

your curious journey

olafur
eliasson

I. INTRODUCTION

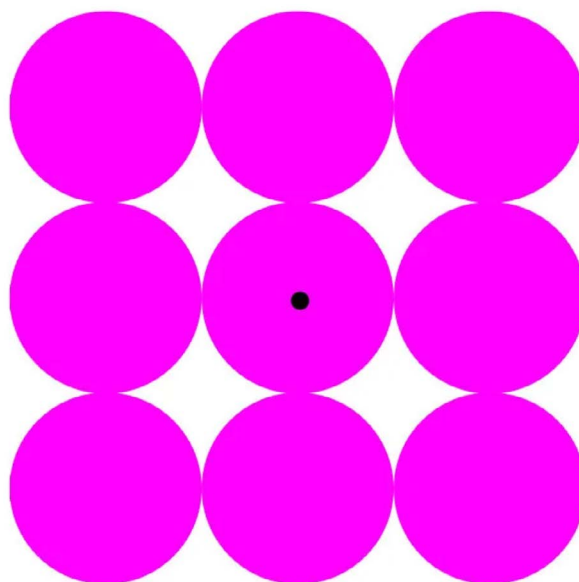
Your Curious Journey is a significant traveling exhibition by Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967). On view from 9 July to 15 November 2026, the exhibition marks the final leg of an extensive international tour that included the Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), and Museum MACAN in Jakarta.

Your Curious Journey offers a comprehensive survey of Eliasson's three-decade practice, centering on themes of perception, embodiment, and the climate emergency.

II. PRE-VISIT

Are you familiar with the five basic senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste? It is through these senses that we understand the world around us. We can tell if something is rough or soft by touching it. We can tell what food is being cooked because of our sense of smell. While we rely on these senses to tell us about our surroundings, they can also be tricked.

For example, stare at the black dot below for 30 seconds to 1 minute, then look at a blank white wall. Do you see the **afterimage**? This is called a **negative afterimage**, and this **optical illusion** happens because you “tired out” your eye by focusing on a certain color for too long, and you begin to see the complementary colors of the image (The Illusions Index). Do not worry! Your eye will quickly recover, and you’ll see colors normally soon enough.



*Negative Afterimage,
The Illusions Index.*

Sometimes, two people can experience the same thing but understand it in different ways, as nobody is the same as you. Others have color blindness and see colors differently. Others are hard of hearing and might hear little to no sounds at all. And we all have our own one-of-a-kind experiences that make us see and perceive things differently. You might like the taste of certain foods, and others could hate them. Olafur Eliasson wants us to experience how our own senses understand things and how these experiences differ from others, as he invites you to go through your own curious journey.

III. REFLECTION GUIDE

Before you explore *Your Curious Journey*, try to answer these questions to prepare yourself for the exhibit:

- When was the last time you had a cold? Did some foods taste different? Were you still able to smell properly?
- Think of the different colors that you know. Are there specific emotions or moods that those colors make you feel?
- Can you remember when your surroundings made you feel a strong emotion?
 - Maybe a crowded or noisy area has made you feel frustrated or tired, or perhaps there is a space that makes you feel calm and safe.

IV. RECOMMENDED MEDIA

FLOW (2024)

Flow is an animated movie about a black cat set in a post-apocalyptic Earth, as it tries to survive on a world without humans and a planet with a rapidly rising water level. While the cat manages to find a boat occupied by other animals, they must team up to survive the now flooded planet together.

- What do you think destroyed and caused the flooding of the planet Earth?

- Is the Earth in *Flow* similar to ours in any way?

Why or why not?

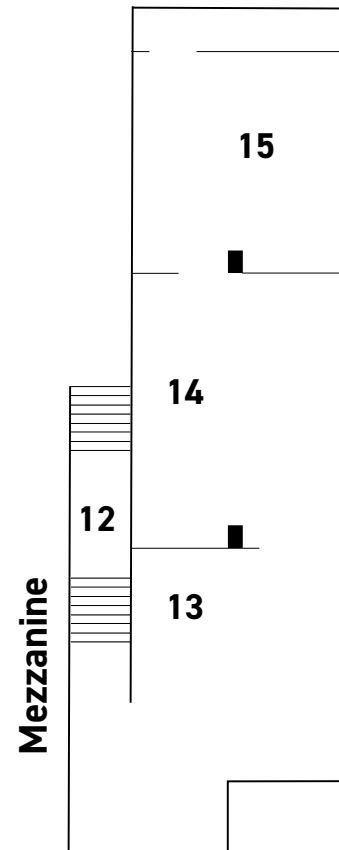
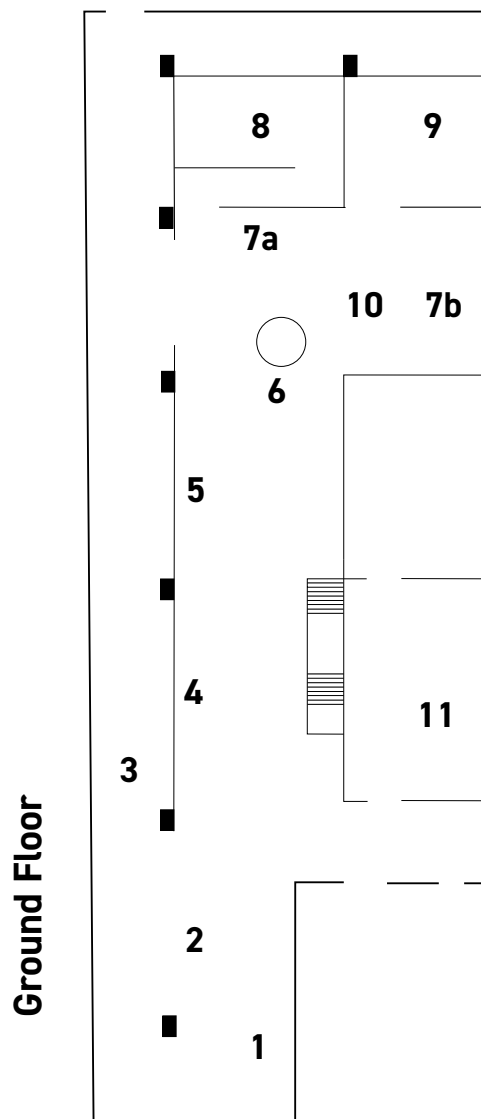
- How are the colors different in our world today compared to the Earth shown in *Flow*?

- How will you survive in the world of *Flow*?

- If the world became like what you saw in the movie, would you want to still live in it?

- What would be the first thing you would do if the Earth became like the world of *Flow*?

V. VISIT



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|----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 | <i>Moss wall</i> , 1994 | | (Auckland–Taipei, no. 1–6) |
| 2 | <i>Ventilator</i> , 1997 | | (Taipei–Jakarta, no. 1–6) |
| 3 | <i>Yellow corridor</i> , 1997 | | (Jakarta–Manila, no. 1–6) |
| 4 | <i>The glacier melt series</i> . 1999/2019,
Ed. 6 2019 | 8 | <i>Beauty</i> , 1993 |
| 5 | <i>Wind writings and Sun drawings</i> , 2023 | 9 | <i>Object defined by activity (then)</i> , 2009 |
| 6 | <i>Double spiral</i> , 2001 | 10 | <i>The last seven days of glacial ice</i> , 2024 |
| 7 | <i>The seismographic testimony of distance</i> ,
2024–2026
(Berlin–Singapore, no. 1–6)
Singapore–Auckland, no. 1–6) | 11 | <i>Movement microscope</i> , 2011 |
| | | 12 | <i>Adrift compass</i> , 2019 |
| | | 13 | <i>Circumstellar resonator</i> , 2018 |
| | | 14 | <i>Your pluralistic coming together</i> , 2024 |
| | | 15 | <i>Life is lived along lines</i> , 2009 |

- *Your Curious Journey* is inspired by Olafur Eliasson's interest in **phenomena** and how the human body experiences light, color, and movement.

Beauty

- This installation consists of a spotlight directly pointed at the water emerging from nozzles above. The Beauty of this artwork remains to be discovered. So walk around and view the artwork from different angles. You may also interact with the water, walk through it, and touch the water.

- What did you notice as you walked around the artwork?

Describe what you observed.

- The rainbow seen in Beauty is a result of the curtain-like mist reflecting and refracting the light coming from a spotlight. White light is actually made up of individual rays of each color; each ray gets bent into different angles and reflected as it passes through a droplet, which is why white light can appear as separate colors when viewed through water at the right angle. This is the same process that we can observe outdoors! The next time it rains, look up to the sky, and you might see a rainbow. You may even see them near waterfalls, in puddles, and while using your garden house underneath the sunny sky.

- As long as light shines through these droplets of water, a rainbow is sure to appear, so keep your eyes open!

- How does the darkness affect how you feel about this work? What makes this experience different from viewing a rainbow out in the open?

- Where else have you seen a rainbow?

How is that experience different from this one?

Yellow Corridor

- *Yellow Corridor* is a corridor that uses a special type of light called “monofrequency lamps.” This type of light restricts other colors and limits your eyesight to just yellow and black, and you commonly see this being used as street lighting due to how bright it illuminates your surroundings (Christian).

- As your eyes adjust to the unique lighting, do you see any new details that you might not have noticed if there were more colors to distract you?
 - If you are sensitive to light and experienced discomfort, please observe the artwork from afar.

- What were your expectations when going into the corridor? What was your experience?

- What do your surroundings look like right after you exit the *Yellow Corridor*?
 - As your eyes adjust to the unique lighting, do you see any new details that you might have noticed if there were more colors to distract you?

- Go to the learning area and borrow some of the plastic color filters, and put them up to your eye.
 - How did the colors interact with the yellowness of the room?
What did you observe? What colors did it change to?

- If you could have your own corridor, what color would you want your visitors to experience?

Your pluralistic coming together

- This installation requires your own participation, as without you it will only show a blank white wall. It is composed of different LED lamps and glass color filters, and when you stand in front of it, it will illuminate the wall with your shadow in different colors. Shadows are formed when an object blocks the path of a light source, and because light cannot pass through and bend around this object, light stops at the object blocking its path and leaves a dark outline where the light cannot pass through (Sudha Ph.D).
- What are the colors that you see on these LED lamps? Please observe from a careful distance, and do not put anything on top of these lamps.
- Walk closer and farther towards the wall. What happens to your shadow?

VI.

POST-VISIT

You must have seen a lot of things throughout *Your Curious Journey*!

Hopefully you got to have a closer experience with your senses and learned about some new tricks and phenomena that can happen with the natural world around us. As our senses help us form an impression of the physical environment around us, we hope that you were able to use your senses to form opinions about the artworks you saw in the museum, and that it helped you change something about yourself, your own perception, and the environment outside of these doors.

- What senses did you use throughout the exhibit? Draw the artworks that you enjoyed the most.

- How did your senses help you create this impression as well as help you change this?

- Do you feel like you understand more about your senses? What are some new sensations that you will notice from now on?

- Has the exhibition changed what you think can be called “art”? Which artwork did you find the most interesting? Draw it here.

- What senses do you notice that you used more in your own daily lives? How do you think you can survive if any or all of your senses are suddenly gone?

VII.

GLOSSARY

Afterimage - image that continues to appear after a prolonged period of exposure to another image.

Negative - In relation to image, it is when colors become opposite of each other in the color wheel. For example, dark shadows appear white, and white appears black.

Optical Illusion - When our brain cannot make sense of what we are seeing, the image becomes different from reality, and the interpretation of the image becomes mixed up.

Color Blindness - A condition in which you see colors differently from others.
Perceive - To sense, to see, to be aware, and to understand something .

Differ - To not be like someone or something, to have a different opinion, quality, or characteristic.

Emotions - What you physically and mentally feel inside in reaction to something, someone, or an experience.

Post-apocalyptic - describes a world after humanity has destroyed itself in a global disaster; life that happens after humans experience an event that ends human civilization.

Phenomena - event, fact, or experience that can be explained and is studied .

Monofrequency Lamps - a type of lamp that emits light at a single wavelength, creating a specific color effect, often used to alter perception and create unique atmospheres. These lamps, like sodium-vapor lamps, typically produce a monochromatic yellow light that filters out other colors.

VIII.

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