INFORMATION IS LIGHT. INFORMATION, IN ITSELF, ABOUT ANYTHING, IS LIGHT.

-Tom Stoppard (1937-), Night and Day

Our Themes

After going through all our websites, I found a multitude of themes, and organized them into the broader categories below. Overall we seem to broadly value learning about opportunities for gaining experience, communication of knowledge, and the quest for personal inspiration. I found it interesting that many of us had an interest in objects which could be used purely for utility, but were interested more in the story behind them or what significance they brought to our life/others lives besides the basic function they hold (ex: soaps, clothes, circuits, jewelry).

Relation to others:

- Culture and community

- Vulnerability

- Nonverbal communication

- "This feels like me"

- Seeking personal inspiration or style

- Sharing vs privacy, privacy in public

Relation to creativity:

- Design and art

- Items that have utility as well as a story

- "Guide trails"

- Physical vs digital world

Relation to work/education:

- Entrepreneurial edge

- Preprofessional, fundamentals, Opportunity

- Changes that come after COVID

- Sharing knowledge

- Ease of communication/layman's terms

Finding ways to frame these themes together is way more difficult than I thought, but I have a few ideas we could attempt based on the themes I came up with. A "basic" idea would be to collect what odd topics each of us got invested in during the pandemic, as this seemed to be a through-line in many of our interviews (the people interviewed really found their space during the pandemic). Another idea could be to reflect on an object that has particular meaning to us, but boring utility value otherwise and build that into sort of a I-Spy house set-up where the user can find hidden meanings in what seems like a room of normal objects? Idk. A final idea could be to explore how we change our expression in physical vs digital spaces with relation either to a particular item, emotion, study, or opportunity. For instance, this is a very lame example, but going off a theme of clothes and self expression we could explore how we like to dress in person vs how we like to dress our online avatars and implement these ideas into a final website.

Most of the interviews highlighted some kind of creative practice. There were outright artistic subjects, such as Marie's interview with a professional painter, but there were also instances of creativity in other fields, such as Iroha's interview with an architect and Anya's interview with an Electrical and Computer Engineering major here at Princeton, the latter of which discussed balancing STEM and a humanities in one's education. Throughout all the interviews, one of the most common questions asked was something along the lines of, *"What is your biggest inspiration?"* Thus, a common thread for these interviews was getting inside the interviewee's minds to understand how they perceive the world, and to better understand how this perception of theirs influences the work that they do, both in their professional and their daily lives.

I think some interviews grappled with the perceived divide between science ("STEM") and humanities, when in reality they are much more connected than one thinks. I can see this question being raised in Anya's, Alice's, and my interview. A common throughline is the perception that STEM is "superior" and more "legitimate" as a form of knowledge creation than the arts. However, almost all of the interviewees reject this black-and-white notion, not only because it is wrong but because it could have adverse consequences. Another common theme among certain interviews is "individuality" or "self-expression." For Emmie's interview with Rosangela, the desire to stay connected to one's roots and promoting that common community is evident. Pretty much all "artists" or "creators" interviewed talked about their inspo and work as a means of self-expression. In Oyinkansola's interview with Kate and Sierra, they define fashion as "the study of art" and "self-expression" through clothing!

In a strange way, "service" finds its way as a common emergent theme for all interviews? In all interviews, the interviewees are directly serving others (Davidson with KenSAP), or through their practice serve themselves to create something for others (art/design/fragrances). I almost feel like I am cheating since it is also the theme for Are.na Review 2022, but in this sense I think "service" is the best possible common denominator.

Interview common themes

interviewee discovers x and shares with interviewer... from past to present
transfer of information. you/interviewer is the interviewee in past time
share evolvement related to the topic

interviewee referencing past self!!! present in basically every interview
its the past but its so important that we keep bringing it up in the present and
we kind of just gloss over it/the fact we constaly reference the past.
some responses were primed by questions but for many, they kind of
naturally began talkibg abouyt the past

inspiration from people, others

how much we are defined by the past. people seem to emphasize living in
the present and looking forward to the future and putting away the past but in
practice...

One of the themes that I found interesting in the interviews was between whether the interviewee was still a student or whether they were someone who was already working. If the interviewee was not a student, the interviews often included questions regarding why they decided to work in that particular field. In addition, it was interesting to see how some interviewees started their jobs as hobbies, while for others it was more of a coincidence that they started to work in a particular field. In addition, if the interviewee was doing work that was related to their hobby and/or work that started as a hobby, there was a common question regarding work-life balance and how they separate work from their hobby. Moreover, some of the interviews were focused more on asking about technical details about a topic, while others were more focused on the interviewee's relationship with the topic.

There was also the theme of how design connects to academic fields. Similarly, it was interesting that many of the interviewees combined different interests that they had together or would find connections between the various interests that they have. The topic of inspiration and where the interviewee finds inspiration for their work was also frequently discussed in many of the interviews.

It was also interesting to see how the interviewees often talked about their background and how their background led them to pursue a particular field. For some, it was because they started it at a young age or from when they were an adult, while for others, it started from a cultural connection. Seeing this, it was interesting to see how people started pursuing their interests from such different times in life.

Our Visual Collections

Interviews So Far

Collection of Interviews

Website by Alice Lee

Interviews So Far

All The Interviews

[Rosangela Lopez](#)
by Emmie

[Anda French](#)
by Iroha

[Kate Van Dusen & Seirra Stern](#) [???](#)
by Oyinkansola

by Anya

[Vera](#)
by Britney

[erobb221](#)
by David

[Alan Davidson](#)
by Ian

[Yeon](#)
by Irene

[Xanthe Burdett](#)
by Marie

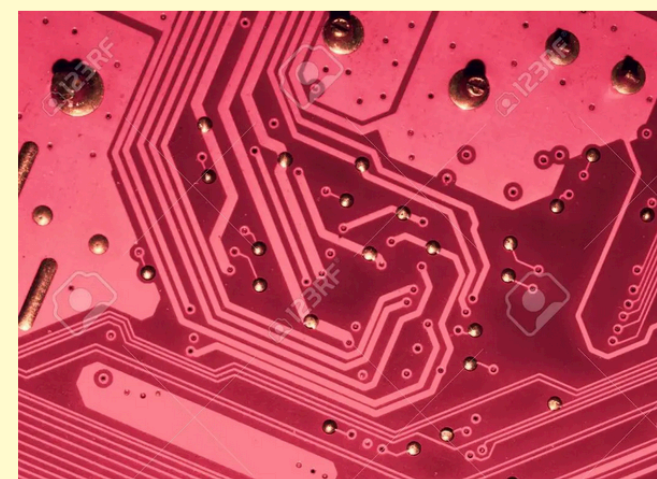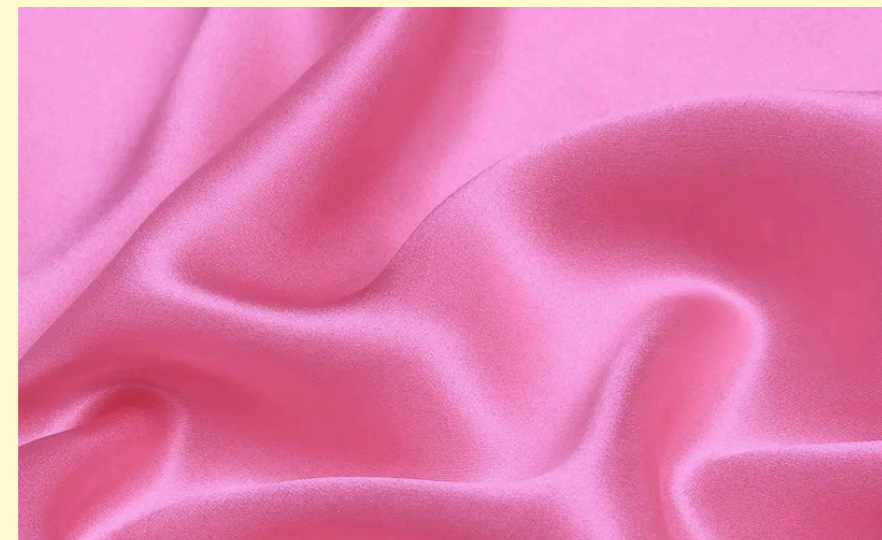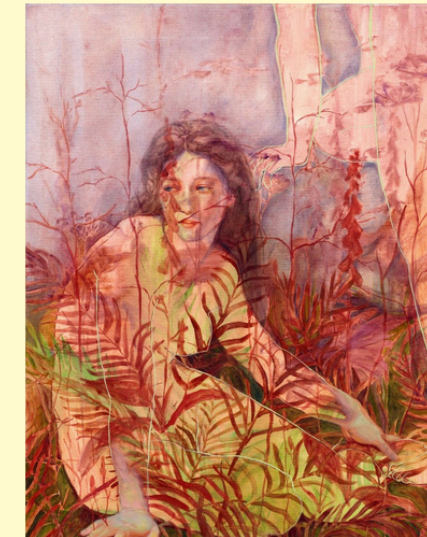[Lauren Olson & Schuyler Saint-Phard](#) [Devora](#)
by Minh

by Avi

[Sierra Eckert](#)
by Alice

All Interviews

Chat between Question and Answer

Question

Based on your grocery list of interests, choose a 1 or 2 favorite topics. Interview someone relevant about these topic(s), with the goal of learning more about these topic(s) and more about the interviewee's relationship to them.

Answer

This is your excuse to reach out to someone you think is cool/interesting/inspiring, maybe someone you've wanted to learn more from for a while. I'd also recommend picking a person/topic combo that doesn't have much internet coverage yet. That is, don't interview someone about something they've been interviewed about many times. Try to pick something/someone you think could use more coverage in general in society or on the internet. Maybe it's something that you feel is missing from Wikipedia, for instance.

Our Collective Publication

We will create a "collective online publication":

1. Published as its own website

2. Somehow related to the themes of this class

3. Let's consider its purpose & lifespan

4. Could use our interviews as material (or something else …)

5. Launching first half of May 2023

1. Published as its own website

something.com
something.green
185nassau.art/something
something.185nassau.art
walkingtheinternet.today

2. Somehow related to the themes of this class

* creating connections around seemingly varied interests "primitive hypertext"

* the physicality of the internet / web … demystifying "walking the internet"

* ???

3. Let's consider its purpose & lifespan

* What would be meaningful / fun for us to do now?
   Can we contribute to knowledge on the internet?
   What doesn't exist yet that we could contribute?
   Does it sound fun / energizing to do this?

* How long should this thing live? 1 year? 1 week? Indefinite?
   Who will host the site?
   If it lives a while, what would be useful to look back on?
   How do we want to be represented? Names? Or …

present, future, past …

4. Could use our interviews as material (or something else …)

Possibilities:

- Our interviews as they are (cleaned up though!)

- Selections / specific edits / quotes from our interviews

- Weaving the interview excerpts together in some way

- ???

5. Launching first half of May 2023!

Plan:

Today 4.11 — Brainstorm Widely!

Next Class 4.18— Define Roles, Time for Working & Iterating

Next Next Class 4.25 — Iterating Further & Finalizing

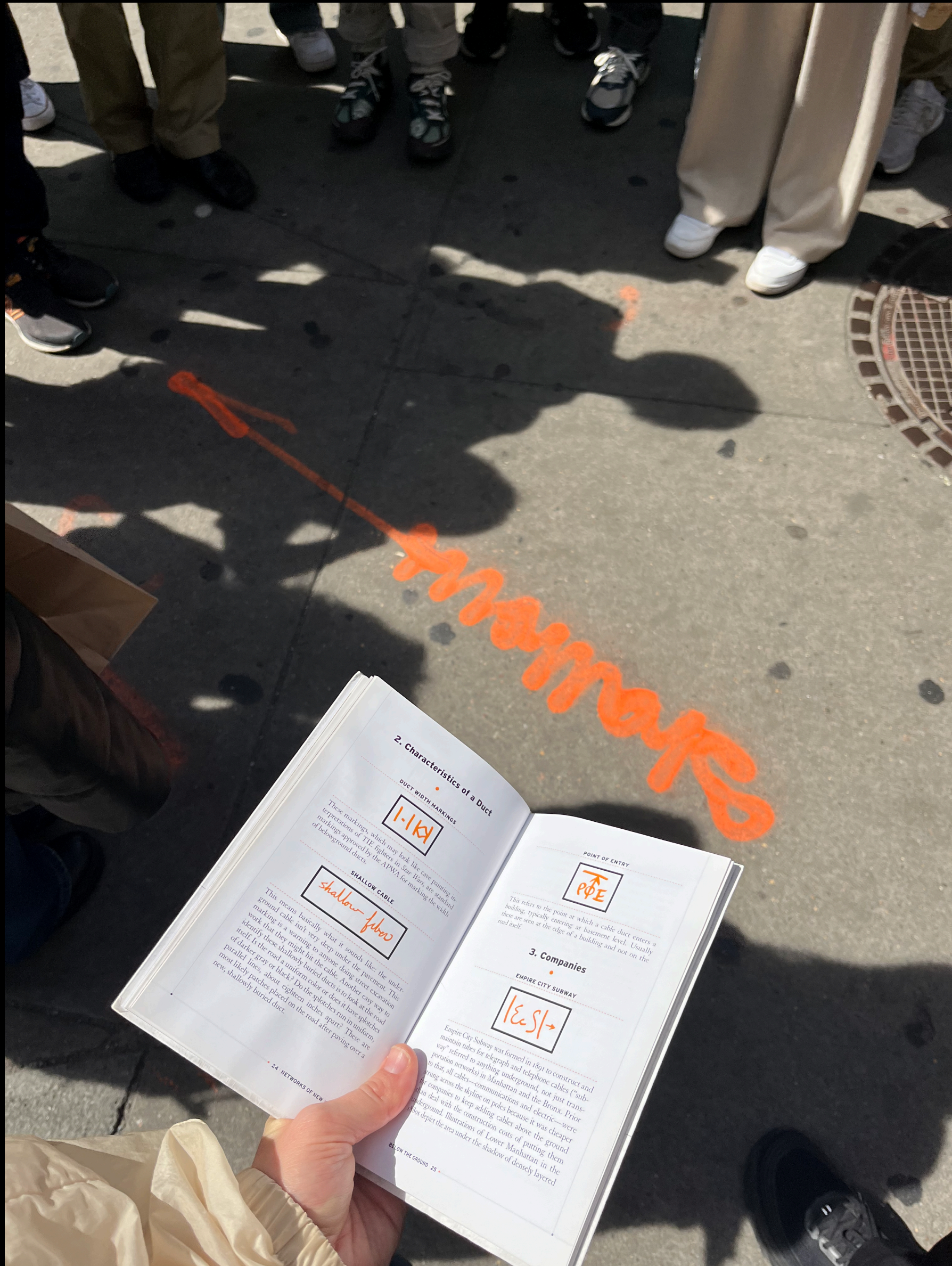Final Class 5.2 — Launching & Celebration (Hopefully)!

A Precedent
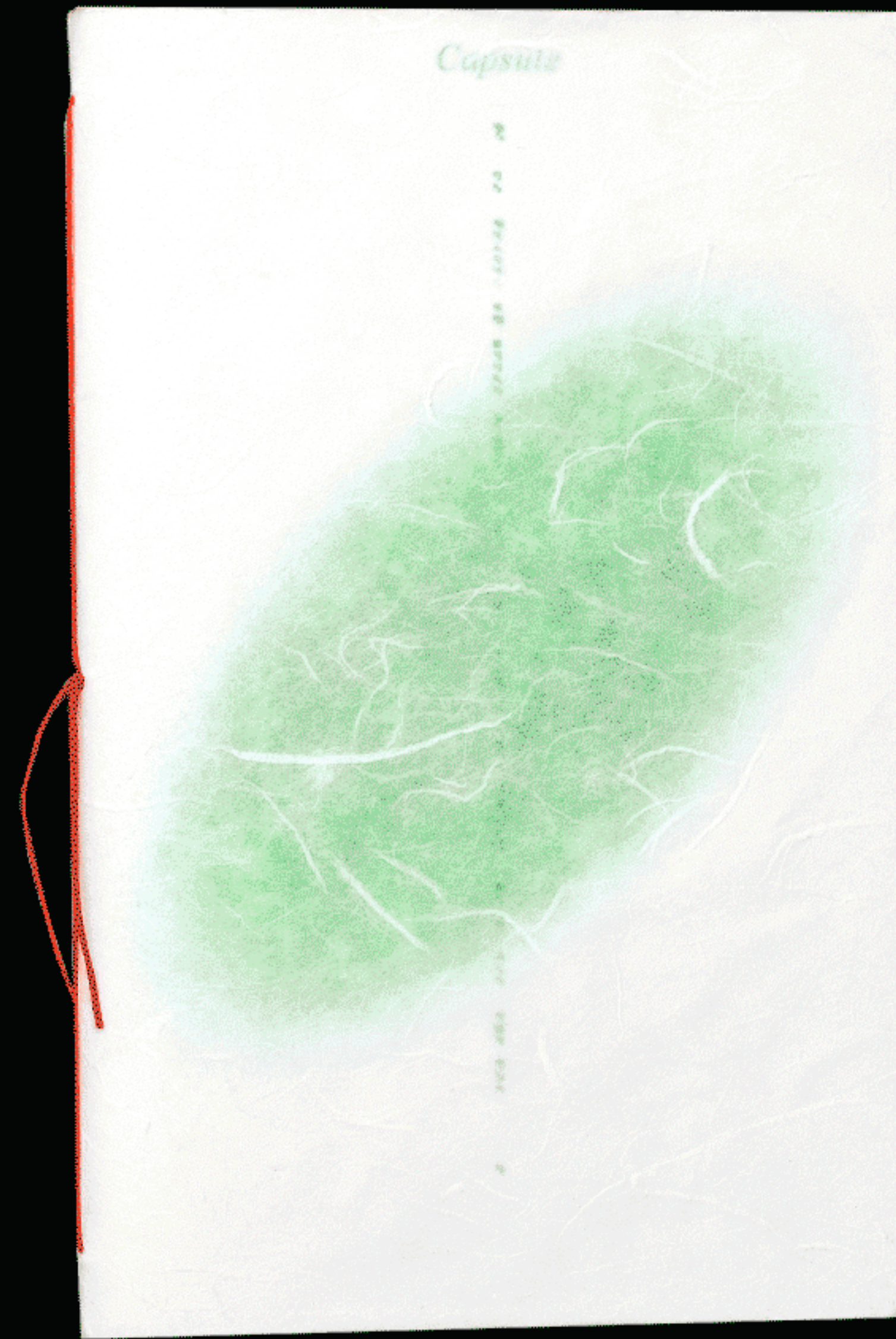
"Capsule" by Megan Pai & Cammie Lee, '22

Capsule weaved together multiple individual conversations into one stream,
as if everyone were present for a "roundtable"

One Framing Idea

Possible Frame: "Walking the Internet"

THEATER
DISTRICT

W 40th St

8th

W 37th St

Grand Ce
Termin

March 26, 2023 • Walking

Walking Tour of the Internet

Route

Length
1.76 mi

Elev. gain
26 ft

Waypoints   ⌄

Max Neuhaus,
Times Square

Rockefeller Center

5

Times Square: Information
& Surveillance

Diamond row

4

START: Muji
Times Square

N

1   2

TimeWarner
Manhole Cover

Verizon
Headquarters
+ Plaza

3

7

New York yacht club

Bryant Park / 42nd
Street Library

W 35th St

GARMENT
DISTRICT

Traffic Light
Controller

8

5th Avenue

Broadway /
Wickquasgeck Trail

W 39th St

Grand Central

10

NYPD Survellance
Cameras

14

42nd Street—
Grand Central

James A. Farley
Building

Link NYC Cluster

W 36th St

END: Penn Station

Cellphone Towers
on Building

16

13

mapbox

New York
Penn Station

MIDTOWN

500 ft

legend © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap **Improve this map** © OpenStreetMap contributors

98 ft

-2 ft

0.0 mi   1 mi   1.0 mi   2 mi   2 m

2. Characteristics of a Duct

DUCT WIDTH MARKINGS

SHALLOW CABLE

POINT OF ENTRY

3. Companies

EMPIRE CITY SUBWAY

INFORMATION IS LIGHT. INFORMATION, IN ITSELF, ABOUT ANYTHING, IS LIGHT.

-Tom Stoppard (1937-), Night and Day

"layers beyond"

"looking closer"

"hiding in plain sight"

Brainstorming!

COLLECTIVE ONLINE PUBLICATION IDEA 1

Working title

What's the idea / theme?

Why this idea / theme?

Format of submissions (be specific)

Ideas & Plan