

DEBORAH BAY

[CHROMATOGRAPHY]

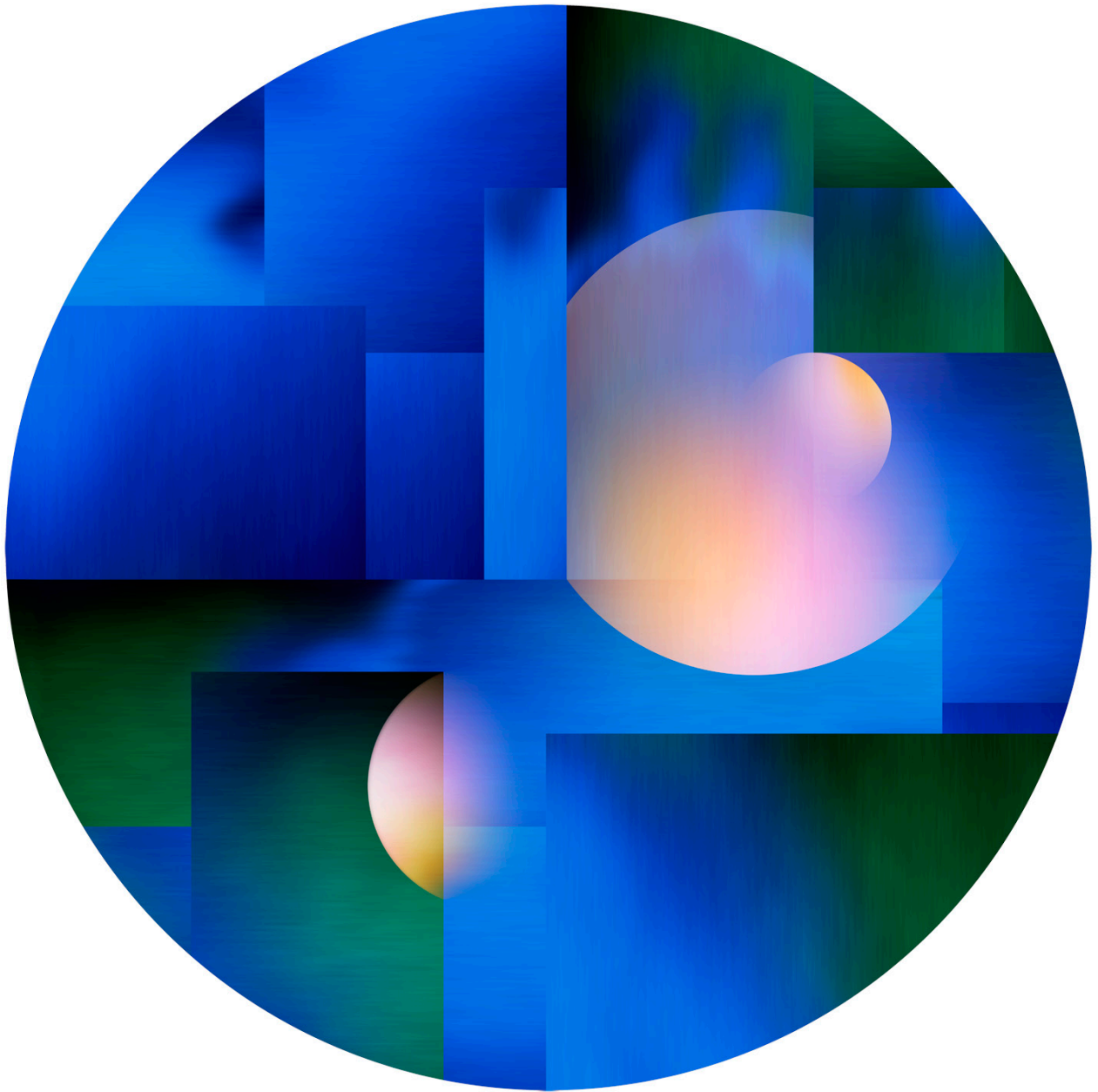


FOTO RELEVANCE HOUSTON TEXAS // NOV 18, 2022 - JAN 7, 2022

DEBORAH BAY  
[CHROMATOGRAPHY]

**Cover Image: Mood Indigo, 2022**

Circular cutout with acrylic facemount, printed on Fujiflex Crystal Archive

30 inches diameter

Edition of 5 + 1 AP

# ARTIST STATEMENT

As part of an ongoing exploration of color, [*chroma(to)-graphy*] began with a series of chemical processes involving inks and paper. Drawing from the Dadaists and Surrealists in its use of material created without artistic control, the work is based on small chromatograms that produced an unexpected grammar of color. This source material formed the starting point for the study, which combines groups of colors to highlight various aspects of color relationships.

Chromatography (to write with color) is a process for separating the substances of a mixture. I used paper chromatography to deconstruct various inks and dyes. Through capillary action, the colors migrated into separate components when the paper was placed in a solvent – resulting in a visual analysis of their composition. The chromatograms were then scanned and combined in grids and panels or, in some cases, digitally modified for installation pieces. In one image the relationships of colors on the visible light spectrum are displayed through the varied hues appearing on the chromatogram. Blacks and grays in other pieces reveal surprising blends of pinks, blues and yellows.

In earlier works, I used film gels on lights to color tabletop constructions of lenses and prisms, with color giving dimension to the small optical objects. In [*chroma(to)-graphy*] the focus has shifted from the non-materiality of colored light and optics to physical color and material science. In the age of digitization, color from light-emitting sources is often an electronic mix of pixels, but this series explores the physicality of color itself.

– Deborah Bay



**Only Now a Dream, 2022**

Archival pigment print on matte paper

24 x 24 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**The Color of Truth, 2022**

25 chromatograms scanned and printed on archival matte paper

28 x 28 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**ROYGBIV, 2022**

Chromatograms of ROYGBIV colors scanned and printed on archival matte paper

36 x 36 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**Black is Black, 2022**

5 overlapping acrylic facemount panels (each 12 x 48 in), printed on Fujiflex Crystal Archive

Installation approximately 56 x 52 in

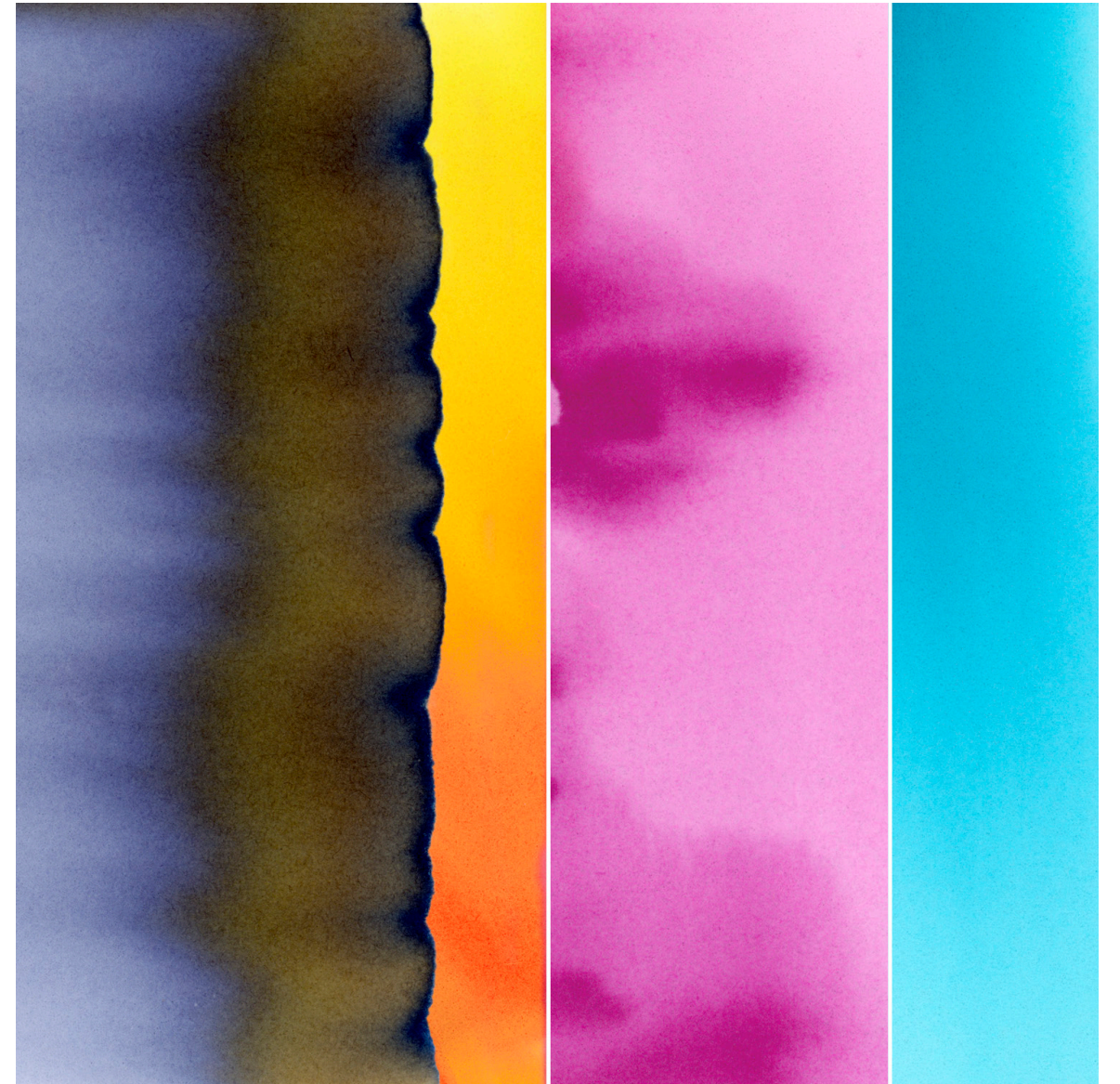
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**Title is..., 2022**

Custom edgelit, dimmable LED lightbox (hardwired) with archival film

12.5 x 32.5 in  
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**The Watching Eye In CMYK, 2022**

Archival pigment print on matte paper, 3 separately mounted panels

15 x 15 in  
Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**Chalk Works, 2022**

9 individually framed archival pigment prints on metallic paper

Installation approximately 28 x 28 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



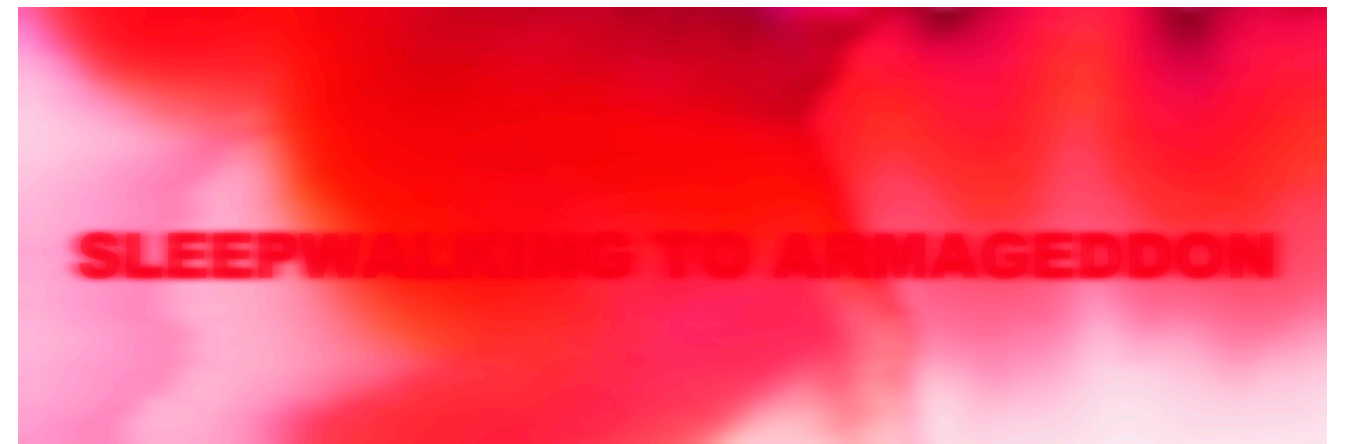
**After the Rain, 2022**

Archival pigment print on matte paper

24 x 24 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



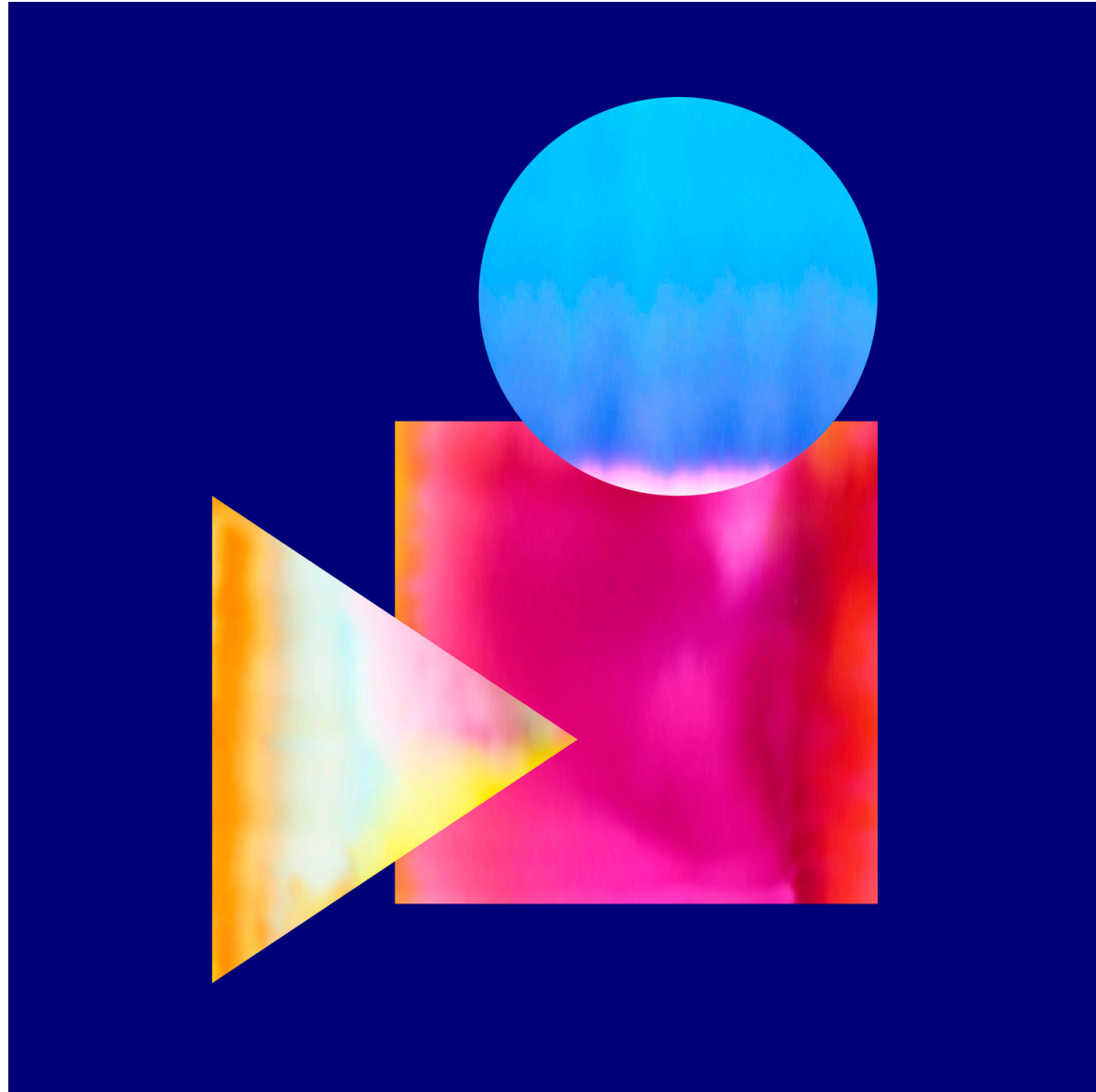


**Sleepwalking, 2022**

Custom edgelit, dimmable LED lightbox (hardwired) with archival film

12.5 x 32.5 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**Who's Afraid?, 2022**

3 chromatograms scanned and printed on archival matte paper, individually mounted and overlapped on board

30 x 30 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP



**The Facts Are Secondary, 2022**

Custom backlit, dimmable LED lightbox (hardwired) with archival film

26 x 26 in

Edition of 5 + 1 AP

# DEBORAH BAY

Deborah Bay is a Houston-based artist who specializes in constructed studio photography. She has exhibited throughout the United States, and her work is in a number of public and private collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Dorsky Museum of Art at State University of New York at New Paltz, M.D Anderson Cancer Center, Alamo Colleges District, Crown Castle and the Four Seasons (Chicago). LensCulture and the Griffin Museum of Photography have highlighted images from her Traveling Light series in online features, and the British Journal of Photography has published her work on its cover. An active member of the Houston arts community, Bay has served on the board of the Houston Center for Photography and its Advisory Council. Her studio is located in the Silos in Sawyer Yards. She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The University of Texas at Austin.

# FOTO RELEVANCE

Since 2016, Foto Relevance cofounders Geoffrey C. Koslov and Bryn Larsen have focused on the exhibition and acquisition of museum quality contemporary fine art photography and photography-based work. Joined by Suzanne Zeller in 2019 who leads the program as Assistant Director, Foto Relevance is dedicated to providing a platform for an innovative selection of American and international photographic artists pushing the boundaries of photography. The gallery has mounted monographic exhibitions as well as group shows to investigate current trends and themes in contemporary art, showcasing a broad range of both darkroom and digital photographic techniques. In addition to promoting the work of artists, Foto Relevance provides guidance, educating individual collectors and corporations in the acquisition and sale of art. Foto Relevance is a member of the Houston Art Gallery Association (HAGA). The gallery is located in the historic Museum District of Houston, Texas.