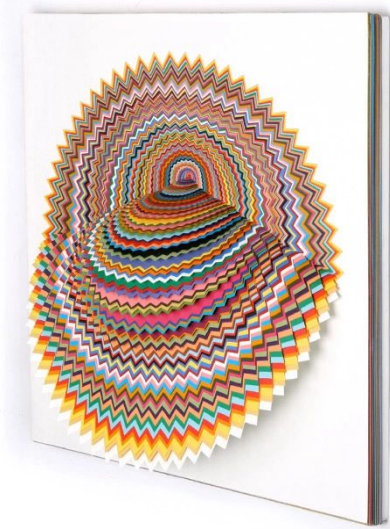


Artist Biography

Jen Stark

Childhood & Education

American artist Jen Stark was born on April 15, 1983 in Miami, Florida. Since she was small, Stark had always aspired to become an artist but wasn't sure it was entirely possible for her. Graduating high school in 2001, Stark immediately went to college. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from the [Maryland](#)



[Institute College of Art](#) in 2005, where she majored in fibers and minored in animation. During her college experience, she was fortunate enough to study abroad and in 2004 she traveled to the south of France. There at the Center for Art and Culture, located in

Aix-en-Provence, France she began to develop a body of artwork that would eventually launch her into the

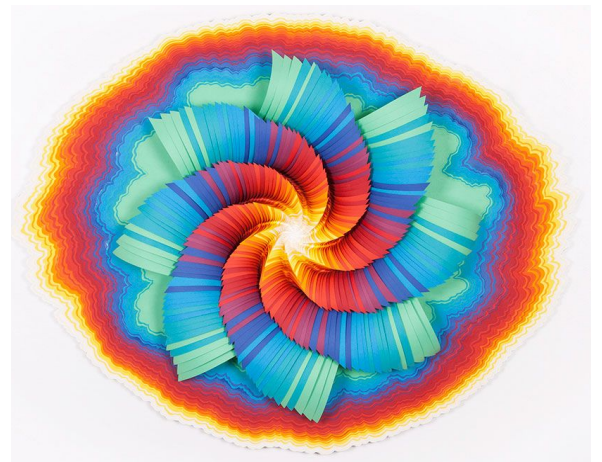
spotlight of the art world. During her abroad trip, Stark brought no art supplies with her,



thinking she would just be able to purchase supplies once she arrived there, not taking into consideration the monetary difference between the U.S. dollar and the French euro. Because of costs, Stark was forced to use the best supplies that her budget would allow her, so she purchased an X-acto knife and a stack of colorful paper

and got right to work. Armed with her vivid imagination, Stark began to transform these simple materials (construction paper and glue) into fantastic, intricate sculptures that mesmerize the eye. This was the beginning of something amazing for her.

In 2007, after completing college and working a full-time job that did not relate to the field of Art, Stark had a realization. She decided that she **could** make a career in Art happen for herself, so she



saved up some money and leapt into becoming a professional artist. Soon afterwards,

Stark made a splash in the art world with her psychedelic sculptures crafted from countless colorful layers of paper.

Using the techniques she developed while in college, she started exploring the idea of infinity. Stark created

[mandala](#)-like works which seemed to copy patterns and



colors found in nature. Stark would then arrange the design in a way that looked to be a pattern spiraling endlessly. She, along with the many other viewers who have seen her artwork, repeatedly describe it as meditative, giving it's viewers an overwhelmingly calm and serene feeling when being viewed. Stark's connection to nature



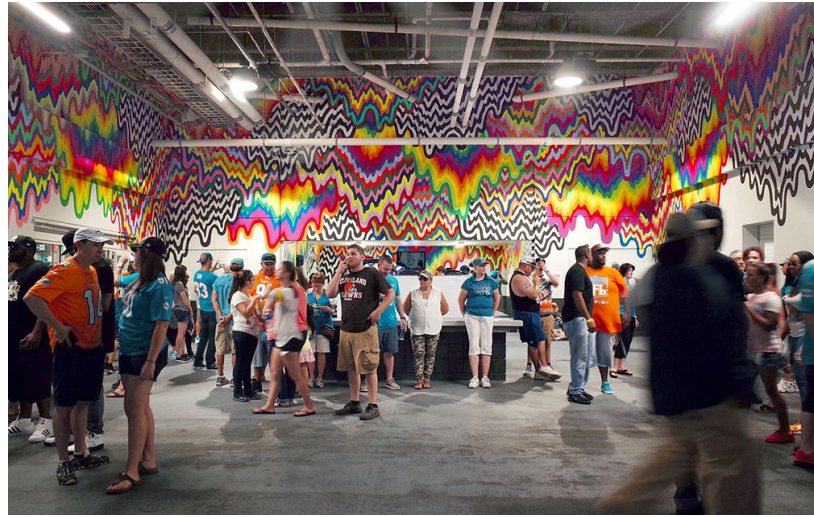
continued to find its way into her artwork as in repeated interviews, she would state that her inspiration for her art stem from plants, outer space, microscopic designs in nature, color, and even math and science. This guiding theme is one that she continues to develop and use even to this day.

The Artwork & Process

Stark is inspired by famous artists such as [Yayoi Kusama](#), [Sol Lewitt](#), [Andy Goldsworthy](#), and many more. She continues to be driven by her interest in conceptualizing visual systems such as plant growth, evolution, infinity, topographical maps, and so on. She has fine tuned a system of creating which allows her to capture all of these things simply through paper, wood,



and paint. The resulting works often look like organic, cloud-like structures, yet they have a moving effect that allows the viewer to escape from reality into a world of echoing patterns. Her vivid use of colors are a direct conversation with the natural world and how colors work



on a biological level. Due to the complexity of the artwork, Stark now has a few assistants that help weekly at her studio. This allows her to keep up with the demand for her artworks. On average, a single artwork can take anywhere from a few days to a couple months to complete, depending on size and complexity. Her sculptures are multi-layered and are very intricate, some containing well over 50 layers of cut paper or painted wood.

Major Career Accomplishments



In 2015, Stark experienced a year of change and growth within her career. It was a challenging year for the artist as she worked alongside singer [Miley Cyrus](#) and [MTV](#) for the VMA's (Video Music Awards), but Stark was starting to realize

that her work was being viewed by millions of people.

This time represented a moment when she realized her profession as artist had reached the next level of success. Stark continued to create and was soon sought after by several major companies to create



custom designs for their products. A few examples of this include in 2016, when Stark

worked with Google to create custom phone cases. Then later in

2018, Stark collaborated with the popular shoe brand [Vans](#),

providing several custom designs for people to choose from. She

also worked with [LAOriginal](#), offering totes and home decor items.



Currently, Stark lives and works in Los

Angeles, California. She has been experimenting more

with other types of materials like metal, plastic,

animations, and projections. She stated in a recent



interview that she will probably always work with paper, but is open to expanding her

ideas and hopes to continue to challenge herself to try new things as much as

possible. Stark's most recent work is titled "Light Spectrum" which is a public art

installation located in downtown Los Angeles, California. Created in This ongoing

artwork features Stark's signature psychedelic drops which accent the top of the

columns and was created in correlation with the [Arts Brookfield](#).



Her work isn't confined to just a museum setting, but rather widely seen through the various murals, animated films, and permanent installations that have been commissioned and exhibited globally. In the United States, Stark has shown in locations such as New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Chicago, but her work continues

to grow and spread, reaching other countries such as Thailand and Canada.

Collections of her artwork can be found in prestigious museums such as the

[Smithsonian American Art Museum](#), the [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#),

[MOCA Miami](#), and many others.



Resources

"An Introduction to Jen Stark." September 30, 2014. Available from: <https://www.contemporist.com/an-introduction-to-jen-stark/>. Accessed on May 10, 2020.

"Interview: The Colorfully Psychedelic Art of Jen Stark." Jenny Zhang. February 23, 2016. Available from: <https://mymodernmet.com/jen-stark-interview/>. Accessed on May 10, 2020.

Artist's Personal Webpage: <https://www.jenstark.com/>