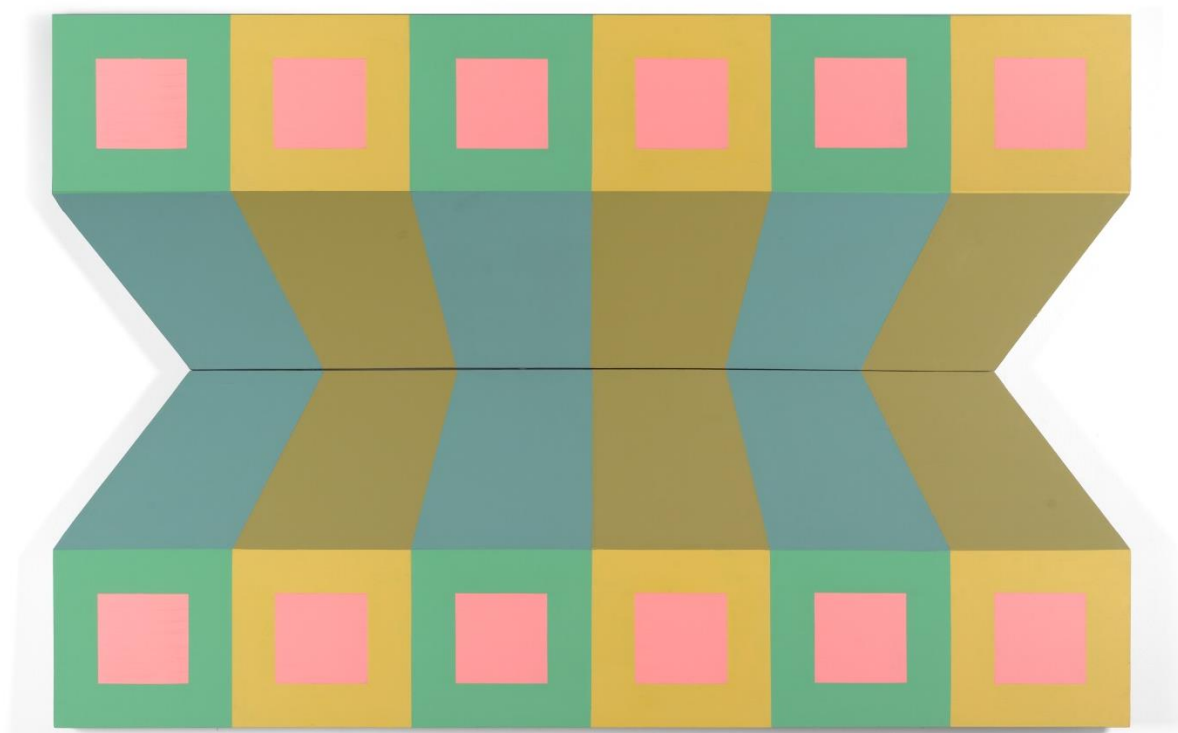


GAJAH GALLERY SINGAPORE PRESENTS

***The Shape of Things: Conceptual Configurations***  
**A Solo Exhibition by Dr. Choong Kam Kow**

*With essay by Louis Ho*

**Opening Night | Thursday 17 October, 7pm**  
**Exhibition Dates | 17 October – 10 November 2019**



***Advancing and Receding***, 1971, emulsion colour on canvas, 122 x 183 cm

Gajah Gallery is proud to present *The Shape of Things: Conceptual Configurations*, the first solo exhibition in Singapore by the highly acclaimed Malaysian artist, Dr. Choong Kam Kow. A pioneering figure in the historical development of Malaysian art, Dr. Choong is highly regarded for his vast contribution to the field of education, playing a vital role in nurturing many of today's leading artists in both the contemporary Malaysian and Singaporean art scenes.

*The Shape of Things: Conceptual Configurations* features a range of works from the late 1960's to the early 1980's, across three seminal series: The New York Series, The SEA THRU Series, and his signature Shaped Canvas Series. These works will be shown alongside new, contemporary pieces which expand on and adapt these ideas for the present day.

During his time in New York in the 1960's, Dr. Choong found himself within a turbulent art scene, inspired by and responding to the various movements which had or were beginning to emerge: Abstract Expressionism, Hard-Edge painting, Conceptual Minimalism and Geometric Abstraction. Upon his return to Malaysia, he developed a unique studio practice that bridged these two cultures: methodologically Western yet philosophically Eastern.

A master of colour, his works portray a diversity of shapes, sizes and colour arrangements that contour vibrant and rhythmic visual effects. With the New York Series, Dr. Choong combines organic forms with geometric shapes, exploring the cultural differences and challenges in moving from rural Perak to the metropolitan New York City.

Following this, the Shaped Canvas Series respond to the rapid economic growth of the nation, and its call to science and technology in search of progress and development. Gestural marks were deliberately eliminated to achieve an industrial beauty found in precision. The later SEA THRU Series expands upon this, combining the mediums of painting and sculpture through an interplay of optical illusion and physical mass.

A former Dean of Fine Art Studies at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore; and previously the Head of the Art Department at the United Nations International School, New York; in 2014, Dr. Choong was awarded the highest national honour – a career retrospective spanning over five decades in art at the National Visual Arts Gallery of Malaysia.

An internationally renowned artist, Dr. Choong's works have been acquired for permanent collection by many major public institutions including the National Visual Arts Gallery, Malaysia; the Singapore Art Museum; the National Taiwan Museum of Art; the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan; the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan; the Guangdong Museum of Art, China; the Frederikshavn Art Museum, Denmark; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA.

## **ARTIST PROFILE**

Dr. Choong Kam Kow is an internationally acclaimed and pioneering contemporary Malaysian artist, as well as a prominent academician in the field of art and design education. Since the 1950's he has developed a distinct artistic style through the fusion of Eastern and Western aesthetics. A master of colour, his works portray a diversity of shapes, sizes and colour arrangements – each conjuring vibrant and rhythmic visual effects.

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2016	Choong Kam Kow: Cross Culture-Trans Region, Guangdong Museum of Art, China
2014 – 15	Choong Kam Kow Retrospective Exhibition: Cross Culture – Trans Era, National Visual Arts Gallery, Malaysia
2006	Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
1991	Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan
1988	Frederikshavn Art Museum, Denmark

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2007	Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art, Islamic Art Museum, Kuala Lumpur
2004	Identity versus Globalization, Chiang Mai Art Museum / National Art Gallery, Thailand/ Dahlem Museum, Berlin, Germany Continuities: Contemporary Art of Malaysia at the Turn of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
1998	Rupa Malaysia - A decade of Art 1987 – 1997, Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, United Kingdom
1986	1986 Contemporary Asian Exhibition, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea.
1978	Malaysian Art 1965 – 1978, Commonwealth Institute, London, United Kingdom
1970	Experiment '70 (The New Scene continuation), Galeri 11, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### **Selected Institutional Collections**

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan	Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China	Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
National Taiwan Museum of Art, Taichung, Taiwan	
Frederikshavn Art Museum, Denmark	
The Aldrich Collection, University of Brighton, United Kingdom	
Art & Heritage Collection, The Robert Gordon University, Scotland	

**Exhibition Schedule:**

Thursday 17 October 2019, 7 pm

Opening Night

Thursday, 17 October – Sunday, 10 November 2019

Opens to Public

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Gajah Gallery Singapore

39 Keppel Road

Tanjong Pagar Distripark

#03-04

Singapore 089065

**Opening Hours:**

11 am – 7 pm Mon - Fri

12 pm – 6 pm Sat, Sun & PH

Free entry

Twitter: [twitter.com/gajahgallery](https://twitter.com/gajahgallery)

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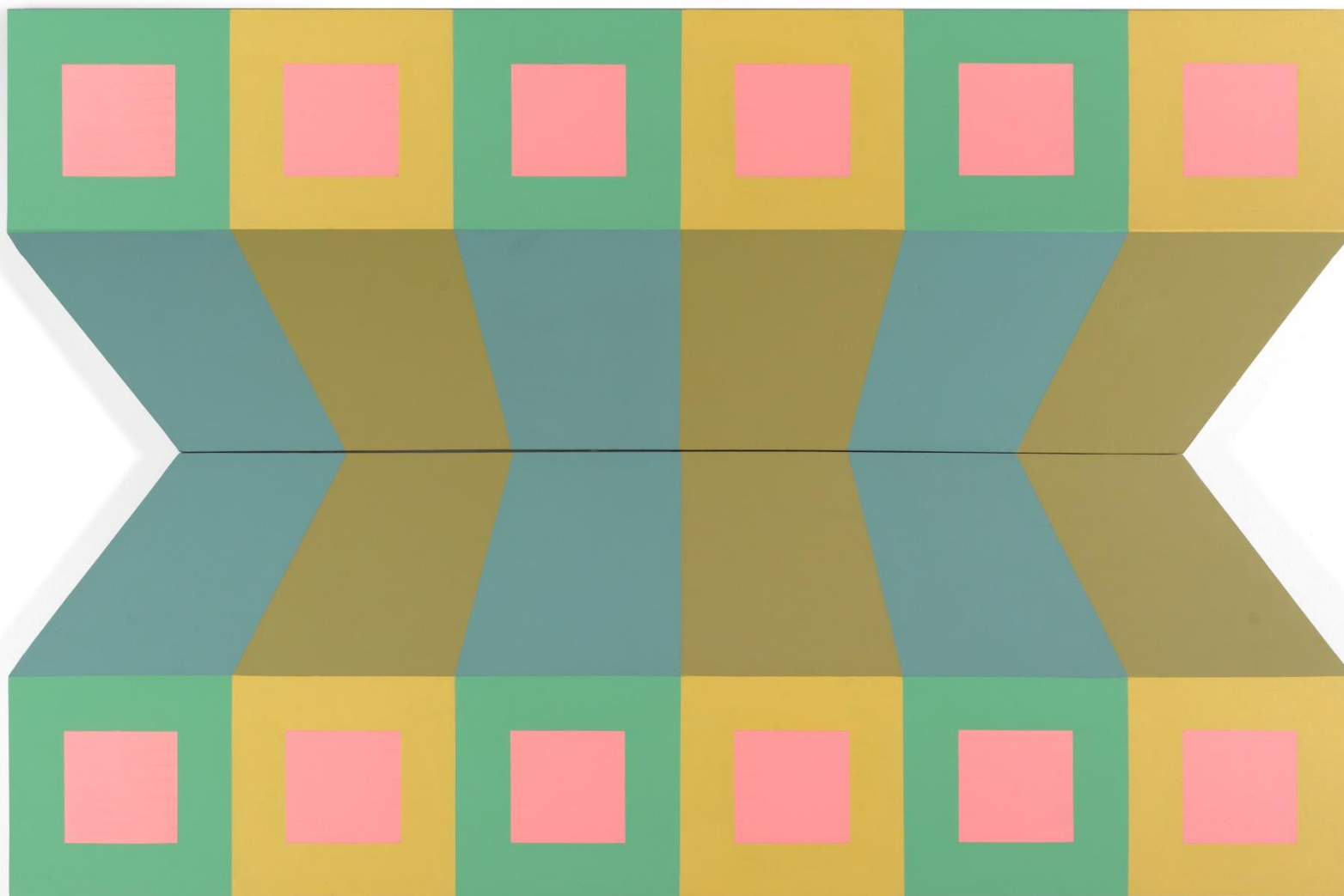
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*For images, interviews and other media enquiries, contact:*

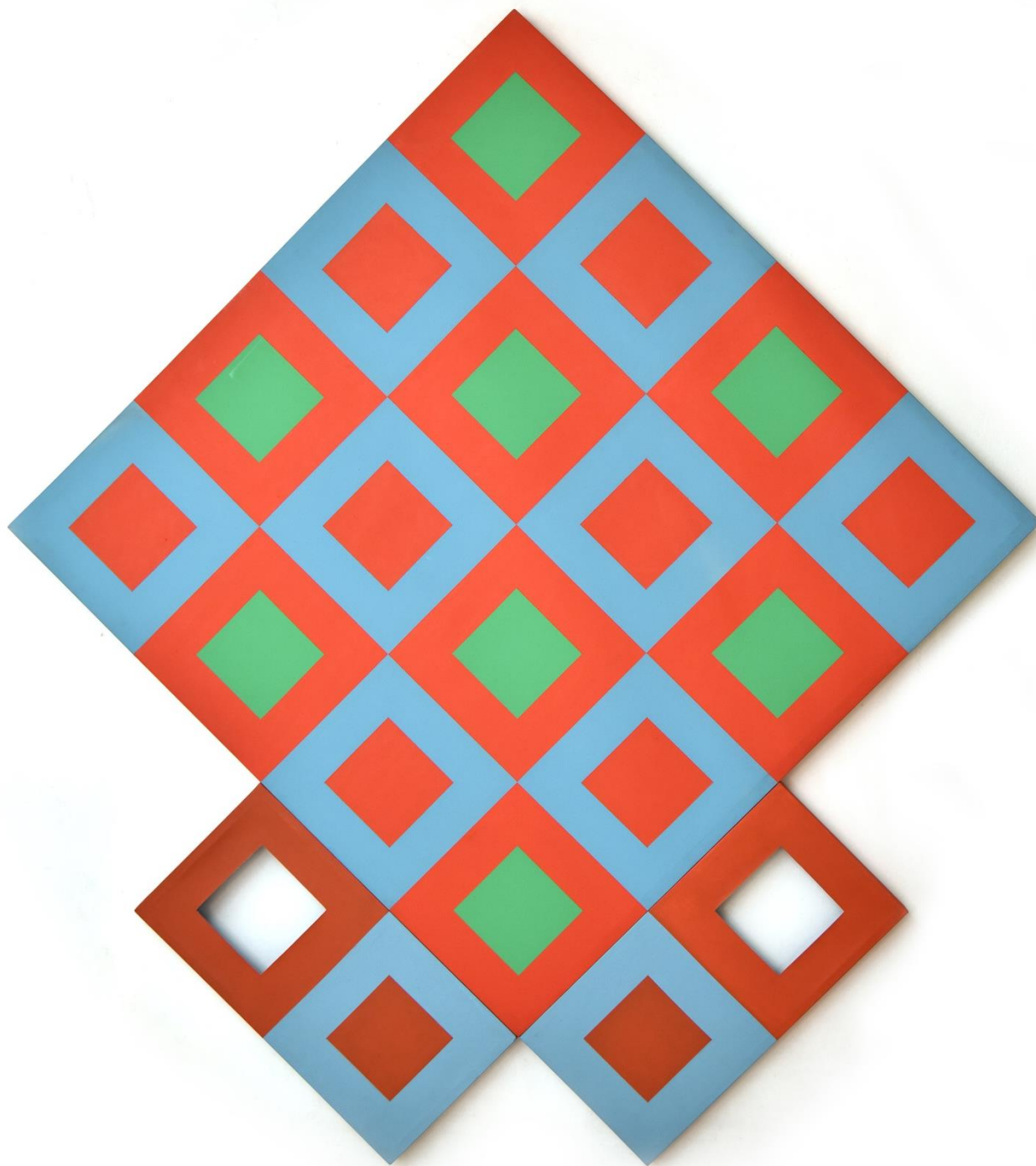
Joseph Kong

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*Advancing and Receding*, 1971, emulsion colour on canvas, 122 x 183 cm (approx.)

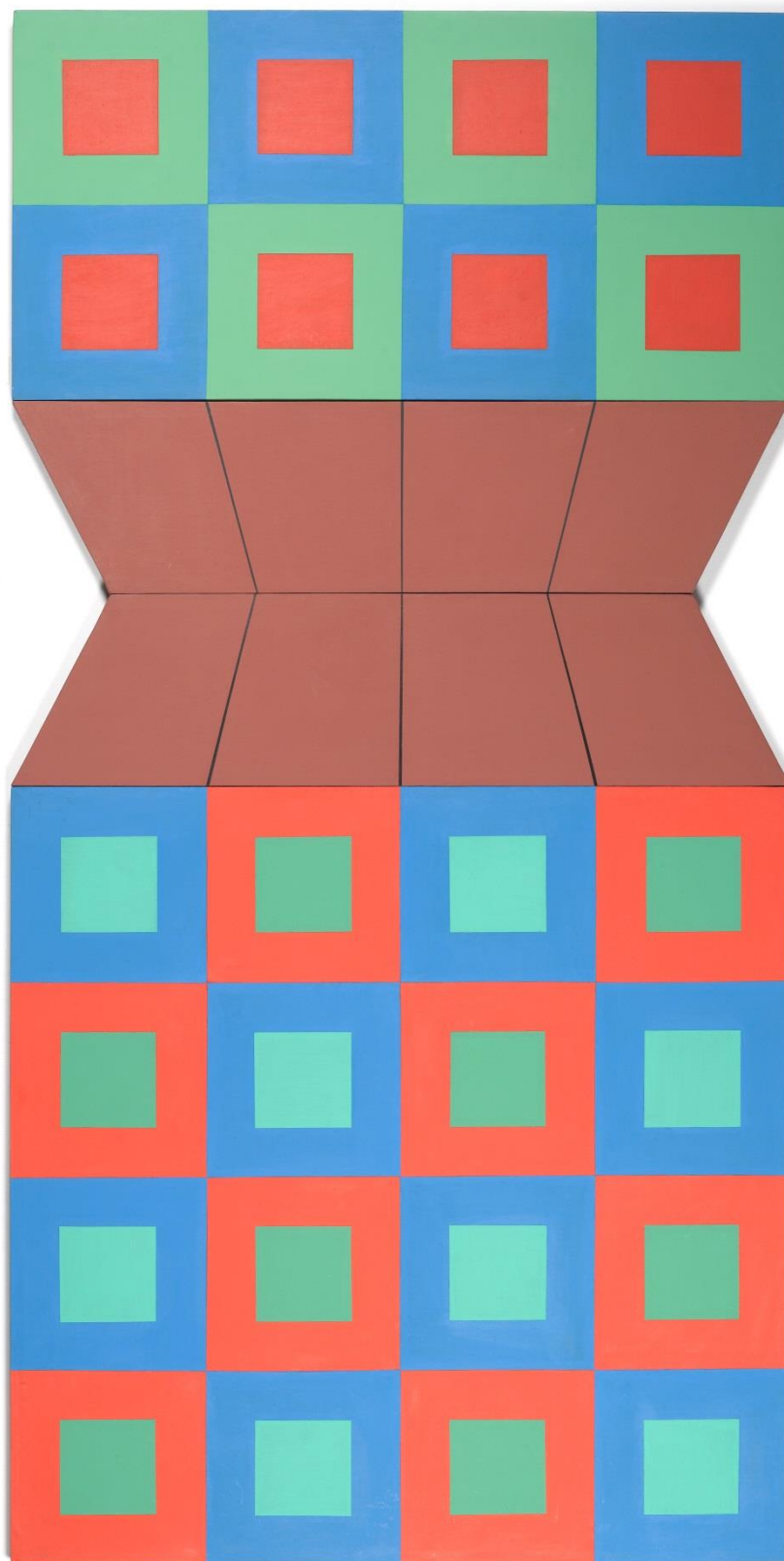


*Volume in Flight*

1972

Emulsion colour on canvas

152.5 x 152.5 cm (approx.)

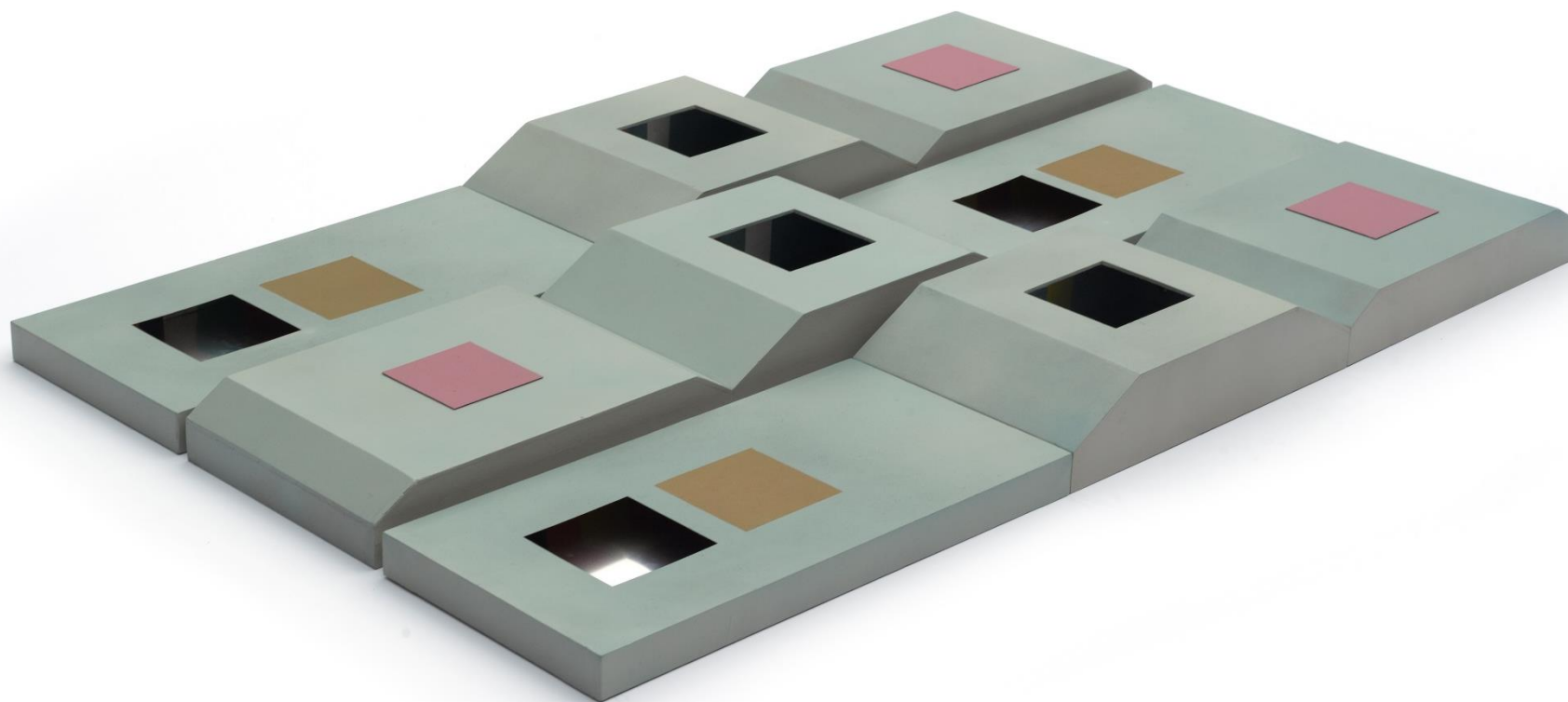


*Projection*, 1970, emulsion colour on canvas, 244 x 122 cm (approx.)



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**GAJAH GALLERY** 



*SEA THRU-Harmony*

1971

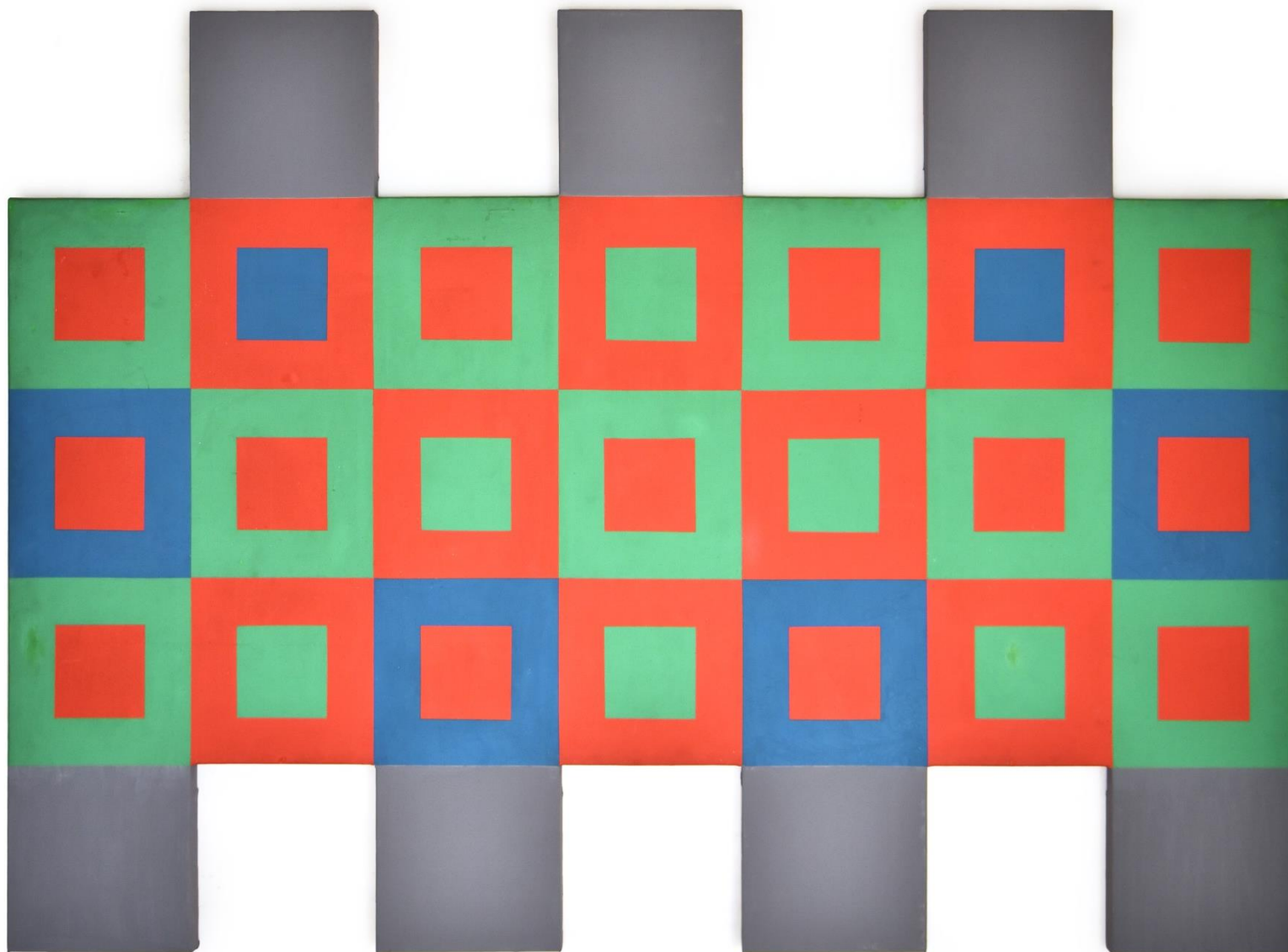
Acrylic colour on canvas

152 x 98 x 10 cm



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GAJAH GALLERY** 



*Alternation*, 1969, emulsion paint & acrylic colour on canvas, 152.5 x 213.5 cm



*SEA THRU-Change (The 5 Elements)*, 1975 – 2003, mixed media with acrylic colour, 122 x 152.2 x 18 cm



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GAJAH GALLERY** 



*Sidewalk Performer*, 1968, mixed media on canvas, 135 x 178 cm