

YVES ULLENS

“Full Colours”



ALEXIA GOETHE GALLERY

London

Front cover: The Imaginary Garden, Brussels (Belgium) 2004, Edition of 3, 150 × 210 cm - 59.1 × 82.7 in

YVES ULLENS

“Full Colours”

3 October – 4 November 2006

at Alexia Goethe Gallery

and

6 – 10 October 2006

at ARTLondon

ALEXIA GOETHE GALLERY

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INTRODUCTION

Long a 'photomat', in the sense that Gisele Freund meant it, Yves Ullens decided at the age of 40 to pursue his hobby of the art of living. He put down his first marks as a teenager, in a makeshift dark room at his paternal grandmother's house: she was a photographer, filmmaker, writer, archaeologist and a friend of the explorer and photographer Ella Maillart. He spent the equivalent of his final year of secondary school in Newport, USA and there had the chance to study technique and above all, to learn how to look. As his teacher emphasized, a camera is not a gun. "It's not just about shooting, but about identifying what is meaningful to us in order to be able to transmit it. Looking means framing as we look rather than zooming in and observing light".

He was not yet attracted to the abstract – in fact as a teenager he was afraid of it. A trip to Turkey in 1996 gave him his first artistic experience; what might have been merely a holiday snap – a photograph of a salt lake taken through the window of a bus - proved to be pure abstraction, blurring perspectives into an unexpectedly formal series. The botched picture showed him the expressive power of colour and light joined by serendipity. A serendipity that Yves Ullens has been exploiting ever since by keeping his senses constantly alert. Beyond portraits and landscapes, the classic staples of the amateur photographer's repertoire, he sought other channels, transcending the emotional purpose of a fixed image, from memento mori to pure experimentation and creativity. An abstract series was born out of Senegal, as he re-invented the tricky cliché of a sunset taken from an aircraft. The Birth of Colours, an image taken in 1997 in Italy was a revelation, imposing its colours like a red carpet. A fishermen's hut called Casa Bepi in a back street of Burano, a narrow façade of intense colour riddled with deep cracks – "these defects that make things beautiful" he says – becomes a living thing in the evening light. Putting the shutter speed on manual and moving the camera by hand gives the hazy effect of a painted image and produces a subtle blend of tones.

Yves Ullens dances round his subjects like a whirling Dervish possessed by his mystical rite.

"Tracker of light", the expression coined by Genevieve Berge, has become his official title, explaining the daily quest of one who chases stardust as though in a trance, always ready to snatch an image.

At the crack of dawn, just as a ray of light peeps through a thin curtain, the hunt is on. More than light, it is colour that attracts him. This dance, which he compares to tai chi and gymnastics of the soul, creates a universe where matter, texture, shape, volume, colour and the "state of light" have their own life, freed from the purely figurative.

Christine De Naeyer
June 2006

I am inviting you to play a game. This game involves using your memory. It involves colours; moving colours. You want to catch them and keep them with you. In reality you are remembering these moving colours because it's a dream; a dream of life. A snapshot of the senses.

In his series of painted-colour photographs, Yves Ullens captures the memory of these moving colours. The colours which flood his pictures. Yves Ullens traps the light and draws with the vibrations of photons.

Colour and light are all around us all the time, moving fast and furious. A perpetual movement but one which changes...at the speed of light. Where the painter would depict these vibrations with a brush, Yves Ullens, the photographer, the hunter, traps and pins down these resonances of colour and light with his camera.

Alexia Goethe
July 2006

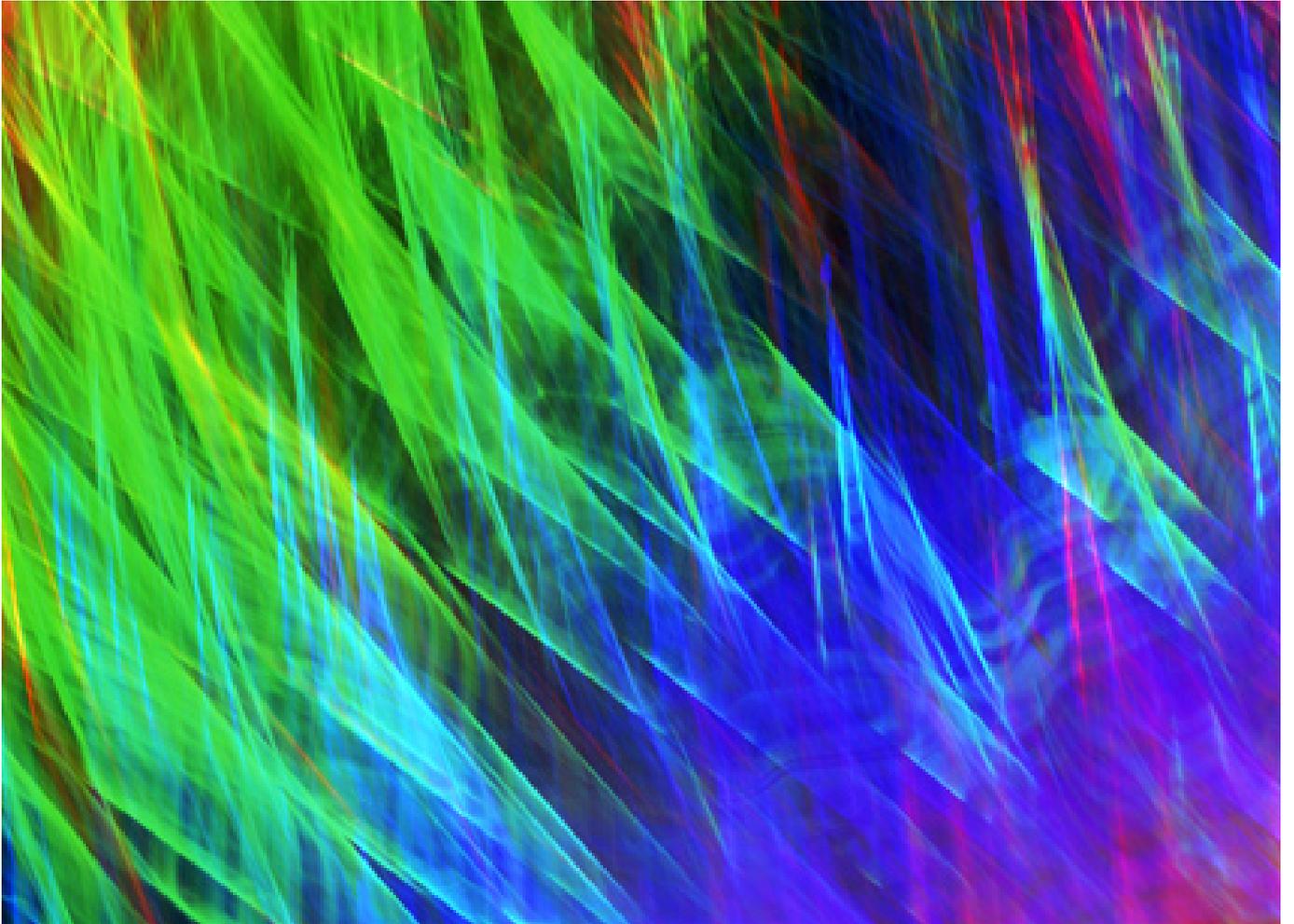


Intense Weaving #4, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 10, 20 x 30 cm - 7.9 x 11.8 in

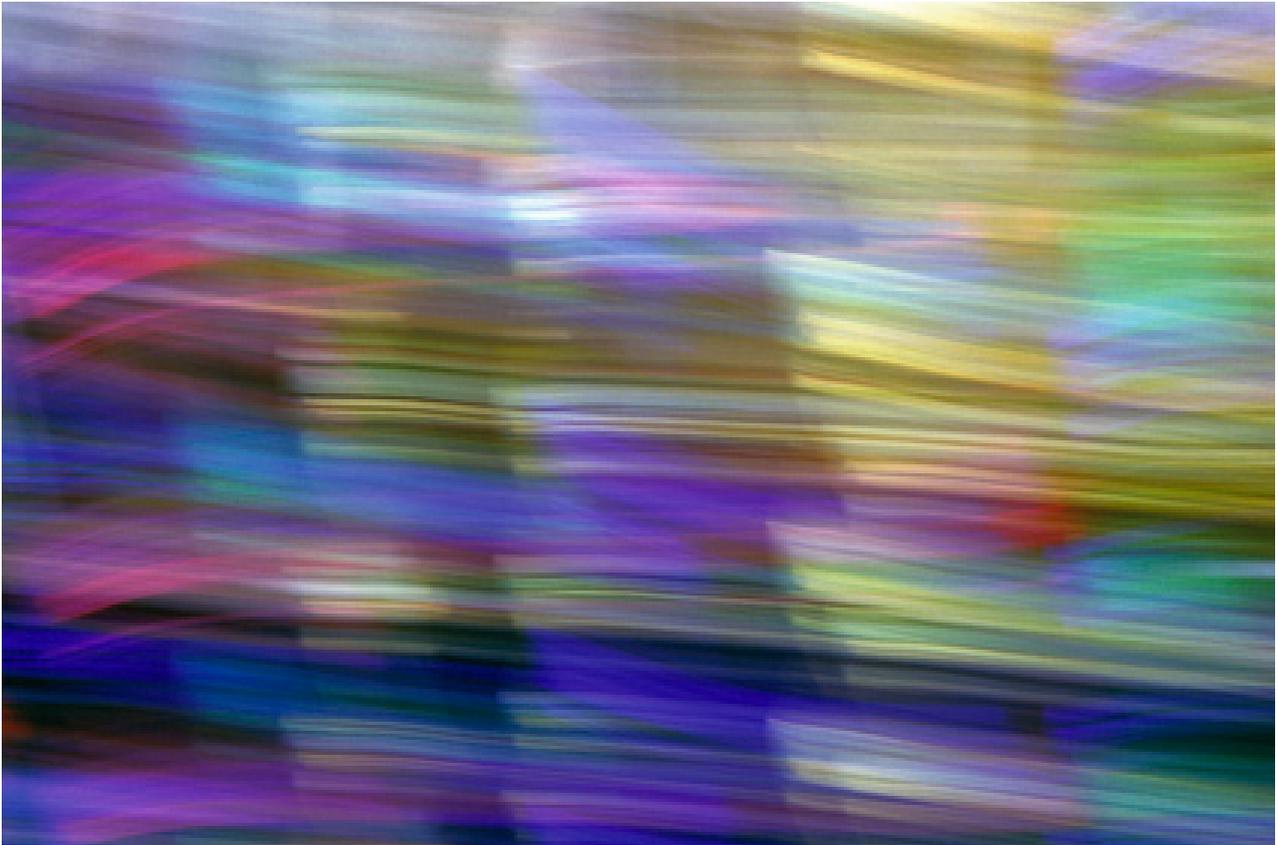
All pictures in the catalogue are C-type print mounted on aluminium + anti-UV screen, except page 31 which is mounted on enamel plate.

« Colours, like features, follow the change of emotions. »

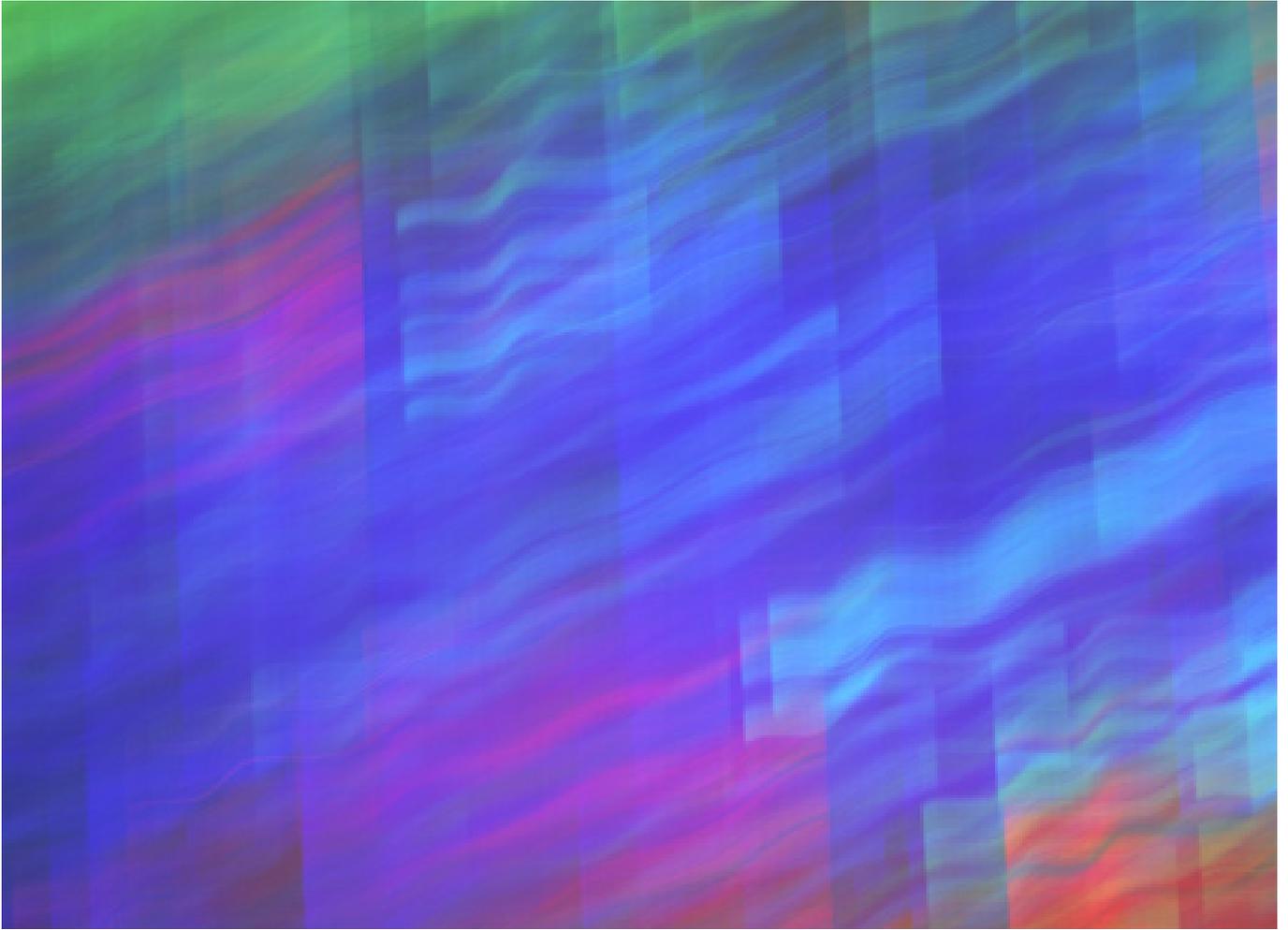
Pablo Picasso



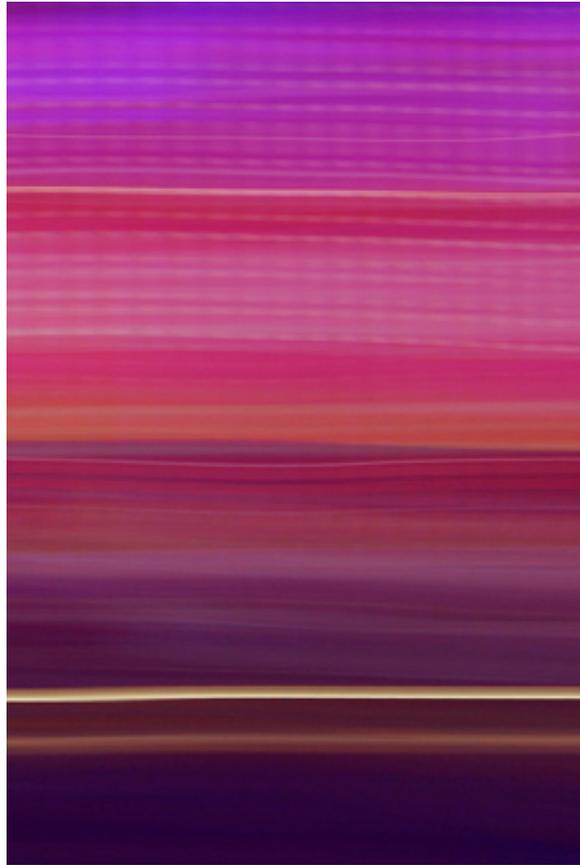
Inner Wondering, Brussels (Belgium) 2004, Edition of 3, 150 × 210 cm - 59.1 × 82.7 in



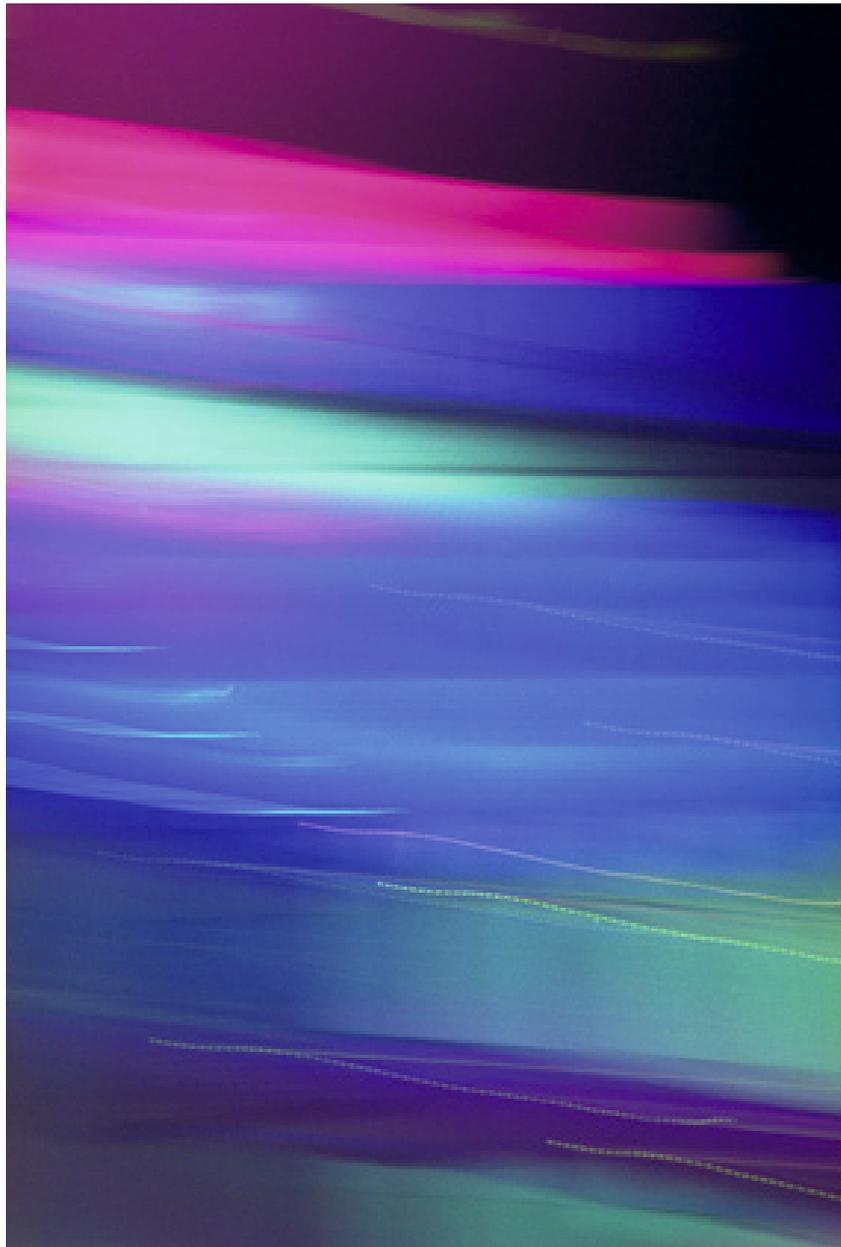
Colour Changes #1, Holiday Isle, Florida (USA) 2003, Edition of 3, 100 x 150 cm - 39.4 x 59.1 in



Light Slidings, Brussels (Belgium) 2004, Edition of 3, 150 x 210 cm - 59.1 x 82.7 in



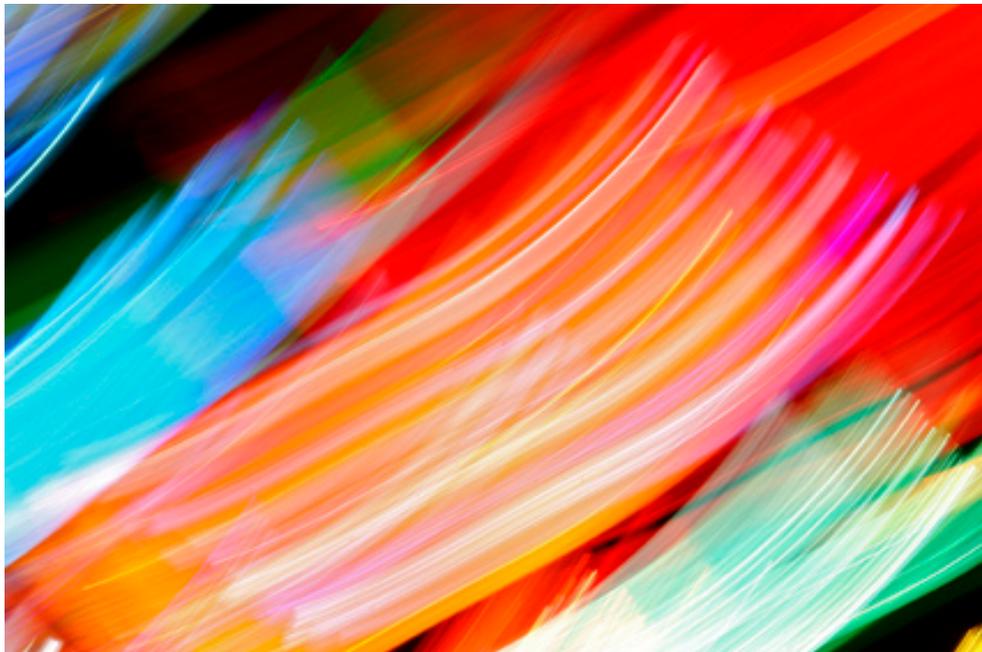
Pink Sweetness, London (UK) 2005, Edition of 20, 60 x 40 cm - 23.6 x 15.7 in



Light Veils #1, Geneva (Switzerland) 2004, Edition of 5, 150 x 100 cm - 59.1 x 39.4 in



Light Veils #2, Geneva (Switzerland) 2004, Edition of 5, 100 x 150 cm - 39.4 x 59.1 in



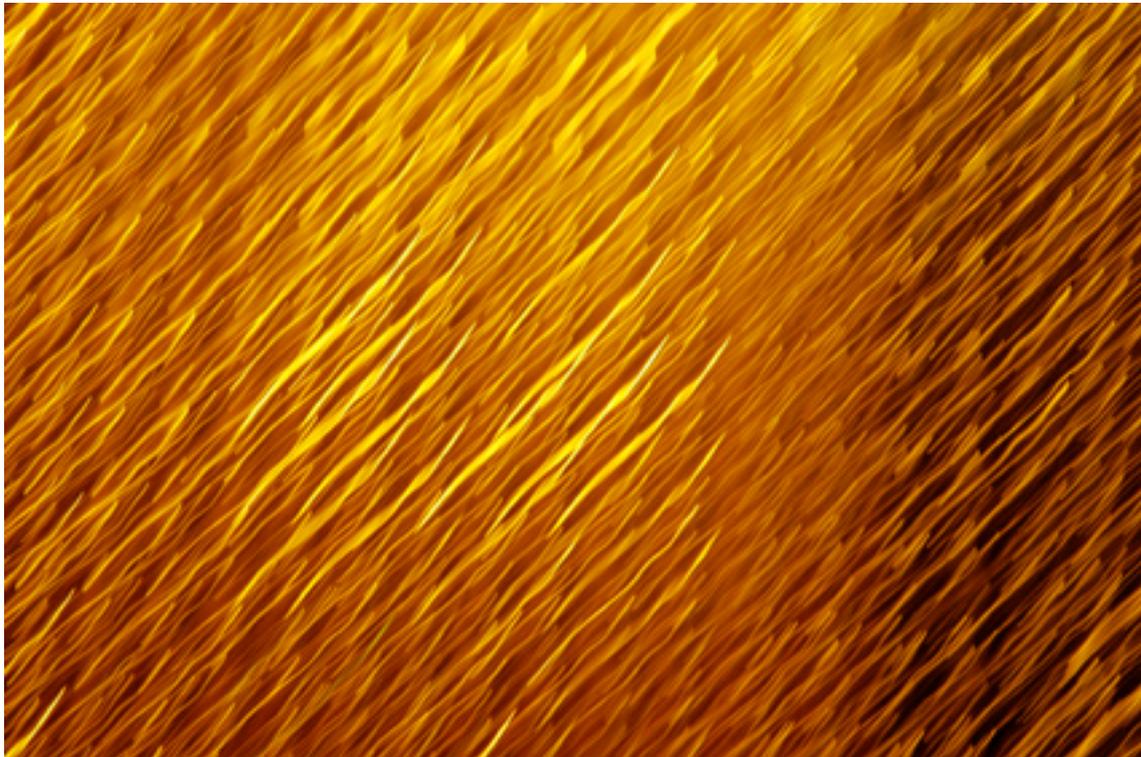
Colour Stream, Malèves-Ste-Marie (Belgium) 2005, Edition of 5, 60 × 90 cm - 23.6 × 35.4 in

« Colour in a picture is like enthusiasm in life. »

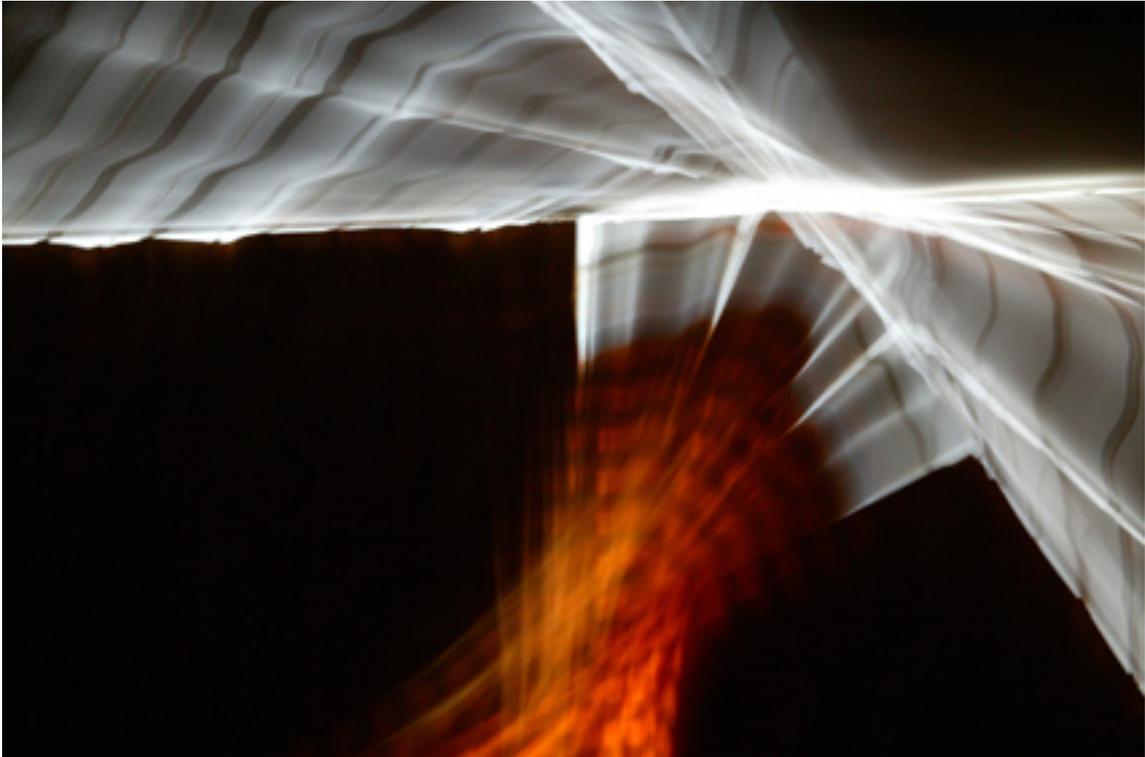
Vincent van Gogh



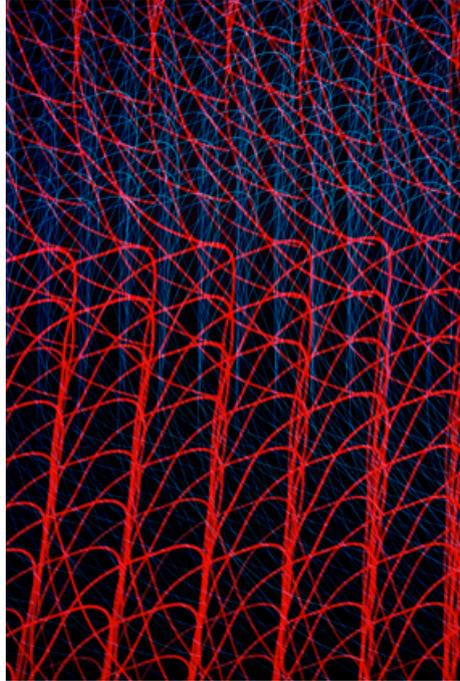
Shinning Colours #1, Brussels (Belgium) 2004, Edition of 3, 60 x 90 cm - 23.6 x 35.4 in



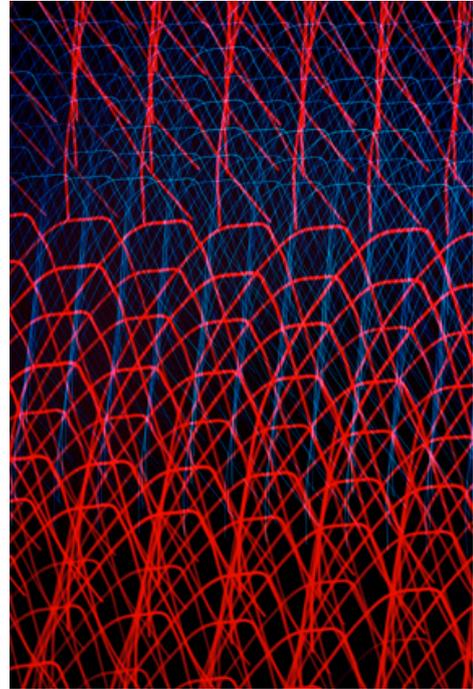
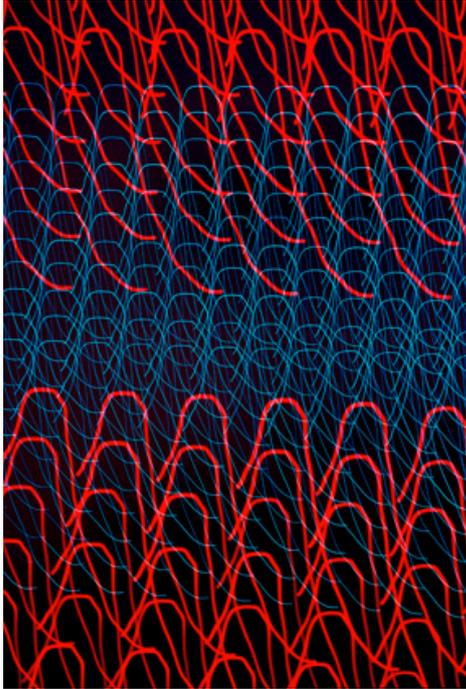
Golden Vibrations, Barcelona (Spain) 2005, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



The Wings of the Future, Knokke (Belgium) 2003, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



Light Meshes #1, triptych, Lille (France) 2004, Edition of 5, 45 x 30 cm - 17.7 x 11.8 in

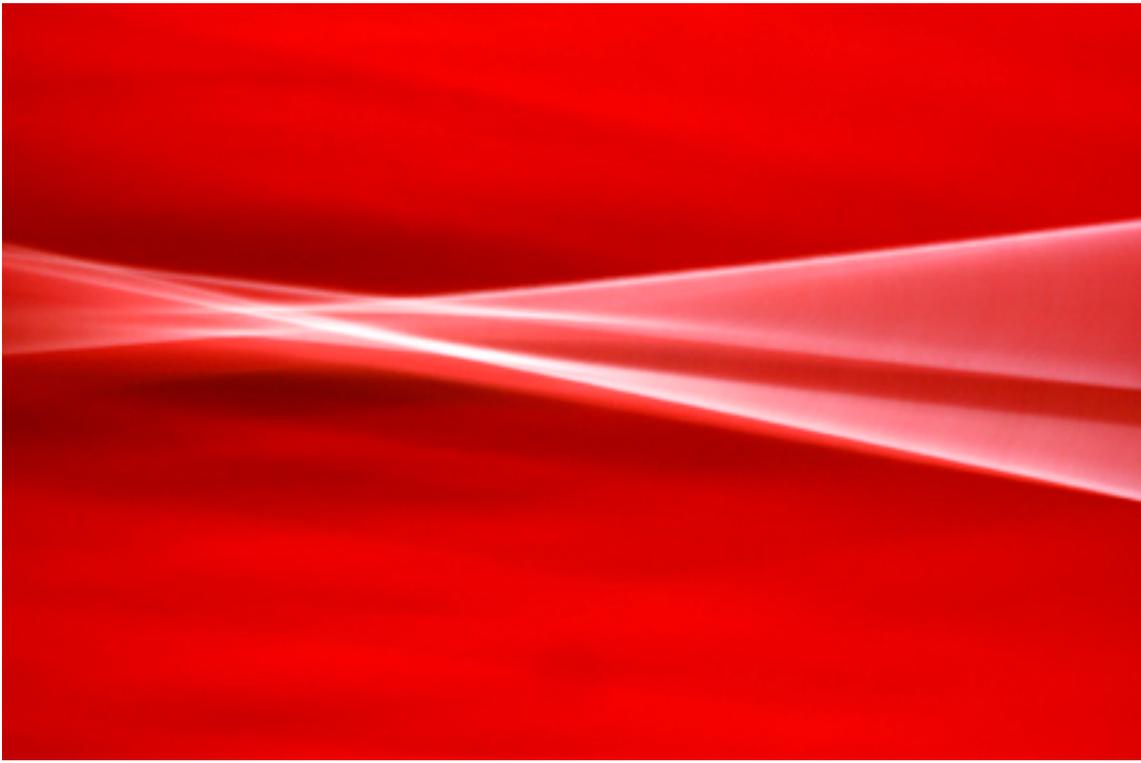




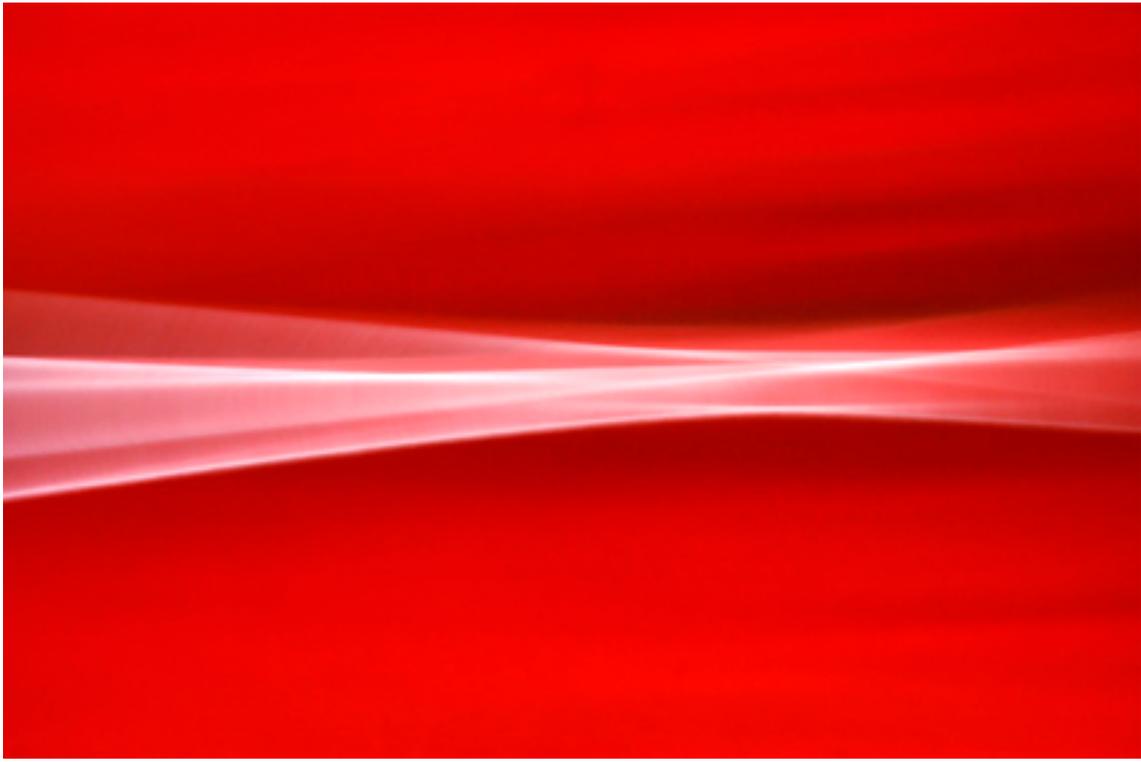
The Theatre of Lights #10, Knokke (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



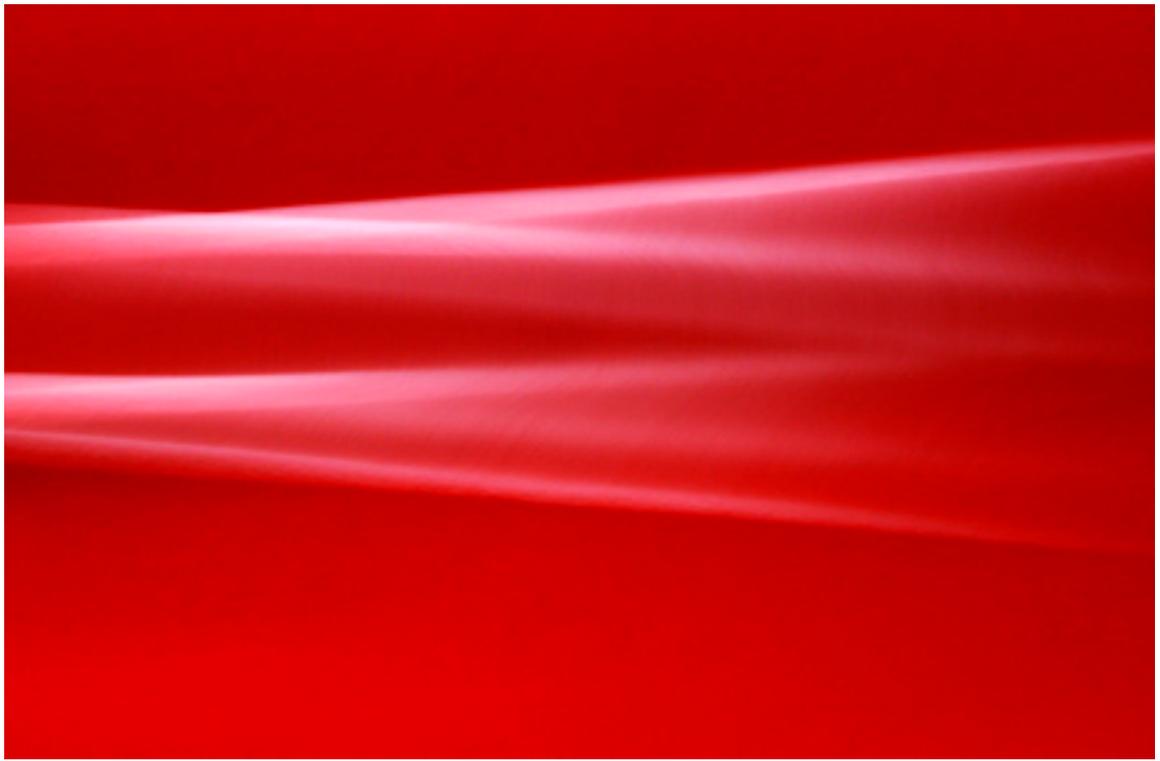
The Theatre of Lights #1, Knokke (Belgium) 2003, Edition of 5, 114 x 76 cm - 44.9 x 29.9 in



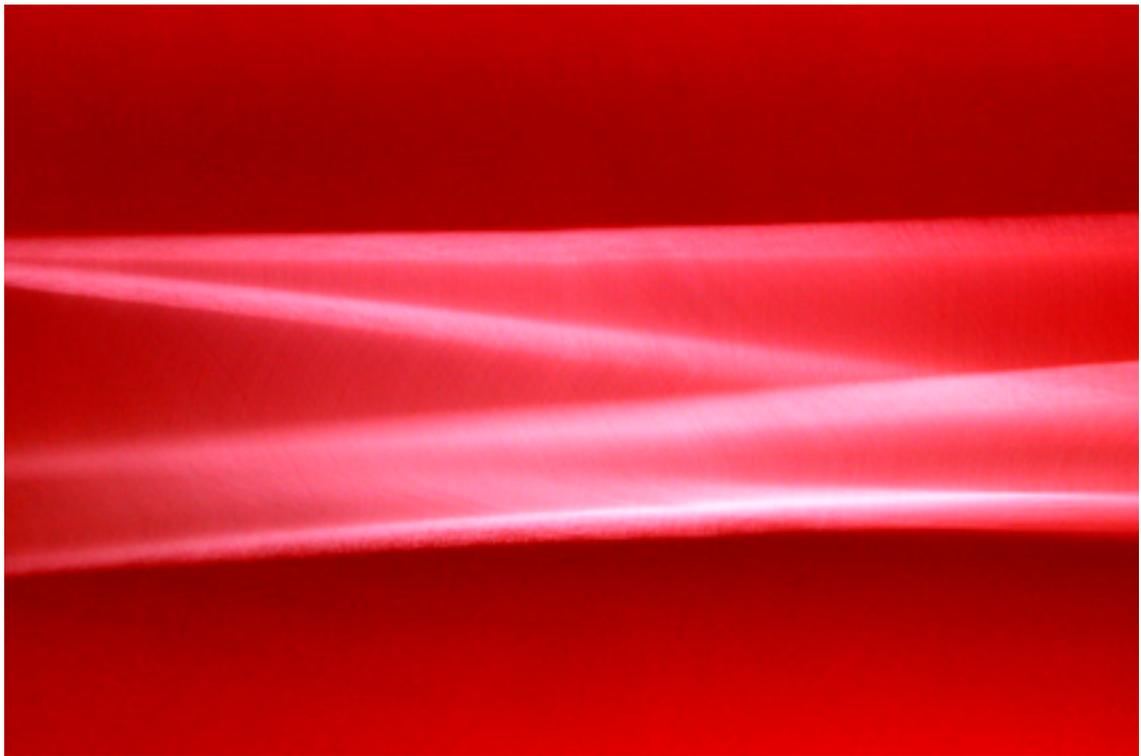
The Theatre of Lights #7, Knokke (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



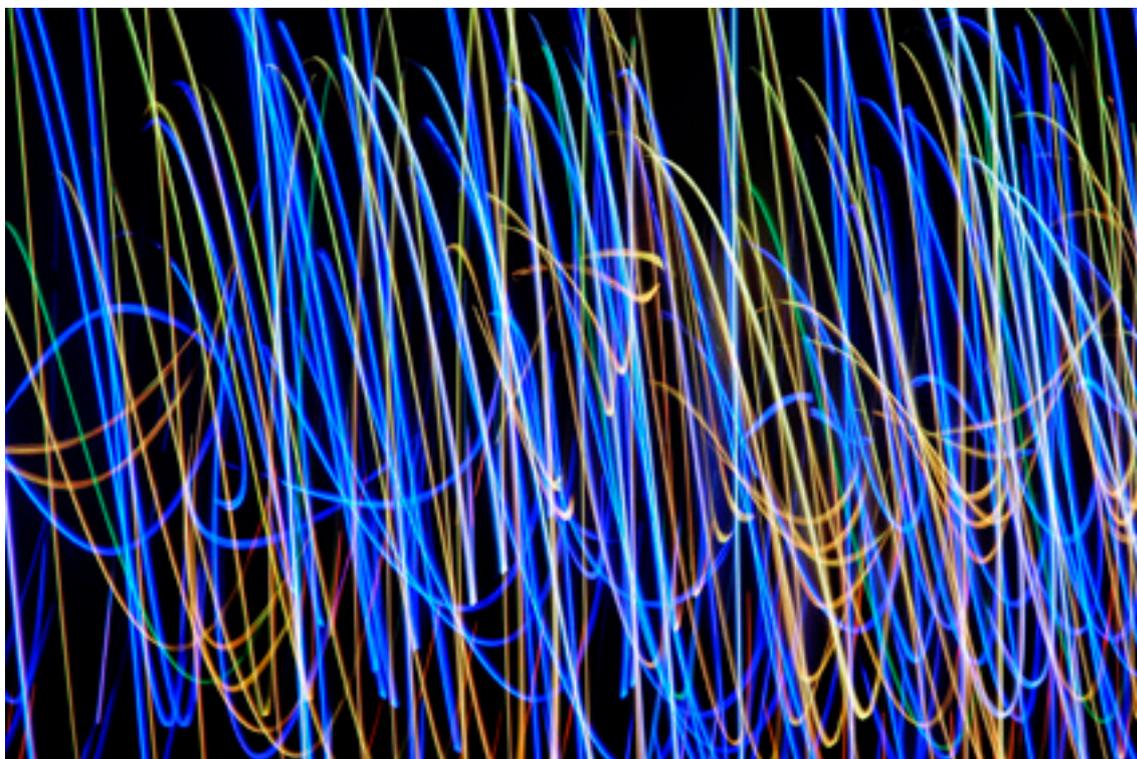
The Theatre of Lights #6, Knokke (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



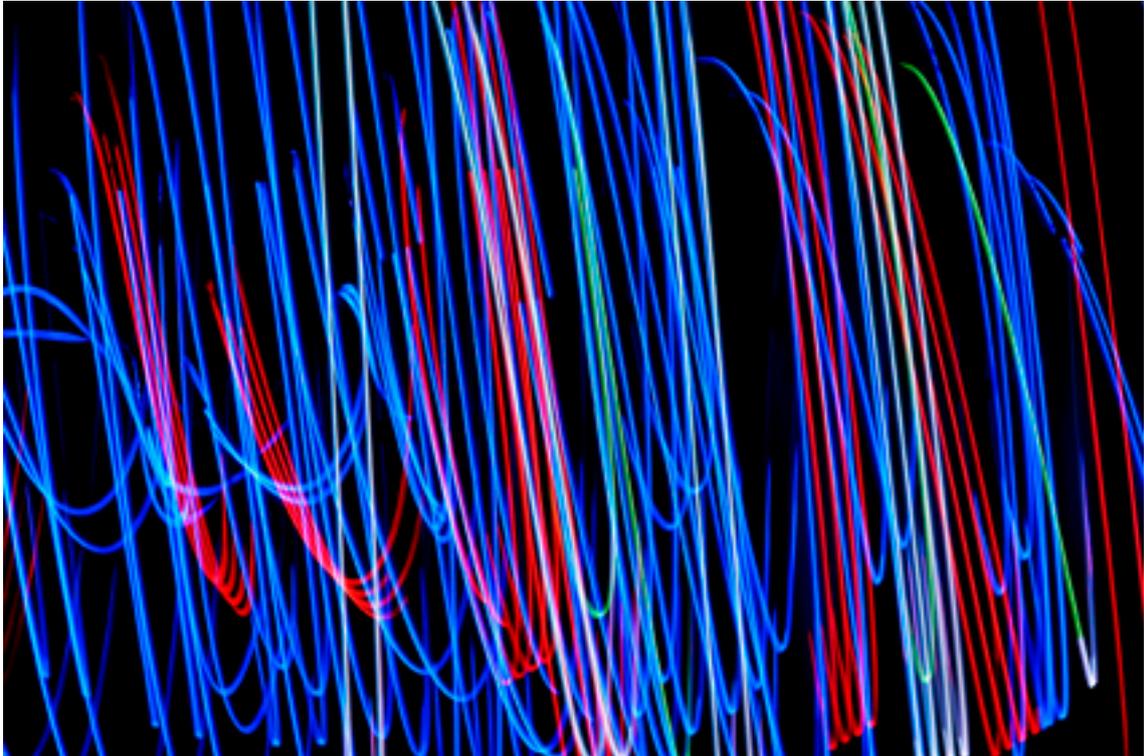
The Theatre of Lights #8, Knokke (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



The Theatre of Lights #9, Knokke (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



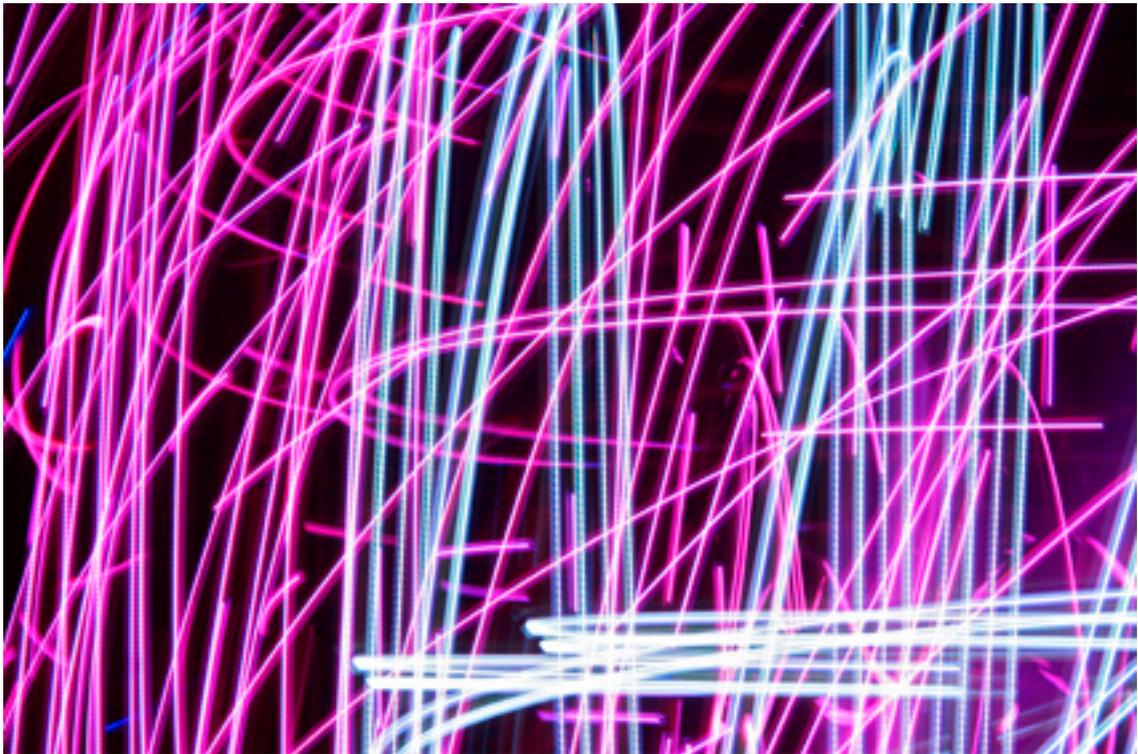
Graffiti of Lights #2, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



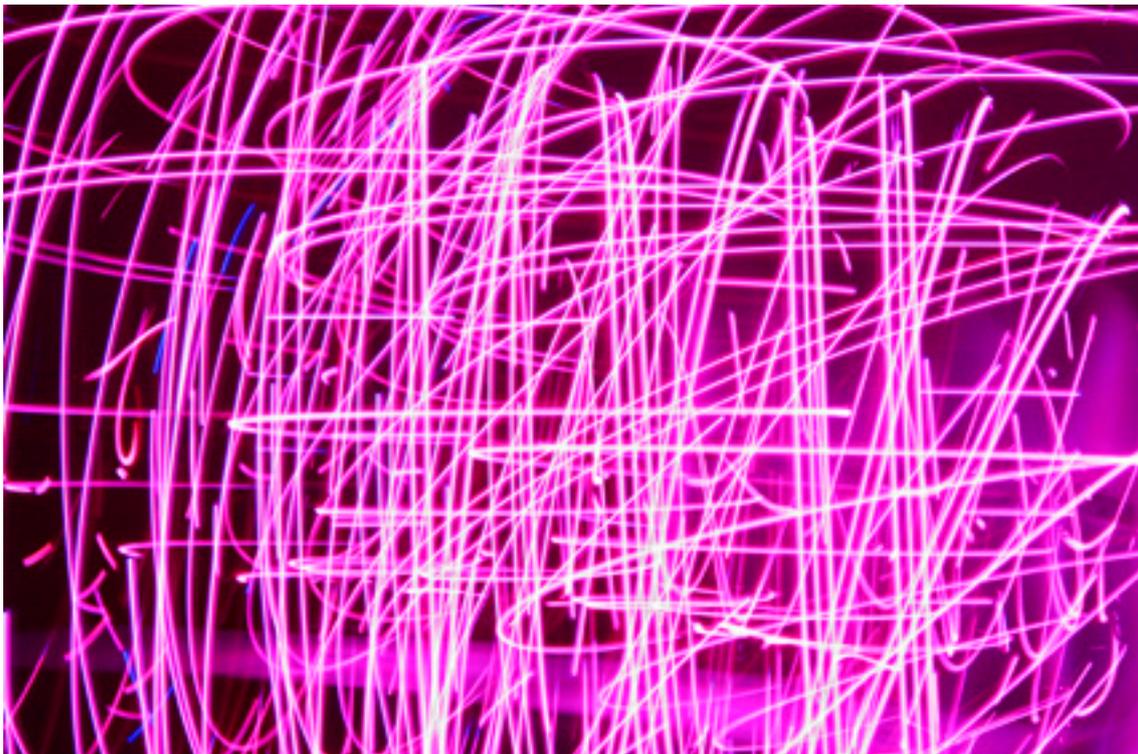
Graffiti of Lights #1, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



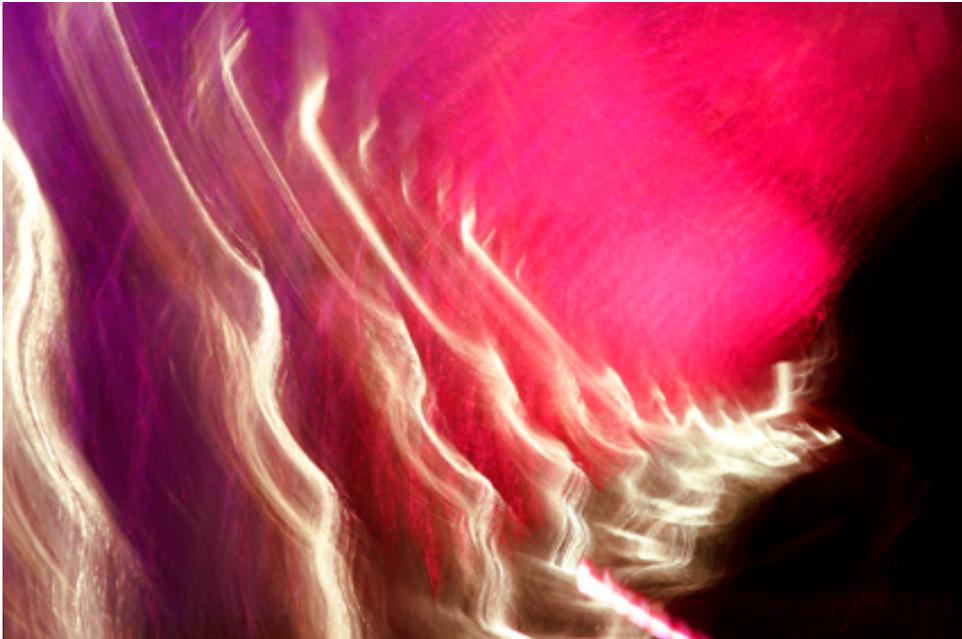
Graffiti of Lights #3, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



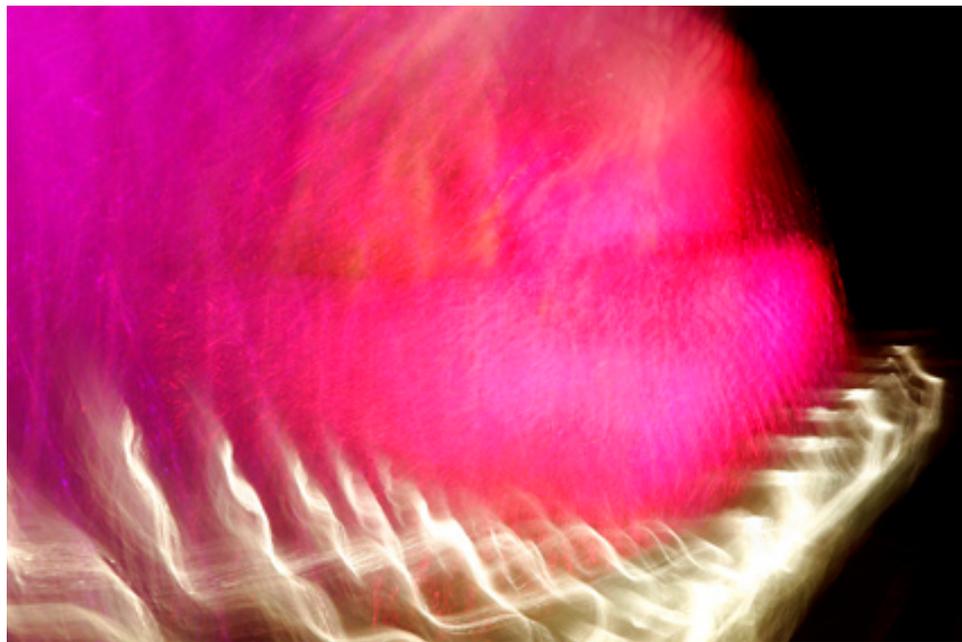
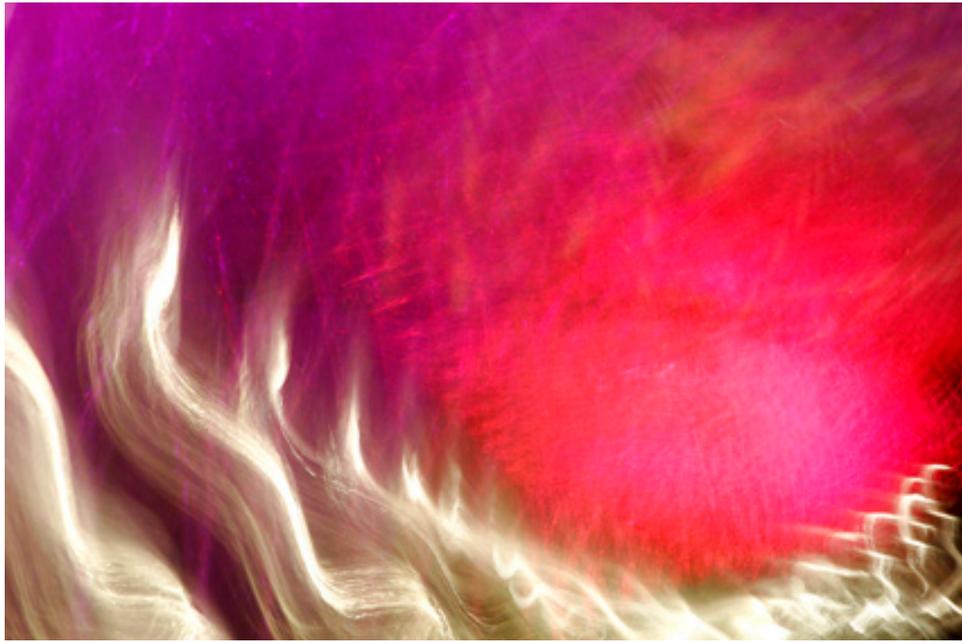
Graffiti of Lights #5, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in

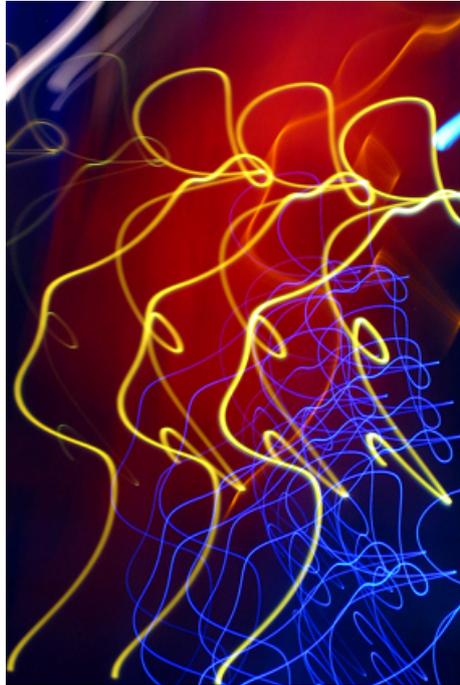


Graffiti of Lights #4, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in

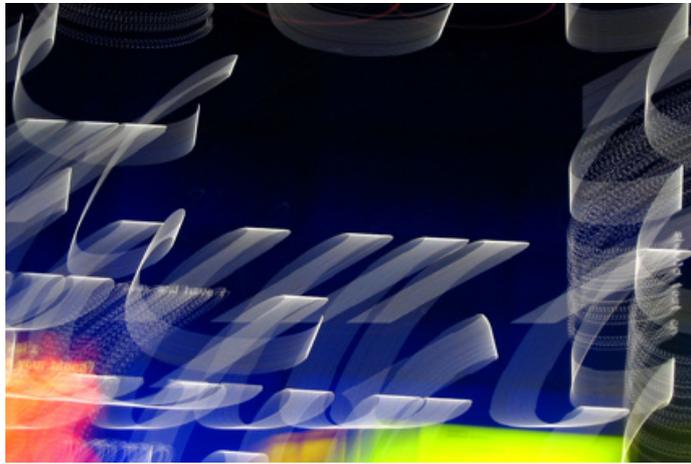


Colour Fantasy #1, triptych, Köln (Germany) 2005, Edition of 5, 60 x 90 cm - 23.6 x 35.4 in

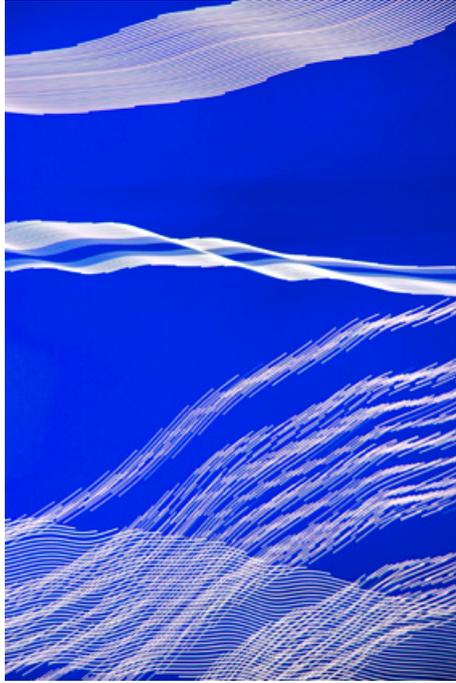




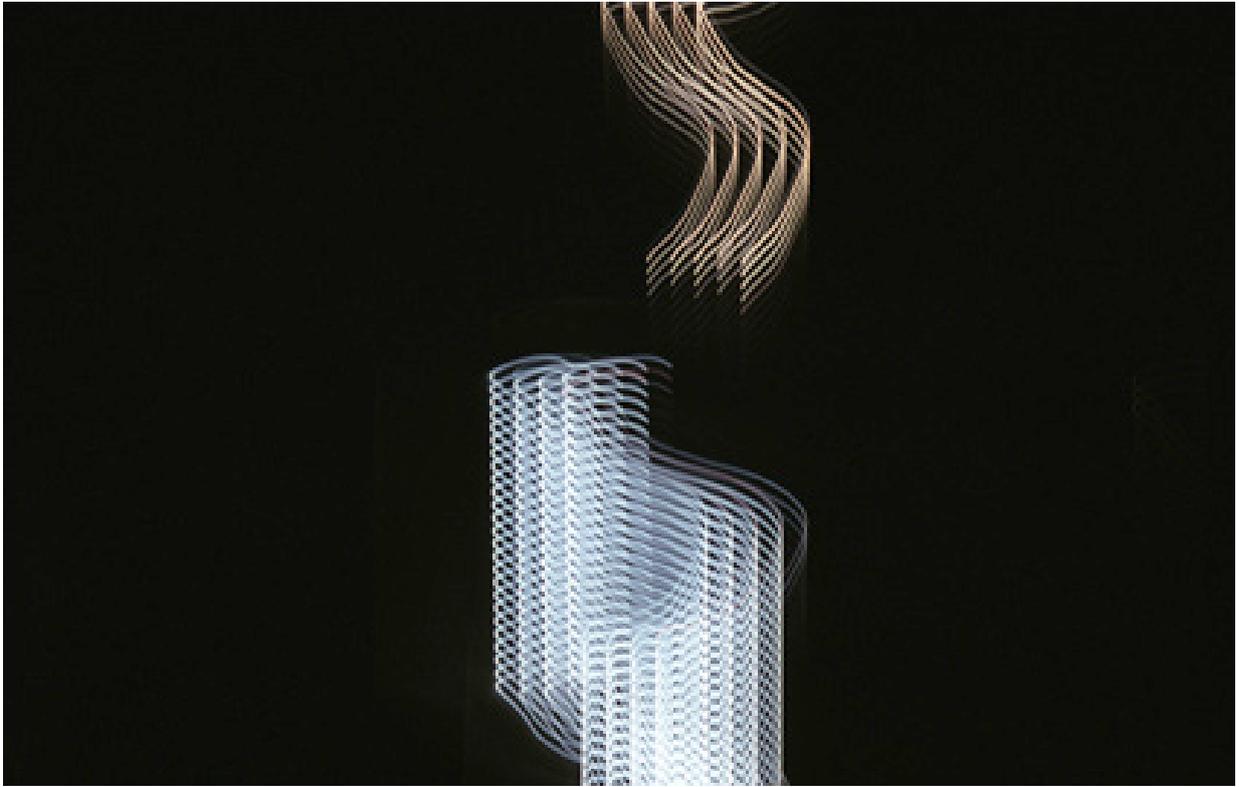
Light Drawings #1, London (UK) 2004, Edition of 10, 20 x 30 cm - 7.9 x 11.8 in



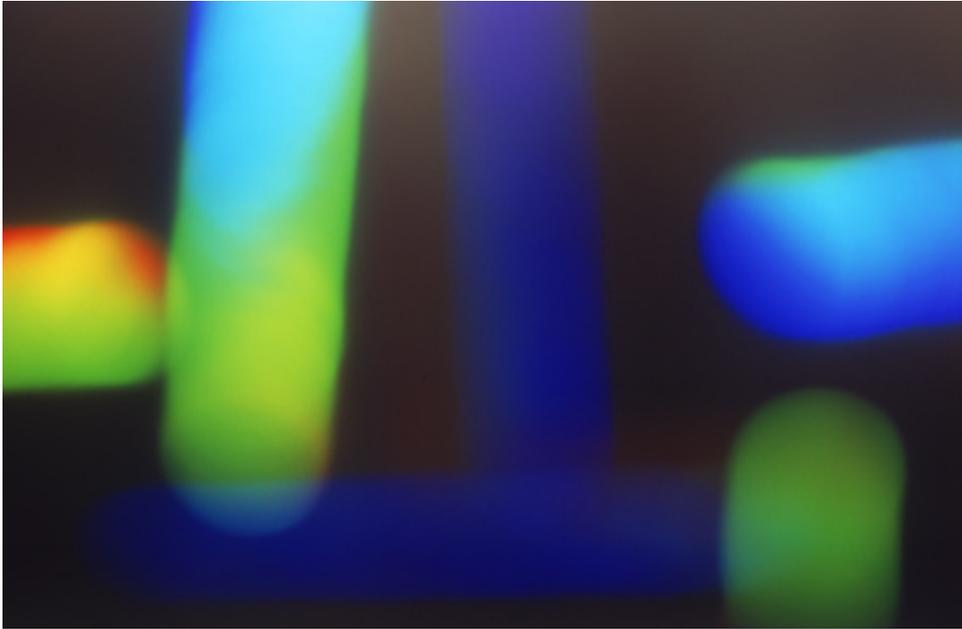
Light Waves #3, London (UK) 2004, Edition of 10, 20 x 30 cm - 7.9 x 11.8 in



Light Waves #6, London (UK) 2005, Edition of 10, 20 x 30 cm - 7.9 x 11.8 in



White Light Sculpture, Rome (Italy) 2004, Edition of 10, 60 x 80 cm - 23.6 x 31.5 in



Light Rods #2, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 60 x 90 cm - 23.6 x 35.4 in



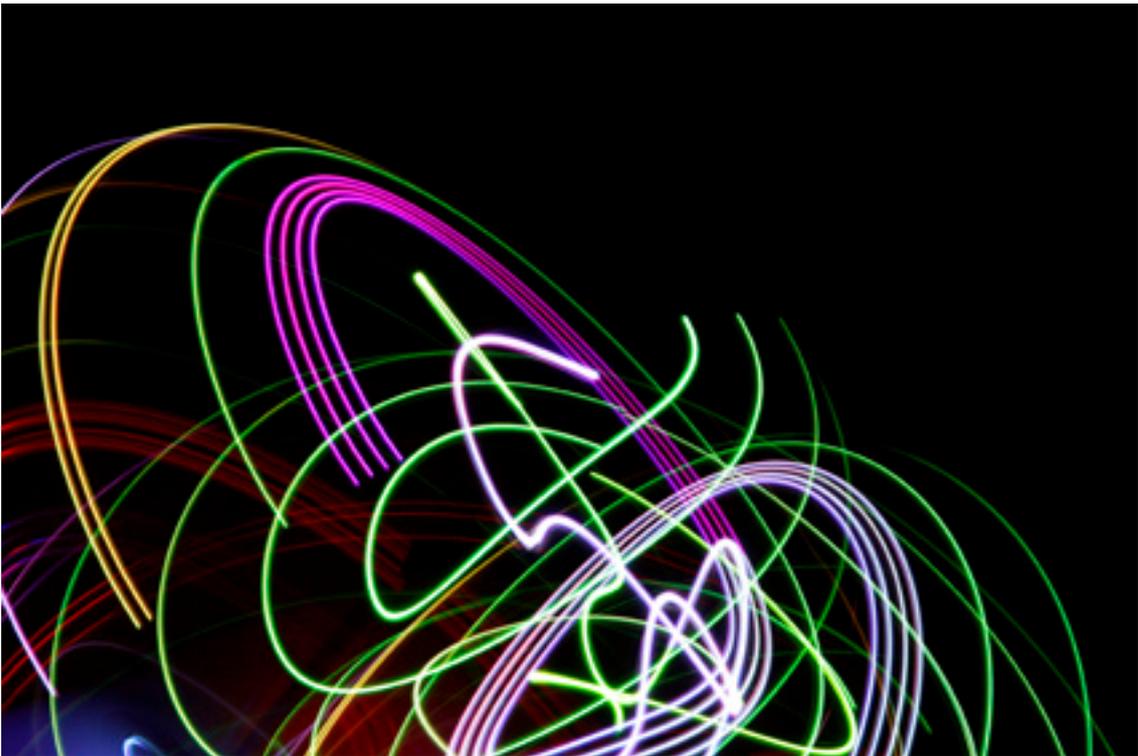
Light Rods #1, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 60 x 90 cm - 23.6 x 35.4 in



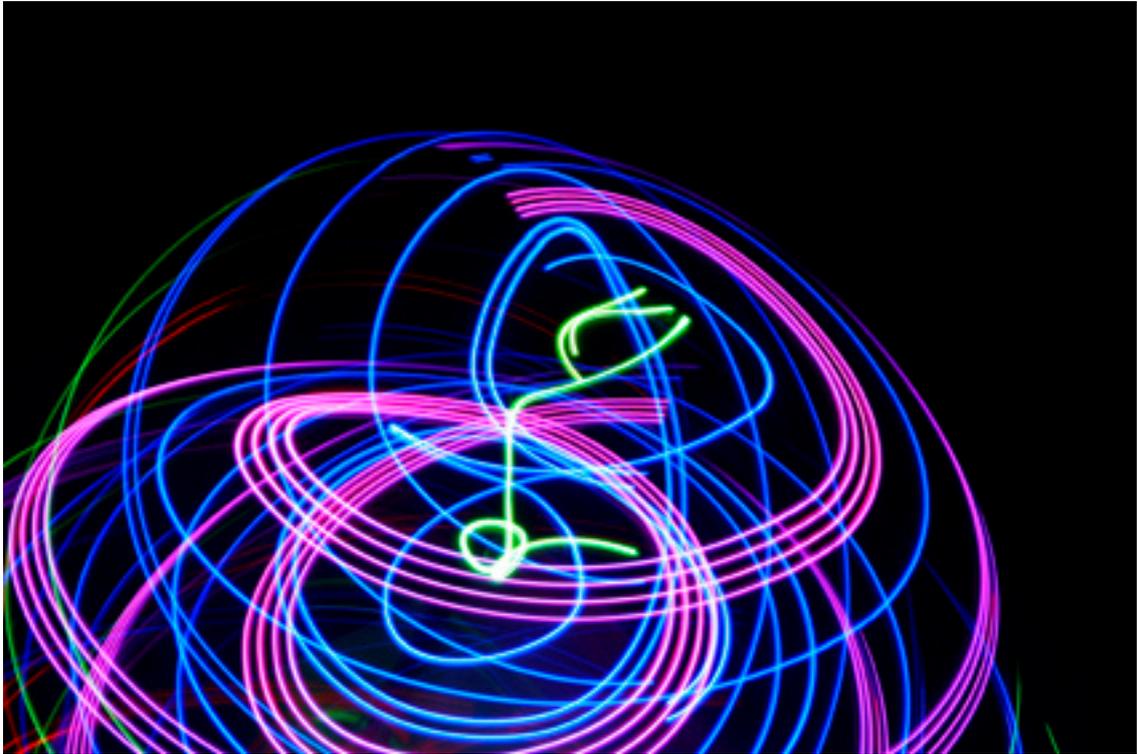
The Bright Universe #1, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 100 x 150 cm - 39.4 x 59.1 in



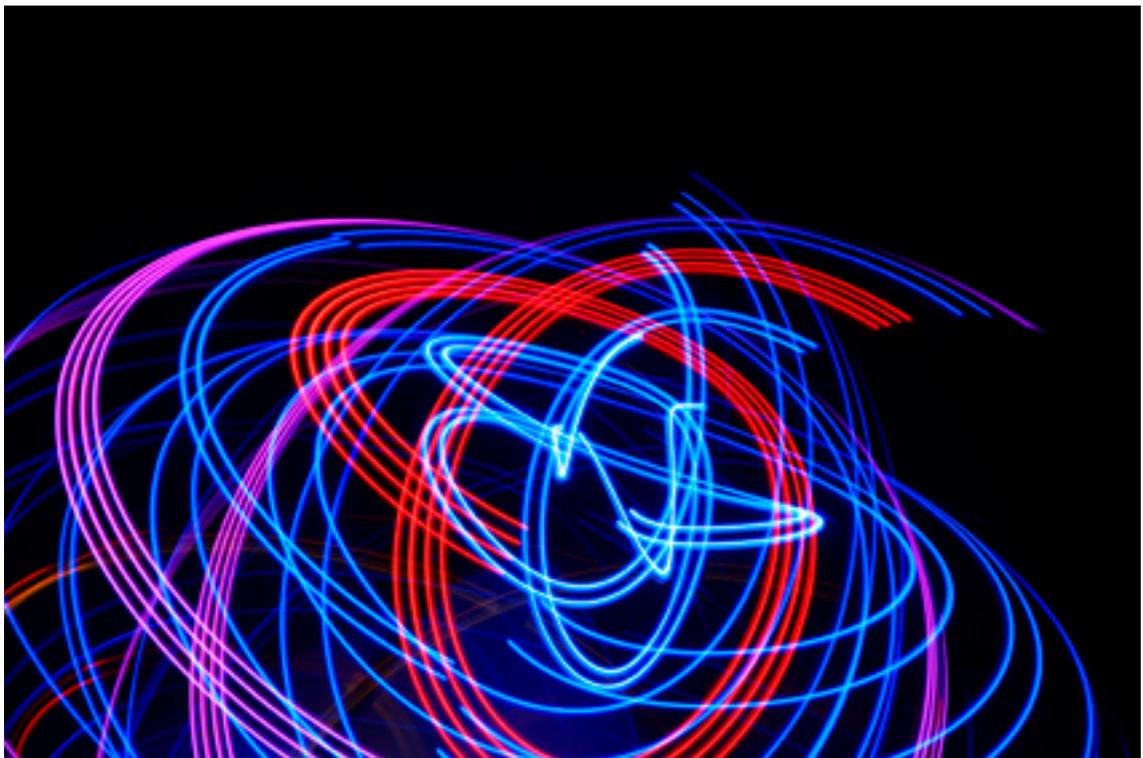
The Bright Universe #5, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



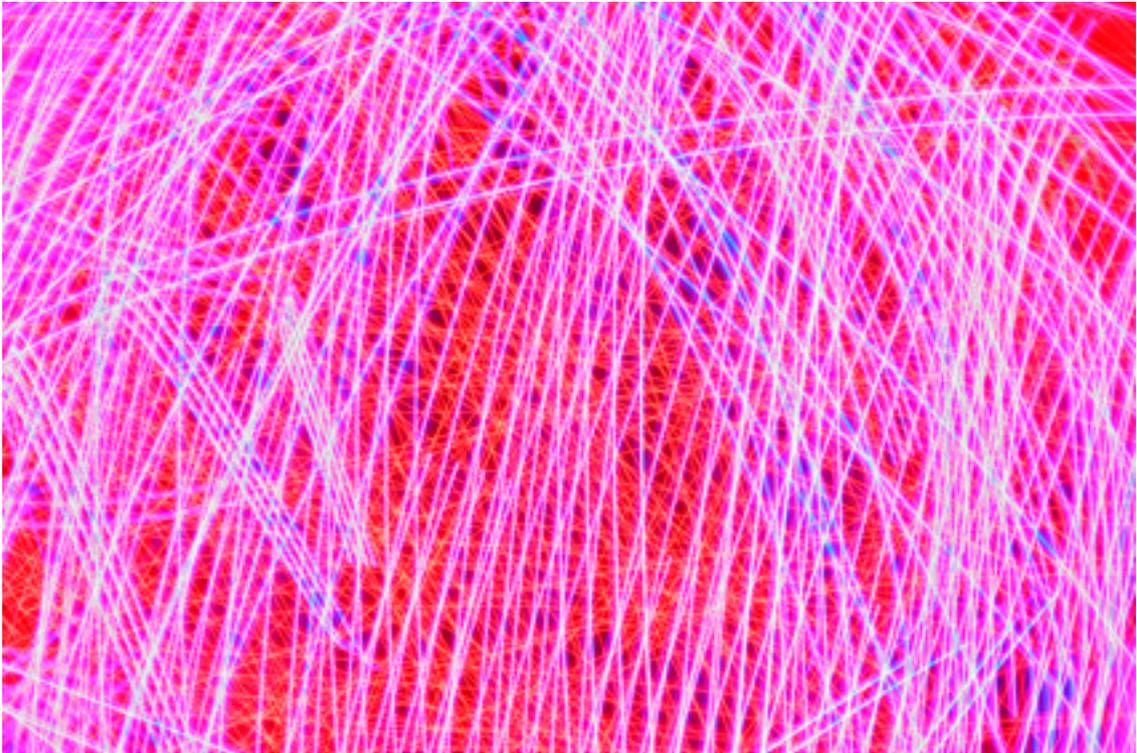
The Bright Universe #4, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



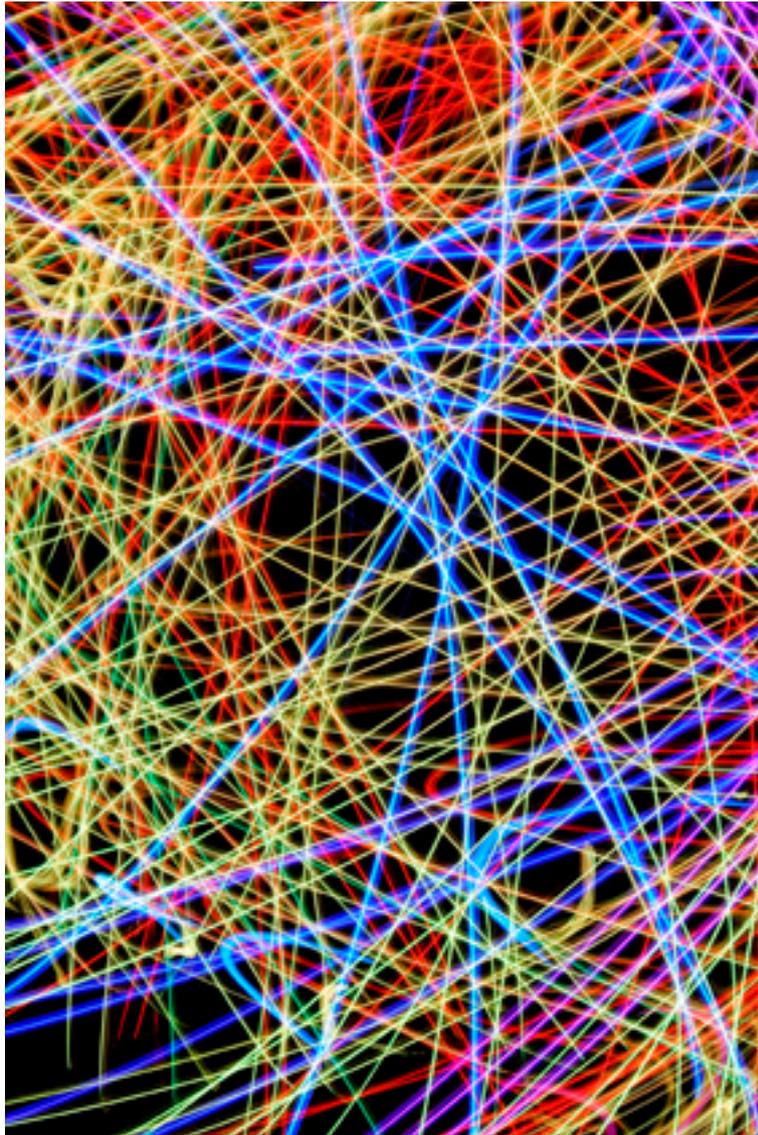
The Bright Universe #3, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



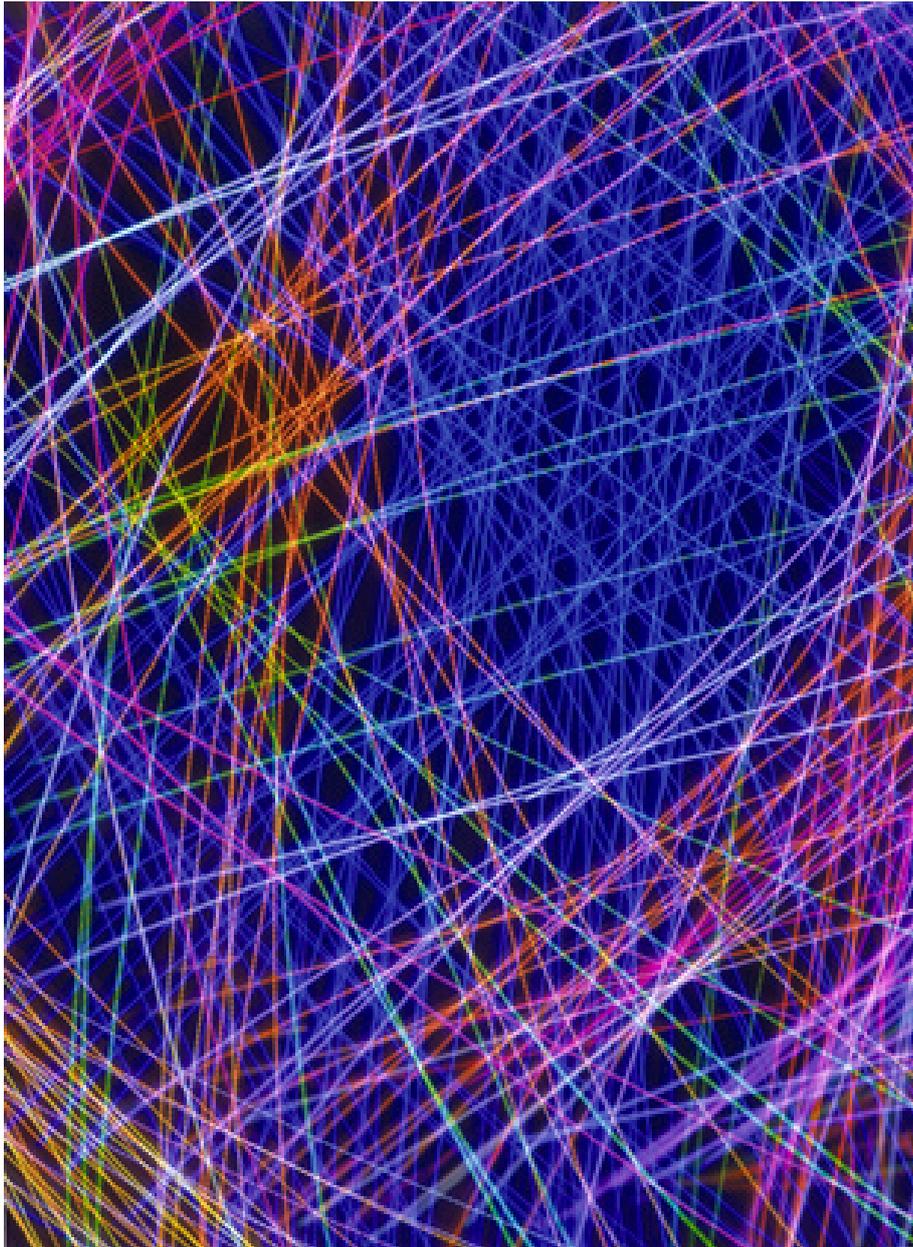
The Bright Universe #2, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



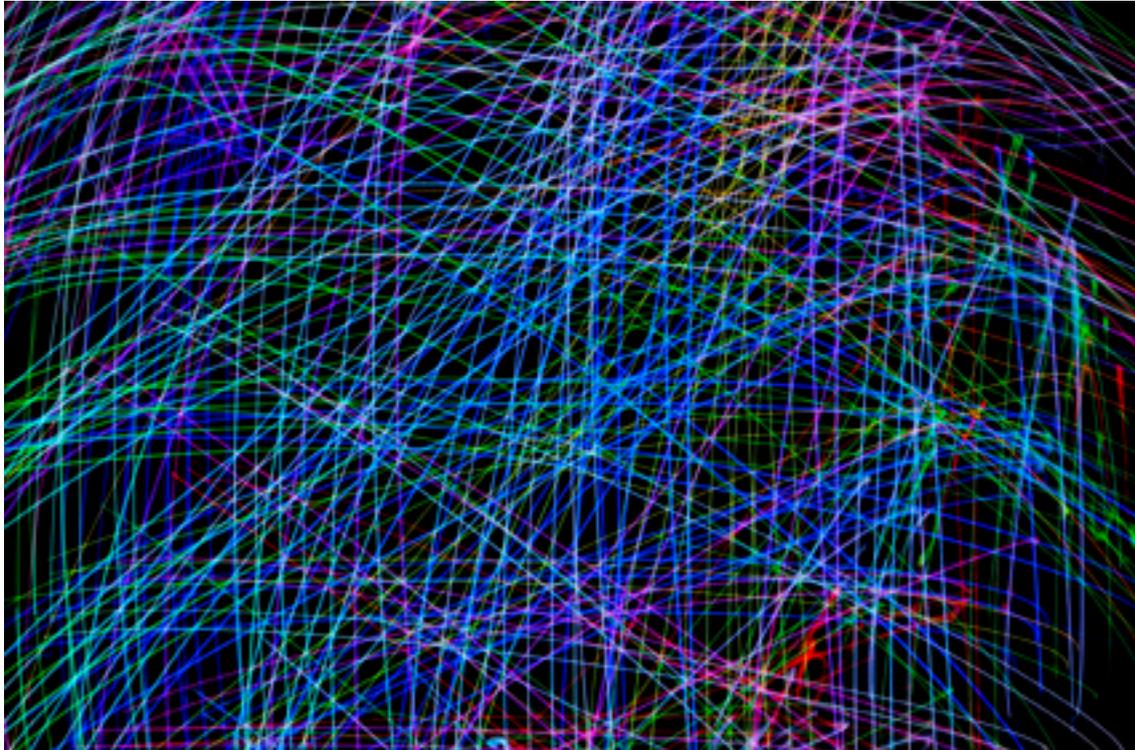
Intense Pink Weaving, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 x 114 cm - 29.9 x 44.9 in



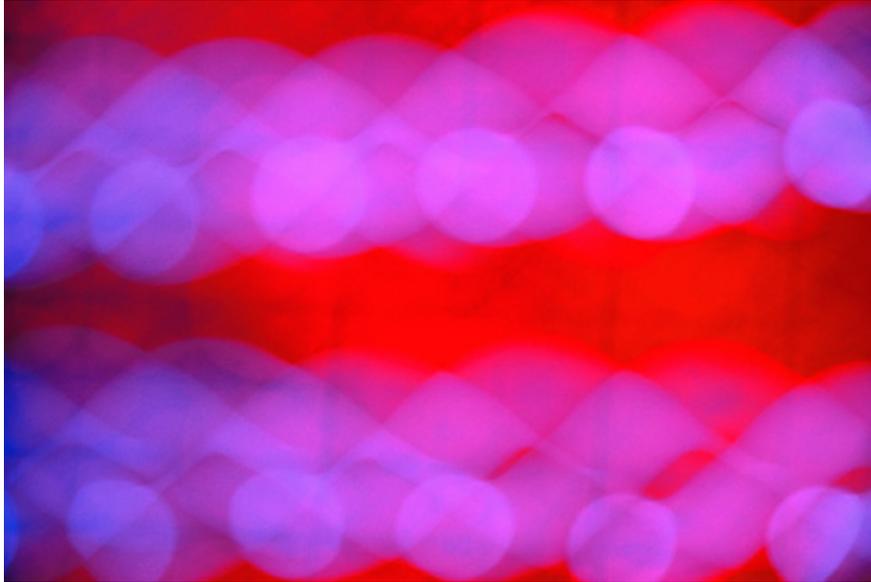
Intense Weaving #2, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 114 x 76 cm - 44.9 x 29.9 in



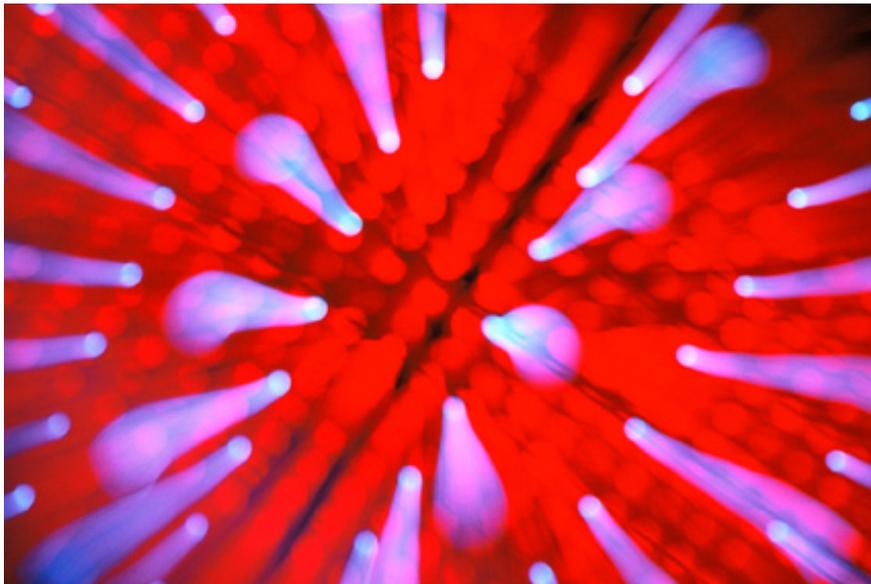
Intense Weaving #1, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 150 x 112 cm - 59.1 x 44.1 in



Intense Weaving #3, Brussels (Belgium) 2006, Edition of 5, 76 × 114 cm - 29.9 × 44.9 in



Vibrating Energy #1, Lille (France) 2004, Edition of 10, 40 × 60 cm - 15.7 × 23.6 in



Vibrating Energy #2, Lille (France) 2004, Edition of 10, 40 × 60 cm - 15.7 × 23.6 in

Yves ULLENS - Traqueur de Lumières

Born in Brussels in 1960, lives and works in Brussels

- 2004 Géraldine Chafik joins him as Public Relations Assistant
- 2003 Launches his new "light workshop"
- 2002 After 17 years of career in marketing and sales, leaves Belgacom to devote himself exclusively to his art
- 1998 Venice : very first abstract creation
- 1978 - 1979 Newport, RI, USA : photography courses with Sal Lopes and Phil Dickinson

Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 "Full Colours", Alexia Goethe Gallery (London, UK)
- 2004 Geneva Palexpo (Geneva, Switzerland)
- "Color Changes", Guy Ledune's Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2003 "Water & Light Vibrations", Ethnic Design Gallery (Miami, USA)
- "Photo-graphiques", Loft 9 (Brussels, Belgium)
- "Etats de Lumières", Young Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2002 Bl@Bla & Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2001 Belgacom Towers (Brussels, Belgium)
- "Entrez dans la Lumière du 3 ème Millénaire" Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)

Group Exhibitions

- 2006 "Color Summer", Young Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)
- "2e Festival International de la Photodemer", (Vannes, France) with Michael Kenna, Sebastiao Salgado, Jacques Henri Lartigue, Bernard Edmaier, Elger Esser, ...
- "L'Accueil", Xavier Hufkens Gallery, (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2005 "Light Expressions", ARTEspace Gallery, (Brussels, Belgium)
- "L'Accueil", Xavier Hufkens Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2004 Deurlica Gallery (Sint-Martens-Latem/Ghent, Belgium)
- 2003 "L'Accueil", Xavier Hufkens Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)
- 2001 Vivendi Gallery (Paris, France)
- Bortier Gallery (Brussels, Belgium)

Catalogues

- 2003 Monography in a new collection about Belgian artists (painting, photography, sculpture, ...)
- 2003 - 2004 "Water & Light Vibrations", Ethnic Design Gallery (Miami, USA)
- 2003 "Etats de Lumières", cfr: Young Gallery (Brussels Belgium)

Selected Press

- 2004 ARTE news
- 2003 ARTE news (+ cover)
- 2003 Les Tribunes du Prestige and L'événement Art 2003 Special Edition

Collections

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Colruyt Europe
Foire de Genève
AIG Europe
Private collections in Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Japan

« More light! Give me more light! »

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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