

Explore More is a self-guided program for kids and families normally taking place in our gallery. The Home Edition is designed for families to enjoy virtually!

About *Quantum Shift*

Tephra ICA is pleased to present *Quantum Shift* featuring the work of light and space artist Gisela Colón (b.1966). Colón's light-activated sculptural objects have little to no edges, lines, or place for the viewer to rest their eye. As the viewer moves past the artwork, the colors and angles shift creating an experience full of energy. The artist grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico and currently lives in Los Angeles, California. The nature, light, and color in these two places have greatly influenced her work. She also finds inspiration in living organisms that you might find under a microscope such as amoebas, as well as from huge celestial bodies like galaxies in outer space.

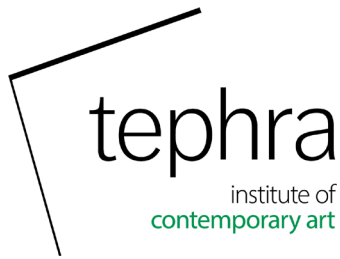
Colón has exhibited internationally throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. Most recently, Colón presented a monumental site-specific installation in the *Land Art Biennial, Desert X AIUla 2020* in Saudi Arabia. Colón's work resides in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD), San Diego, CA; Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, FL; and Mint Museum, North Carolina, among other locations.

[Read More About *Quantum Shift* for Inspiration Here](#)

Activity 1: Mini Light “Pods”, “Monoliths” and “Ellipsoids”

Shifting colors and forms are featured in the work of Gisela Colón. She uses materials such as optical acrylics and carbon fiber materials with aerospace technology to make layers in her sculptural objects. When these layers are experienced from different viewpoints, we see shifting colors, light, and forms from within the sculptures.

Would you like to try making your own mini sculpture like Colón's “Pods”, “Monoliths”, and “Ellipsoids”? Great! You will need: liquid glue (clear or white), a plastic container to mold the sculpture (this could be an empty plastic egg carton or plastic packaging from a toy), food coloring or watercolors, and glitter/sequins (optional).



1. Start by squeezing a small amount of liquid glue into your chosen plastic container. Using your finger or paintbrush, cover all of the surfaces inside the container (base and “walls”). Try to make sure you are using a thin-medium layer of glue; a thick layer will take much longer to dry. The glue should not fill the container.

2. Next, add a drop of food coloring or watercolor paint to your glue while still wet. You can use a toothpick to carefully swirl the color around to make a marbling effect. Add a small amount of glitter or sequins if you would like.

3. Allow the glue to dry completely (this may take a day or two). Leaving the container by a window or out in the sun will help it to dry faster. Once dry, very carefully peel the glue away from the container to reveal your mini light pod! Take your sculpture into the sun or shine a flashlight on it to reveal the way the color and glitter have dried. Bonus: experiment with layering different colors and materials in between drying periods.

Activity 2: Sweeping Sketches

Gisela Colón begins her large sculptures by creating a hand drawing using pen and ink to sketch the forms. Often with one swipe of the hand, Colón will land upon the final shape. The drawing is then enlarged and placed onto plywood, which later becomes the mold that shapes and holds many layers of optical materials.

Let’s explore the fluid, organic drawing process the artist uses in work by creating Sweeping Sketches! You will need: Paper (computer paper, tracing paper, or parchment/baking paper work well), pen or pencil, coloring utensils such as colored pencils, crayons, or watercolors (optional).

1. Begin by drawing a line across the paper in a “swooping” manner – don’t think too much; it should be a fluid, organic movement. Continue freely drawing to connect the ends of your shape. You can also create another smaller fluid shape inside the large drawing you just made to give the shape dimension. As you draw, think about the many shapes in nature – small, microscopic matter as well as large galaxies. What shapes come to mind?

2. Add color to your sweeping sketches to show dimension. Look at the artist’s wall pieces such as Super Ellipsoid (Sapphire), 2020. Do you notice how the deep blue color is concentrated in the center and the surrounding space is lighter in color? The center space is



actually more elevated than the rest of the piece and “pops” out. Experiment with color to represent dimensionality.

3. When you are finished, you can cut your sketch out and hang in a window or, for smaller sketches, paste into a notebook.