

Stadsgesprek

Building Common Spaces



23 March — 14 April 2019
AMSTERDAM

24 — 26 May 2019
COLOGNE

1. ABSTRACT

Building common spaces - temporary architecture in urban planning

Our society and cities are subject to constant change. As citizens of an “urbanized society”¹, a term coined by Henri Lefebvre already in the 1970s, the city determines our daily actions and thinking, our economy and politics. In his essay “On the Knowledge of Cities. Urban Spaces as Laboratories for Civil Society”², Wolfgang Kaschuba describes a “cultural change of paradigms” for urbanity that is under way in our contemporary cities. This crucial shift is marked by a breach with a Fordist conception of the city that is based on industrial production, traffic and capitalism. The “new urbanism”, by contrast, (re)discovers the city as a space for living and culture. The members of this emergent and highly self-confident urban citizenry demand greater participation in urban planning and design, more space for social life and cultural diversity in cities. In this context, the quality of public space is re-evaluated with regard to social, cultural and aesthetic criteria and a desire is felt to redesign and reuse this space as a “common space”.

Civil commitment and redesign ask for creative models and strategies as well as specific spatial structures within cities. The (participative) design of temporary architecture in order to (temporarily) reuse public space opens up new perspectives and is a popular urban practice “from below”, i.e. carried out by artists, cultural actors and citizens in the context of festivals and projects, either officially or subversively. Such process-based approaches may thus create places of congress, community, discourse and a spatial nucleus for collecting and exchanging urban knowledge.

As part of the city talk, we would like to introduce the theoretical framework of “Urban Commons” and discuss current examples of architectonic interventions in public space. This shall serve us to take a closer look at the perspectives of use that these architectures offer for the site-specific redesign of public space and the production of intellectual and social spaces.

In doing so, we will also examine the relation of conventional urban planning and these “new producers of space”. How can cities support and help shape these developments? What structural and spatial conditions can / must urban planning policies offer in order to enable and promote temporary, participatory and need-oriented redesigns of public space, its streets, squares and parks? What options for mediation and schemes does this “new public space” need in order to prevent conflicts of interest with regard to its usage? And what actors are needed in these processes?

1 cp. Henri Lefebvre, *La révolution urbaine*, Paris, Gallimard, 1970

2 cp. Wolfgang Kaschuba, *Vom Wissen der Städte. Urbane Räume als Labore der Zivilgesellschaft*, in: *Berliner Blätter*, issue 69, 2015, pp. 13-29

www.urbanartnow.com
archiv.trans-urban.de

contact

Markus Hinger
+31 615 440373
markus@urbanartnow.com

Georg Barringhaus
+49 178 9739103
info@trans-urban.de

promoter

Urban Art NOW
Louwesweg 1
1066 EA Amsterdam
www.UrbanArtNow.com

artrmx e.V.
Hospeltstraße 69
50825 Köln, GER
+49 221 29496959
www.artrmx.com

PARTICIPANTS

Host: Jereon Boomgard (LAPS, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam)

Panelists:

David Habets (RAAAF, Amsterdam), Kay von Keitz (plan, Stadtlabor, Köln)

not confirmed yet: Adeola Enigbokan (researcher, Amsterdam), Lillet Bredels (Archis, Amsterdam)

DATE/LOCATION (TBC!)

March 26th, 7pm, Nautilus Community, Zeeburgereiland, Amsterdam



23 March — 14 April 2019
AMSTERDAM

24 — 26 May 2019
COLOGNE

www.urbanartnow.com
www.trans-urban.de

contact

Markus Hinger

+31 615 440373

markus@urbanartnow.com

Georg Barringhaus

+49 178 9739103

info@trans-urban.de

promoter

Urban Art NOW

Louwesweg 1

1066 EA Amsterdam

www.UrbanArtNow.com

artrmx e.V.

Hospeltstraße 69

50825 Köln, GER

+49 221 29496959

www.artrmx.com