Gallery Inquiry & Activity
Larry Bell
ICA MIAMI
ABOUT THIS WORK

“Larry Bell: Time Machines” is the first comprehensive American museum survey of the artist’s work in nearly two decades. The exhibition features major bodies of Bell’s work, from his early Cube series to his large-scale color-glass installations. At ICA Miami, “Larry Bell: Time Machines” focuses attention on Bell’s innovative explorations of experiences generated by architectural space, as well as his little-known engagement with audiovisual media, including video and photography.

One of the most significant artists of his generation, Larry Bell (b. 1939, Chicago) is an important representative of a West Coast minimalism that married matter-of-fact materials and forms with intense sensorial experiences.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will explore how artist Larry Bell reflects on ideas about time using sensorial experiences.
**VOCABULARY TERMS**

**INSTALLATION**
A site-specific artwork, which needs to be constructed or arranged.

**TIME CAPSULE**
A container holding historical records or objects representative of current culture that is deposited (as in a cornerstone) for preservation until discovery by some future age.

**MINIMALISM**
A trend in sculpture and painting that arose in the 1950s and used simple, typically massive, forms.

**TIME MACHINE**
A machine capable of transporting a person backward or forward in time.

**PERCEPTION**
The ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses.
1. Let’s describe this artwork in terms of materials, shape and texture?

2. How do you feel when you’re looking at the reflection in the oval? What is familiar or unfamiliar about the other person across your reflection?

3. The title of this artwork is called "Time Machine," what does that make you think of? How does the mirror connect to your self?

4. Why do you think there are two chairs as part of this installation? Who do you imagine this artwork was built for and why? (Who is supposed to sit there?)

5. Where would you like to go if you were in a time machine? Think of a place or year and explain why?
Age Range: 6-12 years old
Activity Duration: 40 minutes

Bell is most commonly known for his Minimalist sculptures—transparent cubes that thrive on the interplay of shape, light, and environment—that champion the ideas of the Light and Space Movement of the 1960s.

Discuss with students ideas and concepts about what is a time capsule. Think about the purpose and function of a time capsules in the context of human history. Assignment: Design a time capsule that reflects an aspect about yourself that you would want someone to know in 20 years.

ACTIVITY MATERIALS

8.5” x 11” Clear Film Sheet

Assorted Permanent Maker Colors

12 Foot Ruler
1. After discussion, have students list and design eight to ten items on their clear transparency film using a sharpie marker. The time capsule should relate to students ideas around identity, family, and community.

2. Once students are done designing their items on the clear transparency film, group them into larger groups for phase two of the project.

3. Instruct students to fold and transform the transparency film into irregular 3-d geometric forms. Once each student is done with their form, have the group assemble their time capsule into a singular, unique sculpture using clear tape and stapler.