

**NEW
MUSEUM**

**KIDS
MENU**

LOOKING UP

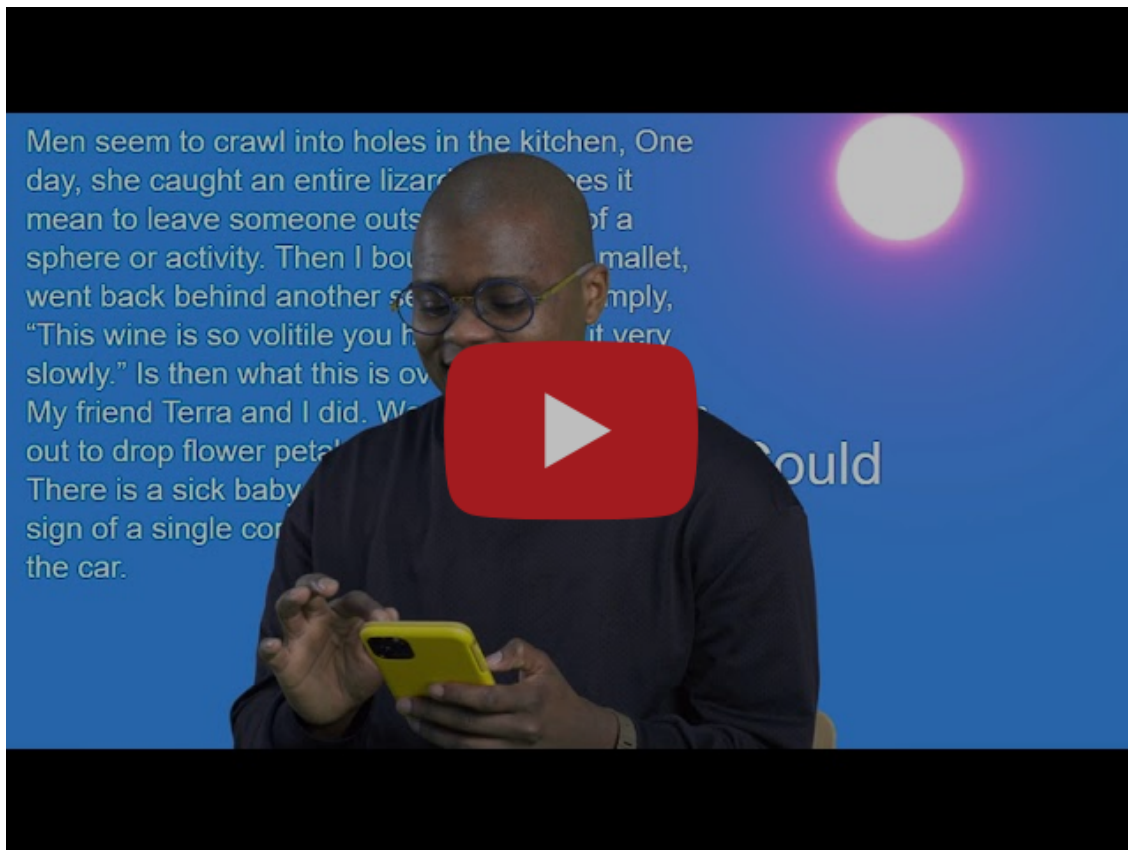
New Museum Kids Menu provides families with activities to learn about contemporary art and ideas at home.

Inspired by the view of the sky through the New Museum’s Lobby Gallery skylights, artists **Maryam Hoseini** (b. 1988, Tehran, Iran), **Rindon Johnson** (b. 1990, San Francisco, CA), and **Jordan Strafer** (b. 1990, Miami, FL), collaborated to create a simulation of the sky as it shifts between day and night for their group exhibition “**This End the Sun.**” Rather than present a reflection of the changing sky, the artists designed a computer program that predicts changes in the sky view and displays the simulation on the gallery’s glass wall—which appears like a mural or digital painting. The artists began their collaboration by posing questions about the nature of time and the ways humans relate, imagine, and tell stories.

“How is time altered on the way down? Are we free as we are? Are we in any degree bound by our appetites? Are we at all in bondage to the opinion of our neighbors, to the customs and notions of the society however harmful or absurd? Can we see things as they are, as they should be? ...Do we tell stories as they are, as they should be? (Why the same over and over again?)”

— **Maryam Hoseini, Rindon Johnson and Jordan Strafer**, “This End the Sun,” New Museum

To learn more about other ways Rindon Johnson has used computer software in his work, watch Johnson talk about how he uses technology to write poetry.



KEY WORDS

- **simulation:** imitation or creative interpretation of a process or situation
- **prediction:** a statement about the future that may or may not be based on experience or knowledge; a forecast is a type of prediction of the future weather
- **time-based art:** artwork made from both physical and temporal media; the atmospheric simulations in "This End the Sun" change over time rather than remaining static, like a painting

START WITH ART: "This End the Sun"



- How would you describe this image? What time of day do you think it depicts?
- What colors and shapes do you see?
- Do you think the image represents a specific weather or time of year?
- What would it feel like to be outside under this sky?

How can the sky simulations in “This End the Sun” inspire us to create **time-based simulations** of our own observations of the sky?

MAKE ART

Let’s create drawings, paintings, or poetry inspired by a view of the sky outside our windows, or in a safe space near our homes.

Materials

- A journal
- A sketchbook or paper for drawing or painting
- If drawing, choose one of the following materials (if available): oil pastels, colored pencils, OR markers.
- If painting, chose from the following materials (if available): a paint brush; choose watercolor, tempera, OR acrylic paint; a cup filled with water. If you have more than one brush, you might choose to use multiple brushes to experiment with different brush strokes that result from the various sizes and shapes of the bristles; or to use a different brush for each

selected color of paint mediums like tempera and acrylic that are a little more difficult to rinse than watercolor.

- If writing, you'll need a pencil or pen.
- A view outside a window, or a safe outdoor spot where you can see the sky.
- Optional: sunglasses, especially if you're viewing the sky outside.

Making

1. Locate a space where you can comfortably see the sky and note changes over the course of several days or weeks.
2. Decide whether you want to sketch, paint, or write in response to what you see.
3. Take your sketchbook, art supplies, and/or journal to your space, and record impressions through your chosen medium (drawing, painting, or writing). In the spirit of "This End the Sun," rather than recording exactly what you see, experiment with making images of the ways you imagine the sky could change, similar to a prediction or weather forecast.
4. Return to the same spot to view the sky during different times of day, allowing yourself to form new impressions and interpretations. Be careful not to stare directly into the sun!
5. Continue recording your interpretations, predictions, and impressions of the sky at different times of day, extending the activity over several days or even weeks, and through different types of weather.

Reflection

- What kinds of atmospheric changes did you notice the most?
- Did viewing the sky at different times of day change your perception of time? Did you notice shifts in light, shadow, and other elements?
- How did you imagine your predictions or forecast? Was it based on experiences of how the sun sets or rises, or what you know of the weather? Or did you imagine it changing as you wish?
- If you chose drawing or painting, consider trying poetry (or vice versa) for another few days of observations. How does changing media influence your observations?

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Image: "This End the Sun," 2021. Exhibition view: New Museum, New York. Photo: Dario Lasagni

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