

TITLE

**SA dialogic approach to urban drifting**

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ABSTRACT

Collaborative poem-drawing is a verbal and meta-graphical expression of spatial thoughts and feelings. The works represent an unfinished dialogue of memories (and design dreams) that are related to a shared (and imagined) urban experience. They are fragile platforms of carefully layered traces of discussions between the two authors, from day to day. They are “remnants” of dialogues about places that are experienced (through derive sessions) or imagined (in design drawing sessions) not as entities outside ourselves, but between ourselves. As dialogic devices, these collaborative poem-drawings are bringing together two different ways of looking at the spatial reality, while avoiding closure of the finite meaning of the processed material.

Graphically representing the conceptual background of our desire: clouds of spatial amorphous envelopes (dreams and memories) are hovering above a semi-permeable membrane (our senses and our sensitivity to the given reality) laying upon vertical columns that rise from the “orthogonal” ground. These clouds are fragments of urban interpretations related to a specific place: their inscription into a format of collective poem-drawings represents the process of juxtaposition of the interpreted maps in scale (plans, photographs, sections) and their resonance in the present moment of re-creation of memory. They are a palimpsest of different degrees of reality: the tension between the Clouds of memory and the “Reality” in scale is what generates an abundance of meaning, each time a spatial memory is re-evoked into presence.

Finally, these collective poem-drawings are tools that aim to cultivate liberation from the Known in the present moment of inscription. The exhibition would include:

1. a discussion upon the artefacts (reflection on the process of making and reading the maps);
2. a collaborative drawing performance;
3. a (graphical and verbal) contextualization of the collective poem-drawing in the wider context of the PhD thesis\*.

*\* The work represents fragments of the body of independent research of the two authors. After experimenting for a longer period, specific aspects became crucial thinking-throughdoing aspect of the PhD in progress - “Emotive Immersion Through Poem-Drawing in Spatial Design” (Bogdanova) and the Master thesis in progress - “Reclaiming the City’s Historical Identity Through Urban Writings” (Cvetkova).*