

Art Examples of Solar Eclipses

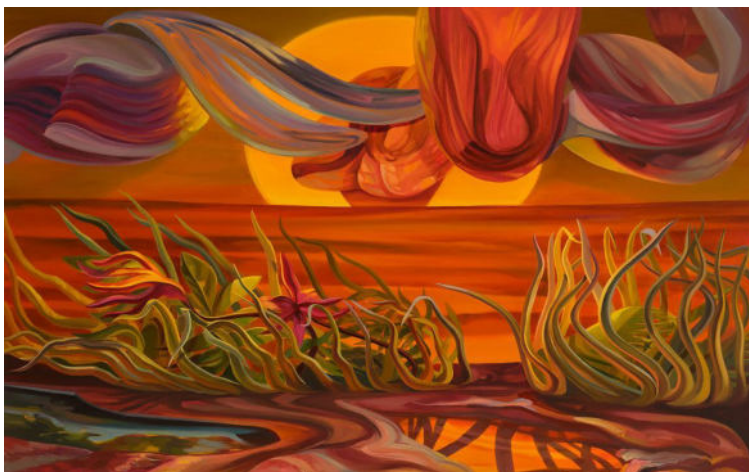
Look at the art examples. What do they have in common? How are they different?



Raphael, *Isaac and Rebecca Spied Upon by Abimelech*, 1518-1519.



Howard Russell Butler. *Solar Eclipse*, 1918.
Oil on canvas, 82.3 x 123 cm.



Rachel MacFarlane, *The Event*, 2024. Oil on canvas.



Angela Lane, *Eclipse (After Image)*, 2021



Ashley Zelinskie, *Eclipse*, 2023, copper plated, patina 3D-printed SLS nylon, 16 x 13 x 9 in.

Visual Art Classwork

Directions: Read the article and then answer the questions below.

The Long History of Art Inspired by Solar Eclipses

Smithsonian Magazine written article by
Elissaveta M. Brandon on April 4, 2024

Solar eclipses are special events when the moon moves in front of the sun, making it look dark outside. They have been happening for billions of years and remind us that there is a big world out there beyond our everyday lives. Long ago, people thought solar eclipses were bad signs from their gods and felt scared and worried. But different cultures have different ideas about what solar eclipses mean, showing us how people think and feel.

In art, people have drawn pictures of eclipses for a long time. In Christian art, they use the eclipse as a symbol instead of showing it exactly how it looks. During the Renaissance, artist Raphael painted a solar eclipse with all the details. Howard Russell Butler painted eclipse scenes and captured the moment by taking careful notes during the eclipses. Nowadays, it's easier to take pictures of a solar eclipse, but artists still find them fascinating and inspiring.

Artist Ashley Zelinskie creates art based on science and worked with NASA scientists to create different artworks. She made a sculpture called Eclipse that can be used to see the eclipse through a small hole and a hologram to capture the strange feeling during an eclipse. Another artist, Brian Fridge, made a film and turned the pictures into billboards to explore different ways of seeing things. Both artists hope their art will make people curious and help them see the world in new and interesting ways.

Eclipses have always been seen as scary, and people in the past thought they were punishments from God. But artists like Fridge show that even with limited resources, you can create something meaningful. Eclipses are not just cool events, they also inspire artists to create beautiful and unique art that captures their beauty and mystery.

For visual artist Zelinskie, to make art that is inspired by science means to grapple with existential questions like "Why are we here?" and "What's out there?" "We've been asking these questions since we were able to think, so to be answering these questions as an artist is basic human curiosity," she says.

Vocabulary

eclipse	an event in which the moon moves in front of the sun, making it look dark outside
inspiration	a feeling of being motivated or influenced to create or do something
capture	to catch or record something, often using a camera or other device
curious	having a strong desire to know or learn something
meaningful	having a purpose or significance; conveying a message or importance

In your sketchbook, answer these prompts:

1. How do you think artists like Brian Fridge and Ashley Zelinskie find inspiration in eclipses? How does this relate to finding inspiration in your own life?
2. What are some ways that different cultures interpret and understand solar eclipses? How does this show the diversity of perspectives in the world?
3. Draw a picture of the solar eclipse in your own style! Remember do NOT EVER look directly at the SUN, even during the eclipse, unless you have special ISO Certified [ISO 12312-2] glasses.