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### **Mock Rationale**

My project, „The Death Will Be Bright”, has its roots in - arguably - the most pressing challenge of the 21st century, which is climate change. While this may not be the most original topic, I chose it as it corresponded well with the themes that were prominent during the Creative Coding & Creative Computing Frameworks module. One of the things that interested me the most in that module was the possibility of translating data into visual elements - the artwork „Black Shoals Stock Market Planetarium (2000-2016)” that was presented during Pauline van Mourik Broekmann’s lecture made a huge impression on me, as it was able to clearly translate complex which seem abstract (fluctuations of the stock market) into beautiful celestial structures, while offering a fresh perspective on how society naturalises concepts which are abstract and not natural (Mourik Broekmann, 2022).

My goal was to present something that would cause positive reaction, and then to show it becoming distorted or destroyed in some way. The end effect was supposed to be an effect of loss. For my project, I decided to turn this approach upside down and to present how changes in nature can seem alien, eerie, uncanny. Another project I was inspired by was „This climate does not exist”, which we explored during the Introducing Computational Futures, AI and Machine Learning module in week 8. In that artwork, a viewer can choose some landscape that is familiar to them, a location that they value - and then, through cGAN-generated simulation, that landscape is shown affected by some kind of extreme weather condition (ex. flood) (Mila, 2022). I think that this is an efficient example, as it firstly displays an image that the viewer can find comforting, and then shows how it can be „destroyed”.

My main idea was to show that effects of certain events can cause different reactions based on the environment that surrounds them. In my work, I decided to use a picture that I took in November 2017 in a botanical garden in Barcelona. The picture has been slightly edited to have a golden hue and overall warm colours, which aim was to trigger a positive reaction. My initial idea was to make the brightness of the „future” picture gradually higher. I was working on two datasets - one coming from live weather API (Open-Meteo, 2022) and relating to the air temperature in Barcelona, and another - relating to the prognosis of temperature rise in the Mediterranean region (MedEC, 2022). The „live” part of the project - the picture on the left - is getting brighter or darker in relation to the changes in the temperature of air in Barcelona. To achieve that, firstly checked if the data from live weather API that I was using correlates to the typical air temperature in that area, which usually ranges from 8.6 to 17.41 (Met Office, 2022). I initially thought about using the `brightness()` function, however, after reading its reference page (Ye & McCarthy, 2022a), I realised that it is only working with regards to objects, not pictures. I managed to make that work using each RGB value separately, firstly using `loadPixels()` function. (Ye & McCarthy, 2022b). It turned out that the differences would be too small to notice, so I magnified each value by 2 - this ensures the dynamism of the project.

On the other side, the picture on the right will become even brighter, relating to the prognosis of the air temperature rise in the Mediterranean region - it is calculated that the average temperature in that region will be from 2 to 6 degrees Celsius higher than now. Here, I used `random()` function - the function randomly draws a number from the 2-4 interval, to show the unpredictability of the future.



*Fig. 1. A screenshot of Death Will Be Bright by Trydulska, I. (2022).*

## Reference list

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