

# **Authenticity, accidents and aesthetics in the 3D scanning of maritime Greenwich World Heritage site**

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## **Abstract**

The gestures of data, accidents and aesthetic beauty make the familiar strange. Captivate Spatial Modelling Research Group, based at the University of Greenwich, are building a model of the entire Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site above and below ground using LiDAR, photogrammetry, sound, ground penetrating radar, drones, and other remote sensing technologies. What seemed at the outset would be although a large endeavour relatively familiar once the data had been gathered, has become a strange and unfamiliar universe of beauty, accident and magic, a place of multiple authenticities at multiple scales, a place where as a brush leaves paint in gestures, the remote sensing devices themselves leave surprising gestures of data, digital paint, an aesthetic thickening of the data cloud. As the project has evolved any notion of a fixed definition of authenticity in these models have dissolved, and with that anxieties around fidelity faded. Certainly heritage standards of views with defined authenticities and fidelities can be generated from the digital models, but so can views of spatial imagination and aesthetic invention, spaces unseen, curiosities. We are now generating instances of these spatial curiosities and working with SOUND/IMAGE Research Centre in partnership to find sonic spatialities that expand the articulation of the digital models and likewise with sonic models.

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