Light Show

While other artists try to capture the effects of light, James Turrell uses it as a medium—curving ceilings, placing mirrors and digging into the earth to direct its rays. Beginning June 21, the Guggenheim will host a large-scale retrospective of his work, featuring a new site-specific work called "Atria Rege" that will transform the museum into a brilliant castle. It's a unique match-up between the artist and museum architect Frank Lloyd Wright. "Wright himself was no lover of cities, and thought of the Guggenheim as a place where people could temporarily escape the urban environment, stepping inside to greet the light of nature," says curator Nat Tocman. Turrell’s attraction to the space is not coincidental; he has taken advantage of this aspect of the museum to create a space where people can settle into a contemplative space and momentarily forget the heart and hustle of the city." Through Sept. 25, 1071 Fifth Ave., guggenheim.org – Heather Canavan

Spring Fever

When Donald Judd purchased the five-story, cashier building at 101 Spring Street for his home and studio in 1968, he set to work cementing his legacy on his own terms. The building, where the iconic artist lived until his death in 1994, is home to a Judd-curated permanent installation of more than 1,000 works of art, including some by his minimalist (a classification he reportedly hated) contemporaries Carl Andre and Dan Flavin. Now, after a three-year restoration, the Judd Foundation is opening the reservations line for guided tours on June 3, the 85th anniversary of the artist’s birth. juddfoundation.org – A.J.

Outsider Art

The city’s art scene is in full bloom with a host of outdoor exhibitions and artwork, just in time for summer. -HC

Ugo Rondinone, “Human Nature”
Rondinone’s colossal humanoid figures (above) will reside in Rockefeller Plaza through July 7. Between 49th and 50th streets.

Paul McCarthy, “Sisters”
With a massive (and naked) Amory exhibition and a slate of gallery shows, this summer is McCarthy’s season. The cheeky artist adds to his mosaic with “Sisters,” a monumental bronze statue inspired by Susan White. Through July 28, Hudson River Park at West 17th Street, hudsonriverpark.org

After Hours 2
For the second summer, The Art Production Fund has commissioned an event a day in all, including Alex Israel (above), Sylvie Fleury, Woody White and Daniel Buren for an all-hours-only exhibition along the Bowery’s restaurant-supply row. Through Sept. 28. Bowery between East Houston and Union Street. artproductionfund.org

Carol Bove, “Caterpillar”
Before the final leg of the High Line opens, see the untamed terrain during an exhibition of large-scale sculptures. Reservations required for free tours. Through May 2014. High Line between West 30th and 34th streets, thehighline.org