

Nonaka-Hill
720 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038
www.nonaka-hill.com

Takuro Tamayama & Tiger Tateishi
27 July – 31 August, 2017



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Opening reception: Saturday, 27 July, 7:30 – 10:30pm

Please note: This exhibition's optimal viewing hours are when it's dark outside, so the gallery public hours have shifted to Tuesday – Saturday, 7pm – 11pm. We are available by appointment earlier in the day.
Contact: gallery@nonaka-hill.com

Nonaka-Hill is pleased to present a two-artist exhibition, Takuro Tamayama and Tiger Tateishi. The show features a new installation, video and sculpture works by Takuro Tamayama, brought together with Tiger Tateishi's large oil painting "Rotating Fuji" from 1991 and selected prints dating from 1973-1981.

The exhibition is on view from July 27 through August 31, 2019. For a better viewing experience, we have shifted gallery visiting hours, opening from 7:00 until 11:00 pm. We are available by appointment earlier in the day.

At the gallery entrance, Takuro Tamayama's monochrome yellow new video "*Dance*", 2019 is played on a small monitor, bathed in blue light. Alongside, a print by Tateishi Tiger "*Planets Blossom*", 1973 is presented on an easel. A red curtain leads to Tamayama's transformation of the gallery's largest space into a colored light saturated immersive experience, entitled "Eclipse Dance", 2019. A cluster of tables forms a new plateau and divides the atmosphere's light, red above and blue below. A rotating marble form, evocative of a human, is positioned in relation to another form, evocative of a celestial body. In the adjacent spaces, visitors encounter Tamayama's *Eclipse*, a new large-scale video projection, with sound composed by the artist. In a third space, Tamayama's spinning sculpture and clustered confronts Tateishi's *Rotating Fuji* (1991), and a fourth room, painted yellow, displays Tateishi's prints dating from 1973-1981.

Takuro Tamayama and Tiger Tateishi, while generations apart, share penchants for surprising fantasy images depicted within a repertory of symbols, with themes of domesticity, perhaps in a friendly dystopia, and evolution suggested through anthropomorphism, displacement and rotation, amongst others.

Enchanted by Disney cartoons and American movies in his youth, Tiger Tateishi was later drawn to *Mad Magazine* and stories by fantasy authors, Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, and Robert Sheckley. He began his art career in 1963, producing "Pop Art" paintings from a Japanese point of view, colliding Japan's iconic Mt. Fuji, Godzilla and Samurai together with international icons such as Mao Tse Tung, an atomic mushroom cloud, MAD Magazine's Alfred E. Neuman,

Coca-Cola, the American Western Landscape and KKK processions. To parody the tourism initiatives of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, Tateishi founded "The Institute of Tourist Art" (1964-66), creating works which operate off the Mt. Fuji as beloved national symbol and tourism moneymaker. His first solo exhibition of the same year was titled "Accumulated Civilization", an idea which echoes through his oeuvre.

With the desire to draw "nonsense cartoons", then unpopular in Japan, Tateishi and his wife Fumiko left for Milan in 1969, drawn to the city of "Futurism". Notably, Stanley Kubrick's 2001 A Space Odyssey (1968) and the Apollo 11 first moon landing was concurrent with Tateishi's move to Italy. As a consummate absorber of his surroundings, Tateishi met Giorgio de Chirico (whose perspectival style he had appropriated earlier, in 1964), and merged de Chirico-style images into a new storyboard sequencing in his paintings. This format, usually only seen in comics, proved ideal for making paintings of Sci-Fi narratives. An employee of Ettore Sottsass' saw these works and introduced the architect/designer to Tateishi, and an extraordinary group of drawings were produced setting Ettore Sottsass's early proposals for fantastical and erotic architectural forms in outer space terrains. While attributed to Sottsass, these works are often signed "Tiger pinxit", Latin for "Tiger painted it". Tateishi also started making silk screen prints from the early 1970s in Milan, a selection of which are on view. These works, and "Rotating Fuji" incorporate the story-board format which Tateishi continued to utilize in paintings, drawings and artists books throughout his career.

Takuro Tamayama's interest in creating spaces has manifested into building installations as early as 2012. In his recent works, Tamayama has utilized colored lights, saturating entire spaces and has also been producing long-form video for his installations, implementing time-based and non-material dimensions to his constructed spaces. Tools of mundane rituals of cleaning and grooming abandoned of its designated role mutate into alien objects. The mop, a recurring leitmotif, for Tamayama has been through various peculiar iterations; and at Nonaka-Hill, the *Spinning Mop* seems to have a life of its own, opposite Tateishi's "Rotating Fuji". In absence of human presence, the mop, an abstracted marble figure, hamburger and sandwich statue, and combs imbedded in irregular concrete forms, all having some human resonance, occupy the human void. Tamayama's new video installation, *Eclipse* is inspired by Tateishi's fascination with aliens, UFOs and outer space, as both artists construct alternate dimensions of illusions and fantasy.

Please note: a revised, final version of this press release will be available after the opening. Technical challenges with the installation prevented completion of this text. Apologies for the inconvenience.



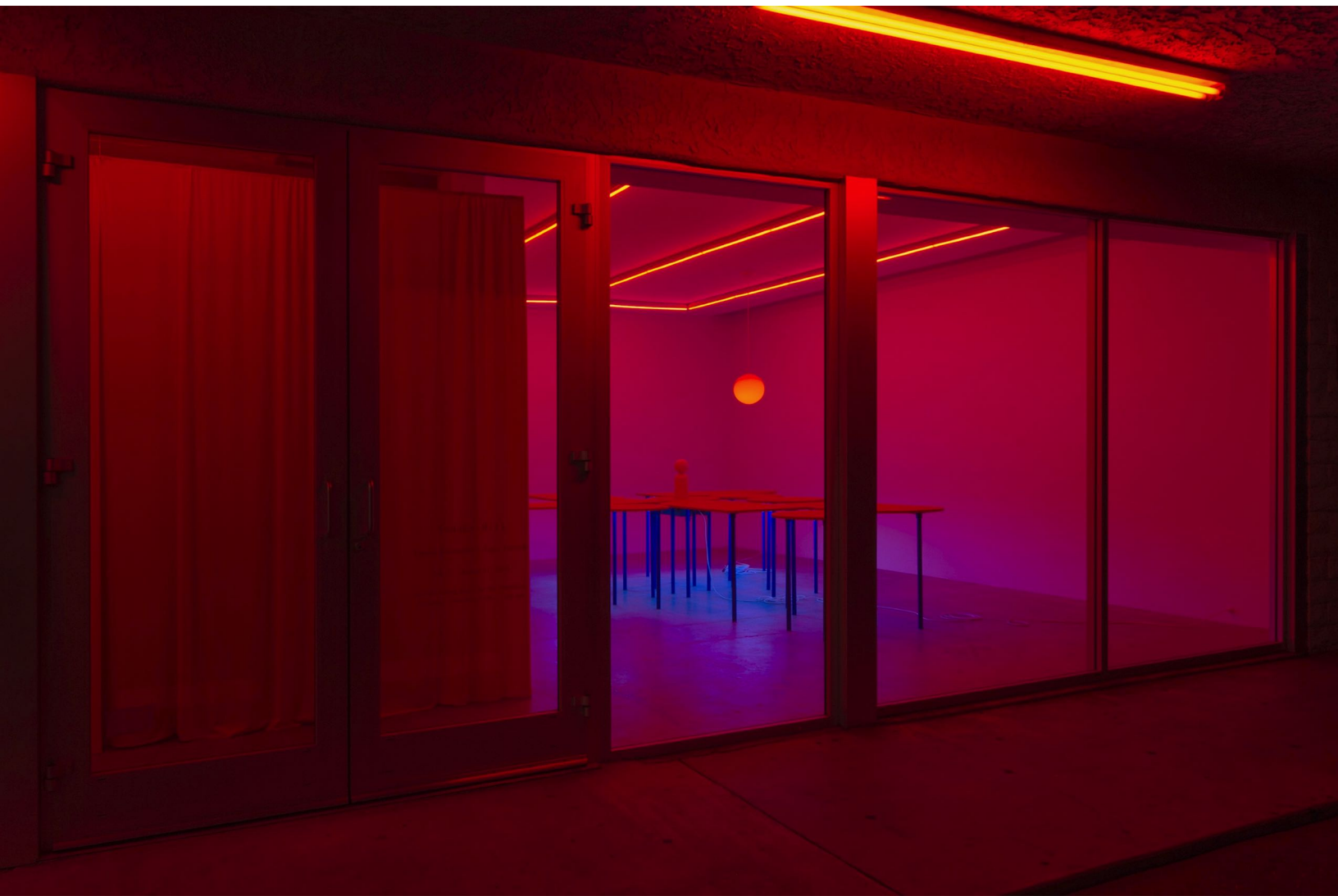
Nonaka-Hill

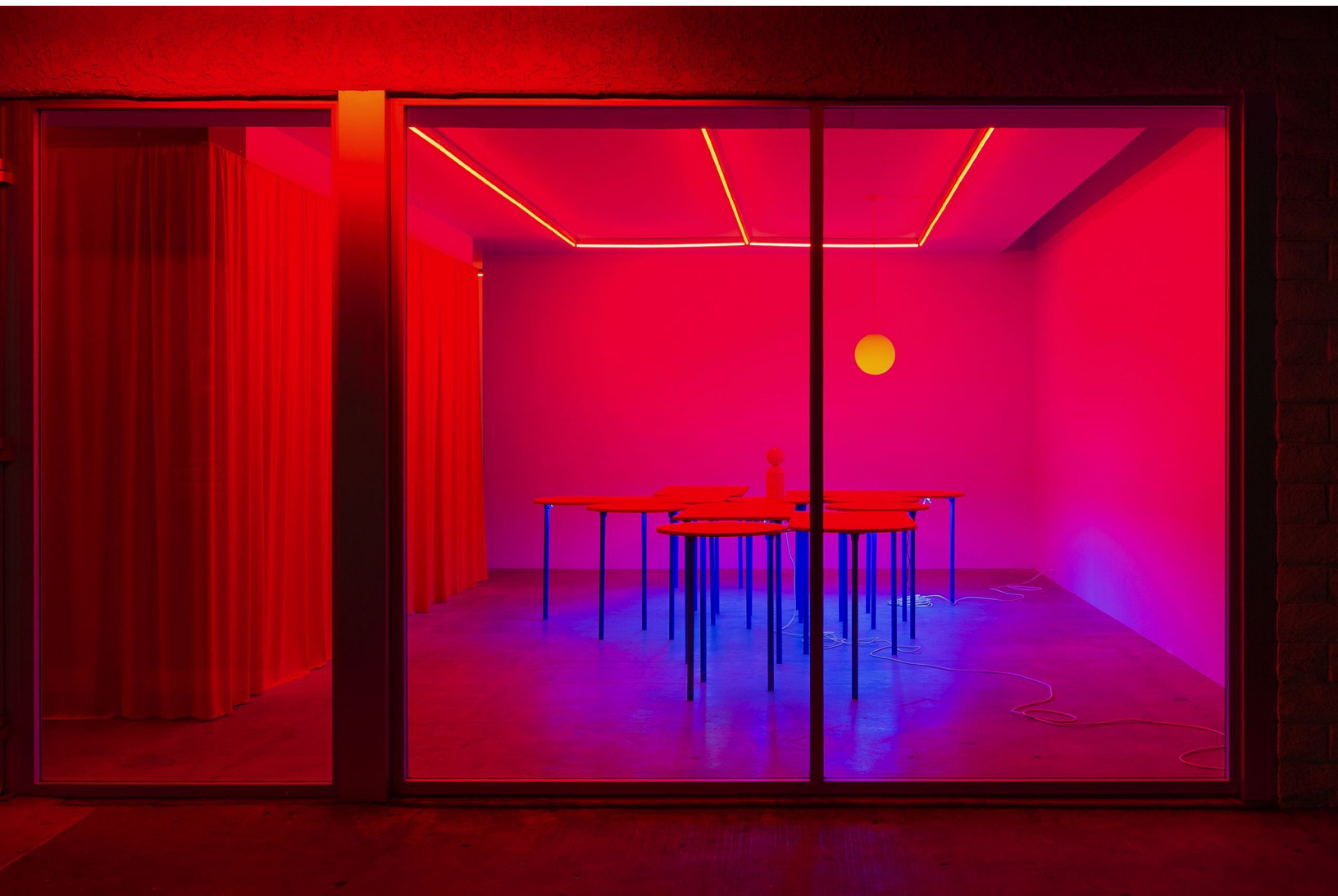
Takuro Tamayama | Tiger Tateishi

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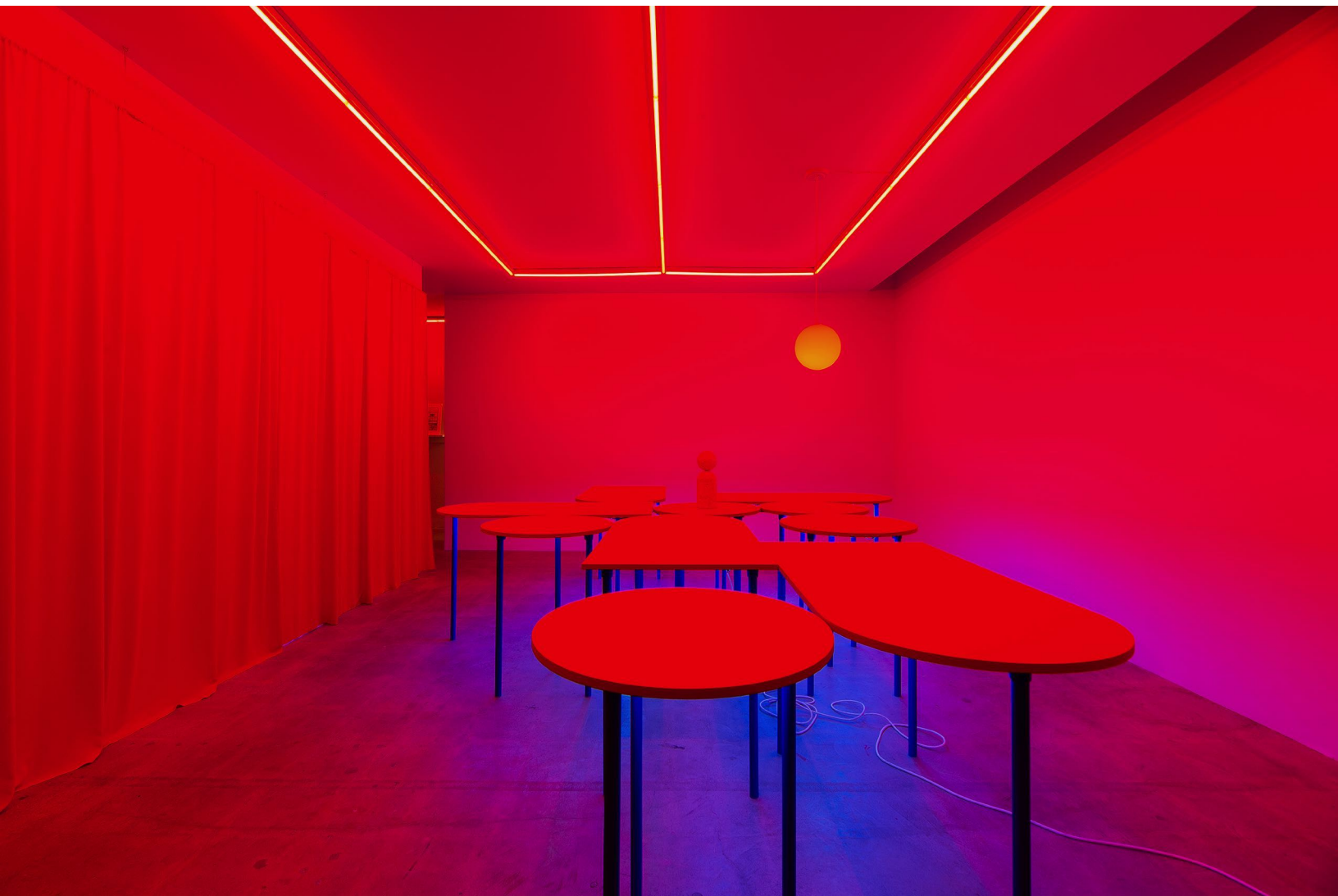
Special evening hours for this exhibition:
Tuesday - Saturday, 7:00 - 11:00 pm









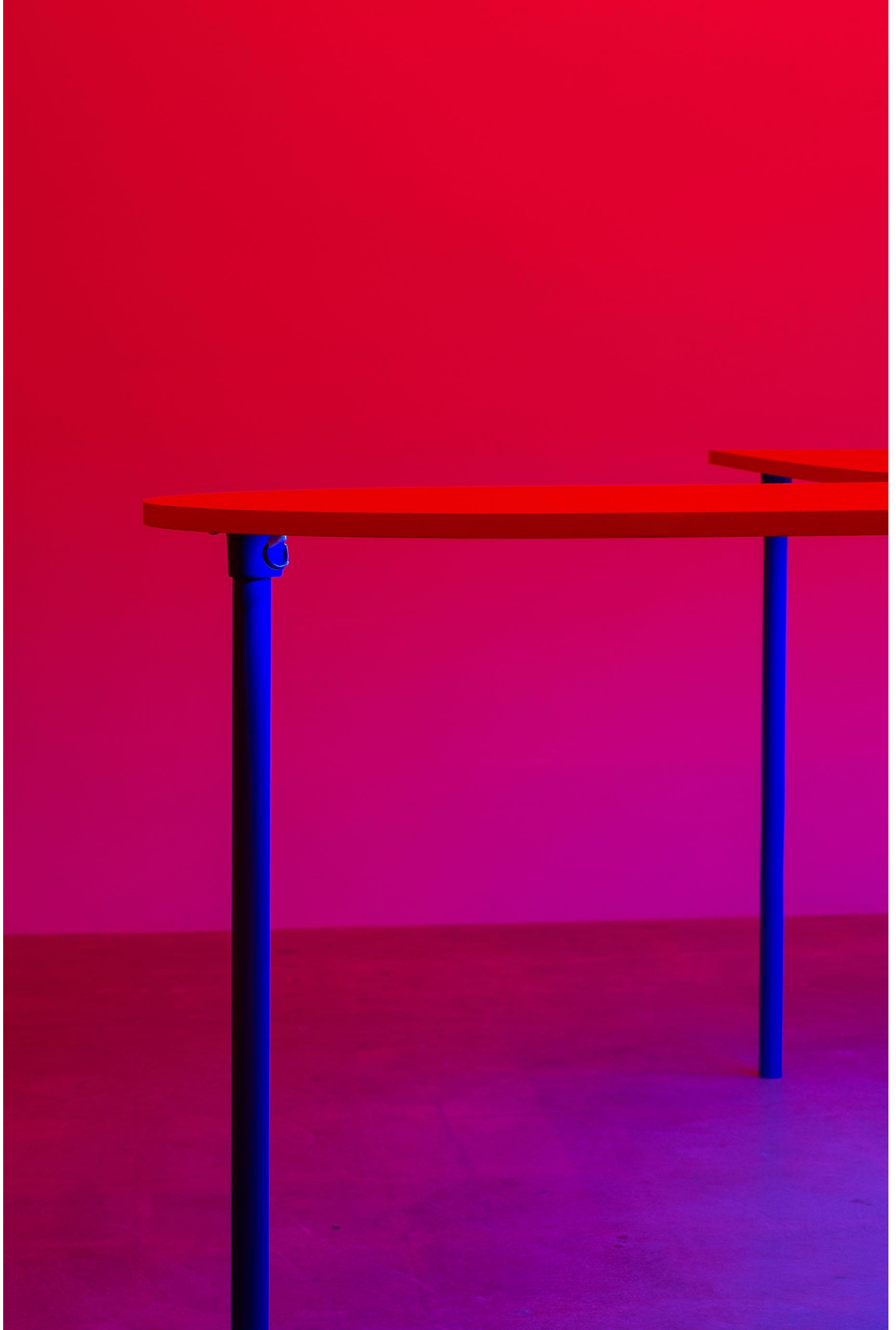


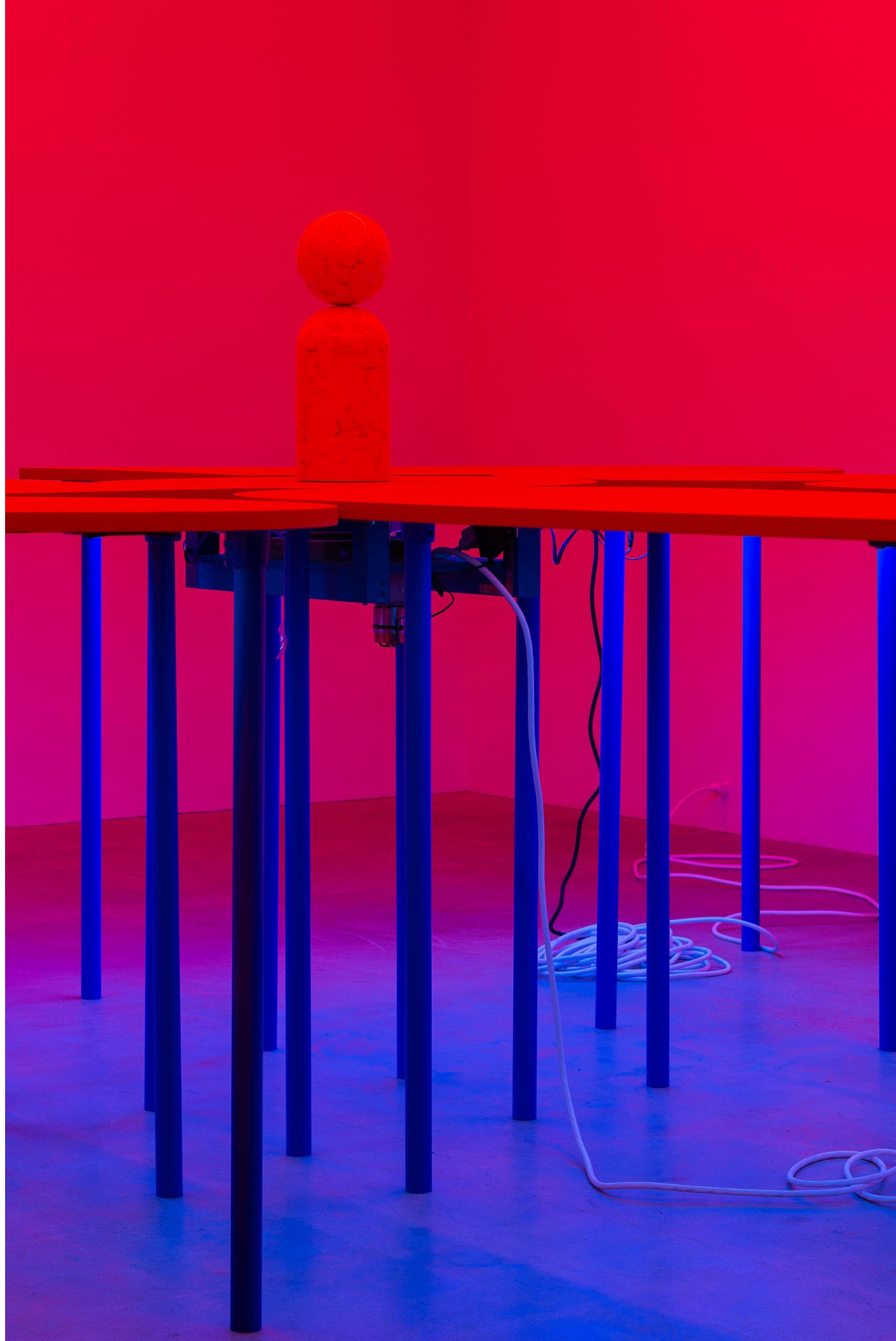


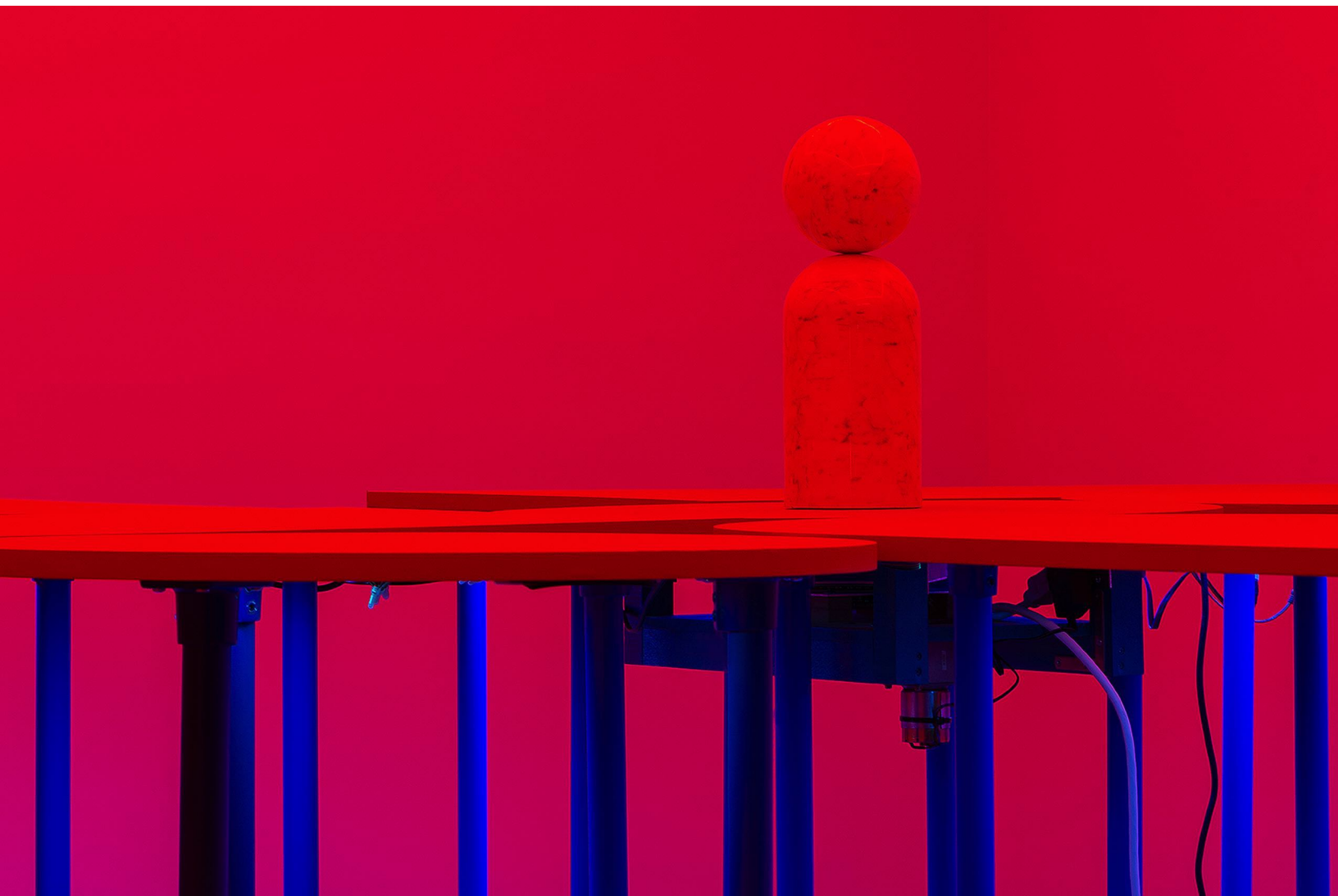


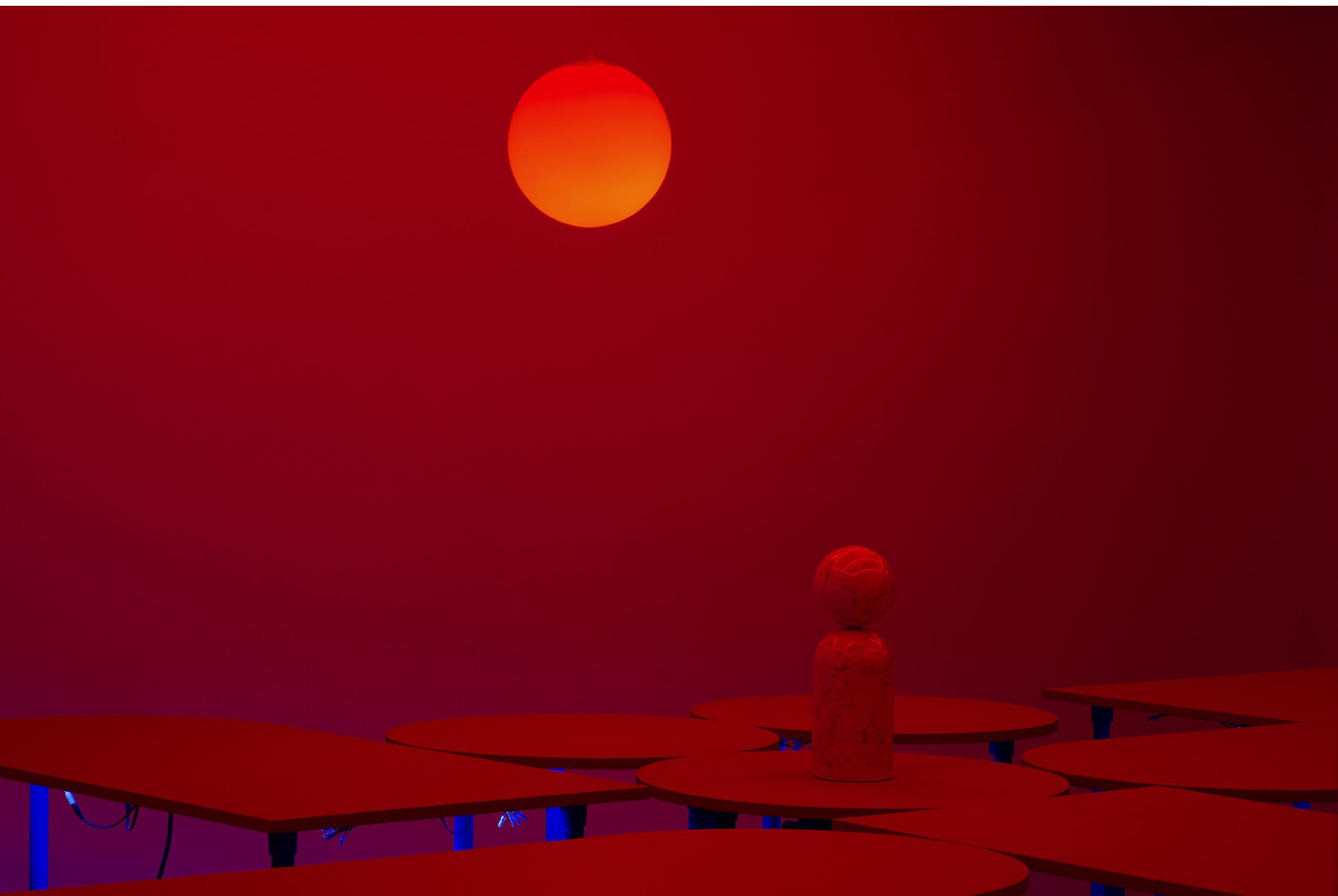


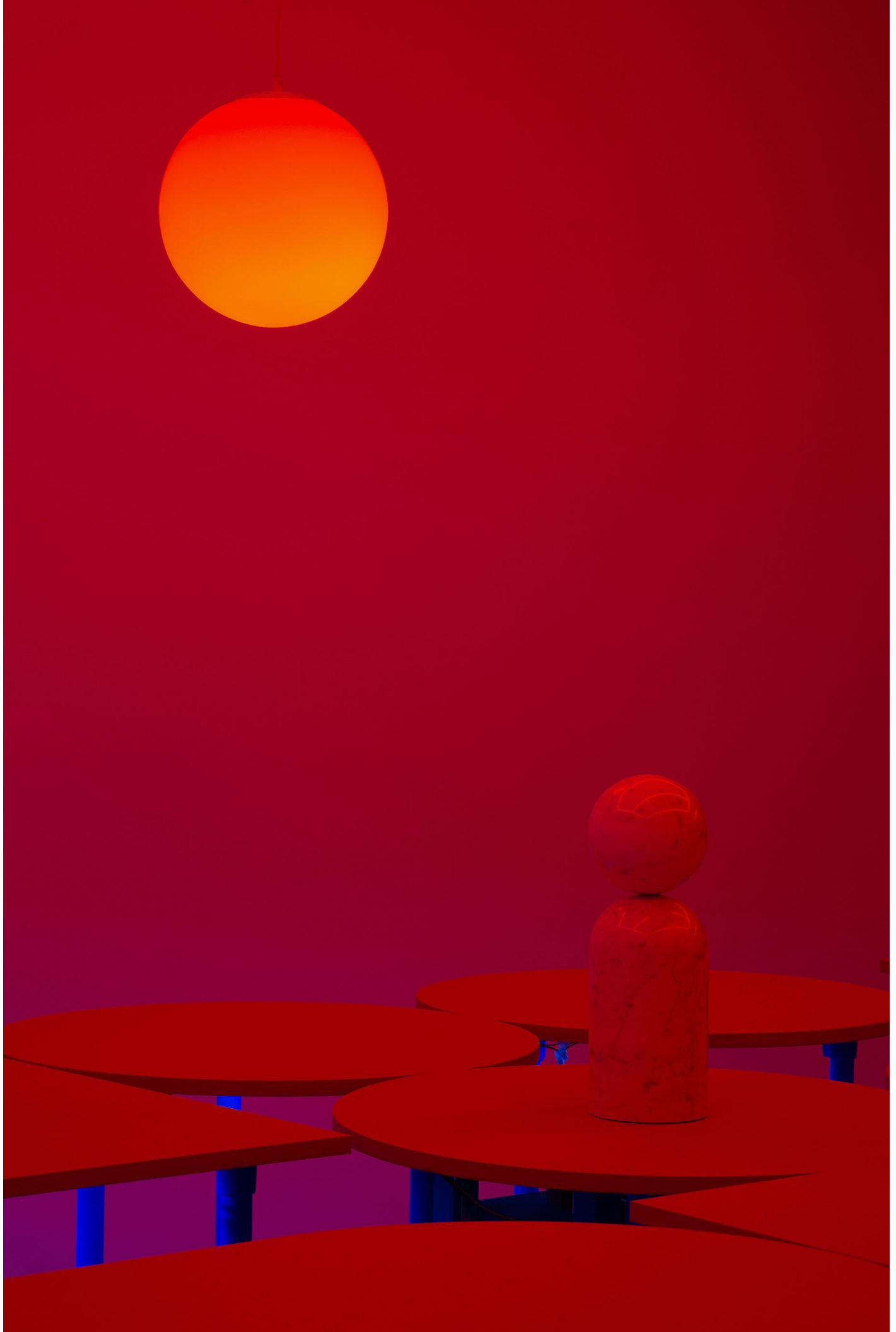


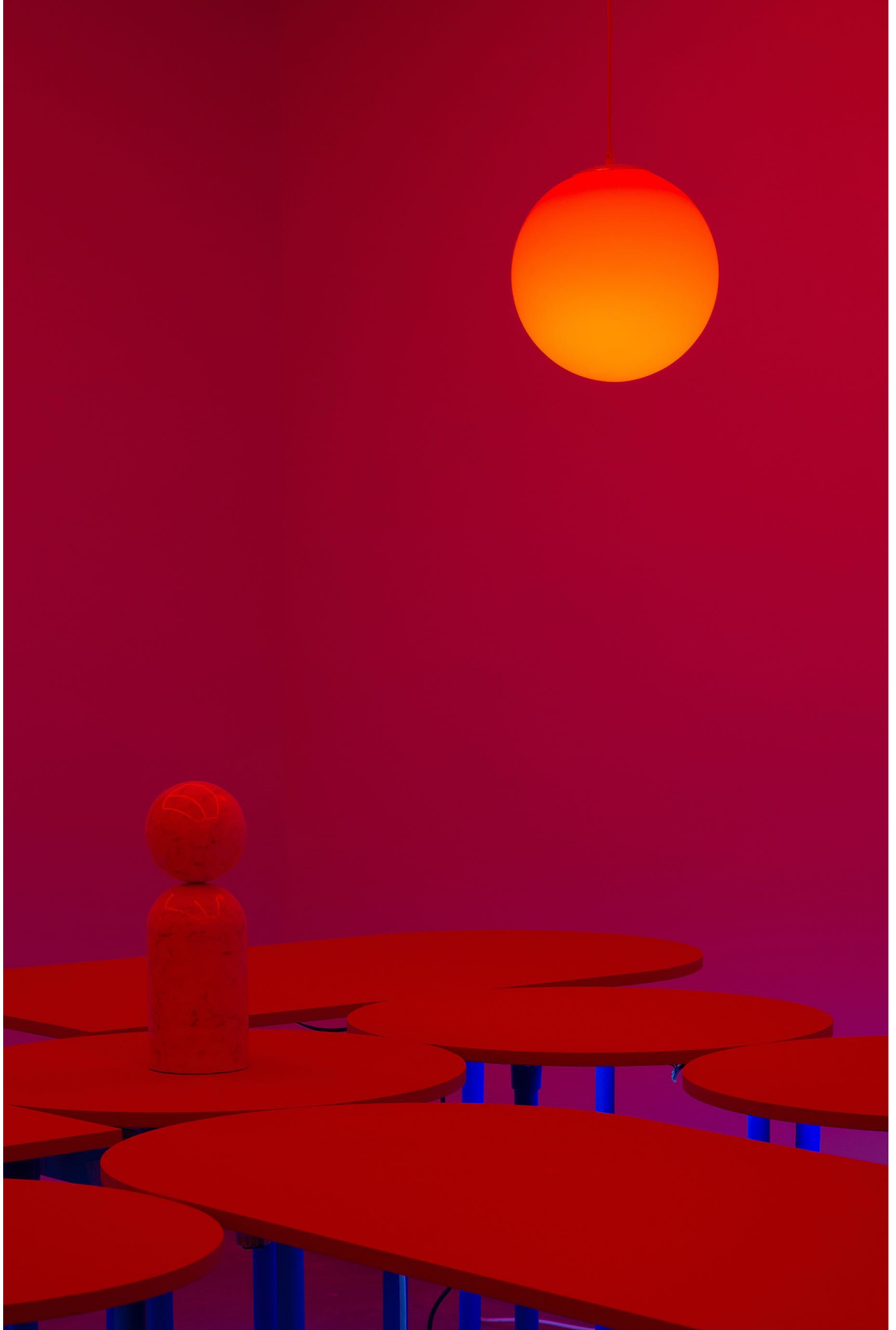




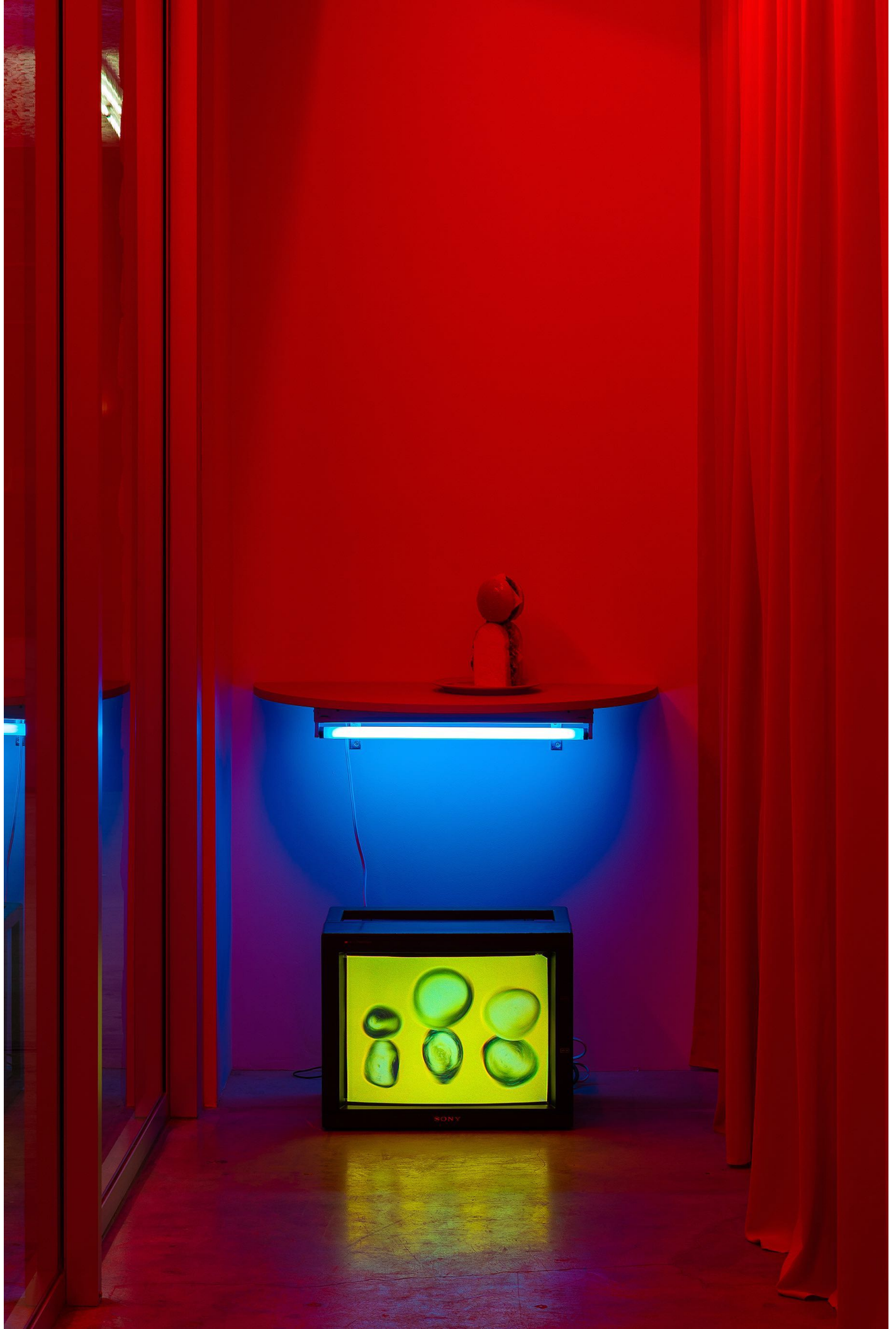






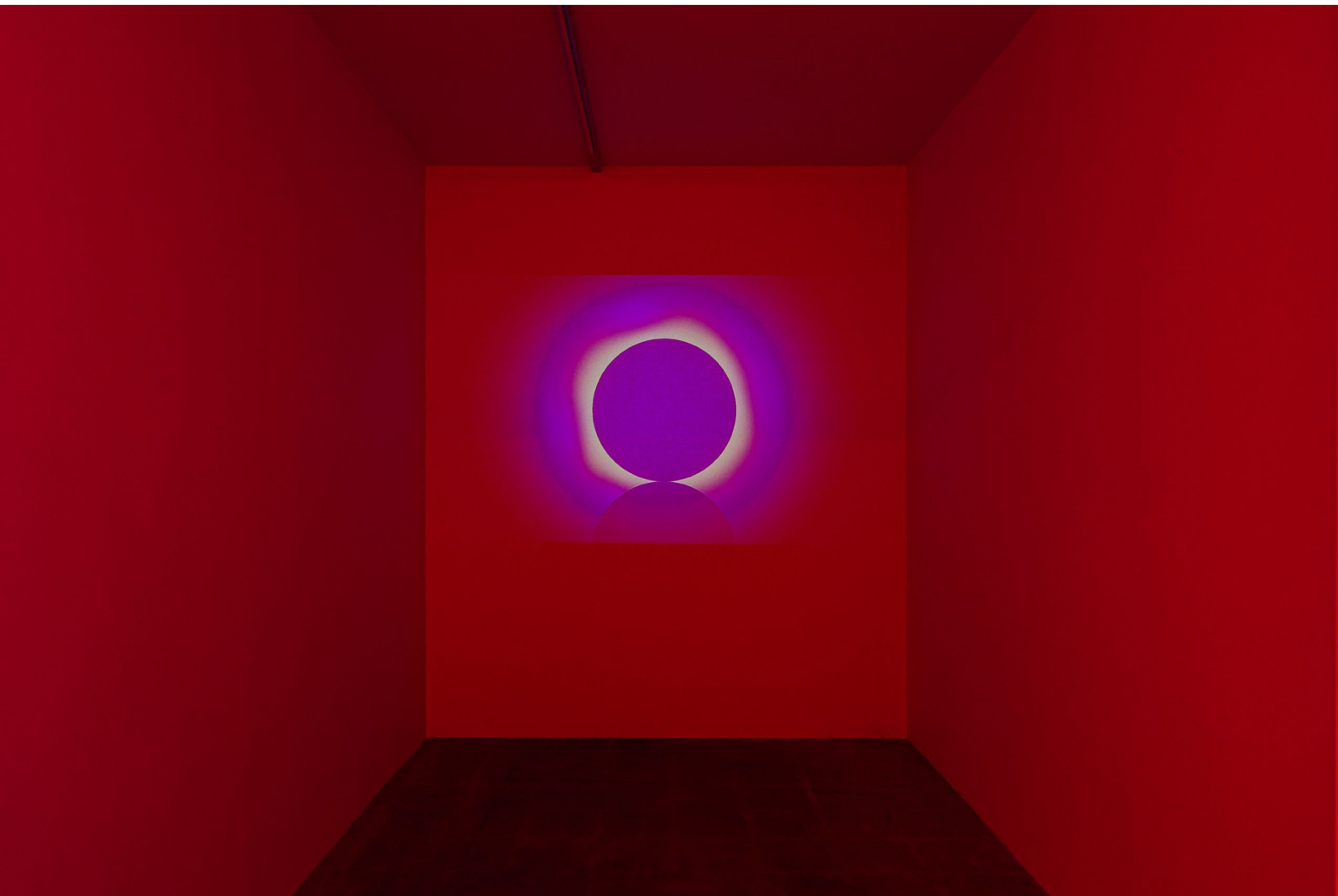










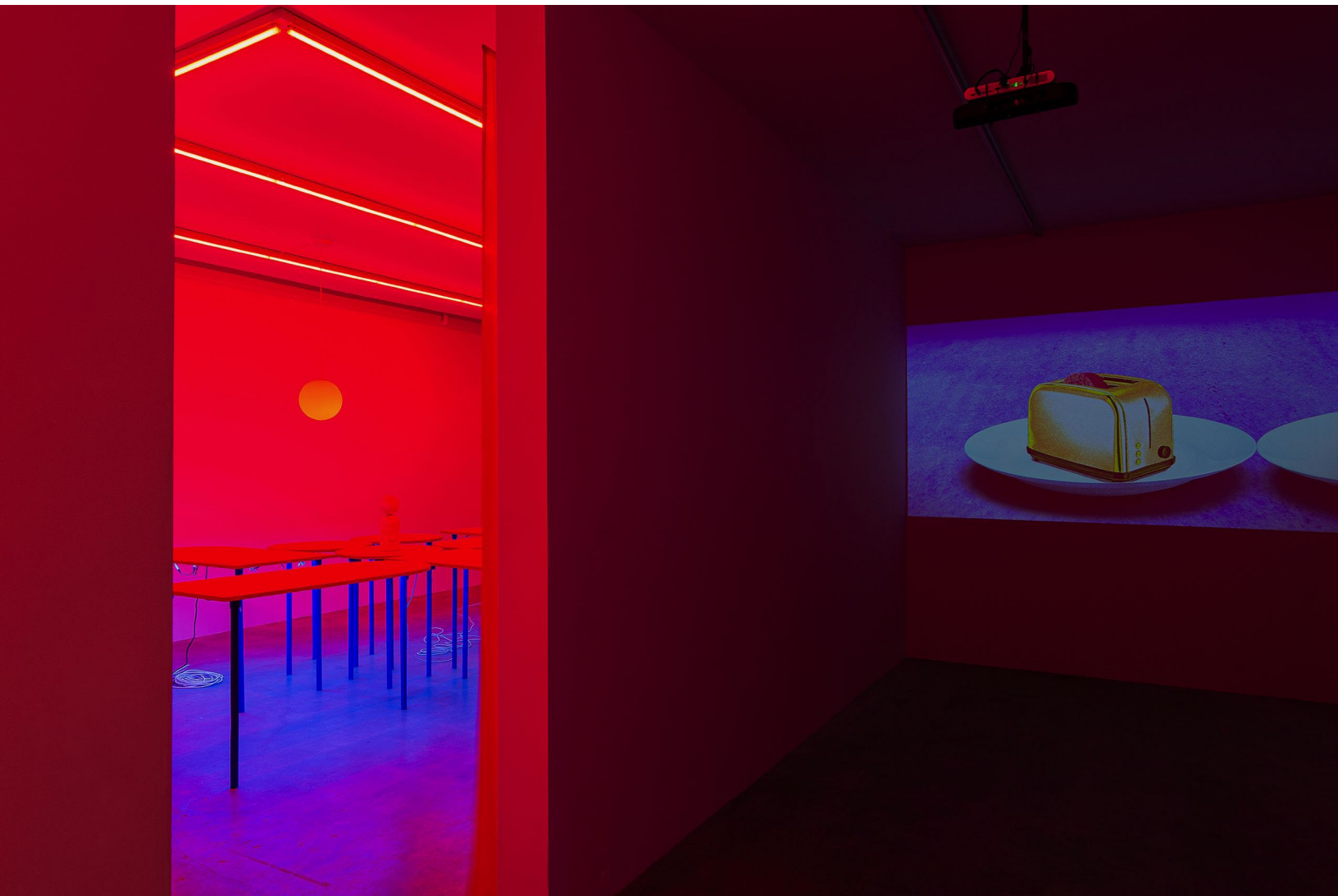


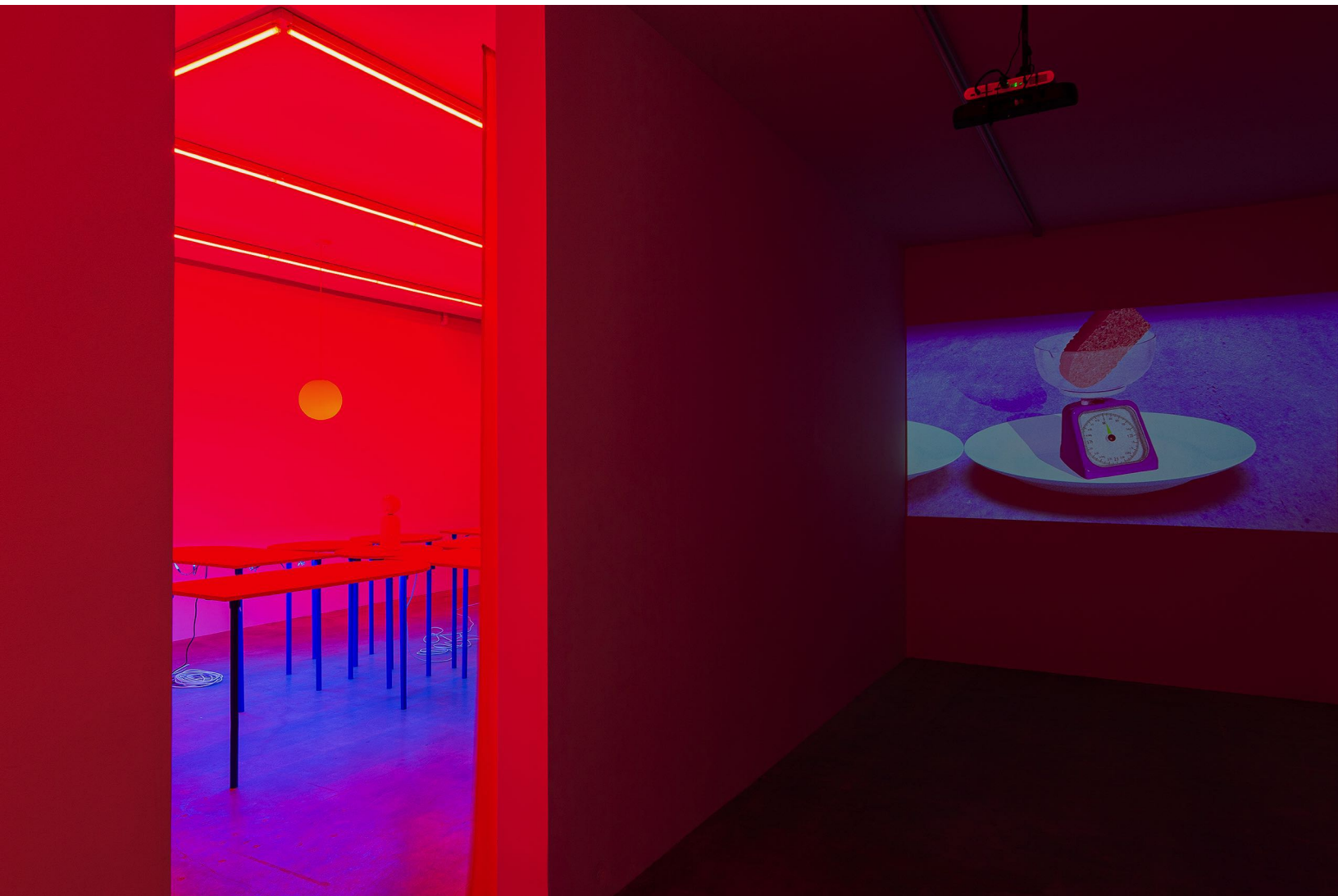


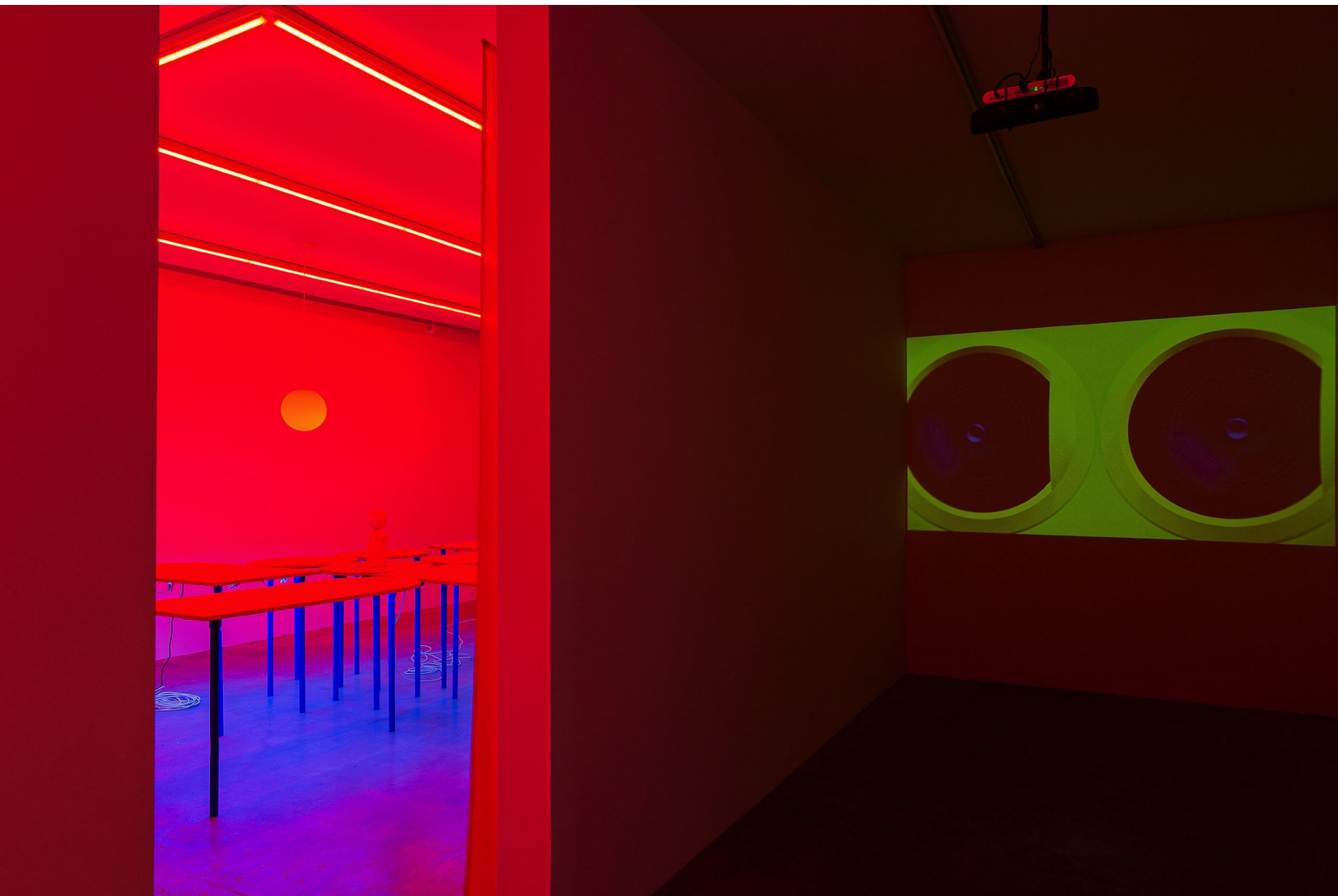


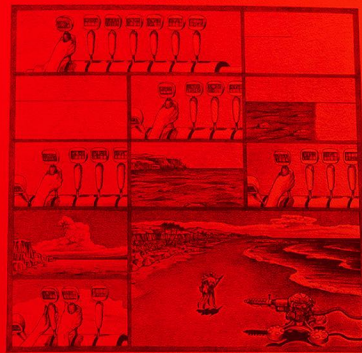




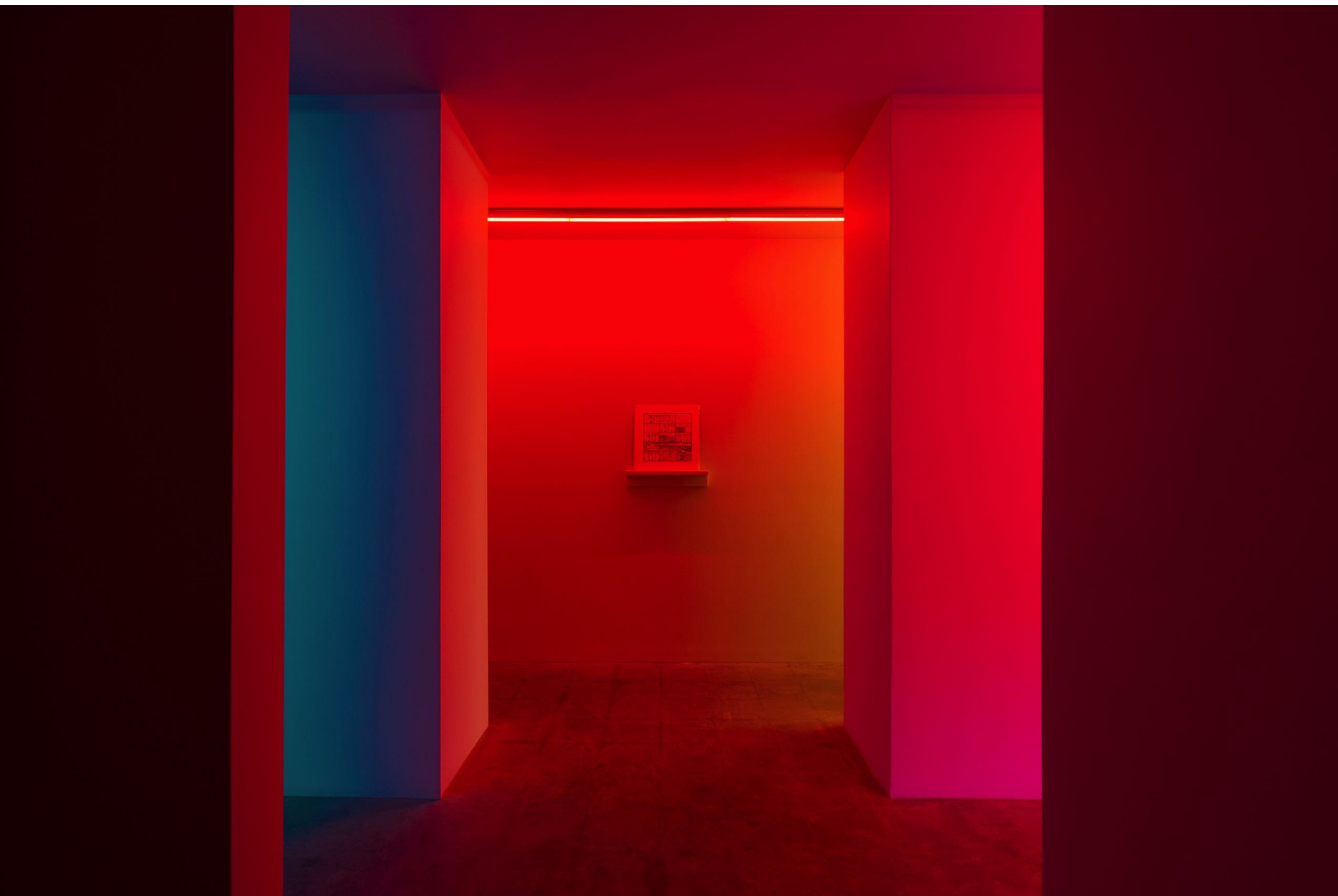




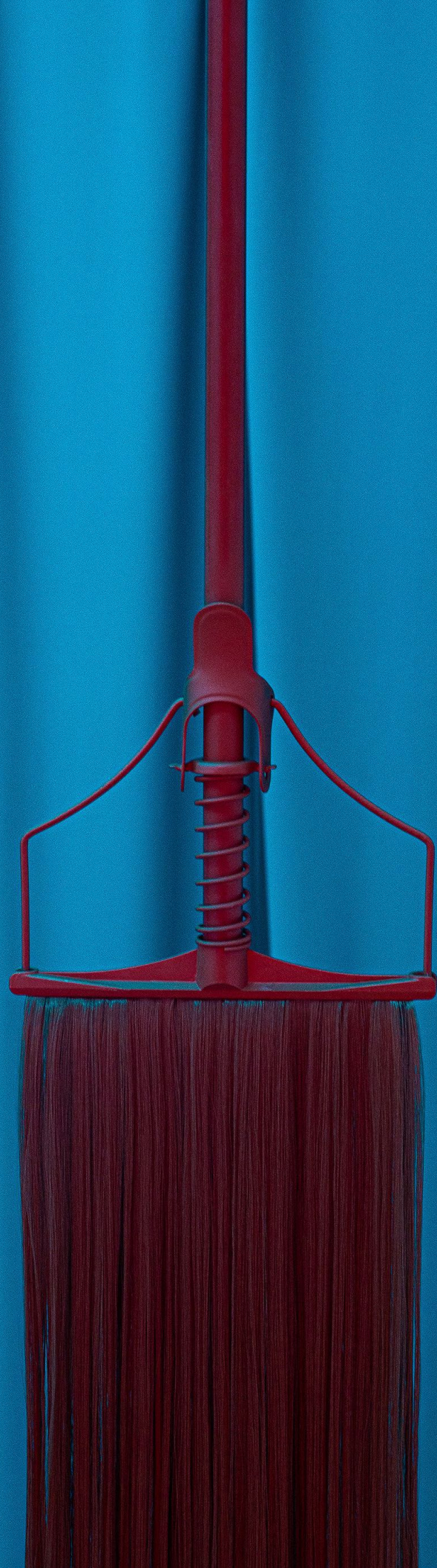








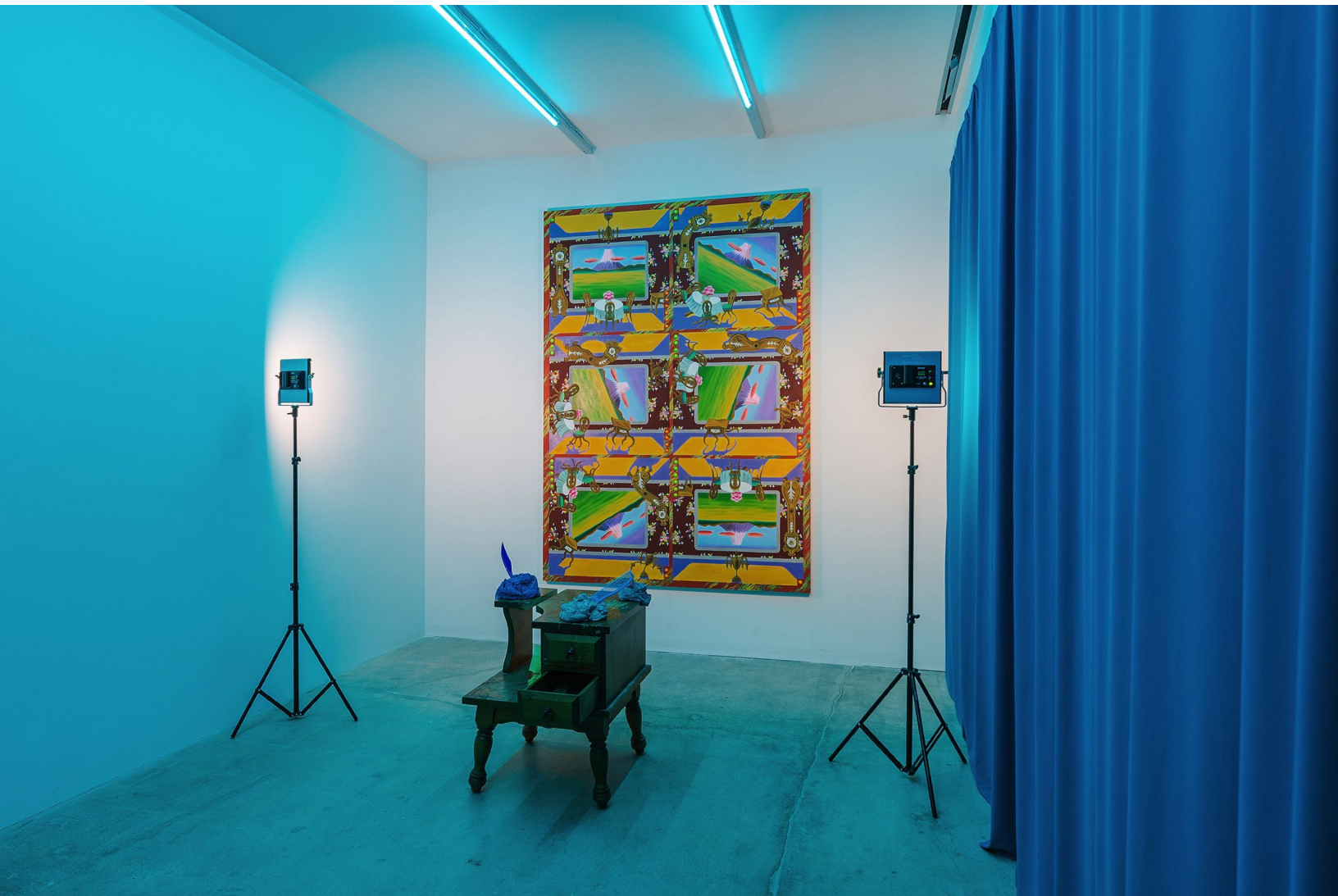




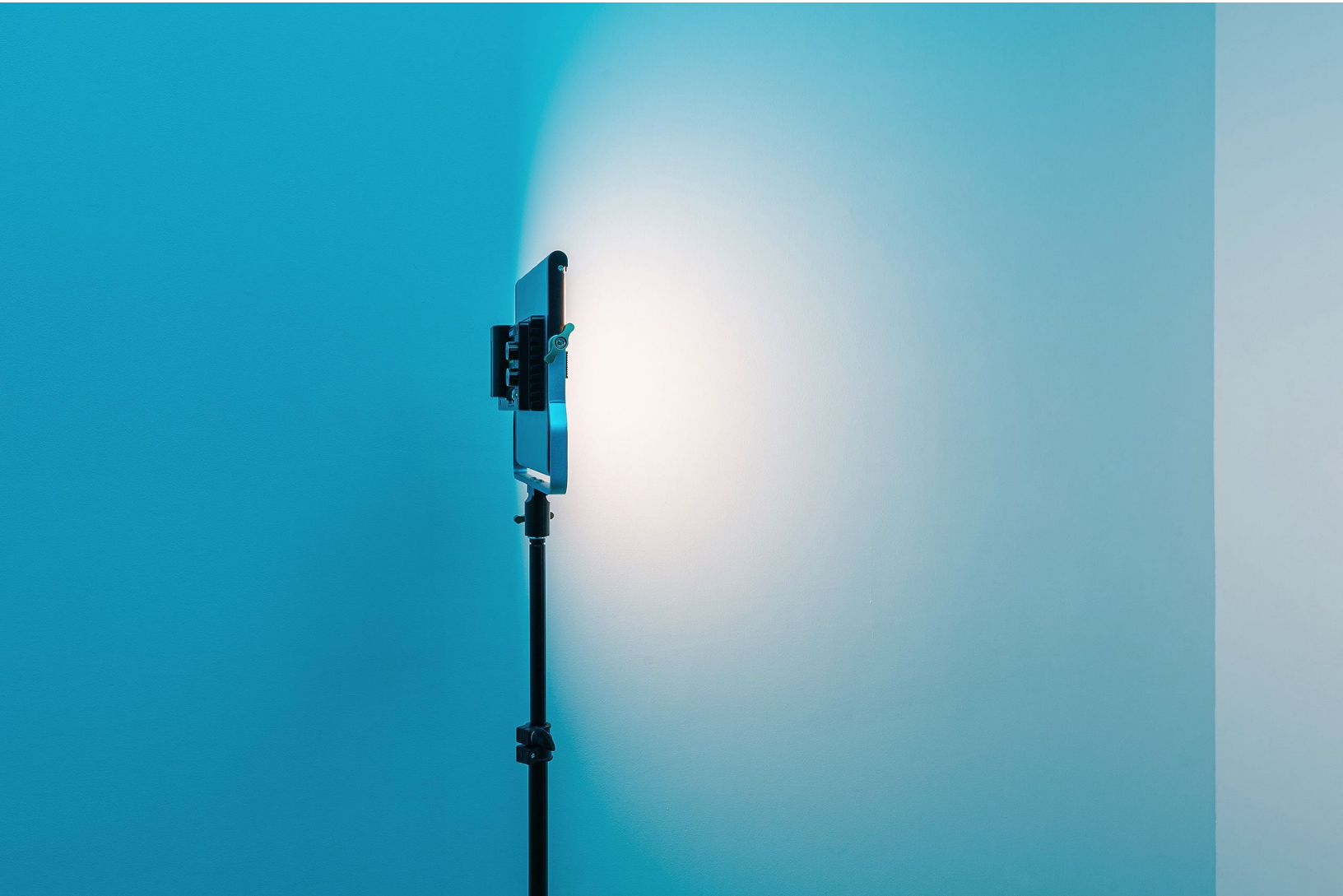


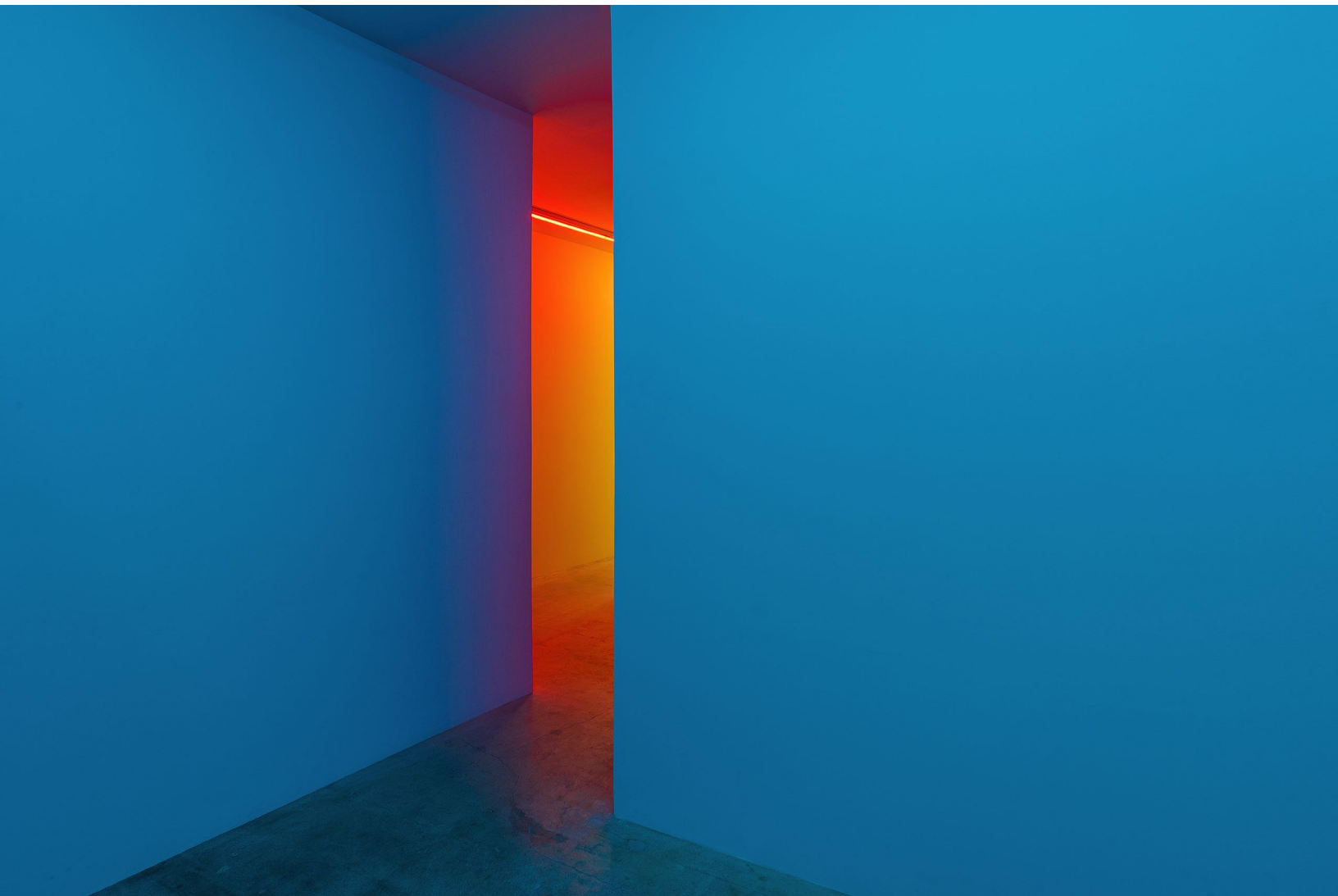








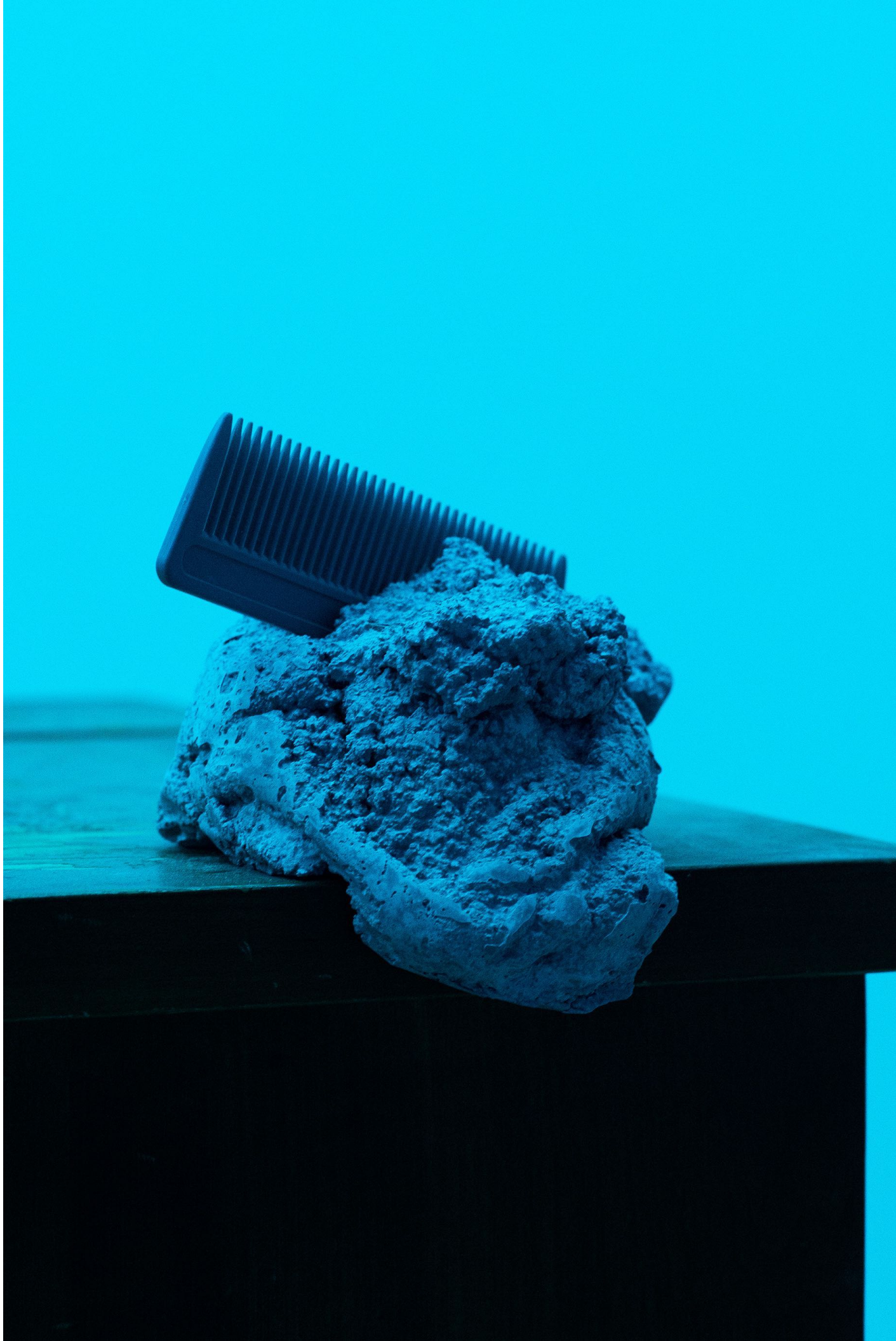








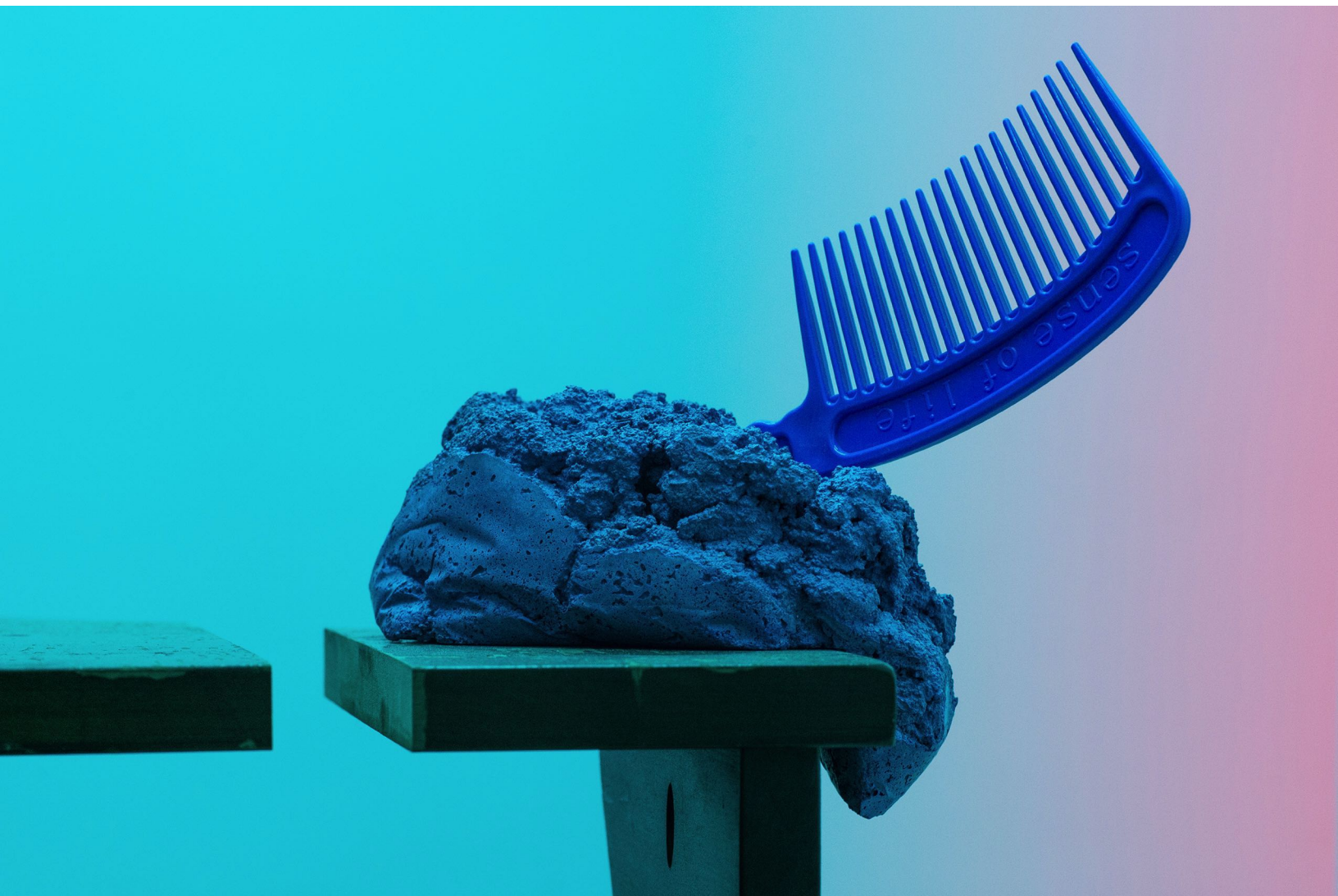






























Tiger (Kōichi) Tateishi was born in 1941, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. He passed away in 1998. He received a degree from Musashino University Junior College of Art and Design in 1963. Tateishi's vast oeuvre includes oil painting, prints, comics, illustration, children's books, and ceramics. Since 1963, the artist has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in Japan, Europe, and the United States. After his death, two retrospectives were organized: *Tiger Tateishi: The Endless Tiger* at Tagawa City Art Museum and *Metamorphose Tiger: Waking through the Labyrinth with Tiger Tateishi* at the O Museum (cat.). Tateishi was featured in a two-artist show, *The World is Strange! The Manga and painting of Tiger Tateishi and Yuichi Yokoyama*, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, 2017. Recent group exhibitions include *Tokyo 1955-1970: A New Avant Garde*, 2012; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, *Japanorama. A New Vision on Art Since 1970*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, 2018. A touring Tiger Tateishi survey exhibition is planned for 2020/2021 appearing at Chiba City Museum of Art, Aomori Museum of Art, Takamatsu Art Museum and The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama.

Takuro Tamayama was born in 1990, Gifu Prefecture, Japan. He lives and works in Tokyo. Tamayama was awarded first place in *Aichi University of the Arts' 2012 Class Bachelors of Fine Art Graduate Project*, 2013. Tamayama received a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from the Tokyo University of the Arts in 2015. He is the recipient of *Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2015 Shigeo Goto Award*. Tamayama's developing oeuvre includes installations, video, music, wall-based and sculptural works, as well as collaborative installation projects for Nike and the fashion brand, Zucca. He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in Japan, including recent solo shows *Dirty Palace* at Calm & Punk Gallery (2018) and *They Hardly Ever Stand Still* at Talion Gallery (2019), both in Tokyo. This is Tamayama's first exhibition outside of Japan

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