



PRESS RELEASE | EXHIBITION

LUMINA

THE ART OF COLOR AND LIGHT

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Lucien Arkas Art Center - Izmir (Turkey)

Curated by

Curator of International Projects
Musée national d'art moderne - Centre Pompidou
Anna Hiddleston

Associate curator
Noémie Fillon

Stanton Macdonald-Wright, *The Prophecy*, 1955, oil on canvas, 122 x 91.5 cm © All rights reserved © Photo: Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Philippe Migeat/Dist. Grand Palais Rmn

Natalia Goncharova, *La lampe électrique* (The electric lamp), 1913, Oil on canvas, 105 x 81,5 cm © Adagp, Paris, 2026. © Photo: Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Philippe Migeat/Dist. Grand Palais Rmn

"Lumina" marks the first exhibition in the season devoted to the Art of Color and Light. The show takes place at the Lucien Arkas Art Center, as part of the major five-year partnership between Arkas Art and Centre Pompidou. Built around a selection of 83 works from Centre Pompidou's collection, this exhibition will trace the exploration of color and light in the work of modern and contemporary artists and how, through the creation of various optical effects, it can be used to give the impression of light and movement.

The show opens with Fauvism's endeavors to capture the golden hues of Mediterranean light through the innovative use of vibrant color. Shadows become blue, red, and green; light emerges directly from the contrast between colors. Masterpieces by **George Braque**, **André Derain** and **Maurice Vlaminck** contrast with the softer tones of **Albert Marquet's** maritime renditions.

From the 17th century onwards, theories of color have oscillated between two influential perspectives: Isaac Newton's demonstration that white light contains a measurable spectrum, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's insistence that color emerges through human perception, imbued with emotional and psychological resonance. Within this tension, artists gradually shifted from representing light to engaging directly with its effects.

The exhibition invites viewers to consider how vision is never passive, but continually shaped by the shifting interplay of light, color, and the eye through seven sections :

Reinventing Color : Fauvism and Beyond

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Fauves radically redefined the role of color in painting by turning it into an independent, expressive force capable of structuring space and conveying emotion.

Ablaze : Electric Effects

The advent of electric light at the turn of the twentieth century profoundly transformed both urban experience and artistic practice. Artists, already engaged in exploring the effects of light and color, found in electricity a powerful new source of inspiration and translated its fragmented rhythms and shifting intensities into abstract, chromatic compositions.

Symphony of Colors : Exploring Synesthesia

Across the early twentieth century, many modern artists sought to dissolve the boundaries between seeing and hearing, forging bridges between colour, sound, and rhythm.

Black and White : Experiments in Photography and Film

Defined by the extreme contrast between black—absence of light—and white—its total presence—this reduced palette became a powerful field of experimentation for avant-garde artists. Filmmakers and photographers explored its optical intensity to produce striking vibratory effects, foregrounding light itself as both subject and material.

Illuminating Nature

Others reacted to these rapid technological and societal changes with a renewed interest in the natural world. The transience of natural light, shifting skies and illuminated vistas are the focus of works such as **Joan Mitchell's** *Grand Vallée*, directly inspired by **Monet**. This monumental painting quivers with light waves of energy in vigorous brushstrokes that contrast with the bright, geometric landscapes of **Etel Adnan** and **Shirley Jaffe**.

Color Field

Emerging in the second half of the twentieth century, Color Field painting marked a profound shift in the status of color. Turning away from the gestural intensity of Abstract Expressionism, artists embraced flatness, clarity, and expansive planes of saturated hue, enabled in part by the advent of acrylic paint.

Op Art

Rooted in an exploration of perception, Op Art (Optical Art) transforms vision into an active, unstable experience. Through optical effects that generate the illusion of movement, it engages the viewer directly, activating the eye rather than relying on narrative. Widely recognized from the 1960s onward, the movement quickly gained international prominence, extending beyond fine art into design, fashion, and architecture.



Gerard Richter, 1024 Farben (350-3) (1024 Farben) [1024 Colors (350-3)], 1973, Lacquer on canvas, 254 x 478 cm
© Gerhard Richter, 2026 (2005/2026) © Photo : Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Philippe Migeat/Dist. GrandPalaisRmn

About the season "Color and Light"

The Color and Light season (September 2026 – September 2027) inaugurates the Lucien Arkas Art Center with a multidisciplinary program exploring the perceptual and emotional power of light and color across visual art, film, music, and performance.

It opens with "Lumina. The Art of Color and Light" (September 26, 2026 – February 15, 2027), a major exhibition drawn from Centre Pompidou's collection, followed by "Through Color" (April 27–September 27 2027), both curated by Anna Hiddleston and Noémie Fillon

Combining exhibitions, conferences and artistic workshops, the "Lumina" season establishes the foundation for the long-term collaboration between Arkas Art and Centre Pompidou,

About Arkas Art

Founded in 2011, Arkas Art is a leading private cultural institution in Türkiye dedicated to the preservation, study, and public presentation of art. Based in İzmir, the institution has established itself as a major contributor to the artistic and cultural life of the region through its collections, exhibitions, educational programs, and international collaborations.

Arkas Art is founded upon the Arkas Collection, assembled over several decades by collector and philanthropist Lucien Arkas, Chairman of Arkas Holding. Among the most significant private art collections in Türkiye, it encompasses a rich and diverse body of works spanning the seventeenth century to the present day.

In 2026, Arkas Art opened the Lucien Arkas Art Center, its seventh and most ambitious cultural venue to date. Conceived as a multidisciplinary center for modern and contemporary art, the venue provides a platform for exhibitions, educational programmes, and public events. The opening of the center marks the beginning of a significant long-term collaboration with Centre Pompidou. Over the next five years, the Lucien Arkas Art Center will present a series of exhibitions drawn from Centre Pompidou collection.

About Centre Pompidou

Since 1977, Centre Pompidou has been a beacon of living, engaged culture — a multidisciplinary institution deeply embedded in society and open to the world. In 2025, it initiated a profound transformation, enabling it to remain dynamic throughout its renovation until its reopening in 2030. Through the ambitious Constellation cultural program, the essence of Centre Pompidou is embodied in numerous partner venues across France and internationally, including Centre Pompidou-etz, Grand Palais, and soon Centre Pompidou Francilien.

Over the past fifteen years, Centre Pompidou has expanded its international presence through traveling exhibitions, exceptional loans, and enduring collaborations. This approach aims to disseminate its collections, share expertise, and create dialogues between artistic scenes while contributing to French cultural diplomacy.

The global expansion of Centre Pompidou plays a pivotal role in this strategy. Following the openings in Malaga in 2015 and Shanghai in 2019, and alongside the anticipated inauguration of Centre Pompidou Francilien in Massy, two new international venues will open successively in Seoul and Brussels, marking a significant milestone in the institution's history. Centre Pompidou favors customized and evolving collaborations, reaffirming its position as a key player in the global circulation of art and museum practices.

About the partnership

The exhibition is part of a major five-year partnership between Arkas Art and Centre Pompidou.

Through this ambitious collaboration, the Lucien Arkas Art Center will present five thematic seasons over five years, consisting of two exhibitions per season, drawn from Centre Pompidou's collection, bringing masterpieces to İzmir and fostering a sustained dialogue between local and international art scenes.

Beyond the presentation of works, the partnership is grounded in shared values as cultural openness, knowledge exchange, and long-term cooperation:

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