



Nathalie Miebach

(ME-bach)

Born:

1972, Zeven, Germany

Education:

BA, Oberlin College, OH,
MA Ed and MFA, Massachusetts
College of Art, MA.

Lives and Works:

Boston, MA

About the Artist:

Nathalie Miebach explores the intersection of art and science by translating scientific data related to meteorology, ecology and oceanography into woven sculptures, musical scores, and installations. Using both digital technologies and traditional crafts, Miebach examines how these two approaches can be used to give a more nuanced expression and understanding of information.

Teaching connections:

Keywords and ideas: weather, earth, science, data, music, translation, information, stories, installation, sculpture, community

Related Artist:

Eduardo Kac, Vija Celmins, María Ignacia Edwards, Olafur Eliasson, Ned Kahn, Edward Burtynsky, Golan Levin, Nina Katchadourian, Wolfgang Laib

"Weather is an amalgam of systems that is inherently invisible to most of us, so I use sculpture and music to make it, not just visible, but also tactile and audible."

Spring 2019 Exhibition

The Weather Variations

Connecting Data, Sculpture, and Music

On view: Jan 25- May 18, 2019

On Campus: March 4-8

Artist Talk: Tues, March 5th, 8pm

The Sustainability Office, Denison Museum, and the Data Analytics Program have been working together to bring artist Nathalie Miebach to campus in Spring 2019 to offer our campus community new perspectives on the intersection of science, art, and music. Miebach will have a semester long exhibition at the Museum, a week long residence on campus (March 4-8), an artist talk over the bi-annual Tutti festival with a musical performance by Ethel, and numerous class visits with courses across the disciplines.

Big Questions

As humans we share many experiences, most of us have felt rain, heard thunder, or experienced a sunny day. As individuals, we each interpret, share, and communicate this information differently.

What are the ways we see information across campus? As we think about how we teach, in our classrooms and within our departments, how do you share this information? In what ways does this information rely upon its discipline?

These are just a few of the questions we hope to explore with this exhibition, starting in the gallery walls, but also in hallways, classrooms, and concerts across campus.

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Before Viewing

What do you see when you think of weather and storms? What sounds do you associate with weather? How do you learn about storms?

What is data? Where do you come across data in a class, paper, radio, street?

Can the same information translate across disciplines?

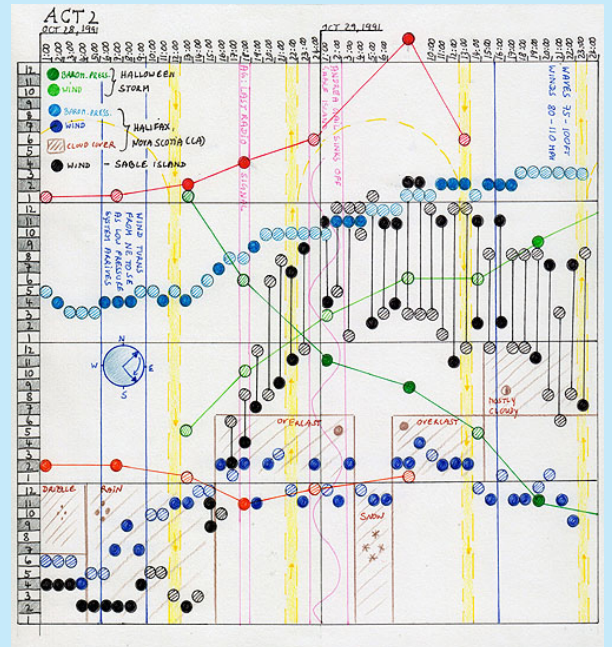


While Viewing

What do you see as you walk around the art? What shapes or forms do you notice?

What do you notice about how the material is placed? Do you notice any symbols in the work?

What does Miebach show us in her work (Conceptually or with materials)? How do her materials relate to concept?



After Viewing

Does the meaning change through the process of Miebach's work? What information stays the same, what changes?

Is this a literal translation? Is that important?

What is Miebach's process?

What are some reactions and assumptions about the work before and after learning about the process?

When we have catastrophic weather events, how do you learn about them? Who do those storms effect?

In what ways are data relegated to specific subjects?

What does Miebach's process tell us about how we use information?

How do we read graphs? How do you read a sculpture?

Does data tell a story? If so, what is it? If not, what does it do?

How does the information change with each medium (e.g., sculpture, musical score)?

How is the work successful? Why do you think this?

If you could give suggestions, what would you offer?

Here are just a few departments taking part in the exhibition:

Biology
Communications
Data Analytics
English
Environmental Studies
Geo Science

Music
Narrative Non-Fiction
Psychology
Studio Art

Schedule your class visit now

Enrich your class by connecting with Miebach's work. Here's how:

- Schedule a class visit to explore the exhibition and connect back to discussions in the classroom. (January 25-May 18th)
- Arrange an artist visit for your class at the Museum to allow your students to work directly with Nathalie Miebach. (March 4-8th)
- Join us for an artist talk to hear from the artist herself. (Tuesday, March 5th at 8pm)

Sciences:

- What are ways we can allow data to live outside the lab?
- How do we communicate with others about science?
- What is science's connection to art?
- How do we as humans live in our environment, when or how does this relationship change and why?

Art/Music:

- Can art interpret science? What role can it play?
- What is the Artist's role?
- What is the effect of the work outside of data?
- How else can we make data visual?
- How is the artist's work different/similar than the original data?
- How do we see art vs science?

Literature and Communication:

- How do we tell stories?
- With catastrophic events, how are these remembered?
- What is written in the media? What articles are written?

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