

exercise::05

Mapping Your Senses

Assignment ::

As visual thinkers, we often rely on our sense of sight as the primary method of experiencing our world. What happens to a communication when we give the viewer more 'sensations' in which to experience and interpret a message? Is more always better? Does it always work? What kind of communications do these lead to? Mapping out an experience or observation is a way of deconstructing possible meaning, noting where links to other senses could be made, and finding ways to share that experience with others.



In this exercise, you will engage your environment with a heightened awareness, focusing on a particular sense, and use observation/data collection methods that are not common to your regular process. For this exercise, craft a unique way to share that experience, and present it to the class.

Process ::

For your first group meeting, introduce yourself and exchange basic contact information. Discuss what sense you were assigned and what campus locations offer the most interesting possibilities based on that sense (locations must be on or very near campus). Collaborate fully in the decision-making. Select a location and strategy for the project. Decide if you will need any tools or particular equipment to execute your strategy, then come to the next class prepared to do it.

The following class session you will have **30 minutes** to execute your walk-about and sensory collection. You will then return to evaluate your observations, reflections, and concrete findings (objects, photographs, sound recordings, rubbings, etc.). Consider some of these questions:

- What smell do you associate with what you are communicating?
- What visual/color/shapes would you use to describe the mood?
- What sound do you hear?
- What physical sensation might you associate with this message?

You will then have an additional **30 minutes** to execute the next section, considering these questions:

- What are the meanings, associations and sensory qualities of these elements, individually and when they are brought together?
- How can they be synthesized/reinterpreted into a greater whole?
- How can the experience, and the physical environment explored, be translated into a form to communicate the experience to others?

Each group will address these questions and **construct a map/diagram/image/performance/activity** to present to the class. This communication should use elements from the excursion, directly or indirectly. The goal is to construct an experience for the class that represents a synthesis of the individual experiences of the group members into a new experience or form. Bring your laptop/iPad and any other device that might help in the documentation/creation of this experience. Every group member must be included in the creation and presentation in some way (no wallflowers!).

Requirements ::

Each group will have up-to 7 minutes to present at the end of class. Do not go over! The entire exercise and presentation will take place on **Thursday, November 7th, 2024** (Week 06) and is worth 20 points. You must be present on that day to earn full-credit.

Groups ::

My group number is **06**.

1**Sound**

Use audio recorders/phones to record interesting/unusual snippets of sounds

2**Scent**

Find items whose most interesting aspect is the smell, manufactured or natural; use them as-is or altered

3**Touch**

Gather and record items for their textural quality; physically collect them and record them through rubbings

4**Narrative**

Descriptive, describe in writing something visually interesting; do it in such a way that a listener can sense the item/event without seeing it.

5**Sight**

Record, use cameras and sketching to capture visually interesting situations, sites, etc.

6**Time**

Use any tool at your disposal (including your imagination)

Group Members ::

List your group members' names below: