

SCREENING SOCIETY

Art21's Screening Society is a program that welcomes local communities to gather and watch films about art together. By providing free access to documentary films about contemporary artists, Screening Society promotes conversation, inspires creative thinking, and broadens engagement with contemporary art.

This guide offers hosts and participants information about the films and the featured artists, as well as suggestions for further engagement through discussion questions and activities.

For more information, resources, and educational opportunities, please visit [Art21.org](https://art21.org).

ABOUT ART21

Art21 is a celebrated global leader in presenting thought-provoking and sophisticated content about contemporary art—a preeminent resource for learning first-hand from the artists of our time. A nonprofit organization, Art21's mission is to educate and expand access to contemporary art through the production of documentary films, resources, and public programs.

CREDIT LINE

When hosting an Art21 screening, please use the following credit line in publications associated with your event:

This event is presented in collaboration with Art21. For more information, visit art21.org.

Cover: Production still from the *Art in the Twenty-First Century* Season 12 episode, "Human Nature." © Art21, Inc. 2026.

Artists & the Unknown

Art21's second compendium of artist interviews explores how we use the randomness, complexity, and unknowability of life to push the boundaries of art and culture.



Available at shop.art21.org



EPISODE SYNOPSIS

The four celebrated artists featured in “Human Nature” explore the central questions surrounding what it means to be human: investigating our impact on the environment and the world around us, probing the social and economic systems that define our daily lives, and discovering how we relate and connect with one another. Through their critical yet hopeful reflections on the shared project of being human, these four artists emphasize our collective power to shape our communities, current realities, and coming futures.



DELCY MORELOS

Born 1967; Tierralta, Colombia

Using materials drawn from the earth, such as pigment minerals, soil, and plant life, Morelos centers our relationship with the natural world, inviting a sense of harmony and dialogue with the environment around us. Across her paintings, sculptures, and multisensory installations, Morelos’s practice weaves together disparate histories and traditions: from Andean and Amazonian Indigenous cosmologies to the histories of violence and extraction in the Americas, using abstract forms and gestures to convey their impact on humanity and the earth.



JOSH KLINE

Born 1979; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

From sculptures of 3D-printed portraits wrapped in recycling bags to videos advocating for Universal Basic Income to installations of temporary housing in the aftermath of a flood, Kline explores the impact of emergent technologies, widening class divides, and the looming threat of climate disaster on contemporary life. His works often present dystopic visions of the near future, where the consequences of political instability, the automation of human labor, and natural disasters have transformed life as we know it, engaging audiences in the project of imagining something better.



LENKA CLAYTON

Born 1977; Cornwall, England

Clayton’s practice is rooted in a close observation of the world around her, highlighting the myriad ways we record our lives and relationships, and creating moments of magic through simple gestures and mundane materials. Making films by organizing strangers by age, creating sculptural installations of dangerous objects made child-safe, or installing exhibitions in the windows of local businesses, the artist draws inspiration from her community in Pittsburgh, her family, and the world around her. In doing so, Clayton creates a body of work that centers on the beauty of the everyday and the power of human connection.



SIN WAI KIN

Born 1991; Toronto, Canada

Drawing on diverse performance styles, such as drag, boy bands, newscasting, and sitcoms, Sin plays with genre conventions, narrative structures, and character tropes to reveal the cultural constructions at the heart of everyday experience. In an ongoing series of interconnected works, the artist has developed a cast of archetypal characters, each reflecting distinct relationships to fundamental concepts such as truth, identity, and change. Sin develops fictional worlds that explore the stories we tell about ourselves and our society, presenting more fluid possibilities for both.

FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

After viewing the episode, use the following suggestions to elicit conversation and connection. Whether virtually or in person, participants can engage with the films in a variety of ways using a broad range of platforms. Please choose the questions and suggestions that best connect with your community.

DISCUSS THE EPISODE

- ☐ What does it mean to be human, and how do each of the artists in this episode explore this question through their practice?
- ☐ Each of the artists in this episode are imagining or responding to a version of the future, whether cautionary, hopeful, or both. What version of the future is each artist working toward or warning against?
- ☐ Consider the materials each artist works with. How does their use of material inform the various social, political, environmental, and historical contexts in which they work?

GO FURTHER

- ☐ What communities do you belong to? Have attendees reflect individually for a few minutes on these questions: Who are the people in this community? What does this community mean to them? How do they create and sustain opportunities for connection? Then, in pairs or small groups, have attendees share their reflections and work on a collaborative drawing depicting their community.
 - ☐ How do we give objects new meaning? Have attendees find an old or discarded item, at home or in the room. Ask them to reflect on its intended purpose, how it was made, and their personal relationship to it. Working individually or with a partner, transform or repurpose this object in a new way that changes how it is used and understood.
 - ☐ From parenthood to drag, the artists in this episode explore identity as performance in both intimate and public contexts. What aspects of your identity do you perform in daily life? How does place impact those performances? Spend 5 minutes independently writing a response to these questions.
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