



# Generator

Chuck Elliott / process and progress / 2012

CATTO GALLERY

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Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 12.30am to 6pm and by appointment

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## Process and progress / new drawing by Chuck Elliott

Tim Green, November 2012

In 1959 the British scientist and writer CP Snow gave a famous lecture entitled 'The Two Cultures' in which he reasoned that 'the intellectual life of the whole of western society' is divided into two discrete parts: science and the humanities. He went on to despair at the schism, and argued that it actually holds back human progress. That lecture is still referred to today, probably because very little has been done to close that gap and the issue remains relevant. And what a shame, because when artists do show curiosity about science – and vice versa – new and thrilling ideas are born. Consider, for example, the mathematical rigour that underpins the musical poetry of a Philip Glass symphony.

This month at The Catto Gallery, you can see another fine example of the fusing of Snow's 'two cultures'. We're pleased to welcome back, for the second time, the strange and wonderful work of Chuck Elliott.

In his arresting, digitally created images, Chuck – not unlike composer Glass – uses scientific ideas to generate lyrical visual poetry. Chuck's images begin as rudimentary sketches and observations, of natural and geometric forms, which he finesses into kaleidoscopic adventures in line and colour. He thinks deeply about the work, building each layer with tremendous deliberation (in this collection, Radial 3 was drafted 70 times, each study building from and elaborating on the preceeding version). And there is often a complex geometrical dimension to this decision-making: he's interested in symmetry, asymmetry and the fundamental patterns of nature. For example, the Fibonacci number sequence (1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21 etc), which underpins everything from the structure of a pine cone to the shape of a breaking wave and the spiralling arm of a galaxy, drives the geometry in his 'Collider' series.

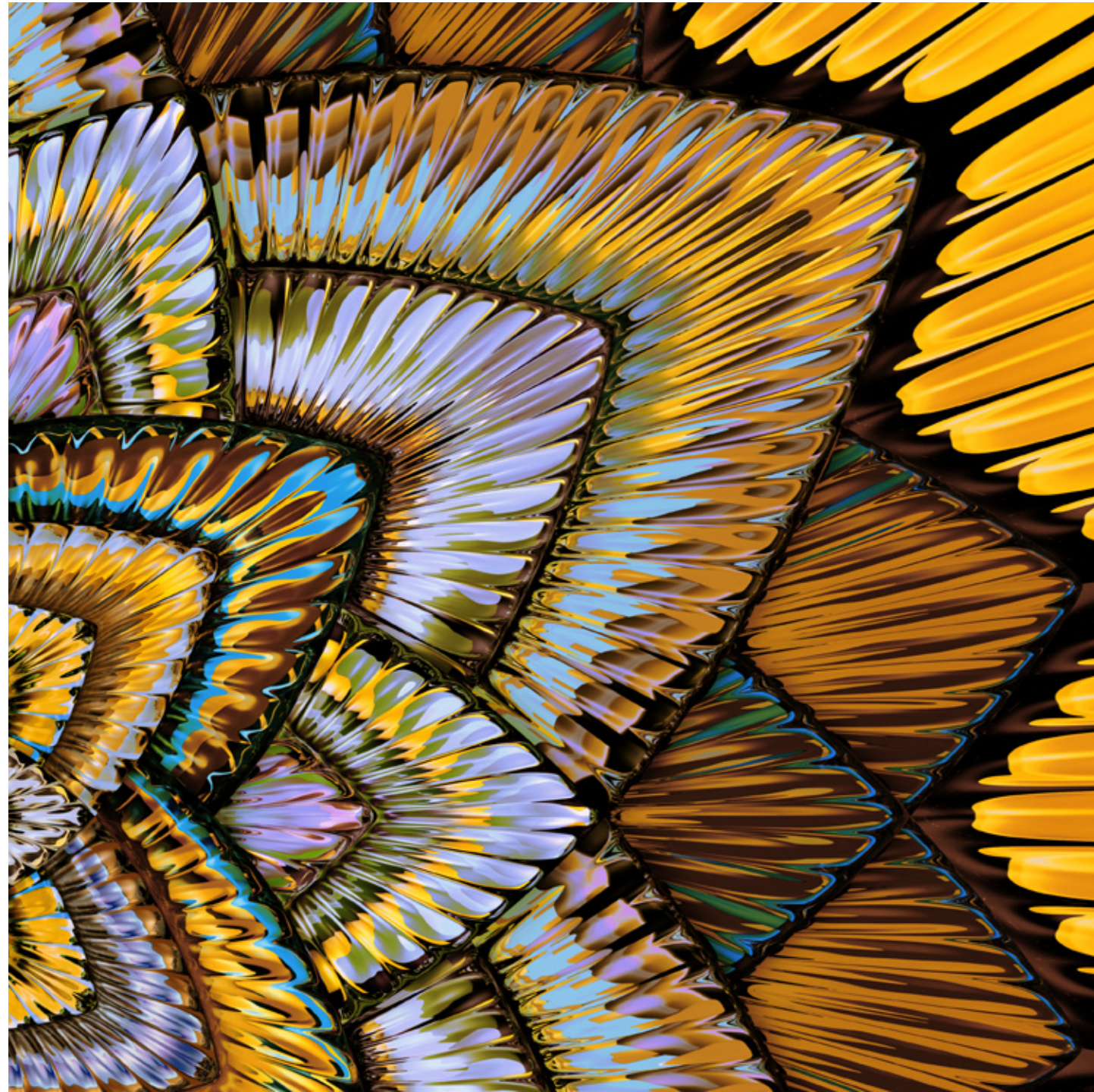
Much of Chuck's output centres on the idea of applying a series of adjustments to a complex arrangement and, well, seeing where it leads. Here's how Chuck conceived the Radial series, for example. "I asked the question: what would happen if you took the centre of the picture and cut it away, along with the horizon line, and the corners. The conclusion is that the work demands to be read in a completely different way, as a continual loop of imagery, much like a möbius strip." From there he moved to the idea of using time as a component of the image making process, compressing multiple frames from a sequence of images into a single final composition. And so the experiments continue.

Of course, the beauty of nature often derives from its imperfections. And this is another idea Chuck has been keen to explore in this new collection. He says: "I'm interested in the removal of repetition. Taking away some of the underlying rhythm in the work, and substituting it with a more off-kilter, asymmetrical feel that's more naturalistic. When a series of number patterns are overlaid and multiplied, the geometry moves in more freeform ways, so there is a sense of discovering more naturalistic sequences, the kind that generate growth in the natural world."

In order to do justice to these ideas – and to produce effervescent images that ultimately speak to the heart as well as the brain – Chuck has developed a particular printing technique. This involves using Lambda prints (where photographic paper is exposed to laser light) presented in a Diasec mount (in which the print is sealed between an aluminium backing sheet and a Perspex face). The effect re-defines the term 'pin sharp'.

There is no artist more committed to his craft than Chuck Elliott. He's been refining his vision since he jettisoned his design career in 2004 to explore his own unique vision, allowing him to use the digital tools he'd employed in the commercial world in a far more experimental manner.

Today, eight years on, Chuck is at the height of his powers, bursting with ideas, and constantly evolving his understanding of how to realise them. But ultimately, we hope you'll agree, the images speak for themselves.



COLLIDER / GILDED MANDALA  
120cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



SPINNAKER / SILVERED  
80cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



SPINNAKER / CERULEAN AEGIS  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



LYRIC / DEEP BASE  
100cm H x 82cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



LYRIC / COPPER BASE  
147cm H x 120cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



ORBIT / TURQUOISE AEGIS  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



ORBIT / HELIOCENTRIC  
120cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



RADIAL 3 / resEdit  
44cm H x 44cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec

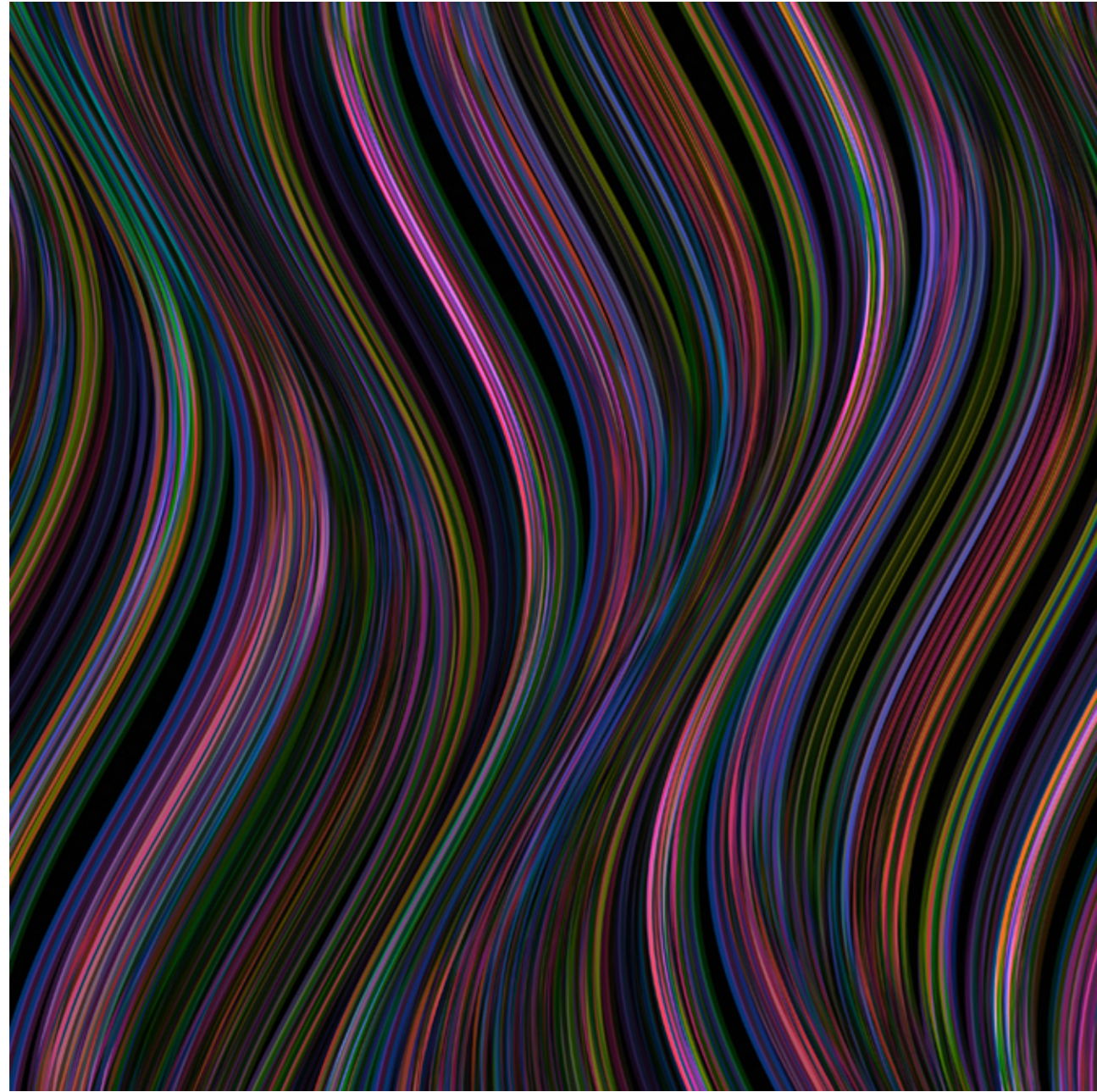


RADIAL 3 / KANDY BLACK  
120cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec

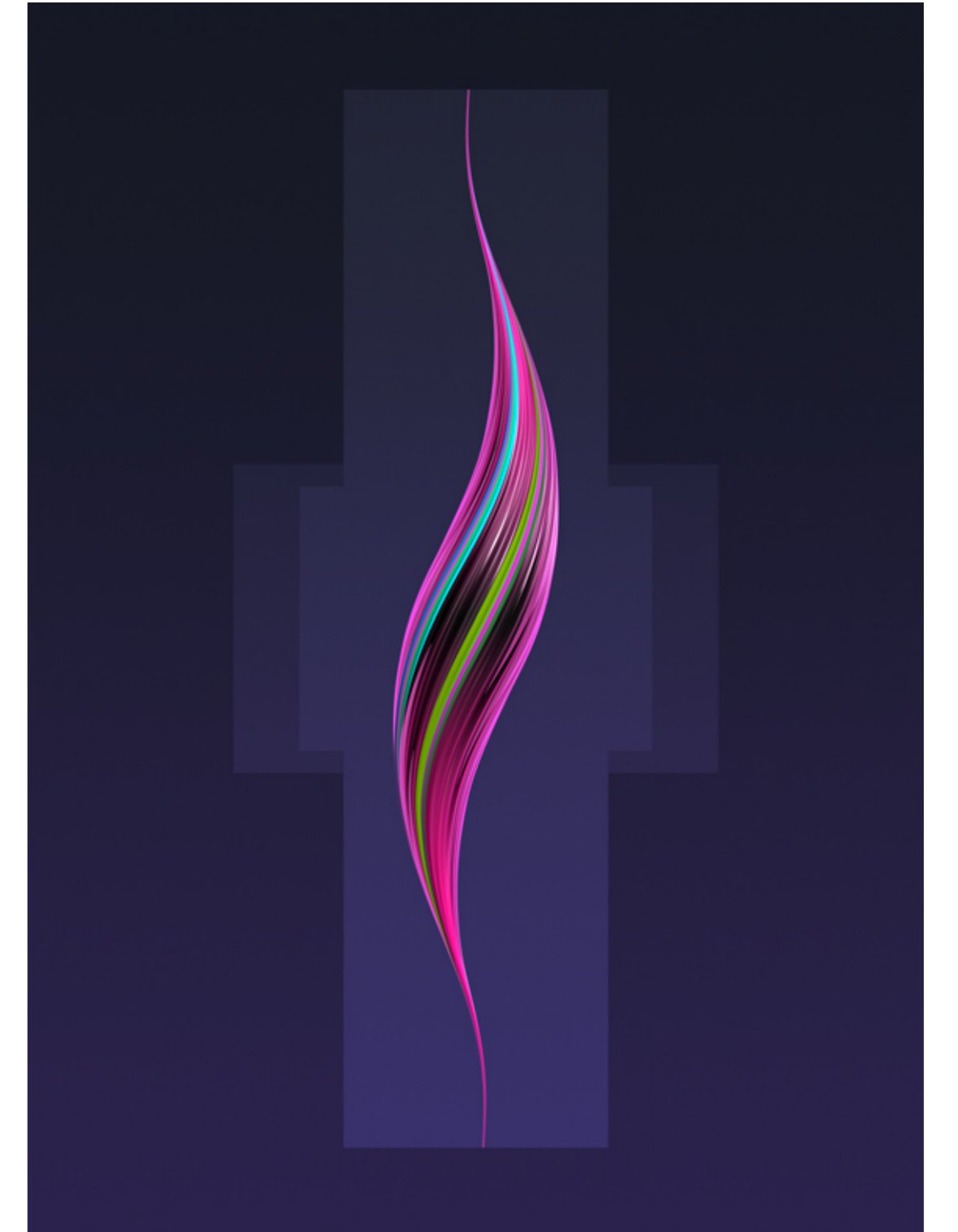




ReVOX / SILVERED  
74cm H x 74cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



BLACK WAVE  
74cm H x 74cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



ARPEGGI / SOLUS  
52cm H x 40cm W  
Pigment print on Somerset Velvet, 330gsm



RADIAL 2 / CERULEAN SHELLFORM  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



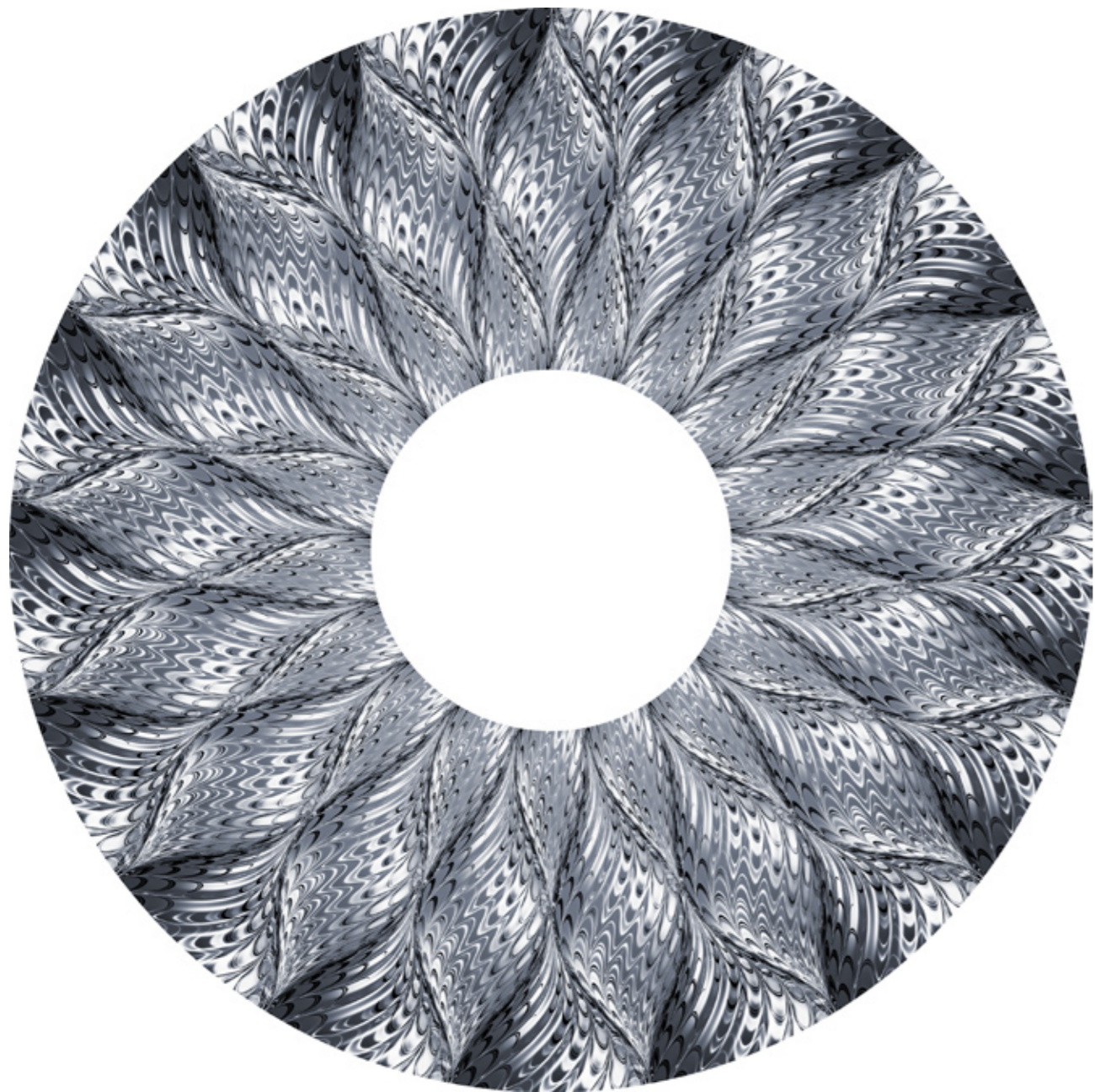
RADIAL 2 / RUBINE SHELLFORM  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



EVOL / HARD KANDY detail  
80cm H x 66cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



EVOL / DEEP BASE  
120cm H x 98cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



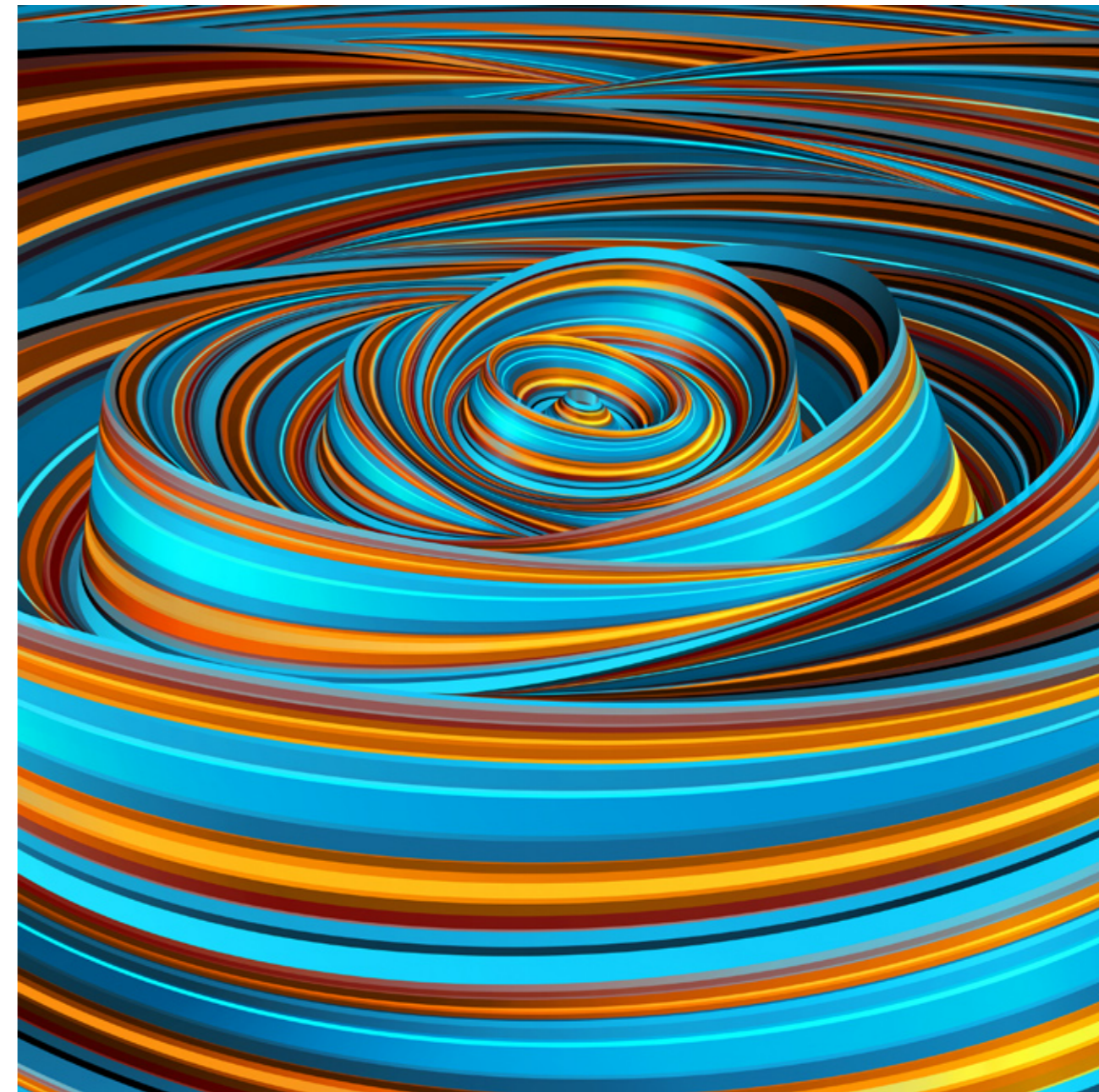
QUAD / SILVERED  
80cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



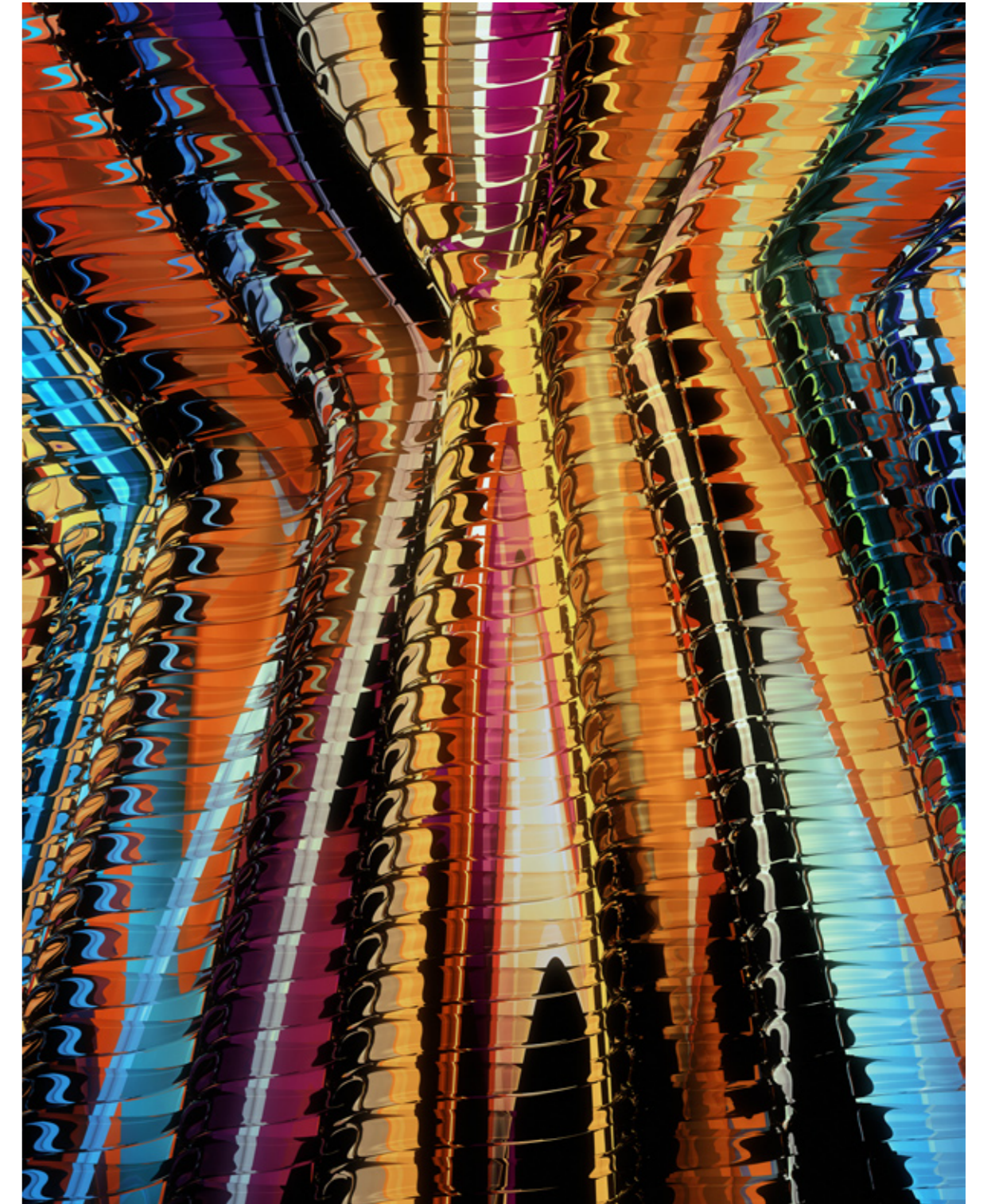
QUAD / TURQUOISE AEGIS  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



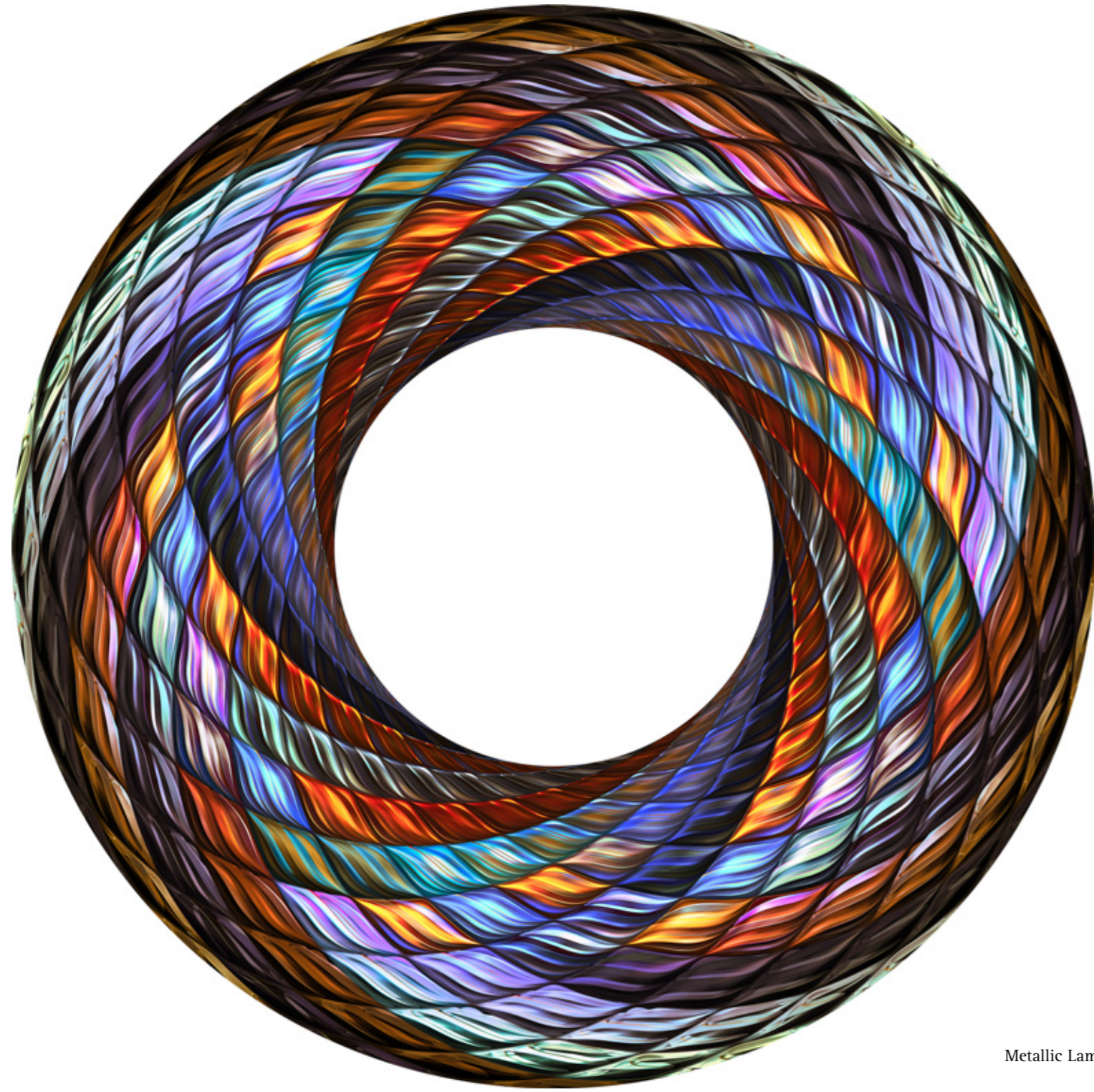
REVOLVER / GILT HELIX  
74cm H x 74cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



REVOLVER / CERULEAN HELIX  
74cm H x 74cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



BLAST FIRST / fractureRefract  
154cm H x 120cm W  
Metallic Lambda print, with Diasec



RADIAL / ONE  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec



ROTOR / BURNT SIENNA  
100cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec





TORSION / PRIMARY  
88cm H x 72cm W  
Pigment print on Somerset Velvet, 330gsm



RADIAL 3 / PEARLESCENT  
120cm diameter  
Metallic Lambda print, with laser cut Diasec

Chuck Elliott. Born 1967, Camberwell, London

- Biography**
- 1992 Graduated with a First Class (Hons) degree in Graphic Art, from Middlesex University, formerly the Hornsey School of Art
  - 1994 DAiS. Founding partner. Commercial art studio, Great Marlborough Street, London W1
  - 1995 Flux. Founding partner. Commercial art studio, Greek Street, London W1
  - 2005 Transistor. Founder. Fine art studio and artists' group. Studio moves to Bristol
- Selected shows**
- 2012 Generator / solo show at the Catto Gallery, London  
MTV ReDEFINE / gala show and charity auction at the Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, Texas  
Spectra / group show at the LondoNewcastle Project Space, Redchurch Street, London E2  
Synaesthetic / solo show at the Beaux Arts Gallery, Bath
  - 2011 Coda at Close / solo show at Close House, Somerset  
Bristol Gallery / solo show alongside Art at the Edge, Olympic and Paralympic sculpture
  - 2010 Chuck Elliott and Derek Balmer / Catto Gallery, Hampstead, London
  - 2009 Red Shift, the Collective / group show at George Ferguson's Tobacco Factory, Bristol
  - 2008 Impact / group show at the Centre for Fine Print Research, UWE  
Bristol Contemporary Open / founder and curator, open group show  
CODA, Chuck Elliott and Anna Gillespie / two man show at The Gallery in Cork Street, London
  - 2007 Revelation / group show at Paintworks, Bristol  
Transistor at The Southbank Centre / group show with Francis Elliott, Lady Lucy and Stanley Donwood
- Selected fairs**
- 2012 London Art Fair / Singapore AAF / New York AAF
  - 2011 Art Chicago / London Art Fair / Art London / New York AAF
  - 2010 Art London / London Art Fair / New York AAF / Manchester Art Fair / Paris AAF
  - 2009 London Art Fair / Chelsea Art Fair / Paris AAF / 20/21, The Royal College of Art
  - 2008 Edinburgh Art Fair / London Art Fair / Amsterdam AAF
  - 2007 artDC, Washington DC / Bridge London / Glasgow Art Fair / FORM, Olympia / Christie's NSPCC art auction / 20/21 International Art Fair  
Modern Works on Paper, The Royal Academy of Arts / London Art Fair
  - 2006 Art London / London Art Fair / New York AAF / Art on Paper, Royal College of Art



Trans Europe Express  
Overnight from Rome to Paris, Summer 2012

Chuck Elliott would like to thank Imogen Green and Iain Barratt, and everyone at Catto Gallery, for their unprecedented support throughout 2012.

For further information, please contact:

Imogen Green and Iain Barratt

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And by appointment

Text by Tim Green

Interior photography by Stephen White, at Close House

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Cover image, detail, Radial 3 / kandy black



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