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# ATLAS

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2020

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## MODULE 01: ATLAS

While you might think of an Atlas as a straightforward collection of maps in a volume that objectively delineate the landforms of this Earth, the earliest Atlases (like Mercator's from 1595) were more speculative, filled with luscious imagery and annotations that describe field conditions and observations of cities and states, surrounded by engravings of monsters and myths, fauna and flora. <sup>01</sup> Mercator (and many others) made dense maps as works of art and world-building.

You will create an Atlas throughout the first half of the quarter.

Your Atlas is a collection of maps and drawings that dutifully (and beautifully!) delineate the contemporary social, cultural, economic, etc, etc, landscapes of this country in all its beauty and turmoil. Reveal the human condition – what does it mean to be human? Document post-industrial rust-belt rewilding. Merge time and space on three axes. Which way – and when – do the monarchs pass? Map the nuclear clouds and synthetic manufactured atmospheres. What can we learn about agricultural land-use in this new millennium? Who, what, and where is our methane footprint define? Etc, etc, etc.

The goal for your Atlas is to draw out and visualize timely, topical, contextual, and provocative background knowledge that addresses the pedagogical aim of the Superstudio and its inherent goals of decarbonization, justice, and jobs. <sup>02</sup> The Atlas should position you to make a convincing and grounded project proposal at midterm. Your Atlas should fundamentally be your own work and voice the narrative that you want to tell going forward. Design prompts will be shared throughout the quarter for inclusion in your Atlas. These are Eidetic Images, Core Samples, and Mappings. However, these are a launch ramp, a kick-off, a point of departure. Your Atlas requires additional creative works that round out your own narrative.

It is imperative that you seek out and find subjects of interest that excite you, and for you to bring them into the pages of your Atlas. Translate this passion into luscious drawings, dense investigations, radical positions, dramatic reveals, arguments, and rough ideas. It is a substantial reference, collection, and summary of your intentions; and contains both your provocations and reactions.

Through the first days of the quarter, consider what form your Atlas might take overall. You will set the tone, define the scope, and ultimately give it meaning through the creative works inside. It must work as a “whole” while at the same time, revealing new truths with every turn of the page.

Evaluation of your Atlas will be based upon A) quality of research process, B) quality of graphic development, and C) quality and relevance of proposed operative project.

<sup>01</sup> \_ <https://www.loc.gov/resource/rbc.2003rosen0730/?st=gallery>

<sup>02</sup> \_ <https://www.lafoundation.org/take-action/green-new-deal/superstudio>