THE SITUATIONAL DRIVE: COMPLEXITIES OF PUBLIC SPHERE ENGAGEMENT

A Weekend Conference Presented by Creative Time, inSite, and The Cooper Union
May 12-13, 2007 New York City
FREE

The Situational Drive: Complexities of Public Sphere Engagement

May 12-13, Free!
Cooper Union, The Great Hall, 7th St, btw 3rd and 4th Ave.

Organized by Joshua Decter.
A partnership between inSite San Diego/Tijuana and Creative Time, New York, in collaboration with The Cooper Union School of Art.

This 2-day multidisciplinary conference presents a sequence of panel discussions, conversations, and performances which explore and question the relationship between artistic, curatorial, and theoretical engagement in urban and public spheres.

What is at stake today in terms of public domain experiences? How do we know the impact of cultural projects upon the imaginations of citizens? Do we believe in the possibility of transforming publics? What is the nature of our situational drive?

In the network society everyone puts together their own city. Naturally this touches on the essence of the concept of public domain....Public domain experiences occur at the boundary between friction and freedom. Maarten Hajer and Arnold Reijndorp, In Search of New Public Domain

Program

Saturday, May 12, 2007

10:00am-10:20am
Opening remarks: 
Saskia Bos (Dean of The School of Art, Cooper Union), Michael Krichman (Executive Director, inSite), Anne Pastersnak (President, Creative Time), Joshua Decter (Conference organizer; Graduate Faculty, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College)

10:30am-11:30am
Keynote Conversation: The Frictions of Public Domain Experience
Maarten Hajer (Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Amsterdam; co-founder, Amsterdam Centre for Conflict Studies) in conversation with Krysztof Wodiczko (Artist, New York; Professor of Visual Arts, MIT, Boston)
Moderator: Anthony Vidler (Professor and Dean of The School of Architecture, Cooper Union)

11:45am-1:00pm
Agility and Structure: Organizing Transitory Projects in the City
Vassil Kortun (Director, Platform Garanti, Istanbul), Mary Jane Jacob (Curator; Chair and Professor of Sculpture, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Osvaldo Sanchez (Artistic Director, inSite, 05), Director, Museo de Arte Moderno (MAM), Mexico City), Tom Eccles (Executive Director, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College; former Director, Public Art Fund, NY)
Moderators: Joshua Decter and Peter Eleey (Visual Arts Curator, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis)

1:30pm-1:45pm
Under the Paving Stones, A Beach
A webcast conversation with Mark Beasly (Curator, Creative Time) and Gellin (4-man artist collective, Vienna) as they dig a hole at Coney Island Beach—one of the projects in Creative Time’s exhibition Six Actions for New York City.

2:00pm-2:45pm
Lunch

3:00pm-4:00pm
Designing Your Social Engagement
Michael Rakowitz (Artist, New York/Chicago; Associate Professor in Art Theory and Practice, Northwestern University), Judi Werthein (Artist, Brooklyn/Buenos Aires), Rick Lowe (Artist; Founder, Project Row Houses, Houston), Doug Ashford (Artist, Los Angeles) in conversation with Peter Eleey and Joshua Decter (Artistic Director, inSite_05; Director, Museo de Arte Moderno (MAM), Mexico City), Tom Eccles (Executive Director, Creative Time, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College; former Director, Public Art Fund, NY)
Moderator: Nato Thompson (Curator, Creative Time)

4:15pm-5:45pm
Remote Locations
France Morin (Curator, New York) discusses The Quiet in the Land projects in Luang Prabang, Laos with Allan Sekula (Artist, Los Angeles; Professor, California Institute of the Arts) and Yong Phaophanth (Artist, London). Hamish Fulton (Artist, Canterbury/Kent, England) speaks about his walks in New York in conjunction with Cooper Union and Creative Time. Moderators: Joshua Decter and Anne Pastersnak

6:00pm-7:00pm
Mi Casa, Su Casa
Paul Ramirez Jonas (Artist, Brooklyn; Professor, Bard College) presents a reactivation of a lecture developed for inSite_05 Interventions, involving a key exchange with audience members. The project explores connections between trust, social boundaries/borders, security, and fear.

Sunday, May 13, 2007

10:45am-11:00am
Opening remarks: Joshua Decter

11:00am-noon
Development and Public Space: Architecture as Social Intervention
Teddy Cruz (Associate Professor in Public Culture and Urbanism, Visual Arts Department, UCSD) in conversation with Michael Sorkin (Director, Graduate Urban Design Program at the City College of New York), Laura Kurgan (Director of Visual Studies and the Spatial Information Design Lab, Columbia University) and David Harvey (Distinguished Professor, Program in Anthropology, C.U.N.Y.)
Moderator: Joseph Grima (Director, Storefront for Art and Architecture)

12:15pm-1:00pm
Communication, Fear, Contact
Antoni Muntadas (Artist, New York; Visiting Professor, MIT, Boston) in conversation with Dennis Adams (Artist; Professor, Cooper Union)
Moderator: Judith Barry (Artist and Writer, New York)

1:15pm-2:15pm
Complexities of Participatory Practice
Markus Miessen (Artist/Researcher/Writer, London), Nina Katchadourian (Artist, Brooklyn), Mans Wrangel (Artist, Stockholm; Professor, Konstfack, Stockholm), Anton Vidokle (Artist, Berlin/New York; organizer of unitednationsplaza, Berlin)
Moderator: Doug Ashford (Artist; Assistant Professor, Cooper Union)

2:30pm-3:15pm
Lunch

3:30pm-4:30pm
Anti-Spectacle/Spectacle
Javier Tellez (Artist, New York) in conversation with Joshua Decter and Mark Beasly
Doug Aitken (Artist, Los Angeles) in conversation with Peter Eleey

4:45pm-6:15pm
Navigating Urban Flows
Shuddhabrata Sengupta (Media Practitioner/Writer, Raqs Media Collective, Delhi), Rosten Woo (Director, CUP (Center for Urban Pedagogy), New York), Saskia Sassen (Professor of Sociology, The University of Chicago and the London School of Economics), Kyong Park (Artist/Architect, Founder/Director of the International Center for Urban Ecology)
Moderator: Ute Meta Bauer (Associate Professor, Director of the Visual Arts Program, MIT, Boston)

Tickets are free, no reservations necessary.
For information visit www.creativetime.org.