

Channeling

Sam Marshall Lockyer

17 April - 6 June, 2025

Opening 17 April, 17:00 - 21:00

7 years ago I wrote this in a sketchbook

De Gamond was a French engineer who plunged beneath the channel in a homemade diving suit and drew up plans to link the two land masses together. I look him up-

- Aimé Thomé de Gamond (1807-76) was a French entrepreneur who believed in the feasibility of constructing a Channel Tunnel under the Straits of Dover. However, despite his enthusiasm for such a venture, he died ridiculed and penniless because the project was not in conjunction with-

Try try try and try again or is it fail fail fail and fail again?

Wrapping up clay hips, shoulders, in my blue puffer jacket, also bubble wrap, also a flannel shirt, putting it all in a suitcase and wheeling it onto Great Western Railway, London Underground, the Eurostar, Tram 81.

Isambard Kingdom- Brunel 1800-1859

Thames Tunnel

Unrealised plans

Lost ideas

Ventilation

Sanitation

Consideration

Some more notes I find in my sketchbook:

Tunnel networks

through the body and the mountains

Under the sea

dark passages

That could collapse

Vertical sheets

Hanging and growing

Falling off, wrapping around

Flaps and layers

An eternal flushing of bottoms

-To beg for what you without your want may spare-

The building of a ship and a sail

I'm working in an office and I've drunk 6 cups of coffee, I want to shred the cardboard box under my desk, I want to glue this bureaucracy into a mound of wet paper that's gone grey and sloppy and dries hard.

A custom bonded enclave, cooker in the earth, graphs on the floor, the drowned world of Doggerland, - Hugo Grotius escapes life imprisonment in a book chest in 1621- wrote Mare Liberum, precursor to the shipping container that brought this wood and cardboard- then Grotius died in a shipwreck in 1645, washed up in Rostock, aged 62.

No pictures, just physical space, taken up transiently, moving things from A to B, it's tiring, it's the arrow of time, entropy, drink some tea, unwrap the snack, getting in the box, Hansa shipping company

Some additional notes from George, briefly:

Tunnel

Channel

Hole

Space

Termiting vs Erosion

Hole as a seed - "armature" "wire in the brain"

Cast offs

Barbara Hepworth

More than this- Lutz Bacher

Cavemanman, Lascaux III - Thomas Hirschhorn

System Failure- Maren Karlson

The artist as failed office worker, dreaming of transportation and buried distributions and systems. An x-ray of preciousness, showing up empty but secure.

*"The mistakes that I've made have given me the strength
To really believe
And no matter how I take it, there's no way I'm gonna fake it
'Cos it's gotta be real
I've got nothing left to hide, no reason left to fight
'Cos the truth's given me
A new freedom inside
getting rid of my desire
I'm not the same
I'm not the same"*

Kylie Minogue (again)

Last excerpt, found later

Isabelle Laure Gatti de Gamond (1839 –1905) was a Belgian educationalist, feminist, and politician. She was the second of four daughters born to Giovanni Gatti, an Italian artist, and feminist writer Zoé de Gamond, of Brussels. Born in Paris, her family moved to Brussels when she was five, having lost their fortune in a failed phalanstère—a utopian community inspired by the writings of utopian socialist Charles Fourier—at Cîteaux.

Sam Marshall Lockyer & George Rippon