

exhibition NEWS

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Right: exterior views of *Second Wind 2005* and the artist James Turrell on site at the NMAC Foundation's sculpture park
Far right: View of the stupa from inside the pyramid

The elixir of light

Turrell's latest Skyspace is unveiled in southern Spain



The 'eye' seen from the inside of the stupa in James Turrell's *Second Wind 2005* (2009)

After four years of excavation and construction, James Turrell's spectacular new Skyspace is unveiled this summer on southern Spain's Costa de la Luz (Coast of Light). The 400 sq metre underground installation, completed by a team of 20 people, opens at the NMAC Foundation's sculpture park in Vejér de la Frontera near Cádiz on 30 May. The work, called *Second Wind 2005*, is part of Turrell's Stupa series, a discrete group of works within his ongoing series of Skyspaces. The works are based on his lifelong project, Roden Crater, an extinct volcano in Arizona that he has been transforming into an observatory for the past 30 years (see issue 9 of *Art World*).

Second Wind 2005 is embedded into the Andalucian hillside, leaving only the truncated top of a red concrete pyramid visible from the outside. Turrell insisted on painting it this particular hue so that it matched the fiery earth of the Arizona desert. Inside the pyramid is a black stone structure – built to resemble the domes of Buddhist architecture (known as stupas) – which is surrounded by a shallow pool of water. Once inside the dome, visitors can view the sky through a small aperture above them. "One of the first things you notice in the Skyspace is that the sky, which always seems to be away from us, is brought down into close contact with the opening of the space above," says Turrell in an interview with the director of the NMAC Foundation, Jimena Blázquez Abascal. "In this way the physical cosmos becomes part of our lived-in territory."

It is no coincidence that Turrell chose the aptly named Costa de la Luz for his latest project. His fascination with light stems from an interest in celestial worship as practised by ancient civilisations such as the Mayans and Egyptians. "There was a time when men were very much aware of the solar movements," he says. "We live in a time where we have lost this connection with the earth and the sky." For Turrell, however, this connection seems stronger than ever. "Light for me is an elixir," he says. "It's a treasure more than silver or gold."

● James Turrell's *Second Wind 2005* is unveiled on 30 May, NMAC Foundation, Cádiz, Spain, www.fundacionnmac.org



