



LYDIA

PRELIMINARY LIGHTING DESIGN RESEARCH AND CONCEPT IMAGERY

LIGHTING DESIGNER: DOMINICK ZAYNE RICHES

LYDIA BY OCTAVIO SOLIS

Lydia is a magical realist drama that tells the tragic story of the Flores family. The family suffered a tragedy two nights before Ceci's quinceañera. The daughter of the family, Ceci, was the victim of a traumatic vehicular accident that resulted in a permanent state of vegetation. Within the 2 act play, the family's incestual and brutal truths are revealed. *Lydia* first premiered in Denver, Colorado at the Space Theatre at DCPA on January 24th 2008.

Major Themes in *Lydia*: Violence, abuse, family, negligence, legality, vulnerability, pain, broken relationships, faith, incest, desperation, sex, tradition, and maturation.

Octavio Solis is considered to be one of the most prominent Latino playwrights in America. His works focus on the Mexican-American experience. His style examines darkness and truth through humor and magic. He was born in El Paso, Texas in 1958 to Mexican parents. He received a bachelors and masters degree at Trinity University. Solis discovered his love and passion for composing stories which shortly became a stronger priority to him over acting. He has written over 25 plays in his time as a playwright.

Solis has a deep rooted connection to El Paso. He describes the city as “the paradigm from which he draws.” Solis feels that words from the Mexican American writing community have not mattered. He has made it his mission to give answers and provide a vulnerable and thought provoking point of view. The majority of his works are set in El Paso, Texas where he was most impacted by a series of events throughout his childhood. His feels he has succeeded as a playwright through reliability and a strong lack of compromises when making choices. He delivers his truth and and trusts his vision.



EL PASO, TEXAS, USA

1970's

Lydia takes place in El Paso, Texas in the early 1970's.

El Paso sits at the far western tip of Texas in a harsh desert biome around the slopes of Mount Franklin on the Rio Grande River. El Paso lies on an international boundary with the United States and Mexico. Spanish language and culture define the city. The architecture and general appearance are undoubtedly Mexican while fulfilling its role as an American metropolis. It has served as a commercial and financial center for livestock ranching, cotton farming, mineral operation, and major economic activities.

*Sections of the play take place in an ethereal and magical world inside of CECI's imagination. This world is not grounded in reality.

CECI: CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

17 years old. CECI was the **victim** of a car accident. She lost the ability to speak and move. She is **locked** in her body in a semi-vegetative state. Her body, hands, and fingers are curled in an unsettling position. Her voice has fallen back into her throat and her eyes do not direct her. Her ability to express emotions have been buried into a **neurological prison**. She is infatuated by poetry and the subtleties of life. Throughout the play she expresses an undying **desperation** for physical touch and intimacy. She experiences incestual cravings without processing the issues with her relations. She falls for Lydia in addition to her previously held crush on her cousin, Alvaro. CECI lives everyday knowing what she is missing and is forced to witness the benefits of being able to live outside of the neurological prison.

CLAUDIO AND ROSA: CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

“El Short-Order Cook”

CLAUDIO is a **broken** man and has been forever impacted by the events that have crippled the Flores family. He has a very short fuse and acts **violently** and without thought. He is the **patriarch** of the family and is an immigrant from Mexico.

“Mami Rosa”

ROSA is the **humble** mother of the family. She is a fixer. She is committed to the comfort of her family. She is loyal and **caring** to those she prioritizes. Similar to CLAUDIO, she was also destroyed by the accident. She is a born again Christian. She continues to **dream** for things that will never happen. Led by false theistic hope.

RENE AND MISHA: CHARACTER

BREAKDOWN:

Rene: “El Carnal Mayor” Ceci’s older brother. Rene comes off as very **hard core**. He has a tremendous amount of **anger** towards the world and the events that have occurred in his life. He likes to think he is invincible, but is often overrun by his underlying emotions. His pain is so deeply avoided that it is challenging for Ceci to sympathize with him. He takes out his anger with violence and **hatred** towards homosexuals.

MISHA: “Little shit” 16 years old. **Youngest** son in Flores family. Brother to CECI. Cares immensely for CECI. He is always looking out for her well being. He is the only male in the family that isn’t overrun by anger. He often makes decisions to prevent others from getting hurt. Misha acts as a **conduit for Solis** to incorporate his point of view and perspective on the family’s dilemmas.

LYDIA AND ALVARO: CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

LYDIA: Lydia is the maid that the Flores family has commissioned to assist with Ceci's needs. She immediately entered the family with a **witty** sense of humor and willingness to be useful. She develops an impressively **trusted** and comfortable relationship with Ceci. Lydia is **curious** and doesn't quite understand the family dynamic. She is filterless and says what is on her mind. She feels she has a solid understanding of the Flores' emotions and points of contention; but time and time again makes choices that result in frustration. Lydia acts as an **omnipresent** force in the house.

ALVARO: Alvaro is Ceci, Rene, and Misha's cousin. He recently joined "La Migra" for the money despite the moral dilemma he stands in. He takes a lot of **pride** in his job. He has feelings for Rene. Ceci and Rene both have a **problematic** attraction to Alvaro that is the root of many conflicts in the plot. He carries a lot of **guilt** and confusion with him on the daily. Similar to Claudio and Rene, he does not handle his emotions in a productive and effective manner.

PLOT ANALYSIS: ACT 1

Lydia opens with the Flores family in the living room. Ceci, in a semi-vegetative state shares tidbits about the members of her family. Ceci's mother, Rosa, hired Lydia to help out with Ceci's unconventional needs. This also enables her to return to work which helps with the family's financial situation. Lydia immediately has a special connection to Ceci. She is able to communicate with her and understand her in a way that no one can. The house begins to be cleaner and the family eats better food due to Lydia's care. The cousin, Alvaro, returns from his time in Vietnam. Since the accident, the Flores family had not seen or heard from Alvaro. He shows up to the house to show the family that he has started working for "La Migra". Lydia brings Ceci out in her Quinceañera dress. This greatly upsets Claudio. Misha takes the responsibility and pays the price through his father's acts of violence. After Misha turns in for the night, Lydia confronts Claudio about his pain and poor choices that are affecting his loved family. The act ends with Lydia seducing Claudio in front of Ceci as she convulses on her mattress. Unknown to any of them, Rene also witnessed the event.

PLOT ANALYSIS: ACT 2

Act 2 opens in a bedsheet compiled tunnel space. Ceci falls into a childish character in her Quinceañera dress. This moment acts as a flashback to when she was a child pretending to be an ant colony with her brothers and cousin. Then the audience is taken back to the living room setting where the mood is tense following the violence from Claudio in the prior act. Rosa has a golden cross pen for Misha to alleviate her not being able to stop Claudio from harming him. Rosa claims to take Lydia shopping. It is later revealed that they went to look into getting Lydia papers so she can legally be in the United States. Alvaro visits again and Ceci is taken back to when she kissed him. They are taken back to reality and Alvaro gives Rene a jacket he got in Vietnam. He lets it slip that he loves Rene. Rosa and Misha inquire about what is happening with Rene and Alvaro. Ceci composes the story through Lydia. Ceci and Rene went to visit Alvaro. Alvaro and Rene were making love in the front seat as Ceci sat in the back and got more and more frustrated as she is also in love with Alvaro. As they started driving, Ceci started attacking Rene which caused them to veer off the road and crash. Rosa is left in a state of shock and Rene admits that the story is true. Rene tells everyone that he witnessed Lydia seducing Claudio in the living room. This results in Rosa requesting the deportation of Lydia via Alvaro. After all the chaos, Misha is left with Ceci to do her physical therapy. Ceci guides Misha's hands under her pants. He is reluctant and does not know what to do. He knows how desperate she is for "ecstasy" and goes through with the action. She climaxes, swallows the pull tab of her blanket, and dies. This concludes the act.

VISUAL THEMES:

- Magical Realism
- Tension
- Borders/perimeters/barriers/sections
- Harsh definitions of space
- Alarming/jarring/severe
- Intimacy
- Tired/Exhaustion
- Purgatory: life and death

EL PASO TEXAS (PEOPLE AND PLACES) IN THE EARLY 1970'S



LYDIA COLOR PALETTES



R3208

MOON KEY



L162

LAMP KEY



L779

SUNSET KEY



R3202

WHITE EX KEY



L108

GEN EX KEY



R364

COOL FILL



L176

COOL FILL

+



R14

BORDER HIGHLIGHT



R27

RED



R3216

STANDARD SPECIAL



L119

CECI SPECIAL



R08

BORDER 1



R17

BORDER 2



R23

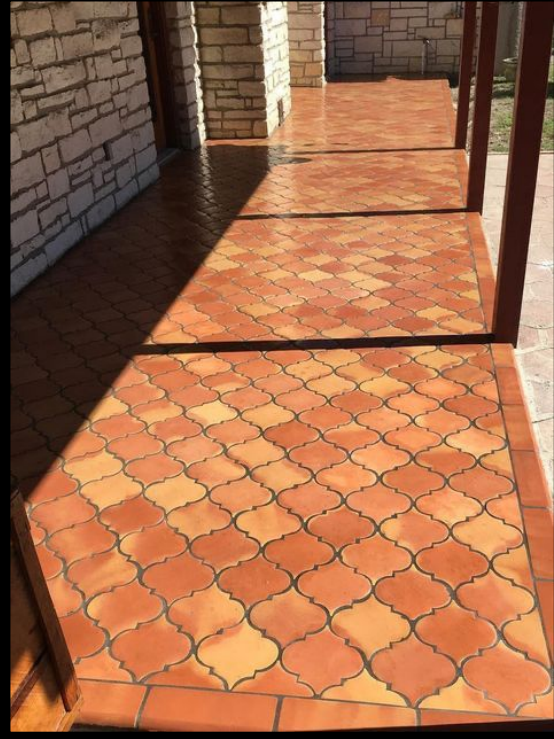
BORDER 3



R325

BORDER 4

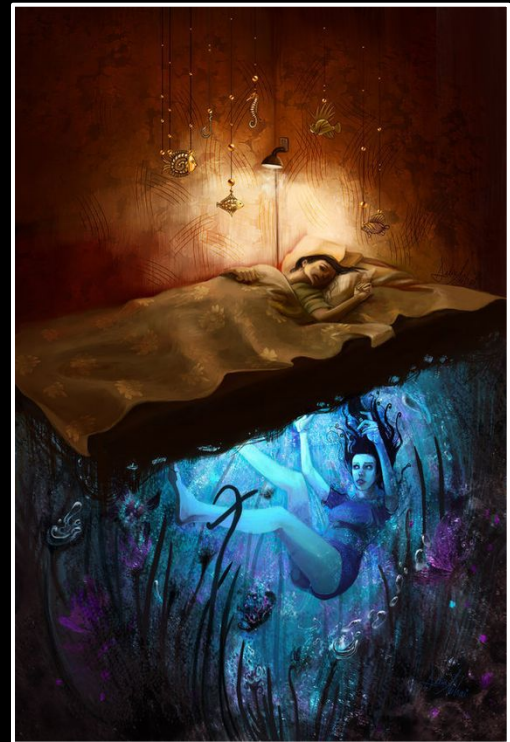
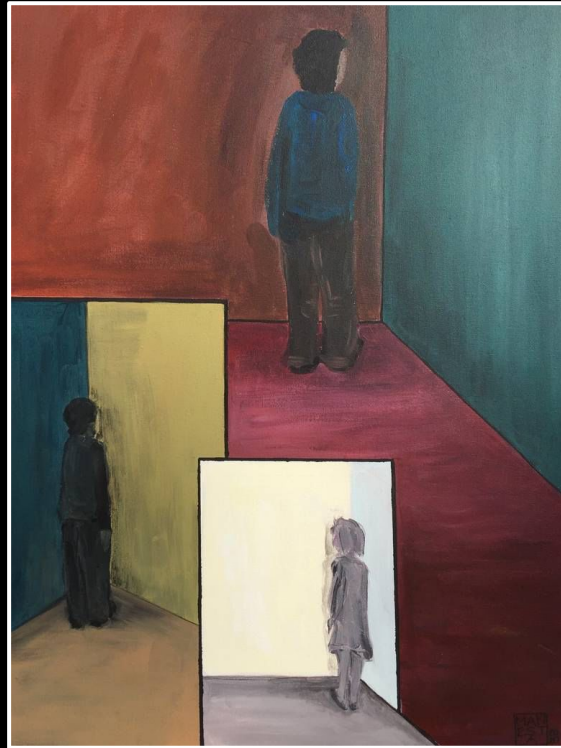
REALISM: INTERIOR NATURAL LIGHTING



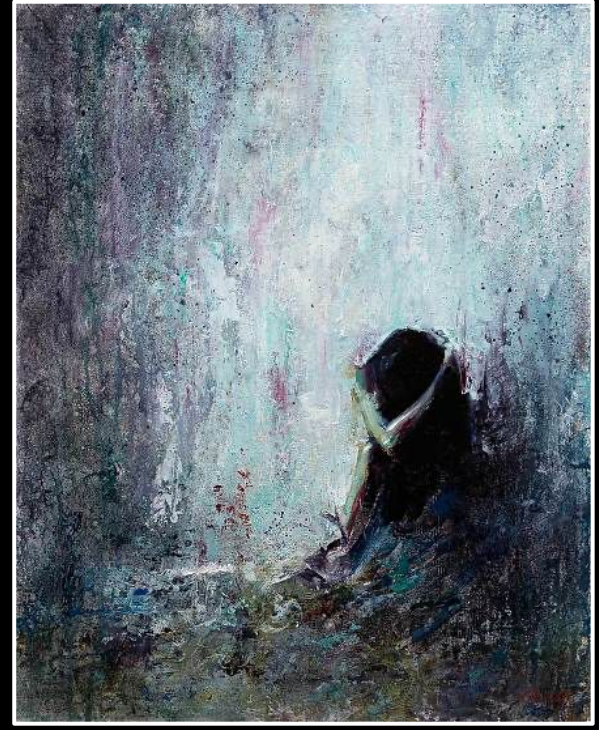
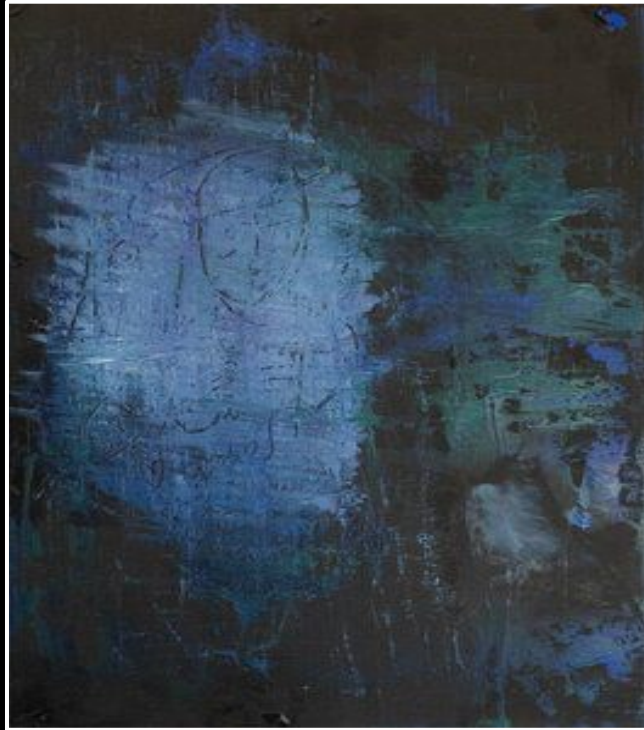
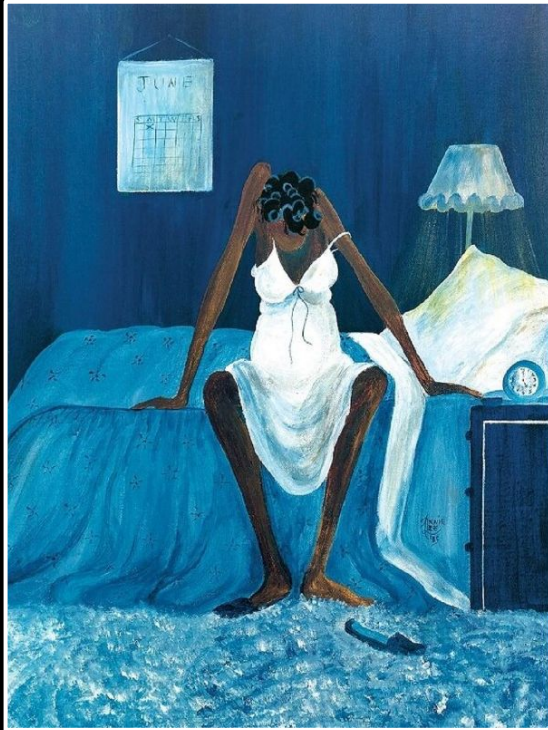
REALISM: INTERIOR NATURAL LIGHTING



CECI MONOLOGUES: ISOLATION



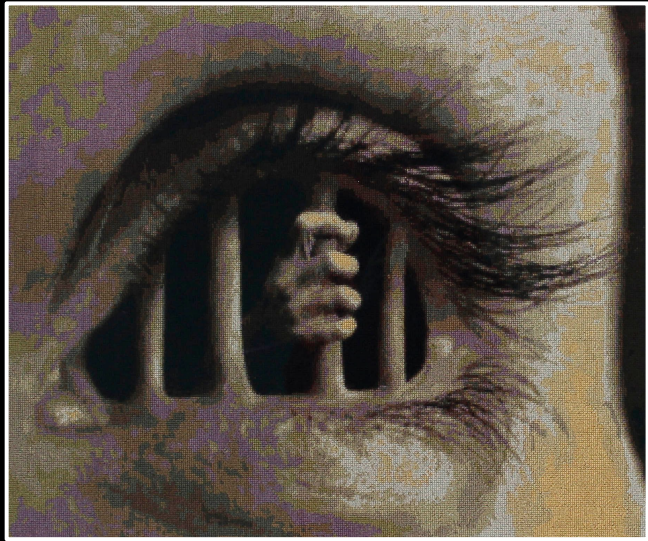
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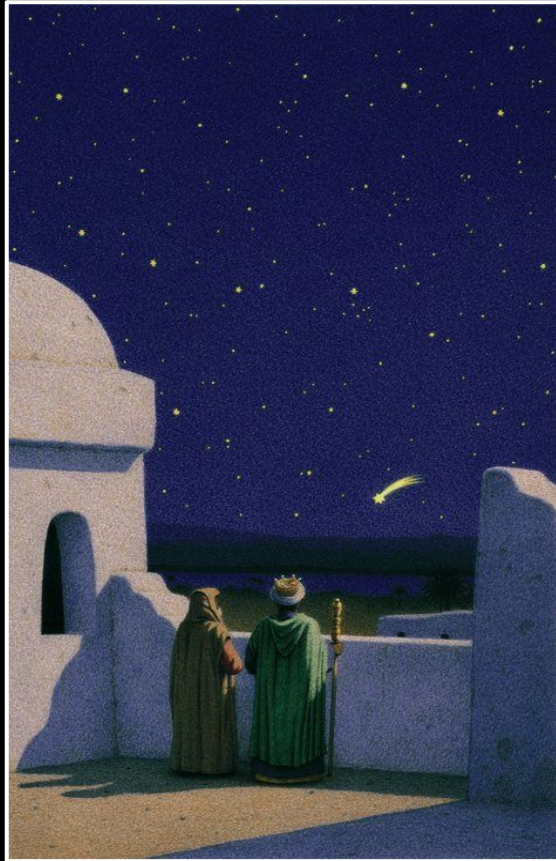
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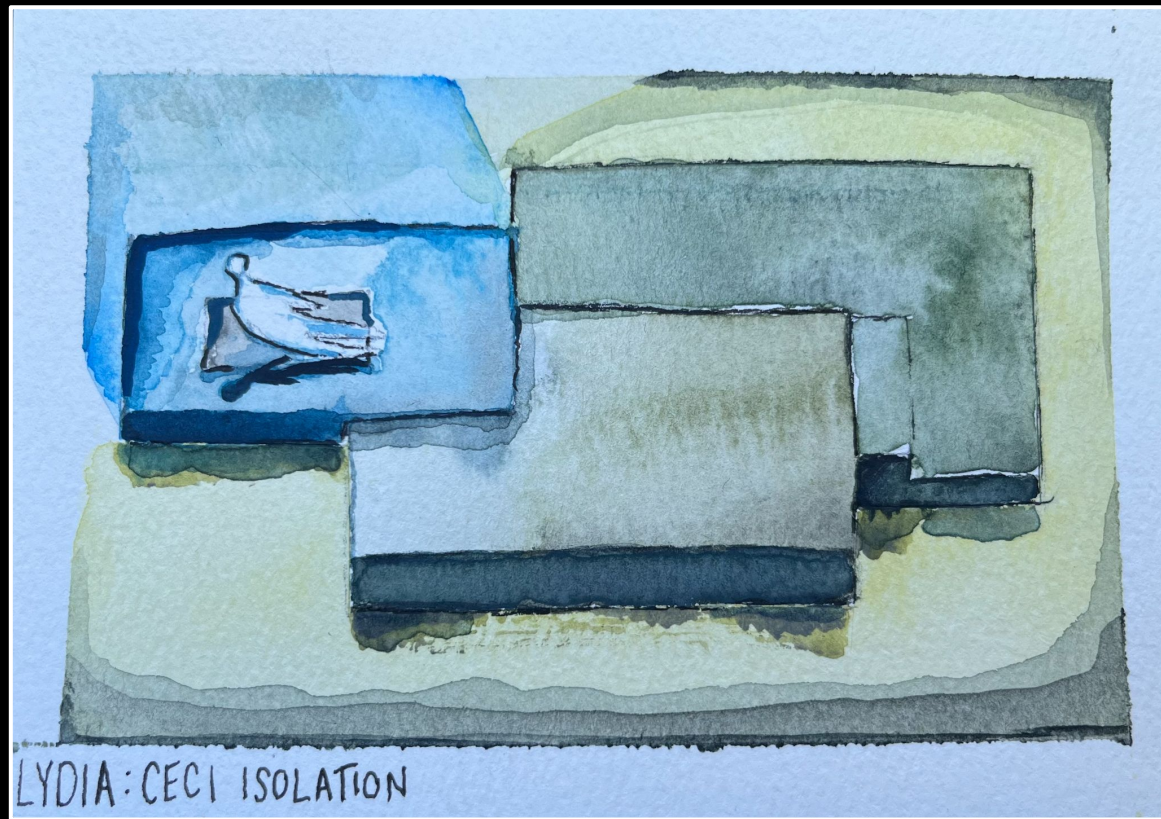
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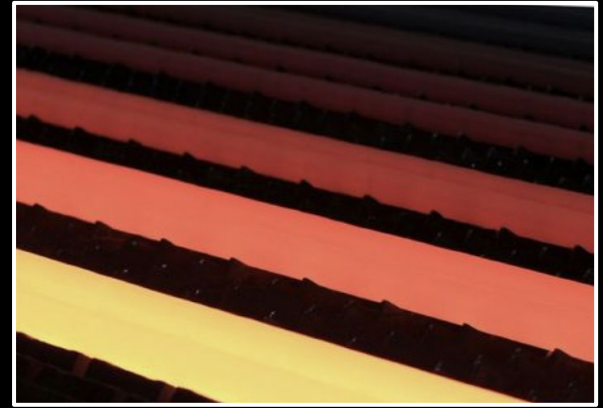
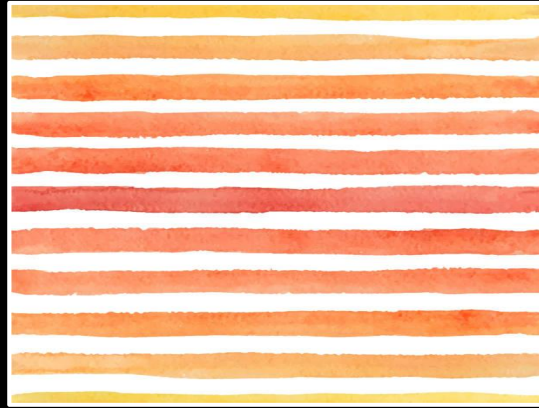
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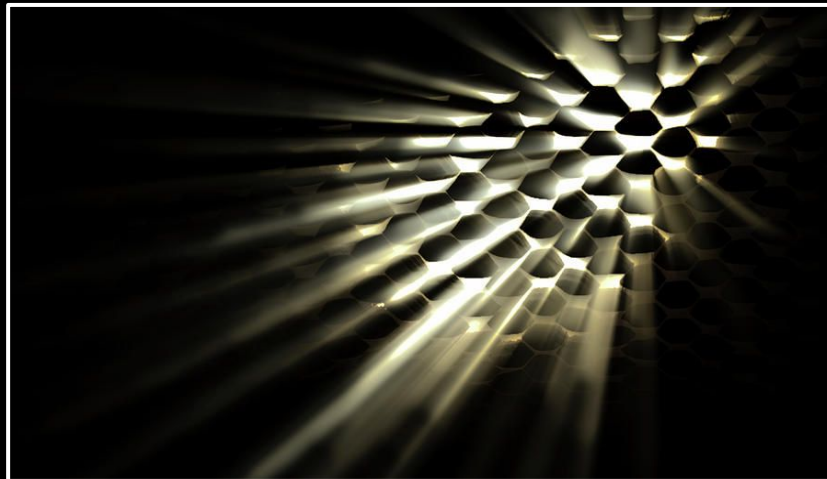


LAMPS + EVENING ORNAMENTATION

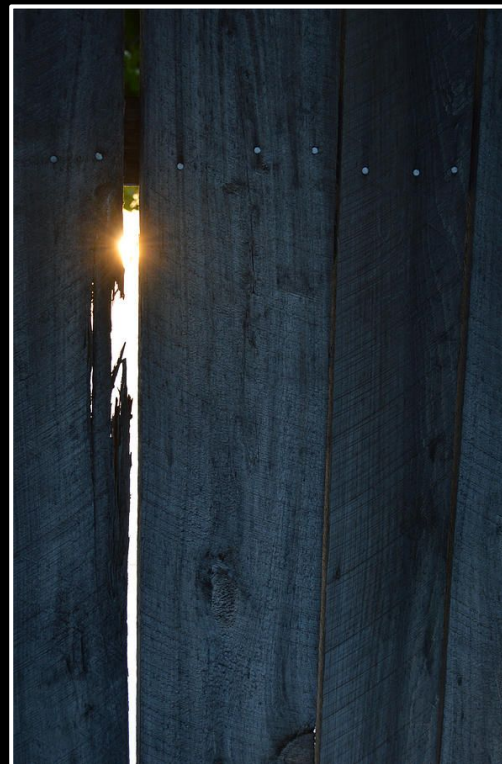
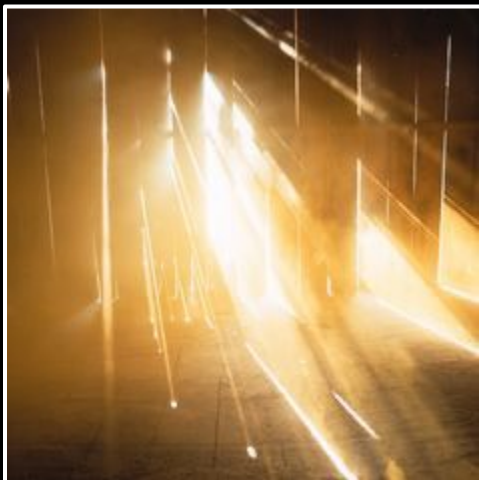


ROOF VALUE SCALE





LIGHT PIERCES THROUGH ROOF
ELEMENTAL CONCEPT TO PUSH
DIRECTION OF LIGHT AND
INTERACT WITH SCENERY.



ANT COLONY: CECI'S DREAM LIVING ROOM



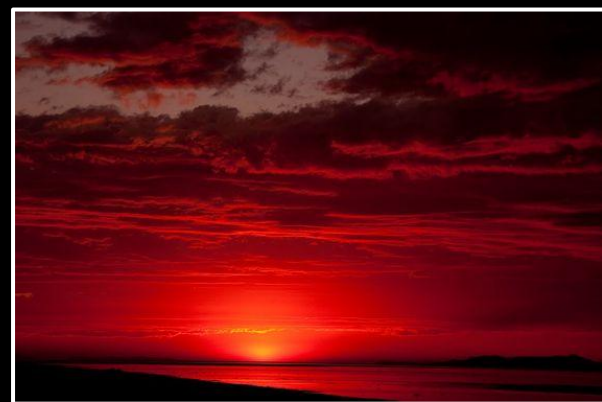
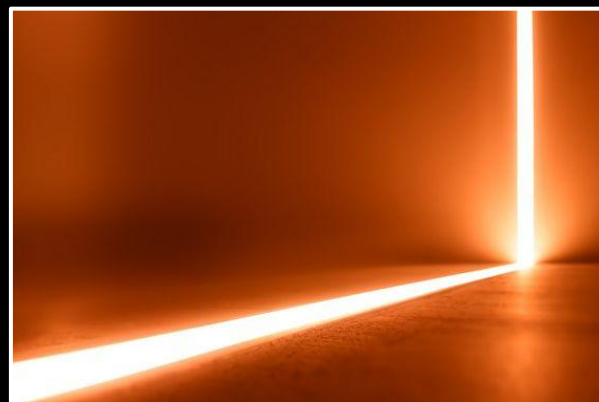
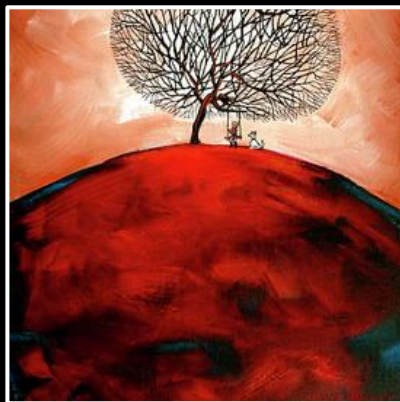
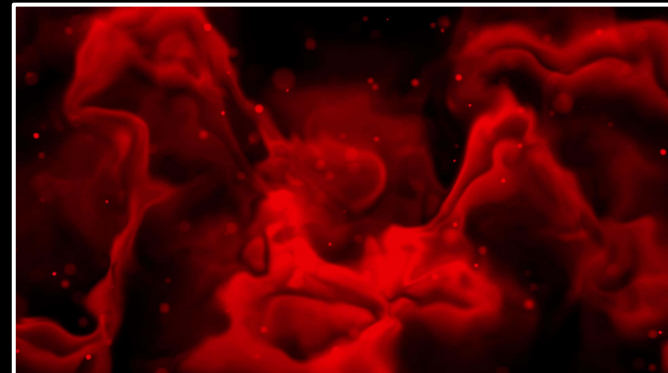
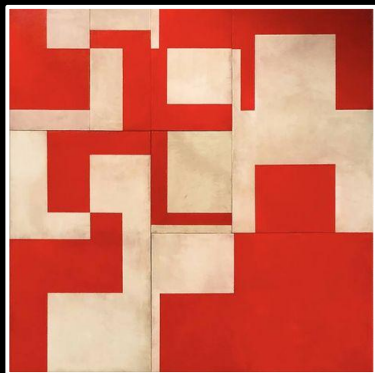
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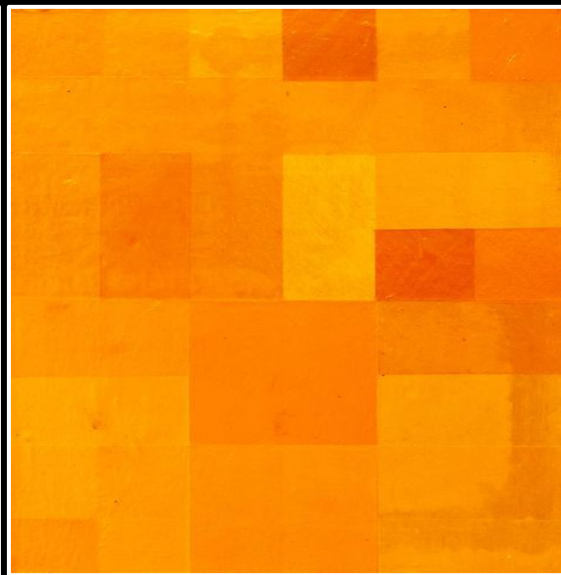
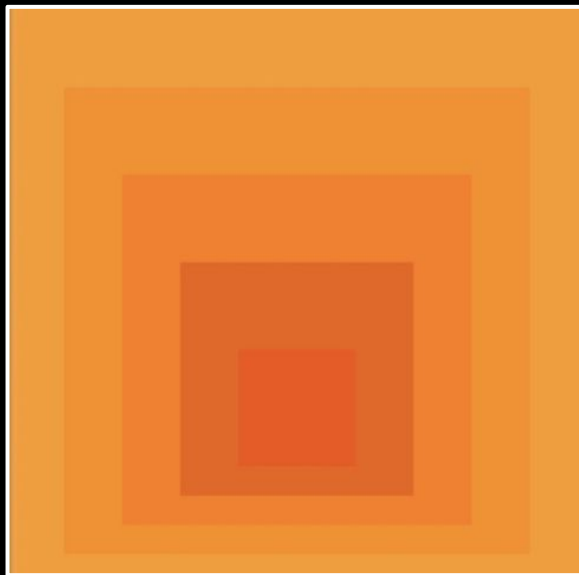


FINAL MOMENT

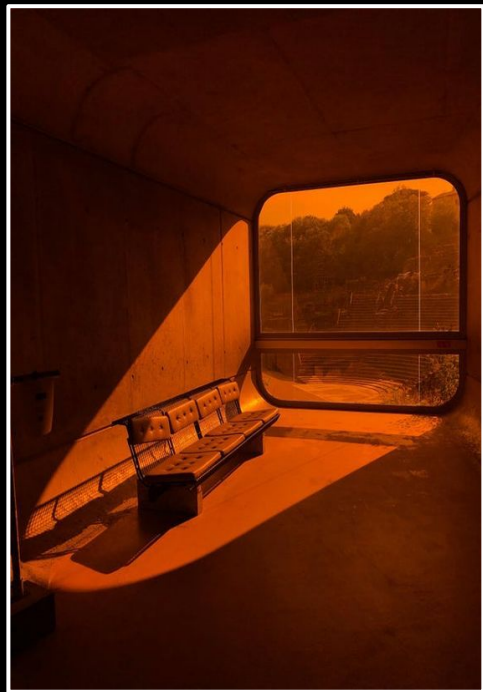


ARCHIVED CONCEPTS + IMAGERY

MONOCHROMATIC AMBER/YELLOW CONCEPT



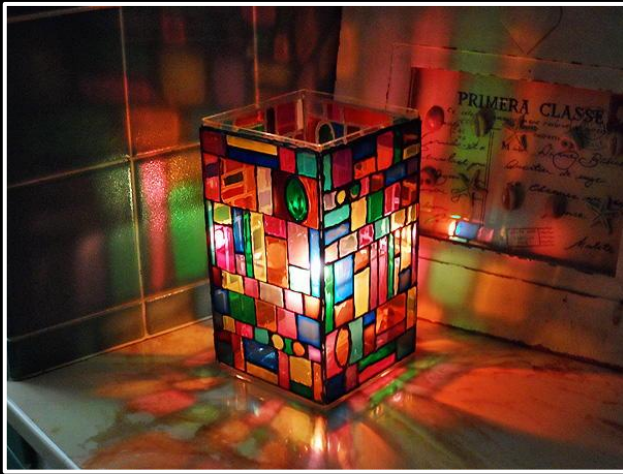
MONOCHROMATIC AMBER/YELLOW CONCEPT



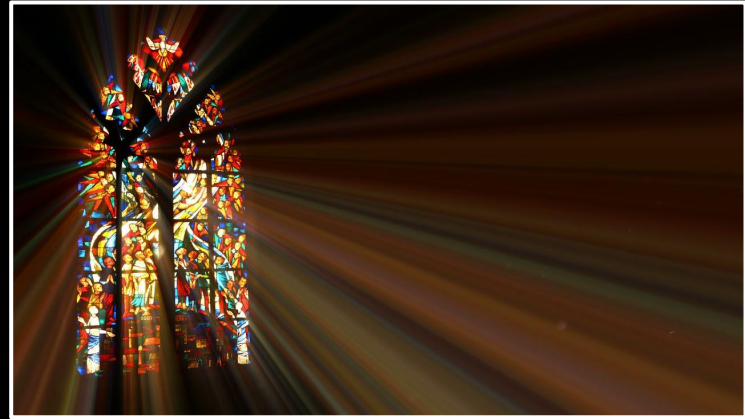
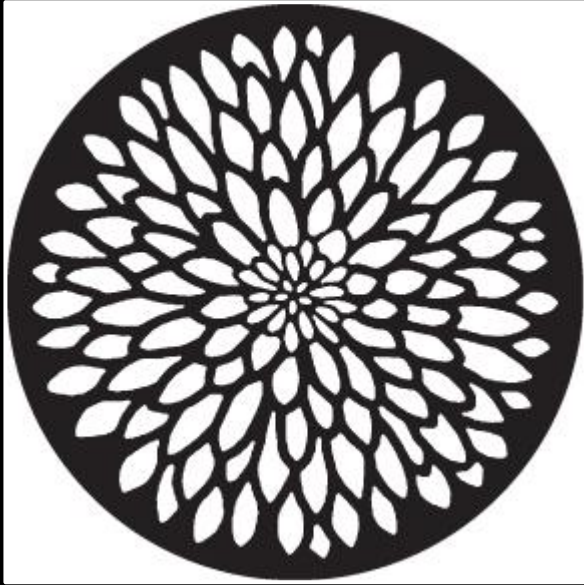
MONOCHROMATIC AMBER/YELLOW CONCEPT



CHURCH: STAINED GLASS



CHURCH: STAINED GLASS



CHURCH: STAINED GLASS



CHURCH: STAINED GLASS

