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Composition of the Earth

Studio And

Studio AND is a collaboration between Audra Wolowiec and Niels Cosman. They share a studio in Brooklyn, New York, where they make projects that exist somewhere between art, design, science, and everyday life. In 2009, Studio AND created the Department of Mineral Science, a pseudo-institutional branch dedicated to the inspiration of urban exploration. The department's main area of study focuses around the curious phenomenon of Urban Meteorites. Urban Meteorites are part of an ongoing investigation into the creation of a plausible fictional material. Composed from the materials found in the urban landscape, Urban Meteorites are presented as artifacts from an imagined future.

The Origins of Urban Meteorites

Meteorites are naturally occurring objects that originate from outer space and survive both the extreme temperatures entering the Earth's atmosphere and the violent impact with our planet's surface. These improbable extra-terrestrial travelers bring with them invaluable information about the origins of the solar system and provide a glimpse into the composition of our planet.

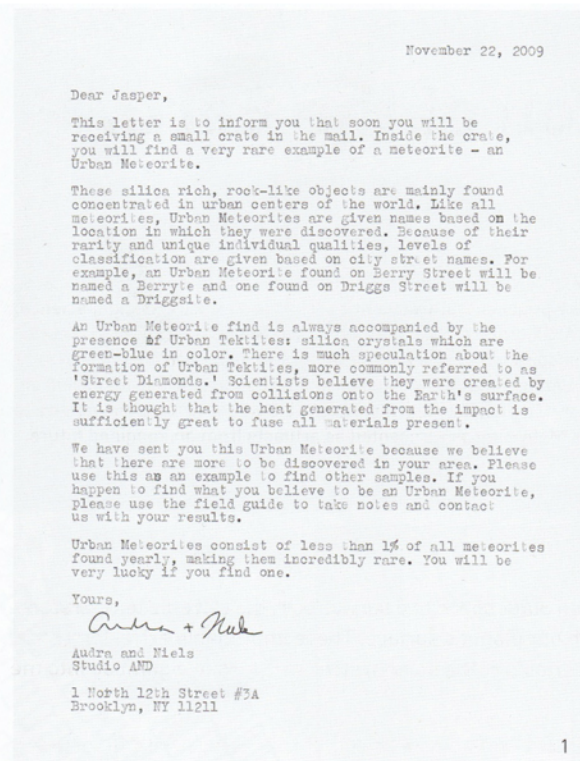
As the solar system formed more than four billion years ago, primitive particles collided and clumped into increasingly larger bodies. Some of these accumulations retained their ancient components virtually unchanged, however, planets, moons and large asteroids melted to create differentiated bodies. Dense molten iron sank to the cores of these bodies while molten rock and silicate crystals hardened into rocky mantles above the cores. Further melting of the mantles caused a crust to form, as on Earth.

Meteorites are characterized by the differentiated layer from which they were formed. Iron Meteorites, for example, originate from the dense iron core, while Stony Meteorites are formed from a once-molten mantle layer. The rarest of meteorites, the Urban Meteorite, is believed to have formed from the thin outer most layer of the crust.

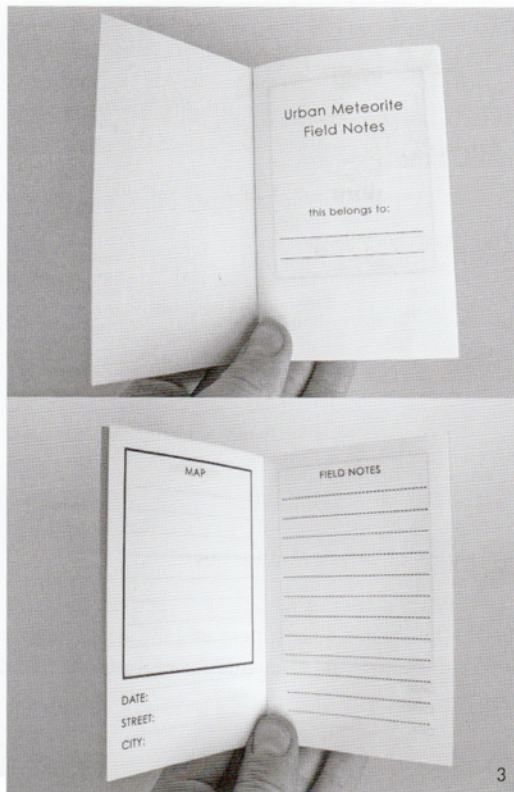
Urban Meteorites are silica rich, rock-like objects that are found concentrated in urban areas. Like all meteorites, they are given names based on the location they were discovered. Because of their rarity and unique qualities, classifications are given based on city street names by adding a suffix of 'ite' or 'yte.' For example, an Urban Meteorite found on Berry Street will be called a BerrYTE and one from Driggs Street will be called a Driggsite. An Urban Meteorite find is always accompanied by the presence of Urban Tektites: silica crystals that are green-blue in color.

There is much speculation about the formation of Urban Tektites, more commonly referred to as 'street diamonds.' However, scientists believe they were created by a concentration of energy generated from impacts on the Earth's surface. It is thought that the heat generated from these impacts is sufficiently great to fuse all materials present.

Urban Meteorites comprise less than 1% of all meteorites found yearly, making them incredibly rare. You will be very lucky if you find one t



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1 Studio AND, Recruitment Letter to Jasper, 2009. Typewritten text on paper, 8.5 x 11 in.

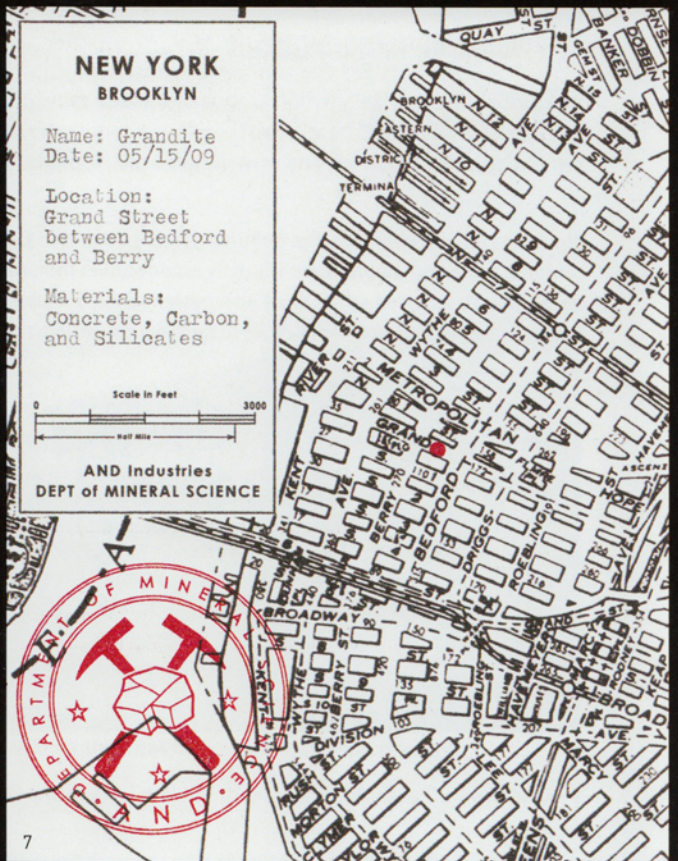
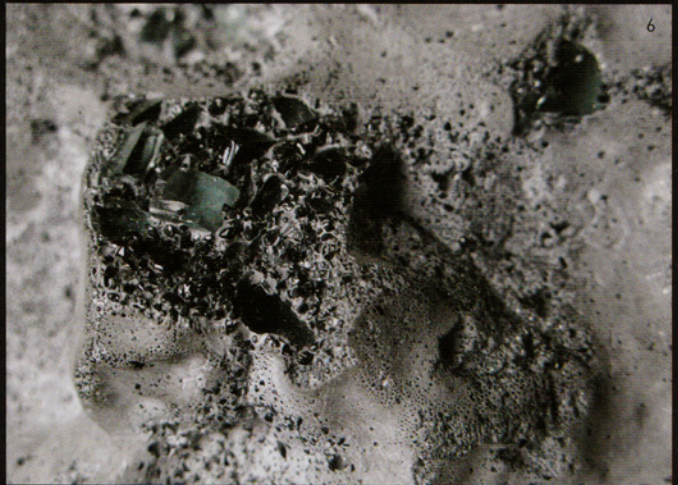
This is the Letter of Recruitment sent to Jasper from Studio AND, requesting his participation as a member of the Junior League of Future Geologists.

2 Studio AND, Urban Meteorite Field Sample Kit, 2009. Mixed media, dimensions vary.

In order to expand the plausible provenance of Urban Meteorites, Studio AND prepared a number of Field Sample Kits to send to young individuals living urban centers. These kits were sent under the premise of recruitment into the Junior League of Future Geologists. Sent in a wooden crate, the kits contained a letter, a field guide, and a small Urban Meteorite Sample.

3 Studio AND, Urban Meteorite Field Guide, 2009. Ink on paper, 2.75 x 4.25 in.

The Urban Meteorite Field Guide, included in the Field Sample Kit, is used to assist in documenting Urban Meteorite finds.





4 Studio AND, Urban Meteorite (Driggsite), 2009. Concrete and glass, 1.5 x 1 x 1 in.

A detail of a small Urban Meteorite included in a Field Sample Kit. Following the convention of naming meteorites by the location they are found, this Urban Meteorite was named a Driggsite after being discovered on Driggs Street in Brooklyn, New York.

5 Studio AND, Member of the Junior League of Future Geologists, 2009. Digital image.

A member of the Junior League of Future Geologists inspects an Urban Meteorite.

6 Studio AND, Urban Meteorite: Brooklyn Sample (Grandite) detail, 2009. Concrete and glass.

A detail of an Urban Meteorite found on Grand Street in Brooklyn, New York. In this image one can clearly see a number of the constitutive elements contained in this sample. These elements include concrete, Urban Tektites (commonly referred to as "street diamonds"), and retroreflective glass beads.

7 Studio AND, Impact Site Location Map (Grandite), 2009. Ink on paper, 5 x 7 in.

This map documents the location in which an Urban Meteorite (Grandite) was found and includes relevant field notes.

8 Studio AND, Urban Meteorite: Brooklyn Sample (Grandite), 2009. Concrete and glass, 6 x 4 x 2.5 in

An example of a large Urban Meteorite found on Grand Street in Brooklyn, New York.