



Albright-Knox  
Northland

June 26–September 12, 2021

Welcome to *Hervé Tullet: Shape and Color*. This is more than an exhibition. This is an opportunity to do more than just experience artwork in our space. This is also an invitation to embrace your creativity.

Hervé Tullet is a magician-teacher: a multi-faceted artist who is also a celebrated children's book author, and a renowned illustrator who produces playful yet conceptual installations. Tullet fundamentally celebrates making. In his art practice, he sets self-imposed limits—using only primary colors or relying on a set of simple directions, for example—then embarks on an exploratory and joyful journey of endless discovery. Chance and serendipity merge with intention and ambition, resulting in work that regularly surprises the artist as much as his audiences.

Tullet is an inspiring force, and this exhibition is intended to rouse the creative spirit in all of us. You will find works produced by the artist in his studio in Paris and from workshops in Buffalo. In addition, we have welcomed six local artists to work simultaneously on residency projects that will yield public murals. As you visit, you can even use Tullet's methods to shape and color your own visionary works.

Participate in our exhibition. Interact with working artists in our community. See how their practice takes shape with you in mind, and, as this space continues to evolve and change, visit again and again.

*This exhibition is organized by Curator of Public Art Aaron Ott and Public Art Project Coordinator Eric Jones.*

## Artist Residencies

The creative work of an artist generally occurs behind the closed doors of a studio or with technicians and fabricators who help create artworks that endure. Making public art, however, is often a spectator sport.

The installation of works of public art, even those created in advance, can take days, weeks, or sometimes months. During this time, the public can watch the creative process unfold and gain insight into the conceptual struggles, the real-world adaptations, and the intangible alchemy that leads to a fully realized, successful work of public art.

This artist residency program, part of *Hervé Tullet: Shape and Color*, is meant to open the studio door even further, making the creative process visible and showing work as it evolves for an eventual public installation. Buffalo-based artists Julia Bottoms, Tricia Butski, Max Collins, Fotini Galanes, Rachel Shelton, and Phyllis Thompson will be in residence over the course of the exhibition, transforming Albright-Knox Northland into an educational and interactive site and blurring the lines between museum and studio.

Resident artists will also teach classes on the techniques they use in their work. It is our hope that this residency and the corresponding events and programs will empower artists across the region by giving them a voice through their creative expression. We also hope to preserve and amplify our shared culture, build new skill sets for our artistic producers, and awaken the untapped talent of artists of all ages across our community.

The works created on Polytab by our resident artists in this space will later be installed at 714 Northland Avenue. Polytab is a woven material that is easily transported and can be worked on in small pieces, so murals can be prepared in studios, classrooms, or any other available space. The material is mobile, scalable, very lightweight, and forms to the surface on which it is mounted, whether this is a brick wall, stucco, concrete, or any other exterior or interior surface.

Our resident artists will be hosted at Albright-Knox Northland in two cohorts: Julia Bottoms, Tricia Butski, and Rachel Shelton will create work from June 26 to August 1, and Max Collins, Fotini Galanes, and Phyllis Thompson will create work from August 6 to September 12.

## Play, Create, Participate

Hervé Tullet often relies on simple instructions, ideas, and gestures that lend themselves to an endless array of exuberant works of art.

We invite you to make artworks with the materials provided here in the exhibition space or create your own installation of artworks at home using our Creativity Guide as inspiration.

Follow Tullet's lead by starting with primary colors—blue, red, and yellow—and simple shapes: lines, dots, splotches, and scribbles. Soon you'll be crafting work like Tullet—surprising, unexpected, and full of joy!

Tullet counts on finding inspiration in the work of viewers and contributors. Following his lead, you can help make this space vibrant!

Make work here or at home. Give it to one of our staff members here at Albright-Knox Northland to be included in this exhibition as it evolves, or take it home to create your own installation.

Share images of the work you've made on Twitter or Instagram with #AKTullet or email them to [shapeandcolor@albrightknox.org](mailto:shapeandcolor@albrightknox.org).

Enjoy the experience and find joy in your work. The options are endless! Watch as their practice takes shape with you in mind, and, as this space continues to evolve and change, visit again and again.



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