

Light Painting

Best for Ages

6+

Workspace

Any roomy, dark space

Is electricity required?

Yes

Description

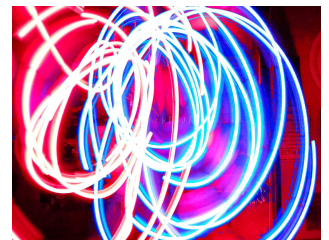
"Light Painting" is a photographic Art Form. Using a slow exposure camera or a similar app on a phone or tablet, you will capture images of the things you draw in the air. You can add color by using different colored lights to make light painting art!

Materials

- **Light sources:** LEDs and coin cell battery, holiday lights, flashlight, lights of different colors, a cell phone, etc.
- **Light/Photo Capture Device:** SLR camera with an F-Stop high enough for a slow exposure photograph or download a slow exposure photographic app on phone or tablet

What to Do

1. A DSLR camera is preferred but you can use an SLR camera. Set your shutter speed- between 11 to 30 seconds for a longer exposure
2. Set the Aperture between f/8 and f/32 ISO - 100 or 200
3. When you use a digital camera, you can view pictures immediately and adjust settings as necessary.
4. If you don't have a camera, simply download an app like "Light Trace Artist" and follow the instructions included in the app.
5. Now that you understand how to use the camera or the app, take your light sources to a dark space.
6. For practice, start your camera/app and move the light through the air in a circular motion. Observe the photo and make adjustments as necessary. Repeat.
7. Now that you understand the process and camera/app, experiment with different lights, colors, speed and motions to create unique light paintings.



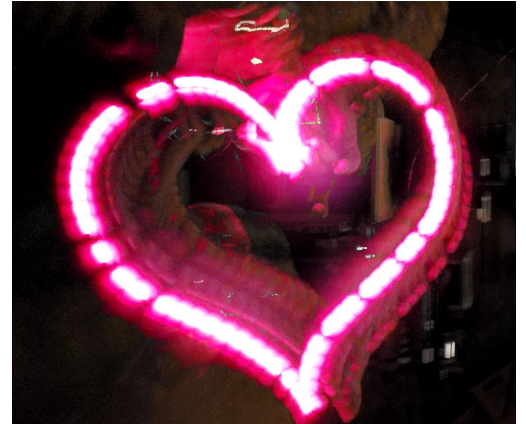
Concepts Explored

- Technology
- Design

Light Painting

Troubleshooting Tips

- Be sure to check your focus before adjusting the F-Stop.
- If the image seems “muddy” or “choppy” try slowing down your movement. Your light source may be traveling too fast.
- If your image is messy, cover your light source until you are in position.



What happens if you start with your light source outside of the frame?

What do you notice when you write in light? What direction are the letters?

What happens when you trace around a partner with light?

What is Happening?

- **Technology** is science put into practical use to solve problems or invent useful tools. It doesn't always mean coding and programming. It can also mean creating unique and interesting art. What other technologies create art?
- **Design** is the visual look of an object used to make it more attractive or functional. We find design all around us. Our homes, the furniture in it, lots of things are designed and made. How do the tools in this activity influence your designs?

Taking it Forward

- **Want to learn more about light painting?** Check out this book at your local library:
 - Night Photography and Light Painting: Finding Your Way in the Dark by Lance Keimig
- **If you like this activity you may also like:**
 - [Light and Shadow Play](#)
 - [Paper Lantern](#)