

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)

- 2018 »The Elliptical Glass«, Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH *
- 2017 »Immersive Light«, Long Musuem, Shanghai, CN *
- »Alien Exam | Aten Reign«, Häusler Contemporary München, DE *
- 2015 »LightScape: James Turrell at Houghton« Houghton Hall Norfolk, UK *
- 2014 »Light Spaces«, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL *
- »A Retrospective«, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, AUS *
- 2013 »James Turrell«, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, US *
- »The Light Inside«, MFAH, Houston, US *
- »A Retrospective«, LACMA, Los Angeles, US *
- Art Academy Museum, Easton, Maryland, US *
- 2012 »Agua De Luz«, Cenote Santa Maria, Yucatan, MEX *
- »Trace Elements: Light into Space«, Fine Art Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado, US *
- 2011 »See colour«, Järna, SE
- »Illuminazione/Illuminations«, Venice Biennial, 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 München, DE *
- »Time & Place: Los Angeles, 1958 – 1968«, Kunsthaus, Zurich, CH *
- »Geometrie des Lichts«, Zentrum für internationale Lichtkunst, Unna, DE *
- »Hot Spots: Rio de Janeiro | Milano – Torino | Los Angeles«, Kunsthaus 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«, Kunsthaus Zug, CH
- 2007 »The Tall Glass«, Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH *
- »Scenes and Sequences: Peter Blum Edition, New York«, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, CH
- »100 Jahre Kunsthalle Mannheim«, Städtische Kunsthalle Mannheim, DE
- 2006 Singapore Biennale 2006: BELIEF, SGP
- »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«, Kunsthaus 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 »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 *
»Light and Land«, Sonoma County Museum,
Kalifornien, US
- 2002 »James Turrell«, National Gallery of Fine Art,
Washington D.C., US
- 2001 »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
»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
Dia Art Foundation, New York, NY, US
Fundacion 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
Kunsthau 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, US
Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm, SE
Marian Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio,
TX, US
Mattress Factory, Pittsburg, US
Menil Foundation, Houston, US
MFAH – Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, US
Ministère de la Culture, le Crestett, FR
Modern Museum, Stockholm, SE
MoMA, New York, US
MuHKA Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst
Antwerpen, Antwerpen, BE
Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, FR
Le Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Québec,
CA
Dallas Museum of Art, US
Museum Fogg Art, at Harvard University,
Cambridge, 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, US
Museum of Israel, Jerusalem, IL
Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport, US
New York Public Library, New York, US
Northern Arts, Caragill, GB
Philadelphia Art Museum, Philadelphia, US
Principal Corporation, Des Moines, US
Prudential Insurance of America, Newark, US
P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY, US
San Diego Contemporary Art Museum, La Jolla, US
San Francisco Modern Art Museum, San Francisco,
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, US
Yorkshire Sculpture Park – YSP, Wakefield, West
Yorkshire, GB
Zentrum für Internationale Lichtkunst – Centre for
international light art, Unna, DE