



galeria

nara roesler

art basel miami beach 2019

artur lescher | meridians sector

december 5–8

miami beach convention center

Galeria Nara Roesler is pleased to participate in three sectors of Art Basel Miami Beach 2019: Galleries, Meridians and Kabinett. At the **Meridians sector**, in partnership with OMR gallery, Galeria Nara Roesler presents ***Machine River*** by Brazilian artist **Artur Lescher**. Conceived in 2008, *Machine River* is a seminal work in the artist's career. The large-format sculpture consists of several layers of stainless-steel mesh suspended by hanging rods, which shape echoes that of a waterfall. The work encompasses central aspects of the artist's production, such as investigations around nature, and more specifically the river. In this piece, Lescher problematizes gravity and its limits, while challenging notions of material and visual weight and strength. The artist also invites the audience to reflect upon dualities that lay between the natural and the manmade.

Since the 1980s, Artur Lescher has been creating systematic and poetic sculptures through which he investigates the tangible qualities of objects, the mechanics of form and movement, balance and tension. The artist's interests range from model building to astrology through mathematics, architecture and mythology, and at the core of his practice is the use of materials such as stainless-steel, stone, wood, brass and copper.

Influenced by the Brazilian Neo-Concretism movement and its emphasis on abstraction and formal freedom, the artist opens up spaces to the outside, but also, on a more intimate level, towards the perceptual mechanics of the viewer. His preference for single volumes, suspended and subjected to the force of gravity creates a unique tension between the proportions of the space and the object. In conceiving his works, the artist always uses sketches or models as his starting point, only choosing the material to be used at a later moment. The material is then laboured using semi-industrial processes such as welding, polishing and galvanising. The piece is then suspended, thus finishing off the tension of the work.

Since 2004 Lescher has been developing an ongoing series of sculptures titled *Rios* (Rivers). Offering a counterpoint to the organic image of nature, they resemble the waterfalls and courses of rivers which, despite having been made using solid or coarse materials such as felt, wood, steel and stone, also evoke transparency and fluidity. *Machine River* is the most important piece within this series and one of the most representative artworks in the artist's *oeuvre*. The running river and its symbolic re-articulation are present in the sculptoric procedure Lescher undertakes in this work, creating a dialogue between the organic flow of the river and the man-made circuit of the machine. Within this operation, the artist connects stainless steel parts in a manner that proposes a river which flows both imaginatively and conceptually.

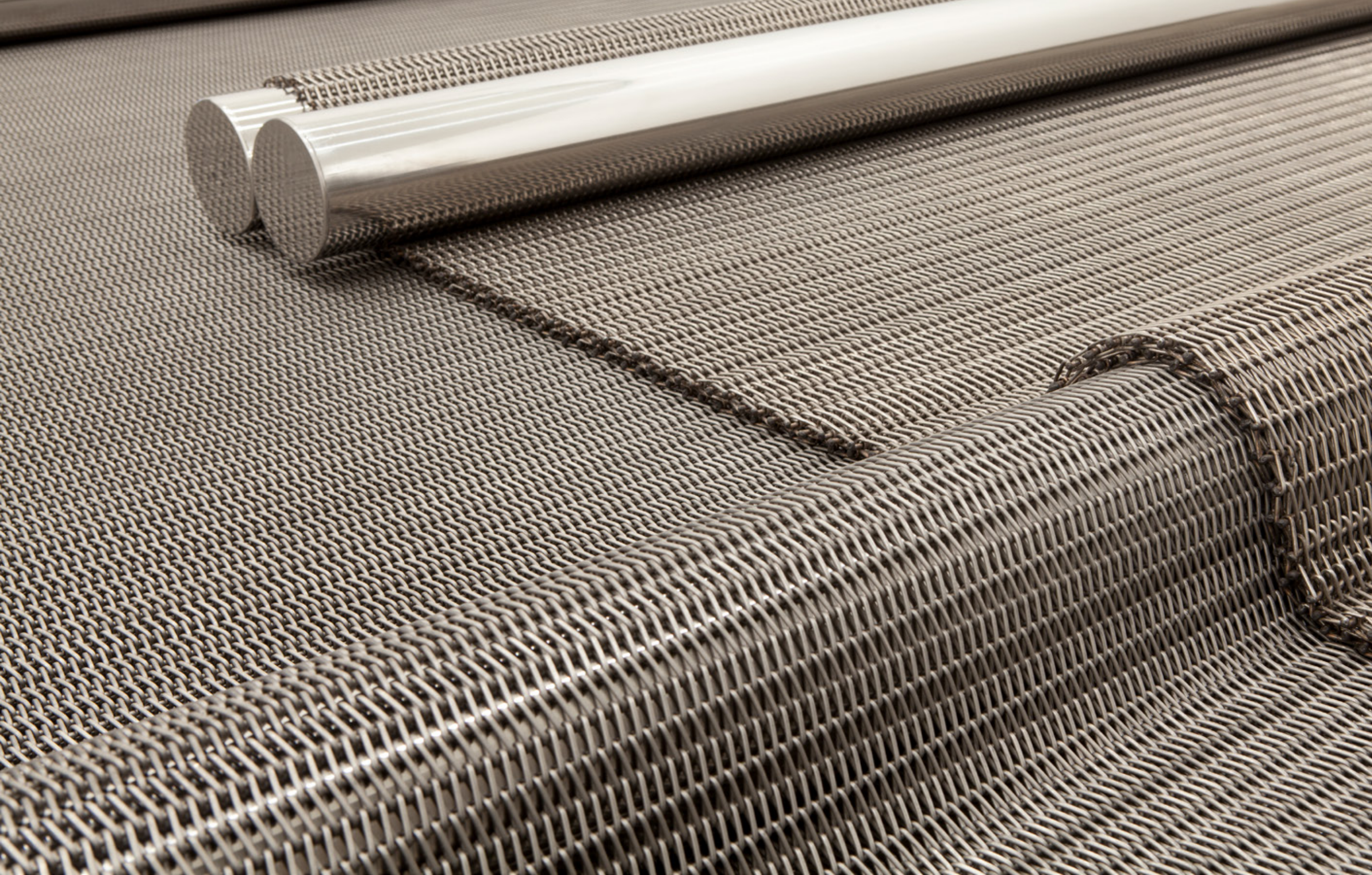
According to curator Paulo Venancio Filho "[...] never has a Lescher sculpture attained the dimensions of *Machine River*. Lescher calls *Machine River* a drawing. If so, it must be the heaviest drawing in the world. And never before in his work has the suggestion of mobility been associated to such a heavy structure. Doubtless these two facts are related. By its appearance, *Machine River* is as fascinating as it is frightening, one is not entirely sure what forces it may produce. Before our own eyes everything seems to move on the glittering, metallic surface, and at the same time we feel its powerful, crushing presence. Two dimensions, nature and culture, that seem to have reached the limit. If so, then this is a faithful portrait of the world: increasingly more mobile and also increasingly more immobile".



Artur Lescher
Machine River, 2009
stainless steel
unique

420 x 680 x 243 cm/165.4 x 267.7 x 95.7 in





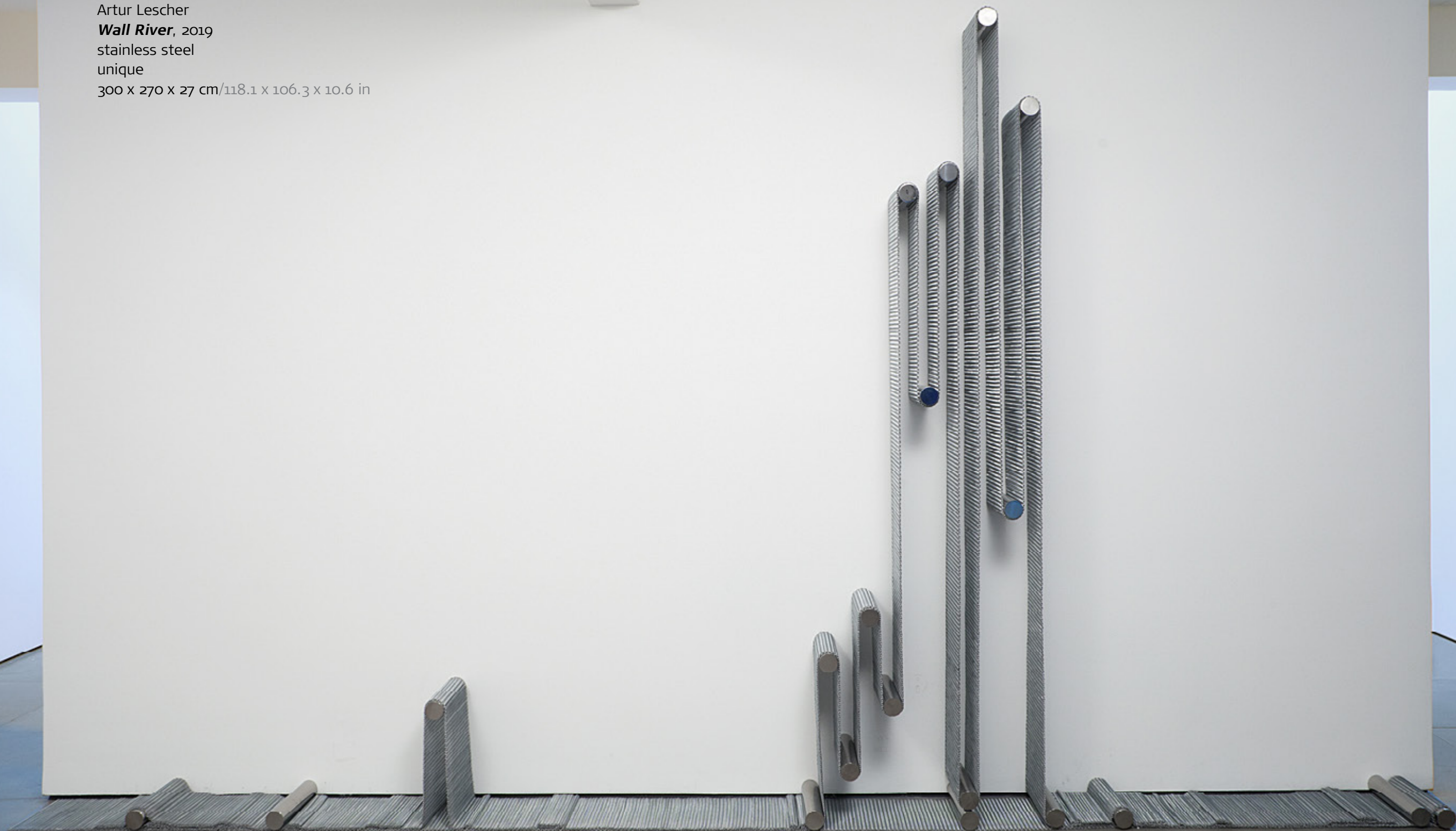
Artur Lescher

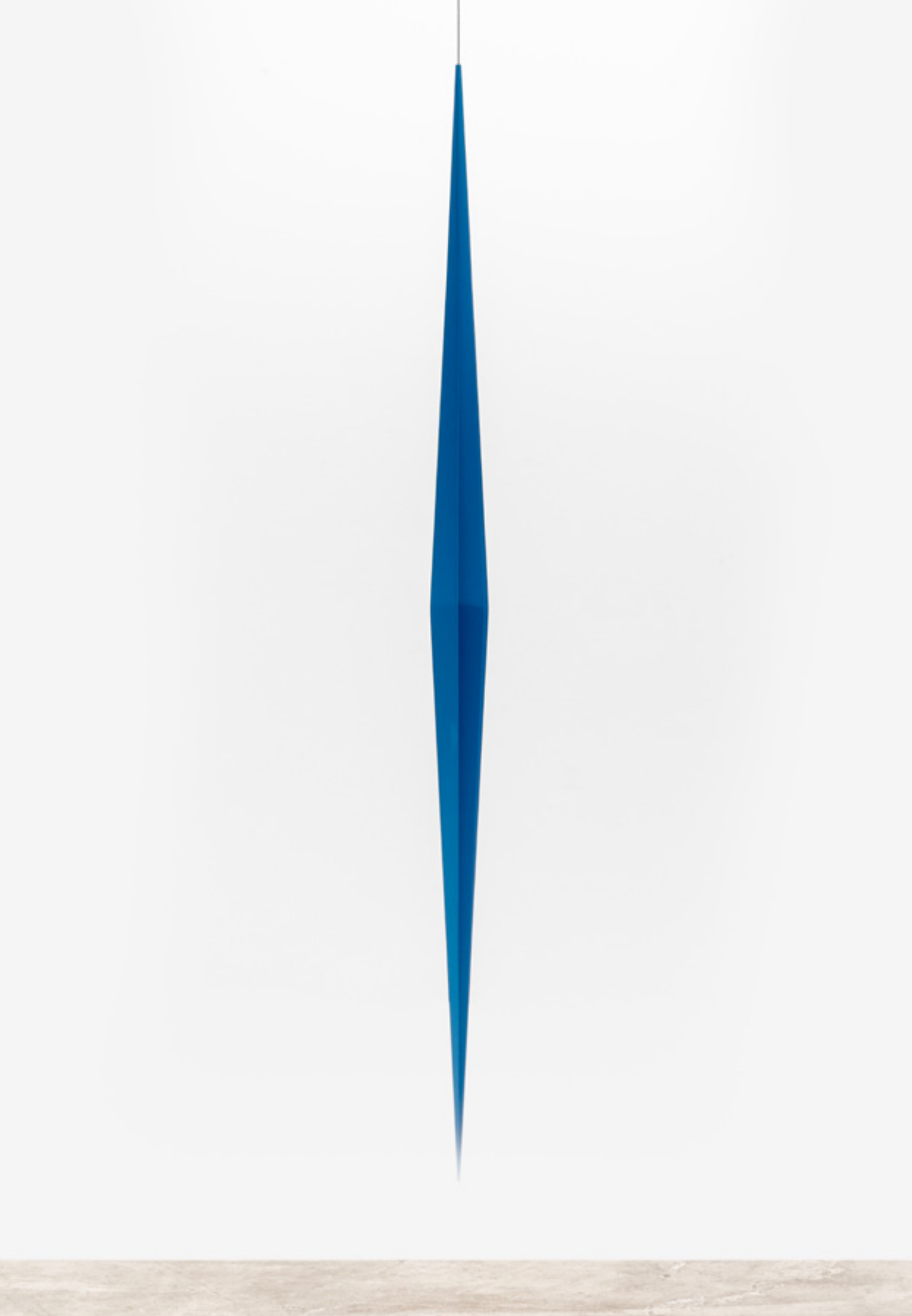
Wall River, 2019

stainless steel

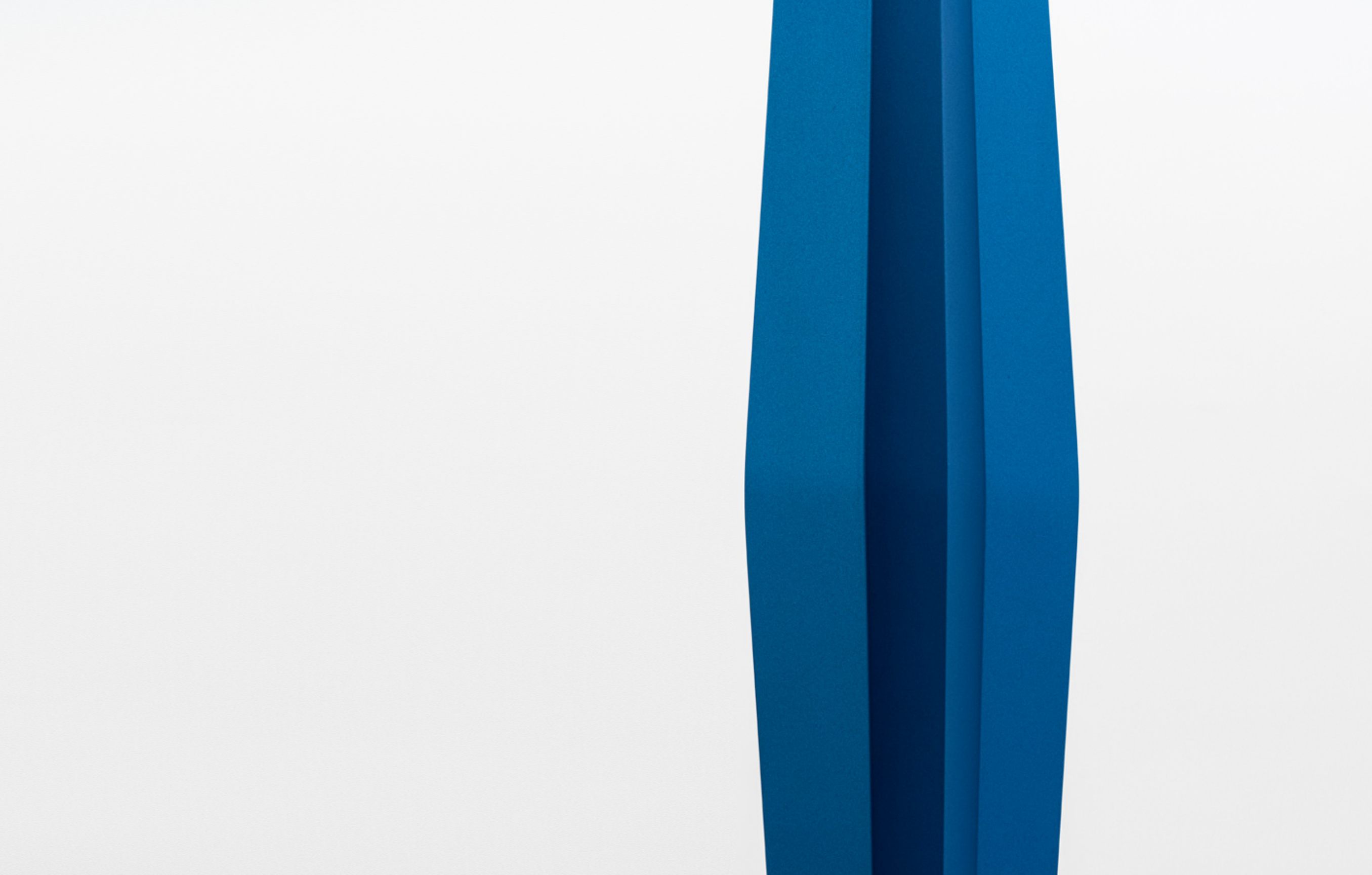
unique

300 x 270 x 27 cm/118.1 x 106.3 x 10.6 in





Artur Lescher
Quatro, 2018
aluminum with blue automotive paint
edition of 5 + 2 AP
180 x 10 x 10 cm/70.9 x 3.9 x 3.9 in





Artur Lescher
Luce, 2019
murano glass
edition of 5 + 2 AP
185 x Ø 15 cm / 72.8 x Ø 5.9 in

Artur Lescher
Verdi, 2019
murano glass
edition of 5 + 2 AP
185 x Ø 24 cm / 72.8 x Ø 9.4 in





Artur Lescher
Massi, 2019
murano glass
edition of 5 + 2 AP
204 x Ø 14 cm/80.3 x Ø 5.5 in

artur lescher

Born in 1962 in São Paulo, Brazil, where he lives and works

Artur Lescher stands out in Brazil's contemporary art scene with his three-dimensional works. His pieces transcend their sculptural character, crossbreeding boundaries of installation and objects to modify the understanding of these categories and the space they occupy. The fundamental elements of Lescher's discourse lie in the particular, uninterrupted and precise dialogue with both architecture and design, and on the choice of materials, which range from metal, stone and wood to felt, salts, brass or copper.

Even if Lescher's work is strongly linked to industrial processes, achieving extreme refinement and rigor, his production does not aim at pure formality, in fact expanding formal boundaries. By juxtaposing solid geometrical structures and materials with characteristics of impermanence or changeability, such as water, olive oil, and salt, Lescher emphasizes imponderability. Or, as critic Agnaldo Farias remarked, "the restlessness [of] his pieces, which oppose an exact, clean appearance." This seemingly contradictory method is the base of an artistic process which is grounded in imagination and myth-making, essential elements for Lescher's construction process.

recent solo exhibitions and projects

- *Artur Lescher: suspensão*, Estação Pinacoteca, São Paulo, Brazil (2019)
- *Asterismos*, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, France (2019)
- *Porticus*, Palais d'Iéna, Paris, France (2017)
- *Inner Landscape*, Piero Atchugarry Gallery, Pueblo Garzón, Uruguay (2016)

recent group shows

- *Tension and Dynamism*, Atchugarry Art Center, Miami, USA (2018)
- *Mundos transversales – Colección permanente de la Fundación Pablo Atchugarry*, Fundación Pablo Atchugarry, Maldonado, Uruguay (2017)
- *Everything you are I am not: Latin American Contemporary Art from the Tiroche DeLeon Collection*, Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, USA (2016)
- *El círculo caminaba tranquilo*, Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (MAMBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2014)
- *The Circle Walked Casually*, Deutsche Bank KunstHalle, Berlin, Germany (2013)

selected collections

- Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH), Houston, USA
- Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA
- Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

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public hours
thursday, december 5 | 3pm – 8pm
friday, december 6 | 12 noon – 8pm
saturday, december 7 | 12 noon – 8pm
sunday, december 8 | 12 noon – 6pm

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