

Carmen Menza - Artist Statement

I am continually interested in the way we perceive things in the world around us and the persistent qualities of both beauty and vulnerability in life. As an artist, I am driven to create work that investigates what and how we see by challenging our perceptions, perspectives, and assumptions.

My work explores themes of perceptual phenomena, transformation and agency utilizing mediums including light, video, music composition and language. My working methods embrace obscuring the materials within my work, pushing us to reaccess what we first see, and transforming the materials into spaces of reflection and empowerment. Through text-based works I examine how words shape our human connections, particularly in the context of current political and social climates and creating spaces where viewers can engage in dialogues about justice, identity, and empowerment.

Whether natural sunlight, LED or video projection, I create works that foster a sense of engagement by continually changing in response to their surroundings, light, and viewers' angle of incidence, activating reflecting shafts of color onto adjacent surfaces. Capturing the ephemeral nature of light through reflective materials and optics creates a possibility for responsive sculpture as time and light allow the work to unfold.