

UV408115 Art and Archaeology: Context and Practice

As part of your summative assessment, you will be set 'mini-projects' which link to the lecture content. These mini-projects can be used for exploring topics in your portfolio and can be developed into your final project if you wish.

Class 5: Experiencing and recording landscapes in archaeology

**Mini-project: maps and map-making*

In this exercise you will choose a particular place and explore its history through maps. In archaeology this is often called a 'map regression' and is often a primary stage in research. Using the resources of the National Library of Scotland's map collections (maps.nls.uk), and the information available on Pastmap (pastmap.org.uk), find a place, explore the differences between past and present and the changes that have occurred through time. Bear in mind that maps are always a subjective interpretation, and that map-makers always make a choice in what they depict in the landscape. Maps are made for many different reasons and these have an effect on what is shown.

Now make your own map of a place, drawing what is important to you – what features would you show? These don't have to be visible, they could relate to memories and events. You could give your own names to features or streets. If you have a hand-held GPS device, or a GPS app on your phone, you could also do a digital version.

You can use this as the basis for your own place-based archaeological research or use it as a springboard for creative practice. Think about the use of colour and symbols in your map – what do these mean? Will other people be able to navigate using your map?

Inspiration

Many artists also use maps and mapping in their work, and you might like to explore the work of the following to inspire you in this task:

Alighiero e Boetti (<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/alighiero-e-boetti-7713>)

Layla Curtis (<http://www.laylacurtis.com/info>)

Öyvind Fahlström (<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/oyvind-fahlstrom-4773>)

Elisabeth Lecourt (elisabethlecourt.com)

There are of course also many others – which map-related artists and artworks particularly inspire you?

Other links

https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/themes/maps-borders-and-networks/