Big Water

Groot Water (2017 - 2022)
Maud van den Beuken
Image from the series *Mapping the Sky* (2015 - 2018), Maud van den Beuken
In that Empire, the Art of Cartography attained such Perfection that the map of a single Province occupied the entirety of a City, and the map of the Empire, the entirety of a Province. In time, those Unconscionable Maps no longer satisfied, and the Cartographers Guilds struck a Map of the Empire whose size was that of the Empire, and which coincided point for point with it. The following Generations, who were not so fond of the Study of Cartography as their Forebears had been, saw that this vast Map was Useless, and not without some Pleasure was it, that they delivered it up to the Inclemencies of Sun and Winters. In the Deserts of the West, still today, there are Tattered Ruins of that Map, inhabited by Animals and Beggars, in all the Land where no other Shape of the Disciplines of Geography.

— Stow's Survey, cartographer's geometry, 17th Century, J.W. Lamba, 1888
In that Empire, the Art of Cartography attained such Perfection that the entire Empire was mapped with perfect precision. The Cartographers Guild insisted that the map must be a perfect representation of reality, without any exaggeration or distortion. As a result, the maps were a faithful reflection of reality, and were used by the government and the military. The maps were used to plan the Empire's expansion, and to manage the resources of the Empire. The maps were also used to record the history of the Empire, and to keep track of the population. The maps were a source of pride for the Empire, and were a symbol of their power and influence.

Source: Vignola, La Geografia delle Regioni del Mondo: Lo Stato della Mappa, 1648.
Image from the series Mapping the Sky (2015 - 2018), Maud van den Beuken
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Big Water / Groot Water travels along the Nieuwe Maas, 2022. In collaboration with CBK Rotterdam and 150 Years New Waterway. Maud van den Beuken
#1 De rivier van binnen  #1 The river from the inside
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#3 The river as a living entity

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