

SITE SANTA FE

SITE SANTA FE ANNOUNCES HELEN PASHGIAN: PRESENCES OPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

Opening Events: November 19 - 20, 2021

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2021



Helen Pashgian, *Untitled*, 2012–2013, formed acrylic, dimensions variable, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by Carole Bayer Sager on the occasion of the 2014 Collectors Committee, installed in *Helen Pashgian: Light Invisible* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, March 30–June 29, 2014, art © Helen Pashgian, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

Helen Pashgian: Presences Public Opening and Helen Pashgian: Spheres and Lenses, book signing

November 19, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

As part of SITE Santa Fe's opening weekend for the exhibition of *Helen Pashgian: Presences*, the first solo presentation of the artist in New Mexico, Helen Pashgian will be in conversation with David Chickey, publisher & creative director of Radius Books. Signed books will be available for sale in curated: The Store at SITE Santa Fe following the conversation. Music will begin at 6:00 p.m. with food from Jesushi and custom cocktails from Rolling Still Distillery.

Awash in the Airlight: The Light of LA and the Art Movement It Helped to Spawn, a talk with Lawrence Weschler

November 20, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tickets: <https://sitesantafe.org/event/awash-in-the-airlight/>

What was it about Southern California in the sixties and seventies that helped to spawn the distinctive Light and Space movement in which Helen Pashgian was to play such an important part? Some have suggested the surfing culture, or the car culture, or the proximity to Hollywood and the aerospace industry, or the distance from all the pressures and orthodoxies of the art scenes in Europe and New York—and conversely the exposure to wafting Pacific and Asian influences. All of which clearly apply. But in addition, renowned author Lawrence Weschler will also consider certain seminal qualities in the Light of LA itself.

My Life in Art with Helen Pashgian, interviewed by Michael Govan

November 20, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: <https://sitesantafe.org/event/my-life-in-art-3/>

Helen Pashgian will be in conversation with Michael Govan, the CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

About the Exhibition

The first solo presentation of Los Angeles-based artist Helen Pashgian in New Mexico. The exhibition (November 19, 2021-March 27, 2022) delivers recognition to this trailblazing artist's five-decade career and celebrates her contributions to the Light and Space movement.

Illuminating the breadth and depth of Helen Pashgian's work, the exhibition centers on her critically acclaimed large-scale sculptural installation, *Untitled* (2012-13), which premiered at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2014, a selection of spheres and lenses, some newly commissioned, that will take viewers on a journey through poetic investigations of light and space.

Throughout her career, Pashgian has employed light as both medium and message. Using cast resin material, she explores light in solid form, creating immersive viewing experiences to investigate illusion and perception. As a child, Pashgian was immersed in the landscape of Southern California and played in tidal pools, which influenced her understanding of light as a living entity. Much like reflecting and refracting light on water, Pashgian's sculptures subtly shift as the viewer moves around and through them.

Helen Pashgian: Presences coincides with several exciting events featuring Light and Space, an exhibition at [Copenhagen Contemporary](#) (November 25, 2021-September 9, 2022), *Spheres and Lenses* at [Lehmann Maupin](#) in New York (November 4-December 8, 2021), *Spheres* at [Charlotte Jackson Fine Arts](#) (December 3, 2021-January 3, 2022), and the release of a new publication by [Radius Books](#), titled *Helen Pashgian: Spheres and Lenses*, a full-color book documenting the artist's work from the 1960s to the present. The book will be available for purchase at [curated: The Store at SITE Santa Fe](#).

About Helen Pashgian

Born in 1934 in Pasadena, California, Pashgian is a pre-eminent member of the 1960s Light and Space movement in Southern California. Over the course of her career, Pashgian has produced a significant series of sculptures composed of vibrantly colored columns, discs, and spheres that often feature an isolated element that appears suspended, embedded, or encased within.

Helen Pashgian: Presences is organized by SITE Santa Fe and curated by Brandee Caoba.

Thank You

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Additional funding is provided by the City of Santa Fe Arts and Culture Department and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

About SITE Santa Fe

SITE Santa Fe opened in 1995 to present what was then the only international biennial of contemporary art in the United States, and one of only a handful of biennials around the world. From the very beginning, SITE established a commitment to a risk-taking and visionary perspective that continues to drive its programs today. Year-round exhibitions and educational programs encourage the creative and intellectual potential of the audience and uphold the region's tradition of fostering avant-garde art.

As an institution with a year-round contemporary art program, SITE hosts an Art & Culture series of lectures and performances, as well as an extensive education and outreach program for local schools, all of which attract over 20,000 local, national, and international visitors annually. Since its launch, SITE has presented over 100 exhibitions—including ten biennials—of works by over 750 international artists.

VISUALS AVAILABLE

FURTHER INFORMATION ON SITE SANTA FE CAN BE FOUND AT SITESANTAFE.ORG

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