

ADDISON

Addison Gallery of American Art

RARE OPPORTUNITY ON THE EAST COAST TO VIEW COMPREHENSIVE EXHIBIT OF WORK FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-BASED “LIGHT AND SPACE” AND “FINISH FETISH” ARTISTS

***Light, Space, Surface* Opens at the Addison Gallery of American Art on November 23, 2021**

Features Artists Including Mary Corse, Bruce Nauman, Helen Pashgian, and James Turrell

Andover, MA (August 12, 2021) – *Light, Space, Surface: Works from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art* will offer museumgoers the opportunity to experience a distinctly West Coast style of art on the East Coast, presenting the art of Light and Space and related “finish fetish” works with highly polished surfaces. The exhibition, which opens at the Addison Gallery of American Art on November 23, 2021, is one of the most comprehensive ever assembled of these artists and highlights works that explore perceptual phenomena via interactions with light and space. Drawn from the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), *Light, Space, Surface* features a wide range of media, from painting and sculpture to immersive environments.

“It’s a privilege to be able to present this important period of American artistic innovation—often thought of as Minimalism with a uniquely Californian twist—here on the East Coast,” said Allison Kemmerer, the interim director of the Addison Gallery of American Art, Mead Curator of Photography, and senior curator of contemporary art. “Transforming the viewer from passive observer to active participant, the reflective surfaces, glossy finishes, and shimmering colors of these works demand close examination and multisensory engagement. Placing emphasis on the experience of the object rather than the object itself, these artists ask us to consider not what we see, but *how* we see.”

Inspired in part by the car and surf cultures that dominated Southern California in the 1960s and 1970s—as well as a multitude of other sources—many Los Angeles-based artists pioneered new technologies and utilized the revolutionary materials developed in the region’s growing aerospace industry, including sheet acrylic, fiberglass, and polyester resin, to produce the reduced, crisp, and clean forms essential to their works. While there was no single defining aesthetic among this varied and loose-knit group, these artists, from Mary Corse and John McCracken to Fred Eversley and James Turrell, shared a common interest in investigating how we understand form, volume, presence, and absence through light, whether seen directly or refracted, reflected, and/or viewed through other materials.

Drawing on the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s extensive holdings of Light and Space and “finish fetish” art, as well as works by second-generation artists inspired by this highly influential first generation, *Light, Space, Surface* reveals the vibrancy and diversity of this period of American art history. Featured artists include Peter Alexander, Larry Bell, Billy Al Bengston, Judy Chicago, Gisela Colón, Ron Cooper, Mary Corse, Ronald Davis, Guy Dill, Laddie John Dill, Fred Eversley, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, John McCracken, Bruce Nauman, Helen Pashgian, Roland Reiss, Roy Thurston, James Turrell, De Wain Valentine, Doug Wheeler, and Norman Zammitt.

About the Addison Gallery of American Art

Devoted exclusively to American art, the Addison opened in 1931 and holds one of the most important American art collections in the country. Its collection includes more than 23,000 works by artists such as John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, George Bellows, Georgia O’Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, Jennifer Bartlett, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Kerry James Marshall, and Mark Bradford, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Sally Mann, Dawoud Bey, Carrie Mae Weems, and many others. The Addison Gallery, located in a stand-alone building on the campus of Phillips Academy—a residential school of grades 9 through 12 in Andover, Massachusetts—offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public.

The Addison is open to the public 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 – 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free, but reservations are required.

For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org.

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