

Exhibit XO

Accessible exhibition
interpretation

Reference implementation

A Marine's
Disposable War

A proposal for a bounded institutional pilot

Exhibit XO



Spent, Iraq, 2003. Photograph by Kenny Bass.

Disability should not mark the edge of someone's encounter with art.

Preparing his photographs for public encounter led Kenny to ask how Chrissy, his blind collaborator, could enter the work on her own terms.



Tank and Palm, Iraq, 2003. Photograph by Kenny Bass.

The opportunity

 Labels

 Audio

 Interpretation

 Digital guides

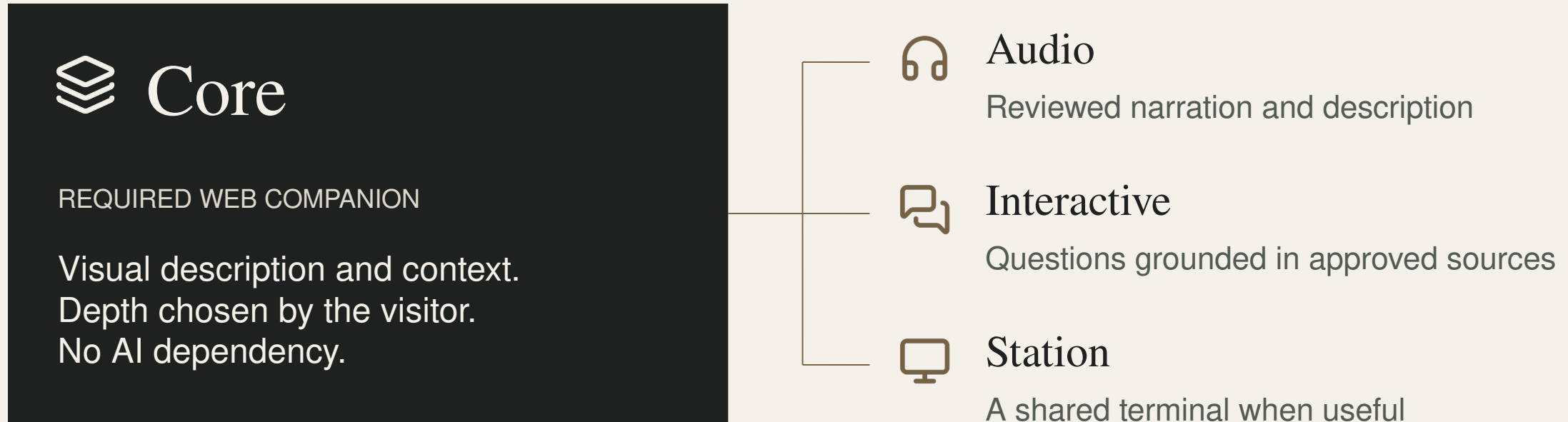
 Tactile resources

 Accessibility services

Can these become one governed,
visitor-directed artwork experience?

A system designed for different exhibitions

A Marine's Disposable War (AMDW) is the artwork.
Exhibit XO provides the interpretation infrastructure.



Audio, Interactive and Station are optional. Core must work independently.

A conversation that follows the visitor



Follow a question

“What do we know about this?”

Ask in ordinary language, then follow up within the approved material.



Change the depth

“Explain that more simply.”

Request a shorter explanation or explore more detail, at the visitor’s pace.



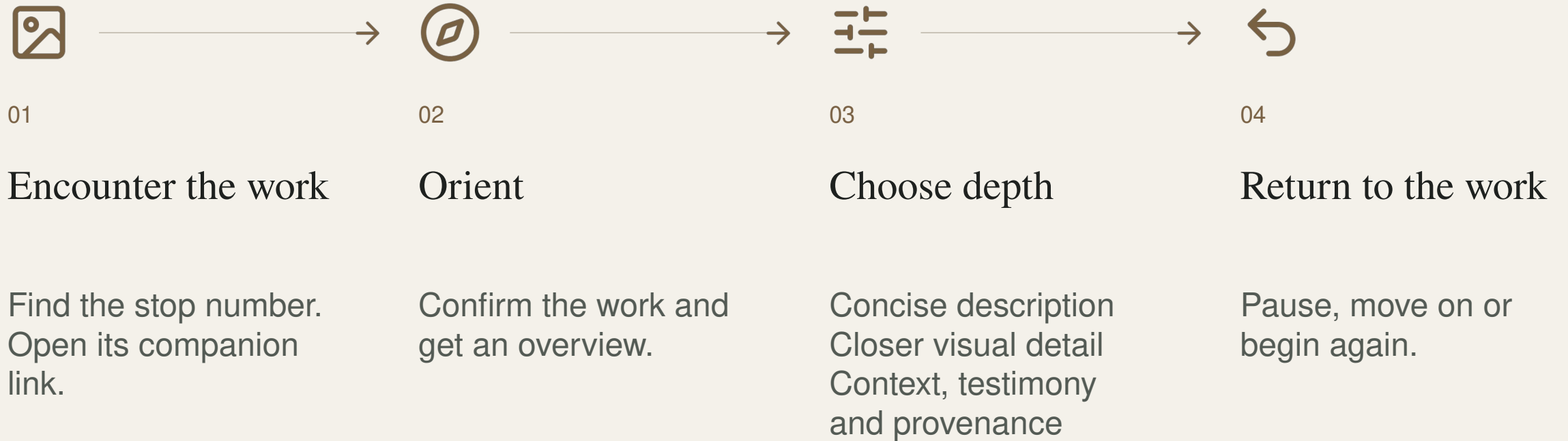
Make connections

“How does this relate?”

Explore links across works, testimony and context, with synthesis clearly identified.

Voice is one access mode. AI adds flexible dialogue with approved sources.

The visitor sets the depth



Entry methods need venue testing. QR, NFC and artwork recognition are optional.

Whose account am I hearing?



Observable fact

What the photograph shows



Artist testimony

What Kenny recalls or interprets



Contextual research

What documented research contributes



Synthesis

Combined interpretation, labeled as synthesis



Project fact

What the project record establishes



Provenance

Authorship and the work's documented history



Curator / Institution

The host's attributed interpretation



Uncertainty / Unknown

What the evidence cannot settle

These distinctions identify sources. Uncertainty can apply to each.

Flexible dialogue. Governed knowledge.

IMPLEMENTED IN THE UNRELEASED CANDIDATE

Artwork & provenance

Identity, authorship and links to approved source records.

Kinds of knowledge

Question types linked to permitted source categories.

Human approval

Attribution, approval dates, release and withdrawal rules.

PROPOSED LOCAL AI CONFIGURATION



Exhibition content and AI would run on institution-controlled computers.
The proposed local configuration needs no external AI service.

The local AI system and its answer controls still require implementation and testing.

What exists now



Live

AMDW companion for all 15 works.

Descriptions and context that visitors open at their own pace.



Controlled candidate

Code and automated tests.
Public release on hold.

Artwork records, venue profiles, contribution approval and guarded artwork recognition.



Future / Optional

Additional capabilities, subject to separate approval.

Reviewed Audio, source-grounded AI dialogue, optional Stations and museum transfer tests.

Four implementation levels

01	Proof	1–2 works. Test Core entry, navigation and depth.
02	Institutional Pilot	Selected AMDW works, paid co-design and field evaluation.
03	Full Reference Implementation	The complete AMDW installation, with optional modules reviewed separately.
04	Transfer Test	Selected host-owned material to test reuse beyond AMDW.

Pilot planning preference: 6–12 installed works, subject to work-specific rights and scope.

One family. Two scales.

Station and screenless node share one restrained product language. Gallery Quiet is the credible near-term direction; Civic Light is the preferred long-term study.



GALLERY QUIET
Near-term enclosure direction.



CIVIC LIGHT
Long-term purpose-built direction.

The form has a technical spine.

Current component architecture informs display, controls, audio, local compute, cooling and service access. A dedicated on-site host is the proposed pilot pattern for larger AI services.

EXHIBIT XO / PRODUCT VIEWS

Station components

FRONT THREE-QUARTER



- 1 Service cover
- 2 Display
- 5 Microphone system
- 6 Cooling

Illustrative module separation. Not a service procedure.

REAR CUTAWAY / COVER HIDDEN



- 3 Controls + audio
- 4 Local computer

PROPOSED PILOT CONFIGURATION

EXHIBIT XO | PRIVATE LOCAL SYSTEM

Visitor access in front. Shared computing on site.

Each Station and node has its own computer; a dedicated on-site host provides the larger AI services.

WITHIN THE VENUE

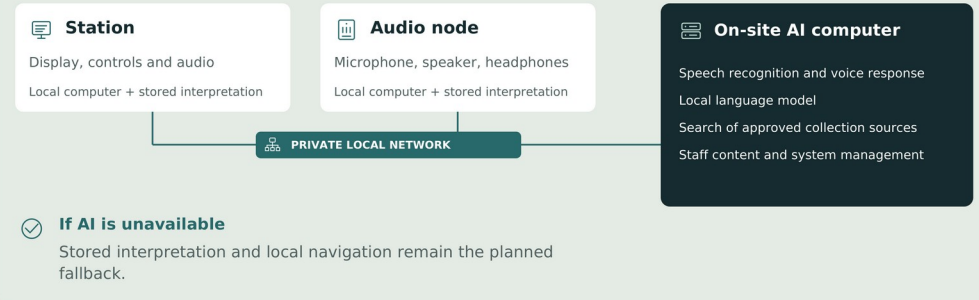


EXHIBIT XO / INSTITUTIONAL PILOT

04 / 08

CONCEPTUAL SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

STATION COMPONENT STUDY

Proposed pilot configuration; not fabrication drawings.

PRIVATE LOCAL SYSTEM

Conceptual topology; Core remains available if AI is unavailable.

A Marine's Disposable War

Fifteen photographs with structured description, provenance, first-person recollection, contextual research and explicit uncertainty.



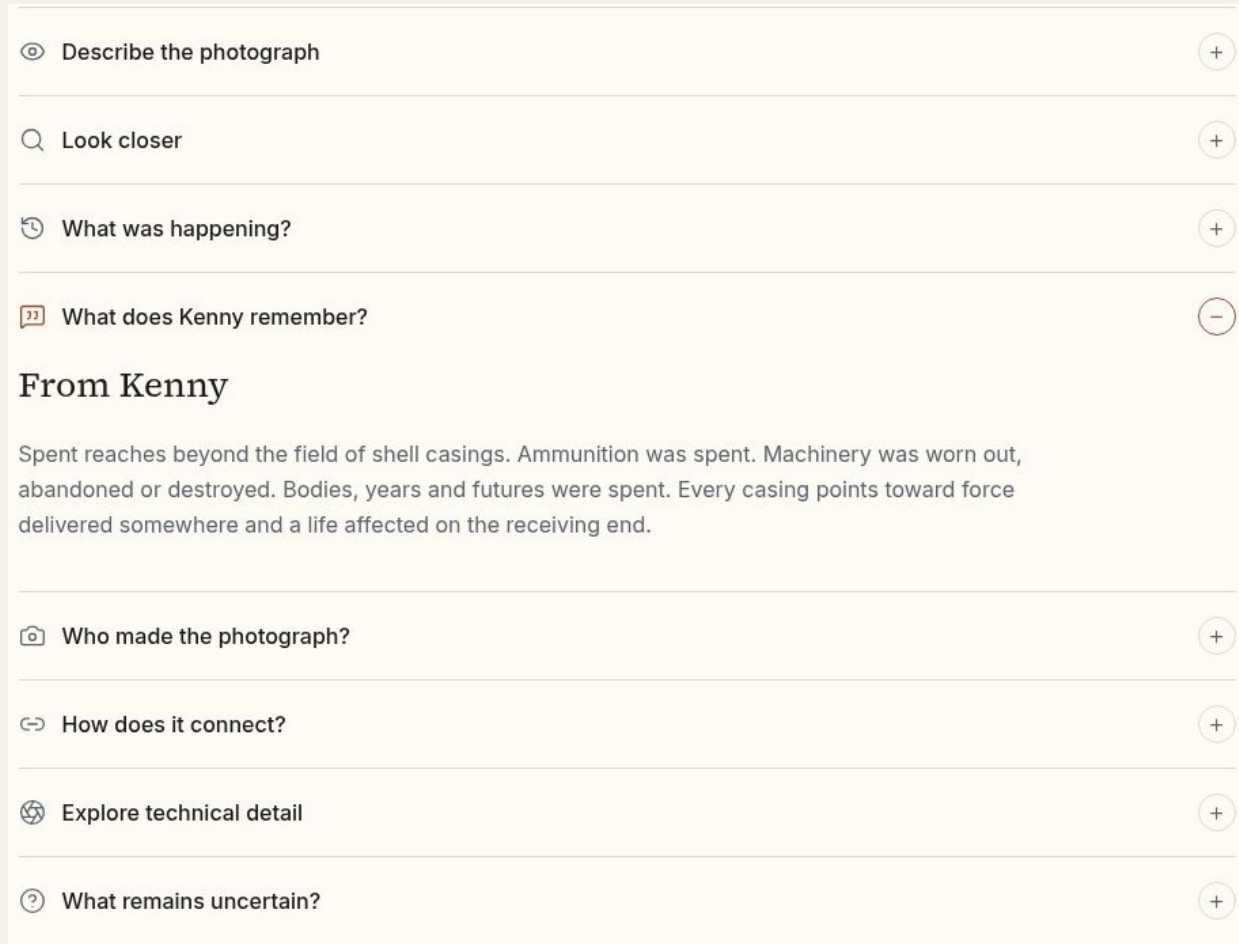
Foreign Armor I
Kenny Bass, Iraq, 2003.

Exhibit XO



Power Plant / Industrial Structure
Kenny Bass, Iraq, 2003.

A visitor chooses what to open



Live companion capture · Spent

Exhibit XO

ILLUSTRATIVE CONTRIBUTION

Curator / Institution

Questions to consider

Consider how this photograph changes when viewed alongside the other objects or stories in an exhibition.

Future interface concept.
No museum contribution is implied.

What the pilot would evaluate



Independent use

Entry into the correct artwork
Navigation and depth choice
Error recovery and help requests



Meaning and agency

Comprehension and source attribution
Trust and depth choice
Comfort and emotional load



Museum operation

Technical reliability
Staff workload and support
Critical incidents and correction

Evaluation is optional and separately consented. Visitors may use Core without taking part.

Co-design with accountable roles

Kenny Bass / Altheon

Artwork authority and implementation

Blind and low-vision co-designers

Chrissy Faulkner and additional paid contributors

Orientation / tactile specialists

Physical entry and wayfinding

Evaluator / research partner

Methods, analysis and declared independence

Co-design does not establish certification or represent every access need.

Host institution

Venue, interpretation and operations

Accessibility specialists

Web, mobile and assistive technology

Audio-description practitioner

Reviewed description when Audio is in scope

Specialists as needed

Privacy, security, conservation and fabrication

A museum question worth scoping

The host shapes the pilot question

Exhibition, interpretation, visitor-experience and accessibility leads define a useful pilot question.

A first reference

AMDW supplies a governed body of work.

A later transfer test

The host selects its own material if the first pilot supports a transfer test.

Ordinary visitor phones first

 No app installation or proprietary hardware required

 No visitor account required

 No default personal-data collection

 No passive microphone

 No facial recognition

Core remains available without AI.

Hosting, data retention and support terms are agreed before a pilot.

A bounded implementation to evaluate

Before a pilot

A shared question.
An agreed scope.
Named responsibilities.

EVALUATION

Not validated or certified.

ACCESS

No claim of universal accessibility.

INSTITUTIONAL STATUS

No institutional endorsement.
Not a finished off-the-shelf museum product.

Agree the budget, schedule, rights, data plan and support terms before launch.

AN INVITATION

Is there a meaningful pilot question worth scoping?

A working conversation with the
museum's exhibition, interpretation,
visitor-experience and accessibility
leads.

Kenny Bass

kennybass.com

Exhibit XO



Covered Position / Vehicle, Iraq, 2003.
Photograph by Kenny Bass.