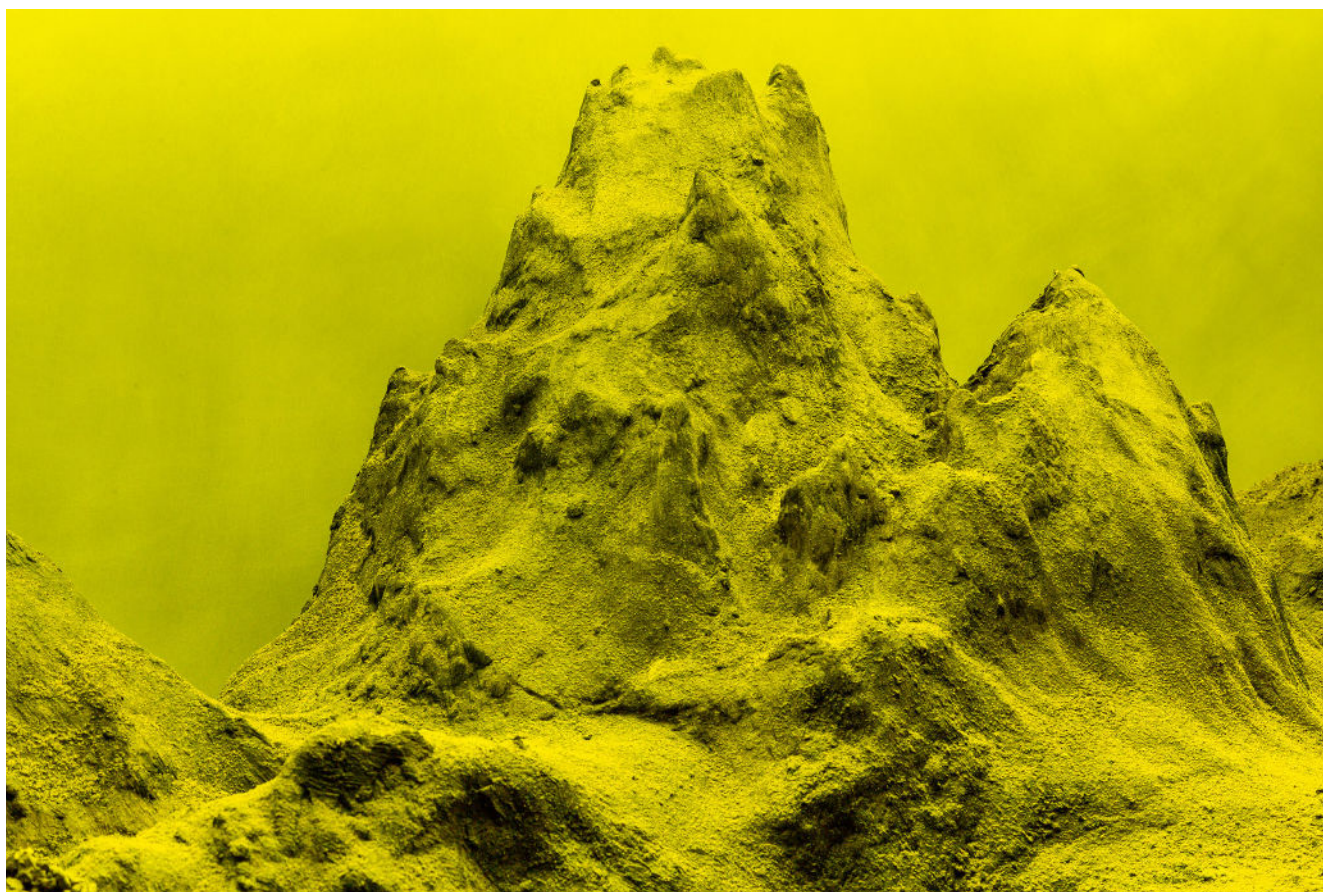


# Teacher Guide

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## *Olivia Erlanger: If Today Were Tomorrow*

On View | April 20–October 27, 2024



Olivia Erlanger, *Yellow Sky*, 2024. Rocks, flocking, foam, plaster, acrylic, aluminum, graphite, shoe polish, LED, and driver

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#Olivia Erlanger

## Teacher Guide

*Olivia Erlanger: If Today Were Tomorrow*

On view | April 20–October 27, 2024

### Exhibition Overview

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- Artist, Olivia Erlanger is a New York-based artist that works between sculpture and conceptual art, this is the artist's first solo museum presentation in the United States.
- Erlanger's practice includes a multidisciplinary approach through sculpture, writing, filmmaking, installations.
- She explores archetypes and mythologies of transformation.
- Her sculptures depict fragmented hallucinations and intense daydreams.
- Erlanger's installations juxtapose home objects and architectural elements.
- She challenges traditional notions of home and belonging.

**Themes Explored:** Speculation, Fantasy, Memory, Identity, Environmental Study, Discovery

### Key Questions

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- Dioramas-Erlanger's models introduce concerns around equity by exploring how architecture and infrastructure condition American dreams and disappointments.
- Planets-Erlanger's two planet sculptures contain stylized suburban settings, pointing to architecture's power to frame our lived experience.
- Arrows-The arrows in Erlanger's work symbolize a transition from relying on stars for navigation to modern light sources, questioning traditional systems and exploring themes of desire and escapism associated with the idea of home.



Olivia Erlanger, *Antimeridian*, 2024, Aquaresin, aluminum, LEDs, drivers, cord, 59 1/2 x 74 1/2 x 36 inches. Artwork courtesy the artist and Soft Opening, London. Image courtesy Daniel Terna.

### Curriculum Connections

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#### History/Social Studies

- Research the history of suburban development in the United States, focusing on societal ideals, redlining, and the current and historic realities that shaped suburban living.
- Discuss how the concept of "home" has evolved over time and its significance in different cultural contexts.

#### English/Literature

- Write a script or screenplay inspired by the exhibition, imagining alternative realities based on the themes explored in the artwork and film.
- Discuss the use of symbolism and metaphor in Erlanger's artworks, and encourage students to incorporate these literary devices into their own writing.
- Finally, use the writings from the script or screenplay to create a documentary or unique short film.

## Visual Arts

- Create mixed media artworks inspired by Erlanger's use of fiberglass, aluminum, metal, wood, textiles, and paints. Incorporate these and other materials in elements of sculpture.
- Construct miniature models of imagined interior spaces, considering how architecture reflects individuality.
- Experiment with different lighting techniques to create atmospheric effects similar to Erlanger's work in *Orange Sky* (2024) and *Green Sky* (2024).



Olivia Erlanger, *Blue Sky*, 2024. Wire, flocking, foam, plaster, acrylic, aluminum, graphite, shoe polish, LED, and driver