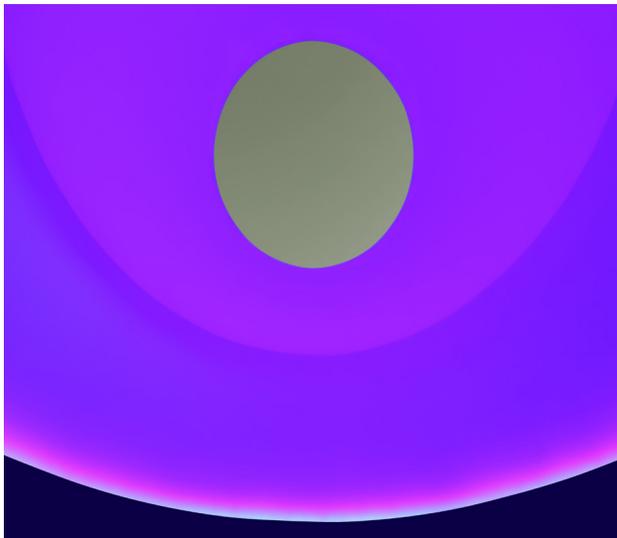


Landmarks Guide for Adolescents



James Turrell
American, born 1943

THE COLOR INSIDE
2013

Black basalt, plaster, and LED lights

Subject: Spirituality in art

Activity: Reflect on spiritual works of art through writing

Materials: Paper, pencil

Vocabulary: Abstract, perception, Quaker, oculus

Introduction

James Turrell is an artist whose medium is light. He studied perceptual psychology and art in college and also has interests in aviation, geometry, and astronomy. Sometimes disorienting, his works heighten our sense of vision by using a combination of natural and artificial light. Rooted in the traditions of his Quaker upbringing, Turrell invites visitors to “go inside and greet the light.”

Turrell is well known for his Skyspaces—enclosures that viewers can enter, sit in, and observe the sky through an opening in the ceiling called an oculus. Though the Skyspace is not affiliated with any religion, it serves as a quiet, contemplative place for people to gather, similar to a church or other sacred space.

Questions

What makes you feel spiritual?

What makes a place feel spiritual?

What other examples of works of art that deal with spirituality have you seen?

How do other artists address spirituality in their art?

Activity

Option 1: Write about your experience visiting the Skyspace or another experience you’ve had with a work of art that relates to spirituality. Identify specific elements of the art that make you feel spiritual and explain why.

Option 2: Sketch a design for a space that would inspire your spirituality. Write about why you included specific elements of the design.

James Turrell, continued



Vocabulary

Abstract - Art that is not realistic and uses shapes, forms, colors, and textures

Perception - The way we become aware of things through our senses

Quaker - A religious group devoted to peaceful principles

Oculus - A circular opening in a ceiling or wall



Artists with related works

Ben Rubin, *And That's The Way It Is*, 2012, a light projection on the communications building that is only visible after sunset.