

Teacher Guide

Jordan Strafer: Trilogy

On view | July 28–November 26, 2023



Jordan Strafer, *PEAK HEAVEN LOVE FOREVER* (video still), 2022. Two-channel HD video: color and sound, 19 minutes. Courtesy the artist.

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Exhibition Overview

- This exhibition is intended for mature audiences as it has sensitive content, including nudity, violence, and references to suicide.
- The video *SOS* contains flashing lights. Individuals with photosensitivity may want to take note.
- *Jordan Strafer: Trilogy*, the first solo museum exhibition for New York-based artist Jordan Strafer (b. 1990, Miami, Florida) and the first to bring together Strafer's recent trilogy of videos *PEP (Process Entanglement Procedure)* (2019), *SOS* (2021), and *PEAK HEAVEN LOVE FOREVER* (2022) within a single exhibition.
- Both perversely pleasurable and pleasurably perverse, Strafer's videos are absurd, fantastical, humorous, and, at times, violent, meditations on power and the uniquely human capacity to inflict violence, be it physical, psychological, or both.



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- At heart, Strafer's works are animated by a persistent interest in the idea of the "remake" or "reenactment," as well as a fascination with the way dolls, masking, and other types of stand-ins, such as surrogates, might function to mediate between the sincere and the absurd.
- Strafer's videos address the insidious and violent nature of whiteness, privilege, and misogyny, while serving less as a judgment on violence and cruelty than as a testament to their very existence.

Key Questions

For a students and/or museum viewers:

- What themes and emotions do you feel and think about when you see Jordan Strafer's use of dolls?
- What does Strafer's use of reenactment convey in these films?
- What messages does Strafer's Trilogy convey about issues of privilege, violence, and misogyny in contemporary society, and how are these topics represented throughout the exhibition?



Jordan Strafer, *SOS* (video still), 2021. HD video: color and sound, 11:08 minutes
Courtesy the artist.

Curriculum Connections

Psychology or Health: Students are invited to spend time journaling and reflecting on their own negative past experiences. However, they are challenged to reenact a new, more hopeful version of the story, where they become the hero or heroine of their own new narrative.

English/Literature: Students are invited to retell and act out a personal story using symbolism, metaphor, and vivid imagery. The story can mix a variety of voices, sources, and themes while also incorporating tangible props.

Art/Visual Arts: Encourage students to repurpose dolls and other unique props using a diverse range of mediums and experimenting with different techniques. For example, students can use silicone molds to re-envision new versions of their doll or story.

History/Social Studies: Research a specific current or historic event, perhaps specifically related to women's rights. Jordan Strafer used testimonies from Christine Blasey Ford and Anita Hill alongside fiction and psychological texts in her work. How does your research give you a new perspective on issues related to human rights, social justice, and history?
