

[Artist Website](#)

[Turrell at Pace Gallery](#)

[Turrell on Art21](#)

James Turrell (American, b. 1943)

Permanent installations of Turrell’s *Skyscapes* are on display worldwide. Examples are on view at institutions including the [Guggenheim Museum](#), the [Benton Museum of Art](#) at Pomona College, the [Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art](#), [Arizona State University](#), the [University of Texas](#) at Austin, and others.

Read a 2011 interview in [Interview Magazine](#) with Michael Govan, director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

2013 was a busy year for Turrell. He first installed a major exhibition at LACMA, [James Turrell: A Retrospective](#). Read an article by Wil S. Hylton about the complex installation process for the [New York Times Magazine](#). Also read reviews of the exhibition in [CAA](#) and the [Los Angeles Times](#). Next, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston installed [James Turrell: The Light Inside](#), an exhibition that featured seven immersive light environments. Finally, the [Guggenheim Museum](#) launched a solo exhibition of Turrell’s work. Read a review of the exhibition in [Architectural Record](#) and watch an [artist talk](#) with Michael Govan in conjunction with the exhibition.

Read a 2014 [interview](#) with Anna Madeleine in The Guardian, “I can make the sky any colour you choose.”

[The National Gallery of Australia](#) installed *James Turrell: A Retrospective* in 2014. Read a [review](#) by Andrew Frost in The Guardian.

[James Turrell: Breathing Light](#) was at LACMA in 2017, featuring “an installation designed to entirely eliminate the viewer’s depth perception.



Turrell in front of Roden Crater, 2001
Photograph: Florian Holzherr

The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art installed [James Turrell: Into the Light](#) in 2017, a multi-decade retrospective that will be on view for twenty-five years. Read a [review](#) of the installation in the Wall Street Journal.

In 2019, Kanye West [donated](#) \$10 million to the Roden Crater project and shot an IMAX film inside the work-in-progress.

[James Turrell: Passages of Light](#) was on display at Museo Jumex in Mexico City in 2019-2020.

Read Wil S. Hylton’s [account](#) of visiting Roden Crater in 2021, an exclusive look into Turrell’s decades-long project that remains unfinished.



Turrell, ca. 2019
Photograph: Christopher Pillitz

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CAPE HOPE, (S. Africa), Elliptical Wide Glass, 2015

L.E.D. light, etched glass and shallow space, Runtime: 2 hours 30 minutes

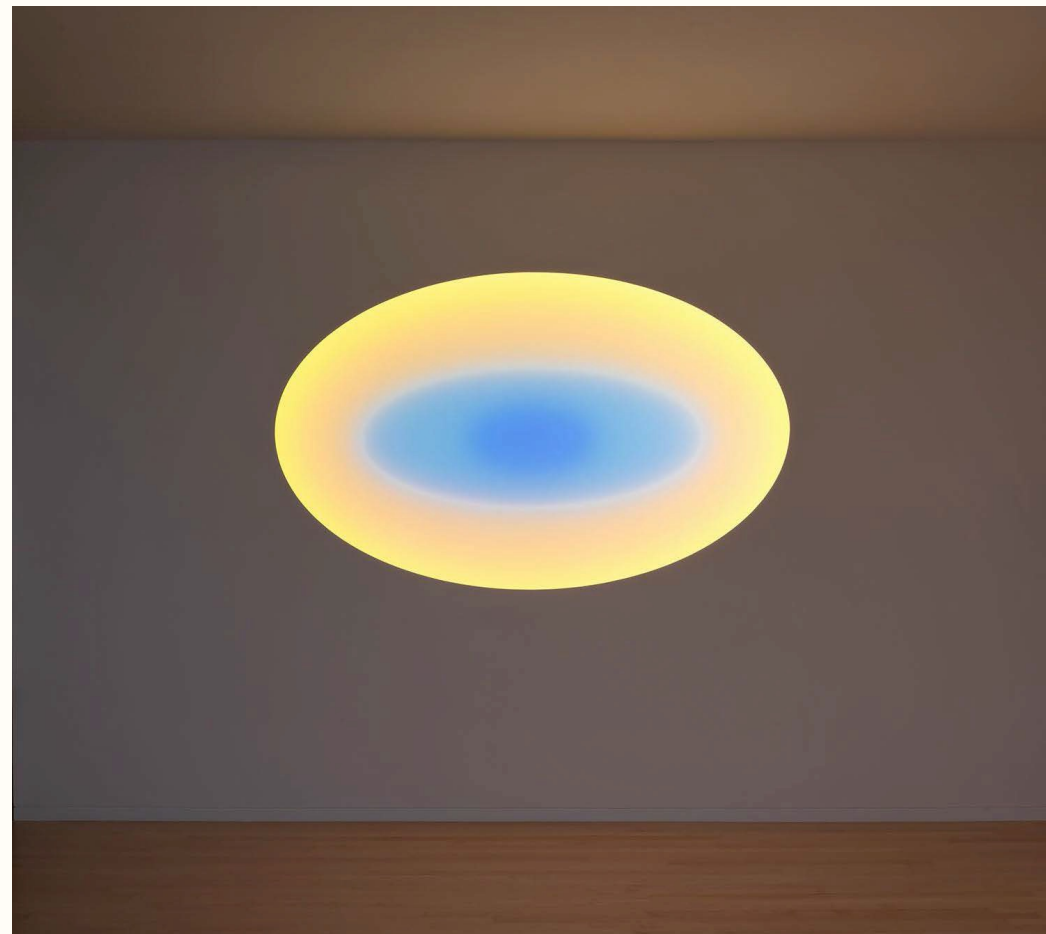
Collection of Hedy & Benjamin Nazarian; L2022:142.1

“To some degree, to control light I have to have a way to form it, so I use form almost like the stretcher bar of a canvas. When I prepare walls, I make them so perfect that you actually don’t pay attention to them. This is true of the architecture of form I use: I am interested in the form of the space and the form of territory, of how we consciously inhabit space.” – James Turrell

James Turrell’s career began in the 1960s as one of the first Light and Space artists of Los Angeles. He became known for his decades-long effort to complete a monumental, staggeringly ambitious series of light works at Roden Crater, an extinct, 400,000 year old volcano in Arizona. Literally carved into the mountain, the *Roden Crater Project’s* separate sky spaces, tunnels, and other components offer a profound way to contemplate light, time, and the landscape. Together they constitute one of the contemporary art world’s truly monumental life projects.

While working on the *Roden Crater*, Turrell has continued to produce other, smaller works. These include sky spaces—architectural chambers that open up to the sky— and technologically sophisticated installations, such as *CAPE HOPE*, designed for galleries, museums, and private collection spaces. Speaking of these pieces, Turrell says that he is interested in the immateriality of color and the sensorial experience of space, color, and perception. These works can take several different basic forms, including circular, rectangular, or elliptical shapes, as with *CAPE HOPE*.

Turrell’s installation at the JSMA is the artist’s first major work to show in Eugene. The museum gratefully thanks Los Angeles collectors Hedy and Benjamin Nazarian for the loan of *CAPE HOPE*, and Pace Gallery Los Angeles for assistance in bringing the work to the University of Oregon.



On view March 22, 2023 – March 17, 2024