

A Map of a Map of a Map

YIYAO TANG
ADPD '2023
From China
Currently in Boston

'A Map of a Map' is an archival mapping of the White Sands National Park located in New Mexico, United States, documenting environmental phenomena and natural form reconfigurations. Different dune types illustrate how the wind is sculpting the form.

'A Map of a Map of a Map' is an abstract digital mapping of the white sand dunes. The image generating algorithm on RunwayML translates the collected images into abstract visual outcomes through the depth recognition process. It illustrates how the data is sculpting the form. A third layer, extracted from an algorithm labeling model then generates text from the images, creating misidentifications and adding another layer of meaning, like in a poem.

This juxtaposition of the two mapping books explores something as tangible as nature and something as abstract as data - operating between the worlds of the natural and artificial, analog and digital, past and present. This project allows us to reflect on the relationships between human and machine perception.

