



I N T O

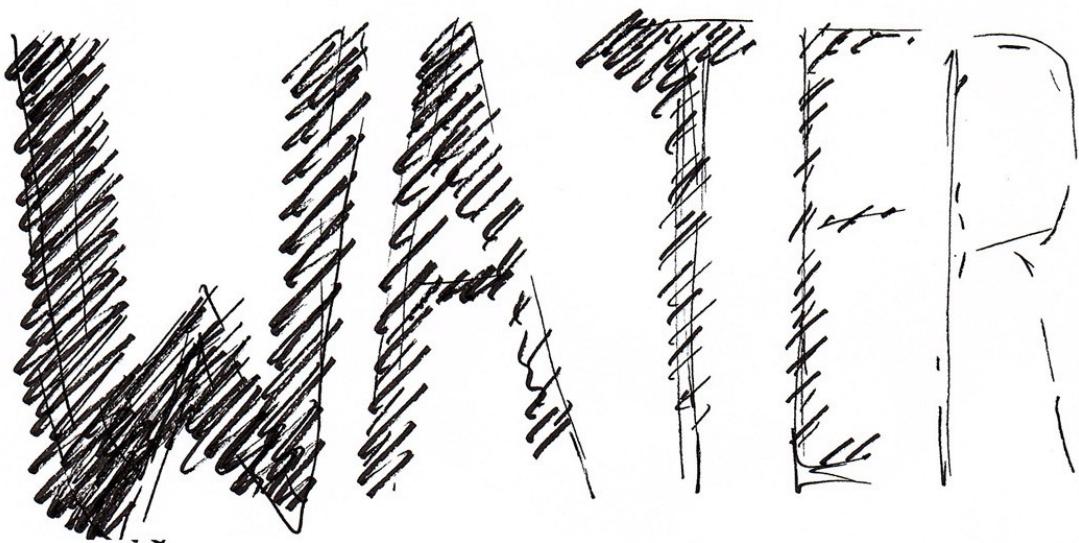
A P P O K I

E V E.

R I G H T

H E R E

LETTER TO



# 'LETTER TO WATER'

PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS, CONCEPT AND PHILOSOPHICAL RENDERINGS

(In this script, as I imagine my experience within the installation, I will speak as a dual personality, simultaneously both as 'I' the designer and as 'I' the visitor.)

*misty, mysterious, molecular mess  
foggy, fluid, foundation  
falling, forgiving, flowing,  
floating, fueling freeze  
pure, powerful, proud, pervasive pool  
reflective, reactive, rivery, rain  
snotty, sweaty, stagnant, stream of spit-solid  
clear, crystal, carrier,  
caressing, clashing, carrying, connector  
coolant*

*cycle*

I am one person.

Tiny, in comparison to humanity's enormous efforts to pollute the natural world, intentional or not.

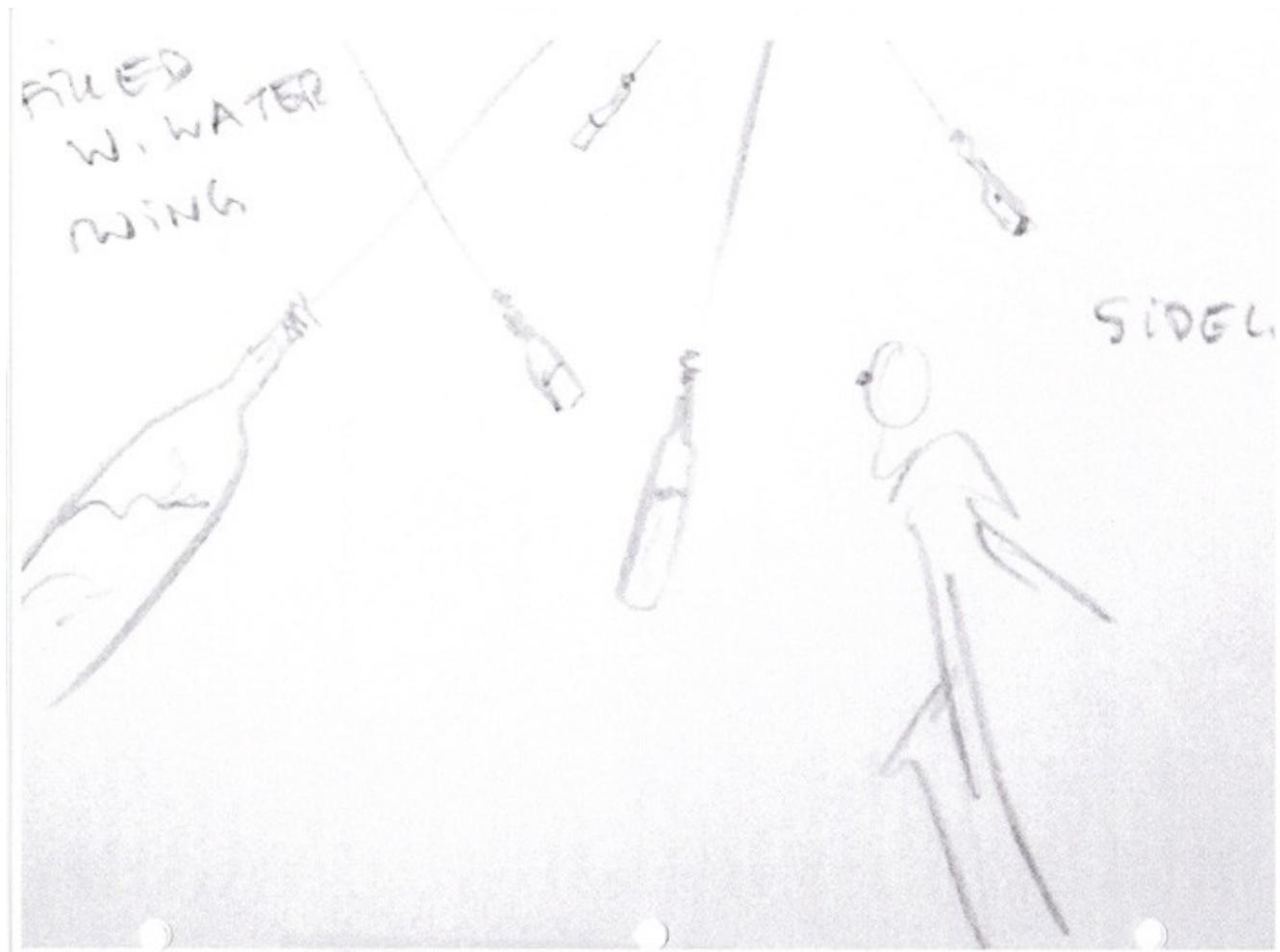
I am part of these efforts, intentional or not. I am the result of and a proponent of my culture, by using plastic, driving a car, buying cellphones, computers, using heat and air-conditioning, ... by being a part of modern day life...

My complicity weighs on me and my planet. What can I do? How can I change?

Can I move others to change, will we be able to inspire one another to keep going? ... to begin the voyage from realization to taking action?

I want to take a closer look at something that we take for granted, something we underestimate. I want to learn more about that which I don't understand, that which is everywhere, that which is everything.

Water.



Early sketch of person walking through swinging bottles, Water not free, but contained.

I can not speak to ecological and economical interconnections, or the politics of and conflicts about water. Others, many, have written important books, have done profound research, and offered their arguments, proposing a need for a mental shift towards sustainability, for halting the industrial growth trajectory, and creating an attitude of **listening and reacting to**, instead of **demanding FROM** the world.

*boiling, burning, breaking, bond  
tiny, thin, timid, torrential, trickling, transmitter*

*threat*

Our future, the future of this planet, lies in the hands of children. Those that grow up this decade with faucets, water parks, plastic water bottles, windshield wipers, dishwashers, bathtubs, and toilets; those are the people that need to understand the precious balance that is threatened.

What I feel I can do, is listen to water, I can ask children about water and compile our thoughts into a work of art to be shared with our communities.

*I see water running towards me as I look up,  
stopped by a glass surface.*

*I can see it divide, bounce, merge, mold  
itself to run off into all directions.*

*I see clouds reflected in rain puddles, in  
oil slicks, in dirty water. The play with  
shifting perspectives back and forth from  
from up to down is unsettling. Changes are  
subtle and slow.*



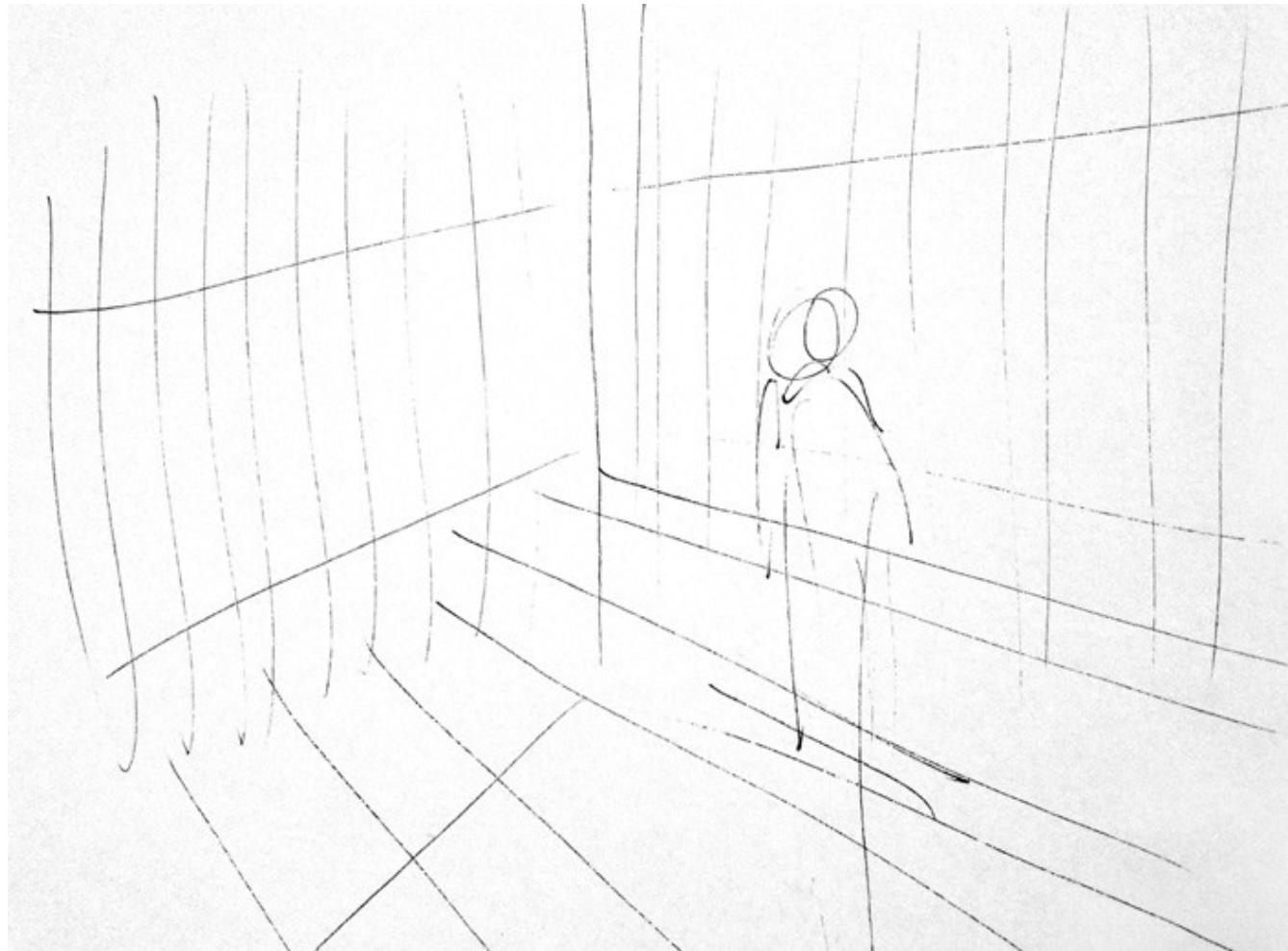
Inspirational sketch, Photographer unknown. Boat in so much trash that you can't see the water.

Water is the foundation for life. But this simple, yet profound, fact does not appear to have an impact on us. We pollute and waste water in uncountable ways. Looking around my home, my city, the world: our civilization is founded on man-made materials, plastics, fossil fuels, on capitalism; on owning and selling land, resources... water...lives.

Most things nowadays are made to be used once or for a very short time.

*drowning, diluting, destructive, dancing, drip  
anomalous, adhering, attacking, animation  
evasive, elusive, engulfing, extinguisher  
gushing, gurgling, gallon  
H2O, huge, hard, hydrogenous humility  
hydrating healer  
intimidating, inviting, immersive independence  
lubricating, loving, lonesome, lavish, liquid*

*womb*



Sketch to show the nature of the space: enclosed space. Not free. A grid.  
Planes dissecting the space. One plane going through chest height.



SOUND A



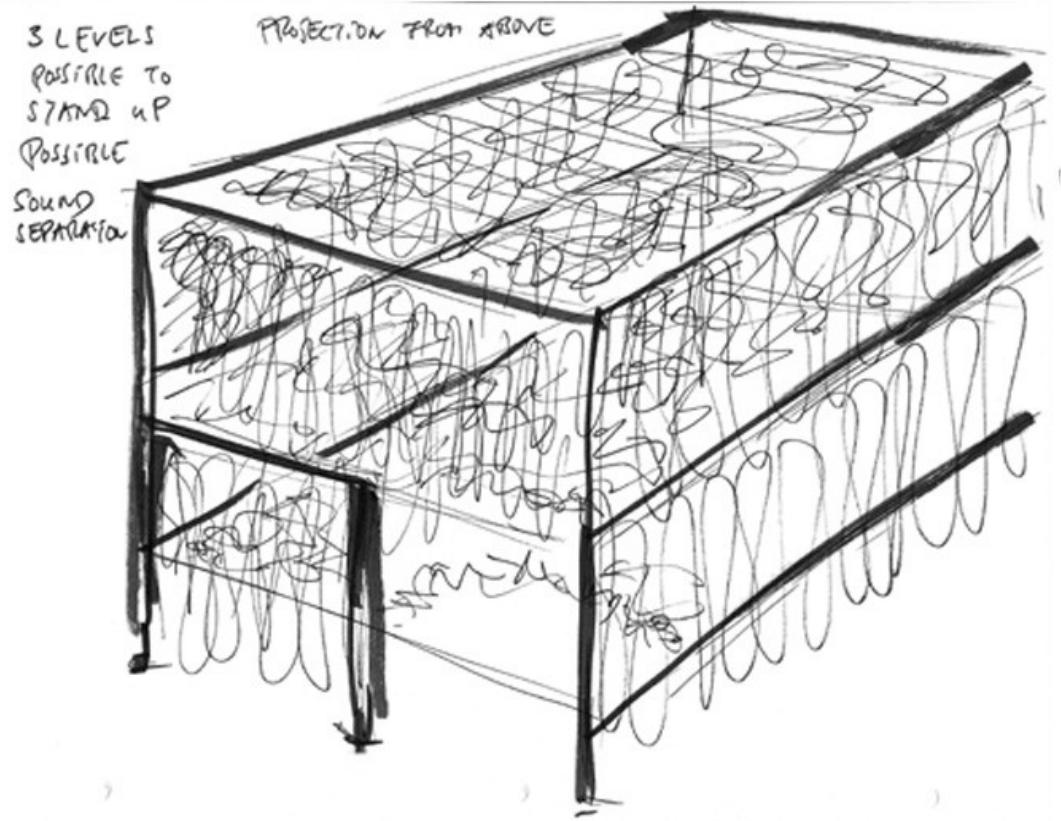
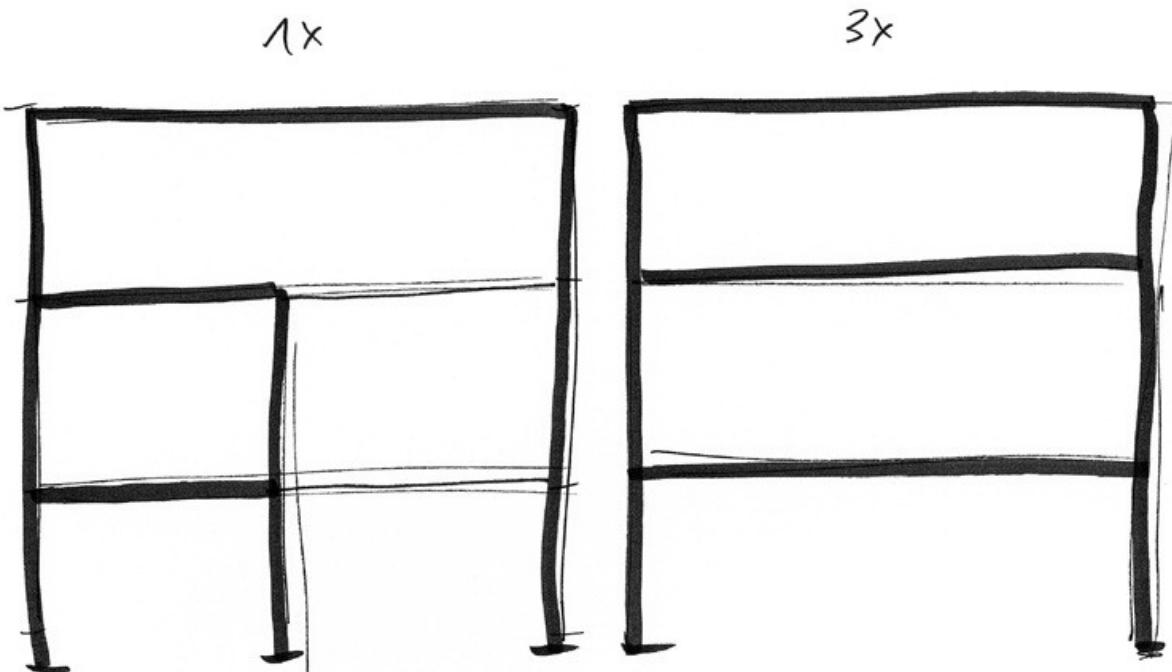
SOUND B



SOUND C



Early sketch of the inside of the installation. Bottles everywhere, at different levels compartmentalizing the space. Space for standing, sitting, laying down.



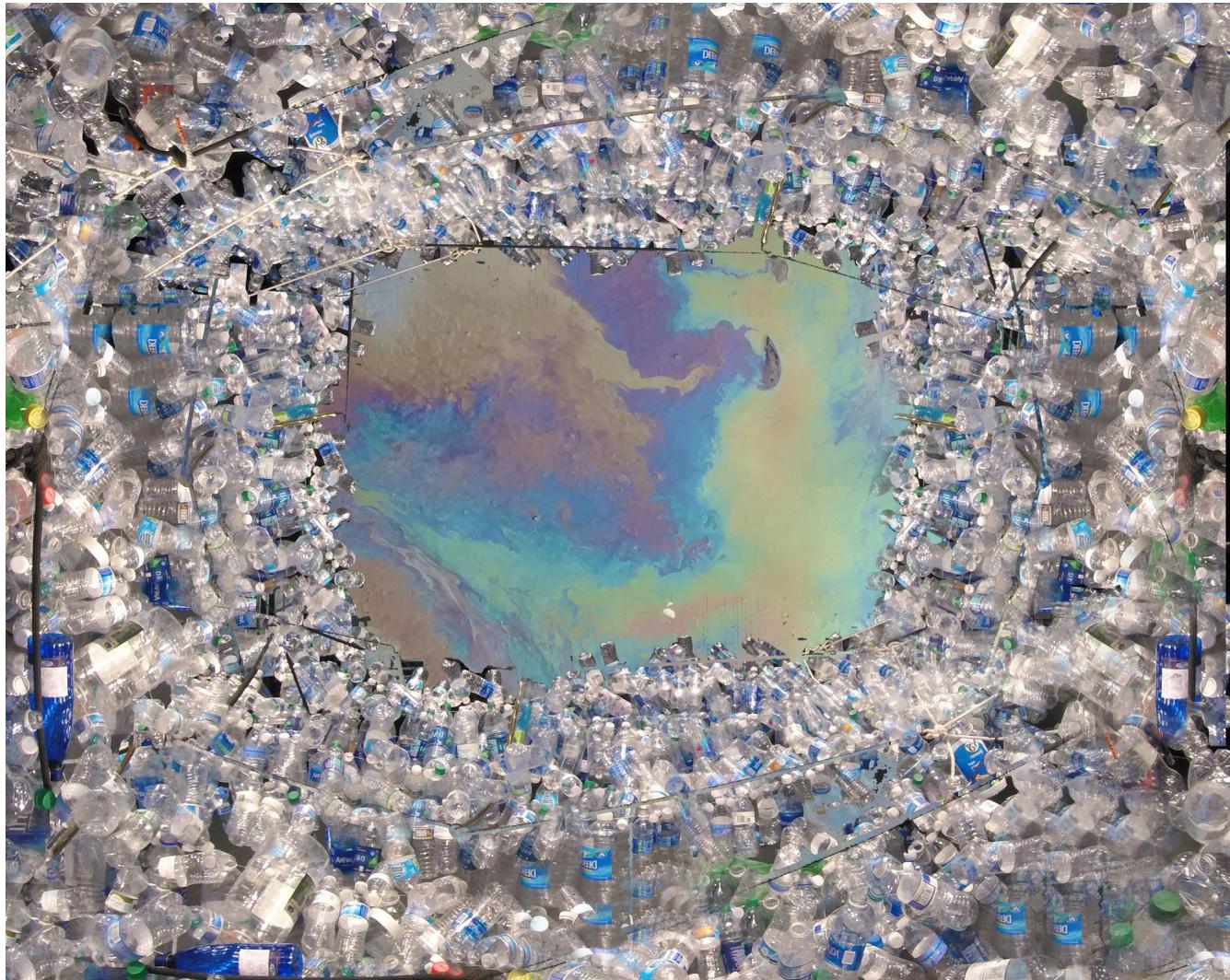
Early sketch of construction basics: side and front view. Below: early sketch of exterior views. Bottles hanging from steel scaffolding. One opening for easier access, although permeable on all sides.



Stringing together bottles. I have probably used that many plastic bottles in my lifetime.

Entering the installation is like entering a womb,

a small enclosed space, outside sounds are muffled, inside we can listen to our own thoughts.

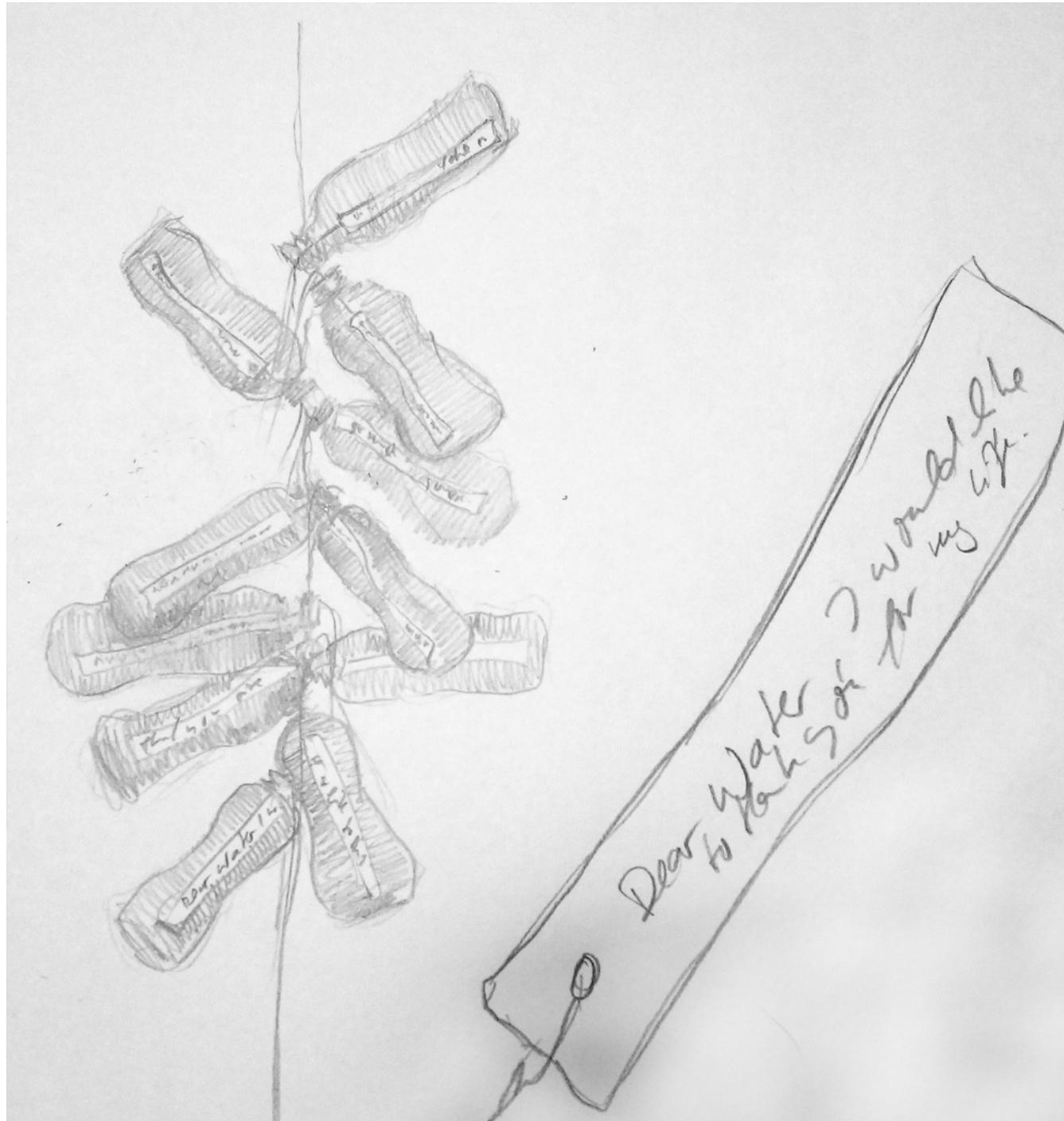


Enetering the installation is like entering a cell.

I can reach both walls. My movement is restricted by bottles on the ground and a web of bottles spanning across the space at chest height. I look underneath, I stand up to look up.

I look around.

Pieces of paper are inside some of the bottles. I can read some of them.  
Letters to water. Wishes, thanks, regrets.



A girl's voice gently asks questions

'Can you be like water?... can you be gentle like water?' She speaks occasionally. Other girl's voices come in asking and suggesting, brainstorming words that relate to the sensation of water in my body.

I am surrounded by bottles. The walls are covered. There are a lot of loose bottles on the floor. A web of bottles is strung across the space, dividing my body into an upper and a lower half. I look up and see a white surface stretching across, I can not see out. A projection plays on this screen, water reflecting sky, revealing liquid pollution, no solid materials. Films I shot around the city: milky white fluid being released in the downtown river, oil floating on the surface ...



Sketch for figuring out how to make the installation accessible to people in wheelchairs,

A subtle sound score transmits the sounds of water, I listen,

I hear

sloshing to steam, to ice ...  
transitions are extremely slow ...  
the sound is suggestive rather  
than descriptive.

I lay down on the floor. I grab one of the pillows that are placed along the edges of the space, .... I support my head.

I see a dense web of plastic bottles just 4 feet above me, as if I were a turtle looking up at bottles floating on the surface.

I listen to sounds, music.



Laying underneath the canopy of bottles that divides the space along the horizontal plane. The video projection causes shadows on the floor that are reminiscent of water reflections.

Slowly my thoughts are guided in the direction of activity, children laughing, talking to one another. I sit up, and stand up, to look at the screen above me: The image above me changes. Three girls discuss water. HOW and what they know about water.



Collage of inside the installation looking up. The video shows an interview with three elementary school children. This is 'Lilly'.

The video slows down, their voices become slurred, the images slow down, the film transforms, morphs from image to image, zooming in to a microcosm of water and air. The sounds is reduced to a drone. Quiet, subtle, but present, like a constant sensation of inner unrest.

*muffling*

*mixing*

*massive, myriad*

*oxygenating, oblivious, omnipotent, organism*

*pounding, pool*

*pouring, persistence*

*question*

Symbolism: plastic: artificial, unyielding, clear, like glass, like water. We replace water with plastic, nature with the artificial.

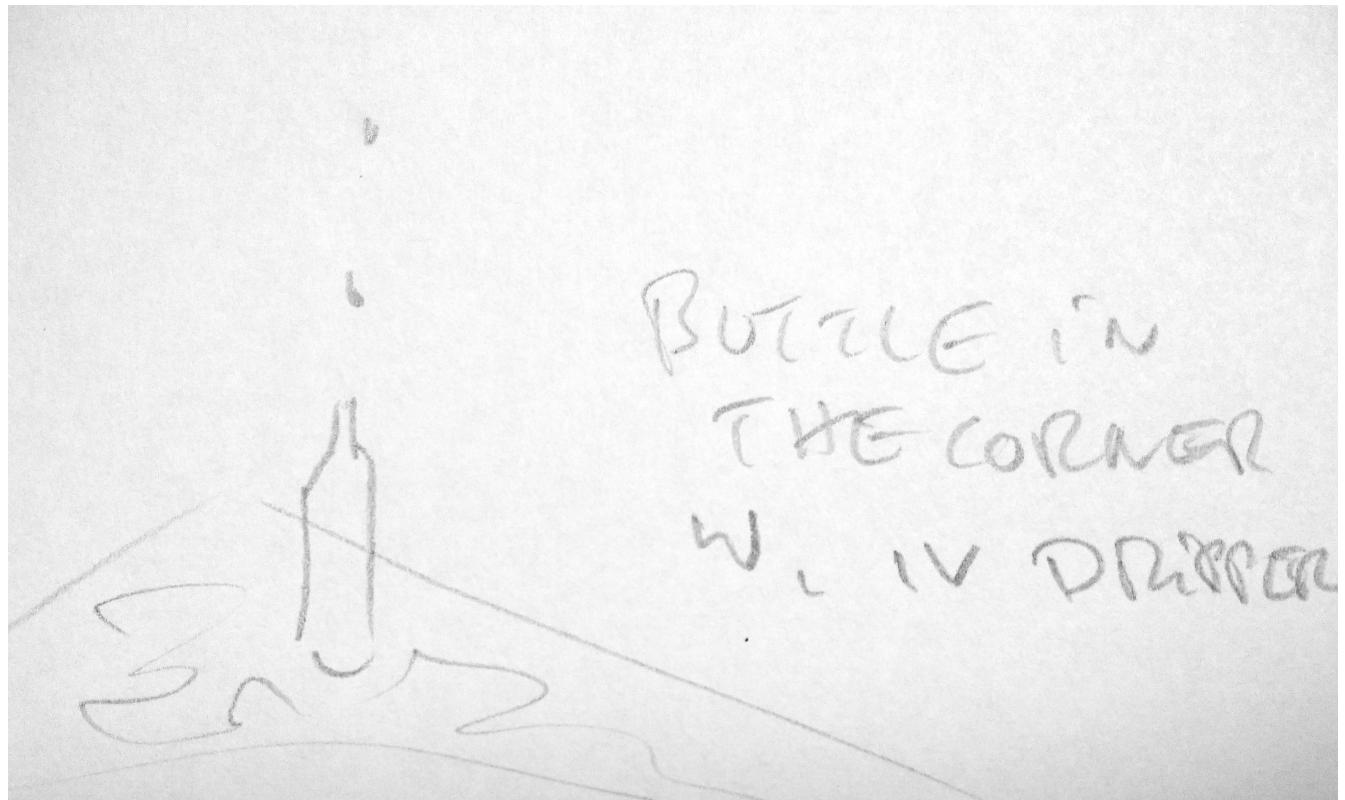
A small enclosure, planet earth has finite resources.

A room, enclosed on all sides, there is no escape.

The sky is a projection, nothing natural is in this space except for the slow drip of water, which comes out of an IV dripper, symbol for sustainer of life in dire situations when

life is threatened

A constant drip slowly fills a bottle in the corner.



BOTTLE IN  
THE CORNER  
W. IV DRIPPER

roaring, rolling, rushing, rough, running, rising,  
receding, river  
slow, splashing, seducer  
saving, surrounding, support  
sweeping, sucking supply  
softening, sifting, suffocating spray

sensing

similarity

## AUDIENCE INTERACTION

AUDIENCES CAN PLACE  
MESSAGES INTO THE BOTTLES

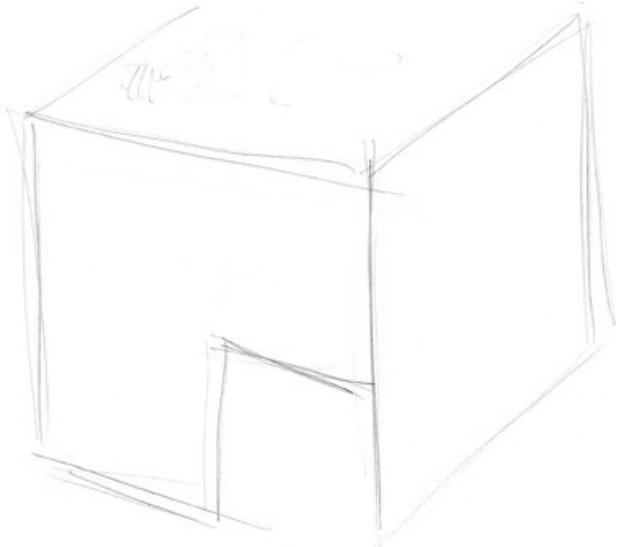
- PERSONAL EXPERIENCE W. WATER
- I AM A GLACIER LAKE, ... DEFINE  
WHAT KIND OF WATER YOU ARE
- AUDIENCES CAN WRITE ONTO THE  
OUTSIDE SKIN OF THE STRUCTURE
- FOR AN AUDIENCES, AGES 5+  
IT WAS CREATED U. CHILDREN
- SOUNDSCORE: COLLABORATION  
W. CHILDREN AGES 5 - 12

LISTEN      VIEW      FEEL      ACT



QUESTION · CATHARSIS · INSIGHT · ACTION  
CHANGE

Thoughts about audience interaction.



### A THE SET

SURE - ECOSYSTEM

TALL - NOT MANAGEABLE  
ANY MORE

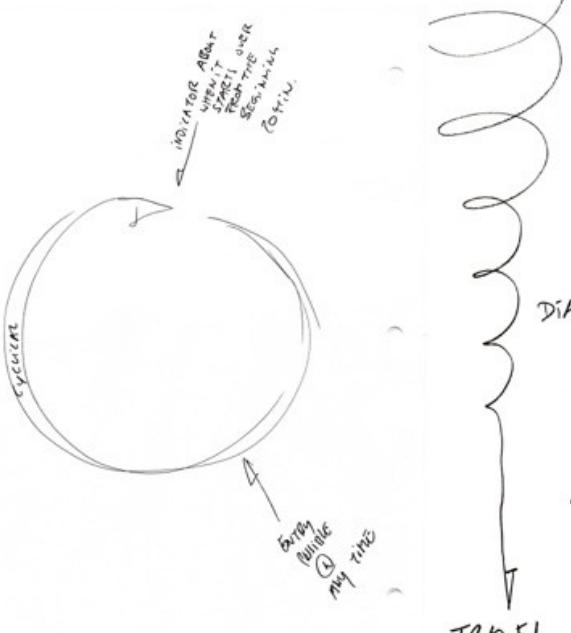
INT

LAYERS OF RESPONSIBILITY

LAYERS OF CONSEQUENCES

FOOTPRINTS

SHIFT PERSPECTIVE (LAY DOWN,  
STAND, SIT)



TRAVEL  
IN

IMMERSION / REFLECTION / MEDIATION

SHED LAYERS AS YOU ENTER:

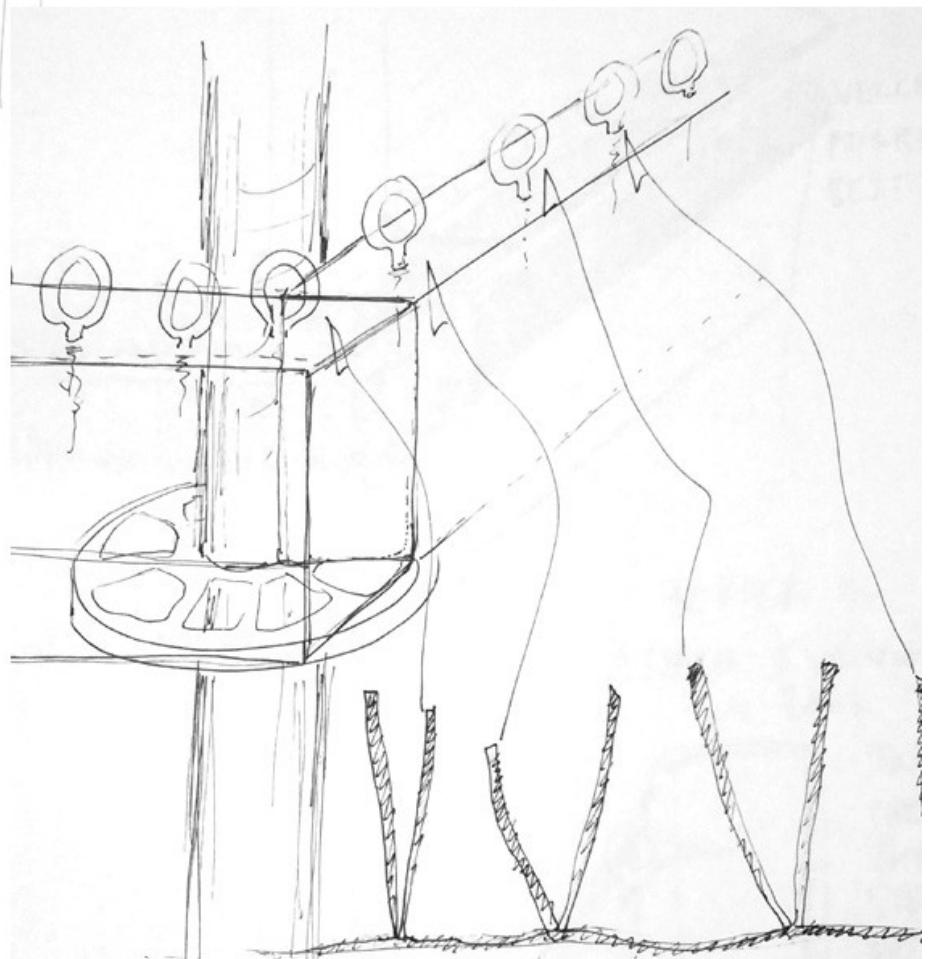
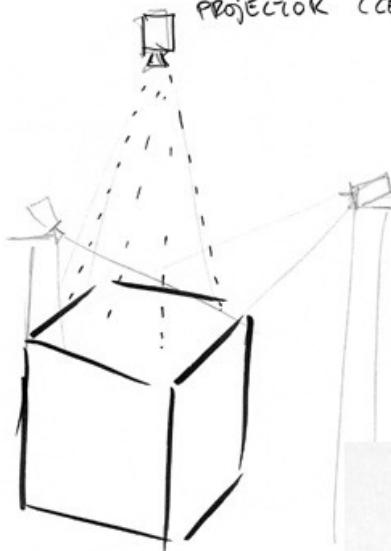
- BUILDING (MUSEUM, THEATRE, ETC)

- OBJECT

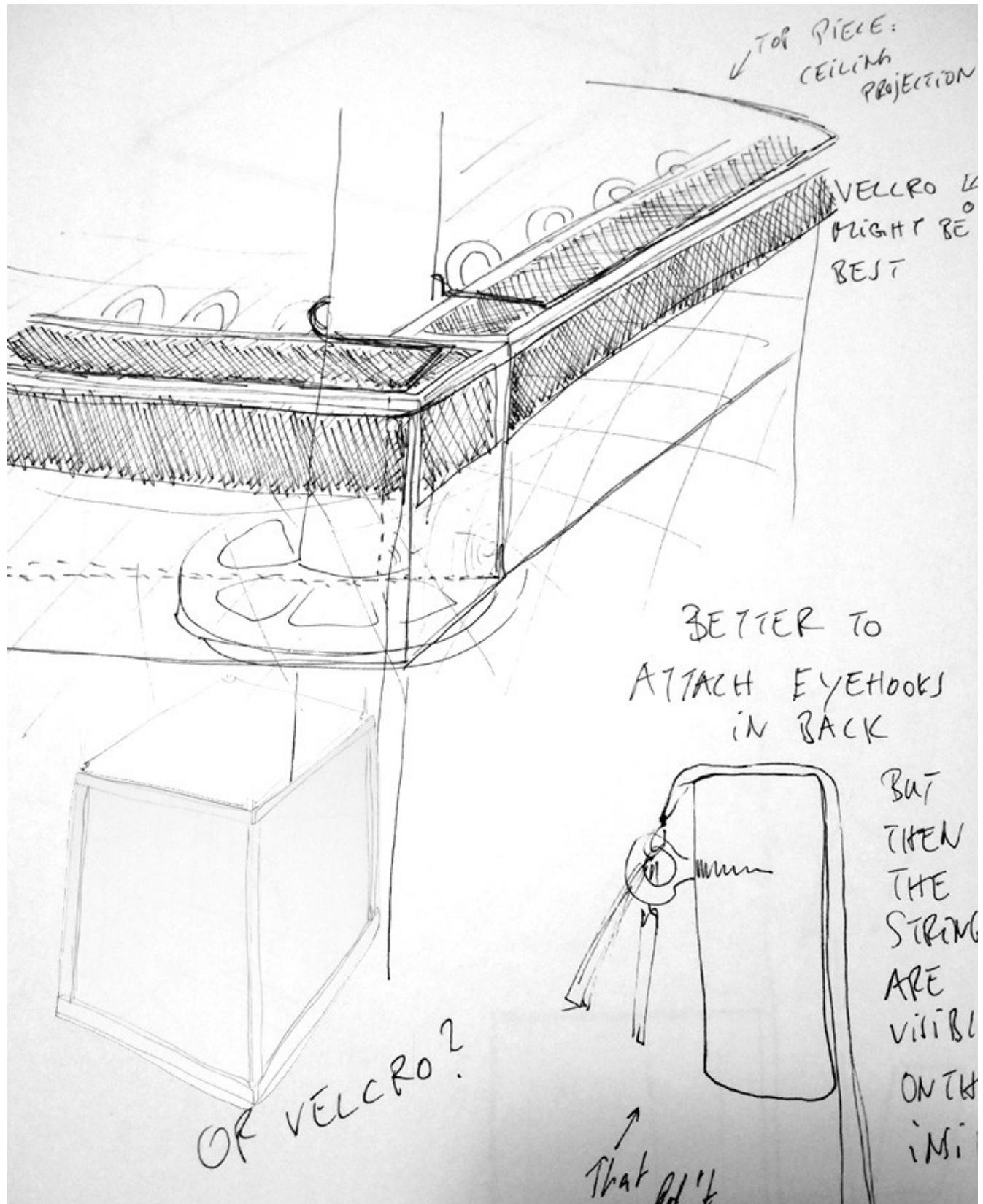
- SOCIETAL NORMS / RULES OF CONDUCT

More thoughts about interactivity and engagement.

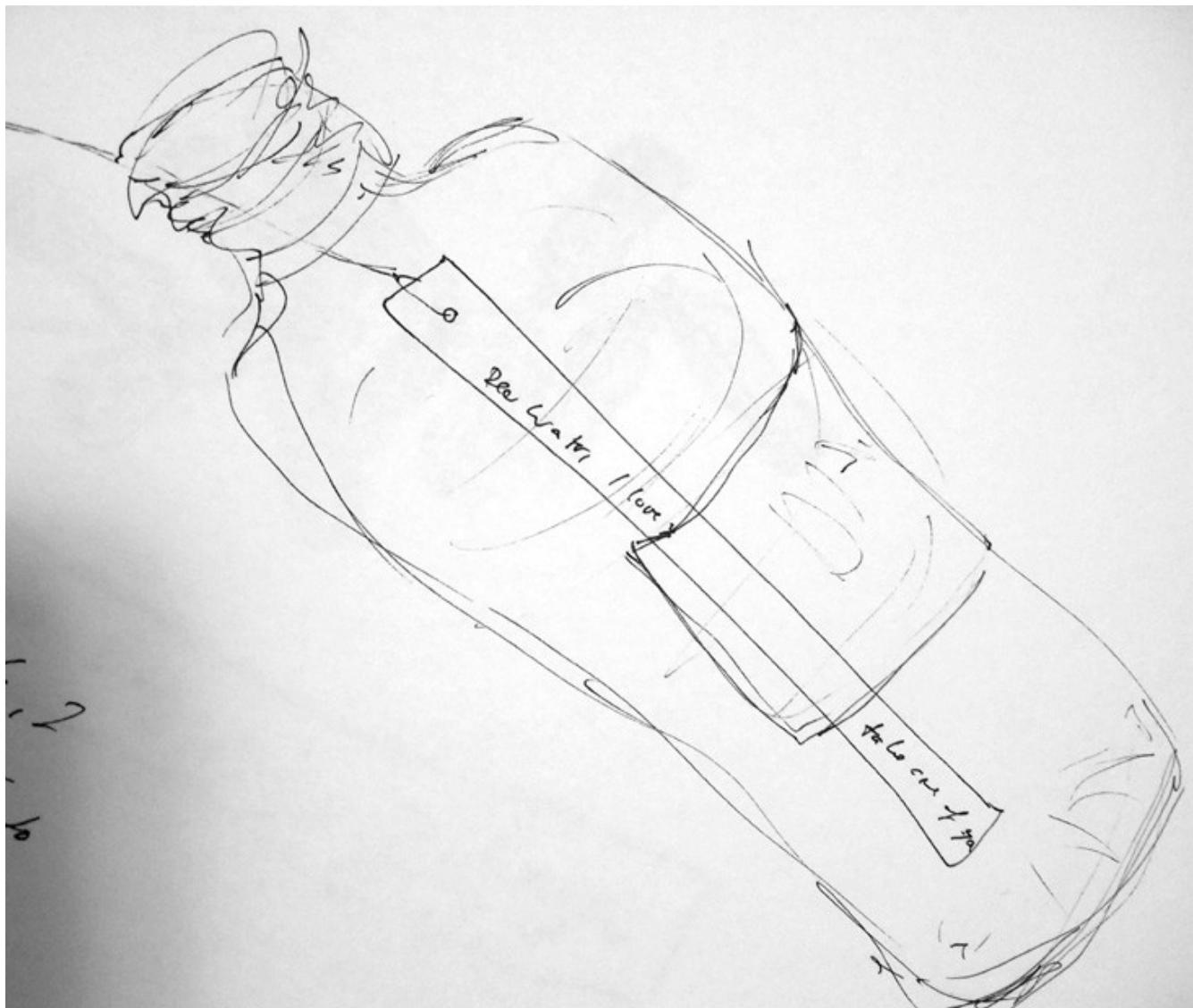
PROJECTOR (CEILING MOUNT)



Sketches for encapsulating the scaffolding to shelter the inside from view and to enhance projection possibilities.



More logistical renderings about enclosing with fabric, velcro, etc.



I read the messages inside the bottles,  
I add my own,

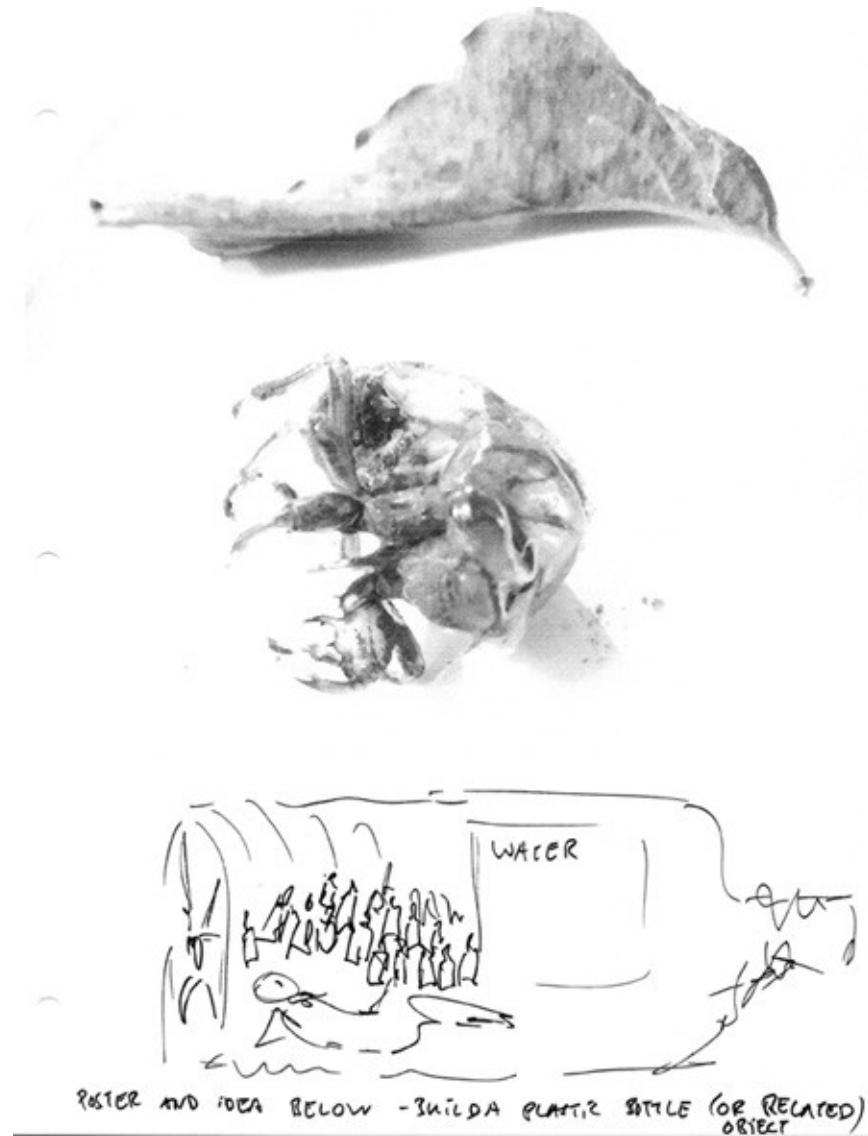
I take a piece of paper and a pencil.

I scribble my note and  
push it inside a bottle.

The space just got a little bit brighter.

*underground, ubiquitous, uncertainty  
victorious, vibrating, vein  
vapor*

*vanishing*



Thoughts about things that dry up. I am stuck inside an empty plastic bottle.

The video above cuts to images of trash as dense as the water's surface, seen from below. The turtle's view.

*warming*

*wild, whimsical, whirly, whisper*

*world*

*water*