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Award-winning designer, artist and researcher. Consultant in best practices, methodologies, and strategies for determining and communicating smell perceptions in global cities.

Pioneer in the field of sensory communication design (notably olfaction) whose work is commissioned by arts organisations, public bodies and private companies; Wellcome Collection, Arts Council England, NYC Department of Transportation, MAIF, Polestar.

International keynote speaker, commissioned author of the 'Atlas of Smellscape Maps' (fc Orion Press 2026), author of academic publications and peer reviewer whose work features in publications by Gestalten, National Geographic, NACIS, Ivy Press and Phaidon.

Global leader in development of smellwalking practices (200 walks in 25 countries), writer and cartographer.

// ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

McLean, K. and French, J. (2023) 'Two Centuries of Stink: Smell Mapping Widnes Past and Present'. In Steadman, C. and Coffin, J. (eds) *Consuming Atmospheres: Designing, Experiencing, and Researching Atmospheres in Consumption Spaces*. London: Routledge.

McLean, K (2022) 'Sniffs of failure: discomfort, unease and serendipity in sensory communication design'. In Hjorth, L. and Lammes, S. (eds) *Failurists: Reflections on and critical interventions in the field*. Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures.

McLean, K (2021). 'Temporalities of the smellscape: creative mapping as visual representation'. In Kühne, O., Edler, D., and Jenal, C (Eds.) *Modern Approaches to the Visualization of Landscapes*, Springer

McLean, K (2021). 'Sniffing Silchester Insula IX: Smells of Urban Roman Britain'. In Bonneau, X and Fragneau, V (Ed) *New Territories of the Olfactory Experience*, Infolio

McLean, K., Perkins, C (2020). 'Smell Walking and Mapping'. In Hall, S., Holmes, H. (Eds.), *Mundane Methods: Methodological Innovations for Exploring the Everyday*. Manchester: MUP

McLean, K (2019). 'Sensory Maps. In Kobayashi, A. (Ed.), *International Encyclopaedia of Human Geography 2nd Edition*, Elsevier

McLean, K., Lammes, S., & Perkins, C (2018). 'Mapping the quixotic volatility of smellscales: a triologue-interview with Kate McLean'. In S. Lammes, C. Perkins, A. Gekker, S. Hind, C. Wilmott, & D. Evans (Eds.), *Time for mapping*. Manchester: MUP.

Henshaw, V, McLean, K, Perkins, C, Medway, D, Warnaby, G (Eds) (2018) *"Designing with Smell"*, London: Routledge

McLean, K (2017). 'Mapping the Ephemeral'. In Kent, A & Vujakovic, P (Eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Mapping and Cartography*, London: Routledge

McLean, K (2017). 'Smellmap Amsterdam: Olfactory Art & Smell Visualisation'. *MIT Press, Leonardo Vol 50, Issue 1*

McLean, K (2016). 'Mapping the City's Smellscales'. In Harmon, K (Ed.) *You Are Here NYC: Mapping the Soul of the City*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press

McLean, K (2016) 'Ex-formation as Method for Mapping Smellscales'. *T&F Communication Design Vol. 3, Issue No. 2, 2015*

Quercia, D, Schifanella, R, Aiello, L, McLean, K (2015) 'Smelly Maps: Digital Lives of Urban Smellscales',

AAAI Publications, Ninth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Oxford, 2015

McLean, K. (2014) 'Smell Map Narratives of Place—Paris'. *New America Notes Online*, Issue 6

McLean, K (2013) 'Smellmap: Glasgow'. In *Proceedings of the 26th International Cartographic Conference*, Dresden

McLean, K. (2012) 'Emotion, Location and the Senses: A Virtual Dérive Smell Map of Paris'. In *Proceedings of the 8th International Design and Emotion Conference*, London

// SELECTED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

June 2024	Kitchen Theory / podcast with Jozef Youssef
June 2024	CBC Toronto, Canada / IDEAS Podcast: Smell: The Invisible Superpower
April 2024	Royal Society of Edinburgh / smellwalks and workshop
May 2023	University Teknologi MARA, Puncak Alam Campus, Malaysia / Guest lecture
Feb 2023	Kunst Museum, The Hague / Expert panellist Senses and Synaesthesia
Jan 2023	American Historical Association / Smellwalk Philadelphia
Oct 2022	Wellcome Collection. In the air / Archive of Everyday Smells workshop
2019 – 2021	Arts Council funded 'Two Centuries of Stink' with Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum, Widnes – smellwalks, research, design, talks
Nov 2019	Walmer Yard architectural series 'The Lesser Senses', smellwalk
Jul 2019	Atlas Obscura filming in Canterbury
May 2019	BBC World 'Animal Impossible' series smell expert
Nov 2018	Fifth Sense (Anosmia Charitable Foundation) workshop and data visualisation of patient journey
Oct 2018	Kew Gardens. Youth training day 'Sensory Knowledge'
May 2018	Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum / smellwalk and data visualisation public engagement workshop
Apr 2018	National Portrait Gallery. 'Twilight Walk: Monet and the Thames'
Nov 2017	British Library. 'Smellscape Mapping' public lecture
Oct 2017	FoST, NYC. smellwalks & Ephemeral Graffiti Map
Aug 2017	Somerset House. 'Synaesthesia Late' public smellfie smellwalks
Aug 2017	NYC Department of Transportation Summer Streets Arts Programme / 'Smellmap: Astor Place' smellwalks and maps
Jul 2017	Wellcome Collection. 'Nature Wanders' public smellwalk
Apr 2017	Bretton Greens Project. Community smellwalk exploration
Jun 2016	Whitstable Biennale. Public smellwalk expedition
Nov 2015	FifthSense. Paired smellwalks & visualisation with anosmics and normosmics
Jun 2015	Ellesmere Port Public Art. Smellwalk & visualisation (public engagement)
Feb 2015	Jean Perrin Design School, Marseille, France. Smellscape Mapping workshops & lectures (with undergraduate design students)
Oct 2014	Mapamundistas. 5 smellwalks (public engagement) & bespoke animated Smellmap: Pamplona, artist's talk, exhibition

// CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Nov 2019	XI National Landscape Architecture Conference, Guadalajara, Mexico. Smellscape mapping
Jan 2016	EPSRC Adaptation and Resilience in the Context of Change, London, UK.

// SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jan 2023	American Historical Society, Philadelphia. Visualising Historical Smell Narratives.
Sep 2022	Eastern Arc, University of Essex. AR 'scapes: Voices from the Concrete Barges
May 2020	Uncommon Senses III, The Future of the Senses, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.
Jun 2017	Human Olfaction Conference, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics Nijmegen, Netherlands. 'Olfacto-visual communication'
Oct 2016	Charting the Digital Final Conference: Discourse, Disruption, Design, Detour, Warwick University in Venice, Italy. 'Temporalities in the smellscape'
Jun 2016	Design Research Society Conference, Brighton, UK. 'Embodied knowledge'
Jan 2014	8th International Conference of Design Principles and Practices, Vancouver, Canada. 'Representing Smell'
Sep 2013	International Cartography Conference, Dresden, Germany. Smellmap Glasgow
May 2013	Urban History Group Conference, York, UK. 'Telling a smelly spatial story'
Sep 2012	International Design and Emotion Conference, London, UK. Emotion, Location and the Senses. 'A Virtual Dérive Smell Map of Paris'

// SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

July 2021 – Jan 2022	'200 Years of Stink' / Solo, by invitation / Curated by: French, J / Catalyst Museum of Chemical Heritage, Widnes, UK
Sept 2021 – Nov 2021	'Entorno, Encuentro, Exploración' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Sobremesa Team / Museo Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona
Jan 2020 – Feb 2020	'Charting the World' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Davidson, D / Suffolk University Gallery, Boston, USA
Feb 2019 – Feb 2020	'Quel flair !' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Leibling, C / le Musée de la main UNIL-CHUV, Lausanne
Apr 2018 – Sept 2018	'The Senses: Design Beyond Vision' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Lupton, E / Cooper Hewitt Design Museum, NYC
July 2016 – Mar 2017	'You Are Here' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Williams, P / National Library of Scotland touring exhibit
November 2014	IEEE VIS 2014 Arts Program / Group, by blind peer-review / Curated by: Forbes, A & Chevalier, F / Marriott Rive-Gauche, Paris
October 2014	'Las consecuencias del mapa' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Baurés, A / Pamplona, Spain
May – Jul 2014	'Atlas' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Reid, J / Jam Factory Arts, Oxford, UK
April 2014	'Smellmaps: Amsterdam' / Solo, collaboration with International Flavors & Fragrances, NL / Mediamatic, Amsterdam
Nov 2013	'Nostalgias: Visualising Longing' / Group, by invitation / Curated by: Vale, S & Takvam, M / Pie Factory, Margate, UK
Sept 2012	'Smellmap: Glasgow' / Solo, temporary exhibit by invitation / Glasgow Science Centre, UK
Mar – Jun 2011	Edinburgh International Science Festival, UK / Group, by invitation

// ARTWORKS SELECTED AS EXEMPLAR BY MAJOR PUBLISHING HOUSES

2024	40 Maps That Will Change How You See the World, Ivy Press
2020	Scent, Gestalten
2018	Map the World, National Geographic

2017 You are here NYC, Harmon, Princeton Architectural Press
2017 Map, Phaidon
2017 Mind the Map, Gestalten

// ORIGINAL ARTWORKS ACQUIRED BY PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Acquired 2021 Catalyst Museum of Chemical Heritage / 'Two Centuries of Stink, Widnes, 2021'
Acquired 2019 Musée de la main, Lausanne / 'Carte des odeurs, Lausanne, Suisse, 2019'
Acquired 2018 NYC Department of Transportation /
Acquired 2015 University of Manchester Map Library / Sensory Maps x 7
Acquired 2014 Mapamundistas, Pamplona, Spain / 'Smellmap: Pamplona'
Acquired 2013 National Library of Scotland / Series of Sensory Maps of Edinburgh and 'Scents of Glasgow 2012'

// EDUCATION

2013 – 2019 PhD: Royal College of Art, London, UK. Part-time, employer-funded
Title: Nose-first: practices of smellwalking and smellscape mapping
Supervisors: Prof Teal Triggs (RCA) and Chris Perkins (University of Manchester)
2009 – 2011 MFA Graphic Design (Distinction), Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK
Title: Sensory Mapping. Supervisor: Zoe Patterson
2001 – 2004 Diploma, Graphic Design (Summa cum laude), NESADSU, Boston, MA, USA
1984 – 1988 BA (Hons) Related Arts, University College, Chichester, UK

// TEACHING / ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2021 – present Programme Director, Graphic Design / University of Kent, UK
Introduction of Graphic Design as a degree to the University of Kent.
Establishment, design and on-going responsibility for a new graphic design course. Funded research 'AR and narrative in Olfactory Intangible Heritage'
2017 – 2021 Programme Director, Graphic Design / Canterbury Christ Church University, UK
Responsible for strategic direction, design, development and delivery of curricula
Undergrad teaching. REF submissions 2014, 2021.
2012 – 2021 Senior lecturer / Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.
2010 – 2012 Adjunct professor, summer semesters / Suffolk University, Boston, USA
1995 – 2001 Head of ICT, Verdin High School, Winsford, UK
1991 – 1995 Teacher of Design Technology, Macclesfield, UK

// PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2021 Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, CCCU, UK
2017 Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, CCCU, UK
1989 – 1991 Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

// PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2018 – 2021 Graphic Design Educators Network
2013 – present British Cartographic Association
2011 – present International Society of Typographic Designers – MISTD

// REFERENCES

Prof Teal Triggs (RCA), Prof Sybille Lammes (University of Leiden), Chloe Street-Tarbatt (University of Kent), Prof Sybille Lammes (University of Lieden)