

JAMES TURRELL

at pomona college

Dedication of

Art Task Force for Draper Courtyard

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Dividing the Light

A skyspace by James Turrell '65

October 12, 2007

Draper Courtyard

Pomona College

Claremont, California

James Turrell, an internationally acclaimed light and space artist, creates striking works that play with perception and the effect of light within a created space. Influenced by his Quaker upbringing, his fascination with the phenomena of light is related to his personal, inward search for mankind's place in the universe. As an undergraduate at Pomona College, Turrell pursued interests in perceptual psychology and art. After graduating, his fascination with the dynamics of perception and the profound significance of light drove his explorations as an artist. His art places viewers in a realm of pure experience while evoking silent contemplation. His Skyspaces, such as the work being dedicated, incorporate the complex interplay of sky, light, atmosphere, and human perception. Draper Courtyard, at the center of the Lincoln and Edmunds buildings that house Pomona's programs in Psychology, Neuroscience, and Linguistics and Cognitive Science, is a fitting location for a creative focus that can be said to have begun at the College more than 40 years ago.

Turrell's work has been recognized in exhibitions in major museums throughout the world, including the Guggenheim Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; Museum of Modern Art in New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Panza di Biumo Collection, Varese, Italy. The recipient of several prestigious awards, including Guggenheim and MacArthur fellowships, he received an M.F.A. degree from The Claremont Graduate School in 1973 and taught at Pomona College in 1970-71. In 2001, he received an honorary doctorate from Pomona. Currently, Turrell resides in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he is overseeing the completion of his most important work, a monumental land art project at Roden Crater, an extinct volcano he has been transforming into a celestial observatory for the past 30 years.

Dedication of Dividing the Light A skyspace by James Turrell '65

David W. Oxtoby, presiding

Speakers:

Stewart R. Smith
Chair, Pomona College Board of Trustees

Kathleen Stewart Howe
Sarah Rempel and Herbert S. Rempel '23 Director of the
Pomona College Museum of Art and Professor of Art History

David W. Oxtoby
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