

WPC

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**W**hat if we could see and think of ourselves -humanity- from an alien perspective; detached, unprejudiced, even amoral? What if we could see and think of ourselves from the border of our own completed path? ☺

Sapiens have always been obsessed with matter. Since the invention of the first stone tools thousands of years ago, communities and societies have set themselves to accumulate an ever broader archive of their material culture for the next generations to inherit. The creation of museums crystallized this inherent vice, preserving, for instance, armours and swords from the French-British battles of the XV century. But, where are the sounds of those traces of bloodshed between the two reigns? Where are all the painful shouts, the clash of iron against and through iron, the whistle of a thousand arrows stabbing the air? Where are the endless cries of all of the mothers mourning the dead of all of the wars? Forever lost, may be the answer.

And what of planets and stars? Black holes and galaxies? Rats and worms? Dinosaurs and deers and spoons stirring cups of tea? What about all that secret and forever-lost symphony played in the universe by the friction of matter and energy against the surface of time and space? As string theory declares, there is nothing but notes and chords in a delicate pentagram.

Imagining a speculative history of sound, Adrián Villar Rojas seeks to deconstruct the obsessions and agencies of our species' preservation culture, questioning the strong bias towards accumulating value in certain kinds of enduring objects, perhaps traversed by a key -though often disregarded- element: human labour.

John Locke, the father of political liberalism, said four hundred years ago *property was the extension of the human body over land through labour*. In that undissolvable linkage between body, land and labour called property, he founded the essence, and the only guarantee, of individuals' freedom. Later, Marx established value as he conceived labour -the consumption of brain and muscles- accumulated in things -goods- as the basis of capital. We have thus *human labour transforming matter* as the foundation of society in both liberal and Marxist visions. We need it to exist, to project ourselves, to reproduce our way of life, to feel safe and secure, to impose our will, *to preserve and increase our patrimony*.

Why is this key role of accumulation played by labour-transformed matter? This is what Villar Rojas explores by removing matter from its central place in the equation.

From spices, coffee beans or salt to ~~gold and silver~~, and from them to currency, and from currency, cryptocurrencies (that new digital kind of precious metal that resorts to the metaphor of “mining” as a way of restricting supply), the human species has always tried to represent value with some enduring, hard-to-get, and above-all-else, scarce means. Sound, though, is infinite. Villar Rojas challenges us and himself to reconsider this logic of accumulating wealth through scarcity from the infinite immateriality and abundance of sound.

Churches are also a means of spiritual and epistemological accumulation. Reformists rejected Catholic idol worship as the fetishist slavery of religious conscience to senses, as well as the episcopal corruption as the surrender of the supposedly highest souls to the delightful sins of the material world. The Vatican had become, more than a church, a bank accumulating gold and silver on walls, ceilings and doors instead of in safes. Reformists were perhaps demanding of Catholics more abstraction. Could the Lutheran call to translate the bible from Latin into national languages and in massively printed copies be understood -in its last consequences- as a radical assertion of the cognitive presence of God in the mind more than in any other place?

✓ Villar Rojas' proposal sets in sinton with this iconoclast travel towards the abstract by turning the hall of this Catholic-Reformist shared church into a shadowy cavern of sonic introspection. There would hardly be a better place to make Plato's allegory -that journey from pure senses to pure thought he depicted as a walking inside a cavern only lit by scattered fires up to the final exit, afterwards taken by Christianity as its core eschatology from flesh to soul- somehow return to help us go back to our minds in search of primal connections with universal noise.

D~~G~~RONINGEN

D~~A~~AMSTERDAM

BRUSSELS

ROTTERDAM

NEDERLANDS

ANTWERP

GERMANY

★ BRUSSELS

BELGIUM

FRANCE



2000  
SEA LEVEL IN YEAR 2000

DENMARK

DAMSTEDT

THE HAGUE

ROTTERDAM

NEEDERLANDS

GERMANY

ANTWERP

BRUSSELS

BELGIUM

NETHERLANDS



SEA LEVEL IN YEAR 2300

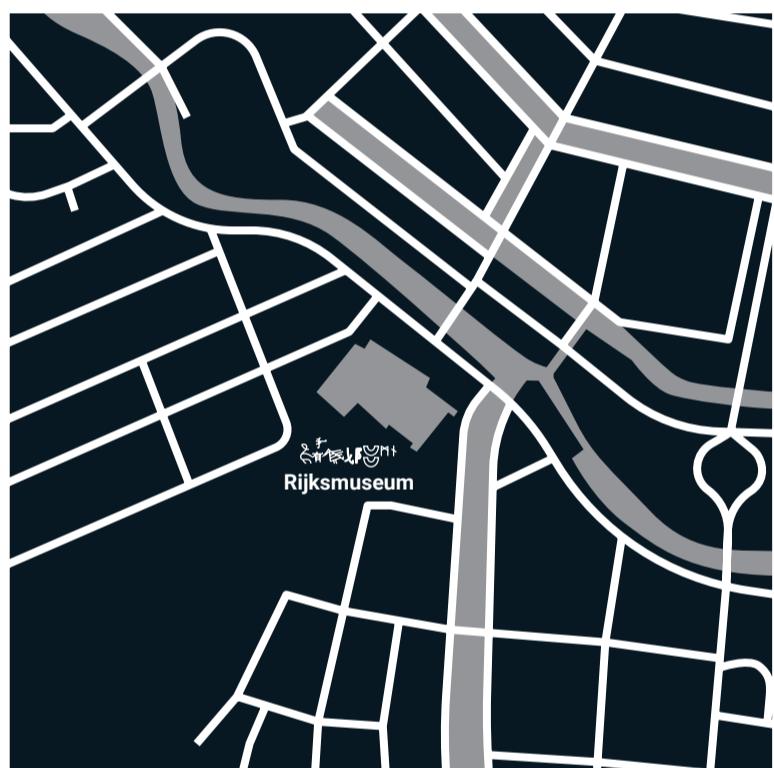
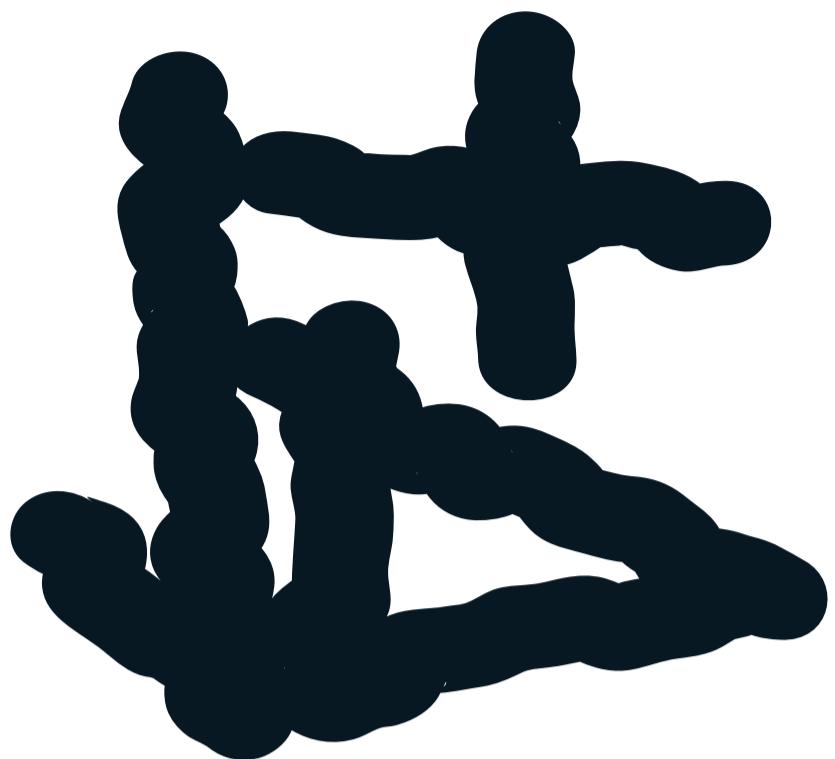
**Interieur van een protestantse,  
gotische kerk tijdens een dienst**  
Emanuel de Witte (ca. 1617-1691/92)  
Olieverf op paneel, 1669

Hoewel het lijkt alsof de schilder zelf bij de dienst aanwezig was, gaf Emanuel de Witte de werkelijkheid niet precies weer. Hij stelde dit kerkinterieur samen uit onderdelen van verschillende bestaande kerken. Het midden-schip baseerde hij op de Oude Kerk in Amsterdam. De nadruk ligt op het perspectief en de werking van licht en schaduw. Zo wist hij een overtuigend beeld te scheppen.

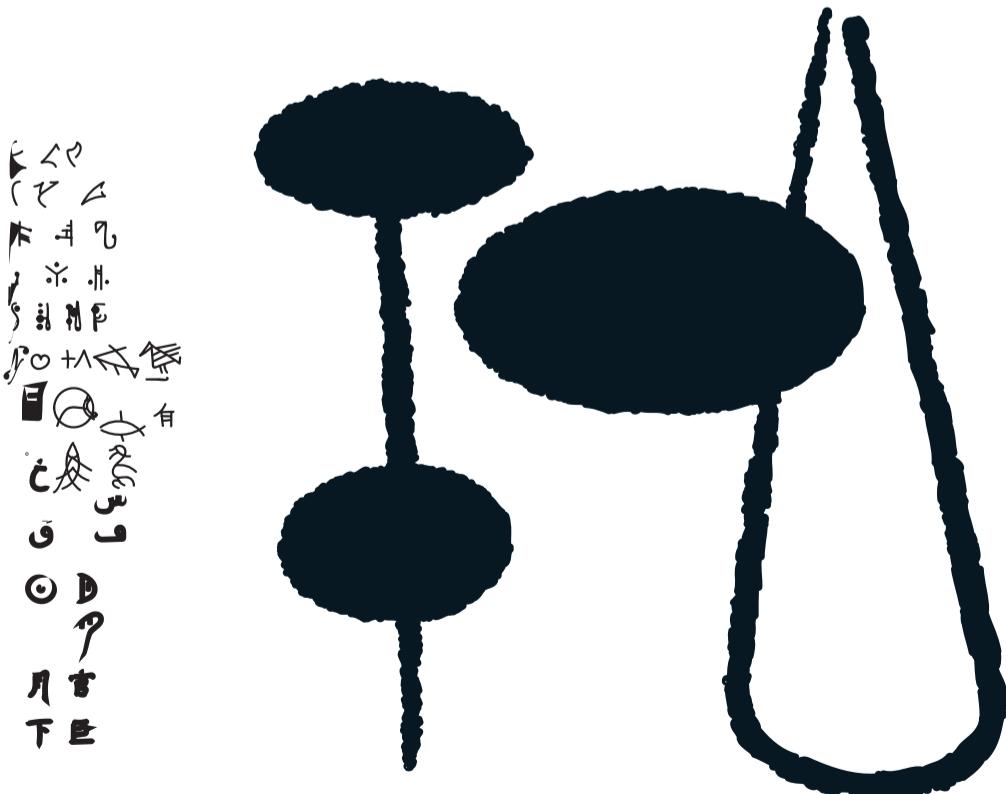
**Interior of a Protestant,  
Gothic Church during a Service**  
Emanuel de Witte (ca. 1617-1691/92)  
Oil on panel, 1669

However much it might seem as if Emanuel de Witte attended this church service, the painter did not depict reality. In fact, he composed this church interior from parts of various existing churches. Although fictional, the nave is based on that of the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam. The emphasis is on perspective and the effects of light and shadow. Thus he was able to create a convincing image.





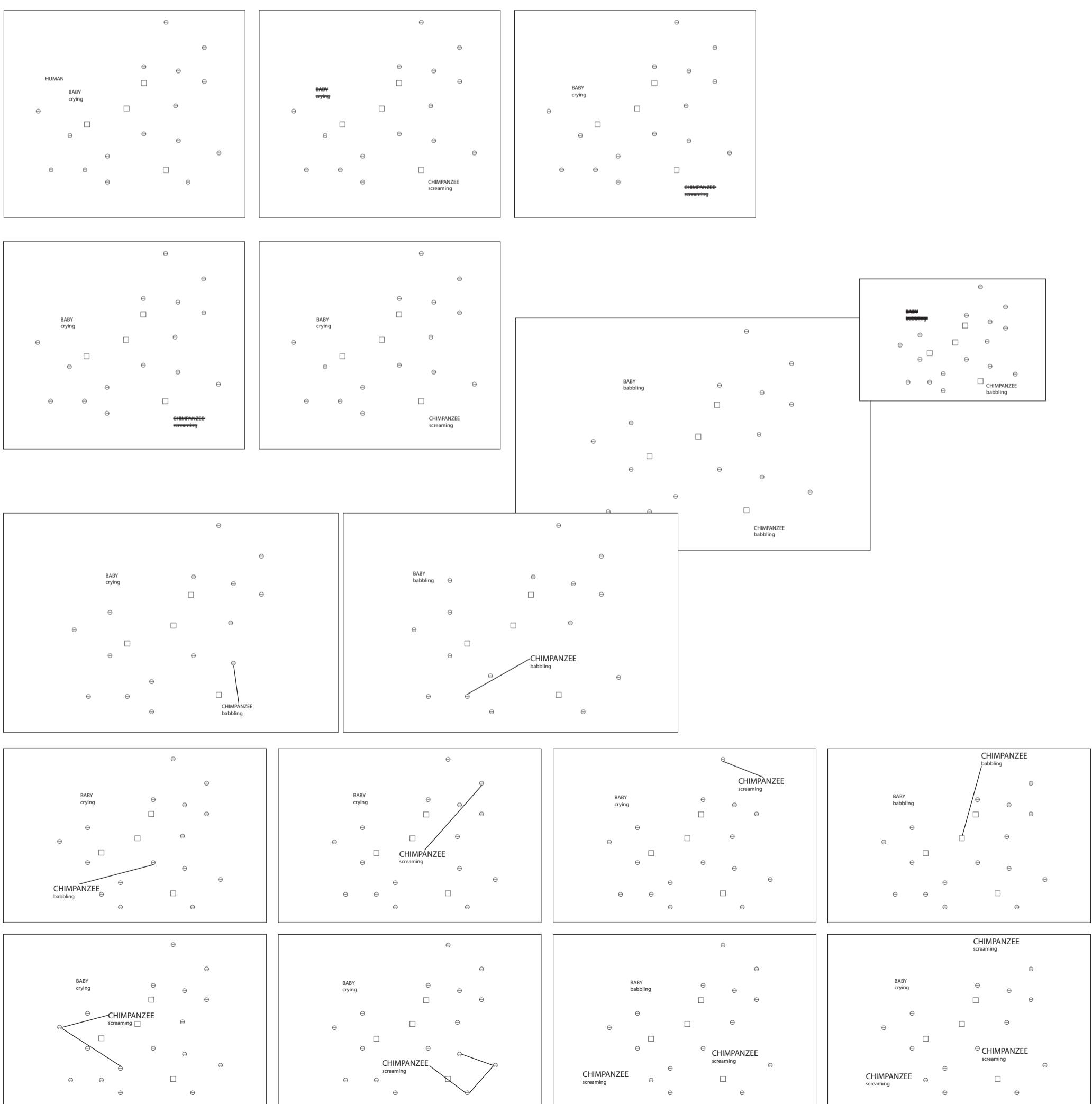


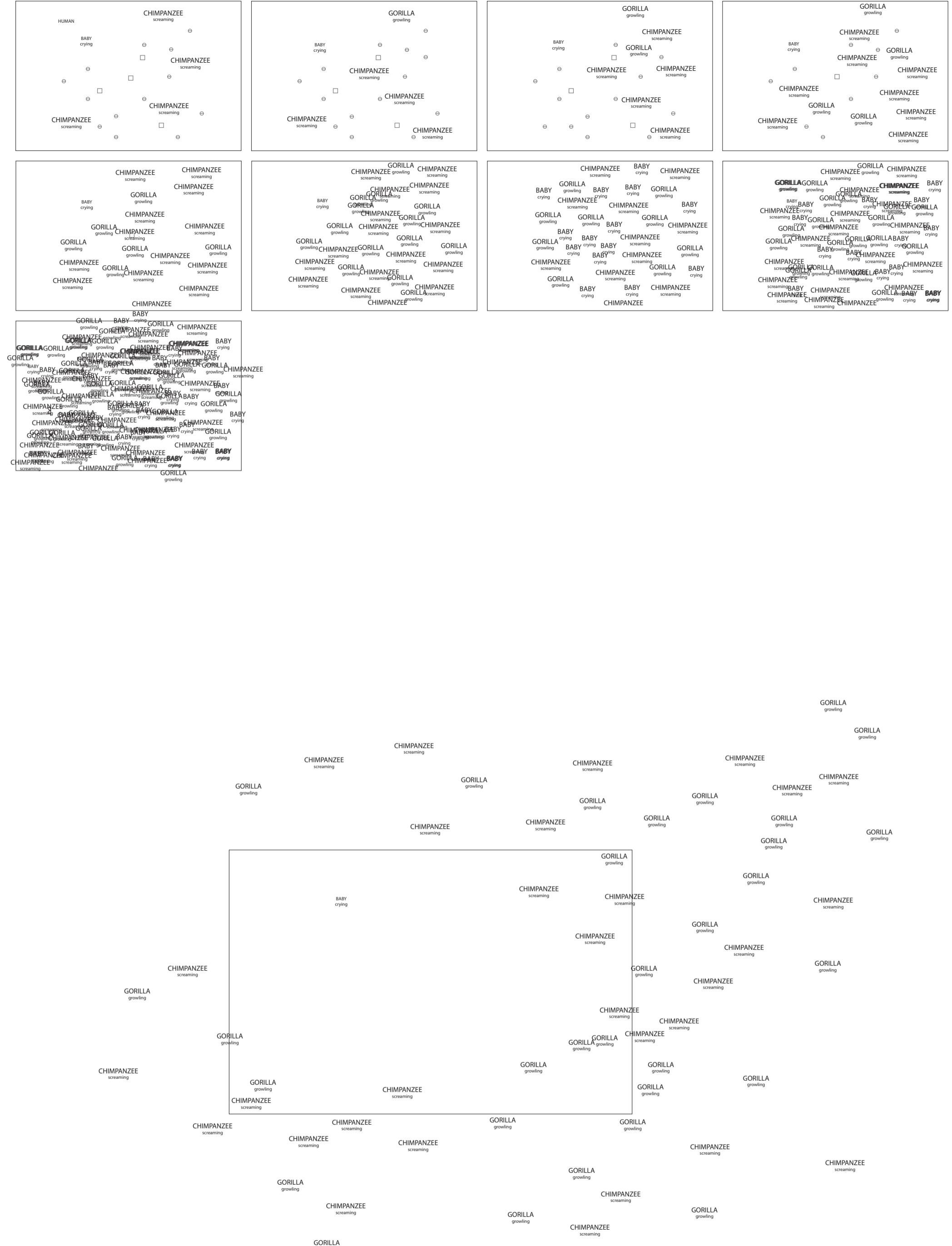


## **View of Oude Kerk Interior**

## Barendina Maria Blijtelaar (1898-1978)

Barendina ‘Bep’ Bijtelaar was a Dutch artist and archivist who dedicated her life to researching and documenting the history of the Oude Kerk. In 1934 Bijtelaar became fascinated by the church’s floor, which is comprised of over 2.500 gravestones and is where over 12.000 people have been buried since the church was consecrated in 1306. After World War II, Bijtelaar was appointed to a building committee to supervise the Oude Kerk’s restoration. A memorial stone in remembrance of her life and work can be found above the church’s door.

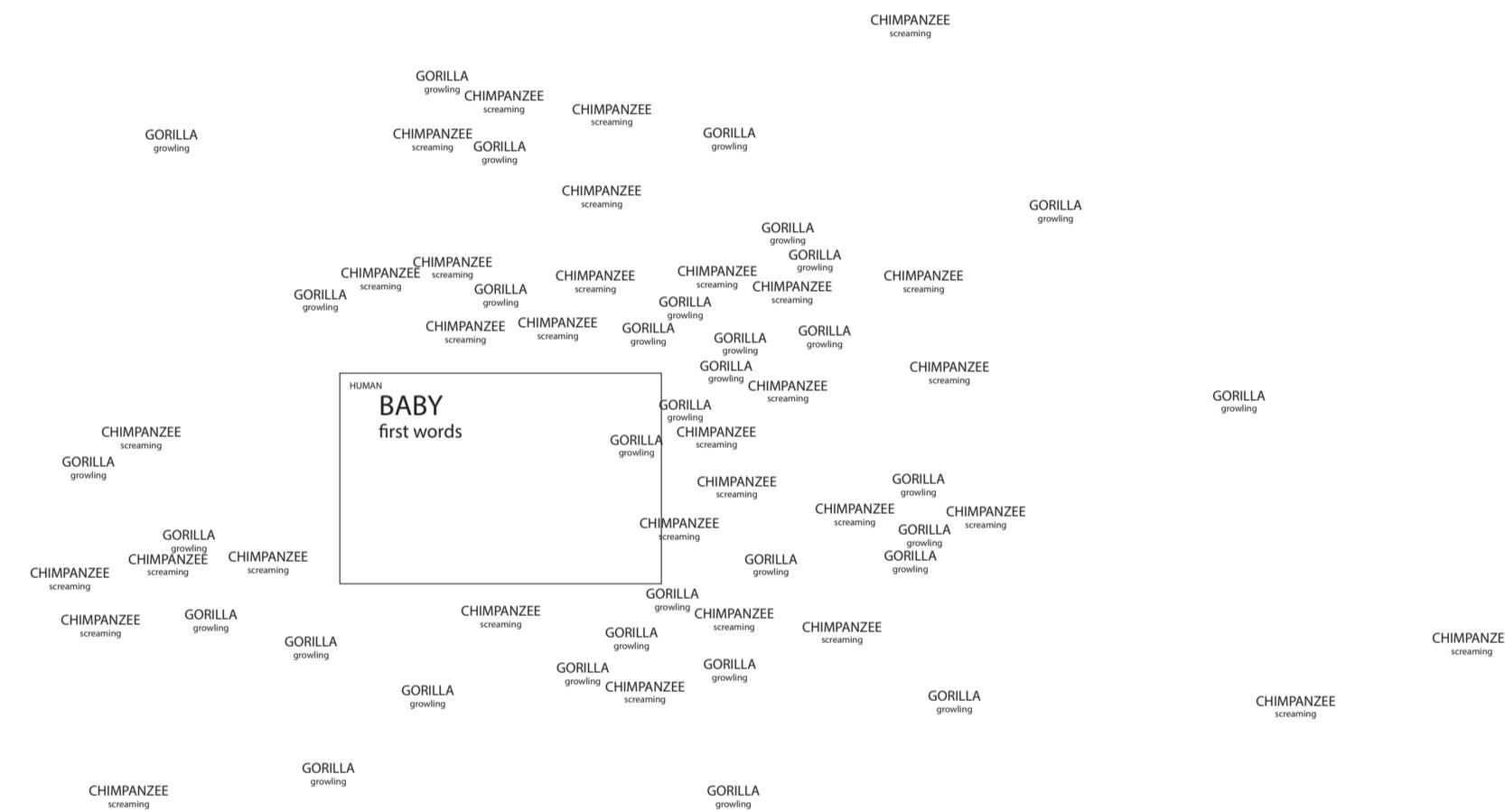




GORILLA  
growling

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming



GORILLA  
growling

GORILLA  
growling

GORILLA  
growling

GORILLA  
growling

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

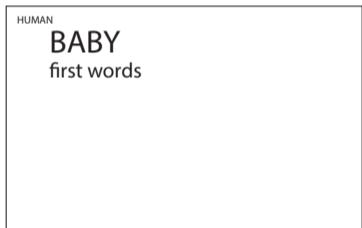
GORILLA  
growling

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

GORILLA  
growling  
GÓRILLA  
GORILLA<sup>®</sup>owling  
growling



GORILLA  
growling

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming CHIMPANZEE  
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GORILLA  
growling  
CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

GORILLA  
growling

GORILLA  
growling

CHIMPANZEE  
screaming

howling              microphone  
DOG barking        =      Guitar feedback  
                          crying

## SIBERIAN HUSKY

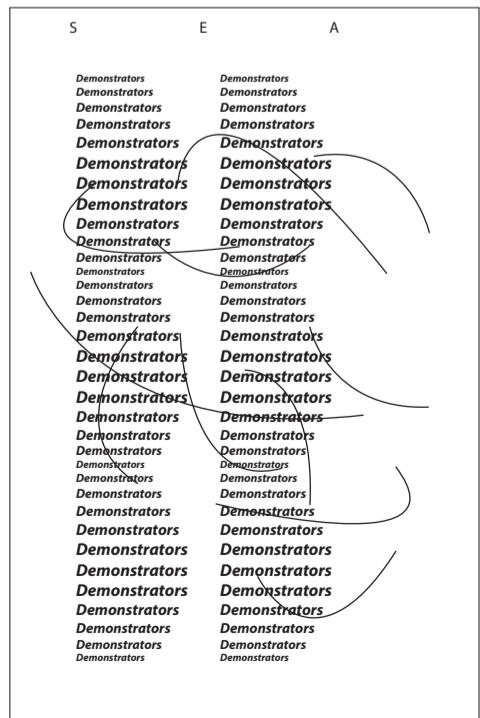
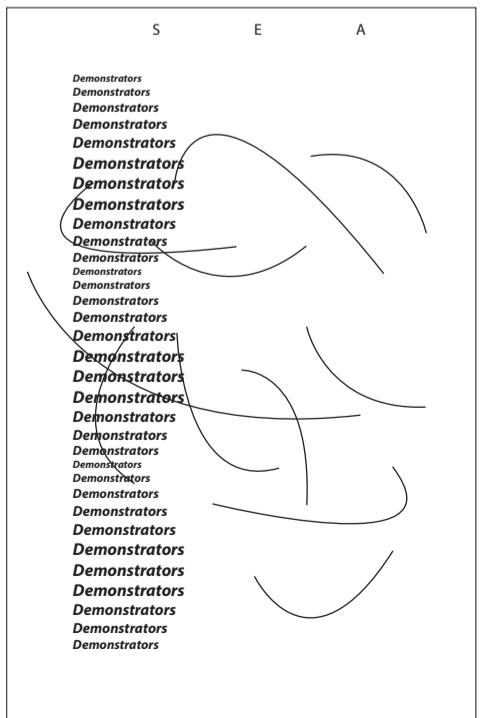
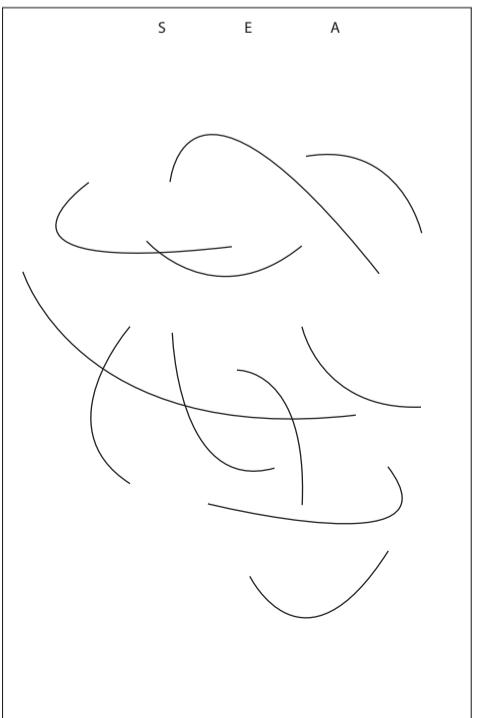
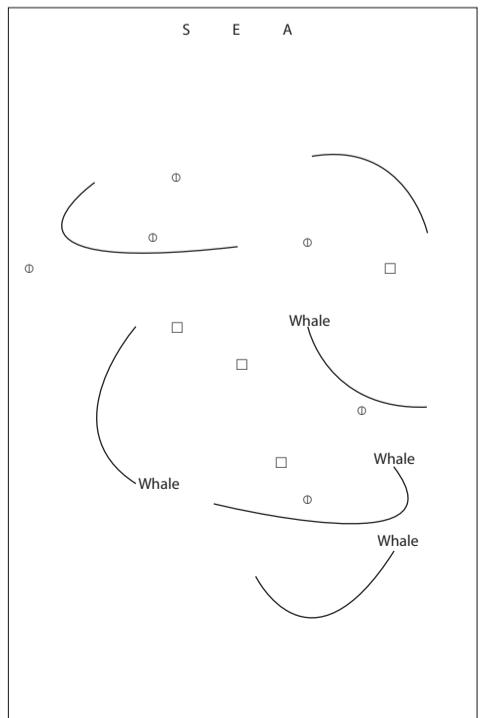
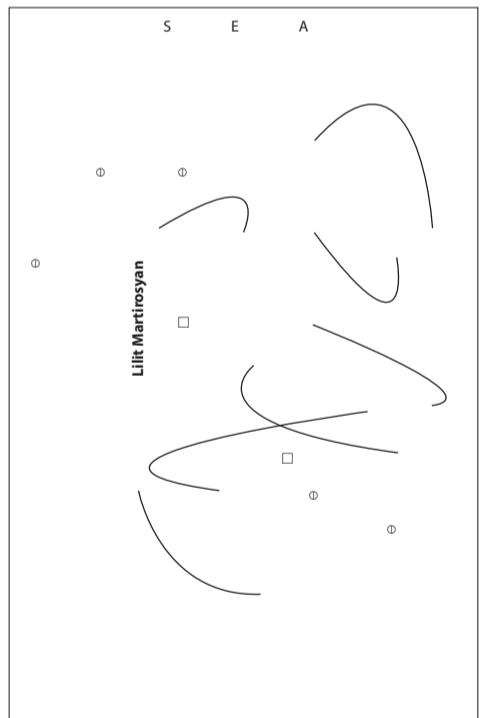
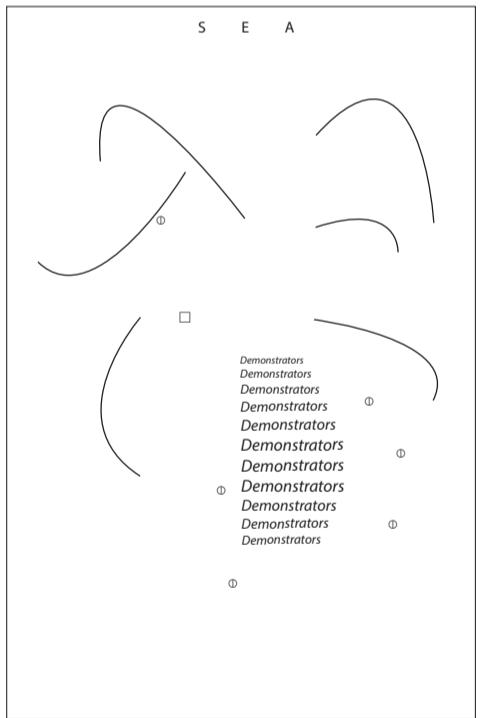
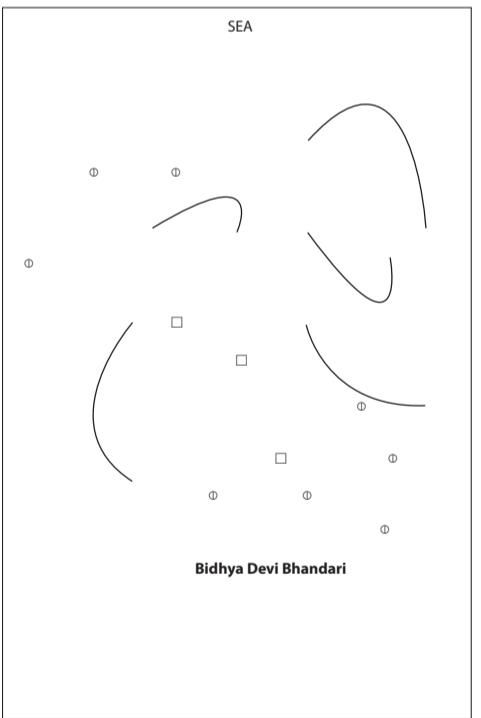
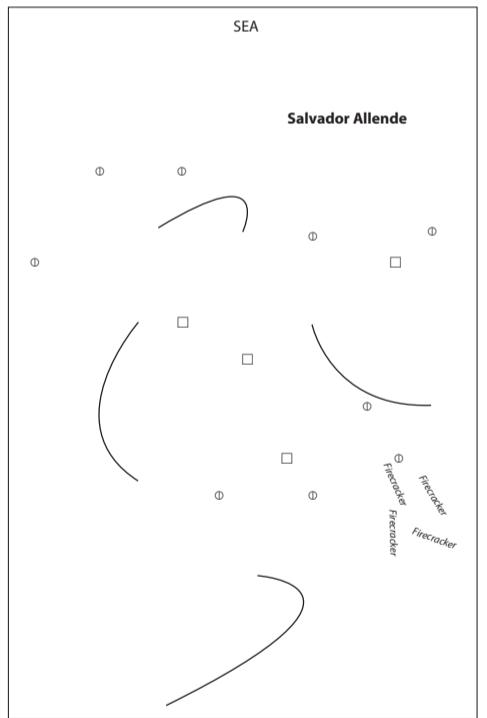
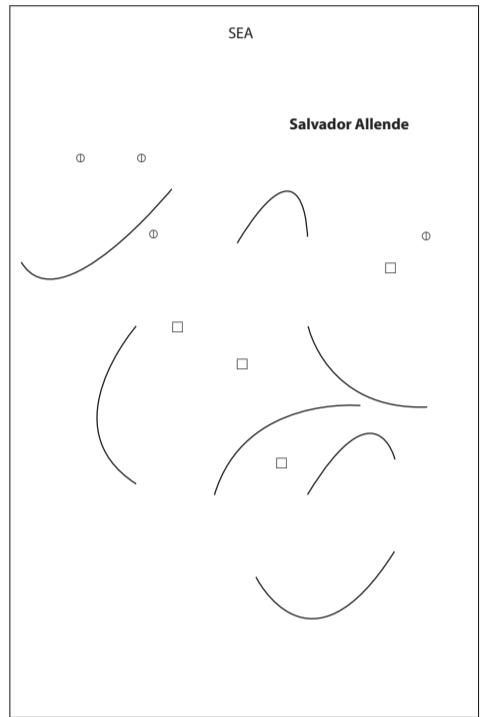
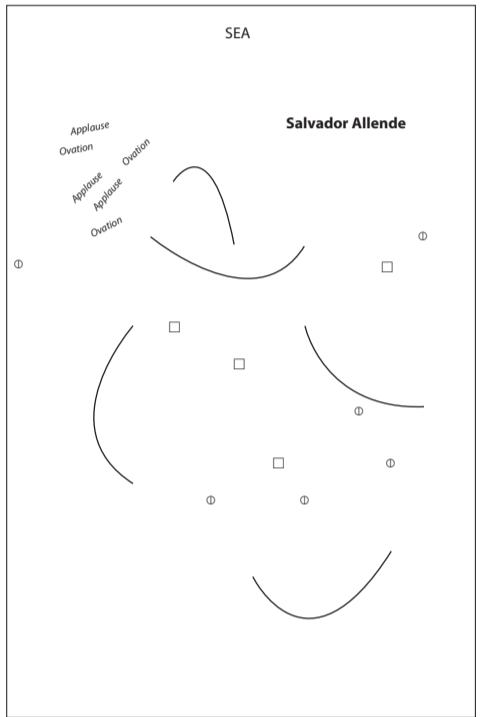
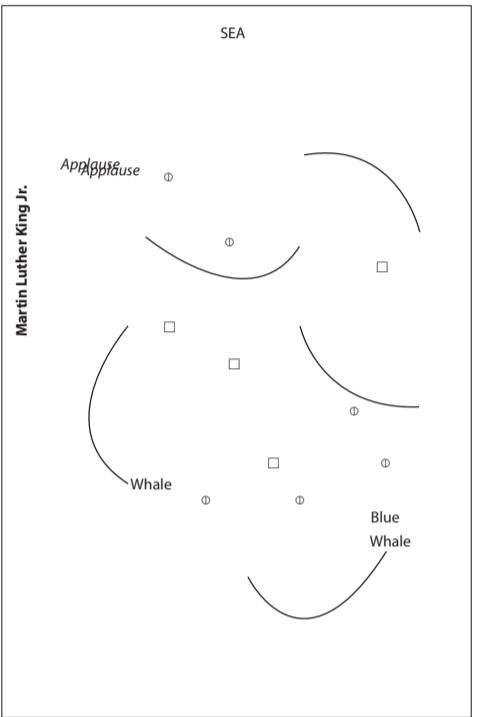
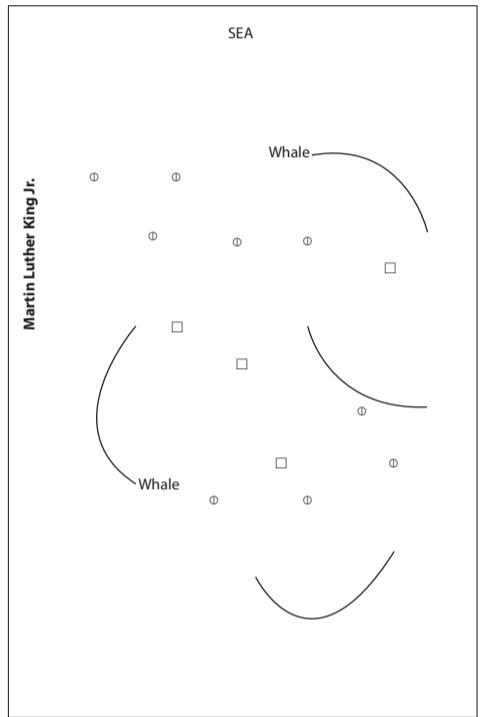
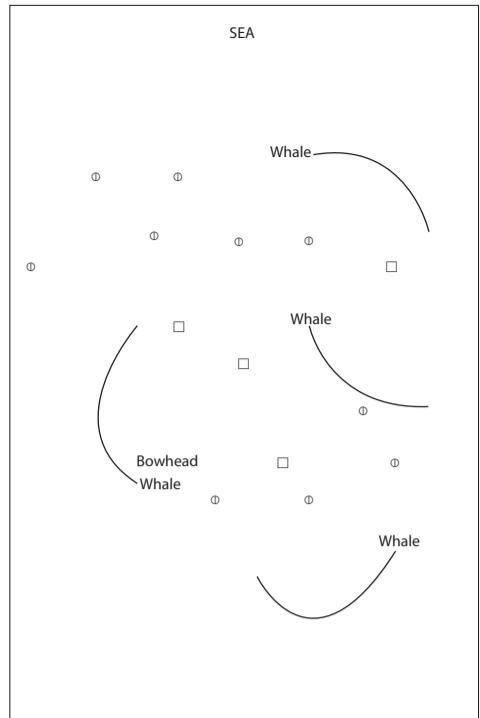
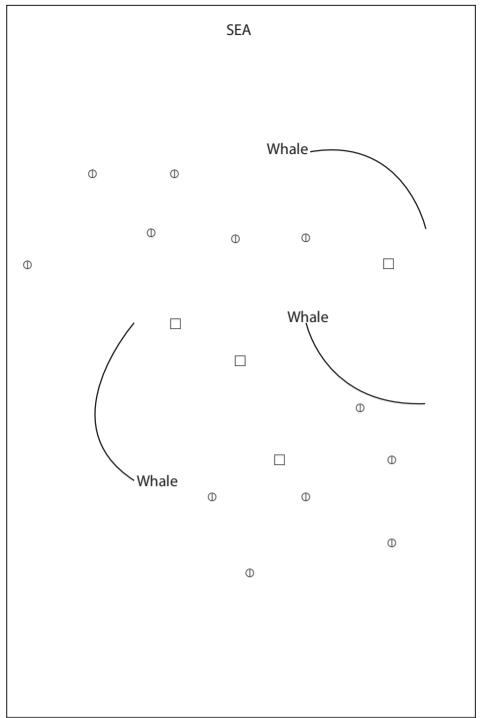
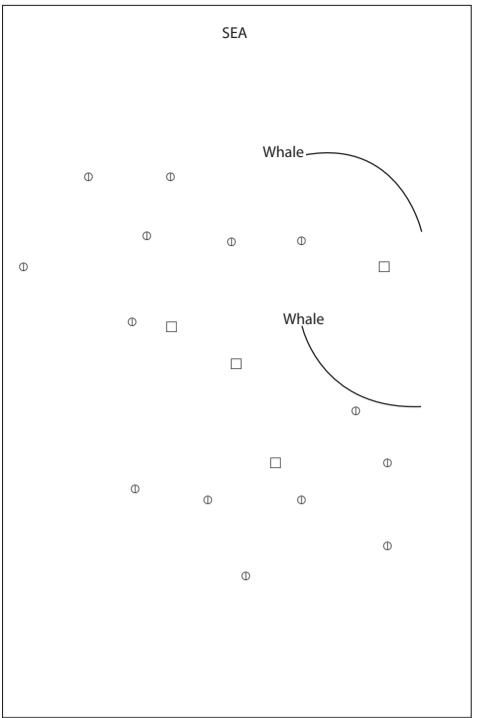
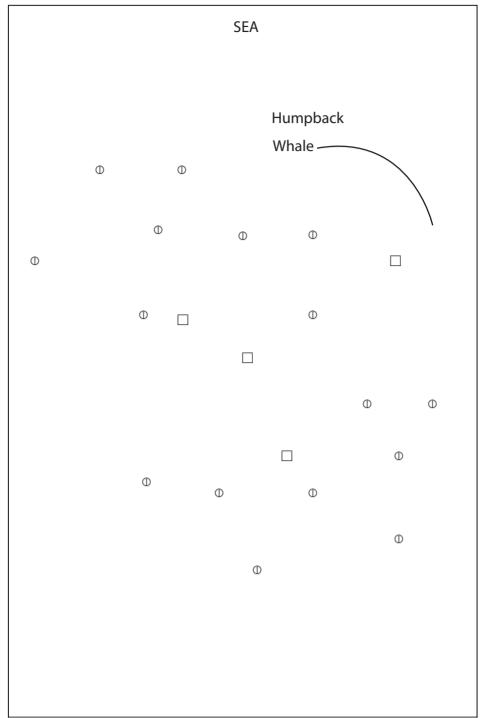
Jesus' mother tongue  
Malula villagers from a remote rural community in Syria speaking in Aramaic

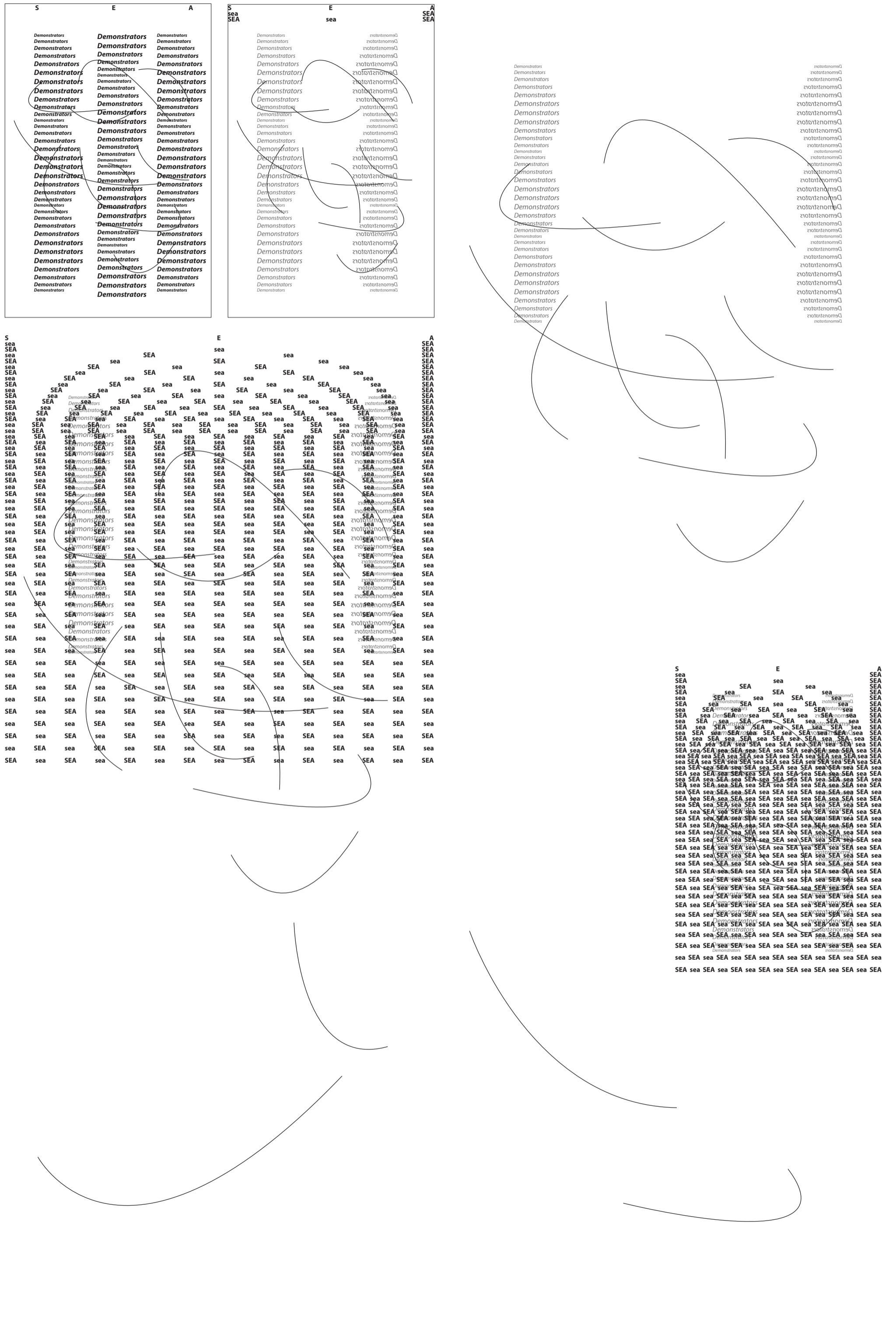
Two ancient Indo-European languages  
Two people comparing the similarities between Greek and Persian languages

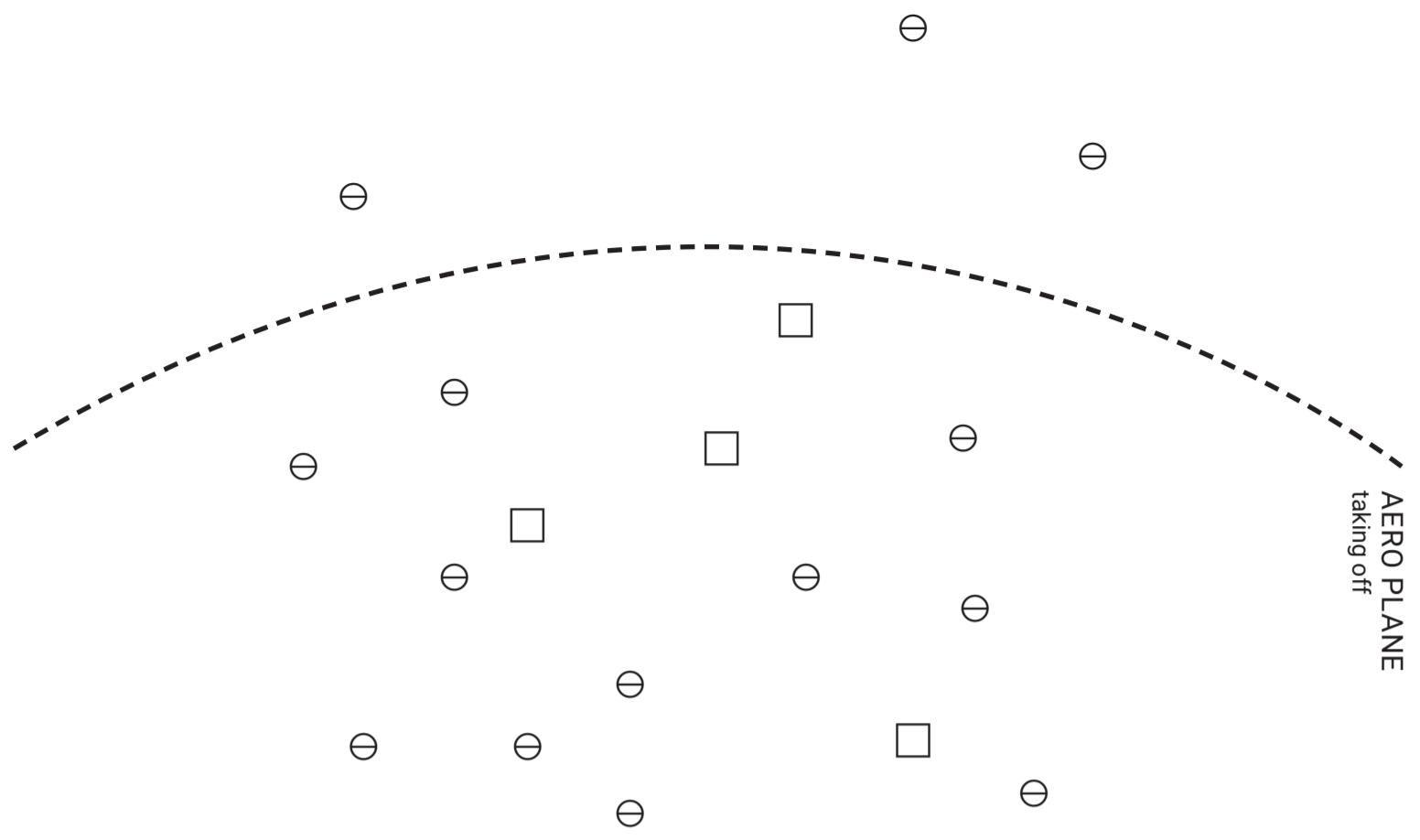
LYREBIRD		Ash falling
mimicking	camera shutter closing	Gas compounds reacting
Click	electric screwdriver 5v mini gear motor	Tectonic plates colliding
car alarm		Pressure building
hammering nail		VOLCANO exploding = Pot of boiling water
wood	Cavern ambience 318.745 BC	Lava bubbling
Cavern ambience 2499 AD	Cavern ambience 119 AD	Magma
Cavern ambience 30.156 BC	Cavern ambience 5000 AD	Steam
Cavern ambience 800.459 BC	Cavern ambience 120.072 BC	Click!
Trickles! River Bubbles! Ripples! Bubbles! Trickles! Drip! Ripples!	Telugu: నమస్కారం, తొలగు మాటలాడ్ జనమునుండ్ మా శుభాకాంక్షలు. Ukrainian: Пересилаємо привіт із нашого світу, бажаємо щастя, здоров'я і мною літа Gujarati: પૃથ્વી ઉપર વસનાર એક માનવ નયાથી ભર્યુદમાંના અનુય અવકાશમાં વસનારાઓને લાયકુણી અભિનિદન. આ રદ્દો મળ્યે, વાનો રદ્દો મોકલાવશો. Kannada: నమస్కార, కన్సంజాగర పరవాగు శుభావయగళు. Welsh: Iechyd da i chi yn awr, ac yn oesoedd Nyanja: Mulibwanji imwe boonse bantu bakumwamba Punjabi: ਆਉ ਜੀ, ਜੀ ਆਇਆ ਨੂੰ Thai: สวัสดิค สายยในครรษพ พระเคราในครรษพเนื่องของสังฆมิตรเจตนาถึงท่านทุกคน Ancient Greek: Οίπινές ποτ' ἔστε χαίρετε! Ειρηνικῶς πρός φίλους ἐληλύθαμεν φίλοι Serbian: Желимо вам све најлепше са наше планете Wu: 祝大家好。 German: Herzliche Grüße an alle Czech: Milí přátelé, přejeme vám vše nejlepší Portuguese: Paz e felicidade a todos Hebrew: שלום Akkadian: Adanniš lu šulmu Dutch: Hartelijke groeten aan iedereen Hindi: धरती के वासियों की ओर से नमस्कार Spanish: Hola y saludos a todos Hungarian: Üdvözletet küldünk magyar nyelven minden békét szerető lénynek a Világegyetemen Indonesian: Selamat malam hadirin sekalian, selamat berpisah dan sampai bertemu lagi dilain waktu Latin: Salvete quicumque estis; bonam erga vos voluntatem habemus, et pacem per astra ferimus Urdu: ہی کے دی دمآ شو خ وک بآ س فرط کے بول اوئن رے ک نیمز م - مکیل ع و مالس لی Oriya: ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଦାରକାର ଦୃତୀୟ ଶରୀର ଦୂରୀରୀରୁ ବିଶ୍ଵଗତମାଣ୍ଡର ଅଧିବାଦୀ ମାଦାତ୍ତୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ Armenian: Բույս անոնց որ կը գտնուի ամեզերքի միջամածորին և անդին, ողջուներ Mandarin Chinese: 各位都好吧？我们都很想念你们，有空请到这来玩。；各位都好吧？我們都很想念你們，有空請到這來玩。 Swedish: Hälsningar från en dataprogrammerare i den lilla universitetsstaden Ithaca på planeten Jorden Esperanto: Ni strachas vidi se nioz havas la nomojn de la tutaj mondoj, de la tutaj homoj.	Cavern ambience 23.953 AD
MYNAH BIRD	Greetings in 55 Languages from the Voyager Golden Record	Cavern ambience 500 BC
saying "I'm a chicken"		

herbivorous ornithopod dinosaur		Danish	
ADOLESCENT		German	
PARASAUROLOPHUS	158 heart beats per minute 63 heart beats per minute	Romanian	
	PARROTS	Spanish	
		Italian	
	talking with their human companions in imitating	Mandarin	
		Korean	
	the sound of a barking dog	Portuguese	
	a meowing cat	Arabic	
	neighbours arguing	Turkish	
		English	
	a nursery rhyme	Greek	
	Alexa's smart speaker home assistant		

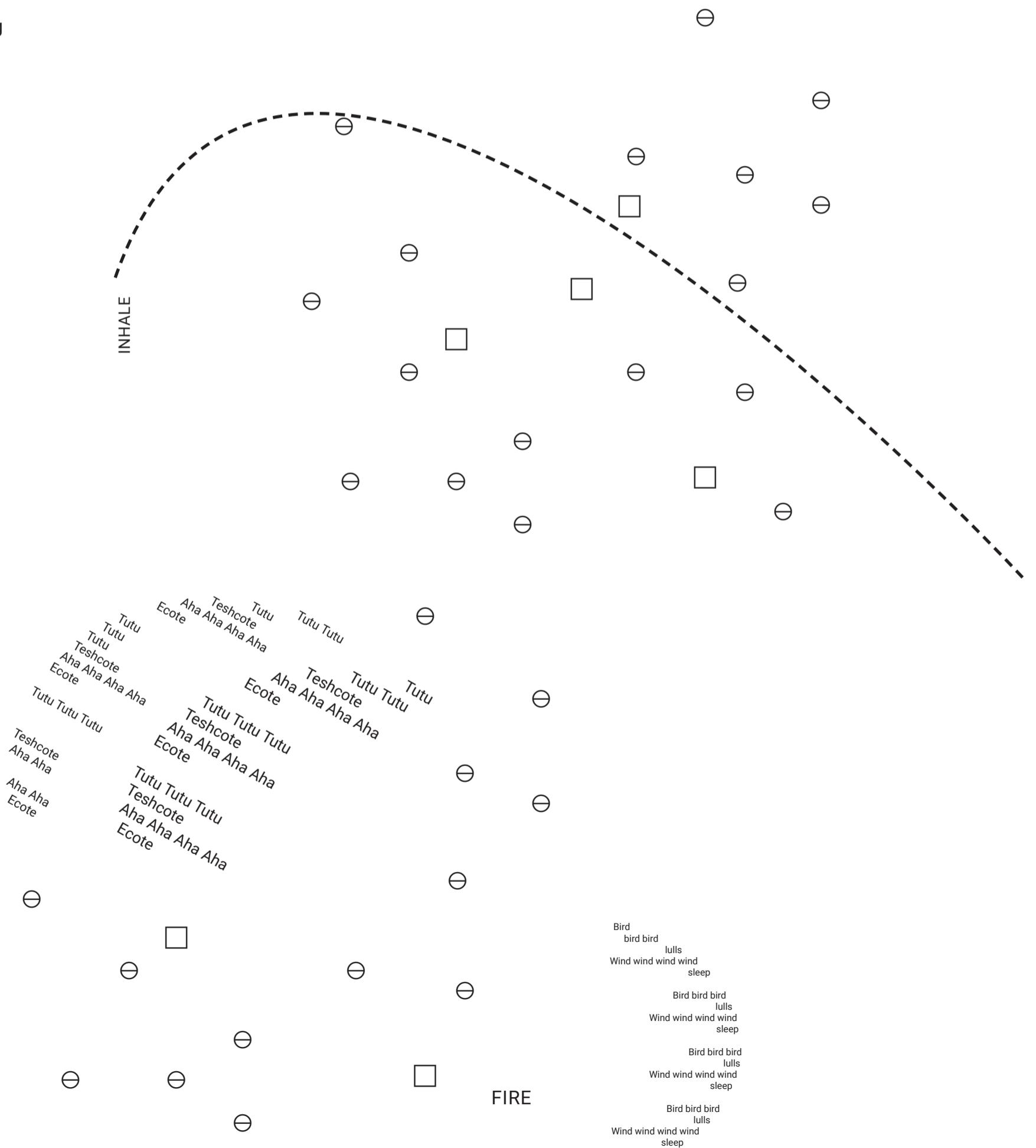


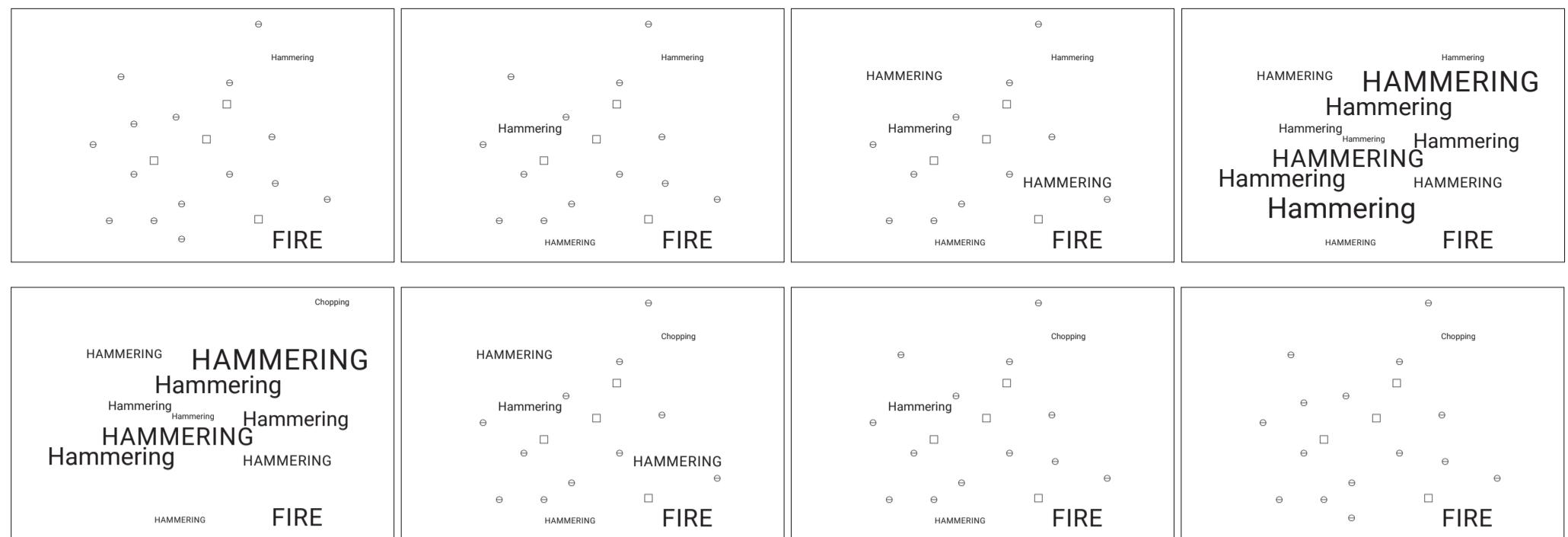






Ding dong





TREE  
falling  
93.781.801 BC

TREE  
falling  
1801 AD

“No  
more,

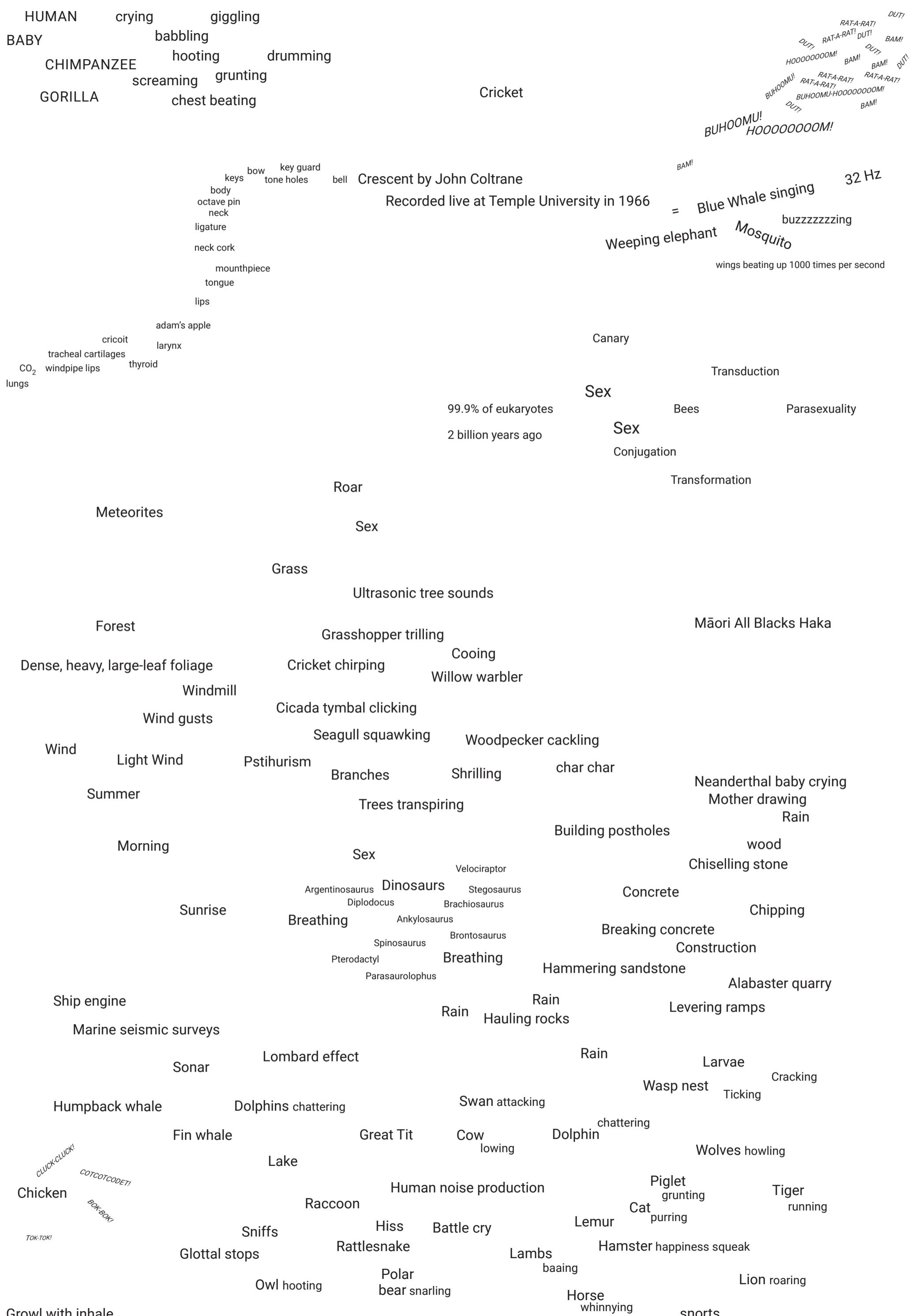
# My Lawd”

Recorded by  
Alan Lomax at the  
Mississippi  
State Penitentiary  
1947

# "A Change is Gonna Come"

Written by Sam Cooke  
© 1964

Performed by an  
unknown busker at  
the NYC Subway  
2 0 1 4

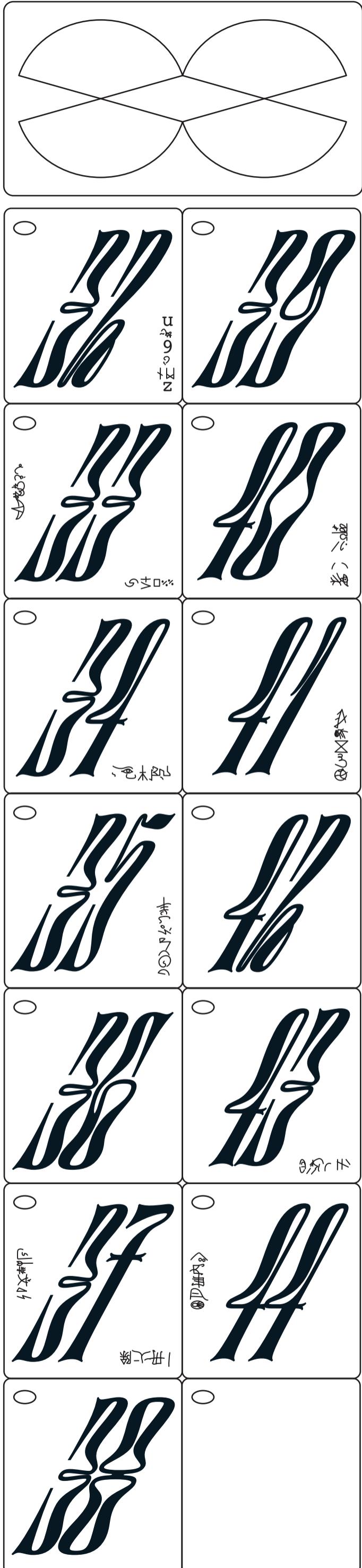


## Thunder

Rain

TSAMBA by Linda Gabriel, Shona language	AKDENİZ YARAŞIYOR SANA by Can Yücel, Turkish
Listen and repeat: a paxaro, unha beard by Yolanda Castaño, Galician language	
Góa phu by Tô Thùy Yên, Vietnamese	Birdwatching.pl by Marie Iljašenko, Czech
*** [Я втомулся почувстваться винною] by Iryna Tsilyk, Ukrainian	אָרֶרֶף סָאֵד by Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath, Yiddish
*** [Supermen je u penziju] by Faruk Šehić, Bosnian	পশ্চাচনি ও by Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri, Bengali
Al silencio by Gonzalo Rojas, Spanish	Afrikaans liefdeslied by Antjie Krog, Afrikaans
7月8日, 大汗淋漓 by Yan Jun, Mandarin	Agua de puerto by Tálata Rodríguez, Spanish
양파 by Kim Hyesoon, Korean	Ipa by Vito Apúshana, Arhuaco language
otaja kütuseks laulun] by Doris Kareva, Estonian	# 1 by Hama Tuma, Amharic
Dy vetore by Agron Tufa, Albanian	1984 by Fuad Rifka, Arabian
st by Dimitra Kotoura, Greek	Rhywbeth yn rhiwle by Meirion MacIntyre Huws, Welsh
(für I. by Anja Kampmann, German	FEHÉR MADÁR by Katalin Ladik, Hungarian
TRE HUMAIN AUTREMENT... by Souleymane Diamanka, French language	दूसरा का सपना by Savita Singh, Hindi
[いく時代かがありまして...] by Yasuki Fukushima, Japanese	ДИКИЙ ЗАПАД by Wjatscheslaw Kuprijanow, Russian
[Ah smetti sedia di esser così sedia] by Patrizia Cavalli, Italian	Bezpiederīgie (1.) by Liāna Bokšā, Latvian
[ای دویل آرتچ ناتس سپات نی] by Roshanak Bigonah, Persian	

## Endangered languages



Published in conjunction with the exhibition

ADRIÁN VILLAR ROJAS  
POEMS FOR EARTHLINGS

21 November 2019 to 26 April 2020

Oude Kerk  
Oudekerksplein 23, 1012 GX  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

# oude kerk

## PROJECT TEAM

### Volunteers

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Leonne de Jong  
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Nina Meilof  
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Rens den Hollander  
Saskia Bongaarts  
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Steven van Couwelaar  
Susan Nortier  
Trilly Gregg  
Victoria Galvani  
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Winfried Bij

### Anything is Possible

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Ela Szota  
Fabian Reichle  
Fako Diederik Buisman  
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Ruud Houtkooper  
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Benjamin Roth  
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Marek Rejmanki  
Nicola Arthen  
Simon Skatka Lindell  
Sjoerd Tim  
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Erica Moukarzel  
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**Campaign Strategy**  
Laurine Verwijnen  
**Coordinator Volunteers**  
Kim Evers, Evelien Jorna  
**Coordination Sound**  
Frank van der Weij

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**Curator Public Program Come Closer**  
Radna Rumping  
**Collection Conservator**  
Marianna van der Zwaag  
**Curator of Music**  
Jacob Lekkerkerker  
**Technical Support**  
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Fabian Reichle  
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Brecht Russchen  
Esther Graftdijk  
Pieter Verbeke  
**Hospitality**

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Annemarie Fischer  
Ayunda Stel  
Bobbie Wagenaar  
Brecht Russchen  
Cleo Thomas  
Donna Weel  
Esther Graftdijk  
Eva Windhouwer  
Gerda Leter  
Mila Groen  
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Jolinda de Lange  
Noor Nuyten  
Nynke Deinema  
Robert Beekelaar  
Sjoukje van der Meulen

## OUDE KERK ADMINISTRATION

**Executive Director**  
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**Chief Operational Officer**  
Emma van Oudheusden  
**Development and Support**  
Zara Weijers

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Barbara Visser  
Hans Kodde  
Hermine Pool  
Lex Kloosterman  
Peter Tomson  
Rein Kronenberg  
Tjepco van Voorst Vader

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