

VISIONS OF A FUTURE

a collective archive project by ElMalArt

Here is a suggested process for how to approach creating your own Vision of a Future.

1. INSPIRATION

Check out our resource list at fact.co.uk/visions-of-a-future-resources

Try to read, watch or listen to at least one thing from each of the four subtitles. What did you like or dislike? Did anything inspire you?

2. CHOOSE

Using a search engine of your choice, image search the name of your area next to the words 'plan', 'development' or 'map'. Did you know about all the developments planned for your area? Does it shock you? Do you like any? Consider how these images match up to how it feels to be really in the place. You can choose one or more images to be your base image.

3. CREATE

Find or create images to represent the changes you'd like to see and collage them onto your base. For this step you can either print out and collage on top of your base, use a computer software like photoshop, or even draw using microsoft word or paint. The more resourceful the better.

4. SUBMIT

If you'd like your visions of a future to be included on the Planetary View map, go to visionsofafuture.com and upload it as a jpeg file. Put in the address of the vision, and any caption you would like to go with your image.

This is just a suggestion, so please feel free to respond in whichever way feels authentic. There is no deadline nor sense of urgency, so take your time to really consider and connect.

TIPS

Be as creative as you'd like, or not! You can be silly and creative - collage wolves onto a golf course for example. Or, you can be practical - visualise the rebuilding of a housing estate that was knocked down. Or simply draw lines where you'd like an extra bus lane! The choice is yours. You can see other people's submissions for inspiration at visionsofthefuture.com.

Think about how your images fit spatially into the cartography of a map, and be as literal or as metaphorical as you'd like. E.g if you have made a piece about a community centre, the address you provide could be the actual address, or you could tag it to the address of the company that bought the building and turned it into a shop. Do not upload your personal addresses, please try to stick to public and commercial spaces and buildings.

Think about what name you would like the image to be tagged with and any influences, thoughts or comments. If you would prefer to submit sound or video work, please host on your preferred platform and provide an image with a link in the text box.

EXTRA INFO

Please allow at least 30 days to see your piece on the site.

Any abusive or disrespectful content will not be published and will be reported. While appropriating in the form of collage is accepted, any plagiarism will not be published.

The "planetary view" is intended to be a collective archive for anyone to contribute to, connect with and enjoy thus there is no submission fee. If you would like to do this activity as part of a group, you can find a suggested workshop plan at www.elmalart.com/workshops and you can email contact@elmalart.com if you would like to enquire about ElMalArt running a workshop for your group.

We are dedicated to paying artists and creatives, thus if you would like to get involved as a "project view" artist, please email contact@elmalart.com. These paid micro-commissions are subject to funding however, and we will usually do a call out if there is an opportunity to contribute in this way. We will not expect nor accept unpaid labour for any projects.

IMAGINATION AS HOPE AND PROPHECY

**Essay written by Jessica El Mal
June 2020**

Dominant development discourse focuses on notions of inferiority and a need to catch up with or assimilate to the “developed”. Ecological kinship, informal economies and communities of care are disregarded as underdeveloped, both on a national and international scale. Sometimes this manifests as abandonment, and sometimes in an array of “development projects” which see the building of skyscrapers, shopping malls and motorways. This model has always, however, been rooted in capitalist notions of value, perpetuating colonial flows of power, money, resources and information.

Without development, though, we are left in the past. A notion which may be romanticised and nostalgic but actualises as derelict buildings, lack of opportunity and a cycle of claustrophobic poverty. And with it? With it we become further separated from the earth and unrecognisable to our communities. Can't there be an inbetween?

Grounded to a halt by the pandemic, the UK, like many countries, is now realising the extent of the potential in

working from home and our cities are likely to never be the same again. The billions of pounds previously invested in motorways might now be redundant, meaning that money could be spent elsewhere.

Hotels, motels and office blocks lying empty; buildings that have been re-purposed to end homelessness and provide more hospital beds.

As construction sites lay bare, multinational fashion conglomerates have gone bust and when most of the working population is #WFH (working from home), this is an opportunity to change the use of space and society, presenting an alternative way to envisage the future of our cities at a moment which now seems long and drawn out but will soon be but a memory.

**WITHOUT
DEVELOPMENT,
ARE WE LEFT
IN THE PAST?**

Already, the distraction of the virus is enabling future plans to be sneaked through without community consultation, like the Brick Lane development which will devastate the Spitalfields Bangladeshi community, just one of many examples of gentrification as social cleansing which we need to stand against.

This project speculates and proposes a new model of development for the use of space within our cities. A model which doesn't devalue life - human nor non human - nor disregard non-western or anti-capitalist modes of development, amplifying voices which are rarely heard in development discourse - in particular from migrant communities.

CAN WE ENVISION A FUTURE THAT IS FREE FROM THE RESTRICTIONS OF PROFIT MARGINS AND LOGISTICS?

The project is accessible through 'Project View' - which showcases artists' Visions of a Future from UK cities traditionally regarded as 'underdeveloped'. 'Planetary View' - named planetary rather than global as an ode to Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak - showcases submissions from across the planet. With downloadable instructions and submissions uploadable on the 'Your View' tab, you can add your Visions of a Future to the planetary map free from geographical boundaries meaning the archive will surpass physical borders in order to establish a shared, imagined reality.

Though we are all hoping for a hasty return to normality, normality was in fact already deadly. Structural inequalities, climate change and climate injustice has gripped our planet to serve the interests of certain humans. By entering a realm between imagination and reality, we envision a future using a process that is free from the restrictions of profit margins and logistics, instead evoking intuition, local and indigenous knowledge and creativity to present a real alternative. Using imagination as hope, but also as prophecy.

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a collective archive project by EIMaIArt

Commissioned during the Covid-19 pandemic by
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This collective archive project by EIMaIArt maps
Visions of a Future in which the use of space has
been transformed.

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