



B A R D U L A

A Geometric Journey

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Galerie La Ligne

Exhibition from November 12 to January 14 2023

BARDULA

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Galerie La Ligne, Zurich, November 2022

The works presented by Bardula for their second solo exhibition at Galerie La Ligne, *A Geometric Journey*, spanning from luminous relief to dematerialized sculpture, invite us to a virtual journey into the invisible and distant world of the cosmos. The approach of this duo of artists, which is part of the filiation of optico-kinetic art¹, reveals an interest for the relationships between art and science, and more particularly, mathematics and geometry, light and astronomical phenomena of the universe, playing with the laws of physics to offer a poetic perception at the borders of knowledge.

Bardula's preferred mode of expression, luminous reliefs create visual situations that take us beyond the visible world. A first body of works shows a predilection for shapes derived from the circle or the spiral, whose swirling movements address the eye with unequalled efficiency, drawing it towards the focal point of the work around which everything is organized. Following the principle of radar echo propagation, *Mist* diffuses energy fields that trap the eye in the endless sequence of its concentric circles.

Creations such as *Starry Night* or *Fibonacci's Bubbles*, in this respect, are exemplary : their center, similar to a black hole, draws the eye towards this dark zone of abysmal depth. The gaze, totally mesmerized, is caught in a game of back and forth between absorbing space and frontality that can sometimes be disconcerting for the observer : luminous vibrations, moiré effects whose aspect changes according to the movement of the spectator... All these phenomena, explored with great inventiveness, are underlined by a carefully researched work on electroluminescent color, whose sensory and particulate qualities Bardula exploits with remarkable refinement.

An artwork like *Photon* combines transparency and opacity through the tight weave of colors wrapped around a ring in the most subtle green-yellow gradations. With *Metaverse*, shapes of great crystalline clarity diffuse their radiance in tones ranging from immaculate white to blues and purples, *while Solar Spectrum* resorts to more complex processes of color filters to amplify the vibratory power of the spectrum's colors.

As such, Bardula does not yield to any systematism : each work, each design gives rise to renewed combinations of light and color, which, moreover, are modulable through a system of remote control or variators.

In another set of luminous reliefs, the strategies to appropriate the gaze developed by Bardula are significantly different. As the superimposed frames of *Sierpinsky Pyramid* show, these constructions, by their all-over distribution, create a continuous visual field and seem to extend beyond the material limits of the artwork. Their regular occupation of the surface, undermining any relationship between foreground and background, center and periphery, consequently demultiply the focal units of composition.

In *Starry Night*, these effects are amplified by the use of the mirror, which creates a fascinating, but also vertiginous, impression of infinite pattern duplication. To reinforce this feeling of endless artwork and immateriality, the chromatic range chosen by Bardula for these creations is rather restricted to monochrome tones, close to pale blue and white, evoking some distant constellations.

The complexity of the formal systems elaborated by Bardula could not be fully appreciated without measuring the incredible rigor and meticulousness they require. Just like the elders of kinetic art, Bardula has the scientist's spirit of research and precision. The artworks do not tolerate any randomness ; they are built with the same concern for accuracy that drives the engineer and requests a perfect knowledge of new technologies, 3D modeling, LEDs...

In parallel, Bardula develops within its sphere of expression, some artworks which, although plane, give rise to fantastic illusions of volume or depth, in the manner of a Vasarely painting. Denying the frontality of the surface, these artworks result from the organization of abstract motifs that often evoke molecular models (*Ether*) but also impossible geometric figures, caught in tangles of complex forms that seem to advance, retreat, swell in incredibly subtle gradations of black, white and gray.

Bardula's cosmic imaginary also revolves in the three dimensions of space with sculptures composed of aluminum blades (*Red Square*), whose volume results from the successive alignment of plates that do not touch. Printing the actual space with their linear rhythm, they seem to trap the moment when the shapes appear, as if crossed by waves varying in space-time according to the point from which they are observed. As if freed from the laws of gravity, they are hollowed out in their center and propel on the walls effects of shadows and lights triggering impressions of optical distortion. Here, the phenomenon of appropriation of the artwork doubles as a physical experience : the slightest movement of the viewer produces a feeling of increased movement. The visual experience becomes global.

Bardula's works, shining with magnetic force and light, explore the dynamics of vision with science and poetry. Affirming the supremacy of the eye in their apprehension, they push perception further and raise philosophical questions : How does each of us apprehend the invisible towards which these creations draw us ? Is the essential in the visible or the invisible ? What is the veracity of the eye ?

Domitille d'Orgeval, Curator and Art Historian

¹ Bardula is more precisely in line with the artists defended by Galerie Denise René since its historic exhibition, *Le Mouvement*, in 1955, and those affiliated with the GRAV group (created in 1960) which were also exhibited on several occasions. Among them are Vasarely, Soto, Julio Le Parc, Yvaral, Morellet... To this list, let us add the work of the English Bridget Riley, for the Op art character of the work, and that of the American James Turrell in the spatial apprehension of light.



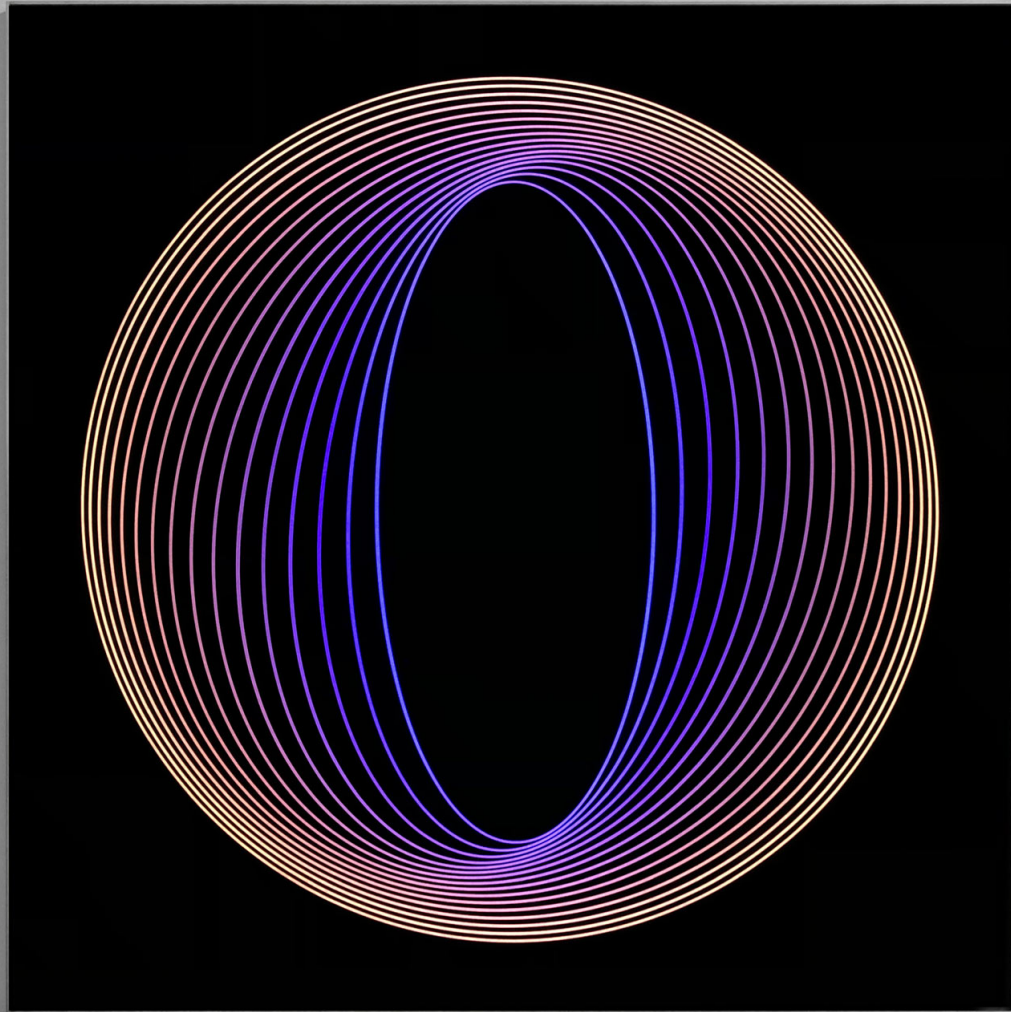
Solar Spectrum / 2022 / Mirrors, interactive variable white LEDs, aluminum / 114 x 114 x 10 cm



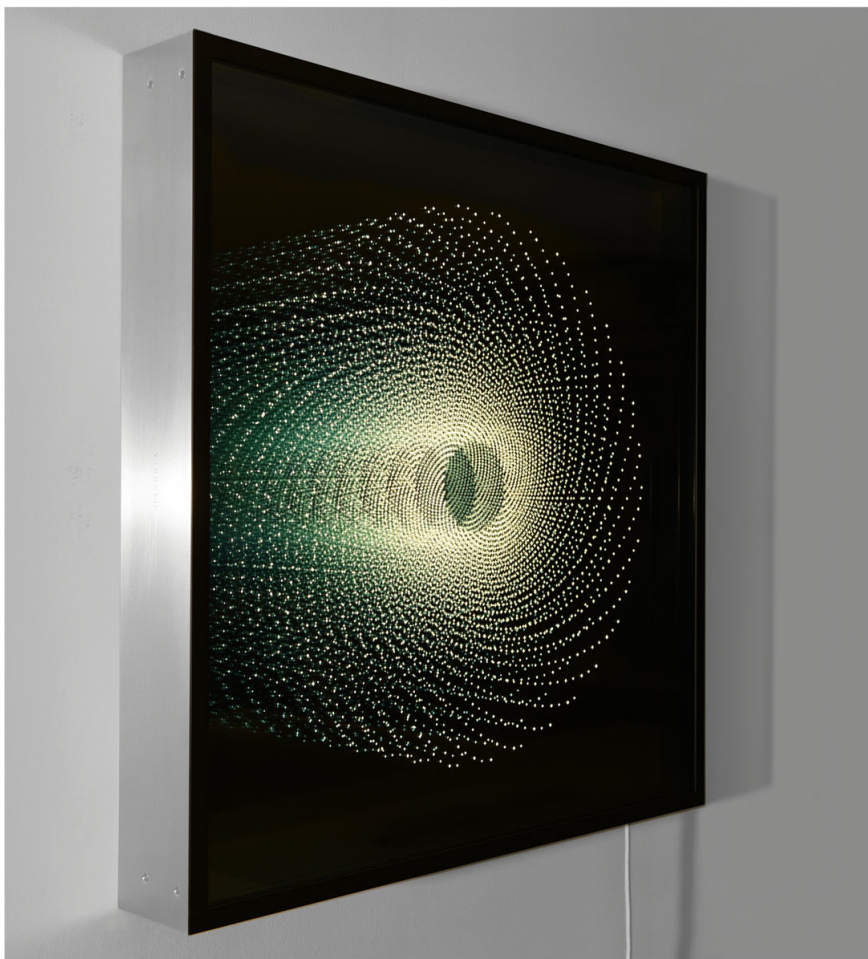


Maelström / 2022 / Pigments on plexiglas, interactive variable white LEDs, aluminum / 113 x 113 x 6 cm

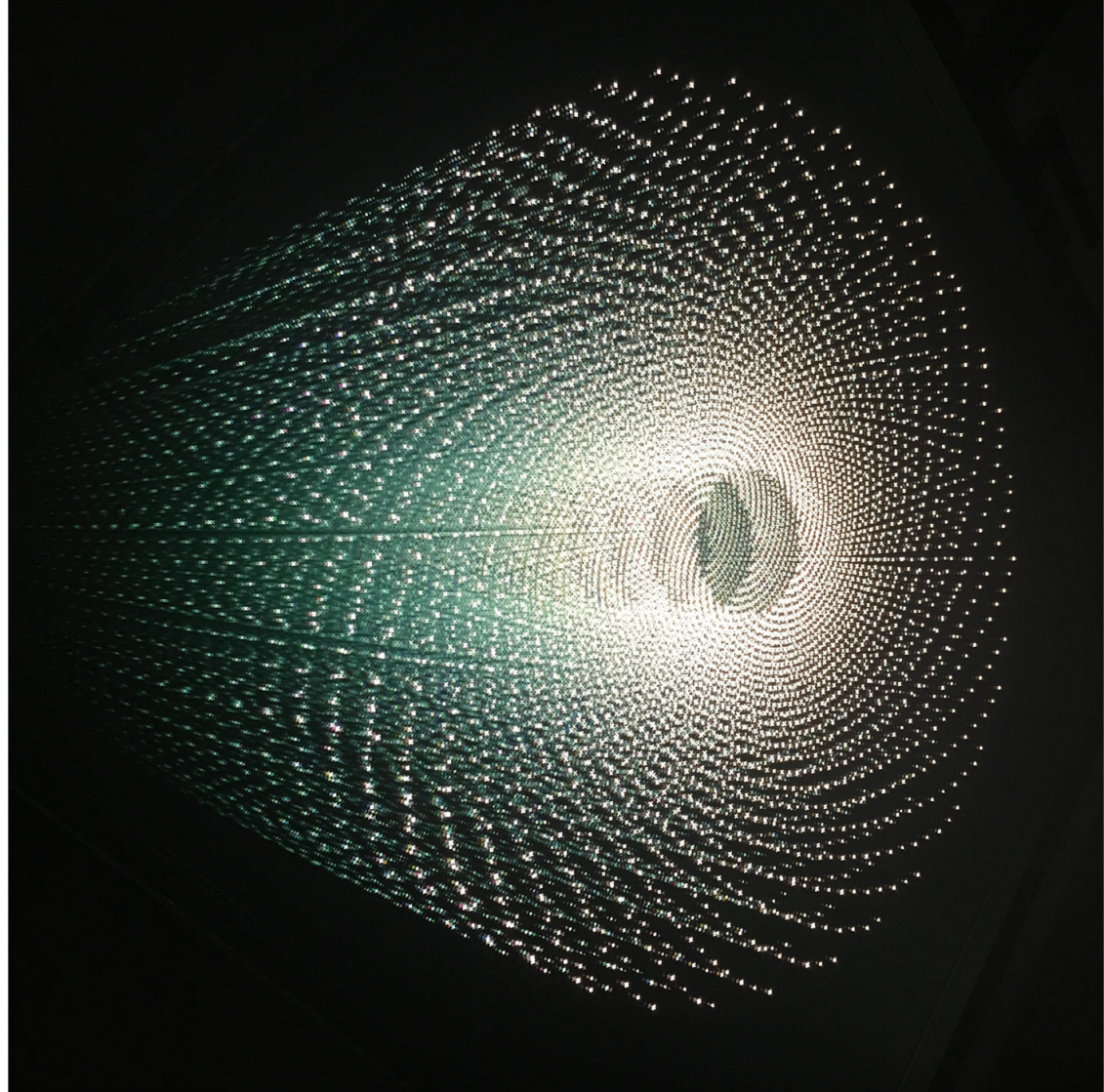


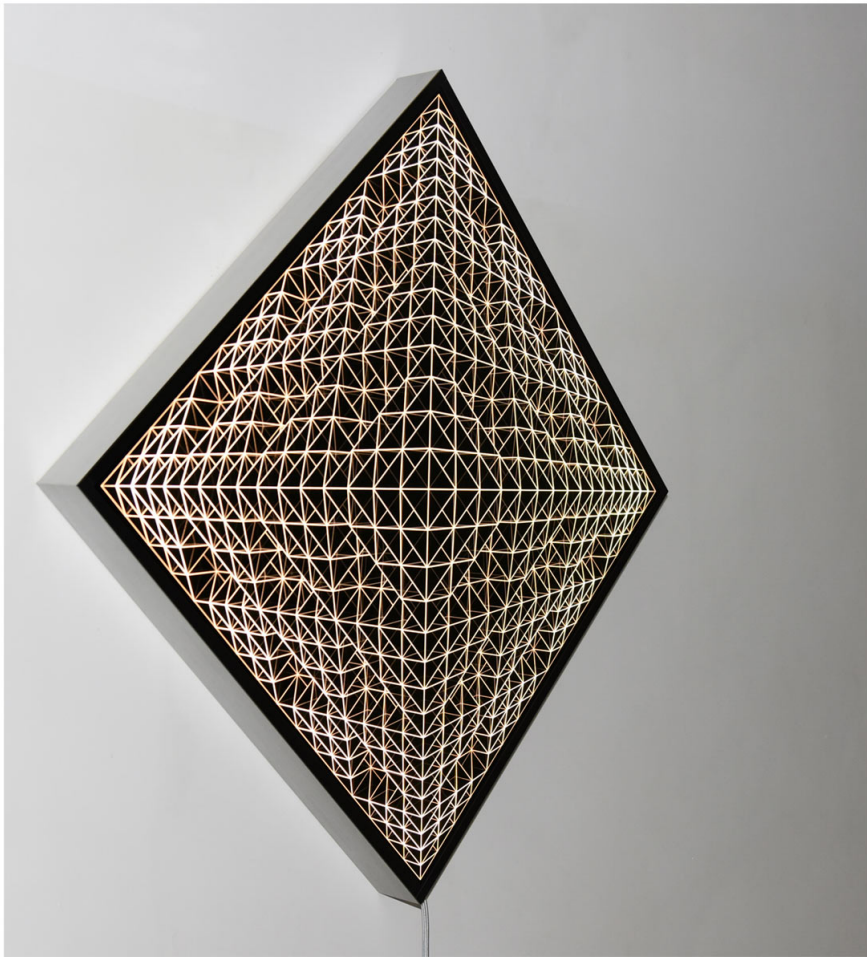


Orbitales / 2022 / Pigments on plexiglas, interactive variable RGBW LEDs, aluminum / 100 x 100 x 6 cm

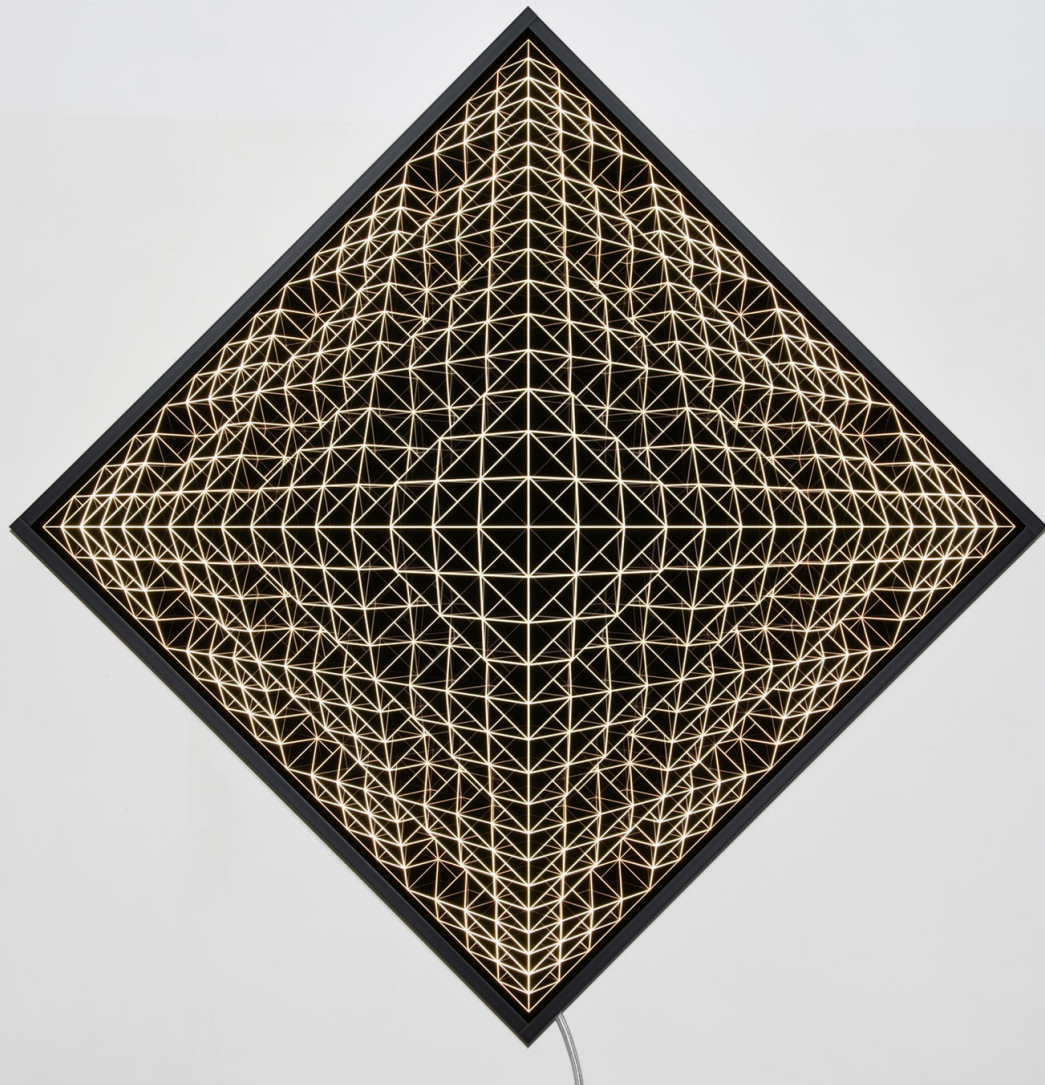


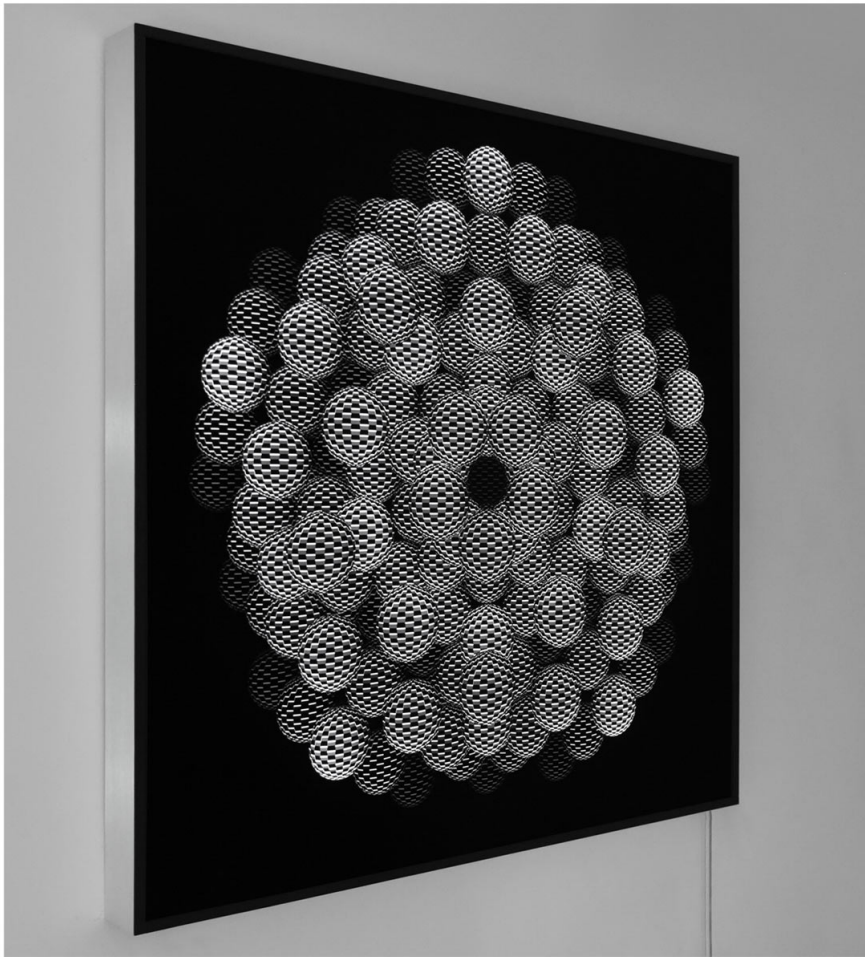
Starry Night / 2019 / Mirrors, 3000 k and 6500 interactive variable RGBW LEDse RGBW LEDsuminum / 60 x 60 x 8 cm



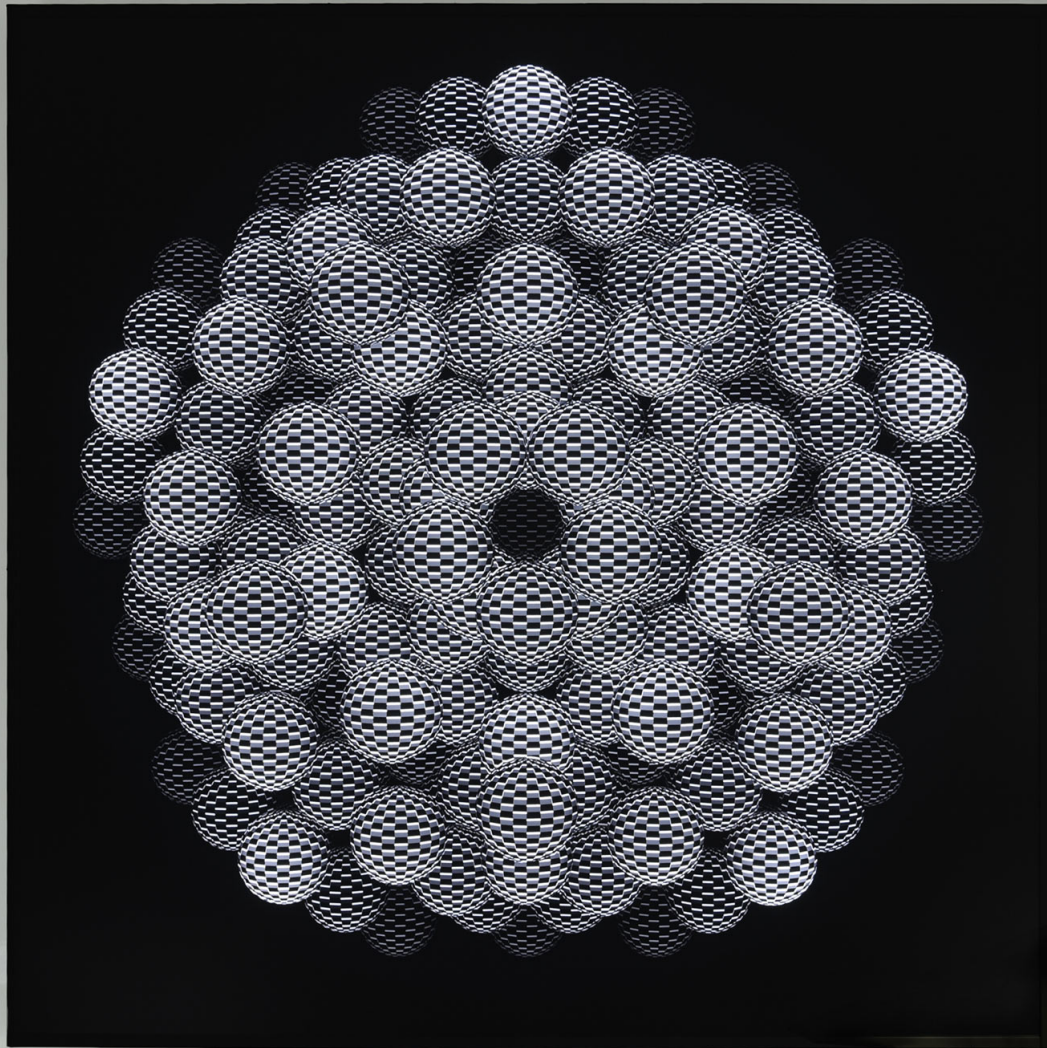


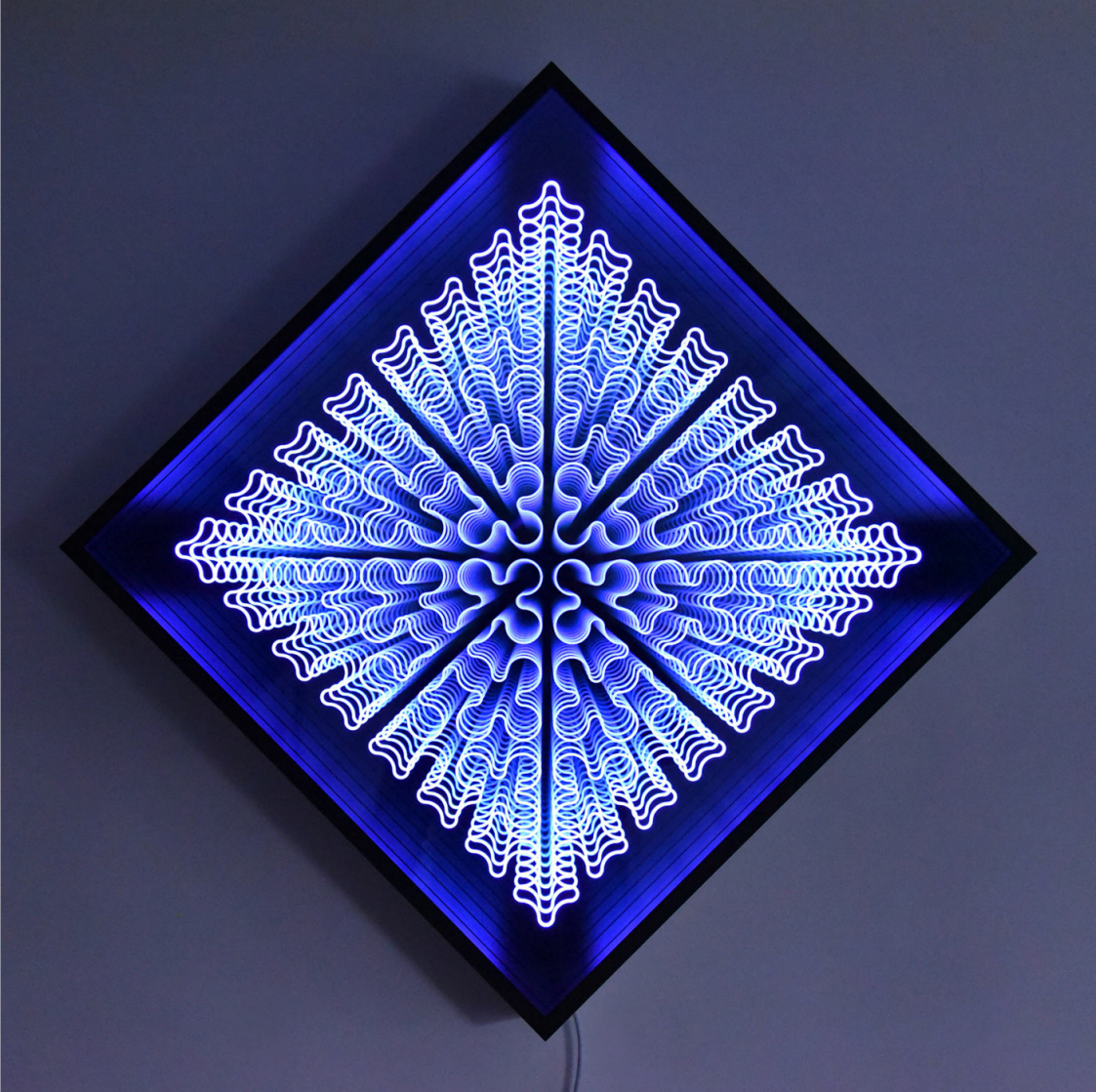
Sierpinski's Pyramid / 2020 / Pigments on plexiglas, 4500 K white LEDs, aluminum / 72 x 72 x 5 cm





Ether / 2020 / Pigments on plexiglas, 6500 K white LEDs, aluminum / 80 x 80 x 6 cm

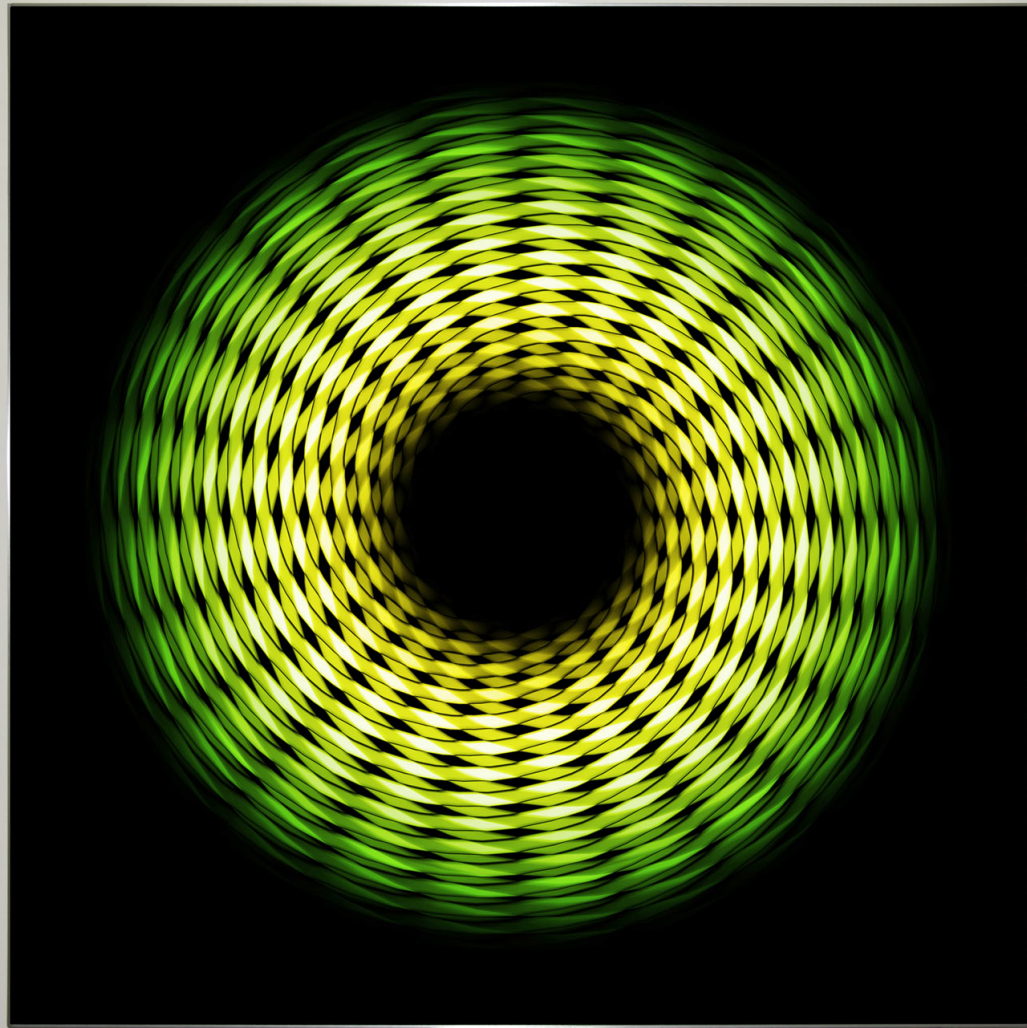




Utrecht / 2020 / Mirrors, interactive variable RGBW LEDs, aluminum / 85 x 85 x 10 cm



Photon / 2019 / Pigments on plexiglas, 6500K + 3000K white LEDs, aluminum / 80 x 80 x 6 cm





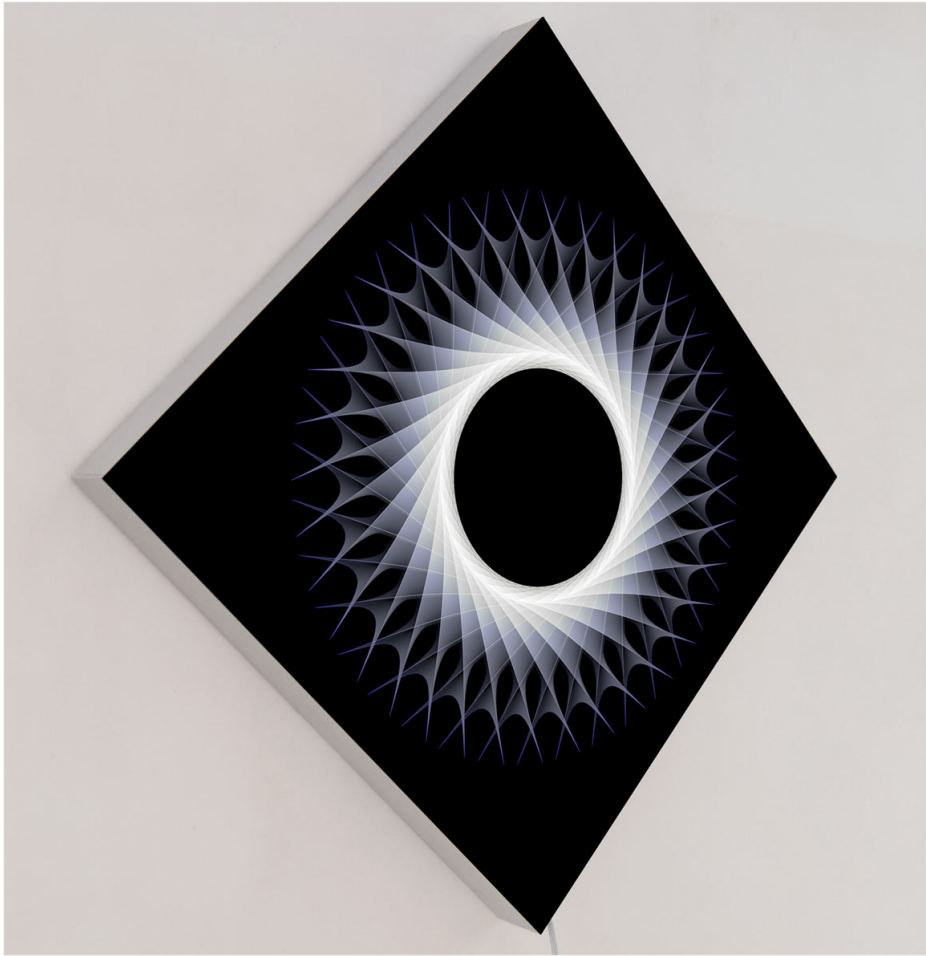
Red Square / 2022 / Brushed aluminum / 193 x 46 x 46 cm (72 x 46 x 46 cm without stand)



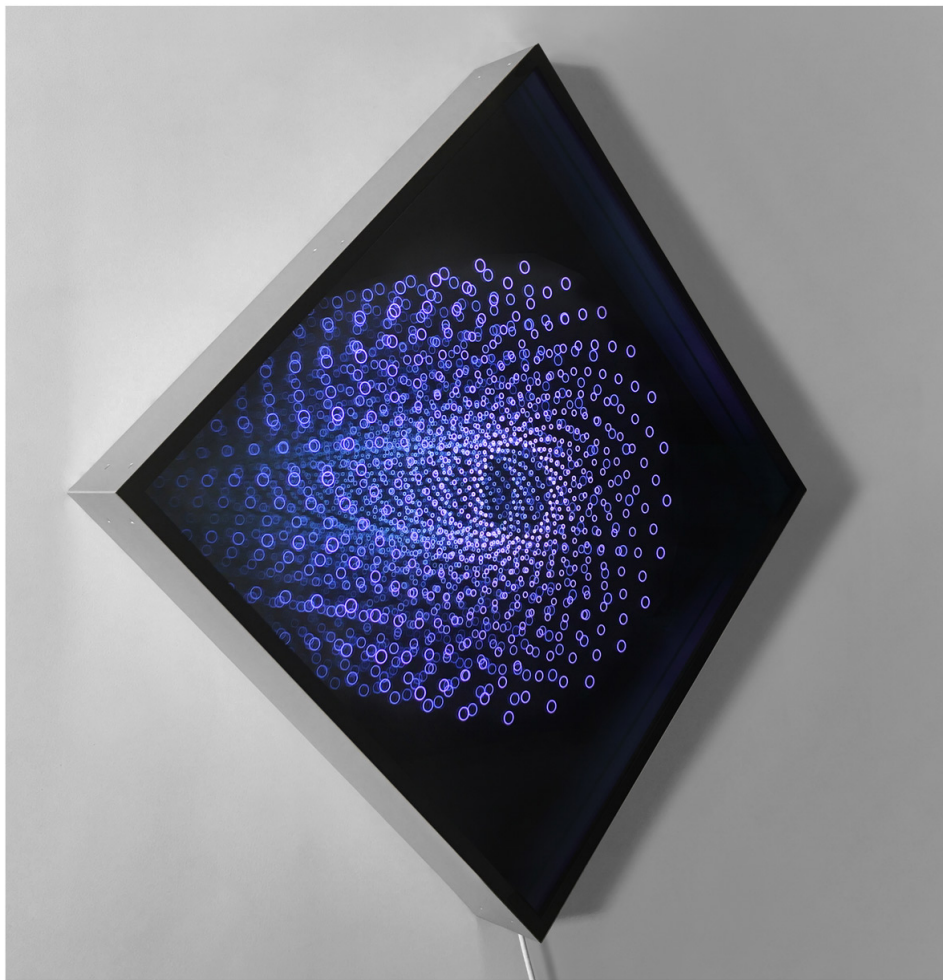


White Retinal Break / 2019 / Ink on plexiglas, aluminum / 45 x 45 x 5 cm

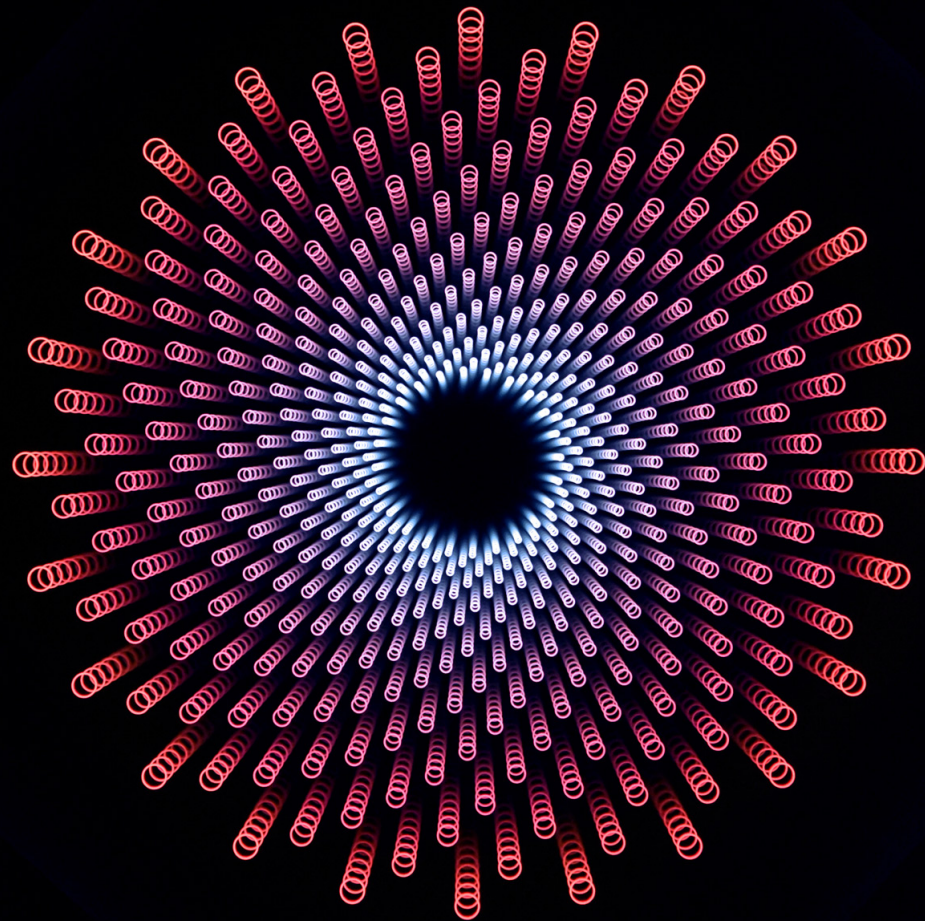




Metaverse / 2022 / Pigments on plexiglas, variable white LED, aluminum / 113 x113 x 8 cm

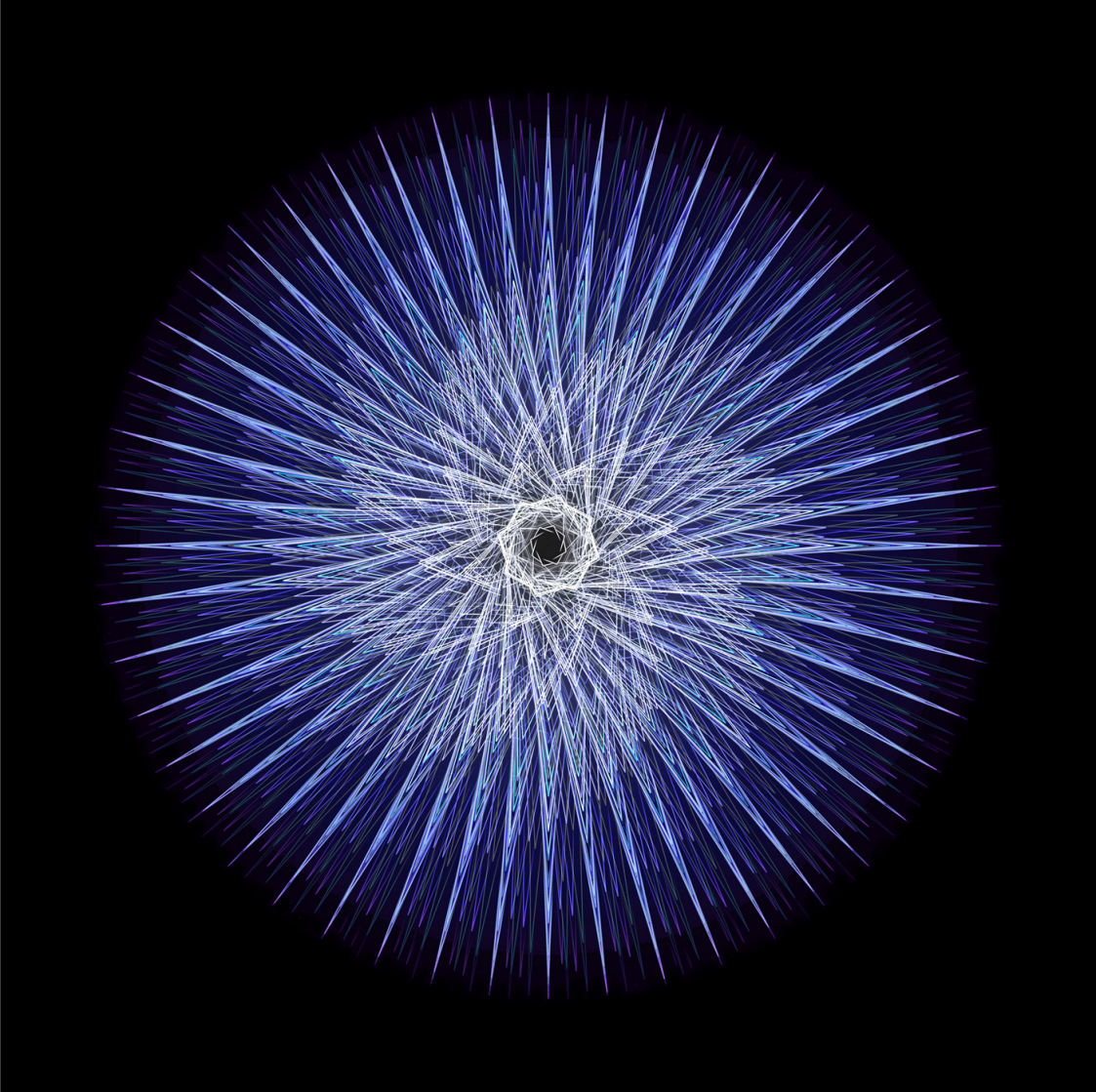


Fibonacci's Bubbles / 2020 / Mirrors, interactive variable RGBW LEDs, aluminum / 85 x 85 x 9 cm



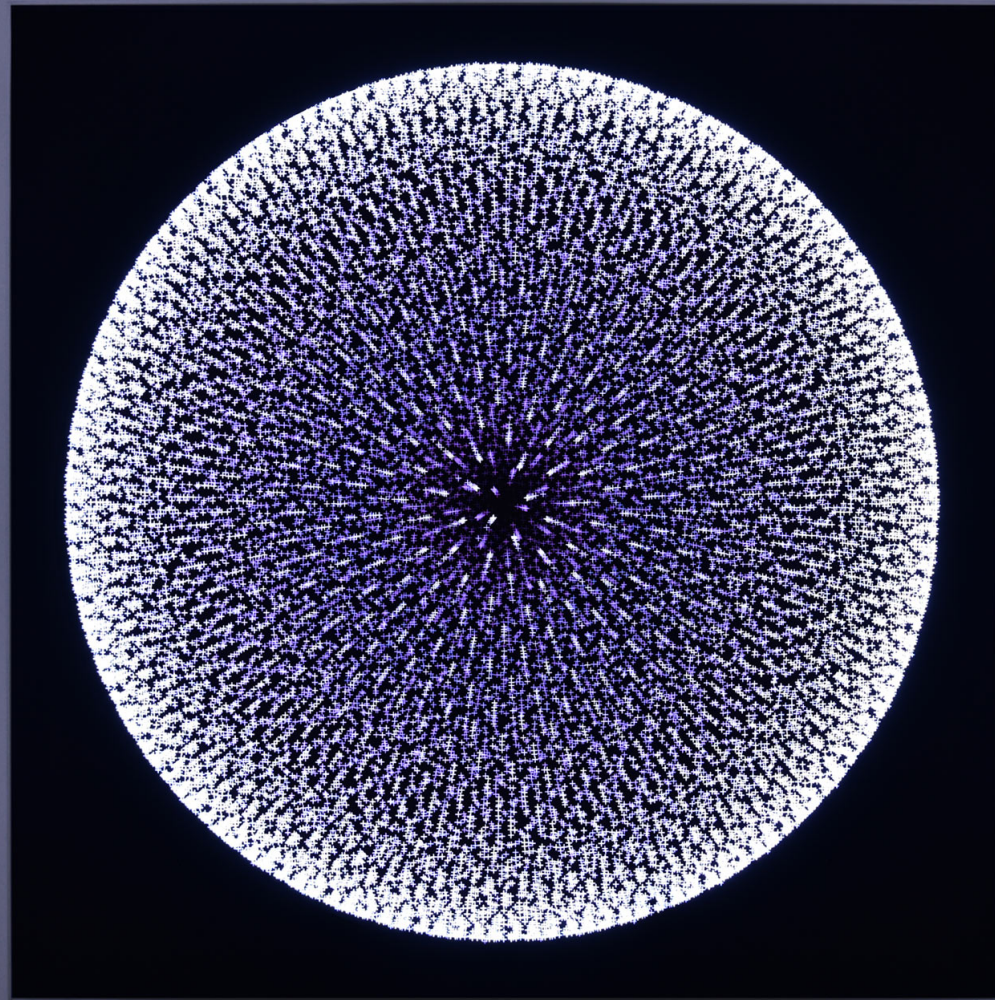


Zurich blue / 2018 / Pigments on plexiglas, aluminum / 70 x 70 x 6 cm



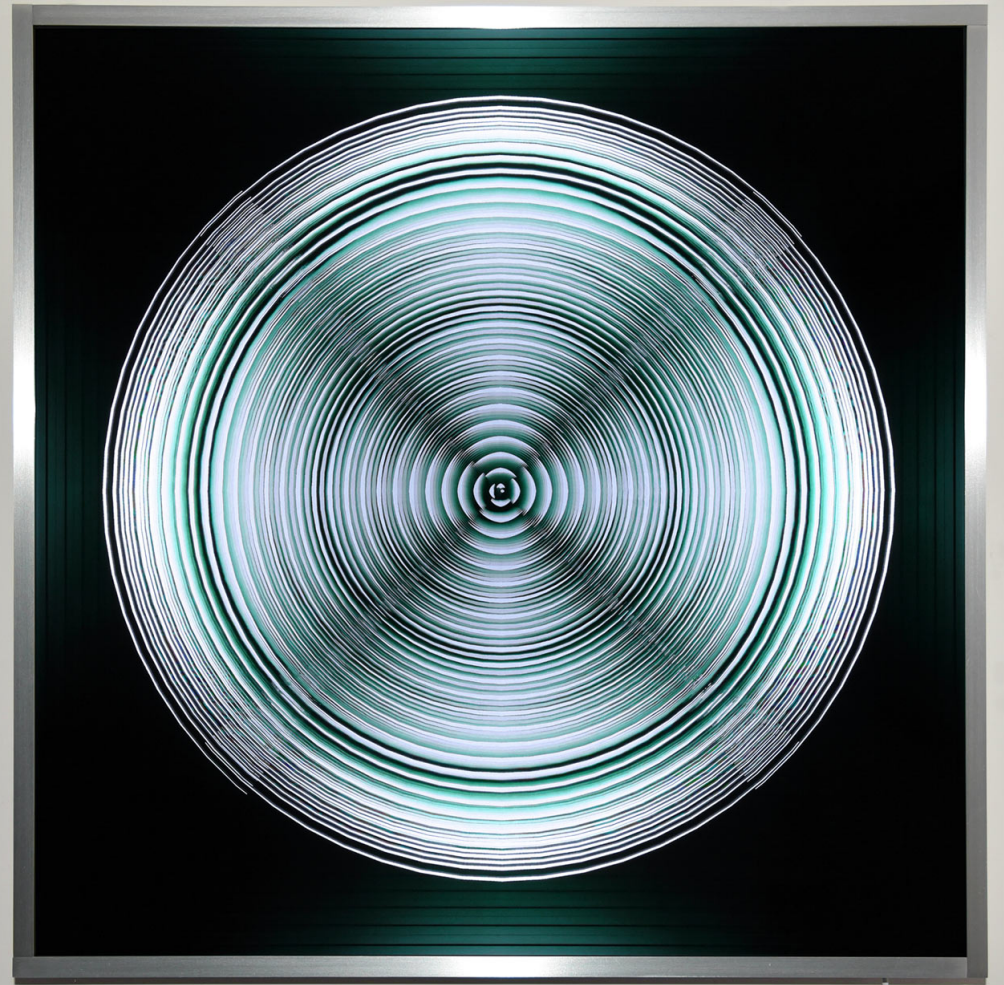


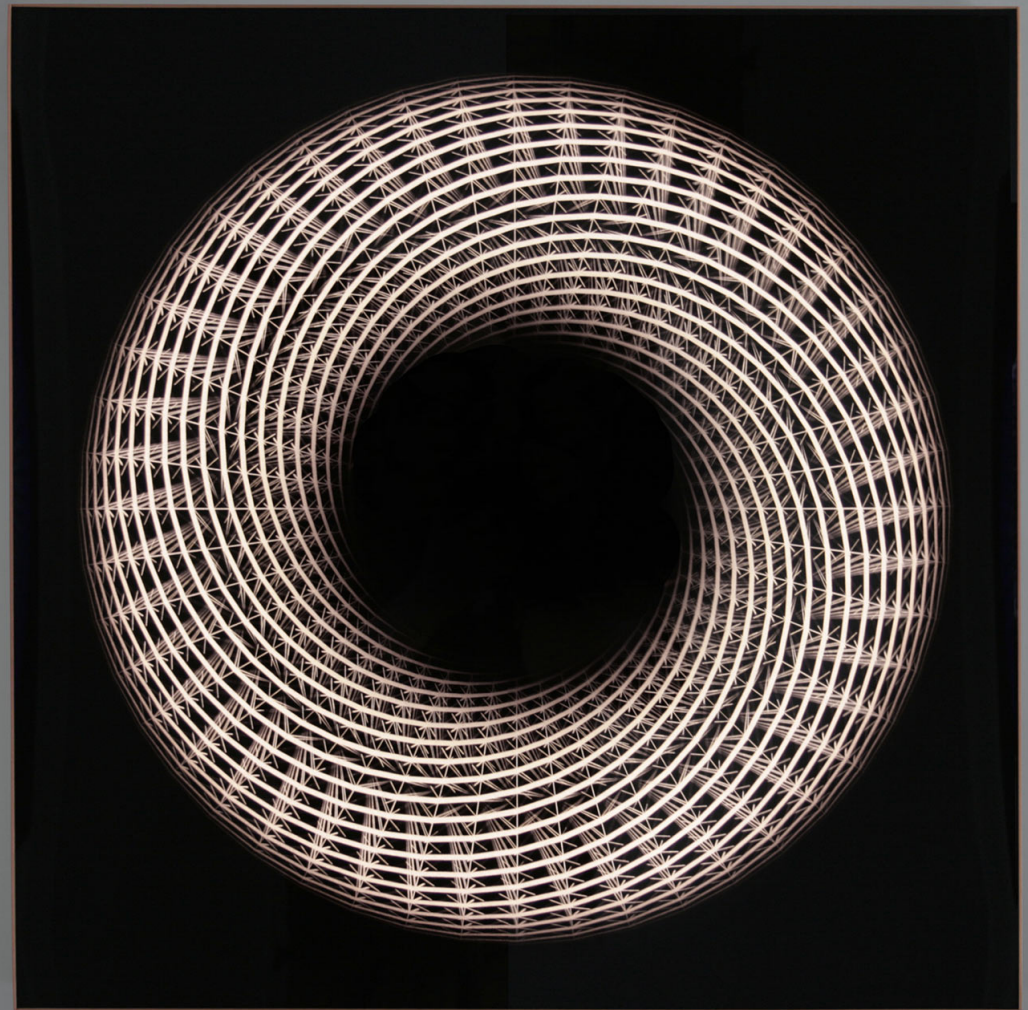
Colored Explosion 2022 / pigments on plexiglas , interactive variable RGBW LEDs, aluminium / 75 x 75 x 6 cm





Mist / 2018 / Mirrors, interactive variable RGBW LEDs, aluminum / 70 x 70 x 8 cm



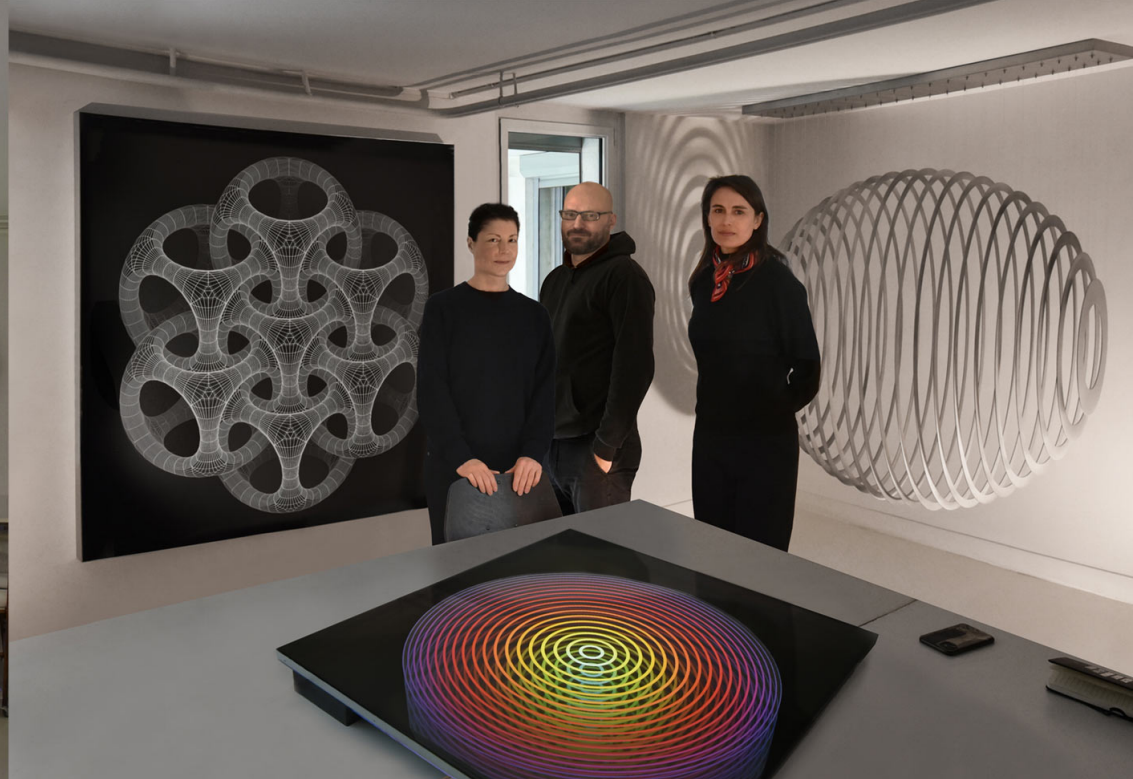


Vortex Blanc / 2017 / Pigments on plexiglas, 3000K white LEDs, copper / 55 x 55 x 6 cm



Bardula is an artist's name, whose luminokinetic work is created by a couple, a goldsmith and an architect, in their studio south of Paris.

It is since 2014, the year of their first collaboration with Parisian interior designers Gilles & Boissier on a series of luminokinetic sculptures for the Baccarat Hotel in New York, that Bardula's career has accelerated. In 2015, a solo show at the KKDC gallery on rue Dauphine in Paris, followed by a kinetic art exhibition with historical artists of this movement for the auction at Piasa on rue du Faubourg St Honoré, entitled "Art Cinétique-Light Show" and curated by Domitille d'Orgeval, was followed by the first representation of Bardula, by the Zurich-based Galerie La Ligne, during its exhibition at Art Paris at the Grand Palais.



The Bardula duo with Domitille d'Orgeval during a studio visit in 2022.

Since 2015, Bardula has had more than forty exhibitions and the artist's work is now represented in six galleries, all of which specialize in geometric abstraction, Concrete Art and optico-kinetic art :

Galerie La Ligne in Zurich, Valmore Studio d'Arte in Vicenza, Galerie Kellermann in Düsseldorf, the galleries Denise René and Nery Marino in Paris, and recently Oliver Cole gallery in Miami.

Baccarat
HOTEL
NEW YORK

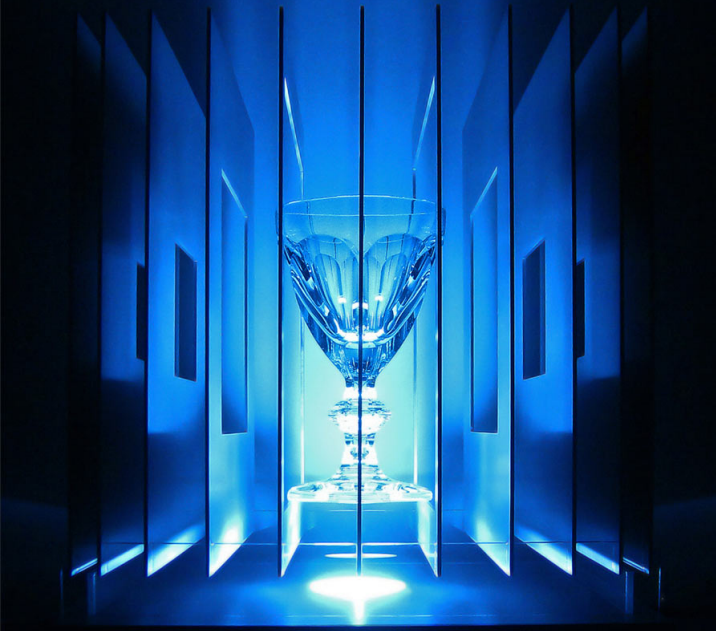
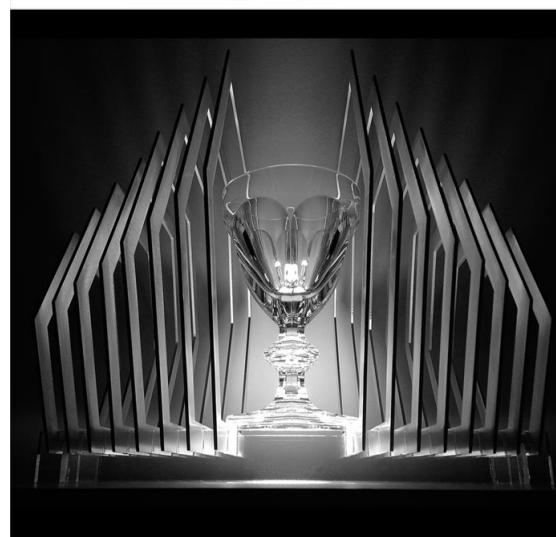
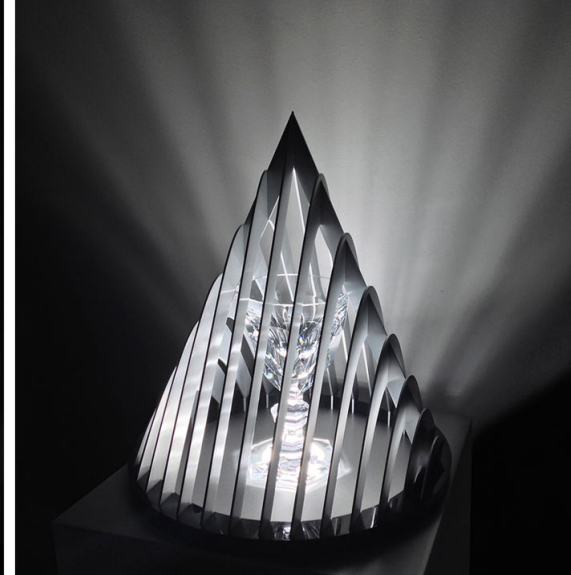
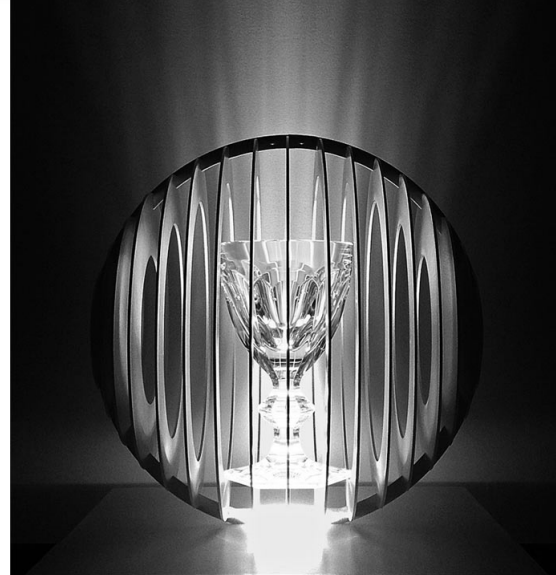
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BARDULA FOR BACCARAT

The first Bardula duo project with interior designers Gilles & Boissier, was a collaboration on a series of ten luminokinetic installations for the Baccarat Hotel in New York, opened in 2015, on 53rd Street across from MoMA.

Bardula's project for Baccarat consists of five brushed aluminum installations forming a kinetic geometric ensemble, magnified by the light that shines through them.

These installations, reinterpreting the theme of the four primary elements - Fire, Air, Water, Earth, and the fifth element that links them together, the Quintessence - symbolize each one of the elements, whose metal strata create simple geometric figures that follow a logical progression : starting with a triangle, then a square, a hexagon, a circle, and finally a circle inscribed in a square.





BARDULA FOR MONCLER

From New York to Moscow, via Stockholm and Mexico City, the artist duo Bardula, solicited by Gilles & Boissier, who regularly call on the intervention of artists in their projects, has created for Moncler, four luminous artworks, all permanently installed in their stores.

Solaris Moncler New York Photo © Eric Laignel



Alter Ego Moncler Moscow Photo © Alexey Narodizkiy

These luminokinetic sculptures complement each other and reinforce the identity of the artistic concept created by Bardula, expressed in the progression of curves made of golden aluminum blades reflecting the light they contain, and which evolves according to the perspective. These artworks make an ensemble through a similar formal principle, but where each one is declined according to the place's own configuration.

In 2016, Bardula realized a monumental luminokinetic installation in the entrance of the largest Moncler flagship store in the USA, on Madison Avenue in New York; *Solaris* is a symmetrical installation, consisting of 4m high golden metallic blades facing each other, progressing geometrically to form together a spherical deformation, creating a magnetic and solar space in which one enters, and where a luminous scenario in undulatory motion modifies at every moment the perception of the whole.

Bardula's most recent artwork for Moncler, *Alter Ego*, was finalized in 2021 in their Moscow store. This kinetic light installation is in a dedicated window of the historic GUM building on the Red Square, facing the Kremlin and Lenin's Mausoleum, and is visible both from inside the store and the Red Square.

- 2022 **Solo show** - *A Geometric Journey* - Galerie La Ligne, Zurich
Winter Exhibition - Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf
 Art Miami - Oliver Cole Gallery, Miami
ORANGETHETHEWORLD – Charity Exhibition - Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf
Art reflects on itself - Path through artists and works, Itinerary II - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Vicenza
 Art Bologna Artefiera - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Bologna
 Art Paris Art Fair 2022 - Galerie La Ligne, Grand Palais Éphémère, Paris
Solo show - *Exploration Dynamique du Visible* - Galerie Nery Marino, Paris
Winter Show - Galerie La Ligne, Zurich
- 2021 *Dialogue among optical-kinetic generations - Path through artists and works, Itinerary I* - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Vicenza
 ArtVerona 2021 Fiera d'Arte 16th edition - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Verona
 Cologne Fine Arts & Design - COFA 2021 - Galerie Kellermann, Cologne
 Art Paris Art Fair 2021 - Galerie La Ligne, Grand Palais Éphémère, Paris
Structure du silence - Galerie Denise René, Paris
Alter Ego, kinetic light installation (permanent work) - Moncler, Red Square, Moscow
- 2020 ArtVerona 2020 Fiera d'Arte, digital edition - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Verona
Winter Exhibition - Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf
 Cologne Fine Arts & Design - COFA 2020 - Galerie Kellermann, Cologne, on Artsy and Artnet
Women & Abstraction - Galerie Denise René, Paris, on Artsy and Artnet
 Duo show - *Visual Dynamics* - Bardula and Dario Perez Flores - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Venice
Summer 20 - Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf
Arte e Luce - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Vicenza
 Art Paris Art Fair 2020 - Galerie La Ligne, Paris, on Artsy
Artists in Quarantine, digital edition - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Vicenza
- 2019 Duo show - *Art and Light* - Bardula and Jacques Toussaint - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Vicenza
Zero-New Zero - Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf
 Cologne Fine Arts & Design - COFA 2019 - Galerie Kellermann, Cologne
 ArtVerona 2019 Fiera d'Arte 15th edition - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Verona
Solo show - *La Geometria Della Luce* - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Vicenza
 Art Paris Art Fair 2019, Galerie La Ligne - Grand Palais, Paris
 100% - Galerie La Ligne, Zurich
- 2018 *Renaissance II*, kinetic light installation (permanent work) - Moncler, Mexico City
 ArtVerona 2018 Fiera d'Arte 14th edition - Valmore Studio d'Arte, Verona
Renaissance I, kinetic light installation (permanent work) - Moncler, Stockholm
Invisible Realm, a Kinetica Museum curated exhibition, Lauren Baker Contemporary, London
 Art Paris Art Fair 2018 - Galerie La Ligne, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2017 **Solo show** - Galerie La Ligne, Zurich
 Art Paris Art Fair 2017 - Galerie La Ligne, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2016 *Light, Motion, Space* - Galerie La Ligne, Zurich
Solaris, monumental kinetic light installation (permanent work) - Moncler flagship store,
 650 Madison Avenue at 59th Street, New York
 Art Paris Art Fair 2016 - Galerie La Ligne, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2015 **Solo show** - KKDC gallery, Passage Dauphine, Paris
Art Cinétique/Light Show - a Domitile d'Orgeval curated exhibition - Piasa, rue du Faubourg St Honoré, Paris
- 2014 *5 Elements*, a series of kinetic light installations (permanent works) - Baccarat Hotel New York, 28 W 53rd St, New York
- 2013 Research and development of *Propagations*
 Realisation of installations *X Cube* and *Narrows*
- 2012 Foundation of the Bardula duo collaboration

Galerie La Ligne

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