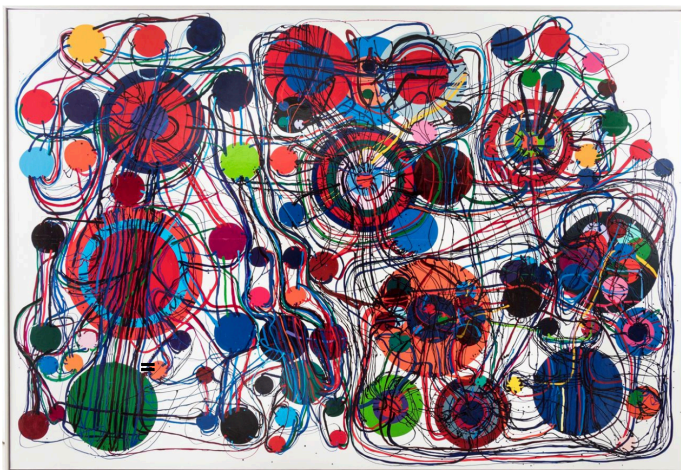
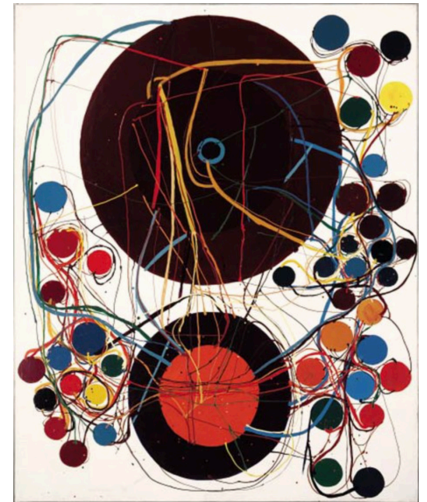


# WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Artist Atsuko Tanaka

## ARTIST INTRO:

Atsuko Tanaka 田中 敦子 (b.1932 –2005) was a postwar Japanese avant-garde artist that was a central figure in the *Gutai Art Association* from 1955 to 1965. Tanka was interested in time, space and chance. She was an experimental artist best known for her performances (including the *Electric Dress 1956*) and concentric circular paintings. Tanaka and the *Gutai* movement have been exhibited widely and recognized internationally since the 2000s.

## ARTWORK:



**WORKSHOP:**

*Let's take inspiration from artist Atsuko Tanaka's colorful circles, intertwining lines and electric works of art by drawing on lightbulbs. Creating our own light sculptures and performance art!*

1. Find an everyday household lightbulb (ask a parent or teacher for permission) and hold the glass gently while you work
2. With your Sharpie (permanent) markers draw or doodle circles connecting them to lines and one another
3. Think about the energy in a light bulb, of electricity and use lot of different colors
4. Ask for an adult to help install the light bulb in the socket and activate a special space in your home or at school!

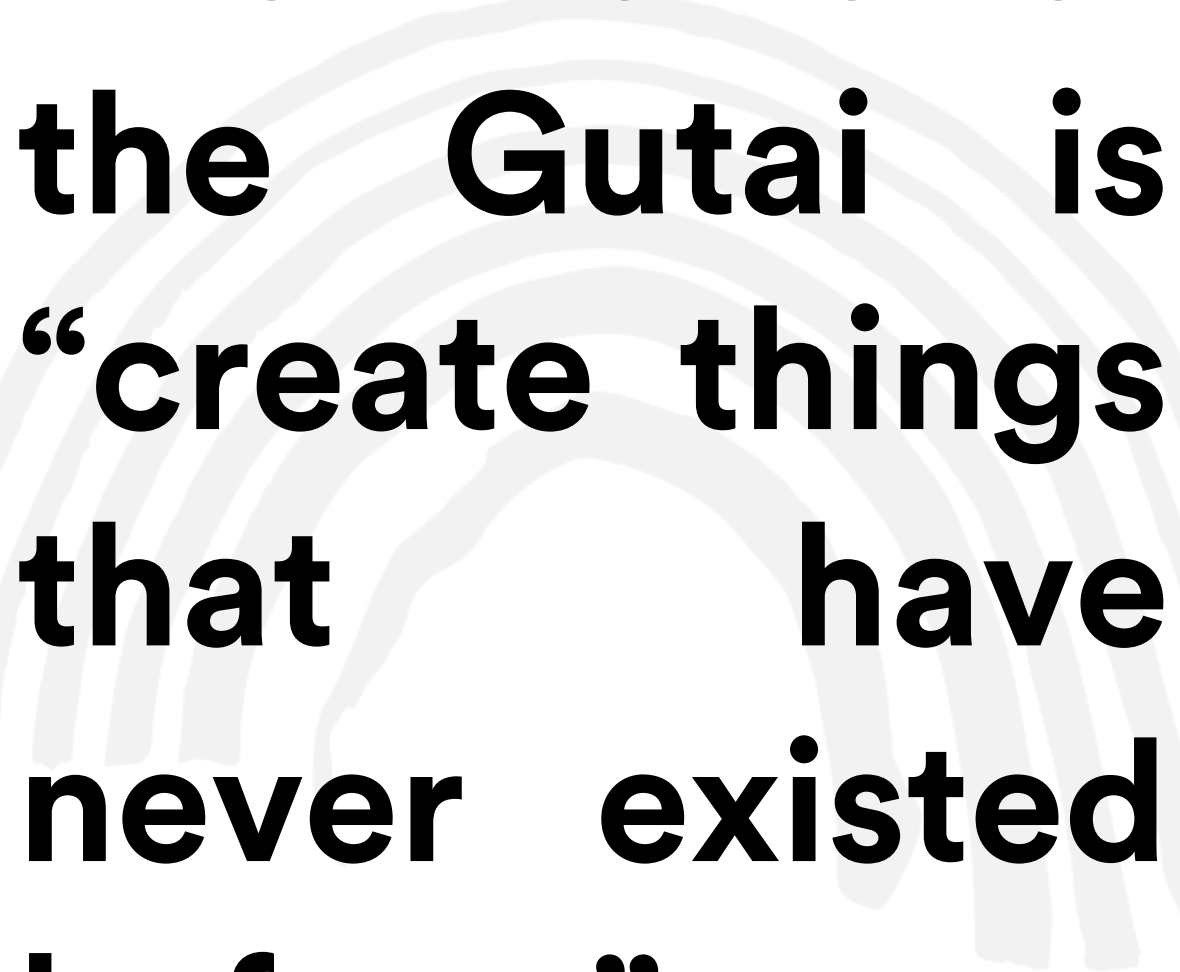
**MATERIALS:**

- Lightbulb
- Colorful Sharpie (Permanent) Markers





**Atsuko Tanaka *Electric Dress*, 1956/1986**  
**Synthetic paint on incandescent lightbulbs,**  
**electric cords, and control 165 × 80 × 80 cm**  
***Takamatsu Art Museum***



**The motto of  
the Gutai is  
“create things  
that have  
never existed  
before.”**





**FOLLOW UP:**

What do you think performance art is?

What do you think avant-garde means?

Did you start drawing a circle or a line?

Was it easy to draw on glass?

On the round surface?

Did the colors or shapes have a special impact?

How did the household object transform into a work of art?

When you (an adult) installed or plugged in the lightbulb in how did your artwork change?

**Wide Rainbow is a 501c3 contemporary art after school program.**

**Providing access to art, artists, and arts education.**

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