

Magazine text

GLOW: Selections from the Modern and Contemporary Collection

Temporary Exhibition Gallery (14)

June 1 - Dec 15, 2019

Although light is perhaps the most fundamental visual element, its use and effect on the experience of a work of art is often taken for granted, or not formally considered or examined in the same way as the handling of physical materials such as stone, metal, or paint. However, humankind's manipulation of light has existed for centuries, enhancing architectural spaces with features such as the stained glass window. This exhibition focuses attention on three works from the museum's permanent collection that rely on the element of light as an essential visual component. Thomas Wilfred's *Convolux, Opus 160* (1965) is an exceptional example of the artist's "lunia," or light box assemblies. One of the most creative innovators to work with light as a primary medium in the first half of the 20th century, Wilfred was influential on later generations of artists who experimented with the effects of light as a primary medium. In *Constellation* (1984), an imposing sculpture fabricated from wire mesh, Richard Berger uses a single lightbulb to illuminate a portion of the work, lending the piece a sense of mystery and suspense. Created in 2012, Tony Oursler's *Roman à Clef* utilizes modern technology for its light source in the form of digital projections. Oursler's sculpture incorporating video and audio offers a uniquely crafted view into his surrealistic and surprising narrative on human relationships.

--Katherine Love

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