

THE ART OF INNOVATION- LED light installations



Adela Andea (12' M.F.A.), an artist based in Houston, uses innovative light installations for her work, which is inspired by science and nature.

Adela Andea (2012 M.F.A.) is not interested in traditional art techniques.

"My specialty is not to repeat the past," she says. "I want to develop something that is new and different."

The Romanian-born artist, who is based in Houston, uses another form of technology -- light, with a focus on LED light -- for vibrant installations that re-create scenes from nature in the age of climate change.

The idea for one installation came during a boat tour in Alaska, where she witnessed melting glaciers. The result was *Zero Degrees Celsius*, a piece that takes up an entire room, with the lighting incorporating translucent whites and blues so they look like ice.

She re-created nature again with *Primordial Garden*, an installation at Texas Tech University, in which a series of multicolored balls, made with LED and flex neon, connect with coils and Plexiglas tubes and hang from the ceiling.

She learned many of her techniques during the hybrid forms art class she took under Susan Cheal, associate professor of drawing and painting at UNT.

Cheal encouraged experimental art forms and paid attention to students' individual interests.

"The most important thing I learned from the class was to trust myself deeply in my artistic visions, to embrace the intuitive nature of art as well as the hard-working aspect of the visual presentation of installation art," Andea says. "I was encouraged by the fresh, innovative and experimental ideas put forward in this field."

And that led to putting forth her own ideas through nature and technology.

"Why does there have to be a separation between the two, a contrast?" she says. "That's where my art starts to develop. Why can't we take all these manmade elements and develop our own nature?"