

Luminous Garden (Wave)

Beth Galston, Artist

2019, Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI

Materials: Cast resin seedpods, LEDs, wires

Dimensions: 3' H x 6' W x 10' L

Since 2003 I have been working on a series of immersive installations called *Luminous Gardens*. These walk-through “gardens” are glowing environments created using colored LEDs embedded in translucent forms cast from seed pods. Attached to thin stalks, the pods float and sway in air currents as viewers move through the space. Masses of tangled electrical wires suggest plant root systems, and the little lights could be thought of as their life force or energy. Combining nature and technology, order and disorder, these environments create imagined landscapes for viewers to explore.

Luminous Garden (Wave) is the first piece in this series that utilizes a computer to control the lights. The LEDs brighten and dim in a slow cycle of changes like a wave or a deep breath. When you are in the space it slows you down and makes you aware of your own breathing. The effect of this particular color of blue LED lights is calming and meditative. My desire is to create a world that invites people in and leads them on a journey, thereby engaging their thoughts, senses, and imagination.