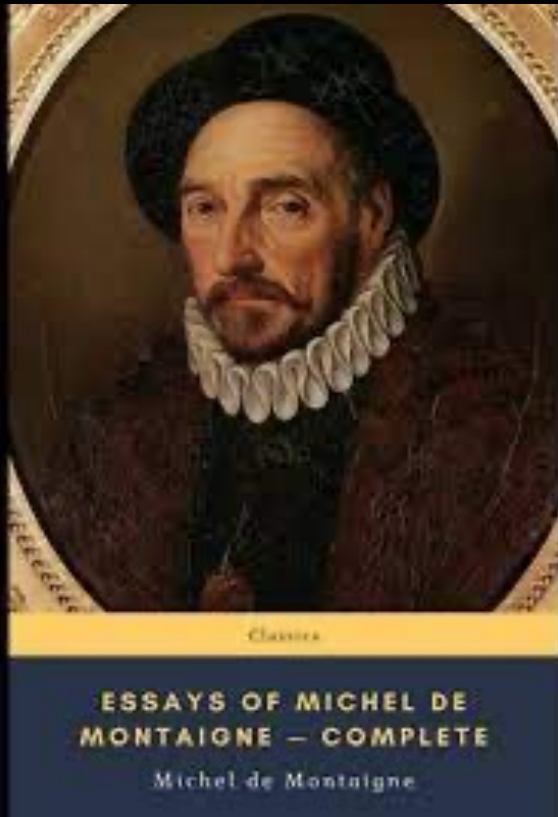


Theory:
Essay: writing and reading



Michel de Montaigne

- The founding father of the traditional essay.
- Attempt
- He is not as much concerned with the idea that the essay starts with (the matter), but the journey that the text takes (the shape).

Nobleman Michel de Montaigne
(1533 –1592)

French Renaissance man, philosopher,
statesman, and writer

Essayer==> Attempt:

An essay doesn't know where it's going, doesn't know its end result beforehand. Oftentimes a writer begins with an idea of how an essay might turn out and writes themselves off the path that they intended to take, digressing and transitioning between topics. But, at the center of an essay is a driving question or an idea that the essayist wishes to uncover, to sift through.

Essay

The essay is a journey into a writer's mind, a writer thinking on the page, allowing the reader to travel alongside them.

The word essay derives from the French infinitive essayer, 'to try' or 'to attempt'.

The essence of an essay is the trying.

What is an essay?

An essay is a piece of writing, usually from an author's personal point of view. Essays are non-fictional but often subjective; while expository, they can also include narrative.

Essays can be literary criticism, political manifestos, learned arguments, observations of daily life, recollections, and reflections of the author.

The definition of an essay is vague, overlapping with those of an article and a short story.

Almost all modern essays are written in prose and are brief, while there are a lot exceptions to this rule.

Modes of writing used in an essay:

- **(Description essay):**
DESCRIPTION to show how something looks, feels, smells, sounds or tastes
- **(Narrative essay):**
NARRATIVE to tell what happened to your subject (plot: intro/climax/resolution)
- **(Example essay):**
EXEMPLIFICATION to give specific instances of a general group or idea , making the general specific
- **(Classification essay):**
CLASSIFICATION to explain what categories your subject belongs to
- **(Comparison/contrast essay):**
COMPARE AND CONTRAST to trace similarities and differences
- **(Definition essay):**
DEFINITION to explain what your subject is or does
- **(cause and effect essay):**
CAUSE AND EFFECT to explain what caused something or what its effects are
- **(argumentative essay):**
ARGUMENT to make a case or justify a position
- **(process essay):**
PROCESS to explain how to do something or how something occurs, how one thing leads to another.
- **(projection essay):**
PROJECTION to project yourself in something else (another/animal/plant) and try to understand that thing from inside out, give a voice to the voiceless,
- **(lyrical essay):**
LYRICALIZE (write personally poetically) to uses many poetic tools to convey creative nonfiction.

Definition essay

- WHEN you define* something, you tell what it is— and what it is not
- There is general class and characteristics
- You might begin an essay with a definition, but you are not going to get very far with a topic unless you extend your definition. One way to give an extended definition is to name other similar items in the same category as the item you are defining.
- Another way to extend a basic definition is to specify additional characteristics of the item or idea you are defining.
- Give specific characteristics and examples of your subject
- To extend your definition further, you might give synonyms for the word or concept you're defining, or trace its etymology, or word history

Example essay

- IT'S difficult to write about any subject, however familiar, without giving examples. They help to make abstract concepts more concrete.
- As you write an essay based on examples, you need to identify your subject, say what its main characteristics are, and give specific instances that exhibit those characteristics.

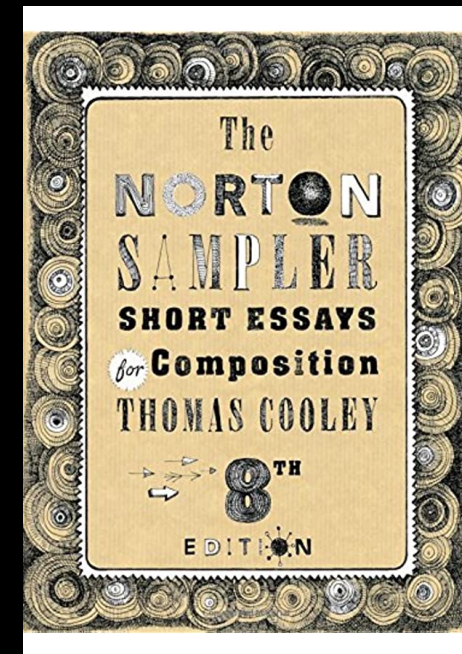
The Writing Process

(selected segments from chapter 2 from the book *The Northern Sampler 8th edition*, can you also find the info in chapter 3 in the 9th edition)

About the various stages of the writing process

Writing is not a linear process:

We plan,
we draft,
we revise;
we plan,
we draft,
we revise again,
rewrite.



You can be busy with different things at the same time

The Writing Process – Step by Step

1. We plan

- We think about the topic and purpose.
- We brainstorm ideas and organize them.
- We create an outline to guide our writing.

2. We draft

- We write the first version of the text. Babble
- We focus on getting our ideas down without worrying too much about mistakes.
- It doesn't have to be perfect — just complete.

3. We revise

- We look at the big picture:
- Is the structure clear?
- Do the ideas make sense?
- Is the argument strong?
- We move, cut, or add sections to improve the content.

4. We draft again (or rewrite)

- We write a new version based on our revisions.
- We clarify our message and improve flow.
- Sometimes we rewrite whole paragraphs or sections.

5. We edit

- We correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- We improve sentence structure and word choice.
- We check the tone, style, and clarity.

6. We proofread and finalize

- We do a final check for small errors.
- We make sure everything is complete and properly formatted.
- Then we submit the final version.

- Dillard: ...at the beginning .. you babble. Often you don't know where the work is going, so you can't tell what's irrelevant. ..It doesn't hurt much to babble in a first draft, so long as you have the sense to cut out irrelevancies later.

Exercise 1

Read the (definition and example) essay *The Idea of Resonance as a Sociological Concept* by Hartmut Rosa. First, skim the text to get an overview without trying to fully understand it—just to get a sense of what it's about.

Then, read the text closely and critically

As you go, process the text: annotate by jotting down questions or comments in the margins, underlining important points, circling keywords, and marking places you may want to revisit. Feel free to underline, scribble, or doodle—this is what I call the processed text.

The processed text will be part of your exercises book.

Exercise 2

- a) Think of a word that covers something that interests, fascinates, or intrigues you — something that resonates with you. Start writing from this keyword, following the six freewriting points below. Just let your associative, emotional mind guide you, without knowing exactly where the text will take you. You might end up somewhere unexpected.
- b) Cut out the parts you don't need, or that feel too personal to share, and edit the text. Check whether the sentences need to be clearer or more logical, whether you want to add a sentence for clarity, and whether the parts can be shaped into a more coherent whole.

The text will be part of your exercises book

First Thoughts

The basic unit of writing practice is the timed exercise. Time yourself for ten minutes. Commit yourself to those 10 minutes and for that full period:

(The Six points)

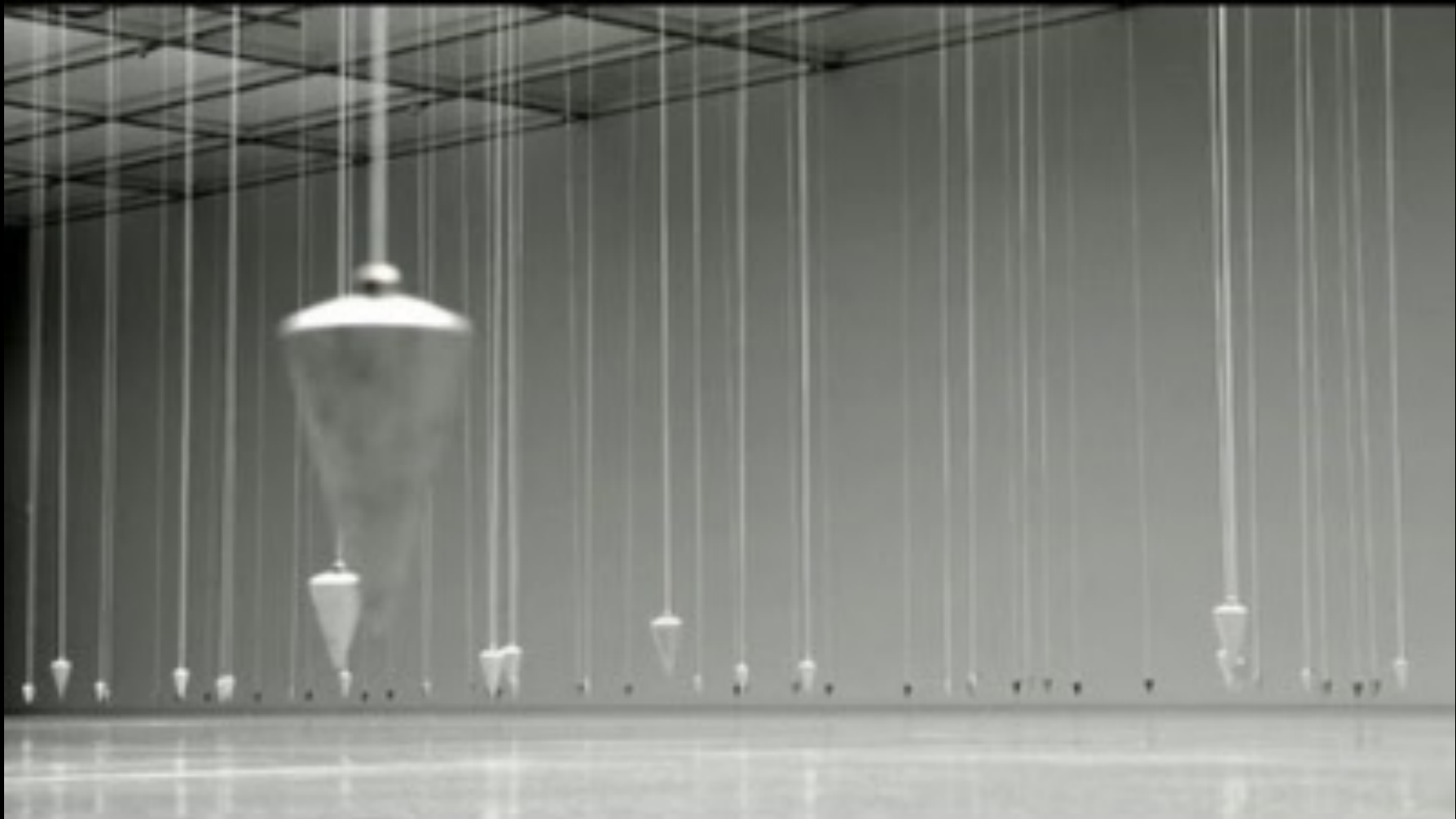
1. Keep your hand moving. (Don't pause to reread the line you have just written. That's stalling and trying to get control of what you're saying.)
2. Don't cross out. (That is editing as you write. Even if you write something you didn't mean to write, leave it.)
3. Don't worry about spelling, punctuation, grammar. (Don't even care about staying within the margins and lines on the page.)
4. Lose control.
5. Don't think. Don't get logical.
6. Go for the jugular. (If something comes up in your writing that is scary or naked, dive right into it. It probably has lots of energy.)



William Forsythe's "The Fact of Matter" | Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cn3Ry08vKR4>





NOWHERE AND EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME, NO.2

- William Forsythe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=as1bQ6XI_fg



**SUPERLUMINAL - Interview with Philip Vermeulen - Light
Art Museum**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEnwuLrhaWA>

On the making of More Moiré²

Philip Vermeulen



Philip Vermeulen on the making of More Moiré²

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWB1mLQU8-g>

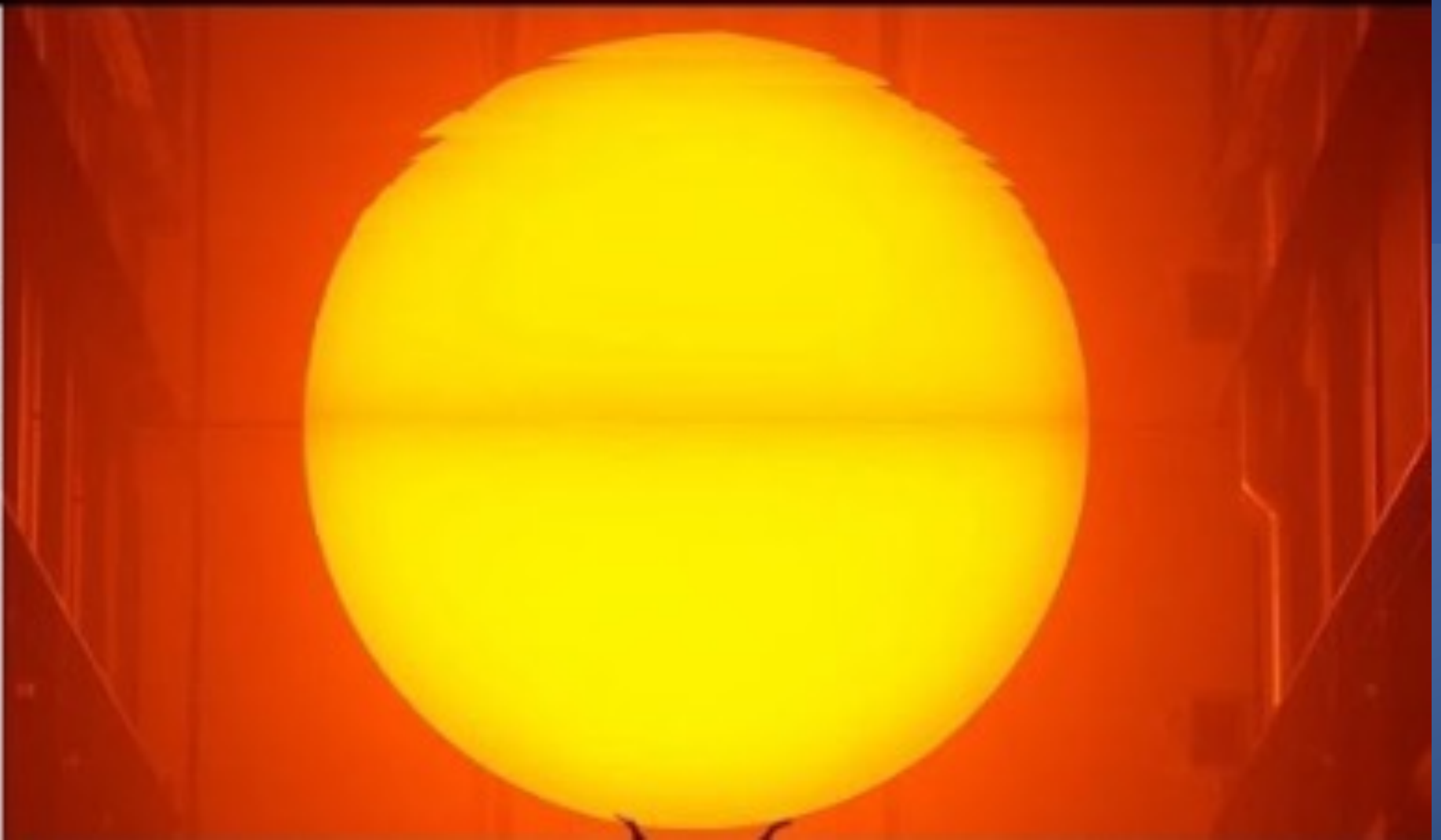
ART THEORY



JAMES TURRELL - "Meeting"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2odLQ_DKRSs

ART THEORY



OLAFUR ELIASSON "The Weather Project"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYAaZ53tazU>



Interview maker ANIMA iki - Nick Verstand]



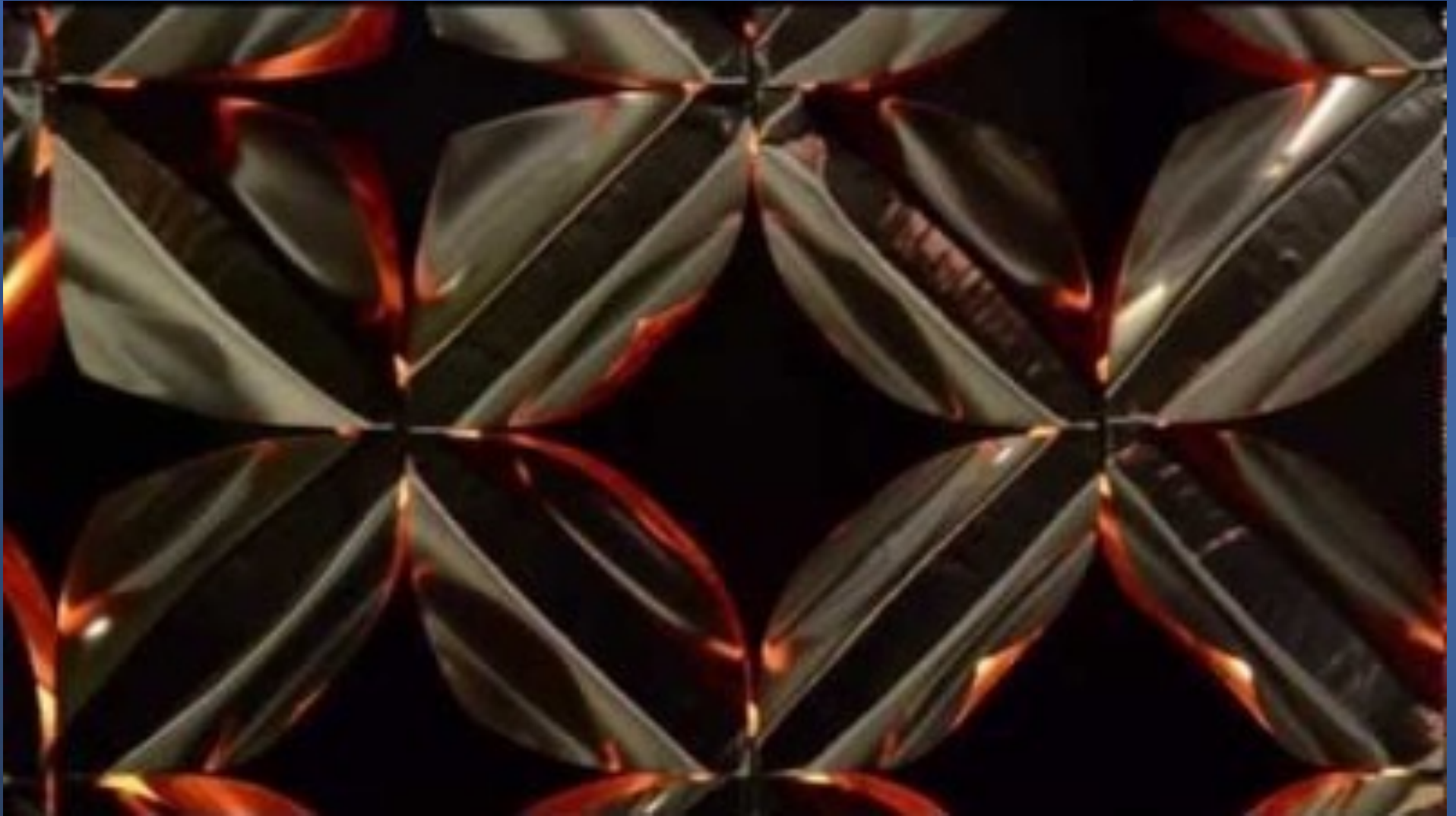
ANIMA II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdDahBzc4ZY>



**Main Course - Nick Verstand & Salvador Breed - #4
Between Mind and Matter & 4D Sound**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CieLcxURct8&list=PLxWZiLAl9qFhKJvcagpv5vNHN80ngWNGt&index=3>



LOTUS by Daan Roosegaarde - Interactive wall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qTTik94yJk>



Geert Mul Oriental Time Promotion video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrPh6LLOEfE>