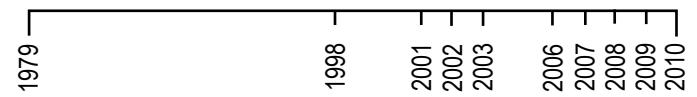
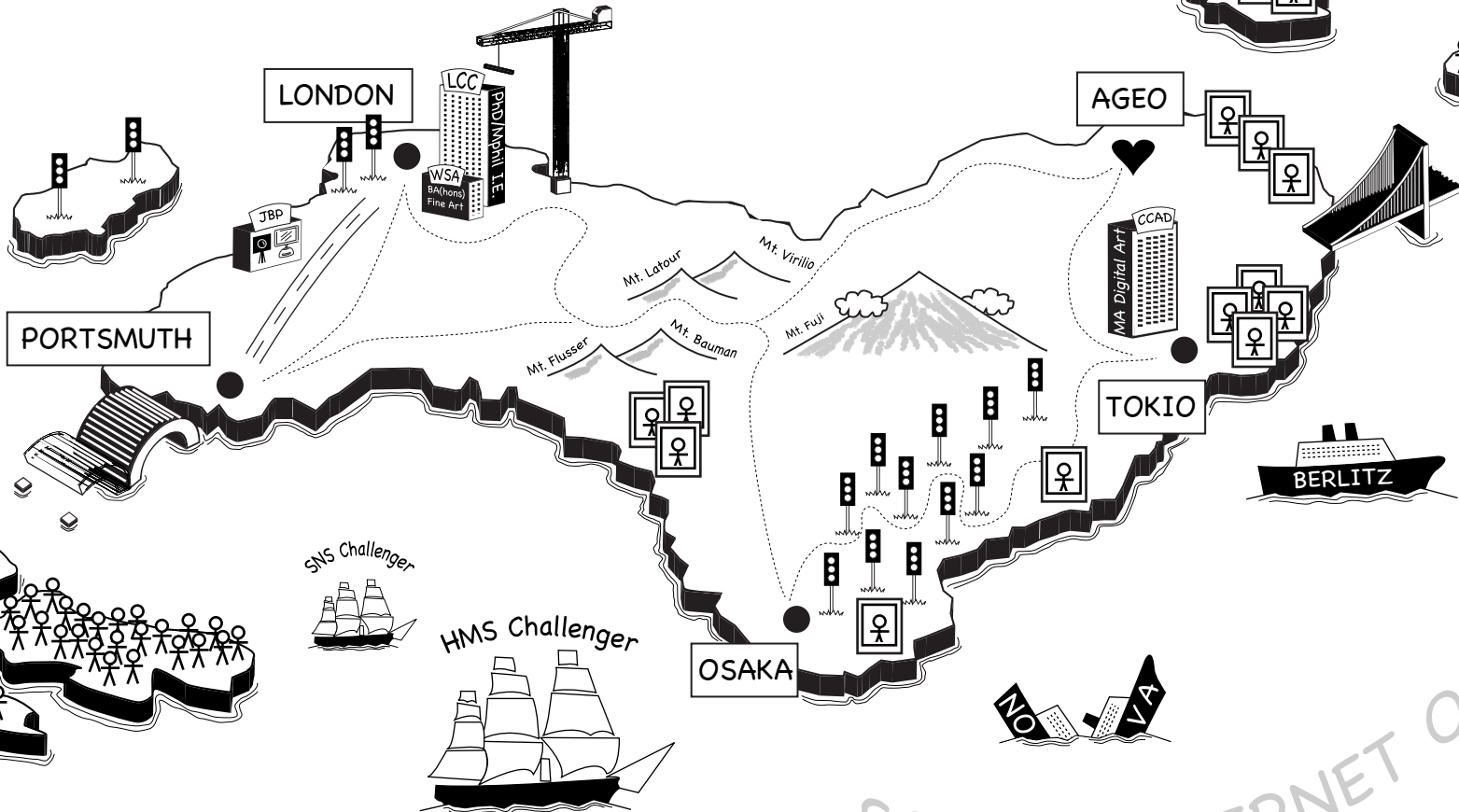
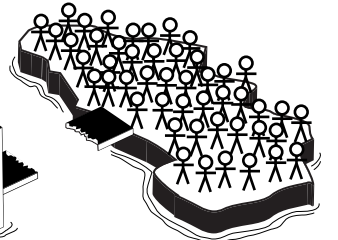
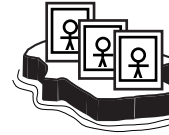
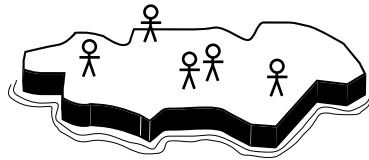


NORTH INTERNET OCEAN

Gary McLeod

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Personal Statement:

At the heart of my artistic practice is a method of limiting and harnessing floods of visual information. Having lived in Japan for six and a half years with a background in digital photography, I have grown particularly sensitive to incredible amounts of what Vilém Flusser called 'Technical Images'. Therefore, my photographic practice has evolved to cope with superfluous levels of coded images. I do this by using a lens to isolate fragments of a subject and creating visual data that I can control. Either logically or aesthetically, I pull these fragments together again to form a coherent project. These projects can be likened to vessels and each one has a general destination which it is trying to reach. If the project strays from the destination for whatever reason, the experience is noted in blogs, recorded visually and mapped. Through my practice, I am learning more about the information environments in which we all live, and I take a proactive interest in how the role of artists are changing. The sociologist Zygmunt Bauman noted that consumers are increasingly leading lives like that of stereotypical artists but that there are few, if any reliable guides or reference points (Bauman, 2008). Indeed, in this Internet age, consumers are at the mercy of volumes of visual information that they merely wade through. Seeing this, I am increasingly orientating my practice within communities. My role as an artist is therefore in helping members of the community to locate themselves culturally within a sea of information. Through this, I simultaneously learn more about my own position.

Education:

2009-2015 MPhil/PhD (P.T.) London College of Communications
2006-2008 MA Digital Art (P.T.) Camberwell College of Art. UAL
1998-2001 BA (Hons) Fine Art, Wimbledon School of Art, London
1997-1998 Foundation Dip. in Art & Design, Fareham College
1995-1997 GNVQ Art & Design, Fareham College

Awards:

2006-2008 AHRC Masters preparation award

Selected Projects Organized and Directed:

2009 - 2015 "SNS Challenger": This is an ongoing global Internet based project, which aims to re-visit and re-photograph the Victorian voyage of HMS Challenger (1872-1876) collectively using a specific Social Network Website as a hub and metaphorical ship "sailing" on the World Wide Web. I am currently responsible for 66 volunteers worldwide. My role is to oversee the voyage, write reports on volunteer's contributions, aid research from primary sources, give advice and encourage communication. The project has so far been written about in various newspapers around the world. www.snschallenger.org

2008 - 2010 "TRANSNATIONALS": Using established networks in Tokyo, I photographed a number of individuals and couples who could be considered as "Transnational". All had come to Japan for personal reasons, or were Japanese and had a fondness of western culture and a general dissatisfaction with their own culture. Inspired by 18th & 19th century British portraiture, the pictures were taken with a hybrid camera through discussion with the sitters.

2008 - 2009 "PRIVILEGE": Over the course of one year, using Facebook to find volunteers, I interviewed and photographed 96 English Teachers around Japan. The project culminated in 3 public exhibitions in Tokyo and Osaka, which were sponsored by a variety of organizations. This project was also warmly written about in Japan's English language newspapers and magazines including Japan Times and Metropolis. The photographs are now part of the Natural History Museum's anthropology archives in London.

2007 - 2008 "RE-CHALLENGER": This project saw me research and re-photograph pictures taken in Japan in 1875 by HMS Challenger. The resulting photographs are now part of the Natural History Museum's archive in London. Supported by an Arts and Humanities Research Council Masters Preparation Award, the project culminated in 2 installation exhibitions at Gallery HOT, Osaka and University of Arts, London. The Arts and Humanities Research Council also noted the project as a good example of what they were trying to achieve.

2007 "ALL NIGHT LONG IN...": This project was two separately commissioned interactive installations using videos of traffic lights filmed in Monaghan and Birr in Ireland. In each exhibition, the video displayed the traffic lights dancing to a tune that Japanese traffic lights emit. However, when people moved, the video switched to the lights behaving normally. In Monaghan, I filmed the traffic lights but in Birr, the traffic lights were filmed by local residents. I also presented my work in two artist talks to children of 16-18 and 5-7.

2006 "GO": This was a video project that consisted of an interactive playable chessboard made with videos of traffic lights filmed in the centre of Osaka city. Players used glass chess pieces and moved them when the lights changed from red to green. The project culminated in an exhibition at Gallery HOT in Osaka with 200 people in attendance over 12 days.

2005 "GUIDING LIGHTS": This was a video project that documented 220 traffic lights in Osaka, which were then arranged and projected onto the ceiling of the gallery as stars in a galaxy. Artificial grass covered the floor inviting people to lie down. Visitors were also asked to create their own constellations from the newly created night sky. The project was exhibited at the Early Gallery in Osaka and Jedburgh Art Centre in the UK.

Selected Exhibitions:

2010 *SNS Challenger*, Window, University of Auckland
2009 *Privilege*, Zuishoji Art Projects, Tokyo
2009 *Privilege*, Foreign Correspondents Club, Tokyo
2009 *Privilege*, Contemporary Art Space Osaka
2009 *Art Transnational 2009*, Osaka Contemporary Art Center
2008 *HABIT part 2* Camberwell College of Art, London
2008 *HABIT part 1*, Gallery H.O.T, Osaka
2007 *Osaka 2.0*, Soho Art Gallery Café, Osaka
2007 *All Night Long in Birr*, Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Eire
2007 *All Night Long in Monaghan*, Market House, Eire
2007 *The Challenger Photographs*, Gallery H.O.T, Osaka
2006 *Escalate*, Contemporary Art Space Osaka
2006 *Temporary Lights*, Yahoo BB Internet Café, Kyoto
2006 *GO*, Gallery H.O.T. Osaka
2005 *Guiding Lights*, Jedburgh Art Centre, UK
2005 *Guiding Lights*, Early Gallery, Osaka

Public Talks and Presentations Given:

Sept 6-9th 2010, Challenger Conference 2010 NOC
Mar 6th 2010, JALT Kyoto Chapter, Kyoto
Feb 6th 2010, Nat. Museum of Science & Nature, Tokyo
Mar 13th 2009, Wimbledon College of Art, UK
Mar 5th 2009, National Oceanographic Centre, Southampton
Mar 3rd 2009, Natural History Museum, London
Sept 22nd 2008, Arts & Humanities Research Council, Bristol
Sept 18th 2008, Fareham College
April 2nd 2008, Natural History Museum, London

Other Employment

Aug 2007 - June 2010, *English Instructor*, Berlitz, Tokyo
Sept 2007, *Commissioned Artist*, Bir Theatre of Arts, Eire
August 2007 - 2010 *Writer* (voluntary) Tokyo Art Beat Blog
Feb 2007, *Commissioned Artist*, Market House, Eire
April 2006 - April 2008, *Writer*, Kansai Scene Magazine
Nov 2003 - July 2007, *Online English Instructor*, Nova, Osaka
April 2002 - Oct 2003, *Digital Photographic Assistant*, Jason Butcher Photography, Aldershot.

References:

Available on request