

MOMENTS of DELAY

Tertiary Level Study Guide

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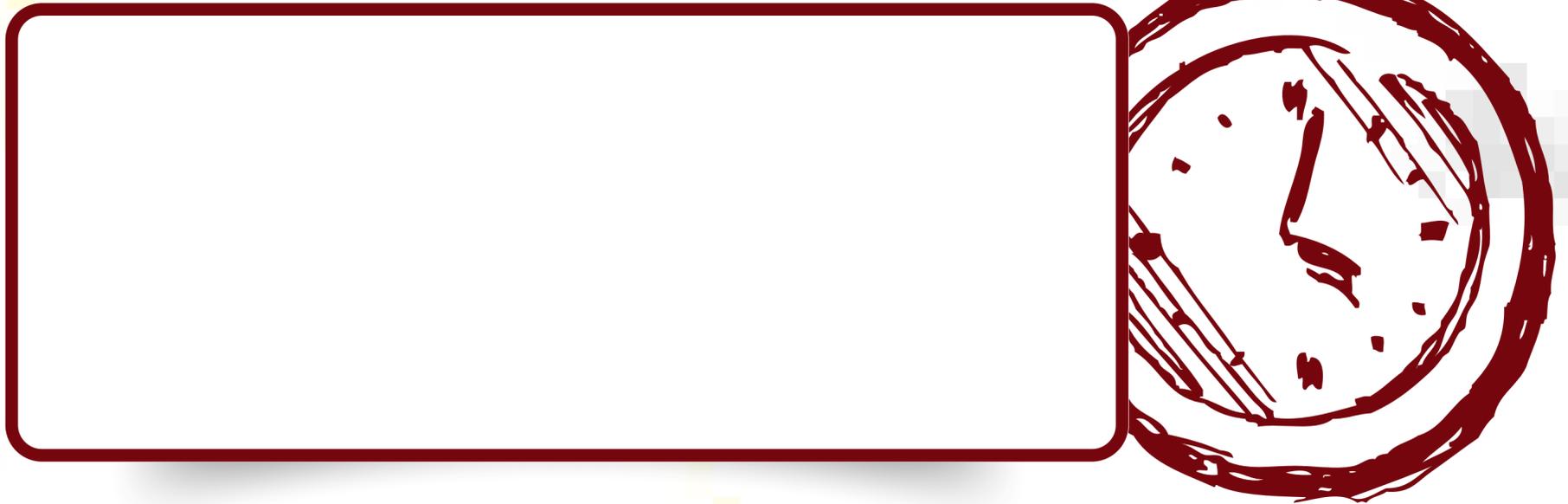
Tambisan sa Sining • *Tropikalye* • *Uri de Ger*

Pre-Visit

The concept of time is told in everything - not just in history books. Every object that humans have designed, shaped, and perfected have always served as a reflection of the time they were created. From tea cups to computers, to physical and spiritual emotions, humans have lived and experienced things from the past, present, and will experience in the future (Forty A, 1992).

Berger (1972) states that how we see things is affected by what we know or what we believe. As time progresses, our perspective of things changes. Today, the way we look and comprehend things may change over time as our “truth” is time-bound (Foucault, 1969). People’s thoughts, beliefs and the likes as of today may change in the future. With this in mind, let the college students define how they view the concept of time.

ACTIVITY 1.1. How do college students view the concept of time?



ACTIVITY 1.2

Ask your fellow college students with questions regarding the concept of time. The following questions can guide you on your discussion:

- Are college students more of the moment or future-oriented? Why or why not?
- Does time exist in tangible and intangible things? How so?
- Do we live in the past, present, future, or everything at once?

If the word “contemporary” refers to the present times, what if time dilation was brought to the topic? Time dilation is a concept proposed by Einstein’s Theory of Relativity where time is not absolute once speed and gravitational come into play, which could affect an observer’s perception of time. By its very nature, an object approaching the speed of light will have the perception of time slowing down relative to an observer [You can watch the movie “Interstellar” (2014) by Christopher Nolan where this time dilation phenomenon is presented]. Such a concept makes us really question our perception of contemporaneity because if our perception of time were faster compared to another observer that’s moving at the speed of light, then we have a different grasp of the present times.

To learn more about time dilation and theories, you may read Albert Einstein’s Theory of Relativity: <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/einstein/works/1910s/relative/relativity.pdf>



Interstellar. (2014). IMDb. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0816692/mediaviewer/rm2999156737/?ref_=ttmi_mi_505

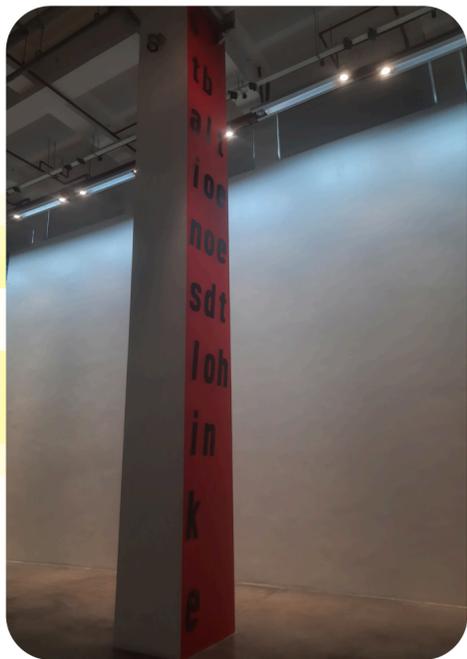
ACTIVITY 1.3

Think of questions that delves with how college students engage with the contemporary times. You may use the following guide questions:

- What separates the present times from the past and future?
- How did my past misfortunes and triumphs affect my understanding of life experiences?
- Is my future decided by the present, and merely connected from my past?
- What is something that exists timelessly?

Let the students ask and answer the questions that they came up with.

Visit



Neo Maestro's textual works are awkwardly placed around the museum interior, catching our attention off-guard as if haunted by sudden spectral presence. These texts reflect on our struggling experiences by immersing himself through the experiences felt by his next of kin when the pandemic affected our country years ago. The pandemic single-handedly put our envisioned future as it was put on pause - a glitch - a malfunction in a system and in our case, our lives - which functioned with immense difficulties and inconveniences in enduring through the crisis. Despite the complications that we faced, the “glitch” did not automatically stop our capability to reach our dreams but altered it in ways where the paths that we took were different from how we originally envisioned. Let the students reflect on how they had to adjust and adapt to the life affected by such significant conflicts.

ACTIVITY 2.1

Let the students find all five works of Neo Maestro. What do they notice about each passage's message?

Neo Maestro also believes in the idea that the meaning of an artwork depends on the viewer. With this in mind, speculate on how these messages could relate to college students personally.

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



**Screen (2021/2025),
Miguel Lorenzo Uy
Screenprint**

Take a look at Miguel Lorenzo Uy's piece. These colors displayed in his work are similar to the unusual colors in our technological devices that let us know that they have underlying conditions or to put it simply, it shows “glitches”. Before looking into the background of the artwork, let the students speculate on what makes Miguel Lorenzo Uy's piece emit a feeling of technology.

ACTIVITY 2.2

Why does the artwork emit a feeling of technology like static screens of CRT TVs? What detail stands out the most?



**Untitled (Mayo Uno 2018),
Tambisan sa Sining
Industrial paint on geena cloth**

Visit

Even though we are no longer under the reign of non-Filipinos today, their past ideas that dominated to gain control of our lands still remain which appear in Tambisan sa Sining's untitled works.

The collective's work shows these details - from the American and Chinese flag that symbolize its capitalistic and political stances that had a lasting destructive effect on the way our local farmers are treated by the wealthy and authorities - to the hammer and sickle's sign as to empower and reinforce the rights of our proletarian class. These details are what the people in the contemporary world are fighting for yet these blends of oppression and resistance come across as timeless as such similar ideas are experienced in different times as well. The Filipinos have experienced the oppression of the Spanish, the Americans, and even the Marcos regime yet resistance and independence were always the answers to tyranny.

ACTIVITY 2.3.

Let the students find the other details in the art work that fall into the aforementioned topics. Moreover, let the students recall how these same ideas of oppression, struggle and independence are repeated throughout our history and in the present, how it will likely occur again in the future.

Let the students gaze upon Lesley-Anne Cao's work. Her work proclaims the idea of irreversible damage due to the gradual chemical changes of the environment. Wax turns brittle over time, while silicone can remain flexible under stress for a long while. Since her work is time-based, how do the students imagine what Lesley-Anne Cao's work looked like before they saw it?



If time is an arrow, what is its target (2023/2024)

Lesley-Anne Cao

Coconut and soy wax, silicone rubber, plywood, and heat lamps

ACTIVITY 2.3.

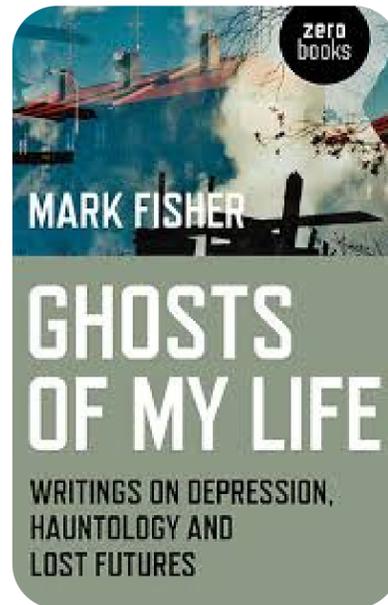
Have the students theorize on how the piece looked like **before** the exhibition. You may illustrate or explain your ideas by sentences.

Have the students theorize on how the piece looked like **after** the exhibition. You may illustrate or explain your ideas by sentences.

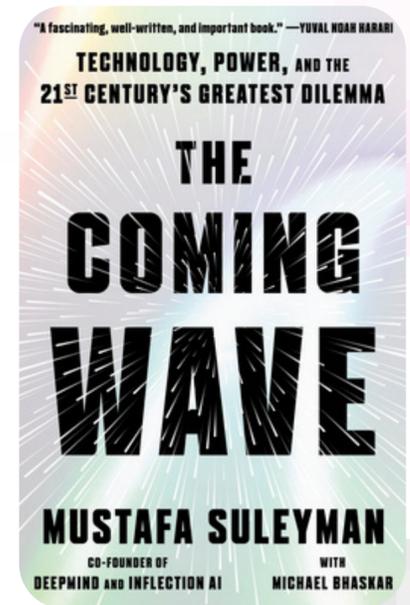
There are multiple mediums used for this exhibition. Let the students choose an artwork that speaks to them the most in regards to living in contemporary times. Have them discuss the specific work medium details on how it connects to them significantly.

Post-Visit

The word "contemporary" means to live in the present, yet ironic as we live in the past and the future at the same time. Get a grasp of deeper understanding of living in the present times by reading literature that tackle this philosophy such as "**The Ghosts of My Life**" by Mark Fisher. You may also read "**The Coming Wave**" by Mustafa Suleyman if you are interested in the risks of our future with the rapid-developing technologies in contemporary times.



Fisher, M. (2014). Goodreads. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20863042-ghosts-of-my-life>



Suleyman, M. (2023). Goodreads. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90590134-the-coming-wave>

You can read the mentioned texts through the following links:

- Fisher, M. (2014). Ghosts of my life: Writings on depression, hauntology and lost futures. Retrieved from: <https://criticallatinoamericana.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/groys-boris-comrades-in-time.pdf>
- Suleyman, M. (2023). The coming wave: AI, power, and our future. Retrieved from: <https://dn721906.ca.archive.org/0/items/the-coming-wave-by-mustafa-suleyman-michael-bhaskar-pdfread.net/The%20Coming%20Wave%20By%20Mustafa%20SuleymanMichael%20Bhaskar-pdfread.net.pdf>

The term "future-proof" can be related to contemporary time as it is the process of preparing something so that it can minimize the possible failures and handle the incoming pressures that lead to advancement in the future. Since we are living through the time that is approaching a future-proof society due to the development of our environment that makes us live our lives efficiently and conveniently, **how does this affect how we approach the contemporary times?** Ask the students on what they notice on how people progress in different aspects. Furthermore, have the students speculate on what, if anything, possibly hinders the progress. Are there particular matters that repeat - something that happened in the past that also happens in the present and possibly in the future? Let the students have a discussion with these questions, along with their own questions that they come up with in regards to the future of human lives.

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- Suleyman, M. (2023). The coming wave: AI, power, and our future. Crown.
- The Coming Wave [Online image]. Goodreads. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90590134-the-coming-wave>