

What is Light?

What is LIGHT?

What is it?

- What do we want to know about it?
- What is its significance?
 - *It has different significance for different people, depending on their perspective*
 - *how they relate to it and how they intend to use it.*

LIGHT is – To The Poetic

LIGHT might be a metaphor ...

QUOTATION: *Not every light is a true light;
To the wise the light of truth is light itself.*

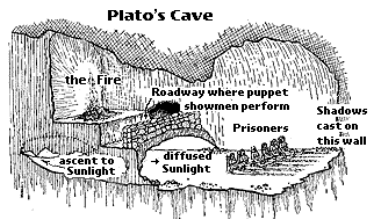
Tiruvalluvar (c. 5th century A.D.), Tamil sage, poet.

or a connotation of mood ...

QUOTATION: *A sudden light transfigures a trivial thing, a weather-vane, a wind-mill, a winnowing flail, the dust in the barn door; a moment,—and the thing has vanished, because it was pure effect; but it leaves a relish behind it, a longing that the accident may happen again.*

Walter Pater (1839–1894), British writer, educator.

LIGHT is – To The Philosopher



- Plato realizes that the general run of humankind can think, and speak, etc., without (so far as they acknowledge) any awareness of his realm of Forms.
- The allegory of the cave is supposed to explain this.
- In the allegory, Plato likens people untutored in the Theory of Forms to prisoners chained in a cave, unable to turn their heads. All they can see is the wall of the cave. Behind them burns a fire. Between the fire and the prisoners there is a parapet, along which puppeteers can walk. The puppeteers, who are behind the prisoners, hold up puppets that cast shadows on the wall of the cave. The prisoners are unable to see these puppets, the real objects, that pass behind them. What the prisoners see and hear are shadows and echoes cast by objects that they do not see.
- The prisoners may learn what a book is by their experience with shadows of books. But they would be mistaken if they thought that the word "book" refers to something that any of them has ever seen. Likewise, we may acquire concepts by our perceptual experience of physical objects. But we would be mistaken if we thought that the concepts that we grasp were on the same level as the things we perceive.

LIGHT is – To The Spiritual



What is Light?

LIGHT is – To The Spiritual

LIGHT and the Bible

There are more than 200 references to the word "light" in the Bible. About 75 of these occur in the new testament. The book of Job contains the most references (over 25) and the book of Psalms has about 25 references to light. In the new testament, the Gospel of John has the most references (about 16).

Light was the first of God's creations, according to the book of Genesis. "And God said, let there be light, and there was light". (Old Testament, Genesis, 1.3.)

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. (Old Testament, Genesis, 1.4.)

"Speak to Aaron and say to him "When you set up the seven lamps, they are to light the area in front of the lampstand". (Old Testament, Numbers 8.2.

The Bible, Numbers 4.9: "They are to take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand that is for light together with its lamps, its wick trimmers and trays, and all its jars for the oil used to supply it."

"to the land of deepest night, of deep shadow and disorder, where even the light is like darkness". Job 10.22.

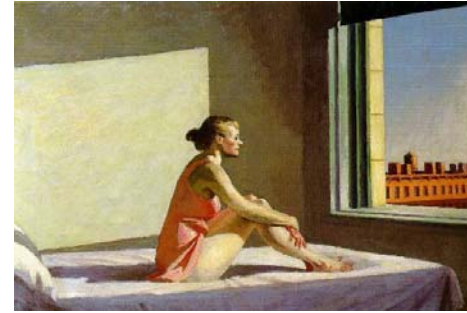
"What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside?" Job 38.19.

"His snorting throws out flashes of light, his eyes are light the rays of dawn". Job 41.18

Light was identified throughout the New Testament with the nature of God, himself. "The word is light that the darkness cannot extinguish, and this light illuminates every man.....We are the children of light, who have put aside the world of darkness."

LIGHT is - To The Painter

LIGHT is a vehicle of expression



Edward Hopper - *Morning Sun* 1952

His paintings embody in art a particular American 20th-century sensibility that is characterized by isolation, melancholy, and loneliness.

The stark play of light and shadow convey an atmosphere of all-embracing loneliness and almost eerie solitude - the mood was the real subject of the work.

LIGHT is – To The Painter



- **Claude Monet** Fr. 1840 – 1926

Soliel Levant (Sunrise) 1872 & 1873

The Impressionist Artists dissolved forms into light. They painted blurry "impressions" of objects modified by changing light and atmospheric conditions—drifts of fog, shimmering sunlight on water, the glow of gas lamps on rainy streets. Their impressions were carried by, described by, and inherent in the rendering of light as cast on their subjects.

LIGHT is – To The Painter



Giacomo Balla



What is Light?

LIGHT is – *To The Painter*

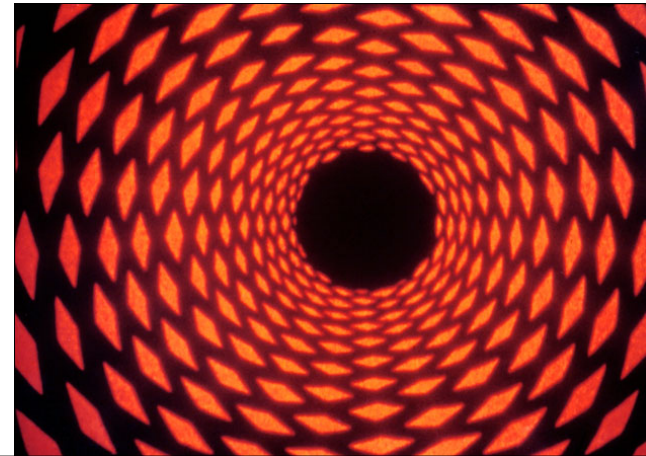
- **Johannes Vermeer**
Dutch (1632 – 1675)

Young Woman with a Water Pitcher c. 1662

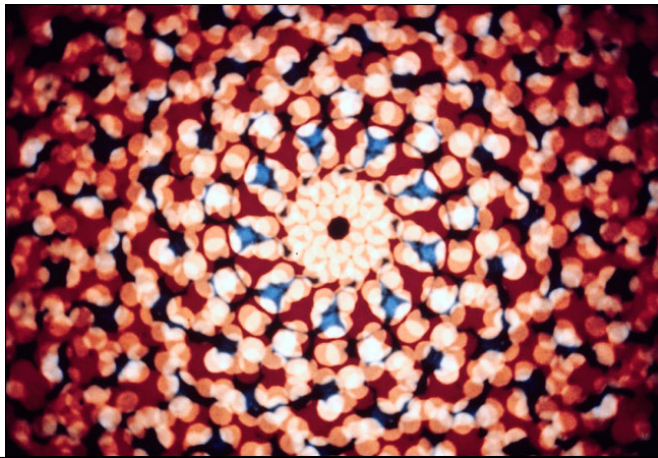
Soft light subtly portrays the tranquility of domestic life. Conveys a sense of well-being.



LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



LIGHT is - *To The Artist*

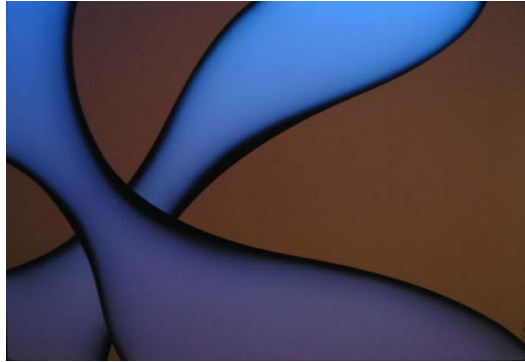


LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



What is Light?

LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



Rufus Knightwebb

LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



Robert Irwin

LIGHT create sensations, a transformative experience of wordless thought. Neither object nor image, the works give form to perception



LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



James Turrell

LIGHT as a medium in a more formal sense, to influence spatial & psychological perception. They endeavor to produce sensations that are essentially prelingual, to create a transformative experience of wordless thought. Neither object nor image, the works give form to perception - activating a heightened sensory awareness that promotes discovery

LIGHT is - *To The Artist*

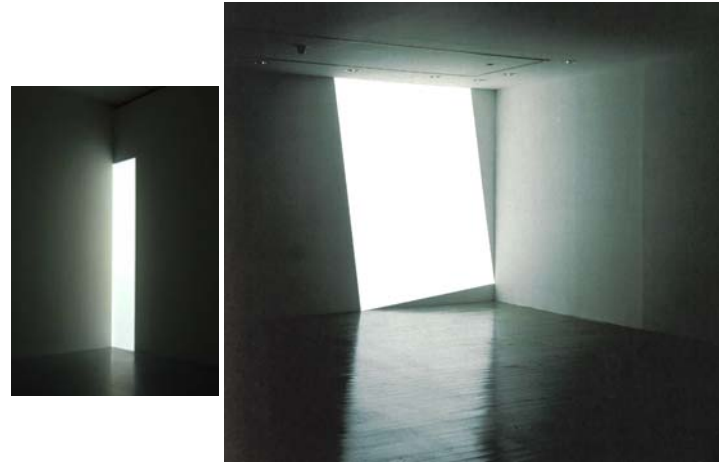


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LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



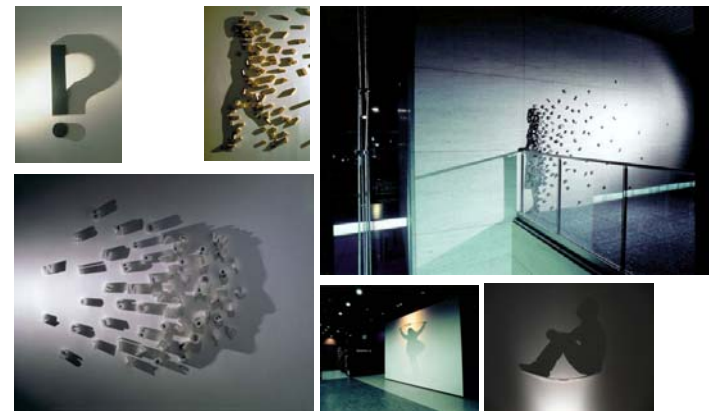
LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



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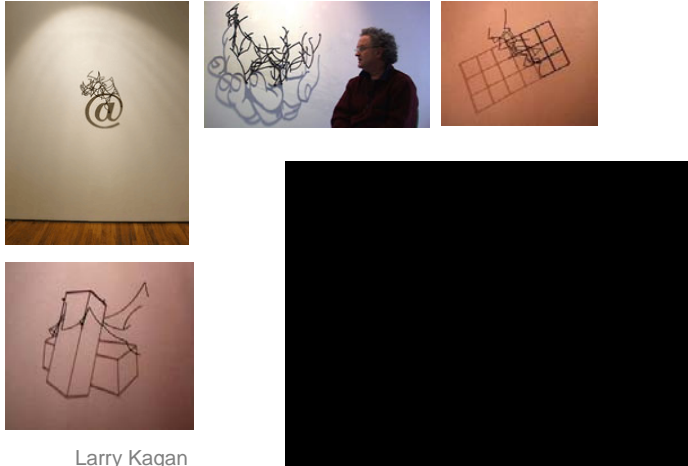
LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



Kumi Yamashita

What is Light?

LIGHT is - To The Artist



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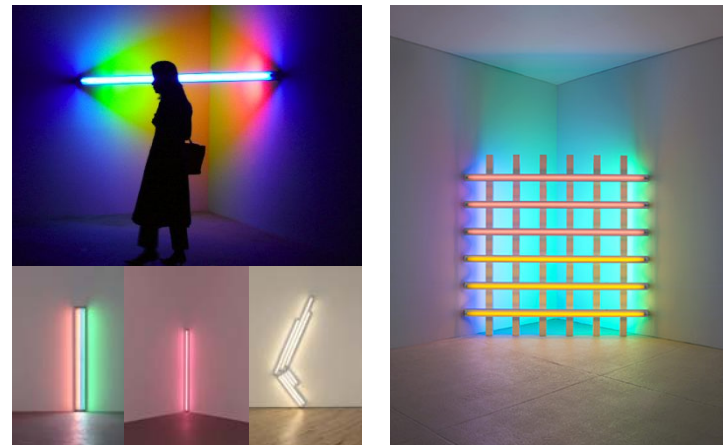
Dan Flavin

Light sculptures that illuminate space around them. They inhabit space. They bathe space - and visitors - in a warm and completely artificial glow

LIGHT is - To The Artist

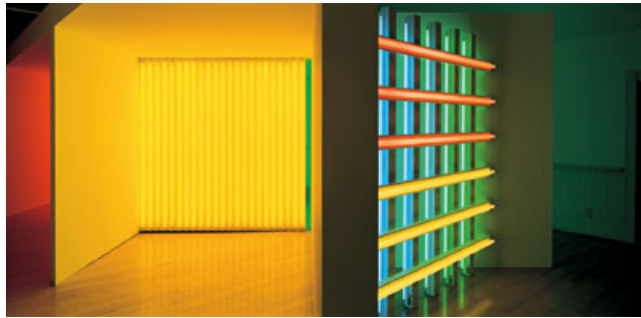


LIGHT is - To The Artist

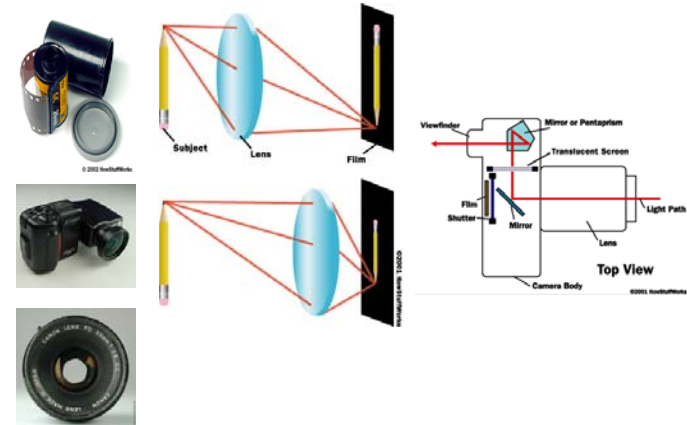


What is Light?

LIGHT is - *To The Artist*



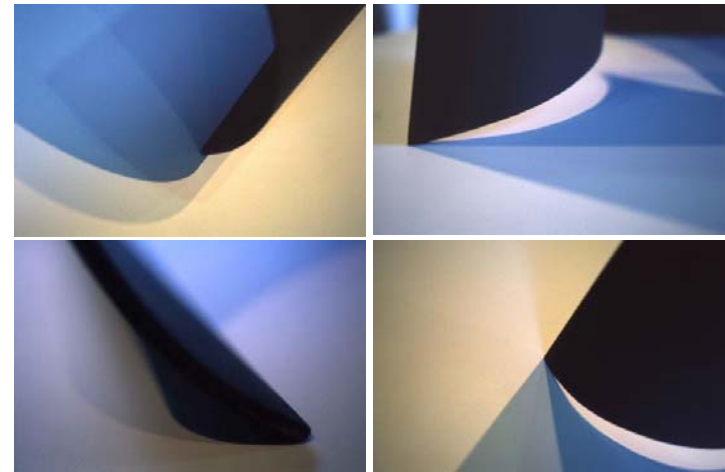
LIGHT is – *To The Photographer*



LIGHT is – *To The Photographer*



LIGHT is – *To The Photographer*



What is Light?

LIGHT is – To The Photographer



Photographs prove Peary was close to the Pole

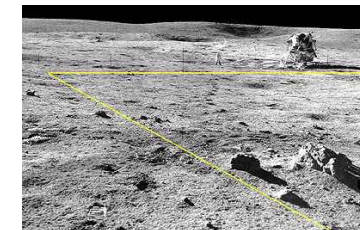
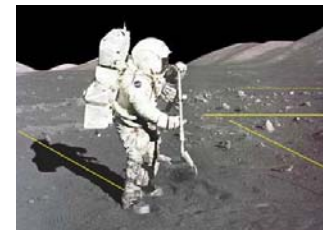
Successes are due to a technique called plane geometry in illustration. To find the exact situation when photographs were taken...

When the camera was tilted up or down. An exact center point is found by drawing a complete square or circle point. A line (N) drawn through that point parallel to the actual horizon provides the base for finding the camera tilt. Then were the vanishing point horizon, and camera axis determined for Peary's "polar photos," which he took near Camp Peary

and Peary's photograph near Camp Peary illustrate this geometry. The vanishing point (V.P.) found by drawing lines through the horizon to the shadow it casts, to below the horizon and inside the frame of the photograph. To test them for accuracy...

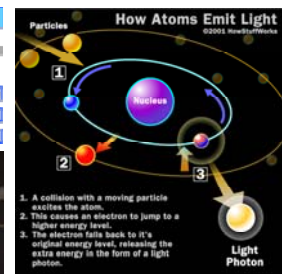
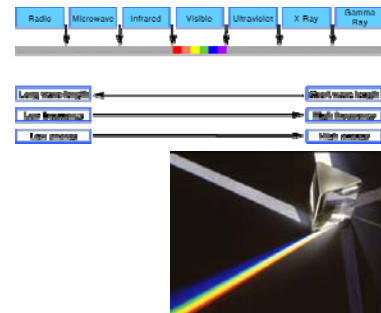


LIGHT is – To The Photographer



LIGHT is - To The Scientist

- For the Technician or Scientist, **LIGHT** is the visible spectrum – that part of the spectrum of electromagnetic energy that excites our neurological visual system that enables us to see.



LIGHT is - To The Scientist

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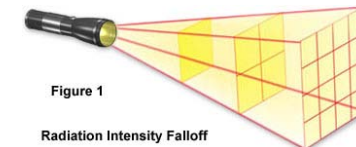
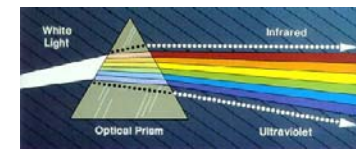
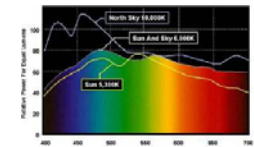
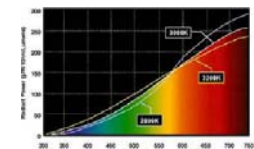
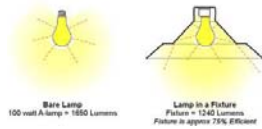
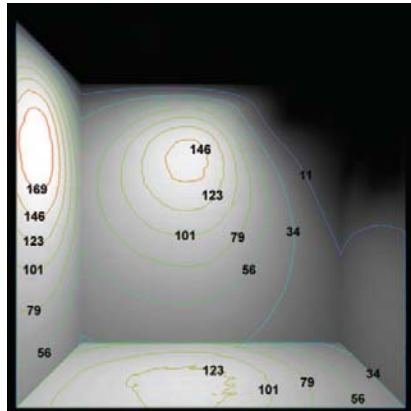


Figure 1
Radiation Intensity Falloff

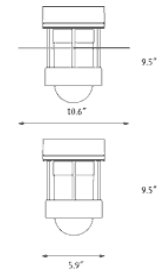


What is Light?

LIGHT is - To The Scientist

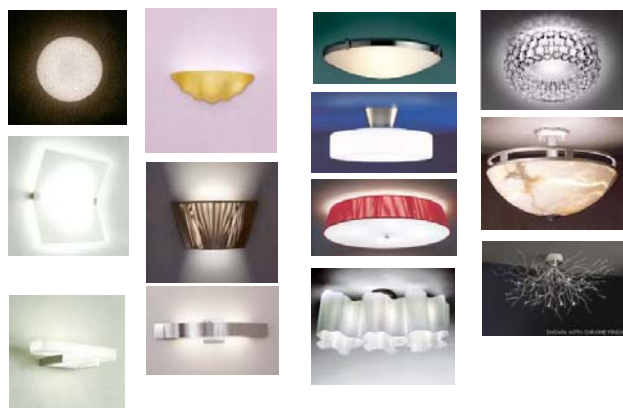


LIGHT is - To The Industrial Designer

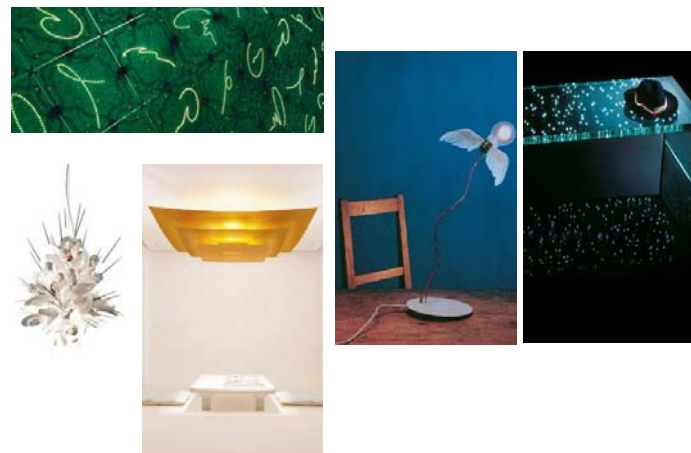


- LIGHT is a physical object, designed to satisfy a lighting need in a stylistically interesting package.

LIGHT is - To The Industrial Designer



LIGHT is - To The Industrial Designer



What is Light?

LIGHT is - *To The Industrial Designer*



LIGHT is – *To The Environmental Designer*

LIGHT impacts architectural and interior environments

- creating an atmosphere
- creating a sense of space, both physically and experientially/psychologically
- describing materials and surfaces
- meeting the needs of use of the space



Designing with Light

While our primary point of view as Interior Designers is environmental, all other considerations such as...

- scientific,
- poetic,
- artistic,
- industrial design,

....should impact and inform our decisions as design with
Light