

## A FIELD GUIDE TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE

3LD Art & Technology Center stands 3 blocks south of the original World Trade Center site. Since September 11, 2001, this neighborhood has been transformed. But it won't be the last transformation, nor is it the first. Wall Street, 2 blocks east, was an actual wall in the 17th century Dutch colony. Maps from the 19th century reveal that the island shoreline has shifted in a dramatic way. This is a guide to the courses of change and flow around 80 Greenwich Street, from the perspective of fourteen items in the space (including infrastructure and art work). Each item corresponds to a number on an orange marking flag. These binoculars may aid you in finding them. Welcome to the place where you are.



### 1 Ladder

It is June, 2017. You're standing on this ladder. McMaster Carr model 8188T87. Holding you 7'8" up in the air, and you can feel safe, the powder-coated steel can bear the load (up to 450 lbs). Its powder coat is probably thermoplastic, a whole genus of materials that can be shaped, molded, and even made particulate with enough heat. This genus also fills the Atlantic trash vortex, spinning on the Sargasso Sea like --

### 2 Power Grid

-- A gyre, moving with the force of the trade winds that carried explorers here. It's 2078 and you're with a group teenagers on a small skiff being tousel by strong gusts off the coast of the Rockaways, the same flows that drive the monumental turbines surrounding you in an archipelago of community-owned power-generation. It's the end of the 21st century, with no brick-and-mortar schools. You're their intrepid instructor, and you call their attention to a murmuration of 10,000 tree swallows, bound for the Carolinas, the wind farm was installed outside their flyway. Communities choosing --

### 3 Fluorescent Light Bulb

-- Priorities. Light or warmth. You're in a makeshift laboratory on the 3rd floor of a skyscraper about three blocks east of 3LD. It used to be the 15th floor. You're here to help a guerilla chemist extract argon from the bundles of fluorescent bulbs stacked like lumber around the room. There's no better insulator for the dry diving suits everyone needs now that so much of the city is underwater. This noble gas, normally inert, distilled from liquid air, has become a prized resource in Manhattan, 2167. Almost as prized as--

### 4 Fire Sprinkler

-- The water in the Ashokan Reservoir, 100 miles north of here. Flowing downhill, like blood through your leg. Through an aqueduct, through a UV light treatment plant, city pipes, a nearby main, up into this building, into this sprinkler. This sprinkler is the valve on an upstate watershed, waiting to burst into action. At the turn of the 16th century, as Giovanni da Verrazzano was making the first European contact in New York Harbor, Leonardo da Vinci constructed a glass model of the human heart. As you gaze at this glass bulb in 2017, you gaze at the key to the water, the valve, its pressure. Should it shatter, then like a cut artery, it will not sprinkle, --

### 5 Handmade Boat

-- It will spray. Up over the sides of the Massicot, this paper boat, built for the open waters. Mare Liberum, Hugo Grotius' legal tract from 1609 claiming the seas are open to all. Mare Liberum, written for the benefit of the Dutch East India Company. Who sent Henry Hudson west that same year, giving them their claim to New Netherlands. You're in this paper boat, that sailed the Hudson River. You're in a dugout canoe, shaped from a tulip tree by Leni Lenape hands, crossing the same river, Shatemuc, in the year 1300. Shatemuc, "river that flows both ways". Like a tide, --

### 6 Video Projection

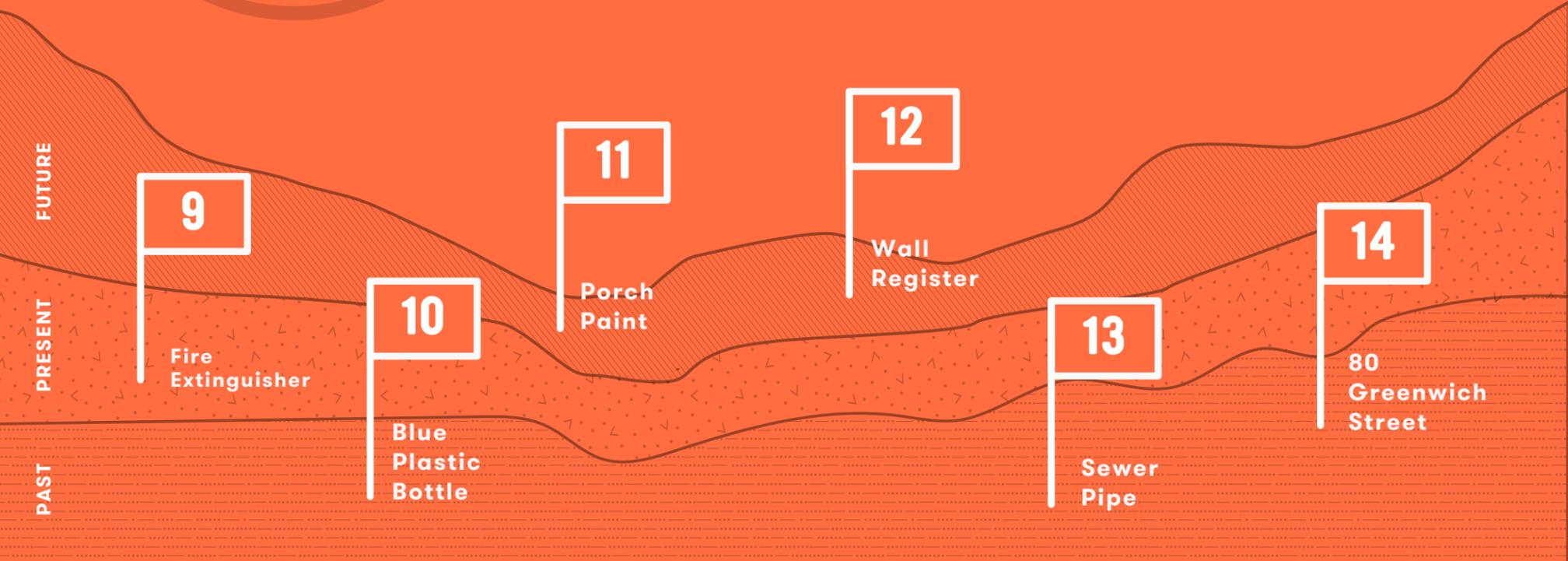
-- Pixels upon pixels flood this rear projection screen. Each one like a grain of sand on the shore in this image they reconstitute, bent through a lens in a Taiwanese projector. Part of the flood of electronics shipped into New York Harbor from East Asia. Millions of screens, glowing like the colored light reflected from the surfaces of the seven continents in the video. Glowing screens, glowing surfaces, like the illuminated moon, pulling the tides that subsume the body in the sequence you're watching. The body remains --

### 7 Exit Sign

-- In the water. At Standing Rock. In Mawah, NJ. You're there, with the Sioux, the Ramapough Luunape, the Water Protectors, in 2017. Coalitions of tribal communities and U.S. citizens have joined together in the water, a symbolic gesture towards the oil conglomerates trying to bisect watersheds, primary sources of human health, with steel pipelines. These "black snakes" seep toxins time and again. "LEAVE," you and the Water Protectors say, voices bright and hard like an EXIT sign made, per New York regulations, from steel.

### 8 Tour of Lower Manhattan

There's a slight breeze, the air's salty. Your in-eye bio-tech is telling you that here, 1000 years ago, was the financial center of the American Empire. You can see the ruins of the buildings, of course. They were emptied out when the water rose. Then came the boats, "New Venice" they called it, then. It's Manahatta now, again. Since the renaming. You cross one small landmass, about a block, and find a bridge--a vehicle called a bus that was wedged in place by the waves. When the Atlantic reclaimed the island, it split it to pieces, again. You're bio-eye warns of water rats. Your hand leaps to the trigger on --



## 9 Fire Extinguisher

-- Your best defense. If a curtain catches fire, you might grab this 21-inch red urn, and in 22 seconds, 10 lbs of ABC Dry Chemical will rain onto the gallery space of 3LD. Crisis averted. With each firing, another loss of precious, precarious phosphorus, mined from 15 million-year-old deposits out west in Montana, out east in Morocco, in threat of depletion before this century's done. Another spreading of pernicious phosphorus, agent of eutrophication, running off lawns, reducing oxygen in waterways, suffocating wildlife. Phosphorus mixed with plastic, to make the most-used flame retardant. Combined with plastic to make glowing rosaries, strings of --

## 10 Blue Plastic Bottle

-- Beads. Blue beads from blue bottles, microplastics littering the ocean floor. Beneath the waters off Battery Park, off Governor's Island (where these bottles were collected), more bottles pile up. And then degrade. Microplastics in massive amounts, the world's "missing plastics" masquerading as the ancient microorganisms from whence they came. You descend 100 million years, and find the fierce swimming Mosasaurs. air breathers, bearers of live young, who ate their prey in one gulp. Mosasaurs, discovered by the Dutch in 1764, popularizing the concept of species --

## 11 Porch Paint

-- Extinction. The year is 2525, and humans have decimated most sources of life. Facing your own demise, you've decided to start anew on the Moon. This blue paint, a relic of more prosperous times, is made with titanium oxide pigment. On the Moon, you'll be mining Ilmenite, the mineral source of that pigment, but not for aesthetics. You'll use it to make iron, and titanium, for construction. And you'll use it to extract oxygen, not an abundant resource up there. When you look back, and see the blue planet abandoned in the sky, will you miss the water. The water slowly rising, overtaking --

## 12 Wall Register

-- A wall register, on the pristine facade of a fortified highrise. There are many such HVAC units, glistening in the punishing June sunlight. Below, outside the new wall (this version was built by debt slaves in 2130), thirsty passersby stick out their tongues to catch the drizzling condensate. Feeling generous, the building's opulent occupants sometimes join in a ritual of dumping stagnant HVAC wastewater onto the street below, where birds, dogs, rats, and humans all compete for baths in the spoils. Then it runs into what's left of --

## 13 Sewer Pipe

-- The sewers. This pipe hasn't been built yet. It's the 1850s and after several cholera outbreaks, the city is starting to take action. They're laying down a system, 70 miles long, in Lower Manhattan. So folks don't toss their effluent in Minetta Creek, or take a piss in Old Wreck Brook. Storms in 1880's Brooklyn spew disgusting fountains into homes, smashing furniture, soaking carpets. Citizens form a "Flooded District Association", agitating. Now, pipe by pipe New York is building a Combined Sewer System, that will plague the city long after Minetta is beneath its streets. Hidden from view, missing from maps. This pipe descends to meet other invisible pipes, 6,000 miles of them in--

## 14 80 Greenwich Street

-- One network laid atop another, wastewater atop wetland. It's 1660, and you and your fellow Dutch occupy this island where two rivers meet the sea, an island covered in streams, creeks, marshes. You hear the cannons at Fort Amsterdam to the south. You're on the shore of the North River. You dip your fingers into the wet sand, you picture grasses, a park, streets, skyscrapers. the land that hasn't been made land. You're standing in this spot.