



## Shadow Lighting

**Artist:** Randy Burkett, American  
**Title:** Shadow Lighting, 1992  
**Media:** Electric lighting  
**Owners:** Commissioned by Grand Center, Inc.

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### LOOKING AT ART:

- Viewing **Shadow Lighting** at night, make a list of words describing your feelings and observations. Include observations for each building in this project: the Sun and Fox Theaters and Powell Symphony Hall.
- Repeat the above activity during the day, then write four paragraphs comparing and contrasting the Grandel Square Theater, the Sun Theatre, the Fox Theatre and Powell Symphony Hall, as they appear at night and in the day.

### SOCIAL STUDIES:

- **Shadow Lighting** couldn't have been conceived before the advent of electricity. Research and then compare daily life before and after the use of electric lighting.
- Since originally constructed, the buildings illuminated by **Shadow Lighting** have gone through several transformations. Research the history of the Sun and Fox Theaters as well as Powell Symphony Hall.

### LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Acting as a reporter, write a story covering a wide-spread blackout of electric light in St. Louis that is on its tenth day. Include interviews with members of the community.
- Write a humorous story about a technology-dependent family that is without electricity during an all-night thunderstorm.

### SCIENCE/MATH/TECHNOLOGY:

- Research the history of neon lighting from its first uses to the present. Visit a local neon sign maker's shop and give a report.
- Find several artists who work with neon light. Compare and contrast their use of this technology.

### PERFORMING ARTS:

- Based on this light installation, use lighting and the patterns it creates as inspiration. Attach strips of light reflective tape to the bodies of dancers, then choreograph and perform a dance called "Shadow Lighting." Perform in the dark with a light source used only to reflect shadows and to illuminate the tape. Using an urban theme, the setting might be a parking lot illuminated by car headlights.
- Working in groups, create a sound piece titled "Shadow Music," that parallels and/or accompanies Shadow Lighting. Use percussive instruments, car horns, voices, motor noise and any other musical or sound devices that are available. Perform each group's piece for the entire class. Record if possible.

### ART PROJECT IDEAS:

- Put a digital or scanned image of a streetscape of your choice into a computer. Using PhotoShop or a similar program, alter the lighting in various ways to express different moods and times of day and night.
- Have students bring in white objects, then create a still-life inside a large black box that sits on a table at eye-level. Use one spotlight to shine on the objects to make strong shadows. Have students draw what they see.