

Sensory Threads Workshop at Dislocate08, ZAIM Yokohama

Proboscis

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Sensory Threads Workshop at Dislocate08

18 September 2008, 2-6pm
ZAIM, Yokohama

The environment around us is a mass of sensory information, some of it easy to detect, playing on our visual, aural, olfactory, gustatory and tactile senses, while others are less perceptible - electro-magnetic radiation, hi/lo sound frequencies, infra-red light etc - and yet these imperceptible streams interact with us regularly as we go about our everyday lives.

As part of our research for Sensory Threads, Proboscis is leading a workshop at Dislocate08 to engage artists, urbanists, designers, technologists, musicians and dancers in an active investigation into the sensorial patterns and rhythms to be found in our environment. The area around ZAIM in Yokohama will become our research field as we seek out and evidence the recurring, overlapping and intersecting sounds and movements that take place as we act in, and react to, our environment.

Notes / Observations / Drawings

Sensory Threads is a work-in-progress to develop an instrument enabling a group of people to create a soundscape reflecting their collaborative experiences in the environment. For this interactive sensory experience, we are designing sensors for detecting environmental phenomena at the periphery of human perception as well as the movement and proximity of the wearers themselves. Possible targets for the sensors may be electro-magnetic radiation, hi/lo sound frequencies, heart rate etc). The sensors' datastreams will feed into generative audio software, creating a multi-layered and multi-dimensional soundscape feeding back the players' journey through their environment. Variations in the soundscape reflect changes in the wearers' interactions with each other and the environment around them. We aim to premiere the work in 2009. Sensory Threads is being created by Proboscis in collaboration with Birkbeck College's Pervasive Computing Lab, The Centre for Digital Music at Queen Mary (University of London), the Mixed Reality Lab at the University of Nottingham and the School of Management at University of Southampton. <http://proboscis.org.uk>

Please make a drawing (or write down the name) of an object or a person that frustrated you during the workshop.

Workshop Schedule

14.00 - 14.10 Introduction and brief overview of Sensory Threads project

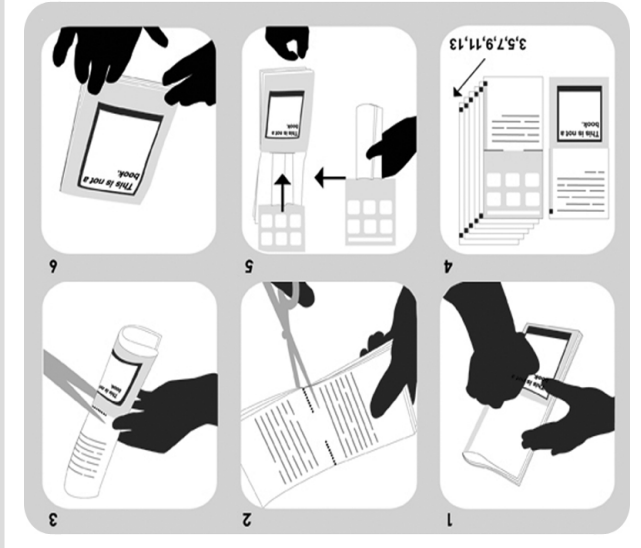
14.10 - 14.45 Introduction by participants

14.45 - 16.15 Scavenging Fieldwork: In groups, participants explore the area around ZAIM documenting traces of imperceptible phenomena using recording technologies.

16.15 - 16.45 Return to ZAIM. Groups look over recordings and prepare short presentations for the other participants.

16.45 - 17.45 Groups present their findings of imperceptible phenomena. Discussion of patterns emerging from these.

17.45 - 18.00 Conclusion

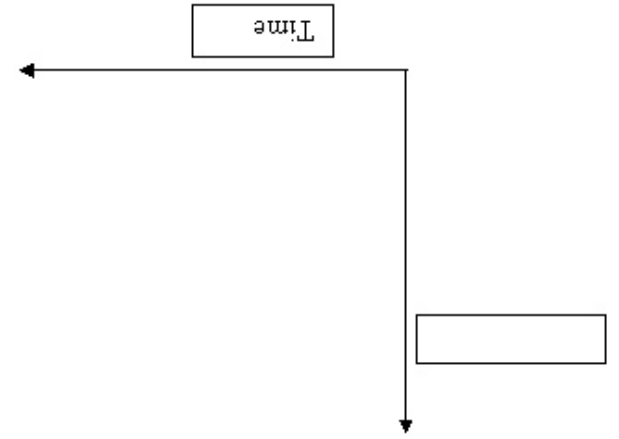


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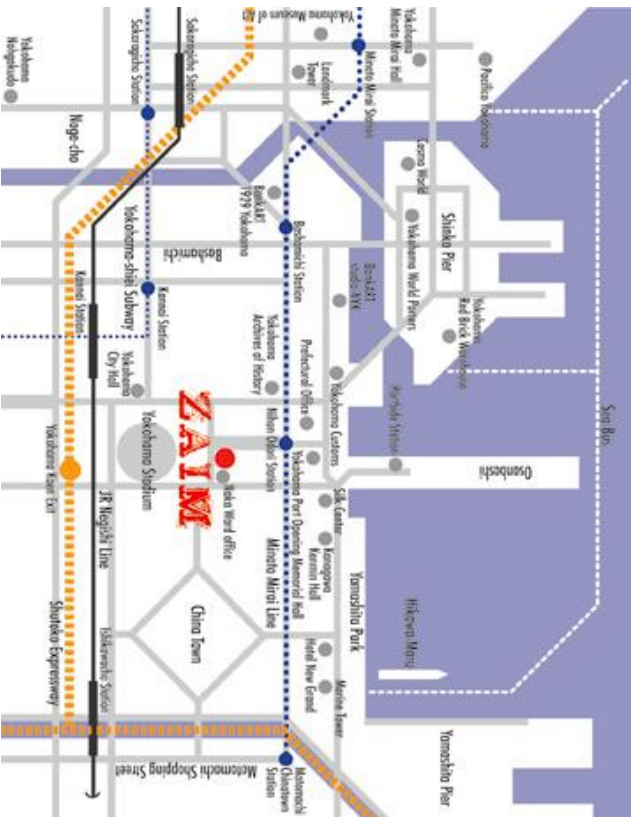
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Please make a drawing (or write down the name) of an object or a person that helped you during the workshop.



Think back to a feeling during the seminar like excitement, happiness or frustration. Using this graph, indicate how this feeling varied during the workshop?

What kinds of phenomena might our bodies be interacting with that are at the fringes of our perception?
How do we know they exist - do they leave traces in the environment or can we identify sources for them?
How do they affect the way we perceive of our bodies and the environments we inhabit?
Use these pages to jot down notes, scribble images and traces of patterns, rhythms, traces or sources of phenomena at the edges of our sensory perceptions that you identify or speculate being present in the area.



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