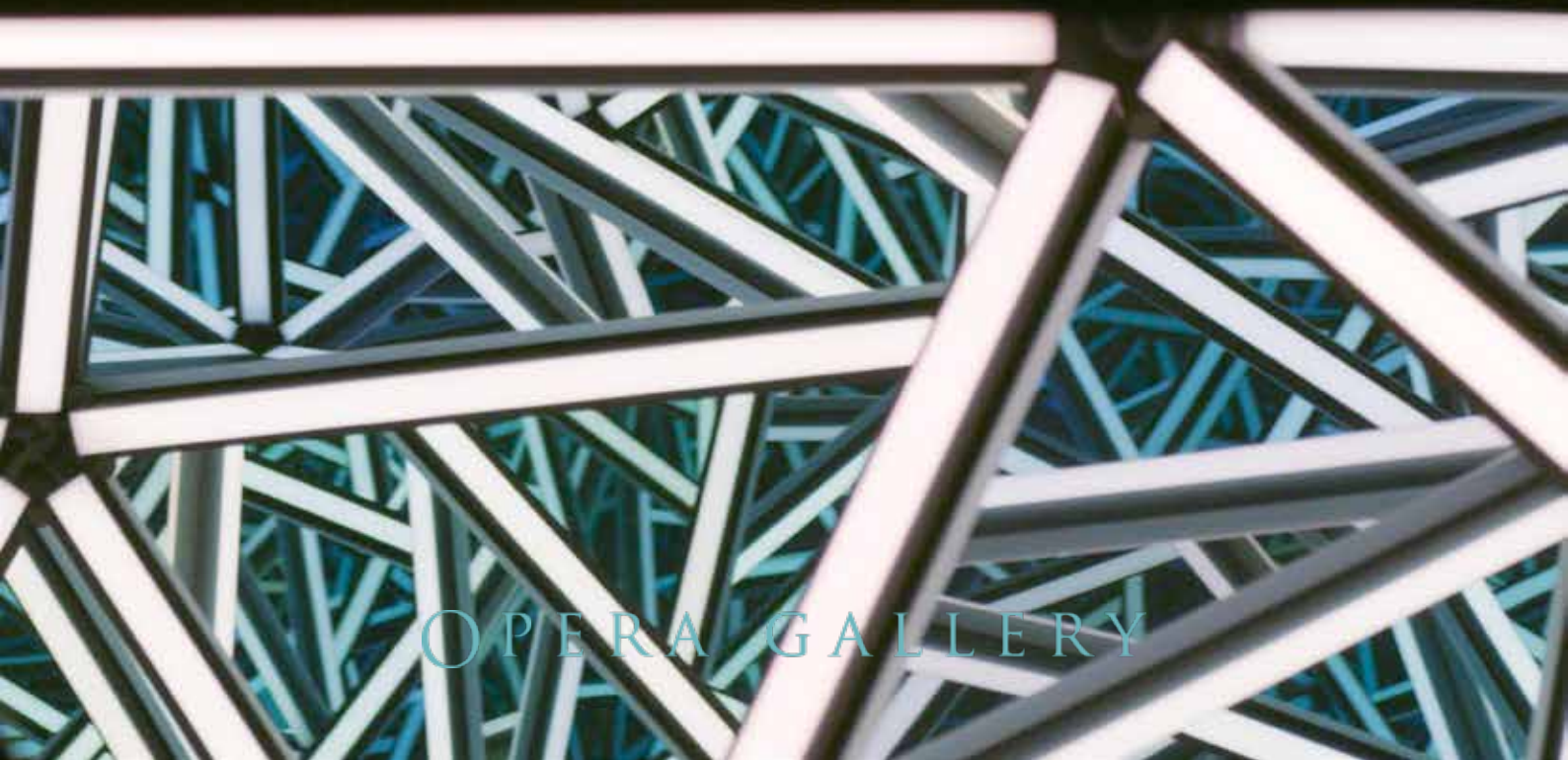


ANTHONY JAMES  
LET THERE BE LIGHT

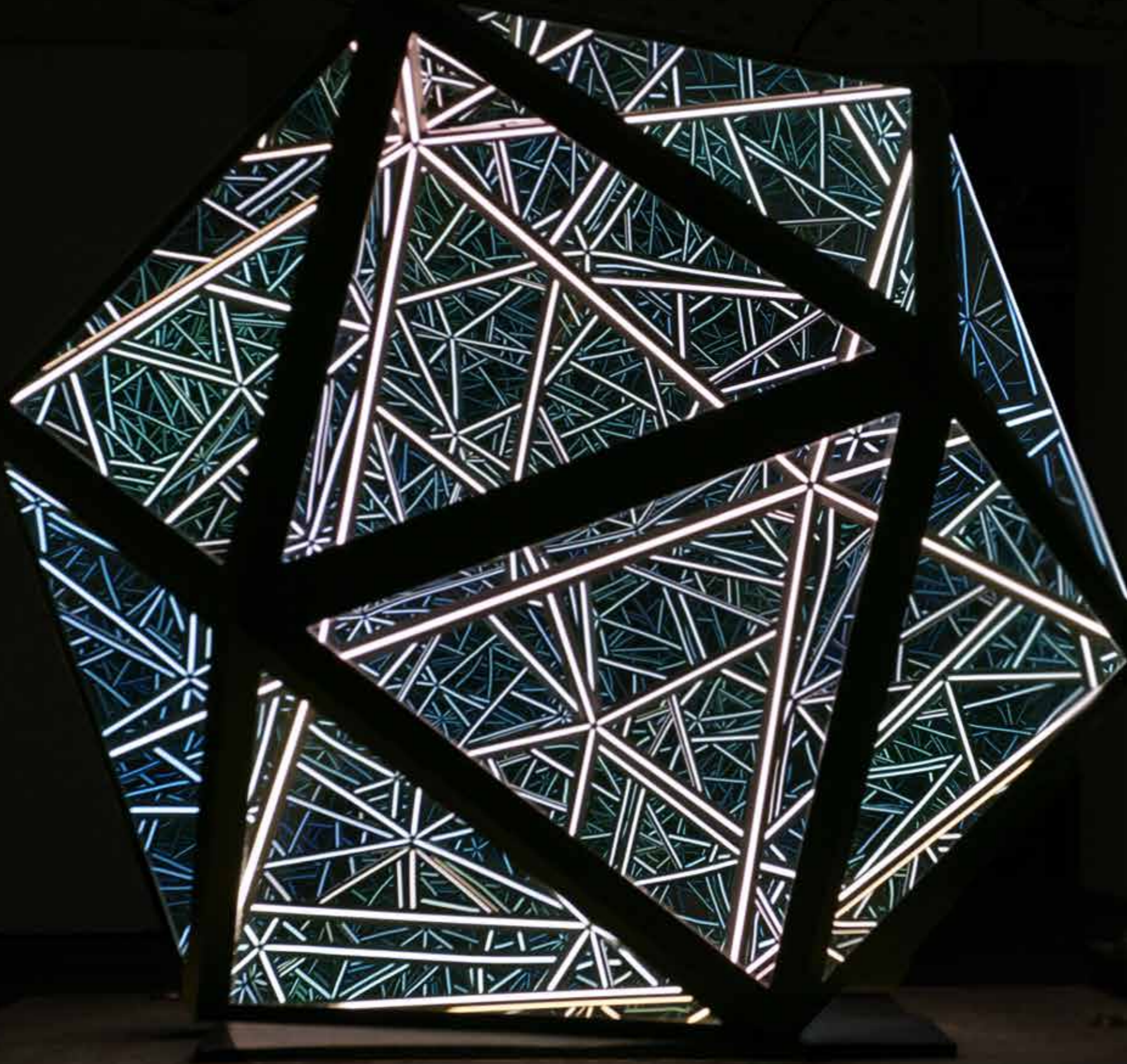


OPERA GALLERY

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# LET THERE BE LIGHT

1 - 18 OCTOBER 2020





## PREFACE

Light has always been an essential component of artistic expression, from the shimmering sunsets of a Monet painting, the stark contrast and glowing portraits by Rembrandt and to interplay of shadows under Henri Cartier Bresson's lens. Through the imagination and creativity of the artist, light can become a fundamental tool of creation and expression.

This illuminating exhibition sheds a new light on one of the Contemporary masters of this element. Opera Gallery is proud to present this curated selection of the unique works of art by Anthony James.

Anthony James was born in England in 1974. He studied in London at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design from 1994 to 1998. Based in Los Angeles, James is a celebrated British-American artist defined by his monumental and futuristic installations and sculptures represented in museums, exhibitions and private collections around the world.

In a cosmic fusion of art, science and mathematics, James's work gestures towards minimalism and experimentation with light and space. Echoing Euclidian geometry and Platonic solids, iconic sculptures such as the Icosahedron provide an artistic rendition of Plato's theory of perfection of geometry and mathematical precision. Standing before an Anthony James's Portal sculpture is akin to gazing into an illuminated threshold, as his geometrical sculptures of metal, mirror and light give a glimpse into infinity and the endlessness of eternity.

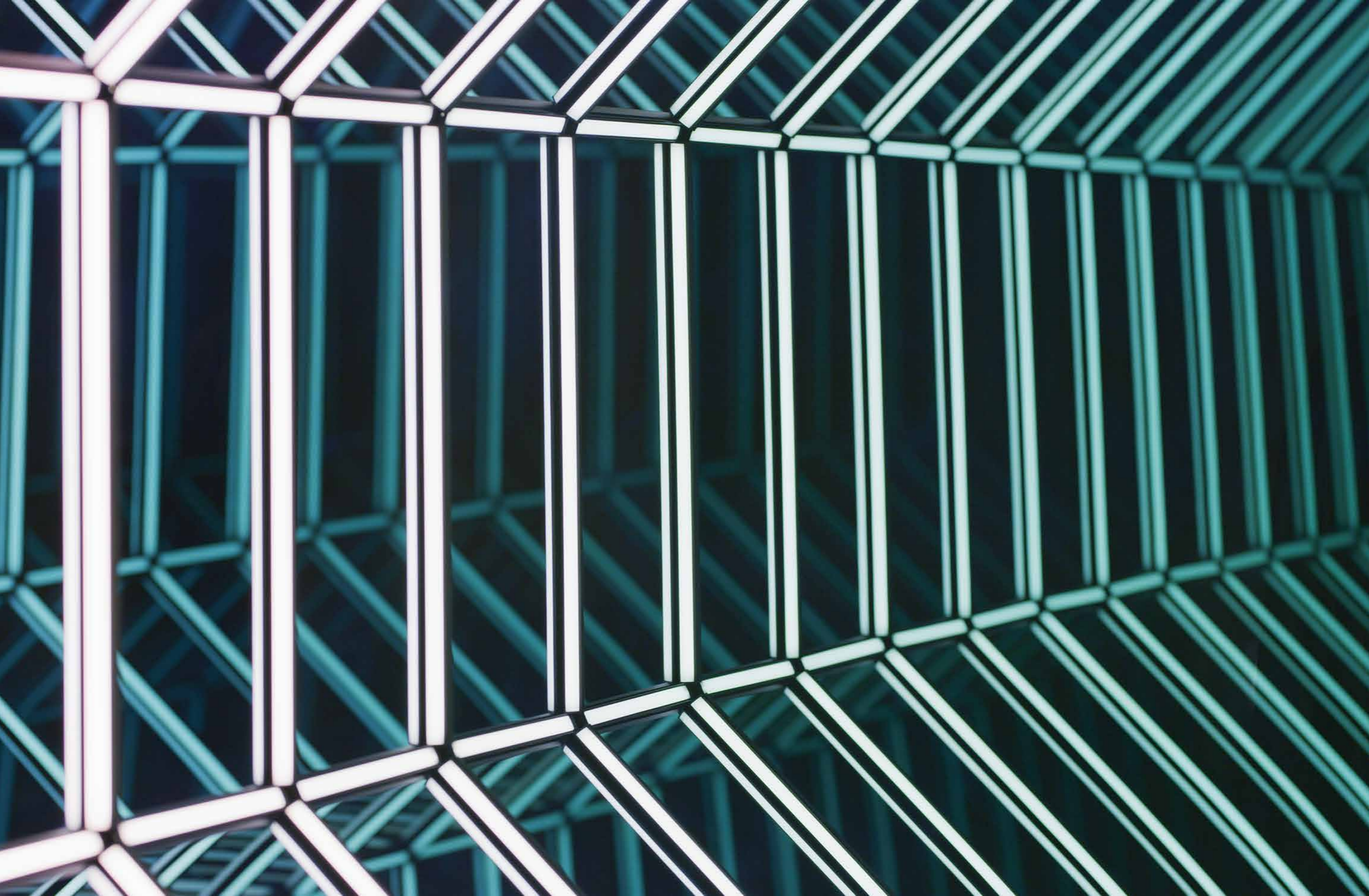
James's wall artworks explore the reflective aspect of metal through unique textures and renderings of the materials. This unique, previously unseen series establishes him as an all-rounded Contemporary artist who is able to create a vast spectrum of artworks in an ever-expanding aesthetic.

It is with great pleasure that Opera Gallery Singapore invites you to enter the effulgent world of Anthony James.

Gilles Dyan  
Founder and Chairman  
Opera Gallery Group

Stéphane Le Pelletier  
Director Asia Pacific  
Opera Gallery

Irene Chee  
Gallery Manager  
Opera Gallery Singapore



50" Icosahedron (Solar White)  
2020

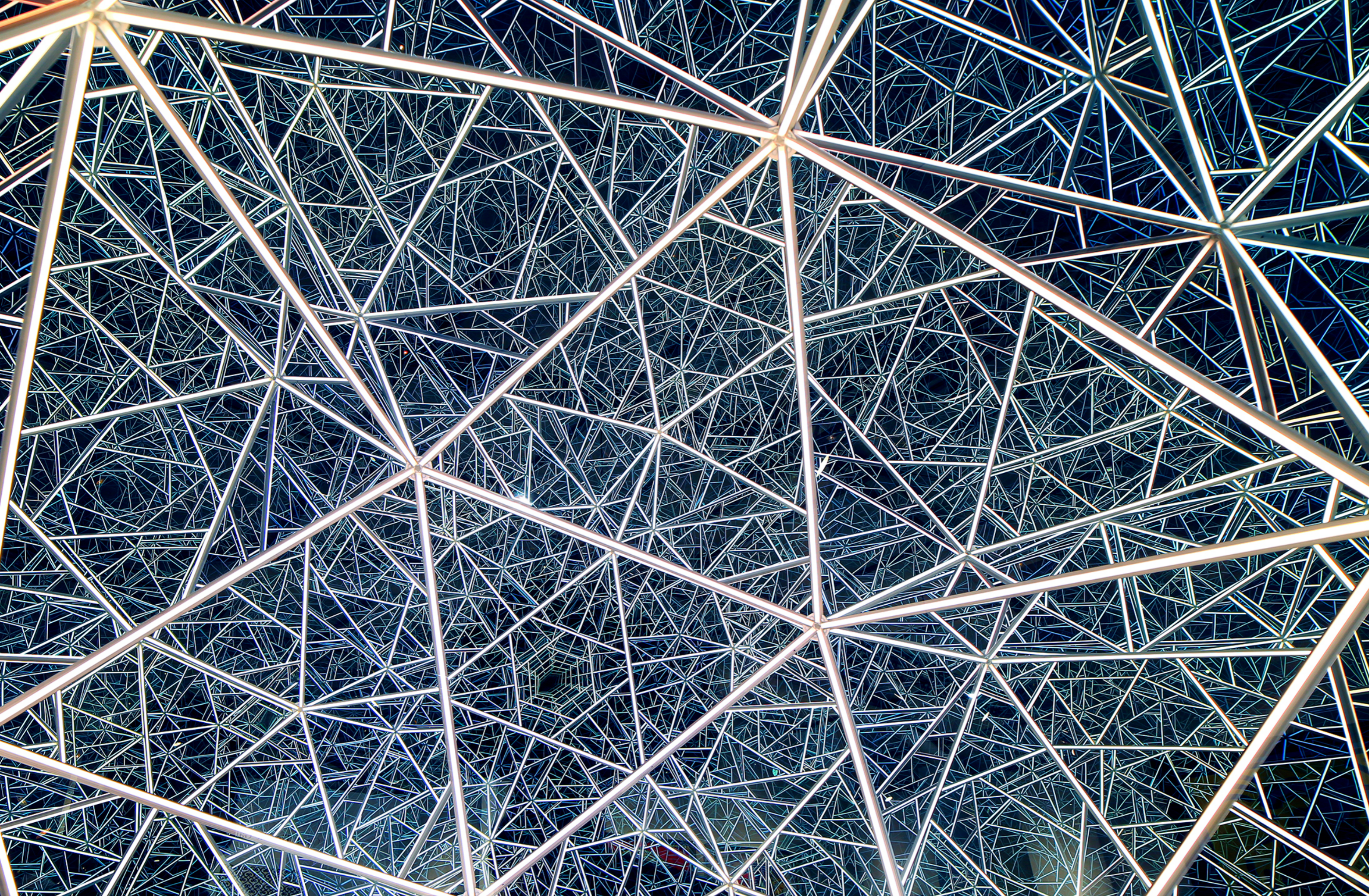
Stainless steel, specialised glass, LED,  
solar white finish  
Edition of 6  
127 x 127 x 127 cm - 50 x 50 x 50 in



24" Dodecahedron (Solar White)  
2020

Stainless steel, specialised glass, LED,  
solar white finish  
Edition of 24  
80 x 66 x 60 cm - 31.5 x 26 x 23.6 in





24" Icosahedron (Solar Black)  
2020

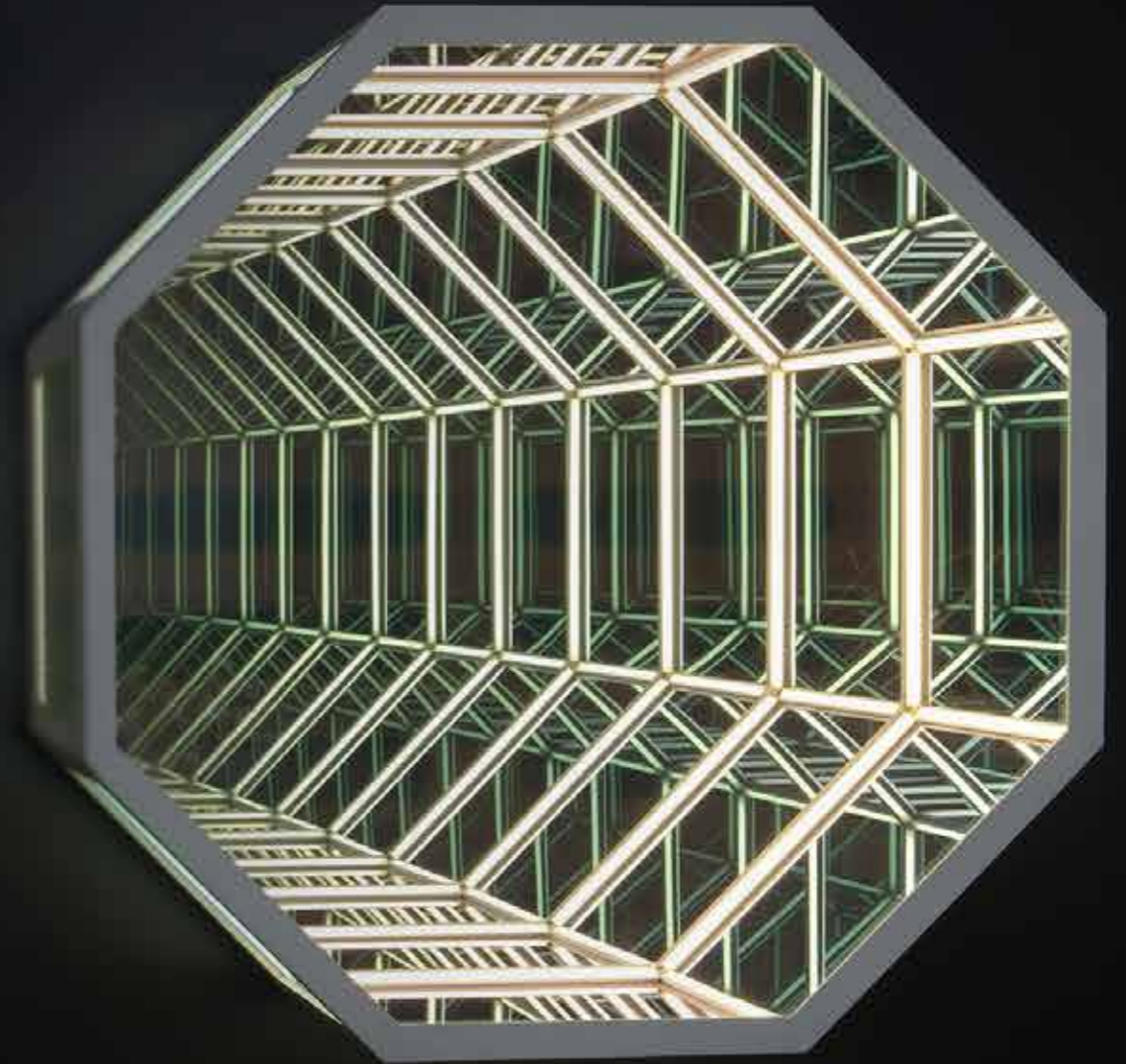
Stainless steel, specialised glass, LED,  
solar black finish  
Edition of 24  
61 x 61 x 61 cm - 24 x 24 x 24 in





36" Wall Portal (Silver Birch Gray)  
2020

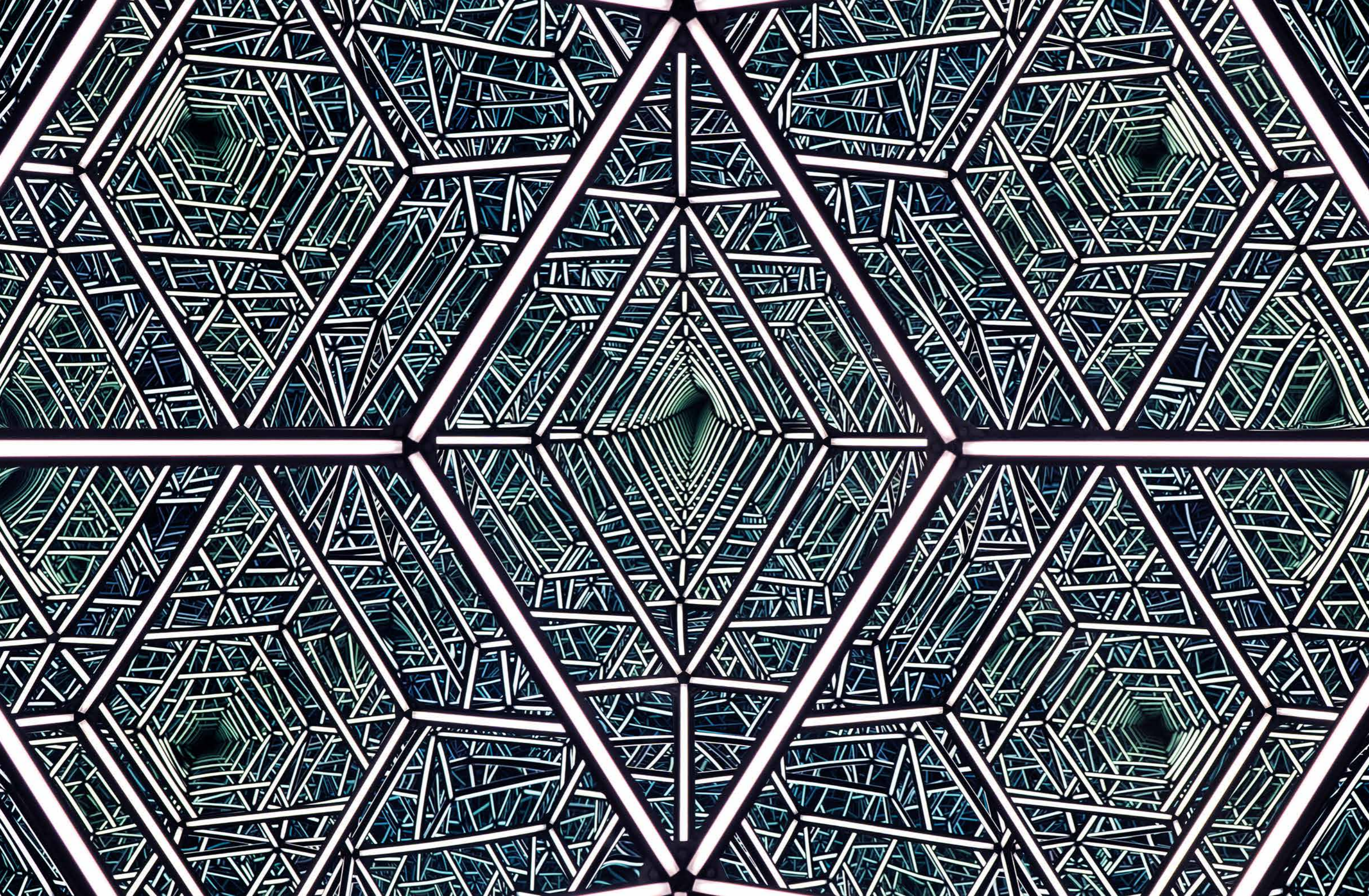
Stainless steel, specialised glass, LED  
silver birch gray finish  
Edition of 6  
91.4 x 91.4 x 38.1 cm - 36 x 36 x 15 in



50" Tricontahedron (Solar Black)  
2020

Stainless steel, specialised glass, LED,  
solar black finish  
Edition of 6  
127 x 127 x 127 cm - 50 x 50 x 50 in





24" Icosahedron (Solar White)  
2020

Stainless steel, specialised glass, LED,  
solar white finish  
Edition of 24  
61 x 61 x 61 cm - 24 x 24 x 24 in



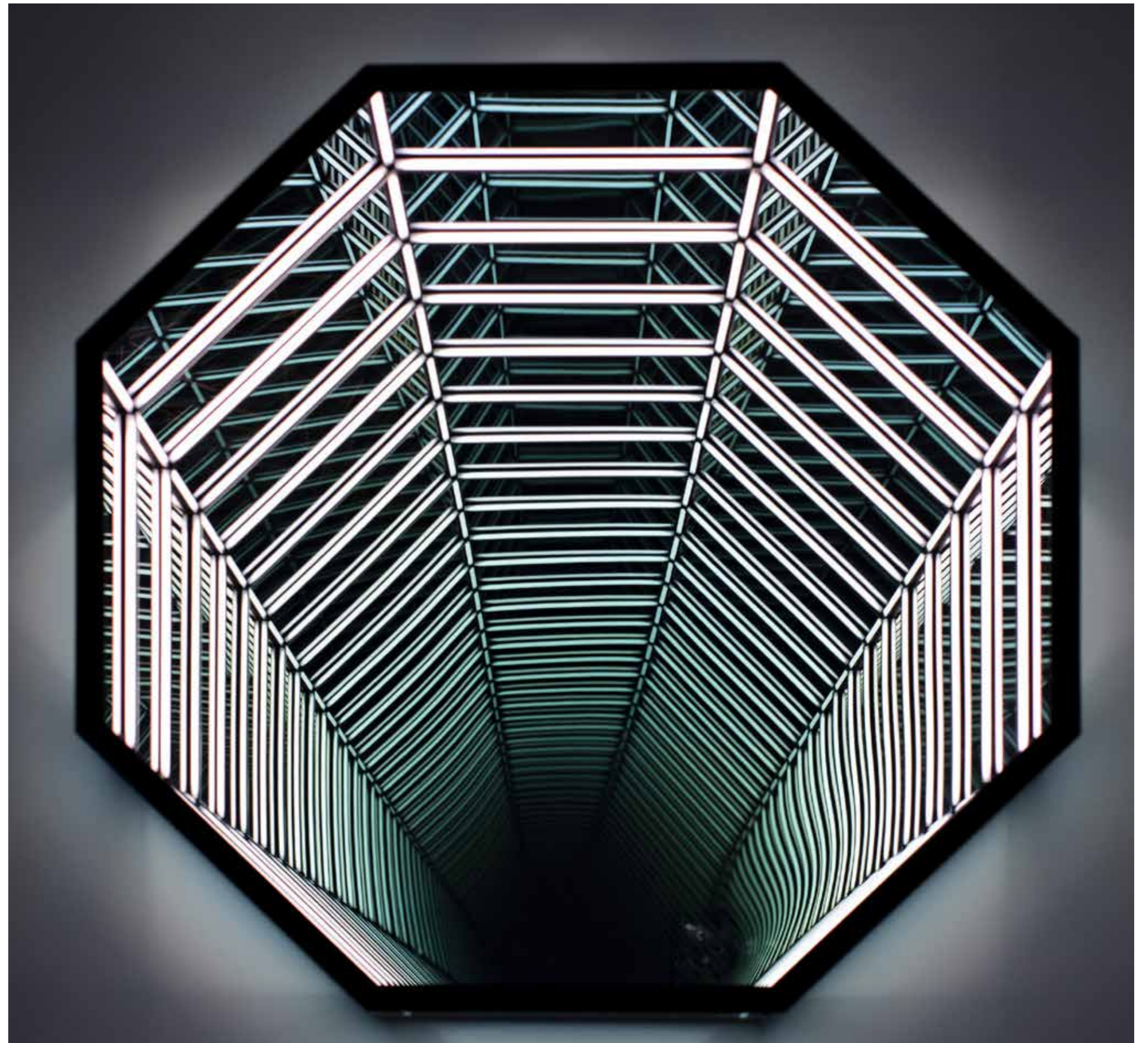
46" Wall Portal (Solar Black)

2020

Powder-coated stainless steel, specialised glass, LED,  
solar black finish

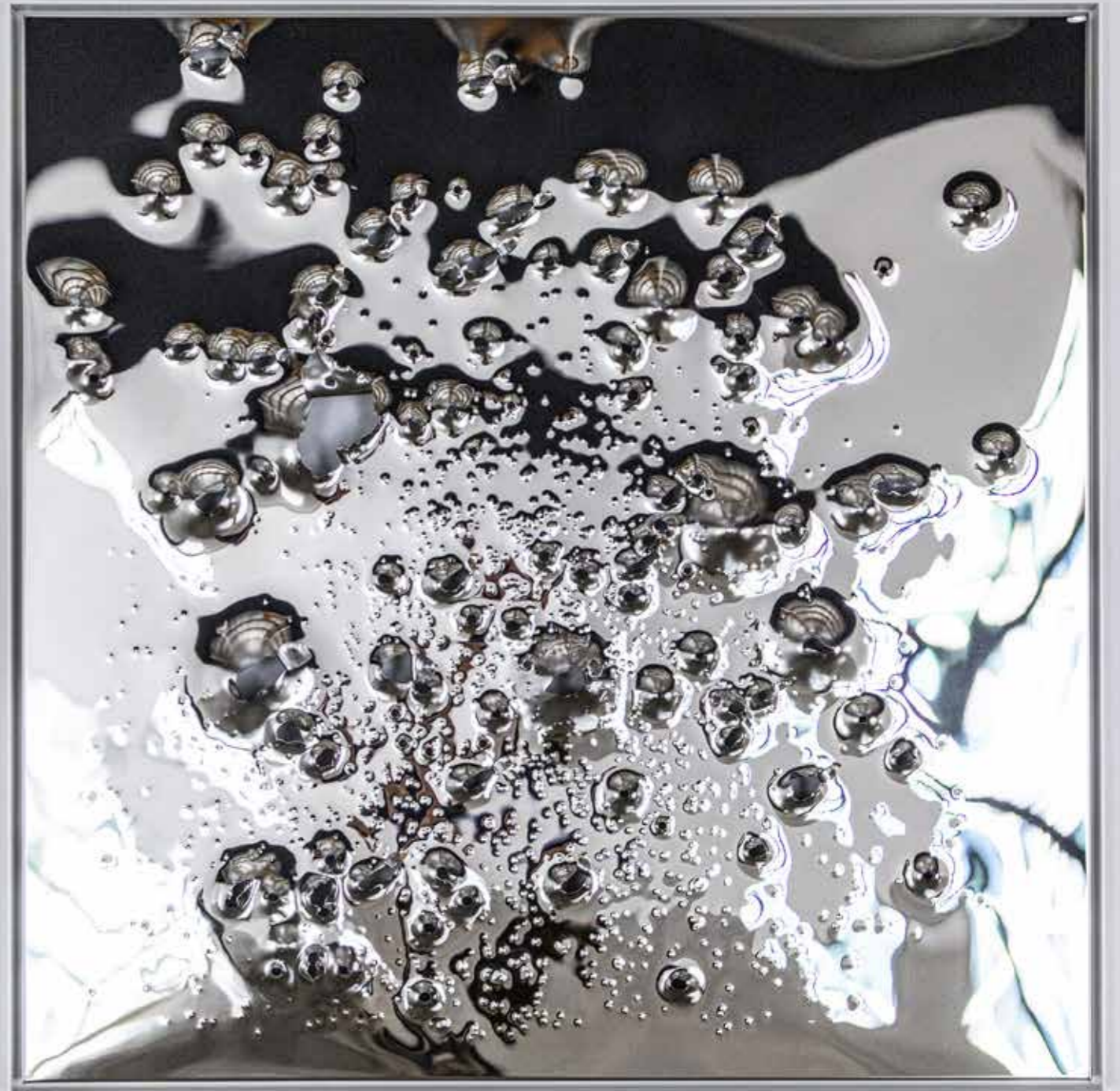
Edition of 6

116.8 x 116.8 x 38.1 cm - 46 x 46 x 15 in



40" Bullet Painting  
2020

Polished stainless steel  
Unique piece  
101.6 x 101.6 cm - 40 x 40 in





Installation:

30" Bullet painting  
2020

Polished stainless steel  
Unique piece  
Each panel: 76.2 x76.2 cm - 30 x 30 in



REPOSE - Ferrari 250TR  
2020

Bronze Repoussé  
Unique piece  
152,4 x 396,2 x 81,3 cm (152,4 x 396,2 x 132,1 cm with frame)  
60 x 156 x 32 in (60 x 156 x 52 with frame)



REPOSE - Ferrari P4  
2020

Bronze Repoussé  
Unique piece  
182,9 x 426,7 x 86,4 cm (182,9 x 426,7 x 142,2 cm with frame)  
72 x 168 x 34 in (72 x 168 x 56 in with frame)





## ANTHONY JAMES

B. 1974

Anthony James is a British-American artist based in Los Angeles, known for his monumental installations and sculptures. He was born in England in 1974 and studied in London at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design from 1994 to 1998. His work gestures towards minimalism, materiality, process, alchemy, language, mechanisation and experimentation with light and space.

The *Birch* series of sculptures were debuted in New York City in 2005. They consist of several variously sized, freestanding and wall-mounted, internally illuminated, steel and glass vitrines with birch tree trunks inside. The birch tree is associated with magical symbolism. Many anthropologists consider it to be a possible agent of the transformation of human consciousness. The birch tree is also “associated with birth and rebirth” and is “hermaphroditic and self-propagating, with male and female flowers on the same tree”. The works have mirrored sides, which give the illusion of endless birch forests. These artworks also reference the containment and simulation of nature.

His *Portal* sculptures take up the concepts of the universal and transcendental. The historical cosmology of Plato is a primary inspiration for the sculptures. The effect is both esoteric and scientific, morphic and distinctly concrete. The historical references here span the empirical experimentation of cultures.

James’s objects show a formal certainty and perspicuity (exact symmetry, white light, accurate shape) that registers purity, autonomy and wholeness. Although his works illustrate ideals, themselves are very contingent and actual: they are made for today.

The sculptures operate between the iconic and the arbitrary, the concrete and the alchemic, the mythical and the experiential. James describes his work as, “evoking pictorial depictions of the cosmos, alluding to notions of mysticism, ethereality, spirituality and science, all the while anchored through the use of weighty, industrial materials”.

*Icosahedrons* – the geometric globes of twenty identical triangular facets – were a mathematical experiment in unity used by Plato to demonstrate an ideal compositional system of perfect symmetry in three dimensions. In a twenty-first century gallery space, the glass, steel, and LED structures bring a rigid and gleaming tangibility to the abstraction of the numerical calculation of flawless coherence. James’s artworks are compelling approximations, facsimiles of understanding and belief thousands of years old that come down to us on our own terms of modern metals and technological light.

Anthony James has exhibited in several international museums. His first monograph, ‘Morphic fields’, was published by Hatje Cantz in 2014. His work has recently been exhibited at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, USA, ‘Crystals in Art, ancient and today’ (October 2019 - January 2020), curated by Joachim Pissarro and Lauren Hayes.

Opera Gallery would like to thank the artist for his help and generosity that made this exhibition possible.

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Published by Opera Gallery to coincide with the exhibition  
LET THERE BE LIGHT, 1 - 18 October 2020.

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