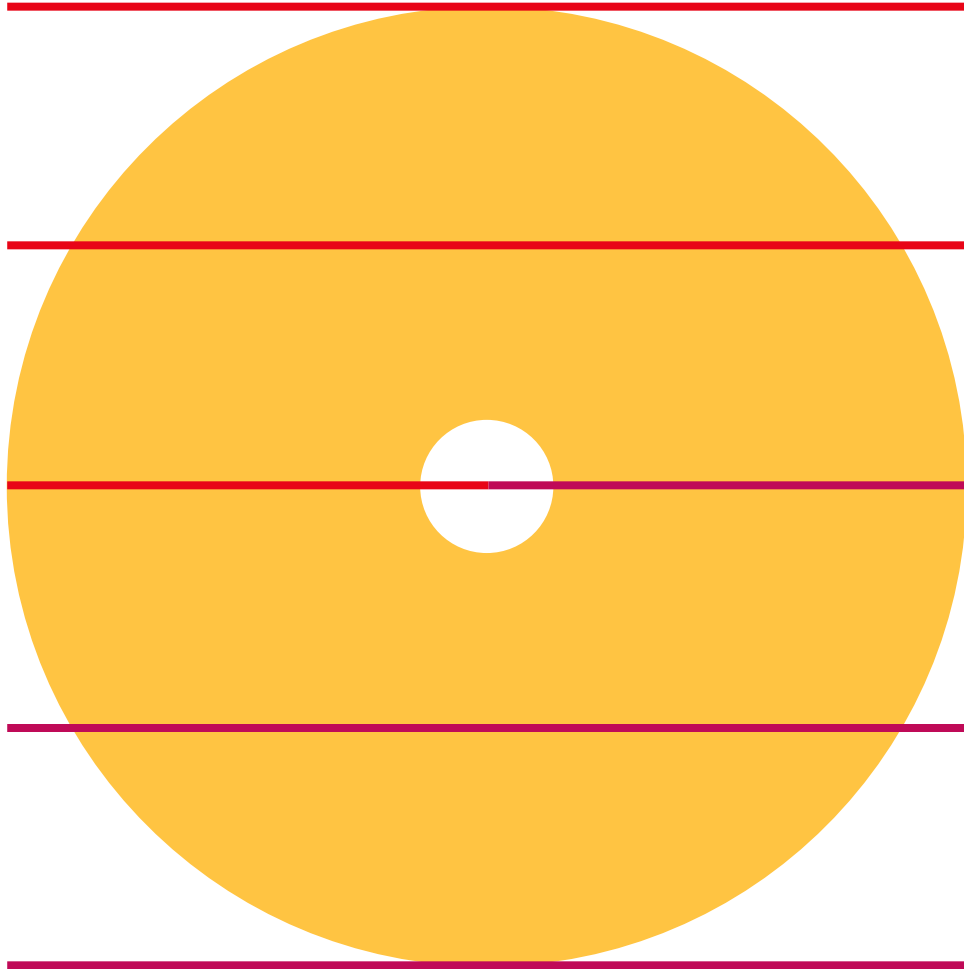
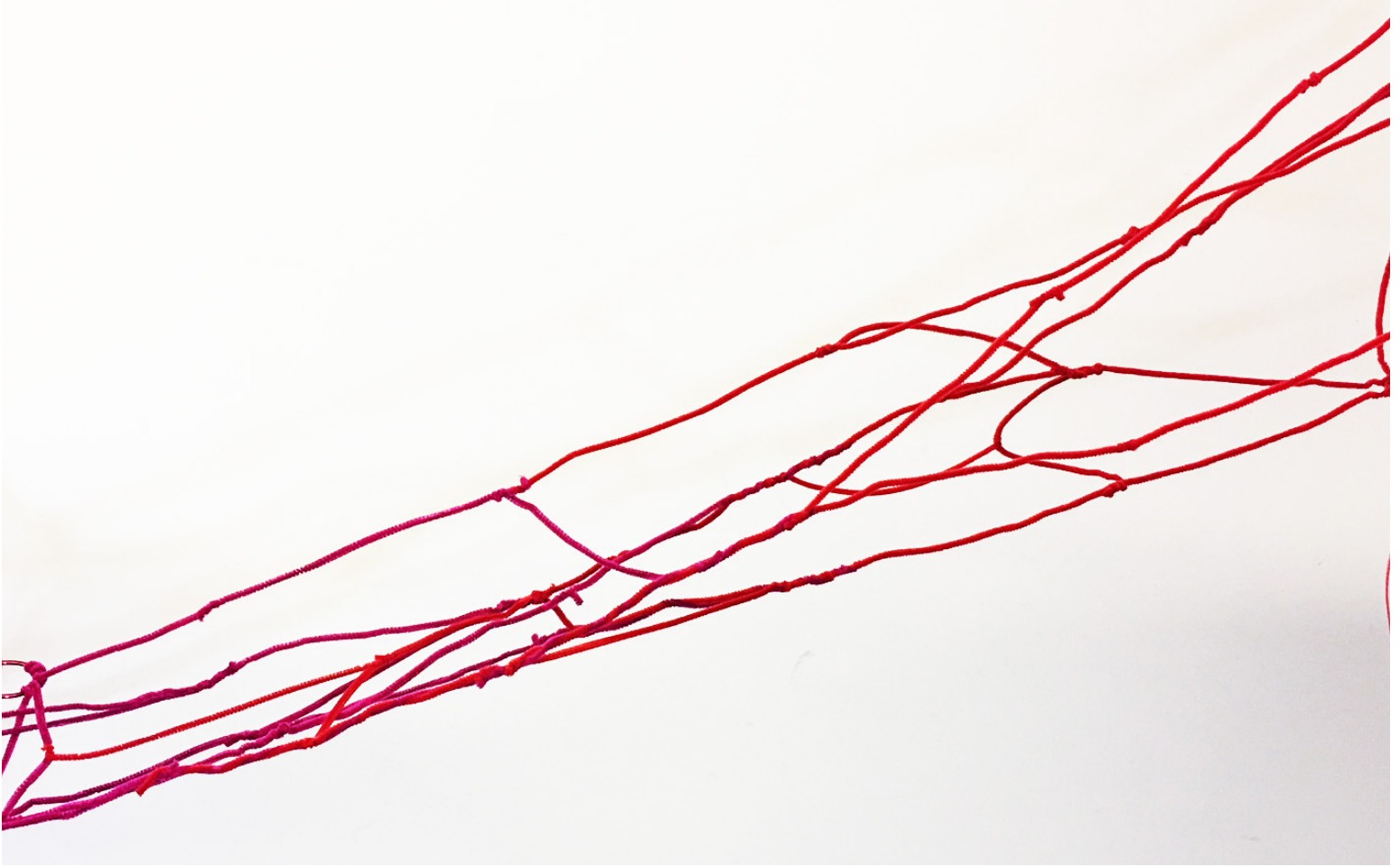


connect:

an interpretation of gestalt therapeutic practices



tangle/untangle



I feel that relationships involve reaching, holding, pulling, letting go, and pushing. I learn how I feel about someone else, and I connect with them. I also establish boundaries. If we both have the desire, our lives intertwine. It's as if our tendrils become entangled. Over time, we may choose to grow our tendrils closer together, or release them. This can sometimes be difficult. It can be hard to reach out or push away in an embodied, supported form that is connected to center.

tangle/untangle creates a way to interact with and explore this relationship process in three parts.

- I assemble a pipe cleaner sculpture while focusing on one of my relationships (section prototype pictured above).
- We (the public and myself) each envision one of our relationships. Do we want to connect in new ways? Do we want to establish a boundary, or disconnect? As we think about this, we unwrap a pipe cleaner from the sculpture, and/or add a pipe cleaner to the sculpture as we see fit.
- At the end of the exhibition, we disassemble the sculpture, each of us keeping a part of it, just as we might keep a memory of a relationship with us.

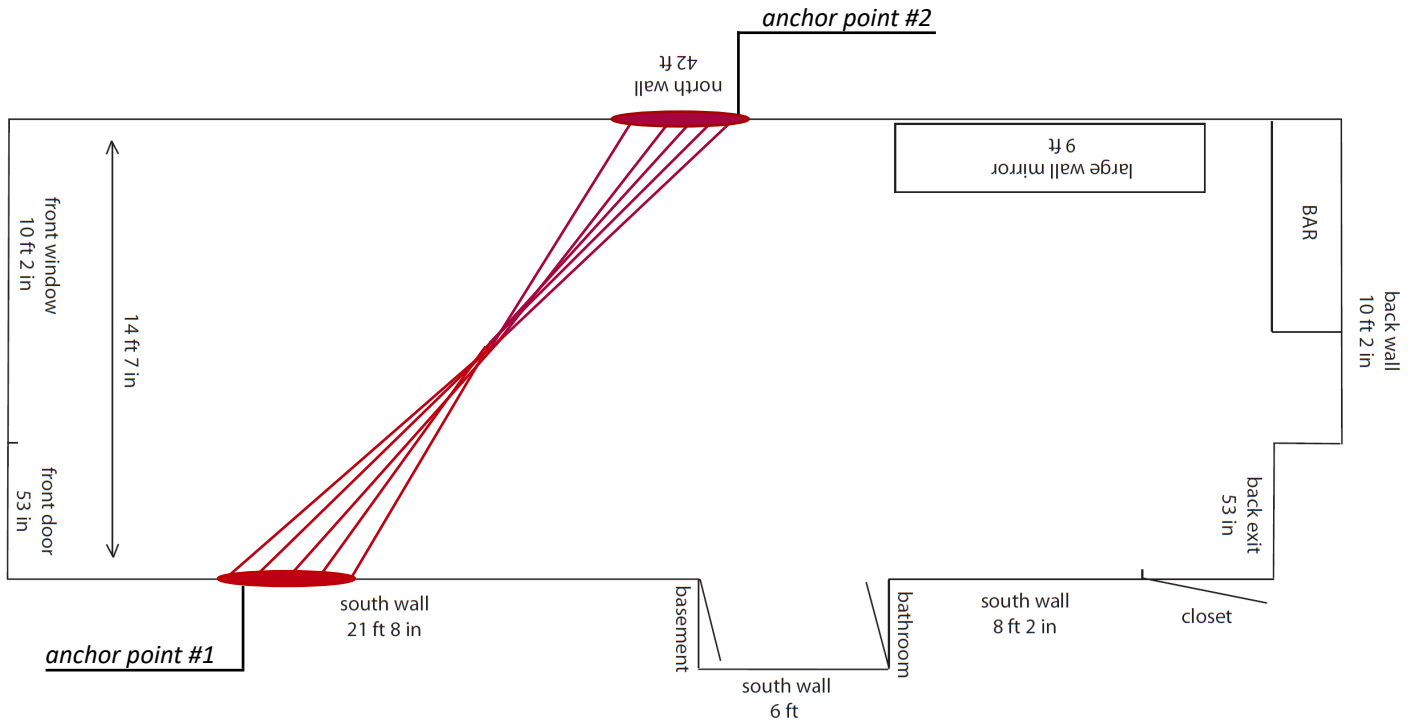
tangle/untangle is both a physical and a mental interaction. Our bodies and our minds are part of the same entity. They are infinitely connected in infinitely complex ways. By exploring a feeling through both our minds and our bodies, we may come to more wholly understand ourselves and that feeling.

In a simple way, I hope this will be an approachable interaction for me and others to deepen the connection we have with ourselves, and, in turn, with others.

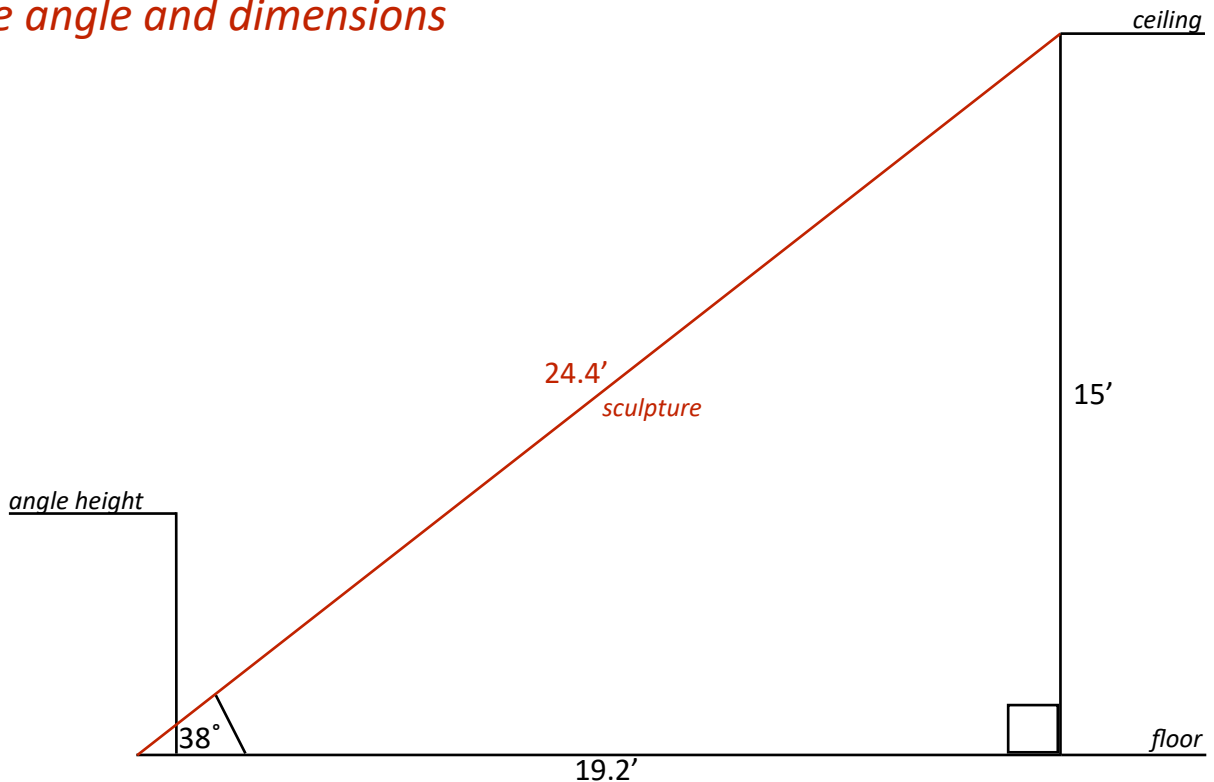
How it Works

step 1: build the sculpture

Building the initial sculpture will be a personal task. I will do this prior to the opening of the exhibit. I will lay it out within the space as shown below with two anchor points, one for each entity of the relationship.



sculpture angle and dimensions



The angle of the sculpture is 38°, a number that is associated with creative relationships, romance, companionship, strontium, and magic hexagons.

How it Works cont.

step 2: public interacts with the sculpture

When the exhibit opens, the public will have the opportunity to interact with the sculpture. They will be given a prompt in an attempt to help them focus on one of their relationships. They will then decide to do one or more of the following:

- strengthen an existing connection by adding a pipe cleaner to the sculpture.
- create a new connection by adding a pipe cleaner to the sculpture.
- weaken a connection by removing a pipe cleaner from the sculpture.
- disconnect by removing a pipe cleaner from the sculpture.

This ongoing interaction will change the form of the sculpture throughout the duration of the exhibit.

step 3: disassemble the sculpture

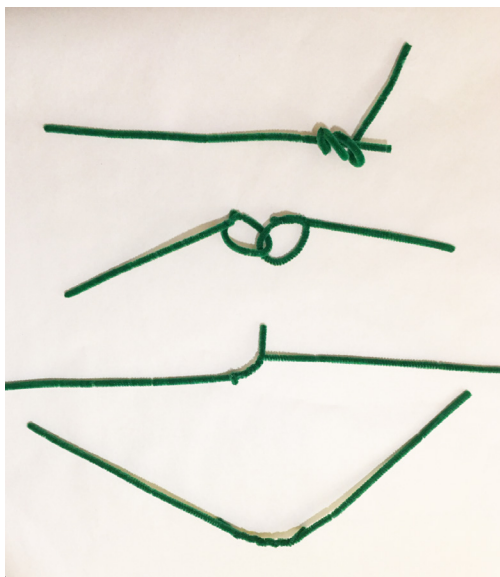
At the end of the exhibit, I will invite the public to help me disassemble the sculpture. This will be done by untangling all of the pipe cleaners. We will not cut any of the pipe cleaners. The public will be given the opportunity to keep a piece of the disassembled sculpture.

Materials and Aesthetics

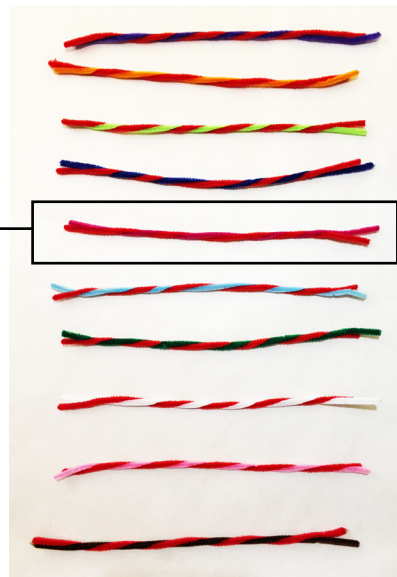
The materials have been chosen for their familiarity, color, and approachability. I believe that almost everyone is familiar with how to manipulate pipe cleaners. If anyone is not familiar, pipe cleaners are very intuitive. These will be secured to anchor points on two opposing ends of the space with D-rings and nylon strapping.

I have done a connection study (pictured below) and a full color study of 91 potential color combinations (a portion of which is pictured below). I have also created a section prototype (pictured on the 2nd page). The finished sculpture will be approximately five times longer and four times wider than the prototype.

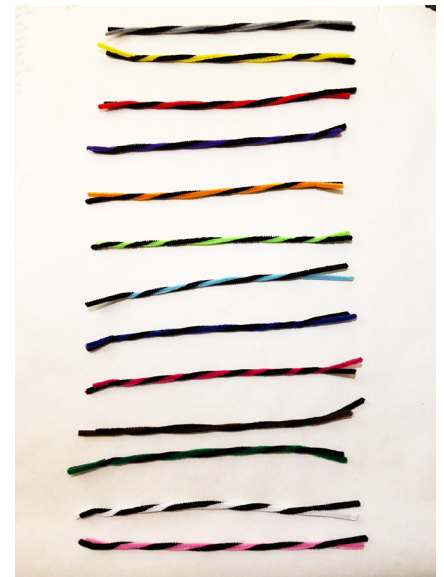
connection study



color studies 37-46



color studies 1-13



clue to how i feel



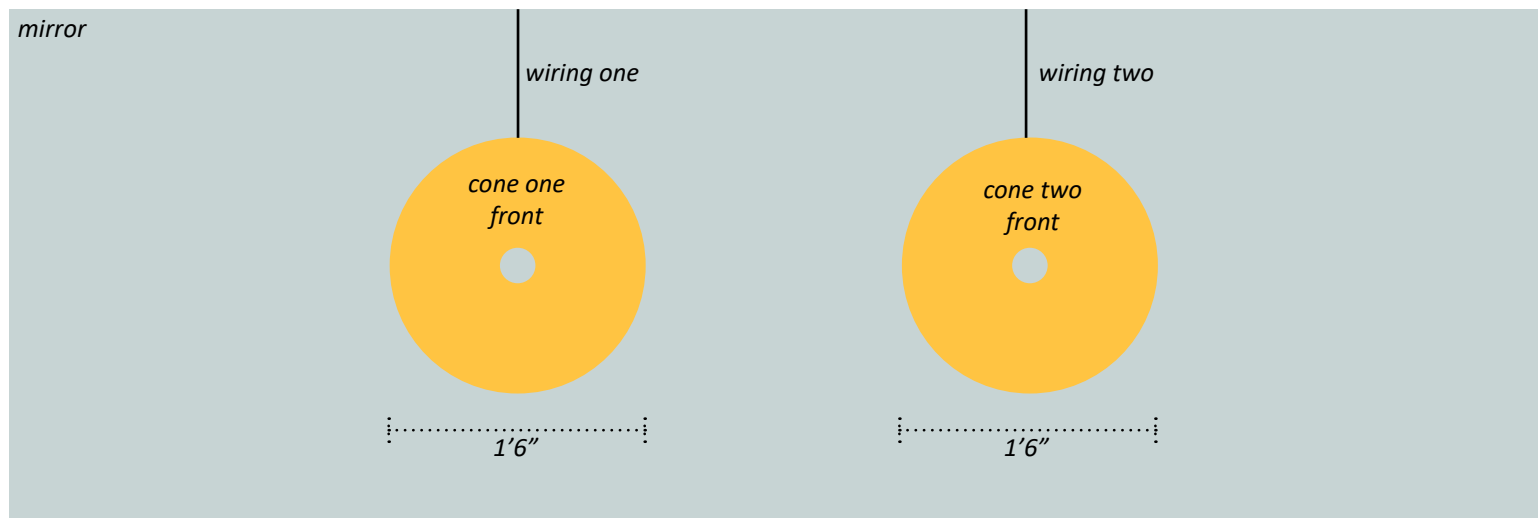
The flower, with its ephemeral fragrance,
is made of the four elements.
Your eyes shining with love,
are also made of the four elements.

-Tru Vu

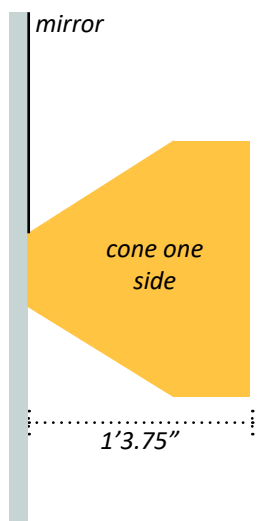
Description

Thich Nhat Hanh writes “the moments during the day of looking in a mirror can be moments of deep awareness.” *clue to how i feel* creates a space that invites participants to look at themselves. Two yellow, illuminated, cone structures will be attached to the pre-existing wall mirror in Juice Box. Each participant puts their head into the cone, and looks at their reflection. They may notice that they better understand how they feel, based on their gaze and facial expression, or they may start to smile at themselves. This “calm half smile” might warm their hearts as they surround themselves with the warm yellow light of the cone.

Diagram



front view



side view

about the artist

David Alpert is an artist living and working in Kansas City. He likes interactions, connections, and exploring feelings. He believes in listening compassionately to yourself and others. Through a visual dialogue, he promotes and researches his interests and beliefs. He works in many mediums including photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, interaction, mixed-media, online, and writing.



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