

Sensing the City: an Urban Room

(exhibition contribution by Nicolas Whybrow entitled “Conjunctions” presented as single item supported by contextual information)

As a one-off event the exhibition-as-urban-room exists only in documented form now. My contribution, “Conjunctions: Some Road Maps (in Multiple Moods)”, was displayed as a 4-part, wall-mounted photo & text portfolio. This was presented as an anonymous ‘found document’ that was deliberately low-tech in its production style. It incorporated a critical interpretation by me as ‘academic’ as part of its formal aesthetic via both the wall-mounted explainer texts and the exhibition catalogue [Item A], which should therefore be seen as an integral part of the exhibition. A separate document explains the rationale for the exhibition overall (as urban room) and “Conjunctions” specifically [B]. A vastly expanded version of this exists and will appear as a chapter in the edited volume *Urban Sensographies*, forthcoming Routledge (2020), but too late for REF. A further document outlining the aims of the 3-year *Sensing the City* research project as a whole is also supplied [C].

The four parts of the portfolio as displayed are documented as follows:

- the collaged ‘scrapbook’ images for ‘Bare City’ and ‘Dysjunction’ are presented respectively as single pdfs (of four flush images each) [D+E]. Earlier iterations of these two items appeared in 2018 as artist’s pages in separate issues of *Performance Research* journal (On Reflection, 23.4/5 and On Drifting, 23.7).
- The ‘Still Life’ triptychs, a series of five, appeared in slightly truncated form in the exhibition and are presented here in their full collaged form as a single pdf [F].
- ‘White Noise’ is documented, first, as an image from the exhibition, IMG 4162 [G], showing the linkage between the accompanying written postcards and their corresponding images (linked by a red thread). Second, the relationship of postcard image to text on the reverse side is reflected in the PowerPoint [H], while, third, a clean image of the collage (without PC texts) can be seen in the pdf [I].

The four pdfs [D, E, F and I] showing the individual portfolio items in their respective entirety can be enlarged as appropriate (by pressing +) and read like a wall tapestry left to right. To give a sense of the curatorial layout and wall compositions of individual items in the exhibition space at the Herbert Gallery there is a 3-page pdf plan of the gallery space [J]. The reader is also referred to the weblink in [B] showing a changing sequence of images from the exhibition.