

James Turrell

Biography

1943 born in Los Angeles, CA, US

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.

Solo Exhibitions (Selection)

- 2024 «Light in the paper. The prints of James Turrell», Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich, CH
James Turrell x Lalique, Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH
- 2023 «Works 1984 – 2023», Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH
- 2022 «Aftershock», Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, DK
- 2021 James Turrell: Into the Light, MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts, US
- 2020 «The Circular Glass», Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH
- 2019 «James Turrell», Museo Jumex, Ciudad de México, MX
- 2018 «The Substance of Light», Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, DE
«The Elliptical Glass», Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH
«Ganzfeld 'Aural'», Jüdisches Museum, Berlin, DE
- 2017 «Alien Exam | Aten Reign», Häusler Contemporary München, DE
«James Turrell», MASS MoCA – Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA, US
«Immersive Light», The Long Museum, Shanghai, CN
- 2015 «LightScape: James Turrell at Houghton», Houghton Hall Norfolk, GB
- 2014 «James Turrell: Light Spaces», The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL
«James Turrell: A Retrospective», National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, AU
- 2013 «James Turrell», The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, US
«James Turrell: The Light Inside», MFAH – The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, US
«James Turrell. A Retrospective», LACMA – Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, US
Art Academy Museum, Easton, ML, US
- 2012 «James Turrell: Agua De Luz», Cenote Santa Maria, Yucatan, MX
«James Turrell: Trace Elements: Light into Space», Fine Art Center, Colorado Springs, CO, US
- 2010 «The Wolfsburg Project», Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, DE
- 2009 «The Roden Crater», Häusler Contemporary München, DE
«Time & Place: Los Angeles, 1958-1968», Kunsthaus Zürich, CH
«James Turrell: Geometrie des Lichts», Zentrum für internationale Lichtkunst, Unna, DE
- 2008 «James Turrell», Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, KR
- 2007 «James Turrell - The Tall Glass», Häusler Contemporary Zürich, CH
- 2006 «James Turrell - Alta White», Centre Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, FR
- 2005 «James Turrell», IVAM – Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, ES
- 2004 «James Turrell: First Light Portfolio», Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, US
- 2003 «James Turrell», Kunsthaus Zug, CH
- 2001 Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, ES
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Phoenix, US
Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH

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Group Exhibition (Selection)

- 2021 «Light and Space», Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, DK
- 2015 «Color Square: Amish Quilts and James Turrell», De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands, NL
- 2014 «Color Square: Amish Quilts and James Turrell», Neues Museum, Nürnberg, DE
- 2013 «Aisthesis», Villa Panza, Varese, Italy, IT
«In the Library: Announcements from Vertical Files», National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., US
- 2011 «Seel Colour!», Järna, SE
«Illuminazione. Illuminations», 54. Biennale di Venezia, IT
- 2010 «1. Biennale für Internationale Lichtkunst Ruhr 2010», Biennale für Internationale Lichtkunst, Unna, DE
- 2009 «Hot Spots - Rio de Janeiro | Milano - Torino | Los Angeles», Kunsthaus Zürich, 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», MMK – Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, DE
- 2008 «Full House – Kiasma», Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, FI
Time & Place: Los Angeles 1957-1968», Moderna Museet, Stockholm, SE
«Das Sehen sehen. Neoimpressionismus und Moderne», Kunsthaus Zug, CH
- 2007 «Scenes and Sequences - Peter Blum Edition, New York», Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau, CH
«100 Jahre Kunsthalle Mannheim», Städtische Kunsthalle Mannheim, DE
- 2006 «Belief», 1. Singapore Biennale, Singapur, SG
«Review - 25 Jahre Österreichische Ludwig Stiftung», Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Wien, AT
«The Expanded Eye. Sehen - entgrenzt und verflüssigt», Kunsthaus Zürich, CH
- 2005 «Take Two - Worlds and Views - Contemporary Art from the Collection», MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York, US

Collections (Selection)

- Bank of America, San Francisco, CA, US
- Berardo Museum - Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, Lisboa, PT
- Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, FR
- Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, US Chase
- 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, Ciudad de México, MX
- De Pont Stitching Foundation, Tilburg, NL
- Espai Poblenuu 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
- Foundation Skystone, Flagstaff, AZ, US
- FRAC - Limousin, Limoges, FR
- Humanities Research Center, Austin, TX, US

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Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, US
Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL
Kilfane Gardens Trust, County Kilkenny, IR
Kunsthhaus Bregenz, AT
Kunstmuseum Bern, CH
Kunstsammlung für Nordrhein und Westfalen, Düsseldorf, DE
Lenbachhaus, München, DE
Los Angeles County Museum of Art - LACMA, Los Angeles, US
Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, 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, TX, US
Ministère de la Culture, le Crestett, FR
Modern Museum, Stockholm, SE
MoMA, New York, US
MuHKA Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, BE
Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, FR
Le Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Québec, CA
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 am Main, 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, 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, Hannover, DE
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL
Stroom, Den Haag, NL
Verbundnetz
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