The plaster cast collection of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in New York City was first formed in 2004 with a significant gift of 19th century plaster casts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Since then the Cast Hall has been a vital resource for young students, artists, architects and designers. Programmed for students and enthusiasts alike as a response to COVID 19 restrictions, Gary Carsley’s innovative virtual intervention CHROMOPHILIA marks the first occasion that a contemporary artist has worked directly with the ICAA to develop a body of new work in a direct dialogue with its collection. In this multifaceted online project Carsley takes three iconic works donated from The MET to develop a series of responses that uses their original polychromy to demonstrate that there is no such thing as a person without colour and an equivalence among the world’s cultures.

CHROMOPHILIA will be viewable on the ICAA’s website from September 3, 2020 through January, 2021. 