

December 2019

Metaphorical Cities - behind the cover art

Elana Melissa Hill
Claremont Graduate University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam>



Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Art Practice Commons](#), [Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Commons](#), and the [Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hill, Elana Melissa (2019) "Metaphorical Cities - behind the cover art," *The STEAM Journal*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 14. DOI: 10.5642/steam.20190401.14

Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam/vol4/iss1/14>

© December 2019 by the author(s). This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives License.

STEAM is a bi-annual journal published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2327-2074 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam>

Metaphorical Cities - behind the cover art

Abstract

This is a reflection on how cities function like organisms. An artist's interpretation of the spaces surrounding them.

Keywords

Art, Science, Cities, Urban life, Humans

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

Metaphorical Cities

Elana Melissa Hill

Space is a concept that can be interpreted in various ways. I am fascinated by how humans interact with the space around them. In particular I am interested in how cities are like organisms in themselves.



Gas Sphere

I move through urban and rural spaces. I collect textures, forms, and silhouettes to use in my paintings, feeling as if I am navigating languages written by others, taking notes in order to create my own. Cities are palimpsests of other's imagined ideas, collapsing time into a non-linear history, an assembly of anachronisms. I am intrigued by the way cities function like huge living bodies. Electricity, sewage, water, gas and humans are pumped through the dense flesh of cement, metal and dirt. Mimicking the behavior of an organic system, cities constantly expand,

decay, layer, and grow over their own detritus. Agglomerations flex and curve against time and gravity to create continuously shifting fields of activity. In the rural country I grew up in, like urban spaces, persistent new growth pushes through the bones and shells of exhausted structures. These paintings are a micro and simultaneously macro vision of the spaces in which we exist.

The entire body of work in which I started exploring urban space as a record of scientific advancement and its application to our physical space started in 2009 and is ongoing.

I create the artwork as an ongoing exploration of space and cities. My work can be appreciated on its own, as a piece of aesthetic work, but also as an invitation to contemplate what it means to be inside and outside of a city.

Science and art overlap in my ruminations about the space that cities inhabit. They evolve and seem to have their own ecosystem. The curiosity about the spaces around me continue to inform my work.



Firestorm