

# San Francisco Chronicle

"Catherine Wagner reimagines 500 Capp Street in blue"

December 5, 2025

By Tony Bravo



Catherine Wagner, "Blue Reverie" ("Spatial Verbs"), 2025. Archival pigment print.  
Catherine Wagner, 500 Capp Street Foundation/Jessica Silverman

Catherine Wagner, 500 Capp Street's current artist-in-residence, meditates on the color blue in her culminating exhibition — and it's a hue loaded with cultural baggage. There's blues music, feeling blue, blue humor, blueprints and blue heaven. Artists even have blue periods, with Yves Klein famously claiming his own shade.

Wagner believes there is an "evocative, introspective nature" to the color, making it a rich hue for her to explore in the context of the David Ireland House. For "Blue Reverie," she draws on blue works from the foundation's archive and alters the house with the use of blue light and window tints. Lightbulbs become a recurring motif, while blue painter's tape is imaginatively employed. Set against the house's signature glossy yellow walls, these interventions are destabilizing — an exciting new way to see David Ireland's house.

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Wagner first met Ireland in 1999 while sharing a gallery for the show "Museum Pieces: Bay Area Artists Consider the de Young." The two artists discussed concepts of thinking and art making, which are now explored in "Blue Reverie."

Wagner has also invited her team — including Sophia Ramirez, Deirdre Visser, Nathan Kosta, Martin Rodriguez Serrano, Anika Murthy and TZ Jiang — to each contribute works for the show.

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