

MOMENTS of DELAY

Secondary Level Study Guide

Allan Balisi • *Celine Lee* • Christina Lopez

Corinne de San Jose • *Joar Songcuya*

Lesley-Anne Cao • Miguel Lorenzo Uy

Neo Maestro • Rocky Cajigan • Ronyel Compra

Tambisan sa Sining • *Tropikalye* • *Uri de Ger*

Pre-Visit

Prior to visiting the “Moments of Delay” exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD), a short discussion on the exhibition’s subject of “time” would be appropriate.



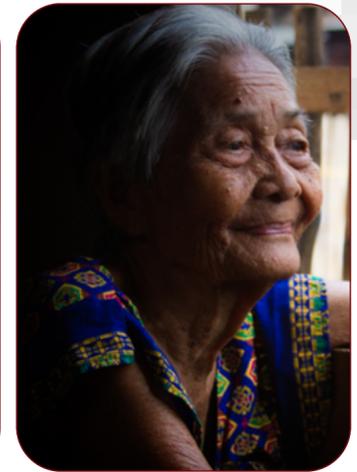
depositphotos. (n.d.). <https://depositphotos.com/photos/part-time.html?qview=164599520>

Time is a concept that encompasses all of our experiences, whether it be the past, present, or future. Time management is one of the largest struggles that teens and young adults have to face in their lives. With the abundance of work and responsibilities that are piled upon us as we grow older, our perception of time can sometimes become warped. A mere short break or moment of relaxation may feel “wrong” as we’ve been accustomed to the feeling of constant work and productivity. Have you ever had the time to stop and appreciate the present moment?

However, the “Moments of Delay” exhibition offers a different perspective on these pauses or delays, emphasizing their importance and value in our contemporary experience. Can you think of a time when the day felt like it passed quickly? Or very slowly? What made it feel that way? Interestingly, researchers studying children have found that their perception of time moves more slowly compared to adults, not because of their age, but because of their emotional state. Times of joy and happiness can pass faster, while times of stress and anxiety can pass slower (Padhy, 2024). This may help explain why delays and pauses can feel uncomfortable or unfamiliar to many. Nonetheless, the present is not a fleeting moment between past and future, but a prolonged state of reflection shaped by both. In this view, delays are not interruptions but opportunities to see the world differently.



Maliks, P. (2021). <https://philstarlife.com/living/870678-world-childrens-day?page=2>



Insogna, B. (2011). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thelightingman/5608371474>

You can also look into the word “contemporary” itself. It comes from the Latin words “com” (with) and temporarios (time), jointly meaning “with time” (Harper, n.d.). In art, contemporary would not just mean current, but works that go through an ongoing dialogue with the present. This is different from modern art, the previous art period from the late 19th to 20th century. Thus, each period is different as they reflect the styles and culture of the time (dans le gris, 2023).

ACTIVITY 1.1. Objects Across Time

We suggest you find a personal item from both the past and the present that hold significant value to you. After gathering these items, we suggest you share your insights with your peers and classmates. The following questions can guide you on your discussion:

- Why did you choose these items and what is their value to you?
- Is there a difference in value for these items of the past compared to the present?
- How has time affected you, the object, and your experience of it?



After the activity, you should have a basic understanding of the concept of time in relation to our experiences. What does the word “contemporary” mean to you? How does it relate to your daily life? When visiting the exhibition, you will explore time as a cyclical and non-linear process. It reflects on the instability of contemporary life, especially within the context of the Philippines, marked by uncertainty, disinformation, and rapid technological development. Through a diverse range of artistic media, including video, sound, scent, installation, and obsolete technologies, artists examine how time is experienced individually and collectively.

Visit

Scattered across the “Moments of Delay” exhibition you are likely to notice a series of words and phrases written on numerous areas and sections of the museum. These texts are part of the artwork entitled “Between the Corpse & the Tree” by Neo Maestro. The work is an example of text-based art, as it uses language and words as its main component to showcase its message and stimulate its audiences. Thus, the texts are not just used for visual appeal, but quiet interventions you can notice, read and reflect throughout the space. It is used to represent the suspended futures and dreams caused by the pandemic in 2020, where many people’s lives were suddenly paused and uncertainty lurked throughout society. It is a time where everything seemed to stand still, as people were restricted both physically and mentally in their homes. In this manner, the texts serve as ghosts, appearing spontaneously and unexpectedly throughout the space reminding us of the parts of our lives that were left hanging.

ACTIVITY 2.1. Text Finding

Walk around and choose one text from the piece that stands out to you.
What does it make you feel?



Between the Corpse & the Tree (2020/2025)
Neo Maestro
Text

Similar to ghosts, these texts serve to embody our past, lost moments, and unresolved feelings. Upon encountering a text, the viewers are enticed to stop and take a moment to contemplate its meaning. One particularly impactful line would be “All Our Pasts, All Our Futures, All of Us Ghosts”, further connecting the work to time. It suggests that time is not cleanly divided. Instead, the past, present, and future overlap. We carry our memories into the present, and our hopes and anxieties shape how we imagine the future.

Strolling through the exhibition, a large structure made out of threads woven into a beautiful pattern can be noticed. This work is entitled “A barrier a time II” by Rocky Cajigan. It is a powerful installation used to represent indigenous textiles, particularly the Bontoc tapis. It also calls back to the history of colonization throughout our country. Notably, this work is also site-specific installation as the way the threads that move across the museum’s floor are intentionally made to accommodate the building’s layout by guiding you through a physical and symbolic experience. Through his work, Cajigan creates a maze that mimics the experience and time of indigenous people walking up a mountain, an act that requires patience and awareness of one's surroundings.

At the center of the maze, elements such as the soutanes made of jusi fabric attached with human hair can be noticed. Below it, a sculpture of a severed head can also be observed, representing the head hunting traditions of the Bontoc people. Thus, it develops a space where we can contemplate both our history and present.

ACTIVITY 2.2. Maze Walk

Walk through the maze and contemplate: How do you think colonial history still affects Filipino identity today? What is the relationship between the past and present?

The piece delves deeply into the passing of time, especially in relation to the Philippines. It honors Filipino indigenous identity while reflecting on the history of Spanish colonial rule, Christianity and their delayed effects upon the indigenous communities of the country. In this way, “A barrier, a time II” not only reveals the layered and conflicting identities that have developed over time in the Philippines, but also addresses time, not as a single and continuous thread, but as a tangled maze of overlapping histories, interruptions, and transformations.



A barrier, a time II (2019/2025)
Rocky Cajigan
Thread, Steel, Cement, human hair, jusi fabric, wood

Visit



Portraits (Proxies) (2020)
Christina Lopez
Single-channel video, no sound

Walking up to the upper floor of the exhibition, a video is projected featuring numerous shifting faces called “Portraits (Proxies)” by Christina Lopez”. At first glance, the images may seem like distorted photographs, in reality these are nonexistent people drawn from the dataset of 500 online trolls during Duterte’s administration. These eerie faces were developed with Artificial Intelligence (AI), wherein the artist trained their own version of StyleGAN, a type of general adversarial network. The faces in the videowork perform a similar function to avatars, as they are stand-ins or proxies for real people. Similar to deepfakes, a form of media that is altered or manipulated for the purpose of misleading others, the work offers new insights into the increasing importance of truth within this digital age. Thus, the work explores the evolving relationship between technology and memory in the contemporary world. Subsequently, the piece encourages us to reflect how powerful authorities manipulate information and identity, making us question what is real versus what is fabricated. [Have you seen an AI generated image before? What did it make you feel/think?](#)

ACTIVITY 2.3. Video Observation

Observe the faces shown in Lopez's video work and contemplate: How does technology influence how we remember the past or imagine the future?

In terms of time, Lopez’s piece also asks us to think about the future. With the rapid advancement of technologies, such as AI, even the program Lopez used to make this work has become obsolete. Similar to how the faces constantly shift in the work, technology is constantly evolving with the passage of time. With this in mind, we are again faced with the uncertainty and anxiety in our present and contemporary life where the future seems both full of possibility and increasingly difficult to grasp.

Learn more about the artists through the following links:



Rocky Cajigan

mcadmanila. (2025). Meet Rocky Acofo Cajigan, a Bontok-Kankanaey visual artist. Instagram. Retrieved from: https://www.instagram.com/p/DJbb51XxLrb/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



Neo Maestro

gravityartspace. (2024). Meet Neo Maestro for his solo exhibition. Instagram. Retrieved from: https://www.instagram.com/p/C_iJYAgTgAJ/?hl=en



Christina Lopez

Bohol, G. (2025). Meet the 13 artists featured in the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design’s latest exhibition: ‘Moments of Delay’. Tatler. Retrieved from: <https://www.tatlerasia.com/lifestyle/arts/moments-of-delay-at-the-mcad>

Post-Visit

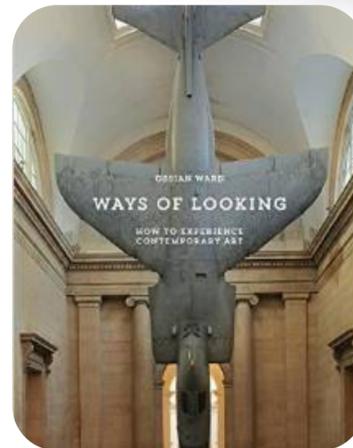
After your visit to the “Moments of Delay” exhibition, we hope you’ve come to see time beyond its measurement in clocks, watches or calendars. Time is not merely a passive element we observe in our experiences, but also something personal, emotional, and even political. Notably, it is also important to consider the different perspectives on time across cultures. More common views on time would likely reflect Western cultures that take a more monochronic and linear approach. In this culture, people follow rigid schedules and terms such as “wasting time” or “time is money” are popular phrases. On the other hand, some non-Western cultures may perceive time as polychronic and cyclical, where time is flexible and not a finite commodity (Mraovic, 2025). In relation to this, the exhibition also tackles time as non-linear and cyclical, emphasizing how all three periods of past, present, and future overlap. Thus, it encourages you to appreciate the present wherein delay is not a disruption or failure to progress, but a moment that can hold resistance, healing, and reflection.

To continue the discussion on time, we encourage you to contemplate or further discuss the topic with peers and classmates with the help of the following guide questions:

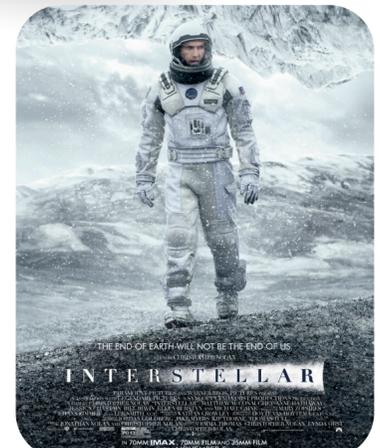
GUIDE QUESTIONS:

- How did the “Moments of Delay” exhibit challenge your usual understanding of time?
- Can you relate any of your experiences with the concepts of delay, pause or glitch tackled in the exhibit?
- What is your perception of the present, and subsequently contemporary art after your visit?

To deepen your understanding of the exhibition’s message, we also encourage you to watch Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar” (2014), as the movie tackles time through both scientific and personal perspectives. We also suggest reading Boris Groys' essay “Comrades of Time” that inspired the Moment’s of Delay exhibit. Finally, if contemporary art is new to you, “Ways of Looking: How to Experience Contemporary Art” by Ossian Ward would be an excellent material that offers new perspectives in engaging and understanding complex works and their deeper meanings. All in all, these resources can help you continue the conversation begun by the exhibition, encouraging you to reflect on how time shapes our individual and collective experiences.



Ward, O. (2014). Goodreads
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20549550-ways-of-looking>



Interstellar. (2014). IMDb.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0816692/>

With this in mind, students who are interested may also watch movies like Tomorrowland (2018) by Brad Bird or Meet the Robinsons (2007) by Stephen Anderson to further reflect on the concept of time, our contemporary life, and the collective actions we can take for our future.

To learn more about the inspiration behind the exhibition, visit the following:

Groys, B. (2009). Comrades of Time. Retrieved from: <https://criticallatinoamericana.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/groys-boris-comrades-in-time.pdf>

REFERENCES:

- Bohol, G. (2025). Meet the 13 artists featured in the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design’s latest exhibition: ‘Moments of Delay’. Tatler. Retrieved from: <https://www.tatlerasia.com/lifestyle/arts/moments-of-delay-at-the-mcad>
- dans le gris. (2024). What is Contemporary Art. Definition, Characteristics and Artists. Retrieved from: <https://walkerart.org/visit/what-is-contemporary-art/>
- depositphotos. (n.d.). business working time concept. Retrieved from: <https://depositphotos.com/photos/part-time.html?qview=164599520>
- Groys, B. (2009). Comrades of Time. Retrieved from: <https://criticallatinoamericana.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/groys-boris-comrades-in-time.pdf>
- Harper, D. (n.d.). Etymology of contemporary. Online Etymology Dictionary. Retrieved from: <https://www.etymonline.com/word/contemporary>
- Insogna, B. [Online Image]. (2011). Retrieved from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thelightningman/5608371474>
- Interstellar. [Online Image]. (2014). IMDb. Retrieved from: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0816692/>
- Maliks, P. [Online Image]. (2021). Retrieved from: <https://philstarlife.com/living/870678-world-childrens-day?page=2>
- Mraovic, J. (2025). Time Orientation and Perception of Time in Different Cultures. Clockify. Retrieved from: <https://clockify.me/blog/managing-time/time-perception/>
- mcadmanila. (2025). Meet Rocky Acofo Cajigan, a Bontok-Kankanaey visual artist. Instagram. Retrieved from: https://www.instagram.com/p/DJbb51XxLrb/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- Nolan, C. [Director]. (2014). Interstellar [Film]. Paramount Pictures
- Padhy, K. (2024). Why children perceive time slower than adults. BBC. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240906-does-time-go-slower-for-children>
- Ward, O. (2014). Ways of Looking: How to Experience Contemporary Art. Laurence King Publishing. Retrieved from: <https://garagemca.org/en/programs/publishing/ossian-ward-ways-of-looking-how-to-experience-contemporary-art-by-ossian-ward>
- Ward, O [Online Image]. (2014). Goodreads. Retrieved from: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20549550-ways-of-looking>
- Yasar, K., Barney, N., & Wigmore, I. (2025, May 22). What is deepfake technology?. Tech Target. Retrieved from: <https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/deepfake>