

ГАРАЖ

ЦЕНТР
СОВРЕМЕННОЙ
КУЛЬТУРЫ

PRESS RELEASE

JAMES TURRELL (11 June – 14 August 2011)

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture will present the first solo exhibition in Russia by one of the world's most important contemporary artists - James Turrell. The American artist will be the subject of a retrospective spanning 40 years, including early experiments with light projections from the 1960s, a specially commissioned *Ganzfeld* installation (*Purusa*) and *Perceptual Cell* (*Light ReignFall*), presented here for the first time.

James Turrell has been creating art from light and space since the 1960s. Over nearly five decades, he has developed an extensive body of work that includes sculptures, holograms, installations, and architecture. His carefully constructed environments are catalysts for viewers to explore the phenomena of perception. By capturing and emphasizing the evanescent and refractory qualities of light, Turrell engineers works of art that must be experienced rather than just viewed.

At Garage, 15 light works, including the horizonless and imageless landscape of *Purusa* (2011), will be on view. This newly commissioned work invites visitors to enter a completely immersive light landscape, engulfing them in a 'sublime bath of light' that produces a sense of perceptual disorientation. Turrell describes this effect as 'feeling with your eyes', an experience he regards as not just aesthetic but also spiritual.

The relation of exterior light to interior light is explored further with the intimately-scaled, self-contained chamber *Light ReignFall*, a fully immersive visual and auditory environment of intense light lasting 8 to 12 minutes. Inside the chamber, a single viewer is bathed in a sequence of lights that triggers the ability to discover the connection between exterior and interior light, between light seen through the eyes and light seen behind the eyes (as in a dream).

The exhibition will also include a *Space Division Construction*, a *Shallow Space Construction* and a work from the *Wedgework* series, together with seven reflective and transmissive *Holograms*.

Several models for *Autonomous Structures*, which are freestanding chambers which contain a *Ganzfeld* or *Skyspace* interior with a central opening to the sky, will also be on view. As the artist explains, '*Autonomous Structures* are just containers for the light, the art is in the experience of the viewer.' These spaces evolved from Turrell's most ambitious project to date and the crux of his artistic endeavors—the transformation of the Roden Crater, a dormant volcano in the Arizona desert. The crater is a monumental celestial observatory, housing a number of site-specific light installations that are often contained within the artist's *Autonomous Structures*.

127005, Россия, Москва
Улица Образцова, 19А
+7 495 645 05 10 тел.
+7 495 645 05 11 факс
welcome@garageccc.com
www.garageccc.com

Further information

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture is a major non-profit international arts space based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture which opened in 2008. There are two distinct areas of programming—to bring important international modern and contemporary art and culture to Moscow and to raise the profile of Russian contemporary culture and encourage a new generation of Russian artists. These are explored through a series of exhibitions ranging from major surveys of important collections to single-artist retrospectives or group exhibitions. Garage also hosts a strong program of special on-site events, including talks, film screenings, workshops, performances and creative activities for children. Garage's space includes galleries, open exhibition spaces, courtyard, cafe, kids space, purpose-built auditorium and media room, all designed by award winning architect Jamie Fobert.

Garage is a project of The Iris Foundation, founded by Daria Zhukova.

James Turrell was organized in association with The Pace Gallery.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

James Turrell was born in 1943 in Los Angeles. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in experimental psychology at Pomona College at Claremont, California in 1965, followed by a Master's degree in Art from Claremont Graduate School in 1973. His work is represented in numerous public collections including Tate Modern, London; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. The James Turrell Museum opened in Colomé, Argentina, in 2009. Important solo exhibitions include the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1976); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1980); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (1982); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1984); MAK, Vienna (1998-1999); Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh (2002-2003); and *The Wolfsburg Project*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2009-2010). In 2013, a major retrospective will simultaneously open at the Guggenheim Museum, New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

James Turrell has been transforming the Roden Crater, a natural cinder volcano situated on the southwestern edge of the Painted Desert in northern Arizona, into a large-scale artwork since 1972. The work relates to the surrounding sky, land, and culture through the medium of light. As an observatory, the Roden Crater will allow visitors to see celestial phenomena with the naked eye. Construction of the project is under the direction of Dia Art Foundation and Skystone Foundation with support from the Lannan Foundation.

The artist has been represented by The Pace Gallery since 2002.

CURATOR BIOGRAPHY

Richard Andrews is the curator of James Turrell's exhibition at Garage, Moscow. He was previously the Director of the University of Washington's Henry Art Gallery for two decades. Prior to that position, Andrews was Director of the Visual Arts Program at the National Endowment for the Arts for three years. He was in charge of the public art program at the Seattle Arts Commission from 1978–1984. Andrews is currently president of the Skystone Foundation, the organization responsible for the realization of James Turrell's Roden Crater project in northern Arizona, and a consultant to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Andrews' interest lies in creating common ground between contemporary art and the public. To this end, he served as a consultant and has lectured on public art projects internationally. Exhibitions curated by Andrews include: Maya Lin's *Systematic Landscapes* (2006) and James Turrell's *Knowing*

Light (2003), both held at the Henry Art Gallery. In 1991 Andrews organized the exhibition and catalogue *Art Into Life: Russian Constructivism 1914–32*, an extensive survey drawn from Russian museums and private collections. He serves on the National Advisory Committee for the Smithsonian Archives of American Art and the Cultural Advisory Council for the *Art:21* public television series. Andrews is an Affiliate Associate Professor at the University of Washington School of Art.

James Turrell has been organized in association with The Pace Gallery, New York.

James Turrell
11 June – August 2011

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture
19A Ulitsa Obraztsova
Moscow, Russia
Tel: +7 495 6450520
www.garageccc.com
Center opening hours:
Mon – Thurs 11.00 - 21.00
Fri – Sun: 11.00 - 22.00

Booking for Light ReignFall opens at 11.00 on the 1 June.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND IMAGES:

Erica Bolton
Bolton & Quinn
Tel: +44 20 7221 5000
E mail: erica@boltonquinn.com