



STEVEN TONKIN

ARTWORKS & BOOKWORKS

MAY 8 - 30, 2026

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wed - sat 12 - 5pm

In my artwork I draw a creative lineage from the radical experiments with the book form that characterised early 20th century Modernism, specifically Constructivism and Bauhaus graphic design and typography. As a curator and writer, I also have a specific interest in Conceptual art of the 1960s and Australian Post-Object practice in the 1970s as theoretical reference points within global conceptualism.

Artist's books are a key focus of my creative practice, while more broadly I find inspiration in the intersections of geometric abstraction with text, graphics, posters and signage. I try to explore tensions between the textual and pictorial, conceptual and material, functional and sculptural, so as to address both art historical and current perspectives.

Last year I undertook a residency in Berlin, which gave me the opportunity to visit the Bauhaus, Masters' Houses and new Museum in Dessau. This experience has provided the impetus for my recent approach, in which I endeavour to adapt some of the basic principles from Kandinsky's 'Point and Line to Plane' (1926) into my own work.

In my 'multiple' bookworks there is an implicit duality that binds the mechanical with the handmade. I start by making a hand-painted template, which is then scanned, photocopied or commercially printed, with each copy then finally hand-cut and manually folded to complete the edition. Critical to my thinking are the ideals and ethics of 'democratic multiple' artists' books, which I advocate for their ongoing relevance in contemporary practice.

Steven Tonkin 2026



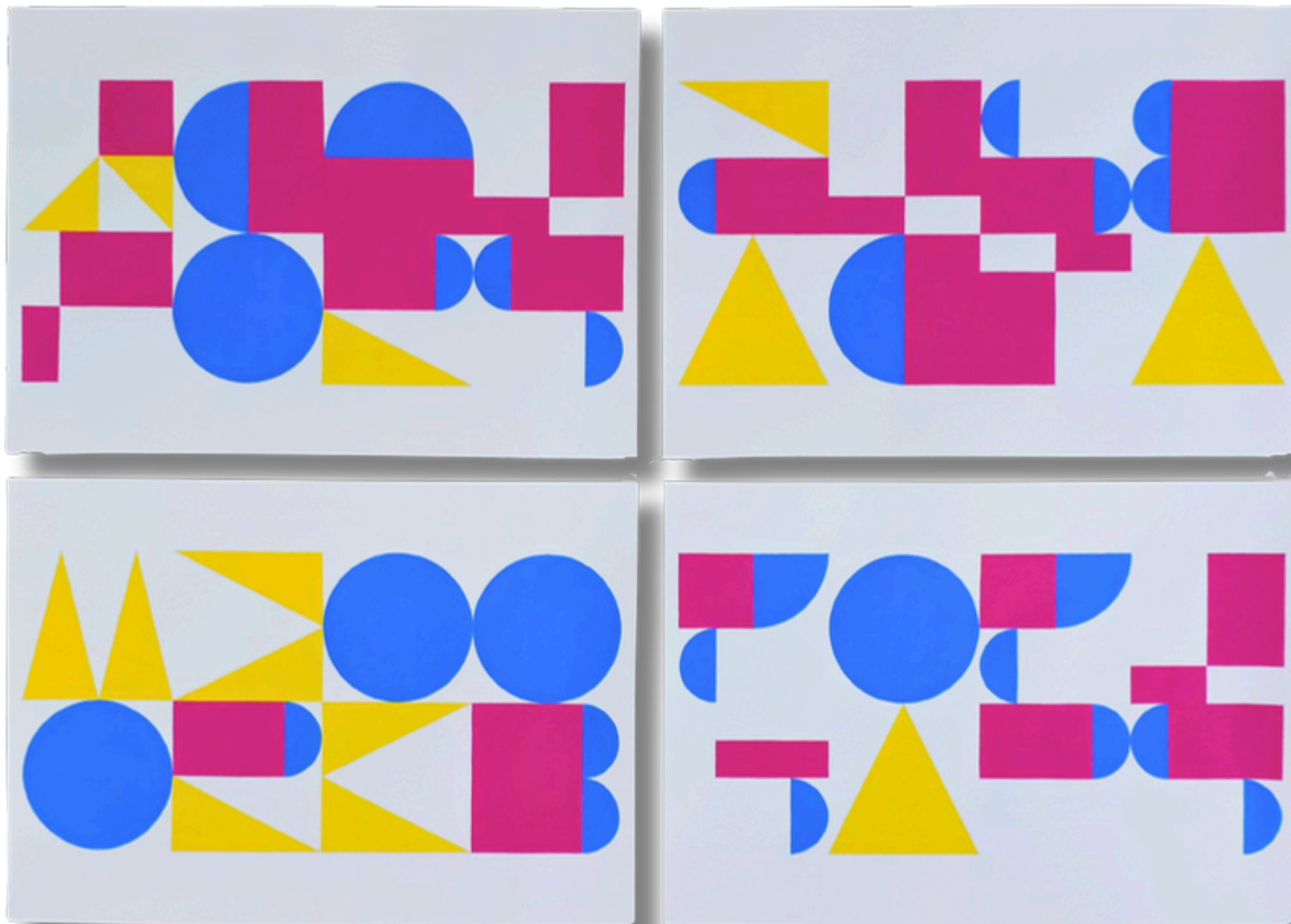
Artworks and Bookworks
2026
gouache and pencil on paper
42 x 59.4 cm (unframed)
NFS



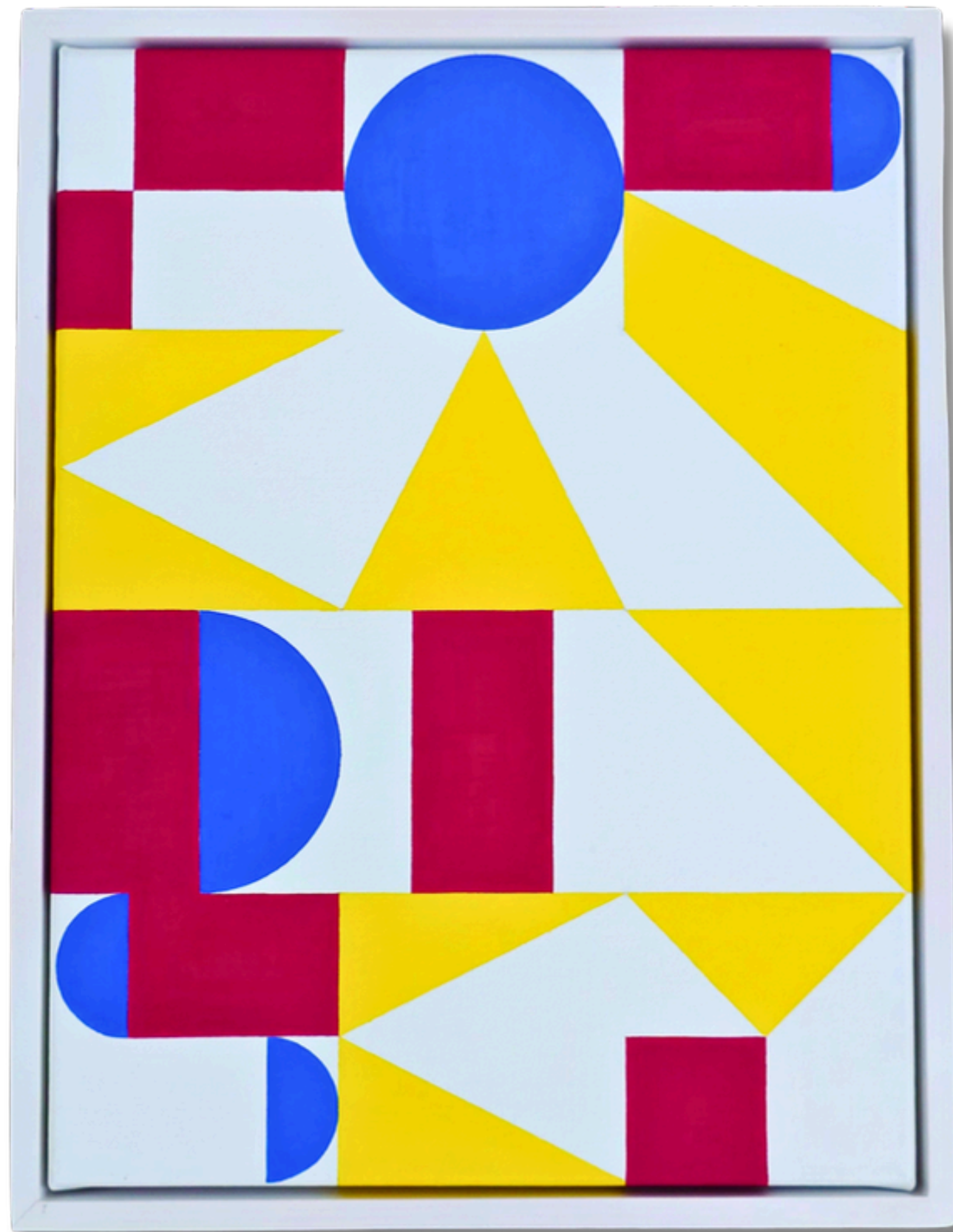
Untitled (Made in Berlin) #1
2025
gouache on canvas
30 x 40 cm (work)
33 x 43 x 3 cm (framed)
NFS



Untitled (Made in Berlin) Abstract #2
2025
gouache on canvas
40 x 30 cm (work)
42 x 32 x 2.5 cm (framed)
NFS



Study for Abstract Bookwork
2025
gouache and pencil on paper
29.7 x 42 cm (each, unframed)
POA



Untitled (For Kandinsky) #2

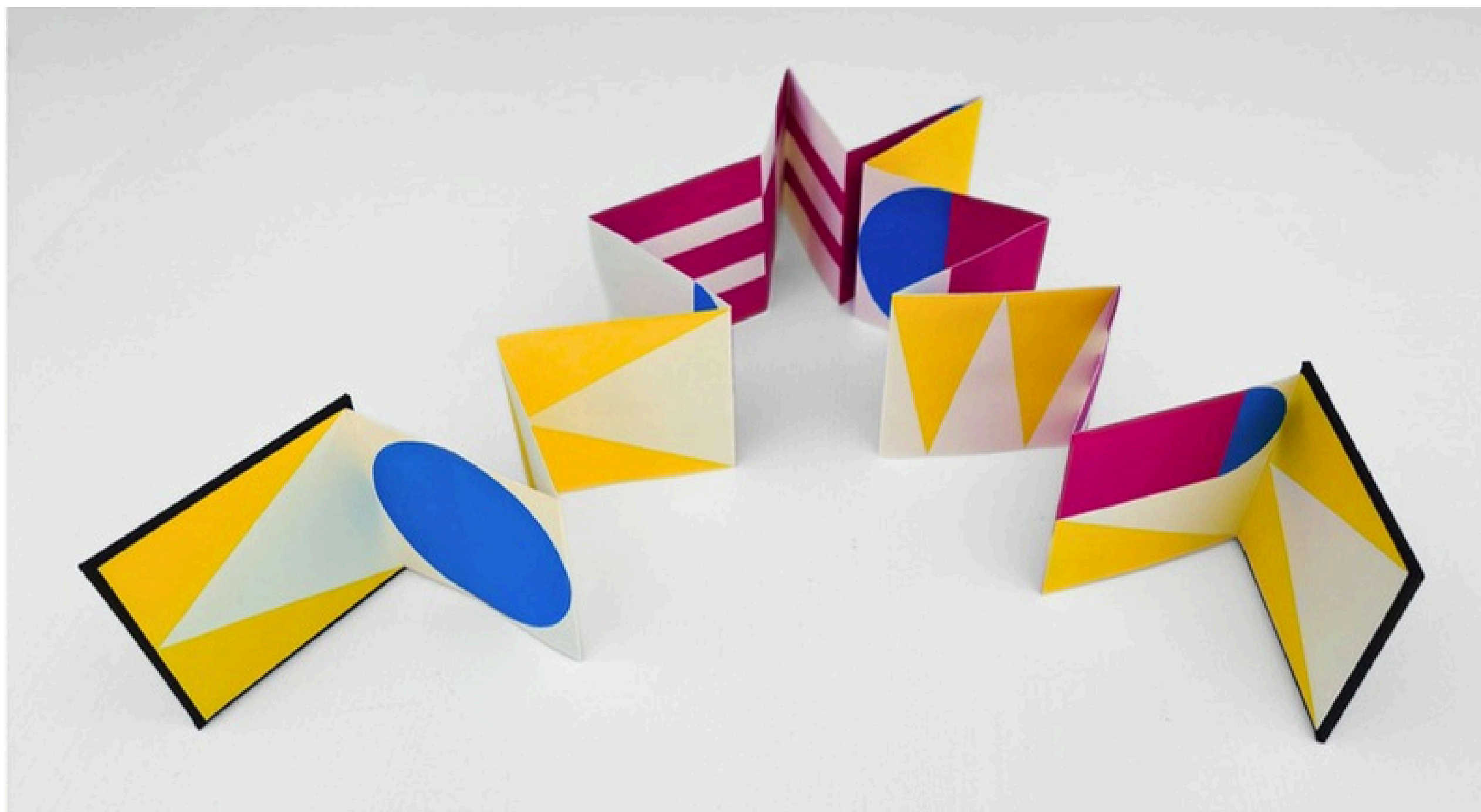
2025

acrylic, acrylic gouache and pencil on canvas

40.5 x 30.5 cm (work)

43 x 33 x 5 cm (framed)

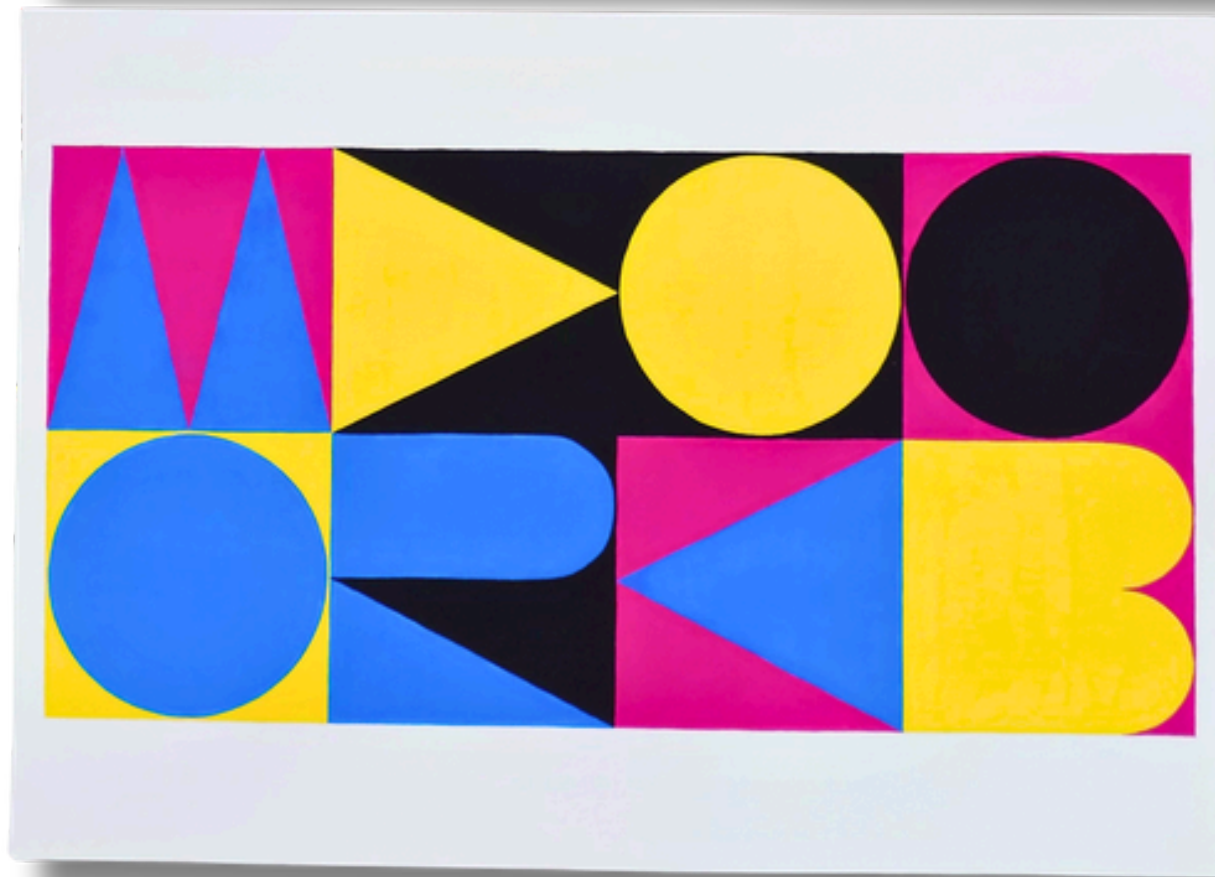
\$1,875



Konkrete Buchwerk (Berlin) #2
2025
hand-painted bookwork, 16 pages, gouache
and pencil on paper, with hardcovers
10 x 10 cm (page)
dimensions variable (open)
\$1,250



Non Objective #2
2025
acrylic, acrylic gouache and
pencil on canvas
40.5 x 30.5 cm (work)
43 x 33 x 5 cm (framed)
\$1,875



Abstract Bookwork Study (Diptych)
2025
gouache and pencil on paper
29.7 x 42 cm (each work, unframed)
\$975 (diptych, unframed)

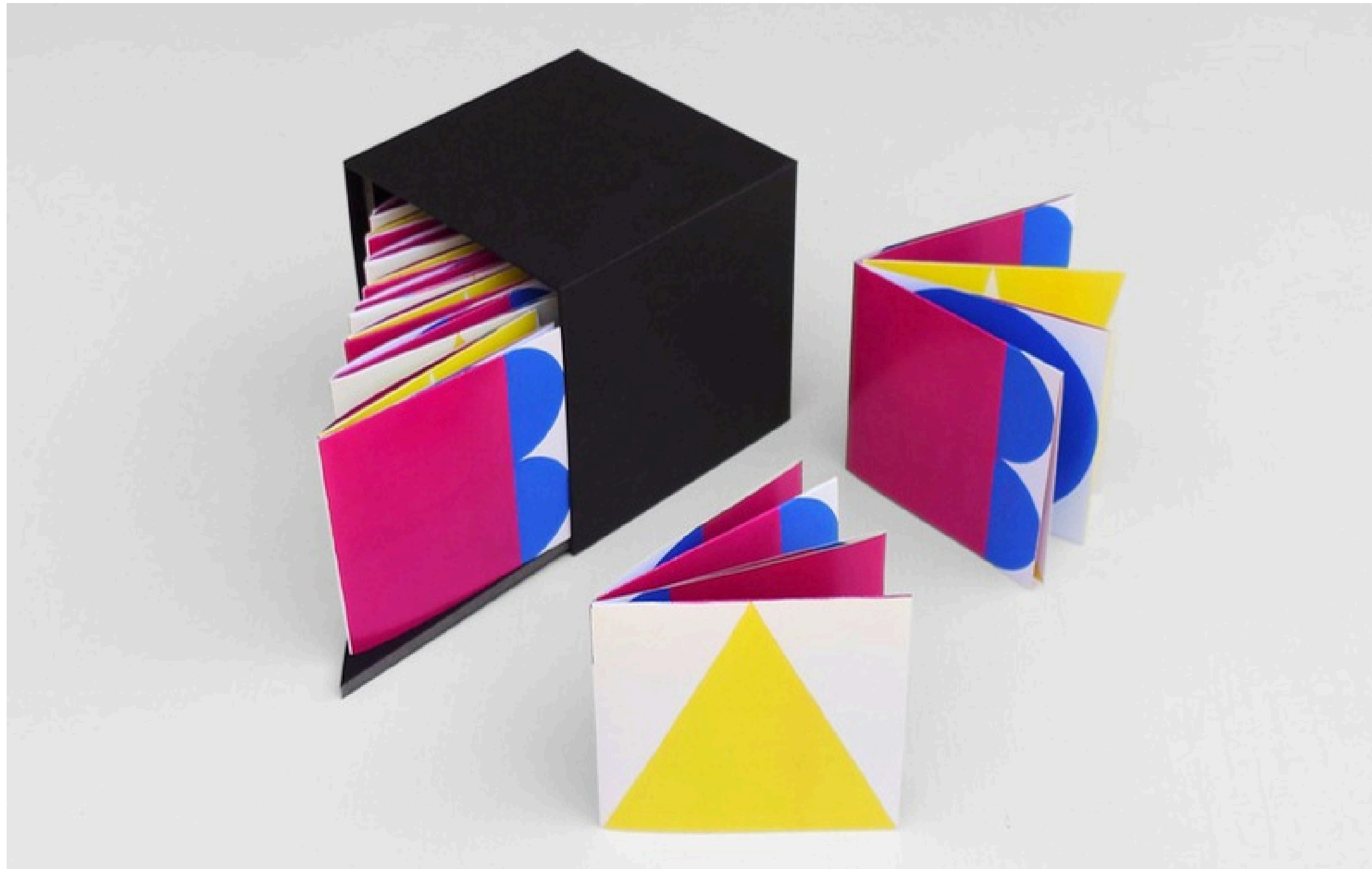


Set of 12 Books

2025

gouache and pencil on paper
42 x 29.7 cm (work, unframed)

NFS



Set of 12 Abstract Bookworks
2025-26

offset lithography

8 pages (reversible)

10 x 10 cm (page)

10 x 10 x 10 cm (open) (each book)

12.5 x 12.5 x 12.5 cm (boxed set)

12 copies from a 1st edition of 150 + APs

\$600



Abstract Bookwork
2025-26
offset lithography
8 pages (reversible)
10 x 10 cm (page)
10 x 10 x 10 cm (each book - open)
1st edition of 150 + APs
installation of 100 copies
POA