

Week 9 Response

Refik Anadol's *Wind of Boston: Data Paintings*

Wind of Boston: Data Paintings is a series of data paintings by Refik Anadol displayed on a 6' x 13' digital canvas that shows Boston's wind patterns (Refik Anadol Studi). The data was taken from Boston Logan Airport for a year and its speed, direction, and gust pattern was collected and visualized (Refik Anadol Studi).

In his interview for *Space In the Mind of a Machine*, Anadol explains how he uses data as material and how humans living in the 21st century are experiencing a sense of displacement brought about by the advent of technology (AA School). I am drawn to this artwork because he managed to visualize an invisible element like wind, capturing it in a beautiful digital painting. I often get bored looking at data that is represented as huge pools of numbers because I feel disconnected from it, emotionally and aesthetically. Anadol reinforced the living qualities of wind by selecting a fitting representation that resembles wind patterns on a screen. One of the downsides of the artwork is that I cannot decipher what the data is. Perhaps it was never the intention for Anadol to make this an informative piece, and rather it was meant to be looked at as a contemplative piece. What's most interesting is that the piece is placed inside a commercial building—I can imagine workers looking at it during their breaks and feeling instantly relaxed with its connection to nature. *Wind of Boston* drives people in the urban environment to be closer to the content of its data: wind and the natural environment.

Works Cited

AA School.

<https://www.aaschool.ac.uk/publicprogramme/whatson/space-in-the-mind-of-a-machine>.

Refik Anadol Studio. "Wind of Boston: Data Paintings." *Refik Anadol*, 16 Nov. 2017,

<https://refikanadol.com/works/wind-of-boston-data-paintings/?i=m>.