

ENGLISH VERSION PROGRAMME

Friday 22nd February

CITIES OF LIGHT: BARCELONA

Co-existence

February 21st-23rd 2019

10 - 10.05 h

RECEPTION

Eduard Bertran, Director, Institut d'Estudis Fotogràfics de Catalunya (IEFC)

10.05 - 10.15 h

INTRODUCTION

Paul Halliday, Goldsmiths, University of London

Paul Halliday is a photographer, film-maker and urbanist based at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he is course leader of the MA in Photography and Urban Cultures. He is a member of the Urban Photographers' Association, and creative director of UrbanPhotoFest. His work focuses on people, landscapes and things in urban spaces.

10.15 - 11.30 h

KEYNOTE

In defense of the street, Itziar González Virós

After an initial introduction about the city and its essential condition of a space of coexistence and cooperation, this talk will move to a political reflection on *public space* in the neoliberal context. Specifically it will look at how new strategies are needed to reclaim the street as an anti-normative space. At different times in the history of contemporary European cities, the gaze of photographers and urban artists has revealed the spatial and political power of the street. With this in mind, and to illustrate these ideas, we will look at images by the Austrian photographer Margaret Michaelis from the 1930s, from the British photographer Nigel Henderson in the 1950s, from the Catalan photographer Joan Colom of the 1960s, and finally the audio-visual work of the contemporary artist Daniel García Andújar, who lives and works in Barcelona.

Itziar González is an architect and town planner. She was a municipal councillor for Ciutat Vella from 2007 until 2010. She is experienced in conflict mediation and resolution between citizens and urban administration and government. Working with KmZERO, she won the 2017 international competition for an urban development project for the Rambla de Barcelona.

PANEL 1: Who is the city for?

11.30 - 12.10 h

Against the images, Martí Peran

The public space always confronts two mutually opposed dynamics. On the one hand, an Apollonian drive attempts to govern it according to the parameters of the established model of maintaining social peace. On the other hand, a Dionysian effervescence infects the urban space through multiple occupations and appropriations derived from imagination and necessity. These appropriations de-authorize urbanism, opening the gap for the necessary renewal of the social contract. Iconoclastic gestures represent a kind of paradigm of the inevitable transitions always encoded in the urban space. The documentation of the iconoclastic action thus represents the reverse of the photographic image as a decisive moment.

Martí Peran is a member of the faculty of the University of Barcelona, as well as a critic and curator. He has collaborated on numerous books and catalogues of contemporary art. He lectures at a national and international level in museums and universities including MACBA, Barcelona, MNCARS, Madrid, USP, Sao Paulo, Triennale, Milano, CCEBA, Buenos Aires, NYU, New York, Art Beijing. He recently curated "Post-it city and Occasional Cities" at the CCCB, Barcelona.



12.30 - 13.15 h

Articulating signs in the city, Diego Ferrari

He will introduce photographic projects evolving from his artistic concerns and research, and which have also informed his teaching of fine art approaches to photography. In his conception, photography becomes a playful process which allows for an interdisciplinary approach between photography, performance art/'happenings' and the public space. The act of photographing becomes itself performative and challenges ideas of public and private space, and what can and cannot be enacted in the city. Ferrari will present photography from projects in Berlin, London, Barcelona and Johannesburg, where he has worked with various universities and institutions such as Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Goldsmiths and Kingston Universities in London, Elisava Barcelona School, the House of World Cultures in Berlin and the Goethe Institute in South Africa. The work elicits an ambiguity between personal subjectivity and social objectivity as a fertile platform to reflect on the psychological as well as bodily and metaphysical relationship to the notion of public space.

Diego Ferrari is an artist and photographer who has initiated and collaborated in international programs on photography and social participation, as well co-organising for many years the Urban Encounters conference at the Tate Britain and Tate Modern, London. Ferrari's own photographic work addresses bodily interactions with architecture and public space. He exhibits internationally. His academic positions include Elisava (Barcelona), Central Saint Martins (London) and is a Senior Lecturer at Kingston University (London).

Seeing and Unseeing the City, Jean McNeil

Writers both interpret and create the city. Drawing on the work of diverse writers – Walter Benjamin, Megan Bradbury, China Miéville, and making reference to my recent

novel – I will examine the relationship between the individual and the collective as expressed through compelling and dynamic literature about the city. Drawing on a range of tropes and forms, including the flâneur, the speculative and the *künstlerroman* ('artist's novel') I will explore how literary writers both see and 'unsee' the city in its evident and occulted personae. This talk draws upon a recent publication and joint exhibition (with Diego Ferrari) on Walter Benjamin's iconic writing about the city, and also makes reference to literature about contemporary London and New York, to finish with a disturbing, prescient vision of the neoliberal city.

Jean McNeil is an award-winning author of fourteen books, encompassing fiction, non-fiction, travel, essays and poetry. Her most recent a book is a creative-critical collection, *Day for Night: Landscapes of Walter Benjamin*, which examines the influence of Benjamin's work to current concerns of place, rights and migration. She is Reader in Creative Writing and directs the postgraduate research programme in creative-critical writing at the University of East Anglia, UK.

13.15 - 13.45 h

ROUND TABLE

Suzanne Strum (Chair)

Suzanne Strum is an architect whose work examines evolving meanings of media, technology, and environmentalism. Her book, *The Ideal of Total Environmental Control* (Routledge 2018) explores early definitions of ecological architecture and received a Mellon Award from the Society of Architectural Historians. She has a Ph.D. in architecture theory from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

PANEL 2: Home & belonging

15.30 - 16 h

Spiritual Flavours, Laura Cuch

The project *Spiritual Flavours* is a collaborative arts project with members of different faith communities in the suburbs of West London, who contribute and cook recipes that they relate to their spirituality and religious practices. These communities include a Synagogue, a Sri Lankan Hindu Temple, a mosque, a Sikh Gurdwara, an Anglican church, a multicultural Roman Catholic church and an ethnically diverse Pentecostal church. Through interviews and cooking sessions, the project pays attention to affective relationships with food, as a vehicle to explore ideas about home, gender, inheritance, tradition, difference and belief. These sessions are the basis of a 'multi-faith' short film and a photo cookbook. On the one hand, the photo book explores a wide range of personal experiences and histories around food and spirituality across home and the worship spaces. On the other hand, through the use of a three-split screen, the film sets a parallel narrative between three people from three of the faith communities to create visual and sonic synchronies and asynchronies between home cooking, religious practices and biographical narratives. A five-minute preview of the film is available at www.spiritualflavours.com.

Laura Cuch is a documentary and fine art photographer. She teaches photography at Goldsmiths, University of London. In 2015 Laura received a scholarship to do a practice-based PhD in Geography at University College London, where she initiated the project 'Spiritual Flavours'. Laura is a member of the Urban Photographers Association.

16 - 16.30 h

Flat Zero: Topographies of Homelessness - Daniel Cid - Eva Serrats - Francesc Pla

How does the intimacy of someone sleeping rough un-

fold? It seems that it develops out of doors and in the open, yet it is invisible, which does not mean, however, that it doesn't follow specific codes. This was one of the many questions that arose in the process of designing Flat Zero, a new type of apartment for Arrels Fundació (Barcelona), a foundation for the chronically homeless. The intention of this project was to transform this memory of a permanent exterior into a place for sleeping comfortably.

Eva Serrats is an architect, photographer and filmmaker; she is a co-founder of Leve Projects. **Francesc Pla** is an architect and Associate Professor at ETSAV- UPC; he is a co-founder of Leve Projects. **Daniel Cid** is working on social design projects and is an Associate Professor at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton. Together they have developed cooperative projects in design.

16.45 - 17.15 h

From the other shore - Cristina Gastón/Form +

Form + is a research group which explores the scope of criteria linked to visual perception in order to define the architectural project. We are interested in all scales, from the overall urban form to the details of construction. The photographic image has a decisive influence on the way in which society in general and architects in particular see and know the world: its landscapes, its cities and its buildings. It constitutes a primordial resource in the recognition of the space and the built environment. Photography helps architecture students to learn to locate themselves in space, see relationships instead of isolated objects, check limits, explore visual fields and anticipate the sensorial experience that the finished building will offer to its future users. We are currently developing an online platform called "*Interactive Atlas. Visual record of urban architecture in Latin America. 1940-1970*". This cartographic database website gathers a collection of photographic documents of exceptional

quality in relation to outstanding buildings. It recognises the contribution of the photographers who translated the buildings to the printed image and allowed them to travel around the world and reach the other side of the Atlantic Ocean through publications, magazines, books and screens.

Cristina Gastón is Professor in the Department of Architectural Projects at ETSAB-UPC. Her doctoral thesis was awarded the Fundación Caja de Arquitectos Prize and the Extraordinary Doctorate Prize by UPC. She has been invited to teach postgraduate courses, seminars and present in conferences at various universities in Spain and Latin America. She is a member of the Form + group and is head researcher for the I+D project: *Architecture, photography and city: geolocation of the photographic record of modern architecture*.

17.15 - 17.45 h

ROUND TABLE

Andrea Parga (Chair)

Doctor in Architectural Projects from UPC. Member of the Form + research group. She has been a MINECO postdoctoral researcher and an FPI-MEC research fellow in the Department of Architectural Projects, ETSAB, UPC. She has been research fellow in research centres in the Caribbean and at Columbia University. She has studied at the International Center of Photography, NYC. He obtained a master's degree in "Theory and Practice in Architectural Projects" and in "History, Art, Architecture and the City". She has been a professor of Architectural Design at the FAU-UCV.

17.45 - 18 h

SHARE CLOSING REMARKS

BY ORGANISERS:

Carles Costa, (IEFC), **Diego Ferrari** (Kingston University / Elisava), **Laura Cuch** (Goldsmiths, University of London), **Jean McNeil** (University of East Anglia), **Paul Halliday** (Goldsmiths, University of London).