BETWEEN YOU, ME, AND THE SEA by Kay Rosen (2017-2018) is the artist's third and longest video at 64 minutes. It is an animation about the United States, geography, landscape, art, and language depicted through *drawing*, abstraction, color, and sound.

One by one the fifty states of the United States are processed through five steps – a matrix of vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and curved lines; overlaid with letters that spell the abbreviations of the states; filled in with bright colors; transposed to their geographic location on the map; and connected by lines – until the map is filled in with a kaleidoscope of color, not only red and blue, and criss-crossing pathways. The continuous sound of a train moving at full speed provides the audio, offering visceral, real-time proof of action in an otherwise two-dimensional graphic, abstract landscape. It escorts the viewer on a journey from individualism to community and from uniqueness to commonality.

The order of creation of each state is determined by its alphabetical architecture, not history. The states 'join the union' based upon the *geometry* of the lines in their abbreviated names: slanted as in WV, vertical and horizontal as in FL, diagonal as in KY, and circular as in CO. The conventional rules of admission to the union are replaced with typographical ones, without historical or chronological hierarchy. *Art* generates the shape-changing process and letterforms generate the syntax, which guide the viewer from black, white, and gray lines to brightly colored shapes to the familiar contours of country, dutifully returning after each round to begin again, until all fifty states are filled in. The Alphabet meets Manifest Destiny.

BETWEEN YOU, ME, AND THE SEA is the third of the artist's video works and her twenty-fifth LIST, that part of her practice which organizes verbal information into a sequential format as variations on a theme. She has carried on this investigation since 1989. Her previous videos, *Sisyphus* and *Blue Monday*, are constructed similarly.