

TIME AND CHANGE

Embracing or fearing the inevitable

Time is one of our most coveted "possessions" as a modern society. As a people we have sought to understand the interwoven nature of time and change from the beginning of humankind. We always seek to make more of it and often struggle to embrace the flux between temporary and lasting impact. Through this theme we can better understand the dependence of change on the concept of time, the origins, & how we might learn/grow from past, present, and future perspectives. After all, the present future will become the past eventually — time and change are an inevitable force.

CONCEPTS

- Measurement of time
- Questions of permanence
- Embracing fear and uncertainty
- Fluctuation of time
- Envisioning
- Futurism
- Time & Power
- Emotions present around time and change
- Change as an inevitable truth over time
- Borrowed Time
- Celebratory moments in time
- Perceptions of time as we age

GENERATIVE QUESTIONS

- What is the test of time?
- How are time and change interconnected?
- How do people change with time?
- What happens when we embrace change? What happens when we avoid it?
- What do we learn from the past?
- How do we seek to understand the concepts of time and change?
- How do perceptions change with time?
- How is time measured?
- Where did the measurement of time originate?
- What is the impact of human existence on the earth?
- How do artists portray time?
- What are the connections between time and identity?
- How can time allow us to discover unexpected details?
- How does the universe change over time?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you noticed anything change over time?
- How do we affect the future?
- How do you measure time?
- How do your feelings evolve over time?
- What world have you inherited, what type of world would you like to leave behind?
- How do focused increments of time spark periods of reflection?
- How might we explore the time we are asleep?
- How did time affect who could make art?
- How does aging affect us?
- What positive or negative impact have humans had on their environment?
- How long will your artwork last? Does art have to withstand the test of time? How does your artwork change?
- What lessons about time/change can ancient stories reveal?
- Examine how photography captures a moment in time - what moments are worth capturing?
- What role does movement play when making art about time?

ARTMAKING STARTERS

- Collect leaves and stones in your neighborhood. Create a small artwork on the sidewalk. Observe how the artwork changes each day.
- Select a subject to draw. Time yourself drawing the subject for 1 minute, 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes. Notice how your artwork changes with more or less time. Notice what details you decided to add or subtract.
- Picture your own utopian future - What would you change? What does it look like? Who is there?
- Create a time capsule with your class. Select artwork, objects, literature that is meaningful to you. Instruct your school to dig it up in 20 years.
- Create 1 small thumbnail, 15 second video, or photo for each hour of the day. Reflect on the imagery the following day. Think about what you might do the same or differently.
- Imagine you were to jump in a time machine - what time would you go to? What would it look like, smell like? What would people wear? What people would you want to meet? Create a page in your sketchbook about this.
- Find a compelling place to sit in one spot for 20 minutes. You can choose a place that is familiar, or new. Once you settle in, don't use your phone except to track time. Silence all notifications so you aren't distracted. Using your sketchbook, begin writing or sketching, stream of consciousness style, about what is happening around you. You will begin entering different stages of processing. First, you will notice a bunch of things right away. Then, as you move into the next phase you may find it more difficult to think of things to sketch or write. Lean into that feeling. What more can you observe about the things you've already written? Are there feelings or sensations within your own self that you are noticing? Are there sounds you might not otherwise observe that are now flooding your ears? As your time comes to a close, begin your walk back to the classroom. Reflect on how you felt when you left for this assignment and how you are feeling now.

SEL & SOCIAL JUSTICE GOALS

- Time and Power: The theme of time and change allow students to dive into and understand the evolution of power over time. Prompting questions like:
 - Does time allow us to deeply reflect on the heinous acts of humans or are we prone to forget/misremember over time?
 - Who/what is forgotten by history, and for what reasons?
 - Who has historically been left out of art making over time?
- Understanding Self and How We Change Over Time (CASEL Self Awareness): This theme allows students to reflect on who they were, who they are, and who they are becoming.
- Understanding Societal Roles (CASEL Responsible Decision Making): Students learn to understand the roles they play in their communities and how their actions impact society over time. In this we can better question and explore our roles in dismantling white supremacy, patriarchal societal norms, and our impact on the environment.

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

Science: Erosion, Metamorphosis, Habitats, Life Cycle, Human Impact, Astronomy
Critical Thinking: My role in society over time

Literature: Art of Storytelling, Evolution of Character, Science Fiction - Futurism

Health: Aging & Dementia

Human Condition: Death & Dying, Emotions, Crisis

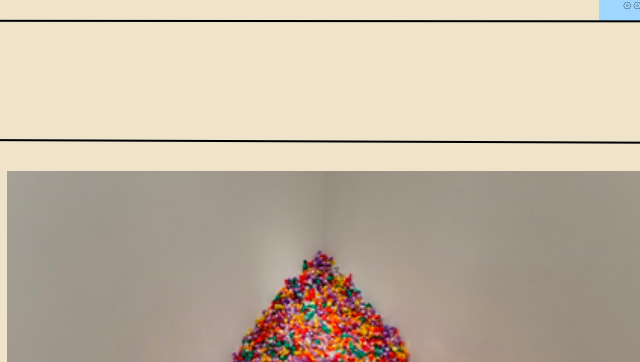
Music: Musical styles over time & the evolution of technology

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

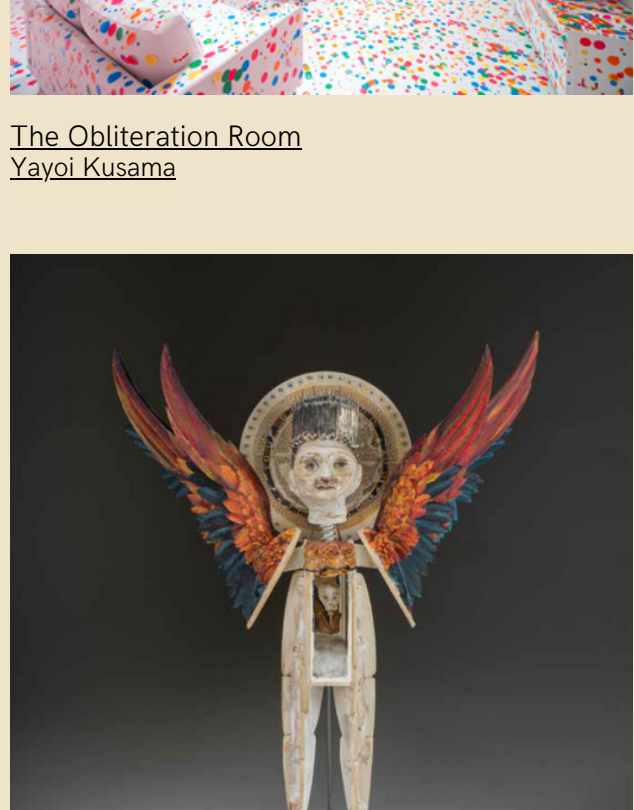
ARTWORK EXAMPLES



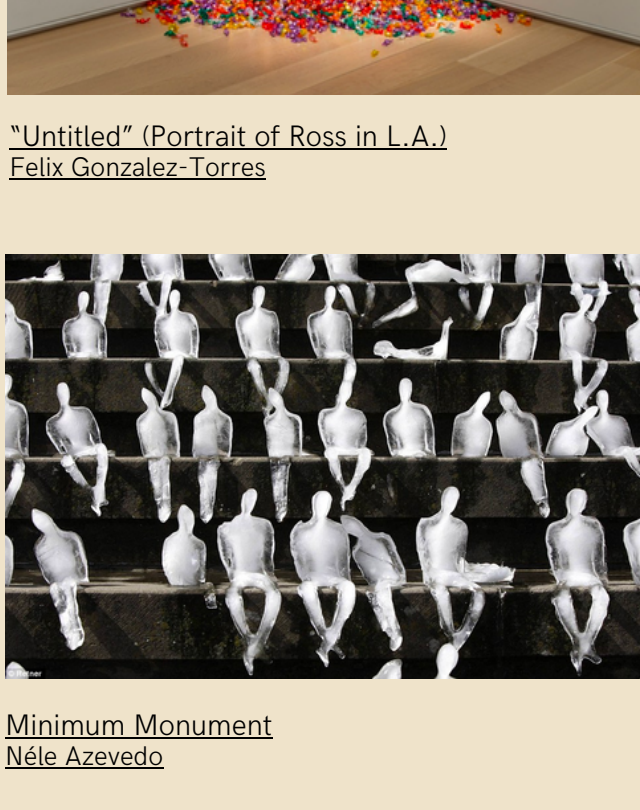
[The Obliteration Room](#)
Yayoi Kusama



["Untitled" \(Portrait of Ross in L.A.\)](#)
Felix Gonzalez-Torres



[Paradise Lost](#)
David Barnett



[Minimum Monument](#)
Néle Azevedo



[The Tempestry Project](#)
Community Project

PUBLICATIONS & READINGS & MEDIA

E-Book: [Tick Tock - Time in Contemporary Art](#) | [Lehman College Art Gallery](#)

Podcast: [Change Lab - Conversations on Transformation and Creativity](#)

Article: [Time for Change: Art and Social Unrest](#)

Article: [New Ideas in Art: Time as an Element](#)

Book: [Creative Acts for Curious People](#)

