

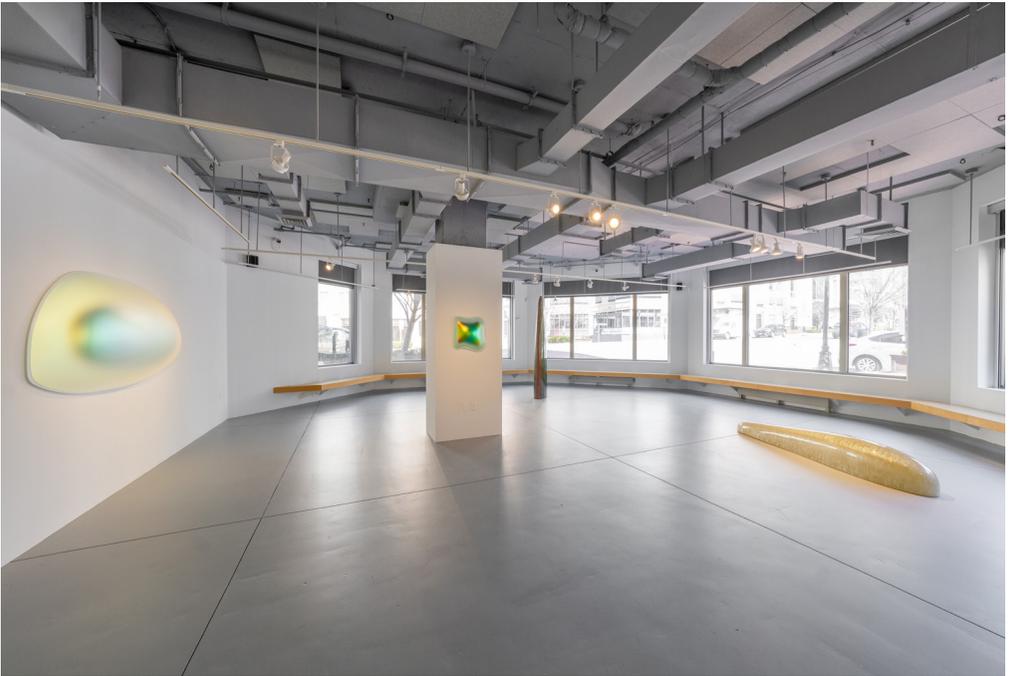


"*Quantum Shift* is emblematic of the dawn of a new era, a symbol for hope, and a moment for renewal."

- Jaynelle Hazard, Curator



Quantum Shift installation image



Quantum Shift installation image

Introduction by Jaynelle Hazard

Executive Director and Curator, Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art

Gisela Colón introduces mutable, transformational qualities in her practice using a unique sculptural language of Organic Minimalism. Colón produces objects that are seamless, featuring little to no edges, lines, or place for the viewer to rest their eye, nodding towards an energy of constant fluctuation and growth. Made from optical acrylics and carbon fiber material using advanced aerospace technology, the “Pods,” “Monoliths,” and “Ellipsoids,” are light-weight yet durable objects, both from this earth and not of this earth, birthed from a symbiosis of high art and physical science.

Colón’s light-activated sculptures explore the essence of life. She finds inspiration in living organisms like amoebas, biological structures like nuclei, and celestial bodies – all expressed in form, materials, and language such as in the artwork titles *Andromeda* and *Unidentified Object*. Conceptually embodying the energy of the universe, Colón also identifies invisible cosmological materials such as aurora particles, stardust, cosmic radiation, intergalactic matter, and ionic waves, as metaphorical components in her work.

The artwork production process begins with creating a hand drawing using pen and ink to sketch the forms. Often with one swipe of the hand, Colón will land upon the final shape. The drawing is then enlarged and placed onto plywood, which later becomes the mold that shapes and holds many layers of optical materials. She layers the acrylic in such a way that the works become activated prisms, causing the light to simultaneously reflect and refract outward into the surrounding space. Without the use of any paint, Colón has achieved a fluid color spectrum, where the sculptures become mutable objects responding to fluctuating environmental conditions and dimensional viewpoints. This exploration of light and color embodies much of Colón’s Southern California experience.

As a contemporary Latinx artist, working through her innovative practice of Organic Minimalism, Colón has deconstructed and expanded upon the historically male-dominated canon of minimalism; in result, carving out new space for broader identities in the field.

In contrast to traditional, hard-edged, geometrical minimalist works, Colón breaks barriers by creating objects that appear both masculine and feminine, liquid and solid, delicate and strong.

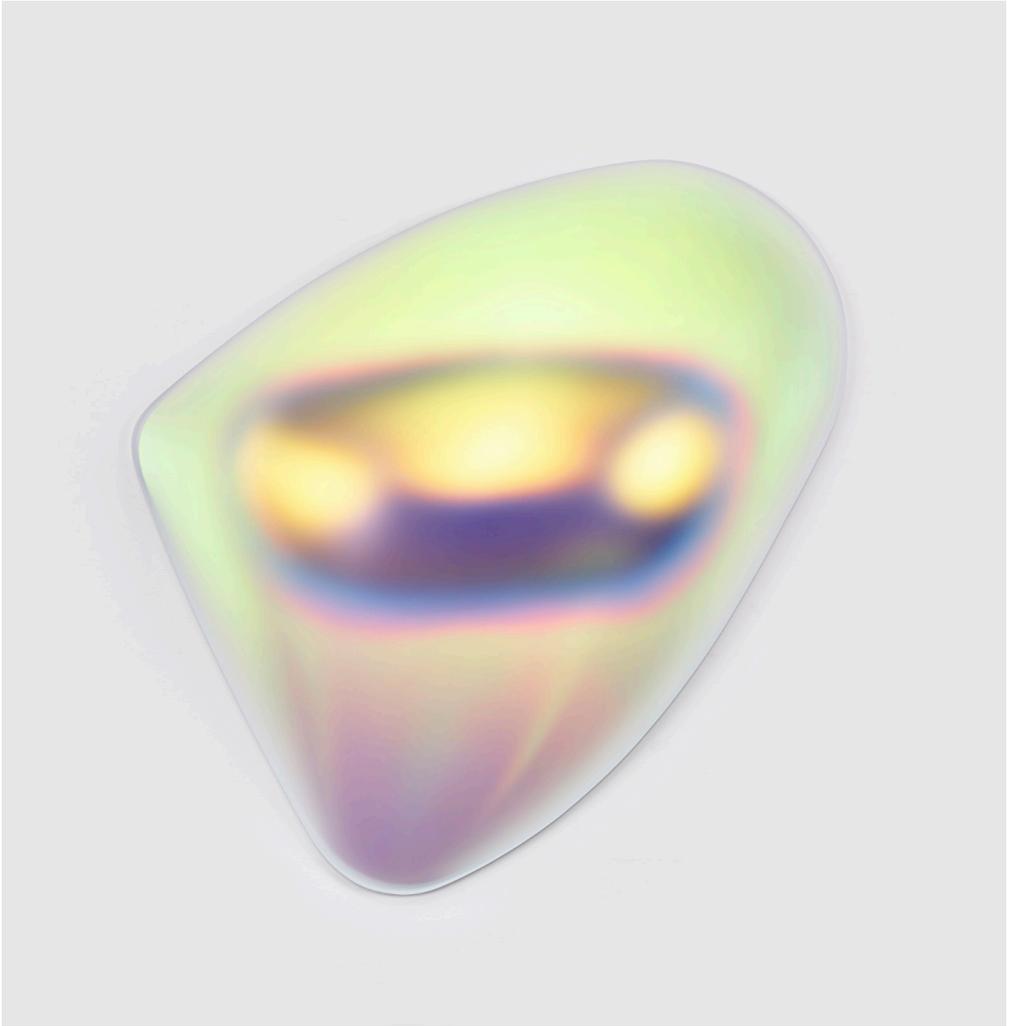
Growing up in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Colón established a connection with nature – the rainforest, the beach, animals, and plants – at an early age. The jolt of energy found in the work is rooted in her Caribbean background and experience living on the island.

The works in the exhibition are representative of this moment in time when there is a shift in human awareness, marking a new era of discovery. In particular, Colón drew inspiration from the current NASA Artemis aerospace project that will place a woman on the moon. As a participant in the NASA project and the sponsor of the *Quantum Shift* exhibition, the science and technology company, Leidos, connected with the intersections of art, science, and humanity found in Colón's work.

The word "quantum," relating to energy contained in matter within the universe, paired with the word "shift," referencing a physical change in movement or space, together symbolize a change in consciousness. Colón's choice of the exhibition title brings vital attention to her belief in the power of interconnectivity and the idea that the capabilities of humanity lie beyond a specific gender. To complement the conceptual, viewers will experience the synergistic shift of form, color, movement, and time, as they explore the works in person or virtually. *Quantum Shift* is emblematic of the dawn of a new era, a symbol for hope, and a moment for renewal.



Meta Trapezoid (Cyan Gold), 2019

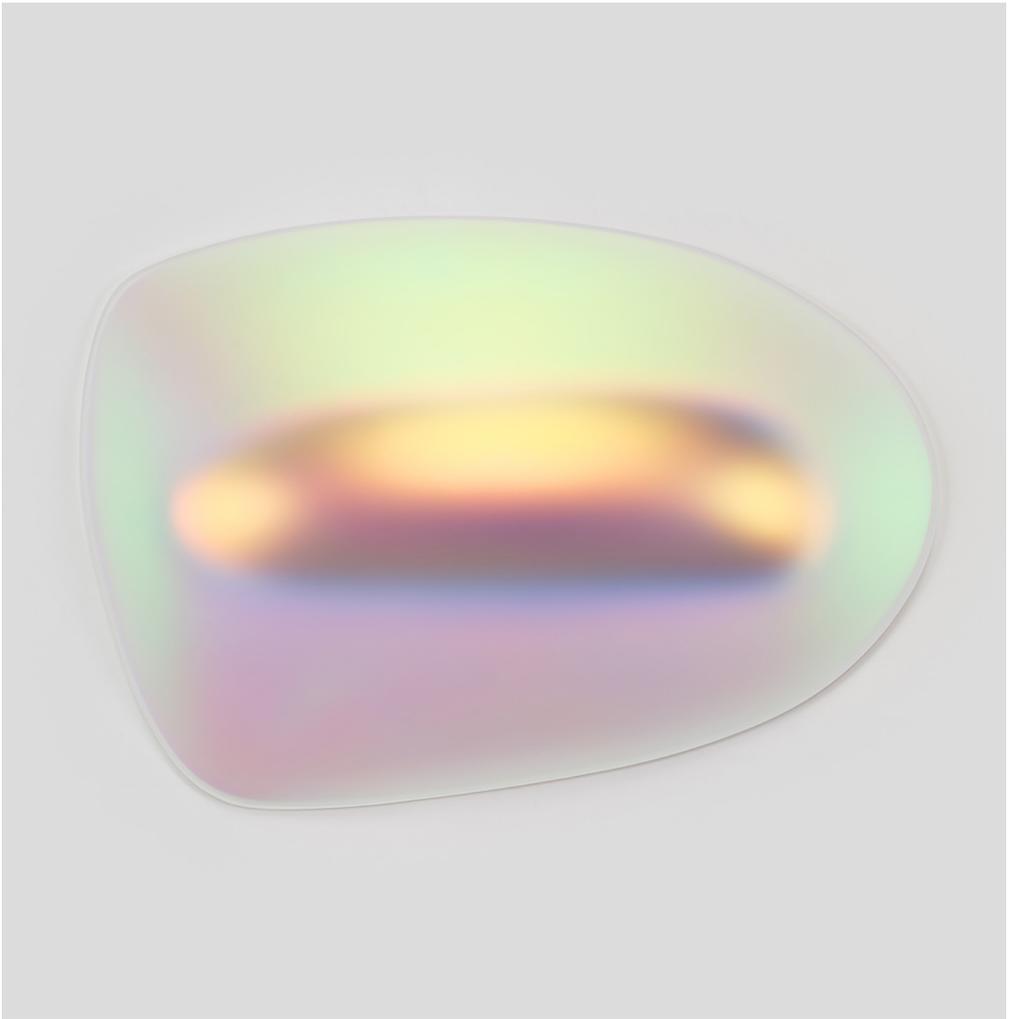


Morph (Light Gold), 2019



“Drawing upon the raw energy of change, growth and transformation that I experienced growing up on the island of Borinquen, I have imbued my work with the pulsating energy of the El Yunque rainforest, the forceful strength of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and the soulful vitality, vivacity and resilience of Puerto Rican culture.”

- Gisela Colón



Liquid Trapezoid (Red Gold), 2020



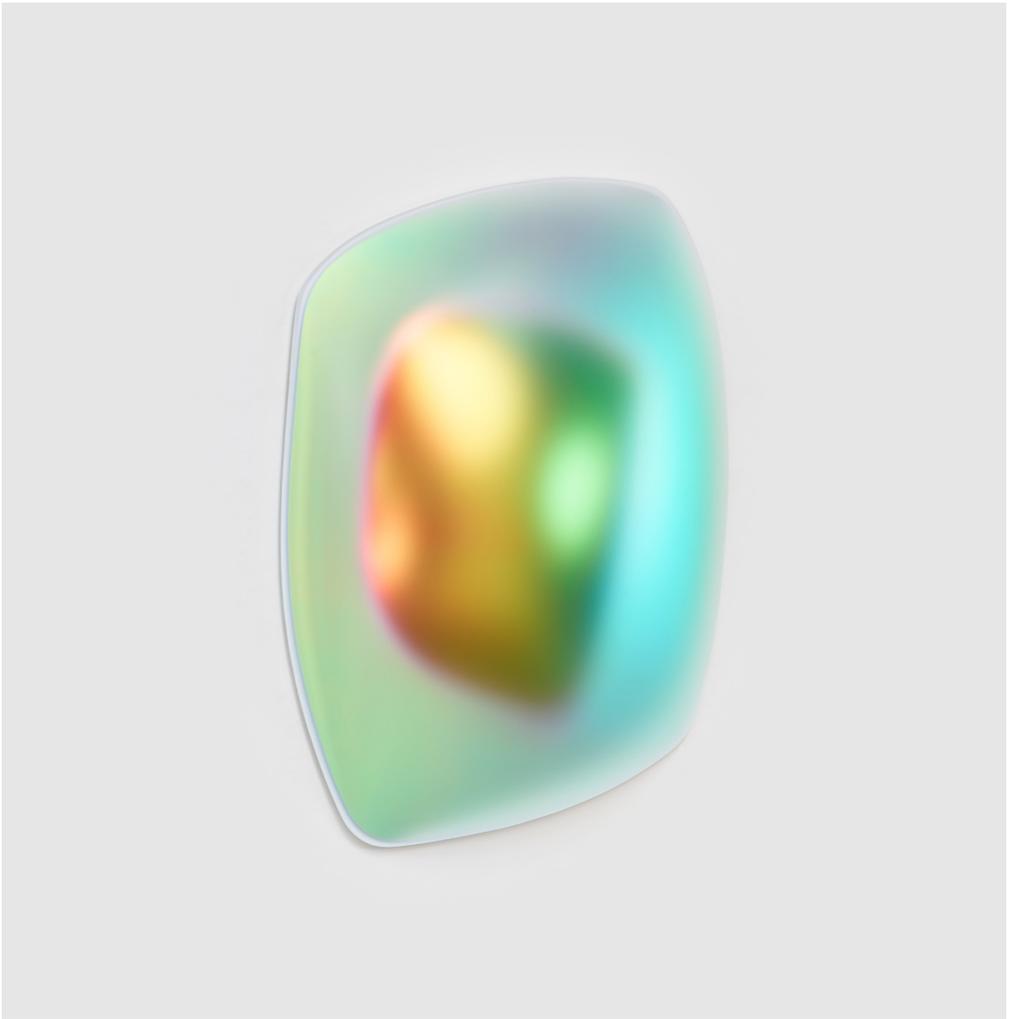
Liquid Triangle (Alpha), 2020



“The female gaze upon our earth from afar, can bring new ideas
and nurturing energy for the future of humanity. We call our home
“Mother Earth” for a reason.”

- Gisela Colón





Skewed Square (Osmium Gold), 2020



Super Ellipsoid (Sapphire), 2020



Unidentified Object (Slaboid Incandescent Gold), 2020

“By appropriating classic masculine forms and symbols (the phallus, bullets, missiles, projectiles, rockets) and rendering them into aesthetically ambiguous, desirable objects, the monolith sculptures subvert the traditionally aggressive and destructive references of these objects. Their negative meanings are transmuted into positive energies that address phenomenology and the universal concern of human relationships with the Earth.”

- Gisela Colón



*Parabolic Monolith
(Andromeda Green), 2021*



Quantum Shift installation image

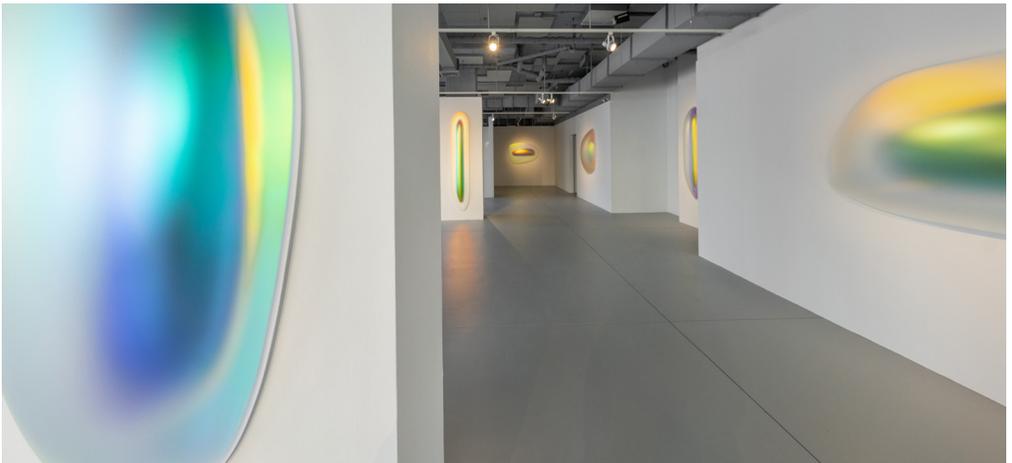


Quantum Shift installation image

Biography

Colón has exhibited internationally throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. Most recently, Colón presented a monumental site-specific installation in the Land Art Biennial, Desert X AlUla 2020 in Saudi Arabia. Her work is currently on view at the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, Virginia in the exhibition *A Very Anxious Feeling: Voices of Unrest in the American Experience*, and at the Mint Museum in North Carolina in the exhibition *In Vivid Color: Pushing the Boundaries of Perception in Contemporary Art*. Her work will be included in the traveling exhibition *Light, Space, Surface: Southern California Art From LACMA's Collection* at the Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN (2021), Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts (2021-2022), and The Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida (2022).

Gisela Colón's work resides in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD), San Diego, CA; Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, FL; Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA; Grand Rapids Museum of Art (GRAM), Grand Rapids, MI; and the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO, amongst others.



Quantum Shift installation image

Exhibition Checklist

Meta Trapezoid (Cyan Gold), 2019

Blow-molded acrylic

42 x 90 x 12 inches

Morph (Light Gold), 2019

Blow-molded acrylic

42 x 35 x 12 inches

Liquid Square (Uranium), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

20 x 20 x 8 inches

Liquid Trapezoid (Red Gold), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

42 x 58 x 12 inches

Liquid Triangle (Alpha), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

20 x 20 x 8 inches

Pericynthion (Gamma), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

74 x 17.5 x 7.5 inches

Perihelion (Azurite), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

90 x 17.5 x 7.5 inches

Skewed Square (Osmium Gold), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

54 x 42 x 12 inches

Super Ellipsoid (Sapphire), 2020

Blow-molded acrylic

58 x 23 x 12 inches

Unidentified Object (Slaboid Incandescent Gold),

2020

Aurora Particles, stardust, cosmic radiation,

intergalactic matter, ionic waves, organic

carbamate, gravity, and time

96.5 x 10 x 5 inches

Parabolic Monolith (Andromeda Green), 2021

Aurora Particles, stardust, cosmic radiation,

intergalactic matter, ionic waves, organic

carbamate, gravity, and time

98.5 x 23.5 x 11.5 inches

Courtesy of the artist and Gavlak Gallery.

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) is committed to promoting innovative contemporary art and thinking. Leading with curiosity and care, we are a catalyst, generator, and advocate for visual and interdisciplinary arts.

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership of our Board of Directors and the valued support of our sponsors, members, and patrons.

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