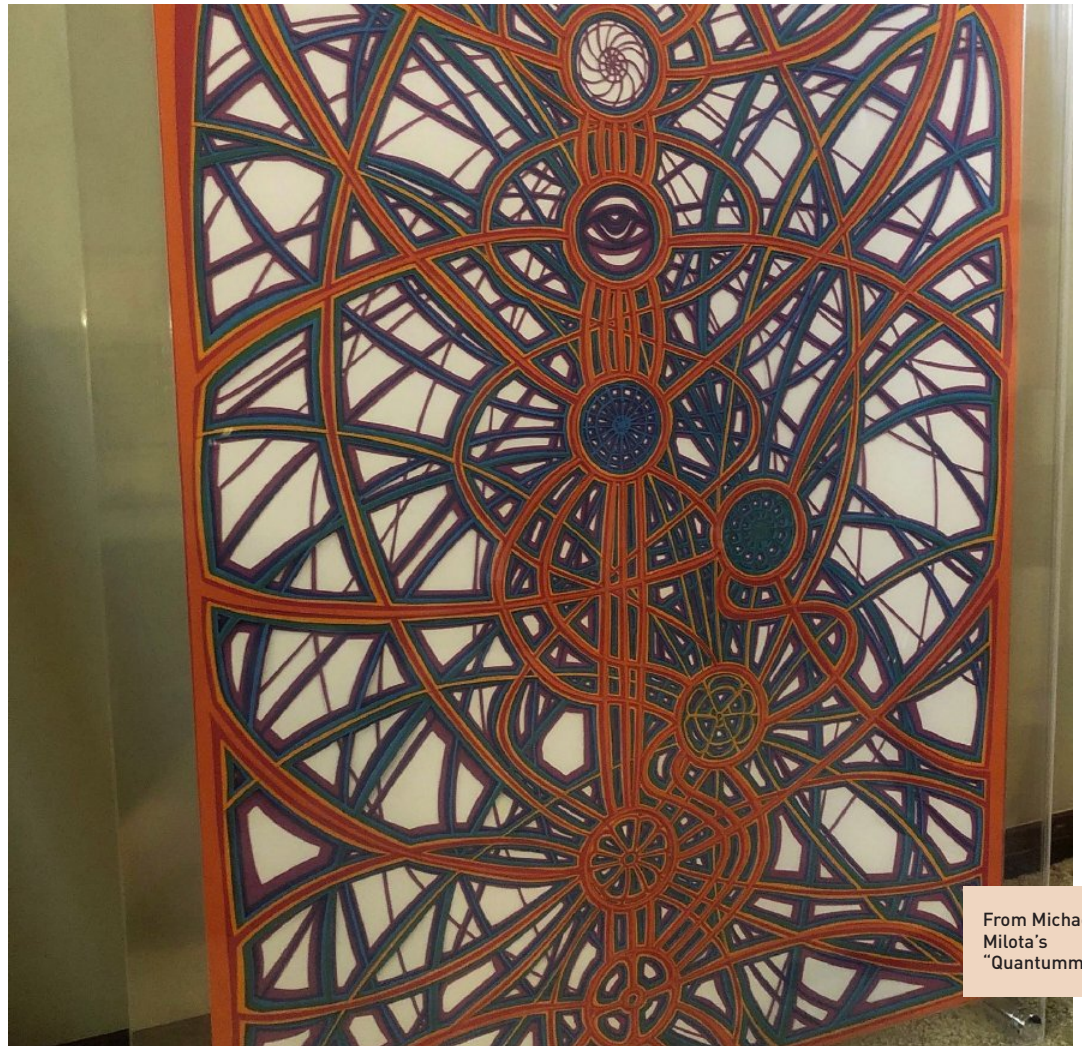
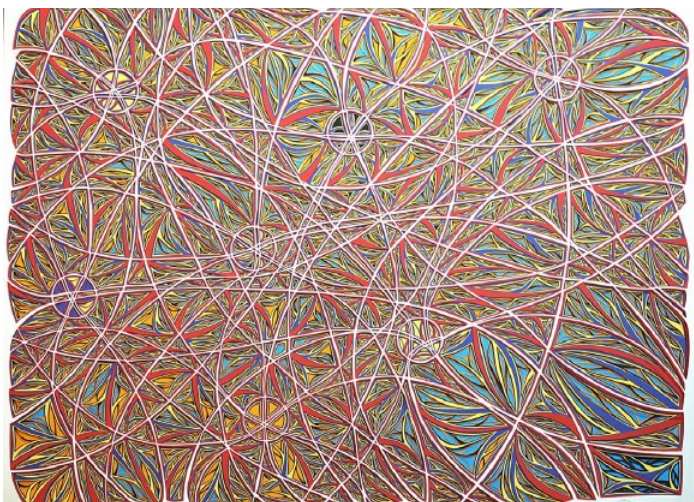


# ART POPS UP BY APPOINTMENT



From Michael Milota's "Quantummola."

## AN ASPEN ORIGINAL

The Aspen-based artist Michael Milota has been developing his artistic methods since childhood, when he first learned about the traditional Panamanian art form mola, and refining them here over the past decade.



ANDREW TRAVERS

"It truly is an Aspen original,"

Milota wrote in an email.

Locals have seen his signature pieces over the years in spaces like the Arjuna Yoga studio, where he has a mural, and at Vectra Bank, which displayed several of his works. Now, he has a space of his own, with the pop-up art gallery Quantummola Art at 625 E. Hyman Ave., between the Aspen Art Museum and the Gonzo Gallery.

Milota is giving demonstrations of his method daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Seating is limited due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions, so demonstrations are by appointment (sign up at [quantummola.com](http://quantummola.com)).

The pieces he has dubbed "quantummola" are densely layered colored paper, cut into

varied shaped and stacked together meticulously to form intricate, abstract designs as well as natural imagery such as trees and mountains.

Milota first learned of the Panamanian mola artform as a seventh-grader in Nebraska. In the traditional form, artists stitch colorful fabric together to make images of nature and geometric patterns. Milota, as a schoolkid, tried it with cut colored paper and tried it moving inward rather than outward, a method he's spent the years since tweaking and perfecting. He's tried different materials and methods and he has brought new inspirations into the work — from ski racks in



powder to his yoga practice to mountain scenery and psychedelics.

The quantummola aesthetic has translated to other forms, including acrylic paintings and wood carvings.

## HAPTIC NARRATIVE

Two high-profile New York art galleries, Lehmann Maupin and R & Company, have teamed with the nonprofit House of Today to open a pop-up gallery in downtown Aspen.

The exhibition, titled "Haptic Narrative — the Aspen Edition," includes artwork by prominent contemporary artists McArthur Binion, Catherine Opie, Angel Otero, Helen Pashgian, Cecilia Vicuña and Nari Ward.

House of Today's mission is to support 21st-century Lebanese design. This multidisciplinary exhibition offers up a dialogue between the art and the design pieces positioned around the pop-up gallery's sun-filled second-floor space at 535 E. Hyman Ave., where the public is welcome by appointment (email [sarah@lehmannmaupin.com](mailto:sarah@lehmannmaupin.com) to schedule).

The exhibition is driven by two guiding principles: to offer support to the artistic community during this difficult time and to offer collectors and audiences the opportunity to rediscover the indescribable experience of encountering artists' work first-hand. The Aug. 4 explosion in Beirut impacted and injured many of the artisans with whom House of Today works. Proceeds from this show will support them.

"In a world that suddenly stopped due to the global pandemic, collaborative projects that bring together varied disciplines, cultures and generations, and feature projects that bring both moral and material support to artists, are needed now, more than ever," reads a statement from the gallerists.

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