

Portfolio    Julien Thomas

Strategic design / Research / Installation art

# Cold Fronts and Warm Baths (2024)

*Cold Fronts and Warm Baths* is a limited-run publication presenting a design research trajectory at the Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (KNMI).

The publication's title draws a connection between indoor and outdoor climates at KNMI. From this starting point, the booklet reflects upon the organisational climate of the primary institution tasked with communicating climate risks to the Dutch public. Collective research, graphic design and publishing by Ekaterina Volkova.





## Cloudnet (2023)

*Cloudnet* is an 85 square metre camouflage net, handwoven with the image of a cloudy sky. The installation interweaves thermal blankets, funerary shrouds and camouflage netting to fabricate a space that anticipates of the disappearance of certain cloud types due to future climate change.

The work was presented during *The Disappearance of Clouds*, a presentation of artistic research on future cloudscapes during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios made in collaboration with Ekaterina Volkova.

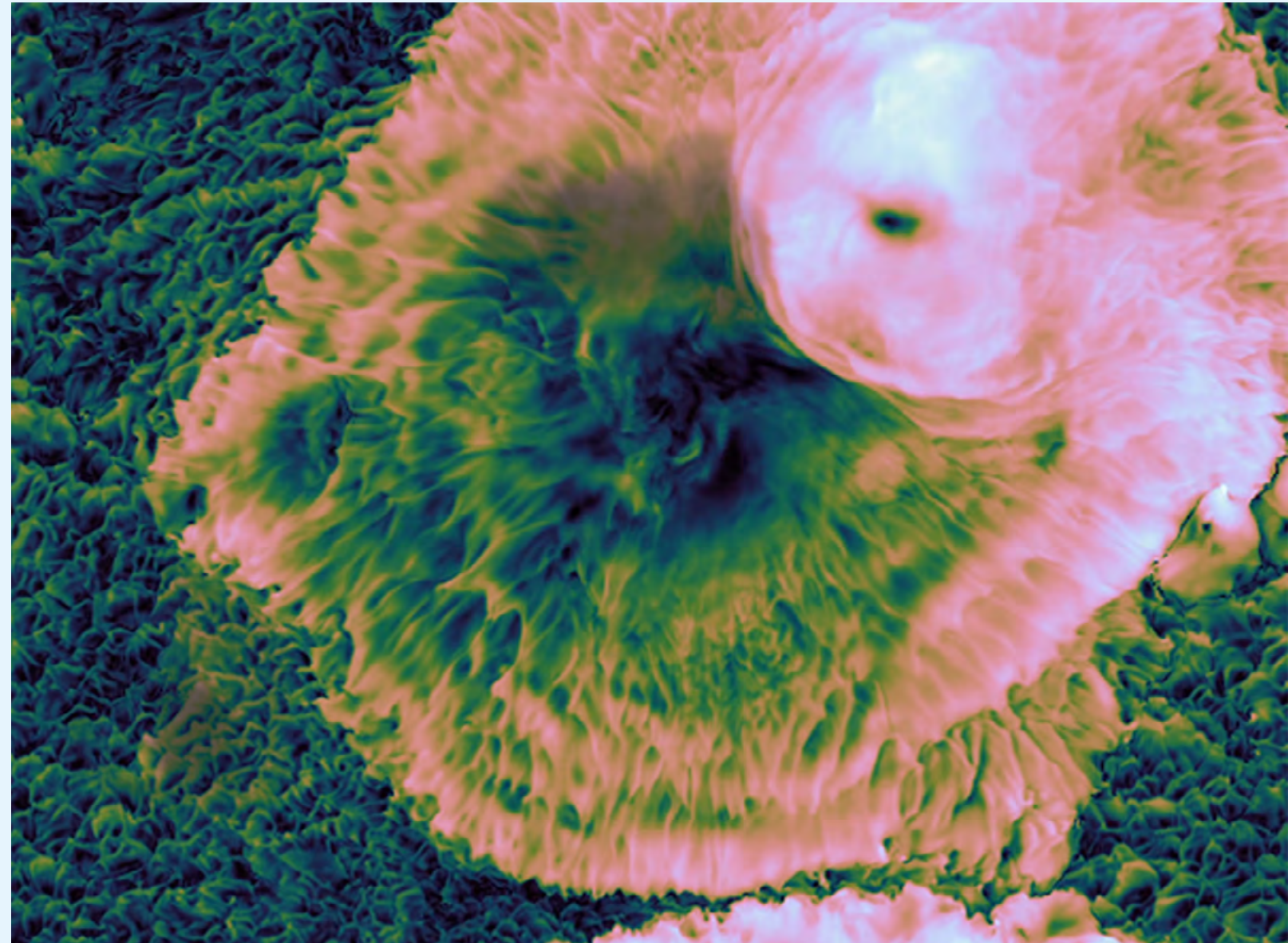
Over the duration of the exhibition, an array of programmed elements were hosted within the netted structure to fuse scientific, artistic and activist practices and approaches toward the future of altered cloudscapes.

# Ruptured Render (2023)

*Ruptured Render* is a video installation that uses cloud modelling software to imagine future cloudscares. Climate models project that higher concentrations of CO2 and rising ocean temperatures could cause marine stratocumulus clouds could break up, leading to a catastrophic 12 degree rise in global temperatures.

The video presents this incomprehensible future through the same lens of abstraction used by climate scientists, and invites a consideration of climate tipping points beyond the binaries of hope and despair. The work was throupresented during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios, in collaboration with Ekaterina Volkova.

[Link](#) to video documentation



The cloud casting this shadow  
is missing from the image.



## Digital Foreshadow (2023)

*Digital Foreshadow* is a video installation that links Google Maps' 2012 digital erasure of clouds as foreshadowing of the disappearance of clouds due to climate change. The work was presented during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios. Collaboration with Ekaterina Volkova.

[Link](#) to video documentation

## Future Models Manual (2022)

[\*A Future Manual for Future Models\*](#) is an alternative guide to Integrated Assessment Models, vast computer programs that indicate future consequences of climate change, and form the scientific basis of climate change discourse and policy.

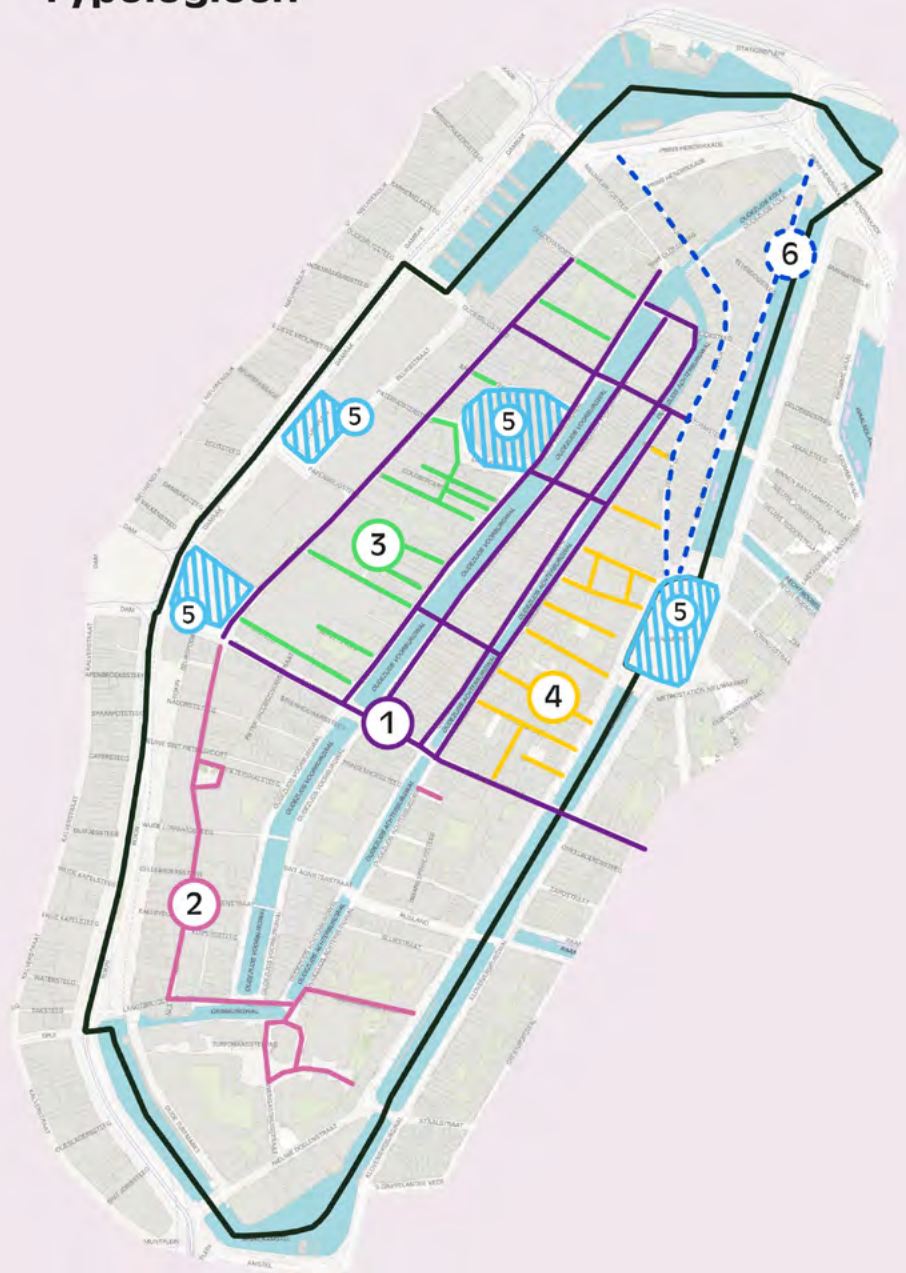
The manual takes the form of a website, and explores climate models from the perspective of creative practices such as film making, graphic design, storytelling, and translation in order to propose alternatives to current climate modelling practices.

The project was conducted in collaboration with Ekaterina Volkova during the *Imagining Low Carbon Futures* residency, Jan van Eyck Academy and Urban Futures Studio, Utrecht University.

**A FUTURE  
MANUAL  
→ ↘ → FOR  
FUTURE  
MODELS ↗**

An Artist's  
Guide on  
How to do  
Integrated  
Assessment  
Modelling  
Differently

## Typologieën



### ① Primaire straten

#### Op de kaart:

Dam straten  
Oudezijds Voorburg- en Achterburgwal  
Warmoesstraat/Lange Niezel/Korte Niezel

#### Beschrijving:

Bijna altijd druk en meestal vies, gebrek aan voorzieningen voor bewoners.  
's Avonds dronken toeristen, dealers, soms onveilig.

### ② Wallen Zuid

#### Op de kaart:

Nes  
Pleintje Brakke grond  
Grimburgwal  
Waalsekerk/plein  
Oudemanhuispoort  
UvA terrein

#### Beschrijving:

Bijna unaniem genoteerd als voorbeeld voor alle leefbaarheid thema's. Hier komen verschillende bezoekers (toeristen, Amsterdammers, studenten).

### ③ Wallen West

#### Op de kaart:

Stegen tussen Warmoesstraat en Oudezijds Voorburgwal

#### Beschrijving:

's Avonds druk, vies (horeca afval), dealers, voelt onveilig. Ook overdag druk.

# Context Mapping Leefbaarheidspanel Wallengebied (2022)

The City of Amsterdam's Leefbaarheidspanel Wallengebied was a two-year project in which civil servants work with residents and business owners to co-develop new policies and urban designs that address tensions in Amsterdam's Red Light District.

A series of mapping exercises led to the identification of specific typologies in the neighbourhood that were previously unknown to the government. Working in granular detail allowed the Panel to address the specificities of the area

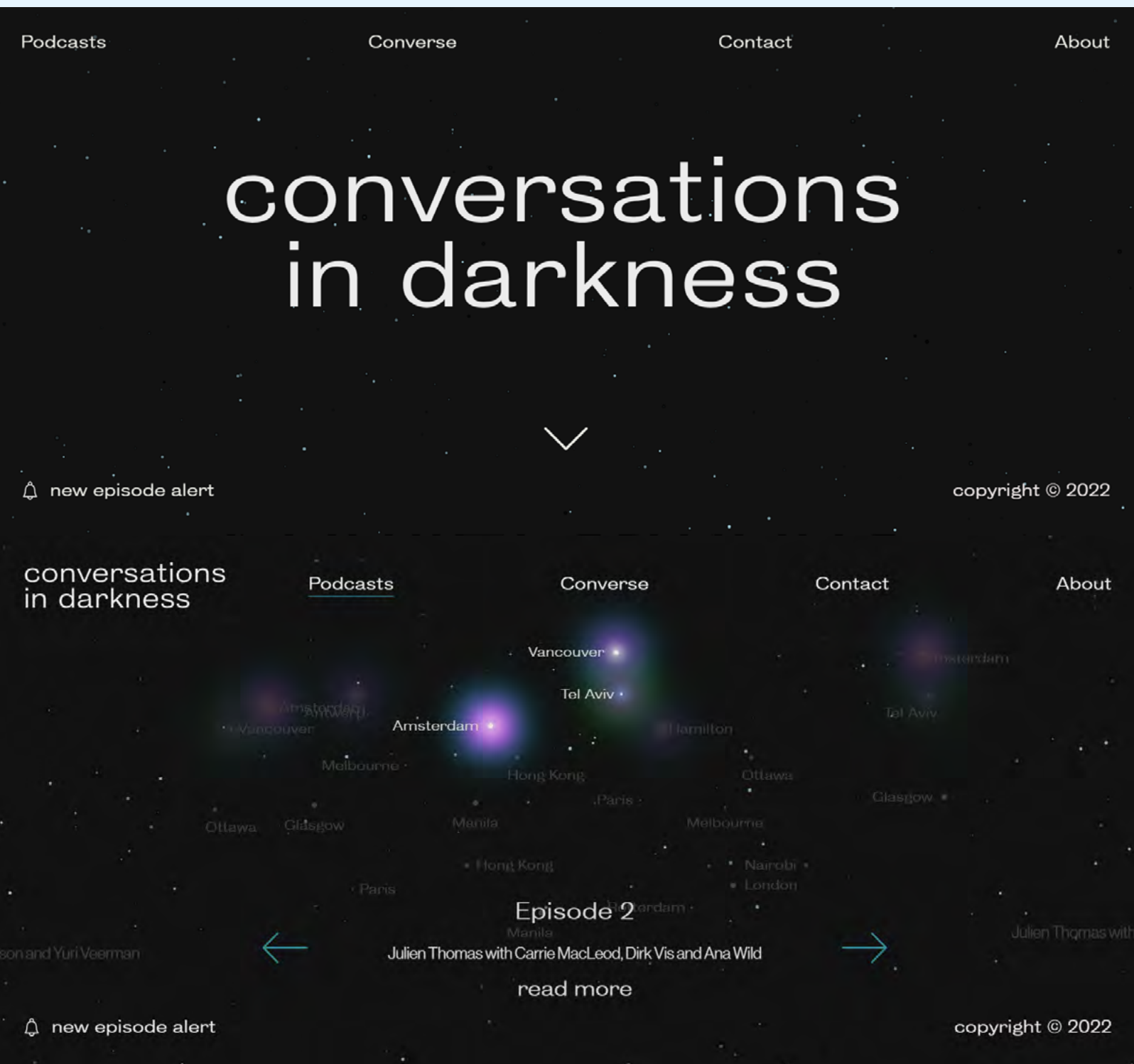
# Uw Buurt en Windmolens (2021)

*Uw Buurt en Windmolens* was a spatial participation method developed for the City of Amsterdam's Regional Energie Strategie Reflectiefase.

Through maps, questionnaires and texts, 270 participants contributed hopes and concerns for the future of their neighbourhood in relation to wind energy production within city limits.

The final report [\*Onze Stad en Windmolens\*](#) was presented to City Council as a proposal for future co-design activities with citizens.





## Conversations in Darkness (2021)

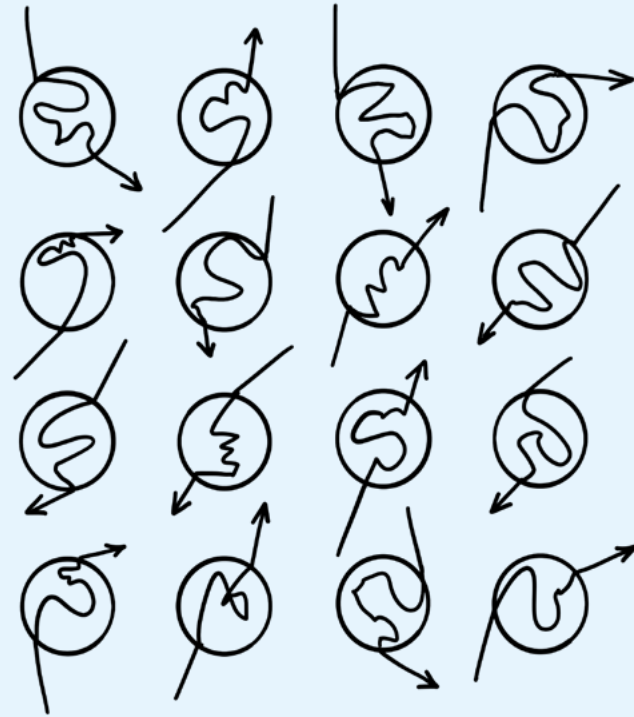
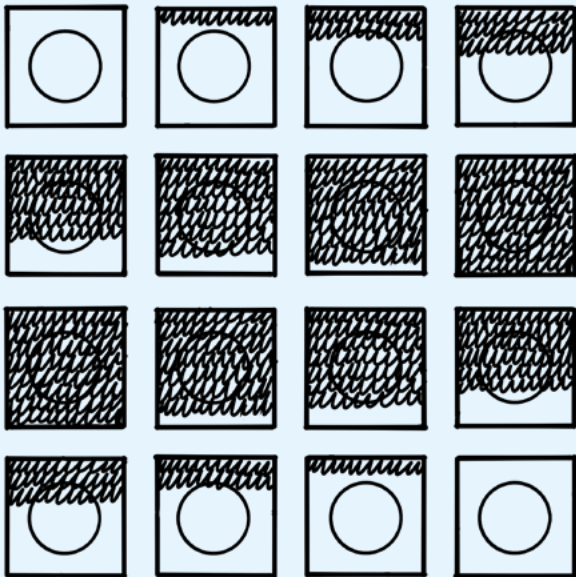
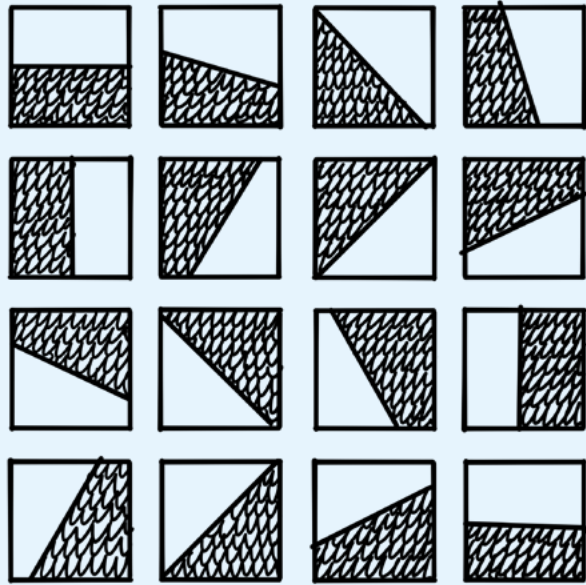
[Conversations in Darkness](#) is a web application that hosts spatialised conversations. The voices of others appear directionally - coming from the side or in front - so that participants feel as if they are sharing physical space together. The project was initiated as a response to social distancing regulations during COVID.

# Timescapes (2021)

*Timescapes* considers the historic and contemporary role of light as a keeper of time. The work was developed in collaboration with architect Marie Prunault, and utilises parametric design to craft a series of large wooden screens that capture light as the sun moves across the sky.

The installation was hung in the Grote Zaal of Pictura Gallery in Dordrecht, and presented in a duo show with designer Marije Vogelzang to celebrate Dutch landscape painter Albert Cuyp's 400th birthday anniversary.





# Perception Design Studio (2020)

The [Perception Design Studio](#) explores the potential of design strategies to assist policy-actors working in complex situations.

The Studio's activities focus on the role of sensory perception as a basis for thought. Sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste all inform our ability to perceive the world, and provide the basis for language, meaning, and politics.

Through the design of speculative interior elements that incorporate light installation and kinetic sculpture, the Studio seeks to enable participants in exploring the sensoral aspects of politics.

The Studio is a collaboration with The City of Amsterdam and Public Mediation, a consultancy which facilitates multi-stakeholder conflict mediation processes.

# Onzicht (Perception Design Studio)

*Onzicht* (from the Dutch words *inzicht*: insight and *onzichtbaar*: invisible) confounds the role of vision in interpersonal dynamics. The installation considers light placement, colour, and duration in replicating a process of dusk and dawn, and allows participants to experience shifts in vision may influence the timing, intonation, and content of a conversation.

Over a one-hour duration, all light in the room fades out to create an experience of complete darkness, before returning to the original lighting arrangement. Through the subtraction of light, *Onzicht* reorients the sensoral hierarchy of conversations away from vision and towards other senses.

[Link](#) to video documentation





## Refraction Table (Perception Design Studio)

*Refraction Table* translates sound into wave patterns on water. As the water ripples expand they create dynamic patterns of interaction. Through the propagation of unexpected and unpredictable patterns, the object presents alternative interpretations of a conversation that exceeds representation.

[Link](#) to video documentation

# Conversation Imbalance (2018)

## Conversation Balance (2016)

*Conversation Imbalance* and *Conversation Balance* explore the nature of political agency through movement. Through their shape, the installations enable participants to feel the movement of others in space. This expanded sensation invites a broader repertoire of nonverbal communication, from gesture towards whole body movement.

The installation facilitates participants in embodying and performing certain gestures, scenarios, and concepts so as to enable latent forms of political expression to emerge beyond language.

[Link](#) to video documentation





## Faraday Cafe (2014)

The Faraday Cafe was a pop-up coffee bar that repelled wireless signals. Upon entering the cafe mobile phones lost their signal, reminding patrons of a time before ubiquitous wireless coverage. By giving visitors the option to disconnect from their devices, the project proposed alternative relationships to digital technology.

Located in Vancouver's Chinatown, the Café served a rotation of artisanal coffees by donation, and hosted a variety of events including morning meditation sessions, afternoon DJ sets, dinner and dessert parties, and evening storytelling gatherings.

[Link](#) to video documentation



# Park-a-Park (2013)

Park-a-Park was a pilot initiative to transform roll-off disposal bins into mobile community spaces. The project reimagined relationships to streets and the public sphere by repurposing conventional urban forms.

The bin was dropped at nine locations throughout Vancouver over the summer of 2013, hosting weekly potluck gatherings and acting as an open space to convene and catalyze community initiatives.



# Rainblossom Project (2013)

