

Advertisement on NYTimes.com

ART REVIEW | WESTCHESTER

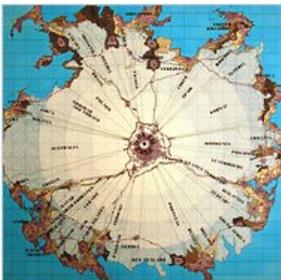
Maps for Navigating to a New Perspective

By SYLVIANE GOLD

Published: December 3, 2010

What are maps for? Of course, you think you know, and so did I — until I found my way to “Mapping: Memory and Motion in Contemporary Art,” at the [Katonah Museum of Art](#). The works in this terrific exhibition offer so many takes on the subject that you feel your personal definition of cartography exploding as you walk — with no map to guide you — through the galleries.

Enlarge This Image



Courtesy of the artist and Hosfelt Gallery
“South Pole” (2009), by Lordy Rodriguez.

For some of the show’s 38 artists, existing maps serve as raw material to be turned into sculptures, collages and such. For others, a map is the end result, created from experience or imagination to fix a place, a time or an idea. But all these objects, gathered by the guest curator, Sarah Tanguy, force you to reckon with maps as aids to meditation, objects of pleasure, blueprints for war, records of subjugation. And oh, yes, I almost forgot: as tools for getting from here to there and back again.

Locating “here” can become tricky, however. You’ll get lost if you try to follow Karey Ellen Kessler’s fascinating maplike drawings — they’ll pilot you no farther than her psyche. Kysa Johnson tracks the travel paths of subatomic particles in swirling colored lines — there’s no Lonely Planet accompanying her map, either. At first glance, Lordy Rodriguez’s delineations of the North and South Poles seem nearer our traditional notions of what a map should be. But closer examination reveals that these two ink drawings literally upend our sense of the globe, reordering our perspective and providing a biting commentary on it as well.

Several of the maps on view document not just what is, or what might be, but what is no longer. In her “Voyages” series, Joyce Kozloff reproduces antique maps of faraway islands on Venetian carnival masks. The titles — “Pola,” “Nova Guinea,” “Pulo Penang” — and the colorful painted backgrounds evoke the varied cultures that once thrived on those islands; the sameness of the masks and their empty eyeholes suggest the way the Western gaze reduced such places to spoils of empire.

In “Okesa,” which means “halfway there” in Osage, Norman Akers overlays a schematic depiction of the tribe’s reservation with a realistic painting of a panicked elk. Oversize acorns imply that perhaps regeneration is possible; but this is a map of destruction.

The artists who manipulate existing maps often create dense visual puns. In “Highland Dress,” Susan Stockwell

Related

Times Topics: [Westchester Arts](#) | [Westchester Arts Listings](#)

Enlarge This Image



Courtesy of the artist and DC Moore Gallery
“Voyages 19: Pola” (2004), by Joyce Kozloff.

Enlarge This Image



Log in to see what your friends are sharing on nytimes.com. Privacy Policy | What's This?

Log In With Facebook

What's Popular Now

Severe Conservative Syndrome



Mooresville School District, a Laptop Success Story



RECOMMEND

TWITTER

LINKEDIN

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE



MADE.COM
DIRECT FROM THE MAKERS

Click here for an extra £10 discount

Advertisement on NYTimes.com

Get the Times Limited E-Mail



Sign Up

Privacy Policy

MOST E-MAILED

MOST VIEWED



1. [Affluent, Born Abroad and Choosing New York's Public Schools](#)

2. [WELL: Life's Frailty, and the Gestures That Go a Long Way](#)

3. [WELL: How 1-Minute Intervals Can Improve Your Health](#)



4. [RESTAURANT REVIEW: A Map of Your Taste Buds Shaped Like Italy](#)



5. [OP-ED COLUMNIST: The Materialist Fallacy](#)



6. [The Therapist May See You Anytime, Anywhere](#)

7. [Flaw Found in an Online Encryption Method](#)



8. [RECIPES FOR HEALTH: Chicken Stews, to Savor or Store Away](#)



9. [FINDINGS: What's New? Exuberance for Novelty Has](#)

Norman Akers

"Okesa" (2010), by Norman Akers.

turns Victorian-era government maps of Scotland into a 19th-century gown, repurposing their long blue lochs into ribbonlike accents for the bell-shaped skirt and their

bright-red contour lines into embroidery for the bust and shoulders. The sculpture, elegant and eerie, reminds us that one diminutive woman once ruled an empire on which the sun never set.

Books of maps rather than individual ones are the medium for Doug Beube. In "Crater," he carves out hollows of various depths, rendering a large atlas useless but creating a powerful topography of his own. The atlas in "Invisible Cities" is equally unreadable, its pages folded and sewn into a pleated cylinder capped at both ends with a decorative metal finial. Ms. Tanguy compares it to a reliquary; I see a miniature Torah. In either case, the map has been transformed into an object of reverence.

Matthew Cusick uses maps not for sculpture but for painting. Created from inlaid bits of 1960s and '70s road maps, his 2004 "Transamerican" depicts a Pontiac Firebird, flaming eagle hood decal and all. Made prior to the bailout of General Motors but after the demise of the storied muscle car, the work reads almost like prophecy these days. From a distance, the car has a ghostly presence; as you get closer, it disappears into the map fragments, like a mirage.

There are similar phantasms in Lincoln Schatz's shimmering video, which shows a man using a compass and other navigational tools to chart a journey. The point of view shifts constantly, and overlapping sequences fade in and out like dreams. There's something utterly compelling about the contrast between the precision of the task and the hazy, computer-generated flow of images. And the man turns out to be [J. Craig Venter](#), who found a way to map the mapmakers when he plotted the human genome.

"Mapping: Memory and Motion in Contemporary Art," at the Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay Street (Route 22), Katonah, through Jan. 9; katonahmuseum.org or (914) 232-9555, extension 0.

A version of this review appeared in print on December 5, 2010, on page WE11 of the New York edition.

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS



Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

Alpari (UK) Forex Trading

Up To \$4000 Credit Bonus.T&Cs Apply

Download MT4 Now! FSA Regulated.

alpari.co.uk/fsa-regulated

Get Free E-mail Alerts on These Topics

[Art](#)

[Maps](#)

[Sculpture](#)

[Westchester County \(NY\)](#)

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM

[DINING & WINE »](#)

[HEALTH »](#)

[OPINION »](#)

[MUSIC »](#)

[OPINION »](#)

[U.S. »](#)



Benefits

- 10. [CAMPAIGN STOPS A Widow's Wisdom](#)

[Go to Complete List »](#)

[Show My Recommendations](#)



"These Seven Sicknesses"

ALSO IN THEATER »

[Family friendly shows](#)

[Last chance to see these shows](#)

nytimes.com

THEATER

GET A FREE NOOK SIMPLE TOUCH™ The New York Times nook

When you sign up for a one-year NOOK subscription to The Times. [LEARN MORE »](#)





A Map of Your Taste Buds Shaped Like Italy



How 1-Minute Intervals Can Improve Health



Borderlines: The Undiscovered Country



Mahler Is O.K., but Gustavo, He's Amazing

Egan: A Widow's Wisdom

In Walla Walla, Wash., same-sex marriage finds an unlikely Republican champion.



Out of Office, but Not Out of Things to Say

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2012 The New York Times Company | [Privacy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Terms of Sale](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise](#)

OPEN

MORE IN N.Y. / REGION (1 OF 36 ARTICLES)

Affluent, Born Abroad and C New York's Public Schools

[Read More »](#)