

Strategies for Performative Walks

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Introduction

Walking can be thought of as a medium just like painting, printmaking or sculpture so the crucial question is: What happens once the walk commences? There would usually be a strategy employed when approaching the walk, unless the plan is to deliberately dispense with strategies. The strategy can involve observations and responses to the location the walk takes place within or, alternatively, can relate to discussions with fellow walkers or even communication with other participants walking simultaneously in remote locations. These communications, along with observations of the locale, can be transmitted and/or recorded to form an archive of the activity or even the basis for a future, related piece of work. Among the many documentary forms available, the ones illustrated below have spurned useful and stimulating results: a) Photography: Ad hoc or according to a pre-planned strategy, b) Videography: Recording actions/activities, c) Live-stream broadcast: Transmission of live action to remote audiences, d) Sound recording: Ambient/Environmental sounds, e) Social-media posts: Real-time or scheduled post updates, f) Colour collection: Cataloguing specific or ambient colours using dedicated apps. Each of these strategies are listed below, along with their application in relevant projects.

a) Photography

'Bus Trip to D1'



Allowing a time-based system to decide compositions. Strategy: Photographs were taken every 5 minutes from the left-hand side, rear window regardless of the scene.

b) Videography

'Tennis Ball Walk'



An investigation into urban terrain and surfaces. Strategy: A recorded walk through the local environment, bouncing a lime green tennis ball onto a variety of surfaces.

c) Live-stream Broadcast

'No holiday'



Participating in performance art festivals from remote locations. Strategy: Using internet-based software to broadcast a live-stream performance to audiences.

d) Sound Recording

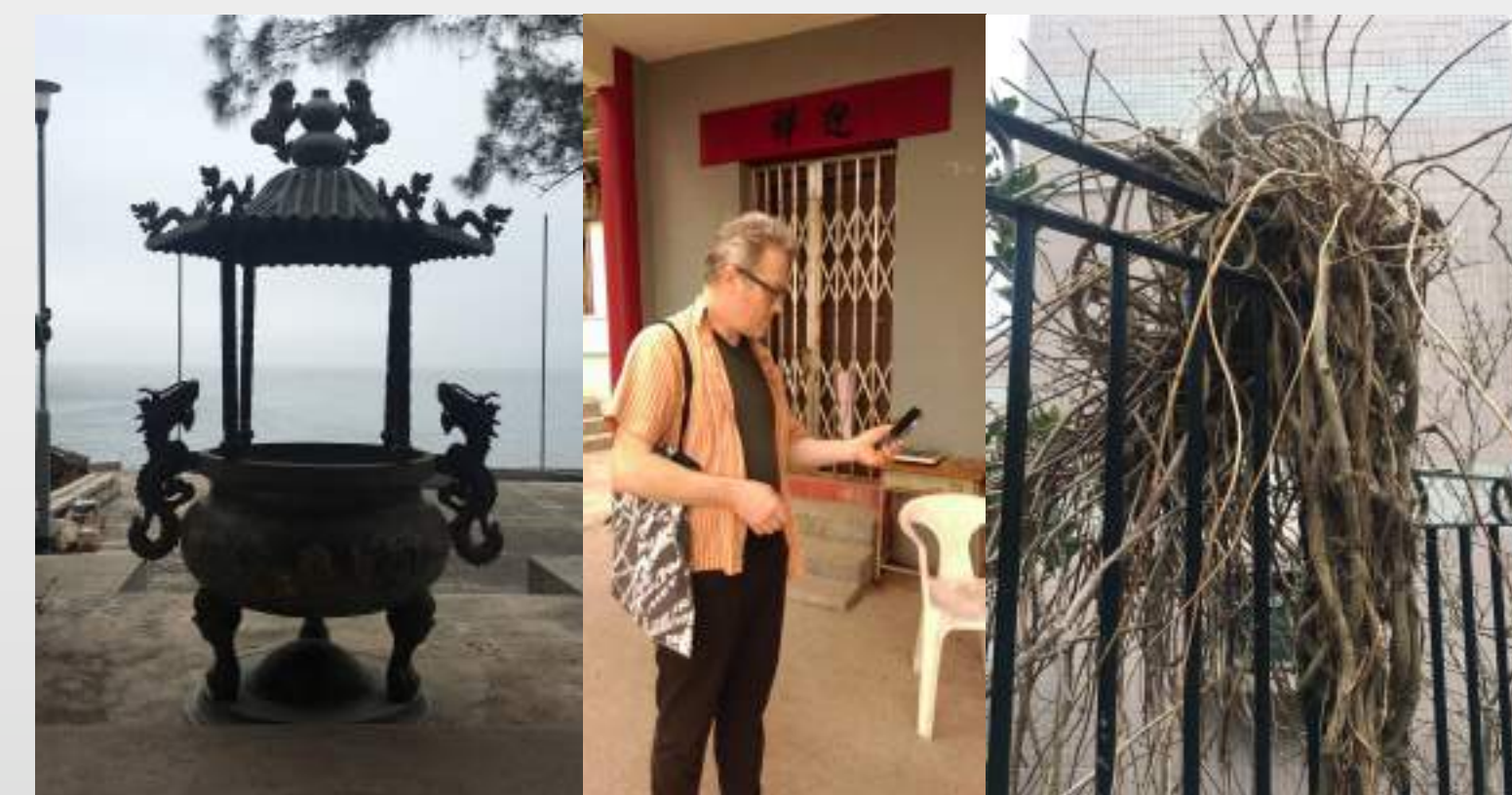
'City Centre'



Analysing the fringes of cities. Strategy: Walking away from and then toward the city centre, noticing the changes in signage and other details while recording the change in ambient sounds.

e) Social-media Posts

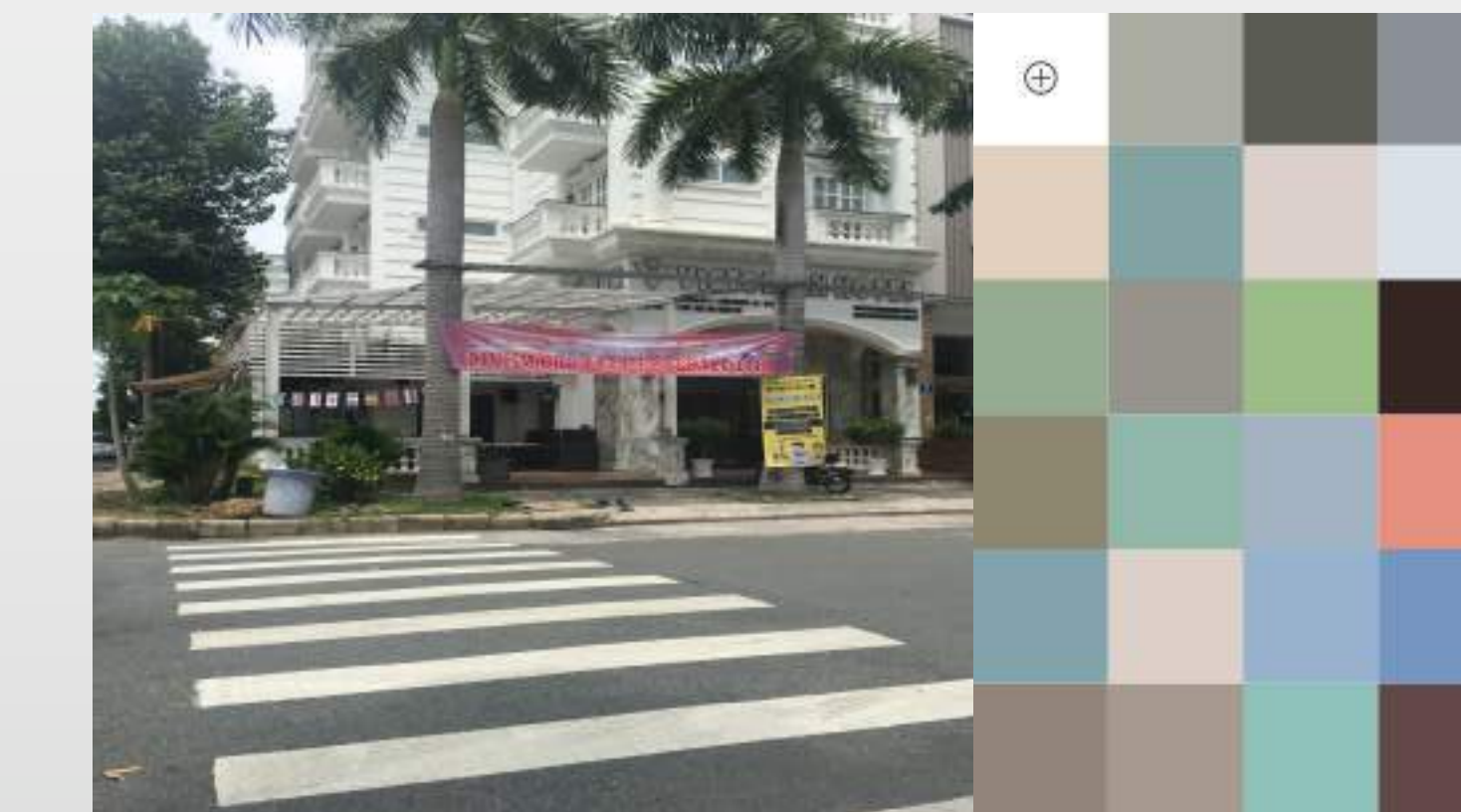
'Walk With Me'



Collaborative walking while thinking poetically. Strategy: Using live social media posts to communicate while walking simultaneously in multiple countries.

f) Colour Collection

'District 7 Strata'



Deferring decisions while creating a colour digital print. Strategy: Using a mobile app while walking to collect ambient colours and situate them into the composition of a digital print.

Related Literature

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