

With an intent similar to the suburb, the mental asylum, which became prominent in the 19th century, sought to place individuals

with mental illnesses in a natural environment away from the chaos of the city. Believing environments shaped behaviors, it used its architecture as part of the cure. By bringing patients away and moving them into large infrastructures, patients could be free from their social environment. These structures were built for easy surveillance, containment, and often reflect prison designs in their respective eras with individual bedrooms replacing prison cells. Similarly, sanatoriums in the 1900s. which not only focused on physical healthcare but also mental healthcare, were built in rural areas disconnected from cities. Seen through its recurrent architectural language in projects such as the Sonnenblick sanatorium in Marburg and Aix-Les Bains, the buildings endeavored to bring nature to their inhabitants. Deep sun balconies mimicked beaches, which in

some cases, connected to artificial beaches within the interior. In the latter, a twenty-five-meter floating and revolving solarium

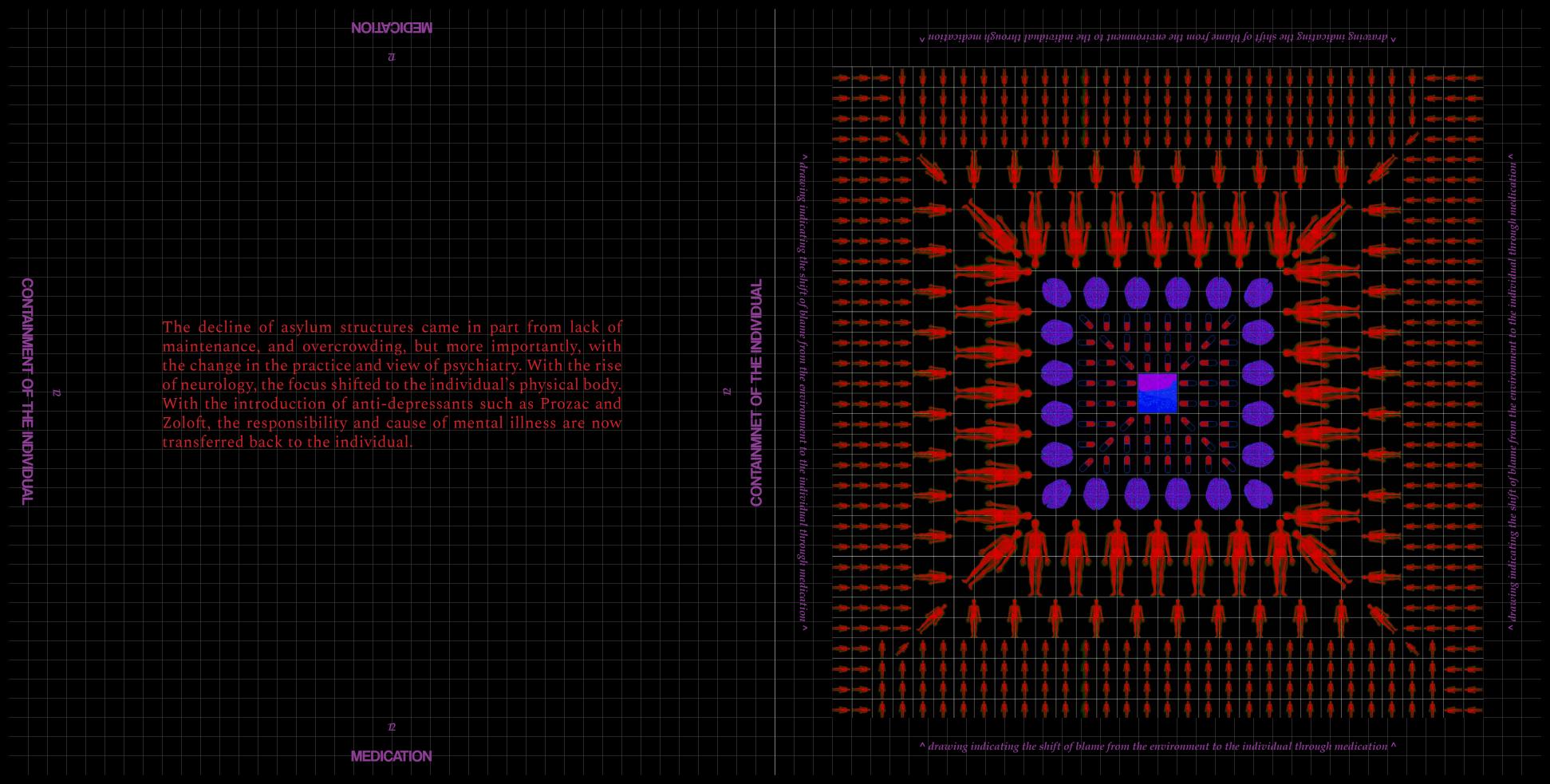
consistently adjusted itself to face the sun for its patients.²

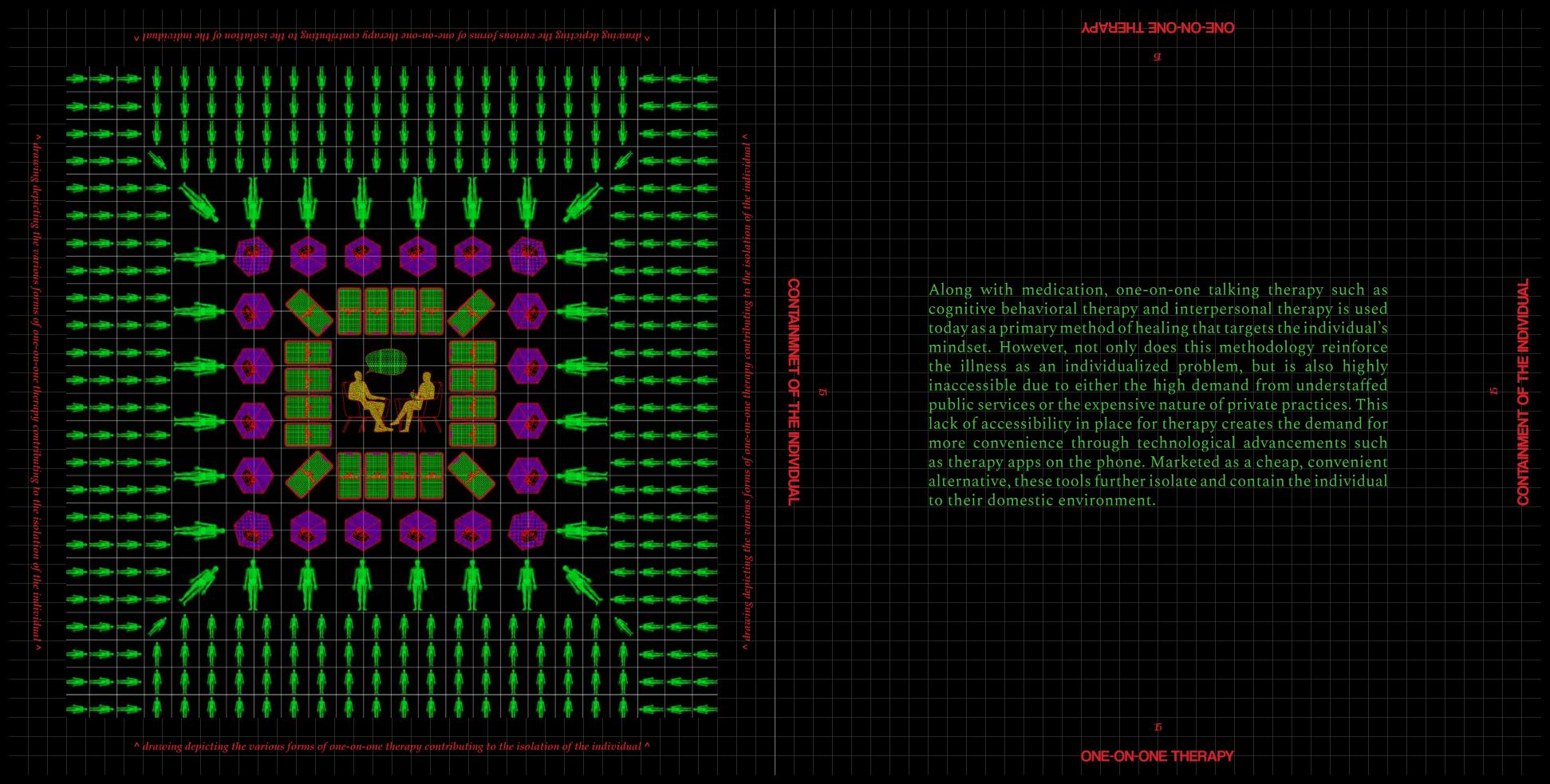
INDIVIDUAL

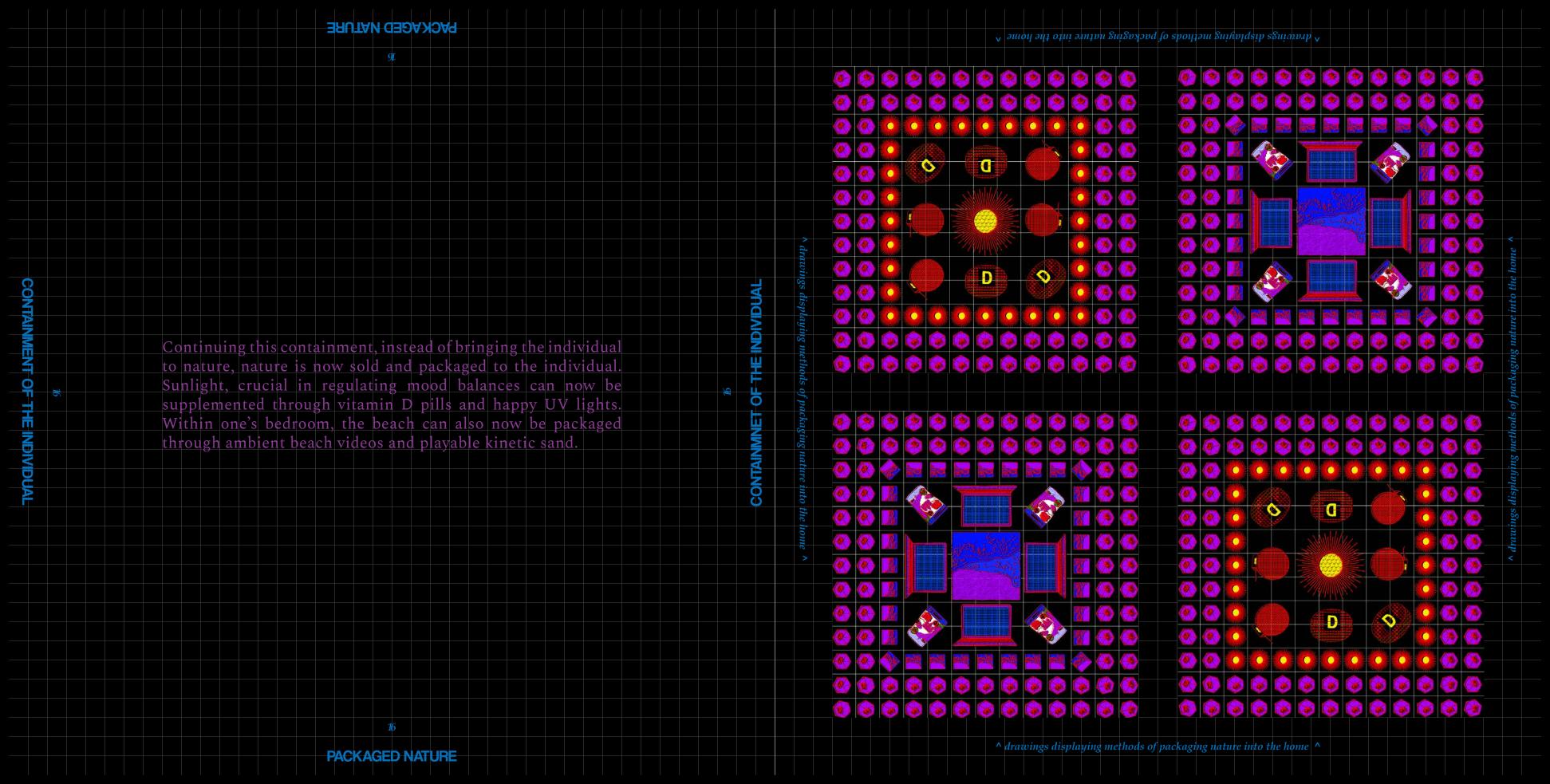
OF

CONTAINMENT OF Ħ INDIVIDUAL

^ drawing parallels of the asylum to the suburbia in its shift away from the urban city ^







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INDIVIDUAL

Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response is a relatively new

phenomenon better known as ASMR. In this under-explored response, focus and isolation of audio-visuals through careful curation and mediation are used to stimulate feelings of pleasantness felt in the body and mind. Conceived through an online forum titled, 'weird sensation feels good' in 2007, the ASMR community proliferated through the social media platform, Youtube. Developing research suggests ASMR activates both the brain's reward and social behavior regions, thus creating a sense of connectedness, bonding, and emotional satisfaction. As a result, distributed on social platforms, a new online community formed around this phenomenon and has been increasingly used as a self-prescribed form of mental healing. Although it provides healing and a sense of community, this digital space also contributes to further isolation with consumption happening within the individual's homes.

Without having to step outside of their domestic environment one can now access nature, remedy their mental health, and have their senses stimulated. The emergence of the ASMR community is a symptom and reflection of the collective isolation that resulted from neoliberal solutions packaged for the individual. The nature of ASMR points to the loss of haptic and embodied connections. It highlights the lack of community, care, and social dimension of mental health infrastructures.

Bryson C. Lochte and others, 'An FMRI Investigation of the Neural Correlates Underlying the Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR)', BioImpacts, 8,4 (2018), 295–304





clinic grounds also include areas for sport activities



connections of interior and exterior



interior gives no sense of insitutionalization with operable windows and open door policies



shared bedrooms



la borde château



summer play rehearsals

SITES OF "ALTERNATIVE" HEALING



activites taking place in both the foreground and background displays the versatility of the clinic grounds



different activities happening simutaneously in one space



adjoining rooms create interlinking spaces that host both single and multiple

Initiated by Jean Oury and Felix Guattari in 1953, La Borde clinic, which still runs today, is one of the first to operate on the humanistic psychiatric care model of institutional psychotherapy conceived in France. Grown out of the distaste of asylums and their treatment towards their patients, institutional psychotherapy sought to decentralize traditional hospital networks and organizations. The model ran on a couple of essential anti-bureaucratic policies and guides as a means to promote a more humanistic approach to psychiatric care. For instance, open-door policies in institutional psychotherapy encourage free movement that enables the forging of social links not only amongst patients but also with members of staff. The policy supports the model's non-hierarchal organization and the transversality of social roles within. With no implementation of uniforms, and the equal distribution of both financial and administrative roles amongst patients and caregivers, the model promotes a community born out of mutual care and support.2 As Oury describes, institutional psychotherapy "is perhaps best defined as the attempt to fight, every day, against that which can turn the collective whole towards a concentrationist or segregationist structure".

To facilitate the policies that define the nature of the psychiatric model, Oury bought a château as opposed to a hospital, prison, or school which were common typologies that hosted psychiatric care during the period. The various interlinking spaces of gathering within the architecture encourage the clinic's frequent group activities, meetings, and events. As inhabitants of La Borde can wander freely between the exterior grounds and the interior of the castle, it allows for the occurrence of social intimacies and activities such as the summer play all members put on and partake in annually in natural unconfined spaces of the exterior.3

Kim Doan, David de Freitas, and Thomas Gargot, 'Institutional Psychotherapy', p. 2

Doan, de Freitas, and Gargot, pp. 3-4. La Moindre des Choses, dir. by Philibert Nicolas, 1996.

The re-emergence of the radical therapy concept within feminist activism has been prominent in its aim at providing mental healthcare for the marginalized. Radical therapy, a concept developed in the late 1960s with similar concepts to institutional psychotherapy, aimed to "democratize and de-professionalize therapeutic tools as a means for social empowerment and political changes". Methods of implementing this change included non-hierarchal group healing. Questioning diagnosis processes and the dynamic between patients and therapists, feminist therapy approaches look to radical therapy's focus on group work and the building of social networks and relationships to empower the individual.



The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence, ed. by The Care Collective and others (London; New York: Verso Books, 2020).

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SITES OF "ALTERNATIVE" HEALING



Sprenge Haus shop in Berlin as a space for radical therapy



Occupy Sandy, a mutual aid group set up in a church after the storm left many newyorkers without supplies

Spaces of mutual aid and new forms of radical therapy come in various forms due to their self-organized nature. The common thread of similarity in the physical space for these organizations is the easily accessible publicness and localness of its point of gathering. To facilitate the act of social care, the spaces themselves need to be in some way co-owned by everyone and belong to the collective. In addition, the spaces of care extend beyond the physical into the digital through the sharing of resources and support online. Carried out in feminist groups such as the Feminist Health Care Research Group based in Berlin, the group hosts feminist radical therapy groups in local neighborhood shops, venues, and spaces whilst openly sharing communal tools and research in relation to healthcare.

³ Feminist Health Care Research Group: A Special Issue in Power - Experience - Kunstinstituut Melly' https://www.kunstinstituutmel-ly.nl/en/experience/1323-feminist-health-care-research-group-a-special-issue-in-power

Rebecca Toporek and others, Handbook for Social Justice in Counseling Psychology: Leadership, Vision, and Action (2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks California 91320 United States: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2006), pp. 240–41

⁵ The Care Collective and other

[|] Feminist Health Care Group' Feminist Health Care Group' Feministische-recherchegruppe.org/resources.html

sand therapy





bilateral techniques EM

The importance of the body in relation to mental health links highly with the often overlooked senses, interoception, and proprioception. Proprioception sense refers to the awareness of one's body in relation to itself and space. Interoception, on the other hand, refers to the perception of sensations from inside the body such as the heartbeat and breathing. Both are integral to the regulation of emotions through their connections with autonomic nervous system activities. Physical sensations help physically and emotionally establish a relationship with the self and the surroundings to the self. By monitoring within and around the body, the brain, and its consciousness play a crucial role in maintaining inner physical and emotional equilibrium to keep the body safe.2 Furthermore, depression often includes emotional and physical symptoms such as anhedonia, the reduced ability to feel pleasure, lethargy, social withdrawal, and movement. Compared to healthy levels, there is a decreased activation in brain regions involving interoception and emotional control within depressed individuals.3 With feelings of isolation and aloneness prevalent, the sense of disconnectedness can be alleviated through the awareness of one's own body and its sensations, thus regaining one's lost presence.

Bottom-up treatment studied predominately through Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, informs the interconnectedness of the mind and body. Instead of talking therapy, bottom-up treatment approaches healing through bodily sensations. In formal settings, treatments are practiced through play, sand, and EMDR therapy. Other informal methods of bodily healing include bilateral stimulation, progressive muscle relaxation, peripheral relaxation technique, guided visualization, rhythmic movement, focused breathing, and body scans. All methods use sensory as a focus and guide to become attuned to one's own bodily sensations and its interoception and proprioception senses.

Cynthia J. Price and Carole Hooven, 'Interoceptive Awareness Skills for Emotion Regulation: Theory and Approach of Mindful Awareness in Body-Oriented Therapy (MABT)', Frontiers in Psychology, 9 (2018), 798

Bessel A. Van der Kolk, The Body Keeps the Score: Mind, Brain and Body in the Transformation of Trauma (London: Penguin Books, 2015), pp. 93-94.

Laura A. Harrison and others, The Importance of Sensory Processing in Mental Health: A Proposed Addition to the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) and Suggestions for RDoC 2.0', Frontiers in Psychology, 10 (2019), 103





The Ndeup ritual in Senegal - Ndeup, meaning to return - is a communal ceremony specifically for mental illness.¹ Done for either an individual or group, mental illness is not blamed on the individual but rather seen as an external entity the communal group can overcome together. Having performed the ritual himself, Solomon describes the experience as an enabler "to think about depression as a thing external to, and separate from" himself.²

The animist tradition of the Lebu people takes place in the penthie, the village square, where the core life of the community thrives with the exchange of goods, services, and knowledge. The public square, which hosts other rituals, allows for the invitation of the community and persons non-associated with the suffering to join the communal ceremony. As part of the ritual, the subject(s) take part in a sequence of intimate physical acts with materials of the earth such as dry leaves, animals, and members of the community. With the accompaniment of drums, dancers, and the cheering of onlookers, the Ndeup ritual forges social bonds whilst providing a sense of comfort in physical movement, sound, procedure, and intimate community within the suffering individual.³⁴

³²

The Return: The N'Duen Healing Ceremony dir by Abbey Loslye 2015

^{&#}x27;The Longest Night | Andrew Solomon' https://andrewsolomon.com/articles/the-longest-night/

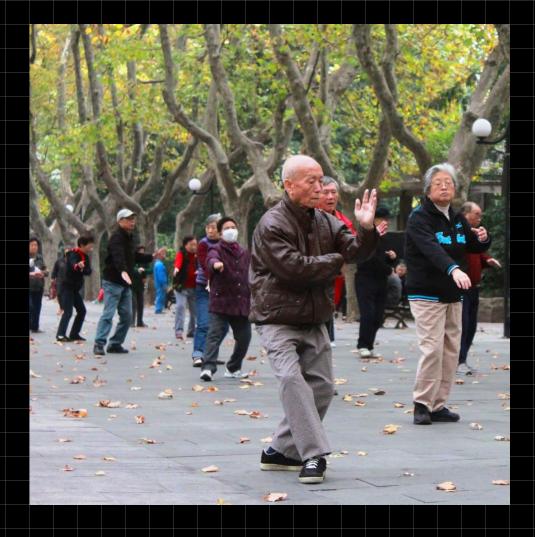
³ Berliner Festspiele, 'Mansour Ciss Kanakassy: "Ndeup-Ritual" - Immersion'

⁴ Andrew Solomon, The Noonday Demon: An Anatomy of Depression (London: Vintage, 2002), p. 170

Qi Gong, a Chinese communal practice refined and developed over a thousand years, involves slow movements with breathing exercises. Switching between dynamic and meditative techniques, the exercise takes the body through gentle movements or static postures focused on the breath. Often recommended to patients with depression and anxiety, the practice is seen as a mood balancer. 1

The practice of Qi Gong is commonly done in public parks and squares with its fruition amongst friends or the local community. There are no fees nor requirements or equipment needed to join the activity, and although mostly practiced by an older demographic, the exercise itself is not exclusive to this group. It is rare to see a group of fewer than 5 individuals practicing. Proven to improve psychological well-being, Qi Gong not only brings body awareness to the individual but also provides peer learning and social support integral to psychological healing.2

SITES OF "ALTERNATIVE" HEALING



Qigong and Tai-Chi for Mood Regulation', 5 February 2021 https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-network

tai-chi-chi-kung-for-rehabilitation/news/qigong-and-tai-chi-for-mood-regulation>
2 Fang Wang and others, 'The Effects of Qigong on Anxiety, Depression, and Psychological Well-Being: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis', Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2013 (2013), 1-16







i went from depressed, to stress to less watching this video :)

Although ASMR contributes to the containment of the individual, the online community acts as a space between the home, and the other extreme, the psychiatric hospital. It is a relevant communal response that reflects the culture and social dynamic prevalent today.



I was really stressed one day and I decided to look for satisfying videos and I found you now I watch when I'm stressed from school or thinking I need to be perfect







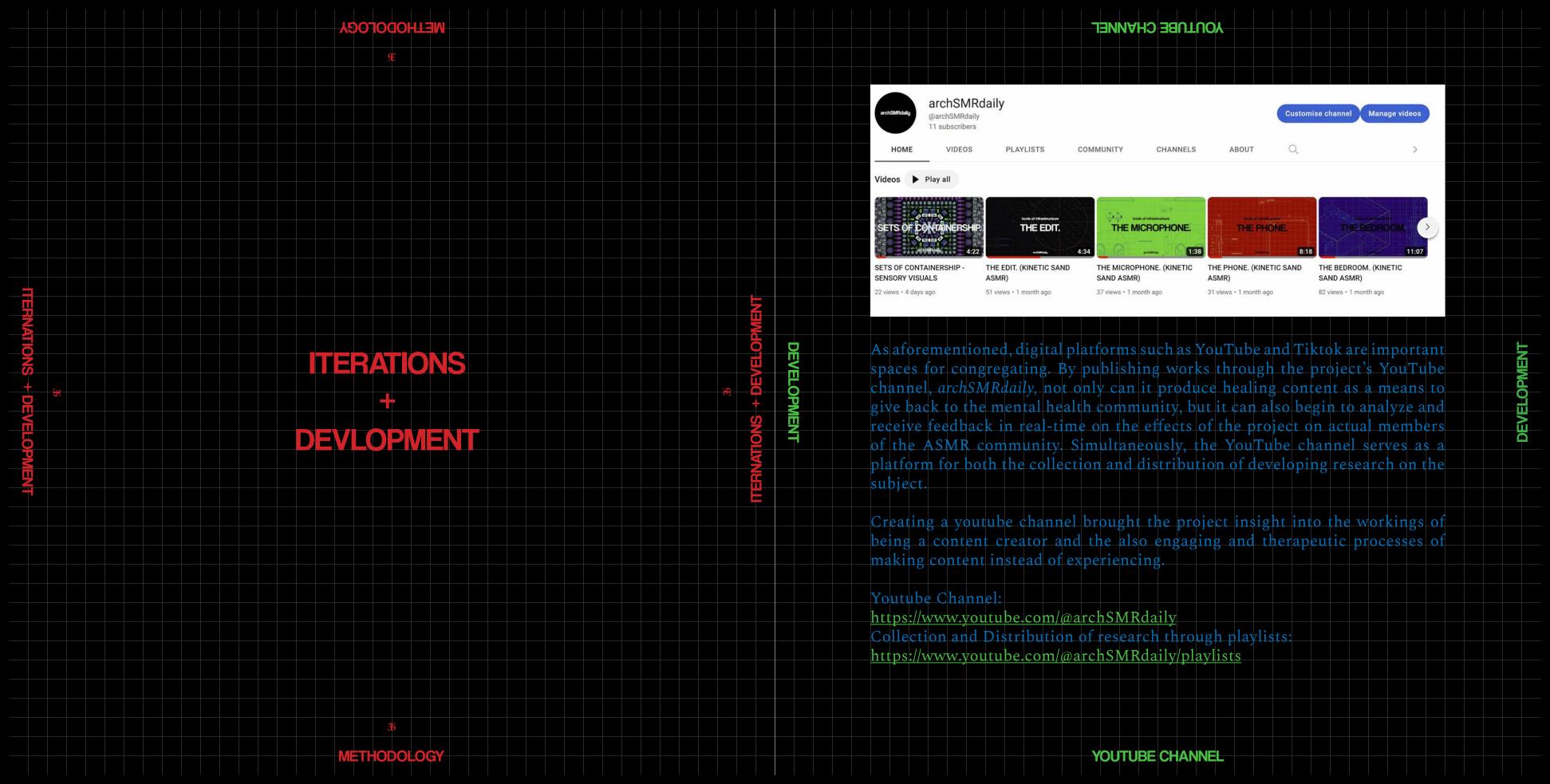
OF "ALTERNATIVE" HEALING

ASMR is unique in its undefinable and at times contradictory qualities. On a social scale, ASMR allows persons with mental illnesses to publicly express and share their troubles through private anonymity. Still attached to stigma, this allows for public expression in private safety. On a personal scale, studies have shown that the satisfaction felt through ASMR is achieved by experiences that elicit both positive and negative feelings. Comparably, strong emotional experiences often involve a blending of juxtaposing emotions. Nostalgia, a deep sentimental yearning, for instance, is a meld of both happiness and sadness. ASMR similarly contains components that involuntarily arouse a complex emotional response. Not only stimulating emotions, but ASMR also generates synesthesia in which viewers feel tactility through the exaggeration of audiovisuals. With its ability to trigger a physical response, viewers describe that by watching the videos, it feels as if they are partaking in action and sensing the material themselves. In addition, the capability of ASMR to intrigue, stimulate and capture its viewers is due to the uncanniness it possesses. The medium's use of editing, exaggeration, and isolation presents its content as familiar and at the same time unfamiliar.

Online platforms facilitate virtual public spaces in which individuals can enter and leave, gather and meet without any obligations or requirements. Not confined to the same set of rules, organization, and visibility as the tangible world, the flexible properties of the virtual foster the growth of autonomous, non-hierarchical communities. Hosted in this digital environment, ASMR is successful in mental healing due to the ability of viewers to share and identify with others who feel the same emotional and bodily sensations believed to be unique to the individual. Symptoms of depression and anxiety include feelings of isolation and loneliness. Thus, allowing the individual to connect in a social context without hierarchy or authority dispels individual suffering and blame to create feelings of collective mutual understanding and support.

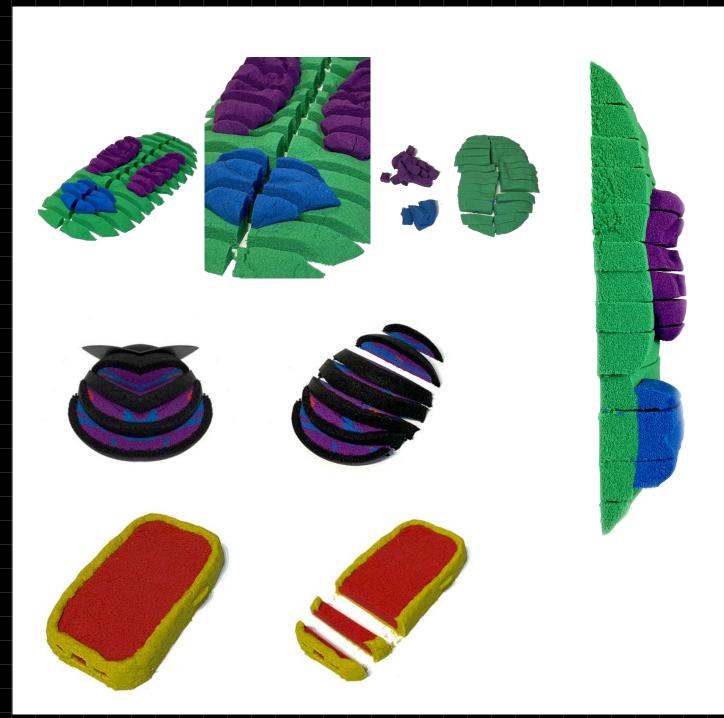
^ various ASMR forms and the comment box as a social space ^

Giulia Lara Poerio and others, 'More than a Feeling: Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) Is Characterized by Reliable Changes in Affect and Physiology', ed. by Jane Elizabeth Aspell, *PLOS ONE*, 13.6 (2018)





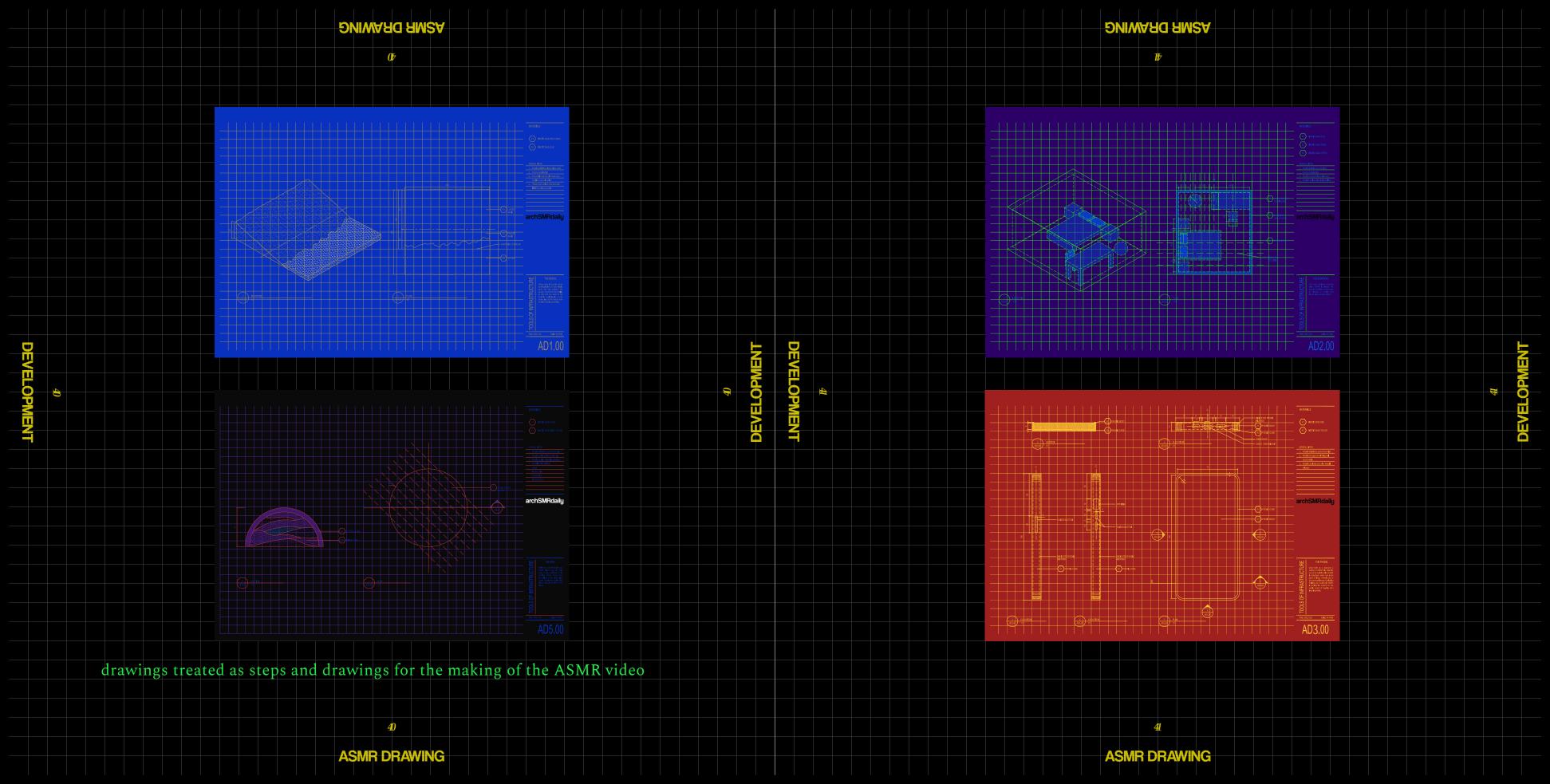
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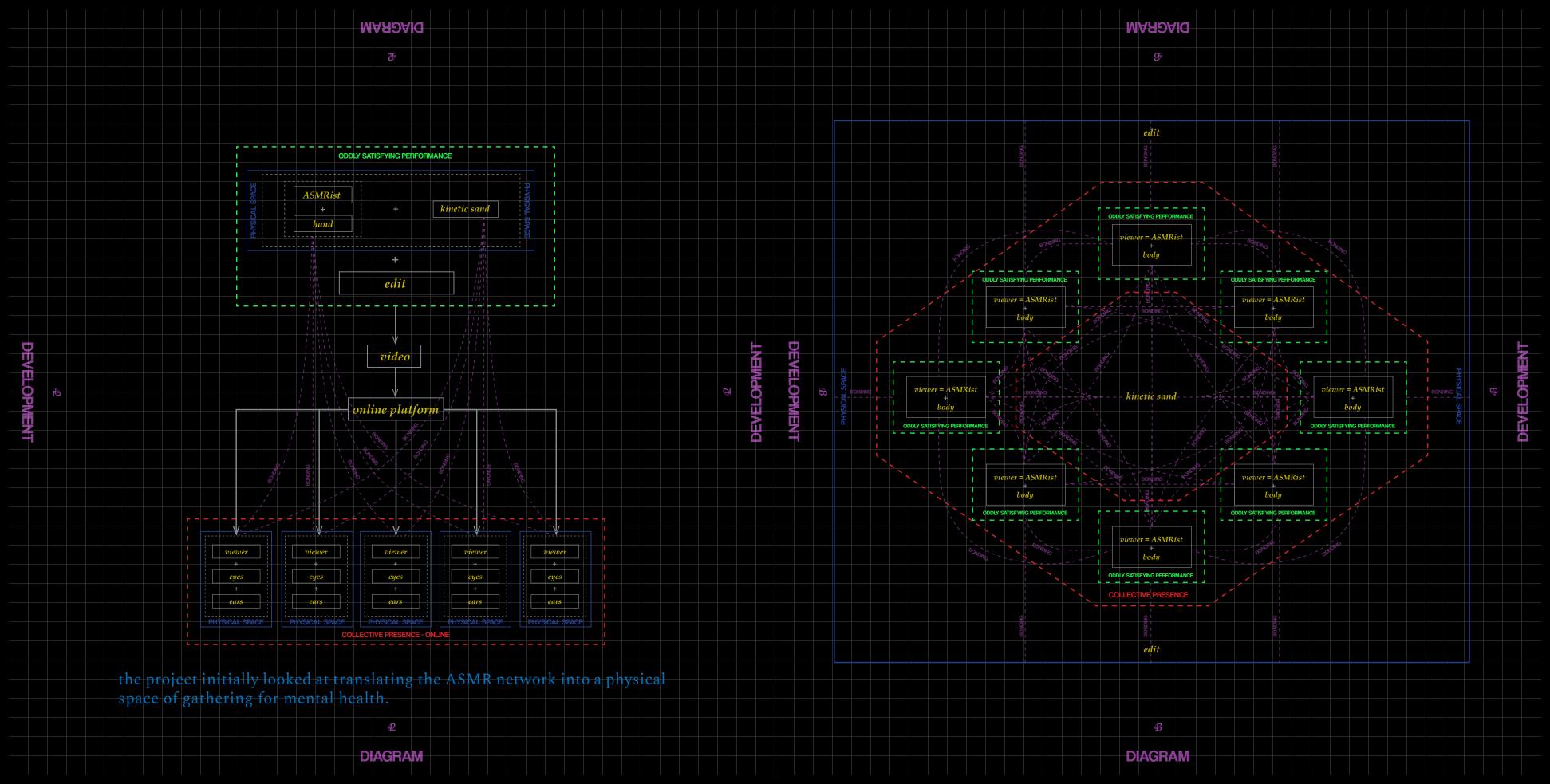


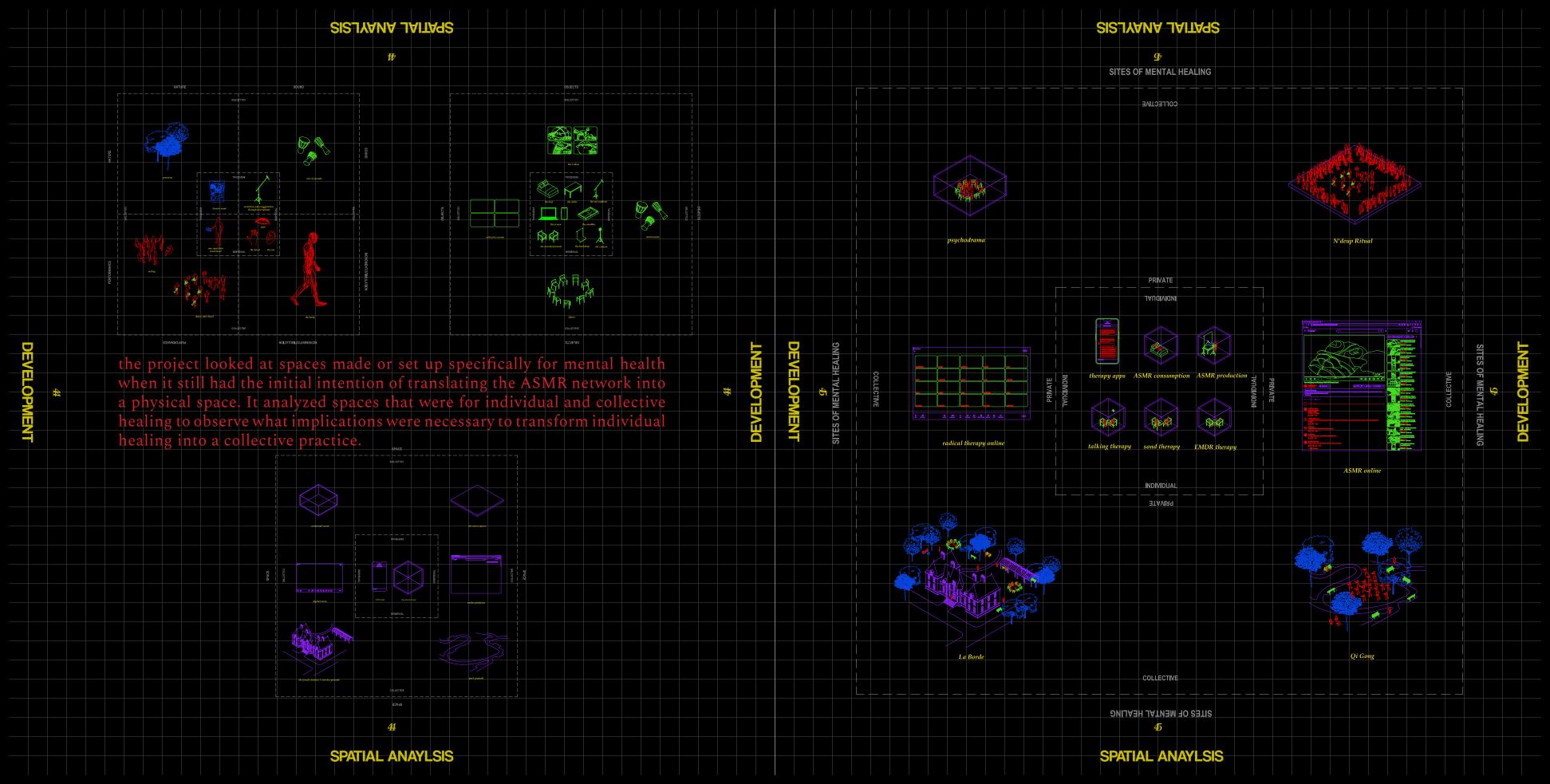
Early models with the use of kinetic sand to experiment with the making of ASMR videos.

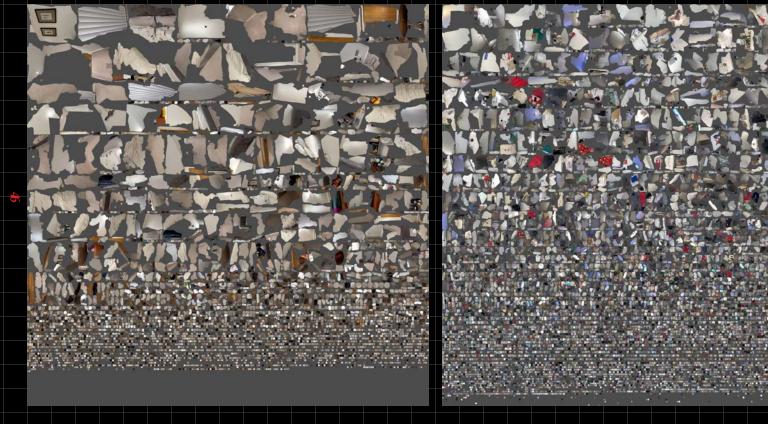
ASMR VIDEOS

ASMR VIDEOS





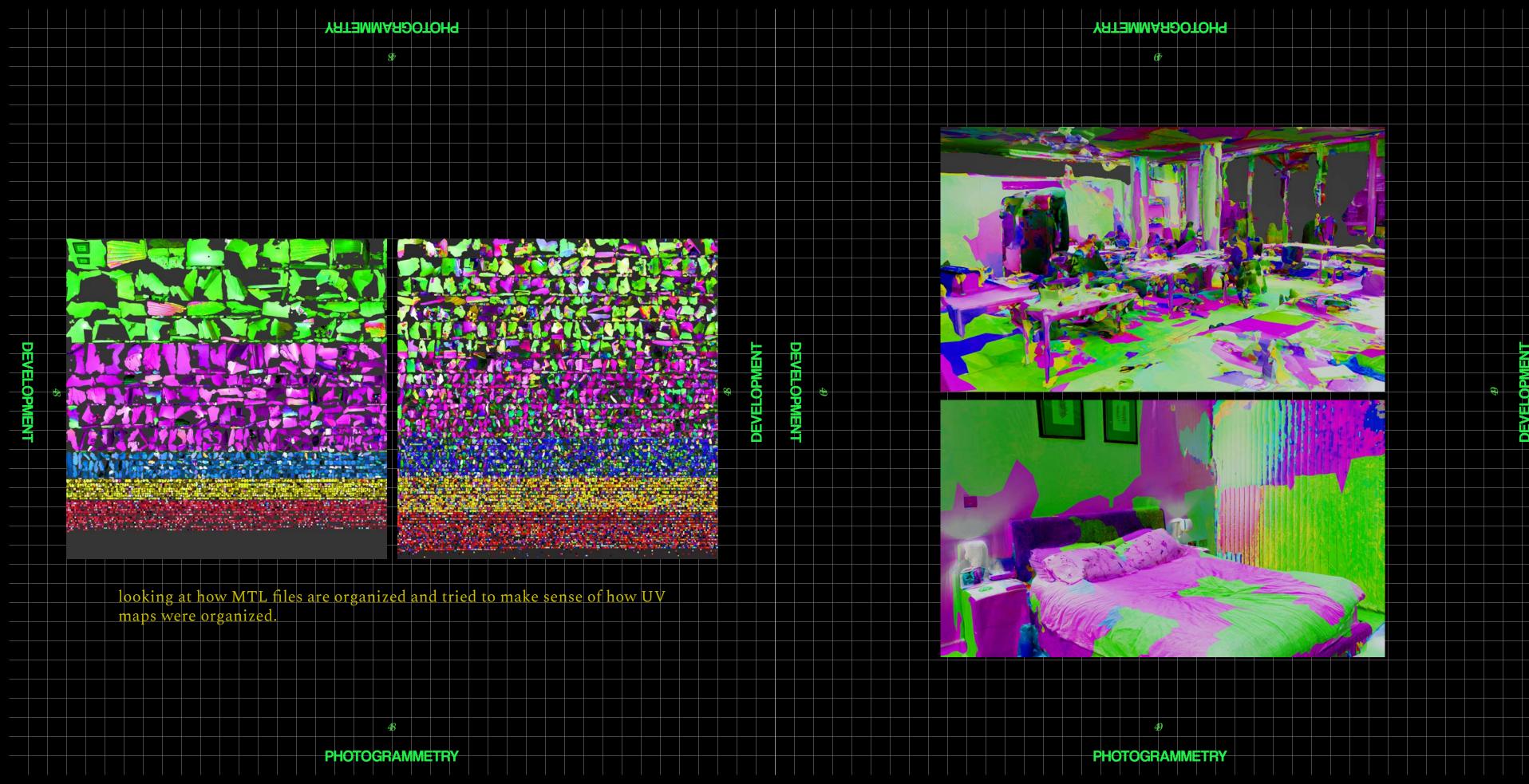


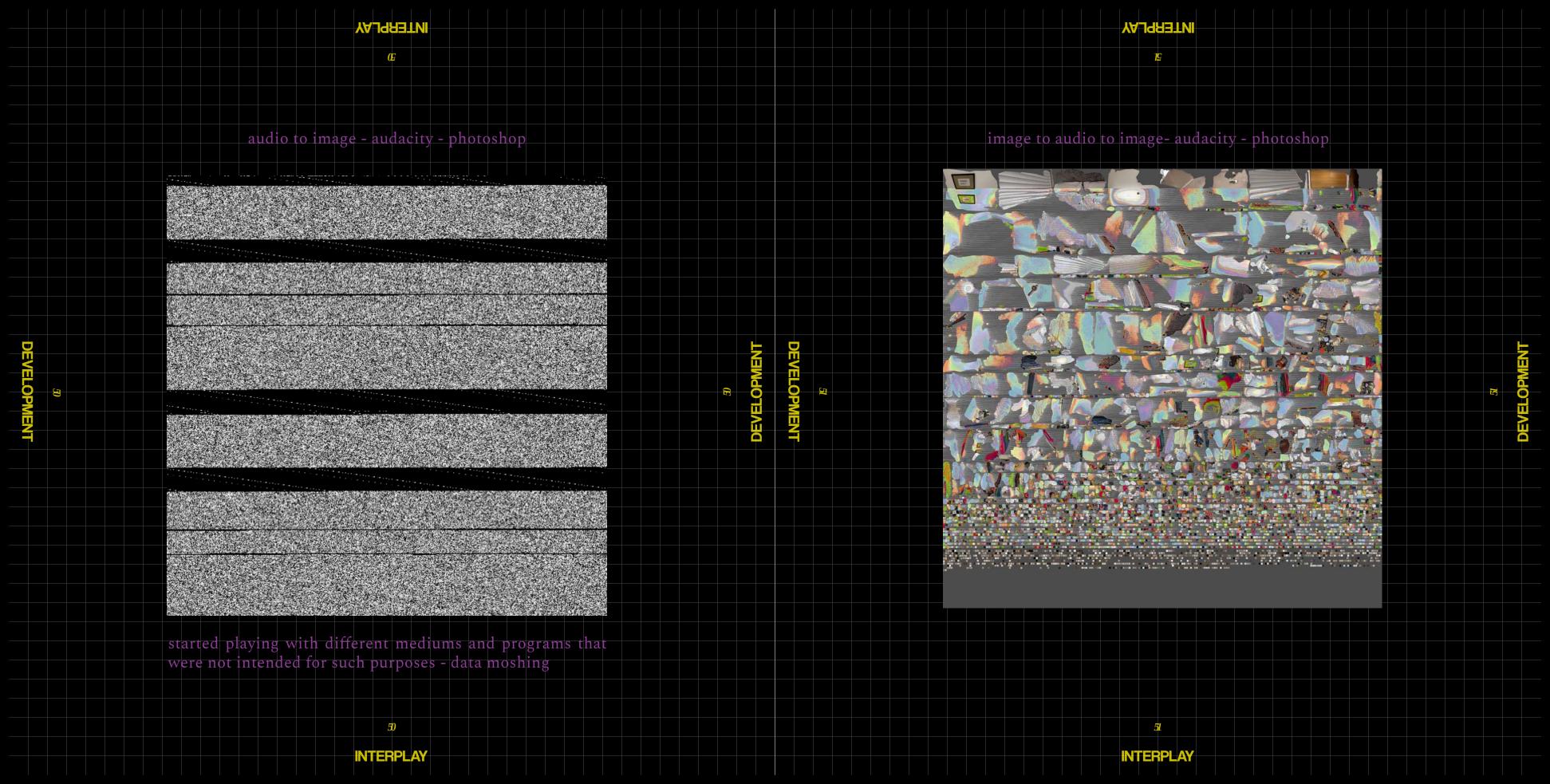


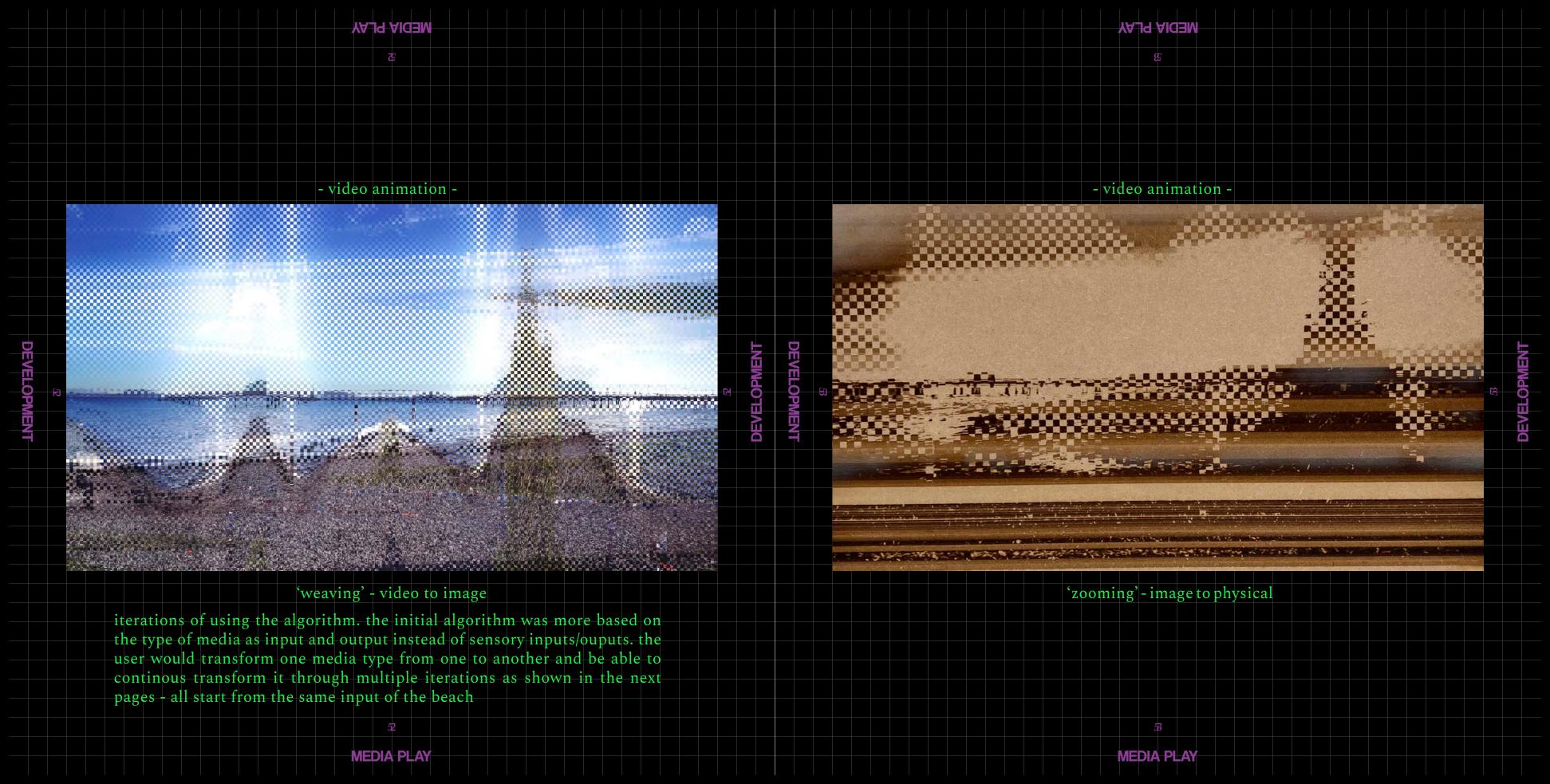
the project took a different trajectory when it started to look at the reverse, turning physical space into the digital. Some initial 3D scans interested me in how space gets translated differently through technology.

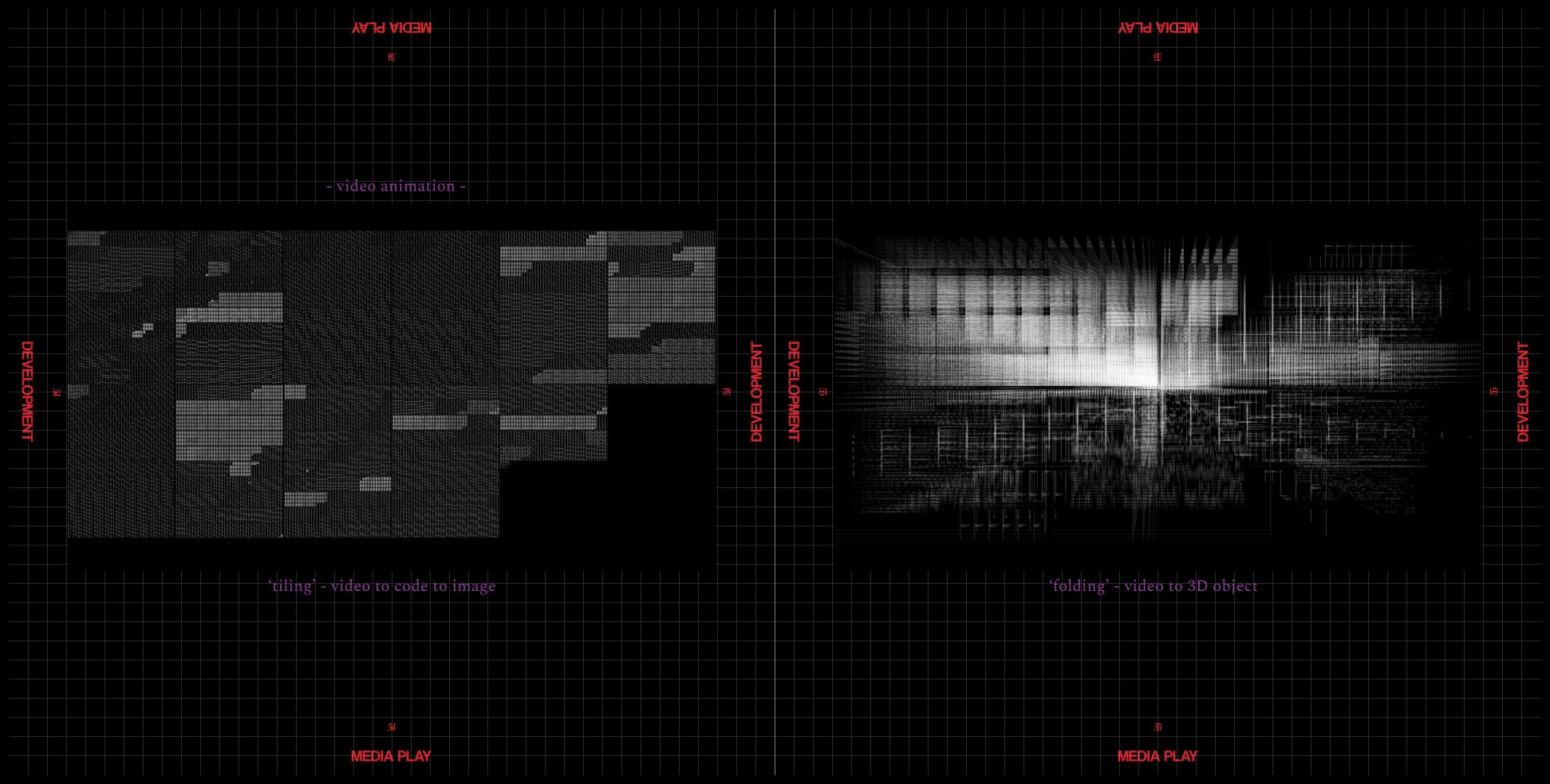


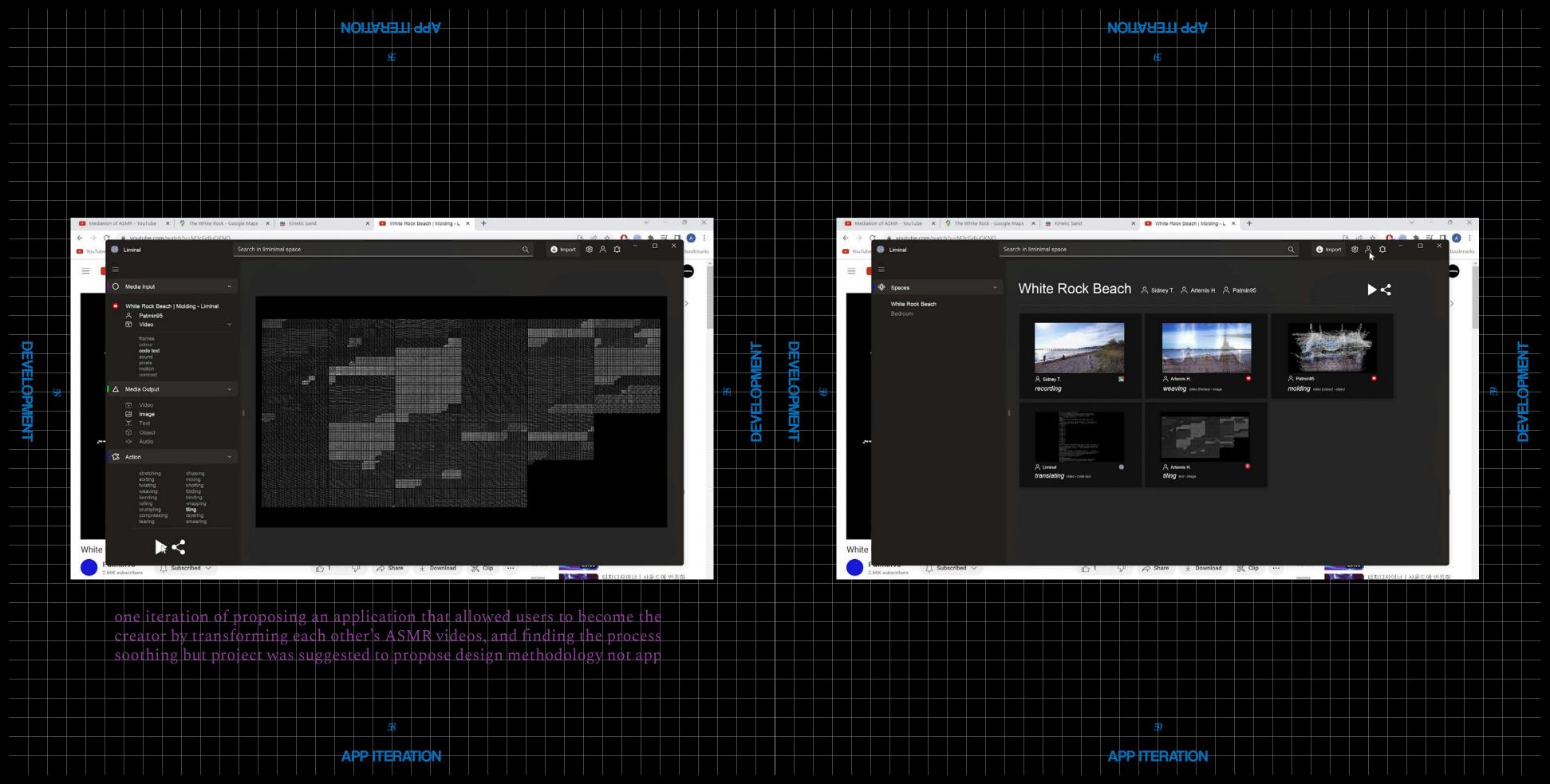






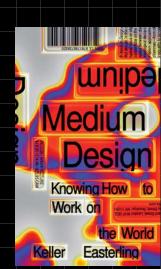


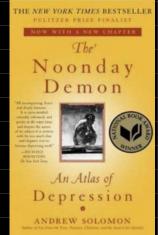


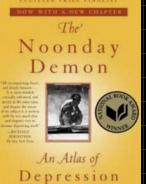




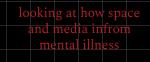
THE ARCHIVE













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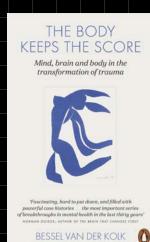
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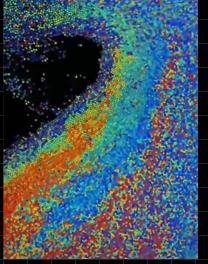


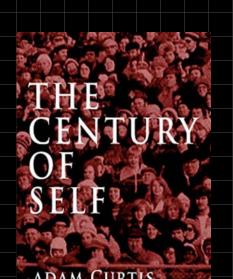
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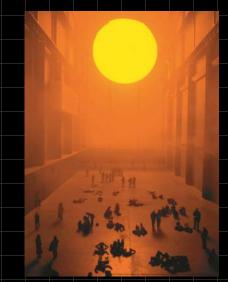












TEXTS

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