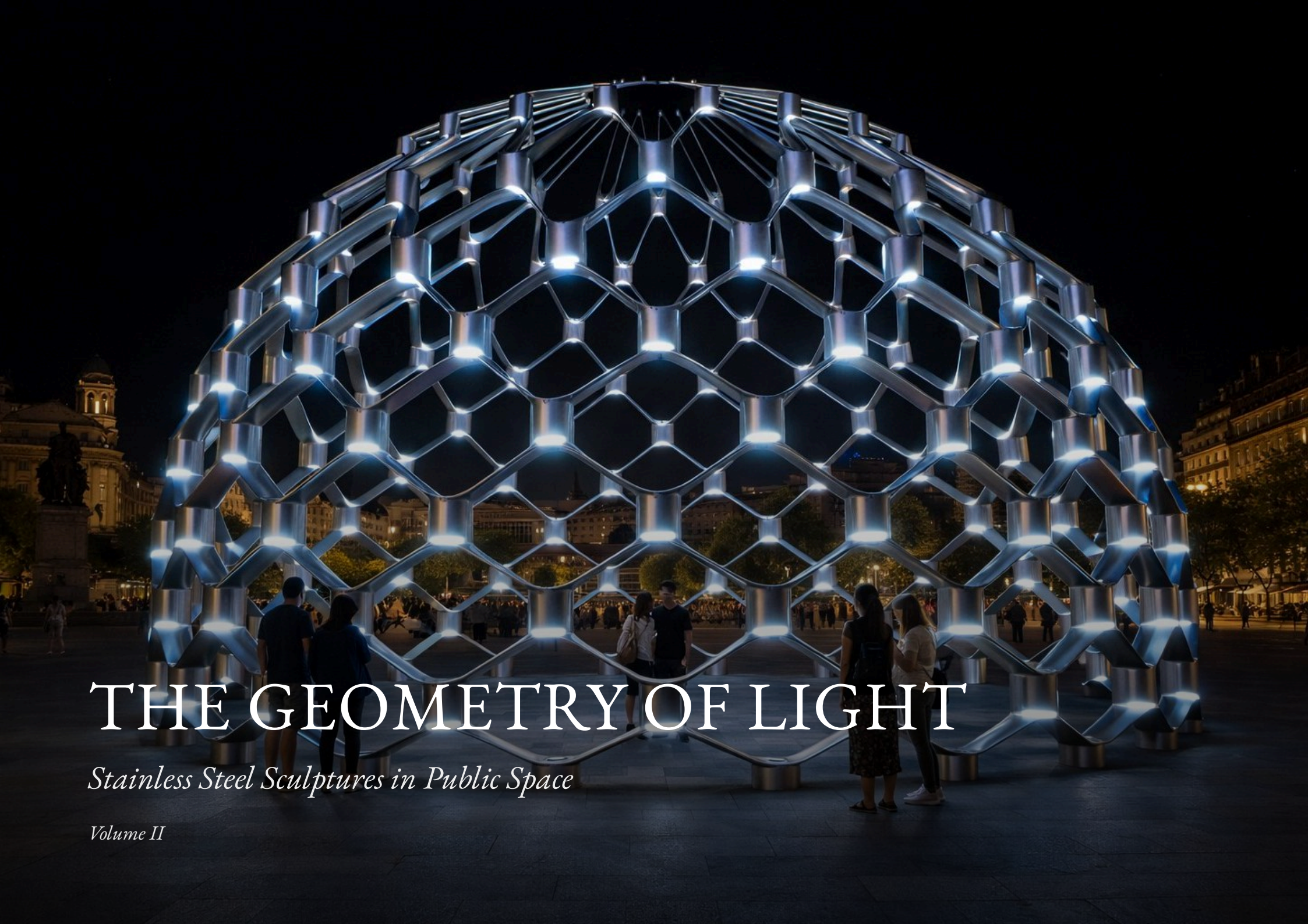


THE GEOMETRY OF LIGHT

Stainless Steel Sculptures in Public Space

Volume II

CATALOGUE ESSAY

The Geometry of Light

Stainless Steel Sculptures in Public Space

İlker Yardımcı's stainless steel sculptures bring the precision of geometry and the changeability of light together in a single body. The works in this catalogue were designed for public space; each was conceived to stand in a square, on a waterfront or in an opening of the city, in continuous dialogue with the sky and with people.

Spheres, rings, spirals, lattices, domes and ribbons curling back on themselves are the expressions, in this material, of the artist's plastic language rooted in geometric abstraction. The unbroken cycle of Poetic Loop, the net structures of the Lyrical Experiment series, the dome-like weave of Lyrical Dome or the spherical accumulation of Spherical Composition pose the same question again in different forms: how can a form become more whole by opening its boundaries? Here the void is not an area left outside the form, but an active element taking part in the making of the sculpture. Perforated surfaces, opening rings and woven nets lighten the mass and invite the eye inside the work.

Stainless steel is the natural partner of this language. Polished or brushed surfaces do not merely carry light; they reflect, refract and multiply it. The sky, the clouds, the surrounding buildings and passers-by appear on the surface of the sculpture as a constantly changing image. Lines sharpened in the cool morning light take on warm tones at sunset; at night, with artificial lighting, a new rhythm is born between gleam and shadow. The sculpture is still, but its perception never remains fixed.

Facing this changeability stands the permanence of the material. Stainless steel resists rain, wind, sun and time; the gleam of its surface points not to ageing but to endurance. In Yardımcı's sculptures these two qualities complete each other: while the work reflects what is fleeting, it itself represents what endures. The momentary play of light and the material's promise of continuity become a proposition about the very essence of public sculpture.

The public scale turns this relationship into an experience of encounter. Viewers walk around the sculpture, look through it, search for their own reflection on its surface. With every step surfaces overlap, openings narrow or widen; the form is rebuilt. The sculpture thus ceases to be an object and becomes a focal point that speaks with the city, the sky and people.

The Geometry of Light carries the artist's geometric narratives into the common ground of the city. In this field where rational structure meets poetic sensibility, stainless steel becomes a means of turning light into form and form into memory. Beyond their visible mass, these sculptures propose to be part of every reflected image, every passing day and every changing light.



036

Untitled

Stainless steel



037

Untitled

Stainless steel



038

Untitled

Stainless steel



039

Untitled

Stainless steel



040

Untitled

Stainless steel



041

Untitled

Stainless steel



042

Untitled

Stainless steel



043

Untitled

Painted steel



044

Untitled

Stainless steel



045

Untitled

Stainless steel



046

Untitled

Painted steel



047

Untitled

Stainless steel



048

Untitled

Stainless steel



049

Observer

Stainless steel



050

Untitled

Stainless steel



051



Spherical Composition

Painted steel



052

Untitled

Stainless steel



053

Poetic Moment

Stainless steel



054

Untitled

Stainless steel



055

Untitled

Stainless steel



056

Sunrise in the East

Painted steel



057

Untitled

Stainless steel



058

Untitled

Stainless steel



059

Untitled

Stainless steel



060

Poetic Composition

Stainless steel



061

Untitled

Stainless steel



062

Untitled

Stainless steel





Lyrical Experiment

Stainless steel



064

Untitled

Stainless steel



065

Untitled

Stainless steel

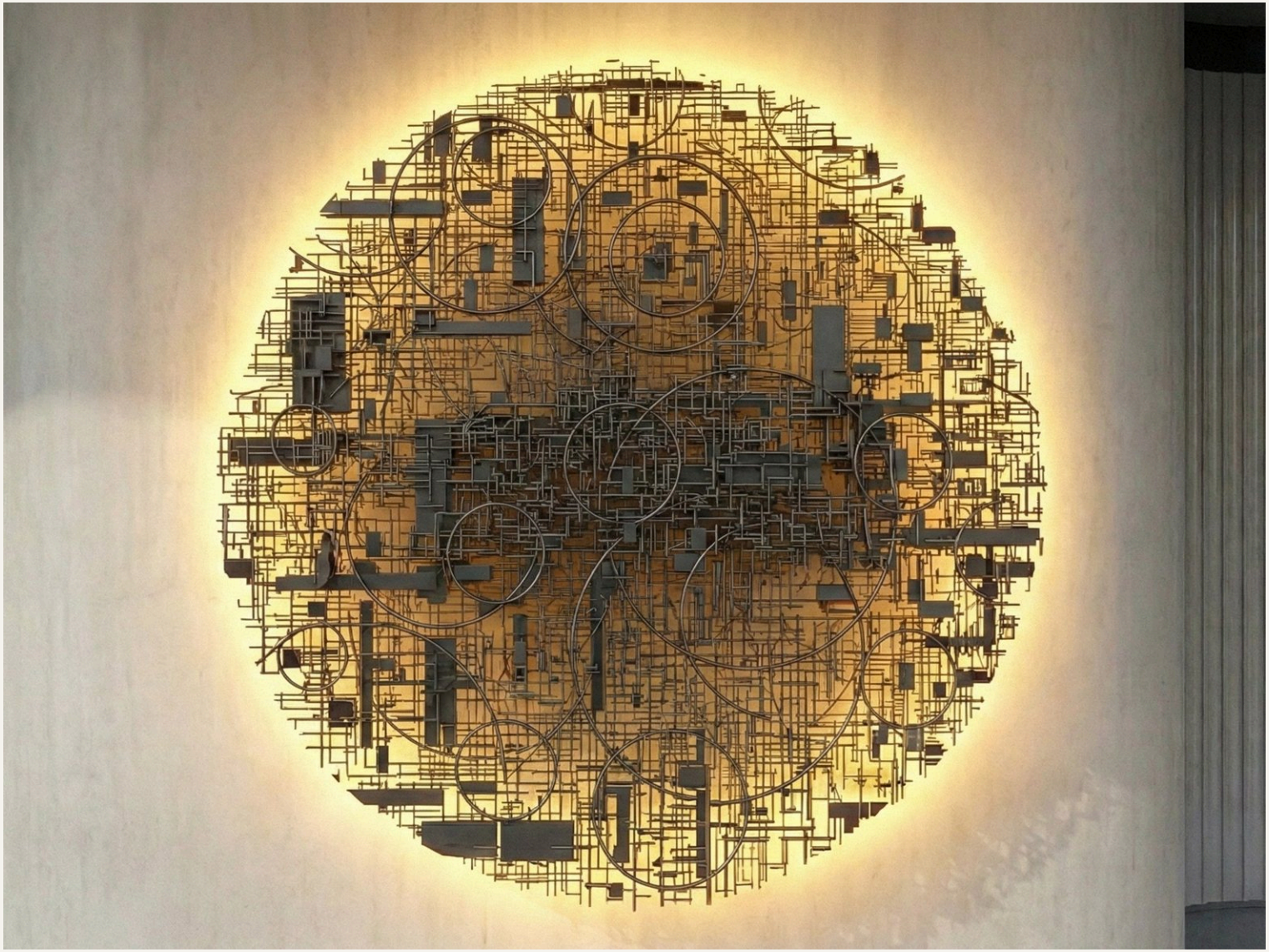


066



Untitled

Stainless steel



067

Untitled

Stainless steel



068

Untitled

Stainless steel



069

Untitled

Stainless steel



070

Untitled

Stainless steel

THE ARTIST

Prof. Dr. İlker Yardımcı

Prof. Dr. İlker Yardımcı is a sculptor, designer and academic whose practice centres on sculpture for public space. A graduate of the Department of Sculpture at Dokuz Eylül University's Faculty of Fine Arts, he completed his master's degree (2007) and his Proficiency in Art (2011) at the same university's Institute of Fine Arts. He is a professor in the Department of Sculpture at Düzce University's Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, where he teaches sculpture in the urban environment, digital sculpture and computer-aided sculpture design.

"Confusion of Prism", selected for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and "Lyrical Message", one of 15 international sculptures selected for the Olympic Park of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, are among the works that define the artist's position in international public art. His works stand in squares, parks and collections in Türkiye, China, the USA, Ukraine, Argentina, Taiwan, Luxembourg and the Czech Republic. Exhibitions include the International Beijing Art Biennale (2012, 2017), the Lih Pao Biennial (Taiwan, 2014) and the Esch-sur-Alzette European Capital of Culture Sculpture Exhibition (Luxembourg, 2022). In 2024 he received the Excellent Award at the Wuhu Sculpture Thematic Exhibition "Carving the Renowned City of Jiangdong · Shaping Wuhu of the Era", organised by the China Sculpture Institute and the Wuhu Municipal People's Government.

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Images are digital visualisations of public-space proposals.

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