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Alteronce Gumby: 'Walk on the Moon'  
*Exploring Different Manifestations of Light and Color*  
Jeffrey Deitch Los Angeles  
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by Jody Zellen



New York City-based multi-disciplinary artist Alteronce Gumby fills the vast space of Jeffrey Deitch Gallery with an array of large-scale works that formally investigate color. Gumby is concerned with the perception of color across different substrates and incorporates non-traditional art materials — gemstones, mirrors, glass, resin and dyed silk — into his creations. He began as a painter, but shifted his practice to incorporate more sculptural and installation concerns while exploring the ways colors and materials could extend beyond the composition. He speaks of the different movements within his practice as a journey, parallel in concept to movements in music: thematically related, yet tonally diverse. His pieces are a curious combination of the visual, the scientific and, in some ways, the spiritual. (His mother was a pastor, and he grew up in a religious household).

At Deitch, four “movements” are on view. In the entry gallery are six 72-inch square monochromatic works on panel, each featuring a particular scheme. At first glance they resemble thick terrazzo floors — a melange of materials set in a binder — yet Gumby’s pieces are more nuanced than traditional flooring. In *Walking into Sunshine (Whitten)* (all works 2025), Gumby combines varying sizes of citrine, copper, resin, and glass. Bits of green and amber glow within the composition. Embedded within the center of this mixed media ground is the subtle shape of a gray triangle. The other shimmering works in this series also have centered geometric shapes — be they circular or rectangular — that highlight the color differences within the mix of resin and acrylic.

The next “movement” in the installation consists of 24-inch square “paintings” where long pieces of silk hang from panels and flow down to the floor as they transition from white to more richly colored hues. *Finding the Sea* is a quasi-landscape. Gemstones dot the surface of the resin-coated background that shifts from aqua at the top to reddish brown at the bottom. The translucent silk gives the otherwise solid piece a sense of airiness and fragility. Though not sculptural per se, pieces like *Sun is Shining* or *Of the Stars* are brightly colored horizontal gradients dotted with gemstones including black obsidian or amethyst.

Gumby's *Luminaires* are free standing transparent resin sculptures that dot the gallery. Recalling California Light and Space artists like Peter Alexander, Larry Bell and John McCracken, these colorful glowing monoliths feel precarious, fragile and authoritarian simultaneously. The five identically sized sculptures are human scaled at 72 x 24 x 6 inches differing only in color: purple, red, yellow, green and blue. Suspended within the resin are nuggets of garnet and rose quartz — opaque earthly elements that float within the transparent grounds.

The final "movement" in the exhibition are pieces called *Light Wells*. Using the architecture as a point of departure, Gumby crafted four ephemeral pieces that begin at the gallery skylights and extend to the floor below. Here, pieces of silk dyed in soft tones of pink, green blue and yellow-orange flow down like dream chambers — rooms where viewers can enter and immerse themselves in fluctuations of the environment.

Gumby takes into consideration the ever-changing qualities of light and shadow within a space and creates pieces that work in concert with each other to explore the way the body interacts with static, as well as moving forms. He is interested in creating a sense of heightened awareness and plays with the flow from room to room within the gallery. Gumby explores different manifestations of light and color as solid, as well as ethereal concepts. *Walk on the Moon* is a beautiful and thought-provoking installation that is both grounded and otherworldly.

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