



Sandra Luerhsen, *Echinus Florum*  
earthenware, glazes, metallic luster, nichrome wire  
Image courtesy of the artist.



detail



detail



*Queen of the Night, Cereus gracilis*, Hand Colored Engraving by  
Georg Dionysius Ehret, Published in: *Plantae Selectae*, by  
Christoph Jacob Trew, Augsburg, Germany, 1750-1773.



**LOOK** at Sandra Luerhsen's sculpture, *Echinus Florum*, which means spiny flower, and the George Ehret's 18th century illustration of a cactus, called *Queen of the Night*.

How did Luerhsen show spiny texture in *three dimensions*? How did Ehret suggest spiny texture in the two-dimensional drawing?



**LEARN** that Luerhsen was born and studied art in Illinois and later moved to Arizona, which she calls "this wild place." In the past, she has made *botanical* sculpture and prints dedicated to her ancestors. Ehret was a German illustrator, who worked more than 250 years ago. He drew the cactus realistically in detail.

Think of someone you love, care about or admire. What plant (flower, fruit, tree, vegetable etc.) reminds you of that person? Why?



**COMPARE** Luerhsen's sculpture of a cactus with Ehret's illustration of a cactus flower. They both combine several elements into one artwork.

Which combines cactus parts with simple, colorful, rounded forms? Which has words, a cross-section drawing, and seeds? Why do you think Luerhsen and Ehret showed cacti in such different styles?



How do you **INTERPRET** *Luerhsen's Echinus Florum*?

If you were going to give the sculpture your own name to say what it means to you, what would you call it? Explain.