

Kanye West Donates \$10 Million to Art Project

The rapper is donating \$10 million to artist James Turrell's Roden Crater Project in an extinct volcano in Arizona



Kanye West, in New York last year, said Monday he will donate \$10 million to artist James Turrell's Roden Crater Project in Arizona. PHOTO:ASSOCIATED PRESS

By

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Kanye West embarked on an art pilgrimage last month to the ethereal, glowing light installations of [artist James Turrell](#). On Monday, the rap star said he's donating \$10 million to the [Turrell Art Foundation](#) to help fund [Roden Crater Project](#)—an extinct volcano in northern Arizona where Mr. Turrell has been embedding works for more than four decades.

Mr. West, who champions contemporary artists like Takashi Murakami and Vanessa Beecroft, visited Roden Crater with Mr. Turrell on Dec. 11. Two days later, he [tweeted that the experience](#) was “life-

changing,” adding that one day “we will all live in Turrell spaces.” Mr. West returned a few days later with his team, who [tweeted a photo](#) of the rapper bundled up and overlooking the site. Since 1977, Mr. Turrell has been transforming a volcano crater northeast of Flagstaff, Ariz., into an open-air observatory by carving tunnels into the crater’s cone that lead to spare, temple-like rooms. Oval slits or openings in the ceilings of some of the spaces allow in light so that the rooms’ hues differ depending on the time and weather conditions.









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Kanye and team visiting the Roden Crater by James Turrell in Flagstaff, Arizona earlier this week.

Kanye also visited the location on December 11.

[9:21 PM Dec 20, 2018](#) [privacy](#)

Mr. Turrell, who is 75 years old, is under pressure to finish his project after years of off-and-on funding. He recently teamed up with Arizona State University to raise \$200 million to help complete his artistic projects at the site and also turn the 2.5-mile-wide crater into a creative campus with an amphitheater and residencies. Thus far \$40 million has been raised. The goal is to open to the public in five years, the foundation said.

On Dec. 27, [Mr. West and Mr. Turrell](#) toured the artist's light-infused installations at the [Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art](#). After that, Mr. West said he wanted to contribute. In a statement Monday, Mr. West said he wants Roden Crater to be "experienced and enjoyed for eternity." Michael Govan, director of the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#), said the contribution stands out because Mr. West isn't known to be a major museum donor. "The spirit of the gift is artist to artist," said Mr. Govan, who is on the board of [Mr. Turrell's art foundation](#). Mr. Turrell said he was "thrilled" by the gift at a "critical juncture of the project."

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