



CITATION

for the Lighting of an Art Installation

1.8 by Janet Echelman

Washington, DC

Arup

Jake Wayne, Brian Stacy, Anthony J. Cortez, and Liberty MacDougall



“The line between light and matter is blurred for this immersive art installation. The choreographed sequence of light and color creates a dramatic narrative, punctuated with vivid displays of moving light and shadow.”

—Jake Wayne

Arup’s lighting design for this immersive art installation blurs the line between the art and the illumination. Echelman’s layers of twines, knotted together in vibrant hues, interplay with colored light and “shadow drawings” on the walls of the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Renwick Gallery.

With such a unique art form, the lighting installation details were carefully considered to achieve proper aiming angles, without creating undesirable glare or distractions to visitors. The design process was necessarily collaborative and iterative, with lighting visualizations representative of the intent reviewed and critiqued first by the artist, but also by the curatorial staff.

The dedicated gallery space afforded the opportunity to explore the nature of shadow, creating a second “palette” for the artist and allowing her to consider the large blank walls as additional canvas.

Seven-color LED theatrical fixtures scripted via DMX create a dynamic, vibrant 9 minute choreographed sequence of light that takes visitors on an experiential journey through the artistic narrative. The lighting expresses every elemental piece of the art, responding in kind to each flowing gesture.

Intricately woven into moments of air, sound, and motion, the lighting sequence is simultaneously symbolic and abstract, allowing viewers to draw their own reflective interpretations.

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PHOTOGRAPHY
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