

## Flatness & Depth

The most famous works of Piet Mondrian are an effort to create a truly egalitarian canvas, in which no part is more compelling than any other. I think he succeeds.

At the James Turrell show at the Guggenheim, I was looking at a black rectangle painted on a wall. A guard came up to me and told me that it was in fact a hole — the central obsession of Turrell's work — but that it created an illusion of flatness. The point of the work was that you couldn't see the hole *as* a hole; you could only see a black square painted on a wall. I asked the guard if he would put his hand into it, to ruin the illusion so I could see it as an illusion. He would not.