

The Expression of Data

In recent decades, information design has emerged as a distinct discipline shaped by scientific inquiry, technological experimentation, and aesthetic expression. Fueled by the evolution of digital tools, the field has grown rapidly. Designers have also gained awareness of their power to alter perception and opinion. Information design is never neutral. Like journalists, designers can influence our understanding of facts through subtle choices about how information is presented.

Here are some of the first works of information design to enter MoMA's collection. In these pioneering examples, invisible systems acquire shape, software reveals its architecture, cities pulse through GPS traces, and Wikipedia pages are shaken by their editors' disagreements. These designs help us navigate complexity, recognize patterns, and understand relationships unfolding across scales too vast, microscopic, or abstract to otherwise grasp.