

RÉMY MARKOWITSCH

LIGHTS

2000

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Aluminium-FL-Lightbox Cibachrome Diatrans, acrylic glas (Edition of 3)

Few artists court chance as intensely as Rémy Markowitsch with his brooding chains of association, which are presented in new contexts. Markowitsch operates largely in the gaps between nature and civilisation, between conformist (bourgeoisie) and individualist (bohemian) existence. He is interested primarily in the auratic workings of mass-medial visuality. He removes pictures (by x-raying book pages, for example, to produce simultaneous, superimposed images) and passages from their original context; he extracts visual and verbal frag



Home is where the heart is, (with Kastanienallee 1 & 2 and Lights), Hamburger Bahnhof, Werk Raum 1, 2000

ments from books, restoring their original singularity through his art. Initially working with photographed reproductions (*Nach der Natur/After Nature*, from 1991), the artist has refined and expanded both his methods and his formal treatment in recent years. In 1997 he began to devise installation-like contexts for the presentation of the photographs, and in his exhibition at the Hamburger Bahnhof (*Handmade*, 2000), he expanded his photographic vocabulary – so far devoted to plants, landscapes, people and animals – to include light boxes showing photographs of lamps. The title, *Leuchten* (German for ‘lamps’ or ‘to shine’), refers, of course, to the

artist’s use of a new genre, the light box, but also to the subject matter of the photographs, lamps, and finally to his method of transilluminating the pages of a book to make one “illuminated” image out of the two that were originally reproduced on the front and verso of a single page.

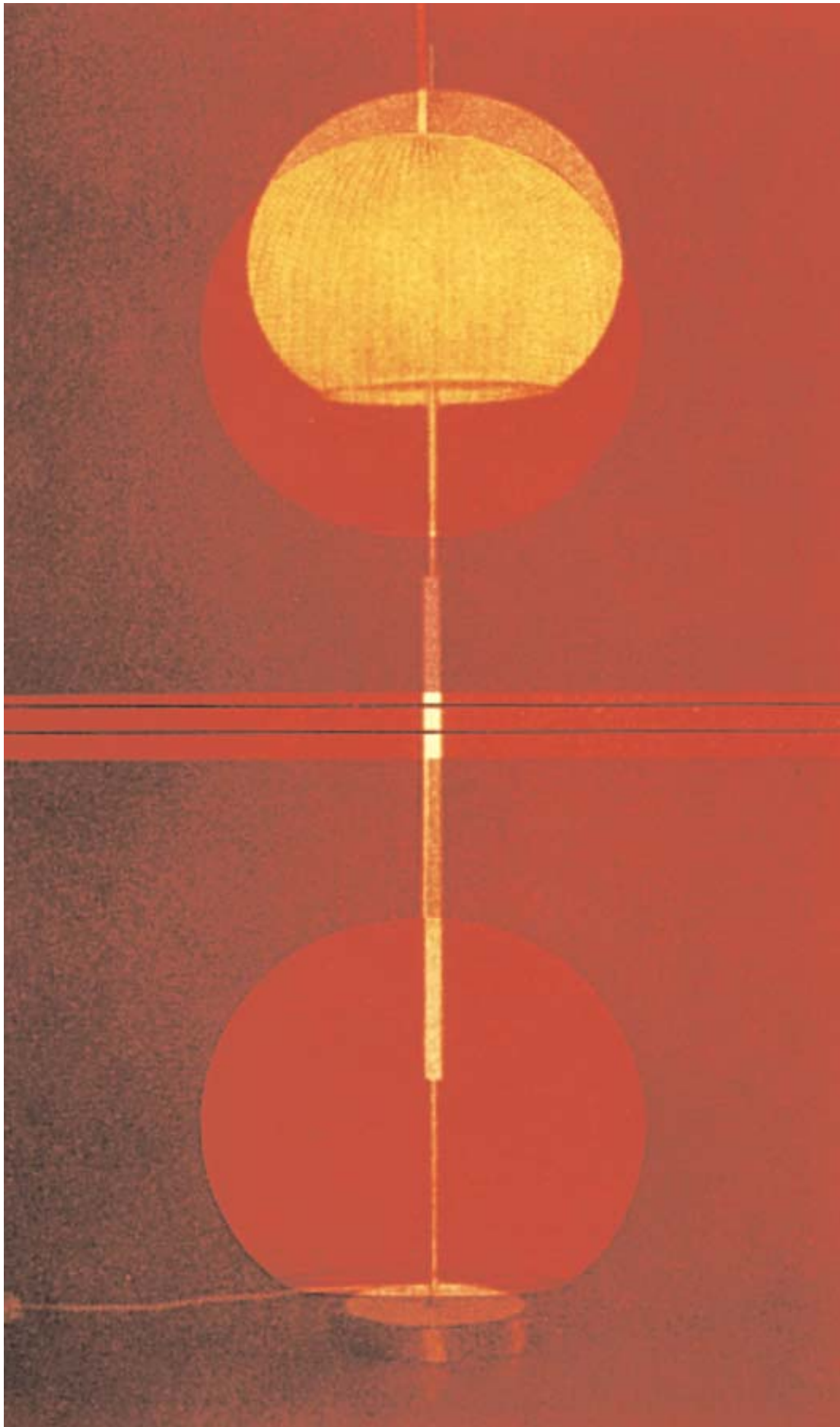
One might speak of multi-tautological objects which symbolically demonstrate both production and function. Furthermore, *Leuchten* has bibliographical significance since the source of Markowitsch’s light objects is a publication issued by the former GDR. *Leuchten '73* was a propaganda publication of the WB Elektrische Konsumgüter (WB Electric Consumer Goods), which, as we are told in the foreword, presents “the entire range of lamps and illumination for interiors of the collective combine VEB Leuchtenbau Leipzig and the firm VEB Leuchtenbau Deutschneudorf”.

The title can even be read as a wink at his hometown of Lucerne (lucere, to shine) from his present home in former East Berlin. But this light-hearted wink is not without deeper import because many tourists see



Leuchten/Lights (Cosmik Debris, Installationview Urs Meile Gallery, Lucerne, 2000)

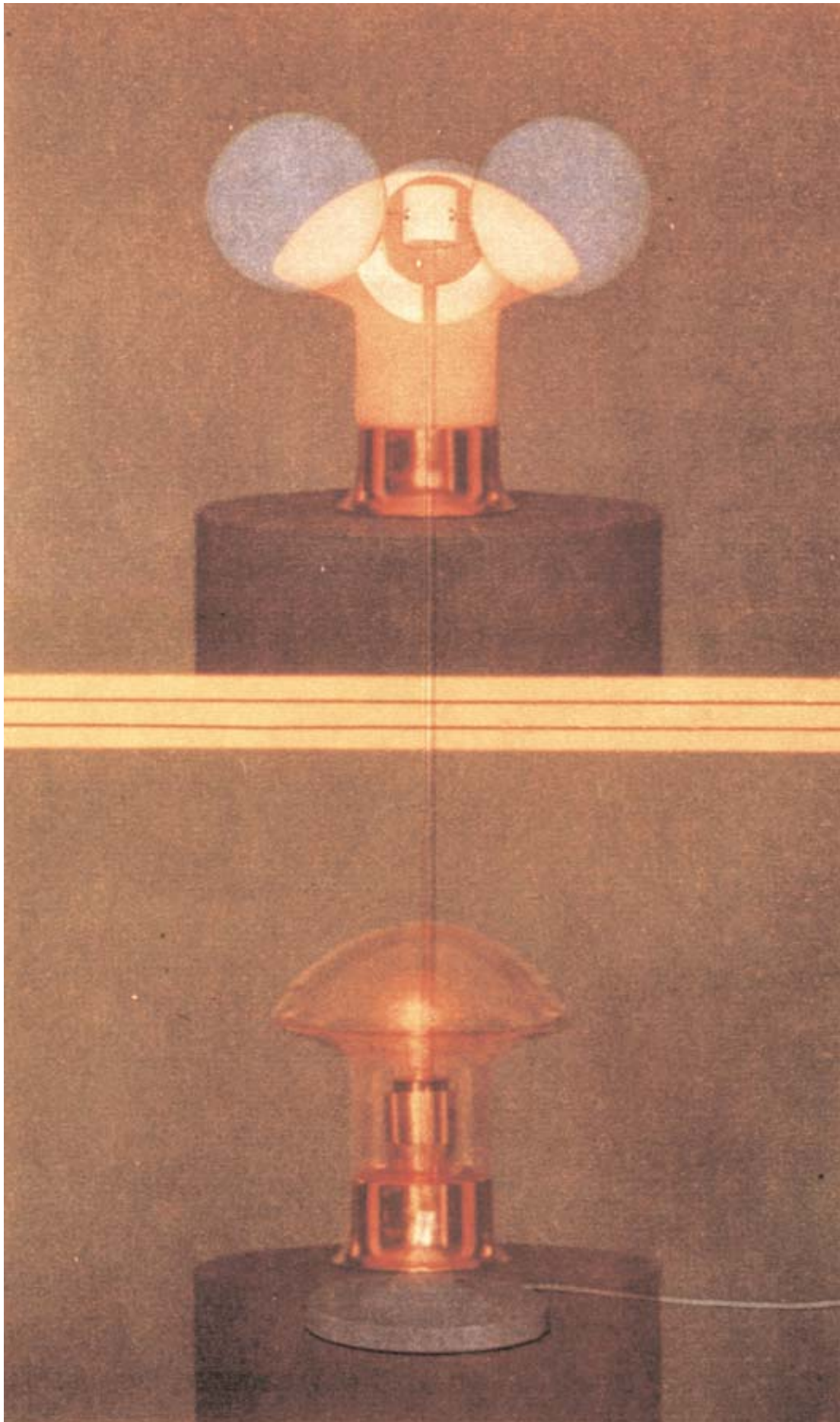
Lucerne with its picture postcard setting as the quintessence of idyllic and respectable Switzerland. This is exactly what Markowitsch targets in his artistic de- and re-constructions. His photographs and light boxes look like beautiful fittings for well-appointed interiors – perfectly styled for refined surroundings. But appearances deceive: mundane daily life and disparate reality are lurking behind the smooth, unruffled harmony radiating from these idealised light boxes. A bit of background information discloses the other reality behind these perfect depictions of real, existing objects: they are unadulterated medial fakes – at least in the case of the lamps from the GDR. Most of them exist only as prototypes; rarely did they actually go into production and end up in the respectable living rooms of socialist society.



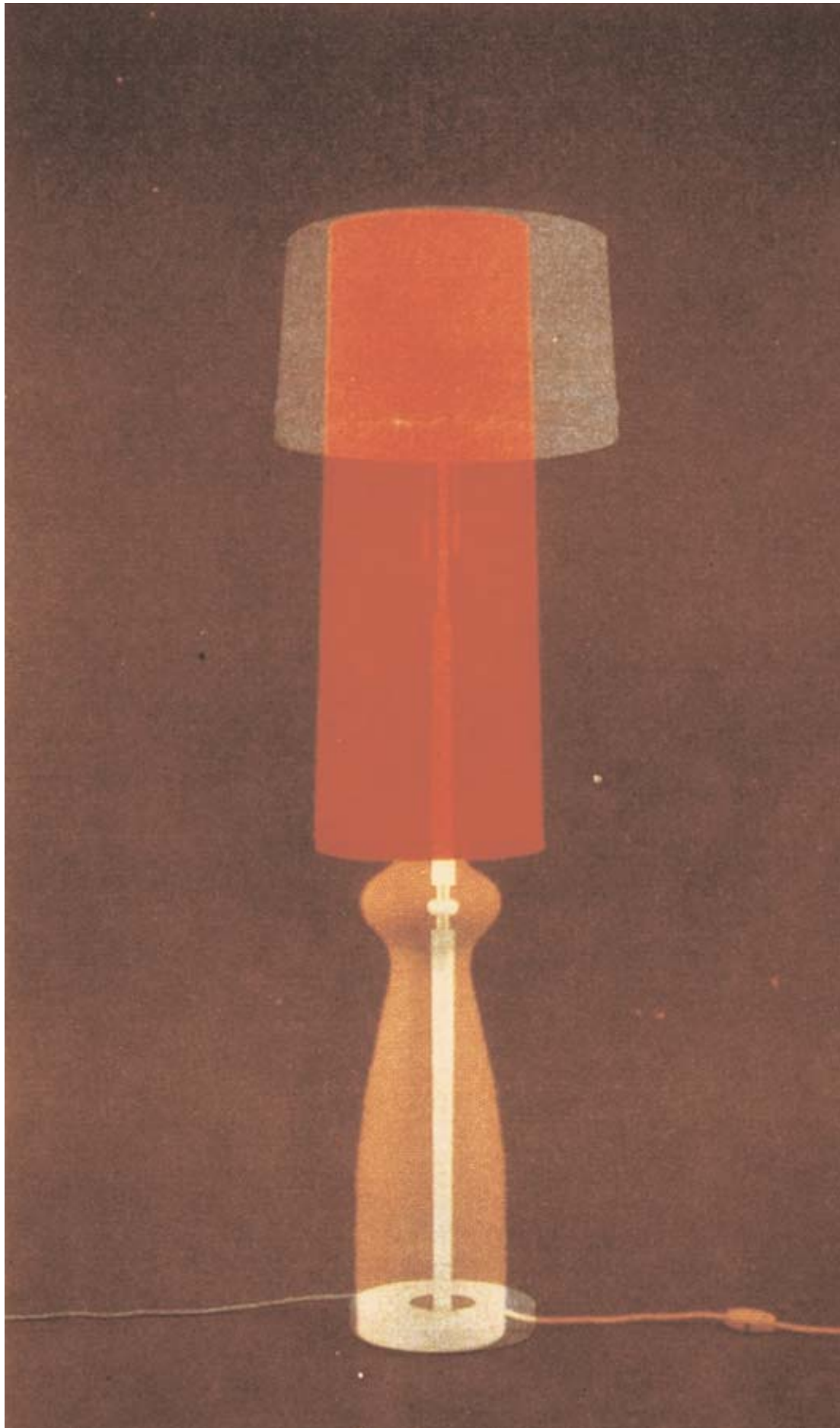
Leuchten/Lights 01, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



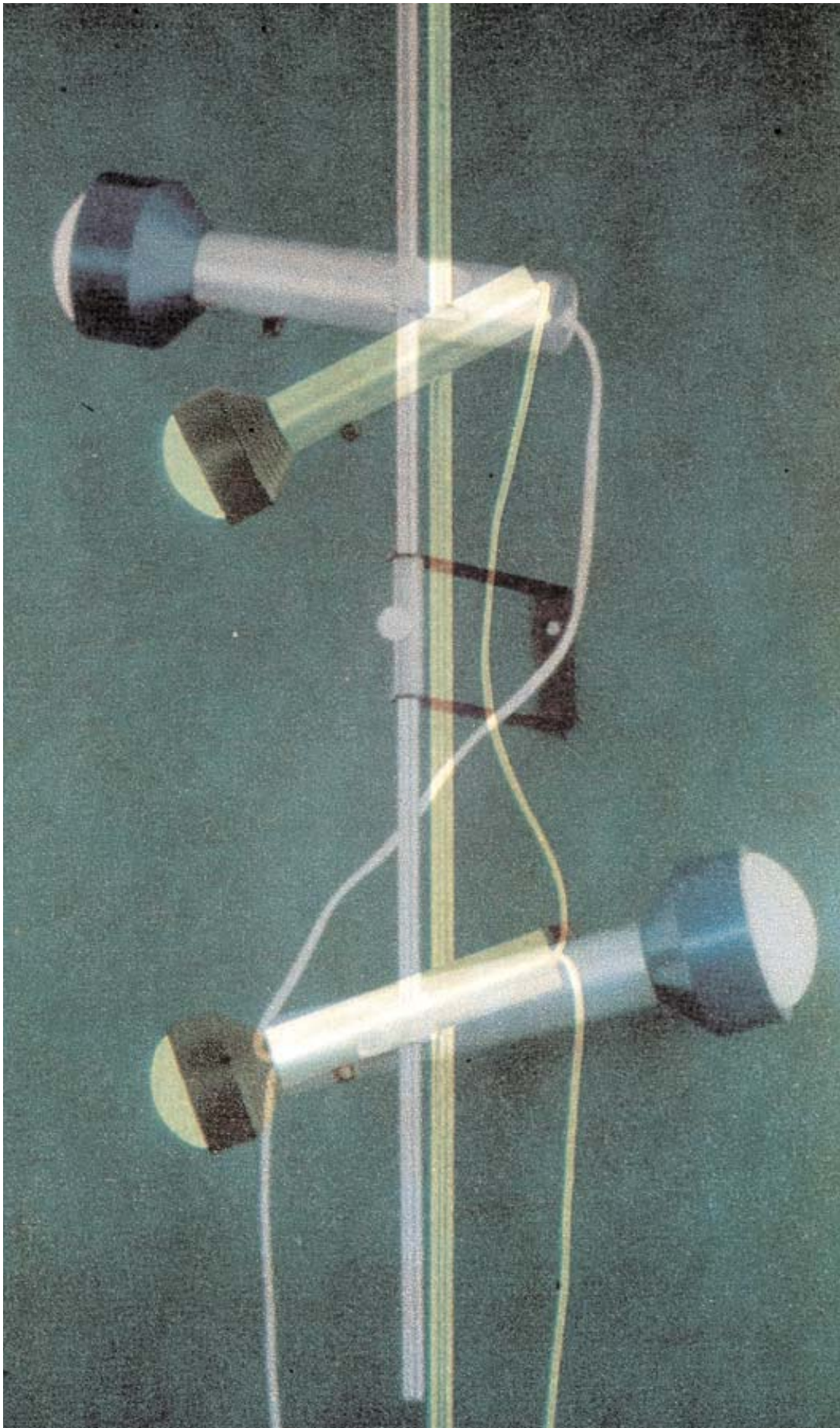
Leuchten/Lights 02, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



Leuchten/Lights 05, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



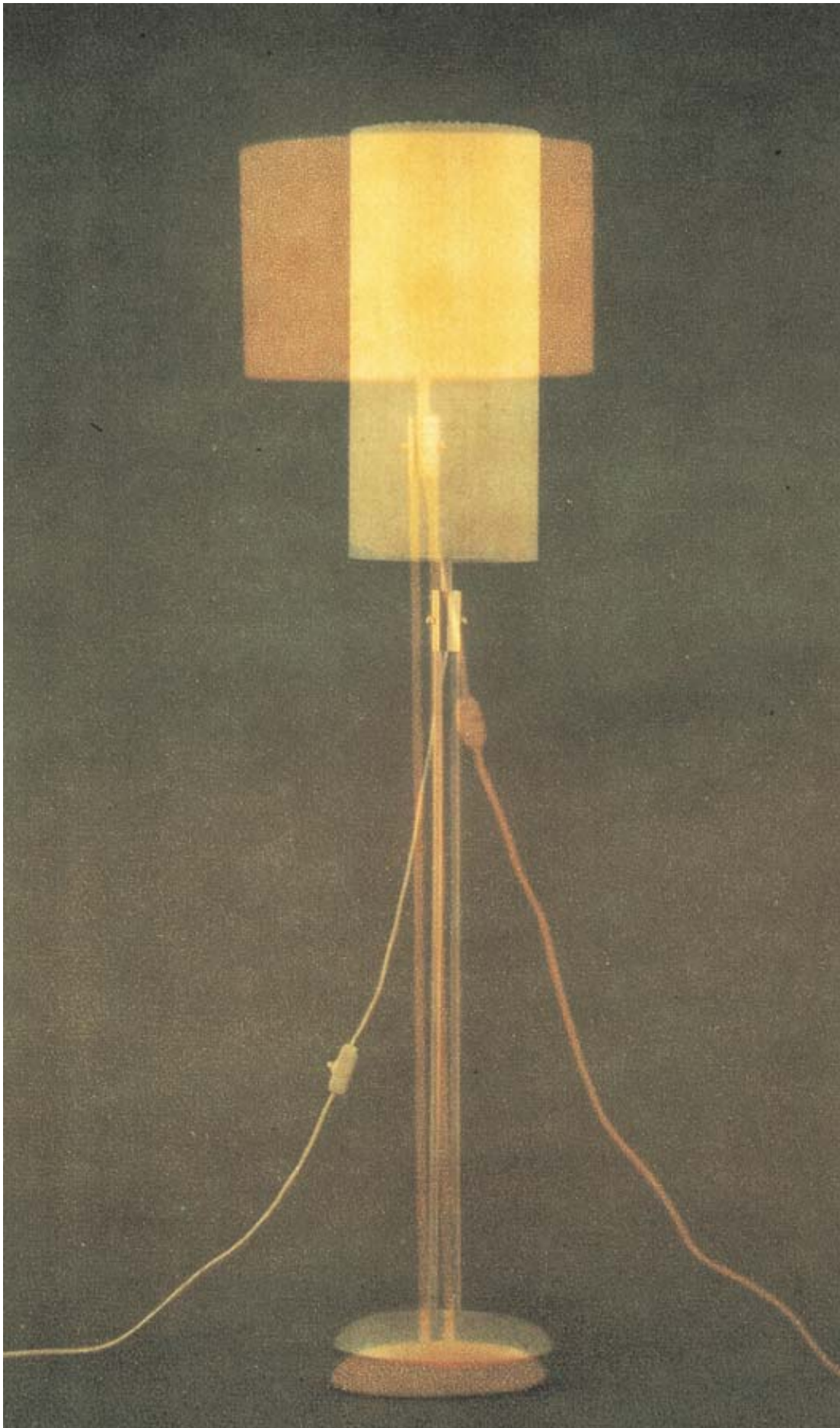
Leuchten/Lights 08, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



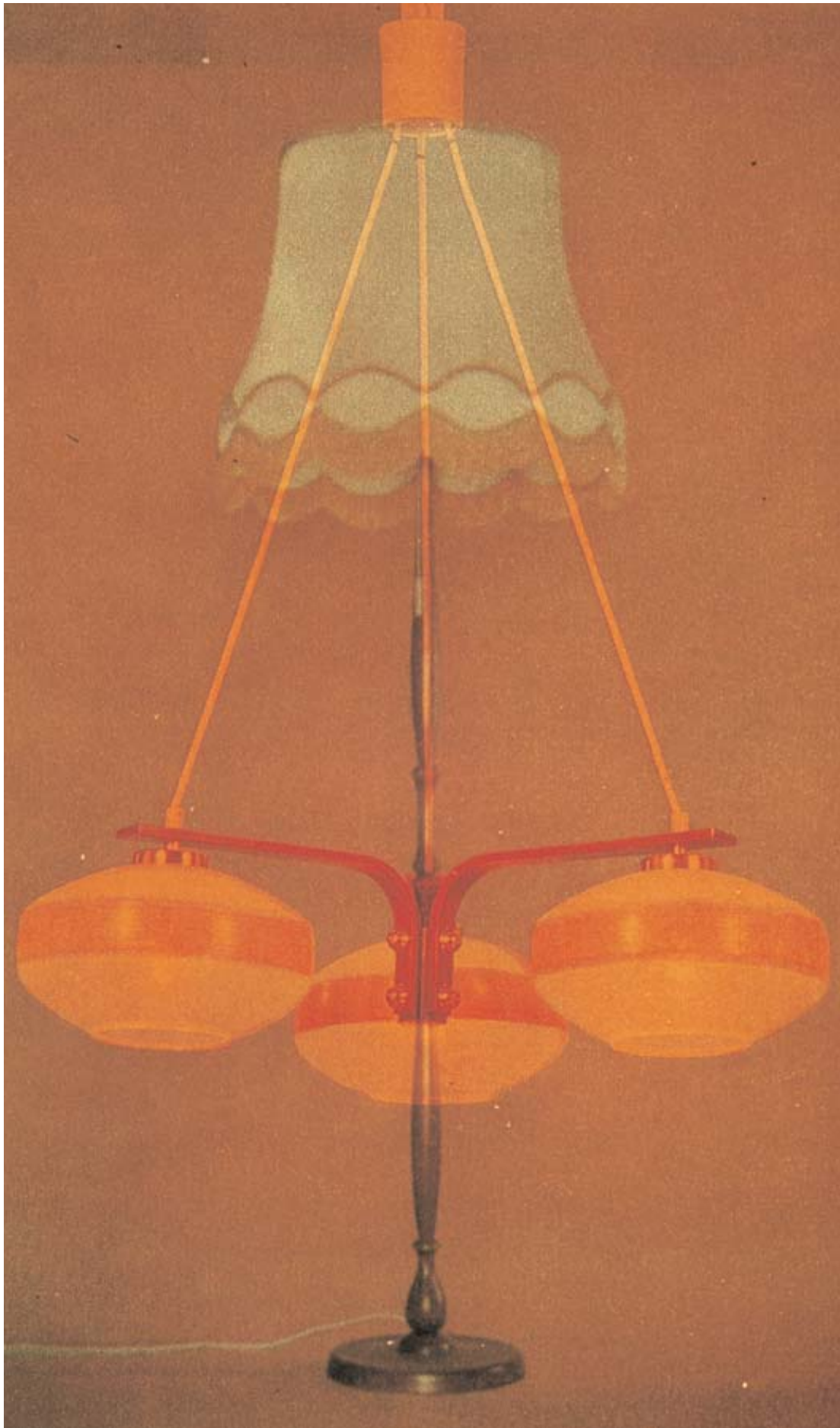
Leuchten/Lights 21, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



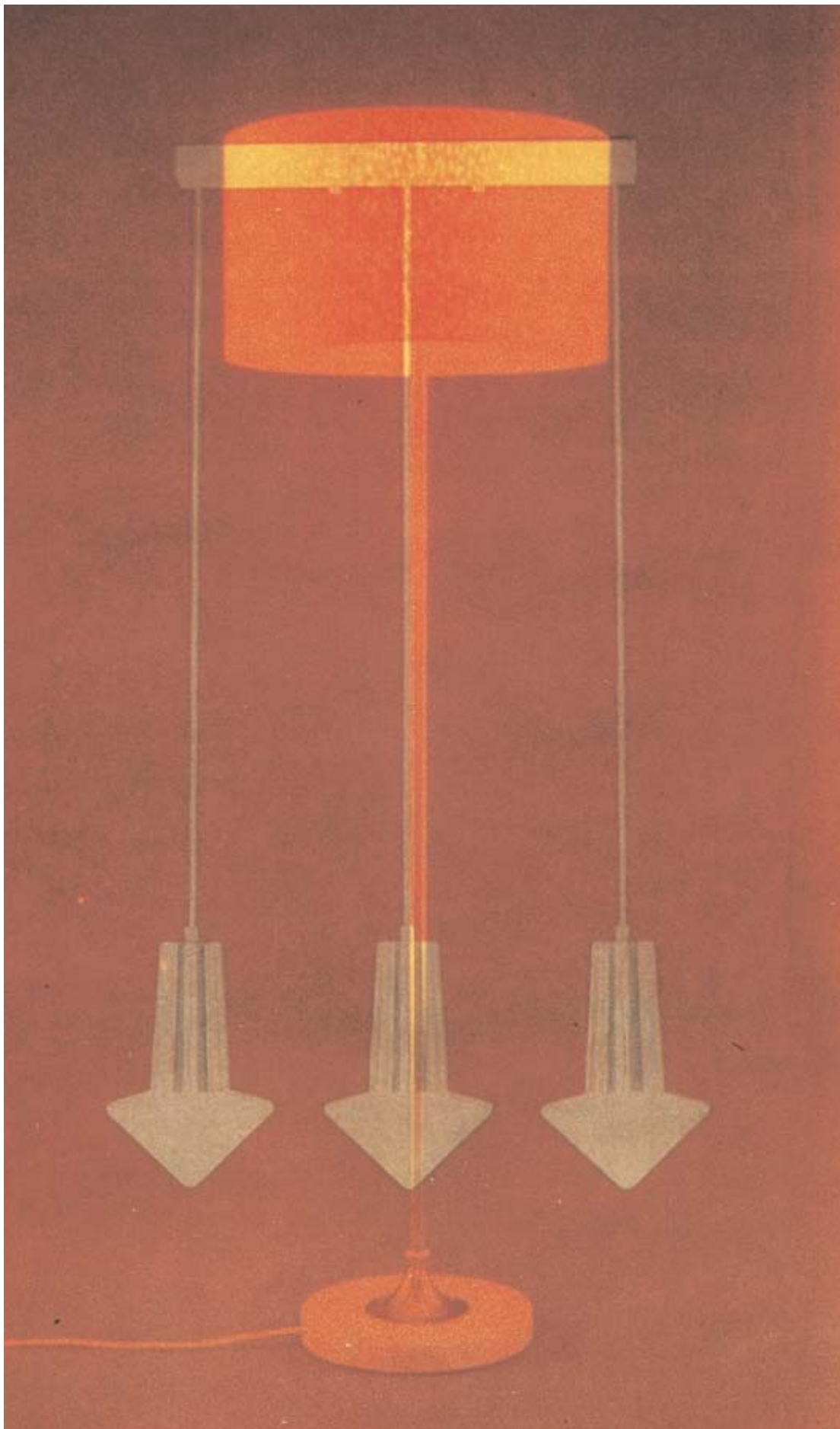
Leuchten/Lights 22, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



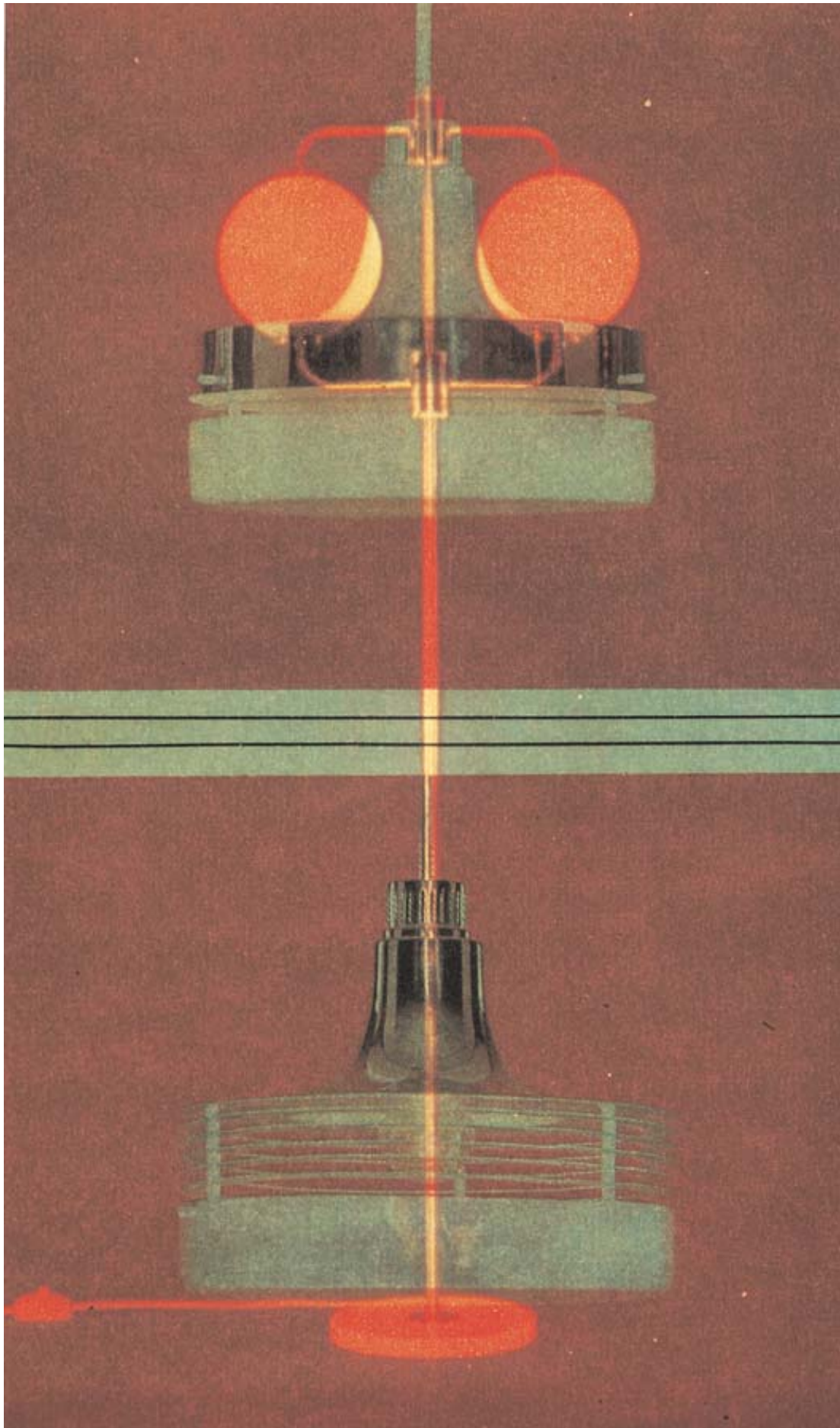
Leuchten/Lights 23, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



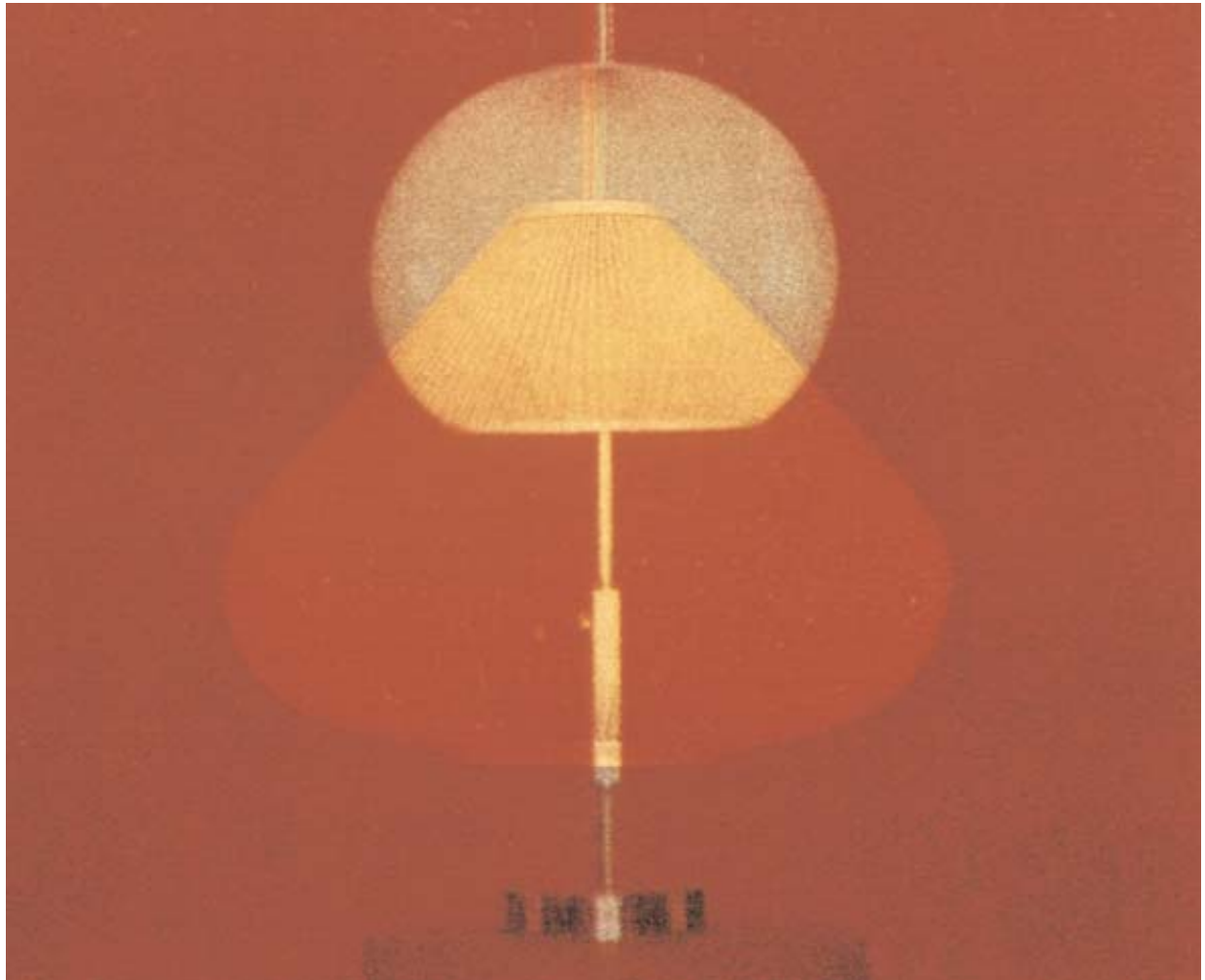
Leuchten/Lights 24, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



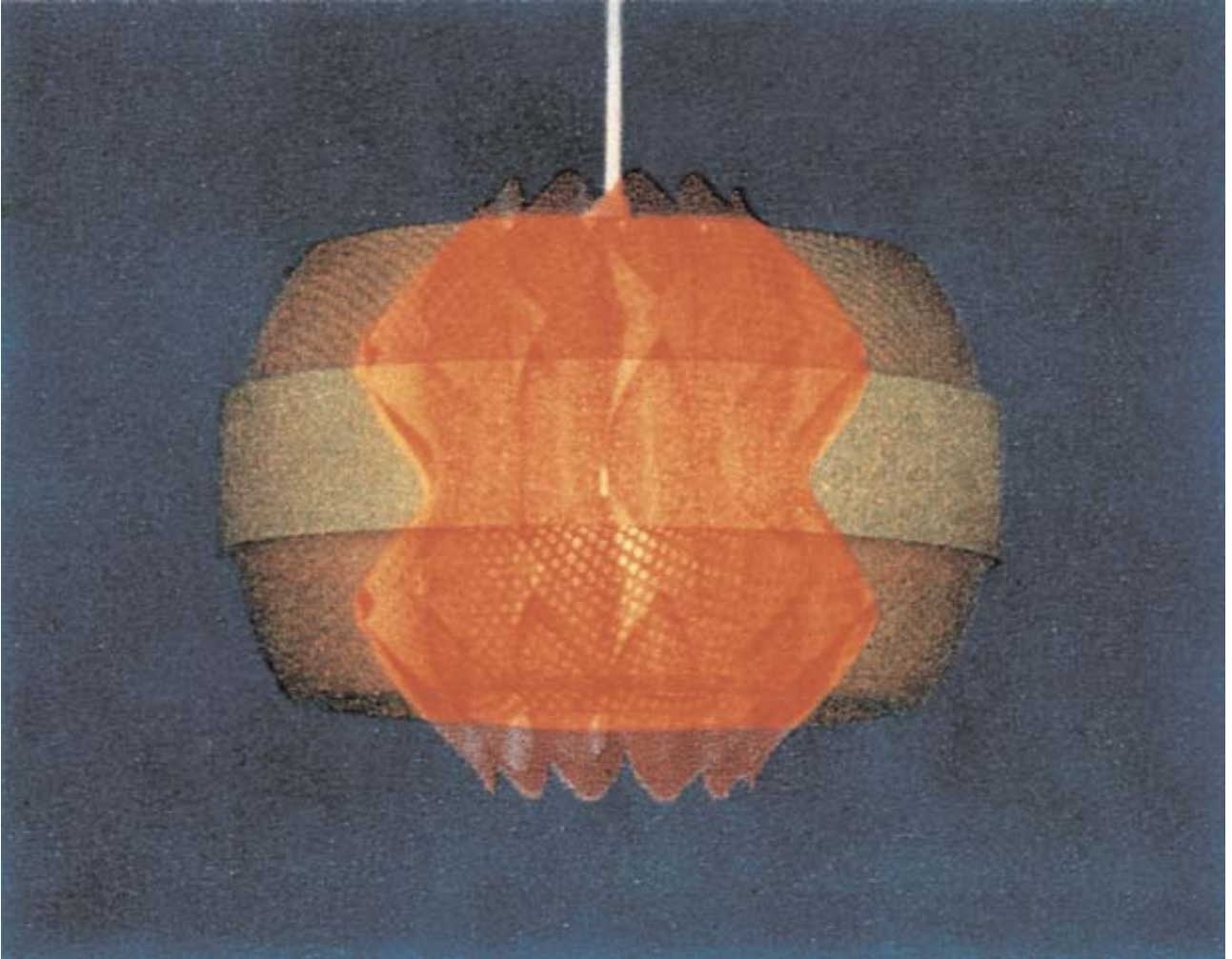
Leuchten/Lights 25, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



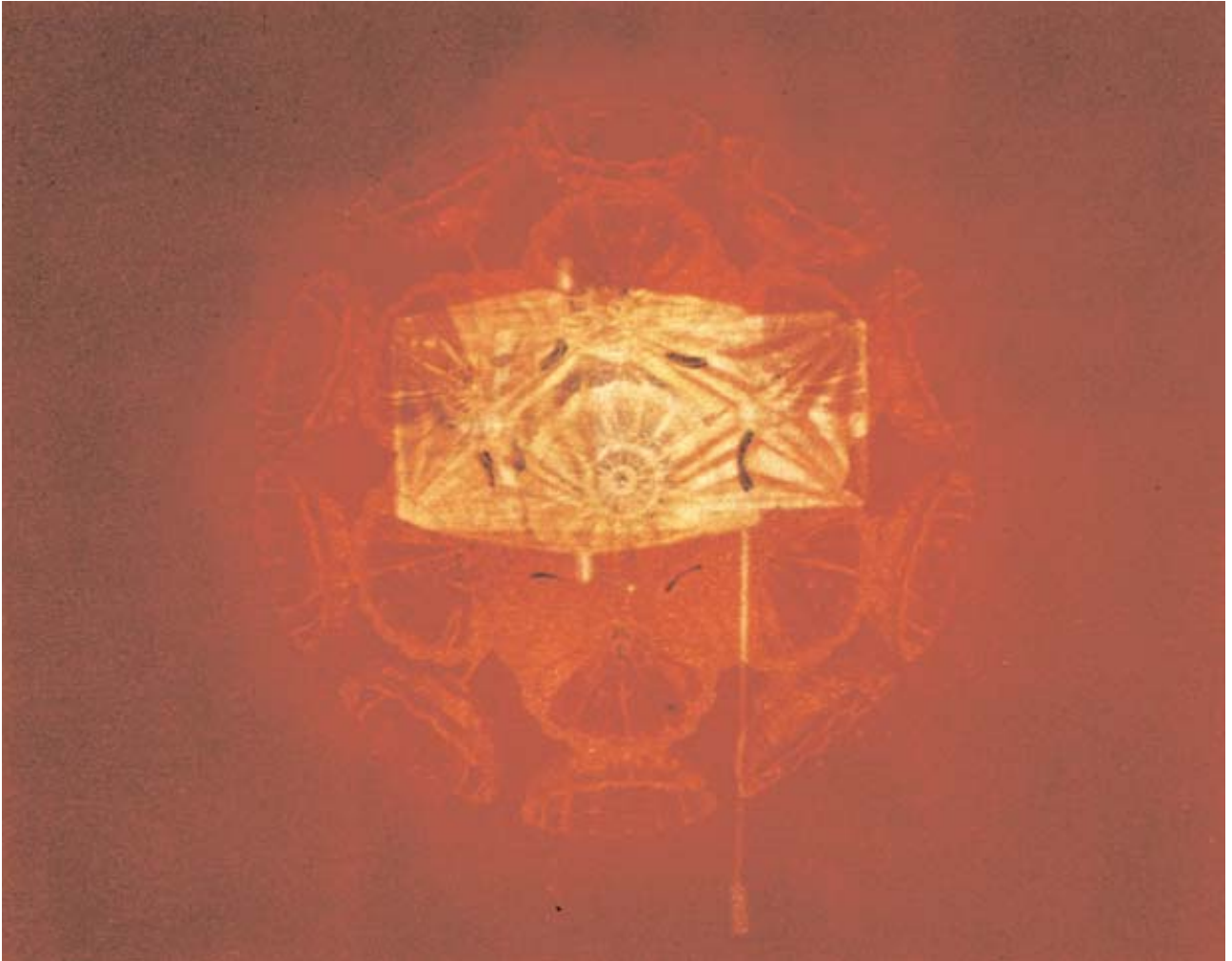
Leuchten/Lights 26, 2000 (182 x 112 x 11 cm)



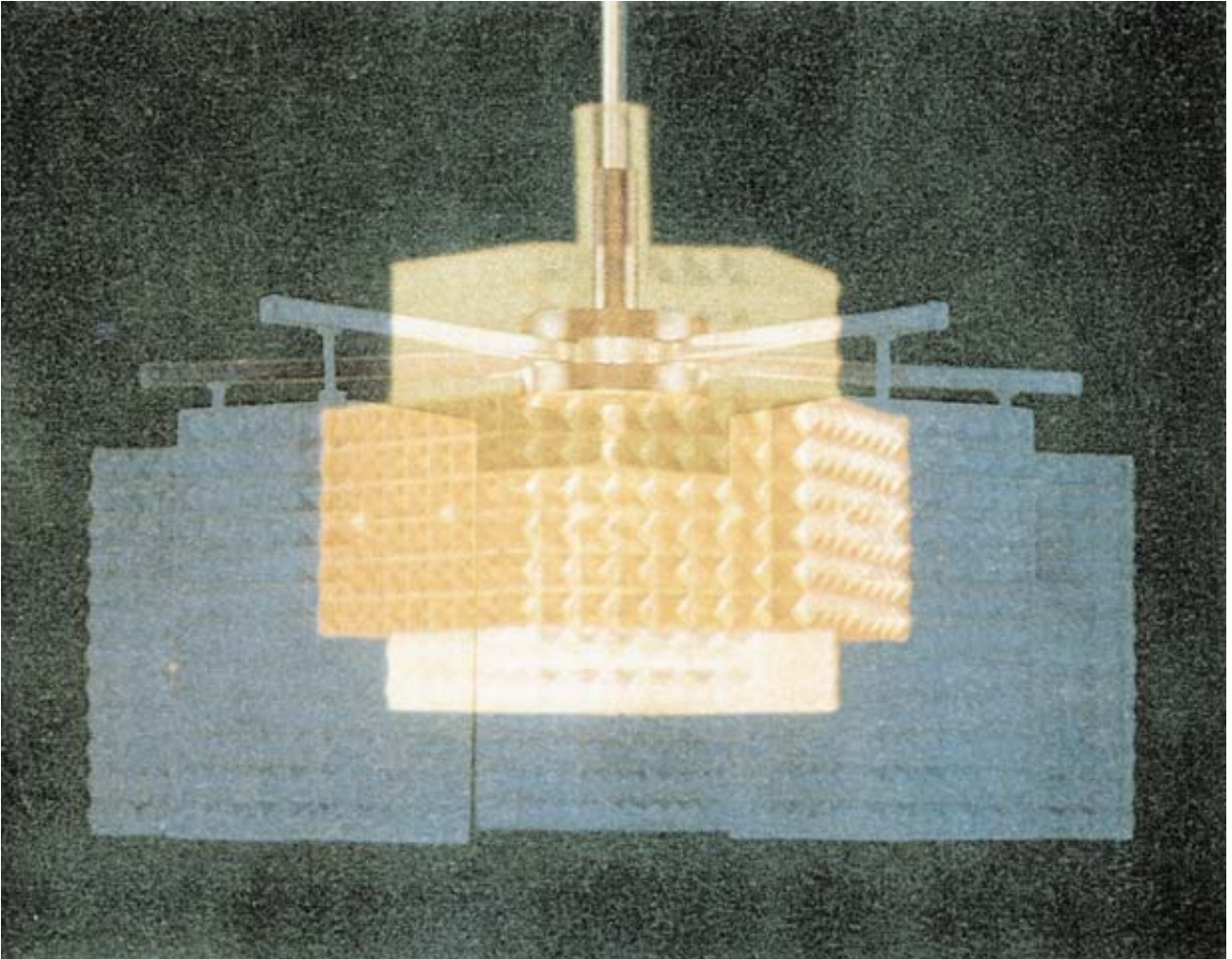
Leuchten/Lights 13, 2000 (ca.106 x 135 x 11 cm)



Leuchten/Lights 09, 2000 (106 x 142 x 11 cm)



Leuchten/Lights 15, 2000 (106 x 142 x 11 cm)



Leuchten/Lights 16, 2000 (106 x 142 x 11 cm)