
Matthew Friday**A Map Without Boundaries**

For the last 150 years, vast stretches of Appalachia, including many counties in Tennessee, have been mined for coal. The bucolic forests of the region are host to interlocking networks of abandoned mines, the majority of which are now flooded. While the National Forestry Service has located tens of thousands of these abandoned mines, many of them remain to be found. These abandoned mines have been colonized by lithic extremophile bacteria that, as part of their digestion process, free the acidic sulfur found in remaining coal, producing acidic mine drainage. An average flooded mine can produce several thousand gallons of toxic sulfur hydroxide every week. The rivers, hills and watersheds of Appalachia flow with the acidic waste produced by this new ecosystem.

A Map Without Boundaries consists of diagrams of the Appalachian watershed system printed with pigment derived from acid mine drainage, as well as remediated coal pigment also derived from abandoned mines. This material, along with the accompanying diagrams, is available to be used to visualize nature/culture entanglements in other regions. These will be collected as part of an ongoing archive.

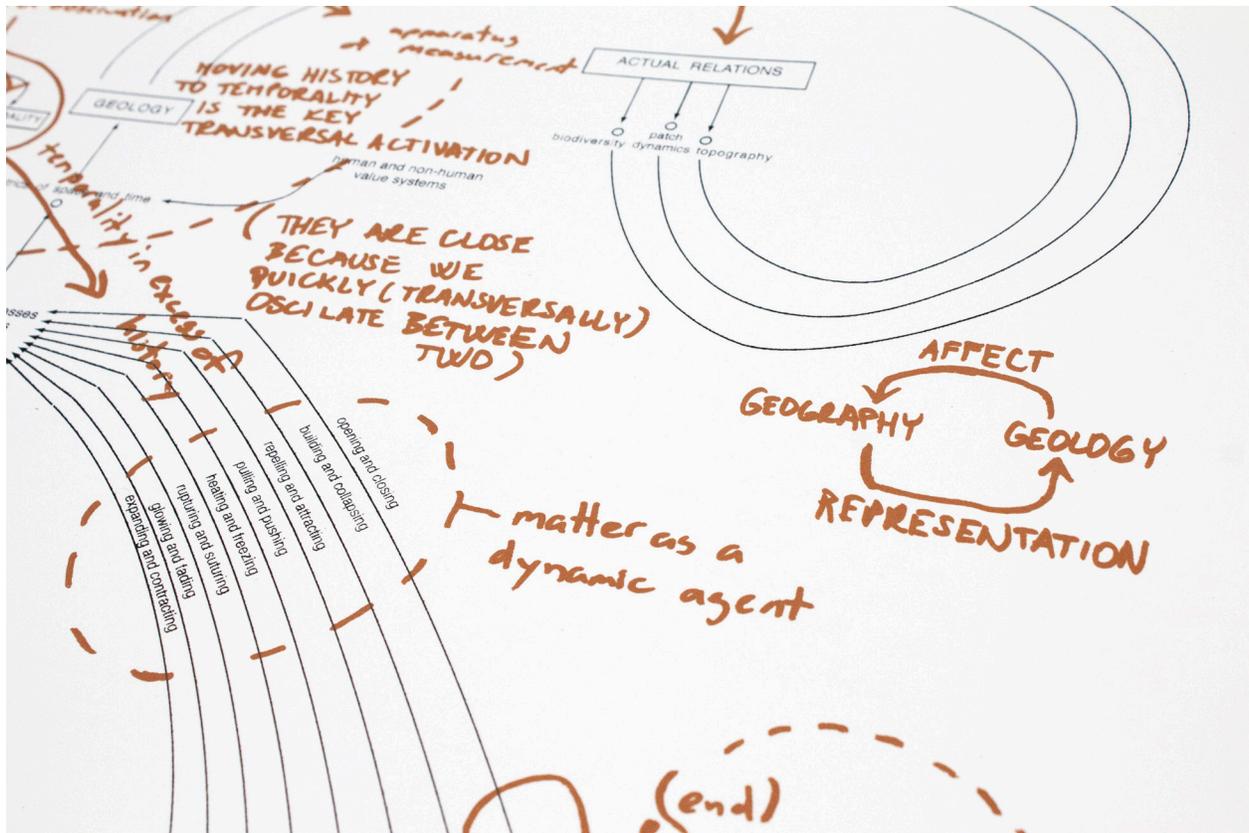
This research is founded on the understanding that objects and agencies of observation are inseparable parts of a single phenomena. Just as determinate entities do not exist before the events that give them boundaries, space and time do not exist as autonomous fields outside of the phenomena. To interpret the world is to be in and of it. Interpretation is a form of engagement that produces the world as intelligible. This intelligibility does not precede us, just as the map does not exist before the territory, nor is it waiting to be uncovered like some form of buried treasure. In fact, interpretation is not even the sole provenance of human beings, but rather, interpretation is the articulation of the world in all of its differential becoming. Embracing this form of engagement means becoming accountable for the types of mattering we produce. This is a profoundly ethical question as it means taking account of the entanglements we produce and are, in turn, produced by. We are our relations of responsibility to the other, both human and nonhuman; this is the ethics of worlding.

Matthew Friday is an educator, writer and transdisciplinary artist whose research focuses on the development of apparatuses and systems that examine and provoke new political ecologies. Working both collectively and individually, Friday's projects have taken up issues of urban ecology and watershed remediation. He is an active member of the ecosystem research and design collective SPURSE.

UNIT OR SPACE #: 3127



Remediated bituminous coal pigment processed from deep shaft Appalachian mines.
Pigment produced using a solar-powered ball mill and sifter.



Entanglement Diagram (detail), 2009-10
Silkscreen print with Remediated Acid Mine Drainage pigment on Arches 20"x 30"