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**RETHINKING THE PUBLIC SPHERE  
INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN CULTURAL  
PRACTICES AND COLLECTIVE SPACE**

In recent decades an increasing number of artistic practices have shifted towards the social space in order to transcend the classic notion of "public art" and to open new areas of intersection between cultural practices and collective space. This turn has resulted in a fundamental crossroad that requires artistic practices with social vocation to take a stand on whether they contribute to strengthening the social cohesion model established (an integrational ideal) or otherwise, to imagining and testing other community models and thus become an example of possible instituent practices. Only by resolving this question, the role of cultural proposals can go beyond the logic of representation and open the possibility of transforming or building new imaginaries for the social sphere. Moreover, social mutations resulting from the processes of political, economic and urban globalization have forced artistic practices to rethink their horizons of action through transdisciplinary approaches that resolve fundamental questions, among which we can highlight: new forms of social mobility (subjects, services, goods, narratives); new identity profiles (autochthonous, resident, tourist,

foreign, undocumented) the acknowledgment of spaces which operate as a unit of sociopolitical power (neighborhood, city); modes of articulation of collaborative and cooperation processes as an alternative to the self-sufficient subject fostered by capitalism. The complexity of these questions requires, initially, a reflection on working methodologies that would be able to respond to all these lines of action.

The 3 issue of REG/AC configure the contribution of the Research Group Art Globalization Interculturality (AGI/ART: 2014SGR 1050), to the research platform "Post Devices - Expanded Seminar" promoted by the Fundació Antoni Tàpies and the cultural producer Idensitat, where researchers from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Universitat Ramon Llull, EINA - Centre Universitari de Disseny and Universitat de Barcelona, addressed different methodologies and models of intervention in the public sphere from artistic practices and social sciences<sup>1</sup>. Contributions such as "El deporte como un artefacto 'hibrido'"<sup>2</sup>, by Professor Gaspar Maza Gutiérrez of the Departament of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Work of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, or *Transition Desing*<sup>3</sup>, presented by Tania Costa Gómez and Adrià Garcia and Mateu, from EINA - Centre Universitari de Disseny and Art Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, have been collected in the Special Section of this issue, together with the invitation of Forum Permanente of Estudos Avançados da Universidade de Sao Paulo and the Grupo de Investigación GIAI/AE of the Universidad

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<sup>1</sup> For further information about this research platform, look up Idensitat's website: <<http://idensitat.net/es/idbarrio-barcelona/dispositivos-post/912-dispositivos-post-seminario-expandido>>

<sup>2</sup> **Maza Gutiérrez, G.** (2015) El deporte como un artefacto "hibrido". Bricolajes para la intervención social, cultural y creativa en el espacio público. *Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo*, Vol. 3, pp. 85-106

<sup>3</sup> **Costa Gómez, T. y Garcia i Mateu, A.** (2015) Transition Desing: Investigación y diseño colaborativo para procesos de emancipación ciudadanos. *Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo*, Vol. 3, pp. 66-84

Nacional Autónoma de México<sup>4</sup>, who are working in processes of interlocution around similar questions.

Similarly, the present issue gathers 13 articles selected through a an open call authored by researchers affiliated to centres and international universities such as Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad de Málaga, Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche, Universitat Jaume I Castelló, Universidad de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Universidad Federal de Bahia, Universidad de Los Andes – Venezuela, Universität Giessen, California Lutheran University and University of the Philippines. This selection of multidisciplinary researchers has been consciously carried out to cover different perspectives such as *Public Sphere / Public Space: Methodologies of Action* (Luis Guerra Miranda: "Democracy & Art, the New World Academy and the Out-of-Place Public Space of the Inexistent"; Marta Dahó: "Fotografías en cuanto espacio público"; Santiago Cao: "La 'Potencia de No' como resistencia al Estado de Bien-estar Común: la Performance como herramienta para propiciar encuentros en los espacios público"; Teo Lagos: "'Wake' de Maria Thereza Alves: conocimiento y saberes en expansión"), *Prácticas Instituyentes* (Marcela Knapp: "Interspaces. Cultural journalism and the transformation of the aesthetic world- perception"); *New identity profiles* (Alicia Vanessa Nuñez & Rafaela Fiore Urizar: "Punk's Not Dead in East LA: Exploring the East Los Series and It's Use of Locality and Cultural Hybridity for Eastside Catharsis"; Maria Portia Placino: "Contemporary Art Publics: Mapping Philippine Contemporary, Media, Technologies and Publics"; Sergio Villena Fiengo: "Intervenciones intempestivas en Centroamérica. El anti-ceremonial público en la obra de

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<sup>4</sup> **Prando, F.** (2015) Relato de un viaje a los museos de la ciudad de Río de Janeiro. *Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo*, Vol. 3, pp 107-123; y **Serrano, L. et al.** (2015) arte / contexto / reflexión y acción. *Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo*, Vol. 3, pp. 37-65

Regina José Galindo”); *Nuevos espacios sociopolíticos* (Lynda Avendaño Santana: “Toponimias de la relación arte y nuevos medios como arte público en el contexto del Capitalismo Cognitivo”); y *Procesos colaborativos y de autogestión* (Ilze Gabriela Petroni: “Estrategias de resiliencia: prácticas de gestión autónoma de arte contemporáneo en la Argentina post-crisis de 2001”); Pilar Chauca: “El Flashmob, respuestas artísticas hoy”; Teresa Marín García & Enrique Salom Marco: “Resistencias y apropiaciones. Laboratorios urbanos de experimentación sociocultural en la ciudad de Valencia”).

Lastly, with the *Miscellanea* section we aimed to gather recent approaches to these questions from researchers associated to the Research Group AGI Art Globalization Interculturality: Rafael Pinilla speculates about a possible culmination of the forms of protest, and Manuela Frudà incorporates the ArtDouglas artists collective to speak about their experience around the dynamics of the public art. We also collect an assessment, as an epilogue, by Ramón Parramón, director of Idensitat cultural producer.

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