

## “Coconuts” by Emma Bautista

What follows is a written description of Emma Bautista’s stop-motion video “[Coconuts](#).” The visual content described follows time-stamped changes in the music so that readers may listen in parallel. The music is by Jay Rubin.

0:00 Dreamy, peaceful music

*Blue paint slowly fills a page.*

*From the bottom, yellow paint overtakes part of field of blue, then recedes, as waves lapping a shore.*

*Cut to trees on a verdant landscape against a purple sky. Their leaves grow thicker and thinner, lighter and darker.*

*A coconut tree painted from the ground up, filling in visual detail.*

*As the tree comes into form, so does the ground around it.*

*Two people, then four, start to take shape on the grass.*

*A fire appears.*

0:46 Tape distortion brings the music to a halt.

0:49 Discordant buzzing dominates the music.

*The scene fades.*

*Dark green paint appears in the foreground.*

0:52 Loud, droning music.

*In the background a close-up of a face of an indigenous Caribbean man.*

*The face appears in the foreground of the verdant landscape, now seen from a greater distance, a stand of coconut trees at the center.*

1:04 Dreamy melody returns.

*Cut back to the textured, light blue paint ebbing.*

1:15 A beat comes in, giving the music a faster, more propulsive quality.

*A spot of brown grows into a boat.*

*A plank unfurls.*

*People appear on the plank.*

*Cut to a close-up of the head of a white, European man, seen from below.*

*He gazes toward the bottom right of the screen.*

*Cut to the face of a dark-skinned Caribbean person, slowly overtaken by abstracted brown markings.*

*The paper on which this face has been painted crumples, superimposed on the background of light brown streaks of paint.*

*Cut to the verdant landscape, a line of coconut palms from the center out.*

*A family of brown-skinned people roped together cross the screen, their shadows on the grass.*

*Meanwhile, dense crops fill in part of the landscape on one side than the other.*

*Cut to the face that was previously crumpled, now in shadow, illuminated in fiery reds and yellows.*

*Cut to eyes blinking in the dark.*

*A slow pan out to reveals these eyes are in the hold of a ship, zooming out until the ship is seen from above on a blue sea.*

*Cut to the prow of a ship approaching a shore where dense buildings can be seen atop the verdant landscape, ringed in sand.*

*Waves crash and recede against the beach.*

*Fade to black.*