

Zones of Conflict (London, 24 Jan 09)

T.J.

ZONES OF CONFLICT: UNEVEN GEOGRAPHIES

Research Workshop #3

University College London: Cruciform Lecture Theatre 1, Gower Street,
WC1E 6BT

24 January 2009, 3:30pm-8:00pm

www.ucl.ac.uk/zones_of_conflict

Organized by T.J. Demos (UCL, History of Art) in partnership with Eyal Weizman (Research Architecture, Goldsmiths)

EVEN AS GLOBALISATION represents a space of increased mobility, it has engendered transnational forms of economic, social and political inequality. For Rosalyn Deutsche such "uneven geographies" have meant disenfranchisement and dispossession; for Mike Davis they predict a "planet of slums." Cities and nations have created formidable borders and spaces of enclosure, maintained through heightened networks of security, ever threatened by terrorism. This workshop will consider how artists and architects have translated these divisions into new representational strategies of analysis, as well as invented new methods to negotiate these trends and creatively challenge their negative effects.

Admission: this event is free and open to all.

PARTICIPANTS:

YATES MCKEE (New York)

Yates McKee is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Art History, Columbia University. An alumnus of the Whitney Museum Independent Program and frequent participant at 16 Beaver Group, his writing has appeared in venues including Grey Room, The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest, Parkett, and October. He is an associate editor of Nongovernmental Politics (Zone, 2007), and coeditor, with Meg McLagan, of The Visual Cultures of Nongovernmental Politics (Zones, forthcoming). He is at work on a genealogy of sustainability in ecological art, design, and activism since the 1970s, as well as a study of the post-secular in contemporary art, with special reference to the 'pofane illuminations' of Paul Chan.

JOHN PALMESINO (Basel)

John Palmesino is an architect and urbanist. He is co-founder of PALMESINO RÖNNESKOG Territorial Agency, a practice involved in the management of international innovative transformations of the contemporary inhabited landscape and its architecture.

Territorial Agency has developed the Markermeer Plan, an integrated vision for the future of the Markermeer, in the Netherlands. After the 'Unfinishable Markermeer' plan developed in 2005, the Markermeer Plan addresses a number of environmental, architectural, planning, and policy issues in a collaborative environment with a team of interdisciplinary experts.

Palmesino leads the research programme of ETH Studio Basel-Contemporary City Institute and is a founding member of Multiplicity, a research network dealing with contemporary architecture, urbanism, arts and general culture.

He is currently researching the implications of neutrality in the relation to politics and territorial and architectural transformations.

ALESSANDRO PETTI (Bethlehem)

Alessandro Petti is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths College, UCL, and is based in London and Bethlehem. He has co-curated different research projects on the contemporary urban condition, including Borderdevices, Uncertain States of Europe, and Stateless Nation, and his work has been presented in various biennales and museum exhibitions. He has written on the emerging spatial order dictated by the paradigm of security and control (Archipelagos and Enclaves, Bruno Mondadori 2007), and is currently working on a research project entitled Atlas of Decolonization, an architectural documentation on the re-use, re-inhabitation and subversion of colonial structures, including those in Israel's Occupied Territories.

ADANIA SHIBLI (Ramallah and London)

Born in Palestine in 1974, Adania Shibli has been publishing regularly in literary magazines in the Arab world and in Europe. Her first novel, Masas, was published in Arabic in 2002 (Adab Publishing House, Beirut, Aces-Sud Publishing House, France). Her second novel, We are all Equally Far From Love, was also published by Al Adab. Shibli has twice been given the Young Writers' Award, Palestine, by the A.M. Qattan Foundation. Her writing has been translated into many languages, with English translations of her stories appearing in the anthology Qissat, and in the magazines Words Without Borders, Documenta (where "Out of Time" originally appeared), and Banipal. She contributed an essay to a book on Palestinian artist Emily Jacir. Shibli is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of East London, where she is researching media coverage of the 'War on Terror'.

EYAL SIVAN (London)

Eyal Sivan is Reader in Media Production at the School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies, University of East London. He is a filmmaker, producer and essayist, born in Haifa, Israel. After working as a professional photographer in Tel-Aviv, he left Israel and settled in Paris in 1985. Sivan has directed more than ten feature-length documentaries about political issues and produced many others, which have been shown widely at international film festivals and art exhibitions, and have won numerous international awards, including the Cinéma du Réel Price at the Centre Pompidou in Paris for his first film *Aqabat Jaber, Passing Through* about displaced Palestinian populations; and the Adolf Grimm Gold price in Germany for his work about the Eichmann case, *The Specialist*. Sivan is currently director of the film production company *Momento!* and the film distribution company *Scalpel* in France, and is member of the editorial board of *La Fabrique* (Paris).

SRDJAN WEISS (Philadelphia)

Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss is an architect and founder of Normal Architecture Office as well as a founding member of the School of Missing Studies. His books include *Almost Architecture*, which explores architecture vis-à-vis emerging democratic processes, and *Lost Highway Expedition Photobook*, which examines rapid urbanization of Europe's South East. Weiss is currently preparing a book on architecture of Balkanization. He recently collaborated with Herzog & de Meuron architects in Basel and was selected by them as one of 100 architects to design a villa in the new city of Ordos, Inner Mongolia, master-planned by Ai Weiwei. Weiss has presented his work in museums and universities internationally. He lectures at Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania and Temple University and is currently based in Philadelphia (see: www.thenao.net).

EYAL WEIZMAN (London)

Eyal Weizman is Director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and has worked with a variety of NGOs and human right groups in Israel-Palestine. After graduating from the Architectural Association (AA) in London, he worked with Zvi Hecker in Berlin. He is now in private practice in partnership with Rafi Segal. Their projects have included rebuilding the Ashdod Museum of Art and the exhibition and publication *A Civilian Occupation*. Weizman conducted research and a mapmaking project for the human rights organization B'Tselem on violations of human rights through architecture and planning in the West Bank. His books published include *Yellow Rhythms* (1010Publishers Rotterdam, 2000), three co-edited catalogues for the exhibition *Territories* (2003-2004), *A Civilian Occupation* (Verso, 2003), and *Hollow Land: Israel's*

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Architecture of Occupation (Verso, 2007). Weizman is an editor-at-large of Cabinet magazine, and received the James Stirling Memorial Lecture Prize for 2006-7.

Discussion will be moderated by organizer TJ DEMOS

Reference:

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