

**Title** – Engagement and Light as a Medium

**Program of Study** – Master of Fine Arts

**Presentation Type** – PowerPoint

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**Category** – Creative/Artistic

During this current period of rapid technological advancement, artists have been given new platforms on which to work. An audience can now view works that have been completely created within the digital realm. Though these advancements have greatly increased the accessibility of artwork, they have negatively impacted the engagement of the viewer with the work itself. It has become far too easy to view something on a screen rather than experiencing that something firsthand. As an artist, I wish to provoke an engagement and involvement with works of art. Through my experimentation I have found that, in order to achieve this goal, one must create a piece that cannot simply be translated on a lifeless screen. While attempting to ascertain what this fully meant, I considered the proper mediums that should be used for such a project. I not only wanted to engage my audience in a special way, but to use something that is not often seen in the art field. After research and careful thought, I began to consider light as a medium. I have always been interested in the science and physics of light. This interest, paired with my longing to create pieces that involve viewers, spurred me to create a sculptural instillation piece that uses reflected and refracted light to uniquely fill a room with rainbows, rays of life, and geometric patterns. I wish to further explore this usage of light as a medium on an even larger level. However, with a piece this scale and a medium that cannot be aptly captured on a screen, I feel that I have created something that begs for personal presence and engagement, as did the art of the past, devoid of screens.

As a Christian, I strive to include God in all areas of my work. I attempt to seek Him in my creative process and allow Him to lead my projects in His own way. This specific project was born out of a desire to explore new areas of art so that I myself could be led closer to our creator. I did not want to create a piece of art for the sake of art itself. I prayed about each step of the process and asked God to teach me lessons that I needed to learn at that point in time. As I prayed and searched for the meaning of this piece, I began to focus on the concept of light in the Bible. Light has always been a symbol of good and holy things, and darkness, those of bad and evil things. Too often I find myself thinking that it is easier to focus on the darker things of life. Though, once I have seen the light, the dark things pale in comparison. With this sculptural instillation, the darkness of the room is initially easy to see, but once one observes the projected patterns and colors, the darkness is forgotten. I feel that God was teaching me to focus on Him, the light, instead of the dark things of this world. He was teaching me that the light is far more beautiful than the things around it. Light makes everything clearer and God wanted to give me clarity. Dealing with the idea of engagement, God was teaching me that, as a Christian, I need to be involved with other Christians in a unified manner. I often spend too much time alone rather than seeking genuine community apart from screens. With this project I want my audience to be drawn towards God and to interact with art and others around them in a very personal and unique way.