

DUST, the first and most common measure of smallness, substantiates the work of, and with things. It is a lively field of study of the earth and space sciences, of forensics, practical and industrial medicine and health organizations, and it is a matter of intrigue for philosophical discourse, the development of innovative materials and technology as well as, for the Arts. In the archeology of knowledge derived from dust studies and interpretations, many previously established concepts of dust - such as innocuous and even dreamy - have now vanished, turned to dust. From Victorian to modern ages, dust has come to signify the rising of industry, a reminder of decay; and been used to quantify filth and pollution; but also to be defined as enemy of a clean household and an agent of deterioration of home and museum collections: i.e. a vengeful form of mismanagement.

Today, dust is broadly regarded as a threat to human health, the environment and thus to society. In the advanced society of the XXI century, visible dust is (re)moved from the surface of most things, vacuumed from most of our livable spaces. At home, it persistently appears on floors, blinds, electronics and lighting fixtures, on top of doors, windows and cabinets, baseboards and carpets, moving us into efforts of cleaning and/or of distraction.

Recent close-up photography of dust, from optical microscopes, have allowed us to access a significant invisible realm made up of particulate matters: i.e. natural and synthetic particles whose micro-material complexity can deteriorate the air quality of our cities and urban spaces as well as our interiors - both of bodies and buildings. A

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○ sample of dust collected from vacuum cleaner - and as sent to analysis



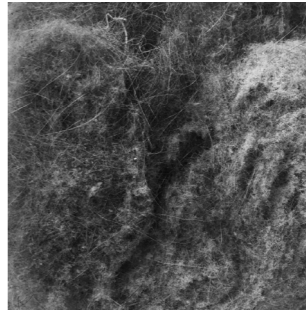
substantial and growing collection of evidence shows the extent to which human exposure to outdoor dust occurs indoors, including in the safe haven of our homes.

As a result of the divisibility (and mobility) of all matter, domestic dust is varied in composition. Its most common components are: smoke and soil particles; vehicular matter like exhaust and tire particles; pollen; animal fur and hair; dead skin; food scraps; textiles and plastic fibers; (toxic) chemicals and mites. Yet, all of this microscale universe is often swept to the margins of our society. The images presented here were captured by a digital microscope camera (focus 1600x) from

other records. Although, at the time of this print, I cannot exactly precise the nature of the records, these also testify and (re)present the different rituals in, and characteristics of my home spaces.

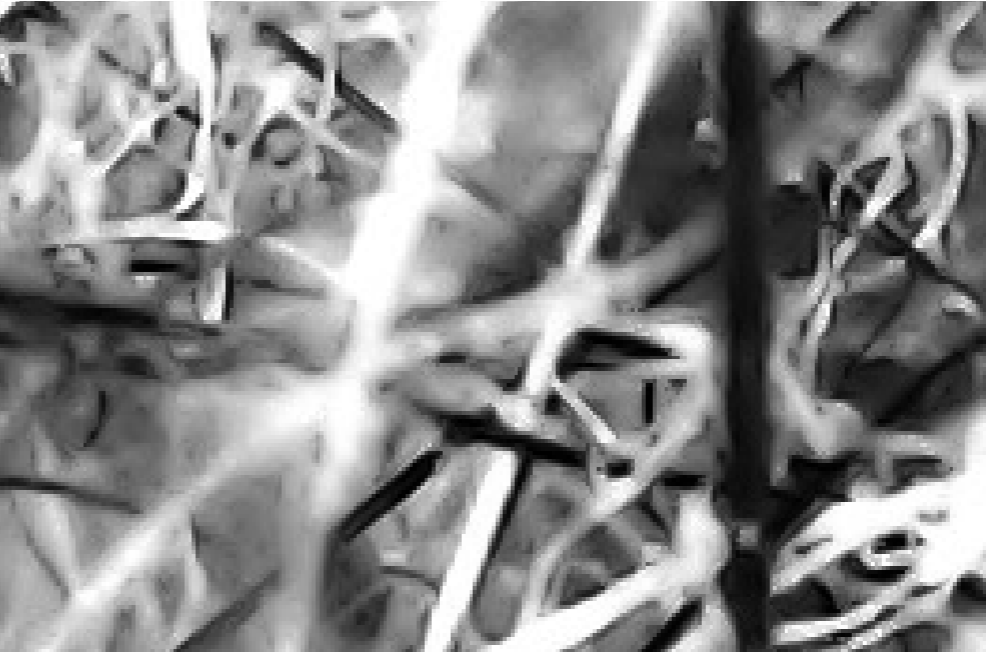
In the dust samples my house materials and appliances are archived.

The dust samples collected contain and reflect the passing of time in, and use of my house spaces, and from my the crumbling of things I own and consume, my vacuum cleaner on the 23rd November, 2020. It DNA and dietary habits, contains and represents as much as the renewal of the material traces of my all my traces and possibly existence, the clothes I wear, what I eat as well as the presence of my pet, reminder of the staying remnants of lovers and dominating power of neighbours, construction matter. It does, as Bataille sites, biological filaments put it in *Encyclopaedia* from plants and numerous *Acephalica*, haunts space.





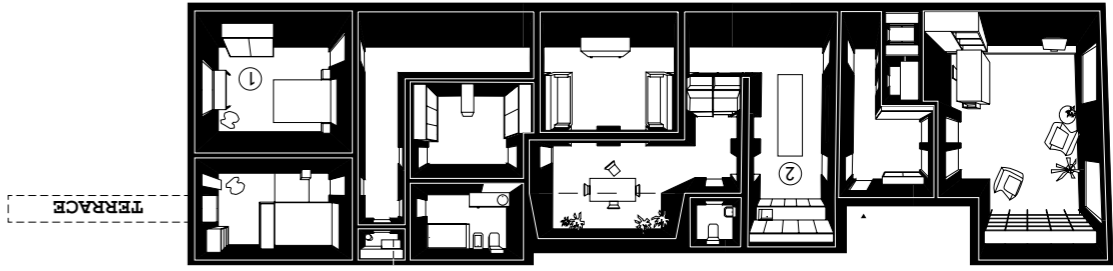
Chaneling Pollock, 2020
by Joana Rafael



DUST encloses and discloses ultra-fine records of the material strata of our world. With the help of a microscope, we may number the dust different particles, read and analyse patterns, access the past and the many dynamics of, and *in* spaces. We may observe how things decompose, dry and powder, and through decay acquire new identity.

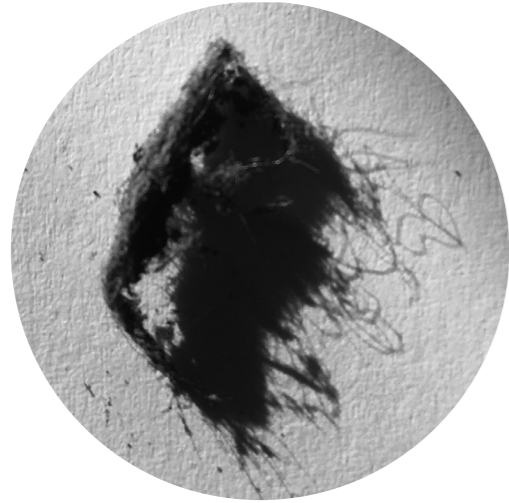
From cosmic to domestic, for forensics to biology, geography and history, dust has helped to confer visibility to things and presences, to revive movements and encounters, study far-off winds and roads traffic. Dust yields answers. This is the utility of dust.

Hacking into dust have allowed, and allows, us to defy the usual ways of thinking about space and our cities or environments, as well as of life itself. In a sample of dust, and the lens of a microscope, someone as myself, without professional training in fields of study aimed at analysing and evaluating dust or of investigating into it - its components, processes and transport dynamics -, may be tempted to conjure with, and stereotypy the dust's miniature and animistic features. Dust orient our attention to the presence of a phenomenal community, a place where all parts of us all, living beings and inanimate entities, incessantly gather.



2020
by Joana Rafael

② sample of dust collected from top of kitchen cabinet



Treated as, and transferred to low-status metaphors, dust haunts even language. It hovers in air as around some of the contemporary streets and slang names for opiates, as well as attached to vulgar and humiliating terms and phrases.

In addition, dust is often addressed as:

- Bite the dust.
- Smoke dust,
- Dust the dust.
- Fucking dust.
- Leave it dusty, dusting.
- It's a dust.
- Better to dust it, before you dust.
- Is this not also your dust?*

Beggars' Velvet, the downy particles that accumulate under furniture from the negligence of housemaids. Otherwise called slut's wool.

OR:

Gullyfluff, the waste-coagulated dust, crumbs, and hair—which accumulates imperceptibly in the pockets of schoolboys.

Dust, money; "down with the dust," put down the money.

Dust, a disturbance, or noise, "to raise a dust," to make a row.

Dust, to beat; "dust one's jacket," i.e., give him a beating.

Dusty, a phrase used in answering a question where one expects approbation. "What do you think of this?" "Well, it's not so

as in John Camen
Hotte's The Slang
Disctionary (2013)

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