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MoMA PS1 Reopens James Turrell Installation

"Meeting" had been closed indefinitely in January, after nearby construction became visible from the installation.



"Meeting" in 2016. The James Turrell installation, which closed in January, has just reopened. Hilary Swift for The New York Times

After about six months of indefinite closure, MoMA PS1 has reopened an installation by the artist James Turrell, known for engaging viewers' perceptions with real and artificial light.

The work, "Meeting," was closed in January when construction from a pair of luxury apartment buildings near the museum, an outpost of MoMA in Long Island City, Queens, became visible through a rectangular opening in the ceiling. A minimal environment, it alludes to Quaker meeting houses and frames the waning light and weather. It was intended to give an unobstructed view of the sky.

Jerry Wolkoff, the real estate developer behind the buildings, said in January that the piece of construction that had been visible from the installation — a hoist used to move building materials — would be taken down by May.

"The construction elevator was recently removed, so the view is no longer obstructed," the museum's director of marketing and communications, Molly Kurzius, wrote in an email on Thursday.

That is a happier end than a similar Turrell installation saw. Earlier in the decade, the artist asked the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas to permanently shut down "Tending, (Blue)," another work built around an opening in a ceiling, because a luxury tower had risen high enough to intrude on the view. In that case, it was a building itself that was visible, not just the construction.

"Meeting" was reopened Thursday morning.

- Gabe Cohn