



Aref Montazari

Immortal Mirror

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LEILA HELLER GALLERY.



"IMMORTAL MIRROR"

In my latest collection, "IMMORTAL MIRROR," I aimed to unveil a fresh essence of the mirror by exploring its defining layers and its intricate relationship with the audience. Metaphorically, I posit that "THE IMAGE IN THE MIRROR IS IMMORTAL," asserting that with each encounter the audience has with the mirror, their image becomes eternally imprinted upon it. Embracing this abstract belief, the mirror takes on the role of a memory bank, capturing the passage of time layer by layer. As time progresses, these layers accumulate, unveiling a mysterious tapestry of images on the mirror's reflective surface. A single gaze at the mirror arrests time before one's eyes, allowing the audience to perceive themselves in the present, juxtaposed against past moments and an infinite array of recorded images within the mirror's layers. The inherent haziness of the present image, a consequence of the mirror's filled memory, prompts contemplation on the nature of time, fostering a unique interaction between the audience and the mirror as a reflective medium. Transitioning from abstraction to tangibility, I conducted extensive research and experimentation to create a mirror that, through a chemical oxidation process, mimics the passage of time. This innovative mirror, akin to a handcrafted abstract painting, offers a distinct expression of the materiality of mirrors.

The evolved forms, marked by fluidity and complexity, stem from the humble triangle, emphasizing the fundamental nature of the mirror. Although inherently simple, the mirror becomes a captivating focal point, inviting prolonged contemplation. Recognizing the immortality of the mirrored image sparks new realms of fantasy.

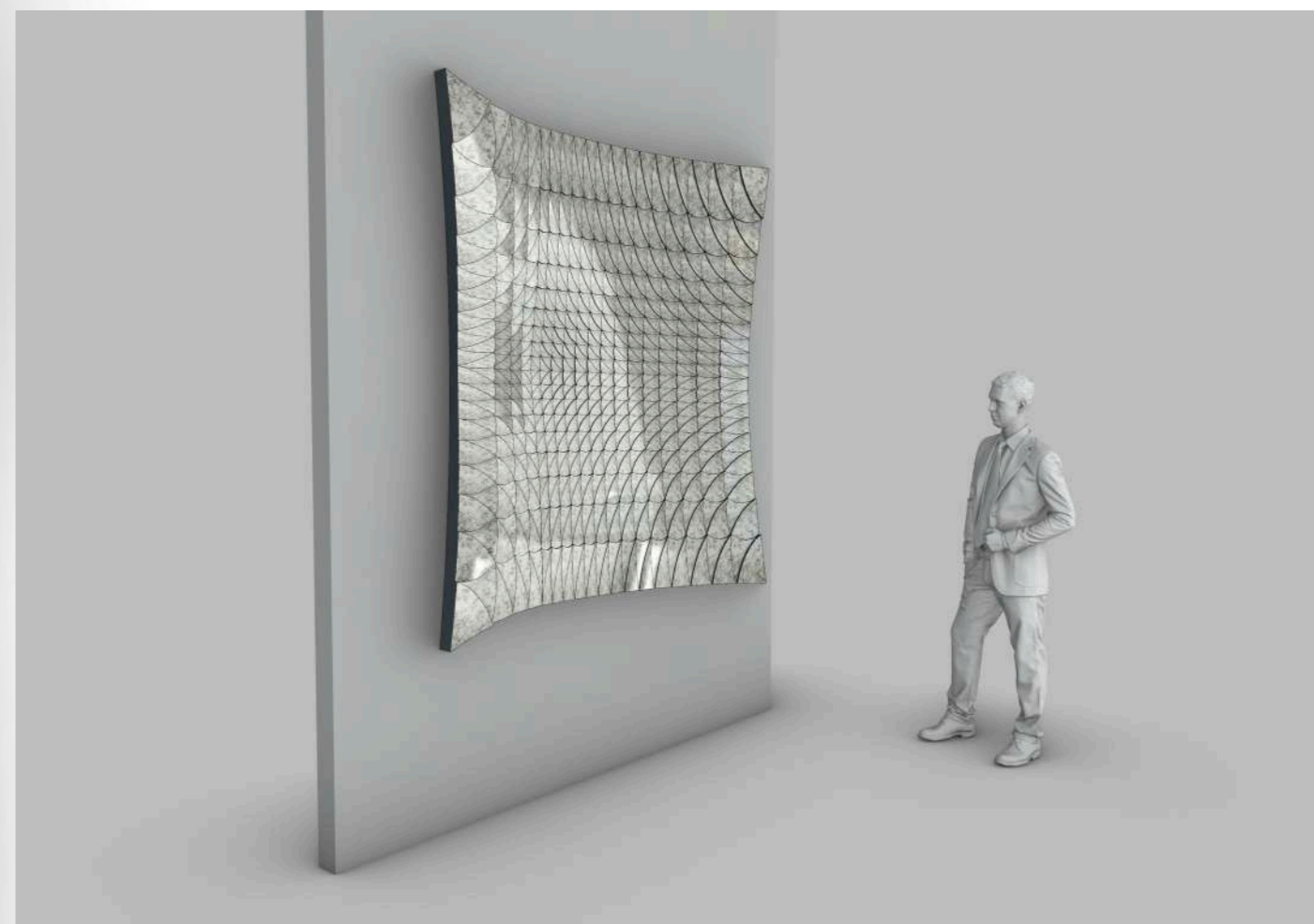
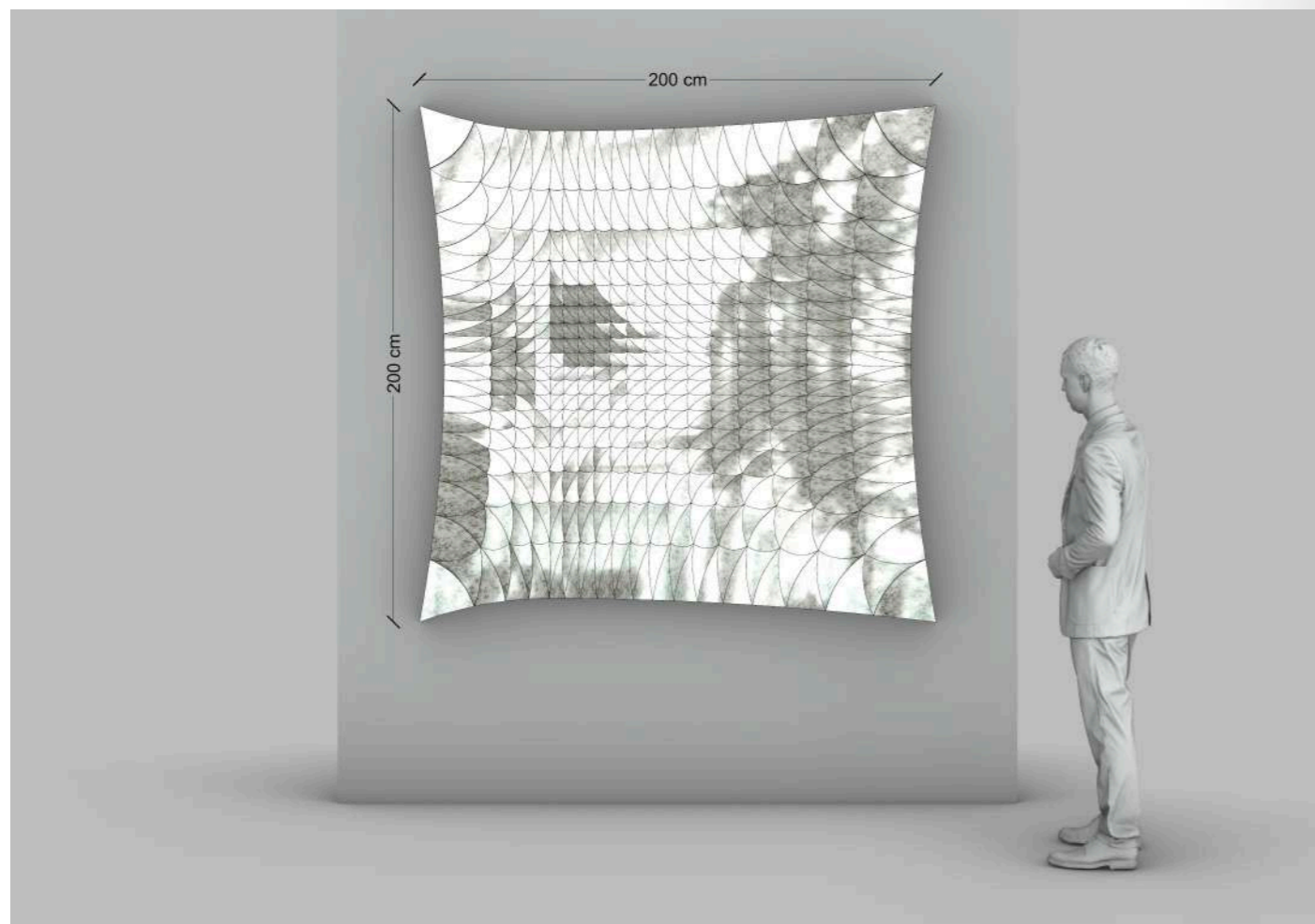
By introducing texture to the mirror's original structure and inducing oxidation, I introduced complexity. Curving the edges of the triangular forms further amplifies the intricacy of the piece. The transformation of the straightforward two-dimensional triangle into a mesh of curved sides results in a contemporary and original geometry. Covered with mirrors that exude an aged and enigmatic aura, the artwork projects a fresh image of the audience.

In every encounter, they are confronted with the task of framing a piece of themselves while seeking another in the present moment, a process heightened by the visual intensity of the disintegration and fragmentation of their image within the complex form.

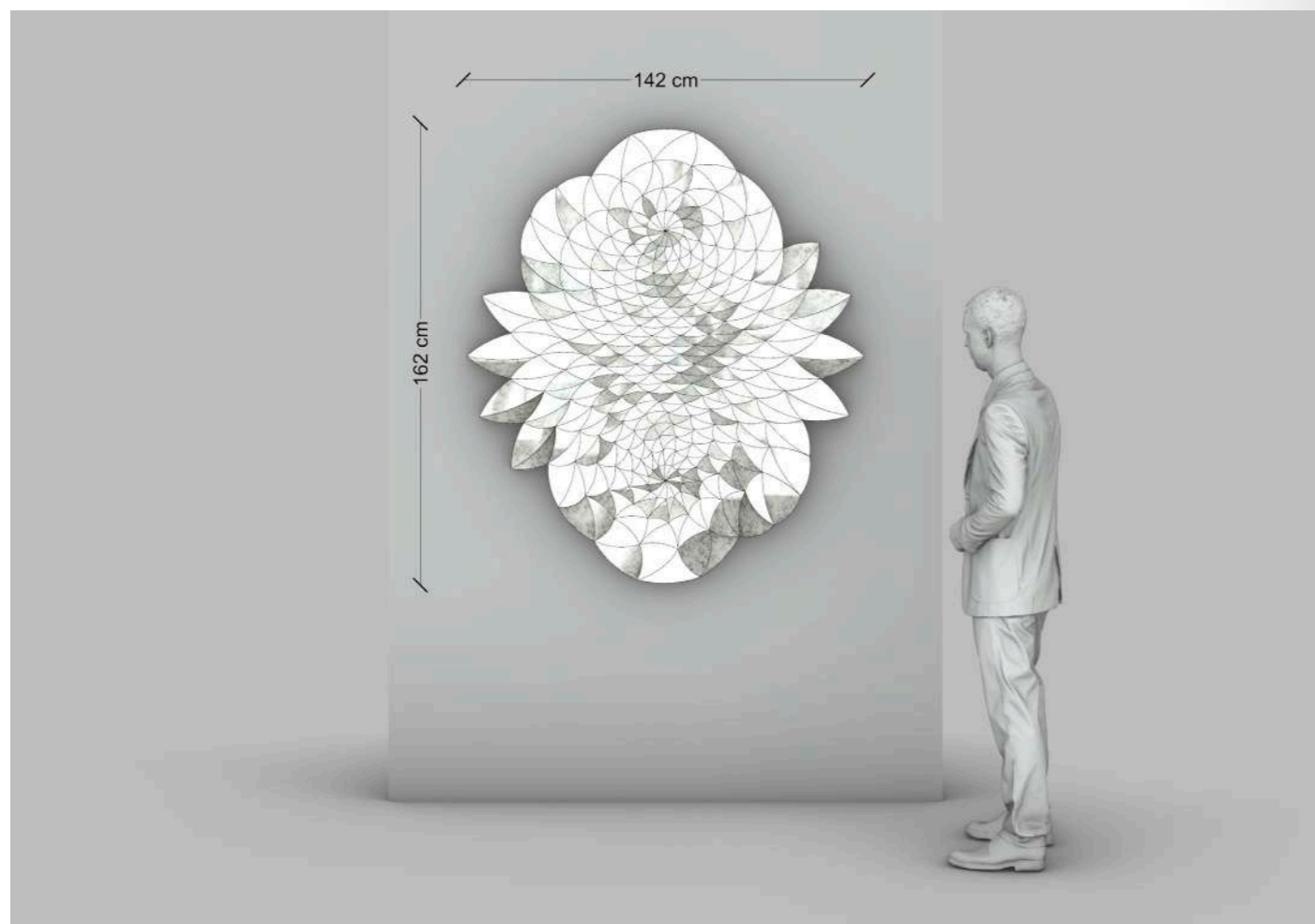
Engaging with these artworks allows the audience to grasp three facets of time: decoding hidden layers within the mirror's aged texture for glimpses into the past, scrutinizing the details of present forms, and envisioning the future by creating new fantasies of immortalized images among oxidized layers.

The abstract interplay of past, present, and future leaves an indelible trace of time in the audience's mind, prompting introspection. Contemplating this issue encourages the audience to delve deeper into themselves.

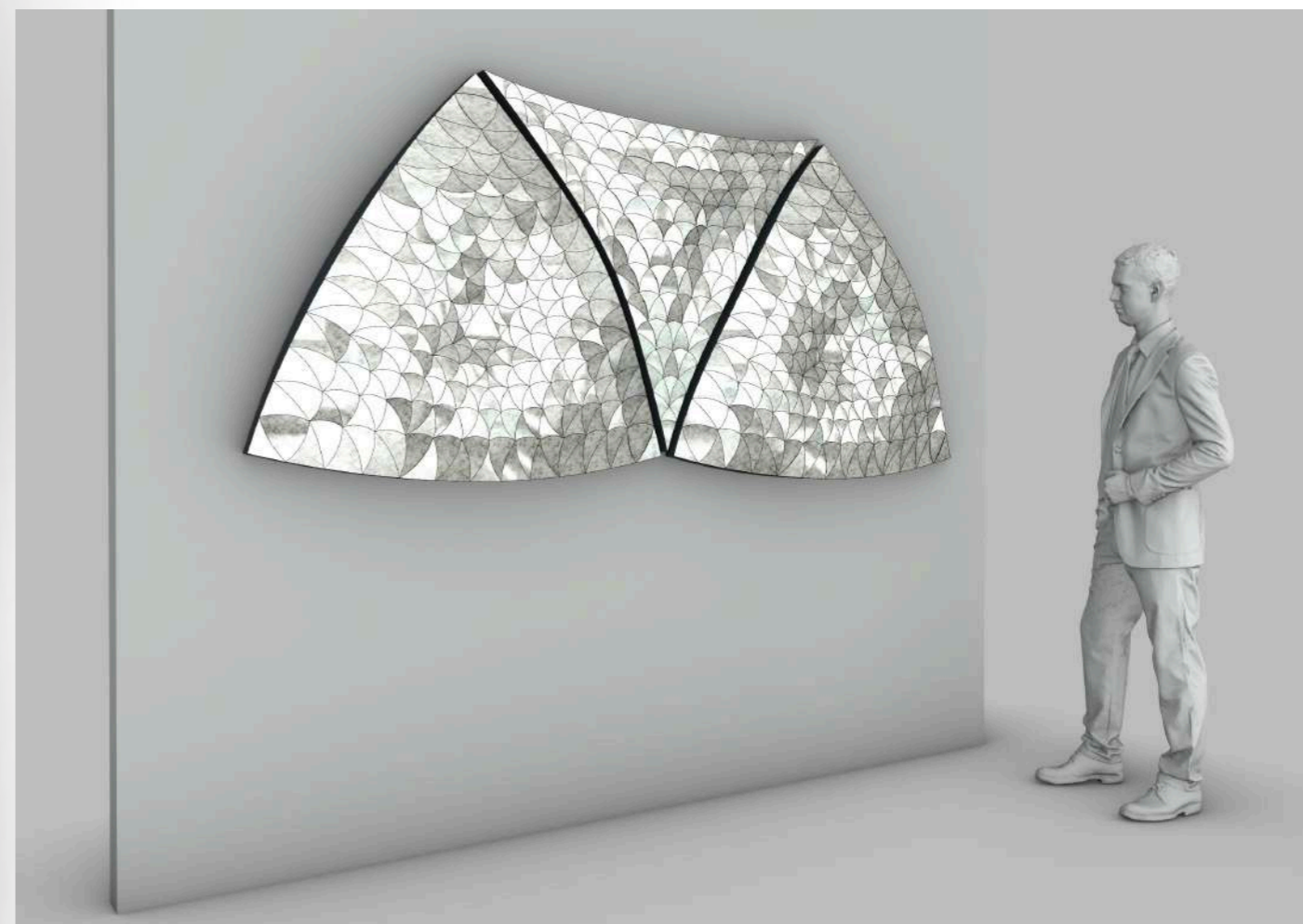
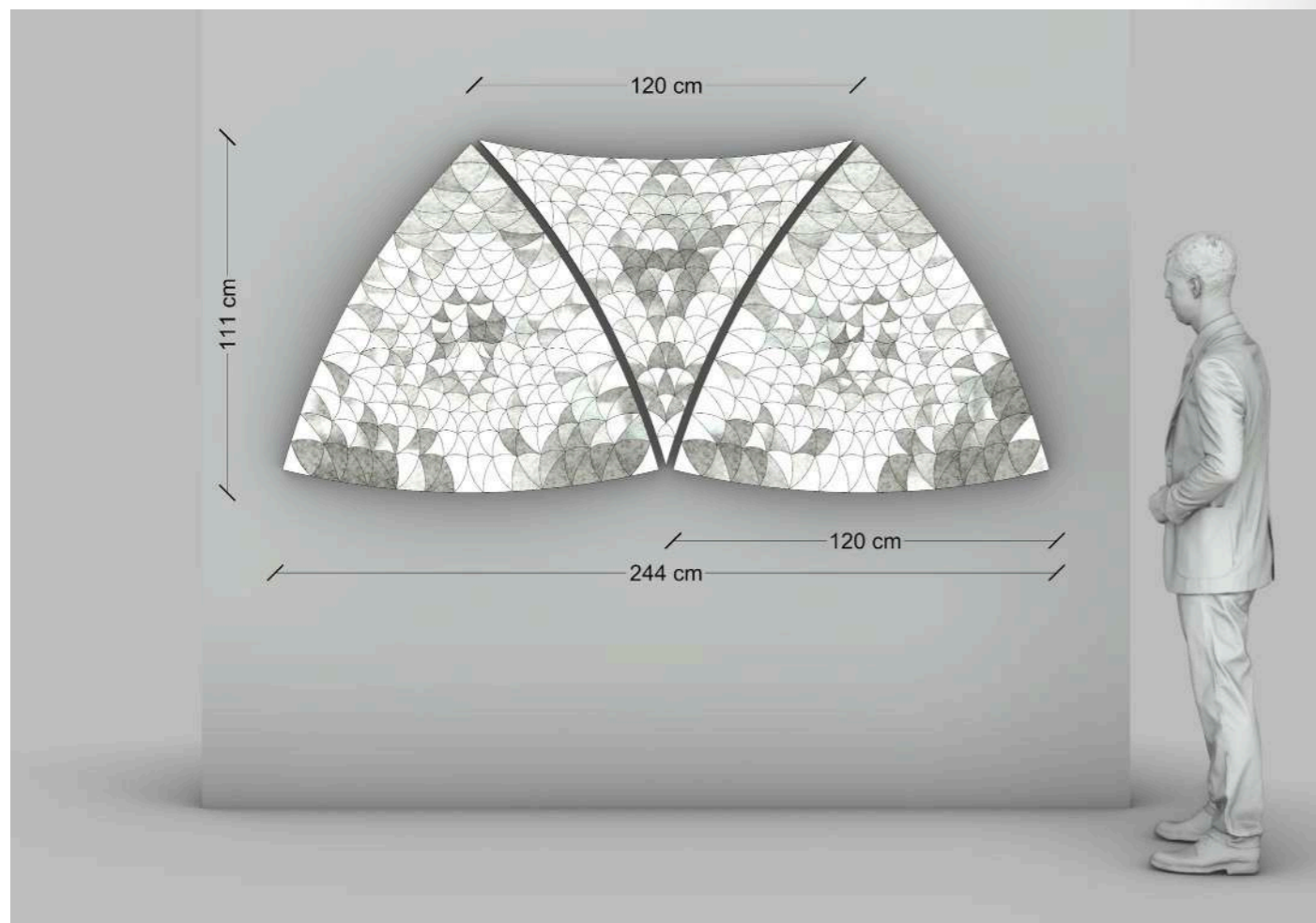
Aref Montazeri



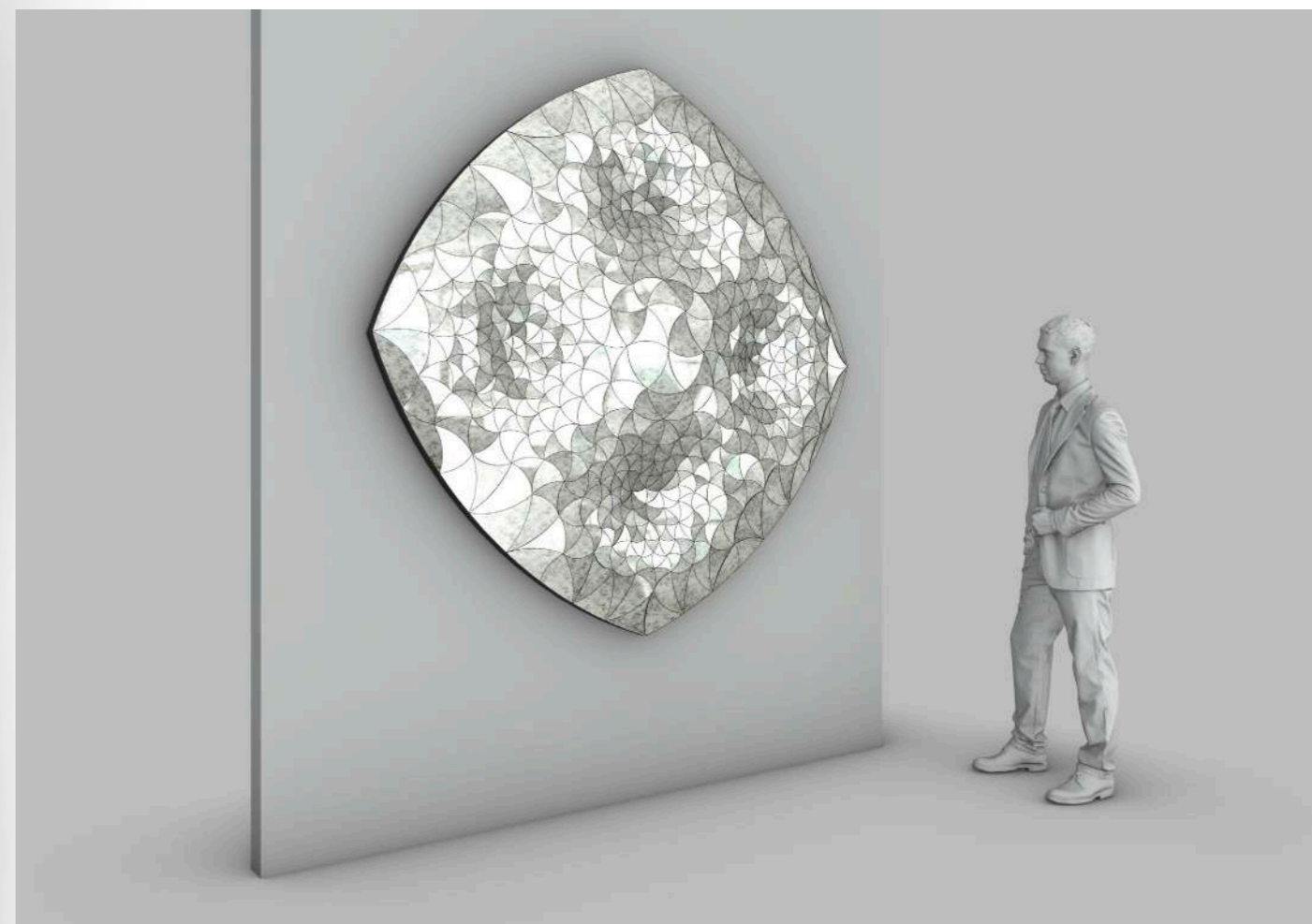
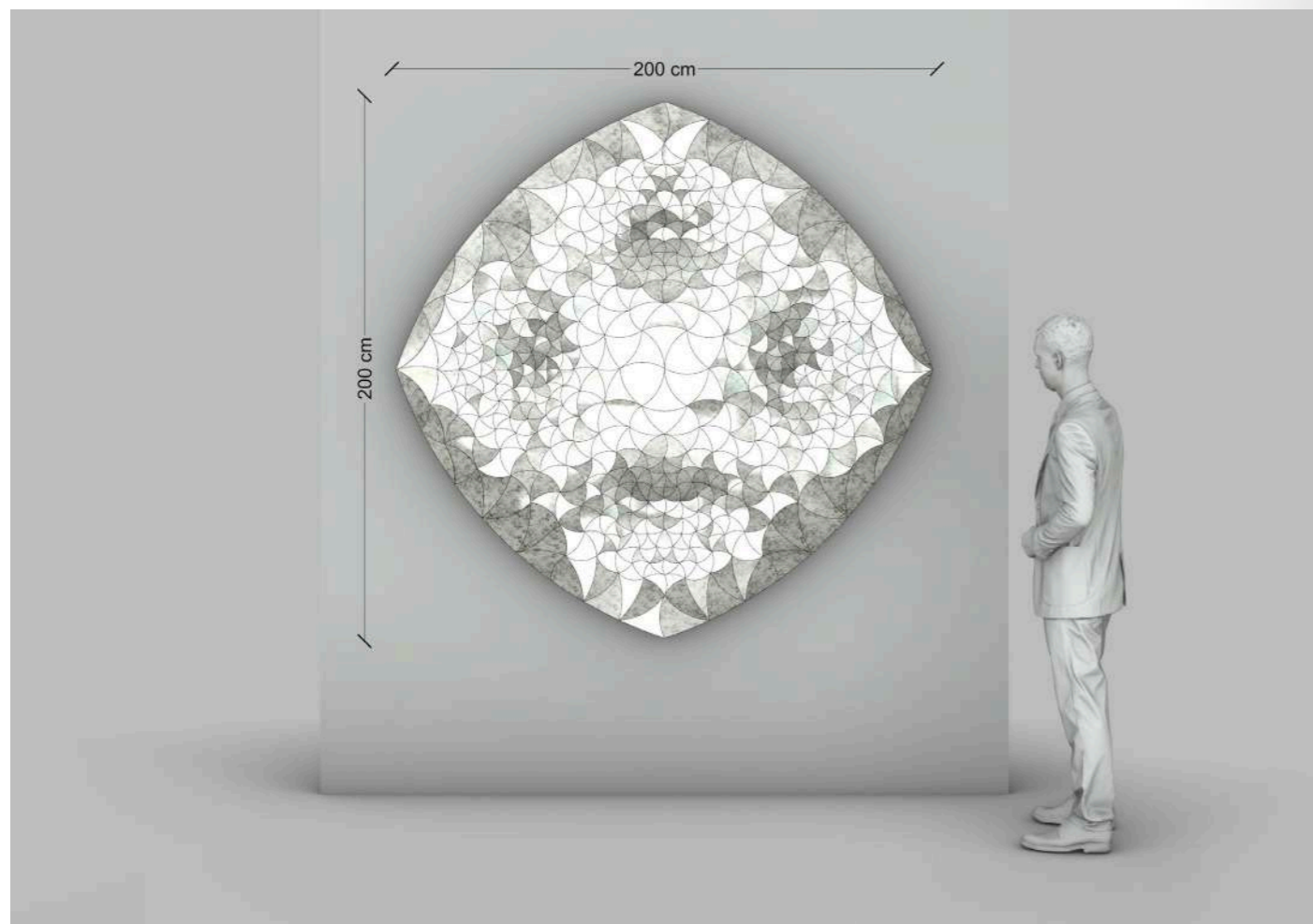
IMMORTAL MIRROR 01
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 200 x 200 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



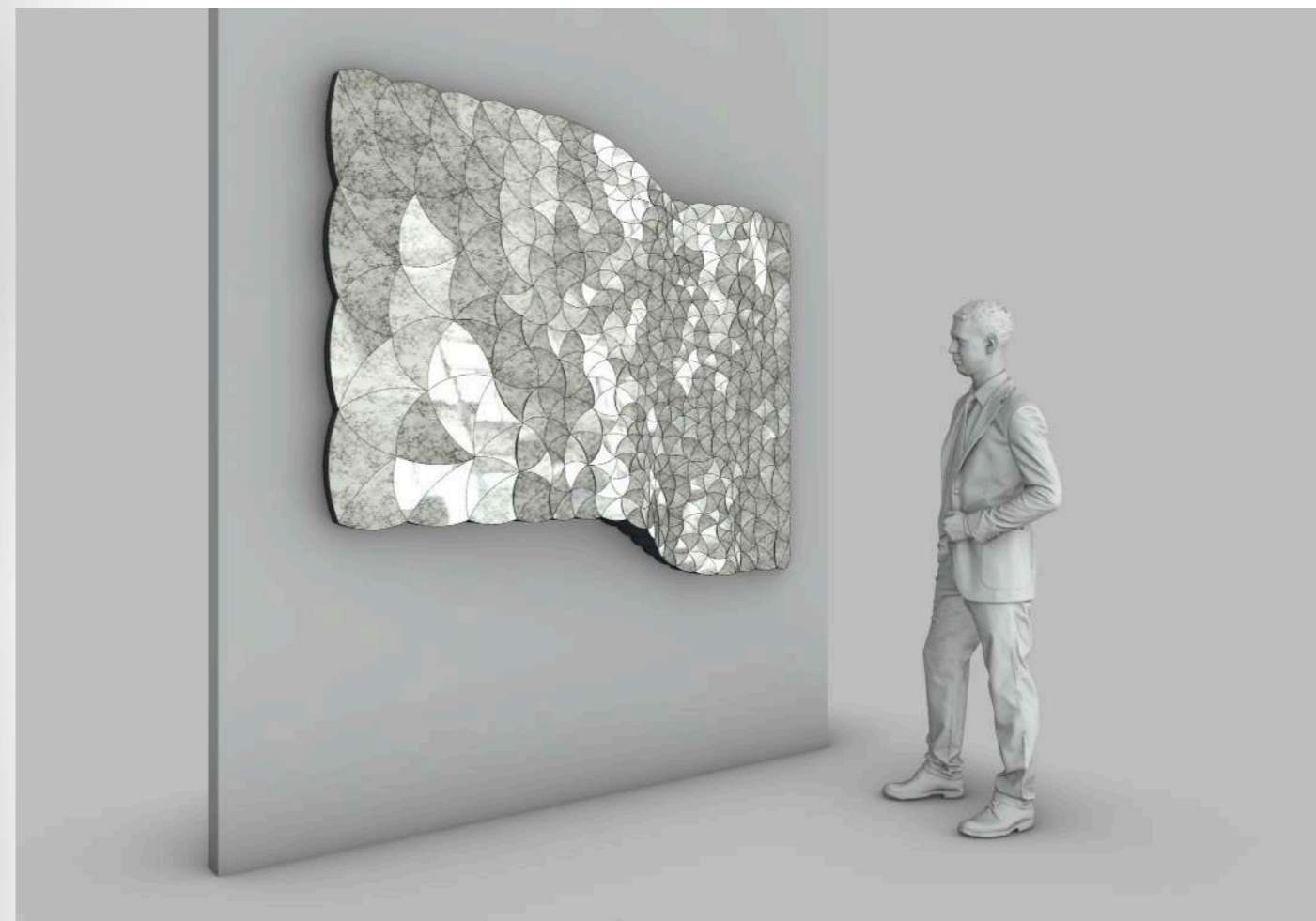
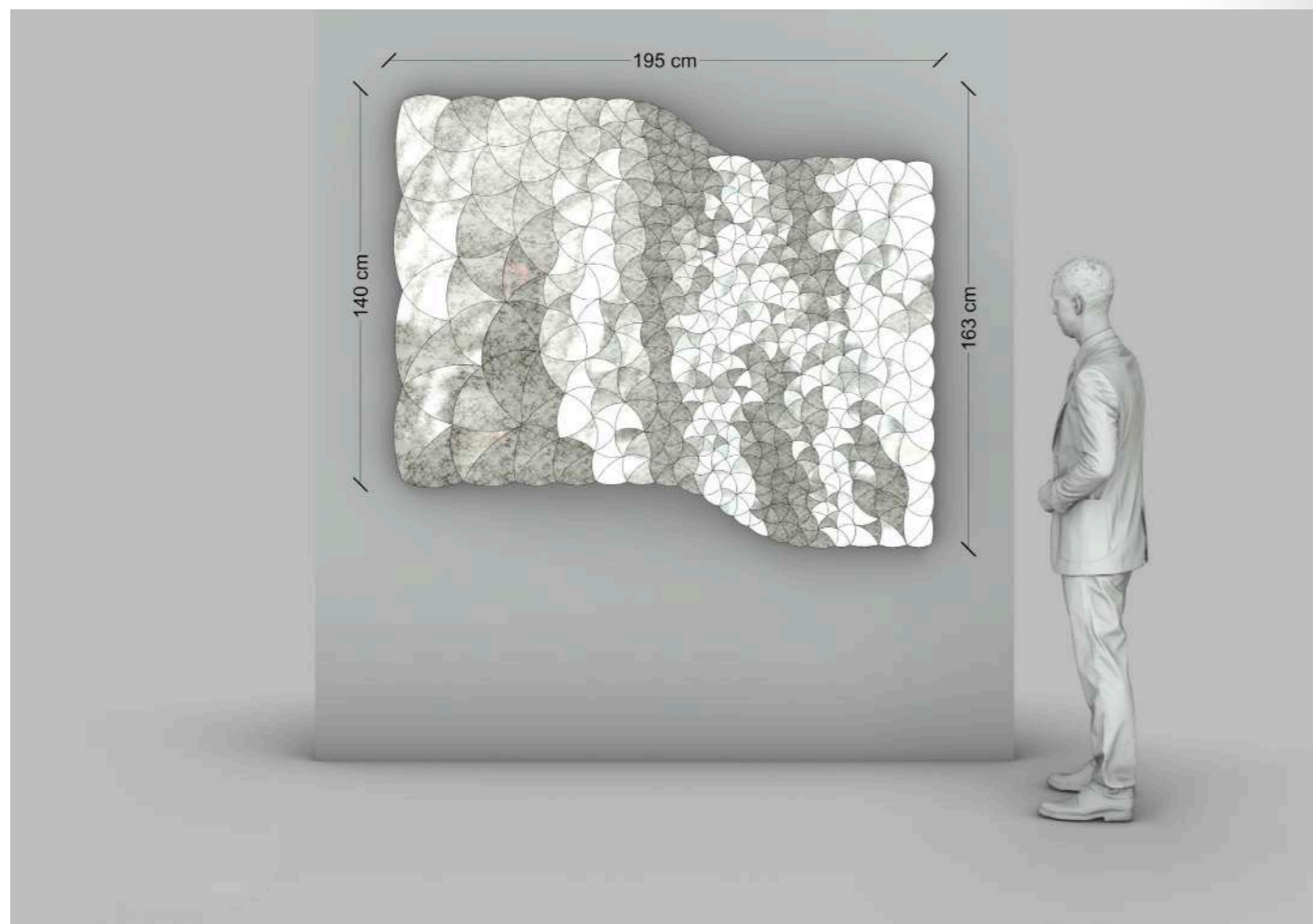
IMMORTAL MIRROR 02
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 162 x 142 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



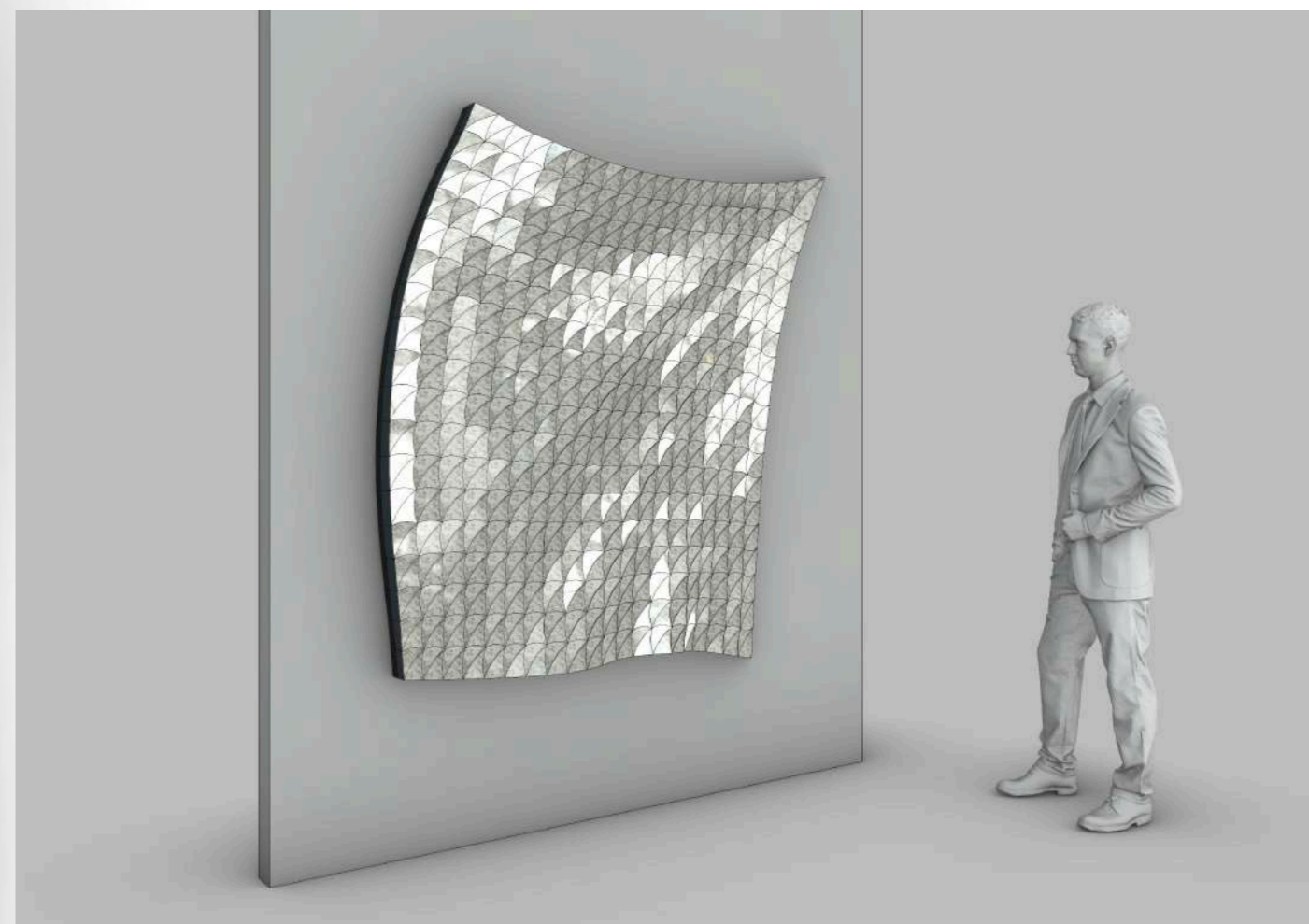
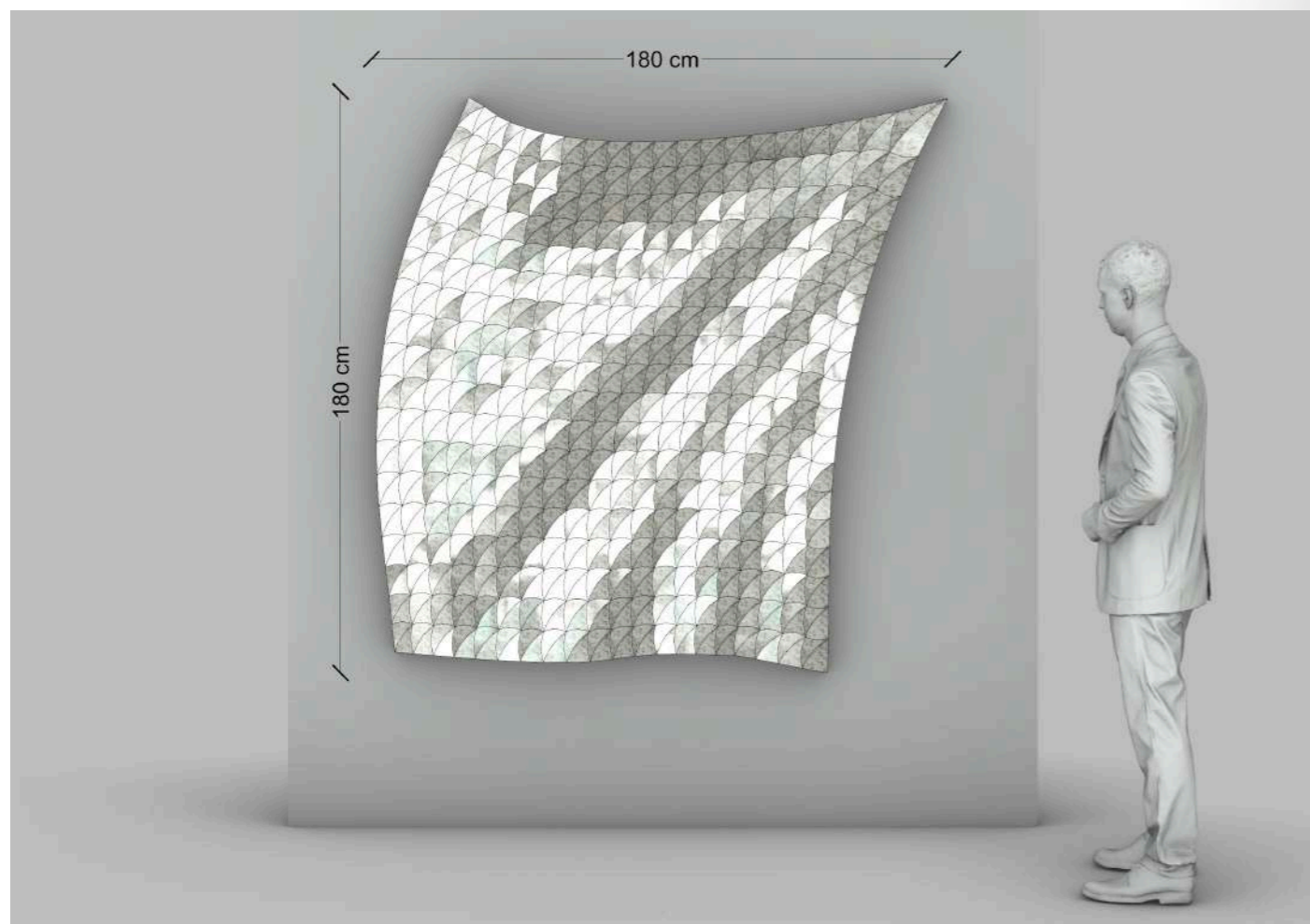
IMMORTAL MIRROR 03
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 244 x 111 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



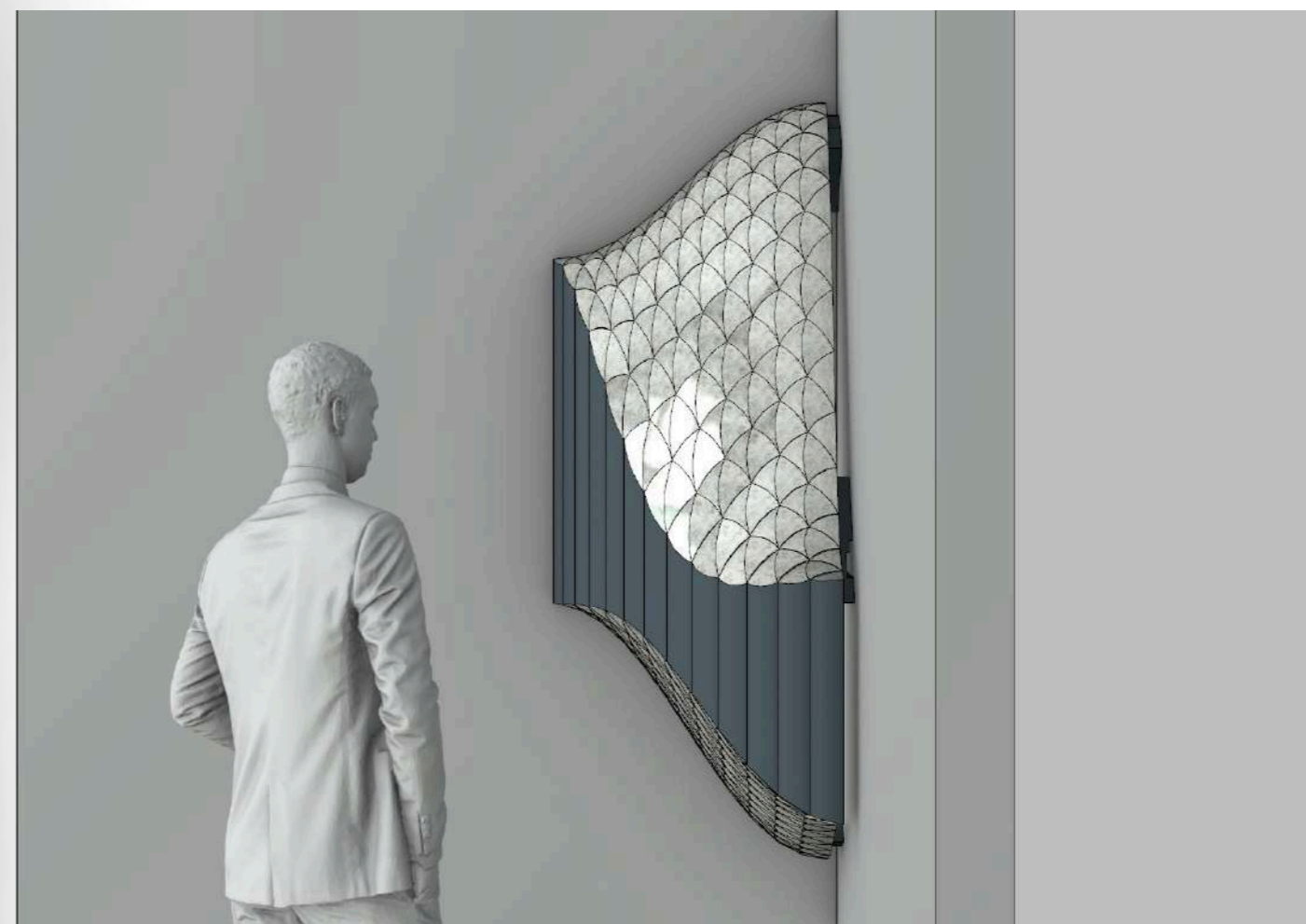
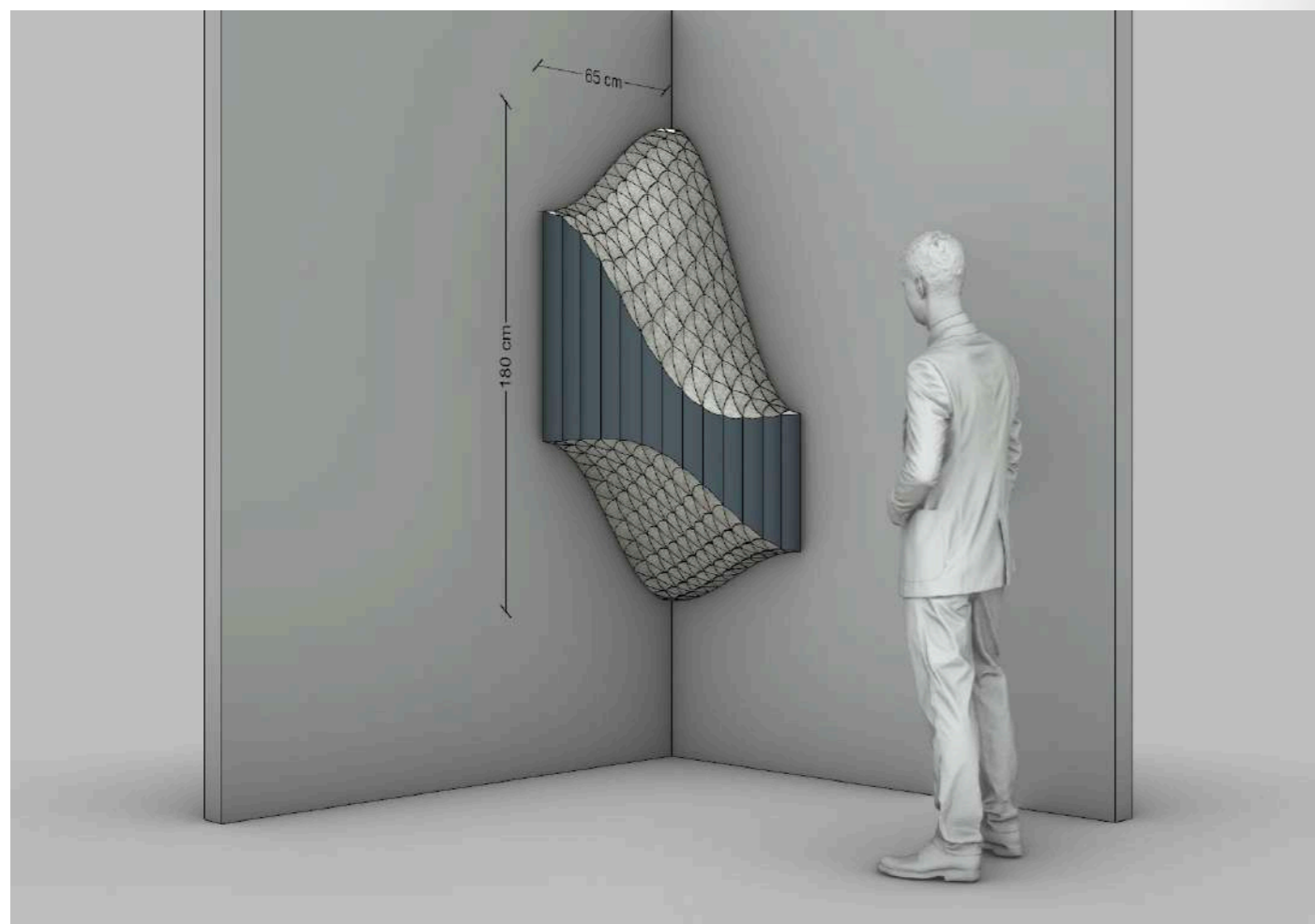
IMMORTAL MIRROR 04
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 200 x 200 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



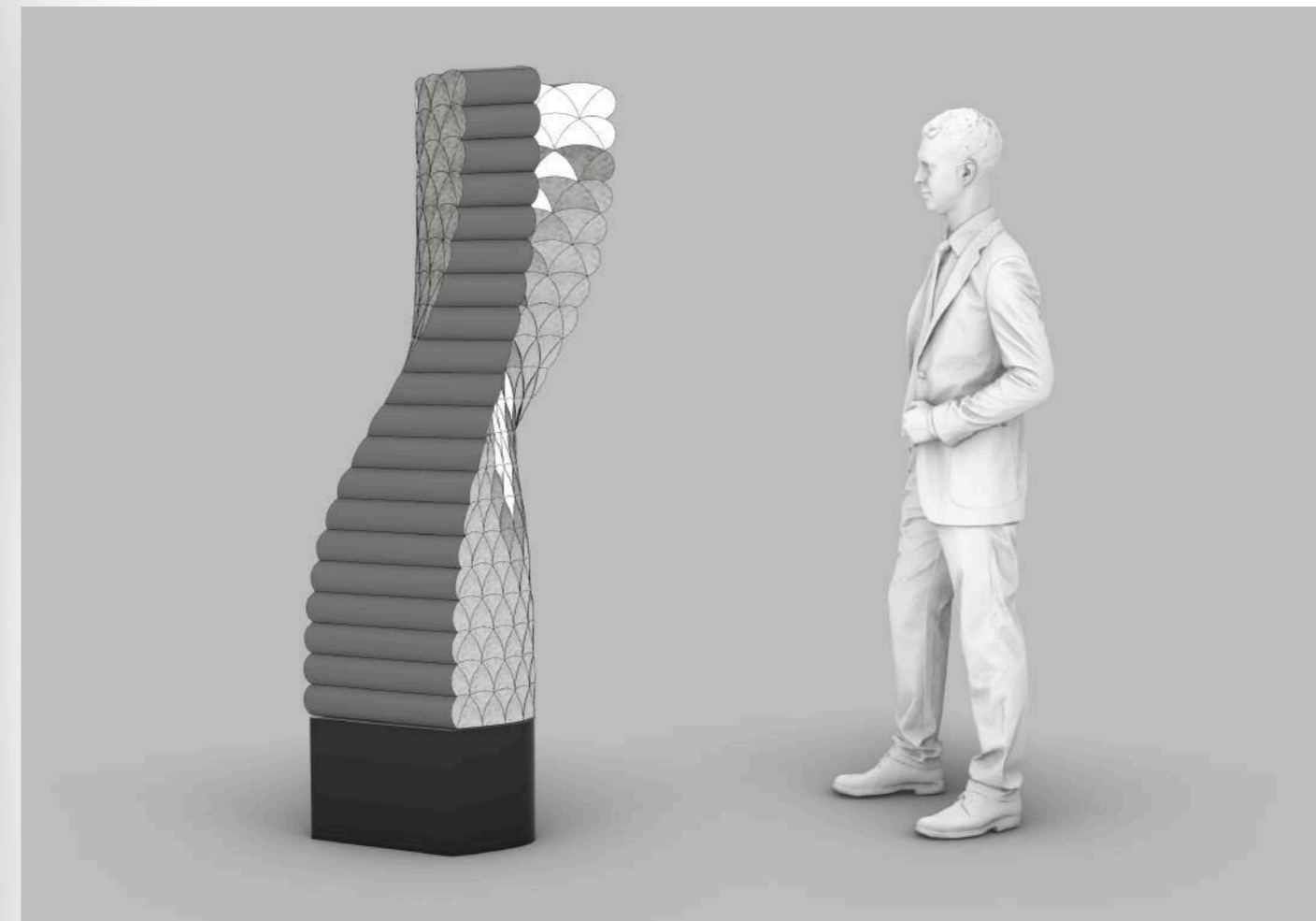
IMMORTAL MIRROR 05
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 195 x 163 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



IMMORTAL MIRROR 06
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 180 x 180 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



IMMORTAL MIRROR 07
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 180 x 65 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP

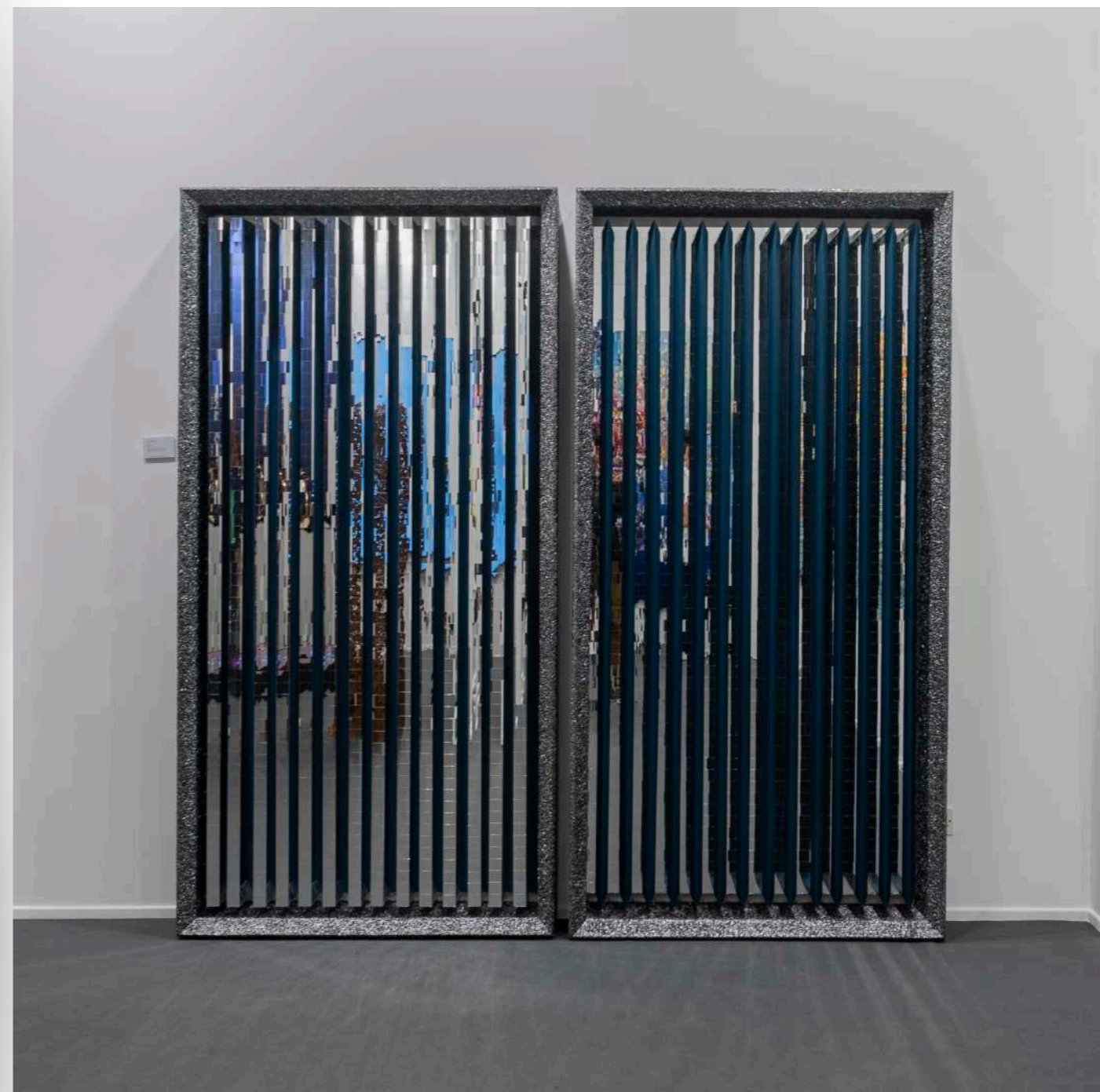


IMMORTAL MIRROR 08
 2024
 Oxadised Mirror, Polymer, Plexi Glass
 180 x 65 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP

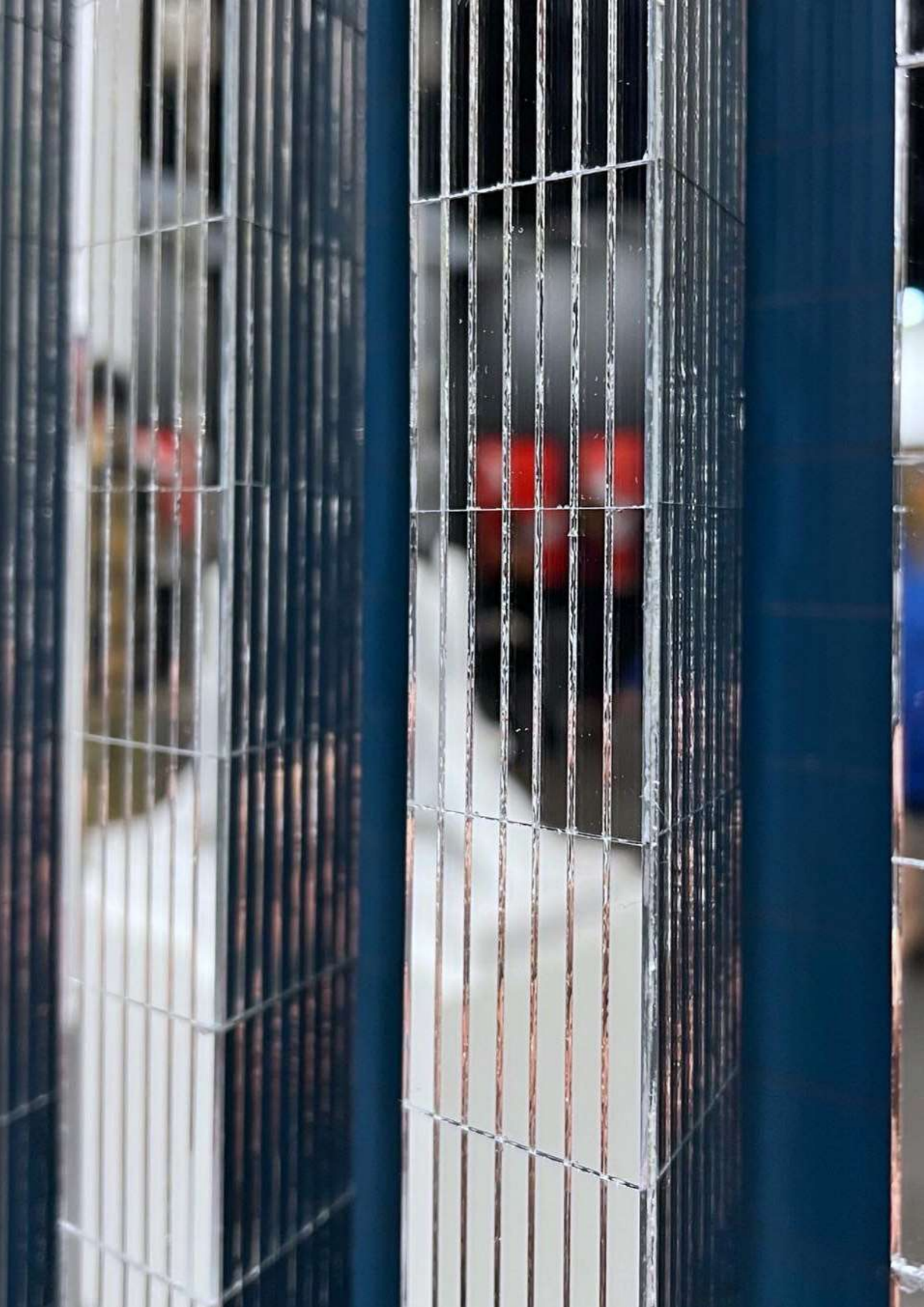
Mirror Collection



MIRROR 1
2013
Mirror, Polymer, Plexiglass
140 x 140 x 49 cm
Edition: 1 + AP



MIRROR 2
2015
Mirror, Polymer, Wood
2 Parts, each: 110 x 25 x h220 cm
224 x 25 x h220 cm
Edition: 1



MIRROR 3
 2020
 Mirror, Plexiglass, Glitter
 2 Parts, Each: 28 x 14 x h175 cm
 70 x 14 x h175 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



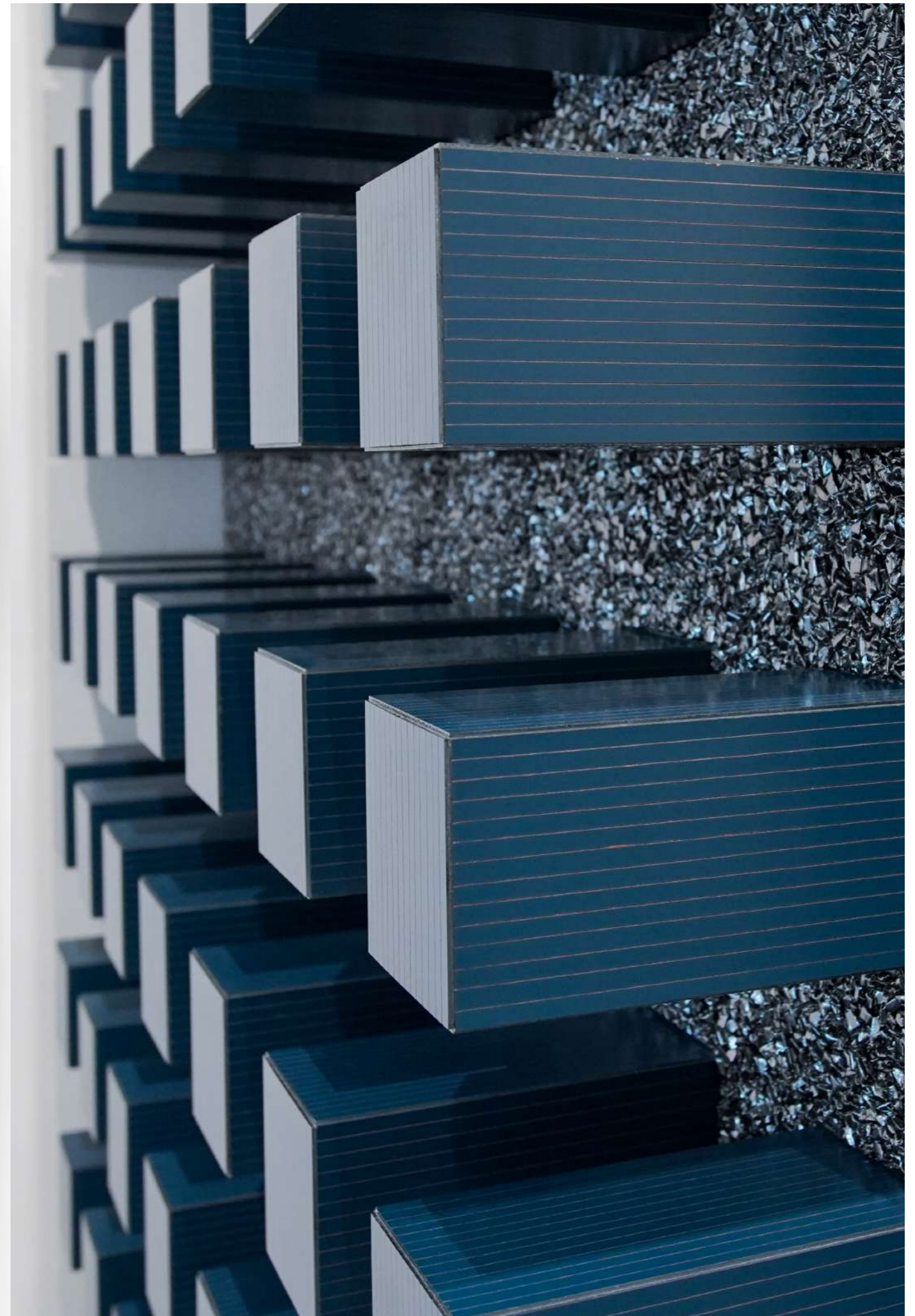
MIRROR 4
2013
Mirror, Polymer, Wood.
4 Parts, Each: 21 x 21 x h160 cm
208 x 21 x h160 cm
Edition: 3 + AP



MIRROR 5
2014
Mirror, Polymer, Plexiglass.
115 x 115 x 14 cm
Edition: 3 + AP

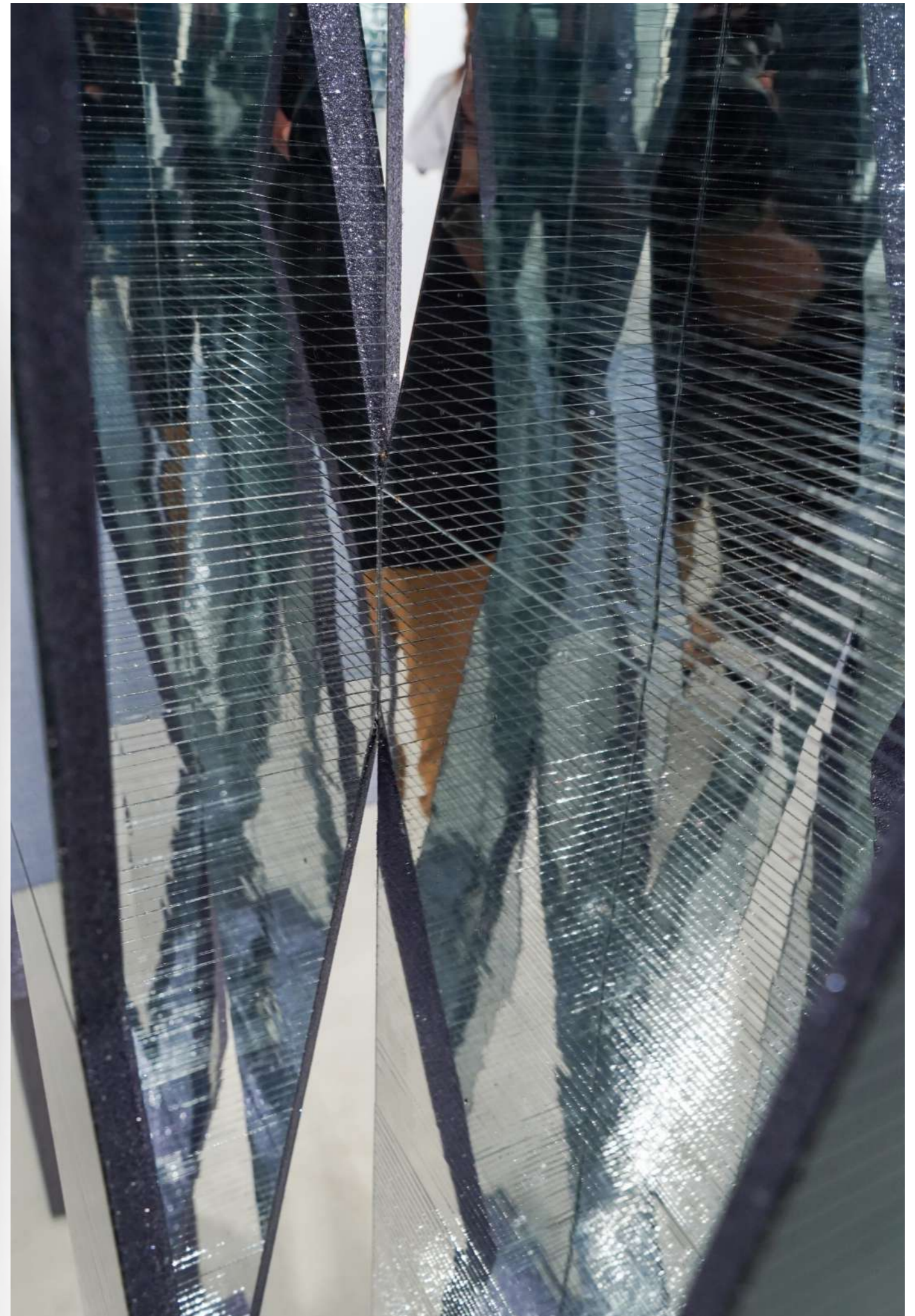


MIRROR 6
2014
Mirror, Polymer, Wood, Steel.
105 x 35 x 203 cm
Edition: 1





MIRROR 7
 2020
 Mirror, Plexiglass, Glitter
 2 Parts, Each: 28 x 14 x h175 cm
 70 x 14 x 175 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP





MIRROR 8
 2016
 Mirror, Polymer, Wood.
 140 x 28 x h175 cm
 Edition: 1



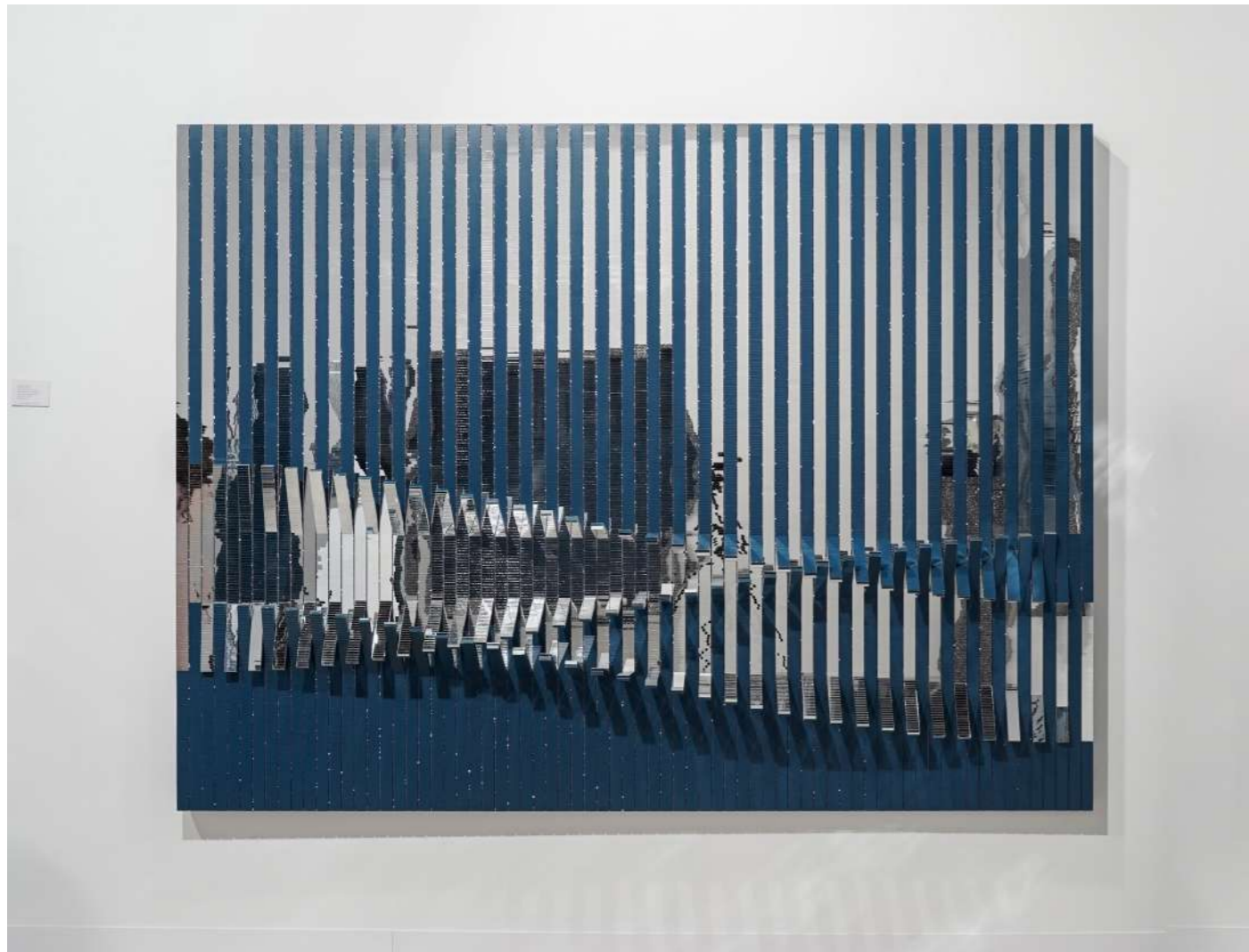


MIRROR 9
2018
Mirror, Polymer, Wood
105 x 70 x 7 cm
Edition: 3 + AP



MIRROR 10
 2022
 Mirror, Polymer, Wood
 140 x 140 x 7 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP

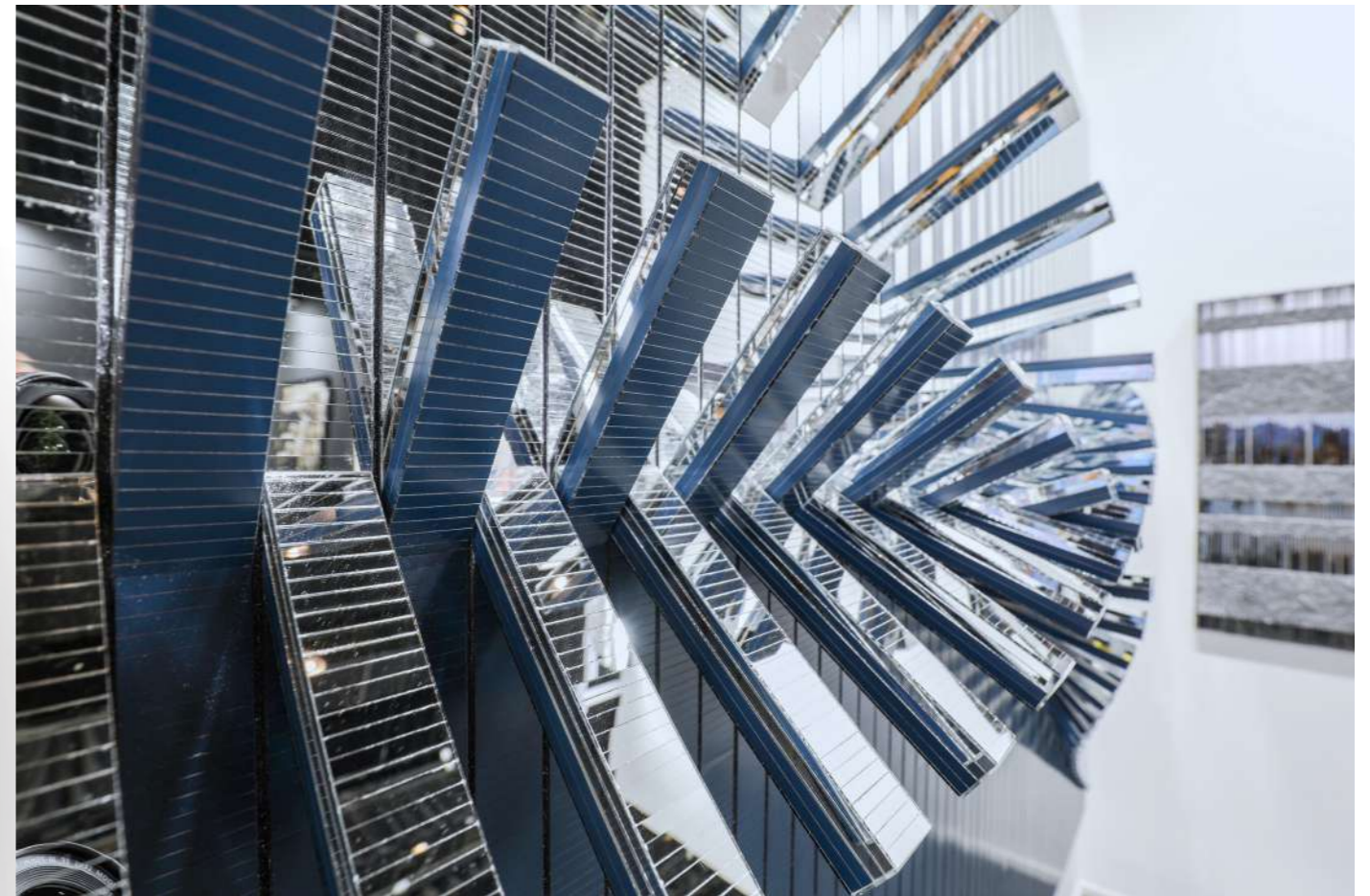


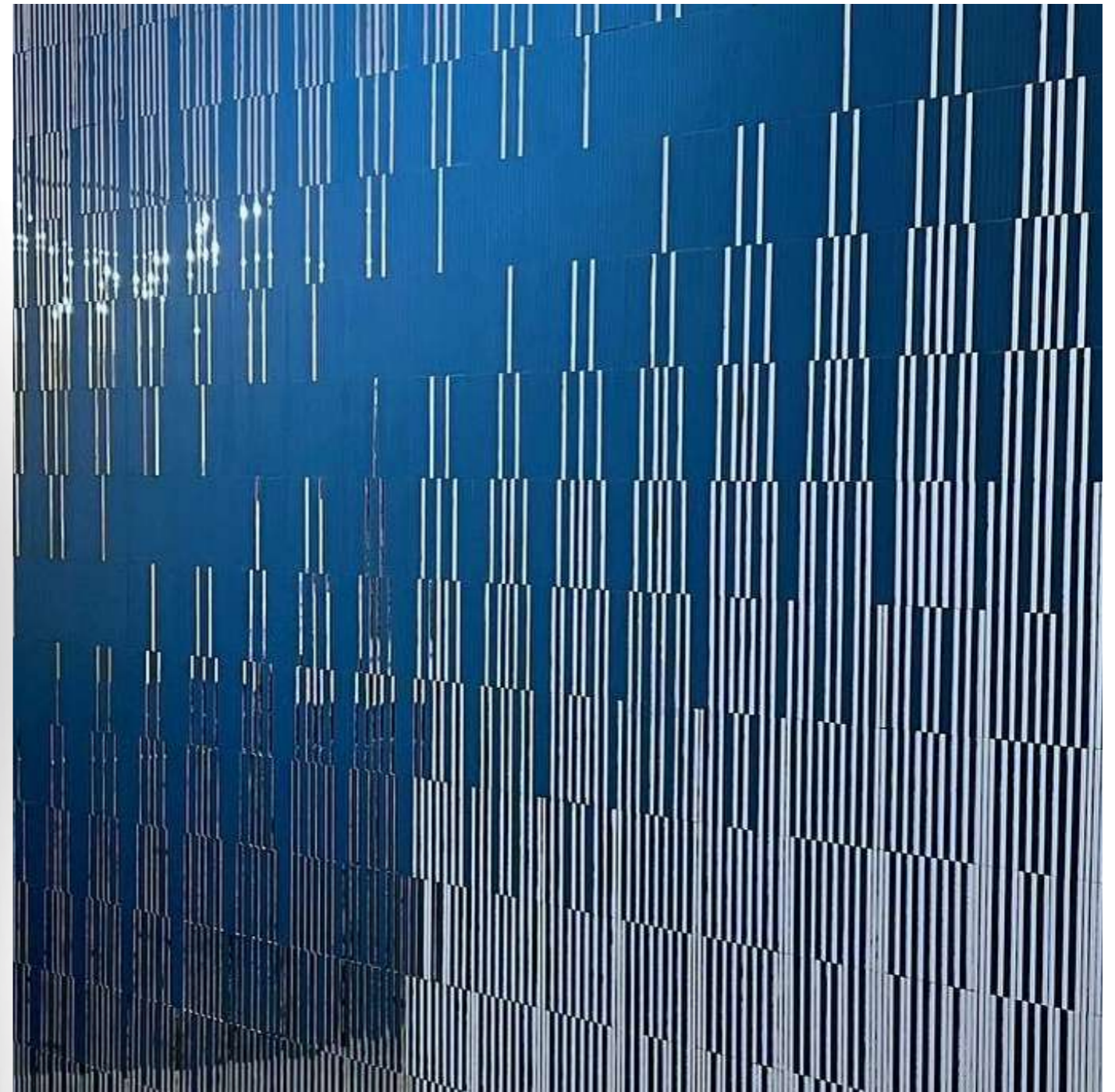


MIRROR 11
 2020
 Mirror, Wood, Plexiglass, Polymer, Glitter
 273 x 178 x 22 cm
 Edition: 1/1 (Unique in the Following Dimesions)



MIRROR 12
 Date: 2021
 Medium: Mirror, Wood, Plexiglass, Polymer,
 Glitter
 Dimensions: 280 x 180 x 24 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP

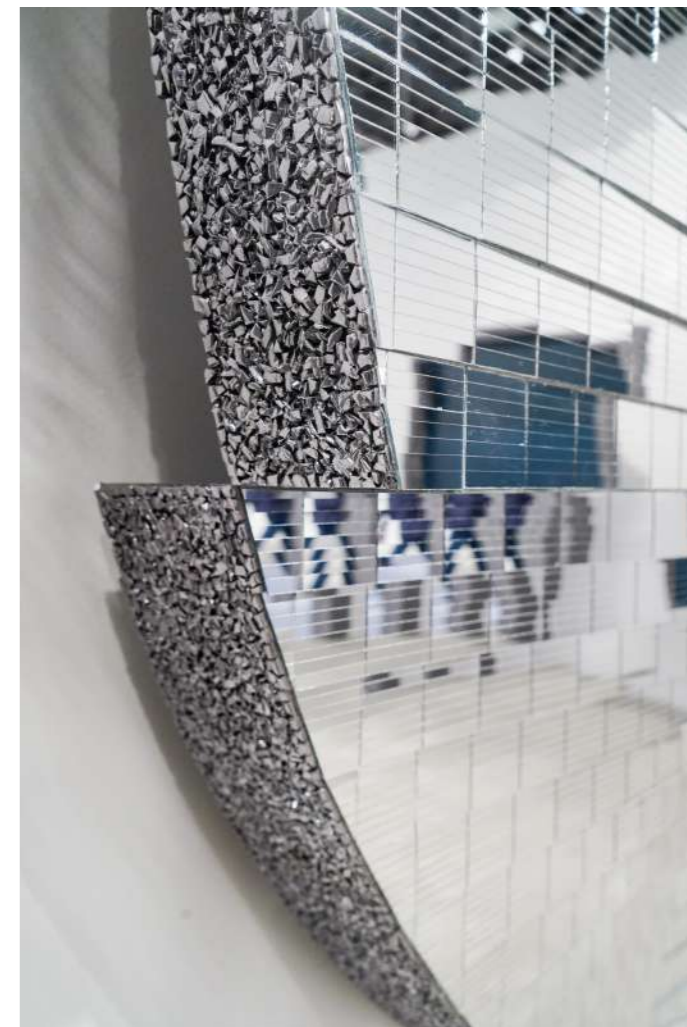




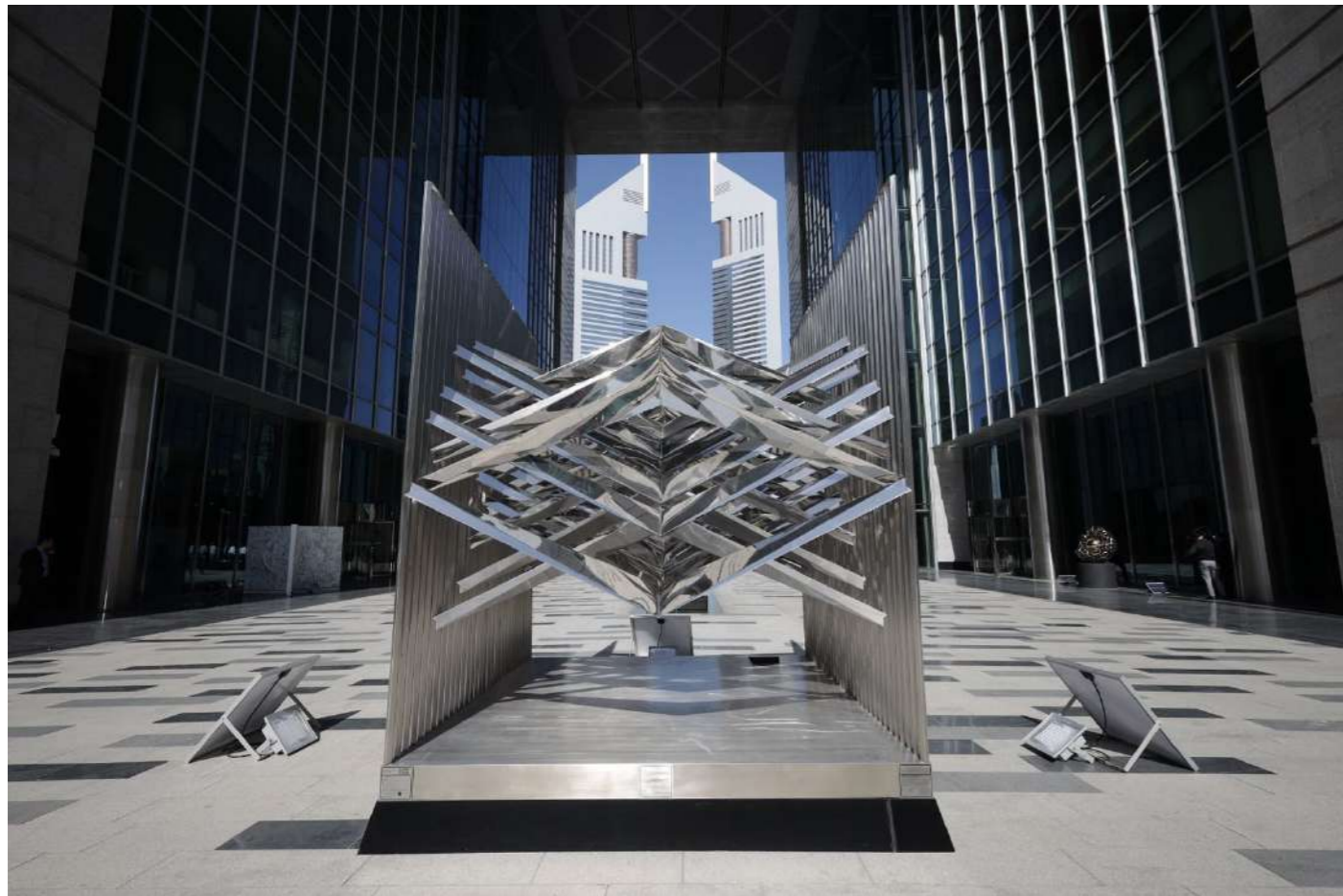
MIRROR 13
2018
Mirror, Polymer, Wood
210 x 105 x 7 cm
Edition: 3 + AP



MIRROR 14
 2014
 Mirror, Polymer, Steel.
 14 Parts, Each: 20 x 3 x h210 cm
 210 x 20 x h210 cm
 Edition: 3 + AP



MIRROR 00
2016
Mirror, Polymer, Plexiglass.
Diptyque, Each Ø175 x 28 cm
350 (2 x Ø175) x 28 cm
Edition: 1 + AP



Simorgh 10
 2022
 Mirror-polished stainless steel
 Brushed stainless steel
 305.5 x 270 cm
 1600 kg approx



Biography

Aref Montazeri was born in Tehran, Iran in 1986. He is a sculptor removed from conventional practices, he pursues a novel approach to mirror art that involves large numbers of mirror cuts and meticulous attention to detail. Conceptually, he follows an approach he has termed "The MIRROR follows narrative", which favors materialism over ornamentalism and resilience of design over buildability.

His design apparatus consists of three criteria: Narrative, Material and Technique. Which is also the way he looks at art and creates it.

He started his training during the time he collaborated with Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian on the design and fabrication of around 60 sculptures (2009-15).

Additionally, he was involved in fabrication of Parviz Tanavoli's sculptures and jewelries (2012-14). He has also been an artist-in-residence at TUIC, contributing to research projects in innovative materials and smart techniques. Notably, his residency with the Maleki Collection in France resulted in the creation of three significant sculptures, including the intricate "PARADOX" composed of 70,000 mirror pieces.

Group Exhibitions

2021 - Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

2021 - Summer Show, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

2021 - Patternitecture, Niavaran Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran

2021 - Shara Art Fair, Leila Heller Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

2022 - A Harmony Of Different Voices, MIRROR 4 Installation, Dubai International Financial Center, DIFC, Dubai, UAE

2022 - Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

2022 - Abu Dhabi Art, Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi, The UAE

2023 - Tales Under the Gate, SIMORGH 10, Dubai International Financial Center, DIFC, Dubai, UAE

2023 - Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

2023 - Abu Dhabi Art, Leila Heller Gallery, Abu Dhabi, The UAE

2024 - Carpets Of Eden, Gardens Of Fantasy, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

2024 - Art Dubai, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

Solo Exhibitions

2020 - Abu Dhabi Online Art Fair, Leila Heller Gallery Solo Booth, Abu Dhabi, The UAE

2021 - MIRROR, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

2021 - Dubai World Expo 2020, Iran Pavilion, Dubai, The UAE

2021 - Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Leila Heller Gallery Solo Booth, Abu Dhabi, The UAE

2024 - IMMORTAL MIRROR, Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai, The UAE

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Interviews

2021 - Shaping the World around Us: Patterns and Motifs in Contemporary Art Webinar, Intersect 21

2021 - The Two-face Mirrors of Aref Montazeri by Hania Afifi, XIBT Magazine, Spring Issue

2021 - The Other side of Mirror by Rebecca Anne Proctor, Talk Show with Rebecca

2021 - Parviz Barati, Etemad Newspaper, July 31th, No.4988

2021 - Shayan Shaban, Honargardy.com

2022 - Emirates Loves Iran, Short SNS Content(video)

2022 - UNESCO, Participate in documentary "UNESCO World Talent Program"

2023 - The Success Magazine, No.442

Artist Residencies

2018 - 2016 Tehran Urban Innovation Center, Tehran, Iran

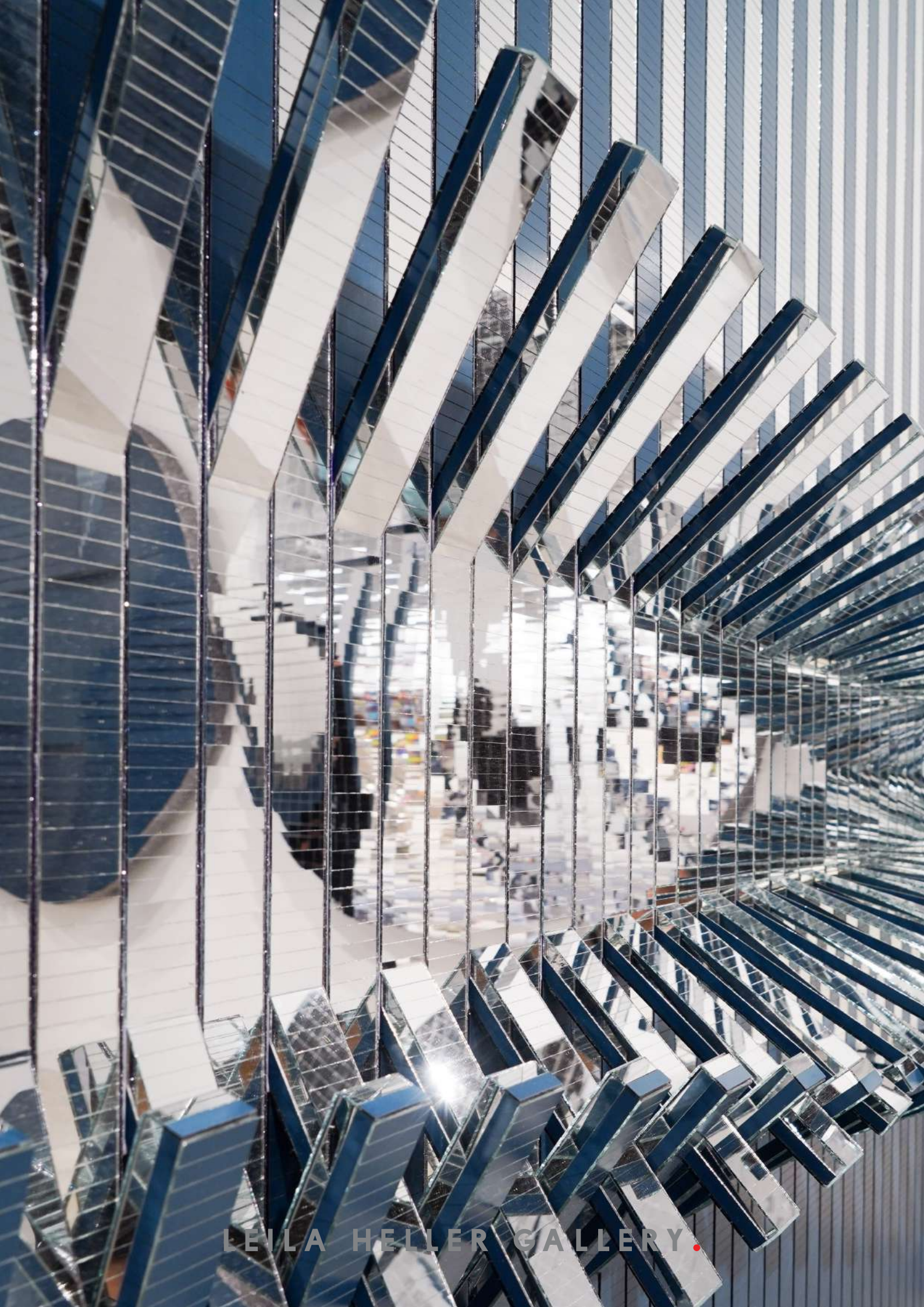
2020 - 2018 Maleki Collection, Beaulieu-sur-mer, France

2023 - The Watermill Center, New York

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