



# Hsin-Yi Wang

Contemporary Art Practice MFA  
Selected Work 2019-2021



*Hutton's section in Holyrood park, where once was a volcano*

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Take away show, letterpress printing

*Link to personal website:*  
<https://www.hsinyiwang.com/>

## Artist statement

I am a multidisciplinary artist with a design background. Influenced by the methodologies in architecture design, my practice responds to the environment and culture that surrounds me; currently, strongly inspired by the Scottish landscape where I live. Understanding Scotland's ancient geologic history is at the heart of my research.

I have immersed myself within the Scottish landscape, I have been fascinated by temporality, how the land is currently being shaped and by deep time where the land has changed through millennia. My works centres around the topics of deep time, temporality, and the volcanic landforms.

My fascination with deep time, which plays the most important role in my work, is not only about geological timescales but I'm also concerned with environmental issues such as climate change and the Anthropocene. Hence, there is always an ecological consciousness behind my work. In terms of narrative, telling the story of the landscape is a key component and an essential methodology in my studio and theoretical enquiry. The context is often set by my field and academic research, seeking to reflect the existing environment and intertwining imaginings that transcends time and space.

I have established an interdisciplinary practice that has expanded even further to incorporate many digital platforms since Covid-19 restrictions and the enforced lockdown in the UK. Using visual media, I recently explored the geological story of Edinburgh through photography, film, illustration, and animation, mixing different media to tell a more complete time story.

# Open a Volcano

Mar. 2020

Artist's book

Wooden frame, paper, poem

The artist's book project develops the geological section of Arthur's seat. In this section, the geological history of a volcano can be seen via different stratum, which is built up in eruption after eruption. Through this book, people can read the strata, open it, bury their own secret texts under the hill.



*a mountain  
an extinct volcano  
stands at the edge of the city  
quietly, silently  
a long time ago  
in the Carboniferous Age  
the volcano was still active  
erupting day after day  
further to the earlier  
there was only a flat sedimentary layer  
not until 3 hundred million years ago  
in eruption after eruption  
when the inner power of the earth  
broke through the crust  
did the volcano slowly build up  
at that time  
before the early humans arrived  
it had no name  
a nameless volcano  
on an uncultivated land  
burst into life*



## A Different Time

Oct. - Dec. 2020

video website

7 video stories of the landscape  
in Edinburgh

I am very interested in the idea of deep time. The concept of deep time was first introduced by Scottish geologist James Hutton (1726-1797), it represents the multimillion year time frame of the Earth and the shifts happening in this very deep geologic time. Compared to the long history of the Earth, the human epoch — the Anthropocene — is extremely short but has changed the environment in potentially irreversible ways.

Living in an ancient city like Edinburgh, I feel the deep time much more strongly than when staying in modern Asian cities. The time slice here is clear to be seen when the 340 million-year-old volcanic rock juxtaposes with a concrete building. For me, the city is a perfect site to explore different periods of time within an expanded landscape tradition.



there is a volcano  
sitting in the city centre

about million years ago  
it once erupted like a big fireworks show  
the ground rumbled and the fire sparked

it has been a long time  
while waiting for the next bloom  
the blazing lava has already turned into a rocky cliff  
humans came and built a castle on the volcanic crater  
the hot magma has been replaced by cool lamp light

in such a long time  
what the volcano is waiting for never comes again  
but it is still there  
waiting for the next eruption

*Example of one of the video pages  
- Edinburgh castle*

*Click the link below to find the video story*  
<https://clovidiel.wixsite.com/a-different-time/a-video-map>

## Video map

The video map is based on a chronological map that shows the earliest urban pattern in Edinburgh, which is very different from today's landscape. On this map, the current location of Waverley train station and The Meadows were once a loch, Edinburgh Castle and The Royal Mile are the first construction, and the extinct volcanoes are always there. The map mainly comprises 7 stories of the 'timescape', a takeaway show, and a short animation.

## Playing with time

In these video stories, time is perceivable through a relatively short-term movement. On the other hand, through the audio and text, another time is implied when the landscapes were much different from what they are today. This project explores how different time's flow in Edinburgh, and to speculate on what the landscape has been waiting for and what comes in the end.

# Deep Time Fable

Jan. - May 2021

Illustration & Animation

*Click the link below to see the project*

<https://www.hsinyiwang.com/deep-time-fable>

## Statement

The fable is based on my previous video works '*A Different Time*,' which is a research journey into geologic time in the landscape of Edinburgh. The video stories in my previous work are now rearranged and reconnected as a single fable. It starts with a rumour among animals about volcano eruption, which hasn't really happened in the past 340 million years since the volcanoes in Edinburgh are already extinct, and then flows with birds from the Union Canal to the North Sea. Along with the bird's movement, I aim to encourage and entice the audience to travel back to a time when the landscape had barely any human trace and to reflect on our current environment.

This project displays two different mediums - illustration and animation. Both mediums follow the same storyline but develop into a combined distinct narrative. The illustration shows an overlapping timescape, while the animation unfolds the process of temporal change.

## Storyline

This is a deep-time journey across different times and spaces in the city of Edinburgh, showing the three hundred million years story of the landscape with birds' whispers.



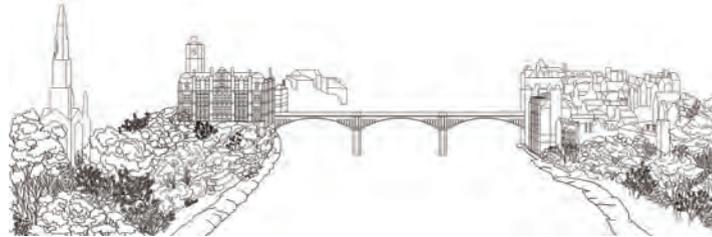
## Drawing development

Each drawing develops from long-term observation of space and the style is influenced by my architectural background, which delicately captures specific details. Also, the drawing process is built up slowly layer by layer collaging images and transforming into animation more easily.

*Time lapse video of drawing process*

Click the link below

<https://youtu.be/5kf9AHzK88s>



# Animation

3 mins Animation

Director | Hsin-Yi Wang

Sound designer | Hsin Shyu

*Click the link below to see the animation*

<https://www.hsinyiwang.com/deep-time-fable>

## Synopsis

A rumour spreads in the city of Edinburgh: "The volcano is going to erupt," first said the unknown. As time goes by, the volcano is extinct, the landscape has changed, but the rumour has never stopped among birds from the past to the future.

## Intentions

- Showing the stories of the landscape in Edinburgh, which are based on true geological history.
- Unfolding the temporal process of environmental change in deep time influenced by both nature and human.

## Themes

- Temporality in the landscape, deep time, lost space

## Characters

- Birds move across different scenes and swap stories
- Characters from different times move around in the background

## Aesthetic

- Poetic
- Architectural drawing
- The style is inspired by Japanese wood cut print
- The background reflects the real scenery with imaginary collage

## Screen

16:9, 24 fps



# Storyboard

## 1-4

It is a journey of different stories on the timescape. The scene moves from the west to the east Edinburgh without a main character but birds move and swap stories in the specific scenes. The first 4 main scenes are located in the city centre.

characters/  
location/  
environment

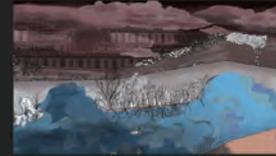
tone&sound

1-1

fish,mallard,pigeon/  
Union canal/  
mostly cloudy  
with showers



1-2



-light, playful  
-industrial sound  
-drizzling

2-1

mallard heard from fish

pigeon,crow/  
Edinburgh castle/  
foggy & snowy day



2-2

plants gradually covers the industrial place  
the mallard travels and runs into pigeon in the end



-chill  
-turning to dark tone  
with wind whistles

3-1

buried by plants

crow/  
Waverley station/  
cloudy day in summer



3-2

reflection of the volcanic image in the past,  
where pigeon tells crow the story



-crow's cry  
-evil whispering  
-turning back to  
light tone

4-1

crow,robin/  
The meadows/  
cherry blossom in spring



crow warns robin,  
but the robin stays calm

4-2

a process of turning the Loch into green land



-mellow spring  
-robin chirms

another Loch changes into the meadows  
swans were here when it was still a Loch

# Storyboard

## 5-8

The following 3 main scenes switch to wild land and the journey ends in an industrial harbour.

characters/  
location/  
environment

tone&sound

swan, duck/  
Holyrood park/  
cloud and sunshine

5-1



transition- swan flies to the wild

5-2



volcanic rock turns to marsh



-smooth  
-rustling

swan/  
St.Margarets loch/  
sunny day

6-1



time changes-  
seasonal & volcanic time

6-2



swans swim on the loch where volcano erupted



-light  
-leaves rustle

seagull/  
Water of Leith/  
heavy rain

7-1



birds gossip above  
the sinking city

7-2



seagull moves to the seaside when flood happens



-hurry and nervous  
-heavy rain  
-fluttering

seagull/  
Leith port/  
starry night

8-1



landscape develops from natural ocean  
to humans space

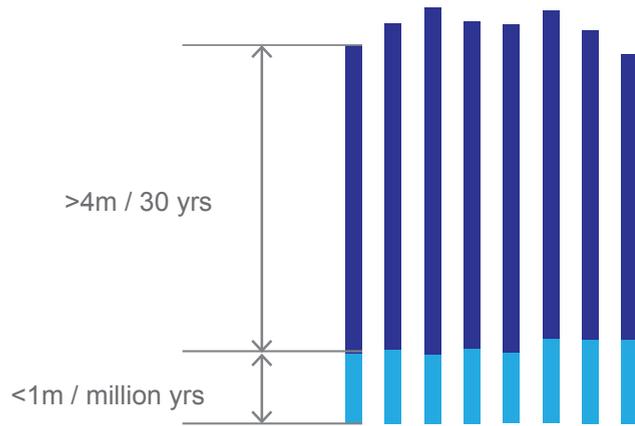


8-2



seagulls have nowhere to hide  
then fly away to the sky

-peaceful  
-slow down  
-port's sound  
-seagull's voice



*The change of water level in the water of Leith.*



## The Scale of Flood

April 2020

Made for ECCI project

Individual work

1.5 mins Motion graphic

*Click the link below to see the motion graphic*

<https://vimeo.com/412914743>

A scale is a tool invented by humans for measuring space and time. Through the measurement, from a tiny spatial scale to massive timescale things become quantifiable and perceptible. In the Water of Leith, climate change has accelerated the flooding frequency and the peak of water level is anticipated to reach 4 meters height in zones with flooding in the next 30 years; however, the change is too trifle to be sensed in our daily life.

I aim at visualizing this indiscernible change of floods by showing the transformation of water lines in distinctive scales, hence the scale of the flood is capable to be perceived in this video.



## Go With the Flow

Oct - Dec. 2019

Fieldtrip project

2 pieces of drawing (18.5X170cm)

Group Exhibition | Tent gallery, Edinburgh

The group exhibition “envelop” is a response to the structural complexity and veiled entanglements within the Black Wood of Rannoch, Perthshire. This art work is a mapping of flora and the flows of water in the disorientating forest.



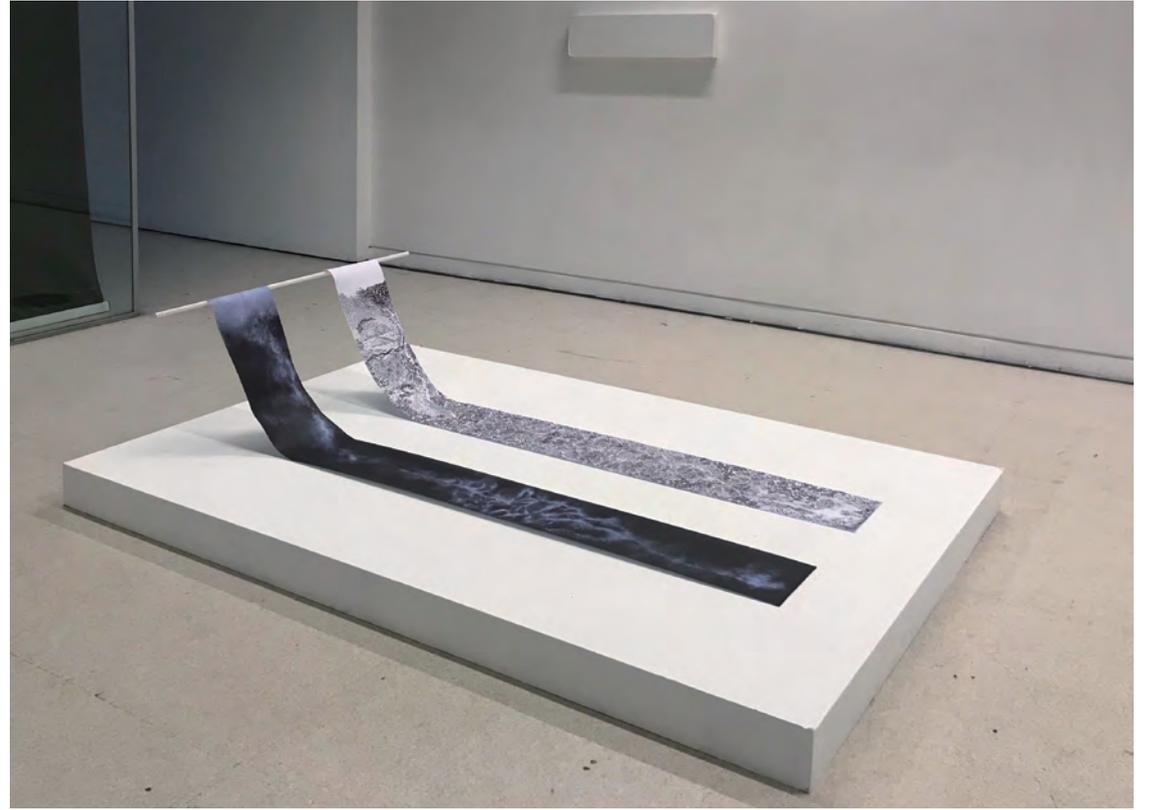
*Mapping in the forest (draft)*

“I was disoriented in the deep forest, the only thing that could help me navigate through the wild maze is the trace of water; however, most of the time the water was hidden under those mosses and liverworts, I had to stumble over them to find my way out. Finally, the shimmering lake appeared at the edge of the forest, guided me to float away with the flow.”

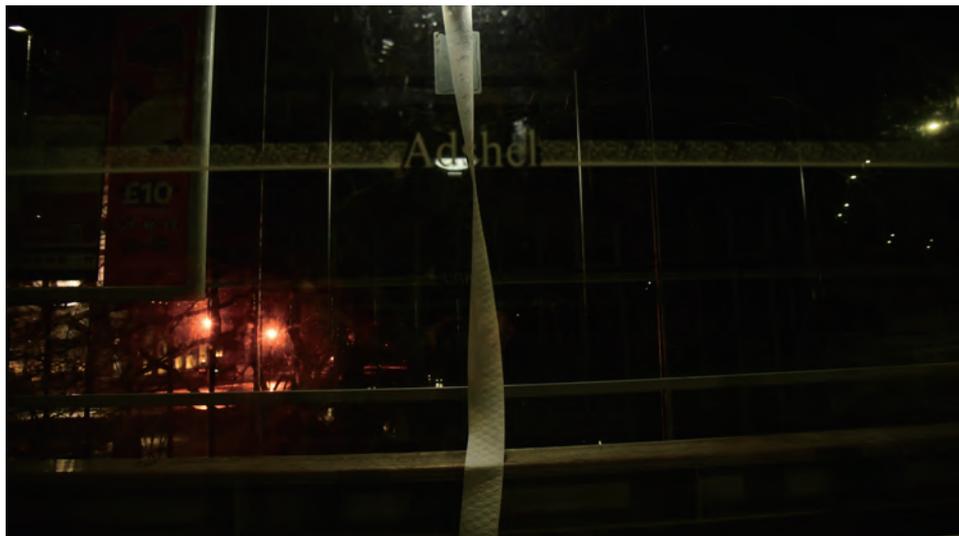


There are two drawings placed on the ground. The right side is the mapping of flora and flow in the forest and the left side is the water trace, which is developed from the mapping.

As it is a portrait of the waterscape, the artworks are exhibited on the ground horizontally, and one of the sides is hung up to express the flow of water.



*Installed in the Tent Gallery*



*Temporarily installed at a bus stop*



## Waiting on the Timescape

Nov. 2020

Johnston Terrace bus stop

Letterpress on a roll of toilet paper

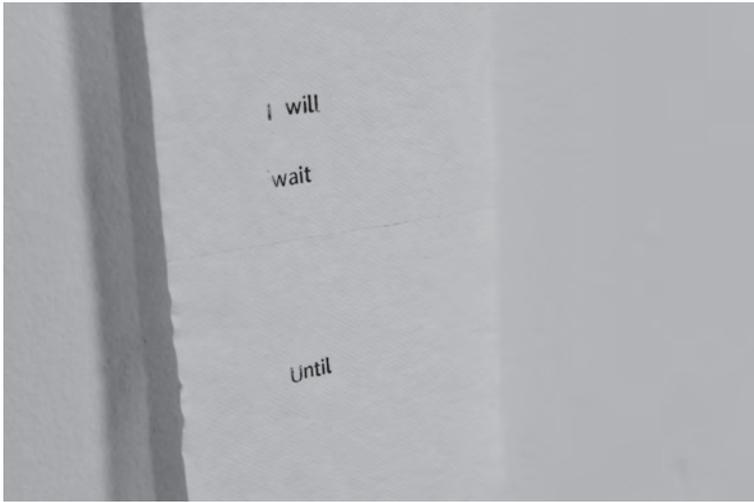
An experiment of the act of waiting

*Click the link below to see the show and details*

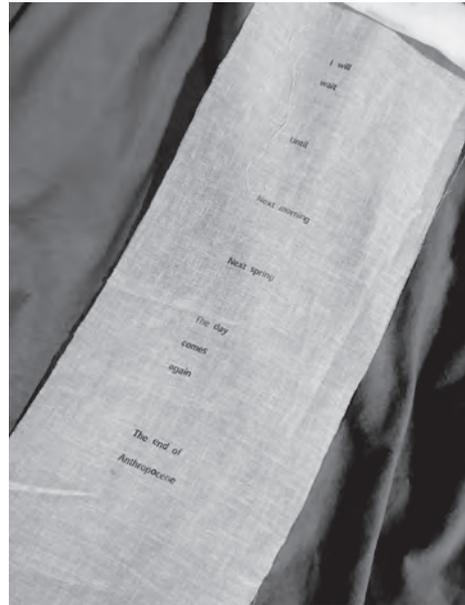
<https://clovidiel.wixsite.com/a-different-time/a-bus-stop>

The paperwork was installed at a bus stop for a while. I picked a time when the bus service was not running and sat on the bench, waiting with the paperwork.

When I printed these sentences, I was trying to make a conclusion of the video stories; meanwhile, I couldn't help but think about the current lockdown situation. It seems this year, we — humans — are involved in the biggest waiting time in the Anthropocene. We are waiting for a date all of the things go back to normal; we believe the day will come and we are waiting to see the end of it. To consider this, what we are doing is not so different from the landscape. Will we be able to see the day comes again? or all of the efforts will go down the drain? The future is unpredictable so what we can do is waiting: Waiting on the landscape and waiting with hope.



*Letterpress on toilet paper*



*Test on fabric*



*A bus*

*A squirrel*

*A flow*

*An eruption*

*Is not coming*

*Tonight*

*They came*

*At dawn*

*In the Ice Age*

*During the Quaternary*

*They might come*

*Today or not*

*I will wait*

*Until*

*Next morning*

*Next spring*

*The day comes again*

*The end of Anthropocene*