

October 30, 2015

Dear Simone,

I hope you are well. I am writing to you from Brooklyn. I just returned last night from a few weeks in Los Angeles, Portland, and the Oregon/Washington coast. I am writing to tell you the instructions for activating the app for your and Thomas' exhibitions. They are as follows:

When you first open the app an arrow will spin on a blue background.

When two phones are near each other with the app open (and in cell or wifi service), they will automatically connect. Once they are connected the spinning arrow will disappear and it will say "0 km." To change this to miles just click on the "km."

Once connected the phones will display the spatial distance that is between them. Once a distance of 0.1 km or 0.1 miles is reached, the arrow will reappear and serve as a kind of compass. But instead of pointing north, the arrow will point in the direction of the other phone. So the phones will not only define the distance that is between them, but they will also orient towards each other no matter what the distance is between them. Whether across a town, a mountain range, a forest, or a sea, one can literally shift one's neck or move one's feet to orient the body and gaze towards the other person. But this is a gaze that moves into and across distances. A gaze that follows the curved surface of the Earth, going beyond the visible and into the imagination.

I also like to think that the arrow points off the screen. That it shifts your attention back into the world of being-in-a-place. It is about being someplace. It is not about being a dot on a map. I also like to think of it as an anti-social media. You do not have "friends," which Facebook has rendered meaningless. It is just for you and someone else. An intimacy at a distance.

Also, if there are more than two phones with the app open near each other (within 50 yards), it won't work. You need to be alone together.

Will you please print two copies of this letter. One you will display in your exhibition in Nürnberg. The other please mail it to Thomas in Bielefeld so he can display it the exhibition there. I want one letter to travel away from the other letter.

See you soon,

David