

# Internal Environments

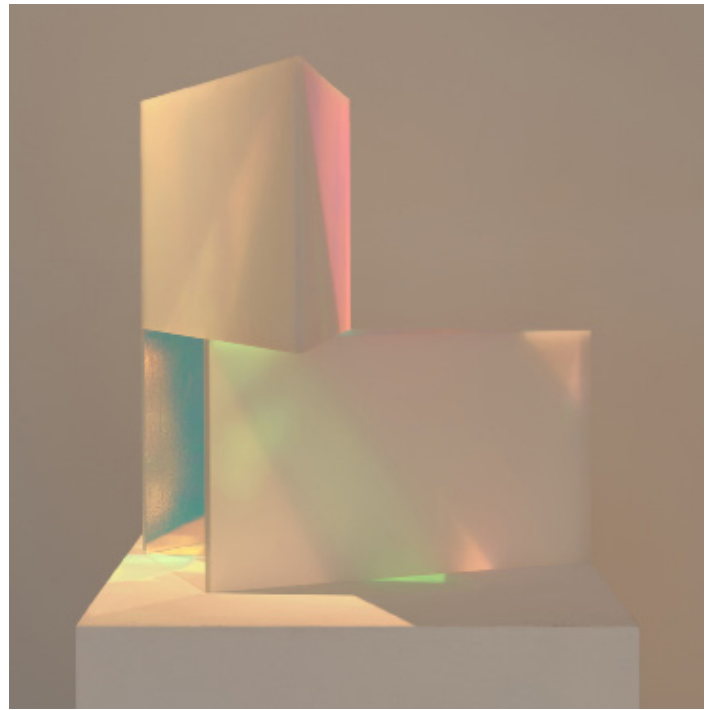
Marcus Manganni

May 9 - June 22, 2024

Opening Event Thur. May 9th, 5-8pm

168 Suffolk St.  
New York, NY 10002  
www.trotterandsholer.com

Monday and Tuesday: By appointment  
Wednesday to Saturday: 12:00 - 6:00pm



Trotter&Sholer is pleased to present *Internal Environments*, a solo exhibition by **Marcus Manganni** that explores the significant role architecture and light plays within the physical and social aspects of the American value system.

As an artist, Manganni was able to draw on his lived experience with the carceral system to make work that compels the viewer to wrestle with their own ideologies and relationships to existing social constructs. Utilizing light reflection, refraction, and sun mapping – techniques he first developed in solitary confinement – Manganni’s work bends the natural world and deliberately reforms the spaces his work occupies. His central installation, *One Glass Brick One Thousand Times* is a continuation of this sun mapping practice. *One Glass Brick One Thousand Times* uses both synthetic and natural light to highlight the role art can have in the liberation of space.

Manganni’s series, *Blue, Bluer, and Bluest*, is based on architecturally identical windows found in American institutions including Harvard and MSP Florence, a prison in Colorado. These institutions stand as representations of the larger structure of power and influence. The three sculptures highlight, expose, and blur our perception of the American value systems. By placing these windows in a gallery space, an arguably institutional space itself, Manganni is posing questions. What and who do we deem valuable? What do we invest in? What do we discard? What is our own role in the existing social systems?

While Manganni’s works are made with architectural grade acrylic, vinyl coatings, and steel - ultimately natural light is the central medium. His newest works address the punitive role synthetic light has played within his lived experience. Through his translation of natural and synthetic light and its interaction with his sculptures, Manganni redefines his relationship with weaponized institutional lighting and challenges his viewers to think about light and space in a new way.

Using a two-tiered system, *A Geometric Self* mimics and abstracts prison architecture. Dictated by its exterior confinement within the sculpture is an internal reflective environment. This work addresses and re-informs notions of aesthetics and public perceptions of beauty.

Through his work as an activist and artist he is able to inform and provide a broader perspective to the general public. *Internal Environments* builds on the restorative justice-focused art practice he has been developing for years.

*Internal Environments* will be on view at 168 Suffolk Street from May 9th through June 22th, 2024.

**Marcus Manganni** (b. 1986) is a New York based multidisciplinary artist. Manganni’s works are informed by institutional architecture and through the use of light physics he employs reflections and refractions to reform environments. Manganni is the co-founder of Independent Economies, an organization focused on preventative measures to stop the cycle of incarceration. He is the recipient of the 2023 Art 4 Justice Fellowship, receiving an individual Artist grant as well as the 2023 Art and Advocacy Collaborative Grant, he’s a 2022 Right of Return Fellow, and received the 2022 Creatives Rebuild NY artist grant. He is currently showing at the Gund Gallery in Gambier, OH. He’s recently exhibited and was a selected speaker with The Ford Foundation in New York City (2023), The Museum of Broken Windows by the NYCLU (2023), and The Center for Art and Advocacy during Aspen Art Crush, CO (2023). Manganni’s works are in several private and public collections including the Ford Foundation, The Godwin-Ternbach Museum, and appear as public art installations in a number of major cities nationwide including Queens, NY Baltimore, MD, Nashville, and Memphis, TN.

@trotterandsholer  
@marcus\_manganni  
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