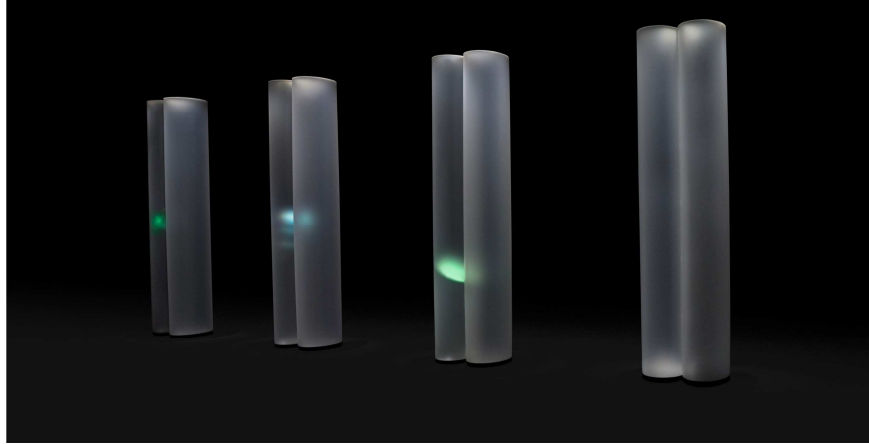


Exhibition: *Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible*
On View: March 30–June 29, 2014
Location: Art of the Americas Building, Level 2



Helen Pashgian, *Untitled* (detail of work in process in the artist's studio), 2012–13, © Helen Pashgian, photo by Josh Morton

(Los Angeles—January 23, 2014) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible*, the first solo presentation of the Los Angeles–based Light and Space artist at a major museum. The exhibition debuts a new large-scale work comprised of 12 two-part columns framed out of molded acrylic, made specifically for LACMA’s presentation. As viewers walk past, around, and between these columnar forms, the sculpture creates an immersive viewing experience that invites meditations on the nature of materials and light.

“Helen Pashgian’s work is concerned with how light interacts with various materials in different forms and how the viewer perceives this light. She often experiments with new technologies and techniques to push the boundaries of what these materials are able to do,” remarks Carol S. Eiel, LACMA’s curator of Modern Art and curator of the exhibition.

Following the presentation at LACMA, *Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible* travels to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville (September 26, 2014–January 4, 2015).

About the Exhibition

To create the columns that constitute Pashgian’s sculptural installation for LACMA, the artist heated large sheets of acrylic until they became soft, almost like fabric. She then wrapped each softened sheet around a wooden mold and allowed it to harden again. Each of the 12 columnar elements in the exhibition is made of two such molded forms, which are further enhanced by the artist.

Pashgian says, "I think of the columns as 'presences' in space—presences that do not reveal everything at once. One must move around to observe changes: coming and going, appearing and receding, visible and invisible—a phenomenon of constant movement. It is difficult to attempt adequate words to describe this work. It is about a language utterly unlike any other. It touches on this mysterious part beyond which the eye cannot go but beyond which the eye struggles to go."

"Helen Pashgian has been a significant presence in the Southern California art scene for many decades," says Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "It gives me great pleasure to see this exhibition come to fruition and to present Pashgian's innovative and evocative sculptures to a wide audience."

A book featuring a contextual essay by Carol S. Eliel, a photo essay detailing the fabrication process, and an interview between Eliel and Pashgian, will accompany the exhibition.

About the Artist

A pioneer of Southern California's Light and Space movement, Helen Pashgian (born Pasadena, 1934) was one of a group of Los Angeles-area artists in the late 1960s who recognized that new materials being used both by local industries (aerospace and others) and the local leisure culture (for surfboards and custom cars) could also be used by artists—materials including fiberglass, polyester resin, plastics, and coated glass. In the past few years, Pashgian has created a number of individual columnar sculptures out of shaped sheet acrylic in various colors, including white. Despite their evident simplicity, the sculptures reveal their internal forms only on close inspection. The columnar sculptures seem to hover above the floor as they focus, reflect, and refract light.

Related Programming

Meredith Monk with Katie Geissinger

Friday, April 11, 2014 | 7:30 pm

LACMA, Bing Theater

LACMA members: \$18 | Students with ID & seniors 62+: \$5 | General admission: \$25

In conjunction with the exhibition, Meredith Monk, named the 2012 Composer of the Year by Musical America, presents a special duo concert. She is joined by vocalist Kate Geissinger in a program that covers over 40 years of music from Monk's award-winning career. Monk's groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, and as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies, and memories for which there are no words. Presented as part of LACMA's Art & Music series, first-place winner of the ASCAP and Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music.

The Director's Series: Michael Govan and Helen Pashgian

Monday, April 28, 2014 | 7:30 pm

Bing Theater | Free, tickets required

LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director, Michael Govan, talks with Light and Space pioneer Helen Pashgian about her career as a sculptor in conjunction with her exhibition *Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible*. The discussion will highlight influences by artists such as Johannes Vermeer on her early work; Pashgian's exploration of materials including resins, epoxy, and acrylic; and the new sculptural forms she has created specifically for this exhibition.

Credit

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes over 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art, Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over a million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives, such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement at lacma.org. Situated in Hancock Park on over 20 acres in the heart of Los Angeles, LACMA is located between the ocean and downtown.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

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