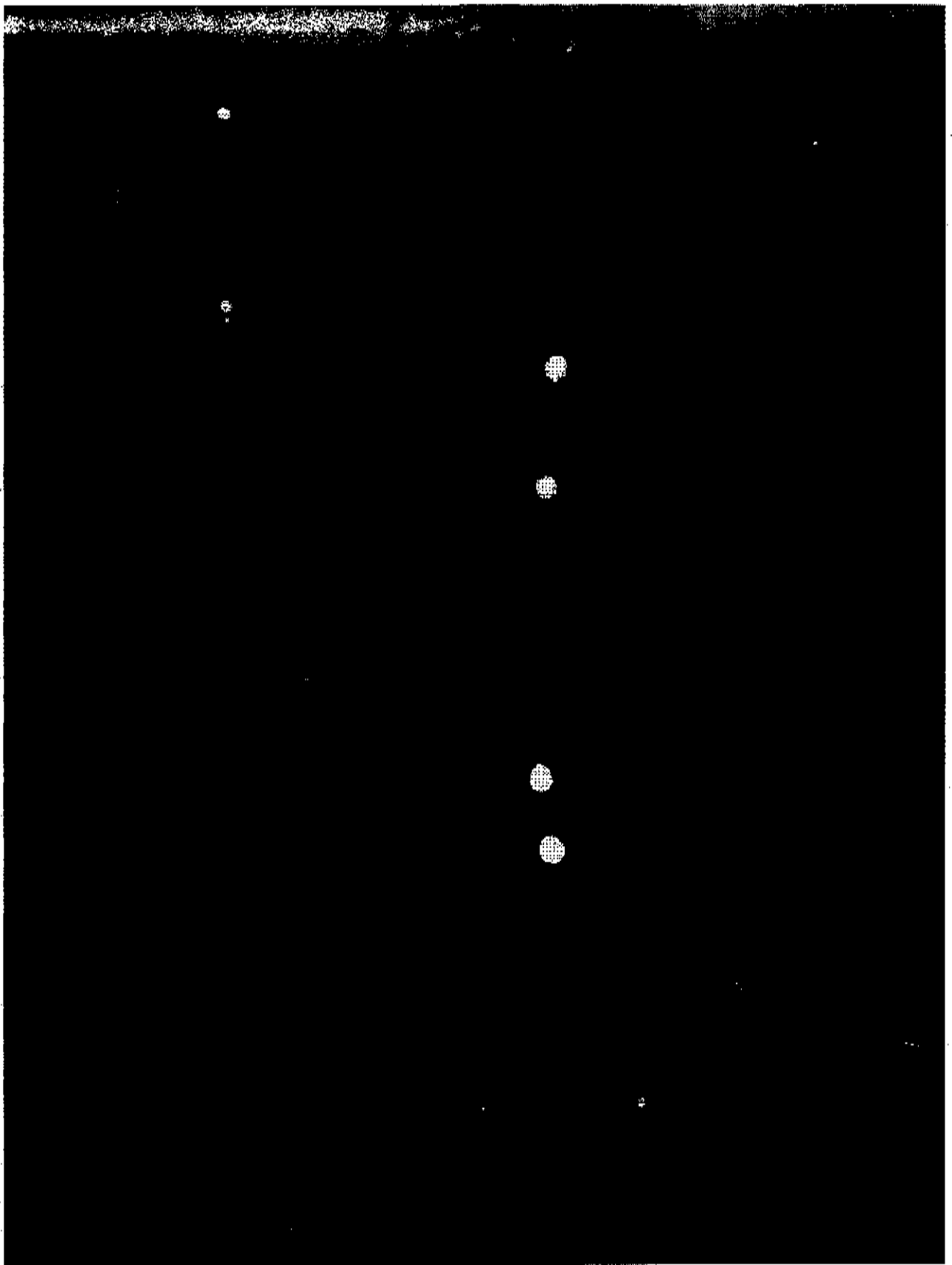




# Towards Urban Inclusion

- Ordinary moments of possibility
  - Shared encounters, experiences, meaning, space
  - Powerful transformation
- Policy implications
  - Low investment
  - Culture-led urban regeneration
  - Social interaction







**4. What advantages do you think it has for the youth?**

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**5. What disadvantages do you think it has for the country?**

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**6. What disadvantages do you think it has for the youth?**

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**B. What to suggest**

**1. Do you think there is something that must be done about the National Youth Service, if yes, what is it**

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**2. Do you think the country really needs a National Youth Service, if yes or no explain**

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**C. Source of information**

**1. Where did your knowledge of the National Youth Service come from?**

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**2. What does the radio/tv say about the programme**

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**3. Do you think what the media says about the programme is correct**

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**4. Why is it that so little is known about what exactly happens in the programme**

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**5. Who do you think benefits from the lack of accurate knowledge?**

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**6. Do you think there is need for debate around the programme so that many could know what exactly is happening**

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**7. Do you think the bad name given to the programme has harmed the image of the Zimbabwean Youth?**

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8. Do you think the youth are really trained to rape and kill as the media suggests

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9. What do you think must be done to correct the image of the youth and the country as a whole?

**B. Bio data**

1. Gender of respondent \_\_\_\_\_

2. Age range is between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

4. Area of residence \_\_\_\_\_