

Exploring Light and Making Reflective Installations

Inspired by the exhibition *Electrifying Design: A Century of Lighting*

Time: 20 minutes,
plus drying time

Difficulty level: Easy

Messy level: Medium



The exhibition *Electrifying Design: A Century of Lighting* (on view through May 16, 2021) celebrates lighting devices—innovative, practical, delightful, and fun. Over the past 100 years, the field of lighting design has been a catalyst for technological and artistic expression. Inspired by DRIFT's *Flylight (Basel)*, this activity will guide you in exploring how to make your own reflective installation using simple materials found at home.

The exhibition *Electrifying Design: A Century of Lighting* is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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To view a hi-res image of the work, visit [the MFAH website](#).

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. What features of *Flylight (Basel)* by the design group DRIFT are similar to lights that you have at home? Think about material, orientation, and purpose.
2. Would you consider this light to be decorative or functional? Why?
3. How are movement and reflection important in this design?

Gather These Materials

- Glitter
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Scrap paper
- Cardboard or paper plates
- Scissors
- String, wire, or dental floss
- Optional: tape, dowel rod



Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home with a hard surface to work on.
2. Gather supplies.
3. Cut cardboard or paper plate into desired number of shapes.
4. Place cardboard shapes on top of scrap paper.
5. Cover top of shapes with white craft glue using a paintbrush to evenly coat the cardboard.
6. Sprinkle a thick layer of glitter to cover the entire surface.
7. Allow to dry.
8. Flip shapes and repeat steps 5–7.
9. While the shapes are drying, look around your house and determine where you want to hang them. One idea is to create a mobile to hang near a window. Another idea is to use a lamp shade to hang the shapes from. *If using a lamp for your installation, make sure an adult helps. This needs to be done safely so as not to cause a fire hazard.*
10. Cut string to desired length and knot around your shapes. If knotting is too hard, try tape.
11. Knot the other end around a dowel rod or stick if creating a mobile or knot around the metal frame of a lamp shade.

Above, left: DRIFT, *Flylight (Basel)*, 2015, hand-blown glass, wire, electronics, anodized aluminum, and LEDs. © 2020 DRIFT