

Visual Glossa #5: How can we visibilize air?

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Moment in which participants respond to the menu questions, recording ideas on the blue paper strip.

The session begins with a brief introduction through a menu of questions — “How can we visibilize air?” — that highlight the importance of making air visible as a subject for reflection and action. The workshop’s dynamic focuses on the sensory, critical, and collective exploration of air as a vital, political, and shared element.

Participants are guided through a set of inspiring questions, organized around two concepts: “air” and “open air”, which serve as starting points for observation, sharing, and discussion. The proposed questions — such as “What smells can be sensed near the coast?”, “How does the air feel on the eyes and skin?”, or “In what ways can air be considered political?” — encourage a sensitive and critical approach to air quality, to its bodily perception, to its social and environmental effects, and to the tensions that may emerge in outdoor spaces. The reflections are inscribed on a long strip of blue paper, unrolled across the table at the end of lunch.

The methodology is participatory and open: participants are invited to recall how they experienced the refinery’s surrounding space, to record sensations, and to debate in small groups. The dynamic concludes with a collective sharing of the most relevant aspects for each participant, allowing reflection on air as a common good and recognition of its central role in our lives and urban ecologies.



HOW CAN WE VISIBILIZE AIR?

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Leça da Palmeira

RefineryBoard.pt

AIR QUESTIONS MENU

AIR

How do we perceive the company of air?

Which smells can be perceived along the shore?

How did the air feel on our eyes and skin?

Was there any stickiness, dryness, or irritation?

Did you experience any discomfort while breathing?

Were there physical particles in the air?

Was the breeze blowing any haze?

Was there any visible smog, smoke, or vapor?

Which sounds were carried through the air?

How might long-term exposure to air affect humans and non-humans?

OPEN AIR

What role does breathability play in open-air spaces?

Why are open-air spaces important for public-life?

In what ways does air become a matter of collective attention, and political action?

How does air pollution affect the meaning and use of open-air spaces?

What happens when air can no longer sustain us, or makes us sick?

How do open-air spaces function as a collective commons?

What kind of conflicts can arise in or around open-air spaces?

What happens when we shift our perspective to focus on the quality of air?

What happens when open-air spaces are polluted or degraded?

How can air be considered political?





**IN WHAT
WAYS CAN**

**AIR BE
CONSIDERED
POLITICAL?**