

(PROJECT)

OCEAN JOURNEYS
IN ART AND SCIENCE

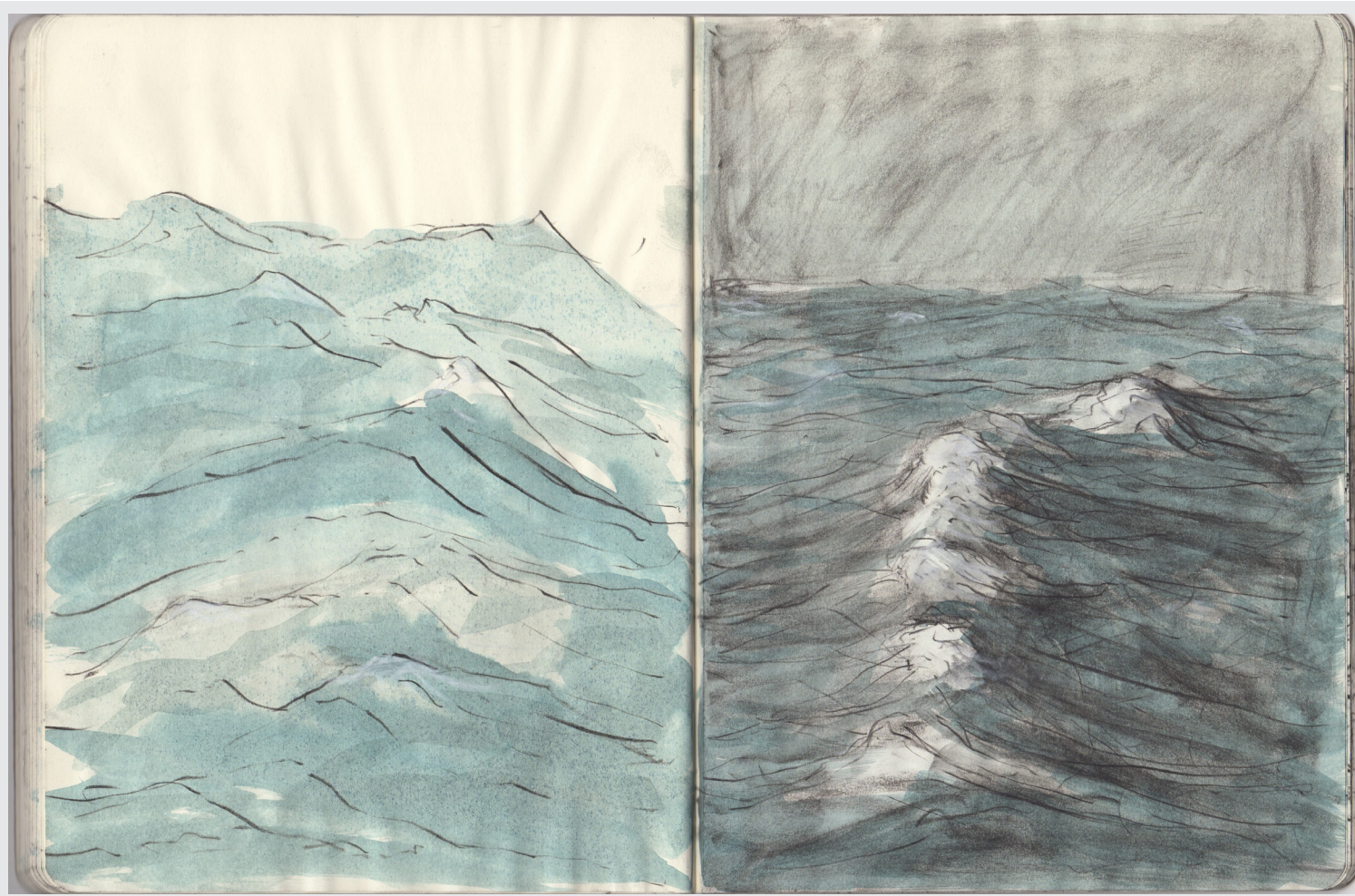
THE
INTERDISCIPLINARY
IMPACT OF
CREATIVE
RESEARCH
(SYMPOSIUM)

ANNALISE REES

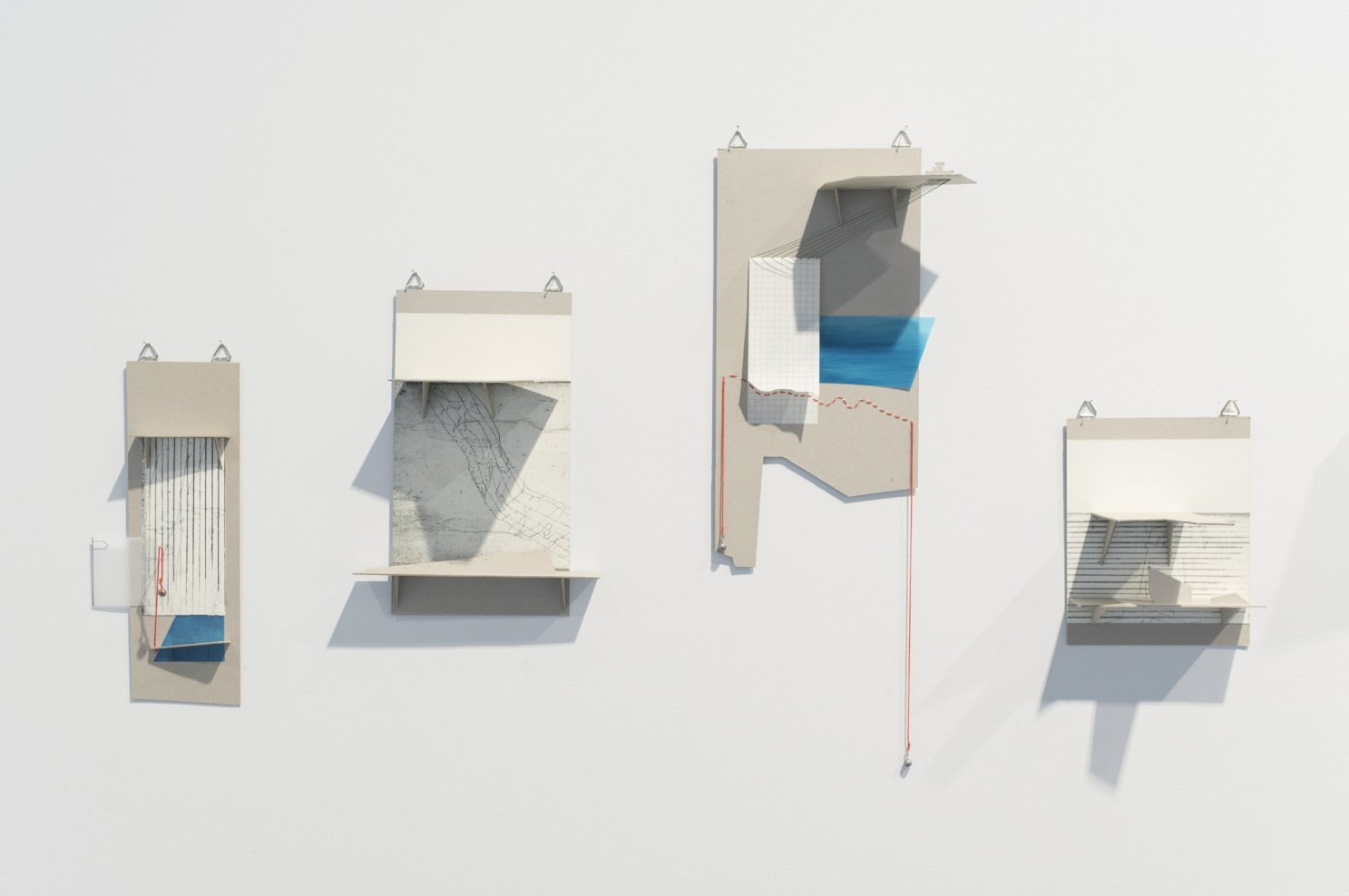
(VENUE)
MADA,
MONASH
UNIVERSITY

26.09.2017

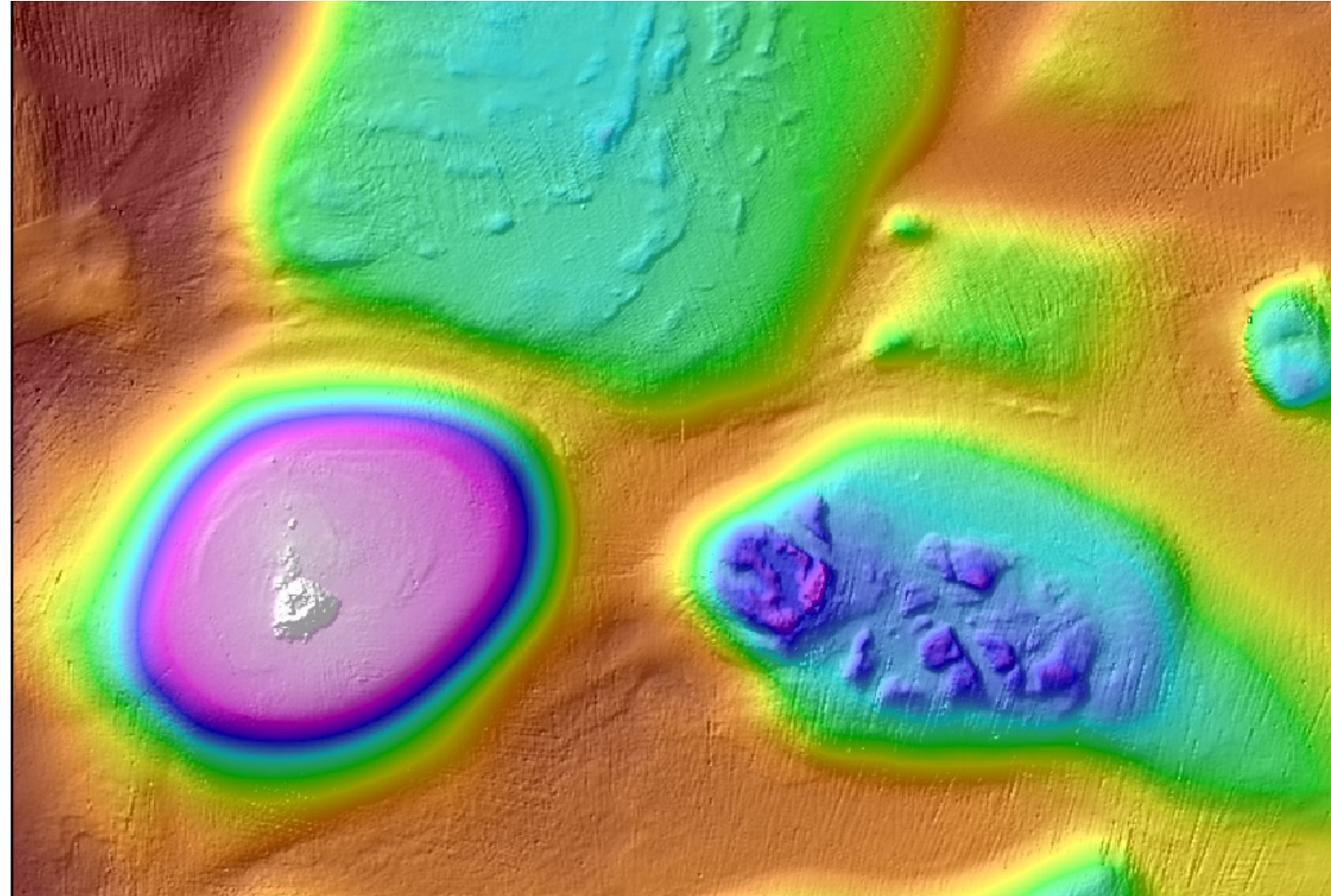
ANNALISE REES



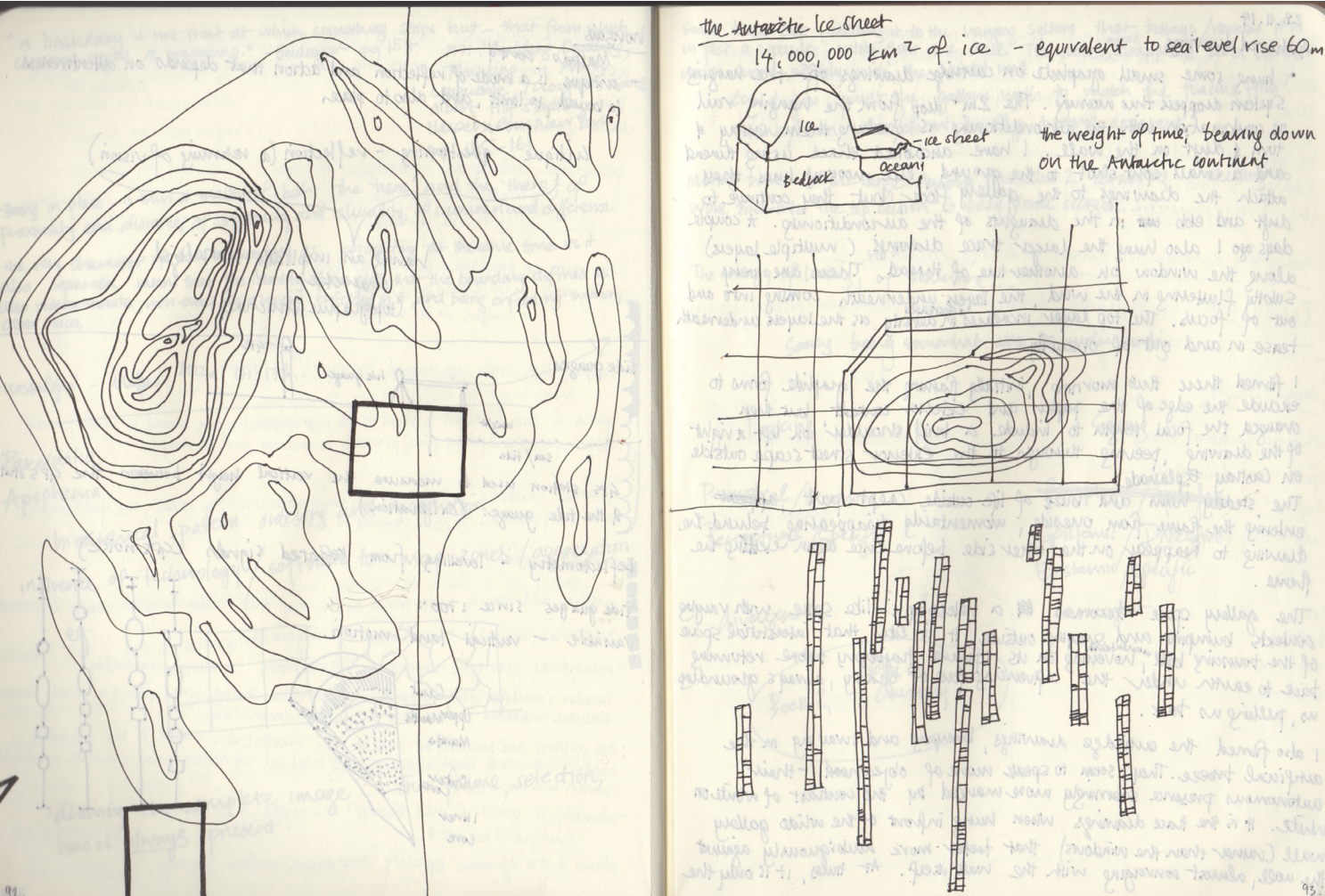
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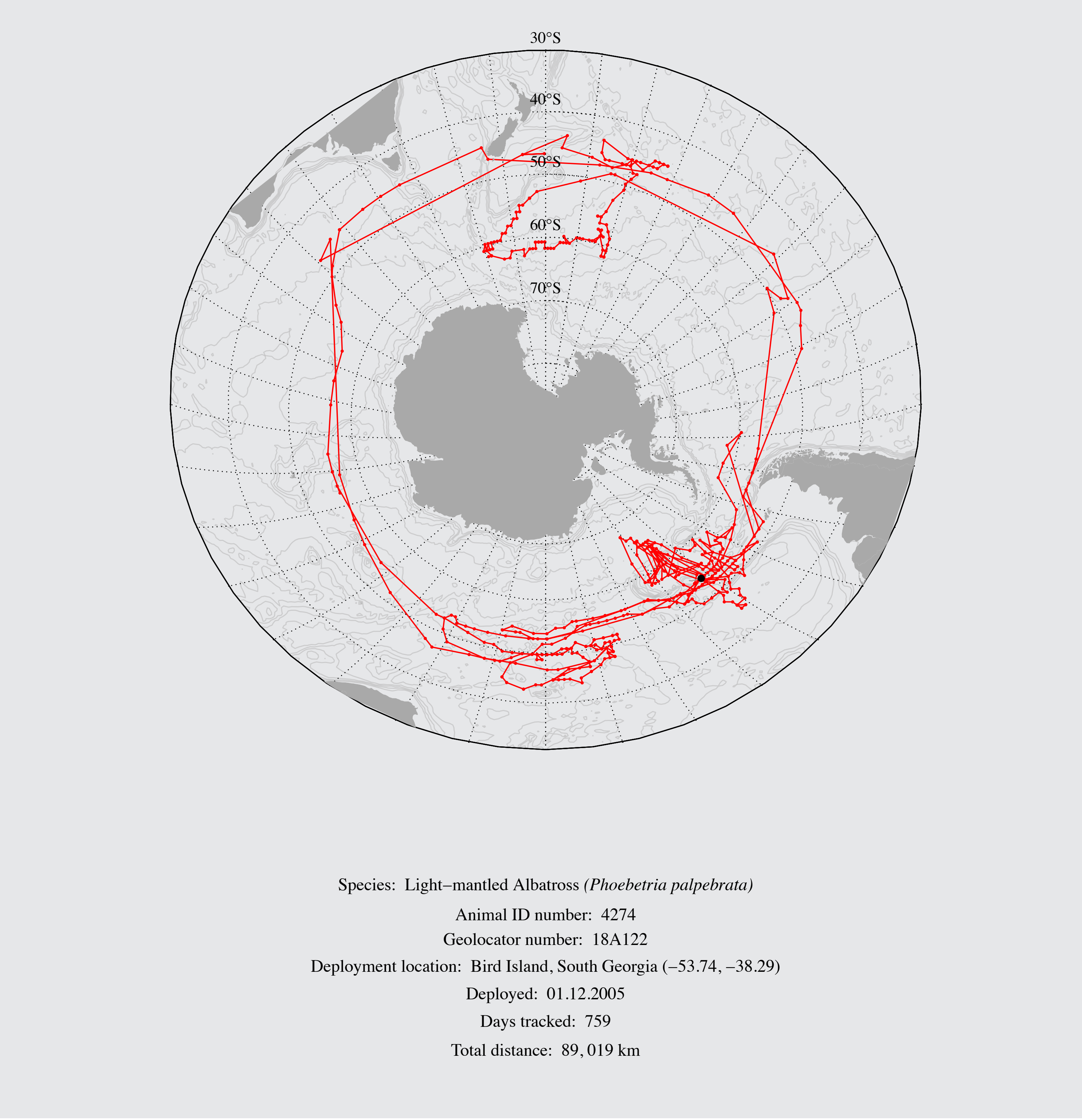
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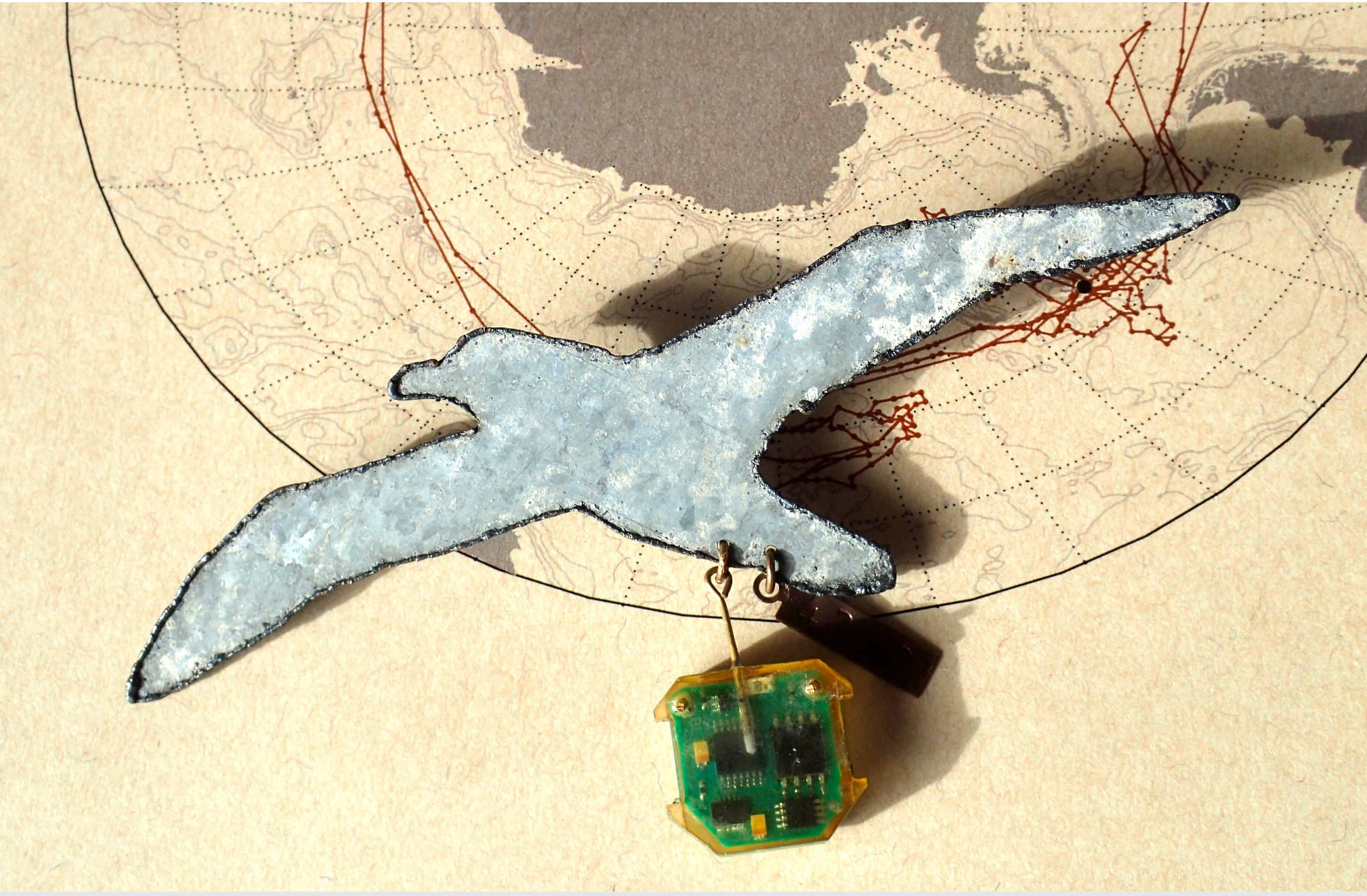
04.



05.



06.



01. Geolocation Journeys wearable art and map, Annalise Rees/Jaimie Cleeland
02. Page from my journal (*Book 15 - Heard Island*), 2016, Annalise Rees
03. *Models I-IV (oceans of the Unknown)*, 2016, Annalise Rees
04. *Rainbow musketeers* (acoustic seafloor image), 2016, Vanessa Lucieer/Sally Watson
05. Page from my journal (*Book 5*), 2015, Annalise Rees
06. Geolocation Track (Light-mantled Albatross), Jaimie Cleeland

DRAWING TO EXPLORE...

Drawing is an intrinsically human activity that traces our interactions with the world, allowing us to project, construct, imagine, describe and make sense. Focussing on manual drawing as an embodied means of encountering place and space my PhD explored drawing as a method for encountering the unknown, suggesting that the embodied and embedded process of using marks to negotiate and translate experience offers a crucial connection to the world for human beings as critical agents.

I investigated the fluid and dynamic nature of the sea as a transformative space of potentiality and a rich metaphorical and physical unknown. My research involved spending extended periods at sea using this experience to examine the drawing process as a critical method of encounter with the unfamiliar marine environment.

With an interest in the ocean and Antarctica, early in my project I undertook a residency at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (UTAS) where I was able to meet researchers working in various areas of marine science. Several projects sprung out of my IMAS residency and ran concurrently during my PhD project. One of these projects, 'Geolocation Journeys', came from meeting PhD student and albatross researcher Jaimie Cleeland, and another, 'Oceans of the Unknown', marine spatial analyst Dr Vanessa Lucieer and printmaker Dr Jan Hogan.

Geolocation Journeys is an ongoing collaboration turning 'retired' geolocators used to track marine predator species such as albatrosses, seals, and penguins into unique, handcrafted pieces of wearable art. Geolocators are tracking devices that record ambient light levels, water temperature and time. The data they collect allows scientists to uncover the foraging movements of marine predators. These migrations cover hundreds if not thousands of kilometres crossing international borders and territories. The geolocators enable scientists to understand how animals are using their environment and the effects of human impacts such as climate change.

Transformed into art objects the incredible journeys these animals make are revealed to the broader public. Pinned to jackets and lapels, they travel on new journeys

helping to increase public awareness and support Antarctic marine predator research.

One of the aims of the project has been to demonstrate that scientific data is embedded within a social and cultural context. By working together Jaimie and I have been able to increase the impact of marine predator research by mapping a complex and intricate web of connections and stories, making data relevant and meaningful.

Science and the visual arts both visualise information to explain our complex relationship to the world. By translating data into image, we re-present and communicate ideas that connect the material and immaterial, seen and unseen, known and unknown.

Oceans of the Unknown became a dialogue between a printmaker, a drawer and a marine spatial analyst all using forms of drawing and image-making to better understand the often unseen and largely unknown marine environment. Meeting regularly over 18 months, ideas and discipline specific knowledge were shared. Working together in the studio, an exhibition of collaborative and individual works resulted.

These collaborations have been exercises in expanding understanding and approaches to representation, creating shared dialogues and shifting frames of reference. Stimulating new and novel approaches to solving problems, thinking about the way we draw our existence in to being I hope will continue to generate meaningful connections between disparate ideas, technologies, disciplines and people.

Annalise Rees.