

Dearest playful beings, adventurous wanderers, children, and inner-children, you are invited to leave your smartphones at the door (or in your pockets) and indulge in a buffet of historical pre-cinema technology... presented by *The Institute of Illuminated Lanterns, Toys, and Other Optical Delights*.

*The Institute* is an informal global community of craftspeople, technologists, artists, and makers of all flavors. We came together through our shared love of play, inclusion, experimentation, and creativity, and – most importantly – our desire to share!

We have taken over part of an old warehouse in Detroit, Michigan to offer up our debut immersive artainment playground! These exhibits feature designs by local *Institute* members from the Great Lakes, Appalachia, and beyond – and we look forward to curating future playgrounds for all of our friends across the US and the globe with a mix of your local *Institute* members and international featured makers too! And it doesn't matter what size space you have... we love the exciting challenge of scaling our exhibits for spaces large or small, square or quirky!

Meet Lillian! She grew up in a lighthouse on Lake Erie and is fascinated with optics and shipwrecks. If you are a curious wanderer or a puzzle-loving explorer, you'll have fun wandering her maze and looking for hidden messages, puzzles, and stories with an anaglyph decoder. There are so many different paths and stories to choose from, and the more you look the more you see... the more time you spend, the more layers of the story are revealed!

If you're seeking meditative play and imagination, spend some time in Lillian's magic lantern dome where she installed a small army of magic lanterns and her hand-painted slides of shipwrecks and other views of the Great Lakes. You can relax on the ground and let your imagination wander, or experiment with projecting different slides over one another around the dome!

Meet Isin! They are from Metro Detroit and have been exploring their North African heritage by crafting mosaic lamps and light installations. They designed our Atrium – a nice place to rest, have lunch, or take selfies – where they used a combination of mosaic stained glass motifs and colorful photovoltaic glass to capture solar energy (which is used throughout the building to help keep the rest of the lights on!)

Meet Mariella, from rural Appalachia! If you like musical, tactile, and collaborative play, be sure to spend some time with Mariella's curious chorus of symphonic fireflies. We keep her exhibit dark – to replicate dark Appalachian summer nights – and when you touch the different jars, the fireflies wake up and sing their chirping songs and twinkle. Each group of fireflies is a little bit different, so play around and see what singing symphonies you and your friends can make!

Meet Florian, a bike mechanic from the Swiss Alps! If you like kinetic play, check out Florian's exhibit full of self-powered phenakistiscope assemblages. Pedal on stationary bicycles or crank the levers to spin the phenakistiscopes, and look at them in the mirrors around the room to reveal the magic of animation!

And if you want to just run around in circles and get all your energy out, Florian has you covered! His zoetrope room has plenty of space to run around – and kinetic dance floor tiles to capture your movement and turn it into energy for the building! He also installed some giant zoetropes around the room... see how fast you can spin them!

As you exit (or enter) through our buy/sell/trade gift shop, you'll find an ever-evolving selection of accessories to enhance your experience in the exhibits, and products to take some pre-cinema toys home with you. If you want an upgrade from the basic anaglyph viewers for Lillian's maze room, we've got you! If you want to make your own optical toys at home, we have kits for those too!

We can't wait to share our immersive artainment playground with you! Whether you visit us in Detroit or wherever we pop up next, thank you for creating and playing with us!

*-The Institute of Illuminated Lanterns, Toys, and Other Optical Delights*