Cumulus Oculi

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Today, climate change is an undeniable concern as we humans are continually increasing our emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The main source of climate change once come from the eruption of volcanoes releasing immense amounts of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere, however people are now the greatest source of sulfur dioxide and climate change. We feel that until people make a conscious decision to lessen their role as a pollutant, global warming will only continue to get worse.

Governments are hoping to implore people and companies to reduce their global impact by beginning to place higher taxes on gasoline and carbon dioxide emissions in an effort to cut back on the outpouring of greenhouse gases. While many individuals and companies have taken steps towards reducing their carbon footprint, a greater effort needs to manifest in order to prevent the devastating social and economical losses associated with global warming. While removing sources of pollution is an excellent start towards eliminating this global threat, the dangers of pollution that have already been released into the atmosphere will continue to linger until the air is purified.

Cumulus Oculi, a speculative class studio project, is an air purification system that filters and recycles polluted air. Self-assembling itself over a city, this filtration system raises awareness of individuals' role as not only a polluter but also a contributor to our threating air quality. Dense clusters of Oculi are seen over larger cities where the pollution is denser than normal and actively filters the air. As dirty air is filtered through the Cumulus Oculi, the Oculi illuminates, indicating that polluted air is being filtered and recycled back into the city and encourages society to pollute less.

The flashes of light serve as an indication of pollution density present in a city. Where there are more lights, there is a greater degree of pollution that is being filtered back to clean air. While Cumulus Oculi has an immediate social impact as it brings awareness to every individual's role as a polluter, it additionally produces global awareness. Air pollution data can be calculated, reviewed and compared among countries. Cumulus Oculi serves as a live-stream visual of the changes in atmospheric pollution, enticing individuals around the world to do their part in minimizing the production and emission of pollution.

This installation within the gallery is a sampling of the proposed Cumulus Oculi. Cumulus Oculi is a built environment personified through light. Dormant in its solitary state, this environment is awakened by the user who navigates through the space. The user experiences the environment's awakened state through its responsive illumination. Once the user leaves the environment it returns to dormancy. The sensors located within specific oculi detect users movement through space. Once a user triggers a sensor, a light illuminates inside a corresponding oculi. The environment's unpredicted response causes users to analyze how their interactions effect the environment.

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