

SECTOR 5

Anthropocene Feminisms Booklet

[The CLOUD]

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Introduction

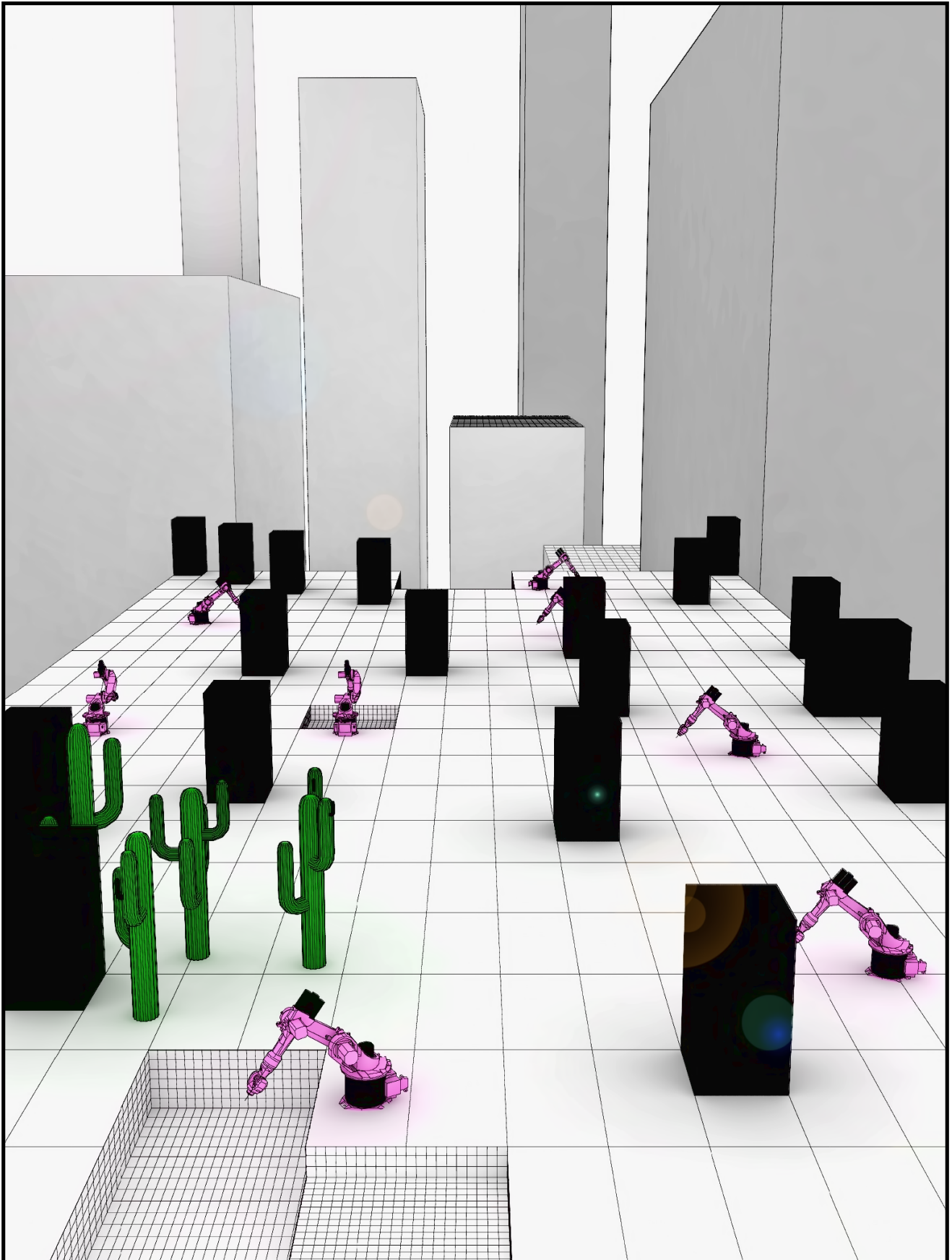
This booklet is a compilation of thoughts, Ideas and experiments which have been related to literature in the Master's level seminar course at KTH; Anthropocene Feminisms: Architecture and Gender.

I have organised this booklet as series of narratives that are viewed through the speculative lens of *Sector 5*, a post human colony which comprises of uploaded human consciousness. This lens examines the regular aspects of daily life in the anthropocene that may seem insignificant or are just simply overlooked.

The purpose of doing so is to bring to light the idea of focusing on the detail and not always only the bigger picture; what this detail is and what story it has to tell to its larger context.

This exploration has allowed me to view a fun and humorous approach to theoretical discourse whilst still focusing on issues relating to the world around us and how we actually take care of it.

This seminar course has given me an opportunity to write in a creative manner and test different theoretical ideas which I have not previously taken the time to do. Which has further given me an interest to test theoretical writing against my design ideas in the future.



SECTOR 5 *[The CLOUD]*

01 The Cloud & What remains of human kind

Walking down the Beach on a sunny Sunday, looking into the endless abyss of the *grid*, I start to wonder how amazing it is that only 30 minutes ago I was in the ice-capped peaks of *snowhereland* [Sector 6].

This is something that you take for granted in the *Cloud*; but since the world as we knew it is no longer a place for humankind [Except the few colonies underground who keep the *Clouds* up and running], we had no choice but to upload our consciousness, and this has become our existence.

Enough about the past and let's look to the future, a future which is ours for the taking, choosing and changing. We have every opportunity to make the world we want now.

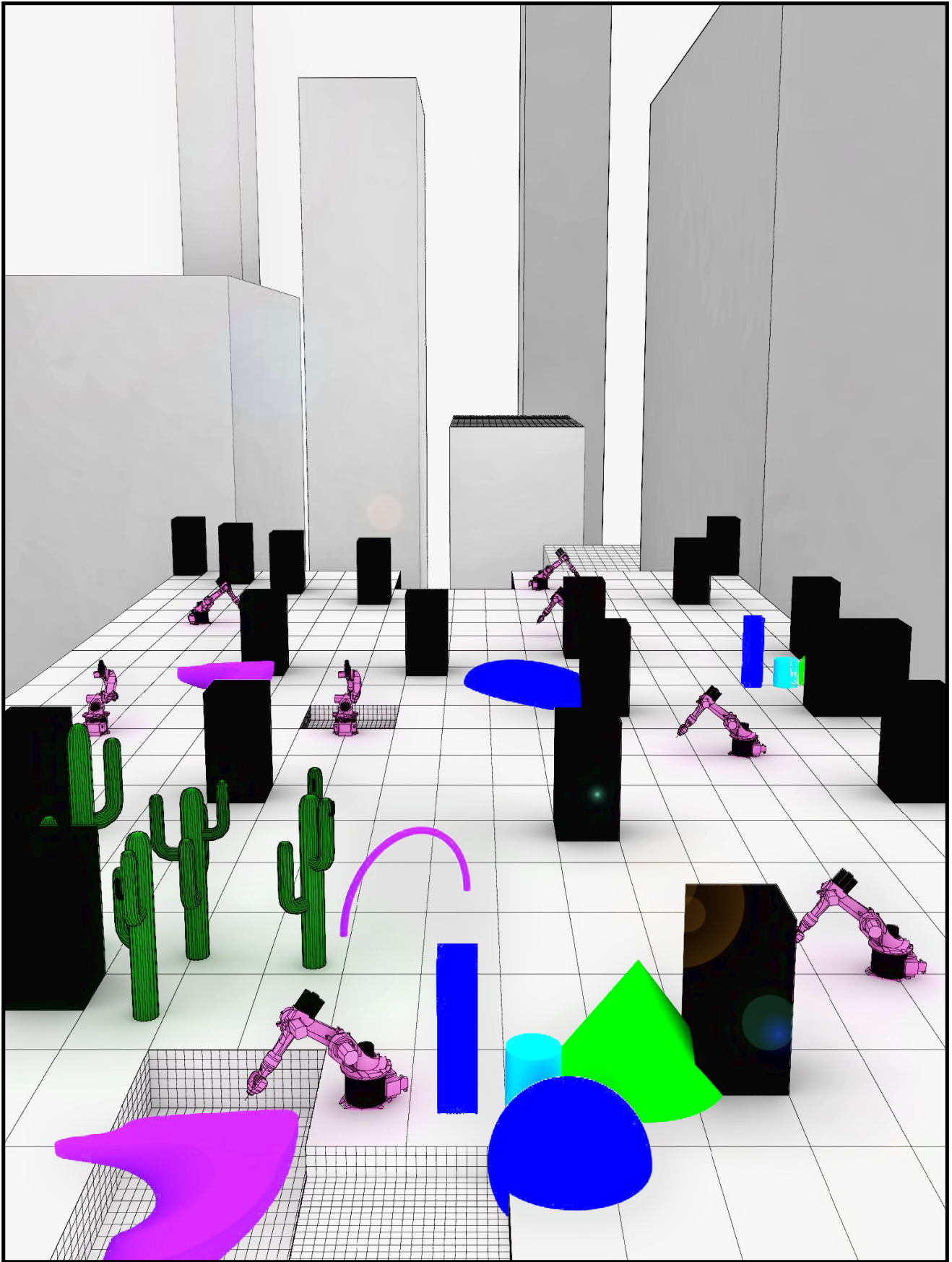
The cloud is made up of 12 sectors, spread across a vast *grid* of possibility, all interconnected by a single *web*. I am rendered in *Sector 5*. We are by far regarded as the most alternative way of existence when compared to life as we

knew it; I mean our ground is 3D printed daily and robots mine the land for data.

Maybe something which is rendered from human thought and the way we all believed the world had to be in order to sustain us. We have no purpose to mine in a virtual existence, but yet this still seems to be our human nature.

Sector 5 is made of smaller *compartments* which all contain one *black box* to use at your disposal. Live, play, work, whatever you want, this *box* can be scaled to your needs. I don't know why, maybe human nature again, but I decided to make a cactus forest for my *box*, they seem to be doing okay. . .

-The Cloud and Sector 5 are lenses of speculation which will be populated by my daily activities with a focus on my surroundings, interactions and happenings in various aspects of the world around me; be that weather, politics, pop culture, etc. It will hopefully allow for a light-hearted narrative addressing very serious [and some not so serious] issues in the Anthropocene.



SECTOR 5 **[ARTEFACT'S & OBJECTS]**

02 Artefact & Objects

Its been a busy two weeks in *Sector 5*, imaginations flourishing and the constant development of new *ornaments* to enchant our imaginations.

*"The eye is geared to spectacle as much as speculation, with speculation itself being both productively expansive in its capacity to imagine virtual futures and restrictively deadening in its tendency to forget the very life from which it emerges."*¹

As I had mentioned already, this post human existence is still fascinated with human ideals and ways of doing things. We spend our days with Robots digging or CNC's milling the Grid to uncover objects or artefact's that are printed from our imagination.

Why do we need these *objects or artefact's* We don't, but I feel we are so drawn to having what we want, when we want it, that we don't really consider the necessity of it.

Sector 5 started as a vast *grid* of nothingness, so clean and sterile, some would say 'natural'. I guess we have a freedom here with no consequence; Or do we? Was this the same thought

we had as Human entities on Earth? Did we think we would ever be able to exhaust it of its resources?

We don't know a whole lot about the *Cloud*, but what's unknown is what should make us aware of our surroundings and be conscious about all the decisions we make; We may run out of storage and the whole *cloud* could crash. What will happen to us then? Will we get a third chance at respecting and taking care of our surroundings?

All of these questions have been dawning on me lately; Shouldn't we have learnt from what happened on Earth? Will we Exhaust this environment as well, or will we just exhaust our imaginations?

Readings

1. Colebrook, Claire. 'Introduction' in Claire Colebrook, *Death of the PostHuman: Essays on Extinction*, vol. 1. Ann Arbor: Open Humanities Press, University of Michigan Library, 2014. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/o/ohp/12329362.000> 1.0



SECTOR X ***[DESIGN RESEARCH LECTURE]***

03 Researching the Research

The time has come to leave *Sector 5* and explore the realm of the research quarter. On my travels to this relatively uncharted territory I have come across and have had the opportunity of joining a day of *data* sharing.

One particular set of *data* [Architectural Flirtations: A Love Storey] shared has caught my attention. *Data* which relates to the analytical understanding of the real world with a twist on how we actually interpret and process this. Questioning the conventions of what is normal. Telling a story through speculative lenses.

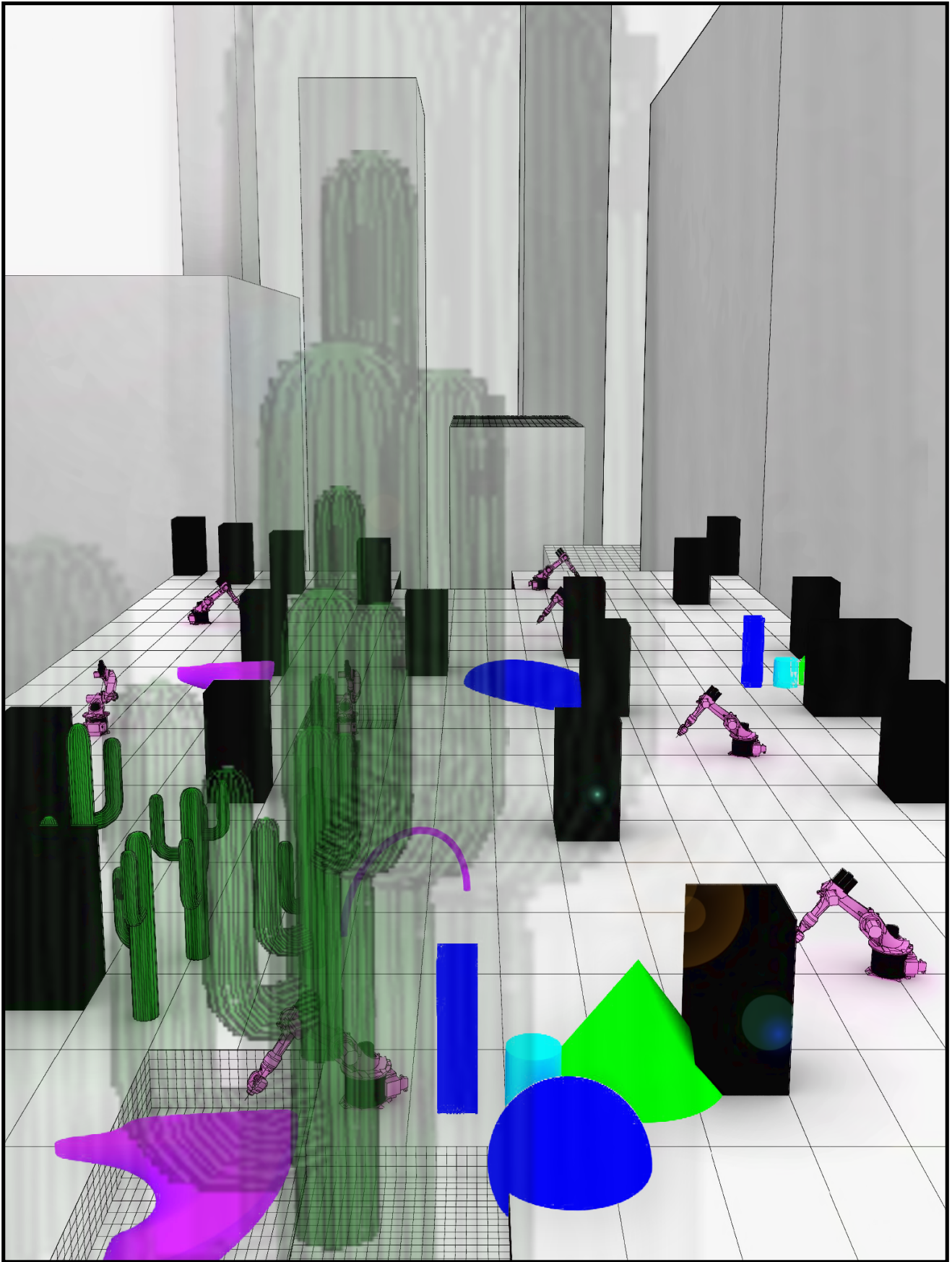
I feel that to study and understand something in a manner which may seem foreign to the norms is definitely beneficial as it can allow us the opportunity to see and uncover things which we may have not previously been able to see. This

may be caused by our own narrow mindedness but then again it may also be caused by our inability to see things from another perspective.

Framing a hypothetical research project in this light is beneficial as it can allow people to engage with these ideas in a humorous and fun way without someone telling them that they should do something in a certain way because it might be better, but rather allows them to explore the unknown in a realm of speculation that is easy to digest.

Readings

2. Brady, Burroughs; Ring, Beda; Henri T. Beall. 'Architectural Flirtations', Stockholm, Stockholm: Arkitektur- och designcentrum, 2016.



SECTOR 5 **[FLUX]**

04 The Flux Of Things

It has been a touch more tranquil in *Sector 5* the past few days. Not a lot of activity, the printing, digging and milling has seemed to take a break.

It has been a well needed change of pace, until I noticed there was something wrong with one of my cacti. After closer inspection I realised its *pixels* were starting to degrade and disappear.

*"The thing Itself is not."*³

This made me start to think about all of what we have created in here, will it exist here with us forever, or will it become something else; Or do we only perceive these things as they are here and now because this is what we want and desire.

*"The thing is the point of intersection of space and time."*³

Grosz Continues:

*"It inscribes a specific duration and concrete boundaries within the broad outlines of temporal or flow and spatial mapping."*³

As I have mentioned previously, what happens to the traces that we leave here, what are these

traces actually the matter of? Is there a closed system in flux with a fixed amount of *storage*? Or will we run out and make the *Cloud* crash?

*"We find the thing in the world as our resource from making things, and in the process, for leaving our trace on things."*³

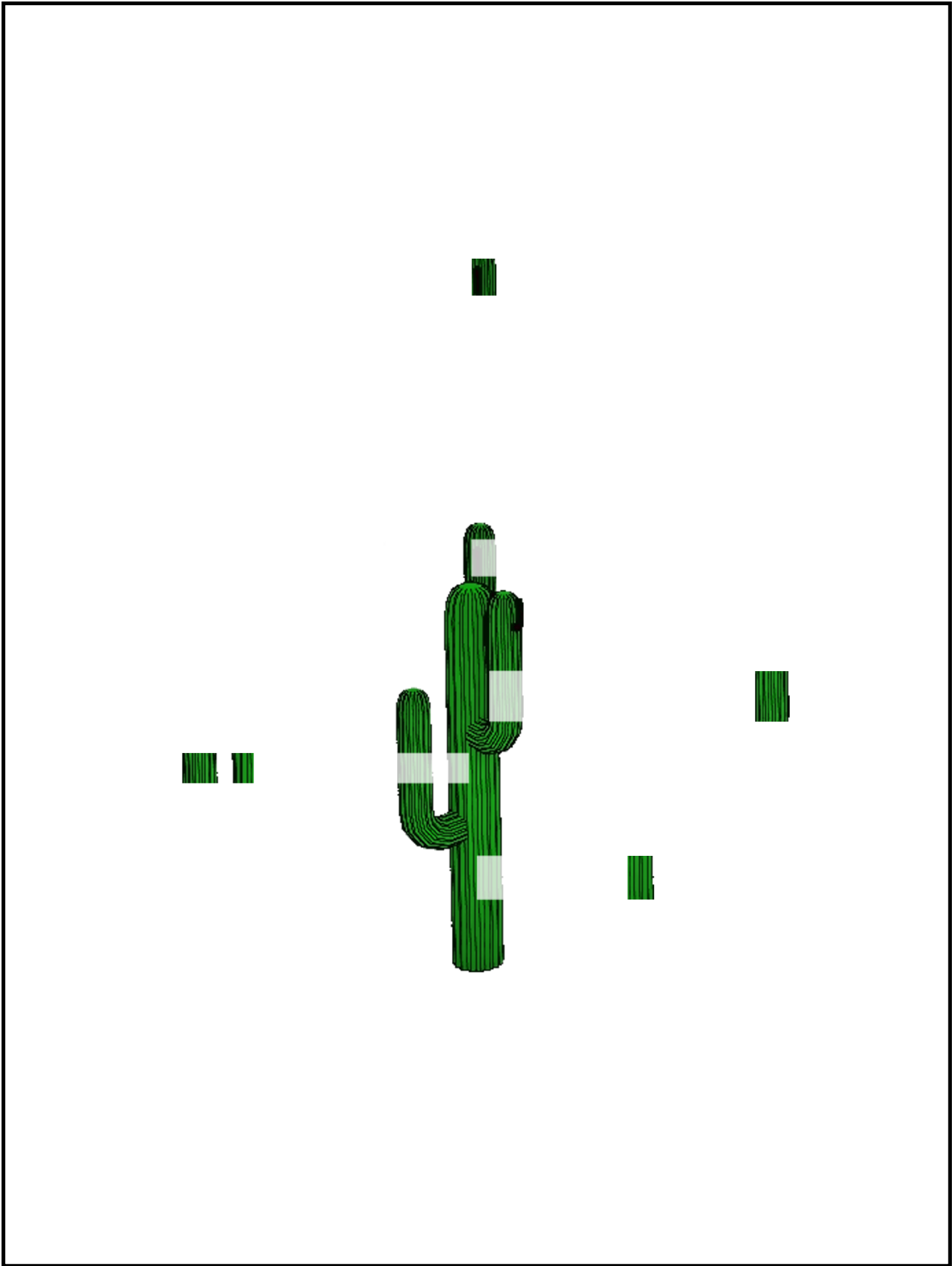
Do we have the ability to reuse and re-adapt all that is in here, instead of generating more and more *artefact's and objects*? Can this reuse help us to understand why we create things in the first place? Also, what they were and are going to become, both as part and whole?

*"The thing is a certain carving out of the real, the (artificial or arbitrary) division of the real into entities, bounded and contained systems, that in fact only exist as open systems within the real."*³

*"... The recomposition of the whole through its decomposition into pixel-like units."*³

Readings

3. Grosz, Elizabeth. 'The Thing' in Elizabeth Grosz, *Architecture from the Outside: Essays on Virtual and Real Space*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001.



SECTOR 5 *[What the FLUX]*

05 What the FLUX?

"The object has an inner life of its own that with-draws from all human awareness." ⁵

Getting back to things and a system in flux. I had started to question what is a thing? What makes it a thing? And is a thing composed of multiple smaller things or are the parts of the whole only considered things once composed as one singular entity?

At this point I would like to introduce you to some *constituents* I have met whilst examining my cactus; H and H, which are twin brothers and their distant cousin O, who find a fluid pleasure in travelling with one another.

H, H and O have been travelling with one another for millions of years and have been a part of so many things they cannot even remember.

So, my question to them was how exactly they landed up here in *Sector 5*, was it planned or did they just go with the flow?

They started to tell me on their travels back from the African Sector, they had been captured by the *water cyclists*, a notorious force of nature that completely changed H, H and O's path for life.

A week later they had been dropped off in a place called the lock. From here they made their journey north to a *colony* where *constituents* from all the *sectors* had come to find refuge.

It is here where H, H and O were introduced to other *constituents* from all over the world, mainly with a background from the Mexican sector. Together they lived harmoniously in this community for many months, growing the

Colony to be ever more prosperous.

This changed one day when their *Colony* [The previously mentioned Cactus] had been relocated to a harsh and hostile environment. Many of the *constituents* decided they could not continue to live in these conditions any further and left the *colony* in search of a more prosperous *state of being*.

Needless to say, this has had a detrimental effect on the *colony* as not all constituents are trained to do the same *jobs* and because there is no one to do these *jobs*, everything has fallen into disrepair.

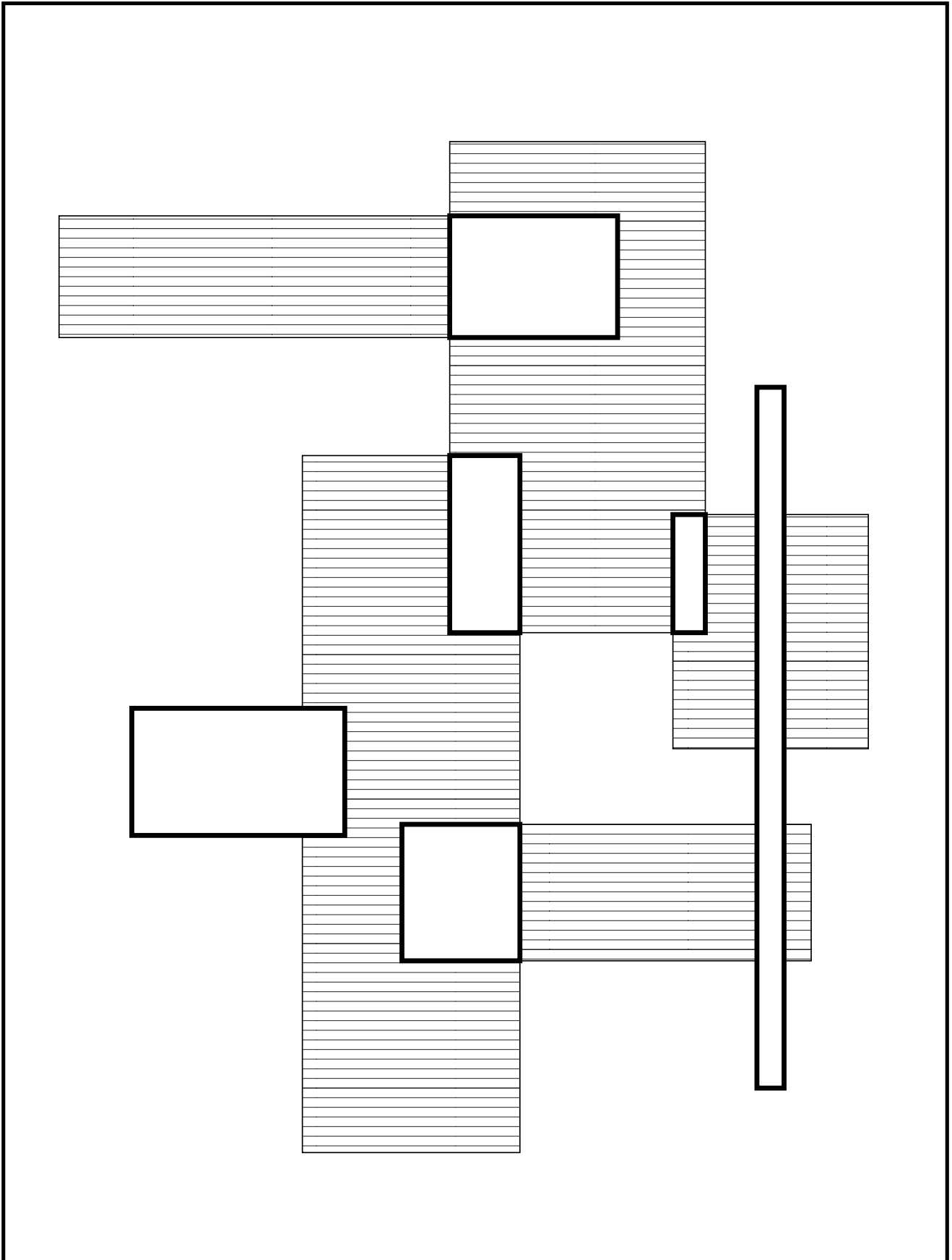
H, H and O will more than likely have to leave the *colony* and continue to another adventure. I wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors and hope they are a part of many more attempts to help grow and make prosperous *colonies*.

Readings

4. Bennett, Jane. 'Political Ecologies' in Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010. Excerpt.

5. Harman, Graham. 'Heidegger on Objects and Things.' In *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*, edited by Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2005.

6. Heise, Ursula K. 'Introduction: Planet, Species, Justice – and the stories we tell about them.' In *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*, edited by Ursula K. Heise and Jon Christensen, Michelle Niemann Abingdon, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2017, 1-10.



SECTOR 5 *[Things + Stuff + Objects]*

06 Things + Stuff + Objects

THINGS.

T. H. I. N. G. S.

T.

H.

I.

N.

G.

S.

S.

G.

N.

I.

H.

T.

THIS + N G.

THIS + N G + STUFF.

THIS + N G S T U F F.

THIS + GUNS + T U F F + OBJECTS.

THIS + GUNS + JETS + CUB + T F F O.

TFFO?

TOFF?

OFFT?

FFOT?

FOFT?

TOFF... toff.....

TOFF!!!

*Things + Stuff + Objects is an experimental approach to explore the generation of a 'Thing' by following the material which is influenced by the context of word deconstruction, manipulation and reconstruction.

Image List

- 01** SECTOR 5 [The CLOUD], Stockholm, 2018 1
[Illustration by Miguel Carvalho]
- 02** SECTOR 5 [Artefact's & Objects], Stockholm, 2018 3
[Illustration by Miguel Carvalho]
- 03** SECTOR X [Design Research Lecture], Stockholm, 2018. 5
[Illustration by Miguel Carvalho]
- 04** SECTOR 5 [FLUX], Stockholm, 2018 7
[Illustration by Miguel Carvalho]
- 05** SECTOR 5 [What the FLUX], Stockholm, 2018 9
[Illustration by Miguel Carvalho]
- 06** SECTOR 5 [Things + Stuff + Objects], Stockholm, 2018 11
[Illustration by Miguel Carvalho]

Bibliography

- 01** Colebrook, Claire. 'Introduction' in Claire Colebrook, *Death of the PostHuman: Essays on Extinction*, vol. 1. Ann Arbor: Open Humanities Press, University of Michigan Library, 2014.
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/o/ohp/12329362.0001.0>
- 02** Brady, Burroughs; Ring, Beda; Henri T. Beall. 'Architectural Flirtations', Stockholm, Stockholm: Arkitektur- och designcentrum, 2016.
- 03** Grosz, Elizabeth. 'The Thing' in Elizabeth Grosz, *Architecture from the Outside: Essays on Virtual and Real Space*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001.
- 04** Bennett, Jane. 'Political Ecologies' in Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010. Excerpt.
- 05** Harman, Graham. 'Heidegger on Objects and Things.' In *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*, edited by Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2005.
- 06** Heise, Ursula K. 'Introduction: Planet, Species, Justice – and the stories we tell about them.' In *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*, edited by Ursula K. Heise and Jon Christensen, Michelle Niemann Abingdon, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2017, 1-10.