

Seine-Saint- Denis Crossing

710 hours, April 2017.
Saint Ouen - Saint Denis - Aubervilliers - La Courneuve, 93 district, France.

Seine-Saint-Denis Crossing was the 12th iteration of the performance wich took place in Venezia, Dresden, Paris, Nancy, Basel, New York, Tokyo...

As a tool, the Crossing put the artists in the streets with their furniture (1 bed, 1 table, chairs and stool for each artist) that they are permanently carrying and moving by hand in a journey through the city or a urban area, always in public space. The action is a non stop performance where the artists eat, sleep and have a regular life on them (as a movable outdoor flat) wich can lasts from a week to a whole month, regarding to the city scale.Any part of the city visited with the furniture becomes a living place, so the action gives a new potential to places that where built and experienced for a different uses.

This tool is an invitation to break with the city rythm, and offer the possibility to everyone to have a stop, a conversation or just a double check on a street movable living device activated by the artists.

This action is meant to approach fields of research as architecture, urban sociology, and performing arts in the goal of inventing and building public space. In this direction, we are activating an essential human need wich is creating common memory that becomes history of humans on a territory. By offering the chance to any passer by neighbour to get involve in the process of the performance, citizen can be a part of this emerging history wich becomes a new collective positive memory. This is what we consider as a immaterial architecture creation, created and shared by every human.

In our perspective, public space emerges from human construction, a common desire of elevation by creating an emotional space where memory is the cement. City is about relation, immaterial constructions. people make the city. they are the public space.

In the 93 district, the artists spent 720 hours (one full month) travelling with the furniture through 4 cities, from Paris gate to the 3rd zone of the suburb. they started in Saint ouen, passed trough Saint Denis, Aubervilliers to end in La Cité des 4000 in La Courneuve. One aim was to create a common memory that fits with the new scale of the urban project «le grand Paris», wich is an opening of the city to its suburb, trying to find answer to the developpement of Paris limits.

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