



# YOUNG MINDS **BIG SKY**

The Burchfield Penney Art Center celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month 2020  
with Latino artist George Campos

BURCHFIELD  
**CONNECTS**



An invitation to celebrate something we all share:  
the **SKY** above us...

**QUESTION:** What is it that holds us all together, hugs the earth and can be seen out any window on this planet? It's the **SKY!**

**OBSERVE:** Can you go outdoors, lie on your back and look up at the sky?

**ENJOY:** George Campos believes:

***"The pleasure is in the observation."***

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Who hasn't lain on their back looking up at the sky watching clouds go by?  
*Have you? What kind of things do you see in the clouds?*

*ice cream cones and puppy dogs, a dragon, hearts and horses, the face of an angel...*

**Share what you saw in those cloudy skies above your head?**

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The famous painter, Charles E. Burchfield, lived in our neighborhood. When he looked at the skies, he saw all types of things in the clouds from crescents moons to forest sprites giant wings of birds and all types of things

And then painted what he saw to share with us for all time.

Here are two examples:



Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967), *Clearing Sky*, July 13, 1917; watercolor, gouache and pencil on paper, 17 5/8 x 21 1/2 inches; Burchfield Penney Art Center, Gift of Charles Rand Penney, 1994



Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967), *Song of the Telegraph*, 1917-1952; watercolor on paper, 34 x 53 in. (86.4 x 134.6 cm); Collection of William and Rose-Marie Shanahan

The Latino artist George Campos didn't paint - but took photographs of the skies he saw. He created a group of twelve of these photographs and called them the Skyscapes Series. These works were inspired by something he had wondered about when he was only eleven years old, soon after moving to Buffalo, NY. Why, when the clocks were turned back in the fall, did the sky suddenly become very gray. This change in quality of light profoundly shifted his assumption that skies are always blue as they were at his home in Cuba.



George Campos (b. 1952), Skyscapes Series #12, 1986; Ektacolor photograph, 40 x 30 inches (frame: 40 1/2 x 30 1/4 inches); Purchased with funds from the Metropolitan Life Foundation, 1986

# STOP - LOOK UP - BE AMAZED

When you look up at the sky... what do you think of?

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In the Skyscapes Series Mr. Campos hints at the city's horizon line. The photos also record the fundamental changes he saw in the sky each day.



George Campos (b. 1952), Skyscapes Series #1, 1986; Ektacolor photograph, 40 x 30 inches (frame: 40 1/4 x 30 1/4 inches); Purchased with funds from the Metropolitan Life Foundation, 1986

**Do you see any change in the sky from one day to the next? One hour to the next?**

**Can you describe these changes?**

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When Mr. Campos was a young boy, cameras were not as easy to get a hold of as they are now. Today, almost everyone has a camera on their phone or on a phone they can borrow.

**Take a photograph of the sky while lying on your back facing upward.**

**Take one out of a window...  
or standing on a bridge...  
in the park...  
of the lake...  
take a photo of the sky wherever you may be.**

Once you've captured the sky with your camera, capture it with your words.

**What can you say about the skies above?**

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**Can you list ten words to describe it?**

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**What did you see in the clouds?**

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## Now take a photograph of yourself.

And ask yourself:

**Who am I?**

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**What do I do?**

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**What can I become?**

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Now email whatever you've created to Mary Kozub at  
The Burchfield Penney Art Center  
**kozubmm@buffalostate.edu**

Once your work is received, two things will happen. Your photos and writings will be included in an online exhibition posted by The Center. You will then be invited to a monthly **Artists meet Artist** Zoom session with photographer **George Campos** to discuss your work. These sessions will not be critiques, but rather a time to share ideas and experiences with Mr. Campos and other artists like yourself. Artists meet Artist sessions are to affirm and celebrate creation rather than provide suggestions on how to take better photograph.

Submissions will be accepted through October 31st. **Artists meet Artist** sessions will be held monthly throughout the academic year.

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Do **you** know where the sky begins?

Why do **you** think the sky is blue?  
Or why it turns red at sunset?

Do **you** know what clouds are made of?  
Or how they predict the weather?

Have **you** ever felt the huge hug the sky is sharing with the earth?  
Or found a message in the sky?

Do **you** know what it means when there are no clouds in the sky?

Have **you** ever wondered how high up in the sky the clouds can go?  
Or how close to the ground they can come?

Can **you** ever have too much sky?

**You** may find some of the answers here:

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/make-a-cloud-in-a-bottle/>

# BURCHFIELD CONNECTS

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