

NEWS RELEASE

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

New Exhibition by American Light Artist Phillip K. Smith III to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “From Lucid Stead: Prints and Works by Phillip K. Smith, III.” The exhibition, which will open March 18, 2019, features photographs (*Focused Views*), prints (*Chromatic Variants*), and a sculpture (*Lucid Stead Elements*) by California-based light artist Phillip K. Smith III. Shown here for the first time together, the works are inspired by *Lucid Stead*, Smith’s 2013 installation in Joshua Tree, CA where he transformed an existing homesteader shack into a mirrored structure that, by day, reflected the desert surroundings and, by night, shifted into a color changing projected light installation.

Smith writes, “*Lucid Stead* (2013) is about tapping into the quiet and the pace of change of the desert. When you slow down and align yourself with the desert, the project begins to unfold before you. It reveals that it is about light and shadow, reflected light, projected light, and change.”

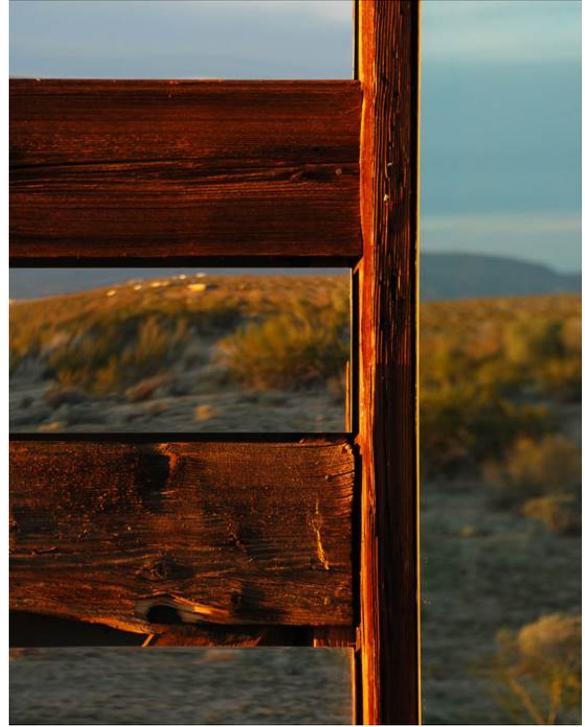
Smith made *Focused Views* prior to closing the installation. They are detailed views of the homestead shack, drawing attention to the relationship between the weather-worn wood, reflection, and the environment. The day after he took the photographs, Smith returned the cabin to its original state with one exception: He did not reattach the original wood siding he had removed, but rather kept it catalogued in his studio. These wood slats become the basis of the *Lucid Stead Elements* sculpture series, one of which is on view. The sculptures are “cropped” views of the shack composed of the installation’s elements—the original wood siding, the mirror, the white light, the 2x4 structure, and the shifting color—contained within aluminum frames. *Chromatic Variants* are a suite of prints depicting tight arrays of transparent colored lines that separate and merge an image of the desert with its color-tinted reflection. The colors echo the spectrum of light used in the windows and doorway of *Lucid Stead*, while white and black reference the changing light from day to night.

Phillip K. Smith III (b. CA, 1972) creates large-scale temporary installations drawing on concepts of space, form, light and shadow, environment, and change. His practice is informed by his architecture training at Rhode Island School of Design. His works include *The Circle of Land and Sky* (2017) at the inaugural *Desert X* in the Sonoran desert, *Open Sky* (2018), in Milan’s 16th-century Palazzo Isimbardi, and *Detroit Skybridge* (2018), commissioned as part of Detroit’s Library Street Collective’s revitalization effort. Producing extraordinary and communal encounters via installations that explore the transitory nature of light, Smith fosters inexpressibly human, immaterial, and unifying experiences that elude language and defy form, but can be undeniably felt.

“From Lucid Stead: Prints and Works by Phillip K. Smith, III” will be on view at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required and there is no charge. Visit www.cpnas.org.

Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. **(Continues on page 2)**

Press images:



Left to right from upper left: *Lucid Stead*, 2013, Joshua Tree, CA; *Lucid Stead: Focused Views – View 3*, 2013-2019, archival pigment print, 30.5 x 44 inches; *Lucid Stead: Chromatic Variant- White*, 2013-2019, archival pigment print, 18 x 18 inches; *Lucid Stead Elements #1*, 2017, Brushed anodized aluminum, glass, acrylic, wood, Lucid Stead original siding, LED lighting, electrical components, Lucid Stead color program, 47 x 8.75 x 6 inches.

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