



THE REGIME OF THE VISIBLE

KRISTINA BENJOCKI

The Regime of the Visible uses the format of a pocket map to introduce two ways of exploring Cannerberg, a small hill situated between Maastricht, the Netherlands, and Kanne, Belgium. One side of the map traces the ownership of land by mapping cadastre parcels (a system or method of describing land) and their corresponding buildings, as well as underground tunnel structures. The other side traces a variety of sources from the history and geology of the Caestert plateau, with a focus on Cannerberg. From Neolithic times, the continuous mining of flint nodules and, later, limestone created a complex network of underground tunnels around Maastricht that was popularly called “the caves.” Flint nodules were used to make tools and weapons, as well as to build fire. Up until the era of industrialization, limestone was extracted by hand in the Limburg province and used for building. Large parts of the Caestert plateau were transformed into a surface mine by the ENCI cement factory. By the time of the plateau’s industrial exploitation in the early 20th century, limestone mining in Cannerberg had been stopped.

Until World War II, when German troops repurposed Cannerberg as a storage and assembly facility for V1 rockets, the maze of underground corridors left behind was regularly used for farming mushrooms and keeping animals. A few years after the end of World War II, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) rented out the same

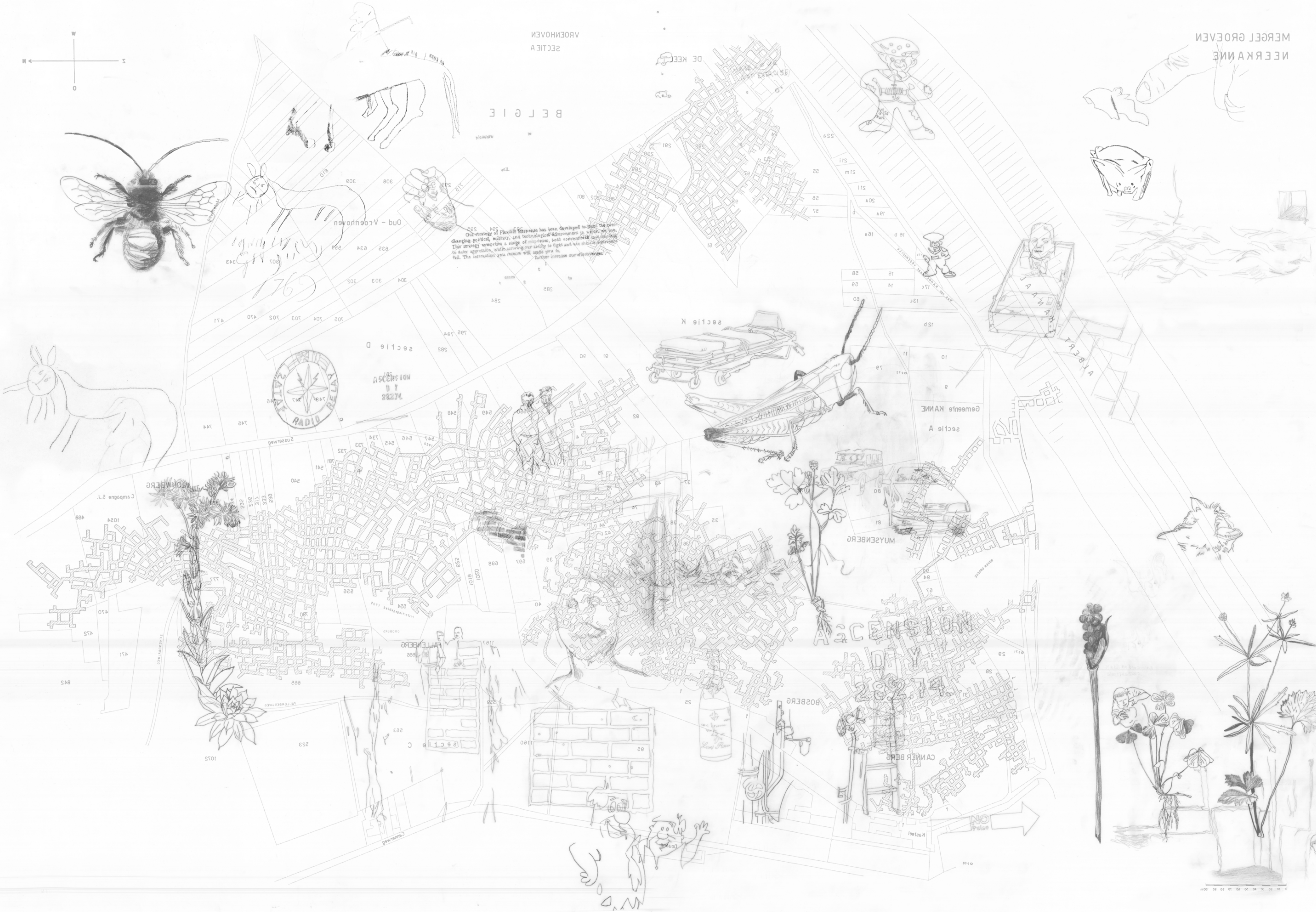


Jos Nelissen. *Sphinx Calendar*, 1979. Image courtesy of the author.

“cave” and used it as a headquarters for potential war operations during the Cold War. However, the NATO headquarters shut down in 1992 due to severe asbestos and oil contamination. That same year, the Treaty of the European Union was ratified in Maastricht, its twelve signatures memorialized on the walls of Cannerberg’s “cave.”

The Regime of the Visible collapses narratives of property and history through the superposition of Cannerberg’s storylines. The project draws from a variety of sources from private and public archives, tracing characters as they surface from different media: black-and-white or color photographs, VHS tapes, scanned documents, natural history books, military brochures, tourist guides, and the most recent unclassified records from the NATO archive in Brussels. *The Regime of the Visible* is part of a long-term research project on the history of the Caestert plateau, and it functions as an introductory work to “Portrait of the Mountain,” an upcoming video essay.

NOTE A pocket map is included with the print issue and available online at https://doi.org/10.1162/artm_a_00178.



BEELIE

ASCENSION

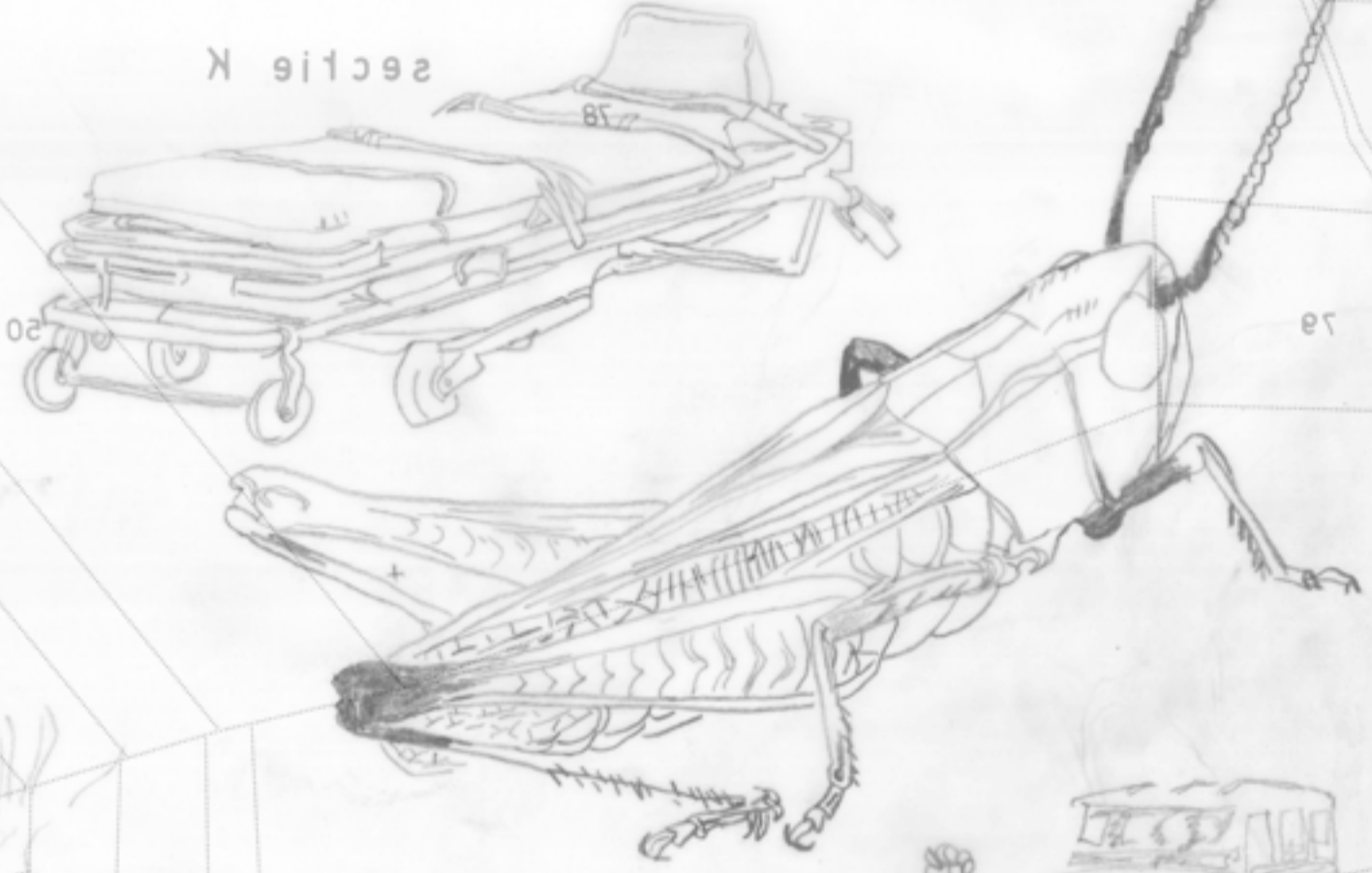
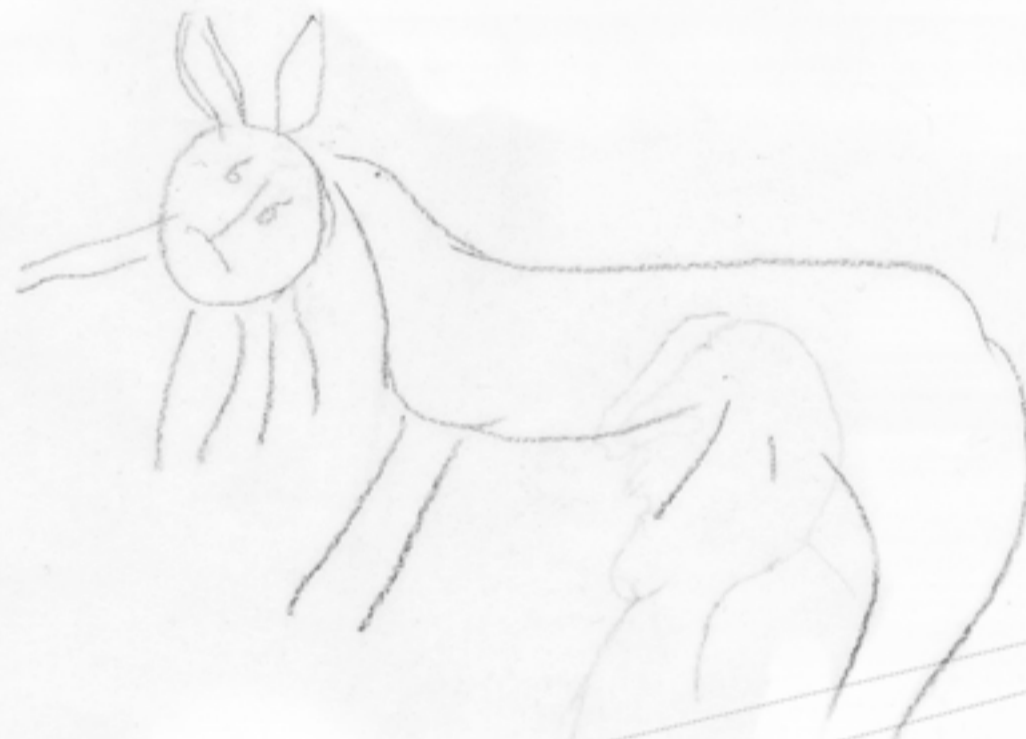
Gemeente KANNE

MUSENBERG

ASCENSION

CANNENBERG

BOSBERG



Handwritten text and numbers, including '176' and 'Oud - Vroenhoven'.

MEERKANE

MERGEL GROEVEN

Scale bar with markings from 0 to 100.