

Monica Valentine's Tactile Temperature



Image courtesy of Creative Growth and Monica Valentine.

Project Description

[Monica Valentine](#), an artist at [Creative Growth](#) in Oakland, CA since 2012, has a powerful and unique connection to color. Having lost her sight in early childhood, she chooses hues by sense, associating different temperatures and feelings with color choices. Wearing bright monochromatic outfits (often adorned with bike reflectors), Monica dexterously creates beaded, optically charged sculptures of intentional color patterns. Widely recognized for her work, Monica's creations have exhibited and sold at the [Outsider Art Fair](#) in New York, Paris, and Tokyo, at the Creative Growth Gallery, and [Art Osaka](#) amongst many others.

Explore Monica's creative practice and creations before following in her artistic footsteps. Reflect as you craft, consider your relationship with colors, and create a beaded sculpture of your own!

"I like to dress in red. Dress in green, dress in blue, dress in yellow, dress in

purple, dress in white and black. Red is HOT. Yellow and orange feel warm. Green feels kinda freezing, blue feels very cold. I can tell by the feel of them with my hands." (Monica)

Recommended Age Level

Recommended for ages 10 with adult supervision.

CAUTION: This process utilizes straight pins which are sharp! Beads and sequins can be choking hazards.

Materials

- Foam shape
- Beads
- Sequins
- Straight pins
- Needle (optional)
- String (optional)

Image Gallery







Instructions

1. Reflect on and sort the colors. Monica identifies each color by its temperature or feel. What do colors feel like to you?
2. Carefully place beads and sequins on straight pins. With the pointy side down, push pins into the foam shape.
3. Continue until the surface area is covered in sequins and beads.

OPTIONAL: Younger crafters may also choose to swap straight pins for pipecleaners and beads and sequins for pony beads.

Creative Prompts For More

- From bike reflectors to light reflecting off sequins, reflection is a major theme in Monica's work. The time-consuming process of her sculptures allows for plenty of *mindful* reflection. This holiday season, we encourage you to muse on some of the following:
 - What were some of my favorite moments of this year?
 - What are the most creative things I did?

- Did I come up with any cool, new ideas or inventions that I could continue developing?
- What are my goals for next year?
- How can I continue to make time for a consistent creative practice?
- How does the sculpture change depending on how many beads you put on a pin?
- How does the process or outcome change if you choose the beads and sequins by feel or touch as opposed to sight?
- Littler artists may choose to only fill a certain section of the shape. How else could you decorate the remaining foam?
- Hang the sculpture as a light catcher, ornament, or ceiling art.