

# Artcasting as a thing-to-think-with: inventive digital education methods

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
Moray House School  
of Education



RESEARCH  
IN DIGITAL  
EDUCATION

HOME RESEARCH AREAS + PROJECTS PUBLICATIONS ENGAGEMENT PEOPLE TEACHING EVENTS



View

Edit

## Yik Yak for understanding teaching, learning and assessment at Edinburgh

Exploring coded campus space and understanding the teaching, learning and assessment priorities and concerns of Edinburgh students.

## Manifesto for Teaching Online



## Learning Analytics Report Card

## Artcasting

## Supporting Higher Education to Integrate Learning Analytics (SHEILA)

# speculative methods, playful interactions & thinking with things

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# the current climate

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Digital education research is dominated by a 'what works' agenda.

Digital education research needs more imaginative resources to influence educational change.

Emerging technologies in education are 'not yet fully understood' and 'not yet fully researched, or researched in a mature way' (Veletsianos 2010, 15).

Practices, identities, pedagogies and technologies can be marked by this 'not-yetness' (Ross & Collier 2016).

Working with not-yetness means engaging with complexity, uncertainty and risk, not as factors to be minimised or resolved, but as necessary dimensions of technologies and practices which are unknown and in flux.

# speculative (or inventive) method

- is 'explicitly oriented towards an investigation of the open-endedness of the social world. ... the happening of the social world – its ongoingness, relationality, contingency and sensuousness' (Lury and Wakeford 2012, 2).
- is aimed at envisioning or crafting futures or conditions which may not yet currently exist.
- provokes new ways of thinking and brings particular ideas or issues into focus.
- may blur boundaries between research, design and teaching.



# ARTCASTING



Make New Connections with Art

Try the app

This makes me think of...

ARTIST ROOMS  
**ROBERT MAPPLETHORP**  
**THE MAGIC IN THE MUSEUM**  
28 NOVEMBER 2015 - 24 APRIL 2016

**THE BOWES**  
MUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

**About ARTCASTING**  
The Artcasting app is a digital, mobile way for you to explore your responses to artworks by imagining them in new places and times. Use the app to create, send, view, and re-encounter your own and other people's artcasts. This is part of a research project funded by the University of Edinburgh, the Museums Association, and the Arts & Humanities Research Council.



United Kingdom

START CASTING

response, engagement, interpretation, learning...



# ARTIST ROOMS

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jointly owned and managed by Tate & National Galleries of Scotland

a collection of more than 1,600 works of international contemporary art acquired in 2008 by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate.

shared throughout the UK in a programme of exhibitions organised in collaboration with local associate galleries.

aims to ensure the collection engages new, young audiences.

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with the present levels of knowledge around aesthetic reception, it is not possible to make any meaningful broad generalization about how people respond to the arts, and if or how they might be affected by the experience. Even less plausible is the possibility of actually “measuring” any of these aspects.

(Belfiore & Bennett 2010, p.126)



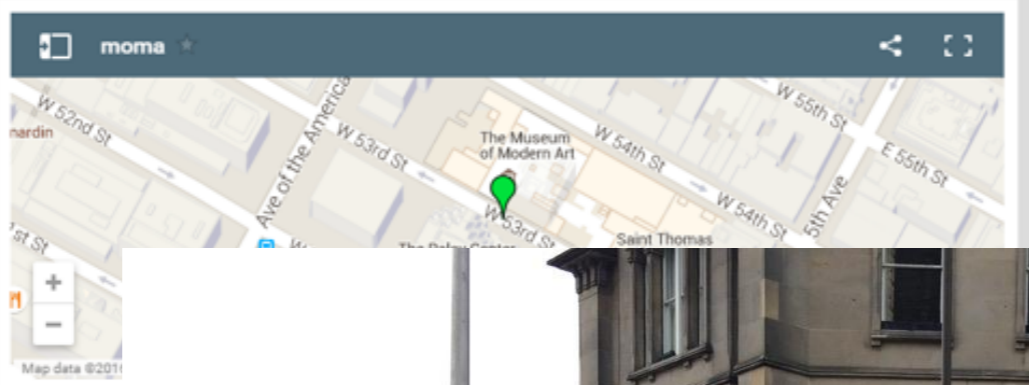
## GETTING HERE

- Hours & Admission
- Getting Here
- At the Museum
- Visiting with a Family
- Visitors with Disabilities
- Groups & Museum Tours
- Offers & Discounts
- Visitor Policies
- Restaurants & Cafés at MoMA
- MoMA Stores

**Buy Tickets Online**  
Skip the line



**The Museum of Modern Art**  
11 West 53 Street  
New York, NY 10019-5497  
(212) 708-9400 | [Contact Us](#)



MoMA is located between Fifth Avenue and Avenue of the Americas.

- By Subway
- By Bus
- By Car
- From the Port Authority
- Parking



# Try the Artcasting app!

## Download the app

Use *Google Play* or the *iTunes* store to download the Artcasting app. Unlock the app with the code:

**235346**

## Select your artwork

Choose any artwork from the exhibition to create an artcast. In the exhibition, beacons on the walls will send you nearby artworks. You can also save artworks, and use Artcasting later from other locations.



## Create your artcast

Once you've chosen an artwork, the app will guide you to think about where, when and why you want to cast it. You can cast to places you know well or places you've only imagined, and to the past or future.



## Find artcasts

The map shows all the artcasts that have been sent. Your own casts appear in green. If you feel inspired by another cast you see, you can touch it to re-cast it - a small icon will show where they have divided. You can also search and filter artcasts. For example, you can see where else your chosen artworks have been cast (co-casts), or search for specific tags or artworks.



## Interact with artcasts

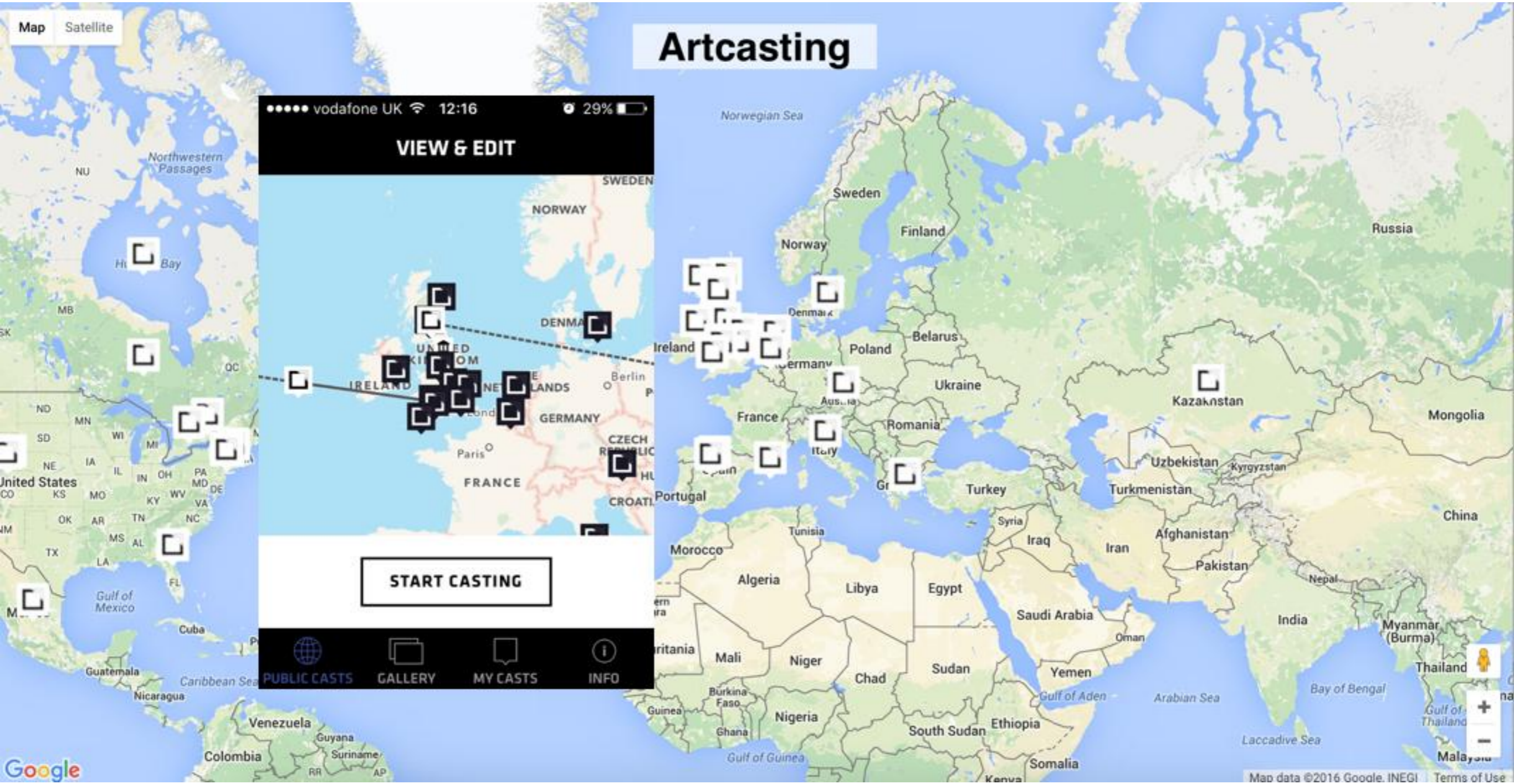
If you go to a physical place where an artcast has been sent, you'll encounter it there and receive a notification. Open the Artcasting app any time to see if any casts are near you, or send a new artcast!

Today Notifications

Today

- Artcasting** now  
You found an Artcast (test)
- Artcasting** now  
You found an Artcast (test)
- Artcasting** now  
You found an Artcast (test)
- Artcasting** 2m ago  
You found an Artcast (test)
- Artcasting** 3m ago  
You found an Artcast (test)
- Artcasting** 4m ago  
You found an Artcast (test)
- Artcasting** 4m ago  
You found an Artcast (test)

# Artcasting



vodafone UK 12:16 29%

**VIEW & EDIT**

**START CASTING**

**PUBLIC CASTS** **GALLERY** **MY CASTS** **INFO**

< VIEW & EDIT

< VIEW & EDIT

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS



**Nick Marden**  
By Robert Mapplethorpe

Sending to:  
**School**

Arrives on:  
**1997-01-01**

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS

The text on the jacket reminds me of the effort I would put into scrawling my favourite bands' names all over books and pencil cases. You can see how much music is a visual part of someone's identity, especially at a young age and this was very important to me growing up.

Sending to:  
**School**

Arrives on:  
**1997-01-01**

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS



**Self Portrait**

By Robert Mapplethorpe

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS

i would like da Vinci to see how art is in the 21st century because I think he would love to get into photography. this reminds me of his drawing of the man in the circle. I love his cheeky face, like he's saying yes it's a classical reference but it's me as well.

Sending to:

**da Vinci hometown**

Arrives on:

**1602-01-01**

Sending to:

**da Vinci hometown**

Arrives on:

**1602-01-01**



VIEW & EDIT

< Back

ARTCAST DETAILS

< Back

ARTCAST DETAILS

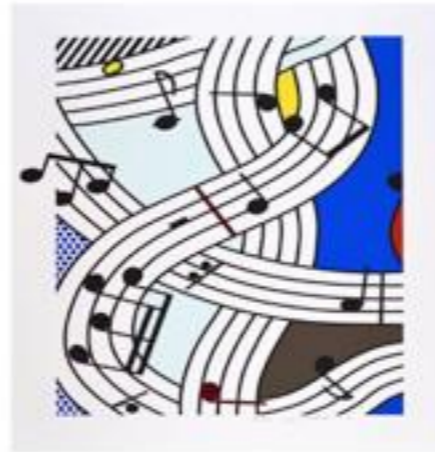


START CASTING

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS



Composition I  
By Roy Lichtenstein

Sending to:  
music to lift off to

Arrives on:  
2015-12-15

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS

Some jazz for Timothy Peake during  
blast off.

Sending to:  
music to lift off to

Arrives on:  
2015-12-15

# Perth

2016-01-10



rainy places need dry art

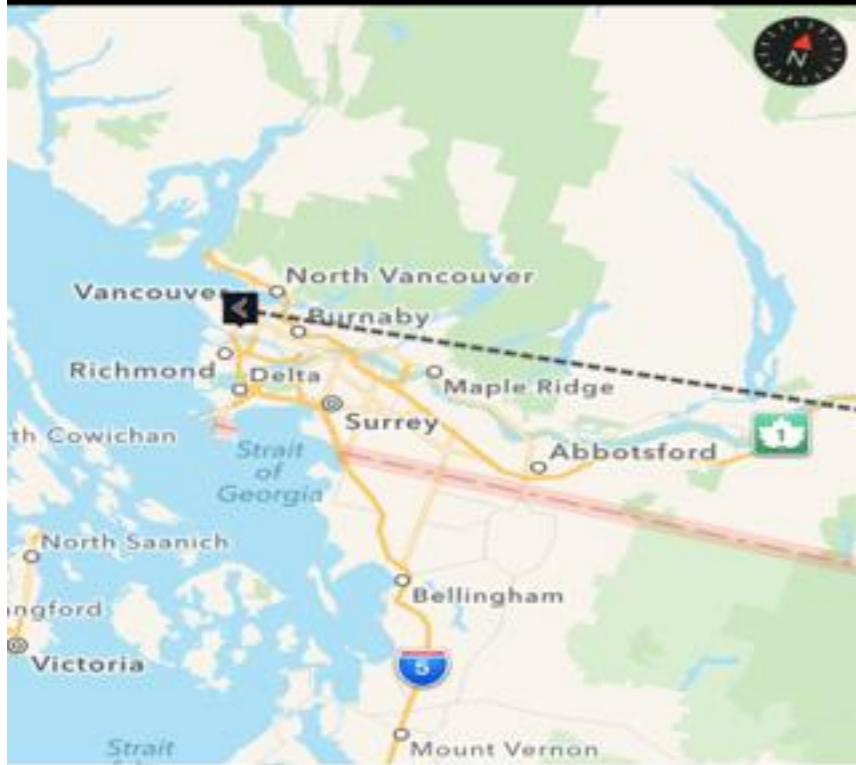
VIEW & EDIT

Back

ARTCAST DETAILS

Back

ARTCAST DETAILS



START CASTING

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS



**Self Portrait**  
By Robert Mapplethorpe

Sending to:  
**Place of defiance**

Arrives on:  
**2026-11-04**

ARTWORK

DESCRIPTION

TAGS

I believe that if I go to Vancouver, I will learn to become my own person and defy stereotypes like this photo

Sending to:  
**Place of defiance**

Arrives on:  
**2026-11-04**

“it is always possible to take an individual object and place it in a new framework or see it in a new way. The lack of definitive and final articulation of significance keeps objects endlessly mysterious – the next person to attach meaning to it may see something unseen by anyone else before.”

(Hooper-Greenhill 2000, 115)



**Casts**

-  'YSP Wakefield England '  
2015/11/27 19:30:12
-  'castlefield gallery'  
2015/11/27 19:45:27
-  'European Parliament '  
2015/11/27 19:49:53
-  'Wembley arena'  
2015/11/27 20:01:21
-  'Waltons mountain'  
2015/11/27 20:17:15
-  'School'  
2015/11/28 10:43:31


Map Satellite


Artcasting miles: **192,665**








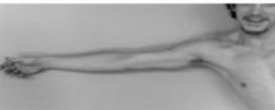




viewing artcasting as a digital 'object to think with' offered new insights into the possibilities and limitations of understanding (and measuring) engagement and learning

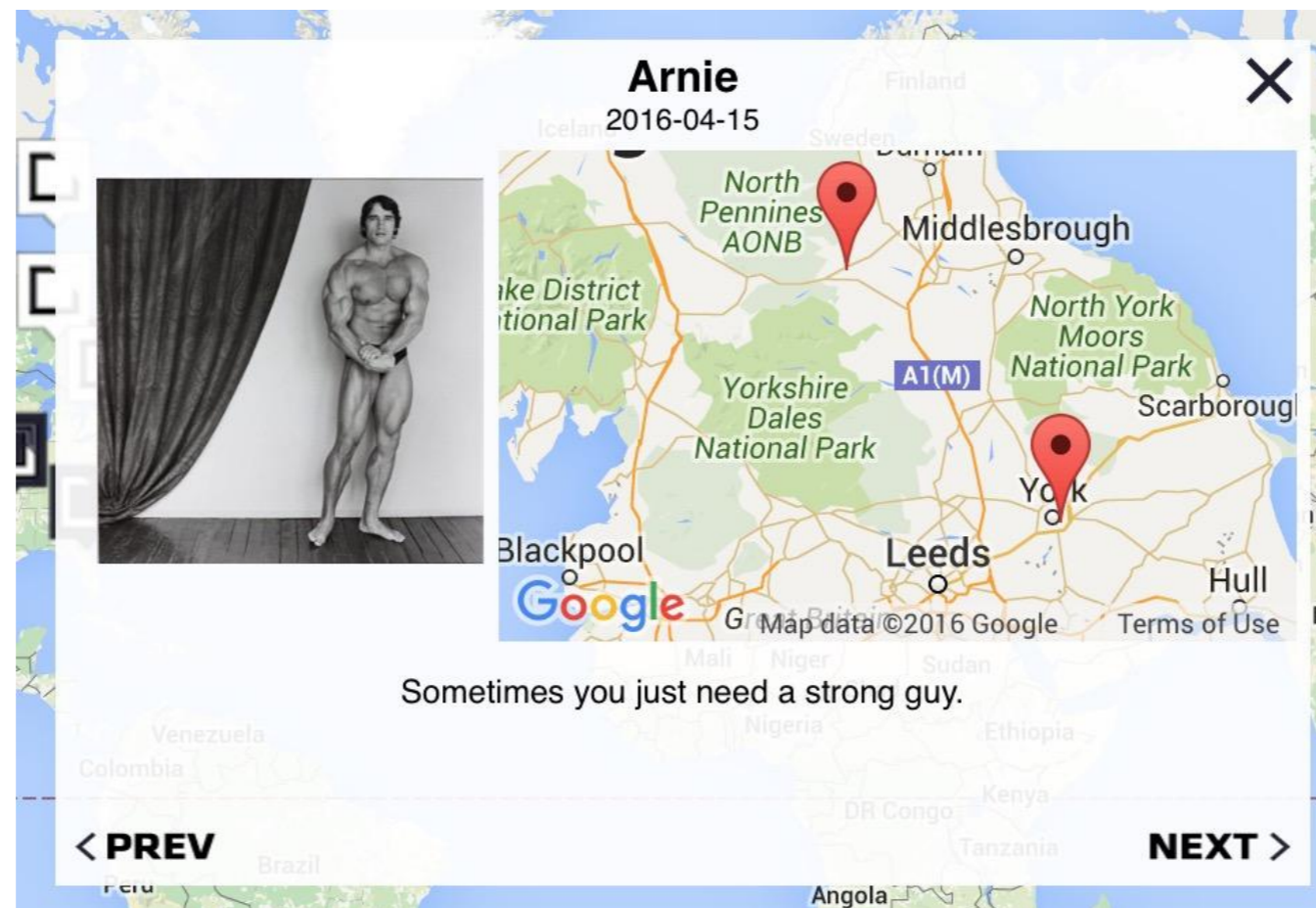
Map data ©2016 Terms of Use

**Artworks**      Dates      Misc

 The Bowes Museum

 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

 Casts: 6	 Casts: 4	 Casts: 4	 Casts: 10	 Casts: 6	 Casts: 4
					



“Learning” may be a very formal way to think about how our lives are affected by encounters with works of art and objects of culture.

We may frame this instead as

- growth;
- expansion of horizons;
- “enrichment”.

But in psychological terms, we really are talking about “learning”: a relatively enduring change in the way in which we look at, or act within, the world.



- A manifestation of agency;
- Active engagement with / use of the object;
- Exploration of the physical world – gravity;
- Exploration of the social world – who will pick it up for you?

It is a playful engagement with the world. Not a “game” as such, but displaying, and depending upon, what Bernard Suits called “the lusory attitude”. Taking on a task for the intrinsic enjoyment that the task confers.

## “learning through programming” (Papert)

The program I write makes my own understanding manifest, so that I can reflect on it.

It makes my understanding manifest to others, so we can talk about it.

The process also shapes understanding in particular ways.





## From 'exposure' to 'engagement'?

Artcasting is a route to shaping engagement with the artefact and making that engagement visible.

- ❖ “I don't know what people in the arts do when they attend to an exhibition like this, but I think that many people just see, think, feel, but do not share their feelings, thoughts nor imaginations with anyone. What you are doing here is providing ways for people to express themselves, to share with others their experience of attending to an exhibition. (attendee at Explorathon event)



The Artcasting app makes a suggestion.

The making of a construal is also a way of describing an active engagement with the world. The framework of observations, dependencies and agency provides a way in which to describe the world, such that it can be reflected upon, assumptions made explicit, and hypotheses tested. This provides a basis for reflection, but also for conversation about the topic.

# The place of playfulness

To engage with something for the simple joy of exploration, and to have the opportunity to share a creation with others, and to receive their reactions.

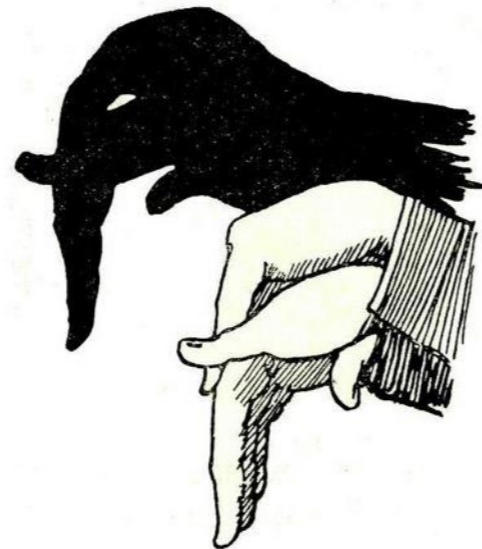


Fig. 26.

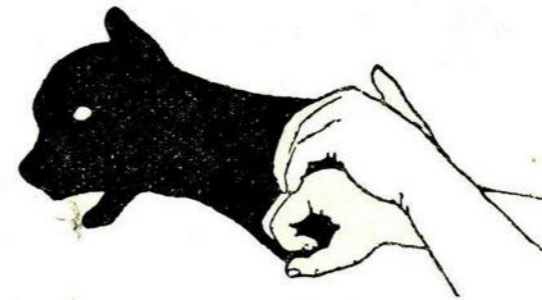


Fig. 27. De Buldog.



Fig. 29. Het schaap.

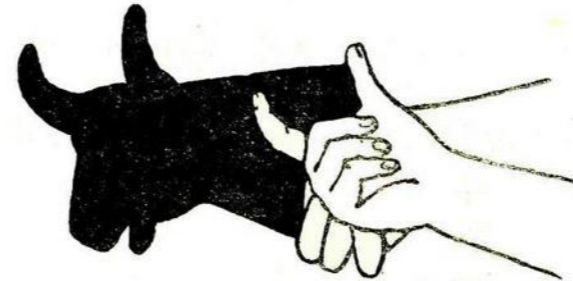


Fig. 28.



De bok.  
Fig. 30.



Fig. 31 Het hert.



Fig. 32.



De schildpad.

# Thanks

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- h.a.macleod@ed.ac.uk ; @hamacleod on Twitter
- more about artcasting at <http://www.de.ed.ac.uk>

