DH-informed eco(&tc)critical art practice

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convenience.
evolution of a multi-valent art practice

- traditional object-based works
- subversions & interventions
- workshops & social/collaborative practices
- surfacing the invisible and overlooked
- complicating assumptions about... everything
- reframing dialogue about our digital selves and prostheses
Beaufort Channel

- bathymetric data scraped & analyzed
- survey of historical practices in the channel
- digital & traditional fabrication
  (CNC milling, laser cutting, mold-casting)
Smart device ingredient labels

- survey of existing / available information
- devise intervention
- deploy in-world & via interactive web access
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stainless Steel</td>
<td>33.5 g (Iron, Chromium, Silicon, Nickel, Carbon, Nitrogen, Manganese, Tantalum, Niobium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>26 g (Silica, Potassium Nitrate, Sodium, Tantalum, Lead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>24.5 g (Lithium Manganese Oxide, Graphite, Hard Carbon, Lanthanum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circuit Boards</td>
<td>19.5 g (Silicon, Aluminum, Copper, Silver, Gold, Oxygen, Antimony, Phosphorous, Gallium, Arsenic, Tin, Lead, Beryllium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics</td>
<td>15.5 g (Epoxy resins, Polycarbonate, Carbon Fiber)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display</td>
<td>12.5 g (Praseodymium, Gadolinium, Terbium, Yttrium, Indium, Tin, Oxygen, Lanthanum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microphones, Sensors, Etc.</td>
<td>3.5 g (Neodymium, Lanthanum, Erbium, Niobium, Tantalum, Aluminum, Gold, Silver, Tungsten)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recyclable Materials:** All, variable effectiveness  
**Non-Renewable Materials:** All  
**Possible Conflict Minerals:** Tantalum, Gold, Tungsten, Tin
SneakerNet

- web platform & digital “kit”
- physical zine
- workshop
How to transfer INFORMATION: Without an Internet Connection...

Inside an extremely secure location...

- Signal mirrors
- Christmas lights + Walkman
- Inline skates, snowshoes, sleds
- Carrier pigeon
- Elaborate rubber cube puzzle
- Vacuum tubes
- Train - passing notes in class
- USB sticks swapped in shoeboxes
- Helicopter
- Kites
- Cats with pigeons on their collars
- Trained rats
- ...
workshops & teaching practice

- Take-it-Apart(y)
- Fix-it Clinic
- Plastic Machines (preciousplastic.com)
IT'S AN EDUCATION TOOL
Take it Apart(y)

- Provides space for curiosity
- Removes “productivity” goals
- Opens objects to direct interrogation
Take it Apart(y)

- *Diminishing fear of the ‘black box’*
- Increasing self-repair confidence
- Increasing likelihood of recycling, reusing, keeping devices longer
My engine's making a weird noise. Can you take a look?

Sure, just pop the hood.

Oh, the hood latch is also broken.

OK, just pull up to that big pit and push the car in. We'll go get a new one.

I'm sure the economics make sense, but it still freaks me out how quick companies are to replace computing devices instead of trying to fix them.
the single best iPhone-related thing you could do for the environment is to not buy a new iPhone
Voluntary De-Convenience

a performative behavioral research & modification project
Voluntary De-Convenience

What would it take for you to trade me your smartphone for a flip phone?