

In Memory of Robert Irwin

Monika Sprüth and Philomene Magers, together with the entire gallery team, deeply mourn the loss of Robert Irwin (1928–2023), not only one of the greatest artists and thinkers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries but also a mentor to generations of artists and a genuinely thoughtful human being. We extend our condolences to his wife, Adele, his daughter, Anna Grace, and to the dedicated studio family whom he worked with for so many years.

From the late 1950s until this year – still working well into his 90s – Irwin explored the ways in which our perceptions are inflected by our surroundings, as well as our expectations of how light, color and space interact. Through paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations and environmental designs, he asked us to consider, and reconsider, the world around us, becoming sensitive to elusive shifts in a manner that had far greater philosophical implications. His works are subtle in character, always striving to challenge art historical conventions, deeply experiential and historically significant in the lineage of twentieth-century abstraction.

In 2018, Sprüth Magers had the honor of working with Bob to create a site-conditional installation at the Los Angeles gallery – still a highlight of Sprüth Magers' tenure in LA – followed by exhibitions in Berlin. Like so many of his works, the installation's scrim walls, ethereal forms, and changing patterns from day to night heightened viewers' awareness of atmospheric conditions and their sense of being in time and place. One of the last major site-conditional works of his career, *Light and Space (Kraftwerk Berlin)*, a monumental light installation that, for the first time, combined 240 blue lights with 240 of his commonly used white-colored fluorescent tubes on a double-sided freestanding wall, was presented in 2021. We know his presence will live on through his many artworks, writings and publications, and send our heartfelt wishes to all who loved him.

Sprüth Magers