

# Tess Jaray

## Frieze Masters 2024



Ben Hunter | Offer Waterman



For the past 60 years, Tess Jaray has been searching for pattern to make sense of the world. A painter, writer, teacher and designer of public space, she has been guided by a consistent, and unrelenting, questioning of the nature of things: ‘How do you evoke the underlying patterns of life in paintings, without resorting to biological clichés?’ ‘Ambiguity and paradox are constants, but how to give this a sense?’

The answer may be in the unique combination of form, colour, composition, and scale, which are often repeated over a series of canvases developed over months or even years. Infinity - the sense that something can go on and on forever - is not the goal. Change is. Aliveness is. Vitality is. The confirmation that with trial and error, a slight tweak here and an adjustment there, she - and you - might see something anew.

These paintings from 1979 to 1987, first shown in a solo exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery in 1988, are among the most important in Jaray’s expansive and singular body of work. They are lessons in sameness and difference that ask you to pay attention to subtleties. Focus on one painting and notice a colour fade, a form reduce in size, a shape shift. Zooming out to view many paintings at once, my eyes become untrustworthy as the optical effects make me blink, step closer, move away and blink again.

Jaray is attentive to landscape and architecture. Her searching for that which is most essential took her around the world, from the landscape of Australia to the mosques of Syria. The titles of these works are mostly based on the physical world of architecture - *Minaret*, *Thirty-One Steps*, *Green Pyramid* - or on the intangible world of rhythms and time - *Diversion*, *Still Point*, *Time After*. The two are inextricably connected in Jaray’s practice, with the concrete, real world of things serving as a mirror to those equally real but ineffable underlying patterns. What is has always been. Look close. You might be transported somewhere else.

-Wells Fray-Smith





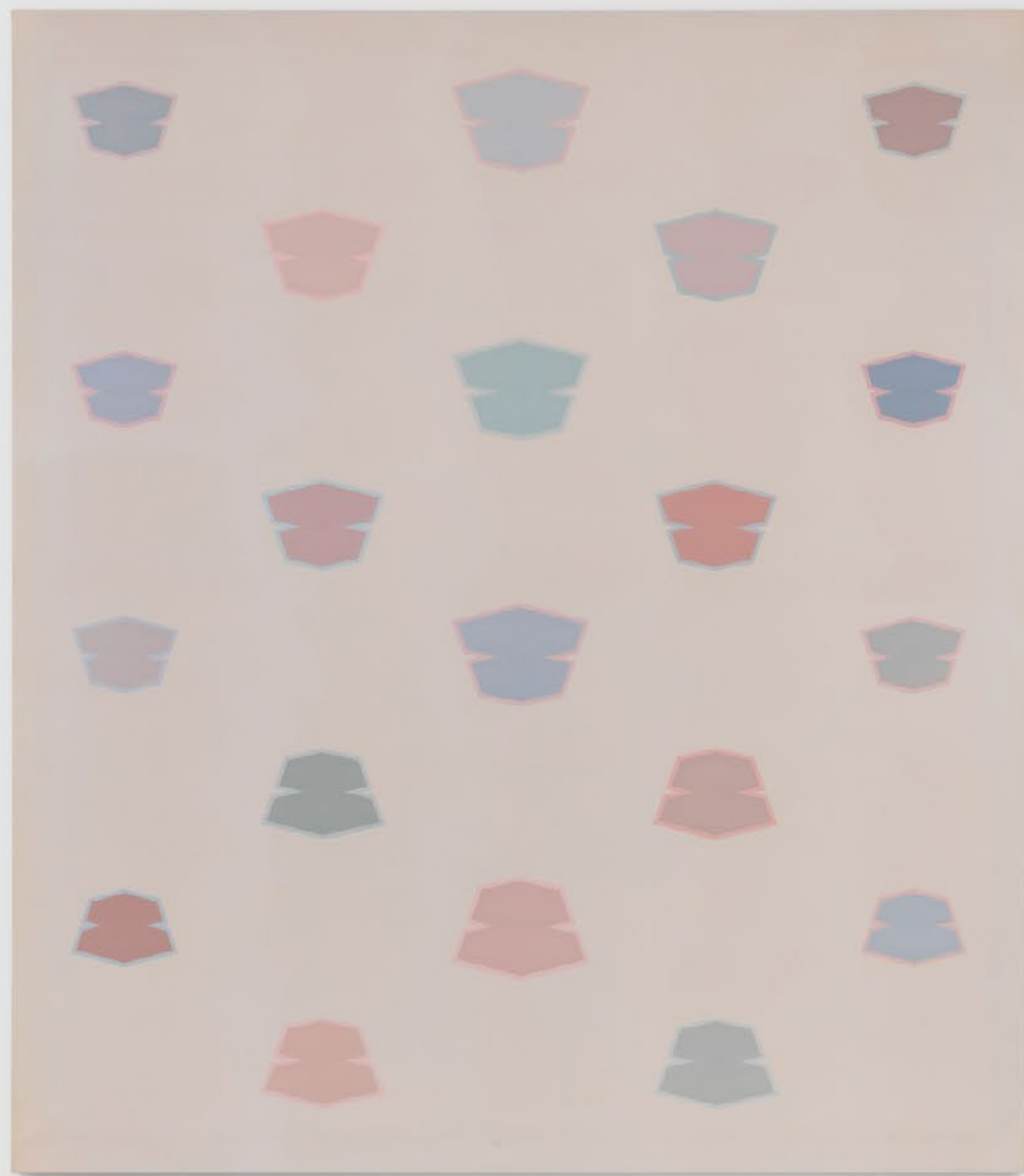


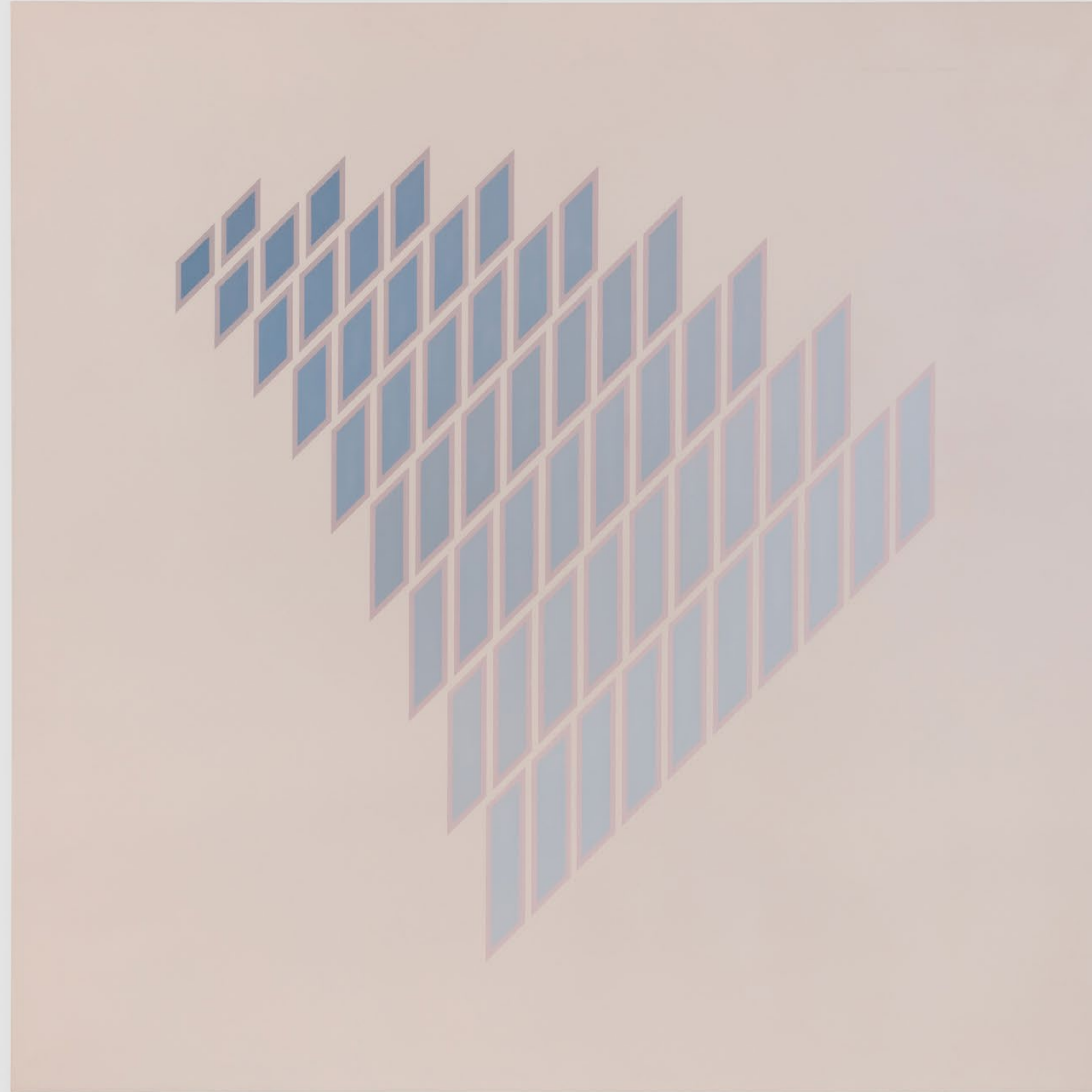
Tess Jaray  
*Alhambra*, 1979  
acrylic on canvas  
82 1/4 x 66 1/8 in. | 209 x 168 cm

Price: £60,000 (+VAT)









Tess Jaray  
*Time After*, 1981  
acrylic on canvas  
83 7/8 x 84 1/4 in. | 213 x 214 cm

Price: £65,000 (+VAT)

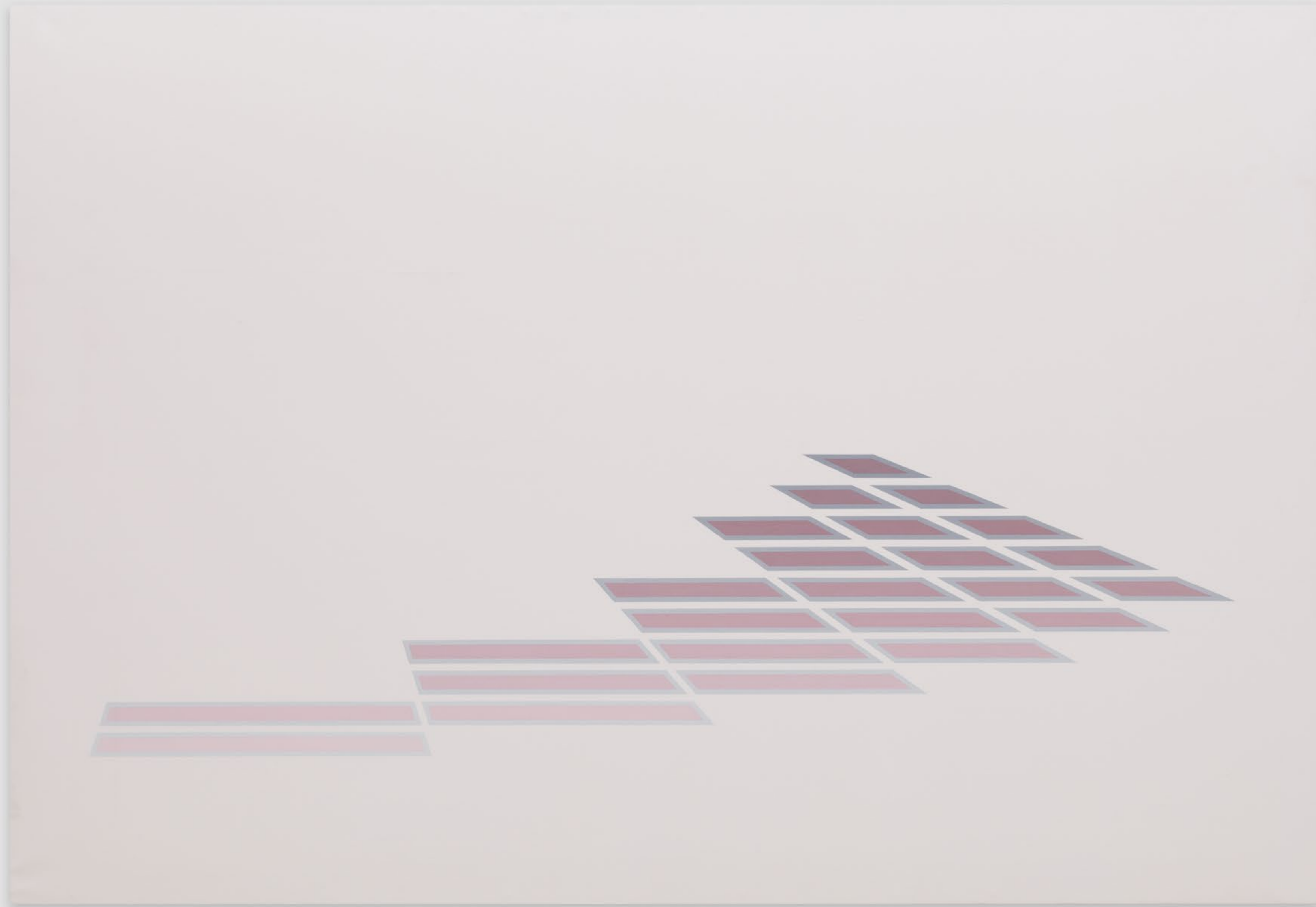








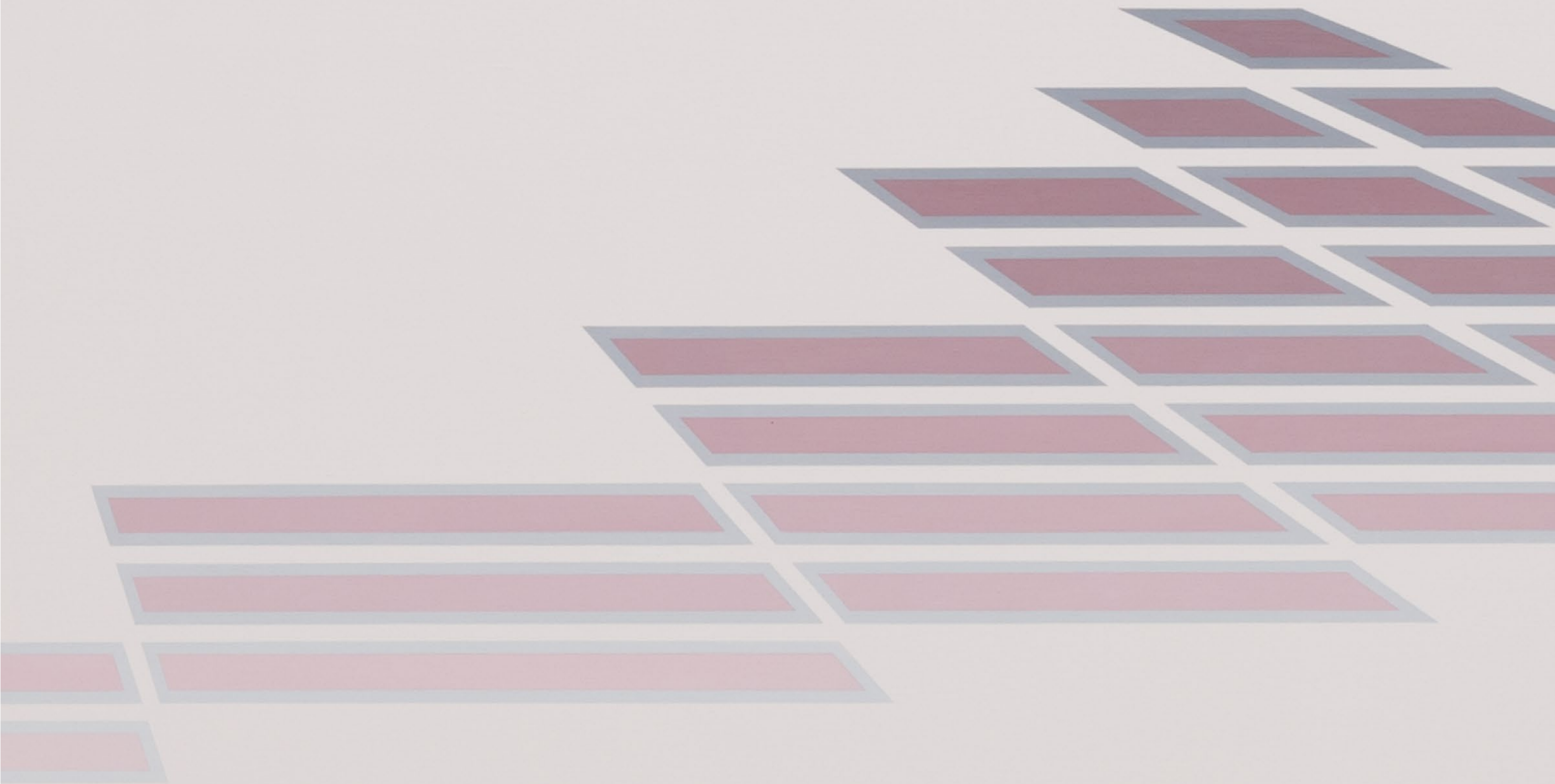




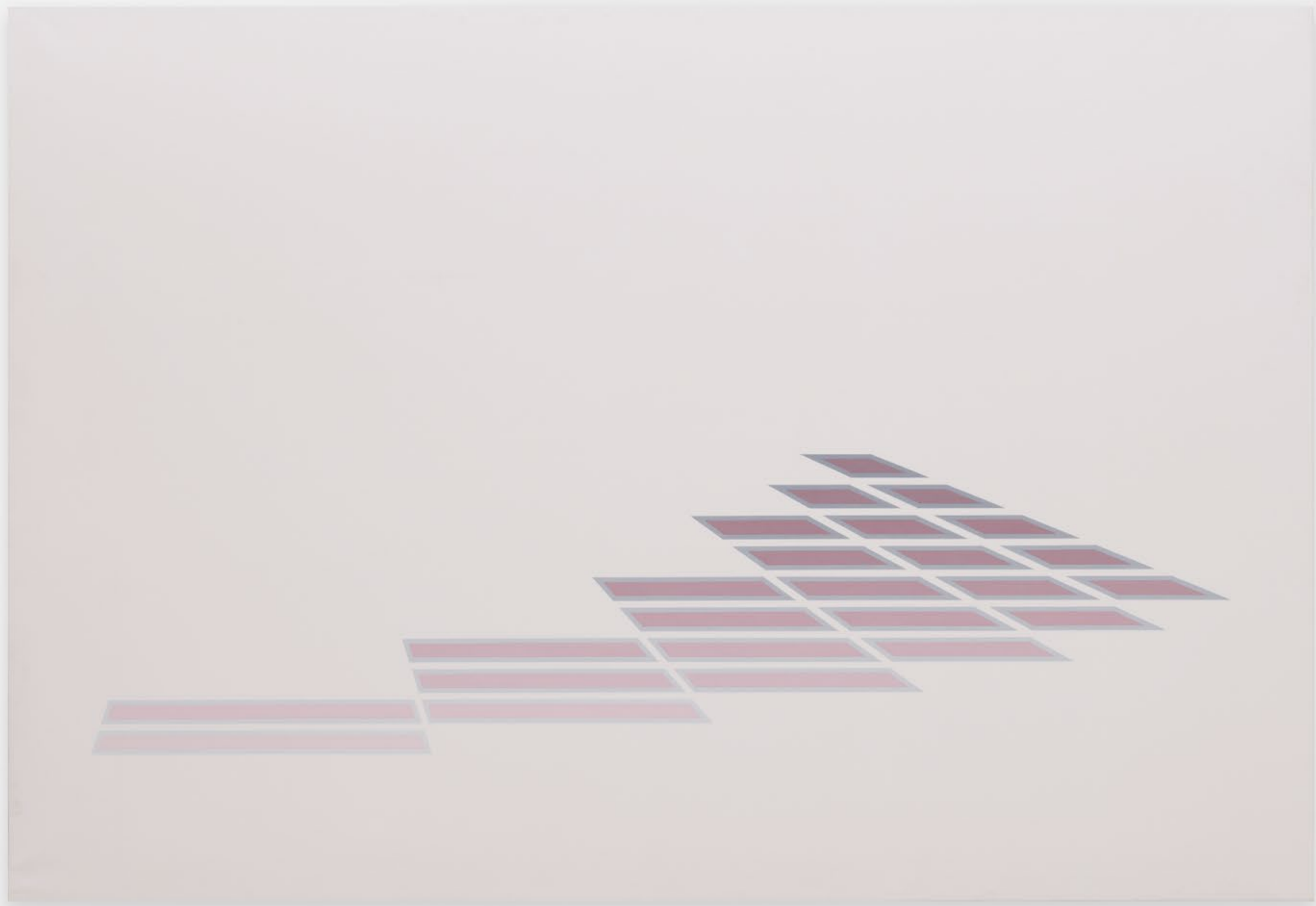
Tess Jaray  
*Still Point*, 1982  
acrylic on canvas  
66 1/8 x 96 in. | 168 x 244 cm

Price: £65,000 (+VAT)

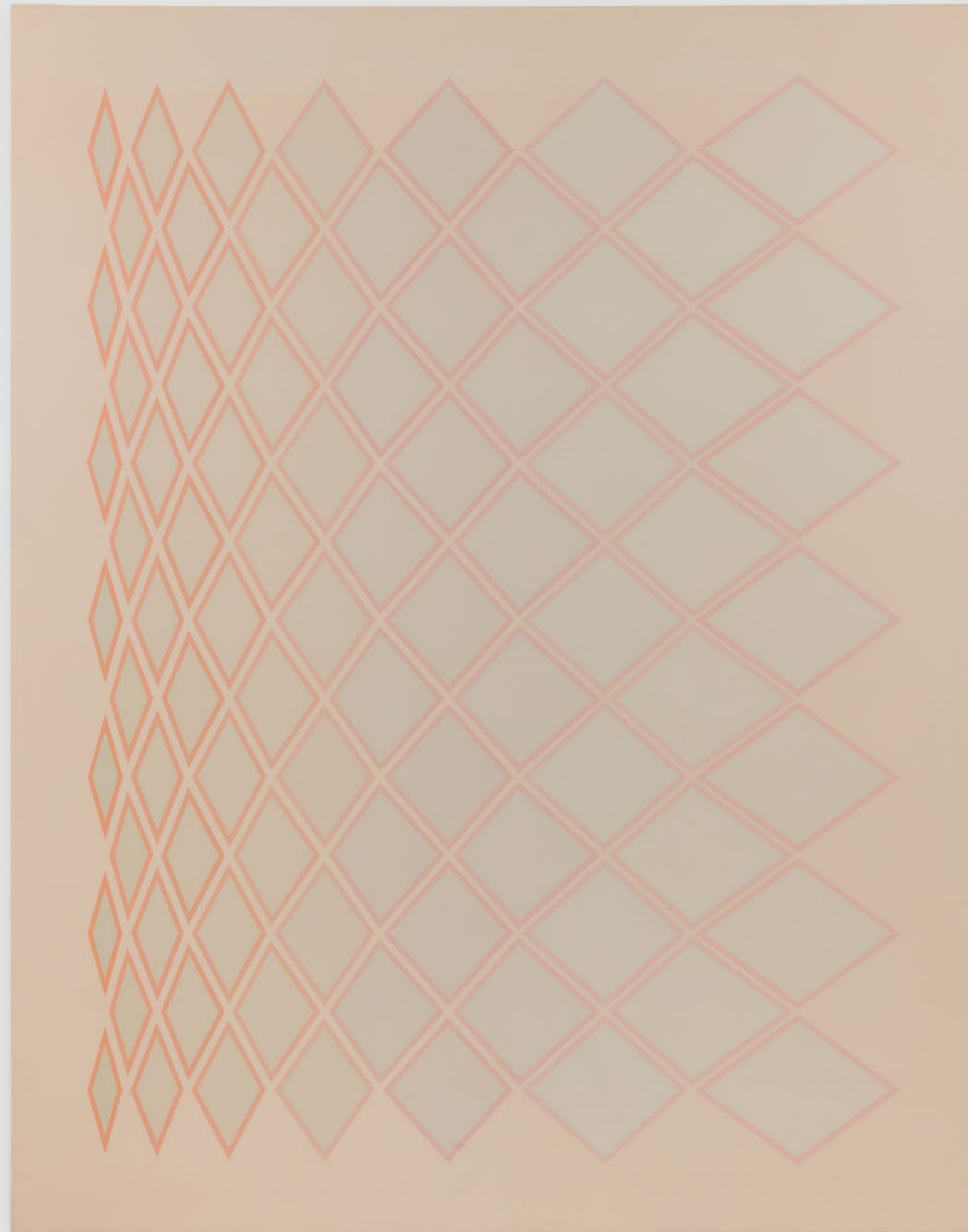












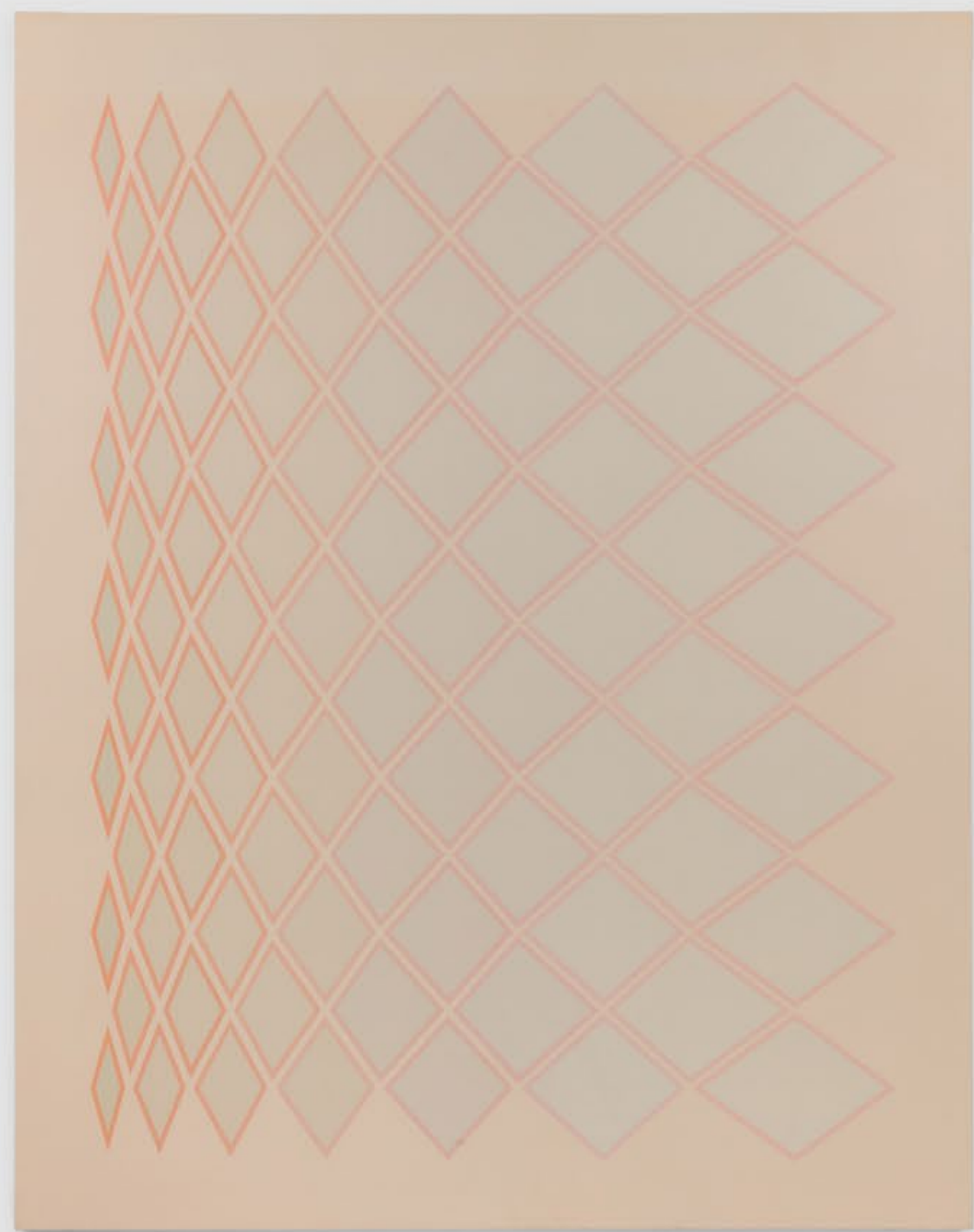
Tess Jaray  
*Minaret (All Green)*, 1985  
acrylic on canvas  
70 7/8 x 56 1/4 in. | 180 x 143 cm

Price: £55,000 (+VAT)

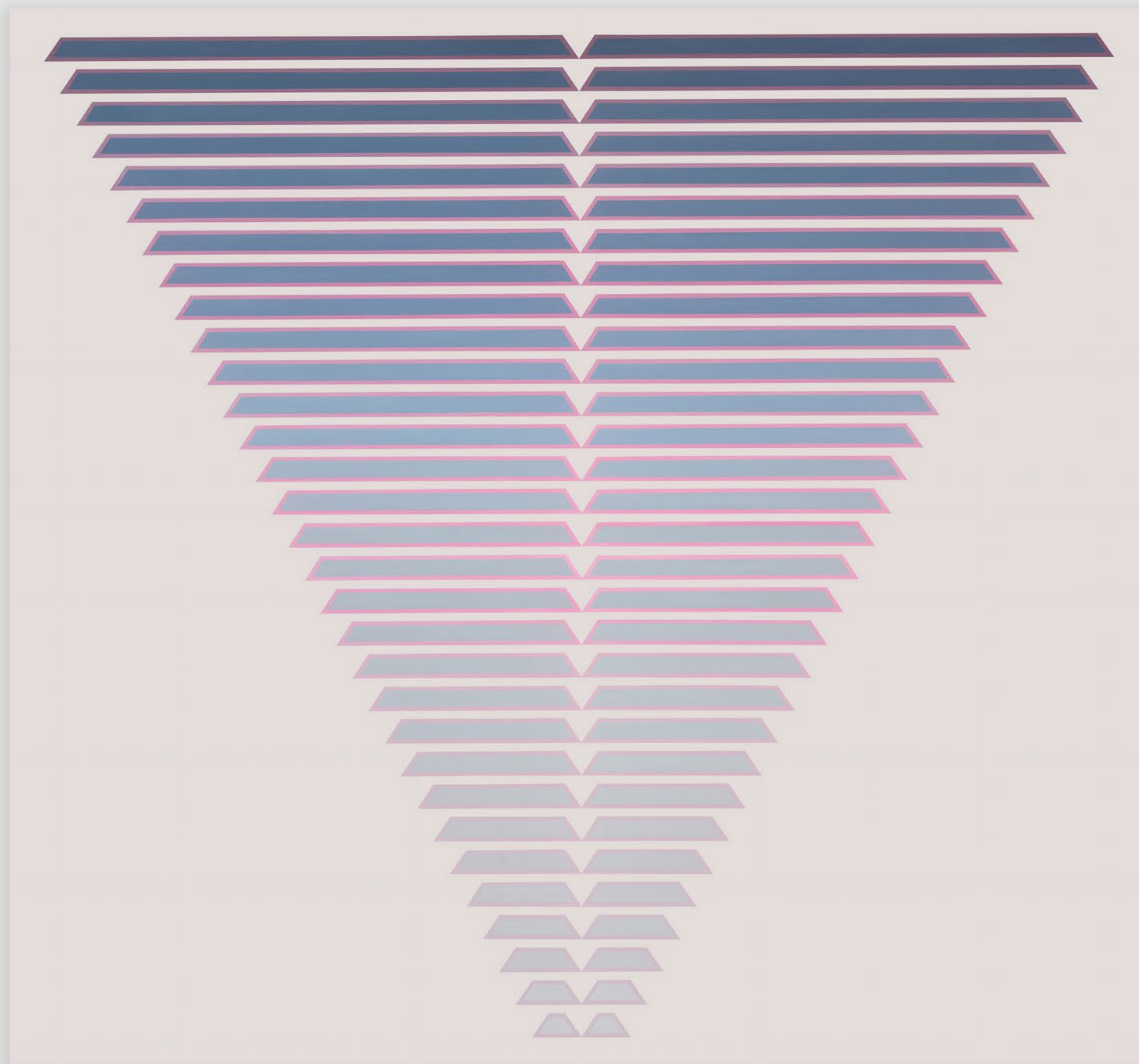








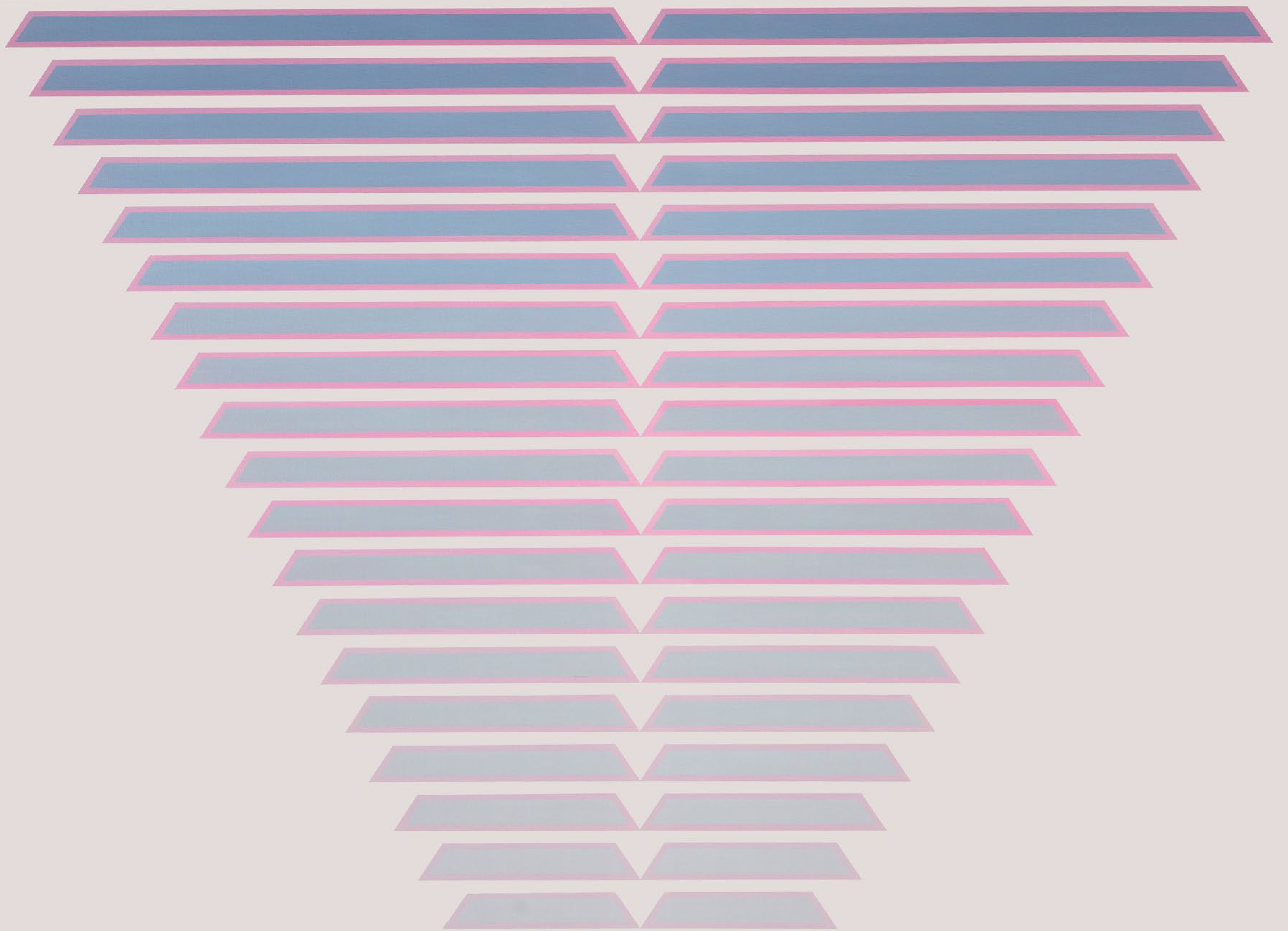




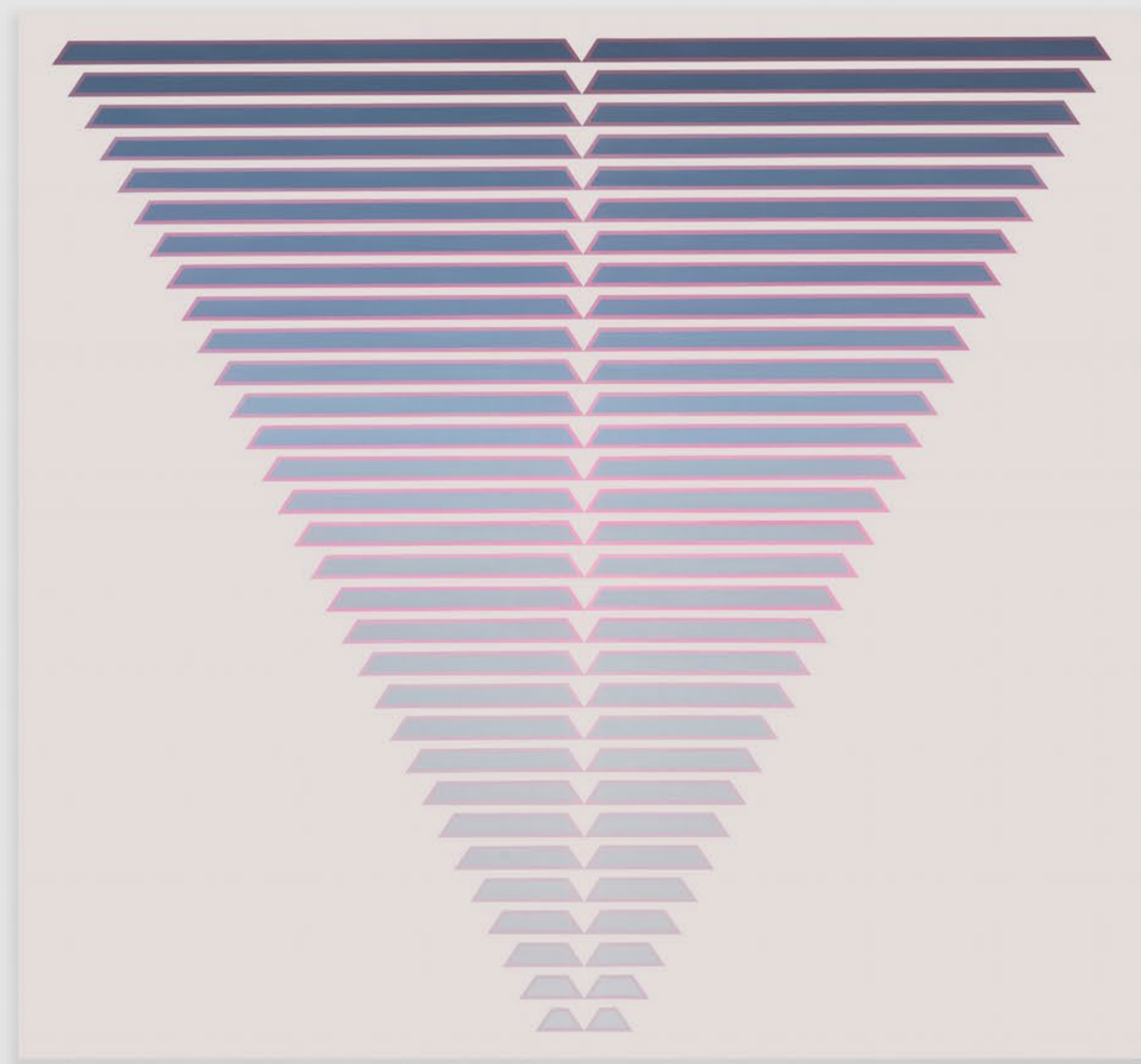
Tess Jaray  
*Thirty One Steps*, 1985-86  
acrylic on canvas  
70 7/8 x 66 7/8 in. | 180 x 170 cm

Price: £60,000 (+VAT)

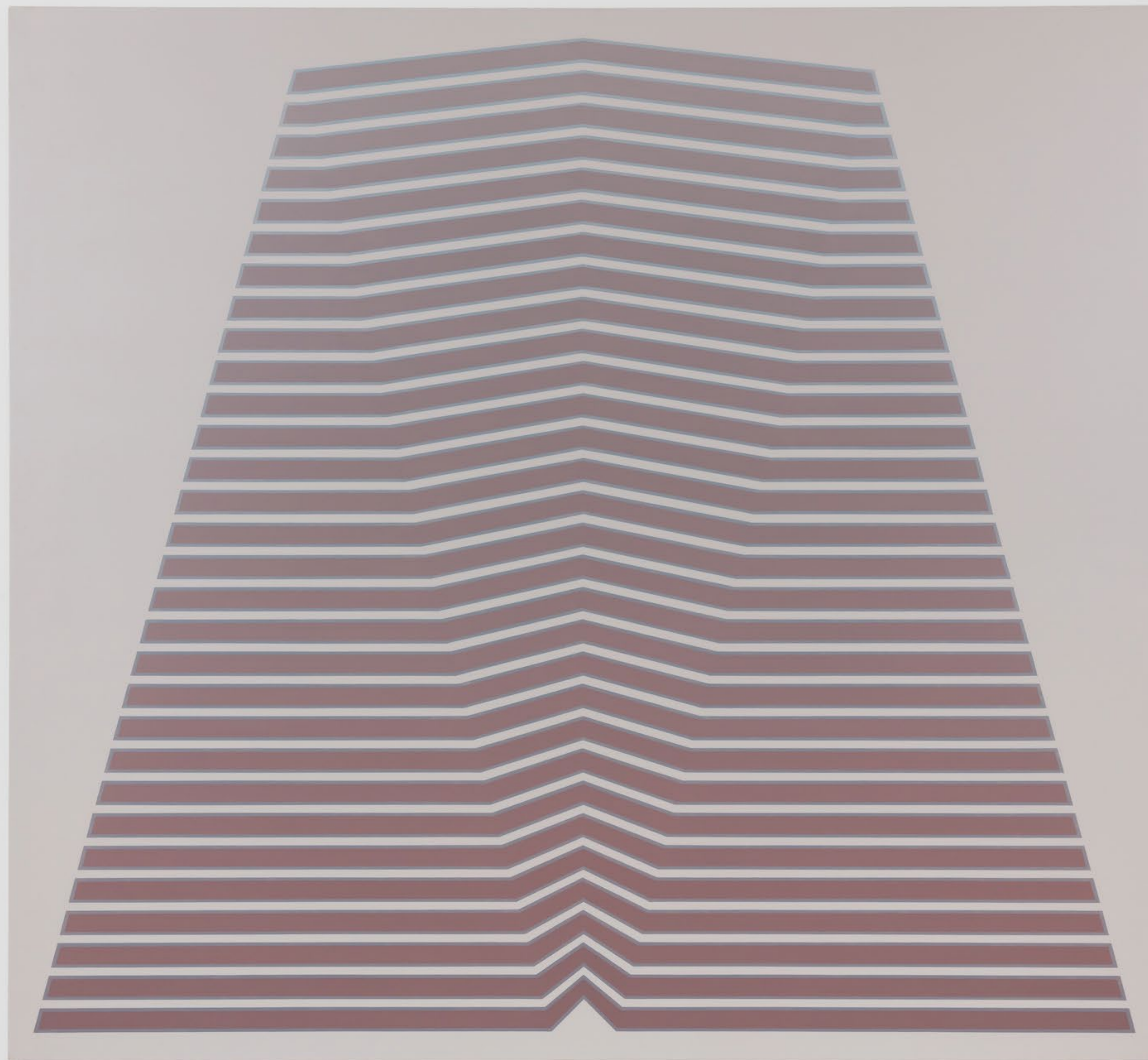








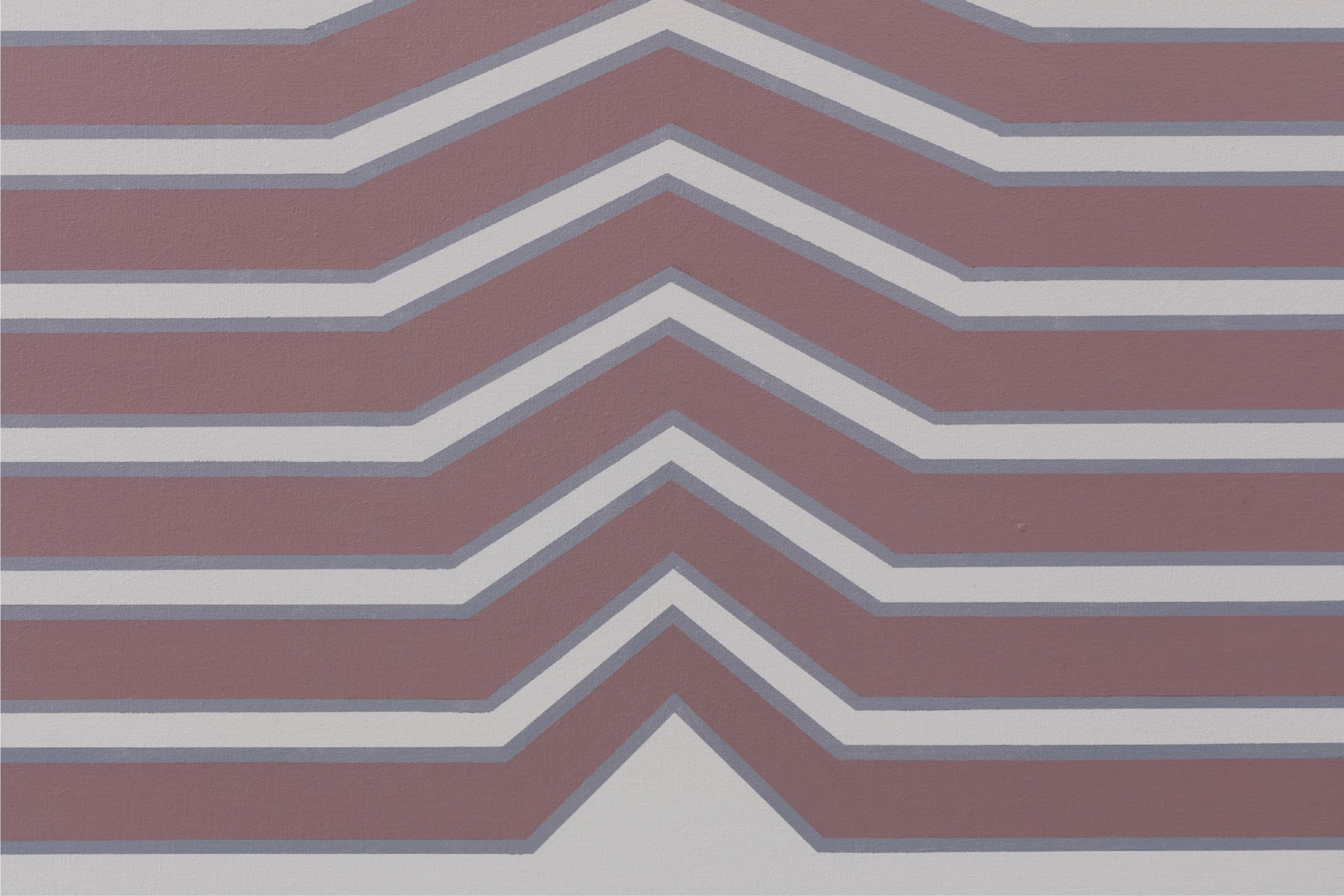




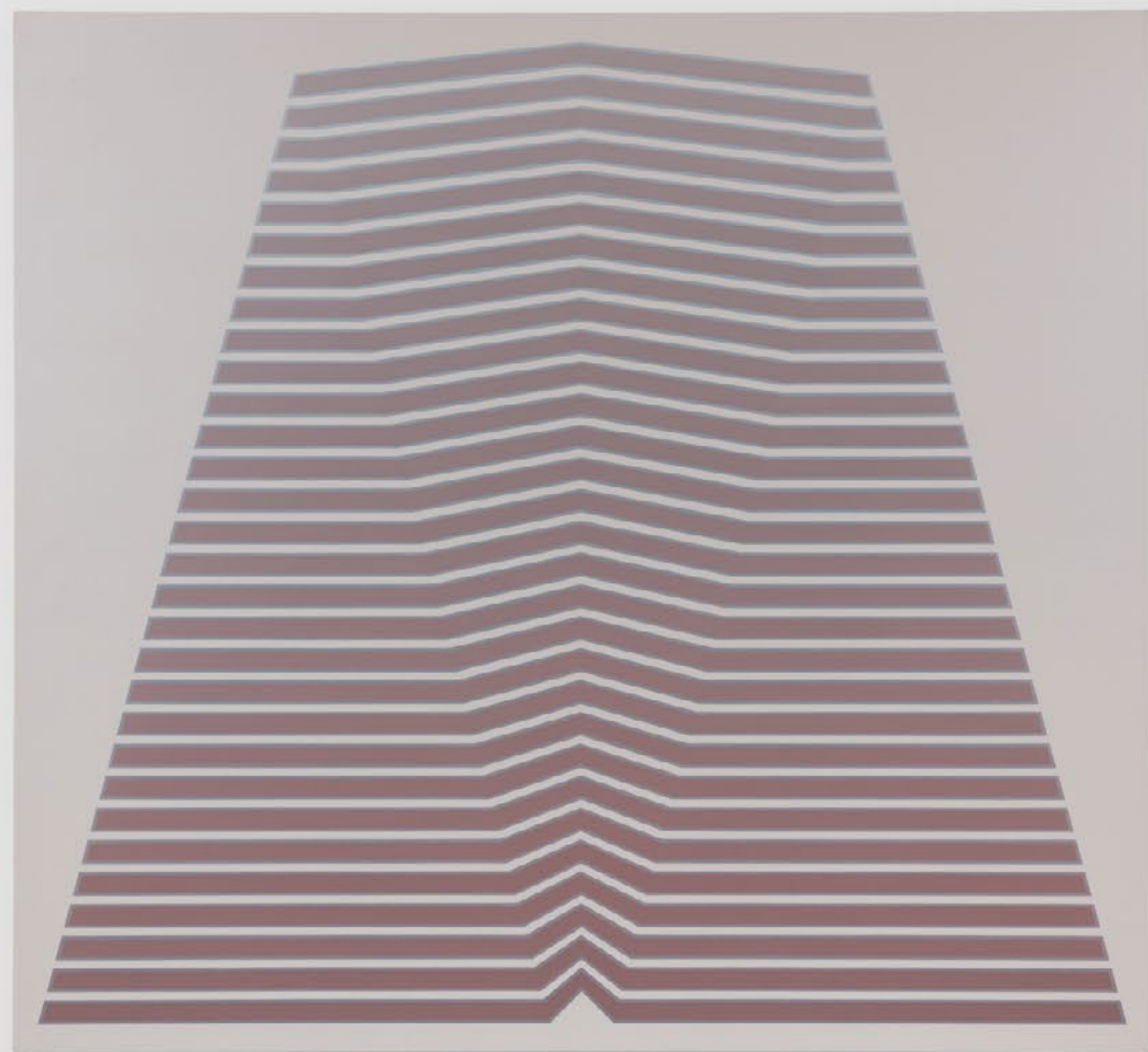
Tess Jaray  
*Recollection III*, 1986  
acrylic on canvas  
65 1/8 x 71 1/8 in. | 165.5 x 180.6 cm

Price: £60,000 (+VAT)

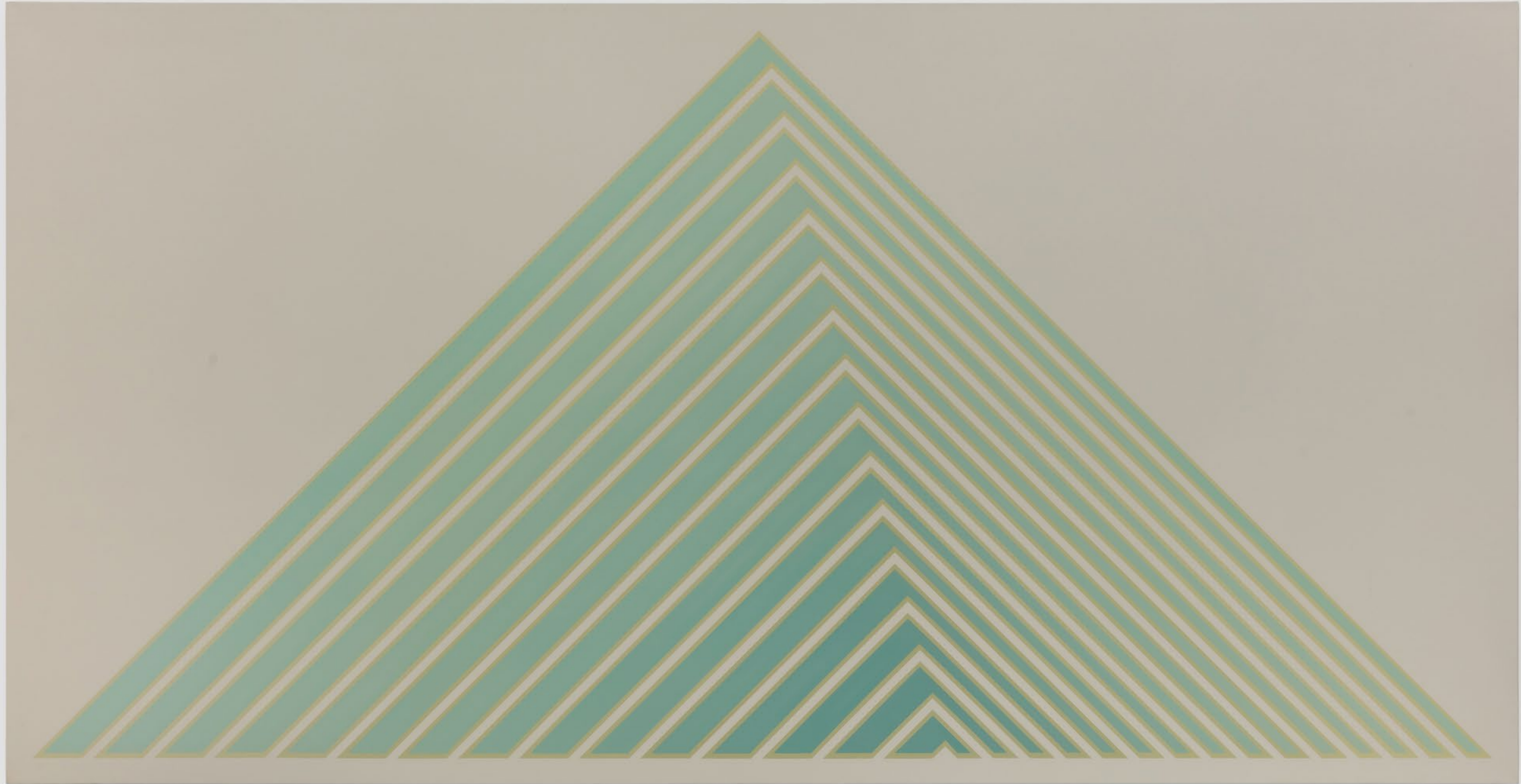












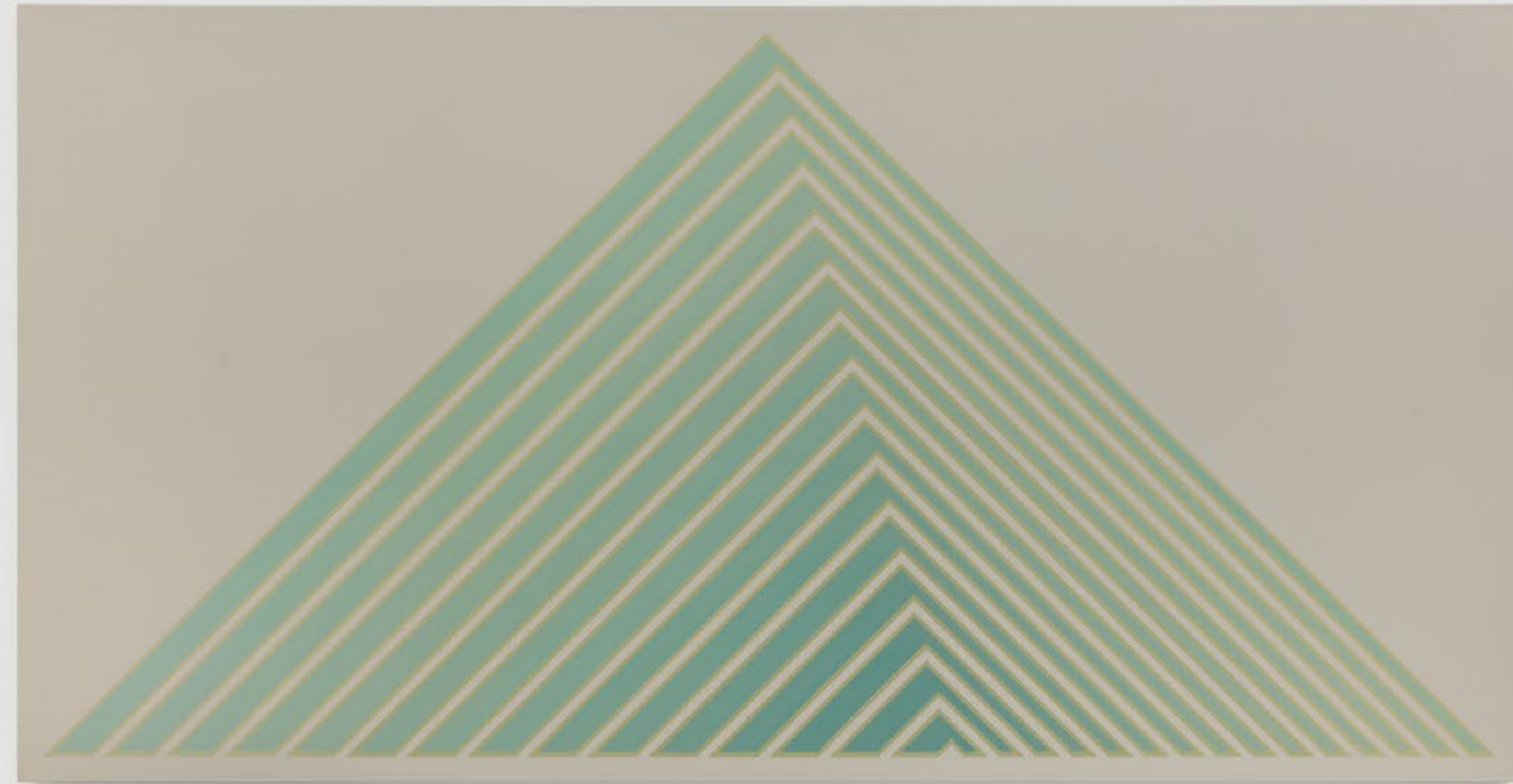
Tess Jaray  
*Green Pyramid*, 1987  
acrylic on canvas  
46 7/8 x 88 5/8 in. | 119 x 225 cm

Price: £65,000 (+VAT)

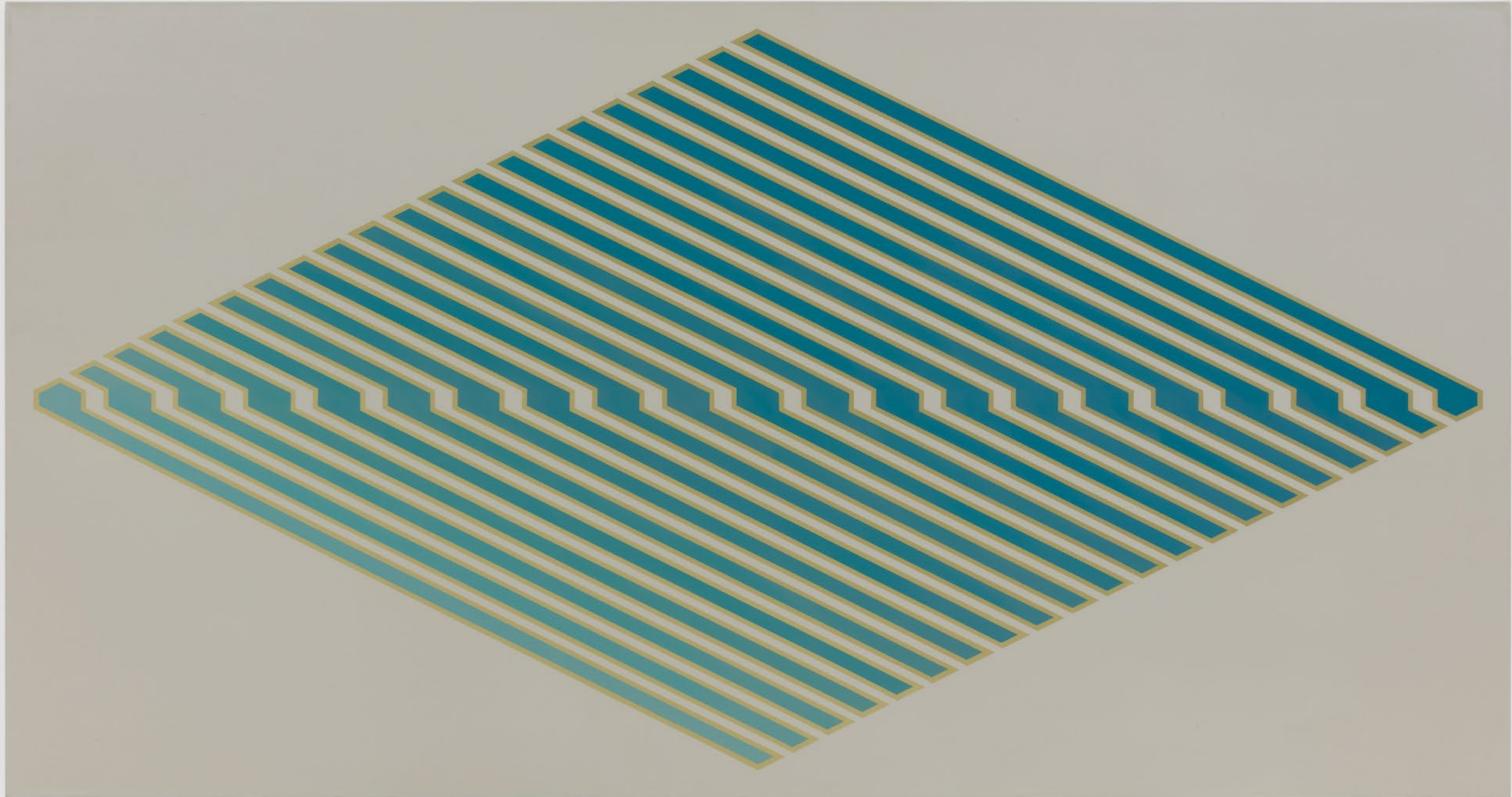








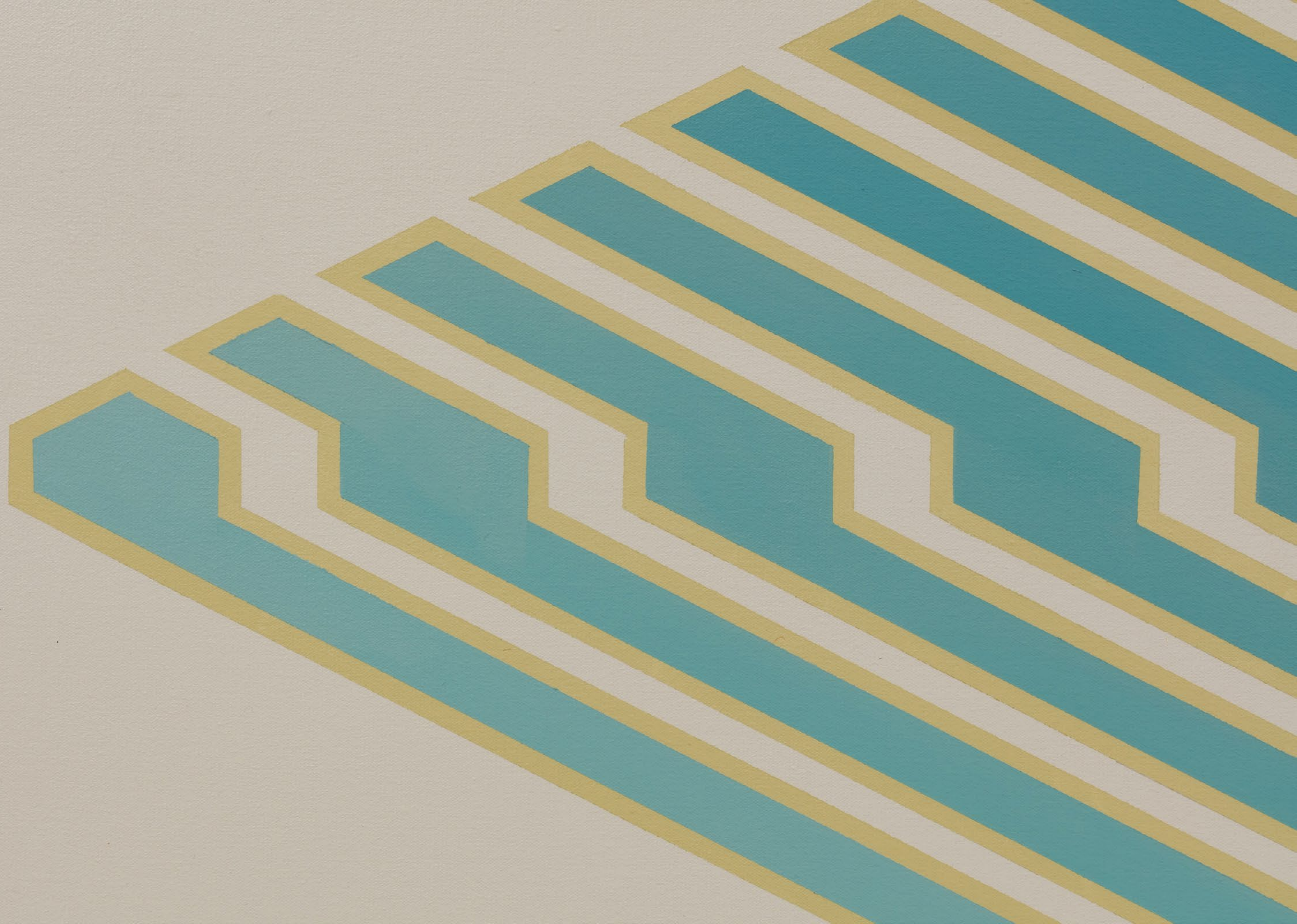




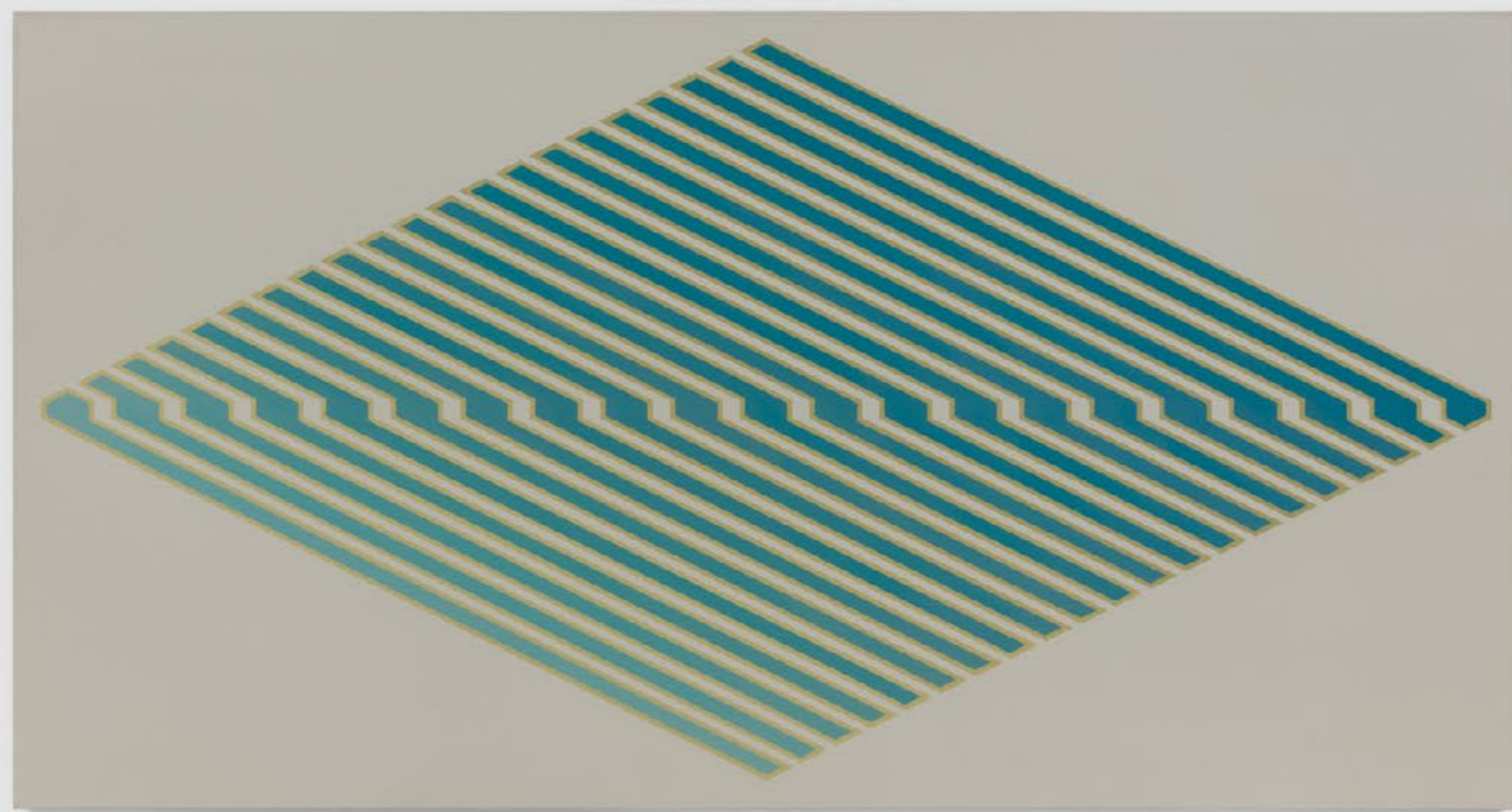
Tess Jaray  
*Diversion*, 1987  
acrylic on canvas  
46 1/2 x 86 5/8 in. | 118 x 220 cm

Price: £65,000 (+VAT)











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