



life-light
thomas brasch

*The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.*

John 1:5

The Dal Schindell Gallery, Regent College, May 18-June 14, 2023

Out of the Darkness

Abstract photography reminiscent of vortographs and mandalas, these lens-based post-productions of source images from site-specific events of senseless violence, commemorate collective trauma without the use of graphic and triggering imagery. Subsequently a dialogue is opened about patterns of violence and how fallacious perceptions can have fatal consequences.

These acts of terrorism are a result of twisted ideology due to any combination of the following: mental health issues, radicalization, conspiracy theories or extreme political agendas.

The series, ***Out of the Darkness***, does not need the graphic imagery of the wounded and the dead to make its documentary statement. Instead, it relies on a layered approach.

The first layer is the aesthetics. A healing mandala engages the viewer and draws them in. The second layer is a commemoration to create a permanent public memory of the heinous event. The third layer is the learning component wherein we constantly reiterate the need for clarity and truth. The answer to hate is not more hate. The answer to hate is more love. The answer to darkness is more light. The series, OOTD, does take a stand. It is to our shared humanity, compassion and empathy.

Much like the events they document, the iridescent orbs from this series are multi-layered and have poorly defined boundaries. The photographic details become apparent upon close inspection of the 40x40” tableaus.

Enlightenment

Enlightenment provides me and my viewers with a hopeful message in these dark and complicated times. Instead of greed, corruption, famine, plague and war, we are reminded of humanity’s other offerings: charity, equality, social consciousness, wisdom and civility. These are lens-based photo-montages that convey the essence of the original rectangular source image. The creation of these novel images is my cathartic response to darkness. I work obsessively, for hours or days, to create and refine my personal “sacred geometries”. Through this, I’m able to counteract my depression and anxiety disorder which feed very much off the chaos of this world.

Although this project is secular in nature, there is a strong representation of various places of worship. Many churches, synagogues, temples and mosques also act as community centres where people join together to do acts of kindness and outreach, a common and often overlooked quality of humanity. Libraries, universities, museums and galleries also promote the well-being of a civilization by refining and sharing wisdom, be it in the sciences or arts. The aesthetics behind architecture and geometry are a testimony to humanity’s willingness to achieve a positive intention.

Forward

There has definitely been a learning curve during my work for this series, ***Out of the Darkness***. The sister series, ***Enlightenment***, has become a counterbalance. I needed to find some positive aspects of our humanity to counter the malfeasance I encountered in OOTD. As the initial project evolved, these have been some of the hypotheses or assumptions I have made.

- Violence solves nothing. In some instances, it only begets more violence.
- Mental health is a factor but never an excuse.
- Delusional thinking and conspiracy theories are deadly and are probably akin to mental health problems.
- The scale of violence doesn’t need to be quantified. Images that document a single death are not different from one that documents 10,000 deaths.
- I always commemorate to the victims and survivors of the senseless violence. Sometimes the survivors have a more difficult time. There are those who have had life altering injuries. There are others who have also had permanent psychological trauma.
- Hate never wins. Love is the only answer. Often these are messages I’ve seen at commemorative sites. However, education and tolerance are also key to this.
- The concept of collective trauma is a palpable concept. I only recently learned about this. However, these acts of violence leave a permanent mark not only on the people involved in the incident, but the communities or cities and even countries. They leave a permanent scar on our humanity, I would venture to say.
- We can lose ourselves if we persevere and obsess on this topic. Hence, the reason I started working on ***Enlightenment***. I couldn’t imagine every beautiful place I visit as being part of a tragedy. Sadly enough, eventually all places will be marked.
- Although many of the locations have commemorations to the events, Oslo, in my opinion, has made a superlative effort in addressing the situation in an attempt to ensure that it never happens again.
- What I saw in Oslo became a personal revelation. The museum and education centre that was child-friendly and interactive, as well as the featured art exhibition and the public art outside the cathedral, showed me that art and communication can be therapeutic but also components of education and prevention.
- Not surprisingly most of these murderous activities are conducted by men. I’m not sure what this implies but it is an interesting observation about the psyche of this purposeful intent to kill and maim. Often, the perpetrator has no plans on surviving the event himself (or herself).

Out of the Darkness

Tel Aviv 01, Baghdad 01 and Hebron 01 are an informal triptych. Together they tell a more complete story of a very complex situation in the Middle East. Although much of the violence in Israel has a set agenda, it is my goal to show that violence, even this violence, solves nothing.



Tel Aviv 01

Dizengoff Center Suicide bombing
March 4, 1996
(13 killed, 130 injured)

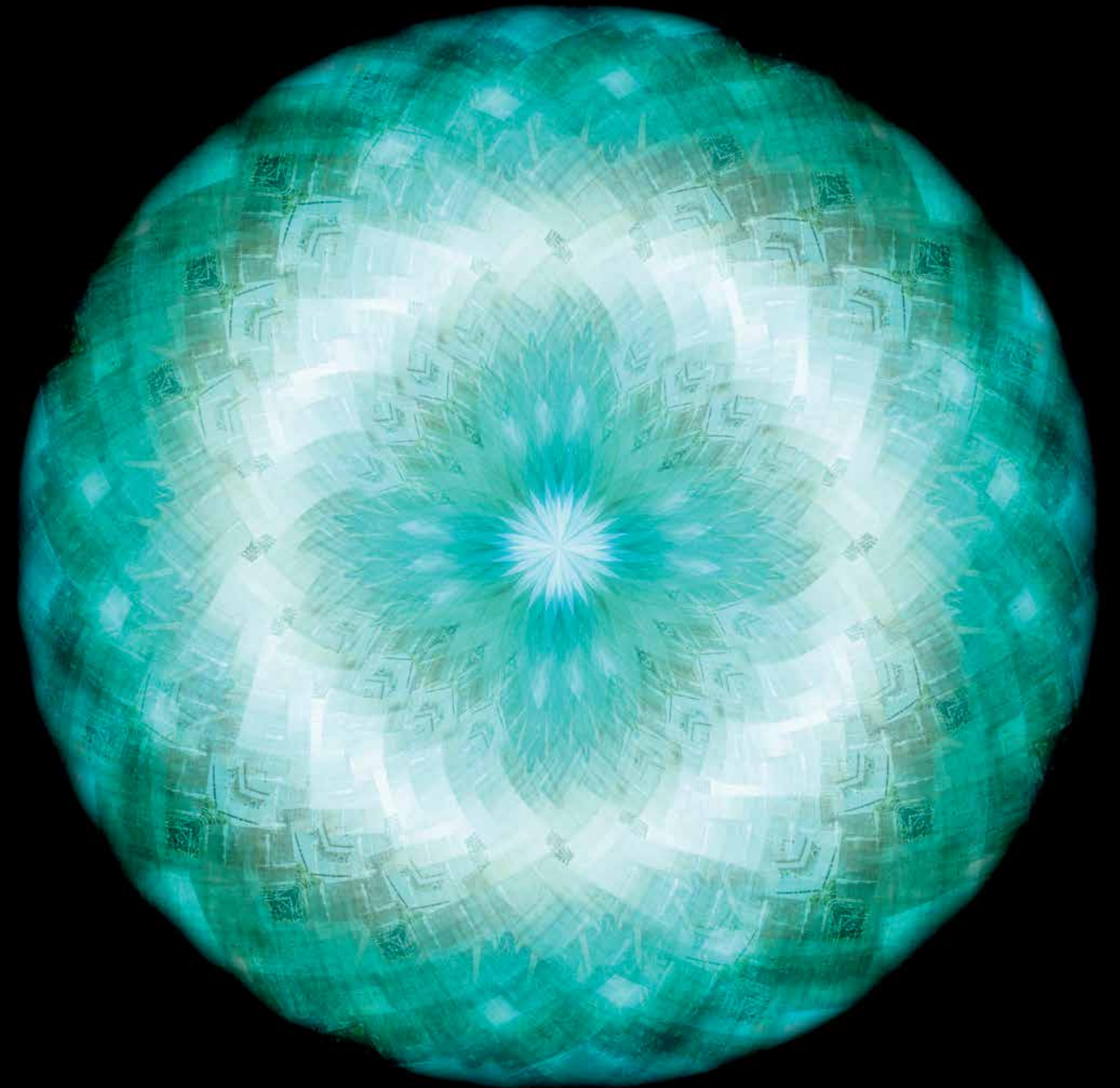
Dizengoff Street bus bombing
October 19, 1994
(22 killed, 50 injured)

Source image: Dizengoff Fountain

There is no shortage of collective trauma in Israel. Tel Aviv 01 is the first image I have created that encompasses two events. It's also the second image I created for this triptych.

The source image is the fountain found in the middle of the square. Not only is it an evident focal point but it is also a site that can imbue tranquility. Water itself is used in many cleansing rituals. The sight and sound of water can sometimes promote a calming or meditative state. We are lulled by the sound of falling water. We are entranced by watching the ripples on the surface and how the sun's light can cause reflections.

To create the desired effect, I turned my camera to create diagonal lines and cropped the image very tightly to put the focus solely on the fountain.



Out of the Darkness



Baghdad 01

The Farhud
June 1-2, 1941

Pogrom against Iraqi Jews
(180 killed, 1,000 injured)

Source image: portion of an Iraqi Jewish wedding dress, found in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

This image is the result of one of those serendipitous moments. I had been reading the book by Hen Mazzig: *The Wrong Kind of Jew*. He was describing what his grandmother had experienced in Baghdad during this event. There are no memorials of this event in Baghdad as all traces of the Iraqi Jewry had been erased. There is only one monument in Israel but I had not photographed it and I think it would have been inadequate.

In my travels, I photograph everything. I never know when I might have the use for a certain picture. Furthermore, I just like to collect these pictures for my personal memories. I remembered that I had taken this picture of an Iraqi Jewish wedding dress and realized, after reading the book, that I would be able to use this as a source image. I had worked before on fabric for source images in other series. So this was not a completely new idea to me. However, this is the first time, I have used fabric as a source image in this series.



Only the upper image was used as the source for the creation of this piece. I've included an image of the full wedding dress to show it's splendour.



Out of the Darkness

Hebron 01

Cave of the Patriarchs Massacre
February 25, 1994
(29 killed, 125 injured)

Source image: Antique Minbar (pulpit) located inside the mosque.

Hebron 01 is the third image of the Israel triptych. I felt it necessary to include to properly portray the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

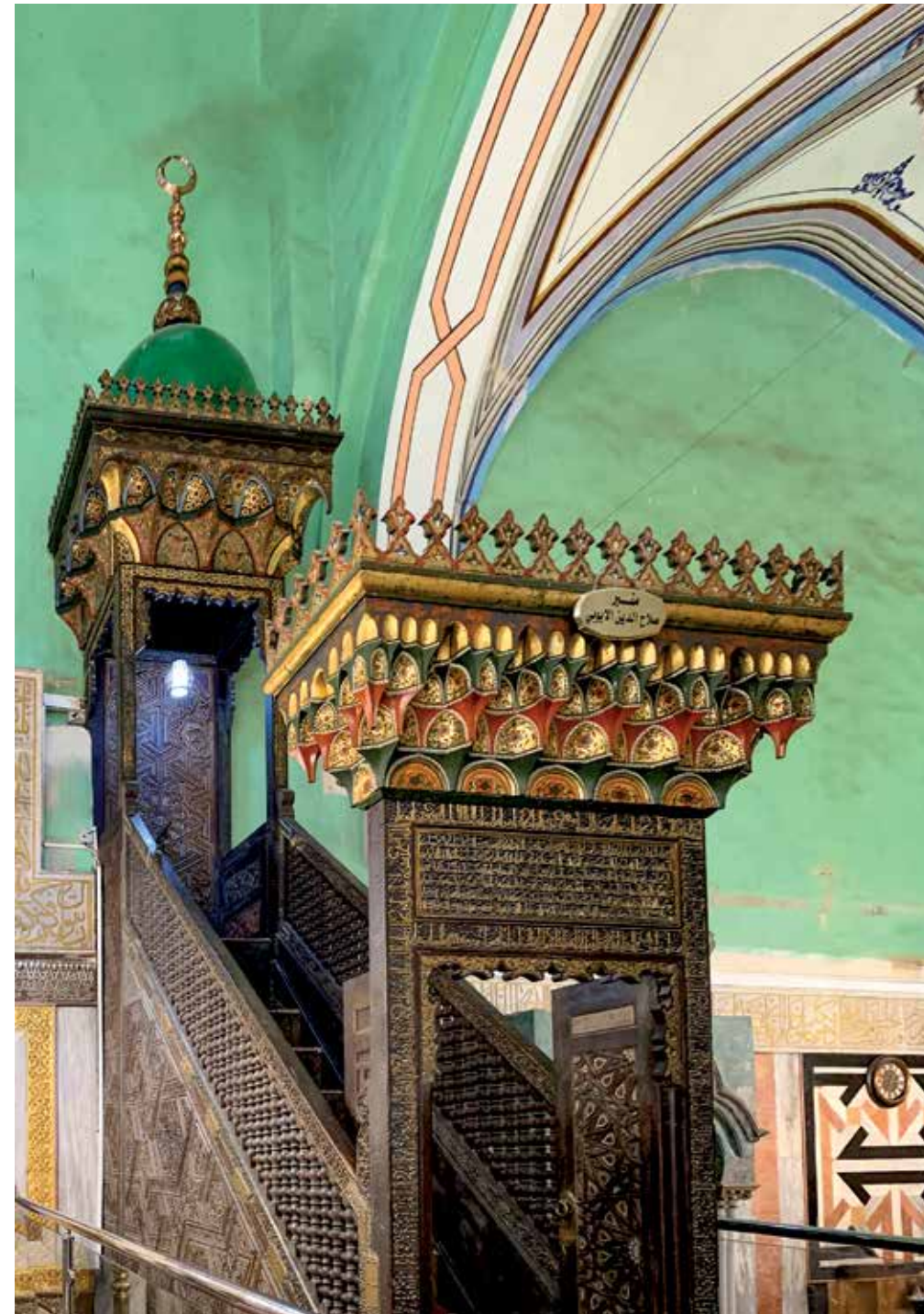
This image is the result of a collaboration with Amanda Hope Haley, author of *The Red-Haired Archaeologist* books and podcast. She was adventurous and was able to visit the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. She kindly provided this specific source image of the minbar in the mosque.

In her words: “The image is of a minbar, which is the wooden platform from which sermons and prayers are delivered in Muslim Friday services. This one is particularly interesting! It was made for a mosque in Ashkelon in 1091. It contains no fasteners (such as nails), so the wood is held together by its engineering. It is the oldest minbar of this type left in the world. In 1191, Saladin moved it from Ashkelon to Hebron (before destroying Ashkelon for fear that Crusaders would retake the city). It has been in the Tomb of the Patriarchs ever since.”

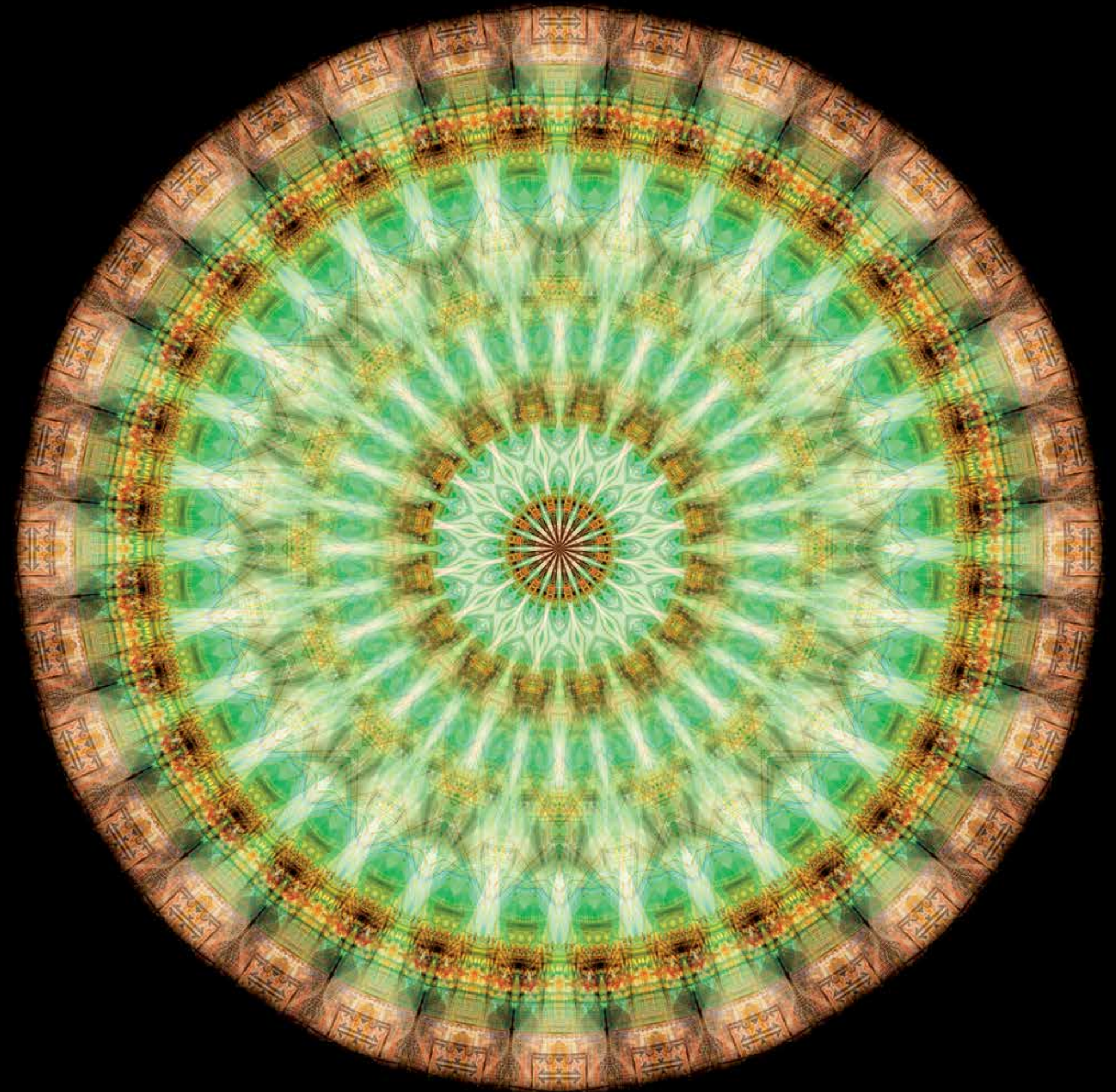
Hebron, much like the rest of Israel, has been the site of a lot of violence. Initially I chose this site because of the heinous attack carried out on worshiping Muslims by a far-right Israeli-American Jew, who conceived and executed this plan that killed 29 and injured 125 when Purim coincided with Ramadan. His act of violence set off Palestinian protests in which another 26 Palestinians were killed and another 120 were injured.

Unfortunately, Hebron itself, and not specifically this mosque, was also the site of a previous massacre in which approximately 69 Jews were killed on August 24, 1929. This act of violence was incited by rumours that the Jews were going to take control of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Political scientists consider the 1929 event as Year Zero in the Arab-Israeli Conflict.



Top: This image from Amanda has already undergone some restorative work. Through digital editing, I was able to correct proportions and enhance details.
Bottom: exterior of the Mosque



Out of the Darkness

Oslo 01, Montreal 02 and Paris 02 are an informal triptych. Each of the events portrayed here left a permanent mark on each nation. As a result, each nation has created a national organization that not only pays tribute to the victims but also serves as an education centre and a forum for discussion.

Oslo 01

Oslo and Utøya Attacks of 2011
July 22, 2011
(77 killed, 319 injured)

Source image: Chandelier inside the Oslo Cathedral

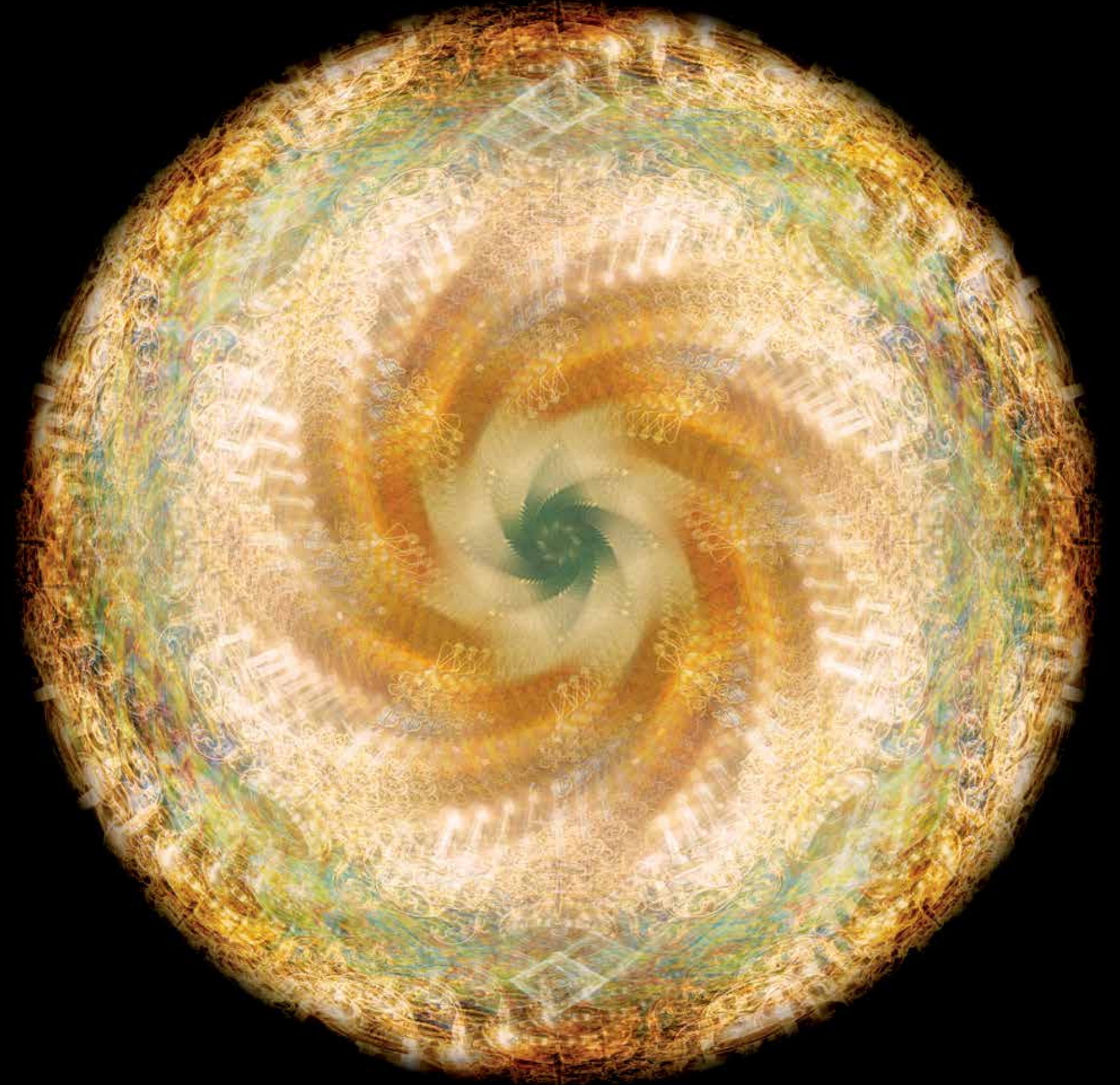
Within Oslo, public art acts as a memorial. Beside the Cathedral, there is a garden of 1,000 iron roses. This garden was the source image for Oslo 02 (not featured).

The Norwegians have been exemplary in how they are dealing with this horrific event that has left a permanent scar on the country. Not only is there this commemorative garden outside of the cathedral, they have also created a museum that also acts as an education centre. The museum is very child-friendly and accessible. There are also interactive components. Information is presented in such a way so that children can understand and yet not be triggered by gory images of violence. There are separate rooms for some of the sensitive imagery. The education centre is also directly connected to schools and provides information packages, teacher training and specific school programming and visits. The goal of this center seems to be to educate everybody but especially the young, to see that conspiracy theories have deadly consequences. Both attacks were perpetrated by one man who is a Neo-Nazi and believes in conspiracy theories.

When I was there, I was able to see the exhibition, named Scar, by the Norwegian photographer, Werner Anderson.



Upper: Chandelier inside the Oslo Cathedral
Lower: Iron rose garden just outside the Oslo Cathedral.



Out of the Darkness

Montreal 02

Montreal Massacre
December 6, 1989
(15 killed, 14 injured)

Source image: metal sculpture in front foyer of the Ecole Polytechnique.

This was a deliberate act of femicide against female engineering students. The attacker felt he was “fighting feminism”. He entered a lecture hall, armed, and separated the women from the men. Women were the only intended targets.

This pivotal moment in Canadian history remains as the source of many anti-gun and pro-gun legislation organizations, such as Canadian Doctors for Protection against Guns and Poly Se Souvient. There are on-going discussions about gun legislation in Canada. The simple fact is, the less guns that are available, the less deaths by guns there can be. Gun shot wounds are very effective and almost always kill. They are not simply holes but they tear out and shred tissue, leaving permanent disabilities, if you happen to survive.

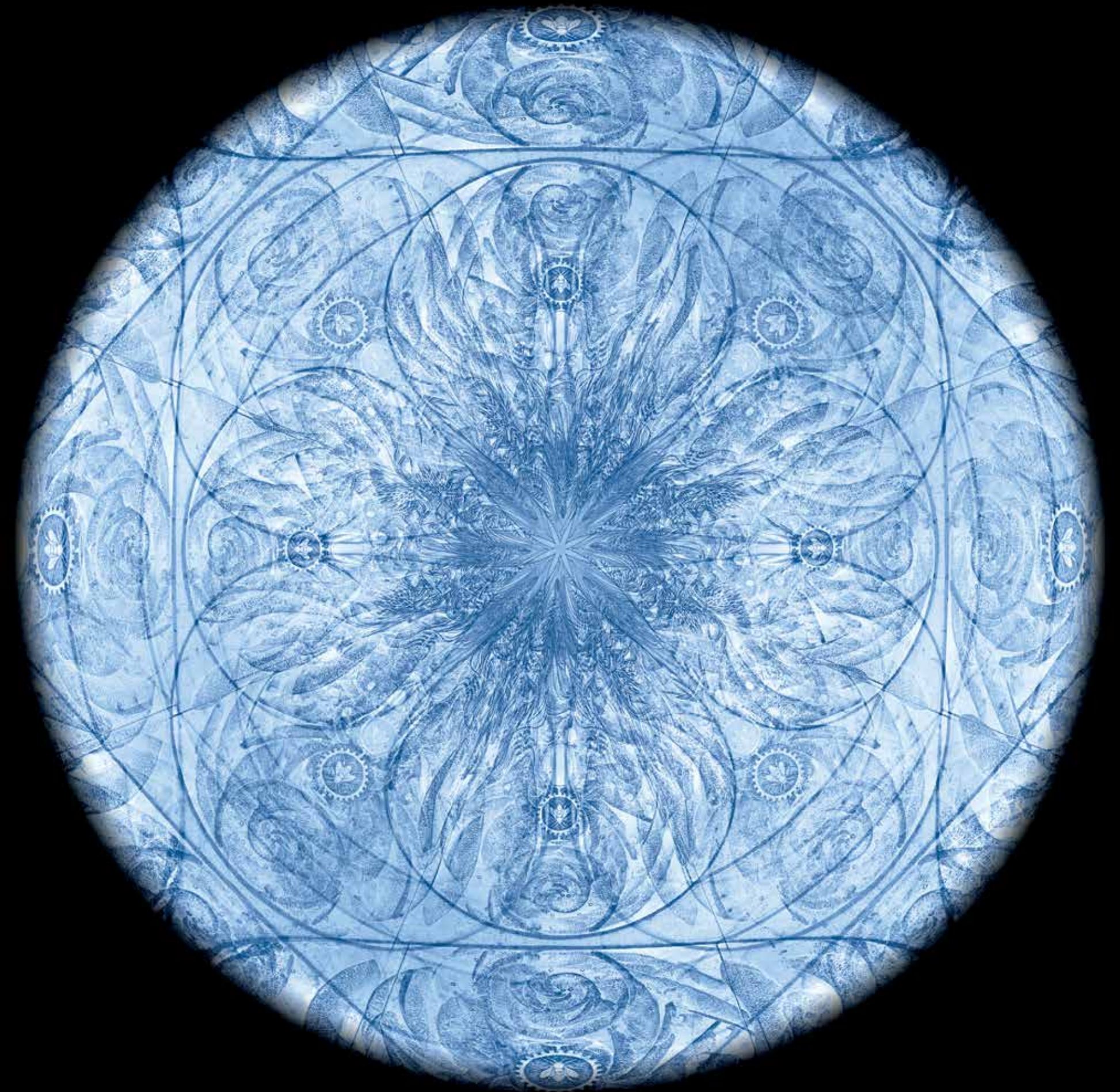
Each year the university has a commemorative service. I was able to attend the 30th memorial celebration in which, at a pinnacle moment, as each name of a victim is read, a spot light is turned on and shines up into the sky. Although these beams of light are parallel, from underneath, the spectators watch as the beams converge into a single point.

The bee inside the cog is the symbol of the engineering school. However, bees are often social insects that operate effectively in communities.

The white ribbon campaign in Canada “is the world’s largest movement of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls, promote gender equity, healthy relationships and a new vision of masculinity.” The White Rose is also a fundraising organization that supports providing educational opportunities in science to girls from disadvantaged situations.



Upper: Sculpture by Catalan artist, Jordi Bonet
Lower: Bouquets of white roses laid before the memorial outside of the engineering building.



Out of the Darkness

Paris 02

Paris attacks of 2015
November 13, 2015
(137 killed, 416 injured)

Source image: interior detail of Sacré Coeur Cathedral

This incident shocked the world much in the way that 9/11 did. Nobody could believe that all of Paris was under attack. This was a series of coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic State in retaliation for French air strikes in Syria.

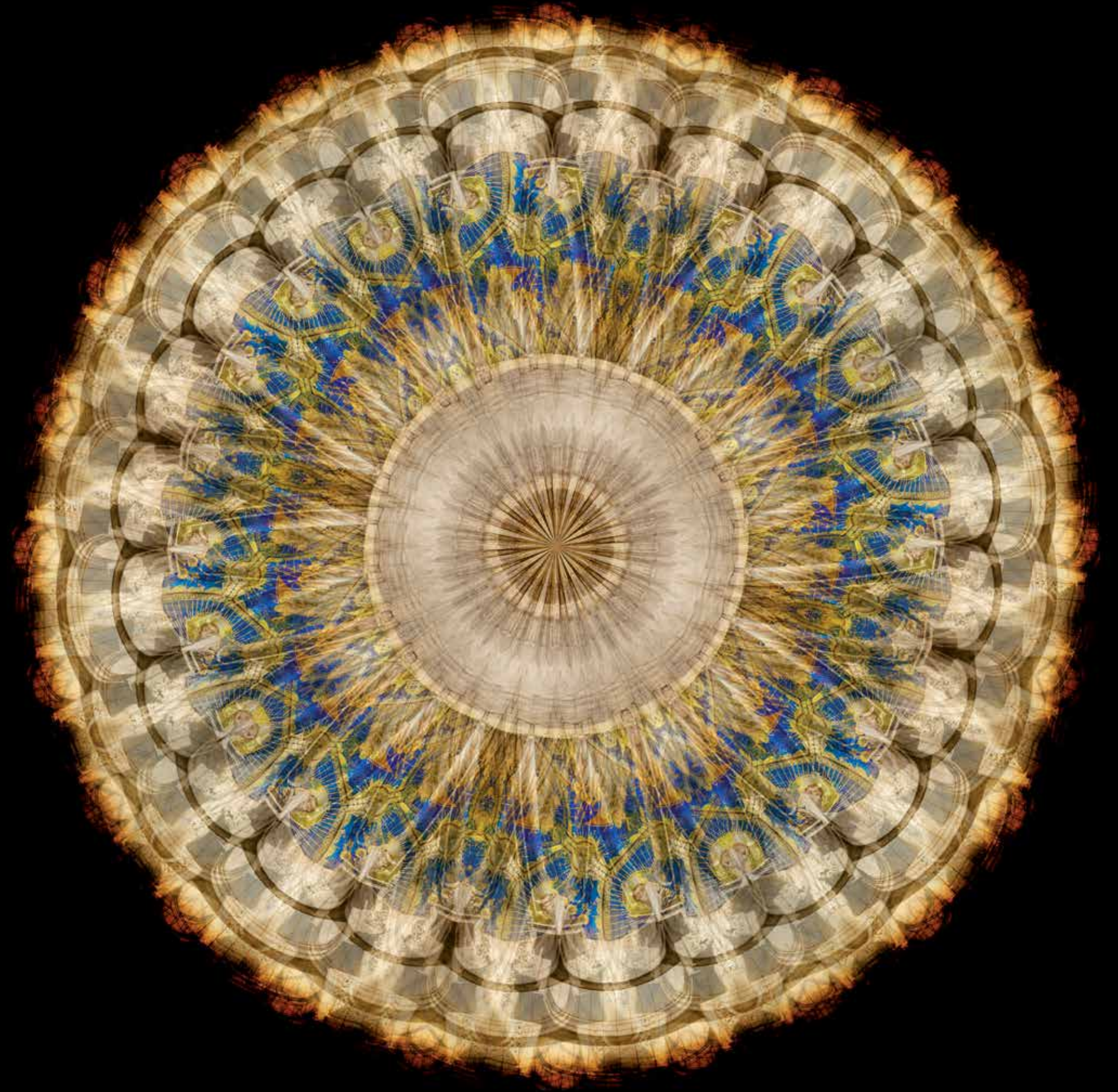
The selection of Sacré Coeur as a source seemed a natural choice. The cathedral lies in the centre of where the attacks occurred. As well, the cathedral looks over the city and is one of its focal points. Finally, cathedrals, or any place of worship provide a calm tranquil atmosphere which promotes meditation. Even the non-religious may be able to find solace and safety in the cathedral walls.

A few years after the event, Antoine Leiris, a French journalist wrote a book called *Vous n'aurez pas ma haine*. (You will not have my hate.). His wife was killed in the attacks. She also left behind a 17 month old son. This book was actually an open letter directed to the attackers (possibly all attackers) that victims will not succumb to hate and terror. The book has been recently made into a movie in Germany.

“On Friday night, you stole the life of an exceptional being, the love of my life, the mother of my son, but you will not have my hate. I don't know who you are and I don't want to know. You are dead souls.”



Upper: interior detail, Middle: exterior view, Lower: the view of Paris from Sacré Coeur



Out of the Darkness

Be it one or many lives stolen, this polyptych represent how events are shaped by government or how government can be shaped by events.

Buenos Aires 01

Día de la Memoria por la verdad y la justicia.
March 24, 1976
(30,000 Desaparecidos as a result of state terrorism)

Source image: interior detail of Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires

March 24, 1976 is the date of the military coup that resulted in a dictatorship that lasted until December 10, 1983. This date is now recognized annually.

In those seven years, approximately 30,000 people disappeared. They were a threat to the military state. Not only the politically left-wing, but writers, journalists, teachers, students, social workers were taken. The military then proceeded to erase their existence in the society. Many of these people were tortured before they were killed. The Death Flights seemed to be the most novel method. Prisoners were drugged and tied. They were flown over the ocean and their bodies were dumped from a height. If they were to survive the impact, they would still drown. Some women were pregnant when kidnapped. Other women became pregnant after a sexual assault in captivity. There were over 300 babies who were given away to military families who did not know of their biological families. The Madres of the Plaza (who later became the Abuelas of the Plaza) petitioned in silence for the whereabouts of their children and then the grandchildren. The organization still exists and is symbolized by a woman wearing a white kerchief. Their main mission now is to reunite these missing babies with their biological families.

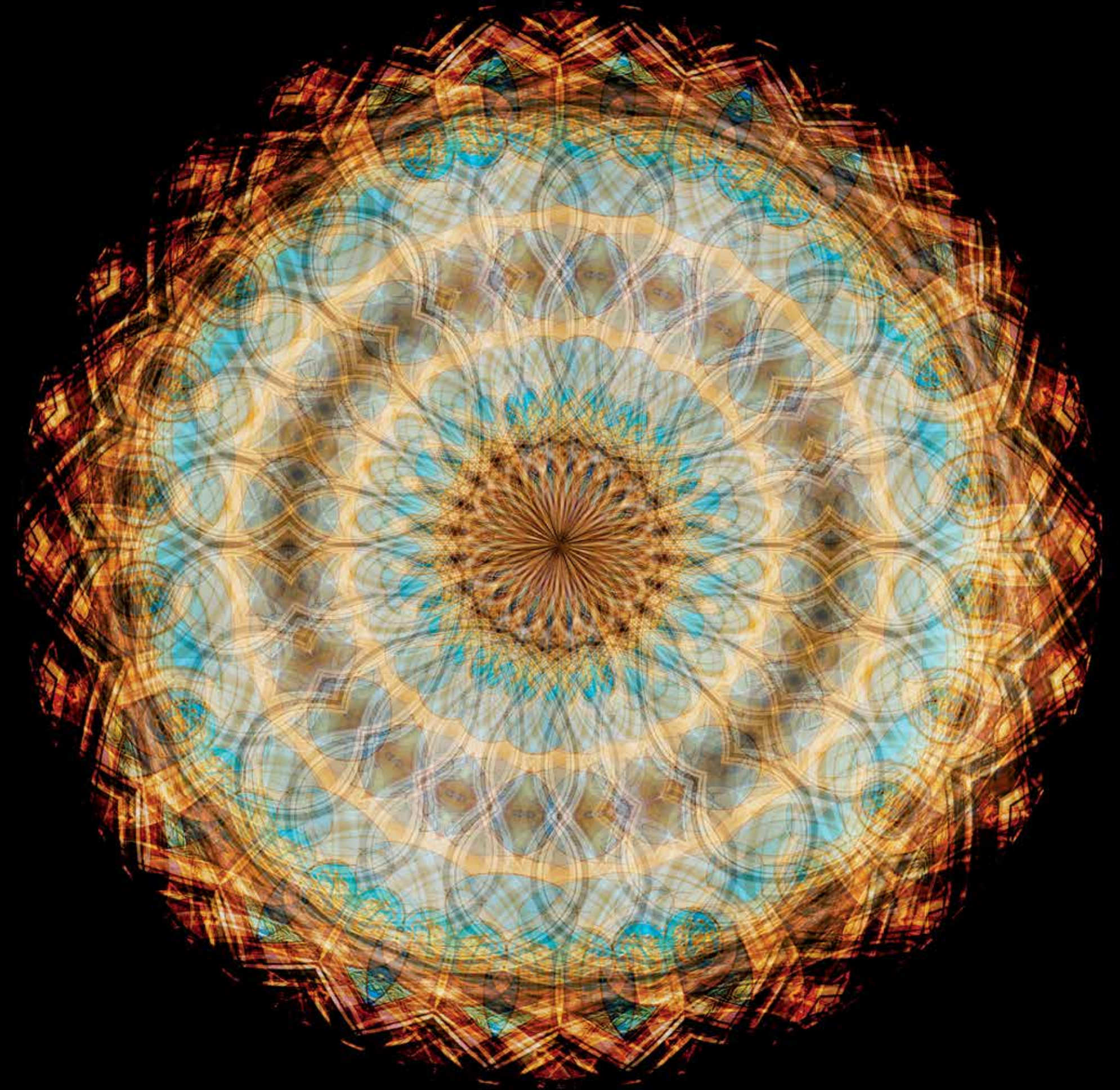
Argentina has done an excellent job in dealing with this very dark chapter in their history. They have created a memorial park with public art as well as the ESMA museum where many of the captured innocents were processed and eventually disposed of.



Upper: Chapel ceiling in Cathedral
Lower left: marker for the Madres/
Abuelas de la Plaza, Lower right:
pillars in front of the ESMA museum

Through education and keeping the memory of the past alive, they are ensuring that such a thing should never pass again in Argentina. Nunca Más. (Never again.)

Once again, it was difficult to select one specific location. The chapel in the Cathedral seemed to be a logical choice, in my mind, although some people may differ. There is a question of the complicity of the church in the dictatorship. I'm still of the belief that the silence and beauty of a cathedral would support meditation and healing.



Out of the Darkness



Seville 01

July 18, 1936 - January 1937
(3028 killed)

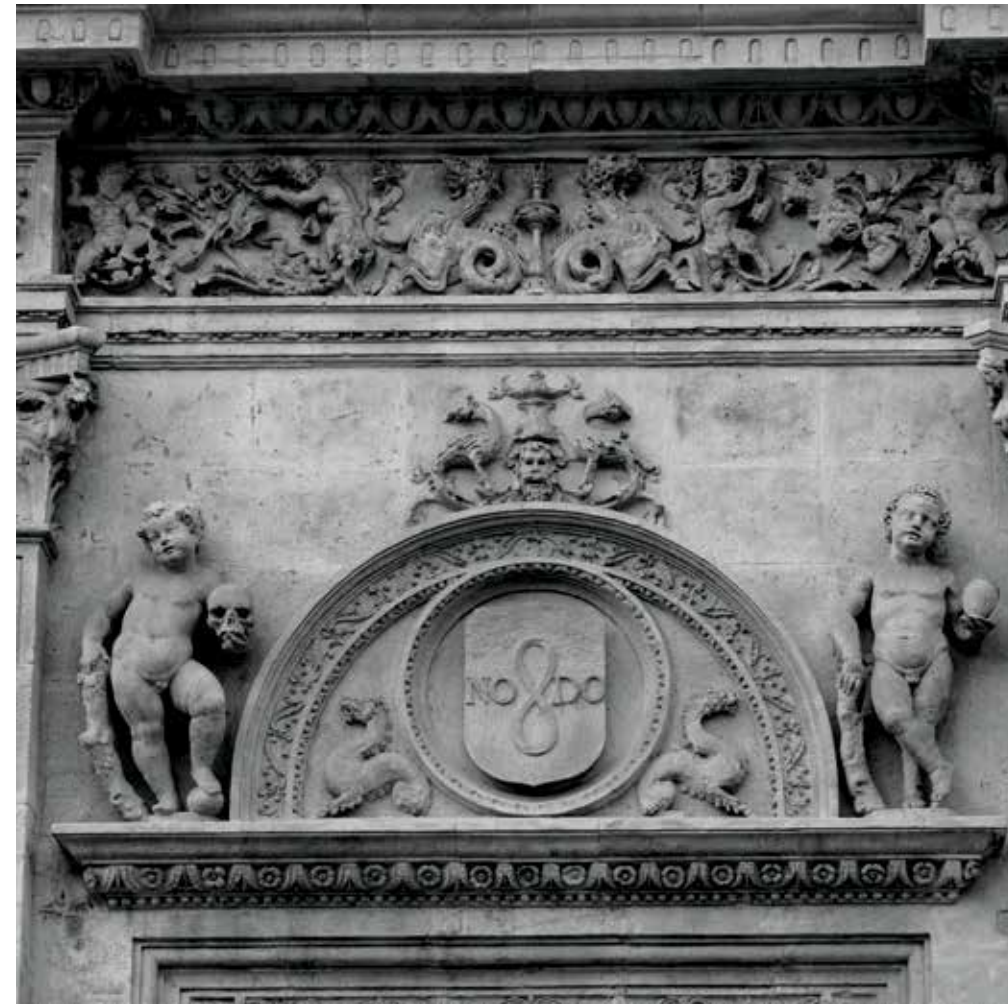
Source image: exterior detail of Seville's city hall

One of several locations of a successful Coup d'Etat by forces loyal to General Francisco Franco. This event was the starting point of the Spanish Civil War.

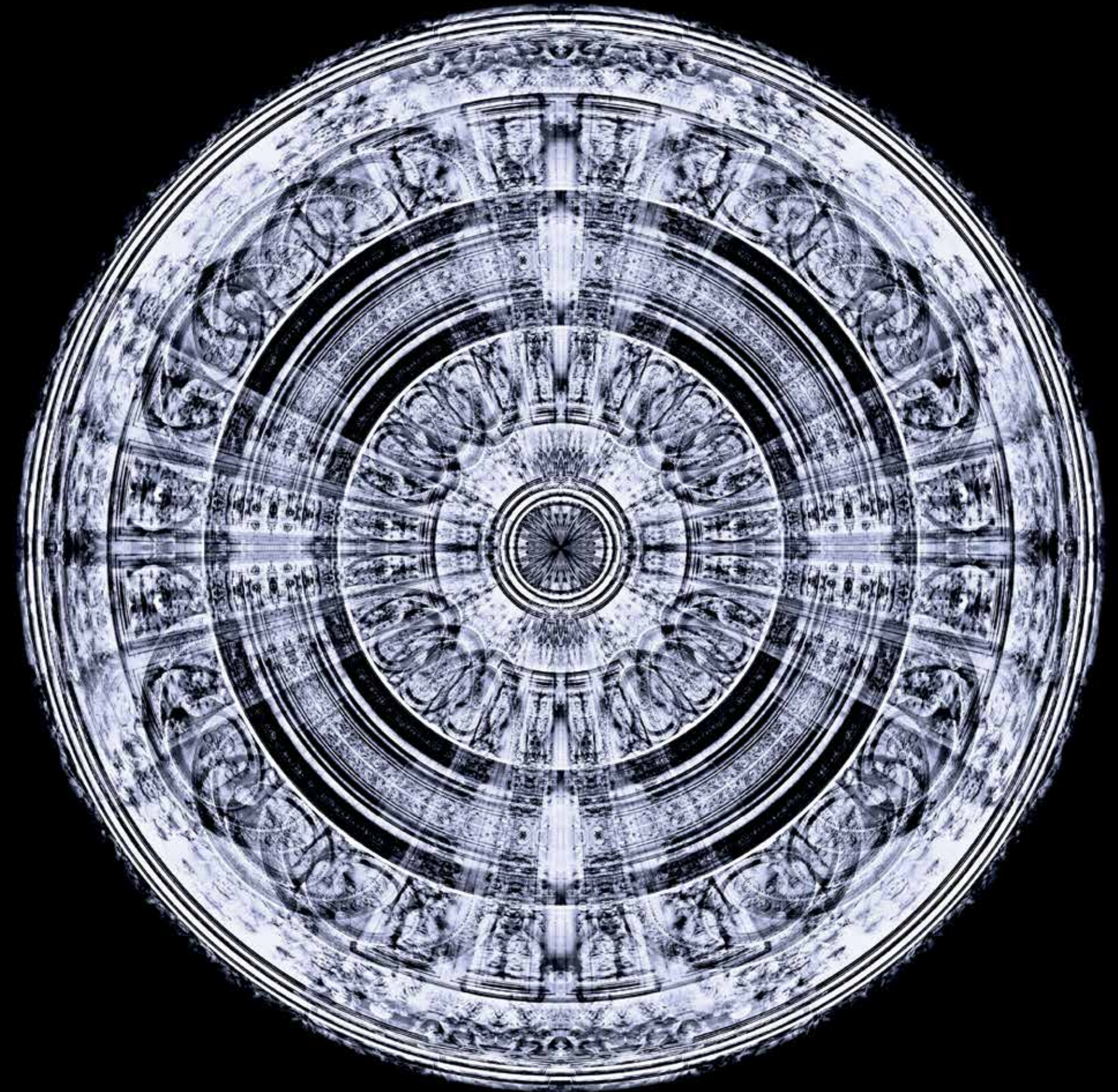
Source image: a portion of the facade of Seville's City Hall.

Spain has not fully healed from this event. The divisions run deep. Franco's oppressive rule lasted 36 years and ended upon his death. He won the silent approval from Western leaders as access to the Mediterranean through the Straits of Gibraltar outweighed any deaths and human rights violations. War crimes and human rights violations are still not investigated due to the enactment of the 1977 Amnesty Law.

Even if it were to be considered a revolution, nothing justifies the deaths on both sides, the Nationalists (supported by Nazi Germany) and the Republicans trying to uphold their democratically elected government. Again tens of thousands of people disappeared and many mass graves have not yet been excavated. The killing and terror continued well after the Republicans conceded defeat.



Upper: detail of exterior of city hall, Middle: panorama of Seville as seen from the Cathedral tower, Lower: The Red Angel, saved the lives of his prisoners, Nationalists, when a mob of Republicans wanted to lynch them. He was on the Republican side and a leader of Madrid before it fell. He refused to succumb to barbarity



Out of the Darkness



Santiago 02

Centro de Justicia
March 27, 2012
(1 killed)

Source image: exterior detail of windows at the Centro de Justicia where Daniel's murderers were tried and convicted.

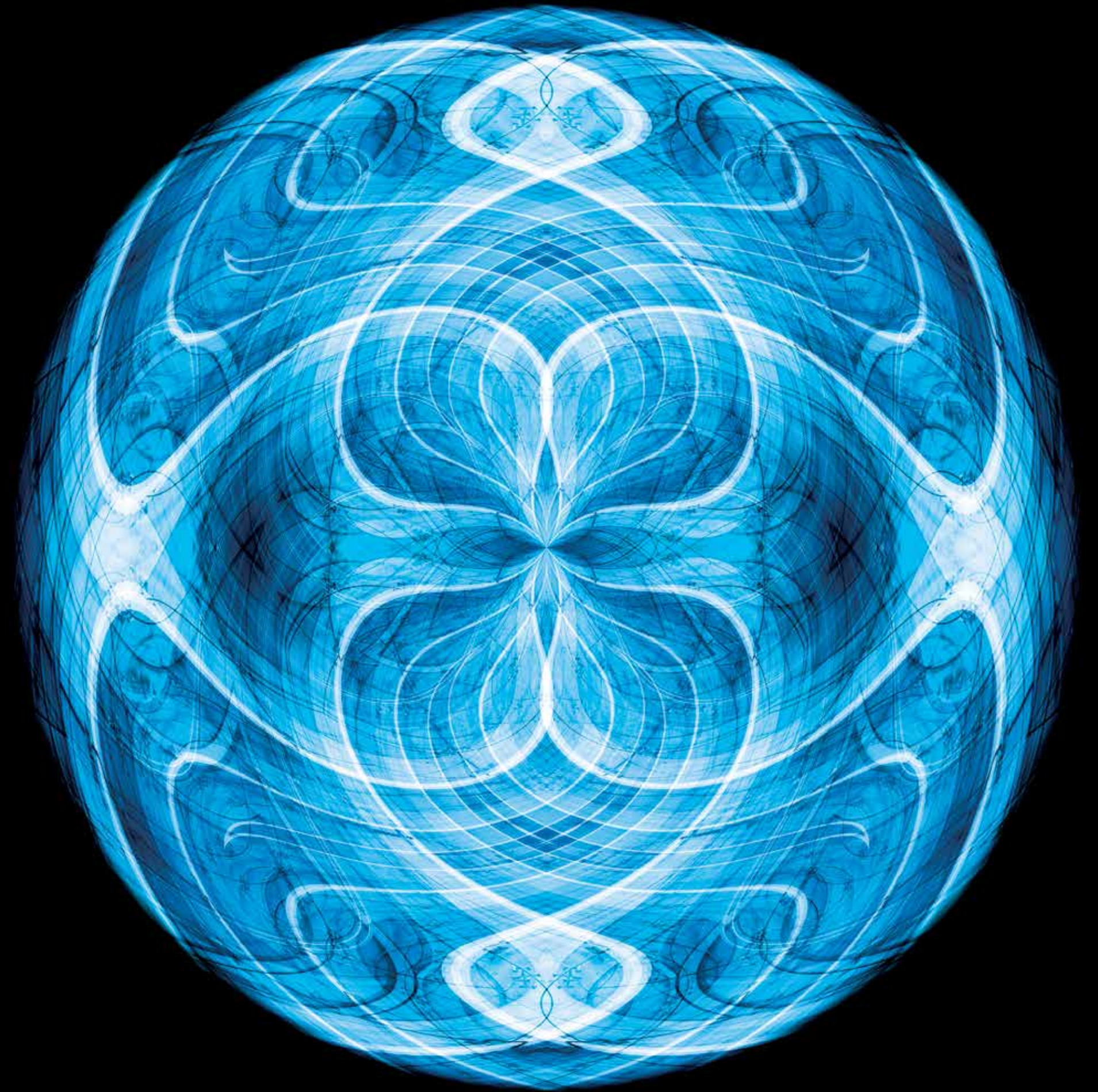
Though there is only one death represented in this piece, I decided to include it in the series for two reasons. The first was the utter brutality of a homophobic hate crime conducted by neo-Nazis. The second is that this event precipitated radical reforms in human rights and protections for the LGBTQ community.

Daniel was brutally attacked and beaten for six hours on March 2, 2012. He never regained consciousness.

The Chilean president, Sebastián Piñera, sped up legislation to prohibit discrimination based on "race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, appearance, or disability."

This is one instance in which hate and terror ended up having a positive effect. However, the price was still too high.

Top: source image
Middle: Panorama of the Centro de Justicia
in Santiago Chile
Bottom: portrait of Daniel at the location
where he was found after the beating



Out of the Darkness



Paris 01

Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
October 17, 1961
(200-300 killed)

Source image: exterior detail of the Louis Vuitton foundation, a public art gallery close to Pont Neully which crosses the Seine River.

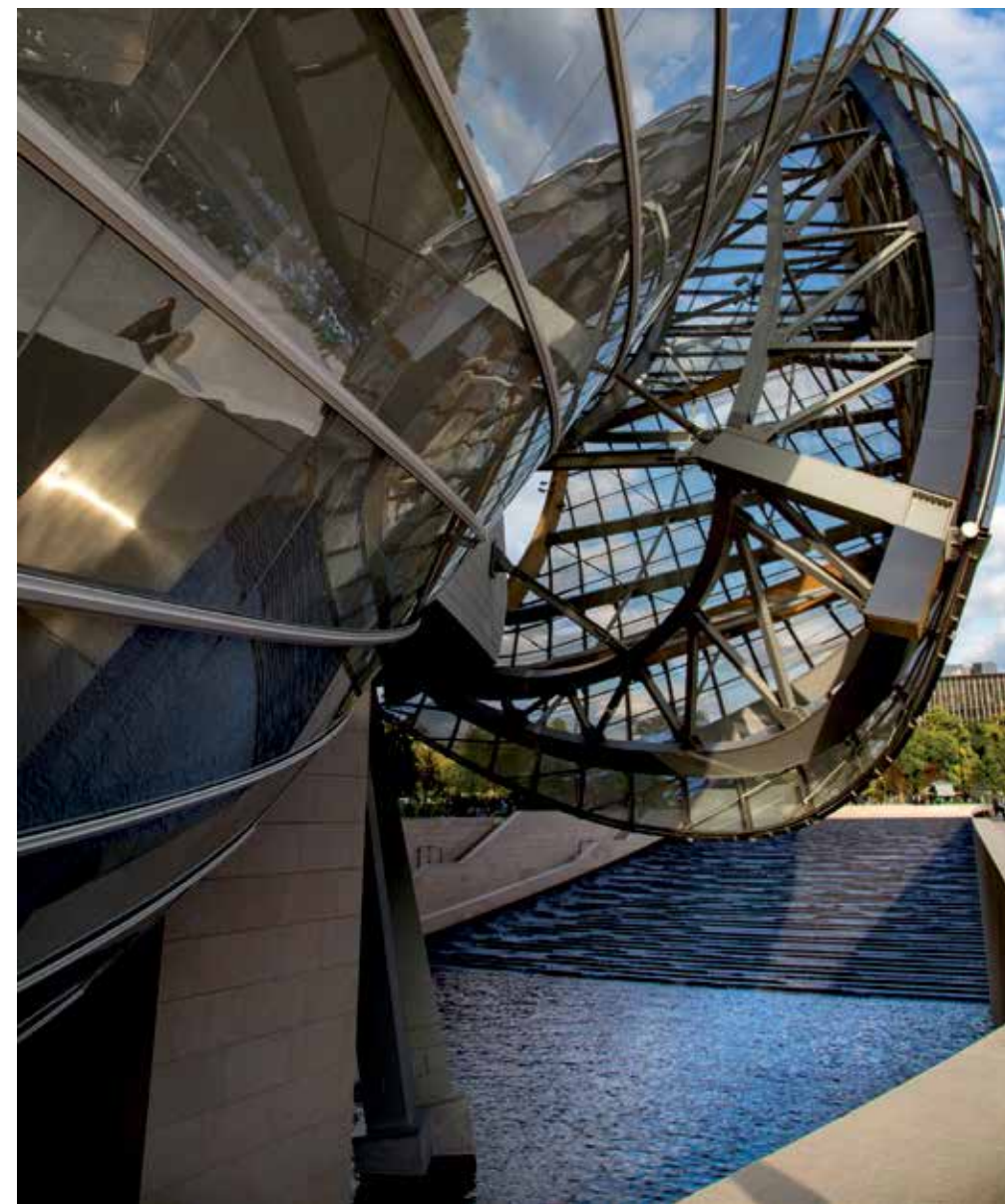
In 1961 France was in a war with their former colony Algeria. However, there were many Algerian immigrants already living in France. What started as a peaceful protest against that war by these immigrants ended up being a massacre by a police force that was still composed of officials that had been Nazi collaborators during the occupation of France.

In order to quell the protesters some were taken into custody. However, there was a decision made by Maurice Papon, Chief of Police (later convicted of war crimes for his complicity during the occupation) to stop the protests by any means possible. Some protesters were shot while others were tossed in the Seine and left to drown.

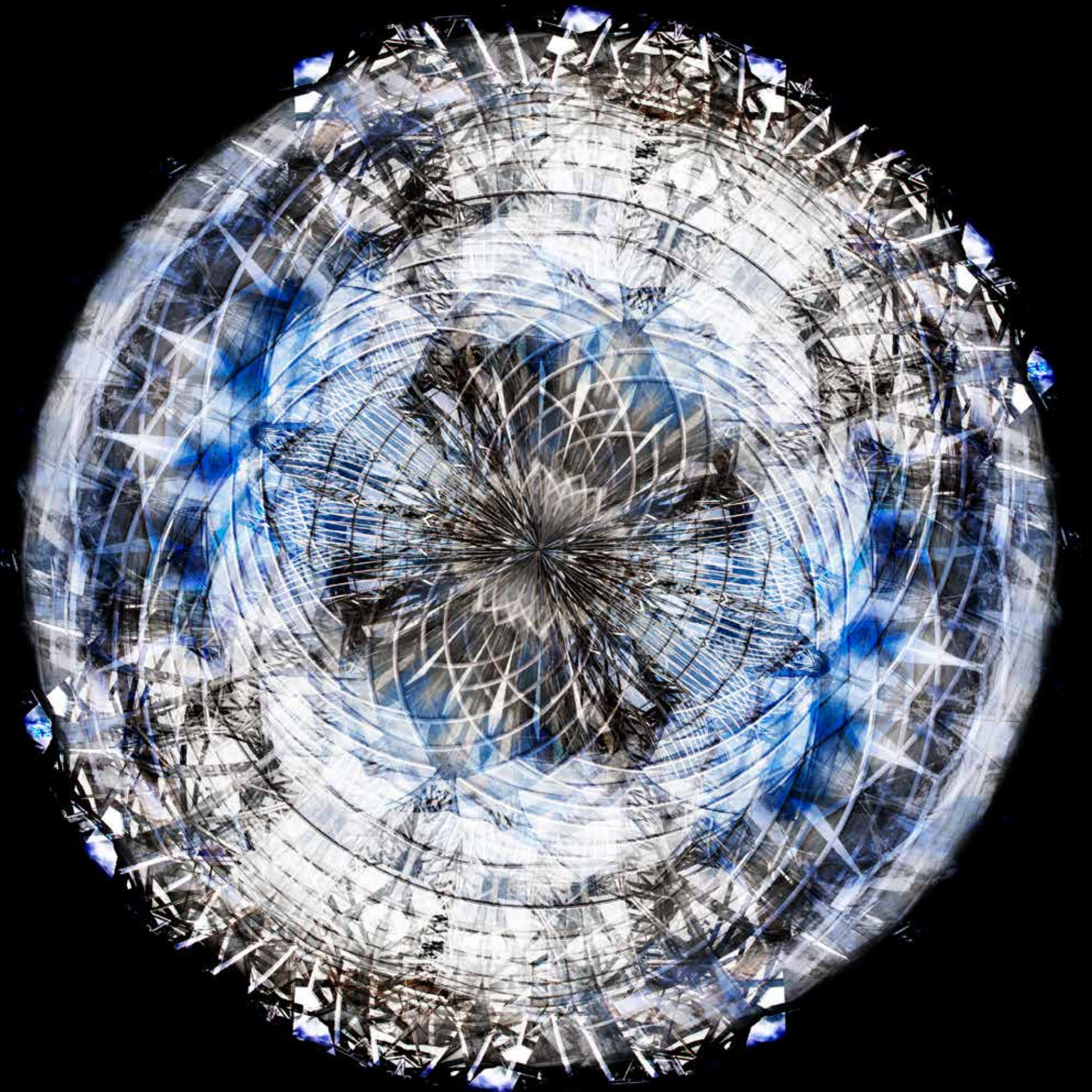
France has only officially recognized 40 out of the possible 200-300 people who were killed that day.

The Louis Vuitton Foundation is an art gallery found in the Bois de Boulogne which borders the Seine River. The Pont Neully is a location where protesters were fired upon by the police. Most of the drownings occurred by the Pont St. Michel by Notre Dame. There is a plaque there now that recognizes that event.

I selected the Louis Vuitton Foundation for two reasons. One for it's proximity to one of the locations. The second is for the fact that often art galleries can be a location that promotes reflection and healing.



Upper: source image of LVF, designed by Frank Gehry
Left: Figures during Nuit Blanche 2017 standing on Pont St. Michel over the Seine
Lower: detail of the water fall in front of the LVF. The water is symbolic of the Seine River where many of the Algerians perished.





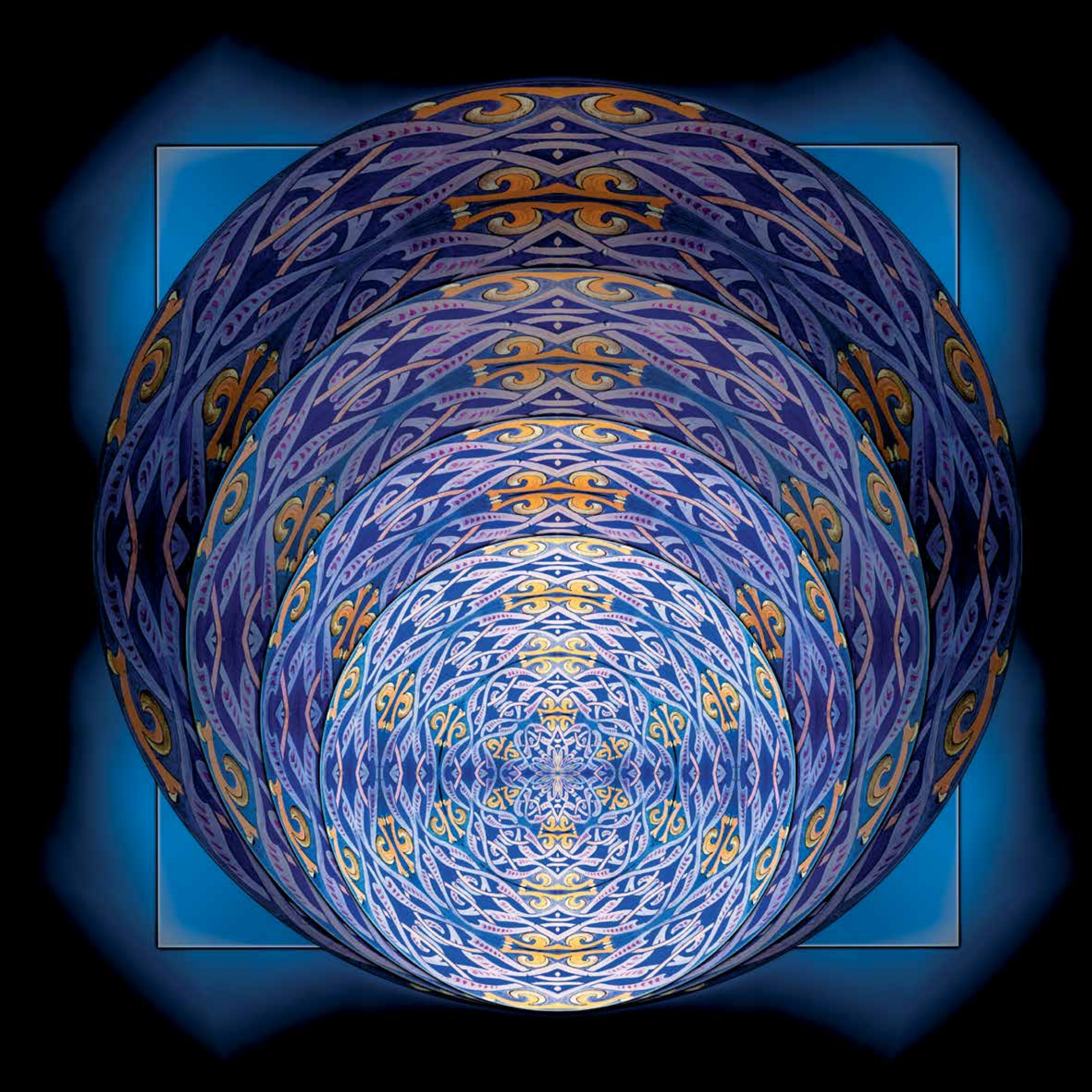
The library dates back to 1801 and houses approximately 900,000 publications. Topics mainly include civil, cultural, religious and social history of Bologna and the surrounding area from the Middle Ages to the present. Such a repository of knowledge should be protected by the winged lion. Even though this configuration of the mythological beast is actually the coat of arms for Venice, it has been seen in various forms in different countries always as a symbol of power. *"Pax tibi Marce, evangelista meus"* – *"Peace be with you, Mark, my evangelist"* – according to legend, these words, were uttered by an angel who appeared to St. Mark in a dream



Illuminoso

Biblioteca comunale dell' Archiginnasio, Bologna, Italy

Enlightenment



Moudrost
Jerusalem Synagogue, Prague, Czech Republic

Enlightenment

The Jubilee Synagogue (also known as the Jerusalem Synagogue) was erected in 1906 and named in honour of the silver jubilee anniversary of Emperor Franz Josef of Austria. The architecture is in the Moorish Revival and Art Nouveau styles. The actual source image is the piece of wall trim (right). Moudrost is the Czech word for "wisdom." My lens-based composition is representative of the ancient wisdom passed down through ages. The concentric circles represent the multiple generations.

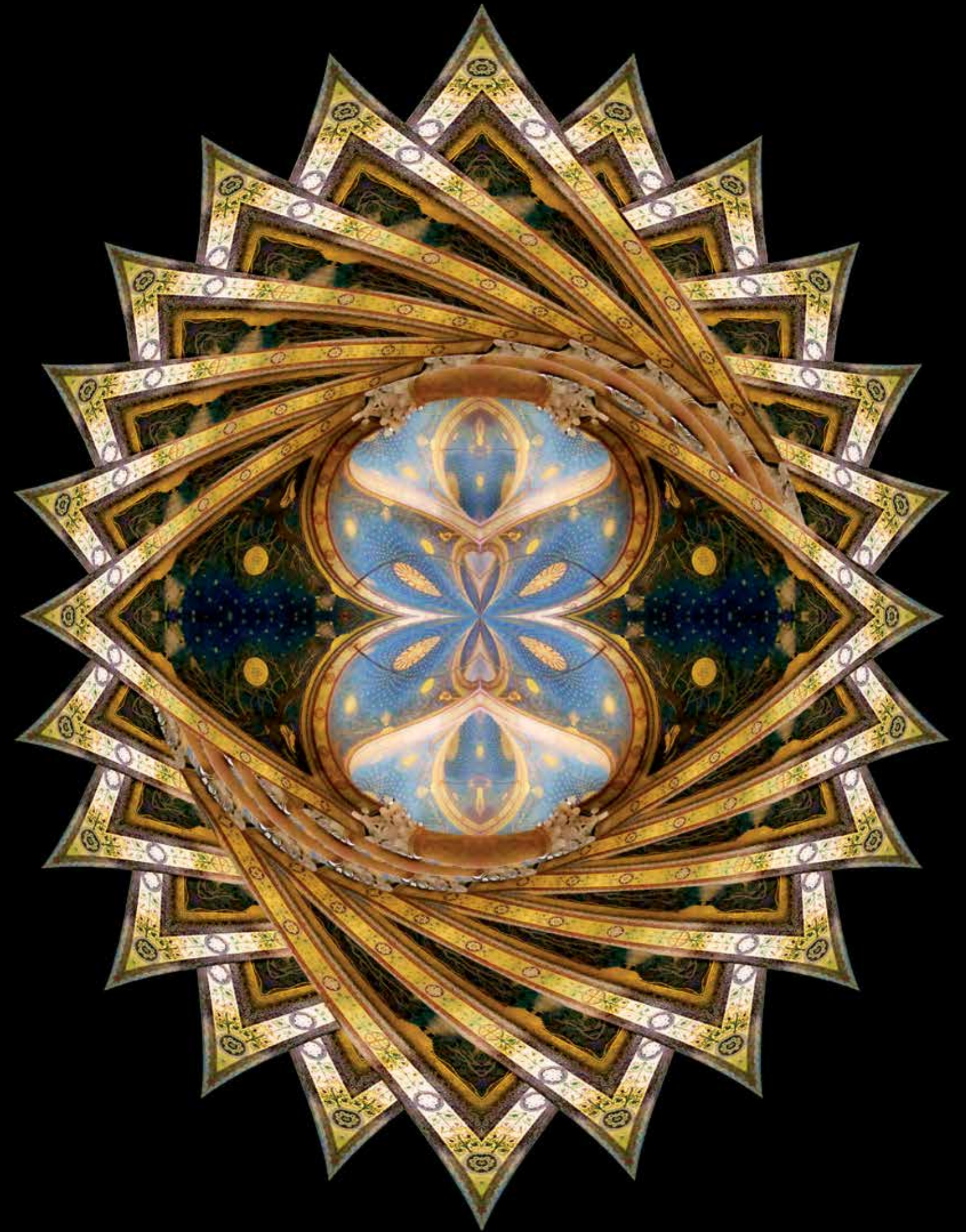


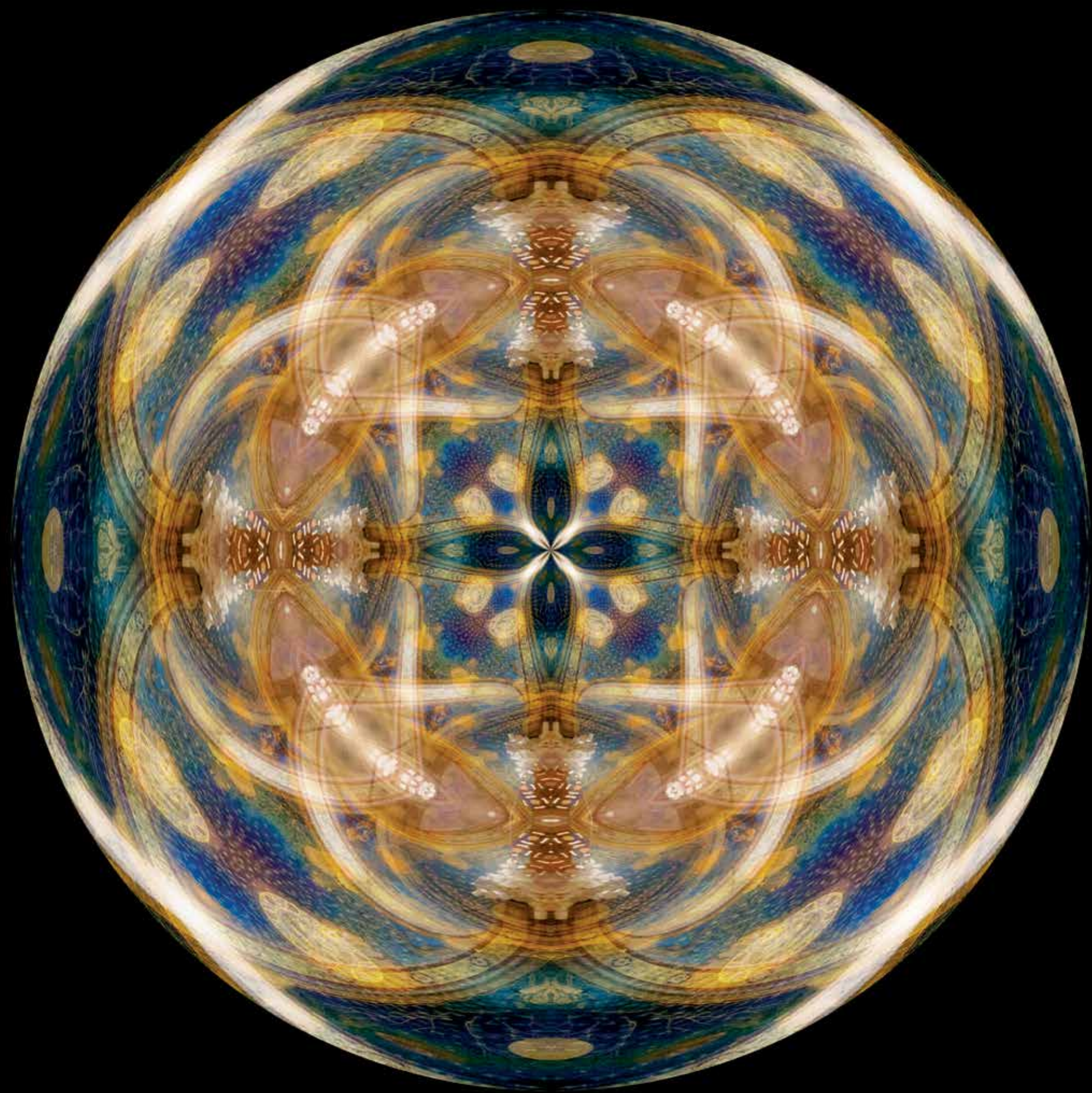
The Church of All Nations is at the base of the Mount of Olives, right next to the garden of Gethsemane. According to Scripture, this is where Jesus prayed for deliverance from his impending suffering but then accepted God's will. All three pieces in the triptych use the same source image. Also known as the Basilica of Agony, this Neo-Byzantine Roman Catholic Church was constructed between 1919 and 1924 through the donation of funds from the following nations: Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States.

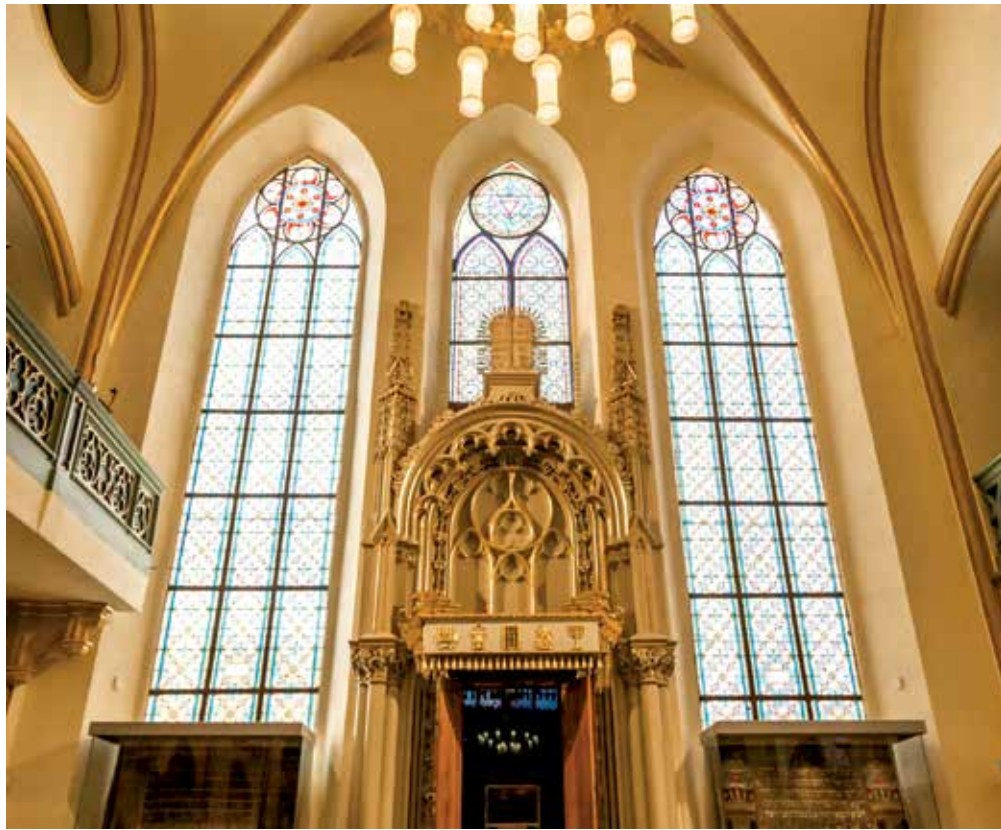
Oratio Triptych
Church of All Nations, Jerusalem, Israel

Enlightenment

Next three pages: Gebet, Prière, Oración







Hel Likht means “bright light” in Yiddish. There is always a strong association between light and wisdom. Light is often perceived as protection from darkness as wisdom is from ignorance. The original Maisei synagogue was built in 1592. This burned down in 1689. It has been rebuilt many times. The current architectural style is Neo-Gothic. The source image is the top portion of the Aron Kodesh, the Holy Ark.

Hel Likht
Maisei Synagogue, Prague Czech Republic

Enlightenment





Dating back to the 13th century the detail and iron work of these seven-meter-tall doors were a marvel considering the primitive tools available at the time. There were rumours that the blacksmith, Biscornet, who created them had made a deal with the devil. Such beautiful work was not possible through human hands. Above the doors are the statues of the 28 Kings of Judah, starting with David and Solomon. Lucidité is a testimonial to man's vision and ingenuity to create beauty despite his limitations.

Lucidité
Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France

Enlightenment

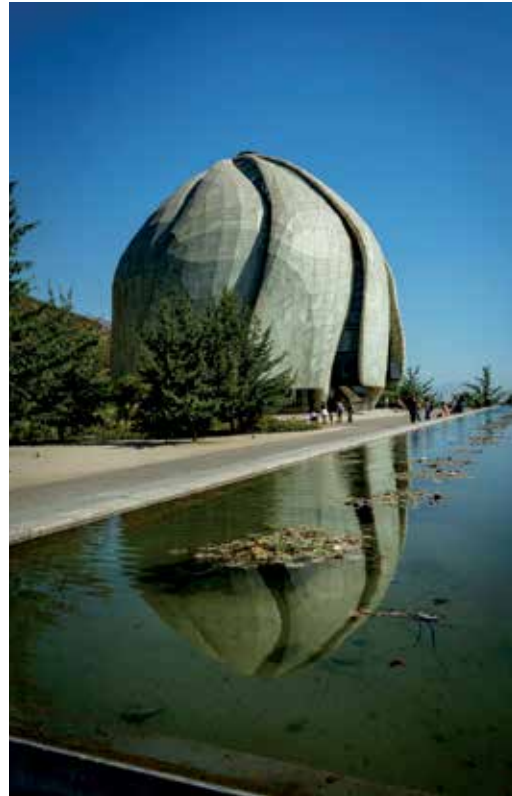


It would be more than wishful thinking if at a certain period of time in the history of the Iberian peninsula, all three Abrahamic religions had coexisted together. Unfortunately there is no hard evidence of this. This church is probably the oldest standing synagogue in all of Europe and has become a UNESCO heritage site. Originally the Ibn Shoshan Synagogue, built in the late 12th or early 13th Century in the Mudéjar style of the times. It was converted to a church after the expulsion of the Jews in 1492, when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella issued the Alhambra Decree.

Convivencia
Sinagoga Santa María La Blanca, Toledo, Spain

Enlightenment





Unidad
Templo Baha'i, Santiago, Chile

Enlightenment

The Baha'i faith is about unity and harmony. There is but one Creator, the unity of humanity and the unity of religions. This temple was designed by Siamak Hariri, a Canadian architect. The nine arched sales are made of fused glass and marble from Portugal. My final image is a composite from the lower left and middle right images. There are nine rings in the centre of the final image. In the Baha'i faith, the number nine is the highest single digit and represents fulfillment and completeness. There is no other occult meaning and the Baha'i do not practice any divination with the use of numerology.





The title is an expression in Sikhism. It denotes the giving or sharing with others in need the bounty that good has bestowed on you. I've often seen the Sikhs provide food for the homeless. As I was taking these pictures, I was invited in for some food and drink by the members. Our conversation revolved around how we share more similarities than differences, regardless of ethnicity or religion.



Wand Ke Chhakna
Guru Char Raddale Singh Sabha, Etobicoke, Toronto, Canada

Enlightenment

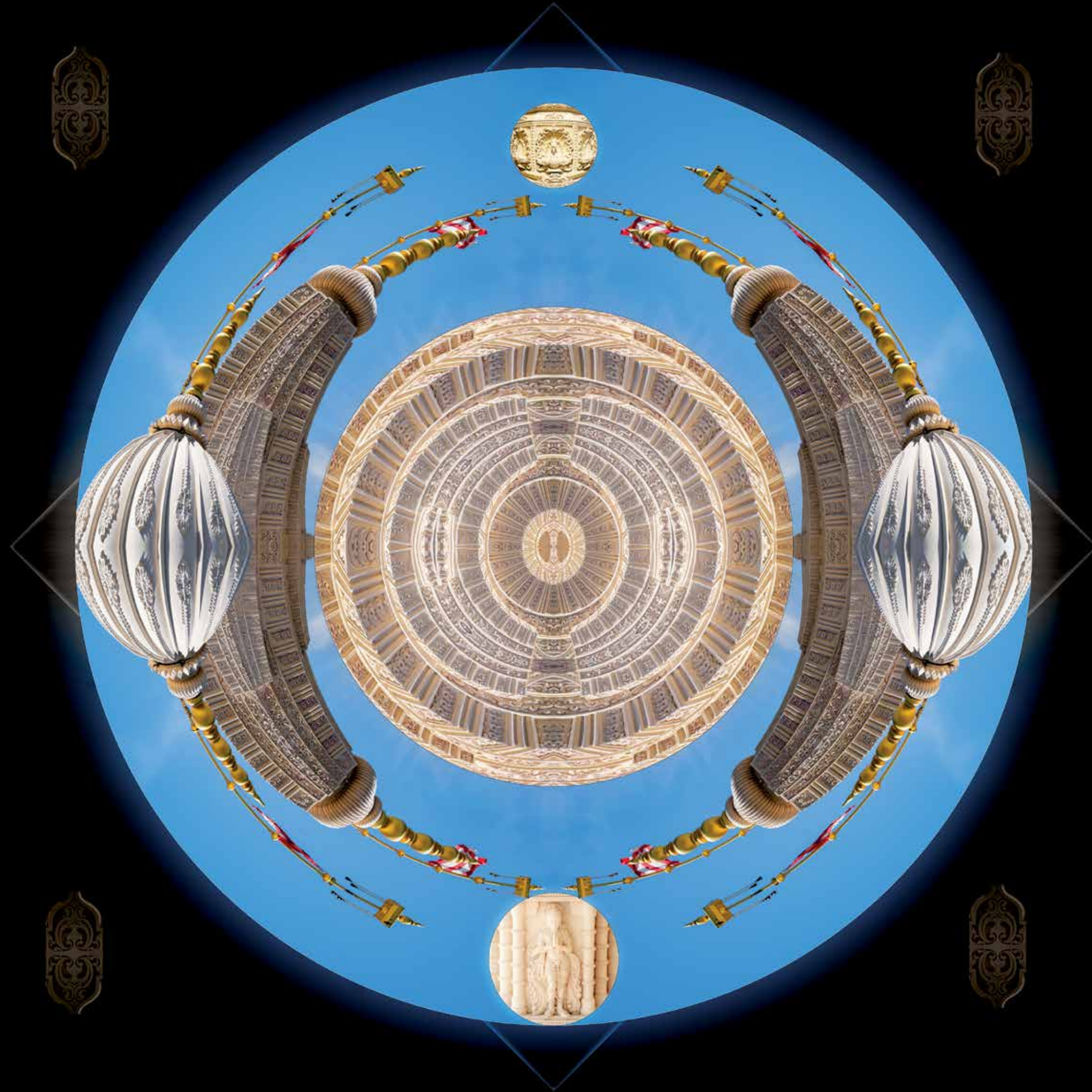


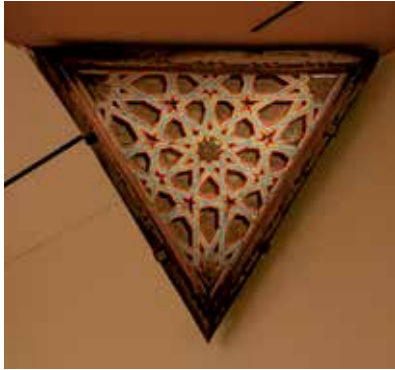
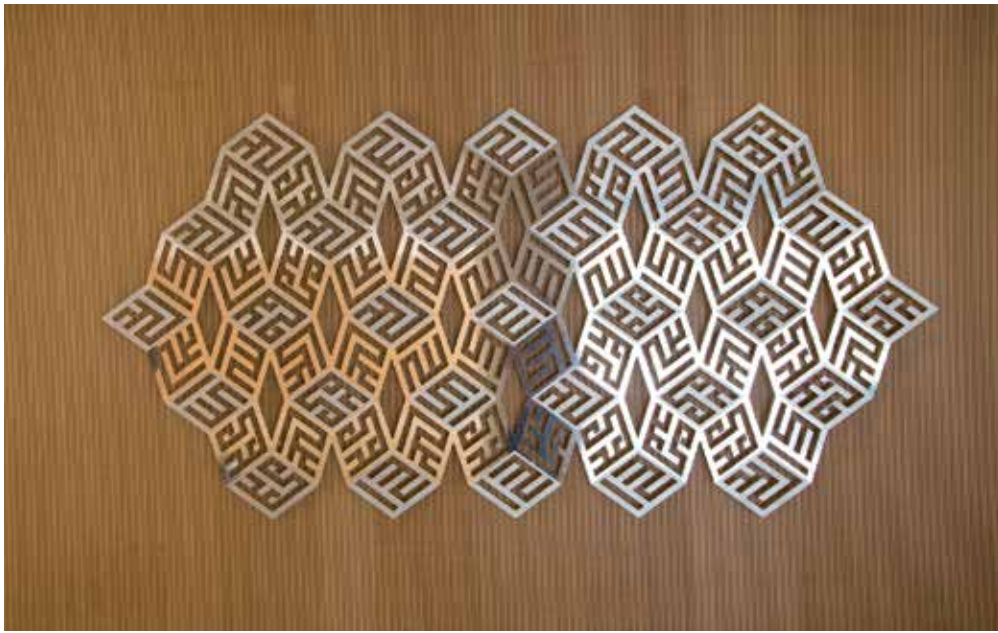
Ahimsa

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Toronto, Canada

Enlightenment

Ahimsa is the Hindu principle of not causing harm or injury to other living entities. The principle is also found in Jainism and Buddhism. Similar expressions can be found universally in codes of conduct, religious or secular. The temple is open to any visitors, regardless of faith or belief. The only rule is respect.

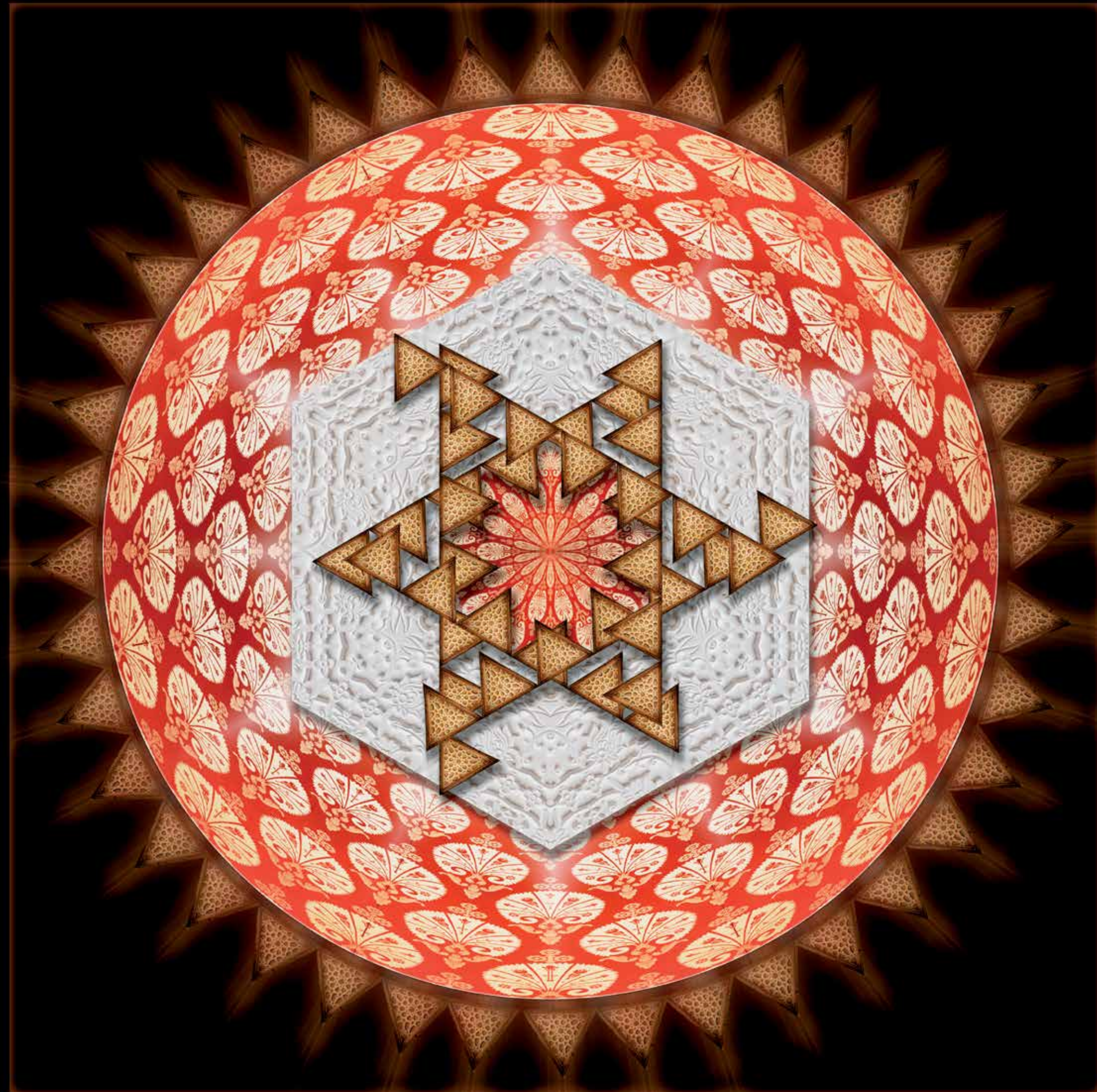




The Shia Ismaili Muslim religion is based on the search for knowledge for the betterment of humanity. Principles include building bridges of peace and understanding as well as the sharing of time and resources for the betterment of the community. They are a culturally and ethnically diverse group from twenty-five countries. They are united by their allegiance to His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan. I had the opportunity to take these pictures during a Doors Open event in Toronto. The triangular decoration is from the Aga Khan Museum found adjacent to the Ismaili Centre.

Maghrib
The Ismaili Centre, Toronto, Canada

Enlightenment





The Paifang style of architecture in a gate is meant to honour your ancestors. In this case, the gate commemorates the contributions of the generations of Chinese who have come to this country. The archway is engraved with messages of goodwill and wisdom. This gate pays specifically homage to all of the Chinese immigrants to Canada who helped construct this country.

Paifang
Zhong Hua Men Archway Toronto, Canada

Enlightenment



中華人民共和國

Thank you

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who have encouraged me to persevere in this career and find my voice and expression through my art. My friends and mentors, Sonja Scharf and Bob Carnie, have both encouraged and guided me through the evolution of my art practice. I'd also like to thank my spouse, Simon Raphael, not only for his unwavering patience and understanding but also for his encouragement when inspiration or ambition were in short supply. A big thank you goes out as well to the many friends I have made over the years as well as to my daughters, Olivia, Julia and Catherine, for all of their words of support.

Bio

Thomas Brasch (B.A., B.Ed., MBA) devoted thirty years to education before embarking on his second career as a photographer and visual artist. Completely self-taught in the discipline, he is able to showcase his perceptions of beauty, turning the real into surreal. He has had several solo shows in Toronto and has been in several group shows internationally. With a background in sciences, languages, education, and business, he is able to blend the skills he has learned and apply them to his artistic practice. His style of abstraction is multi-layered, providing an underlying statement to the aesthetics. His representational work highlights his discoveries from the ancient to the modern during his journeys.

Acclaim

Archives:

- Canadian Documentary Art Collection, Baldwin Collection of Canadian, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto: Toronto 01, 24x24", Edition 1 of 15, 2019

Donations:

- Embassy of Argentina in Canada, Consulate General in Toronto: Buenos Aires 01, 40x40", Edition 1 of 6, 2021
- Embassy of Uruguay in Canada, Consulate General in Toronto: Montevideo 01, 40x40", Edition 1 of 6, 2021
- North York General Hospital: Toronto 01, 40x40", Edition 1 of 6, 2019
- Aids Committee of Toronto: Orlando #01, 40x40", Edition 2 of 6, April 16, 2019

I admired Thomas Brasch's intention in his work immediately, as he described his desire to make healing, positive work out of terrorism against humanity.

Jonathon Blaustein, Photographer, Writer, Educator

The interior of a stained-glass dome, the iris of an exotic creature – Thomas Brasch's imagery is so curious, otherworldly, foreign, it's hard to believe that it is indeed based on real-life, close-to-home tragedies. Architecturally based and digitally-manipulated, his abstractions of European and North American cities, including Toronto, are meant to focus the viewer away from the why and the despair of tragedy and toward the power and beauty of resiliency and healing.

7 Unmissable Exhibits at the Contact Photography Festival 2019, Designlines Magazine

About

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