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### How do **We** make sense of climate change?

Dr Lisa Roberts, University of Technology, Sydney.

2/03/12

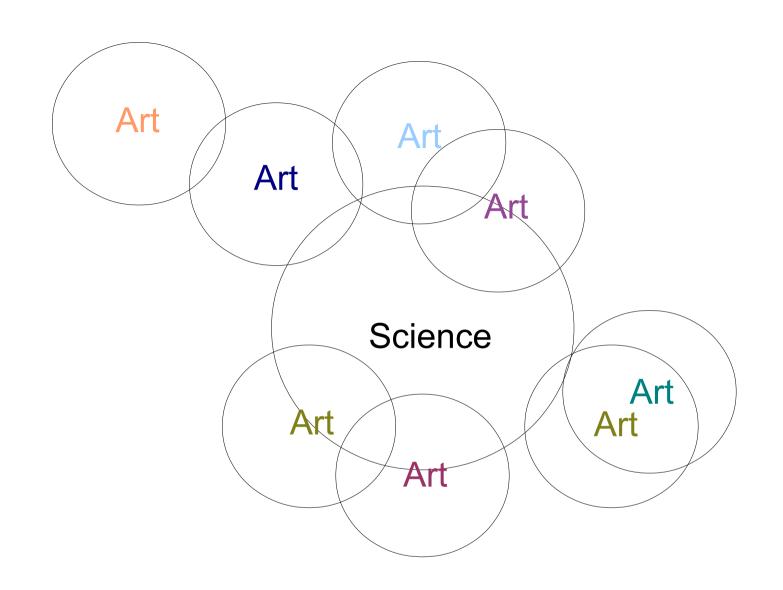
# How can artistic methods expand understanding of scientific data?

#### **SCIENCE**

Aims to be objective and to arrive at consensus agreement

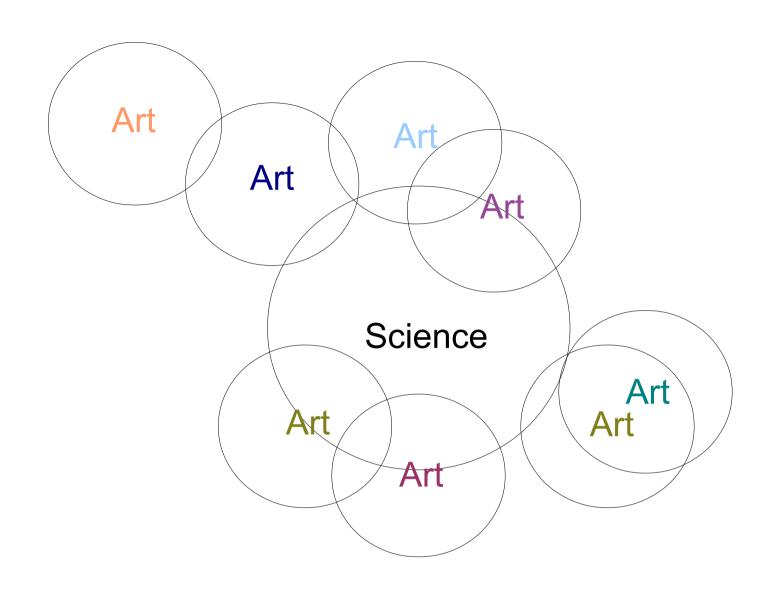
#### **ART**

Typically expresses an individual's subjective experience

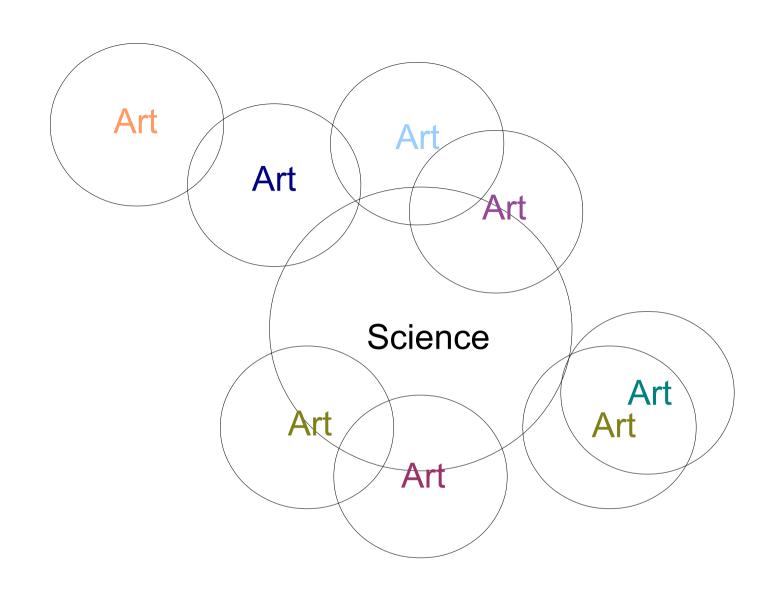


There is **ONE** scientific method

There are **Many** artistic methods



## How useful!



Many ways of understanding scientific data are needed in oder to

design a sustainable future.

We all process information in different ways.

Not everyone understands the graphs and charts produced by scientists.

These are just three of many artistic methods:

**Tracing** 

Relating

**Dynamically connecting** 

They are just three ways of responding to art:

**Tracing** 

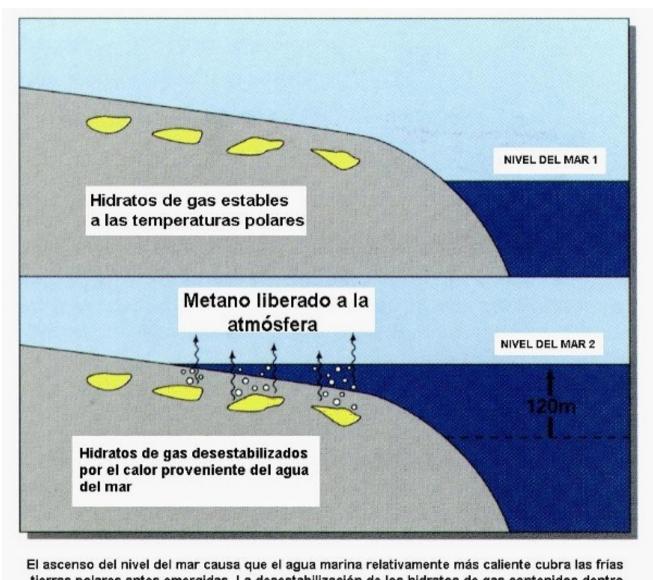
Relating

**Dynamically connecting** 

Tracing with drawing, printing, sound etc.

Relating to thoughts and feelings

**Dynamically connecting** to physical experience (by appealing to body memories)

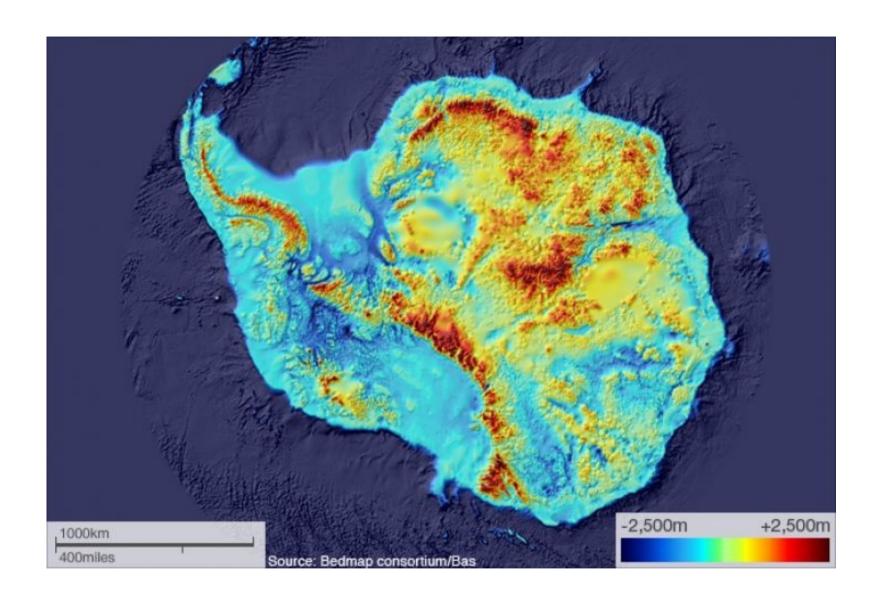


tierras polares antes emergidas. La desestabilización de los hidratos de gas contenidos dentro de los sedimentos ahora sumergidos, produce escapes de hidrocarburos a la atmósfera.



Tracing (metaphorically) flows of methane with lengths of tulle Relating shapes and colours to feelings of threat Dynamically connecting through movement and touch

Andrea Juan, Methane, video Installation, 2008



British Antarctic Survey, Antarctic bedrock, combined data sets, 2012

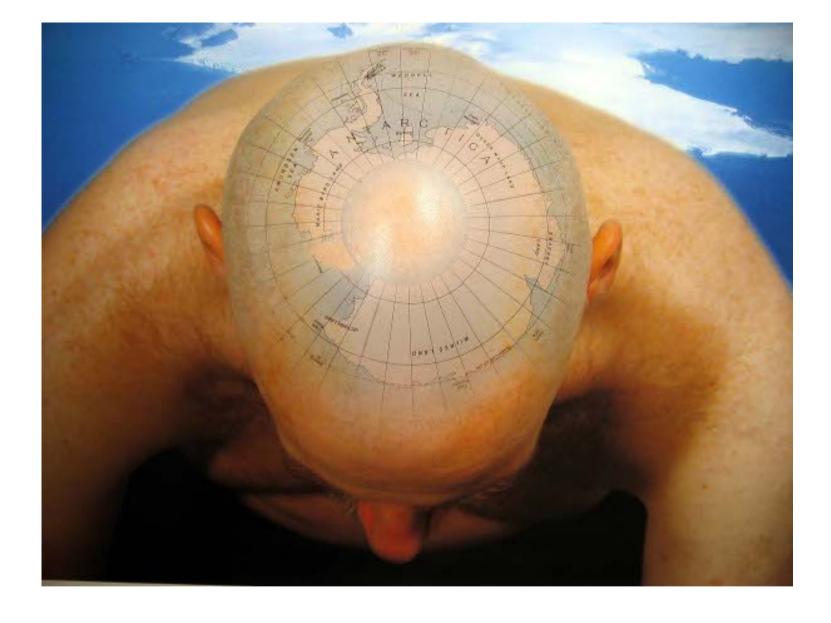


Tracing with fabric printing

Relating to feelings of maternal connection and moral responsibility

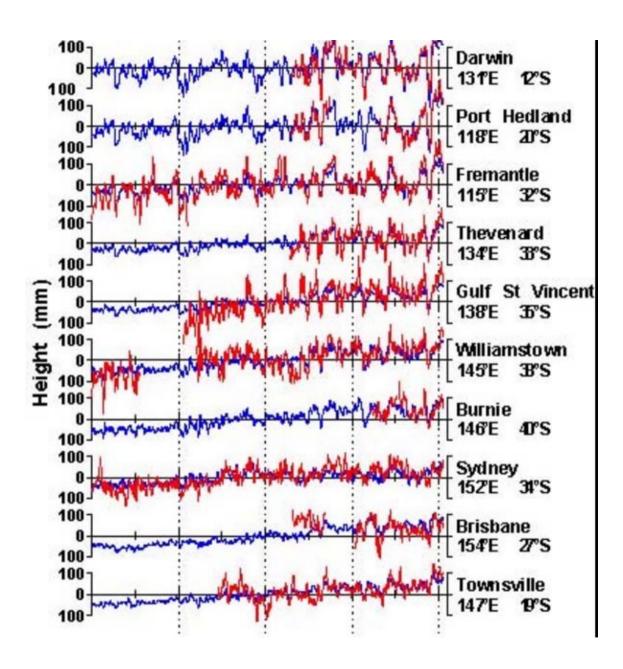
Dynamically connecting through spiral form and rhythmic placement of flags

Lorraine Beaulieu, Drapeaux (flags), Cyanotype fabric installation, 2008

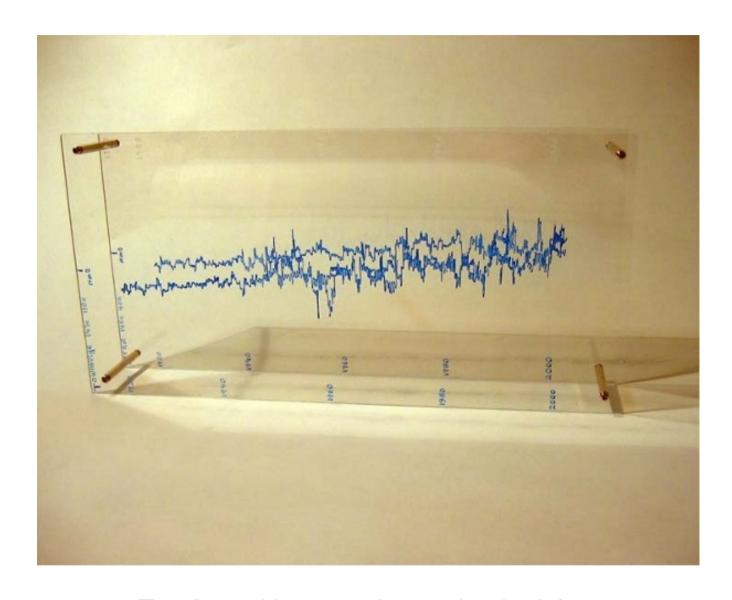


Tracing with drawing and colouring
Relating to feelings of disorientation and maternal responsibility
Dynamically connecting through spiral body gesture

Philippe Boissonnet, Earth Mother is becoming Earth Child (En perdre le nord), Digital photographic installation (detail), 2008



John Church et al., World Climate Research Program, Tide gauge data, 2007



**Tracing** with engraving and paint inlay **Relating** lines and colours to observations of water

Lisa Roberts, Sea levels rising 01, engraved acrylic sheets, 2007

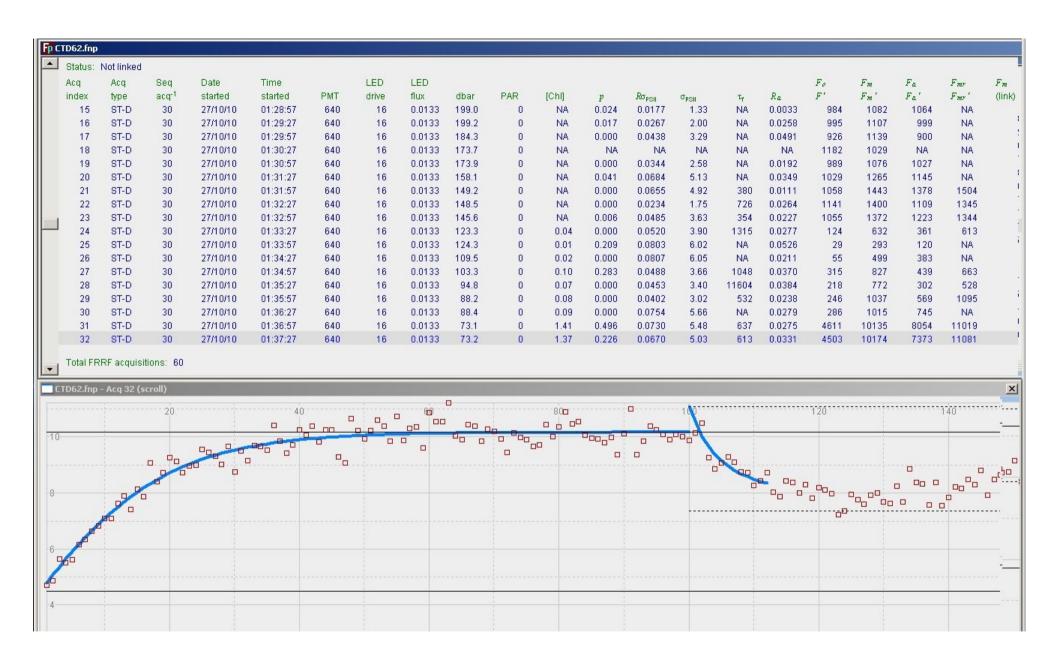


Tracing data on a Wacom drawing tablet with stylus, 2007

Animation: Sea level rising

Tracing with line drawing

Relating patterns to thoughts and feelings about invisible forces of change Dynamically connecting through animated lines and rising pitch of sound



Data showing the 'sweet spot' (at about 70 m), where most algae live. Height (y axis) represents levels of light (intensity) emitted from algae in response to microsecond flashes of red light. C3, 2011

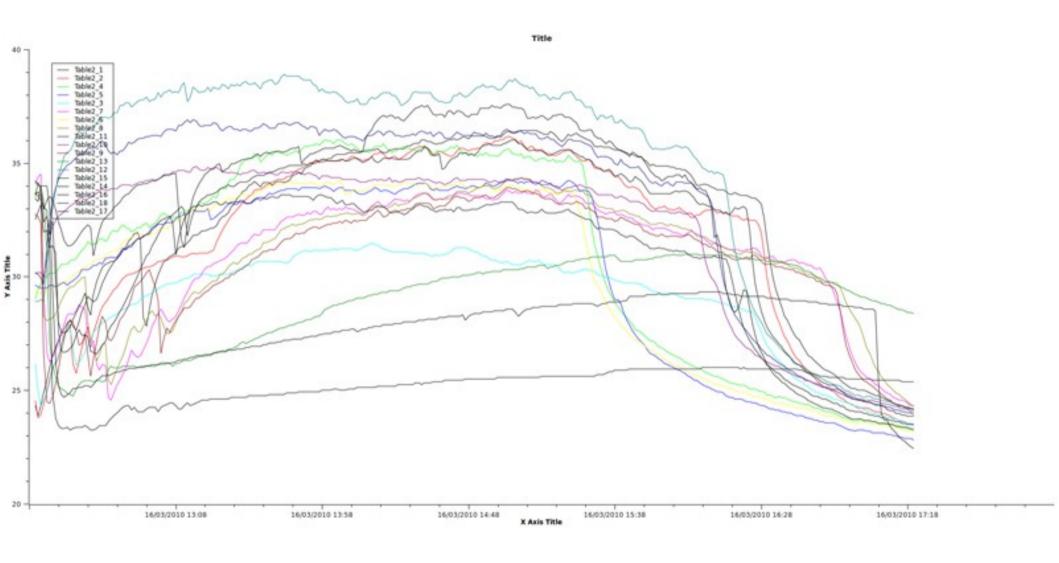


Tracing with engraving

Relating green and red colours to feelings about health and happiness

Dynamically connecting through touch and contrasting colours

Lisa Roberts, Algae happiness: Energy producing! Florescent acrylic, 2012



Data from thermo sensors on a rock platform at Bilgola, NSW, 16 March 2010 over five hours. Each coloured line represents 303 readings from a particular location on the platform, from 12:20 to 17:20 hrs. C3 2011



Neptune's necklace (Hormosira Bankseii)

Animation: Algae dance to variable rhythms

Tracing (metaphorically) with lines and sound rhythms
Relating to knowledge of change over longer time periods
Dynamically connecting through animated lines and shapes



Euphausia superba (Antarctic krill)



Tracing frame by frame with line drawings

So Kawaguchi, Euphausia superba (Antarctic krill) video data, 2010



**Relating** movement pattern to thoughts about chance connections (Seeking moments in the 'dance' when the krill connect and disconnect)

Lisa Roberts, Krill mating dance sequence, Digital drawing, 2012

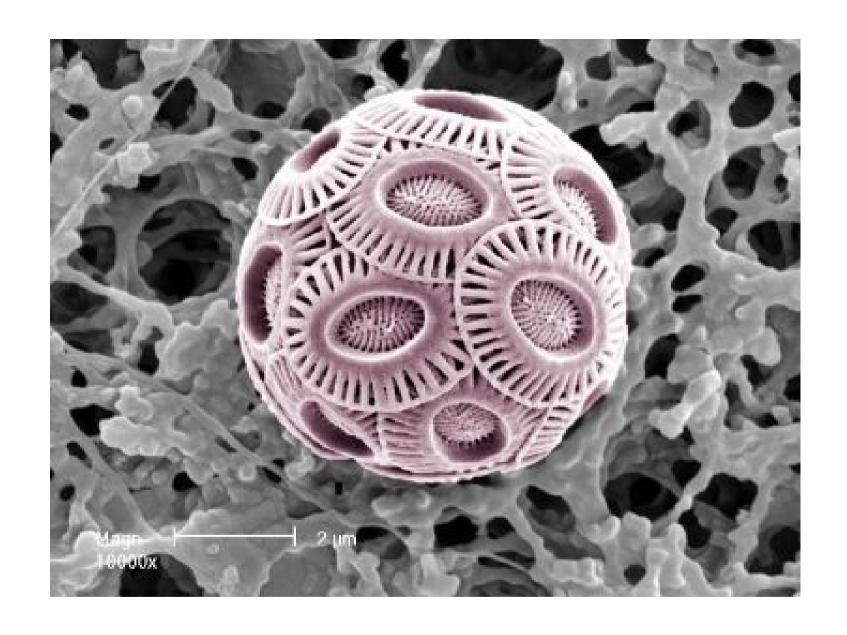


**Relating** a scientific theory to direct observation

Lisa Roberts, Krill mating dance sequence, Digital drawing, 2012

Animation: Do krill have sex?

**Dynamically connecting** through animated 'dance'





Tracing (metaphorically) with 3D modelling
Relating circular patterns to cycles of change in nature
Dynamically connecting through visual rhythm and touch

Andrea Juan, Coccolithphorid, Object, 2010

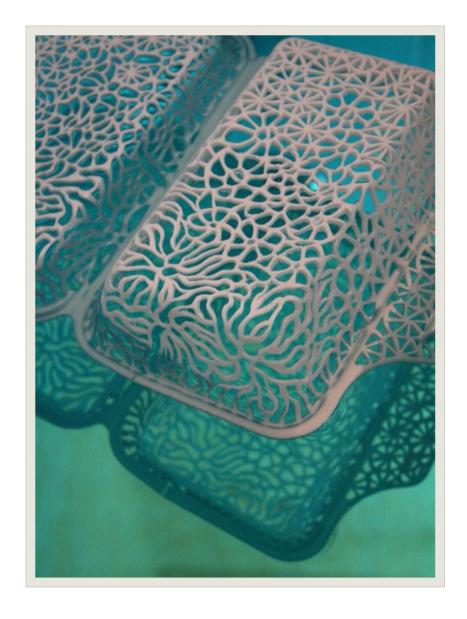


Tracing with engraving and paint inlay
Relating to thoughts about global warning and recycling
Dynamically connecting through touch and body memories of water
(drinking, swimming)

Lisa Roberts, Cool me Cocco, Recycled glass, 2008



Great Barrier Reef corals, Data unknown



Tracing with a knife

Relating coral patterns and found objects to global warning and recycling

Dynamically connecting through touch

Eveline Kolijn, Coral, Polystyrene foam, 2010



Tracing (metaphorically) with printing and folding
Relating to the evolution of patterns in coral
Dynamically connecting through touch and body memories of the sea

Eveline Kolijn, Coral Kaleidocycle - floor plan and object, Linocut, 2008 How can YOU make sense of climate change?

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