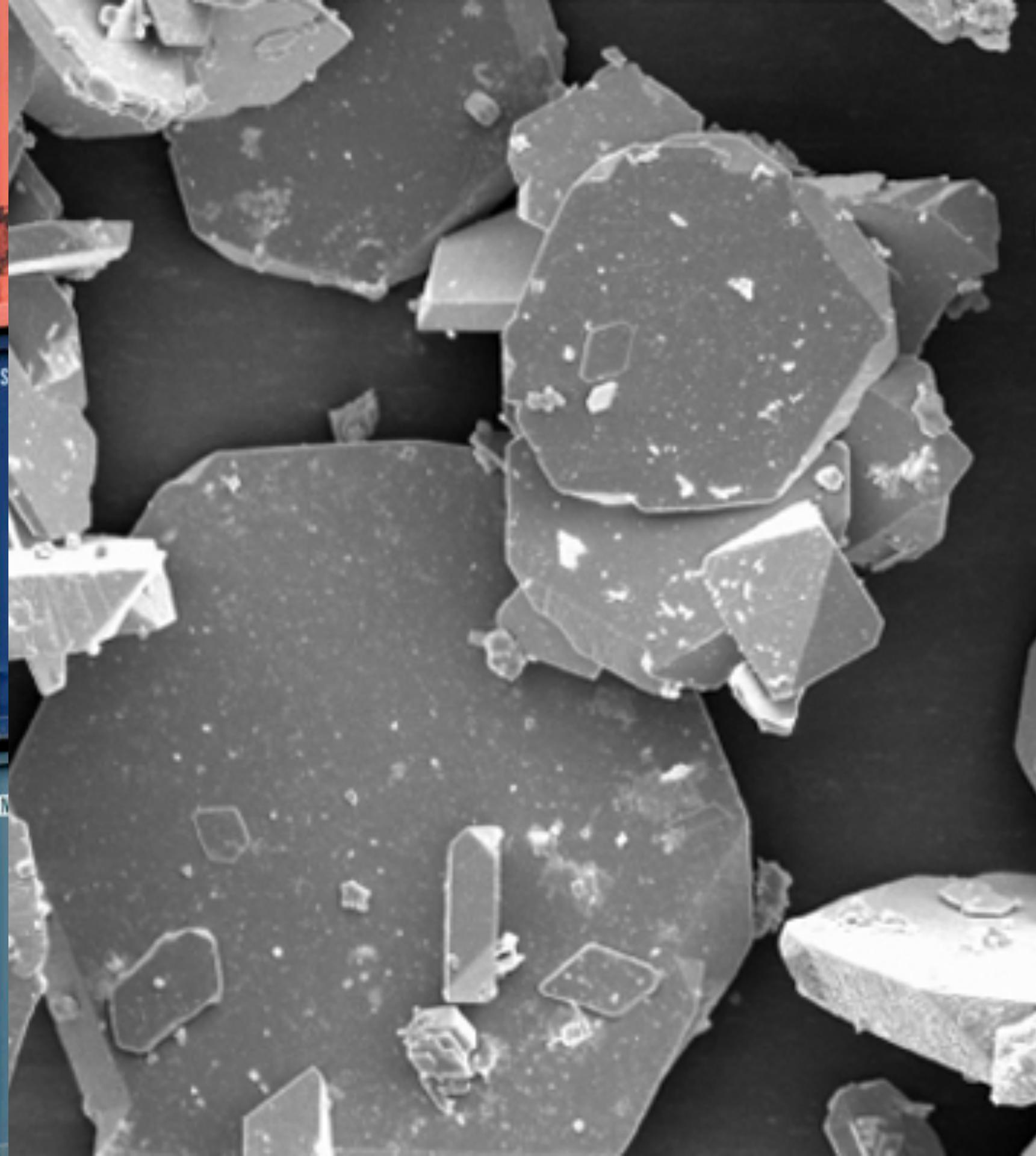


the range of material expressiveness

doug goodwin, september 2016

A collage of two images. The left image shows a row of shipping containers stacked together, with various colors like orange, white, and blue. The right image is a close-up, high-magnification view of numerous small, irregularly shaped clay particles.

from shipping containers to clay particles



Matter expresses itself in many ways, from the simple emission of physical information to the deliberate use of melody and rhythm. The universe itself may be viewed as a grand symphony of material expressivity.



from smooth to rough



and from warm to cool



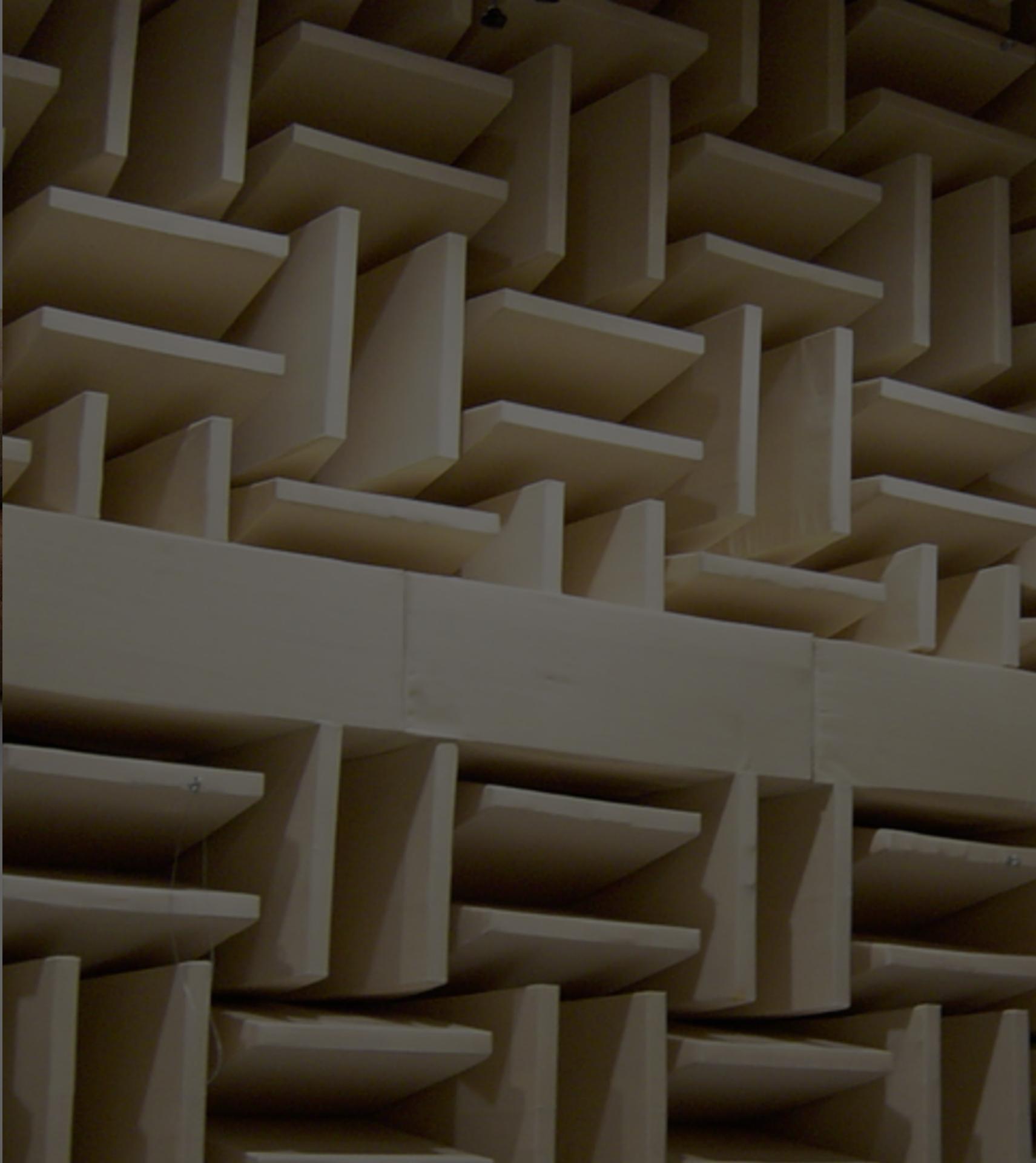


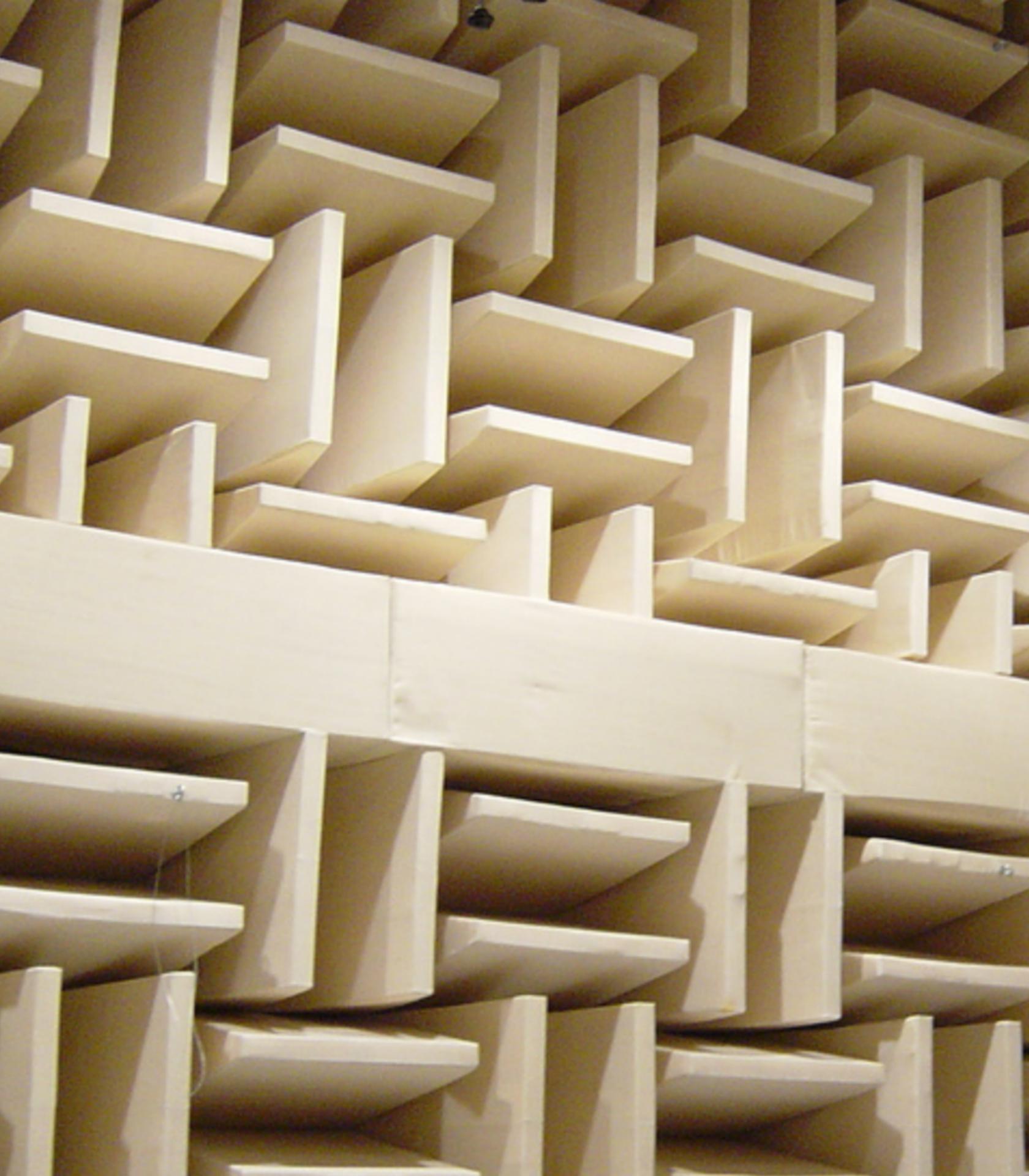
sticky, greasy, dry, or powdery



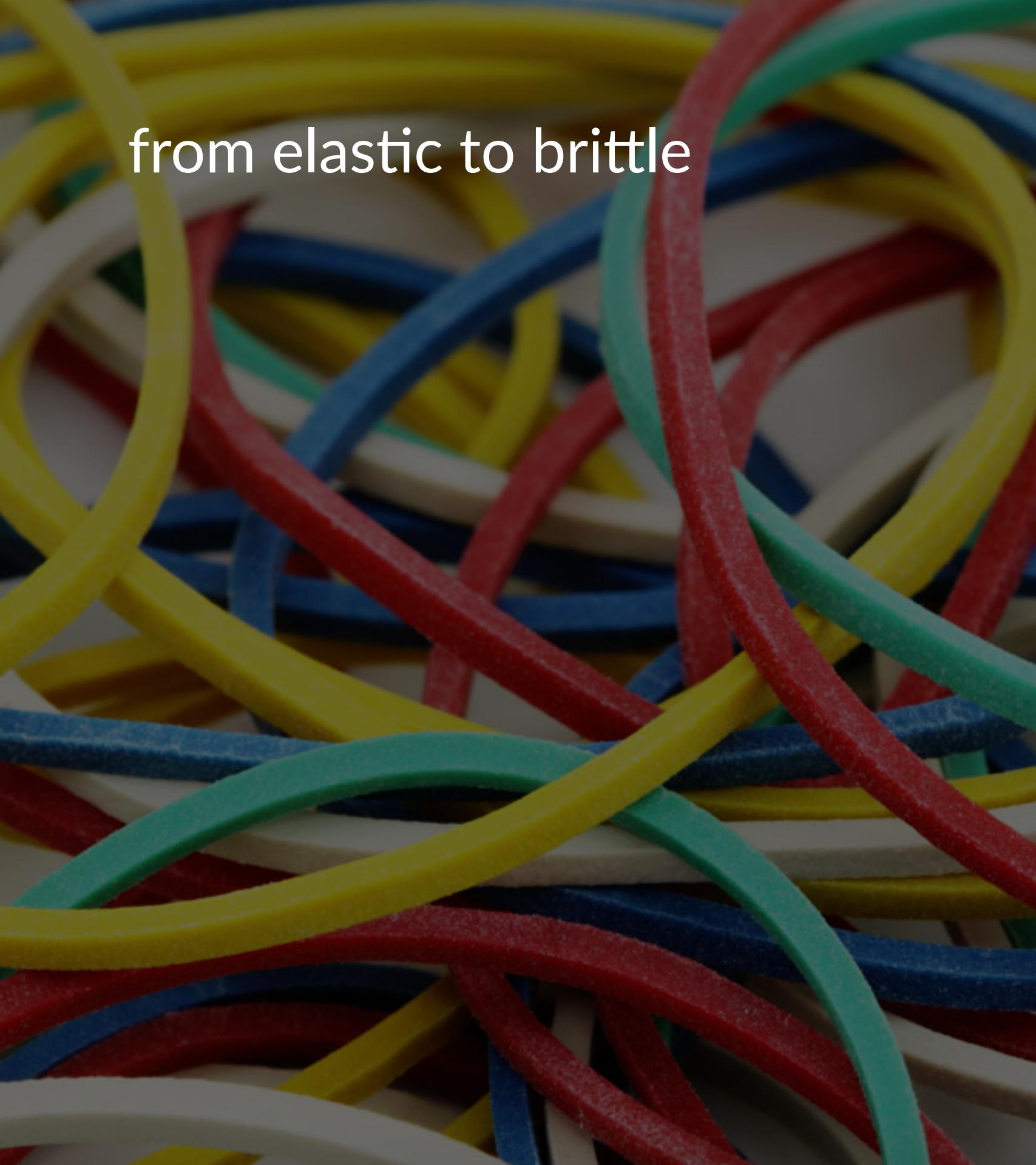


from resonant to dead



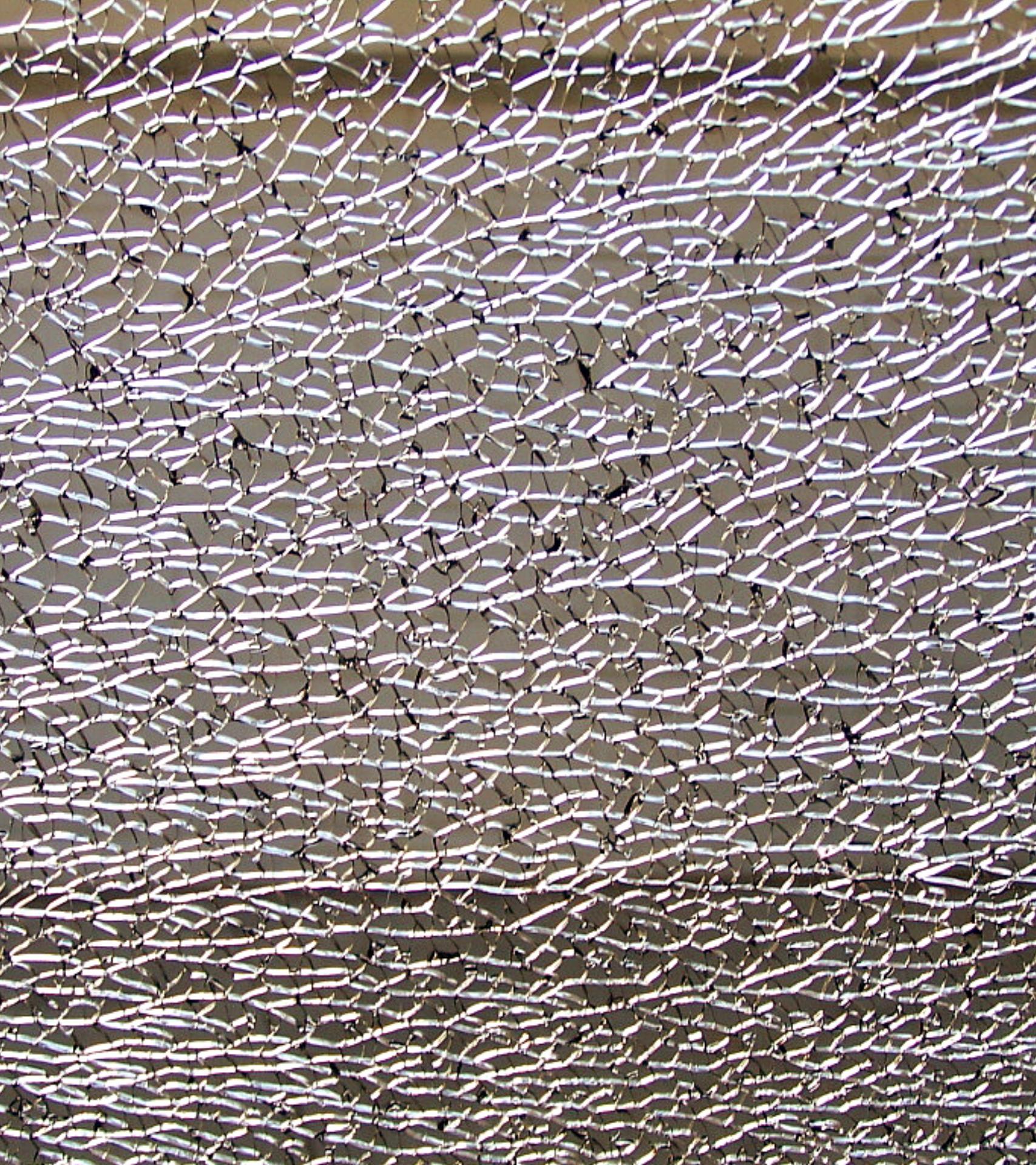


The early human artists who tapped into this expressive reservoir for their cave paintings, body tattoos, and ritual ceremonies, far from introducing artistry into the world were simply adding one more voice to an ongoing material chorus.

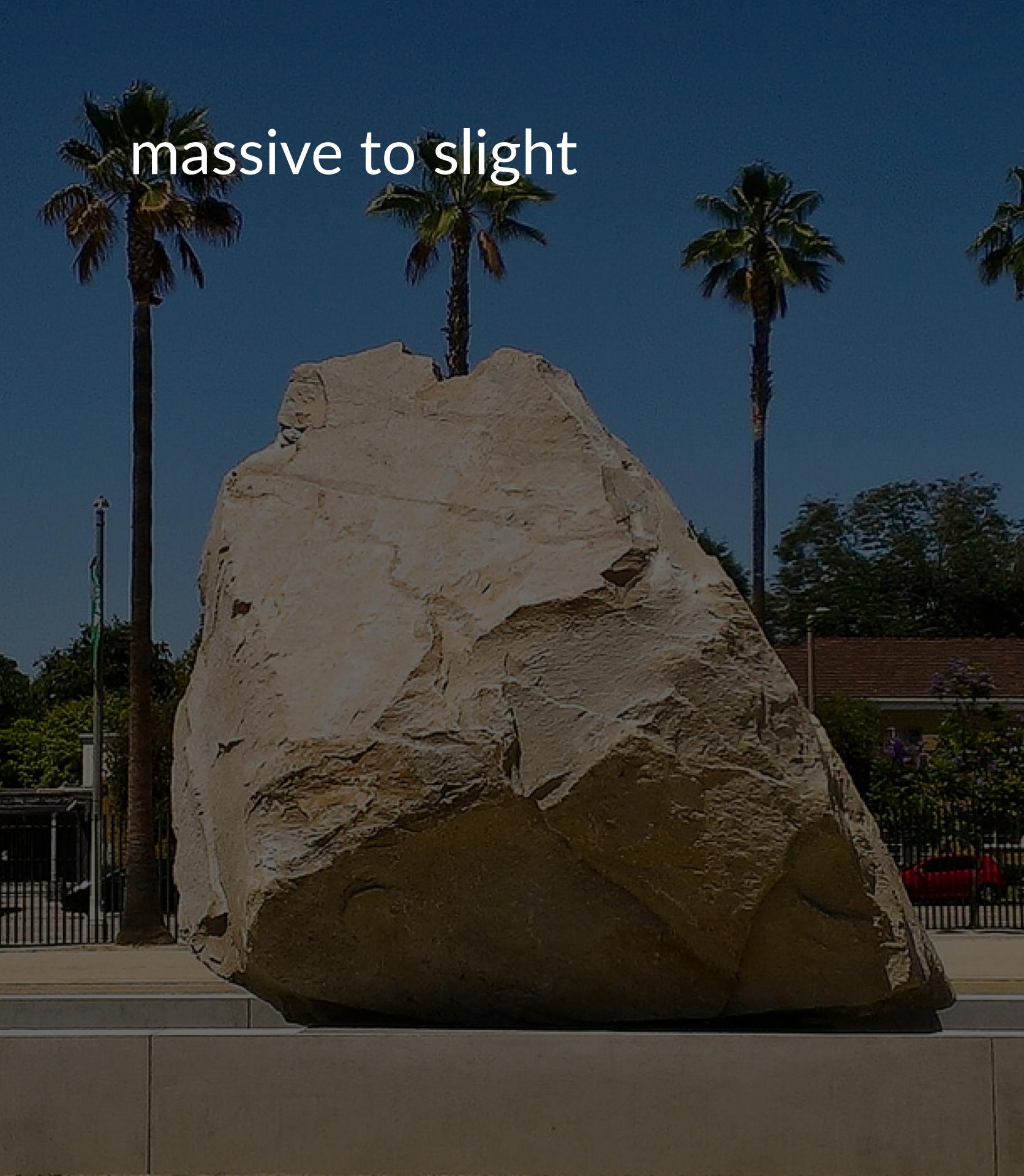
A close-up photograph of a pile of colorful elastic bands, likely rubber bands, in various colors including yellow, red, green, blue, and white. They are tangled and overlapping each other.

from elastic to brittle





massive to slight







and shiny to dull



These expressive patterns are what scientists call “information.” This term does not refer to the semantic information that we may get from, say, newspapers, but to linguistically meaningless physical patterns.



fibrous,



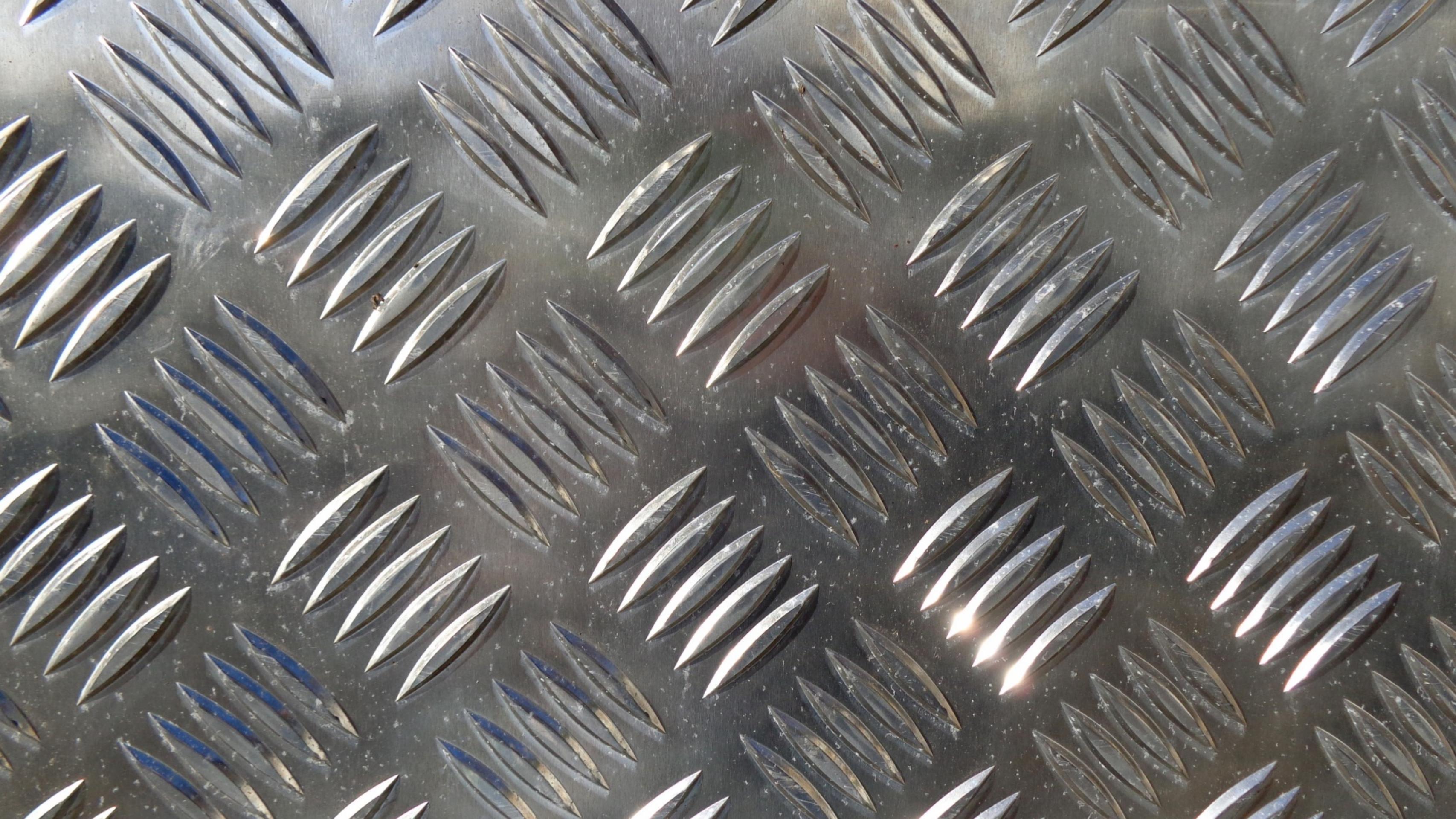
fluid,







and metallic.



Physical information pervades the world and it is through its continuous production that matter may be said to express itself.

MANUEL DELANDA

