

# C.O.L.A. 2021



**Los  
Angeles  
Municipal  
Art  
Gallery**

**Educators' Guide**

# The Show.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) are pleased to present *C.O.L.A. 2021*. Featuring sculpture, installation, painting, photographs and video by Los Angeles-based artists Edgar Arceneaux, Maura Brewer, Nao Bustamante, Jedediah Caesar, Neha Choksi, Lia Halloran, Farrah Karapetian, Phung Huynh, Ruben Ochoa and Umar Rashid, this work is the outcome of the City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowship for visual arts awarded by the Department of Cultural Affairs. Founded in 1997, C.O.L.A. honors the relationship between Los Angeles, its artists and the city's identity as an international arts capital.

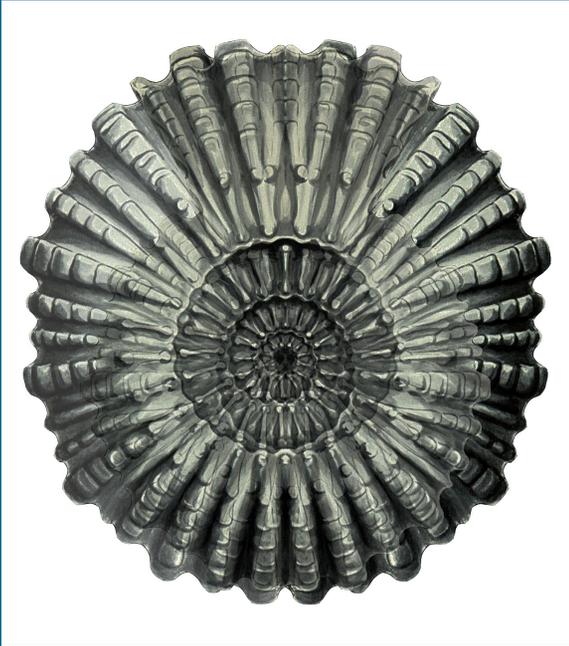
A catalog featuring all *C.O.L.A. 2021* fellows is available at [culturela.org](http://culturela.org). The catalog is produced by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Marketing, Development, Design, and Digital Research Division and designed by Garland Kirkpatrick, a former C.O.L.A. Design Fellow.

Follow [@lamagbarnsdall](https://www.instagram.com/lamagbarnsdall) on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to learn more about the exhibition and related offerings.

# The Artist.

**Jedediah Caesar** (b. 1973, Oakland, California, he/him) is an artist, educator and curator based in Los Angeles, CA. Caesar has gained international recognition for sculptures that amass found materials into systems that reveal new patterns, often abstract, sometimes social. Solo exhibitions include Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Locust Project in Miami, and Oakland Museum of California Art, as well as shows at Susanne Vielmetter Gallery and D'Amelio Terras Gallery. He attended the University of California, Los Angeles and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston/ Tufts University. Caesar is a professor at California State University, Long Beach to Bakersfield.

# The Artwork.



*Proposal sketch*  
by Jedediah Caesar  
based on illustrations by  
Ernst Haeckel, 2021  
courtesy of the artist

**Jedediah Caesar's** new work in C.O.L.A. 2021 features digitally rendered ammonites. An ammonite is a fossil formed in nature over many years, and is defined as a shell or hard covering. With its paleolithic lineage, there is “almost something horrifying and fascinating about that deep time” as we think of how old ammonites are. Caesar likes the ammonite for its graphic quality and circular shape, and says it is a “grounded element” that speaks to “the remoteness of time”. Caesar is imagining fossils and the shell of the ammonites as they might relate to architecture, noting that fossils do not record the soft tissue of an ammonite; only the hard bone/shell-like structure.

Caesar collaborated with Vincent T. Arnado and Jessica Cua to create a series of 3-D models and videos of ammonites embedded throughout the interior, such as the ceiling and columns, in the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. These digital artworks were inspired by the architectural spaces in Barnsdall Art Park, particularly the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Hollyhock House and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, as well as architecture follies. An architectural folly is a building constructed primarily for decoration or ornamentation.

## Questions for viewing

- Think about a space, such as a house, school, building, etc., you're familiar with. What architectural details do you remember from that space?
- What object or form would you want to include as a decorative element in your own space? Why?
- If you were to create an artwork about found objects or fossils, where would you travel to find them? What type of artwork would you make, and what questions would you want to ask?

# The Artist.

**Lia Halloran's** (b. 1977, Chicago, Illinois, she/her) work makes use of scientific concepts as a starting point and explores how perception, time and scale inform the human desire to understand the world and our emotional and psychological place within it. Solo exhibitions have been held at DCKT Contemporary, Martha Otero Gallery, Hilger NEXT, Fredric Snitzer Gallery, LaMontagne Gallery and Sandroni Rey. Lia Halloran serves as Associate Professor of Art as the Director of the Painting and Drawing Department at Chapman University in Orange, CA, where she teaches painting as well as courses that explore the intersection of art and science.

# The Artwork.



*The Sun Burns My Eyes Like Moons,*  
2021

cyanotype from painted negative on  
paper (hung on wall), negative, ink and  
acrylic on Duralar (on floor)

10 feet x 25 feet each  
courtesy of the artist

photo: Garret Hill

Halloran's largest work to date, *The Sun Burns My Eyes Like Moons* is the artist's self-described "temple to the sun". This work explores how humans think of and view solar events such as an eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs randomly when a portion of the Earth is hidden in a shadow cast by the Moon which can fully or partially block sunlight. This occurs when the Sun, Moon and Earth are aligned.

Halloran was inspired by the Los Angeles-based Mount Wilson Observatory, where some of the most foundational research and discovery of the sun occurred, and its founder, the solar astronomer George Ellery Hale. The images referenced in this artwork are taken from eclipse expedition photos that relate to Mount Wilson and Hale

This nostalgia is "built into the process." This work includes many media, including cyanotype. Halloran notes that the sun is used to activate the cyan which creates the vibrant dark blue color and reminds her of deep space and the sky. In addition to the importance of color in the process of creating cyanotypes, Halloran mentions "nostalgia," which refers to looking back on older techniques. The artist also described this process as "humbling" since the image will never be perfect due to the variables in the cyanotype process, creating a one-of-a-kind "solar selfie."

## Questions for viewing

- What do you see in this artwork? Describe the lines, shapes and colors.
- Think about an astronomical event, such as an eclipse, supermoon, or star gazing, you've experienced. How long did the event last? How would you depict this event and how long it lasted in an artwork? What materials would you use?
- What other scientific idea or experiment would you want to explore in an artwork? Why?

## **Activity: Passage of Time Solar Eclipse Drawing**

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon gets in the way of the Sun's light and casts its shadow on Earth. That means during the day, the Moon moves over the Sun and it gets dark.

Use drawing utensils to create a moveable solar eclipse that represents the passage of time as the Moon passes over the Sun. What would the sky look like if the Moon blocked the Sun and the light?

*\*Caution! Never look directly at the Sun, even for a second. It will damage your eyesight forever! Viewing a solar eclipse requires using special solar viewing glasses.*

### **What you will need**

- Paper - any type, including recycled paper
- Drawing utensils found at home to create the colors of the Sun and Moon
- Scissors
- Optional: glue or glue stick

*\*Please check with a parent or guardian before using and cutting any items.*

**Step 1:** Look on the internet to view images of a Solar Eclipse to learn what the phases (stages) look like.

**Step 2:** Fold a piece of paper in half lengthwise. Then cut it on the folded line. You will have two pieces of paper. One will be used to draw on and the other will be used to cut out circular Moon shapes.

**Step 3:** On one half of the paper, draw four circles in a line next to each other, leaving a bit of space between each circle. These will represent the Sun. Do not cut these out.

**Step 4:** Choose warm colors such as yellow, orange or red to fill in the inside of the four Suns. Add the Corona (the Sun's rays) coming out from the circles. Look at Lia Halloran's artwork in this guide to see how she represented a Solar Eclipse as the Moon moves across the Sun.

**Step 5:** On the other half of paper draw four circles that are smaller than the Sun circles. These will represent the Moon when it blocks the Sun.

**Step 6:** Use colors that remind you of the Moon to fill in the center of each circle. Add some craters and texture to the surface of each Moon. Each circle can be different colors showing how the Moon changes.

**Step 7:** Cut out each of the Moons.

**Step 8:** Now you will get to move the Moon over the Sun to create different sized crescent shapes of the Sun showing the phases or stages of the eclipse. The first moon will only cover a quarter of the first Sun. The second Moon will cover half of the second Sun, the third Moon will cover three-quarters of the third Sun and the last Moon will cover the last Sun entirely creating a total Solar Eclipse.

**Optional:** Glue the Moons onto the Suns to show the passage of time. Underneath the Solar Eclipse drawing, describe your artwork. Take a photo of your completed artwork showing how the Moon moves across the Sun creating the phases of the eclipse.

# The Artist.

**Phung Huynh** (b. 1977, Vietnam, she/her) works in drawing, painting and public art to explore cultural perception and representation. Huynh has had solo exhibitions at Sam Lee Gallery in Los Angeles, Gagosian Gallery in Beverly Hills, and the Sweeney Art Gallery at the University of California, Riverside. She has also completed public art commissions for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro Orange Line, Metro Silver Line, and Metro Neighborhood Poster Series) and the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Huynh is currently Professor of Art at Los Angeles Valley College.

# The Artwork.



*Refugee camp snowglobe* (front view), 2021  
mixed media sculpture  
courtesy of the artist

As part of her new body of work titled *American Braise*, Huynh included personal photographs in snowglobes to share different aspects of her childhood experiences and the process of “being made in America”. These photographs depict her and her family before and after coming to America as refugees. The use of snowglobes relates to the idea of a souvenir, nostalgia, and remembrance.

This body of work explores cultural perception, stereotypes and representation. Huynh states, “understanding my family’s living history as refugees from both Vietnam and Cambodia and inspired by research and interviews with people with a shared history, I try to uncover the complex layers of cultural assimilation and forging new identities.” Also, “it is about being able to tell our own stories before they are told for us. It is about sharing our humanity when we are veiled by inhumanity.”

## Questions for viewing

- What kind of object would you use to remember your family or a personal event? Why?
- Think of a photograph that represents you and your family. How would you use it to create an artwork?
- What kind of artwork would you make that you feel supports your community, family, friends, and where you live?

# Resources.

**Jedediah Caesar** [vielmetter.com/artists/jedediah-caesar](http://vielmetter.com/artists/jedediah-caesar)

**Lia Halloran** [liahalloroan.com](http://liahalloroan.com)

**Phung Huynh** [phunghuynh.com](http://phunghuynh.com)

**Cover:** Jedediah Caesar, *Proposal sketch by Jedediah Caesar based on illustrations by Ernst Haeckel*, 2021. courtesy of the artist.

# Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

[lamag.org](http://lamag.org)



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## **Accessibility**

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