

Light is the basis of painting

Michael Morris – Clip 5

I think all people involved with the visual arts celebrate lightness and light. Light is the basis of painting and the understanding of light. I was very interested in using mirrors and mirrored surfaces, and that starts in my work from the sixties. I was into producing paintings that... I wanted to explore the painting field and how you see things out of the periphery of one's vision, like things that you catch out of the corner of your eye. My paintings got more and more minimal and they were basically tonal progressions in stripes, in vertical stripes. I started making mirror inserts into the canvas. Actually constructing the canvas so that it would contain mirrors set in at a V so that if you pass by one of the paintings you might catch your own reflection in it; just out of the corner of your eye. The painting would snare you for a second. I like that idea of the painting in a public space snaring the viewer, many viewers, in its lifetime and catching light, reflecting light out and all the wonderful things that mirrors and light do.