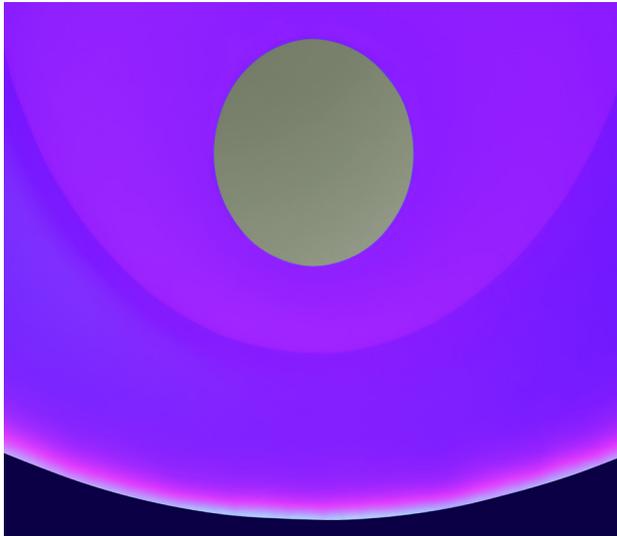


Landmarks Guide for Older Children



James Turrell
American, born 1943

THE COLOR INSIDE
2013

Black basalt, plaster, and LED lights

Subject: Light

Activity: Write a poem inspired by the Skyspace

Materials: Paper, writing utensil

Vocabulary: Medium, optical illusion, abstract

Introduction

James Turrell uses light as his artistic medium the same way a sculptor uses clay to express an idea. In the Skyspace Turrell uses lights to color the walls during sunrise and sunset. The program changes the way our eyes see the natural light coming through the opening in the roof, creating an optical illusion. During the day the shifting sky and changing natural light activate the space in new ways.

One of Turrell's favorite hobbies is flying planes. He is inspired by the different light he sees while in the sky and has said, "My airplane is my studio." Using light to call attention to the way we see, Turrell creates abstract works of art.

Questions

How does the sky look when you are in a plane compared to when you are on the ground?

How does changing natural light affect your mood?

How do you feel when it is sunny compared to when it is cloudy or dark?

How do we use light to change our mood?

Think about the lights we use during holidays or celebrations.

Activity

Write a Haiku poem inspired by light in the Skyspace. Describe the light you see and the emotions you feel. A Haiku is a short, three-line poem consisting of 17 words, as broken down below.

Line 1: 5 words

Line 2: 7 words

Line 3: 5 words



Vocabulary

Medium - The material used by an artist, such as paint or clay

Optical illusion - A trick that makes one see something that is not actually as it seems

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



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.