The whole is greater than the sum of its parts

Claudia Bode, Thing Collective
A complex system with its own identity

Berghaus, Heinrich. “Nord - und Ostsee”, 1886
Source: https://www.davidrumsey.com
without internal boundaries

volumetric

solid

...and fluid
A Diving Helmet from a Water Heater

Build A Diving Helmet from a Water Heater (Jan, 1932)
Source: http://blog.modernmechanix.com/build-a-diving-helmet-from-a-water-heater/

Air-Punk: Underwater Cyborg Diving Suit (1797)
We understand complex situations by making representations of reality.
Representations are not neutral

The ocean is a neutral substrate in which landmasses “float”?

Landmasses encircle one interconnected, self-contained ocean?

Mercator Projection

Spillhaus Projection, drawing by Clara Dealberto.  
Source: https://www.formation.fr/spilliage/2019/08/03/le-océan-au-centre-du-monde_167006

Representations change how we think

The view from the land?

The view from the sea?

North Sea 2050 Spatial Agenda
Do the representations we make the process of creating MSP - our **base of common understanding** - do justice to the real complexity and uniqueness of the ocean?

...or are we using terrestrial defaults?

https://atlasofplaces.com
SECTION COLUMN

Sample harvesting of fish in priority areas

Application of fishing regulations for a sample section. Giulia Altarelli, Nicoletta Caputo, Carmen Fischer, Carolie Iorio, Jeanie Wéry (laba, EPFL).
Representations allow us to imagine new futures
Representations allow us to imagine new futures
How are you forming part of a greater whole?
How are you forming part of a greater whole?

Do your representational tools reflect the ocean's real dynamism, interconnectivity, fluidity, depth?
How are you forming part of a greater whole?

Do your representational tools reflect the ocean’s real dynamism, interconnectivity, fluidity, depth?

Do they form a coherent base of common understanding?
Marine Spatial Planning is a creative and aspirational act!