

**RADO KIROV**  
The Mercury Effect





**Rado Kirov** The Mercury Effect

**Pontone**

GALLERY

43 Cadogan Gardens | London SW3 2TB | +44 20 7730 8777  
art@pontonegallery.com | [www.pontonegallery.com](http://www.pontonegallery.com)



**Rado Kirov was born in 1955 in Bulgaria, where he trained as a coppersmith. He moved to South Africa in 1991 where he pursued a successful career crafting objects in precious metals, including a silver chalice presented to Pope John Paul II by President Nelson Mandela.**

A burgeoning interest in sculpture saw him using his superior craft skills to grow and extend his practice. In 2012, drawing on his thorough knowledge of silversmithing, the artist perfected a technique of manipulating sheets of stainless steel by hand. Using the inherent physical properties of the metal, he creates a striking three-dimensional surface that dynamically mirrors its surroundings. These pieces look like quicksilver caught in midflow. Kirov refers to this technique as 'the mercury effect'.

His sculpture consists of wall-mounted reliefs and free-standing sculptures, all fabricated from stainless steel with highly polished surfaces. Some are geometric, some explicitly furniture-like, others are beads and droplets of formless matter; still more are glistening, reflective panels expressive of flowing landscapes. A new development is reliefs that reference the sensuous surfaces of the human body. The various pieces are subtly shaped by hand to yield complex, undulating forms from hard metal.

His art has its foundation in the transformation of base material into something mesmerising. It suggests something that is forever moving and unstable with a material that is hard and fixed. The artist makes distinct the effect of flow. He achieves a molten quality of form and an almost glacial, melting mutability. The visual impact of shimmering metal assimilating and distorting its environment – constantly changing as the viewer moves their viewpoint – speaks of possibility, potential and change. The work is a visual illusion, a trompe l'oeil, where stable forms are forever becoming. These are objects of desire – perpetually shifting, just beyond our grasp.



## Gibbs Farm Sculpture Park | Kaipara Harbour | New Zealand



**Transcendence** | 2018 | Mirrored Stainless Steel | 5 Columns – 11 m (36 ft)

The Gibbs Farm Sculpture Collection, founded by Alan and Jenny Gibbs in 1991, is located on a vast expanse of land dominated by Kaipara Harbour, the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, an hour's drive north of Auckland.

Over a period of twenty-five years they have commissioned major works by many of the world's leading sculptors including Anish Kapoor, Richard Serra, Sol Le Witt, Andy Goldsworthy and Zhan Wang to name but a few.

As a result, they have amassed one of the most important and spectacular collections of site-specific minimalist sculptures in the world. For more information on the Gibbs Farm project visit [www.gibbsfarm.org.nz](http://www.gibbsfarm.org.nz)

Several years ago the Pontone Gallery (then the Albemarle Gallery), facilitated the introduction of Rado Kirov's sculpture to founder Alan Gibbs, which ultimately led to the commissioning of Transcendence, now a feature of the permanent collection.

The Pontone Gallery congratulates Rado on this major career-defining achievement and being recognised in this most prestigious and significant collection.

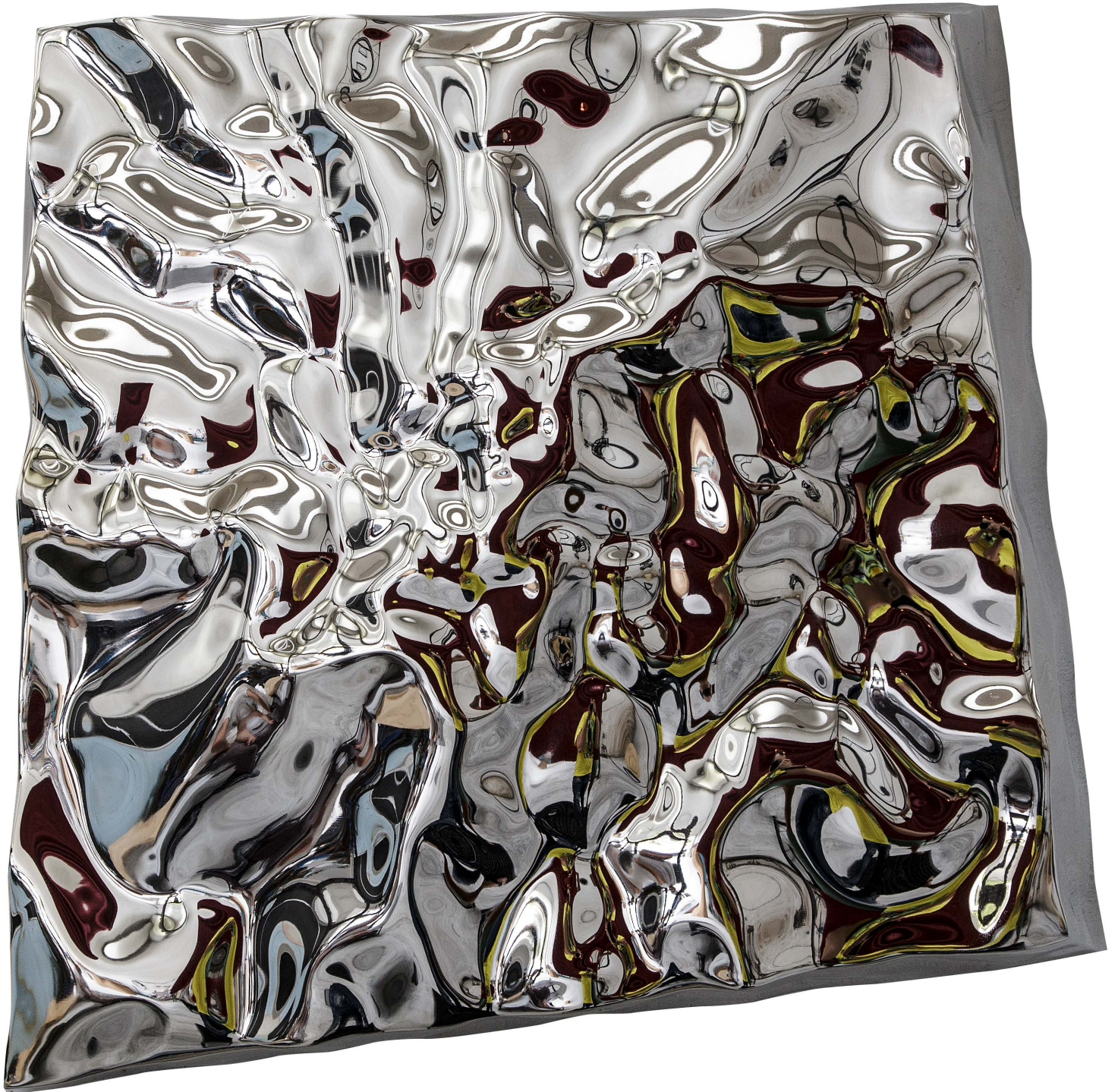
In this new exhibition of Kirov's steel and mercurial sculptures we are privileged to be able to offer the Maquette for Transcendence, which at 2.4m conveys a sense of the scale and presence of the original installation in its unique setting.



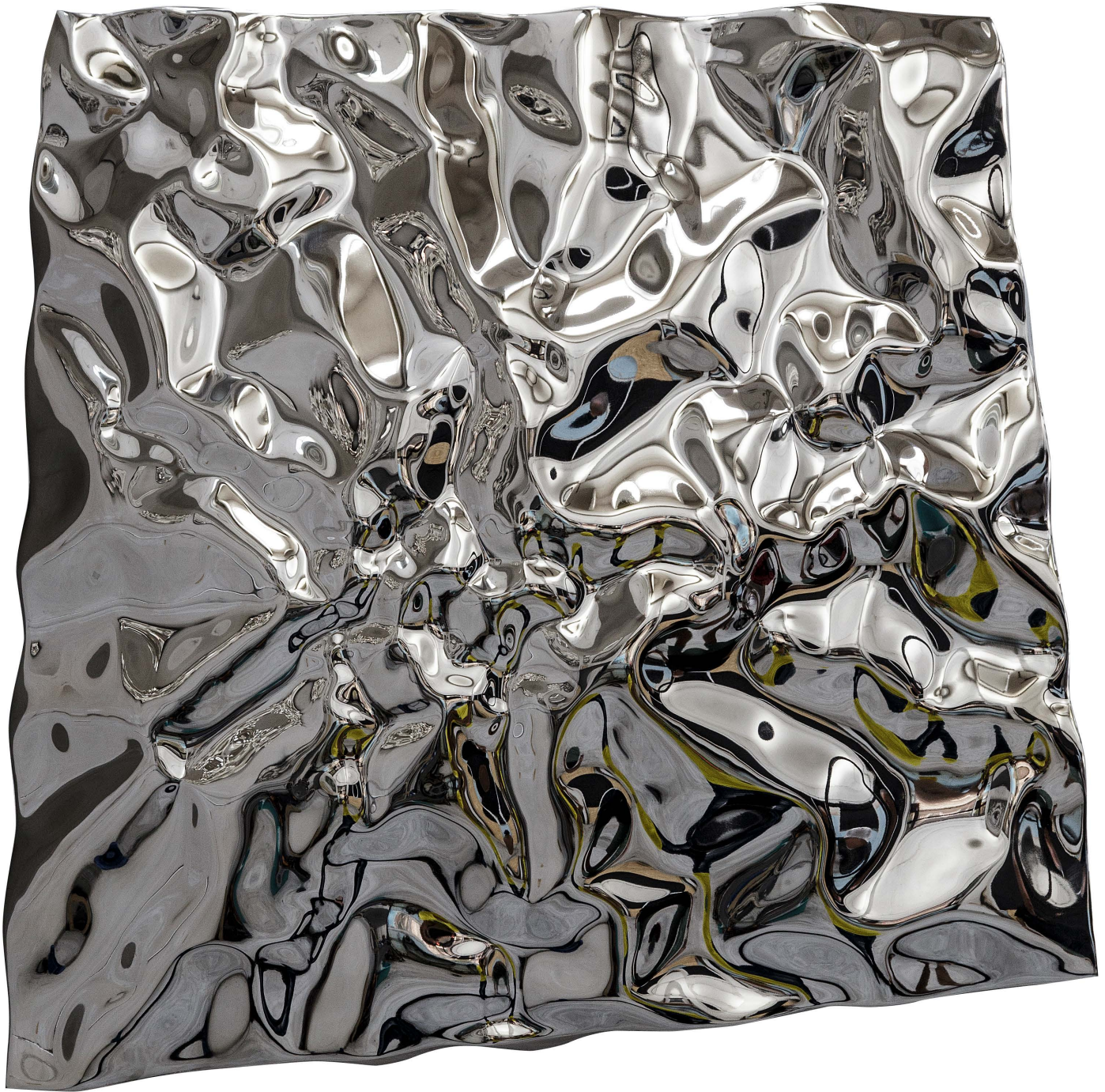




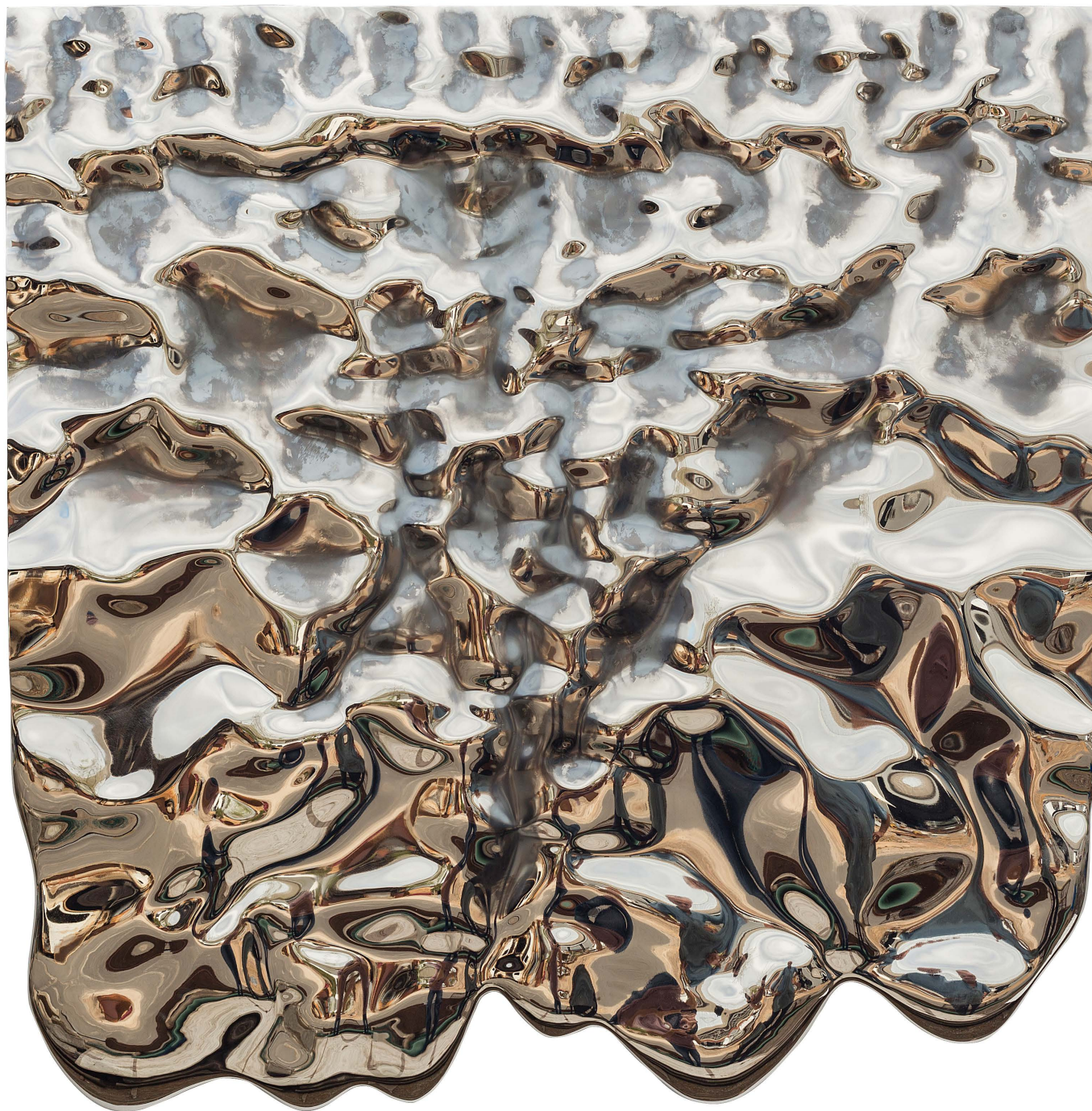
**1. Transcendence (Maquette)**  
2017  
Mirrored Stainless Steel  
5 Columns – 240 cm (94.5 in)



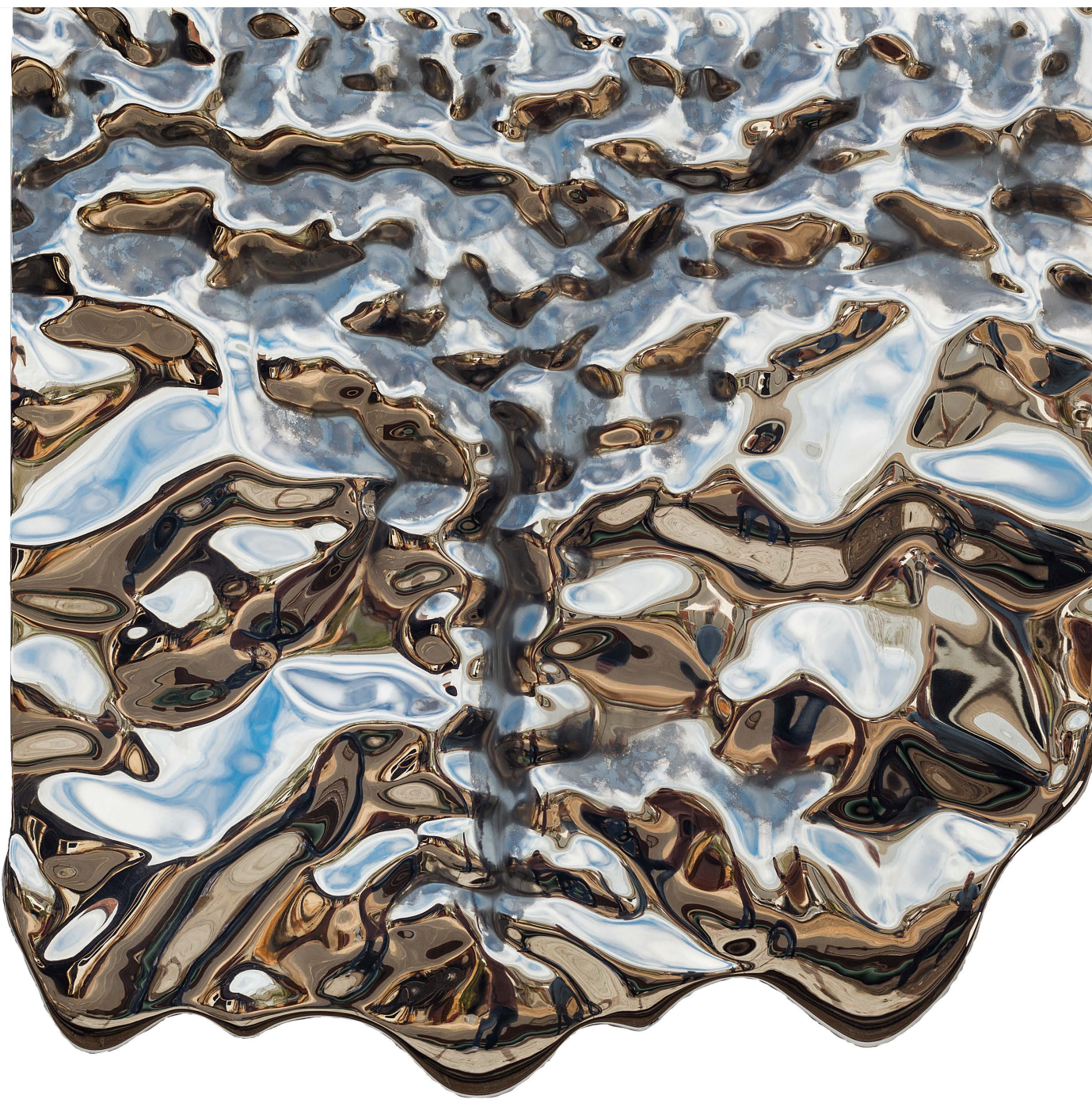
**2. 3D Wall Panel 1**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
90 x 90 cm (35.4 x 35.4 in)



**3. 3D Wall Panel 2**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
90 x 90 cm (35.4 x 35.4 in)



**4. Blackmelt 1**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 120 cm (45.3 x 47.2 in)



**5. Blackmelt 2**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 120 cm (45.3 x 47.2 in)





**6. Tumbling Cubes**

2018

Mirrored stainless steel

54 x 72 x 107 cm (21.3 x 28.3 x 42.1 in)



**7. Fish Pond 1**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in)





**8. Fish Pond 2**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in)



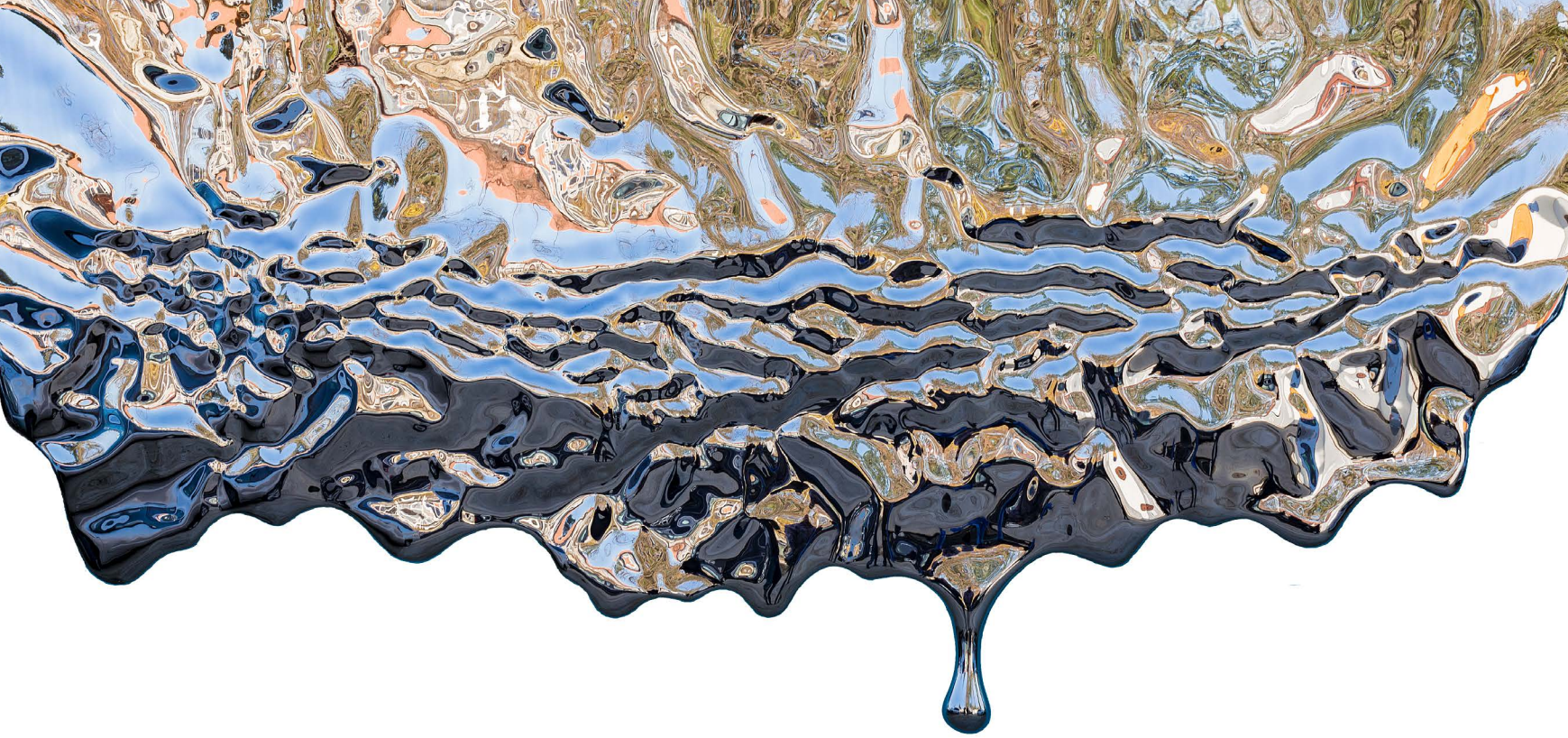
**9. Sequence**

2018

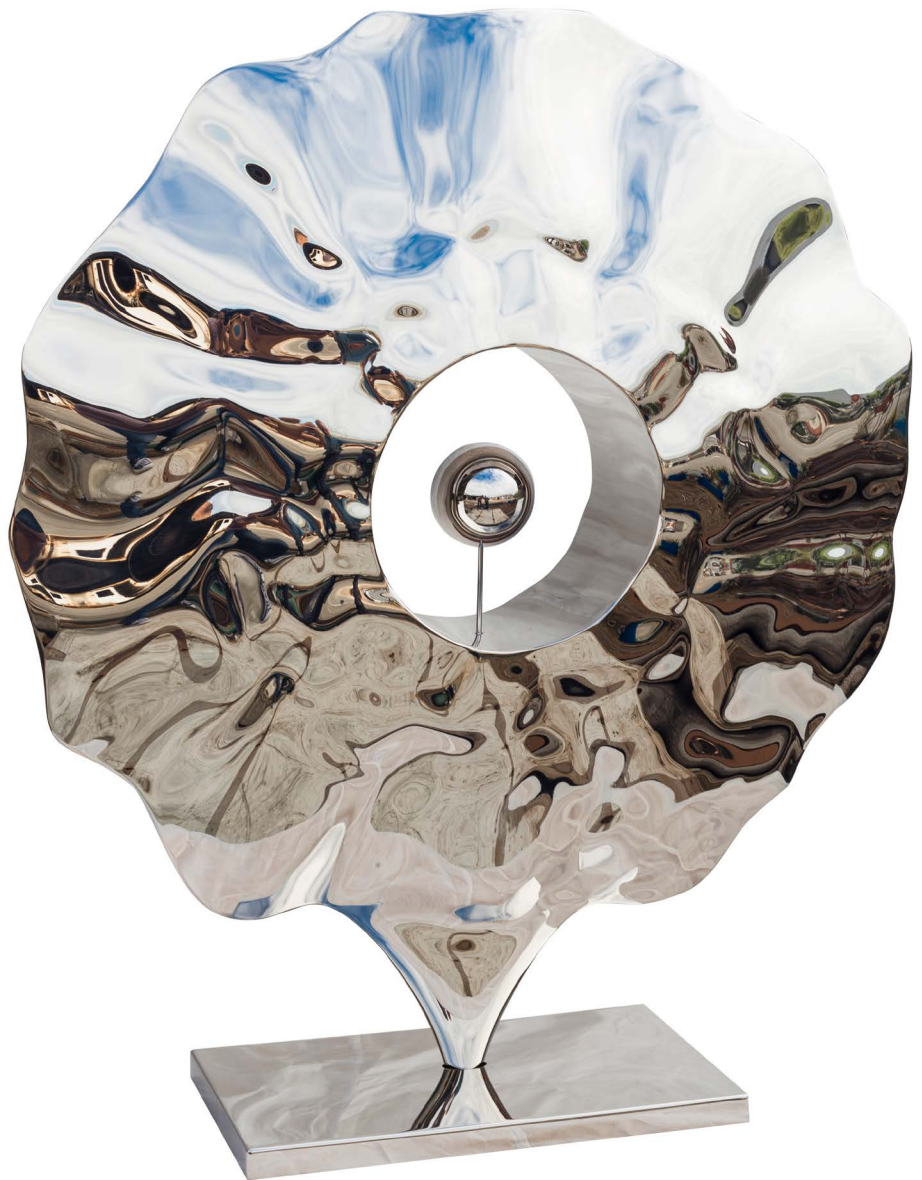
Mirrored stainless steel  
125 x 30 cm (49.2 x 11.8 in)



**10. Under The Influence**  
2017  
Mirrored stainless steel  
130 x 30 cm (51.2 x 11.8 in)



**11. Monumental Melt**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
150 x 350 cm (59.1 x 137.8 in)



**12. Expansion**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
100 x 82 cm (39.4 x 32.3 in)



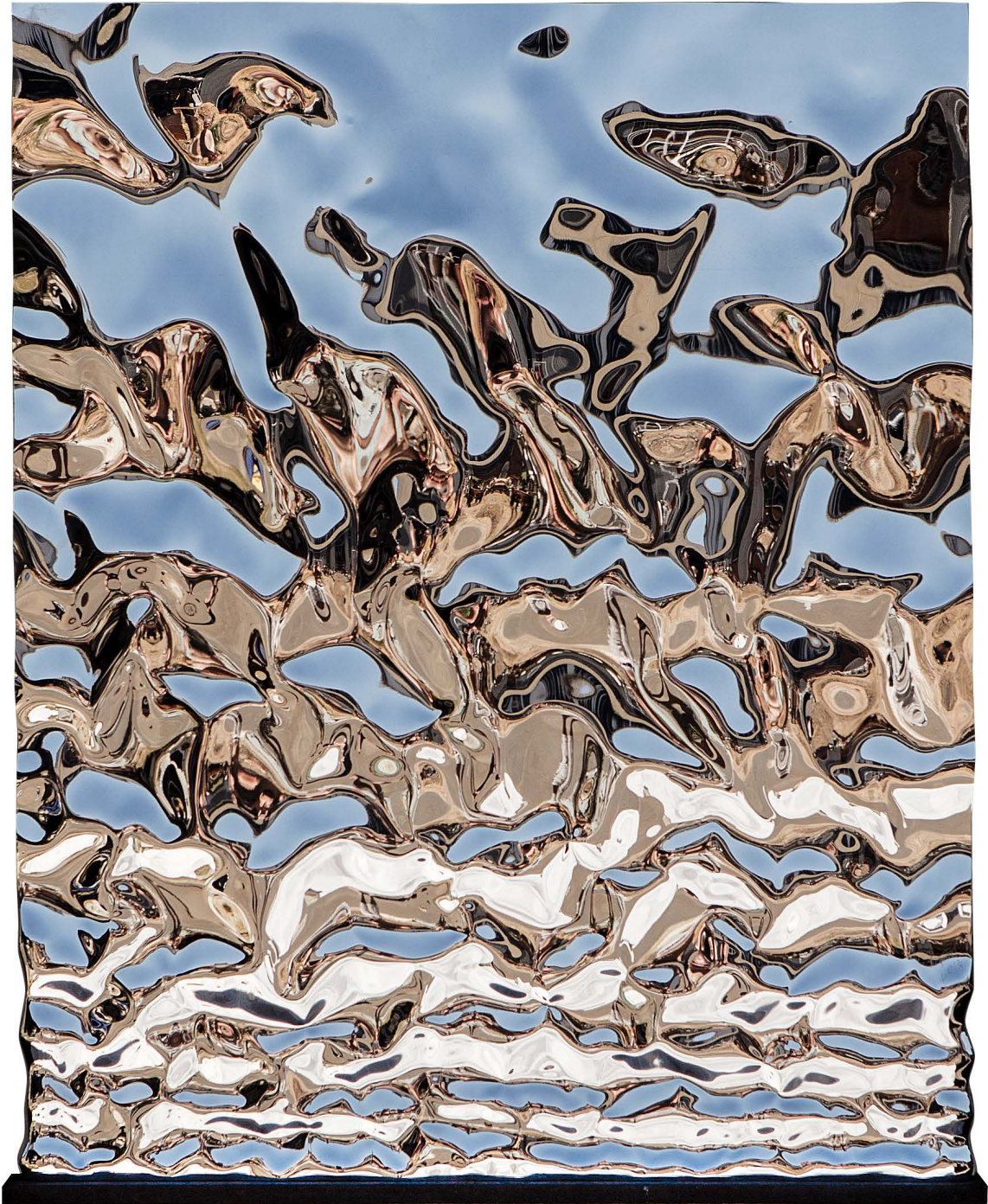


**13. Balancing Cubes**

2018

Mirrored stainless steel

110 x 95 x 70 cm (43.3 x 37.4 x 27.6 in)



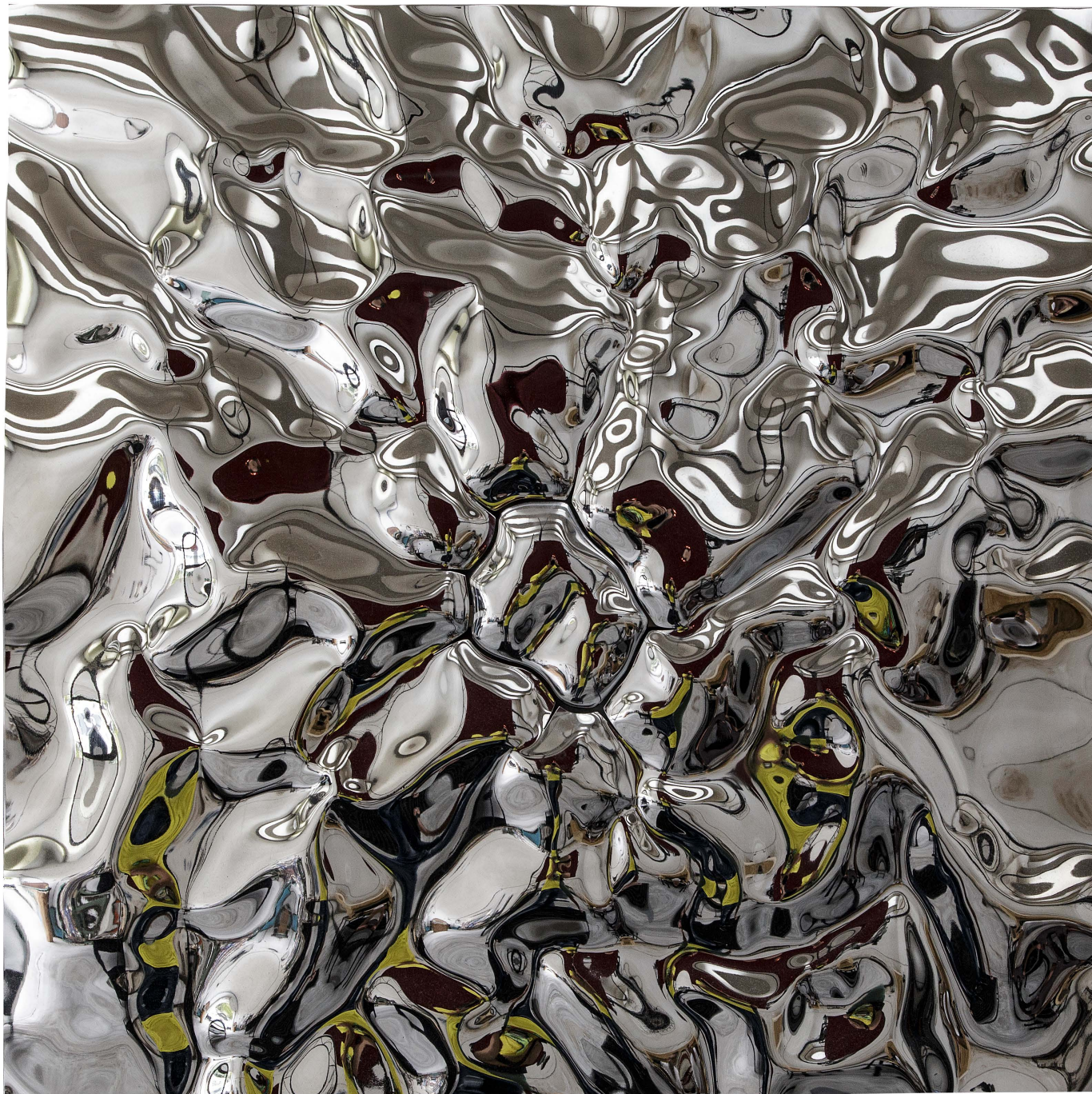
**14. Gravity**

2016

Mirrored stainless steel

115 x 93 cm (45.3 x 36.6 in)





**15. Mercury Panel**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in)



**16. Fragment**

2018

Mirrored stainless steel

135 x 35 x 15 cm (53 x 13.8 x 5.9 in).jpg



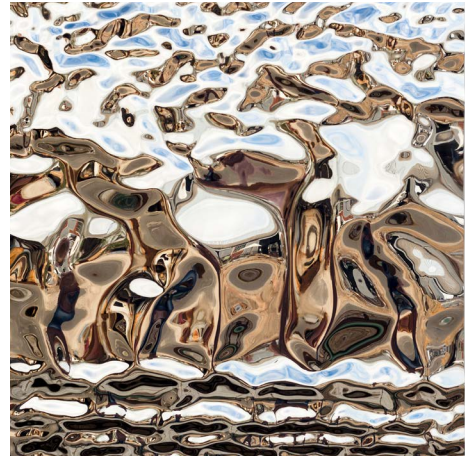
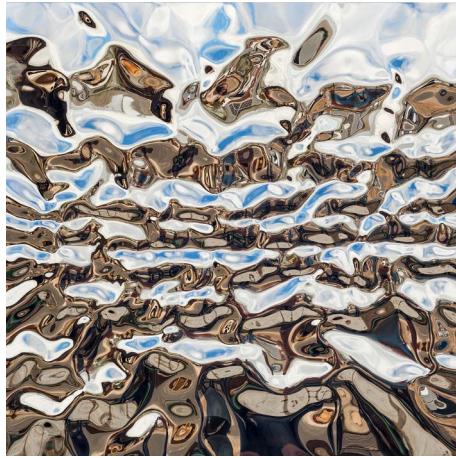
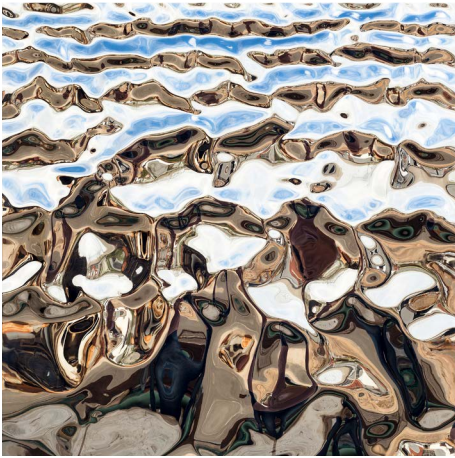
**17. The Melt 1**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
70 x 175 cm (27.6 x 68.9 in)



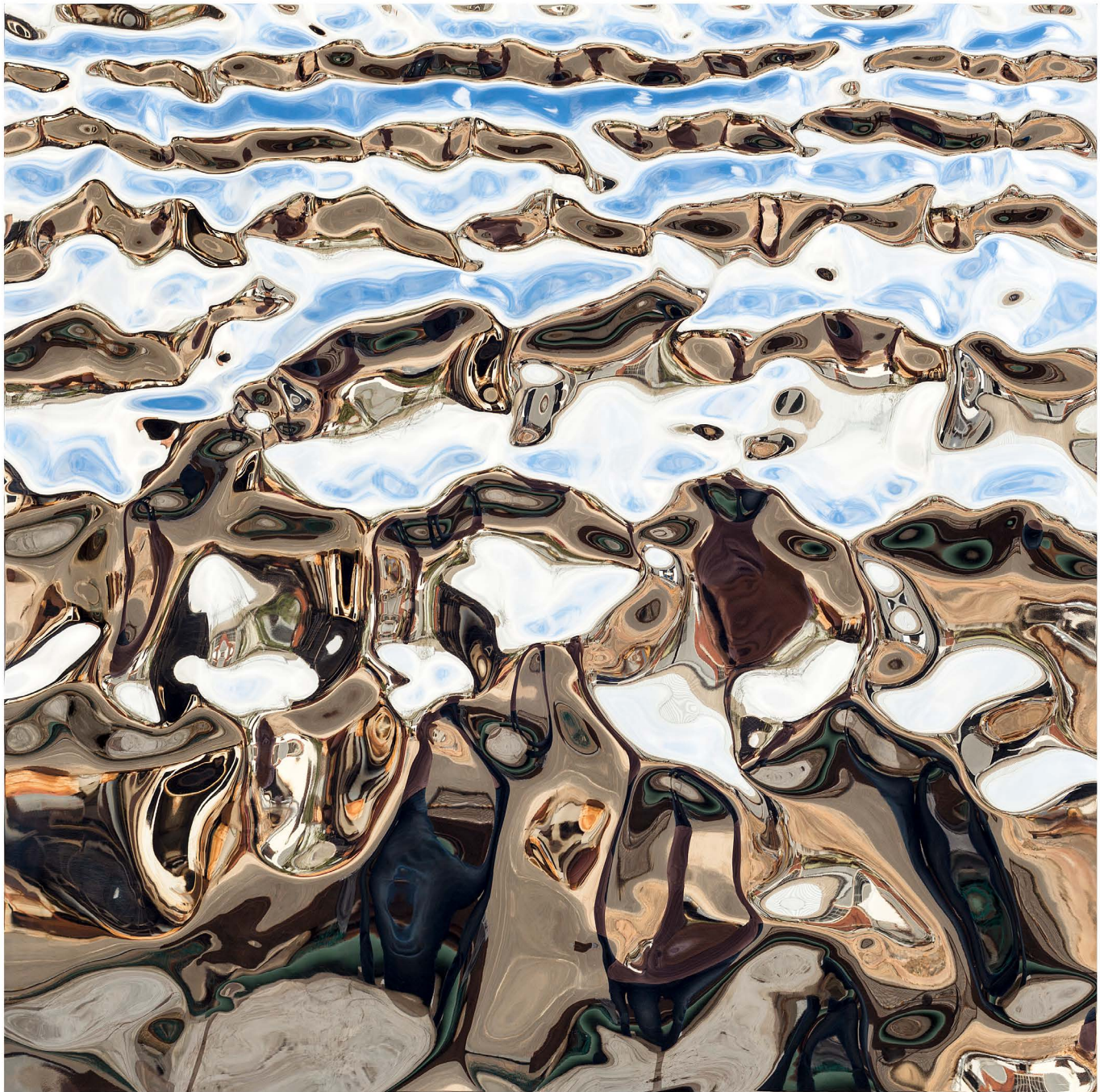
**18. The Melt 2**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
140 x 70 cm (55.1 x 27.6 in)



**19. The Melt 3**  
2016  
Mirrored stainless steel  
140 x 70 cm (55.1 x 27.6 in)



**20. Triptych**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in) x 3

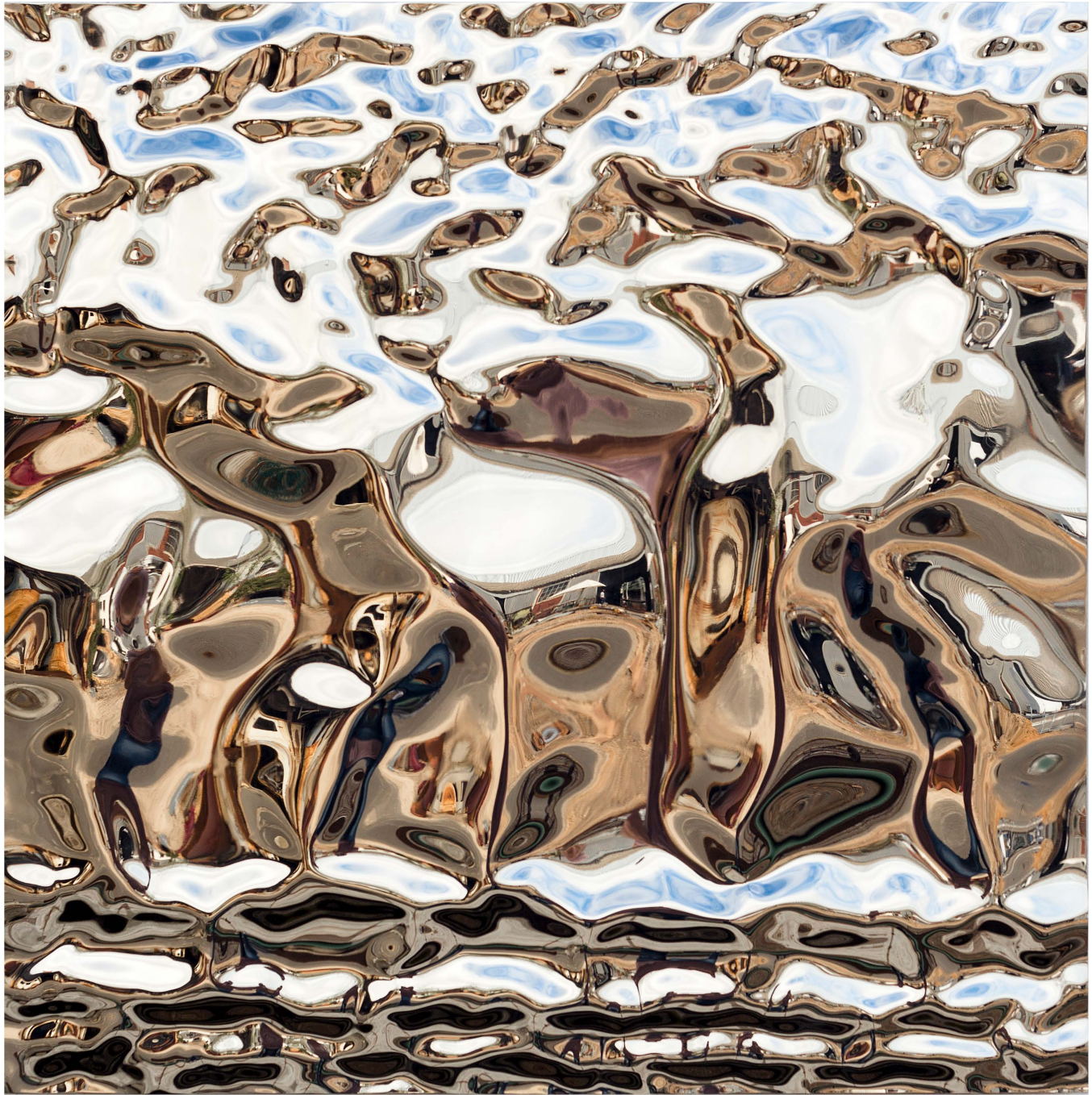


**20. Triptych 1**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in)



**20. Triptych 2**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in)





**20. Triptych 3**  
2018  
Mirrored stainless steel  
115 x 115 cm (45.3 x 45.3 in)

## **RADO KIROV**

- 2012 ~ present Focusing exclusively on sculpture and functional art in stainless steel using the unique "Mercury Effect".
- 2006 Designed and fabricated the Rhino Rhyton, a traditional Bulgarian wine vessel in the shape of a rhinoceros, hand crafted using 1250g of 22 carat gold
- 1995 ~ 2012 Various commissions related to product design and functional art, working extensively with interior designers and architects
- 1991 ~ 1995 Silver- and goldsmith at Pagliari Group, South Africa. Works include a silver chalice presented to Pope John Paul II by former President Nelson Mandela on behalf of the South African Government in 1998; a silver Rose Bowl presented as a wedding gift to the Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako by the SA Government; the Alfred Dunhill Challenge Cup Trophy for golf; the parliamentary People's Mace and the Black Rod Mace of the South African Parliament in 18 carat gold
- 1991 Head Coppersmith at the Old Dobrich Ethnographic Complex, Bulgaria
- 1980 Coppersmithing apprenticeship under the tutelage of Alexander Raev, Bulgaria

## **EXHIBITIONS**

- 2016 The Brothers Kirov, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2016 Art 16 London, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2015 Art 15 London, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2015 Liquid Steel, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2015 Guild Design Fair, Cape Town
- 2014 Rado Kirov, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2014 Art 14 London, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2014 Reflections, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 Albemarle Collective, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 Spring Collective, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 Solo Exhibition, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2013 London Art Fair, Rep. Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2012 Rado, Galerie de l'Exil, Paris

## **SIGNIFICANT COMMISSIONS**

- 2018 Gibbs Farm, New Zealand:  
Organised Chaos, 5 columns, 11 m
- 2016 Christian Dior, Cannes: River Wild, 34 x 150 x 105 cm
- 2016 Christian Dior Boutique Store, London:  
Mercury Landscape, 1.5 x 3.2 m



**Pontone**

---

GALLERY