I research smells
Urban smells
I map smells

My friends call me “smelly Kate”
Invisible, Erratic, Ephemeral: Lives of Urban Smells
Why the senses matter in my work/research...

Taste map of Edinburgh (2011) – the cumulative fat intake of a slightly exaggerated day of a typical Scottish diet. Lard.
Unlike sight, we cannot turn voluntarily turn smell off. There is no blindfold for the nose nor earplugs.

Kate McLean “Smellmap: Glasgow” (2012)
smellscape: form, structure, height, texture...

An exploration of the patterns generated by human olfactory perception of urban space. DSAA Students, Marseille (2015)
How I take the senses into account in my work

We are multi-sensory beings and smells form a part of our knowing they are quixotic and discontinuous. And something we frequently dispute and contest. They are often more pleasant than anticipated.
smells are unruly hitch-hikers with evanescent qualities...
Designing for sensory experience: 2. Visual

Scentmap Singapore. Kate McLean (2015)
Designing for sensory experience: 3. Interpretive

Smellmap: Amsterdam, exhibited at Mediamatic, Amsterdam. Kate McLean (2014)
Designing for sensory experience: 4. Experiential

Smells of Milan. Participatory installation in Milan Design Week. Olivia Alice & Kate McLean (2013)
Designing for sensory experience: 5. Physical manifestation

Two Canterbury Smells. Installation at The Beaney. Kate McLean (2014)
Methods / challenges: smellnotes: inscribed/digital?

creative methods: data visualisation

Individual Heart Notes in Colour • 19 World Cities

Aquatic accord, Blood orange, Cardamom, Carrot, Cedar, Cinnamon, Cloves, Coriander, Cyclamen, Freesia, Geranium, Green tea, Jasmine, Juicy apple, Lilac, Lily of the valley, Lotus flower, Magnolia flower, Marine flowers, Orange blossom, Ozonie flowers, Paprika, Patchouli, Peony, Pepper, Raspberry, Rhubarb, Rose, Saffron, Sandalwood, Spring flowers, Star anise, Tangerine, Tuberose, Transparent bouquet, Vetiver, Water flowers, Violet, White flowers

Kate McLean analysis of “Scent of Departure” (2012)
cartographic methods: selection, classification, simplification & symbolisation

Limits and designations of smell origins are shown as colored dots. The range of the smell is shown with the circular isobar graphic, the smell movement on the prevailing 10 – 20 knot summer “smoky sou’wester” wind is shown with the displaced isobars.

4
THE OCEAN

2
BEACH ROSES

3
SUNTAN OIL

3
BEER BARS

2
JUNIPER BUSHES

3
FUDGE/COOKIES/ICE CREAM

2
BIRD’S NESTS/HAY

6
LOBSTER BAIT

3
FRESHLY CUT TIMBER
performativity / embodiment
Challenge of working with urban sensory experience

skepticism / suspicion / quant&qual

“We had a smell but we lost it.” Smellwalker. Pamplona, 2014
the smell of shattered dreams
a.k.a. stale beer on the sidewalk

Smell colour and descriptors: a Brooklyn block, Kate McLean (2014)