

The Price of “Progress”





Ottawa is a rapidly growing city with a high demand for housing. Oftentimes, these new developments are in fields, farms, and forested areas. To expand our neighbourhoods, we are forced to destroy the habitats of countless local species. This matter is not pertinent only in Ottawa but is present worldwide. We consistently overlook the fact that animals must relocate as a result of these new constructions which is what we decided to represent in our panels. In the first panel, the natural environment is painted with watercolour while the artificial landscape is digitally enhanced, and both are combined into a hybrid image. The animals are shaded as a representation of their circumstance left unseen, but simultaneously being the emphasis of the image. The depth of the green colour illustrates the probability of future development sites on existing greenspace. The second panel is a collage representation of animal displacement due to construction in greenspaces at a closer scale. A contrast is created by grey scaling certain images to show how a lush environment can become a vast hardscape. Similarly to the first panel, the animals are in a greyscale to convey their absence as a result of such construction. Our submission aims to emphasize the overlooked consequences of construction in existing ecosystems and greenspaces, urging us to reflect upon the lasting impact of our urban developments on the natural world and the life that inhabits it.