

Watching Walls.

2864837073020555. RED. A deep red–scarlet. A code for something. A telephone number or coordinates. Hiding. Overlaid with layers. Why the concealment? Someone or something hiding data? What's the data doing? Dots to a grid. Dots and lines all hiding. Are they hiding from me as I look at them? A kind of embarrassment perhaps? Brush marks in purple on the surface, catching the light. A hand swiped these I guess. A living organism, brain to hand to canvas covering more numbers. A body covering some sense of order. Order to a thing that hides itself in the layers applied by a body. Overlaps and joins. Darker at points. A body dealing with all this data. Contributing to it. Making more data. Archives of impenetrable bacteria–moving and reproducing and the data of likes and dislikes. Of failing stocks and cells. Of products bought with a thumb click and transported across the globe. Think of those container ships. Dots on a computer screen. Red and purple. Codes moving slowly across oceans. Numbers to predict the next batch. The next cure. To predict a future. Predict the election. Predict a mutation. Predict their desires. Predict trends and predict the climate. Run some numbers to do that. Because we need to know for sure. Run some colour through some numbers. Run your hand like a machine over a surface to conceal the data. Petri in the hand, brush in the hand, pull the screen, stretch the canvas, place the data in columns, observe with your eye, watch for imperfections, watch the membrane, watch it closely, another wall to watch, build it, watch it, blocks and bricks. Replications and multiples. build that wall and watch to see if it keeps them out. Don't let them slip from vision. Keep them close. Keep the observations close to the eye. Start with numbers and feed it through the process. Feed it through the process and find the numbers. Take your thumb from your phone and look at the grease on the screen. You've been there. Following container ships. Scrolling through data. Layers and layers of it. A body and a mark through a process for prediction. A mark in the past trying to figure out some sense of the future.

Jesse Ash is an artist and tutor at the Royal College of Art, London