

Sotoe

Creave Studio

'Sotoe' is an audio-visual text made by and about those who know Rotterdam-South best: its inhabitants. It aims to map, make visible and peel off the layers of the lived experiences within the multicultural working-class neighbourhoods.

People tend to think about 'studying' as something done in institutional settings, such as a school or a museum. Everything occurring outside those walls is often not held in the same regard. Creave Studio suggests that study is in fact limited within those institutional boundaries, and more likely to take place outside of them. 'Sotoe' explores the concept of study as a practice of getting together and determining what needs to be learned with others. The focus, then, is on spending time with each other, and learning in an environment disconnected from earning credits or the notion of completion.

Several 'Sotoe reflection sessions' were set up to investigate the idea of study. Three visual artists and seven resident-artists from different Rotterdam-South neighbourhoods were invited for each session to map their lived study experiences: Edwin 'Edje', Gabriel, George, Gina, Megan, Nathan, Kimberly, Roland, Sarah and Zouhair.

Collective observations showed that learning does not only happen during

specific activities, but takes place even more so during the in-between times, right before and after. The practice of 'study' can take place everywhere: in a car, while driving or in a parking place. When sitting on, next to, or behind a park bench, in the company of sunflower seeds. It happens right before, during, and after a game of football on an imagined football field. While listening to Hip Hop tracks in our rooms, making sense of the lyrics with our siblings. At the snack bar, coffeeshop, night shop – as well as during our walks there. And study most definitely happens around the kitchen table, while preparing a meal, eating, or doing the dishes.

By taking a step back, and considering the project from a wider perspective, the omnipresence of 'study' becomes visible. We were learning before, after and between documenting the sessions, as our conversations did not end when the cameras stopped filming. Study occurred while travelling to the different parts of Rotterdam-South together, and even continued when we got home and further discussed our day with friends and family.

Recurring themes of 'Sotoe' encompass how, why, and what is being studied in multicultural and working-class neighbourhoods. Knowledges were shared to identify how Rotterdam-South neighbourhoods are the spatial manifestation of economic and ethnic inequality. We discussed the fast-paced society, gentrification, displacement, trauma, emptiness, not-having, and the lack of economic capital. But also the abundance of cultural capital, knowing each other, having each other, and (community) love.

'Sotoe' was initiated to make visible, to give a voice to and to empower the residents of Rotterdam-South. It is, however, not enough to merely point something out. This text is a starting point to further share knowledges, as study is something disconnected from credit or the notion of completion.

A selection of video stills from 'Sotoe' are included in this publication. Some of the images are 'point cloud scans' (which are a set of data points in a space to create a

3D image) of the interviewed inhabitants of Rotterdam-South at one of the locations their practice of study takes/had taken place.

Point cloud scans were made as an additional visualisation to centralise the inhabitants at a location of study. Additionally, the deconstructed visual language symbolises the emptiness/demolition present in multicultural working-class neighbourhoods, as well as the notion of movement. Regardless of power structures, we (collectively) have the agency to (re)imagine our own futures.

This project was directly inspired by the practice of Concrete Blossom, a Rotterdam based design collective and publishing house.

written by Creave Studio

[@creave.studio](https://www.creave.studio)

[@kimberlydiasv](https://www.kimberlydiasv)

[@roberto.romello](https://www.roberto.romello)

[@gabrieljfreitas](https://www.gabrieljfreitas)

[@wedontca.re](https://www.wedontca.re)

[@romyzhang](https://www.romyzhang)

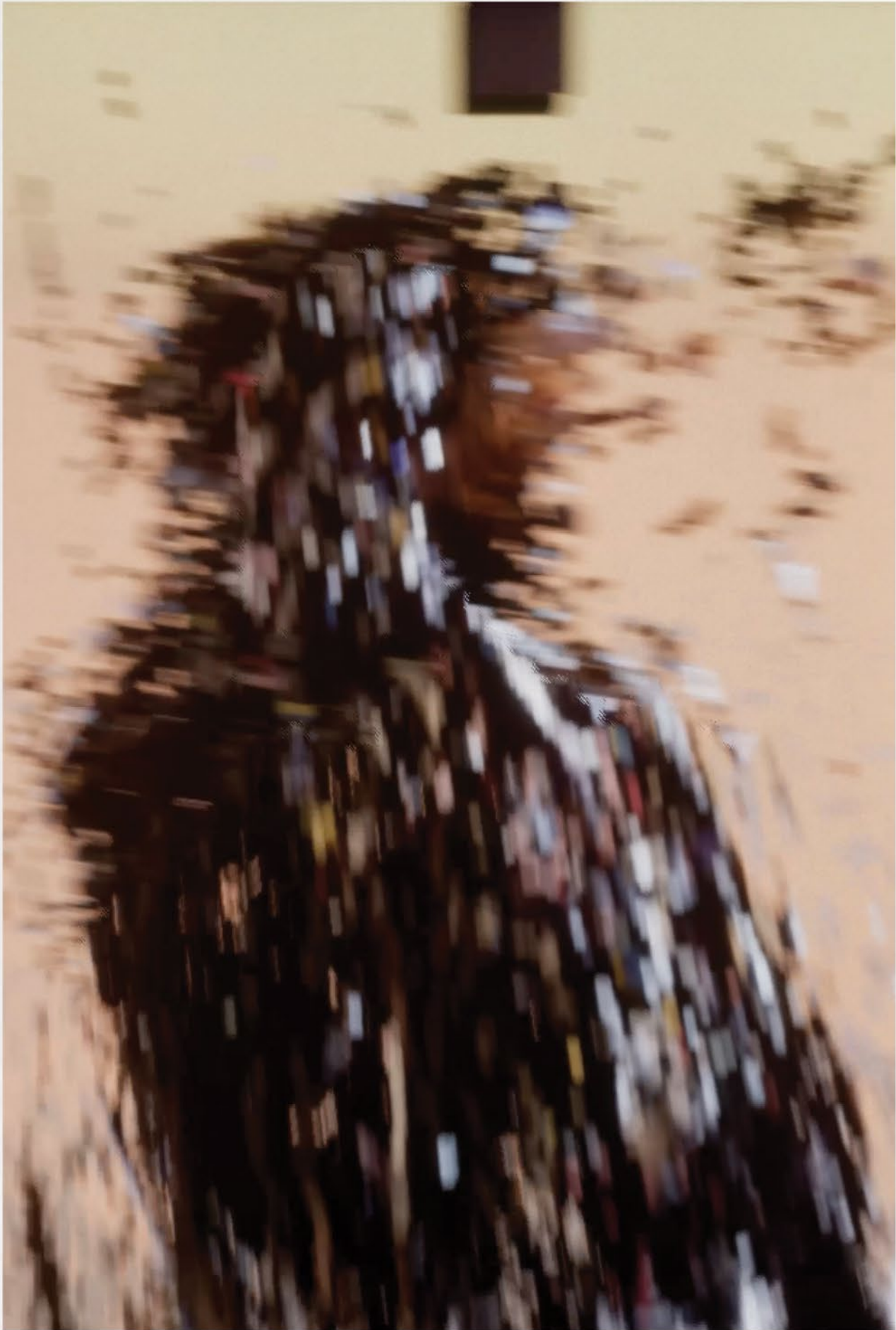
Edwin, 'Edje'



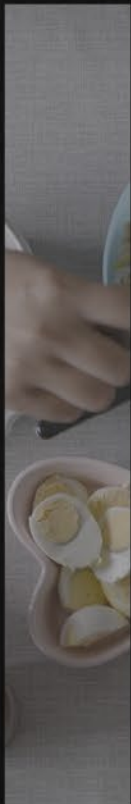
Point cloud scans

EDWIN 'EDJE'

Point cloud scans



Gina





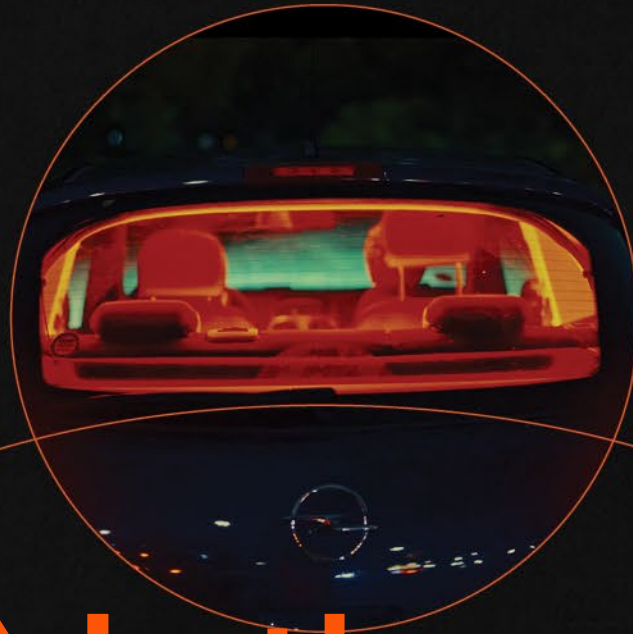
GINA
Point cloud scans

Megan



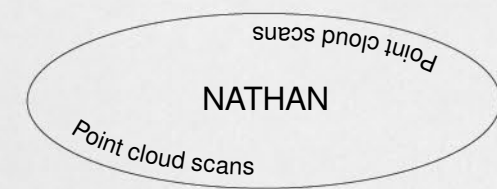


Point cloud scans
MEGAN
Point cloud scans



Nathan





Roland



ROLAND



Sarah





Zouhair





Point cloud scans

ZOUHAIR

Point cloud scans





Process Pictures

Process Pictures





Edwin 'Edje',
Gabriel Freitas,
George, Gina,
Megan, Nathan,
Kimberly Dias,
Roland, Sarah,
Zouhair, *Romy*
Zhang & Roberto
Romello

