

Urban Body, Urban Story:

Walking Art as Practice, Politics and Poetic Perception

Miguel B Duarte / University of Minho / Lab2PT / WALC / TWB

2026, May 16th

Session 8 Walking Arts in Urban environments / WALC Online Course

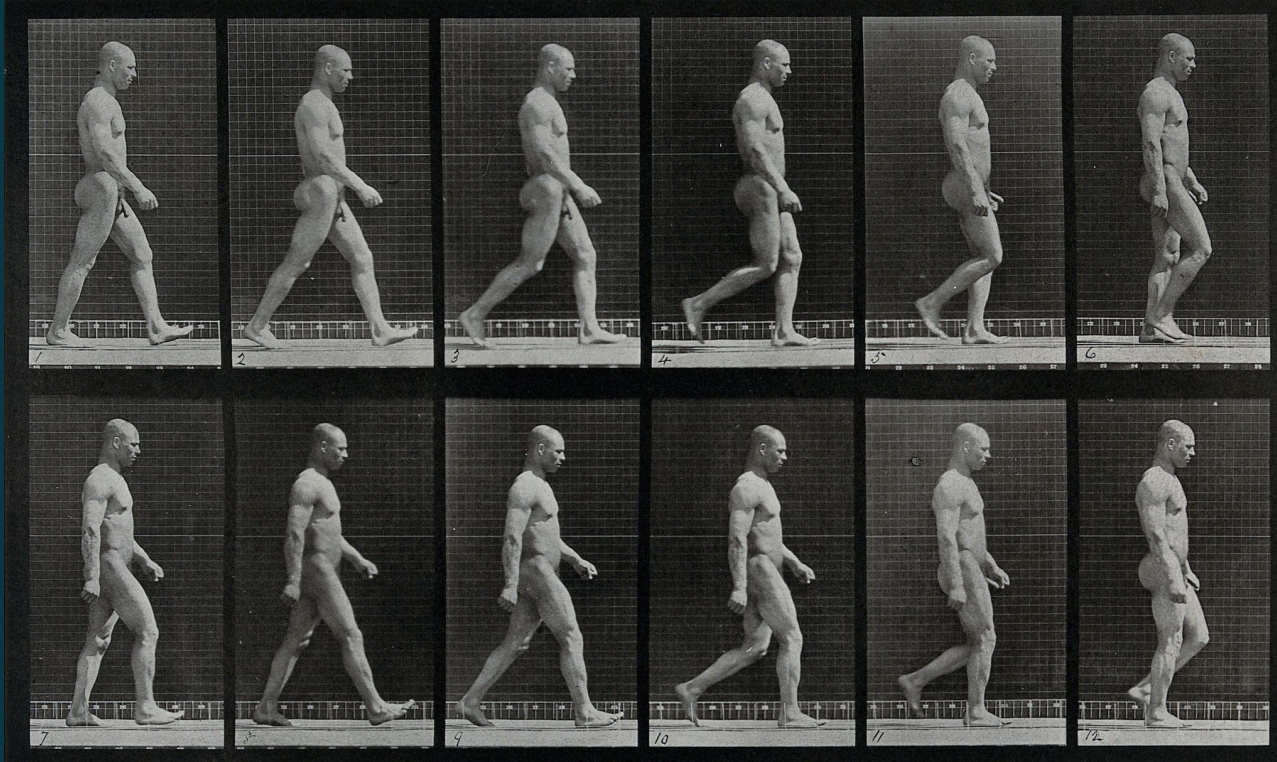


University of Minho
School of Architecture, Art and Design



Laboratory of Landscapes,
Heritage and Territory

after Eadweard Muybridge
A man walking 1887



le Collectif Bim

Une Place Commune 2013



The Bim Collective challenged the urban space in the heart of the Butte-aux-Cailles neighborhood. A square with nowhere to sit, at the intersection of many streets, where the neighborhood's fast pace leaves us blind and deaf to our surroundings. We forced people to stop, posing the following questions: What is the "place" of the individual within an environment? How can one linger amidst the frenzy?

Alisa Oleva
How does the city move 2019



part of a two-week art residency
for young artists in Artsvit
Gallery, in Dnipro, Ukraine.

Luciana Achugar

The Pleasure Project 2014



A public space intervention created from a practice of being in pleasure and giving our bodies a voice.

A practice of growing a new body, as one would grow a plant; a utopian body; a sensational body; a connected body; an anarchic body; a body full/filled with pleasure, with love and with magic.....

Serkan Taycan

Between Two Seas 2013 - ongoing



The project consists of a four-day walking route in the near West of Istanbul, between the Black Sea and the Marmara Sea. While walking, users can experience the threatening changes in the urban landscape starting from the outermost periphery of the city, passing through rural and uninhabited areas and water basins, to its centre.

Stéphane Marin

An Umbrella For 2 2012



An Umbrella for 2" is a sound walk written contextually in response to a place and each time renewed in relation to the spaces and populations heard & encountered.

A pair of listeners are invited to discover points of view and points of listening all along their journey through the public space.

Shared listening, a place in time

Klara Ravat (SE) *The Scent of Amsterdam* 2016



The aim was to collectively explore the neighbourhood of Mediamatic Biotop, visit aromatic urban spaces and learn how to distill a scented memory of Amsterdam

Kate McLean

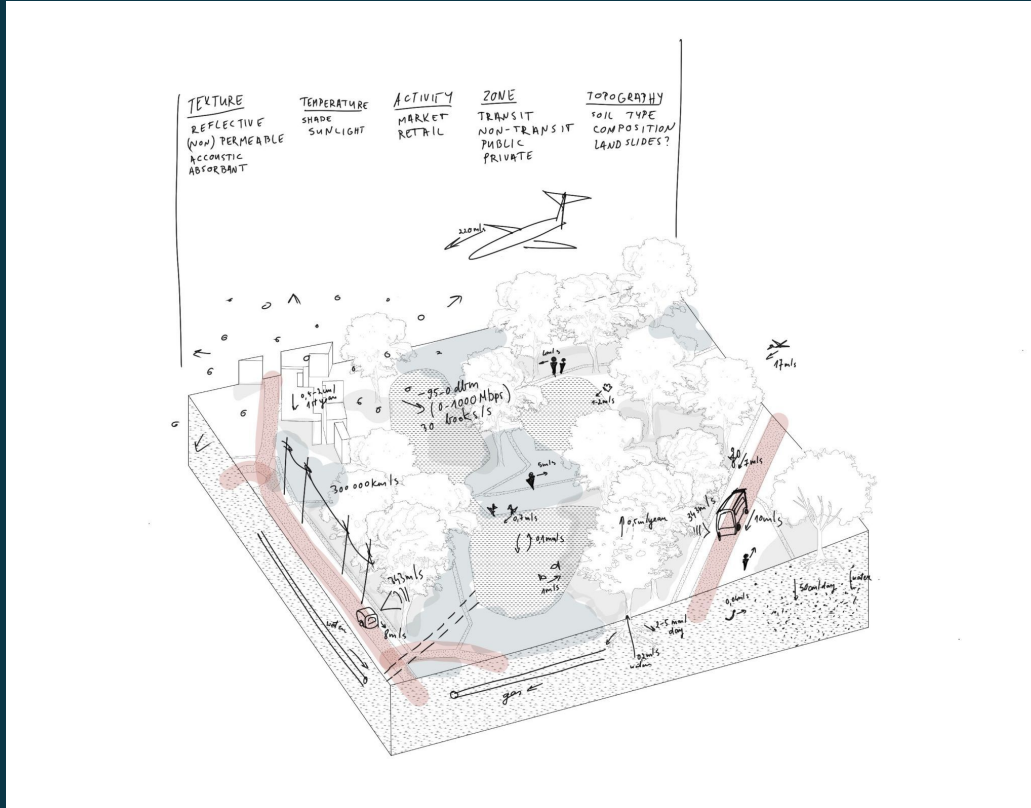
Smellfie Kit 2015



Smellfie Kit: Urban Smellscape Mapping Guide

The Smellfie Kit is an immersive, interactive guide designed by Kate McLean to engage individuals in the act of mapping and experiencing urban smellscapes. This sensory exploration tool encourages participants to actively capture the unique aromas of their surroundings, promoting a deeper connection to the unseen, often overlooked scents of the city.

Laura Norkūnaitė
Layers of urban rhythms / Urban Velocities 2025



Based on Lefebvre's collection of essays "Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time and Everyday Life", the concept of rhythm in a social context (e.g., people's visits to certain places, information flows, changes in fashion) can also be seen in terms of velocities, which adds an extra dimension to the research, by measuring velocities in terms of feelings, events, phenomena, rather than just in terms of units. Based on the concepts of polyrhythmia (coexisting rhythms), arrhythmia (conflicting rhythms) and eurhythmia (complementary rhythms), these can be seen as often invisibly determining the chaotic, harmonious, individual or contradictory character of a given space.

Tim Brennan

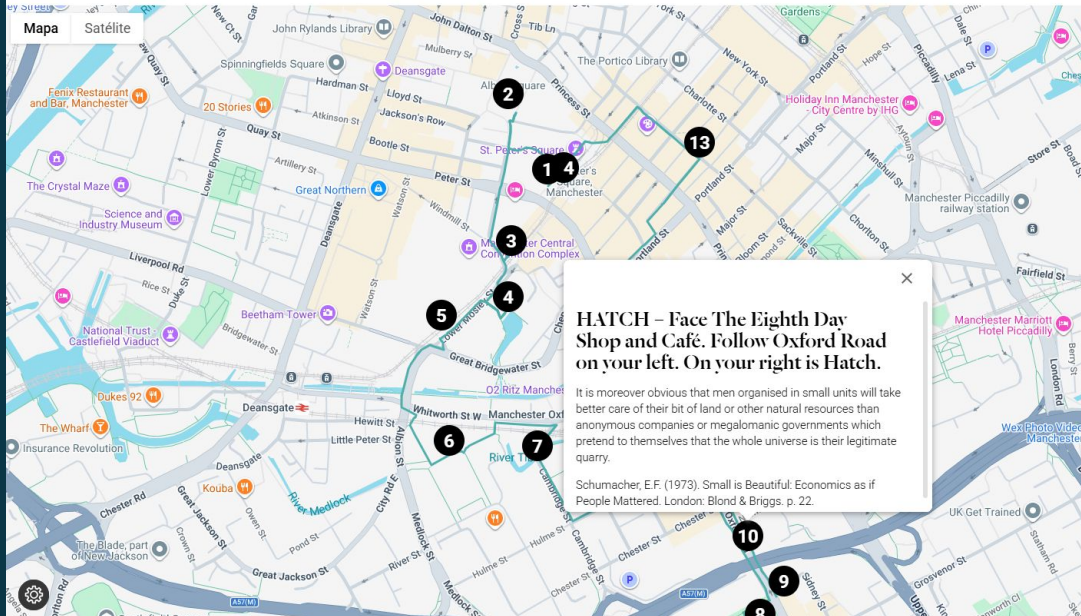
#3 Sustainability Corridor 2025

Oxford Road Corridor

Type: Circular walk - begins and ends at Manchester Central Library

Distance: 2.1 miles/3.4 km

Difficulty: Easy



Tomáš Moravec

Pallet 2008



Pallet is an act of urban hacking that reclaims public infrastructure for personal, poetic use. The performance highlights the “empty spaces” within rigid transport systems, turning a strictly regulated environment into a playground

Perla Ramos

Traje Atómico para caminar I 2020



#arqueologíadelhashtag I emphasize what is recalled through gestures, through the body. What reorganizes the lines. We move along lines, each one connecting to the next. A journey through telecommunications, from a personal perspective, from memory to the collective.

Janet Cardiff, *Her Long Black Hair* 2004



Cardiff (b.1957, Brussels, Canada) takes each listener on a winding journey through Central Park's 19th-century pathways, retracing the footsteps of an enigmatic dark-haired woman. Relayed in a quasi-narrative style, *Her Long Black Hair* is a complex investigation of location, time, sound, and physicality, interweaving stream-of-consciousness observations with fact and fiction, local history, opera and gospel music, and other atmospheric and cultural elements.

<https://cardiffmiller.com/walks/her-long-black-hair/>

Jennie Savage
Guide To Getting Lost 2010



GUIDE TO GETTING LOST

30 minute guided walk for MP3 player.

walk from somewhere to anywhere

Audio Guide

George Maciunas

Free Flux-Tours 1976

FREE FLUX-TOURS

(EXCEPT FOR COST OF TRANSPORTATION & MEALS IF ANY)

May 1: MAYDAY guided by Bob Watts, call 226-3422 for transportation arrangements.
May 3: FRANCO-AMERICAN TOUR, by Alison Knowles & Robert Filliou, 2pm at 80 Wooster st.
May 4: TOUR FOR FOREIGN VISITORS, arranged by George Brecht, start noon at 80 Wooster st.
May 5: ALLEYS, YARDS & DEAD ENDS, arranged by G. Maciunas, start 3pm at 80 Wooster st.
May 6: ALEATORIC TOUR, arranged by Jonas Mekas, meet at noon at 80 Wooster st.
May 7: MUSIC TOUR & LECTURE, by Yoshimasa Wada, start at 2pm at 80 Wooster st.
May 8: GALLERIES, guided by Larry Miller, start at noon at 80 Wooster st.
May 9: SUBTERRANEAN TOUR I, guided by Geoff Hendricks, start at noon at 80 Wooster st.
May 9: SUBTERRANEAN DANGER by Charles Bergengren, start 11 pm at 47 st. & Park av. island.
May 10 & 11: at 6am go to 17 Mott street and eat Wonton soup (says Nam June Paik).
May 12: SUBTERRANEAN TOUR III, arranged by George Maciunas, start 2pm at 80 Wooster st.
May 13: SOUVENIR HUNT, meet at noon at 80 Wooster st.
May 14: SOHO CURB SITES, guided by Peter Van Ripper, meet at 3:30pm at 80 Wooster st.
May 15: EXOTIC SITES, guided by Joan Mathews, meet 3pm at Oviedo Restaurant, 202W 14 st.
May 16: ALL THE WAY AROUND & BACK AGAIN, by Peter Frank, meet at noon 80 Wooster



Todd Shalom

Prompts for participatory walks 2019

ELASTIC CITY

PROMPTS

FOR
PARTICIPATORY
WALKS

EDITED BY TODD SHALOM



Zawieszka 1 – zwieszka /
vino gero

Zawieszka 2 – gradnikina /
pebačakina vezanica

Zawieszka 3 – zastavčina
iz stobokine

A series of posters
and neo-futuristic
stories on Naujininkai

Becca Blackwell

My Worst Nightmare 2016



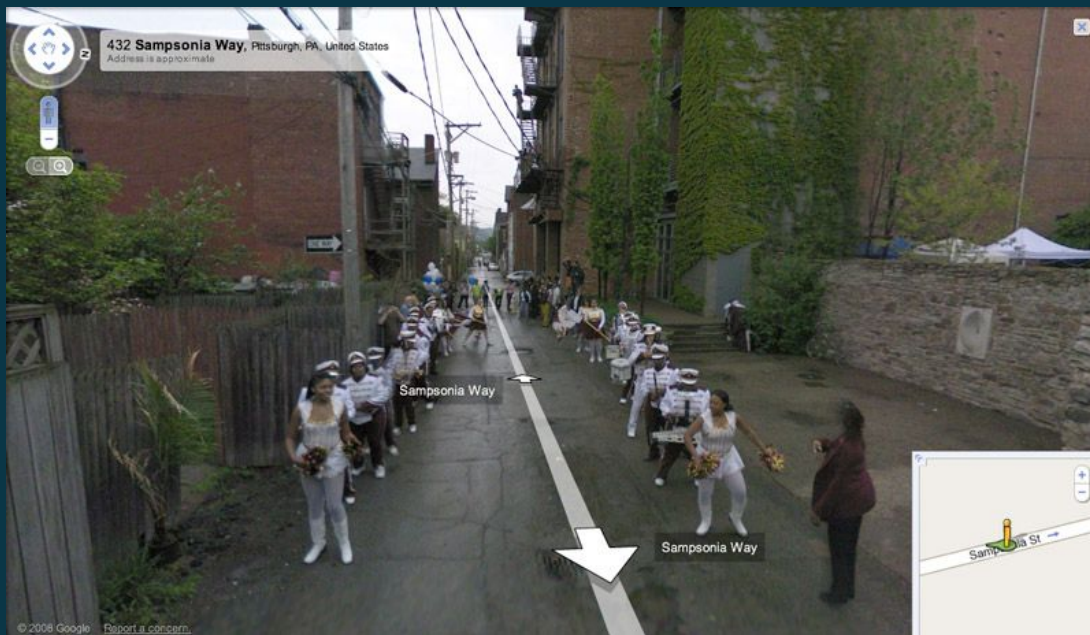
Becca Blackwell came of age in the mid-90s West Village dyke culture. As a bartender at Crazy Nanny's and a few other lesbian bars, they lived through drug raids, sexual assaults and even a race riot. Now a performer and trans, Becca revisits the glorious and traumatic episodes of their past and invites participants to re-enact them in their original locations. Techniques from theater, performance art and circus will bring out your inner queen, drug dealer, and closeted Hollywood A-list.

Pat Naldi and Wendy Kirkup *Search* 1993



Pat Naldi and Wendy Kirkup's project SEARCH consists of silent video documenting a synchronised walk undertaken by the artists in Newcastle upon Tyne city centre in 1993, recorded on the then-brand-new 16 camera surveillance system run by Northumbria Police (Newcastle upon Tyne was the first city centre in the UK to install a Closed Circuit Television network)

Robin Hewlett, Ben Kinsley *Street with a view* 2008



Performance and intervention in Google Maps, 2008
Street With A View introduces fiction, both subtle and spectacular, into the doppelganger world of Google Street View.



<http://benkinsley.com/street-with-a-view/>

Fred Forest

Le blanc envahit la ville 1973



This action should be seen in the context of 1973, when Brazil was ruled with an iron fist by a military junta. The artist's provocation consisted in trying, using the mass media, to create "spaces" for freedom in the press and free expression in the streets

XIle Biennale
de São Paulo

Contrafilé Group

The Children's Rebellion 2005



Young people's demonstration to the creation of a park, São Paulo, 2011. Source: Folha de São Paulo (Print Media).

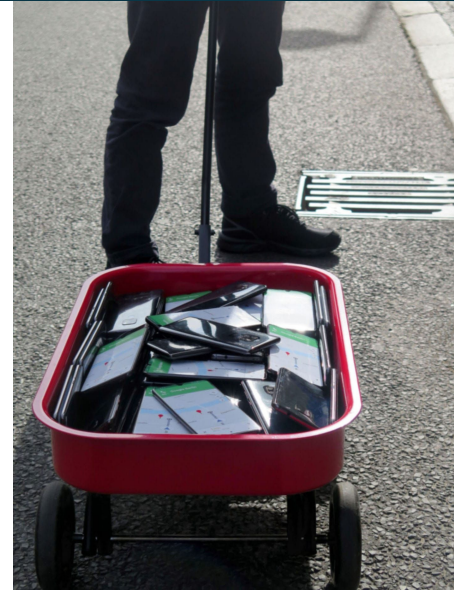
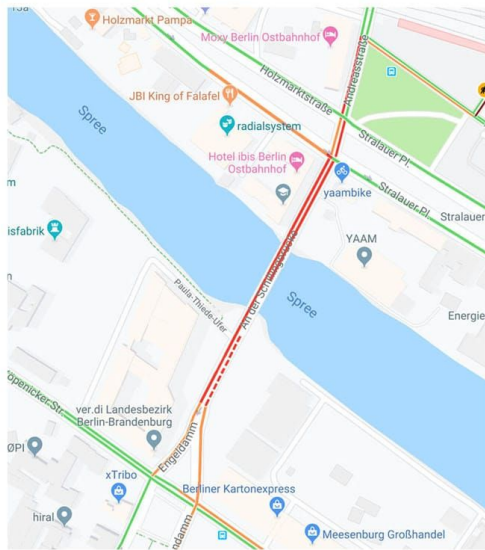
We have been developing The Children's Rebellion since 2005, when we noticed the criminalisation of children and teenagers during a rebellion in youth detention centres in São Paulo. A critical reading of the situation was enhanced as we (counter-)translated the mass media's headlines by replacing certain terms: 'delinquents' with 'children'; 'external agents inciting rebellions' with 'mothers'.

Location
São Paulo

Simon Weckert

Google Maps Hacks 2020

99 second hand smartphones are transported in a handcart to generate virtual traffic jam in Google Maps. Through this activity, it is possible to turn a green street red which has an impact in the physical world by navigating cars on another route to avoid being stuck in traffic.



<https://hyperallergic.com/google-maps-hacks/>

Jeremy Wood

Traverse Me 06/2010



Traverse Me is a map drawn by walking across campus with a GPS device to invite the viewer to see a different landscape to that which surrounds them. It questions the possibilities of where they are and inspires a personal reading of their movements and explorations of the campus.

www.gpsdrawing.com
Warwick campus map

Geert Vermeire

Space Writing - Peace Walk 2023/2026



Inspired by Michel de Certeau's reflection that "Walkers write the text of the city, without being able to read it," this workshop proposes walking as a collective act of writing — with the body, in space, and across scales. The Walking Body

Megan Young

Longest Walk 2016



LONGEST WALK is an installation of female identifying bodies in public spaces originally created in protest to the dehumanizing policies of the 2016 Republican National Convention (RNC) in Cleveland, Ohio. Conceived and directed by **Megan Young**.

Public installation near UIC campus

Eleonore Ozanne

Women walking the city at night 2021



Women walking, the city, at night is a series of performances in the form of collective night walks between women, initiated in Seville in 2021.

The project seeks to explore —through bodily presence and the act of walking— our experience of public space at night.

Carmen Papalia

Blind Field Shuttle 2010



Blind Field Shuttle (Initiated in Portland OR in 2010 –in response to the failures that I experienced as a recipient of disability support services—I started resisting support options that promoted ablest concepts of normalcy and self-identified as a nonvisual learner. The choice was in line with an effort to distance myself from marginalizing language like “blind” and “visually impaired”, and helped me realize the position that I occupied as a liberatory space.

Adrian Piper

I am the Locus #2 (1975)



The series of five hand-worked photographs that comprise *The Mythic Being: I am the Locus* conveys Piper performing a consciousness of otherness on a walk through Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An American-born artist of mixed racial background, Piper has articulated questions about the politics of racial identity in many ways throughout her work as an artist and philosopher.

Thank you!