



OLAFUR ELIASSON
YOUR CURIOUS
JOURNEY

EDUCATORS' RESOURCE

This educators' resource features selected artworks and guiding questions suitable for ages 8 and above.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This educators' resource is designed for use with students before, during and after your visit to SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark. It shares key concepts and ideas associated with the exhibition to facilitate your visit and complements lessons conducted in school. This includes suggested guiding questions and activities that students may explore in the gallery, at home or in class, wherever relevant.

You may customise your visit by choosing your own preferred exhibition route.

Prior to your visit, pose the following questions to your students.

PRE-VISIT QUESTIONS

What do you know about climate change?

Why do you think Eliasson's works often reference our natural environment?

How important is our natural environment to you?



Olafur Eliasson at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive, 2024; © 2024 Olafur Eliasson

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

In *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey*, Eliasson explores different natural phenomena and approaches issues such as our changing understanding of climate, time and space. By using the word “Your” in the exhibition title, Eliasson highlights the first-person perspective, expressing how his works depend on and are defined by how we interact with them. The works in this exhibition remind us of the active roles we play in the world and the events that occur around us.

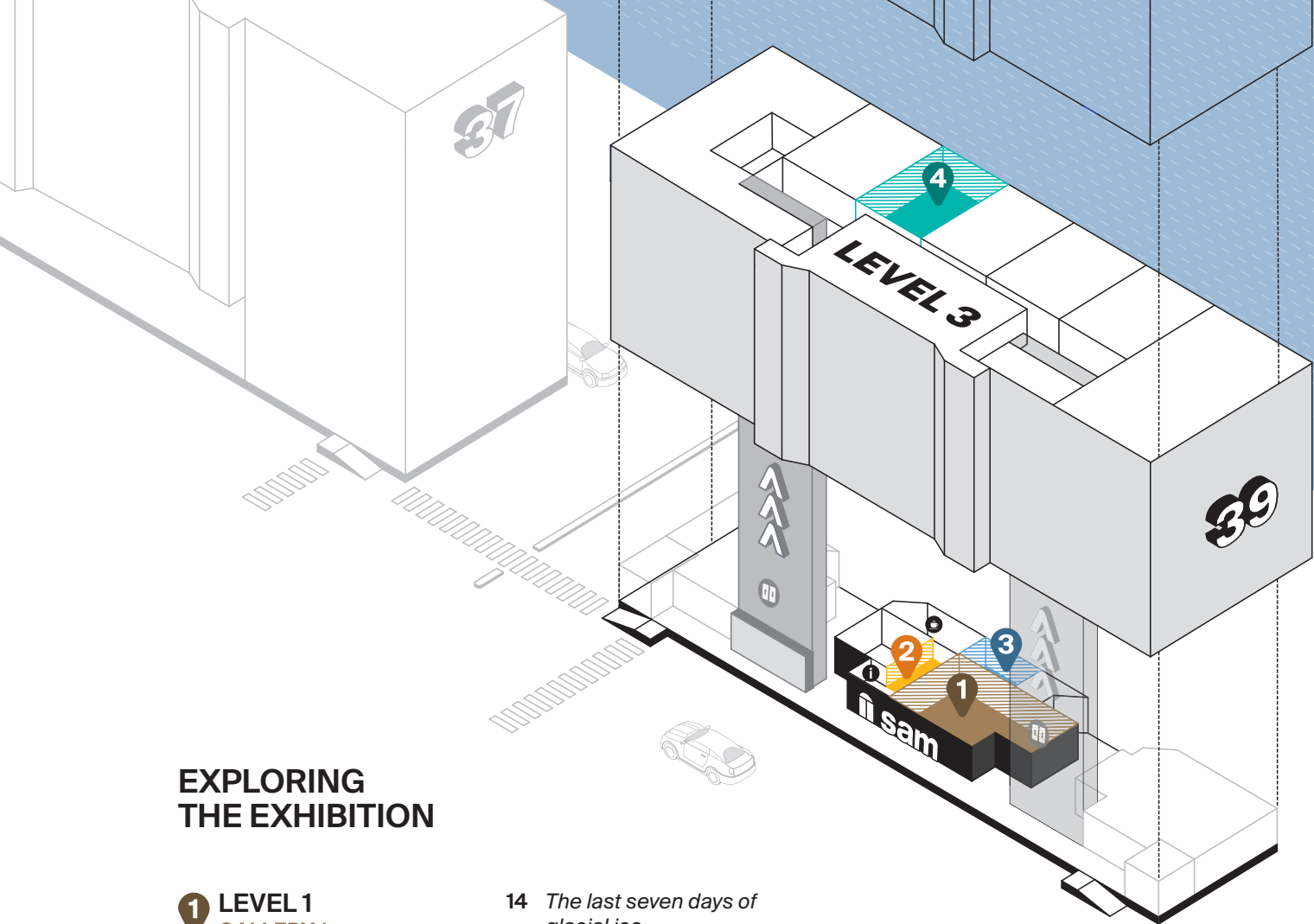
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1967, Olafur Eliasson was raised in Iceland and Denmark. He now lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

Eliasson is internationally renowned for artworks that challenge the way we perceive and co-create our environments. His works also evoke a deep sense of wonder that connects with audiences globally.

His artworks explore:

- the exciting experience of moving with others in the same space and time;
- encounters with beauty and the emotions they may inspire;
- what it feels like to live in the middle of a climate crisis; and
- the invisible elements of our surroundings, like air or magnetic fields, which Eliasson makes palpable – something that we can see, hear, touch or feel in different ways.



EXPLORING THE EXHIBITION

1 LEVEL 1 GALLERY 1

- 05 *The glacier melt series*
1999/2019
2019
- 06 *Ventilator*
1997
- 07 *Sun drawing and
Wind writings*
2023
- 09 *Multiple shadow house*
2010
- 10 *Adrift compass*
2019
- 11 *Double spiral*
2001
- 13 *Moss wall*
1994

- 14 *The last seven days of
glacial ice*
2024
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of distance (Berlin–Singapore,
no. 1 to no. 6)*
2024
- 17 *Beauty*
1993
- 18 *Life is lived along lines*
2009
- 19 *Circumstellar resonator*
2018
- 20 *Object defined by activity (then)*
2009
- 21 *Movement microscope*
2011

2 LEVEL 1 CORRIDOR

- 22 *Yellow corridor*
1997

3 LEVEL 1 THE ENGINE ROOM

- 23 *The cubic structural
evolution project*
2004

4 LEVEL 3 GALLERY 3

- 24 *Symbiotic seeing*
2020



The artworks are categorised into three curatorial chapters:
Perception, Perspective and Place.

Find out more about these chapters in the exhibition brochure
[HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code.



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *The glacier melt series 1999/2019* (2019), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark;
 Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2019 Olafur Eliasson

The glacier melt series 1999/2019 2019

30 C-prints, 31 x 90.5 cm each
 Edition 6 of 6



Observe!

- Why are the photographs arranged in this way? Is there a pattern?



Did You Know?

- The artwork features glaciers found in the artist's home country, Iceland.
- These prints are presented in pairs. In each pair, the image on the left shows a glacier taken in 1999, while the image on the right shows the same glacier 20 years later.
- Eliasson did not plan to make a work on climate change when he first took a photo of the glaciers in 1999. However, he was aware that the glaciers would be impacted by the changes of the temperature in the environment.

- By comparing the same glaciers in 1999 and 2019, the work confirms how these natural environments which have been present for a long time, continue to be shaped by human activity.

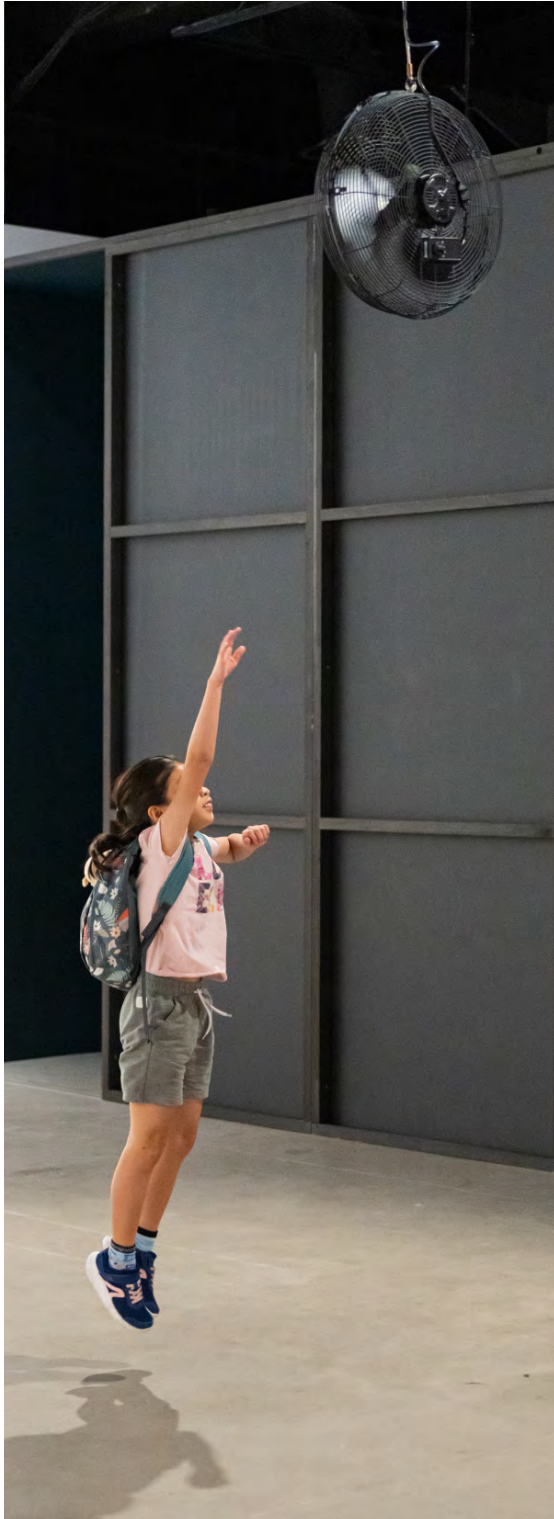


Discuss!

- This artwork shows us the changes in the environment over a long period of time. What is one thing you would be curious to observe change over time? How would you present it?
- What is the difference in the way humans and nature experience time?

Ventilator 1997

Fan, wire, cable
Dimensions variable
Edition 1 of 3
Collection of MoMA, New York



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Ventilator* (1997), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Aloysius Lim, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 1997 Olafur Eliasson



Did You Know?

- With *Ventilator*, Eliasson playfully engages with the invisible element of air by using only three simple materials: a fan, a wire and a cable.
- An electric fan is hung from the ceiling. As the blades of the fan begin to turn, air is pushed out. At the same time, the fan is pushed in the opposite direction, causing it to swing.
- However, the cable with which the fan is suspended twists over time, which interrupts the way the fan swings. Thus, each swing of *Ventilator* keeps us in suspense, making every moment a new and immersive experience.
- In our everyday lives, a fan is a device or machine that creates a flow of air that helps to keep ourselves cool or circulate the air in a room. However, in this case, the fan functions but does not fulfil a practical purpose.
- The installation's ever-changing movement also reminds us of gushes of wind, natural elements that are rarely experienced in an exhibition gallery.



Think!

- Can you think of other appliances at home that make use of the air? How are they similar to or different from an electric fan?
- How does this artwork make you feel? Why?



Discuss!

- Imagine you were the artist. How would you represent the invisible element of air?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Wind writings* (22 March 2023, 23 March 2023, 20 June 2023, 28 June 2023) & *Sun drawing* (21 June 2023, 22 June 2023) (2023), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey at SAM* at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2023 Olafur Eliasson

Wind writings
(22 March 2023)

Wind writings
(23 March 2023)
2023

Black acrylic ink on canvas
Ø 140 cm

Wind writings
(20 June 2023)

Wind writings
(28 June 2023)
2023

White acrylic ink on
black canvas
Ø 140 cm

Sun drawing
(21 June 2023)

Sun drawing
(22 June 2023)
2023

Burned white paper on
composite board
Ø 140 cm



Think!

- Describe what you see. How do you think this artwork was made?



Did You Know?

- For an exhibition at the National Museum of Qatar in 2023, Eliasson wanted to present works that involved the landscapes outside the museum's walls.
- Eliasson built two different drawing machines—*Saltwater-drawing observatory* and *Solar-drawing observatory*—to create the site-specific drawings, *Wind writings* and *Sun drawing* respectively.

- The artist's drawing machines interacted with elements of the natural environment. Both drawing machines were placed outdoors near the Al Thakira mangrove in the northern part of Qatar for a total of 149 days.
- *Wind writings* were made in the *Saltwater-drawing observatory*. A mechanical brush connected to pigmented saltwater hung above two circular canvases, one white and one black. Marks were created on the canvases as winds of varying strength and speed moved the brush. The marks made in *Wind writings* reflect the unseen energy of the weather, inviting us to imagine the atmospheric conditions of the Al Thakira mangrove.



Did You Know?

- The *Sun drawing* series was made in the *Solar-drawing observatory*. Two rows of glass spheres were placed on adjustable racks above a round sheet of fireproof watercolour paper. As the Earth rotates, the Sun's position in the sky changes throughout the day. The glass spheres concentrate the light of the Sun, leaving burn marks on the paper.
- Both drawing machines were built with motors which rotated the paper and canvas in a clockwise direction. This draws our attention to the movement of the Earth and its effect on the wind and our position relative to the Sun, as well as the passage of time in the Al Thakira mangrove.



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Wind writings* (22 March 2023, 23 March 2023, 20 June 2023, 28 June 2023) & *Sun drawing* (21 June 2023, 22 June 2023) (2023), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2023 Olafur Eliasson



Activity!

- If you wanted to capture the atmospheric conditions of Singapore on canvas, what would your drawing machine look like? Sketch, label and describe your invention and how it works!



Find out more



- [Download](#) hi-res image of *Solar-drawing observatory (Small spheres)*, 2023



- [Download](#) hi-res image of *Solar-drawing observatory (Large spheres)*, 2023



- [Download](#) hi-res image of *Saltwater-drawing observatory*, 2023

Photos: Anders Sune Berg
Courtesy of the artist; neugerriemschneider, Berlin; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York / Los Angeles



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Multiple shadow house* (2010), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2010 Olafur Eliasson

Multiple shadow house 2010

Wood, metal, fabric, LED lamps (orange, red, blue, green), glass, projection screen, transparent projection screen
Dimensions variable

See!

- Strike a pose in-front of the screen.
Observe how your shadow moves along with you!
- What are the colours of your shadow?
What shapes can you form with your body?



Did You Know?

- *Multiple shadow house* is made of a series of rooms illuminated in various colours.
- Upon entering, you will notice your figure casts layered and colourful shadows on the screens.

- Depending on how near or far away you are from the screen, these shadows can become bigger or smaller, and seem to multiply with each movement that you make.
- This artwork is completed by your participation. With the large space and fun shadows, you are invited to experience the work communally. Why not try dancing and moving with others and observing how the different shadows blend with each other?



Discuss!

- What needs to be present for a shadow to be seen?
- How do the shadows in this artwork differ from shadows that are cast by objects under a regular ceiling light?

Adrift compass 2019

Driftwood, magnets, paint
(blue, black, yellow, white)
38 x 134 x 24 cm



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Adrift compass* (2019), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Aloysius Lim, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2019 Olafur Eliasson



Did You Know?

- To create this artwork, Eliasson used driftwood collected on the coast of Iceland. The log was first sharpened on one end, then painted with a compass rose, which is used to show the cardinal directions (north, south, east and west). With a strong rare-earth magnet suspended underneath, *Adrift Compass* naturally settles in a north-south position, acting as a functional compass.
- The first compasses in the world were made by attaching a magnetised needle to a piece of wood or cork that floated freely in a dish of water. When the needle stopped moving, the marked end would point toward the Earth's magnetic north pole.
- Eliasson is fascinated with compasses because of their ability to provide a clear sense of direction. Since 2009, he has also combined found objects such as rocks, pieces of glass and wires with magnets.
- This artwork, like many others in this exhibition, was greatly influenced by Iceland, his home country.



Think!

- Look closely. What lines, shapes and colours do you see?
- Why do you think this artwork is suspended?
- What kind of tool do you think this artwork looks like?



Discuss!

- Pair up with a friend. Name some examples of how we find direction in our daily lives. How useful would a compass be in these situations?

Double spiral 2001

Stainless steel, motor
200 × 95 × 95 cm
Edition 2 of 3



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Double spiral* (2001), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Aloysius Lim, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2001 Olafur Eliasson



Think!

- What does this artwork remind you of?
- Do you think the sculpture is moving or standing completely still? How can you tell?



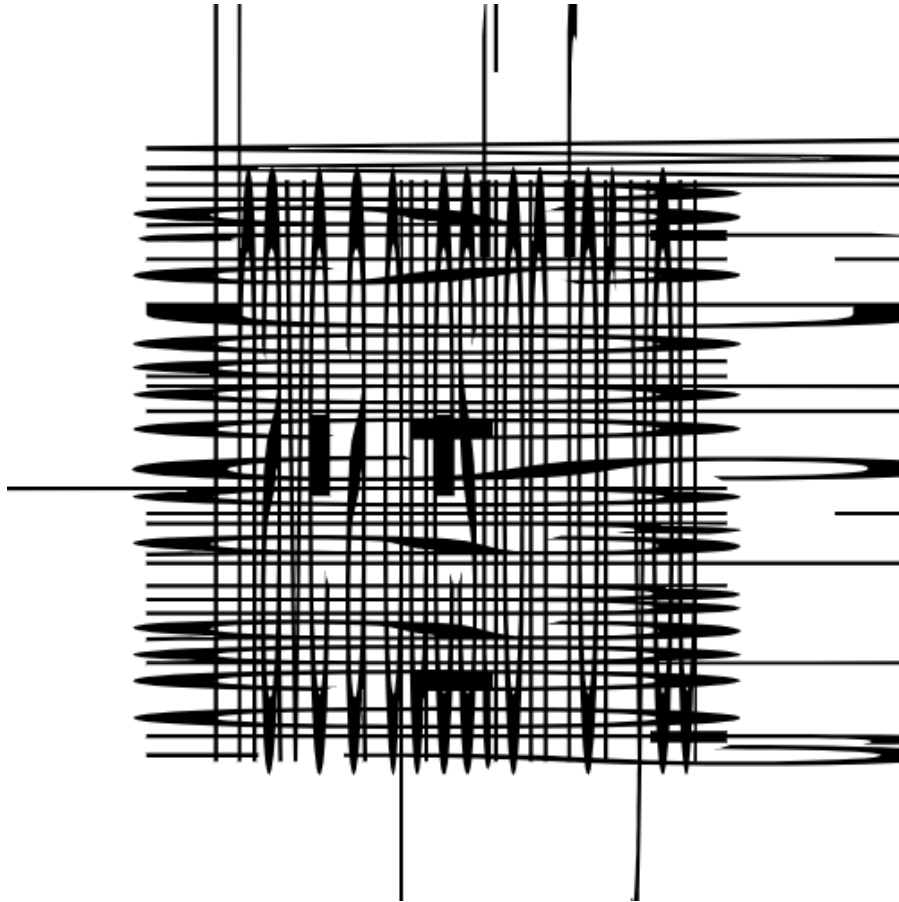
Did You Know?

- *Double spiral* is made of one steel tube that has been coiled to create a 3D sculpture in the form of a double helix. The double helix reminds us of the structure of DNA, a molecule in our body that contains unique genes which make one person different from another.
- This sculpture is attached to a motor. When the motor is turned on, one half of the spiral appears to move up, while the other half of the spiral appears to move down.
- However, the artwork is actually turning slowly and gently. The rotation of the sculpture can be seen clearly in the turning circular shadows cast on the floor. With this simple form and movement, Eliasson creates a visual illusion.



Activity!

- Look at the visual illusion below to find out the secret question!
If you have printed this resource, view the page from a distance of at least one meter. Adjust the paper so it is directly in your line of sight. For device users, position your line of sight to your charging port.
- Answer the secret question in the blanks below.
Hint: Find the answer on the artwork label or on page 11 of this resource.



Write down the secret question in the blanks below.

_____ .

_____ ?

The answers to the secret question are...

_____ and a _____ .

Answer:
I have a question for you.
What is Double spiral made of?
Stainless steel and a motor.



Installation view of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark;
Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2024 Olafur Eliasson

Moss wall 1994

Reindeer moss, wood, wire
Dimensions variable
Tate Collection, London UK



Think!

- Have you seen something like this before? Where did you see it?
- Why do you think the artist created *Moss wall* to be shown inside a gallery space?
- *Moss wall* is inspired by the moss and lichen that grows in the landscape of the artist's home country. What local materials would you use to make your own wall in an exhibition?



Did You Know?

- *Moss wall* is an installation that is remade each time it is presented in an exhibition.
- *Moss wall* is made using *Cladonia rangiferina* (widely known as "reindeer moss"), which is a lichen native to the northern regions of the world, including Iceland, where Eliasson grew up.

- Lichens and mosses are different. While mosses are plants, with leaves and stems, lichens are organisms formed by fungi, algae and/or cyanobacteria.
- As the lichen dries, it shrinks and its colour fades. When it is watered, it expands, its colour returns and its fragrance fills the space.
- Eliasson is interested in creating artworks that challenge the boundaries between interior and exterior, and that question how a gallery space can be used. With *Moss wall*, he brings the outside world indoors and recreates nature within an urban space.



Discuss!

- Pair up with a friend to discuss. How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *The last seven days of glacial ice* (2024), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2024 Olafur Eliasson

The last seven days of glacial ice 2024

Bronze, glass spheres, stainless steel, aluminium
152.5 × 300 × 70 cm



Activity!

- Walk around the artwork and look closely at its details, then pair up and discuss. Among the seven glaciers pictured, which one stands out to you the most? Why?



Did You Know?

- The glacier in this artwork was originally found on Diamond Beach in the south of Iceland, a place that Eliasson has visited many times over the years. The beach gets its name from the glistening pieces of ice that are carried by the tide and deposited on its shores.
- Eliasson and his team used various formats such as videography, photography and 3D scanning to capture individual ice blocks. These were then used as references to create sculptures that depict the process of an ice block melting.
- For *The last seven days of glacial ice*, models of the ice block at different stages of melting were cast in bronze. Every cast is paired with a clear orb of glass, which represents the volume of water that is lost from its original form at each stage of melting.
- The artist selected bronze, a sturdy material, to highlight the permanence of the sculpture's form, to suggest that the melted state of the ice block is irreversible. Glacial ice cannot return to its original form once part of the water has melted away.
- This artwork prompts us to consider the slow but steady process of glacial melt and the considerable weight of water that is lost in the process, reminding us that we must prevent global warming before it is too late.



Think!

- If you were to record the process of an object disappearing, what object would you choose? How would you record this process?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *The seismographic testimony of distance (Berlin–Singapore, no. 1 to no. 6)* (2024), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Aloysius Lim, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2024 Olafur Eliasson

The seismographic testimony of distance (Berlin–Singapore, no. 1 to no. 6) 2024

Wood, paper, ink (black)
57.8 x 57.8 x 3.8 cm each



Think!

- How do you think this artwork was made?
- Compare all six drawings. How are they similar to or different from each other? Do you notice any patterns?



Did You Know?

- In Singapore, there are four main ways to transport goods: shipment by road, sea, train or air. Each mode emits carbon dioxide. Most goods, including artworks, are transported by air as it is the fastest way to do so, even though it has higher levels of carbon emission.

- To reduce carbon emissions, Eliasson decided to ship several artworks from Berlin to Singapore by sea.
- For this work, six drawing machines were stacked one on top of the other in a crate, which was shipped together with other artworks in this exhibition. Each of the drawing machines were set up as such: in a wooden box, a drawing device with an in-built ballpoint pen sits upon a blank paper sheet. The device moves freely within the box and makes marks on the paper as it rolls around, recording every single movement of the crates. This device created six unique sketches that documented the movement of the artworks on their journey across land and sea.



Did You Know?

- As *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* travels to different countries following its show in Singapore, each leg of the journey will be documented on fresh sets of drawing machines and added on to the existing six that you see in this exhibition. The exhibition will travel to New Zealand, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines. At the end, there will be a total of 30 unique sketches in this series.
- The word “seismographic” in the artwork title comes from the word “seismograph,” which is an instrument that measures and records information about earthquakes, usually with a ground-motion detection sensor and a recording system.



Discuss!

- How have you been caring for our environment?
- How can we become more aware of impact on the environment?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *The seismographic testimony of distance (Berlin-Singapore, no. 1 to no. 6) (2024)*, as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2024 Olafur Eliasson



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Beauty* (1993), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 1993 Olafur Eliasson

Beauty 1993

Spotlight, water, nozzles, wood, hose, pump
Dimensions variable
Collection of The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

See!

- Take a walk around the artwork and look at it closely. What do you see?
- How does the artwork change as you walk around it?



Did You Know?

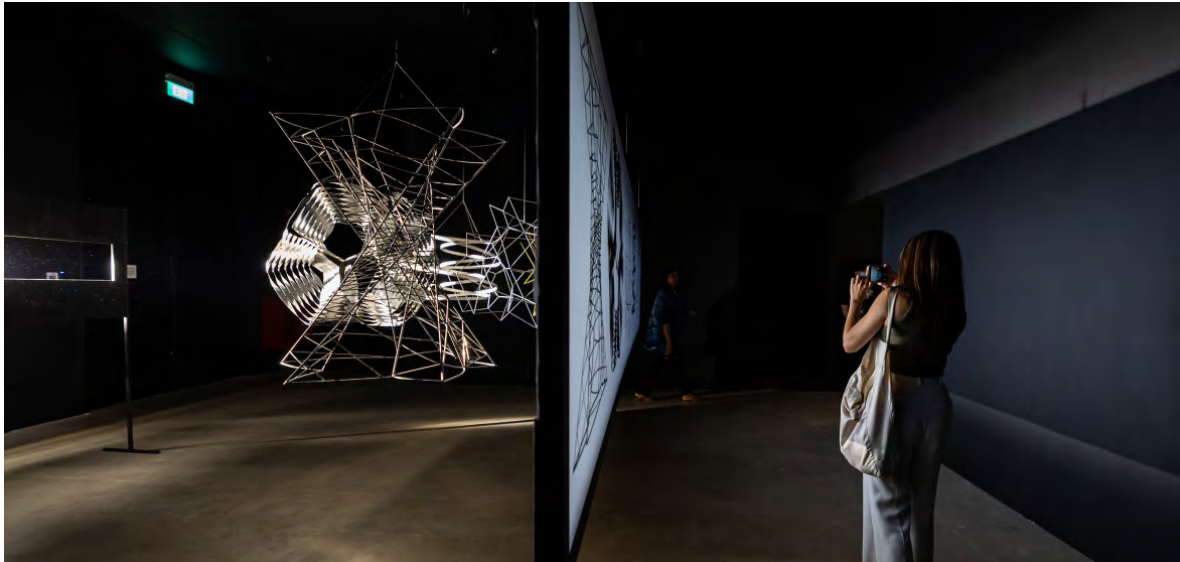
- *Beauty* is created with simple materials, including a spotlight, water, nozzles, a hose and a pump. The water released from the nozzles on the hose forms a delicate mist which descends in a soft drizzle. This mist is lit by a single spotlight which then produces a rainbow.
- This simple combination of light and water reflects Eliasson's fascination with recreating aspects of our natural world, such as rainbows.

- Everyone sees a different rainbow within *Beauty* as the water droplets fall in fluctuating patterns and each viewer sees the artwork from different heights and positions.
- This ever-changing view of *Beauty* shows us how we all experience nature uniquely.
- The artist views both the light and the viewer as part of the artwork as the rainbow in *Beauty* is discovered as we move around and through the mist.



Discuss!

- Does the rainbow exist on its own or does it only exist when we see it?
- What needs to be present for a rainbow to exist?
- In everyday life, where else can you find rainbows?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Life is lived along lines* (2009), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2009 Olafur Eliasson

Life is lived along lines 2009

Stainless steel, brass, copper, motors, projection screen,
wood, HMI lamp
Dimensions variable



Think!

- How do you think the artist made this artwork? What do you think inspired this artwork?



Did You Know?

- At first glance, *Life is lived along lines* looks like a projection of five separate two-dimensional (2D) outlines.
- However, on the other side of the projection screen, there are three-dimensional (3D) objects, all of which are lit by a single lamp.
- The artist uses five 3D objects, a stand made of wood and steel, and a spotlight to show how light and shadows can change our view and understanding of an object. As observed in this installation, objects sometimes cast shadows that appear starkly different from them.

- As the 3D models move, their shadows move along with them. This shared movement is a reminder that the 3D models are the source of the 2D outlines! The artist deliberately allows viewers to walk around and observe both the front and back of the screen to understand how these shadows are created.



Activity!

- **Guess the shadow!**
Choose an object and draw its shadow on a piece of paper. Exchange your drawing with a friend and see if they can guess what the object is!
- **(Post-visit)** Using a flashlight or table lamp, shine light on a wall. Then, select some objects around you, or even create your own, and place it in front of the light such that it casts a clear shadow on the wall.
 - How did you feel in the process of creating these shadows?
 - What challenges did you face in the process?

Circumstellar resonator 2018

Prismatic glass ring, colour-effect, filter glass (yellow), LED lights, ballast, stainless steel, brass, paint (white), cable
98.5 x 98.5 x 75 cm



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Circumstellar resonator* (2018), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Alvin Ho, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2018 Olafur Eliasson



Think!

- What does this artwork remind you of?
- What do you think happened to the light as it passed through the glass?



Did You Know?

- In *Circumstellar resonator*, a single light source is split into differently coloured rays of light, which appear on the wall in multiple, concentric rings.

- This artwork is inspired by the Fresnel lens. A Fresnel lens is a special lens designed with concentric grooves that bend and gather parallel rays of light to create a single, more intense beam. Invented by Augustin-Jean Fresnel in 1822, Fresnel lenses were originally created for use in lighthouses to send light to ships further out in the open sea and to guide them to safe harbour. Today, Fresnel lenses are no longer commonly used in lighthouses as ships have access to improved technology such as the Global Positioning System (GPS).
- Instead of using the Fresnel lens in the conventional manner, the artist bends the light to different degrees to create rings of light on the wall in a range of colours. Eliasson thus demonstrates how the Fresnel lens—once made for a practical purpose—has the potential to be used to create art.



Activity!

- (Post-visit) Find out what happens when light passes through different objects!
 - Grab a flashlight and position it upwards so that the light is shining toward the ceiling.
 - Select five different objects.
 - One by one, place them directly above the flashlight.
 - Write down your observations of how light interacts with each item.
- What do the resulting light effects tell you about the objects?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Object defined by activity (then)* (2009), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2009 Olafur Eliasson

Object defined by activity (then) 2009

Water, stainless steel, foam plastic, plastic,
pump, nozzles, strobe light
Dimensions variable



Observe!

- Look closely at the installation and list the objects and materials that this artwork is made of.



Did You Know?

- In *Object defined by activity (then)*, a fast-paced strobe light illuminates a water fountain, making it visible to our eyes for less than a second with each flash!
- As the water is only briefly lit, it appears to be still and suspended in mid-air.
- However, the sound of running water tells us that the water is constantly running. The artist describes the artwork as moving and still at the same time.

- This combination of running water and light creates an illusion.
- The artwork guides us to think about the reliability of our sense of sight, and how our various senses work together to help us understand what is really happening around us.



Discuss!

- Why do you think the artist chose to title this artwork *Object defined by activity (then)*?
- Would you describe this artwork as moving or still? Why?



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Movement microscope* (2011), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2011 Olafur Eliasson

Movement microscope 2011

Video, 16:9 (1920 × 1080 px), colour, sound (stereo),
16 min 26 sec



Did You Know?

- *Movement microscope* was filmed in Olafur Eliasson's artist studio. It offers viewers a glimpse of how he and his team create larger-than-life artworks.
- For *Movement microscope*, Eliasson invited a group of dancers to perform in the space, responding to the environment as well as the activities taking place within it.
- We can see the everyday routines that take place in the studio. The dancers respond to these routines, sometimes mirroring the activities that take place. In some instances, their movements blend seamlessly with the activity in the studio until we can no longer tell the difference between the dancers and studio workers.
- *Movement microscope* encourages viewers to think about the similarities between art and daily life. This encourages reflection on the performance of daily routines and the often-unnoticed choreography in our own lives.



Think!

- If you were a dancer in *Movement microscope*, how would you respond to the activity in the studio?
- What message do you think the artist is trying to convey with this artwork?



Activity!

- Discuss! Would you rather be a dancer or a studio worker in the film? Why?
- (In-class) Film your own version of *Movement microscope* in your classroom!
 - Split into two groups: dancers and students. While the students act as if they are listening to a lesson, the dancers can slowly start moving and dancing in response.

Yellow corridor

1997

Monofrequency lights

Dimensions variable

The Juan & Patricia Vergez Collection, Buenos Aires



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Yellow corridor* (1997), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 1997 Olafur Eliasson



Did You Know?

- The monofrequency lights used in this work can be found in everyday street lighting and is the only material used to create *Yellow corridor*.
- The intense lights used in the corridor limit our perception of colour. It transforms everything we see into shades of grey as the lamps used in the installation have a narrow frequency, which makes colours other than grey and yellow appear invisible to the naked eye.
- Eliasson's innovative use of monofrequency lights encourages visitors to explore the boundaries between perception and reality. It also shows us that colours appear to us the way that they do because of the light that reflects off objects and the space around us.



Think!

- Why do you think the artist decided to position the lamps in a corridor?



Activity!

- Move to either end of *Yellow corridor*. Notice how your experience and sense of sight and colour change as you move through the space.
- Take out an item or object that you have on you. Like a scientist, make field notes of how the colour(s) of the items change as you move through and beyond *Yellow corridor*.



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *The cubic structural evolution project* (2004), as part of Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Aloysius Lim, AlvieAlive; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2004 Olafur Eliasson

The cubic structural evolution project 2004

White Lego bricks (various sizes), wood
 Dimensions variable
 Collection of Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane



Did You Know?

- In *The cubic structural evolution project*, Eliasson invites participants to build their own structures with approximately 9,000 pieces of white Lego bricks.
- You may re-construct, add to or even destroy the existing structures in the artwork.
- Each piece you add or remove contributes to the evolving cityscape, a collaborative effort that reflects the diverse imaginations of all participants.
- With this artwork, Eliasson aims to not only co-create the work with the audience, but to have members of the audience collaborate on the work with one another.
- In this way, while *The cubic structural evolution project* will never have a final form, through this unique transformative process, it will also always be complete.



Activity!

- Using the Lego bricks before you, let your creativity run wild and build your own structure!
- Create your own vision of what our cities could look like in the future using the Lego bricks.



Discuss!

- How do you feel when you participate in this artwork with other people?
- What went through your mind when you chose to build or destroy these Lego creations?
- Have you ever thought that the act of building Legos could be considered an artwork? Why or why not?



Detail view of Olafur Eliasson's *Symbiotic seeing* (2020), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2020 Olafur Eliasson

Symbiotic seeing

2004

Lasers (cyan, yellow), fog machine, air ventilation system
Dimensions variable



Think!

- How do you feel when you step into this space? What is the first thing you notice?
- What do you think the ceiling is made of? Is it solid, liquid or gaseous?



Did You Know?

- In *Symbiotic seeing*, three states of matter seem to exist at the same time. At first, the ceiling appears to be flat and solid. However, as you look closely, a layer of swirls and ripples transform the overhead space, making it look liquid.

- Fog and lasers transform the ceiling. Yellow and cyan light produced by four laser machines shine through the fog, causing the colour of the fog to change constantly. It is sometimes yellow, blue or green.

- As the appearance of the fog overhead is in constant flux and is different depending on a viewer's position, no two viewers see the same artwork. By moving around the space, different colours and patterns can be observed.



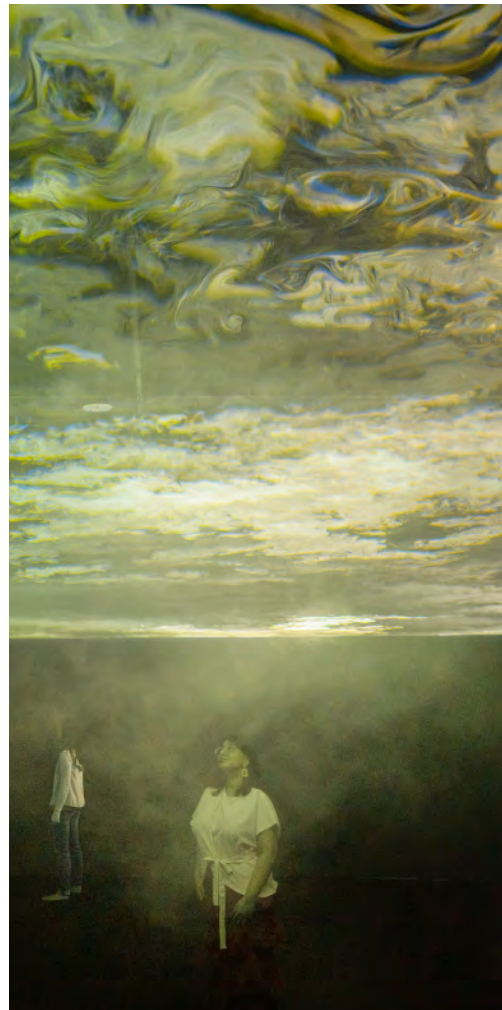
Did You Know?

- When many people participate in the artwork at the same time, the heat from their bodies can cause the fog to rise. Participants are thus involved in the creation of this artwork. Just as the artwork inspires people to move around, the movement of the people also changes the artwork, hence the use of the term “symbiotic” in the artwork title. This term is used to describe a relationship that is defined by interaction between two different things that are close to each other.
- As we wonder about how this artwork was created, the artist invites us to pause and contemplate the natural events that happen around us.



Activity!

- Walk around the space. How does your perception of and feelings towards this artwork change as you move around?
- What do the patterns on the ceiling remind you of?
- How would you describe your experience of this artwork? Share your thoughts with a friend!



Installation view of Olafur Eliasson's *Symbiotic seeing* (2020), as part of *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Photo: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures; Image courtesy of the artist and Singapore Art Museum; © 2020 Olafur Eliasson

ABOUT SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

at Tanjong Pagar Distripark

Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 as the first art museum in Singapore located in the cultural district of Singapore. Known as SAM, the museum presents contemporary art from a Southeast Asian perspective for artists, art lovers and the art curious in multiple venues across the island, including a new venue in the historic port area of Tanjong Pagar.



Scan to find out more about the exhibition and its programmes



Download the Exhibition Brochure for *Olafur Eliasson: Your curious journey* [HERE](#) or by scanning the QR code

Learn more about Olafur Eliasson and his practice [HERE](#)

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