

Written Response - Method of contextualising

Statement

This experience reshaped my perspective as a visual designer practicing in the field of climate justice. We enhance satellite imagery by integrating data on history, ecosystems, and specific details that are not apparent in standard satellite imagery. Try to creates a comprehensive temporal observation tool and provides a richer understanding of a specific region. The layered approach combines historical satellite image analysis with Details and history to explore a nuanced narrative of ecological change and human impacts over decades. The diversity of this approach emphasises the complexity of environmental challenges where multiple perspectives are essential. The transition from broad historical overviews to nuanced hands-on investigations, particularly our findings on the ebb and flow of river debris, reveals the ephemeral nature of human impacts in contrast to the enduring resilience of natural ecosystems. This observation emphasises the critical need for human sustainability practices to be aligned with natural restoration processes. Our project progressively catalogues and analyses material from a timeline perspective, which reveals the interconnections between human history, material culture and environmental impacts. Through the development and public engagement of our Arduino-based interactive installation, my vision of the role of technology and participatory art in climate justice was further refined.

Annotated bibliography

Jain, A. (2020). Calling for a More-Than-Human Politics. [online] Available at: <https://superflux.in/index.php/calling-for-a-more-than-human-politics/#>.

Jain's advocacy for incorporating the perspectives of non-human entities into our environmental and political considerations validated our methodological choices and prompted us to broaden our analytical perspective. Using Google Earth Pro, 3D scanning and sound collection techniques, our project aimed to capture the Thames beyond its interactions with humans as an active participant in its own right. Jain emphasised the ecological significance and history of the river, arguing that the river is not just a backdrop for human activity but an entity with a story of its own, and he highlighted the interconnected stories of the objects, their impact on the ecosystems and their historical context. This has inspired us to analyse the material found unexpectedly along the Thames, a process that not only acknowledges the material histories that have shaped our environment, but also prompts us to consider the wider networks of interactions beyond the human that this material reveals. Jain's work challenges us not only to document and analyse, but also to advocate for improvement programmes that respect the Thames and its non-human inhabitants and restore their agency.

Ingold, T. (2007) *Lines: A Brief History*. London: Routledge.

Ingold's distinction between threads and traces has guided our research approach, prompting us to view the river as a dynamic mesh of life and activity rather than a static geographical feature. This perspective redefines the Thames, emphasising its role in weaving together diverse communities, ecosystems and histories. We see the Thames as a living entity, with each object collected along its banks representing a point in this intricate web of relationships. This conceptual framework encourages a holistic view of the ecology of the Thames, emphasising its interconnections with human cultural practices and environmental change. By adopting Ingold's emphasis on line as a fundamental tool for understanding and representing the world, our project seeks to document the Thames in a way that captures its multifaceted nature -

its physical characteristics and its role as a connector between past, present and future. Ingold's work challenges us to move beyond linear narratives to enable us to engage with the Thames in a deeper and more nuanced way. We represent the Thames through maps, details and narratives that aim to reflect the dynamic nature of the river, tracing the myriad lines that define its character and impact.

McCormick, H., Cox, T., Pecorelli, J., and Debney, A.J. (Eds) (2021) *The State of the Thames 2021: Environmental Trends of the Tidal Thames*. ZSL, Regent's Park, London, UK.

The report provides a detailed analysis of water quality, biodiversity and the impacts of climate change on the River Thames, focusing on biodiversity restoration, as well as the ongoing threats from invasive species, habitat loss and climate change, which highlights the importance of our historical research. Understanding historical baselines and trajectories of change is critical to understanding current environmental trends and identifying the long-term impacts of human behaviour on river health. This historical dimension enriches our cataloguing work, as each project or observation is not just a data point, but a narrative fragment of the evolving story of the Thames. In addition, 'State of the Thames 2021' reinforces the value of our project as a contribution to the wider environmental discourse. It is clear that our work is part of a wider ongoing dialogue about conservation, sustainability and the relationship between people and nature. The report also inspired us to think creatively about how we could disseminate our findings to a wider audience, and we began to think that perhaps we could promote greater public engagement and awareness through interactive installations or innovative use of technology.

Lem, S., 1973. Imaginary Magnitude.

Inspired by Lem's imaginative constructs, I have examined the Thames not only as a physical entity, but also as a complex, multi-layered narrative that includes ecological, historical and social dimensions. Lem's work is both futuristically speculative and profoundly historically aware, which has inspired me to delve deeper into the historical origins of the materials we are cataloguing. This involves examining the ways in which each material has been produced, used and disposed of at different times, thereby revealing the intertwined narratives of human development, industrialisation and environmental impact. Our research, like Lem's speculative fiction, takes place at the intersection of imagination and empirical data. We catalogue objects from new to old and combine satellite imagery with detailed observations of collected waste, a process that reflects Lem's influence on our approach to visualising and interpreting river narratives.

Digging the Thames with Mark Dion (1999). – *Look Closer*. [online] Tate. Available at: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/dion-tate-thames-dig-t07669/digging-thames-mark-dion>.

Dion challenges us to reassess the significance of everyday objects, transforming them from mere fragments into artefacts that narrate the history and ecological evolution of the Thames. His work prompts us to rethink the 'value' of the objects we catalogue, urging us to look beyond their immediate physicality or utility. With this in mind, our cataloguing methodology - inspired by Dion's categorisation of materials according to their type and historical context - became an important tool for revealing the layers of human interaction with the Thames. This approach allowed us to appreciate the subtle stories embedded in Thames waste, reflecting broader themes of consumption,

waste and environmental impact. In addition, Dion's view of the Thames as a historical archive challenged our project to consider the temporal dimension of our findings. Moving from merely cataloguing objects to analysing their place in a continuum of material use and disposal practices parallels Dion's interest in how objects found in the Thames reflect changing patterns of human behaviour and environmental management. This perspective has led us to attempt to construct a more complex narrative of the Thames that encompasses not only its current state, but also the dynamics of its past and the implications for its future.

Drinkable Rivers. [online] Available at: <https://drinkablerivers.org>

"Drinkable Rivers emphasises community engagement and the integration of scientific research with public outreach. It emphasises the importance of not only cataloguing and analysing the physical and historical aspects of the Thames, but also considering the role of the river in communities and its potential to contribute to environmental management. This perspective encourages us to think more deeply about the implications of our findings for local communities and policy makers. In addition, Drinkable Rivers provides an example of combining data-driven research with public engagement. Their approach to using data to inform conservation work and engage with a wider audience inspired us to think about how our project could not only increase academic understanding of the Thames, but also become a tool for public education and advocacy. It prompted us to think about whether our work has the potential to influence people's perceptions of the Thames, encouraging a shift from seeing it merely as a historical artefact or part of the cityscape to seeing it as an important, living ecosystem that needs collective care and protection.