

TAMESIOLOGY



by
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Pseudo-mineral. 113 x 69 x 36 mm. 81 g.

The project Tamesiology is an aesthetic and academic research about matter. The context being the Thames' foreshore, the title borrows the river's ancient name Tamesas and renders the study of the Thames a discipline per se.

To understand the foreshore's exceptionally diverse landscape, a classification of matter in 6 degrees has been made, considering all types of substances collected as being the contemporary geological constitution of the riverbed: indigenous, imported and modified natural matter, then man-made materials from natural source, synthetic polymers and conglomerates of all types. Within this classification, synthetic polymers, i.e. plastics, resembling minerals and rocks, form a new taxonomy called Pseudo-mineral. This new classification scheme is an extrapolation on the geology of Anthropocene.

Utilising scientific concepts and museum aesthetics, the project aims to integrate this speculative approach to narrations concerning our environment that are produced by science. This serves also to introduce the idea of Pseudo-mimesis: the phenomenon of man-made materials eclipsing their original identity and taking the appearance of natural elements by being subject to weathering in the natural environment. This observation arose from the confusion in my perception between man-made and natural specimens whilst combing the foreshore. This led to the search for matches between natural and man-made specimens that look alike in order to create pairs or small groups that usurp our intuitive cognition by the use of analogies. The long process of the search for perfect matches becomes an ever-changing repertoire of shapes: a working tool presented as the Pseudo-mimesis research table.

Existentially, this practice is an infinite quest in pursuit of a, perhaps unreachable, ideal.



Selfportrait on the foreshore at low tide, Ballast Quay, November 2017.
Preceding page: Pseudo-hornwrack, *polypropylene foliacea*, dry (out of water).

DEGREES

1st ° INDIGENEOUS MATTER

flint
freswater snail shells
fossils
wood
animal and human bones



Flint nodule.
65x170x47mm. 184g.
Deptford wharf.
Indigenous to the
Thames' riverbed. In
prehistorical times, the
foreshore was the main
source of raw material
for stone tools. In the
17th. c, flint was broken
into small squares and
used in flintlock guns
to generate sparks
and ignite gunpowder.
Gunflints can be found
on the foreshore and in
shipwrecks sank in the
estuary. Art amateurs
refer to this peculiar type
of flint nodule as the
Henry Moore flint.

2nd° IMPORTED NATURAL MATTER

chalk
oyster shells
coral
fruit cores
coconuts



Diploria strigosa also
called brain coral.
125x83x55mm. 325g.
Barnards wharf.
centuries, coral, basalt,
small or large stones,
metal, etc. were
collected on beaches
on the other side of
the world and used as
ballast in large ships
requiring more weight
for the vessel's stability.
On arrival in London, the
ballast was off loaded
into the river. The coral
found in the Thames
is usually from the
Caribbean and South-
East Asia.

3rd ° IMPORTED NATURAL MATTER MODIFIED

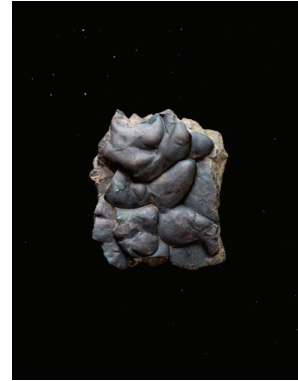
animal bones
perforated oyster shells
slate
granit



Cattle bone.
49x123x33mm. 121g.
Croley wharf.
The foreshore running
adjacent to the Prime
Meridian is remarkably
dense with thousands
of bones. Speculations
go that the bones likely
come from the Placencia
Palace's kitchens
between the 15th. and
17th. c. Chunks of
carcasses from cattle,
game, sheeps and pigs
would have been directly
discarded into the river.
Thousands of tides
over centuries have
rounded the edges of
chopped bones to give
them abstract, sculptural
forms.

4th ° IMPORTED NATURAL MATTER TRANSFORMED

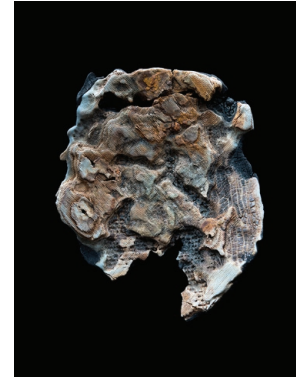
metal
clinker
slag
composite wood
tar
brick



Ferrous slag, also called
iron slag. 74x85x39mm.
907g. Burrells wharf.
large chunks of iron
slag were used to
stabilize the foreshore's
muddy banks and
provided soft beds
for barges at low tide.
Iron slag is generated
as a by-product of the
manufacturing process
of iron extraction.

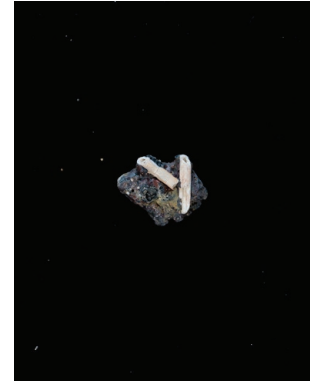
5th ° PSEUDO- MINERALS

plastics
bakelite
nylon
synthetic rubber
polypropylene



Unidentified
pseudo-mineral.
163x163x11mm. 147g.
Enderby's wharf.
The composition of this
pseudo-mineral still
needs to be analysed.
The layering structure
indicates that the sample
is probably a fragment
car tyre.

6th ° AGGLOMERATE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF MATERIALS

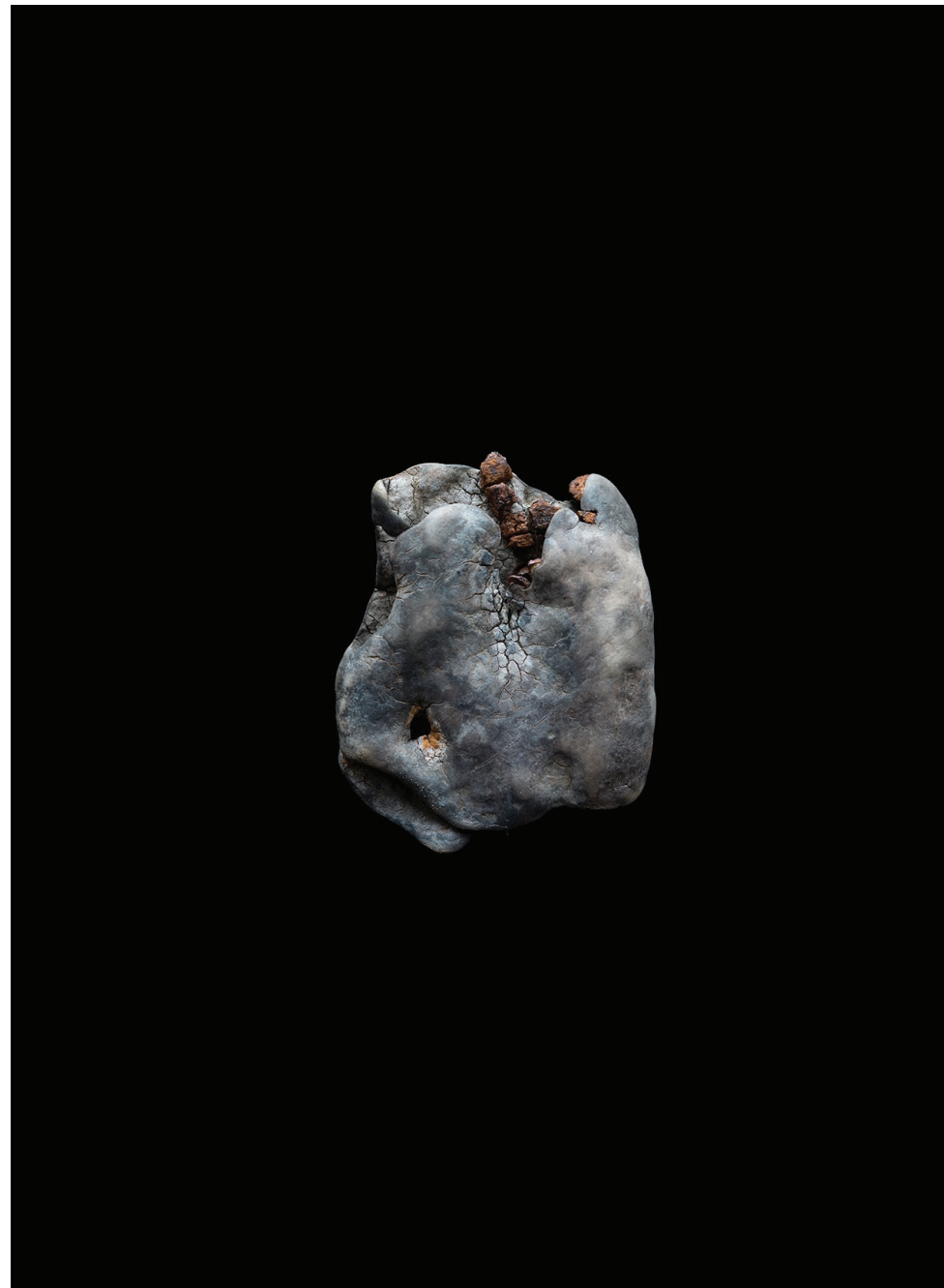


Clinker and clay pipe
necks. 46x37x19mm.
17g. Ballast quay.
This sample of clinker
resembles buchite
clinker of natural
formation. But the two
fragments of clay pipe
necks entrapped within
indicates that it is more
likely to be a waste
product from coal-mining
dumps. Workers would
have disposed of their
clay pipes in the dump,
where the pipes would
have merged with
clinker still in fusion.
The percularity of this
specimen is that it could
be regarded to a fossil of
the modern age.

PSEUDO-MINERALS



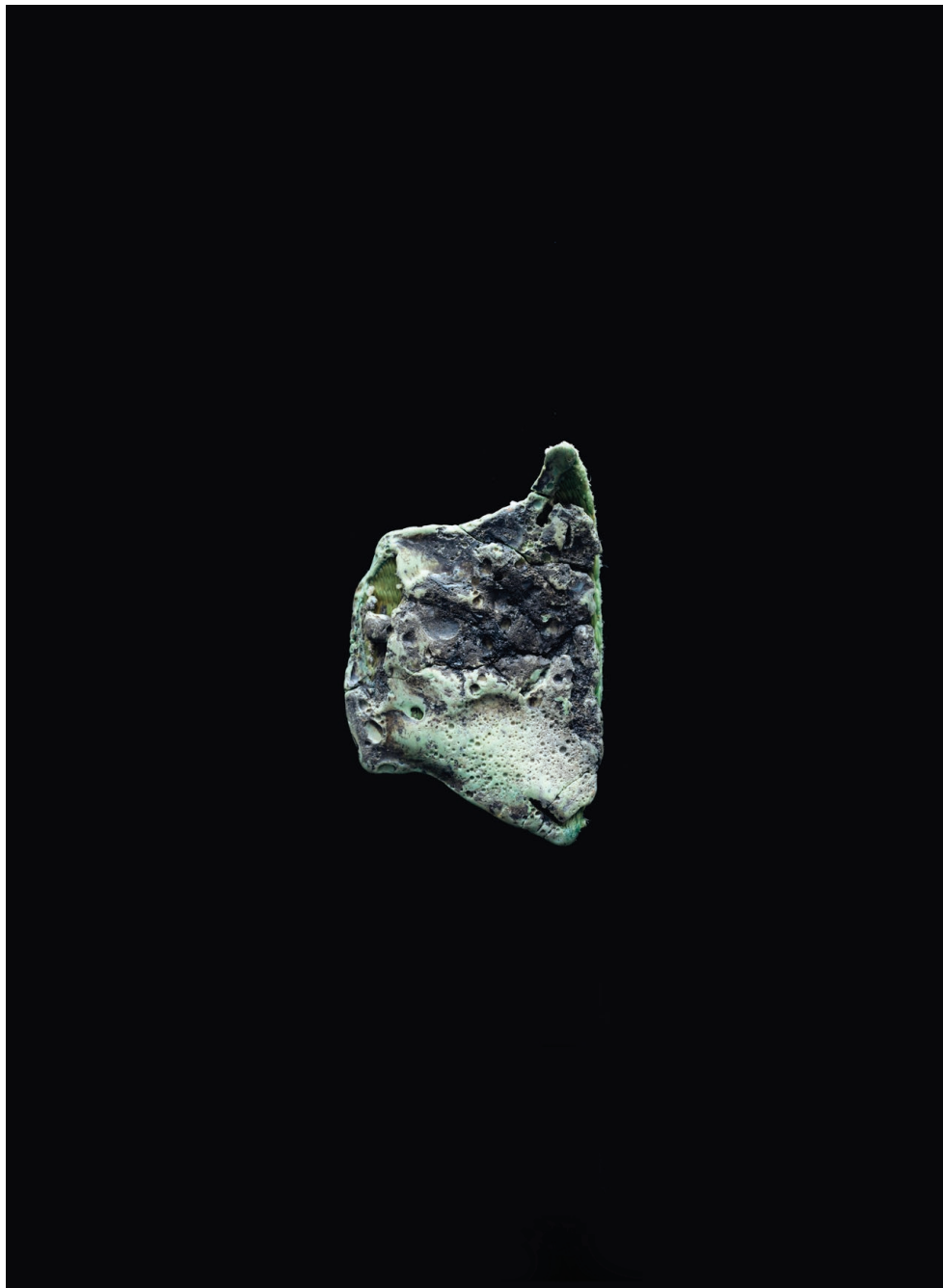
Pseudo-mineral. Unidentified material. 24 x 344 x 70 mm. 1242 g.



Pseudo-mineral. Unidentified material, possibly rubber from a pram's wheel. 53 x 44 x 9 mm. 10 g.

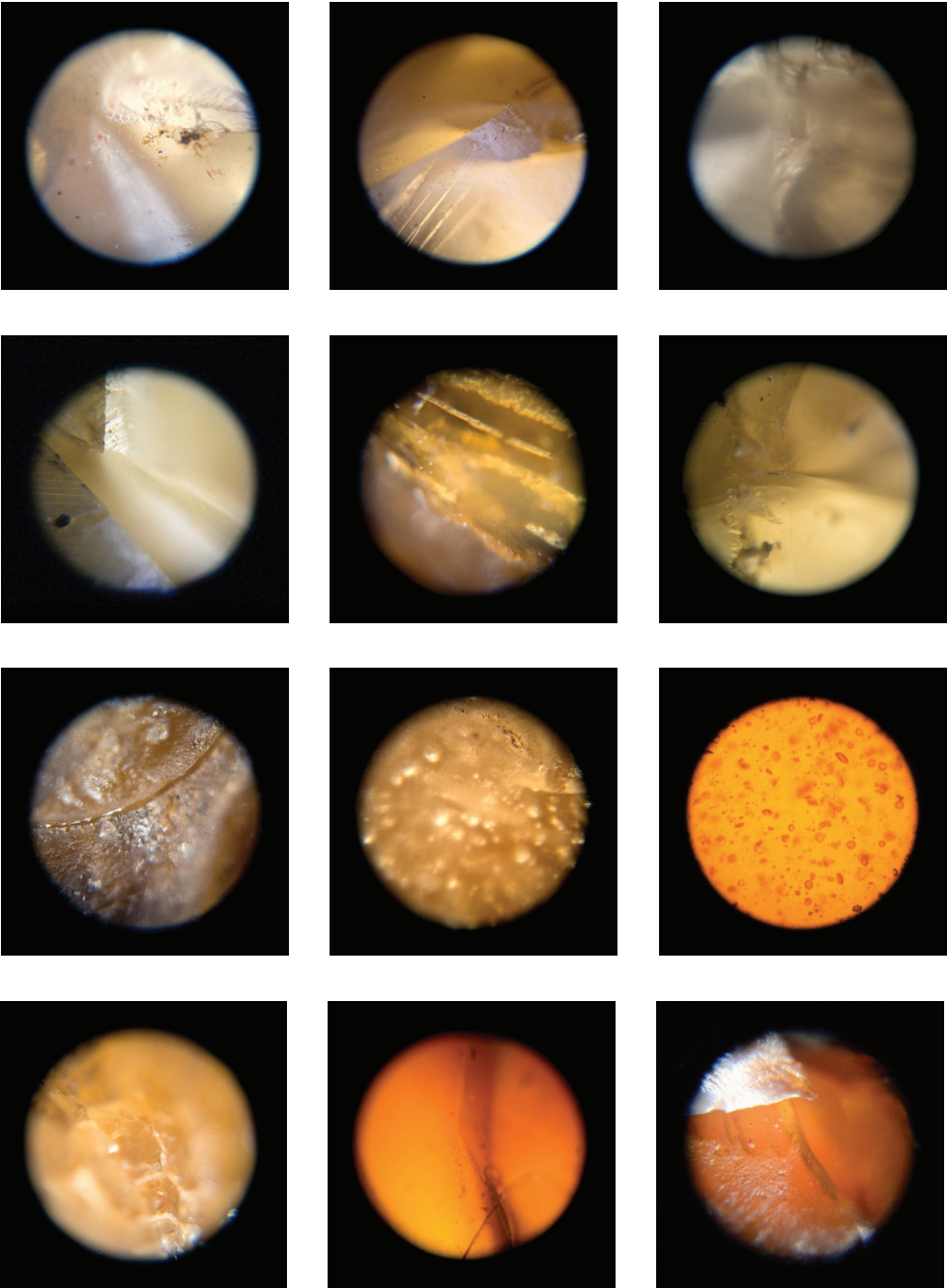


Pseudo-mineral. 137 x 152 x 23 mm. 88 g.



Pseudo-mineral. 56 x 84 x 13 mm. 26 g.

PSEUDO-AMBER



Selfportrait on the foreshore at low tide, Ballast Quay, November 2017.



Selfportrait on the foreshore at low tide, Ballast Quay, November 2017.



53 **Pseudo-amber** specimens displayed on a lightbox (297 x 21 mm).

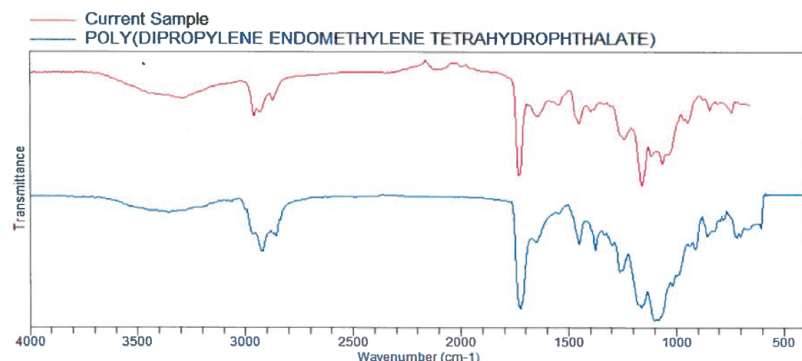
PSEUDO-HORNWRACK, *POLYPROPYLENE FOLIACEA*



Pseudo-hornwrack, *polypropylene foliacea* - showcased at the exhibition Vision of Science at The Edge Art Center, Bath University, UK. 2018.

Sample ID: Olivia Guigue - Material NK
 Sample Scans: 32
 Background Scans: 32
 Resolution: 4
 System Status: Good
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Method Name: Library Search Method
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Quality	Library	CAS#	Name
0.87867	PODEAM518-1 (2809)	36890-68-3	POLY(DIPROPYLENE ENDOMETHYLENE TETRAHYDROPHTH ALATE)
0.85109	POTRAM514-2 (1547)		BAY 2470 (DRIED)
0.85000	POTRAM514-2 (1848)		LAZUROL EBONY 0099, ALKYD BASED

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The pseudo-hornwrack is the first sample from the Tamesiology project that has been analysed with the generous help of SGS, Manchester. The resulting work has been conceived to be an autonomous exhibition kit that can travel for study and exhibition purposes.

The empirical study of the pseudo-hornwrack sample, along with the results of testing (see overleaf), let us think that it could be a type of varnish or primer: a liquid that leaked through a structure that moulded its shape; although the exact formation of its palmate fronds stays unexplained.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLES AND LABELS

name : Hornwrack – *Flustra foliacea*
 composition : calcium carbonate, chitin
 origin : Thames estuary, Kent, UK
 kingdom : animalia
 dimensions : 164 x 95 x 82 mm (without substrate)
 weight : 38,4 gr (dry with substrate)

The hornwrack or *flustra foliacea* is a colonial animal, species of bryozoans, found in the North Sea. It is frequently mistaken for a seaweed with its bushy clumps of palmate, also called fronds. Sessile colonies begin to grow as encrusting calcium carbonate mats on a substrate and produce loose fronds after their first year of growth.

name : Pseudo-Hornwrack – *Polypropylene foliacea*
 composition : poly(dipropylene endomethylene tetrahydrophthalate)
 origin : Thames foreshore, Greenwich, London, UK
 group : thermoplastic
 dimensions : 112 x 82 x 46 mm (without substrate)
 weight : 103,6 gr (dry with substrate)

The pseudo-hornwrack or *polypropylene foliacea* was found on the Thames' foreshore in Greenwich. It can be mistaken for a seaweed because of the organic aspect of its fronds. Just like the hornwrack, it attached to substrates : a piece of clinker and a piece of tar amalgamate with rope (two very common materials found in the Thames). When outside of water, the *polypropylene foliacea* shrinks slightly and loses its milky tinge to become translucent.

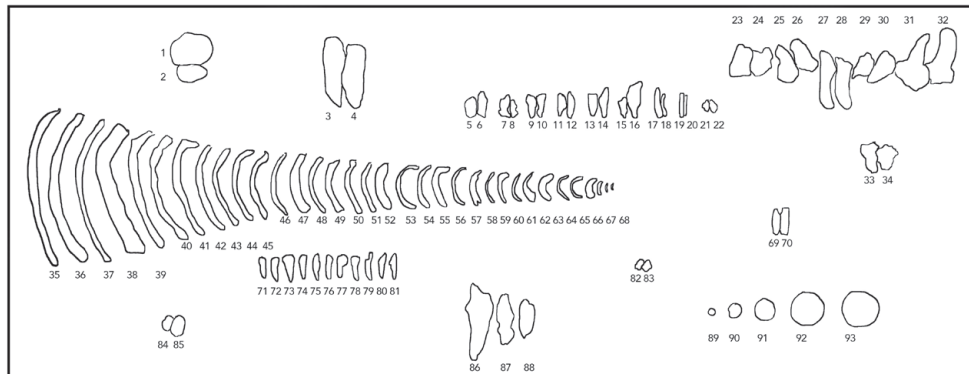
PSEUDO-MIMESIS RESEARCH TABLE



Studio view, work in progress.

These materials presented side by side contrast not only by their origin but also by their age: a four-hundred-year-old eroded bone leaning against a ten-year-old abraded piece of cinder block. A million-year-old piece of stone is juxtaposed to a thirty-year-old piece of plastic.

PSEUDO-MIMESIS



1: eroded cinder block. 2: eroded cattle bone. 3: cattle bone. 4: unidentified building material. 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22: 17th. century clay pipes. 6, 8: flints. 9: oyster shell. 11, 12, 14, 17, 20. cattle bone. 16: crab shell. 23, 25, 27, 29, 31: ceramic pot handles. 24, 26, 28, 30, 32: cattle horns. 33: oyster 34: synthetic polymers (plastic). 35, 36, 39, 41, 42, 54, 55, 57, 59: cattle rib bones. 37, 43, 48: electrical cables. 38: presumed water pipe. 40: oxidized metal. 46: rubber. 47: flint. 53: oxidized iron. 52: flint. 54: synthetic polymer. 56, 58: leather from shoe. 61: wood. 62: oyster shell. 63: copper nail. 64: wood. 65: claw. 66: cattle tooth. 67: synthetic polymer. 68: cattle tooth root. 69: flint. 70: mid-20th. century battery. 71 to 76: cattle bones. 77: ear phone. 78: cattle tooth. 79: rusted screw inside a wall plug. 80: cattle tooth. 81: 17th. century clay pipe. 82: unidentified stone. 83: bubblegum. 84: plastic tube. 85: cattle bone. 86: cattle bone. 87: oxidized metal. 88: cattle bone. 89: unidentified stone. 90: flint. 91: pottery. 92: tennis ball. 93: cattle femur head.

Pseudo-mimesis. Above: studio view. Under and right: leaflet description of a similar display for the exhibition at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Miraikan, Tokyo. 2018.



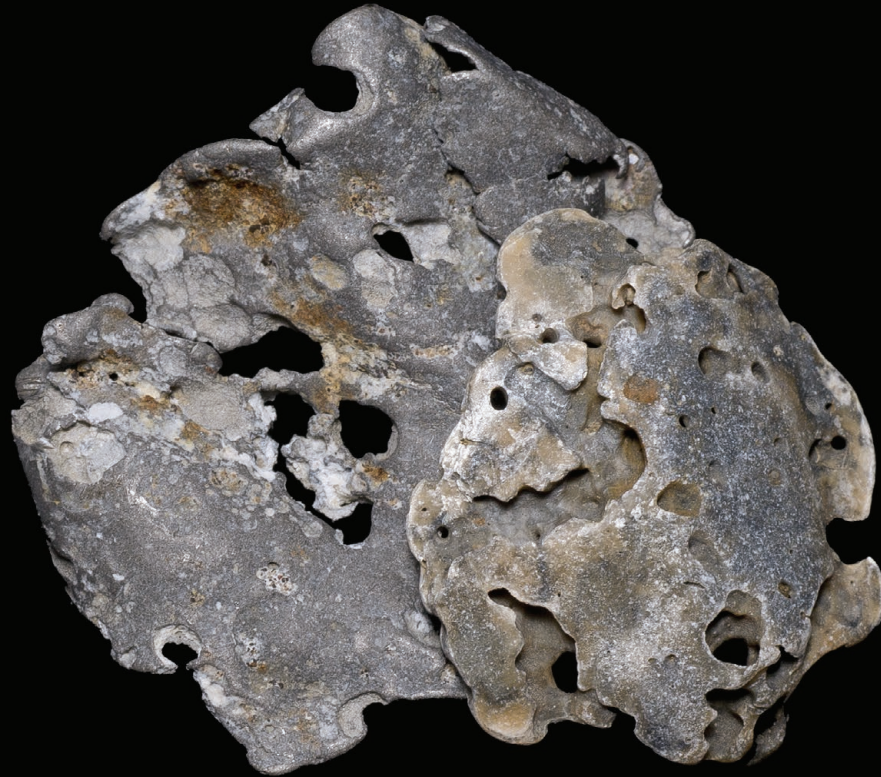
Eroded bone, circa 15th.-17th c. and eroded breeze block, circa end of 20th.-21st. c.



Unidentified piece of plastic circa 20th.-21st. c. and fish bone, date unknown.



Cattle horns, circa 15th.-17th. c. and medieval earthenware handles.



Oyster shell, date unknown, and aluminium scrap.



Oyster shell, circa 18th.-19th. c., seal from bottle cap, circa end of 20th.-21st. c.



Stone pebbles circa 3-million-year old and chewing-gums, 21st. c.