

itty-bitty art

Light and Space

Hey, who turned out the lights? We did! It's time to have fun with flashlights, glow sticks, and shadow puppets. As your baby moves, grows, and explores their world, they learn where their body is in relation to other people and objects. This resource provides several art-inspired activities for developing spatial awareness skills with your infant.

Glow Bath

Create a colorful, sudsy soak inspired by the dancing, twirling rays of light in Carl E. Lewis' photograph! Place a few bright glow sticks in the tub and let them float and roll around your baby during their supervised bath time. Use the glow sticks to stir the water, stick them in a pile of bubbles, and trace lines in the air for your baby to follow while getting squeaky clean! Add a black light and some tonic water for a little extra glow power.

Flashlight Show

For a little change to the sleepy-time routine, try putting on a gentle light show for your baby inspired by the swirling moths in Cynthia Brants' *Moths in Candle Light*. Turn out the lights, put on some calming music, and slowly draw shapes and lines across the ceiling using a flashlight or two. Move the lights along to the music, tell a quiet story, or just draw squiggles and spirals while your baby drifts into dreamland. Add a little magic with some twinkle lights or colored bulbs!

Shadow Puppets

Let's make the shadows flutter and dance, just like the puppet in *The Puppet Dances #7* by Nell Dorr. Wiggle and pose your fingers in front of a flashlight or get creative and cut simple shapes out of paper. Tell silly stories in the dark, using different voices for each character. Play with the size of your shadows by placing your puppets closer to or further from your light source.

Nighttime / Light Time Stories

One of your baby's milestones is object permanence, or learning that objects and people still exist even when your baby can't see them. Playing games like peekaboo or using a flashlight in the dark is a fun way to increase this skill. Reading books about light and shadow help build your baby's vocabulary to express this concept.

[*What Is Light?* by Markette Sheppard](#)

[*The World Shines for You* by Jeffrey Burton](#)

[*Juego de Sombras* by Herve Tullet](#)

[*You Are Light* by Aaron Becker](#)

[*Bunny Rabbit in the Sunlight* by Kate Endle & Caspar Babypants](#)

[*Shadow's Nighttime Adventure* by Megan Roth](#)

[*Goodnight, Baby Moon* by James Mitchem](#)

The Fort Worth Public Library is a building a community of learners, dreamers, and doers with the help of great collaborators across the City of Fort Worth. Visit their website, fortworthlibrary.org, and explore their uniquely creative and diverse programming for all ages on their YouTube channel at YouTube.com/fwlibrary.





Nell Dorr (1893–1988)
The Puppet Dances #7, 1925–1970s
Gelatin silver print

Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas,
Gift of the Estate of Nell Dorr
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P1990.45.284



Moths in Candle Light

A.P.

C. Brants

Cynthia Brants (1924–2006)

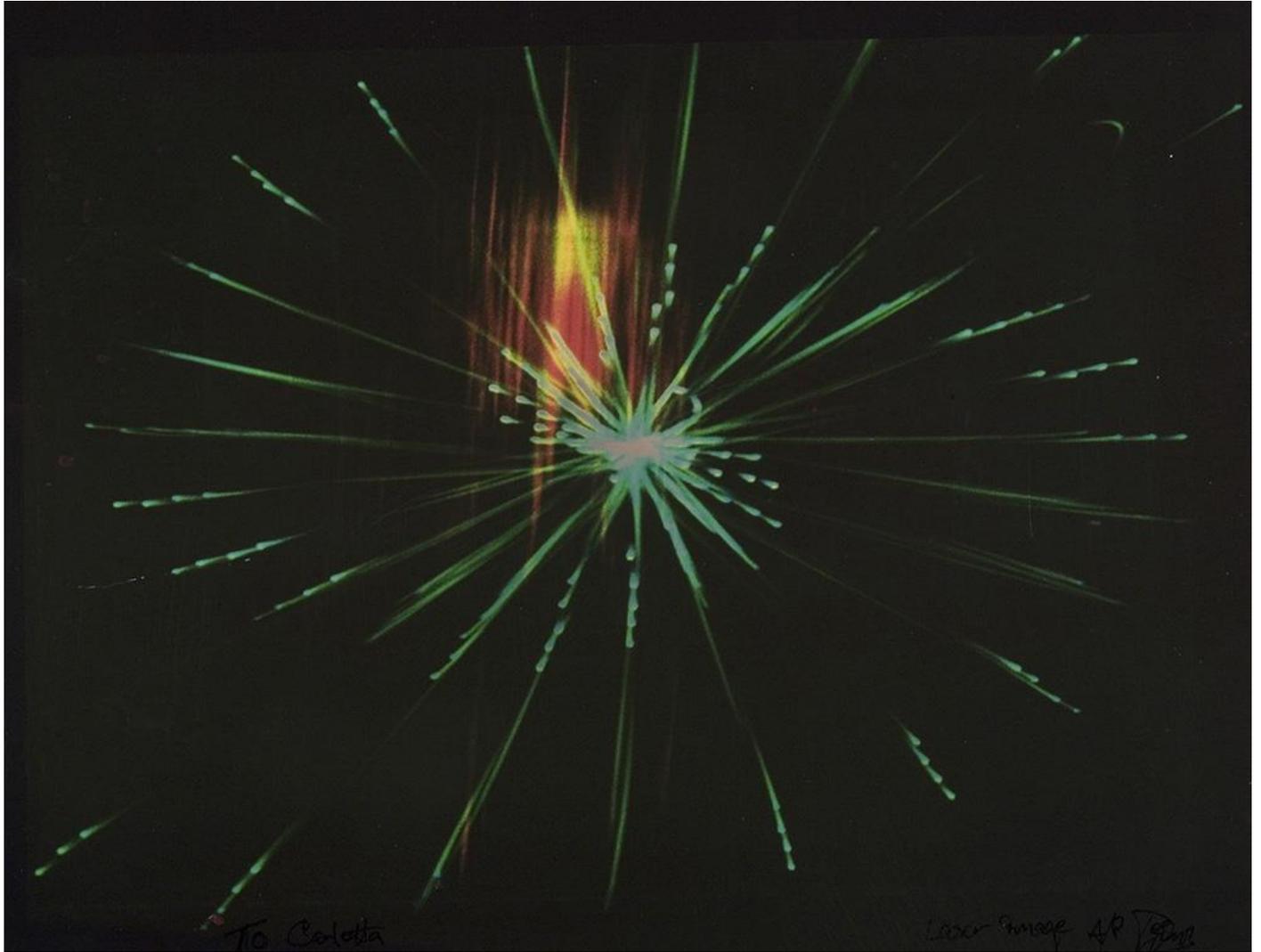
Moths in Candle Light, 1992

Color etching

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Carl Lewis (b. 1979)
"All This I Give to You to Use in Moderation"- The Creator of all Things, 1982
Dye destruction print

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