

## James Turrell: *Elemental*

25 February – 7 May, 2022

Pace Gallery  
Quai des Bergues, 15–17  
Geneva



James Turrell, *Elemental*, *Wide Rectangular Curved Glass*, 2021, LED light, etched glass and shallow space, 182.9 × 304.8 cm, Runtime: 2 hours 30 minutes © James Turrell

*“In working with light, what is really important to me is to create an experience of wordless thought, to make the quality and sensation of light itself really quite tactile. It has a quality seemingly intangible, yet it is physically felt. Often people reach out and try to touch it.”* – James Turrell

Geneva – Pace Gallery is honoured to present *James Turrell: Elemental*, the first solo exhibition of the Light and Space master in the Geneva gallery. On view from 25 February to 7 May 2022, this exhibition marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pace’s representation of Turrell. *Elemental* is a brand-new immersive installation that expands across the gallery, building on the artist’s lifelong exploration of perception, light, space, and time.

Turrell’s work evades classification, he explains, “with no object, no image and no focus, what are you looking at? You are looking at you looking.” Placing experiences of time and space at the core of his practice, Turrell’s installation emits a work of art that escapes physical boundary. Imperceptible pulsating transitions of colour mimic the animal mechanics of breathing. Yet, framed with curved corners akin to plane windows – or the convex appearance of the horizon line – the work is elevated to celestial proportion. The experience of seeing guides the viewer into a meditative state, paying homage to the artist’s decades-long devotion to flying airplanes, his Quaker upbringing and immersion in West Coast and Eastern spiritualism.

Reinforcing relationships between technology and sensorial experience, Turrell brings attention to the materiality of light itself as it appears to oscillate between being ‘within’ the wall and floating beyond it. This site-specific gallery takeover continues the artist’s ongoing investigations into light as both subject and material. In titling the work *Elemental*, the viewer is invited to return to the fundamentals of perception. Although immaterial, the lone presence of light as a substance rather than a tool of disclosure manifests it into physical quality. Light when manipulated by Turrell becomes a phenomenon perceived by and beyond the visual.

The Geneva exhibition coincides with a presentation at Pace’s New York gallery at 540 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, which features a new 2021 installation, *After Effect*.

**James Turrell** (b. 1943, Los Angeles), associated with the Light and Space Movement initiated in the 1960s, has dedicated his practice to what he has deemed perceptual art, investigating the immaterial qualities of light. Influenced by the notion of pure feeling in pictorial art, Turrell’s earliest work focused on the dialectic between constructing light and painting with it, building on the sensorial experience of space, color, and perception. Since his earliest Projection Pieces (1966–69), his exploration has expanded through various series, including Skyspaces (1974–), Ganzfelds (1976–), and perhaps most notably, his Roden Crater Project (1977–), a large-scale work in a volcanic cinder cone in the Painted Desert region of northern Arizona. Turrell’s practice has also materialized in small-scale works, including architectural models, holograms, and works on paper.

**Pace** is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from the past century, holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Barbara Hepworth, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko. Pace enjoys a unique U.S. heritage spanning East and West coasts through its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements.

Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy as an artist-first gallery that mounts seminal historical and contemporary exhibitions. Under the current leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace continues to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences worldwide by remaining at the forefront of innovation. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery advances its mission through a robust global program—comprising exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, performances, and interdisciplinary projects. Pace has a legacy in art bookmaking and has published over five hundred titles in close collaboration with artists, with a focus on original scholarship and on introducing new voices to the art historical canon.

The gallery has also spearheaded explorations into the intersection of art and technology through its new business models, exhibition interpretation tools, and representation of artists cultivating advanced studio practices. Pace’s presence in Silicon Valley since 2016 has bolstered its longstanding support of experimental practices and digital artmaking. As part of its commitment to innovative, technologically engaged artists within and beyond its program, Pace launched its own dedicated NFT platform, Pace Verso, in November 2021. The gallery’s past NFT projects have spotlighted digital works by Glenn Kaino, DRIFT, Lucas Samaras, Simon Denny, Urs Fischer, John Gerrard, and other artists.

Today, Pace has nine locations worldwide including London, Geneva, a strong foothold in Palo Alto, and two galleries in New York—its headquarters at 540 West 25th Street, which welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and programmed 20 shows in its first six months, and an adjacent 8,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. Pace was one of the first international galleries to establish outposts in Asia, where it operates permanent gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as an office and viewing room in Beijing. In 2020, Pace opened temporary exhibition spaces in East Hampton and Palm Beach, with continued programming on a seasonal basis.

Press Inquiries

Europe  
 Rebecca Riegelhaupt  
 Communications Director  
 rriegelhaupt@pacegallery.com  
 +44 7917 909779

Sam Talbot  
 sam@sam-talbot.com  
 +44 7725 184630

United States  
 Adriana Elgarresta  
 Director of Public Relations  
 aelgarresta@pacegallery.com  
 +1 305 498 1649

Sales Inquiries

Pace Gallery  
 geneva@pacegallery.com

Follow Pace Gallery

📷 @pacegallery  
 🐦 @pacegallery  
 📘 @pacegallery