

Family Guide

Anthony
McCall

Dark Rooms, Solid Light



Welcome to

Anthony
McCall

Dark Rooms, Solid Light

We encourage you to read through this guide before you enter the exhibition; as the name suggests, it's pretty dark in there!


We have a few questions and ideas for you to think about as you move through the galleries. There, you'll find several of the artist's large-scale light installations as well as drawings, videos, and photographs, including studies and plans for some of his light works.

At the end of this guide we have some fun McCall-inspired activities for you to try at home. Thanks for joining us at the Albright-Knox, and we hope you enjoy your visit!

Five Ws and one H

WHO IS ANTHONY MCCALL?

Anthony McCall, who was born in England but moved to the United States in the early 1970s, began his career making films. In 1973, he started creating what he calls "solid-light" installations. These artworks consist of simple animated drawings projected through haze to create the illusion of three-dimensional shapes.



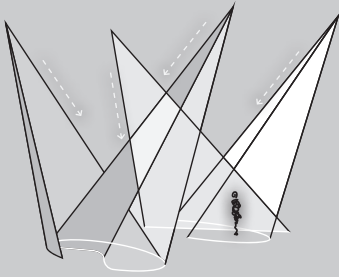
There are five solid-light installations in this exhibition, so make sure you see them all!



WHAT DOES ANTHONY MCCALL DO?

McCall makes illusions! What look like solid sculptures are really made from light and haze. Try walking through one—What happens when you move through the light? Does the artwork change at all? How?

WHERE DOES THE LIGHT COME FROM?

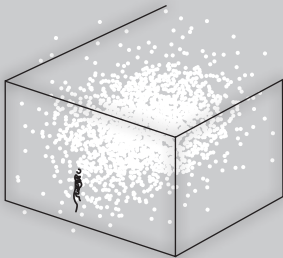


In each gallery, find where the light is coming from. The light comes from a machine called a projector. Notice how the lines are closer together near the projector and then “grow” farther apart as they move toward the opposite wall or floor. Do you see a shape? Does it look like the shape is moving? Which one is your favorite?

WHEN WILL THE LIGHT MOVE?

Notice how the light is slowly moving when you enter each gallery. Can you predict how it will move? Pause for a while: Did you stay and “watch” the works like you would a video or a movie? Or did you view them and then move on, like you would with a sculpture? Why?

HOW DOES IT FEEL?



These artworks are always changing, especially when you move through the light and become a part of the artwork! How does it feel to change an artwork with your body? Look for the one solid light installation that features a mirror. How does it feel to see yourself—literally—in the work of art?

AT THE END OF THE EXHIBITION

Which installation did you like best? Why?

If you were asked to choose one of the shapes you saw today to represent you, which one would it be? Why?

Did your shadow change any of these works of art? How?

Activities for Home

EXPLORE WITH SHADOWS!

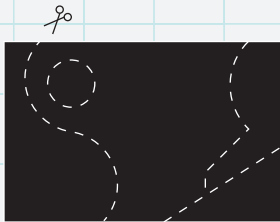
Grab some:

- construction paper or cardboard
- something to draw with
- scissors
- sidewalk chalk

TIP!

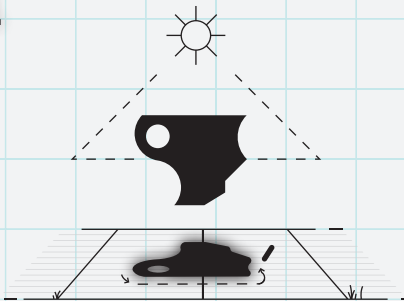
This outdoor activity works best in the early morning or late afternoon, when the sun is lower in the sky.

1.



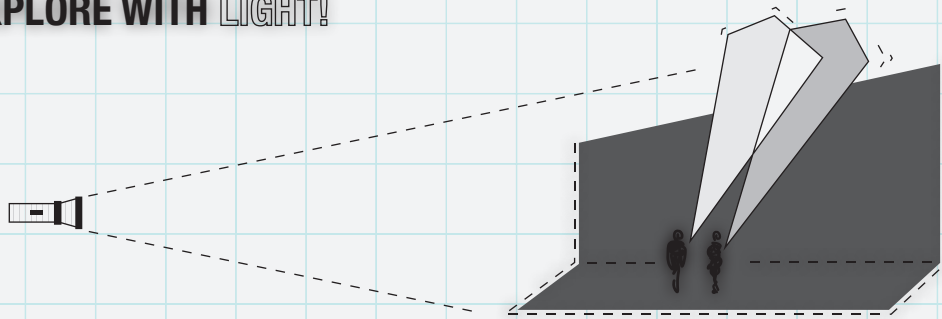
Draw a couple of very BIG shapes on the construction paper or cardboard, and then cut them out. When the sun is shining, head outside!

2.



Have a friend hold up the shape, and then trace the shadow onto the sidewalk. Move to another spot and trace the shadow again. Now draw some lines connecting your two shapes. Does your design look like anything to you? Try again with a different shape. Which one do you like the best?

EXPLORE WITH LIGHT!



Find a few flashlights or cellphones with a flashlight app, and grab a couple of friends. Go into a room and turn off all of the lights. Start by asking one person to move the beam of his or her flashlight slowly along a wall, the ceiling, or the floor. One by one, ask each person to turn on his or her light and see what happens. Try moving all your lights in the same direction. Then try moving them in different directions. Can you create different shapes and lines with your lights?

EXPLORE WITH LINES AND SHAPES!

In this activity, we're going to make a kaleidoscope: an instrument that uses mirrors to create colorful patterns.

For materials, you'll need:

- reflective paper
- a cardboard tube
- tape

An x-acto knife and decorative paper or drawing materials will also be helpful to have on hand.

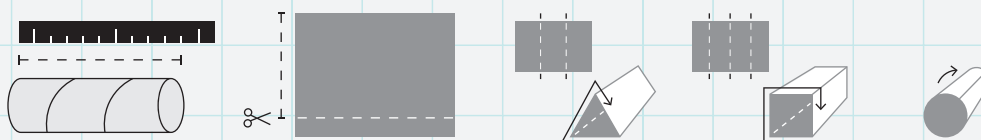
TIP!

If you don't have reflective paper on hand, you can use tin foil instead. You'll just need to attach it to a sturdier type of paper first before making it into a triangular or rectangular prism for your kaleidoscope.

OPTIONAL:

First, decorate your cardboard tube. You can either trim paper for the outside or color it with drawing materials (markers work best). If you decide to use decorative paper, adhere it to the outside of the tube using tape.

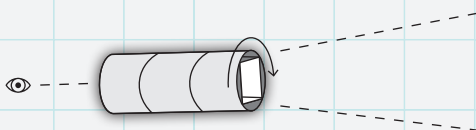
Next, cut your reflective paper to match the length of the cardboard tube. Then, fold your paper into a cylinder, triangular prism, or rectangular prism.



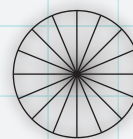
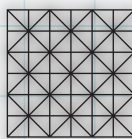
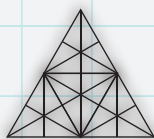
TIP!

For the triangular or rectangular prism, use an x-acto knife or scissors to score your edges; it helps to fold the paper.

Finally, secure your shape inside the tube using tape (double-sided tape works beautifully!).



Look through and slowly turn your kaleidoscope!



What is happening? Does it make things around you look different?

✂ Cut out this page as a McCall-themed kaleidoscope wrap!

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Albright-Knox
Art Gallery

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Written by Lindsay Kranz