

/inSite

Art Practices in the Public Domain
San Diego Tijuana

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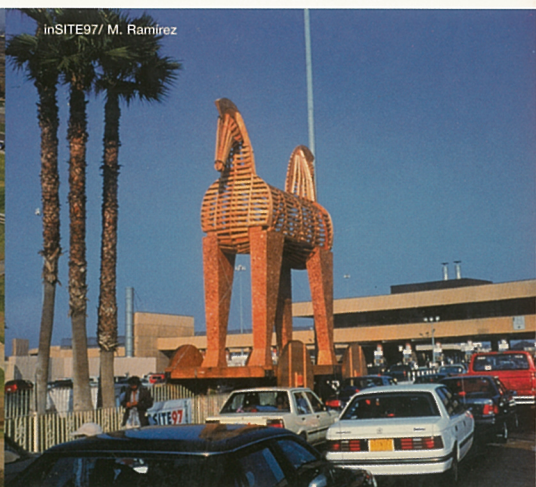
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/inSite | Art Practices in the Public Domain San Diego Tijuana

inSite/ Over the course of twelve years, since its inception in 1992, inSite has mapped the intricate networks of permeability and blockage that characterize the liminal border zone of San Diego-Tijuana. Recognized for its importance both as a strategic globalization node and as a locus for reimagining contemporary identities, the San Diego-Tijuana region has increasingly become a site of extensive critical analysis.

Focused on the specificity of the San Diego-Tijuana corridor as a mutant context of unexpected political and cultural rearticulations, inSite's activities revolve around periods of artists' residencies and intricate processes of collaboration and coauthorship. Throughout successive versions of the project, groups of curators and artists have contributed diverse models of practice through which inSite has proposed new readings and added further layers to the region's sociocultural weave: from inSITE92's emphasis on installation art; to an interest in spatial and symbolic context demonstrated by the *in situ* works of inSITE94; to subtle intrusions in urban space and its public representations in inSITE97; to diverse processes of cultural practice evident in inSITE2000, when works were based as much on events and experiences as on aesthetic products of controlled visibility.

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ZONES/ The cities of San Diego and Tijuana occupy a border zone in which their territorial confines are indelibly imprinted on the landscape, where the asymmetries of each city are reflected as a distorted mirror image of the other. As a binational construction, however, the San Diego-Tijuana region seems to suggest that geography does not necessarily imply territoriality, just as the existence of the border is no guarantee of fracture. This is a conurbation that, despite constant collisions, is nevertheless porous and fluid. By creating real and imagined networks on the human map of this area, inSite_05 will engage situations of subversion, survival, and exchange.

AGENTS/ How do we promote practices of participation without resorting to institutionalized indicators of audience engagement in which the notion of "public" is reduced to predetermined demographic data, roles, and expectations? How can we make the public experience a living process of cultural alliances and displacements? inSite_05's projects will provoke experiences in the public domain and urban actors' performance as cosubjects. As a practice of process, inSite_05 welcomes the unpredictable outcomes inherent in the daily renegotiation of social space.

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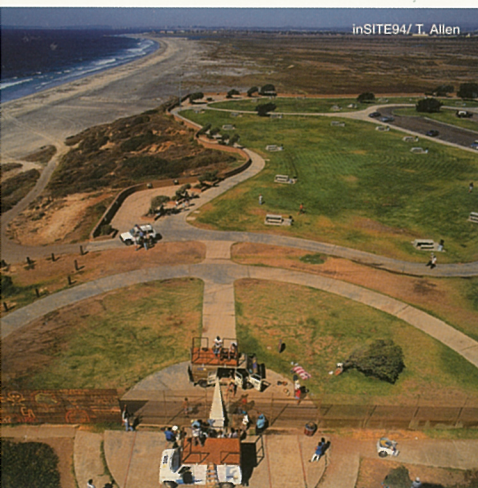
Photo/ Yvonne Venegas

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inSITE94/ T. Allen



inSITE97/ M. Ramirez



inSITE2000-01/ C. Amoraes

Bypass/ inSite_05's theoretical axis, Bypass, seeks to interweave situations of flux, mobility, and experiences of interconnectedness. It brings together a group of artists and curators who are interested in stimulating, through artistic practices, the gestation of new utopias of belonging and dynamics of association within the public domain.

The cultural vitality of the San Diego-Tijuana border zone stems from its urban flows that delineate corridors of transit and negotiate visibility and opacity within the public domain of citizen action. inSite_05 presents itself as a connective topology that links the mobility of urban networks with the cultural displacements and symbolic transformations of urban identities in flux. inSite_05 will initiate processes intended to encourage novel, informal, and unexpected experiences and alternative modes of citizenship.

Given that local sustainability depends as much on the region's more subtle flows as on its more obvious forms of exchange, inSite_05 will attempt to stimulate urban situations that explore and unravel the social weave of the area.

FRAMEWORK/ inSite_05 is a network of practices and discourses that began in 2003 and will continue through the end of 2005. Based on an interdisciplinary platform, inSite_05 will unfold as four related components:

Interventions/ Curator: Osvaldo Sánchez/ The heart of inSite is artistic interventions in the social fabric of San Diego-Tijuana. inSite_05 will include commissioning twenty-five artist's projects that will focus on creating experiences in the public domain. Working through sustained periods of residency, artists will negotiate the region's complex urban, public, and border contexts and stimulate new models of critical engagement. Projects for *Interventions* will be inserted at different levels of (in)visibility and will enlist diverse processes of coparticipation.

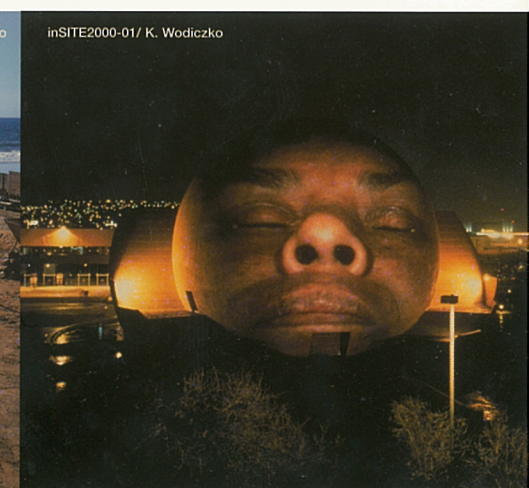
Scenarios/ Net Art/ Curator: Mark Tribe/ **Video and Sound/** Curator: Hans Fjellestad/ **Archive/** Curator: Ute Meta Bauer/ *Scenarios* will support cultural practices that transcend spatial environments and engagement with physical sites. With an emphasis on time-based processes and dematerialization, *Scenarios* incorporates less established practices that are now key to the construction of "public" as a space of discourse.

Conversations/ Curator: Sally Yard/ Envisioned as an ongoing series of dialogues, workshops, lectures and publications, *Conversations* will explore inSite's potential as an arena for intellectual exchange. Eliciting unexpected perspectives from writers, researchers, artists, curators and practitioners from a variety of fields, *Conversations* will elaborate issues pertinent not only to inSite_05, but to various ongoing dialogues engendered by San Diego-Tijuana's dynamic character as a liminal zone.

Two-City Museum Exhibition/ Curator: Adriano Pedrosa/ Organized by the San Diego Museum of Art, the Centro Cultural Tijuana and inSite, the two-city museum exhibition will weave together the work of contemporary artists, documentary material, and cultural products to create a web of urban narratives. Based in part on a curatorial process of exchange and research among curators from five urban centers in the Americas, the two-city museum exhibition will provide alternative, complementary, and related perspectives to the specific urban context of San Diego-Tijuana.



inSITE94/ H. Escobedo



inSITE2000-01/ K. Wodiczko