

**Temporary Art & Public Place
Berlin, 1989 – 2002****John Powers**

Artist, Ph.D. candidate
University of the Arts Berlin
john.powers@gmx.com

Temporal art has accompanied the urban transformation process since early civilization. In urban consciousness temporal art has played an important role. In both situated and living forms, artistic temporality and transformations are linked to structures of urban growth.

Problems of documentation in regards to temporality as contrasted to objective artifact, do not provide evidence that temporal forms were nonessential nor historically irrelevant. It demonstrates that they are more difficult to clarify and far more problematic to frame in ways that we can translate into signification and communication within contemporary urban discourse. Temporal art is a point in dispute, in part because of our dependence upon the particular, objective forms and historic artifacts that we rely upon in many frames of conscious thinking.

Temporality functions on many levels in thinking and activity about place. Temporary art is a vehicle of communication between diverse approaches to urban situations and place. Temporality in art and urban development appears to be playing a more important role in the thinking, activity and development of urban form in recent decades. This theory is supported by quantitative increase in discussion, literature, and artistic activity. The surface has barely been scratched, qualitatively, in the interdisciplinary field of temporality, art and urban development.

What I would like to share with you is my knowledge about the communication, activity, and processes between my public art activities and the urban development of Berlin since 1989. The following temporary artworks, focusing on urban transformation, will be discussed in context to their production from, and interaction with place and time.

Nations- Dialogues- Identities 2000 (continuing)
Exhibition: German Foreign Ministry, Berlin, 2001

Eye on Berlin 1997
Palast der Republik, Schloss Platz, Berlin

Checkpoint Liberty Berlin 1996
Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin

Hauptstadtsschach 1994
Exhibition: Gebäude der ehem. Reichsbank, Berlin

Hauptstadt Berlin World Open 1992
Platz der Republik, Pariser Platz, Potsdamer Platz, Berlin

Einreise Grosse Rote Objekte 1990
Pariser Platz, Potsdamer Platz, Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin