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# ERIC MICHEL

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## ERIC MICHEL

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Lives and works in Paris.



Eric Michel's work has to be tackled by successive sensations layers. Because if conceptual art crosses his artwork, this last remains confidentially connected to the feeling field. His search for immateriality is not a pure abstraction. Every installation is an opportunity to experience it. The artist questions our relationships with reality, playing on the border of material and immaterial, as a intermediary, a "boatman", according to his words. But Eric Michel is particularly conscious of the inaccessibility of the aim he is trying to reach. The only important issue for him is exploration. Progress prevails over purpose. Unlike the charismatic Yves Klein who offered us "ashes of his art", Eric Michel is decided to make us share his physical and spiritual experiences.

At first, the haptic dimension of his work surprises and this sensation with "eye's touch" invades us. An emotion, an internal echo comes to add to this purely physical effect. The light source which enlightens, which reveals -recurring issue in art history- becomes a subject itself and finds its magnetic power in monochrome and fluorescent colors. Far from revealing a disinfected universe, neon and pure pigments, inherited from the seventies aesthetics, create a neutral transcendental atmosphere. This "light bath" confers on space a completely other dimension and feeds the ambivalence between

fascination and retreat. The artist destabilizes our perception and succeeds in creating "particular visual states" as said Donald Judd about Dan Flavin.

The light materialism absorbs and plunges us into a deep immersion suitable for meditation. This same impregnation phenomenon as the one that James Turrell implements in his installations. Also there we refuse any pathos. It is not a feeling visualization and even less an inner self. The subject is evacuated for the effect benefit. Eric Michel invites us to experience the Depth; but what the Depth otherwise something unspeakable?

Rebecca François

Contemporary art historian / Assistant Exhibition Curator, Museum of Modern Art and Contemporary Art of Nice

## **The Boatman**

I am in love with light.

It is the most favoured medium of my sensitivity, of my work.

It flows in our lives, it irrigates our universe.

It opens the door.

Light has this unique feature, to be both corpuscular and undulatory in nature, both material and immaterial.

And for me, the artist shall be a boatman, precisely from the material toward the immaterial,  
from the real toward the imaginary, toward pure sensitivity.

What a better vector than light to achieve this goal?

Light as medium then, but why not as a finality?

Did I really choose light? Didn't it impose itself upon me?

Light talks.

I hear it,

Sometimes.

Eric,  
Roma 2007

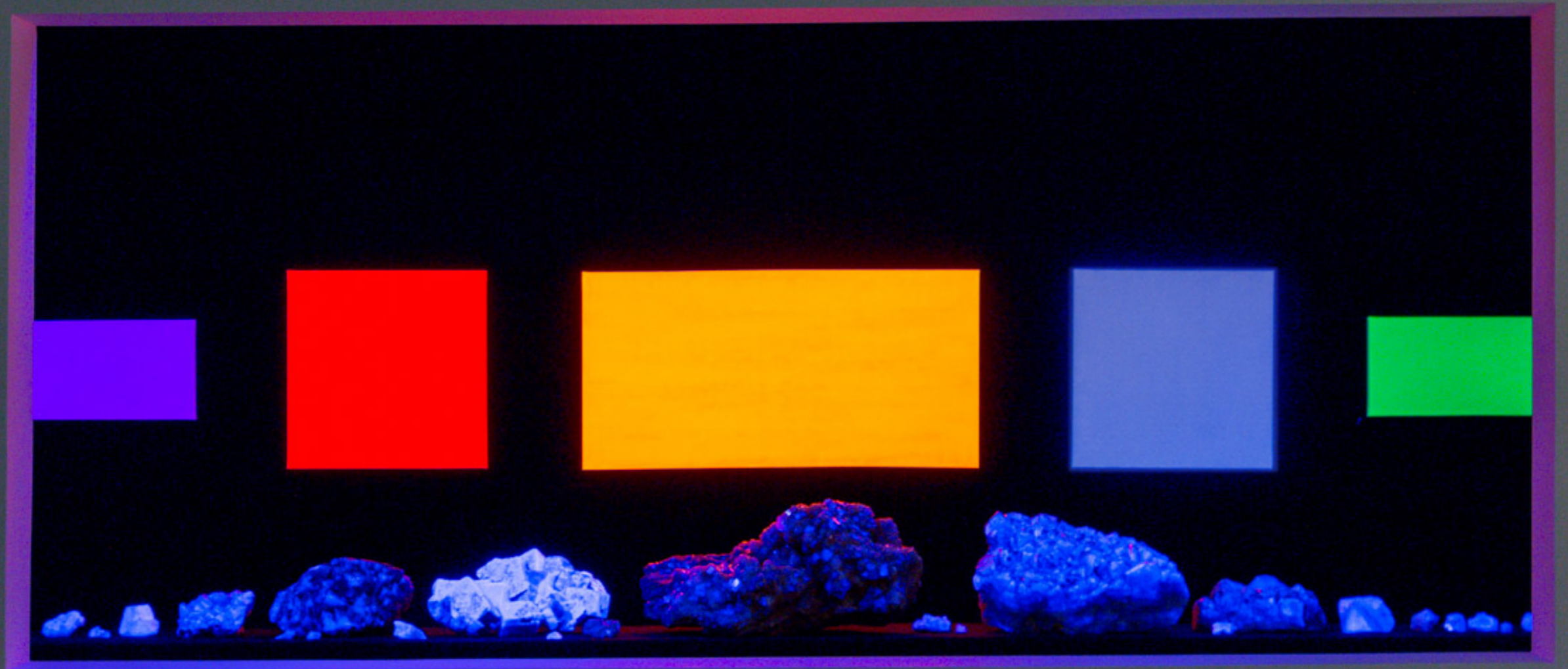


*Platonium* - 2015/2016

Eric Michel, with Akari-Lisa Ishii

Wink to the myth of Platon's cave, the artwork proposes, by placing the public at the heart of knowledge and current scientific challenges, a progress comparable to the one of the Greek philosopher which incites us to go out of the darkness to understand the world. This ephemeral and immersive device is composed by installations, by stakes in light, by sounds and by videos.

- ▶ ART & SCIENCE ARTWORK REALIZED WITH LABORATORIES WORKING ON LEADING EDGE RESEARCHES ON LIGHT
- ▶ FÊTE DES LUMIÈRES (LIGHT FESTIVAL), LYON - 2016 / RÉCYLUM SUSTAINABLE LIGHT TROPHY
- ▶ PRODUCTION: CNRS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF 2015, NOMINATED INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT BY UNESCO
- ▶ IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LYON AND THE UNIVERSITY CLAUDE BERNARD LYON1
- ▶ VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5rCgt5Ib8A>



*Fluorescences* - 2016  
Eric Michel

- ▶ PUBLIC COMMISSIONER: MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND CONTEMPORARY ART (MAMAC), NICE
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: CREATION OF AN INSTALLATION FOR THE EXHIBITION "LE PRÉCIEUX POUVOIR DES PIERRES" ("THE PRECIOUS POWER OF STONES")



*Pôle Lumière* (permanent installation) - 2015  
Eric Michel

- ▶ PUBLIC COMMISSIONER: CITY OF DRAGUIGNAN (CAD) FOR ITS CULTURAL POLE
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: CREATION OF A PERMANENT SCULPTURE IN DIALOGUE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE, SYMBOL OF THE RADIATION OF THE NEW CULTURAL POLE; CREATION OF A NEON-SCULPTURE FOR THE ARTOTHEQUE OF THE CITY



*Mono Light (in situ creation) - 2014*  
Eric Michel

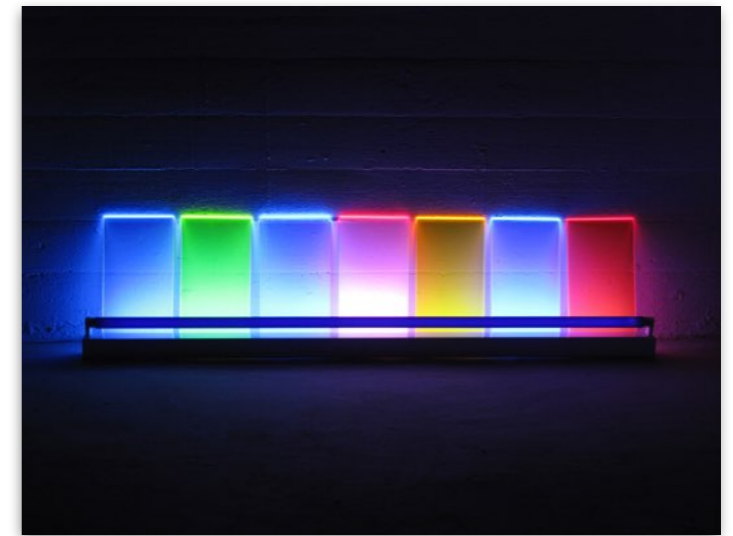
- ▶ COMMISSIONNERS: YVES KLEIN'S ARCHIVES & PHILHARMONY OF THE CITY OF LUXEMBOURG
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: LIGHT AND SPACE ENHANCEMENT FOR THE *MONOTON-SILENCE* SYMPHONY BY YVES KLEIN - OUTDOOR (ARCHITECT: CHRISTIAN DE PORTZAMPARC) AND INDOOR TEMPORARY INTERVENTION, AS WELL AS DURING THE PERFORMANCE



*Les Pierres de Lumières [Light Stones]* - 2014  
Eric Michel

► COMMISSIONER: PRIORY OF PONT LOUP, MORET-SUR-LOING (FR)





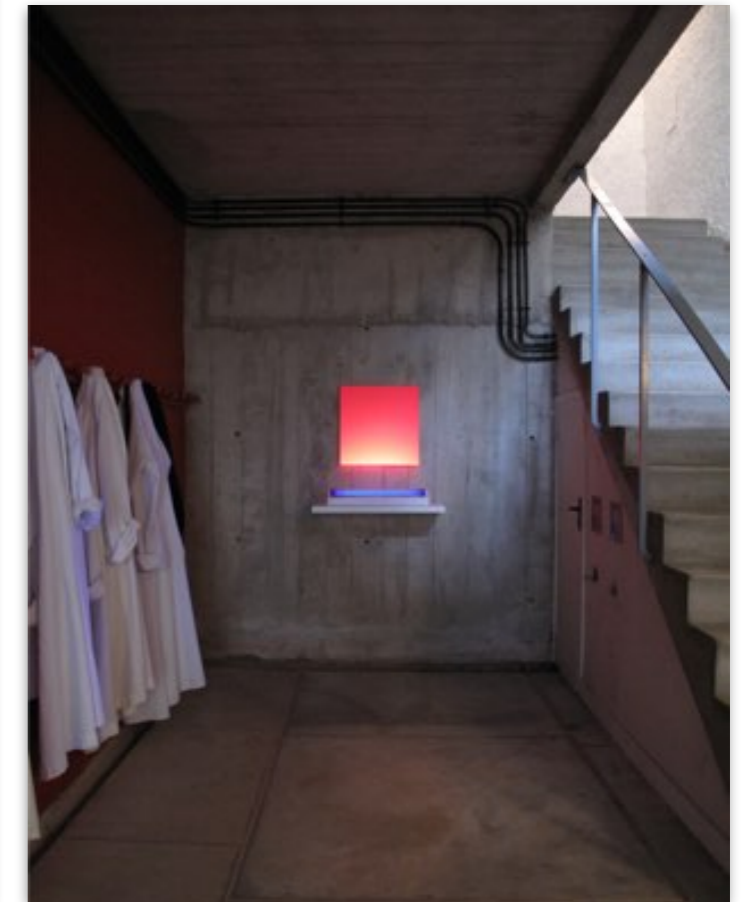
*Passeur de Lumière [Light Boatman]* - 2013  
Eric Michel

- ▶ COMMISSIONER: CONVENT OF LA TOURETTE, ÉVEUX (FR)
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: LIGHT TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS IN DIALOGUE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE OF LE CORBUSIER FOR A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION



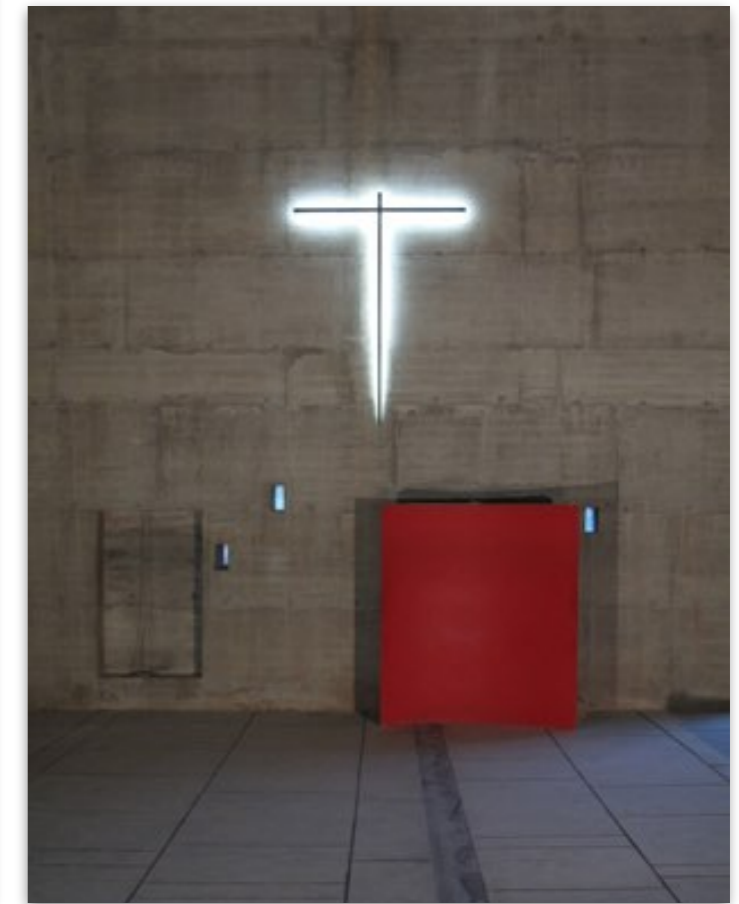
*Passeur de Lumière [Light Boatman]* - 2013  
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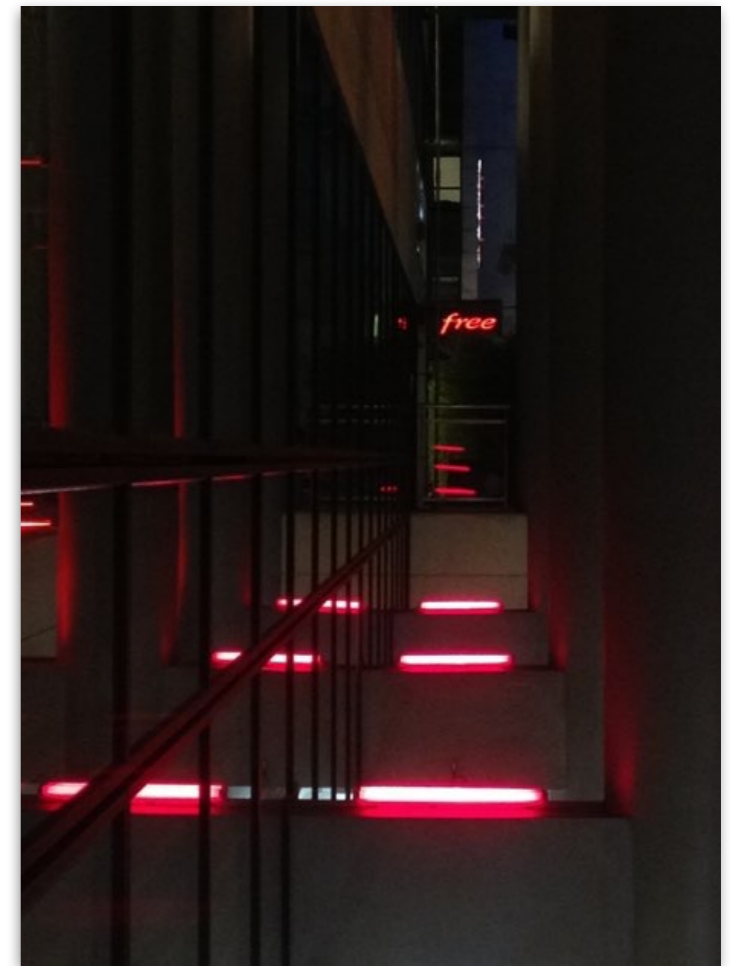
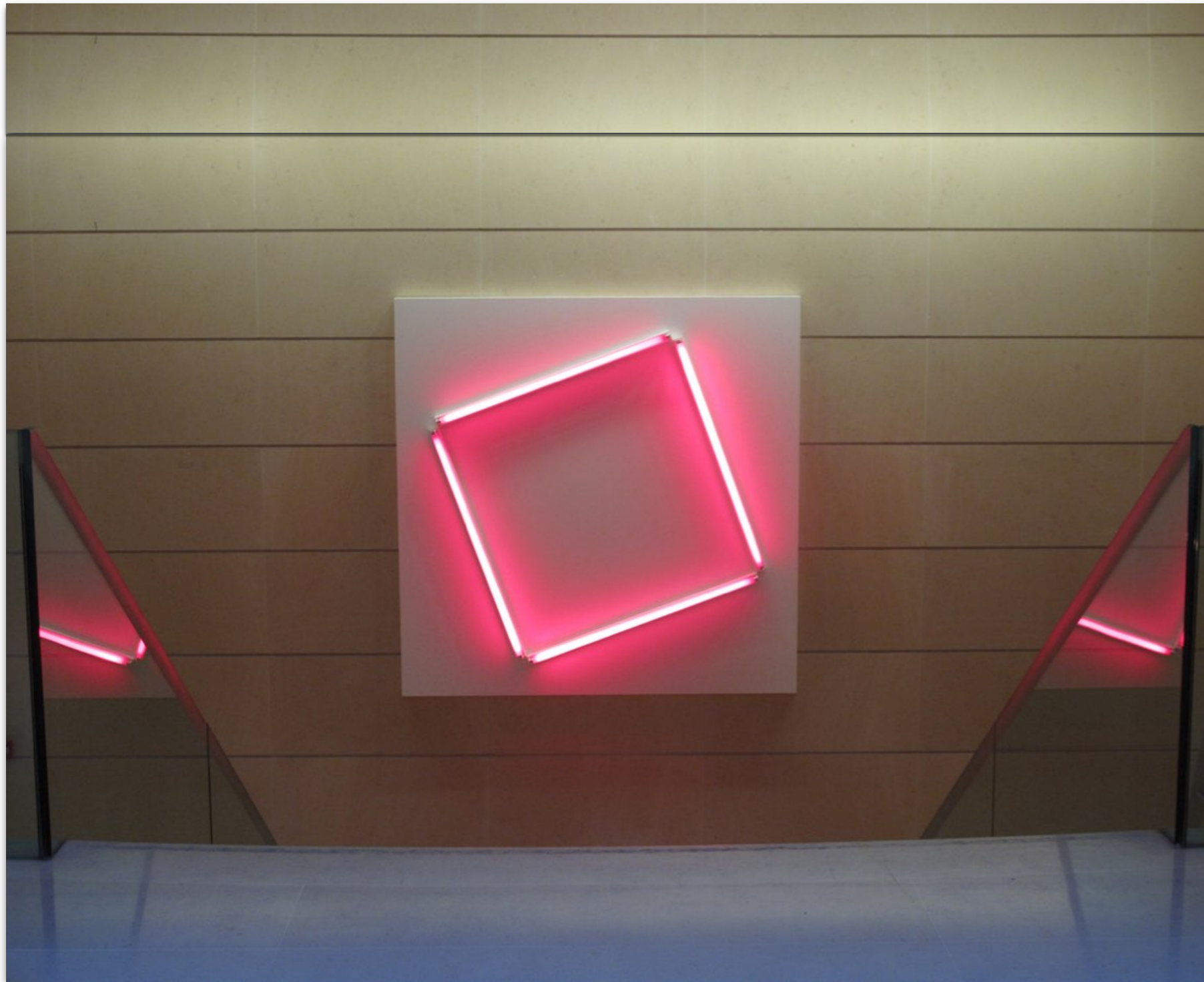
*Passeur de Lumière [Light Boatman]* - 2013  
Eric Michel

- ▶ COMMISSIONER: CONVENT OF LA TOURETTE, ÉVEUX (FR)
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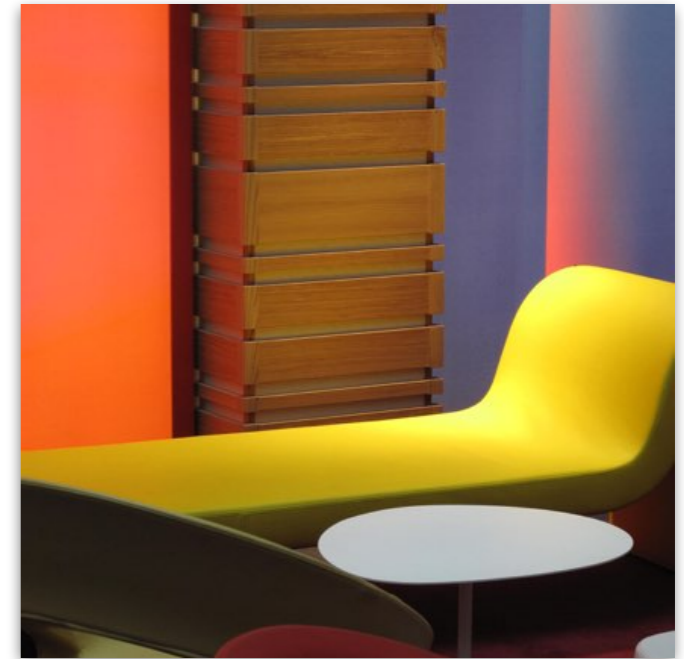
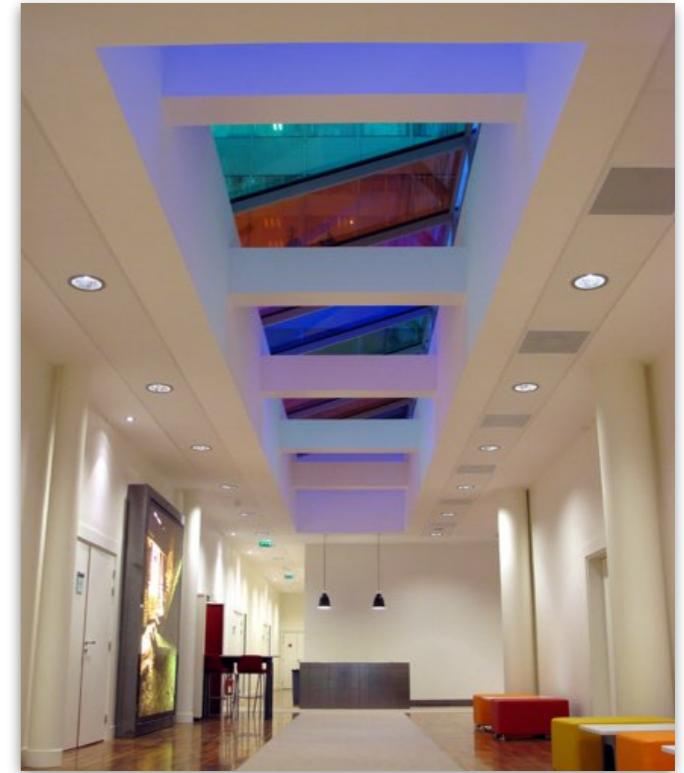
*Passeur de Lumière [Light Boatman]* - 2013  
Eric Michel

- ▶ COMMISSIONER: CONVENT OF LA TOURETTE, ÉVEUX (FR)
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: LIGHT TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS IN DIALOGUE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE OF LE CORBUSIER FOR A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION / DONATION OF THE LIGHT CROSS TO THE CONVENT AT THE END OF THE EXHIBITION



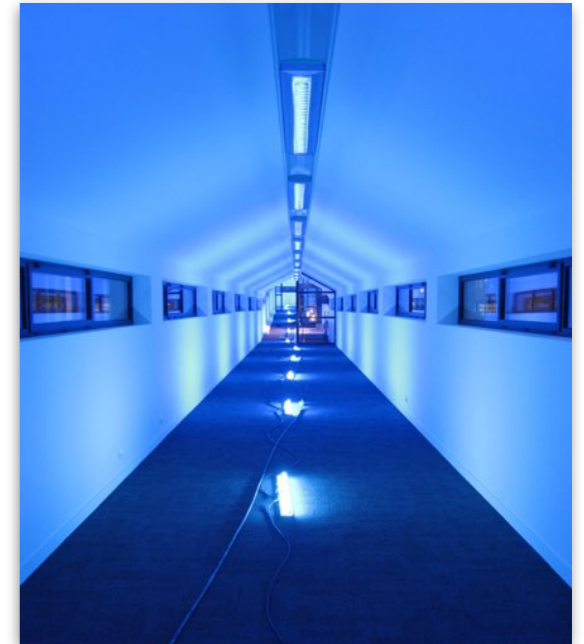
*Fluo Red* (permanent installation) - 2013  
Eric Michel

- ▶ PRIVATE COMMISSIONER: ILIAD GROUP (Free mobile) FOR ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS, PARIS 8e
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: PERMANENT MULTIMEDIA INTERVENTION (FACADE, LOBBY, CAFETERIA) IN RESONANCE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE AND THE VISUAL IDENTITY OF THE GROUP



*Les Moulins de Lumière* (permanent installation) - 2011  
Eric Michel

- ▶ PRIVATE COMMISSIONER: BNP PARIBAS SECURITIES SERVICES FOR ITS HEADQUARTERS AT THE GRANDS MOULINS (BIG MILLS) OF PANTIN (NEAR PARIS) - ARCHITECTS: REICHEN & ROBERT
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: PERMANENT ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE SITE (DIURNAL AND NOCTURNAL) AND CREATION OF INDOOR ARTWORKS TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER RELATED TO THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT



*Les Moulins de Lumière* (permanent installation) - 2011  
Eric Michel

- ▶ PRIVATE COMMISSIONER: BNP PARIBAS SECURITIES SERVICES FOR ITS HEADQUARTERS AT THE GRANDS MOULINS (BIG MILLS) OF PANTIN (NEAR PARIS) - ARCHITECTS: REICHEN & ROBERT
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*Fluo Blue* (permanent installation) - 2011  
Eric Michel

- ▶ PRIVATE COMMISSIONER: MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND CONTEMPORARY ART (MAMAC), NICE
- ▶ CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: CREATION OF A MONUMENTAL LIGHT MONOCHROME IN FACADE IN TRIBUTE TO YVES KLEIN (NOCTURNAL ONLY)





*"Thus truth is an internal light and light is a truth spreading outside"*



Marcile Ficin, *Quid Sit Lumen*, 1476

*Quid Sid Lumen* - 2011  
Eric Michel

► CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: TEMPORARY EXHIBITION AT THE SAINT-LAZARE COLLEGIATE CHURCH, AVALLON



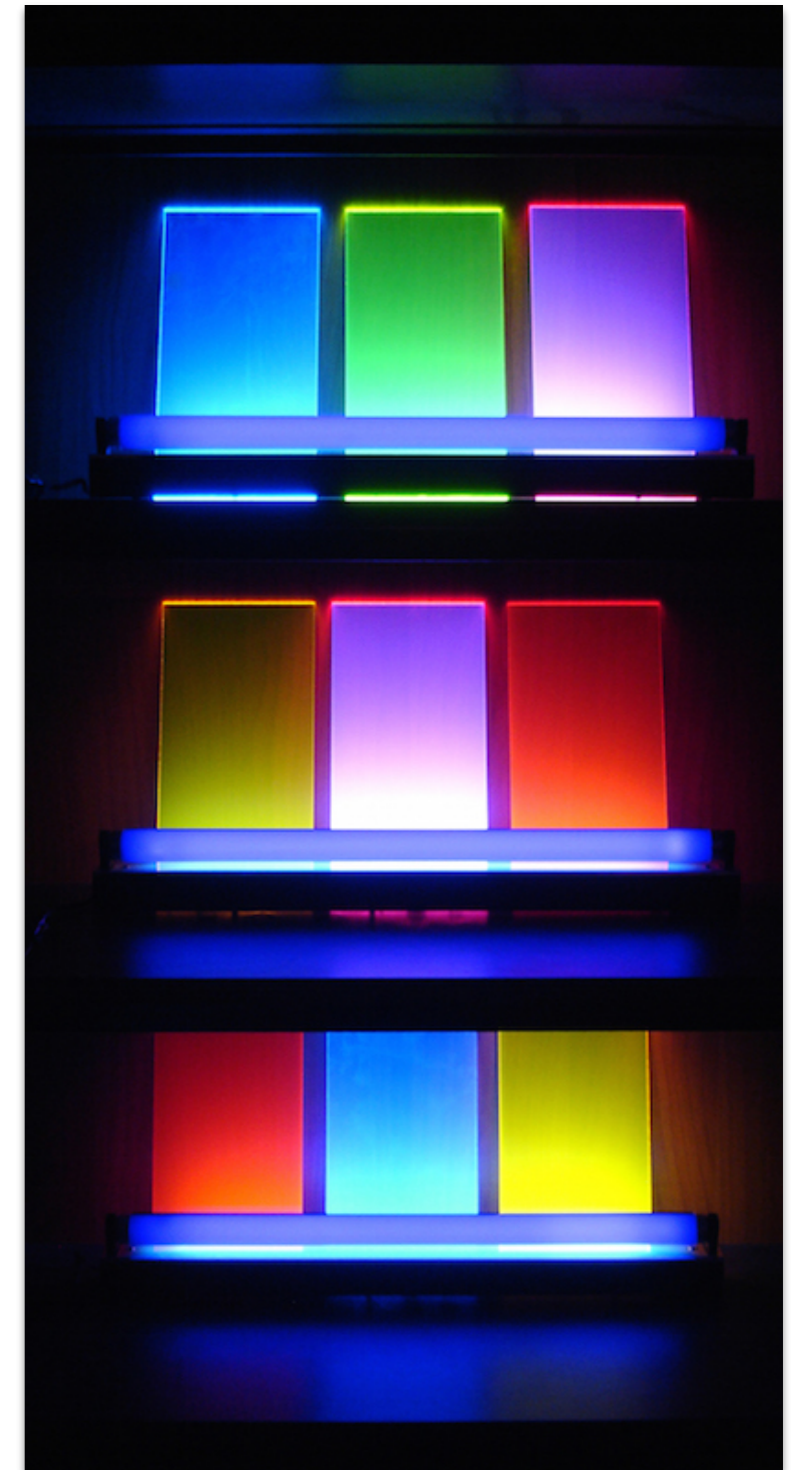
*"Thus truth is an internal light and light is a truth spreading outside"*



Yves Klein, 1959

*Lumière et Immatériel* - 2009  
Eric Michel

► CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: TEMPORARY EXHIBITION AT THE ARCHIVES OF YVES KLEIN, PARIS



*Biblioteca Fluorescente* - 2007  
Eric Michel

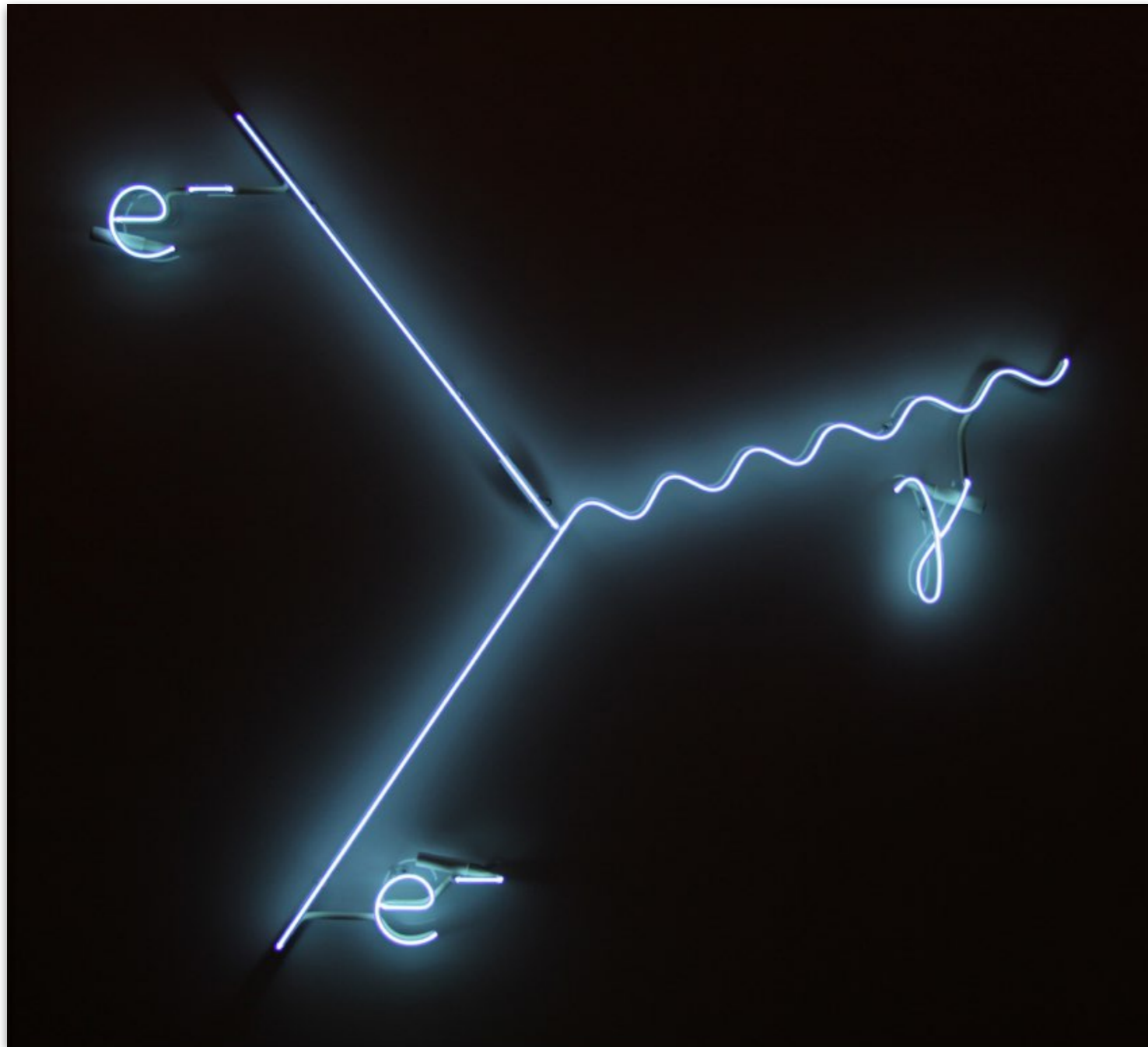
- CONTEXT OF THE ARTWORK ACCOMPLISHMENT: DISPLAY IN THE CENTER OF EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LA SAPIENZA IN ROMA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF ROMA. THIS MULTIMEDIA IMMERSIVE INSTALLATION INTEGRATED THE EPONYM SCULPTURE, "BIBLIOTECA FLUO". ITS TITLE DIRECTLY MAKES A REFERENCE TO UMBERTO ECO'S WORK "DE BIBLIOTHECA" AND INTERROGATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOOK MATERIALITY AND THE IMMATERIAL UTOPIA WITH THE AID OF LIGHT-LANGUAGE.



*Passage de Lumière, 2009 - MAMAC , Nice*



*Biblioteca Fluo, 2007*



*Birth of a photon, 2012*



*aura, 2012*



*la lumière parle, 2008*



*Fluo Square Pink, 2012*



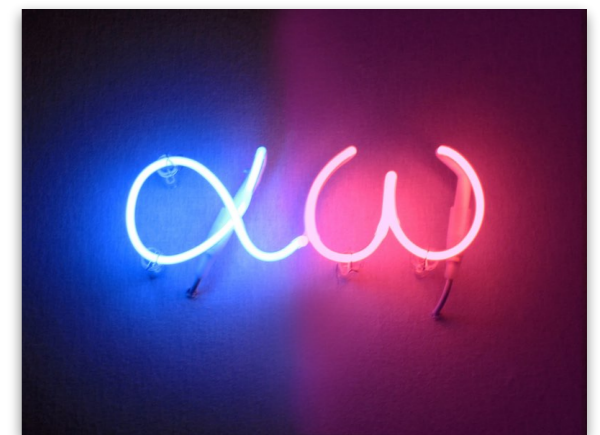
*Birth of a photon, 2012*



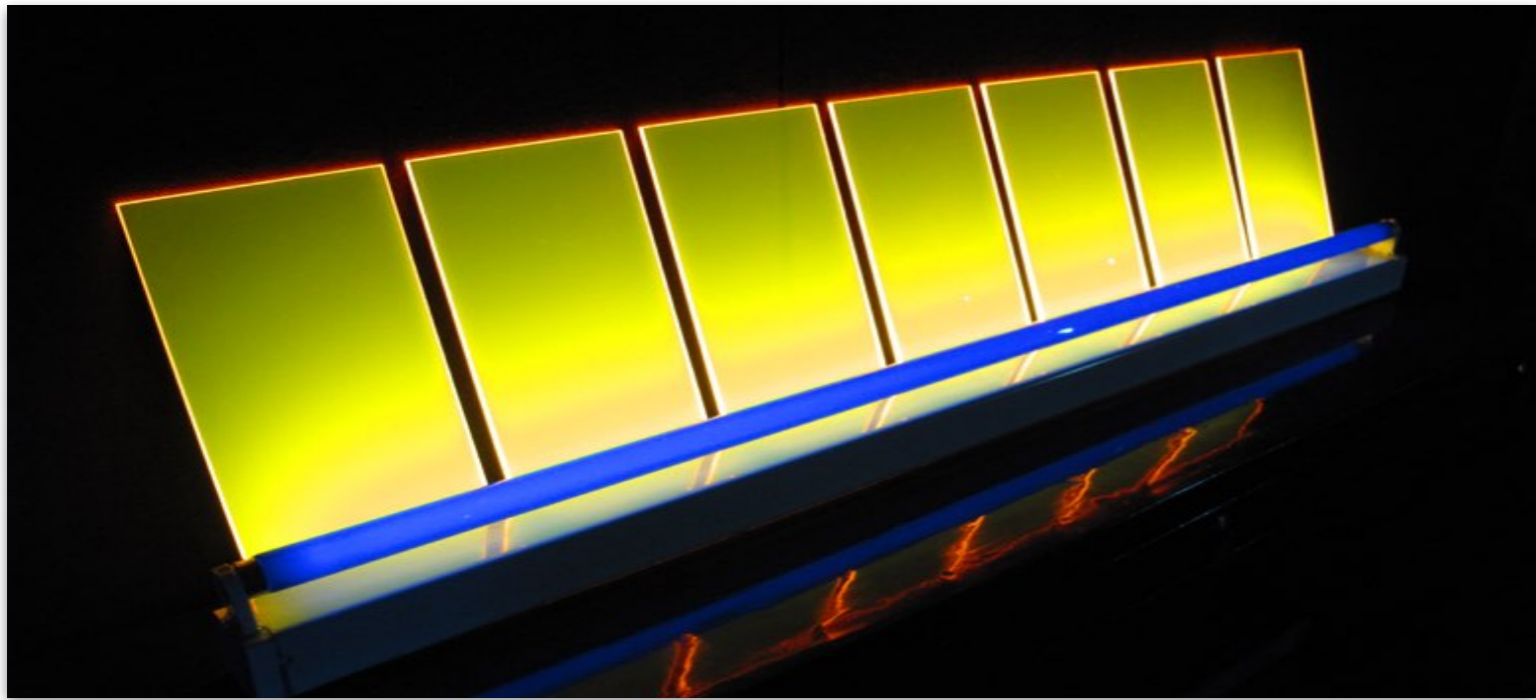
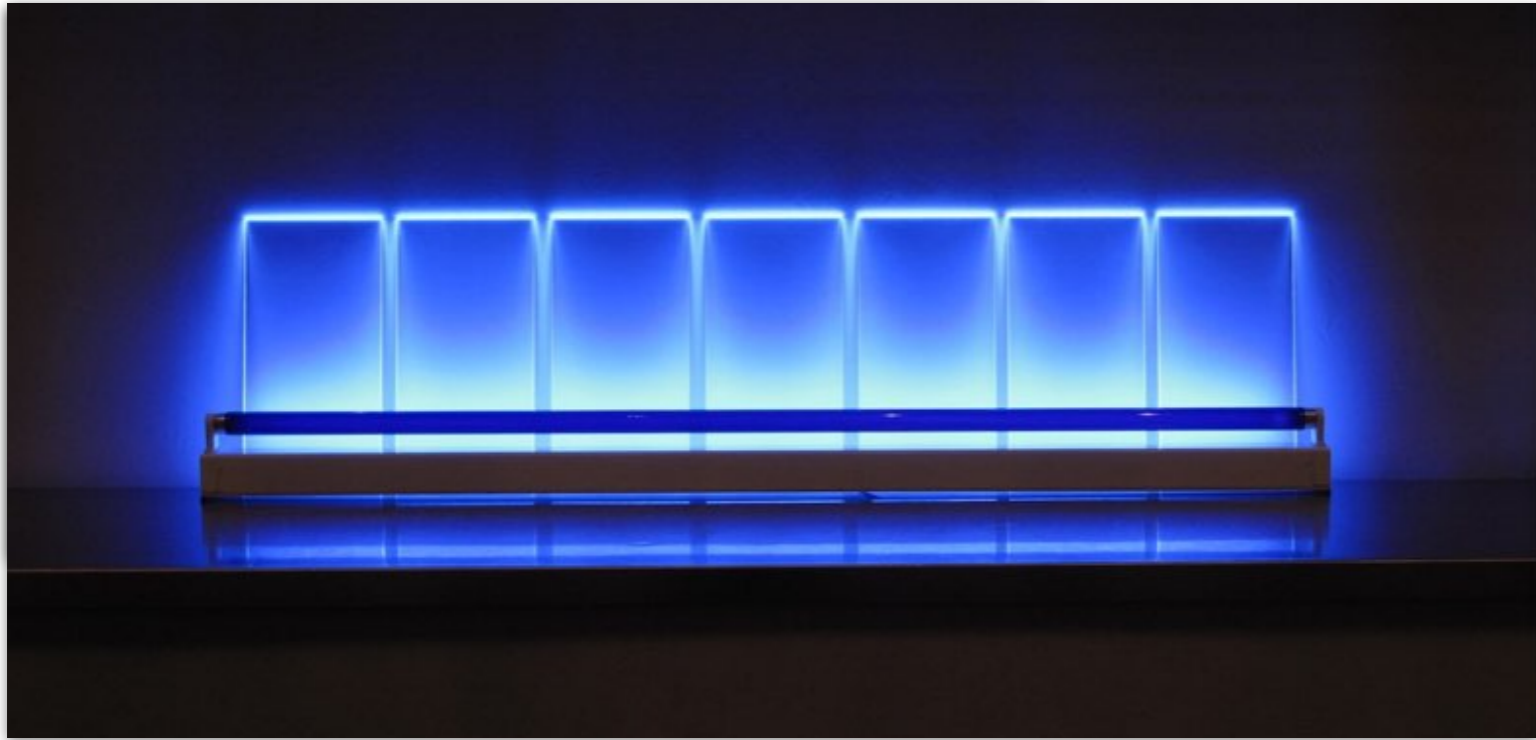
*la lumière parle, 2008*



*infini, 2012*



*alpha oméga, 2012*



*Seven Keys & Monochrome de Lumière*  
Eric Michel

