



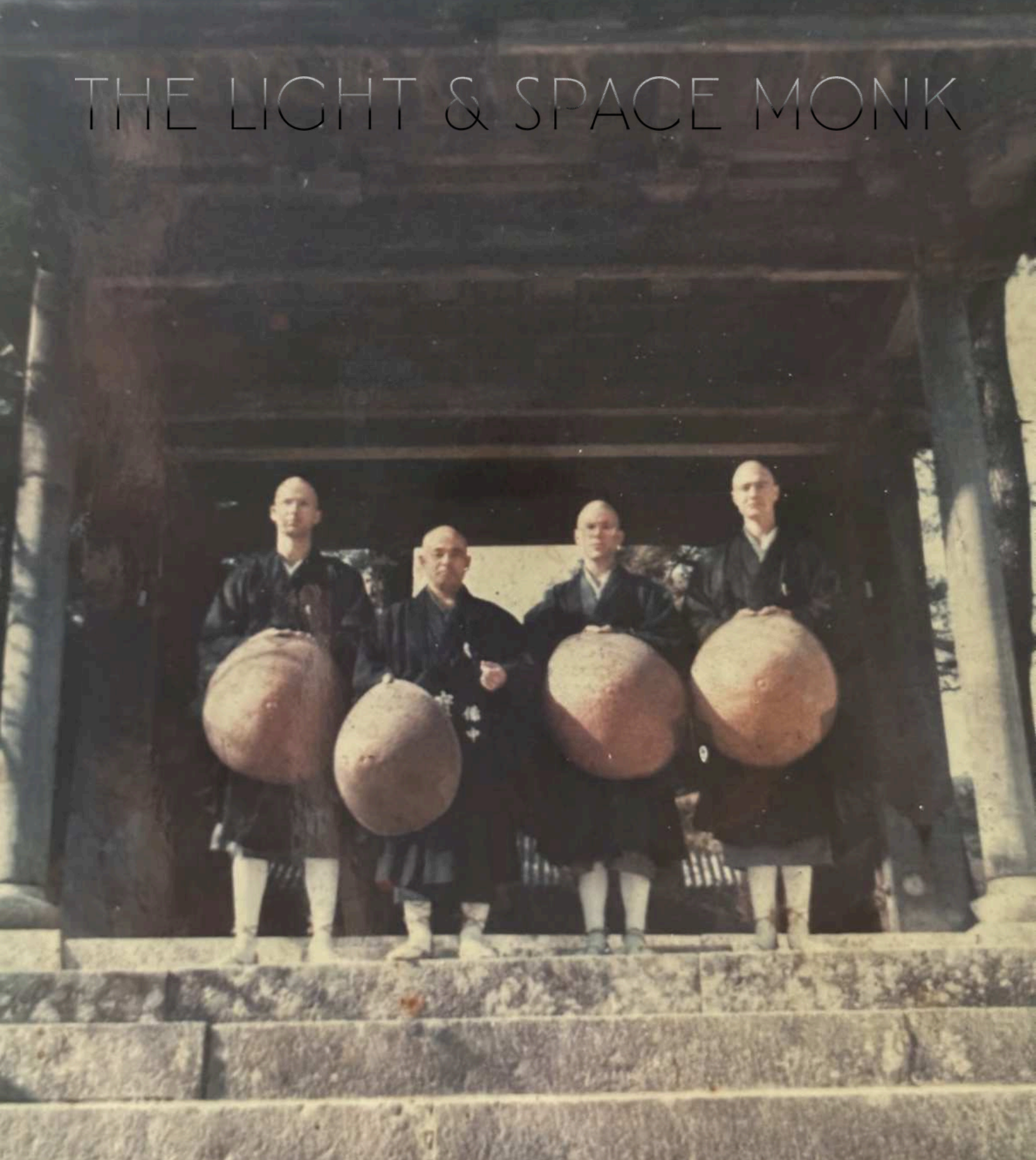
HAP TIVEY

Hap Tivey (American, b. 1947) emerged as a key figure in light art during the late 1960s in Los Angeles, creating immersive light installations. Tivey studied physics, math and art at Pomona College, where he met and collaborated with artist James Turrell on large-scale projects. By 1973, he had developed a series of light environments in his Pasadena studio that would be recognized later on as pioneering ganzfeld works. He subsequently refined these spatial illusions at the University of California, Irvine (1975) and at 139 Spring Street in New York (1977), leading to commissions from leading 20th Century collectors, including Christophe De Menil, Giuseppe Panza and Claude Picasso.

Tivey's transition to commercial galleries began with his first New York exhibition at Blum Helman, where he translated the perception of infinite light into wall-mounted works. These paintings, known as his 'Elemental Light' series, presented various metals and oil paint behind optical screens to evoke the ethereal qualities of his earlier installations. Throughout the 1980s, exhibitions at Blum Helman, Landau-Alexander, Margo Leavin, and Elizabeth Leach expanded his exploration of luminosity, emphasizing light's dynamic interaction with ambient conditions and the viewer's presence.

For over five decades, Tivey has investigated the phenomenology of light across installation, painting, sculpture, and projection, exploring its sensory, emotional, and theoretical dimensions. His works are held in major public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

THE LIGHT & SPACE MONK



Hap Tivey second on the right in front of the gate of Hofuku-ji Monestary in 1974

Hap Tivey was James Turrell's teaching assistant at Pomona College between 1972-1974.



Front row from left to right: Mowry Baden and Guy Williams. Claremont, 1972
Back row from left to right: Hap Tivey, James Turrell, Gus Blaisdell and Lewis Blatz

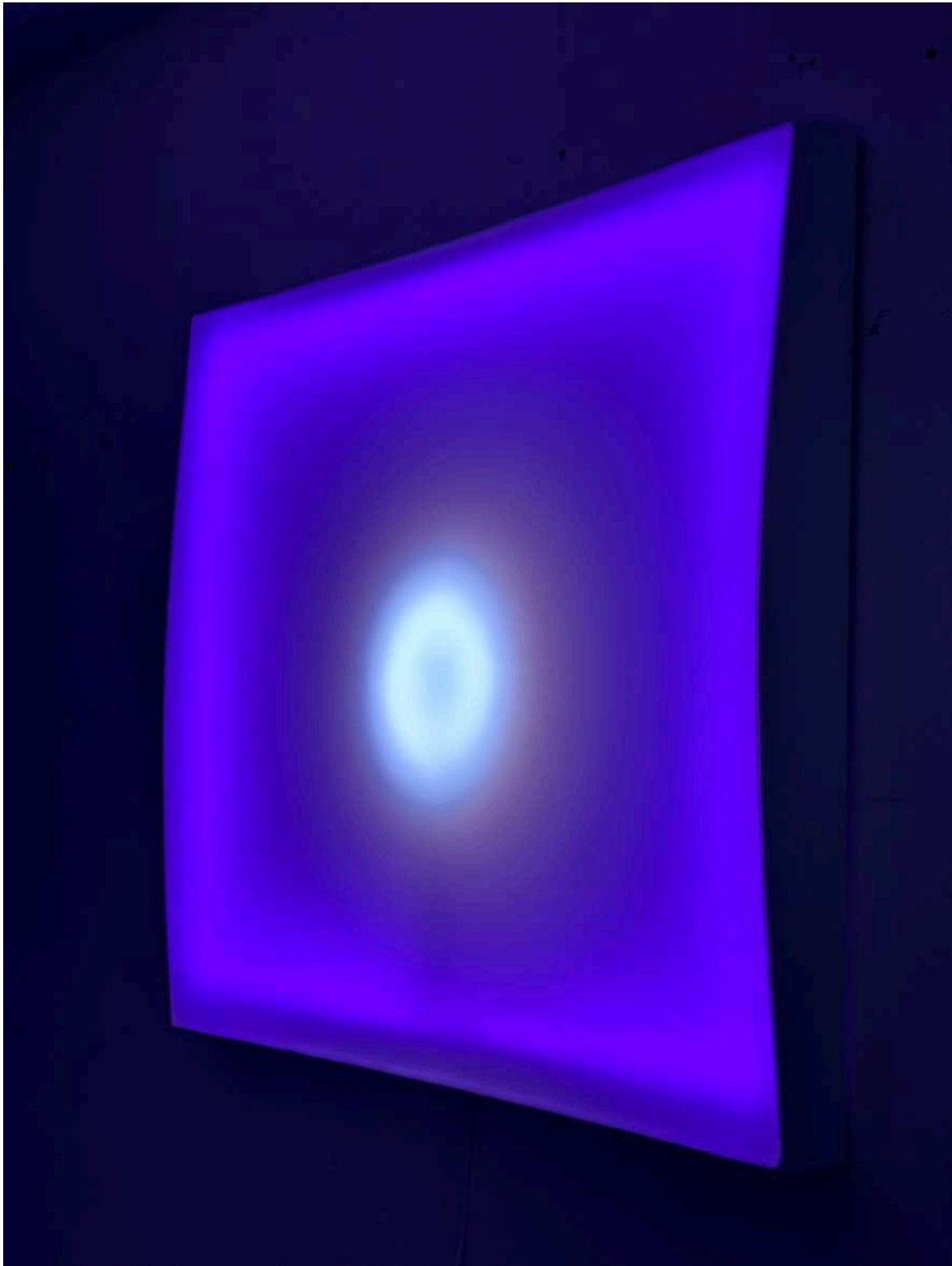


James Turrell and Hap Tivey
Fire Arch and Half Mile Beam, Claremont, 1971

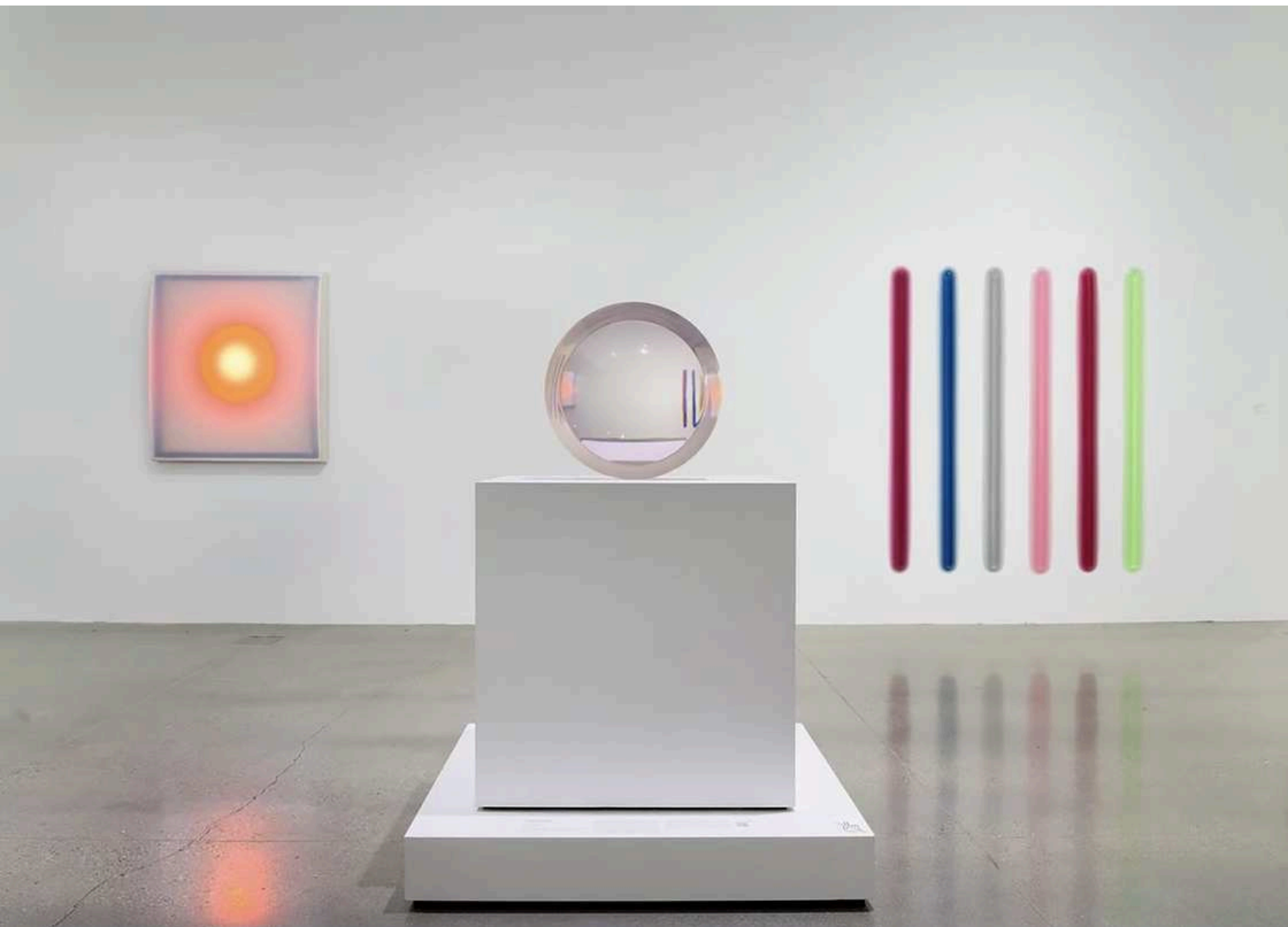
HELIOS SERIES

The *Helios* body of work (named for the sun god of the Greek Pantheon) originated in 2020 and consists of moving-image wall works, each with a unique sequence of shifting light that vary in duration, intensity and value. The changes in color and light are carefully composed by the artist, occurring in the background and within the glowing circle, or sun shape, at the center of the work. The abstract imagery cycles on a loop that lasts twelve minutes or less, consciously timed for perceptual impact.

The *Helios* works are designed to elicit responses unique to the individual, with reports ranging from a peaceful coexistence between mind and body to more cognitive responses, such as a kinesthetic experience of visual energy. Moreover, after several minutes of watching a work, the viewer's separation between themselves and the object becomes less obvious, and for some, it may even disappear entirely. The beauty of perceiving highly saturated color in shifting hues suggests an attempt by the artist to capture the infinite color combinations created by the sun, as well as the inner visions of someone who has achieved enlightenment. In the artist's words, his work pursues "the concrete experience of light as well as the emotional and theoretical implications it holds for the human experience."



Hap Tivey
Helios XVI, 2025
Aluminum, expanded polyethylene sheet, ACM, acrylic
paint, Aero View 90 optical screen, 24DC, electronics and
LED Motion32 DMX controller system
42H x 49W x 6D in.



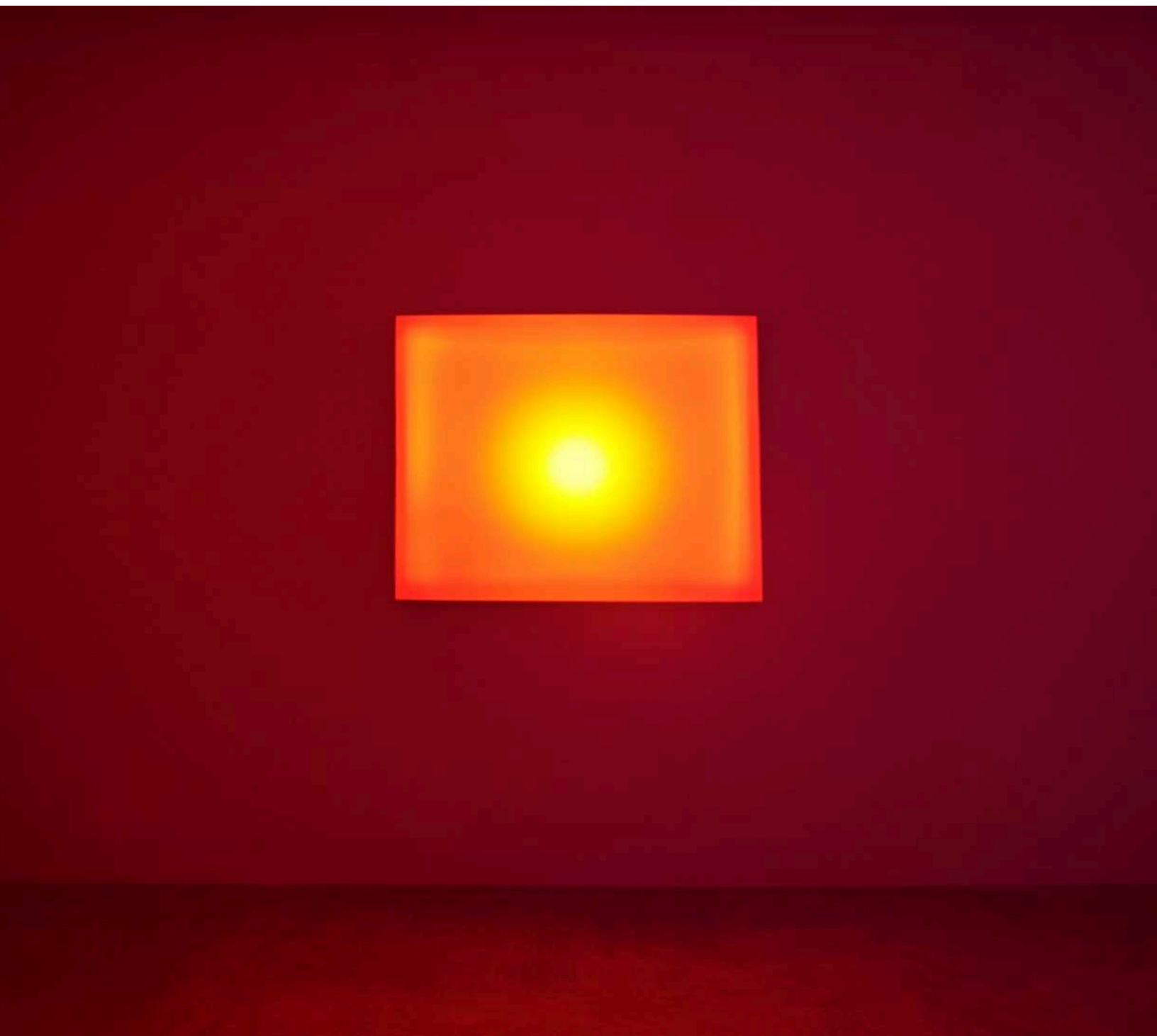
Installation View of *Helios I*, 2021 at
LACMA's *Light, Space, Surface* Exhibition
Apr 2–Oct 1, 2023

Left to right:
Hap Tivey, Fred Eversley,
Peter Alexander

Additional installation view of *Helios I*, 2021
Aluminum, expanded polyethylene sheet,
acrylic paint, Aero View 90 optical screen
24 VDC electronics, and
Entec DMX controller system
47 × 41 3/4 × 5 1/2 in

Purchased M.2022.247.2



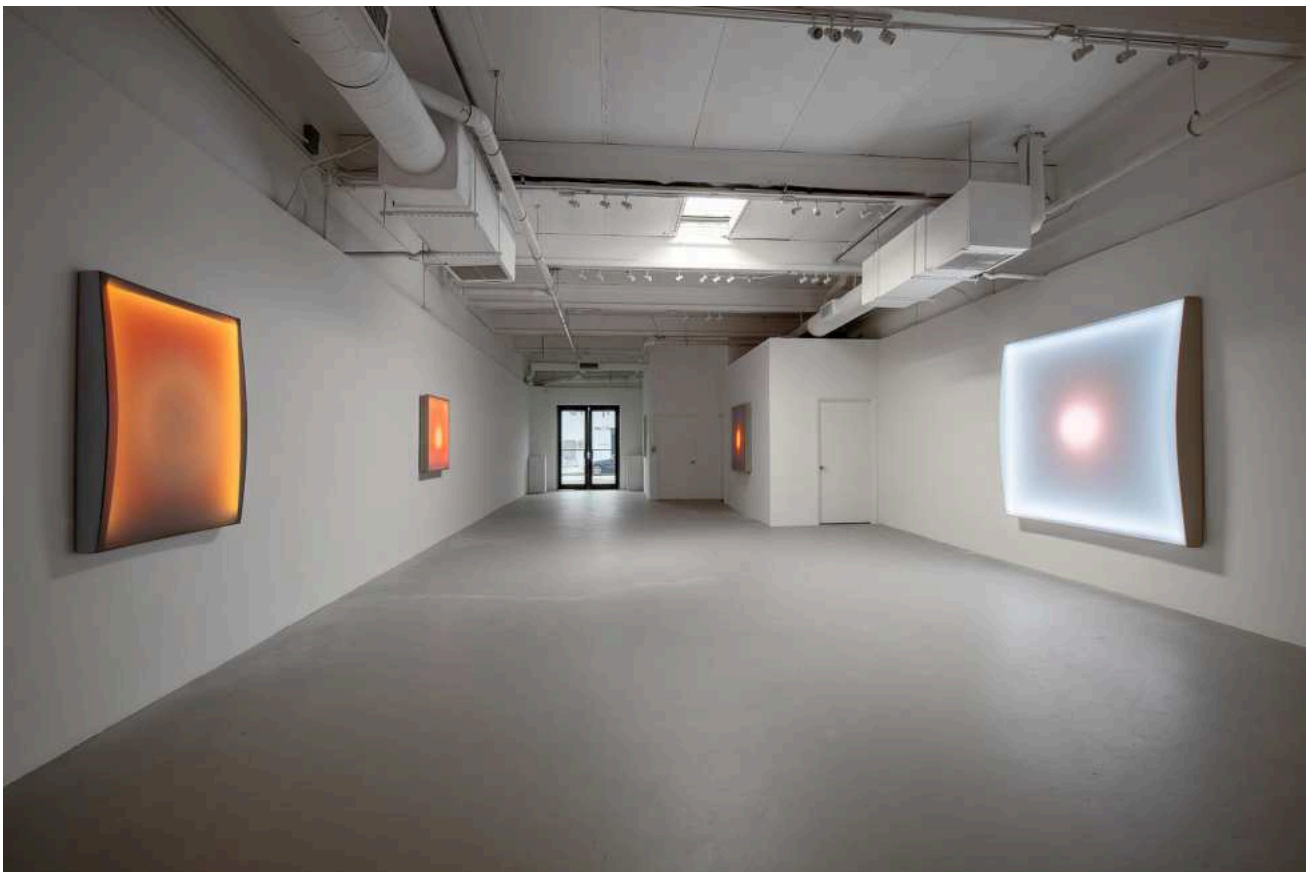


GMAC Foundation Palm Beach, FL

Helios III, 2023
Aluminum, expanded polyethylene sheet,
acrylic paint, Aero View 90 optical screen,
24DC, electronics, and Entec
DMX controller system
46 x 48 x 6 in.



Installation images of *Hap Tivey: Helios* exhibition
Miami, FL 2024



RECENT PRESS AND FILM



[Hap Tivey: Perception Is The Medium](#)

ArtSeen Dec/Jan 2024-25



[LAX Airport Light & Space Exhibition](#)



[Kris Jenner Purchases Hap Tivey Work at Art Basel Miami Beach](#)

OBSERVER

[GMAC's third exhibition, "Hap Tivey: Perception is the Medium."](#)



[HELIOS Exhibition Trailer](#)

