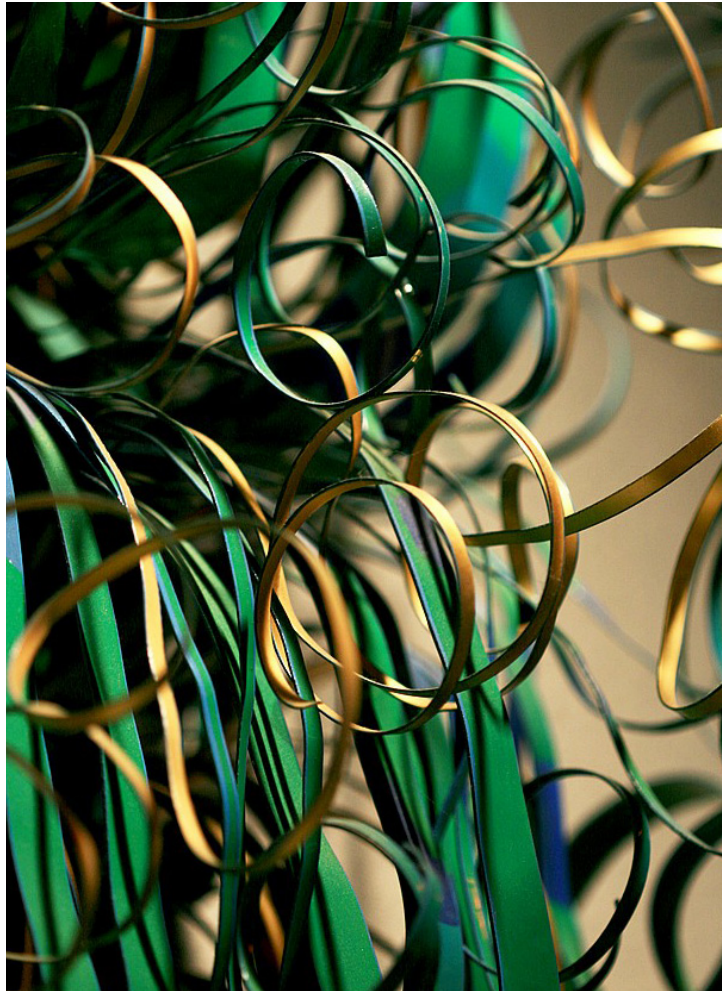


# RETROSPECTIVE

{ DOROTHY GILLESPIE }



## Exhibition

### Dorothy Gillespie

On view February 12th – April 24th at Florida  
Museum for Women Artists, DeLand

[www.floridamuseumforwomenartists.org](http://www.floridamuseumforwomenartists.org)

THE FLORIDA MUSEUM FOR Women Artists is presenting a selection of colorful paintings, collages, murals and sculpture celebrating the illustrious career of Dorothy Gillespie, a prominent figure in contemporary American art since the 1950s and one of the leading women artists of her generation. Gillespie is best known for her luminous, cut aluminum installations, which have been exhibited and sold worldwide. And, at age 90, she's still a vibrant force.

Gillespie believes artists are the ultimate adventurers. She possesses the refinement and sophistication of a woman who has seen and done a great deal—her travels have taken her on safari in Kenya, to Egypt and across the Indian Ocean. Yet she also possesses a true artist's love for the simple joys of movement, color and form. Upbeat and lively, her striking, usually large-scale, abstract artworks are often constructed out of curled ribbons of color-charged aluminum that draw viewers into explosive moments of transformation, dy-

namically frozen in time.

Born in Roanoke, VA, in 1920, Gillespie believed she was destined to become an artist. "I think artists are born," she says. "It's not a thing you choose to do, it's something you have to do." She studied art at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD, then moved to New York City in 1943, where she attended the Art Student's League of New York and Stanley William Hayter's *Atelier 17*.

Gillespie has demonstrated an uncanny ability to be on the forefront of trends, yet always maintain her own unique style. She started out as a painter, but experimented with environments and "happenings"—art events incorporating environment and spectators as active and important ingredients in the production of random events—in New York during the 1960s. "If

it weren't for my participation in 'happenings,' I probably wouldn't paint the way I do today," the artist said. "After 'happenings,' my paintings started to come off the wall and intrude into the spectator's space."

Gillespie has had numerous solo and group exhibitions, art in public places commissions, various teaching positions, and has been the recipient of a multitude of honors and awards.

In 2003, New York's Rockefeller Center celebrated Gillespie's work with a major outdoor installation.

Whether featured at the Guggenheim Museum or at Walt Disney World, her dazzling work has been an inspiration to generations. She is represented locally by Arts on Douglas Fine Arts and Collectibles in New Smyrna Beach and divides her time between Orlando and NYC. **ON VIEW**



Dorothy  
**GILLESPIE'S**  
illustrious  
**CAREER SPANS**  
over  
**50 YEARS.**



**OPPOSITE:**  
ODE TO AN EMERALD ISLE (DETAIL),  
ENAMEL ON ALUMINUM

**ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM):**  
1. UNTITLED, 1989,  
ENAMEL ON ALUMINUM,  
16 x 16 x 16"  
2. SHADOWS IN THE ROYAL GARDEN  
(DETAIL), ENAMEL ON  
ALUMINUM, 17 x 126 x 1-1/2"

**LEFT:** DOROTHY GILLESPIE,  
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST