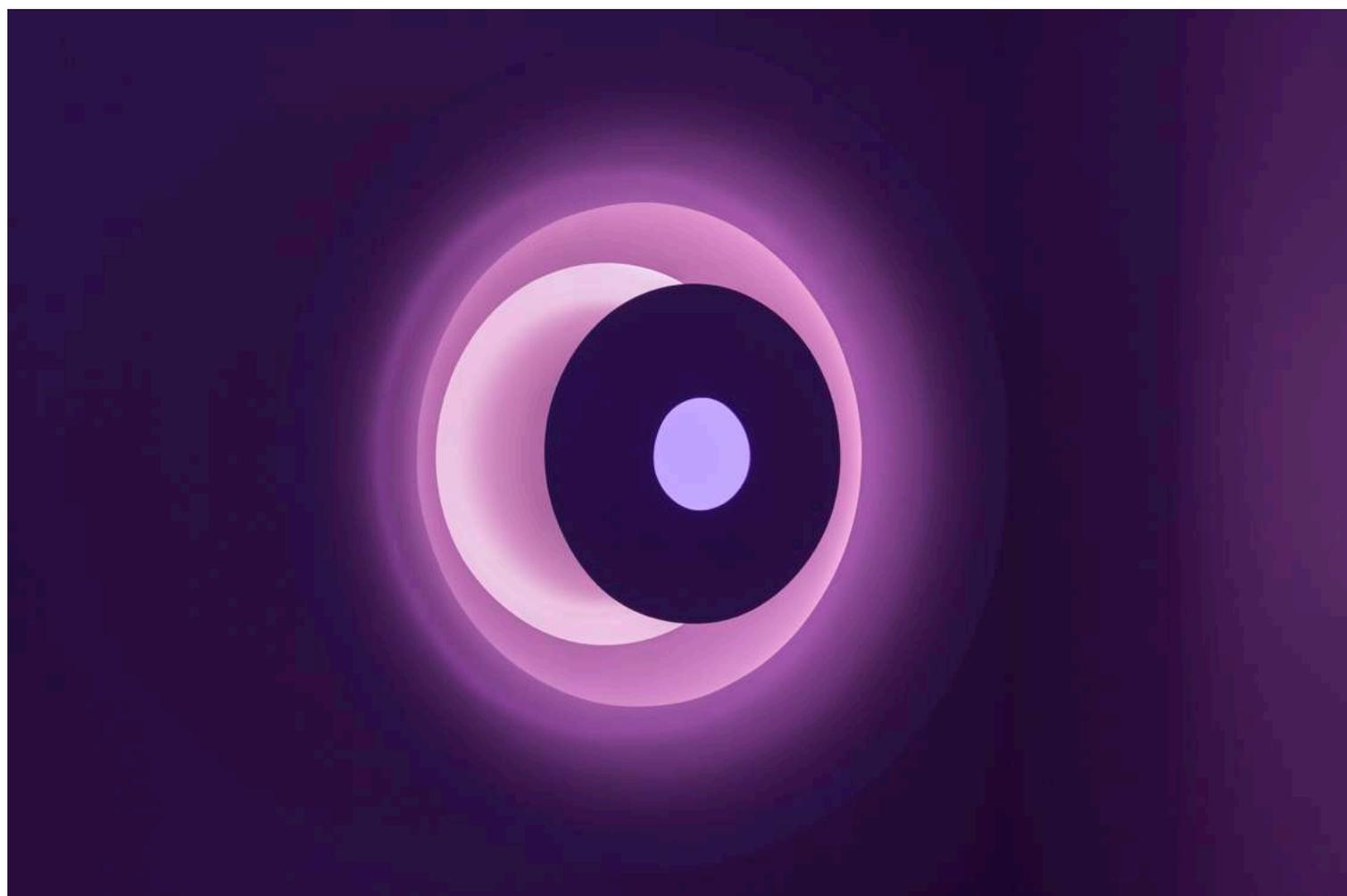

Phillip K. Smith III
Portals: A Space for Color

Opening on Saturday, January 19, 2019
at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art

Exhibition on view through April 7, 2019

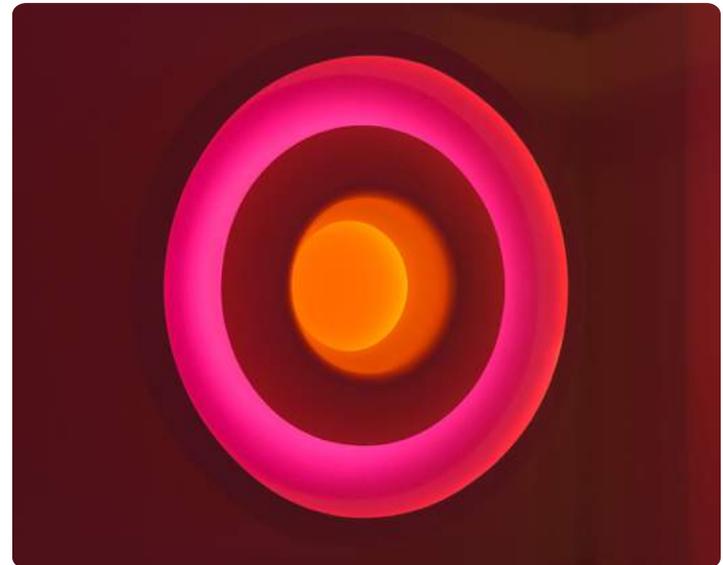
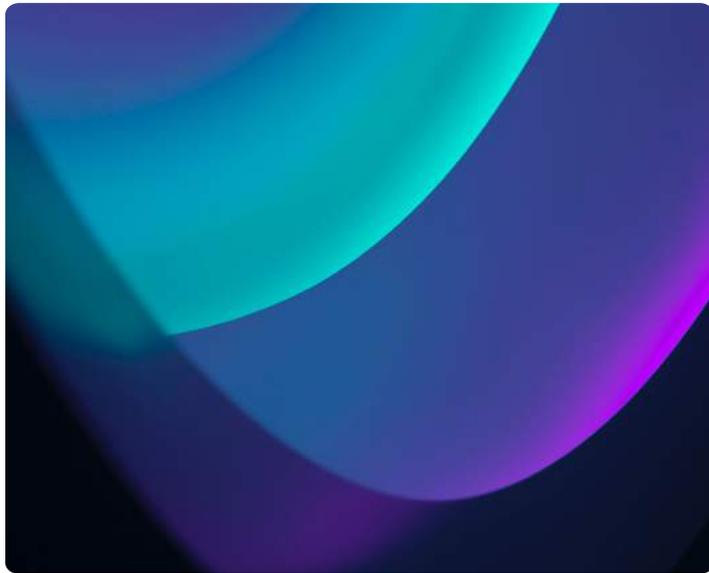


American light artist Phillip K. Smith III (b. Calif., 1972), noted for his large-scale installations and sublime works of art, will present *Portals: A Space for Color*, on view at Sonoma Valley Museum of Art from January 19 to April 7, 2019. An opening reception will take place on Saturday, January 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For this exhibition, the artist's first in Sonoma, Smith will install three "Portals," creating an immersive environment within the museum's galleries. Each artwork, originally part of a monumental 85-foot diameter light pavilion, investigates the relationship between light,

form, surface, and perception—a theme rigorously and inventively explored throughout Smith’s ongoing Lightworks series, in which the artist paints a highly specific three-dimensional canvas with light over time.

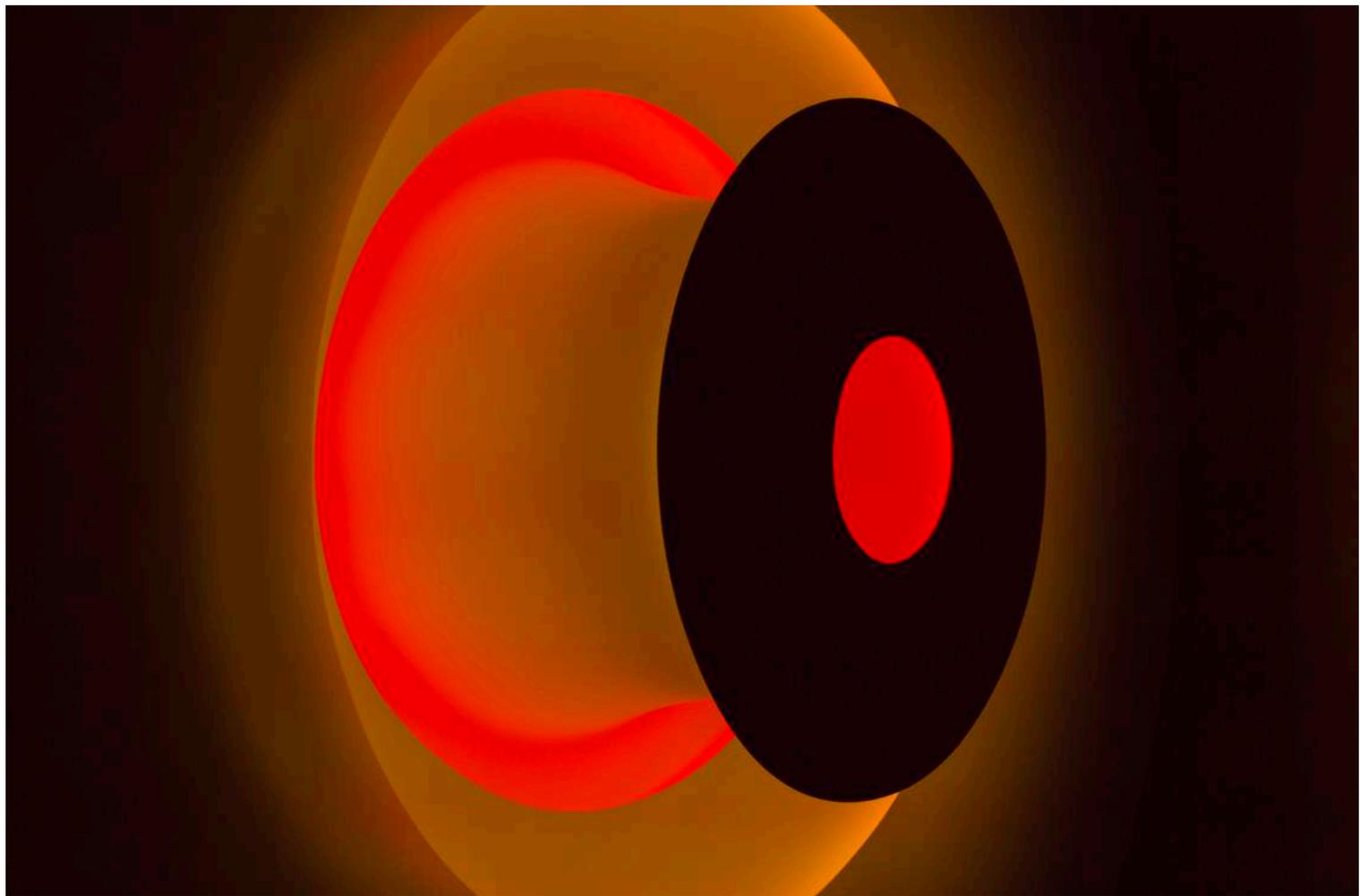
In *Portals: A Space for Color*, he crafts each color selection, location, and pace of change to evoke a sense of breath within the work. As the reflected light pushes across large, curved, opaque white surfaces, the spatial experience changes from each of the *Portals* based on Smith’s chosen color combination – at times giving the viewer a sense of pushing away from or pulling towards the wall.



Each work is meant to adapt to the space of the museum in which it is shown, merging with the changing ambient light. By day, the colors will merge with the sunlight, creating more pastel light and shadow relationships, while at night, the colors will saturate and appear to hover as they envelop the surrounding space.

Smith’s conceptual and multi-dimensional investigation of light, space, form, and environment mines a deeper understanding of perception, and as he asserts, “these works make us step away from our pattern, our life, our work, our errands, and our conversations and allow us to see sublime beauty shifting and changing before our eyes.” His boundary-dissolving work has often been compared to that of his predecessors James Turrell and Robert Irwin, the pioneering California Light and Space artists acclaimed for their groundbreaking and radical installations that emphasize the viewer’s experience, as well as that of late Color Field artist Kenneth Noland and Constantin Brancusi, acclaimed for his sensual, beguiling sculptures.

Portals: A Space for Color is supported by Pam and John Story.



About Phillip K. Smith III

After growing up in Southern California's Coachella Valley, Phillip K. Smith III received his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. From his Palm Desert, CA studio, he creates light-based work that draws upon ideas of space, form, color, light + shadow, environment, and change.

Featured in hundreds of online and print publications, Phillip is known for creating large-scale temporary installations such as *Lucid Stead* in Joshua Tree, *Reflection Field* and *Portals* at the Coachella Music and Arts Festival, *¼ Mile Arc* in Laguna Beach, *The Circle of Land and Sky* at inaugural 2017 Desert X exhibition, and *Open Sky* at the Salone del Mobile, Milano in 2018. Many of these installations are featured in his latest catalog titled "Five Installations" published by Grand Central Press. His public artworks are sited in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Kansas City, Nashville, Oklahoma City and beyond; and the artist was recently commissioned to create permanent, light-based works for the cities of West Hollywood, CA and Bellevue, WA. The artist's work is also included in the current exhibition *Unsettled* organized by the Nevada Museum of Art and artist Ed Ruscha, and in the accompanying exhibition catalog.

About the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art

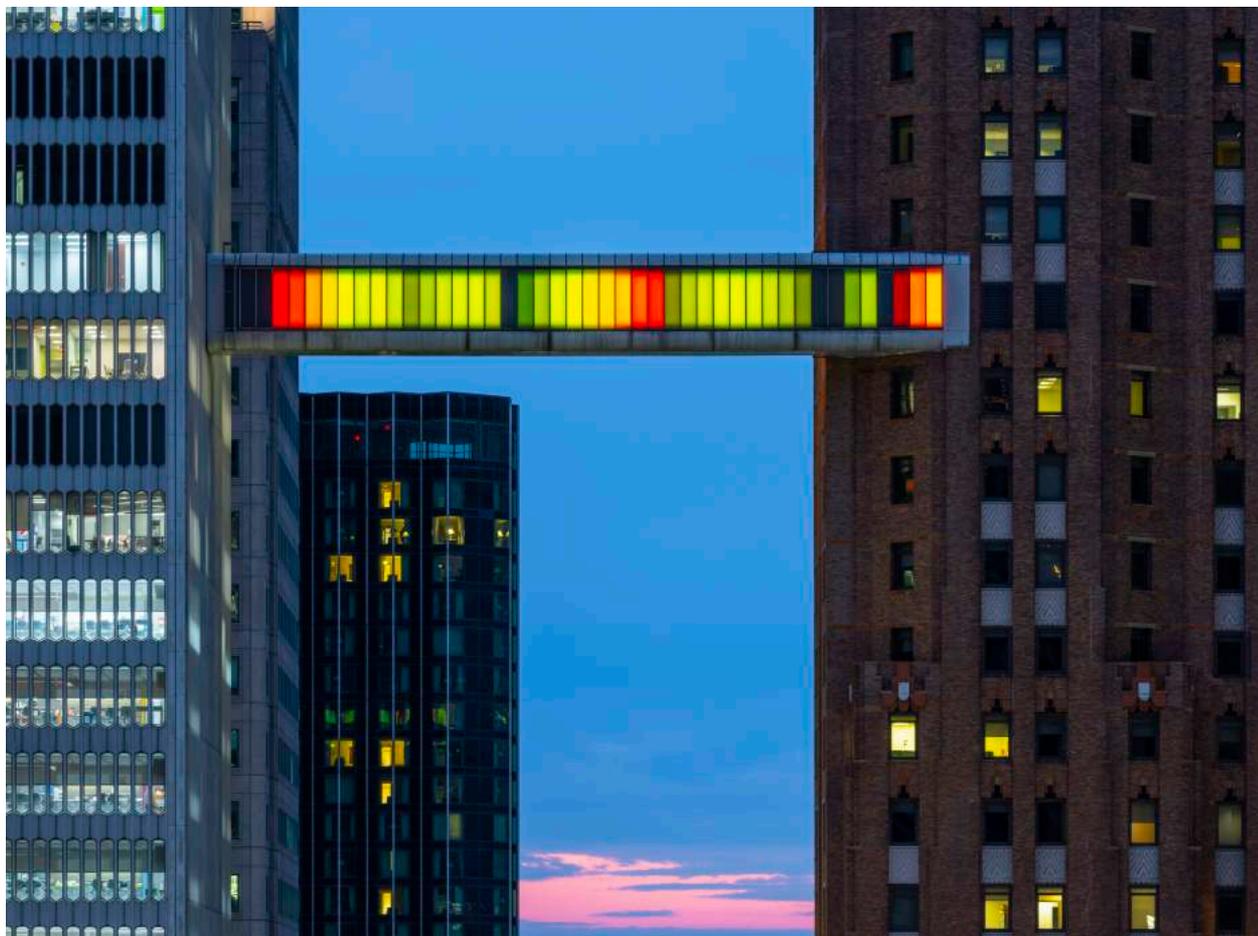
Established in 1998, the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art is a membership supported 501(c) 3, non-profit organization that provides seasonal exhibitions of contemporary and modern art and educational and public programming for children, youth and adults. The Sonoma Valley Museum of Art's mission: Building Community Around Art.

The Sonoma Valley Museum of Art is located at 551 Broadway, one half block up from Sonoma's historic Plaza. Regular Museum hours are 11am–5pm Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted free, as are SVMA members. Additional information is available at www.svma.org or by calling 707.939.7862.

ALSO ON VIEW

Detroit Skybridge

Detroit Skybridge by Phillip K. Smith III connects two of Detroit's most iconic and historic buildings, One Woodward and the Guardian Building. The 100 foot long 16th floor skybridge floats in the form of a bar of light hovering over the streets of Downtown Detroit. Inspired by the geometric, white concrete of Yamasaki's 1962 skyscraper and the mosaic of color within the 1929 Guardian Building, Smith has created a unique color program for this significantly-scaled project. Composed of shifting gradients and moving planes of light, this precisely paced installation merges art with architecture and re-imagines an underutilized space for the benefit of the public. Installed in August 2018, the project, which remains on view, was conceptualized and produced by Library Street Collective. *Detroit Skybridge* is supported by Bedrock Detroit, Quicken Loans Community Fund and Wayne County.



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