

# AFTER NYNE ONLINE

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## Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority Celebrates the Inauguration of Seeing Through Light: Selections from the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Collection



(<https://afternyneblog.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/screen-shot-2014-11-04-at-13-46-15.png>)

Otto Piene Hängende Lichtkugel [Hanging Light Ball], 1972 Perforated and chromium-plated brass sphere, chromium-plated brass spheres, light bulbs with electric motor 223.5 x 68 cm  
Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

**Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority** yesterday opened the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's pre-opening exhibition, *Seeing Through Light: Selections from the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Collection* at the Manarat Al Saadiyat on Saadiyat Island. The exhibition, which will run until the 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, features artworks by 19 international artists from the 1960s to today, all of which explore the theme of 'light'.

Rita Aoun-Abdo, Executive Director, Culture Sector, TCA Abu Dhabi commented: "The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi is not yet a physical place, but it is already providing a dynamic platform for interrogating the history of art and contemplating both the present and future of contemporary art. This exhibition introduces visitors to the type of special exhibitions that will be exhibited at the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, with the intent to foster a transcultural perspective on the history of art and to encompass various legacies of modernism and the emergence of contemporary art in the region. Through the artwork exhibited and various supporting community and education programmes, TCA Abu Dhabi aims to foster this perspective and encourage the emergence of home-grown talents."

The artwork displayed is presented through five sections that examine the exhibition's theme of 'light' in various iterations: Perceptual, Reflected, Transcendent, Activated, and Celestial.

Perceptual Light examines the work of five artists who were early practitioners of the light art movement: **Larry Bell, Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin, Keith Sonnier, and Douglas Wheeler.**

Reflected Light assembles **Heinz Mack and Otto Piene**, who were active in the 1960s as founders of the Zero group (and whose work is part of a major retrospective, *ZERO: Countdown to Tomorrow, 1950s-60s*, currently on view at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City) and artists of a younger generation **Ghada Amer and Rachid Koraïchi.**

Transcendent Light is comprised of the artists **Monir Farmanfarmian, Samia Halaby, Shirazeh Houshiary, and Y.Z. Kami**, all of whom are painters who use light thematically to explore the contemplative.

The Activated Light section examines artists, **Angela Bulloch, Hassan Khan, and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer** whose artwork depends on advanced technologies to activate light.

Celestial Light brings together three artists—**Bharti Kher, Yayoi Kusama, and Song Dong**, who use a range of media to produce artworks that emulate the infinite.

“We wanted to represent the theme of light in all of its aspects; whether natural or artificial, directed or reflected, interior or exterior, transcendent or celestial. The space of the exhibition has been turned into an environment that visitors can move around in and through the different mediums so that one could be truly immersed in and can experience light in all of its spatial, sensory and perceptual phenomena” commented Susan Davidson, Senior Curator, Collections and Exhibitions, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

In line with the exhibited artwork, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi’s pre-opening exhibition will also host a series of talks, events and workshops designed to engage a range of age groups.

As part of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Talking Art Series, a panel discussion with artists **Angela Bulloch, Shirazeh Houshiary, and Rachid Koraïchi** will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2014 to discuss their creative process of utilizing light as an aesthetic.