

## JAMES TURRELL MASTER OF LIGHT

**Can light be shaped? For more than fifty years the artist James Turrell has been working on all-encompassing, experiential perception. Now, the newly released illustrated volume *Extraordinary Ideas—Realized* is devoted to his unusual ideas.**

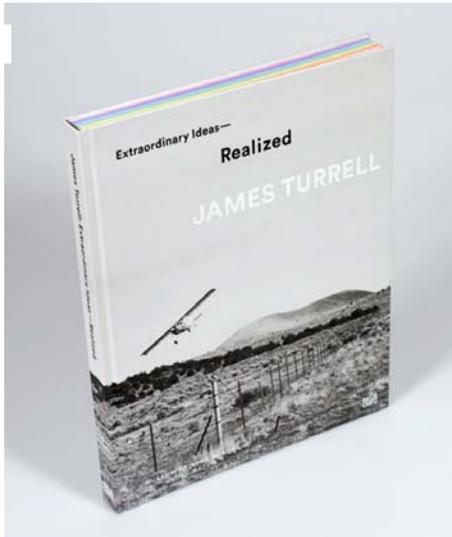
Berlin, July 23, 2018 – Light has held a special fascination for James Turrell ever since his childhood. Growing up in a Quaker community in the American West, Turrell experienced light very consciously, in the context of a kind of meditative worship in the space where the community assembled. At night he poked holes in the window blinds of his bedroom with a needle, trying to imitate the constellations. Many years later, in 1966, after graduating with a degree in perceptual psychology and mathematics, Turrell began creating his light spaces—a project he has continued to this day.

Over the past half-a-century of his career, Turrell (who calls both Arizona and Maryland home) has tried to make it possible to experience light in many different ways. He creates spaces and projections, builds light observatories and installations—always with the goal of creating for people the most immersive experience of space and light possible.

“Light is a powerful substance. We have a primal connection to it. But, for something so powerful, situations for its felt presence are fragile. I form it as much as the material allows. I like to work with it so that you feel it physically, so you feel the presence of light inhabiting a space,” says the artist.

While Turrell avoids dealing with objects, his work is always focused on the relationship between light and space, and the possible ways a human being experiences them. He calls these spaces, which are immersed in an even, completely enveloping light, *Ganzfeld works* —or *Skyscapes*, if the work is a perfectly proportioned room open to the skies.

This artist’s book comes with remarkable rainbow edge coloring, and has been designed in close collaboration with Turrell and his designer, Lorraine Wild. It contains an overview of his most important light spaces, which have been captured on camera by Turrell’s trusted photographer, Florian Holzherr. *Extraordinary Ideas—Realized* provides a comprehensive look at the American Light artists’ oeuvre, compiling works dating from the 1960s onward from various phases of his career.



**JAMES TURRELL**  
**EXTRAORDINARY IDEAS—REALIZED**

Ed. Stiftung Frieder Burda  
English  
2018. 192 pp., 178 ills.  
hardcover with colored edging  
24.50 x 30.00 cm  
ISBN 978-3-7757-4484-3

60,00 EUR

**ABOUT HATJE CANTZ**

Hatje Cantz is a groundbreaking international publishing company specializing in art, architecture, and photography. Since 1945 Hatje Cantz has been using its profound expertise and enthusiasm for craftsmanship to produce and publish books of the highest quality. We currently release around two hundred new titles annually.

Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

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