



GENEVIÈVE CLAISSE
CERCLES

24. MÄRZ - 27. MAI 2023
GALERIE HANS MAYER



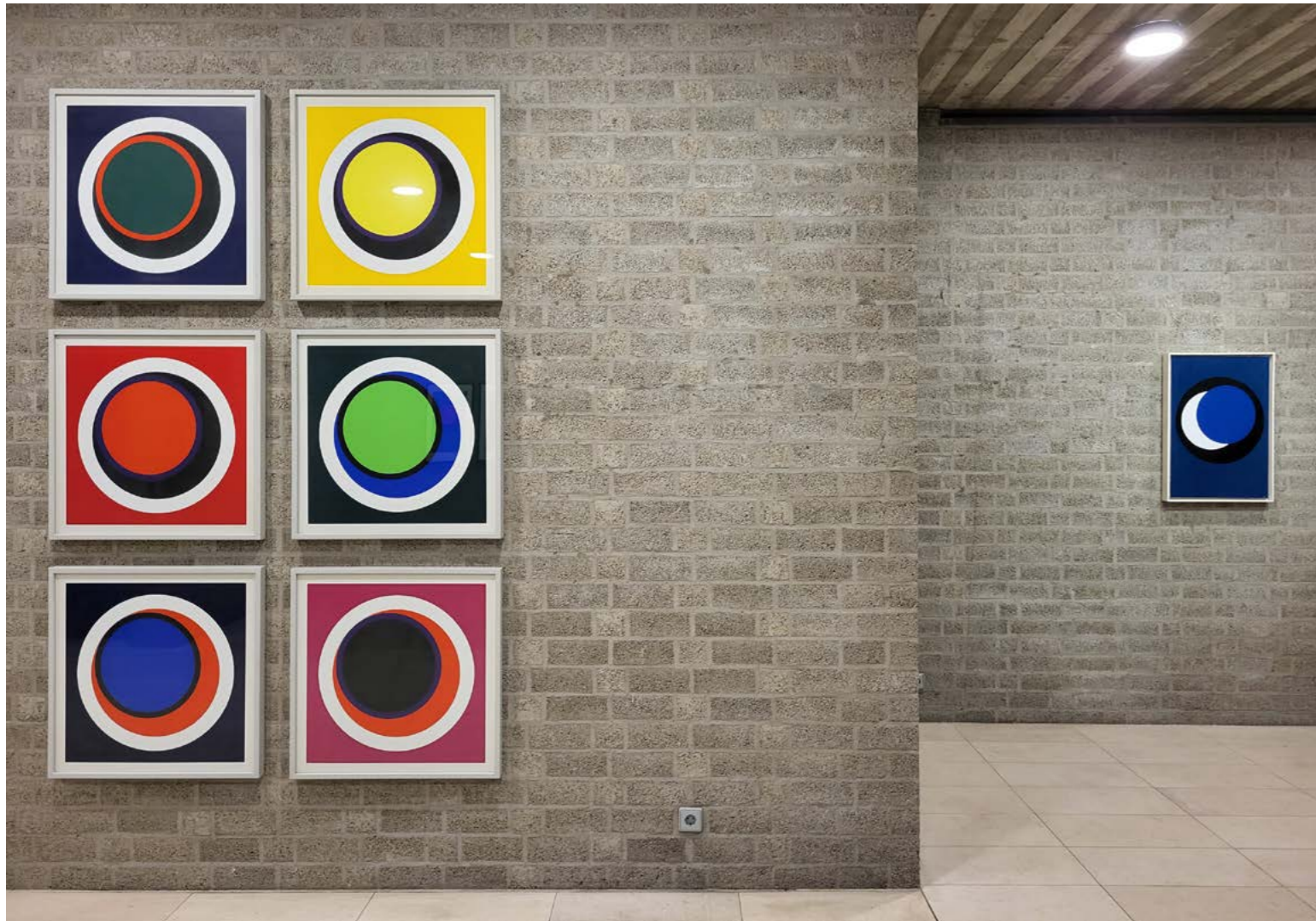
Hans Mayer's first exhibition in Esslingen (1965) was a selection of Josef Albers' "Homage to the Square" paintings. Only a few years later, Hans Mayer then came into contact with the concrete work of Geneviève Claisse (1935 – 2018) through Denise René, with whom he was immediately enthusiastic and repeatedly purchased individual works. Geneviève Claisse's collaboration with Denise René remained very close over a long period of time; Hans Mayer turned to other art movements, but always remained convinced of the quality of Claisse's work.

Therefore, at this special moment of our first exhibition after Hans Mayer's death, we would like to show some of Claisse's works, all of which revolve around the motif of the circle. So to speak as "Hommage to the Circle", which closes a circle in the artistic spectrum to the beginning of the gallery with "Hommage to the Square".

Geneviève Claisse decided in her youth for the geometric-abstract art. She worked largely self-taught. In 1958 she had her first solo exhibition at the Galerie Caille in Cambrai and the Galerie Heller in Paris. In 1959 she became assistant to the painter Auguste Herbin. In 1961 she had her first solo exhibition at the Galerie Denise René, from which she was represented from then on. Many group and solo exhibitions in renowned museums followed. 1986–95 she was the French representative in the international Association of Arts (UNESCO).

„[...] see for yourself, search, feel, recognise, experience.“¹

Josef Albers



Geneviève Claisse (1935-2018) sought, through her paintings and objects, to stimulate individual sensations through a direct abstract language that in turn moved towards a collective experience of art. From the very beginning of her artistic practice as a painter, the shapes circle, square and rectangle formed geometric constants in her pictorial vocabulary. In doing so, she followed a lineage that she picked up through her mentor and uncle, the painter and, among others, co-founder of the artists' group Abstraction-Création, Auguste Herbin, for whom she worked as his assistant in Paris in 1959/60. With her 1961 exhibition at the Galerie Denise René in Paris, which from then on represented her as an artist and through which Hans Mayer encountered Claisse's work, Claisse also formulated an early contribution to Op Art with her Geometric Abstraction paintings, not least through her kinetic rotating objects. The intention of a non-figurative gesture pursued by Claisse was above all to turn away from narrative motifs - a transgression of the narrative through concrete compositional and colour arrangements towards a „topography of forms“² formed by colour sounds, through which one's own seeing can be constituted.

With the exhibition Geneviève Claisse - Cercles, the Galerie Hans Mayer now links the beginnings of the gallery with the gallery's progress in the first exhibition after Hans Mayer's death. The motif of the circle may be read symbolically and is as well a concrete reference to Hans Mayer's very first exhibition in Esslingen in 1965, in which he showed pictures from Josef Albers' series *Homage to the Square*. Albers, who associated „colour seeing“³ and „colour thinking“⁴ with each other in relation to the attainment of a way of seeing that he thought of in terms of a „world view“⁵ - as a „responsive eye“⁶ - resonated with the attitude of the young gallery owner Mayer. The current exhibition Geneviève Claisse - Cercles takes up this thinking and, with a selection of paintings, silkscreens and kinetic objects, brings to the fore the motif of the circle, to which Claisse has given meaning in her artistic practice in a variety of references.

Geneviève Claisse was the French representative in the International Association of Art (UNESCO) from 1986-95. Her first institutional solo exhibition in Germany was organised in 2007 as a retrospective at the Museum Ritter in Waldenbuch. It is the concern of Galerie Hans Mayer to give her work, of whose quality Hans Mayer was convinced, new visibility with this presentation at Schmela Haus.

Original text in German by Dr. Christina Irrgang

¹ Josef Albers im Vorwort/Gespräch mit Dietrich Mahlow, in: *Josef Albers: Interaction of Color. Grundlegung einer Didaktik des Sehens*, DuMont, Köln 1970, S. 11. [Engl. Erstausgabe 1963].

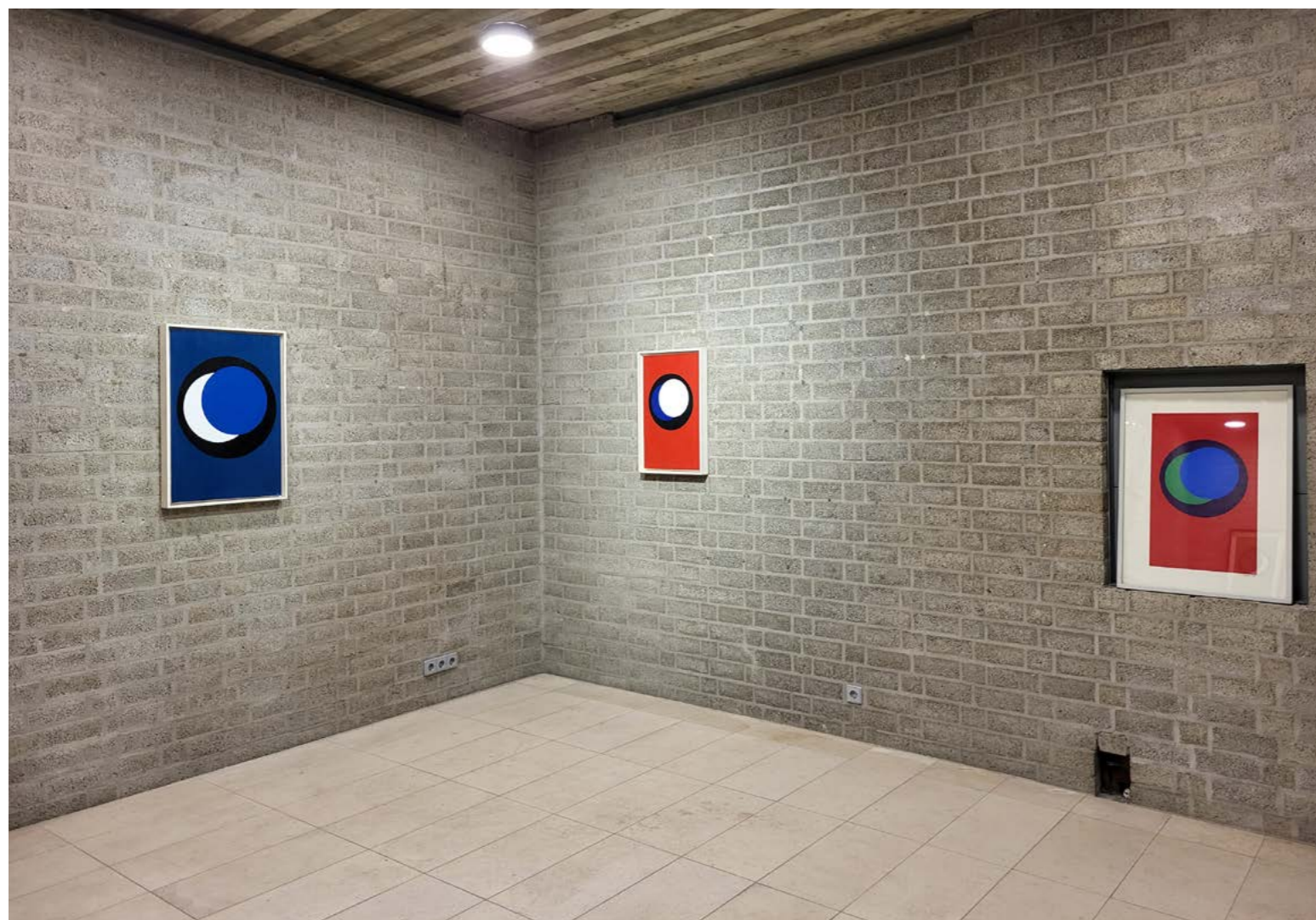
² Vgl. Eva-Marina Froitzenheim/Tina Weingardt: *Geneviève Claisse, Intuition als Basis geometrischer Abstraktion*, in: Ulrike Groos/ Eva-Marina Froitzenheim (Hrsg.): *Zwischen System und Intuition. Konkrete Künstlerinnen, Ausst.-Kat. Kunstmuseum Stuttgart*, Wienand Verlag, Köln 2021, S. 93-94, hier S. 93.

³ Albers 1970, S. 9.

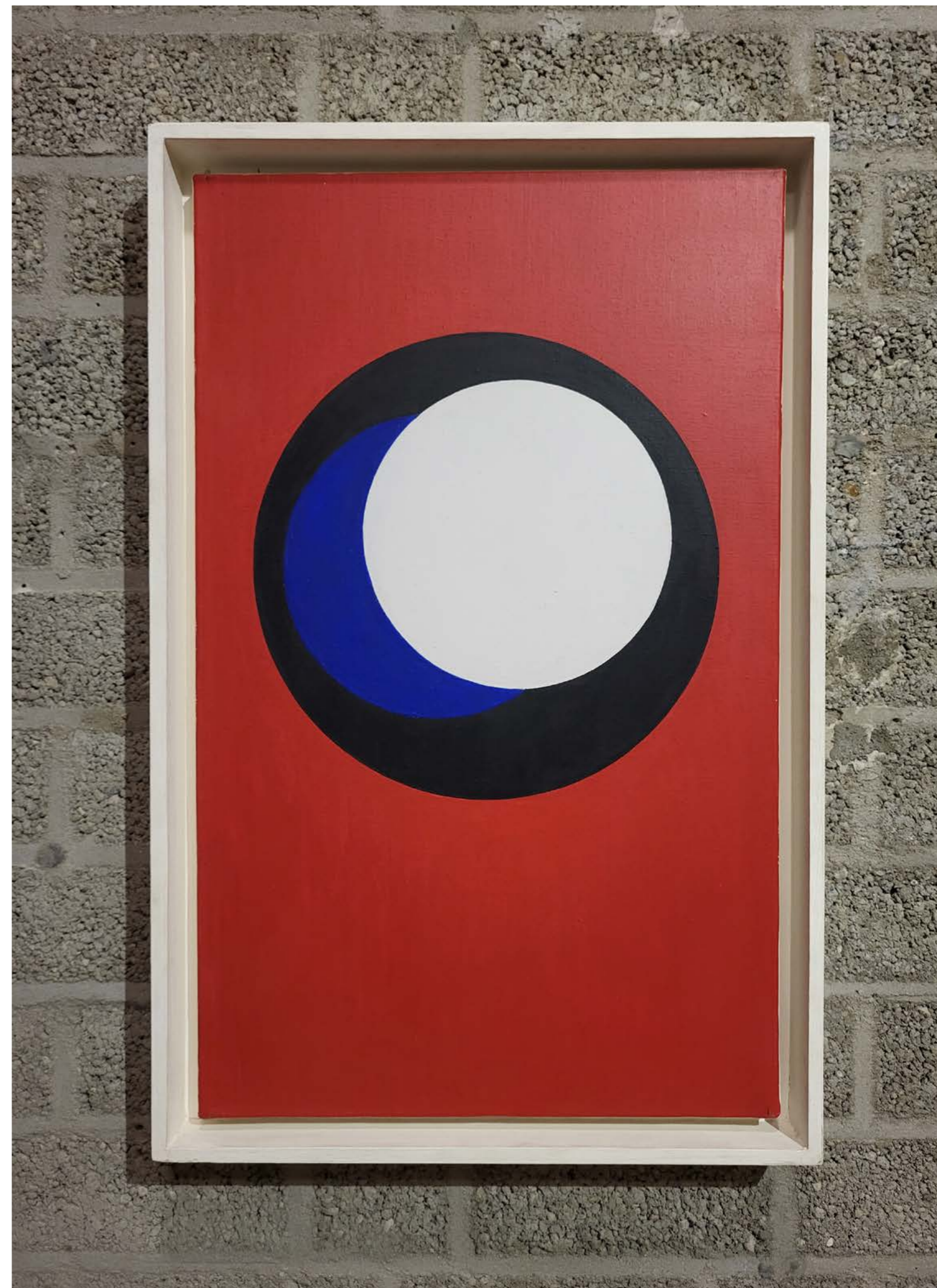
⁴ Ebd.

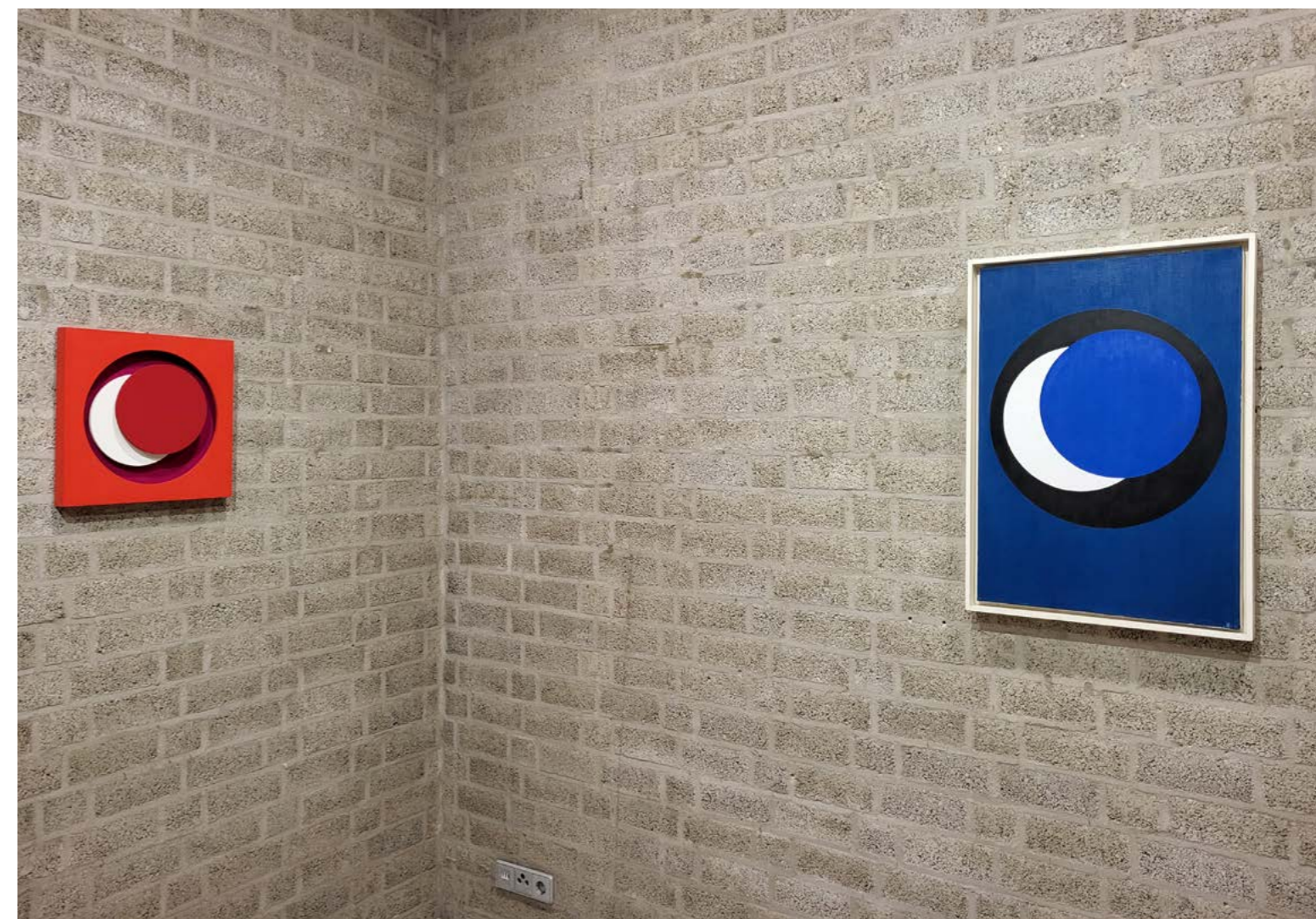
⁵ Albers 1970, S. 16.

⁶ Vgl. Josef Albers, *The Responsive Eye*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 25.02.-25.04.1965.

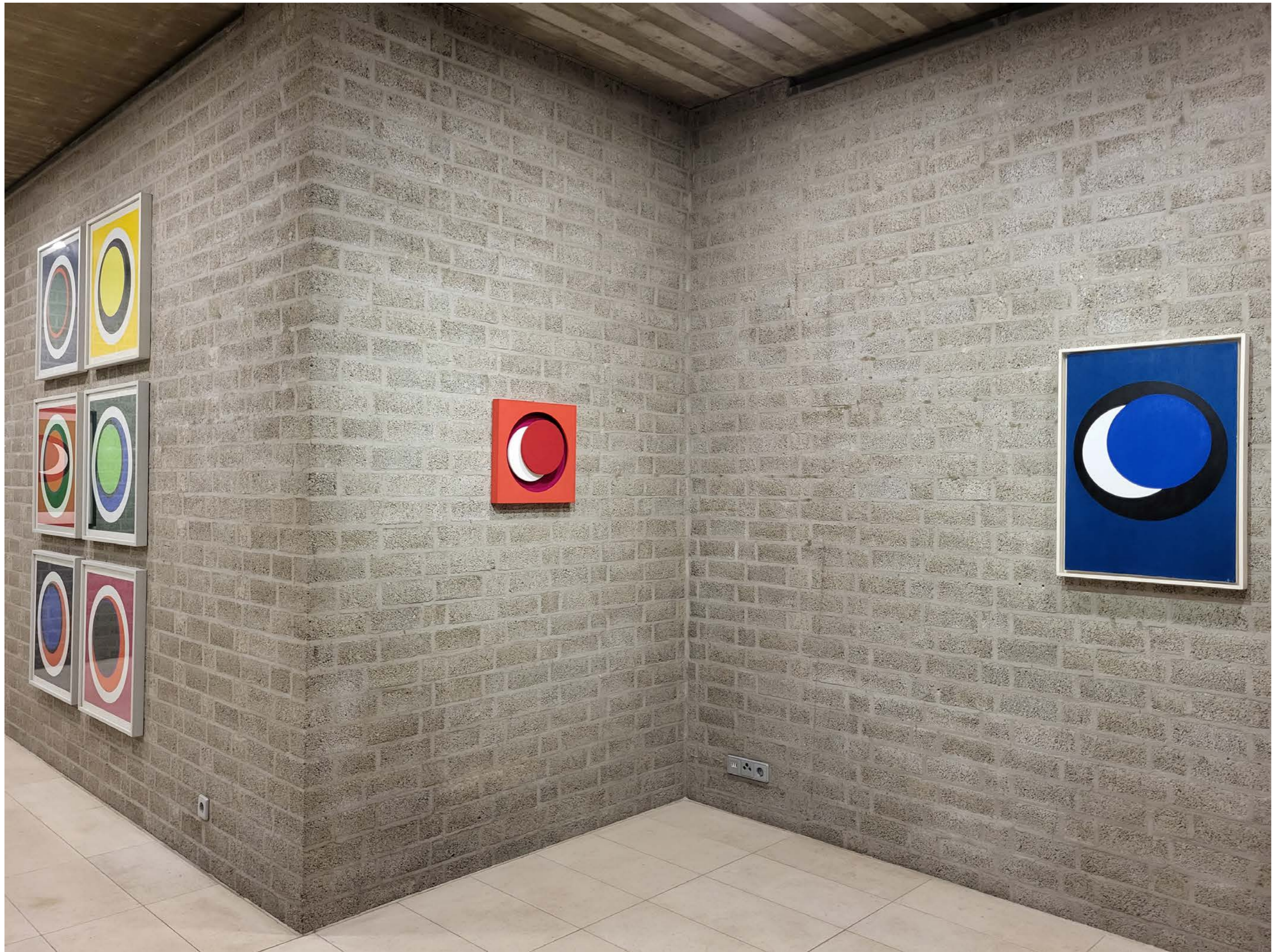


Tycho
1966
Oil on canvas
38.5 x 61.5 cm
24 000 €



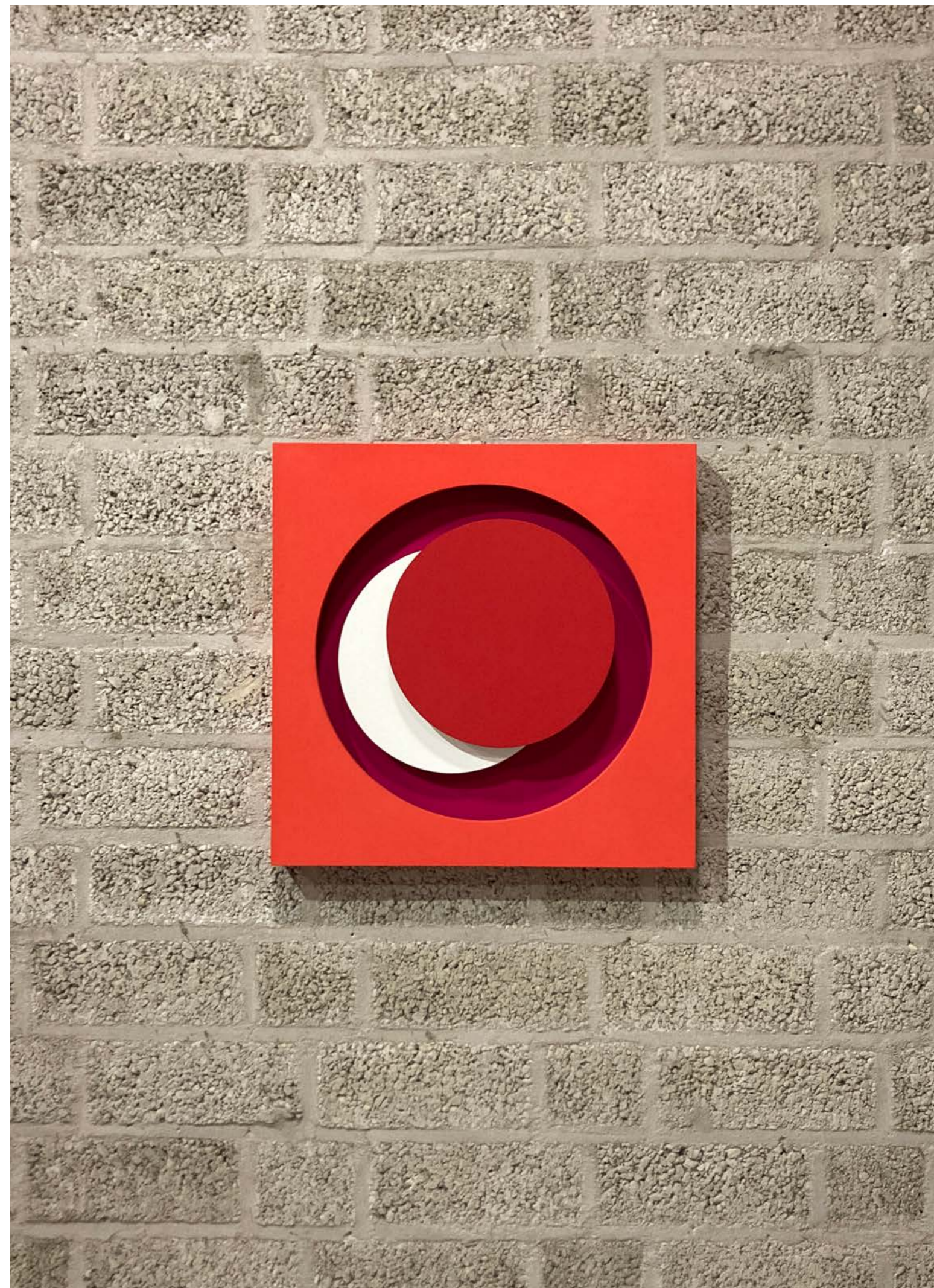


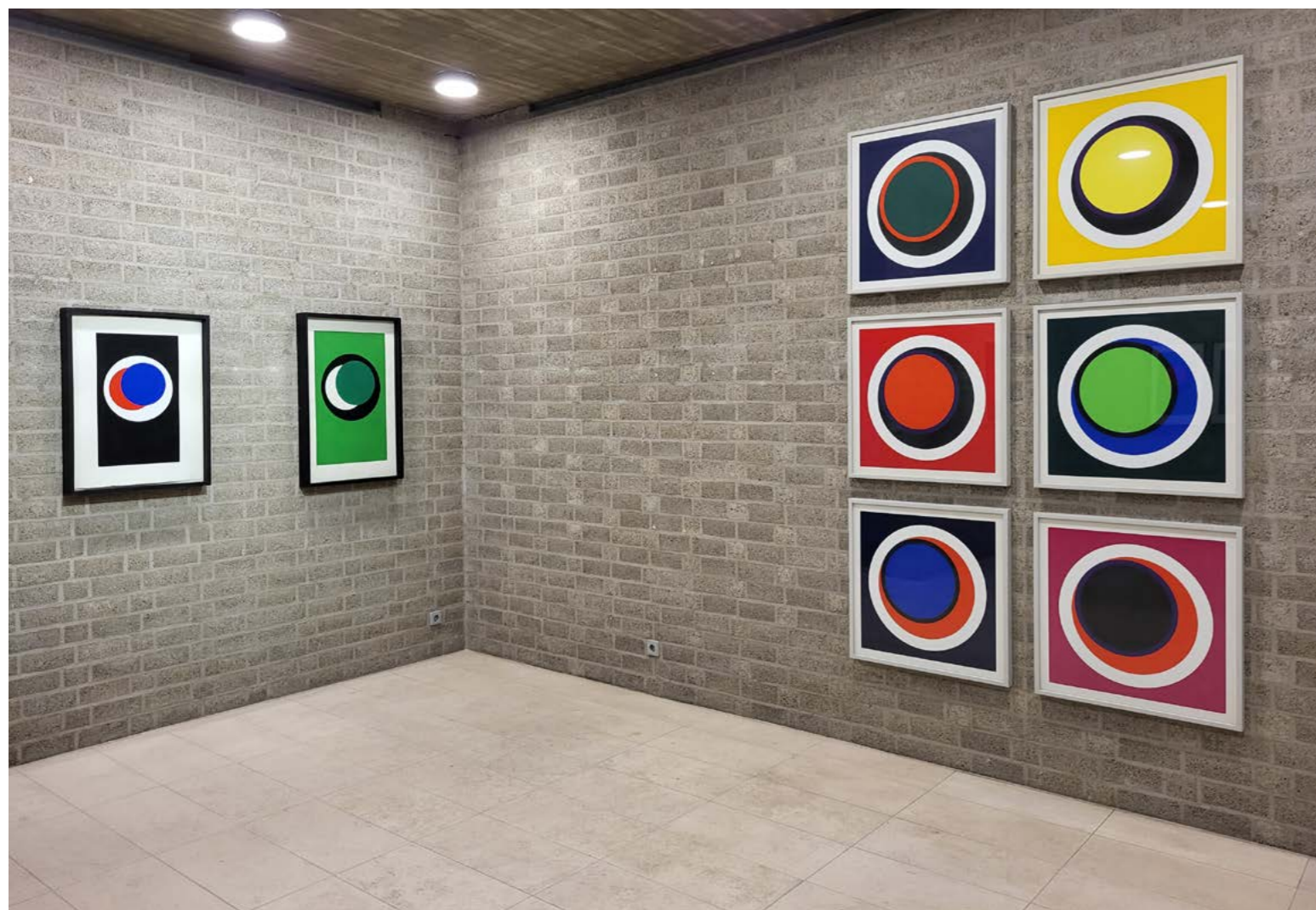
Cercles bleu
1967
Oil on canvas
74 x 50.5 cm
30 000 €





Rotacteur Rouge o.J.
multiple wood, coloured
40 x 40 x 5 cm
Ed. 47 of 50
sold

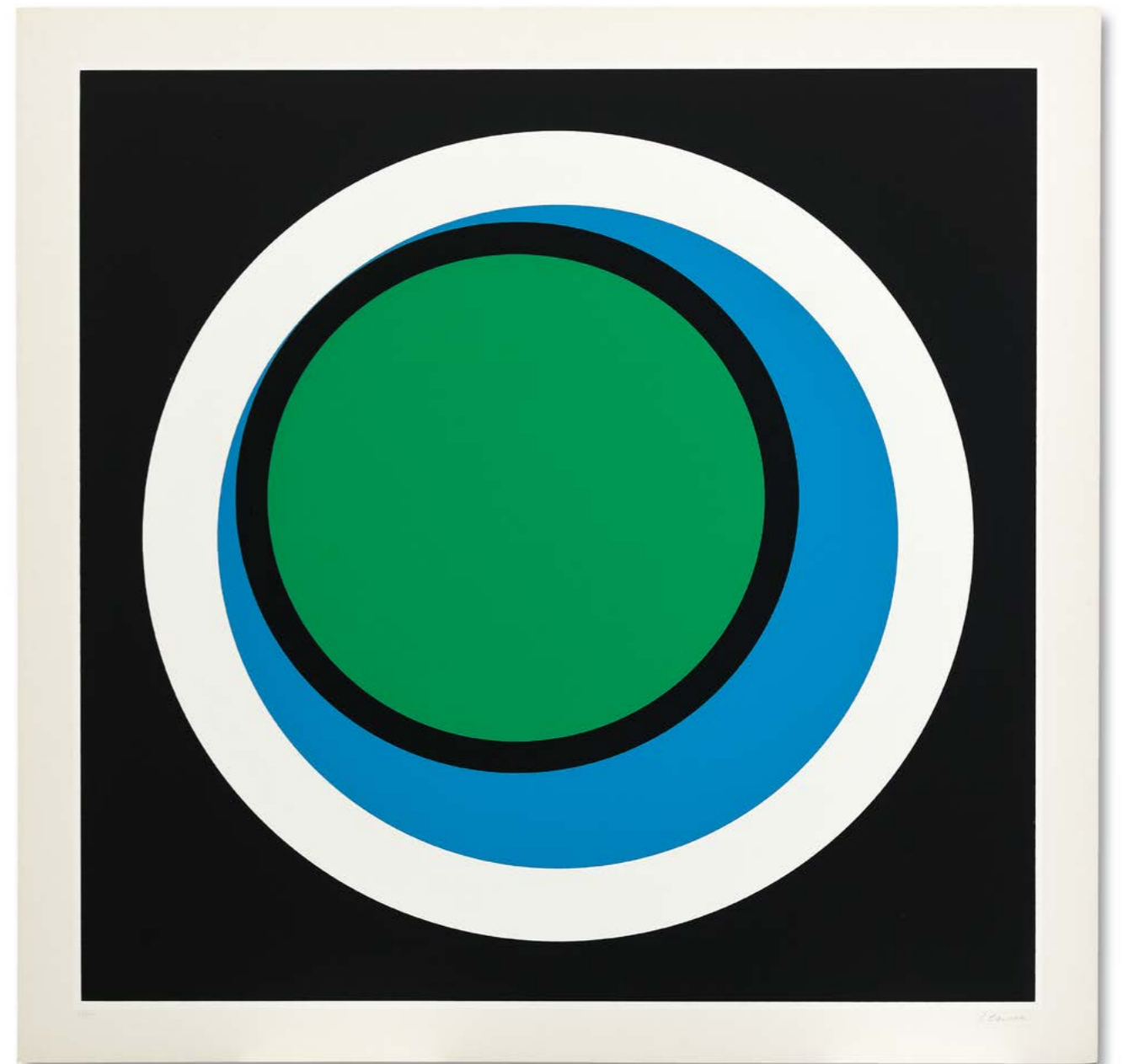




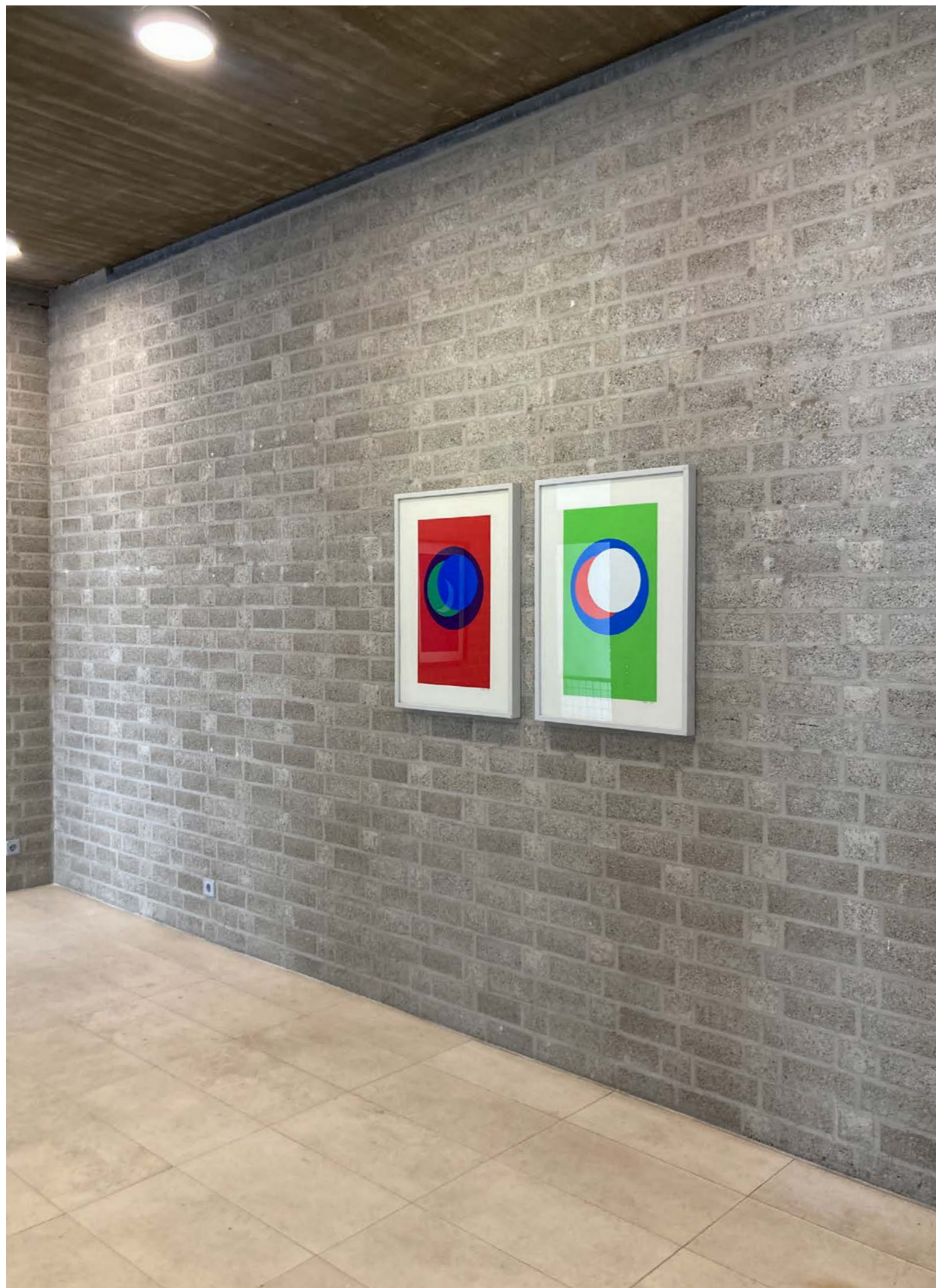
Album H, 1970
Silkscreen
68 x 68 cm, Ed. 16 of 200
8000 €



CL-3-E, Album H
1970
Silkscreen
68 x 68 cm
Ed. 33 of 200
950 €



CL-3-F, Album H
1970
Silkscreen
68 x 68 cm
Ed. 33 of 200
950 €

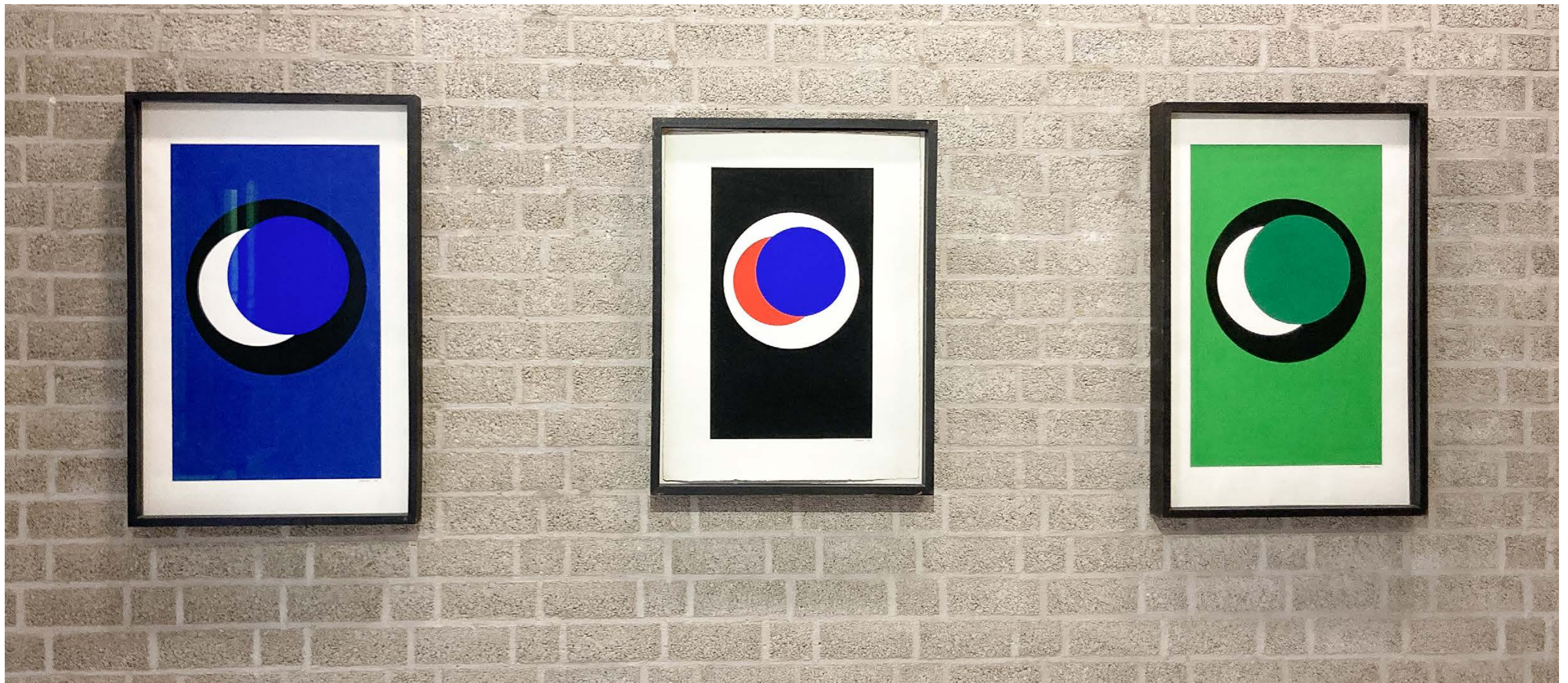




Rot-Blau o.J.
Silkscreen
77 x 56 cm
Ed. 63 of 66
2 000 €



Grün-Weiß o.J.
Silkscreen
77 x 56 cm
Ed. 63 of 66
2 000 €



Untitled 1966
Gouache
92 x 58 cm
16 000 €

Untitled 1966
Gouache
77 x 56.5 cm
14 500 €

Untitled 1966
Gouache
92 x 58 cm
16 000 €





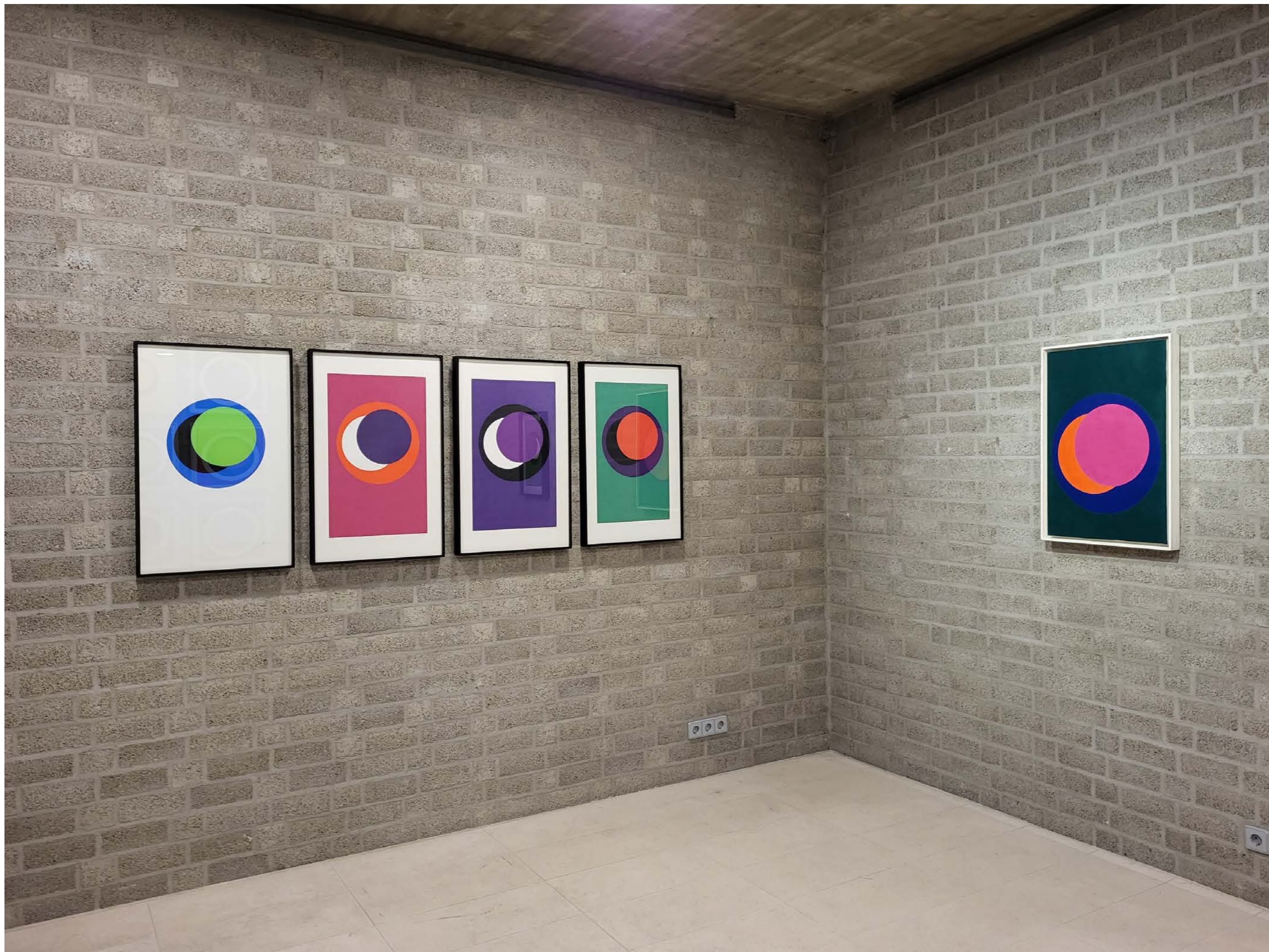
Cercles

1967

Oil on canvas

73.5 x 50.5 cm

30 000 €





Cercles o.J.
Silkscreen
80 x 50 cm
Ed. 55 of 110
1350 €



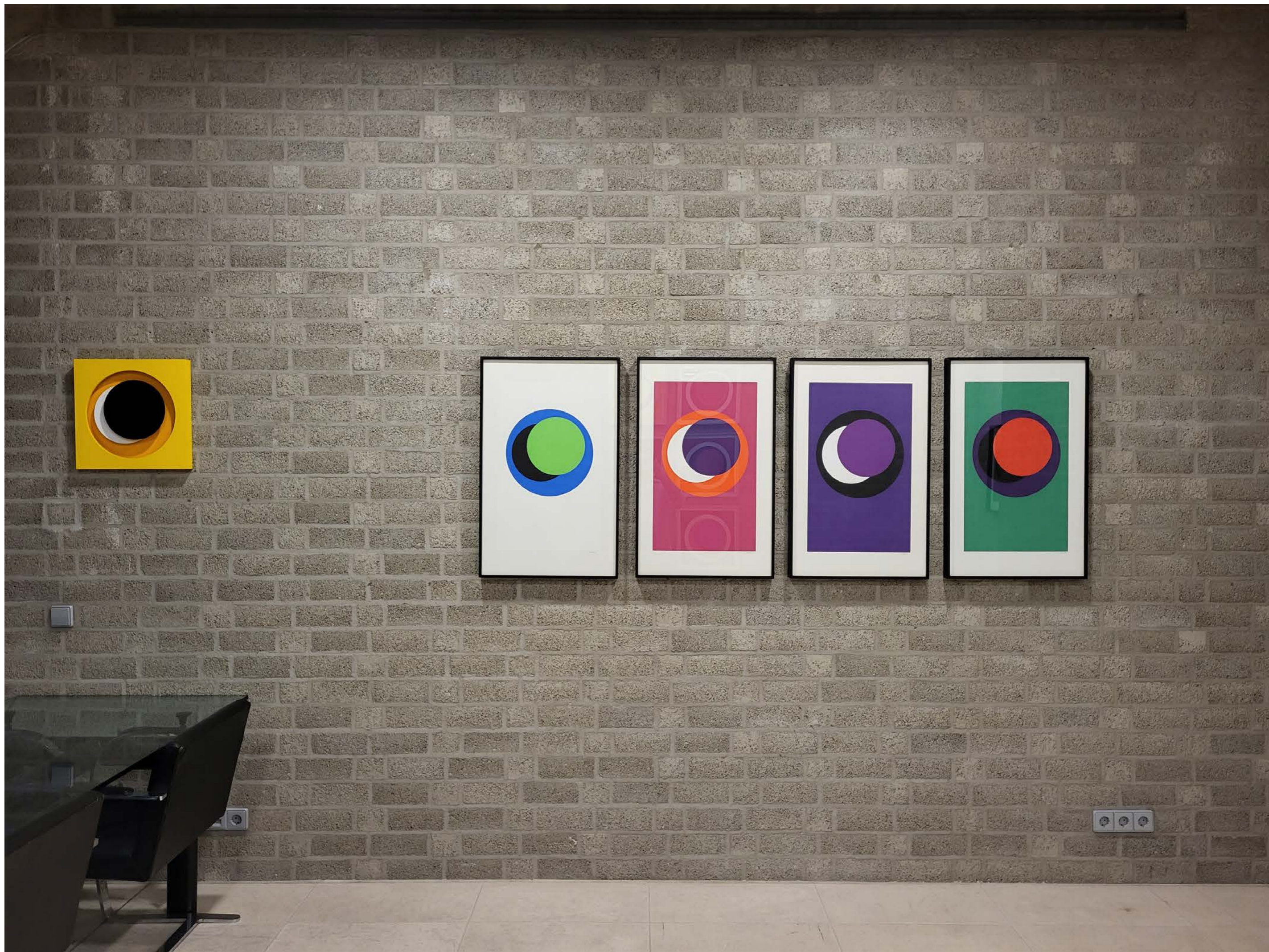
Cercles o.J.
Silkscreen
80 x 50 cm
Ed. 55 of 110
1350 €



Cercles o.J.
Silkscreen
80 x 50 cm
Ed. 55 of 110
1350 €

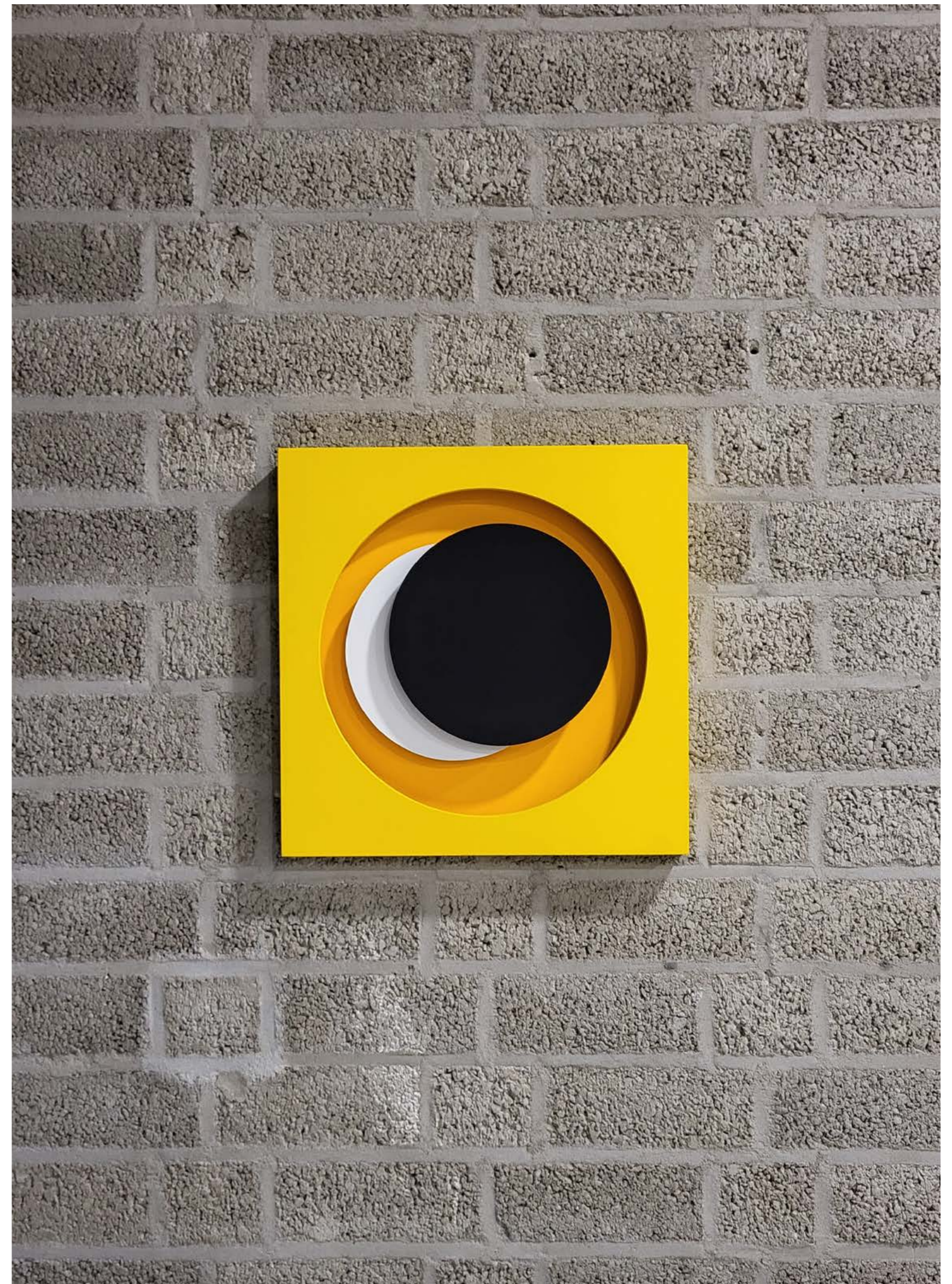


Cercles o.J.
Silkscreen
80 x 50 cm
Ed. 55 of 110
1350 €





Rotacteur Jaune o.J.
Multiple wood, coloured
40 x 40 x 5 cm
Ed. 41 of 50
sold



Also take a look at the Op-Art Shop of Galerie Hans Mayer
with a special on Claisse:

www.opartshop-galeriehansmayer.de



Single Plates, CL 4 Rezal
1968

Link:

<https://opartshop-galeriehansmayer.de/product-category/genevieve-claisse-special/>

Galerie Hans Mayer

Showroom
Schmela-Haus
Mutter-Ey-Straße 3
40213 Düsseldorf
Germany

Tue – Sa: 12 am – 6 pm

Office
Heesenstraße 70
40549 Düsseldorf
Germany

Phone: +49 (0)211 132 135
Fax: +49 (0)211 132 948

www.galeriehansmayer.de
@galeriehansmayer