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Airscapes #1 is a body of air. Enclosed by an ultra-light membrane and shaped by invisible airflows, the low-pressure pneumatic structure visualizes our atmosphere. This surface produces mesmerizing forms as regions of low and high pressure circulate within, suggesting an ecology of air.

The installation introduces a moody weather to the postmodern atrium of the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design, as light is reflected throughout the interior by the work's transformations. This body of air becomes dynamic due to winds, introduced by fans, that lift the fabric surface up, a movement that is then countered by the sinking of the air mass due to gravity.

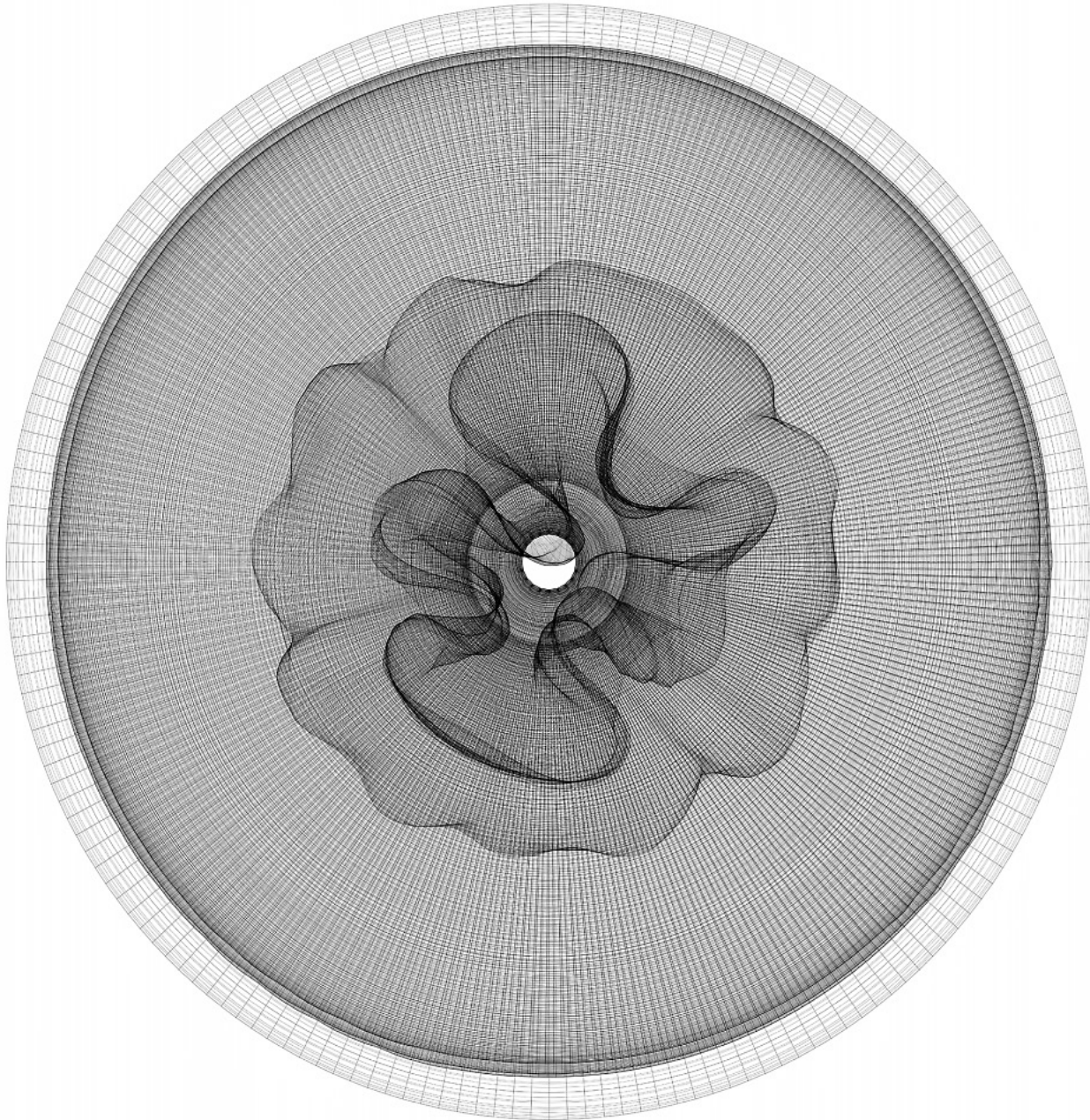
Challenging the stable, spherical forms favored by gases, *Airscapes #1* instead relates to the process of inflation. It exists between pressurized pneumatics and material deformations under wind currents—it is both stable and unstable.

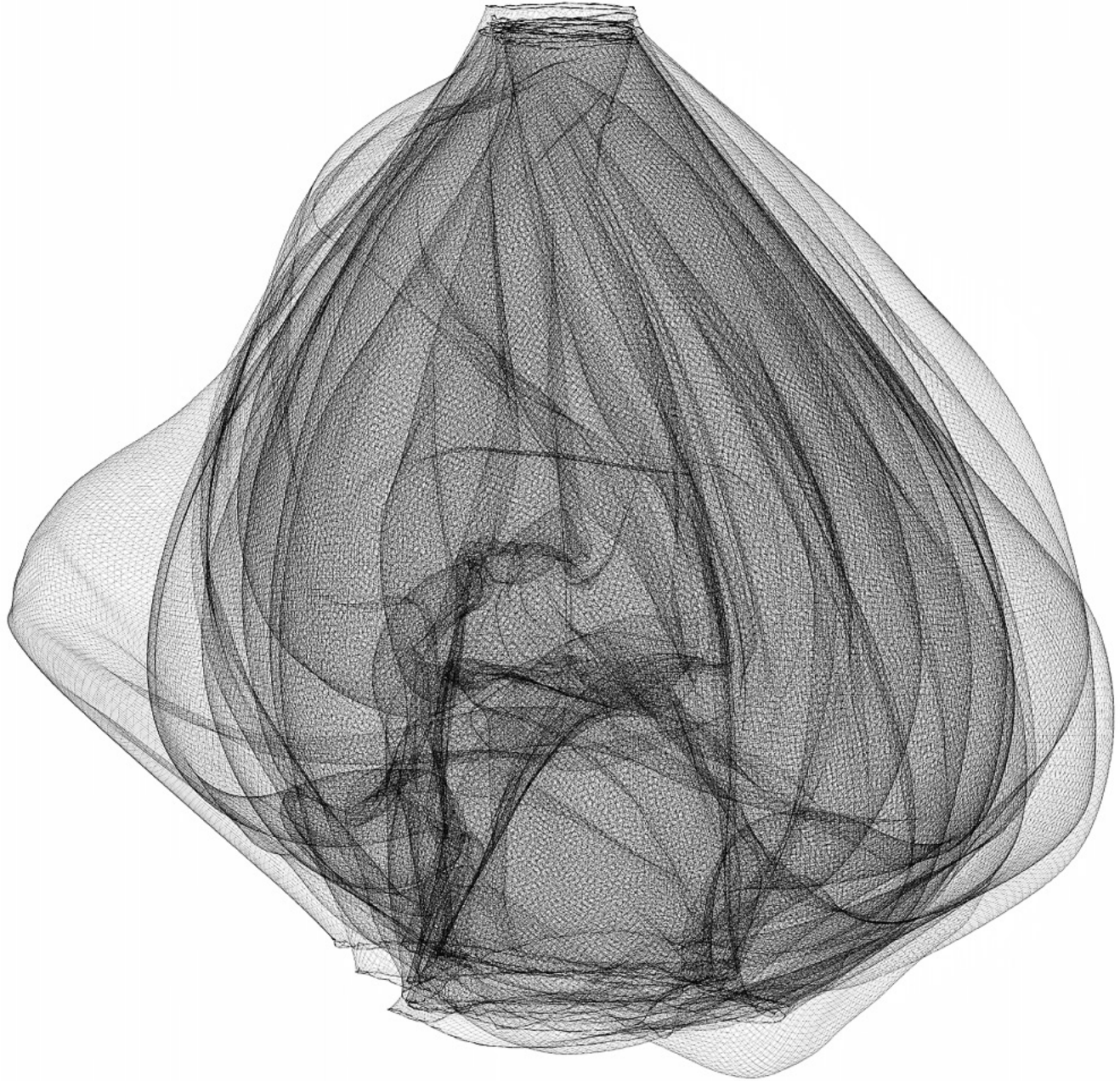
The project's ideas were first developed through two drawing series: Static and Dynamic. The Static exploration searched for form in response to the atrium's emptiness, in addition to seeking an aesthetic of slick materiality, resulting in smoothness without gravity. The Dynamic research began from pneumatic logic and searched for formations beginning with air. Here, the phenomena produced by forces and processes act within a field of lightness, which was ultimately given a material form.

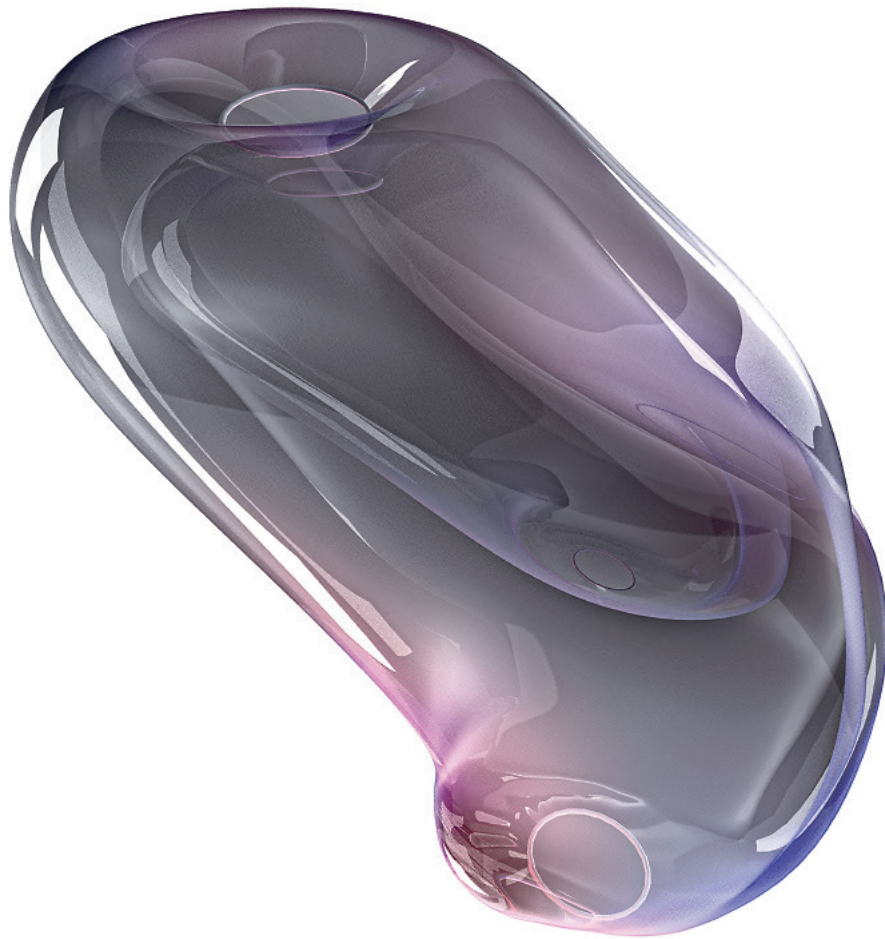
Drawings from each series, seen on the following pages, are distinct in their natures and thought processes. Comparing them invites questions of form versus formation, composition versus process.



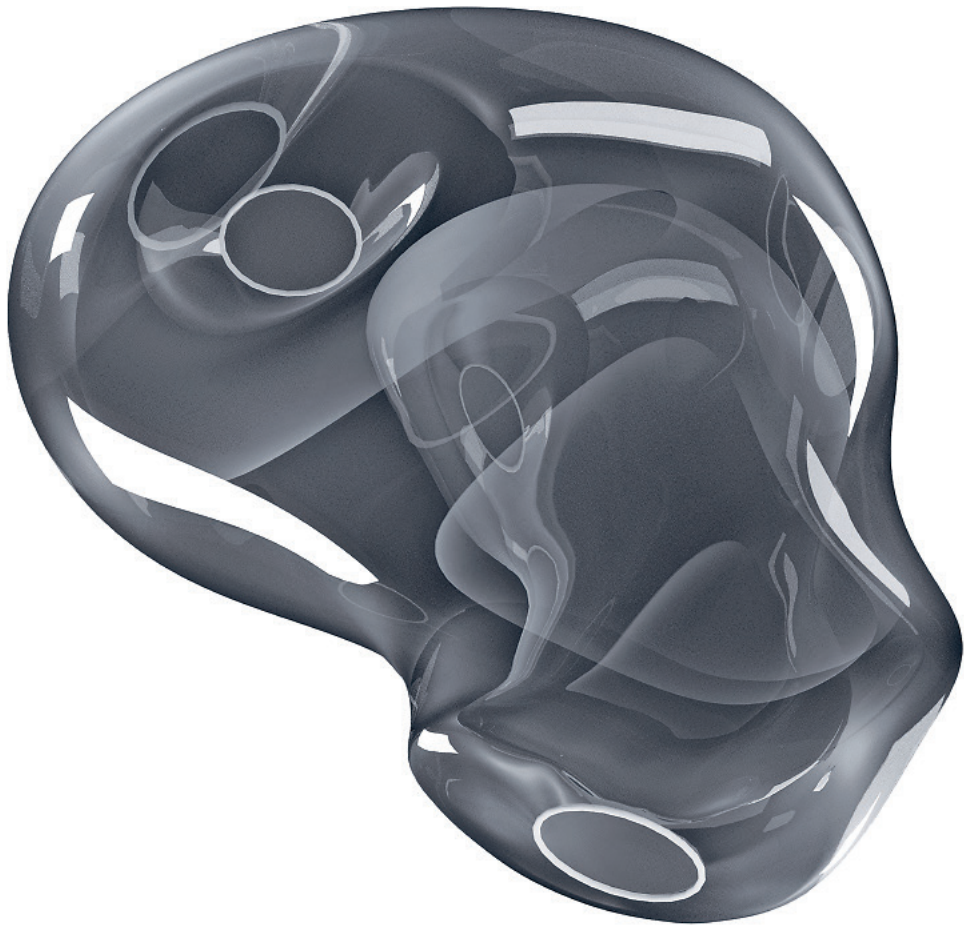
Photos by Miguel de Guzmán, Rocio Romero,
Imagen Subliminal.







Images by Peter Jay Zweig with Carlos Soto.



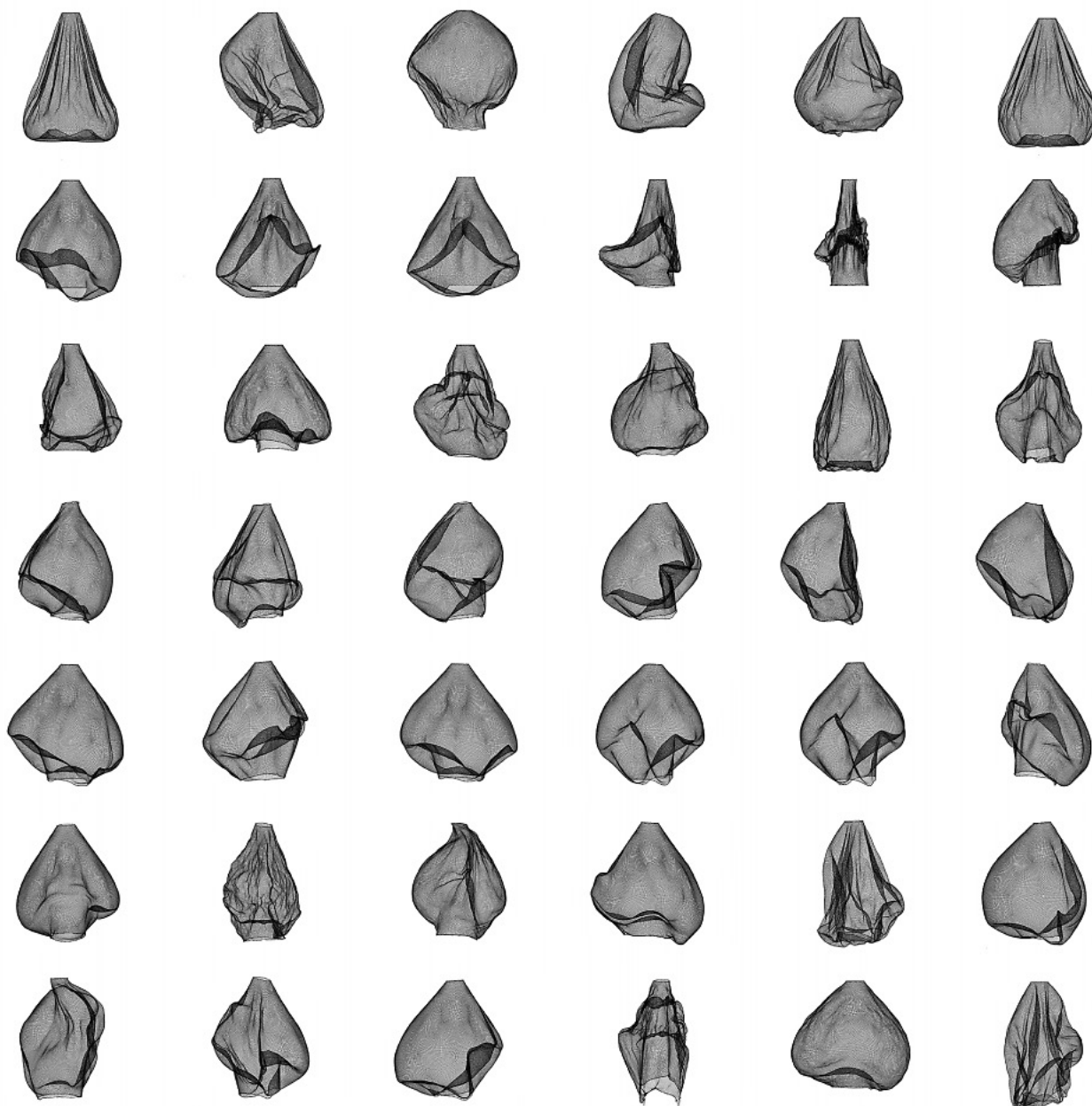


Image by Rafael Beneytez-Durán with
Patrick Margain.

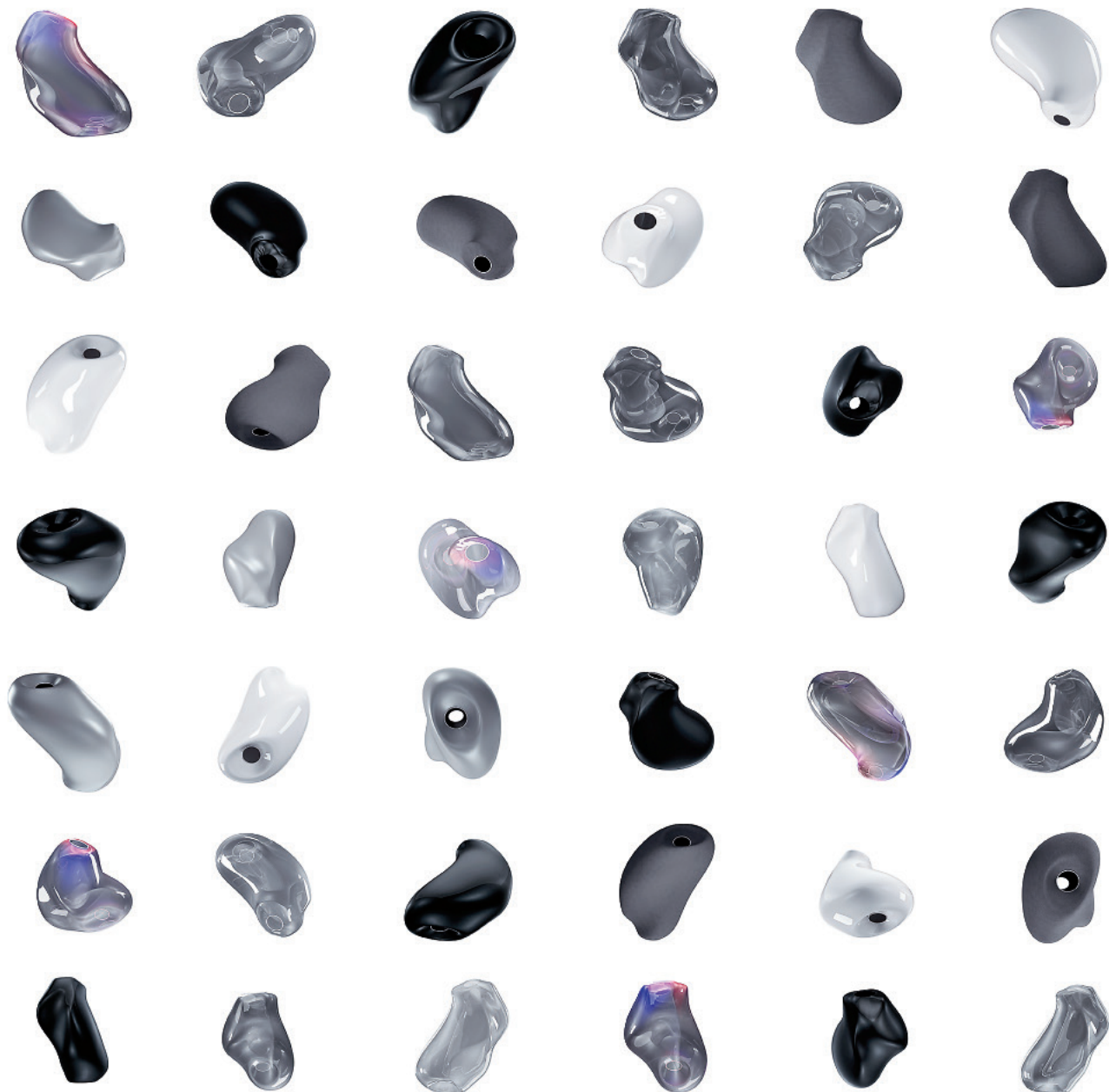


Image by Peter Jay Zweig with Carlos Soto.