

# Colour Collection

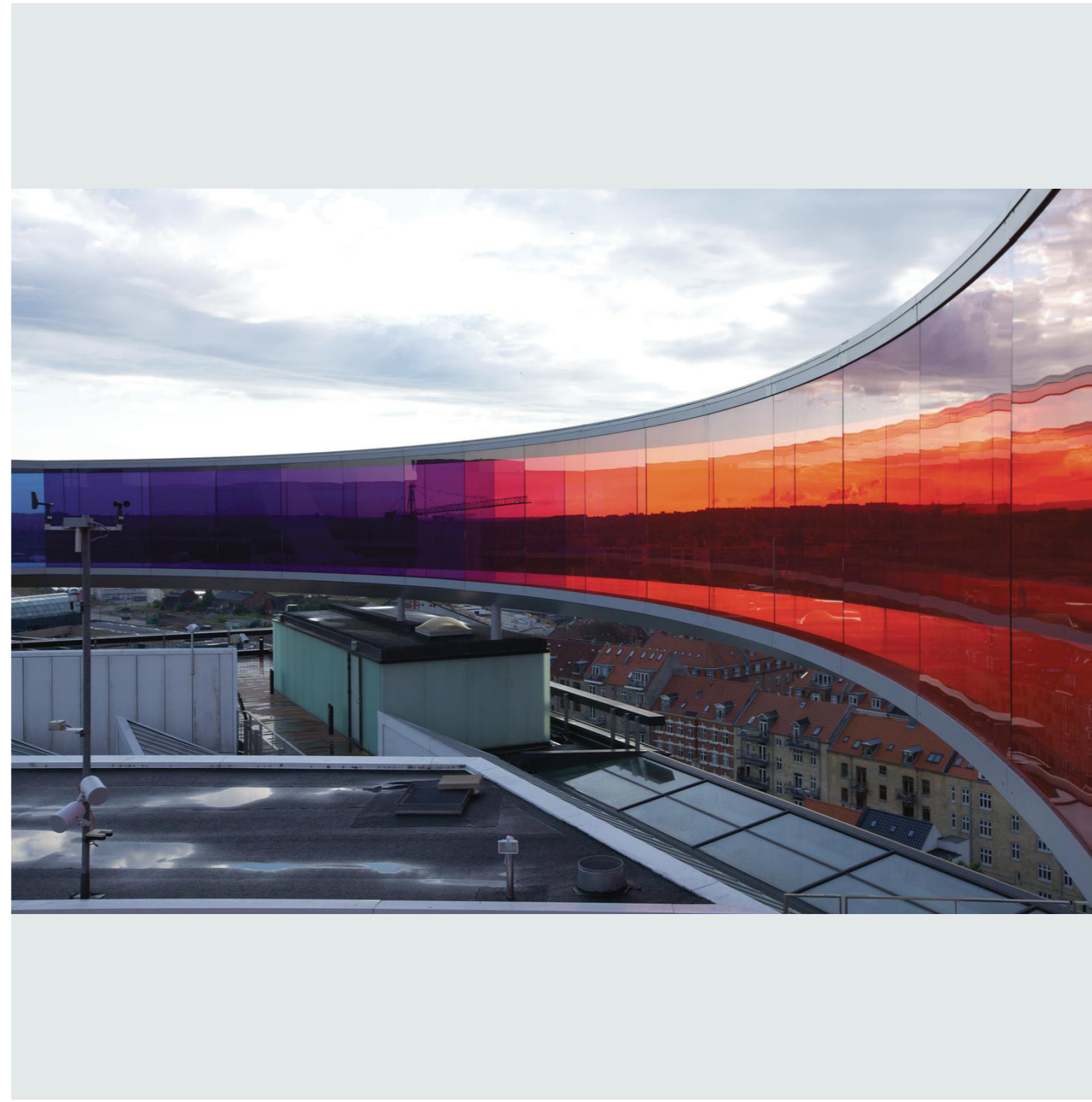
## Within the spectrum

Marianne Greated, The Glasgow School of Art

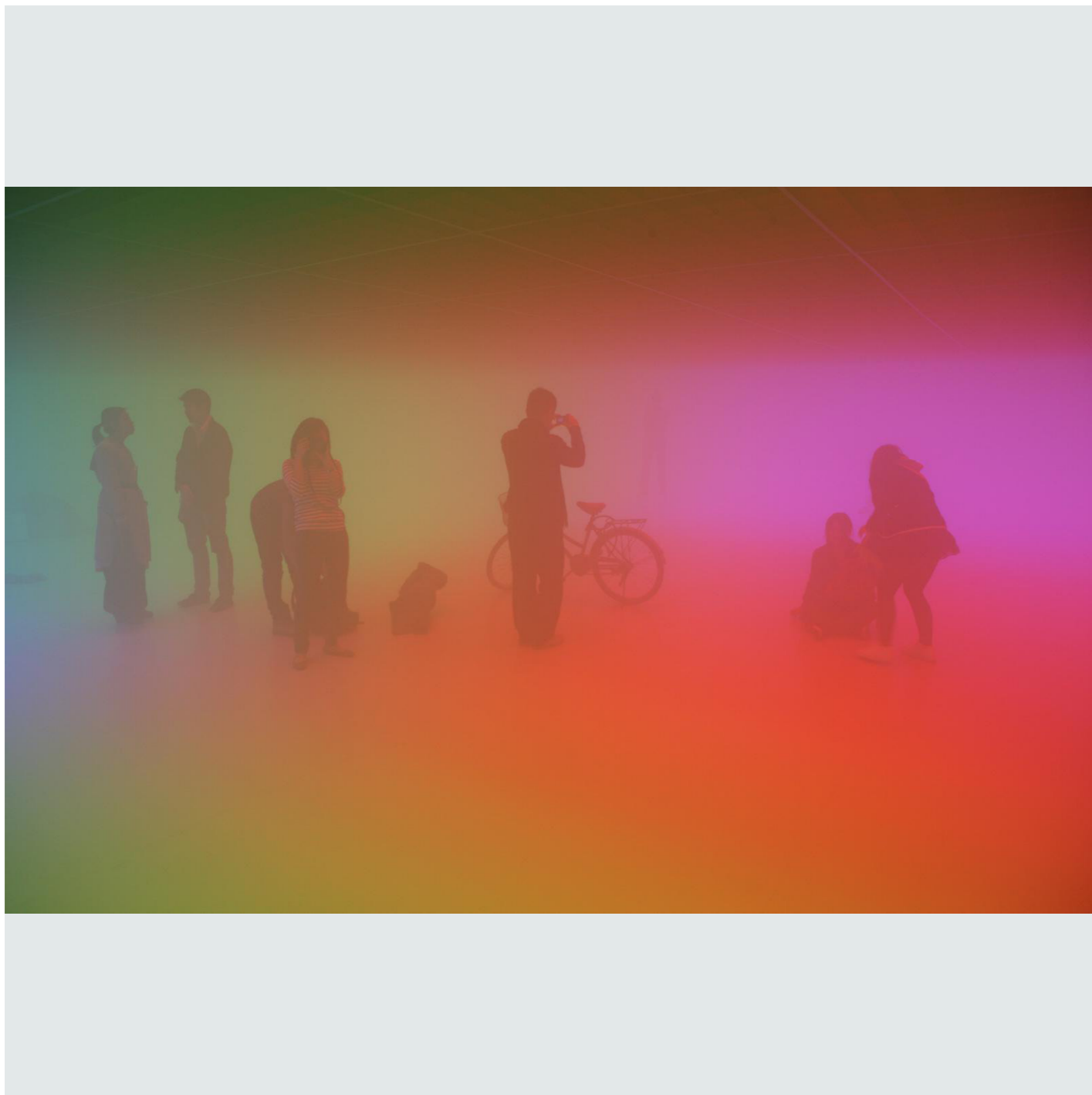
e: m.greated@gsa.ac.uk



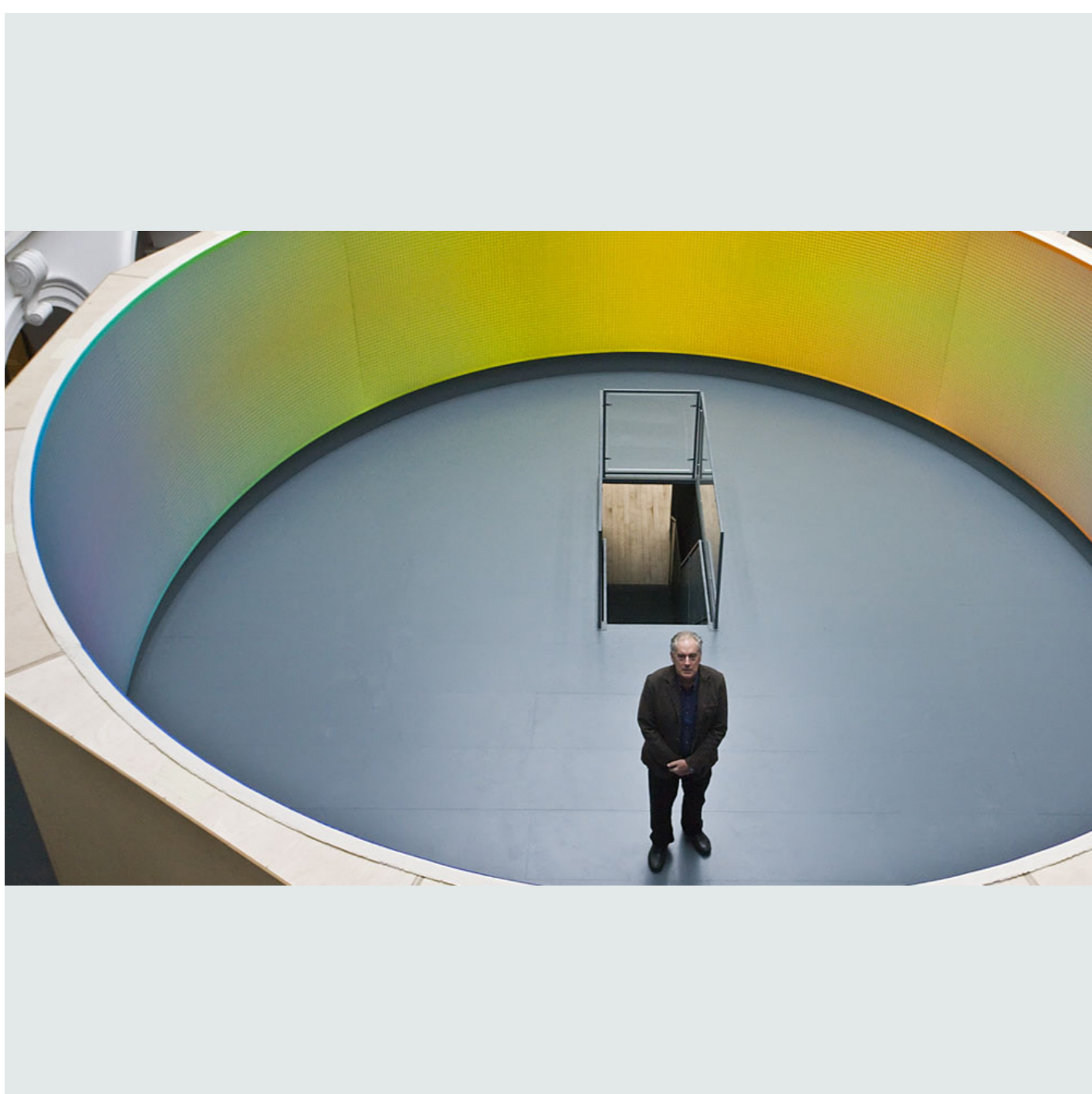
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1: Olafur Eliasson, *Round Rainbow* (2005) Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo. Photo: Jenx Ziehe

2: Olafur Eliasson, *Your rainbow panorama* (2011) ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Denmark

3: Olafur Eliasson, and Yansong Ma, *Feelings are facts* (2010) Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing

4: Sandy Wurmfeld, *E-Cyclorama* (2008), Edinburgh College of Art

Representations of the spectrum and its fundamental colour properties have fascinated artists throughout history. From early cave art such as Neolithic Indalo Man, with the rainbow above his head, to its symbolism within Christianity, the spectrum as pictured by the rainbow has represented the awe of man's relationship with god and nature.

Contemporary artists have continued using the spectrum as a way of exploring properties of light or as an environmental phenomenon. Olafur Eliasson's early works explored the fundamentals of light by splitting white light, for example in *Domestic Notion* (2005) or *Round Rainbow* (2005) or through interactions of colour transparencies and reflected light such as *Who is Afraid* (2004).

Eliasson's later works however take on more monumental and awe inspiring presence through creating immersive experiences for the viewer. In *Your Rainbow Panorama* (2011) the viewer is invited to walk along a 150-metre-long walkway [ARoS, 2015], transforming their vision by moving through the piece, thus inverting the rainbow and the viewer. In his collaborative work *Feelings Are Facts* (2010) with artist Ma Yansong an interior environment was built within the gallery. This was filled with artificial fog to reduce visibility and lit with the colours of the spectrum. The viewer stepped into the all-encompassing atmosphere, with the freedom to control their movement through the colour filled gallery, 'thus the visitors created their own spectrum by walking through the space' [Xiaoyan, 2010].

This immersion within the spectrum is the subject of Sanford Wurmfeld's panoramic works such as *E-Cyclorama*, which was shown at Edinburgh College of Art in 2008 [Wurmfeld, 2009]. The elliptical chamber, which had the intention of affecting 'human mood and visual perception' through its panoramic use of the spectrum, enabled the viewer to experience 'the psychological effects of colour' [Wurmfeld, 2011].

ARoS Website. Available at <http://en.aros.dk/visit-aros/the-collection/your-rainbow-panorama/> [Accessed September 22, 2015]

Eliasson, O., 2012. *Studio Olafur Eliasson*, Taschen GmbH.

Guo Xiaoyan, 2010. *Olafur Eliasson & Ma Yansong: Feelings are Facts*. In *Feelings are Facts*. Beijing, p. 60.

Wurmfeld, S., 2011. *Immersed In Color: Sanford Wurmfeld's E-Cyclorama*. Ewing Gallery.

Wurmfeld, S. & Macmillan, D., 2009. *E-Cyclorama*, Talbot Rice Gallery.