

Daniel Belasco Rogers

Artist's Statement

I am an artist who works with psychogeography, accidents and personal history through new media, locative media technology, performance, drawing and writing. After working for many years in live art contexts in Britain as well as administrating contemporary visual art for the Contemporary Art Society, I received an Artsadmin Artists Bursary and began to develop a strand of lecture performance making, taking in all aspects of my artistic practice. In 2001, as I contemplated moving from London where I grew up and had spent most of my life, to Berlin, a city I knew little about, I began to realise the wealth of personal material I associated with London streets and banal street furniture that thousands of people wonder past each day but hold, for me, the memories that made my life thus far. I began to be struck by how hard the surfaces of a city are and how they resist the marking that these hard surfaces readily make on one's own body. This led to an examination of accidents that I had had in London and the precise plotting of these so that I could find out where these had happened in Berlin. This involved overlaying the two cities on one another, using the centres of both cities as the anchor point and seeing where the events of my life thus far had happened if I had been in Berlin instead of London. I also realised that Berlin was offering me something London couldn't and that was an opportunity to document how I came to learn about the city, how my mental image of the city builds up as I navigate my body through its passages. Since 2003 I have recorded every journey I have made using a GPS (Global Positioning System) and have collected the traces these wanderings have made into large maps, usually printed out to show a city such as Berlin or London and how they accumulate over time.

The transposed accidents and the GPS drawings are all part of the lecture performance, *Unfallen*, commissioned by the Arnolfini and performed in Europe and Australia which also uses video work to document the superimposed locations. I have exhibited the GPS drawings in group shows at Büro Friedrich and Berliner Kunst in Berlin.

My interest in cities as mnemonic edifice rather than architectural honeycomb has also led to working with locative media to annotate the urban environment. In 2004 I was the recipient of a research commission from the University of Bristol and Hewlett Packard which led to working with handheld computers attached to GPSs, primarily to build audio environments with which the spectator/listener can navigate his or her way around a demarcated section of the urban environment (a city square for example) and listen to the memories and annotations of other passers-by, placed in the exact location to which they refer. The latest locative media project, Our House, is the virtual realisation of the house I grew up in mapped into the interior of another, larger building. As you walk around with handhelds, images from the house, family photographs and the voices of the people who have lived there (my family) are heard.

In addition to these projects, I formed the performance art company 'plan b' with my partner, the video maker and performer Sophia New in 2001. As plan b, we have been resident artists at the Podewil and performed in Germany and the UK. plan b has also been invited to collaborate with Forced Entertainment (UK) and Gob Squad (UK, DE) during 2005, and in the case of Gob Squad, in an ongoing project 'Welcome to our World, Built with you in Mind'.

I have been awarded a residency at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin as part of the Junge Akademie 2006. In January and August 2006 I will lead a workshop on psychogeography for international choreographers as part of the 'Dance Roads' programme, represented in Berlin by Tanztage and Sophiesäle. I have also been approached by the Folkwang Hochschule in Bochum through Robin Arthur (Forced Entertainment) to oversee the establishment of a new course in performance and theatre making.

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www.planbperformance.net/dan