

GAGOSIAN

Gagosian Le Bourget to Present Largest Exhibition by James Turrell in Europe in Over 25 Years, Opening October 14

At One Features More Than 35 Works Including Installations, In-Wall Lightworks, Projections, Models, Photographs, Prints, a Letterpress Book, and Archival Materials



James Turrell, *A CHAPEL FOR LUKE and his scribe Lucius the Cyrene*, 2022, from the series *Ganzfeld*, 1976–, light installation and mixed media, dimensions variable, permanent installation, Diözesanmuseum Freising, Germany © James Turrell. Photo: Florian Holzher

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I want to make something that people direct their attention toward. It's not that different from when I was a child in the crib, fascinated by the light I saw above me.

We usually use light to illuminate things. I am interested in the "thingness" of light itself. Light does not so much reveal, as it is the revelation itself.

—James Turrell

LE BOURGET, September 24, 2024—Gagosian is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by James Turrell, opening on October 14 at the Le Bourget gallery. It features two new large installations: a *Ganzfeld* piece, *All Clear*, and a *Wedgewood* piece, *Either Or* (both 2024). Additionally included is an early projection work, *Shanta, Red* (1968); the newer *Corner Projection, Afrum Again* (2024); and six new in-wall *Glassworks* pieces that present every configuration of the series. Also on view are

holograms, models, prints, and plans of *Roden Crater* (1976–), along with survey lap desks used in their production, as well as other photographs, prints, and archival materials.

Since the 1960s, Turrell has worked with perceptual phenomena ranging from sensory deprivation to optical effects. In 1966, he began using planes of light in relation to architectural interiors, launching an ongoing manipulation of built and natural environments. Turrell continues to use light as his primary material to work with the medium of perception, creating formally simple projects that employ new technologies to examine the limits of seeing, sometimes inducing meditative states.

The main space on the Le Bourget gallery's ground floor houses *Ganzfeld, All Clear*. Viewers enter a rounded, all-white pavilion within which they are bathed with colored light generated by an LED screen and backlighting. The lack of corners and edges in the space further contributes to a loss of orientation. The series is named for the Ganzfeld Effect, which can occur when an absence of depth, shape, and distance indicators causes the brain to mistake visual noise for tangible information. Turrell's work evokes the disorienting experiences of skiing in whiteout conditions, ascending into enveloping clouds while flying, or diving into the void of the deep ocean. The landscape alluded to is comparable to outer space, where all horizons are lost, and the abstraction of Boolean algebra. Echoes of such experiences occur when space is dissolved ephemerally in the *Ganzfeld* piece, *All Clear*. This occurs at timed intervals to prevent the disorientation from becoming overwhelming.

Also on the gallery's ground floor is *Either Or*, a new installation in the *Wedgework* series. Here, projected light interacts with reflective surfaces, lending it a physical "thingness" through which the room's interior architecture appears to expand beyond its physical limits.

The surrounding hallways house six *Glassworks* pieces that relate to Turrell's recent exhibition *Light of the Presence* at Gagosian Athens, as well as aquatints and woodcuts that explore the qualities of light in *Aten Reign*, the artist's 2014 installation at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. The two adjacent ground floor galleries house *Shanta, Red* and *Afrum Again*, in which seemingly solid forms are conjured by light projected into interior corners.

Alongside these works, archival materials related to *Roden Crater* dating from 1982 to 2024 are on view, along with blueprints, holograms, models, photographs, a three-dimensional photo viewer, and two lap desks that were used by Turrell throughout the 1980s. *Roden Crater* is a vast artwork built into a volcanic cinder cone in the landscape of the Painted Desert of Northern Arizona to form a naked-eye observatory for the contemplation of the light and space of the sky.

James Turrell was born in 1943 in Los Angeles and lives and works in Flagstaff, Arizona. Collections include the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Tate Modern, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The James Turrell Museum opened in Colomé, Argentina, in 2009. Exhibitions include Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (1976); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1980); *Two Spaces*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem (1982–83); *Occluded Front*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1985–86); *The Other Horizon*, Museum für angewandte kunst, Vienna (1998–99); *Into the Light*, Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh (2002–03); *The Wolfsburg Project*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2009–10); *The Light Inside*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2013); Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2013); *Immersive Light*, Long Museum, Shanghai (2017); *Passages of Light*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2019); *Into the Light*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts (2021–25); *Light, Space, and the Art of Perception*, Center of International Contemporary Art Vancouver, Canada (2023–24); and *Light in Paper. Prints by James Turrell*, Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich (2024), an exhibition of prints in collaboration with Peter Kneubühler. A retrospective organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York, opened at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2014.

Forthcoming exhibitions and projects include *Straight Up*, DIB Museum, Bangkok (opens December 2025); *As Seen Below (The Dome)*, ARoS, Aarhus, Denmark (opens 2025); and *Akhu* (a *Ganzfeld* Space, 2023), Daegu National Museum, South Korea (opens 2025).

Turrell is the recipient of awards including the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (1984), Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (1991), and National Medal of Arts (2013).

#JamesTurrell

JAMES TURRELL

At One

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26 Avenue de l'Europe, Le Bourget

Press

Gagosian

press@gagosian.com

Toby Kidd

tkidd@gagosian.com

+44 20 7495 1500

Karla Otto

Pauline Stiegler

pauline.stiegler@karlaotto.com

+33 6 28 56 77 21

Shany Gainand

shany.gainand@karlaotto.com

+33 6 83 14 54 88