

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

Dennis Adams, Doug Aitken, Doug Ashford, Judith Barry, Ute Meta Bauer, Mark Beasley, Bulbo, Teddy Cruz, CUP (Center for Urban Pedagogy), Tom Eccles, Peter Eleey, Hamish Fulton, Gelitin, Joseph Grima, Maarten Hajer, David Harvey, Mary Jane Jacob, Nina Katchadourian, Vasif Kortun, Laura Kurgan, Rick Lowe, Markus Miessen, France Morin, Antoni Muntadas, Kyong Park, Vong Phaophanit, Michael Rakowitz, Paul Ramirez Jonas, Osvaldo Sanchez, Saskia Sassen, Allan Sekula, Shuddhabrata Sengupta (Raqs Media Collective), Michael Sorkin, Javier Tellez, Nato Thompson, Anthony Vidler, Anton Vidokle, Judi Werthein, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Mans Wrangé. Organized by Joshua Decker.

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 art projects rethinking the challenges of artistic, curatorial, architectural and theoretical engagement in urban and other 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 Pasternak** (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 **Krzysztof 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*

Vasif Kortun (Director, Platform Garanti, Istanbul), **Mary Jane Jacob** (Curator; Chair and Professor of Sculpture, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago), **Oswaldo 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)

1:15pm-1:45pm

Under the Paving Stones, A Beach

A webcast conversation with **Mark Beasley** (Curator, Creative Time) and **Gelitin** (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), **Bulbo** (Artists Collective, Tijuana, Mexico)
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 **Vong Phaophanit** (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 Pasternak**

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 (Architect/Researcher/Writer, London), **Nina Katchadourian** (Artist, Brooklyn), **Mans Wrangé** (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 Beasley**
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)

The Situational Drive is made possible, in part, by Artography: Arts in a Changing America, a grant and documentation program of Leveraging Investments in Creativity, funded by the Ford Foundation.

Additional support has been provided by haudenschildGarage and the Ronald and Lucille Neeley Foundation.

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For information visit www.creativetime.org.

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