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Adjective Constructions: Stratigraphic Drawing and Projective Dis /Placement

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Abstract

Adjective Constructions is an ongoing speculative drawing practice tended to by MOTE Projects (Chad Connery and Anca Matyiku). Through it we leverage our fifteen years of collaboration across the continent, to examine the opportunities in drawing together remotely. We each draw from a physical site that is ultimately inaccessible to the other to create a stratified soil from which to grow the drawings. The drawings emerge from a bi-directional process of site documentation, fragmentation, mediated transmissions, compression, delamination, and unstable construction, producing twin-faced drawings from a pairing of two local sites that are never simultaneously accessible to both collaborators. While we've elsewhere explored the dialogic process of drawing together remotely, we take this opportunity to examine more closely the drawings as stratified artifacts.

We understand *Adjective Constructions* as neither maps, nor models, nor paintings but consider them informed by aspects of all three, each expanding the toolset for thinking through place as well as through mediated distance. The kinds of knowledge they may produce is thus situated in the artifacts' resistance to familiar categories. They are essentially sedimentary constructions: layered, compressed, and plastic image-objects whose depth remains active and consequential. The strata of the drawings are legible but never complete, propagating spatial projections of variable reliability drawn from mediated experiences. Their surfaces are not lines on a plane but laminated fields, occupiable and reorderable such that their thickness is imbued with dormant potentiality and remains partially in play.

In responding to the call for cartographies of practice, this hybrid format presentation contends with the notion that the mapping actions of *Adjective Constructions* are not planimetric, but firmly sectional. The thickness of these drawings, their stratigraphy of material and procedure, refuses definition and keeps meaning persistently unsettled. Through these processes of stratification that involve two distant drawing partners, memory and experience are simultaneously situated and displaced, registered and translated through both presence and absence in place. Thus, the drawings chart out a projective and generative space of in-betweenness that is tethered to two distinct locations as well as the distance between them. Through this hybrid format conversation - somewhere between visual essay and close reading of the drawings themselves - we explore the types of knowledge that emerge in engendering this projective geography through our architects' tools contaminated by mediated distance.

Keywords: drawing; landscape; entanglement; mixed-media; in-situ; embodied experience.

Team Bio

MOTE projects is a speculative design practice founded by Chad Connery and Anca Matyiku. Their work explores opportunities for public space interventions to tell the

stories of human participation within expanded material ecologies, cultural imaginaries, and climate futures. They have previously collaborated with horticulturalists, biologists, landscape architects, musicians, graphic designers, ceramicists, students, and local communities to

make projects that playfully animate dialogues about urban health, the lives of other species, and environmental stewardship. MOTE projects has been featured in galleries, journal publications, edited volumes, web-based articles and at conferences across Canada, USA, the UK, and at the 2012 Architecture Biennale in Venice.

Chad earned a Bachelor of Environmental Design and a Master of Architecture from the University of Manitoba. He has previously taught architecture and design at the University of Manitoba, and is currently Assistant

Professor at the University of Calgary. Anca earned a Bachelor of Architectural studies from the University of Waterloo, a Master of Architecture from the University of Manitoba, and a PhD in the history and theory of architecture from McGill University. She has taught architecture and interior design at McGill University, Louisiana State University, University of Colorado Denver, and University of Cincinnati where she is currently Assistant Professor. Both Anca and Chad have extensive experience in architecture and design practices across Canada and internationally.

