

LIGHT NOW

MEAGAN STREADER
DIEGO RAMIREZ
ATONG ATEM
JASON SIMS

10 September - 5 October

[MARS]



Light Now

Light Now brings together four contemporary artists who are wielding light to reconfigure how we navigate space and the constructed world, featuring light works by Meagan Streader, Diego Ramirez, Jason Sims and Atong Atem.

'Painting' with light, Meagan Streader's soft, refined palette redefines how we traditionally view light in space. Each of Streader's site-responsive 'brushstrokes' of light re-orient the physical world and the viewer's relationship to constructed space. As seen in NGV's Melbourne Now, Streader's work continues to garner interest from curators and collectors alike. Constantly pushing her practice, Streader's new work transforms her gentle palette to a new, playful expression that is set to redefine light art.

Working across a range of mediums, Diego Ramirez uses light as parody to communicate the darkness, skepticism and catastrophe that defines his artistic practice. Ramirez playfully uses neon light and its reliance on electricity to draw sardonic parallels to his motif of the Vampire, dead yet living, feeding on blood.

Through the works of internationally exhibiting and renowned light artist, Jason Sims, we locate the hand of the artist in a contemporary practice that takes light back to the traditional techniques. Hand building, welding and installing his grand light works, Sims evokes the sublime to create illusion through light.

Shifting away from the lens, Atong Atem's LED neon light works draw on her interdisciplinary postcolonial motif of the Banksia plant, speaking to the disjunct between the built and natural environments.

Light Now collates the practices of four artists who are skilfully using light to reorient experience, altering perceptions of the physical space to the broader world.



Meagan Streader

Meagan Streader pushes the limits of light within sculpture and installation by manipulating, reinterpreting and extending upon the boundaries of constructed spaces. Through site-specific interventions, her multidimensional use of light re-orientates the viewer's relationship to the pre-existing architecture and scale of a given space. In this way, Meagan's work reveals the pervasive role of light in governing physical and social navigations of fabricated spaces. Meagan is currently based in Melbourne (Naarm/Birrarung-ga) and is represented by MARS Gallery.

Meagan Streader completed a BFA/Visual Arts at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane (2010). Streader has exhibited both nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at National Gallery of Victoria: Australia (Melbourne Now, 2023) and Sydney Contemporary (Carriageworks, Sydney, 2023), Melbourne Design Week (2023, 2024), Conners Conners Argyle Street (Melbourne, 2023), Milani Carpark (Brisbane, 2019), The Spring Hill Reservoirs (Brisbane, 2017), Footscray Community Arts Centre (Melbourne, 2017), QUT Art Museum (Brisbane, 2016), Metro Arts (Brisbane, 2016) and NARS Foundation (NYC, 2016). Streader has presented major site-specific projects for Dark Mofo (2019), HOTA (2019), Kyneton Contemporary Art Triennial (Kyneton, 2018) and notfair Art Fair (Melbourne, 2017), Soft Centre Festival (Sydney, 2017, 2018) and Underbelly Arts Festival, Cockatoo Island (Sydney), Electrofringe (Brisbane, 2015) and Amsterdam Light Festival (Netherlands, 2015).

Additionally, she has had public works commissioned for Vicinity Centres (Melbourne), Glen Huntly Station (Melbourne), Home x Docklands (Melbourne), Box Hill (Melbourne), Adderton: house and heart of Mercy (Brisbane), Maribyrnong Council, (Melbourne), HASSELL Architecture (Brisbane), Gadens Lawyers (Brisbane), Gold Coast University Hospital (QLD), and Gasworks Plaza (QLD). Streader has participated in local and international residencies including Broken Hill Art Gallery Residency (2020-2022), Testing Grounds, Melbourne (2018), Kochi AIR, Kochi, India (2014) and NARS in New York City (2016). Lastly, Meagan Streader's work has been featured in Artist Profile Magazine, Art Collector, Sydney Morning Herald, Artichoke, The Design Files, Eyeline Contemporary Art Magazine, The Creator's Project, mondo*arc and FRAME magazines and ABC's The Mix program.



Cube stack (pink/blue gradient)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel, brass, electronic components

80 x 26.5 x 26.5cm

Unique



Cube stack (pink/blue gradient) (detail)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel, brass, electronic components

80 x 26.5 x 26.5cm

Unique



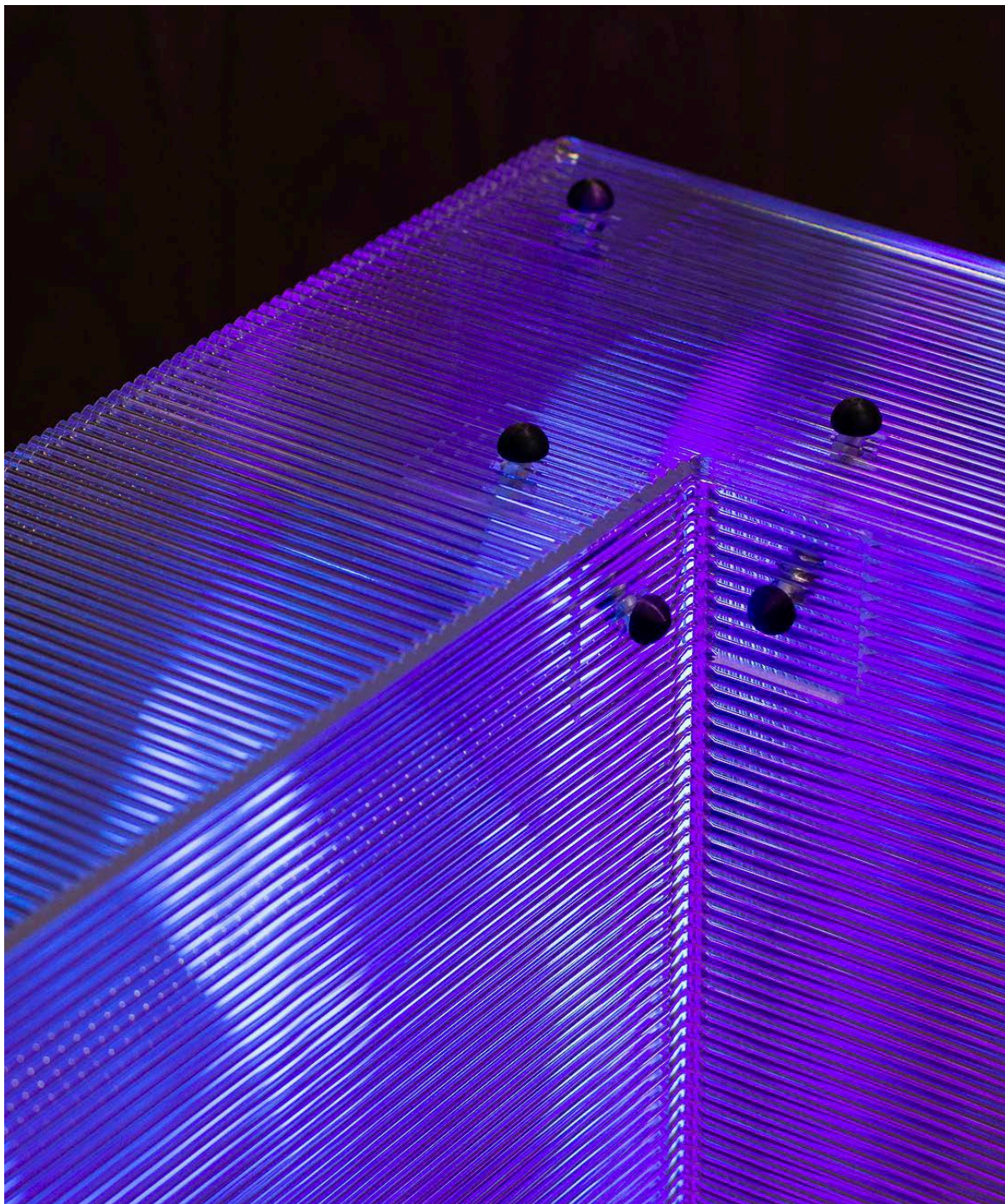
A corner piece (blue/purple)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel, 3D printed and electronic components

73 x 43 x 43cm

Unique



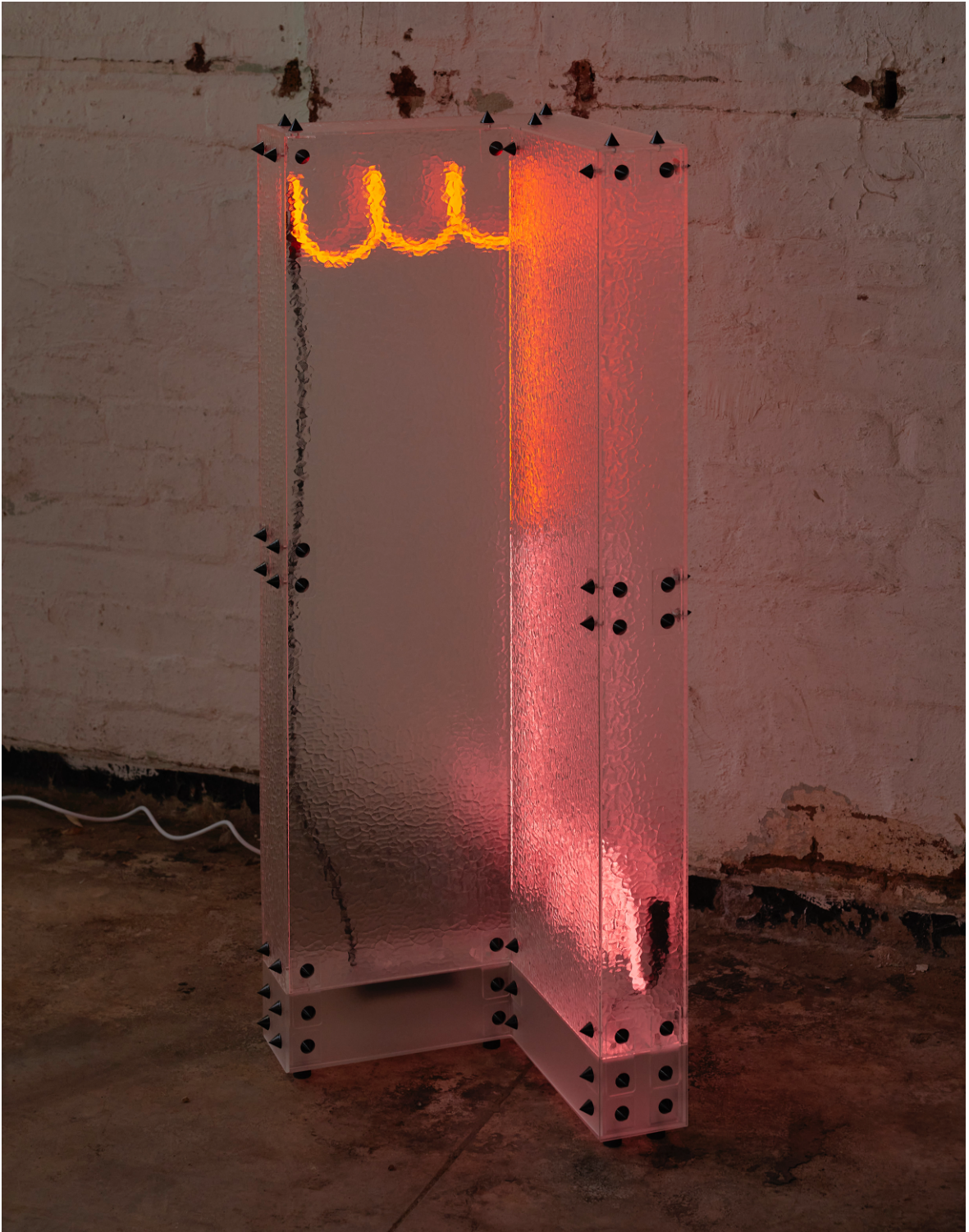
A corner piece (blue/purple) (detail)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel, 3D printed and electronic components

73 x 43 x 43cm

Unique



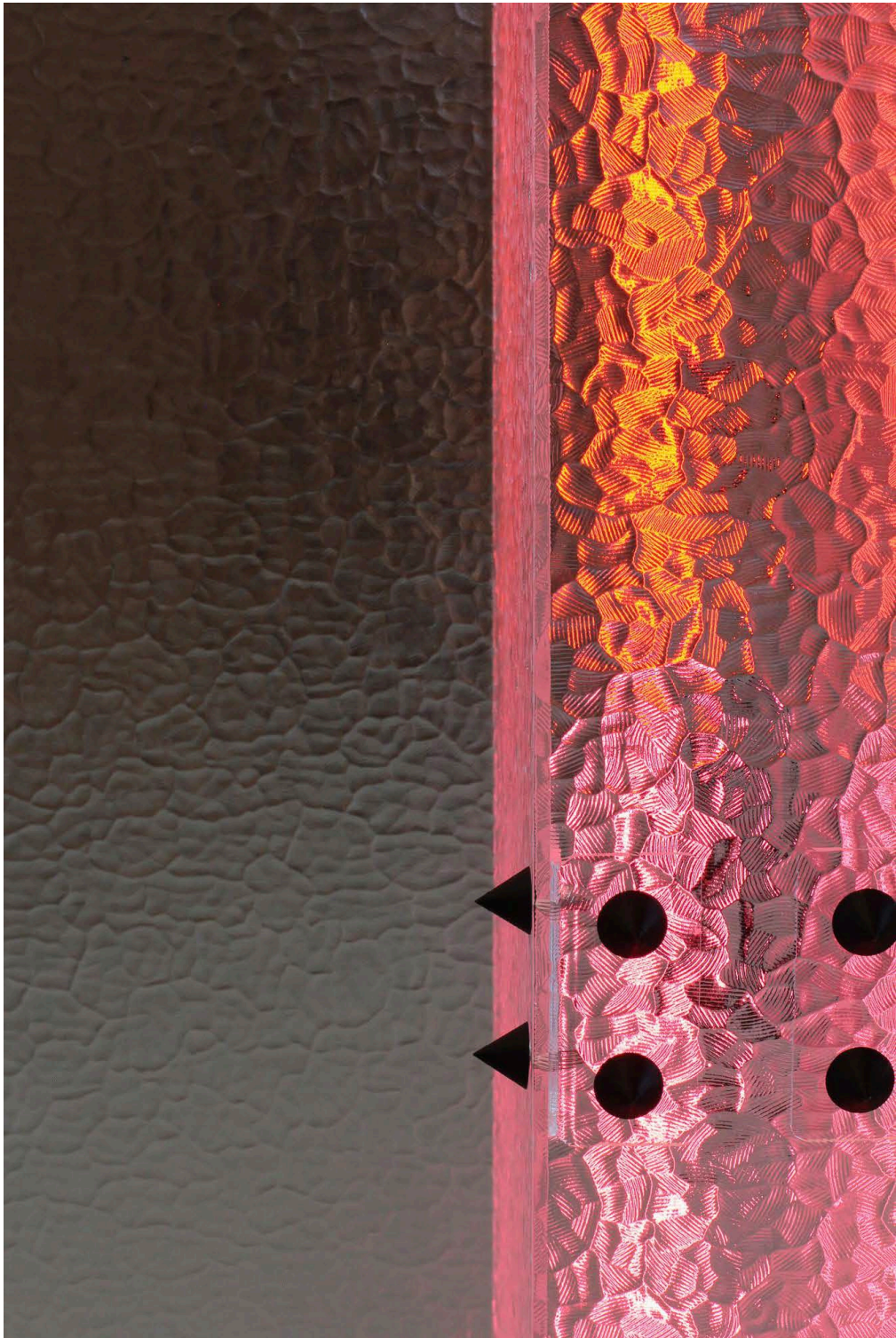
A corner piece (orange/pink)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel, 3D printed and electronic components

126 x 43 x 43cm

Unique



A corner piece (orange/pink) (detail)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel, 3D printed and electronic components

126 x 43 x 43cm

Unique



Horizontal descent (neon console)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel fasteners, electronic components

96 x 106 x 31.5cm

Unique



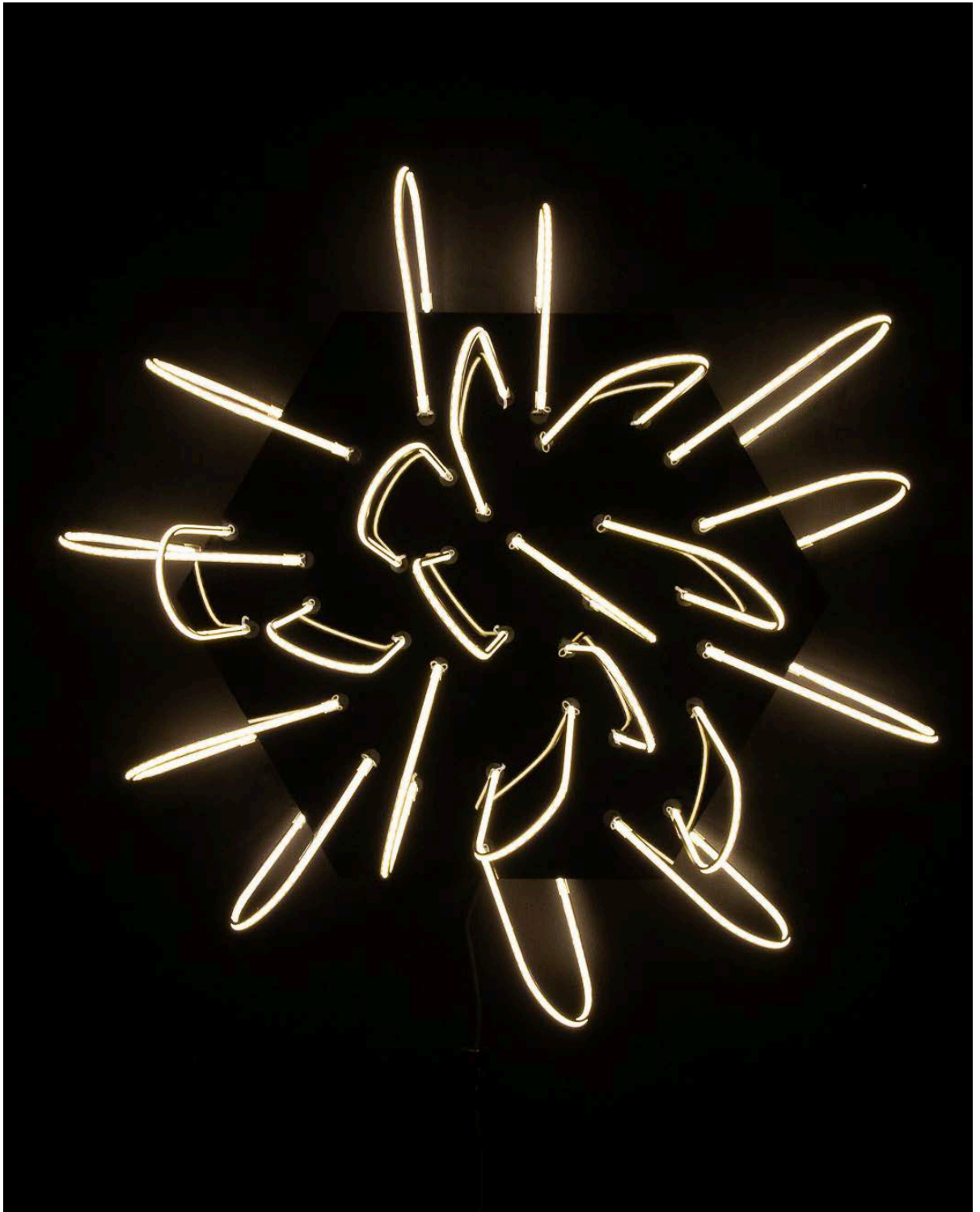
Horizontal descent (neon console) (detail)

2024

Acrylic, glass neon, stainless steel fasteners, electronic components

96 x 106 x 31.5cm

Unique



Surge (flares)

2024

Acrylic, COB LED strip lighting, plywood, electronic components

100 x 100 x 30cm

Unique



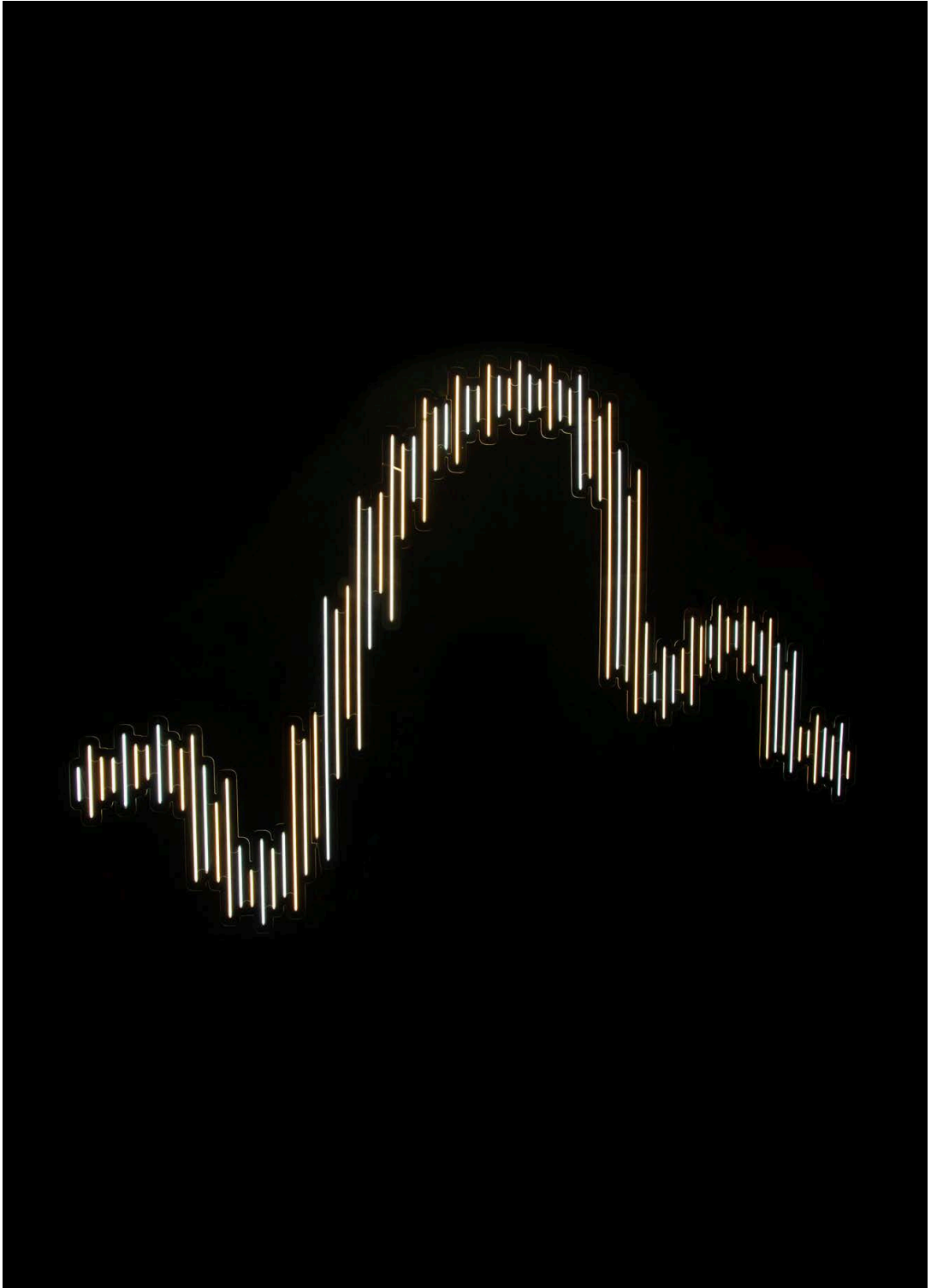
Surge (flares) (detail)

2024

Acrylic, COB LED strip lighting, plywood, electronic components

100 x 100 x 30cm

Unique



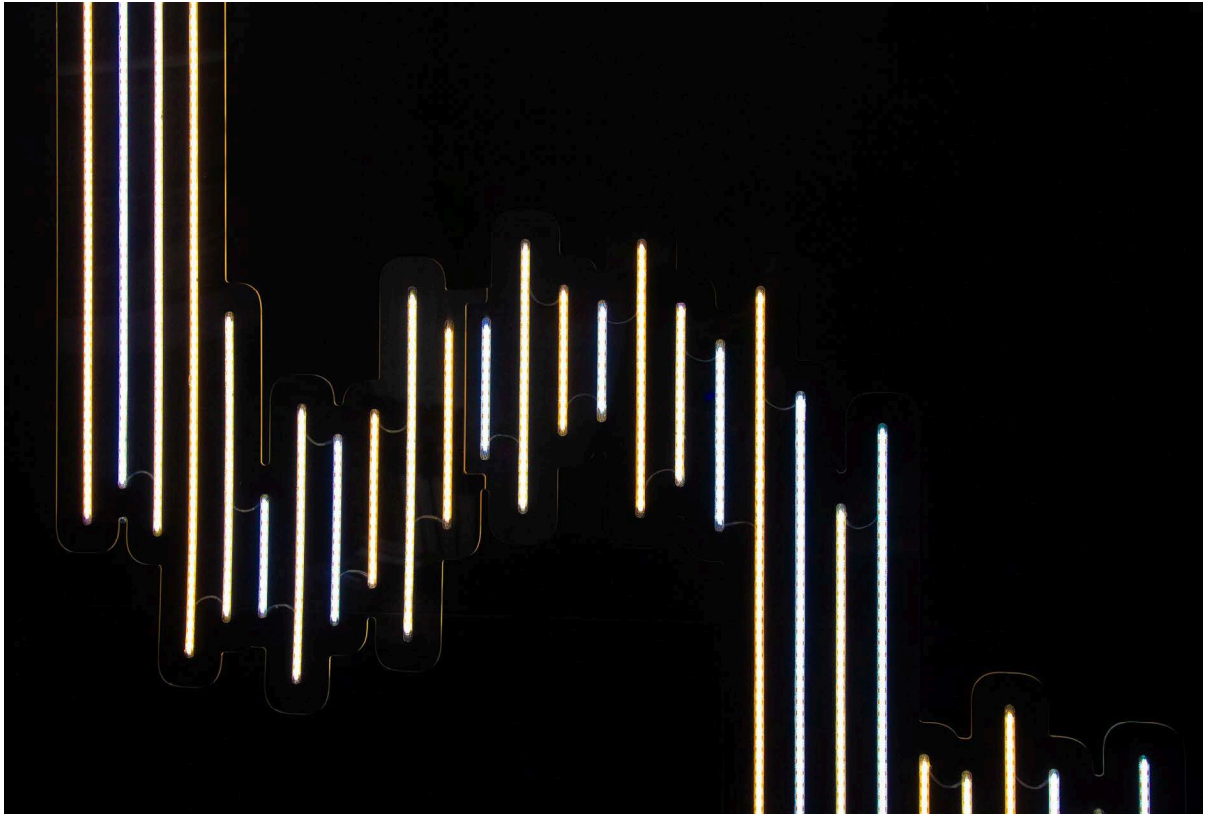
Sky scribble (a seed for growing a cloud)

2024

Acrylic, COB LED strip lighting, SS cable, electronic components

213 x 338cm

Unique



Sky scribble (a seed for growing a cloud) (detail)
2024
Acrylic, COB LED strip lighting, SS cable, electronic components
213 x 338cm
Unique

CV

Meagan Streader

Currently based in Naarm/Melbourne, Australia.

Represented by MARS Gallery

Industry Experience

2016 - 2019: Studio artisan/technician, Volker Haug Studio

2012 - 2016: Co-Founder and Director, Inhouse Artist Run Initiative.

2013: Gallery Manager/Curator - Spiro Grace Art Rooms and iAM Projects, Spring Hill, Brisbane.

2011: Curatorial Assistant – Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Spring Hill, Brisbane.

Qualifications

2010: Bachelor of Fine Arts with Distinction/Visual Arts, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane (QUT).

Solo Exhibitions

2024: Light Now, MARS (upcoming September)

2024: Squiggles and Cubes, Melbourne Design Week

2023: Sydney Contemporary: Carriageworks, Sydney

2023: To throw a shadow: Conners Conners Argyle Street, Melbourne

2022: This space of vibration: MARS Gallery, Melbourne.

2021: Quiet moments over small horizons: The Wandering Room, Melbourne.

2020: A window is a square horizon: MARS Gallery, Melbourne.

2019: Silent Structures: MARS Gallery, Melbourne.

2019: Spatial Situations: Milani CARPARK, Brisbane.

2018: Fold in time: DAVID, Melbourne.

2018: An end to approachable space: Stockroom, Kyneton.

2017: The Weight of Light: Spring Hill Reservoirs, Brisbane.

2017: U-Bend Pillar: Nicholas Projects, Melbourne.

2016: W-inter: Metro Arts Gallery, Brisbane.

2014: Fluoro Coir: Pepperhouse Studios, Fort Kochi, Kerala, India.

2014: In Universes: Crucible Gallery, BCM, Brisbane. Curated by Melinda Gagen.

2014: Unravel: Kumo Projection Space, Melbourne.

2011: Spawn: LEVEL Ari, Newstead, Brisbane. Curated by Hilary Perrett.

Exhibitions

2023: Melbourne Now: NGV Australia, Melbourne.

2023: Melbourne Design Fair: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne.

2023: To throw a shadow: Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre, Mount Gambier.

2023: Ohm – Night Feast: Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane.

2022: Alter: Divisions Gallery, Pentridge Melbourne. Curated by Charlotte Watson.

2021: Spring1883: MARS Gallery, Melbourne.

2019: Spring1883: The Establishment, Sydney.

2019: Shit That I Like: Nicholas Projects, Programmed by Benjamin Aitken, Lennox Street, Melbourne.

2019: Parallelism: GLOW, Home of the Arts (HOTA), Surfers Paradise.

2019: Slow Rinse: A Forest, Dark Mofo, Hobart.

2019: Spectral: Arts House, Melbourne.

2019: Miller Design Lab: SoHigh Gallery, Melbourne.

2018: Subliming: Testing Grounds, with Lichen Kelp and David Mutch, Melbourne.

2018: A Nice Warm Bath: Melbourne Music Week, The Mission to Seafarers, Docklands, Melbourne.

2018: Soft Centre: Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney.

2018: Fringe Furniture, Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne.

2018: Force Fields, Kyneton Contemporary Art Triennial (KCAT), Stockroom, Kyneton.

2018: 579x425x337, Blindsight, Melbourne.

2017: notfair Art Fair: Windsor, Melbourne.

2017: Soft Centre: Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney.

2017: Footscray Art Prize, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne.

2016: KochiAIR Group Show: Brunswick East, Melbourne.

2016: NARS Open Studios: New York Artist Residency and Studios, Brooklyn, NYC.

2016: Geek Girls: The Block, QUT Creative Industries Precinct, Brisbane.

2015: Weft: Amsterdam Light Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2015: Superlinear: Spiro Grace Art Rooms, Brisbane.

2015: IRL: Electrofringe: Brisbane Powerhouse.

2014: Hackteria Lab: Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

2013: Saturate: Love Love Studios, Brisbane.

2013: Underbelly Arts Festival: Fourth Cave: Cockatoo Island, Sydney.

2013: pars pro toto : Parer Place Urban Screens, The Block QUT, curated by Andi Halfpapp.

2012: Guest .S: Bleeding Heart Gallery, Brisbane.

2012: Urban Easels: Various Locations: Brisbane Adshel spaces, Brisbane.

2012: Virion: Various locations: Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Auckland.

2012: Bleached Exhibition: Bleached Gallery at The Box, West End, Brisbane.

2012: 2high Festival: Exhibitions: Third Cave: Brisbane Powerhouse.

2012: 2high Festival: MegaMix: Oneironaut: With Emily Devers and Mike Willmet, Brisbane Powerhouse.

2012: 2high Festival: Program X: Elka (Submerged): Brisbane Powerhouse.

2012: Lights Off: The Box, West End, Brisbane.

2011: Vibration: White Canvas Gallery, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

2011: Femme: Robina Community Art Gallery, Robina, Gold Coast.

2011: The Fort Project: Under The Radar: Out The Back Metro Arts, Brisbane. Curated by Siobhan Nunan.

2011: Immersion: 2 High Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse. Curated by Alex Winters and Hilary Perrett.

2010: Light Relief: The Block, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane. Curated by Leah Collins.

2010: Vinculum: H-Block, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.

Awards/Prizes

2024: Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award (finalist), VIC
2024: Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize (finalist), Gordon, NSW
2023: Fisher's Ghost Art Award (finalist), Campbelltown Arts Centre
2023: Wyndham Art Prize (finalist), Wyndham Cultural Centre
2017: Highly Commended, notfair Art Fair, Melbourne.
2017: Footscray Art Prize (finalist), Footscray Community Arts Centre
2016: Churchie National Emerging Art Prize (finalist), QUT Art Museum

Residencies

2022: Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery Artist in Residence Program, 2020-2022.
2021: Neon bending intensive with Emma-Kate Hart, Canberra Glassworks, March.
2018: Testing Grounds, Melbourne, November.
2016: NARS International Residency Program, New York. July - September.
2014: Kochi Artist In Residence, Fort Kochi, Kerala, India. June-July.

Grants

2020: Creative Victoria Sustaining Creative Workers
2020: City of Melbourne Covid-19 Arts Grant
2020: Australia Council for the Arts Career Development
2016: Queensland Arts Showcase Program: Arts Ignite
2015: Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant
2012: Artstart, Australia Council for the Arts.
2012: Creative Sparks Grant, Brisbane City Council for Inhouse ARI.
2011: Lord Mayor's Creative City Initiative MicroGrant.

Commissions

2024: Foundation (monument), One Middle Road, Vicinity Centres, Chadstone, VIC
2024: Quietly Flowing, HOME x Docklands, VIC.
2024: VNTNR Artist series
2023: Neon Terrains: Glen Huntly Station, Melbourne.
2021: Transfer: Panorama, Box Hill, Melbourne.
2021: Frame (in flight): The Manse, Melbourne.
2019: of light, or rest, [and] of peace: Adderton, house and heart of mercy, Brisbane.
2018: Frame (in motion): Fringe Furniture, Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne
2018: Scatter (By Miles): Permanent public artwork, Footscray, Melbourne.
2013: Golden Orbs: Michael Candy and Meagan Streader. Gasworks Plaza, Brisbane.
2013: Systems 1,2,3: Gold Coast University Hospital 2D Art Collection
2011: Orbit: Commission for HASSELL Architecture and Gadens Lawyers, Brisbane.

Collections

The Chadstone Art Collection

Justin Art House Museum, Melbourne

Gold Coast University Hospital 2D Art Collection

Workshops/Talks/Presentations

2023: Light Source, lecture, ELLIVO Architects, Brisbane

2022: Light, installation & space, online lecture, University of Helsinki

2022: Light: Between Art, Architecture and Public Spaces – Panel discussion, MARS Gallery

2021: SENSORY – Recorded interview for Sacred Heart College Geelong Design Week

2021: Reflecting the Sun: Artist workshop for Broken Hill Art Gallery Artist in Residence Program

Media

2024: VNTNR's Artist Series is a Fusion of Wine and Contemporary Art. The New York Times Style Magazine: Australia

2023: Artichoke: Emerging object artist profile: Meagan Streader. Issue 82 March 2023

2022: Artist Meagan Streader Brings Worlds To Life In Epic Light Sculptures, The Design Files

2020: Meagan Streader: A Window is a Square Horizon by Tara Heffernan, Memo Review

2019: Arts Profile: Meagan Streader 2019: ABC's The Mix: Dark Mofo Special

2018: Public Art is for Everybody by Emily Wakeling, Eyeline Magazine, issue 89

2016: FRAME #111 July/Aug 2016 2016: Behind the scenes at Geek Girls

2016: The Creators Project: Electro-Luminated Wires Light Up This Australian Gallery

2016: mondo*arc, issue 90: April/May 2016

2013: Underbelly Arts Festival 2013, Review, Raven Contemporary

Diego Ramirez



Diego Ramírez is an artist with dreams, a writer with hopes and a facilitator with beliefs. He has shown locally at ACMI in partnership with ACCA, NGV, Gertrude Glasshouse, Westspace, Sydney Contemporary, Blakdot and internationally at Deslave (Mexico), Human Resources (US), Torrance Art Museum (US), Art Central (HK), and Careof (IT). Ramírez has written locally for Art Gallery of Western Australia, Art and Australia, Disclaimer, MEMO, un Projects and internationally with NECSUS (NL) and BLUE journal (US x FR). As a facilitator, he is the former Director of Seventh Gallery, delivers workshops and mentorships. Ramírez sits in panels regularly, such as Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, and Creative Australia.

His solo exhibition *Vampires of the Earth* (2023) gained significant attention by consolidating his work with text, images, and materials such as resin, perspex and neon. He went on to show some of these works at Sydney Contemporary with MARS Gallery later the same year.

In 2018, he screened a collection of his moving image works at ACMI in partnership with ACCA in *Diego Ramirez: Towards the Umbral*, curated by Annabelle Lacroix. He was part of the survey show *Melbourne Now* at the NGV with his new video *The Perfect Ever* co-curated by recess in 2023. His films are shown internationally, participating in *Terror En Lo Profundo* curated by Deslave at Human Resources LA in 2018 and *Unco* curated by Ian Haig at Torrance Art Museum in 2013. Various international festivals have shown them also, such as EXIS, FILE Sao Paulo, Stuttgarter Filmwinter, Kuala Lumpur EFVF, and Channels Video Art Festival.



Today
2024
neon and perspex
1000mm x 7000mm
edition of 3 + AP



Today (alternate view)
2024
neon and perspex
1000mm x 7000mm
edition of 3 + AP



Tomorrow
2024
neon and perspex
1000mm x 7500mm
edition of 3 + AP



Tomorrow (alternate view)
2024
neon and perspex
1000mm x 7500mm
edition of 3 + AP



Yesterday
2024
neon and perspex
1000mm x 7500mm
edition of 3 + AP



Yesterday (alternate view)
2024
neon and perspex
1000mm x 7500mm
edition of 3 + AP

CV

Diego Ramirez

EDUCATION

- 2023- Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2014 Honours Degree of Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2013 Bachelor of Fine Arts, RMIT University, Melbourne

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2023 Masterclass with Maria Lind, Workshop in curation, Monash University, Melbourne
- 2021 Writing in the Expanded Field, Workshop in writing for the 2020 Macfarlane Commissions, ACCA, Melbourne
- 2020 The White Pube workshop: how to write from the Self, Workshop in writing, Pari Ari, Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Vampires of The Earth, MARS Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Towards The Umbral (Screening), curated by Anabelle Lacroix, ACMI x ACCA, Melbourne
- 2018 Imperio: el borde de las tinieblas, Deslave, Tijuana

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 This Hideous Replica, curated by Joel Stern and Sean Dockray, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
- 2023 Contact High, curated by Anador Walsh, Gertrude Glasshouse, Melbourne
Melbourne Now, curated by NGV x recess, NGV, Melbourne
Sydney Contemporary, curated by MARS Gallery, Carriageworks, Sydney
- 2022 Ancestral Magic, curated by YoSoy Collective, Blak Dot, Melbourne, with Nadia Hernández, DJ set by Lucreccia Quintanilla, et al
- 2019 Those Monuments Don't Know Us curated by Andy Butler, Bundoora Homestead, Melbourne, with Khadim Ali, Timmah Ball, Hayley Millar-Baker, Phuong Ngo, James Nguyen, Nabilah Nordin, Priya Srinivasan, TextaQueen and Siying Zhou
- 2018 Terror en lo profundo, curated by Deslave, Human Resources, LA
- 2017 Necronomicon Uploaded , Deslave, Tijuana
Media X curated by Linda Lai, Art Central Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2014 South, curated by David Corbet, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
with Archie Moore, Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser, Eric Bridgeman, Newell Harry, Maria Fernanda Cardoso, Michael Goldberg, Joan Ross, Betsabeé Romero, Hasan & Husain Essop Zanele Muholi
Nervous Tensions, curated by Anabelle Lacroix, Careof, Milan
- 2013 Unco, curated by Ian Haig, Torrance Art Museum, LA, with Soda Jerk, Philip Brophy, Emile Zile, Heath Franco, Ian Haig, Martine Corompt

WRITING

- 2023 Tylenol killed your empathy to soothe a headache, and now you are progressive in the arts, Polemic for Parallel program, Runway Journal (Experimental Art Journal), Sydney
Walking Through The Darkness, Exhibition Review of Walking Through The Darkness CCP, Memo Review, (Independent Art Journal), Melbourne
- 2022 You are looking at a fucking catalogue essay, Catalogue essay for Speech Patterns, AGWA, Perth
Fucking Fascists, Arts Polemic, Minority Report 2 (Online publication), Melbourne
What do you like about vampires? Catalogue essay for Sincerely Yours, Arts Project x West Space, Melbourne
- 2021 Letters to a lost friend, Creative non-fiction, Blue (Online publication), USA x France
Towards a sonic Marian apparition Research essay, Disclaimer Journal (Online publication), Melbourne
Querido Creative non-fiction for Writing In The Expanded Field vol. 3 ACCA x non/fictionLab, Melbourne
- 2020 Uncivil Optimism: art and writing in times of pestilence, Arts Polemic, Running Dog (Experimental Art Journal) , Sydney
Dark Fate: The camera lens as a black hole, Research essay for Event Horizon, A+a: Art and Australia (Art Journal) Melbourne
- 2019 Unnatural Hunger: the copy, the vampire and postcolonial anxieties, Research essay, Island Island (Online publication), Melbourne
- 2018 Racial Phantasmagoria: The Demonisation of the other in Richard Mosse's Incoming, Exhibition Review for Issue #Mapping, NECSUS (Peer reviewed journal), Amsterdam

GROUP SCREENINGS & SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE

- 2023 Westspace 30 Year History Performance for Unison Symposium, Westspace Gallery, Melbourne
- 2020 Dramas De Otro Mundo, Screening curated by Deslave, UV estudios, Buenos Aires
- 2019 Studying food through video making, Screening, Ruang MES 56-Galeri , Yogyakarta
- 2017 Videohouse 2, Screening , Deslave,Tijuana
Orientations: Pushing Boundaries, Screening curated by Linda Lai, Art Sonje Centre, Seoul
- 2015 The Return of Ghosts, Screening, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei
- 2014 The Return of Ghosts, Screening, Hong-Gah Museum, Taipei
Kuala Lumpur Experimental Film & Video Festival, Screening, KLEX, Kuala Lumpur
FILE 2014, Screening, Electronic Language International Festival, Sao Paulo

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- 2023 un Magazine Extended, Editor in Residence, un Projects, Melbourne
PAS Open Residencies, Artist Mentor, Parramatta, Sydney
Arts Projects, Peer Assessment, Australia Council , Sydney
Creative Ventures, Peer Assessment, Creative Victoria, Melbourne
- 2018-
- 2023 Director, Arts Administration, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne
- 2022 Creators Fund, Peer Assessment, Creative Victoria, Melbourne

Digital Writers Program, Masterclass, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Annual Arts Grants, Peer Assessment, City of Melbourne, Melbourne
2021 Print Screen, Panel Member, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Editorial Committee, Committee Member, Performance Review, Melbourne
Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Panel, Panel Member, City of Darebin, Melbourne
SIGNAL Commission, Artist Mentor, City of Melbourne, Melbourne
2020-21 Running Dog, Editor at Large, Running Dog, Sydney

GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

2023 Research Scholarship, Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne
2023 Studio Residency Project research, Interior 2.1, Guadalajara
2021 Diasporas Commission, Performance at Gertrude Glasshouse, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Melbourne
2020 Creative Victoria Arts Grants w/Andy Butler Research and development, Creative Victoria, Melbourne
Seed funding w/Andy Butler, Research and development, Rising Festival, Melbourne
2016 City of Melbourne Arts Grants Program, Screening at ACMI, City of Melbourne, Melbourne

PRESS, CRITICAL & MEDIA

2023 Your Guide To The Best Art Exhibitions Not To Miss This Year Colin Walker's choice, Director of AGWA
Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney
The Influence, Interviewed by Kate Holden, The Saturday Paper, Melbourne
Weekend Picks, Exhibition review by Tiarney Miekus, The Age, Melbourne
Diego Ramírez, Vampires of the Earth, Exhibition review by Georgia Puiatti, ToBe Magazine, Online
Drunken Mind, Heavy Heart, Exhibition review by Olivia Bennett, Performance Review, Online
2022 Aeon Resurrection, Exhibition review by Tara Heffernan, MEMO Review, Melbourne
2021 Treasure Hunt, Exhibition review by Fiona McGregor, The Saturday Paper, Melbourne
Talking about the earth without meeting on it, Josepha Natzke, Sixty Inches From Centre, Chicago
2019 Those Monuments Don't Know Us Exhibition review by Neika Lehman, The Saturday Paper, Melbourne
The Mix Segment on Pablo Picasso, ABC TV
2018 Highlights from a rich and varied Canberra art scene, Exhibition review by Peter Haynes, The Age,
Melbourne
Two Shows, Exhibition review by Peter Haynes, Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney
Daily Demons and Fabulous Animals, Critical Writing by Tessa Laird, Garland Magazine, Australia

Atong Atem



Atong Atem is an Ethiopian born, South Sudanese artist and writer living in Narrm/ Melbourne.

Atem's work explores the inherent intimacy of portraiture and photography as well as the role photographers take as story tellers. Atem interrogates photography as a framework for looking at the world and positioning people in it. She takes framing into a fantastical direction with the small portals over the subjects' faces, inviting the viewer to look at them through a surreal and constructed lens.

Atem references the works of photographers Malick Sidibe, Philip Kwame Apagya and Seydou Keita to create a visual representation of a relationship to culture. She works primarily with photography and video to explore migrant narratives and postcolonial practices in the African diaspora, the relationship between public and private spaces and the exploration of home and identity through portraiture.

Atem has exhibited her work across Australia, including National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Portrait Gallery, Immigration Museum, Gertrude Contemporary, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art and Internationally at Tate Modern, Photo London 2023, Photo Ireland, Photo Basel 2022, Red Hook Labs in New York and Vogue Fashion Fair in Milan.

Atem was the recipient of the inaugural La Prairie Art Award from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the 15 Artists 2022 prize from Moreton Bay Council in 2022, National Gallery of Victoria and MECCA M-Power scholarship in 2017 as well as the Brisbane Powerhouse Melt Portrait Prize in 2016.



Banksia (small)
2021
LED neon
77 x 50cm
edition 1 of 10 + 2 AP



Banksia (large)
2021
LED neon
123 x 88cm
edition 2 of 10 + 2 AP



Tulip (small)
2021
LED neon
47 x 31cm
edition 2 of 10 + 2 AP



Tulip (large)
2021
LED neon
77 x 50cm
edition 2 of 10 + 2 AP

CV

Atong Atem

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Feb – April 2024: Gosford Regional Gallery: Banksia, NSW

Dec 2023: DUST, MARS Gallery, Melbourne

Sept - Oct 2023: Atong Atem, New Annual, Newcastle

June - July 2023: DUST, Photo Ireland, Ireland

Feb 2023: Paintings, MARS Gallery, Melbourne

Apr - June 2022: Banksia – Benalla Art Gallery, Benalla

Feb – March 2022: Everything in Remission – Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne

Feb 2021: Monstera Obliqua - MARS Gallery, Melbourne

Nov 2020: To Be Real - Immigration Museum, Melbourne

Jul 2020: Studio Story - Messums Gallery, London

Feb 2020: Portals - MARS Gallery, Melbourne

Aug - Sep 2017: Come Home (Channels Festival) - Blindside, Melbourne

Feb-Jul 2017: Us - Customs House, Sydney

Jan - March 2017: The Process of Feeling - Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND ART FAIRS

March – August 2024: Wereld Museum: A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography, Rotterdam

May – August 2024: NGV: Contemporary African Fashion, Melbourne, VIC.

Feb – June 2024: UQ Art Gallery: How we remember tomorrow, Brisbane, QLD.

May 2024: PLC Sydney, Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney, NSW

March – May 2024: Tweed Regional Gallery – synergy: identity portraiture and the moving body, NSW

July 2023 – Jan 2024: Tate Modern: A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography, London

March – August 2023: Melbourne Now, Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Melbourne

March – June 2023: Portrait 23: Identity, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

May 2023: Photo London, London

March – May 2023: 100 Faces, Museum of Australian Photography, Melbourne

Feb – April 2023: Other Horizons, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle

Sept 2022: Aotearoa Art Fair, Auckland

Mar 2022: Who are You: Australian Portraiture – Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Melbourne

June 2022: Photo Basel, Basel

Apr – May 2022: Surat – Old Treasury Building, Melbourne – Commissioned by Photo Australia for PHOTO 2022

Dec 2020: Triennial - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Nov 2019: FASHIONING BLACK IDENTITY - Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne

Feb 2019: FASHIONING BLACK IDENTITY - Cairns Art Gallery, QLD

Apr 2018: Site of Passage - Customs House, Sydney

Dec 2017 - March 2018: Unfinished Business - Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne

May 2016: - Nataal: New African Photography, Red Hook Labs, NYC

May - June 2016: ua numi le fau, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne

AWARDS

November 2022: 15 Artists 2022 Art Prize

March 2022: La Prairie Art Award

June 2018: Lightwork New York Artist Residency

Nov 2017- Nov 2018: NGV + MECCA Cosmetics M-Power Grant

Jul 2017: Brisbane Powerhouse: Melt Portrait Prize

PUBLICATIONS

2022: Surat, PHOTO Editions photobook, published by Photo Australia and Perimeter Editions

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria

Art Gallery of NSW

Sherman Centre for Culture and Ideas

Murdoch University Art Collection

Deakin University

State Library Victoria

Shepperton Art Museum

Art Bank

Benalla Art Gallery

Merri-bek City Council

Manningham Art Gallery

ANZ Art Collection

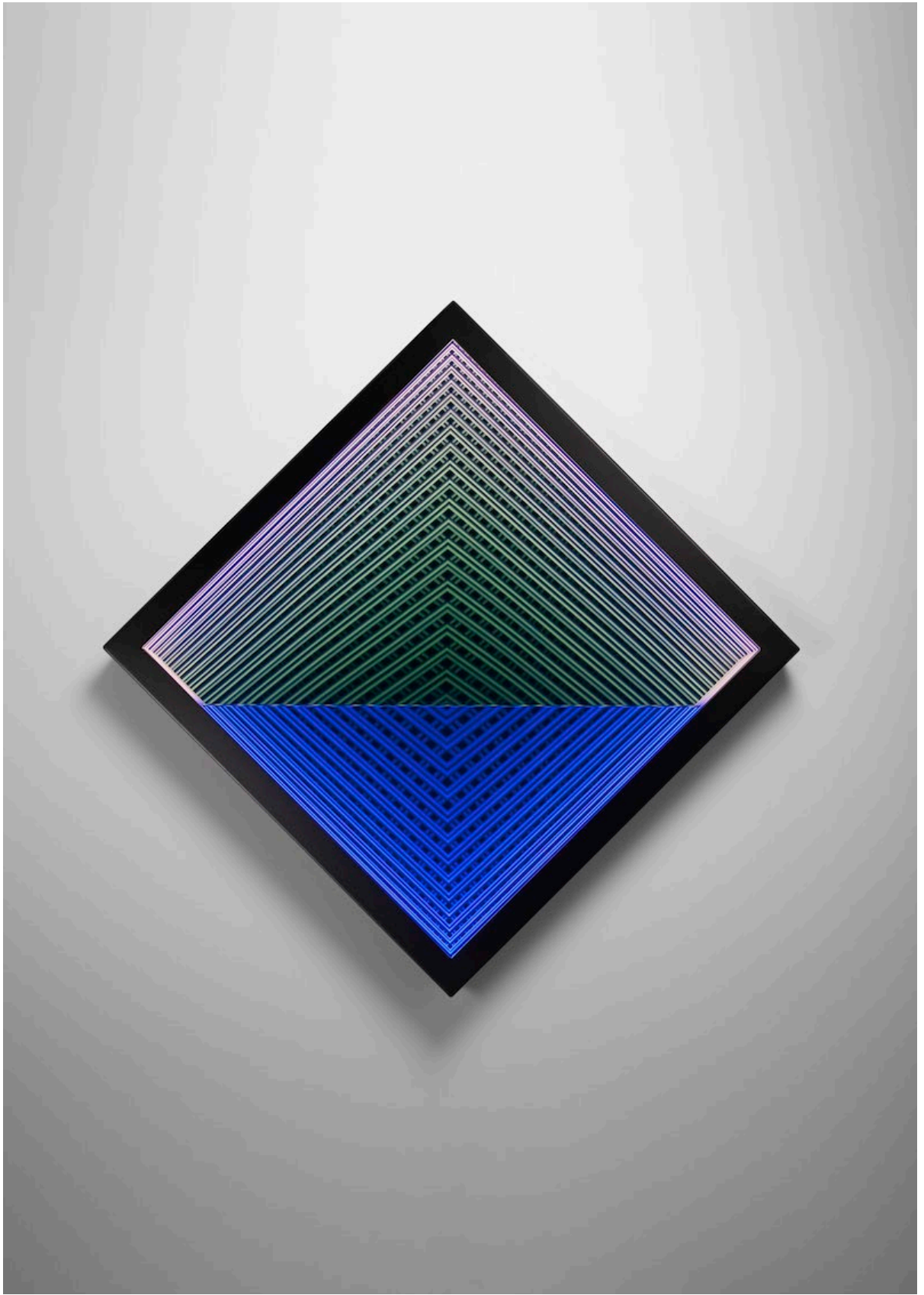
Morgan Stanley Art Collection



Jason Sims

Jason Sims is a contemporary Australian artist known for his sculptural works that explore the potential of light and reflection to create simple illusions of space and form. He is most interested in producing work that serves as a vehicle to re-imagine the space encountered - to deconstruct perceived physical limitations - and facilitate a kind of meditative response allowing viewers to interpret the illusion of space created as reality. He enjoys working with illusion for its ability to evoke the sublime and its power to interrogate our understanding of the world around us. Playing with perception, he invites viewers to exercise their imagination and see the world in new ways.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) from the University of South Australia in 2006, Sims has exhibited across Australia as well as in Hong Kong, the USA, the UK and Europe. His work is held in major public and private collections around the world and he has been a finalist in a numerous awards. In 2021, Sims was commissioned by Illuminate Adelaide to deliver a major public artwork as a gift to the city to celebrate the Festival's inaugural year, and in the past year he has exhibited work in exhibitions and art fairs in Melbourne, Miami, Palm Beach, London, Amsterdam, Paris, Lille, Karlsruhe, Madrid and Seoul.



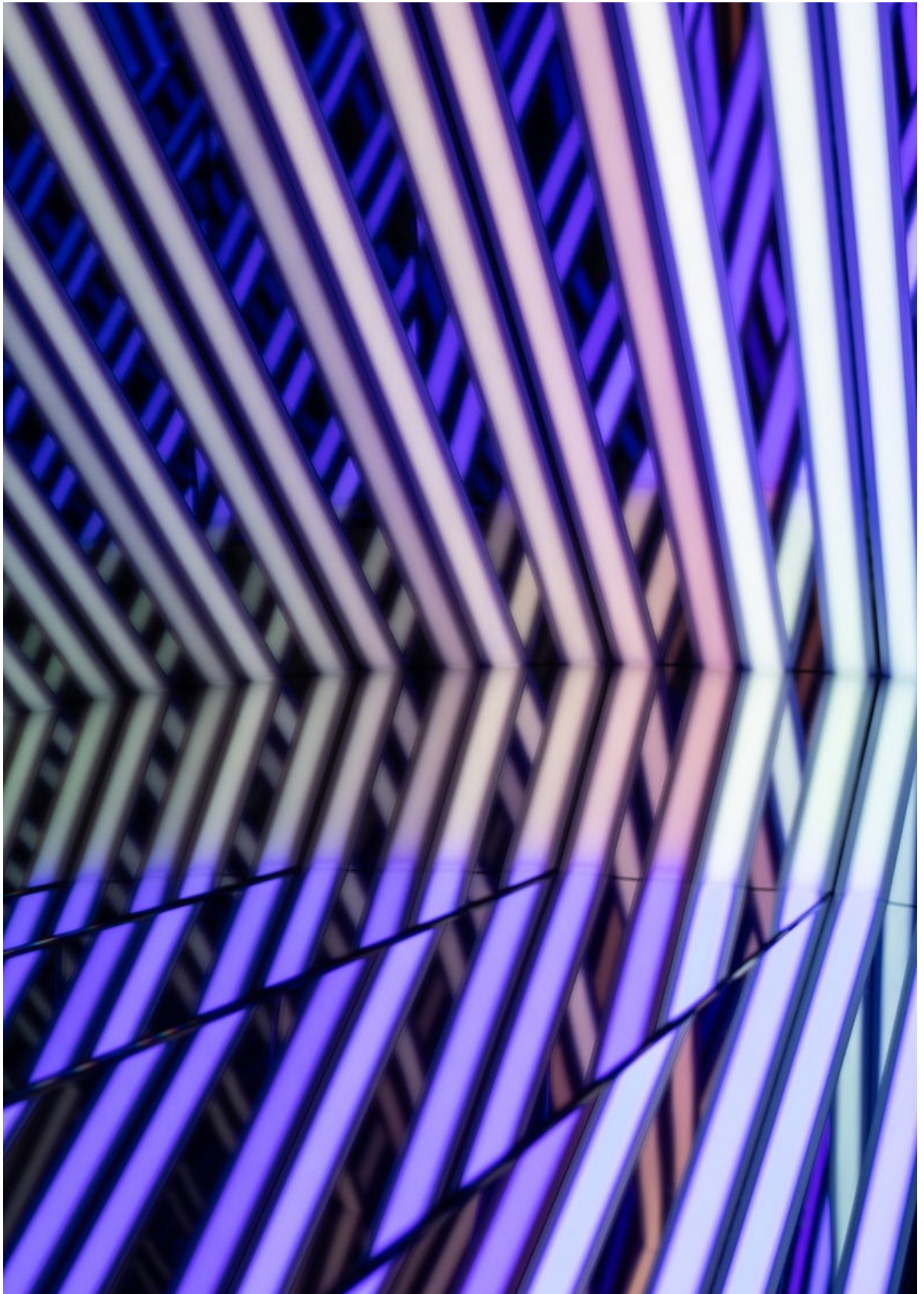
Lightscape VI

2023

reflective glass, powder coated steel, mirror, aluminium and LED lighting

110 x 110 x 13cm

Edition of 3



Lightscape VI (detail)

2023

reflective glass, powder coated steel, mirror, aluminium and LED lighting

110 x 110 x 13cm

Edition of 3



Structural Nature IV

2023

reflective glass, powder coated steel, aluminium, LED lighting and painted plinth

113 x 97 x 58cm

edition of 3



Structural Nature IV (detail)

2023

reflective glass, powder coated steel, aluminium, LED lighting and painted plinth

113 x 97 x 58cm

edition of 3

CV

Jason Sims

Education

2007-2008 Bachelor of Education (Graduate Entry), The University of South Australia

2006 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours), The University of South Australia

2003-2005 Bachelor of Visual Arts, The University of South Australia / Bishops University, Canada

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2020 New Work, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2019 New Work, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2018 Spatial Acuity, Madison Gallery, Solana Beach, California USA

2017 Built Space, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2016 More or Less, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2015 The Collections Project, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA

2014 Timelines, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2013 Fragment, The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong

The Space Between, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide SA

Beyond, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2012 Simulacra, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW

Nowhere, Aeon Arts, Syndicate Gallery, Sydney NSW

2011 BlackBox, Gaffa - Rocks Pop-up Gallery, Sydney NSW

Present in Absence, AP Bond Aboriginal and Contemporary Art, Adelaide SA

2010 Suspend, Gallery 139, Adelaide SA

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023 Art Wynywood, HOFA Gallery, Miami USA

London Art Fair, ARTITLEDcontemporary, London UK

2022 Context: Art Miami, HOFA Gallery, Miami USA

PAN Amsterdam, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Amsterdam NL

Light Show, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC

Moderne Art Fair, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Paris FR

Kiaf Plus, HOFA Gallery, Seoul KS

Art Karlsruhe, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Karlsruhe DE

KunstRAI, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Amsterdam NL

Art Palm Beach, HOFA Gallery, Palm Beach USA

Lille Art Up!, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Lille FR

Art Madrid, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Madrid ESP

Refractions, HOFA Gallery, London UK

2021 Context: Art Miami, HOFA Gallery, Miami USA

- PAN Amsterdam, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Amsterdam NL
 Matter & Form, HOFA Gallery, London UK
 Awakening, HOFA Gallery, London UK
 This Moment, HOFA Gallery, London UK
 London Art Fair: Edit, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Virtual Edition
- 2020 Tom Malone Prize 2020, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
 London Art Fair, ARTITLEDcontemporary, London UK
- 2019 Beyond Borders, Unit London, London UK
 PAN Amsterdam, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Amsterdam NL
 Sydney Contemporary, MARS Gallery, Sydney NSW
 Art Market San Francisco, Madison Gallery, San Francisco, California USA
 KunstRAI, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Amsterdam NL
- 2018 Curiouser & Curiouser, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst NSW
 PAN Amsterdam, ARTITLEDcontemporary, Amsterdam NL
 BOAA, Biennale of Australian Art, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat VIC
 Sydney Contemporary, MARS Gallery, Sydney NSW
 Tom Malone Prize 2018, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
 Hong Kong Central Art Fair, MARS Gallery, Hong Kong
 Imagine, Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale VIC
 London Art Fair, ARTITLEDcontemporary, London UK
- 2017 Art The Hague, ARTITLEDcontemporary NL
 Hong Kong Central Art Fair, MARS Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2016 Incandescence, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2015 Patternation, Hazelhurst Regional Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
 Sydney Contemporary, MARS Gallery, Sydney NSW
 Tom Malone Prize 2015, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
- 2014 New Works, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC
 Melbourne Art Fair, MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC
 Young Collectors, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide SA
- 2013 Tom Malone Prize 2013, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
 Affordable Art Fair, The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2012 Tom Malone Prize 2012, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
- 2010 SafARI, First Draft Gallery, Sydney NSW

Public Art & Private Commissions

- 2021 Golden Rhombohedron (obtuse), public artwork commissioned by Adelaide City Council and
 Illuminate Adelaide for the Market to Riverbank link, Grote Street, Adelaide SA
- 2020 Landscape of Light, 660cm long wall work commissioned by AMP Capital Investors for ground floor
 lobby, Collins Street, Melbourne VIC
- 2019 Echo, public artwork commissioned by Unley City Council, Heywood Park, Unley, Adelaide SA

- 2018 Untitled, site-specific installation transforming built-in aquarium for private client, Melbourne VIC
- 2017 Golden Rhombohedron (acute), public artwork commissioned by Adelaide City Council and Renew Adelaide for the Market to Riverbank link, Bank Street, Adelaide SA
Untitled, site-specific installation across 6 floor lift shaft at MARS Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2016 MDLU 792015 4, public artwork commissioned by Capital Alliance Docklands Pty Ltd for M Docklands, Melbourne VIC

Selected Awards & Achievements

- 2022 Project Grant, Arts South Australia
Market Development Grant, Arts South Australia
- 2021 Finalist, Fuse Prize
- 2020 Project Grant, Arts South Australia
Finalist, Tom Malone Glass Prize
- 2019 Finalist, Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art
- 2018 Finalist, Tom Malone Glass Prize
Building Pathways Grant, Arts SA
- 2017 Project Grant, Arts SA
- 2015 Winner, The Advertiser Contemporary Art Prize, SALA Festival
Project Grant, Arts SA
Finalist, Tom Malone Glass Prize
- 2014 Winner, People's Choice Award, Hobart Art Prize
- 2013 Finalist, Tom Malone Glass Prize
- 2012 Project Grant, Arts SA
Jump Mentorship, Youth Arts Queensland, supported by Australia Council
Finalist, Tom Malone Glass Prize
Finalist, Alice Prize
- 2011 Finalist, Tom Malone Glass Prize
- 2010 ArtStart Grant, Australia Council for the Arts

Publications

- 2021 Walter Marsh, In the Studio with Jason Sims, InReview, 21 July 2021,
<https://indaily.com.au/inreview/visual-art/2021/07/21/in-the-studio-with-jason-sims/>.
- 2018 Ashley Crawford, 'What Next - Jason Sims, Art Collector Special Ed, Sydney Contemporary, pp. 34-35.
- 2017 Contemporary Australian Glass: The Tom Malone Prize 2003-2017, Art Gallery of WA, 2017.
- 2016 Nick Mitzevich, 'The secret lives of artists', InDaily, Wednesday 5 October 2016,
<http://indaily.com.au/opinion/2016/10/05/the-secret-lives-of-artists/>.
- 2015 Freya Herring (ed.), 'Don't Miss', Vogue Living, July/Aug 2016, p.120.
Robert Reason, 'SALA Festival: Jason Sims', Articulate, Winter 2015, pp.12-13.
Jane Llewellyn, 'Profile: Jason Sims', The Adelaide Review, July 2015, p.31.
Peter McDonald, 'Glass is half full for Jason', The Advertiser, Sat 4 July 2015, p.21.

- 2014 Helen McKenzie, 'Lightbulb Moments', Art Collector Special Ed, Melbourne Art Fair, pp.48-51.
2013 Suzanne Peck, 'On the Edge', Craft Arts International, No. 87, 2013, pp. 30-33.

Collections

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Gippsland Art Gallery

Artbank

Private national and international collections

[MARS]

All prices are in Australian dollars and inclusive of GST.

Delivery costs are not included - please contact the gallery for assistance with delivery.

Prices are correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change without notice.
For sales enquiries please contact andy@marsgallery.com.au

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