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# George Szekely

**artist**

Experience the *inspiration*  
of George Szekely  
at your gallery, school, library or event!



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## inspiration

[inspə'raʃən] **noun**

the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially something creative.

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Create an **inspiring** environment by showcasing George Szekely's art collections for the enjoyment of your visitors and guests.

George Szekely's life is a portrait of an **artist** who has had an impressive twenty-six solo exhibitions in New York, as well as across the United States and Europe. His artistic brilliance has garnered reviews in esteemed publications like *Art News*, *Arts*, *The New Yorker*, *The Staten Island Advance*, and *The Eastside Weekly*.



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[georgeszekely.com](http://georgeszekely.com)  
[georgeszekely111@gmail.com](mailto:georgeszekely111@gmail.com)

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## artist

[ˈɑːdɪst] **noun**

a person who creates art (such as painting, sculpture, music, or writing) using conscious skill and creative imagination

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Let's **explore** the world as George Szekely sees it.



**"Szekely's art is a testament to the power of**

**play and imagination."**

*ART Forum*

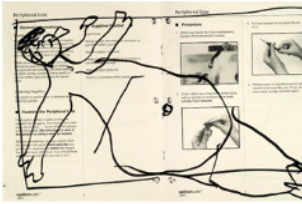


*"Rolling out white carpets is creating canvas paths in the woods."*

**Woodstock Scrolls**

The scroll series reflects the nature and landscape of the existing paths like riverbeds, walking trails, and abandoned driveways where each roll of paper hugs the ground as the canvas. Each scroll represents the topography and colors of living arteries, and not just landscapes, but life.





*"This soulful art does not resemble my normal pieces; this art contains marks made during desperate times, made un-censored, without seeing and inspired by fear."*

From crafting art with improvised musical instruments, like a collapsible TV antenna adorned with markers, to delving into the emotional depths with series such as *Cancer Diaries*, where he captures raw experiences in a hospital room, Szekely's approach is deeply personal and reflective.



Art Museum, University of Kentucky, *Cancer Diaries* Exhibit



### **Cancer Diaries**

These works are an emotional outpouring during the most difficult times for Szekely, his mother's hard-fought cancer battle as well as his days dealing with his own cancer diagnosis in later years. He spent many hours at her bedside creating sketches from X-rays, EKG scans, medication labels, warnings, and notices.

Szekely's early life was marked by the challenges of growing up in tumultuous Hungary, and eventually escaping his homeland and arriving in New York. He grew up with very few toys and thrived by using his

imagination to create toys. He relished items like plastic that were a rare and unfamiliar commodity in the old country.

He was drawn to playful media, humorous tools, inner themes, and new ways to approach art-making. The rules and formulas he learned as a child, he referred to as "communist art," and searched relentlessly for the antidote.

In later years, he realized the influence that things like snowball making and life events had on his artistry, especially the method of shaping color paint forms and dots into art.



### Sculpting in Paint

This series showcases Szekely's formative artistic practice of creatively painting with color dots by squeezing paint out of tubes. Over the years, this method was electrified and enlarged into large form paintings inspired by balls, bubbles, balloons, and interpretations of snowball constructions. Colorful paint marks were often created from the inspiration of these objects with utensils like ice cream scoopers.

*"These paintings represent the richness of color shapes and the freedom of possibilities and playfulness that comes from forming color dots."*



Exhibit at Tuska Gallery, University of Kentucky, 1983



**"George Szekely's art is a celebration of the human spirit and its capacity for joy and wonder."**

Art News



**Forty-Five Summers of Painting in Woodstock**

This sentimental and creative collection represents the artist's 45 years of enjoying his rural Woodstock property where his almost century old white barn and larger arena of the outdoors served as his art studio. He was inspired by the summer light and colors set on fire by the sky and incorporated creative canvases, such as paper or fabric, letting nature redirect his paint using unique paintbrushes like branches, feathers, berries, rocks, or crawling insects.

**"In nature, a potential canvas is everywhere!"**



"Each wallpaper pattern acted like a musical composition paper, ready to be scored with paint marks."



Exhibit at West Broadway Gallery, 1975



### Wallpaper & Floor Tile Paintings

Influenced by the transformative nature of wallpaper in his family's Brooklyn apartment, Szekely experimented with wallpaper rolls and floor tiles as unconventional canvases for his art. This series, marked by athletic gestures and expressive paint, emerged from the fusion of wallpaper patterns and dynamic painting techniques, challenging traditional notions of easel painting.

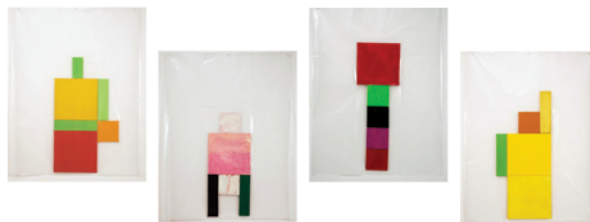
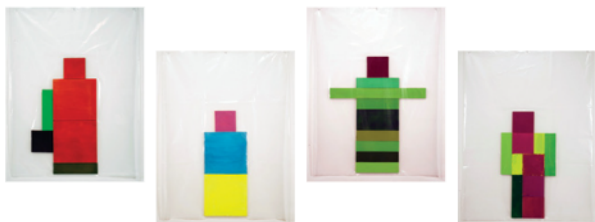
His dedication to pushing artistic boundaries is evident in projects like *Wallpaper & Floor Tile Paintings*, which may have played a role in influencing how art is displayed in museums today—rather than simply displaying framed art on walls, today artists are allowed to draw and paint directly on the walls of their formerly sacred spaces.



**"Szekely's art is a playful and inventive exploration of the creative process."**

*The Eastside Weekly*

Szekely's artistic journey unfolds as a rich tapestry of experiences, from exploring sculptural shapes using freshly squeezed paint to experimenting with plastic canvases, introducing a dynamic and transparent dimension to his work. His commitment to continuous exploration is exemplified by his inventive exploration of the creative process in *Ingots of Color*.



**"Shiny see-through packaging is like tempting little windows that I dream about opening..."**



Exhibit at West Broadway Gallery, 1973

***Ingots of Color***

Drawing inspiration from his childhood experiences in Brooklyn, Szekely recalls the vibrant displays of lollipops, plastic toys, and other novelties at Helen's corner candy store. This childhood fascination with plastics became the foundation for his early artistic endeavors, using heat-sealed plastic pockets to encase colors and experimenting with unconventional techniques such as dipping and spraying. Ultimately, *Ingots of Color* represents a nostalgic and innovative exploration of materials, childhood memories, and the artistic process.



In Szekely's own words, art is a response to experience, whether internal or external, and his fearless experimentation has fueled a career dedicated to rebuilding and finding new ways of expression. His belief in the communicative power of art is evident in his series of books, where he unfolds the story of his life through visual compositions, tunes, and dances.



### Jazz Books

This unique collection was inspired by Szekely's love of jazz music. He would improvise with random items as art tools and ready-made surfaces as contemporary canvases. He would let the musical tones and rhythms move his hands to create masterpieces. Feel the spirit of a jazz club, hear the music in your mind, and tap your feet to the beat as you experience the intimate encounter of this handmade art on the printed page.

**"Szekely's art is a delightful and imaginative journey..."**

*The Staten Island Advance*



**"Drawing tools are musical instruments that resonate from tiny squeaks to full-bodied sounds."**



*"The paint marks became actively writhing and struggling patients at war with the beds that contained them."*



**"Dots give birth to everything..."**



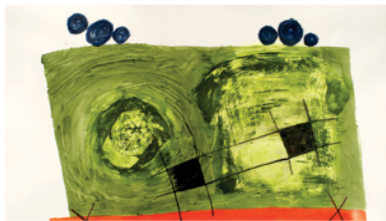
### **Marking Hospital Sheets**

This illustrated volume of paintings on sheets delves into the transformative power of dots, emphasizing their structural significance as precursors for artistic creation. Szekely's innovative use of sheets over mattresses eventually finds a surprising and fitting display in a hospital, where the sheets are spread over beds for a grand installation, turning the patients into both subjects and spectators of his unique art.



**Tic Tac Toe Scrolls:  
Painting in Isolation**

Utilizing the familiar Tic Tac Toe game as a symbolic language, Szekely explores the complex emotions and challenges of isolation during the recent pandemic, reflecting on themes of defiance, hope, and the fight against unseen fears. The series, developed over five years, transforms humble symbols into powerful visual poetry, inviting viewers to participate in the evolving relationships and messages conveyed through each composition. Szekely's playful approach to painting, experimentation with lines, and incorporation of found objects showcase his dedication to making art a daily, enjoyable challenge.



"Painting has to be released, re-learned as though doing it for the first time."



**"A whimsical and thought-provoking exploration of the relationship between play and creativity."**

*The New Yorker*

Thank you.

George Szekely's artistic journey is a captivating exploration of the profound connection between play, creativity, and the human experience. His unconventional methods, coupled with a deep understanding of the emotional and transformative potential of art, have solidified his position as a visionary and influential figure in the contemporary art scene.



Exhibit at West Broadway Gallery, 1971  
"Dots of Color"

Be a part of George Szekely's *inspiring* world!

