

ON THE SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION

Symposium

The online Symposium “Shifts in Mapping” brought together renowned scientists, activists, artists, and designers who all worked in a broad context of cartography, in the fields of media studies, art, and design. The Symposium’s aim was to discuss current positions, projects, concepts, and methods around cartography and the medium of the map and to place them in a larger context. At the same time, the Symposium promoted a dialog between science, art, design, and technology. The online event was aimed at both academic and non-academic audiences and enabled an exchange from an interdisciplinary and holistic perspective.

Spread over two days, different formats were presented, which were characterized by subversive, artistic, critical, and/or political approaches. The event included lecture contributions by Kollektiv orangotango (Severin Halder and Paul Schweizer), Birgit Schneider, Philippe Rekacewicz, Ulrike Felsing and Max Frischknecht, bureau d’études (Léonore Bonaccini and Xavier Fourt), and Diana Alvarez-Marin. Their engagement and contributions resulted in this book’s collection of thoughtful and peer-reviewed papers. The speakers’ contributions provide this publication’s basis and theoretical framework and can be found in the essay section.

More than 1,200 participants from all over the world attended the online Symposium via live streaming. Their active participation, questions, and engagement were invaluable. As such, the Symposium offered a lively platform for interdisciplinary discussion and critical thinking for both practice and research. Furthermore, the Symposium represented a contribution to digital cartography by considering the design / artistic elements at play, technological discussions, and processes and by promoting a dialog between science, art, design, and technology. Both the medium and the practice

of mapping were critically discussed and were developed and elaborated within a mostly digital context.

A complementary approach, from a critical and artistic perspective, was presented as a collection of artworks during the Exhibition “Shaping the Invisible World”.

Exhibition

The Exhibition “Shaping the Invisible World” examines cartography as a tool between knowledge and technology. The Exhibition presents a selection of artists who use cartographic strategies and location technologies to discuss geopolitical contexts, to uncover hidden worlds, and unknown realities.

Artists: Studio Above&Below, Tega Brain & Julian Oliver & Bengt Sjölén, James Bridle, Persijn Broersen & Margit Lukács, bureau d'études/Collectif Planète Laboratoire, fabric|ch, Fei Jun, Total Refusal (Robin Klengel & Leonhard Müllner), Trevor Paglen, Esther Polak & Ivar Van Bakkum, Quadrature, Jakob Kudsk Steensen.

An overview of the Exhibition and the exhibited artists can be found in the Exhibition section of this publication.