New York—Pace Gallery is honored to present an exhibition of Robert Irwin’s new sculptures. In his 90th year, Irwin, who pioneered the Southern California-based Light and Space movement, continues to present radical new ideas of how space is perceived. Irwin’s work across different media is conditional and responsive to specific environments. His current exhibition – the artist’s eighteenth at Pace since joining the gallery in 1966 – includes seven column sculptures comprised of colored acrylic panels that defy the viewer’s certainty of the space being perceived. New “SCULPTURE/CONFIGURATIONS” will be on view from May 11 through August 17, 2018 at 32 East 57th Street, with an opening reception held on Thursday, May 10 from 4 – 7 pm.

“If there is an avant garde alive today,” states Pace Gallery Founder Arne Glimcher, “it exists in the work of Robert Irwin. Working together for the last 52 years has not only enriched my life, but has given me the clarity to see beyond the tangible art experience.”

The sculpture/configurations measure just under 10 feet in height and are assembled of acrylic units created from translucent shades of green and brown. For each work, Irwin combines different units in the creation of layered columnar sculptures.

Irwin states: “As artists, the one true inquiry of art as a pure subject is an inquiry of our potential to know the world around us and our actively being in it, with a particular emphasis on the aesthetic. This world is not just somehow given to us whole. We perceive, we shape... we discover and give value to our human potential to ‘see’ the infinite richness (beauty?) in everything, creating an extended aesthetic reality.”

During the exhibition, Pace will produce a full-color catalogue, illustrating the new works installed in the gallery and including an essay by Matthew Simms, Professor of Art History at California State University, Long Beach. Also this summer, Pace will publish the second part of Irwin’s monograph Projects and Exhibitions 2015 – 2016.
Robert Irwin (b. 1928, Long Beach, California) grew up in Los Angeles and studied at Otis College of Art and Design (1948–50), Jepson Art Institute (1951), and Chouinard Art Institute (1952–54). He later taught at Chouinard as well as the University of California, Los Angeles, and developed the graduate program at the University of California, Irvine, where he taught a generation of artists that includes Larry Bell, Chris Burden, and Vija Celmins. Irwin is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1976), a five-year MacArthur Fellowship (1984–89) and a Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture (2009).

Irwin, who began his career in the 1950s as a painter and became a pioneer of the L.A.-based Light and Space movement in the 1960s, has, through a continual breaking down of the frame, made art that is “conditional,” responding to the context of its specific environment. He employs a wide range of media, ranging from fluorescent lights to fabric scrims, colored and tinted gels, paint, wire, acrylic, and glass. But Irwin notes the medium of his fluorescent works, for instance, as “Light + Shadow + Reflection + Color”—displacing emphasis away from the materials themselves, and drawing our attention to the act of perception itself.

Irwin has had more than seventy-five solo exhibitions at institutions including The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1970–71); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1976, 2009–10); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1977, 2013); Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (1997, 2007); the Secession Vienna (2013); and Dia Center for the Arts, New York (1998–99, 2015–17). In 1993 the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, organized a retrospective of his work that traveled to Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne; Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid. In 2016, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., exhibited All the Rules Will Change, an examination of the artist’s pioneering work between 1958 through 1970, and in 2018, University Art Museum, California State University Long Beach hosted Site Determined—exploring the artist’s outdoor environmental projects through architectural models and drawings—which will travel to Pratt Institute School of Architecture.

He has conceived over fifty-five site-conditional projects, including the Central Gardens for the J. Paul Getty Center, Los Angeles (1992–1997) and the architectural and grounds design for Dia:Beacon, New York (1999–2003). His large-scale permanent installation at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas (2001–16) is the first free-standing structure devoted exclusively to his work.

Irwin lives and works in San Diego.

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace is a vital force within the art world and plays a critical role in shaping the history, creation, and engagement with modern and contemporary art. Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy for vibrant and dedicated relationships with renowned artists. As the gallery approaches the start of its seventh decade, Pace’s mission continues to be inspired by our drive to support the world’s most influential and innovative artists and to share their visionary work with people around the world.

Pace advances this mission through its dynamic global program, comprising ambitious exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, and curatorial research and writing. Today, Pace has ten locations worldwide: three galleries in New York; one in London; one in Geneva; one in Palo Alto, California; one in Beijing; two in Hong Kong; and one in Seoul. Pace will open a new flagship gallery in New York, anticipated for completion in fall 2019. In 2016, Pace joined with
Futurecity to launch Future\Pace—an international cultural partnership innovating multidisciplinary projects for art in the public realm.


For press inquiries, please contact: Hanna Gisel, Pace Gallery, +1 917 710 0093 or hgisel@pacegallery.com.
For sales inquiries, please contact: Pace Gallery, +1 212 421 3292 or info@pacegallery.com
Follow Pace on Instagram (@pacegallery), Facebook (facebook.com/pacegallery), and Twitter (@pacegallery)