

Color Walk

Beth Galston, Artist

2005, Mesa Arts Center, Mesa, AZ

Materials: Hand-painted and silk-screened glass

Two railings, each 3' 6" H x 80' L

The dynamic design for *Color Walk* captures the movements of wind, light and shifting clouds. People walking through the passageway become part of the environment, as their shadows mingle with the patterns of light and color.

The sculpture consists of two ribbons of colored glass, each 80' long x 3' 6" high, that are affixed to the railings of the pedestrian walkway on the west facade of the Mesa Arts Center. These brilliantly colored glass panels — in intense blue, orange, gold, and magenta — create a dynamic composition that can be seen from a distance by viewers on the street, and experienced up close by pedestrians moving along the bridge walkways. At night, the panels are illuminated so that they glow and appear to float.

The imagery for the glass is based on photographs of the sky and clouds in Mesa at dusk during a rainstorm. The images were collaged to create progressions from one color to another and from clear to cloudy. The dynamic design seeks to capture movements of wind, light and shifting clouds.

During the afternoon, the colored glass panels interact with the sun to project light and color into the bridge walkways. The piece becomes a "painting" of colored light, changing throughout the day as the sun shifts. People walking through the passageway become part of the environment, as their shadows mingle with the patterns of light and color.

The glass was fabricated in collaboration with the skilled artisans at Franz Mayer of Munich, Inc. in Germany. Colored metal oxides were applied to each panel by a process of photo silkscreening, airbrushing, and hand painting. Each of 32 panels consists of two pieces of glass that are laminated together: one layer has a photo silkscreened dot pattern of the clouds, and the other panel is freely hand painted and airbrushed. The two layers combine to create an effect that is both graphic and fluid. The glass was baked in a kiln to create permanent lightproof colors.