

JASON MCCOY INC.

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Contemporary Thoughts on Kiesler

Frederick Kiesler is an artist questioning our relationship with the sensual world. However, in clear contrast to the vast body of historic epistemological conceptions, his ideas focus on the mutual relation between perception and perceived. Following his premises, the external is never absolutely outside, as likewise the internal is never totally inward and subjective. Our sensation depends on an encounter, in which mutual energies stemming from outside as well as orientations caused by desires and interests meet mysteriously. What we know as world is a merger phenomenon, an interference of things that arrive in our minds and attentions that escape them in order to address.

The Endless House by Kiesler is rooted in the need to create an architectural equivalent of this phenomenological assumption. Hence, space is not to be considered as "something". It cannot properly be defined or adequately measured. Space is definitely not a thing, rather, it seems the result of what we approach as environment, the range of our perceptions, cognitions and sensations. It is a realm of movements going hence and forth, a scenario of potential meeting reactions, all the same if actual and corporeal or mental and imagined.

----- Thomas Trummer, Curator Visual Arts, [SIEMENS](#) | Stiftung,
March 2010

When I hear the name Frederick Kiesler, I think first of all of his revolutionary and legendary design for Peggy Guggenheim's gallery "Art of this Century." There he seemed to have found an answer to the fascinating question of time-space relation in modern art. Deeply rooted in the Viennese modernist movement he took his ideas to the vastness of the United States where he, together with colleagues like Richard Buckminster Fuller, found the opportunities and the freedom to realize at least parts of his utopia. Time has come to look anew at his work and to review his thoughts.

----- Dr. Ulf Küster, Curator, Fondation Beyeler
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When we think of our surroundings as being stable, we tend to lose our feeling of responsibility for the environments in which we move. Space becomes a background for interaction rather than what it is - a co-producer of interaction. It is vital to insist on the fundamental connection and interplay between space and ourselves, architecture and temporality, inside and outside.

----- *Olafur Eliasson, Recipient of the 2006 Frederick Kiesler Prize for
Architecture and the Arts
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