

The city embraces you & Accosting, a twofold experience by Tomas Muñoz

The city embraces you:

Cities provoke a feeling of being alone, being just a little ant inside the ants' nest. Sometimes this feeling is liberating: I can do whatever I want.

Sometimes is oppressing: I can do whatever I want and nobody cares.

Our proposal tackles this feeling and tries to revert it.

How would it be to walk round the city running into friends every 200 meters?

Starting from the Mis-info centre, walkers that want to take part into our proposal will write their names in a sticker. There would be stickers with different colours, each colour coding the mother tongue of the participant. They will place the sticker in their chest or any visible place. Then we will ask the participants to walk following a certain route.

In that route, actors would be waiting pretending to be regular passers-by, but when they run into a participant (one who's wearing the sticker) they would shout his or her name, with the sheer enthusiasm of old friends that haven't met for a long time.

Depending on how this reunion goes, if the participant is scared or if he/she plays along the actor will reveal some information regarding the city. "Yeah, so many years we haven't met... I now work at the city council, we are just refurbishing the sewer system. Did you know that Fribourg has...?"

After this little conversation the walker will go on to meet another actor in the same way.



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Accosting:

Now that cities are becoming more and more of a mix, politicians and rulers try to clarify that mess by passing new laws.

In Barcelona, for instance a regulation called "New measures to guarantee citizen coexistence in the public space" was approved two years ago. These are 15 "common

sense” rules that band “incivility acts” from graffiti to gambling and alcohol drinking in the street.

“This regulation doesn’t ban playing in the public space, but it intends to prevent games that **disturb the security and peace of the rest**, the urban furniture, or any kind of property.”

So, what if we take this law to its limits? Could you imagine a situation where you infringe the law without knowing?

You’re walking and suddenly a pair of policemen accosts you, asking you to show your ID and saying something of the like:

—Are you aware that you just broke regulation number 1513?

—What is that?

— (Here the policemen-actors, should improvise according to what the person was doing previous to the encounter)