

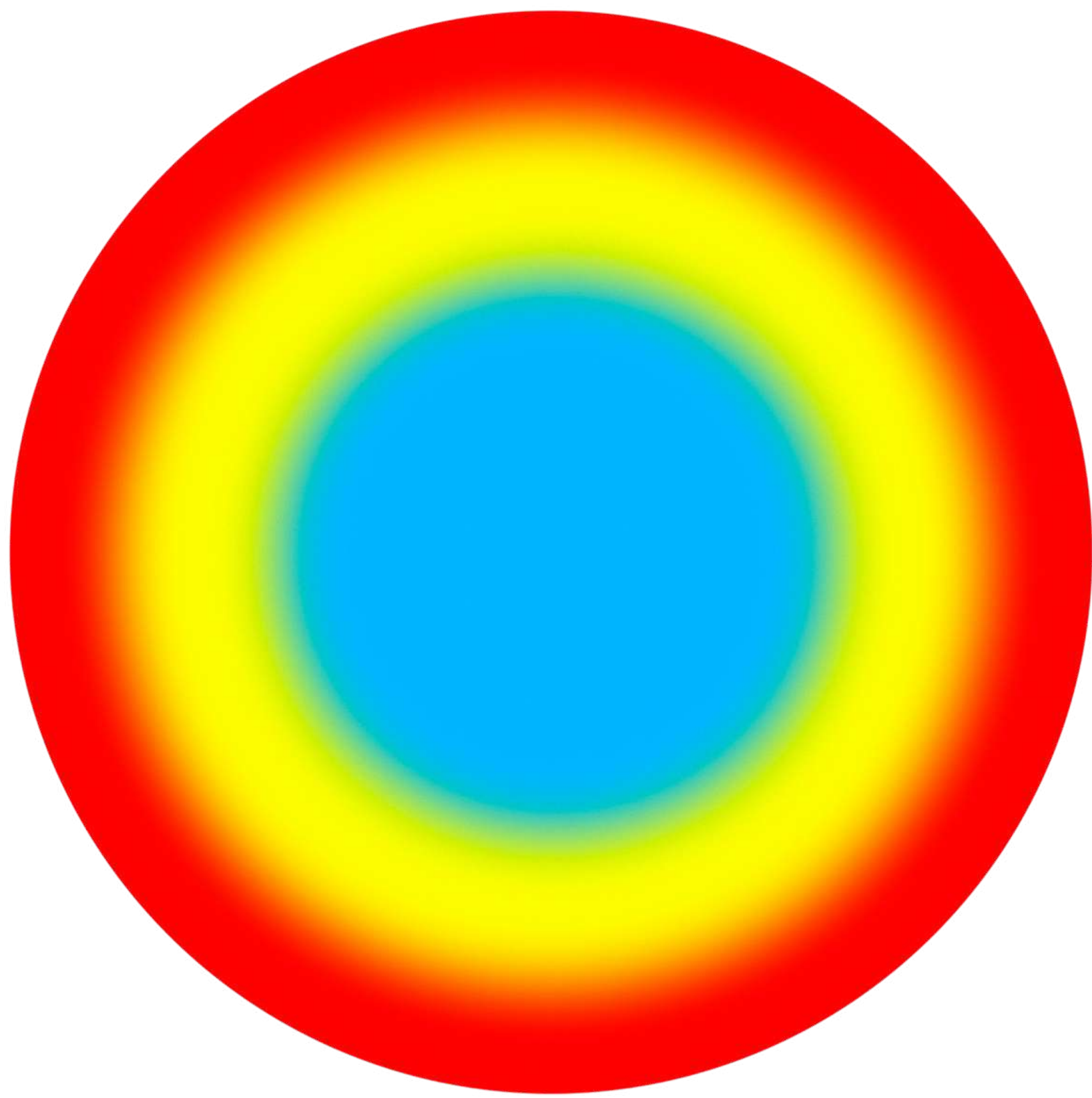
Virtual 
LAVENDER
 **Labels**

UGO RONDINONE
(Swiss, b. 1964)

Dreizehnteraprilzweitausendundsechzehn, 2016

Acrylic on canvas, 31 1/2 x 31 1/2 in.

The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art at Rollins College, Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alfond, 2017.6.34. © Ugo Rondinone. Image courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery.



The title is a calendar date written in German: the number thirteen, the month April, and the year two-thousand-sixteen.

This is not a typical way to write a date, even in German, though there is a playful

German custom to join words and generate unusually long compound words.

The artist and curator Ugo Rondinone, married to John Giorno, returns to rainbows and rainbow motifs in several forms throughout his works. Soaked with meaning and relevance as a symbol of LGBTQ pride, rainbows can be hopeful, even childlike.

This vibrance also functions as material to speculate its purpose.

Is this artwork a rainbow?

A vortex?

A liminal space?

This work contains layers and complications. With his twenty-plus-year partnership with Giorno significantly influencing his work, Rondinone merges activism and optimism in this contemplative work. It is pulsing with energy as boundaries of perception are blurred.

Rondinone also practices as a sculptor and installation artist, conjuring elaborate, often colorful, environments. These can be read as abstract constructions of queer spaces – places of belonging and safety, where there is reassurance that this expression, and by extension, the existence of queerness and queer people, is recognized and welcome. Could this acrylic paint and canvas be an emotionally neutral environment from which we can assign personal meaning? There is a mesmerizing quality to this piece; we are drawn into its vastness of color, expression, and space for imagination.