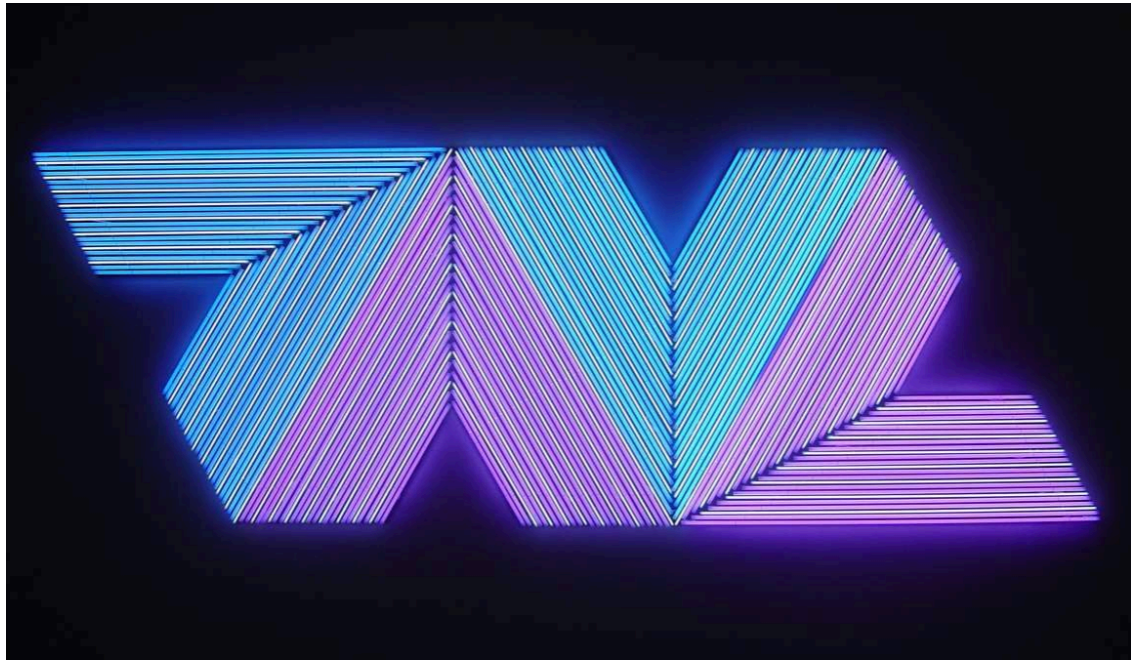


Fondation Louis Vuitton website: Bertrand Lavier – Empress of India II (2005)



Bertrand Lavier - Empress of India II (2005)

Since the 1970s, Bertrand Lavier has created work that transcends the traditional categories of painting and sculpture, marking his interest in hybridisation. Using everyday objects and sometimes works of art – as in 1985 when he painted a work by François Morellet with his "Van Gogh touch", or in 2004, when he projected the image of a painting by Mark Rothko – his pieces, organised into "building projects" – this is how he likes to refer to his series – take the form of objects that are painted, superimposed, set on a pedestal, enlarged or simply diverted from their original context. This mix of genres, codes and materials is emblematic of his artistic practice and produces pieces that destabilise perception, creating snapshots with a visual impact that is paradoxically and strikingly self-evident.

Empress of India II is a neon version of a stripe painting of the same name from the *Notched V* series of paintings by American artist Frank Stella (1936-USA). Here, Lavier's appropriation of the painting does not involve superimposition but rather the transposition of one material to another, causing a short circuit that is even more violent as the glare of neon neutralises the original piece. While Stella always seems present, Lavier, in a very pop art approach, breathes new vitality into his work by appropriating visual techniques from the world of urban advertising.

Bertrand Lavier (1949, France) lives and works in Aignay-le-duc.

EMPRESS OF INDIA II, 2005
TUBES DE NÉON, 196 X 580 CM

 GALLERY 6