

# Museum of Craft and Design

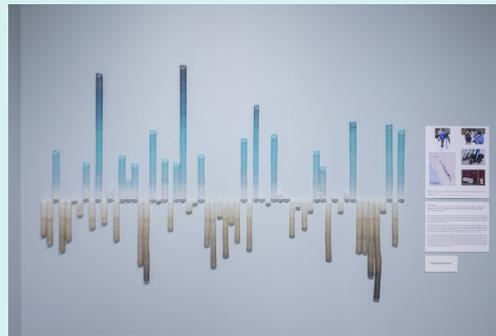
# ENVISIONING TIME



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Explore a few different ways of visualizing time, inspired by MCD exhibiting artist [Linda Gass](#). In *Urban Power vs San Lorenzo Creek- What's next?*, she shows three different aerial views of the course of the creek over nearly 100 years. Her recent work *Some day there may be no more snow 1959-2019* charts the average snowpack measurement, taken yearly on April 1, for each of the sixty years of her life.

How can you chart and measure the passage of time and human/environmental interactions?



Linda Gass, *Urban Power vs. San Lorenzo Creek - What's next?* (left) and *Some day there may be no more snow: California snowpack 1959-2019* (right). Images courtesy of Henrik Kam. Copyright ©2020 Linda Gass

## RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for ages 12 and up.

## INSTRUCTIONS

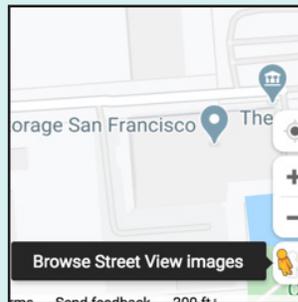
### TIME CHALLENGES

- Pick a living thing (such as a pet, plant, yourself, or a piece of fruit) and document its change each day for a week, using sketches, photographs, or written description. Photographer/filmmaker [Noah Kalina](#) committed to this task for 20 years!
- Research a San Francisco neighborhood. See if you can find three different images representing different stages of its change over the last hundred years.

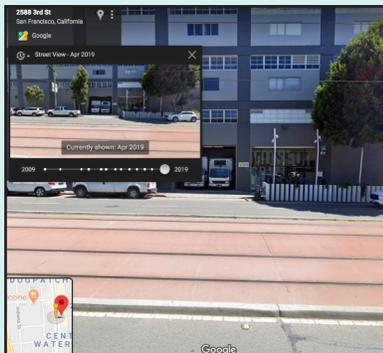
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- From these images, can you tell what economic activity has been important in the neighborhood?
- Can you identify times of population change, when many people have moved into or away from the neighborhood?
- Are there buildings or landmarks you can trace through all of the images? What remains and what does not?
- Open [Google Maps](#). Type in an address of your choice. The museum's address, 2569 Third Street, San Francisco, CA is seen in this example:
  - Once the map opens, click on the Street View icon in the lower right corner, this will look like a small yellow person.



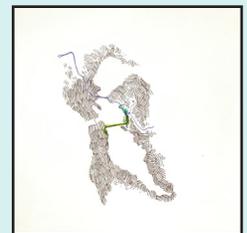
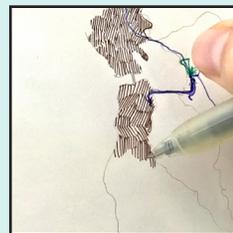
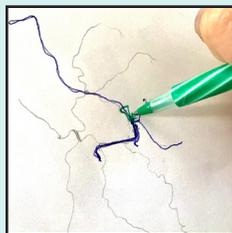
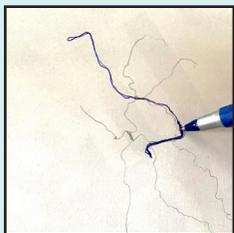
- Street view will open and you can navigate down the street by clicking the street in the direction you want to go.
- Next, click on the small, circular 'Time' symbol in the upper left.
- A small window will open, displaying a street image and horizontal timeline below. Once this is open, you can click on different dots on the timeline to visit past eras from that same vantage point.
- Click on the image in the small window to make that year's photo appear in your browser. In 2009, for example, MCD was not yet at this location! Visit any other years you are interested in.



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- Consider a body of water that has been important to you during your life. This could be a creek, watershed, pond, or even the ocean. Write down a memory from your early life, and from your life today, that involves this body of water.
  - Use as many descriptive details as you can: how does the water look, smell, or feel? What sorts of animal and plant life are close to it?
  - Mark Twain's reflections on [Lake Tahoe](#) might serve as some inspiration.
- Research the rainfall in California during the last five years. How might you represent this data? If you choose a graph, how could this graph use color to convey the effect of the rainfall on the land?
- Daily movements over time: What did your own movements look like a year ago, versus this week? Draw a rough map of the Bay Area (or wherever you live), gently tracing this from a screen if you wish. Without worrying too much about accuracy, trace your own movements over the course of a week. This can be a very free-flowing movement.
  - Where did you go for work? Gym? Shopping? How many times a week? Use lines to approximately show each one of these trips.
  - Using a different color, do the same for this week or last. Where did you travel? Do you still go to work or are you only keeping around your house or neighborhood?
  - Think about the difference in your movement and what your drawing shows. Which lines are bolder?
  - What are some other ways you can think of to visualize time?



## CONNECT SOCIALLY

**Facebook & Instagram:** @MuseumofCraftandDesign

**Twitter** @SF\_MCD

**Websites:**

Check out more do-it-yourself projects online at [MCD@Home](#)