

# Sniffing Out Cartography



- [Kate] It's got quite a strong smell.  
Ooooh!
- Metal!
- [Kate] It is hot metal, isn't it?
- Like a wet dog smell.
- [Kate] Yes, wet dog smell.

I had coconut just there. And then, I've just got a whiff of bacon.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a9rJHeONE&embeds\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com%2F&embeds\\_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt&ab\\_channel=AtlasObscura](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a9rJHeONE&embeds_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com%2F&embeds_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com&feature=emb_imp_woyt&ab_channel=AtlasObscura)

**My name is Kate McLean, and I'm a designer and mapper of the "smellscapes" \_\_\_\_\_ around the world.**

What we're going to do today is we're going to do a smell walk around Canterbury. A smell walk is a way of collecting data that can then be mapped to \_\_\_\_\_ a city's smellscape.

I started with Edinburgh because that's where I was based when I first started doing the \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't know whether Edinburgh would smell the same as every other city. But the smells were completely different.

So what's really important to the whole mapping process is actually \_\_\_\_\_ where these smells happen. 'Cause after you've written them all down, I translate all of this into something that's visual.

The important part of my work is that it's not me that goes in to smell places. My job is to actually collect that data and then to translate it into a visual format. So I always \_\_\_\_\_ people from the cities where the smell map is of, primarily because they are the ones who know their city.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a9rJHe0NE&embeds\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com%2F&embeds\\_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt&ab\\_channel=Atlas Obscura](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a9rJHe0NE&embeds_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com%2F&embeds_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com&feature=emb_imp_woyt&ab_channel=Atlas Obscura)

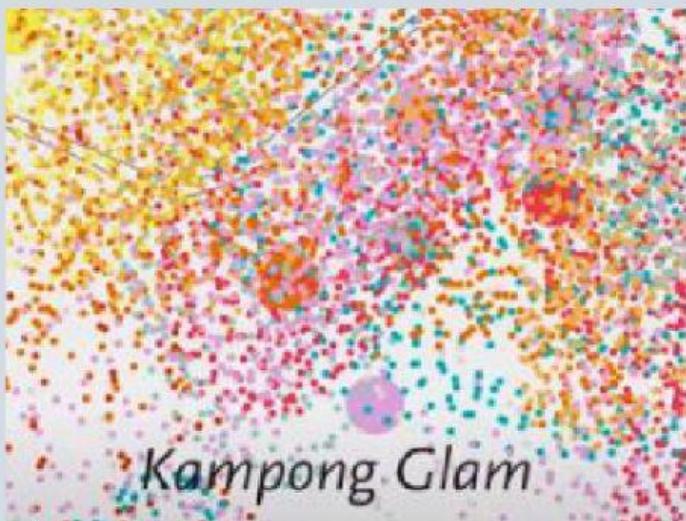


In a city smellscape, you've got **base notes**, which are the long-lasting smells of a city. The **middle notes** in a city tend to be the episodic smells, so they might happen in the morning, they might happen in the evening, they might happen as a result of a café or restaurant at a certain time of day.

*I think it's like tomato paste and yeast. And it's the same at every single Subway all the way around the world.*

*And then you've got what I term the "\_\_\_\_\_ smells," which just sit at the top of this pyramid. Which are the really interesting ones.*

- Anything interesting?
- Slightly turkey, but you've got the stale dog bones.



So, when you focus and hone your attention on smelling, then it's very different to just walking down the street and not paying attention to it. There's also a lovely level of people willing to hone their noses into things that they didn't think they would be able to.

*And my favorite is always the trash can.*

- Is that a pipe?
- Yep.

My mission with it is to \_\_\_\_\_  
people to be curious about the  
places that they live in and that they  
explore. And to do that in a  
multisensory way without needing  
or \_\_\_\_\_ any sort of  
specialist knowledge to do so.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a9rJHe0NE&embeds\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com%2F&embeds\\_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt&ab\\_channel=AtlasObscura](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1a9rJHe0NE&embeds_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com%2F&embeds_origin=https%3A%2F%2Fsensorymaps.com&feature=emb_imp_woyt&ab_channel=AtlasObscura)

So, we can all **smell things.**

We're much better at doing it than we think. And it's a very **curious way of understanding the city**. It becomes sort of like a recording of an olfactory \_\_\_\_\_ of different sites around the world.

In years to come, we can actually look back on them and say, "That's what that city smelled like at that particular \_\_\_\_\_ of time."



Proceed this like if you'd like to  
find out more on the smellmap of  
Kyiv :)

<https://globalvoices.org/2017/01/18/mapping-the-smells-of-kyiv/>