

OMS ROCHA

The Circle Practice: First Gesture Curatorial Text

The exhibition begins with a single gesture: a circle of light traced in space. This minimal act opens a perceptual field where attention, memory, and sensation are not byproducts of vision but the very material of the work. The gesture is repeated, expanded, and projected, creating a situation where seeing becomes a shared event.

The project draws from kasina practices in the Pali Canon—visual exercises where color and form function not symbolically but structurally. In these early methods, the eye rests upon a simple object until an internal image emerges: first an unstable sign (uggaha-nimitta), then a refined “counterpart image” (paṭibhāga-nimitta). What begins as an external form becomes a luminous imprint held by attention itself.

This exhibition stages that transition.

The circle traced by OMS operates as the first sign. The visitor’s perceptual memory becomes the ground for the counterpart image. Between these two movements lies a subtle field described in Buddhist commentaries as bhavaṅga: a silent flow of mental continuity sustaining the appearance, persistence, and dissolution of images.

A third movement may arise: adhika, the moment of expansion. It is when the internal image exceeds its origin—when the circle grows brighter, wider, more abstract, or more resonant than the gesture that produced it. In *The Circle Practice*, this expansion signals the shift from an individual perceptual event to a collective field of attention.

These early perceptual frameworks meet contemporary languages: • *Vilém Flusser’s notion of the technical image as world-making* • *Nam June Paik’s performativity of light* • *Maria Heim’s phenomenology of attention as ethical encounter*

Together, they position the work not as meditation proper, but as a study of the conditions under which seeing becomes shared, sustained, and transformative.

First Gesture marks the beginning of a long-term collaboration between OMS Rocha and Pluku Gallery. Over the coming months, the project will unfold into a series of performances, recordings, visual meditations, prints, and perceptual experiments that continue to grow outward from this single circle. A minimal form—color, light, circularity—becomes the ground for intersubjective presence. A gesture expands beyond itself.

