

GOINGS ON
ABOUT TOWN

EXPLORE

ART

“Lux and Lumen: Spencer Finch”

Sept. 16-Mar. 4

Hill Art Foundation
239 Tenth Ave.
Chelsea

212-337-4455

[Website](#)



Art work by Spencer Finch / Courtesy the artist / © Hill Art Foundation

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“Inebriate of air – am I,” wrote Emily Dickinson, and the same might be said of Spencer Finch. For the past thirty years, the cerebral American artist has been translating the evanescent conditions of specific locations—the climate, the color, the light—into exhilarating installations, paintings, drawings, and photographs that harmonize the systems-based rigor of Minimalism with the unpredictable beauty of the natural world. **“Lux and Lumen: Spencer Finch,”** on view at the Hill Art Foundation through March 4, is a whirlwind retrospective of the artist’s career in ten works, seen in the company of a magnificent, newly restored Gothic stained-glass window, “The Creation and the Expulsion from Paradise,” made in 1533, by Valentin Bousch, for an Alsatian church. (A recent acquisition of the foundation’s, it once graced the Manhattan apartment of William Randolph Hearst.) The window hangs near “Painting Air,” Finch’s dazzling meditation (pictured above) on the reflections and refractions of light in a secular paradise—Monet’s garden at Giverny—based on his observations in 2012. The show also includes a lovely ode to Dickinson, from 2018: seven small color photos, taken through a window above the poet’s desk, documenting the passage of an hour at twilight. As night falls, the glass wanes in transparency, becoming a mirror.

—*Andrea K. Scott*
