

James Turrell

Biography

1943 born in Los Angeles

lives and works in Flagstaff, Arizona, US

James Turrell, one of the most famous representatives of the international art scene, engages in all his works with the many and varied appearances of natural and artificial light. Turrell pushes at the borders of perception: his installations and environments make it possible to experience light as an artistic medium. The rooms are not lit in the traditional sense, rather they are filled with light and color. In such light spaces the architecture seems dematerialized – plane, color and space interact so that the viewer is immersed in a mysterious painterly world. The timelessness and fascination of his works are due mainly on the fact that Turrell succeeds in allowing us to experience light directly as a form of reality, without the use of symbolism or pictorial representation.

Exhibitions (selection since 2000)

- 2015 »LightScape: James Turrell at Houghton«
Houghton Hall Norfolk, UK *
- 2014 »James Turrell: A Retrospective«, The Israel
Museum, Jerusalem, IL *
- »James Turrell: A Retrospective«, National
Gallery of Australia, Canberra, AUS *
- 2013 »James Turrell«, The Solomon R. Guggenheim
Museum, New York, US *
- »James Turrell: The Light Inside«, MFAH,
Houston, US *
- »James Turrell. A Retrospective«, LACMA, Los
Angeles, US *
- Art Academy Museum, Easton, Maryland, US *
- 2012 »James Turrell: Agua De Luz«, Cenote Santa
Maria, Yucatan, MEX *
- »James Turrell: Trace Elements: Light into
Space«, Fine Art Center, Colorado Springs,
Colorado, US *
- 2011 »See colour«, Järna, SE
- »Illuminazione. Illuminations«, Biennale
Venedig, Venice, IT
- 2010 »The Wolfsburg Project«, Kunstmuseum
Wolfsburg, DE *
- »1. Biennale für Internationale Lichtkunst
Ruhr 2010«, Biennale für Internationale
Lichtkunst, Unna, DE
- 2009 »The Roden Crater«, Häusler Contemporary
Munich, DE *
- »Time & Place: Los Angeles, 1958-1968«,
Kunsthau, Zurich, CH *
- »James Turrell: Geometrie des Lichts«,
Zentrum für internationale Lichtkunst, Unna,
DE *
- »Hot Spots - Rio de Janeiro | Milano - Torino |
Los Angeles«, Kunsthau Zürich, Zurich, CH
- »A mancha humana | the human stein«,
Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea,
Santiago de Compostela, ES
- »Yellow and Green - Positionen aus der
Sammlung des MMK«, Museum für Moderne
Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, DE
- 2008 »James Turrell«, Total Museum of
Contemporary Art, Seoul, ROK *
- »Full House – Kiasma«, Museum of
Contemporary Art, Helsinki, FIN
- »Time & Place: Los Angeles 1957-1968«,
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, SE
- »Das Sehen sehen. Neoimpressionismus und
Moderne«, Kunsthau Zug, CH
- 2007 »James Turrell - The Tall Glass«, Häusler
Contemporary Zürich, CH *
- »Scenes and Sequences - Peter Blum Edition,
New York«, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, CH
- »100 Jahre Kunsthalle Mannheim«, Städtische
Kunsthalle Mannheim, DE
- 2006 Singapore Biennale 2006: BELIEF, SGP
- »James Turrell - Alta White«, Centre
Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne,
Paris, FR *
- »Review - 25 Jahre Österreichische Ludwig
Stiftung«, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung
Ludwig, Wien, AT
- »The Expanded Eye. Sehen - entgrenzt und
verflüssigt«, Kunsthau Zürich, CH
- 2005 IVAM, Valencia, ES
- »Take Two - Worlds and Views -
Contemporary Art from the Collection«,
MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York,
NY, USA
- »Overhead | Underfoot - The Topographical
Perspective in Photography«, Whitney
Museum of American Art, New York, NY, US
- »Wahlverwandtschaften«, Städel Museum,
Frankfurt am Main, DE
- 2004 »James Turrell: First Light Portfolio«,
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, US*
- »Stadtlicht - Lichtkunst | Illuminated Cities -
Illuminated Art - Stiftung Wilhelm
Lehmbruck Museum | Center of International
Sculpture, Duisburg, DE

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- 2003 »James Turrell«, Kunsthaus Zug, CH *
Sonoma County Museum, Kalifornien, US
- 2002 »James Turrell«, National Gallery of Fine Art,
Washington D.C., US
- 2001 »James Turrell: Infinite Light«, Scottsdale
Museum of Contemporary Art, Phoenix, US *
Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, CH *
»Über das Erhabene – Mark Rothko, Yves
Klein, James Turrell«, Deutsche Guggenheim,
Berlin, DE
»James Turrell: Light and Space«, MMK
Frankfurt, DE *
- 2000 »Percepciones en transformación: La
Colección Panza del Museo Guggenheim
Bilbao«, Museo Guggenheim de Arte Moderno
y Contemporáneo, Bilbao, ES
- *solo show

Collections

Bank of America, San Francisco, CA, US
Berardo Museum - Collection of Modern and
Contemporary Art, Lissabon, PT
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, FR
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, US
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY, US
Château de Rochechouart, Rochechouart, FR
Cheekwood Museum of the Arts, Memphis, TN, US
Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, IL, US
Collection Panza, Varese, IT
Contemporary Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA, US
Contemporary Arts Centre, Santa Fe, NM, US
Corporation Benness, Naoshima, JP
Cultural Contemporary Arts Centre, Mexico City,
MEX
De Pont Stitching Foundation, Tilburg, NL
Espai Poble Nou Foundation, Barcelona, ES
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris,
FR
Fondation Dia Art, New York, NY, US
Fondacion La Caixa, Madrid, ES
Fondation Lannan, Los Angeles, CA, US
Fondation Skystone, Flagstaff, AZ, US
FRAC - Limousin, Limoges, FR
Humanities Research Center, Austin, TX, US
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, US
Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL
Kilfane Gardens Trust, County Kilkenny, IRL
Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz, AT
Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, CH
Kunstsammlung für Nordrhein und Westfalen,
Düsseldorf, DE
Lenbachhaus, Munich DE

Los Angeles County Museum of Art - LACMA, Los
Angeles, CA, US
Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm, SE
Marian Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio,
TX, US
Mattress Factory, Pittsburg, PA, US
Menil Foundation, Houston, TX, US
MFAH - Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX,
US
Ministère de la Culture, le Crestett, FR
Modern Museum, Stockholm, SE
MoMA, New York, NY, US
MuHKA Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst
Antwerpen, Antwerpen, BE
Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, FR
Le Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Québec,
CAN
Musée de Dallas, Dallas, TX, US
Museum Fogg Art, at Harvard University,
Cambridge, MA, US
Museum für angewandte Kunst (MAK), Wien, AT
Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, DE
Museum gegenstandsfreier Kunst, Otterndorf, DE
Museum Hirshhorn and Sculpture Garden,
Washington, DC, US
Museum of Israel, Jerusalem, IL
Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport, CA, US
New York Public Library, New York, NY, US
Northern Arts, Caragill, GB
Philadelphia Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA, US
Principal Corporation, Des Moines, IA, US
Prudential Insurance of America, Newark, NJ, US
P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY, US
San Diego Contemporary Art Museum, La Jolla, CA,
US
San Francisco Modern Art Museum, San Francisco,
CA, US
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, US
Smith College Art Museum, Northampton, MA, US
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, US
Sprengel Museum, Hanover, DE
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The NL
Stroom, Den Haag, NL
Verbundnetz Gas, Leipzig, DE
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, US
Whitney American Art Museum, New York, NY, US
Yorkshire Sculpture Park - YSP, Wakefield, West
Yorkshire, GB
Zentrum für Internationale Lichtkunst - Centre for
international light art, Unna, DE