

The city as a dream of presence: an urban laboratory for the body-eye-space interconnection

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[OUT]TOP/AS exhibition in performance & public/ outdoor space
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*If the city's experience fades away from its interpretative norms
What would there be to notice,
to realise and understand,
to affect and be affected by,
to care and dream of?
Would it signify the arising of a new or hidden place
that it has been sending us
through all this time
insightful underground messages
of who we are and how we stand in this world?
Would it uncover new narratives, symbols and myths,
for the genealogies and visions that define us?*

The body is the instrument to activate space, to map and express its potentials. Through its motion (or stillness) it explores the environment kinaesthetically and audio-visually. It constantly recomposes the signification of place and regenerates its topography.

Seeing emptiness not only as a quality of space but also as a state of mind we use contemplation as a tool of exploring being-ness *in situ*. By detaching our minds (and hearts) from the place's normative uses and tasks as well as the prefabricated notions through which it is being perceived, we experience the three-dimensional terrain with the aim to re-invent it hoping to bring to light unexpected qualities and hidden narrations.

We use movement and visual improvisation practices as inquiring means of spatial awareness. We investigate urban space as a non-self, non-place experience and we deeply play with the senses and their inter-relational objects of form, shape, perspective and time to focus the body mind in the present moment and expand its attention to new mythologies of the urban space.

The laboratory aims to work in the Benaki museum area [Keramikos, Metaxourghio]. Through the walking practice of psychogeography [*dérive*], participants will relate with the sites of the area as places of interest to explore the workshop techniques in open urban space. The project's final outcome will constitute a collage of the practitioners' *in situ* interventions. The presentation will structure an audience participation event. The spectators will walk and drift among the devised actions co-creating with them new narrative correlations and refigurations of the Athenian urban space.