

# SENSING COSMOLOGIES BEYOND EXTRACTIVISM

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Antebellum Black burial grounds have become the frontlines of local resistance to what I call the continuum of extractivism, which spans from colonialism and slavery to coastal erosion, cancer, and climate change. Extractivism is more than the systemic extraction of value from human and nonhuman bodies; it is a cosmology, a worldview, that sees profit as its core value and deploys segregation as its driving force. Mapping the fossil fuel production cycle through projects like Follow the Oil reveals the state-sanctioned corporate greed that has imperilled and impoverished Louisiana. Sensing webs of pipelines, canals, and wells as constellations reveals the cosmological dimensions of extractivism. If our society has followed the guidelines of these constellations to the ends of the earth, we must ask, What remains at the ends of the earth? Our enslaved ancestors planted groves of trees to mark the graves of their loved ones. How do these sacred groves rupture the continuum of extractivism and open portals to other ways of being in the world?

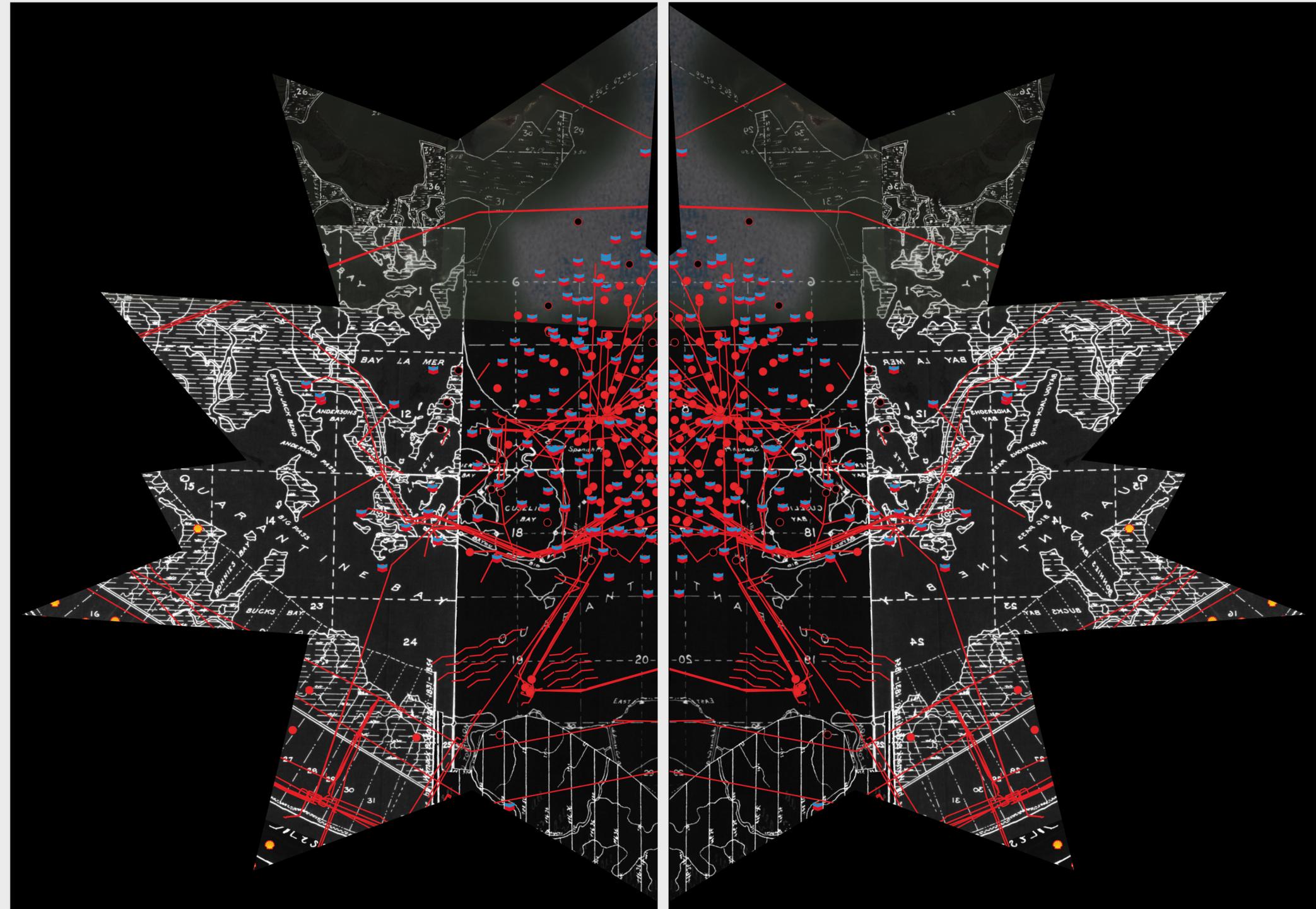


Image:: Imani Jacqueline Brown, Old Gods, 2021. Framed and reflected chart of permits for coastal development, including oil and gas wells, flowlines, pipelines, and access canals in Quarantine Bay, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana (1920-2020), mapped against antebellum Public Land Survey System (PLSS) charts (1820s-1860s). The PLSS was the first US system to plat, or divide, territory into parcels of private property.



**TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 6PM**  
**STONE AUDITORIUM, 210 WOLDENBERG ART CENTER**

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